

Battery Factory Appomattox

- 1 A. R. Harwood (Alfred Rice Harwood) 1880-1942 secured the battery factory for Appomattox (from the book by Vara Smith Stanley)
- 2 Frank Charles Dresser 1890-1952 married Nettie and had two sons, Frank Thomas and Walter Charles Dresser. Frank died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage at "Longacre" and is buried at Liberty Baptist Cemetery born 23Feb1890 died 4Mar1952
- 3 The Appomattox Battery Factory shipped dry cell batteries to many points in this and adjoining states. (from the History of Appomattox by N.R. Featherston)
- 4 A.R. Harwood & his sister Alice Harwood Marshall ran the Appomattox Hardware Store with the help of Otho Martin (from the Geneses of Appomattox by Cecil C. Harvey) who's daughter is the Stenographer in 1930 at the Battery Factory.
- 5 Frank Dresser married Nettie Moses, Charles T. Moses sister. Their mother was Clara Mann (see marriage license Pennsylvania State)
- 6 Per Ray Wingfield (1-28-2018): the factory made car & truck batteries. The Dressers owned it. Eddie Wooldridge got hurt there and it closed around WWII.
- 7 Per Bradley Mann (1-29-2018): In the 1940's & early 1950's Pete Doss's mother & father lived in the 1 house across from the battery factory. Bradley & his parents, Julian & Bernice, lived in the middle house and Eddie Wooldridge lived in the 3^a house. Eddie moved out and Russell Mann moved in. Julian and Russell were brothers. Bradley said there was a 4th house by the creek.
- 8 Per Gerald Wilbun: Gerald said his dad said that Frank Dresser would ride a bicycle to work.

Information from the Appomattox Heritage Book says the factory started in 1929 by a New York Stock Co. and made flashlight batteries. In 1933 Walter Dresser purchased the business and ran it until ???. Later he converted the business into the Appomattox Farmers' Supply Co. Mr. Holt purchased the company on April 19, 1955 and on June 1, 1972 when it was sold, it was considered one of the oldest companies in the county.

- 9 Nov. 16, 1933 Times Virginian - The new home of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dresser is now virtually completed and they are expected to move next week.
- 10 Nov. 30, 1933 Times Virginian - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dresser moved into their new residence Tuesday of this week. Their new home has recently been constructed and is one of the most attractive dwellings in Appomattox. It is located on Church Street opposite the Baptist Church.
- 11 March 28, 1929 Times Virginian - DRY BATTERY PLANT - Three car loads of machinery and materials have already arrived from New York for the battery factory here. Hands are busy unloading and placing the machines in the brick Farmers Warehouse which has been leased for the plant.

Workmen are engaged in making the necessary alterations in the warehouse and it is expected to be ready for operation within two weeks.

Stockholders of the Company held a meeting Tuesday night and elected the following board of directors: A.R. Harwood, W. L. Brown, S. L. Ferguson, R.L. Burke, W.M. Hancock, Fredrick Davis and Martin Cohen.

A committee was appointed to secure charter at once and the directors called for fifty per cent of stock subscribed. It is claimed to be the only plant of its kind in the South and its sales of dry batteries is expected to cover a large territory.

Offices will probably be retained in New York until the plant here is fully prepared to handle the output from this point. The "Enco" batteries have an established trade and are recognized as among the best on the market.

Messrs. David and Cohen will have charge of the manufacturing as experts, but control of the Company's affairs will be in the hands of the splendid board of directors who are principally local men. The factory has a bright future and great credit is given A. R. Harwood and his committee for locating the plant at Appomattox.

- 1 In the August 1941 Directory of Manufacturers in the section of chain stores on page 7 under batteries, dry cell flashlight is the Southern Battery Company, Appomattox, Va.

Listed in the Electrics Buyers Guide - First Postwar Directory of Electronic & Allied Products published in 1945 The Southern Battery Company, Appomattox, Va. is listed under dry batteries.

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- ☐ Ernest Chenault
- ☐ Randolph Mann
- ☐ Frank C. Dresser
- ☐ William Bass
- ☐ Eddie Woldridge
- ☐ Bernice Mann
- ☐ Julian
- ☐ Ola
- ☐ J. E. Giles
- ☐ Willie E. Smith
- ☐ Howard S. Flowers

Lee

Robert Smith

William E. Godsey

Leslie B Gasbrick

David E. Caldwell

Marvin M ?

David C. Carter

Howard Carter ?

