

## Richard & Margaret's Children

Martha Ella—Laura Belle—John Forest

### MARTHA ELLA BRIDGES

**M**artha Ella, the wife of John W. Bridges, was born April 8, 1873, in Cleveland County, North Carolina, at the old home on Broad River. She married January 26, 1896, and lived in Gaffney, where her husband was a merchant for ten years.

She received her education at Palmer schoolhouse and Grassy Pond. At the latter place she taught for one year. She has marked musical ability which she developed as a girl. For fifteen years she has been a member of the choir of the First Baptist Church in Spartanburg. She takes an active and leading part in the work of the church, and, consequently, has much responsibility placed upon her. She has done her part well in the home and has carefully reared her four children. Her brother-in-law, Watt Smith, calls her a second Dick Jolly.

The children have been afforded opportunities of advancement, and have profited by them. Birdie May married Rupert Boyd. They have one child.

Wilhelmina married Joe Lynch of New York. They have one child. Willa was educated at Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, N. C. After completing her course there she attended business college. Before her marriage she held positions with firms in Spartanburg.

Jennie is still at home in school.

John, Jr., is still at home in school.



### LAURA BELLE SMITH

**L**aura Belle was born November 29, 1879, on Broad River at the Palmer House in Cleveland County. As a child she was quiet but energetic and responsive. When she was in her teens I sold my farm on Surratt creek and moved to Gaffney, at that time a small town, where I conducted a boarding and rooming house with which she helped.

After three years, Watson Smith, a young plumber of Charlotte, came to my house to board while he was working on the plumbing in a factory, and fell deeply in love with her. He made a very faithful sweetheart because Belle became sick, and he insisted on waiting on her. He could not do enough for her and was impatient for her recovery so that they could marry. I thought it wise to postpone the wedding until her health was confirmed, but he swept all objections aside. His own judgment has been vindicated in the succeeding years of happy married life.

Watson, Jr., is a dependable and industrious boy. After school hours he has a newsstand, where he is very attentive of the wants of his customers who are of every kind. He has learned to call by name

practically every one of consequence in the city. When I was there last, he was very solicitous of my wellbeing and was careful to see that I was supplied with papers. I cannot commend him too highly. Blessings on thee, little man.

Now I praise the little "didapper," Iris. I watched closely, and found that she has been unusually well endowed with the qualities of leadership. This was demonstrated in her relations with her playmates. God bless her.



## JOHN FOREST JOLLY

**J**ohn Forest Jolly, whose birthday was October 9, 1881, had a great deal of suffering from a leg in his early years. It seemed as though he would not be able to save it, but has been able to get along as a cripple, going from one thing to another. He has consequently been unable to store up any of his world's goods, but with his wife, Nellie Saunders, whom he married at Gaffney, August 17, 1902, have reared four girls with varying degrees of success. John has not done his part. Nellie has had to carry the burden. I pray constantly that even at this late date he will see the error of his ways and will assume his responsibilities. I will not lie down in peace if my prayers are not answered. I pray that he may quit his evil ways and mend his life.

The children are: Thelma, Sadie, May, Emily and Ethel.

