

IN HER 102ND YEAR.

Aunt Susan Pursley Was 101 Years Old Few Days Ago.

Miss Susan Pursley, better known as "Aunt Susan," the oldest white woman in South Carolina so far as the records show, who remembers well all of the wars in which the United States has been engaged since the Revolution, or rather who remembers well having heard some of those who took part in all of them talk about them, celebrated her 101st birthday a few days ago. The coming of 1920 saw her several days into her 102nd year with every indication that she would see the year through and might see many more years. There was no elaborate celebration or special exercise of any kind in connection with her passage of the century mark by a margin of one year. The old lady celebrated her 101st birthday on December 29, at the home of her nephew, Mr. William Ervin, of Clover No. 4, with whom she has lived for many years. She spent the day as she spends all of her days now, sitting quietly by the fire reflecting perhaps upon events of the past 100 years which have come under her observation.

She still has remarkably good possession of her faculties. Her hearing is not as good as it once was and there has come with the many years a mist over her kindly old eyes which is akin to blindness. She can still walk a little with the aid of a cane and almost every day when the sun shines brightly and the air is warm, she takes a little stroll into the open.

In company with Messrs. R. Mack Robinson and James Pursley, of Clover, and Howard McMackin, of Bethany, now a corporal, 48th infantry, Camp Jackson, a representative of The Enquirer called to see "Aunt Susan" on her 102nd birthday. She was alone when the visitors came. She didn't see the Chevrolet drive into the yard of the Ervin home and she failed to hear the visitor's knock upon the door. So they just walked in. They found "Aunt Susan" seated beside the fire.

She greeted her visitors kindly and invited them to have chairs. Because of her defective hearing she does not talk very much any more, although she was ready enough to answer questions when she understood. In response to queries she talked of the "Texas war," the "Big War," as she called the War Between the States and of the recent world war.

"My health is pretty good," she said, "considering that I am getting along in years. I have never been sick very much in my life and I don't remember ever being sick except once some sixty years ago when I was took right bad with chills and fever. I never did have much use for medicine and I don't remember ever taking much except a little calomel and salts every once in a while.

Talks of the Women.
"There is quite a difference in the modes and customs of the young women of this day as compared with those who lived when you were young," was suggested to the centenarian and the reply was, "Yes, sir, there is a heap of difference. Girls and women these days don't work as hard as they did when I was young. I guess there was more work for them to do. I helped my mother with the house and I helped in the fields and did a little bit of everything almost. There has been a lot of changes in this country since I was a girl. It is easier to make a living now, according to what they all say."

"We had a very large family. There were twelve of us children. I was the oldest. We raised corn and wheat in those days. There was no cotton and there was no farming machinery like now. All this country was nothing but woods. There were mighty few people around and it was a struggle to live. I've had to work mighty hard."

Why She Never Married.
"No, I never married," she said, "I never did see how I could get married very well. Yes, I thought about it a great deal when I was a young girl and there were young men around that I might have married. But it just didn't suit. My sisters married and my brothers moved off. But I had to take care of mother, so I just kept on being single. Mother was 94 years old when she died. Father was 82. My sisters were pretty old when they died."

Never Rode on Train.
"I never did ride on a train," Aunt Susan went on to say. "I have seen trains, but I never did have occasion to ride on a train. I never was much of a body to go far from home no way. I have rode in automobiles and its powerful easy riding and I have heard of these flying machines but I never did see one. I don't reckon I will ever ride in one of them and I don't know that I'll ever ride on a train. Folks never did think about them kind of things. I don't reckon, when I was young."

Remember the Wars.
"My father was too old to fight in the Big War when they freed the negroes and he was too young to fight

in the Revolutionary war. He had a brother though, they say, who fought at the Battle of King's Mountain. My brothers was in the Texas war in 1845 and 1846 and they were in the Mexican war. A good many boys from this part of the country went to Texas in them days to fight in the war and when the Big War come on, most everybody went. We women folks had a busy time of it in them days a making gray uniforms for them.

"It was pretty hard times in them days. Didn't nobody have much to eat and there was a lot of young men and boys that went that didn't never come back. They tell me that more men were killed in that war than the war that's going on now."

Told that the World War to which she referred was over, the old lady had evidently forgotten the fact or it had escaped her mind. "Wars are mighty bad," she said. "They have caused a lot of trouble and suffering."

Great Social Changes.
"You have lived to see great social changes in this community," asked one of Aunt Susan's visitors. "It seems almost unbelievable. I guess the number of churches and school houses in this country now is double what they were when you were a girl?"

"Yes, sir," she replied. "I don't mind but two churches when I was young. One was Beersheba church and the other was Bethel. I used to go to services at them places; but it was a mighty long trip. I used to go to Yorkville too when I was young. It was a little bit of a place then and when I was about twenty-five there was no such place as Rock Hill and Clover and Gastonia. They tell me they are right smart places now. Never did go much nowhere. Just stayed at home. I reckon I'd a knowed more if I had."

"People behave better than they did when you were young, don't they?" asked a questioner. "The country is better off without whiskey and almost everybody thinks it is well that it is so. Don't you think so?"

"I reckon it is a good thing for some," replied Aunt Susan. "There was lots of whiskey when I was young. There was a still right near our house. They say people are better off without whiskey; but," she said, as she shook her venerable head. "I tell you it is mighty good for medicine."

"I never did drink any whiskey much. Most everybody drank a little bit in my young days. Lots of the women smoked pipes when I was young. I tried to smoke once. I remember my mother was smoking a pipe and the smoke smelled so good, that I started to smoke. It made me mighty sick and I never did use it any more. Everybody raised a little tobacco in those days."

Before her visitors left Aunt Susan graciously consented to having her photograph made. She was placed in a beautiful arm chair, the gift of relatives and friends on the occasion of the celebration of her 100th birthday a year before, and was carried, chair and all into the yard by her visitors, where James Pursley snapped several photographs of her.

She was then carried back into the house and to her comfortable place beside the fire.

"I wish for you continued good health and many more birthdays," said one of her visitors before departing.

"I still feel pretty good, sir," she said sweetly, "and if the Lord wills I will live a long while yet."

The motor of the Chevrolet whirred and the driver started back to Clover. The face of the aged spinster as she stared out of the window in the direction from which the noise of the machine came was placid and calm, just before the party disappeared from view.—Yorkville Enquirer.

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NOTICE.

Of the Dissolution of The Cotton Oil Company, (the Predecessor of The Recently Organized The Cotton Oil Company.)

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of The Cotton Oil Company, a corporation organized April 7, 1909, will be held at the office of The Cotton Oil Company, at Bamberg, S. C., at 10 o'clock in the morning, on the 25th day of February, 1920, for the purpose of considering and acting upon a resolution that the said corporation shall go into liquidation, wind up its affairs and dissolve. J. A. WYMAN, President of The Cotton Oil Company, a corporation organized April 7, 1909.

Dated, Jan. 15, 1920. 2-19

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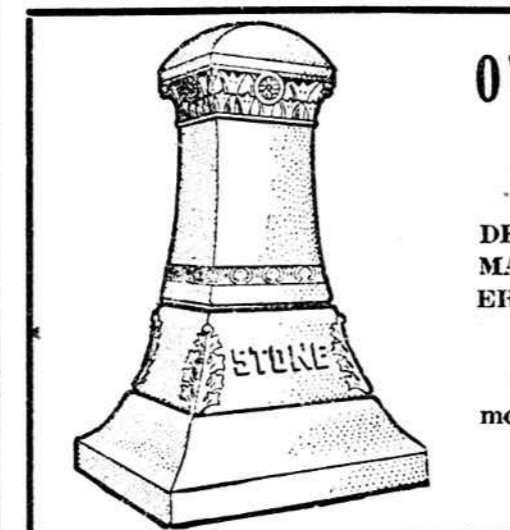
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Just Arrived!

It gives us pleasure to announce that we have just received two carloads of the finest horses and mules that have ever come to Bamberg. These animals were personally selected in the Western markets by our buyer, and we can vouch for every animal. They are in the very pink of condition, and we invite you to see them, whether you desire to buy or not. Come in and shake hands with us and look our stables over.

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