JOHN D. McLAIN

John D. McLain was born in Harnett County, Erwin, North Carolina formerly Duke, to Caroline McLain and Parker Covington. John grew up in the Beaver Dam area and attended Killingsford School. Anna attended Mt. Pisgah School. John met and married Anna Ryals, daughter of David Ryals and Eliza McKoy in the 1900’s. From this union, one daughter Anna L. McLain (Brewster) was born. He’s the grandfather of Janet Harris and the great grandfather of Reginald Harris, Jr.

John in his young adult years began working at the Erwin Mill which was later Burlington Mills. In later years, he worked as head engineer of Erwin High School in Harnett County. There he made many friends before retiring. John and Anna built their first home on the farm given to Anna by her dad, Dave Ryals. Prior to this time, Anna worked as the head dietician at the Erwin Hospital which later became Good Hope Hospital.

Anna and John were very active at Pisgah Top Church. He was referred to as Deacon John and she as Mother Anna, but her nieces and nephews, she was called “Aunt Tuggee.” When around Tuggee, there was no hunger or homelessness. She fed everybody. She always reached out with a helping hand to people. Her door was always open. Once a year, everybody looked forward to one big meeting that was held at the church. It was called the General Assembly and was founded by Reverand John D. Shaw, brother of Eliza McKoy who was Anna’s mother.

In the 1970’s, John and Anna moved to Silver Springs, Maryland to live near their daughter since Anna was was ill. John continued to be active. His affiliation with 16 organizations included the Senior Ministries Program, the Christian Reform Church and the Grandparents Day at Newport Preparatory School where his grandson attended.

John’s greatest accomplishments were seeing both his daughter and granddaughter receive college degrees. I’m sure he would have liked to have seen his grandson enter Duke University this year. He would have said, “Go for it Hookie.” John was a born comedian that never got picked up. His famous words were “ I have enjoyed life. It has been good to me. Live each day to its fullest, tomorrow you might not be around.” However, he did see the first Haley’s Comet and was living to see it when it came around the second time.

 Their hobbies included canning, growing flowers, making ceramics, sewing, and quilting making.

From the Fourth Annual salute to the District of Columbia Centenarians- August 30, 1990 and taken from the program of the McKoy and Ryals Family Reunion held on July 31-August 2,1998 at the Holiday Inn in Green Belt , Maryland