

Whitmel Proctor

27 August 2011

The Periodic Newsletter on Family History and Genealogy of
Whitmel Proctor (1829-1884) and Elizabeth Williams Proctor (1838-1895)

Issue number 002

Meet Katie Braswell, the First Mrs. Proctor

Henry Proctor (son of John W. Proctor, grandson of Whitmel Proctor) was married briefly and then widowed as a very young man, before he married Mary Ella Hinton, to whom he was wed for 57 years.

The first hint I had about this came from a recent email I received from my cousin Hallie Alford Michel (daughter of Doris Proctor Alford, and granddaughter of Henry and Mary), which dropped this bombshell: "I seem to remember that Granddaddy was married before he married Grandmother." If I had ever heard that before, it was entirely wiped from my memory banks.

What Hallie remembered was true. Here's what I have learned so far. (My thanks to Kay Early's research which got me started.)

John Proctor's 4 Brides

Depending on which source you consult to identify the four wives of **John William Proctor** (son of Whitmel Proctor), you'll find variant spellings and fuzzy dates for the marriages. Based on the NC Marriage Registry, here is the definitive information on the wives' names and wedding dates:

- * John (22) married Laura Brown (22) on 13 January 1885. Laura died in 1893.
- * John (34) married Joanna Summerlin (20) on 9 December 1896. Joanna died in 1898.
- * John (36) married Lula Taylor (18) on 14 November 1898. Lula died in 1902.
- * John (42) married Dora Joyner (19) on 15 February 1905. Dora died in 1945, 17 years after John's death.

On 23 December 1908, Henry Proctor married **Katie Braswell** in No. Thirteen Township, Edgecombe County, NC. They were both 19 years old. Katie was listed on the marriage license as the daughter of J.H. Braswell, and the marriage, which was officiated by Justice of the Peace O.B. Proctor, apparently took place in her father's home.

Tragically, Katie died sometime in the roughly 18-month period between her wedding day and the 1920 Census, in which Henry was listed as a widower. Unfortunately, there seems to be no way to know how or exactly when she died, as the

state did not begin issuing death certificates until March 1913.

The 1900 Census contains information about a Katie Braswell, daughter of John and Margaret Braswell, who lived in Coopers Township in Nash County with their nine children. This Katie was the same age as the one who married Henry, but it is not certain they are the same person.

Ruth Proctor Covert
turned 97 on
August 24 !



Henry and Mary's 100th Anniversary

Henry Proctor and **Mary Ella Hinton** were married 100 years ago today – 27 August 1911.

I recently found their marriage license at the NC State Archives, which documents that Henry Proctor, age 22, married Mary Ella Hinton, age 18, in No. Fourteen Township,

Edgecombe County, NC. Officiating was O.B. Proctor, a Justice of the Peace. It notes that Henry was the son of John and Laura Proctor, and Mary was the daughter of John and Mattie Hinton. The only one of the four parents still living at the time of the wedding was Henry's father, John William Proctor (1862-1928). Mary's father, John Hinton (1867-1911), died less than two months prior to her wedding day.

What's even more meaningful to me is that Adrienne and I share Henry's and Mary's August 27 anniversary day. And while their number this year is 100, for us 2011 is number 28. August is a busy month for our family. Not only do I share my grandparents' anniversary date, but I also have the same birthday as my cousin Hallie Alford Michel, which is August 31.



(Note: Many thanks to genealogist Kay Early for her research and to cousin Edward Covert for the photo portrait of Mary Proctor.)

The Whitmel Proctor Family Newsletter is written and distributed by Grover B. Proctor, Jr.
Copyright 2011 by Dr. Grover B. Proctor, Jr.