

350 JOHN AND MARY STEWART CALHOUN

John Caldwell Calhoun was born March 16, 1912, the youngest of six sons born to Lawrence and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gibson Calhoun. The family lived in southern Scotland County, five miles west of Laurinburg along Gum Swamp, where Lawrence farmed the land that he owned.

John was taught by his mother early in his school career while his brothers attended Oaklawn School, a one-room schoolhouse. In time John enrolled at Central School in Laurinburg and rode in a horse-drawn buggy to school with his brothers, Glenn and Archie. Before graduation from high school, John drove a bus for his school.

John enrolled at Davidson College in the fall of 1929, continuing a family tradition. He was the sixth Calhoun brother to occupy Room #12 in Rump Hall, covering seventeen years of consecutive occupancy. Each of the Calhoun brothers entered either the field of education or the ministry. John graduated with a degree in psychology in 1933, but education became his chosen vocation.

In 1935, John and several of his brothers attended summer conference at Flora Macdonald College as youth counselors. There he met Mary Stewart McGoogan from nearby St. Pauls. Mary Stewart was a high school senior who served as musical accompanist for the conference. John and his brothers sang as a quartet there and at other events.

After graduating from Davidson, John returned to Scotland County to serve in Maxton as a teacher and in Gibson as teacher, principal, and superintendent. John and Mary Stewart began dating during her senior year at Brenau College in 1939. Mary Stewart graduated with a degree in music and remained one year at Brenau to teach in the junior conservatory and serve as piano accompanist. Thanks to hearing of a job opportunity through John's brother, Glenn, Mary Stewart went to Barium Springs, NC, and taught 2nd grade and music at the orphanage from 1941-43.

John was at home in Laurinburg on December 7, 1941, when he heard on the radio about the attack on Pearl Harbor. John entered the army in the summer of 1942 and graduated from Officers' Candidate School as a 2nd Lieutenant.

While on leave, John and Mary Stewart were married on December 18, 1943, at her home in St. Pauls. John's older brother, Malcolm, an ordained Presbyterian minister, performed the ceremony. Mary Stewart had been teaching public school music in Lumberton and playing the organ at a local church. Over the next two years, they were to travel together as a couple wherever John was stationed, from



Mary Stewart and John Calhoun, 1943

Wilmington to Louisiana to Texas. During Christmas leave in 1945, John received the wonderful news from his brother, Glenn, a captain at an army staging area in New York, that the war was over.

In 1946, John and Mary Stewart moved to China Grove, NC, where John was an elementary school principal. Mary Stewart taught piano students and directed a church choir. In November 1947, their first child, Mary Bowman, was born.

In 1950, the couple moved to Laurinburg and built a home on the family land. Within a few weeks their second child, John, Jr., was born. John taught math at Laurinburg High School for two years before becoming principal of East Laurinburg School. From 1953-55, Mary Stewart directed the choirs at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. John earned his Master's degree from UNC in 1964 and became principal of Central School in 1966, after Miss Kate McIntyre's retirement. Mary Stewart taught elementary school at Central and then North Laurinburg Elementary, becoming the media specialist there. These years were full of school work and focusing on the children's activities—little league baseball, piano lessons, high school basketball and football games, and band events. John retired from Scotland County Schools in 1975. Mary Stewart retired in 1980.

Since returning to Laurinburg in 1950, John and Mary Stewart have been active members of the Church in the Pines in Laurel Hill. John served on the Session, taught Sunday school, and sang in the choir for many years. In 2001 he was granted the honor of Elder Emeritus. Mary Stewart has been organist and choir director, director of the handbell choir, active in the Women of the Church, and received a lifetime WOC membership.

In their retirement the Calhouns have celebrated their daughter's marriage, and the arrival of two grandchildren, Julie and Cal. They took several trips to Scotland. They have contributed much to Scotland County and enjoyed happy days at the homeplace. John died September 15, 2003.

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351 JOHN BLUE CALHOUN FAMILY

John Blue Calhoun was the third child of Malcolm and Catherine (Kate) Blue. He was affectionately known as "Mr. B." by friends and family. He was married to Jennette Morrison, daughter of Murdoch and Sarah E. Morrison. The couple had seven children. They were a farming family on the land in the area between Laurinburg and the Springfield Mill that had been in the Calhoun family for years. They lived in the Malcolm Calhoun home, remodeling and enlarging the original structure. The home still stands, located on what is now Jim Calhoun Road southeast of Laurinburg. "Mr. B." served as a deacon in the Ida Mills Presbyterian Church beginning in 1893 and was elected an elder in 1906. "Mr. B." was an avid reader and was always interested in what was new and better. As a result, "Miss Jennette's" kitchen always had the latest gadgets and appliances. "Miss Jennette" died in 1934 — "Mr. B." in 1957.

William Buchanan Calhoun was the oldest of the children (1891 to 1963). He was married to Mary McNeill. The couple built a home next to the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church located on the Old Wire Road about two miles southwest of Laurel Hill. They had four children: Margaret Rose, John William, Lois, and Francis Allen. William made his living as a farmer and a carpenter. He loved fishing. The family always had a big garden and sold milk and eggs. William built several houses in the area that are still standing. He and Mary liked to cook and often had family and friends for catfish stews and chicken bogs. William served the Ida Mills Presbyterian Church as an elder. He was the head of the Church in the Pines Sunday schools, an elder in the church, and served on the Scotland County School Board.

John Blue Calhoun, Jr., (1893 to 1963) was the second child of John Blue and Jennette. John Blue, Jr., or "Blue" was married to Ollie Hogan. "Blue" and Ollie had one son, John Blue III. "Blue" served in World War I. The family spent much of their working lives in Perry, GA, where he was a farm overseer for McNair farms. When the family returned to Scotland County, they lived in a home that was located just

east of what is now the traffic circle at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg. John Blue, Jr., also served as an elder in the Ida Mills Presbyterian Church.

Third son of John Blue and Jennette was Ralph Morrison Calhoun (1896 to 1935). Ralph served in World War I and was a deacon in the Ida Mills Presbyterian Church. He was married to Miriam Hargrave who was the postmaster in Laurel Hill for many years. They had three sons: Ralph, Jr., Murdoch, and George. Ralph Calhoun operated a drug store in Laurel Hill. In the beginning days of radio, he sold Majestic Radios in his store.

Katie Calhoun was the fourth child and oldest daughter of John Blue and Jennette Calhoun. Katie (1898 to 1995) was married in 1922 to Edwin Prince Hargrave. The Hargraves made their home just west of Springfield in Scotland County and raised two children: Edwin and Mary Jeanette. Katie (better known as Kate) was very active in the Ida Mills and later Church in the Pines Churches. She taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, and served as a Bible teacher and as the president of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The fifth child and second daughter of John Blue and Jennette Calhoun was Ruth Calhoun (1901 to 1995). Ruth was married to Malcolm (Mac) McNeill. Their wedding was an event in the life of the Ida Mills Presbyterian Church because it was a double wedding; Ruth's sister Kate was married in the same double wedding ceremony on December 27, 1922. The McNeill couple made their home just across the Old Wire Road from the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church, where they farmed and raised five children: Jean, John Malcolm, Helen, Robert C., and Jeanette. Ruth and Mac were active in the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church and in the Church in the Pines in Laurel Hill. Ruth worked in the post office in Laurel Hill for a number of years.

Lauder Eugene Calhoun (1902 to 1992) was the fourth son of John Blue and Jennette. He and Janie Gibson were married and had three children: Lauder, Jr., Harriet, and Patterson. Their home was just off NC 79 near Springfield. Lauder attended Davidson College and for many years was a highly regarded science teacher at Laurinburg High School. He was a bee keeper and wrote a book about his experiences as an apiarist. Customers came from miles around to buy the honey his bees produced. Lauder and Janie were very active in the Ida Mills and Church in the Pines Presbyterian Churches. Lauder served as an elder in both churches. Janie and Lauder taught Sunday school classes.

James Malcolm Calhoun (1911 to 1978) was the youngest child of John Blue and Jennette. James was married to Sarah McCall in 1932. The couple settled near the Elmore community. In 1934, after the death of James' mother, "Miss Jennette," they moved to the Malcolm Calhoun home and looked after "Mr. B." in his later years. James and Sarah had one daughter, Lynn. They were active in the Church in the Pines in Laurel Hill with James serving as deacon and elder. James and Sarah made their living farming the land farmed by James' father and grandfather. James was very mechanically inclined and was interested in radio. He had a large shop on the farm where he repaired radio equipment.

Source: *Scotland County Emerging 1750 - 1900* by Joyce M. Gibson (1995)

The New McNeills - Francis A. Calhoun

A Church of Their Own - Margaret C. Calhoun (1994)

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352 LAUDER AND JANIE CALHOUN

Lauder and Janie were raised on small Scotland County farms less than five miles apart. Lauder was the son of Jeanette and John Blue Calhoun, and Janie was the daughter of Hettie and Patterson Gibson. As children they both attended the same one room school near Laurel Hill. However, Lauder later attended high school in Laurinburg where he played tackle on the football team.

When it was time for college, Janie went to The Woman's College of UNC, now UNC-Greensboro. She was educated as a teacher and later taught in the Scotland County schools. She is also remembered as a kindergarten teacher and director of pre-