

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Lillian Sutton Perry (Part 7)

Some believe that men and women are drawn together when desirable traits absent in one are present in the other, thus, the 'opposites attract' view. Research conducted in 2002 at Cornell University by Peter Buston, PhD and Stephen Emlen, PhD, however, found to the contrary that 'likes attract' is the better explanation.

Rather than similarities in wealth and status or physical appearance, respondents in the Cornell study indicated that shared beliefs in fidelity and family commitment were more important in long-lasting relationships, including marriage.

The 'likes attract' theory may have explained the union of Lillian Sutton Perry (1864-1946) and Daniel Elijah Perry (1857-1897). Both came from strong, stable families that embraced traditional family values. By all accounts, they were devoted and faithful to each other, as they remained married to the day of Dan's premature death.

They also shared a mutual interest in education and were academically successful. Lillian attended Kinston Collegiate Institute and graduated from Salem Female Academy in 1883. Dan earned a baccalaureate degree at Trinity College in 1880.

During the five-year period between his college graduation and his marriage to Lillian in 1885, Dan's whereabouts and doings were of interest to the public. His personal, professional and business life were reported widely:

1881, June 8: "After a two days' examination the following young gentlemen were, on yesterday, licensed by the [N.C.] Supreme Court to practice law in the several courts of the State....Daniel Elijah Perry, Jones [County]..." (*News and Observer*, Raleigh)

1881, September 14: "The railroad meeting at Trenton, Monday, 5th inst., was well attended. Speeches were made by Capt. E. R. Page, Dan E. Perry, of Kinston, and F. M. Simmons, of Newbern." (*Weekly State Journal*, Raleigh)

1882, April 13: "[Andrew J.] Loftin & [Daniel E.] Perry, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, Kinston, N.C. Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to them, both in the Federal and State Courts. Special attention given the settlement of estates, etc. Mr. Perry will be at Trenton every 1st Monday." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, May 4: "D[aniel] E. Perry, formerly of Jones [County], is the youngest member of the bar, and, with his reputation before him, gives promise of a bright and successful future. His manners are pleasant, making him friends among all his clients; and, as a matter of news to the ladies, he is unmarried, and does not want to remain in that condition." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

1882, May 25: "Daniel E. Perry, attorney, has the fleetest and finest buggy nag in the [Lenoir] County." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

1882, June 23: "Daniel E. Perry has just returned from an extensive trip of observation in the middle section of the State and 'before Richmond' Virginia and reports the wheat and tobacco crops very fine and promising. Granville County beats the world in pretty girls and such other items." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

More on the first five years of Dan's career will be shared in the next Bucklesberry article.