

Thomas and Lillian Reynolds

Side 1:

[1/1] Thomas tells story of his [great?] grandfather Abraham who settled in Bent Creek in 1797 - near the arboretum. He had 12 children and 7 of them had children. His father was born in Sandy Mush. [Abraham Reynolds, Alonzo Carleton (A.C.) Reynolds]

[1/22] He tells the story of naming Sandy Mush, Hominy Creek, New Found Creek and Turkey Creek. [Forster A. Sondley, Mitzi Tessier]

[1/30] His father was born in 1870, had 4 sisters who were older and later 2 brothers. His [grand]father lost his right hand in the Civil War and on return studied medical books and became a country doctor. [A.C. Reynolds, Abraham Reynolds]

[1/58] When he was 6 years old, his father went to school with his older sisters, loved school, became the teacher's pet and at age 19 taught 80 pupils in one room school house. [A.C. Reynolds]

[1/79] His father went to Weaver College which gave a master's degree and was run by the Methodists. There are still two or three buildings still standing. [A.C. Reynolds]

[1/93] In 1935 Weaver College was consolidated with Rutherford College and later became Brevard College. He later went to Peabody College in Nashville. In 1895 he got a L.I. (Life Instructor degree) which meant he could teach any subject for life. His mother received an L.I. degree also. Two years later his father got an A.B. degree. In 1900 he became assistant principal at Rutherford and several years later became principal. He became county superintendent for Buncombe county in 1905. At that time there were 104 one-or-two-room schools in the county and 117 school districts. Thirteen districts didn't have any schools at all. There were no high schools. He drove all over the county in his horse and buggy trying to get support for schools. The family lived in West Asheville. There were nine children, Tom was the youngest. [A.C. Reynolds]

[1/166] In 1912 he was asked to go to Cullowhee Normal Industrial Institute and became second president of what is now Western Carolina University. Tom was born there in 1919. First president, Madison, in 1889, asked for funds to start normal schools. There were no college-level courses. [A.C. Reynolds, Mr. Madison]

[1/216] His father bought land in McDowell County. He tried to set up a saw mill but went broke and went to Woodfin to teach. The next year he was county superintendent in Haywood County and in 1926 he became superintendent of Buncombe County schools. [A.C. Reynolds]

[1/244] He and the Biltmore School Committee worked to get a college started. (See newspaper articles - Xerox re beginning). [A.C. Reynolds, T.M. Howerton, L.D. Maney, D.S. Roberts, J. Henry Highsmith (no relation to William Highsmith)]

[1/316] After graduation Tom went to Biltmore College. His father left his job as county superintendent and, on a vastly reduced salary, worked with the college so it wouldn't fail. Tom was not able to go to Duke so worked with his father as an instructor. In 1936 his father took a job as principal in Barnardsville, NC so he could send Tom to Duke.

[1/390] In 1942 Tom went into the Navy in radar engineering. He was sent to Harvard and MIT and then to Brazil. He taught at Duke for 2 years, got his PhD and taught another 2 years. He was Director of Instruction of Buncombe County schools for 4 years then back to Duke until 1971.

[1/421] When he came back to Asheville on visits he saw changes. The college had rough times. With the 1929 crash the college could no longer be supported by the county. Tuition of about \$100 a year.

[1/440] The city of Asheville started a college in 1928 (City College of Asheville) in Lee Edwards High School [called at that time Asheville High School] building. Some wanted to combine 2 schools and name Asheville College. The Biltmore students rejected this, which would leave the county out. One problem was in finding a building to house both groups. The city dropped out. The Buncombe County Jr. College was first public college east of the Mississippi.

[1/492] There was no A-B Tech at that time.

[1/499] Appalachian State, Cullowhee and Buncombe County Jr. College were in competition.

[1/525] There was no relationship with people who had started the college - "we weren't considered much at all." [William Highsmith]

[1/570] He was Director of Instruction for 4 supervisors in the county. Lucy Herring was [Jeanes] Supervisor [program named for Anna T. Jeanes, a Quaker from Philadelphia] for city and county. His field at Duke was in math science education and he worked for one year with the math science education in Washington and for 13 summers was director of summer institute for high school teachers at Duke. [Lucy Herring, Dr. Paul Gross]

Side 2:

[2/1] As Director of Instruction at Duke he was interested in bringing black educators. The institute at Duke gave teachers more training in subject matter. When Sputnik went up in Russia, Congress became excited and courses were given all over the country for teachers in math, physics, chemistry, etc. He wrote a letter for Eisenhower to sign about the importance of this. He did not sign it. Teachers were given \$135 a month plus \$15 for each dependent and in 9 semesters could earn a master's degree. [Dwight D. Eisenhower]

[2/45] He was in Asheville for 1949-53. His father died at age 83 in 1953. He kept encouraging him to get a PhD. Biltmore was still a Jr. College when he [A. C. Reynolds] died but had aspirations of its reaching a university level. [A. C. Reynolds]

[2/62] When Tom was 16 he got a job running a concession at Rec. Park. He asked Weir for a job as manager of Malvern Hills swimming pool, as he had been swimming at Rec. Park for 4 years. Weir was a powerful man and did a lot for the city. [He met his wife on a bus - they discuss this.] [Weldon Weir, Richard C. Torian]

[2/140] There is a brick by the front door of his house. It had been manufactured by William Reynolds and was one torn up when Brick Street was repaved. [Abraham Reynolds, Joseph Page, William Reynolds, J.Y. Joyner]

[2/174] Lillian Reynolds grew up in Candler, graduated from Biltmore College in 1935 and then went to UNC-Greensboro. They were married in 1942. She tells the story of her family history - (see enclosure from old Buncombe County Heritage Vol. II 1987 #419 and #420. There are also many references to the Reynolds family in both volumes I and II.) [Lillian Osborne, Tom Osborne]

[2/207] Tom discusses the Tourists team (Leo said his store supplied their first uniforms). He played basketball for Biltmore College. [Leo Finkelstein]

[2/222] He discusses the Hendersonville school which is now the sheriff's office.

[2/234] The Reynolds settled in Black Mountain when they returned from Duke. Their oldest daughter picked out the spot and her (former) husband, a contractor, built the house. She now works at the Peppers Restaurant in Black Mountain. Their second daughter is married to an artist. They live in N.Y. but are now in Paris. Cathy, the youngest daughter, is temporarily living in Switzerland. [John Nilson, Becky Nilson, Susan Shelton, Donald Shelton, Frances and Kim (granddaughters), Cathy Reynolds]

[2/264] The Reynolds have a Real Estate business. The office was on Cherry Street but they've moved it back to the house. They think that, with a new president, business will pick up. [Bill Clinton]

[2/284] People move to Black Mountain to retire. There are many summer people and groups drawn because of religious meetings. The area is known for the arts - music - dancing and sports. [Billy Graham, Dean Smith, Mitzi Tessier]