

## Wm. Worsham

### Obituary

December 22, 1898

After an illness of seven months from a complication of diseases, Mr. Wm. T. Worsham died at his home here last Monday morning, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., aged 66 years, 6 months, and 5 days, leaving a widow, who was Miss Phoebe Lewis, six daughters, one son, two sisters, and one brother – Mrs. E.J. Mahan and Mr. D.C. Worsham, of Sweet springs, Monroe County,, Va. - to mourn his departure. Mr. Worsham was born at Salt Sulphur Springs, Monroe county, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1832. For many years, he was engaged as a driver on the stage line between Staunton and Lewisburg, and when the stage coach went out of use by reason of the construction of the railway, he settled here in Lewisburg and was employed in running a line of hacks between this point and Ronceverte. Though engaged in this unpretentious calling Mr. Worsham was in character and conduct a gentleman, holding an enviable place in the respect and confidence of all who knew him. He will truly be missed, not only by his family, but the entire community, and his many friends regret to know that his familiar face will never be seen on our streets again. Two years ago he professed religion and joined the M.E. Church, South, here, was afterward elected a Steward and died in the full assurance of Christian's hope. After appropriate funeral services held at the Church of which he was a member, conducted by Rev. J.D. Martin, assisted by Mr. Brown, his remains were laid to rest in our town cemetery.

### Worsham Property Deeds

**Deed 32-16** September 18, 1880 (excerpts)

*Phoebe Worsham and her children purchase lot 12 and a building for \$600.*

“This deed made this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1880 between Jordan Davis & Fannie Davis his wife of Greenbrier County, State of West Virginia of the first part and Phoebe J. Worsham wife of William Worsham and the children of said William Worsham that he now has & that may be hereafter born to him by his present wife of Greenbrier county state of West Va of the second part, Witnesseth: that the said parties if the first part for and in consideration of six hundred dollars . . . do grant unto the parties of the second part, all that certain lot or parcel of land in the town of Lewisburg West Va with the buildings & appurtenances thereunto belonging and known in the plan of said town as lot no. 12 . . . “

**Deed 37-105** December 8, 1885 (excerpts)

*The Worshams buy lots 13 and 14 that become known as the “Worsham Stable Lot”.*

“This deed made this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 1885 between J.M. McWhorter Special Commissioner appointed in the chancery cause hereafter named of the first part and William Worsham and Phoebe J. Worsham parties of the second part. . . . the said purchase money having all been paid and the said Wm. Worsham desiring the conveyance be made to him and the said Phoebe J. his wife jointly by these presents grant, convey, and confirm unto the parties of the second part their heirs and assigns forever with covenant of Special Warranty all that certain parcel of land lying in the town of Lewisburg West Virginia being known in the original plan of said town as lots numbers 13 & 14 . . . “

**Deed 64-621** April 14, 1904 (excerpts)

*Phoebe Worsham and her children sell the “Worsham Stable Lot” near the Beirne spring, but keep the stable and sheds which must be removed within 14 days.*

“This deed made this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1904, between Phoebe J.. Worsham, Lou J. Donnally and Charles G Donnally her husband, Annie A. Worsham, Minnie R. Worsham, Kate B. Worsham, and Henry M. Worsham all of Greenbrier County, West Virginia parties of the first part and James Wilkes of Greenbrier county, West Virginia, party of the second part -

WITNESSETH: that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred and fifty (350) dollars . . . do hereby grant and convey with general warranty unto the said party of the second part the following real estate situated in the Town of Lewisburg in Greenbrier County West Virginia, Namely - Those two lots known as lots thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) on the original plan of said town in the hollow near "Beirne Spring" each containing one half acre and the two together one acre and known as "Worsham's Stable Lot". . . But the said parties of the first part hereby reserve and retain and do not convey the stable and sheds and to have said lots clean and clear thereof and ready for cultivation by the first day of May 1904 . . . "

**Deed 97-254** October 27, 1920 (excerpts)

*The Worsham heirs sell the "old William Worsham residence" lot # 12 and the adjoining Cannery Lot.*

"This deed made this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1920, between C.H. Hanna and Mollie M. Hanna, his wife (nee Worsham), Annie A. Worsham, Kate B. Worsham, and Minnie R. Worsham, of the first part ; and Zora H. Hanson, of the second part. . . WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the sum of \$1700.00 . . . do hereby convey with general warranty unto the said party of the second part, but subject to the condition hereinbefore set forth, all of these two lots or parcels of land situate in the Town of Lewisburg in the hollow on the corner of Lafayette and Randolph Streets, and including the old William Worsham residence and the lot lying northeast thereof, known as the Cannery Lot, together with all buildings thereon and all appurtenances thereunto belonging, the residence place being the same lot that was conveyed to Phoebe Worsham and her children . . . "

**Reference:**

The complete deeds are on file in the County Clerk's office at the Greenbrier County Courthouse.

While the obituary gives the impression that Mr. Worsham was little more than a hack driver, his real estate holdings indicate that either he, or his wife Phoebe, were very successful as property owners. Deeds dating back to the 1850's indicate there was a building on the property and the deed conveying the property to the Worshams stated ". . . with the buildings & appurtenances thereunto belonging. . .". However, the 2-story frame house shown in the WVU Library Tanyard photo from around 1897 is not typical mid-19<sup>th</sup> century construction. The Worshams probably had it built for themselves and their 7 children shortly after they purchase the lot. Five years later, they bought lots 13 and 14 at the foot of Lafayette street and built a stable there, probably to support the livery service. Phoebe sold the lots in 1904, 6 years after Wm. Worsham died, but did ". . . not convey the stable and sheds and to have said lots clean and clear thereof and ready for cultivation by the first day of May 1904 . . . " Phoebe must have recognized there was value in salvaged timber so she kept the structures and tore them down.

After the cannery closed in 1897, Wm. Worsham bought the cannery lot and building which was adjacent to his house in 1898, 10 months before he died. The 1898 Sanborn fire Insurance map shows a dwelling on Lafayette Street which Phoebe Worsham must have had built, perhaps as a rental investment. Eventually the house was purchased by the Detches in 1966 and tore it down to make room for their new motel.