

ry, born in 1925, served in the U.S. Navy. He married Mollie Ruth Wilson of Elroy community in Wayne County. Their children are Ted Emery and Robert Wilson. He and his sons are award-winning farmers in the Elroy community east of Goldsboro. (See section on Harry Ivey).

Frankie was a Baptist and Charlie was a lifelong Methodist. They are buried in the cemetery behind the Seven Springs United Methodist Church, located on the hill overlooking the village.

Sources: Family record and lore, deeds, papers, news and magazine articles, various personal memories of family and friends.

— Mollie Ruth Ivey

HARRY IVEY

609

Harry Ivey was born January 16, 1925 to Charles Wesley and Frances Kivett Ivey. He was the last of nine children, grandson of John J. Ivey who was born in 1850 and died in 1918.

Harry had a happy childhood playing with his three brothers, four sisters, and friends among the beautiful and moss-covered trees and hills of Seven Springs on the banks of the Neuse River. He tells of learning to swim at an early age. The older children would make him hang by a rope over the river and then drop him into the water to swim or to drown. He also tells of hunting near the Maxwell's Seven Springs Hotel where cows were pasturing nearby. Private property was posted, but Harry, being a little boy, wanted so much to hunt the squirrels that he would shoot and then hide in the hollow tree trunks to escape detection by the bulls and the people. He learned to shoot so well that one day, as he was hunting in the woods with a friend, they came across a bootlegger who was shaking a gallon of booze to watch it bead, whereupon they took aim and shot it right out of man's hand. Of course they immediately scattered and hid in the bushes.

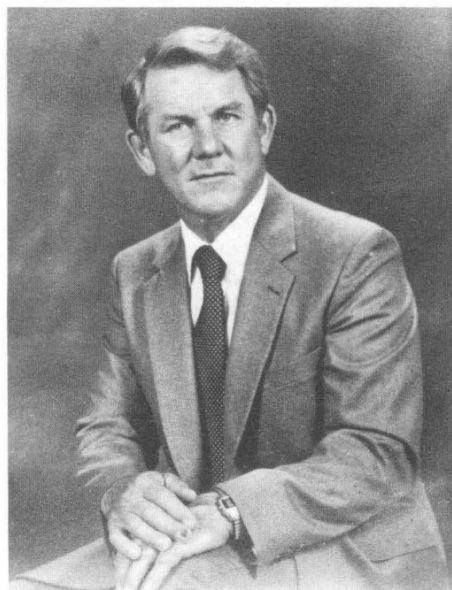
Harry was very broad shouldered and muscular, and he says he acquired these by carrying coal up the stairs of the two-story home where his parents boarded school teachers. There was never a dull moment at the Ivey's, because when the teachers left, they always returned for a visit or a meal. He thought, since the teachers stayed in his home, he should get preferential treatment at school, but soon learned that trouble at school meant trouble at home.

Graduating from Seven Springs High School in 1942, Harry entered Presbyterian Junior College to play football. He later joined the U.S. Navy and served four years during World War II.

When he returned home Harry married Mollie Ruth Wilson of the Elroy Community of Wayne County, daughter of Troy Emery and Esther Long Wilson. Mollie Ruth had one brother, Robert Monroe Wilson. Harry, having learned mechanics from his father, helped Mr. Wilson run his service station. When Mr. Wilson grew older, Harry began farming the Wilson land. Later he bought land of his own and leased additional land to farm. Today he farms well over a thousand acres of corn, tobacco,

wheat and soybeans. In his spare time he received his N.C. State plumbing license and owned a pump service. However, nothing satisfied him like the smell of new soil being turned over by the plow. Harry always liked challenges, but farming, planting, and watching things grow was what he liked best. He and his two sons have won various awards and honors for their corn, farm products and livestock.

There were two black boys, Joseph and David Baker, ages 14 and 16, living in the community with their aunt. They began to work for Harry. In the early years when Harry would leave them working, he would sometimes return to find they had disappeared. He soon learned that in order to find them, he only had to walk down the aisle of a local theatre. There they would be, hiding in a dark corner, enjoying the movie. They still work with him today. Harry says he can tell little difference between them and his own, so great is their respect each for the other.



Captain Harry Ivey, 1981.

Harry and Mollie Ruth's first son, Ted Emery, was born December 16, 1949. Ted was an all-star athlete at New Hope High School. After graduating from high school, he entered N.C. State College at Raleigh, N.C. where he majored in Poultry Science and Economics. Upon completing college, Ted wanted to go into business with his father so a farrow to finish hog operation was added to the farming for Ted to manage. Ted married Bessie Jewel Herring, born Oct. 21, 1950, daughter of Kenneth and Ruth Herring. They have two daughters; Harriet Ruth, born Aug. 29, 1975, named for her grandfather, Harry; and Esther Frances, born Oct. 8, 1976, named after her great-grandmothers, Esther Long Wilson and Frances Kivett Ivey.

Their second son, Robert Wilson, was born Sept. 18, 1954. After graduating from Eastern Wayne High School, he entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., majoring in chemistry. For a college graduation gift he wanted to back-pack over Europe. When he

completed his trip he decided, to the happy surprise of his family, that he preferred a home on the farm. Another farm with a farrow to finish Purebred hog operation was added for him to manage. Robert married Donna Jena Marlowe, born April 9, 1956, daughter of Donald and Jean Bass Marlowe of Fremont, N.C. They have a son Emery Donald born Jan. 1, 1982.

Harry Ivey has served on the Board of Trustees of Wayne Memorial Hospital, Trustee of New Hope Friends Meeting, and on the Board of Directors of Branch Banking and Trust Company.

Harry was one of the first farmers in Wayne County to build chicken houses. He built seven, raising broilers and later layers.

In 1964 Harry and Mollie Ruth built a modern brick home on Highway 111 near the Elroy community. The approaches to the house have been landscaped with azaleas, pine trees, dogwood trees, and other plants and flowers. Gardening is a hobby of Mollie Ruth who takes pride in creating outdoor beauty. She has always enjoyed life on the farm as much as Harry and their sons. (See section on Charles Wesley Ivey and Frances Kivett Ivey).

Sources: Birth records, magazine articles and memories.

— Mollie Ruth Ivey

JOHN JAMES IVEY

610

The Iveys who were living in Virginia decided to move yet further South. So they left for Eastern North Carolina, and later on, into the yet deeper Southland. It is certain that some of the widespread family were established in Coastal N.C. in the early 1700's. (See section "Ivey Roots").

Robert Ivey II (born 1720), by means of crown grant and purchase, obtained substantial acreage in Dobbs (now Wayne) County as far back as 1754. He deeded land in the Whitehall area (now Seven Springs) to his son John Ivey in 1789.

John Ivey, (1750-1805), married "Miss Moseley" by whom he had five children: John, Robert, Sallie, and Edith, John is called "the Founder of the Old John Ivey Homestead" in records dating from 1790. This Homestead is located in the Piney Grove Community on the north side of Neuse River not far from the village of Whitehall. The dates involved are not totally certain, for there are two different dates carved on the timbers under the house, and either of them might be correct — 1767 or 1790. If the earlier year is the correct one, then



Old John Ivey homestead in 1790.



John James and Sarah Jane Ivey.

the building may well have commenced under Robert II's tenancy and completed by John Ivey himself. In any case, this frame house with two main floors and attic in addition to a full basement, is now considered to be the oldest dwelling still standing in Wayne County. The bricks for the foundation of this house were hauled from New Bern by Ox Cart.

During the Civil War, John James Ivey (1850-1918), a great-grandson of John Ivey and "Miss Moseley", lived in the Old Homestead. The Yankees plundered the home, carted off the livestock and chickens, and were just on the verge of putting the Homestead to the torch when a Junior Officer ordered a halt to the depredations of the marauding soldiers. Why? Because this young Federal Officer, in rummaging through an old trunk carefully stored away in an upper room, came across a small portrait of John Ivey. In that picture he was wearing a Masonic Emblem. When the portrait was shown, in turn, to a senior officer in command, this gentleman promptly ordered all attacks off and the threatened burning of the Homestead, to cease forthwith. Indeed, all pillaged articles were replaced, everything was spared, and the group of Yankees left for other parts.

This same John James Ivey married in 1872, one Sarah Jane Sutton (1855-1930), and this couple had ten children; Ina, Annie, Alice, Mattie, Callie, Charles W., Blanche, Katie, John W., and Ethel.

Following the Reconstruction era, John J. and his wife, Sarah, in 1896 deeded land to the Piney Grove Methodist Church, and also helped to build this house of God. The Church is still standing and members of the Ivey family are interred in the adjoining cemetery.

It should be noted, in passing, that John J., over the years, acquired quite extensive landholdings in the general Whitehall area.

John James Ivey and his father John Ivey II (1817-1893), both civic-minded men, served as County Commissioners — the father from December 1878 to December 1882; the son from December 1892 to December 1894.

Two popular watering vacation places were operated around the turn of the 20th century

by John J. and his wife, Sarah. These favorite spots for those seeking health and recreation were then known as the Seven Springs Resort Hotel, and Ninth Spring Resort Hotel. The children assisted their parents in the busy daily round of activities — the boys helped by conducting guests on boat tours on the Neuse river, while the girls devoted themselves to more domestic chores: ironing table-cloths with the old-fashioned flatiron, washing dishes, serving meals to the hungry vacationers and healthseekers, and otherwise making themselves useful around the place. It wasn't fun, but enough of it was . . .

The educational system during Reconstruction and right up until the beginning of this century left a lot to be desired. Indeed, the public schools as we know them today, did not yet exist. John J. Ivey provided a parcel of land near Whitehall, and on it was built a two-story frame school by him which was sold to the county some years later — in 1904. It became known as Seven Springs High School even prior to that date, viz., in January 1896. John J.'s daughter, Miss Alice Ivey, was the only teacher in that first year of the school's existence. Some time later, alas, this pioneering educational establishment burned to the ground.

Two sons of John J., Charles W. and John W., lived at Seven Springs throughout their entire lives. Charles was an expert mechanic and respected garage owner for many years. In 1908 he married Frances Kivett of Carthage who had come to Seven Springs as a music teacher not long before. (See section on Charles Wesley and Frances Kivett Ivey). John became a graduate engineer and afterwards used his education and skills in land-surveying and extensive farming operations. His wife, Celes Beall was a native of Georgia. Both of these Ivey couples, together with some of their deceased children, are buried in the mellow old cemetery behind the Seven Springs United Methodist Church.

Sources: Deeds and records, family records and lore, newspaper clippings, and personal memories.

— Mollie Ruth Ivey

JOHN WILLIAM IVEY FAMILY

611

John William Ivey had what most boys dream of. He had once lived in a resort hotel on a river, had finished college at age nineteen, and had also worked on a railroad train. This was the beginning of a long career in life of 89 years. John W. Ivey was born in the Piney Grove Community on April 5, 1889, two miles from Whitehall, now Seven Springs, son of John James and Sarah Sutton Ivey. They often called him Johnnie. They had ten children and the family lived at the farm homestead in the Piney Grove Community.

Later the couple moved to the Whitehall area on the other side of the Neuse River and operated the nearby Ninth Spring Resort Hotel. Then for some years they operated the Seven Springs Resort Hotel. This kept the children busy, and sons Johnnie and Charlie made extra money by taking hotel guest on boat trips

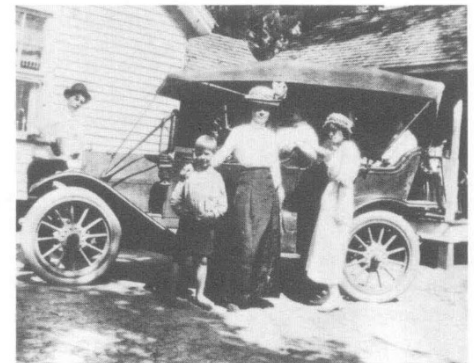
up the Neuse River to view the Cliffs on the Neuse. While Johnnie was conducting the sightseeing tour, Charlie was busy back at the Seven Springs Hotel lining up a crowd for the next ride. They charged twenty-five cents per person for the tour.

In 1900 John W. Ivey was in school at the Seven Springs Academy, built by his father, and where all his sisters taught school as well as piano lessons. Later he enrolled in the Military School in New Bern. He entered State College in Raleigh and majored in Mechanical Engineering, graduating at age nineteen in 1909. While attending college he could come home only during Christmas, at which time his father met him and brought him back to the hotel.

After graduation he got a job with the Atlantic Coast Line, and it was while making the run into Georgia that he met and married Celes Brall on January 21, 1911.



John William Ivey in 1969.



John William Ivey "Car" ca. 1911.

His father, John James Ivey, had bought an automobile in 1911, said to be the first in Seven Springs, but could not operate it. He persuaded son John W. and wife to leave his job with the railroad and come home so there would be someone to chauffeur him around in his car.

They first lived together in a big white house in the middle of Whitehall. In 1915 John W. and Celes started their family with a set of twin boys, John and James. Later they moved to the country where they had daughters Mary and Becky. The children were raised on a farm