

SUNSHINE COLUMN

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL SUNSHINE SOCIETY.
 MRS. J. M. RANSIER, State President, Hendersonville, N. C.

ABOUT GRANDMAMAS.

Mrs. Ransier Has a Bright, Sunshiny Letter About the Old Folks—Now Let the Grandpas Write.

Grandmama's hair is snowy white; It almost sparkles in the light, I hope my hair will be as bright When I am old like her.

Grandmama's smile is very sweet; My papa says it "can't be beat." I hope my smile will be as sweet When I am old like her.

Grandma knows I love her well; I love her more than I can tell. I hope little girls will love me well When I am old like her.

* * *

What are we going to talk about to-day? Why we've started to talk about "Grandmama." It's a pretty good topic to talk about, and I think we'll keep right on. We occasionally meet a woman whose old age is as beautiful as the bloom of youth. There is a halo of white hair about her head; she is loved and considered. What is the secret of it all? Why the real secret is that she's a Sunshiner. Among many things that she did—

She knew how to forget or overlook disagreeable things.

She kept her nerves and ailments well in hand and inflicted them on no one.

She mastered the art of saying pleasant things.

She made whatever work came to her, congenial.

She retained her illusions and did not believe all the world wicked and unkind.

She did not expect too much from her friends.

She relieved the miserable and sympathized with the sorrowful.

She never forgot that kind words and a smile cost nothing, but are priceless treasures to the discouraged.

These dear sunny old people! how they win our hearts and keep them, too.

How I do pity the little boy or girl that has never known a grandmama! Why grandmama are greater than the Kings of England or the President of the United States in the eyes of the tots. And what fun to go to grandma's on a visit. Don't I remember it? Ah, as long as life is, so long are the sweet tender memories of the summer vacation spent at grandma's.

* * *

But grandmothers are not all like the ones you and I had. Oh, no. There are some that are not Sunshiners. Here is what Frank Stanton says about them:

Tell you, gran'mother's a queer one, shore—

Makes your heart go pitty-pat!

If the wind just happens to open a door,

She'll say there's "a sign" in that!

An' if one ain't in a rockin' chair

An' it rocks itself, she'll say: "Oh, dear!

Oh, dear! Oh, my!

I'm afraid 'at somebody is goin' to die!"

An' she makes me cry—

She makes me cry!

Once wuz a owl 'at happened to light

On our tall chimney top,

An' screamed, an' screamed in the dead o' night,

An' nuthin' could make it stop!

An' gran'ma—she uncovered her head,
 An' almos' frightened me out of bed:
 "Oh, dear! Oh, dear!
 I'm certain 'at some one is goin' to die!"
 An' she made me cry—
 She made me cry.

Jest let a cow lean over the gate
 An' bellow, an' gran'm—she
 Will say her prayers, if it's soon or late,
 An' shake her finger at me!
 An' then, an' then you'll hear her say:
 "It's a sign w'en the cattle act that way!
 Oh, dear! Oh, my!
 I'm certain 'at somebody's goin' to die!"
 Oh, she makes me cry—
 She makes me cry.

Skeeriest person you ever seen!
 Always a huntin' fer "signs";
 Says its "spirits," 'at's good, or mean,
 If the wind jes shakes the vines!
 Always feel skeery w'en gran'ma's aroun'—
 An' think 'at I see things, 'an jump at each soun';
 "Oh, dear! Oh, my!
 I'm certain 'at somebody's goin' to die!"
 Oh, she makes me cry—
 She makes me cry.

* * *

If any of our Farmer readers know anywhere a grandma like that, do tell them to not wait a minute, but join the Sunshiners, quick.

Now, what has started us to talk of grandmas to-day? Why the dearest sunshiny letter from one of them. Here it is:

"My dear Mrs. Ransier:—I have been a reader of The Progressive Farmer for quite a while, and enjoy its columns very much indeed. My special attention has been called to the Sunshine column, and I decided to knock and see if you would admit a Shut-in Grandmother, with head white with the frost of sixty-odd winters, into your Circle. I think my mental faculties are as full of energy as when I was twenty-one. In other words, if it were not for my physical infermities, I would be a spring chicken. My sympathy goes out for the less fortunate, and while our Heavenly Father permits us to stay in this world, I want to strew love and sunshine. Enclosed you will please find five two-cent stamps. It is but a little mite, but the widow's mite was not rejected. May God bless you in all good works, is my sincere desire. If I miss the wastebasket, I may be will come again.
 "Love and success to the Sunshiners,

"GRANDMOTHER."

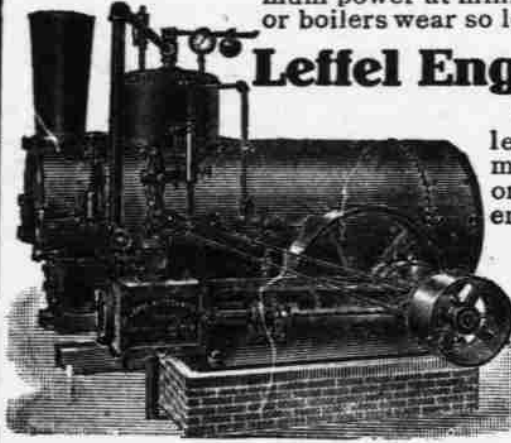
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Dear, precious Grandmother, we are so happy to have you come into our Circle. Move up close, have the big easy chair—nothing is too good, nor quite good enough for Grandmother. We love you. Indeed we do, and as for being old—bah! sixty years is just in prime. Many, many years we trust you will be here to shine into our hearts and lives. Won't you send us the date of your birthday? When it comes we'd like to give you a letter party.

I've got the nicest poem about grandpa's farm, and I want to give it to you, if only some of the grandpas will only write to me, and give me a chance to. Now we've had a grandpa chapter, I want a grandpa one, too. Who will write to me? Listen through: Did you ever see the grandmas go anywhere that the grandpas didn't soon go tagging after them? But I'm full of expectancy as to which direction his letter will come from and what he'll say. Ain't you?

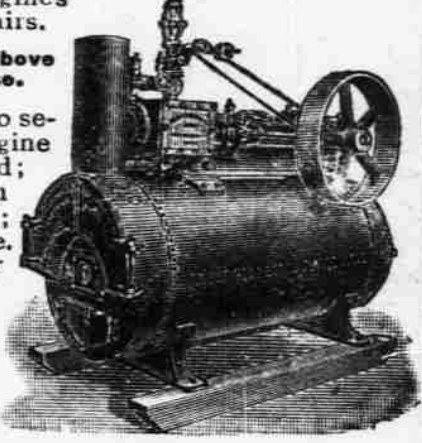
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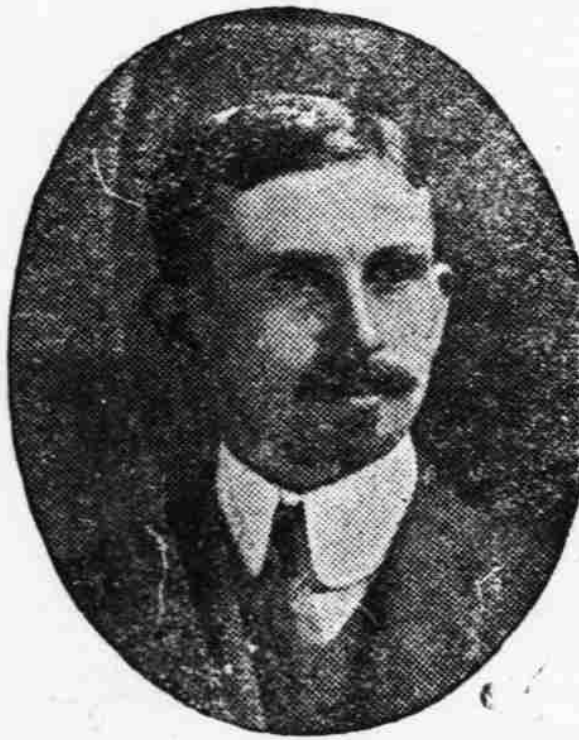
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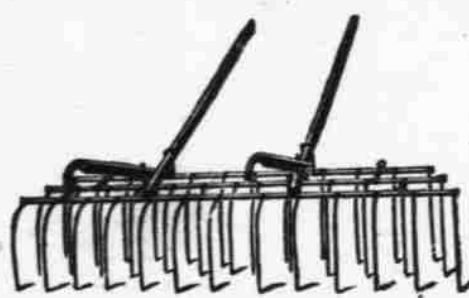
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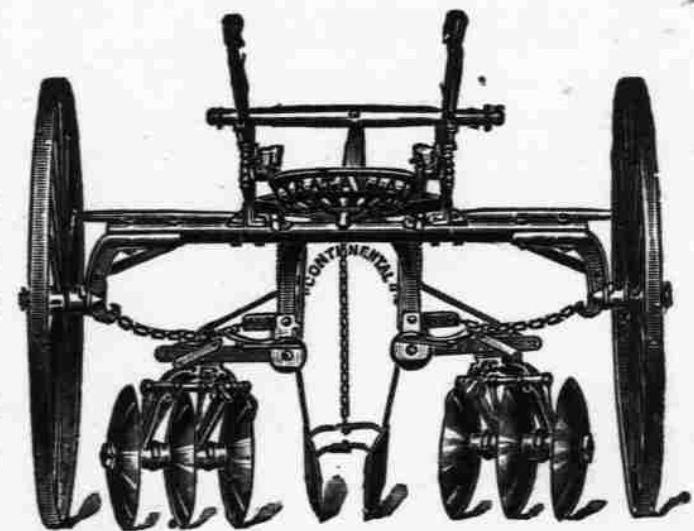
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