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Early Days

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M. W. Grigg who was a practicing dentist in Shelby for many years, was granted license to practice (in compliance with the State law at that time) after spending a few months as an apprentice with a so-called dentist, Dr. Moore. After this few months' experience the young apprentice went to the Court House, registered as a dentist, paid a small license fee, called himself Dr. Grigg, and became a successful dentist.

As above stated, in 1887 the State of North Carolina enacted legislation requiring that dentists should meet certain educational requirements before being permitted a state license. False teeth have been used for centuries. I have been told that false teeth were found in the tombs of the mummies of ancient Egypt. There is a legend that George Washington's dentures did not fit comfortably.

Among the dentists of Shelby 50 years ago were Dr. J. Ruffain Osborne and his brother, Dr. Joe Osborne. Dr. Ruffain Osborne was a man of considerable native ability and was a real humorist. He was the first president of the State Association of Dentists after its organization. Dr. Joe Osborne also practiced at Lawndale. Dr. A. B. Holland practiced at Boiling Springs.

Dr. Robert E. Ware was graduated from Wofford College and taught school for several terms. He was, in fact, one of the founders of Belwood Academy, in 1890. After his graduation from Dental College at Vanderbilt University he practiced in Shelby for many years.