

John W. Garrett

The Life History of William T. Stowe

no. one

174

Thirteen Hundred and Thirty four words 1,334

JUN 25 1940

William Stowe was born in [Pittsylvania] County in the year of eighteen and ninty five. His father Homer Stowe, was a farmer, and at odd times he worked some in the timber business. Raising tobacco was the major part of the families income. There were ten children in the home, five boys and five girls. The home was a three room log cabin, yet, the family was comfortably provided for. The school was a distance of four miles away, and because of the distance, the children often had to remain at home during the cold winter months. "My how we hated to miss school." We kids didn't mind the snow and cold, but when mother said its 'too cold" for you children to walk to school we had to stay home." We didn't have busses to ride. We had to walk, so when William was sixteen, he had to quit school for good, he was then in the fifth reader. William was large enough to work on the farm and his

John W Garrett

Life History of William L. Stowe

no. Three

176

JUN 25 1940

father needed his help. William wanted to continue his education. He felt that he wanted to preach the gospel. And needed all the education he could get. William began to conduct prayer meetings in the country homes. And his work was appreciated, even though he was just a lad. When he was eighteen he married Bertha Wallace who was sixteen, "we were just two children" too young to be married but we didn't realize it then. Thats been twenty seven years ago, and we have allways got along well together. We have nine children. One son married and has three children. Ive been grand daddy several years, and still a young man of forty five. My Daughter Ruby is in high school and is studing music. We want to give all the children a high school education. I Know what it means to hafto leave school before graduation. Though I know I have been fortunate in making a very good livin, Bertha and me, soon after our marriage bought a farm in Buckingham

John Garrett

Life History of William J. Stowe

3

No three

187

JUN 25 1940

County, a part of which belonged to my parents. it had a three room house on it, but we wanted a better home if we could get able to build it. I was in the Saw mill business, and preaching too, and farming all at the same time. We built us a one story house at first, and after we get able and our family was growing and increasing in number all the time, I put on another story and made it a large nine room house. I was a member of the pentecostal Holiness church and conference, but we didn't have any church building near where we lived so we decided to build a church. I had the saw mill and could cut and furnish the lumber so we went to work and the people of the community come together and helped us, and we soon had a church building completed and we turned it over to our confernlce. "I was its paster for years untill my health began to fail. I was doing too much work. I was running a saw mill, farming and

John W Garrett

Life History of William S Stowe

no. Four

4

198

JUN 25 1940

pastoring the church all at the same time, besides trying to Keep up my studies at home. "I had to dig out my education at home, all by my self, and it was hard work, with all the other responsibilities I had to carry, and along then my parents were unable to make a livin on account of old age, so I told Mother and daddy why dont you come on and live with us." but they wanted to be alone together, so I says that will be all right. You can come and live in that old house just back of our home,and you can do as you please, and be close by, so that I can take care of your needs, and know that you are getting along all right, and that pleased them. There was nothing that we wouldn't do for them, and we wanted to let them know that they could count on us, so, they moved in and seemed to be very happy, and I was happy to have my parents close to me, and Bertha loved them too, and she did all in her power to make them happy,

John W Garrett

Life History of William T. Stowe

no. Five

200

JUN 25 1940

and she succeeded. They lived there for several years. And then my father was taken sick and in a few weeks passed on. My mother couldn't stand to live there any longer, she said "I miss pa so bdly. I want to go back to my old home in [Pittsylvania] to live with my daughter so we had to let her go back home, but we miss her still, of course she comes down on a visit ever so often, and we have a celebration. Mother is seventy five, and dose her own work. "Dont want no waiting on me, so sir ree" We have moved the old house over on the road, ,my son says "Daddy go ahead and fix it up, and Ill bring my wife and children down and move in. We like Buckingham so much better that [Lynchburg]," Well as the years have passed and gone, I have improving my farm, and getting the lates equipment to work with last year I bought a tractor, with it I plow, cut wheat with the reaper, pull my mowing machine, do most anything on the farm. I paid fifty dollars a

John W. Garrett  
Life History of William T. Stowe

6

no. six

197

Jun 25 1940

month untill I got it paid fer, and when I am not buisy on the farm, I run my saw mill, and I am buisy all the time. a few years ago, me and the pentecostal people had a kind of falling out, so I turned my church over to the "church of God" and since then I am [lined] up with them. I am now paster of the church here. We hold a camp meeting here every summer. Mr. Stowe did a lot of good work in his younger days, in establishing churches, and camp meetings, and as paster. He enjoyed the close cooperaton of his good wife Bertha. Bertha is a tall pleasant, consecrated christian, who "shouts the victory in the old time way in her home. William is more reserved, talks slowly, "I just tell Ye, I haft to work hard here on the farm. I have a large family to take care of. I feel I oughta get out and preach more, so many souls to get saved, but I can't turn loose of my work, and I can't do it." I like the truth, and old time gospel. so many people claim

John W. Garrett

Life History of William T. Stowe

no. seven

202

Jun 25 1940

a whole lot, and just won't live it" and I cant get a church that is able to support me and the family, "why, right up here at my church, last winter, a dirty bunch of drunks, come hanging around the servise, disturbing on the out side. I hated to do it, but I had them arrested, and sent to jail." "No sir" I wouldn't vote fer no man a live, that up holds whiskey," raising his hand, its reckon and damming this fair country of ours," "what we need is more old time preaching, instead of this soft pedel kind we get this day in time. The children are quite and well trained, who reverence their parents. The home is comfertably furnished. The floors are oiled, and covered with rugs, every article seems to be in its own place. The library table is covered with books. The home has an atmosphere of study, and refinement. The children sometimes want to move to town, where they wish to obtain work, "Daddy has to work so hard" we would like to help," but we expect to continue to run the mill and farm, unless William gets a church that can support us,

Form Y-1 Survey of Rural Youth (White) Out of school youth 16-24 years of age Enumerator John W Garrett  
Date Schedule No. County Community Neighborhood Va. Agricultural Experiment Station, State Dept. of  
Education N.Y.A., Va. Extension Service Unemployment Compensation Commission, W.P.A., and other  
agencies cooperating

1. Identification: a. Name William Stowe b. Address Gladstone Va c. Sex Male d. Born: (1) Mo. May (2) Yr.  
1895 e. Place born: (1) County Pittsylvania (2) State Va f. (1) Single (2) Mar. Yes (3) Sep. (4) Div. g. Age at  
marriage 18 h. No. of children 9 i. Living with (1) own family Yes (2) Parental family No (3) Other (specify)  
No j. Size of household k. Home: (1) Owned Yes (2) Rented No l. (a) Name of informant if youth is not  
interviewed Birther Stowe (b) Address Gladstone Va. (c) Relation to youth Wife.

2. Residence: Buckingham C.H. a. City (about [blank] population) b. Town 2500-4999 c. Vill. 1000-2499 d.  
Village 50-999 x e. Rural farm Yes f. Open country non-farm g. Distance to (1) high school 10 (2) School Bus  
Yes (3) local store 1/4 mi (4) Town or Village h. No. of years lived in community Twenty yrs

3. Education: a. Last grade completed 5 grade b. Age on leaving school 16 yrs. c. Reasons for leaving school:  
No Graduated No Disliked teacher No Failure in school No Parental attitude Yes Lack of money Yes Needed  
at home No Poor health No Got married No Secured job No Disliked subject No Other (specify) d. Vocational  
training: Taken : Desired 1) Agricultural (Yrs) No:No 2) Home Economics No:No 3) Commercial No:No 4)  
4-H Club No:No Other training (specify) Yrs Trained self for ministry e. (1) Are you satisfied with your  
education? (2) Why or why not? f. Activities or studies which you would like to see developed in local  
school?

4. Employment record: [chart, headers as follows] Occupation : Industry : Weekly wages : Date (Mo. and Yr.)  
Begun Ended Location Size of farm 100 acres Owned Yes Rented 1) Minister 2) Farmer 3) Sawmill Man 4) 5)  
6) 7) 8) 9) 10)

5. Additional data on present situation: a. Employed: (1) None (2) partly (3) fully Yes b. No. weeks worked  
during past year: (1) at home (2) away c. How did you get your present (or last) job? d. Cash income during  
past year of: Youth : Family None \$1-49 50-99 100-249 250-499 500-749 750-999 1000-1499 1500-2499 [x  
under Youth] 2500 & over e. How much did you save during last year? (1) Cash \$ (2) Property \$ Yes f. (1) If  
at home are you needed there? Yes (2) Why? (3) What arrangement of pay or spending money? (a) None  
None (b) Wages (c) Ptnship (d) Allowance (e) Share of crop (f) Other (specify) g. Responsibility for : Check  
Full : Partial Preparing meals No:No Care of children No:No Care of house No:No Family serving No:No  
Family accounts Yes:No Laundry No:No Care of poultry No:No Work in dairy No:No Work in garden  
Yes:Yes Farm work Yes:Yes Other (specify) Carpenter work h. To what extent are you self-supporting? (1)  
Completely Yes (2) partially (3) Not at all i. (1) Are you satisfied with present situation? No (2) Why or why  
not? Would rather be in the ministry full time but not enough income to take care of large family



Form Y-1 Page 2

5. (Continued) j. Contribution to parental family \$ No k. Father able to help you in life career: No 1) Direct aid No 2) Credit banking No 3) Ptnship. in farm No Other l. (1) Did he help you start? No (2) How?

6. Leisure time activities: a. Three leisure time activities at which most time was spent during past year: 1) Reading 2) Visiting 3) going to camp meetings b. (1) How many times have you attended movies in the last month? No (2) Last year? No c. (1) Do parents object to visits of friends of same sex No (2) Other sex No (3) Do you have a satisfactory place to entertain company in your home? Yes (4) Do you have a satisfactory place to study? Yes d. (1) If 21 years of age or over are you qualified to vote? Yes (2) Have you voted? Yes e. Magazines and papers in home (list) News Leader Southern Planter f. Number of books read during past year? 10

7. Membership and attendance: Organization Church of God. : Member : No. times attended last year : Holds office (specify) a. Church (Name) Yes:50:Minister b. Sunday School Yes:50 c. Y.P. Ch. Society Yes:50 d. Athletic Club No e. 4-H Club No f. Older Youth Club No g. Grange No h. Young Farmers Club No i. Young Dem. Club No j. Young Repub. Club No Other (specify) k. l. m. n.

[stamped in top margin: JUN 25 1940] 8. Parental family: a. (1) Is mother living? Yes (2) Age 75 (3) Educ. 7 grade (4) Occupation Housewife (5) Industry b. (1) Is father living? No (2) Age 69 (3) Educ. Highschool (4) Name of father Homer Stowe (5) Occupation Farming (6) Industry (7) Acres in farm (8) Owned Yes (9) Rented (10) Age started to farm All of life (11) O. (12) R. c. No. of years in community All of life d. No. of moves in last five years One e. Number of children living: 10 Groups : Male : Female 1) All ages 5:5 2) Under 16 3) 16 and over 5:5 4) At home 5) Not at home All in their own homes. f. Family cash income group \$

9. Conveniences and facilities (where youth lives) a. No Electric lights No Electric iron No Washing machine No Refrigerator No Running water Yes House painted No Elec. or gas stove Yes Auto Yes Radio No Telephone No Elec. cleaner No Bath Yes Screens No Furnace b. Home: Number of rooms 9 c. Socio-economic group Family score

10. Aid received by youth from: No N.Y.A. No C.C.C. No W.P.A. No Agr. Agent No Home Agent No Farm Credit Admin. No A.A.A. No Farm Security Admin. No Agric. teacher No Home Ec. teacher No Public health dept. No Soil Cons. Service No Relief No Employment service No Other (specify)

11. Plans for future: Continue in the ministry.

12. Comments Mr William Stowe was married at the age of 18 yr to Miss [Bertha] Wallace at the age of 16 yrs and to this union was born 9 children.