

Historic Haymarket home with quite a story behind it now on the market

By HEIDI M. BAUMSTARK
Observer staff

She came in 1912. She saw. She made an impact on the history of Haymarket. She was Brownie Bass Tulloss (1890-1977) who lived in one of Haymarket's last surviving, old homes.

Just two blocks from the intersection of Washington and Jefferson streets, sits a circa 1900 house with gentle, pale yellow wood siding, a welcoming front porch and enough history to satisfy just about anyone with an interest in the past.

The plaque on the front of the house, placed there by the Haymarket Historical Commission, notes that "Brownie Bass Tulloss House, c. 1900," she lived in this home, just up the street from the railroad tracks.

Brownie Bass (who later married Stuart B. Tulloss and then Robert "Cary" Smith) came riding into town in 1912 as a 22-year-old young lady. She came with her parents in a rubber-tired buggy from Augusta County in southwest Virginia, where her father was in the timber business, according to the late Sarah M. Turner's book, "Haymarket, A Town in Transition." Prior to moving to Haymarket, she was told that Prince William County was the poorest county in the state that only grew black-eyed peas and



Brownie Bass Tulloss House, c. 1900 on Jefferson Street in historic Haymarket is said to be one of the last remaining circa early 20th century homes in town.
Heidi M. Baumstark / the Bull Run Observer

sweet potatoes. When she arrived, Brownie Bass saw roads that were not at all well cared for by the road committees, according to Turner. The only good road ran from the north end of town to a large home called "Waverley," one of the showplaces in the county, owned by Col.

Newland Talbot DePauw, brother of Washington C. DePauw, for whom DePauw University in Indiana was named. This property was on Carolina Road, now U.S. 15, where Dominion Valley currently is, and the road leading to it was good, "no doubt to accommodate Col. DePauw," Turner said.

Haymarket's downtown had a blacksmith shop and an undertaker's business operated by the Rector family, which lived near St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Fayette Street. The horse-drawn hearse was parked at the west end of the blacksmith shop. When funerals took place, horses would go to the black-

smith shop to be hitched to the proper harness in order to drag the hearse to the cemetery.

When Bass came to Haymarket, she stated there were only three bathrooms in town and none of them worked. The village was also without a fire department. Townsfolk kept buckets handy so they could quickly run to a well in case of a fire. Also, in 1912, sidewalks were built under the supervision of the mayor, Dr. William Rodham Tulloss, who opened his medical practice in 1900 in the Red House Ordinary (then called Old Red House Tavern) at the intersection of Washington and Jefferson streets, Turner's book said. Little did Bass know then, that he was her future father-in-law.

During the period of 1912 to 1914, some of the families living in Haymarket included "Miss Sue Alrich, the Bragges, the Burrells, Henry Butler, the Crouches, the Foleys, the Garretts, the Hunts, the Hulfishes, the Hutchisons, Maude Jordan, Will M. Jordan, Mrs. Douglas Low, Janet and Katie, the Meades, the Parsons, Charles and Enoch Rector, the Robinsons, the Tullosses, the Wises, the minister of St. Paul's Church, the Clarksons,

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Brownie Bass Tulloss said to be the first acting woman mayor of Haymarket

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the Peters, the Gillises, the Rusts, the Beans and the Basses," wrote Turner.

Bass joined the residents and became town clerk. In the 1920s, "... because of the lack of a mayor, she served as acting mayor. This information was provided by the State Archives," Turner's book said. "I remember Mrs. Melton, whose husband was the mayor for a few years, saying that Brownie was the first acting woman mayor of Haymarket," recalled Michelle Neal-Heard, current owner of the house and former president of the Haymarket Historical Commission.

Tulloss also wrote for a newspaper and kept the community up-to-speed on all the weddings, obituaries and wrote a news column for Haymarket. Many of her articles are compiled in Tulloss's scrapbook safely kept in the Haymarket Museum, which was formerly the old Town Hall.

Several area residents shared memories of Tulloss. Sara Alvey, long-time resident of the Catharpin area, remembered when Tulloss was her Sunday school teacher at what was then St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

"She taught there in the late 1930s to early 1940s when I was a child. At Easter time, she'd make little Easter packages with goodies for the children; she was a very welcoming person. Everybody loved Brownie, she was a real community gal," Alvey said. Bass was also known as a seamstress and worked on Alvey's wedding gown.

across from the Haymarket Museum. It was last occupied from 1995 to 2004 by the Red Rooster Antiques & Collectibles shop, which was run by the town's current mayor, Pam Stutz, Haymarket's "other" woman mayor.

Alan Gossom, life-long Haymarket resident, remembered days from his childhood eating cookies and brownies baked by "Mrs. Smith," as she was called after marrying Cary Smith. "She loved cats," Gossom said, "even some of the sweets she baked had cat hairs. But, we didn't care, we just ate them anyway!"

Years before Haymarket's 1799 incorporation as a town, famous figures traveled down these roads where Tulloss lived at 6741 Jefferson Street.

The Washington and Jefferson street intersection near her house was such a popular crossroads that Red House, as Haymarket was first called, was "noted on a 1787 map of Virginia drawn by Thomas Jefferson," Ivancic said.

Currently, Michelle Neal-Heard and her husband, David, live in this house, but not for long; the house is on the market for sale since

their plans include a move to Alaska.

"We've enjoyed living in this historic house. One discovery we made was while building the kitchen and master bedroom addition we found several Civil War bullets in the foundation," Michelle said, who bought the house in 1996 from Steven and Beverly Beck, owners since 1992.

Now, there are only a handful of privately owned 100-year-old homes left in Haymarket and "this is a rare opportunity to have a chance to own a fully restored his-

toric home," Neal-Heard said.

It's been nearly a century since Brownie Bass's first arrival. If she were to come to Haymarket today, she would see her house-where she was known to serve mint juleps on her wide, front porch-much like it looked when she lived there, due to the conscientious owners who have preserved its country character. But the surroundings, she would find, would be quite different.

Information on this historic home is available from Evelyn Snowden, Long and Foster realtor at 540-428-2229.

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Ellie Ivancic, director of interpretation of the Haymarket Museum, had a grandmother who lived next to "Miss Brownie," as she was called. "Each year, she would take us to the Firemen's Carnival and insisted on buying us stuff," Ivancic recalled.

Brownie Bass married Stuart B. Tulloss, and according to the 1920 census, they lived in Washington, where he was a government lawyer. The 1930 census shows Brownie Bass back in Haymarket living at the Jefferson Street house widowed, with her mother, Margaret L. Bass, also a widow.

Later, Tulloss married Robert C. "Cary" Smith, brother of Bernard Carter "Buddy" Smith of Stepney, a historic home in Haymarket; Cary became the town's postmaster on Nov. 28, 1933 and served until late October 1959, according to Turner.

Dr. Edward P. Beverley owned the drug store in town and when he retired, Cary Smith bought the building, which was converted into a post office. This tiny white structure with its black painted door now sits vacant and stands on the north side of Washington Street, directly

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