

The Whites of **White Cemetery** on Partins' Farm Rd.,  
Tracy City, TN  
Researched and Prepared by Jackie Layne Partin

About a mile from our house on Partins' Farm Road is the **White Cemetery** surrounded with a plastered concrete fence about four feet high. Inside this fence lie the bodies of eight people from one family, the William and Katherine White family. For years many have ridden wagons, walked, or driven vehicles passed these quietly sleeping Tracy Citians from the past not knowing from whence they came. I started digging for the White family history hoping maybe some day descendants of this family will read this article and know about their ancestors' burial ground and learn of their journeys to and throughout Grundy County, Tennessee. Gravestones have been placed at the head and feet of each individual interred. The first name is on each stone and footer. The only dates on the stones are on the one marked "Mother", on the taller one in the center for the father and on one of the daughters' stones. Following is a listing of the stones and other available markings.

- 1) Ellen White
- 2) Charlie White
- 3) Alice White
- 4) Annie White
- 5) Katherine White—Mother—born 1824; died 1908
- 6) William White—born Jan. 08, 1817; died Feb. 18, 1867
- 7) Armenia White
- 8) Fannie White—born 1861; died 1911

My research took me first to the year **1850**. In Russell County, **Virginia** in the town of Lebanon lived William White (33) born in **Ohio**, with his wife Katherine ("Katie" Smith) (26) born in **Pennsylvania**, and their three children Armenia (6) born ca. 1844 in Ohio, Franklin M. (2) born ca. 1847 in Washington County, Virginia, and Lizdia (1) born ca. 1849 in Washington, County, Virginia. We will see later on that Lizdia is called "Libby", possibly short for Elizabeth. The spelling in the 1850 Census is not clear. While still in Virginia, a son, Charles was born ca. 1852 and a daughter Ellen born ca. 1855. William cared for his family by working as a carpenter.

Some time around **1856** the family moved into Hawkins County, Tennessee. They received their mail through the Rogersville Post Office. Another daughter Alice G. was born around 1858. Then in 1860 their last son William S. was born. Their last daughter Fannie was born in **1861**. This brought their number of children to eight—one born in Ohio, four born in Virginia and three born in Tennessee.

Since the father William White died in February **1867** and was buried at the family cemetery in Tracy City, Tennessee, I assume that the family moved from Hawkins County to Grundy County between 1861 after the birth of Fannie and 1867 the death year of the father. By the **1870** Census, Katherine was a widow in Grundy County living near the Thomas Benton Wooten family, the Haynes family and the William and Ephraim Summers families. This leads me to think that they moved into the Partins' Farm/Pigeon Springs Road area since the neighbors are all known to have lived near. This also gives credence to the old White Hotel stories that I

hope to get into in this article. It stood on many acres in and around the White Cemetery then and the James Bell farmland/ homeplace now in 2006.

As stated, in **1870** Katherine was a widow; her husband had been buried in the family plot on February 18, 1867. It appears that her daughters Ellen and Alice, and her son Charles/Charley/Charlie had all died before 1870. The girls' stones have their maiden names engraved on them, and because of their young ages we would believe that they were unmarried. Still at home with Katherine (46) were Armenia (25), Franklin (22)—a carpenter, Libby (20), William (10) and Fannie (8).

On **August 8, 1870** in Grundy County, TN, Libby White and William Barlew applied for a marriage license, but it was never returned or registered. However, they lived as man and wife and started a family. Their children were Caroline A., Charles, Henry F., Samuel Jones, Elmer, Fannie C., William Key and Mamie. William, Sr. worked as a boss at the coke ovens in Tracy City for many years. Their son Charles died at a young age.

In **1880** in Tracy City, the family matriarch, Katherine, is still alive and still living near the Thomas Wooten family. Also near on the other side lives her son Franklin M. White (32), a carpenter, and his wife Clara A. Law White (29). Clara's brother John Law, his wife Annie and their son Alfred J. Law lived next door. Katherine's daughter Armenia had died in the 1870's, because the only children still living with her were William S. and Fannie. Since Armenia has the surname "White" on her stone in the family plot, I have to assume that she died unmarried.

In **1900** in Tracy City, Katherine was living in town. On this census she stated that her mother and father were born in Germany which I had not noticed before. She no doubt was fluent in the German language as were many of her neighbors, especially those of Swiss origin. She also stated that she had given birth to ten children with only four still alive at this time. Obviously two of the living were William (39), a grocery merchant in Tracy City, and Fannie (37), who were still at home with their mother. They lived next door to the Joseph Shook and George D. Hays families. One of the other living children Franklin and his wife Clara were also still in Tracy City. They had three daughters, Katherine Viola (b. 01 Sept 1882; d. 14 Feb 1902), Jeanette A. ( 1884) and Mary F. (1886), and a son Alfred J. L. White (b. July 24, 1891). Of course, Libby and her family were still living in Tracy City. These are the four living children—William, Fannie, Franklin and Libby. There is a name in the family plot that I did not at anytime see on the census records—"Annie". This is probably one of the two remaining children that she had lost during the decade not accounted for on the census records. The last child bringing the total to ten could have been born and died anywhere among the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and other parts of Tennessee.

In **1908** Katherine, Sr. (84) died in Tracy City and was placed beside her husband in the family plot. Two years later William (50) was still in Tracy City where his occupation was listed as "loan, discount, and real estate". His unmarried sister Fannie (47) was also living in the same house, but one year later, **1911**, she too died and was placed to rest on the right of her father in the family plot.

March 02, 1910 Franklin M. C. White (as listed on his stone), died and was buried beside his daughter in the Tracy City Cemetery. At the time of his death he was working as an insurance agent. The cause of his death was given as “pluralsa” probably “neuralgia”. On April 22, 1910 Mrs. Franklin (Clara) White was a widow with her remaining three children still at home—Jeanette, Mary and Alfred James. Herbert B. Hutcheson (34) was a boarder in the house; a neighbor was the Martin Marugg family. On July 17, 1910 in San Francisco, California, stationed aboard the “USS South Dakota” was a single young man named Alfred J. White (18), “ordinary seaman” (sailor), born in Tennessee whose father was born in Virginia. Alfred got counted twice in the 1910 Census. The timeline allowed for him to be at both places, Tracy City and San Francisco in 1910. Before 1920 Clara had died; the only stone for her is one marked “Mother” in the little plot where her husband and daughter are buried in Tracy City.

**June 05, 1917** in Detroit, Michigan, Alfred James White (25) registered for the WWI Draft. He stated that he was born in Tracy City, TN. He was single, had no dependants, and was working in a hospital. He stated that he had a six year military record in the Navy where he was a coxswain. Hopefully, he has descendants who will visit Tracy City someday.

On **September 12, 1918** Sam Jones Barlew and Elmer Key Barlew registered for the WWI Draft in Tracy City. Sam listed his father William as his closest relative, and William Key listed his wife Ethel. This record along with the 1920 Census record shows that William Barlew, Sr.’s death came between Sept. 12, 1918 and the 1920 Census record. After her husband’s death, Libby applied in Grundy County for the Confederate Civil War widow’s pension to help her with expenses.

By **1920** William S. White (60) had married for the first time. His wife is listed as “Annie” (47) who had a daughter named Anna Johnson Owens (18). William and his wife were now back at the original homeplace area on Partins’ Farm Road which was called Battle Creek Road at that time. His occupation is listed as “owns a mine”. Living near him was William Worley, his wife Martha and their daughter Naoma. Naoma was married to Emmett Thomas; they had two daughters, Rosa and Ida. Another neighbor family was that of Lem and Mattie Hedrick along with their children Daisy and Wes (Ves). All these families owned their own homeplaces. Also at this time William’s sister Libby Barlew and her husband William with children Samuel, Elmer and Mamie were still living in Tracy City. His niece Jeanette, Franklin’s daughter, was living near the Arthur and Willie Thomas and William and Agnes Lumley families.

Local folklore (which may actually be true) is that at some time between **1911** (when William’s sister Fannie had died, and he no longer had any dependants) and **1920** when he was back on the old homeplace, he went to Alaska to mine for gold. Talk is that he had a good “claim” and eventually came back to Tracy City with his fortune. This may be supported in the 1920 census when William S. stated his occupation as being, “owns a mine”. If these stories are fact, then it was during this time, 1920’s, that the “White Hotel” retreat may have been built. It would have taken money to built the establishment spoken of for years by the locals—a small hotel consisting of a row of rooms somewhat like a present day motel, frequented by patrons who arrived by train at Haynes Station at the head of Battle Creek Rd. (Partins’ Farm Rd.), and many who traveled up the mountain road from Battle Creek; let’s don’t forget that Tracy City was booming, and local patrons also visited the hotel with its sulfur springs with a large furnace

to heat water for the baths, and a dance floor built just under the edge of the bluff for its view and tranquility; no doubt there was plenty of “white lightning” to get everyone in the mood for relaxation.

I think there is no doubt that a “retreat” was once on the homeplace; evidence bears that out (see enclosed photos), but I can’t with the help of the censuses prove that anyone in the family was ever a hotel proprietor. The time in history when the retreat was doing business is uncertain. Nevertheless, the hotel burned to the ground and the tin from the roof was used to build a small house wherein several families dwelt throughout time. At one point a small log barn was turned into a dwelling house. A hole was knocked in the large cistern where water could be gotten easily. The actual “old homeplace” built by William and Katherine back in the 1860’s stood to the left of the hotel area. Nearly three quarters century later remnants of strawberry plants could be seen running across the floor of the earth.

.On **July 16, 1925** Libby White Barlew died. She was a widow. Her death certificate states that she died of “bowel consumption” with which she had suffered eleven months.. There is a Barlew family plot in the Tracy City Cemetery with William --father, Elmer, Henry, Libby--mother, Mamie, Sam and Bill having stones. There are no dates, but this compilation covers most of that data. This leaves Charles, Caroline and Fannie’s place of burial unknown. It seems only reasonable that Mr. and Mrs. Barlew would have been buried by their son Charles, but at this time I cannot prove that. I hope that Caroline and Fannie may have descendants to visit us from time to time.

The **1930** census year found William S. “Bill” White and his wife Annie living in the Coalmont area. It may have been during this time era ,“the Great Depression”, that the homeplace changed owners. Although Bill’s sister Libby Barlew had died, some of her children and grandchildren were still living near Langford Town Rd. Elmer’s wife Ethel had died leaving him with three daughters at home—Jessie (17), Alma (Myrtle)(12) and (Barbara) Mable (9). His neighbors were Roy and Hazel Johnson and George and Martha Harris. There is the slightest possibility that the grave marked “Annie” in the family cemetery belongs to William S. White’s wife “Annie”, but I doubt that because of the position of the grave to the others; also I believe he would have been buried there too, beside her. It is also possible that she was buried beside her first husband.

Another story is that William “Bill” White came back to the old homeplace in the early **1940’s**. He was in poor health, so he set up a tent for a period while he bathed in the sulfur springs and worked on the family cemetery plot. Evidence that someone had redone the gravesites, is the small pile of footer stones piled against the inside wall of the boundary. Newer ones had been placed at the foot of the graves. While he was there, a storm blew a tree onto his tent. If this was William, he would have been around eighty years old. William S. White died **Aug. 15, 1942** and was buried in the Fall Creek Cemetery between Coalmont and Gruetli-Laager. Records found in the “Root Cellar” at the Tracy City Library indicate that Sam and Elmer Barlew, grandchildren of Katherine and William, were still around the Tracy City scene in the 1940’s. Since we have no dates on their stones, we do not know the times of their deaths.

So went the journey of the **Whites** from as far away as Pennsylvania to as near as Partins' Farm Rd., Tracy City, TN then back North to Detroit, Michigan. I wonder if any of this family survives and where they are now!

If you have any information on this family, or if you are a descendant of this family, please contact me—Jackie Layne Partin, P. O. Box 295, Monteagle, TN. Also if there is a need for corrections or additions, I would be happy to enter them into the story as it is a work in progress.

**jackiepartin**

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**From:** "jackiepartin" <jackiepartin@blomand.net>  
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**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2006 11:58 AM  
**Subject:** white cemetery

### The White Cemetery of Partins' Farm Road

How many times has the reader driven or walked by a small cemetery in your own community and not recognized the names on the headstones? Maybe you wondered who they were and what brought them to this particular area. Well, this is just what happened to me when I first saw the White Cemetery on Partins' Farm Road outside Tracy City. This cemetery was surrounded by a four-foot high, cement block wall, and the headstones were well kept throughout the years. It was obviously a caring heart who had built this wall. This article is a condensed version of my research on this family.

William, Sr. and Katherine White were born in 1817 and 1824 in Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. Their first five children, Armenia, Franklin, Libby, Charles and Ellen were born in Russell County, Virginia between the years 1844 and 1855. The next three children, Alice, William, Jr. and Fannie were born in Hawkins County, Tennessee between 1858 and 1861. Mr. White supported his family doing carpentry work. We see here that they moved from Ohio/Pennsylvania to Virginia then over into Tennessee.

Sometime between 1861, Fannie's birth, and 1867, Mr. White's death, the family moved outside of Tracy City near the Ben Woolen homeplace. In February 1867 the first of the family to die, Mr. White, was buried in what was to become the family plot. Throughout the years, seven more of his family members were interred beside him-his wife Katherine, his son Charles, his daughters Ellen, Alice, Armenia and Fannie. There is a grave for an "Annie" that I am not certain about at this time. Ironically, the son who was responsible for the four-foot wall and the gravestones, was not buried with his family. William, Jr., the last of the children to die, was buried at the Falls Creek Cemetery.

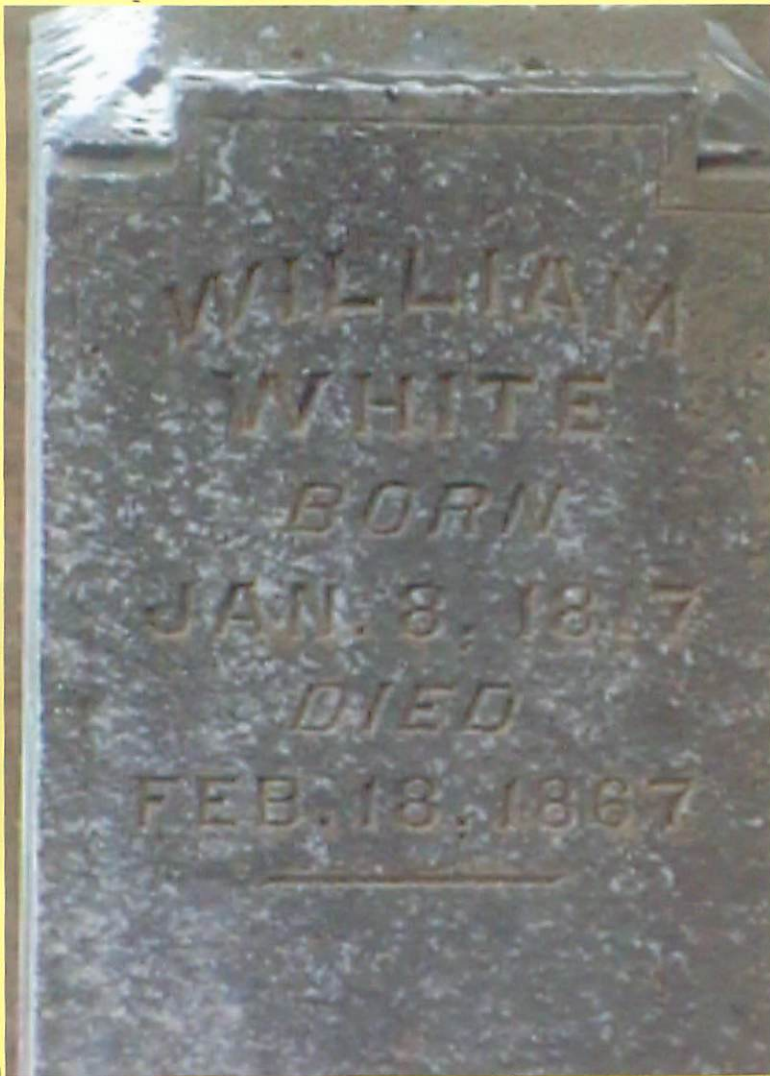
Around 1920 William, Jr. built a hotel on the family acreage which is owned by the James Bell family now. The hotel boasted a large cistern, an outdoor furnace, and outdoor dance floor, plenty of card games, sulfur baths and plenty of cold spring and well water. The Haynes depot stop delivered patrons by train and then by wagon to the site. Battle Creek Road as it was called in those days, came up from the valley below and brought in guests. The local stories tell that William, Jr. went to Alaska where he acquired a gold mine. This may be supported by the census record in 1920 where his occupation is listed as "owns a mine". It appears that maybe the "Great Depression", the opening of Highway 41 up and over Monteagle Mtn., and a fire brought an end to the hotel business.

Libby White grew up, married William Barlew and had eight children born in Tracy City. Libby was not buried in the family plot near the hotel; instead, she, her husband William and some of their children are buried in the Tracy City Cemetery. Records show that some of the Barlew children were still in Tracy City around the 1940's.

Franklin White married Clara Law and had three daughters and one son. Franklin supported his family working as a boss over the coke oven operations. Their son Alfred James L. White served in the U. S. Navy for several years. He was living in Detroit, Michigan when I last found him on record. Franklin, Clara and at least one of the children are buried in the Tracy City Cemetery. Records lead me to believe that the Law and White families knew each other from the Ohio/Pennsylvania area. Since the Law family first settled in Marion County below the plateau, this may have been the reason the White family came our way.

For more information on this family or to add to/or correct this record, please contact Jackie Layne Partin, P. O. Box 295, Monteagle, TN, 37356.





**White Cemetery**  
Located on Partins' Farm Road  
Tracy City, Tennessee

**William A. White**  
**1817 – 1867**  
Tall stone in top picture





An outdoor furnace ↗ a huge cistern ↘ <sup>at</sup> White Hotel

