



Ruby and Ridley Rector.

Initially Calvin Rector, his wife, and his seven sons all went to work in the cotton mill. Calvin did not work in the mill very long. He “did handyman work.” He was a beekeeper, a cobbler, and he sharpened lawn mowers. He was a jack-of-all-trades.



Helen Rector as a little girl.

Ruby’s mother was Laura Sisk. Laura Sisk (born in 1879) was part Cherokee. Helen said Laura Sisk she always said she moved here in a covered wagon from “Florence County” when she was a girl. Ruby’s father was Sam Nathan Webster.



Laura Sisk (born 1879)

Ruby (born in 1908) married Andrew Shelton. She had two children by the time she was 18 years old. Helen said, “When Mamma was pregnant with her second [child], he [Andrew] wouldn’t work.” Helen said, “The Klu Klux Klan dealt with trifling men. They said, ‘You go to work or we’ll come and visit you.’” Shelton left the state, and Ruby went home to her mother.

Helen thinks her parents met at the Merrimac Mills. Ruby and Ridley Rector married in 1928. Helen said her mother gave birth to her at home, on East Street, and they took her to the hospital when she was nine days old, wrapped in a blanket. She weighed 2 pounds and 14 ounces when she was born.