

Henry Edward Cowan “Red Buck” Bryant Papers

1 Box .5 linear feet of materials

H.E.C. Bryant grew up on a farm in Providence Township in southern Mecklenburg Co. He was born on January 3, 1873, one of 13 children. His father, Henry Bryant, was a farmer, a Justice of the Peace, a school committeeman, and sometimes an election judge. His mother was Julia Parks. The family was of Scotch-Irish ancestry and lived quietly on their farm.

Briefly attending the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College, now North Carolina State University, he did not enjoy it, came home and tried farming. This career was also unsuccessful, so his father sent him to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He failed English three times and got a degree in electrical engineering. Bryant returned to Charlotte and immediately started working for the *Charlotte Observer*. Writing was his passion for the rest of his life.

While covering a political convention for the paper in 1896, he leapt from the stage, when things looked like they would become violent. His red hair and this action earned him the nickname “Red Buck.”

Bryant was sent to work in Washington for the *Observer* in 1907. From there, he moved to Montana to write for a newspaper, and then returned to Washington to work for the *New York World*. He continued to act as a correspondent for the *Observer* during the 20 years he worked for *The New York World*.

Joseph Pearson Caldwell was his first employer and was the editor and part owner of *The Charlotte Observer*. He was a mentor to “Red Buck” Bryant.

He died at age 94 in Morganton, North Carolina, on November 3, 1967.

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