

## Dr. Killian's Office

By Joey & Dan McGlamery

Clay County is so fortunate to have a museum that contains so many "gems" that give us an educational insight into the days gone by. Many of our ancestors' lives were filled with long days of hard labor in the fields of their farms raising crops to help feed their families or hot days in the saw mill and other businesses. Many of the women spent hours in their kitchens preparing food for their families, sewing, knitting and weaving or washing clothes over a pot of boiling water. Often during our ancestors' daily lives, occasions would arise that a doctor was needed. One of the "gems" referred to above is the medical office of Dr. Paul Bismark Killian now attached to the back of Clay County Historical and Arts Old Jail Museum.

Dr. Paul Killian was a loved and dedicated doctor born in Clay County on January 5, 1872, where Dr. Daniel Killian, his father had settled and established a medical practice soon after the Civil War. Dr. Daniel Killian practiced medicine in Clay County until 1891 when he decided to move to Texas. His son, Dr. Paul Killian heeded the call to go west also but only stayed about two years. He came back to his beloved mountains and registered in Atlanta School of Medicine, now Emory University. Dr. Paul graduated in 1900 and soon after, he married Clarice "Maude" Moss who grew up in the Tusquittee Community. Dr. Paul and Maude were the parents of Dr. Carl Dan Killian who became Dean Education at Western Carolina University; Dr. Frank Killian who became a practicing eye physician in Franklin, NC and also helped his father in Hayesville; Claude Ralph Killian who attended Georgia Tech and Auburn University ; and Ora Marcella who became a school teacher and mother of Dan McGlamery. Miss Ora always spoke lovingly of her father and with respect for him but she would say that he was a firm but fair disciplinarian.

Dr. Paul began his practice serving patients from the comfort of his own living room later moving to the upstairs area of his home. He had a deep love for children and an even deeper concern of the communicable diseases that were taking a toll on his beloved community. Many times the children who needed shots would come and stay in the Killian home until they had received their series of shots for whooping cough, diphtheria, typhoid and tetanus. Dr. Paul also attended to patients in their homes when the patient was too sick to travel or to assist in the birth of a child. He delivered many babies in the Hayesville area at that time. There were no hospitals in the area during early days of his practice so he would go to the patient's home near time for the birth and stay in the home with the mother until baby was born. There are many of the babies Dr. Killian delivered who have mentioned to Dan that Dr. Killian helped when they were born. He would strike out on horseback or horse and buggy for a day's journey to Shooting Creek or other surrounding communities. Dr. Killian's daughter, Miss Ora, recalled that her father would be gone for days at a time and would often come home frozen to his saddle during the winter months. During the spring months, when the river was at its highest, if Dr. Killian was unable to cross the river to return home from caring for his patients he would wave a lantern to signal his family that he would not be able to cross until the next day. Dr. Killian never learned to drive so his son, Ralph, began driving Dr. Killian in a 1939 Ford Coupe to

see some patients' in their homes during the later years of his practice. He also worked with other doctors in the area to promote the need for vaccines and inoculations to wipe out various communicable diseases such as typhoid.

The McGlamery home place was built in the late 1890's, so the house is well over 100 years old. (Our son Claude lives there at the present time). As his practice grew, as well as the county, Dr. Killian decided that he needed a more permanent place to practice medicine. Back in those days bartering for services was a common practice and that was exactly how Dr. Killian got a large portion of his office built in the early 1900's. That office contained two rooms one for seating of patients and one as his examination room. As you entered the first room of the building in those days one saw a waiting area with a couch, a few chairs, shelving filled with Dr. Killian's medical books and other reading material and on one wall hung his riding saddles and black doctor's bags. The second room was Dr. Killian's examination room. An old roll top desk (currently in the Old Jail Museum) sat to the left as the patient entered that room. This room also contained an examination table, examination chair, a table containing old medical instruments and a cabinet with doors that contained bottles of medicine that he dispensed to patients as needed. All of those original items are now on exhibit in Dr. Killian's old office located at the museum. On his desk was a ledger where he kept records of who came for services and how much they paid for his services. My husband, myself and our children found it very interesting to read through some of those pages and find that many people paid with chickens, eggs, cows, pigs, and yes also money. We noticed in the ledger there was a note stating that one red cow from Lassie Ledford was payment for Dr. Killian's services. We recognized many family names that still have relatives in the county today. The Jarrett's, Ledford's, Long's, Penland's and Smith's to name a few. Upon a visit to The Old Jail Museum one will find the Dr. Killian exhibit to be like taking a walk back in time as it is set up today just as it was when Dr. Killian practiced medicine in that office.

Miss Ora told us many stories about her father and how he was a small man in stature but had a big heart and was dedicated to his chosen profession. She would reminisce about how her father was even called out to deliver a baby on her wedding day. Miss Ora even took on the role of nurse occasionally when patients were in their home. Dan was just a very young lad when his grandfather was still practicing in the old office but he remembers how gently his grandfather would pick him up and put him on his lap. Dan also remembers the porch of their home being full of patients and often when little Dan was on the porch around them they would sometimes give him pennies.

In 1941-1942 when the TVA came in to the area to build Chatuge Dam, Dr. Killian often provided medical services for the people working on the dam. In return for his services, the TVA built an addition to Dr. Killian's office. There was a small hallway between the two buildings that connected them. The TVA addition still stands in the front yard of the McGlamery home place on Chatuge Dam Road.

Dr. Killian served the medical needs of the people of Clay County faithfully for 52 years. He not only practiced medicine but he also served in the North Carolina Legislature for two terms –

once in 1915 and again in 1931. He was a Mason and a Shriner and was appointed by the President of the United States during World War I to establish a drafting and recruiting service in Clay County. Dr. Paul B. Killian died September 13, 1949. Dan (who was 4 years old) remembers that on that day there were crowds of people who had gathered at the Killian home.

After Miss Ora's death in 1995, Dan decided to donate the old doctor's office building which stood in the front yard of the Killian / McGlamery home place on Chatuge Dam Road. Dan knew that his grandfather was loved by the people and had contributed immensely to the history of Clay County. He wanted this part of our county's history to be preserved and Dr. Killian to be remembered for his contributions. Hence the donation of the old Dr. Killian office building to the Clay County Historical and Arts Council where Dan knew it would be preserved and enjoyed for years to come.

*Next week this article will continue with the story of the exciting day the old Dr. Killian building was moved into town to the museum. Read to find out about the "tight squeeze" along the way.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Last week we read about the life and contributions of Dr. Paul Bismark Killian and how his dedication to the medical care of the citizens of Clay County for 52 years brought him a legacy of great respect and love. Many in Clay County have ancestors who were his patients or were even delivered into the world by Dr. Killian. After his daughter, Mrs. Ora McGlamery, died in 1995, Dr. Killian's grandson, Dan McGlamery, knew that his grandfather was loved by the people and had contributed immensely to the history of Clay County. Dan wanted this part of our county's history preserved and Dr. Killian to be remembered for his contributions. Hence the donation of the old original Dr. Killian medical office building to the Clay County Historical and Arts Council where he knew it would be preserved and enjoyed for years to come.*

It was an exciting time for our family when the day came to actually move the original office building to town. Would the movers' plan work? It was quite a distance into town! Would the old building "crack"? How would they get it down the road past cars that might be on the narrow road? These were all questions my children were asking Dan and I. Secretly I was wondering those same questions. A great deal of planning and financing was needed to make the move happen. How would they need to turn the building once in town to get it placed in an area where it could successfully be attached to the museum? The Clay County Historical and Arts Council received a \$3500.00 grant from the Moss Foundation to be used toward the moving and setting up of the office. When the day finally came to move the office to town, Jack Shook and his crew came with his big truck and a long flatbed trailer. The office building was on a bank right beside the road which made it easy to get the flatbed trailer close to the building. The office building's foundation was merely two or three large stones stacked on top of each other. These rock stacks were at all four corners of the building and several areas along each side of and under the building for support and held it above ground. So the movers placed several long heavy wooden beams under each side of the building and under the building

making a frame that was then screwed to the building to hold it into place and give support for the moving process. They then placed heavy bridge timbers between the bank and flatbed. Using several heavy tonnage manual winches the crew began gently and ever so slowly sliding the building onto and across the bridge timbers onto the flatbed. That was a sight to behold especially for our children. Another piece of heavy equipment was used also to help guide it into place on the flatbed. Once the building was secured to the trailer it was time to make its way to its new home. Since the building was wider than the flatbed and stuck out over the sides of the trailer, all traffic headed down Chatuge Dam Road and Myers Chapel Road had to be blocked from traveling on those roads until the truck pulling the building reached Hwy 64. Navigating the concrete bridge on Myers Chapel Road near Hwy 64 proved to be a big challenge and was really a “tight squeeze”. The building barely made it through without scrapping the sides of the bridge by going very slowly across the bridge and having spotters on each side to watch and help guide it through. At the turn (where Dollar General is today) leading into town, traffic was once again blocked as the building made its way up the hill and into the museum area at top of the hill. Again the trailer carrying Dr. Killian’s building was positioned into place so that when the building was winched off of the trailer it would be in place for the attachment to the museum building. The whole process of getting the building moved took almost the whole day as it had to be done so slowly. It took several months for the process of connecting the building to the back of the museum, securing the steep bank area right behind it, sorting through all the material (which was extensive) from the old office and setting up exhibit for visitors. A new foundation and electrical work was also needed before the exhibit could be opened to the public. Mary Langley, vice president of the Historical and Arts Council at the time, was in charge of the Killian exhibit. Mary, Donna Wells and Helen Zucker were just a few of the numerous volunteers who helped with the setting up portion of this project. The Dr. Killian exhibit was finally officially opened for visitors on June 1, 1998. A ribbon cutting and Open House celebration of the Killian exhibit was held on Saturday, October 17, 1998. The last 20 years many people right here in Hayesville to visitors from numerous states have passed through the doors of the Old Jail Museum to see how going to the doctor might have been over 80 to 90 years ago.

This exhibit is truly a “gem” from the past. I am a retired first grade school teacher and I along with the other first grade teachers brought our classes to see the wonderful Clay County history that the Clay County Historical and Arts Old Jail Museum has to offer. They were always amazed to see the doctor’s office and compared it to their doctor’s office of present day. They were always curious about what that instrument or that chair was used for. I never failed to have at least one child to ask, “Mrs. Mac, did Dr. Killian really take chickens and pigs for payment?” My Assistant and I would grin at each other and say, “He sure did!”

Joey and Dan McGlamery

*This is part of a series of articles about historical gems in the Old Jail Museum and the interesting stories behind them. The museum is closed for the winter, but we hope to have made many improvements when it opens for the summer season.*

*The Clay County Historical and Arts Council is currently seeking to raise funds for the repair and restoration of the Old Jail Museum. To donate you may visit our website [clayhistoryarts.org](http://clayhistoryarts.org) or mail your check designated for Old Jail Museum Restoration Fund to CCHAC, P. O. Box 5, Hayesville, NC 28904*