

'Tuck' Brooks Is A Man Surrounded By History Dating Back More Than 200 Years; His House Is One Of Earliest

By Jack Barkley

"Tuck" Brooks is a man surrounded by history.

Some of it dates back 200 to 300 years.

Most of it is history related to his family.

"Tuck," as he is nicknamed, is one of the elder citizens of Laurens County and for the past 77 years, he has lived in the same historic surroundings of his own home on Route 2, Gray Court.

A chimney at one end of the house bears the date 1833. In this house, Lemuel Williams Brooks was born. The old home, though remodeled, still stands firm with the original logs used for the construction of the walls. The logs are now covered with planking on the outside and a modern covering on the inside.

In the yard stands a pecan tree that is something like 100 years old. It was planted by Brooks' father.

In the living room of the home is a desk that is between 260 and 300 years old. The hand-made structure belonged to the great-

great-grandfather of Brooks and had been passed down through the years.

Tuck pointed to one room. "That room used to be the Post Office," he said.

"Until the rural mail delivery came into being, that room there served as the Post Office for this area," he said.

Through his life, Tuck has been a farmer. The farm is now 343 acres, but when it was originally purchased by Brooks' grandfather, it consisted of 1,100 acres. Tuck's grandfather, who purchased the land for 50 cents an acre, never lived on the farm, though he purchased it for a homeplace.

Digging into the memories of history, Tuck told of how his grandfather was reported to have gone to tell a neighbor of his moving. The grandfather had already moved his family to the homesite. While journeying on horseback with a friend, a tree-limb broke and fell upon Tuck's grandfather. He died never to live in the new home.

The land stayed in the family, however, and there Brooks was born and raised.

His parents died in 1932. Hanging on the wall in the house is the marriage license of Tuck's father and mother. It is beautifully decorated and in full color, not like the plain printed forms of today.

Even the servants and farm hands living on Brooks' farm are becoming a part of the history.

One Negro man has lived and worked on Tuck's farm for the past 40 years. His cook has been with the family for 25 years. A third person has been with Tuck for 25 years and still another, with the shortest stay, has been there for eight years.

"When we get up in the morning, our breakfast is on the table," Tuck said of his cook.

"She's as good a cook as ever went in a man's house," he added, "and has cooked three meals a day all these years."

"What happens if she is sick?," he was asked.

"She has hardly ever been sick," he replied.

In addition to farming, Tuck operated a cotton gin for 45 years.

"It was the first gin to pull cotton out of the wagon," he said. The method is still used today in most every gin.

Have times changed since the early days, he was asked.

"Oh man yeah!" he replied.

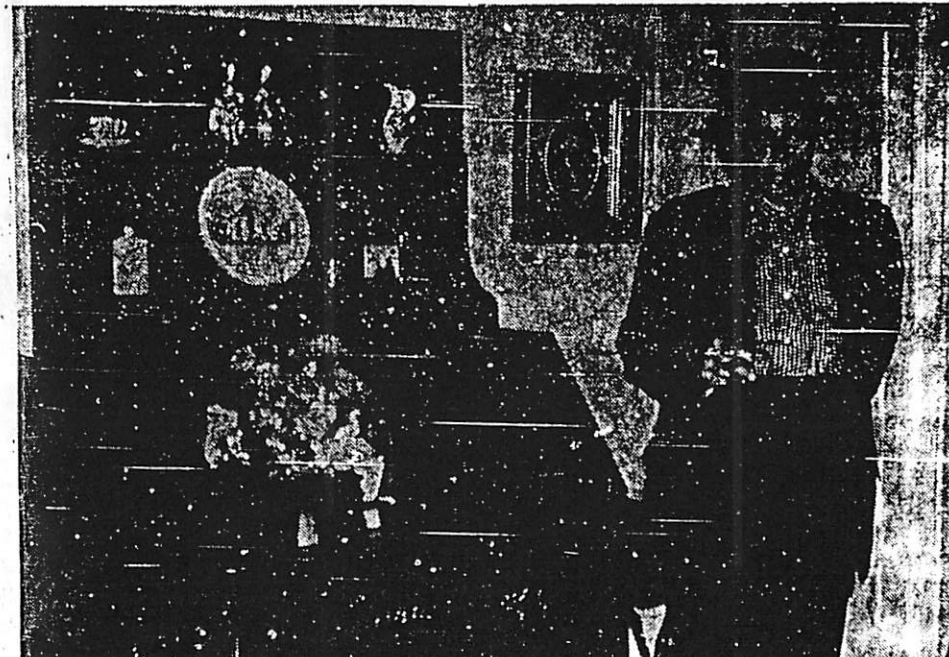
"I guess the greatest change is in labor," he said.

"I can remember when labor was plentiful and when workers used to come by the house looking for jobs. It's different today, you can't even get help, much less see them looking for a job," he said.

Another change is the farming, Tuck stated. We used to plant about 200 acres of cotton. Today the government lets us plant 38 acres.

John Brooks, a brother to Tuck, was the first person to own a car in Laurens County, Tuck said. Tuck himself was the first to own one with doors.

The automobile changed the picture of transportation, Brooks remembered. He told of how it used to take between two and three hours to make the trip from his house to Laurens on a horse. Today it takes about 15 minutes. "I remember one time I came



'Tuck' Brooks And Antique Desk

Mrs. W. R. Cook HD Club Hostess

The December meeting of Gray Court-Owings Home Demonstration was held at the home of Mrs.

W. R. Cook.

The president, Mrs. Carlos Cooper, was in charge of the meeting.

The devotions were given by Mrs. Means Moore, which was followed by the song, "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Miss Myrtice Taylor, the HD agent, showed many kinds of Christmas decorations and ways of wrapping gifts.

Recreation was in charge of Mrs. F. E. Bobo.

The hostess served refreshments in keeping with the season.

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EASTSIDE. Conway Ave., R. C. Craine, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 6:45 p.m., Training Union; 8 p.m., Evening Service; Wednesday Evening Service, 8 p.m.

FAITH. Greenwood Road, John R. Waters, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Preaching; 7:30 p.m., Preaching; Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

FIRST. Dr. Robert S. Cooper, pastor: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, 11 a.m., Worship Service; 6:45 p.m., Training Union; 8:00 p.m., Service; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Prayer Service.



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"I remember one time I came to town on horseback to see a carnival. A neighbor had given me \$10 to pay a bill in town. When I got to Laurens it didn't take long for that money to pass from my hands to the carnival folks hands.

"I borrowed the \$10 from my brother to pay the man's bill and paid it.

"I haven't messed with a carnival since," he said with a smile.

That was in the days when the carnival used to set up around the square.

Tuck has seen many other changes.

He told of installing a pump water system in 1921. The same pump is still being used today, he said. It has never had to be repaired.

Though electricity was in use at Tuck's home by use of a gas-line operated generator, power lines didn't come until 1929.

A member of Dials Methodist Church, Tuck told of the growth of that rural church. He was born and raised in the church which was organized in 1808 with 13 members. Today it is one of the most progressive community churches in the county.

Indeed, Tuck is surrounded by history—from the time when power for the cotton gin was furnished by a steam plant until today when a touch of a switch sends current through his home, from the time when he cut cord wood to operate the steam plant until cotton planting time, and farmed cotton until the crop was in and returned to cutting cord wood, on down until the present when he is taking life a little easier.

Tuck is surrounded by history, most of it is family history, but

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Craine, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 6:45 p.m., Training Union; 8 p.m., Evening Service; Wednesday Evening Service, 8 p.m.

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HILLCREST, Independence Ave., Kenneth Word, pastor: 9:55 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Worship Service; 6:15 p.m., Training Union; 7:30 p.m., Worship Service; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Prayer Service.

LUCAS AVENUE, 14 Lucas Ave., Alvin Boone, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 7 p.m., Training Union; 8 p.m., Evening Worship.

NORTHSIDE, Carl Bishop, pastor: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m., Training Union, 7 p.m., Evening Worship, 8 p.m., Prayer Service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

SECOND, Fleming St., Grange S. Cothran, minister: 9:55 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 7 p.m., BTU; 8 p.m., Evening Worship; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Prayer Service.

METHODIST

CENTRAL, Wilson at Marion St., T. C. Gibbons, pastor: 10 a.m., Church School; 11 a.m., and 7:30 p.m., Worship Service; Mid-Week Service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

FIRST, Main St., Victor R. Hickman, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 7 p.m., Evening Worship.

SAINT JAMES, Lucas Avenue, J. H. Lindsay, pastor: Church School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7:30 p.m.; Mid-Week Prayer Service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

WESLEYAN, F. H. Pressley, pastor: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Worship; 7:30 p.m., Evening Worship; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting.



THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	90	1-2
Monday	Psalms	77	13-14
Tuesday	Philippians	2	12-13
Wednesday	John	15	10-12
Thursday	Psalms	1	1-2
Friday	Ephesians	6	1-2
Saturday	Romans	8	25-29

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Don't clutter up the first page by making a lot of useless resolutions. Instead — spend that time by going to church.

Turn to God the first day of the year, and stay with Him. Put your faith in Him, and in His church. With His help, you can make this year the **finest one you've ever lived.**

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