

## W.M. Murphree Has Auto Accident

An accident occurred just outside of Seneca, near F. M. Cary's residence, on Saturday evening about 7 o'clock, when a collision occurred between automobiles owned by W. M. Murphree and Jackson O. Moore. The latter was driven by Mr. Moore's young son and was a Ford car. When the collision occurred the Ford car was turned over in the ditch near by, pinning the occupants underneath. Besides Mr. Moore were his wife and two sons in the car. Mrs. Moore suffered painful, though possibly not serious injuries. There were four men in the other car besides Mr. Murphree, but their names were not learned. All of them escaped injury. The exact cause of the accident is not known.

underneath. The car that was in collision with the Moore car was driven by W. M. Murphree, and was put out of commission temporarily owing to some disarrangement of the engine parts. The Moore car is a Ford, Mr. Murphree's a Maxwell. The latter being a much heavier car than a Ford, it withstood the shock of the collision much better, and being loaded heavier also was not overturned. No member of Mr. Murphree's party was hurt.

These clippings from the Keowee Courier newspaper of Oconee Co, SC published 2 May 1917, p5 & p8 are provided compliments of Jim Ison.



1917 Maxwell

My dad, Paul Murphree, did not remember this accident but he would have only been three years old at the time. He did remember a later road trip to Pennsylvania in one of his dad's Maxwells to visit Rufus (dad's brother) who had moved there. It was in the winter. They had side curtains on the Maxwell but there was no heater in the car. He said they would build fires along the way and heat bricks to place in the floorboards to try to keep warm. He remembered his mother sitting with her legs crossed underneath her in the seat with blankets wrapped around her trying to keep from freezing.

Wesley Madison (Matt) Murphree, my grand-dad, sold Maxwell automobiles at his general store in the Salem-West Union community of Oconee Co, SC. Dad said that when his father sold a Maxwell he usually had to teach the new customer how to drive. He remembered one time the proud owner of a new Maxwell had completed the training and proclaimed he was ready to drive. He did fine until later that day. He had parked the shiny new Maxwell in front of his house to show it off. A neighbor stopped by and the gentleman was going to take his neighbor for a ride. He fired up the horseless carriage, pulled it into gear and dropped the clutch. Instead of moving forward he promptly plowed, in reverse, into a corner post holding up the well shed and dropped the roof of the shed onto his shiny new Maxwell!

If you, or any of your family, has any photos, documents or recollections of W.M. Murphree's Maxwell dealership or stories relating to Maxwell automobiles in Oconee or Pickens during this time I would love to hear from you. Please go to our *Contact* page and send me a message.

~Charles Murphree