

NCEYVILLE, N. C.

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1961

Historical Facts Given On W. B. Yarbrough Farm

Some interesting historical facts on the W. B. Yarbrough farm, which was the first of a series of "Mystery Farm" pictures to be published in The Messenger, are given below in an article written by E. S. Yarbrough of Durham.

"Your 'Mystery Farm' is a very pleasing feature and was readily recognized as the home of W. B. Yarbrough. Then I thought you might be interested in some history of the place.

"The home was built probably around 1800 by Jethro Brown for he lived there several years and died in 1827. He was buried in the family cemetery not far from Locust Hill Methodist Church. When I was a boy in the late 1890 and early 1900 the tobacco field just south of the cemetery was called "The Grave Yard Hill." Jethro Brown was very prominent in the state and national political field many years prior to his death. This home was constructed of local building materials. The basement walls, the foundations of

the house, and the rock gate post were all taken from just north of the house on Horsler Creek. The sills are hewn, not sawed, of large oak timber. Some of them measuring fourteen by sixteen inches. The nails used in the building were all hand forged. Originally the front porch was two stories and doors opened from the house to these porches from both the lower and upper story. Sometime after Jethro Brown died this home was purchased by Calvin Graves another man prominent in the political field in both the state and nation. When presiding over the state senate a bill to construct a railroad from Danville to Charlotte came up for the third reading and the vote was a tie. Calvin Graves cast the deciding vote in favor of the road, and the bill was carried.

"In 1865 Charles J. Yarbrough, then fourteen years old and his sister Anna, twelve years old, living near Milton drove a horse and buggy to Deep River in Guilford County to visit their

grandparents, and passed this home. Charles was so pleased with its beauty that he told his sister that when he grew to be a man that he was going to buy this place. True to his promise he bought it in 1884 and moved there to live the rest of his life. Like his predecessors he was quite interested in politics and was elected to the house of representatives several times and ran for the senate one time but was defeated. When Charles J. Yarbrough died in 1919 the place was bought by three of his sons jointly, Z. Tom, Woodfin B. and Clem C. Yarbrough. Later they divided it into three sections and now Woodwin B. Yarbrough owns the home site.

"There is a story that Mr. and Mrs. Brown visited England and liked the boxwood over there so much that Mrs. Brown brought back a sprout and grew enough from it to put out what now lines the front walk and drive ways.

"The small one room building in the northwest corner of the yard was used as an office by both Jethro Brown and Calvin Graves. Later a private school was operated there just for the community children."

U. S. rose growers are saved \$3 million annually by new insect killing chemicals.