

John Horace Windsor

1832-1906

John Horace Windsor was born on September 4, 1832, on the Mount Vernon estate and came to Cooper County in 1839, after his father (Horace Simeon Windsor) had acquired 320 acres of virgin, uncleared land in Clarks Fork township in 1838. Here the lad was reared in the traditions and manner of the Virginia planters. Slaves brought from Virginia helped to clear, till and harvest and the enterprise became immediately profitable.

When the late John H. Windsor was of preschool age and lived near Mount Vernon estate with his parents, his mother punished him frequently by tying him to a bed post in an upper room.

Spring brought wild flowers and enthusiastic visitors to Mount Vernon. John H. Windsor early developed a love of flowers and money. Sentimental tourists to a national shrine often bought woodland posies.

So he would untie the tether, slip down to a glade, harvest daisies, stick most in a nearby spring and loiter along the pike with a few bouquets. When they were sold he would return to the spring for more.

Eventually he would slip back to the house and tie himself.

John H. Windsor married Eleanor Zollinger, born in 1835, at Hagerstown, Maryland. She died in 1890. She was a daughter of George Zollinger, who settled near Clarks Fork store in 1844.

Of the union of John H. Windsor and Eleanor Zollinger were born six children.

An abiding faith in the goodness of God and enthusiasm in his service in daily life were outstanding characteristics of the late John H. Windsor. Other farmers and feeders marveled at Mr. Windsor's success with livestock. He always gave God credit. However, he recognized that faith without works is dead. His life was crowded with activity, confined mostly to his farm and to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He reared a large family. All his sons were taught agriculture, and were encouraged in it to the extent of the gift of a good farm to each when he attained his majority.

Prosperity and happiness were his. He was an elder in his church and was superintendent of the Sunday school for many years.

Of Cavalier stock, he was by nature a Puritan. On matters of principle and character he was oak and rock; as a neighbor and friend he was vine and flower.

John H. Windsor died June 17, 1906. All but seven of his 74 years were lived in Cooper County. A rich man's son, and blessed with many talents, he was a true steward in the broadest sense. At death he left a large estate, including 1700 acres, mostly in Clarks Fork township. It was divided among five living children.