

To the Stars

THE GLENNS OF GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



*A Story of Determination,
Achievement, and Charity*

BARBARA H. VOORHEES

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THE CARRIE E. AND LENA V. GLENN FOUNDATION
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

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*This work is dedicated to the memory of
Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,
Glenn family genealogist, who always hoped to write
a connected narrative of his family's story.*



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“[Our father] never accumulated much money but spent most that he had trying to educate his children. He said that if he left them money or property, somebody could take it from them, or they could run through it themselves and have nothing; but if he gave them an education, nobody could take that and with the education they should be able to take care of themselves. He sent all ten of them to college. One died at college in his sophomore year, but the others all finished and all did take care of themselves.”

Carrie and Lena Glenn, 1973

Foreword



When she began researching the Glenn family's story, Barbara Voorhees had no intention of writing a book. After six years of research and writing, however, Barbara's project grew into this book, which is an important addition to the recorded history of Gaston County. Barbara relates the Glenns' deep ties with the county and how the values they learned growing up impacted their lives of service and success. The book also solves the mystery of Carrie and Lena Glenn's accumulation of wealth, which became the corpus of the foundation named in their honor. A sequel, the story of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, will be published in 2022 to celebrate the Foundation's 50th anniversary of grant making.

The Board of Directors thanks Barbara for volunteering her time and talent to this ambitious undertaking and congratulates her for her success. We also thank Julie Campbell, the editor of Barbara's manuscript, for her invaluable input.

We believe that Carrie and Lena Glenn would be amazed by the many ways their generosity has assisted our community over the past forty-eight years. We are grateful for their lives and their legacy of philanthropy for the people of Gaston County. We hope that by telling the stories of the remarkable Glenn Family, *To the Stars* will educate and inspire readers, contributing to our understanding of Gaston County history.

Board of Directors

Charles W. Pearson Jr., Chairman

The Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation

June 2020

Preface



*T*his book began with an unmet action step in two successive strategic plans of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation calling for a written history of the Glenn family and Glenn Foundation. I awoke one Friday morning in August 2013 convinced that I was the one to write the story. Wasting no time, I began my research with a late afternoon visit to the historical room of First Presbyterian Church, my church in Gastonia, North Carolina, and the adventure began. I never imagined the research and writing to take over six years, but I had no inkling about how much information might be available. It turns out it was considerable. My desire to learn and provide as definitive a story as possible stemmed from my passion to share the untold story of a remarkable Gaston County, North Carolina, family. While there are nominal gaps, I have been able to provide a fairly complete account of most of the family members.

The lives of William Davis and Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn and their family of ten children are important to Gaston County in manifold ways. I'd been collecting material since my employment as the foundation's first executive director in January 2000, and the smattering I already knew about the Glenns' story fascinated me. After receiving a copy of the family genealogy in 2002, my admiration grew as I learned of the educational attainments and professional accomplishments of Carrie, Lena, and their eight siblings.

I became determined to find out how these children, growing up as they did on a farm in post-Reconstruction Gaston County, found the

motivation and the means to earn college educations, and then how the surviving eight siblings went on to serve so prominently in their respective careers. I wanted to understand the influences and challenges they faced as they charted their own paths, helping and caring for each other along the way, and how significant events occurring in Gaston County gave them opportunities to thrive. I wanted to explore how their Christian faith influenced their lives of service. Most especially, I needed to find out how Carrie and Lena Glenn managed to save almost \$3 million on the salaries of a teacher and a librarian, putting aside their own comforts and desires, and then why, at death, left their savings to a foundation as a legacy to the betterment of the future citizens of their home community.

After my trip to the church came a visit to the archives at Columbia Theological Seminary, in Decatur, Georgia, repository for the early minutes of Union and Olney Presbyterian churches in Gaston County, the religious homes to the Glenn and Torrence families respectively. Then it was on to Chapel Hill to pore over original Glenn family documents in the Southern Historical Collection. That was followed by a trip to Nashville and the Vanderbilt University archives to learn more about the career of the oldest brother, Leonidas Chalmers “Lon” Glenn. To these, I added visits to the libraries at Catawba College, in Salisbury, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina, and spent innumerable hours in the local history rooms of both the Gaston County and Lincoln County public libraries to gather clues about the times in which their remarkable achievements took place. Most helpful were Gaston County histories written by Joseph H. Separk in 1936 (updated in 1949); Minnie Stowe Puett, official Gaston County historian, in 1939; Robert F. Cope and Manley Wade Wellman, in 1961; and Robert Allison Ragan, in 2010.

Fortunately, Carrie and Lena’s brother Lon, throughout his full and accomplished life, found the time to compile a genealogy of six generations of Glenns, as well as the lines of allied families, reminding us that we are all a part of what has gone before. Lon’s genealogy led me to the archives of each college and university that he, his siblings, and other family members attended. I gleaned other information from deeds, wills, diaries, correspondence, newspapers, minutes of the local boards of education, college and university catalogues and yearbooks, and conversations with surviving

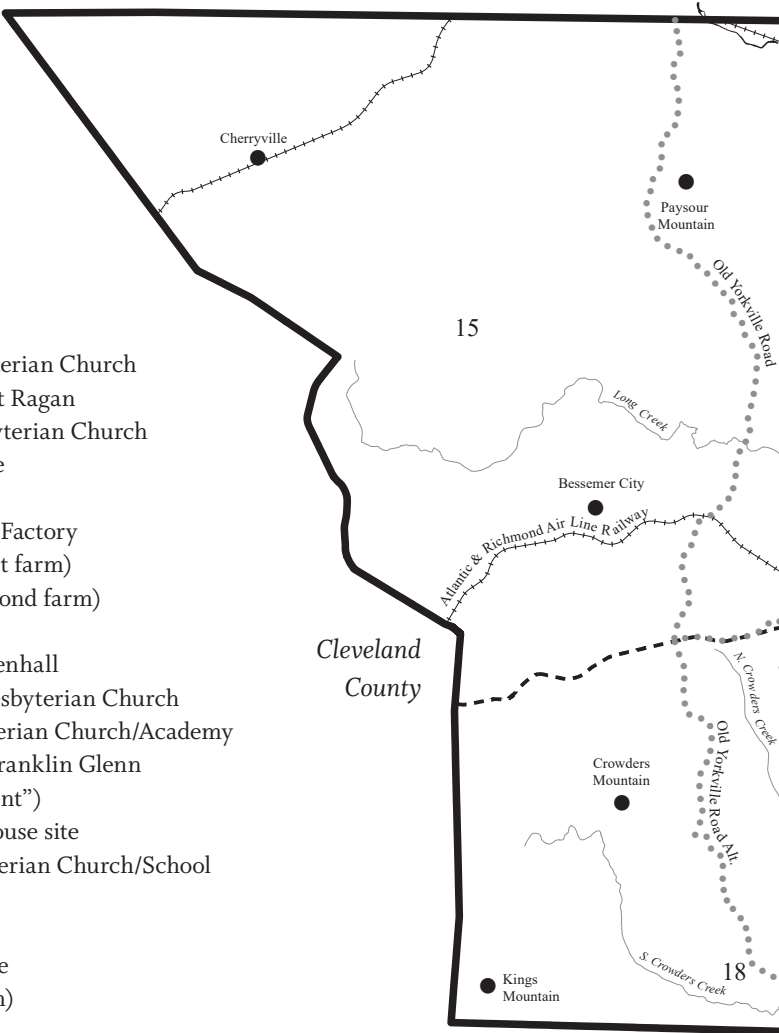
Glenn family members as well as friends, acquaintances, and strangers, all of whom recalled helpful information and shared interesting anecdotes.

The vast majority of this story is original research pieced together from primary sources, like a giant jigsaw puzzle, no detail too insignificant. When I've been queried about why this project has taken so long, I simply respond that, aside from the pleasure the effort has provided me, with my love of detail, it takes time to glean facts and write the whole account of a large family with a rich local history spanning over 240 years. It has given me great satisfaction to tell an important story that has never been told before.

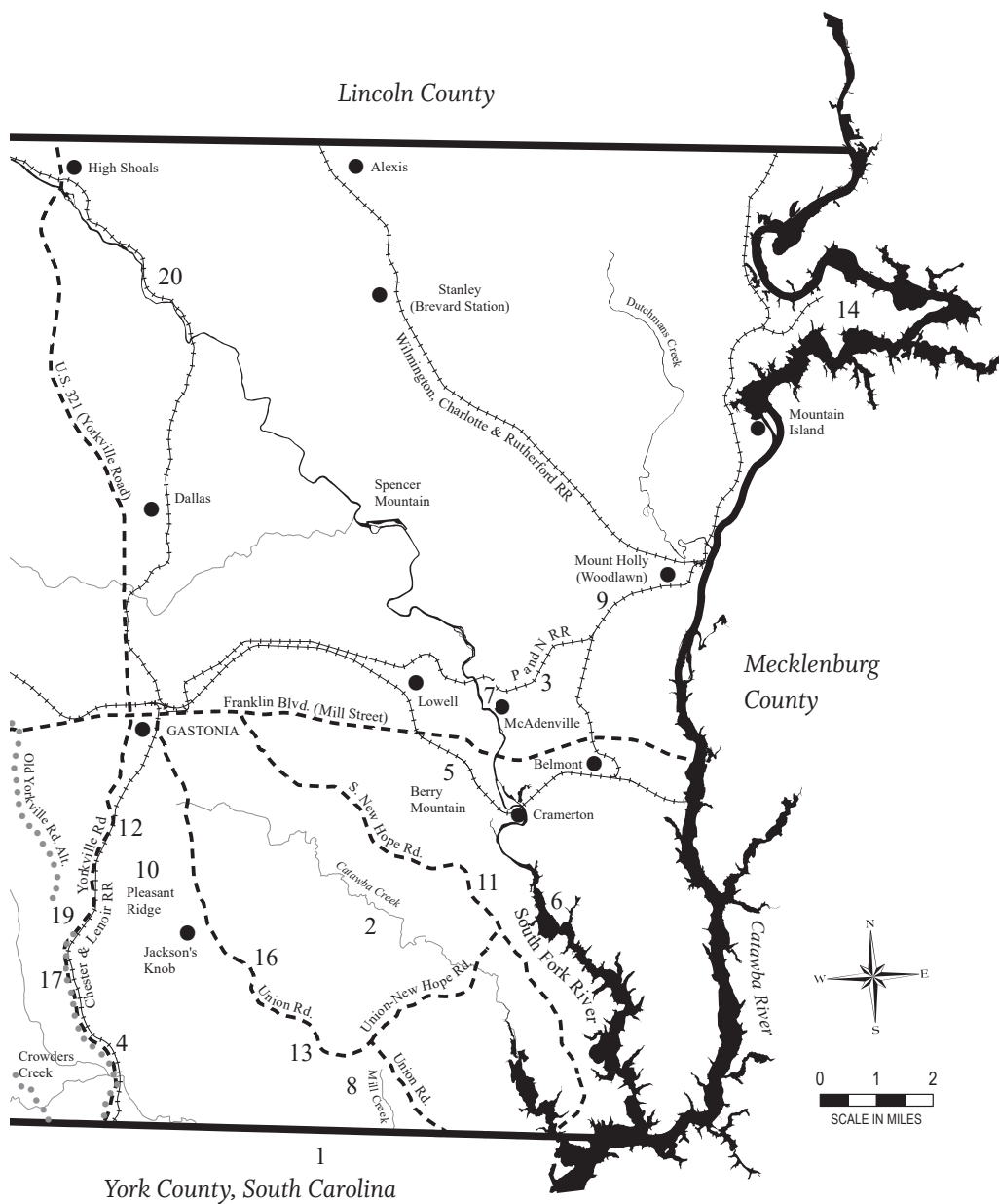
My deepest regret is not thinking to start this project earlier in my career at the foundation, when now-deceased trustees, friends, and Glenn family members could have offered valuable insights and enjoyed reading the final product. My deepest hope is that readers will find inspiration in seeing greatness derive from the lives of unassuming and everyday people, especially two humble sisters whose lives of frugality and virtue yielded a permanent vehicle to do the most good in their community. If this book helps underpin the rationale for a strong and independent charitable foundation long surviving its founders' worthy intentions, then it will have served its purpose well.

Gaston County, North Carolina
People and Places, circa 1772/3–1961

- 1 Bethel Presbyterian Church
- 2 Daniel/Harriet Ragan
- 3 Goshen Presbyterian Church
- 4 Hugh Torrence
- 5 James W. Reid
- 6 Jasper Stowe's Factory
- 7 John Glen (first farm)
- 8 John Glen (second farm)
- 9 Moses Rhyne
- 10 Nathan Mendenhall
- 11 New Hope Presbyterian Church
- 12 Olney Presbyterian Church/Academy
- 13 Robert/John Franklin Glenn
- 14 The Bend ("Bent")
- 15 Tryon Courthouse site
- 16 Union Presbyterian Church/School
- 17 W. D. Glenn
- 18 W. J. Wilson
- 19 W. W. Torrence
- 20 Worth (Hardin)



Lincoln County



John Glen*

b. 1726 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland m. 1774 in Tryon Co., NC d. 24 September 1828 in Lincoln Co., NC
Jane McLean

b. unknown
d. unknown

Robert Glen(n)

b. 1775 in Tryon Co., NC m. 20 December 1808 in Lincoln Co., NC d. March 1839 in Lincoln Co., NC
--

William James Gregory*

b. 11 August 1750 m. 1 January 1779 d. 11 July 1836
Margaret Morris

b. 13 June 1758
d. April 1850

Frances “Fanny” Gregory

b. 5 July 1786 in Lincoln Co., NC d. May 1853 in Gaston Co., NC
--

James Scott*

b. 1742 in SC d. 19 September 1813 in York Co., SC
Elizabeth “Betty” Stevenson

b. 1747
d. 6 July 1833 in York Co., SC

Ebenezer Newton Scott

b. 10 June 1787 m. 8 November 1832 d. 17 October 1876

Captain William Davis*

b. 21 February 1750 in York Co., SC m. 1783 in York Co., SC d. 24 November 1820 in York Co., SC
Martha Spence Davis

b. 30 June 1761
d. 20 May 1840 in York Co., SC

Ann or Annie Davis

b. 10 February 1787 in SC d. 17 March 1863

* fought in the American Revolution

John Franklin Glenn

b. 3 July 1809 in Lincoln Co., NC
m. 8 November 1832
d. 7 May 1889 in Gaston Co., NC

WILLIAM DAVIS GLENN

b. 16 October 1833 in Lincoln Co., NC
m. 10 November 1870 in Gaston Co., NC
d. 6 July 1911 in Gastonia, NC

Janette Gray Scott

b. 24 December 1812 in York Co., SC
d. 2 February 1902 in Gaston Co., NC

Hugh Torrance

b. 15 October 1732 in Northern Ireland
d. circa 1813

Mary Brown

b. 1 September 1738
d. circa 1803

John Torrence

b. 20 March 1771
m. 1789
d. 31 May 1849

Unknown

Unknown

Martha Chain Wilson

b. 14 March 1772 in Northern Ireland
d. unknown

John Willson*

b. circa 1742 in Pennsylvania
m. 1762 in Pennsylvania
d. 4 January 1799 in Lincoln Co., NC

Mary Wray

b. unknown
d. unknown

William Joseph Wilson

b. 24 September 1777 in Tryon Co., NC
m. 22 October 1799 in Lincoln Co., NC
d. 5 February 1854 in Crowders Creek,
Gaston Co., NC

Adam Baird*

b. Lincoln Co., NC
d. Lincoln Co., NC

Mary Baird

b. Catawba Creek, Lincoln Co., NC
d. unknown

Sarah Baird

b. 4 July 1773 in Tryon Co., NC
d. 18 September 1851 in Gaston Co., NC

* fought in the American Revolution

William Wilson Torrence

b. 4 October 1805
m. 2 February 1834
in Lincoln Co., NC
d. 5 April 1875
in Gaston Co., NC

SARAH PRISCILLA TORRENCE

b. 28 March 1851 in Spartanburg Co., SC
m. 10 November 1870 in Gaston Co., NC
d. 16 October 1906 in Gastonia, NC

Sarah Ann Wilson

b. 14 May 1813
in Lincoln Co., NC
d. 7 February 1880
in Gaston Co., NC

The Children of
William Davis Glenn (1833–1911)
and Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn (1851–1906)



Leonidas Chalmers Glenn (September 9, 1871–January 11, 1951)

AB, University of South Carolina (South Carolina College), Columbia,
South Carolina, 1891 [Valedictorian, Phi Beta Kappa]
Summer School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1895
PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, 1899

Lucius Newton Glenn (July 11, 1873–November 29, 1964)

No degree, Catawba College, Newton, North Carolina, 1891–94
MD, College of Medicine of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, 1897
BA, Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina, 1932

William Wilson Glenn (February 4, 1875–January 6, 1955)

No degree, Catawba College, Newton, North Carolina, 1893–96
Business School, Charlotte, North Carolina

Ernest Pratt Glenn (March 17, 1877–January 19, 1896)

No degree, Catawba College, Newton, North Carolina, 1895–96
[He died in his sophomore year]

Eula Blanche Glenn (July 31, 1879–March 20, 1932)

Lifetime Teaching License, State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro,
North Carolina, 1903

John Howard Glenn (February 24, 1882–March 2, 1906)

BE (Bachelor's of Engineering), North Carolina College of Agriculture and
Mechanic Arts, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1903 [With High Honors]

Carrie Eugenia Glenn (April 24, 1884–October 29, 1977)

Teaching Certificate, State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1906 [later the equivalent of an Associate of Arts degree]

BA, George Peabody College of Education, Nashville, Tennessee, 1916

Summer School, George Peabody College of Education, Nashville, Tennessee
1921

Summer School, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, 1924

MA, George Peabody College of Education, Nashville, Tennessee, 1929

Lena Viola Glenn (October 22, 1886–January 25, 1984)

Lifetime Teaching License, State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1908

Certificate, Carnegie Library School, Atlanta, Georgia, 1920

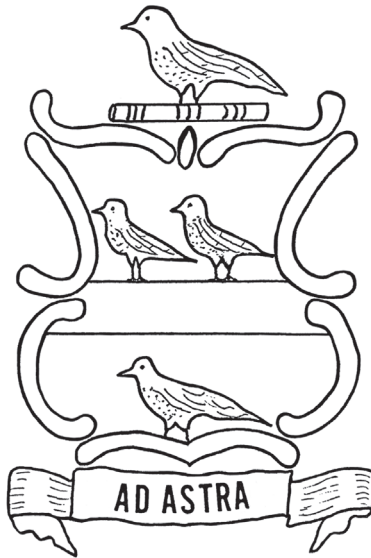
MA, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1925, after the Carnegie Library School merged with Emory University

May Gertrude Glenn (January 29, 1889–July 17, 1985)

Commercial Certificate, State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1911

Annie Torrence Glenn (April 25, 1892–March 11, 1945)

BP (Bachelor's in Pedagogy), State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1915



The hand-drawn Glen coat of arms was featured in the 1907 Glenn family genealogy that Leonidas Chalmers Glenn prepared. Ad Astra translates "To the Stars."

Introduction



This is a story of universal interest set in Gaston County, North Carolina. It chronicles an ordinary yet extraordinary farm family named Glenn and their singular accomplishments. Through the experiences of this one family, it also tells the story of a growing community in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Most importantly, it explains how a thriving charitable foundation, the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, in Gastonia, North Carolina, sprang from the thrift and generosity of two of the ten Glenn children, unpretentious sisters who saved for old age, amassing almost \$3 million between them. The title of the book is derived from the motto on the Glenn coat of arms, *Ad Astra*, “To the Stars,” highlighting the family’s aspiration to become the best they could be. For the Glenns, higher education was the cornerstone of success.

CHAPTER 1



Pioneers, Patriots, Citizens of a New Nation

1726–1828

In 1746, John Glen, a young man of 20, bid a final goodbye to his parents, James and Jean, and his siblings, William, Beatrick, and Frances. Giving up all that was familiar, he left Ulster, Northern Ireland, to seek opportunity in the American colonies. After enduring a dangerous, two-month, 3,000-mile voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, he arrived in Philadelphia.¹

John was born in 1726 near Londonderry, County Derry, in Ulster, Northern Ireland, possibly among the fifth generation of Glens to live there. Like so many others who loved freedom and longed for a fair chance at prosperity, he was lured to the American colonies by the promise of economic success for a man who was willing to work. He overcame any reservations he may have had about the long sea journey or life in the New World with youthful optimism and a strong Christian faith, coupled with courage, determination, and resiliency. John Glen would become the patriarch of the Glens of Gaston County, North Carolina, and the second of his three wives—Jane McLean—would become the matriarch.²

From Normandy to Ulster to Colonial America

The Glen family—the second *n* would arrive around 1800—likely came to England from Normandy, France, with William the Conqueror in 1066.



Barr Castle, a late medieval tower home near Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland, is thought to have been built by William de Glen in the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. It was listed with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland but now is listed with Historic Environment Scotland. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Barr_Castle,_the_north-east_side,_Lochwinnoch,_Scotland.jpg.

They arrived with the surname of Nase or de Ness and settled in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. As adherents of the Stewarts, they emigrated north to Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, in the Scottish Lowlands near Paisley and Glasgow, where they adopted the surname Glen for the topography of the land where they settled, a common practice. King Robert the Bruce may have been an ancestor through an illegitimate daughter, Margaret, who married Robert de Glen. Their grandson, William de Glen, is thought to have built Barr Castle in the fifteenth or early sixteenth century.³

The Glens moved with the Hamiltons, who were kinsmen, to Northern Ireland to colonize the plantation of Ulster, which began in 1610 under James I. There they lived for several generations. Because the Presbyterian Church had become the Church of Scotland and Presbyterianism was at its peak at the time of the migration, the newcomers to Ulster kept their distinct Scottish heritage and Presbyterian religion for generations.⁴

Living conditions were difficult in Ulster due to drought, poor harvests, limitations on trade, religious restrictions, and rack rents. Between 1717 and 1775, Ulsterites tired of English rule and attracted by stories of plentiful land, fertile soil, a healthy climate, and religious toleration began migrating to the English colonies in North America in five waves known as the Great Migration. The Pennsylvania colony's proprietor, William Penn, also stirred migration fever. His promotional efforts were so successful that the largest number of Ulster Scots entered through Philadelphia or Chester, Pennsylvania, and through nearby New Castle, Delaware. These immigrants

became known as Scotch-Irish, a purely American term for Ulsterites who came to America after spending a century or more in Northern Ireland.⁵

John, like most Scotch-Irish immigrants, came from the ranks of common people, for people who are economically successful have little desire to relocate. It is unlikely that he had money enough to pay for his ship's passage, land, farm implements, seed, or funds to tide him over until he harvested crops. That sum was an estimated year's wages for an Irish laborer. He would have found it difficult to survive without some sort of assistance, at least early on. For that reason, he might have settled near immigrants he knew in the Pennsylvania colony who had established farms, and his passage might have been sponsored by relatives or friends.⁶

He also might have arrived as an indentured servant, whereby his ship's captain secured an indenture from John in exchange for passage and sold the indenture once in the colonies. If so, John likely would have committed to a master for two or four years. Between half and two-thirds of the Scotch-Irish came to America as indentured servants, and so there was little stigma attached to this status. Conditions might have been harsh and the work hard, but John would have been provided food, clothing, shelter, an opportunity to familiarize himself with the land, a chance to save and to acquire tools and animals for when he had his own farm, and time to understand life in America as he began to live on his own. For many immigrants, knowing they had a job once they arrived was more important than affordable land. John was young and single and would have been an attractive candidate for a master.⁷

Whatever the circumstances of his arrival, by 1755, John, now 29, had settled in York County, Pennsylvania. He owned a wagon and horses, but there is no record of him owning land. In the spring, the British general Edward Braddock and about 1,000 redcoat soldiers had arrived in America to drive the French and their Indian allies out of the colonies so that white settlers could safely move west. The first target was Fort Duquesne, in western Pennsylvania, a little over 200 miles from York County. With a young George Washington as one of his aides-de-camp, Braddock insisted upon 150 wagons with four horses each, rather than pack animals, to transport supplies and cannon 110 miles through the wilderness of the Allegheny Mountains toward Fort Duquesne. Young men like Daniel Boone and Daniel Morgan, Boone's cousin and the future Revolutionary War general,

assured that they would be compensated and have no duties as soldiers, volunteered as wagoners. So did the young York County farmer John Glen.⁸

On July 9, 1755, the French and Indians ambushed Braddock and his men about ten miles from the fort, killing Braddock. As wagoners tried to escape, some burned their wagons to deprive the enemy of the contents. Others “took each a horse out of his team and scamper’d,” noted Ben Franklin. “Their example was immediately followed by the others; so that all the wagons, provisions, artillery, and stores were left to the enemy.” John “escaped with his horses,” according to his great-great-grandson Leonidas Chalmers Glenn.⁹

By 1759, John, now 33, had married Jane Elizabeth Spratt, called Elizabeth, in Pennsylvania or Virginia, and they lived in Berkeley County in northwestern Virginia (now West Virginia). On July 17, 1759, the first of their six children was born, a son they named James, after John’s father. How long the growing family lived in Berkeley County is unknown, but by 1768, they had settled near Fredericksburg, Virginia. On March 5, 1768, John bought 200 acres of land for £20 on Plentifull Run, a water course in Spotsylvania County. Less than a year later, he mortgaged the same acreage. In 1770, he and Elizabeth sold the land for £50, a nice profit. Although they were still living in Virginia later that year, they may have been considering a move to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where Elizabeth had relatives.¹⁰

Between 1745 and 1749, families of European descent had begun settling in large numbers in western Mecklenburg County, some on the west side of the Catawba and South Fork rivers in present-day Gaston County. Settlers of the Reformed faith included German Lutheran, Dutch, English, and Welsh immigrants, but most were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. As natives of a hilly country in Ulster, they felt at home in Piedmont North Carolina.¹¹

The Scotch-Irish developed a mixed reputation. They were strongly democratic, hated tyranny, and “only asked to be allowed to work out their own salvation in competition with the world,” wrote James Webb in *Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*. Quick-tempered, impetuous, and inclined to work by fits and starts, they loved liberty, were God-fearing, and “mastered the primeval forest, with its hardships and disadvantages,” noted Alfred Nixon in “The History of Lincoln County.” Gaston County’s official historian, Minnie Stowe Puett, called them “industrious, indepen-

dent, self-reliant and deeply religious.” On the other hand, she noted that “the Scotch-Irish were a thrifty people of whom it is said that ‘they keep the Sabbath and everything else they get their hands on.’” (Surely only the most positive characterizations applied to the Glens.)¹²

At Home in Tryon County

In 1769, the North Carolina Provincial Assembly had split Mecklenburg County. All the land west of the Catawba River and north of the South Carolina line, including what today is Gaston County, was renamed for North Carolina’s provincial governor, William Tryon. It was in lower Tryon County that John and Elizabeth first settled. While they traveled from eastern Virginia, most newcomers to the area traveled down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania through the Shenandoah Valley of western Virginia, settling in the Yadkin Valley or in Mecklenburg and Tryon counties in North Carolina. The Great Wagon Road followed an old Indian trail and was an artery for development of the Carolinas.¹³

Tryon County had been Catawba Nation territory. By the time the Glens arrived, however, the Catawbas, their numbers greatly reduced by smallpox epidemics in 1738 and 1759, and pushed out by white settlement, had relocated to South Carolina. The Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina had endured a smallpox epidemic in 1759–60 and also felt pressed by white settlers, even though the Proclamation Line of 1763 had forbidden such settlements west of the Appalachians. Between 1768 and 1775, Cherokees ceded a great deal of land.¹⁴

No other county in North Carolina had the topographical features that the Glens found when they explored their new surroundings. Sprinkled about the land were monadnocks, the largest of which were called Crowders Mountain and Kings Pinnacle, which had marked the boundary between the hunting lands of the Catawbas and Cherokees. Others came to be called Berry (today called Cramer), Jackson’s Knob (later known as Booger Mountain and today called The Mountain), Little, Paysour, and Spencer. The mountain peaks were made of granite, gneiss, quartz, feldspar, and mica. A gold belt crossed North Carolina diagonally, passing through Tryon County and entering South Carolina through bordering York County.¹⁵

Much of the area featured forests and prairie lands along with rolling

hills, so evident today. Forests were filled with oak, hickory, yellow pine, shortleaf pine, tulip poplars, cedar, elm, and maple trees in such abundance that they provided logs for homes, barns, and firewood. Prairies, covered with pea-vine grass and cane brakes, saved the settlers from clearing the forests and provided forage for game and livestock.¹⁶

The red clay soil was good for farming. Streams and creeks were plentiful. Some today bear the names Long, Catawba, Crowders, Duhart, Dutchmans, and Stanley. Creeks had sturgeon and bass, and the Catawba was filled with shad, catfish, perch, suckers, trout, and red horse.¹⁷

While buffalo and elk had disappeared before the Glens' arrival, other game abounded. There were mountain lions, panthers, deer, bobcats, foxes, and wolves, along with beavers, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, opossums, and rabbits. The newcomers found crows, mockingbirds, mourning doves, wild turkey, ducks, wild geese, larks, and owls, as well as turtles, frogs, rattlesnakes, copperheads, and blacksnakes. The area was peaceful, the climate moderate, pastureland plentiful, and game and water abundant. It would be an ideal place to raise a family.

Pioneers and Presbyterians

By 1774, Elizabeth had died. Needing help with the six children, John married Jane McLean, thought to be of Tryon County. In 1775, they welcomed the first of five children, Robert. That year, on October 25, John purchased 150 acres of land and appurtenances from Jonathan Gullick for £85 "on the waters of Crowders Creek." He bought other acreage over the years. According to Minnie Stowe Puett, the Glens did not settle on the Crowders Creek land, but on the "Becky Matthews" property along the east bank of the South Fork River near present-day Lowell. John Glen had completed his migration south.¹⁸

John had found farmland along a larger water course than the land he originally purchased. This farm likely had a house, which would have saved him the hard work of building a log home. He plowed, planted, and harvested, enclosing his crops with fences to keep them safe from roaming animals. Like his fellow pioneers, he was his own carpenter, tanner, shoemaker, furniture maker, barrel maker, blacksmith, and veterinarian. Jane spent hours carding, spinning, weaving, sewing, and mending clothes for

the children. She cooked on an open hearth, milked cows, churned butter, and tended pigs, chickens, and possibly goats and sheep. The family burned pine knots and candlewood for light before they learned to make candles. They made soap in ash hoppers, boiling out lye and adding grease. Work never ceased.¹⁹

Pioneer families lived apart and in isolation from each other because roads were no more than former Indian trading paths accessible on horseback or by foot. There were no newspapers and no mail delivery. The Catawba and South Fork rivers, streams, and creeks had to be forded. Over time, as more white families moved west of the Catawba, neighbors became acquainted and families came together to help with house and barn raisings, corn harvesting and shucking, and quilting bees. When clearing the land, neighbors helped each other roll unneeded logs together and burn them.²⁰

A church had been established near the Glen farm a dozen years before they arrived, and its proximity may have influenced their decision to live at the Becky Matthews farm. Goshen Presbyterian Church was organized in 1763 as the first Protestant church in Gaston County. It started with a brush arbor. In 1764, pioneers built a log church within the stone walls that today enclose the old Goshen Cemetery on Woodlawn Road in North Belmont. Goshen became a hub of the religious and social life of the community, and John, at least, was a faithful member. Goshen was the first of five area Presbyterian churches to nurture the faith of five generations of Glenns.²¹

Even in the eighteenth century, the Presbyterian Church had developed the tradition of college-educated clergymen steeped in the classics. It was difficult for pioneer farmers to attract a well-educated minister and his family to isolated locations such as the back country of Tryon County, and it was equally difficult for them to pay one. On the occasions when a visiting minister (really a missionary) from the North came to Goshen, it was a time of celebration, when the families could nurture their spiritual growth and sense of community. The minister might bring letters from family or friends or news of the outside world, hold a week of church services for the scattered congregation, and perform marriages and administer the sacraments. Goshen had a wide geographic reach, extending from present-day Lincoln County to the South Carolina line. Traveling long distances to church was not uncommon.²²

A Revolutionary War

In 1775, the Glens, along with the rest of the Tryon County community, learned of the battles of Lexington and Concord, in Massachusetts. The American Revolution had begun. Farmers in the backwoods of North Carolina worried that if such events could happen in New England, they could also happen in the South. The Tryon men vowed that they would protect themselves and their property if attacked, forming a Committee of Safety and organizing militia units so they would be prepared if trouble came. John served as a private in the militia under General Rutherford and drilled and watched neighbors who might be sympathetic to the Crown, later serving as a mounted rifleman. He did not, however, sign the "Tryon Resolves," which contained a "Declaration of Rights and Independence from British Tyranny," as did forty-nine local patriots who pledged to resist by force any abridgement of their freedom and constitutional rights. He may not have known about the document, being too engaged with providing for his large, growing family.²³

Tryon County lasted only ten years. As the Revolution continued elsewhere, in 1779, western Tryon split into two new counties, reflecting the population growth and the desire to be rid of the name of the unpopular governor, who had left North Carolina in 1771. The new counties were named for Revolutionary War generals Benjamin Lincoln and Griffith Rutherford. Future Gaston County remained a part of lower Lincoln County.²⁴

At first, the backwoods farmers of Lincoln County were insulated from fighting elsewhere in the colonies. But in 1780, following the fall of Charleston to the British in January, the war moved closer as the British commander, Lord Charles Cornwallis, pushed his way northwest through South Carolina. The patriots' defeat at the Battle of the Waxhaws in May, their victory at the Battle of Ramseur's Mill in June, and their defeat at the Battle of Fishing Creek in August put the locals on high alert. In late September, the situation became more frightening when Cornwallis camped in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, intending to advance through North Carolina. Guarding his left flank was Major Patrick Ferguson, who marched on a parallel route to muster American Loyalists, mostly from South Carolina, and defeat any resistance from the west in North Carolina. Once victorious, Cornwallis could continue his advance.²⁵

The backcountry farmers were intent on stopping Cornwallis. All volunteered to fight, including locals with names like Baird, Davis, Glen, Gregory, Mendenhall, Scott, and Willson. Joining them were Overmountain Men from Tennessee and others from Virginia and other parts of North Carolina. Specialized militia groups included the South Point boys from today's Belmont and the South Point Peninsula under the command of 25-year-old Major William Chronicle.

On October 7, 1780, the Battle of Kings Mountain took place in southwestern Lincoln County, a civil war that saw American Loyalists fighting American patriots. Among the latter, dressed in their uniforms of cotton hunting shirts, were John Glen, age 54, and his oldest son, James, who had just turned 21. In a battle where the patriots became the hunters rather than the hunted, Major Ferguson and his Loyalist troops, thinking they had an impregnable position atop Kings Mountain, found themselves surrounded by a lesser force of patriot troops who fought guerrilla style with their long hunting rifles. James Glen and two others fought from behind a tree. James's companions were killed, but James survived, and he and his father helped the patriots soundly defeat Ferguson's troops in about one hour.²⁶

Realizing that Loyalist support in North Carolina was weaker than originally thought, Cornwallis delayed his advance through the colony and retreated to South Carolina. The Battle of Kings Mountain turned the tide of the American Revolution by stopping the British advance in the South. On October 19, 1781, at Yorktown, Virginia, Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington. John and James Glen were among the heroes who changed the course of American history.²⁷

New Nation, New Responsibilities

In 1788, George Washington was elected president of the United States, but John and other white, male North Carolinians did not vote until the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution. On November 21, 1789, North Carolina became the twelfth state in the new republic.²⁸

From 1782 to 1788, following the post-war collapse and resurrection of the court system, John served on Lincoln County petit or grand juries. It was not until 1785 that a log courthouse was built at the new county seat called Lincolnton, some twenty miles from the Glen farm. Fortunately for

John and other jurors, court convened in private homes until the courthouse was built, making travel less cumbersome.²⁹

At the October 1784 term, the court ordered John to be “overseer of the road leading from Armstrong’s ford on the South Fork to the South Carolina line & that he keep said road in good repair for one year & all the taxable inhabitants within three miles of said road to work on the same.” The Glen farm had to have been located along the proposed road, and neighbors who would benefit from a road were expected to work on it without compensation. While the location of John’s property was the key to his appointment, the court recognized his ability to lead and to complete the task.³⁰

At the January 1786 term, John, now 60, was reappointed to the post. He also was to “open a good wagon road to the nearest & best way” to Crowders Creek. John’s assignment covered a substantial area and may have come from his ownership of the 150-acre tract along little Crowders Creek. Crowders Creek had two branches: the northern branch formed near present-day Bessemer City, and the southern branch from southern Crowders Mountain. The branches joined in York County, just over the South Carolina line, before flowing east into the Catawba River near present-day River Hills.

On September 29, 1794, John bought 320 acres of land for £260 along what today is South Union Road “on Mill Creek and the waters of Crowders Creek.” The older children were living independently, but some of the youngest ones were still at home. He moved his family to the new farm but kept his ties to Goshen Presbyterian Church, even though it meant fording the South Fork River. Jane McLean Glen died around the time of the move.³¹

In March 1796, the scattered Goshen congregation was elated that after thirty-three years without a permanent ordained minister, they secured a part-time clergyman, Rev. Humphrey Hunter. Well known in the region as a Revolutionary War hero and a physician, Hunter had been born in Ireland in 1754, had arrived in America at the age of 5, and had been a minister for thirty-eight years. Having the pulpit filled even part-time at Goshen was a blessing to the congregation.³²

On May 27, 1797, John, now 71, married for the third time, to Mary “Polly” Grissom, with Rev. Hunter likely performing the ceremony. Polly bore John’s final three children: Elizabeth, Humphrey Hunter, and Rachel, who came along when John was 82.³³

On July 9, 1800, three years into his third marriage, John transferred to William, his 32-year-old son with Elizabeth, and Robert, his 25-year-old son with Jane, “for love and good will,” the 320 acres of land along Mill Creek and Crowders Creek that he had bought in 1794. Later that year, William sold his share to Robert and moved to Georgia. Robert farmed the land, and John, Polly, and their three children likely continued to live there. Some of John’s children with Elizabeth and Jane married and had children of their own, such as John Glen’s firstborn, James, who married and raised a family of twelve. Some died. Others moved to South Carolina, Georgia, or Tennessee, or settled farther west in the Arkansas territory opened up by the Louisiana Purchase. Many stayed to build up the county.³⁴

Robert, by now having spent the earliest days of his life with the Revolution as a backdrop, added the second “n” to his surname, perhaps marking his status as an American. He seems to have been an upstanding, well-respected citizen. On December 20, 1808, age 33, he wed Frances “Fanny” Gregory, age 22. The sixth of fifteen children, she was the daughter of Scotch-Irish immigrants who had traveled to North Carolina along the Great Wagon Road in the 1760s. Fanny’s father was Revolutionary War patriot William James Gregory. Better educated than most of his neighbors, Gregory often read or wrote letters for them. For that reason, Fanny, too, would have been better educated than most women. This bode well for the education of her children, for while there is the assumption that Robert was literate, there is evidence that he could not write his name.³⁵

Robert and Fanny Glenn had ten children, three boys and seven girls. Their oldest child was a son they named John Franklin, born July 3, 1809. The family began attending Bethel Presbyterian Church in York County closer to their home, which, like Goshen was founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Three men established its location in 1764 when they met at a spring to discuss a site. Realizing that they each had traveled about the same distance, they selected the spot because the location would be equidistant for everyone in the congregation. Bethel went years without a permanent pastor, although Humphrey Hunter served as a supply preacher for a time. People from ten miles in every direction were drawn to the church, including those, like the Glenns, who lived in North Carolina.³⁶

John Glen, 1726–1828

John Glen died on September 22, 1828, at the age of 102. His family buried him in the Goshen Cemetery. At the base of the monument used to be a marker placed there by the Daughters of the American Revolution: “John Glen / Patriot / The American Revolution.” An inspiration to his descendants, he had led a remarkable, long, and rich life: Ulsterite, Scotch-Irish immigrant, colonist, pioneer farmer, Braddock wagoner, land owner, faithful Presbyterian churchman, Revolutionary War soldier and patriot, and original citizen of North Carolina and the United States of America. He lived during the terms of the first six US presidents. He overcame the hardships of frontier life, became a hard-working, respected, and responsible

citizen, outlived two of his three wives, and fathered fourteen children. John Glen, his family, and his contemporaries helped build today’s Gaston County, and, in so doing, North Carolina and the United States.³⁷



The tombstone of John Glen, the Glenn family’s immigrant ancestor who died in 1828, is located in Goshen Cemetery, North Belmont. www.findagrave.com/memorial/40060034/john-glen.

CHAPTER 2



Coming of Age in Gaston County

1832–1860

*J*ohn and Jane Glen's grandson John Franklin Glenn and his wife, Janette Gray Scott, along with their oldest child, William, wrote the next chapters of the Glenn family story in Gaston County. They got started on November 8, 1832, when John Franklin, 23, married Janette, 20. She was the oldest of five children of Ebenezer Newton Scott and Annie Davis Scott, prominent members of Bethel Presbyterian Church, where the young couple likely met. Ebenezer Scott was an educated man, a farmer and a schoolteacher who taught for a time at Bethel Academy, an arm of the church. Annie Davis grew up in the York district of South Carolina, the daughter of William Davis and Martha Spence Davis, both of Scotch-

Irish descent. Her well-respected father had served in the military until the end of the Revolutionary War, achieving the rank of captain, and became one of the earliest elders of Bethel.¹



Revolutionary War Captain William Davis, whose great-grandson and namesake, William Davis Glenn, was the father of the Glenn siblings. Courtesy of Helen and Cary Grant, Clover, South Carolina.

John Franklin became a farmer like his father, on land sliced from his father's farm, as was customary. He also learned brick and stone masonry, joining other farmers who specialized in trades to supplement their incomes. A bridge he built over Crowders Creek in 1849–50 was still in use fifty years later. John Franklin and Janette had five sons and three daughters born over nineteen years. They honored Janette's patriot grandfather by naming their first child, born October 16, 1833, William Davis Glenn. He continued a line of first sons.²

William grew up on the Glenn family farm, where his parents relied on him and their many other children to help them earn a living. He nevertheless received a solid education. And not only did he keep a diary from 1864 to 1869, but when he was 74, he also wrote his autobiography, "Reflections of a Long Life." This book likely marks only the second time his observations and memories have appeared in a historical account of Gaston County. William Glenn would become a well-known and respected citizen, an ordinary yet remarkable man whose influence is felt in the county to this day.³

The Substance of Life

Corn was the main crop of the county, almost to the exclusion of wheat and cotton. It fed families and cattle but also made corn liquor. When William was about 6, his father built a still house on the farm. The Scotch-Irish likely brought distilling expertise and family recipes with them to America, and William remembered that stilling was "as respectable a business as any other." Numerous stills were located in what became the Union Road and Yorkville Road neighborhoods.⁴

Many neighbors brought their corn to John Franklin's place to make whiskey. William recalled that it was a poor farmer who could not take a run of corn to the still house, get it distilled, and take it home for his family's use. A big jug of whiskey was a requirement at cornhuskings, and few men would agree to help without it. "The old men drank more than the young ones," he wrote. "Some of them would take a long sleep in the shucks, others with a little help got to the supper table, loaded with the substance of life." Whiskey provided cash for farmers, and in winter months they hauled it to South Carolina, which had no restrictions on the quantities they could sell.⁵

Seeing the negative effects of alcohol consumption, wives and mothers

generally opposed corn liquor. So did the churches. In 1832, the session of Bethel Church struggled with the issue, but distilling was so prevalent that the church said it could not “see its way clear to exclude every member from the church who may hereinafter engage in Distilling and rending ardent spirits.” The elders hoped that those engaged in the practice would willingly refrain for the welfare of the community—that it might grow in purity. Distilling, however, remained a popular pastime, and the locals would continue to make corn liquor into the twentieth century.⁶

When William was about 7, his father plowed up a portion of the land to grow more corn, since trees along heavily timbered Mill Creek had been cut for firewood. Lots of roots were left behind, and William learned the value of hard labor when he chopped at them with an ax as he walked beside his father, who planted the seed. “This was about the first work I had ever done,” he wrote.⁷

A Moral Compass

Throughout part of William’s childhood, three generations of Glenns lived in close proximity, including both sets of his grandparents, Robert and Fanny Glenn and Ebenezer and Annie Scott, and they attended Bethel Presbyterian Church together. One of his grandmothers, probably Fanny, often asked him to arrive early on Sundays to kindle a fire in church. People in the 1840s described Bethel Church as the “finest one in all their knowledge,” William recalled. The church considered itself “the most numerous congregation on the west of the Catawba River” with “no general Rivals of Religion at this time.” People came to church by wagon, on horseback, or on foot. Some of the wealthiest parishioners drove buggies worth \$300 to \$400. Membership numbered between four and five hundred people, with a fourth or fifth being “Negroes,” as William called them. As in most other churches of this era, slaves and their white masters worshipped together, although slaves at Bethel sat in the balcony. The church he attended was built about 1812, the third house of worship for the active congregation.⁸

Just as Fanny had been John Franklin’s first teacher, Janette provided William’s earliest education in the home, with the Bible as her favorite teaching tool. But as William grew, so did his need for a more formal education, which began at Bethel Academy in the spring of 1840, when

he was 7. The academy had been established by Rev. Dr. Francis D. Cummins, who served Bethel from 1782 to 1789 and had ordained William's great-grandfather Davis as an elder. In this era, the minister was the most important person in a community, followed by the doctor. Many Presbyterian ministers who occupied the pulpit on Sundays became schoolteachers during the week, and Latin and Greek were essential parts of the curriculum. The academy was thought to have originally been located a mile and a half north of the church, but William attended in a newer structure dating to 1822, near Beaver Dam Creek. His teacher was a Dr. Anderson.⁹

At home, church, and school, William learned about hard work, God, and respect for the law. He credited two of Bethel's ministers, exceptional for any time or place, for developing his faith in his formative years: Rev. James S. Adams, who served the church for twenty-nine years, and Adams's successor and nephew, Rev. Dr. Samuel L. Watson, who served the church for forty-two years. Watson may have been related to Elizabeth Spratt, John Glen's first wife. William's experiences at Bethel, his parents, and his grandparents shaped his intellect and his moral compass.¹⁰

Antebellum Life in the Lower Regiment

In 1840, Lincoln County divided into entities called Upper Regiment and Lower Regiment, with the Lower Regiment encompassing today's Gaston County. By now, some slaves resided in the Lower Regiment, but they were few in number, likely working alongside their masters on small farms, since labor-intensive crops like cotton and tobacco did not grow well in the clay soil of the Piedmont. Like the Glenns, the average farmer did not own slaves and worked hard in his fields. Hours were long and chores ceaseless—plowing, sowing, harvesting, pruning, chopping wood, milking, crafting, and repairing and maintaining equipment. “There was no such thing as going to the store for flour,” William remembered. People were content with just what their farms produced. If a farm family did not raise what it needed, it went without.¹¹

Most farmers kept twenty to thirty hogs for meat and ten to fifteen cows for milking. They often used the milk from three or four cows to make butter, which they swapped for sugar and coffee. Men and boys fished and hunted game to supplement what the farm produced. William's happiest

days as a 10- and 11-year-old came “when I took my fish hooks and sat on the mossy banks of Mill Creek and caught perch & minnes [sic].”¹²

Farmers butchered hogs in November and December and preserved the meat with salt for the winter months. They also killed cattle in the winter and tanned hides to make shoes for the family. “They were rough and ugly but lasted generally with a little mending,” William recalled. They formed tallow candles out of fat rendered from sheep or cattle. They had no matches, so when fires burned out, they had to rekindle them.¹³

Women tended their many children and taught their daughters how to cook and keep house. William remembered that they made most of the family’s clothes with “spinning cotton,” as there was no call for fine clothes, and mended them when they were worn. Girls would card and spin until 11:00 p.m., William wrote, and then sew with their “fingers,” as there were no sewing machines. A calico dress was considered good enough to wear to church, and men wore homemade clothes except for their weddings. For that occasion, they might buy a suit for four to five dollars, but they would wear it long afterwards.¹⁴

As the main crop, corn appeared often at meal time. “Mush and milk were almost always on the menu for supper,” William wrote. Corn pone was used a great deal, baked or fried. Women and girls tended the chickens and gathered eggs. Most farmhouses had kitchen gardens where women grew herbs and vegetables. They picked fruit from trees they planted.¹⁵

As with earlier generations, there were times for socializing. Families got together for sewing bees, quilting bees, barn or house raisings, or corn-huskings. Weddings provided celebration, with good eating and drinking after dinner. A fiddle player might be called in, and everyone would enjoy music into the wee hours of the morning. Sundays were days of rest, a break in the work week.¹⁶

The Birth of Gaston County

In 1841, the legislature carved Cleveland County from a western portion of Lincoln County, and in 1842 sliced Catawba County from the northern part. With these actions, pressure began to grow for the Lower Regiment to become its own entity, even though it contained no towns, few settlements, and few churches. Lincolnton and its courthouse were too far away.¹⁷

A gathering place emerged at a crossroads store owned by Moses H. Rhyne. It sat in the northeast part of the county, west of the Tuckaseegee Ford near Dutchmans Creek, in an area that came to be known as Woodlawn, today's Mount Holly. In mid-1842, political leaders from the Lower Regiment met at Rhyne's store to ponder the creation of a new county, with a strategy of recruiting and electing legislative candidates who favored separation from Lincoln County. William's uncle, Daniel Franklin Ragan, was a leader in the effort. Dan Ragan was married to Harriett, one of John Franklin Glenn's younger sisters.¹⁸

On December 21, 1846, after four years of arguing and lobbying, the North Carolina legislature established Gaston County. The new county, spanning 364 square miles, was bordered on the east by the Catawba River and on the west by Crowders and Kings mountains. The land was seventeen miles south to north. The northern border with Lincoln County measured twenty miles east to west, and the southern border along the South Carolina state line measured eighteen miles east to west. The county formed the shape of a keystone arch.¹⁹

The area settled predominantly by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians was named for a Roman Catholic, the late Judge William Gaston. As a respected lawyer, a justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the author of the lyrics of North Carolina's state song, "The Old North State," he deserved the honor. Gaston, who had died almost three years earlier, had a connection to the area as a generous contributor to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, built in the northeastern part of the county in 1843 for Irish immigrant gold miners.²⁰

Commissioners chose Gaston's geographic center as the county seat and called it Dallas after George Mifflin Dallas, the sitting vice president under President James K. Polk. Jesse Holland sold seventy-five acres of his farm to the new county for fifty dollars. A portion of the land was set apart as the site of a courthouse and jail, and the rest was sold for building lots, with sale proceeds providing funds to construct the public buildings. In 1847, the commissioners oversaw the building of a temporary log courthouse that was used until the completion the following year of a brick courthouse and jail. The new courthouse was situated in the center of a square and built by Abram Mauney with the help of slaves.²¹



Oil painting of the 1848 brick courthouse in the Dallas Square, Dallas, North Carolina, by Sarah Hoffman Mauney. Courtesy of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, Dallas, North Carolina.

Coming of Age

William worked on the family farm in the spring and summer and attended school in the winter. A new house of worship had been built in 1846 about a mile and a half from the farm when a man named Jacob Rhodes deeded property between Catawba Creek and Crowders Creek for a church to house Protestant denominations. With Presbyterians and Baptists building and jointly occupying the log structure, it became known as Union Church, and the road on which it sat became known as Union Road. The Union Church building served as a meeting place for the community as well as a church, and congregants, likely the Presbyterians, established Union School.²² When he turned 13, William began attending Union School, what he called “geography school.” He was intelligent and enjoyed learning. His time at Union School marked the first time he had ever seen an atlas, and he was “very much pleased with the study.” Each year as he went to school, he wanted to learn more about his country.²³

In 1848, William recalled, Gaston County suffered a terrible drought, called the “dry year.” Rivers and creeks dried up; foraging hogs ate the

dead fish. In March 1848, the ground was so dry it could hardly be plowed. Crowders Creek almost stopped flowing, and most families had to go seven or eight miles to the South Fork of the Catawba River to get water. With a neighbor, William traveled north to the Brushy Mountains to buy corn, since the fields scarcely produced enough. In July 1848, however, drought did not stop the community from celebrating the completion of the new courthouse with a huge Fourth of July celebration in Dallas attended by an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people. Civic pride ran high.²⁴

In the spring of 1849, William, now 16, traveled for the first time when he accompanied a dozen men and six wagons of supplies to Columbia, South Carolina, the market for Gaston County goods. He was pleased to see “so much of the world.” His views on life likely expanded as he sat with the men after dinner and listened to their tales into the night, tales lubricated with liberal allowances of corn whiskey. In 1850, William and his 13-year-old brother, Robert Newton, called Newton, worked side by side and managed the farm when their father spent part of the summer building a mill dam on Fishing Creek in Chester, South Carolina, near Great Falls.²⁵

In the same year, the Presbyterians at Union Church organized Union Independent Presbyterian Church (later called Union Presbyterian Church) with twenty-four charter members, among them Harriett and Dan Ragan. Dan became the first and long-time clerk of session. William, their nephew, now 17, soon added his name to the church rolls, and his parents eventually did also.²⁶

That winter, William returned to Union School, continuing through 1852. One of his teachers, an educated farmer named Nathan Mendenhall Jr., lived in the Pleasant Ridge community west of Union Road. Mendenhall taught part-time at a number of neighborhood schools. He also was a faithful member and elder at Olney Presbyterian Church near his home, and was known as a helpful “neighborhood man” who surveyed farms, wrote wills, drew up deeds, settled controversies, and calculated math problems. As a teacher, he was patient but firm, fair and understanding, and his students learned. “He was a good man and good teacher, one to whom I became very much attached,” William wrote. “Our friendship continued as long as he lived.”²⁷

The year 1853 brought changes for William. In May, his grandmother Fanny Glenn, age 67, died in the barnyard where she had gone to milk

a cow. She was buried at Bethel graveyard next to her husband, Robert, who had died fourteen years earlier. For a time, 20-year-old William earned money teaching school. In the fall, he helped drive cattle to Charleston, South Carolina, a city of 3,000 to 4,000 people. He had never seen a city and was excited to visit and especially to see the “great deep sea” for the first time. The trip was an adventure, particularly trying to get cattle across the Santee River. He visited Sullivan’s Island and walked all over Charleston, seeing many new sights. King Street impressed him the most.²⁸

He also found the travel home eye-opening because of slaves he saw in lower South Carolina. They looked different—“dwarfy,” he wrote—from the slaves he saw at home, spoke a language he and his fellow drovers could not understand, and lived on peas and potatoes. William wrote that a “Negro” driver with a whip and gun rode among them to keep them at work. It disturbed him deeply that the slave owner was not allowed to teach them to read or write and that it was not safe for a stranger to go among them and tell them about freedom. During the trip, white people in fine carriages occasionally drove by, but “they rarely condescended to speak to us.” William mused, “Where in all the world was there so aristocratic a people as then lived in lower S.C.?”²⁹

The Pleasantest Year

In 1854, only 21, William suffered a debilitating spell of rheumatism, and he was unable to do any physical work for almost two years. He stayed on the farm, but how he spent his time is unknown. Farming would be difficult. He needed another occupation.³⁰

A new opportunity came in 1857 when a man named Theo Pegram hired William to tend his store. In the fall of that year, he added a new skill when he learned to take “likenesses,” as he called photographs. Photography as a medium was still emerging in the late 1850s. Daguerreotypes were popular, producing the familiar formal poses common to the period, but the cumbersome equipment had to be carried in a wagon, and developing time was slow. While he may have taken daguerreotypes, William may have used the new tintype process, also called ferrotype, since the picture was embedded on a thin strip of iron. In a few minutes, the photographer could prepare the tintype plate, take the picture, develop it, and present it to the customer.

Tintypes were less expensive and therefore popular at fairs and carnivals, where poses were less formal and subjects looked more natural.³¹

During the winter of 1857–58, William worked on farms in western York County not far from home, taking pictures and making a little money. Here he observed the more leisurely lifestyle of the Southern cotton plantation, where slaves did the work, so different from life in Gaston County. He also noted that some of the girls he met attended school at places like Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina, and Salem Academy in Salem, North Carolina. He described his time in York County as the “pleasantest” year of his life, because the young people included him in their outings and parties. Hardly any of them did any kind of work “because they were rich enough,” William wrote. “I thought they were the happiest people I had ever seen.”³²

Moving for War

In 1858, when William returned home from York County, “the muttering thunder was beginning to be heard,” he found. “The dark clouds of an [sic] terrible war that came in 1861.” He spent the fall in Dallas taking photos. The following spring, he took his business to Newton, North Carolina, a center of commerce in the North Carolina foothills and home to Catawba College, founded seven years earlier. There likely were fairs and festivals that spring, popular venues for photography. William stayed for five or six weeks and took many pictures, then moved on to Taylorsville in Alexander County until July. He had some financial success in his business and made “many pleasant acquaintances.”³³

In Taylorsville, he met business partners Henry Hunter and Andrew Neel, from Ashe and Alleghany counties respectively. Learning that William had experience tending store, Neel persuaded him to go into business with them at a store near Laurel Springs, in Allegheny County. In his new post, William received his introduction to mountain people. “They were kind and friendly but did not associate with us readily,” he wrote. “They were grossly ignorant and so firmly set in their ways and motives of religion and everything else that try [sic] to tell them anything was a hopeless task.”³⁴

William enjoyed the cool climate that came with the 2,500-foot elevation. Grass was plentiful, and so horses, cattle, and sheep flourished and

sold for good money. Fruit, like apples, grew well. William bought and sold goods from the store from the summer of 1859 until November 1860, when he hauled their produce plus 2,500 pounds of butter to Charlotte, North Carolina, by wagon. From there, he accompanied the goods by rail to Columbia, South Carolina.³⁵

“Such a week,” William recalled of his stay in Columbia. The 1860 presidential election took place on November 6 while he was there, and Republican Abraham Lincoln was elected by a purely sectional vote. Growing national strife about slavery was about to come to a head. “The whole country seemed to be on fire,” William wrote. “Their voice was for war. SC was rich and proud . . . the blooded aristocracy felt like they could fill up with fine liquor and whip the Yankees before breakfast.” William returned to Alleghany County fully convinced that war was coming soon. He urged Andrew Neel to wind up the business, “for I thought if once aroused that it would be a bad place to live. I came home to Gaston Co and found the people moving for war.”³⁶

CHAPTER 3



A Distinguished Heritage

1771–1861

In neighborhoods west of Union Road, called Crowders Creek and Pleasant Ridge, lived two prominent Gaston County families related by marriage, the Wilsons and the Torrences. Their legacies would become part of the Glenn family's heritage. Within the next decade, one of their own, a devout girl named Sarah Priscilla Torrence, would grow up to become a leading character in the Glenn story. Sarah Priscilla was the youngest of four children of Sarah Ann Wilson Torrence and William Wilson Torrence. Her mother's family, the Wilsons, was one of the most distinguished families of Gaston County. Her father's family, the Torrences, boasted upright individuals who played leading roles in their church and community.¹

The Wilson Family

About 1732, John Willson (note the second *l*) came from Londonderry, Ulster, Northern Ireland, just as John Glen did, and settled in the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania. He married Mary Breckenridge, also of Londonderry, who arrived in the colonies with her brother when she was 12. They had been orphaned when their parents died on the Atlantic voyage.²

Mary Breckenridge and John Willson had ten children. Their oldest son, also named John Willson, was born about 1742 in Pennsylvania and moved to North Carolina in 1764 with his wife, Mary Wray. They settled along the

headwaters of the south branch of Crowders Creek near Crowders Mountain to farm in Mecklenburg County (soon to be called Tryon County). As a member of the militia during the American Revolution, John served in both North and South Carolina and fought under General Daniel Morgan at the Battle of Cowpens. After the war, he changed the spelling of his surname to Wilson.³

John was elected register of deeds when Lincoln County was formed from Tryon County in April 1779. He came to be known as Squire Wilson in recognition of his importance in the community. He was an intelligent, educated man and wrote “clearly and forcefully” in the few letters of his that are preserved. In 1782, he served as one of the commissioners who secured the location of the new Lincoln County courthouse in the new town called Lincolnton. In 1784, he served on a second commission to buy land and contract to build a courthouse, jail, and stocks. The next year, he was commissioned to take charge of Tories’ property and determine its disposition.⁴

Mary Wray and John Wilson were not affluent but certainly were “easy and comfortable,” as one of their sons later described them, because of John’s steady government income in addition to farming and other enterprises. They were devout Christians, and their offspring benefited from regular religious instruction during their childhoods, leading some of them to oppose slavery as adults. Continuously reelected register of deeds for twenty years, John Wilson died in office unexpectedly in January 1799 at the age of 57.⁵

Three months after his father’s death, his son William Joseph Wilson, just 22, was elected register of deeds of Lincoln County. He began making the long journey to the Lincoln County courthouse using old Yorkville Road, which ran from Yorkville, South Carolina, to Lincolnton. He excelled in his post and was continuously reelected, serving until 1847. William Joseph relied on a volume of *Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England*, willed to him by his father, to help him become familiar with the rights of persons and of public and private wrongs. He became known for getting men to compromise instead of going to trial, and he frequently arbitrated matters that might have resulted in lawsuits. As a result, he was often called Judge Wilson. “He was strong-willed and liked to have his way,” as Major C. Q. Petty, one of his nearest neighbors once said, according to the 1976 National Register of Historic Places nomination for the William Joseph

Beyond Gaston County: The Wilsons

Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn had two great-uncles—William Joseph Wilson’s brothers, Robert and Samuel—who are worthy of note for their Christian character, their exceptional intellect, their scholarship, and their significant contributions beyond the borders of Gaston County.

Rev. Robert G. Wilson (1768–1851) graduated from Dickinson College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1790, studied theology under the direction of Rev. Francis D. Cummins of Bethel and Rev. William C. Davis of Bethel and Olney, and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of South Carolina in 1793. In the early 1800s, because of his opposition to slavery, Robert moved his family to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he pastored the Chillicothe Presbyterian Church, taught at Chillicothe Academy, and served on the board of trustees of Ohio University. His older brother, John Wilson (1767–1838), who shared Robert’s views on slavery, moved his family to nearby Greenfield, Ohio. In 1818, the College of New Jersey at Princeton awarded Robert an honorary doctor of divinity degree. In 1824, he was elected the third president of Ohio University, which his nephew Lawson Wilson (William Joseph’s youngest son) attended. After his retirement from the presidency, he continued in the ministry.

Samuel B. Wilson (1783–1869) was a man of similar achievement. Almost 16 when his father died, Samuel had already committed to the ministry. His father’s will left Samuel a choice: to farm a small tract of land as his portion of the estate or to let his brothers buy the land and to use the proceeds to receive a “classical and Scientific Education.” His brother William Joseph bought the land, and Samuel studied Latin, Greek, and mathematics before attending Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) at Lexington, Virginia. He pursued theological studies, becoming licensed in 1805 and ordained in 1806. He organized the first Presbyterian church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the first Sunday school in Virginia. He was twice elected president of Davidson College, a Presbyterian institution in Davidson, North Carolina, but

twice declined out of devotion to his beloved church. In 1837, like his brother, he was awarded a doctor of divinity degree from the College of New Jersey. In 1841, he became a professor of Christian theology at Union Seminary in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia, a call he felt his duty to accept, and taught there until his death in 1869.



The College of New Jersey is Princeton University today. Kenneth Henke, email to author, August 23, 2015; Wilson, "A Brief Biographical Sketch," 1; "McKay, Early American Presbyterians"; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson E-8, E-9, E-14, E-44. Ohio University was established in 1804 and was the first legislated public university due to passage of the Northwest Ordinance, which explicitly included funding for higher education; <https://www.ohio.edu/president/presidents-emeriti>. Samuel stated in his biography that he was 14 when his father died, but he was 16; <http://fredericksburgpc.org/about-us/our-history>. Davidson College made the offer to Samuel in June 1836 and January 1841; <http://sites.davidson.edu/archives/digital-collections/samuel-b-wilson-letter-26-apr-1841>. Samuel also served as acting president of Hampden-Sydney College in 1847. The seminary was founded in 1812 as a theological adjunct of Hampden-Sydney College and was located on the south end of the campus. It became Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1822 and remained on the campus for seventy-five years before moving to Richmond, Virginia. Paula Skreslet, email to author, July 7, 9, 2015; www.hsc.edu/academics/catalogs/Presidents; annotations to letter from Samuel B. Wilson to Rev. Robert S. Bell, 26 April 1841, Davidson College Archives.

Wilson house. (His descendants inherited some of those characteristics.) The nomination quoted Petty as saying: "The beauty about it was that the Judge's way was almost always the right way."⁶

On October 22, 1799, the same year he was elected register of deeds, William Joseph Wilson married Sarah Baird. She also came from a prominent family. Her father, Captain Adam Baird, emigrated from the same section of Pennsylvania as the Willsons, and he and his wife, Mary Adams Baird, prospered on "the two small branches of Little Catawba Creek" in southeastern Lincoln County (now Gaston County) after the Revolution. Baird was one of the three men who selected the site for the Bethel

Presbyterian Church building and served as an elder there. He captained state troops during the Revolution and fought at Kings Mountain.⁷

Throughout the course of his married life, William Joseph Wilson, a multi-talented man of energy and vision, accumulated land by grant or by purchase until he owned several thousand acres, becoming one of the largest individual landowners and slave owners in the county. In addition to serving as register of deeds, he was a land surveyor and a justice of the peace. He belonged to the Royal Arch Chapter of Masons.⁸

Sarah Baird and William Joseph Wilson had five boys and four girls. About 1818, he completed an impressive four-story, eight-room home to accommodate his large family. It had thick brick walls, an attic, a basement, and four tall chimneys, two on each end. He built the home on the north side of Crowders Creek in North Carolina, with the slave quarters across the creek in South Carolina. The new home evinced the family's more comfortable lifestyle at a time when most homes were still log cabins. William Joseph also built a gristmill and a sawmill on his property. After the family moved in, the home served for a time as a stagecoach and mail stop on the route running from Yorkville, South Carolina, to Lincolnton. The stately home still stands on Ferguson Ridge Road in southwestern Gaston County.⁹



William Joseph Wilson, great-grandfather of the Glenn siblings, built this impressive home at Crowders Creek near the South Carolina state line, and many Glenn family events took place here over the years. The porches were a twentieth-century addition. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Courtesy of Lucy Rawlings Penegar.

Politically, William Joseph was a Whig and served as a delegate in 1833 to choose a presidential elector on the Henry Clay ticket. He was also an entrepreneur. When gold was discovered in August 1829 along a creek in Kings Mountain, he secured ten investors and formed the Kings Mountain Gold Mine, serving as secretary-treasurer. By 1840, they had extracted some \$60,000 in gold, and by the time of his death, William Joseph owned one fifth of the company. When a fledgling railroad called the Kings Mountain Rail Road was established, the visionary William Joseph bought stock. Completed in 1852, the five-foot-wide, broad-gauge track ran twenty-two and a half miles between Yorkville and Chester, South Carolina.¹⁰

When Gaston County was established in 1846, William Joseph stepped down as register of deeds when his term expired the following year. One of his last responsibilities was serving on a commission that selected Dallas as the site for the Gaston County courthouse, just as his father had helped select Lincolnton in 1782. He later served on a commission to supervise its construction. The new courthouse was completed in 1848. Once the courthouse was built, Yorkville Road moved farther east to provide a more direct route to the county seat, its location today.¹¹

On February 5, 1854, William Joseph Wilson died suddenly at the breakfast table, at age 77, of “a pain in the breast.” He was buried next to his wife in the Olney Presbyterian Church graveyard, leaving a grieving family, a library, as many as 2,000 acres of land, and numerous slaves, some of whom he willed to his children, since slaves were considered personal property. One of his daughters, Sally Ann Torrence, inherited three: Rhina, Jane, and Peter.¹²

Olney Presbyterian Church

Olney Presbyterian Church in the Pleasant Ridge community was the church home of many Wilson and Torrence family members and was located just east of Yorkville Road. The church is thought to have been organized as early as 1793 by members of the Bethel church who desired to worship closer to their homes, but services may have been held even before then. On the highest ridge “in the dense forest of oaks, hickories, chestnuts and pines that shaped the gently rolling terrain,” wrote Robert L. Hallman in *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, the congregation held camp meetings and carved out a brush arbor, which served as a preaching point called North Bethel.¹³



Olney Independent Presbyterian Church was the church home of several generations of Torrence and Wilson families. Used with the permission of Olney Presbyterian Church.

Rev. William C. Davis supplied Bethel before pastoring Olney from 1793 to 1806. This was an era of strict Sunday observance. No work took place—neither cooking, dishwashing, bed making, sweeping, coffee grinding, nor fruit gathering—except what was absolutely necessary. If children were caught on Sunday gathering apples, melons, or nuts, they were whipped on Monday morning, “often before getting out of bed.” Rev. Davis became unpopular at Bethel because of his controversial views, such as “Infant Damnation,” meaning no promises in the Bible for infants of unbelievers. That and other views led to his censure by the established Presbyterian Church, but because he had enough of a following, he led secession from the church and formed the Independent Presbyterian Church movement.¹⁴

Davis started his home church in a brush arbor on the same grounds as North Bethel before two log churches were built, one for the Olney Independent Presbyterian Church (later called Olney Presbyterian Church), and one for the North Bethel congregation. The Independent Presbyterian Church, which the Torrence family attended, was more active than North Bethel, which remained small, its pulpit largely vacant for about fifty years. At times, however, preaching took place in both churches on the same day and at the same time.¹⁵

In 1859–60, W. W. Torrence’s cousin John C. Torrence, an elder and stalwart member, supervised the construction of a new building for Olney Independent Presbyterian Church. As at other antebellum churches, slaves were received into membership and baptized at Olney, but here they sat at the back of the church, separated by a waist-high curtain. The two churches formally reunited during the war and moved to the newer church building.¹⁶

The Torrence Family

The surname Torrence is of Irish and Gaelic origin and derives from the word “tor,” or “little hill.” Hugh Torrance (note the *a*) immigrated to Pennsylvania from Northern Ireland in the late eighteenth century before settling near Crowders Creek to farm, one of the early pioneers in the area. Hugh and his wife, Mary Brown, had seven children. Their fourth child and oldest son was John Torrance, born in 1771 in Tryon County. The Torrances changed the spelling of their name to Torrence after the American Revolution.¹⁷

John Torrance, called a man of great moral character, married Martha Chain Wilson, who had immigrated from Ireland through the Port of Charleston when she was 16. They moved to the area of present-day Gaffney, South Carolina, where they had nine children: one daughter, Mary, called Polly, followed by eight sons.¹⁸

Their eldest, Polly Torrence, married Nathan Mendenhall, William’s teacher and friend, and two of her younger brothers married two of Sarah and William Joseph Wilson’s daughters. On February 27, 1834, William Wilson Torrence, called W. W., married Sarah Ann Wilson, called Sally Ann, in Lincoln County, perhaps at the impressive brick home of Sally Ann’s parents. On an unknown date, W. W.’s brother Ephraim married Sally Ann’s sister Polly Wilson, and they lived at Jackson’s Knob.¹⁹

After their marriage, Sally Ann and W. W. moved to upper Spartanburg County, South Carolina, near Torrence relatives, and farmed there. Their first child was a daughter they named Eliza Clementine, born on August 20, 1834. They called her Clementine. In 1837, they had a son and gave him the unusual name of Leonidas, after a Spartan king who died at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C. (They pronounced it Lee-ON’-ĭ-das.) Their third child, born on June 13, 1839, was William Junius, called Junius, Latin for the month of his birth. Twelve years later came a surprise: Sarah Priscilla, born on March 28, 1851, the third generation of Sarahs in her family. Later that year, the infant’s grandmother Sarah Baird Wilson died. On December 8, older sister Clementine, who was attending Limestone College in Gaffney, succumbed to an unknown illness. She was only 17.²⁰

Having experienced the birth of a baby and the deaths of two family members, Sally Ann and W. W. moved back to Gaston County in 1852 to be

closer to their loved ones. Sally Ann's father, William Joseph Wilson, once said that "he never wanted any of his children to leave this country from wanting a home." He applied the same principle to adult children moving back. Wilson bought a 217-acre tract of land from Joseph H. Mendenhall and sold it to his son-in-law for \$650. The parcel adjoined his property on the south bank of the north branch of Crowders Creek, on Yorkville Road in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood, about two miles south of Olney Presbyterian Church.²¹

W. W. settled down on his new land to farm with his two sons, while Sally Ann tended to the baby, Sarah Priscilla. She was likely a delight to her family and the nearby relatives. The family joined Olney Independent Presbyterian Church. In August 1852, Sarah Priscilla was baptized there at age 17 months, either by Rev. James D. Hall or his successor, Rev. J. Leroy Davis. The family had delayed the sacrament because of Clementine's death and their move. After their relocation to Gaston County, Sally Ann and W. W. Torrence intertwined their lives with the church. Given their prominence, it was not surprising that W. W. became a deacon in 1859 and an elder in 1863. Sarah Priscilla would join Olney Presbyterian Church by examination as a teenager. For the rest of her life, she was faithful to her church and loyal to its ministers.²²

In 1861, when Sarah Priscilla turned 10, her father and her older brother Leonidas, now 24, worked the farm. Her brother Junius, age 22, had studied medicine locally before heading to the Medical College of the State of South Carolina in Charleston. He graduated from medical school in March and moved to Arkansas, where three of his Torrence uncles lived, to begin the practice of medicine. A month later, the Civil War ignited in Charleston.²³



Civil War and Its Aftermath

1861–1869

“While there was a great amount of foolish brag on the part of some...as a whole they were terribly in earnest and when the time came they poured out their blood and freely gave their lives for the cause they held so dear,” wrote William Glenn of the Civil War. At first, in his view, the North thought the South was mostly bluster and that a show of fight would stop them. Guarded about the prospects of war, he was not as excited as many of his neighbors. Those he called “level headed older men,” who at first shook their heads at the thought, now nearly all had war fever. Few people thought the fighting would last more than six months. Some feared it would be over before they could enlist and “kill a few Yankees,” William recalled. One neighbor’s boy even galloped off on his father’s only horse to join the cavalry.¹

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln’s name did not appear on the Republican ballot in North Carolina, so he did not get a single vote in Gaston County. Gaston’s white population was 9,307, and its black population 2,192. Ninety percent of all officer holders and county leaders owned slaves, but the county had few plantations and 70 percent of Gaston’s citizens owned no slaves. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the county’s voters overwhelmingly supported the secessionist candidate, Vice President John Cabell Breckenridge, who received 82 percent of the vote. Gaston’s Democrats thought secession was the best way to preserve slavery. Opposing them were Gaston’s Whigs, Republicans, and Union Democrats, more moderate men, who supported

staying in the Union and using peaceful means to try to resolve the slavery issue. Then, on April 12, 1861, Confederate artillery opened fire on Fort Sumter, and the Civil War began. “What an awful price was paid by both sides from their ambition and foolishness,” William wrote.²

Patriotic Fever

On May 1, 1861, the first soldiers of the six full companies to organize from Gaston County enlisted in Dallas, forming Company M, Sixteenth Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers. Since slaveholders who owned more than twenty people, and men in specialized occupations, such as blacksmiths, shoemakers, and tanners, were initially exempt from military service, most of the recruits were young farmers, a number unmarried and in the “bloom of manhood,” as Gaston County historian Minnie Stowe Puett described them in 1939.³

From Dallas, the new enlistees headed for the train at Brevard Station (present-day Stanley, North Carolina), then shipped out to training camps. Just four years earlier, the first train ever to cross into Gaston County had chugged along the trestle across the Catawba River above Tuckaseegee Ford, led by a steam locomotive of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad. It was such a notable event that William’s uncle, Dan Ragan, had taken his teenage sons Robert Franklin and George Washington to watch, joining hundreds of excited citizens. Brevard Station became not only a major departure point for Gaston County soldiers, but also one for sending provisions to soldiers in the field.⁴

On June 12, as patriotic fever mounted, a second enlistment occurred for Company H, Twenty-third Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers, called the Gaston Guards. Despite his uneasiness about war, William felt it was his duty to help the cause. And so he, his 52-year-old father, John Franklin, and his two younger brothers, Newton, 24, and John, 19, volunteered at Dallas. Janette Glenn would have been distraught to watch her husband and three of their sons leave the farm, knowing that she would have to provide for her three youngest children still at home if the men did not return. But the authorities rejected John Franklin because he was over 50, and William because his general health was poor. Newton and John, however, enlisted in the Gaston Guards.⁵

The Torrence family was also affected by the enlistment. (The Torrences may have been acquainted with the Glenns; at the very least, they knew of each other.) On July 18, Sarah Priscilla Torrence's older brother, 24-year-old Leonidas, joined the Twenty-third Regiment North Carolina Volunteers. Two of their first cousins would also join the war effort, sons of Ephraim (who had died in 1850) and Polly Wilson Torrence, who lived at Jackson's Knob.⁶

In October, William's cousin Robert Franklin Ragan, just 17, enlisted with Company H, Thirty-seventh Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers, known as the Gaston Blues. William's brother-in-law, William Brison, who was married to William's younger sister, Martha Ann, left his wife and 1-year-old daughter to enlist in the Forty-ninth Regiment in March 1862. The Mendenhalls, William's good friend Nathan and his wife, Polly (Sarah Priscilla's aunt), watched as their older son, Edwin, joined Company B, Twenty-eighth Regiment, while Cyrus, the younger, joined Company H, Forty-ninth Regiment. All told, at least fifteen of William's relatives, friends, and acquaintances enlisted or were conscripted after April 1862 when the Confederacy first instituted the draft.⁷

Hundreds of Gaston County men formed part of the Army of Northern Virginia, and would fight in eastern Virginia during the Peninsula Campaign, at Antietam, at Chancellorsville, and at Gettysburg. Exempt from Confederate service were those serving in the militia, called the Home Guard after 1863. They kept the peace, rounded up conscripts, and captured deserters.⁸

The Home Front

In August 1861, with most of the able-bodied men off at war, William was persuaded to run for clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Gaston County. The clerk managed the administrative and clerical functions related to the day-to-day operations of the court and recorded wills, estates, and probates. Now 28, William, a non-slaveholding, secessionist Democrat, ran against three men, including the incumbent clerk, the more moderate, Union-leaning Amzi Ford, who happened to be his Uncle Dan Ragan's brother-in-law. William won with a large majority on August 3, his victory largely attributable to local secessionist support. He moved to

Dallas, most likely lived at the well-known Pegram's boardinghouse, and worked out of the brick courthouse in the middle of the square. Dallas was now a sizeable town with a tavern, a post office, a general store, private homes, and two hotels, the Smith House and the impressive Hoffman Hotel, built to accommodate visitors to court.⁹

The following spring, as William settled into his new job, the Peninsula Campaign in eastern Virginia began. Unceasing news of carnage reached Gaston County. In May 1862, William's brother-in-law, William Brison, was killed at Drewry's Bluff, south of Richmond, Virginia. On July 1, Sarah Priscilla and Leonidas Torrence's two cousins were killed at Malvern Hill—in the same battle, on the same day. Their widowed mother, Polly Wilson Torrence, bore the loss alone. Later that month, William's brothers Newton and John fought in skirmishes and engagements around Richmond. At the Battle of Seven Pines, John suffered shell shock, but he came to, picked up his gun, and returned to fight. Both brothers survived the battle unhurt.¹⁰

On September 17, 1862, the Glenns and other Gaston men fought in the bloody battle at Antietam, Maryland, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, where 23,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in twelve hours. John Glenn, just 21, was shot and thought to be mortally wounded. He survived, but after a lengthy recuperation, he was sent home and never returned to the army. His brother, Newton, continued his service. A month after Antietam, Polly and Nathan Mendenhall learned the heartbreaking news that their son Edwin had died in the hospital in Richmond, either of injury or disease.¹¹

Salt Commissioner Glenn

In 1862, while still serving as clerk of court, William was appointed salt commissioner of Gaston County by North Carolina. He did not seek the job, and his appointment added considerably to his responsibilities. During the Civil War, salt commissioners, many of them clerks of court, were appointed in every county to procure salt for the families of soldiers. It was serious business, because having no salt “deprives our people of meat for the next twelve months,” noted North Carolina's wartime governor Zebulon Vance. Commissioners were prohibited from obtaining more salt than necessary, from purchasing it for their own use, and from selling it at a

higher price. They also had to secure sacks to hold the salt when it was shipped on trains, wagons, and horseback. William took on this difficult new assignment conscientiously.¹²

William had to get salt wherever he could. At the time of his appointment, North Carolina had three venues: the salt works operating near the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina, shipments of salt to Wilmington, and Saltville, a small town in Smyth County, Virginia, about sixteen miles northeast of Abingdon. All three were at least 200 miles from Gaston County. Sale of salt from Saltville was restricted to commissioners like William, but moving salt by train was difficult because of the various gauges of track leading from the town.¹³

With the fall of Norfolk, Virginia, to Union troops in May 1862, Wilmington had become the Confederacy's main Atlantic port. People feared that if Wilmington fell to the Yankees, the salt works would be lost. On his first journey to Wilmington that fall, William faced severe challenges in his attempt to procure salt and could not get all he needed. A yellow fever epidemic there caused the embargo of between 50,000 and 60,000 bushels of salt and stopped new shipments. Speculators and extortionists drove up the prices, causing Governor Vance to forbid the exportation of salt. In November, William traveled via horse and wagon to Saltville to supplement his earlier supply. The road was rough and dangerous, but he got through safely and arranged to ship a limited quantity to Gaston County by train.¹⁴

No Hope for the South

After the battles of 1862, "the South was gradually giving way as was inevitable against the great armies of the North," wrote William in his "Reflections." "The people who were at home could do but little; the poor women and children suffered for food and clothing. If the mourning was not quite equal to that of the Egyptians it lasted for years. All well informed people knew that there was no hope for the south." He added, "the terrible battles went on and each day we listened for the news." The year 1863 proved to be disastrous for the Confederacy. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the Confederate states, adding to the uneasiness of some whites who thought that slaves might become uncontrollable. Some slaves escaped

and joined Union troops. In March, as if the war had not produced enough sadness, William's grandmother Annie Davis Scott died.¹⁵

Leonidas Torrence, Sarah Priscilla's brother, had survived Manassas and Antietam. The previous year, he had been hospitalized in Richmond with pneumonia and typhoid fever, but he recovered and returned to his company. On May 12, 1863, he sent a cousin a graphic account of the Battle of Chancellorsville, which took place in Virginia from April 30 to May 6, 1863, and claimed the lives of over a dozen young men in the Gaston Guards. Leonidas enumerated the gruesome wounds that his acquaintances had suffered. One man's leg was broken and amputated; another had his thumb shot off; still another was shot through the nose. He also passed on an unconfirmed account that General Stonewall Jackson was dead, mistakenly shot by his own troops. The worst news he conveyed to his cousin, however, was the death on May 3 of one of his fellow Gaston Guards: Newton Glenn.¹⁶

Newton's death devastated Janette and John Franklin Glenn. James Reid, a member of the Home Guard, was grieving his own loss, his brother Robert Holland Reid, who also died at Chancellorsville. James's parents dispatched him to retrieve Holland's remains, and James agreed to retrieve Newton's body as well. He took a wagon to Virginia, where he had the bodies exhumed and, in a long, sad journey, brought them back. Newton Glenn was buried at the Union Presbyterian Church cemetery "near his own home," William recorded.¹⁷

In June, Sarah Priscilla's brother Leonidas wrote their brother Junius, who was practicing medicine in Arkansas, about "borrowing" a "fine Gold wring" from a dead "Yankey" on the battlefield who "never refused" him taking it. Within two weeks, on July 1, 1863, 26-year-old Leonidas Torrence was wounded at Gettysburg. He died eight days later, one of 3,500 Confederate deaths on that battlefield. His remains were not retrieved and likely rest in the North Carolina section of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Within a year, Junius returned home, bought land near his parents, and would marry a widow, Isabella "Bell" Falls Neagle, in 1867.¹⁸

When he wrote about this time in his "Reflections" years later, William could have been describing the feelings in 1863 of his family, and of Leonidas's parents, Sally Ann and W. W., their son Junius, and their daughter, Sarah Priscilla. "The whole country was in mourning for brothers sons and

Diarist James William Reid

James Reid (1816–94), a resident of Gaston County in the Lowell area, kept a journal beginning in 1842, when he was 26, until 1892. In addition to the experiences of his family, this valuable primary source provides several important details of the Glenn family story. Reid was a farmer, bill collector, schoolteacher, furniture maker, cobbler, a reader of his Bible and of books and newspapers. He served as clerk of session at New Hope Presbyterian Church from 1853 to 1891, and was twice elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

During the Civil War, Reid served in the Lenoir Reserves Home Guard, keeping the peace, rounding up conscripts, and capturing deserters. His younger brother, Robert Holland Reid, enlisted on June 12, 1861, the same day as Newton and John Glenn. In 1863, Holland was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville. James Reid learned of his brother's death on May 11, while he was out in the community. It fell to him to share the sorrowful news with his parents. "I came home and told father and mother," he wrote, "and it almost killed them." Holland Reid is buried in the New Hope Presbyterian Church cemetery on South New Hope Road, where a Confederate States of America marker honors his grave.

In November 1864, James's son, William Harrison Reid, joined Company C of the Second Regiment of Junior Reserves just after his 17th birthday. Two months later, on January 21, 1865, he died of the measles in Lumberton, North Carolina. Like his uncle, Harrison is buried at New Hope Presbyterian Church cemetery.



Reid, "Reid Journal," Volume III, 267, 268, 270; Carpenter, *Gaston County... in the Civil War*, 12, 139; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 622; Weger, "Hope Preserved," 175. Many young men had not been exposed to childhood illnesses because of their isolation on farms, and often died after contracting diseases while in the army. The inscription on Harrison's tombstone reads: "W. Harrison Reid, b. October 25, 1847, died January 21, 1865 Entered Army November 1864."

husbands. With everything to depress and nothing to cheer we passed a sorrowful time. The young men of the South were being slain by thousands fighting with unsurpassed bravery against overpowering odds. After our defeat at Gettysburg & Vicksburg we had but little hope of success.”¹⁹

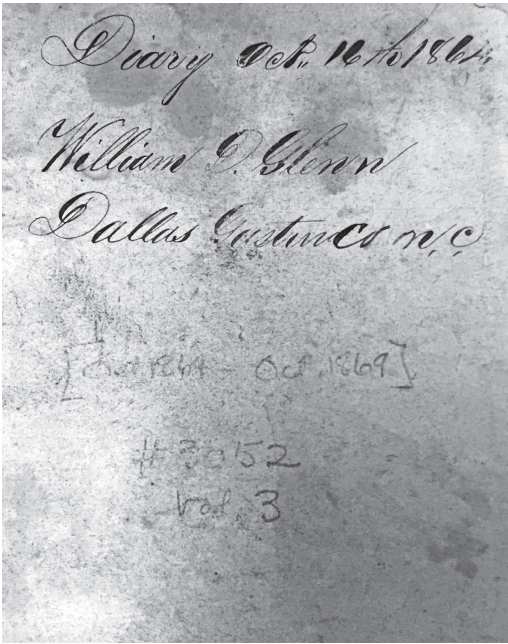
In July 1863, two months before his 19th birthday, William’s cousin Robert Franklin Ragan, who had already been wounded twice, died in the Chimborazo hospital in Richmond of typhoid fever. On hearing of his illness, Dan Ragan had immediately left Gaston County by train, but he never reached Richmond because the track was torn up.²⁰

The advent of 1864 did little to change the gloomy prospects. “The war dragged its slow length along,” wrote William. “The few able bodied men were being Conscripted and forced to the Army; in many sections the woods were full of deserters hiding out.” Desertion became more and more commonplace as soldiers left the army because they were worried about their families at home. Terror, lawlessness, and intimidation prevailed for those holding Union sentiment. Vigilantes roamed the countryside.²¹

“One of the greatest troubles was the want of food money,” William recalled. “The currency had depreciated to an alarming degree, the Confederate Congress in a vain effort to improve matters passed an act calling in the paper money and issuing \$3 for \$5 called in but the money got worse and worse and Speculation . . . for a time ran wild.” Confederate money was worthless. Despite a steady income as clerk of court, William could hardly live on his pay because of rampant inflation, what with dinner costing as much as ten dollars.²²

In 1864, William returned to Saltville. “I went to Raleigh to Gov Z. B. Vance who detailed five men from the army [as armed escorts] to haul salt from VA this proved to be a troublesome business.” It was a rough and dangerous journey with the wagon train. On the return trip, William and his men traveled through the Blue Ridge Mountains of Watauga County, where Colonel George Kirk of Tennessee and his raiders were harassing the countryside. There was fighting all day around them, but they got back to Gaston County safely.²³

By 1864, although the war was winding down, the Confederacy needed more manpower. Company C, Second Regiment, Junior Reserves, filled the bill. It comprised over 100 Gaston County boys aged 17 and 18, who served under the command of teenage James Quinn Holland. William’s young



William Davis Glenn began a diary on his 31st birthday, October 16, 1864, during the Civil War and ended his entries on his 36th birthday, October 16, 1869. Courtesy of Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

cousin George Washington “Wash” Ragan, age 16, joined Company C as the color bearer. As the war continued, even those previously exempt from military service were drafted.²⁴

On October 16, 1864, his 31st birthday, William began a diary. In his first entry, he thanked God for His sparing mercy. “The multiplicity of care and perplexing duties of my responsible situation have borned [sic] heavily at times but I have come safely through them I trust.” He concluded with a thought that he would repeat in various forms on his next five birthdays: “O may the God of grace & truth help me to live as I will wish I had lived when I come to die.”²⁵

During his time in Dallas, thinking he might live there, William had purchased a half-acre lot in town. He attended church, as was his habit—perhaps at the Presbyterian Church of Dallas, or at Union Presbyterian to worship with his parents, or even at Bethel and Olney Presbyterian churches. His strong faith, however, could not dispel great sadness and melancholy, as defeat seemed inevitable.²⁶

“I feel out of humor with almost the whole world,” he wrote in November. “My thoughts have wandered back to former and better days—the contrast makes me unhappy . . . when I think of friends relatives and former

companions who have been killed died and are far away in prisons.” A few months later, in February 1865, Nathan and Polly Mendenhall’s scholarly son, Cyrus, died in Winder Hospital, in Richmond, leaving them childless.²⁷

William’s state of mind was mirrored throughout the South. By early April 1865, “it was like listening each day to hear our doom,” he recalled. On April 9, pondering the siege of Petersburg and the Battle of Appomattox, he wrote, “It is terrible to think of the carnage which is going on at present.” He would soon learn that on that very day, General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. The war was over.²⁸

In mid-May following surrender, a regiment of Michigan soldiers camped around the courthouse in Dallas. They stole horses, including some that belonged to William’s friends. As William saved the horses, the soldiers shot at him. The only time he came under fire occurred after the war ended.²⁹

Reconstruction

After the war, the residents of Gaston County resumed their lives, but things were different. Federal troops began occupying the South after the Reconstruction Act passed in 1867. At least one resident, however—Sarah Priscilla’s aunt, Priscilla Ruth Wilson Holland—left North Carolina. She was the youngest daughter of Sarah and William Joseph Wilson and the widow of Franklin Holland, a farmer. Unwilling to live under Yankee rule, the independent-minded Priscilla Ruth, her family, and perhaps other acquaintances, joined upwards of 10,000 former Confederates who migrated to Brazil, where slavery still existed, enticed by offers of cheap land in exchange for expertise in cotton farming. The families stayed in touch.³⁰

For his part, William turned a significant page in August 1865, when his term as clerk of court expired. The Union victors told William he could remain as clerk if he agreed to join the Republican Party. He indignantly told them, “no not for any thing” would he be a Republican. “I turned over my office to Union Men,” he wrote. “I was not loyal enough to hold an office.” Union man Amzi Ford, the incumbent William had defeated at the onset of the war, returned as clerk of court. That bitter experience soured William’s view of the Republican Party and solidified his fidelity to the

Democrat Party. He remained a staunch Democrat all his life, and Gaston County remained staunchly Democrat as well.³¹

Like the rest of the South, Gaston County suffered in the aftermath of the Civil War. Although no battle had been fought on her soil, the war had taken its toll on her citizens. After the surrender, “soldiers ragged and worn and hungry tramped many hundreds of miles to their homes,” wrote William, “but when they got home they found they had nothing to live on and no horse to plow with.” He would sum up the local mood on December 31, 1865, when he wrote in his diary: “Last day of the year, Oh how many reflections arrived into the mind, the past has been as eventful a year. ‘The War’ has ended in our subjugation. We have proved ourselves unworthy of separate nationality, the slave has been free and thousands have been reduced from affluence to penury.”³²

The majority of Gaston’s farmers, never dependent on slave labor, resumed farming and began replanting, but there was an awkwardness in the interactions between blacks and whites. Freed slaves, now with a choice of where to live, where to work, and where to worship, found themselves with no land, no equipment, no money, and no means of support. Many who did not leave to find family members elsewhere or head North seeking greater opportunities stayed near their former masters and either rented land or became tenant farmers or sharecroppers on white-owned land. As Hand and Sykes wrote in *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, they moved “from being property to being an invisible hired hand.”³³

With the passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments—abolishing slavery, making former slaves US citizens, and giving them the right to vote—the Reconstruction years became known as the Republican Era, as freed slaves became a force to be reckoned with at the ballot box. In North Carolina, blacks were elected to local, state, and federal offices (although none from Gaston County). The Ku Klux Klan, often organized by prominent white men, fought what they viewed as the Republican threat to white authority and tried to suppress the turnout of black voters, using violence and intimidation. With the removal of federal troops in 1877, conservative Democrats returned to power and in the ensuing years enacted the Jim Crow laws that perpetuated segregation of the races well into the next century.³⁴

In 1865, as for William, he returned to his parents’ farm, sick at heart.

He and his family mourned the deaths of his brother, Newton; his brother-in-law, William Brison; his cousin, Robert Ragan; and other friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. He spent a month in a deep depression, unable to do much of anything.³⁵

Starting Over

By September, knowing that he needed to earn a living, William shook off his doldrums when he had an opportunity to make money. Before the war, a handful of textile mills had sprung up along the county's rivers and streams: Mountain Island Mill (1848), on the Catawba River; Woodlawn Mill, also called the Pinhook Mill (about 1852); and Jasper Stowe's Stowesville Cotton Mill (about 1853), the latter two along the South Fork River. William and his uncle, Joe "J. R." Kincaid, bought cotton yarn from Jasper Stowe, traveled to South Carolina, swapped it for cotton, and made a little money. Later in the month, William accepted a job in a dry goods store in Rock Hill at thirty dollars a month in gold. He lived and worked there until the end of the year.³⁶

In January 1866, he took the longest journey of his life, to Mississippi, to collect cotton left there during the war. His companion was John H. Craig, a cotton trader. They crossed the north end of Alabama through Decatur and Huntsville; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Bristol and Lynchburg, Virginia, and ended in Charlotte, a distance of 2,100 miles. On their travels, William observed a railroad "torn to pieces" and impoverished people. One day was hot. By noon the next day, it snowed. The trip was worth it—they made \$4,000.³⁷

After returning to Gaston County, William taught school in upper York County, not far from his family's farm. He spent the summer of 1866 on the farm. In November, he went to Crowders Creek to work at a store. The Crowders Creek neighborhood south of Pleasant Ridge extended to the South Carolina line, west to Crowders Mountain, and along Yorkville Road.³⁸

In November 1868, a "friend" so captured his attention that William made mention of it in his diary entry on November 3. He returned to this entry at a later time and in fresh ink inserted "Miss T" above the word "friend." On November 17, he passed a "very pleasant evening" with a

“friend.” He described December 18, however, as “one of the most melancholy days of my gloomy life.” What happened? Did Miss T reject him?³⁹

William worked at the store at Crowders Creek until April 1869, when he moved to Pleasant Ridge to take a position in a store owned by J. R. Falls. He did well financially.⁴⁰

On his birthday, October 16, 1869, he made a last entry in his diary:

This day I am thirty-six years old and thanks to a merciful Providence I am in the enjoyment of common health. I have been at Pleasant Ridge selling goods during the past year and somewhat more pleasantly situated than formerly.

When I look back my past life seems short indeed and when I think that more than half of a long life has been spent I feel something of the shortness of life; our life is but a span. I am alone in the world a batchelor [sic] but if it be my destiny Gods will be done. My earnest desire is that I may spend the few days of my life yet to come as I will wish I had done when I come to die.

My melancholy temperament finds less time for indulgence in gloomy thoughts than formerly and although my disappointments have been most severe during the past year I have been enabled to bear them with more than ordinary patience . . . I write this at night alone in the store house at Mr. J. R. Falls after a busy day.

That the year upon which I am entering may be better spent than any preceding year of my life is the sincerest wish of my heart, if it shall please Almighty God spare my life.⁴¹

In the new year, William’s bachelor existence would indeed end when he got his heart’s wish, and he and Miss T—Sarah Priscilla Torrence—joined their lives together.



The Fifth Generation

1870–1880

On November 10, 1870, Sarah Priscilla Torrence and William Glenn married, with Rev. Thomas E. Davis, the new minister at Olney Presbyterian, presiding. The prominence of her family made Sarah Priscilla a most eligible young lady. It is possible that she and William had long been acquainted, because her aunt Polly Torrence was married to William's good friend Nathan Mendenhall. Perhaps a spark ignited when Sarah Priscilla visited the store at Crowders Creek, or perhaps they became reacquainted at Falls's store at Pleasant Ridge. By 1870, however or whenever they met, 37-year-old William was smitten with 19-year-old Sarah Priscilla.¹

It is easy to believe that the Torrences had high expectations for their youngest child. She was intelligent, and they may have wanted her to go to college like their late daughter, Clementine. They may have pampered or sheltered Sarah Priscilla, whose life experiences were limited. By contrast, William was the eldest in a family of eight children and had lived on his own for many years. Potential suitors closer to Sarah Priscilla's age had died during the war. Her parents would not have permitted William to call on their daughter if they were not completely comfortable with him. Her older parents—her mother was 57 and her father was 65—likely felt that William would care for their daughter after they were gone. They saw in him a mature Christian from a solid pioneer family, a man of integrity and intelligence, with a good reputation.

Despite the difference in their ages, the two had a great deal in common: Scotch-Irish Presbyterian ancestors who had settled in Gaston County; great-grandfathers who had fought in the American Revolution; brothers who had died in the Civil War. Both grew up on farms and knew that farm life involved endless hard work. They valued education, having advanced as far as they could in the local schools. And they shared a deep faith, trusted in God's providence, and respected Presbyterian tenets of decency, order, self-discipline, industriousness, and thrift. Although William belonged to Union Presbyterian and Sarah Priscilla to Olney Presbyterian, the two churches became bound together by a common minister in the year they married.²

The wedding probably took place either at the Torrences' two-story, white clapboard farmhouse on Yorkville Road, or at the stately brick Wilson home at Crowders Creek, which was now owned by Sally Ann's older brother, Lawson. (Years later, William recorded the event with a short factual statement in his "Reflections": "Was married on Nov. 10, 1870 to Miss Sarah P Torrence." Sarah Priscilla, however, was more sentimental. She saved her wedding dress for the rest of her life.) William had bought property on Yorkville Road south of the Torrences' place but had not yet built a house. He began married life by moving in with the Torrences, and farming his new land.³

Starting a Family

The living arrangement did not deter the couple from starting a family. Their first child was born on September 9, 1871, at home, the first born of the fifth generation of Glenns in Gaston County. They named him Leonidas Chalmers for Sarah Priscilla's older brother, who had died at Gettysburg, and called him Lon. After his birth, his mother suffered sporadic and unexplained chills for several months, but Sally Ann comforted her daughter and guided her in the care of the new baby.⁴

By the time Lon was five months old, construction on their home was underway, near Trinity, a crossroads in the Crowders Creek area, on a promontory along Yorkville Road. During the winter of 1872-73, William took a job as a store clerk in Charlotte, about twenty miles to the east, a town on its way to becoming a railroad hub and cotton-processing center.



The Glenn farmhouse, built circa 1874, overlooks US Highway 321 South, southwest of Crawford Road. The black awnings are a twentieth-century addition. Courtesy of Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission.

Sarah Priscilla's home with her parents made William's absence workable. It afforded him the freedom to earn a living in a field in which he had experience, and likely at a greater salary than he could have earned locally. Clerking provided regular income to supplement what the farm produced, and William needed cash to build their home and support his family. Furthermore, Sally Ann and Sarah Priscilla found being together a comfort, because W. W.'s health was beginning to decline.⁵

On July 11, 1873, Sarah Priscilla gave birth to Lucius Newton. The middle name honored both William's maternal grandfather, Ebenezer Newton Scott, and his younger brother, Newton, killed at Chancellorsville a decade earlier, almost to the day. His nickname would be Lush, with a long "u" sound, pronounced Loosh. That fall, William again clerked at a store in Charlotte. In 1874, their new home complete, the Glenn family of four left the Torrences' house for their new residence.⁶

The Glenns' new home was a substantial white clapboard, two-story farmhouse, with three bays sheltered by a gabled roof. It had a porch across the front and a one-story ell in the back (perhaps a later addition). Exterior chimneys flanked each end. The home, with its handsome front entryway and triangle-pattered muntins in the sidelights and transom, provided a stark contrast to the simple log cabins still prevalent in much of the region. The house spoke both to the prominence of the Glenn-Torrence-Wilson connection and to the developing county.⁷

The Railroads and Gastonia

In 1870, the year Sarah Priscilla and William married, the east-west landscape of Gaston County had begun changing with construction of the county's second railroad, built by the Atlanta & Richmond Air Line Railway. The developers had wanted to come through the county seat at Dallas, the only incorporated town, because it provided a more direct route and was less expensive to build there. But Dallas refused to hold a bond referendum to raise several thousand dollars toward the construction of railroad bridges. Furthermore, the townspeople did not want the noise and soot from steam trains in their pleasant town. And so the track moved four miles south.⁸

Residents like James Reid were excited to watch the railroad advance. In January 1871, the railroad bed was being graded near his farm. In March, he helped settle a dispute between a neighbor and the railroad over construction damage to the neighbor's property. In May, he hauled cross ties for the railroad, and he later allowed the company to cut a dozen cross ties on his land. In August, he went to "The Bent," what he called the Catawba River's mighty bend above Dutchmans Creek, to watch construction of the bridge. Later that year, he observed between fifteen and eighteen men taking all day to move a farmer's lumber house from one side of the tracks to the other. On September 28, 1873, the first train passed through the county, giving Gaston access to distant markets.⁹

About the same time, a third rail line, the Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge Rail Road, started up in the county. It had been proposed in late 1872 by investors in Chester, South Carolina, and Lenoir, North Carolina, who had purchased the Kings Mountain Rail Road to jumpstart this new enterprise (the same railroad that William Joseph Wilson had invested in). It ran north and south, directly across from the Glenn family's new home and roughly paralleling the east side of Yorkville Road.¹⁰

By September 1874, "the Narrow Gauge R.R. is graded from Yorkville to near Crowder's Creek and from Dallas to near Gastonia on the Air Line R.R.," wrote Nathan Mendenhall. In January 1876, they were "laying cross ties of the Narrow Gauge R.R. Will get it to Dallas sometime next spring." The completed track ran from Chester to Edgemont, North Carolina, just north of Lenoir.¹¹

Although the construction disturbed the tranquil countryside, and the steam trains frightened livestock, this railroad opened up the southern part of Gaston County, hauling passengers, mail, timber, cattle, and cotton. Crowders Creek Station was built just north of the Glenn home, and its passenger service provided a convenient way for the Glenns and their neighbors to connect to towns in South Carolina and to the Air Line Rail Road. The Glenn children would have loved waving at the engineer as the trains rumbled along. With its completion, three railroads now connected the county in all directions.¹²

Storekeeping

In fall 1874, William joined Sarah Priscilla's second cousin, Dr. J. Newton Torrence, who lived in Blacksburg, South Carolina, to set up a large grocery store along the Air Line Rail Road in Gaffney, South Carolina. He sold groceries and cotton there until the spring of 1875.¹³

On February 4, 1875, Sarah Priscilla delivered William Wilson, named for her father and called Will. He was the first child born in the family's new home. She had difficulty recovering from her third pregnancy in four and a half years, so Sally Ann stayed on at the Glenns' for several weeks to help. Nathan Mendenhall was concerned about W. W., home alone during Sally Ann's extended stay with their daughter. "Wm. Torrence's health is bad," he wrote his brother-in-law Edwin Torrence, W. W.'s younger brother who lived in Rutherford County.¹⁴

On April 1, W. W. suffered a possible stroke; he could hear but not speak. Sally Ann rushed home and sent for Junius. He administered medicine, but to no avail. W. W. died on April 5, 1875, at the age of 69. Rev. Thomas Davis, who had married Sarah Priscilla and William, conducted the funeral service at Olney Presbyterian. With his theme the Resurrection, Davis read from the fourteenth chapter of Job (man's days are determined) and the eleventh chapter of John (of Lazarus being raised from the dead). The congregation sang "part of a hymn," reported Nathan Mendenhall. Then the minister spoke of the deceased as husband, father, neighbor, friend, citizen, Christian, and officer of the church. Davis closed "with an admonition for all to hold themselves in readiness of death." The service concluded with prayer. The funeral was attended by a "large concourse of people, larger

A Quintet of Unusual Names

Junius Torrence and his wife Bell gave their five children distinctive names: Frost, Mott, Bright, Sparke, and Crown. The family always believed that Junius was so influenced by his professors at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina that he and Bell paid homage by naming their children for them. Only Dr. Henry Rutledge Frost (1795–1866) actually taught at the college, however, as a professor of materia medica, today's pharmacology. Dr. Valentine Mott (1785–1865) was an American surgeon noted for extraordinary work in vascular surgery. English physician Dr. Richard Bright (1789–1858) was an early pioneer in the research of kidney disease. People named Sparke and Crown were neither Junius's professors nor fellow medical students; perhaps they were lesser-known but influential physicians or surgeons of that era.

Frost married Mary Kennedy, a musician and daughter of Rev. J. J. Kennedy who served Olney Presbyterian Church from 1883 to 1889, had six children, and was an entrepreneur and textile mill owner; Motte worked on the Southern Railway until his untimely death at the age of 32; Bright married and had two children; Sparke married and served as secretary of her brother Frost's Coal and Ice Company in Gastonia, but was childless; Crown became a medical doctor like his father, married, but was childless.



"Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-6; emails, Huffius and Fox to author, August 21, 2015; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=valentine+mott>; [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Bright_\(physician\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Bright_(physician)); Hallman, *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 171; Robert M. Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, Section 110, 1–5.

than usual on such occasions,” Nathan Mendenhall wrote, showing the esteem in which the community held W. W. and his family. He was buried in the Olney Churchyard next to his daughter Eliza Clementine.¹⁵

“Oh what a loss I felt in the death of a dear Parent one who was ever kind to me,” Sarah Priscilla wrote to her cousin. “But one consoling thought is the belief that our loss is his gain.” Sally Ann moved in with the Glenns, but she was unable to help out as much as she had before. “Mother lives with us she is breaking very fast suffers a good deal with Rheumatism,” Sarah Priscilla wrote. By that fall of 1875, with a wife, mother-in-law, and three young sons to support, William established a store on his property, slightly south and west of their house and accessible from Yorkville Road. For the next sixteen years, he operated the store while also farming.”¹⁶

W. W. died intestate. He had wanted to deed his land to his children, Junius and Sarah Priscilla, but had never acted on the desire. Junius administered the estate, and he and William agreed to abide by W. W.’s wishes. He “did not want any of his property sold,” wrote Nathan Mendenhall, “and the legatees have agreed not to have any administration unless it should be necessary in order to collect what is due the estate.” W. W. owned “three mules, two horses, four cows, calves [sic], six hogs, 14 sheep, a buggy, 25 bushels each of corn and wheat, 100 pounds of bacon, and household furniture valued at \$.75.” He also owned notes and accounts receivable of \$800. On April 16, Junius and his wife, Bell, conveyed to Sarah Priscilla for \$1,200 the 217 acres on the fork of Crowders Creek that W. W. and Sally Ann had purchased in 1852. Nathan Mendenhall laid off the widow’s dower, eighty-five acres, and assigned it to Sally Ann Torrence. Junius and Sarah Priscilla divided the remaining assets.¹⁷

A Town is Born

The intersection of the Atlanta & Richmond Air Line Railway and Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge Rail Road would prove the cornerstone of the county’s development. A small flag station went up to control the crossing, a sure sign that growth of commerce was inevitable. In 1870, the Methodists built a small log meeting house called Shiloh about a mile east of the crossing of the two tracks (near today’s East Baptist Church and Shiloh Cemetery). During three-week camp meetings in August, Methodist

ministers preached to hundreds of people who pitched tents for the revival services.¹⁸

As early as 1873, locals began referring to the crossing as Gastonia Station, as did Nathan Mendenhall in 1874. In May 1876, the Chester & Lenoir reached Gastonia Station, met by a large and enthusiastic crowd. "The cars run daily, except Sunday," wrote Nathan Mendenhall in 1877, "'tis said the R R is making money."¹⁹

On January 26, 1877, the new town of Gastonia was incorporated at the crossing. The site contained a pine thicket, and the boundaries measured a square mile, determined by laying out a half mile in each direction from the crossing of the two tracks. The population was thought to be 236. An appointed mayor and town aldermen served until the first regular election in May. The first business in the new town was associated with the railroad; the second was the blacksmith shop of Prince Holland, a former slave from Dallas. During the post-Reconstruction era, businesses, both black and white, occupied Main Street. Within two years, three other incorporated towns sprang up on the rail lines: Lowell, Stanley, and Mount Holly.²⁰

Joys and Sorrows

Life for Sarah Priscilla was busy with three offspring to tend. She had summed up their births in a letter to a cousin in 1876: "[We] have 3 Boys the eldest we call Leonidas Chalmers, he will be 5 years old the 9th of Nov [actually September] the second Lucius Newton was 3 years old in 11 of July. William Wilson (called for Father) was one year old 11th day of February [actually February 4]. They are all well grown harty [sic] children." Sarah Priscilla can be forgiven for the confusion in birthdates. She had her hands full.²¹

They became fuller on March 17, 1877, with Gastonia two months old, when another new resident of Crowders Creek was born to Sarah Priscilla and William: Ernest Pratt, called Ernest. Life at the Glenn home continued at a busy pace over the next two years, with William working on the farm and at the store, and Sarah Priscilla tending to her mother and to four sons under the age of six.²²

Then, in March 1879, William's father, John Franklin Glenn, who had been distilling corn liquor since the 1840s, got in trouble with the court over

debts incurred because of his excessive drinking. He and his wife Janette called on William, their dutiful oldest son, to come to their aid.

This was not the first time that John Franklin's drinking had caused financial problems. On November 9, 1870, the day before his wedding, William had purchased forty-one acres of his parents' land along Mill Creek for \$500 to provide cash for them to live on. The timing of that transaction underscored his parents' urgent need for funds. After Janette's father, Ebenezer Newton Scott, died in 1876, she had inherited personal property (including a portion of the former teacher's library), cash, and her share of proceeds from the sale of her father's land in York County, South Carolina, yet her inheritance was not sufficient to sustain them.²³

Now, five creditors had secured judgments totaling \$553 against John Franklin. To satisfy the debt, William purchased eighty-one acres of his father's land at Mill Creek for one dollar. In exchange, William paid off the creditors, but the court also ordered him to pay a \$500 "penal sum" for the care of his parents for the rest of their lives. The money would not last long. Throughout these upheavals, John Franklin and Janette likely continued to live on the land.²⁴

Good news came to the Glenn home on July 31, 1879, when after four boys, the Glenns welcomed their first daughter, Eula Blanche. Their elation over Eula, however, was dampened by Sally Ann's continued decline. Six months later, on February 7, 1880, she died at the age of 66. Sarah Priscilla took her mother's death hard. Not only had Sally Ann helped out as the family increased, but she had also supported her young daughter as she grew into marriage to a man in his middle age.²⁵

In 1880, at the age of 29, Sarah Priscilla could look back on the past decade, during which she had married, lost both her parents, and become the bustling mother of five children ranging in age from 8 years to 10 months. In the same period, her 47-year-old husband had taken on increased responsibilities for their growing family as well as for his destitute parents. By chance or by design, the couple would have a three-year interlude before they added five more offspring to the Glenn family tree. Their home would be a place where their children's character was molded and their values and attitudes were formed.²⁶

CHAPTER 6

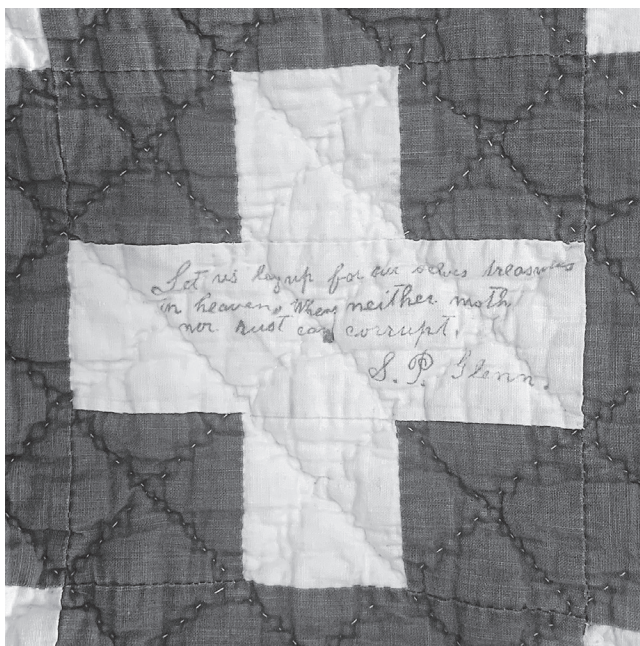


Poor Billy Glenn

1880–1892

“*T*rain up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Sarah Priscilla and William likely knew that verse from Proverbs and intended to raise their five children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Praying at mealtime and bedtime, reading from the Bible, and telling Bible stories made up a part of daily living. These rituals went hand in hand with baptism and eventually church membership for the children. Curiously, after his marriage, William remained a member of Union Presbyterian Church and did not transfer to Olney, near their home, but Sarah Priscilla took the children to Olney, and William likely attended with them. She belonged to the Women’s Missionary Society (today’s Presbyterian Women), following in the footsteps of her mother and setting an example for her daughter. She participated as time permitted, paying her dues in installments when money was scarce, and joining the women of both Olney and Union in raising funds for mission projects and special needs of the church.¹

One money-raising endeavor was making and selling handmade quilts, and one of their creations is preserved in the collections of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History in Dallas. Sarah Priscilla and twenty-eight other women of Olney and Union created an album quilt, thirty squares of uniform size and design, five across and six down, in vibrant colors and different fabrics. The women probably sewed the squares independently before assembling to stitch them together, quilt the design, and enjoy fellowship



This quilt square sewn by Sarah Priscilla Glenn reads, “Let us lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust can corrupt,” Matthew 6:19. It is part of a larger quilt sewn by the women of Olney and Union Presbyterian churches about 1880. Courtesy of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, Dallas, North Carolina.

and conversation. The preparers signed almost all squares with pen and ink, not embroidery, and included a Bible verse. Only two squares were dated, one 1873 and the other 1880, the probable completion date.²

Sarah Priscilla chose as her Bible verse Matthew 6:19, “Let us lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust can corrupt,” wonderful instruction for her children at a time where their treasures on earth were not plentiful. Other contributors included her mother, Sally Ann Torrence, before her death, and her sister-in-law, Bell Torrence, both of whom attended Olney, and her mother-in-law, Janette Gray Glenn, who belonged to Union. Plenty of familiar surnames also affixed to the quilt came from the Pleasant Ridge, Crowders Creek, and Union neighborhoods, including Wilson, Forbes, Petty, Mendenhall, Henderson, Patrick, and Falls.³

The church rolls at Union Presbyterian were lost during the Civil War, and in a delayed housekeeping mission, in 1880, the session sought to discover why John Franklin and other former members had not attended in

some time. Perhaps one hint about John Franklin lay in his alcoholism and recurring indebtedness, for in November the court once again ordered him to pay a debt, this time to one W. E. Adams. He could not. The sheriff seized whatever real estate John Franklin owned, and at a public auction on the courthouse steps in Dallas, William appeared and paid fifty dollars for sufficient land to satisfy his father's obligation.⁴

The troubling business humiliated the Glenn family, especially Janette, and William would have worried about her. It had to have put an emotional and financial strain on Sarah Priscilla and William's marriage. They lacked discretionary funds to continually resolve John Franklin's money woes, which took William away from his family, the farm, and the store. His father did have periods of sobriety and reformed enough to attend Union Presbyterian, where he was elected a ruling elder in 1881. Whether he accepted or served is unknown.⁵

Banner Whiskey County

As a merchant, William sold a good amount of fertilizer to local farmers, which was now being manufactured to restore worn-out fields, a change from pre-Civil War farming practices in the South. Fertilizer greatly improved the output of corn and helped propel distilling into a profitable industry in Gaston County. In 1880, Gaston was the largest producer of corn liquor in the state, gaining distinction as the "banner whiskey" county of North Carolina, neck and neck with Wilkes County.⁶

The state had kept in place a tax on whiskey that had helped underwrite the Civil War. Licensed distillers paid taxes on what they manufactured, but many resented the tax and sold extra whiskey illicitly for greater profit. Unlicensed distillers ran afoul of the law sooner or later as they tried to outsmart gaugers (also called revenueurs), who had the unenviable job of enforcing the tax laws.

The 1870s had seen the first, and unsuccessful, attempts to abolish whiskey in Gaston County. In 1881, Union and Olney churches supported a petition to prohibit the sale of "intoxicating liquors" within three miles of their churches, seeing it as immoral. Following the meeting of a large gathering in Gastonia on the subject, one of the first ordinances of the new town prohibited the sale of alcohol within town limits. Otherwise, nothing

else came of these local efforts. Later in the year, a statewide referendum to prohibit the manufacture and sale of corn liquor was voted down, further encouraging whiskey producers.⁷

A Fine, Hearty Family

On February 24, 1882, the Glenns started their second family when Sarah Priscilla gave birth to John Howard. They called him Howard. “He was a very delicate Child until he was about 4 months old,” wrote his mother, “did not look like he would be raised . . . I never saw a child come out so much in the same length of time. He is a fine harty [sic] boy now.” For Sarah Priscilla, now with six children under 11 years old, every day must have been an adventure. Scrapes and bruises were probably commonplace, and perhaps broken bones required the attention of Uncle Junius. Of concern to every parent were diseases like whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, and malaria, diseases that often proved fatal. In early 1883, Sarah Priscilla “had dyphtheria [sic] right bad,” she wrote to relatives. “Was not able to do any thing for 2 or 3 days but am about well. Lucius had it also but not as bad as I had. We had mumps in our family last fall. I had them and some of the Children, They are not pleasant company. They have Measles about Gastonia. None of Our Children have ever had them. I am dreading them.” She had good reason to dread the measles, which had killed many young soldiers during the Civil War.⁸

Religious Life in Gaston County

On July 16, 1882, the Mecklenburg Presbytery established Gastonia Presbyterian Church. Of the charter members, sixteen came from Olney, four from Union, and two by profession of faith. Olney transfers included Robert Calvin Grier Love (called Grier) and his wife, Susan Rhyne Love, by birth a Lutheran of German descent. Union transfers included local merchants John H. Craig, William’s longtime friend, and his wife, Mary, and A. M. Smyre and his wife, Sarah.⁹

The first supply preacher at the Gastonia church was Rev. W. B. Corbett, who had been dividing full-time responsibilities between Olney and Union for six years. In an illustration of how rapidly the five-year-old town was

growing, Corbett had preached from the platform of the Gastonia Station, at the Falls House Hotel (across Airline Street from the train station), at an old storehouse, and at the Gastonia Academy building. On June 9, 1883, less than a year from its founding, the Presbyterian congregation dedicated a 400-seat brick building called the Long Street Church. It was not the first church in the new town, however. A Baptist church had organized about 1876 and the Methodist Church replaced its old log meeting house with a nicer building on Main Street about 1884. Associate Reformed Presbyterians dedicated their church building in 1887.¹⁰

Along several blocks north of the Air Line tracks, former slaves carved out a supportive, close-knit community called Happy Hill, building shotgun houses and opening small businesses. They also organized their own churches, generally following the denominations of their former masters. Now they could participate in church governance and no longer had to sit in segregated areas of the church or listen to racist sermons. Their ministers instilled pride in their flocks and addressed their concerns.¹¹

The St. Stephens AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion congregation was organized in 1860 and built a church in 1880, followed by St. Paul Baptist in 1885. They were followed by Leeper's Chapel in 1887 on Third Street, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, which became known as the northern Presbyterian church after Confederate Presbyterians split to form their own segregated churches during the Civil War. Epworth Chapel joined the annual conference of the Methodist Church in 1887. Black congregations took great pride in their new churches, which became religious hubs and led to the formation of other social outlets. "God and Black religion were our salvation," wrote James C. Biggers, the late Gaston educator, administrator, and artist, in his manuscript, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community."¹²

Those belonging to Protestant denominations were readily accepted by their neighbors. At Garibaldi Station (Belmont today), however, the arrival of a Benedictine order of Catholic monks from Pennsylvania, who built a monastery on 536 acres, gave rise to anti-Catholic sentiment. Nathan Mendenhall wrote of an acquaintance who lived near the monks who even considered moving because the "Catholics are crowding them where they are—having built a convent [monastery] within sight of their house." But the monks proved good neighbors, opening St. Mary's College for men (today's

*Robert Calvin Grier Love (1840–1907):
A Textile Pioneer*

Robert Calvin Grier Love's contributions to the history of Gaston County are noteworthy. Born on a farm in southern Gaston County, he grew up in a puritanical home, where he learned responsibility and hard work. When he turned 16, he inherited his family's 200-acre farm in what is now West Gastonia, and a slave named Pete, with whom he farmed and built a barn and house. Love was 19 when he married Susan Elizabeth Rhyne of Mount Holly, the oldest daughter of Martha Elizabeth Hoffman and Moses Hoffman Rhyne. Her brothers, Abel (1844–1932) and Dan Rhyne (1852–1933), were on their way to becoming successful textile executives in both Gaston and Lincoln counties. During the Civil War, Love served in the Home Guard and earned the appellation "Captain."

After the war, he purchased the Hoffman-Rhyne store from his wife's family and managed it successfully, eventually moving to Gastonia for greater opportunity. He founded R. C. G. Love & Company, a mercantile firm, and conducted a lucrative cotton trading business before venturing into mill ownership. In 1882, after he

Belmont Abbey College) in 1876. The Sisters of Mercy followed, founding a convent and, in 1892, Sacred Heart College for women.¹³

Cotton Mills Power Gaston County

In 1881, Gaston County cotton mills had grown to six when McAden Mills was built along the South Fork River. Rufus Yancey McAden, a railroad builder and banker from Charlotte, headed the investors. The mill and the town called McAdenville had just been incorporated, and McAden hired three future civic and textile-industry trailblazers. The first was Robert Rankin Ray, who started as a bookkeeper and would lead McAden Mills after McAden's death. The second was George Alexander Gray, a mechanical genius who supervised the installation of machinery at McAden Mills.

and Susan transferred from Olney Presbyterian to become charter members of the new Gastonia Presbyterian Church. Love served as an elder, and Susan was president of the Ladies' Home and Foreign Mission Society in 1897. In 1891, he filled out an unexpired term as mayor of Gastonia, founded and served as president of Love Trust Company, a private bank, and expanded his textile interests in a way that transformed the county. As a cotton mill owner, Love thought that alcohol was no friend of an efficient workforce, and he became an impassioned crusader to rid the county of distilleries. In him, William Glenn would acquire an important ally in his battle against corn liquor.



Dixon, Appendix, Olney Church Data; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 107. Love, *R. G. C. Love*, 27; Susan's father, Moses H. Rhyne, owned the Hoffman-Rhyne store at Woodlawn, where political leaders met in 1842 to form a new county. Her father was an early investor in the cotton manufacturing industry, gold mining, and other enterprises. Hoffman, *Our Kin*, 29. Records of Olney Presbyterian Church, Book 1, 2; Love, *R. G. C. Love*, 20; Love was drafted and heading to battle when the Civil War ended; Dixon, Appendix, Olney Church Data; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 107; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 276.

Gray would be affiliated with nine of the first eleven mills in the town and county. The third was William's cousin Wash Ragan, now 35, who had returned unscathed from the Civil War. Following the death of his father, Dan Ragan, in 1872, Wash took over management of the family farm, formed a mercantile business, and established successful country stores in the small communities that emerged near the Air Line Rail Road. Now he was ready to learn the textile business. These industry pioneers possessed an exceptional spirit of cooperation. With others, they would share the common goal of molding Gaston County into a textile leader, and in the process improving the community.¹⁴

In 1883, Gaston County's seventh mill, the Tuckaseege (pronounced Tuck-a-SIEGE) Manufacturing Company, began operations along the west bank of the Catawba River, in the incorporated town of Mount Holly. Susan

Rhyne Love's brothers, Abel and Dan Rhyne, were among the incorporators of this, their second mill. The Rhynes had established their first, the Mount Holly Cotton Mill, in 1874.¹⁵

Until 1887, Gaston County's cotton mills were located along the South Fork and Catawba rivers to take advantage of water power. As Gastonia marked its first decade, however, a new cotton mill in town was powered entirely by steam, the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company (later called the Old Mill). Grier Love served as president of his brainchild. He envisioned competing with mills in New England by processing cotton locally instead of shipping it to factories in the North. This one event would transform Gastonia and the wider region, inspiring others to locate mills away from a water source, where labor and other factors would work to best advantage.

Guard Against Sin

In May 1883, John Franklin's troubles with alcohol had reared up again when representatives of Union church confronted him about his drinking. He acknowledged that he indulged too freely, and "promised that in the future he would be on his guard against such sin." Contrite though he was, however, his alcoholism by now had become an insurmountable problem.¹⁶

By early April of the following year, the burden of her husband's alcoholism became too much for Janette. Now 72, she, with her son, Dr. James Allen Glenn, transferred their membership from Union Presbyterian to the Presbyterian church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Janette thus separating from her husband after fifty-two years of marriage. James Glenn, fifteen years younger than William, had graduated in 1876 from the Baltimore College of Dentistry and had decided to relocate his dental practice from Gastonia. Janette likely could no longer bear the embarrassment, financial insecurity, and perhaps abuse caused by John Franklin's drinking. In Rock Hill with James and his family, her life would become more secure and tranquil. Where John Franklin lived after Janette's departure is unknown.¹⁷

Less than three weeks later, after fourteen years of marriage, William transferred his membership from Union Presbyterian Church to Olney Presbyterian Church in order "to connect himself with the church at Olney in whos [sic] bounds he resides." Within two years, he was ordained and installed as an elder, a responsible role that he held for the rest of his life.¹⁸

Deaths of Friend and Father

On April 1, 1884, William lost a dear friend and mentor, and Sarah Priscilla an uncle, when Nathan Mendenhall died at the age of 74. Surprisingly, for an educated man, Nathan left no will, and the court appointed William to serve as administrator of his estate. Among William's responsibilities were advertising for claims against the estate; holding an auction of Mendenhall's livestock, household goods, furniture, kitchen equipment, and tools; and distributing the assets to Nathan's relatives.¹⁹

In the same month as Mendenhall's passing, the Glenns welcomed their second daughter, Carrie Eugenia, on April 24, 1884. In no time, it seemed, "my Babe is running everywhere and begining [sic] to talk . . .," wrote Sarah Priscilla. "She is a pretty child."²⁰

Now living apart from his wife, John Franklin again drew the attention of Union Presbyterian Church. This time, it identified him and others as guilty of the sin of intoxication "or any other sin" and to "ascertain the state of their minds with power to invite or cite them before the session as they may deem most prudent for the individuals named and the edification of the church." In May 1885, the session admonished John Franklin and the others, who "after a prayer were on motion restored to good standing."²¹

By now, Gaston County, with its seven cotton mills, also had forty licensed distilleries. People made money with corn liquor. Once again, prohibition efforts failed in the state legislature. Distilling, and alcoholism that often resulted, continued to affect families and the broader Gaston community. In 1886, voters in a special election in Gastonia and Crowders Mountain townships defeated the prohibition effort. Encouraged by the outcome, eight more distilleries were operating by 1888. Voters in York County were more successful, prohibiting alcohol, but that only resulted in some distillers moving across the state line and setting up operations in Gaston County.²²

On May 7, 1889, a difficult chapter in the Glenn story ended when John Franklin died, just shy of his 80th birthday. Janette eventually returned to reside in Gaston County, where she would die on February 2, 1902, at the age of 89. Despite their years of separation, husband and wife are buried together in the Union Presbyterian cemetery, next to their son Newton, the Civil War casualty.²³

John Franklin's addiction and Janette's financial insecurity may have had a twofold effect on Sarah Priscilla and William and their children. First, William became well known as an ardent prohibitionist, and his children became lifelong teetotalers. Second, he would insist that his daughters get an education, work, and save their money, so they could take care of themselves in their old age and not wind up destitute like their grandmother. His youngest daughters would take his message to heart.

Twenty-One Years and Ten Children

On October 22, 1886, a third daughter was born at the Glenn homestead, Lena Viola. On January 29, 1889, along came May Gertrude, called Gertrude. On April 25, 1892, when Sarah Priscilla was 41 and William was 58, their tenth and final child was born, Annie Torrence. For Sarah Priscilla, twenty-one years of pregnancy and childbirth had come to an end. The family was complete, with five boys and five girls. The Glenn name was highly regarded in the county because of its notable and proud heritage, but scarce cash and a dozen mouths to feed now earned William the moniker "Poor Billy Glenn."²⁴

When they were older, the children may have helped their father tend the store, but working on the farm was everyone's job. The demands were not much different than those of previous generations. There was plenty of hard work outside and inside the house for every adult and child, with never a day off except the Sabbath. There was no such thing as a Glenn family vacation, which made church functions such an important part of their lives.²⁵

The Glenns had a barn, perhaps with a gear room. There might have been a smokehouse, a milk house, and a corncrib, along with other outbuildings. Water came from the spring or a well with a pump, and lighting from kerosene lamps augmented by candles. If they could not buy soap, they made it.

William hired farmhands, perhaps black freedmen, or he may have used tenant farmers or sharecroppers before his sons were old enough to help. Chores were ongoing in any weather—tilling, planting, fertilizing, harvesting. Corn and cotton were picked by hand. Cows, horses, mules, and perhaps sheep continued to roam freely, and crops continued to be fenced

in for protection from wild animals. Hogs and chickens needed to be fed, with hogs and some beef cattle slaughtered and salted down in November or December. Cows had to be milked twice a day, a chore that never went away, even on the Sabbath.

Inside the house, if finances permitted, Sarah Priscilla may have had domestic help for cooking and cleaning. Even if she did, about the time Howard was born she commandeered Will, then 7 or 8 years old, to help her in the kitchen. As her daughters grew, she taught them how to maintain a household, including regimens for cooking, baking, churning butter, sewing, mending, washing, and general cleaning. With two sets of children, the older children likely helped raise the younger ones, relieving Sarah Priscilla of all the responsibility.²⁶

Sarah Priscilla kept a kitchen garden near the house and grew vegetables, “onions, beets, lettuce [sic] and cabbage,” she wrote to relatives. There were fruit and nut trees on the farm, so harvesting apples, peaches, and pears, along with shelling pecans and walnuts, provided jobs for everyone from the oldest to youngest child. By now women were relieved of some of the tedium of spinning and weaving, since Jasper Stowe’s cotton mill, along the South Fork River in Belmont, made coarse cloth and brown sheeting for shirts, towels, and sheets.²⁷

William ruled the home, as was common in the Victorian age, likely controlling the family finances, including Sarah Priscilla’s inheritance, meting out firm discipline, and demanding excellence of his children. He sometimes woke the boys in the morning by cracking a blacksnake whip. By contrast, Sarah Priscilla nurtured her children, took delight in their company, and made opportunities for conversation and play.²⁸

Teenage Lucius, for one, gave his parents their share of conniptions. On one occasion, through no fault of his own, the mule he was riding got spooked by the train whistle. After a thrilling gallop, they raced straight into a neighbor’s small well house, scattering milk and butter in all directions. Lucius and the farmer had to work together to back the mule out. On another occasion, quite intentionally, Lucius and one of his brothers, most likely Will or Ernest, greased the nearby railroad tracks for about a mile in order to get revenge after a Chester & Lenoir steam locomotive killed a dearly loved family dog. Over time, the boys had accumulated the grease from the train’s bearing boxes when it stopped for water. As the train

started up the hill from Bowling Green, South Carolina, just over the North Carolina line, it hit the grease and lost traction. An unlucky train employee had to toss dirt on the tracks to allow it to pull forward. The boys got their revenge, but William found out and punished them severely, most likely with a good whipping.²⁹

The boys and girls read books and used their imaginations to make their own entertainment. They played ball or tag or hide-and-seek or jump rope with each other and with neighborhood kids, including the Forbeses, Pettys, and Torrence cousins, with the little ones learning from the older ones. As the boys got older, they likely did what country boys do—hiked and explored in the shadows of Kings Mountain and Crowders Mountain, perhaps with neighborhood friends, and they fished and hunted deer or small game. Lon was particularly interested in nature, curious when he found feldspar crystals in the soil and wondering why they were shaped that way. The girls played house with rag dolls or corn husk dolls. The children probably waded or swam in Crowders Creek on a hot summer day, and the older ones may have ventured to their grandparents' place to swim at Mill Creek or the South Fork or Catawba rivers. Sarah Priscilla likely hosted picnics for her children in the yard or along the creek and sang songs with them, learned from church or her childhood. She saw to it that the family had time for fun.³⁰

The Glenn children learned the value of hard work done well. More than once, their father admonished them to live honorable and productive lives so they would have no regrets when they “came to die,” as he had mused on his 31st birthday. Sarah Priscilla and William had great expectations for their children and placed the highest possible priority on their education, despite their modest financial circumstances.³¹

CHAPTER 7



A Gaston County Education

1885–1888

When William and Sarah Priscilla were growing up in Gaston County, education took place between mother and child, in family schools held in living rooms, in academies sponsored by churches, in private schools, and in subscription schools. In the Glenn home, Sarah Priscilla was likely her children's first teacher, as her own mother was to her. She and William would have read their children Bible stories. They probably made books available, and Sarah Priscilla or her mother, Sally Ann Torrence, likely carved out time each day to teach the children numbers and letters and start them reading. The daughters might have learned their letters and numbers by sewing a sampler. From a young age, the children doubtless read in spare moments. Their ministers and their teachers likely recognized that the Glenn children shone with intelligence and a desire to do their best.¹

A Gaston County Education

In 1839, North Carolina enacted its first statewide public-school system. After Gaston County was created in 1846, it received funds from the state to support local schools for white children. In 1852, the office of Superintendent of Schools in North Carolina was created. Two years later, the superintendent reported that Gaston County had twenty-seven schools operating in thirty-one school districts, with a school term of three and

a half months that began after harvest. Attendance was optional; only 53 percent of school-aged children attended. Twenty-six men and two women served as the teachers. Men dominated the profession, but since the school term was so short, most of them had other occupations, such as ministers or farmers, like Nathan Mendenhall. Some used teaching as a stepping-stone to other occupations. Others, like Junius Torrence, used teaching to fund their own higher educations. By 1859, Gaston County's antebellum educational scene peaked with forty schools, forty districts, 1,840 students, thirty-six licensed teachers, and a four-and-a-half-month term. Education regressed during the upheaval of the Civil War. In 1863, for example, only 29 percent of the county's eligible children attended school.²

In 1869, during Reconstruction, a new state law required a school term of four months, the education of black children for the first time, and a school tax. By 1870, every Gaston County community had reestablished some sort of school, each operating independently. Some parts of the county had a white illiteracy rate as high as 40 percent. The 1875 constitutional convention created separate schools for the children of the two races. By 1878, Gaston County had fifty school districts for white children, with forty-five in operation, and twenty-six districts for black children, with twenty in operation. Only 45 percent of eligible white children and 42 percent of eligible black children were enrolled. The average school term was forty days; the average salary for white teachers, both male and female, was twenty-eight dollars a month; and the average expenditure per pupil was \$1.54. Only nine women taught in the white schools. Black teachers, both men and women, made less than their white counterparts. In the aftermath of Reconstruction, most Gaston families simply did not make education a priority. The Glenns, however, were among the exceptions.³

Sarah Priscilla likely inspired her children with stories about the educational attainments of her prominent great-uncles, Robert and Samuel Wilson, and their respected uncle Junius Torrence, known to his family as "Uncle Doctor." The Glenn girls and boys also had as role models their uncle Lawson Wilson, a graduate of Ohio University, and their aunt Clementine Torrence, who had attended Limestone College before her untimely death.⁴

William's side of the family lacked such distinguished scholars, although his two youngest brothers, James Allen Glenn and Enos Franklin Glenn, were dentists. William enjoyed learning and undoubtedly wished his life

circumstances had allowed him a college education, but he seemed to have lacked both familial encouragement and opportunity. The security that had come with his wartime job as clerk of court made an impression on him. He wanted that stability for his ten boys and girls, so that they could take care of themselves without relying on the uncertainties of farming. Even if he and Sarah Priscilla could provide only minimal financial support for their children's educations, they could instill in them the importance of obtaining a steady employment. Future success, however, began with local education.

The first reported school in Crowders Creek was the one-room log schoolhouse that Dr. W. M. Torrence built behind his house. Likely a subscription school, it operated in 1866–67 or earlier, and Nathan Mendenhall taught there. Crowders Creek School, a larger neighborhood school, was located on the east side of Yorkville Road, near the future site of the Glenn home. Nathan Mendenhall taught there as well, and Lon and Lucius Glenn attended, although when Lucius started there as a 6-year-old, the school was badly in need of repair.⁵

In 1885, Gaston County took a huge step forward when it established a three-member board of education, with J. M. McLain as the first superintendent. Since education in the county was a private enterprise, the board's primary responsibility was to oversee both the county's fifty-eight white school districts and twenty-five black school districts, and to support teacher training institutes. The board appointed 249 committeemen, three per district, to serve as liaisons between the board and the districts. The committeemen saw that buildings were in good repair, annually relayed to the board the number of school-aged children in their districts, and carried out other assignments, such as surveying boundary lines between districts.

In July 1885, the board sponsored its first teachers' institute for white teachers, held at the courthouse in Dallas. The purpose was to provide instruction in teaching methods and subject-matter enrichment, since most local teachers had not attended college, and few, if any, had training as teachers. In fact, early teachers were called "school keepers," with their main job to keep order. "Every teacher who didn't whip several scholars during the day was not considered worth his pay," a centennial history of education in the county noted. In February 1886, the board of education appointed William Glenn to a three-year term as committeeman for District No. 47, Crowders Creek School. A second Crowders Creek School, nearby

Leeper's Chapel and Lincoln Academy

After the Civil War, blacks in the South were eager to obtain education, and thanks to benevolent institutions from the North, they made significant strides in literacy. White missionaries from the North, sponsored by organizations like the Freedman's Bureau, taught in black schools and provided humanitarian assistance to impoverished former slaves in desperate need of help after the war. Black educators led and staffed other educational institutions. In the late 1880s in Gaston County, two important private educational institutions for black children came into being: Leeper's Chapel parochial school and Lincoln Academy.

In 1887, Rev. George Sadler Leeper opened Leeper's Chapel, a Presbyterian church, on Third Street north of the Air Line tracks. Leeper, a black man, was educated at Biddle Institute in Charlotte (today Johnson C. Smith University) founded by the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Leeper and his wife, Josephine, taught local black children in grades 1–6 in their home at no charge. In 1889, the Catawba Presbytery began subsidizing the school, but eventually students paid a small fee. The school focused on the educational, spiritual, and emotional needs of the students and the community. The Leeper's school closed in 1901 with the advent of the Gastonia graded school system, became Gastonia Colored

District No. 18, was for black students. The county school system inherited the black schools, but they were not much more than crude shacks. The county also had two private schools for black pupils, Leeper's Chapel and Lincoln Academy.⁶

The Glenn School House

With the execution of a deed on Christmas Day, 1886, Sarah Priscilla and William made a substantial personal commitment to the education of local children. Frustrated with the deteriorating condition of the Crowders Creek School building, they sold about one-third of an acre of their land to

Graded School, and eventually Highland Elementary School. “[The] education of Blacks in Gastonia is forever indebted to the Presbyterian Church,” wrote James C. Biggers.

In the fall of 1888, Lincoln Academy, named for President Abraham Lincoln, opened near Crowders Mountain as a boarding school for black girls. Emily C. Prudden, a white educator and missionary from New England (who happened to be deaf), founded it. After two years, the school admitted boys, and Prudden deeded the property to the American Missionary Association. It became the county’s largest black educational institution, attracting students locally and regionally. In 1922, Rev. Walter E. Ricks served as the first black principal of the academy. It educated many students over the years, and in 1923 was accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools. It closed in 1955 after *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ended legal school segregation.



Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 18; Brewer, “African Americans in Gaston County,” 9; Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community”; Smith, “Mrs. Mauney Gives Early History of Negro School,” *Gastonia Gazette*, March 21, 1957; <https://gaston.library.libguides.com/lincoln-academy/introduction>; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report and Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Survey of African American Resources in Gaston County,” E-18.

William’s fellow District No. 47 commissioners for fifteen dollars. The lot, on the east side of Yorkville Road and the Chester & Lenoir railroad tracks, began at a point near the existing school. They paid a man named John Parham \$180 to cut lumber and shingles on their property to build a large, one-room, “planked up and down school house” across from their home; no more log structures for the local pupils. The roomy building had a twenty-foot writing desk at one end. Called the Glenn School House, it was also referred to as Crowders Creek (Glenn) School. Classes likely began in the 1887–88 school year.⁷

In 1887, the Glenn School House had forty male scholars and forty-three female scholars. The county appropriation was \$78.85—\$.95 per pupil. The

student body included the five oldest Glenn children: Lon, 16, Lucius, 14, Will, 12, Ernest, 10, and Eula, 8. Too young to attend just yet, Howard, 5, Carrie, 3, and Lena, 1, waited in the wings. The farm bell from the Glenn home announced lunch, which the oldest girl in the family usually carried to school in a basket. Eula toted the meals for her siblings and herself.⁸

The school term was “nine and seven twenty-sixth [9 7/26] weeks” and had an excellent instructor in Dr. R. M. Reid, a stern teacher and strict disciplinarian. One rap of his “rod of correction” on his desk “brought forth perfect order,” according to the centennial history of the county schools. Nevertheless, Reid found his authority challenged by a trio of 15-year-old boys—Hope Forbes, Ed Petty, and Lucius Glenn. Despite their classmates’ disruptive behavior, the students got a good education under Reid, and Crowders Creek (Glenn) School “put out some real scholars,” according to the centennial history, including Lon and Lucius.⁹

As the ardent prohibitionist that he now was, William went to Raleigh in 1888 to urge the legislature to incorporate the Crowders Creek school district—which contained Crowders Creek (Glenn) School—to prohibit the operation of any stills within a three-mile radius. He failed but did not give up, and before school opened that fall, the legislature granted his petition. Crowders Creek (Glenn) School became one of the first incorporated schools in the district.¹⁰

The Power of the Church

Since 1870, when Olney and Union Presbyterian churches decided to share a minister, preaching at Union took place on the first and third Sundays of the month, morning and evening, and at Olney on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, morning and evening. Church was an all-day affair. “I remember well old Olney and the two sermons every other Sunday, with an intermission between for eats,” said E. P. Lineberger, the son of a former minister. He also remembered his hymnbook with “old time shaped notes.” After the Glenn School House was built, however, Olney held its usual Sunday morning service at the church but held the second service “on the evening of the 2nd Sabbaths at 3 P.M. at Glenn’s school House,” saving the Glenns and their Crowders Creek neighbors travel time. Olney considered the Glenn School to be a “mission and Preaching Point . . . and we believe

great good has been done there,” wrote Rev. G. A. Sparrow in his history of Olney Presbyterian Church.¹¹

While William served his first term as an elder, Lon and Lucius joined Olney. William’s service as a delegate to meetings of presbytery and the synod kept him away from home for a day or more. From time to time, the session assigned him to speak to parishioners about wrongdoing. In 1889, for example, he and another elder visited a member to ascertain if he was manufacturing whiskey. The member was co-partner in a distillery and he told them he did not plan to relinquish his involvement, and so the session resolved “that he be suspended from the privileges of the church indefinitely.” Such was the power of whiskey, and such was the power of the church.¹²

College Bound

Lon’s late teenage years may have been the time he kindled a lifelong interest in the history of his family, talking to his parents and other relatives, and taking notes from family Bibles. Over time, he would make a tremendous contribution to the chronicles of Gaston County.¹³

Younger brother Lucius was bright, even brilliant, but contrary and self-centered. Sarah Priscilla and William had made a heavy emotional and financial investment in the Glenn School House. They thought their son did not appreciate their sacrifice and, with his misbehavior, showed disrespect to the instructor and to education itself. Lucius would pay a price for his actions when it came time for his higher education.

Before then, however, both boys, and the rest of the Glenn children, had to find their paths to college.

CHAPTER 8



College Boys

1888–1896

In the fall of 1888, Lon, just turned 17, was ready for college. The oldest of the Glenn children had mastered the subject matter taught in local schools and was determined to further his education, encouraged by his teachers and parents. Lon was highly intelligent and energetic, and possessed common sense and an air of competence even at that young age. Sarah Priscilla and William relied on him to set the example for the younger children, and he did. At the time, he barely knew his younger sisters, Carrie and Lena, who were 4 and 2 respectively. His sisters Gertrude and Annie were still to come.¹

Lon set his sights on South Carolina College, called the University of South Carolina when he graduated, in Columbia, South Carolina. (The only local options were the new St. Mary's College, in Belmont, and Gaston College, in Dallas.) Founded in 1801, South Carolina College had educated the state's antebellum elite and was one of the region's real institutions of higher education, with a classical curriculum taught by an excellent faculty. The Air Line Rail Road between Gastonia and Charlotte connected with the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Railroad, facilitating Lon's travel between home and school.²

In September 1888, he took up the classical course as a sophomore, a standing that spoke highly of his natural abilities and his Gaston County education. How he financed his education is unknown. Total cost for tuition, room, board, and the annual fee was \$155. The college offered scholarships

only in specific subject areas, like engineering. He likely used his savings, received assistance from his parents, and worked or perhaps took out loans. He took to college his copy of Ainsworth's *Latin Dictionary*, which had belonged to his great-grandfather Ebenezer Newton Scott and had been a gift from his grandmother Janette Glenn.³

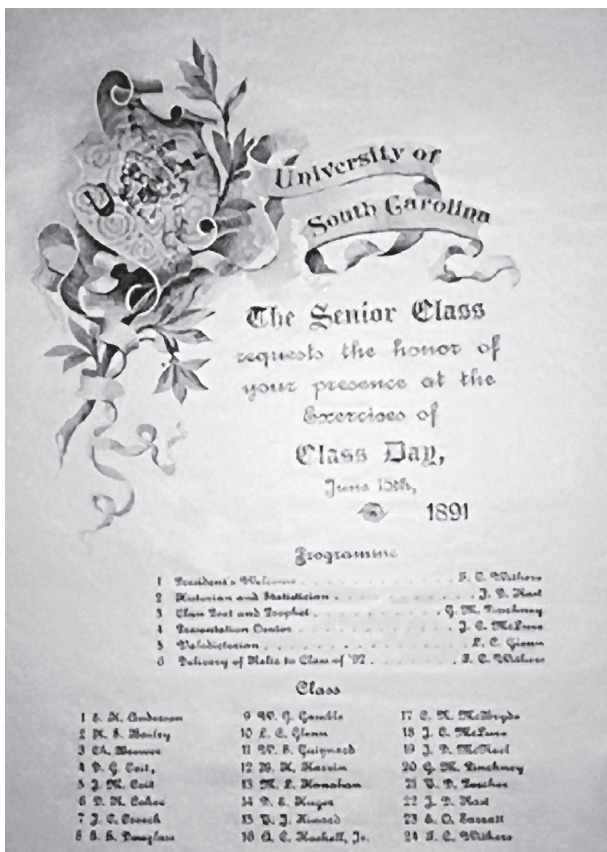
Lon participated in the required daily morning prayers and Sunday chapel, and undoubtedly belonged to one of the two literary societies, so common at colleges and universities in this era. South Carolina College had the Euphradian and Clariosophic societies. He also joined Kappa Sigma social fraternity.⁴

In the summer of 1889, after completing his first year, Lon attended a week-long teacher institute in Gaston County, conducted by Professor Edwin A. Alderman, a young North Carolina educational reformer. One day was devoted to a voluntary oral and written examination, wherein success delivered a three-year state teaching certificate. Lon, still just 17, was one of two Gaston County teachers to pass it successfully. (Only 6 percent of teachers statewide did so.) In his senior year, he kept up work on genealogy by writing to the family of his great-aunt, Priscilla Ruth Holland, who had moved to Brazil after the Civil War.⁵

In June 1891, Leonidas Chalmers Glenn earned an AB—*artium baccalaureus*, or bachelor of arts—graduating as valedictorian of his class of twenty-four young men. He was one of four “Highly Distinguished” seniors, the only one to graduate with highest honors, and earned admission to Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society. As valedictorian, Lon spoke at the Class Day exercises on June 15. Perhaps William attended the ceremonies.⁶

In the fall, Lon, age 20, started teaching at St. John's School, in Darlington, South Carolina. Darlington was an agricultural community twice the size of Gastonia, and a school had been located on the site since 1818. Lon likely taught the sciences or English, or both.⁷

The Glenns must have felt proud and satisfied that the first of their ten children had been so successful academically. As they looked ahead, however, it had to have been daunting to realize that five more children would reach college age by the end of the decade, and that their youngest children would be waiting in the wings. While others enjoyed the Gay Nineties, for the Glenns, that decade was a time of both hope and anxiety. Sarah



University of South Carolina Class Day Programme June 15, 1891, listing Leonidas Chalmers Glenn as valedictory speaker. Courtesy of Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Priscilla and William had high expectations for their children and college, but they could provide little but encouragement.

Lucius's Sacrifice

As Lon began his first year of teaching, Lucius, now 18, finished Crowders Creek (Glenn) School and enrolled at Catawba College, in Newton, North Carolina. Newton, William's old stomping ground from his days as a photographer, was the county seat of Catawba County and about the size of Gastonia. The college was about thirty-five miles from the Glenn farm and situated near a stop on the Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad. It had been established by men of German descent and of the Protestant Reformed tradition and named for the county, the Catawba Indian tribe, and the nearby Catawba River. A number of Gaston County farm boys had

attended its incarnation as Catawba High School, a preparatory academy, from the late 1860s to the 1880s. The college's students were, by and large, sons of poor farmers who attended at great family sacrifice.⁸

For Lucius Glenn, however, the sacrifice was his alone, for William, still angry about Lucius's behavior at Glenn School, refused to help his second son finance his college education, not even for books and fees. To earn his way, Lucius split kindling, built fires, waited tables, washed windows, and did whatever he could to earn money, completely supporting himself.⁹

When he enrolled as one of 150 students for the 1891–92 academic year, Lucius was part of the largest enrollment in the school's history. His Crowders Creek neighborhood friend, O. M. Boyd, was another new student. Rev. J. A. Foil, PhD, who addressed the opening convocation, dwelt on moral training and earnestly pleaded for “promptness, neatness, pleasantness and thoroughness.”¹⁰

Lucius majored in English and especially enjoyed the study of vocabulary and English grammar. Throughout his life, he delighted in reading *Webster's International Dictionary*. He became known for his beautiful command of the English language, as well as for his frustration with “the sloppy use of language by people who were supposed to know better,” according to *Gastonia Gazette* editor Bill Williams some years later. Lucius enjoyed freedom from his father and from farm chores, the wider association with young men his age, and the stimulation of college life. His classmates liked him and respected his work ethic. Success bolstered his ego. In December 1891, he distinguished himself by winning a medal for his performance in a declamation contest.¹¹

Lucius was a faithful contributor to “College Notes and Personals,” a student feature in the *College Visitor*, a monthly magazine published by the Philomathean and Athenian literary societies. (Catawba College made the societies extremely popular because if students did not join, they had to study with a professor on Friday nights.) His classmates elected Lucius recording secretary of the Philomathean, the oldest organization on campus. Its purpose was “to exert a stimulating and helpful influence in the cultivation and pursuit of composition, debate and oratory; and to aid its members in learning the art of expressing their thoughts with precision and poise before an audience.” Lucius participated in the activities of the society, including entertainment for fellow students.¹²

Throughout his college years, Lucius and his classmates attended chapel. He belonged to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), prevalent on college campuses to promote Christian character through Bible study and prayer. In March 1892, he was one of two delegates to attend the State YMCA Convention in Greensboro.¹³

Despite his classroom obligations, on January 22, 1892, Lucius and O. M. Boyd slipped away to Dallas and joined a crowd of 3,000 people to witness the execution of Caroline Shipp, a young black woman who had been convicted of poisoning her infant son. What motivated them to attend this macabre event is unknown.¹⁴

When school let out in May 1892, Lucius turned from English to another field. "Glenn will read medicine," the *College Visitor* recorded. When he was not working to earn money for the coming school year, he read medical books and discussed medical matters with his "Uncle Doctor," Junius Torrence, who had been a country doctor for over thirty years. Lucius likely accompanied him on calls.¹⁵

Back Home in Gaston County

In 1891, William Glenn closed his store to devote his full attention to the farm. After a hiatus of three years, he accepted a second three-year appointment as school commissioner for the Crowders Creek School District No. 47, serving from 1893 until 1896. He was also reelected to the session at Olney in 1893, remaining the active and devoted member he had been in the past. These appointments added to his prominence in the community. Sarah Priscilla had a great love for her family, but her love for Olney Presbyterian Church was strong as well, and church activities gave her an outlet away from home.¹⁶

Three more of the older children joined Olney as they became teenagers: Will at 17, Ernest at 15, and Eula at 13. They appeared before the session, were examined on their religious experience, and, having made a satisfactory profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, were admitted to the "sealing obedience of the Lords [sic] supper." Their memberships at Olney helped offset the loss of many members to the Gastonia Presbyterian Church, and the Glenns and other families helped Olney retain a prominent position among Presbyterians in Pleasant Ridge and Crowders Creek.¹⁷



Left to right: Carrie Eugenia Glenn, Lena Viola Glenn, and May Gertrude Glenn circa 1889. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

In 1889, the family invested in portraits of their youngest three, Carrie, Lena, and Gertrude, who had been born in January.

Prohibition was never far from the mind of William, an elder at Olney. In 1891, the North Carolina legislature authorized the manufacture of liquor, but made selling spirituous liquors illegal in Gaston County. The law had little teeth since there was no penalty for breaking it, and it was repealed two years later. This encouraged distillers. They matched wits with the gaugers, who were constantly on patrol. In 1891, gaugers confiscated twenty-two barrels of illicit whiskey in the Crowders Creek-Pleasant Ridge neighborhoods, which they locked in a warehouse before heading to the Dallas jail with the distiller. Along the way, the distiller escaped, returned to the warehouse with friends, and “partook of the re-captured whiskey too freely and began fighting among themselves,” reported the *Yorkville Inquirer*. The gaugers retrieved most of the whiskey, but the moonshiners got away. William doubtless shook his head at stories like this.¹⁸

Lon and Lucius would have been amazed at the changes on every visit home from college. By 1890, the county population had grown to 17,764, close to a 25 percent increase from a decade earlier, including significant growth of the black population. Between 1891 and 1896, ten new textile mills dotted the landscape in Cherryville, Dallas, Stanley, Mount Holly, Crowders Mountain, High Shoals, and the new town of Bessemer City, in

addition to Gastonia, attracting workers looking for jobs. In 1893, William's cousin Wash Ragan, one of nine founding partners of Grier Love's Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company, incorporated Gastonia's second mill, Trenton Cotton Mills. Villages, company stores, and schools sprang up for mill workers and their families.¹⁹

Gastonia was the county's largest town, with a population of 1,033. New building lots and streets organized commercial and residential growth. Streets running east to west were named Airline (running parallel to the Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line Railroad tracks). South of Airline was Main Street, and then Mill Street, so named because of the number of mills built along the thoroughfare. South of Mill Street, the east-west streets were numbered—Second Avenue (first called Elm Street), then Third, Fourth, and so on. From the east, streets running north and south were named Broad, Oakland, Marietta, South, York, and Chester. (These streets form the core of downtown Gastonia today.) The town set aside four acres on the southwest corner of Mill and Chester Streets for Town Cemetery.²⁰

Junius Torrence's oldest son, Frost, opened a drugstore on Main Street, where his father taught him to formulate drugs for his patients. George Gray and Grier Love began a company store at Love's Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company, and changed the name to Gray & Love. His son, John Franklin Love, would move it to Main Street, where it became the town's first department store. A. M. Smyre opened Gastonia Hardware Company. Other entrepreneurs debuted flour mills, a fertilizer plant, a casket company, a saddle and harness shop, livery stables, a blacksmith shop, a tannery, a bookstore, and clothing stores. Sawmills kept up with the construction of new homes and businesses; carpenters could not build fast enough.²¹

The Gastonia railroad depot attracted commercial enterprises, especially after the larger Southern Railway purchased the Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line Railway in 1894. The new company provided access to New York City, New Orleans, and points between. The Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad running past the Glenn farm went into foreclosure and was purchased in 1896 by the Carolina & North-Western Railway, popularly known as the C&N-W. By 1900, the company replaced the narrow-gauge track with standard gauge to conform to the Southern Railway tracks and continued carrying passengers and freight.²²

Three new hotels accommodated train passengers, as well as local families waiting for new homes to be built. The budding community attracted doctors, dentists, lawyers, and bankers. The *Gastonia Gazette*, which had published sporadically since it appeared in 1880, began regular publication in 1891. Gastonians were proud of their progressive community and optimistic about its future in the new century.²³

Brothers Continue Their Educations

In the fall of 1892, when Lon, age 21, returned to St. John's for his second year of teaching, he was appointed school principal. He likely continued to teach as well. He must have gotten acquainted with most of the families represented at St. John's, and Darlington must have felt like home, because in October, he joined the Presbyterian church in Darlington. Lon remained the principal of St. John's for two years and also worked as a part-time representative of a textbook publisher.²⁴

Lucius returned to Catawba College for the 1892–93 academic year. Not everything was nose to the grindstone, however. In October, he and O. M. Boyd attended the festivities when school was suspended for two days so students could enjoy the county fair, including one of its newer attractions, a merry-go-round. On a Friday in December, as he headed home, Lucius was probably one of the students who filled an entire coach on the Chester & Lenoir line and rode south singing. The train left Lucius at the Crowders Creek Station, practically at his front door. He did not return in January 1893 for the second semester, however, likely due to lack of funds. As he earned money at home by teaching school and working odd jobs, he continued to study medicine with his uncle.²⁵

In August 1893, Lucius returned to Catawba College, now joined by 18-year-old Will. Will had a kind and caring nature and would be missed at home. One time, as a teenager, he bought a starving calf from a poor family to save its life. The calf became a real pet, following the Glenn children around the barnyard. Another time, he discovered a simple old man who had run away from the County Home, living in an empty tenant house on their farm. Will brought the man a coat and bedding, and told him he could stay as long as he wanted. In the winter, the man returned to the County

Home. Will's generous actions made a lifetime impression on his younger sisters, Carrie and Lena, now 9 and 7, who admired and trusted him.²⁶

It did not take Lucius long to pick up where he left off after a semester's absence. That fall, at age 20, he added the title of "Professor Glenn" to his résumé, teaching penmanship in the business department to about seventy students, "of all grades from the lowest prep. to the tallest Senior," the *College Visitor* reported. He was grateful to find another way to earn money. He was reelected recording secretary of the Philomathean Literary Society for the fall and spring semesters and attended the YMCA District Convention in Gastonia.²⁷

As the second semester got underway in January 1894, Will and some classmates thought it might be fun to reenact Paul's escape from Damascus by lowering and raising themselves in a basket as described in Acts 9:23–25. Will, "while being drawn up to his room by a rope, fell and got considerably bruised up," wrote the *College Visitor*. "He is very sore, and has been up some in his room, and we trust we [sic] will soon be out again. We suppose Mr. Glenn will seek other amusement than being drawn up to his room by means of a rope from this time on."²⁸

In reality, Will had fractured bones in his back, a severe injury that kept him out of school for the remainder of the semester. Ernest, Eula, Howard, Carrie, Lena, Gertrude, and Annie kept him company at home during his convalescence. By February, he had "sufficiently improved to be up about an hour a day," the *College Visitor* reported. "His improvement is slow but we hope permanent." In April, the news was even better. "W.W. Glenn, we are glad to learn, is still improving and hopes to enter school again next August. We shall be glad to see you with us again, William."²⁹

During Catawba's graduation week of 1894, as was the tradition, the declaimer's contest took place on Tuesday night. Although not a senior, Lucius participated, but fell short of a medal. He was the last speaker of the evening, with "Eulogy on LaFayette." "The selection was a tender, pathetic remembrance of services rendered to this country by this great Frenchman," recorded the *College Visitor*, "and it was well delivered." The term over, Lucius taught summer school back home.³⁰

When college resumed for the 1894–95 school year, Lucius did not return. "We are sorry to have Prof. L. N. Glenn leave us," the *College Visitor*

wrote. “He is going to Baltimore to attend a Medical College. Prof. Glenn has done his work faithfully and well while with us, and our best wishes are extended to him in his new course of studies.” Some forty years later, Lucius would remember the “quaint old dormitories” and describe his years at Catawba College as the happiest days of his youth.³¹

Will returned to a warm welcome. In September 1894, he was installed as recording secretary of the Philomathean Literary Society, succeeding Lucius in that post. In November, he and others attended the YMCA convention at Salisbury and reported “a grand time.”³²

Lucius’s departure was not uncommon in this era. In fact, most students at Catawba College stayed only one or two years and did not graduate. Lucius was more than an average dropout, however. He had a plan. College was costly, and funds were hard to come by. If he could be accepted into the last two years of medical school without a four-year degree, it made sense to forego the last year and a half of college and put his savings toward his medical school education. He could then begin the active practice of medicine and become self-supporting as soon as possible.³³

A Shocking Loss

When Will returned to school for the 1895–96 academic year, his younger brother Ernest also joined the student body. Like Lon before him, Ernest

started college as a sophomore. He and Will completed the fall semester together.

In 1896, after returning to school from Christmas break, Ernest became critically ill with pneumonia, and he died on January 19, at the age of 18. His



Teenager Ernest Pratt Glenn, taken before his untimely death in 1896 at Catawba College. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

*George Attmore Sparrow (1845–1922):
A Good Shepherd*

The arrival in December 1893 of Rev. George Attmore Sparrow strengthened the importance of Olney Presbyterian Church to the Glenns. His pastorate also marked the beginning of twenty-eight years of stability for the Olney and Union churches.

Sparrow was an accomplished man and a good shepherd of his flock. Born in Beaufort, North Carolina, to a prominent family, he grew up in Washington, North Carolina. After service with the Confederate Army during the Civil War, he farmed, studied law under his father, and served as a solicitor for sixteen years in his hometown until he felt called to the ministry. He was ordained in 1890, and served pastorates in Tryon and Rutherford, North Carolina, before the call came from Gaston County. Sparrow was 48 years old when he began his joint pastorate at Olney and Union and served until 1921, when each church was strong enough to employ its own minister full time. When the joint arrangement ended, Sparrow remained at Union, where the manse was located, until his unexpected death in 1922. He had a talent for oratory, and endeared himself to his congregations because the law had taught him to condense. He said if he could not get his point across in a twenty-minute sermon, then he could not get it across at all.

He and his wife, Susan Brown Sparrow, had eleven children. Their ages roughly paralleled those of the Glenn children, which likely made church functions more enjoyable for both families, who became fast friends. Sarah Priscilla especially supported Sparrow's ministry, and Lucius Glenn and Thomas Sparrow, the oldest Sparrow child, became lifelong friends.



Rev. Sparrow's father, Thomas Sparrow III, was a distinguished attorney. During the Civil War, he served as a major in the Confederate Army and commanded the city and river defenses at Wilmington (where William Glenn had sought salt). Joy Sparrow, *Sparrows' Nest of Letters*, 1–4, 325, 336–338; Tom Sparrow would become a dairy farmer and an enterprising businessman who made many investments in Gaston County; James Clifford "Jimmy" Thompson Jr., conversation with author, January 13, 2015.

death at such a young age came as a shock to his family and the college community—made sadder because he did not die at home surrounded by his loved ones. Rev. George Attmore Sparrow, who had begun his joint tenure at Olney and Union two years earlier, conducted Ernest’s funeral service. The grieving family buried the boy at the Olney Presbyterian Church graveyard, but they lacked sufficient money for a stone marker. Judging from his siblings’ future accomplishments, Ernest’s lost future would have been just as bright.³⁴

Lon Discovers His Passion

In the fall of 1894, as Lon, just 22, began his fourth year at Darlington, remarkably, he was appointed superintendent of the Darlington Graded Schools. Despite his new responsibilities, he continued his pursuit of family history, this time focusing on the Wilson side. He communicated with relatives in Louisville, Kentucky; Washington and Greenfield, Ohio; Woodville, Tennessee; and Newville, Pennsylvania. One of his correspondents was Frank C. Shepherd of the Wilson line, who was researching and writing his own Wilson-Baird genealogy. Another was William Caruthers in Fredericksburg, Virginia, who was impressed with Lon’s new position. “Am glad you have given such satisfaction as a teacher as to be made at so early an age superintendent of schools,” he wrote. “Wish you great and lasting success.”³⁵

In 1895, Lon enrolled at the Summer School of the Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For educators from around the country like him, Harvard’s summer school provided enrichment in twenty subject offerings, from classical languages to physical training. Lon enrolled in a geology class taught by William Morris Davis, an internationally known geologist, meteorologist, physiographer (physical geographer), and exceptional teacher. Davis had revolutionized teaching and research about lands and coastlines and bridged the fields of geology and geography. That year, in *Science* magazine, Lon published “[N]otes on Darlington, South Carolina ‘bays,’” which he had likely written during summer school. He resumed his responsibilities in Darlington that fall, but inspired by Davis, Lon resolved to earn a doctoral degree in geology.³⁶

Will Makes a Change

In May 1896, at the close of the school year, Will, now 21, left Catawba College after two and a half years. Ernest's death had likely contributed to his decision. When he departed, the Glenns' association with Catawba College went on hiatus, but would resume in 1911 and again in 1931. For now, however, Lon and Lucius set their sights on graduate studies, and Will, ready to earn money, turned his attention to the business world.



Two Doctors and a Railway Man

1894–1899

When Lucius left Catawba College in 1894, he regretted not completing his undergraduate course. He was intent on medical school, however, and selected the School of Medicine of Maryland, in Baltimore, part of the University of Maryland. First, to earn money, he taught school for six months in Bowling Green. For another six months, he served as the principal at the Crowders Creek (Glenn) School, where Carrie and perhaps his other younger siblings were his students.¹

Lucius chose the college because of its reputation, its program, and its moderate cost. Founded in Baltimore in 1807, it was the fifth oldest and only public medical college in the United States, drawing students from all parts of the country and abroad. It also was among the first, if not the first, to establish its own hospital in 1823, originally called Baltimore Infirmary. It was known as University Hospital when Lucius attended.²

Lucius faced an annual cost of \$105 plus room, board, and expenses. The cost of living in Baltimore was three to six dollars weekly, which included fuel and lights. The school charged additional fees for practical anatomy plus a thirty-dollar graduation fee. As part of his application, Lucius had to write an English composition and pass examinations in Latin, algebra, higher arithmetic, and elementary physics.³

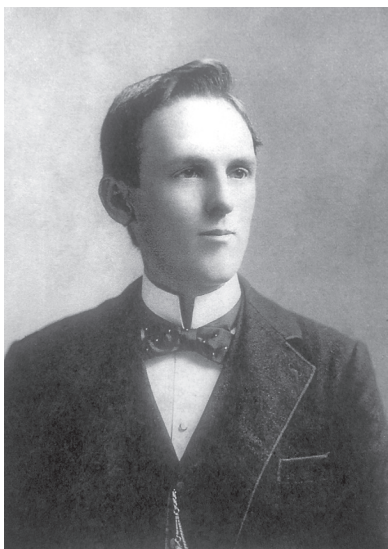
The college offered a full four-year program but also a two-year program called advanced standing. In order to be admitted to the latter, students

had to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter taught in the first two years of medical school, preferably after graduating from an accredited college. Lucius had absorbed the necessary curriculum through his individual study and Junius's tutoring: physiology, chemistry, anatomy, osteology, materia medica (pharmacy), normal and special histology, dissections, application of surgical apparatus, bandaging, embryology, pathology, and bacteriology. The first two years also required laboratory work and autopsies at University Hospital, but Lucius lacked experience in a hospital setting. Nevertheless, he was accepted and enrolled in the advanced-standing program in the fall of 1895. When Lucius arrived in Baltimore in September to secure housing before school started on October 1, he may have attended introductory clinical lectures given throughout the month. Roughly half his classmates held undergraduate degrees from four-year institutions, and the other half, like him, had studied under a practicing physician, in his case Junius Torrence, called a preceptor.⁴

Lucius was all business during his two years at Maryland. He did not participate in extracurricular activities or sports or join a fraternity, the YMCA, or organizations like the Gorge Club, which celebrated eating. Instead, he devoted his time to studying and to earning money. During the school year, he worked as a book agent and sold laboratory supplies and other necessities, and at home during vacation he taught school.⁵

Nevertheless, Lucius was well known to his classmates and appeared in the yearbook, *Bones, Molars, and Briefs*, produced by seniors in the medical, dental, and law departments. In the "Class Prophecy," which imagined new doctors in a mythical town where storefront signs advertised them engaged in anything but medicine, Lucius's sign read, "L. N. Glenn, Books Are Always Below Cost," a reference to his job as a book agent. The section titled "Roasts" contained "GLENN—Deep versed in books but shallow in himself," quoting John Milton in *Paradise Regained*.⁶

Graduation Day came in mid-April 1897, three months before Lucius turned 24. He graduated seventh in his class of seventy-four, a testament to his intelligence, discipline, and hard work. As the senior with the highest examination score in surgery, he received the Surgical Prize: a case of surgical instruments.⁷ After graduation, Lucius took the state licensing examination in Morehead City, North Carolina, with other new graduates from around the country wishing to practice in North Carolina. The exams



Lucius Newton Glenn at medical school in Baltimore, Maryland, circa 1895. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

ran over four days, and Lucius passed in the top third with a score of eighty-nine and one seventeenth ($89\frac{1}{17}$).⁸

With his new medical license in hand, Lucius returned to Gaston County and set up a general practice of medicine, living in a boardinghouse in McAdenville, an idyllic little community nestled along the west side of the South Fork River. As the county's second largest town, it revolved around McAden Mills, which in 1884 had become the first textile plant in the South, perhaps the entire world, to use electricity. McAdenville also boasted the county's first telephone system and later the county's first library. A progressive town, it seemed a good starting place for his practice.⁹

Lucius spent time in the Union section of Gaston County, where many Glenn family members lived, learning the practical aspects of medicine from Dr. George Reese Patrick, an earlier graduate of the School of Medicine of Maryland, and Dr. W. H. Wilson. He also continued to enhance his practical knowledge with his uncle. Lucius charged fifty cents per house call, which often included the cost of medicine, and five dollars to deliver a baby. In 1899, he joined South Fork Lodge No. 462, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.). Through the men of the lodge, he learned about life, community, and business.¹⁰

Will's Head for Business

In 1896, after Will left Catawba College, he moved to Charlotte, where he is thought to have taken courses in business and accounting. Exceptionally good with figures, he could add columns of three-digit numbers in his head. He secured a job with the Southern Railway and for three years

worked as a ticket agent in uptown Charlotte. Will requested a transfer of his membership from Olney Presbyterian Church to the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, but before he could join the new church, he received a promotion to assistant general passenger agent in Atlanta. He was now responsible for offices in Atlanta and in Toccoa, Georgia, in addition to Charlotte and Gastonia, which kept him on the move.¹¹

Lon Fulfills His Dream

In his quest to pursue a doctoral degree in geology, Lon set his sights on Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, which had the leading geology department in the United States. The annual cost was \$150 for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Over three years, that would pose a great obstacle for Lon, even with his salary as a school superintendent.¹²

Since its founding in 1876 by the will of Johns Hopkins, the university had awarded fifteen scholarships per state to students from Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Despite having lived, studied, and worked in South Carolina since 1888, Lon considered himself a citizen of North Carolina and listed it as his residence on his registration form. He also used his Darlington Public School superintendent's stationery in correspondence with the school. In January 1896, he inquired about the scholarship as he reviewed pertinent information from the University Register.¹³

Lon had already made contact with William Bullock Clark, chair of the geology department. Clark, a worthy mentor, was Maryland's state geologist, organized the Maryland State Weather Service, worked for the United States Geological Survey, and established the Maryland State Geological Survey, which was housed on campus.¹⁴

Lon was accepted, and on September 29, 1896, matriculated at Johns Hopkins with at least the funds for his first year. He was 25 years old. Four days after his enrollment, he was relieved and grateful to learn that a scholarship had become available. His tuition would be paid in full if his academic performance merited it. "I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Glenn most heartily for the position," wrote Clark to the scholarship committee. "He impresses me as a man of unusual attainments and all that I have heard of him is distinctly in his favor."¹⁵

Lon began his studies while Lucius was finishing his second year of medical school. Fewer than six miles separated their institutions, and so the brothers probably saw each other on weekends and at times when they were not studying. Perhaps they attended church together on Sundays.

Lon's time in graduate school shaped his life and magnified his career. Clark's students participated in the geological survey of Maryland, preparing maps, studying mineral resources, and assembling collections of mineral specimens. Clark maintained that geology was related to many fields, and that a geologist's research could lead him in many directions over the long term. His practical approach gave Lon invaluable experience, which he would use to train his own students.¹⁶

Lon deepened his interest in erosive processes, topographical forms, and stream dynamics, along with his interest in the stratigraphy and paleontology of the marine Tertiary strata of the Atlantic coastal plain. He based his doctoral dissertation, "The Pelecypoda of the Miocene of Maryland," on his work for the Maryland Geological Survey. During the summers, he earned money by working on artesian water systems for the United States Geological Survey.¹⁷

As he had time, Lon still pursued his interest in genealogy. In August 1896, he learned more of the family story from his father's cousin David Glenn, called "River Dave," a grandson of James Glen. "River Dave" helped Lon by adding significant details to the Glenn story, including the Glen ancestry in Europe and James Glenn's memories of the Battle of Kings Mountain. In the fall of 1897, Lon visited his great-aunt Polly Wilson Torrence, his grandmother Sally Ann's sister and the widow of Ephraim Torrence. Polly, 86, had been blind from glaucoma for perhaps thirty years, but her mind was good, and she filled many holes in the Wilson family history. She died two years later, the last of Sarah Baird Wilson and William Joseph Wilson's ten children.¹⁸

In 1898, while still a student, Lon completed a 92-page manuscript he likely had started in Darlington. Entitled "South Carolina," it was published in two parts in the *Journal of School Geography* and later provided in off-prints. He discussed the geography of the state, its coastal plain and piedmont plateau, its river systems, agriculture, forests, minerals and mining, fisheries, slaves, Native Americans, and railroads, among other topics.¹⁹

On June 13, 1899, Leonidas Chalmers Glenn graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a PhD in geology. That fall, he launched his new career as associate professor of biology and geology at his alma mater, South Carolina College, where he taught courses in biology, zoology, geology, physiology, and physiography to eighty-four students.²⁰

Back in Gaston County between 1894 and 1899—while their older brothers were becoming a doctor of medicine, a doctor of geology, and an up-and-comer in the railroad business—Eula and Howard were ready to pursue their own higher educations.



A Normal Girl and a College Cadet

1895–1900

In late summer of 1895, Eula, just 16, completed her education at Crowders Creek (Glenn) School. She was anxious to go to college like her older brothers, for she wanted to be a teacher. Her parents had high expectations that their eldest daughter would set the course for her younger sisters, just as Lon had done for his younger brothers. Eula and her parents set their sights on a three-year-old institution, the State Normal and Industrial School for Girls, in Greensboro. It was called the Normal for short, meaning a school that trained high school graduates to be teachers according to accepted standards, or norms. The Normal promoted itself as a school good enough for anybody, with expenses low enough for anybody. It was a godsend to Eula and her four sisters, all of whom would attend between 1895 and 1915.¹

Educating North Carolina's Young Women

The Normal had opened in 1892 to address the deplorable state of secondary education following Reconstruction, at a time when North and South Carolina seemed to vie for the most neglected school systems in the country. For example, North Carolina spent only about four dollars per pupil compared to the national average of almost eighteen dollars. Furthermore, the state had a short school term, the lowest teachers' salaries, and a whopping 33 percent illiteracy rate for its white citizens.²

Women composed a greater percentage of the teaching force nationally but were an untapped resource in North Carolina. It was thought that women, especially if they did not marry, would make teaching a career, unlike many male teachers, who used teaching as a stepping-stone to more lucrative professions. Women teachers seemed willing to earn less than their male counterparts, making their employment attractive.³

Convincing the legislature to establish a normal school was not an easy task. North Carolina already had a number of normal schools for white men, black men and women, and Native Americans. There was, however, no publicly funded normal college of higher education for white women. Two young educational reformers, Charles Duncan McIver and Edwin Anderson Alderman, graduates of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1881 and 1882 respectively, became the acknowledged leaders of public education in the state within a half dozen years of their graduations. They saw the education of women as the single greatest hope in combating illiteracy. "Educate a man and you educate an individual," McIver said. "Educate a woman and you educate a family." In 1889, McIver and Alderman implemented the week-long teachers' institutes in each county, including the one in Gaston that Lon had attended. At each venue, the two advocated support for a teachers' college for women.⁴

Finally, on February 18, 1891, the legislature passed An Act to Establish a Normal and Industrial School for White Girls and appropriated \$10,000 for the first year. Charles McIver, 31 years old, served as president. The perfect choice, McIver possessed political skills, a gregarious personality, tremendous energy, and incredible devotion to this new venture. He hired seven well-educated, accomplished, unmarried women to teach. McIver recognized that entrance and graduation requirements could rise only as the high schools improved in quality and quantity, and so the Normal was not called a college until the 1896–97 academic year. Even then, McIver did not think the students were qualified to receive bachelors' degrees, and the Normal did not offer the first degrees until 1903. Until then, it was little more than a glorified high school taught at a secondary level, because most young women who enrolled were poorly prepared for college-level work.⁵

Eula Begins Her Education

In late summer of 1895, Lon Glenn wrote to McIver from Darlington, advocating for his sister Eula's acceptance and enclosing her application. She met the requirements for admission: she was 16, the minimum age, and in good health; she had completed the application in her own handwriting; and she had secured a statement from her last teacher as to her scholarship and character. Eula and her parents also endorsed the application's statement: "[W]e do not desire any students who do not come without compulsion from parents, and who are not determined to do faithful, earnest work. There are so many good students who want the places here that we do not wish them to be crowded out by those who regard their opportunities lightly."⁶

Lon told McIver that Eula had attended the local public schools, but "how thoroughly her work has been done I do not know. Being a studious girl, I would suppose that she has done as well as the average pupil in such schools if not some better." It was not a wholehearted endorsement, but Lon was honest. He did not know Eula well, since he went off to college when she was 9 years old. If the dormitory was full, Lon suggested that she could board with a family "recommended by yourself."⁷

Eula was admitted, and in early October 1895, she put her trunk on the train at Crowders Creek Station and headed to Greensboro, taking with her the required pillow, pillowcases, sheets, blankets, counterpane (bedspread), towels, and table napkin. A smiling Dr. McIver met her at the Greensboro train station, helped her into a carriage, and sent her on to campus. The grounds included Main Building and Brick Dormitory, impressive brick buildings in the Romanesque Revival style, trimmed in granite. The only other buildings were a frame dormitory, the president's house, the heating plant and laundry, and a barn. The main buildings were likely the largest Eula had ever seen, or at least were more imposing architecturally than the textile mill buildings in Gaston County. When the school first opened, there was no landscaping except the cornfield the school was planted on. By the time Eula arrived, campus beautification had begun, and two additional buildings were completed before she graduated.⁸

Even though the school billed its costs as reasonable, tuition, room, board, and fees totaled \$129 annually, and rooming in private homes was more expensive than the dormitories. Encouraging for the Glenns,

however, was that the school waived tuition for students who promised to teach for half as many years as they received instruction at the Normal. If they failed to teach within three years of graduation, they had to repay the tuition with interest. The school also waived costs for room and board if a student received a county appointment. Counties received one, two, or three appointments based on their white populations, which made enrollment representative throughout the state.⁹

With a county appointment, a student could board in the dormitory for free until she completed her course work, provided her conduct and academic progress were satisfactory. If there were too many applicants for a county's appointment quota, prospective students took a competitive examination. If a county did not fill its quota, vacancies could be filled by applicants from other counties at McIver's discretion. That meant that a student planning to teach who also received a county appointment had only to pay the \$25 contingency fee. Eula was the fourth Gaston County student to attend the Normal, but two were still attending, and one of them held the county's lone appointment. Lacking a county appointment, Eula boarded in a private home near campus during her first semester. Her father was likely unhappy about the additional cost.¹⁰

Eula enrolled in the Normal Department, the cornerstone of the institution, to prepare for her teaching career. The other departments were the Industrial or Business Department and the Domestic Science Department. First she took a placement exam requiring her to analyze ordinary math problems, read English fluently at sight, express thoughts accurately in writing, and answer "fairly well" questions on English, grammar, geography, and the history of North Carolina and the United States. Exams allowed the faculty to assign students to the levels and subjects best suited to their backgrounds. The well-rounded curriculum comprised the liberal arts subjects of English, history, mathematics, science, language arts, a foreign language, and pedagogy. Specialized departments taught vocal culture, physical culture, and industrial art. A Practice and Observation School opened in 1893, since "A Normal School without a Practice School is like a swimming school without water," as McIver was fond of saying. Seniors were required to work there, and the Normal recruited Greensboro children as the students.¹¹

Eula took the standard course load of twenty-two to twenty-seven class meetings each week, divided among six to eight courses. With her fellow students, she rose at 6:00 a.m., walked every afternoon for forty-five minutes, and turned off her light at 10:00 p.m. She attended required chapel daily, where McIver read from the Bible and gave highlights of the news of the day, spoke on topics of importance, or introduced a well-known guest speaker who might be passing through Greensboro. On Sunday, Eula attended church, most likely First Presbyterian, slightly over a mile away. Sunday evening services were held on campus for safety and convenience and were often led by ministers from local churches.¹²

The school broadened Eula's horizons beyond her Crowders Creek neighborhood. The principal, Sue May Kirkland, was strict about dress and conduct and taught social graces, so that Eula and her classmates could accustom themselves "to the requirements of a cultured society," as the catalog reported. Eula joined fellow students in wearing a hat and gloves to the dining hall, and they all wore white dresses for special occasions. Eula was expected to join one of the two literary societies, Cornelian and Adelpian.¹³

After just one semester, however, Eula had to take a hiatus. The county appointment was still taken, and William did not have the funds for her to continue boarding privately. In addition, her brother Ernest had died unexpectedly. She did not return to school the following year, but she returned with county appointments for 1897–98 and 1898–99 and lived in the dormitory. Many girls attended for only one or two years before dropping out, but Eula was committed to completing her course of study.¹⁴

Eula was accepted for 1899–1900, but she had to surrender her county appointment. "Owing to some changes in Papa's financial affairs he says it will be impossible for him to send me to school this year," she wrote McIver. "I regret very much to give up my appointment." Four years had passed since her initial enrollment, and she was almost 21 years old. She returned home, joining her younger sisters Carrie, Lena, Gertrude, and Annie. Her absence turned out to be a blessing for her, however, because a typhoid epidemic on campus that fall took the lives of thirteen students and one staff member, and sickened forty-eight students.¹⁵

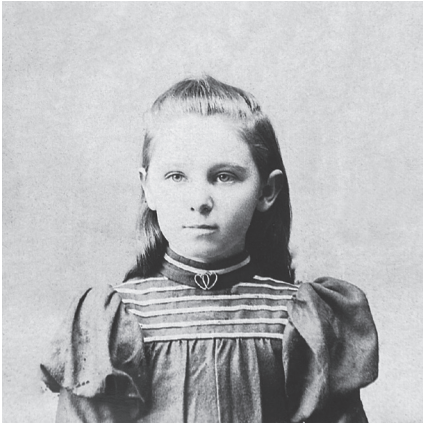
Howard Becomes a Cadet

While Eula was missing a year at the Normal in 1899–1900 because of her father's financial situation, Howard, now 17, had finished at Crowders Creek School and looked to attend the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, in Raleigh. Called the A&M College for short, it had been established ten years earlier under the federal Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, which gave each state public lands for “at least one college whose leading object shall be . . . related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote liberal and practical education of the industrial classes.” It took until 1887 for North Carolina to establish such a college. A&M's doors opened to about fifty enrollees two years later.¹⁶

A&M College offered courses in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, metallurgy, chemistry, dyeing, textile industry, and architecture, and in civil, mechanical, and mining engineering. It also provided training in carpentry, blacksmithing, machinery work, mill work, boiler tending, and road building. Since North Carolina was slowly transitioning from an agricultural to a manufacturing state, these skills were desperately needed to strengthen the workforce and rebuild an economy still recovering from the Civil War.¹⁷

In July 1899, Howard passed the entrance exam at the courthouse in Dallas, and enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Department as a member of the class of 1903. It seems grossly unfair that there was money to advance Howard's education but no money to advance Eula's, but William had an agreement with Lon, a single man with a steady income, to finance Howard's studies. Howard likely worked and saved to defray his costs of \$123 per year but whether he received scholarship help is unknown. Lon's investment was a good one, for Howard was a serious student, quiet and devout, with an aptitude for mathematics.¹⁸

The year Howard began, A&M College had a new president, George Tayloe Winston. At the beginning of Winston's tenure, the college began offering courses in textiles to address the needs of North Carolina's rapidly growing textile industry. The college expected students to remain until graduation. Howard's freshman class of 132 students was larger than preceding classes and grew to 139 by graduation. The thirty-nine students in



May Gertrude Glenn and Annie Torrence Glenn, circa 1899. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

the Mechanical Engineering Department became close during their four years.¹⁹

All took the military training required of students at land grant colleges. Every cadet belonged to one of six companies, A through F, each with a set of officers, which President Winston appointed upon recommendation of the commandant. The locals often came to campus to witness dress parades. “The young men strut about the College grounds in the grey in which their fathers fought and died,” reported the student yearbook, the *Agromeck*.²⁰

When Howard left Crowders Creek, his five sisters were still at home. Eula, now 20, was likely trying to earn money to return to school. Carrie was 15, Lena 13, Gertrude 10, and Annie 7. With Carrie and Lena now teenagers, life was less hectic for Sarah Priscilla, and she had time to enjoy her girls. William remained concerned for his daughters’ future welfare. He continued the now-dominant family theme for them: get an education, earn money, and save so they could take care of themselves in old age.



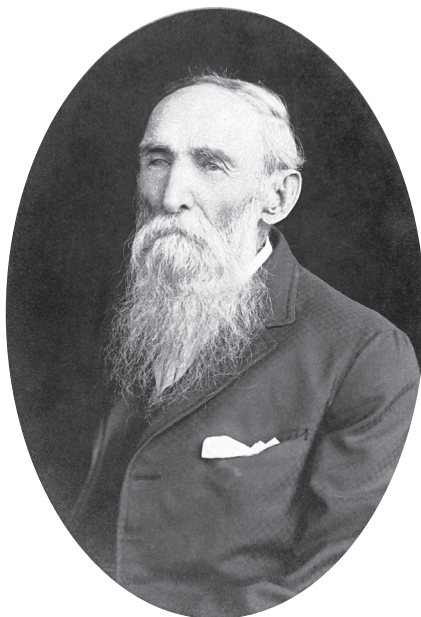
Love and Marriage

1900–1901

The new twentieth century would be the most eventful one in recorded history. As it began, Sarah Priscilla and William could reflect on the accomplishments of their children with considerable satisfaction. Lon was 29, a devoted son, an associate professor at South Carolina College, and destined for great things. Lucius, 27, was making his mark in the eastern part of the county, using his medical skills to help others. Will, 25, had received a promotion at the Southern Railway and had a bright future in business. The three were still unmarried, and if Sarah Priscilla fretted over the lack of grandchildren, she would have to wait a little longer. She and William may have wondered whether Eula had been too young when she started college, since her education kept getting sidetracked, but they admired her persistence. As to their second family, Howard seemed to be thriving in his freshman year at A&M College. Carrie, Lena, Gertrude, and Annie were all enrolled at Crowders Creek (Glenn) School. In another year, Carrie would follow Eula to the Normal, and the youngest three would follow Carrie. The Glenns expected their daughters to earn college degrees and become teachers.

From County to Town

In March 1900, Sarah Priscilla and William took the first step in a move of their own when they bought a double lot in Gastonia for \$700. It was part



Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn and William Davis Glenn, circa 1900. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

of a subdivision started by D. B. Hanna, from whose farm much of Gastonia had been carved. (Today it is known as the York-Chester neighborhood.) His anticipation of the purchase may explain why William had no money for Eula's education six months earlier. The property was 1,356 acres, wider and deeper than other lots on the street and located on the west side of what was then called Old York Street between Third and Fourth streets, the same Yorkville Road that ran past their home in the country. (Later their lots were assigned addresses of 407 and 409 South Chester Street.) William and Sarah Priscilla did not intend to build immediately, since they needed additional funds, but William moved a small house on the property to the back of the lot and rented it out.¹

The planned move into town was surprising for two people who had lived on farms their entire lives, but William was now 67 and Sarah Priscilla was 49. The eighteen-year difference in their ages was becoming more pronounced. Both assumed that William would die first, and he did not want to leave Sarah Priscilla and his youngest daughters with the responsibilities of the farm and maintenance of a thirty-year-old farmhouse. In town, neighbors would be closer, as would Main Street businesses. Yes, the

streets were unpaved, and rutty and muddy after a rain, and there were no sidewalks, but they would come in time. The Glenns envisioned their daughters enjoying the advantages of town life before going to college.

Sarah Priscilla and William were also drawn by Gastonia's modern amenities. Mill Street was now called Franklin Avenue, a more prominent sounding name for the town's largest thoroughfare. A new town hall and fire station on the east side of South Street (across from today's Garland Center) opened in March 1899, built at a cost of \$3,385, lending an air of permanence and stability. In August 1899, citizens of Gastonia had passed the first bond referendum to pay for electric lights (\$15,000) and water and sewer service (\$50,000). In 1900, the first electric lights were turned on, a telephone exchange had sixty-four subscribers, and the town had a police force of three men, plus a fire marshal and volunteer firemen. There was much to recommend the place, and the Glenns looked forward to building their home when they could afford it.²

Gaston County in the Early Twentieth Century

The town of Gastonia now had a population of 4,610, and Gaston County boasted 27,903 residents. Both town and county were gaining reputations as centers of textile manufacturing. By 1900, seventeen textile mills employed over 2,000 workers. In the next three years alone, nine new mills added over 1,800 more employees. The growth was owed to the leadership and vision of a number of civic-minded men whose enthusiasm fed the growing culture of industry, particularly textiles, as an economic driver for the New South. These leaders believed that ordinary citizens should invest in the coming prosperity—capitalism at its best—and that banks and credit were tools to help the community grow. They built impressive homes in town befitting their newfound prosperity.³

A number of men gained prominence in town, Glenn relatives among them. One was Sarah Priscilla's nephew Frost Torrence, who managed the drugstore his father had started in 1886. In 1896, he opened Frost Torrence & Company at the southwest corner of Main and South streets, with the drugstore occupying the main floor and the Gastonia Opera House, a venue for live entertainment, on the second floor. Frost, an entrepreneur at heart, engaged the Redpath Lyceum Bureau to bring in live entertainment in the



In the summers, Frost Torrence, the Glenn siblings' first cousin, brought live entertainment to the second floor of his drugstore to support the Gastonia library. Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia.

summer to support the library. He also opened the first ice and coal business in Gastonia and invested in textile mills.⁴

William's cousin Wash Ragan had served as mayor of Gastonia from 1897 to 1898. He chartered the first textile mill in Gastonia in the new century, the Arlington Cotton Mills, the first combed-yarn manufacturing operation in the South. Ragan envisioned competing with finer cloth manufactured in New England and Great Britain. This became a defining moment for Gastonia. Combed-yarn manufacturing caused a revolution in the cotton industry and helped the South rise again. Other notable textile men included Grier Love, his brothers-in-law Abel and Dan Rhyne, his son, John Franklin Love, and his colleague Robert Ray of McAdenville.⁵

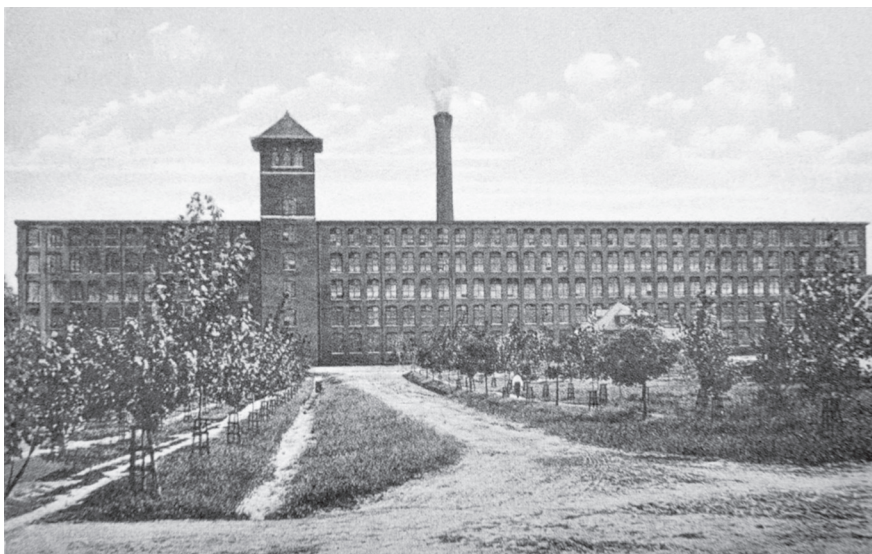
Newcomers contributed mightily to the development of Gastonia. Albert G. Myers Sr., of Charlotte, became a primary figure both in banking and textiles. Benjamin E. Atkins came to Gastonia in 1896 as principal of Oakland High School, a private academy, and later owned the *Gastonia Gazette*, which his family would operate until 1968. Joseph Separk succeeded Atkins at Oakland High, married George Gray's daughter May, and went into the textile business with his father-in-law. Separk served on the first

library board and wrote several invaluable books on the history of Gastonia and Gaston County. The Kindley-Belk store opened in 1901, billing itself “The Cheapest Store on Earth.” It became the John M. Belk Co. and later Matthews-Belk Co., after James Houston Matthews became a business partner. Other men, with the names Armstrong, Babington, Craig, Jenkins, Lineberger, Moore, Rankin, Robinson, and Wilson, made their own positive marks on the town.⁶

For the black population, Jim Crow laws that began after Reconstruction remained in full force. In 1896, the Supreme Court affirmed in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that the concept of “separate but equal” facilities for blacks and whites did not violate the equal protection clause under the Fourteenth Amendment. In 1900, the North Carolina legislature adopted the Grandfather Clause denying black men the right to vote unless their grandfathers had. Literacy tests and poll taxes became a prerequisite to voting, diluting the strength of black voters and effectively disenfranchising most of them. Such laws ensured racial segregation in housing, restaurants, transportation, and education. Whites and blacks lived separate from one another.⁷

After the Southern Railway took over the Air Line Railway, the town renamed streets north of the tracks. Third Street became Page Avenue. Leeper’s Chapel, which had officially become Third Street Presbyterian Church on March 29, 1902, now found itself on Page Avenue when the street was renamed. Black businesses operating on Main Street moved north of the tracks and Walnut and Page avenues became the official black business district, called Union Square or just the Square. By now Happy Hill was developing into the largest middle-class black neighborhood in the county, home to barbershops, shoe-shine shops, and dry goods stores, among other businesses. A small number of professionals also moved in and built homes along Walnut Avenue.⁸

Blacks from rural farms began to move to the city, seeking jobs in the mills, but the growing textile industry was strictly white. Many mill owners believed that black workers were incapable of operating machinery, and white workers refused to work alongside them, which would imply equality. Black men in the mills were employed only in the most menial jobs, such as sweeping floors or cleaning up the yard, or in jobs requiring heavy manual labor, such as unloading bales of cotton. So the men found jobs elsewhere



The Loray Mill was located a mile from the Glenn family's new home in Gastonia, with John Franklin Love and George Gray as the primary promoters. It was the largest mill in the South when it began production in 1902. Courtesy of the Glenn Foundation.

in sawmills, in planing mills, in warehouses, on the railroads, or as day laborers. They became skilled bricklayers, masons, plasterers, carpenters, and painters. Black women found employment as domestic workers: nannies, nurses, laundresses, midwives, and cooks for mill owners and mill workers alike.⁹

John Franklin Love had established the Avon Mills with George Gray in 1896, along with its mill village of about seventy-five houses. After the success of that venture, Love conceived of a giant, multi-story textile mill under one roof, like those in New England. It would provide a market for local cotton, compete with Northern mills, and produce cheap fabric to ship to China. If successful, the mill would put Gastonia on the map as a textile powerhouse.¹⁰

In February 1900, with Frost Torrence, surgeon Dr. James Marshall Sloan, and merchant W. T. Rankin as incorporators, Love, age 33, as the financial man, and Gray, age 48, as the production man, organized the Loray Mill. The five-story building with an eight-story tower, completed in 1902, exceeded 600,000 square feet, allowing more spindles under one roof than anywhere else in the world. The company added housing for black workers,

including dwellings south of the mill on Seventh, Dalton, and Weldon streets, called High Springs, separated from streets where white workers lived. Like other mills, it also started the Loray Mill School for the children of workers. The mill schools battled illiteracy, since many workers and their children, who came from the western counties of the state, were unable to read or write. The sterling reputation of the organizers and the vastness of the building brought national attention to Gastonia as a textile center. Despite Love's financial acumen, however, he was unable to fully subscribe the stock for his "Million Dollar Mill." The Chinese boycott of American goods following the Boxer Rebellion of 1899–1901 crippled the market for textiles, although it would be several years before Loray Mill felt the full impact.¹¹

Lon Makes a Move

In September 1900, Lon left South Carolina for a promising opportunity as adjunct professor of geology at Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee. The Methodist Church had established Vanderbilt ten years after the end of the Civil War, thanks to a \$1 million gift from Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt. Its chancellor was James Hampton Kirkland, 41, described by a member of the student body as "a man with a great soul as well as a great mind." Although another candidate seemed to have the inside track, Lon was better qualified and held impressive credentials: a sterling academic record, teaching experience on the secondary and college levels, administrative experience, and extensive field experience in geology. He would have come highly recommended by Professor Clark at Johns Hopkins. These factors were much in play, certainly, but perhaps more so was the personal dynamic—Lon and Chancellor Kirkland simply hit it off. Both were Carolina boys who had grown up in families that had struggled to make ends meet. Lon projected a quiet confidence. He and Kirkland became not just colleagues but intimate friends and confidants. Lon's admirers in Columbia, South Carolina, were sorry to see him go. "He is an able man, possessed of a clear brain, and would have accomplished much had he remained here," wrote a newspaper. "All wish him success in his new field of labor."¹²

Before he left South Carolina, though, on September 12, 1900, Lon attended to an important item of personal business: his marriage to Nellie

Louise McCullough of Darlington. She was the oldest daughter of David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane “Annie” Smith McCullough. Although the Glenns were Presbyterians and the McCulloughs were Methodists, the families had much in common. Both were of Scotch-Irish descent, both had ten children, and both had lost a son. Lon had gotten to know a number of the McCullough children during his five-year tenure at the Darlington school district.¹³

The McCulloughs were a prominent family, but during an eighteen-month span from 1894 to 1896, they had suffered a series of unspeakable tragedies. When Nellie was 16, their home burned to the ground in an accidental fire. A year later, her father accidentally shot himself in the presence of her mother while cleaning his gun. Doctors could only attempt to stop the bleeding; he died after bidding goodbye to each of his children, who ranged in age from 24 to 4. Three months later, Nellie’s 15-year-old brother, Joseph, died of the measles. Less than two weeks after that, on February 10, 1896, while Nellie herself was very sick with the measles, her mother died of pneumonia, just eight days after Nellie’s 18th birthday.¹⁴

The McCulloughs’ coat of arms reads “Vi et Animo,” meaning strength and courage. These traits must have worn thin in the face of such heartache. Their house was foreclosed, and the youngest children were placed with relatives. As the oldest daughter, Nellie would have assumed considerable responsibility for the household and several of her siblings. Details of her education past high school and any other activities before her marriage are unknown.¹⁵

Lon likely observed Nellie’s dignity, resilience, and strength of character from his vantage as superintendent. Although he left for his three years at Johns Hopkins the fall after Nellie’s mother died, he likely visited friends in Darlington when he could. During the year that he lived and taught



Nellie Louise McCullough of Darlington, South Carolina, married Lon Glenn in 1900. They began their married life in Nashville, Tennessee, where Lon began his distinguished career at Vanderbilt University. Derbes, “David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith: their ancestors and descendants.”

*Robert Rankin Ray:
The Grand Old Man of the Textile Industry*

*M*ena Ray Glenn's father, Robert Rankin Ray (1852–1941), was born in Charlotte and came to Gaston County in 1882 as a bookkeeper for Mountain Island Mill. Two years later, he joined McAden Mills as bookkeeper and office manager, and later became treasurer. As general manager and treasurer after Rufus McAden's death, Ray led McAden Mills to become one of the largest and most profitable textile operations anywhere in the state. Called the "Grand Old Man" as a recognized leader in the textile industry, Ray inspired the formation of a trade association, the Gaston County Textile Manufacturers Association, in 1907, serving as its first president. It was predecessor of the American Yarn Spinners Association.

Ray was active on the boards of several banks and textile mills. In 1917, he was elected to the North Carolina Senate and was instrumental in the passage of the bill that created the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital and located it in Gastonia, later serving as a hospital trustee. He served as trustee of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, called A&M College (now North Carolina State University), in Raleigh. When the School of Textiles at State College in Raleigh (as A&M College was called in the 1920s) was established as a separate department in 1925, Robert Ray served on the founding board of trustees. By now, his expertise in textile manufacturing was known well beyond the bounds of Gaston County. He also served as president of the Cotton Manufacturers Association of North Carolina, today's North Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association.



Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 281–282; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 576, 577; <http://historicalstate.lib.ncsu.edu/timelines/college-of-textiles>; Miller, *Spun from the Wilderness*, 34.

in Columbia, he courted Nellie. At their marriage, Nellie was 22 and Lon was 29. The newlyweds immediately headed to Nashville on the train.¹⁶

Eula Returns to College

In the fall of 1900, Eula was finally able to return to the Normal, having received a county appointment to board in the dormitory. Lon now was funding Eula's education as well as Howard's, and so the news of free room and board for her was a relief to all three. The new semester had barely begun when Eula changed her study from Course I to Course II. The curriculum for the two courses were identical for the first two years, but Course I was the teacher-training course, called the Regular Course, and included mathematics, which Eula apparently wanted to avoid. In Course II, domestic science, Eula took cutting, fitting, and cooking instead of geometry, and dressmaking and household economics instead of plane and spherical trigonometry. When she finished the 1900–01 academic year, she was finally close to finishing school, but a bout of typhoid fever forced her to drop two subjects, putting her behind. Nevertheless, she expected to graduate with the class of 1902.¹⁷

Lucius Settles Down

In 1900, Lucius, still living in the boardinghouse and practicing medicine in McAdenville, had developed a love interest of his own: Mena Ray, the oldest daughter of the six children of Robert Rankin Ray and Mary Downs Ray. Mena, born in Charlotte on March 5, 1881, had grown up in McAdenville. Her father had recently been promoted the general manager of McAden Mills. Mena attended private schools and Presbyterian College in Charlotte (now Queens University), and when she was 17 joined the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, where she had been baptized. After a courtship of unknown length, Mena, 20, and Lucius, 28, were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte on May 8, 1901, and established their home in McAdenville. As all of the Glenns headed into the first decade of the new century, they continued to expand their family as well as their occupational and educational horizons.¹⁸

CHAPTER 12



A New Century

1901–1903

In 1901, Sarah Priscilla and William sold 128 acres of land for \$1,800, but they did not build their new house in Gastonia then. They may have been waiting for Eula and Howard to finish college, or needed still more money. They might also have had to wait for a builder, because homes and commercial buildings were being constructed rapidly. For whatever reason, they continued living on the farm. Their children, meanwhile, were busy with marriage, careers, and studies.¹

Call on Glenn

Lon and Nell, as her husband called her, settled into married life in Nashville and joined Westminster Presbyterian Church. As adjunct professor of geology at Vanderbilt, Lon taught general geology, mineralogy, and economic geology. As there was demand, he also taught invertebrate paleontology, advanced paleontology, optical mineralogy, and petrology. Geology was not a required subject, and so his courses did not have large enrollments. As a result, the chancellor appointed Lon to various committees because he could spare the time. But even more importantly, he trusted Lon's judgment. "Whenever the Chancellor wanted a task done thoroughly," wrote Edwin Mims in his *History of Vanderbilt University*, "he was likely to call on Glenn to make a report or work out a plan." No other member of the faculty served in so many capacities as did Lon Glenn.²

One early and ongoing passion for Lon was maintaining and expanding the museum and geological library that his predecessor had started. He organized the scattered fossils and minerals from various storage areas, obtained valuable specimens, and dusted off the respectable collection of books housed in the basement. Through ingenuity and initiative, Lon increased both collections despite a limited budget, eventually building the library to 12,000 volumes, and nearly as many pamphlets, maps, and charts. It became “undoubtedly the largest and best geological library in the South,” wrote Mims.³

In 1903, Lon was promoted to full professor and chairman of the geology department. He loved teaching and interacting with his students and was kind, patient, and courteous. The following year, the museum received a major bequest of Indian artifacts, archaeological objects from Tennessee and the southeastern United States, invertebrate fossils, and the remains of vertebrates, extinct species as well as extant forms. Lon took immense professional satisfaction in the gift, as he believed it encouraged student learning and led to further scientific discoveries. He also visited the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and secured “a magnificent collection of minerals” for the museum that could be used in economic geology courses. Paleontologists from other institutions borrowed specimens from the university’s collections from time to time. Throughout his career, Lon would lament the shortage of exhibit and storage space.⁴

Of his total forty-nine published papers, thirty-five were in print by 1918. Lon published three or four papers a year in scientific journals, bulletins, and reports. Between 1902 and 1905 alone, he had eleven articles in publications that included the *American Geologist*, the *American Journal of Science*, and the *Vanderbilt University Quarterly*, and the publications of the *United States Geological Survey* and the *Geological Society of America*. He also became interested in the water resources of Tennessee, expanded his knowledge about erosive processes and stream dynamics, and mapped the geology of several Tennessee counties.⁵

He also still engaged in genealogical work. In July 1901, he had begun a correspondence of over twenty-five years with H. W. Craven, an attorney in Seattle, Washington, who shared information about the Wilson heritage. Lon also exchanged letters with state librarian Thomas L. Montgomery, of the Pennsylvania State Library, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and with

a researcher in Wales. Relatives mailed him their family histories, deeds, wills, and letters, which he preserved with care. He researched the Baird side of the family and transcribed old letters. His sustained interest in his family's history and his tremendous capacity for his professional responsibilities can only be described as remarkable.⁶

Sisters at School

In the fall of 1901, Carrie followed Eula's footsteps to the Normal. Carrie received free tuition and an appointment for free room and board. "It affords me much pleasure to say that her conduct was an exponent of a high moral christian [sic] character and her progress was a no. 1," wrote her last teacher in Gastonia, N. F. Furr. "She is a fine English scholar and I heartily commend her to your worthy institution."⁷

That same fall, Eula entered her senior year. She was two subjects behind owing to her bout with typhoid fever, but she did not see making up the courses as an impediment to graduation. Before she returned to school, Lon interceded on her behalf, asking McIver if Eula could catch up by taking the two additional classes, plus her regular course. If so, she would be able to graduate on time, "provided, of course, that you would not deem the physical strain to be too great to be borne without injury to her health." Graduation requirements had been raised since Eula first enrolled, but Lon hoped she would not be held to a higher standard. At both Vanderbilt University and at South Carolina College, he noted, exceptions were made for students who fell behind for a good cause. He acknowledged, however, that it would be better for Eula to take another year and finish in 1903, using the last year to take courses of special interest to her. "The only reason I make the above request is the financial one," Lon concluded. "I am sending a brother to the A&M College in Raleigh and this year have started another sister (Carrie) to your institution and before the two now with you can finish other younger sisters will be ready to enter. The expense is now and will for some years be quite heavy even when made a minimum."⁸

McIver declined the request. "It will be impossible for her to complete her course here this year," he wrote Lon, "and I think it would not be possible even according to the program under which she entered. At any rate,

I know that it will be better for her to be here a year longer, even if she be a little more in debt for the additional expense.” He further explained that “it is our purpose soon to grant a degree which will be equal in dignity and worth to the bachelor’s degree granted at the University.”⁹

Eula was distraught. She faced a ponderous choice. She could graduate from the two-year program in 1902 and earn a certificate, the equivalent of an associate of arts degree, with a teaching license that she would need to renew every five years by examination, or she could stay an extra year, graduate from the four-year program in 1903, and receive a diploma and a lifetime license to teach in North Carolina. The lifetime teaching license was not offered by any other teaching institution in the state. With either option, she would become a teacher, but graduating with a diploma meant two more years of expense and two more years of delay.¹⁰

Eula decided on the two years, the diploma, and the lifetime license. She attended the Normal from 1901 to 1903 and received the advantageous county appointment, likely for both years, and borrowed money to finish school. If there were any consolation for having to extend college further, it was that Eula and Carrie were together for Eula’s last two years. Eula spent her senior year making up the two courses required for graduation, taking enrichment courses, and doing the required practice teaching in the Practice and Observation School.¹¹

On graduation day, May 27, 1903, Eula Blanche Glenn was two months shy of her 24th birthday. Most of her classmates had arrived in 1899, the year of the typhoid epidemic. That class had started with 100 women, but diminished to thirty at graduation. Seven other special students graduated in the class of 1903 with the new bachelor’s degrees. Except for the special students, Eula was probably the oldest member of her class.¹²

Commencement Week was a four-day affair that included the graduation sermon, performances by the Adelphean and Cornelian literary societies, the graduation address, class day exercises, and the graduates’ readings of selected essays. Eula’s essay was entitled “The Rural Renaissance.” She proudly participated in the commencement and received a diploma in pedagogy and her North Carolina lifetime teaching license. Her diploma was a testament to her single-minded determination to become a teacher, and she had inspired McIver and others at the college who were aware of

her eight-year journey. Eula accepted a position with the Statesville, North Carolina, graded schools and moved there in the fall of 1903 to begin her career. Teaching was her calling.¹³

A New Generation

On September 1, 1901, Lon and Nell gave Sarah Priscilla and William their first grandson, naming him William David for the boy's two grandfathers. Now, despite additional financial responsibilities, Lon was committed to making a reality his parents' dream that all of their children would receive a college education, doing it at personal sacrifice to his own young family. By design or by chance, he and Nell would not have another child for seven years, perhaps doing so because of the financial burden of helping at least four of his siblings attend college. As he sacrificed, Nell did also. She was a supportive, strong, and capable helpmate.¹⁴

There is no record of Lucius or Will funding their siblings' educations, even though both brothers had careers and were earning money. Lucius was married to a woman from a well-to-do family, and Will was a single man. In the case of Lucius, however, his struggles to finance his own education, and his father's failure to assist him, likely made him unsympathetic to the hardships that his younger brother and sisters faced. The burden seems to have been placed squarely on Lon, as the oldest son and his father's surrogate.

In 1903, 28-year-old Will returned to Gastonia after an absence of six years, when he had worked for the Southern Railway in Charlotte and At-

lanta. The move pleased his family. Wash Ragan had offered him a start in the textile industry as bookkeeper and general office manager of the



William Wilson "Will" Glenn, circa 1903, when he returned to Gastonia after working six years for the Southern Railway. Courtesy of the William W. Glenn family collection.



Will Glenn began his career at the Arlington Cotton Mills, the first Gaston County mill chartered in the twentieth century. Founded by Will's first cousin, George Washington Ragan, it introduced combed cotton production to the South. Courtesy of Robert Allison Ragan.

Arlington Cotton Mills. Wash was a worthy mentor, and Will an earnest pupil. Will, who joined the First Presbyterian Church soon after his move, staked his future success on the town.¹⁵

Education and Prohibition in Gastonia

In 1901, Gastonia established a Board of School Commissioners and the town's first public graded-school system, a great step forward from the one-room schoolhouse. Several subscription schools had operated within the town limits for a number of years, including Oakland High School, established, owned, and operated by Main Street Methodist Church. To jumpstart the new system, the Board of School Commissioners paid the church \$4,000 for the 250' by 500' lot, building, and furnishings and changed the name to Gastonia Graded School, but it was commonly referred to as Central School. Joseph S. Wray served as the school superintendent. In the fall of 1901, the citizens of Gastonia approved an annual school tax. The school was free to white children living in Gastonia, but children outside the town limits had to pay tuition ranging from one dollar to \$2.50 a month. Sarah Priscilla and William were glad to know that once they moved to town, their

younger daughters could walk to school, attend graded classrooms, receive a free education, and eventually experience a longer school term than the county schools.¹⁶

When the Gastonia Board of School Commissioners purchased Central Graded School, they also authorized construction of a four-room brick school building for black students in Happy Hill. Lacking a better name, it was called Gastonia Colored Graded School and served children in grades 1–6.¹⁷

Although their attentions were turning more toward Gastonia, the Glenns remained faithful to Olney Presbyterian Church, where William continued to serve as an elder. He and Grier Love, of First Presbyterian Church, and others continued to oppose licensed and unlicensed distilleries and saloons. As a mill owner, it was Love's dream to replace distilleries and saloons with cotton mills.¹⁸

In 1897, in its most concerted action to fight distillers, the Olney church session informed Samuel M. Wilson, their representative in the North Carolina House, of the "great and growing evil" resulting from the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors and urged him to support the passage of legislation "to protect our school houses and churches." The session also assigned Rev. George A. Sparrow, pastor of Olney and Union churches, to secure legal counsel in Raleigh to represent the church in the North Carolina Supreme Court in the case of J. L. Groves, who was accused of "selling liquor on church territory" [*sic*].¹⁹

In 1902, it became illegal to manufacture or sell distilled liquor in Gaston County. Unincorporated areas of the county remained dry for over 100 years. In 1903, a new statewide law prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquors, although it did not ban manufacture of cider or wine from grapes or sale of whiskey by druggists for medicinal purposes. Textile owners saw a reduction in crime and an "improvement in the morals of the people of the factory settlements," according to the *Story of Gaston County*, noting that a steady drinker had become a steady worker.²⁰

In 1908, a statewide referendum prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor, but the law did not address importation into the state and county. It was not until 1915 that a local law prohibited the importation of liquor. By this time, Gastonia and Gaston County had sixty-five textile mills, more than any other county in the South. Although neither William Glenn nor

Grier Love lived to see it, Love's dream of a county with more textile mills than distilleries finally came true.

Howard the Engineer

On May 28, 1903, the day after Eula's graduation, John Howard Glenn received a BE, a bachelor's of mechanical engineering, from A&M College. He was one of only three classmates to graduate with highest honors. He had mastered a demanding curriculum that included algebra, geometry, analytical geometry, trigonometry, calculus, physics, organic chemistry, industrial chemistry, English, and history, in addition to the training he needed to become a mechanical engineer. Those classes included mechanical drawing and design, mechanical technology, mechanical processes, steam engine mechanics, mechanical engineering, boiler and engine design, principles of mechanism, and hydraulics.²¹

Grateful to his brother Lon for his financial support and encouragement, Howard had packed a lot into his student experience. In his sophomore year, President Winston appointed him fourth corporal of Company C; as a junior, to fourth sergeant of Company B; and as a senior, to third lieutenant, but he resigned during his senior year. He made the honor roll for scholarship and the honor roll for punctuality, the latter a notable distinction. Howard, a respected, conscientious, studious, serious, but amiable young man, was a quiet leader. He was one of twelve classmates to serve on the editorial board of the *Agromeck* yearbook in its inaugural year. He also was secretary of the Leazar Literary Society. He served as secretary of his senior class alongside class president Oliver Max Gardner, future governor of North Carolina. Howard was treasurer of the YMCA and chairman of the Devotional Committee.²²

Howard was also a good sport. The *Agromeck* reported in a light-hearted feature that Howard was better known as "J.H.," that his favorite expression was "Shucks," and his favorite drink—"Haven't Time." His classmates also elected him "the Hardest [Working] Student" and called him the author of "How to Make 100 on Exams."²³

Perhaps Howard penned the last sentence of "The Senior History" for the mechanical engineering department in the *Agromeck*: "God grant that each one of these thirty-nine shall so live and so act as he will wish he had



John Howard Glenn's graduation picture from North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Raleigh, in 1903, where he graduated with high honors. Special Collections Research Center, NC State University Libraries.

done when he comes to render in his account at the great and final day of judgment.” It was so similar to the sentiments that his father had expressed in his Civil War diary that one wonders how often Howard and his siblings may have heard it repeated while growing up at Crowders Creek.²⁴

After graduation, Howard became an assistant instructor of freehand and mechanical drawing at his alma mater, joining his classmate Max Gardner, an instructor of inorganic chemistry. Howard lived and worked in Raleigh during the 1903–04 academic year.²⁵

It is pleasing to contemplate the possibility that family members attended both Eula and Howard's graduation ceremonies, which represented such milestones in the Glenns' quest for college degrees. Nonetheless, the four children still at home—Carrie, Lena, Gertrude, and Annie—remained to be educated.²⁶

CHAPTER 13



Carrie's Woes

1903–1905

In 1903, Sarah Priscilla and William finally moved into their new home in Gastonia. It was a white, farmhouse-style building, set farther back on the lot than the other houses on the street. Built on pillars, with a porch across the front and partway down the north side, also on pillars, it had a driveway for their wagon along the side porch. The first floor had a north parlor in front, with the kitchen behind, and a south parlor in the front, with the dining room behind. Bedrooms occupied the second floor. The home had electricity and a pump out back for water. Fireplaces heated the first floor only. The Glenns planted a large vegetable garden in the backyard along with fruit and nut trees, but left the south lot vacant. Neighborhood children played happily there for years. The family spent Christmas in their new home with as many of their children as could be there. It must have felt bittersweet to leave their earlier home, built when their marriage was new, and “standing as it does on a beautiful eminence near the railway station” along Yorkville Road, as the *Gastonia Gazette* described it. But the Glenns were starting a new life in Gastonia.¹

The year the family took up residence, the county's only hard-surface road just ran from Dallas to Gastonia. Nonetheless, B. M. Holland bought a one-cylinder steam Oldsmobile, the first auto in town, and Robert B. Babington, owner of the telephone exchange, caused quite a stir when he debuted his steam-driven Locomobile. Gaston Loan & Trust Company, Citizens National Bank, and Gastonia Building & Loan Association, all organized

between 1903 and 1905, joined First National Bank to provide financial help to business owners and families. There were more drugstores and insurance companies, and cotton merchants attended to growing business.²

The YMCA, already popular on college campuses, had organized in Gastonia in 1890 following a large revival meeting. In 1902, Dr. Daniel Edward McConnell, whose dental office was located in the same building as the YMCA, agreed to house its lending library. Two years later, the Gastonia Library Association organized, with John Franklin Love serving as secretary and treasurer. The YMCA moved the books from McConnell's office to their larger space, and Charlotte "Lottie" Blake came aboard as the "energetic and efficient" librarian.³

Useful Women in the World

During her freshman and sophomore years at the Normal, Carrie received free tuition and board, although not always a Gaston County appointment. In her junior year, a fire damaged Brick Dormitory. The 350 students all escaped, but at least a third of them lost all their clothing. The laundry, kitchen, and dining hall were destroyed, so local hotel restaurants sent food to campus. McIver assembled the student body in the auditorium, led them in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," and gave an inspiring talk about how material possessions could be replaced, but their lives could not. School was closed for three weeks. Despite the disruption, Carrie completed her year.⁴

In June 1904, as Carrie applied for her senior year from her new Gastonia address, Lena, almost 18, was ready to apply to the Normal. Although intelligent, Lena was quiet, introverted, and lacked confidence. The two Glenns and seven other young women from Gaston County applied to the Normal for the fall, with Carrie holding one of the two county appointments. Five of the young women, Lena included, stood for the competitive examination to determine the second slot, and Lena won. She was elated, knowing that if her deportment and academic progress allowed, she would receive free tuition, room, and board until graduation. She and Carrie were unable to room together in the dormitory, and so they lived off campus with a teacher and six other girls. McIver promised them dorm rooms after Christmas. Their housemates were very nice, Lena reported in a letter to

Lucius, but unfortunately “did not come to college to study.” Lena was elected to join the Adelphean Literary Society, to which Carrie probably also belonged.⁵

Because exams fell after Christmas break, the sisters decided to stay at school and study, although perhaps they returned to Gastonia for Christmas Day in their new home. Lena found the subject of physics difficult and wanted to give it extra attention. Carrie, whose eyes had always been weak, was conscientious with her studies but was troubled by eyes tired from overuse. She may have received her first pair of glasses at college.⁶

In 1905, during the spring semester, the sisters were back together in the dormitory. As a senior, Carrie expected to do the required practice teaching, but she was stunned to learn that she did not have enough credits to graduate in May. Students were required to take four years of Latin, French, or German. Carrie had studied Latin but had gotten behind. She was totally intimidated by the subject, but there was no substitute for completing the required course. Her instructor, Virginia Boddie, demanded thoroughness. Carrie now found her course load too heavy and determined to drop several subjects, which meant she would have to extend her education to a fifth year. She let her father know.⁷

William, now 72, had already been down this path with Eula. “I do not know why it is that she is admitted to the 1st 2nd & 3rd year classes and cant go through 4th year,” he wrote in an agitated state to McIver. “It is all right to say that it is better to go 5 yrs if I could pay for it, but my money is limited; and if they [sic] must go 5 years then that shuts me out and I will have to take what I am able to get not what you say is best. If common & poor men cant send to your school they ought to be excused from paying or helping to pay the great sums of money it is getting from the people of NC great numbers of them will never see it. The rich will get the benefit.”⁸

With McIver absent, Laura Coit, his secretary and general assistant, replied to William in encouraging fashion. “I think that Miss Glenn will have no trouble in passing off the examination within a few weeks. There is no reason why your daughter should give up the idea of graduating this year, and I hope that she will soon recover from her discouragement.”⁹

Upon his return to campus, McIver followed up with William in a conciliatory tone. “She is a young woman whom we all like and is a satisfactory student, but her grades have not been high,” he wrote. “She is not so

Laura Coit: Efficient College Administrator

Eighty-two pieces of correspondence with all five Glenn sisters, plus other Glenn family members, about their studies at the Normal are preserved thanks to a woman named Laura Hill Coit (1875–1944). A member of the Normal’s Class of 1896, she had taught at the college following her graduation. In 1901, at age 26, she became secretary and general assistant to President Charles McIver, and held this position until her retirement in 1937. Among her duties were the administration of loans and scholarships. She had a phenomenal memory for names and got to know the students and their families personally. McIver’s early correspondence was handwritten, but typewritten letters became the norm after Coit began her work. In 1904, Julius Foust, who had headed the department of pedagogy and the Practice and Observation School, became dean. During McIver’s absences from campus, Coit handled operational and administrative details, while Foust handled academic matters.



Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 13, 25, 26; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 43; The letters are housed in the McIver Records, Hodges Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. See Charles McIver to Mr. L. C. Glenn, October 5, 1901.

well equipped mentally as Miss Eula, and we cannot expect her to do the same amount of work with the same effort and in the same time.” He also addressed William’s comments about the Normal’s policies benefiting the rich. “The thing that makes this college of value both to the rich and to the poor, and above all to the State at large, is that it does not vary its standard of scholarship and requirements to suit individual cases. Your daughter deserves no reproof for her failure nor does this college deserve any reproof for her failure. Let us be patient with one another, and I do not doubt that your daughter will become a useful woman in the world.”¹⁰

Carrie, embarrassed and deeply disappointed, finished the semester but was unable to graduate with the class of 1905. She contemplated how she

would complete and pay for another year. This time, Will interceded on her behalf. He asked McIver if, while she was enrolled, Carrie could work in the Practice and Observation School to pay part of her expenses. The answer was no, for the school had changed its policy and hired only full-time assistants. Without an income, attending the entire year was out of the question.¹¹

Carrie decided to return only for the second semester and to earn a teaching certificate, not a diploma, knowing that she would have to renew her certificate every five years. She lost her county appointment, but McIver assured her that a dormitory room should be available when she returned. "I regret that we cannot have you with us the entire year," he wrote, "and that you cannot make up enough work to graduate in the degree course." Carrie's decision meant that Lena, a sophomore, was on her own for the first time.¹²

During the fall of 1905, Carrie worked as a nanny or teacher for a family in Worth, North Carolina, along the South Fork River in Gaston County. She returned for the 1906 spring semester, received free tuition, and boarded in the dormitory. In that same semester, Lena, now 20, came down with the measles, an abscessed tooth, and a sore throat. While she lost more than two weeks of school, she recovered and caught up on her assignments.¹³

Eula, meanwhile, likely lived in a boardinghouse in Statesville, where she had concluded her third year of teaching. She managed her money carefully, for she was repaying student loans to the Normal. She boosted her skills and self-confidence as she both taught and learned from her pupils.¹⁴

Useful Men in the World

In Gastonia, Will became involved with civic life. He served as the founding secretary-treasurer of the Gastonia Commercial Club, organized in 1905 for the industrial, commercial, and social purposes of its male members. The first organization of its kind in the county, it was a predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce. It established a reading room, reception hall, and game room on the second floor of the First National Bank Building.¹⁵

In McAdenville, Lucius saw his practice prosper, but his days were varied. One day he was summoned to the home of a farmer greatly distressed



In 1905, Mena Ray and Lucius Glenn built this impressive 3,352 square foot home across the street from his parents' home. It still stands at 402 South Chester Street, Gastonia. Courtesy of Gaston County Historic Properties Commission.

with appendicitis. Lucius immediately operated on the patient on his kitchen table. Looking around for a container to put the diseased appendix in, he found only an open window, and so tossed the appendix out the window. He watched a chicken scamper up and devour it almost before it hit the ground. He never told his patient what happened to his appendix.¹⁶

In 1905, while on a professional visit to Gastonia, Lucius had a chance conversation with Rev. Edwin L. Bain, pastor of the Main Street Methodist Church. Bain saw the need for a hospital in Gastonia, for the closest general hospital was the twenty-bed Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. Lucius knew he could not act on Bain's suggestion immediately because he was relocating his practice to Gastonia, but he tucked the idea away.¹⁷

Lucius and Mena purchased a lot of almost one-half acre across the street from his parents' new home, and built a handsome frame house of 3,352 square feet on Old York Street (soon to be 402 South Chester Street). It was two and a half stories tall and three bays wide, and the main level was surrounded by a one-story columned porch that curved around the northwest corner. The main section had a high, hip slate roof with a gable-roofed dormer in the center flanked by a pair of gables, each with a Palladian window. The home's interior had rich architectural detail typical of the era. It was an impressive home and a source of great pride to an up-and-coming doctor and his wife. He reestablished his office in the YMCA building. Lucius and the rest of the family saw great potential in Gastonia, where each year brought new advancements.¹⁸



Heartbreak

1906

In March 1905, Howard accepted a position as a mechanical engineer with Howard Iron Works, in Warren, Pennsylvania. After one year of teaching at A&M College, he was excited to begin his career in earnest. On the day he intended to leave, he did not feel well and postponed his departure. The next day, he came down with a severe attack of typhoid fever. As he slowly recovered, he developed pleurisy and then tuberculosis. Neither Uncle Doctor Junius, his brother Lucius, nor William's cousin, Dr. Henry Franklin Glenn, could help.¹

For the rest of 1905, Howard lived at home with his parents and younger sisters Gertrude and Annie. Sarah Priscilla tried to nurse him back to health, but he continued to lose strength. On February 3, 1906, Howard, by now seriously ill, left by train for California with Will by his side, hoping the climate out West would help his respiratory condition. Howard spent his 24th birthday on the trip, which Lucius probably arranged. He found no relief in California, and so the two brothers traveled to the drier climate of Tucson, Arizona, but the skills of the finest specialists availed nothing. Howard, now critically ill, and Will returned to Gastonia. When they arrived on the night of March 1, Sarah Priscilla and William were waiting with Gertrude and Annie, and perhaps also with Junius, Lucius, and Mena. Knowing the end was near, they summoned Lon from Nashville, Eula from Statesville, and Carrie and Lena from Greensboro. On March 2, 1906, just a few minutes before Carrie and Lena's arrival, Howard died.²

The Gastonia community grieved along with the Glenns. No one was more heartbroken than his parents, especially Sarah Priscilla. She loved Howard's gentle spirit and deep faith amid his suffering. She had a special place in her heart for her youngest son, and the failure of her ministrations numbed her. Will felt a profound sadness about the futile journey to the West and never got over the loss of his younger brother.³

Howard's funeral took place on March 3, in the impressive sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church, now on Marietta Street. Both Rev. Robert C. Anderson of First Presbyterian and Rev. Sparrow of Olney officiated. As Sparrow preached the funeral sermon, he also grieved on behalf of Sarah Priscilla, his parishioner and friend. Noting that Howard had spent half of his days as a loyal member of Olney, he said how tragic it was that a young man of such high character, fine mental powers, and tremendous promise should be taken so young. Sallie Love (wife of John Franklin Love) and Mrs. S. B. Barnwell sang "Sweet Be Thy Rest" "tenderly and touchingly," noted the *Gastonia Gazette*. Howard was buried in Town Cemetery, now called Oakwood Cemetery, two blocks north of the family home. The *Gastonia Gazette* reported that the Glenns planned to move the body of his older brother, Ernest, from Olney to the new Glenn plot.⁴

Carrie's Commencement

On May 29, 1906, nearly three months after Howard's death, Carrie graduated from the Normal. Due to the trying circumstances at home, she had received an extension to take the makeup exam in

Latin, which she passed with a middling score. After completing her coursework, her practice teaching, and her senior essay, "A New Era in Agriculture," it was graduation week. She and her twenty-two classmates in the class of 1906, all in white dresses, listened to the



Carrie Eugenia Glenn's graduation picture from the Normal in 1906. She received a teaching certificate. Courtesy of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation.



Central Graded School, called Central School, where Carrie began her teaching career in 1906 and where Eula joined her in 1907. This building burned in 1914. Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia.

Honorable O. T. Corson, publisher of the *Ohio Education Monthly*, deliver the commencement address. North Carolina Governor Robert B. Glenn (no known relation) handed out copies of the North Carolina constitution, and McIver presented diplomas and Bibles. Carrie's graduation was bittersweet, because she did not receive a permanent teaching license. But at long last, she could earn a living.⁵

Carrie was elated to land a job at Central School, in Gastonia. McIver, ever supportive, had written to the superintendent on her behalf. Now 22, she moved back home, and perhaps Eula joined the family for the summer, as they grieved together for Howard. In the fall, Carrie began her career as a first-grade teacher.⁶

On September 17, 1906, the Glenn sisters lost a supportive mentor, and North Carolina an educational reformer, when Charles McIver died unexpectedly of a stroke. He had been traveling from Raleigh to Durham on the presidential campaign train of William Jennings Bryant, an acquaintance of long standing. McIver was only 46 years old and left a wife and four young children. His funeral was reportedly the largest in Greensboro history up to that time. During his fourteen years leading the Normal, McIver had set its future direction. The perfect founding president, he championed

women's education and set a high standard for his successors. In tribute, two bronze statues of McIver were completed in 1912. The original stands on the State Capitol grounds, in Raleigh.⁷

Will Ties the Knot

About the time of McIver's death, Gertrude, now 17, suffered with pneumonia. Lucius prescribed medicine that his exhausted mother administered every four hours around the clock, while also managing the household without help. Fortunately, Gertrude recovered and began the fall semester at Central School.⁸

At the Normal, Lena started her junior year, but with Carrie graduated, she lacked a roommate in the dormitory. "She is in the same fix about a roommate that she was last year," Sarah Priscilla wrote to Eula. "She is unfortunate . . . write to Lena, and encourage her all you can." Mother also wrote an encouraging letter to daughter. "[D]on't be discouraged hold up your head and go right along . . . ask some one to go to church or any where with you, don't feel inferior to anyone." Yet in whatever ways Lena may have felt she fell short, she was the first sister on track to graduate in the usual four years.⁹

Across Chester Street, Lucius's health had been poor for some time. He was exhausted from relocating his medical practice to Gastonia, keeping up with demands for his medical skills, and building his new home. His mother felt he was completely worn out and broken down. Lucius's visit to a Charlotte doctor confirmed her motherly instincts. The doctor advised him to spend two or three weeks in the mountains and do nothing but rest. Mena, who was expecting their first child, remained in Gastonia. Her mother came from McAdenville to stay with her.¹⁰

Against this backdrop, Will, 31, announced that he and Mary "Mayme" Love, almost 31, daughter of Susan and Grier Love, would wed on October 10. He was marrying into one of the most prominent and well-to-do families in Gastonia. Mayme, who had lived in Gastonia since she was 8, had joined First Presbyterian Church at the age of 15. She attended Due West Female Academy, in Due West, South Carolina, returning to Gastonia after four years and living at home with her parents, as did most

unmarried women in that era. The bride and groom likely became reacquainted through church and textile circles after Will moved back to town. The fathers of both bride and groom, of course, shared a long-standing opposition to illicit whiskey.¹¹

The thought of the wedding gave Sarah Priscilla the jitters, coming as it did amid Gertrude and Lucius's health troubles. She was happy that Will had found his mate, but while the Glenns were a prominent family, they were not social like the Loves, and lacked their financial resources as well. In short, Sarah Priscilla was intimidated. Oddly, she was not sure initially whether the family was even invited to the wedding until Mena, who served as the go-between for Mayme and Sarah Priscilla, assured her mother-in-law that the family was, of course, invited. (Mena herself could not attend, as she was expecting her first child.) The wedding was to be a quiet affair, Mena assured Sarah Priscilla, with only the immediate families in attendance. She suggested that as the mother of the groom, Sarah Priscilla should call on the bride-to-be, and she no doubt did. Of the most concern to Sarah Priscilla was whether she and her girls had the proper clothes for the wedding, since they made their own. "We haven't got anything new but could not make it now if we had it," she wrote Eula. Her other worry? "I guess we will have to select presents." Carrie attended one pre-wedding festivity, a linen shower for her brother's fiancée hosted by the young ladies of the U.C. Club, a social club that Mayme had founded five years earlier.¹²

On October 10, 1906, a Wednesday evening, Will and Mayme married at the Loves' fine home on Oakland Street, across from the Methodist church. Mayme had insisted that they forego a rehearsal, which explained why the couple broke tradition by walking down the aisle on the wrong side of each other. Rev. Anderson, of First Presbyterian Church, who performed the ceremony, reversed their positions. The ceremony joined "two of our most prominent and deservedly popular young people," gushed the *Gastonia Gazette*. Mayme possessed "all the gracious qualities of head and heart which have won and endeared her to scores of lasting friendships." As for Will, "the groom is a young man of sterling integrity and highest character[,] a leader in church and business circles, and bears with him the confidence and esteem of all who know him." While guests tendered

congratulations and enjoyed “cake and ices,” the newlyweds, with Mayme stylishly dressed “in a beautiful tailored suit of Alice blue” with matching hat and gloves, caught the eight o’clock train to Niagara Falls.¹³

Only Remembered

For the rest of the week, Sarah Priscilla and William likely basked in memories of the happy event. It distracted their low spirits from Howard’s death, and they anticipated the birth of Lucius and Mena’s child the following month. On Saturday night, Sarah Priscilla developed a chill, nothing serious. But on Monday evening, her condition worsened. She had a malarial fever, followed by an acute attack of gastritis. She suffered through the night, and by Tuesday morning, October 16, her very life was ebbing away. Early that afternoon, Sarah Priscilla died. Lucius, Carrie, Gertrude, and Annie were by her side, but not William, according to the *Gastonia Gazette*. Eula, Lena, and Lon arrived too late to say goodbye. She died on William’s 73rd birthday.¹⁴

The family had unsuccessfully tried to contact the honeymooners, assuming they were in Toronto on Monday night. Mayme, sitting in the lobby of their Niagara Falls hotel on Tuesday, thought she heard someone page “Glenn,” but she paid no attention, thinking no one knew their itinerary. After she and Will learned the jolting news, they telegraphed that they would arrive on Wednesday in time for the 3:00 p.m. burial service. They did not, however, get back until Friday. Sarah Priscilla was buried in Oakwood Cemetery likely on Wednesday, a week to the day from Will and Mayme’s wedding.¹⁵

Her death caught everyone by utter surprise. Certainly no one, especially William, expected her to precede him in death. Sarah Priscilla had succumbed not only to the fever and gastritis but also to a broken heart from the loss of Howard. That grief was now borne by her husband and surviving children. William was “sorely bereaved,” wrote the *Gastonia Gazette*, over his wife’s death at age 55, a month shy of thirty-six years of marriage.¹⁶

After Will and Mayme returned, Sarah Priscilla’s funeral took place on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, rather than at Olney, perhaps because of the likelihood of a large attendance. The service opened with Mayme’s sister-in-law, Sallie Love, singing “Only Remembered for What

We Have Done.” The last stanza and refrain were an appropriate tribute to Sarah Priscilla:

Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have sown;
These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered for what we have done;
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered for what we have done.¹⁷

Revs. Anderson and Sparrow, who had conducted Howard’s service in March, now conducted Sarah Priscilla’s. Sparrow, grief-stricken himself, paid “a beautiful and very touching tribute to the memory of his departed friend whose Christian life and devotion to church had been such an inspiration to him through his many years as her pastor at Olney,” reported the *Gastonia Gazette*.¹⁸

“In her were combined the most choice graces of Christian womanhood,” continued the newspaper, “a true and faithful woman in every sphere in which God in his providence placed her. Her large and excellent family is a monument to her fidelity in the home. . . . These children are occupying positions of honor and influence and promise in the days to come to be of more than ordinary prominence. . . . She was the best of church goers, faithful under all circumstances, loyal to her pastor and consecrated to the Lord’s work. . . . [S]he leaves a rich inheritance.”¹⁹

Another tribute, perhaps written by her children and titled, “Some Facts Concerning the Life and Death of a Noble Mother,” echoed the admiring sentiments—a “purer sweeter, nobler spirit never lived and moved”—while adding a few more. “She was self-sacrificing to a marked degree,” it went, “and on more than one occasion when she was entreated to leave her home for places of rest and enjoyment found it her greatest pleasure and fun in staying at home by the duties of her boys and girls.” The areas of her life had been “her habitation, home, or the family, and the church, and in their fields of numberless opportunities she found a full use of her time and labor.”²⁰

Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn did not have an easy life, as the mother of ten children and the wife of a much older man. She likely had little independence throughout her married life, but her steadfast faith sustained her through hardships, including the deaths of two sons. William may have been the driving force behind the education of his children, but Sarah Priscilla, through nurture and love, instilled in them the character that measured up to any of their peers.

A month later, on November 15, 1906, Lucius and Mena welcomed a boy, named Robert Ray after Mena's father. He completed the family's circle of life—birth, marriage, death. The baby brought joy to his grandfather, aunts, and uncles while the Glenns continued to mourn the double loss of Howard, beloved son and brother, and Sarah Priscilla, revered wife and mother.²¹



Changing Times

1906–1911

Following Sarah Priscilla's death, her surviving sons, all in their 30s, returned to their lives: Lon to Vanderbilt University, Lucius to his medical practice, and Will to Arlington Cotton Mills. Eula, 27, wanted to move back home but was locked into a teaching contract in Statesville until the end of the school year. She likely returned to Gastonia on weekends to check in with the family and spend time with her father. Carrie, 22, taught first grade at Central School while also doing her best to manage the household, take care of her father, and serve as surrogate mother to 17-year-old Gertrude and 14-year-old Annie, who both attended Central School. Lena, 20, returned to Greensboro to complete her junior year at the Normal. At 407 South Chester Street, sister-in-law Mena brought baby Robert to visit, and Lucius dropped by periodically to check on his father. The grieving Glenns continued to pursue their careers and educations, while the community continued its growth.

As businessmen were growing and improving Gastonia, their wives, sisters, and daughters, now free from the incessant demands of farm life, organized the Gastonia Women's Betterment Association, later called the Gastonia Woman's Club. It was open to all women willing to work for the advancement of Gastonia, and one of those women was Carrie Glenn, who was elected the first treasurer. At the club's inaugural meeting in January 1907, Lula Martin McIver, McIver's widow of barely four months, was the guest speaker.¹

January of 1907 also saw the unexpected death on the 23rd of the prominent businessman Grier Love at age 66, father of Mayme Glenn and John Franklin Love. Love's death was a great loss to his family and the Gastonia community. On the day of his service and burial in Oakwood Cemetery, out of respect for his memory, businesses closed from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Love was a modest and self-effacing man whose word was his bond. He never sought honors or popularity but cared only for what was right and best in promoting his beloved town. After his death, his widow, Mayme's mother Susan Rhyne Love, moved to Lincolnton to live with her son, Edgar.²

On May 11, 1907, the Glenns and Gaston County suffered another loss when William Junius Torrence died at the age of 68. "Uncle Doctor" had been a fixture in the Glenn family for as long as the children could remember. They had to have found it unsettling to realize that he was gone, and with him, an important link with their mother. Junius left an indelible mark on Gaston County, having practiced medicine there for forty-three years.³

Later that month, Eula moved back to Gastonia when her teaching contract expired in Statesville, and became the de facto head of the household at 407 South Chester Street. She secured a position in the Gastonia school system with Carrie, teaching seventh grade. With her growing reputation for excellence, in August 1908, the Normal's new president, Julius I. Foust, recommended her for a job elsewhere, but she declined because the salary was less than she was making. It is doubtful she would have left Gastonia anyway, because of duty to family.⁴

A Hospital for Gastonia

Lucius, now settled in Gastonia, had not forgotten his 1905 conversation with Rev. Edwin Bain about a hospital. So much had happened since that encounter, including the deaths of his younger brother and his mother, and the birth of his first child, all in the same year. He may have been troubled by the thought that hospital care might have saved the lives of his family members and decided the time was right to act on Bain's suggestion.

In late 1907 or early 1908, Lucius, now 35, and several of his colleagues formed a small private hospital. The other physicians were Dr. James



Lucius Newton Glenn, MD, early in his medical career. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

Marshall Sloan, a Charlotte native and graduate of Louisville Medical College and the Kentucky School of Medicine, in Louisville, who had practiced in Gastonia since 1891; Dr. Hall M. Eddleman, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in Baltimore, who had been practicing since 1886; and Dr. McTyeire G. Anders, a graduate of the School of Medicine of Maryland, in Baltimore, who had started his medical practice in 1901 but had only recently relocated to Gastonia. The final subscriber was Lucius's enterprising cousin Frost Torrence, who hosted the first organizational meeting in his drugstore on Main Street. Also present was Peter Woods Garland, a young attorney who had moved to Gastonia from Virginia in 1907. He secured a hospital charter from the state.⁵

The organizers incorporated the hospital and became the board of directors, electing Sloan the president and Anders the secretary-treasurer. Each incorporator contributed \$200 and they borrowed an additional \$1,300 for equipment. Anticipating that the community would grow, they optimistically called their new establishment City Hospital, even though Gastonia was still a town. On November 14, 1908, Gastonia's first hospital opened in a ten-room former boardinghouse on West Airline Avenue, opposite the Southern Railway station. The doctors shared the nine-bed facility. Lucius and Sloan performed surgeries, and Anders became the anesthetist. Under a separate state charter, the doctors started a nurses' training school at the hospital the same year. The enterprise proved to be a success, keeping Lucius and his partners busy. On the home front, Lucius and Mena welcomed a second son, Charles Arthur, born on October 30, 1909, and called Charlie.⁶



In 1908, Lucius Glenn was one of five founders of Gaston County's first hospital, along with Drs. James M. Sloan, McTyeire G. Anders, H. M. Eddleman, and his cousin, Frost Torrence. Named City Hospital, it opened in a ten-room boardinghouse when Gastonia was still a town. Courtesy of Robert Allison Ragan.

On High Land

In 1907, a new principal arrived at Gastonia Colored Graded School, Rev. Joseph A. Rollins, who also served as the minister at Third Street Presbyterian Church. Rollins oversaw construction of a twelve-room addition and an auditorium to the school. With the old brick exterior stuccoed and painted white, it was a source of pride for the neighborhood. The Gastonia School Commissioners insisted that the neighborhood name the school for official district reports, and according to one report, the community held a contest to name the school. Only then was the name Highland Elementary School adopted, since the school was located on high land, a hill, rising from Walnut Avenue to Lincoln Avenue (now Nat Barber Avenue). Ultimately, Happy Hill would become the Highland neighborhood.⁷

In 1909, Herbert Jones Erwin, a black physician, arrived to provide medical care to Gastonia's black population for the first time. Erwin was a respected and caring man, a community leader, and beloved for his long service to his friends and neighbors. (A huge baseball fan, Erwin would one day bring to town a black baseball team, the Gastonia Giants.) He is buried in North Oakland Cemetery, which Gastonia established for black residents. The city would honor his life of service by naming the Erwin Center & Park in the Highland community for him in 1961.⁸

From Town to City

On April 5, 1909, Gastonia held its fourth election about moving the county seat from Dallas to Gastonia. It was a hot issue: whether to preserve the historic county seat, courthouse, and jail, or to relocate them to a larger, more progressive and more accessible community. More citizens turned out to vote than they had for President William McKinley in 1900. They finally approved the move by a 629-vote majority, influenced by Gastonia's size and prominence and by political and business leaders pledging \$43,000 toward the new courthouse. In 1910, the handsome, two-story building was completed on the west side of South Street, "with all woodwork inserted in such a manner as to be virtually fireproof," wrote Robert Allison Ragan in the *History of Gastonia and Gaston County*. A new post office was constructed downtown at the same time.⁹

On January 1, 1911, the county seat officially moved to Gastonia, after the transfer of records from the court, the jail, and the county offices in Dallas. Before long, the courthouse relocation led to a migration of lawyers and clerks from Dallas to Gastonia. The former jail and courthouse were sold for \$7,000 to Gastonia businessmen. Later in the year, town officials revised the charter, and Gastonia became a city. It had finally caught up to City Hospital.¹⁰



Gaston County's second courthouse, completed in 1911 on South Street, Gastonia, across the street from the town hall. Courtesy of the Glenn Foundation.

By 1911, the population of Gaston County exceeded 37,000 residents, and the city of Gastonia had close to 6,000 people. Gastonia was “practically in the center of the textile belt of the Carolinas,” touted the preface to the 1910–11 Gastonia City Directory. The city had twelve textile corporations operating sixteen plants, leading the South in the number of cotton factories. The main business district now had paved streets, cement sidewalks, and a growing number of paved roads, as automobiles were becoming more commonplace. Gastonia boasted clubs, banks, newspapers, fine homes, the expanding telephone system, free mail delivery, and a variety of businesses. The Southern Railway routed ten mail and passenger cars through Gastonia daily on their way to major cities in the East, five northbound and five southbound. The Carolina & North-Western (the C&N-W, by now nicknamed the “Can’t and Never Will,”) ran four passenger trains daily from Chester to Lenoir, two northbound and two southbound, stopping at small towns along the route.¹¹

During 1911, the Southern Power Company began building the Piedmont & Northern Railway (P&N), an interurban train with overhead catenary, to carry passengers and freight between Gastonia and Charlotte and take advantage of the “richest, fastest-growing and most progressive section in the entire South,” quoting Robert Allison Ragan in the *History of Gastonia and Gaston County*. In McAdenville, Robert Ray arranged for a spur track into town, and the depot became known affectionately as “Ray’s Stop.” The P&N’s inaugural run occurred on May 20, 1912, assuring that Gastonia would remain a hub of commerce as new businesses grew along the tracks. By 1914, the P&N laid trolley tracks down the middle of Franklin Street.¹²

In Gastonia’s textile business, a Chinese boycott of American textiles that resulted from the Boxer Rebellion had hurt the Loray Mill. Until new markets could be developed, the mill foundered. In 1904, John Franklin Love, the man responsible for raising the money, lost the Loray Mill and creditors took over. George Gray left the operation that year and with his new son-in-law, Joseph Separk, started Gray Manufacturing, his first independent venture. The Loray kept producing during this crisis, employing many workers, but it was the ruin of Love. He vowed to repay all who had invested in the mill, and with the help of his father, before his death, and his brothers, at great sacrifice on their part, repaid all his creditors in full. It ruined his family fortunes. By 1911, he sold the beautiful home

he had built on the corner of Oakland and Franklin streets, liquidated his assets, including the Love Building retail store on Main Street, and moved to Charlotte, where he operated a small cotton brokerage for the rest of his life.¹³

By 1911, the village surrounding the Loray Mill and its school was much larger than any other mill village in the county, and some people wanted to incorporate it as a separate municipality. In February of that year, however, Gastonia's board of aldermen declined to endorse its incorporation, and the measure failed in the legislature. Gastonia could not have grown west as it did had the town of Loray come into existence. The new city quickly extended its limits to include the Loray.¹⁴

Determination and Grit

The year of their mother's death, 1906, proved a turning point between youth and adulthood for the Glenn siblings, with significant changes in their lives occurring over the next five years.

In January 1907, Lena began the second semester of her junior year at the Normal. She does not seem to have participated in extracurricular activities during her college years, although she did have a speaking role in the senior class play, "Old Maids' Convention." Her senior essay was entitled "The Economic Value of Science." On May 26, 1908, Lena

Viola Glenn received a diploma in pedagogy and the lifetime teaching license. Her graduation day was especially memorable because the Grand Lodge of Masons used the occasion to lay the cornerstone of the McIver Memorial Building, erected to honor the late president. A duplicate of the original bronze statue of McIver was placed in front of the building.¹⁵



Lena Viola Glenn's graduation picture from the Normal in 1908. She was the first sister to graduate in four years, and she received a lifetime license to teach in North Carolina. Courtesy of the Glenn Foundation.

Lena moved back home and, now hunting for a job, received a recommendation from J. W. Matheson, a Normal professor of pedagogy, for any vacancy in the Waynesville, North Carolina, school system. "Miss Glenn is strong in scholarship[,] stands high in the estimation of the college, has an abundance of determination and grit, and has, to a large extent, overcome the difficulties that a young teacher meets," he wrote. "She is quiet and dignified, but earnest and enthusiastic. She had done especially well in theory, and she had made exceptional progress teaching second grade at the Observation School." At the beginning of the year, he noted, Lena had lacked "self-confidence and snap," but she had made her classes interesting for the children. Unfortunately, Lena did not secure the position.¹⁶

By September, she still had not found a local job and asked Laura Coit about available openings elsewhere, without success. Lena had to report to the Normal each May the amount of teaching she had done the previous year. If she did not teach in two of the first three years following her graduation, she would have to repay two years of tuition plus interest. She must have felt anxious as she remained unemployed, while five older siblings had marked success in their careers. Lena either was unable to secure employment, or her health was compromised in some way that prevented her employment. Whether she had to repay tuition is unknown, but her self-confidence came under additional strain.¹⁷

In January 1907, Gertrude, 18, joined First Presbyterian Church, following the lead of Carrie, who had joined by letter of transfer in October 1906 shortly after her mother's death. In April, Mena and Annie joined the church together. In October 1907, Eula solidified her commitment to Gastonia when she joined Will, Mayme, Mena, Carrie, Gertrude, and Annie as a member of First Presbyterian Church. Lucius never joined First Presbyterian but perhaps attended with Mena and the children. Later in life, he attended but never joined First ARP Church. Lena never joined any church.¹⁸

Change of Plans

Gertrude graduated from Central School in 1907, having completed the tenth and highest grade. She entered the Normal in the class of 1911 with free tuition, room, and board. Like her sisters, she pledged to become a teacher. It is unknown whether Lon underwrote her expenses, Eula and



First Presbyterian Church on Marietta Street was built in 1894. It had an impressive 1,000 seat sanctuary. Gertrude and Annie joined as teenagers and Will, Carrie, and Eula joined after moving back to Gastonia as young adults. Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia.

Carrie shared the expense with Lon, or her expenses became her working sisters' sole responsibility. Gertrude and Lena studied together at the Normal during Lena's senior year.¹⁹

During her sophomore year, Gertrude belonged to the Cornelian Literary Society and served on the cabinet of the YWCA, where she chaired the Intercollegiate Committee. She also belonged to the French Club and posed for a photo as one of fourteen students from Gaston County.²⁰

Just after the New Year in 1910, when Gertrude expected to start the second semester of her junior year, she was hospitalized with a grave bout of pneumonia. The Normal's president, Foust, wrote to her sister Eula (not to her father, William, who was declining): "If her illness should be fatal I hope you will telegraph me at once at my expense. . . . I feel very uneasy about her condition and I shall appreciate it very much if you will let me know occasionally about her condition." He assured Eula that the school would keep Gertrude's place in the dormitory until further notice.²¹

Gertrude recovered, but she missed an entire semester, making it impossible for her to graduate with her class. Over the summer of 1910, she contemplated her options. "I do not see how it will be possible for me to graduate this year," she wrote Foust, "and consequently, I have decided to take the commercial course if I return to the Normal." She needed financial help from the college and asked to borrow \$50.²²

Foust let her know he thought she should complete her degree and said that the school could not lend her money unless she stayed enrolled in the Normal Department. "I suggest that you spend two years in completing your course of study," he wrote. "We would be able to help you if you decided to do this. If you have decided not to teach two years in accordance with the pledge now taken, it will be necessary for you to pay the back tuition. This will, of course, make it quite expensive for you. I very much hope that you will adopt the plan I have suggested, and decide to remain in the College two years longer."²³

Independent-minded Gertrude, barely five feet tall, was not deterred, even by her family. Extending her schooling as Eula and Carrie had done had no appeal. Furthermore, perhaps after listening to stories from her sisters, she had decided that she did not want to teach. She spent the 1910–11 academic year in the Commercial Department, becoming proficient in shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping. She may also have taken a course in verbatim notetaking, open only to those who were expert in shorthand.

In May 1911, May Gertrude Glenn and the other graduates of the Commercial Department did not get their pictures in the yearbook nor did they walk across the stage. Gertrude, however, distinguished herself as one of twelve classmates to earn a certificate for typing 100 words per minute. Outgoing and spunky, Gertrude had made a positive impact at the Normal. Laura Coit was fond of her and sorry to see her leave. She was pleased, however, to learn that one last Glenn—Annie—anticipated attending the Normal in the fall.²⁴

Delta Cotton Mills

On July 17, 1909, Will and Mayme became proud parents of their first child, a daughter whom they fittingly named Sarah Priscilla, and called Sarah.

Will was still associated with the Arlington Cotton Mills, but he also served as secretary-treasurer of the Akron Manufacturing Company, a textile company established in 1909. This venture was unsuccessful and soon liquidated. In 1910, Will, with Mayme and 1-year-old Sarah, moved to McComb City, Mississippi, where he became secretary and treasurer of the Delta Cotton Mill, which his cousin Frost Torrence owned. Torrence wanted Will, a capable, trusted troubleshooter, to improve operations there.²⁵

License Renewal

By the summer of 1911, Carrie had taught for five years and passed the examination to renew her teacher's license. Knowing that with a certificate from the Normal she would have to face an examination every five years for the rest of her career, she began thinking seriously about earning a four-year degree by 1916, before the next five years elapsed. She just needed to decide how to go about it.

Teacher, Scientist, Genealogist

Lon began his sixth year of teaching at Vanderbilt in the fall of 1906, still the sole member of the geology faculty. He continued his prolific research and writing, advancing his reputation, and in 1906 published three articles, two in the *United States Geological Survey* and one in *Economic Geology*. He continued his administrative work at the university, serving on many committees thanks to Chancellor Kirkland. When he served on the time-consuming Supervisory Committee, for example, he and two colleagues considered students' excuses from chapel, classes, and gym, reported to each faculty member when a student had been absent, and meted out punishment. First and foremost, however, Lon was a teacher and a scientist. He became well-known for his expertise in geological formations, especially those relating to oil.²⁶

Lon also kept collecting family data, which he hoped one day to make into a connected narrative. He added court records, Revolutionary pension affidavits, correspondence, writings, and memoranda from talks with family members, notes he saved on scraps of paper, research at libraries,

information from registers of deeds and clerks of court offices, and other historical sources. He dug up much of it as he traveled on business and even paid to obtain information from Scotland and Ireland.²⁷

Until 1905, he kept the collection in his office on campus. After a devastating fire completely destroyed Vanderbilt's Old Main, however, he realized that his genealogical records had nearly succumbed to the fire. Had that happened, it would have been impossible for him to gather much of it again. Accordingly, Lon spent the next two and a half years painstakingly compiling the first written draft of his family's history. He completed it in November 1907 and entitled the manuscript "Glenn Family Data," which he later named "John Glen, 1726–1828 of Gaston County, North Carolina and His Descendants." He also worked simultaneously on a parallel manuscript for other branches of the family called "Genealogies of the Glen, Wilson, Torrence and Allied Families of Gaston Co., N. C."²⁸

On the introductory page of "John Glen," Lon wrote:

The narratives are from memory and may be in error in some points, but as there is no immediate prospect of my finding time to try to verify them, or to run out and complete the many lines of descent started in them, I have copied them as they stand, and am sending several copies of them out to other members of the family along with the GLENN family material recently obtained in Ireland and Scotland, in the hope that the data of these narratives may be preserved from chance destruction, and that others may have an opportunity to add other facts.

The document would ultimately expand to include six generations. Descendants today treasure their copies of these early renditions.²⁹

In 1907, as Lon completed his initial draft of the Glenn genealogy, he prevailed upon his father to write down reminiscences of his early life and career in Gaston County. William found it a therapeutic activity after Sarah Priscilla's death, and his composition proved to be the exceptionally informative narrative, "Reflections of a Long Life."

On December 21, 1908, Lon and Nell welcomed their second son, named Hugh Wilson after his Torrence and Wilson ancestors. The arrival of another of William and Sarah Priscilla's grandchildren added a new chapter in the family story.³⁰

Death of a Patriarch

1911–1916

n July 6, 1911, William Davis Glenn, age 77, died at his home in Gastonia. His death was not unexpected. The *Gastonia Gazette* ran his obituary on the front page, for he was one of the most widely known and highly regarded citizens of Gaston County. The family held two services, and Rev. Sparrow conducted both. The first took place at the family home on July 8, followed by interment in Oakwood Cemetery. The second was held July 10 at Olney Presbyterian Church, so that the Glenns' former neighbors from Pleasant Ridge and Crowders Creek could pay their respects.¹

William Glenn was born when Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States, was serving his second term. He died during the term of William Howard Taft, the twenty-seventh president. His life bridged the antebellum South, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the growth and development of Gaston County and Gastonia. His fellow citizens appreciated his public service during the Civil War and his contributions to education, his church, and his community. He and Sarah Priscilla taught their children to live productive Christian lives with faith and integrity, and practically willed them to get an education and to save their money. He likely was a dominating figure, stern and demanding, but his children respected him and worked hard to make something of themselves. Their achievements reflected positively on both parents.

William left the family home, all household goods, and the kitchen

furniture to his five daughters, each with an equal interest, together with all improvements, and the rental property at the back of the lot. He named Lon as his executor, but because Lon lived out of state, it was questionable whether he could serve. William directed that if his two youngest children, Gertrude and Annie, had not completed their educations at the time of his death, then his executor was to “as near as he can make them equal in money from my estate with their elder sisters this money to be used by them as they see fit.” He seems to have intended to leave Gertrude and Annie funds over and above what he left to all five daughters, to use as they chose whether or not they attended college. This provision presumably benefited only Annie, since Gertrude had graduated by the time her father died. William asked for a suitably inscribed monument on his grave in the family plot at Oakwood Cemetery and at Ernest’s grave at Olney churchyard. The balance of his estate was to be divided equally among his three sons and five daughters.²

While William’s estate remained open, Eula, Carrie, Lena, Gertrude, and Annie, all living on South Chester Street, benefited from the house and its contents but from no other immediate inheritance. Gertrude would soon be working to fulfill her obligation to the Normal, however, and Annie had decided to head to college to become a teacher. At the time of William’s death, Eula was earning sixty dollars a month and Carrie fifty dollars a month for an eight-month school term, which provided a modest annual income of \$880, excluding a bequest to Lena described below. The house was mortgage-free, however, and with their large vegetable garden, fruit and nut trees, and frugal habits, Eula, Carrie, and Lena lived securely.³

Diffident and Ailing

Now three years after college graduation, Lena was living at home and unemployed due to poor health. Perhaps she suffered from some form of psychological distress over her frustration and inability to find a job. She could have contracted a disease and suffered lingering effects, what with pneumonia, tuberculosis, and diphtheria the leading causes of illness and death around the turn of the twentieth century. She may have already begun suffering from physical ailments that became more pronounced as she aged, headaches and a bad back. Diffident by nature, she may have felt

inadequate as she compared herself to her siblings. The exact nature of her ailments remains a mystery to this day. As much of a mystery is why and how William, four months before his death, made the following bequest to his 25-year-old daughter: “Owing to the continued ill health of my daughter Lena V. Glenn I have decided that it is my duty to will to her a comfortable living from my estate during her natural life or so long as it may be needed on account of her health after my death.” He capped the amount at \$200 per year.⁴

A Brilliant Surgeon

In 1911, the year of his father’s death, Lucius shifted his focus to surgery, his specialty for the balance of his career. He became known as a brilliant surgeon. On many occasions, he would snap a razor blade in half and use it for office procedures. He occasionally visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to observe surgeries as a way to perfect his skills. He also took



City Hospital’s second location was in the new Realty Building on Main Street. The hospital occupied the third, fourth, and part of the fifth floors. Courtesy of Robert Allison Ragan.

patients with special needs there for consultation. That same year, with City Hospital and the nursing school having grown cramped in their quarters, he and his partners moved into the new, five-story Realty Building at 219 West Main Street, and occupied the third, fourth, and part of the fifth floors.⁵

On January 24, 1916, he and Mena welcomed Mary Priscilla into the world, their third and final child. Just as Lon was advancing his knowledge and connections, Lucius was as well, attending clinics and meetings of medical associations in addition to running the hospital and managing a busy surgical practice. With his success, his self-centered, narcissistic personality blossomed. When he was home, he was known to criticize and berate his oldest son, Robert, and his wife, Mena. Because he was gone so often, the major responsibility for raising their three children fell to Mena.⁶

Epitome of Graduates

In October 1911, Eula received a high compliment from her alma mater. The Normal, celebrating its twentieth anniversary, asked a representative from each class since the beginning to give a brief address. “We hope to make the occasion a notable one and are depending upon you to aid us,” wrote President Foust to Eula, class of 1903. Laura Coit may have suggested Eula, who was in her ninth year of teaching. She was the epitome of what President McIver had hoped for in graduates of the Normal—a young woman of modest means but great ability, who would use her education to school the next generation. Eula, however, for an unknown reason, declined.⁷

Bachelor’s Degree in Pedagogy

That same fall, Annie entered the Normal. Her experience contrasted with that of her sisters, for she did not have to worry about finances. She enjoyed a full college life, joining the Adelpian Literary Society and serving as class secretary in her junior year. Her senior yearbook picture shows the profile of a determined young woman, with the caption “And though vanquished, she could argue still.” (Perhaps Annie should have been a lawyer.) The yearbook also dubbed her “Biggest Grumbler.” The caption read, “[B]ut if it’s true it’s certainly her worst fault. . . . We listen eagerly to her adventures



Annie Torrence Glenn's graduation picture from the Normal in 1915. She was the only sister to graduate from the Normal with a bachelor's degree. Courtesy of the Lucius N. Glenn family collection.

in the 'Instruction of the young,' and revel no more in that than in her good nature." On May 25, 1915, Annie Torrence Glenn graduated with a bachelor's of pedagogy, or BP, the first of her sisters to receive a bachelor's degree. With her departure, the Glenns' twenty-year association with the Normal ended. Annie obtained a teaching job in Concord for one year, followed by a two-year post in Statesville.⁸

A Finished and Satisfactory Stenographer

Gertrude knew that she must teach school for two years or repay her tuition to the Normal. Fortunately, she landed a job for the 1911–12 school year at Catawba College, the alma mater of Lucius, Will, and Ernest, teaching shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, and—French. At Gertrude's request, Laura Coit provided her with a reading list of preparatory French books used at the Normal to help her plan her classwork. While teaching at Catawba College, Gertrude studied piano and voice. During the 1912–13 school year, she taught in Greensboro, completely discharging her obligation to the Normal. Now she could locate a permanent position in the business world.⁹

In 1913, Gertrude, now 24, left Gastonia far behind when she obtained a secretarial job in Los Angeles, California, with the Read-Miller Company, Inc. Six years later, she received a complimentary letter of reference from the firm. "This is a very trying business requiring an unusually high character of service in the stenographic line," wrote the company's secretary-treasurer, William A. Ingoldsby, "yet we feel justified in stating that Miss

Glenn has proved herself one of the most finished and satisfactory stenographers ever connected with our company. She leaves of her own accord, much to our regret.” According to family, Gertrude may then have become a script girl or a secretary for a movie studio and traveled to Mexico for filming. She reportedly met Rudolph Valentino, the heartthrob of the late 1910s and early 1920s, either in California or Mexico. At an unknown time, she left California to pursue jobs in New York City, including for a time at the Columbia University library, and in secretarial positions including E. F. Hutton personally, according to family.¹⁰ She lived in Manhattan.

Graduates of the Commercial Department, like Gertrude, were a credit to Edward J. Forney, professor of business. Over his forty-eight years at the Normal, he introduced his students to careers outside of teaching, turning out high-caliber secretaries, accountants, court reporters, and civil servants. Gertrude brought considerably more to her future employers than just one year of secretarial skills learned in the Commercial Department, however. Unlike most of her classmates, she had two and a half years of liberal arts studies and two years of teaching experience.¹¹

Some members of the family considered Gertrude odd, a black sheep, for neither living with her sisters in Gastonia nor working there. She seems to have been more spirited and adventurous than her sisters. In New York City, she lived in boardinghouses with other single women, as was common at the time. Gertrude did her job well, enjoyed her work, likely took advantage of the educational and cultural opportunities available in New York, and saved what she could. It is possible that she received a monthly stipend from her sisters, since after 1913, she never benefited from living in the family home.¹²

Return to Gastonia

In McComb, Mississippi, on February 4, 1912, Will and Mayme welcomed their second daughter, whom they named Susan Love to honor Mayme’s mother. Later that year, they returned to Gastonia, where they built a home at the northeast corner of Second Avenue and South Street—120 Second Avenue—on land they had bought in 1907 for \$325. Their home was conveniently located one and a half blocks west of Central School and three blocks east of the homes of Lucius and the sisters. The next year, Will was

promoted to corporate secretary and shareholder of the Arlington Cotton Mills. This was an era when most textile men were involved in a number of simultaneous textile ventures as officers or stockholders, and Will would prove to be no exception. The same year, he was elected a deacon at First Presbyterian Church. Their lives were jolted when on January 8, 1916, Mayme's mother Susan Rhyne Love died in a horrific accident, when her clothing caught fire as she stood too close to the fireplace in her bedroom in Lincolnton.¹³

Excursion of a Lifetime

At Vanderbilt University, Lon continued to add volumes to the geology library, many of which he bought personally, and he always developed the museum. He published articles on such topics as water supplies, stream flows, sedimentation, erosion, and Tennessee's geology. His prolific writing and teaching did not keep him from engaging in remunerative consulting work with a number of entities seeking to benefit from his knowledge and advice.¹⁴

In 1912, three significant events occurred in Lon's life, one personal and two professional. On the personal side, Lon and Nell built a Tudor-style home at 2111 Garland Avenue, on a three-acre lot adjacent to the campus, near Chancellor Kirkland's home. Their boys, David and Hugh, now 11 and 4 respectively, enjoyed the excitement of the move. From their home, Lon and Nell began entertaining students at popular open houses, displaying gracious Southern hospitality. David and Hugh reaped benefits from these associations, and in time both would matriculate at Vanderbilt.¹⁵

On the professional side, Lon and his academic colleagues founded the Tennessee Academy of Science on March 9, 1912, in Nashville, which became its home. Lon would serve as president in 1914. The other professional event of 1912 was an unexpected opportunity: a place on the American Geographic Society's 60th anniversary excursion, by special train, to all significant geological formations across the country. William Morris Davis, Lon's inspiring Harvard summer school professor in 1895, was in charge of the excursion, which featured seventy-five distinguished geographers from Europe as special guests, and he invited Lon to fill a last-minute vacancy. Lon was energized and stimulated by the scientists he had the pleasure of

meeting. He also used the trip to collect additional specimens for the museum. Two years later, he helped found the Vanderbilt Scientific Research Society, a university-wide version of the Tennessee Academy of Science, and served as its first president.¹⁶

Nell was also busy with her own interests, engaging in a variety of organizations at the university and in the city of Nashville. A charter member of the Centennial Club of Nashville, which began in 1905, she founded the South Carolina Club of Nashville and the Davidson County Horticultural Society. She also belonged to the Town and Country Garden Club, the Vanderbilt Women's Club, the Vanderbilt Aid Society, and the Campbell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Influenced by Lon's genealogical work and with her husband's encouragement, Nell researched the history of her ancestors, the McCullough family.¹⁷

A Fully Certified Teacher

The Glenn household in Nashville gained a new member in the summer of 1914, when Carrie, likely with Lon's encouragement, arrived to begin classes leading to a bachelor's degree at George Peabody College for Teachers. Peabody had opened its doors on a new campus across the street from Vanderbilt, and Lon taught geology there during summer school. Carrie lived with Lon and Nell, an arrangement that had several advantages. Since her years at the Normal had ended in disappointment, she was probably apprehensive to start college again. Lon's reassurances and the warmth of the family atmosphere at 2111 Garland Avenue helped her confidence. She had been 4 years old when Lon left for college in 1888. She was now 30 and Lon was 43, and the two got to know each other as adults. Carrie enjoyed the company of Nell, 36, and of her nephews, who were now 13 and 6. Lon probably interested Carrie in genealogy during her stay, because she became Lon's eyes and ears in Gaston County and added new information to the Glenn and Allied stories.¹⁸

During her summer in Nashville, Carrie earned both credits and the conviction that she could complete her degree. She returned to Gastonia, resumed teaching in the city schools during the 1914–15 school year, and saved money. That year was disruptive for teachers and students alike, for in May 1914, Central School was completely destroyed by fire. Carrie

and Eula and their fellow teachers taught students in makeshift locations around the city. The school was rebuilt and ready for students in the fall of 1915–16, but Carrie took a leave of absence then and returned to Nashville. In the spring of 1916, she received a BS in education. It was a happy day in Nashville and Gastonia, for Carrie was now and forever a fully certified teacher. The late Normal president McIver would have been pleased with Carrie's success.¹⁹

A Family Rift

In the fall of 1915, now more than four years after William's death, the issue of Lon's replacement as executor finally came to a head. Lucius believed that he, who lived locally and was the next oldest, should serve. The family, however, was concerned that this duty would intrude on his busy medical practice, and they may also have been concerned about his somewhat unpredictable personality. Carrie, speaking for herself, but perhaps for her other siblings as well, wrote from Nashville during her first semester to inform the Gaston County clerk of court that Lon was her first choice as executor. If he could not serve because of his out-of-state residence, then she preferred Will. Carrie's letter had no impact on the clerk of court and infuriated Lucius. He became administrator of William's estate, which was valued at about \$8,500, or \$218,000 in 2020 dollars, a larger estate than anticipated. Over the next few years, the hard feelings over the executorship would widen a rift between Lucius and his sisters.²⁰



Floods, Feuds, Libraries, and Litigation

1916–1919

On July 16, 1916, the worst flood in the history of Gaston County and western North Carolina occurred. “Fierce, turbid, foam-crested” water, wrote Cope and Wellman in *The County of Gaston*, carried trees and timber down the South Fork and Catawba rivers, washed away bridges, railway trestles, and bales of cotton, forced people and cattle to higher ground, and flooded mill buildings to their eaves. The Catawba River was fifty-five feet above normal. Towns along the river were isolated from the rest of the county until waters subsided. The effects of the Great Flood of 1916 were devastating, causing millions of dollars of damage to businesses and homes.¹

Just two months earlier, Will, by now an experienced cotton manufacturer, had purchased a small interest in the Tuckaseege Manufacturing Company and become secretary and treasurer of the business that Mayme’s uncles, Abel and Dan Rhyne, had founded. Abel’s son Henry Rhyne had succeeded his father as president, and once again, family tapped Will’s expertise. Tuckaseege, south of Mount Holly along the Catawba River, relied on hydroelectric power for its operations. In May, its owners had made a significant capital investment when they installed 5,040 new ring spindles to produce finer yarn.²

At the Tuckaseege, the floodwaters rose to the second floor, and twenty-six inches of silt settled on the first floor. The new machinery was ruined, and the mill had to close while the owners assessed the damage. It was a

hectic and trying time for Will, Henry, and all others affected. After several months of cleanup, costly repairs, and new equipment purchases, the Tuckaseegee resumed operations.³

Primary Supervisor

In the fall of 1916, after she returned from Nashville, the Gaston County Board of Education hired 32-year-old Carrie to fill the new position of primary supervisor. Gaston County now had sixty-four schools spread throughout the county. With her bachelor's degree and eleven years of teaching experience, Carrie was well qualified.⁴

As her job required her to travel, Carrie purchased a car and learned to drive. She hired and supervised about 160 teachers, who taught at the different schools around the city and county, including seven within the Gastonia city limits: Groves, Robinson, Victory, South Gastonia, Ranlo, Myrtle, and Chapel Grove. Twenty of the schools she supervised had one teacher, thirteen had two, ten had three, and twenty-one had four or more. The county school term had just expanded to 140 days, about seven months a year, but still shorter than the Gastonia school system. In 1918, she received a Life Certificate for Primary Supervisor, certifying that she had been in the teaching profession for ten years, three of which were devoted to full-time supervision.⁵

Gaston County during World War I

In April 1917, when the United States entered World War I, the Glenn brothers—Lon at 46, Lucius at 44, and Will at 42—were too old to fight, and Lon and Lucius's sons were too young. Lucius, who had added county physician to his résumé, served on the Gaston County draft board throughout the war. While war meant scarcity elsewhere, in Gaston County it meant increased orders for yarn and fabric for soldiers' uniforms and other products, and so local factories swung into full production. More people moved to Gastonia and Gaston County to work in the mills. As the mills prospered, so did the community. But the textile industry remained white. Discouraged by segregation, numbers of blacks continued an out-migration, hoping for greater job opportunities in cities in the North. The black women of Gaston

County continued on primarily as domestic workers in the homes of white residents.⁶

In June of 1917, two descendants of William Joseph Wilson visited Gastonia. Cora Shepherd, of Ohio, and her cousin Cora Powell, of Florida, saw the Wilson house in Crowders Creek and toured the Olney cemetery, where many of their ancestors were buried. "Gastonia is a live town... [with] some twenty or more cotton mills and more in the process of construction," observed Shepherd. "After viewing the landscape o'er at Gastonia we can see that this must have seemed a goodly land for our ancestors who sought a place where they might worship God as their consciences dictated and have food and shelter."⁷

Oil Geologist

Since 1912, Lon had researched and written about coal deposits and commercial minerals of the Kentucky-Tennessee region. His next interest was oil, which took up much of his time. He worked for the geological surveys of New York, Maryland, North Carolina, and Kentucky in the summers. By 1915, he began studying the geology of dam and reservoir construction, knowledge that would become useful later in his career. In March 1916, Lon was appointed a life member of the advisory council of the National Highways Association. In this capacity, he prepared for tourists scientific descriptions of the regions crisscrossed by highways, especially those in the eastern half of the South.⁸

In 1916–17, Lon took a leave of absence from Vanderbilt to work as an oil geologist with the Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation, headquartered in New York City. The salary was better than his pay at Vanderbilt, but he missed teaching, the stimulation of the university atmosphere, and his wife and sons. After one year, he returned home.⁹

The experience with Sinclair Oil helped him professionally, however. In the fall of 1917, he introduced a course in oil geology. That year, he was inducted into the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The membership added to Lon's growing list of professional associations, now including the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Seismology Society of America, Geological Society of Washington,

American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Kentucky Academy of Science. In 1918, Lon served as acting state geologist.¹⁰

Now with a national reputation, he was appointed special agent in oil and gas valuation for the Department of Internal Revenue in 1918–19. In the fall of 1919, he was retained by the United States Department of Justice as chief scientific advisor and investigator, along with four other colleagues, to provide research for the largest case then before the United States Supreme Court, *State of Oklahoma v. State of Texas*.¹¹

The controversy had to do with ownership of valuable oil lands along the Red River, which formed the boundary between the two states. Oklahoma contended that the south bank was the boundary, meaning that Oklahoma had sole ownership of the oil reserves. Texas claimed that the boundary was in the middle of the main channel of the river, which would give them a share. Lon and his colleagues spent the fall of 1919 and the two following summers conducting surveys and investigations to establish the boundary line as it had existed 100 years previously, an almost impossible task. The issue was so hotly contested that Lon and his group were frequently held up by gunmen and warned to keep away from certain areas. He persevered, holding hearings in Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington, D.C., and amassing nine volumes of documentation. In the end, Lon's group concluded that too much time had passed to make a conclusive determination. The Supreme Court ruled that south bank was the legal boundary.¹²

Lon continued his involvement with the Tennessee Academy of Science and served as president in 1919 and 1920. In the academy's first twenty-five years, he was the only person to serve as president for three terms. He had a full life, with his family, his teaching, his professional commitments, his genealogy, and a vegetable garden. He also engaged in a new hobby, building furniture out of black walnut.¹³

Three Working Sisters

In the fall of 1918, after three years in Concord and Statesville, 26-year-old Annie secured a teaching position at Central School with Eula. She moved to the family home, joining Eula, Carrie, and Lena. With three working sisters under one roof, sharing household expenses, they had more money to

save and invest. Eula, with fifteen years of experience, earned \$65 a month, while Annie, with three years, earned \$80. The difference likely reflected Eula's diploma and Annie's bachelor's degree. One year later, however, Eula earned \$105 a month and Annie \$95. It may have been that during the 1919–20 school year, Eula was promoted to high school supervisor and perhaps also head of the English department. By her fourth year as primary supervisor, Carrie's salary rose to \$175, more than she had made as a teacher and considerably more than her sisters earned. The household income rose to \$395 a month, or the equivalent of \$6,200 a month in 2020 dollars.¹⁴

Carnegie Library School of Atlanta

In 1918, it had been ten years since Lena graduated from the Normal. She lived at home and had no income, unless perhaps her sisters paid her to prepare meals and keep house, or if she in fact had received annual contributions from her father's estate. She did not socialize, but instead spent hours tending the large vegetable and flower gardens in the backyard. She read books, the newspaper, and magazines, and was a frequent visitor to the library, which had become free and public in March 1917. The librarian, Lottie Blake, may have told Lena about the Library School affiliated with the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, a one-year program that prepared students to work as librarians. Intrigued, Lena sent an inquiry to the school in May 1918.¹⁵

Susie Lee Crumley, the associate director, replied with a handbook and information. Tuition was free, Crumley replied, but supplies would cost around thirty-five dollars a year, and room and board would be ten dollars a week and up. The demand for trained library workers had never been greater, with demand exceeding the supply. Just two years earlier, all eleven graduates had landed jobs before the end of school. Expected salaries ranged from \$720 to \$900 per year.¹⁶

Lena, encouraged, prepared her application. In it, she stated that she was 30 years old. (In fact she was almost 32. The school discouraged applicants over 35.) She had never worked away from home, she wrote, but she had taught at the Normal's training school. "I am fond of children." She had studied English, German, and Latin "a little," adding that she had expected to go into the profession after graduation from library school.¹⁷

Her doctor, cousin Henry F. Glenn, gave her a clean bill of health, not mentioning a weak constitution, and affirming that she had neither had a nervous breakdown nor been under any “undue nervous strain.” Her references, Dr. Daniel Edward McConnell, her dentist, and David Robertson LaFar, a neighbor, gave their confidential, candid opinions. “She has plenty of intellectual ability, and liking for books,” wrote McConnell. “Would be especially fine for reference work. Is a little diffident in manner which would be the only fault she might have in handling the general public.” LaFar assessed her “mental quickness” as “very good,” noted that she was “very literary,” and thought she had “extra good” “executive ability.” “I think you will find Miss Glenn all you could desire as a librarian,” he concluded. “She is a highly educated young lady with tact[,] common sense and very conscientious, and it gives me great pleasure to recommend her.”¹⁸

Lena had to take an entrance examination because her diploma in pedagogy did not qualify her to bypass it, something the school allowed for graduates of colleges and universities. She received special consent from the Library School to take the exam in Gastonia since she lived at such a distance. On September 11, 1918, Lena took the seven-hour exam at the library under the direction of Lottie Blake. The exam covered literature, general information, a German translation, history, and current events. It would have challenged the best students, and especially Lena, who had been out of school for a decade. But the news from Atlanta was good. The school accepted Lena for the term beginning on September 16, 1918. One can only imagine her excitement—and trepidation, for she had so little time to prepare.¹⁹

On September 15, however, the unthinkable happened, when Lena suffered an attack of appendicitis that required immediate surgery. She wrote Mary Palmer, the director of the Library School, asking whether she could start four or five weeks late. Palmer turned down her request since the course load was heavy, but encouraged Lena to re-take the exam the following June. “If you decide to take them at that time,” Palmer wrote, “I shall be very glad indeed to help you in any way possible, by suggesting courses of study for you to follow up during the winter.” Lena was disappointed. A year was a long time to wait.²⁰

During the rest of 1918, Lena recovered from her own surgery and then nursed influenza patients during the pandemic, probably her own family members. Planning to take the Library School exam again in June 1919 and

enter that fall, she asked Crumley which books she should read as preparation. Crumley recommended a reading list of good current periodicals, such as the *New Republic*, *Nation*, *Independent*, and the *Literary Digest*, and the *New York Times* and other newspapers. She also referred Lena to books about art, economics, sociology, literature, French, and modern literature. Fortified with the advice, Lena focused on the next phase of her life.²¹

The Rift Deepens

In 1916, Lucius, with the issue of executorship settled, got to work on his father's estate. William had left his real estate jointly to his eight children, some 344 acres along Yorkville Road, which encompassed the 127-acre Glenn family farm and the 217 acres that Sarah Priscilla and William had purchased after W. W. Torrence's death. In his first action as administrator, Lucius proposed selling the Torrence land, but his siblings wanted to keep it. In February 1916, Lucius petitioned the court in a special proceeding that named him against his sisters and brothers. A special proceeding is common when land is owned by multiple parties who disagree about its disposition, and was a practical and orderly means to allocate property to heirs. Whether the Glenns' action was friendly or adversarial is unknown.

On February 12, 1916, the property was auctioned to Will for \$12,000, acting for his siblings and himself. Will paid the commissioners the sum, and the commissioners then paid Lucius and his siblings the proceeds, one-eighth, or \$1,500 to each. Lucius kept his share, and his siblings then paid the commissioners their \$1,500, thus buying back the property as equal tenants in common. That was the only part of William's estate settled in 1916.²²

Perhaps Carrie's instincts about Lucius's scant availability for estate duties were correct. On October 1, 1918, the estate finally closed, three years after Lucius became administrator and seven years after William's death. The estate value had dropped to \$4,331.14 after payment of debts and other obligations. William had held stock in the Flint and Ozark mills and the Carolina & North-Western Railway, but Lucius sold these shares. Lena received \$100 of her father's bequest in the final account, but whether she had received \$100 or \$200 annually since her father's death is not known. As part of the settlement, after twenty-two years, the family moved Ernest's remains from the Olney cemetery to Oakwood Cemetery, to be buried

there with his parents and Howard. The eight children inherited \$402.67, almost \$7,500 each in 2020 dollars.²³

With their inheritance from their father's estate and more disposable income, the sisters wanted to become investors, not just passbook savers. They turned to Will for financial advice, trusting his judgment and his business knowledge. He may have started them buying stocks in banks and savings and loans, then in local companies including textiles and real estate. Over time, the sisters became knowledgeable investors themselves. Gertrude was a party to Will's input, but living in New York City, she had higher expenses and could not save and invest as much as her sisters did.

Will had an abundance of women in his life in addition to his five sisters—his wife, and on July 5, 1918, a third daughter named Mary Wilson, who joined Sarah, 7, and Susan, 4, in the busy household at 120 West Second Avenue. As a businessman Will was exacting and pertinacious, but as a brother, he was protective of his sisters and concerned about their welfare.²⁴

Lucius's Generosity

Lucius had a deep understanding of human nature and could be generous and compassionate. Over the years, if a small church needed painting, Lucius got it painted. If a family needed coal, he filled their coal bin. When a baby boy was abandoned at the hospital after his mother's death in childbirth and his father's disappearance, Lucius tended the child until he was about 3, when a suitable family took in the toddler.

Yet he was also opinionated, cantankerous, and unpredictable. He made enemies for life. "Playing footsie with somebody you didn't like was foolish to him," wrote the *Gastonia Gazette* at his death in 1964. "He just didn't do it"—even with a family member. Lucius remained angry with his siblings for preferring Will as administrator. Now, his sisters turning to Will for investment advice was the last straw. Furious, he vowed never to speak to his younger brother and his sisters again. The long-suffering Mena, however, regularly visited her sisters-in-law when Lucius was at work. The women were all good friends and had a close bond, especially Mena and Eula, who were the closest in age.²⁵



Single Blessedness

1918–1924

As the 1920s began, Gastonia and Gaston County were undergoing a profound transformation. The county had grown to 51,242 residents, and the city boasted a population of 12,871. The rapid increase in the number of textile mills and related industries continued to spur an influx of newcomers from the fields and mountains. Labor was cheap, giving Gastonia textiles a competitive advantage over goods produced in New England. Mill villages gave workers a place to live and a sense of community. Women and children, whose role had been necessary on the farm, became necessary in the mills. As more workers were needed, children left school for the mills to earn money for their families, although the price paid for their illiteracy in the years to come was incalculable. Work was dirty and hours were long, but so were the conditions of farming. At least mill work had a starting and stopping point each day. There was also a relaxed pace to mill work, which built camaraderie. Management was accessible, and a number of mill owners' homes were still located near their mills. Capitalism gave ordinary citizens opportunities to purchase stock in local companies, and their fortunes rose as companies prospered. Civic leaders held big dreams for the future. In the quest for profitability, however, working conditions began deteriorating in many of the mills.¹

Opportunities in the mills changed little for those living north of the tracks, but the success of the mills created ancillary jobs for black workers. While many black citizens lived in rural areas of the county and worked



Downtown Gastonia in the 1920s. The Citizens National Bank of Gastonia, left foreground, would become Carrie and Lena Glenn's primary banking institution. Courtesy of the Glenn Foundation.

their farms, living perhaps in scattered, small enclaves, some who found work in town might make daily commutes on the Carolina & North-Western Railway, which they nicknamed the “Bob” Train.²

Highland was a close-knit community where black residents built homes and owned and operated businesses on the Square along Page and Walnut avenues. The area boasted a post office, cafes and restaurants, barber shops, beauty shops, and professional offices. The Excelsior Credit Union, which had opened in 1915, provided loans to black citizens living in the corporate limits of Gastonia. Between 1910 and 1930, however, the neighborhood began a slow change from largely middle class to a “diverse community of rental and owner-occupied housing.”³

In December 1922, the Glenns' relative Wash Ragan, with his 24-year-old son, Caldwell, formed the Ragan Spinning Company in Gastonia, yet another mill specializing in fine combed yarns. Wash hired Will Glenn as first vice president to bring his experience and steady hand to the new operation. Will also was elected a director. The timing was excellent, as the Tuckaseegee mill was in the process of being sold. Will and Mayme now had four daughters, having added Margaret Elmina, called Margie, on November 5, 1920. The family was complete.⁴

Ragan Spinning Company was the county's 103rd cotton mill. By the time it was completed in the spring of 1924, Gaston County was the first in the United States in the number of textile mills in operation and in the number of spindles devoted to fine-yarn production. It was a heady time, for Gaston County was now known as the "Combed Yarn Center of America," and Gastonia proudly boasted her new slogan, "City of Spindles."⁵

Prohibition arrived in 1919 with the Eighteenth Amendment. William Glenn and Grier Love would have been pleased that the evils of alcohol were curbed. In Gastonia, liquor brought in by train was surreptitiously unloaded to the basement of the Citizens National Bank, where the locals and train passengers seemed to have considerable business in the late afternoon and evening.⁶

Civic organizations formed in the first few years of the 1920s: American Legion Post 23, established by World War I veterans; the Gaston Country Club with its nine-hole golf course; and the Rotary Club of Gastonia, which Lucius joined. The Kiwanis Club started in 1920–21, the Salvation Army in 1921, the Civitan Club in 1922, and the Lions Club and the Piedmont Council Boy Scouts in 1923. Back in 1917, Gastonia had invested in its library by appropriating \$600 toward annual expenses. In 1923, Lottie Blake received an appropriation from the board of school commissioners to teach white children in the city schools how to use the library.⁷ The Moloch Elks Lodge, No. 468, opened on North York Street in 1925, its founders influential businessmen and leaders in the Highland community.

Gaining a Foothold

In June 1919, Lena decided not to reapply to the Library School. Whether her change of heart was caused by concern for finances, cold feet, health problems, or some other reason is unknown. By early September, however, she changed her mind and took the seven-hour test for the second time. Like the first exam, the topics indicated the breadth of knowledge librarians were expected to possess, such as the significance of notables like Meriwether Lewis, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Boadicea; the components of the Peace Treaty that ended World War I; and the meaning of the "Marriage of the Adriatic" and the "Disestablishment of the Church." After passing the exam and winning acceptance a second time, Lena headed to Atlanta

on the Southern Railway in September, perhaps with Will accompanying her to assure her safe arrival. For shy Lena to actually attend school in a strange city demonstrated her sincere desire to be a librarian. As she lived in Atlanta, studied, and interacted with her six classmates, her confidence grew.⁸

In addition to coursework, Lena heard lectures from librarians and attended the Georgia Library Association's meeting at the Library School. She was exposed to other librarians' work, which broadened her understanding about the field. As a graduation requirement, she had to submit a thesis on the "organization and administration of a small public library." Lena earned a B-minus average in such subjects as library administration, working with children, reference and bibliography, cataloging, classification, current events, library economy, book selection, and the history of books and literature.⁹

On May 29, 1920, Lena Viola Glenn received a certificate in library work from the Carnegie Library of Atlanta. Upon graduation, she declined a job offer to head the book-mending room there. The position, a solitary one, would have suited her, because there would be no interface with the public. "I think you would enjoy the library..." wrote the unidentified person who made the offer and who seems to have known Lena well. "I know your health would be better for some occupation that is not too much of a strain." Nor did she pursue a second opening, as a library assistant in Winston-Salem. "I should like very much indeed to go to the Winston-Salem librarian's aid," wrote Lena, "but I am not strong enough for such strenuous pleasures."¹⁰

What was Lena's difficulty? Unidentified health problems? So frail that she could not work full time? Worried that she could not save if she lived independently? Afraid to leave home? So shy she could not deal with the public at all? After a year learning subjects of great interest to her, it seems odd that Lena was reluctant to use her new skills. When she returned to Gastonia, she resumed her regular routine at home, unemployed. A year later, she was the only one of her classmates not working in a library. Three years later, however, she reported that her health was better than it had been in some time.¹¹

On August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution passed, giving women the right to vote. Lena had written on her first library school exam in 1918 that "women suffrage is slowly gaining

a foot-hold here, and from present indications will continue to do so. . . . I am strongly in favor of it myself, but not in its militant form.” Her sisters likely held identical views. They and their sisters-in-law undoubtedly registered as Democrats and voted for the 1920 Democrat presidential candidate, James Cox. Cox took only North Carolina and ten other Southern states in his loss to Warren G. Harding, demonstrating that sectionalism was still alive more than fifty years after the Civil War. The right to vote, however, did not extend to black women, some of whom would not vote until the 1960s. Voting was still based on the ability of blacks to pass literacy tests, and while they retained a strong desire for education, most remained disenfranchised.¹²

Single Blessedness

In 1920, Eula was 41, Carrie was 36, Lena was 34, and Annie was 28. All were single, as was Gertrude, who at age 31 continued to live in New York City but came home for vacations and holidays. One can only speculate about why the five sisters did not marry. One possible reason is that women teachers were discouraged from marrying in this era and prohibitions against marriage were sometimes written into teaching contracts. After all, marriage led to pregnancy, and pregnancy led to resignations. If the teaching sisters lost their jobs, they would lose the ability to earn and save money, making them totally dependent on a spouse. Thanks to their father’s influence, the sisters did not want to rely on anyone else for their support. Carrie, Lena, and even Annie developed an overriding obsession that they should spend money only when absolutely necessary. Being older and less influenced by her father, Eula felt less constricted, spending her money on clothes and travel when she chose.¹³

College-educated, independent career women like the Glenn sisters were uncommon in this era, and perhaps they intimidated potential suitors. Their role models may well have been their faculty mentors at the Normal, well-educated, successful women engaged in fulfilling careers, who led satisfying lives without a husband and family. Furthermore, Sarah Priscilla may have encouraged her daughters’ independence. She had inherited money and property when her parents died, but William likely controlled her assets. He could well have been overbearing, especially with his

much younger wife. Perhaps the sisters had observed something troubling in their parents' marriage—not just the age difference—that discouraged them from tying the knot.

Finally, remembering their father's advice, by living frugally, the sisters took pleasure in watching their assets grow. They were not necessarily sophisticated in their tastes, eschewing the latest fashions and making their own clothes. They grew much of what they ate. They did not take many pleasure trips. And so the four sisters remained together in the familiarity and security of the family home.

The quartet either divided or rotated household responsibilities. As the oldest, Eula likely served as the household administrator, overseeing the upkeep of the home, paying the bills, and calculating Carrie and Annie's share of expenses. While Lena may have cooked and done housework during the week, Carrie was the sister who enjoyed cooking most, especially baking. They all may have shared in preparing meals on the weekend to use throughout the week.¹⁴

With the double lot, they faced considerable property upkeep. They had ample grass to mow (Carrie's job), even though the rental house, the vegetable garden, the flower beds, and the fruit and nut trees occupied much of the yard. While they hired people to do larger jobs from time to time, they did most of the routine work themselves. They gathered nuts from their pecan and walnut trees and probably sat around the kitchen table shelling them for pies and cookies. They canned much of the vegetable garden's output for the winter months. From the peach, pear, apple, and fig trees planted over the years, they picked fruit and made jams and jellies. The three teachers in the family also had lesson plans to prepare, papers to grade, parent-teacher meetings to conduct, and special events at school to attend. Carrie continued to help Lon with the family genealogy.¹⁵

Shared Hobby

After he built his house in Nashville, Lon added old-fashioned peonies to fill in around his vegetable garden, perhaps remembering them from his childhood. Over time, he began ordering plants from England, France, and Holland, and developed his own varieties by cross-pollination. Chancellor Kirkland, Lon's friend and colleague, was also an enthusiastic gardener,

but he loved irises, the Tennessee state flower, and taught Lon about them. Lon learned to propagate new species but named only one, for his wife: the 'Nell Glenn Pink.' It had deep rose petals that tapered off to a light rose with a yellowish cast. Some 'Nell Glenn Pinks' made their way to Gastonia, where family members and others shared them. Within a decade, Lon's garden of peonies and irises enveloped almost all the acreage in his side yard. For Lon and the chancellor, gardening was a nice distraction from their responsibilities at the university, and they enjoyed their shared hobby for many years. When the American Iris Society was organized in 1920, the two became charter members. Lon began giving Lena iris bulbs, and with his encouragement, she spent countless hours in the yard tending to her irises, which burst into spectacular color in the springtime. Neighbors and passers-by looked forward to the vibrant display.¹⁶

Lon looked forward to taking his geology students on field trips near Nashville to study rocks and landforms and collect fossils, and Nell often accompanied them. He considered these outings an important part of his students' training. One popular trip was an early morning train ride to Newsome Station west of Nashville where, after their studies, students swam, fished, and ate lunch before heading back to campus. He and Nell continued to entertain students in their home. These trips and gatherings allowed Lon to know his students in less formal settings and led to more personal relationships.¹⁷

Lon still labored alone in the geology department, as he had for twenty-three years, although he had assistance from undergraduates and graduate assistants from time to time. In 1923, he finally got help in the form of professor Joseph K. Roberts. When Roberts moved on in late 1926, Willard B. Jewell joined the geology faculty the following year, and later, Charles W. Wilson Jr. signed on. Lon discontinued teaching the oil geology class in favor of physiography, which became his most popular class, and one he would teach until he retired.¹⁸

Public Servant

In 1920, Lucius, 47, entered the busiest and most productive decade of his life. He, Mena, and their three children, Robert, Charlie, and Mary Priscilla, continued on at 402 South Chester Street. Now popularly referred to

as Dr. Lush, he remained a busy surgeon and active in a number of medical organizations. He continued to visit the Mayo Clinic about once a year. In June 1920, he began a six-year term on the seven-member Board of Medical Examiners of the State of North Carolina, the licensing body for new medical school graduates who wanted to practice in the state. The state board also issued interim and temporary licenses and licenses by reciprocity. Lucius supervised the surgical aspect of licensing exams, but his service also required considerable travel to disciplinary hearings for doctors accused of unprofessional conduct and for special meetings. Beginning in June 1921, he served on the finance committee to audit financial statements of the secretary, a position he held until the expiration of his term. In 1923, he served as president of the board for one year.¹⁹

In May 1921, Lucius won a seat on the Gastonia board of school commissioners, which had been established in 1919 after reorganization. The year before, the board had bought property for a new high school on the east side of York Street between Seventh (now Garrison Boulevard) and Eighth avenues and west of Lee Street. Lucius's interest in serving came from the need for a new high school, although he may also have been influenced by his father's involvement in education. Robert and Charlie and Sarah and Susan attended the now overcrowded Central School, and Lucius may have hoped that with his influence, a new high school might be built in time for his sons and nieces to attend.²⁰

During his first term, the board hired the principal of Central School, William Pressley Grier, as the school superintendent. It also authorized construction of nine additional rooms at Central School to relieve overcrowding. Lucius and the rest of the board approved holding a bond election of \$550,000 to build a new high school for white students and to enlarge and equip the school building for black students. The citizens approved the referendum, and in August 1921, the board issued \$450,000 in bonds for a new white high school. Lucius also served as a liaison between the city and county school systems and on the building and grounds committee, with responsibility for two schools in the city system.²¹

In 1922, Lucius was elected a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, which promoted the highest standards of surgical care. Membership benefited a man in charge of a hospital. He later became a life member. Over the next two or more decades, Lucius attended clinics in such places

as New York City, Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, and St. Louis as well as Scotland, England, and Europe.²²

For relaxation, Lucius loved to hunt, a hobby he carried forward from his boyhood. One day, at Kennedy Drug Store on Main Street, he ran into the father of a former patient. As grandson John Lucius “Jay” Glenn recalled his grandfather telling the story, the man said, “Doc. You like to hunt. You saved my daughter’s life. I have a share of stock in the Hilton Head Agricultural Company I’d like to give you.” The company was a hunt club on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, founded by textile men from Gaston and Cleveland counties. Lucius must have hunted there at least once, because, according to Jay, he later pronounced that “there was nothing there but a bunch of drunks.”²³

Graduate Student

During the summer of 1921, Carrie took graduate courses in education at George Peabody, living with Lon and Nell again. Her nephew David was now 20 and attending Vanderbilt, and Hugh, at age 13, was in junior high school. In 1924, Carrie took more classes as a master’s candidate in a summer session at Columbia University Teacher’s College, in New York City. It was the first and largest graduate school of education in the United States, and administrators and teachers from Gaston County studied there, including Superintendent Grier. Carrie and Gertrude likely saw a lot of each other during that summer. While Carrie did not finish the master’s degree program there, she did not give up on the idea of obtaining an advanced degree.²⁴



A Modern Hospital for Gastonia

1921–1926

In 1921, Lucius added the duties of president of City Hospital to his work on the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners and the Gastonia Board of School Commissioners. The facility had outgrown its leased space in the Realty Building, and so the board planned a new, modern hospital. Dr. James Sloan became secretary-treasurer, but the other doctors and Frost Torrence left the board, succeeded by hardware merchant Fred L. Smyre, banker Albert G. Myers Sr., and cotton merchant Thomas Lee Wilson. Wilson's father-in-law, David M. Jones, also a cotton merchant, supported their efforts by facilitating the construction of the new building.¹

The board bought two lots for \$14,000 on the corner of North Highland Street and Mauney Avenue west of North York Street, on the outskirts of the city “on the highest spot,” and removed from the noise and dust of the railroads and city streets. It was an ideal location for a hospital. The board adopted new hospital standards that required the building to be commanding in appearance, hygienic, fireproof, and have large windows for light and air flow. Plans also included a building and dormitory for the nursing school on the west side of the property. Charles Coker Wilson, an architect from Columbia, South Carolina, designed the hospital in the Classical Revival architectural style, to evoke a sense of tradition and permanence. The Palmer-Spivey Company, of Charlotte and of Augusta, Georgia, was the contractor.²

On February 2, 1924, the City Hospital and City Hospital School of Nursing opened. It was a hospital worthy of a progressive city and county,



The third location of City Hospital on Highland Street in 1924 is pictured here as it looked in 1946. Today, the building houses senior apartments. Courtesy of Robert Allison Ragan.

fully equipped to provide modern care. The imposing brick structure had four stories to accommodate seventy patients, a basement, two large sun parlors, a manual elevator, two operating rooms (one for Lucius and one for Sloan), a maternity section, three nurseries, and Gaston County's first X-ray machine. The hospital boasted the latest technology, including a sterilizing plant, emergency gas lighting, blanket warmers, steam heat, and telephone service in every room. Following the laws of the time, the hospital treated white patients only.³

Lucius was justifiably proud of his new hospital. During his term as president of the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, the board held two meetings at the new facility. Visiting doctors were "unanimous in their verdict that it is equal to the best in the country in every respect," proclaimed the *Gastonia Daily Gazette*. After the death of Sloan in February 1926, Lucius remained president of City Hospital and became the treasurer and principal stockholder as well.⁴

Because of the reputations of Drs. Glenn and Sloan, City Hospital was designated as a surgical hospital for the general public and for the employees of the Southern, Carolina & North-Western Railway, and the Piedmont



Glenn family members used the 1912 Southern Railway passenger station on Airline Avenue for out-of-town travel. The Carolina & North-Western depot at the intersection of Main Street and Broad Street was a short walk away. Courtesy of Millican Pictorial History Museum.

& Northern Railway who lived or worked in Gastonia. Doctors serving such hospitals received free passes to ride anywhere the trains ran. Lucius, already a fan of railroading, took advantage of his pass for the rest of his life.⁵

Gastonia now boasted three other hospitals. Established in 1910 as a private hospital, the Gaston County Sanatorium, with a nurses' training school, moved to a modern, four-story brick clinic on South York Street in May 1925. It was renamed Garrison General Hospital to honor its founder, Dr. David Allen Garrison. Doctors associated with the hospital included Dr. Lytle Neale Patrick and Dr. Henry F. Glenn.⁶

A second hospital, Gastonia Colored Hospital, was located in the Highland community on North Falls Street and Davidson Avenue, founded by Dr. Herbert Jones Erwin in 1919. It would be replaced in 1937, when the 35-bed Gaston County Negro Hospital was incorporated by Peter Woods Garland, the attorney who had secured the charter for City Hospital thirty years earlier. Garland served on the board of trustees with eight other white men, who were charged with overseeing hospital administration, nursing services, maintenance, and appointing a medical staff. Blacks had little say in its operation.⁷

In 1921, the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital opened on an impressive promontory along New Hope Road. Children with polio and other incapacitating diseases from across the state came to Gastonia to receive care. Robert B. Babington, head of the telephone company, had advocated for such a facility since 1909, and Mena's father, Robert Ray, a founding trustee, was instrumental in its creation and location in Gastonia when he served in the state senate from 1917 to 1919.⁸

Gastonia High School and Highland High School

Gastonia's educational scene shifted in the fall of 1924, when Gastonia High School opened its doors on the corner of York Street and Seventh Avenue. Central School became an elementary school. Built to accommodate 1,000 students, Gastonia High School opened with a student body of 400. Architect Hugh White, of the Gastonia firm of White, Streeter & Chamberlain, did a masterful job of design. The high school boasted an indoor swimming pool, a pipe organ, a 1,600-seat auditorium, a fully equipped laboratory, and a stadium that seated 5,000 people. The school was a showstopper and added to Gastonia's reputation as a prosperous city boasting quality institutions.⁹

Amenities of the Highland neighborhood school hardly compared to those of the new high school for whites across town, but black schools benefited from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, conceived by Booker T. Washington and funded by Julius Rosenwald, a founder of Sears, Roebuck, and Company. The Rosenwald Fund provided architectural plans and matching funds to build schools for black children across the South. Gaston County gained sixteen Rosenwald Schools, fourteen of which were built between 1921 and 1925.¹⁰

In 1922–23, the addition to Highland Elementary School added grades 7–10, although it was not approved as a high school. In 1926, Highland celebrated its first graduation ceremony, but awarded certificates, not diplomas. In 1929, Highland Elementary was renamed Highland High School with an excellent faculty under Talmadge C. Tillman. Not until 1931 did Highland High School graduates receive diplomas allowing them to go directly to college. Only two other high schools in the county served black students: Lincoln Academy and Reid High School in Belmont, a Rosenwald School named for its founder and first principal, Charles Jesse Bynum Reid.¹¹

Changes in the Fabric of the Community

By the 1920s, the descendants of the Scotch-Irish and others of Protestant denominations who dominated the populace in the earliest days of the county were joined by industrious people of various religions and nationalities. Catholics started a church in 1903 at the corner of Long Avenue and Falls Street. A strong contingent of the Greek Orthodox faith, like the Trakas and Leventis families, arrived about 1910. They built Karyae Park at the foot of Crowders Mountain in 1926, which contained a church and recreational facilities the whole community used. Carmine Coletta, an Italian immigrant, began delivering the products of Coletta Ice Cream Company in 1915 in a horse-drawn wagon. David Lebovitz, of the Jewish faith, came from Lithuania in 1892 and set up a retail store. The Jewish congregation built Temple Emanuel in 1930 on the corner of South and Third Streets. All contributed to the fabric of the community.¹²

A Castle and a Controversy

In 1922, Lon continued to assist Nell in her efforts to learn more about her ancestors, the McCulloughs. The following summer, Lon studied oil and shale mining in Europe, and the couple used the opportunity to travel to Italy, Germany, France, England, Scotland, and Ireland. Nell liked Italy the best and thought the food was wonderful. So did Lon, who put on ten pounds. “I never saw anybody eat as much in my life,” Nell wrote Lena.¹³

With the Glenns’ Scottish heritage in mind, Lon enjoyed their visit to Barr Castle, thought to have been built by his ancestor William de Glen. The castle, in Lockwinnoch, Renfrewshire, about thirty miles south of Glasgow, was practically in ruins, the inside floors gone. But the two climbed to the roof, where Nell pulled up sprays of ivy and brought them home to Nashville, where they grew nicely as a reminder of their happy trip.¹⁴

Lon stirred up a minor controversy in 1925 in the aftermath of *State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes*—better known as the Scopes Monkey Trial—which debated the theory of evolution. At a meeting of the Tennessee Science Academy, Lon had said the evidence pointed toward the development of complex organisms from simpler ones, a key tenet of evolution. Dr. Arthur I. Brown, a fellow of the Royal Surgeons of Edinburgh,



In 1927, Leonidas Chalmers Glenn, at the age of 56, became the first chairman of the new natural science division at Vanderbilt University. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, Vanderbilt University.

Scotland, called Lon's statement "fallacious and not borne out by science." Mrs. E. P. Blair, of Nashville, who saw the article, complained about Lon to Chancellor Kirkland. "Is there no way to keep Vanderbilt faculty members from making our great University appear to antagonize public opinion and State law? Dr. glenn's [sic] statement before the Academy of Science that life was developed automatically does little credit to Vanderbilt." Kirkland replied that Lon's personal belief in God's universe did not prevent him from seeing the reasonableness of evolution as a scientific theory, "affording the best explanation yet offered of the manner in which the creator has worked." He called Lon a "highly esteemed officer in the Presbyterian Church, and whose views on religious questions are as deep and doubtless as correct as either yours or mine."¹⁵

Lon continued to pursue his myriad interests. In 1926, he published a small piece on the geology of the proposed Great Smoky National Park. In 1929, he contributed to the entry on "Erosion" for a new edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He was appointed by the National Research Council as one of four members-at-large from the United States to serve on the International Geographic Council. He reviewed the geology and geography of the Southeast for *Social Science Abstracts*, a publication from the University of Colorado. And at the February 1929 annual meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, he presented a paper on the geology of dams and reservoirs.¹⁶

The Glenns in Gastonia

Lucius regretted that he did not have much time to spend with his family at this busy time of his life. Even so, he was known to leave at the drop of a hat without revealing his intentions, like the time he was late to dinner,



State-of-the-art Gastonia High School opened in 1924. Eula and Annie Glenn completed their careers as English teachers in this building, and four of their nieces and nephews were graduates. Today, the building houses upscale apartments. Courtesy of Robert Allison Ragan.

and Mena found out that he had caught a train to Florida that afternoon. Mena, however, stayed occupied with raising three children and running the household. An intelligent and savvy woman, she was involved with First Presbyterian Church, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (in Charlotte), and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She also would serve as vice chairman of the county Democrat party.¹⁷

In 1924, Mayme Glenn hosted the inaugural meeting of the county's second chapter of the DAR, the Major William Chronicle Chapter, and became a charter member and the first vice regent. The thirty-six members represented "some of the most talented and gifted women of the city," according to historian Joseph Separk. The Glenn sisters, however, did not join the DAR despite their extensive qualifications, which their brother's genealogical research had documented.¹⁸

Teachers Eula and Annie transferred to the new Gastonia High School, proud to work in such exceptional surroundings. Their niece Sarah Glenn graduated from the new facility, where Sarah became the first of her four sisters to be valedictorian of their respective high school classes. Her Aunt Eula helped her with the valedictory address.¹⁹

As she had at Central School, Eula put her life into her teaching. She was demanding, but students thanked her after graduation for how well she had prepared them for college. She encouraged students who had an aptitude in any subject, not just English. Because of her own struggles to get through college, she inspired many students to pursue higher education who might not have thought college was possible. Furthermore, both Eula and Annie were strict teachers; one did not fool with them.²⁰

In the 1920s, with Gastonia flourishing, Will and Mayme owned considerable real estate in the city and county, some of which Mayme had inherited from her parents' estates. Among the properties were three buildings on West Main Avenue, two of them leased to the Efird department store. They also owned several residential lots and with Lon and the sisters owned twenty-nine lots near the old farm on what was now called York Road.²¹

On January 2, 1925, Will chartered a new textile mill with Mayme's uncle, Dan Rhyne, and they named it for themselves—Wildan Manufacturing Company, operating it out of the former Melville Manufacturing plant in Cherryville. Will guided the operation while continuing as vice president of Ragan Spinning Company.²²

In 1925, Lena was pleased to learn that her certificate from the Library School of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta had transformed into a master's degree in the wake of the school's merger with Emory University. Mulling over the idea of returning to college for a bachelor's degree, she asked the Normal (now called North Carolina College for Women) how many credits she would need to earn one, and if they would accept some of her coursework from the Library School. The records, however, do not show that she received further credit or returned to Greensboro to complete a bachelor's degree. Lena's professional life remained on hold.²³



Oranges and Irises

1927–1932

In 1929, a strike at the Loray Mill hit Gaston County with the most traumatic event since the Civil War and the Great Flood of 1916. Most mills were still owned by local stockholders, and conditions varied from mill to mill. The Loray Mill, however, co-founded by John Franklin Love, was bought by the Jenckes Spinning Company, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. In 1923, Jenckes merged with the Manville Company, of Manville, Rhode Island, to become Manville-Jenckes. The company owned textile plants in New England and elsewhere, including Gastonia, where it discontinued weaving and began manufacturing fabric for automobile tires. After World War I, Manville-Jenckes had experienced losses in its New England operations from wartime overexpansion. To compensate, the company sought to increase efficiency in its plants, including the Loray, by use of the stretch-out system, designed to get more production from fewer workers for less pay.¹

The sheer size of the Loray Mill and the outside ownership made working at the mill less personal. Manville-Jenckes fenced the property and locked the doors during working hours, which meant, for example, that mothers could no longer run home to check on their children. The stretch-out system, declining pay, poor working conditions, and new restrictions made textile workers at the Loray ripe for unionization. The catalyst was Fred Beal, a union organizer with the National Textile Workers Union and a member of the Communist Party.

In April 1929, Loray mill workers went on strike, and Governor O. Max Gardner called out National Guard troops. A clash in June resulted in civil disorder and the shocking death of Gastonia's police chief, Orville F. Aderholt. In September, Ella Mae Wiggins—activist mill worker, balladeer, and mother—lost her life to a bullet as she traveled to a protest rally in the back of a truck. These traumatic events took place uncomfortably close to the Glenn family home on South Chester Street.²

The Loray Mill strike attracted sympathy for the plight of mill workers but did not advance the cause of unions, and cast a pall over the community. The anti-union sentiment that it generated in Gastonia and throughout the South still exists. The strike shattered for a long time Gastonia's image as an up-and-coming community and a desirable place to live and work. It was heartbreaking to the second generation of leaders who had worked so hard to make Gastonia exceptional, as well as to residents and mill workers. The strike, in fact, was so traumatic that embarrassed locals did not talk about it for years, and it was rarely taught in the schools. A historical marker commemorating the events was not erected until 2013.³

The strike was followed by another enormous blow: the stock market crash of October 1929 and the ensuing international depression. The Gaston economy collapsed, causing unemployment, bank failures, widespread foreclosures, and poverty. Only ten mills owned by seven companies weathered the storm. The rest sank over the next few years or failed outright. In 1935, Firestone Fibers & Textiles would buy the Loray Mill building and continue tire-cord production there for another sixty years.⁴

In 1931, Albert Myers persuaded leaders of fifteen combed-yarn mills to consolidate under a new business called Textiles-Incorporated to help them survive. To this number was added operating control of eight other mills. These twenty-three mills became the greatest combination of combed-yarn spinning mills in the United States, and the new company proved to be the salvation of textile production in Gaston County. Although they ran at less than capacity and paid workers less money, the mills helped families survive during the Depression. Carrie eventually purchased stock in Textiles-Incorporated, and Lena undoubtedly did as well.⁵

The Citizens National Bank of Gastonia was the only bank capable of transacting business during the first year of the financial crisis. It was the successor to the bank the Loves had launched in 1905. It survived the

initial deposit runs in 1930. Although solvent, it reorganized in 1933 as the Citizens National Bank in Gastonia (tweaking its name from “of” to “in”) under the leadership of bankers Albert G. Myers Sr., and Allen H. Sims. The Glenn sisters made the institution their primary bank, possibly because of the family’s connection to the Loves.⁶

Will’s Florida Venture

Sundays were important to Will and Mayme Glenn. They attended First Presbyterian Church, an easy two-block walk from their home on Second Avenue, and then enjoyed Sunday dinner. Afterward, they and their daughters, Sarah, Susan, Mary, and Margie, walked to 407 South Chester Street to call on Eula, Carrie, Lena, and Annie, whom the nieces called “the Aunties.” (Lucius’s daughter, Mary, and her family called them “the girls.”) While the nieces amused themselves, the adults visited, and Will reviewed his sisters’ investment portfolios or discussed investment options. At his direction, the women continued to invest in local or regional companies including textile mills, banks and savings and loans, bonded warehouses, some real estate, later expanding to municipal bonds, and blue chip stocks of national companies. What remains a mystery is what funds the unemployed Lena had to invest.⁷

Like their aunts, Will and Mayme’s daughters were intelligent, with brainy reputations even in elementary school. A teacher at Central School once gushed to Mayme about one daughter’s smarts, referring with admiration to the “Glenn mind.” Slightly irritated, Mayme interjected, “I don’t know about the Glenn mind, but I do know about the Glenn ‘don’t mind.’” Daughter Mary displayed the latter when she was 9 or 10 and a student at Central School in the late 1920s. Vendors, like Carmine Coletta, parked their wagons and trucks outside the school, hoping to sell the students ice cream, Coca Cola, Cheerwine, candy, and other treats. Mayme, wary of a product like ice cream being sold from a horse-drawn wagon, forbade her daughters to buy anything. Mary, however, occasionally sneaked an ice cream cone wrapped in paper and ate it before she got home.⁸

In 1927, after he had worked for almost a quarter of a century in the textile business, Will’s entrepreneurial spirit took hold. He left Ragan Spinning Company at the age of 52, bought a citrus grove, and moved his family

to Winter Haven, Florida, where he grew oranges and grapefruit. Sarah was attending Agnes Scott College, in Atlanta, but Mayme and Susan, 15, Mary, 9, and Margie, 7, joined the adventure. Citrus farming was a large industry and growing by the time Will became involved. He smelled opportunity.⁹

Will did well and enjoyed his life in Florida. He and other growers established a processing facility, and he bought land with a lake to tap for irrigation. Then James Franklin Love, Mayme's nephew from Lincolnton, traveled to Florida to ask his Uncle Will's help to run the struggling Saxony and Melville mills back in North Carolina, in Cherryville and Lincolnton respectively, owned by Dan Rhyne. Will enjoyed a challenge, and with the promise of an opportunity to buy the mills, he agreed. The Glenns returned to Gastonia after about a year, but kept the Florida home as a vacation destination.¹⁰

Will commuted to Lincolnton and Cherryville from Gastonia for about a year and worked long hours overseeing the operations of the two mills. In December 1929, shortly after the stock market crash, Will and Mayme evaluated the impact of the commute on the family. Their marriage was built on love, friendship, and mutual respect, and they made the momentous decision to move permanently to Lincolnton, despite their deep roots in Gaston County. Mayme purchased a home at 1010 Aspen Street and transformed it from Italianate design to Colonial design. In Gastonia, the Masonic Temple had operated practically in their backyard, and Mayme and her girls had enjoyed overhearing the Masons' antics, laughter, and silliness when the weather was hot and the windows were open. They would miss the live entertainment after their move to Lincolnton.¹¹

The Glenns assimilated easily into their new community. Mayme had prominent Lincolnton connections in her uncle Dan Rhyne, her brother Robert Love, and other members of the Love family. She and Will became active in First Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton, with Will serving as an elder and, later, elder for life. He was a director of Commercial Bank & Trust Company in Gastonia and localized the First National Bank of Lincolnton. He joined the Lincolnton Rotary Club, serving as president. His hobbies were growing dahlias and watermelons.¹²

Now that her children were older, Mayme could indulge hobbies of her own. Accomplished in needlepoint, she applied that art to her dining room

chairs. She crocheted blankets and became an accomplished oil painter. She also loved gardening. Mayme continued her involvement with the DAR and would serve as state treasurer in 1933. Because she lacked confidence in her mathematical abilities, she accepted the post only when Will promised to help.¹³

Lon's Notable Garden

In 1927, Lon was appointed chairman of the new natural science division at Vanderbilt, one of three new academic divisions, with a new office in Garland Hall. Lon could have become dean but he preferred teaching and his scholarly pursuits. He was “a sort of unofficial dean and a member of all the important committees,” according to *History of Vanderbilt University*. He belonged to the Tennessee College Association, spoke at Vanderbilt alumni events around the country, and assisted the chancellor with special assignments. He chaired the university's Athletic Committee, representing Vanderbilt at national meetings of the National College Athletic Association (NCAA), a responsibility that continued into the 1930s. When Lon complained about excessive committee work, Kirkland responded, “I agree with you that you have been somewhat over-loaded. . . . I think this was brought about from the fact that for a long while your classes were somewhat smaller, and your class work somewhat lighter than other members of the faculty.”¹⁴

In addition to his genealogical work, Lon kept up his furniture making, but gardening was the hobby he loved most. In 1928, he was the subject of a flattering profile, “He Mixes Geology and Flowers,” by T. Benjamin Faucett. The author called Lon “one of the leading geological authorities in the United States,” who had made “an outstanding success of both his profession and his hobby—a very unusual combination.” While highlighting Lon's recent identification of a 206-pound mastodon jawbone found near Nashville, the article focused on his garden, “one of the largest private collections of peony and iris in the country.” Lon had about 500 varieties, represented by 3,000 peony plants and 8,000 iris plants. “I get all my recreation by digging into the mysteries of flower creation in my garden,” he told the author. His hobby became self-supporting when he began charging his flowers' many admirers for roots and bulbs, and he developed hundreds of varieties of iris through hybridization.¹⁵



Lon Glenn's vast garden of peonies and irises at his home at 2111 Garland Avenue, near the Vanderbilt University campus, was a regional attraction each spring. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, Vanderbilt University.

"Perhaps the most unusual thing about this unusual man and his unusual flower garden," wrote the author, "is his cordial invitation for everybody to visit it at any time. *There is no fence around it.* Anybody is welcome to walk right in and stroll between rows of the most beautiful and expensive blossoms that represent hours of toil, for Dr. Glenn does practically all of the work necessary to keep his . . . plants in perfect condition, and while strolling, the visitor may rub elbows with the genial owner without being aware that he is also a famous successful geologist in disguise."¹⁶

Indeed, Lon's garden in April and May was a regional showplace that hundreds of people visited. Neighbors in a nearby apartment building also loved it, enjoying the beauty from their windows. Some of them picked flowers under cover of darkness and smuggled them home.¹⁷

One day, with the weather ideal for cross-pollination, Lon walked to Kirkland's house, where he found the chancellor working in his own garden. Lon bemoaned having to teach a class when conditions were so perfect for gardening. Kirkland told him to cancel, and so Lon walked to campus, put a note on the door of his classroom, and returned to his garden to enjoy the day.¹⁸

Carrie Earns a Master's Degree

In the fall of 1928, Carrie returned to Nashville and enrolled full time in the master's program at George Peabody College. She undoubtedly lived with Lon and Nell again. Carrie wanted to enhance her teaching skills and may

still have been driven by a desire to prove herself after her disappointment at the Normal, but she might also have been driven by a bit of a competitive streak. Lena, after all, who had not been employed for one day since college and library school, had received the master's degree in library science from Emory University. After two semesters, Carrie graduated in 1929 with an MA in education. In Gastonia, she resumed her role as primary-grades supervisor. The following year, in conjunction with a meeting of the North Carolina Education Association in Raleigh, she and other school supervisors were honored at a reception at the Executive Mansion hosted by North Carolina's first lady, Fay W. Gardner.¹⁹

A School Boy Again

Lucius was one of North Carolina's finest surgeons. He led the Gaston County Medical Society, belonged to multiple medical associations, and served on the board of The State Hospital at Morganton. He also worked as a medical examiner for insurance companies, including New York Life, Mutual of New York, and Heptasophs Insurance Company, a Greek firm. And he remained as vital to City Hospital as he had been since its inception. Despite his considerable professional success, however, his lack of an undergraduate degree gnawed at him. New colleagues would invariably ask Lucius where he received his degree, and he would have to confess that he did not have one.²⁰

In the fall of 1930, Lucius attended a football game at Catawba College, which had relocated to Salisbury, North Carolina. According to an article in the *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, he told the college president, Dr. Elmer R. Hoke, about his bitter regret at leaving college in 1894, and joked that maybe he "would like to be a schoolboy again and resume my course." Hoke realized Lucius was sincere, and he and the Catawba registrar determined that Lucius needed to take courses in English, psychology, and philosophy to graduate. Three professors agreed to let Lucius meet privately with them once a week. He enrolled for the spring semester of 1931.²¹

The same stubborn determination that drove Lucius in college and medical school drove him to finish his degree while also having a family, operating City Hospital, and maintaining a full surgical practice. Every Friday afternoon, he used his pass on the Southern Railway to catch the

2:35 p.m. train, arriving in Salisbury at 4:20 p.m. He took a taxi to the college, discussed the assignments in detail with professors for one and a half hours, ate dinner at the college dining room, met with professors for another ninety minutes, and caught the return train that arrived in Gastonia by 10:00 p.m. He followed this routine for three semesters, studying into the early hours of the morning.²²

Graduation day came on May 24, 1932. Forty-one years after he had started college, Lucius received an AB in psychology, with a minor in English. He was nearly 59 years old. Son Robert had already graduated from Davidson College, and son Charlie from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and would soon head to medical school. Daughter Mary graduated from Gastonia High School the same month as Lucius, at age 16. While other members of Catawba's class of 1932 might "glance at the dazzling avenue of the future with a greater thrill than his," wrote the *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, Lucius was the happiest of all to don cap and gown and stride across the rostrum to grasp his coveted diploma.²³

An Untimely Death

In 1931, as Lucius was finishing his first semester, Eula and the rest of the family received a shock: Eula had lung cancer. Putting the hospital, his surgical practice, his coursework, and his resentment aside, Lucius took Eula to the Mayo Clinic and to specialists in Baltimore and elsewhere, but they were unable to help. The news was equally distressing to Lon, who absented himself from Vanderbilt over the next few months, probably to visit his sister. Ever since their father died, he had relied on Eula to hold the family together. As the oldest son and the oldest daughter, the two shared a common bond. In November, Eula reluctantly resigned from Gastonia High School. By mid-February of 1932, she was bedridden. On March 17, 1932, she hastily executed a will, naming Will her executor. On March 20, 1932, in the Charlotte Sanatorium, Eula Blanche Glenn died at the age of 53.²⁴

Since her return to Gastonia in 1907 to take care of her father and younger sisters, Eula had been the head of the household. She had spent over twenty-four years as an English teacher and headed two English departments. She had declined numerous offers of teaching positions at well-known colleges, preferring to remain in her home county.²⁵



The Class of 1932 at Gastonia High School dedicated its yearbook to the memory of their teacher, mentor, and friend, Eula B. Glenn. Eula was the long-time yearbook advisor. Courtesy of Ashbrook High School.

Befitting Eula's status as a revered teacher and member of a prominent family, the *Gastonia Daily Gazette* ran a poignant, heartfelt eulogy. Thanks to "one of the best teachers who ever lived," it went, her students "emerged . . . richer, better, riper and more prepared for life." Furthermore, "Miss Glenn contributed immeasurably to the cultural life of the community. Hers was an influence that was felt for years and years in the life of the individual. Gifted to an unusual degree in the graces that went for good teaching, she added to this a charm of manner and personality that won for her a high and distinctive place in the affairs of this community." Thirty-five years after her death, during the city's 1977 centennial, James Atkins, editor of the *Gastonia Gazette*, cited Eula Glenn as one of thirteen outstanding teachers in the Gastonia school system since its founding in 1901.²⁶

The family held her funeral at home on March 21, which may have been Eula's wish. Rev. Dr. James H. Henderlite, of First Presbyterian Church, officiated. Had the service been held at the church, the congregation would have overflowed the pews. Her pallbearers comprised childhood friends Samuel Alexander Robinson, president of Gastonia Building & Loan Association, and Dr. Pleasant Ralph Falls, a dentist, who grew up in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood; school colleagues W. P. Grier, superintendent of the Gastonia Graded School District, and Frank L. Ashley, principal of Gastonia High School; and across-the-street neighbors James Houston Matthews, a partner in the Matthews-Belk Company department store, and Dr. Ralph Ray, Mena's brother. Eula was interred at the family plot at Oakwood Cemetery with her parents and her brothers Ernest and Howard.²⁷

Eula's illness and death entailed a painful adjustment for her family. As

the next oldest, Carrie assumed her role as head of the household, now reduced to Lena, Annie, and herself. Gertrude maintained her life and work in New York City.

Lena Makes her Move

The month before Eula's death, however, Lena finally made her move. A new library building had opened on March 27, 1931, on Second Avenue, now supported by both the city and county, becoming a true public library with services free to all white citizens. It needed additional staff, and librarian Lottie Blake persuaded Lena to put her library degree to use. Perhaps motivated by a promise made to Eula or with a new appreciation for the shortness of life, 46-year-old Lena cast aside whatever had held her back for most of her adult life. In February 1932, twenty-four years out of college and twelve years out of library school, she entered the work force for the first time, as an assistant librarian.²⁸



Gaston County Public Library on Second Avenue opened in 1931. Lena Glenn began her library career here the following year. Courtesy of the Glenn Foundation.



The Great Depression

1932–1939

In 1932, as the Depression deepened, it affected whites and blacks and every aspect of life in Gastonia—not just textile mills, but household spending, church pledges, tax collections, corporate investments, and retail businesses alike. Even members of the clergy did not escape hard times. At the Glenns’ church, First Presbyterian, its minister, James Henderlite, requested that his salary be reduced.¹

In 1931 and 1932, with lost tax revenues, the Gastonia Board of School Commissioners considered salary reductions and discontinued the employment of married women in order to protect the sole livelihood of unmarried teachers. The Gastonia Chamber of Commerce and City Council promised to keep the schools open for the full term, the schools acting on faith that they could pay salaries and maintain school buildings. “The School Board is immensely appreciative of the remarkable spirit of loyalty of our city school teachers,” wrote C. W. Gunter, chairman. “This is the Gastonia Spirit and the Gastonia way.—We have not failed in the past, and we are not going to fail now. It is such a spirit that makes our community what it is.”²

In August 1933, the school commissioners eliminated three positions in home economics. The following month, fourteen teachers resigned, perhaps the married ones. Despite the reduction in force, the commissioners hired Naomi “Nonie” Patterson as the high school librarian and authorized a campaign for books and supplies for the high school. Annie was better off

than most teachers in the city schools, being unmarried with a roof over her head, low overhead, and savings.³

The Gaston County Board of Education faced similar problems. In 1928, before the crash, it had established an eight-month school term, putting it on a par with the city schools. In 1931, it had ruled that teachers who married must resign, for, as the superintendent noted, six married teachers who had given birth had to give up their work after “practically ruining their grades.” After pushback from the community, the board allowed married teachers already employed to continue, but did not hire additional ones. Carrie, like Annie, was unaffected—at least for the time being.⁴

Blacks had made modest gains in the 1910s and 1920s, but the Depression was devastating. Any progress came to a halt as blacks and poor whites suffered real hardship. Up to 50 percent of black people were unemployed, as a high proportion of low-level jobs, traditionally filled by black workers, were given to white workers. In 1936, the board of school commissioners built a new high school building for Highland (where Gateway Village is today), but it lacked a cafeteria, so students either brought their lunch or ate at Leslie Lightner’s café, Edward Odom’s place, or Thomas King’s restaurant. Children were transported by the county bus system.⁵

In September 1934, the General Textile Strike, the largest labor strike in US history, temporarily closed the mills in Gaston and Lincoln counties. Led by the United Textile Workers Union and American Federation of Labor, the strike’s objectives were a thirty-hour week and an end to the stretch-out. It was the Depression, however, so many mills either were not operating or ran at less than capacity. By the end of the month, operations at the mills returned to normal.⁶

Lon, TVA, and the NCAA

In 1931, Lon made the news in Tennessee after unearthing a possible burial crypt of prehistoric Indians. In 1932, he initiated fossil collecting in western Tennessee as he worked toward his goal that the Vanderbilt Geology Museum would possess the greatest collection anywhere. Two years later, he secured prehistoric stone tools from Somaliland, South Africa. The museum’s collection had grown so large that much of it was stored, and

the university could not accommodate his request for more space. Then in 1933, Lon suffered a salary cut.⁷

In 1935, he joined the Board of Consultants of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The TVA was part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, intended to help the region's business and farming economies and stem a steady outflow of migration. In this capacity, Lon studied earthquake hazards and inspected dams throughout the Tennessee valley. His earlier interest in the application of geology to engineering made him the ideal geologist to assist. His reputation with TVA led him to consult on non-TVA dams elsewhere, such as in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1936, Lon received a grant from the Geological Society of America for fieldwork in eastern South Carolina, where a new intracoastal canal exposed fossils ripe for his study. This work would engage him into his retirement. That fall, Lon spoke in New Hampshire at the Silver Jubilee of the Weeks Act, which provided federal funding to preserve forest land in the eastern United States. His publications tapered off because of the demands of his TVA work, but he found time to attend national meetings of the Geological Society of America, present papers at the Tennessee Academy of Science, and give special lectures, and he continued to represent the university at alumni events.⁸

In the 1930s, Lon still served on the university Athletic Committee and represented Vanderbilt at meetings of the NCAA, but not happily. He was especially concerned about the rising tide of commercialism in athletics. In 1931, for example, he was frustrated with the NCAA executive committee for not enforcing its own rules, and singled out the University of Tennessee as the "star villain" in a letter to the chancellor. In 1933, Lon pointed out that Tennessee had lowered its attendance requirements: "The employment [of football players] at the [Wilson] dam is under [head coach] Gen. [Robert] Neyland and is really a subsidy." In 1939, nearing retirement, he escaped appointment to a new athletic committee.⁹

In 1937, Lon's close friend, colleague, and neighbor, Chancellor James Kirkland, retired after forty-four years. He was succeeded by Chancellor Oliver Cromwell Carmichael, the dean of the graduate school, who had been brought in several years earlier as a part of succession planning. After

a period of failing health, Kirkland died in August 1939, much to the sorrow of Lon and the university family.¹⁰

A Pistol on the Night Stand

In Gastonia in 1938, Lucius became the nineteenth president of the Rotary Club of Gastonia. Distrustful of banks after losing money when his primary bank folded, he now kept a safe under his interior staircase, where he locked up money and prescription drugs. There were break-ins from time to time, and Mena reportedly kept a pistol on her nightstand, just in case.¹¹

Dan Rhyne's Estate

In 1933, Will took on a substantial responsibility, essentially a full-time job, as the administrator of Dan Rhyne's enormous estate. Mayme's uncle had died a bachelor in February 1933 at the age of 81. He was one of the wealthiest men in the region, with an estate estimated at about \$5 million, the equivalent of over \$100 million in 2020 dollars. While Will was family, the executors had confidence in his integrity and ability to sort out tangles. Now, at the height of the Depression, he held the estate intact until business conditions warranted sale of the stock without sacrificing intrinsic values. Over the ensuing years, he helped run Rhyne's mills, pay obligations, liquidated some of the assets, and eventually divided the property among Rhyne's numerous heirs.¹²



Early in the Depression, Melville Mills was placed in bankruptcy, and Will acted as receiver for the creditors. As manager of the Rhyne estate, Will

As manager of the Rhyne estate, Will

Will Glenn in the 1930s, when he served as administrator of the enormous estate of Daniel Efrid Rhyne, his wife's uncle. Courtesy of the William W. Glenn family collection.

purchased it and became president and treasurer. He incorporated Melville Mills under his ownership in a new corporation called Glenn Mills, Inc., and consolidated subsequent textile interests under it, including the Saxony Mill, Merco Mill, Wisteria Mill, and Glenn Thread Company. Daughter Susan, who remained single, assisted her father with office management of the Lincoln County mills. With his focus on the complex estate of Dan Rhyne, settling Eula's estate took a back burner.¹³

Will and Mayme continued their investments in Gastonia real estate. They leased the building at 207 West Main Avenue to Gastonia Theatre Corporation, which became the Ideal movie theater and Mayme leased 209 and 211 West Main Avenue to Sterchi Bros. Stores, Inc.¹⁴

Carrie's Job Loss

In late July 1933, Carrie was still employed as primary supervisor of the Gaston County schools, and had accepted a reduced salary of \$120 a month. She had barely begun the fall semester, however, when she learned that there were no funds in the state or local budgets to pay for her position. She resigned immediately, "in order not to embarrass the Board," according to the October 2, 1933, minutes of the board of education. The board accepted her resignation "with the deepest regret," and praised her "splendid service" in a resolution passed at the same meeting. At age 49, Carrie was unemployed for the first time in twenty-seven years. She was philosophical about the circumstances, however, and took pride and satisfaction in her career. "The work of Miss Glenn has enabled the county to select and retain the best teachers in the rural schools of the county," wrote Oscar Lee Kiser in his 1928 master's thesis about education in Gaston County. Carrie was soon back in the classroom, teaching elementary grades at Flint-Groves Elementary School. Along with her brothers and sisters, she had weathered the worst of the Depression.¹⁵



The World War II Era

1940–1946

*W*orld War II pulled Gaston County out of the Depression. The City of Spindles saw improvement in textile production, with people going back to work as mills ran at full capacity. In the Gaston County town of Cramerton, for example, demand for Cramerton khaki, a staple of military uniforms, outstripped supply.¹

Many young men who had been students of the Glenn sisters enlisted or were drafted into the armed services, and as they left for the military, women took their places in the mills. Women also took over farm chores, not unlike their roles during the Civil War. Some Gaston County teachers left the profession for private employment and higher wages, which caused the boards of education to lift restrictions against married teachers. Gaston County schools sought pay raises to improve retention, but teacher shortages remained during and after the war. Carrie continued to teach.²

Gertrude Stands Her Ground

In 1940, Gertrude, now 51, still in New York City, lived with other single women in a boardinghouse at 401 West 118th Street. She had been a secretary for the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company for almost six years. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) required employees of communications companies to complete a questionnaire that included employees' ages. Gertrude strenuously objected. "I do not use my actual age in

business,” she wrote to the FCC. “I have not given it to this Company, and therefore do not wish to be compelled now to make it public.” She further explained. “I belong to the type of wage-earning women classified by employment agencies as the ‘older group’—in other words, I am over the age of thirty-five, which is the age specified by most business firms as the maximum at which they will employ women. Employment agencies do not invite registration of women over that age, and prospective employers seldom even grant them an interview, regardless of their education, business experience or proved ability.”³

The FCC chairman let Gertrude know that if she could establish her citizenship without disclosing the date and place of her birth, they would not require her age. He assured her that the information would be confidential in any event, and would not be used to the detriment of individual employees. Gertrude understood well the hurdles faced by single working women of the 1940s.⁴

Jim Crow

As war began in Europe, Jim Crow laws were at their height. “White only” and “colored only” signs on Gaston County water fountains and rest rooms were commonplace. Black diners had no access to restaurants on Main Street unless they took food out. Movie seating only in the balcony was the norm, and some theaters had a separate entrance for blacks. Blacks needing public transportation were relegated to the back of the bus, in the “hot seats” over the motor. There were separate swimming pools and playgrounds. Segregation pervaded trains and hotel accommodations. There were separate waiting rooms at doctors’ offices and the train station. The only times blacks and whites intermingled came when black women worked in white homes (transported in the back seat or entering by the back door), and black men worked as waiters or custodians or yard workers.⁵

South Chester Street

In Gastonia, Gertrude’s sisters kept to themselves most of the time. The women did their own housework and yardwork except for the largest projects. The neighborhood was so safe and friendly that Carrie could ask a

family friend from Crowders Creek to deliver four pounds of liver mush. “If you don’t find us at home,” she wrote, “leave it with some of the neighbors . . . and we will send a check.”⁶

In the 1940s, neighbors on South Chester Street knew each other. Mena and Lucius lived on the southeast corner of South Chester and Third Avenue. Next was Dr. O. Douglas Boyce’s brick office building. (It annoyed Lucius greatly that an office building was erected next to his stately home on the pretty residential street.) Then came Roscoe Philhower and his wife Sallie, pianist at First Presbyterian Church, who shared her home with a Mrs. Eddleman after her husband’s death. At the corner of Fourth Avenue was the James Houston Matthews family. Across South Chester from Lucius and Mena were the Hanna sisters, the Shorts (whose family grew to five children), the Glenn sisters, the Hollands, and the Rankins. Carrie parked her 1938 Plymouth coupe in the long driveway between her house and the Shorts’ home. Lucius and Mena parked their Buick in their garage off Third Avenue behind their house. A family affair, Mena’s younger sister, Mamie Ray Smith, and her husband, Charles, lived one block north, at 310 South Chester, and her brother Ralph, the dentist, and his wife Ethel, lived one block south at 502 South Chester Street. Their son Ralph Jr. was establishing his reputation as a gifted artist.⁷

Annie, the baby of the family, had retired from teaching in 1938 due to heart trouble. By 1941, she spent her waking hours in a wheelchair. She and young Roy Short Jr., then 5 or 6 years old, who lived next door, developed a special relationship, playing many games of Chinese checkers on the Glenns’ front porch. As a small child, the Glenn sisters’ great-niece, Mary Downs Rankin, daughter of Mary Glenn Rankin, also played checkers with Annie during visits from New Jersey. On occasion, Annie invited Roy inside. Roy later recalled that the interior was austere, with the living room furnished with only two or three chairs, a sofa, and a mirror over the fireplace. The sisters kept the house in immaculate condition, placing newspapers on all flat surfaces to keep the furniture from fading in sunlight. Even in the 1940s, the sisters turned the ceiling lights on and off with old-fashioned pull cords rather than wall switches. They received the *Gastonia Gazette* daily, and they owned a radio, but they had no telephone. If they needed to make a call, they asked to use the Shorts’ phone. Lucius’s

A Homegrown Artist: Buddy Ray

A grandson of Robert Rankin Ray and nephew of Mena Ray Glenn—Ralph Ray Jr. (1920–52), better known as Buddy—was a talented artist with a reputation beyond the borders of Gaston County. On May 11, 1920, he was born in Gastonia to Mena’s brother, Ralph, a dentist, and his wife, Ethel, a block south of Mena and Lucius. By the time Buddy was 2, it was evident that he had extraordinary, innate artistic ability and in third grade, he won an award for his art. He would also come to have an appreciation for the natural environment, and in fact some called him “the next Audubon.” He graduated from nearby Belmont Abbey College, and then studied commercial art at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida.

In the late 1940s, he moved to New York City, where he worked as a nationally known illustrator of fifty-two books or book jackets and of magazines. In 1948, he underwent successful surgery for a benign brain tumor. Four years later, on February 24, 1952, Ralph Ray Jr. died from a cerebral hemorrhage, only 32 years old. His untimely death devastated his family members. Many of Buddy Ray’s paintings, especially of birds in their natural habitat, which he often gave to Gastonia residents, are housed in private collections. For the Glenn family, he painted the Wilson coat of arms.



Tompkins and Beagle, *The Life and Art of Ralph Ray Jr.*, 8, 97, 110, 111, 123–124; Thompson wrote Ray’s story and Beagle photographed Ray’s art, the two traveling to many homes to acquire the works appearing in their book; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 21; After his surgery, Buddy spent an extended convalescence in Greenwood, South Carolina, where his mother had moved after the death of her husband. “Inventories for Apartment #16, Presbyterian Home, High Point, NC, as of August 1, 1971.”

lifelong friend, Tom Sparrow, a dairy farmer and local investor, delivered their milk to the front porch, assisted by his grandson Jimmy Thompson.⁸

Since the Glenns' front porch sat on pillars, Roy and other neighborhood boys played under it, and sometimes on the vacant lot next to the house. The Glenn sisters, having grown up with brothers, never objected, not even when children climbed their trees or picked their fruit. Roy loved to climb a big pear tree in the backyard, while his little sister Edith preferred the large holly tree closer to the house. Edith thought her neighbors were "wonderful ladies." Teenager Sammy Rankin, who lived two doors down, concurred, calling them ladies "in the best sense of the word." He felt they were a "cut above" the rest of the neighbors.⁹

Carrie was the boss—a "tomboy" thought Rankin, probably because she mowed the grass. He remembered Lena as the gardener and Annie as a sweetheart. Anne Whitesides Alexander, a young mother living in the neighborhood, thought of the sisters as "quaint old ladies" as she pushed her baby's carriage past the Glenns' home. The description may have had as much to do with their hairstyles and modes of dress as their ages. They were not particularly stylish.¹⁰

At the far back of the property was the small house William had moved when he bought the lot in 1901. In the 1940s, Martha Hemphill, a black woman who worked for others as a cook, lived there. Her house had no city water and no septic tank, but likely an outhouse. She got her water from the pump on the Glenns' back porch. Up the street, Cynthia, a black woman who worked as a cook for Mena's sister, Mamie Smith, lived in a small house on the back of that nearby property. (It is of interest that two black ladies lived in a segregated neighborhood.)¹¹

Carrie and Lena worked in their large vegetable and flower gardens, while Lena tended her iris beds in solitude. As protection from the sun, the sisters wore broad-brimmed hats and pulled old cotton hosiery up on both arms. They canned vegetables, made pickles and preserves, and shelled pecans from their trees. The sisters always shared fruits and vegetables with the Short family. Others in the neighborhood likely were on the receiving end as well.¹²

Minnie Lee Peden, a colleague of Carrie's and Annie's, built an apartment behind the Shorts' home. Peden was Roy Short's great-aunt and a beloved Gastonia educator. On weekdays, Peden drove Lena to work at the

library and Roy to his studies at Central School, with Roy riding in the back seat of her 1937 Chevrolet. Because Roy spent more time with “Miss Lena,” as he called her, he felt more comfortable around her than around Carrie, who to him seemed distant.¹³

Miss Lena the Librarian

In 1940, Lena was approaching her eighth year at the Gaston County Public Library, where she thrived. She was now a technical assistant, or cataloguer, a vital job in any library, and the first to hold this position. In February, Lena asked Tommie Dora Barker, her former Library School principal, who was now dean of the Library School of Emory University, for suggestions of books about library cataloguing, classification, and administration. “I am a strong believer in keeping up-to-date in my profession,” she wrote.¹⁴

Lena’s duties conformed to the racial segregation of the era. The library had begun serving black patrons in October 1939, and Lena had to keep separate catalogs for whites and blacks. There were now four public library branches, fourteen school libraries, and seventeen library stations for white readers. The bookmobile served five library stations for black readers.

The main branch library on Second Avenue was the center of operations. Lena prepared all books for circulation, except a few privately purchased for the four branches. She “adored cataloguing,” she told Barker. “I shelflist, classify, assign subjects, catalog, and do the final filing as my main job, but I help at the desk during short periods for others off duty, help with reference when there is a rush, and do the *Library Notes* for our local paper each week,” she continued. “I am keeping in touch with all parts of the work, and every day in every way I like it better and better.”¹⁵

This Lena was a far cry from the Lena of thirty years earlier. She had found meaningful, challenging work and mental stimulation. She never slept well, her back often hurt, and she had frequent headaches. Yet she had overcome her shyness and gained confidence. Her transformation was never more evident than when she gave a talk, “Books Around the World,” to the Woman’s Club of Lowell. “I did not use anybody’s suggestion, but made up my own talk to last thirty minutes,” she wrote Barker. “The ladies listened attentively, thanked me graciously, and asked me to make the same talk at their high school. A few days later a phone call came for me to make

the talk at another high school in the county, but I had to refuse. A heavy order of books had just come in.” Lena’s siblings rejoiced that she had found her calling.¹⁶

Eula’s Estate Settles

Eula’s estate finally settled in 1943, eleven years after her death. She left her “money, stocks, bonds, and housewhole [sic] and kitchen furniture to be equally divided between my four sister’s [sic] . . . any and all other real estate, personal property, stocks and bonds of which I die possessed.” R. C. Patrick seems to have been Eula’s attorney, for her estate paid him twenty-five dollars. (She would have been horrified by the misspelling and improper grammar of this hastily drawn will.) Although she was just hours from death when she executed the document, the witnesses to Eula’s will said she was of sound mind. She bequeathed to Lena \$500, likely in gratitude for care during her illness. She left all of her sisters her interest in the family farm along York Road, and in the family home (although Gertrude never lived there). In love and regard for her sister-in-law, Mena, she left her a bedspread, throw, and luncheon set she had bought during a trip to Ireland. She left the remainder of her estate to her four sisters, who received \$1,134.76 at the final accounting, the equivalent of almost \$17,000 each in 2020 dollars.¹⁷

Death of Annie Torrence Glenn

The four Glenn sisters became three on March 11, 1945, when Annie died after suffering a stroke two days earlier. Like Eula, Annie was 53 at her death. Her memorial service was conducted at home by Rev. Irving M. Ellis, now the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, and she was buried in the Glenn family plot at Oakwood Cemetery. Remembered as a strict and demanding teacher of English, she had never risen to the prominence Eula had enjoyed, but she had taught her students well. Ten-year-old Roy missed his friend Miss Annie.¹⁸

Annie divided her estate among her three sisters. She had learned her father’s lessons well, for her estate was valued at the significant sum of \$28,905, the equivalent of almost \$420,000 in 2020 dollars. Rather than

liquidate Annie's stocks, Will bought or sold small portions so as to make the inheritable shares divisible by three, and distributed the stocks to his sisters. These included investments in Parkdale Mills, Roses Stores, and Belmont Building & Loan Association, among other holdings. Carrie, Lena, and Gertrude's assets grew significantly following the deaths of their two sisters.¹⁹

Lon Retires

On June 30, 1942, Lon, age 70, retired from Vanderbilt University. He had already passed the compulsory retirement age of 68, and had taught for an additional year at special request. Tributes of appreciation poured in for the new professor emeritus. "It falls to the lot of few men to serve for forty-one years in so conspicuous a manner as you have served at Vanderbilt University," wrote Chancellor Carmichael. At a luncheon honoring Lon given by the faculty of the natural sciences division, Carmichael said, "I have found that Dr. Glenn is one of the best-loved teachers on our faculty . . . and he has served as stimulation to men in all walks of life." Lon was grateful for the praise and elated at the news that he could keep his office on campus. He and Nell stayed in Nashville, where Nell maintained her circle of friends and continued her memberships in various organizations. She and Lon looked forward to a long and happy retirement.²⁰

Needless to say, retirement did little to slow Dr. L. C. Glenn. His successor as chairman of the geology department, Willard Jewell, often sought his advice. Lon continued to work on the museum collections. During World War II, he taught courses as a substitute for a colleague who was serving in the military, and when Vanderbilt trained military cadets for the war effort. He did not want to teach full time, however. He had his flowers, furniture, genealogy, geology, TVA, and his continued fascination with fossils at Myrtle Beach.²¹

Will and Mayme Invest

In Gastonia in 1942, Will purchased the Saxony Hosiery Company, which manufactured men's socks. Two years later, he and Mayme bought the family's farmland from his sisters and brother, for the same \$12,000 at which it

was valued in 1916, when they had bought out Lucius's share. As part of this transaction, Lena renounced the annual support her father had left her. She likely had never received much of it anyway. In 1945, Will and Mayme invested in lots in a new subdivision called Sunrise Park.²²

World War II and City Hospital

In 1940, Lucius and Mena were empty nesters, with sons Robert and Charlie in their 30s, and daughter Mary married and living in New Jersey. Lucius, 67, was still active at the hospital, but not as involved in the civic life of the community as he had been in the 1920s. Mena, 59, continued to pursue her community activities. Charlie shared a surgical practice with his father. On November 29, 1941, he married Dorothy Norman, an obstetrician and gynecologist, who was Gaston County's second woman physician.²³

On December 7, 1941, just eight days after Charlie's wedding, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in the infamous Sunday surprise attack, propelling the United States into war with Japan. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States shortly afterwards. Both Robert and Charlie enlisted. After training, Robert served in the medical corps aboard the hospital ship USS *Mercy* in the Pacific. Charlie became a surgeon at the South Pacific base command in Guam. When the war ended in 1945, Robert served out his tour of duty in Korea, and Charlie finished his tour as chief surgeon of General Hospital 147 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Glenn brothers returned home safely, but approximately 350 of their fellow servicemen from Gaston County did not.²⁴

By 1946, City Hospital on Highland Street had provided care for Gaston County citizens for over twenty years, remaining one of the largest private hospitals in the region through the 1930s. As the largest shareholder, Lucius, now 73, had continued to reinvest profits to improve the plant and equipment, but he had been unable to keep up with the growth of the population. The hospital needed an update and expansion.²⁵

If City Hospital became public, officials reasoned, it would be eligible to receive local, state, and federal dollars and could be enlarged and modernized. They approached Lucius about selling but made little headway. Another idea took hold: name a new hospital Gaston Memorial Hospital to honor the Gaston County men who had lost their lives in World War II.

Because of the involvement of veterans, Brown Wylie Wilson, commander of American Legion Post 23, asked Lucius to name his price.²⁶

This time, Lucius was more receptive. He decided on a figure of \$127,387, the equivalent of \$1.8 million in 2020 dollars, and tested it on his friend Tom Sparrow as they were talking on the hospital's loading dock. Sparrow told Lucius that he was asking too much, that he would never get his price. As Tom drove off, Lucius remained standing on the loading dock. Within moments, Tom backed up and told Lucius to stick to his figure. Wilson's group agreed, and so in 1946, Wilson coordinated a \$300,000, county-wide, public fundraising campaign to buy out the stockholders, primarily Lucius, to pay for additional land and equipment, and to provide operating capital.

The community-wide campaign received an outpouring of support from ministers, veterans, housewives, textile workers, schoolchildren, businesses, and ordinary citizens from across the county, raising \$392,379, enough to cover all the expenses and set aside funds. American Legion Post 23 incorporated a non-stock corporation called Gaston Memorial Hospital, Inc., purchased City Hospital from Lucius and the stockholders, and turned it over to Gaston County. Gaston Memorial Hospital became a nonprofit corporation. Gaston County Negro Hospital eventually closed when Gaston Memorial Hospital began accepting black patients, and the old hospital became Rosewood Rest Home.²⁷

With the sale, Lucius retired after almost forty years of hospital ownership. He continued a limited surgical practice with son Charlie and retained hospital privileges, but he held a grudge about the sale even though he got his price. Ever afterward, he exclaimed, "Brown Wilson stole my hospital!" according to Wilson's daughter, Mary "Tuga" Adams.²⁸

Lucius visited the hospital only when necessary, such as when Tom Sparrow's teenaged grandson, Jimmy, needed emergency surgery. As his mother drove Jimmy to the hospital, she pulled over when she saw Lucius in his yard. After a quick examination, Lucius diagnosed appendicitis and met them at the hospital, where he performed the operation. Every day of his hospitalization, Jimmy received a pleasant visit from Dr. Lush.²⁹



Slowing Down

1946–1955

The postwar years brought changing times, as racial barriers began to fall. The US military became integrated, as did parks, hospitals, libraries, and waiting rooms. Slowly, white only and colored only signs disappeared. The Highland community was filled with hard working, home-owning, church-going, intact families. Ina Biggers, who grew up in this era, recalled that “the community was truly our village and everyone was there to encourage and support us!”

In addition to respected clergymen and teachers, the community boasted notable black professionals and leaders, including Dr. C. W. Blair, a pharmacist, and Dr. Cleveland W. Floyd, a dentist. By 1949, John T. Biggers, who had grown up on Davidson Street, was building a reputation as a world-renowned muralist as founding chairman of the art department at Texas State University for Negroes, now Texas Southern University. Dr. Herbert J. Erwin’s son Herbert J. Erwin Jr., became a respected psychiatrist in the Midwest. In 1953, Nathaniel Barber was elected to the Gastonia City Council. Two years later, the council elected him city treasurer. *Brown v. Board of Education* brought the end of legal segregation in 1954. In that year, the *Gastonia Gazette* hired its first black reporter and Gastonia’s municipal golf course was integrated. A new Highland Junior-Senior High School for grades 1–12 opened in time for the 1955–56 school year, built at a cost of \$640,000. It held a large cafeteria, band room, and modern library,

and was a source of pride—but for its location farther north on the west side of York Street, which some thought was too far from the center of the Highland community.¹

Life Turned Upside Down

Within a six-month span in 1947 and 1948, Lucius's life turned upside down. His oldest son, Robert, discharged from the military in 1946, returned home and in 1947 married Marie Williamson, a laboratory and X-ray technician at City Hospital. Robert, who worked in textiles before the war, now headed the sales department at Glenn Mills. In the spring of 1947, the couple, expecting a baby, was living with Lucius and Mena in Gastonia while waiting to move to their new home in Lincolnton. Around the same time, Mena was diagnosed with cancer. In late April or early May, Robert accompanied his mother and her younger sister, Mamie Smith, to the Mayo Clinic, in Minnesota. They returned home the weekend of May 4.²

At 2 a.m. on Monday, May 5, Marie awakened to find Robert desperately ill. She roused her father-in-law, but Robert died of a heart attack before Lucius even got to the bedroom. Robert's tragic death shocked his family and the community. He was only 41 years old. The Glenns held his service at First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, where he was a member, and buried him in Oakwood Cemetery. That he died before his child was born added a wrenching twist to the heartbreak.³

Another heartbreak came when Mena died on January 30, 1948, at the age of 66, at her sister Mamie's home, a block away. The *Gastonia Gazette* eulogized her as a "gracious woman whose life has left a mark for good in all the circles in which she moved." Her six-year-old grandson, Jay Glenn, son of Charlie and Dorothy, would remember "a sweet lady." The family assembled for another service at First Presbyterian, another burial in Oakwood Cemetery. Mena, who had inherited a considerable sum, left her assets to her children, Charlie and Mary, but not to her husband, who had become wealthy upon the sale of City Hospital. She also left the proceeds of a life insurance policy for her unborn grandchild when he or she turned 10. After the birth of Robert Ray Glenn Jr., called Bobby, born in 1947, Marie returned to her hometown of Hamer, South Carolina, with her baby.⁴

Lucius Tales

Lucius was at loose ends after selling the hospital, followed so closely by the deaths of his son and wife. He missed Mena's companionship. Semi-retired, he had the time to devote to his grandchildren that he did not have when his own children were growing up. He enjoyed Jay's company, and Bobby, Mary Downs, and Nancy's when they visited, and cared for Bobby financially.⁵

In December 1949, Lucius became the first Mason in Gaston County history to receive the Veterans Emblem from the South Fork Lodge No. 462, A.F. & A.M. It went to those in good standing with continuous membership in a lodge for a minimum of fifty years. Lucius was the only surviving member of the original McAdenville Lodge, which he had joined in 1899 as a young medical school graduate.⁶

While Lucius and Will did not speak to each other for most of their adult lives, they shared one thing: an aversion to milk and butter. Growing up on a farm, where they had milked cows mornings and afternoons, they had seen what fell in the milk bucket—flies, mud, straw, maybe even a cow's hoof. If Lucius was served butter, he would flick it off his plate. Will eschewed milk and ate his cereal dry.⁷

The brothers also shared a driving philosophy: keep a lead foot on the gas pedal. In Florida, Will filled his backseat with speeding tickets. In the early 1950s, Lucius terrified 10-year-old Wilson "Bill" Forbes as he drove the boy and his grandparents to a hymn sing. Lucius barreled his 1948 straight-eight Buick at top speed down the center line of the country road, swerving to his lane only at the last minute when an oncoming car approached. Lucius also liked to drive at ninety miles an hour, witnessed by grandson Jay and Jay's friend Tom Efird, passengers on a hasty trip to Kings Mountain. When law enforcement would stop Lucius for speeding, he would tell them that he was a doctor, and they could not take his license. The officers eventually learned to issue warnings.⁸

Unlike Will, however, Lucius had other run-ins with the police. He liked to shoot squirrels in his backyard after his neighbor, police officer Roy Short Sr., left for work. His neighbors feared for the safety of their children, and so officers spoke to Lucius on more than one occasion, even threatening to arrest him. But their admonitions had little effect—Lucius was that arrogant. Another example: At a drugstore south of Gastonia, along US Highway 321

when it was a two-lane road, Lucius would park his car in the southbound lane and run his errand. When someone remarked, "Somebody's going to hit you from behind," the irascible Lucius replied, "That's their problem."⁹

Numerous other stories about Lucius attest to his colorful personality. After he treated a young man who had fallen from the train and suffered a rare type of break in his arm, the patient's family sued the railroad because the arm did not set perfectly. At the trial, Lucius resented the Gastonia attorney's attempt to impugn his skill as a surgeon. Sometime later, a young boy from a textile family appeared at his office with an almost identical injury. "I've seen this kind of break before," he slyly told the family. "There is an expert on Third Street who can help your son." The parents left their son in Dr. Lush's care as they sought the expert, who was, of course, the lawyer who had insulted Lucius. Neither the parents nor the lawyer appreciated the prank, but Lucius treated the boy with his usual expertise.

On another occasion, Lucius treated a drunken and bleeding man who had come to his office after a fight. The patient kept mumbling, "No horse doctor is going to sew me up," so Lucius cold-cocked him, stopped the bleeding, and saved the man's life.¹⁰

In the early 1950s, Lucius welcomed to town a new orthopedic surgeon, George Rolfe Miller, by looking him up and down, muttering "Humph," turning his back, and walking off. While Miller found Lucius a "strange" man, they nevertheless became friends.¹¹

In July 1953, Lucius celebrated his 80th birthday at City Hospital's fortieth annual reunion picnic, at Rankin Lake. The 200 attendees included nurses who had trained and worked with Lucius at the old City Hospital, doctors and their wives, and special friends of the guest of honor. One of the nurses baked him a two-tier birthday cake. Lucius expressed his appreciation and recalled events from his active years in medicine. The nurses had pooled their funds and presented him with a reading lamp and floor fan. He loved the attention and was grateful to be remembered.¹²

"Nashville's Burbank" Succumbs

The family faced another health crisis in February 1949, when Lon underwent treatment for abdominal cancer. While recuperating, the lifelong scientist consulted on dam design for the TVA and the US Army Corps

of Engineers, and pursued geological specimens for Vanderbilt's collection from the University of Texas.¹³

In 1950, Lon was honored at a black-tie event in New York City for fifty years of membership in the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. He continued to enjoy one of his great passions, hunting fossils in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and sent some to the US National Museum in Washington, D.C., a predecessor to the Smithsonian. "You have sent us some extraordinarily interesting and beautiful material," replied a museum official. "Collectors luck is certainly a wonderful thing. To think of finding all those splendid specimens of that rare species after all these years. Thank you most heartily for sharing them so generously with us." A few months later, Lon's cancer returned.¹⁴

On January 11, 1951, Lon—"Nashville's Burbank," the "genial geologist," "the dean of Southern geologists"—died a few days after undergoing surgery. His family, friends, the university, and several generations of his students felt the loss, which was unexpected despite the operation. His funeral was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Nashville, where he and Nell were long-time members. His sons, their families, and his relatives from Gastonia and Lincolnton attended. Lon was buried at Woodlawn Memorial Park and Mausoleum in Nashville.¹⁵

"He stands high in the ranks of science in Tennessee and in this nation . . . and he has schooled in the same field of service hundreds who are today engaged in it through his long and brilliant career at Vanderbilt," wrote the *Nashville Tennessean*. "His death is a distinct loss, but few men have contributed more to life or left a happier reason for being remembered."¹⁶

Leonidas Chalmers Glenn was a man of tremendous intellectual capacity. An outstanding scholar, teacher, and administrator, he offered his students the best education possible, acquired valuable specimens for the museum, and made the geology library one of the largest and finest in the South. Following his death, his colleagues in the geology department, professors Jewell and Wilson, published a memorial in three professional journals. "Professor Glenn was a great personality," they wrote. "He had abundant energy, sound judgment, and an air of competence and quiet distinction. He was always courteous, friendly, and apparently calm and unruffled. We will remember him as a kindly and charming gentleman who brought honor and renown to his profession and his university."¹⁷

Lon also left his mark on his family, and not just with his remarkable genealogy. He was a loyal and steady influence on his siblings, setting an example of scholarship and service, and helping at least four of them get their educations at no small sacrifice to himself. Lon helped make his parents' dream of education for their children a reality. Despite the distance between Nashville and Gastonia, Lon always kept in touch with his family and supported them in times of need. He left his genealogical legacy with his sister Carrie, and his love of iris with his sister Lena.

In 1954, when Nell moved to a retirement home at age 76, she gave Lon's lifetime of genealogical work—five file boxes' worth—to the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina's Louis Round Wilson Library, in Chapel Hill. The collection comprised correspondence from the Wilson and Torrence families, land grants, and Civil War materials, including Leonidas C. Torrence's diary, William Davis Glenn's 1864–69 diary, and William's "Reflections of a Long Life." The dates ranged from 1752 to 1927. "We regard these items as a significant addition to our Collection and we are glad indeed to get them back to North Carolina where most of them originated," wrote James W. Patton, director of the collection, to Elizabeth Williamson Dixon (Mrs. Kay Dixon). A noted Gaston County historian, Dixon belonged to the William Gaston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through her initiative, the DAR placed copies of Lon's "John Glen" and "Allied Families" genealogies in the North Carolina Collection of the Gaston County Public Library. Lon's historical legacy now had two appreciative homes.¹⁸

Carrie and Lena Retire

Carrie turned 65 in April 1949, the mandatory retirement age for teachers in Gaston County. Three years earlier, she had joined the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, the national honor society in education. It was a fitting tribute, since only those who had achieved distinction in the teaching profession received invitations. Carrie was not ready to retire, even after over forty years as a teacher and primary grade supervisor. In May, the board of education granted her request to teach during the 1949–50 school year.¹⁹

As she presided over the combined second- and third-grade classroom at Flint-Groves Elementary School, Miss Carrie Glenn stood tall, pulled her hair



Carrie Glenn in the latter part of her career when she taught at Flint-Groves Elementary School. Courtesy of the William W. Glenn family collection.

back in a bun, and wore a cotton button-down-the-front dress, hose, lace-up shoes, and glasses. Looking back, three of her third-graders, Susan McGinnis, Alice Robinson, and Loretta Spurlin thought she was “a tough booger,” “mean,” and “a stern, old-timey teacher.” When children misbehaved, she whacked their hands with a ruler or pulled

their ear (common disciplinary practices of the day). Loretta and Alice were scared of her, and Alice’s stomach hurt all year. Loretta and Alice’s fathers worked in the textile mills, and Loretta felt that Carrie treated the children of textile workers less kindly than others.²⁰

Every morning, Carrie read a Bible story to the class. Susan learned and remembered more Bible stories in the third grade than at any other time in her life. Carrie read them other stories in the afternoon, which Susan liked even better. “We had to sit at our desks in the morning,” she recalled with a laugh, “but in the afternoon, we could sit with our boyfriends.” Carrie must have been amused when she intercepted a love letter that Loretta wrote to a classmate, noting that while the letter showed good form, Loretta was “too young to write that kind of letter.”²¹

Mickey Blackwell (today Michael C. Blackwell, president and CEO of Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina), one second grader, remembered Carrie’s exact words as she led the class in physical exercises: “The next exercise will be done in the following manner.” Mickey thought Miss Glenn was “strict, loving, generous, firm and fair.” Nevertheless, he said years later, “I can still see her coming toward me when I misbehaved.” He grew up with gratitude that she “absolutely demanded my best” and “allowed me to be a leader, too, even at the tender ages of seven and eight.”²²

After one more extension, Carrie retired in 1951 at the age of 67. She was now able to spend more time with her great-nephew, Jay Glenn, who received only love and encouragement from his great-aunt Carrie. Years later, he said, "I loved her. I would have married her if I could." By contrast, his great-aunt Lena was sweet and possessed a good sense of humor, but he remembered her as cold, shy, and frail. To him, she led a colorless life.²³

In 1951, the year Carrie retired, Lena, perhaps accompanied by her older sister, vacationed in New York City, visiting Gertrude but also the New York Public Library, the library at Columbia University, the US Military Academy at West Point, and Franklin D. Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park. Lena enjoyed the city, but confessed later that "there is no place like Dixie." She returned to Gastonia and resumed her normal routines at home and the library. Mentally alert and attentive to her finances and investments, as was Carrie, she continued to be hampered physically by a deteriorating back and other ailments.²⁴

Lena retired from the library in 1953, age 67. During her twenty-one-year career, Lena estimated that she had catalogued between 75,000 and 80,000 books. The back problems she had suffered off and on for many years were due to osteoporosis, and she spent the first year of retirement with her back in a cast to help her condition.²⁵

As Carrie and Lena adapted to retirement and less income, they may have become even more frugal, although they never scrimped on books and accumulated a large library. Carrie undoubtedly supported her church financially, but with the 1953 debut of United Community Services, the predecessor of United Way of Gaston County, she and Lena made their first known foray into philanthropy. Allen Sims, president of the Citizens National Bank in Gastonia, visited the sisters to request a donation. They thought about it for three weeks, then sent a check from both of them for twelve dollars. A few years later, however, Carrie contributed five dollars "to help fight this dreadful disease," cancer, which had taken the lives of family members, as well as friends, acquaintances, and public figures.²⁶

Will Retires

In 1947, Will, age 72, having undergone surgery for a brain tumor at the Mayo Clinic, retired from the active management of Glenn Mills, and transferred

ownership of his textile interests to his four daughters. Day-to-day operations fell to two of his sons-in-law, Sarah's husband, Daniel M. Boyd Jr., and Mary's husband, John L. "Jack" Thompson. Will became an advisor rather than an active manager. Boyd and Thompson operated Glenn Mills until 1959, when it merged with Carolina Mills of Maiden, North Carolina. Will and Mayme lived in Lincolnton in the summer, but they continued to spend winters in Florida.²⁷

Although he had lived in Lincolnton for close to twenty years, Will retained love and loyalty for his home county and felt sentimental about growing up in the Crowders Creek and Pleasant Ridge neighborhoods. He also held a special affection for Olney Presbyterian Church, which had been so intertwined with him, his parents, and his Torrence and Wilson ancestors. When the congregation asked Rev. Thomas Greenlee Tate to write a history of Olney, Will underwrote its publication as a tribute to his father.²⁸

A farm boy at heart, Will continued his long-time hobby of growing vegetables and flowers and hybridizing dahlias, and he and Mayme built a greenhouse in the backyard. Along with his aversion to milk and butter, Will did not eat catfish, bottom feeders he called them, but he loved watermelons from his garden, and on Sunday afternoons he hosted watermelon parties for the grandchildren.²⁹ Will always wore a suit. Casual for him was a dress shirt, tie, and no jacket. Nevertheless, granddaughter Martha Thompson remembered visits to her proper grandparents where Will would eat part of a head of lettuce over the kitchen sink.

Daughter Margie and her husband, Dr. R. L. McCarty, lived in Charlotte with their two children but Sarah's three and Mary's three lived nearby and Will and Mayme enjoyed their company. Martha loved her visits, which occurred almost every day after school and she often spent the night with them. Before visiting, she changed from her school clothes to the longest dress she had, since her grandmother disapproved of women wearing pants or short skirts, like those Martha wore to school.³⁰ Her grandmother had a great sense of humor, Martha recalled. She watched the news voraciously, loved to cook even though she employed a cook, and enjoyed handwork. She admired quality and loved pretty things. She possessed a large collection of china, figurines, collectibles, and fine objects.³¹

In late 1954, Mayme and Will's retirement years were interrupted when Will's cancer returned. This time, it was bone cancer. Will was hospitalized

in Charlotte when Lucius appeared at his bedside to make amends after their estrangement of over forty years. As Lucius left the room, however, he hesitated at the doorway, turned back to Will, and said, "If you live, all bets are off."³²

Leavening Lucius's callous comment was a compliment for Will's daughter Margie during his hospital stay. One of Will's doctors had attended a social event that Margie and her husband hosted, and the doctor told Will of Margie's graciousness. With tears in his eyes, Will said he had three other girls just like her, as well as three sons-in-law, and "there was not one trashy one in the lot."³³

On January 6, 1955, William Wilson Glenn died at Presbyterian Hospital, in Charlotte, one month shy of his 80th birthday. Before he died, Gertrude traveled from New York City to see him. Will recognized her but was too weak to speak. His service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Lincolnton the following day, with Rev. J. L. Mays officiating. There were six active pallbearers and forty-one honorary pallbearers from Cherryville, Charlotte, Gastonia, Mount Holly, and Morganton. Will was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in his own family plot.³⁴

In business, Will Glenn was pertinacious, exacting, and stubborn. Like Lucius, he did not have much use for differing opinions. But to his family, he was attentive, loyal, caring, and protective. Through his guidance, he set his sisters on a path of financial independence, giving them the tools to take care of themselves. He left a \$5,000 insurance policy to each sister, a touching gesture to further assure their well-being after his death. He also left with his four daughters, Sarah Boyd, Susan Glenn, Mary Thompson, and Margie McCarty, a legacy to care for their aunts, which they did, especially Susan.³⁵

To Will, more than any other individual except Carrie and Lena themselves, can be credited the sisters' investment savvy and eventual wealth. Exactly when Carrie invested in Parkdale Mills, established in 1916, Textiles Incorporated, established in 1933, and Wix Corporation, established in 1939, is unknown. But these investments, each with a cost basis of under \$4,000, showed her faith in local companies. With Lena possessing similar assets, the two sisters—and their community—would reap great rewards.³⁶



Retirement Years

1952–1961

Carrie and Lena continued to reside together, as they had almost their entire lives. Carrie was independent, physically and mentally alert, attentive to her personal finances and investments, and observed an active weekly routine. Beginning in retirement, she began keeping daily diaries to record events of interest. For the years 1952 to 1961, she summarized events listed in her diaries on sheets of typing paper and called them “Dates to Remember.” Of all her diaries, only the 1959 diary remains. Ever frugal, she adapted it from a 1951 Maryland Casualty Company calendar by crossing out every day of the week for 1951 and substituting the correct day for 1959.¹

Among innumerable topics from her diaries, Carrie noted marriages and deaths of Gaston County residents; Lena’s health problems; Will’s death; her 50th reunion, in the rain, at Women’s College in Greensboro; Gertrude’s three-week summer visits to Gastonia; and the bounty of their garden. Concerned as well with national and world affairs, she noted her disapproval of “the Cuban rebel” Fidel Castro; her concern for the health of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; and her interest in a meeting between British Prime Minister Harold McMillan and President Dwight Eisenhower at the “private mountain retreat,” Camp David. Other events that captured her interest included statehood for Alaska and Hawaii; the closing of a high school in Virginia to avoid integration; and entertainer Arthur Godfrey’s lung cancer.²

Old animosities with their last living brother, whom they referred to as L. N. or Doc, seem to have vanished, for on New Year's Day 1959, Carrie delivered to Lucius a tray filled with treats that she had prepared: pecan pie, damson pie, fruitcake, chocolate cake, nutty fingers, biscuits, and pineapple and carrot salad. In return, he filled her tray with apples, oranges, and grapefruit.³

Gertrude had retired in 1957 at the age of 68 and remained in New York City. She lived much of her life in Manhattan. When her niece, Lucius's daughter Mary Glenn Rankin, lived in Short Hills in northern New Jersey, Gertrude visited often, sometimes to babysit her great-nieces, Mary Downs and Nancy. Mary Downs was fascinated by her great-aunt Gertrude, and found it exciting that Gertrude had been places and done things. Gertrude was a wonderful seamstress, as well as competent and smart.

Retirement Options

Carrie and Lena had already begun to consider their own futures in their old, large, uninsulated house, given their current ailments and the possibility of more debilitating ones to come. They were also quite concerned about Gertrude's plans for the future. The topic had loomed large in the summer of 1958, when Lena was hospitalized at Gaston Memorial for a throat and bronchial infection in May and June, and then in July, when Carrie spent several weeks in the hospital recovering from gallbladder surgery.⁴

After their hospitalizations, Lena again asked Gertrude to talk with her sisters about these important topics. "We are none of us young any more, and there is no telling what might happen to any one of us at any time," Lena wrote. "Old people can not look after property, and business men cheat them. If they are sick, they can not even look after themselves. I don't think I have any relatives who would be willing to look after me, and if I go to an old folks' home, I would have to sign a legal paper giving every penny of my estate to them. Then I would have no assurance that they would take proper care of me . . . there is no use shutting our eyes and refusing to face it. It is better to look ahead and be ready for it."⁵

Carrie and Lena weighed the possibility of fixing up their house if they decided not to move, although Lena speculated that it would be so costly that they would never get their money back in a sale. If the price of

renovations were right, they might consider staying until they had to go to a retirement home, she wrote Gertrude. "Plenty of people who have money go to such places," she wrote, but "we want you to feel that there will always be a place for you in our home, and we would prefer that you come home and live as one of the family."⁶

Carrie and Lena, thinking that Gertrude would acquiesce, bought a newer stucco bungalow at 414 West Third Avenue, around the corner from their home, for \$16,000. Gertrude decided to stay put, however, so Carrie and Lena remained at the family home and rented the newer house. Now they were free to decide for themselves what they would do, and 1959 would prove to be a turning point in their decision-making.⁷

The Gastonia sisters handled their finances themselves, such as tracking retirement income on what Carrie referred to as their "yellow sheet" and preparing income tax returns themselves. It likely never occurred to them to pay an accountant for such tasks. They deposited dividend checks in their individual accounts at First Federal Savings & Loan Association and had a joint account, which they called the "Fund," at Gastonia Mutual Savings & Loan Association, where they deposited rent checks and paid for taxes, insurance, and repairs on their rental properties.⁸

Carrie and Lena's properties now included their own home at 407 South Chester Street, Martha Hemphill's house at the back of their property, and the newer house at 414 West Third Street. With Gertrude, the sisters jointly owned Piedmont News Stand at 107 ½ South Street, which Will and Mayme had sold to them for \$1—yet another example of their brother's regard for his sisters' welfare. The three sisters split the rent payments.⁹

The three sisters also owned as investment property homes and lots on Roy and Simmons streets in the Love Heights subdivision being developed by Dan Boyd, Sarah's husband, thought to be located on Grier Love's original 200-acre farm off Bessemer City Road. Carrie and Lena each owned a half interest with Gertrude in a number of lots, likely doing so to help Gertrude's portfolio. The neighborhood was a mix of old and new homes for black families, which produced rental income. "The last negro house has been finished," Lena wrote in a letter to Gertrude in 1957, explaining that it replaced a house that was dilapidated. When they sold some of the lots, they used their attorney, James B. "Jick" Garland, who represented them

after his father's death in 1957, to handle the closings. Will and Mayme owned the family farm, however. The landscape around the farmhouse had changed, as Yorkville Road had recently become US Highway 321, a four-lane, divided highway. Through Gastonia, York Street became a two-lane northbound thoroughfare, and Chester Street a two-lane southbound thoroughfare.¹⁰

In addition to real estate, the sisters owned and invested in stocks, using the Jackson & Smith brokerage firm on Main Street. Yet when a broker called Carrie to discuss new investments, she told him she had decided to quit buying stocks and "was going to spend my money & enjoy it from now on; that I wasn't going to be here always." She simply could not break her frugal habits, however. Rather than buy their own television set, for example, the sisters watched special programs on neighbor Sallie Philhower's set across the street, and they viewed the 1959 Miss North Carolina pageant on a television owned by a college student who roomed at the nearby home of their first cousin and good friend, Margaret Fayssoux.¹¹

On Sundays, since Carrie no longer attended church, at least in winter months, she listened to the "Protestant Hour" on the radio, with Dr. John Redhead of First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. Lena sometimes joined her. Carrie still regularly attended her church circle, however, which she found to be "a nice group."¹²

Carrie spent most Thursdays in the kitchen, where she usually cooked enough to last several days: rice and gravy, chicken, asparagus, baked sweet potatoes, muffins, a rhubarb pie, and a peach pie. An expert baker, she had as many as eight recipes for pecan pie, but she also baked peach, pumpkin, apple, damson plum, and rhubarb pies. Great-nephew Bobby Glenn was fascinated by her cherry pie with latticework crust on one visit to Gastonia. On her visits, great-niece Mary Downs Rankin remembered a pie always cooling on the windowsill.¹³

Lena and Carrie remained interested in community affairs. In 1959, the race for the school board pitted a respected black man, Dr. Harold Thomas Williston Sr., against a white man, Pat McSwain. Williston had hospital privileges at Gaston County Negro Hospital, and his wife was a supervisor at the Allen Nursing Home. McSwain owned WGNC-AM radio station. The sisters voted for McSwain, who won. They also attended the opening

of the new addition to the Gaston County Public Library and celebrated the golden anniversary of the Gastonia Woman's Club, which, Carrie noted in her diary, she had served as the first treasurer. The sisters also went to the dedication of the new Carothers Funeral Home on the corner of Chester and Second Avenue, just up the street. "Very nice and spacious," Carrie wrote.¹⁴

Both Lena and Carrie engaged in extensive correspondence with friends and family, including, of course, Gertrude. Carrie kept up with, among others, nephew Robert Glenn's widow, Marie, in South Carolina, and who periodically visited with her son Bobby; nephew Hugh Glenn's wife, Martha; her sister-in-law Nell, in Nashville; and a cousin named Mabel, in Arkansas. Cousin Margaret from down the street stopped by almost daily to cook, visit, or grocery shop with Carrie. Will's family—Mayme, Susan, and Sarah—called from time to time.¹⁵

As the family historian after Lon's death, Carrie exchanged letters with a cousin, Jenny Fleming, a descendant of the Hollands, the family that had moved to Brazil after the Civil War. Jenny, in search of information about the family and the William Joseph Wilson house, enclosed a letter that Lon had written to her father over sixty years before, when Lon was a senior at the University of South Carolina and looking for genealogical information. Carrie spent over a week researching the requested information, and enclosed a picture of the Wilson House in her reply. She eventually indexed over 400 names found in the family genealogy and added the index to the document. Relatives and other reimbursed Carrie for copies she provided.¹⁶

"Do It Yourselfers"

While Carrie and Lena did most of the work around the house themselves, they hired people for specific jobs—cleaning out the iris beds in the fall, plowing the garden and mowing the yard for the first time in the spring, washing the front porch, and so on. They apparently did not employ a maid, even though in the 1950s, black women working for low wages as maids were a fixture in many Southern households. Because of Lena's physical limitations, Carrie handled things like spring cleaning, where she washed the walls, woodwork, windows, sofa covers, and curtains in the parlors and washed everything in the china closet. She and Lena polished 187 pieces of silver flatware and assorted silver trays, dishes, and bowls. Carrie also

washed all the linens that had yellowed, and she and Lena took turns ironing them.¹⁷

The sisters did not have a washing machine, but washed their personal items by hand and sent the rest out, mostly to New Way Cleaners. At least once, however, they tried the new Econ-o-Mat laundry on York Street because it was cheaper. They still made most of their clothes. Lena updated a dress with a new collar and cuffs that Gertrude had made for her, and Carrie sewed new bathroom curtains. The house's only heat sources were downstairs fireplaces, perhaps a coal stove in the kitchen, and eventually a Zeigler stove in the dining room. The home was terribly uncomfortable in winter, and so Carrie made herself a bathrobe with purple wool fabric from Belk. It apparently never crossed her mind that she and Lena could have afforded to install a furnace or purchase new clothing. They derived satisfaction in making do with what they had.¹⁸

In spring when the weather turned warm, the sisters spent hours in their yard raking the trash, picking up sticks after storms, digging up weeds, and trimming shrubbery. When the ground was ready, Carrie planted tomatoes and okra, marigolds and zinnias. When Lena's gorgeous display of bearded iris bloomed in springtime, she marked the colors because she shared the bulbs with family and friends. Snapdragons grew along the porch on the Shorts' side of the house. In spring and summer, the yard blazed with color from azaleas, peonies, roses, hollyhocks, lilies of the valley, spirea, jonquils, and hyacinths, along with flowering fruit trees.¹⁹

By the spring of 1959, spurred by the constant maintenance, Carrie and Lena began a serious exploration of other living arrangements. In April, Carrie, now 75, toured the Presbyterian Home of High Point on a bus trip along with fellow Presbyterians. She drolly observed that the average age of the "inmates" was 82.²⁰

While Carrie was hospitalized for cataract surgery in the summer of 1959, her active lifestyle came to a screeching halt. When great-niece Mary Downs Rankin visited the hospital, she was distressed to see sandbags placed by Carrie's head to stop any movement as she recovered. As Carrie recuperated at home and underwent weekly checkups in Charlotte, she had to rely on family members and friends for transportation. Nieces Susan and Sarah took turns coming from Lincolnton, but of the greatest help was her friend Elizabeth Armstrong, the recently retired organist at First

Presbyterian Church. When her eyesight failed to improve, Carrie began treatment for glaucoma. To her profound disappointment, it was unsuccessful. The sisters knew that finding a new home was urgent.²¹

An Important Decision

On October 30, 1959, Mayme, Susan, and Sarah took Lena to visit the Presbyterian Home of High Point. In early November, niece Mary Glenn Thompson and her husband, Jack, drove Carrie and Lena to visit the Methodist Home in Charlotte. Carrie had seen it some years before and was amazed at how it had grown. She thought it quite nice until she learned that residents were required to turn over all their assets. Mary remembered Carrie saying that she “would have no part of that!” Carrie was especially offended that her money might pay for an apartment for someone who had not saved and sacrificed the way she had. After talking over their options with Susan and Sarah, Carrie and Lena chose the Presbyterian Home, with its monthly cost of \$150, or \$1,800 a year, for all-expenses-paid, maintenance-free living. The Presbyterian Home was undergoing an expansion, however, which delayed a move.²²

Throughout November and December 1959, Carrie continued her treatment for glaucoma. In November, as a sign of normalcy for the first time since her surgery, Carrie baked a pie. The sisters spent a quiet Thanksgiving Day, with Carrie listening on the radio to the community Thanksgiving service hosted by First ARP Church. In December, she and cousin Margaret made fruitcake and sent nutty fingers to cousin Mabel in Arkansas. Christmas Day was equally quiet.²³

In January 1960, Carrie underwent further eye surgery, which was unsuccessful. With the help of family and friends, she and Lena held out at 407 South Chester Street for another year. Finally, on September 13, 1961, a Mr. Short from the Presbyterian Home paid them a call, and three days later they applied for admission. On September 28, they visited the campus to see an apartment with Mayme, Susan, and Gertrude. Short returned on October 6 to inform them that their apartment was ready, and so they set about preparing for a December move. Gertrude stayed to help.²⁴

With the move imminent, Carrie, Lena, and Gertrude planned their estates with the assistance of the trust department at the Citizens National

Bank. Longtime friend, fellow Presbyterian, and senior vice president and trust officer Robert N. Rosebro, and Jick Garland's partner, tax attorney John Eck of Garland & Eck, established a trust and prepared Carrie's will. Lena and Gertrude did likewise. They executed their wills and trusts at the bank and delivered their assets, insurance policies, and tax information to the trust department. From now on, the bank would pay their bills, handle their investments, prepare their tax returns, and oversee their financial affairs.²⁵

Unaware of their aunts' healthy finances, their nieces worried whether they even had the money to decorate their new apartment, so much so that they visited the bank. President Allen Sims and trust officer Hugh McArver assured them that not only did the sisters have enough money to fix up the apartment, but they could buy anything else they wanted, "including a jet," said McArver. Nevertheless, swayed more by their aunts' frugal lifestyles, Mary Thompson sewed curtains and bedspreads for their new lodgings.²⁶

Moving to High Point

Moving day came on December 13, 1961. Sarah and Susan drove Carrie and Lena to High Point. The sisters must have felt mixed emotions as they drove away, leaving their childhood home on Yorkville Road, their home of almost six decades on South Chester Street, and the schools and the public library where they had spent their careers. They may have whispered their goodbyes to Olney Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church, and all else that was so intimate, so familiar. Nevertheless, they knew the move was best for their well-being.

Carrie and Lena moved to a new free-standing apartment, #16, near the main building, which had two bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchenette. The units were connected to each other with covered walkways. Each apartment had small yards front and back, most filled with flowers. At last, the sisters had the luxury of central heat. The nieces stayed until dark, making beds, placing furniture, hanging the curtains that Mary had made, all creating a homey environment. "We have a nice kitchen with electric stove and refrigerator and can fix breakfast here in bad weather, or if we want to sleep later," Carrie wrote her cousin Marie Torrence Lattimore. Groceries were available in a supply room, but they ate in the dining room of the main building, finding the meals were well-planned and well-prepared.

They missed their yard, but its upkeep had become overwhelming. Lena and Carrie got to know their new neighbors: retired nurses, teachers, ministers, and missionaries, many of whom had lived all around the world.²⁷

They furnished their new home with items from the Chester Street house. They had inherited some of the older walnut, cherry, and mahogany pieces from the Wilson and Torrence families, some pieces more than 100 years old. Slaves at the Torrence homestead had crafted a few of the tables. Over the years, the sisters had bought other pieces, and several nieces loaned them still other items. They took with them pictures of Barr Castle that Lon snapped on his visit to Scotland, the Glenn coat of arms, and the Wilson coat of arms painted by artist Buddy Ray. They also kept a small wooden tumbler and a two-shelf bookcase that their late brother Howard had made in college. Because the table surfaces had been covered up with newspapers for years, they were in perfect condition.²⁸

The nieces divided up what they could use from the Chester Street house and gave away the rest. As they cleaned out the house, now fifty-seven years old, they quickly learned that their aunts saved everything. The attic, for example, contained years of calendars from investment companies, stacks of newspapers and magazines, and marbles confiscated from students. They even found Sarah Priscilla's ninety-one-year-old wedding dress. The nieces solicited Nonie Taylor, née Patterson, the librarian from Gastonia High School, to evaluate the books that their aunts had been forced to leave behind due to a lack of space in their new home.²⁹

Within a few years, the Glenn house was torn down, and the Oakleigh Condominiums were built on the large double lot. Today, the 400 block of South Chester Street stands just as it did in 1961 when Carrie and Lena left, except in place of their home are two brick condominiums, which look out of place in the historic neighborhood. Gone are the fruit and nut trees, the holly tree, the grapevines, the vegetable and flower gardens, and Lena's irises.³⁰

Lucius's Twilight Years

Of the ten Glenn siblings, Lucius alone remained in Gaston County. Eating had become one of his favorite pastimes, and he put on considerable weight. He had been allowed to keep his pass on the Southern Railway after he

retired. Since Mena's death many years before, he would take the train from Gastonia to Spartanburg, eat in the dining car, and ride back to Gastonia.³¹

In 1955, Lucius underwent serious gallbladder surgery at the Mayo Clinic at the age of 82. He lost forty-one pounds during the ordeal but soon returned to gormandizing. Two years later, he was back at Mayo with pernicious anemia. He adamantly refused to live with son Charlie and daughter-in-law Dorothy, hire a housekeeper, or go to Gaston Memorial Hospital for treatment of any kind. In 1957, he lost the use of his car temporarily after an automobile accident.³²

Lucius rarely initiated a dinner engagement but was always happy for an invitation. Around 1959, Tom Sparrow's grandson Jimmy Thompson, now married and the father of two, ran into Lucius in town one morning and invited him to dinner that night. Jimmy's wife, Alice, unprepared for a dinner guest, opted for a picnic in the yard and served hot dogs. Fascinated, the Thompsons and their two little girls watched Dr. Lush peel the skin off his hot dog with a knife and fork before eating only the insides. He allowed as how he had never eaten a hot dog before.³³

Lucius's favorite restaurant was Five Points Grill, a cafeteria in York County about a mile south of the North Carolina line. The owner, Fleta Baird, prepared special food for him if she had advance notice. James W. Atkins, editor of the *Gastonia Gazette*, accompanied Lucius to Five Points Grill for dinner one night when "Doc was off his feed and wasn't feeling up to anything." Nevertheless, the doctor consumed a chicken breast, three vegetables, five biscuits, iced tea, two pear halves, and two peach halves. Once, he even treated two lady friends to a meal at Five Points. Incredulous, Carrie noted in her diary, "He paid for their supper."³⁴

One night at Five Points Grill, Lucius, in his 80s, overheard co-workers Johnny Davidson and Johnny Boyd, high school buddies, make plans to go deep sea fishing the next day. "I've never been deep sea fishing," Lucius said. "I'd like to go." Somewhat taken aback, the two met Lucius at 5:00 a.m. the next morning to head to the coast. After the long drive, the three boarded a fishing boat and headed out to sea. They barely got to the mouth of the inlet when both Johnny Davidson and Lucius got seasick. They stayed below all day, miserable. About 3:00 p.m., they heard a rumbling noise. "Is that the engine?" Dr. Lush asked. Johnny said, "Yes," to which Lucius replied, "Well, for God's sake, don't stop it."³⁵

Even at 85, Lucius remained active. In March 1959, he and a black handyman named Major Gibbons painted the inside of the house, which he was sprucing up to leave to his grandson Bobby. For his part, 11-year-old Bobby felt proud to accompany his grandfather on visits to town. It seemed like everyone knew Dr. Glenn, and Bobby felt special. He called Lucius “Granddaddy,” while other grandchildren used “Pappy.” Not surprisingly, Lucius took his grandsons to visit Mrs. Baird’s at Five Points.³⁶

In April 1959, Lucius took a pleasure cruise to Bermuda. In May, he attended a meeting of the American College of Surgeons in Cincinnati, taking the train, with Bobby in tow. In July, he again celebrated his birthday, his 86th, with his former nurses during their annual picnic at Rankin Lake. He never joined, but he attended First ARP Church fairly regularly, carrying in his coat pocket a letter of transfer from Olney Presbyterian Church, which he never submitted. At church, he gave candy to small children, and brought pecans from his yard, cracking and eating them during the service.³⁷

On November 29, 1964, at the age of 91, Lucius died—at Garrison General Hospital, however, not Gaston Memorial, which he had always considered stolen from him. Dr. Lucius Newton Glenn, the “dean of Gaston County surgery,” so called by local historian Robert Ragan, enjoyed a prominent career and made many contributions to his home county, especially to the health care of its population. He owed his success to hard work, his stubborn determination to get an advanced education, and his ambition to be the best surgeon he could be. His distinguished academic record in medical school, his co-founding of the county’s first hospital, his prominent work with the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, his service on the Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, and his association with various professional organizations brought him renown both within and without Gaston County. His former nurses held him in great respect and affection. Despite his well-known quirks and cantankerous nature, people admired and appreciated him.³⁸

Lucius’s funeral was held on December 1 at the Broad Oak Chapel of McLean and Son Funeral Home, on Broad Street. Rev. J. N. Brown, associate minister of First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Grant Johnson, of First ARP Church, officiated. Active and honorary pallbearers included a Who’s

Who of Gastonia, among them Frank and Houston Matthews; Drs. Henry F. Glenn, C. H. Pugh, W. M. Roberts, and his early partner, McTyeire Anders; textile men like Fred Smyre and D. R. LaFar; good friends like Tom Sparrow, Sheriff Hoyle T. Efird, attorney Jick Garland, and banker Tete Pearson; and his 16-year-old grandson, Bobby. He was interred next to Mena in his family's plot at Oakwood Cemetery. With Lucius's death, Lena and Carrie's relocation to High Point, and Gertrude's continued residence in New York City, none of William and Sarah Priscilla Glenn's immediate family remained in Gaston County.³⁹



A Foundation Is Born

1961–1972

During their first decade at the Presbyterian Home of High Point, Carrie and Lena enjoyed a more leisurely pace of life. Carrie kept her car for a time before selling it. They had a telephone, and their great-nephew Jay Glenn brought them a portable television set. They subscribed to the *Gastonia Gazette* to keep in touch with goings-on in their hometown, such as the new Schiele Museum of Natural History, the new facility of First Presbyterian Church, the vote to approve the local sale of alcoholic beverages (William Glenn and Grier Love would have been disappointed), and the peaceful integration of the school system.¹

Their move had been a wise decision, for in 1963, Lena broke her hip, which led to more painful back trouble due to osteoporosis, followed by five collapsed vertebrae, after which she wore a brace. Carrie suffered from bursitis and continuing vision trouble. By the end of the decade, she was blind from glaucoma. They all mourned the passing of Mayme Love Glenn, Will's widow, on December 6, 1970, at age 95. She had been living at the Methodist Home, in Charlotte.²

During the 1960s, Gertrude remained in New York City, living at the Martha Washington Hotel, a women's residence at 29 East 29th Street. But she finally joined her sisters at the Presbyterian Home in 1971. Their niece, Lucius's daughter, Mary Glenn Rankin, still living in New Jersey, helped Gertrude settle her affairs before the move. Gertrude may not have held

stocks and bonds like her sisters, but Gertrude did have money “in every Savings & Loan in New York City,” reported an exhausted Mary. When closing up her living quarters, the family found boxes of rubber bands and paper clips Gertrude had saved over the years, not dissimilar to collections the nieces found at the Chester Street house.³

In August 1971, Carrie and Lena, now in their 80s, moved together from their free-standing apartment to a double room in the main building, sharing a common hall bathroom. They kept what furniture they needed and furnished Gertrude’s room, and once again the nieces assisted their aunts in disposing of everything else. Carrie and Lena always appreciated visits from family. Susan was especially close and drove to High Point several times a month, often with one or more of her sisters or with Jay. Niece Mary Downs Rankin also visited while attending Duke University.⁴

Wheels in Motion

Other steady visitors from Gastonia included representatives of the trust department of the Citizens National Bank, who came each spring and fall to report on the women’s trust holdings. One of the officials was George C. Winecoff III. He had grown up in the sisters’ Gastonia neighborhood and began working for the bank in the summers during college. He always enjoyed meeting with “Miss Carrie” and “Miss Lena,” as he called them, to give them an update on what he described as their “beautiful portfolios” of blue-chip stocks, bonds, and investments in local companies. Around 1971, Winecoff recalled that their combined assets approached \$1 million. Carrie and Lena valued his expertise and advice despite the more than half-century difference in their ages.⁵

At 87, Carrie was a “large-framed woman,” remembered Winecoff, with her gray hair pulled back in a bun, who had a “sparkling personality.” Lena, 85, was smaller, wiry, slender, and stately. Not realizing that Gertrude had joined her sisters, Winecoff was surprised to meet her. At 82, she was the most diminutive of the three at just over five feet tall. He characterized them as “plain” but nicely dressed, modest not stylish, in shirtwaist dresses.

As the oldest sister, Carrie seemed to be the leader. Upon hearing Winecoff’s update, she inquired, “Mr. Winecoff, at my death, what will it cost me

in taxes?” He guessed a sizeable figure, to which Carrie replied, “Well, I’ll have no part of that.” She had worked and saved for too long to see taxes gobble up her sacrifice.⁶

Carrie and Lena had already talked about leaving their money to a nursing home in Gastonia, where they knew the owner. But it was a for-profit business, and Winecoff told them they would reap no tax benefit. When Carrie asked how they could save money on taxes, he suggested that they might establish their own charity to give the money away. The idea pleased Carrie very much, and Lena concurred. They thought that since their family members were cared for, they could leave something meaningful for posterity with a charity.⁷

Winecoff set the wheels in motion by talking with the sisters’ attorney, Jick Garland, now of Garland Alala Bradley & Gray. Garland consulted with Winecoff’s boss, Bob Rosebro, of the Citizens National Bank, whom Carrie and Lena trusted. Garland and Winecoff returned to High Point several times as Garland guided the sisters in establishing a charitable trust indenture.⁸

While Carrie and Lena’s first priority was an estate-tax deduction, equally pressing was their concern for providing for each other, especially Gertrude, after their deaths. At least from the time Gertrude entered the Presbyterian Home, Carrie’s personal trust provided Gertrude’s trust with \$250 a month toward her living expenses, an incentive that may have convinced Gertrude to move to High Point. Garland assured Carrie and Lena that they could initiate the foundation with a partial amount, and that the balance of their holdings could pour into the foundation after the deaths of all three sisters. Any considerations for their other family members could occur at that time.⁹

Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation

The Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, probably named by Garland, was established “exclusively for religious, scientific, literary, educational and eleemosynary purposes.” Garland and Winecoff returned to High Point with a draft document and Garland read the entire, eight-legal-page agreement aloud to the three sisters because of Carrie’s blindness. Carrie and Lena asked no questions and required no changes.¹⁰

As conceived by Garland and approved by Carrie and Lena, the foundation's governing board of trustees would have between five and seven members serving rotating terms, including one an officer of the Citizens National Bank and one a representative of the First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, where Carrie had been a member since 1906. With these two designations, Lena and Carrie thought that the foundation would be guided with integrity after their deaths.¹¹

Garland selected five prominent community leaders as the founding trustees and assigned them staggered terms. Robert N. "Bob" Rosebro had started with the Citizens National Bank in 1933. Rev. James G. "Jim" Stuart was senior minister at the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Charles A. "Charlie" Glenn, Mena and Lucius's middle child, had grown up across the street from his aunts and was affectionately known in the community as Dr. Charlie. Judith M. "Judy" Miller, a physical therapist by training, was an active volunteer and knowledgeable about many community organizations. Hugh F. Bryant, a Gastonia native who grew up on South New Hope Road when it was a dirt road, led an insurance agency.¹²

It was Bob Rosebro who insisted that a trust officer of the bank always serve on the board, but not just to preserve the banking relationship for the future. He had a personal interest in the success of the foundation because of his high regard for the Glenn sisters. In those early days of the foundation, it would prove helpful to have a trust officer as a colleague.¹³

With the exception of Charlie Glenn, a Methodist, the other trustees were active in the First Presbyterian Church, as was Garland. Nevertheless, the Glenn Foundation was not established as a Presbyterian foundation and has never been one, but its origin is connected to the First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, a connection that remains to this day.

On August 30, 1971, the foundation became official when Carrie and Lena executed the trust indenture in High Point, while the trustees signed their documents in Gastonia. The sisters transferred to the foundation municipal bonds totaling \$25,000 (\$15,000 from Carrie and \$10,000 from Lena). It was their only investment in the foundation until their own and Gertrude's death. Garland also satisfied the sisters' mutual goals of taking care of each other until their deaths, restating their individual trust agreements and updating their wills. They had thought out their plans with care.¹⁴

The first part of Carrie's trust set aside \$61,132.38, possibly a percentage

of her assets at the time. She was to receive income from this portion during her lifetime. At her death, the income would go to Lena and Gertrude's trusts during their lifetimes. After their deaths, her funds would be distributed to her heirs—the eight children and one grandchild, Bobby, of their older brothers.¹⁵

The second part of Carrie's trust gave her all the income her remaining assets produced and any principal she might need. After her death, 5 percent of the net fair-market value of her remaining assets was distributable at the discretion of the bank for the "support, comfort and medical care" of her two sisters until their deaths. After the last sister died, these assets would pour into the Glenn Foundation and give her estate a tax deduction. Because Carrie and Lena shared the same financial goals for each other, for Gertrude, and for their foundation, Lena's trust provisions likely mirrored Carrie's. Gertrude had no stake in the foundation. Her estate would be distributed to her brothers' children and grandson through her will.¹⁶

With everything established and official, Carrie and Lena Glenn must have felt a tremendous sense of relief. Being private about their finances, however, neither woman informed their family members about their charitable foundation or their trusts. As for the founding trustees of the Glenn Foundation, they may have known of Carrie and Lena's trusts and likely their estate plans, but not the size of their assets.¹⁷

Around this time, Carrie and Lena, perhaps buoyed by feelings of goodwill and the knowledge that their affairs were in order, contributed an anonymous lead gift of \$75,000 to the newly established endowment fund at the Presbyterian Home, "setting a new course for philanthropy" there. The income from the endowment would provide financial assistance to residents of modest means. Their sizeable gift was surprising, since Carrie, at least, had earlier expressed no interest in providing care for others who had not saved as she had, but residents of the Presbyterian Home fell into a different category. Carrie and Lena appreciated those in helping professions who made lifetime financial sacrifices for careers of service to humanity, and were happy to assist.¹⁸

In November 1971, in preparation for the inaugural meeting of the board, Bob Rosebro asked Carrie and Lena how the foundation should spend the first income: \$363.75. They suggested it "be spent for community activities (with emphasis on programs for the sick, handicapped, indigent,

and elderly, of Gaston County North Carolina),” they wrote Rosebro. “As to the future income, we prefer that the trustees spend it where it is needed the most and will do the most good.” The women further indicated their preference not to provide educational loans, which Garland had said were often not repaid. If the board wanted to give such help, they wrote, then it should go “only to persons who will serve humanity after they get their education—such as doctors, nurses, ministers, etc. In that way, the money would benefit more people than just the recipient.”¹⁹

The organizational meeting of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation took place March 29, 1972, at the Elks Club, located in the former Separk mansion on Second Avenue in Gastonia. Such an honor! Service on a foundation board was new to everyone but Jim Stuart. The board deferred a decision on grant expenditures until the foundation received tax exempt status and the distributable amount increased. Robert N. Rosebro assured the new trustees, “You will find this to be a very interesting and challenging experience . . . after the passing of the Glenn sisters, this will be a sizeable charitable organization and can be a means of aiding many worthy persons and causes.” As the first order of business, the trustees elected Hugh Bryant chairman and Judy Miller secretary. The two would prove to be dedicated volunteer leaders, conscientious, thorough, and attentive to detail.²⁰

The new board reviewed the objects and purposes of the foundation listed in the trust indenture:

- 1) To make contributions to any church, hospital, school, library, community chest fund or foundation.
- 2) To award scholarships or loans for study at a college or university to worthy persons.
- 3) To make contributions for such other religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational objects and purposes as agreed to by the Trustees.²¹

The trust further recommended, but did not require, the foundation to grant:

- 25% of assets to religious organizations, including First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, for music, education, and suffering indigent persons; the Presbyterian Home of High Point to add to

an endowment for assisting residents in financial need; the Presbyterian Foundation for foreign missions including medical and educational entities in underdeveloped countries;

- 25% of assets to educational organizations including the University of North Carolina in Greensboro (the Normal) for scholarships and loans; St. Andrews College (a Presbyterian College founded in 1961 in Laurinburg, North Carolina) for scholarships and loans and to secure outstanding members of the faculty; Gaston College in Dallas, North Carolina (the successor to Gaston Technical Institute), for scholarships and loans and to equip the library; St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia, for construction of school facilities; and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, for scholarships and loans and for a theological library;
- 25% to medical organizations including Gaston County Hospital (Gaston Memorial Hospital) for equipment, aid to indigent patients, and scholarships or loans to student nurses; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Wake Forest University for medical research and scholarships and loans; and,
- 25% to community organizations including programs for the sick, handicapped, indigent and elderly; Gaston County Public Library for books, films, recordings, purchases and expansion of library facilities; Gaston County Community Fund for worthwhile community projects; and United Community Services of Gaston County (predecessor of United Way of Gaston County) for support of community and national service organizations.²²

Garland, not the Glenn sisters, developed the recommendations, although the women approved the document without comment. The foundation received its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS on April 24, 1972—Carrie's 88th birthday.²³

When the board met again in September 1972, trustees had not thought about possible recipients of funding, and so Hugh Bryant assigned them to investigate community needs in the four areas outlined in the trust indenture: Jim Stuart, religious organizations; Bob Rosebro, educational institutions, particularly Gaston College; Charlie Glenn, medical organizations; and Judy Miller, community activities.²⁴

The board met a final time in 1972 on October 17. The trustees elected Bob Rosebro to a full term of three years since his initial one-year term was expiring, with Carrie and Lena's approval. Income had grown, and without fanfare, the board unanimously approved three inaugural grants, totaling \$925. The largest grant, \$500, went toward a \$75,000 building campaign for the Community Day Care Center in the Highland community, which had been founded by an impassioned advocate, Myrtle Hoffman. (The foundation supported the fundraising efforts for four years.) The new building would be dedicated as the Myrtle Hoffman Community Day Care Center. The second grant, \$300, provided a student scholarship at Gaston College. The third grant, \$125, purchased a listening station for the Gaston County Public Library. Garland proposed that grant recipients send letters of appreciation directly to Carrie and Lena, which they were happy to do. The sisters must have taken pleasure in reading these acknowledgments and learning how the initial contributions from their foundation benefited their home community. The first granting year of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation was now in the books.²⁵



A Stunning Legacy

1973–1985

Before the board convened in 1973, one of the trustees, Rev. Jim Stuart, called on the sisters for the first time. Accompanying him to make introductions was their second cousin George Washington Ragan Jr., Wash Ragan's son and a member of First Presbyterian Church. Carrie and Lena, pleased with the visit, sent Stuart a letter, handwritten by Lena, who was now 87. "We three at the Presbyterian Home are the only ones left now," they told him. "All of us worked and saved enough to pay our own expenses at the Home for as long as we think we will be here. We did without many things that we might have had, but it has given us a lot of satisfaction to know that we could and did take care of ourselves without asking anyone for help. Our sole purpose in making this Foundation was to try to have any money that we might leave go where it is needed most and will do the most good. . . . We wish to thank all of you for your efforts in this direction."¹

In 1974, the Glenn sisters lost their sister-in-law Nell—Lon's widow—when she died at the age of 95 at a nursing home in Nashville. She was buried next to Lon at Woodlawn Memorial and Park. Nell was survived by her two sons, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Nell and Lon's son David had retired as a professor of civil engineering at Vanderbilt University, and son Hugh was retired from a career with the Tennessee Valley Authority.²

Refiguring the Board

Charlie Glenn—Carrie, Lena, and Gertrude’s nephew—had resigned from the board in 1975, having only attended the inaugural meeting. Since retiring as a surgeon, he was living in Alexandria, Virginia, where his wife, Dorothy, was a medical advisor to the State Department. With his resignation, no member of the Glenn family served on the board. The trustees elected Dr. Walter Watt “Dub” Dickson, a local veterinarian, to succeed Charlie. Bob Rosebro had retired from the bank and the board and was succeeded by trust officer H. William Palmer.³

While there is no record of their thoughts about their nephew’s departure from the board, Lena and her sisters wrote Hugh Bryant that they were “very sorry indeed” that Rosebro had resigned, but “very glad” about Bill Palmer’s involvement. Rosebro’s retirement had to be unsettling for Carrie and Lena, as they had known him for so long. Now, they had little personal knowledge of the other trustees and would need to rely on the integrity of strangers to guide the foundation into the future.⁴

By 1975, when Carrie, 91, was bedridden in the nursing unit of the Presbyterian Home, Bill Palmer paid a call on her and also met Gertrude, 86, with whom he had a delightful conversation. The “tiny little lady,” bright and charming, impressed him as a take-charge person who could have run New York City, or at least directed traffic there.⁵

Over the next two years, Carrie’s trust continued to pay for her care. The trust received monthly income from the State of North Carolina Retirement Fund for Carrie’s years as a teacher, and rent from the Piedmont News Stand. The small demands on her trust meant her assets kept increasing. In the summer and fall of 1977, as her health declined further, her trust paid for modest medical expenses.⁶

A Useful Woman in the World

On October 29, 1977, Carrie Eugenia Glenn died in High Point at the age of 93. Her funeral was held in Gastonia on October 31, at McLean and Son Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service at the family’s plot at Oakwood Cemetery. Since Rev. Stuart was unavailable, Rev. Peter

Carruthers, a young associate minister for youth at First Presbyterian Church, officiated.⁷

Back in 1905, when Carrie learned of her great disappointment that she would need an extra year to graduate from the Normal, the college president had told her father, “I do not doubt that your daughter will become a useful woman in the world.” He was right. Carrie educated several generations of students in Gastonia and Gaston County. Her legacy would continue through the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation.⁸

Carrie’s careful estate planning from 1971 now went into effect. J. David Wright Jr., a young trust officer who had succeeded George Winecoff at the bank (now called Independence National Bank after a merger), was sent to close up her apartment at High Point. He retrieved a cameo stickpin, which he delivered to the bank. At the same time, maintenance workers discovered Carrie’s 1959 diary and turned it over to the home’s executive director.⁹

A month after Carrie’s death, chairman Bryant learned of the existence of the Carrie E. Glenn Trust from Charles Myers, Palmer’s successor and the newest trustee. Myers informed the foundation’s board that the trust would support Lena and Gertrude until their deaths, after which Carrie’s assets would boost the foundation’s endowment. Myers thought it wise for the board to receive regular reports about the Glenn Trust—which was growing.¹⁰

On December 30, 1977, just two months after her passing, the market value of Carrie’s assets was a stunning \$655,838.95, on a cost basis of \$353,048. On a schoolteacher’s salary, she had accumulated wealth through inheritance and by steady saving and investing throughout her long life. While the trustees had no idea of Lena’s assets, seeing Carrie’s total helped them comprehend how their responsibilities would escalate when the foundation began distributing income left by both sisters. This realization instilled in them even deeper feelings of obligation to grant funds in ways that honored the two women.¹¹

Since Carrie’s family received no bequests at her death, nieces Sarah Glenn Boyd and Susan Love Glenn, Will and Mayme’s oldest two, made inquiries. They knew, of course, that their father, Will, had provided financial advice to their aunts. They and their sisters, Mary and Margie, had helped their aunts after Will’s death, carrying forward his protective regard for them. With good reason, they believed that their aunts had significant as-

sets, although they could not have imagined how much. Furthermore, Sarah and Susan did not know about the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, even though their cousin Charlie Glenn served as a founding trustee, since no publicity surrounded the foundation's early distributions. Now, as Charlie Myers told them more about the foundation, the nieces seemed pleased with its charitable nature.¹²

With her sisters' concurrence, Susan, the businesswoman among them, offered three suggestions to the trustees: focus grant making on education, appoint a Glenn family member to the board, and provide financial support for the education of the third generation of Glenns. "I would hope that any application made by them would merit your careful consideration," she concluded. The family had no standing to make recommendations, however, and the trustees felt no obligation to act on them. Hugh Bryant politely thanked Susan for her suggestions.¹³ While the possible precedent of family involvement on the board had been raised with Charlie Glenn's service as a founding trustee, the trust indenture did not specify that a member of the family serve. Furthermore, having a family member on the board could confuse what by now was the established culture and tradition of the Glenn Foundation as a private independent foundation, not a family foundation. In 1977, the trustees hoped the Glenn family would be satisfied that the board remained faithful to their aunts' wishes for their money.¹⁴

New Responsibilities

After making small grant amounts since 1972, in January 1978, the trustees began to prepare for the day when, after Gertrude and Lena's deaths, the foundation would emerge from the umbrella of the bank's trust department, and they would manage the investments of a free-standing foundation. This new responsibility seemed not far off, with Lena now 92 and Gertrude 89, but it was farther off than they imagined.¹⁵

In 1979, in the wake of a new interpretation of the tax law, the Independence National Bank successfully petitioned the courts to amend the wording of Carrie's trust so that contributions from her estate to the foundation would qualify for an estate-tax charitable deduction. The first part of the trust, set aside for heirs, was now called a Specific Legacy trust, with the majority of her assets placed in a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The

legal advisors would have made the same change to Lena's trust but without court involvement, since she was still living.¹⁶

Trustee Judy Miller had faithfully served as secretary since 1972, which limited her participation in the discussions. The board accepted Jim Stuart's offer for secretarial support, and for a small fee over the next decade, his secretaries Justus Cathey, Phyllis Ballard, and Linda Dixon assisted with administrative functions and minute-taking outside of their church responsibilities. Judy Miller, however, always prepared the final version of the minutes.¹⁷

In the foundation's first eight years, from 1972 to 1979, the only change in board composition occurred when Charlie Glenn resigned and trust officers left the bank. The trustees had three-year rotating terms, but the board did not observe term limits. Hugh Bryant, Judy Miller, Jim Stuart, and Dub Dickson served continuously with a representative from the trust department. Rotation of a nonprofit board's members is a best practice, but in the foundation's early years, when the assets were so small and the board met infrequently, continuity provided stability. The four trustees were intelligent, compatible, connected, and forward-thinking individuals who embraced a common vision. Their faithfulness, cohesiveness, and camaraderie would serve them well when they had to administer a fully funded organization. Nevertheless, it concerned Miller that she and Bryant had served as officers since 1972, and she thought others should serve for the health of the foundation. Her observation fell on deaf ears, however, and the two continued in their respective offices.¹⁸

After the foundation was listed in grant publications, the board received requests not just from Gastonia and Gaston County, but also from around North Carolina and the country. The trustees continued to keep most grants local, since the grant pool was modest. In those first eight years, they made sixteen distributions totaling \$8,038.93 to ten organizations. As a board, they acknowledged that they had based their decisions on meeting needs rather than the percentages in the four categories outlined in the trust indenture. Most grants fell into the community category and none in the medical category, but the percentages were recommended, not required. The trustees had resolved unexpected legal issues with Carrie's trust and had treated the Glenn family with respect.

By the fall of 1980, Carrie's estate was settled, and the bank's trust department began distributing significant sums to Lena and Gertrude's trusts (\$30,438 to each initially, then between \$23,000 and \$25,000 to each annually) until their deaths. Their trusts also benefited from several life insurance policies that Carrie left to them. Since they had so few expenses at the Presbyterian Home, the women's own assets increased.¹⁹

In 1981, Branch Banking & Trust Company (BB&T) bought Independence National Bank, and Charlie Myers left for a new job. The following year, trustee Jim Stuart called on Lena and Gertrude in High Point to familiarize them with how recipients were using grant funds and to express his gratitude to Lena, now 96, for establishing the foundation. She was undoubtedly grateful for his attentiveness.²⁰

In 1982, Carrie's trust was valued at \$800,000, and Lena's at \$850,000, not surprising considering that Lena and Gertrude's trusts reflected three years of contributions from Carrie's trust. Carrie's estate began to benefit from appreciation in long-held stocks in three Gaston County companies: Parkdale Mills, Textiles-Incorporated, and Wix Corporation. Gains in these investments of over \$650,000 pushed Carrie's trust to well over \$1 million. Lena's trust probably benefited similarly. The sisters' faith in Gaston County companies would eventually pay huge dividends to Gaston County organizations.²¹

In September 1982, Lena was in failing health, and Gertrude was 93. Knowing that the foundation's assets would increase substantially after the death of both sisters, Judy Miller suggested increasing the size of the board from five to seven trustees, as allowed by the trust indenture, to meet the needs of a larger foundation. Jick Garland had also been thinking ahead and drafted a set of bylaws for the board, which until now had been guided only by the trust indenture. The board decided to consider board expansion and observe term limits after the last sister died but adopted the bylaws informally except for the provision on term limits.²²

Sensing that the first phase of the Glenn Foundation was winding down, the board commissioned Geraldine Hagan Johnston, an English teacher at Hunter Huss High School, to write a history of the Glenn family. She completed a concise, informative account based on excerpts from Lon Glenn's genealogy, which his niece Susan Glenn had shared with Hugh Bryant.²³

The Last to Depart

On January 25, 1984, Lena Viola Glenn died in High Point. Rev. Jim Stuart presided over her graveside service at Oakwood Cemetery two days later. Several facets of Lena Glenn's life and personality will never be fully understood—the cause of her weak constitution, why she never joined any church, and how she amassed such assets after only twenty-one years of full time employment. Despite health problems all her life, at 97, she lived the longest of all her siblings. If Lena's trust had comparable investments to Carrie's, including Parkdale Mills, Textiles-Incorporated, and Wix Corporation, she died a millionaire.²⁴

On July 17, 1985, May Gertrude Glenn died at the Presbyterian Home at the age of 96. Once again, Rev. Stuart conducted a graveside service at Oakwood Cemetery, on July 19. Gertrude's obituary stated simply that she was a retired corporate law secretary who had worked in New York City. She was the last of her immediate family of ten siblings to depart this earth. For the eighteen months following Lena's death, Gertrude's trust had received contributions from both her sisters' trusts.²⁵

The Legacy

After Gertrude's death, the BB&T trust department transferred to the Glenn Foundation the assets from Carrie and Lena's trusts and placed a small amount of money into an administrative checking account to cover estate expenses. With an account balance of \$17,371, Carrie's Unitrust at \$1,527,955, Lena's Unitrust at \$1,393,795, and excluding their real estate holdings, Glenn Foundation assets grew to \$2,939,121—a stunning legacy.²⁶

With both Lena and Gertrude gone, Carrie's Specific Legacy trust that had benefited them now went to family members. Of the total from Carrie's trust, \$16,132.38 in the Specific Legacy trust was divided among Will's four daughters in appreciation for their father's financial advice. The balance, \$45,000, was divided equally among eight nieces and nephews and one great-nephew. The family likely benefited similarly from Lena's trust assets. The Charitable Remainder Unitrust held the rest of Carrie's assets (and likely Lena's assets). Gertrude's estate went directly to her heirs, increasing

substantially what they inherited because of distributions to her trust from her sisters' trusts.²⁷

The nieces were "astonished to find out how much the sisters left at their deaths," recalled Mary Glenn Thompson, but not because they thought they should have inherited substantial sums. Susan Glenn summed up the family's feelings in a letter she sent to Judy Miller. "It still seems heart-breaking to me to think of the comforts and pleasures my aunts denied themselves because of an inordinate fear of an old age when they might be in poor health and need all their resources. The habit was so deeply ingrained that when such prudence was no longer necessary they were unable to change."²⁸

The bequests hardly compared to what the relatives could have inherited had Carrie and Lena left them their entire estates. Yet it is unlikely that the two ever planned to leave their savings to family. Their frugality was as deeply rooted as their father's admonition not to leave money or property to heirs where "somebody could take it from them, or they could run through it themselves and have nothing," as they wrote Rev. Stuart in their 1973 letter. Although tax savings inspired the creation of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, the sisters derived much pleasure from knowing that their modest lives of thrift and self-denial would benefit others after their deaths, particularly individuals and charities in the county where their forebears and family members had added such substance.²⁹



To the Stars

1986–1987

When the trustees met on January 15, 1986, they did so with a resolve to honor the legacy that Carrie and Lena Glenn had entrusted to them, and to shepherd the foundation into its next phase. They continued a practice they had started when the foundation was new: opening each meeting with prayer. The importance of prayer was never as critical, as the trustees sought wisdom in carrying out their increased responsibilities.¹

During the previous fall, they had begun laying the groundwork for a larger organization. They adopted the bylaws, including the provision on board rotation, and over Judy Miller's objection, approved compensating themselves for each full meeting they attended beginning in April 1986. It was the board's only contested vote up to that time. They reelected Hugh Bryant and Judy Miller to their respective offices, elected Jim Stuart the vice chairman, and David Wright the treasurer, filling these offices for the first time with existing trustees. To expand the board to seven, they also elected as trustees two members of First Presbyterian Church: Craig Fielding, a stockbroker with Interstate Johnson Lane, and Elizabeth Triplett "Trip" Stewart, an active community volunteer.²

A New Reality

Since the first grant distribution in 1972, the trustees had made 27 grants to 14 different recipients totaling \$16,333.15, including \$1,177 to grant in 1986. They had decided to wait until 1987 to make grants from the larger distribution. As they faced the reality of tackling a larger corpus, the trustees, while far from novices in grantmaking, were nonetheless anxious to think through the entire grant process. On February 6, 1986, they underwent an enlightening and beneficial orientation with William Bondurant, executive director of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Bondurant shared with them the Babcock Foundation's application form as a prototype for a Glenn application form. He told them that he wrote a short summary of each request for his board, and made site visits to all agencies being considered. His foundation required recipients to submit a report six months after receiving a grant.³

The trustees were already familiar with the requirement to distribute a minimum of 5 percent of assets annually. Bondurant elaborated further, explaining that not just administrative overhead and grants were removed from that calculation, but also excise taxes, foreign taxes, depreciation, and fund manager fees. If assets grew more than 5 percent, the Babcock Foundation granted more money to address community needs.

On March 6, 1986, the board held its annual meeting, and for the first time, seven trustees conducted the foundation's business. Carrie and Lenna's combined assets were now valued at \$3.567 million. David Wright presented the board with Carrie's cameo stickpin, which the trustees sent to Sarah Boyd, as the oldest niece. They advised David Wright to dispose of all the sisters' real estate for the best price he could get. With cash on hand of \$220,374, the trustees placed \$150,000 in a nine-month investment to save for 1987 grant disbursements, with remaining funds in an income-bearing investment with the trust department at BB&T.⁴

On Bondurant's advice, Hugh Bryant established three committees, which coalesced with the April 1986 meeting. The administrative committee's main responsibility was keeping records of business transactions and engaging Jim Stuart's secretary, for a small stipend, to maintain the files, record meeting minutes, and keep up with grant applications. The finance

committee was to create an annual administrative budget, monitor and evaluate the performance of the foundation's assets at BB&T, and provide guidance to fund managers.

The goals and applications committee had the immediate task of creating a grant application form and developing materials to publicize increased assets. The form stated the foundation's purpose: "To provide annual grants to tax-exempt institutions or programs which are organized and operated exclusively for religious, scientific, literary, educational, or charitable purposes with the majority of grants going to benefit the people in Gaston County, North Carolina, and in the Southeast." The trust indenture gave no geographic limits for grant distributions, and so the addition of the southeastern United States may have been a way to encompass St. Catherine's School and Union Theological Seminary, both in Richmond, Virginia, and both named in the trust as potential recipients. It also may have stemmed from ongoing concerns that there might not be enough requests from Gaston County to satisfy the minimum distribution requirement.

Policies and Procedures

Based on fifteen years of grant-making experience, the trustees included three grant policies on the application form. The foundation would: not (ordinarily) provide funds for brick-and-mortar projects (believing assets were too small to make a significant impact on a building campaign and would divert funds from helping people directly); not provide assistance to individuals, such as scholarships, which would be difficult to manage, especially since Carrie and Lena were not in favor of them anyway; and require recipients to provide a written summary of accomplishments and an accounting of grant expenditures.⁵

The board approved a calendar to give structure to its plan of work, setting the annual meeting on the third Wednesday in January, and the deadline to receive applications on April 1. They agreed to use April, May, and June to study applications and make site visits, and then to hold two grant deliberation meetings in June, basing decision-making on the sisters' request that funds go "where needed the most, to do the most good." Once they finalized their decisions, the board members would notify recipients

and announce decisions after July 1. The final meeting of the year would be in October or November, after the September 30 fiscal-year close, to hear end-of-year financial reports.

The trustees agreed that they would not publicize the amount of available money for distribution and would not bind themselves to the strict grant-category percentages outlined in the trust indenture. They also agreed that they would consider making consecutive-year grants to the same recipient so long as the recipient submitted an annual application.⁶

As an employee of BB&T, David Wright did not receive compensation for his board service, but the bank wrestled with his duties as both trust officer and treasurer. Because he was uncomfortable signing checks, he resigned as treasurer, and Trip Stewart succeeded him.⁷

While BB&T was custodian of the trust funds, the board would soon be charged with directing investments. In April 1986, to clarify the role of the trustees, Craig Fielding sought a legal opinion from attorney C. Penn Craver Jr., with Petree Stockton & Robinson, of Charlotte and Winston-Salem. Craver wrote, “sole investment responsibilities rest with the trustees in accordance with North Carolina Fiduciary Trust Law and Articles II and VII of the trust indenture. . . . The trustees are charged with prudence and due diligence in developing an investment philosophy and policy to fulfill the charitable purposes of the trust.”⁸

Based on Craver’s advice, the board eventually established three priorities for securing fund manager(s) and for evaluating investment results: 1) to preserve the foundation’s capital assets; 2) to attain a competitive return on the foundation’s capital assets; and 3) to provide sufficient income, without loss of principal, to meet the legally required 5 percent minimum distribution. The board eventually secured three managers.⁹

At its third meeting, on August 14, 1986, the board approved the application form, an informational brochure, and a press release prepared by the goals and applications committee. The brochure included a short history of the foundation and its purpose, information about the donors, a list of the trustees, and a list of grant recipients from inception through 1986. It gave instructions on how to apply and added the reporting requirements Bondurant had suggested. By late September, with planning complete and the process and schedule set, the board was ready to spread the good news

about the Glenn Foundation and its increased endowment. Still apprehensive about whether there would be sufficient requests to expend the entire 1987 distribution amount, Hugh Bryant sent a letter and the brochure to members of the Glenn family, all past grant recipients, all organizations and institutions listed in the trust indenture, and twenty-five prominent leaders of Gaston County business and industry.¹⁰

From \$1,177 to \$143,613

On September 26, 1986, the Glenn Foundation issued a press release that received wide exposure in the *Gastonia Gazette* and in the *Gaston Neighbors* edition of the *Charlotte Observer*. The papers trumpeted the news that the foundation would be fully operational in 1987; described its purpose, as well as Carrie's and Lena's family, careers, and philanthropy; noted its current assets of over \$3 million; mentioned the \$16,333.15 it had awarded from 1972 to 1986; and named the seven board members. By the November 19, 1986, board meeting, the trustees had adopted a procedure to handle grant applications, with Linda Dixon receiving the applications and delivering them to the trustees in batches of ten at least ten days before the first deliberation meeting.¹¹

At its January 1987 meeting, with all in readiness for the April 1, 1987, grant submission deadline, the board focused on financial decisions. Trustees adopted the foundation's first operating budget, established a checking account at BB&T, and hired Cherry Bekaert & Holland (today Cherry Bekaert) as the CPA firm. Jim Ratchford, a young CPA with the firm, became the foundation's advisor and would remain so until his retirement. The firm prepared the compilation, later the financial review, and even later an audit, and BB&T prepared the tax return. At the end of 1986, the portfolio had risen to \$3,880,324, a 17.25 percent rate of return.

With their planning and hard work behind them, the trustees held their collective breaths, awaiting the response from local and regional nonprofits. They need not have worried. Eighty-five agencies requested an application form, and forty-three of them applied. The board had \$143,613 to distribute, far more than the \$1,177 it allocated the year before, but requests totaled \$1,024,094, roughly seven times greater than available funds. Decision-making would be challenging.

It took three meetings, not two, for the trustees to finalize their decisions. When several questions arose about a handful of proposals, Bryant assigned trustees to investigate. At the final meeting, on May 7, 1987, the board funded fifteen requests, and required recipients to send a written summary of accomplishments and a final accounting of funds no later than February 28, 1988.¹²

The signature grant in this new phase of the foundation's history was \$35,000 to the Gaston County Public Library to computerize the card catalog at the main and branch libraries that Lena had worked so long to create and maintain. It was a Herculean project costing \$190,000. The trustees proved to be innovative when they offered an additional \$25,000 challenge grant for 1988, conditioned on the library's raising matching funds from sources other than the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. The library succeeded.¹³

The board awarded a smaller grant of \$5,000 for an educational economics program, paying it to the Gaston County Schools Instructional Supply Fund at the Garrison Foundation. The Garrison Foundation, the legacy of Garrison General Hospital, was a community foundation and fiduciary for a program headed up by Ralph S. Robinson Jr., a local textile executive, community volunteer, and philanthropist. While it seemed curious that one foundation would pay a grant to another, the Garrison Foundation was a different legal entity than a private foundation like the Glenn Foundation and was becoming increasingly valuable as a charitable-giving and tax-planning tool for individuals. It was also becoming home to endowed funds of local nonprofits. Their donated funds were pooled with the foundation's professionally managed portfolio, saving them from the challenge of managing their investments and enabling them to share in returns generated through a larger investment pool. The Garrison Foundation would shortly change its name to Community Foundation of Gaston County, and reflect thirty-three different donor-advised funds under its umbrella.¹⁴

Wisdom and Frugality

The Glenn Foundation's 1987 distributions garnered praise in editorials from both the *Gastonia Gazette* and *Gaston Neighbors*. "The wisdom and frugality of a couple of Gastonia sisters has snowballed into one of the

1987 Grants Totaling \$143,613

Belmont Abbey College	\$5,000
Professional and paraprofessional certification to serve the severely and profoundly handicapped	
Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University	\$25,000
Detecting infections in the elderly	
Crisis Assistance Ministry	\$10,000
Emergency assistance	
Garrison Foundation	\$5,000
Gaston County Schools instructional supply fund	
Gaston County Schools	\$3,000
Pilot after school care program	
Gaston County Schools	\$10,000
Commissioners School of Excellence	
Gaston Families for Drug free Youth	\$16,000
Dramatic production—"Halfway There"	

finest charitable foundations known in the county," proclaimed the *Gazette*, noting that the success story of the foundation "reflects vividly upon the character and upbringing that must have come to Carrie and Lena Glenn as they lived out their lives in Gaston County." It also lauded the "sound local leadership, whose interest is tied to local charitable programs and institutions."¹⁵

"This is a story of patriotism," wrote *Gaston Neighbors*. "Not the bold swashbuckling type . . . but a broader, gentler, more enduring kind that springs from a deep love of family, community and humanitarian ideals." "It's exciting to do this," Hugh Bryant told the paper.¹⁶

After fifteen years of modest grant-making, the foundation began a productive new era, when the sisters' legacy would become firmly woven into the fabric of Gaston County's charitable heritage.

Gaston Literacy Council	\$5,000
Adult reading and writing program	
Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library	\$35,000
Conversion of bibliographic records and implementation of public access catalog	
Heart Society of Gaston County	\$5,000
Blood cholesterol level screening machine	
Horizon Youth Services	\$7,713
Quest in-school early intervention	
Look Up Gaston Foundation	\$2,500
Promotional and teaching materials	
North Carolina Society for Autistic Adults and Children	\$3,000
Summer program for autistic children	
Presbyterian Home of High Point	\$10,000
Recreational therapy program	
Stanley Total Living Center	\$1,400
Nursing assistant training program	

To the Stars

Through the years since the foundation became fully funded, the trustees, directors, and others have been heard to remark that Carrie and Lena Glenn would be astounded by the many ways their generosity has assisted others “where needed the most, to do the most good.” Who could have imagined such a legacy? Certainly not them. They intended that their lifetimes of sacrifice would spare them from poverty in their old age. In that they succeeded, but they also left a powerful example of philanthropy—the love of humankind—leaving millions of dollars in perpetuity to the place where their family grew as the nation grew.

During the short time Carrie and Lena were able to observe the fruits of their charity, it gave them satisfaction, indeed happiness, to know that their lives of self-sacrifice would sustain so many organizations and individuals.

They would never have sought public acclaim for their charitable actions and probably would have been surprised to hear that people found their story remarkable. Yet it is inspirational, and its appeal is timeless.

These days, at the first grant distribution meeting of the year, the board of directors reads aloud the letter that Carrie and Lena Glenn sent to founding trustee Jim Stuart in 1973, after he visited them at the Presbyterian Home. The framed document hangs in the foundation's conference room, where it serves as a reminder of the founders' humble background, their personal sacrifices, the value their family placed on education, and their wishes for their money. Lena and Carrie wrote:

Our father was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian Church until his death in 1911. He had a large family, and we were brought up to work and save and spend only what was necessary; for one never knows what his future needs might be. He never accumulated much money but spent most that he had trying to educate his children. He said that if he left them money or property, somebody could take it from them, or they could run through it themselves and have nothing; but if he gave them an education, nobody could take that and with the education they should be able to take care of themselves. He sent all ten of them to college. One died at college in his sophomore year, but the others all finished and all did take care of themselves.

We three at the Presbyterian Home are the only ones left now. All of us worked and saved enough to pay our own expenses at the Home for as long as we think we will be here. We did without many things that we might have had, but it has given us a lot of satisfaction to know that we could and did take care of ourselves without asking anyone for help. Our sole purpose in making this Foundation was to try to have any money that we might leave go where it is needed most and will do the most good.

Many worthy causes are listed in the Foundation as possible recipients, some of them more worthy than others, or their need more urgent, as in relieving human suffering. We have been told that scholarship loans, more often than not, are never repaid. A student who gets his education that way and then makes no effort to repay the loan or render any service to humanity, such as doctors or nurses,

is dishonest and does not deserve help. Of course there are many honest students who do deserve help.

We realize that the selection of recipients and the disbursement of funds are in the hands of your committee. We simply want the money used where it is needed most and will do the most good. We feel sure that the members of your committee will do their best to see that this is done.

We wish to thank all of you for your efforts in this direction.¹⁷

Carrie and Lena themselves inspired the tag line on the foundation's letterhead, adopted in 2010: "Where needed most. To do the most good."¹⁸

Today, their childhood home, the Glenn farmhouse completed about 1874, sits on a bluff overlooking US Highway 321. The scene leaves to the imagination what the house and grounds looked like in the 1870s, when William Davis Glenn and Sarah Priscilla Torrence began to raise their large family of educated, accomplished individuals. All their surviving children brought to fruition the seeds of hard work and determination that their staunch Presbyterian Scotch-Irish ancestors—beginning with John Glen and Jane McLean—sowed in Gaston County: one professor, one medical doctor, one textile man and entrepreneur, one college instructor, three teachers, one librarian, and one businesswoman. Yet it is the modest, self-reliant, frugal, yet generous Carrie and Lena Glenn whose lives have made the most recognized and indelible mark on their home community. They are the stars. The Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, their legacy, lives in perpetuity, thanks to their charitable spirit.

Acknowledgments



I am deeply grateful to so many persons who expressed interest in this project and offered encouragement. First and foremost, I thank Tim Efird, Charles Gallman, and Charlie Pearson and the board of directors of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation. Directors have rotated on and off the board since I began my research and yet all have remained steadfast in their support and agreed to publish the manuscript before it was even completed. I owe them all a debt of gratitude. Laura Lineberger, my successor as the foundation's executive director and a friend of long standing, has been a sounding board, source of encouragement, and helpful in ways too numerous to count.

When one starts a project like this, almost from scratch, as I did, even seemingly insignificant details become relevant. They can help solve mysteries or add to the richness of the story. At each stage of this giant puzzle, if I sought information, people were willing to share their memories. Others simply came forward with first-hand information from their experiences. I have labored to provide accurate information.

I spent a delightful afternoon with the late Jean Marie Torrence, Dr. Junius Torrence's great-granddaughter, listening and learning from her reminiscences about her ancestors. Helen and Cary Grant of Clover, South Carolina, are remarkable in their knowledge of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Cary, church historian, walked me through the historic cemetery to locate Glenn graves and permitted me to review the early minutes of

the church. Helen, a Glenn relative and co-author of a church history, gave me a copy of Lon Glenn's earliest rendition of the "John Glen" family genealogy, a rare find containing information not found in Lon's final version. The Grants' neighbor, Sally Thompson McGinnis, provided considerable information about Union Presbyterian Church, saving me hours of hunting. Lamar Howe, who spent ten years transcribing the cemetery records at Olney Presbyterian Church, where many Wilson and Torrence family members are buried, led me to the graves of Clementine, Sally Ann, and W. W. Torrence early one morning. The late Wilma Craig, noted Gaston County historian, helped me locate the grave of John Glen, which dates to 1828, in Goshen Cemetery in North Belmont. She graciously allowed me to read and take notes from her transcription of the diary of James William Reid, a nineteenth-century Gaston County farmer, which provided several key elements of the early Glenn story, including the poignant retrieval of Newton Glenn's body after the battle of Chancellorsville. There would have been gaps had these resources not been made available.

I owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Cindy Michael, a paralegal with the firm of Michael, Elting & Anders, PLLC, in Mount Holly, and a long-time friend, who spent countless hours searching deeds to Glenn family properties, all for the love of the project. Deeds tell stories, and Cindy's research provided several highly significant puzzle pieces.

My gratitude goes to Dr. Jeffrey Booker, superintendent of Gaston County schools, for allowing me to access the minutes of the Gaston County board of education and Gastonia board of school commissioners beginning in 1885 and 1901 respectively, providing information unavailable anywhere else. Thanks to Dana Luoto, secretary to the board of education, I was able to spend seventeen hours poring over the minutes, learning about William Davis Glenn's formal involvement with education, Lucius's service on the board of school commissioners, and Eula, Carrie, and Annie Glenn's careers as teachers.

Others contributed to the more recent aspects of the story. Loretta Spurlin Forbes, whose third-grade teacher was Miss Carrie Glenn in the early 1950s, saved her report card and a love letter Carrie intercepted. Loretta's classmates, Susan McGinnis Cooper, Alice Robinson Braddy, and Dr. Michael Blackwell, shared their memories of Miss Glenn as seven-, eight-, and nine-year-old students at Flint-Groves Elementary School. Loretta's

husband, Wilson A. Forbes Jr., located significant information from the Forbes family genealogy that related to the Glenns, their neighbors from the days on the farm. Bill provided me with a rare early copy of Lon Glenn's "Allied Families" genealogy in his family's possession, again with information not included in Lon's final product.

Carrie and Lena's neighbors from South Chester Street came forward with their childhood recollections: Gastonia attorney M. Roy Short Jr. and his sister Edith Short Sisk, who grew up next door to the sisters; Samuel "Sammy" Rankin from two doors down; and B. Frank Matthews II from across the street. Others from the neighborhood included the late Anne Whitesides Alexander and George C. Winecoff III. George, former trust officer at the Citizens National Bank, knew the sisters and providentially suggested they leave their savings to charity. Alice and the late Jimmy Thompson, although not from the neighborhood, shared Lucius stories of hot dogs and hospitals. Mary Wilson "Tuga" Adams, Johnny Davidson, and the late Dr. George R. Miller contributed their recollections of the good doctor. Their memories enriched the story.

For the dedicated staff of the archives I accessed, who often went out of their way to see my research succeed, you have my heartfelt thanks. Among those deserving special mention: former librarian Joan Glynn and former archivist Betty Carter, Walter Clinton Jackson Library, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; former archivist Chris Paton, C. Benton Kline Jr. Special Collections and Archives, John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Kay Williamson, Darlington County (South Carolina) Historical Association; Teresa Gray, Special Collections and University Archives, Jane and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University; Kathy Shoemaker, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University; and Cathy Dorin-Black, Special Collections Research Center, NC State Libraries. Locally, Jason Harpe, formerly of the Lincoln County Historical Association, and Stephanie D. Elliott and Markecia Koulessier of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, were accommodating and helpful.

The Glenn family members were terrific, and I thank them for their generosity in sharing memories of their relatives. Mayme and Will Glenn's grandson, David Glenn Thompson, and I shared an exceptional telephone friendship for ten years until we met in 2012. David's interest in his family's

history is unsurpassed, and he has been a steady source of information and inspiration. Thanks go also to his sister, Martha Abernethy Thompson, for sharing childhood memories of her grandparents and their personalities. Their mother, the late Mary Glenn Thompson, added interesting first-hand details about her aunts and uncles. To Mena and Lucius Glenn's grandchildren, John Lucius "Jay" Glenn, Robert Ray "Bob" Glenn Jr., and Mary Rankin Routh, thank you, and Jay especially for your entertaining Lucius tales. Thanks also go to Jane Glenn, David Thompson, and David's daughter, Elizabeth, for sharing important family photographs, which have added dimension to the story.

It was a pleasure to speak to three of the five founding trustees, Hugh Bryant, the late Judy Miller and the late Rev. Jim Stuart, about their recollections of the foundation's earliest days, as well as to the late Bill Palmer. They set the direction for grantmaking as they worked to honor the sisters' guidance that their money go where it was needed the most, to do the most good.

Former directors Emily Craig, Martha Eddins, Tim Efird, and Charles Gallman read all or parts of the original manuscript, as did other current ones. Mary Beth Stuart also read the manuscript and offered encouragement. Others who assisted in various ways either by providing information or assisting me to access information included Ina Biggers, Hunter Bretzius, Andrew Collins, Tom Efird, Nina Greene, Dorothy Guthrie of the African American Museum of History & Culture at Loray Mill, Louise Love Keir, James F. "Jim" Love III, Amanda Neese, Elizabeth "Ibby" Patrick Page, Plato "Tete" Pearson, Marisa Ray and Mrs. Betty Hayes of the Presbyterian Homes, Michael Schwartz, the late Jean Stewart, Jennie Stultz and Martha Burris, who listened a lot and helped translate aspects of Gastonia and Southern farm life for this Yankee transplant, and J. David Wright Jr. of BB&T's trust department (now retired).

As always, Lucy Penegar, a friend of over forty years and champion of Gaston County's historic preservation efforts in ways well known, little known, and unknown, offered her unwavering support and encouragement. She is my hero! Likewise, local educator and historian Robert Carpenter willingly shared his vast knowledge of the county when I ran into a blank wall. His book, *Gaston County, North Carolina, in the Civil War*, was published just in time to add important details to the Civil War part of

this story. Robert Allison Ragan, who has Glenn blood flowing through his veins, authored two remarkable books that helped me understand the general history of Gaston County and the rise of the textile industry. Robert was unbelievably generous in sharing photographs of sites important to the story.

I am especially grateful to Rick Haithcox of Rick Haithcox Photography in Dallas, Gaston County's North Carolina award-winning photographer, who rescued me near the end by improving the quality of old photographs and preparing all the photographs for publication.

To Julie Campbell, editor and fellow history major, whose experience as both an author and an editor improved and shaped the final product, I extend my deepest appreciation. Julie kept the story focused on the family and lent a friendly voice to our common goal. As it turned out, much of the Glenn's story resonated with her. Thank you, Mary Clark, for your recommendation!

Finally, thank you to my long suffering family—my husband, Richard, our daughter, Martha, our son and family, Coerte, Becky, Garrett, and Gavin, and my sister, Jean, who have tolerated stories of the Glenns for far longer than they were entitled to expect. Who knew it would take over seven years to research, write, and publish this story? Dick deserves an extra-special thank you for his incredible patience in living through my messy process of research and writing. He has always generously encouraged me to follow my passions, and his listening ear, perceptive observations, legal insights, and unwavering encouragement strengthened my resolve to complete the story and share it with Gaston County.

Notes

Note on Sources

L. C. Glenn, “Genealogies of the Glenn, Wilson, Torrence and Allied Families of Gaston Co., NC,” is cited throughout as “Glenn Allied Families.”

Dr. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn, “John Glen (1726–1828) of Gaston County, North Carolina and his Descendants. A Genealogy of the Glen(n) Family from Lochwinnoch, Scotland, 1726–1953” is cited throughout as “Glenn Genealogy.”

Access/retrieval dates are given only for those URLs for which that date is known.

McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro are cited as McIver Records.

Chapter 1: 1726–1828

1. John’s father, James Glen, was born in 1680 near Ardstraw, in Boyturn, County Tyrone, and his mother, Jean Caldwell Glen, was a widow with one child (William) when she became James’s second wife; [www.ancestry.com/John Glen of Newton Conyngham](http://www.ancestry.com/John%20Glen%20of%20Newton%20Conyngham). Interestingly, John did not travel at a time of peak migration. In fact, the *Belfast News* advertised only one ship with emigrants leaving that port for America in 1746; Dickson, *Ulster Em-*

igration to Colonial America 1718–1775, 58, 203–204. The average voyage took seven weeks and four days.

2. “Glenn Genealogy,” 4; John Glen of Newton Conyngham, County Donegal, was living in Ireland in 1618. His son was John Glen (1610–86) of Londonderry; John’s son was Ninian Glen of near Londonderry; Ninian’s son was James Glen, father of the John who came to America in 1746; [www.findagrave.com/John Glen](http://www.findagrave.com/John%20Glen); [www.ancestry.com/John Glen of Newton Conyngham](http://www.ancestry.com/John%20Glen%20of%20Newton%20Conyngham); Dunaway, *The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania*, 187; Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish*, 187–188.

3. Semple, “The House of Barr”; undated, unidentified newspaper article in “Glenn Genealogy”; Hanna, *The Scotch-Irish*, 395; <https://www.geni.com/people/Margaret-Bruce/6000000022219033969>; https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_I_of_Scotland; Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Barr_Castle,_the_north-east_side,_Lochwinnoch,_Scotland.jpg.

4. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish*, 61, 93, 118; Hanna, *The Scotch-Irish*, 395.

5. Rack renting was the practice where

landlords raised the cost of a lease after tenant farmers improved the property over several years, and then leased the improved property to new tenants for higher rents. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish*, 160–164, 169, 189, 327–334. Five waves of migration from Ulster to America occurred during a fifty-eight-year period: 1717–18; 1725–29; 1740–41; 1754–55; and 1771–75; www.geni.com/people/John-Glen.

6. Dickson, *Ulster Emigration*, 87, 179.

7. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish*, 169; Dickson, *Ulster Emigration*, 223.

8. *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 107; Morison, *Oxford History of the American People*, 162.

9. *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 111; “Glenn Genealogy,” 4.

10. “Glenn Genealogy,” 4; www.findagrave.com. Actually, they likely did not know that by the time of their move, Tryon County had been carved out of Mecklenburg County on land west of the Catawba River. Elizabeth was thought to be related to Colonel Thomas Neel Jr., of Revolutionary War fame, and Rev. Samuel Watson, pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church for 42 years. The mortgage, dated January 26, 1769, was for £21 5s 3d. Crozier, “Virginia County Records,” 260–261, 268, 273, 278. This record referred to him as John “Glenn.”

11. Nixon, “The History of Lincoln County,” 113, 185. Alfred Nixon was an 1881 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and served as Lincoln County surveyor, sheriff, superintendent of public instruction, and clerk of Superior Court. “North Carolina History Project: Gaston County (1946),” www.northcarolinahistory.org; Webb, *Born Fighting*, 9; Hall, “History of Goshen Church,” 4.

12. Webb, *Born Fighting*, 41, 43; Shepherd, *Baird-Wilson History*, 41; Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish*, 191; Nixon, “The History

of Lincoln County,” 143; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 35, 40.

13. Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 39. The split was effective April 4, 1769. The area had first occupied a part of Anson, then Mecklenburg, now Tryon, and soon Lincoln County until Gaston County was carved from Lincoln County in 1846. While this story is set within the geographic boundaries of present-day Gaston County, it uses the historic county names the Glens would have known as they lived, worked, and worshiped in their new community. The colonial assembly wanted to build a permanent courthouse, jail, and stocks on land owned by Christian Mauney near Little Beaver Dam Creek (where Tryon Courthouse Road is today), but the courthouse was never built. Instead, Mauney’s house was used for court, with one of the rooms set aside for a jail; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 98–99, 177. As governor, Tryon alienated the citizens, especially those in the back woods where cash was scarce, when he raised taxes to build an extravagant government house called Tryon Palace in New Bern, establishing New Bern as the colony’s first capital. Tryon served from 1765–71 and was the only person to serve as colonial governor in two colonies, North Carolina and New York.

14. Moss, *Journey to the Piedmont Past*, 58; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 9, 13, 42; <https://www.ncpedia.org/catawba-indians>. In the Revolutionary War, the Cherokee would side with the British. This produced the punitive Cherokee Campaign of 1776, when Continental troops destroyed numerous Cherokee towns. After the war, the Cherokees would sue for peace and have to give up even more of their land; <https://www.ncpedia.org/chokekee/disease>; <https://www.ncpedia.org/chokekee/revolutionarywar>. In 1775,

James Glen, age 16, may have served in his father's place on a patrol against the Cherokees; "Glenn Genealogy," 4. Dr. L. C. Glenn notes that there could have been an error in the year.

15. Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 2, 3; <https://ncpedia.org/crowders-mountain-state-park>, retrieved October 23, 2019.

16. Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, 761, 763; Rankin, *Gaston & Lincoln Sketches*, 2; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 4; Hall, "History of Goshen Church," 3.

17. Moss, *Journey to the Piedmont Past*, 1, 66; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 8.

18. "Glenn Genealogy," 4, 5, 24–25. One reference on the Latter Day Saints website said Elizabeth died in March 1774. The date and place of the marriage are unknown. Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 56, states that Jane was the daughter of Alexander McLean and a sister of Dr. William McLean, who was one of the earliest doctors in the region and became a prominent citizen. Lon Glenn questions this relationship; see "Glenn Genealogy," 24. Alexander McLean had no living daughters in Gaston County, although he had a daughter, Jane, who died in Philadelphia in a smallpox epidemic before Alexander and his family moved south. Alexander McLean Jr. moved to Missouri; see McLean, *Family Album*, 463, 465. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 2, 204. Over the years, John Glen bought a number of different parcels: Lincoln County Deed Books 17, 110–111, March 3, 1792, 107 acres; April 2, 1792, 91.5 acres; Deed Book 21, 214, December 29, 1803, 120 acres, among others.

19. Hall, "History of Goshen Church," 4; Moss, *Journey to the Piedmont Past*, 93; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 76–80; Nixon, "The History of Lincoln County," 153.

20. Hall, "History of Goshen Church," 3;

Moss, *Journey to the Piedmont Past*, 109; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 77.

21. Robert Lee Stowe Sr., writes, "It is said that the first white man buried in what is now Gaston County was buried in Goshen cemetery." The man had been passing through when he died. When others died, they were buried in the same place; Stowe, *Early History of Belmont and Gaston County*, 9; Hall, "History of Goshen Church," 3, 4. The fourth church building, a brick edifice, sits farther east on the same road down from Belmont Abbey College.

22. Andrew Hoyle, a pillar of Goshen, traveled some nine miles to church from his home along the South Fork River near present-day Dallas; Hall, "History of Goshen Church," 5, 6.

23. Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 96–98, 101. Those loyal to the Crown called themselves Loyalists, but patriots called them Tories; Morison, *Oxford History of the American People*, 235. Across the Catawba River, on May 20, 1775, as many as twenty-eight patriots signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence declaring their independence from Great Britain; www.meckdec.org/declaration/historyofthedeclaration. A month later, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, fifty-five men signed the Liberty Resolves Declaration of Independence for America, vowing to stand ready to "sacrifice our lives to secure her freedom"; <http://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/31>; <http://allthingsliberty.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/marker.jpg>; www.findagrave.com/memorial/40060034/john-glen.

24. Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 99; Gannett, *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*, 187. Lincoln County encompassed the present-day boundaries of Lincoln and Gaston Counties, and in 1782 expanded north to include some of

present-day Catawba County. Rutherford County provided Lincoln County's western border; Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, i.

25. Morison, *Oxford History of the American People*, 259.

26. Ferguson and Chronicle were killed and buried on the battlefield. Ferguson's surviving troops were captured, and some were hung. David "River Dave" Glenn (1824–99), grandson of James Glenn, as told to Lon Glenn on August 18, 1896, in "Glenn Family Data," 21. Some of the patriots' dead and wounded were taken to Bethel Presbyterian Church in York County, South Carolina, about fifteen miles away, and the dead were buried in the Bethel graveyard. Improvidently, on his way to Kings Mountain, Major Ferguson reportedly said that "he would spend one night in Bethel Church, leave it in ashes by daylight . . . and be on the east side of the Catawba before nightfall." He underestimated the cunning and tenacity of the backwoods farmers; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 11, 34–35.

27. www.meckdec.org.

28. www.50states.com/statehood.htm#VY7gkk1_mic.

29. During the transition from the Crown to patriot rule, the Crown land office closed and reopened as an American entity. The court system collapsed and was resurrected. Three years later, this courthouse was replaced by a red frame courthouse; Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, i. In January, John was summoned to serve at the "next" county court in 1782; summoned for January term 1783; summoned to serve at Morgan (Morganton) in Superior Court, March term 1783; ordered to serve July term 1783; and summoned to serve at Morgan, September term, 1783. He continued to be summoned for jury duty in 1787 and 1788, and was seated in July 1788 at a session of court, and heard

cases of assault and battery, and larceny; Sullivan, "Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions," 25, 29, 31, 35, 38, 106, 108, 113, 116, 117.

30. Sullivan, "Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions," 52; Robert C. Carpenter, email to author and Lucy R. Penegar, June 21, 2015. According to R. L. Stowe Sr., as late as the 1880s, overseers were appointed to tend to county roads. Men between ages 18 and 50 were obligated to work the roads six days a year. The overseer would notify neighbors of work days, and they would meet with axes, mattocks, shovels, and a horse and plow; Stowe, *Early History of Belmont*, 48.

31. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 17, September 29, 1794, 120. Details of Jane's death, and her death date, are unknown.

32. Hunter arrived on March 30, 1796. He also served part-time at two other Presbyterian churches, one in Mecklenburg County and one in present-day Gaston County. He also supplied other churches in the region, including Bethel Presbyterian Church; *History of New Hope Presbyterian Church*, 31; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 16, 212.

33. "Polly" was a common nickname for Mary in this era. While Polly's age at the time is unknown, she was of childbearing age and thus considerably younger than John. Within a decade, in 1809, her sister Elizabeth married John's son David. Humphrey Hunter Glen died as a young man; "Glenn Genealogy," 5, 18, 53, 59.

34. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 19, July 9, 1800, 562. Part of this land may have been in South Carolina. James Glen died in 1843 and was buried in the Bethel Presbyterian Church cemetery; Register of Members of Bethel Church, 1846–1913, which lists forty-five members with the last name of Glenn.

35. "Glenn Allied Families," C-1. The Gregorys are buried at the Olney Presbyterian Church graveyard, where William Gregory's name appears on a plaque recognizing the nineteen Revolutionary War veterans buried there. His and his wife Margaret's graves are marked by rough fieldstone. Robert signed a deed with his mark, not his signature, which indicates he may not have known how to write; Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 19, April 8, 1799, 424.

36. Today, Bethel church has an active congregation and a historic cemetery. In addition to the graves of the patriots from the Battle of Kings Mountain, its cemetery holds the graves of many Glenn family members, veterans of all America's wars, and slaves; Webb, *History of the Presbyterian Church of Bethel*, 9; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 8, 9, 16.

37. Following John's death, his youngest daughter, Rachel, who had married Elijah P. Brown and was living in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, moved back to the family farm with her husband for about six years until Polly's death, when they returned to Spartanburg County. John Glen had accumulated some wealth, including his tall grandfather clock. The family had a sale after he died, and the clock was purchased by Amanda Sams, daughter of John and Polly's firstborn, Elizabeth, who gave it to one of her daughters. She sold it to Dr. Frank Robinson of Lowell, the family physician, who in turn gave it to his daughter, Mrs. J. K. Hand, of North Charlotte. Dr. L. C. Glenn purchased it from Mrs. Hand, restoring this property to the Glenn family; "Glenn Genealogy," 58, 59. Though John was 102 at his death, the inscription on his tombstone inexplicably reads, "Aged 100 years." In *History of Gaston County*, 58, Puett listed him second only after Alexander McLean

in her sketches of influential pioneers in the county.

Chapter 2: 1832–1860

1. Janette's grandfather, James Scott, came from Pennsylvania and fought in the American Revolution out of the York district of South Carolina. Her grandfather William Davis had enlisted as a soldier in 1777 or 1778. He was present at Colonel Thomas Sumter's defeat at Fishing Creek, where he lost his horse, commanded a company of South Carolina troops at the Battle of Kings Mountain, and fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. He also scouted for Tories in the York district. Davis continued his service as an elder at Bethel as late as 1817. See also "Glenn Allied Families," Davis, B-1, B-2.

2. Glenn, "Reflections," 5, 23. He was the first born and first son of John Franklin Glenn, who was the first born and first son of Robert Glenn, who was the first born and first son of John Glen and his second wife, Jane McLean Glen.

3. "Reflections of a Long Life" consists of sixty-six handwritten pages sewn together into a booklet. It begins, "This tablet contains a few recollections of a long life. My memory has been good but nearly sixty years have passed since many things here related occurred." Glenn, "Reflections," 1.

4. Ibid., 3; Ragan, *The History of Gastonia and Gaston County*, 199. Old Yorkville Road ran from Yorkville, South Carolina, to Lincolnton, North Carolina, west of present-day Yorkville Road. After the creation of Gaston County in 1846, the road was moved east to its present location as being a more direct route to Dallas, the new county seat. It is US Highway 321 today. Gaston County historian Robert Carpenter painstakingly recreated Old Yorkville Road, although questions remain

as to its actual route in the southern part of the county.

5. Glenn, "Reflections," 4, 24.

6. Session Minutes, Records of Bethel Presbyterian Church, November 18, 1832.

7. Glenn, "Reflections," 3.

8. There are no pictures of the early Bethel churches; William does not say which grandmother, but Fanny Glenn lived on the same farm and could have provided transportation; Glenn, "Reflections," 8, 11, 12, 13, 16. His four grandparents are buried at Bethel; "Glenn Genealogy," 4; <http://files.usgwarchives.net/sc/york/cemeteries/bethel.txt>; *Organization & History of Bethel Church*, Vol. 1, 1, 2; Rev. Samuel Lytle Watson, "Historical Sketch," quoted in Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 21; Glenn, "Reflections," 16. The second church building burned and with it the early church records, according to Cary Grant. The fourth church building stands today on South Carolina Highway 557 about five miles west of Clover, South Carolina, and four miles south of the North Carolina state line.

9. Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 12; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-7. There seems to be a controversy as to whether the academy was a mile and a half west, as Rev. Webb said in his history, or a mile and a half north, as Frances C. Jackson wrote in 1946. In either event, William had to travel close to five miles to attend school. Bethel Academy later became a boarding school; Jackson, "Bethel Academy and Bethel Public School," 2, 3; Glenn, "Reflections," 2.

10. Both Adams and Watson grew up in the Bethel area, and benefited the wider community for almost the entire nineteenth century. During his tenure from 1811 to 1840, Adams "had more to do with forming the character of the church than that of any other minister." Watson

succeeded Adams and served from 1840 to 1882. One tenet of Watson's seminary training said that "religion without learning, or learning without religion, in the ministers of the gospel, must ultimately prove injurious to the church"; <https://www.ptsem.edu/about/history>. Watson's preparatory training came from an academy in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, then an undergraduate degree from South Carolina College in Columbia, and three years at the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, when the seminary was just fourteen years old. Watson was one of the most influential Christian leaders in the region during his long pastorate, impressing William with his intellect, classical education, Biblical knowledge, and pastoral care; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 16, 19, 106, 107–108; "Glenn Genealogy," 4.

11. Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report and Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Survey of African American Resources in Gaston County," E-2; DePriest, "The 1840 Federal Census of Lincoln Co., NC"; Glenn, "Reflections," 8, 20; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 98.

12. Glenn, "Reflections," 6, 7, 15.

13. *Ibid.*, 7, 8.

14. *Ibid.*, 6, 11, 12, 20.

15. *Ibid.*, 9; Moss, *Journey to the Piedmont Past*, 105. Mush was made with one part corn meal to four parts water and salt, simmered for thirty minutes and topped with maple sugar if available.

16. Glenn, "Reflections," 9.

17. Ragan, *The History of Gastonia and Gaston County*, 98.

18. *Ibid.*, 98, 282, 283; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 1–3; Ragan, *The History of Gastonia and Gaston County*. The store's name changed to the Hoffman-Rhyne store when Frederick D. Hoffman joined the enterprise. Daniel

and Harriett Ragan married on June 23, 1842; Ragan, "A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan."

19. Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 1; Sharpe, *A New Geography*, 761, 763.

20. www.historic-mountholly.com; Dougherty, "Corner of Ireland in America: Mount Holly, North Carolina," <http://irish-america.com/2010/08/a-corner-of-ireland-in-america/>. Today, St. Joseph's, Gaston County's oldest church, is located north of Mount Holly on NC Highway 273 near Mountain Island Lake. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

21. Dallas had been a United States senator from Pennsylvania; <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/>; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 179, 180. The act to establish Gaston County was ratified December 5, 1846; Robert Carpenter, email to author, March 21, 2020; Ragan, *The History of Gastonia and Gaston County*, 103, 105.

22. "Union Presbyterian Cemetery Index," 1; Elizabeth Ewing (Mrs. G. A.) Sparrow, "History of Union Presbyterian Church," 3. This part of the document was quoted from a sketch by A. L. Henderson, "Historical Sketch of Union Presbyterian Church, July 1886," in Sparrow's work.

23. There are no pictures of the early Union Independent Presbyterian Church; "Union Presbyterian Cemetery Index," 1; Elizabeth Ewing (Mrs. G. A.) Sparrow, "History of Union Presbyterian Church," 3; Glenn, "Reflections," 20, 21.

24. R. L. Stowe recalled the year as 1845 in his *Early History of Belmont*, 29. Gaston County Public Library reference staff said June, July, and August of 1845. It is likely that William was incorrect. Glenn, "Reflections," 17, 18. A 32-year-old farmer named James William Reid, of Lowell, was present and noted the event in his diary; Reid, "Reid Journal," 101.

25. Glenn, "Reflections," 23.

26. Elizabeth Ewing (Mrs. G. A.) Sparrow, "History of Union Presbyterian Church," 2, 4; Union Presbyterian Church member Sallie Thompson McGinnis. The founding minister was Rev. Dr. Joseph O'Donnell, who also pastored Olney Independent Presbyterian Church, and served there from 1837 to 1852; "Joseph O'Daniel, MD, DD." The story is told that the chinking between the logs at Union Church got so open "that you could sit in the middle and throw your hat through the holes between the logs at any side"; Joy Sparrow, *Sparrows' Nest of Letters*, 326. The open chinking spurred the Presbyterian congregation to purchase a site adjoining the log church, and in 1859 they built a forty-foot by sixty-foot frame building; Henderson, "Historical Sketch of Union Presbyterian Church." The Baptist congregation continued to share facilities but eventually organized as Union Baptist Church; in 1874, it purchased land north of the Rhodes land to build a new church building and sold to the Presbyterian congregation its share of the Rhodes property. The proceeds enabled the Baptists to build their church. When their building was completed the following year, the Baptists changed the name of their church to Sandy Plains Baptist Church and gave Union a quit claim deed for their interests in the original property and the land adjoining it; <http://www.sandyplainsbaptistchurchonline.org>. Today, over 140 years later, Sandy Plains Baptist Church and Union Presbyterian Church sit on Union Road less than a mile from each other, separated by Beaty Road and Forestview High School.

27. Glenn, "Reflections," 25, 26. Mendenhall's father, Nathan Sr., fought at Kings Mountain and is buried in Olney cemetery; "Gaston County's Educational Heritage."

28. "Glenn Genealogy," 24, although Bethel has no record of Robert or Fanny's burial there. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Viola Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation; Glenn, "Reflections," 24, 27, 32, 33, 35.

29. Glenn, "Reflections," 34–36. In *A Woman Rice Planter*, xiv, 113, about her life at Chicora Wood, near Georgetown, South Carolina, Elizabeth Allston Pringle mentions a former slave named Tinny, "a pygmy of 75," who was a skilled engineer. Perhaps William's group traveled home via the Georgetown area when they saw pigmy slaves. Pringle's father, Robert Francis Withers Allston, the sixty-seventh governor of South Carolina, was one of the largest slave holders in America.

30. Glenn, "Reflections," 37. The term rheumatism was used historically to describe a number of rheumatic conditions.

31. *Ibid.*, 38; <https://ohiostatepress.org/books/Book%20Pages/Rinhart%20American.htm>, about Rinhart, Rinhart, and Wagner, *The American Tintype*, retrieved October 7, 2019. Tintypes were invented in 1856; <https://ohiohistory.wordpress.com/2011/08/05/what-do-you-know-about-tintypes/>.

32. Glenn, "Reflections," 38–40.

33. *Ibid.*, 41, 42; <https://catawba.edu/about/history>. William's obituary in *Gastonia Gazette*, July 7, 1911, stated that around this time he began to study medicine and was about to enter practice when the Civil War broke out and ended his preparation. In those days, a medical education commonly meant studying under a practicing physician rather than attending a medical school. William, however, recorded nothing of this in "Reflections."

34. Glenn, "Reflections," 42, 43.

35. *Ibid.*, 44.

36. *Ibid.*, 43, 44, 47.

Chapter 3: 1771–1861

1. "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-6.

2. "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-1.

3. Morgan was called Old Waggoner for his service with General Braddock in Pennsylvania. John Willson was out on patrol and arrived late for the Battle of Kings Mountain; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-3.

4. *Ibid.*, Wilson, E-3, E-4, E-46. When Tryon County was divided into Lincoln and Rutherford counties in 1779, Tryon County's sitting register of deeds lived within the geographic boundaries of Rutherford County and was ineligible to continue in his post; Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina*, 52. The other commissioners were John Dickson, Nicholas Friday, Frederick Hambright, Daniel McKissick, Henry Thompson, James Lyttle, and John Caruth.

5. Samuel Wilson, "A Brief Biographical Sketch," 1, 2. He died on January 4, 1799, and was buried in Olney Churchyard; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-3.

6. "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-46; Gaston County Historical Society Bulletin, Gastonia, North Carolina, 1961, 58. Danny Hester, Lincoln County register of deeds, did not know whether elections took place every two years or every four years. Terms today are four years. Danny Hester, email to author, summer 2016. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, October 14, 1976; <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/GS0006.pdf>.

7. Sarah Baird Wilson's sister Hannah Baird married William Joseph Wilson's oldest brother, John Wilson. Two other sisters married to two brothers; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson, E-10, 11. John and Hannah Wilson moved to Ohio out of opposition to slavery. Some of Baird's brothers were silversmiths; Shepherd, "Wilson-Baird History," 11. When Olney

Presbyterian Church organized in 1793, Mary and Adam Baird left Bethel for Olney. They are buried in the Olney graveyard; “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-11; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 8, including a footnote.

8. Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 8, including a footnote. The Royal Arch Chapter was organized in 1822. Freemasonry, the oldest fraternity in the world, was brought to the colonies by the English, and was popular in this era.

9. The porches and porte cochere were added when the R. A. Jacksons owned the property. According to the nomination for the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, accepted in Lon Glenn’s genealogy, “Glenn Allied Families,” E-45, the house was built in 1824, but the actual date remains in question. Lucy and Richard Penegar bought the home shortly after the nomination was submitted and lovingly restored it. In 2012, Lucy completed a history of the home for her grandchildren called “Women of the House,” in which she set the date as 1812, thinking that the family would not have needed such a large house with most of the children grown and gone by 1824. A Wilson descendant, Hester Cleone Wilson Dixon (Mrs. J. K. Dixon), daughter of Lawson Wilson (1809–76) and his wife, Mary Patterson, said that the Wilson house was built when her father was 9 years old, dating the house to 1818. Cora Shepherd to Frank C. Shepherd, June 1917, in Shepherd, “Wilson-Baird History,” 110, 107–113; Settlemyre, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, October 14, 1976, <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/GS0006.pdf>; Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-12. Virginia (Ginger) Penegar and R. Leonard Rowe now own the home.

10. Support for the Whig party in North Carolina mostly came from western and

northeastern parts of the state that were less developed and gained strength as the opposition party during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Whigs wanted education for their children and internal improvements that would increase economic opportunity, and believed in the power of the legislature rather than a strong executive. Populist Jacksonian Democracy challenged the established order; David Walbert, “Whigs and Democrats,” www.learnnc.org. “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-13, E-14. A lawsuit halted mining in 1832, but mining resumed in 1838. Until the California gold rush in 1849, North Carolina was the chief gold-producing state in the nation; <http://ncpedia.org/crowders-mountain-state-park>, retrieved October 23, 2019. A stamp mill that had been used at the mine to extract gold by crushing hard rock below the water level was taken by wagon to Charleston and shipped around Cape Horn to California. It was later shipped back to Gaston County after the gold rush, when interest in the Kings Mountain Gold Mine waned. The mine was sold by court order in 1867. The railroad never got to Kings Mountain; Bumgarner, *Carolina & N-W*, 1. Following William Joseph’s death, his stock was divided among his children; “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson E-14.

11. William Joseph Wilson, Larkin Stowe, and James H. White supervised the construction of the courthouse; “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson E-46.

12. Ibid., Wilson E-10, E-14.

13. Olney Presbyterian Church Records, 1839–1994, Book 1, 140; G. A. Sparrow, History of the *Presbyterian Church of Olney*, 31; Grant and Currence, *Bethel Presbyterian Church*, 15; Hallman, *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 9, 37, 38, 69, 70. The name is thought to have come from Olney, England, home for a time to

Rev. John Newton, who wrote “Amazing Grace,” and William Cowper, a poet who contributed gospel hymns to a songbook called “Olney Hymns.” <http://olney.wncpresby.org/history.html>; <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/olney.html>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olney,_Buckinghamshire. Since session records before 1839 are lost, the actual founding date is not known; Tate, *History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 13. The congregation later built a log church; “175th Anniversary Celebration, Olney Presbyterian Church,” 6.

14. “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-7. The Glens had more fun. Jane and John Glen’s daughter Jean reportedly died as a young woman from overheating while dancing! “Glenn Genealogy,” 54; G. A. Sparrow, *History of the Presbyterian Church of Olney*, 26; “175th Anniversary Celebration, Olney Presbyterian Church,” 7. In 1811, Davis was suspended as a minister and “divested of the office of ministry by the Synod and Presbytery of Orange (North Carolina);” Session Records, Olney Presbyterian Church, Book 1, 138. The early Union Presbyterian Church was also part of the independent church association.

15. Tate, *History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 7.

16. William Wilson Torrence and John C. Torrence were first cousins. The baptism of a slave is recorded in Olney Presbyterian Church Register, October 20, 1853, 7. Olney welcomed black members about 1840. Hallman, *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 13, 93; <http://olney.wncpresby.org/history.html>; “175th Anniversary Celebration, Olney Presbyterian Church,” 9.

17. Ure, *The History of Rutherglen and East-Kilbride*, reprinted in Torrence,

Torrence and Allied Families, 156; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 13; “Glenn Allied Families,” Torrence, H-1.

18. “Glenn Allied Families,” Torrence, H-1, H-3. Three younger sons, John, Ezra, and Lawson, relocated to Arkansas. Another son, Edwin Brown, called E. B., married and moved west of present-day Shelby. John and Martha Torrence are buried at Olney.

19. In correspondence to family, Nathan Mendenhall referred to his sister-in-law Sarah Ann Wilson Torrence as “Sally Ann” or “Salla Ann”; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to brother Edwin, January 19, 1876, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. William Wilson was named for an older brother who died after being bitten by a snake in a potato patch around the age of 5; L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Jackson’s Knob was called Booger Mountain for many years; see Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 599, 600, for the origins of the name. Today, it is called simply The Mountain.

20. They lived near W. W. Torrence’s aunt and uncle, Mary “Polly” Torrence and John Little. There is no information about Leonidas’s date of birth or what his middle initial stood for. Mary Glenn Thompson provided the pronunciation of his name in a conversation with the author on February 6, 2002. Limestone College had been established in 1845 as the first all-women’s college in South Carolina; www.limestone.edu. Sarah Baird Wilson and Clementine were buried at Olney graveyard. The Rev. James D. Hall, who served Olney from 1846 to 1852, likely conducted both services. Ingmire, *Marriage Records 1783–1866*; www.torrens.org.uk, 2; “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-47, Torrence, H-5, H-7; Dixon, *Tombstone Records of Olney Presbyterian Church*; Hallman, *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 171.

21. “Glenn Allied Families,” Wilson, E-8, E-30, Torrence, H-5. Pleasant Ridge neighborhood went along Yorkville to Little Mountain to Robinson Road, past Jackson’s Knob, to Union Road.

22. The earliest records of Olney are lost, and there is no record of the Torrences joining the church. Record of Infant Baptisms, Sarah Priscilla Torrence, August 28, 1852; Hallman, *A History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 171; Records of Olney Presbyterian Church, Book 1, 140. She joined Olney on September 8, 1866; “The Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney,” 10; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 19, 1906.

23. In 1859, Junius began an apprenticeship in medicine with Dr. J. B. Hunter, a local physician, taught school in Gaston County for a short time to earn money, and helped on the farm when he could. That autumn, with Dr. Hunter as his preceptor, he began his medical training. A preceptor was a practicing physician who served as a teacher or tutor to an aspiring medical student. The curriculum at the Medical College consisted of two years of lectures by doctors who were paid by the sale of tickets to their lectures. Prospective students bought the tickets they needed for their study, and practicing physicians bought tickets to continue their own educations. Medical College of the State of South Carolina was the official name of the college, which was founded in 1824 as a small private college to train physicians. It was incorporated into the South Carolina University system in 1913 today is known as Medical University of South Carolina. Junius was listed in the 1859–61 catalog of the Medical College. “Glenn Allied Families,” Torrence, H-6; E. Brooke Fox, email to author, July 6, 2015; Echols and Arbittier, *www.medicalantiques.com*.

Chapter 4: 1861–1869

1. Glenn, “Reflections,” 44–47; 48, 49.

2. Stephen A. Douglas, the better-known candidate, representing the Northern wing of the Democratic Party, received only 5 percent; Carpenter, *Gaston County . . . in the Civil War*, 149, 150–152, 167, 190; Glenn “Reflections,” 44–47.

3. Carpenter, *Gaston County . . . in the Civil War*, 13, 112, 140; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 199. Today, the National Park Service calls it North Carolina Infan-try, but Gaston men were volunteers when they enlisted prior to the Confederate Conscription Act of April 1862.

4. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_wilmington_charlotte_rutherford.html, retrieved October 18, 2019. On Confederate railroads, <http://www.csa-railroads.com/index.html>. This new track eventually extended north to Lincolnton, and by 1867, back through northwest Gaston County through present day Cherryville. CSX Railroad operates these tracks today; Brevard Station was used as a tithing station after 1863, when the Confederacy required farmers to give to the government 10 percent of all they raised; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 199; The tithe yielded needed supplies—produce, tobacco, livestock, corn, and cotton for the war effort; www.tsl.texas.gov; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 217; www.brevardstation.com; Ragan, “A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan, Esq.,” 5.

5. Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 199; Carpenter, *Gaston County . . . in the Civil War*, 11; Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Viola Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation. Lon Glenn wrote the information as his father dictated to him.

6. Ragan trained in High Point and Raleigh; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*,

623; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 156. They joined in 1862.

7. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 629; “Glenn Genealogy,” 31, 48; Ragan, “A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan, Esq.,” 5. Three grandsons of John Glenn’s oldest child, James Glenn—John Franklin Glenn, William R. Glenn, and Thomas M. Glenn—also enlisted; “Glenn Genealogy,” 8, 10. The Mendenhalls had lost a child in infancy. Edwin was a farmer and carpenter, and Cyrus, who had attended Erskine College, was a teacher; “Glenn Allied Families,” Torrence, H-1; Puett, *History of Gaston County*, 200; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 622.

8. Carpenter, *Gaston County . . . in the Civil War*, 12, 139.

9. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Book 3, August 3, 1861, 379; Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Viola Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation; Ragan, “A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan, Esq.,” 2; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 99, 560, 640; Glenn, “Reflections,” 51; Penegar, “Woman of the House,” 49. Ford married Daniel’s sister Ellen.

10. William Marcus Torrence was almost 21 and Lawson Courtsworth Torrence was 19; “Glenn Genealogy,” 30; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 105, 156.

11. <https://www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm>; Glenn, “Reflections,” 49, 50; “Glenn Genealogy,” 31; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 621; “Glenn Allied Families,” Torrence, H-2. John Glenn would marry and father four children. He died in 1889 at the age of 47.

12. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation; Governor Zebulon B. Vance to Governor John Letcher, December 6, 1862, in Johnston, *Zebulon B. Vance Letters*, 423; *News Herald* (Panama City, Florida), April 20, 2013; Glenn, “Reflec-

tions,” 53; Lonn, *Salt as a Factor in the Confederacy*, 35, 47.

13. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation. At the place near Abingdon, salt had been continuously produced in inland saline marshes since the 1780s; www.saltville.org.

14. Hays and Watts, “May 10, 1862: Surrender of Norfolk,” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, May 10, 2016; Glenn, “Reflections,” 53; Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation. In Johnston, *Zebulon B. Vance Letters*: James Sinclair to Z. B. Vance, October 27, 1862, 283; Z. B. Vance to J. M. Worth, October 10, 1862, 255, n304; A. E. Hall to Z. B. Vance, November 13, 1862, 349; Z. B. Vance to Joseph E. Brown, November 22, 1862, 389.

15. Glenn, “Reflections,” 52–54; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 16; “Glenn Allied Families,” Scott, D-2.

16. Leonidas Torrence to unidentified cousin, May 12, 1863, Glenn Foundation. A number of Leonidas Torrence’s letters survive, some in the Glenn Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (cited as L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC) and some in the possession of Lucy Penegar, of Gastonia, copies of which are at the Glenn Foundation. His unconfirmed account about General Jackson proved true.

17. Reid, “Reid Journal,” 267; Glenn, “Reflections,” 51. A Confederate States of America marker honors Newton’s grave. John Franklin Glenn petitioned the Treasury Department of the Confederate States of America for payment of \$96.58 due his son, Private Newton Glenn, on November 14, 1864. The Treasury Department, Confederate States, Second Auditor’s Office, Richmond, Virginia, produced a certificate

in the amount of \$96.58 dated December 1, 1864; L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Interestingly, John Franklin's petition for payment noted that he lived in the Zeno neighborhood in the York district, South Carolina, perhaps on land owned by his father-in-law, Ebenezer Newton Scott.

18. "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-6, H-5; Scott, D-47; Leonidas Torrence to brother [Junius Torrence], June 17, 1863, Glenn Foundation. Leonidas died on July 9, 1863. Later that year, on November 19, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address and designated the Gettysburg Battlefield as a national cemetery for Union troops. Confederate soldiers like Leonidas remain buried in shallow graves, for he is not buried at Olney Presbyterian Church cemetery. In 1871, Confederate veterans' societies relocated 3,200 bodies to cemeteries in Richmond, Raleigh, Savannah, and Charleston; however, Leonidas's body was not one of them. https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/pennsylvania/gettysburg_national_cemetery.html.

19. Glenn, "Reflections," 55. Of James Glenn's three grandsons, William and Thomas died of battle wounds, and John Franklin died of disease; "Glenn Genealogy," 8, 10.

20. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 629; "Glenn Genealogy," 48; Ragan, "A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan, Esq.," 6.

21. Glenn "Reflections," 55, 56; Carpenter, *Gaston County... in the Civil War*, 91, 92. When her husband was out of town, Aunt Harriett kept a gun in the corner of the bedroom and knew how to use it if gunfire and galloping horses got too close; Ragan, "A Short History of Daniel Franklin Ragan, Esq.," 7, 8.

22. Glenn, "Reflections," 56, 57. William purchased 157 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres from John H.

Craig on December 19, 1863, for \$2,500, which he sold to John Ratchford on January 1, 1870, for \$700; Gaston County Deed Book 4, 250–251; Deed Book 5, 271.

23. Glenn, "Reflections," 54, 57; Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation.

24. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 166, 634; Carpenter, *Gaston County... in the Civil War*, 140.

25. Glenn Diary, October 16, 1864. William kept the diary from 1864 to 1869.

26. Nina Greene, email to author, November 4, 2019; He bought Lot 59 in Dallas with Henry M. Rhyne for \$100 on September 23, 1864, recorded November 14, 1864. He never built on it and sold the lot in 1879 for \$45; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 3, September 23, 1864, 386; Nina Greene, email to author, November 19, 2019.

27. Glenn Diary, November 18, 1864; Glenn, "Reflections," 58; "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-1. Winder was the largest hospital in the Confederacy; www.mdgorman.com/Hospitals/hospital_index.

28. Glenn, "Reflections," 58; Glenn Diary, April 9, 1865.

29. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation.

30. Jean Marie Torrence, conversation with author, December 3, 2013; Junius Torrence later owned her land; "Glenn Allied Families," Wilson E-31. Franklin Holland died before the Civil War; Lucy Penegar conversation with author, April 29, 2018. The first group arrived in Rio de Janeiro on January 1, 1867, settling in Santa Barbara D'Oeste, Sao Paulo. The newcomers, called Confederados, developed a small community that today is called Americana. Many of the emigrés married Brazilians, and some there today are

descended from African slaves. All remain loyal to their Southern identity. Annually the town of Santa Barbara D'Oeste celebrates its Southern heritage with country music, Southern home cooking, and "hundreds of red-and-blue Confederate battle flags." Dwyer, "The Brazilian Town Where the American Confederacy Lives On," https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/gq8aeg/welcome-to-americana-brazil-0000580-v22n2; Levine, "U.S. Confederate kin keep controversial flag aloft in Brazil," <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-confederates/u-s-confederate-kin-keep-controversial-flag-aloft-in-brazil-idUSKBN0NL25620150430>.

31. Glenn, "Reflections," 61. A Republican would not be elected in the county until 1967, when Maxton H. Craig Jr., of Stanley, was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 637.

32. Glenn, "Reflections," 58, 59; Glenn Diary, December 31, 1865.

33. Hand and Sykes, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, 11; Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-3, E-6; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 2, 16.

34. One example of violence: The KKK burned a church to the ground near Dallas on Long Creek. Brewer, "African Americans in Gaston County"; Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-4; Hand and Sykes, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, 154; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 18.

35. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Lena Glenn, December 25, 1930, Glenn Foundation.

36. Stowe, *Early History of Belmont*, 15. He called Mountain Island Mill the Mount Holly Mill; Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 405. Joe Kincaid married a daughter of Robert and Fanny Glenn;

"Glenn Genealogy," 51. Dry goods were textiles and ready-made clothing rather than grocery or hardware store items.

37. The cotton had belonged to a William M. Ferguson, who had disappeared; Glenn, "Reflections," 62–65. According to the finding aids at the Southern Historical Collection, William also traveled to Baltimore and New York City. The entries describing this adventure were not legible in 2013 when the author visited the collection, the ink too faded to decipher.

38. Ibid., 65; Gladden, *The 1860 Census of Gaston Co., North Carolina*, 206. The Crowders Creek neighborhood is now known as South Gastonia.

39. Glenn Diary, November 3, November 17, December 18, 1868.

40. Glenn, "Reflections," 65.

41. Glenn Diary, October 16, 1869.

Chapter 5: 1870–1880

1. "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-1. William's first diary entry about her occurred when he worked at Crowders Creek.

2. Sarah Priscilla was schooled at home or perhaps at a neighborhood school, and then likely at a one-room log schoolhouse built about 1866 or 1867 behind the home of Dr. W. M. Torrence. The home was occupied in 1957 by M. D. and Lois Torrence Youngman. Some sources say W. W. Torrence built this log schoolhouse, but "Gaston County's Educational Heritage" says it was W. M. Torrence. The foundation of the schoolhouse was still visible years later.

3. The wedding took place on a Thursday, not on a weekend as is common today, and not at Olney Presbyterian Church. Many Glenn family events were held at the impressive brick house Lawson Wilson inherited from his father; "Glenn Allied Families," E-14. According to Will

Glenn's grandson David Glenn Thompson, the Glenn children complained about having to spend every special holiday there instead of in their own home. Sarah Priscilla and William applied for a marriage license on Tuesday, November 8, 1870. Gaston County had only begun issuing marriage licenses since the Civil War. The license listed the groom as W. D. Glenn, son of J. F. (John Franklin) and J. G. (Janette Gray) Glenn, and the bride as Sarah Torrence, but her parents as William Torrance and Sarah Torrance. The license named three official witnesses: M. S. Withers, T. E. Davis, and M. S. Mathus, surety. Withers could have been Miles Withers, a Gaston County justice of the peace, and Rev. T. E. Davis was the first to begin the long tradition of pastoring both Olney and Union Presbyterian Churches, serving from 1870 to 1876; Hallman, *A History of Olney*, 171. Whether Withers and Davis both had official functions is not known. It is unusual that a surety was present, since from the founding of Gaston County in 1846 until 1866, the county used a marriage bond, a legal contract that required the groom to post a monetary bond as a guarantee that his marriage would take place. The person selected to post the bond was called a surety; Goodnight et al., *Gaston County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds and Licenses*. In most cases, the surety was a relative or good friend of the groom, and so Mathus had to be William's good friend. The practice was outmoded in 1870, a remnant from Colonial days, but perhaps W. W. Torrence insisted on one, accustomed as he would have been to the old law. Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002; N. & M. B. [Nathan and Mary B. "Polly"] Mendenhall to E. B. Torrence, February 2, 1872, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; Glenn, "Reflections," 65B, 66.

4. "Glenn Genealogy," 25; Mary Glenn Thompson interview with author, February 6, 2002; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to E. B. Torrence, February 2, 1872, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Mary Thompson said she and her sisters often commented on their aunts and uncles' unusual names.

5. Mendenhalls to E. B. Torrence, February 2, 1872, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; www.cmstory.org.

6. "Glenn Genealogy," 26. The spelling comes from membership directory of the Rotary Club of Gastonia, Club Archives.

7. Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 140. The black awnings are a twentieth-century addition. Current tax rolls call it a three-bedroom home of 1,795 square feet. If that were the case when the house was built, the second floor likely held dormitory-like bedrooms for the boys and girls and a bedroom for the parents. The Gaston County tax office dates the house to 1864, but Nathan Mendenhall's letter to E. B. Torrence of February 2, 1872, contradicts that date. The home sits on the west side of US Highway 321 South just south of the intersection with Crawford Road in the Crowders Creek section of Gaston County.

8. These tracks are operated by Norfolk Southern today. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 135; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 221.

9. Reid, "Reid Journal," 1842–92, Vol. IV: January 17, 1871, 404; March 3, 1871, 407; May 5, 6, 1871, 412; August 24, 1871, 419; October 23, 1871, 424; December 12, 1871, 426; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 67, 76; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 83; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 218. Below the "Bent" were rocky shoals called Mountain Island.

10. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 7.

11. N. & M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin & Family, September 15, 1874; N. &

M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin, January 19, 1876; L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. To expedite construction, they changed the five-foot broad-gauge track to narrow gauge. The idea of narrow-gauge railroads had become popular after the Civil War primarily because they were more economical. A line only three feet wide, as opposed to five feet or the eventual standard gauge of four feet, eight and one half inches, required less grading and material and smaller rolling stock. Construction took several years and occurred in phases, with rails and ties eventually laid from York, South Carolina, through Gastonia, Dallas, Lincolnton, Maiden, Newton, Hickory, and finally Lenoir, North Carolina; Bumgarner, *Carolina & N-W*, ix, 6, 7.

12. Bumgarner, *Carolina & N-W*, 21. Today, the standard-gauge tracks paralleling York Road in view from the Glenn house run up the middle of Broad Street in Gastonia, a reminder of the early Chester & Lenoir. The track today is owned by Norfolk Southern Railway.

13. Newton Torrence, 26 years old, according to the 1880 census, was the son of W. W.'s cousin John C. Torrence. William referred to him as Dr. Newton Torrence, whereas Nathan Mendenhall called him J. N. Torrence; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 157. While William worked in Gaffney, the Dallas courthouse caught fire in December 1874 and burned some court minutes and marriage bonds. Many records were tossed from windows and preserved. Sarah Priscilla and William's marriage bonds were among those saved. The courthouse was quickly restored. As a former clerk of court, William would probably have paid rapt attention. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 561; Glenn, "Reflections," 66; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin & Family, September 15, 1874, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

14. That was also the year the Western Union Telegraph wires came to the county. "Glenn Genealogy," 27; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 282; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin and Family, March 1, 1875, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

15. In writing his brother-in-law about what transpired at W. W. Torrence's death, Nathan Mendenhall stated that W. W. died on Sunday night, April 4, and that the body was taken to the church on Monday, April 5. But W. W. died on April 5, a Monday, and the body was taken to the church on Tuesday, April 6. N. Mendenhall to Edwin Torrence, April 7, 1875, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-5; Hallman, *A History of Olney*, 171.

16. S. P. Glenn to cousin, August 29, 1876; N. and M. B. Mendenhall to brother Edwin Torrence, January 19, 1876; N. and M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin & Family, September 15, 1874, all in L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; Glenn, "Reflections," 66; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Plat Book 1, 101–150.

17. The value of the household furniture seems quite paltry and may reflect a misplaced decimal point. W. W.'s great-great-granddaughter, the late Jean Marie Torrence, of Gastonia, preserved the original estate inventory made in 1876. Jean Marie Torrence, interview with author, December 3, 2013; Gaston County Deed Book 14, 426–427; N. Mendenhall to Edwin Torrence, April 7, 1875, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. A dower was a widow's interest in real property owned by her deceased husband, a right that vested only at the death of her husband and was limited to one-third of the husband's real property.

18. Shiloh meant Messiah, Christ. *Shiloh and Beyond*, 10. Shiloh Cemetery is adjacent to East Baptist Church on Church

Street, Gastonia; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 51, 221. Nathan Mendenhall usually attended the camp meeting, but missed in 1877 because his wife was ailing; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin, October 4, 1877, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Polly Torrence died in March 1879. In his subsequent letters, Nathan Mendenhall referred to “Lonely Home.” By December, he had married Rebecca Jemima Torrence, born in 1841, daughter of Robert (Robin) Torrence; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 159.

19. Rev. W. B. Corbett, who had succeeded Rev. Davis at Olney and Union churches in 1876, preached from the platform at Gastonia Station; N. & M. B. Mendenhall to Brother Edwin & Family, September 15, 1874, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 140.

20. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 217, 218, 288; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 4, 5; Ramsey & Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-43; Brewer, *African Americans in Gaston County*, says two of the first four businesses in Gastonia were black-owned: Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community.”

21. S. P. Glenn to Cousin E. B. Torrence, August 29, 1876, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

22. “Glenn Genealogy,” 29.

23. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 9, November 9, 1870, 244–245. William served as executor of his grandfather’s estate; “Glenn Allied Families,” Scott, D-1. Since Janette inherited personal property and cash over and above her equal share, it is likely Ebenezer had lived with her; “Glenn Allied Families,” Davis, B-1. The former teacher distributed his library equally among Janette, her three sisters, and a grandson; Will of Ebenezer N. Scott.

24. Gaston County Register of Deeds,

Deed Book 9, March 28, 1879, 246–247; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 155.

25. “Glenn Genealogy,” 29; Torrence, *Torrence and Allied Families*, 156.

26. The 1880 census best sums up the previous busy decade for the family when it listed, with some irregularities, William “L.” Glenn, married, head of household, age 46, engaged in “farming & merchandizing,” and his wife, Sarah P., age 29; sons “Lenouidas C.,” age 8; “Lucus V.,” age 6; William W., age 5; and “Earnest” P., age 3; and a daughter “10/12 months” named Eula “Blanch”; Bell, “Gaston County, North Carolina 1880 Census,”

100. Despite the obvious errors, the 1880 census was a vast improvement over the one conducted in 1870. United States Marshal Service conducted the census from 1790 until 1870 but in 1870, contracted much of the enumerating in the South to carpetbaggers (as Northerners who moved South after the war were called), and many were less than diligent. The 1870 census is considered terribly inaccurate and the worst ever taken. Many citizens were reluctant to give complete information. It is thought that the enumerators missed as much as 20 percent of the population in the defeated Confederate states. Congress required census schedules to be copied twice, the original going to the county courthouse, the first copy to the federal courthouse in the jurisdiction, and a second copy to Washington, D.C., increasing the likelihood of errors; Dollarhide, 1870 Census Index, Foreword, vii, viii.

Chapter 6: 1880–1892

1. Because Olney church records are incomplete, there is no documentation of Lon’s baptism. Lucius, Ernest, and Eula were baptized as infants, and Will at 14 months, the delay likely due to the

disruption to the family on the death of his grandfather and namesake, W. W. Torrence. Like the enumerator of the 1880 census, the clerk of session at Olney struggled with the spelling of some of the children's names as he recorded them on the church rolls. For example, Lucius Newton was Lucius "W.," who was baptized in May 1874 when he was ten months old. Ernest was listed on the record of baptized non-communicants as Ernest "S.," on the church register of non-communicants as Ernest "Sprate," and when he joined the church on August 14, 1892, as a 15-year old, as Ernest "Stuart." There is some thought that his middle name was intended to be Spratt, for Elizabeth Spratt, John Glen's first wife, but his name was Pratt. Eula was baptized in 1879, the same year she was born. Rev. Davis baptized Lucius and Will. Rev. Corbett baptized Ernest and Eula. Records of Olney Presbyterian Church, Book 1, 34, 35; Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, Book 3, 22, 104, 105; Minutes, Olney Presbyterian Church, August 14, 1892, Book 3, 29. Incomplete records limit the picture of Sarah Priscilla's involvement in the society. The dues records from 1880–87 show that "Salla" Priscilla paid her dues in six of these years, with annual dues ranging from sixty cents to one dollar. In several instances, she paid her dues in two or three installments. The records show she was not a member in 1882 and 1884 but otherwise belonged; Treasurer and Secretary's Reports, Women's Missionary Society of Olney, January 1, 1880–March 31, 1912.

2. Will Glenn's grandson David Glenn Thompson and his wife, Betty, of Lincoln, inherited the quilt and donated it to the museum in 2007; Stephanie D. Elliott, email to author, October 1, 2013. Even as late as 1906, the proceeds from quilt sales

were used for missions work, to buy books for the church library, and to purchase two collection plates; Hallman, *A History of Olney*, 103.

3. The quilt illustrates an interesting practice during this era. In signing their squares, women omitted the use of their maiden names and instead used their given first and middle names with their husbands' surnames. For example, Sarah Priscilla's full name was Sarah Priscilla Torrence Glenn. Today, we would write S. T. Glenn, but she signed her square S. P. Glenn. Likewise, her mother, Sally Ann Wilson Torrence, signed her square S. A. Torrence, rather than S. W. Torrence, and her mother-in-law, Janette Gray Scott Glenn, signed J. G. Glenn, not J. S. Glenn. This was also the way their names appeared on legal documents.

4. Minutes, Union Presbyterian Church Session Records, October 2, 1880, 93, 95; Gaston County Deed Book 10, November 1, 1880, 44–46.

5. Minutes, Union Presbyterian Church December 18, 1881, 101.

6. N. Mendenhall to Mr. E. B. Torrence, March 15, 1880; S. P. Glenn to Uncle and Cousin, March 31, 1883; N. Mendenhall to Edwin and niece, February 28, 1882; all in L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 200; *The Story of Gaston County*, n.p. This publication seems to be a promotional piece.

7. Minutes, Union Presbyterian Church of Gaston County, January 16, 1881, 96; N. Mendenhall to brother E. B. Torrence, July 11, 1881, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 202.

8. S. P. Glenn to Uncle and Cousin, March 31, 1883, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

9. Smyre was active on the building committee of the first church and remained faithful in leadership for many

years. John H. Craig was one of the county's first "moving bankers." With his brother-in-law, Laban L. Jenkins, he kept a money belt around his waist and provided cash loans where needed. They would go on to organize Craig & Jenkins, the predecessor of First National Bank in Gastonia. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 27; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 5, 11, 21; Minutes, Union Church of Gaston County, July 16, 1882; *Shiloh and Beyond*, 16; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 273.

10. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 40.

11. Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-33, E-43, F-57; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 21.

12. Hardin, *St. Paul Baptist Church*; Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community"; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 31; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 21; <https://www.history.pcusa.org/history-online/presbyterian-history/history-church>, retrieved March 2, 2020. St. Stephens's founding date is on an historical marker outside the 1880 church building; Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community."

13. Garibaldi Station, located on the Air Line Rail Road, became Belmont in 1895. He meant monastery, not convent. The Sisters of Mercy did not establish a convent until 1887, the year they also founded Sacred Heart College. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 55, 56, 187; N. Mendenhall to Torrence and Niece, February 28, 1882, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/12/america-history-of-hating-catholics.

14. McAden Mills is today's Pharr Fibers & Yarns, part of Pharr: A Family of Companies; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 269, 271, 278, 281.

15. The name was thought to have been given by General Cornwallis, who, having forded the Catawba River in October 1780, remarked that it "took a siege" to cross it; Love, R. G. C. Love, 20; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 37, 282, 283.

16. Minutes, Union Presbyterian Church, May 12, 1883, 106, 111–112.

17. James and Janette were dismissed—meaning transferred—from the membership of the Union church to the Presbyterian church in Rock Hill. Minutes, Union Church of Gaston County, April 6, 1884, 106, 112; Annual Catalogue of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Maryland, 1881–82. William and James's younger brother Enos Franklin, also a dentist, spent his career in Gastonia; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 243; "Glenn Genealogy," 34.

18. William may have faithfully attended services at Olney with his wife and children, and certainly was present at the children's baptisms, but he had never joined Olney. This could have been a simple oversight as his life became busy with a wife and growing family, or it could have been loyalty as one of Union's earliest members. He could also have stayed at Union to bring comfort to his mother during difficult years of her later life. Six days after the Union session approved his request, William was admitted to membership by certificate of transfer. Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, April 26, 1884, 10; Minutes, Union Church of Gaston County, April 6, 1884, 112, 122; Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, April 26, 1884, 2.

19. "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence, H-2; *Gastonia Gazette*, April 14, 1884. The auction was held on May 10, 1884; Estate Inventory of Nathan Mendenhall; Administrator's Oath in the Probate Court, April 12, 1884.

20. Carrie was baptized by Rev. J. J. Kennedy when she was 13 months old; Minutes, Union Church of Gaston County, May 1885, 37; Carrie and Lena Glenn to James G. Stuart, March 28, 1973, Glenn Foundation; Nathan Mendenhall to Brother Edwin Torrence, January 17, 1883, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; S. P. Glenn to Cousin, October 1, 1885, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

21. Minutes, Union Church of Gaston County, April 5, 1885, 136; May 2, 1885, 138.

22. *The Story of Gaston County*, n.p.; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 201, 203. Robert Allison Ragan defined corn liquor as liquor illegally distilled from corn mash, similar to “bootleg” and “moonshine.”

23. “Glenn Genealogy,” 25; Union Presbyterian Cemetery Index, Old Cemetery Row 7, G-7.

24. Oddly, there is no record of Lena being baptized at Olney, perhaps an oversight on the part of her parents or an omission in Olney church records. There is also no record of her joining Olney or any church, a decision that most likely was her own; “Glenn Genealogy,” 29. Gertrude was baptized August 9, 1890, by Olney’s Rev. W. C. C. Foster; Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, 106, 108. Annie was over three years old when she was baptized by Rev. Sparrow on August 11, 1895; Hallman, *A History of Olney*, 171. Few pictures of the William Davis Glenn family exist, which is unfortunate since William was in the photography business before his marriage; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002, when he shared William’s nickname.

25. Sarah Priscilla and William would have agreed with former twenty-first-century dairy farmers Ken Howe Sr., and

Kenny Howe Jr., who often said, “We never finished anything. We just quit for the day.” Kenny Howe Jr., conversations with author, November 16, 17, 2015.

26. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015.

27. S. P. Glenn to Uncle [Edwin] and Cousin, March 31, 1883, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. She called it her mulch garden; Stowe, *The Early History of Belmont*, 15, 21.

28. John Lucius “Jay” Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

29. *Gastonia Gazette*, September 28, 1957. Lucius’s grandson, Jay Glenn, recalled the second story about his grandfather, noting his creative and mischievous mind.

30. Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 101; “Mrs. William Davis Glenn. Some Facts Concerning the Life and Death of a Noble Mother,” L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Her children likely wrote this item following their mother’s 1906 death.

31. Glenn Diary, October 16, 1864.

Chapter 7: 1885–1888

1. Kiser, “The Growth and Development of Education in Gaston County,” 20.

2. The legislation gave local school districts taxing authority, but North Carolinians were slow to accept the state’s right to tax the public for schools; Kiser, “The Growth and Development of Education in Gaston County,” 24, 25, 27.

3. *Ibid.*, 29, 30, 31, 41, 42. The tax was declared unconstitutional, but a new law soon provided more liberal provisions for school support as well as a plan to train teachers. Of 3,005 white children, 1,352 were enrolled; of 1,635 black children, 686 were enrolled; “Gaston County’s Educational Heritage,” South Gastonia School. In 1892, the average salary for white men was \$28 a month; for white women, \$24

a month; for black men, \$23.50 a month; and black women, \$15 a month; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, Book #1, July 4, 1892, 87, 88.

4. Dixon, "Old Homes in Gaston," *Gastonia Gazette*, undated newspaper item, Glenn Foundation.

5. "Gaston County's Educational Heritage," foreword, South Gastonia School. This booklet celebrated the centennial of education in Gaston County and traced the history of neighborhood schools across the county. It authors acknowledged that it had not been easy to find records of early schools because of limited resources and so few written accounts. According to Lucius Glenn, Mendenhall taught at the Torrence School. Remnants from the foundation of this school were found in the 1950s or 1960s behind Junius Torrence's house built on the same property; Dixon, "Old Homes in Gaston," *Gastonia Gazette*. Since the neighborhood was known as Crowders Creek and the stop along the tracks was known as Crowders Creek Station, the name of the school became Crowders Creek School.

6. The superintendent's name may have been McLean, but it was recorded as McLain in the minutes. The board budgeted \$100 for the institute. Institutes fought to turn school keepers into teachers, with the local budget covering salaries of professors, a special lecturer, and incidental expenses. They were held throughout the state from the 1880s into the 1900s and in Gaston County specifically in 1885, 1889, 1892, 1895, and as late as 1902. William's fellow committee members were William M. Wilson and John F. Wilson. Appointing committeemen and filling vacancies were ongoing responsibilities for the board of education. Pleasant Ridge School was in District No. 50. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, January 5, 1885, 1;

July 6, 1885, 7, 10; February 6, 1886, 13; October 3, 1887, 24; January 6, 1890, 57; July 6, 1891, 74; July 4, 1892, 87; January 7, 1895, 119; January 5, 1897, 158; April 14, 1902, 218. 1883 Biennial Report, in Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 4; Stowe, *Early History of Belmont and Gaston County*, 24; "Gaston County's Educational Heritage," South Gastonia School; Report, Prof. E. A. Alderman to E. A. Finger, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Reports of Conductors of County Institutes in North Carolina, 131, UNC-Greensboro Digital Collections; Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-14.

7. While executed by William and Sarah Priscilla in 1886, it was not recorded until July 28, 1887; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 16, 401. As was customary then and into the 1960s, Sarah Priscilla was examined apart from her husband to ensure that she freely and voluntarily signed the deed "without fear or compulsion of her husband or any other person." She most assuredly agreed. As late as 1898, there were still twelve log schoolhouses in the county. Neighborhood student Harvey Forbes called it Crowders Creek (Glenn) School, an elementary school when he attended. He was a year older than Eula and later taught at the school. Eventually, the Crowders Creek neighborhood became known as South Gastonia, and the successor neighborhood school was called South Gastonia Elementary School. "Gaston County's Educational Heritage," South Gastonia School; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, July 1, 1895, 128; "Forbes Family History," Chapter 3.

8. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, January 3, 1887, 19; December 5, 1887. Lon had earlier attended Union School and a private subscription school, Olney Academy at Olney Presbyterian

Church. Olney Academy operated for three months of the year for about seventy-five students, and it was considered outstanding. The facilities were built for a school, with each of the three rooms having a separate entrance and a fireplace. E. Lee Wilson served as superintendent, and instructors included his brother, Rufus Wilson, a graduate of Erskine College, and Mary Kennedy, the daughter of Rev. J. J. Kennedy. The Wilsons were excellent instructors, and the well-rounded curriculum included public speaking and debating. Kennedy was a gifted musician who enriched the curriculum through a music program; “Gaston County’s Educational Heritage,” South Gastonia School; “Glenn Genealogy,” 24. Only children between the ages of 6 and 21 were eligible to attend public school.

9. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, December 5, 1887, 32; “Gaston County’s Educational Heritage,” South Gastonia School; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

10. “Gaston County’s Educational Heritage,” South Gastonia School.

11. Tate, *History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 20, 21; G. A. Sparrow, *History of the Presbyterian Church of Olney*, 37. Sundays were long for the minister on the second Sabbath, when he traveled seven miles from the manse at Union Church to Olney Church for the morning service, over three miles south to the Glenn School House for the afternoon service, then back to the manse at the end of the day.

12. Lon joined the church, but there is no record of it. Lucius joined on September 1, 1889, by examination shortly after he turned 16; Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, 18. The session held its meetings, examined new members, and reprimanded members accused of wrongdoings in a small session

house on church property. The historic structure still exists and serves as a museum; sidebar, <http://olney.wncpresby.org/history.html>. Minutes, Session of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, Book #3, September 11, 1887, 2; September 8, 1888, 3, 4; March 9, 1889, 5; March 12, 1889, 5; August 31, 1889, 6; March 12, 1893, 30.

13. According to Lucius’s granddaughter Mary Downs Rankin Routh, the “girls” in the family started the genealogy before asking Lon to take it over. The “girls” most likely included Sarah Priscilla’s aunt, Polly Wilson Torrence, and perhaps her mother, Sally Ann Wilson Torrence. Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

Chapter 8: 1888–1896

1. Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 103; “Glenn Genealogy,” 25, 29.

2. www.belmontabbeycollege.edu/history; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, Book 1, December 3, 1888, 39; Edgar, *South Carolina*, 299, 300. After closing for lack of students during the Civil War, it reopened as the University of South Carolina in 1866, and over the ensuing years continued to undergo a number of reorganizations, where its status shifted from college to university and back again, with changes more frequent between 1880 and 1905 due to political turmoil in the state. Nevertheless, Lon often referred to his alma mater as South Carolina College. Changes would continue to take place until 1906, when the school was chartered for the last time as the University of South Carolina; email, Elizabeth Cassidy West to author, August 28, 2015. www.sc.edu/our_history/index.php, retrieved November 4, 2013; www.carolina.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_cha, retrieved June 2015.

3. Email, Elizabeth Cassidy West to author, August 28, 2015; Catalogue of South Carolina College, 1891–92, 42, 43, 46; “Glenn Allied Families,” Scott, D-4.

4. Catalogue of South Carolina College, 43. Yearbooks at South Carolina College did not begin until 1899, and so very little information documents Lon’s three years in college; “Leonidas Chalmers Glenn Biographical Sketch.”

5. Report of Prof. E. A. Alderman, UNC-Greensboro Digital Collections. The institute ran the week of August 5, 1889, likely at the courthouse in Dallas; Jenny Fleming to Carrie Glenn, referenced in Carrie Glenn’s 1959 Diary entry of January 12, 1959.

6. Catalogue of South Carolina College, 1891–92, 9, 15; “Leonidas Chalmers Glenn Biographical Sketch.” South Carolina’s scant records about Lon do not list him as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, but he was recognized as an existing member when Vanderbilt University began a chapter in 1901; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 269; “Exercises of Class Day.” It does not seem likely that Sarah Priscilla attended, with eight children at home ranging in age from 2 to 16.

7. Kay Williamson, email to author, January 30, 2015. At the close of the Civil War, the school was converted into a hospital for wounded Union soldiers, and became Darlington Military Academy. In 1888, the legislature established a new school district in Darlington County, and the school became part of the public school system. During Lon’s tenure, it became coeducational; http://sje.dcsdschools.org/about_us/our_legacy, retrieved January 29, 2015.

8. The college today is affiliated with the United Church of Christ; Like South Carolina College, Catawba College went through a number of transitions before

and after the Civil War. <http://catawba.college.edu/about/more/history>, retrieved October 21, 2014. Palmer and Freeze, *So Close to My Heart*, 74, 82, 88, 101, 102, 105, 107; Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree.”

9. Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree.” Knowledge passed down through several generations of Torrence family members holds that William refused to help Lucius finance his education past secondary school, but no one knew why. His disruptive behavior at Crowders Creek (Glenn) School as a teenager seems to have provided the answer; Jean Marie Torrence, interview with author, December 3, 2013.

10. *College Visitor*, August 1891, 96; October 1891, 127; December 1891, 154. By comparison, Wake Forest had over 200 students enrolled in the fall of 1891. Palmer and Freeze, *So Close to My Heart*, 76.

11. Williams, “Dr. Lucius N. Glenn, A Solid Citizen”; *College Visitor*, December 1891, 157. This was the first reference to Lucius at the end of his first semester. The section titled “College Notes and Personals” asked, “What the boys will do during the holidays?” Of the twenty-three young men mentioned in the article, Lucius’s name was first. The answer to the question? “L.N. Glenn will nurse his medal.”

12. The students themselves contributed to “College Notes and Personals” in the *College Visitor*, the only materials that shed light on Lucius and his brothers’ activities at school. After Christmas break and the start of the second semester, an item in “College Notes” inquired, “Why is Glenn not likely to suffer from a cold? Because he keeps a little Wood in his room,” a reference to his job splitting kindling and starting the fires to heat classrooms. It meant rising before his classmates during

cold weather—but at least he did not have to milk cows! *College Visitor*, January 8, 1892, 9, 10; April 1892, 58; March 1894. Student's Handbook, Student Government Association of Catawba College 1931–32, 42.

13. *The College Visitor*, March 1892, 44, March 1894. The YMCA movement had started in London in 1844, but soon spread to the United States and across college campuses.

14. Shipp was the last woman executed by legal hanging in Gaston County and in North Carolina. She was carried by wagon from the Dallas jail a mile west to the present-day Gaston Correctional Facility property on the Dallas-Cherryville Highway and hung from a large tree, believed still to stand near the chapel. *Dispatch* (Lexington, North Carolina), December 27, 1979, 3; www.gastongazette.com/hanging, July 26, 1972, retrieved September 28, 2015; Jeffrey Pruett, conversation with author, September 30, 2015. To this day, there is doubt about Shipp's guilt; <http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/amfemhang.html>, retrieved September 29, 2015.

15. *The College Visitor*, May 1892, 71.

16. Glenn, "Reflections," 66; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, June 5, 1893, 98; January 7, 1896, 139; January 5, 1897, 158; Minutes, Session of Olney Presbyterian Church, March 12, 1893, 30; October 15, 1893, 35.

17. Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, July 10, 1892, 22; Minutes, Session of Olney Presbyterian Church, July 12, 1892, 28; August 14, 1892, 29.

18. *The Story of Gaston County*. The term "gaugers" came from the British term for an official who measured the contents of casks of liquor to be taxed;

"Forbes Family History"; Yorkville (South Carolina) *Enquirer*, November 4, 1891, at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026925/1891-11-04/ed-1/seq-2/>, retrieved June 2017.

19. Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," Introduction, 11; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 406–407. Much of the 1890 Census was destroyed; records are incomplete.

20. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 249, 281. Anne Whitesides Alexander, conversation with the author, January 22, 2002, said the cemetery land was part of her grandfather's farm. *Gastonia Gazette*, October 21, 1918.

21. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 262, 284, 287–289, 290, 293.

22. The Carolina & North-Western was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on March 11, 1895. Its slogan was "The People's Own Line." Popularly called the C&NW, it later became known as the "Can't and Never Will," a nickname held in memory today; Bumgarner, *Carolina & N-W*, 29, 31.

23. Locals favored the Falls House Hotel. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 285–286; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 58; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 406–407. The paper's advertisements revealed the widening array of businesses that existed by 1900.

24. "Leonidas Chalmers Glenn Biographical Sketch." Olney Presbyterian Church granted him "a certificate to connect himself with the Church at Darlington, SC" (today Darlington Presbyterian Church); Minutes, Session of Olney Presbyterian Church, October 5, 1893, 35; Rev. Kevin Cauley, email to author, February 23, 2015. When the school year ended, the *Darlington News*, August 31, 1893, reported that Lon was former principal of St. John's

and was now a book agent. Perhaps a book agent was a summer job. Lon's biographical information states that he was with the school system for his entire tenure at Darlington.

25. *College Visitor*, October 1892, 108, 118; December 1892, 143; May 1893, 209. As the semester drew to a close, Catawba College had experienced one of its most successful years ever, with 171 students enrolled.

26. *College Visitor*, August 1893, 254. Sixty or more years later, when the sisters were living in retirement in High Point, North Carolina, the Greensboro newspaper solicited accounts of kindness from its readers to run on the feature page. Carrie and Lena each wrote out in longhand examples of Will's kindness, although whether they mailed their accounts and whether they were published is not known. Drafts of the stories are located in the Glenn Foundation office.

27. *Ibid.*, August 1893, 254; September 1893, 269; October 1893, 287; January 1894, 15.

28. *Ibid.*, January 1894, 12.

29. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, March 23, 2018; *College Visitor*, February 1894, 28; April 1894, 60.

30. *College Visitor*, May 1894, 74, 78.

31. Atkins, "Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree."

32. The *College Visitor* greeted Will's return warmly. "We gladly welcome . . . W. W. Glenn . . . who returns after an absence of some time," August 1894, 92, 94; September 1894, 109; October 1894, 122.

33. Based on a perusal of student enrollment, few students stayed the full four years. Palmer and Freeze, *So Close to My Heart*, 73–109; Atkins, "Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree."

34. The records of the *College Visitor* end

in October 1894. Palmer and Freeze, *So Close to My Heart*, 85, 91, show that Ernest first enrolled in August 1895 for the 1895–96 school year and that he died in January 1896. Lena and Carrie Glenn wrote to Rev. James G. Stuart on March 28, 1973, saying that their brother died as a sophomore. While the *Gastonia Gazette* now appeared three times a week, newspapers for 1896 are missing both at the *Gazette* office and at the Gaston County Public Library. With no newspaper, there is no obituary (had one been posted) and no other information is known about Ernest.

35. Lon succeeded Superintendent Patterson Wardlow, who likely championed his promotion; *Darlington News*, August 2, 1894. William Caruthers to L. C. Glenn, September 20, 1895, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC. Wardlow (1859–1948) became an influential figure as professor of the Practice and Observation School at the University of South Carolina and retired as dean emeritus of the Department of Education; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70309503/patterson-wardlaw>.

36. Davis conceived the idea of a cycle of erosion, and developed a system of logical thought about the science of land forms. Davis's maternal grandmother was Lucretia Mott, whom Daly, p. 264, called the "real founder and the soul of the woman's rights movement in American and England." Davis was a prolific writer on a variety of subjects over the course of his career. Daly, *Biographical Memoir of William Morris Davis*, 264, 272, 278, 279; Provisional Proof, List of Students of the Harvard University Summer School, 1875–98, 31; Note by Montague Chamberlain inviting corrections to the list; Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 101, 103; *Science*, new series, Vol. 2, 472–475.

Chapter 9: 1894–1899

1. Carrie Glenn report card, May 31, 1895. Lucius was not listed as a matriculated student in the *Bones, Molars, and Briefs* (1895) yearbook of the College of Medicine, confirming that he did not enroll until the following year.

2. Beginning in 1833, it was the first medical school to teach hygiene and medical jurisprudence, the first to instruct in dentistry (1837), and the first to make dissection compulsory. Eighty-Ninth Annual Announcement of the School of Medicine, 4, 5.

3. *Ibid.*, 5, 19, 20, 21. The medical faculty was called the Faculty of Physic. Like the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, students received tickets for lectures, but at Maryland there were numbered seats in the lecture halls, and tickets were limited to the number of seats. Tickets for completed courses were issued by the dean at the end of the session.

4. “Every applicant for advanced standing will be (1) required to present satisfactory evidence of having attended courses reasonably equivalent to those already attended by a class to which he seeks admission; (2) to be examined for admission in all the subjects in which the said class shall have been examined already. Opportunity for taking such examinations will be afforded previous to the opening of each annual session.” *Ibid.*, 6, 7; Ninetieth Annual Announcement of the School of Medicine, 23; Ninety-First Annual Announcement of the School of Medicine, 27.

5. *Bones, Molars, and Briefs* (1897), 66, 68. Lucius also did not join the Gorman-dizer’s Club, which produced a tongue-in-cheek pamphlet, “How to be Hungry,” offering advice to classmates lodging in twenty-six different Baltimore boarding-

houses; Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree.”

6. *Bones, Molars, and Briefs* (1897), 146, 225.

7. Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree,” quotes Lucius saying that there were 112 members of his graduating class. The annual announcement listed 74. Dr. Louis McLane Tiffany, professor of clinical surgery, provided the surgical set. Ninety-First Annual Announcement of the School of Medicine, 19, 20, 27.

8. Minutes, North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, June 7, 1897, 176. Each doctor taking the exam had to select a nom de plume to retain anonymity when grades were posted. Lucius’s was “Old Black Joe,” the title of a popular spiritual written by Stephen Foster in 1853.

9. McAden Mills was considered the first modern cotton factory in the county. Robert Ray was the treasurer and general manager. The Edison generator, powered by water from the South Fork, was used at McAden Mills for more than eighty years; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 29, 34, 281; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 133.

10. Atkins, “Dr. L. N. Glenn To Receive A.B. Degree From Catawba.” George Reese Patrick (1855–1912) graduated from the Medical College of Maryland in Baltimore in 1879. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 241; Mitchell, “L. N. Glenn is 84—now Retired;” Miller, *McAdenville: Spun from the Wilderness*, 49. Miller was the long-time chaplain at Pharr Yarns. Commonly called A.F. & A.M., the lodge moved to Cramerton in 1937, where it is today. *Gastonia Gazette*, December 13, 1949.

11. The school Will attended is not known; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 294–295; David Glenn Thompson conversation with author, December 21, 2015. Will’s duties may have included selling tickets, advising

on routing and schedules, announcing departures and arrivals, assisting passengers, and handling baggage; "Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agent," Career planner.com, retrieved July 2016. The Olney session dismissed him to "Charleston" on January 22, 1899; Church Register of the Presbyterian Church of Olney. He did not join the Charlotte church until April 25, 1901; *Lincoln County News*, January 10, 1955.

12. The department had been established in 1885, and geology officially became one of the "chief branches of study" three years later. The work of the department chair, William Bullock Clark, and his predecessor, George Huntington Williams, had built up the department to a high level. Edward Bennett Mathews, an outstanding geologist who began as a young associate instructor during Lon's tenure, added greatly to the students' experience. Mathews would go on to succeed Clark and retire with the title of professor emeritus. Cloos, "Memorial of Edward Bennett Mathews," 135; Johns Hopkins University Register, 1898–99, 182.

13. Hopkins had selected these three states because he did most of his business in and with them. Awards were based on a student's character and intellectual promise; Johns Hopkins University Register, 1898–99, 180. The University Register stated: "Students can be recognized as candidates only when actual residents of the State from which they desire to be appointed, during at least the year next preceding their enrolment [sic] in the University. If the appointing board is not sure as to the legal residence of any candidate, the point in question shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees." There is no evidence that Lon's residency was questioned. L. C. Glenn to Registrar, January 23, 1896; L. C.

Glenn to Secretary, March 6, 1896; both in Special Collections, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University.

14. William Bullock Clark Papers, 1888–1925.

15. Clark to Scholarship Committee, October 3, 1896, Special Collections, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins. William Morris Davis likely endorsed his candidacy.

16. Records, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, 1883–88, Special Collections, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins.

17. Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 101. Pelecypoda is a class of mollusks characterized by a bivalve shell enclosing the headless body and lamellate gills, such as oysters, clams, mussels, and scallops; <https://catalyst.library.jhu.edu/catalog/Petroleum>, 1923, retrieved November 2014. Even in 1900, after graduation, Lon was employed by the New York State Geological Survey; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 56. Written by a Vanderbilt geology professor, *From Top to Bottom* is a critical look at the first 120 years of the geology department. Alberstadt's thesis is that the department started out on an equal footing with other sciences, but the advent of a new medical school on campus in 1924 and the arrival of a huge E. I. du Pont de Nemours plant outside Nashville resulted in an emphasis on biology and chemistry as required courses and a de-emphasis on geology, which was an elective.

18. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015. William and "River Dave" were of the same generation, but David Glenn was nine years older. James Glenn was John Glen's oldest child from his first marriage, whereas William descended from Robert Glenn, John Glen's oldest child from his second marriage. "Glenn Genealogy," 5,

25; Glenn, "Glenn Family Data," L. C. Glenn interview with "River Dave" Glenn, August 18, 1896, 21, Lon Glenn's first rendition of the "Glenn Genealogy"; M. E. Falls? (illegible) to Mary E. Torrence, July 18, 1869, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC; Penegar, "Women of the House."

19. Glenn, "South Carolina." An offprint is a printed copy of an article originally appearing as a part of a larger publication to help provide wider circulation for the article. L. C. Glenn materials, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

20. The impressive ceremony, called Conferring of Degrees, was filled with pomp and circumstance provided by a twenty-five-piece orchestra. Lon was one of thirty-eight candidates to receive the degree; Conferring of Degrees at the Close of the Twenty-third Academic Year, June 13, 1899. Some of Lon's school notes, including sketches of minerals, are found in Box 6, Glenn Files, Vanderbilt. Undated item, South Carolina College newspaper or a South Carolina newspaper; L. C. Glenn to F. C. Woodward, May 21, 1900, L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

Chapter 10: 1895–1900

1. Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 5. There were a number of private women's schools locally and across the Carolinas, many with denominational ties.

2. The North Carolina school term was 60.3 days compared to the national average of 135.7 days; Report of the United States Commissioner of Education, 1891. Teachers' salaries were the lowest in the country at \$24 a month, compared to the national average of \$44.89 a month. North Carolina's illiteracy rate was 36 percent. Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 4, 5; Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 3.

3. By 1900, the average salary for

women was twenty-four dollars, and for men thirty-one dollars; Kiser, "The Growth and Development of Education in Gaston County," 39.

4. Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 4, 5. In 1890, North Carolina's state-supported normal schools included one for white males, one that was coeducational, one for black males, six other normal schools for black men and women, and one for Native Americans. Before the Normal, McIver organized the Durham graded school system, worked in Winston-Salem as a school principal, then moved to Raleigh, where he and his wife, Lula Martin McIver, taught at Peace Institute for Girls. Alderman served as superintendent of schools in Goldsboro before the Normal, and would go on to serve as president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tulane University, and the University of Virginia. Both men received honorary doctorates from their alma mater, McIver a doctor of letters in 1893 and a doctor of laws in 1904, and Alderman a doctor of laws in 1906; NCPedia.org/biography/McIver-Charles-Duncan, retrieved October 2015; library.unc.edu/wilson/mnce/honorary_degrees, retrieved October 2015. The two divided their responsibilities and traveled thousands of miles holding institutes all over the state in an effort to improve the caliber of public school teachers by providing them instruction on daily preparation, how to organize their classrooms, classroom discipline, and teaching methods. The institute included a session with local school committeemen like William to encourage them to provide secure, comfortable, equipped classrooms; hire the best, not the cheapest, teachers; and provide teachers with encouragement and cooperation; Crittenden et al., *100 Years, 100 Men*, 240. There is no mention in the minutes of the Gaston County

Board of Education of Alderman leading a teacher institute in Gaston County in 1889, but it was one of thirty counties he visited in 1889; Alderman Report, 7.

5. In the twenty months before the school opened, the legislature elected a board of directors of nine members, one from each congressional district. The board located the school in Greensboro after a competitive process among several cities, purchased land for a campus near the railroad in Greensboro, and unanimously elected McIver the president. Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 7, 8, 12, 30, 58; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 7, 8, 9, 10. By the time the school opened, campus buildings were built and furnished, faculty and administrative staff hired, admissions criteria established and communicated, curriculum developed, policies drawn up, and student discipline and social regulations established. Fourth Annual Catalogue of the State Normal and Industrial College; Betty Carter email to Joan Glynn, forwarded to author, January 21, 2002.

6. William may have thought that an inquiry on Lon's impressive letterhead—Superintendent, Darlington Public Schools—would carry more weight than his plain white paper, or perhaps Lon offered because he had made contact with the president earlier in the year when he sought a recommendation for a Normal graduate he was interested in hiring; L. C. Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, May 27, 1895, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro. See statement on Carrie E. Glenn's application, State Normal and Industrial College, September 13, 1901, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

7. L. C. Glenn to Pres. C. D. McIver, August 21, 1895, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

8. Main Building housed the president's

office, recitation rooms, and a chapel.

Brick Dormitory also housed the kitchen and a dining room. Fourth Annual Catalogue of the State Normal and Industrial School, 9; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 9, 14, 15, 16; Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, x, xv, 11.

9. Tuition was \$40 a year, room and board in the dormitories were not to exceed \$64 a year, and fees for laundry, the physician, books, and contingencies amounted to \$25 a year. All the dormitory beds were double beds; students wanting single beds paid \$4 more. The school reserved 152 beds in the dormitories for free tuition students who held a county appointment. Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 12, 13, 14; First Annual Catalog of the State Normal and Industrial School, 1892–93. All future teachers, including Eula and her sisters, received free tuition by signing the following pledge: "I seek the opportunities of the . . . Normal . . . because it is my desire and intention to make teaching my profession, and I agree, in consideration of free tuition granted to me in said Institution, if I can secure employment and my health permits, to teach in the public or private schools of the State for at least two years after I leave the College. If within three years from the time I leave the College I fail to teach as herein stated, which shall be decided by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, I agree to pay the College full tuition and interest for the time I attended. I further agree that until this pledge shall have been fulfilled, I shall report to the College, in May of each year after I leave it, the amount of teaching work that I have done"; Fourth Annual Catalogue of the State Normal and Industrial School, 43.

10. The exams took place in late July, were administered by the local county school superintendent, and were person-

ally prepared and graded by McIver. The student with the highest score resided in the dormitory for free. Nettie Asbury and Nellie Smyre, of Gaston County, were already enrolled as free-tuition students, and Asbury held the county appointment. First Annual Catalog of the State Normal and Industrial School, 1892–93, 39; Third Annual Catalog of the State Normal and Industrial School, 6, 14, 33; Eula Glenn Application, September 27, 1901; Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 10.

11. The Industrial department was a one-year program headed by the bursar, Edward Forney, which provided vocational training for secretaries and clerical workers in stenography, typewriting, telegraphy, and bookkeeping. The Domestic Science department taught practical skills like cooking and sewing, caring for the sick, and managing a household. Students in Domestic Science took classes in both the Normal and Industrial departments to give them the general education and business backgrounds sufficient for a future “mistress of a model home.” Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 9–12, 95; *The Decennial*, 140; First Annual Catalog of the State Normal and Industrial School, 1892–93, 18.

12. Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 32, 34; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 18, 19, 96. First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro was founded in 1824; <https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/about>, retrieved November 24, 2015.

13. Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 19, 20. While there is no record of Eula’s participation in any campus activities during her college years, she would have been encouraged (but not required) to become a member of one of the societies, but dues payments may have been an obstacle.

14. Eula Glenn to Dr. McIver, July 3, 1897, July 21, 1898, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro. In the latter letter, Eula

wrote that she had attended only one and a half years. Gaston County received two appointments beginning with the 1896–97 academic year, Fifth Annual Catalogue of State Normal and Industrial College.

15. Eula Glenn to Dr. McIver, September 16, 1899, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro. There is no record of Eula taking out a loan at this time. In early November, four girls became seriously ill with fever, headaches, and abdominal pain, which the campus doctor, Anna Gove, diagnosed as typhoid fever. The outbreak eventually traced to a defective sewer that contaminated the main well on campus. School reopened January 30, 1900, after buildings were disinfected, every mattress burned, and single beds replaced double beds. A class of 100 women had enrolled in the fall of 1899, but when classes resumed, a quarter of the students did not return; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 125; Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 50, 51.

16. The *Agromeck*, 17.

17. *Ibid.*, 23.

18. *Ibid.*, 14; Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 101; Dr. Leonidas Chalmers Glenn to Dr. Charles D. McIver, September 23, 1901, McIver Papers, UNC-Greensboro. Tuition was \$20, lodging \$10, board \$72, fuel and lights \$12.50, furniture rental \$2, and fees \$6.50; Catalogue, A&M College, 1902–03, 21.

19. A North Carolina native, Winston had been president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when he was 39, succeeded by Dr. Edwin Alderman, but left after three years to become the first president of the University of Texas; <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/winston-george-tayloe>, retrieved September 2014. He served A&M College until 1908. By now, the state had more textile mills than any other state. The *Agromeck*

(1903), 23, 39–41; <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/names/2746-winston-george-tayloe-1852-1932>, retrieved October 2015; “Weaving the Past into the Future: 100 Years of Textiles at N.C. State University,” lib.ncsu.edu, retrieved November 24, 2019.

20. The *Agromeck*, 2, 40, 89; *Raleigh Times*, May 24, 1904. Each company in the yearbook listed a captain who was an upperclassman, then first through third lieutenants, first through fourth sergeants, and first through fourth corporals, with the rank and file following.

Chapter 11: 1900–1901

1. Robert A. Caldwell and his wife, J. C. Caldwell, had purchased Lot 5 in the subdivision intending to build a home, but changed their minds and sold their lot to Sarah Priscilla and William. The deed was executed on March 24, 1900, and recorded on March 31, 1900; Gaston County Deed Book 41, 346, 347. The lot measured 188 feet across and 316 feet deep.

2. The name change has an interesting story. Wash Ragan served as mayor of Gastonia from 1897 to 1898. He had done well financially but since 1891 had been a widower with a young daughter. In anticipation of his second marriage, he built a handsome home on Mill Street, so named for the Piedmont Mill, but it was an appropriate name because other textile mills were built along the street. His new bride did not want a Mill Street address, and so Wash requested a name change from the three-member Gastonia Board of Aldermen. In deference to the mayor and his bride, the board changed the name to Franklin Avenue in May 1898. McLean, *Family Album*, 97, 98; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 2, 7, 131, 132, 133, 136, 138; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 262, 641; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 141.

3. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 14, 83.

4. In the Opera House venture, Frost may have been influenced by his talented wife, Mary Kennedy Torrence, who had taught music at Olney School a decade earlier. Frost became president of the Avon Mills, selling his interests in 1916, and purchasing the Ozark Mills, among other ventures. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 244, 370, 504; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 21.

5. The Arlington was near present-day Webb Street School, and named for Arlington, Robert E. Lee’s home in Arlington, Virginia. Wash understood that the highest-quality yarns and woven cloth used in fancy dress goods were combed yarns; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 84, 85; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 363, 641.

6. Myers’s Colonial Revival-style house still stands on West Second Avenue; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 292, 319, 327, 329–330. Separk also built the impressive tan brick Renaissance Revival-style mansion that still stands next door to the Myers home.

7. Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-14; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 18.

8. Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community.”

9. Salmond, *Gastonia 1929*, 5, 64–68. The second largest category by 1890 was domestic workers. Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-22; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, 22.

10. Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 18, 194; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 39. John Franklin Love was a pillar of Gastonia Presbyterian Church, now called First Presbyterian, and had served as church treasurer. He also was a member of the committee that built the impressive

1,000-seat church building on the corner of Marietta Street and Franklin Avenue, with its “pressed” red brick from Washington, D.C., its Gothic architecture, and its 110 ½-foot tower; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 74, 75, 96, 275.

11. The name was hatched from the first two letters of Love’s last name and the last three of Gray’s last name; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 364. The Loray was located just a mile from the Glenns’ lot; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 96, 275; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 366; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-26; Kiser, “The Growth and Development of Education in Gaston County,” 46.

12. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 5, 45. It was named for Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who was 79 years old when he made this one major philanthropic gift to establish a university in the South, an institution that would “contribute to strengthening the ties which should exist between all sections of our common country.” At the university’s founding, there was a strong bias that faculty members should be Methodists, although it was not official policy. Kirkland had assumed his position in 1893 when he was just 34. Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to an itinerant Methodist minister and his wife, he did his undergraduate work at Wofford College in Spartanburg. Encouraged by two of his Wofford professors, he earned a PhD from the University of Leipzig. He came to Vanderbilt as a Latin professor in 1886, where his two Wofford professors now also worked. The quote was from a student at the time of Kirkland’s inauguration in September 1893; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 187. Like McIver and Alderman, Kirkland was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill in 1894, the year after he became Vanderbilt’s president; library.unc.edu/Wilson/ncc/honorarydegrees. Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 101; undated clipping in L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

13. Annie’s great-grandfather was a wealthy planter in Greenville County, South Carolina, where David McCullough grew up. David was a cadet at the Citadel in 1864 and a member of the cadet corps that saw service along the coast during the Civil War. He also led a red shirt company to Columbia to support the seating of General Wade Hampton as governor in 1876. He moved to Darlington after his marriage to Annie Smith; Derbes, “David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith.” Like the William Glenns, the McCulloughs were married in November 1870 (the 30th); David McCullough was 22 and Annie was 20; Derbes, “McCullough-Smith Families.” Unlike Ernest Glenn, the McCulloughs’ unnamed son had died in infancy, on May 29, 1890; *Darlington News*, June 5, 1890.

14. *Darlington News*, January 30, February 15, 1896; indenture, David S. McCullough and Eastern Building & Loan Association of Syracuse, New York, April 1, 1895; Derbes, “A Deplorable Tragedy,” undated typed copy of David Shields McCullough’s obituary from the *Darlington News*, October 1895; Derbes, “David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith.”

15. Derbes, “David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith.” David McCullough died intestate. With the loss of income following McCullough’s death, that fall J. B. Law filed a complaint for foreclosure against the children for \$3,720.98 for nonpayment of mortgage on the house on Grove Street. This saga continued after 1900. The complaint showed that

the youngest children were placed with relatives after the deaths of their parents.

16. Typed item from *Darlington News*, September 13, 1900, Darlington County Historical Commission.

17. McIver was quite familiar with Eula through correspondence beginning in 1897; Eula Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, January 18, 1897; Eula Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, July 26, 1900; Eula B. Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, August 8, 1900; Eula Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, October 5, 1900, all in McIver Records; Fourth Annual Catalog of the State Normal and Industrial School, 22, 23.

18. In 1900, Lucius was 27 years old and living with six other men in a boardinghouse run by Kate Webb and her two sisters. His housemates held various occupations and their ages ranged from 18 to 43; United States Census, 1900, South Point Township (east part), Belmont & McAdenville towns, Gaston, North Carolina. *Gastonia Gazette*, January 31, 1948; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 281; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 23; Register of Members, First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina; Jesse G. Hite Jr., conversation with author, September 16, 2015.

Chapter 12: 1901–1903

1. Gaston County Deed Book 45, 554, March 23, 1901. Many of the new homes were large and elegant, with immaculate grounds, befitting the financial success of their owners.

2. When they joined has not been determined, but they were members; *Nashville Tennessean*, January 1951; Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 103; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 244.

3. Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 242–243.

4. In 1902, Lon’s important paper on the Devonian and carboniferous rocks of New York was published in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*. In 1904, he was pleased when his doctoral dissertation was published by the Maryland Geological Survey. Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 60; Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 103; Glenn, “The W. H. Jarman Collection,” 264; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 62, 63, incorrectly dates the Exposition to 1905. It was also called the St. Louis World’s Fair.

5. Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 102, 103.

6. This material is housed with the L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

7. Whether the appointment came from Gaston County or another county is not known. By the time Carrie applied, Gaston County merited two appointments, and Eula held one of them. Carrie made sure her application was in order, requesting free tuition and stating her intention to become a teacher after graduation. With her application, she submitted a list of textbooks she had used in high school: Matthew Fontaine Maury’s *Physical Geography*, Shelton Palmer Sanford’s *Higher Analytical Arithmetic*, Alonzo Reed and Brainerd Kellogg’s *Higher Lessons in English*, William Swinton’s *Speller for Reading*, and George Frederick Holmes’s *History of the United States*. She had studied algebra for only a few months, she wrote, and had never studied Latin. Carrie E. Glenn Application, September 13, 1901; Carrie Glenn to Charles McIver, September 13, 1901; N. F. Furr to Charles McIver, September 12, 1901, all in McIver Records.

8. L. C. Glenn to Charles McIver, September 23, 1901, McIver Records.

9. Charles McIver to L. C. Glenn, October 5, 1901, McIver Records.

10. Betty Carter email to Joan Glynn, forwarded to author, January 21, 2002. The lifetime teaching license created resentment among other state teachers' colleges, whose graduates did not enjoy the same benefit; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 12.

11. There is a record of her making a loan payment two years after her graduation. Eula B. Glenn to Charles McIver, August 5, 1902; Laura Coit to Eula Glenn, February 22, 1906, McIver Records.

12. Joan Glynn email to author, January 23, 2002; *The Decennial*, 1902, 71, 72.

13. The state legislature authorized the college to begin giving bachelor's degrees in 1901, but McIver did not think the student body was ready. A year later, satisfied that a degree from the Normal was "equal in dignity and worth to the bachelor's degree granted at the University [Chapel Hill]," as he had written Lon, McIver invited seven women graduates who had been teaching since graduation to return in the fall of 1902 for one extra year of work to earn bachelor's degrees. These seven processed with Eula's class in 1903, four with a BA and three with a BS; Betty Carter email to Joan Glynn, forwarded to author, January 21, 2002; North Carolina State Normal and Industrial College, Eleventh Annual Commencement, May 24–27, 1903. *Greensboro Telegram*, May 28, 1903; *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 21, 1932; Laura Coit to Eula Glenn, February 22, 1905, McIver Records.

14. In 1923, William David Glenn would graduate with a degree in engineering from Vanderbilt University and become a professor of civil engineering there, "Glenn Genealogy," 26.

15. He was received by letter of transfer on December 6, 1903; Church Register, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia.

16. Central School was located on the southwest corner of Oakland Street and

Second Avenue, less than five blocks from the lot the Glenns purchased. Benjamin E. Atkins was the first principal. School commissioners approved the election in July 1901. The school term for county schools was seventeen weeks, barely over four months. The school term for Gastonia Graded School was sixteen weeks but would be extended. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 292; Minutes, Gastonia County Board of School Commissioners, July 10, 1901, 6, 7; July 12, 1901, 7; September 30, 1901, 14; June 5, 1902, 17; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 47; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 144; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, August 12, 1902, 223; Report to the State Superintendent, 223; Separk, *Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia*, 19.

17. Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community"; Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-43, 44; Dellinger and Caskey, *Gaston County Heritage*, No. 571.

18. William served from 1897–99 and again in 1902–04; Minutes, Session of Olney Presbyterian, 1902, 1904, 78; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 276.

19. Minutes, Session of the Presbyterian Church of Olney, July 31, 1897, 59, 60; October 10, 1897, 68.

20. In 2018, voters overwhelmingly approved the sale of beer, wine, and mixed drinks in the unincorporated areas of the county; *Gaston Gazette*, November 7, 2018; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 145; "The Story of Gaston County."

21. Fourteenth Annual Commencement Program, May 28, 1903, 8; 1902–3 Catalogue, North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 50, 51.

22. Beside Howard's senior picture in his military uniform, his height was listed as 5' 11" and his weight as 145 pounds. Like Catawba College, A&M College had two

literary societies: Leazar Literary Society, named for the Iredell County legislator who sponsored the act creating the college, and Pullen Literary Society, named for R. S. Pullen, who donated the site for the college. The literary societies took the place of fraternities in the early years of the school. Howard joined Leazar, which promoted elocution and contests in public speaking and debate, and gave medals and trophies. With 250 to 300 members, it was thought to be the largest college literary society in North Carolina. It met every Saturday night at 7:15 p.m. The Pullen provided training in parliamentary law, composition, and debate through writing essays, declamation, reading, and extemporaneous speaking. *The Agromeck* (1903), 36, 38, 51, 167, 170, 173, 174.

23. These responses were in sharp contrast to those of his affable, outgoing, 6-foot, 215-pound classmate, Max Gardner, who graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. The future governor was the quintessential college boy—star athlete, captain of the football team, winner of medals for oration and debate, chief marshal at commencement in his sophomore year, senior class president, commencement orator, and assistant editor of the *Agromeck*. In the joke questionnaire, Gardner's nickname was "Smuck"; his highest ambition was "To go to Shelby" (his hometown); he was in love with "Anybody"; his favorite expression was "I'll Swear!"; he was always "Bluffing"; his favorite drink was "Beer," and he was voted "Most Conceited." The quote beside Howard's yearbook picture read, "You have too much respect upon the world." In the section entitled "Spurned Again," the first quote was for Howard, which said, "I sometimes wish my dignity didn't keep me from swearing," signed "Old Lady Glenn." In another section entitled "Gene's Ideal

Girl," one of her qualities was to have "a lively disposition like Glenn's." Tongue in cheek, indeed! *The Agromeck* (1903), 51, 136, 175, 176, 228, 236.

24. *Ibid.*, 41.

25. Max Gardner and Howard Glenn were two of seven men listed as post-graduates; *ibid.*, 24, 26.

26. Eula did not leave Greensboro until three days after graduation. On her way home, she realized that she left a picture of her senior class on the streetcar that took her to the train station, and asked Coit to return it to her at Gastonia, which Coit did; Eula Glenn to Miss Laura Coit, May 30, 1903, McIver Records.

Chapter 13: 1904–1905

1. Gastonia attorney M. Roy Short Jr., who grew up next door in the 1940s and 1950s, called the house "beautiful." Roy Short Jr., conversations with author, January 2002, February 5, 2014; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018; Samuel Rankin, conversation with author, February 5, 2002; Edith Short Sisk, conversation with author, February 21, 2018; Carrie Glenn to Marie Torrence Lattimore, June 20, 1962, Glenn Foundation; "Mrs. William Davis Glenn. Some Facts Concerning the Life and Death of a Noble Mother."

2. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 131; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 246, 247, 326–328, 338, 339; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 50.

3. Blake was a fixture at the library until her retirement in 1937. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 56; Separk, *Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia*, 71; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 148; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 317, 318.

4. Carrie's application was dated June 24, 1903. Carrie Glenn to Dr. McIver, July 12, 1902, McIver Records; Carrie Glenn

to Marie Torrence Lattimore, June 20, 1962, Glenn Foundation; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 76, 77.

5. Carrie's application was dated June 14, 1904. Lena Glenn to Dr. Chas. D. McIver, July 12, 1904, McIver Records; Dean Tommy Dora Barker to Miss Lena Glenn, February 27, 1940, Rose Library; *Gastonia Gazette*, August 9, 1904. The scholarship came with a county appointment and the promise to teach; Lena Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, August 4, 1904, McIver Records; Lena Glenn to Lucius Glenn, December 9, 1904, Glenn Foundation; Invitation to Lena Glenn to present herself for initiation on Friday evening, November 11, 1904, Glenn Foundation.

6. Lena said Howard might also stay at school to study. Lena told Lucius, "I am afraid that she [Carrie] will ruin them [her eyes] here before the year is over"; Lena Glenn to Lucius Glenn, December 9, 1904, Glenn Foundation.

7. Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 33; Student Hand-Book, 1901-2, 11, McIver Papers, UNC-Greensboro.

8. W. D. Glenn to Dr. McIver, February 20, 1905, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

9. Laura Coit to Mr. W. D. Glenn, February 22, 1905, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

10. Charles D. McIver to Mr. W. D. Glenn, March 28, 1905, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

11. Apparently Lon was no longer helping, or Carrie felt bad asking him for assistance. W. W. Glenn to Dr. McIver, June 2, 1905; Dr. Charles McIver to W. W. Glenn, July 18, 1905; both in McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

12. On the form, Carrie indicated her desire to attend school during the spring semester; Carrie Glenn Application, July 17, 1905. She proposed that McIver offer

her appointment for the fall semester to another applicant from Gaston County and have that person hold her slot until she returned in the spring; Carrie Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, July 14, 1905, McIver Records. In his reply, McIver lectured, "You cannot, of course, hold your appointment after you give it up nor can you loan it to someone else. If the institution were managed that way the people who have appointments could bequeath them to their family or personal friends." Then he softened. "I do not doubt, however, that there will be some free-tuition vacancy after Christmas and that you can return on that. I shall treat your appointment from Gaston County as vacant"; Charles D. McIver to Carrie Glenn, July 18, 1905, McIver Records. Lena's application was dated July 12, 1905; Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Eula Glenn, September 26, 1906, Glenn Foundation.

13. Carrie Glenn to Dr. Chas. D. McIver, December 15, 1905; Carrie Glenn to Dr. C. D. McIver, December 30, 1905; Dr. Anna Gove to Mr. W. D. Glenn, January 23, 27, 29, 31, February 2, 7, 1906; all in McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro. Worth was about two miles south of High Shoals, and is called the Hardin community today. A cotton mill and school were located there in the early 1900s; Gaston County historian Robert Carpenter, email to author, March 1, 2016.

14. How much Eula borrowed or how long it took her to discharge the debt is not known, since there is a record of only one repayment of \$7.15 to the college loan fund in February 1905; Laura H. Coit to Miss Eula Glenn, February 22, 1905, McIver Records.

15. Separk, *Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia*, 3, 5.

16. Mitchell, "L.N. Glenn is 84," *Gastonia Gazette*, September 28, 1957.

17. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 110; Polk's Medical Register of United States and Canada, 1917, 156. Presbyterian Hospital is now Novant Health; www.Novanthealth.org, retrieved October 2017.

18. Deed Book 67, April 26, 1905, 178; additional property purchased, Deed Book 71, January 20, 1909, 240. The home still stands, although in woeful disrepair; Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 172.

Chapter 14: 1906

1. *Gastonia Gazette*, March 6, 1906. There was a Howard Iron Works in Buffalo, New York, but not in Warren, Pennsylvania, according to the 1915 Engineering Directory, Part II, 405, googlebooks.com, retrieved October 2014. "Glenn Genealogy," 29. The *Agromeck* (1905) did not list Howard as an assistant or instructor. His whereabouts in 1904 are not known. He may have remained in Raleigh to work, worked elsewhere, or returned to Gastonia until his illness, when he lived at home.

2. *Gastonia Gazette*, March 6, 1906.

3. Mary Wilson Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002.

4. *Gastonia Gazette*, March 6, 1906.

5. McIver pointed out that Carrie had a year and six weeks to make up the deficiency, and her Latin teacher, Viola Boddie, would have to create a separate examination. Nevertheless, he agreed to a postponement; Charles D. McIver to Miss Carrie Glenn, March 7, 1906, McIver Records; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 33. Carrie earned a score of 3, or Fair; Laura H. Coit to Miss Lena Glenn, June 13, 1906, McIver Records. The numerical grading system was 1, excellent; 2, good; 3, fair; 4, lowest passing mark; 5, condition; 6, failure; the *Carolinian*, September 25, 1930, 1. An ABC grading system did not become standard until 1930. Program of Commencement

Exercises, May 29, 1906. Carrie wore glasses in her graduation picture.

6. Carrie had asked McIver to write Gastonia school Superintendent Joe S. Wray about job openings; President McIver to Miss Carrie Glenn, June 23, 1906, McIver Records; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 10, 1901, 9. F. P. Hall served as county superintendent from 1903 to 1928; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, January 12, 1903, 226; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, June 27, 1906, 49.

7. Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 53, 58, 60, 61, 153; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 30, 33, 47–49; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 12, 1906; <https://ncpedia.org/biography/McIver-charles-Duncan>. The college permitted Mrs. McIver to remain in the president's house until her death, in 1944.

8. Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Eula Glenn, September 26, 1906, Glenn Foundation.

9. Ibid.; Sarah Priscilla was referring to Carrie's semester off, when she worked in Worth, North Carolina. Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Lena Glenn, September 29, 1906, Glenn Foundation.

10. Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Eula Glenn, September 26, 1906, Glenn Foundation. Lena completed her application on June 20, 1906; Lena Glenn to Dr. Chas. D. McIver, August 2, 1906, McIver Records.

11. Mayme spelled her name with a "y" instead of the usual "Mamie," perhaps picking up on the "y" in Mary. Mayme's three brothers, John Franklin, Edgar, and Robert Love, were involved in textiles, and John Franklin had already co-founded the enormous "Million Dollar" Loray Mill and was a prominent leader at First Presbyterian Church. Mayme's nephew, 9-year-old J. Spencer Love, would go on to found Burlington Industries; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 276. Church Register, First Presbyterian

Church of Gastonia, May 18, 1890, 46. The school was founded in 1859 by ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church, became the female arm of Erskine College, and merged with Erskine in 1927; <http://www.erskine.edu/erskine/history>, retrieved December 3, 2019. To get to school, Mayme and her father rode the train to Ninety-Six, South Carolina, and from there took a mule wagon for twenty-eight miles to Due West; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 276, 406.

12. Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Eula Glenn, September 26, 1906, Glenn Foundation. Before her wedding, Mayme was feted with at least two showers held by her friends in the U.C. Club. One was for twenty-six guests at an elegant breakfast and stocking shower, and the second a linen shower, where guests received miniature spinning wheels as mementos; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 9, October 12, 1906. Mayme had organized the U.C. Club in 1901 in her home as a “pleasure club” for her friends, with no rules, no regulations, and no fees. The original name remains a mystery by design, but sometime later, the young women went public with the name “Ultima Carissamæ”—dearest friend—to protect the original name. Initially the young ladies met to play games until the ministers in town frowned on such activities. Then they adopted a literary program. The club continues on today as a book club, and membership is limited to eighteen; *Gastonia Gazette*, February 21, 1955; additional information provided by Louise Love Kier, February 10, 2019.

13. James F. Love III, conversation with author, November 11, 2018. The home of Mayme’s brother, John Franklin Love, was located on the northwest corner of Franklin Boulevard and Oakland Street,

facing Oakland, where the sanctuary building of First United Methodist Church is today. Mabel Craig sang “Because I Love You, Dear,” and Emma Page played “Simple Confession.” The couple left to the care of family “a handsome array of costly presents very rare and beautiful.” Edith Adams found baked in the cake the thimble (signifying an old maid), Mayme Huss the dime (for wealth), and Eli Kendrick the ring (signifying marriage within a year); *Gastonia Gazette*, October 12, 1906; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015; Sarah Priscilla Glenn to Eula Glenn, September 26, 1906, Glenn Foundation; <http://weddingtraditions.about.com/od/ReceptionRituals/a/Cake-Charms-Meanings.htm>. The color of Mayme’s going-away outfit was known as Alice blue, after Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt.

14. *Gastonia Gazette*, October 19, 1906.

15. *Ibid.*; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015.

16. *Gastonia Gazette*, October 19, 1906; “Mrs. William Davis Glenn. Some Facts Concerning the Life and Death of a Noble Mother,” L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

17. *Gastonia Gazette*, October 19, 1906; www.hymntime.com, retrieved November 2015.

18. *Gastonia Gazette*, October 23, 1906. The active pallbearers were Joe Falls, James Ferguson, J. F. Jackson, Wash Ragan, E. N. Lineberger, J. K. Dixon, Robert Rankin Ray, and W. M. Nolen.

19. “Undated obituary for Mrs. Sarah Torrence Glenn.”

20. “Mrs. William Davis Glenn. Some Facts Concerning the Life and Death of a Noble Mother,” L. C. Glenn Papers, UNC.

21. “Glenn Genealogy,” 27. Robert Ray Glenn would graduate from Davidson College.

Chapter 15: 1906–1911

1. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 501; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 83, 84. Perhaps Eula and Carrie arranged her appearance. McIver likely spoke about the fund-raising campaign for a statue of her husband being planned for the campus at the Normal.

2. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 276; Love, R. C. G. Love, 20, 34; Susan Elizabeth Rhyne Love obituary, www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=53981623, retrieved November 5, 2017.

3. Junius is possibly the longest-serving physician to the present day. He did not leave a will. His heirs were his second wife, Lizzie L. Torrence, and his five children. Frost Torrence administered his father's estate. He was buried at Oakwood Cemetery. "Glenn Allied Families," Torrence H-5, 6; William Junius Torrence, Findagrave.com., retrieved November 5, 2017; Estate Records, 1939–71.

4. In a class note about Eula, the *Carolinian* reported: "After working in Statesville for several years Eula Glenn took up the responsibility of making a home for her orphaned brothers and sisters in Gastonia"; the *Carolinian* [1913], 119. On June 18, 1907, the Committee on Application of the Board of School Commissioners recommended her election in the Central Graded School for the coming year; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioner, June 18, 1907, 57. Foust gave no details as to the location or the institution; Julius I. Foust to Miss Eula Glenn, August 8, 1908; Eula Glenn to Pres. J. I. Foust, August 10, 1908, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

5. Citizens National Bank advertisement; *Gastonia Gazette*, April 29, 1904; Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada, 161; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 110; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 331, 333.

Garland would serve three terms as mayor of Gastonia, from 1941 to 1947; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 641.

6. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 110, 111, 143; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 331; undated, unidentified clipping from 1976, from the family records of Elizabeth Patrick Page; "Glenn Genealogy," 27.

7. Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community"; Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-44.

8. Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community"; Herbert Jones Erwin Sr., Findagrave.com; "Highland Community" in Dellinger and Caskey, *Gaston County Heritage*, No. 571; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 7; cityofgastonia.com/erwin-center-park.html.

9. Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 146; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 343, 344.

10. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 344; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 150, 152, 154; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 4.

11. Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 152; Miller, *1910–1911 Gastonia, North Carolina City Directory*, n.p., Preface; Separk, *Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia*, 13, 22, 37; Bumgarner, *Carolina & N-W Railway*, ix.

12. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 336, 352, 579. Southern Power Company was predecessor to Duke Energy. This quote may have come from James B. Duke. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 140; *1910–1911 Gastonia City Directory*, Preface; *Gastonia Gazette*, February 21, 1955. The tracks were torn out in 1951, making Franklin Boulevard a modern thoroughfare.

13. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 408; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002; Love, R. C. G. Love, 41; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 100, 275;

Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 366; Love made many contributions to Gastonia, as secretary to the Board of Aldermen, to First Presbyterian Church, and to the library. It is unfortunate that he did not remain in Gastonia near his family. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, August 2, 1901. The Love Building still stands on Main Street.

14. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 134.

15. Script, "Old Maids' Convention," November 23, 1907. Plays were a regular part of college life, but the girls wore long black skirts, never trousers, to play men's parts; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 36, 80. The McIver Building was the science building, with lecture halls, laboratories, and offices for several departments. It stood for fifty years but was replaced by a classroom building also named for McIver; Bowles, "A Good Beginning," between pages 102, 103.

16. J. W. Matheson to Superintendent W. C. Allen, May 9, 1908, Glenn Foundation.

17. Laura H. Coit to Miss Lena Glenn, September 2, 1908, McIver Records; "Glenn Genealogy," 29. According to Lon's genealogy, Lena taught in the city schools of Greensboro, but on her application to the Carnegie Library School some years later, she said she had only taught at the Practice and Observation School. The only exceptions to the requirement to repay tuition occurred when a graduate could not secure employment or if her health did not permit it; 1909–10 Catalogue.

18. Session Minutes, First Presbyterian Church, October 21, 1906, by certificate of transfer, likely from First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, which was close to campus. Gertrude joined on January 13, 1907, by examination. Mena Glenn and Annie joined on April 4, 1907, Mena

by certificate of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, and Annie by examination; Church Register, First Presbyterian Church, 46. First ARP Church was then located on the corner of York and Franklin streets. When the congregation built a new building on South Chester Street, catty-corner from Lucius's home, it sold its facility to St. Mark's Episcopal Church; Session Minutes, Olney Presbyterian Church, October 4, 1908, 140; Church Register, First Presbyterian Church, 46.

19. The eleventh grade was added to the city school system in 1911; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 51. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, June 21, 1909, 88. Lena Glenn Application, May 7, 1907; Gertrude Glenn Application, July 12, 1907; Julius I. Foust to Miss Gertrude Glenn, July 24, 1907, all in Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

20. Only yearbooks from Gertrude's sophomore and junior years have been preserved, leaving gaps in her record at college; the *Carolinian*, 1909, 86, 104, 109, 113, 118.

21. Foust's concern demonstrated once again the personal nature of a small school, where the college president knew the students and their families; Julius I. Foust to Miss Eula Glenn, January 6, 1910, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

22. Gertrude Glenn to Mr. Foust, July 12, 1910, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

23. Julius I. Foust to Miss Gertrude Glenn, July 13, 1910, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

24. *News and Observer* (Greensboro, North Carolina), May 24, 1911. Two other classmates were recognized for their ability to type 120 words per minute. Laura Coit to Gertrude Glenn, August 11, 1911, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

25. Sarah Priscilla Glenn would grad-

uate from Agnes Scott College and University of North Carolina Library School, "Glenn Genealogy," 28; Miller, 1910–1911 *Gastonia, North Carolina City Directory*, 100; *Gastonia Gazette*, July 7, 1911. Today, Delta Cotton Mill houses photographs taken there in 1911 by Lewis W. Hine, the famous sociologist and photographer, whose pictures captured child labor conditions around the country, particularly in textile mills; <http://www.loc.gov/item/ncl2004002765/PP/#about-this-item>.

26. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 57, 60, 61. *United States Geological Survey* published two, about underground waters of Tennessee and Kentucky and on the geology and mineral resources of part of the Cumberland Gap coal field in Kentucky. Lon's article about the university training of engineers in economic geology appeared in *Economic Geology*. Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 103; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 244.

27. L. C. Glenn, November 5, 1907, in "Glenn Genealogy," 2; L. C. Glenn to Miss Margaret L. Glenn, November 13, 1906, found in "Glenn Family Data," 5, Glenn Foundation office. Lon wrote Miss Glenn of wanting to secure information from Thomas Allen Glenn, a professional genealogist formerly of Philadelphia but now of Liverpool, England, who had collected information in Ireland and Scotland on the Glenn family and offered it to him for \$25. Lon convinced family members to subscribe and he was able to purchase the information.

28. Old Main housed classrooms, the chapel, faculty offices, and the library; *New York Times*, April 21, 1905. When rebuilt, it became Kirkland Hall to honor the chancellor. Several small houses nearby were ignited by flying sparks and burned to the ground. Lon wrote a nine-page ac-

count of the fire, likely at the chancellor's request, observing that books saved were thrown from the second-story window as the fire raged; Record Group 600, Library Administration, Box 1083, File 50, Special Collections and University Archives, Jane and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. "Glenn Family Data," contains genealogical information obtained by Lon from his father, William D. Glenn, from W. J. Anderson's bible (taken August 19, 1896), from graves at Bethel churchyard (taken on August 6, 1896), notes on the Scott and Gregory families, interview with "River Dave" Glenn (on August 18, 1896), and Aunt Polly Torrence (in the fall of 1897), and a letter from L. C. Glenn to Miss Margaret L. Glenn, Yorkville, South Carolina, November 13, 1906.

29. "Glenn Genealogy," 2. Helen Grant of Clover, South Carolina, shared her early version of "Glenn Family Data," with the author and Wilson A. Forbes Jr. of Gaston County shared his early version of "The Wilson Family," later called "Glenn Allied Families."

30. Hugh would graduate from the engineering school at Vanderbilt University in 1931 and work for the Tennessee Valley Authority, "Glenn Genealogy," 26; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 85.

Chapter 16: 1911–1916

1. The death certificate listed acute gastritis as the cause. His obituary stated it as infirmities attendant upon old age; *Gastonia Gazette*, July 7, 1911. The obituary captured some of the activities of his long life and noted the accomplishments of his children; *Charlotte Observer*, July 6, 1911.

2. William's will was dated March 3, but, strangely, listed no year. He seems to have drawn it up after Sarah Priscilla's death in 1906 and Lena's graduation in 1908.

3. Will of William Davis Glenn; Separk, *Illustrated Handbook of Gastonia*, 22, 37; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 25, 1909, October 6, 1910. First grade and high school teachers earned \$50 a month, intermediate teachers earned \$45 a month, and mill teachers earned \$40 a month. A household income of \$880 in 2020 dollars is \$23,104, not much above the poverty level for a family of three today; <https://www.davemanuel.com/inflation-calculator.php>; Healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-fpl/ accessed September 21, 2020.

4. Will of William D. Glenn, March 27, 1911, 348–349. Whether Lena repaid two years of tuition to the Normal or whether the school forgave the debt because of her health is not known.

5. Jean Marie Torrence said Lucius once lanced a boil under her mother's arm with a razor before her mother knew it; Jean Marie Torrence, interview with author, December 3, 2013; Jane Glenn, conversation with author, February 18, 2020. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 110; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 331. While the family believes that Lucius had privileges at the Mayo Clinic, the clinic has no record of him as a resident or a fellow. A check of local newspapers in the clinic's archives came up empty as far as Lucius being a visitor. Without knowing specific dates, the staff at the Historical Unit of the Mayo Clinic is too limited, and the process of looking through the physicians' log books is too tedious, to check for his signature; Renee E. Zimmer, emails to author, October 23, December 30, 2014. Miller, *1910–1911 Gastonia, North Carolina City Directory*, n.p. The hospital occupied the third, fourth, and part of the fifth floor; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 110.

6. Mary Priscilla Glenn would become

the only one of Carrie and Lena's nieces to graduate from the Normal, which, when she attended, was called Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. "Glenn Genealogy," 27; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

7. Julius I. Foust to Miss Eula Glenn, September 11, 1911, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro. Pearl Wyche, of Greensboro, represented the class of 1903 at the Founder's Day program. *Greensboro Daily News*, October 6, 1911.

8. The *Carolinian*, 1915–16, 51, 67. Annie's class started with 125 students but finished with only fifty-two. The class of 1915 planted a flower garden instead of a tree, started a lunchroom program at the Practice and Observation School, and inaugurated a student government program; "Some Interesting Facts," in "Class of 1915 Golden Anniversary," June 1965; *Gastonia Gazette*, March 12, 1945. Like her brother Howard and his classmate, the future governor Max Gardner, Annie had a classmate, Gertrude Carraway, who is remembered in North Carolina for her many accomplishments, most notably her direction of the restoration of Tryon Palace in New Bern; www.ourstate.com/gertrude-carraway. Preservation North Carolina established the Gertrude S. Carraway Awards in 1974 to recognize individuals or organizations demonstrating a genuine commitment to historic preservation through extraordinary leadership, research, philanthropy, promotion, and/or significant participation in preservation. The 2005 recipient was Lucy Rawlings Penegar, of Gaston County, owner of the William Joseph Wilson house, who had already spent over thirty years leading historic preservation efforts in Gaston County; <https://www.presnc.org/files/2014/03/PNC-Awards-Complete-List.pdf>.

9. Palmer and Freeze, *So Close to My*

Heart, 66, 85, 96; Laura H. Coit to Miss Gertrude Glenn, August 11, 1911; Laura H. Coit to Miss Gertrude Glenn, November 13, 1912, Foust Records, UNC-Greensboro.

10. Wm. A. Ingoldsby to Whom It May Concern, May 10, 1919, Glenn Foundation; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

11. Edward Forney, Gertrude's exceptional instructor in the Commercial Department, likely helped her secure her next position when she completed her obligation to the Normal; Bowles, *A Good Beginning*, 10, 34; Trelease, *Making North Carolina Literate*, 21.

12. Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002. Gertrude did not have a telephone listing in her own name, and is listed as living in New York City in a limited number of census records; 1940 Census.

13. Susan Love Glenn would become a magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Agnes Scott College and attend Washington School for Secretaries, *Charlotte Observer*, November 8, 2000. The school commissioners had bought property in 1901 for expansion, but authorized its sale when they did not need it; Gaston County Deed Book 47, October 14, 1901, 328; Deed Book 66, January 1, 1907, 171. Second Avenue was called Elm Street in 1901. The AT&T building stands there today. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 74, 295; *Gastonia, North Carolina City Directory*, 1913–14, 135; Church Register of First Presbyterian Church, February 2 or 22 (illegible), 1913. Susan Rhyne Love was interred next to her husband at Oakwood Cemetery in Gastonia following a service at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. *Gastonia Gazette*, January 10, 1916; <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=53981623>.

14. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 61;

Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 103; Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

15. The street is appropriately named for Vanderbilt's first president. The house no longer stands, the property having been taken for construction of the Middle Tennessee Tuberculosis Hospital; Davis, "Iris Paradise," 11; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 73.

16. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 73; Corgan, "Leaders of the Tennessee Academy of Science, 1912–1936," 2, 3, 4, 5, 11; Davis, "Iris Paradise." Members from the science, medical, and dental departments of Vanderbilt met every two months to listen to scientific papers and discuss scientific matters. The academy is active today; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 243.

17. *Nashville Tennessean*, n.d., 1974; Nell's research eventually was published in a book by her great-niece, Marie Derbes, "David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith," "McCullough M-46."

18. Peabody had been incorporated five years earlier by George Peabody, an entrepreneur and banker, who established the Peabody Education Fund after the Civil War to "encourage the intellectual, moral, and industrial education of the destitute children of the Southern States." His generosity gained him the title of the founder of modern philanthropy; <https://www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/101>. The teachers' college became part of Vanderbilt University in 1979 and today is known as Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. The biographical information in one source says Lon started teaching summer school at Peabody in 1914, implying that he may have taught more sessions after that date; "Leonidas Chalmers Glenn Biographical Sketch."

19. Valorie White, email to author,

January 29, 2002; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 317.

20. Carrie Glenn to Cornwell, November 10, 1915, Glenn Foundation; Administration—Application for Letters with Will Annexed, December 21, 1915, Glenn Foundation.

Chapter 17: 1916–1919

1. Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 157.

2. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 26, 37, 38, 295.

3. Ibid., 38. Will remained with the Tuckasee until 1923, when it was sold.

4. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, July 5, 1920, 25, 26.

5. She was reimbursed for expenses; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, July 5, 25, 26, September 10, 1920, 31, 32. Certificate No. 9408 issued to Carrie and dated June 30, 1917, came from the Department of Public Instruction for the State of North Carolina. It was valid only if signed by the county superintendent. County Superintendent F. P. Hall did not sign the certificate until September 24, 1918, when Carrie would have served full time for only two years. There is no explanation for the variance.

6. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 141; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 156. His position as county physician was mentioned in his father's obituary; Salmond, *Gastonia* 1929, 5, 64–68.

7. Cora Shepherd to Frank C. Shepherd, June 1917, in Shepherd, "Wilson-Baird History," 112.

8. Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 102; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 60; Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

9. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 59. The company had just been established from the assets of eleven small petroleum

companies; www.sinclairoil.com/about. Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 102.

10. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 75. Lon taught this course until 1923. It was a high compliment that his membership was sponsored by two well-respected geologists, Alexander Deussen, a petroleum geologist at the University of Texas in Houston, and William E. Wrather, a consulting geologist who became director of the US Geological Survey. Kris Ercums, "Deussen, Alexander," *Handbook of Texas*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fde67>; William Embry Wrather, *American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers*, <http://www.aimehq.org/about-us/history>, retrieved December 20, 2019. "Leonidas Chalmers Glenn Biographical Sketch."

11. The US Constitution provides that lawsuits between states go directly to the Supreme Court for trial. In such cases, the Supreme Court assigns special masters or other authorities to submit evidence upon which the judges might base their decision. That became the role of Lon and his colleagues; *State of Oklahoma v. State of Texas*, 256 US 70 (1921). Serving with him were Henry Chandler Cowles, ecologist and botany professor at the University of Chicago; L. L. Janes, of the US Department of Agriculture; Major Miller, of the US Army Corps of Engineers; and Isaiah Bowman, director of the American Geographical Society, New York, and later president of Johns Hopkins University. "Dr. L. C. Glenn, Scientific Advisor," in undated, unidentified item, perhaps in the *Vanderbilt Alumnus*, January 1922, Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

12. Faucett, "He Mixes Geology and Flowers"; *State of Oklahoma v. State of Texas*; "Dr. L. C. Glenn, Scientific Advisor."

13. Corgan, "Leaders of the Tennessee Academy of Science, 1912–1936"; Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 102.

14. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, July 18, 1918, 10; May 17, 1920, 36; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, January 5, 1920; 4, July 5, 1920, 25–26; November 1, 1920, 30, 33.

15. With the blessings of the YMCA, the City of Gastonia had taken over the operation of the library, making it a free public library for the citizens of the city. The Carnegie Library of Atlanta was founded in 1902 through the generosity of American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and with financial support from the city of Atlanta. Organized on April 5, 1905, on a three-year trial basis with funding from Carnegie, the school was originally called the Southern Library School and was the first library school in the South. When Carnegie agreed to make the school permanent in 1907, the name changed to Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 56; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 318; Library School, Circular of Information, 1920–21.

16. Library School, Circular of Information, 1920–21, 5, 8; Miss Susie Lee Crumley to Miss Lena Glenn, May 30, 1918, Rose Library; Eighteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, 1916, 23.

17. Lena Viola Glenn Application for Admission, August 27, 1918.

18. Certificate of Health, Miss Lena Glenn, August 27, 1918. Dr. D. E. McConnell to Tommie Dora Barker; David Robertson LaFar to Tommie Dora Barker, Rose Library. McConnell's personal collection of original paintings, sketches, and sculptures by Carolina artists, known as the McConnell Art Collection, is housed

today at the Gaston County Public Library; www.gastonlibrary.org/events/mcconnell-art-collection. LaFar's family would become prominent in the textile business.

19. Lena Glenn to Miss Susie Lee Crumley, November 16, 1918; Library School, Circular of Information 1920–21, 6; Miss Susie Lee Crumley to Miss Lottie Blake, August 28, 1918; Miss Lottie E. Blake to Miss Susie Lee Crumley, August 31, 1918; Miss Susie Lee Crumley to Miss Lottie Blake, September 7, 1918; Administrator to Miss Lottie E. Blake, September 7, 1918; undated telegram, M. B. Palmer to Lena Viola Glenn, all in Rose Library.

20. Lena Glenn to Miss Mary B. Palmer, September 15, 1918; Instructor [likely Crumley] to Lena Glenn, September 18, 1918, Rose Library.

21. Lena Glenn to Susie Lee Crumley, November 16, 1918; Susie Lee Crumley to Lena Viola Glenn, November 27, 1918, Rose Library. Crumley was also the chief instructor in the Library School; Seventeenth Annual Report to the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library School of Atlanta, 1915, ebook, 19. While the war claimed 16 million lives, the deadly influenza virus killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide; <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic>.

22. They received a deed in fee simple; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 129, October 1, 1918, 293–295.

23. The estate paid attorney fees to Peter Woods Garland, city and county taxes, \$274.68 for medical services that Lucius charged the estate, the cost of William's monument at Oakwood Cemetery, and the cost of moving Ernest's body and erecting a monument for him at Oakwood Cemetery. Lena's inheritance may have funded her attendance at Carnegie Library School.

24. Mary Wilson Glenn would graduate

from Randolph Macon Woman's College. "Glenn Genealogy," 28; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 354; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

25. Williams, "Dr. Lucius Glenn, A Solid Citizen." Lucius's grandson, Jay Glenn, remembered stories of two abandoned infants, one a black baby with the last name Glenn, who grew up to be a respected barber in Highland, and one a white baby with the first name Glenn, who was adopted and taught chemistry at Wake Forest University. Jay Glenn, voicemail to author, May 23, 2020.

Chapter 18: 1918–1924

1. Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 163; Salmond, *Gastonia 1929*, 3–6.

2. Ramsey and Ramsey, "Planning Phase Report," E-47.

3. *Ibid.*, E-28, 29, 43, 45, 46.

4. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 38, 41, 91. Margie would graduate from Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans, "Glenn Genealogy," 28; Miller, *Gastonia City Directory*, 1918–19, 155–156.

5. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 377; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 167.

6. Prohibition destroyed an entire industry, resulting in losses of jobs and tax revenue, and provoking general lawlessness as people openly flaunted the amendment. The Twenty-first Amendment repealing the Eighteenth Amendment was ratified in December 1933, the only amendment repealing another amendment; <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-18th-amendment-1779200>. Alex Hall, banker with the Citizens National Bank/BB&T who served as chairman of the Glenn Foundation board, he told the author of these goings-on in the basement of the bank. Gastonia native and local

businessman, Tom D. Efird, corroborated the report. Tom Efird, conversation with author, July 8, 2018.

7. The Armington replaced the Falls House Hotel, named by combining the last names of its founders, C. B. Armstrong and R. B. Babington; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 318, 345. Lucius joined Rotary on May 26, 1920; Annual Reports to Rotary International. It remained the only Rotary Club in Gastonia for fifty years. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 72, 74, 79–83; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 38, 40; *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, June 5, 1950.

8. Lena Glenn to Miss Mary B. Palmer, May 28, 1919; Lena Glenn to Miss Tommie Dora Barker, September 2, 1919; Tommie Dora Barker to Lena Glenn, September 3, 1919, Rose Library. Barker, head librarian of the Carnegie Library, also served as director of the Library School from 1915 to 1930. She was an Agnes Scott College graduate, earned a library certificate from the Carnegie Library School in 1909, and became founding dean and director of Emory Library School after the Carnegie Library School merged with Emory University in 1925. She was a leader of the profession in the South; <http://emory.history.emory.edu/facts-figures/people/makers-history/profiles/barker-tommie.html>; Library School Special Entrance Examination, September 12, 1919.

9. Library School Circular of Information, 1920–21; Course given 1919–20, Record of Lena Glenn. The field was not yet specialized enough to have degrees in library work.

10. John D. Bence, University Archivist, email to author, July 20, 2015; Library School Circular of Information, 1920–21, 10, 11; unidentified writer to Miss [Lena] Glenn, May 12, 1921; Lena Glenn to Miss

Crumley, November 5, 1923; Tommie Dora Barker to Lena Glenn, November 7, 1923, Rose Library.

11. Library School Circular of Information, 1920–21, 17; Lena Glenn to Tommie Dora Barker, Christmas, 1952, Rose Library.

12. Lena Glenn 1918 Entrance Examination, Library School, Rose Library; Hand and Sykes, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, 11. For example, Cynthia (last name unknown), a black woman who worked for Mena's sister, Mamie Smith, was proud to cast her first vote in 1960; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

13. The all-male Rotary Club of Gastonia celebrated its first Ladies' Night in 1921, when members invited as their guests their spouses or lady friends and teachers from the Gastonia City schools. Of the sixty-seven teachers listed in the program booklet, only the school superintendent and three teachers were male, and only four teachers were married. The remaining fifty-nine teachers, including Eula, were single. The list of teachers was printed in the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Commemorative Booklet of the Rotary Club of Gastonia, 1944.

14. Carrie Glenn Diary, January 29, April 24, 1959.

15. Carrie Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, May 7, 1959, Glenn Foundation; Carrie Glenn to Marie Torrence Lattimore, June 20, 1962, Glenn Foundation; Roy Short Jr., conversations with author, January 2002, February 5, 2014.

16. Davis, "Iris Paradise," 10, 11; Faucett, "He Mixes Geology and Flowers"; Martha Abernathy Thompson, conversation with author, April 22, 2018; Furlong, "Looking Back" column, *Vanderbilt View*, May 2010, <https://news.vanderbilt>

[.edu/archived-news/vanderbilt-view/articles/2010/05/01/looking-back-may-2010.114576.html](https://news.vanderbilt.edu/archived-news/vanderbilt-view/articles/2010/05/01/looking-back-may-2010.114576.html); Hogge, *The Real Dirt*.

Kirkland created at least fifty varieties of iris of every shade and texture; Mims, *Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt*, 287. The American Iris Society was founded on June 1, 1920; Tom Gormley, email to author, October 4, 2014; Mims, *Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt*, 289. The two men were likely influential in hosting the annual meeting of the American Iris Society in Nashville in 1935. Roy Short Jr. enjoyed Lena's garden; Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, June 19, 2012.

17. On other trips, students studied rock formations across the Central Basin outside Nashville or traversed five miles from Ridgetop to Bakers, Tennessee. Extended trips required camping out; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 72, 73.

18. *Ibid.*, 59, 72, 75, 79. Roberts left Vanderbilt for a higher-paying job at the University of Virginia. Willard B. Jewell was a Princeton graduate. He became Lon's colleague and friend for the remainder of Lon's career.

19. Minutes, Board of Medical Examiners of the State of North Carolina, June 22, 1920, 129; June 20, 1921, 133; July 16, 1923, 168–169; June 21, 1926, 210; <http://www.ncmedboard.org/about-the-board>. Lucius's attendance over six years was 80 percent, exemplary considering the distance traveled and his burgeoning responsibilities in Gastonia; Records, Board of Medical Examiners of the State of North Carolina, 1920–26.

20. The North Carolina legislature passed a special proceeding incorporating the Graded School District of the City of Gastonia in 1919. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 15, 1919, 17, 21; January 20, 1920, 31; March 5, 1920,

33; May 17, 1920, 36. In January 1920, the board requested a bond election of \$550,000 to build a new high school building in order to free up space at Central School, which had become congested. The board took no action at this time. When the new referendum passed, part of the land for the new school was purchased from W. N. Davis and part from L. E. Dickson. Lucius took office on May 4, 1921, and was reelected in 1923 and 1925. The record is not clear whether he lost a reelection bid in 1927 or did not run for office again; Oath of Office of School Commissioners, May 4, 1921–May 7, 1925.

21. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 4, 1921, 87; May 13, 1921, 97; June 16, 1921, 103; July 12, 1921, 9; August 15, 1921, 119; October 17, 1922, 181; December 16, 1925. Grier succeeded Joe S. Wray, the first school superintendent hired in 1901, who retired after twenty years. It seems that the board “retired” Wray, because Grier tendered his resignation after realizing Wray’s retirement was not voluntary. The board paid Wray’s salary through the end of the school year so he could finish the term and file reports, and Grier succeeded him at Central School. In June, the board hired local architect Hugh White to design the “temporary building,” which still stands on South Oakland Street as part of the campus of Piedmont Community Charter School. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, June 6, 1921, 62; July 2, 1923, 103. Lucius saw committee service including the Course of Study Committee, and was responsible for overseeing Central School and Clara School, later Central School and Willow School, and even later Central School and the high school. When the new high school came under his supervision, he was authorized to purchase shrubbery and oversee its planting.

22. <https://www.facs.org/about-acs/archives/acshistory>; Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree.” Whether Lucius invited Mena to accompany him on these trips is not known.

23. Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018; *Gastonia Gazette*, December 13, 1949, November 30, 1964. Dr. Richard Rankin explained that there was no list of charter members of the Agricultural Company but surmised that Lucius was invited early on; Richard Rankin, conversation with author, February 22, 2016. Charter stockholders held one share each valued at \$250; Rankin, *A New South Hunt Club*, 17.

24. Valorie White, email to author, January 29, 2002; Mathew Bolton, email to author, July 29, 2014; <http://www.tc.columbia.edu/about>; minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 22, 1930. The board granted Grier a leave of absence to attend a six-week course at Teachers College at Columbia. Eula was thought to have attended Teachers College but a record of her attendance does not exist; Patricia Elaine Osbourne, email to author, January 6, 2016.

Chapter 19: 1921–1926

1. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 111; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 308, 331.

2. “City Hospital, Built at Cost of \$160,000, One of State’s Best,” *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 8, 1924. Fearnbach, Registration Form, City Hospital—Gaston Memorial Hospital, National Register of Historic Places, Section 8, 8–10.

3. The new hospital came with a debt of \$48,000; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 111, 132; Atkins, “Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree.”

4. Minutes, Board of Medical Examiners, July 12, 1924, 187; December 2, 1924, 201; *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 8, 1924; Dr. James Marshall Sloan, www.finda

grave.com; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 111; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 289; *Gaston Gazette*, May 16, 1932.

5. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 111; Williams, “Dr. Lucius N. Glenn, A Solid Citizen”; see also 26th Annual Session of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, University of Maryland Medical College, 13; Fearnbach, Registration Form, City Hospital—Gaston Memorial Hospital, National Register of Historic Places, Section 8, 8.

6. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 111–112; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 331–332; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” F-63. Both the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital and Garrison General Hospital closed their doors in 1979, the Orthopedic because the Salk and Sabin vaccines, discovered in the 1950s and 1960s, destroyed the polio virus in the United States. Today, the Orthopedic Hospital campus is owned by Gaston County and houses public and private human service agencies. Garrison General Hospital, although since demolished, lives today through an extraordinary and far-reaching legacy. Its assets provided the corpus for the Garrison Foundation, today’s Gaston Community Foundation. The medical equipment and furnishing went to Hôpital Lumière in Bon Finne, Haiti.

7. Gaston County Record of Corporations, December 14, 1936, Book 6, 348–350; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 27, 1947, August 12, 1954; Brewer, “African Americans in Gaston County,” 9.

8. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 113, 147–149; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 393; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 282; www.ncmarkers.com. His son, R. B. Babington Jr., married Helen Pearl Howe, granddaughter of Harriett Glenn and Daniel Ragan; “Glenn Genealogy,” 47.

Tompkins and Beagle, *The Life and Art of Ralph Ray Jr.*, 8.

9. “Gaston County’s Educational Heritage”; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 410; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, July 2, 1925.

10. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 411; Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community in Gastonia”; *Gaston Gazette*, September 3, 2018; Hand and Sykes, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, 81.

11. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 316; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-15, 16; Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community.”

12. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 56, 57, 58, 331. Coletta Ice Cream Company became Tony’s Ice Cream and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015.

13. Alone or with Nell, Lon traveled to Greenville, South Carolina, where he made a four-page list of inscriptions of her ancestors buried in a graveyard there. Many of them were well-to-do and slaveholders; Derbes, “David Shields McCullough and Anna Jane Smith.” Jewell and Wilson, “Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn,” 102; Davis, “Iris Paradise,” 11; Nell Glenn to Lena Glenn, November 1, 1923, Glenn Foundation.

14. Nell Glenn to Lena Glenn, November 1, 1923, Glenn Foundation. Today, Barr Castle is listed with Historic Environment Scotland. It passed from the Glen family to the Hamiltons of Furguslie in the early 1700s and was abandoned in the late 1700s; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Barr_Castle,_the_north-east_side,_Lochwinnoch,_Scotland.jpg.

15. Public school teacher John T. Scopes defied Tennessee’s Butler Act, which declared unlawful the teaching of any theory that defied the divine creation of man as taught in the Bible; Sixty-Fourth General

Assembly, State of Tennessee, House Bill No. 185, Chapter No. 27, Approved March 21, 1925. "Edinburgh Scientist Takes Issue with Dr. Glenn," unidentified, undated item from 1925; Mrs. E. P. Blair to James H. Kirkland, December 23, 1925; James H. Kirkland to Mrs. E. P. Blair, December 28, 1925, Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

16. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 60; Glenn File, January 1929, Vanderbilt.

17. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, December 21, 2015; Williams, "Dr. Lucius N. Glenn, A Solid Citizen"; *Gastonia Gazette*, January 31, 1948.

18. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 70; Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 92, 93; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 499–500. The club had fifty charter members; www.ncdar.org.

19. At this time, Annie was earning \$165 a month, and Eula \$230 because of her administrative responsibilities; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, July 2, 1925; Report of Gastonia's Schools, June 30, 1928–April 1, 1929, 3; When Mary Glenn Thompson, Will and Mayme's third daughter, graduated as valedictorian from Lincolnton High School, she asked her English teacher to help her prepare her valedictory remarks the way Eula had helped Sarah and Susan. Her teacher replied, "If you are smart enough to be valedictorian, you are smart enough to write your own speech"; Mary Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002.

20. Mary Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002; *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 21, 1932. Anne Whitesides Alexander recalled conversations with her childhood friend Becky Falls, whose brother and sister had Annie for English. Anne Whitesides Alexander, conversation with author, January 22, 2002.

21. They performed most transactions jointly, but each owned some properties separately; Grantor Index, Gaston County Register of Deeds Office. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 78, 32, January 1, 1909; Deed Book 124, 325, October 22, 1913; Deed Book 154, February 2, 1922, 140; Deed Book 335, March 23, 1922, 212; Deed Book 182, May 14, 1924, 457; Deed Book 182, May 15, 1924, 588; Deed Book 194, September 2, 1924, 152; Deed Book 202, September 18, 1925, 244; Deed Book 202, September 3, 1925, 228; Deed Book 140, December 3, 1919, 340, 376; Deed Book 178, December 21, 1923, 454; Plat Book 1, 120.

22. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, May 5, 2016; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 171; Miller, *Gastonia, North Carolina City Directory*, 219.

23. When Carnegie Library School merged with Emory University, Emory's registrar, in consultation with the principal of the Library School, evaluated the coursework and determined that the curriculum warranted a master's degree. The Library School at Emory University closed in 1988; www.afpls.org/history/166-100-years-of-library-service; John D. Bence, email to author, July 20, 2015. In November 1925, Lena requested that a copy of her Library School transcript be sent to her alma mater in hopes that they would accept some credits from the library program; Miss Lena Glenn to Mrs. Winifred Lemon Davis, November 23, 1925, Rose Library; Sean Mulligan, archivist, UNC-Greensboro, email to author, July 21, 2015.

Chapter 20: 1927–1932

1. Salmond, *Gastonia 1929*, 7, 8, 13; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 417.

2. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 417–424; www.ncpedia.org/biography/wiggins-ella.

3. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 421–422. North Carolina is a right-to-work state. Children growing up in Gastonia did not hear about the strike from their parents. Depending on the teacher, this chapter of Gaston County history was not taught in its schools until perhaps the 1970s. In 2004, a symposium held seventy-five years after the strike helped the city come to grips with its history. One of the speakers, Donald Shriver, a co-author of the 1976 book about the strike, *Spindles and Spires*, congratulated Gastonia for having matured enough to accept and understand it. Shriver was a professor at North Carolina State University when he and colleagues wrote *Spindles and Spires*. He later became a religion professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. On November 28, 2004, the Gastonia City Council dedicated the Broad Street railroad bridge and erected a plaque: “Chief Orville F. Aderholt Memorial Bridge, Gastonia Police Chief 1922–29. Victim of the Loray Mill strike June 6, 1929.” Closure came about on a rainy Sunday, April 28, 2013, when after years of discussion about the wording, the North Carolina Office of Archives and History unveiled the historical marker that publicly and formally acknowledged the event, eighty-four years after the strike. The marker simply reads: “A strike in 1929 at the Loray Mill, 200 yards S., left two dead and spurred opposition to labor unions statewide.” The opening of the upscale Loray Mill Lofts has helped remove the stigma remaining from the strike. The Kessell History Center housed at the Loray tells the story of those working in the mill and of life in the Loray Mill village.

4. The companies were family-controlled and independent: Dixon, Groves, Parkdale, Ragan, Ruby, Smyre,

and Trenton operated ten plants in all; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 429.

5. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 436.

6. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 275; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 434.

7. Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

8. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, August 22, 2014; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002. In September 1929, vendors had become such a nuisance outside the school that the Gastonia Board of School Commissioners prohibited trucks and wagons from selling their products there, noting that some products sold were injurious to the children’s health; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, September 20, 1929. The minutes later pointed out that only the City “Counsel” could pass such an ordinance, *ibid*.

9. Ponce de Leon is thought to have planted the first orange trees around St. Augustine, Florida, in the sixteenth century, and by the nineteenth century, most citrus trees grew wild throughout many Florida forests. Cultivation had begun to occur around Tampa and expanded after the Civil War as new markets and better transportation made the fruit available to even larger parts of the United States; <http://flcitrusmutual.com/citrus-101/citrushistory.aspx>.

10. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, August 27, 2014; Martha Abernethy Thompson, conversation with author, April 28, 2018.

11. Edgar Love’s son James Franklin Love moved the machinery from the Melville Mills plant in Cherryville to Lincolnton, and kept the name. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 132, 295; *Lincoln County*

News, January 10, 1955; *Charlotte Observer*, November 8, 2000; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, August 22, 2014; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002.

12. *Lincoln County News*, January 10, 1955; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, April 27, 2018.

13. Martha Abernethy Thompson, email to author, April 23, 2018; *Lincoln County News*, March 20, 1933; David Glenn Thompson, email to author, May 5, 2016.

14. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 79, 80, 97; Mims, *History of Vanderbilt University*, 98, 244; Chancellor Kirkland to L. C. Glenn, February 20, 1928, January 28, 1929, December 11, 1930, Glenn File, Vanderbilt University. As athletic committee chairman, each semester, Lon signed several hundred certificates for students and teams participating in intercollegiate athletics.

15. Faucett, "He Mixes Geology and Flowers," may have been written for the *Nashville Tennessean Magazine*, May 27, 1928. Faucett was known for three children's books on anthropomorphic vegetables, fruits, and flowers; <https://www.abebooks.com/books/vintage-illustrators-global-countries/childrens-books.shtml>. *Gaston Gazette*, reprint of editorial from a Nashville newspaper, January 23, 1951.

16. Faucett, "He Mixes Geology and Flowers."

17. *Nashville Tennessean*, May 28, 1939.

18. Davis, "Iris Paradise," 10–11.

19. Valorie White, email to author, January 29, 2002; Faye W. Gardner to Miss Carrie Glenn, March 17, 1930, Glenn Foundation.

20. *Gastonia Gazette*, November 30, 1964. The name changed to Broughton Hospital in 1959; Deceased Physicians, American Medical Society, November 29, 1964. Heptasophs Insurance Company re-

flected the presence of the Greek community that had settled in the county; Atkins, "Dr. L. N. Glenn to Receive A.B. Degree." According to Lucius's grandson, Jay Glenn, the impetus came when Lucius overheard two Gastonia doctors talk disparagingly about his lack of an undergraduate degree; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, February 25, 2020.

21. The city of Salisbury offered a partially constructed dormitory/administration building and several acres of land as enticements.

22. Atkins, "Dr. L. N. Glenn to Receive A. B. Degree." The Catawba College professors who taught Lucius were Drs. Raymond Jenkins, Benjamin Lane, and Bruce Wentz.

23. Susan D. Agner, email to author, March 7, 2018. As a special student, Lucius was not listed in the college annual, the *Swastika* (a symbol that before Adolf Hitler and the 1930s meant good or good luck). In the 1930s, the college newspaper was called the *Pioneer* and the student handbook the *Tom-Tom*. Atkins, "Eminent Surgeon . . . Gets his A. B. Degree"; *Gastonia Gazette*, September 16, 1947; Atkins, "Dr. L. N. Glenn to Receive A. B. Degree." With his renewed association with the college, Lucius learned that some of the science professors wished to use extracted appendixes and gallstones as teaching tools. When Lucius surgically removed these items from patients, he preserved them in alcohol and periodically sent them to Catawba College; *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, September 28, 1957.

24. *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 21, 1932; Chancellor J. H. Kirkland to Dr. L. C. Glenn, June 2, June 14, 1932, Glenn File, Vanderbilt University. Whether she smoked is not known, but smoking became popular among women in the 1920s and 1930s.

25. *Gastonia Daily Gazette*, March 21, 1932. There is evidence that Eula vacationed at Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1912, and traveled to California, and she seems to have traveled to Ireland, among other destinations, perhaps in the company of fellow teachers.

26. Ibid. James Atkins, editor of the *Daily Gazette*, could have written the tribute, or Zoe Kincaid Brockman, a granddaughter of Harriet Glenn Ragan and Daniel Franklin Ragan. She joined the *Gazette* in 1915, served as the lifestyle and society editor for sixty years, was a founding member and first president of the North Carolina Poetry Society, and was nominated as North Carolina Poet Laureate in 1935, when this position was first considered by the state; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 330, 502; Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial 1877–1977*, 20.

27. Dr. Henderlite succeeded Dr. Anderson and served from 1912 to 1940; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 23, 196; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 320, 328, 332, 409, 410. W. P. Grier Middle School and Ashley High School (formerly Gastonia High School), pay tribute to these educators. In May, the Gastonia High School class of 1932 dedicated the *Spinner* yearbook to Eula: “Teacher, scholar, friend, whose untimely death . . . brought sorrow to all who had been privileged to come under her instruction.” She had been yearbook advisor for many years.

28. Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 72; Hoffman, “Gaston County Public Library 1905–1981,” 5, 6. Within five years, Lena became the library’s first technical assistant, called a cataloguer today. She loved her occupation from the start and worked happily at the library for the next twenty-one years. The timeline in Hoffman, “Gaston County Public Library 1905–1981,” had Lena employed in October

1937, but this date contradicts Lena’s own information, which places her start date in February 1932. See Lena Glenn, undated Christmas card to Tommie Dora Barker, and Barker’s reply, January 8, 1952, Rose Library.

Chapter 21: 1932–1939

1. His salary remained the same for five years; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 196.

2. Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 29, 1931; May 9, 1932. Later that month, the city board authorized a committee to make “certain salary reductions”; *ibid.*, May 19, 1932. In an undated open letter of June or July 1933, board chairman C. W. Gunter thanked the citizens, the *Gazette*, mayor and city council, city administration, and Gastonia Chamber of Commerce for their faith in the schools and expressed his faith that taxes would be collected to enable the schools to pay its teachers.

3. Ibid., August 1, September 12, November 9, 1933.

4. County schools now were consolidated by six townships called Cherryville, Crowders Mountain, Gastonia, River Bend, South Point, and Dallas, and F. P. Hall was still school superintendent; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, February 6, 1928, 192; June 1, 1931, 218. Aside from the fact that married women already were supported by their spouses, the superintendent noted that each spring, twenty to thirty young women returned from college expecting to teach, but no jobs were available because married women held them. He was concerned that young women would stop attending college unless work was available when they graduated. Ibid., October 2, 1931, 219.

5. Hand and Sykes, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, 2; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North*

Carolina, 30, 38; Edwards, "Segregation," *Gastonia Gazette*, July 30, 1978; Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community"; Ina Biggers, conversation with author, June 5, 2020.

6. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 439–446.

7. "Dr. Glenn Explores a Cave," *The Vanderbilt Alumnus*, 124; Note, L. C. Glenn to Chancellor Kirkland, April 20, 1934, Glenn File, Vanderbilt; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 93.

8. He held the TVA position until his death; Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 102; <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.>; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 98. Six file boxes at the Vanderbilt University Archives evince Lon's extensive work on TVA dams. The reports, written from 1935 to 1946, even after his retirement, contained information for consultants and notes from consultant meetings. They concerned rock surface conditions, soil testing and embankment design, and reports on the progress of dam construction, earthquakes, maps, and geologic drawings. TVA today is the largest public power company in the United States, and runs the nation's fifth-largest river system; www.tva.com/About-tva. The Little Rock project concerned the foundation of a proposed high-flood-control and storage dam on the Canadian River in northern Oklahoma and whether it was strong enough to act as a flood barrier; *Nashville Tennessean*, February 7, 1938; "Dr. Glenn Consulted," *Vanderbilt Alumnus*, 19. The year 1936 was a busy one for Lon and showed the diversity of his interests: a trip with the TVA consulting board to inspect all dams under construction proposed on the Tennessee River system, extending from Norris Dam to Paducah, Kentucky; studying and making recommendations for the Gilbertsville site on the lower

Tennessee River; and studying the problem of the possible earthquake hazard for the dams in the system; "Dr. Glenn Studies Earthquake Hazards for TVA Board," *Vanderbilt Alumnus*, 8; *Nashville Tennessean*, June 3, 1936. He spoke on the Weeks Act, enacted March 1, 1911, at a conference in September 1936 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, and kept the travel brochure and maps of New Hampshire from his trip.

9. After the Southeastern Conference was formed in 1932, its members enjoyed Lon's candid reports to the chancellor about turmoil in football circles. Tennessee's head coach was the legendary General Robert R. Neyland, who compiled a 173-31-12 record in twenty-one seasons between 1926 and 1952, when Tennessee won four national championships, launching Tennessee's reputation as a football powerhouse. Tennessee's football stadium in Knoxville is named for Neyland; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 93, 97; Chancellor O. C. Carmichael to L. C. Glenn, June 15, 1939, Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

10. To this day, he is the longest serving chancellor at Vanderbilt University; Mims, *Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt*, 346. Carmichael was a graduate of Alabama Presbyterian College, a Rhodes Scholar, and held a master's degree from the University of Alabama. He and Lon established a good working relationship and were friends in the waning years of Lon's tenure. Carmichael remained at Vanderbilt until 1946, when he resigned to become the head of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

11. www.rotaryclubofgastonia.com/pastpresidents, retrieved June 14, 2012. Lucius served from July 7, 1938, to June 6, 1939. According to his neighbor Frank Matthews, people would break into his house to steal drugs or valuables. B. Frank Matthews II, conversation with

author, February 9, 2014; Tom Efird, conversation with author, July 8, 2018. Tom was the son of Gaston County Sheriff Hoyle Efird.

12. Rhyne's estate included stock holdings in nineteen mills, banks, and other businesses such as automobile companies; Piedmont Wagon Company, in Hickory; 15,000 acres of farm and mineral land in Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, McDowell, and Rutherford counties; a tin mine in Lincoln County; a gold mine in Rutherford County; and a controlling interest in Lithia Inn, a popular Lincoln County summer resort. He also had debts. Throughout his life, Dan Rhyne generously supported Lutheran churches in North Carolina, particularly Lenoir College, in Hickory. His ongoing generosity prompted its renaming as Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1923, an honor he enjoyed during his lifetime. In January 1927, a fire destroyed one of the most prominent buildings on campus, including classrooms, the library, an auditorium, and administrative offices, and insurance did not cover the loss. Rhyne came to the rescue by donating \$150,000 to the rebuilding effort; Cauble, "Daniel Efird Rhyne"; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 283–284, 295; <http://www.lr.edu/about-us/history>; www.nepedia.org/biography/rhyne-daniel-efird; *Lincoln County News*, March 30, 1933.

13. Glenn Manufacturing Company leased and operated Saxony Mill, the property of Textiles-Incorporated. In 1934, Will bought Merco Mills from Textiles-Incorporated for back payments owed to Duke Power Company. He set up the Glenn Thread Company the same year. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 132; *Lincoln County News*, March 20, 1933, January 10, 1955; *Charlotte Observer*, November 8, 2000.

14. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 154, February 2, 1922, 140; Deed Book 311, November 30, 1935, 287.

It is the location of Spindle City Café today.

15. Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, July 31, 1933, 234; October 2, 1933, 235; Kiser, "The Growth and Development of Education in Gaston County," 47. Although there is no mention in the minutes, the Board of Education would have made every effort to find an opening for Carrie as soon as possible. Hill, *Gastonia (Gaston County) City Directory*, 155. Carrie likely taught at Flint-Groves Elementary School for the remainder of her career.

Chapter 22: 1940–1946

1. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 455.

2. YEAR. *Mid-Century Edition*: 1900–1950, 177; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, August 2, 1943, 347; November 4, 1946, 373.

3. It was run by Virginia Mortimer; United States Census, 1940; familysearch.org. Gertrude Glenn to Mr. T. L. Slowie, December 18, 1940, Glenn Foundation; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, email to author, March 31, 2020.

4. James Lawrence Fly to Miss Gertrude Glenn, January 17, 1941, Glenn Foundation.

5. Lyle Edwards, "Segregation," *Gastonia Gazette*, July 30, 1978. This article was based on an interview with Moses A. E. Blair, an excellent teacher of math, geometry, chemistry, and physics at Highland High School, one of many teachers who encouraged students to attend college, Ina Biggers, email to author, June 5, 2020; Biggers, "Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community."

6. Carrie Glenn to Janie Meek Barnett Forbes (Mrs. E. Hope), February 28, 1934, Glenn Foundation.

7. Philhower also gave private piano lessons; B. Frank Matthews II, conversa-

tion with author, February 9, 2014. Carrie noted Sallie Philhower's death in her 1959 diary. In 1941, Marvin Roy Short Sr., his wife, Evelyn, and their family moved next door. Short had started with the Gastonia Police Department in 1938, hired by Chief J. Carr Elliott, Chief Aderholt's successor. He became assistant chief of police in Gastonia on November 1, 1963, and retired in 1983. Michael Schwartz to Amanda Neese, Gastonia Police Department, email forwarded to author on March 10, 2015. Seventy-five years later, Roy Short Jr., today a Gastonia attorney, still holds vivid memories of life along South Chester Street, although qualifying them with "to the best of my recollection." Roy remembers sitting on the curb in the mid-1940s, alone or with neighborhood pals, watching the cars go by and memorizing makes and models, as boys did in that era. Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, February 5, 2014. Jay Glenn and Tom Efird recalled that Buick was Lucius's car brand of choice. Edith Sisk, conversation with author, February 21, 2018. Hill's *Gastonia (Gaston County, NC) City Directory*, 1947.

8. Annie may have retired as early as 1935, but her 1945 obituary stated she had been retired for seven years, thus the date of 1938. She executed her will on June 1, 1938. Mary Glenn Thompson concurred about the use of newspapers to protect the table tops in her conversation with the author on February 6, 2002; James Clifford "Jimmy" Thompson Jr., conversation with author, January 13, 2015; Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, February 5, 2014; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

9. Edith Short Sisk, conversation with author, February 21, 2018; Samuel Rankin, conversation with author, February 5,

2002. After service in World War II, Rankin spent his career as a librarian in New York City.

10. She would have first used a rotary push mower, but now into her 70s surely had a gas-powered or self-propelled lawnmower. Samuel Rankin, conversation with author, February 5, 2002; Anne Whitesides Alexander, conversation with author, January 22, 2002.

11. Hill's *Gastonia (Gaston County, NC) City Directory*, 169, identified Martha Hemphill as a cook, but not for the Glenns. They rented the house into the 1960s. Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, February 5, 2014. Edith Short Sisk remembered Martha as a kind woman. As a small child, she loved sitting on Martha's front porch and visiting with her; Edith Short Sisk, conversation with author, February 21, 2018. Lucius and Mena's grandchildren affectionately called Cynthia "Bumb," a nickname she reportedly enjoyed; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, February 25, 2020. The employer did not need to be concerned about transportation if a domestic worker lived on the premises.

12. Roy Short Jr., conversations with author, January 2002, February 5, 2014.

13. Before her move, Peden lived at the red-brick Patterson Apartments on the corner of South Street and Second Avenue. Her roommate during those years was Margaret Tiddy, who became principal at Central Graded School; Minutes, Gastonia Board of School Commissioners, May 17, 1920, 36. After Tiddy retired and moved to Shelby, Peden built her apartment at the Shorts'. Beloved as an educator, when she reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 in 1950, her schoolchildren, their parents, and fellow teachers chipped in and bought her a brand-new Chevrolet as a retirement gift. In 1952, she moved to

Hickory, taught at Lenoir-Rhyne College for ten years, and wrote for the *Gastonia Gazette*. Peden Elementary School, named for her, is now Webb Street School. Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, February 5, 2014.

14. Lottie Blake had retired as director three years earlier, succeeded by Barbara Heafner.

15. Lena Glenn to Tommie Dora Barker, February 14, 1940, Rose Library.

16. *Ibid.*; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, February 10, 1959.

17. Annual Account in the Matter of W. W. Glenn, October 20, 1936; Will of Eula B. Glenn, March 29, 1932, 167–169; Annual and Final Account of Eula B. Glenn, March 12, 1943. Eula's stock holdings were small—common and preferred stock in Textiles-Incorporated, and stock in First National Bank and Stowe Spinning Company in Belmont. Until Eula's estate settled, Will paid the annual real estate taxes and annual account filing fee to the Gaston County Clerk of Court.

18. *Gastonia Gazette*, March 12, 1945. Her certificate of death called the cause an arterial embolism. Her pallbearers were Robertson LaFar, Stewart Atkins, Robert Gordon, Earl Jackson, Ernest R. Warren, and J. Y. Todd. Her stone was of similar shape and size as those of the other family members.

19. Other investments included Butlers, Inc., Fidelity Fund, Incorporated Investments, and Morganton Furniture Company, as well as US Treasury bonds. Carrie, Lena, and Gertrude also received cash distributions of \$1,000 each in the annual account dated September 20, 1947, and approximately \$1,459 each at the final account dated September 4, 1948, the two distributions valued at over \$28,000 in 2020 dollars. Annual Account, Estate of

Annie T. Glenn, September 20, 1947; Final Account, September 4, 1948.

20. In a show of their appreciation and respect, the Board of Trust asked Lon to serve an additional year at full salary for the 1941–42 academic year. He accepted, but in doing so relinquished his responsibilities as head of the department of geology and chairman of the division of natural sciences. O. C. Carmichael to Dr. L. C. Glenn, February 5, 1942; “Dr. Glenn Retires,” *The Vanderbilt Alumnus*, 6; L. C. Glenn to O. C. Carmichael, February 10, 1942; *Nashville Tennessean*, n.d., 1974, all in Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

21. Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 103, 105, 119.

22. *Lincoln County News*, January 10, 1955. They owned lots 8–11, which they later sold; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 452, December 8, 1944, 471; Deed Book 178, December 9, 1944, 454. Sunrise Park became the cozy neighborhood nestled across New Hope Road from Eastridge Mall today.

23. Mary was married to James E. Rankin. At the time, they were the parents of a new baby girl named Mary Downs; “Glenn Genealogy,” 27. Dr. Bess Puett, of Dallas, North Carolina, was Gaston County's first woman doctor. See Craig, “Women of Gaston County,” 3.

24. “Glenn Genealogy,” 27; *Gastonia Gazette*, May 5, 1947; WWII Army Casualties: Gaston County, North Carolina, National Archives, <http://nara-media-001.s3.amazonaws.com/arcmedia/media/images/29/15/29-1441a.gif>.

25. Fearnbach, Registration Form, City Hospital—Gaston Memorial Hospital, National Register of Historic Places, Section 8, 11.

26. Lazenby, “Hospital's Story is a Spiritual Romance,” *Gastonia Gazette*, September 28, 1951. Brown Wilson knew

how to get things done. A cotton broker by trade, he had a stake in the local Ford dealership, and a great interest in promoting and improving his community. One of his passions was baseball, especially American Legion baseball, which began in 1929, and was immensely popular. Gastonia and baseball became synonymous, Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial, 1877–77*, 11; Wilson donated land for the American Legion baseball park on North Marietta Street, then spearheaded the successful effort to name it Sims Legion Park after the two deceased sons of Gastonia banker Allen H. Sims and his wife. One son was killed in World War II, and the other in an automobile accident. Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 470; Mary Wilson “Tuga” Adams, conversation with author, March 15, 2018. She is Brown Wilson’s daughter.

27. Tom’s grandson, Jimmy Thompson, who was about 10 years old and waiting in his grandfather’s truck, overheard the exchange; Jimmy Thompson, conversation with author, January 13, 2015; *Gastonia Gazette*, March 23, 1949. A twelve-member board of trustees of laymen from across the county oversaw the management. The citizens now owned the hospital, and despite the successful campaign, another capital campaign would be needed to modernize and expand the facility; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-63.

28. Tuga Adams, conversation with author, August 28, 2003.

29. Jimmy Thompson, conversation with author, January 13, 2015.

Chapter 23: 1946–1955

1. In 1955, the first Jewish mayor, Leon Schneider, was elected. Atkins, *Gastonia Centennial, 1877–77*, 7, 8, 9; Ramsey and Ramsey, “Planning Phase Report,” E-47; Biggers, “Education and Religion in the Early Highland Community.”

2. Lucius recruited Marie from Duke University Hospital to the X-ray department in Gastonia; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/104465386/marie-glenn>.

3. *Gastonia Gazette*, May 5, 1947.

4. Ibid., January 31, 1948; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018. In July, concerned about the progression of her own illness, Mena may have had as many as three wills, but the NC Archives provided her holographic will of fewer than sixty words written on the back and front of an envelope of her personalized stationery; Mena Ray Glenn, “My Will,” July 26, 1947. She named no executor. Her estate was valued at \$104,000, the equivalent of \$1.1 million in 2020; Charles A. Glenn, Administrator, c.t.a. of Estate of Mena Ray Glenn, deceased, October 16, 1950.

5. Carrie wrote that Lucius wanted to leave the house in good shape for Bobby, who would inherit it; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, March 28, 1959; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, April 27, 2018.

6. The presentation was made by Dr. C. H. Pugh, a fellow Gastonia physician and long-time friend and colleague who was serving as the grand marshal of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina; *Gastonia Gazette*, December 13, 1949.

7. Johnny Davidson, conversation with author, February 7, 2014; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, May 5, 2016; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

8. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, May 6, 2016; Wilson A. Forbes Jr., email to author, February 18, 2014; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018; Tom Efird, conversation with author, June 2019.

9. Roy Short Jr., conversation with author, February 5, 2014; Johnny Davidson, conversation with author, February

7, 2014. Johnny grew up in the Bethel community in York County and served as the organist at Bethel Presbyterian Church for sixteen years.

10. Both stories from Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

11. Dr. George Rolfe Miller joined the staff of the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital. A talented and dedicated orthopedic surgeon, he worked with the head surgeon, Dr. McKinley Roberts, to treat children crippled by polio. Dr. George R. Miller, conversation with author, October 25, 2016. George said Lucius's son Charlie and daughter-in-law, Dorothy, were very kind and introduced him and his wife, Judy, to Gastonia society. *Ibid.*, March 15, 2018.

12. The City Hospital nurses had also held a celebration in 1950 when Lucius turned 77, as well as in July 1964, when he turned 91; *Gastonia Gazette*, July 27, 1953, July 12, 1964.

13. L. C. Glenn to Dr. E. H. Sellards, May 28, 1950, Glenn File, Vanderbilt.

14. The US National Museum was the name of one of nineteen museums administered by the US government before 1967, at which time the name Smithsonian was adopted for all of them. On March 12, 1950, Lon mailed fossils from a Pleistocene Pamlico formation on the intracoastal canal near Myrtle Beach and asked another colleague at the US National Museum for help identifying them. *Nashville Tennessean*, February 17, 1950; L. C. Glenn to Miss Julia Gardner, March 12, 1950; L. C. Glenn to Dr. R. S. Bassler, March 12, 1950; Julia Gardner to L. C. Glenn, June 13, 1950, L. C. Glenn to Julia Gardner, June 22, 1950, all in Glenn File, Vanderbilt. In the latter letter, Lon again referred to a rare fossil find, *Pecten Holmesii Dall*: "Pectins seem to flourish at Myrtle Beach."

15. Jewell and Wilson Jr., "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn." The obituary stated that his Gastonia relatives and Susan Glenn, his niece, attended.

"Nashville's Burbank" referred to Luther Burbank (1849–1926), considered the father of modern plant breeding.

16. *Gastonia Gazette*, January 12, 13, 1951.

17. He was a member of Who's Who in America and American Men of Science at his death; Alberstadt, *From Top to Bottom*, 124–125; "Glenn Genealogy," 26; Jewell and Wilson, "Memorial to Leonidas Chalmers Glenn," 103. The memorial was published in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*, the *American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin*, and the *Geological Society of America Proceedings*.

18. These items make up Collection Number 03052, L. C. Glenn Papers, 1752–1927. James W. Patton to Elizabeth Williamson Dixon, July 22, 1954, Glenn Foundation. Information crediting the DAR is dated 1953; there seems to be no explanation for a donation made in 1954.

19. Invitation to Membership, Delta Kappa Gamma Society, April 24, 1946, Glenn Foundation; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, May 2, 1949, 398. Had Carrie not extended her tenure, stories by her pupils could not have been told.

20. Today, they are Susan Cooper Cox, Loretta Forbes, and Alice Braddy. Susan and Loretta became teachers, and Alice worked at the *Gaston Gazette* for twenty-three years.

21. Loretta Spurlin Forbes donated copies of this letter, her third-grade report card, and a work sheet to the Glenn Foundation. Loretta Spurlin Forbes, conversation with author, February 14, 2014; Susan McGinnis Cooper, conversation with author, January 19, 2013; Alice Braddy, conversation with author, May 15, 2015.

22. Dr. Michael C. Blackwell, email to author, April 27, 2018. Blackwell has special memories of Carrie, who kept up with him for many years, even in retirement. Michael C. Blackwell to Caroline H. Garrison, March 28, 1994, Glenn Foundation; Michael Blackwell, email to author, April 27, 2018.

23. Carrie spent forty-three years in two school systems, plus two years at George Peabody; Minutes, Gaston County Board of Education, April 3, 1950, 406; May 7, 1951, 415. When the beloved Flint-Groves Elementary School principal R. K. Hancock retired, Flint-Groves Elementary School was renamed R. K. Hancock Elementary School; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38648813>; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018.

24. Lena did not leave a comparable record, but did write about a vacation to New York City and environs; Miss Lena Glenn to Miss Tommie Lee Barker, December 1951, Rose Library.

25. Lena Glenn to Tommie Dora Barker, December 1951, Rose Library. According to Carrie, Lena stayed in the cast for five and a half months, from August 30, 1953, until February 10, 1954. Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," August 30, 1953, February 10, 1954.

26. B. Frank Matthews II, conversation with author, February 9, 2014. Frank heard this story from Allen Sims. Their contribution would be worth about \$117 in 2020 dollars. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, April 30, 1959.

27. Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," January 4, 1955; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 295; *Lincoln County News*, January 10, 1955.

28. The book inscription states: "Published in 1947 by Mr. W. W. Glenn, Elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton, NC, and son of Mr. W. D. Glenn,

Elder in Olney Church and a pioneer of the Pleasant Ridge section of Gaston County"; Tate, *History of Olney Presbyterian Church*, 4.

29. Martha Abernethy Thompson, conversation with author, April 23, 2018.

30. Ibid. When Martha was older, she remembered her grandmother's horror at seeing Jackie Kennedy's knees exposed when the president's wife was seated in a shorter skirt during a television interview.

31. Ibid.; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, May 5, 2016.

32. Surgery occurred December 3; Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," December 7, 1955; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, April 27, 2018; Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 354, contains a version of this story.

33. Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," November 21, 1954.

34. Ibid. Gertrude visited on January 2, 1955; *Lincoln County News*, January 20, 1955. Those from Gastonia included Charlie Bryant, Ed Adams, Dr. Ernest Williams, A. G. Myers Sr., Allen Sims, White Ware, and Joseph J. Moore, along with Henry Rhyne of Mount Holly.

35. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 354; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, April 27, 2018.

36. The name changed to Ti-Caro in 1978. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 373, 413, 437.

Chapter 24: 1952–1961

1. She probably derived as much pleasure from saving the cost of buying a calendar as she did in renewing a three-year subscription to *Newsweek* magazine for the cost of two years. She wrote, "Renewed Newsweek for 3 yrs. Sent check for \$12.00, (saving \$6.00). Cost for 1 yr. = \$6.00"; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, June 4, 1959; David Glenn Thompson gave the Glenn Foundation Carrie's "Dates to Remember"

along with other correspondence, in 2018. Maintenance workers at the Presbyterian Home found Carrie's 1959 diary in her room after her death in 1977, and turned it over to executive director Betty Hayes. Today, a resident herself, Hayes preserved the diary and donated it to the Glenn Foundation on March 1, 2017, after learning that the story of the Glenn family was being written. Its contents provided a valuable addition to the sisters' retirement story. Carrie's other notations about current events included the death of King George of England in 1952; the Supreme Court's decision abolishing segregation in 1954; discovery of the Salk polio vaccine; completion of a thirty-six-inch pipeline from the Catawba River for Gastonia's water supply; completion of the new Methodist church on Franklin Boulevard; new Gaston County jail and remodeled 1911 courthouse, all in 1955; election of Dallas, North Carolina, native William Friday as president of the University of North Carolina system in 1956; and the March 1957 opening of the new Gaston County Health Center. Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," 1952; May 12, 1955; January 5, 1956; March 8, 1957.

2. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, January 15, 17, February 10, 19, March 18, April 15, 30, May 24, November 17, 1959; On February 27, she wryly noted that an examination of a break in the Atlantic cable indicated that a Russian "fishing" (her emphasis) trawler may have been the cause.

3. Nutty fingers were one of Carrie's specialties, something she made often with Lena or cousin Margaret, a decadent concoction of butter, confectioner's sugar, and chopped pecans, rolled into finger shapes and baked. Lena Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, November 13, 1957; Carrie Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, May 7, 1959, Glenn Foundation.

4. Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

5. Lena Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, July 11, 1958, Glenn Foundation.

6. Lena Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, November 13, 1957, Glenn Foundation.

7. Today, the stucco house, which they called the Wilson house, sits on property owned by First ARP Church. Anne Whitesides Alexander's husband, Jack, of Whitesides & Co., insured this home for Carrie and Lena; Anne Whitesides Alexander, conversation with author, January 22, 2002. It was rented to a Mr. and Mrs. Garlington in 1959; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, February 5, 7, 1959.

8. They worked on taxes in the first three months of the year and submitted them well before April 15. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, January 20, February 6, June 6, July 2, 8, 1959.

9. Carrie and Lena made major improvements to Martha's house in 1959, installing a new roof, replacing the front and back porches and some siding, and giving the exterior a new coat of paint, at a cost of \$192; *ibid.*, February 5, July 10, 1959. The Piedmont News Stand sat on one of four parcels Will and Mayme purchased for \$51,000 in 1945 on the east side of the Citizens National Bank building, and generated \$30 a month in rent to each sister; Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 446, September 6, 1944, 188; Book 466, July 26, 1945, 128.

10. Dan Boyd, niece Sarah's husband, was developing the property; Carrie and Gertrude owned half the lots, and Lena and Gertrude the other half; James F. Love III (Grier Love's great-great-grandson), conversation with author, November 11, 2018; Lena Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, November 13, 1957, Glenn Foundation. In 1959, Carrie and Lena sold some lots to W. B. Garrison for \$26,000,

net the cost of installing water and sewer and moving several houses to make way for the lines.

11. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, January 16, June 10, 27, July 11, 16, 1959.

12. Ibid., January 11, 12, 25, February 1, 8, 1959.

13. On her 75th birthday, April 24, 1959, Carrie celebrated by cooking vegetable soup, meat loaf, beans, muffins, a rhubarb pie, a pecan pie, and biscuits. She often froze meal-size portions of soup, meats, and vegetables to make dinner a simple matter. Ibid., May 7, 1959; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002; email, Robert Ray Glenn Jr., to author, April 11, 2019; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

14. The election drew the largest number of voters in years; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 15, 1960; Lucy Penegar, text with author, February 20, 2020. Carrie noted the name change to the Woman's Club in 1912, when it was federated; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, February 28, March 7, 15, April 22, May 10, 1959.

15. Gertrude did not seem to get important mail at her boardinghouse in New York City, but relied on Carrie to gather at South Chester Street and forward it; *ibid.*, January 14, 22, February 2, May 11, June 21, 23, 1959.

16. Ibid., January 12, 21, 23, 24, 1959. Unfortunately, that letter has not survived. She recalled in her diary that Jenny's grandmother, Priscilla Ruth Wilson Holland, and her own grandmother, Sarah Ann Wilson Torrence, were sisters, born and reared in that impressive house.

17. Ibid., March 31, May 12, 13, 23, June 1, 11, 12, 16, 18, 25, 26, 1959.

18. In preparation for the following winter, they purchased a Ziegler stove to

heat the dining room and the south side of the house; *ibid.*, January 17, 26, 28, February 17, 19, October 27, 1959; Anne Whitesides Alexander, conversation with author, January 22, 2002.

19. Ibid., March 13, 31, April 9, 17, May 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 23, June 3, 8, 1959; Edith Short Sisk, conversation with author, February 21, 2018.

20. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, April 7, 1959.

21. Elizabeth had served since 1946. Ibid., August 29, September 4, September 30, October 26, 29, November 11, 1959; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 173. Carrie likely inherited a genetic disposition for glaucoma through the Wilson line. Sarah and William Joseph Wilson's daughter had poor eyesight, and her grandmother's sister, Polly Wilson Torrence, was blind from glaucoma in old age. Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020.

22. Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, April 5, 7, November 3, 14, 1959; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002.

23. Ibid., November 11, 25, 26, December 4, 10, 17, 19, 23, 1959. Carrie would *not* have added rum to the fruitcake!

24. Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," January 4, 1960, September 13, 16, 28, October 6, 1961.

25. Copies of Lena and Gertrude's trust documents are not preserved, and the provisions are not known. The assumption is that Lena's estate plans mirrored Carrie's; J. David Wright Jr., conversation with author, October 30, 2013. Carrie's document was amended on December 8, 1961, a week before the move to High Point; Carrie E. Glenn Trust, August 31, 1971, 1. Tete Pearson, who joined the bank in 1953 and would succeed Allen Sims as bank president, remembered that Carrie

and Lena each had extensive assets when they established their trusts; Tete Pearson, conversation with author, September 8, 2016; Carrie Glenn, “Dates to Remember,” October 24, November 6, 1961.

26. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, August 22, 2014.

27. “Inventories for Apartment #16, Presbyterian Home, High Point, NC, as of August 1, 1971”; Carrie Glenn to Marie Torrence Lattimore, June 20, 1962, Glenn Foundation.

28. Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002; Carrie Glenn, “Inventories for Apartment #16, Presbyterian Home, High Point, NC, as of August 1, 1971.”

29. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002; Mary Glenn Thompson, interview with author, February 6, 2002.

30. The trust department sold the Glenn home to Invesco, a local company. Two years later, Invesco conveyed it to a couple before it was torn down. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 802, January 4, 1962, 318; Deed Book 854, January 10, 1964, 318.

31. David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, August 23, 2014. He never needed to show the pass, since the crews knew him well. Mitchell, “L. N. Glenn is 84—Now Retired,” *Gastonia Gazette*, September 28, 1957.

32. Atkins, “Col. Gaston Gossips,” *Gastonia (NC) Gazette*, December 7, 1955; Lena Glenn to Gertrude Glenn, November 13, 1957, Glenn Foundation.

33. Jimmy and Alice Thompson, conversation with author, January 20, 2015.

34. Williams, “Dr. Lucius N. Glenn, A Solid Citizen.” Johnny Davidson worked at Five Points Grill on weekends as a teenager and saw Dr. Lush on his frequent visits. One of Johnny’s lasting memories of

Lucius was seeing him flicking butter off his plate if a cafeteria worker served it. A *Gazette* editorial about Dr. Lush speculated that the doctor did not eat butter because he knew its harmful effects, but those in the know understood that Lucius remembered what fell into the bucket at milking time. Mitchell, “L. N. Glenn is 84, Now Retired,” *Gastonia Gazette*, September 28, 1957; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, February 22, 1959.

35. Johnny Davidson, conversation with author, February 7, 2014.

36. In the 1930s, when he was in his 60s, Lucius and Major Gibbons had dug out the basement of the house on South Chester Street in order to install a furnace. B. Frank Matthews II, conversation with author, February 9, 2014; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018, February 25, 2020; Carrie Glenn’s Diary, March 28, 1959; Robert Ray “Bob” Glenn Jr., email to author, April 11, 2019.

37. He traveled with a group of savings and loan executives who held a meeting aboard the ship; Carrie Glenn 1959 Diary, March 28, April 23, July 11, 1959. Lucius obtained a pass for Bobby. The late Jean Stewart and her family sat in front of Lucius at church and witnessed the cracking of the pecans! Jean Stewart, email to author, August 8, 2018.

38. Ragan, *Textile Heritage*, 354.

39. *Gastonia Gazette*, November 30, 1964.

Chapter 25: 1961–1972

1. Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 3, 2020; in the inventory of the furnishings in their apartment when they moved to the main building in 1971, the sisters noted that the television was to be returned to Jay. Inventories for Apartment #16, Presbyterian Home, NC, as of August 1, 1971.

2. Lena's Record, Carrie Glenn, "Dates to Remember," 1963; Directory, Class of 1911, Normal and Industrial College for Girls, 4; <https://www.findagravememorial/108744114/mary-glenn>. Mayme died at the Asbury Center skilled nursing center after suffering a stroke; David G. Thompson, email to author, April 5, 2018.

3. Mary Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 20, 2020.

4. When Carrie made the room-by-room inventory, she noted the provenance of many furniture pieces; Inventories for Apartment #16, Presbyterian Home, NC, as of August 1, 1971; Jay Glenn, conversation with author, July 11, 2018; Mary Downs Rankin Routh, conversation with author, February 20, 2020.

5. George C. Winecoff III, conversation with author, spring 2000; November 12, 2013. George worked for the bank from 1969 to 1974, when he left to join his uncle's George A. Jenkins Insurance Agency.

6. Ibid.

7. The owner was F. M. Francum. Today it is an assisted living center called Heritage Oaks, 916 S. Marietta Street, operated by Lutheran Family Services.

8. After World War II, Jick Garland completed law school, served one term in the state legislature beginning in 1949, married, had four children, was an active member of the Rotary Club of Gastonia, and served as Rotary District governor in 1966–67. A respected member of the legal profession, he would become Gastonia's first five-term mayor, surpassing his father's three terms in the 1940s; Ragan, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 637; files of the Rotary Club of Gastonia; *Gaston Gazette*, November 30, 2002. George Winecoff felt that Jick had to bring the sisters through a learning curve to famil-

iarize them with the nature of a charitable foundation. It is likely that he shaped the tone of the final document as he explored his vision with the sisters. George C. Winecoff III, conversation with author, spring 2000.

9. Independence National Bank, Trustee, Under Agreement with Carrie E. Glenn, December 30, 1977, 7.

10. Trust Indenture, The Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, Article I, Section 1.1, 1; George C. Winecoff III, conversation with author, spring 2000.

11. Trust Indenture, Article V, Section 5.1, 4; 5.2, 4; Church Register of the First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, North Carolina, Book 3, 48.

12. Powell, *North Carolina Lives*, 1064–1065; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 9, 90; *Gaston Gazette*, December 10, 2014; *Gastonia Gazette*, July 7, 1968, February 14, 1970; Judy Miller, conversation with author, June 2014; *Gaston Gazette*, March 13, 2016; Hugh Bryant, conversation with author, October 29, 2013.

13. R. N. Rosebro to the Trustees of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, March 15, 1972, Glenn Foundation; Jick Garland, conversation with author, June 18, 2002.

14. With these proceeds, the trust department opened a savings account to operate the foundation; Trust Indenture, Article II. Section 2.1, 1; Exhibit "A." Handwritten documentation dated August 1985 confirms the existence of the Lena V. Glenn Trust; Gertrude Glenn's trust is mentioned in a letter from Charles L. Myers to Hugh Bryant, February 23, 1978, Glenn Foundation.

15. Carrie E. Glenn Trust, 5. (c) 3.

16. Ibid., 5. (b) 2; *Independence National Bank v. Lena V. Glenn, May Gertrude Glenn et al., Respondents*, December 29, 1978. Gertrude's will could not be found after

her death, necessitating Susan Love Glenn to complete an affidavit. Susan served as administratrix; Administration of the Estate of May Gertrude Glenn, January 31, 1986. Carrie executed her personal trust on August 31, 1971, the day after she signed the paperwork establishing the foundation, and Lena almost certainly executed her document on the same day. The assets that transferred to Carrie's restated trust included thirteen municipal bonds, two United States treasury bonds, stocks in twenty-eight different local and national companies, money in savings and loans in Belmont, Gastonia, and Mount Holly; some real estate, including thirteen lots in the Love Heights subdivision owned jointly with Gertrude, and the Piedmont News Stand, owned jointly with both her sisters; Carrie E. Glenn Trust Assets, Appendix "A," August 31, 1971.

17. Charles L. Myers to Hugh Bryant, November 29, 1977, Glenn Foundation.

18. The amount of their contribution would not be known in Gastonia until 2017; Marissa Ray, email to author, 2017.

19. No copy of Rosebro's letter remains, only Carrie and Lena's reply of December 7, 1971. Rosebro filed this letter in his office at the trust department, but it was not discovered until late 1984, and presented to the trustees at their meeting on January 30, 1985. After reading the letter, the trustees voted to incorporate it as an official document of the foundation, along with the trust indenture. Today, the letter is framed and hangs in the Glenn Foundation's office; Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, January 30, 1985, Glenn Foundation.

20. James G. Stuart to H. William Palmer, September 16, 1976, Glenn Foundation. Several family foundations and private independent foundations had been established already in Gaston County, and the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn

Foundation joined their ranks. The name sounds like one for a family foundation, but it is not. In his letter of invitation, Rosebro informed the board that the bank, as corporate fiduciary, had sold the low-yielding municipal bonds Carrie and Lena had tendered the previous fall, since tax-exempt bonds provided no benefit inside a charitable foundation. The bank planned to invest the proceeds in its Common Trust Fixed Income Fund, a proprietary mutual fund, at the next entry date in May.

21. Even though Lena's letter of December 7, 1971, Glenn Foundation, discouraged loans, Garland added that classification; Trust Indenture, Article III, Section 3.1, 2.

22. The Community Foundation of Gaston County was not organized until 1978. It is now the Gaston Community Foundation. Trust Indenture, Article III, Section 3.2, 2-3.

23. Barbara H. Voorhees to Paul Baldasare, October 23, 2002, Glenn Foundation; Rosebro, Outline, Trust Indenture; George C. Winecoff III to James B. Garland, April 26, 1972, Glenn Foundation.

24. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, September 12, 1972; Hugh F. Bryant to Dr. Charles A. Glenn, September 15, 1972, Glenn Foundation.

25. Fannie Zeigler to Carrie Glenn and Lena Glenn, September 14, 1975, Glenn Foundation. Dr. Woodrow B. Sugg was serving as the second president of the college; Julia P. Allen, email to author, November 30, 2018. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, October 17, 1972.

Chapter 26: 1973-1985

1. Carrie and Lena Glenn to Rev. James G. Stuart, March 28, 1973, Glenn Foundation.

2. Her funeral service was held at Finley Dorris and Charlton Funeral Home; *Nashville Tennessean*, 1974.

3. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, August 19, 1975; Hugh F. Bryant to Charles A. Glenn, MD, October 13, 1975, Glenn Foundation; *Gastonia Gazette*, February 14, 1970.

4. Lena Glenn to Hugh F. Bryant, August 23, 1975, Glenn Foundation.

5. H. William Palmer filled Bob's unexpired term. Since so little is known about May Gertrude Glenn, Bill's insights were welcome. Bill Palmer, conversation with author, December 3, 2014.

6. The state retirement fund paid her trust \$304.89 a month; Piedmont News Stand paid her trust \$30 a month. Her trust continued to pay the monthly fee at the home, which had grown to \$375 by 1977. Carrie E. Glenn Trust, December 30, 1977, 10, 14, 23, 27.

7. Mary Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 6, 2002; *Gastonia Gazette*, October 31, 1977; Ellis, *A Christian Witness*, 99.

8. Charles D. McIver to Mr. W. D. Glenn, March 28, 1905, McIver Records, UNC-Greensboro.

9. Tete Pearson, conversation with author, September 8, 2016; Ragan, *Gastonia*, 529; Hugh F. Bryant to Misses Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn, June 15, 1977, Glenn Foundation. Carrie's last will and testament, executed on September 1, 1971, was probated on November 11, 1977. The bank established an administrative savings account of \$20,000 to handle estate expenses. Because of Charlie Myers's decision, records of the Carrie E. Glenn Trust are found at the Glenn Foundation office today, and help explain how Carrie's assets grew.

10. Charles L. Myers to Hugh F. Bryant, November 29, 1977, Glenn Foundation.

11. Independence National Bank, Trustee, Carrie E. Glenn Trust, December

30, 1977, 5; David Glenn Thompson, conversation with author, February 2, 2002.

12. Charlie Myers met with several family members more than once, and he and senior trust officer Hugh McArver also talked with Susan and Sarah in Lincolnton; Charles L. Myers to Hugh F. Bryant, November 29, 1977, Glenn Foundation.

13. Susan Love Glenn to Mr. Charles L. Myers, December 4, 1977, Glenn Foundation. In 1992, 2002, and 2009, the Boyd family made overtures to have a member of the family serve on the board, but since Charlie Glenn's resignation in 1975, no family member has served.

14. Martha Eddins to Daniel M. Boyd, May 14, 2009, Glenn Foundation.

15. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, January 10, 1978.

16. The amended document called for separate administration of the specific legacy trust and a charitable remainder Unitrust; *Independence National Bank vs. Lena V. Glenn, May Gertrude Glenn et al.*, December 29, 1978. A new attorney, Julia M. Shovelin, who later chaired the Glenn Foundation board, worked on this petition when she started her career in practice with Jick Garland.

17. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, August 29, 1979, January 30, 1985.

18. *Ibid.*, April 30, 1980, January 30, 1985; Charles L. Myers to Hugh Bryant, February 4, 1980, Glenn Foundation.

19. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, April 30, 1980; Charles L. Myers to Hugh Bryant, February 23, 1978, February 4, 1980, Glenn Foundation; Income Cash Disbursements, Independence National Bank, Trustee for the Carrie E. Glenn Trust, November 1, 1978–October 31, 1979, 2. Carrie carried policies with New York Life Insurance Company and Equitable

Life Insurance Company, although the amounts are unknown.

20. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, July 15, 1981, September 29, 1982. Attorney and trust officer Sefton Stevens joined the board as Myers's successor. He was a graduate of Davidson College and the University of North Carolina School of Law.

21. Statement of Assets, Independence National Bank, Trustee Under Agreement with Carrie E. Glenn, December 30, 1977, 3; Schedule of Assets, Independence National Bank, Trustee, Carrie E. Glenn Trust, October 31, 1979.

22. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, September 29, 1982, September 21, 1983, January 1, 1984, January 15, 1986.

23. Ibid., January 18, 1984, January 30, 1985; Memorandum, Hugh Bryant to Judy Miller and Geraldine Johnston, August 4, 1984, Glenn Foundation. The foundation's 2015–16 Annual Report reprinted her short history.

24. *Gastonia Gazette*, January 26, 1984.

25. Ibid., July 18, 1985. These three Glenn sisters lived unusually long lives, Carrie to 93, Lena to 97, and Gertrude to 96. Future trustee and board chairman Alex Hall once playfully remarked that their longevity could be attributed to the fact that they never married and so had no husbands to irritate them and complicate their lives. Barbara Voorhees, memo to trustees, June 2000.

26. Hugh Bryant, memo to the Board of Trustees, August 27, 1985; BB&T Trust Division, Trustee Under Agreement with Carrie E. Glenn, 11/01/85–03/11/86; J. David Wright Jr., to Hugh Bryant, January 2, 1986, Glenn Foundation.

27. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, April 3, 1986.

28. Mary Glenn Thompson, conversa-

tion with author, February 6, 2002; Susan Love Glenn to Judy Miller, October 30, 1986, Glenn Foundation.

29. Carrie and Lena Glenn to Rev. James G. Stuart, March 28, 1973, Glenn Foundation.

Chapter 27: 1986–1987

1. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, April 30, 1980, made the first reference to opening a meeting with prayer.

2. Payments continued unchanged until 2013, when the board voted to eliminate them. Ibid., February 20, 2013.

3. Bill Bondurant held an undergraduate degree from Davidson College, a law degree from Duke University, and had considerable experience in foundation work. Memorandum, Hugh Bryant to Trustees, November 26, 1985, Glenn Foundation.

4. BB&T Corporate Fiduciary of the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation, Statement of Assets, February 28, March 10, 1986; Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, April 3, 1986. Bryant and Miller eventually delivered the pin to Susan Love Glenn in Lincolnton.

5. Draft application form following Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, April 3, 1986.

6. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, January 15, 1986.

7. Ibid., April 3, November 19, 1986.

8. Ibid., April 3, 1986.

9. C. Penn Craver Jr., to Craig M. Fielding, April 24, 1986, Glenn Foundation.

10. Glenn Foundation Brochure; Glenn Foundation minute book, 1972–1986; minutes, Glenn Foundation board of trustees meeting and attachments, August 14, 1986.

11. Glenn Foundation Scrapbook #1; *Gastonia Gazette*, fall 1986; *Gaston Neighbors*, September 28, 1986; minutes, Glenn

Foundation Board meeting, November 19, 1986.

12. Minutes, Glenn Foundation Board, May 7, 1987.

13. Ibid., May 10, 1988.

14. This donation was paid to the Garrison Foundation because the Gaston County Education Foundation had not been established. Ibid., January 20, 1988; Ernest W. Sumner, email to author, December 13, 2016; *Gastonia Gazette*, April 6, 1988. To continue the Garrison legacy, the

pool of unrestricted money at the Gaston Community Foundation today is called the Garrison Fund.

15. *Gastonia Gazette*, July 10, 1987.

16. *Gaston Neighbors*, July 1987; *Gaston Observer*, July 8, 1987; *Charlotte Observer*, July 9, 1987.

17. Carrie and Lena Glenn to Rev. James G. Stuart, March 28, 1973, Glenn Foundation.

18. Public relations specialist Chris Jensen provided the tag line.

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*O*ur father was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian Church until his death in 1911. He had a large family, and we were brought up to work and save and spend only what was necessary; for one never knows what his future needs might be. He never accumulated much money but spent most that he had trying to educate his children. He said that if he left them money or property, somebody could take it from them, or they could run through it themselves and have nothing; but if he gave them an education, nobody could take that and with the education they should be able to take care of themselves. He sent all ten of them to college. One died at college in his sophomore year, but the others all finished and all did take care of themselves.

—*Carrie Glenn and Lena Glenn, 1973*