

## Tom Marshall's Weekly News, July 9, 2012

**The Rectors and Hazzards of Kennett Township:** "Ol' man Rector" served in one of the black regiments of the Grand Army of the Republic during our Civil War. He lived in Kennett Township all his life, passing away in the early 1930s when he was in his 90s. In those days when someone became too old to work, he had to depend on relatives or friends to keep him going, and Rector, like others, was a friendly "tramp." He walked the roads and stopped in at many homes where he knew the lady of the house would give him something to eat. In succession, both my grandmother Lizzie and my mother Esther were two of these ladies. I barely remember him, but he would be invited to sit down at the kitchen table, where he was given a sandwich and a cup of coffee and possibly a piece of cake or pie. He thanked them politely and was on his way. Probably they would see him again within a month.

Rector had at least three sons known to me. "Johnny" Rector was a local preacher who had a church in the small black section of Kennett Square on East Linden Street. A brother whose name escapes me married a woman named Ella, and they lived in a stone house close to Route 82 at Marshall's Bridge. One of their children, Bertha, married Lawrence Lincoln Hazzard. After Ella Rector's husband died, she married Beaton S. "Bait" Dennis, an oysterman from St. Michaels, Maryland, (see the *Weekly News* of December 26, 2005) who moved into the stone house and who worked for Marshall Brothers Paper Company and later for my parents. As a four-year-old, I rode with Bait and Ella in my father's Model T Ford through Meetinghouse Road from Marshall's Bridge toward Hockessin before that road was closed about 1930.

A brother of Johnny and Ella's first husband was Addison "Bell" Rector. Bell was a good-looking man who had worked around the mills, but he was unemployed in the early years of the Depression. The National Bank & Trust Company of Kennett Square was looking for a janitor, and my father recommended Bell Rector. He was hired and became a fixture, handsome in his uniform near the bank's front door, where he exchanged greetings with the customers. He was there as long as he was able to work, but the bank personnel couldn't get used to "Bell," so they called him Addison.

Bertha and "Linc" Hazzard also lived in the stone house at Marshall's Bridge and raised three children: Lawrence Jr., Luella, and Stanley. Luella was my age, and when Bertha would come to do day work in the house for my mother, she brought Luella with her, and we played together. "Linc" was the head of Roy Bengé's "gang of four" who did the heavy lifting and other back-breaking work around the paper mill. Lawrence Jr. got a job at the mill and worked there for the rest of his life while living in Kennett Square. When I came home from the service in August 1946 and rode the Short Line Bus from Wilmington to Yorklyn, I sat next to Lawrence, and we talked "old times." Luella married Leon Spencer, and they had two children, Leon Jr. and Sandy and all still lived in the stone house at Marshall's Bridge. When Bertha Hazzard died, Luella kept house for not only her family but for her father "Linc," and her brother Stanley, who was mentally deficient. Sandy became a preacher of sorts, and Leon Jr., after attending Muskingum College in Ohio (John Glenn's alma mater), eventually became mayor of Kennett Square.