

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Lillian Sutton Perry (Part 23)

The deepest sorrows and greatest joys of Lillian Sutton Perry's (1864-1946) life revolved around her children. Sadly, she witnessed the passing of two sons, Daniel Elijah Perry, Jr. (1887-1913) and Noah Strong Perry (1893-1918). Like their father, Daniel Elijah Perry, Sr. (1857-1897), both sons died as young men.

Their untimely deaths notwithstanding, Lillian was blessed to see the marriages of her three surviving children, Bliss Byna Perry Carey (1888-1973), Susan L. Perry West (1891-1974), and Ely Jackson Perry (1896-1968). Their weddings were widely reported and celebrated. The elder daughter, Bliss, was the first to marry:

1911, December 27: "The Christian Church [Kinston] was the scene of a marriage of more than usual interest in social circles of Eastern North Carolina when at 9:30 o'clock Miss Bliss Perry became the bride of Mr. Joseph Carey, the ceremony being performed by the bride's pastor, Rev. Bernard P. Smith. Long before the appointed hour, the church was thronged with friends and relatives of the bride and groom. The church was beautifully and artistically decorated with palms, ferns and smilax and presented a peculiarly pleasing effect."

"While awaiting the assembling of the bridal party, the bridal march from Tannhauser was superbly rendered by Mrs. S. C. Sitterson at the piano, and Miss Jessie Wilson at the organ, after which Miss Katherine Turrentine, accompanied by Mrs. Sitterson and Miss Wilson, sang in her remarkably sweet and clear soprano 'Because God Made You Mine' by d'Hardelot. 'The Angel's Serenade' was next rendered by Miss Hazel Mitchell on the violin."

"Preceding the processional, the guests of honor and the members of the club of which the bride is a member entered and were given seats of honors reserved for them. Then a chorus sang 'Hail to the Bride,' from the third act of Lohengrin, and the bridal party entered."

"First came the ushers, Mr. A. L. C. Hill and Dr. D. W. Parrott, who took positions at either side of the steps to the altar. Then came the little ribbon girls, Miss Lois Best, of Warsaw and Miss Frances Pollock, who formed a chain of ribbons leading to the altar. The maid of honor, Miss Susie Perry, gowned in pink chiffon with beautiful picture hat of lace, and carrying Killarney roses, entered and ascended the steps of the altar, followed by the little ringbearer, Master Dock Mitchell. The bride entered on the arm of her brother, Mr. D[aniel] E. Perry, [Jr.], and was met at the altar by the groom, on the arm of his best man, Mr. Julian R. Carey, of Salsbury, MD. The

bride was gowned in a handsome blue tailored suit with hat and gloves to match, and carried a bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley."

"The beautiful wedding ceremony of the Christian church was read by the pastor and the happy couple pronounced man and wife, after which the bridal party left the church as Mrs. Sitterson and Miss Wilson rendered the sublime wedding march of Mendelssohn. The bride is the daughter of the late Dan[iel E., Sr.] and Mrs. Lillian Perry, of this city [Kinston]. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Carey, of Salisbury MD. For some months he has held a responsible position here [Kinston] with a manufacturing company." (*The News and Observer*, Raleigh)

The weddings of Lillian's two other children, Susan and Ely, will be shared in an upcoming Bucklesberry article.