

**Compendium  
Of  
Monteagle, Tennessee's  
Pioneer Families**

**Volume 1**

*Compiled by  
Jackie Layne Partin*

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# Compendium of Monteagle, Tennessee's Pioneer Families

## Compiled by Jackie Layne Partin



*Moffat Station, Moffat Springs, Mont Eagle or Monteagle, call it what you may. It rose from the wilderness to become a quaint little village, then town. However, the small town that was is slowly becoming a place existing only in our memories. This is the reason for the following effort. (Jackie Layne Partin)*

Of course, Monteagle is dear to me and to all who have called it home, especially in those long ago days! The purpose of this effort is to present summaries, portraits if you wish, of as many of its former families as possible. There will be no particular timeline or deadline in the gathering of these portraits, but simply the opening of hearts to share with and record for future generations. Before the 1870's, woodlands scattered the area, but slowly a quaint little village rose up from the rich mountain floor and eventually became known as Monteagle. Only footpaths and beautiful flora and fauna covered the plateau with the occasional Confederate and Union Armies' activities causing local folks to peer from a highly or hidden view. If one cared, he or she could also watch the coal trains going to and fro from the little towns of Tracy City and Sewanee. Below we share the memories of some of the families who came to the town as pioneers and some who just ambled through for a visit but lingered.

### Eva Hamutrel (Carlyson) Hindson Beard (1877-1952)

Contributions by Anna Mary Parker

She eluded me. While surveying the Monteagle Cemetery, her stone rose up before me with a bold question mark. There was no doubt that I would get to know her but not until about three years later on Oct 25, 2013. My talk with a ninety-six year old lady who gave life to the seventy-five-year old body that was laid beneath the sod in 1952 was informative. Miss Anna Mary Parker presented Eva to me; with a little research I learned more.

Eva Hamutrel Carlyson was born 1877 in Georgia to William Henry and Mary Carlyson. She had two sisters, Frances and Willie Mae. While her sisters became public school teachers, Eva graduated from high school and later chose to become a nurse working for Dr. George Douglas Hayes at his sanatorium in Tracy City. Two marriages for Eva granted her married names of Hindson and Beard.

From her marriage to Mr. Hindson came two children, one died young, but her son William H. "Willie" Hindson, born in 1901, grew to manhood. In his youth, he and Eva lived with her widowed mother and his two aunts in Marion Co., TN. After attending college for a couple of years, probably in New Orleans, he became a meter service man for a utility company there. Eva was with her son throughout his rearing and young adulthood, but something called her back to Tennessee, to the mountain, to Monteagle. It was here that she married William L. Beard, a real estate agent, on Mar. 14, 1917 with William H. DuBose officiating.

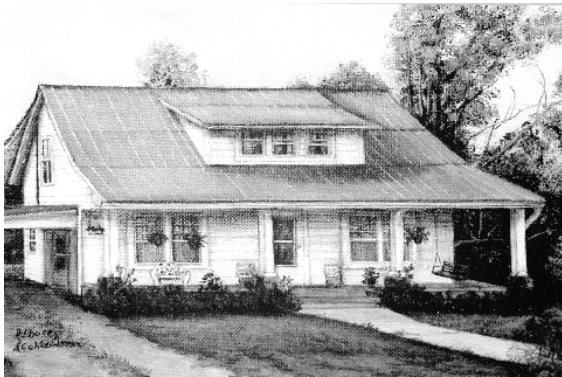
The story goes that Mr. Beard was an alcoholic, a really, really involved alcoholic. However, he begged Eva to marry him, but wisely so, she evaded his proposals. Then one day from the bottom of his heart, he promised Eva that he would give up his drinking if she would become his wife. She did, and he quit drinking immediately. They lived in a house on what is today (2013) known as the Pascal and Maggie Barnes homeplace on the bluff overlooking Pelham Valley. Eva's new husband also managed the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly for some years. Sadly he passed away leaving Eva alone in a house that was not warm in the cold, windy winters on the bluff. Eva was blessed to have reasonably near neighbors, a widow, Esther Mila (Francis) Parker and her two daughters, Willa Francis "Dish" and Anna Mary, who invited her to winter over at their house. This arrangement came from the mere Christian attitudes of the Parker ladies. The ladies requested no financial assistance, but occasionally, Eva gave a small sum to help with the expenses. These four, active ladies faced their summers with a goal of continued happiness and contentment.

Later it became obvious to Eva that she needed permanent health care, so she moved around the bluff to Mulford Rest Home, the former Wrenn's Nest, now known as Handley's Point of View. Below the rest home, Sweet Fern Cave with its cool, mountain breezes offered wonderful, summer repose for weary hikers. Upon her death in 1952, the widow of Dr. Thomas Franklin Taylor donated a spot in the family plot for Eva's burial. Her son had not been greatly involved in Eva's life here on the mountain; his visits were rare. He passed away in July 1980 while still living in Louisiana.

## Harvey Douglas Thomas (1918-1967)

Contributions by Marlene (Thomas) Rockwell

Some who still live can remember this colorful man. Our first thoughts are the cafes/restaurants that were operated by him. Over a period of time, Harvey's daughter Marlene and I have settled on six spots where Harvey carried on his art of serving the public with good food, but first, a little family history.



Harvey was a son of John H. "Project" and Carrie Ann (McFarland) Thomas. He had a house full of siblings, namely: Christine L., Horace G., Ernest B., Winston, Beatrice, Willie "Big Willie", Charles H., George G., and Louise H. For the most part, these children were reared in a house that is still standing behind the new Monteagle School. (Left: John H. and Carrie Thomas House)

Harvey married Clarine O'Neal whose parents were Jonathan Corbett and Allie Jean (Parker) O'Neal. Her siblings were Jane Elizabeth, Sarah Mae and Jay, Jr. Together the couple set about entertaining thousands of tourists and travelers on their way North and South on Highway 41. They managed the businesses while the buildings were owned by others. The list of businesses in order is: 1) Harvey's Café located jointly with the old Clyde Bennett/John McGregor garage; 2) the Beehive located to the east of the current Monteagle School; 3) the Oak Terrace located just around Mabee curve on the right going south; 4) the Diner and Maplehurst Hotel which were in the center of Monteagle; 5) the Monteagle Restaurant on the west end of town and finally 6) Harvey's Restaurant just across the highway from the Monteagle Restaurant. All of the locations were on Hwy 41 where the traffic was enormous in the days before I-24 skirted the town.



(1) Harvey's Café at  
Bennett/McGregor's Garage



(2) Bee Hive;  
Harvey behind counter



(3) Oak Terrace; Wayne, Ann  
Thomas wife of Billy; Marlene



*(4) Monteagle Diner*



*(5) Monteagle Restaurant*



*(6) Harvey's Restaurant*

At one time Harvey, Clarine and little Marlene lived in an upstairs apartment in the Bennett house on College Street. Later they moved to a house on the second hill on King Street where baby Wayne joined them making the family of three now four. The house was on the right at the top of the hill across the road from the Grooms family home. Marlene also remembers enjoying the swing on the porch of the Maplehurst Hotel where her family made their home during their years at the Diner. The hotel had an annex that many have forgotten. A large two-story house sat back a little between the Diner and the hotel. The proprietors of the hotel used it as an overflow from the hotel. Jane Ellen Grooms took on babysitting Marlene and Wayne. This freed Clarine to work alongside her husband in the Diner. Later they bought the Hunziker house which stands east of the second Monteagle School. It is now (2013) owned by J. B. Ladd.



*Harvey and Clarine (O'Neal) Thomas*



*Clarine & son, Wayne; home on King St.*

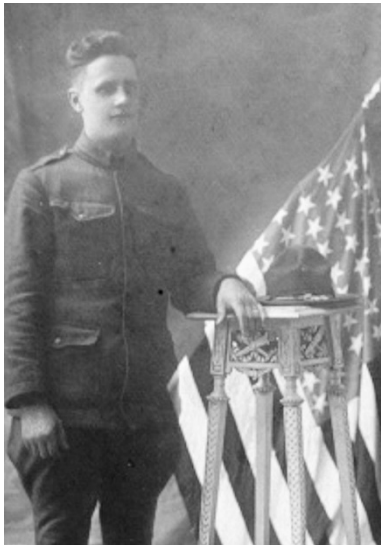
On April 22, 1943 in Ft. Oglethorpe, GA, Harvey enlisted for service in the U. S. Army during WWII. Like many young Monteagle men, he served his country well and returned to his hometown. He was a boy at heart and filled his life with color and adventure. While he operated the Oak Terrace, he owned a car which was installed with extremely loud air horns. He was enjoying the American dream. On Nov. 10, 1967, Harvey Douglas Thomas passed away and was buried at the Monteagle Cemetery. Later, his wife Clarine married John Paul Jackman. When she passed away on July 30, 2001, her ashes were returned to Harvey's side in the cemetery.

### **Clyde William Bennett (1897-1966)**

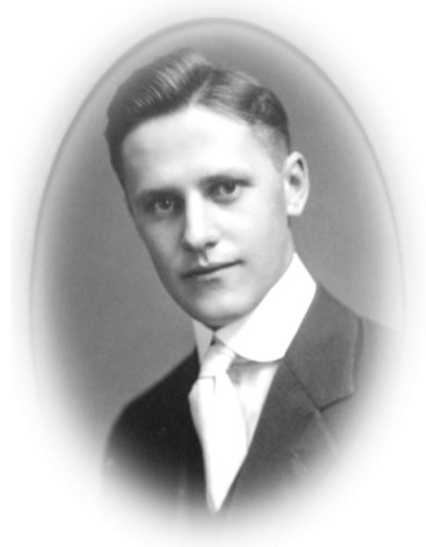
Contributions by Hattie Ruth "Dusty" Bennett

Clyde William Bennett was the son of William David "Squire" and Hattie Alexander (Starling) Bennett. His paternal grandparents were James H. and Adaline (Smith) Wagoner Bennett; his maternal grandparents were Elias and Charity (Walker) Smith. Playing around the house as youngsters were his siblings, Roy James, Charles Cleo, Ford Wilson, William David, Jr., Vera and Edith Love. Squire Bennett reared his children first in a two-story house which stood next to C. J. Cantrell's Furniture store on College Street in Grundy Co. That house became rental property before it burned around 1947. The family also lived in another two-story house on the present Bill Jack and Isabel Gunn property on Bennett St. They were as near to the railroad track as one individual family could be. All this worked well for the hundreds of young couples looking to be "hitched" by Clyde's father, a Justice of the Peace. A "joining of hands in holy matrimony" was the norm around the Bennett house.

Clyde being energetic and determined to give his future family the best he could offer chose in 1927, even before he married, to build a Texaco Station and a house on the Marion Co. side of Monteagle. Then he fell in love with Ruth Shoemake, daughter of George Washington & Harriett "Hattie" (Jones) Shoemake of Mississippi. The couple's family grew with the arrival of three children, Clyde, Jr., Phyllis and Hattie Ruth "Dusty". The garage had an extra attachment which was operated at different times by Clyde's brother, Cleo Bennett, a Lassater family and Harvey Thomas as a cafe. Ruth worked as a nurse for Mrs. May Campbell who travelled with her daughter and son-in-law from Memphis to the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly.



*Left & Rt.: Clyde  
William Bennett*



*(Pvt. Army SVC Corps,  
WWI)*



*Clyde Bennett's Garage, Café, and House  
on Hwy 41; built ca. 1927*



*Clyde and Ruth's first house later became  
the home of John McGregor.*

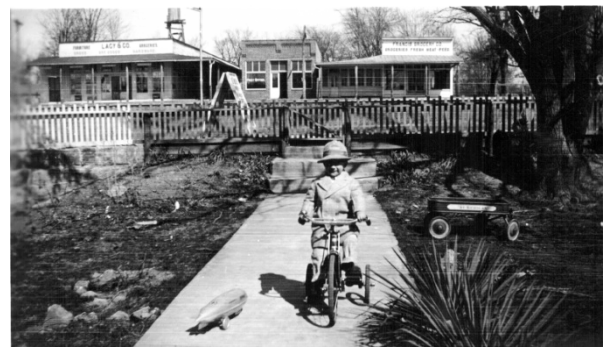
In the early fifties, Martha Alice Wooten worked for the Lassaters when she was a young teenager. She recalls space for a walk between the Café and the Bennett house. This walk allowed the black travelers to go down a few steps to a two-room dining area at the back of the café, segregation at its worse. Alice speaks of public restrooms detached from the main building also being between the two buildings.

The house and yard were surrounded by a picket fence which kept the three Bennett children safe from the busy traffic moving along the main street of Monteagle. East of the house was a small building which housed a shoe shop operated by my grandfather Arthur Alexander "Alex" Layne. It later became a shop where Rance Tate was in popular demand for his barbering skills. Hattie Ruth "Dusty" Bennett was five-years- old when her family made a move to the other side of the railroad tracks.





*Ruth with her son Clyde, Jr.  
In background, Lacy's Drugstore; Post  
Office, Feed Room at Jim Francis' Store*



*Clyde William Bennett, Jr. inside the  
picket fence, ca. 1934*

Clyde had built the "Firestone Store and Garage" on the Grundy County side of town. Plans were for a portion of it to become a Greyhound Bus Station, and it did. The old bus station that operated out of the old Depot baggage room that had been moved up College Street and attached to the last Monteagle Hotel burned in 1950. This presented an immediate need for a new site for the buses to unload and pick up. The new garage stood on the corner of North Central Avenue and College St. on a lot left vacant when a huge house called Corner Oaks burned. In 1947 Clyde also acquired the large, two-story house on College St. which had previously been occupied by Dr. Brewer. Before his ownership, the house was probably owned by Julius and Mary Grace (Markle) Hassler. Today (2013) the lovely old house has had a facelift and remains a center piece of the town. Eventually, the Texaco Station and house on the Marion Co. side of the tracks became the property of John and Eva (Lacy) McGregor. Today, "Dave's Modern Tavern" stands near the spot of the former Texaco Station.



*William David and Hattie Alexander  
Bennett with grandsons, Clyde, Jr. and Pat*



*Clyde, Jr., Ruth holding Hattie Ruth and  
Phyllis in front*

Clyde William Bennett, *Pvt. Army SVC Corps, WWI*, a well-known, respected business man and Justice of the Peace in Monteagle, passed away on Aug, 16, 1966, and was laid to rest in the Monteagle Cemetery. His wife Ruth moved to Nashville to be with her daughter Hattie Ruth "Dusty" Bennett. She died in 1993 and her remains were brought to Monteagle, her final resting place.

### Magdalena "Mattie" (Abplanalp) Kennedy (1850-1936)

Switzerland lost a model citizen when nineteen-year-old Magdalena boarded the U. S. S. William Penn with her parents in search for a "new Switzerland" in the U. S. A. She was the daughter of Andreas, Sr. & Elizabeth (Smits) Abplanalp who made their way down south to Grundy Co., TN, settling between Altamont and Beersheba Springs. Magdalena married John Robert Kennedy who was a Scotsman, and the couple made their home in Monteagle. The Kennedys were the parents of Charles and Caroline (the twins), Charlotte, Anna B., Allen, George R., Elizabeth M. and Fred Zickler. They lived on Trussell Rd. on the Marion County side of the railroad tracks.

John and Mattie's son, Fred Zickler Kennedy, Sr. was probably best known as a onetime proprietor of the City Café which stood on the corner of South Central and Main St. It was a most popular place for travelers to find good country food when they did not want the pomp and splendor presented at the Monteagle Hotel across the tracks on College Street. Fred and his wife Ruby lived in the lone house on King St. between the corner of College and 1<sup>st</sup> St. Today the property is covered with years of debris from the Greeter Building Supply Store.

One of Mattie's favorite visitors was her sister Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Abplanalp) Anderegg who rode the train down from Tracy City. Lizzie brought the little ones with her, and a day of fun was had among the two sets of young cousins. Both Mattie and Lizzie had given birth to a set of twins. (Read more about Lizzie on the following site: [http://grundycountyhistory.org/.](http://grundycountyhistory.org/))

Magdalena Kennedy passed away May 24, 1936 at the age of eighty-six. Her husband, John, had died many years before in 1905. They are buried in the Monteagle Cemetery along with several of their children.



*Right: Magdalena "Mattie" (Abplanalp) Kennedy*

**Lloyd Calvin Swallen (1891-1975)**  
Contributions by Lenora (Johnson) Layne

Would you like to buy some healthy, homemade, baked goods and not ever leave the mountain? Well, in the 1930's and later, local residents could do just that by visiting Lloyd Calvin and Bessie A. (Cotton) Swallen in the Summerfield area. Because of their Seventh Day Adventist faith, they chose to be more careful of foods that entered their bodies. Not only did they set up a small bakery at their home, but they were instrumental in starting the SDA Church in the area and sharing their medical knowledge with neighbors or anyone who called upon them for help.

Lloyd was born in Ohio on Apr. 2, 1891 to Albert and Josephine Swallen. He married Bessie on Oct. 20, 1915 in Davidson Co., TN. The couple slowly worked their way down South, settling in the Summerfield area of Grundy County. They built their home just off the Old Tracy City Road aka Forrest Point Road. They also built a small SDA Church building near their home, a fact that many may not have known. It would have stood across the road from the back of the Summerfield Market. That church building, like most in those days, was also used as a school.

Lenora Johnson attended the first Church School in the building. It grew to about twenty students grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>. The toilets were outdoors, and the children's drinking water was carried to the school. Lenora's father, Mr. Dallas Johnson, cut firewood for the wood burning stove that kept the students warm, and kerosene lamps were placed on the walls for lighting. Both Lloyd and Bessie were qualified to teach the students and care for their medical needs. Bessie was a registered nurse sharing her skills with those in need. Lloyd was a practical nurse, but he also had training in agricultural fields. This training came in handy when teaching the young males and their fathers how best to go crops and use them in a healthy way.

The Swallens were well-respected in the neighborhood. It didn't matter whether one was a member of the SDA Church or not; their medical expertise was available to all those searching for help. Lenora remembers their tender care when she became quite sick, not yet at school age. Chiropractic services were also rendered to many who could get no relief from their painful joints.



*Lloyd & Bessie Swallen – 58<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*

They had one daughter Mariam Swallen who was home schooled a couple years by Lenora's sister Margaret Johnson. She later went to Grundy County High School and graduated. Mariam followed her parents' lead and became a nurse. She married Marian Moses whom she met in Monteagle. Bessie laid her husband at rest on Apr. 1, 1975 in the Monteagle Cemetery. Eight years later she followed in death and was laid to rest beside her beloved Lloyd.

### Susan "Sukey" (Layne) Levan (1845-1900)

"Sukey" was the nickname of a lady, born Jun. 14, 1845, who lived on the side of the mountain between Monteagle and Layne's Cove, formerly Hollingsworth Cove. Her real name was Susan (Layne) Levan; she was reared in the cove as the daughter of John Hiram & Esther (Kilgore) Layne. This made her a sister to my gg-grandfather Abraham K. Layne (1828-1879). Sukey shared the spotlight with John Sampley in the book, *John Gamp*. Elizabeth "Patti" Purnell, the author, thought enough of her to include her in the list of memorable folks who frequented the domain of the Monteagle Assembly grounds. Riding on her mare Queenie and with mop, broom and bucket in hand, she came up from her home above the horseshoe curve on Payne's Toll Road, later Highway 41, and entered the north gate of the Assembly. There she worked in the newly built wooden homes and boarding houses to earn money to help in the rearing of her children. Many, if not all, of her Layne kinfolks, worked at one time or the other inside the Assembly gates.

Sukey, *pictured at right*, married William Franklin Levan on Aug. 28, 1863. Five children were born to this union: Martha, Benjamin, Joseph, Elizabeth and Thomas Marion. After the death of William, lovingly called "Sweet Papa" by Susan, she married W. B. Turner on Dec. 19, 1889. That marriage just didn't work out. When Mr. Turner suggested that Sukey sell her mare, Queenie, because he was too sickly to plow the fields with her, Sukey called it quits.



On Mar. 20, 1900, Susan "Sukey" Levan took her place beside her husband and other family members in the Summerfield Cemetery. For more exciting episodes in Sukey's life, please search the book, *John Gamp*. It can be found online at the following site: <http://grundycountyhistory.org/>.

**William Matthew Farmer (1842-1943)**

Contributions by Earlene (Farmer) Beene

According to William Matthew Farmer's death certificate, he was 101 years, 5 months and 10 days old when he died. Dr. Thomas Franklin Taylor simply stated that William labored with lobar pneumonia for four days before his death. William M. Farmer's parents were James and Sarah (Matthews) Farmer. William had married Belmont "Belle" Carlisle on Apr. 10, 1883, in Smith Co., TN. The couple lived all around the counties of Franklin, Marion and Grundy, but in Monteagle near DuBose and Trussell Roads, they finally settled.

Belmont gave birth to eleven children, but only six were alive in 1910, Sallie, Minnie, Samuel "Sam", Noah, Andrew Thomas and Polly. The images of some town folks remain forever set in our minds as we look back on the streets of our youth. Williams' son, Sam Farmer, is one of those images that come before me as I sit at the picnic tables near the substitute hotel eagle that seems so out of place. That is one of my happy places, my pondering places.

Sam never married. He was of small stature and had a presence of character that one cannot forget. His smoking pipe was an extension of his hand. His vehicle of travel was his two feet. He walked every week day to the Monteagle Post Office to "call" for his mail. It was in front of that post office, leaning against the front window that I remember him most. I also have an image of him leaning back in a straight-back chair on his little porch on South Central Ave. The little log house had been built by Carl, Sr. and Floy Marie (King) Norwood, and it eventually made its way into Sam's ownership.



*Sam Farmer in the Robert A. Francis Store*

Sam's little house began to crumble around him, so he made a real estate deal wherein he traded land for a newer two-room house. As he aged and his health began to fail him, Herbert Brannan was appointed as his administrator. The decision was made to move him into the Maplehurst Hotel. It was arranged so that he could "take" his meals at the Monteagle Diner. Sam's final home was a skilled care unit in Winchester, TN.

Aged William Matthew Farmer passed away in 1943 while living with his son Andrew Thomas on the Grundy Co. side of the tracks. His wife Belle died in 1950, and their precious son Sam joined them in the Monteagle Cemetery in 1974.

### Charles Wilburn Sampley (1914-1999)

Charles Wilburn Sampley was born Apr. 24, 1914, a son of William John "John Gamp" and Mary Margaret (Gregory) Sampley. The name *John Gamp* in Elizabeth Wilkins Purnell's book published in 1901 was a pseudonym for Wib's father John Sampley. One only needs to read the book to find out more about John; search for the book on <http://grundycountyhistory.org/>.

Wib's mother was the daughter of Samuel and Mary Adeline (Long) Gregory. He married Ida Josephine Rogers on May 7, 1939. "Jo," as she was lovingly called, was a native of Warren Co., TN. The couple became the parents of two children, Charles and Shirley. When Wib and Jo first married, they lived for a while in the Monteagle Hotel. Wib had his eye on a piece of real estate where he wanted to build his new bride a house, one for their lifetime together.

On King St. across from the old Monteagle Public School lingered an old house that previously housed the School of Industrial Arts, sometimes called the Domestic Science Building. The school was started around 1922 to break the boredom in the community caused by the seasonal closing of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly. Home Economics, basket weaving, pottery making—made from local clays, were among the arts taught by Miss Mulheron in the school. This was the same building

wherein older female public school students received some home economic classes. At one period hot soups and stews were served to the school children in the same building. Later in the afternoon, classes were held for a nominal fee which was used to buy supplies like a kiln for use by the pottery students.



*Charles Wilburn "Wib" Sampley with his daughter Shirley ca. 1956*

*In the background the Layne Bros. Store on King Street can be seen – not standing today (2013).*

Wib saw potential in the old arts building, so using his expertise in carpentry he set about, in his spare time, tearing down and building up on the site. He spent his "work for pay" hours on the Monteagle Assembly Grounds as a carpenter. Interestingly, Wib got a bit of history when he bought the old place because the kiln was housed in an old shop which became his workshop. His mother had used the kiln when she was a young girl. That kiln was with him for years, and the shop stills stands in 2013. Because they were our "neighbors across the street," I became very familiar with the Sampley house. Strangely, the old, large back porch with its half-walls and screen wire, begged me to believe that it was possibly a remnant from the old Arts building. The porch had a life of its own. It was on this porch as a child that I learned the technique of cutting and scraping fresh ears of corn, thus, turning them into that wonderful homemade, cream-style corn that we all love so well. The overworked, wringer washer swished away the time on the old wooden floors. One might say that Josephine kept right on exercising the home economic skills that her mother, Vina Rogers, had taught her. Just maybe many a young Monteagle girl learned the same skills right where Jo was working away on that old porch.

**Dogs aren't citizens of a town, or are they?** The Sampley children owned a dog, Skipper, who is so much a part of my memories. The neighborhood children loved Skipper, a light brown hound. He played the best game of tag and knew just what to do. The rock fence in front of our house was home base. Once we counted down and started to run, the race was on. That exhilarating emotion we children felt when Skipper barked at our heels while we ran toward our base will always be in our hearts. One of my saddest childhood memories happened while I walked home from public school in Monteagle. Down King Street I bounced toward home when time stopped for me in an instant. There in a shallow creek lay Skipper, dead. If a member of my family



had died, I don't believe it would have hurt anymore than seeing my friend in such a state. Why he died, I never heard.

South of their home, Wib and Jo built a house for Jo's aging parents, Horace and Vina Jane (Collins) Rogers also from Warren Co., TN. I loved the Rogers. I can still see Mrs. Rogers with her snow white hair sitting on her front porch swing. She granted me the privilege of visiting each time I saw her. What a saintly woman! She reared her daughter Josephine to have the knowledge of homemaking and a zest for life. Jo loved social events, dancing, her work in the Morton Memorial Methodist Church, her Public Library work, Monteagle Mt. Market work, and many other volunteer works.



*Horace Rogers*



*Vina Jane (Collins) Rogers*



*Charles Wilburn & Josephine Rogers Sampley*



*The rock fence: left to rt: David, Jackie, Freddie, (Larry on fence) Johnnie Maxine Layne; Charles Sampley (1948)*



*Vina Jane Rogers; across and up the road a few yards is the Cleveland Layne house, built out of the remnants from the old Monteagle School and on the same spot*



Josephine Sampley passed away May 21, 1991 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Wib was lost without her. On Apr. 27, 1999, he too passed away, being placed by her side. I still miss them.

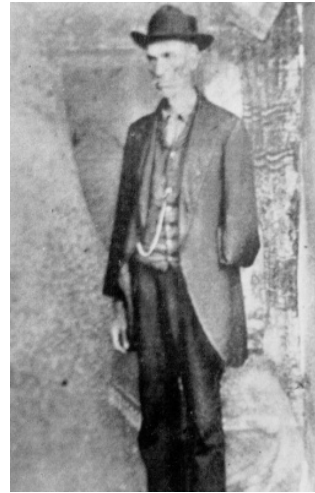
### Anthony Aylor Bradshaw (1842-1908)

Anthony Aylor Bradshaw, the son of Joseph and Martha Lawrence (Aylor) Bradshaw was one of the more colorful residents of Monteagle. Since he was born in 1842 before Monteagle became a town, before the existence of Grundy County, we can only say that he was born in the area of Pelham Valley. His siblings were: Green W., Dorcas, William, Sarah, Joseph, Mary Ann, Margaret, John, Andrew, Nancy, James and Daniel.

When the Civil War started, within the first year Anthony was there at the front of the line signing up with the Confederacy. Company G, 34<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry was quite lucky to list Anthony in their roster. He fought in many battles, "Chickamauga, Lookout, Missionary Ridge, Tunnel Hill, Mill Creek, Dalton, Dug Gap, Resaca, Altoona, Kennesaw...a battle every day for a hundred Days." Speaking of the battle of Franklin, Anthony said, "...A heap of the boys fell in the trenches that night...I was in detail to bury the dead the next day. We lost General Strahl there and brave Pat. Cleburne. Out of fifteen thousand Confederates, over six thousand was killed and wounded. It was a dearly-bought victory." In 1864 in Nashville, Sgt. Bradshaw's most feared moment of the war happened when he lost his left arm. He told old soldiers in Monteagle while reminiscing about the war that "The Yankees took it off." For more of Anthony's war stories, search <http://grundycountyhistory.org/> for the book **John Gamp**; see pp. 151-155.

After the beleaguered twenty-five-year old soldier made his way back to his home in Grundy County, he married Julie Carie Laxton on July 29, 1867. His second marriage was to Mary Frances "Fannie" Luffman, a Florida resident. Thirdly in 1905, he married a local Grundy County lady, Emma (Elliott) Mankin, widow of John Hall Mankin, Sr. Anthony's children were from the first two marriages. Two of his daughters, Belle and Laura Mae, never married. Both were born in Florida; both died in Hamilton Co., TN.

*(Right: Sgt. Anthony Aylor Bradshaw after the Civil War)*



It became hard for Sgt. Anthony Aylor Bradshaw to settle into his routine as Monteagle's Post Master sometime in the late 1890's. He had spent most of his working years as a traveling salesman and also did some teaching when he was a young man. He broke his boredom by excitedly sharing his war memories with any who would listen, and plenty did. He and his last wife Emma were buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Later in 1938, one of his sisters, Mary Jane S. (Bradshaw) Smith joined them.

#### **Vaudrene Ezella (Thomas) Sanders (1894-1984)**

"Mama Del" is the nickname that Vaudrene Ezella (Thomas) Sanders came to be called by all who knew and loved her. Even today (2013), one must be carefully following the conversations when the name Mama Del pops up. She was born Mar. 31, 1894 to William Franklin and Margaret Ellen (Crabtree) Thomas. Her siblings were Emma Casine (m. Robert Scott); Jessie Lee (m. Charles Pete Norwood); Malinda Corrine (m. William Oscar Price); Sally Esther B. (m. Wade Harrison Hampton); Rufus Lettie (m. Ranzy Gleason Pirtle); Haskel B. and Tennie S. Since in 1910 Margaret Ellen said that she had given birth to eight babies and only six were alive at the time, one must assume that little Haskel B. and Tennie S. passed away between 1900 and 1910. William Franklin died in 1927 and Margaret Ellen followed in 1933. There are unmarked fieldstones near their graves.



*Front: Vaudrene Ezella (Thomas) Sanders holding Mattie Irene; Lela, Alva Lee on father, Ranzy Pirtle's lap*

*Back Rufus Lettie (Thomas) Pirtle and Willie Edward Sanders*

On April 30, 1911, at the age of seventeen, Ezella married Willie Edward Sanders, son of Mattie Sanders, grandson of Eliza Sanders. Squire Bennett, Justice of the Peace, officiated, and Oscar Price, Ezella's brother-in-law, signed the bond. At this writing Willie's father's name is waiting to be discovered. From this union, four children were born: Mattie Irene, William Paul, Unnamed Infant, and Willie Edward, Jr. In the Tracy City Cemetery lie an unnamed baby and his father, Willie Edward. Ezella lost her third child possibly stillborn and her husband. Willie died in 1918 with the flu that was devastating the world. Her parents took her and her three children into their home along with three other grandchildren from the death of their daughter, Emma Casine Scott. Another one of their granddaughters, Cora Elyon Norwood was also living with them.

*Right: Vaudrene Ezella (Thomas) Sanders Hamby with grandson Ronnie Moore, son of Pearlie Eugene and Mattie Irene (Sanders) Moore*



On Feb. 9, 1918, Willie Edward Sanders' half-sister, Pearl Pearson, daughter of Benjamin Franklin, Sr. and Mattie (Sanders) Pearson, married a young man by the name of Robert Lee Hamby born in 1884 to Jesse Ransom and Mary Elizabeth (Hawk) Hamby. Eight months later, Pearl (Pearson) Hamby died and was buried in the Tracy City Cemetery. Vaudrene Ezella Sanders found herself steeped in sadness with the loss of a baby, a husband and a sister-in-law so close in time.

Knowing each other through their marriages, Robert Lee Hamby married Vaudrene Ezella Sanders around 1920. Their first child was a son, Johnny Ralph "J. R." The next pregnancy was a set of twins, Malcolm Eugene and Mildred Allean, born Apr. 27, 1925. The little boy twin lived only one month and is buried near his half-brother in the Tracy City Cemetery. Other children added to this marriage were Robert Kenneth and Boy "Blue". The family made its home on North Central Ave.

As soon as Ezella started having grandchildren, nieces and nephews, her name unanimously became Mama Del thought to have happened when a grandchild could not say "Vaudrene or Ezella." Robert Lee Hamby died in 1953; Vaudrene Ezella "Mama Del" lived until 1984. They are buried near family in the Monteagle Cemetery.

### **Benjamin Anderson Wooten (1861-1952)**

While digging for a ground hog in the 1850s, little did Thomas Benton Wooten realize that he was about to change the solitude of this paradise of waterfalls, woodlands, caves, beautiful plants and bountiful wildlife. His vigorous efforts to catch that groundhog for supper brought up coal, black gold. His father, Benjamin Wooten, sold the coal company massive amounts of land, and the rush to dig mines and build railroads was on. It is the son of Thomas Benton and Susannah (Vaughn) Wooten and grandson of Benjamin Wooten, Benjamin Anderson Wooten, who eventually came to settle in Monteagle. He was a neighbor of my parents when I was a child.

Ben Anderson was the only boy born to Thomas and Susannah Wooten. His sisters were Mary, Martha Anna, Nettie, Emma C., Lula, Sarah E. and Fannie A. On Jan. 31, 1885 in Marion Co., Tennessee, Benjamin Anderson married Martha Naomi Summers, daughter of Ephraim and Martha (Campbell) Summers. Ben A. and Martha had twelve children: Nelson, Mary J., William, Roy, Vera, Joseph Benjamin, Hughie, Ernest, Lula, James Francis "Sam", Alma and Bertha "Sook". The family eventually settled in the old Wooten house that was located off Pigeon Springs Rd. in Marion Co. Tennessee on land that is now (2013) owned by Daryl Street. The children slowly

married and went out into the world to find their niches in life. Only Bertha stayed at home with her parents. She did later marry Clarence L. Smith, but it was short lived; she never left home until after both of her parents had died.



*Left: Benjamin Anderson Wooten and his new bride Martha Naomi (Summers) Wooten*

*Seated left to right: Nelson, Benjamin Anderson, Martha Naomi, Mary J.*

*Girls in Center: Bertha, Alma, Lula, Vera*

*Boys in Back: Hughie, Roy, James Francis "Sam", Joseph Benjamin, William, Ernest*

*(Family members in italics are not buried at Monteagle Cemetery.)*



Pap Wooten, as I used to call him, and his daughter, Bertha, moved next door to my parents on King Street. Pap's son Ernest had built two houses, one for his immediate family and one for his dad and sister. The houses are similar, both being made of concrete blocks. Many years before, Pap had fallen from his horse on Pigeon Springs Road near Tracy City while trying to cross a low, icy place on his way home. The fall damaged his back and hips so that he eventually became hunch backed. As a child I remember his efforts to get out his back door and out into the yard or garden. His "walker" was a straight-back chair. I felt quite sorry for him as he slowly moved one small step at a time on his way to get some coal or visit the outdoor toilet. His body was broken, but his spirit was intact.

On Dec. 16, 1952, Benjamin Anderson "Pap" Wooten died. Sixteen days earlier he had fallen while rising from his chair and fractured his hip. He lived his remaining days in Emerald Hodgson Hospital in Sewanee before he succumbed to his injuries. He was ninety-one years of age. The children gathered to say goodbye to their father before he was placed in the Monteagle Cemetery beside his wife Martha Naomi who had preceded him in death in 1946.

### Lou Annie (Thomas) McFarland (1902-1930)

Often when one dies so young, lasting memories don't develop, so many people tend to forget. However, when one walks over a cemetery, over and over and over, these little ghosts bring themselves forward for remembrance. Lou Annie Thomas needs her fifteen minutes of fame. Her parents were Archibald and Martha Ann (Adams) Thomas. Her paternal grandparents were David and Elizabeth (Dyer) Thomas. The maternal grandparents were William and Taletha (Thomas) Adams. Brothers and sisters to Lou Annie are as follows: Mary Bell, Clarence Arthur, Myrtle, James Earl "Jim", Lee Vester, Beula May, Claud Charles, George Lee Wrenn and Hamp Bernest.

Lou Annie's dad passed away on Feb. 16, 1914 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Her mother then married Houston "Hugh" Sanders on Sept. 1, 1916. Hugh's former wife was Lucy Jane (Payne) Sanders who outlived him. Lou Annie and four of her siblings, Lee Vester, Claud Charles, George Lee Wrenn and Hamp Bernest were still at home and adjusting to a step-father. The new family settled in the old Hawkersville area of Franklin Co., TN., later moving to Pelham.

Lou Annie did not stay around her new home long until she married Clarence Albert "Dick" McFarland, a Monteagle resident. He was the second born of Robert Lee and June Bunia (Campbell) McFarland. Dick's siblings listed in order of birth were Lawrence Lee, Vera, Mary Bryan, Grace Irene, Walter and James Edwin. Dick and Lou Annie's family grew with three children being added: Margaret Louise (b. 1921, m. Willie Edward Sanders, Jr.); Robert Clarence "R. C." (b. 1923, m. Katherine "Kate" Smith); Annie Kathleen (b. 1926, never married). The little family lived in a small house situated in a back field near where the Sonic eatery is today (2013). Lou Annie died in 1930, leaving Dick McFarland with three young children to rear. He married again on Sept. 30, 1930 to a woman that became a step-mother from Heaven.



*Front row: Lawrence Lee, Vera, Unk Lady, Robert Lee holding Mary Bryan, Jane Bunia holding Gracie Irene and Clarence Albert. Back row: Unk Lady; Unk Boy; Unk Girl*

On Feb. 18, 1919, Mary Selena Norwood, daughter of Charles Pete and Jessie (Thomas) Norwood, married Howard S. King. He was the son of Stephen N. and Sarah Catherine (Perry) King and a citizen of Monteagle. The couple moved from Hamilton County to Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee, where Howard worked in a mattress factory. On Sep. 20, 1927, Howard died in the National Sanatorium there after a ten day stay because of an abscessed lung. His body was brought back to Monteagle where he was buried among his King relatives. Mary Selena never gave birth to a living child, but she had all the built in qualities to make her a great parent. This became obvious when she took on being a mother to Dick and Lou Annie's three children on Sep. 30, 1930. Nothing but good has been said about her role as mother, grandmother, and g-grandmother.

Mary Selena promised herself and her new husband that she would be the best mother to his children, and it was a lifetime commitment. They settled into their home on West College St. near where McDonald's is today (2013). Dick worked for the Horton family who owned property all around the area. Whatever was needed, Dick was there to do the work. He was prong to drink alcohol too often and too much. When one of his grandchildren asked Mary Selena, lovingly called "Nannie," why she

stayed with him and put up with his shenanigans, she restated her promise to be there for the children till death. Once when a couple of Dick's granddaughters took Mary Selena to the funeral home for a visitation, a lady commented about Mary Selena being their *step*-grandmother. This did not set well with the two girls who adamantly declared that Mary Selena was their grandmother, not *step*-grandmother. Being totally devoted to their grandmother, they declare her as having been full of wisdom, ready to listen to one and all, given to honest answers, and a disciplinarian who need only to look into the face without any other punishment.



*Clarence Albert "Dick" McFarland with "Old Bill"*



*Front: Margaret Louise (McFarland) Sanders & Mary Selena holding Pat Sanders; back: Bettie Sanders & Nora Katherine McFarland*



*Left to Rt: Annie Katheleen, Clarence Albert "Dick" & 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Mary Selena McFarland*



*Mary Selena McFarland and "her son," Robert Clarence "R. C." McFarland*



On Jun. 26, 1932, Lou Annie's mother, Martha Ann (Adams) Thomas Sanders succumbed to an enlarged heart and high blood pressure. She was placed beside her first husband, Archibald, at the Monteagle Cemetery. No doubt, she was so proud, for two years, to watch Lou Annie's children treated with such love and devotion from their new mother. Clarence Albert "Dick" McFarland passed away in 1967, and for thirteen more years Mary Selena kept her promise to her husband—she never left her role as mother. She stood at the grave of Lou Annie's son, R. C., when he died in 1972. Again in 1977, she filled Lou Annie's place at the gravesite of her daughter, Annie Katheleen. In 1980, with one remaining child, Mary Selena had to relinquish her position as mother, for she died and was buried beside her second husband in the Monteagle Cemetery.

### George Leonidas Wrenn (1838-1912)

Any citizen of Monteagle at the time of its "small village" status will remember the house called "Wrenn's Nest". It still stands (2013) on the beautiful bluff line at the end of Wrenn's Nest Ave. on Valley View Drive. The house is on the National Registry of Historic Places. It was built by Tom Tucker and Fred Blackman for George Leonidas Wrenn and his wife Nora (Cousar) Wrenn around 1908. The Wrenn's and Nora's sister, Elizabeth, were in the house in 1910. Joe and Opie Handley were the owners when I frequented the house. They renamed their home as "Handley's Point of View," no doubt because of the magnificent view overlooking Pelham Valley. Originally the land belonged to the founder of Moffat Station (Monteagle), John Moffat. Robert Cooper Francis bought the land, and from there it was divided and sold down through the ages.



*An older view of Wrenn's Nest*



*A current photo of Wrenn's Nest or  
Handley's Point of View*

If one reads the inscription on the west side of the Wrenn monument in the Monteagle Cemetery, it appears that the couple may have come to Monteagle around

1908. The wording on the stone is as follows: *“George Leonidas Wrenn born in Lancaster Co. South Carolina 6 Jan 1838 – Moved to Waxhaw, Miss. in 1855 – In War of 1861 appointed Ensign of McGehee Rifles Co. A 20<sup>th</sup> Miss. Reg and served until 1865. Lived on his plantation at Gunison Miss. until 1908”*. A shorter inscription on the south side of the stone reads: *“A brave soul. A good man full of the Spirit of God and Faith.”*

The following is an excerpt from a condensed article written by J. C. Burrus in 1923: *“...The next company formed was the McGehee Rifles, an infantry company, equipped by Miles McGehee. This company numbered more than eighty men. The name of the first captain I have forgotten; Captain Jim McGehee commanded it at the close of the war. It was in active service from the first to the close of the war, and the company had many casualties.”* Traditionally the ensign was the “color bearer”, the man who carried the flag. In today’s terms, Ensign Wrenn would probably be given the title of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

An interesting note is that George was twenty-five years older than Nora. The marriage took place around 1886 in Mississippi. Both had their heritage in South Carolina. They had a child while living in Mississippi, but the baby did not live. This accounts for the little crib-shaped, memorial stone on the very large concrete slab covering the depth of two rows in the Monteagle Cemetery. There were no more children for the couple. George was granted four years to live on his beautiful bluff; death came in 1912. Nora spent her time entertaining and doing good works around Monteagle. David Bryan Thomas, son of David and Julia Ann (McFarland) Thomas, filled the job of caretaker for Mrs. Wrenn. Long before leaf blowers came on the scene, my mother and I raked that huge yard and moved all the leaves over the bluff. This would have been one of many responsibilities for Mr. Thomas; his job wasn’t an easy one, but a fulfilling one in that the view was extraordinary.

Nora (Cousar) Wrenn died in 1936 and is buried beside her husband.

### **John Henry Adams (1868-1948)**

John Henry Adams was born Sep. 3, 1868, to John and Nancy (Thomas) Adams who had married Mar. 11, 1862, in Grundy Co., Tennessee. His father was born around 1826 in South Carolina, and his mother was born around 1834 in Georgia. If there was any time to play, John Henry had lots of siblings to join him in a game of tag. There were William A., Rachel C., Julia F., James H., Robert G., Jeremiah “Jerry” A., Benjamin, and Margaret E. with John Henry taking “the baby” place in line. Later more half-siblings Palestine, Edmund and Joseph came along to be added to the Adams children.

The children were all born in Tennessee, but to different mothers namely Polly Smith, Nancy Thomas, and Sarah McNalley (m. Feb. 9, 1878). This family seemed to make their home in Pelham Valley.

John Henry Adams was a carpenter/painter by trade, a trade that was handed down to several descendants. A young lady by the name of Lula "Lou" Ann Long caught his eye, and they married Feb. 23, 1893. A set of twins, Marshall and Walter were born to the couple, but baby Marshall lived only a day. Walter lived nearly five years before he succumbed to death. Another brother, Cornelius lived only three years. However, Lou Ann did give birth to two more sons, Barney and Edgar "Edd," who survived. Sadly, Lou Ann passed away leaving behind her husband and two babies; she may well have died in childbirth with her son Edd on Jan. 5, 1899. There is a fieldstone marker at the end of the three lost babies' stones that probably marks Lou's burial spot. These graves are near Lou Ann's family of *Longs* in section I-E.

Later on Nov. 22, 1899, John Henry married Lydia Ann Summers, the daughter of Robert Patterson and Martha Adaline (Walker) Summers. Lydia Ann's heritage lay in that of Basil Summers for whom Summerfield, Tennessee was named. She was a granddaughter. Lydia Ann brought a daughter Mamie Sanders, daughter of Bill Sanders, into the new marriage. She and John Henry started a new family in the Monteagle area adding these children to his previous ones: George, May, Mattie and Louise. Mamie Sanders was born around 1898 and died Jan. 10, 1925 as a single lady. Mamie was buried in the Summerfield Cemetery with no marker, probably near her "Summers" relatives.



*Back row: Edgar "Ed" Adams, Mamie Sanders (not an Adams), Matthew Trussell Johnson, Cansaida (Summers) Johnson, Nancy Summers and Matthew "Matt" Rollins*

*Center: Robert Patterson Summers, Martha Adaline (Walker) Summers, Lydia Ann (Summers) Adams holding Louise Adams, Katie (Summers) Rollins holding George Rollins, Mattie Adams*

*Seated: Robert "Bob" Rollins, George Adams, Osie Johnson (dau of Matthew and Cansaida), May Adams, Annie Rollins, and Dicie Rollins*

Lydia Ann was the first to meet death in 1936 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. John Henry lived out his last years with his daughter Louise Adams near Lee St. He passed away in 1948 and is buried beside his second wife.

### Isabella (Metcalf) Lappin (1899-1934)

On Oct. 1, 1870, the ship *Helvetia* entered a New York harbor from England. On that ship were Sarah Metcalf and her two children, four-year-old Isabella and William Smith, an infant. Isabella was the daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Smith) Metcalf. The family lived for a while in Indiana where Mary and Charles Stephen were added to the growing family. By the time little Albert J. was born in 1879, they were living in Tennessee. Later another daughter Lucretia, also born in Tennessee, joined the list of children. Sarah had given birth to nine children with only six still alive in 1900.



*Harmon Grant Lappin*



*William and Annie, Belle's first two children ca. 1889*



*Isabella "Belle" with William, Annie and Carrie on her lap*

By 1900 Isabella "Belle" was listed as a Lappin, a widow, and the mother of six living children, one being Mary Jane Lappin, born in 1895. This was the only child she had with her in 1900. The other children were William "Willie," (*died about 9 years of age, buried in Lappin Cemetery in Monteagle*), Annie, Carrie, Fred Stephen, Albert Anthony, and Elizabeth M. "Lizzie" who were living with their father and his new wife, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sullivan. Belle told the 1900 Census taker that she was a widow. Had her children been taken from her? Was there a concerted effort to cause her grief and madness? Why was she so alone? A story handed down through the years supports the idea that Harmon Grant and his new wife Lizzie took the children from Belle finally causing Belle to hand the smallest one, Mary Jane, over the fence and telling Lizzie, "Here, you might as well take this one since you have all the rest." By 1910, Belle was living alone supporting herself as a laundress. She stated that only five of her six children were alive—*Willie had died as stated previously*. This might be a good

place to say that the word marriage used in this story is used loosely, for there is no record that I can find where Harmon Grant Lappin married Belle, or Dora, or Lizzie, only his last wife, Martha Porter.

Along about this time Belle began to have bouts of melancholia as one may read in the Dec. 4, 1913, *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper this short statement, "Mrs. Belle Metcalf Lappin, of Monteagle, who has been suffering from melancholia at intervals for many months past, was taken to the Knoxville State institution for treatment last week." If Belle came back home, she didn't stay too long because she was in the list of hospital inmates in 1920.



*Harmon Grant & Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie"  
(Sullivan) Lappin*

*Back: not sure which children these are*



*Isabella "Belle" (Metcalf)  
Lappin sitting on a bridge on  
the MSSA grounds*

The 1930 Census showed that Belle Metcalf, the name under which she was admitted, was still an inmate in the Eastern State Hospital. She is listed as being a divorced lady instead of the widow label that was given her in previous accounts. On July 15, 1934, Belle Metcalf died from pulmonary tuberculosis and manic depression. On her death certificate her brother William Smith Metcalf, who was married to Mattie Parker, was listed as being her husband. William had died only months before his sister and was buried at the Tracy City Cemetery. This leads one to think that had William lived longer, he would have brought his sister home for burial possibly in the Monteagle Cemetery, but not the Lappin Cemetery. Just this year (2013), a proper stone was placed on her grave at the Hospital Cemetery by Wayne Boyd, a descendant; the exact spot was marked for him by a lady who had worked at the hospital. Belle finally found a place free from burdens of this world, a resting place.

On Oct. 29, 1915, Harmon Grant's wife, Lizzie, passed away in Estill Springs. Why was Lizzie not living with Harmon on the mountain? Why was she buried in Estill Springs? Then on Christmas Day, 1920, he married Martha (Reid) Porter. Ten

years later on Oct. 28, 1930 in Sewanee, Tennessee, Harmon Grant Lappin took his life with a gun. He was buried in the Lappin Cemetery in Monteagle. A Lappin family story explains that in 1931, five Lappin burials were exhumed at the Monteagle Cemetery. The remains were brought to the small family cemetery that was started on Lappin property on a hill that in 2013 views the interstate highway and new flea market. Harmon Grant's second wife, Beldora "Dora" B. Lappin, was among the moved remains. She was placed next to her husband along with her huge homemade stone.

For those who cannot accept Dora B. as being married to Harmon Grant Lappin during the years that Belle was having his children, then the idea of "what can we say about the wording on her stone," and what can we do about the fact that the stone was placed next to his grave in the new family cemetery? And more than that, the fact that anyone cared enough about this "Dora" to exhume her remains and put her in the Lappin family cemetery if she had not been an important part of the heritage. Just for interest I would like to explain who I believe she really was. She may well have been a mistress of Harmon's and a sister to Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sullivan. She may have been Beldora, or Dora Bell, Sullivan, daughter of Clement Mabry and Mary (Neal) Sullivan of Warren Co., Tennessee. She may be Dora (Sullivan) Bounds, former wife of Thomas Bounds; they married on Sept. 18, 1887 in Warren Co., Tennessee. Evidence supports that she brought a daughter, Annie Bounds, into Harmon's home. It is my thoughts that she also had an older sister named Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sullivan. Dora B. died in 1896 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Whoever she was, she was the only woman that was important enough to Harmon to be placed at his side. Or maybe she was the only one who didn't have a choice since she was exhumed without her permission.

Life was not kind to this family. Obviously there was underlying turbulence in Isabella "Belle" (Metcalf) Lappin's life. In photos of her, she appears a healthy, happy woman, but beneath the surface, her emotions were in turmoil. Also obvious is the fact that there was turmoil in Harmon Grant's life as well.

### **Philip Anderson Pearson (1831-1918)**

Upon entering the front gate to the Monteagle Cemetery one can look to the left and see a thirty foot plot with no markers. Don't let that lead you to think the plot is empty. Lying beneath that hardened soil is an extraordinary family of three, a man, his wife and their daughter. There may also be others with the surname Lewis buried

there. The man, Rev. Philip Anderson Pearson, born Dec. 16, 1831 and died Jun. 18, 1918, and his wife, Amanda Caroline (Roscoe) Pearson, born Apr. 6, 1840 and died Jul. 12, 1915, rest patiently with their daughter, Josephine Anderson Pearson, born 1868 and died 1944. All confessed a deep faith in their God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Philip A. Pearson was the son of Solomon and Mary (Raiford) Sassor Pearson from North Carolina and Tennessee respectively. His maternal grandparents were strong advocates for the cause of the South during the Civil War. However, his paternal grandparents stemmed from the Quaker faith leading them to be loyal to the Union cause. In 1855, Solomon moved his family to the Hillsboro area of Coffee County where they lived next household to my gg-grandfather, Alexander Cox whose military stone contains the following: *Priv., Co. B, 42<sup>nd</sup> TN Infantry, CSA*. Young Philip found himself among strong supporters of the South with a sprinkling of Northern sympathizers. One would like to think that he made friends with Captain Stephen Palmer Tipton, a Union soldier who was murdered in 1863 in his own front yard in Altamont, Tennessee. Major Bledsoe and his troops called him out and in front of his wife and children, murdered him. Captain Tipton had no weapon.

The plateau was familiar to Philip because his father so wanted him to attend school at the University of the South. However, some of those buildings had been destroyed by Union troops during the war causing Philip to get his education elsewhere. In 1867 he married Amanda Caroline Roscoe and went about his ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The 1870's saw the little village of Moffat Station grow like a weed on a narrow strip of the plateau. A Chautauqua later came together with the name of Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, or MSSA. Later the cottage, Stone Court, would become home to the Pearsons.

The couple had one child, Josephine Anderson Pearson, who excelled in many fields of education. In the 1920 Census record Josephine had a companion, Clercy Hamby, living with her. Clercy became a teacher in the Grundy County school system probably because of the influence of her friend, Jo Pearson. Miss Pearson's obituary in the Nashville Tennessean on Nov. 4, 1944 presents a short summary of the life of this extraordinary lady.

#### ***"Miss Pearson, Educator, Dies***

*Miss Josephine Pearson, well known in Tennessee educational circles, died, at 8 o'clock last night at a local hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services will be conducted at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the Finley M. Dorris Funeral Home by Ddr. Prentice A. Pugh. Burial will be Monday in Monteagle Cemetery at Monteagle.*



*The daughter of the late Rev. Philip A. and Amanda (Roscoe) Pearson, she was born in 1868 in Sumner County, and received B. A. and Litt. D. degrees from Cumberland Presbyterian College at McMinnville.*

### ***Retired in 1930***

*Before her retirement in 1930 she served in various educational institutions throughout the country including principal at McMinnville High School, at the old Dr. Price College for Young Ladies here, at Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S. C., and at the Higby School at Memphis.*

### ***Anti-Suffrage Leader***

*In 1920, she was president of the Tennessee State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage and from 1909 until 1914 she was a leader in the anti-woman suffrage movement in Missouri. She also served as chairman of the Cumberland Division of the Dixie Highway Association.*

*An extensive traveler, Miss Pearson had visited in Alaska, Mexico, Europe, Northern Africa and Eastern Asia. While in Europe she had a private audience with Pope Pius XI and had tea with the king and queen of England.*

*She was the author of many articles on education and was included for a number of years in "Who's Who in America" and also the British "Who's Who."*

*She is survived by her cousins, Mrs. B. J. Wells, Miss Floy Howard, Mrs. Robert Morehead and Mrs. Alfred Davis, all of Nashville, and Mrs. John McKoin of Gallatin."*



***Josephine A. Pearson in McMinnville***



***Josephine A. Pearson 1892***



*Josephine Anderson Pearson (1895)*



*Josephine A. Pearson, Dec. 15, 1895*



*Amanda (Roscoe) Pearson*



*Josephine Anderson Pearson*

On Jul. 12, 1915, Philip's wife, to whom he had totally surrendered himself toward her care, passed away and was buried in the family plot in Monteagle. On June 18, 1918, Philip succumbed to a painful kidney ailment. *"Trembling, at the age of 80 he delivered his last sermon in a crowded one-room schoolhouse and church, some two and a half miles from Monteagle--every sentence in words of one syllable, for he was a master of the Anglo-Saxon vocabulary. His text was, 'Come all ye who need rest and peace.' It was a fitting close to his ministry."* (Quote is taken from Josephine's accounts of her father's life.) The little church was probably the Summerfield Church originally built by Basil Summers. His death certificate notes that he was a super-annuated minister being over eighty years of age. His funeral was not a minor occasion. According to Josephine's records, the village people asked to carry her father's body in relays from the home on the MSSA to just inside the entrance to the Monteagle Cemetery. There he was placed beside his wife. One obituary account wrote that Philip was placed in the grave with his wife. Either way, he was at his final stop on this earth.

On Nov. 3, 1944, Josephine joined her parents. In my mental computer, I stored the information that Josephine had ordered the stones for her parents' graves and made a down payment. I cannot find my hard copy of this information. She passed away before the monuments were delivered; thus, the three Pearsons lie in unmarked graves.

Note: *Contributions taken from obituaries, family genealogy, Census records, The Heritage of Grundy County, TN, Josephine A. Pearson documents, and other research material.*

### **Isaac Feuston Perry (1883-1953)**

Because of the height of the railroad bed on College St. at King St., as a child I could not see well enough over into the Marion County side of town to know what was going on over there. As a child destined to stay on our own property most of my childhood, I didn't realize that I had cousins over there. There were houses nestled in the woods that never became known to me until my work with the Grundy County Historical Society on a cemetery book. One of those old homeplaces belonged to Isaac Feuston Perry who just happened to be a brother to one of my great-grandmothers.

Isaac was born on Nov. 28, 1883, to Isham Henry & Marilda J. (Hill) Perry in Irving College, Warren Co., Tennessee. His paternal grandparents were John Houston, Sr. & Malinda "Linnie" (Dykes) Perry. His maternal grandparents were Montaque Pleasant and Sarah "Sallie" (Taylor) Hill. His siblings were Henry Morgan (Malinda Caroline Cagle), Mary Athelia (Alex Benson King), Euphema (Robert Walter Moon) and



Rethia Catherine (Peter Finis Moon). Isaac's parents moved to Hambrick, Jackson County, Alabama before the 1900 Census to take advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862. The land they took upon themselves to improve was on top of Bice/Coalmine Mountain near the border of Jackson and Madison Counties. It was rough land, hard to maneuver and just plain lonely. Isaac's aging parents toughed it out for several years, but they finally made the decision to move back to their beloved Tennessee. This time they came to Monteagle to settle with their daughter Mary Athelia who had become a widow in 1912, a widow with five children and another one on the way.



*Above: Isaac Feuston Perry home in Monteagle*

*Right: siblings – Isaac F. Perry; left, Mary Athelia (Perry) King; rt., Rethia Katherine (Perry) Moon*



*Background: original Charlie & Ella Mankin home; later Jim & Irene Short; even later, Johnnie Brannan home*

Isaac Feuston found himself helping his sister in her effort to keep afloat her husband's small grocery business on the main road through the village. However, they were not able to keep the store open, so Isaac became a common laborer until later when the WPA program offered something better. He had married Beulah Mae Condra, daughter of George Washington and Permina Jane (Pickett) Condra. Children born to this union were Elizabeth, James, Emery Cedric, George Wilson, Roy Cecil, Fuston, Beulah Mae (*Jr.*) and Allen Clifford. Later the family moved from the Grundy County side of the railroad tracks to the Marion County side. The home was built out of hewn, half logs and is still standing, although hanging on by a thread in 2012. Years of natural debris hides it from the world. This little effort of mine is to see if at least

some of Monteagle's former citizens can avoid the fate of the Perry house, hidden from the world forever.

Isaac Feuston Perry passed away in 1953; his wife Beulah Mae lived thirty-two more years. Death came for her in 1985. They are buried in the Monteagle Cemetery with most of their children interred near. Little Elizabeth lived only one day in 1915 and was buried near her Condra grandparents.

### **Ernest James Conry (1923-1987)**

Submitted by Ernest James "Ernie", Jr. Conry

I lived in Monteagle for the first 18 years of my life. I am going to describe the houses that my family lived in during that time. I will also talk about the houses from stories that I have heard over the years. Some of the things I remember may be incorrect, but they are my memories.



*Small Log Cabin on 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
The beautiful girl standing in front of the  
log cabin is Debbie (Pirtle) Cleek, and the  
boy is Gary Gilliam. Both are my cousins.*

On June 5, 1947, I was born at the hospital in Sewanee, Tennessee. My mother and father lived in the small log cabin on 6<sup>th</sup> St. pictured above; of course, at that time no one knew that the dirt road had a name. I do not remember much about the cabin at that time, but since I grew up next to the cabin, I will describe it. The little cabin started out with only one room. I have been told that it might have been one of the first buildings on the mountain. Here is some information that I received about the log cabin from Jackie Layne Partin: "Alex Benson King and his wife Mary (A)Thelia (Perry) King came to Monteagle, Tennessee around 1900 from the mountainous region to the east of New Market, Alabama....They had moved into a small log cabin that sat across

the road and up a little ways from the Ben Turner place on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Alex's mother Sarah Catherine (Perry) King was already living in the cabin...Their next daughter Lillie Katherine King was born in that little cabin on 23 April 1903." {from *The Life and Death of Alex Benson King of Monteagle – (1874-1912) Written by Jackie Layne Partin –A Great-Granddaughter*}. Jackie believes the cabin was built by Simeon "Sim" and Josephine "Josie" (Summers) Layne.

By the time I was born several other people had lived in the cabin. Several changes were made such as a kitchen was added to the rear of the cabin. The front was logs and the rear was wooden slats. There was a wood cook stove and table in the kitchen and a bed in the log room. The roof was made of tin. We got our water from a well that was open like a wishing well. The outhouse was behind the chicken house and a good distance from the cabin. I think we lived there for four years. The cabin was the second house on the left from North Central Ave.

There was a two-story house on the corner of North Central Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> St. A family named White owned the house and only came up in the summer for a few days. I think they were associated with the Assembly Grounds. The old well still stands as a reminder of the White family. On the other corner was a two-story white house built by Stonewall Aylor. Ben Turner and family lived in this house while we were living in the log cabin – (more about this house later).

Our next house was on the corner of North Central Ave and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. I believe this house was built by my paternal grandfather Oscar Conry. Oscar had worked in the mines in Tracy City and moved to Monteagle to work on the Assembly Grounds. I believe that the house was constructed in the late 1920's. We moved in shortly after my grandfather died in 1950. The house was a wood frame house. My grandmother Agnes (Meeks) Conry lived in one side, and we lived in the other. There were actually two kitchens and four bedrooms. There was a root cellar, a great place to play, under the house. Our water came from a well on the back porch. We had a front porch that covered the entire front of the house. There were three doors that came off the front porch. The outhouse was in front of the chicken coop and barn which were behind the house. We heated the house with a coal stove, and our air conditioning was opening the doors. I really enjoyed living with my grandmother. I had great memories from this house. My sister, Edith Ann, was born while we were living in this house. She only lived for twenty-two days and died on April 21, 1954.

*The Conry House on the Corner of North Central Ave and 8<sup>th</sup> Street*

*This is the corner of our house. From left to right are Ernest Conry, Agnes (Meeks) Conry and Carl Conry*



My mother would leave me with my uncle, Jack Aylor, and cousins, Wayne Clark and Jerry Turner. They would make me stand against the door and throw knives at me. One time I had all I wanted from Jack, so I took a coke bottle and hit my uncle in the head knocking him out. I was sure that Jack was going to kill me, so I ran and hid. Lucky my mother came home and saved me.

I was the only child, but my Uncle Carl Conry had a lot of girls. Betty Sue was a little older than me, so she thought that she could boss me around. Well, you are right, I had taken all of her bossing, and one day I shot her with a pellet rifle. We were like brother and sister and I still love her dearly. The girls stayed with us some of the time, and we are still very close. Carl moved into the house when we moved. The original house burnt, but Carl built a new house back in the same place. Next to the house was a large field that belonged to Carl Conry, my uncle. My dad bought this lot from Carl, and I later sold it to George Ramsey. The next building was a new white house that belonged to the Relefords. Raymond was one of my best friends. The lot behind our house belonged to my father. We planned to build a house on the lot but never did.



*(Left is a picture of my father, Ernest James Conry, when he was maybe 6 or 7, ca. 1929. I believe he is in front of the Conry house.)*

The next building on North Central Ave. was a small block building where Mrs. Mary Dove lived. Paul Holder, a grandson, lived there as well as his two sisters. The next building was a house built by Paris Layne, Sr. He and his family moved away some time in the fifties. I remember the "Son" Thomas family living there. Son had a boy about my age named Marvin. I believe that Son's real name was Marvin, Jr., so that would make Marvin III. Marvin was killed on I-24 just above the Cooley Rift curve. When Son moved out, he torn down the building and used the lumber to add to his mother's house.

The last house on North Central Ave. was Franklin Taylor's house. I knew it as Taylor's Camp, but it was actually Camp Unaka, a girls' camp which ran from 1911 until 1936. Unaka means "falling waters" in Cherokee and undoubtedly refers to the two large waterfalls that are clearly visible from the rear of the cabin in the fall and spring, but lulls you to sleep all year long. Unaka Cabin was for years the summer home of the noted Methodist Bishop of Tennessee, Vanderbilt Trustee and friend of President Teddy Roosevelt, E. E. Hoss. Unaka Cabin is a historic log cabin constructed in the mid 1800's from logs cut on the property.

*The Aylor, Turner, Conry House on the Corner of North Central and 6<sup>th</sup> Street was our final house in Monteagle. This is the house from behind. 6<sup>th</sup> Street would be on the other side of the house and Central would be on the left. The shadow that you see in the lower right is where Bo John and Shirley Lankford lived*







*This is another picture from behind the house. The building on the right was our coal shed. The Johnsons lived on the other side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street; our coal shed is blocking the view of the Johnson's house.*

The house on the corner of North Central Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> Street was built by Stonewall Jackson Aylor, my grandfather, around 1930. I was told that Stonewall had acquired the lumber from building on the Assembly Grounds. He worked on the Assembly Grounds with Oscar Conry, my grandfather, and Morgan Conry, my great uncle. I believe that Oscar may have helped in the construction. Here is an article from the *Mountain Voices*, "In the years surrounding World War I and World War II the overall appearances of the grounds declined. Maintenance was a difficult and expensive operation. Those whose names and efforts are synonymous with upkeep of the grounds during this period are George Thomas, Shirley Holcombe, Oscar Conry, Stonewall J. Aylor and Charlie Knott, all of whom served as groundskeepers. Others who contributed in related positions were W. E. McFarland, Morgan Conry, Barney Adams and Joe Meeks." The house was a two-story frame house with a tin roof. It was heated with a coal stove as were most houses at the time. We had a well for our water supply that was located on the back porch just behind my mother in the picture above. My grandfather and grandmother, Elsie (Turner) Aylor, lived in the house until my grandfather was found dead in the ditch behind the house from a gunshot to the head. There was no doubt that it was suicide because his sister-in-law Edna (Turner) Clark and her husband, John, were there when it happened. He died in 1941. The house was left to Elsie, Wanda and Jack. I am not sure if Ben Turner was already in the house or if he moved in shortly after my grandfather's death. Ben, my g-grandfather, and Mable (Layne) Turner, my g-grandmother, lived in the house and raised their children there until Ben's death in 1955. My mother was very close to the Turner family, and we spent most of our time at this house. When all of the Turner kids got together it was a crowd: Frank, Elsie, Lonnie, Edna, Ailene, Fana, Louise, Jean, James and Floyd.

Sometime after my g-grandfather's death, my father purchased the property from Jack and Elsie. We moved into the house and I lived there until 1966 when I joined the US Air Force. My paternal grandmother lived with my mother and father while I was in the service. I went to Viet Nam in 1967. The day I left for Viet Nam, Betty Sue (Conry) Powers gave birth to her first child. When I returned from Viet Nam on October 14, 1968, I visited my grandmother. She was very ill and told me that she had been waiting for my return to die. My grandmother died October 15, 1968. My parents continued to live there until my father died in 1987. After my father's death my mother developed lung cancer and moved into my home in Knoxville, Tennessee. The house was rented for a while to Wayne Cox's daughter; then it finally burn around 1994. My mother died in 1995, and I sold the land to my great uncle, Floyd Turner. Floyd still lives there today (2013). So the house and land have been owned by Aylors, Turners, Conrys and Turners. At least it has been kept all in the family.

### **Fanny Mab B. Turner (1861-1936)**

There she lies near the big, ancient tree; you know, the one that keeps shedding its limbs immediately after the Monteagle Cemetery has been cleared of debris. She sports an impressive stone in reference to the words engraved upon it, *Tennessee's First Registered Lady Pharmacist*. Although I can find no record of this, I am sure she was what her stone says.

Mab was the daughter of William C. and Flora Sophia (Blakeslee) Turner. Lying next to her is a *sister*, Lisle Turner, or so the stone says, but when I study ages and years, it seems more like she may be a niece, a daughter of Henry Allen Turner. Mab does have her niece, Catharina B. (Turner) Hollingworth Hall Sheldon buried at her side. Mab never married, and Catharina became like a daughter to her.

Mab had a houseful of siblings: William, Flora, Bartlett, Ovelle, Mary, Henry Allen "Harry" and Edward. Although her father, a clergyman, was born in New York, she, her mother, and all the siblings were born in Ohio. By 1900, Mab had obtained a pharmacy degree, made her way down to Monteagle and landed a job as a pharmacist. Financially, she was doing well having hired local help.

Her brother, Henry Allen "Harry" Turner, lived for some time on the mountain with his sister. He had with him his daughter, Catharina, from his first marriage to Alice Manning. His second marriage on Oct. 20, 1906, was to a local lady, Agnes Theresa Nathhurst, daughter of Einor and Meta (Guzmon) Nathhurst. By 1920

Catharina had married a military man, Herendon Hall, captain of a machine gun battalion. The couple and two children, Craig and Alice, continued to abide with Mab.

Mab continued her role as pharmacist, faithful sister and aunt until her death in 1936. Catharina eventually married Oliver W. Sheldon and moved to Florida. The aunt and niece came back together under the ancient tree that still drops branches on their graves.

### Charles Henderson Mankin (1860-1949)

**“Fresh milk, buttermilk, butter,”** I can almost hear the ringing of the cow bells around King Street. Mr. Mankin had passed away before I became old enough to remember him. Although I didn’t realize it at the time, one of his old barns was a favorite play venue for us children. Of course, we had to sneak over the fence and climb our way up into the hay loft to have the most fun, anxiously leaving the loft onto a huge tree with limbs like stepping stones. We could go as high as our nerves would allow. I am glad Mama never caught us in that tree. Thank you, Mr. Mankin, for building that barn.

Charles Henderson “Charlie” Mankin was born Aug. 6, 1860, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, to James Anderson and Susan “Susie” (Pinkard) Mankin. James Mankin and Charles Pinard, Susie’s dad, were into farming in a big way. They worked hard and saved their earnings. This love of farming and determination to succeed at it followed Charlie to the north eastern corner of King and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets in Monteagle. Here he put all his learning from his father’s examples to work supporting his family.

On June 12, 1895 in Grundy County, Charlie married Ella Foutch, daughter of John Calvin and Emeline “Emma” (David) Foutch. Ella pitched right in with the work while taking time to bring three children into this world. James Bradley, Carl and Bessie Mae were right at home on the farm. In those years Charlie could let his cows feed on the open range. That’s why my great-grandmother, Mary (A)thelia King, kept a fence around her home on the opposite corner from Charlie’s active business. Even Charlie had to place his own home behind fence. Barns were built, and a special room for storing and selling the dairy products was erected a few yards behind the Mankin house. Help was hired; one energetic laborer was Charlie Meeks. There was plenty of work to do on a farm of this size. Charlie and Ella kept right on milking those cows way up into their senior years. Milking cows sort of grows on one.

*Left: Clara (Meeks) Layne, my mother, with her gallon of milk from Charlie Mankin's dairy. The Mankin farm joined my grandparents land to the right of this photo. The Church of Christ meeting place can be seen on the left and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the background. The large house belonged to the Julius Hassler family.*



Up the road on 1<sup>st</sup> Street was a little weatherboard building, Church of Christ, of which Charlie Mankin was a faithful member. He may well have been instrumental in the building of the little meeting house. He paid my uncle, Alex Benson Layne, a few coins every week to sweep and tidy it. Knowing somewhat about farming, I would say that by the time Charlie put his God first, his family second and his cows last, there just wasn't much time for leisure.



*Charlie Mankin's fence around his house can be seen in the background.*

*The children are left to rt: Artie Mae Layne held by her brother Cleveland Layne, Mary Frances Wooten, and Bonnie Rowen Layne*

*The web wire fence directly behind the children surrounded by my g-grandmother Mary Thelia King's yard. (ca. 1930)*

Charlie passed away on Feb. 25, 1949, at the ripe-old age of eighty-eight. Strangely, the culprit that brought him to his knees in pain and brought on a stroke was acute appendicitis, and across the road on the other corner, his friend, my great-grandfather, Alex Benson King, died of acute appendicitis in 1912. Ella Mankin followed her husband in death four years later. They are buried in the Monteagle Cemetery.

Volume 2 to Follow