



by Kristen Carter

Raymond Caughman

Being the last of 10 children and the second set of twins, Raymond Caughman and his brother Hampton were born on January 10, 1927. With a little over a thousand inhabitants, life in the town of Lexington was much different back then. Most of the town people were farmers, like the Caughmans were. The Caughman family grew “everything you could think of” year-round: collards, mustard greens, radishes, blackberries, gooseberries, peaches, pecans, apples and much more. Their original family property encompassed 1,000 acres, running from the railroad tracks across Highway 378, to what is now the Woodcreek neighborhood.

In those days, it was common for mothers to give birth to their children at home. Adjacent to Ray’s property stands the family home where all of the Caughman children were born.

Raymond’s father had the responsibility of providing for 10 children with a meager annual farming income of \$300, so he became employed for Lexington County. He served as the Lexington County Coroner for 28 years of his 30-year term, until his death in 1965.

Raymond and Hamp entered the army together after graduation in 1945. Both were sent to China as part of the occupational forces. After both of the twins received three promotions together, they returned home in 1946.

After returning to his family’s farm in Lexington, Ray became one of the three employees at the Bank of Lexington. Raymond continued to work for the bank as it went through several merges. He went on to found the Lex-

ington State Bank in 1966. The Lexington State Bank was known as the “the biggest little bank in South Carolina.” Along with 11 original shareholders, Raymond helped make Lexington what it is today by providing financial support to countless local businessmen and homeowners. He served as the president, chief executive officer, and member of the Board of Directors from 1966 until 1994 when The Lexington State Bank merged with BB&T.

Raymond was in banking for 50 years, and eight and a half months. Upon his father’s death, he completed the last two years of his father’s term as coroner. After finishing his father’s coroner term, he then ran for a four-year term unopposed, during which time he served as a banker, sold life insurance, farmed, and even worked at a service station.

In retirement, Raymond remained active in local restoration, planning boards, committees, church, and civic groups. On January 17th, 2008, the first annual “Heart of Lexington One” was held to honor Ray. He was recognized for his love and commitment to the Lexington community throughout his personal and professional life.

Raymond and his wife Elizabeth, celebrated their 66th anniversary in 2017. When asked how the couple celebrated their anniversary, Raymond’s twin brother interjected, “They celebrate everyday!” During their years together, they have raised three children. Raymond leaves a legacy to the Lexington community. His hard work and love for his hometown have made all the difference in growth of Lexington. ■



Left to right: Raymond and Hampton Caughman

