

Frank Pearson Riggs and Mary Holsomback Riggs

Frank Pearson Riggs (1897-1946) was born in the Hightower Community to Preston D. Riggs (1867-1936) and Lessie Smith Riggs (1869-1942). Preston is the son of John R. Riggs (1848-1923) and Rebecca Stephens Riggs (1843-1911) who were married in Caswell County on December 10, 1855. Lessie Smith Riggs is the daughter of Jeremiah Smith (called Jere) and Mary Ann Rudd who married in Caswell County on December 27, 1855. Preston and Lessie were members of the Hebron Methodist Church and are buried there. A stained glass window in the back of the church dedicated to Preston, Lessie and F. P. Frank P., Mary, and their children, Coleman and Musette, are also buried at Hebron.



As a young man, Frank P. Riggs, contracted a disease called “Black Leg”, and the local doctors wanted to amputate his leg. Preston Riggs heard of a doctor in Hurdle Mills named Dr. Joseph Ira Coleman and decided to take Frank P. to see him. They made the trip by horse and buggy from Hightower to Hurdle Mills to see Dr. Coleman. Frank P. told the doctor that if he cured him that he would name his first male child after him, hence, Frank P. was cured and named his first male child Frank Coleman Riggs. Frank C. also passed the Coleman name on to his son Larry, and Larry on to his son Larry.

Frank P. Riggs married Mary Bethel Holsomback (1902-1986) of Person County on July 1, 1922 at the Methodist Parsonage in Leasburg. Mary is the daughter of George Washington Holsomback (1839-1916) and Martha Anne Stadler (1878-1913). George and Martha lived on the homeplace in the Olive Hill section of Person County behind the Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church near Leasburg. Both George and Martha are buried at Ebenezer. George is the son of Henry Holsomback and Nancy Grant Holsomback that were married in Person County on November 21, 1823. Martha is the daughter of Robert Dickey Stadler and Mary Reid that were married in Caswell County on August 1, 1871. Frank P.’s older brother Massey married Mary’s older sister Ruby on December 26, 1920

in Mebane. Ruby and Massey lived on Corbett Ridge Road. Massey and Ruby are also buried at Hebron.

After their father George died in 1916, Mary and her sister Ruby were sent to live with relatives in Caswell County on Corbett Ridge Road, Calvin and Nannie Harris Moore. Mary's three younger brothers, Jim, Jack and Ben were sent to the Methodist Orphanage (not the Oxford Orphanage as previously reported) in Raleigh until they turned 18. The Calvin Moore home was located close to the Riggs home place.

Frank P. and Mary lived in the Hightower community, near the current intersection of Highway's 119 and 86, after they were married and where their two children were born, Elizabeth Musette Riggs (1923-1960), who married David Connally Winstead, and Frank Coleman Riggs (1925-2003) who married



Pauline Harris. Frank P. and Mary purchased land in Prospect Hill in 1927 and built a home and a service station directly below the old Prospect Hill High School. F. P. ran for County Commissioner in 1942 and had an advertisement in the 1942 Prospect High School graduation program. Frank P. died in 1946 and the family ran the service station until the late 1950's. The house still stands today (2005) on Hwy. 86, the service station is long torn down.

For more information on this family, see Caswell County Heritage Volume 1, stories # 602 and 680.

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