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FORT MILL, S. C.

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FORT MILLS' MONUMENTS

# **PATRIOTIC BODIES OF FORT MILL TO JOIN IN MEMORIAL**

## **Monument To Dead Veterans Be Dedicated; Other News Of Interest**

Fort Mill, May 1. (By Herald Correspondent.)—Plans are under way for a joint celebration of Memorial day by three local patriotic societies, Florence Thornwell chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Eli Bailes post of the American Legion, and the American Legion auxiliary, and much interest in the unusual observance of the day is being developed. The outstanding feature of interest is the dedication of the monument recently erected in New Unity cemetery to the memory of six young Fort Mill men, members of the local military unit which served overseas during the World war, whose bodies lie beneath the monument, having been returned to this country from France. The monument bears the following names: Sgt. Thomas L. Hall, to whom was posthumously awarded the congressional medal of honor, Sgt. James Eli Bailes, Corp. Harvey F. McManus, Corp. Fred T. Miller, and first class privates Walter O. Leazer and Clyde W. Stevens. The invitation extended by Capt. Arthur C. Lytle, commander of Eli Bailes post of the American Legion, to Gen. James C. Dozier, adjutant general of South Carolina, and himself a member of the local company during the World war and holder of the coveted congressional medal of honor, to be the orator of this occasion has been accepted in a letter just received by Capt. Lytle who now commands the local military company. Exercises will be conducted in the high school auditorium, and it is planned to extend the customary annual dinner to the members of Fort Mill camp, United Confederate Veterans, to all those who share in the observance of the day. Of the local camp of veterans, but three remain, Robert Burns, J. C. Seville, and the Rev. James Spratt, and only two of these are now resident of the community.

**THE EVENING HERALD,**

**MAY 1, 1928.**

## FORT MILL'S MONUMENTS

Dec. 22, 1901 ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> the day of days in F. M., for it witnessed the unveiling of the first Confederate monument in upper South Carolina. This monument which was erected by the old veterans, the widows and the orphans and the young men of the community, is nine feet, surmounted by a statue of a Confederate soldier, six feet high, making fifteen feet.

On the first side is written and a caned palmetto tree with the ~~M~~otto of the State of South Carolina. Beneath in golden letters is written "Defenders of State Sovereignty."

On the opposite side ~~to this is the date~~ "1865," beneath which is carved the miniature of the battle flag of the Confederacy in its ascent through the clouds, and beneath this is written "The Warrior's Banner takes it Flight to Greet the Warrior's Soul."

On the other two sides are the names of the living and dead-170 in number.

On Memorial Day 1896, at Fort Mill, two monuments were unveiled, which were the first to <sup>be</sup> erected to the women of the Confederacy and to the negro slaves of the Southern people. These were ~~d~~onated by Capt. S. E. White, one of South Carolina's generous and liberty loving sons. The woman's monument which is fifteen feet high, is crowned by a life-sized figure of a woman kneeling in an attitude of prayer on the Confederate flag. On the north side is inscribed:

"1895"

Respectfully donated  
by  
Samuel E. White  
to the  
Jefferson Davis Memorial Association.

On the east side are the names of some of the community.

On the north side is the inscription:

"1860"

Affectionately dedicated by the Jefferson Memorial Association to the Women of the Confederacy. The living and dead midst the gloom of the war were heroines in the strife to perpetuate the noble sacrifices on the altar of our common country; let sweet incense forever rise till it reach them "in robes of victory beyond the skies."

"1865."

On the west side is this beautiful quotation:

"Many are the hearts that are weary to-night

Wishing for the war to cease,

And many are the hearts praying for the right

To see the dawn of peace."

The negro monument is made of the very best Italian marble and is thirteen feet high. On the west side is carved in relief a negro woman sitting on the steps of an old colonial house, holding in her arms a white infant. On the east is a negro man sitting on a log in the shade of a tree. He has a scythe in his hand and in the distance can be seen the field filled with wheat cut and shocked. On the north:-

"1860"

"Dedicated  
to the  
Faithful Slaves

Who, loyal to a sacred trust, toiled for the support of the army, with matchless devotion, and with sterling fidelity guarded our defenseless women and children during the struggle for the principles of our Confederate States of America."

old families of the

↑ \*

"1865."

On the south:--

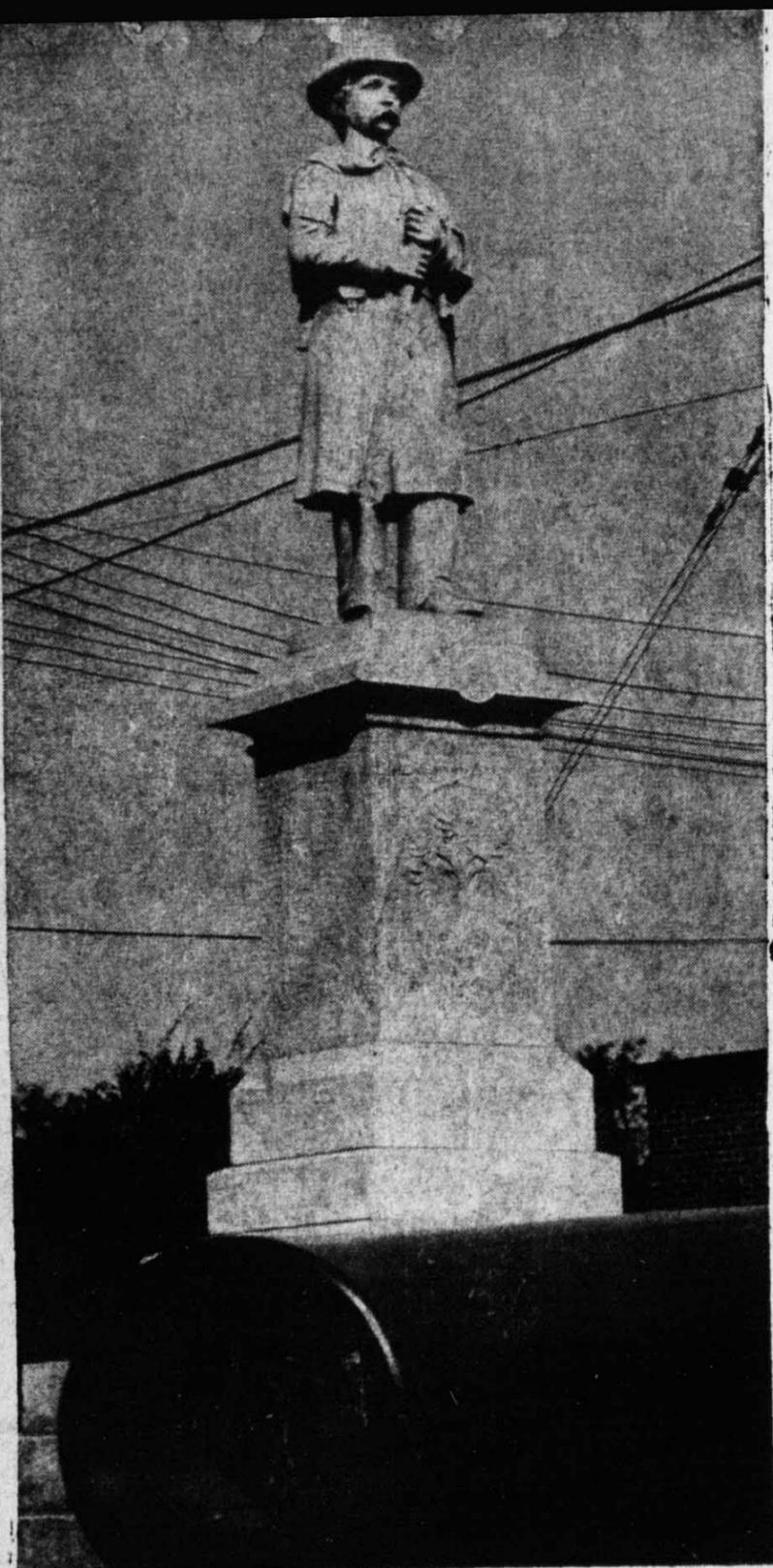
"Erected by Samuel E. White, in grateful memory of earlier days, with the approval of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association."

Here the names of some of the faithful.

A more fitting place could not have been selected for these monuments, for it is here the Confederacy first had its beginning-- the first company being organized here for what afterwards proved to be the Confederacy. It was here that Jefferson Davis held his last full cabinet meeting.

In 1900, through the generosity of Capt. S. E. White and Mr. John M. ~~Speck~~<sup>Spriet</sup>, a monument was erected to the Catawba Indians, in remembrance of their friendship to the early settlers. On the occasion of the unveiling of this monument, the remnant of the tribe, which lives a few miles from Fort Mill, on the Catawba river, was invited to be present, a conveyance being provided to bring the colony. Addresses were made by some of the full bloods, after which a dinner was served in the town hall by the ladies of Fort Mill and surrounding country.

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# Ft. Mill Monuments Pay Tribute To Three Races Who Helped Confederacy

*Skraed Feb. 13, 52*

By LLOYD GULLEDGE

FORT MILL—On a small plot of ground in Fort Mill stand four monuments dedicated to a number of people, representing three races, who had part in the Confederacy.

The monuments were erected by Capt. Samuel E. White, who had a part in the struggle and evidently wanted to see that generations did not forget those who fought for the sovereign rights of the states. But it seems that some have forgotten about states' rights and many people in York County possibly have forgotten about Confederate Park in Fort Mill.

The monuments are in memory of the Soldiers of the Confederacy, Women of The Confederacy, Faithful Slaves and Catawba Indians who fought in the War Between the States.

According to information on the monuments Captain White financed the erection of the monuments. He was assisted in this respect by John McKee Spratt in erecting the Indian monument. The monuments placed on land which belongs to the Southern Railways, were sponsored by such organizations as the United Confederate Veterans, Jefferson Davis Memorial Association and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The soldiers monument was erected December 19, 1891. Many Confederate veterans were then living and in their prime. Many of those whose names are on the shaft of the monument were present when the unveiling exercises were held.

A few Fort Mill people recall the impressive ceremonies conducted in connection with the unveiling. The oration of the day was by General John Bratton of Fairfield County. Col. Asbury Coward and Col. John P. Thomas of Columbia were also present.

There were thirteen lovely young girls representing the 13 southern states of the Confederacy.

Two of these girls are said to have unveiled the monument. Miss Zoe White of Fort Mill thinks that Captain White's daughter, Miss Grace White, was one of the girls who had a part in the unveiling. Miss Grace White later married Col. LeRoy Springs. They were the parents of Col. Elliott White Springs, widely known industrialist of Fort Mill.

Inscribed on the front of the large soldiers monument in large letters are these words: "Defenders of the State Sovereignty."

On the back beneath the Bars and Stars of the Confederate flag is this sentence: "The Warrior's Banner takes its flight to greet the warriors' soul."

There are 170 names familiar to the Fort Mill community inscribed on the monument in alphabetical order.

Mrs. Ben Ardrey of Fort Mill is under the impression that each soldier, or some member of his family, whose name appears on the monument paid about \$5 toward the expense of having the names put on it.

For many years Mrs. Ardrey and Mrs. J. B. Elliott and possibly other ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy laid a wreath on the soldiers monument on Confederate Memorial Day which is May 10 in South Carolina.

When Captain White died March 5, 1910, the monument was draped

in black and the marble Confederate soldier atop the monument looked upon one of the biggest funeral processions ever held in Fort Mill.

## WOMEN OF CONFEDERACY

In 1895 Capt. White donated another large monument to the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association. This monument is dedicated to the "Women of the Confederacy, the living and the dead who, midst the gloom of war, were heroines in the strife to perpetuate their noble sacrifices on the altar of our common country. Let sweet incense forever rise 'till it reach them in robes of victory beyond the skies." This inscription is placed on the face of the monument.

On the back of this monument there are the names of Mesdames White, Spratt, Springs, Harris, Epps and many others, all of them familiar in the Fort Mill community.

On the side of the monument facing the railroad is written this short verse: "Many are the hearts that are weary tonight, wishing for the war to cease; Many are the hearts praying for the right to see the dawn of peace."

Atop the monument is the likeness of a woman in a prayerful manner.

#### CATAWBA INDIAN MONUMENT

The Catawba Indians who served in the Confederacy were not forgotten. In 1900 Captain White and John McKee Spratt erected a monument in honor of them. According to information on this monument Spratt was a descendant of Thomas "Kanahwa" Spratt and White was a descendant of William Elliott (a kinsman of Kanahwa), two of the first settlers in this portion of the Indian Land, 1755-60.

An Indian said to be the likeness of King Hagler about one third normal size is kneeling atop the 12-foot monument. His bow and arrow has been broken since the monument was erected.

The names of other noted Catawbas like Gen. New-River, Gen. Ayers, Gen. Jim Kegg, Col. David Harris, Major John Joe, Capt. Billy George and others appear on the monument.

The name of Peter Harris also appears on the monument. Written on the monument in regard to Harris is this: "He was made an orphan by the smallpox scourge and was raised by 'Kanahwa.'" He received a pension for services in the Revolution of 1776. At 70 years of age, he died at the Spratt homestead, and at his own request was buried in the family grave yard."

A brief description and history of the Catawba Indians is inscribed on the back of the monument as follows:

"The Catawba Indians, although a warlike nation were friends of the white settlers. They aided and fought with the Americans in the Revolution and the Confederates in the Civil War. Tradition says they immigrated to this portion of South Carolina from Canada about 1600, numbering some 12,000. Wars with the Shawnees and other nations together with the smallpox depleted their numbers greatly.

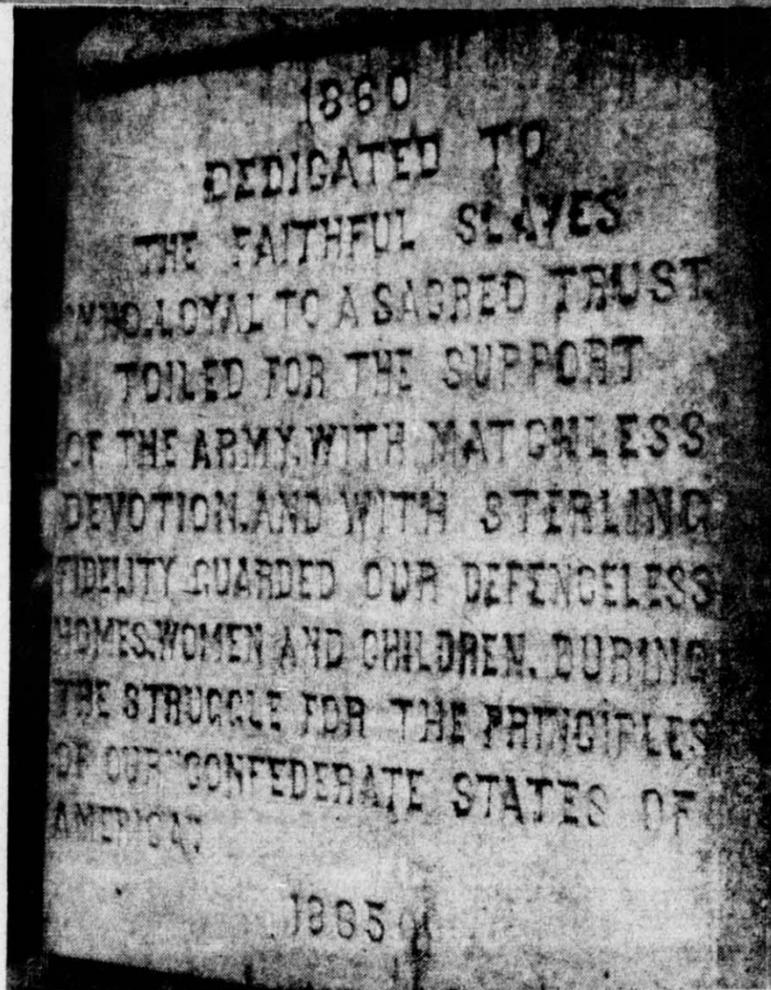
"In 1764 the province of South Carolina allotted them 15 miles square in York and Lancaster districts. About 1840 a new treaty was made, the State buying all their land and afterwards laying them off 700 acres on the West bank of the Eswa Tavora (Catawba River) six miles south of Fort Mill where the remnant about 75 now live receiving a small annuity from the State."

#### MONUMENT TO SLAVES

Perhaps the only monument of its kind in the world stands at the lower corner of Confederate Park. This monument dedicated to the "faithful slaves" is also erected by Capt. White "in grateful memory of earlier days" with the approval of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association.

On one side is inscribed the picture of a slave holding a scythe and on the other a Negro woman with a baby in her arms.

The names of the slaves, in typical fashion, were the same as the people who owned them. Among the names were Nelson White, Sandy, Warren, Silas, Handy, Anthony, Jim, and Henry White, Nathan Springs and Solomon Spratt.



**FORT MILL MONUMENTS** — Pictured here are four monuments that are located in Confederate Park in Fort Mill. At the left is shown a large monument dedicated to Confederate soldiers or "Defenders of the State Sovereignty." Notice the muzzle of one of the 8-inch cannons placed in the park. Second from left is the monument erected in honor of the Women of the Confederacy. In the third picture, Miss Betty Ann McKibben, Fort Mill High School student, poses for a picture with the Catawba Indian monument. Atop this monument is the small likeness of an Indian, said to be King Hagler, notable leader of the Catawba nation. The picture above shows a close-up of the monument dedicated to the "faithful slaves" who had a part in supporting the Army of the Confederacy. This is perhaps the only monument of its kind in the world. (Herald Photos).

Source: Scrapbook of Dr. James H. Thornwell II

## The Rock Hill Herald

J. J. HULL, Editor and Proprietor.

ROCK HILL, S. C., AUGUST 4, 1900.

### CASAWBA INDIAN MONUMENT.

Dedicated At Fort Mill—Fifty Indians From Reservation Present—Speech by Ben Harris—Monument Town.

Special to the State.

Fort Mill, July 21. — For the fourth time in the history of Fort Mill the citizens have assembled for the purpose of unveiling a monument. The first, to the Confederate soldier, on December 22d, 1891; the second, to the women of the south, on 21st day of May, 1895, when Col. J. P. Thomas of Columbia delivered a scholarly address; the third, to the faithful slaves of the south, unveiled on the 21st day of May, 1895, when Col. Polke Miller delivered a characteristic address. Today, in the presence of a large crowd consisting of numbers of Indians and many citizens of surrounding community, the monument to the Indians was open for inspection. And Ben Harris, a son of John Harris, one of the bravest members of the Twelfth South Carolina, delivered the speech. This speech was written by himself and is a specimen of what an Indian can do.

The Indians were given a fine dinner and departed themselves well. The exercises opened with prayer at 11 o'clock. The introductory speech giving a history and reason for the monument was delivered by the Rev. J. H. Thornwell. Ben Harris, son of a Confederate veteran, then spoke. He said love was the greatest thing in the world; illustrated the love of God in creation and providence. While other things fail love lasts until the millenium. Mortals attain much in life by love. Pain says completion only beyond where ear not hear nor eye can see. Love makes the Indian a friend of the white man. The Catawbas never took part against him but helped him all in life, in all wars—in the Revolution; and they sent 10 braves to the Confederate war.

"Love prompted White and Spratt to build a monument to the Confederate Indians. Much thank them good men. Indian love them. If white man had done Indian justice like White and Spratt good many of them would have been educated and

able to make good speech.

"He declined to speak at first, but wanted to express thanks for monument. Was glad Indian is now getting education. Fifty years from now it wanted, Catawba he make good speech as white man. Much thank to people for love shows us. My forefathers show love by fighting and give life; I show love try to make speech. All Indians grateful. Long remember this day."

Billy Harris spoke as follows: Thank ladies for much big trouble done been take to give Indians good dinner. Catawbas never fight against white man but once since creation; never fight no more against him. Wish to thank everybody for all kindness. Takes grit for Indian to make speech. No more take up time. Much thank.

Rev. A. L. Stough said May 26 h, 1755, the first probatation petition on record was sent by Chief Haigler to Justice Hanley. In 1652 the Catawbas had a population of 10,000; now it is 75. In 1822 to 1823 the State spent \$900 for teaching and preaching to Indians.

Ben Harris told a joke of a fisherman to illustrate how the Catawbas have shrunk.

A photograph was taken of the Indians standing around the monument.

Mr. Spratt sent conveyances to bring the Indians to Fort Mill. Every attention was shown them by citizens.

The monument to the women of the Confederacy and to the faithful slaves were erected by Capt. S. E. White. The Confederate monument was erected by the Jefferson Davis association and is largely due to the efforts of J. M. Spratt, who for his efficient services (being too young to be in the army) was unanimously elected honorary member of a camp, and of its executive committee.

The monument to the Catawba Indians was erected by S. E. White and J. M. Spratt. In the corner-stone was placed a list of all the Indians on the reservation, some 75 in number, also arrow heads, arrow points, pots, jars and Confederate relics.

The monument to the Indians is of lime stone, 10 1/2 feet high, on a brick foundation 4 feet high. The die has curved in bass relief on one side a prairie scene, with a buffalo in the foreground, and upon the opposite side a wood and scene, with a drove of wild turkeys feeding in their blissful forest home, the whole surmounted by an Indian statue crouching by a broken stump with a drawn bow, as if in the act of felling the stag.

The following inscription is on the front of die:

1600  
Erected  
to the  
Catawba Indians  
by  
Sam'l Eliot White  
and  
John McKee Spratt

The latter is a descendant of Thomas 'Kanahwa' Spratt and the former a descendant of Wm. Elliott, two of the first settlers in this portion of the Indian land (1755)

1900  
On the rear die is the following:  
The Catawba Indians, although a

war-like nation, were ever friends of the white settlers. They aided and fought with the Americans in the Revolution, and the Confederates in the civil war. Tradition says they immigrated to this portion of South Carolina from Canada, about 1600,

numbering some 12,000. Their wars with the Cherokees, Shawnees and other nations, together with the smallpox, depleted their numbers greatly. In 1764 the province of South Carolina allotted them 15 miles square in York and Lancaster districts. About 1840 a new treaty was made, the State buying all their land, and afterwards laid them off 300 acres on the west bank of the Eswa Tavora (Catawba river), six miles south of Fort Mill, where the remnant, about 75, now live receiving a small annuity from the State.

This is on the east base:  
Some noted Catawbas.—King Haigler, Gen. New River, Gen. Jim Kegg, Col. David Harris, Major John Joe, Capt. Billie George, Lieut. Phillips Kegg, Sallie New River, Polhe Ayers, Peter Harris

From epitaph on the tombstone:  
The latter was made an orphan by the smallpox scourge; raised by "Kanahwa" Spratt; received pension for services in the Revolution. At the age of 70 he returned to the Spratt homestead to die, and at his own request, was buried in the family graveyard.

The west base bears the following:  
Some of the soldiers in the Confederate army.—Peter Harris, John Harris, Jim Harris, Jeff Ayers, John Scot, Wm. Canty, Root. Marsh, John Brown, Alex. Timius, Billy George, Bob. Crawford, Bob. Head, John Sanders, Bill Sanders, Gilbert George, Nelson George, Epp Harris.

Here is a list of the Catawba Indians living in the reservation near here at the present time:

Lewis B. Gordon, Sally Gordon, Ruth Gordon, Lawie Gordon, Nora Gordon, Ben P. Harris, Sally H. Harris, Robert W. Harris, Nancy C. Harris, William Harris, R. b. Lee Harris, Nancy Harris, Mary Harris, James Harris, Sarah Harris, David A. Harris, Lizzie J. Harris, Edith Harris, Vnia Harris, Richard Harris, Rhoda Harris, Betsy Harris, Epp Harris, Martha J. Harris, Margaret Harris, Jessie Harris, James Harris, Luther Harris, Guss H. Harris, Edward Harris, Wesley Harris, Emma J. Harris, Allen S. Harris, Theodore Harris, Emily George, James M. George, Della George, Artemas George, Carrie L. George, Taylor George, Margaret J. George, Lucy J. George, John P. George, David Ayers, John Brown, Rachel Brown, Early Brown, Sally Brown, Argada Brown, Corah Brown, Samuel Blue, Louisa Blue, Nelson Blue, Lilly Blue, Herbert Blue, Margaret Brown, James Watts, Mary J. Watt, John Sanders, William Sanders, Joseph Sanders, Dora Sanders, John Idrel Sanders, Lewie Sanders, Bettie Harris, William Sawyer, Frank Canty, Henry Canty, Thomas Stevens, Annie Ayers, Wade Ayers, Mary Ayers, Jonnie Ayers, Rose Harris, Lottie Harris.