

Herschel and Ruby Gifford Finch

My parents were Herschel (March 10, 1905) and Ruby Gifford Finch (Dec. 4, 1910). Both were born and raised in Tracy City. Dad lived in Dykes Hollow and my mother in the area of Fiery Gizzard. She and her siblings tell wonderful stories about their years in Tracy City. My mother's childhood friend was Lacy Yarber. Miss Lacy became a teacher and taught all of mother's children in Grundy Co. High School.

Both the Gifford and Finch families move to Palmer to work in the coal mines. They lived 3 houses apart, near the railroad tracks. My mother and dad became sweethearts and were married 2/23/1926, by Rev. R.D. Angel. After living in Palmer a few years, we moved to Collins, TN. Collins is now a part of Gruetli-Laager. They had 7 children: Billy Edward, born in 1928 and died when he was 7 weeks old. He was buried in the Tracy City Cemetery.

Herschel Finch, Jr. was born 10/14/1929. He married Jeanetta Tate. They have 2 sons Herschel III, John, and a daughter Jeanetta, who only lived 6 hrs. She is buried in San Diego, California, Balboa Park National Cemetery.

Betty Jean Finch was born 11/23/1932, and married Johnnie Morgan Hill. They had 2 children, Michael and Kim. Johnnie and Betty later divorced and she married William Bush. William died and she married Rev. Charlie Green.

Jimmie Ruth "Boots" Finch was born 1/29/1934, and married Glenn Allen Nunley. They had three children: Jimmie Lynn, Glenn Anthony, and Suzette. Glenn died 7/8/1991. "Boots" Died 9/15/1991. They are both buried in Palmer Cemetery.

Anita Finch was born 6/25/1936 and married L.B. "Noel" Crabtree Oct. 3, 1952. We have 4 children: Teresa Ann, Noel David, Deborah Sue, and Lisa Rence. Noel died 9/11/1986, and is buried in Palmer City Cemetery.

Bonnie Carroll was born 11/20/1938 and married Martin Eugene Layne. They have 4 children: Jeanie Sue, Martin "Marty", Jr., Frankie Lee, and Stephen Mack Layne.

Larry Thomas Finch was born 11/9/1945 and married Sheila Akins. They have 3 children: Regina, Toshia, and Jeffrey Thomas.

My brother Herschel retired as a Navy chief. Betty Jean retired as a public health nurse. Boots retired as a seamstress. I retired as a nurse for Dr. William Shull. Bonnie Carroll is the postmaster at Gruetli-Laager. Larry Thomas is self employed in Jacksonville, FL.

392 words

Submitted by Anita Crabtree; Rt. 1, Box 616; Palmer, TN 37365

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Frank C. & Alice VanHooser Lockhart
(Submitted by Donna Gifford Basham)
(My maternal Grandparents)

Frank C. Lockhart was born in Grundy Co. in 1886. One of four children born to Elizabeth Pankey Lockhart and Andrew Jackson Lockhart (born January 10, 1837 in Grundy County). Andrew served with the Confederacy during the Civil War - 4th TN Calvary. Frank grew up in Tracy City with brothers Sydney and Milton Lockhart, and Sister Sally Lockhart Carrick.

Alice J. VanHooser, was born in Tracy City, in 1889, the daughter of Gemima A. Ross VanHooser and John A. VanHooser. She had three sisters, Ella VanHooser Lawrence, Ada VanHooser Caldwell and Nancy Jane VanHooser. Her brothers were John Lester VanHooser, Isaac Nelson VanHooser, Sam Harley VanHooser and George Franklin VanHooser. They were brought up in Tracy City.

Frank & Alice began their marriage living in Tracy City –first at the Lockhart home place in Browns Hollow and then Orange Hill. Most of their married life, home was where Orange Hill and Parmley Hollow Rd intersect, the location where my husband, Glenn Basham and I reside. Frank was a farmer and coalminer. Traveling to and from the Coalmines, he and several relatives traveled the very popular route called “the miners path”. They walked from the Greentown Community down the mountain through Johnsons Gulf, then upward to Ross Mountain and eventually to the “Pocket” in Griffiths Creek where much of the mining took place. Alice was a homemaker and worked the family farm where she sold milk, butter & eggs to local grocery stores. One of my fondest memories was watching as she “traded” with the deliveryman on the “Rolling Store”. Of course, considering my age, (I was very young) she seemed impressive while she negotiated with the salesman.

Their marriage produced eight children, three sons and five daughters: Florence Lockhart Bouldin, Minnie Lockhart Geary, Cheatum Lockhart Hansen, Georgia Lee Lockhart (my Mother) and Alice (Trixie) Lockhart: Sons – John Andrew Lockhart, Clarence Alton (Dink) Lockhart and Wilson Lockhart.

Both Frank and Alice are deceased and buried at the Orange Hill Cemetery.

332 words