

THE JOHN MILLS GOODLOE HOUSE

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The house of John Mills Goodloe at West Second St. and Shawnee Ave. was begun in 1888 and completed two years later. It sits enthroned on top of Poplar Hill among other domestic monuments to the founding families of the Town of Big Stone Gap and the associated coal communities. It is the last surviving tangible artifact of one of the community's founding families, that of the brothers John Mills, Edward Everette, and William Tavenor Goodloe.



JOHN MILLS
GOODLOE
1858-1942

EDWARD EVERETTE
GOODLOE
1860-1943

WILLIAM TAVENOR
GOODLOE
1861-1931

(7)

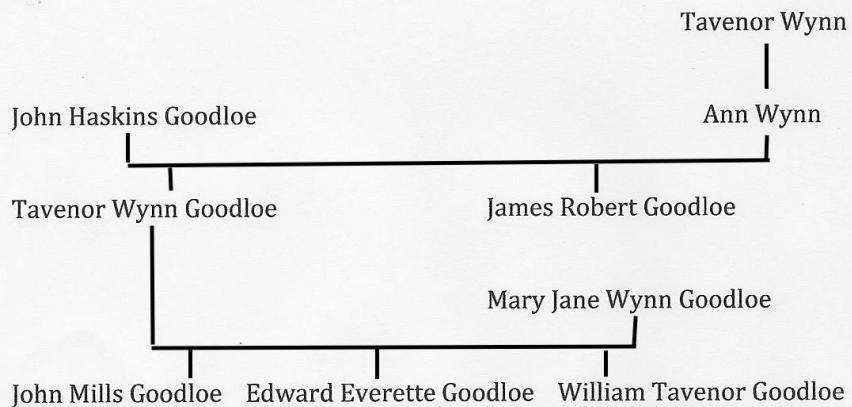
The Goodloe brothers were the sons of Tavenor Wynn Goodloe and wife Mary Jane Mills. (1, 3, 20, 21) The family was among the First Families of Virginia, with the landing of George Goodloe in Rappahannock Co., Virginia in 1655, having come from Lancashire, England.(2, 4) Tavenor Wynn Goodloe was a brother to James Robert Goodloe, the builder of Afton House (built in 1869). James Robert Goodloe's wife was Molly.

CENSUS ALBEMARLE CO. 1880

		Line No	11111	Daugh		
		160 160	Goodloe Tavenor W M 53		1	Merchant ✓
		—	Mary J 17 40	Wife	1	Keeps house
		—	John M 7 M 21	Son	1	Merchant ✓
		—	Edward E W M 19	Son	1	Merchant ✓
		—	JM 2 W M 17	Son	1	Farm Manager
		—	Anna A W 7 16	Daugh	1	
		—	Mary 2 W 7 14	Daugh	1	
		—	Rutha W 7 12	Daugh	1	

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THE GENEALOGY OF THE
GOODLOES OF BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA



Ann Winn married John Haskins Goodloe, and they moved to their new home in Albemarle Co. Virginia. John died early, and Ann bought 115 acres in Afton, and named the place Locust Dale. Any connection to the community of the same name in Madison County is not established. James Robert was their son. Ann's father's first name was Tavenor, and the obvious source of that name among the Goodloe descendants. In total John and Ann had seven sons and four daughters. We know that John Mills, Edward Everette, and William Tavenor Goodloe came from Afton. William Tavenor considered it to be "home", and he is buried in the Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery at Afton along with James Robert and about a dozen other Goodloes.^(5, 3, 6, 7) A William Tavenor Goodloe owned a plantation at Afton named Locust Dale (built before the Civil War), and which is said to have contained hundreds of acres.⁽¹⁾ The 1880 census lists Wm. T. Goodloe as a 'farm manager'. Taken together, this data shows the Goodloes of Big Stone Gap to have been the grandsons of John and Ann Goodloe, and the son of Tavenor Wynn and Mary Jane Winn Goodloe.



GOOGLE IMAGES

AFTON HOUSE

The Goodloes were large slave owners, but had a distaste for slavery itself. Their slaves considered them to have been “unusually good to their slaves.” One of them later noted that “Goodloe’s children risked their safety by supporting the Union in the middle of the Confederate South”. In fact, the family split over the Civil War. Their son, Addison, joined the Confederate Army. Benton hired a substitute for himself to serve in the Confederate Army. However, all the other sons were prounion. Tavenor moved to Baltimore to avoid the Confederate Army. James was prosecuted for his prounion views. Judson was arrested twice during the war, was forced to join the Confederate Army, deserted the night of his induction, and went to West Virginia. This schism in the Goodloe family may explain the absence of a comprehensive genealogy on-line. It certainly explains why the Goodloes of Big Stone Gap were hard core Republicans.

Ann leased some of her slaves to the contractors who built the Afton Railroad Tunnel, designed by the Commonwealth’s most famous engineer, Claudius Crozet. General Armstrong Custer used Locust Dale as a headquarters during the war, and took considerable food and live stock from them.(8,9)

Afton is a magical place. Sitting on the eastern lip of Rockfish Gap in the Blue Ridge on the road between Waynesboro and Charlottesville, it is near the juncture of Albemarle, Nelson, and Augusta Counties. The current Blue Ridge Parkway overshadows it. Crozet’s tunnel was considered to have been one of the ten engineering wonders of the 19th Century, and Virginians were very proud of it. Virginia’s gentry could flee the city in the comfort of the railroad, experience ‘their’

tunnel, and renew their spirits at the Afton House. The house was a four story wooden structure, affording a world class view of the Piedmont, and horseback and sulky riding. The environment must have provided for a wonderful childhood for the future Goodloes of Big Stone Gap.



GOOGLE IMAGES

CLAUDIUS CROZET'S
AFTON TUNNEL
ENTRANCE

In the spring of 1889 John Mills (commonly called 'Jack') came to seek his fortune in Big Stone Gap. He was soon followed by Edward (Ed) Everette and William (Will) Tavenor.(10, 1)

Their business ventures developed with dizzying rapidity. The first was a mercantile company they called Goodloe Brothers. They sold everything from clothing, furniture, and even Studebaker wagons. The store was first located on the west side of 5th Street more or less across from the more recent bus depot, at a site later occupied by the Wren Ford Dealership, Mooney's Auto Parts, Rose's Hardware, and lastly by Dotson's Auto Parts. This building was destroyed by the fire of 1908 that consumed much of downtown Big Stone Gap. They relocated to the first Federal Building that still stands at the south-eastern corner of Wood Ave. and E. 4th N St. In short order other business ventures are documented as below:

The Old Reliable Firm

OF

GOODLOE BROTHERS

Are still in their same old stand, trying to please their patrons
in furnishing them with a nice line of

**Gents' Furnishing Goods,
Boots, Shoes, Hats, Trunks,
Valises, Dry Goods and Notions.**

We do a Large Business in MERCHANT TAILORING, and
Solicit the Trade of Gentlemen Wanting Garments Made to
Order. Handsome Line of Samples. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

OUR HOLIDAY STOCK
will represent many things for Santa Claus Shoppers. Call
and Examine Our Stock.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF "POST" \$1.00 PER YEAR.

LIVERY.

GOODLOE BROS.

Feed and Livery Stable,

OPPOSITE POST OFFICE, E. 5th St.

Saddle and Driving Horses Always on-Hand. Special Ar-
rangements for Boarding Horses.

BEST RIGS, DOUBLE OR SINGLE.

GOODLOE & YOUNELL,

—DEALERS IN—

FANCY GROCERIES,

HEAVY STAPLES,

FLOUR, BACON, HAY, FEED, Etc.

We always keep everything in stock in our line to supply the wants of the people.

We have a nice assortment of

Christmas Goods,

For you to select from, and we would be pleased to have you call and examine our

NICE, FRESH STOCK OF HOLIDAY GOODS

and get prices before placing your orders. We are agents for the celebrated

OBELISK FLOUR.

Headquarters for Smokers—Finest Line of Tobacco and Ci-

gars in Town. Yours to Please,

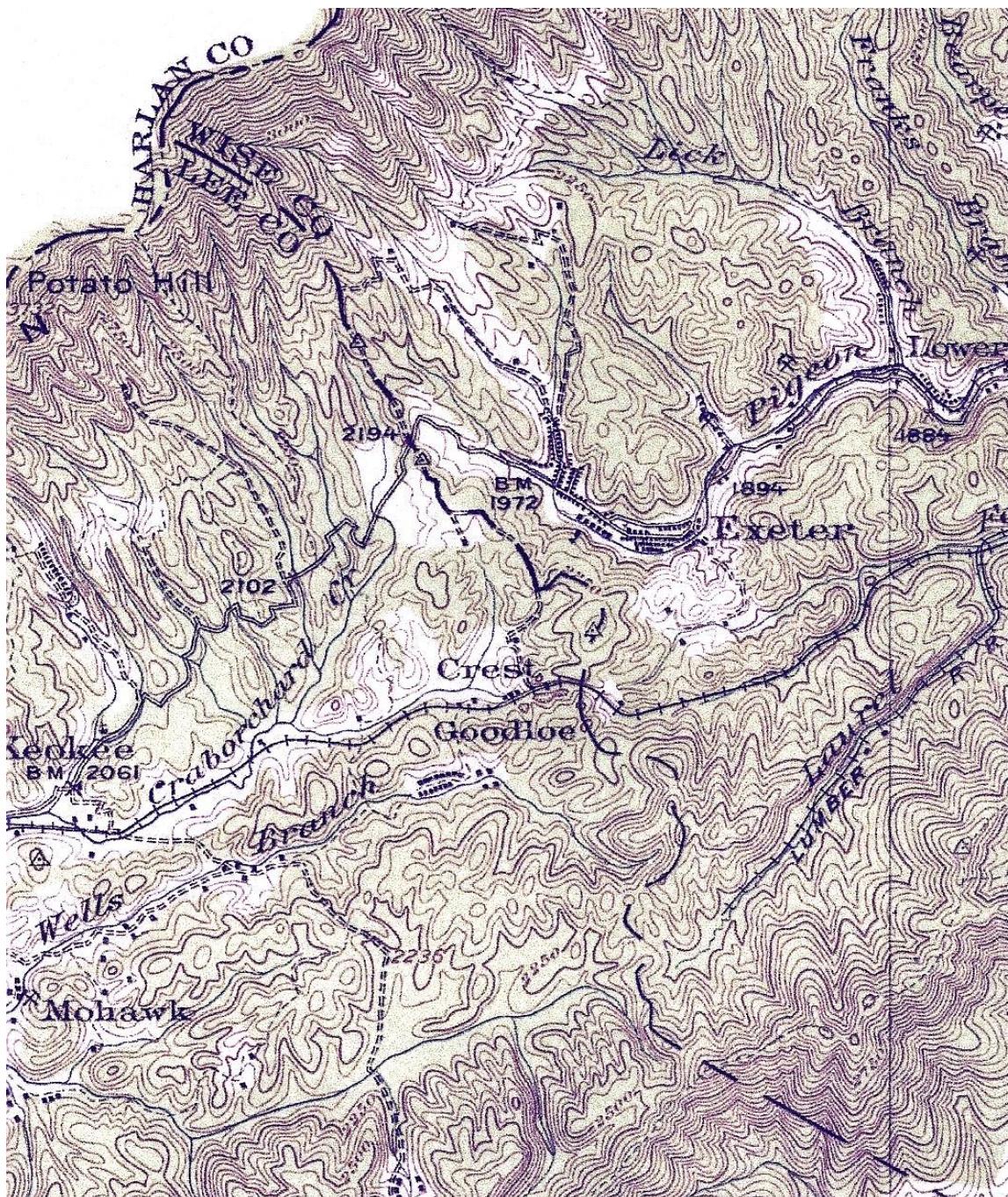
GOODLOE & YOUNELL.

(3)

They manufactured "Three Brother's Cigars" in Big Stone Gap, and had a tanning extract plant near the present sewage disposal plant in Cadet.

They had sawmills in Olinger, Crab Orchard (present Keokee), Inman, and Duffield. This led to a planning mill that was located at the end of 23rd St., and which was associated with a furniture factory that made simple but sturdy hardwood bedroom suits and other furniture.

They bought timber and coal land in Virginia and in Kentucky for as little as twenty-five cents an acre. This led to their involvement in coal mines in both states. Probably the largest such operation was their "Crest Coal Company" which set up a timber harvesting operation and coal mines that was located along the Virginia and Southwestern Railroad track between Exeter and Keokee, at the top of Crest Hill on the Lee Co. / Wise Co. line. It was named 'Goodloe' after them.



1922 USGS Big Stone Gap topographic map

They formed the Cumberland Traction Company, whose goal was to build a railroad between Big Stone Gap and Norton.

Will became postmaster of the first and most important coal camp of the Virginia Coal and Iron Company, Stonega. Jack was postmaster at Big Stone Gap.

They had stock in two banks, hobnobbing with Big Stone Gap's wealthiest and most influential people. One was the Bank of Big Stone Gap, which was the first



bank in Wise County. Co-investors were Rufus Ayers, Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston, Horace Fox, and J. F. Bullitt. Another was The Appalachia Bank, among whose investors was again J. F. Bullitt.

They were part owners of the Big Stone Gap Improvement Company, which laid out the plat and sold off lots for the Town of Big Stone Gap. As such they became involved in a suit with the Imboden Brothers and other nationally known investors.^(1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)

Jack entered politics. They were close associates of C. Bascom Slemp, who pretty well ran the Republican Party in the South. In 1915 Jack defeated incumbent John H. Calton for a seat in the Virginia State Senate, representing the Commonwealth's 2nd District.⁽¹⁷⁾

They were fully engaged in the social life of the town. Plays, talent shows, and musical events were common. In 1889 the three Goodloes were members of a ten piece band in Big Stone Gap.⁽¹⁰⁾ In 1892 a "grand Masque Ball" was held at the Intermont Hotel. "The Big Stone Gap Orchestra performed in the ballroom. "Goodloe" performed as a clown. Among the attendees were Mr. and Mrs. John Goodloe."⁽³⁾

Each of the three brothers owned mansions in Big Stone Gap. Edward Everette in about 1909 bought a rebuilt house that had been built originally in 1890 by H. L. Moore, but which had been destroyed by fire. It was located at the corner of E. First St. and Cherokee Ave., on Poplar Hill. It was a 13 room, three story plus a basement structure. In 1986 the house burned a second time, and was completely destroyed.

William Tavenor bought a new, unlivable, house built at about 1900 by Josh Mullins at the corner of Shawnee Ave. and E. 2nd St. After the Goodloes died the house was lived in by Campbell Edmonds, the nephew of C. Bascom Slemp. The house has since been torn down.

John Mills started his home at the corner of W. 2nd St and Shawnee Ave. in 1888, it being completed in 1890. It is on Poplar Hill, behind the Ayers' Mansion (now the Southwest Virginia Museum). The bricks were made on the site. The house is an exhibit of the very best of hardwood workings, with extensive wainscoting and door and window facings. The wood was the very best obtained from the brother's forestry program, and planning mill, consisting of white oak, black walnut, and wild cherry. This last lumber today has been mistakenly called 'mahogany', because it was called 'American mahogany' by the people of the era in which it was built. In fact, it can be finished to look very similar to mahogany. The machining on the lumber is very similar to that used in the Ayers' Mansion, and likely represents the workmanship of the same artisans. Pocket doors slide neatly

into the walls. There was a classroom for the children, and a room for a nanny in the basement. There was a servant's quarters in the back of the lot.

In 1966 the house was sold to the family of Anthony Trigiani. The author, Adriana Trigiani, grew up in the house.



(18)

JOHN MILLS GOODLOE HOUSE

The home of John Mills Goodloe is the last physical structure or corporate entity left in Big Stone Gap to remind us of the presence of these three brothers from Afton. However, in 1999 the descendants of that family combined to give to Mountain Empire Community College much of what was left of the Goodloe fortune as an endowment of "The Goodloe Brother's Educational Endowment Fund and the Goodloe Cultural and Humanities Fund." In acknowledgement of this gift the college named its multipurpose auditorium "The Goodloe Center".^(1, 19)

Bibliography:

- 1 - Wax, Don – The Goodloes – pgs. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 26, & 27
- 2 - <https://www.houseofnames.com/goodloe-family-crest>
- 3 - from the “Post” of 1892 – specific date not given
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88061179/1892-12-22/ed-1/seq-3.pdf>
- 4 - <https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=cgoodloe&id=I39641>
- 5 - <https://www.crozetgazette.com/2010/05/12/secrets-of-the-blue-ridge-old-afton-village/>
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- 9 - <http://www.virginioliving.com/culture/afton-mountain-myth-legend/>
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- “The Post” Oct. 19, 2017 referencing an previous printing of ‘late spring 1889’ – original account by William M. McElwee, newer article by Bill Hendrick
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- “Coal Field Directory” of 1921 pg. 930 -

Entry under "Crest Coal Company" – general offices were in BSG, Va. = J. A. Goodloe listed as vice president and secretary, W. T. Goodloe as 'PA' – references J. A. Youell as buyer – Goodloe Brothers of BSG as 'SA'

13 -

https://books.google.com/books?id=8ts2AQAAQAAJ&pg=PA1239&lpg=PA1239&dq=Goodloe+Big+Stone+Gap&source=bl&ots=sF4UlaVUbr&sig=ACfU3U0frAtIz38bcZQCzWqBCAtWrXMshQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiHtJgjNPiAhWFT98KHYIsC_w4FBDoATAJegQICRAB#v=onepage&q=Goodloe%20Big%20Stone%20Gap&f=false

The "Annual Report of the Virginia State Corporation Commission" of 1907

gives an entry of 1906 documenting pgs. 1238-1239 that W. T. Goodloe was President of the Cumberland Traction Co., whose purpose was to build a railroad from Big Stone Gap to Norton.

14 - - https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=195-1901-090

J. M. Goodloe sued in behalf of the Big Stone Gap Improvement Corp one H. B. Clay, Jr. – Rogers Clark Ballard Truston was also listed as a plaintiff – date 1901

15 – Johnson, Charles – History of Wise Co. pg. 85

16 – Wise County Deed Book # 130, pg. 217

17 - <https://www.revolvy.com/page/John-M.-Goodloe>

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