

SOUTH SIDE OF HAMPTON STREET

When the Colleton County Memorial Library planned this recording of early Colleton County history and invited me to participate I wondered what events to describe as a part of early 20th Century history. As I meditated it seemed to me that I could look into the past and see what was then a familiar sight, a field of corn, their green leaves waving in the summer breeze and as they brushed against each other they made a soft scraping, drowsy sound. Then my mind wandered to the many changes on Hampton street in my lifetime. Here I was born, grew up and watched the changes. Perhaps, I reasoned, another generation may be interested in this account. So I, with the cooperation of others, have recorded the growth of the South side of Hampton Street. I am particularly indebted to Miss Louise Fripp, also a resident of this street, for her research which has added to this account.

It has been said by others that at one time Hampton street was known as Jackson Street. Perhaps this was a conciliatory gesture to Jacksonboeo for having taken the county seat away from her. Early maps indicate that Hampton street extended from the Court House to the Academy, now the Elementary school and from there to the East it was known as Dunwoody street. True it is that the Rev. James Dunwoody whose home was in Hickory Valley, having had his house destroyed by the Cyclone of 1879 moved to the location where the Haws home now stands and perhaps it was then that the street was named for him.

This record will begin to the East from the corner of Hampton and Lemacks street and proceed due West ending with the house on the corner of Hampton and Walter street.

Sylvester Guess House

The first house to be described is on the corner of Hampton and Lemacks street and is an example of the early architecture. It is owned today by Sylvester Guess who when he purchased the property made changes and lived there for a time. More than twenty years ago the late Miss Hattie Glover who died in 1954 told me that her farther James S. Glover, who designed a number of the early homes, had built this house seventy-five years before. That would make this a century or more old.

The house is a narrow two story frame house and at one time , following the custom of that day, had a piazza extending across the front . I recall among those who have lived here, the Davis family with two daughters who enlivened the social life of the town. It was also the home of Frank Lemacks and the Melvin Carters and in the 1920's Dr. W. B. Ackerman and his family lived here. Mrs. Ackerman added to the charm of the location with her many flowers and had a hot house which drew local attent on.

2

The Marvin House

The next house was built by Landscape Architect~~ure~~, Robert E. Marvin and has attracted attention because of an unusual type of architecture. The rear of the house provides a pleasing view of the gardens to the south.

3

The Croskey House

A frame house forming the western boundary was known many years as Miss Julia Croskey's house. Her ancestors were among the first settlers. We remember the house as a small frame house. A deed of 1852 refers to this place as Mrs. Mey's, another name which has passed from history locally.. One record states that Florian Charles Mey was a native of France.. He purchased a lot in Charleston in 1787 and

was granted citizenship in this country in 1795. His son Charles S. Mey married Jane Teasdale, a daughter of John Teasdale, of Manchester, England, an officer in the British army who was the first to export South Carolina cotton to England in 1784. The next year he increased the shipment thus opening up commerce with England.

Julia, the daughter of Charles S. Mey and Jane Teasdale, married James M. Croskeys and upon his death she came to Walterboro to live with her mother Jane Teasdale Mey, who had purchased this lot on Hampton Street. Miss Julia Ann, known by her relatives as "Deedee" inherited a portion of the property and purchased more land. Thus it became known as "Miss Julia Croskey's place." Here N. G. Morrall built and upon his death Ernest Marvin became owner. Now it is the property of Carl Simmons.

4

The Glover House

If it takes a lot of living in a house to call it home, then the Glover house could qualify for it was occupied for a century by the members of this one family, many through childhood and adulthood. When the last member, Miss Hattie Glover, died in 1954, the property was acquired by Ted C. Hodges who after a time razed it, leaving only the large oak, to mark the spot where this family lived.

In the year 1852 James S. Glover, of Campbell plantation, purchased slightly over two acres of land from his mother who lived next door. On this property which extended from Hampton to Carn street, he built his home, which came to be known as the "high ^{high} ~~top~~ Glover ~~house~~" because it was built high from the ground. The wide front steps led to the first floor with a basement below. A large bell at the foot of the steps gave warning that company was about to ascend the steps and so popular was this family that the bell often rang.. Two large rooms marked the front of the house and smaller bedrooms to the back. The dining room extended the width of the house. This space was needed for there were thirteen children born

to this couple. The kitchen was a separate building in the yard and food was brought to the house at mealtime in covered platters. The early citizens feared above all things, fire, for with only well or pump water and volunteers to bring the water in buckets, it was easy to lose a home. So kitchens were either built away from the main house or seperated by a walk way.

The plantations could supply most of the food so there was never any lack. Houses were not screened as there were no mosquitos but flies knew no barriers so during meals it was someone's duty to wave a brush constantly. In this home the duty fell on a small black boy. Sometimes in his interest in the huge platters of food or maybe from drowsiness the brush would stop all motion. Then from the head of the table the saintly looking hostess would scream "Brush, Jeems, for God's sake brush."

The wide piazza facing Hampton street was usually filled with family and friends on a summer day. Its heighth from the ground provided a ring side seat to view the passing traffic and the family with their many contacts could provide the conversation.

5

The Library Site

Now the site of the Colleton County Memorial Library, this location was known as home for several families. Prior to leaving for Charleston Archibald Campbell, surveyor, who had been authorized to lay out lots in the Town of Walterboro in 1824, sold his lot on Hampton street to James Bowman. Bowman's widowed sister, Mrs. Peter Sinkler Glover was living there in 1850, the time of his death. He left the home and land to her and her daughter, Catharine, who later married Col. Henry W. Stewart. Mrs. Glover died in 1865 and after the war the daughter moved to Charleston and sold the property to the Lucien Bellinger family. When the Bellingers moved to Charleston they sold the property to B. G. Price. In 1955 the County acquired the land under an Act of the General Assembly and by 1957 the building was ready to serve as a public library .. Thus, once

again only an oak tree marks the spot where family life existed for more than a century. Family tradition says that both oaks were transplanted from the plantation sites. It was under this oak that my own mother buried a precious possession, a ring in a china slipper.. when the news came that Sherman's army was on the march. We still have the china slipper.

6th

The Farmer House

The small house to the west of the library was once the Farmer house located on Wichman street.. Mrs. Kate Farmer, a member of an old Colleton family lived there as a widow with her two sons, Arthur and Tudor. Upon her death the late G. C. Brown acquired the building and erected it on Hampton street on one of three lots which he had acquired through Col. Campbell Henderson as agent. Later the place was sold to Mrs. Mattie Rivers Seabrook. After her death Raiford Glover bought the property and lived there until he built on Carn street, renting the Hampton Street house. At one time Mr. Brown's father, his grandmother and two sisters lived there.

7

The Lloyd Mitchell House

Mr. Brown also built the house owned by Lloyd Mitchell, who had purchased it from Mrs. Brown some years ago. Mr. Mitchell recently sold the property and plans to move into a new home near the Calhoun Academy. At one time W. E. Jones and family lived here. Mr. Jones established the Jones Carbonating Company and was associated for awhile with Mr. Brown in the furniture business.

8

The G. C. Brown House

In 1904 G. C. Brown, having acquired these three lots, built a one story home here where several of his children were born. He married Miss Esther Wescoat daughter of Mr. Whaley Wescoat. She had lived previously in the county. In 1928 a second story was added. After the death of Mr. Brown and with the children married and with homes of their own, Mrs. Brown continued to live there until about a year ago when she decided to sell the home. It is now owned by the Hortons of Charleston. Mrs. Horton is a native of the county, the former Miss Johnny Marvin, whose father was the late Ernest Marvin of White Hall and Walterboro. The Hortons ~~are having~~ *made* *before moving* ~~some changes made and plan to move at an early date.~~

9

Peden McLeod House

Within recent months Peden McLeod has purchased the next home from the estate of Dr. Riddick Ackerman ^{Jr.} ~~A~~. The first house, except a small house to the rear of the lot, was built by M. P. Howell, who acquired this and the adjoining lot from the estate of F. G. Behre. Here Mr. Howell erected a one story home and lived there until he built a two story and much larger house on the corner, now owned by L. G. Fishburne. His partner and brother-in-law, Judge E. L. Fishburne purchased the property and moved here. Later Judge Fishburne moved to a smaller house built between the two homes.

Dr. Riddick Ackerman, having acquired the property, erected on it a large two story brick house where he was living at the time of his death. In the settlement of the estate Mr. McLeod bought the house and lot and is now living there.

The Behre House

The Behre House stood where the home of L. G. Fishburne is today. It was a rambling type home and having been in the path of the '79 cyclone it was badly damaged. Upon being restored the family returned to it. Mr. Behre was a lawyer and one time principal of the school, then called the Academy. Most if not all of the yards on the south side of Hampton extended to what is known as Carn street. A portion, if not all of Carn street was at one time known as Back street.. A daughter, Miss Susie Behre, taught private school in a small building near Hampton street and, at a time when the public school only ran a few months out of the year, those who could afford the tuition finished the term at her school.

The Academy

The location of the Elementary school marks the place where a school has stood for around a century and a half. One of the first schools was only for boys. At that time all schools were privately taught. But in 1834 citizens sought to have the school incorporated and open it as a public school for boys and girls. This was done. Over the years there have been name changes, such as Grammar school, Graded school and now Elementary school but the location has remained the same. Some years ago the school, which replaced the one damaged by the cyclone, was moved in the vicinity of the high school where it is today. There are some who remember when the main building with two rooms on each floor was added on to by two more rooms, which the pupils called the "kitchen." A brick building replaced the wooden building but it still holds its original position by the side of the road.

12

The Gruber House

For many years the next building to the school has been known as the Gruber House. It was here that Judge W. B. Gruber, his wife and two children lived. At one period C. M. Grace with his family lived here. One elderly citizen recalls going there to take dancing lessons and another visiting a schoolmate who was then seven years old. In a day when the boys from the school had to keep the water bucket filled it is possible that they sought the nearest well next door. Later they prolonged the time by going farther to get water. The late L. A. Fraysse, in describing the homes on this block where once his own home stood, stated that Dr. Theodore Dehon who owned Dehon and Bonnie Doone plantations lived here. It was probably their summer home. While under new ownership the building is still referred to as the "Gruber House.

13

L. M. Fripp House

The next building, continuing west, was the home of L. M. Fripp. He was the son of Paul Hamilton Fripp and Harriett Ann Croskeys. He married Miss Melinda Black. Their daughter married Clair Fishburne. This was their home during their married life. In the past months it was purchased by Dr. John Hiott, co-owner with his brother Dr. Eddie Hiott in Hiott's Pharmacy. Dr. Hiott has done a marvellous job of restoration, making of it one of the handsomest homes on Hampton street.

14

The Fraysse House

The Fraysse house stood on the next lot. Here was a typical early home, the lot extending to what is now Carm street. When the Fraysse moved to Hendersonville, the house stood vacant for a time and as many such became known as "haunted." This fascinating story was shattered when someone discovered that goats made their habitation beneath the house. One night church bells rang and people

fired, alerting the citizens to fire and a call for help. But this was no ordinary fire. The house was built of solid lumber and there was no stopping the flames with water bucket^s. So the Fraysse house passed from the scene. After a time Dr. L. M. Stokes bought the lot and built and lived there until his death. He had married Deenie Lucas, daughter of John Lucas, and she took much pride in beautifying the grounds in front and to the rear. This property was acquired by Dr. Eddie Hiott and is their home today.

The Farmers

15 The next lot, as were most of the early lots, must have been quite large for today there are two homes here. One the home of the late David Black, a long time city treasurer, and now owned and lived in by their daughter, Mrs. Edith Black White^{Brown}. The next lot was bought by the late Mrs. Charity Gahagan and is owned by members of the family. In the long ago it was known as the home of Judge Charles B. Farmer. Here he had a garden that lived in the memory of many who would refer to the "famous Farmer gardens. Later the family moved to Allendale. Their daughter, Minnie, married first John Glover and upon his death married his brother, Henry. Both men are buried at Live Oakcemetery in the family plot,

16

Jasper Rice

on the corner lot now owned by the Cocoa-Cola plant, was the home of Jasper Rice. After his death Mrs. Rice and her daughter, Miss Mamie Rice continued to live here. The daughter later married M. Paniotte, from Greece, who had set up business in Walterboro. In time the property was sold to other interests.

17

Mrs. Mary Glover's House.

Crossing Memorial Avenue, for many years known as Railroad Avenue, there was a large lot, bounded by three streets. Mr. Fraysse stated that this once was owned by the Chaplins Here Joseph Edward and his wife Mary E. Glover lived. This house, also was typical of early architecture. High celings, large front rooms, piazzas both front and back and a wide passageway running through the house. Early builders considered ventilxation in their house planning. As other early homes thinking of fire hazzards, the kitchen was joined to the main house by a short runway. Mrs. Glover lived in this house 65 years and lived to be almoat a century old. She and her husband were the parents of ten children. She lived to see all of them reach maturity and outlived most of them. After her death the property was sold to the First Baptist church where they built the handsome edifice of today which is also situated on three streets.

M. E. Carn

18

The next property was osned by Lt. Gov. M. E. Carn, who was a signer of the Ordinance of Secession; served in the Senate and House and was mayor of Walterboro. The property on which is now the City Hall was a part of his holdings.. His daughter married W. J. Fishburne, also a lawyer. Two sons served as mayors of Walterboro, one was a bank president. One son was Judge E. L. Fishburne who had also served in the General Assembly. The home still stands. L. N. Fishburne owned the next house which is now an office.

The Fripp Homes

19

From the City Hall to the corner of Hampton and Walter streets are the homes of members of the Fripp family. From the corner to Carn street was owned by this family and at one time the three houses from Hampton on Walter street to Carn were owned and lived in by members of the family. Records show that the corner house which faces Walter street was built in 1849 by S. B. Canaday. A news story in the Colleton and Beaufort Sun states that this handsome residence of S. B. Canaday has been sold to the Stewards of the Methodist church and was being occupied by preachers of the circuit, the Revs. Crook and Link. But later records would indicate that this transaction did not materialize. Other records show that it was sold in 1863 to Paul Hamilton Fripp who died in 1871. His widow Harriett Croskeys Fripp bought the adjoining lot thus extending her property on Hampton street. The present City Hall once the M. E. Carn property became the east boundary. Records of 1896 show that her son, Charles H. Fripp acquired the lot and house on the east and it has been in this family ever since and is now owned and occupied by the daughter, Miss Louise Fripp. The corner house was in time acquired by the late W. E. Fripp who made of it an attractive home. Mrs. Fripp is the present owner and occupant.

The Carn street extension of Charles H. Fripp became the property of his son, Harold and is now the property of his widow, Mrs. Marie Fripp. The remainder of this lot was owned by J. E. Fripp who built the house on the corner which became the property of the late Harry Fripp and now Mrs. Myrtis Fripp. After the death of Harriett C. Fripp the house and lot on Hampton and Walter was devised to J. E. Fripp.. He moved here in 1907. It then became the property of his son, W. E. Fripp.