

A History of the Jesse Ford Taylor Plantation and Lotus Villa 1851 – 1956



By Eliza Lindsey Baucom

The Jesse Ford Taylor Plantation was purchased by William Ford Taylor in 1851. The genealogy of the Taylor family has only been traced back to Arthur Taylor who owned lots of land around Williamsburg, Virginia, in the early 1700's and built a large home, architecture of that early day being constructed of brick and clapboard, two stories high with two chimneys at each end. This home and tract of land near Emporia, Virginia, he called Arthur's Choice and was still standing about five years ago though in a bad state of repairs. About 1740 he sold this home tract and bought land in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. When Nash County was formed in 1777 a part of his land was included in the newly formed county.

Arthur Taylor's will, dated 1765 Edgecombe County, names his sons and daughters. Wilson Taylor, a Lieutenant in the American Revolutionary War, was one of his sons and my ancestor upon whose record I have a supplemental line in the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Lieutenant Wilson Taylor whose wife was Sarah Moore, daughter of Edward Moore, Jr. of Edgecombe County, was the father of William Ford Taylor who purchased five hundred acres of land in Wake County near Raleigh in 1851 for \$5,000.00 from George Mordecai, the George Mordecai who married a Miss Cameron whose home was situated where the Cameron Court Apartments now stand in front of St. Mary's College in Raleigh. Ford Taylor deeded this five hundred acres of land to his youngest son, Jesse Ford Taylor, who at that time was not married, having already given the other sons land in Nash County and the daughters slaves as was the custom of that time.

William Ford Taylor, known as "Buck", represented Nash County in the House of Commons from 1830 to 1850 with the exception of two or three terms. This Law making body or General Assembly of North Carolina met annually.

William Ford Taylor married Elizabeth Betsy Horn, granddaughter of William Horn who was an outstanding figure in Edgecombe County and a member of the Halifax Convention, which convention instructed its delegates to vote for independence at the National Convention in 1775.

The Horns came to North Carolina along with the Taylors and Battles from Virginia about the same time. These families intermarried and many of the names such as Jesse, Amos, William, Elisha, Elijah occur through the generations of each of these families. These families were leaders and many of them belonged to the learned professions such as ministers, lawyers, physicians and journalists. Amos Battle was one of the early pastors of Raleigh's First Baptist Church, and it was said that he almost exhausted his considerable fortune contributing to the building of this church and Wake Forest College.

John Battle, from whom I am a lineal descendant, came to Virginia in 1654 having been granted a tract of land for colonization on the Nansemond River in Virginia, also a large grant along the "Paspetank" River in North Carolina. It was upon this ancestor's record that I was accepted for membership in the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century.

Elizabeth Horn and William Ford Taylor were married in 1815 and were the parents of William, Kinchen, Jane, Jesse Ford and Elizabeth.

Jesse Ford Taylor had not married when their father moved to Wake County in 1851. His mother had died in 1847, so when his father moved to his new home on the Louisburg Road two miles north of Raleigh's Capitol he came, as his father had bought this acreage for him as has been stated. With him he brought twenty-seven slaves, including children and infants, stock of horses, mules, cows and hogs, farming implements and the family carriage, buggies, carts, and wagons. In the writer's scrapbook there is a leaf from an old ledger listing all twenty-seven slaves by name and age for taxation, their tax value being \$15,000.00. When they had been in their new abode about one week and when their stock was taken for water five mules got away and went east through what was known so long as Taylor's Woods to the old Tarboro Road and returned to their old home at Taylor's Cross Roads, now Stricklands Cross Roads in Nash County on the Raleigh-Rocky Mount Road. The old home in which Jesse Taylor was born still stands in the northwest corner of the Cross Roads in a fairly good state of preservation. About a fourth of a mile back of this residence is the old Taylor burying ground on the Nashville Road where Betsy Horn Taylor is buried, the grave farthest north.

The house to which Ford (Buck) Taylor moved was a story and a half with dormer windows, porch facing the Dunn land, what is now St. Augustine College founded in 1867 sixteen years after the Taylor land was purchased. There was a long lane which led to

the Tarboro Road now Tarboro Street. This house was set on a knoll covered with oaks, pine, cedar, and hickory nut trees.

The knoll on which this home was located sloped precipitously from the back to a spring in a deep ravine where there were huge boulders. This spring was known as the Kizzie Bonner since Revolutionary days from a woman by that name who occupied a house on the north side of this deep ravine. Fenton Street, Uncle Billie Taylor's middle name, now joins U. S. Highway 1 on the east and runs along the north rim of this ravine. For many years this beautiful wooded ravine was the scene of many community picnics, barbecue dinners for Grandfather's numerous friends in Raleigh, watermelon cuttings--the watermelons were put in the spring branch early the morning before to cool--and various other social activities. But now this has been filled in, Kizzie Bonner Spring water diverted through the city sewer and the ravine filled in and leveled off.

Belvedere Park, a residential area, covers a big area of Taylor's Woods and it is indeed a lovely place, each residence surrounded by huge white oaks, pines, etc. It barely shows from U. S. Highway 1, as much of it lies out of sight with its gracefully curved paved streets: Part of it lies back of the Alamo Plaza Motor Court.

When the Taylor family had settled in their new abode Jesse Taylor joined the First Baptist Church in 1851 which was then located on Person Street about where the Greek Orthodox Church now stands, but in 1859 the Congregation built the church on its present sight, the northwest corner of Edenton and Salisbury Streets across from the Capitol Square. Grandfather remained a faithful member for forty-three years. He died September 19, 1894.

I am a third generation member. The children of Mr. Dallas Holoman, Jr, and wife, Bessie Gray Gill Holoman, daughter of Hubert S. Gill, Sr, and granddaughter of Laura Taylor Gill, are the fifth generation in this historical old church. Truly God has been good to us all and for it we are a grateful family. Now back to earlier history.

Immediately after the purchase of this tract of land much needed to be done clearing, grading and ditching. Pigeon House Branch, named for a huge pigeon cote up stream about where Jackson's Pure Oil Station is located just before No. 1-A goes through the underpass of the Seaboard Railroad, was a meandering stream through the willows and swamps. So with slave labor my grandfather canaled this stream where it empties into Crabtree reclaiming land which grew abundant corn. The uplands were improved for the cultivation of cotton, wheat, rye, and clover. Orchards were set out and also a grape vineyard of two or more acres. One of my earliest recollections was seeing long tables with around twenty people, mostly colored women, preparing the bunches of grapes to be shipped in oblong baskets with a flat top securely placed on them. There was a four or five acre plum orchard on a knoll along a long lane that led after 1870 from the Taylor homestead out to the Wake Forest Road about where highway No. 1 and No. 1-A intersect.

Where the then Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, now the Seaboard Railroad, crosses Crabtree Creek at the northwest boundary of the plantation, there grandfather, recognizing the clay as suitable for brick, operated a brick yard with slave labor. The brick in the Seaboard Round House, many of those in the First Baptist Church, Peace College, and other old landmarks in Raleigh were made there.

When they had been in Wake County almost two years Jesse went back to Nash County to be married to his second cousin, Ann Eliza Taylor, daughter of Edward Taylor, which was the culmination of a romance begun several years before he left Nash County. They were married June 14, 1853. They were the parents of Laura K. married May 15, 1877 to Ransom Ea Gill of Franklin County; Sonora Elizabeth married June 27, 1894 to David D. Gill of Wake County, related to Ransom E. Sill; William Fenton, who was never married; Anna Eliza married to Alvis Edward S. Lindsey of Wayne County, October 2, 1889.

Jesse had planned to build a colonial type home with columns at the head of the ravine heretofore described and utilize the little brook for a fountain and a series of pools. However, this did not materialize as the War Between the States interrupted. He was called to service and, like most southerners of that time, their plans had to be postponed and many of them never materialized.

There was so much destruction and depredation that were wrought by the invading northern army that it took many years to rebuild and restore even the necessities.

The women of the two Taylor families, Grandmother and her sister-in-law, Betsey Taylor wife of George Taylor, plus household servants were sent into Raleigh for protection and lived on Dawson Street next door to the Union Station, as our generation saw it, looking out over Nash Square, but Granddad Ford who was then in his eighties refused to leave home saying, "No dam Yankee would run him out of his home". However, when they came they took over his residence, butchered pigs in the dining room and abused him, forcing him to leave. He was then eighty-five years old.

One of the slave girls, Isabella, walked with him and carried his clothes to Raleigh where his daughter and daughter-in-law and three little grandchildren had obtained refuge. He died June of 1865 like many old southern planters, disappointed and outraged at such wanton and needless destruction.

My grandparents did not believe in the institution of slavery but, like most southerners of that era, they had inherited them and tried to be Christian in handling them. The "Issue Free Negro" of that day had a hard time economically in the south as employment was hard to get. They didn't have the social status as the other negroes, as slaves rated among other slaves according to the social status of their owners. My grandparents neither bought nor sold them. Before moving to Wake County one of their slaves was falsely accused of breaking the lock on a tool chest belonging to a white carpenter who was paid five hundred dollars for the job and claimed this negro broke into the chest and took the money. Knowing this negro's character and whereabouts when this happened

and believing it a ruse to collect the five hundred dollars again--the owner's were responsible for their negroes--Kinchen Taylor left with him for Richmond after midnight in a horse and buggy, getting him over the state line and into Virginia where the law had no jurisdiction and in Richmond gave him his freedom by manumission. So, armed with these credentials, some money and sufficient clothing to take care of him until he found employment, Uncle Kinchen bade him goodbye. As a child it was with great interest I listened to this from my Aunts and Uncle who themselves had been told of this incident--the sadness of his taking leave of his white folks at midnight and denying 'til the last any knowledge of the money. Years after the surrender they had a letter from him somewhere in Mississippi saying he was with good white people and had a family, also stating his appreciation of his folks, white and negro, back in North Carolina and asking questions, which letter was given a reply. Our family negroes were given religious and moral instructions, and taught the amenities. As a child I remember several of the old former Taylor slaves. They had nice manners and were respected citizens, their descendants have in many instances become home owners and have done well.

My Aunts, who refuged with their mother to Raleigh during the war--one eleven and the other nine--, remembered especially Sherman's Army coming into Raleigh and how the natives stayed indoors with closed shutters while part of the army encamped on Nash Square. From some vantage point they watched and were impressed with the swiftness with which clothing, bedding, and other camp accoutrements were unloaded and set out and laundry strung up. One of the most impressive sights were the horses and wagons with fine old furniture covered over with lovely quilts and other loot taken from the helpless Southerners. One thing they never forgot was one wagon with an elegant old sofa upon which two negro women were seated "riding in state".

They also remembered the nice young Yankee soldier who was assigned home guard for their residence. He had impeccable manners, was at all times courteous, but would never come in the home or accept any hospitality offered him. How long soldiers remained on Nash Square I don't recall hearing.

The family returned home and began the business of starting all over with nothing but land and a battered up home and one years harvest of corn and a few pigs looked after by the slaves that remained on the plantation for the duration. All horses and mules were carried off by the Northern Army. It was a problem to know where and how to start.

In Raleigh one day Grandfather, Jesse, met a Yankee officer who asked him if he knew where he could get feed for his army mules, that he would buy it. Knowing that some of the northerners, if they knew he had feed, would take it anyway he thought that he had better take a chance on getting some pay and told them of his corn and fodder, and the officer made an appointment after receiving directions as to the place. He brought army wagons and loaded them. Upon leaving he gave my Grandfather script in payment for the produce telling him to see a certain officer who would pay him in U. S. money. Jesse presented his script and he sent him to someone else, and by the time this had happened a fourth time he decided he would never get his pay. Then, thinking he would try one

more time, this officer said he had no money with which to pay but there were six young army mules that he would let him have in payment. These mules had been abused, but with care and food they could do good farm work so Grandfather settled for them. Of these and the four ex-slave families stayed on with him, some remaining until death and are buried in the Taylor Slave Burial Grounds. He built with his business acumen, resourcefulness, enterprise, and hard work an estate which at his death was rated of considerable worth.

Jesse Taylor showed outstanding aptitude for civil engineering. In 1576 he built a three story cotton gin and grist mill. The water power to run this was from a pond formed by diverting the water from Pigeon House Branch by a canal and from the three acre pond by another canal to the gin. He made his own instruments for determining water levels, etc. which were highly complimented by some professional civil engineers.

Taylor's Pond, which as stated heretofore covered about three acres and was about ten feet deep next to the north end of the dam, was quite a popular place for people to come to fish and the colored people would get permission to baptize their converts there. Once there was an excursion from Henderson, North Carolina, bringing around one hundred or more candidates for baptism in Taylor's pond.

About 1881 the North Carolina Fish Hatchery Commission leased this pond from Grandfather for a period of five years for a hatchery. They obtained permission to build a series of small ponds joining the mill pond dam on the east. They built a substantial cottage to use as an office at the south end of the big dam and, in close proximity to this, a long rectangular building which housed the different vats for the hatching of fish. From this hatchery streams of the state were stocked.

Mr. Stephen Worth was the Superintendent for its duration. There was no division of Conservation and Development at that time, but there are records in the Department of Agriculture about this hatchery. Also, Mr. Walker P. Worth, youngest child of Mr. Stephen Worth, has been most cooperative in furnishing information taken from his father's notes. Mr. Stephen G. Worth, born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, son of Addison Worth and a nephew of North Carolina's Civil War Governor, Jonathan North, is listed as attending Louisiana State University, Class of 1871. In his records the following occurs: 1880-81, Raleigh ponds; 1880-85, Raleigh. Also reference to materials purchased from Briggs Hardware. Later, January 2, 1902, Roster of the Society of the Alumni of Louisiana State University listed as follows: "Worth, Stephen G. -- Fish Commission, Washington, D. C. It is believed that Mr. Worth was North Carolina's first Commissioner of Fisheries." The Records of Board of Agriculture Report 1887 lists S. G. Worth's salary for January, February, April, May 1885, no salary June, 1885. June 24, 1885 to Jesse F. Taylor \$25.00 rent on Carp Pond. October 2, 1885 - \$3.62 to Jesse F. Taylor for cleaning race to fish pond. December 17, 1885 - S. G. Worth for Board. street car fare \$35.00, lunches 14 days \$7.00. In 1885 - S. G. Worth to New Orleans Exposition December 24 to January 9 - \$91.76. December 1885 -- Jesse Taylor rent for land on which carp ponds are situated - \$25.00. June 3, 1886 - S. G. Worth Superintendent of Fisheries and presented

after his resignation - \$11.93. Fish Commissioner resigned April 16, 1885. Several months later the commission was ordered to close out business.

The Stephen Worth family was held in highest respect and regard by every member of the Jesse Taylor family. Jesse Taylor was a very enterprising person. His farm was a show place. He used his own pure bred Taylor Cotton Seed and offered a reward for the tenant who produced the most bales of cotton per acre. Taylor's Cotton Seed were in much demand and were shipped to various parts of North Carolina.

He was approached once about running for Commissioner of Agriculture but he declined. He said as a boy he resolved never to get into politics as he saw enough of that when his father served for so long in the General Assembly of North Carolina from Nash County.

Another enterprise of Jesse Taylor's was breeding horses, and some of my earliest recollections are seeing Prince, Picayune, Zolca, Phil and Millie McKey, all beautiful horses.

The Taylor home was known far and wide for its hospitality.

"FIRE DESTROYS WAKE LANDMARK OLD TAYLOR HOME NORTH OF CITY BURNED EARLY MONDAY

The old Taylor home on the Rolesville Road regarded as one of the landmarks of Wake County and nearly one hundred years old was destroyed by fire early Monday morning.

It was the home of William Taylor, a bachelor, and at one time it was the scene of great gatherings as his father, Jesse Taylor, threw open its doors in a typical display of Southern hospitality.

The house situated at the eminence of a beautiful stretch of woods, was built back in the days when wooden pegs took the place of nails.

Its original owner was an extensive planter and his holdings included all the acreage from the old Louisburg Road from the Mordecai property to Crabtree Creek and extended almost to the old Tarboro Road on the eastern outskirts of the city.

When Meredith College officials decided to move the college from Raleigh, efforts were made by the late Daniel Allen to acquire the Taylor farm as the new site of the school."

(Taken from the NEWS AND OBSERVER, January 30, 1934)

Jesse Taylor in 1876 remodeled his old home and modernized it as to architecture. It was not the columned house in the setting he planned but nevertheless a substantial residence typical of that period.

My Grandmother, Ann Eliza Taylor, was a great lover of flowers and had one of the prettiest gardens in the community. There were many southern shrubs, bulbous plants, beautiful annuals such as hyacinths, violets, roses and snow drops.

She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery April 14, 1885 and there is now a rose bush that bears red fragrant roses that was planted there soon after her interment, not so large now as it once was but still there bearing blossoms. The Jesse Taylor plot is located in the beautiful Magnolia Heights of Oakwood Cemetery. Jesse died September 19, 1894, and is buried by his beloved Eliza.

According to his Will his 500 acres of land were divided among his four children. His only son, William Fenton Taylor, was given the home place and 250 acres of land lying in the Raleigh Township. The acreage lying in St. Mathews Township was divided among the daughters, one of which was my mother, Anna Taylor Lindsey.

My father, A. E. S. Lindsey, at that time was building a home in Raleigh which was nearly completed. It was finished soon thereafter, so my father decided to sell it and invest the proceeds in a home situated on the tract of land my mother inherited. The site he chose was upon a hill overlooking the Taylor Mill Pond. This hill, a very rocky one, was in the cultivation of cotton and no trees. There were those who wondered and commented on how this site could be attractively developed. My father, being of Scotch descent and with the determination that characterizes that race, was not to be daunted. He visualized the landscaping of this hill, planted on it trees that would grow quickly into a grove, shrubs, and flowers. There was no public road nearer than the Wake Forest Road. Only a plantation path connected the Wake Forest Road with the low grounds on Crabtree Creek.

My father set about immediately to get a much needed public road by this home which would serve to shorten the distance to Raleigh for large numbers of people living just across Crabtree north of the Lindsey home. Most of these people joined with him in petitioning the County commissioners for this road which would connect the old Rolesville Road at a point near New Hope Baptist Church to the Wake Forest Road at a point opposite where the Jackson's Pure Oil Filling Station now stands. It would save about three miles for many of them in traveling to Raleigh.

After much talk, measuring, etc. the County Commissioners told my father if he and those benefited would build a bridge across Crabtree Creek they would have the prisoners build the road and maintain it. Like lots of people who want a thing very much if it is free, many of them would not contribute to the cost of the bridge. However, my father, A. E. S. Lindsey, and Mr. Reuben Weathers almost alone paid for the bridge and

its construction.

When Crabtree soon after its completion went on one of its rampages, which on occasion it now does, it washed out one of its abutments and dropped one end down into the creek. It was soon restored with renewed security measures. one of my early recollections is seeing the prisoners with picks and shovels, carts drawn by mules, and men pushing wheelbarrows opening this road and maintaining it many years until motorized road machinery took their place. Guards with guns attended these prisoners wearing stripes which intrigued me but only at a safe distance. I was scared to death of them and when riding past them I snuggled up to my father as closely as I could.

The road was at last opened for traffic and a man who had done nothing to help and had said he had a sufficient road was the first to cross the bridge in his surry and used it as long as he lived carrying butter, eggs and country produce each week to Raleigh.

This public road for around forty years was west of the Lindsey home much nearer than the hardsurface U. S. Highway No. 1, also N. C. Highway No. 59 and the Louisburg Road, which is now east of our old home. Also, there is now being constructed a south bound traffic road from Westinghouse Meter Plant crossing our front yard between the home and the present highway which will be for north bound traffic. The south bound lanes will be called Northern Boulevard and will join the Downtown Boulevard.

The Norfolk and Southern Railroad was graded about 1901 or 1902 west of our yard and was strenuously opposed by my parents and our relatives whose land was contiguous, But there was nothing or practically nothing they could do about the damages incurred. The remuneration was very little considering the acreage taken. However, after fifty or more years, as a result of the railroads location, some of the land joining this and U. S. Highway No. 1 has sold for approximately \$10,000.00 per acre.

We have sold building sites to Edwards and Broughton and Job P. Wyatt Sons and Co., two of Raleigh's oldest and finest old business firms. Many other types of businesses have applied but were not acceptable to us. These sites were a part of my inheritance from my mother. We can still have privacy for our home and have building sites left for the right sort of industry in the remaining forty-five or fifty acres.

Lotus Villa is situated two and one—fourth miles north of the State Capitol on an acreage where for many years farming was carried on. Cotton, corn, wheat, potatoes and a vegetable garden were grown. There were usually two horses, two mules, three or four cows and hogs sufficient to supply our family of four with meat stored in a smoke house.

My father's profession, insurance, necessitated his going to his office daily, and for more than thirty years he maintained an office in Raleigh. The farming activities were carried on by two negro families.

The original house my father built in 1895, the one my husband and I remodeled in 1935,

was the "gay nineties type of architecture". There was a three story cupola, crenulated roof and shingle belt. There were seven rooms downstairs and four rooms and bath upstairs. This was considered very pretty for that day with its spacious grounds overlooking the three acre mill pond covered with Lotus lilies. A pagoda which served as a swimming pool in summer and a hot house in winter for my mother's numerous potted plants stood on a lower terrace beside a concrete walk which led from the front door to a summer house at the pond's edge. The miniature rook house built by the side of the old Louisburg Road was situated at the then north west entrance to our yard. This attracted many children of that day as they passed--many now grown speak of this. This home was named Lotus Villa by my father in the early 1900's because of the Lotus Pond.

From the first there was running water powered by a gas engine. Acetylene lights from a private plant generating the lights from carbide was the source of illumination. Since electricity was brought years later we have used it for pumping water from a well which has given an ample water supply always. We have also used electricity for illumination and every household use. This year, 1956, we have connected with Raleigh's watermain using both that source or our own private well. It is optional. A natural gas line also passes the home.

Nothing pleased my father more than making little children happy, and they never seemed reluctant to go to him or were never embarrassed in his presence. His father died when he was five months old and it seemed that he, having missed the love and care of a father, wanted to make children happy. He was the youngest of five boys, born September 4, 1858 just prior to the War Between the States. His mother with indomitable will and boundless energy kept her family together on her farm in Chatham County near Pittsboro, North Carolina rearing to manhood five Christian gentlemen. She was thirty—three when Grandpa died at the age of thirty-five and remained a widow until her death almost fifty years later.

Grandfather Lindsey was named William Alvis Lindsey and he named his infant son Edward Screen. At his passing five months later Grandmother Lindsey put Alvis in front of his name making a third initial. His young friends called him "Alphabet", his people called him Alvis.

William Alvis Lindsey was a student at Trinity when it was located in Randolph County. It was later moved to Durham and is now Duke University. Teaching was his profession.

Grandmother Lindsey was Mary Lacy Lloyd, the Great Granddaughter of Thomas Lloyd, an outstanding figure in Colonial days and a Major General in the Colonial Army. He was Sheriff of Orange County and ordered the arrest of Herman Husband, leader of the Regulator Movement prior to the American Revolution. He was a member of the first General Assembly of North Carolina which met at New Bern and served eight terms in that body. His home, "The Meadows", is situated three miles west of Chapel Hill at Calvander. A fitting monument at his grave there was unveiled more than twenty years ago. A part of his large acreage, which one of his daughters inherited, was donated to the

University of North Carolina by her husband, Colonel Hogan of the Revolutionary War.

Several years after my parent's death Carson and I decided to remodel the old home, so in 1935 we chose the Colonial type of architecture. He is not an architect, but his training in mechanical drawing in college served him in good stead. After about six different designs we chose the present one.

There are some of my woman's ideas incorporated in the change, and several of the original features were kept. The original stairway whose balustrade, rail, and newel posts are solid walnut made from walnut trees that grew on this acreage, the sliding door between the present front hall and the library and many of the single doors are left in position but made into double French doors, and some other features have been kept. However, much of the old porch on the west side was absorbed into a private bath for the downstairs bedroom and to enlarge the dining room after a part of it was taken for a private stairway leading to the upstairs apartment. The original built-in library and the built-in china closet in the dining room remain as my father and mother designed it. The arches throughout the library, bedroom and dining room were Carson's idea. These arches have received many compliments as has the crystal closet in the dining room.

The porch lanterns were two of many ships' lanterns taken from the Cape Fear River Boat, "The Seven Mary's", which plied for many many years up and down that river before it was dismantled. They were given to me by my first cousin, Thomas H. Lindsey, who bought several of them. This cousin lived for many years at Southport, North Carolina and was State Senator from that district at the time he made the gift. Carson converted them from oil to electricity--one hangs over the front entrance, the other on the west side next to the Car Port. The glass in these lanterns is especially designed to cast a lengthy beam and have been a great convenience for night parking.

The oil paintings which hang on the walls of Lotus Villa, with a few exceptions, were painted by my mother; Also lots of the china with her initials, A.E.T., on the back of most every piece which is kept in the original china closet were painted by her while she was a student at Peace Institute, now Peace Junior College. In this alumna, Peace had one of its most devoted and loyal persons. She never attended another school, having been tutored privately at home. She was at Peace 1880-1886. She loved every grit on the old campus. I, too, feel that way about this famous old school, as I received my diploma for completing the full academic course in 1910 and later received a B. S. Degree in Education from N. C. State College. Most of the antique furniture in our home are heirlooms from the Taylor and Lindsey families.

Eliza Eliotte Lindsey and Carson Devane Baucom were married at Lotus Villa at eight o'clock in the evening, November 15, 1916. Dr. Thomas W. O'Kelly, pastor of the First Baptist Church performed the ceremony in the library at the home. Five couples attended.

The bride wore the conventional white satin and bridal veil caught around the head with

valley lilies. She carried a shower bouquet of bridal roses and lilies of the valley.

My sister, Madeline Taylor Lindsey Knott, was matron of honor wearing yellow satin and carrying an arm bouquet of white chrysanthemums. The bridesmaids were white net dresses over satin and carried arm bouquets of yellow chrysanthemums. The following were bridesmaids: Annie Lindsey, Annie Pill, Lucille Phillips, Lillie Bell hunter and Swannanoa Baucom. The groomsmen were John Robin Baucom, best man, Swade Barbour, Roy Baucom, Charles Davis and Alfred T. Taylor. Mrs. Wilson, organist at the First Baptist Church, accompanied by Kimbrough Jones, violinist, furnished the music. Callie Hunter, now the widow of Leon S. Brassfield, sang two solos, viz. "Until" and "Because".

The temperature began dropping that afternoon until it reached around 20° above and was one of the coldest of that winter. When the Norfolk and Southern train stopped opposite Lotus Villa for the bride and groom to get aboard, it was a shivering crowd that threw rice at the newlyweds. That has been forty years ago now. Many who witnessed the marriage have passed away.

We celebrated our Fortieth Anniversary with a buffet supper served in the sun parlor at two long tables with a short table at the head at which Carson and I sat in the middle with my sister, Madeline Lindsey Knott, Matron of honor at the 1916 marriage, at my right and John Robin Baucom, Sr., best man, at Carson's left. Camilla Pittard Baucom, Robin's wife, sat at the end next to Robin and Sidney Knott, Sr. sat at the end next to Madeline. The rest of the thirty guests sat on both sides of the two long tables.

Ballentine, restaurateur of Raleigh, catered and served a turkey and ham dinner with the usual trimmings and a dessert of cherry and apple pie. The tables were decorated with silver candelabra with a color scheme of yellow and white chrysanthemums. The supper was served buffet style from tables in the dining room where white motif prevailed.

Throughout the years there have been many social functions in this old home--church meetings, Sunday School class meetings, cake cuttings for brides, Colonial Dames 17th Century, D.A.R., U.D.C., and Book Club Meetings.

We entertained the Department of Agriculture--155 people--at a barbecue supper when Mr. W. Kerr Scott became Commissioner of Agriculture. This was held on the front lawn. A temporary pavilion was built on which to dance, and music was furnished by Claud Taylor.

In 1936 we celebrated our Twentieth Wedding Anniversary with a reception to which about 200 guests came. An orchestra played throughout the reception hours.

In 1949 we entertained Governor and Mrs. W. Kerr Scott at a barbecue supper on the front lawn where a huge round table was built which would accommodate two hundred

people. This table enclosed the old fountain in the center from which the food was served. This was one of our outstanding parties.

Among the notables who have been guests or guest speakers here are: Governors Huey, Broughton, Cherry and Congressman Graham Barden; Chancellor Robert House of the University of North Carolina; State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clyde Erwin; Dr. David Lockmiller, Department of History State College; Dr. Pressly, President of Peace College, and Mrs. Pressly; Miss Ida Poteat, Head of the Art Department of Meredith College more than fifty years; Miss Gertrude Carraway, President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and others.

The foregoing history of the Taylor family and Lotus Villa is no literary gem but an attempt to leave a record for the interested descendants of these families.

"In my poor mind it is most sweet
To muse upon the days gone by."