

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

Volume 3

*Compiled by
Jackie Layne Partin*

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John Crisp Blanton (1844-1920)

One of the early pioneers of Monteagle was John Crisp Blanton. John was born and reared in Unionville, Bedford County by his parents, William Crisp and Elizabeth (Tilford) Blanton. John's siblings were Elisha, Green L., Lucy Ann, Sophia, Nancy "Nannie", William, Hiram, David and George W. William built coaches and did blacksmith work to support his large family. Before the Civil War, he, with the help of his slaves, built up his finances to the estimated sum of \$2,500 in real estate and \$1500 in personal estate. Then the war came snatching away the forty-four-year-old breadwinner from the family. Five years after the war the family's real estate value was \$1000 and personal real estate, \$700, half the amounts before the war. The long road to recovery was difficult but not impossible.



Capt. William Crisp Blanton



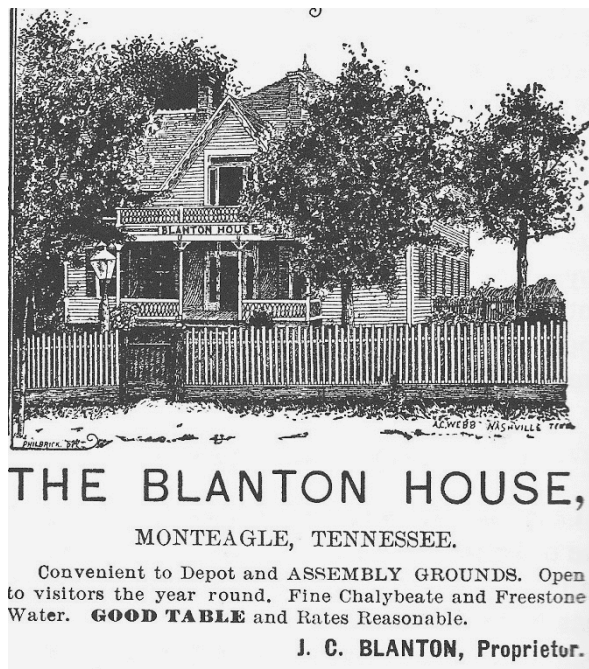
William's military stone in Unionville Cemetery; "Scudder Rifles" in Unionville organized by Capt. W. C. Blanton

In 1861 at the age of seventeen, John Crisp Blanton entered the Civil War in his father's Co. F, 23rd TN Infantry Regiment. After the war he remained single until Oct. 22, 1874 when he married Jennie B. Maupin in Bedford County. There were only two children, John Maupin (1877) and Nannie "Allie" (1880), born to this marriage. In 1880 in Bedford County, John was supporting his wife and son as a dry good merchant.

Before 1890 this family of Blantons had moved to Monteagle, Marion Co., TN. Mrs. Blanton had bought six acres of land from Thomas Maddin and Anna Grundy (Eakin) Steger. Anna was a granddaughter of Felix Grundy for whom Grundy County was named. Jonathan Newton Tucker, a log and lumber man, and William Homer Richmond, an excellent carpenter, lived near the area where Mrs. Blanton had bought the land to build a house. It seems only reasonable that they helped the family build the extra large home, **Blanton House**, on the corner of Main St. and Laurel Lake Rd. Currently (2014), the Mountain Goat Deli, a new and refreshing upcoming business has opened its doors to the public on part of the same acreage. It is not clear whether John Crisp and Jennie divorced or Jennie died, but I assume the latter. In the 1900 Census he stated that he was married, but Jennie was not around. This note could have been entered mistakenly by the Census taker.



**Nannie "Allie" (Blanton)
Johnson wife of Charles H.
Johnson**



**The Blanton House stood where the Mtn. Goat Deli
is now (2014).**

In those days the road was just a rutted wagon road of dry dirt or mud, according to what time of the year one was traveling. There was no Dixie Hwy, nor Hwy 41, nor Interstate 24, just dirt, mud, potholes and maybe a few stones sprinkled here and there. A quote from "The Chit Chat" page of the Fairmount School for Girls in 1902, described the situation, *"On the nineteenth day of July, nineteen hundred two, the Fairmount girls could have been seen slowly picking their way through the mud, bound for Monteagle...On arriving at their destination, which was Mr. Holcombe's store each brought out*

her pocket money and began to make her many and important purchases." The Egbert Wells Holcombe Store was the oldest mercantile store in Monteagle which may have burned twelve years later on May 10, 1914, in a massive fire on College St., probably in the same row of businesses that later housed Lacy's Drugstore, the Post Office and Jim Francis's Grocery Store. Anyway, patrons of the Blanton House who were on their way to shop would have had fewer problems than the Fairmount young ladies had since Blanton House was nearly in the center of the village.

The Blantons fenced in their large house and compound to keep out the roving animals and opened a boarding house to accommodate some of the large influx of residents at the reasonably new Monteagle Sunday School Assembly. With the aid of two servants, Maggie Blythe and Walter Hunt, and his own grown children, John Crisp operated his boarding house. Since he married again around 1906 and was living in Davidson Co., TN, one wonders if the boarding house may have burned. Add to that thought, the note on Dec. 18, 1913, in the *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper, "*Tom Stanley has purchased the old Blanton lot of Mr. Blackburn and will erect a grocery store,*" one gets the idea that the Blanton Boarding House was not on the lot when Mr. Stanley became the owner. The lot was void of any buildings in 1939, although there may have been an outbuilding still standing.

John Crisp died of pneumonia on January 20, 1920 in a Nashville Hospital. He was buried the next day in the Springhill Cemetery in Davidson Co. His daughter Nannie Allie who married Charles H. Johnson suffered with tuberculosis for five years before she succumbed to the illness in 1921. She was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

John Maupin Blanton married Anna Lowe, daughter of William E. and Mary (Prater) Lowe of Monteagle. There were no children born from this union. John worked himself up the ladder until he became a switchman on the Illinois Central Railroad. They lived in New Orleans, LA for some years then settled in Davidson Co., TN. When John passed away from lung cancer in 1947 in the General Hospital in Nashville, Anna brought him back to the mountain for burial. Now a widow with no children, she chose to stay in Monteagle with her Lowe family. Having suffered two or three years with chronic leukemia, she lost her fight in 1955 and was buried beside John in the Monteagle Cemetery.



**Left: John Maupin Blanton and
his wife,
Anna (Lowe) Blanton, probably at the
William E. and Mary (Prater) Lowe
Home in Monteagle, TN**

George Carney Partin "G. C." (1871-1948)

Many times over the years, my husband Grady Ward Partin has been asked, "Are you related to Richard Partin in Monteagle?" Well, my husband still cannot answer that question, but I will attempt. If Richard's gg-grandfather Carney Partin was actually a brother to John Partin, Sr. (1780 ??- 1846) as some researchers believe, then that would be where the two men, Richard and Grady Ward, meet in past history. Even though Carney Partin was a witness of John Partin's will, I still am not certain that they were brothers, but they certainly were close kin. So I guess my answer to the question is "probably," but I'm not certain as to "how" at this time. Let's find out about those Monteagle Partins.

Samuel, (*son of Carney Partin*), and Sarah (Parks) Partin lived in Layne's Cove, Pelham Valley in 1880 with their children, **George Carney**, James and Mary. Later another son, Benjamin F., was born. There were also two half-siblings, Abner Brown and Leah, children of Samuel with his second wife Sarah (Patterson) Partin. The given name "**Carney**" in the area of Hawkersville/Alto, Franklin County, is a dead giveaway that somehow one descends from Carney and Margaret (Reid/Reed) Partin. So we can say that Carney and Margaret were the grandparents of George Carney "G. C." Partin.

After reading G. C. Partin's death notice in the February 2, 1948, *Grundy County Herald*, I believe it is an overall representation of his life and death. So I will present it here as transcribed from the newspaper.

***George Carney Partin Passes**; Funeral services for Mr. Geo. Carney Partin of Monteagle who passed away at his home Friday after a lengthy illness, were conducted Sunday at the Monteagle Methodist church. The Rev. W. A. Swift officiated, assisted by the Rev. R. M. Johnson pastor of the Monteagle Methodist church. Interment was in the Monteagle cemetery, with the Tracy City branch of the Sewanee Masonic Lodge in charge.*

Mr. Partin age 76, was born in Pelham valley near Wonder Cave, he attended school at Valley Home and Terrell College in Decherd. He began teaching school at the age of seventeen. He taught for twenty five years, teaching at Mid-Way Sewanee, Monteagle and Tracy City. Mr. Partin was county school superintendent during the years of 1907 and 1889. He married Miss Annie Abney of Laurel Miss. in 1907 continued teaching school for two years and entered the insurance business and also was interested in real estate and farming.

Mr. Partin was a member of the Monteagle Methodist church for forty-seven years being one of the founders and builders of the church in that town. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Annie Abney Partin of Monteagle, three sons William A. and George C. of Miami, Florida and Richard Kelly of Monteagle. Two daughters Mrs. James D. Sparks of Corpus Christi, Texas and Miss Eloise Partin of Monteagle, two brothers Benjamin F. of Hillsboro and Brown Partin of Woodbury.

Honorary pallbearers were: Joe Henley, John Horton, Walter Corn, John Lacy, Fred Kennedy, Sr., Robert Francis, Geo. Cox, Moffett Kelso and Jonny Mankin. Active pallbearers Ward Lacy, Clyde Bennett, Charlie Fults, G. B. Underhill, Jim Francis and Bruce Meeks. Arrangements were in charge of the Cumberland Funeral Home of Monteagle."

The G. C. Partin homeplace still stands on the corner of College St. and Assembly Ave., but it is used as office rental property now (2014). The smaller house next to it is known as the Old Post which was possibly the first post office in Monteagle. (Previously, there may have been a much smaller mail collection place on the Marion County side of the railroad tracks where Oliver Dennis Mabee was the first postmaster.) G. C. and Annie's children were Annie Eloise (never married), William Abney (Agnes Lillie), George Carney, Jr. (Jean Frances Rohde), Richard Kelly (Alene West), and Carrie (James D. Sparks).

In the *Tracy City News*, Nov. 21, 1895 in the "Mont Eagle" news section of the paper, we read, "We have the finest public school in the State according to the size of our town and financial condition of our patrons." On an old deed signed in July 1,

1896, it is stated that a "school house lot" had already been conveyed to trustees. The land was cleared on King St., the building erected and children came from all around to attend the first official school of Monteagle. George Carney Partin actively worked for and in the Monteagle School. He was its principal when it opened its doors in the fall of 1900. When he gave a brief history of the 1903 school year, he had just finished his third year as the principal, and he was selected by the board to carry on for the next year.

Everything written about "Professor" Partin expressed the idea that he was a civic minded individual. George Carney found himself interested in R. M. Payne's Turnpike project, and in February 1904, he and Charles Buford Payne, son of Robert Marion Payne, went down to Pelham to check on the progress. When any current (2014) Monteaglean walks through town and notices the bits and pieces of the old concrete sidewalk system that was laid many, many years before, then think of G. C. Partin. In the Dec. 8, 1913 issue of *Mrs. Grundy*, we read, "G. C. Partin has been doing good work in superintending the construction of sidewalks for our citizens. Our people are thus getting sidewalks built at very low cost...everyone is highly pleased at the progress...the walk will extend from Fairmount to the Methodist Church."

A truly respected citizen of our town was immediately missed when Professor Partin died on Jan. 30, 1948, and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. His wife Annie was placed beside him in 1969.

Susie Ethelene Cox (1936-1948)

Contributions by Wanda Marsh, Shirley (Cox) Dykes and Josephine (Cox) Hill

Susie Ethelene Cox was the daughter of Charles Howard and Vera Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Layne) Cox of DuBose St., Monteagle. Her paternal grandparents were William Houston and Venna Cordelia (Farris) Cox; her maternal grandparents were Simeon "Sim" and Josephine "Josie" (Summers) Layne. Besides Susie, other children in the household were Josephine (Joe Lannie Hill), Charles William "Bud" (Virginia Coker), Bobby Eugene (Flossila Gregg), James Wilson (Bernice Hill), Carolyn Joyce (Michael Ray Gautier) and Shirley Jean (Alvin "Tiny" Dykes).

"Susie, wake up! It's time to get ready for school," Josephine called to her sister. When she didn't move, Josephine pulled her arm to get her attention; then upon seeing her face, she realized that Susie's little body was swollen; something was terribly wrong. She was taken to Emerald Hodgson Hospital in Sewanee where the medical

staff concluded that they could do nothing for little Susie. Her dad was faced with the fact that his daughter was going to die. Howard's sister, Gladys (Cox) Williams, in Chattanooga came to encourage him to seek further advice from her own doctor in Chattanooga, but he was reluctant to make that move. When the decision to move the little girl to Chattanooga was made, LaDue Holliday, owner of the new Cumberland Funeral Home, picked Susie up at the Sewanee hospital. Instead of going straight to Chattanooga, Howard requested that the ambulance take her home so her mother could hold her one more time. After a couple hours, Mr. Holliday returned and took little Susie to Chattanooga to see Dr. Doyle Curry.



**Susie Ethelene Cox
holding the hand of
her young friend,
Beverly Tate,
daughter of Rance
and Mary Emma
Tate**

**"But Jesus said,
Suffer little
children, and forbid
them not, to come
unto me: for of such
is the kingdom of
heaven." (Matt.
19:14)**

On Feb. 27, 1948, young Susie died of an acute kidney ailment in the Northside Clinic at Chattanooga, TN. Funeral services were held at the Monteagle Episcopal Church with Rev. Fairbrother and Rev. Manning officiating. Susie was so loved by her classmates that they willingly agreed to be her pallbearers. Bobby Campbell, Bobby Metcalf, Tommy Meeks, James Ray Sampley, Harvey Gipson and Donnie Underhill carried their young classmate from the hearse to her grave in the Summerfield Cemetery. Little girls of Susie's age served as flower girls.



Susie Ethelene Cox



**Susie Ethelene Cox's Burial at Summerfield
Cemetery**

Jay Newell (1868 – ca. 1930)

Around 1943, my parents bought a little house on King Street which was built on the exact spot where the old Monteagle School stood. I was probably a little over one year of age when we moved there. Our house had no plumbing, but we had an awesome well in the south side of our front yard and a well-built outhouse in the eastern back corner on 2nd St. It was a few years later before we boasted of an indoor toilet and running water. Then a couple more years later, we got a hot water heater.

Many, many years before I got so excited about not having to go outside on a cold, wintry day or night (*in the early 1950's*) down the path to our outhouse, Jay Newell was advertising in a 1911, MSSA season program, as a licensed plumber in Monteagle. From the *Mountain Voices* we can read the following ad:

"Sanitary Plumbing; call and see samples and get our special low prices for your plumbing complete. Also can furnish complete waterworks and lighting systems, gas ranges and water heaters. Write me for estimate and catalogue. Jay Newell, Licensed Plumber, Phones 25 and 64, Monteagle, Tenn."

Jay Newell was born in Ohio in July 1868, to Gilbert M. and Amanda “Manda” (Lynch) Newell. Gilbert was a prosperous farmer, and at twelve years of age, young Jay was working right beside his father on the farm.

Around 1893, Jay married Louella Palestine “Lula” Foster, daughter of Sylvester and Susan Ann (Allen) Foster of Moore and Franklin Counties, TN. The couple first lived in the South Pittsburgh, TN, area but later moved up on the plateau to Monteagle which became their last home together. Jay and Lula had seven children: Bessie E. (Joe Lawson), Hubert McKinley (Bessie McKinley Layne), William Zale (1898-1918, never married), Isabell, Anna May (Samuel Mankin; Joe Miller Crawford) and Sterling. There was one other child born and died between 1900 and 1910. Lula died in 1917 from cancer and was buried in the family plot in the Monteagle Cemetery probably beside the child she had lost a few years before. Then the next year tragedy struck the family again when young William Zale Newell died in Newell Sanitarium in Chattanooga from injuries sustained at work as a bridgeman for a railroad company in Cravens Yards. He was buried in the family plot in Monteagle.



**Anna May and Bessie,
daughters of Jay and Lula
Newell**



**William Zail Newell, son
of Jay and Lula Newell**



**Sterling Newell,
TMTC US NAVY WWII**

On March 20, 1920 in Franklin County, Jay married his second wife, Daisy Myrtle Finney, daughter of William Riley and Sarah C. (Reagan) Finney. On December 29, 1920, Daisy gave birth to little Dorothy Newell in Estill Springs, TN. The little girl lived less than two years, dying from pneumonia in October 1922. Her little body was bought to Monteagle for burial in the Newell family plot along with her half-siblings. Another daughter Charmine (Ira Kidwell) was born around 1926.

At some point after the conception of little Charmine, Jay and Daisy divorced. Daisy lived in Estill Springs with her mother. Jay Newell died between the conception of his daughter, Charmine, and the 1930 Census record. Jay was buried with his first wife and his children in the Monteagle Cemetery. The death date on his stone reads 1910, but we now know that he lived maybe as much as twenty more years. Throughout his years, he remained a plumbing contractor. He may well have been the first licensed plumber in Monteagle.

John William Ladd (1876-1924)

From the front page of *Mrs. Grundy*, Sept. 18, 1924 we read:

“Big John Ladd Instantly Killed – *Big John Ladd was shot and instantly killed with a shot gun in the hands of Henry Norwood Tuesday evening near Fairmount College. The difficulty arose over Ladd losing some wine, it is alleged, and he had accused the sons of Henry Norwood stealing the same and was waiting for them at the Fairmount crossing when Henry Norwood, the father of the boys came up with a shot gun, and him and Ladd had some hot words, and Ladd started to his pocket after his pistol and Norwood shot him, the shot striking Ladd in the chest killing him instantly. Norwood was arrested and placed under a \$1000.00 bond for a preliminary hearing Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Norwood made Bond.”*

John William Ladd was the firstborn child of William M. and Sarah Ellen (Kilgore) Ladd. (*Sarah Ellen can be read about in Volume II of these summaries.*) During his short life he married three women. According to the 1900 Census record, his first wife's name was Ida A. Ladd. She is believed to be a daughter of Benjamin Franklin Wooten and his first wife Sarah A. “Sallie” (Shetters) Wooten. Since she was born after 1880 and died before 1900, all we have to go on is a note I found written by a friend of mine who has since passed away. It is thought her actual name was Lorene/Lorraine Wooten, and not Ida, although we will call her “Ida” because of the Census record. If anyone can help on that point, it would be appreciated. John and Ida's first child, Maggie, born Feb. 1900, probably died as a baby and may be the Maggie Ladd listed in the Trussell, Kilgore, Ladd Cemetery. On July 4, 1901, their daughter Laura Bell (Charles Chatham “Chattie” Custer) was born. Laura Bell told one of her granddaughters that when her mother died, she was only five-years-old. Her mother may have been buried in the Trussell, Kilgore, Ladd Cemetery or the Monteagle Cemetery.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Magbee was the second wife. Together, Lizzie and John William became the parents of two children, George W., born Mar. 20, 1905, (Rosa Lee

Norwood), and Clara Ella *aka* Clara Bell, born Dec. 25, 1905, (William Cassell/Castle; Robert Jackson Rollins). Sadly Lizzie passed away between the birth of her last child Clara Bell and her husband's marriage to his third wife, thirty-seven-year old Fannie Della (Armstrong) White on Apr. 5, 1909, in Jonesboro, Jefferson Co., AL. Lizzie's death left a young John William Ladd responsible for the rearing of three children.

However, in 1910, in Monteagle, Marion County, John William's parents were caring for his three children, Laura, George and Clara while he and his new wife, Fannie Della (Armstrong) White Ladd, were living on Stouts Mtn. in Cullman, AL. He stated that he had been married three times and that he was working as a coalminer. His uncle, Allen N. Kilgore, and his wife Lou Rebecca (Starling) Kilgore, and their children at the time, Alf, Maggie, Lou Belle and Mollie lived next door. Eight years later, John William registered for the WWI Draft in Sept. 1918, at which time he was back near Monteagle working for David Tate in a timber camp.

By 1920, two of John William's children, George W. (15) and Clara (13), were back in his household in Marion Co. His daughter, Laura Bell had gotten married that summer and was making her own home. John William and Fannie had added a new son John D. Ladd, born 1911 in AL, to their family. Fannie Della had brought a daughter, Lucille White, into the family when she married John William Ladd. Lucille's father was John William **White**, and although there were other siblings, they seemed to have stayed in Alabama. On Sept. 30, 1920, Lucille married Alf Ladd, (*believed to be her stepfather's youngest brother, Robert Albert Ladd*). Lucille (White) Ladd died in Scottsboro, Alabama, but her body was brought back to Monteagle and buried in the plot next to her stepfather's plot. She and her little son, William Claude Ladd, who died a tragic death at the age of three, are probably buried side by side without known markers.

Trouble followed John William, or maybe he followed trouble. On June 24, 1920, we read in the *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper the following, "*Arrested By U. S. Officers— John Ladd was arrested by U. S. Revenue men at Monteagle last Wednesday and taken to McMinnville before Commissioner Faulkner and bound over to court on a charge of possessing whiskey.*" John William's time on this earth came to a sudden end when Samuel Henry Norwood, his son's father-in-law, lifted his shotgun and fired. His body lay lifeless on the railroad crossing near "*...the old Fairmount College site...*" which is now called the DuBose Center. Another quote from an old Marion County paper reads: "*Both Ladd and Norwood are well-known in the Monteagle section. Ladd was at one time a prisoner in Marion county jail, and made his escape by taking out a section of brick wall. He was later recaptured.*"

Sadly, during the years, and beyond, that John William Ladd lived and died, there were killings in and around our county brought about because of the moonshine,

bootlegging practices. John William is buried in the Monteagle Cemetery with several unmarked fieldstones within his plot. His stone identifies his placement.

William Edward "Big Willie" (Thomas) Layne (1912-1993)

Contributions by Ernestine "Susie" (Layne) Peck, John Henry Layne, and Marlene (Thomas) Rockwell

"Big Willie" Layne was known by most all Monteagleans in her lifetime. However, I doubt that her real name, William Edward Thomas, was commonly known. She was the daughter of John Henry "Project" and Carrie Ann (McFarland) Thomas. Her paternal grandparents were James and Mary (Tucker) Thomas. Her maternal grandparents were William Edward and Rue Cassander "Cassie" (Crabtree) McFarland. Odd as it may sound, Carrie Ann had several sons, but she chose to give her father's name to one of her little baby girls. Just when the nickname, "Big Willie," became the loving identification for this hard-working, jovial and motherly woman, one can only guess, but it fit her to a tee. Her siblings were Christine Lee (Joseph Green), Horace G. (Gladys Mae Tucker), Ernest B. (Osie Ola Johnson), Winston Folk (Rossie Satterfield), Beatrice (Edward C. Smith; James Edward Benson King), Charles Henry (Helen French), George G. (never married), Louise H. (David Smith) and Harvey Douglas (Clarine O'Neal). Carrie lost one child before the 1910 Census record making her eleven births in all.

On May 6, 1927, Willie married Robert Wilson "Bob" Layne, son of Abraham Kelly, Sr. and Mary Oda (Aylor) Layne of Layne's Cove. His paternal grandparents were Isaac and Samantha Elizabeth (Thomas) Layne. His maternal grandparents were Joseph B. and Mary (Summers) Aylor. Bob, like his wife Willie, was given a nickname, "Daddy Bob." Willie and Bob were the parents of five children, Robert Wilson "Peanut," Ernestine "Susie," (*Ernestine was named after her Uncle Ernest and Aunt Christine.*), Carolyn Jean "Sally," John Henry, and a baby girl who died as an infant. Their main home was in Summerfield at the east end of Highland Rd., but there were a couple periods when they lived behind the Monteagle School. Bob supported his family by working in the coal mines and later with the WPA program.



L to R: Sally, Maxine Geisler, Peanut, Susie, and John Henry holding “Rover” the pup, (children, friend and puppy of Robert and Willie (Thomas) Layne)

Following are memories, or feelings, as she called them, of Marlene (Thomas) Rockwell, a niece, about her dearly beloved “Big Willie” and “Daddy Bob:”

Big Willie and I would walk to the main road and ride the train to Monteagle...I remember riding in the caboose. I would sit on Big Willie’s lap even though she didn’t have much of a lap...I loved her hugging me. She could whistle really loud, and she tried to teach me, but I never learned. When she would scold me, she would call me either a ‘little heifer’ or a ‘heathen’. She probably should have paddled me, but I guess I would not remember that as much as the funny sounding names. She never spoke to me in a mean manner.

I would get in the refrigerator and eat the butter; they probably had to hide it from me...I still like butter. I would not go in the outhouse, and I guess I must have been so stubborn... someone bought a ‘chamber pot.’

My job was to scare the birds out of the garden and help Daddy Bob feed his pigs. He was a quiet, gentle man and I loved him. Big Willie told the story that I would call him Daddy, and she said he was my Daddy Bob, so that is what everyone called him after that...so the story goes. They had chickens running around everywhere; today they probably call them ‘free range’ – I didn’t wear shoes, so you know what I stepped in. Back then, it didn’t matter. Daddy

Bob would let me ride on the running board just a little down the driveway; I am sure he held me really tight and drove slowly.



**William Edward "Willie" (Thomas) Layne
with her niece, Marlene Thomas**



Robert Wilson Layne, Sr.

Big Willie and Daddy Bob would take us all to town in the truck to get gasoline. I rode in the front, but the big kids got to ride in the back. We would get something for a treat. They seemed to have people visiting a lot. I can't remember their names, but I can remember everyone sitting around laughing and talking. They did not run us kids off so they could talk – we were always included. Loving feelings were always shown at these gatherings. I missed Sally so much when she got married. She and her husband would let me stay all night with them sometimes. I didn't want to share Susie either. I was so terribly spoiled. The first house burned (while rented out—jp), but it was rebuilt. I sure loved the old place better. On my last visit home to Tennessee, I drove out to the house. The house was deserted. I didn't get out of the car...I couldn't believe the strong feelings I felt just sitting there...I am glad I went.

Big Willie's brother, Harvey Douglas, over time operated several restaurants in Monteagle. (*Read about Harvey Douglas Thomas in Vol. I of these summaries.*) She was always there to help him in the kitchen or whatever area he needed her to fill. Hard work was no stranger to this lady. Some of the people Willie worked for besides her brother were Clara Shoemate, Norman Corn, Grady Crownover and Homer E. Merriman, a clergyman. She did housekeeping, took in washing and ironing, cooking, whatever she could to help her husband care for the family. For a while, Bob and Willie moved into a house near Willie's mother, Carrie. It was at this time that the original house burned.



On Mar. 14, 1980, Robert Wilson Layne, Sr. passed away and was buried near his sister Leora Merritt (Layne) Hill in the Summerfield Cemetery. Willie joined him there on Oct. 27, 1993. Out of appreciation of the love shown by Marlene (Thomas) Rockwell for her aunt, "Big Willie", and uncle, "Daddy Bob", I include these photos of their burial stones. (Jackie Layne Partin)

William H. Hand (ca. 1832-aft 1880)

In the small, new village of Monteagle where neighbors were often scattered, the household of William H. and Rebecca Jane Hand was listed in the **1880** Census just after John and Mila Francis. William was born in New York of Irish parents. Rebecca Jane was a native of TN. They had no children. William worked as a plasterer in the area, and it is supposed that Rebecca Jane operated the Hand's Boarding House. After the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly opened its gate for its first full season in 1883, there was a pressing need for room and board for those seeking the cooler weather on the plateau and a playground of natural beauty. Men and women from just about every

known trade were sought after to prepare the cottages and shared community buildings for each summer season and for the guests on their way to the Assembly.

The **Hand House**, a boarding house, was built on the right before one enters the Assembly gate. The following advertisement is shared in the Assembly book, *Mountain Voices*: *“The Hand House, Monteagle, Tenn., is prepared to accommodate guests at the following rates: \$1.00 Per Day, \$6.00 Per Week, \$25.00 Per Month. TABLE FIRST-CLASS. ROOMS LARGE, AIRY AND NEAT. House located within few yards of Assembly entrance. Convenient to depot, post-office and business houses. Water the best, and abundant. A good orchard on the property. A large dairy in connection, and butter and milk sold at reasonable rates.”*

In 1910 Jane Hand was a widow with her own income. Her closest neighbors were Philip Anderson Pearson, his wife Amanda and daughter Josephine. Since it is my understanding that the Pearsons lived in, and possibly built, the Stonecourt Cottage (now the Mary Ellen Haley home) on the MSSA compound just on the right of the main entrance, then the Hands Boarding House proprietors would have been neighbors, but on the outside of the entrance. (A 1911 ad about the Pearsons: *“For rent inside the Assembly Grounds; a twelve-room cottage, with hot and cold water, a well of cold water on rear porch, a broad, long porch on front and side, grove on all sides; a servant’s house and poultry yard 50 X 50; A pleasant location and rent quite reasonable. For terms and information apply to P. A. Pearson, Assembly Grounds, Monteagle, Tennessee.”*)



Notice the large house (arrow) to the left of Lenehan’s Pharmacy. It stood a few yards from the front entrance to the MSSA. I believe it was the Hand Boarding House.

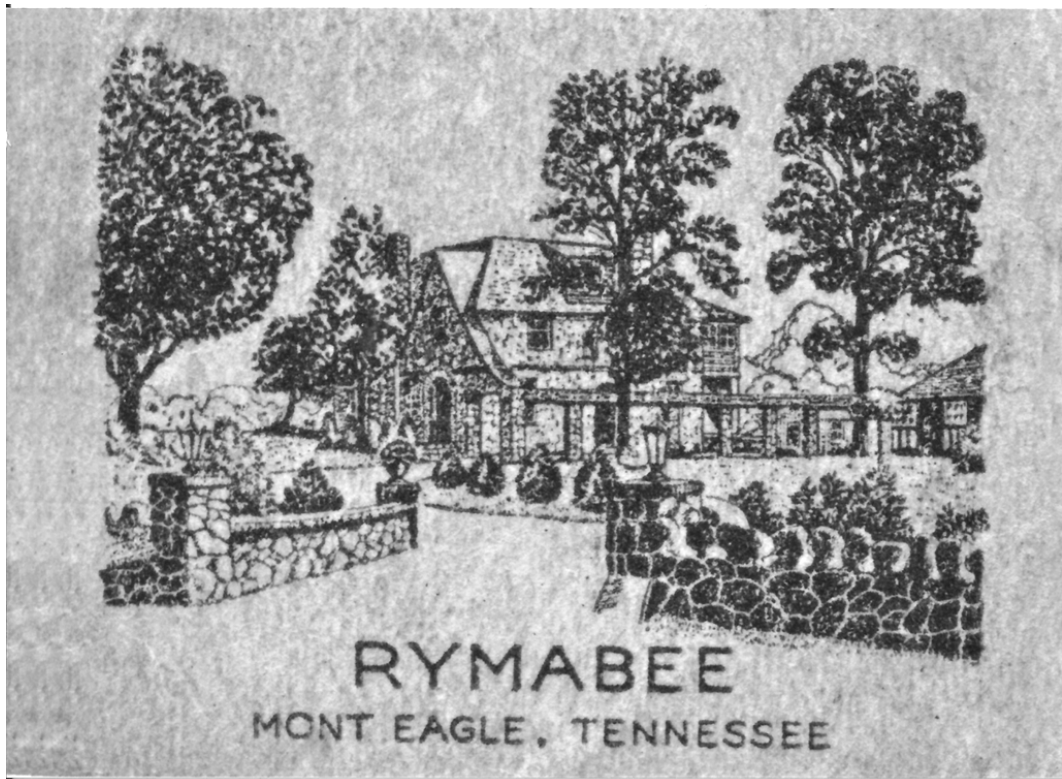
At this time there is no more information on the Hand family. However, I have heard that the MSSA used the building to house the musicians and other visitors from time to time when the Inn and boarding houses on the domain were overflowing. Maybe that ongoing research will pop up in other summaries.

Felicia Irene (Mabee) Dickinson (1885-1944)

Monteagle's "Big House," the rock castle, the one with all the mysterious tales surrounding it, was once owned by Felicia Irene Mabee. We will call her **Irene** for this little summary. Oh, what a book she could have written had she wanted the residents of Monteagle to know her comings and goings!

Irene was the daughter of Charles Byron and Maria Evelyn (Collins) Mabee. Her paternal grandparents were Dr. Oliver Dennis and Mary Elizabeth (Ward) Mabee. Her siblings were Oliver Charles, Alice C., Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie," Emma Cecilia, James Aaron, William Alfred, Julia Virginia, Bessie Lavinia, Cornelia F., George Edward, John Truman, Crawford Douglas and Carl Furman. Her father died in 1900, leaving her mother with a houseful of children to rear.

No one knows what year the big house was built, but around 1911, mountainside stone was put on the outside. Irene's mother operated a boarding house called the Mabee House for some years before her death in Chicago, ILL in 1925. Now this may dispel the idea that Alphonse Gabriel "Scarface" Capone built the house for Irene. Irene was born in 1885 and Al was born in 1899. He was just a child at the time Maria Evelyn began her boarding house operation. Another myth that probably can be swept asunder is that Al Capone built the house for Irene because she was his mistress. At the age of fourteen Al became involved with crime activities, but it is highly unlikely that twenty-eight-year-old Irene had become the mistress of fourteen-year-old Al. Al really got into the big time crime in the twenties, the prohibition years. Maybe he and Irene became friends in the twenties, but the house was already there before Al was old enough to pull off the building of it.



**Artist rendering of Maria Evelyn Mabee's Boarding House
This may well be the original house after the installation of mountain stones.**



Another version of the Mabee House could possibly be dated by looking at the cars.



Irene (Mabee) Dickinson, 3rd from left; Cornelia (Mabee) Lauritzen 4th from left



Irene (Mabee) Dickinson with her nephew, Charles Monroe Hester at Sewanee Cross

It is most difficult to keep up with Irene and some of her siblings. Besides her mother Maria dying in Chicago, John Truman enlisted for the WWI Draft in Chicago and worked there in 1940 as a vice-president of the Stoner Company; Carl Furman lived there in 1940 working in his own insurance business; Cornelia "Connie" married and had two children there; only one survived. Why were they all in Chicago? It's hard to believe that Irene lived at times in Chicago and did not have some connection to Al Capone especially since Monteagle old timers handed down many stories about his tie to her and the big house. Even some of the Mabee descendants believe there were connections to the Capone family. He may well have had the house renovated to include some of the items listed in an article by Katy Fulton written in 1994, "*...thick hidden fire walls constructed of stone that divide the house into four parts...eighteen inches of empty space separate the ceiling of the first floor...measurements downstairs do not match measurements upstairs...*"

Irene married three times according to one researcher. The surnames, Gipson, Cline, and Dickinson were given as her marriages. The one I can prove is her *Dickinson* marriage. She died in Chicago on Oct. 21, 1944 as the wife of *William L. Dickinson*. Irene's body came back from Chicago and was placed in the Mabee family plot in the Monteagle Cemetery.

Read more about the Oliver Dennis Mabee family at www.grundycountyhistory.org.

John William "Bill" Parks (1880-1956)

Contributions by Ernest Glenn Lautzenheiser, II

His strides counted, every one of them, as he walked from his home between Summerfield and Monteagle to the church meetings at the old Church of Christ building on First Street. The building was later renovated and turned into a house that was owned by James and Minnie Ruth (Gossett) Sampley. Before those years, he was faithful in attendance at the Summerfield Church of Christ meetings at the building which stood where the Dick Meeks/Jimmy Moon house now stands (2014). Then when the new brick building on West Main was built, he just added a few more strides to his Sunday walk and attended there. His stature was tall and thin; he walked with a limp. Being an elder in the church and feeling partially responsible, he always arrived early to check on the building—the heat, the water, janitorial duties, the placement of hymn books. Quiet as a church mouse, he took his seat toward the front and against the wall and awaited his Christian family. Mr. Bill Parks was a man of religious conviction with no nonsense, no foolishness about him—a man of direction.



**Background: old Church of Christ
on First St.**



Present Church of Christ on West Main St.

Bill did not drive, but that did not hinder his movements about town. He gave some serious thought about buying a car, and he did just that in the 1920's. But after reasoning that he could not have a **car** and a **boy** in the family at the same time, he sold his car. What a wise father he was!

John William "Bill" Parks was born Nov. 17, 1880 in Pelham Valley to Benjamin Franklin and Sarah "Sadie" (Wooten) Parks. Sarah was Benjamin's second wife, so Bill had several siblings besides his whole sisters, Ann E. and Rebecca. He had half-siblings, Samuel Archie, Malinda and Nancy.

On Nov. 27, 1902, Bill married Bessie (Summers) Myers in Grundy Co. TN. In my memories, Bessie was a quiet, humble little lady who was dwarfed by her husband's height. She had beautiful snow-white hair. But before my time, she was the baby daughter of Fredrick Henry and Martha Sarah (Summers) Myers. Fredrick came to the mountain from Pelham Valley. Martha was a descendant of Basil Summers, the founder of Summerfield. The old Myers house and farm stood at the end of North Scenic Rd. near where a sand plant is today. But Bill and Bessie had dreams of their own.

The land was waiting for the young Parks couple to start their little house which grew as the family size increased. Like most families who were not born with a silver spoon in their mouths, a house was built little baby steps at a time. As the money came in and a little extra could be spent on lumber and nails, a new room was added. Bill and Bessie kept at it until they could stand back and see their little house become a two-story one. The children who filled the house with laughter were Flora Louise (Horace Glaze), Willie Marie (Jesse Leon Malone), Horace Clifton (Morrie Adams), Annie (Ernest Glenn "Hunkie" Lautzenheiser; Louis Chatten Coney), Dorothy Lee "Dot" (Paul

McInnish; Ernest Cantrell), Edna Pauline (Ray Claude Turney), and Paul Fred (Nina Ruth Miller). The old house is gone, but I still see it as I pass the empty lot. It stood to the west of the former Fred and Nina Parks house on Hwy 41. Lately (2014) there has been a bulldozer pushing around memories on the old Parks land. Pile them up and take them away in a dump truck, but as long as I and others my age and older live, the old Parks house and family will too. I write about it now so that the young Parks descendants, who couldn't care less at this time in history, will have it when they do care.

It's been a long winter here on this plateau, the winter of 2013/14. We have seen sub-zero temperatures and plenty of snow with some ice. On a certain day, I told my granddaughter to look out the window and see the rain. Immediately I told her to watch because it was raining snow; then it was snowing; then it was snowing rain, and finally it began to only snow. How beautifully it lay on the hemlocks around the woods. When Bill Parks arose to such a day, his mind was not on thoughts of the beauty around him, but on how cold and difficult it was going to be for him to walk to Tracy City, catch a train to Palmer, and work in and around the mines all day. All the while, he was hoping his return trip home would be in a warmer temperature and melted snow. Bill supported his family as an electrician in the coal mines. He also worked as a "pump operator" for the N. S. & St. L. Railroad along with a neighbor, Elijah C. Shetters.

Accidents happen to the best of folks. On one of those cold, icy days, Bill had started his walk home from Tracy City. On the hill coming up from the Fiery Gizzard dip near the entrance of Pigeon Springs/Partins Farm Rd., Bill fell hard enough to break his leg. He struggled to aright himself while hoping someone would come along to help him. During all the moving around he also broke his hip. He lay there hopelessly in pain and in loneliness until he gave up on living much longer. Resigned that his time was near, Bill had "a little talk with Jesus". Not expecting to see a mortal soul again, he finally heard a vehicle approach him. His life was spared, and with all the mental strength he could muster, Bill thanked his Father in Heaven. Bill was taken to the Sewanee Hospital where he was admitted with extreme injuries. When his young grandson, Glenn E. Lautzenheiser, entered his room, Bill was so wrapped in casts and bandages that the scene frightened him. It was this accident that caused Bill to have the perpetual limp.



Annie (Parks) Lautzenheiser Coney



Bessie (Myers) Parks

On Feb. 29, 1956, after four days in the hospital for treatment for a heart ailment, this good man passed away. He was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. His beloved wife, Bessie followed him in 1981. They are buried near the Myers Archway, a hand hewn stone memorial to Bessie's parents and descendants.

Martha Ethel Jane "Maggie" (Kilgore) Garner (1899-1922)

Why must the young die too? "Maggie," we shall call her, lived before my time, but in my heart, I know her well. When I stare down at her grave, I am pulled into her world, into that dreadful day when she drew her last breath on the streets of our lovely little village, Monteagle. I want you to know her too. '*Laugh, Love and Live,*' – haven't we all been inundated in the past few years with these words on posters, wall hangings, coffee mugs, or cards? That's all Maggie wanted. Let's care about her, not forget her. Forgetting causes history to repeat itself.

On August 3, 1899, Maggie was born Martha Ethel Jane Kilgore, daughter of Allen N. and Lou Rebecca (Starling) Kilgore. Her siblings were Alfred, Lou Belle, Mollie, William DuBose and Francis "Nubbin." Madly in love, on Dec. 23, 1916, seventeen-year-old Maggie married a handsome, well-dressed, smooth-talking, nineteen-year-old man. Egbert Perry "Pewter" Garner was his name. At that moment Maggie was such a happy bride, looking toward her future life in a little white house with a picket fence and several little children playing in the yard. She felt the warm, protective arms around her and experienced the intended oneness in her heart. Pewter would strive to make her life complete, she hoped.



**A moment of blissful happiness,
Maggie and Pewter,
probably on their wedding day in 1916**

However, tragedy crept into Maggie's life as we read in an early newspaper account: *"Al Kilgore was shot and instantly killed at Monteagle, Sunday March 9, (1919 – jp), by Edgar Myers with a pistol. Myers was exonerated in justice court on ground of self-defense."* The death certificate for her father states that he was shot during a crap game at the age of fifty-four. There was no doctor, but Egbert Garner was the informant to the happenings that day. Allen "Al" was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery.

To fully understand what Maggie had gotten herself into, please read the story, **“Pewter Garner – The Way It Was.”** It can be found at www.grundycountyhistory.org .

Maggie was dragged into Pewter’s world of making moonshine, bootlegging it and dodging the revenue officers. She never knew from one moment to the next if he would live or die. As a consequence of his actions, she, too, was in constant danger. Nevertheless, she knew that no matter what was in her future, she would “stand by her man.” Most honest, hard-working people feared him more than any man of the time. He had no trouble using a gun if need be to advance his efforts in making money illegally.

In an August 1922 newspaper article, we read that “...Mrs. Egbert Garner, who on hearing the shots and fearing for her husband when she saw the trouble between the men, had run out into the street. **One of the five shots that Davis had directed at her husband struck her, and she died in a few moments...**” It is difficult to understand how any man could put his young wife in such danger, but Pewter did, and he paid dearly. In the last few minutes of her life, Maggie was not standing “by her man,” but in front of him to save his life. Maggie was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. The death year on the stone is 1921, but it should read 1922.

Margaret E. J. Garner

Aug. 3, 1899

Aug. 19, 1921 (1922)

At Rest



Charles Ladue Holliday (1912-1959)

Have you ever wondered how our Monteagle ancestors dealt with the preparations of the bodies of their loved ones before Charles Ladue Holliday came to town? In 1893 in Tracy City, Ed Von Bergen, manufactured and dealt in funeral

supplies for his undertaking business. In 1912, John Thomas "J. T." Brannan filled the role as Monteagle's resident undertaker. According to the statement my great-grandmother got for the burial of her husband, Alex Benson King, there was no embalming charge. Now rest assured that Mr. Brannan would have put the charge down had there been any embalming. Ernest Campbell "E. C." Norvell, undertaker in Tracy City, was often chosen for the job as seen in the *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper in Mar. 27, 1913 when we read the he was called to Pelham to embalm the body of Mrs. Green, sister to Tracy City's J. F. Rust, who had died on Mar. 26th. Then later E. J. Cunningham of Cunningham Funeral Home, which later became the High Funeral Home, then Foster Funeral Home, and now Foster/Lay Funeral Home, in Tracy City was called upon to help the families of Monteagle. We must not forget the "*family and friends*" undertakers where little or no cost was entailed, and because of disease, the body was buried immediately upon death. An example of family assistance would be the burial of little William Claude Ladd, son of Albert and Lucille (White) Ladd, who died a tragic death in 1924 at the age of three. Chattie Custer was the acting undertaker for the little boy.

Charles LaDue Holliday was the son of Rev. Charles and Ethel Estelle (Tuten) Holliday; he was born in Guild, TN. His father was born in Decherd, Franklin Co., TN, and his mother was born in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN. LaDue had an older sister, Frances Mildred (William Burnett). Because his father was a pastor, he was able to live in Grundy County, among other places, and graduate from Grundy County High School. He went on to attend Tennessee Wesleyan and Carson-Newman College. In 1943 he enlisted in the Navy and spent two years serving his country. Since he had experience in the funeral business by working for the Turner Funeral Home in Chattanooga, both before and after his service in the U. S. Navy, LaDue was ready to start out on his own. He came to Monteagle in 1947 and eventually built two rather large buildings to accommodate his business.

LaDue married Evelyn McCurdy of Tracy City who was the daughter of Henry Kelly and Susan Pauline (Brannan) McCurdy. Her father owned and operated a barber shop that stood between the Dixie Theatre and the Collier/Colyar House/Tracy City Court House. When Mr. McCurdy's time at the barber/hairdresser business was finished, Evelyn took over the shop and turned it into a beauty shop which ladies from all around patronized. That business and the rearing of her only child, Judith (Frank Emmett Clay) was her life's work.

Maybe because of the following happening, the Hollidays were able to buy some of the land on College Street to build their new business.

Grundy County Herald, March 27, 1947. "2 Homes Razed In Early Monteagle Fire"

"Fire started from a defective flu in Bill Bennett home at Monteagle Wednesday, March 27, aided by high winds destroyed the residence and spread to the adjoining home of J. (Jim) R. Gossett and it was completely destroyed. Most of the household goods were saved. Quick action by the people of Monteagle and neighboring towns saved adjoining buildings. Some damage was done to the new theatre building under construction."

On Sept. 25, 1947 LaDue and Evelyn placed the following paid advertisement in the *Grundy County Herald*:

"Announcing the Formal Opening of the Cumberland Funeral Home, Monteagle, Tennessee, Sunday, Oct. 5-12 Inclusive, We cordially invite you to visit our New Funeral Home. Our Home is completely furnished with new equipment, including a 1948 Hennery Packard combination Hearse and Ambulance. Mr. and Mrs. LaDue Holliday, For Service – Call Monteagle 2244."



"Cumberland Funeral Home" is seen in the left front corner of this photo.

Mary Elinor Caldwell died in Monteagle, TN on Oct. 12, 1947; her body was prepared by C. L. Holliday at the Cumberland Funeral Home for shipment to McKenzie, TN. Martha Sarah (Summers) Myers, daughter of George W. and Nancy (Christian) Summers, died on Oct. 15, 1947, and her body was tended by C. L. Holliday. Joseph Hume Cooper died on Oct. 28, 1947 in Monteagle; his body was prepared for burial by C. L. Holliday at his funeral parlor. George Carney Partin died on Jan. 30, 1948, and Cumberland Funeral Home was in charge of the burial. These few examples show that LaDue Holliday's services were much needed by our little town.

Some of the people who worked for LaDue were Chester A. "Moon" Mullins, Helen (Meeks) Campbell, Frank Clay and J. R. Hamby. In those days, families were allowed to sit around the clock with the deceased loved one until the burial. The idea that the loved one should not be left alone while on this earth was a common one. I remember sitting the night with two good friends, Polly Harris and Sally Pryor, upon the death of Polly's mother. We waited until another family member came in the next morning before we left for home. That practice has all but vanished.

Double tragedies struck the Holliday family in 1959. On May 25, 1959, Marvin Emmett Clay was fatally injured when the tractor on which he was riding overturned and pinned him. He was rushed to the Manchester Hospital, but passed away a little later. He was the father-in-law of Judith (Holliday) Clay. Then on Thursday morning Oct. 22, 1959, while LaDue and his friend and helper, J. R. Hamby, were clearing land owned by the Holliday family, the tractor turned over on LaDue. He was pronounced dead at the Emerald Hodgson Hospital where he had been taken, no doubt, in his own ambulance.

From his obituary, "...Funeral services were conducted from the Morton Memorial Methodist Church in Monteagle Saturday, October 24th, with the Rev. Paul Allen, officiating. Interment was in the Tracy City Cemetery. Pallbearers were: Douglas Butner, Kelly Partin, Ward Lacy, Jim Francis, Harold Lowery, Herman Sanders, Charlie Baggenstoss, Fred Parks and Rudolph Brown. The Funeral Directors in charge were: Harry Gillmore and Ellis Parker from Manchester; J. D. Rogers, Marvoin Rogers and Gerald Fitzgerald, South Pittsburg; Sam Witt, Whitewell and Howard Ewton from Dunlap."

Evelyn chose to bury her husband in the McCurdy family plot in the City Cemetery at Tracy City. She was buried beside him on Nov. 16, 2002.

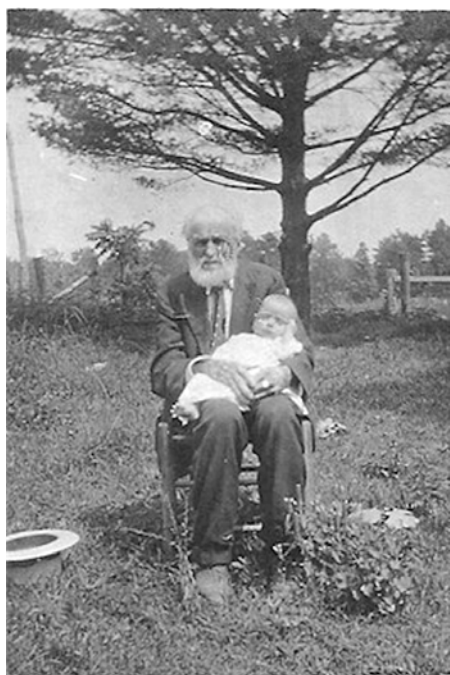
William Pascal Barnes (1895-1985)

Contributions by Margaret Ann (Barnes) Scott and Terri (Pugh) Scott

Higher, higher the big swing flew—with my feet reaching for the sky. The strong ropes fit well into my tightly clenched hands. I was as close to Heaven as a young child could be. That is my first memory of the Barnes family of Monteagle. The swing belonged to them and hung on a big tree in their front yard which overlooked the wondrous beauty that had been poured out by God in the valley floor below. It is now known as Pelham Valley. There was an outing that day for children from a Sunday School class.

William Pascal Barnes was born on Sept. 22, 1895 in Tracy City, TN to Dr. William Carroll, Jr. and Annie Laura (Nearn) Barnes who married in 1889. Pascal's paternal grandparents were Dr. William Carroll, Sr. and Bethia (Hill) Barnes. Bethia Hill descended from the Hill family of Warren Co., TN. Dr. W. C. Barnes, Sr. served in the 35th TN Infantry as a surgeon. He had a second wife, Hallie (Cagle) Barnes, who died in Beersheba Springs in 1912 from "brain fever". She had given birth to a little girl, Hallie Cagle Barnes, five months before her death.

Pascal's maternal grandparents were Mansfield Lafayette and Virginia (Seward) Nearn of Tracy City. He had several siblings with whom to play; they were Helena Bethia, Virginia Irene (1891-1915), Paul Lafayette, Wilbur Brents, Hilda Gertrude, Annie Laurie, Mary Louise and Ora Loiette (1904-1905, buried in Dawson Cemetery, TX). Little Alner (1892-1893) died before Pascal was born and was buried at Tracy City Cemetery near his "Nearn" grandparents. Virginia Irene also was buried at Tracy City Cemetery but not next to her brother.



**William Carroll Barnes, Sr. (1832-1917)
with daughter, Hallie Cagle Barnes
(1912-1995)**

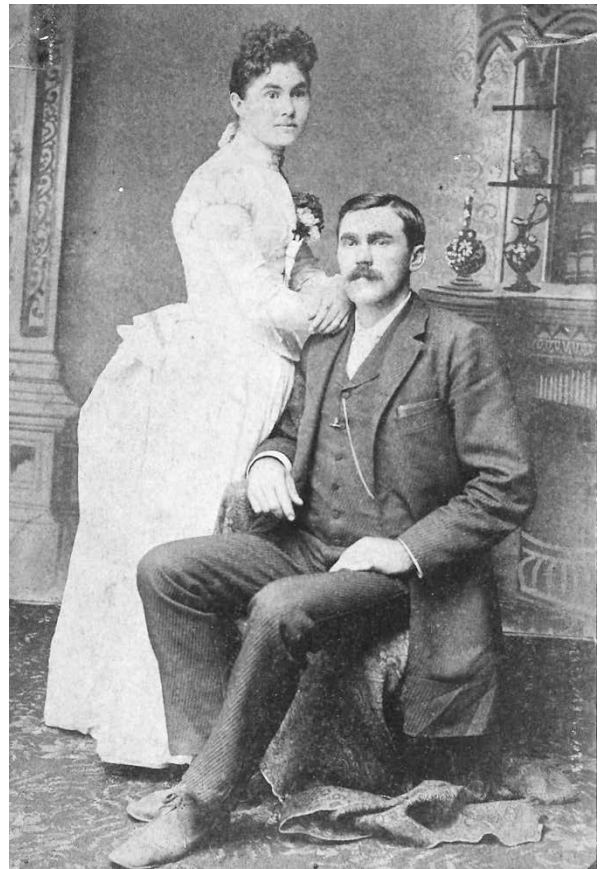


**Burial Stone for Ora Loiette Barnes in
Dawson Cemetery in Texas**

Dr. William Carroll Barnes, Jr.

and his new wife

Annie Laura (Nearn) Barnes



In 1893, Dr. W. C. Barnes was appointed to be the “stockade physician”, (*I. B. Woodward notes*), in Tracy City. Since during this period the senior Dr. Barnes and the junior Dr. Barnes appeared to be working together, it is possible they both attended the stockade convicts. The stockade was where convicts, which had been leased to the coal company by the State of Tennessee, were confined when they were not toiling in the coal mines or coke ovens. After the 1900 Census was recorded, Dr. Barnes, Jr. moved his family to Dawson, Navarro Co., Texas where he sincerely believed his children would have more positive opportunities than in Grundy County. He carried on his medical practice, and the children attended elementary school in Dawson. The boys who were old enough helped out financially by doing farm labor. Sadly, his wife Annie Laura died on Nov. 15, 1909, and was buried in Dawson Cemetery in Texas.



**Virginia Irene and Helena Bethia Barnes,
sisters to William Pascal Barnes**



**Annie Laura, Mary Louise and Hilda
Gertrude Barnes, sisters to William
Pascal Barnes**



Annie Laurie

Wife of Dr. W. C. Barnes

July 7, 1869

Nov. 15, 1909

Dawson Cemetery in Texas

The 1920 Census record shows that Dr. Barnes, Jr. had remarried and was once again practicing medicine in Tracy City, TN. His second wife was Mary Alice (Stone) Cannon, daughter of John Lawrence and Elvira (Roberson) Stone. In 1930 the good

doctor and Alice were living in Chattanooga where he was still practicing medicine and continued to do so until his death on Apr. 12, 1934. Pascal served as the informant on his dad's death certificate. The body was brought back to Tracy City and buried near his daughter, Virginia Irene Barnes.

Pascal attended Burritt College in Spencer, TN where he rounded out his formal education. While there, he and his younger brother Wilbur played on the school baseball and basketball teams. For a while, Pascal was able to put his education to work by teaching at a school near Spencer. His daughter Ann remembers with a smile the story her father told of racing on horseback with a cousin to get to the school where he taught. Another special story told by Ann is how her father and his brothers, after they had moved back to Tracy City, traveled back to Dawson, TX for their summers so that they would "stay out of trouble". In the February 18, 1915, *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper, we read, "*Social Gathering – On last Tuesday night Miss Beatrice Tucker entertained a choice number of her friends. Those present being Messrs. Martin Conry, Rube Bell, **Wilbur and Pascal Barnes**, Ewing Norvell and Martie Schild; Misses Carrie Von Allman, Esther Campbell, Ruth and Isabell Reid, Nina Weaver and the hostess. At a late hour refreshments were served, and the crowd dispersed reporting a most enjoyable evening.*" The Barnes children were well-liked by their peers.

Soon the U.S.A. called its men to register for the WWI Draft. Pascal was farming in Tracy City and still single when he got his call. Pvt. William Pascal Barnes served as a medic in Europe during the war. One of the basic lessons the Barnes boys were taught was farming, so straight out of the U. S. Army, Pascal and two of his brothers, Paul Lafayette and Wilbur Brents, went to Colorado to homestead and dry wheat farm (*a type of farming practiced in arid areas without irrigation by planting drought-resistant crops and maintaining a fine surface tilth or mulch that protects the natural moisture of the soil from evaporation*). To finance the venture in Colorado, he and his brother, Wilbur Brents, worked in Gary Ward, Indiana in steel works, pulling fourteen hour shifts, a hot, uncomfortable job. Both were still single in 1920.

On Oct. 9, 1925, Pascal met and married Maggie Belle Gaither, (born May 3, 1902), at the 14th St. Church of Christ in Washington, D. C.; the officiating minister was Theophilus Brown Larimore. Maggie was the daughter of Wiley Thomas and Maggie Lillian (Gibbs) Gaither. Her siblings were Earl Thomas, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph Kennedy, John Burgess, James Hardiman, Polly Lillian, Wiley Thomas, Jr. (1909-1909) and Fannie Stribling and Charles William (1919-1919). Before her marriage, Maggie Belle attended a business college; then she went to Washington, DC where she began work in federal civil service at the Civil Service Commission. Later she moved to Fort

Meyer, VA where she worked in supply. The last order she filled was for Mamie Eisenhower's lap robe.

William Pascal Barnes

and his wife,

Magabel (Gaither) Barnes



Pascal, Maggie and little daughter Margaret Ann (Charles Flavil Scott, Sr.), born Oct. 5, 1927, were living in Arlington, VA in the 1930's and 1940's. Pascal was employed by the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D. C. In 1950, complications of an irregular heartbeat helped Pascal make the decision to retire and move back to Tennessee. With the help of his aunt, Lois Nearn, a realtor, the perfect house was found in Monteagle for him and Maggie Belle, and the move was made. They bought the Eva (Carlyson) Beard home at the east end of Valley View Drive, and what a perfect place for the retired couple to start living the rest of their lives!



William Pascal and Magabel (Gaither) Barnes' home in Monteagle; formerly the old William L. and Eva Beard home

I was a child when they came to our town, but I remember them well, especially Mrs. Barnes. It was always funny to me when Pascal called her "Magabel". I thought he was having fun with her, that it was a nickname, when in truth she just wanted to change her name to one word – Magabel, and she did. She was a wonderful, beautiful lady, beauty in her appearance and in her heart. If she ever had a negative feeling, she kept it to herself. She loved flowers and took part in the Garden Club of the area. There were times when she was a substitute teacher, a mighty good one because of her love for children.

Pascal and Magabel served the Monteagle Church of Christ well throughout their years together. He served as an elder in the church at Arlington, VA and later in Monteagle. Magabel added, from her near-front pew, color, grace, dignity, and overflowing love for her Christian family.

"Tinker" became Pascal's nickname among those who loved him and knew of his ability to put things together and make them work. Woodworking seemed to be the hobby that gave Pascal so much pleasure although he certainly enjoyed hunting, gardening and helping others. His shop at home always had a building or refinishing project going on. Besides the Beard house, Pascal built a second home incorporating the old logs from his grandfather, Dr. W. C. Barnes, Sr.'s house, which probably was in Beersheba. A third cabin was built from an old stable torn down in Sewanee and brought to the bluff site. He acquired the old Monteagle Church of Christ building on First St. and turned it into a dwelling that later was bought by James and Minnie Ruth

(Gossett) Sampley. He sometimes worked on “wood” projects with his half-uncle Hugh Thomas “Isaac” Barnes, son of Dr. William Carroll, Sr. and his second wife Hallie (Cagle) Barnes. Hugh had bought the Irene Mabee rock house in Monteagle.

Paschal died Nov. 19. 1985, in the log house where he and Magabel later lived; his daughter Ann stated that his heart “just gave out”. On Mar. 3, 1992, Magabel passed away from complications of a stroke and diabetes. Her precious body was carried to the Mimosa Cemetery in Lawrenceburg, TN and placed beside her husband and friend. They had previously chosen military head stones. Magabel’s stone has a dogwood blossom in the left corner. I think I can honestly say that the two of them were connected as soul mates, never veering away from each other for a moment.

**The old logs from
Dr. William Carroll
Barnes, Sr.’s house
can be seen in the
rear of Pascal and
Magabel’s second house.**

**It was in this house that
each passed away.**



My husband, Grady Ward Partin, remembers the exact words that Magabel Barnes said to him in 1960 when we were newlyweds. In her soft voice she stated, “Remember, a husband should never strike his wife,” then she paused, and with a grin she continued, “unless she needs it.” A note of interest to me was when I heard that the “swing” was still there in the front yard some sixty-plus-years later. The old ropes have been replaced with chains, but the opportunity for a child to reach for the sky is still there.

Dr. William Andrew Jackson, Jr. (1863-1941)

In the winter of 1977, I found myself living back in my home country of the United States of America, seven months pregnant without a doctor. No doctor wanted to take on a case like mine, but an older, retired, wonderfully caring, ex-military doctor

did just that. You see, military doctors didn't get to choose their patients or turn down any wounded or dying soldiers, so when, and if, they assimilated into the civilian medical fields, they tended to receive whoever needed help. Monteagle had its own retired ex-military physician.

William Andrew Jackson, Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland on Sept. 4, 1863. His parents were William, Sr. and Sarah J. (Robinson) Jackson. On Dec. 6, 1898, twenty-seven-year old William married Lillian Gertrude Smith, daughter of Oren Bryan and Lillian (Hyde) Smith in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. The couple were parents to William Oren (medical doctor in NY), Robert Wayne (minister of the gospel), and daughter Winsome Genevieve "Win" (m. Leslie Ashton Wilson).

On Aug 31, 1917, Dr. Jackson was called into military service during WWI as a Captain from the Officers Reserve Corps. Eight months later he was promoted to "Major" at Camp Gordon, GA. He was assigned to the Av Sec Sig School of Aeronautics for a few months; he then became the Post Surgeon until his discharge. He never saw overseas duty, but he served in Atlanta, GA, Americus, GA, Camp Greene, NC and Montgomery, AL. On Aug. 26, 1919, he received a honorable discharge when his service was no longer required. We must remember that Dr. Jackson was not a young man when called to serve in 1917; he was fifty-four. Like my doctor in 1977, he chose to retire from the military and work in the populace arena.

Dr. Jackson moved his family to Monteagle in late 1919. He took up residence in the house across from Fairmount Station. It was possibly the big house on the hill that served as Monteagle's kindergarten some years later. Tracy City also benefited from his decision to move to this part of the country when an extension office was opened there in the Frederic Schwoon home.

Dr. Jackson attended seventy-year-old Mary J. Clark for four days before her death from the effects of tuberculosis and kidney failure on Dec. 7, 1920. On July 17, 1915, another patient was Annie Anderson who died from a cerebral hemorrhage. Dr. Jackson did not get to attend Anthony Aylor when he died May 19, 1928, but he signed his death certificate. For eight months, he tended to Louise J. Partin in 1934 and 1935, but she lost the battle on June 29, 1935 when she died of bronchitis and pneumonia. He could not save the lives of all his patients, but he was there to hold their hands and possibly offer up a prayer. I once had a doctor to visit me at my home, and before he left, he prayed for me. That sounds untrue, but it isn't. Doctors used to be like members of our families.

On Mar. 8, 1941, Dr. William A. Brewer attended Monteagle's old ex-military doctor as he lay dying from a heart condition. At the age of seventy-seven Dr. Jackson passed on to serve in another world. His wife later moved to Winchester, Franklin County, but spent the last four weeks of her life in the Wrenn Nest Rest Home in Monteagle, Grundy County, TN. Oct. 2, 1949, Gertrude was placed beside her husband in the Monteagle Cemetery.

James Tilghman "Jim" Scott (1906-1981)

Any good man deserves to be remembered beyond his years on earth. Mr. Jim Scott, a highly respected Monteagle resident, was a name that I heard many times, but I never had the opportunity to meet him.

On Sept. 23, 1922, Cleopatra "Cleo" Adams married Ralph Ewing Nunley, son of Albert Sidney and Mattie Maude (Brown) Nunley. Cleo was the daughter of Charles Francis and Dorothy "Dollie" (Tate) Adams. *(Charles Francis Adams was a brother to my husband's grandmother, Martha Matilda "Mattie" (Adams) Schild.)* There were two children from this marriage, Margaret (Hampton E. Patton) and Charles Albert. Cleo and Ralph divorced before the 1930 Census where we find that Cleo was then married to James Tilghman "Jim" Scott. The two Nunley children are listed as his step-children. *(According to a news article in the Nov. 5, 1959, Grundy County Herald, thirty-five-year old Charles Albert was killed by his biological father who claimed self-defense. He was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery near his mother.)*

Jim and Cleo became the parents of James Edward Scott (Ruby Christine Grisder). The 1940 Census shows that Jim and Cleo also had a daughter, Anna Emmaline Scott (John Owen Gilliam; Dean Elbert Sutherland). Jim supported his family by farming and driving a truck.

**Cleopatra "Cleo" Adams and older
sister, Clinton Adams,
daughters of Charles Francis and
Dorothy "Dollie" (Tate) Adams**



James Tilghman "Jim" Scott was the son of Robert "Bob" and Emma Casine (Thomas) Scott. His siblings were Pascal L., Franklin C., Edna (Thomas Millard Parsons) and Elonzo Ransom "Rance". His paternal grandparents were Sam and Elizabeth (Kilgore) Scott; his maternal grandparents were William F. and Margaret Ellen (Crabtree) Thomas. Jim's mother died in 1917 leaving four children at home with their father. He and his brothers were sent to live with their Thomas grandparents.

Cleopatra "Cleo" Scott died on June 24, 1957 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Folks told me that it was time for Mr. Jim to have the opportunity to marry a quiet, kind and thoughtful lady, and on Feb. 23, 1958, Jim did just that when he married Nora Belle (Thomas) Troxler, widow of Denzil Troxler, who had died in a truck accident in 1939. Her parents were William M. and Elizabeth (McFarland) Thomas. She brought two beautiful daughters with her into this new marriage. Although they were grown when their mother married Jim, Ophelia and Denzilane "Polly" Troxler, were happy for their mother.

To support her daughters after their father had passed away, Nora Belle baked pies, cakes and other desserts for a local restaurant. Later on in her second marriage, Jim was diagnosed with diabetes, so Nora Belle made the decision to stop her bakery doings. She did not want to place the temptation in front of her husband. The Scots lived on Hwy 41 across from the entrance to Layne Ave. I was always impressed with the great maintenance that Nora and Jim did with their house and yard. Of course, today (2014) it is just a burned out hull. Sometimes it is good that hard-working people don't have to see what happens to their homes once they have passed on.

A very good man, James Tilghman "Jim" Scott, died on Dec. 22, 1981 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery beside his first wife. And a very good woman, Nora Belle Scott, died in Flagler, Florida on Nov. 11, 1997, she was brought back and buried on the other side of Jim.

Emil Graenicher (1847-1926)

When seventeen-year-old Emil Graenicher left his homeland of Berne, Switzerland in 1864 for Hamburg, Germany's harbor to board the ship Borussia, his head was swimming with ideas of what this far-reaching decision to come to America would mean to him. He knew that more and more of his Swiss friends were coming when the time was right for them. His father Albert Graenicher had already been in the U.S.A. for ten years. Emil crossed the Atlantic alone, without any family members.

Emil was born on Oct. 31, 1847 in Berne, Switzerland. In 1870, six years after he had left Switzerland, he was living in the Swiss Colony at Gruetli, TN where his father had drawn Lot #42 when the drawing for land had taking place in 1869. There were other colonists with the name Graenicher in Gruetli in 1870, but I am not certain how they relate to Emil and Albert.

On March 21, 1879, sixty-two-year old Albert married a local girl, Millie Meeks, daughter of Britain and Emeline (Rhea) Meeks of Payne's Cove. She was an aunt to my grandfather, George Mack Meeks (1867-1949). One may assume that Millie died since on Jan. 12, 1896, seventy-nine-year-old Albert married again in Grundy County. (*Assumptions are not kindly looked upon in research, but many times, they turn out to be true.*) His new wife was Lou Blythe, and an old Swiss friend, Martin Marugg, went with him. Albert's land boundaries are mentioned from time to time in old deeds showing that he chose Mont Eagle as his hometown. I can find no mention of his death, time or place.

Emil first married a lady named Catherine, who was born in Canada, but as of yet, I have found no marriage license. I am always looking for the reason a certain street in Monteagle was so named. Catherine Street off West Main may well have been named for Catherine "Kate" Graenicher. The couple had no children together. In 1880, Emil was working as a clerk in a store in Mont Eagle. A younger couple, Idelbert Brown and Mary (Hopkins) Lappin were living in the house with them.

When Mont Eagle's postmaster, Oliver Dennis Mabee, died in 1896, Emil was appointed to fill the position on May 20, 1897. His beloved Catherine died on Aug. 31, 1897 and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery.

Once again, he was appointed postmaster on May 9, 1899. Two months later he remarried on July 6, 1899. Her name was Virginia E. "Jennie" Garland who was twenty-four years his junior. Emil finally knew the joy of being a father when his baby daughter, Virginia Emily was born on July 29, 1901. But that happiness was short-lived when the baby died on July 12, 1902. She was buried in the Graenicher plot near Catherine.

Again on Sept. 22, 1905, Emil was appointed to continue his position of postmaster. He and his much younger wife later became merchants enjoying their time together. Virginia was particularly interested in hats, so she kept a small shop just to keep the ladies happy in Monteagle. In the *Mt. Herald*, May 8, 1913 issue, her ad reads: "*Come to Monteagle and see my line of New Mid-Summer Hats for ladies. Mrs. E. Graenicher.*"

They traveled to Florida and in 1924 lived there for a while. Emil was aging and his health began to fail. At the age of seventy-eight, he died of cancer on Feb. 4, 1926 and was buried in the Graenicher plot with his first wife Catherine and his only child, Virginia Emily.



**Emil Graenicher's unusual stone in the
Monteagle Cemetery**

Robert Marion Payne (1848-1917)

Contributions by Rocky Layne, G. W. and Stan Partin, Terri Scott, Janelle Taylor and Ralph Thompson

There was a time when the plateau, previous to Monteagle's existence, only had the well-trodden Nick-a-Jack Trail and a winding stage road picking its way around the bluffs and across any flat land to traverse our section of the mountain. There just was no reason to have a road to and through a wilderness thought to have nothing to offer but created beauty. Of course in 1857/58, the railroad tracks from Coal Bank/Midway on their way to the new town of Tracy City were hammered down by the sweat of the brows of the section hands. The coal train chugged right along the plateau passing through the lonesome, uninhabited lands of our still non-existent town. Then John Moffat discovered what others had never seen, a Heaven on earth starting right there in the center of concentric circles that reached outward from his vantage point on the train toward beautiful bluffs on the North and South, waterfalls on the East and little valleys and huge Coves with hidden wonderments all around the outstretching circles.

However, the little train that 'knew it could', brought the outside world to our "section of the woods". Timber was cut; houses for businesses and homes were built; wells were dug; land was cleared, turned and planted. Visitors came knocking at the front door of this newly found paradise. The old stage line between Tracy City and Beersheba was still in use in **1888** according to the following quote, "*During the summer months, we will offer a daily stage line from Tracy City to Beersheba Springs connecting with all day trains. Safe and prompt transportation guaranteed. Local patronage solicited. Spencer and Trimble*". Therefore, one may assume that the stage lines in the vicinity that became known as Monteagle were also still operational. However, neither the train, nor the stage fulfilled Robert Marion Payne's need to provide an easy connection between his Wonder Cave in the Pelham Valley and his Monteagle Hotel in the new village on the plateau.

"...The Nickajack Trail, which led up the mountain to a point between Monteagle and Summerfield, gave an easier access to the communities on top of the plateau. Visitors from the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly often visited the cove largely because of Wonder Cave being located there. R.M. Payne, owner of the cave, had a toll road constructed to connect Monteagle with Wonder Cave to guarantee horse and buggy access to his business. Abraham K. Layne ran a taxi service using that road to transport sightseers..." **(Janelle Layne Taylor's writings on Layne's Cove)**

Robert Marion "R. M." Payne was born in Sweeten's Cove, Marion Co., TN on Apr. 3, 1848. His parents were Lewis (1819-1892) and Mary Ann "Polly" (Bean/Beene) Pain/Payne (1824-1877). His siblings were Mildred Caroline, Sarah Elizabeth, Martha Ann, George Washington, Fannie Louisa, Mary Emmeline and Rhoda Isabell. Plowing, toiling, planting and harvesting were the yearly tasks that lay before R. M. and his father. R. M. got his education at whatever neighborhood school was open and on task. His father's military stone at the Bean-Roulston Graveyard reads: **LEWIS PAIN, TENNESSEE, PVT, SNODGRASS REGT, INDIAN WARS**. The Indian Wars lasted for years, so Lewis **Pain** probably was assigned to continue his fighting with the Indians while his family learned to cope without him during the Civil War years.



The following is a quote from an old newspaper concerning R. M. Payne's war experience: *"During the war he was the main support and stay of a large family, situated as they were, between two contending armies. When he was but 14 or 15 years old, he was often employed as scout and spy by the Confederate scouts."*

When the war ended, he began to teach school in order to save money for college. He attended *"Burritt College in 1869, Lookout Mountain Education Institutions in 1870-1871, and the University of the South at Sewanee, TN in 1872 and 1873."* He was an excellent student no matter what school he attended. In amongst all his achievements, he accomplished the greatest one of all when he fell in love with Emma Elizabeth Orme, and the two became one on Dec. 2, 1874, in Bledsoe Co., TN. The parents of Emma Elizabeth were William M. and Harriet Ann (Greer) Orme. Her biological siblings were James and Wetherton Greer Orme. Her mother later married James A. Vernon and had three more children, giving Emma Elizabeth more siblings, or half-siblings.

R. M. and Emma Elizabeth's children were Mary Katherine "Katie", (1876-1965; m. John Gilbert Sayles); Cecil Bancroft (1878-1901); Louisa Isabell "Lou Belle", (1881-1883), Charles Buford, (1884-1928; m. Eva Eddins), and Wetherton, (1886-1888). By the time the family moved away from Marion Co., TN, Emma had lost two of her children with only Katie, Cecil and Buford still alive.

At the age of twenty-five, R. M. was elected to the presidency of the People's College at Pikeville, TN where he took pride in his endeavors. In 1877 and 1878, as

Superintendent of Public Instruction in Marion County, his goals were *“to elevate the schools and maintain a higher standard among the teachers.”* Remember that this very active young man was now in the role of husband and father, but it didn’t slow him down one bit.

In 1879, R. M. started into many aspects of business in South Pittsburgh, TN excelling to the extent of becoming *“the largest individual tax payer in the city”*, and *“... For twenty years he kept constantly employed a small army of men in his various enterprises of developing the timber and mineral interests of the vicinity, manufacturing brick, building homes, roads, and conducting a large mercantile business. For many years he operated the Battle Creek coal mines and supplied the various towns from Nashville to Chattanooga with the famous Battle Creek coal...”*



L to R: Cecil Bancroft Payne, Robert Marion Payne, Charles Buford Payne & Thomas G. Garrett, banker; probably taken at one of Payne’s good seams of Battle Creek coal

After R. M. felt that he had sufficiently injected himself into the business world and lifted the standards of education in South Pittsburgh, he made his move to our town, Monteagle, TN, in 1895. On Feb. 11, **1904**, in the *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper we read: *“He **bought** the Monteagle Hotel when it was badly run down and under his efficient management he has built up a prosperous and constantly increasing business.”* Although deeds give the date of his ownership of the hotel as 1909, Census records show he was the proprietor of it as early as 1900.

To emphasize the stress of owning the Monteagle Hotel throughout its early years, some data is provided here.

- On Jun. 1, **1880**, W. L. Degraso was the landlord of a hotel in Moffat, Grundy Co., TN. There were 2 chambermaids and 3 servants. From the next note, we can assume that Thomas Maddin Steger, a lawyer, owned the hotel.
- On Nov. 8, **1880**, Thomas Maddin Steger sold the parcel of land in the village of Moffat “known as the hotel property”, with any buildings, improvements, furniture, fixtures, etc. to the Mont Eagle Springs Hotel Company.
- In **1881**, the Mont Eagle Springs Hotel Company was fully formed, and the renovations of the hotel began.
- In **1884**, the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly acquired the Mont Eagle Springs Hotel and operated it.
- In Dec. 26, **1887**, the hotel was sold by the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly to a Mr. F. Corzelius who was probably Frank Corzelius (1829-1903) of Tullahoma, Coffee Co., TN. His occupation was that of a hotel proprietor in the 1880 Census. During the Civil War, he was one of the many citizens of Wilcox Co., AL who helped save the old Courthouse records from the “Yankees” by putting them in wooden coffins and hiding them in the woods. This man was not just “Mr. F. Corzelius”. Monteagle certainly could have gained from a lengthier stay from this man. In 1892, he went to Richmond, KY, and with the help of his son, George Corzelius, made the Hotel Glydon one of the most popular hotels in the state. (Some notes are from: *Within the Bend, Stories of Wilcox County, Book Two* by Ouida Starr Woodson.)
- William and Elizabeth (Luttrell) Morrow owned the Monteagle Hotel after **1887** and before **1891**. They probably acquired it from Mr. F. Corzelius.
- On Jan. 24, **1891**, the Morrrows sold out to William M. and Margaret (Roulhac) Marr, but the Morrrows carried the notes on the hotel.

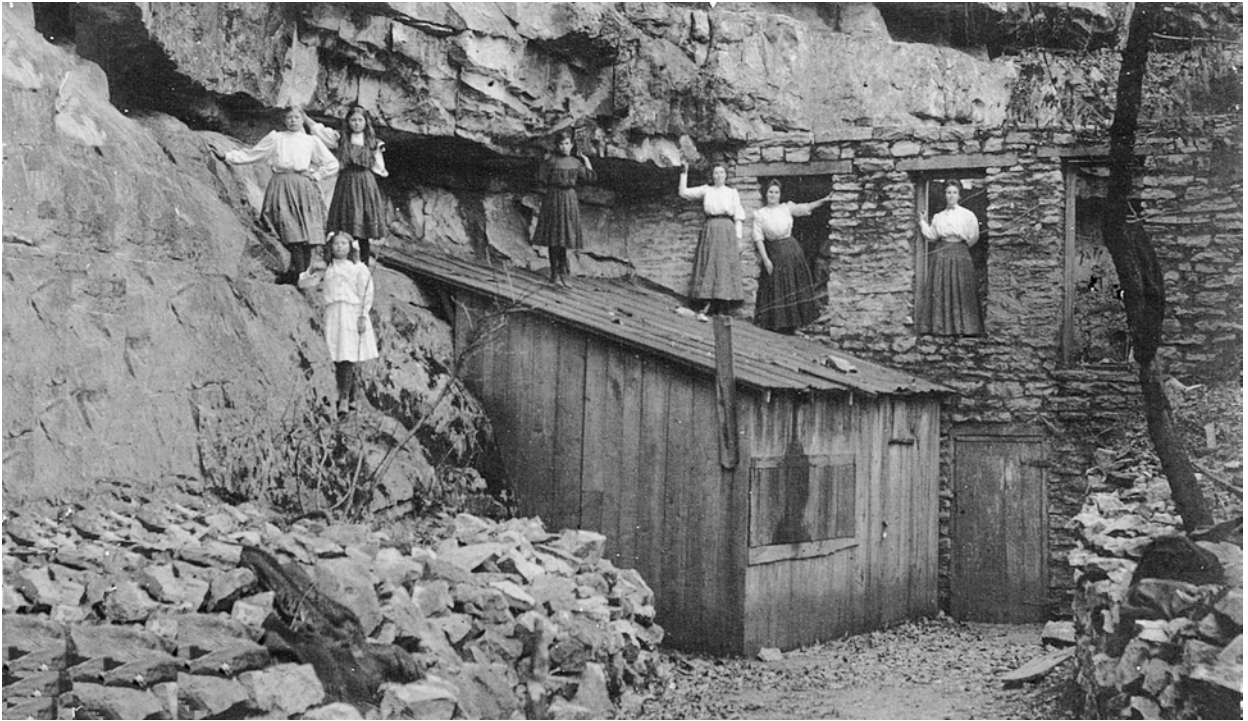
- For “a valuable consideration”, notes held by the Morrrows, became the property of Elizabeth Morrow’s brother, Samuel B. Luttrell, and his wife, Margaret McClung (Swan) Luttrell. They called in the notes from William M. Marr. (*Samuel B. Luttrell was the 37th mayor of Knoxville, TN.*)
- The Luttrells then acquired the hotel from the Marrs couple on Dec. 24, **1894**.
- It appears that Robert Marion Payne may have had some dealings in the previous transaction because of the statement of his ownership in a **1904** local newspaper. On Oct. 1. **1909**, R. M. Payne did become lone owner of the Monteagle Hotel.
- After R. M. Payne’s death in **1917**, it is assumed that his daughter, Mary Katherine “Katie” (Payne) Sayles, a widow, inherited ownership of the hotel.
- On Sept. 1, **1918**, Katie sold the hotel to the Monteagle Hotel Company, a corporation with Martin Marugg as its president and Rudolph Schild as its secretary.
- On Apr. 29, **1924**, William T. Holliday, real estate agent, (1843-1926), bought the hotel from the Monteagle Hotel Company.
- John W. Horton was the owner when the hotel burned in **1929** which was rebuilt. It burned again in **1950** but was never rebuilt.

Since R. M. grew up farming, he put what he had learned to work in his hotel business. Nearly all the produce for the kitchen was grown on his own land. In one of his farm fields, he had planted “*about twenty acres in peach trees...he will sell over a thousand dollars worth of peaches.*” Of course, he fought the same battle with ‘Jack Frost’ as we do today (2014).



Older version of Monteagle Hotel showing only the western view of a much longer building

Marrying Emma was top in his list of accomplishments, but *“his keen forethought and knowledge of values enabled him to see in an unsightly and slimy hole in the earth, hidden away far beneath the overhanging cliffs and seemingly inaccessible, the most wonderful and wondrous works of nature ever beheld by the eyes of man.”* On Oct. 25, 1902, R. M. bought **Mont Eagle Wonder Cave**, (as it became widely known to Monteagle visitors), from Wetherton Greer Orme, Emma’s brother, and his wife, Constance “Connie” (Cooper) Orme. Since he then owned the cave, *“several thousand dollars were spent by him making developments and improvements in the cave, and hundreds more in advertising its beauties and grandeur.”*



Early entrance to Wonder Cave; ladies thought to be from Fairmount Girls School

On Wednesday, Mar. 24, 1903, "Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gunn were driving up to Monteagle...their horse fell and broke his leg and had to be killed." No doubt, Robert Marion Payne and Egbert Wells Holcombe heard about this accident because they were already exploring the idea that something had to be done to help travelers, mountain climbers, ascend the mountain more safely. Safety was probably a secondary issue, and money was the primary driving force as seen in Janelle Taylor's writings above.

Mrs. Grundy, Dec 31, 1903, "Reports are current that Messrs. E. W. Holcombe and R. M. Payne of Monteagle have organized a Company to build a turnpike from Monteagle to Pelham. The company has been chartered and a survey of the proposed route has been completed." Fittingly, they named the company, the **Monteagle and Pelham Turnpike Company**. R. M. was elected president and general manager of said company. Payne raised the money by subscription to build the turnpike. A charter of corporation was granted by the Secretary of the State. The task was monumental as work was started. Plans were to use any sections of the Nick-a-Jack Trail or the Old Stage Road that would fit into the chosen route. Both of those routes were already worn to wagon wheel widths. This approach saved money and valuable time.

On Mar. 19, 2014, David "Rocky" Layne and Grady Ward Partin started at Wonder Cave in their effort to walk part of the Payne Turnpike. Near the Cave, the turnpike company employees used a portion of the Nick-a-Jack Trail which headed

them toward the mountain. When they could no longer use the Indian trail, they took their picks and shovels and started working their way to the foot of the mountain. Then the work of picking out and removing stones that could break a wagon wheel with one bump began. Filling in holes, shoring up soil with retainer walls, forming drainage culverts, and filling in between retainer walls with soil to cushion the actual roadbed began. The turnpike climbed up and out of the valley until it came to what is now known as Hwy 41. It was at this spot that the Toll House was built. The fireplace lintel and remnants of one of the stone corners of the house are shown in the pictures below. Logging has damaged some of these historical reminders, but thankfully, this good effort of Rocky and Grady Ward will preserve some of the scenes for our descendants.



Scene on Pike Near Mont Eagle, Tenn.

The following six photos were taken in March 2014 of the remnants of the Turnpike.



Payne's Turnpike heads to the plateau.



A retainer wall on Payne's Turnpike



A culvert on Payne's Turnpike



The fireplace lintel from the Toll House



A corner foundation of the Toll House



Payne's Turnpike climbs somewhat parallel to the now Hwy 41, which would be left of this photo, until it joins the old Stage Road



**William and Josephine (Patton)
Gilliam**

**tended the Toll House which sat a little
to the east and across
the present road (Hwy 41) from the
old spring**

After crossing Hwy 41, Rocky and Grady Ward continued up the plateau following Payne's Turnpike. Eventually it ran into the Old Stage Road which split with one branch turning west and meandering north of the Juniata Creek. It is said that the riders were sometimes given the option of crossing the creek and cooling off in Sweet Fern Cave, which is actually more like a rock house overhang or opening instead of a cave. The other branch of the Old Stage Road crossed the area that became known as Monteagle. Volunteers are currently working on getting as much of these two roads, the stage road and Payne's Turnpike, mapped for the historical preservation of Grundy County, TN. Again on Mar. 31, 2014, G. W. and Stan Partin, and later joined by Rocky Layne, worked to get GPS readings for mapping.

In 1900, R. M.'s daughter Katie Sayles and her husband of one year, John Gilbert "Jack" Sayles, were helping the Paynes operate the hotel. Jack was an expert in the confectionary department of the kitchen. The Sayles had two children, Cecil Payne

Sayles (1909-1917) and Mary Orme Sayles {(1902-1965)–Jefferson Jones Raulston}. By the 1910 Census, Katie had become a widow and sole proprietor of the hotel.

In January 1904, R. M. even found himself running for a State Senate seat to represent the counties of Franklin, Warren, Marion, and Grundy in the Democrat Primary elections. An ardent supporter was George Carney Partin. They shared interest in so many things, particularly education, civic duties and their Methodist faiths. As late as 1913, over a hundred years ago, R. M. was still traveling around the county in the interest of the work that was being done on the Pelham Road. I assume by this time an actual road which would be the predecessor of the Dixie Highway was in the making.

R. M. and Emma were faithful members of the Monteagle Methodist Church. As usual, they were just as active in their church as in all other happenings in their lives. On June 28, 1917, Robert Marion Payne passed away from this earth. A little more than two years later, Emma Elizabeth Payne died and was buried on the same day, Nov. 4, 1919. She joined her husband in the Monteagle Cemetery. Their daughter Katie Sayles stayed on in the area until her passing on Nov. 24, 1965. She was buried next to her father.

R. M.'s and Emma's son Cecil Bancroft died at the age of twenty-three, and his son, Charles Buford, committed suicide in 1928. Katie Sayles' son Cecil Payne Sayles died at the age of seventeen; her daughter Mary Orme (Sayles) Raulston died in 1965 followed by her husband, J. J. Raulston in 1967. Both are buried in the Monteagle Cemetery along with their son, Frank McDaniel Raulston who died in 1980.

Today, Mar. 31, 2014, I drove by the now closed **Wonder Cave**, once vibrantly filled with chills, thrills and echoes. I stopped to remember the Payne family that through hours, days, weeks of research have become a part of me. My little drive brought me back to the setting of the old **Monteagle Hotel**, gone and nearly forgotten. My son, Stan, showed me a token a little larger than our quarter that he had found on the old **Payne Turnpike**. On one side was engraved "ONE CAR COAL – RMP – NOT TRANSFERABLE." Nothing caught my eye like the "**RMP**" – R. M. Payne, and I asked myself, "Is that all there is?"