

2XR

1876

1947

It has occurred to me that it might be of some interest to all of us and those who come after us to take this occasion and give a brief story of our old home at 215 Harrison Street. T. N. Davis acquired this property fronting 82 1/2 feet on Harrison Street and running thru to Federal Street in 1876 so that for a span of 71 years it has been continually in his possession and his descendants, and at the present time is occupied by three of his daughters. I do not know of any other piece of property in Lynchburg that has continued in the possession of the same family and been occupied by all of some of them for a similar period of time.

This property was conveyed to T. N. Davis by two deeds, the first of which was recorded in the Clerk's office August 7, 1876, and the second by deed recorded March 16, 1877. The second deed was necessary in order to correct certain errors in the description of the property contained in the first deed. When T. N. Davis acquired this property he was the Agent for the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railway, which was the predecessor to the Norfolk and Western Railway. This statement will explain a reference in a letter from his friend, John H. Lewis quoted below. John H. Lewis and T. N. Davis were room mates at old Lynchburg College, and both graduated in the Class of 1860. John H. Lewis subsequently studied law at the University of Virginia, and T. N. Davis requested him to prepare the deed to this property. The cost of the property was \$3,000. I quote herewith from John H. Lewis letter, the original of which is in my files:

"Office of John H. Lewis, Attorney at Law,  
No. 159 Main Street  
(P.O. Box 211)  
Lynchburg, Va. 7th July, 1876

Thos. N. Davis, Esq., City

Dear Tom:- I am preparing your abstract of title, etc., and will report that, while there is a shadow of suspicion on the title reaching away back, (but it is now dissipated) you may safely accept the Curle title as I shall give it shape by the aid of the suit of Curle vs. Curle and a union of all parties with the Commissioner.

Mr. Curle wants to go. Give him his ticket and pay Mr. Christian, the Commissioner \$100 now, and the balance is to be paid when the conveyance is delivered.

Yours truly,

I should have added that when T. N. Davis bought the property it consisted of a three story house with an addition on the west end. I do not think this was three stories to correspond with the rest of the house. During his lifetime two or three additions were made to the property. One of these included the installation of a porch on the west end. Evidently from this letter Curle was selling out property in order to go West and wanted money to pay his fare. The Federal Street house consists of two apartments and these two apartments, together with one apartment at 215 Harrison, are handled by Steptoe & Patteson, Agents.

The property on Third Street was acquired in December 1883. All of the children with the exception of Carrie Lee and Minor were born in the property at 215 Harrison Street. After the death of mother in 1934 we borrowed \$4700 to remodel 215 Harrison and 214 Federal and shortly thereafter incorporated the T. N. Davis Estate. Originally there were 150 shares of common stock. Each of the six children received 25 shares. Dividends were paid on this common stock for each year commencing with 1935. The original loan of \$4700 was curtailed at various times by eight payments of \$100 each, and last year we amended our Charter to issue 40 shares of \$100 preferred stock. This stock was taken by the various children and grand-children and the proceeds were used to pay the remainder of the loan \$3900 and sundry items in connection with the amendment so that the property is now entirely free of debt, and both the common and preferred stock held by the children and grand-children.

Since we incorporated dividends amounting to \$3720 including a dividend paid January 1, 1947 have been paid. By incorporating it will not be necessary to sell the property upon the death of any one of the children as would be the case if we were not incorporated. Personally, I hope that should any of the holders of the common stock be forced to dispose of their stock they will give the remaining children an opportunity to purchase it, as I would like to see the ownership kept in the family, and be passed on to our children and grand-children.

The physical property is in good condition, the Harrison Street house having been painted last year, and the Federal Street property can be painted during the current year if the stockholders think it advisable. Over \$100 was spent in repairing the furnace in the Federal Street property last year. The Harrison Street house is insured for \$11,000 and the Federal Street house for \$6,000 with an additional \$4,000 for wind storm damage, as the old locust tree in that yard might be blown down in a high wind and do considerable damage to our property or the house next door.

In addition to the above property the estate owns three lots in Dearington and one-half interest in 28 acres in Amherst. I have recently sold a little lot on Johnson Street, which is shown in the statement presented herewith, and I have a possible purchaser for one of the lots in Dearington.

I should have added that when T. N. Davis bought the property it consisted of a three story house with an L on the northwestern end. I do not think this L was three stories to correspond with the rest of the house. During his lifetime two or possibly three additions were made to the property. One of these included the installation of a furnace, so that the property now presents the appearance of an almost square building three stories in height and each floor constituting an apartment. The Federal Street house consists of two apartments and these two apartments, together with one apartment at 215 Harrison, are handled by Steptoe & Patteson, Agents.

#3

Leases covering these three apartments are on a monthly basis, and it is my suggestion that when rent control is lifted a reasonable increase be made in the rentals.

The other two apartments at 215 Harrison Street are rented on a yearly basis expiring September 1st.

*H. M. Davis*

JAN 21 1947

Garland Hill as I remember it as a boy  
probably about 1888-1890

- #1 Wooden one story building, used at one time as a skating rink  
remember roller skating there \* He was father of  
W Bruce Montgomery
- 2 Shop building used by a Mr. Montgomery\* to make wheat fans etc  
\* Cochran place was on 5th between Harrison & Federal. Cochran  
used to make sleighs for boys  
~~of which used by Cochran as wheelwright shop~~
- 3 Afterdinger meat market. Father stopped there every morning  
to buy meat or vegetables from "Charley Afterdinger". Father did  
all the buying of this kind. Market or truck wagons driven by  
farmers went all over town + sold their farm products from  
the wagons direct to the consumers. Mother would bargain  
& buy from these wagons sometimes
- 4 "Miss" Mary Parker kept a store here + bought old iron + bones  
from the children. She gave us  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent a lb in trade for our  
iron. (I think I have this price right but it was 50 years ago)  
The "trade" consisted of cheap candy + "white chewing gum"
- 5 Old man Louis Parker saloon
- 6 "Miss" Mary Mallan's grocery store + saloon: don't remember  
her husband if he was living but Joe Mallan a son afterwards  
carried on the business
- 7 Wilkins store: we bought powder + shot here to load  
our shells
- 8 Brick building was formerly "Blacks Tavern" so I was told.  
Wm R Toyman who married a Miss Black lived in the  
Madison st side. They had an only daughter, Mabel  
who was one of my earliest girl friend. More of this later.
- 9 G. A. S. Sneads drug store
- 10 Fire Department
- 11 Fazzi's saloon. He kept a very orderly place + had  
no trouble having his license renewed each year  
even though it was just opposite a public school
- 12 Was a brick factory building known as Halsey's  
factory
- 13 Winged's drug store. Had my first drink of soda water  
here. Uncle Friend, father's brother had him give me  
a drink of ginger soda. it was awful

steep hill bartmell cow lot

bartmell Judge Garland

Circus lot. Saw my first circus here with father.

1st

bartmell ice house

Drummond family

Judge Biggs

stable

steep wooded hillside down to N+W Ry + creek

Broadway

Halsey home + garden occupied whole block

2nd

Gen P.T. Kingford

Servant House

T N DAVIS

Wm Owell King St

Dr Murrell

office

Garlana

stable

Vacant lot with a little brick house on it Mrs Garland cow lot

W R Smith store

3rd

Cobbs

Dr Pittman

Jas Franklin

M.H. Garlana

Walton

arrow indicates what we called the "Dump" a deep ravine filled with dirt from the reservoir at blay + 6; down this dump was "creek harbor" a negro settlement + a short cut to the creek

Red station

FEDERAL

Central Sausage Co

MYERS Tobacco Factory

HARRISON

MADISON

Wm Mallon store

4th

Vacant lot sometimes used by one ring circus

W N Lloyd

Thos Preston

Percival

Sam Preston

Jas garage

7 13

Vacant lot Mrs Preston cow lot armory + afterwards used as a skating rink

Biggers School lot

5th

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

6th

The Armory on Madison bet 4 + 5 was the home of 4 militia companies:

The Home Guards, infantry  
 1st Light Artillery Blues, artillery  
 Fitz Lee Troop, cavalry  
 Virginia Zouaves, infantry

This latter company was the youngest + was composed of the older boys + younger men of the town. The 3rd Va Regiment of Infantry camped at the old fair grounds, now Miller Park, in the summer of 1883 and this was the cause of several boy companies being organized. One company was composed of boys on Church + Court st, one company on Diamond Hill and one company on 8th st + vicinity I think. Out of these various companies came the Va Zouaves the Diamond Hill company probably being the nucleus. I was never a member of any company, though I had a distinct leaning towards things military and had many friends in the Zouaves. Probably the thing which decided me was my dislike for the Zouave uniform. However I used to like to watch the drills + spent many nights there when I ought to have been studying.

The armory was used for many purposes besides the Companies drill. I remember the Y.M.C.A. put on gym exhibition one night + I won an Indian club race. It was also used for public speaking. I remember on one occasion hearing a negro orator address a crowd there during a wet + dry campaign. It was a wet meeting. When it ceased to be used as an armory it did service as a skating rink.

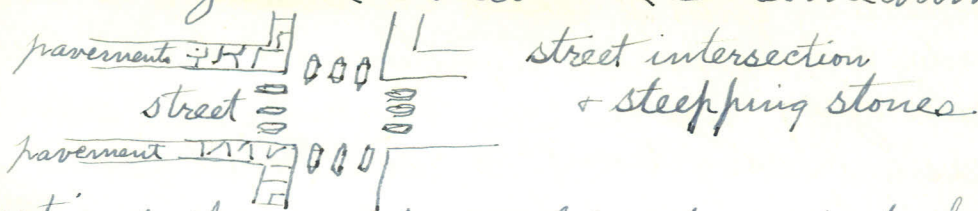
The gala nights were when the Zouaves put on their competitive drill + then when Col Jo Lane Stern of Richmond made his annual inspection of the Companies

It was during the encampment of the 3rd Va Regt that I remember seeing a group of officers riding down 5th st. One was rather small and wore glasses & I was told he was Genl Bearegard. Other general officers of the Confederacy that I recall in addition to Lt Gen Early who made his home in Lynchburg & always wore a suit of confederate grey, were Gen Fitzhugh Lee and I think Genl Wade Hampton. I recall that Genl Lee was the guest of our next door neighbor Genl Munford and that the Fitz Lee Troop was his escort. I recalled seeing them on parade in front of the Munford house. The uniforms of the Home Guards were blue pants & grey coats with a spike helmet. The trimmings were white or silver. The uniforms of the artillery were blue coat & pants with trimmings of the traditional artillery red: a helmet with a flowing red plume.

The cavalry troop were resplendent in black leggings, blue or grey pants & coats I cant remember which and helmet with long yellow plume and yellow trimmings. I dont remember ever seeing them mounted except on the occassion mentioned above. Some times on decoration day the artillery company would borrow enough horses to pull the four pieces of artillery to the cemetery. They were generally dray horses & unused to working in 4 horse teams and when the cannons were fired they became wild.

- Some of the company officers that I recall were:
- Capt Scruggs. Lt Seaburg
  - Do Ingram
  - Do Yancy
  - Do Craighill

Garland Hill was muddy in winter + dusty in summer as the streets were not paved. In order to cross the streets + keep out of the mud stepping stones were used at all crossings: these stones were set something like this.



Sometimes the mud would get so deep that the stones would flop over or slip out of reach or sometimes disappear in the mud. The sidewalk pavement was very rough + uneven and at night you were due to trip + fall. Harrison + Madison streets were lined with maple trees and at night the only light was from a gas light on the corner. These lights were turned on and lit every night by the policeman on the beat. Some times the cop would allow the big boys to ~~take~~ light these lamps. It was considered a great privilege!

It frequently happened that a two horse wagon carrying coal + wood would be stalled in the mud. This would mean that another team would be called to pull it out or the wagon would left for the time being.

Mr Bartmell had an ice house on the south-west side of Harrison + between 1st + 2nd about where Booker Hatter lives now. I think he had one blue ice wagon which supplied the needs of the Hill. I think he got his ice from Maine as there were no ice factory here then. It was shipped in sailing vessels to Richmond + there reloaded into the old packet boats on the James River canal and sent to Lynchburg. Mr Bartmell hauled it to his ice house in his wagon.

Miss Lella Bartmell gave music lessons for a long time. Sister + Aurelia took music lessons from her.

Another Bartmell sister Miss Mary was a wonderful ~~cook~~ <sup>cake maker</sup> + used to ~~cook~~ <sup>bake</sup> the cakes for the community. Another <sup>Miss Mary</sup> did sewing + needle work.

Turke head

Mag

Miss Georgie Cartmell taught in the public school. 25  
I did not like her because I failed on spelling in her room,  
only made 56, and had to go over the whole course  
again though I made passing grade on everything  
else. Maybe she was right however and a pupil who  
could only make a 56 ought not to be promoted.

In the wooden house next to the Loyd home on Harrison  
+ 4th lived a family by the name of Percival and afterwards  
by the Freemans. There were three boys in this family,  
*Walker*, Hammer, and Douglas. The two former were about my age  
and the latter a little fellow who we drove back whenever  
he tried to follow us. At this time (1937) this little fellow  
is Douglas Freeman, editor of the Richmond News-Leader  
and author of ~~the~~ life of Robt E Lee, which is probably the  
most accurate + elaborate work on that great man; and  
one of the most prominent men of his generation. I think  
Douglas Freeman was born in this house.

The old house on the corner of Harrison + 2nd was once  
the residence of Maj Daniel, when it was bought by  
C H S Snead who owned a drug store on 5th + Madison.  
W K Smiley moved the house down the hill + rebuilt it  
just below 1st street ~~behind~~ the Cartmell home.

A small brick house, still standing, <sup>(1937)</sup> ~~far~~ back in the yard  
on the north side of Federal bet 1st + 2nd sts was the only  
house on the Federal street side of this block. At one time  
it was occupied by a family named Stewart, who I think  
were from Phila. He was an engineer + I think was  
engaged in some public works here: probably the  
Water works dam. He had two sons Row and  
Will and a daughter named Ethel. Will was a wiry little  
Yankee boy with a red head and had the first jig  
saw machine that I recall. He could make a  
great many things with it.

Dr Pitman a physician and a one-leg Confederate  
veteran lived on Harrison bet 2nd + 4th about the  
middle of the block on the south side of the street.  
There <sup>were</sup> 3 children in the family Ned + Will boys,  
and the youngest a daughter named Katie.  
The Pitmans did live there after the boys grew  
up as I do not recall them after they reached  
early manhood.

26 I also recall that T N Williams a noted criminal lawyer lived there at one time. He had a son named Warren who was an early buddy of mine. I think he was regarded as a bad boy because I was forbidden to go with him.

Capt Frank Lee + family also lived in this house at one time. There were four children, 3 boys Norwell, Frank + Jack, 1 girl Mammie. Jack was my friend. Capt Lee was at one time Supt of St Pauls Sunday School. They afterward lived in a house on the corner of Court + 8th north west corner.

A family of Wallers moved in last + must have bought it because in after years the old house was torn down and the present house built. There were four or five boys in the Waller family with Dave the youngest boy my friend. At the present time the Wallers still own it but Lou Waller the only daughter is the last one here in Lynchburg

1938



