

**Old Big Grandma**  
And  
**Her Hydrick Family**

By  
**A Odessa Hydrick**

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*Lovingly dedicated to*  
*Madie*

# **OLD BIG GRANDMA**

## **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

### **INTRODUCTION**

I was the youngest child of my parents, and the eleventh child of my father whom I always called "Pa" because my older brothers and sisters called him Pa. He had three children by a previous marriage. These three children were all grown and married with families of their own before I was born. My mother died twenty-five days before I was two years old, and after my oldest sister's (Beachie) death five years later, the family became separated. Fortunately, Montie, my sister four years older, and I were able to stay together. I did not know any of my grandparents as they had also died before I was born.

My mother had thirteen sisters and one brother, but I knew only Aunt Nancy. I saw Aunt Abigail and Aunt Corena one time when I was a child. My father had two sisters, one brother, two half-brothers, and one half-sister. I knew only Aunt Mallie, but I did know her well as Montie and I lived with her for three years after Beachie's death.

I have always liked history. I love to read, and have always been interested in reading biographies and autobiographies of people. In my reading of novels, I have especially liked sagas of several generations of a family. During my growing up years, and later, naturally I often wondered about my mother - her disposition and actions as she went about the rearing of her family. My mental image of her is as she looks in the group picture that we have of her with part of the family. I am a six month old baby, sitting on her lap. Montie is a pretty little four year old girl with curls, standing beside her. During our childhood, Montie and I were with our father most of the time until I was age thirteen. I was also able to visit with him quite a lot during summer vacations from school. But there have always been questions. Who am I really? What traits did I inherit from my mother, if any, and also from my father, or did circumstances and environment make me the person that I am? What were my grandparents like? Of course, I will never know the answers to these questions; however, many of the family that I have known well say that I favor the Hydrick side of the family.

I knew nothing about the Hydrick family background until I was age twenty-four on November 10, 1934, and my father had reached his seventy-eighth birthday on March 6, 1935. At that time he was visiting Montie and her family in Sikeston, Missouri, when they lived on Kathleen Street. I was living with three other girls in an apartment over Bowman's Drug Store in uptown Sikeston and was working for the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis, Missouri, in their Sikeston office. Therefore, I was able to visit with Montie and family daily, if necessary, and did so during my father's visit with us.

I do not remember what prompted me to do so at that particular time, but on July 5, 1935, I asked my father to tell me about the family. He was sitting in his favorite rocking chair, and I was sitting on a low stool at his feet with notebook and pen in hand. Montie had three little boys, and two of them were old enough to play around us. As my father talked and I took notes, he would give the little boys a playful pinch as they went by his chair.

He began his story by saying that Old Big Grandma Polly Hydrick, his Great-Grandmother, came to Arkansas from either North or South Carolina as a widow with three children with Uncle Charlie Shaver. He next talked about Little Grandma, his Grandmother Hydrick, and then about

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his father. He did not remember his mother's first name as she died when he was small, but he did remember, or had heard about, his Uncles and Aunts and told me who each of them married and of their children that he knew about. It was fascinating to me to hear the story that he told me. I only wish I had questioned him further about the family as he talked. But I had no idea at that time that I would one day try to trace the family. I had a good story as it was, so typed it, and sent a copy to various members of the family.

In 1960 I received a letter from Genevieve Goodpasture of Victoria, Texas, asking me about my Hydrick family. She is the wife of one of my Sikeston High School classmates who moved to Texas with his family when he was a junior. He married Genevieve and they had one child, a daughter, who married a Hydrick. Genevieve's hobby is genealogy, and she had traced her son-in-law's Hydrick line. She was interested in hearing about my family, and during our correspondence, she started me on the search of my Hydricks by sending me census records listing Old Big Grandma, Mary "Polly" Hydrick; her two sons and their families, up to and including my father and his first wife and their first child. She also gave me other early and valuable information and advice. This was during my working years. I picked up bits and pieces of information from time to time but did not seriously search further until after I retired. Then, with the aid of four nephews and by corresponding with Brig. General Onan Augustus Hydrick, Ret., of Swansea, South Carolina, who wrote a book on his grandfather's descendants, I have acquired quite a lot of information on the Hydricks. I have also obtained information about my immediate family by writing to some of my other nieces and nephews. I have also written to several cousins. So I have listed all of the descendants of the direct line of Old Big Grandma that I could find. Madie Jones, Aunt Mallie's daughter, inspired me to write it all down, and so this is what I have endeavored to do. I have also included the information that my father gave me about his aunts and uncles, and even though I have not searched for them, I have found more information about them from some of their descendants, most of whom wrote to me.

Due to the fact that all of the families are closely related, the reader will notice some repetition from chapter to chapter, but that appears to be quite necessary if a chapter is devoted to each of Old Big Grandma's lineal descendants. There will be some omissions and errors, but it is my hope that some younger Hydrick or other descendant will find this information interesting and reliable enough to continue the family history at some future date.

I appreciate the helpful assistance given by many people who have furnished information used in this family history, but I especially acknowledge the endless time and effort of Evelyn Mae Heindselman. But most of all, my greatest thanks are to my nephew, Philip A. Sadler (Phil), who helped in the research, edited the material, and offered advice.



- signed A. Odessa Hydrick

**Annie Odessa and Montie  
Pearl Hydrick**

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## CHAPTER I

### **Some Information on the Early Hydricks**

The earliest information that I have on the Hydricks is the picture and description of the Hydrick Coat of Arms from General Onan Augustus Hydrick's book, *The Descendants of Major Haysmith Hydrick*, IBIS-IMS. <sup>1,1</sup>



HYDRICK COAT OF ARMS

### **Preussischer Adel**

Hydrick (Heydrick, Holland). A shield of gold blazoned with an eagle with wings spread wide (displayed) with two heads. The eagle is black with red beak and claws.

Crest: A crescent and two stars of gold.

This is a very old grant of armorial bearings and was recorded in the archives of Vienna in the Sixteenth Century from which the above reference was taken. The crescent and stars are symbols of high ambition and strong ideals. The eagle was considered one of the most honorable charges in the blazoning of arms.

Being two-headed showed double strength and high standing. Sometimes the cloak was used as a mantle around the shield instead of the usual leaves. This kind of mantle was called a "lambrequin" and represents the robe of honor worn by the bearer of the arms.

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### **Colors**

Black, showed dignity and sobriety.

Gold, stainless honor.

Red, "burning with the desire to fight for God and country".

The author had an illustrious career with the United States Army and Civil Service. He retired from military service as Brigadier General Onan A. Hydrick. He is also a lawyer. I corresponded with General Hydrick during the years 1975 - 1978, and he sent me an autographed copy of his book, which he completed at the age of 89 years. I enjoyed his book and letters very much.<sup>1,2</sup>

My reason for writing to General Hydrick was to ask if he could tell me anything about my Hydrick ancestors. As my father stated, my Great-great-grandmother Hydrick came to Arkansas from South Carolina as a widow with three children, and to date we have been unable to find the first name of her husband. The 1790 Orangeburg County, South Carolina, census lists a Jacob Hydrick as the head of household with 2 males over age 16 (one of them being the head of household), 3 males under 16, and 2 females. General Hydrick replied that according to the family Bible of Andrew Jackson Hydrick, the son of Major Haysmith Hydrick, that Major Hydrick was born July 1, 1819, in Aikens County, South Carolina, and was the son of Jacob Hydrick and his wife, Elizabeth Evans. The Bible noted that Jacob Hydrick was born in Germany on March 3, 1790, and came to this country with his parents soon after his birth. So General Hydrick concluded that a Jacob Hydrick was the head of household, and the Jacob Hydrick who married Elizabeth Evans was one of the "3 males under 16", and that Jacob, head of household was, therefore, the Grandfather of Major Haysmith Hydrick.

As my Great-great-grandmother Hydrick was born in 1792, General Hydrick thinks her husband could have been one of the other of the "3 males under 16" listed on the 1790 Orangeburg, South Carolina, census under the Jacob Hydrick family. It is possible, however, that our Hydrick ancestor came to America earlier.

From the book, **A Collection of Upward of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776**, the following account is given:

Sept. 12, 1734. Palatines,--ship Saint Andrew, John Stedman, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Plymouth,--Eighty-nine males above sixteen, forty-one males under sixteen; women and female children one hundred and thirty-three--in all 263.

In another account it is stated that this boat was "freighted with Schwenkfelders". These left their homes in April 1734, embarked at Altoona, Denmark, May 14, arrived at Philadelphia September 22, and on the 23rd they declared their fealty: "On September 23rd all male persons above the age of sixteen had to appear in the Court House, in order to swear allegiance to the rules of the country, to wit: The King of Great Britain and His successors to the Crown of England".

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Still in another account it is said that these were of all denominations and sects: Lutherans, Reformed, Episcopal, Presbyterians, Catholics, Quakers, Tunkers, Mennonites, Sabbatherians, Seventh-day Baptist, Separatists, Bohmists, Schwenckfeldians, Jews and Pagans, and etc.

Among these immigrants were the following:

Georg Heydrich  
Caspar Heydrich  
Balthasar Heydrich  
Andreas Heydrich, under 16 years of age.  
Christopher Heydrich, also under 16.

Sept. 11, 1738. Palatines imported in the ship "Robert and Oliver", of Dublin, Walter Goodman, Commander, from Rotterdam, last from Dover,-320 passengers.

Among the passengers on this boat were these:

Peter Heydrich Christopher Heydrich <sup>1.3, 1.4</sup>

Note that the list of the different denominations of the early immigrants includes the Schwenckfeldians. A definition of the Schwenckfelders which I have received reads as follows:

### **Schwenckfelders:**

These were members of a religious denomination founded in Silesia and named in honor of German reformer Kasper Von Schwenckfeld (1489-1561). Most of them, driven by persecution, emigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1700's.

### **Silesia;**

In central Europe, rich farm, factory, and mine (iron, zinc, coal) region. Belonged to Austria until 1740, when Frederick the Great, took it from Germany. After World War I, Upper Silesia (German) became part of Poland, and lower Silesia (Austrian) became part of Czechoslovakia.

Palatine:

Adjective, naming a prince, lord, count, etc., who is a monarch in his own domain; as a prince Palatine.<sup>1.5</sup>

*[Editor's note: when Annie compiled her notes and wrote this book she did not have access to a genealogical library and the internet had not been invented. Today we have access to vastly more data with more coming on-line each day. For example, we know her preceding paragraphs about the Pennsylvania Heydricks and Schwenckfelder may be ignored. The Schwenckfelder Church in Pennsylvania still exists and maintains its own genealogical library and excellent records of its members. In 1879 they published "**Genealogical Record of the Descendants of the SCHWENCKFELDERS who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1733, 1734, 1736, 1737 from the German of the Rev. Balthasar Heebner and other historical sources by the Rev. Reuben Kriebel with an historical sketch by C. Heydrick. Manayunk: Joseph Yeakel, Printer, 4402 Cresson St, 1879**". There are no links to the South Carolina Hydricks from the Pennsylvania Heydricks – simply a similar spelling of surnames.]*

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**NOTES**

- <sup>1.1</sup> Hydrick, Onan Augustus, **The Descendants of Major Haysmith Hydrick, 1819-1903.**  
Columbia, S.C.: R.L. Bryan Co., 1978.
- <sup>1.2</sup> A description of the Hydrick coat of arms, very similar to that of General Onan A. Hydrick, was given to me by Judge Augustus Salley Hydrick, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, County of Henrico, Virginia. General Hydrick and Judge Hydrick are cousins.
- <sup>1.3</sup> Rupp, I. Daniel. **A Collection of Upward of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776.**  
Philadelphia: I.G. Kohler, 1876.
- <sup>1.4</sup> Genevieve Goodpasture, 2307 Terrace Ave., Victoria, Texas 77901, shared this information with me.
- <sup>1.5</sup> Sent to me by William Homer Hydrick, Jr., 203 Bennett St., Crystal Springs, Mississippi 39059.

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### **CHAPTER II**

#### **The Search for Great-Great-Grandfather Hydrick**

Many records of the 1790 census are missing for various reasons. It was mistakenly reported by some that the loss of the missing 1790, 1800, and 1810 schedules was the result of the fire in Washington set by the British during the War of 1812. These records, however, were deposited with the U.S. District courts where they were to be preserved by the clerks. It was not until 1830 that a resolution was passed requesting the District Court Clerks to forward the schedules of the first four censuses then in their possession, to the U.S. Secretary of State. Efforts were made in each state to reconstruct these censuses from other records such as tax records. In some instances, records spanning several years were used to surmise who was where in 1790.<sup>2,1</sup> If this were the case with Pennsylvania and South Carolina, then the same Jacob Hydrick could have been included in both states.

In the first census of 1790 there are two entries for Jacob Hydrick. One is the census of Pennsylvania, the other in the census of South Carolina. It would be possible to assume that these Jacob Hydricks are the same person.

From these incomplete census records, however, I have pieced together a possible and plausible connection to Jacob Hydrick, the only Hydrick with our family spelling.

There are two other Hydricks in the 1810 census records for Orangeburg (or County), South Carolina, besides the 1810 record of Jacob Hydrick. Jacob Hydrick (I) would have been about age 65 at this time.

One of the two other 1810 census records is on a James Hydrick with one female (his wife), both born 1785-1794, and their issue as two sons born 1800-1810. I believe this is James Hydrick (I), age 16 or 17 in 1800. This James Hydrick (I) was the son of Jacob Hydrick (I), so was born in Germany and came with his parents to America in 1790.

The other of these two 1810 census records is on a John Hydrick with one female (his wife), and both born 1785-1794. Their issue is one son born 1800-1810. I believe this John Hydrick is my great-great-grandfather, John Hydrick (I), born in 1782 or 1783. John Hydrick (I) was also the son of Jacob Hydrick (I). John Hydrick (I) was born in Germany and came with his parents to America in 1790. Both John Hydrick (I) and James Hydrick (I) were the brothers of Jacob Hydrick (II) who was born in Germany March 3, 1790, and came with his family to America soon after his birth. Of course, I do not know the actual date of birth of either John or James, or the sister and brother whose names are unknown and who are listed on the 1790 census. John may have been a few years younger.

I believe that John Hydrick (I) married my Great-great-grandmother, Mary "Polly" Hydrick, who was born in South Carolina in 1792. So John Hydrick (I) was probably nine or ten years older than Mary Polly. Their son listed on this 1810 census was John Hydrick, Jr., my great-grandfather who was born in South Carolina in 1810, probably after the census was taken in June of that year.

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John and Mary had a daughter, Rebecca. We have found that she was born in South Carolina in 1811 or 1812. John Hydrick (I) died in either South Carolina or Tennessee as census records reveal that their third child, William G. L. Hydrick, was born in Tennessee in 1813.

According to Pa, his Great-Grandmother Polly Hydrick, who was called Old Big Grandma, was born in South Carolina and came to Arkansas as a widow with three children with Uncle Charlie Shaver and his family. I should have asked Pa at the time he told me the Hydrick family background the name of Old Big Grandma's husband, but I failed to do so.

Now it is very difficult to trace this Hydrick ancestor. My nephew, Phil (Philip A. Sadler), of Warrensburg, Missouri, has done a lot of research for me. In fact, without his assistance, I doubt that this book would have been written. There is no Genealogy Section in the Sikeston Library, therefore, it has been difficult for me to find information. Phil is a member of the Genealogy Society of the Kansas City Library and has furnished me with several books to read, also other material in our search for facts and correct data. There were some Hydricks (though their names were spelled in various ways) living in Sumner County, Tennessee, in which we have also discovered Shavers and Perrys living during the early 1800's.<sup>2,2</sup> However, we do not think that any of these Hydricks could have been Mary Polly's husband. But I am inclined to think that Old Big Grandma and her husband may have been in the state of Tennessee at the time of his death and that she and her three children must have been with or joined the Shaver family in Sumner County and migrated on to Arkansas Territory, arriving in 1824 when Mary Polly was age 32. The Charles Shaver family settled on the north bank of Sugar Creek in 1824. This creek runs through the town of Bay Village, Arkansas, which is on the Poinsett-Cross County line, but Bay Village was originally known as the Shaver Settlement because the Shavers were the first settlers. In 1825 Charles' brother, William Ashley Shaver, and his wife, Matilda (Stone) Shaver, came by ox team and wagons from Covington, Tennessee, and settled on the south bank of Sugar Creek. In 1827 James C. and Wesley Shaver, nephews of Charles and Ashley Shaver, settled near their uncles, making a total of four Shaver families. It was not until 1876 when a Post Office was established that the name was changed from the Shaver Settlement to Bay Village.<sup>2,3</sup> The Shavers, together with Old Big Grandma Mary "Polly" Hydrick and her children, were among the first permanent settlers in Cross County.

Charles Shaver was the grandfather of Mrs. Rebecca Cooper, mother of Edward L. Cooper, who married Aunt Mallie's daughter, Annie Greenwood. The History of Cross County, Arkansas does not record from where Charles Shaver came to Arkansas, however, I have corresponded with Cary Anderson who was reared near Cherry Valley and Hydrick, Arkansas, and who has written a book on the Shaver family. Cary Anderson states that he found the Charles Shaver family in Sumner County, Tennessee, before their migration to Arkansas. He feels that Mary Hydrick was probably Charles Shaver's wife's sister. The name of Charles Shaver's wife was Rebecca, and Mary Hydrick's daughter was named Rebecca. I am of the same opinion since Pa stated that Old Big Grandma Polly Hydrick came to Arkansas with Uncle Charlie Shaver. Pa did not remember the name of Mary Polly's daughter, but he did state that she married Ajax Tyer.

In the 1960's I visited Mrs. Clyde Eldridge of Memphis, Tennessee, who was a second cousin to Pa. She confirmed what Pa had told me about Old Big Grandma being Polly Hydrick, a widow from South Carolina. She added that Polly had been married twice, first to a Mr. Davis. She also

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said that Polly's sons were John and William. Mrs. Eldridge was correct in saying that Polly Hydrick was married twice, however, we have found that Mary Polly was married to George S. W. Parker, and we believe that Mrs. Eldridge was in error in stating that Polly's first husband was a Mr. Davis. A private researcher found the following information for us:

*United States of America, Territory of Arkansas*

*St. Francis Circuit Court, 1829*

*January Term AD*

*Mary Parker, Alias     )*  
*Mary Hydrick, Ptf.     )     Petition for Divorce*

*George S. W. Parker, Deft.)*

*It appearing by the Sheriff's return that the said George S. W. Parker is no inhabitant of this county. It is therefore ordered by the Court that a plurias alias summons issue, and that a copy of this order be published for six weeks in succession previous to the next term of this Court in the Arkansas Gazette.*

*Signed: Spencer Crouch, Clerk. March 11, 1829 W<sup>24</sup>*

When Mary Polly obtained a divorce, she took back the name of Hydrick probably because her children were Hydricks. Since Pa stated she came to Arkansas as a widow, we assume that she married George S. W. Parker after her arrival in 1824, then divorced him in 1829. We do not know the date of her marriage to Parker, but we assume that this marriage was not successful for very long. It appears by mutual consent of both parties or by the desertion of George S. W. Parker that he was in another county. Or, it might have been that his whereabouts were unknown when Mary Polly applied for the divorce. I think that Mary Polly was a very courageous woman to have divorced Mr. Parker, as divorce was definitely a big scandal in those days.

One other possibility is that Mary Polly left South Carolina early in the year of 1813. It is possible that the Charles Shaver family were living in or near Orangeburg, South Carolina, or wherever Mary Polly and her husband were living at that time. Mary Polly became pregnant, and soon after that her Hydrick husband died and was buried in South Carolina. The Shaver family decided to "go west". Being a widow with two young children, Mary Polly decided to accompany them-especially if Charles Shaver's wife, Rebecca, was Mary Polly's sister. Therefore, Mary Polly's third child, William G. L. Hydrick, was born, if not in Sumner County, Tennessee, at some other place in Tennessee. The Shaver family and Mary Polly stayed in Tennessee several years, maybe most of the time in Sumner County, before going on to Arkansas Territory to buy land at a very low price and to make their future home, or to homestead on a possible veteran's grant.

There does not seem to be any way to connect Old Big Grandma to any Hydrick with any certainty. Even though I think John Hydrick (I) was the son of Jacob Hydrick (I), the head of household on the 1790 census, and that John was Mary Polly's first husband, I have no proof.

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There were scarcely any records kept of births, deaths, and marriages in that early period. But as Mary Polly was born in 1792 and if her Hydrick husband was born at any time near that date, I also think that he was born in Germany and came to America with his family when he was about eight years of age.

**NOTES**

<sup>2.1</sup> Greenwood, Val D. **The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy**. Baltimore, Maryland, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. C1973.

<sup>2.2</sup> Curtis, Mary Barnett, Early Tennessee Tax Lists.

<sup>2.3</sup> Chowning, Robert W. **History of Cross County, Arkansas, 1955**. Wynne, Ark.: The Wynne Progress, 1955.

<sup>2.4</sup> Provided by James Logan Morgan, 314 Vine St., Newport, Arkansas 72112.

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### **CHAPTER III**

#### **The Migration of My Ancestors**

Most German immigrants headed to Philadelphia but in some instances were forced to land at some other port. Newspaper accounts have recorded such instances as shipwrecked passengers rescued by ships bound for other ports such as Charleston, South Carolina. These survivors would be forced to remain in these ports due to lack of money. Other accounts are of unscrupulous ship captains who would sail to a port other than their destination and would require additional monies to continue the journey. Those who could pay did reach their destination, and those who could not were stranded without money, families or friends who had arrived earlier.<sup>3.1</sup>

I am assuming that my direct Hydrick ancestor came to America in the 1700's. Many immigrants came during that period and settled in the state of Pennsylvania. Many of these immigrants were of Swiss, German, and Dutch (Holland) descent. The counties where most of the early German settled were Berks, Lebanon, Lehigh, and North Hampton. Others settled in what are now Chester, Bucks, Montgomery, Carbon, Dauphin, Snyder, Schuylkill, York, and Lancaster. Some of the Pennsylvania "Dutch" stock settled in Lancaster County. The fertile soil of western Mercer County drew a considerable number of Pennsylvania farmers. In the earliest of these county groups, the culture that they brought with them from Europe survived.<sup>3.2</sup>

The voyage was most unpleasant and dangerous. Most of the vessels that came to Pennsylvania started from Rotterdam, where the immigrants embarked with their goods and provisions. First, however, in Holland one-half of their fare had to be paid, and there they purchased their food such as beef, cheese, and butter. Those who could afford to do so also took agriculture implements, linens, bedding, stoves, and especially money to buy salt, seeds, swine, and fowls, however, the majority were not so well provided and often had to depend on the charity of others. Sometimes the voyage was made in a few weeks, while at other times it took many months. There was always the danger of shipwreck due to violent storms. The food spoiled and there was much sickness. Thousands succumbed to hardship and disease, and children especially suffered. Those from one to seven years rarely survived the voyage. Most repented of having started the journey. The American coast swarmed with pirates which added a new error to ocean travel.<sup>3.3</sup> However, my ancestor survived all hardships to make a safe landing, and, I assume, to eventually become an American citizen.

I do not know how long this ancestor and his family lived in the state of Pennsylvania, but he or his descendants and kinsmen, with other pioneers, migrated from Pennsylvania to South Carolina via the foothills of the Alleghenies to reach Virginia and the Carolinas. Travel was hazardous over rough roads and mountain trails, so especially constructed wagons were needed. Pennsylvania German wainsmiths and wheelwrights found the answer in the Conestoga Wagon. As the heavy wagons lumbered along the trail the "men folks" smoked their Pennsylvania "stogies" short for Conestoga, and the women spoke to their children of new-found hope as they viewed each new horizon.<sup>3.4</sup>

When I visited Mrs. Clyde Eldridge in Memphis, Tennessee, she was elderly and was probably in her eighties. She said that after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and when Andrew Jackson was

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President in 1828, the Hydricks, Hendersons, Hueys, Ramseys, Wheelers, and Fousts all in a group came from Orangeburg, South Carolina, to Arkansas and settled around Hydrick, Arkansas, which is about three or four miles from Cherry Valley, Arkansas.

Mrs. Eldridge also reported that the Hydricks were of Austrian descent and could not stand the Catholics. So in 1732, the Hydricks, who were settled in England and who could not stand the Episcopal Church of England either, came to this continent with other immigrants and settled in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and built a Baptist Church. Out of gratitude to William of Orange, who became William III, King of England, the earlier settlers had named Orangeburg, South Carolina, after him.

According to the description of the Hydrick Coat of Arms, Mrs. Eldridge's statement that the Hydricks were of Austrian descent is true. Her statement that the group of several families left Orangeburg, South Carolina, for Arkansas in 1828 could also be true, however, the book, *The History of Cross County, Arkansas* shows that Charles Shaver settled on Sugar Creek, which runs through Bay Village, Arkansas, in 1824. Pa stated that Old Big Grandma Polly Hydrick and her three children came to Arkansas with Uncle Charlie Shaver.

When talking about the South Carolina Hydricks, Mrs. Eldridge indicated that they were Baptists; however, my direct ancestor could have originally been a Schwenkfelder as the Schwenkfelders were definitely Anti-Catholic.

Aunt Mallie told her daughter, Madie, that our Hydricks were Pennsylvania-Dutch. Thus, our Hydricks could have settled in England for a while then sailed from England to America, but as stated in the *30,000 Names of Immigrants*, some of these immigrants landed in some port other than Philadelphia, but did settle in the state of Pennsylvania. Some Dutch families established themselves in Monroe County, <sup>3.5</sup> so our Hydricks could have been in this county before migrating on to South Carolina. As some of the Schwenkfelders found refuge in Holland before going to Pennsylvania, our ancestor could have been one of them as the exodus of the early Schwenkfelders began in 1726. This would have allowed him time enough to have settled in England, to leave England in 1732 because of religious discontent, to settle in Pennsylvania, and later migrate to South Carolina. Although Mrs. Eldridge does not include the Shaver family in her list of families coming from South Carolina to Arkansas in 1828, Mary Polly could have come on to Arkansas as a widow four years earlier in 1824 with the Shaver family.

The colonists of Orangeburg County and town were mostly German and Swiss settlers who arrived in 1735 and 1736. In 1737 Rev. John Ulrich Glessendanner, a native of Switzerland, established a Lutheran Church, and most of these German and Swiss settlers became members. It has been concluded that this Lutheran Church was the first religious society in Orangeburg. <sup>3.6</sup> If Mrs. Eldridge's statement is correct that the Hydricks, with a group of several families, came to Orangeburg in 1732 and built a Baptist Church, it was probably after the year 1737 that this Baptist Church came into existence. There was a Baptist Church in Kingstree, South Carolina, in Williamsburg County, in 1833, but we do not find a Baptist Church for Orangeburg County listed in the survey. However, the survey does state that although their origin is early in the history of this country, it was not until after the Revolutionary War that the Baptist religion became prominent as a religion in America. <sup>3.7</sup>

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The book, Third Edition of *The Handy Book for Genealogists*, states that the so-called Dutch were Germans and not Hollanders. This book also states: "From 1732 until 1736 quite a number of families from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Switzerland, and Germany came into the central section of South Carolina".<sup>3.8</sup> This date of 1732 agrees with the date that Mrs. Eldridge stated the Hydricks came to Orangeburg, South Carolina. Orangeburg County is also near the central part of South Carolina. However, since Aunt Mallie stated that our Hydricks were Pennsylvania-Dutch, I conclude that our ancestor was first in Holland from Germany before going on to England, and then he or his descendants migrated to the state of Pennsylvania and lived there for a while before coming on to South Carolina, where Old Big Grandma, Mary "Polly" Hydrick, was born in 1792 and later came as a pioneer to Arkansas.

### **NOTES**

- <sup>3.1</sup> Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, **The German Immigration into Pennsylvania Through the Port of Philadelphia from 1700 to 1775**. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, Maryland c1977.
- <sup>3.2</sup> Graeff, Arthur D., Walter M. Kollmorgen, Clyde S. Stine, et al. **The Pennsylvania Germans**. Ralph Wood, ed. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1942.
- <sup>3.3</sup> Kuhns, Oscar Levi. **The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennsylvania**. Reprinted from the 1901 edition. New York: AMS Press, 1971.
- <sup>3.4</sup> Graeff.
- <sup>3.5</sup> Everton, George B., and Gunnar Rasmuson. **The Handy Book for Genealogists. Third ed.** Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1957.
- <sup>3.6</sup> Bernheim, Gotthardt Dellmann. **History of the German Settlements and of the Lutheran Church in North and South Carolina, from the Earliest Period of the Colonization of the Dutch, German, and Swiss Settlers to the First Half of the Present Century**. Reprint of the 1872 edition. Spartanburg, S.C.
- <sup>3.7</sup> Kirkham, E. Kay. **A Survey of American Church Records; for the Period before the Civil War, East of the Mississippi River**. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Co., 1959-60.
- <sup>3.8</sup> Everton.

# **OLD BIG GRANDMA**

## **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

### **CHAPTER IV**

#### **Early life and times of Old Big Grandma and her children in Arkansas**

My father, George Washington Hydrick, stated that his great-grandmother's name was Polly, which I later found to be the nickname for Mary. To her relatives and friends she was probably known as Polly, but when she became older and had great-grandchildren, she was called Old Big Grandma. Therefore, I believe that she was a woman of large stature to have acquired this title.

The 1850 census is the first Federal census to list the names of the wife and children as well as the head of household. I found that the Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census dated October 1850 lists Mary Hydrick as age 58 years and born in South Carolina; her son, John Hydrick, as age 40 years, born in South Carolina; and her son, William G. L. Hydrick, age 37 years, born in Tennessee. This census indicates that Mary Polly was born in 1792, that John was born in 1810 when Mary Polly was age 18, and that William G. L. was born in 1813. Mary Polly's daughter, Rebecca, married Ajax Tyer on November 26, 1829, when Rebecca was age 17 or 18. Ajax and Rebecca, lived in the same vicinity as Ajax's father, Wright Tyer, one mile east of what later became the town of Pineville, Arkansas. In 1851 Ajax and Rebecca moved to Hydrick, Arkansas.<sup>4.1</sup>

We do not know the date of Rebecca's death, but she had a son, Silas, who was born in 1851, as Silas is listed as age 9 on the 1860 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census. So Rebecca probably died that same year, 1851, or by 1852, soon after her removal to Hydrick. Ajax married again, probably in late 1854 or early 1855 as this same 1860 census lists his wife as Melinda, age 42, born in Indiana. Therefore, Melinda was born in 1818. This census lists a daughter, Harriet, for Ajax and Melinda, as age 4, born in 1856, and another daughter, Mary, age 2, born in 1858. Ajax died near Hydrick, Arkansas, in 1868 at age 62 and is buried there. In fact, the Tyer Cemetery, near Hydrick, was named for him. The 1830 St. Francis County (later Poinsett County), Arkansas, census shows that Ajax Tyer's wife was age 15 to 20 years. This would have been Rebecca, so we assume that Rebecca was the second child of Mary Polly, born in 1811 or 1812 in South Carolina. So if Mary Polly arrived in Arkansas in 1824, she was age 32, her son, John, was age 14, Rebecca was age 12 or 13, and William G.L. was age 11.

The Mitchell Township, St. Francis County 1830 Arkansas census shows that Mary Hydrick had four slaves. I do not know where or how she acquired her slaves, whether from her Hydrick husband in South Carolina, or from her second husband, George S. W. Parker, or bought them herself. Records of St. Francis County also show that Mary Hydrick owned \$875 worth of land in 1830. I assume that Mary Polly married her Hydrick husband in South Carolina at age 16 or 17 in 1808 or 1809.

When Old Big Grandma arrived in Arkansas, she came to a wilderness, very little of which had been explored. What is now the State of Arkansas became a part of Missouri Territory in 1812. Missouri applied for statehood in 1819 and Congress created Arkansas Territory, which included the present state of Oklahoma. When the white settlers came, Indians were still in the region but were civilized, and many could read and write and speak English. They farmed their land and taught many of the white settlers their method of farming. That part of Arkansas where Mary

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Polly and her children and their pioneer neighbors settled was much later to become Cross County. Goodspeed's 1890 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas states: "The Country was settled by an exceptionally sterling class of citizens, in most cases, men of means who came because of the opportunity to secure large tracts of land for an independent fortune for the owners. Among the early pioneers were the McCalisters who settled near the present village of Vandale, the Searceys, Tyers, Greenwoods, Hydricks, Neeleys, Halks and Stacy's, all living here prior to 1840".<sup>4.2</sup>

Arkansas became the 25th state in the Union on June 15, 1836. It seems that at least some of the people who came to Arkansas Territory from the state of Tennessee came by way of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The History of Cross County, Arkansas, states that Samuel Filligan with his own family, and his son-in-law, Wright Tyer, with his sons, Ajax and Samuel, and his daughters, Sally and Macey, came to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in 1815. They left their families at Cape Girardeau and came down to what was then Arkansas County in Missouri Territory and built their log cabins and made a crop. The next year, 1816, they brought their families down and became permanent settlers.<sup>4.3</sup>

I have heard practically this same story about Old Big Grandma and family, which, I feel sure, was told to my nephew, George Lewis Hydrick, by his father, Guy Ernest Hydrick, who was my half-brother; or by my father, George Washington Hydrick. As George Lewis remembers the story, Old Big Grandma and her children, a few years later, came from Tennessee in a group with six wagons and landed at a point just south of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The women, children and old people were left in Cape Girardeau until some cabins were built and some land cleared in Arkansas Territory, then were brought to Arkansas to their new homes. While waiting, the people who had died were put in nail kegs and brought to Arkansas Territory for burial when the women and children were brought down.<sup>4.4</sup>

Old Big Grandma and her children settled about three or four miles west of the Shavers. I can imagine that her son, John, at age 14, assumed much responsibility, however, I see Mary Polly at the helm, overseeing and directing her two sons and her four slaves in the cleaning of their land, the raising of their crops, and the improvement of their home. Also, the training of her daughter in the art of homemaking in this land where there was so little with which to do. Of course, since she traveled by wagon train, she was probably able to have brought along a cow or two, hogs and poultry, probably a cook stove, and a few necessities such as feather beds and quilts, a trusted rifle or two, and a Bible. Some of the cooking may have been done at a large fireplace in her home, and some of the furniture built by John and the slaves, with a little help from young William. The hardships of the new land were many, and I visualize Old Big Grandma as a very hardy and determined woman as the head of her household, encouraging and taking the lead herself in the many hard tasks that had to be done in order for them to endure and survive. In spite of the hardships, she evidently had a bright and humorous outlook that enabled her to have an enjoyable and satisfying life, as she lived to a ripe old age.

Crowley's Ridge runs through the state of Arkansas as far south as Helena, and north through the state of Missouri to the edge of the Ozarks. Nearby, in Arkansas to the east, is the St. Francis River. It was on this ridge that Samuel Filligan, said to be the first permanent white settler in what later was to become a part of Cross County, obtained his "Spanish Grant" and settled one

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mile east of what also later became the town of Pineville. Pineville was located three miles east of the present site of Vandale. When France sold Louisiana to the United States in 1803, there were 3,000 private claims to verify, including those along the St. Francis River. These claims became known as Spanish Grants. Land speculators bought up these grants and resold parts of them to the early settlers, most of them settling on the eastern slopes of Crowley's Ridge. Two of the land speculators were John Taylor and William Russell. It was found that John Taylor was the first white man in this section as he came in 1797 and settled on Grant #398 on Cooperas Creek near Levesque, but that Samuel Filligan was the first permanent white settler.<sup>4.5</sup> I am wondering if Mary Hydrick and Charles Shaver bought a Spanish Grant when they came to Arkansas Territory in 1824, eight years after Samuel Filligan and Wright Tyer.

In 1795 and 1796 the Cherokee and Delaware Indians asked Spanish authorities for hunting rights on lands north of the Arkansas river. An arrangement was worked out assigning the Delawares the area around White River and the Cherokees the area around the St. Francis River. In the spring of 1802, about 60 Cherokee families had settled near the St. Francis River, and by December 1806 about 1,000 Cherokees had settled in one particular spot which was known as the Cherokee Village. The Cherokees allowed white families and interpreters to live within their village. At least three interpreters had lived with them: a Mr. Saussie, an elderly man, had been with them for more than 30 years; a Mr. Price; and a Mr. Lafer had been with them from around 1800 to 1808.<sup>4.6</sup> This probably accounted for the Cherokee's ability to read, write, and speak English by the time Mary Hydrick and her family reached Arkansas.

Aunt Mallie told Madie that Old Big Grandma said someone found the bones of a prehistoric animal in the vicinity of her home. This animal was so large that a dog could go through the big leg bone where the marrow had been. When the chest or rib cage was stood (probably upright or on its side), a horse could go through the ribs. Indians took the skull and put it on a cart and carted it away to an unknown place.

A major problem for the very early pioneers was lack of communication with their neighbors and other settlers due to the scarcity of roads and the difficulty of traveling. Indian and animal trails were used mostly by the men of the family who rode horseback to the nearest port on the Mississippi River for mail and supplies. As more immigrants continued to arrive, roads were started in 1824, but the routes were bad and the roads difficult to build. An important road from Memphis to Little Rock was authorized by an act of Congress in 1821 and was completed by 1829, but it was a very rough and narrow road. This road became known as the Military Road.<sup>4.7</sup>

During the War of 1812, the British soldiers trained the Creek Indians in Florida in organized warfare. They supplied them with guns and potent whiskey and told them to "Fight the Americans". Especially at the British-Indian trading post in Pensacola the Indians were sold knives, blankets, calico and beads in exchange for furs and skins. The Creeks owned all of the land in Georgia and Alabama, but as they became more dependent on the traders, they soon took up the white man's ways, adopting their dress, and the women marrying the traders, thus establishing mixed blood.<sup>4.8</sup>

In 1828 Andrew Jackson was elected President of the United States. Immigrants to eastern Arkansas from 1824 through 1828 were four times as numerous as before.<sup>4.9</sup> There was some

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warfare, and the Indians were steadily forced from lands that was desired by the white settlers. Two of the great Indian leaders were Red Eagle, who was born Bill Weatherford; the son of a white trader and a Creek mother; and a white rough backwoodsman named David Crockett. Another white supporter of the Indians was Sam Houston, who had frequent quarrels with his mother and ran away from home at the age of 15 to join Chief John Jolly's Cherokees. They numbered 6,000 and had settled on the Arkansas river. The Indians christened Houston "Black Bird" and he stayed with them for three years until Chief Jolly, who was also of mixed blood, persuaded him to return home. Osceola was a leader of the Seminoles in the Florida swamps.

President Jackson determined to conquer all of the red men in the United States. The Indians had formerly fought among themselves, tribe against tribe, but when battle after battle with the whites continued and their settlements were razed and burned, Red Eagle, the light colored Indian, went to see Jackson. He stated that he was Bill Weatherford and had come to surrender as his warriors had been killed and the women and children were starving. Red Eagle said that if Jackson would save them, he would try to persuade the remaining warriors to peace. The two men shook hands, and that action sealed the fate of the Indians. Jackson promised them that they would be sent west to "that country which will belong to you as long as the green grass grows and the water flows". Of course, the Indians resisted and were reluctant to leave their homes, but more and more white settlers were encroaching upon them and more and more of their numbers continued to be killed throughout the United States. The Government promised them escorts and protection and they were told that they would all be prosperous and among their own kind in their new territory. Also thousands of buffalo grazed this land during the spring and summer, and the Indians had always followed the buffalo to provide food, clothing, and fuel for themselves.

Indian Agents, more literate than some of the Indians, "negotiated" with the Government, but always under the influence of whisky, upon which, the Government officials very quickly learned, the Indians were dependent and could not resist. So the Agents signed meaningless treaties and gave away their land for much less its value or a mere pittance.<sup>4.10</sup>

Under the presidency of James Monroe, Indian removal had gradually turned from scheme to policy. So began the uprooting of more than 60,000 Indians consisting of the five civilized tribes, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole. They had been living in log cabins, wearing homespun clothing, tending livestock and plowing fields with oxen. Many had intermarried with whites, and most of the tribal leaders could read and write English and comprehend the law. The Cherokees were the most advanced of all.

In 1838 the greater part of the Cherokees were rounded up at gunpoint from their homes in Tennessee and Georgia, herded into camps and moved west under a military guard. During this forced march most of the Indians traveled on foot with their possessions strapped to their backs or on horses or rickety wagons. Some of the older women and children were given horses, but all were forced to march in the dead of winter with scant clothing and shoes, little food, much sickness. Some entire tribes almost perished from the march, which was called "The Trail of Tears". One out of every four Indians died of dysentery, measles, whooping cough, or some other ailment or hardship.<sup>4.11</sup>

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It took more than 20 years to remove all of the tribes to Indian Territory with the exception of the few who would not go and managed to stay behind. By a miracle, however, the Indians in their new home rallied and renewed their efforts to build a society on the best features of white civilization. Many years later a Choctaw Indian chief named their new land Oklahoma. The Choctaw word for red was "homa" and "okla" meant people. Oklahoma did not become a state until 1907.<sup>4.12</sup>

Old Big Grandma's children grew up probably not more than fifteen miles, as the crow flies, from Cherokee Village. I imagine that both John and William roamed the countryside around them, either on foot or horseback, and learned to fish and hunt as they grew to manhood. There being so few white settlers near their home, I feel that they soon became friendly with the Indians in the Cherokee Village. I believe that it was on one of his trips to the Village that John met Elizabeth, who was to become his bride. John was age 18 in 1828 so he probably married Elizabeth soon after, as census records show that they had a son born in 1830. Of course, I am not positive that Elizabeth was from the Cherokee Village, but because the Village was so near John's home, it seems very likely that Elizabeth was a Cherokee Village maiden.

*[Editor's Note: I am a direct paternal descendant of John Powell Hydrick. My DNA test shows me to be of 100% European ancestry with no Indian or Asian genes. But until we find a direct maternal descendant of Elizabeth to get her mitochondrial DNA tested, we may never be certain of Betsy Elizabeth's Indian ancestry. The Editor wishes to thank and acknowledge Penne Hydrick Baldwin for her assistance in the DNA analysis]*

I do not know Elizabeth's last name, but the 1850 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census shows that she was born in Tennessee in 1807. I do know for a fact that my father was part Cherokee Indian, as he told this to his grandson, George Lewis Hydrick. Therefore, when John married Elizabeth, their son, James, my grandfather, was one-half Indian; my father, George Washington, was one-fourth Indian; so this makes me one-eighth Indian. Although I cannot see much trace of Indian blood in the photograph of my Grandfather James, the resemblance to the Indian of both Pa and Aunt Mallie is striking.

This particular band of Cherokees who occupied the Village had moved across the Mississippi River at least thirty years before their forced removal to the west.<sup>4.13</sup> Elizabeth's marriage to John Hydrick prevented her from being transferred with the Indians on "The Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma. However, we do not know how many of her people did have to make this march leaving Elizabeth behind. I hope that John had enough influence with the Government officials that Elizabeth's family was allowed to remain in Arkansas, or that against all odds, they refused to leave as during Andrew Jackson's presidency, the transfer was called a "volunteer" movement on the part of the Indians because of their "Agreements" when the treaties were signed.<sup>4.14</sup> I wish that George Lewis had asked Pa if he knew the maiden name of his Grandmother Elizabeth as I also failed to do this. The removal of the Cherokees from their Village makes me wonder if some of my early "relatives" were sent to Oklahoma, but by not knowing Elizabeth's last name, there is no way that this information can be found.

The northern, eastern, and western Cherokee tribes united with the Arkansas Cherokees and adopted a formal "Act of Union" declaring themselves "The Cherokee Nation". They adopted a

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constitution which was approved and accepted on June 26, 1840.<sup>4.15</sup> Establishing their capital at Tahlequah, they continued their former practice of publishing a newspaper in both English and their own language. They set up a system of elementary schools and seminaries equivalent to high schools for men and women.<sup>4.16</sup>

We know that Old Big Grandma's daughter, Rebecca, married Ajax Tyer on November 26, 1829. On the 1850 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census their children are listed as: William W., age 17, born in 1833; Frances, age 10, born in 1840; Mary S., age 8, born in 1842; Joseph, age 9, born in 1843; Rebecca H., age 4, born in 1846; and Samuel, age 1, born in 1849. Silas was born in 1851. Two other children were born to Ajax and his second wife, Melinda—last name unknown—who was born in 1818 in Indiana. These children are listed on the 1860 census as Harriet, age 4, therefore, born in 1854; and Mary, age 2, born in 1856. We do not know when Mary Polly's youngest son, William G. L. married, but it was probably about 1831 to 1833 at the age of 18 to 20 years. The 1850 census shows that he married Madera - last name unknown - who was born in Tennessee in 1813. This census lists their children as Andrew, age 8, born in 1842; Amanda, age 5, born in 1845; and Rebecca J., age 2 months, born in 1850. The 1860 census lists two other children: Harriet, age 8, therefore, born in 1852; and RoseAnna, age 4, born in 1856. Both Rebecca's and William G. L.'s family settled near their mother, Mary Polly, and their brother, John. I did not attempt to trace the descendants of Rebecca Tyer and William G. L. Hydrick. When Pa told me the story of the family, he stated that John and Elizabeth had eight children; five boys and three girls. However, census records indicate that John and Elizabeth had twelve children. I think that four of these children died as children or youths and, therefore, did not marry and have a family. I believe that is why Pa did not mention them and told only of those he knew about. According to the 1850 and 1860 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census, John and Elizabeth's children were as follows:

1	William	Oct 1850 census	Age 20	Born 1830
2	James (my grandfather)	Oct 1850 census	Age 18	Born Jan 1, 1832
3	Jacob	Oct 1850 census	Age 16	Born 1834
4	Mary Jane	Oct 1850 census	Age 13	Born 1837
5	John Powell	Oct 1850 census	Age 12	Born 1838
6	Isham	July 19, 1860 census	Age 19	Born 1840 or 1841
7	Benjamin	July 19, 1860 census	Age 18	Born 1842
8	Baker D	Oct 1850 census	Age 7	Born 1843
9	Robert	Oct 1850 census	Age 5	Born 1845
10	Samuel	Oct 1850 census	Age 2	Born 1848
11	Sarah	Oct 1850 census	Age 1	Born 1849
12	Catherine (Kate)	Not shown in census	-	Born 1852

Catherine (Kate) is not listed on either the 1850 or 1860 Poinsett County, Arkansas, Census that I have, but I found that she was born in 1852 from an 1860 Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census that was sent to me in 1980 by Miss Sherrell Henderson of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Sherrell is also a descendant of Old Big Grandma through John's son, William, who married Nancy Huey. No doubt Kate was visiting in another household and was counted with that household when the census was taken on her family.

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Among the first things the early settlers did upon their arrival in Arkansas was to find a place to worship. Old Big Grandma and her family were Baptists. The first Baptist meeting held in the vicinity of Mary Polly's home was in the summer of 1838. Elder William I Mutt crossed the Mississippi River at Memphis and began work at a place called Walnut Camp, now known as Birdeye. Here he found a large settlement and held a revival with the help of Tyers, Greenwoods, Skinners, and others. He went back to Tennessee in 1841 and moved his family to the Ridge. He organized many churches before his death in 1845, among them in 1843 the Lebanon Church in the Ridge area near Lebanon Hill, about one-half mile northeast of what later was to become the town of Hydrick.

John Hydrick, as well as the Tyer families, was a great worker in the organization of the churches in the surrounding country. The Bethel Church in the Hydrick community was organized in 1844, but this church did not last long. Ajax Tyer and wife, Rebecca Hydrick Tyer; Samuel Tyer and wife, Elizabeth, with three other Baptists, helped to organize the Enon Church in 1844, then this church later moved into the Lebanon Church near Hydrick in August, 1851. A community was forming very near the home of Mary Polly Hydrick, about three miles north of the town of Cherry Valley. This community was later named Hydrick. Elder Nutt and C. G. Stevens organized the Hydrick Church north of Cherry Valley with the aid of the Tyers in 1843. J. S. Rogers stated in his book. *The History of Arkansas Baptists*, "The Tyers were true saints of God, the salt of the earth, and their influence and that of the Hydricks was great for righteousness in northeast Arkansas".

After the death of Elder Nutt, Rev. John Pierce moved to the Ridge area and devoted the rest of his life to the preaching of the gospel. He also organized many churches, among them the Salem Baptist Church. The 1850 census shows that 960 people were church members in Mitchell Township of Poinsett County which included the area from the Poinsett County line south to about four miles south of Vanndale. Rev. Pierce organized the Mt. Zion Association in 1852. The Mt. Zion Church in Greene County, organized in 1840, was the first church organized in the Mt. Zion Association. Deacon V. C. Wright of Piggott, Arkansas, wrote further about this church: "This was a community house and was used as a school house as well as a church. It did not belong to Mt. Zion only. The whole community joined in the erection, and Ajax Tyer, Thomas White, and John P. Hydrick came from Lebanon Church near Wynne, a distance of 60 miles, and remained on the ground until the church was completed. Deacon Wiley Hutchins of the Mt. Zion Church, Thomas White, Deacon John P. Hydrick, and Deacon Ajax Tyer cooperated until four churches were built".<sup>4.17</sup> I do not know Great-grandfather John Hydrick's middle name, but according to this information regarding the building of the Mt. Zion Church in 1840, his middle initial was "P". His son, John P. Hydrick, Jr. was born two years earlier, in 1838.

The records of the Hydrick Baptist Church were destroyed by fire when the Poinsett County Courthouse burned in 1873, so a later history of this church had to be compiled from property deeds and the memories of people who lived in the area. In 1889, it is recorded that the Lebanon Church, which, I think, was later known as the Hydrick Church, moved from Lebanon Hill to its present site near the Poinsett-Cross County line where it has remained to the present day. This church was a member of the Mt. Zion Association until October 26, 1926 when it was accepted into the membership of the Tri-County Baptist Association.<sup>4.18</sup>

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On account of the sparse settlements in Arkansas, annual religious camp meetings were very common and held at many places. People from all denominations attended and came from a great distance. The so called "tents" were constructed as cabins built of long slim logs and covered with boards nailed on so that they lasted for years. There was also a "Preacher's Tent". By mutual consent, it was arranged that the meetings were denominational and union, and each denomination took their turn. The Baptists were allowed the first two weeks, the Methodists the next two, the Cumberlands the next two, and the Reformers the next two. Thus eight weeks were appropriated from year to year. There was a common storehouse, and wood and water were plentiful. The preachers were expected to attend all the meetings. The people who were converted were accepted into the denomination that they preferred. Thus the preaching was the union part and the joining was the denominational part.<sup>4.19</sup>

Since Elizabeth is shown as the head of household on the 1860 census, as age 53, we assume that her husband, John Hydrick, died before this year. Sarah's age is 11 years, so Catherine (Kate) would have been age 8 in 1860. Apparently Great-grandfather John did not pass away until after the birth of Catherine in 1852, but we do not know exactly what year or his exact age at the time of his death. After Mary Polly's divorce from George S. W. Parker in 1829, we assume that she lived with John and Elizabeth, probably in the original home place that she had established. Mary Polly is listed on the 1860 census as being age 67 and living in the household of Elizabeth.

Spanish Grant #2379 was bought from William Russell by William Strong on credit about 1830. The site was five miles north of the Cherokee Village, where the ridge, river, and road met. For a while this grant was known as Strong's place. On October 13, 1827, St. Francis County was created from northern Phillips County and Strong was able on March 1, 1826, to receive a commission from the United States Post Office as the first Postmaster of St. Francis, the name given to the place by the Post Office. This was nine years after Samuel Filligan came to Arkansas, so Mary Polly and the Charles Shaver family were only in Arkansas about two years before they were able to receive news by mail from the outside. Next to Strong's place, or St. Francis, as it was thereafter called, a large area was cleared and given the name of Franklin, where on March 14, 1829, five commissioners, among them Samuel Filligan and Charles Shaver, attempted to establish a town, and they advertised lots for sale. The site they had chosen was described as "located on the (Cherokee) Village, within two miles of the St. Francis River". Streets were laid out and Strong built a four story house called City Hotel where travelers could stop to spend the night or a few days of rest. This venture failed as in September, 1832, the lots were still being advertised. Strong used his slaves to build a part of the rough Military Road in order for it to go through his property. This was a very popular route into northeastern Arkansas, but it was not until 1848 that it was reconstructed into a suitable road for travel leading east and west, and a mail route was established between Memphis and Little Rock.

On February 11, 1836, the first steamboat landed near the Military Road to deliver goods to Strong and Company. As river traffic increased, a more northern, drier branch of the Military Road was constructed over a small natural bridge in the direction of Spanish Grant #2379. It became known as the Bay Ferry Road as it led to the Bay Ferry, and travelers began to use it rather than the route by Strong's place. Strong eventually lost Spanish Grant #2379 as, in order to get more money, he mortgaged the grant to the Real Estate Bank and the Bank finally had to

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foreclose. William Russell regained ownership of Spanish Grant #2379. Strong's place sold to William A. Jones and it became known as the Jones farm. Traffic by the place finally stopped altogether as the travelers took the more northern, drier Bay Ferry Road route.

Isaac Wofford moved from Alabama to St. Francis County, and on August 10, 1840, purchased Spanish Grant #2379 from William Russell for \$600.00. He had in mind to build his home there on whatever settlement had developed by the late 1840's. There is no record of when a town was established, but in 1847 or 1848 the original layout was created. The town was called Wittsburg and the request from the Arkansas General Assembly for incorporation was granted by 1848. Wittsburg was the first incorporated town in St. Francis County (later Cross County). The town built rapidly. Steamboats on the St. Francis River left their cargo at Wittsburg and loaded local produce for market elsewhere. Settlers from as far as 100 miles found ready markets for their produce and other imported necessities. Thus Wittsburg became the trade center for northeast Arkansas. This "Metropolis" lasted for sixteen years, then Wittsburg declined as rapidly as it had developed. A railroad ran through the area in 1882 and four years later a railroad line from Memphis intersected it. Steamboat trade dwindled. Some of the business houses and private homes were dismantled, moved, and rebuilt near the railroad which ran through the towns of Vanndale and Wynne. The remaining buildings were left to decay until fire swept them away in 1900.<sup>4.20</sup>

The date of Old Big Grandma's death is unknown but she appears on the Coldwater and Mitchell Townships, 1880 Cross County, Arkansas, census as 88 years of age.

### **NOTES**

- <sup>4.1</sup> Edith Holcomb Hydrick, wife of Flynn Hydrick, 1107 East Poplar Avenue, Wynne, Arkansas 72396.
- <sup>4.2</sup> **Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas, Comprising a Condensed History of the State, a Number of Biographies of Distinguished Citizens of the Same, a Brief Descriptive History of Each of the Counties.** Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.
- <sup>4.3</sup> Chowning.
- <sup>4.4</sup> Provided by Patrick E. Hydrick, son of Jack D. Hydrick, 2100 Quail, Franklin, Tennessee 37064.
- <sup>4.5</sup> Chowning.
- <sup>4.6</sup> Hartness, Richard L, Sr., **Wittsburg, Arkansas: Crowley's Ridge Steamboat Riverport, 1848-1890.** Little Rock, Arkansas: Rose Publishing Co., 1979.
- <sup>4.7</sup> Chowning.
- <sup>4.8</sup> Jahoda, Gloria. **The Trail of Tears: The Story of the Indian Removal, 1813-1850.** New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1976.
- <sup>4.9</sup> Dougan, Michael B. **Confederate Arkansas: The People and Policies of a Frontier State in Wartime.** University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1976.
- <sup>4.10</sup> Foreman, Grant. **Indians & Pioneers: The Story of the American Southwest before 1830.** New Haven: Yale University Press, 1930.
- <sup>4.11</sup> Cooper, Benjamin. **The Old West--The Indians.** New York: Time Life Books, 1973.
- <sup>4.12</sup> Jahoda.
- <sup>4.13</sup> Hartness.

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4.14 Jahoda.

4.15 Peithman, Irvin M. **Red Men of Fire. A History of the Cherokee Indians.** Springfield, Illinois: C Thomas, 1964

4.16 Cooper

4.17 Rogers, J. S. **A History of Arkansas Baptists.** Little Rock, Arkansas. Executive Board of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 1948

4.18 Mrs. Jimmie James, Cross County Historical Society, Wynne, Arkansas 72396

4.19 Rogers

4.20 Hartness

# OLD BIG GRANDMA by Annie Odessa Hydrick

## CHAPTER V



**James H Hydrick**

Cross County Courthouse in Vanndale. I am wondering if this John Hydrick was the son of William instead of John and Elizabeth.

### **The James H. Hydrick Family**

My father stated that his grandparents, John and Betsy (Elizabeth) Hydrick had five boys and three girls.

According to the Boliver Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, July 19, 1860, census of the town of Coldwater, Arkansas, William was the oldest child of John and Elizabeth. He was born in 1830 and was age thirty at the time this census was taken.

John P. Hydrick is listed as age twelve on the October 1850 Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census. Pa did not mention having an Uncle John, and I am inclined to think that this John P. Hydrick died in early youth. We have found that a John Hydrick became active in the 1880's in the building of the

The October 1850 Bolivia Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census shows that William had a son John L. Hydrick, as age one month. John L. Hydrick would have been age thirty in 1880; therefore, I believe he is the John Hydrick who was interested in the building of the Cross County Courthouse. Since John P. Hydrick was born in 1838 and Pa was born March 6, 1857, John P. would have been only nineteen years older than Pa, and I see no reason for Pa not having known him if John P. lived to be grown and married.

Pa knew his uncles William, Jacob, Isham, and Benjamin, and both Isham and Benjamin were younger than John P. He also knew Sarah and Catherine (Kate) who were the youngest of John and Elizabeth's children. This leaves Baker D., Robert, and Samuel of John and Elizabeth's children that Pa also did not mention; therefore, I think that these three children died young. If John and Elizabeth had twelve children, it would not have been unusual in those days for four of these children to have died at an early age. James H. Hydrick, my grandfather, was the second child of John and Elizabeth. He was born January 1, 1832, and is listed as age eighteen on the October 1850 Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census, and was still living at the home of his parents at that time. Old Big Grandma, Mary Polly, is listed on this census as age 58.

I do not know anything about Grandfather James' childhood except that he grew up in or near the community that was later to become the town of Hydrick, Arkansas. I do not know what year a Post Office was established at Hydrick, but Grandfather James operated a general store in the community. The Post Office was located in his store. Probably for that reason the United States Postal Department named the town Hydrick.

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When Pa gave me the information on the family, he stated that Grandfather James was married three times. First, to a widow Greenwood; second, to his mother, the Perry girl; and third, to a young Henderson girl. While corresponding with Gary Anderson, who has written a book on the Shaver family, I found that Pa was in error about Grandfather James' marriages, and that Grandfather only married twice. He did marry a widow, but Gary Anderson found that this first marriage was to Sarah R. Greenwood, who was born in 1828-1829 in Tennessee, and she was the widow of (?) Greenwood. Her maiden name was Sarah R. Perry. She had two children by Greenwood: Rawls (Rolls), born in 1847; and Matilda, born in 1849. Sarah R. Perry was the daughter of Rolls and Matilda Perry.

Matilda was the daughter of John Shaver, Jr. and Rebecca Clapton Shaver. Matilda was born December 20, 1801, in Sumner County, Tennessee, and married Rolls Perry, who was born in 1792-1796 in Tennessee. They came to Arkansas in the early 1830's and settled near her Uncle Charlie Shaver and family.

Gary Anderson found Sarah R. Perry Greenwood listed on the October 22, 1850, Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census as Sarah R. Greenwood, age twenty-one, born in Tennessee; her son, Rolls M. Greenwood, as age three, born in Arkansas; and her daughter, Mary J. (Matilda) Greenwood, as age one, born in Arkansas. Her father is listed as Rolls Perry, age fifty-four, farmer, born in Tennessee, and her mother as Matilda Perry, age forty-nine, born in Tennessee. Pa stated that Matilda, the daughter of Sarah, died when she was about grown. No further information has been found on Sarah's son. Rolls Greenwood.<sup>5.1</sup>

When Grandfather James married my Grandmother, Sarah R. Perry Greenwood, he settled about one-half mile southwest and across the road from the Tyer Cemetery. When the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad was built, it ran north and south through Cherry Valley and Hydrick and was about one-half mile further west from Grandfather's home. It was at the site of the railroad that the business section of Hydrick was located, and where, I feel sure, that Grandfather built his store. I judged that Grandfather James married within a few years after the 1850 census was taken in October of that year.

The first child of my grandparents was Rebecca Malvina (Aunt Mallie), who was born October 17, 1855. My father, George Washington Hydrick, was their second child. He was born March 6, 1857. The Mitchell Township, Poinsett County, Arkansas, census taken July 12, 1860, lists Grandfather James as age twenty-seven, his wife, Sarah, as age thirty-one; their son, Rawls (Rolls) Greenwood as age thirteen; her daughter, Matilda Greenwood, age eleven; Rebecca Malvina Hydrick as age five; and George W. Hydrick as age three. My grandmother had two other children after Pa was born.

### **James A. Hydrick**

Pa told me that there was a child who died in infancy, but he did not remember the name or sex of this child. The 1860 Mortality Schedule of Poinsett County, Arkansas, however, reflects that James A. Hydrick was born in September or October of 1859 and died in December of that year, so he was not over three months old at the time of his death. I assume that he was buried in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick, Arkansas; however, his grave has not been found.

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

### **Florida Hydrick Stafford**

Florie is the name that Pa called his sister, Florida Hydrick, the youngest child of Sarah R. Perry Greenwood and James H. Hydrick. The June 12, 1880, Cross County, Arkansas, census lists her age as eighteen years; therefore, she was born in 1862.

Aunt Florie was approximately one year old when her mother died and Little Grandma Elizabeth took the three children, Aunt Mallie, Pa, and Aunt Florie into her home to live with her and Old Big Grandma. Aunt Florie was, therefore, still of a young age when Grandfather James remarried about 1865 and took the children back home. Aunt Florie lived with her father and step-mother, P. Emeline Henderson Hydrick, until she was grown.

In the meantime, Pa had married Sarah Ella Summitt on January 10, 1878, and they had three children. Sarah Ella died on August 30, 1886, so Aunt Florie kept house for Pa and his three children, Guy Ernest, Oliver Story, and Orda E., until her marriage to B. Tom Stafford on September 12, 1889. In 1979 a record of this marriage was found in the Cross County Courthouse at Wynne, Arkansas.

Aunt Florie and Tom Stafford had one child, a son, Clint. I do not know where the family lived, but it was probably in the town of Cherry Valley. However, the marriage was of short duration. Aunt Florie died when Clint was about two years old. Pa and my mother kept Clint for approximately two years, and then Tom Stafford took his son to live with some of the Staffords who raised him. I do not have any further information about Clint.

I also do not know where Aunt Florie was buried. If not in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick, she was probably buried in the Misener Cemetery near Cherry Valley.

Pa stated that his mother, Sarah R. Perry Greenwood Hydrick, died when he was small and that he could not remember her first name. As Aunt Florie was approximately a year old at the time of her death, Pa would have been about six years old. So it appears that Grandmother Sarah died the year of 1863 at the age of thirty-four. She is not listed on the 1870 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census. I assume that both Great-grandfather John Hydrick and Grandmother Sarah R. Perry Greenwood Hydrick are buried in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick, but if so, we have not been able to find a marker of any kind to denote their grave site. Time, however, may have erased all evidence of a marker, even a small stone marker.

The Civil War, or the "War Between the States", began in 1861, and the state of Arkansas was in no condition to go to war at that time. It had been admitted prematurely as a state to the Union in 1836 with just enough voters to qualify. Two banks had been established, but both failed. With Andrew Jackson's victory over the Bank of the United States and internal improvements, Arkansas could not expect Federal assistance. The yeomen farmers were unable to compete with the big planters. These farmers, who had never asked for or received a loan, discovered, to their dismay, that their taxes were pledged to liquidate the planters' bad debts. Depression reached Arkansas. Many people moved from Arkansas to Texas of which they had heard great stories; they saw only hundreds of miles of formidable swamps in Arkansas. Arkansas, however, did have the only supply of good cotton land left in the South. By 1850, a decade before the Civil

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War, Arkansas had made little progress. So a State program for internal improvements was launched and within five years, much progress had been made. Railroads were constructed. Education had been sorely neglected, but schools, churches, roads, newspapers, levees, and other signs of civilization increased greatly. Immigrants continued to arrive and to stay. The increasing population created new economic patterns. The number of slaves increased more rapidly in the South than in the North. The number of slaveholders doubled, and then tripled. However, the increasing population also caused more people to owe less and less to the rich planters and this "new" population expected the State Government to aid in the establishments of the schools, railroads, levees, and roads. So Arkansas remained the home of small independent farmers who had a few slaves to help them in the hard task of getting ahead.

Arkansas' Governor, Henry M. Rector, who became known as the "War Governor", favored "States Rights" and he called for secession of Arkansas from the Union. Even though the "great northwest", later the Unionist part of Arkansas, was against secession, the secessionists in the cotton counties predicted a glorious future for the State if Arkansas would leave the Union. So Arkansas, as a border state, aligned with the states of the lower South, but before the decision was reached, the difference between the secessionists and unionists almost caused a civil war within the State or at least a separation.

By 1860 Arkansas had greatly advanced, but that same year there was poor harvest, and in 1861, the first year of the war, the crops were a complete failure. So a serious food shortage existed as soon as the war began. All Arkansans experienced difficulties in getting enough to eat. Rather than improving, the situation became worse. Mass starvation faced Arkansas after the disastrous harvest of 1862. The wheat rusted, the oats were diseased, acorns (hog food) were ruined, and the corn was a failure. A hog cholera epidemic severely cut the meat supply. In 1863 there was some relief, as there was an abundance of wheat, although part of it could not be harvested because of the absence of man power. The 1864 crops were good, but little harvesting could be done. Thus the last year of the war brought the greatest scarcity, and the most trying time. People ate anything they could find, and some starved to death.

During the first year of the war, Arkansas played only a minor role because Jefferson Davis concentrated on the eastern and central theatres. In Arkansas the forming and training of troops had to be accomplished and furnished with weapons, and some regiments headed east for the "seat of the war", taking their weapons with them. Arkansas had only a few military academies and few native trained soldiers. Also, the South, including Arkansas, thought the war would be of short duration. In the northwestern or Unionist part of Arkansas, it was different. Many men did not volunteer; they waited to be drafted. On June 25, 1861, the Confederacy belatedly ordered Brigadier General William J. Hardee to command all of Arkansas, and he attempted to perfect his organization, which was not an easy matter. In northeast Arkansas the troops were being collected at Fort Smith and Pitman's Ferry. There were swamps on one side and mountains on the other, so northeast Arkansas proved to be of no strategic importance throughout the war. There was one battle fought in 1861 at Wilson Hill (or Oak Hills) when Generals Price, Pearce, and McCullough met Union officer General Lyon. General Lyon was killed and the battle ended as a victory for the Confederacy. But by winter Arkansas had lost ground. Many soldiers had returned home as at this time they could approve or reject a transfer

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due to an agreement that Hardee had entered into with the Military Board. Governor Rector claimed that the Army had been turned loose, not discharged.<sup>5.2</sup>

Pineville became the assembly place for the soldiers in that section of eastern Arkansas, to form five companies when the war started in 1861. Most of the soldiers were credited to Poinsett County, as Cross County had not yet been formed.<sup>5.3</sup> Grandfather James enlisted June 20, 1862, at Pineville. According to Pa, his uncles, Isham and Benjamin, also served in the Civil War, Pa stating that his Uncle Ben was killed while in service. Information about these three Hydricks received from the Arkansas History Commission is as follows:

"We find that Jacob and J. H. Hydrick were in the same company as Isham Hydrick. Co. D. 30th Arkansas Infantry".

"J. H. Hydrick enlisted June 20, 1862, at Pineville. Age 32 born in Arkansas. Muster Roll of April 1863, deserted November 2, 1862 near Boston Mountains".

"Listed on a prisoner of War Roll, Paroled at Wittsburg, Arkansas May 25, 1865".

"Isom (Isham) Hydrick served in the Confederate Army as a Private in Company D, 30th Arkansas Infantry, from June 20, 1862 until Sept. 20, 1862, furloughed home sick. Enlisted at Pineville, Arkansas by Capt. Martin".

"No record found on Benjamin Hydrick" *[Editor's note: one researcher found Benjamin in the 48<sup>th</sup> AR (Mounted) Infantry, enlisting in 1862. He most likely joined the 30<sup>th</sup> with his brothers in June 1862. After Price's Raid, some members of the 30<sup>th</sup> (with horses or mules) were enrolled in the new 48<sup>th</sup> Mounted Infantry. There are no surviving musters rolls for the 48<sup>th</sup> and the units were vastly scattered for foraging purposes and could not be assembled for mustering out with other surviving units in May 1865 at Wittsburg].*

It appears that the records had been misplaced on Benjamin Hydrick and that Pa was correct in stating that he was killed during the war, and, I feel sure, the family was notified at the time of his death. Pa stated that his Uncle Isham was also killed, however, if Isham was furloughed home sick, he evidently died soon after his arrival home, and Pa thought he was killed while in service, or that is the way Pa remembered Isham's death *[Editor's note: Isham's brother William named his fourth son Isham Price in June 1862]*. The Military Record shows Grandfather James' age at enlistment as thirty-two. Since he was born on January 1, 1832, his correct age at that time was age thirty.

Two other major battles were fought in the northwestern part of Arkansas, both in the Boston Mountains. The first battle was at Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern). This battle lasted two days, from March 6, 1862, through March 8, 1862. Despite some brave fighting, the Union army won the victory in this "Gettysburg of the West".<sup>5.4</sup> As an assignment in school, my nephew, Jack D. Hydrick, wrote a paper about his Great-grandfather Hydrick. His Grandfather, George Washington Hydrick (my father) told Jack that Grandfather James Hydrick participated in this battle at Pea Ridge.

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The second battle took place at Prairie Grove, south of Fayetteville on December 7, 1862. On May 31, 1862, General Thomas C. Hindman assumed command of the Confederate troops, then in the vicinity of Van Buren. That section of the country was destitute of food, and the Arkansas River was too low for navigation. The scant rations for the men and forage for the Calvary horses and draft animals were hauled eighty miles to their camps. The main body of the Union force under General Blount was around Newberg, a distance of forty-five miles from Van Buren. Another division was at Cane Hill near Russellville. General Hindman moved northward on December 3, 1862, but lack of shoes and arms prevented him from taking his entire force, and he had barely enough ammunition for a single battle.<sup>5.5</sup>

I believe that Grandfather James was one of those left behind, probably without food and shoes, that he was disillusioned, and that he decided he had had enough of war and would return home to his family. However, he did not make it home as he was captured, and as his Military Record shows, he was listed on a prisoner of War Roll and was paroled at Wittsburg on May 25, 1865, after the war had ended in April of that year.

The two armies. Confederate and Union, met at Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862. Most of the troops fought well, but shortage of food and munitions gave Hindman no incentive to continue the fighting. The next day the long and laborious retreat down the Boston Mountains began. Initially at least the battle was considered a Confederate victory, but as a result of Hindman's withdrawal, and the subsequent dispersion of his forces, the Federals reaped the fruits of a victory which they never earned on the battlefield. After Prairie Grove, Hindman's Army fell to pieces. Many of the soldiers deserted to go home to their starving families and others went over to the Union side, and were then abandoned when the Union Army moved on.<sup>5.6</sup>

Under these circumstances, I feel that Grandfather James was justified in deserting his regiment since the entire Company had become demoralized and, after the Battle of Prairie Grove, acted in the same manner as Grandfather James had done.

Economically the Civil War set the state of Arkansas back twenty years.<sup>5.7</sup> During the war Old Big Grandma, Mary Polly, and Little Grandma, Elizabeth, were left at home to manage the best they could. I imagine that Mary Polly felt the need of all her fortitude and strength and that Elizabeth knew well how to sustain her. Aunt Mallie told Madie the following incidents about Mary Polly and Elizabeth's life together during the war:

Old Big Grandma had to go to Wittsburg or to the nearest port on the Mississippi River for supplies during the Civil War. She and Little Grandma would put a feather bed in the wagon in the event that Mary Polly had to spend the night before she was able to obtain her supplies and return home before nightfall.

At one time Mary Polly and Elizabeth hid their gun in the feather bed. Some Yankees came to their home, found the gun, and bent the barrel of the gun around a tree. Old Big Grandma and

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Little Grandma dug up dirt from the smokehouse. They boiled the dirt to get the salt from it, as they needed salt so badly.

Little Grandma had one son at home that she dressed like a girl when she heard that the Yankees were coming. Little Grandma also hid their meat in the plum thicket when she heard the Yankees were near. I think this son was Samuel and that he was about fourteen years old. Old Big Grandma sold her slaves and received cash in payment of them *[Editor's note: she apparently did not sell all her slaves. In the 1870 census, Old Big Grandma and daughter-in-law Betsy are living with grandson James H. Hydrick's family with one 11-year old Negro named Laura Hydrick, born 1859]*. This money was worthless when the war ended as she was paid with Confederate money.

Cross County was created by an Act of the General Assembly of Arkansas on November 15, 1862, out of Crittenden, Poinsett, and St. Francis Counties. The Civil War had been in progress for about one and one-half years. Due to the war, there was no permanent County seat established, but the county records were kept at Pineville. After the war was over in April, 1865, the town of Cleburne was selected as the County seat, and the residence of Colonel Cross, for whom the County was named, was used as a temporary courthouse and clerk's office. The various courts held their sessions in a tenant house on the farm. No courthouse was ever erected at Cleburne, but the County seat was there for three years from November, 1865 to October, 1868. Eight lots were donated by Caroline M. Austell for a courthouse to be erected in the town of Wittsburg, so the County Records were moved from Cleburne to Wittsburg for the term of court starting in October, 1868. Business was to be conducted in the new combination church and schoolhouse, and the clerk's office was in a rented house.

For fourteen years routine county business continued at Wittsburg. Elections were conducted, licenses were granted for ferries and hotels, roads were constructed, school and road districts were formed, and a jail was built. But when the Helena branch of the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad was completed in 1882, Wittsburg began to decline as a place of importance. Many of the business and professional people moved to Vanndale which was located on the new railroad. An election was held in September, 1884, and Vanndale was chosen as the County seat. Both John Hydrick and Grandfather James were appointed commissioners, with others, to find a suitable place to build a courthouse in Vanndale. The records were moved to Vanndale in July, 1885.

Wynne, also on the railroad, contested this move, and the wrangle for the County seat between Vanndale and Wynne continued until Vanndale was officially declared the County seat in April, 1886. An acre of ground was bought from the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railway Company for \$100 and a two-story red brick courthouse was constructed at a cost of \$13,700. It was used for the first time in May, 1888. I well remember this courthouse as I thought it an imposing structure when I was a small child. It was the first official courthouse that was built in Cross County. At that time and for many years afterwards, Vanndale was a thriving and prosperous town. I believe it was the second largest town in Cross County. The Courthouse was a historic site, but it is now completely deteriorated for lack of interest and money to preserve it. The County seat was in Vanndale from 1884 to 1903, a total of nineteen years.

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The issue in Wynne had never died since their defeat at the polls in 1884, so in 1903 a petition was signed by 819 qualified electors of Cross County asking that an election be held for the removal of the County seat from Vanndale to Wynne. The result of the election was only fifty-five votes against the change. The records were moved from Vanndale to a brick building in Wynne known as the Opera House. In 1905 a bid for a courthouse to be erected was accepted and the courthouse was completed in May, 1906. So forty-four years after Cross County was incorporated, the fourth and permanent County seat was established. The Courthouse was remodeled in 1930, and a new courthouse was completed in October, 1969, which is in use at the present time.<sup>5,8</sup>

Pa stated that when he was about eight years old, probably in early 1865, that Grandfather James married a young Henderson girl. The 1870 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census lists James H. Hydrick's wife as Emeline. On this census Grandfather is age thirty-eight, Emeline is age thirty-one, Aunt Mallie is age fourteen, and Pa is age twelve. Florida (Aunt Florie) is age ten. Elizabeth or Little Grandma as she was called by her grandchildren is listed as being age sixty-three, and Old Big Grandma, Mary Polly, is age seventy-eight.

Grandfather James and Emeline had three children. John W. Hydrick appears on the 1870 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census as age three. James D. Hydrick and Dovie L. A. Hydrick (Aunt Dovie), first appear on the 1880 Mitchell Township, Cross County, Arkansas census.

### **The John W. Hydrick Family**

According to the June 12, 1880, Cross County, Arkansas, census, John W. Hydrick was born in 1868. He was the oldest child of P. Emeline Henderson and James H. Hydrick. He grew up at Hydrick, Arkansas, and on May 23, 1892, married Ora Lawrence. A record of their marriage was found in the Cross County Courthouse, Wynne, Arkansas, in 1979. Ora Lawrence was the daughter of Emeline Shaver and Bob Lawrence. Emeline was the daughter of Martha Patricia James and Zemesiah Shaver so Ora Lawrence was a third cousin to Pa through his mother, Sarah R. Perry Greenwood Hydrick, whose mother was Matilda Shaver, who married Rolls Perry.<sup>5,9</sup> Uncle John and Aunt Ora lived at Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. They had one child, a daughter Emma.

On November 1 through November 3, 1981, Montie and I visited Madie at Fisher, Arkansas. We also went to see Mr. William Harrison Ball, age 94, and his wife, who live near Madie. We knew Mr. Ball during our childhood when we lived in Hickory Ridge with Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben as Mr. Ball and family lived in Hickory Ridge at that time. Montie went to school with his son Ernest. Mr. Ball's first wife was a Lawrence.

Pa stated that his half-brothers, John W. and James D. Hydrick, lived in Oklahoma. Mr. Ball said that Uncle John and Aunt Ora, with the daughter, Emma, and also with Mr. Ball's brother, Sherman Ball, went from Hickory Ridge to Oklahoma in 1906. They settled near Tulsa Oklahoma, at a place called Bartlesville.

It seems that many people from eastern Arkansas were moving to the Oklahoma Territory. By 1905 and probable several years earlier, oil had been discovered there. People were going to

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Oklahoma to seek their fortune. The first oil well in Oklahoma Territory was drilled at Bartlesville.<sup>5.10</sup>

On Pa's obituary at his death on December 26, 1939, Uncle John W is listed as a survivor living in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. I feel sure that my half brothers, Guy Ernest and Oliver Story, knew Uncle John's address when Pa passed away. A few years ago I wrote to the postmaster at Lone Wolf see if he knew any Hydricks. He replied that there were no Hydricks living in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. I was looking for any descendant of Uncle John as I knew that he was deceased by that time. I later found that Uncle John and Aunt Ora's only child was their daughter, Emma. So Uncle John's descendants would not have used the Hydrick name. Mr. Ball stated that Emma married an oil driller. In February, 1982, Gary Anderson informed me that his name was Artie Brewer.

Emma and her husband came back to Brassfield, Arkansas, where Mr. Ball stated that she died. Gary Anderson stated that a Mrs. Burns thought there were two children, Fern and Artie. Mrs. Burns also thought Emma was living in Southside Phoenix or Tucson, Arizona in 1968.

### **James D. Hydrick**

James D. Hydrick was the second child of P. Emeline Henderson and James H. Hydrick. The June 12, 1880, Cross County, Arkansas, census indicates that he was born in 1874. Very little information seems to be known about James D. Hydrick.

Pa stated that he knew that James D. Hydrick married but he did remember James' wife's name. He stated also that James D. Hydrick his wife separated, and James D. Hydrick died. According to the record their marriage certificate, James D. Hydrick married Lula Mullins on Jun 1896. This record was found in 1979 in the Cross County Courthouse Wynne, Arkansas.

Mr. William H. Ball, who is mentioned in the report on John W. Hydrick, stated that James D. Hydrick lived at Vanndale, Arkansas. George L. Hydrick of Hickory Ridge, the son of my half-brother, Guy Ernest, stated that he remembers hearing that James D. Hydrick lived at Vanndale. Mr. Ball also remembered that James D. Hydrick went to Oklahoma to but he did not know the time of his going. However, Mr. Ball did state James D. did not accompany his brother, John W. Hydrick, and his family to Oklahoma in 1906.

So I can only assume that James D. Hydrick, with his wife, Lula, went to Oklahoma, separated while they were living there, and that James D. Hydrick died in that state. As far as I know, James D. Hydrick left no descendants.

### **Dovie L. Ann Hydrick Hitower Sifford**

Dovie L. Ann Hydrick, the youngest child of P. Emeline Henderson and James H. Hydrick, was born at Hydrick, Arkansas, on January 5, 1878. She grew up at Hydrick. I assume that she was quite mature for her age because at age thirteen she married George Daniel Hitower on July 26, 1891.<sup>5.11</sup> The record of their marriage was found at the Cross County Courthouse in Wynne, Arkansas.

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

George Daniel Hitower was born June 14, 1862. He had no wife or near relative when he came from Texas to the Hydrick vicinity.<sup>5.12</sup> He was fifteen years older than Aunt Dovie as he was age twenty-eight when they married.

It appears that soon after her marriage or during the year of 1892 that Aunt Dovie and her husband moved to Oklahoma Territory. Their first child, a daughter, Clara, was born on August 14, 1893, in Ramona, Oklahoma, when Aunt Dovie was fifteen years old.<sup>5.13</sup> Ramona is located between Tulsa and Bartlesville, Oklahoma.<sup>5.14</sup> My half-brother, Guy Ernest Hydrick, accompanied them on this trip. Ern at age fourteen was in, or had completed, the eighth grade in school and very likely was eager to go along. He was only one year younger than Aunt Dovie. If Aunt Dovie and George Hitower went to Oklahoma to make their home, they were evidently disappointed with this territory. Maybe Aunt Dovie, being young, became homesick. At any rate, it appears that they returned to Arkansas with their infant daughter and Ern within a few months or not more than a year after going to Oklahoma.<sup>5.15</sup> Upon their return from Oklahoma to Cherry Valley, Aunt Dovie and her family spent the first night with her niece, Ida, and her husband, George Washington Stacy, at their farm.<sup>5.16</sup>

I do not know just where Aunt Dovie and George Hitower lived after their return from Oklahoma Territory, but Hitower rented land from Captain James M. Levesque, who had fought as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.<sup>5.17</sup> So I judge that Aunt Dovie and her husband lived near the town of Levesque and farmed this rented land at least for a while. Another daughter, Jewel, was born to Aunt Dovie and George D. Hitower on September 12, 1895, at Cherry Valley, Arkansas.<sup>5.18</sup>

George Daniel Hitower died on February 5, 1899, at the age of thirty-eight. His daughters, Clara and Jewel, were still quite young. Clara was only six years old. Aunt Dovie buried him by the side of her father (my Grandfather James) in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick. A tall stone is at the head of his grave. I know that the dates of birth and death of George Daniel Hitower are correct as I checked these dates on May 30, 1964, when Montie and I visited the Tyer Cemetery.

Three Sifford brothers were living in Cherry Valley at this time. They were James Harmon Sifford, who was born January 17, 1862, and died June 24, 1930; John Avril Sifford, Sr., born August 13, 1864, and died December 5, 1942; and Samuel Grant Sifford, born April 5, 1869, and died May 2, 1916. These three brothers had come to Cherry Valley from Virginia from a family consisting of four other children-one brother and three sisters. Four more children, a girl and three boys, were born to the parents of these brothers and sisters, but these four children died the day they were born.<sup>5.19</sup>

James Harmon Sifford married, but his wife died. There is a marker at her grave in the Bowers Cemetery at Cherry Valley which reads: "Joanna B. Sifford. Died February 3, 1899, age 27 years, 10 months, and 23 days".<sup>5.20</sup> Aunt Dovie did not remain a widow for long. She was only twenty-one years old and had two young children to raise.

On May 5, 1899, only three months after George Daniel Hitower's death, she married James Harmon Sifford. A record of their marriage was found in the Cross County Courthouse in

## OLD BIG GRANDMA by Annie Odessa Hydrick

Wynne in 1979. James Harmon Sifford was the President of the Bank of Cherry Valley and a planter.<sup>5.21</sup> He and Aunt Dovie resided at Cherry Valley. They did not have any children. James Harmon Sifford died at the age of sixty-eight. He was buried in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick. Aunt Dovie outlived him by twenty-one years. She died June 28, 1951, at the age of seventy-three. She was buried beside him in the Tyer Cemetery. Montie and I found their graves in April, 1976, on our visit to this cemetery.

I do not remember Aunt Dovie. Montie said that Pa took us to see her when we were small, but I do not believe that we went often or I would have remembered her. I knew that Pa had a half-sister who lived at Cherry Valley; but as I was not accustomed to visiting Aunt Dovie, it did not occur to me to visit her during my school vacations when I went to Hickory Ridge to see Pa, Aunt Mallie, and Cousin Leota. Aunt Dovie was twenty-three years younger than Aunt Mallie and twenty-one years younger than Pa.

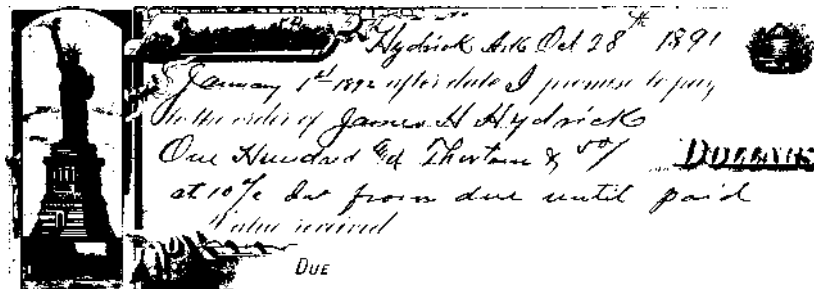
### Children of Dovie L. Ann Hydrick and George Daniel Hitower

**1. Clara:** At about nineteen years of age, Clara married William Maurice Smith of Birdeye, Arkansas, in 1912. W. Maurice Smith was several years older than Clara so we think he was approximately age thirty-one at the time of their marriage. W. Maurice Smith's mother was Elizabeth (Betty) Levesque, the daughter of Captain James M. Levesque.<sup>5.22</sup> Children:

1. James Harmon Smith
2. William Maurice Smith, Jr.
3. Elizabeth Smith Johnston
4. Ann Smith Quessenberry<sup>5.23</sup>

**2. Jewel:** Jewel married Tom Toombs of Vandale, Arkansas. Children: None.

Below is a copy of a note payable to Grandfather James, dated October 28, 1891, at Hydrick, Arkansas. This note was among Aunt Mallie's papers that her son, Roy Greenwood, had kept through the years after his mother's death on March 18, 1934. It was sent to me in March, 1980, by Madie, after Roy's death on June 29, 1979.



I have heard from two people requesting information on the Hydricks. They stated they were Hydrick descendants. One is Sherrell Henderson, whom I mentioned earlier, and who lives at Jonesboro, Arkansas. She is a descendant of one of the twin daughters of Great-grandfather John's son, William, who was born in 1830 and married Nancy Huey. Mary Rebecca Hydrick, born in 1855, married Thomas Newton Henderson, born in 1856, and he was Sherrell's great-great-grandfather. Mary Rebecca was called Mary Beck. Her twin was Mary Ann Elizabeth

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Catherine Hydrick. She was called Clementine or "Tiny" as a nickname. I found on the 1860 Poinsett County, Arkansas, census that Sherrell sent to me this information: "Priscilla Henderson, born in Georgia in 1840". In 1870 this Priscilla Henderson would have been age thirty, which agrees with the age of Emeline, the wife of Grandfather James, with the exception of one year.

This exception is probably due to the date of Emeline's birth and the date the census was taken. So I believe that Emeline Henderson and Priscilla Henderson were one and the same person, especially since Grandfather James' wife is listed as P. Emeline on the 1880 census taken June 12, 1880. Priscilla Emeline Henderson was the daughter of William A. Henderson, born in South Carolina in 1814, and his wife, Sarah Henderson, born in South Carolina in 1817.

The other person who wrote to me was Mrs. Winston (Alma) Daniel of 1209 Guilford College Road, Jamestown, North Carolina 27282. Alma grew up at Cherry Valley, Arkansas. She stated in her letter that she was a descendant of the Hydricks, and she wanted to know which Hydrick married the Indian girl. She also stated that her Grandmother, Ada Henderson, born in 1876, was one-fourth Indian and was a cousin to Dovie Hydrick Hitower Sifford (Pa's half-sister) and Ida Greenwood Stacy (Aunt Mallie's daughter). Alma stated she thought the name of Ada's mother was Sarah. So Sarah's father would have been John Hydrick who married Elizabeth, the Indian girl. I do not know the first name of the Henderson that Great-Aunt Sarah married, but he was evidently an uncle to P. Emeline Henderson, Grandfather James' second wife.

I have also corresponded with Bill and Ruby Hydrick of Marshall, Texas. Bill is a descendant of William Hydrick, a brother of Grandfather James.

Several years before the death of my half-brother, Oliver Story Hydrick, I asked him if he knew where our grandparents were buried. Ollie, as he was called, replied that he had heard that "Grandpa and Grandma were on their way to Oklahoma and Grandma died on the way and was buried near Muskogee, Oklahoma".<sup>5,24</sup>

Ollie's son, Flynn Hydrick, also remembers hearing this story, no doubt from his father. Flynn's remembrance is as follows: Grandpa and Grandma were traveling with a group or several families to Oklahoma with the intention of making their home in this vast territory as Oklahoma had not yet become a state. Bad luck seemed to be against them; they had a lot of trouble while traveling. There was much sickness. Grandma died "on the way" and was buried near Muskogee, Oklahoma. So the group had reached Oklahoma Territory, but they were so discouraged that they did not stay. They turned around and came back to Arkansas. I am wondering if they had started to Bartlesville to seek oil. If so, Muskogee is quite a distance from Bartlesville and they may have been too discouraged to travel further.

I do not know if Grandma's death was the only death in this group or if there were also other deaths among them. This "Grandma", however, was not mine and Ollie's grandmother. Our grandmother was Sarah R. Perry Greenwood Hydrick, who died about 1863. So Grandfather James' wife on this trip to Oklahoma was P. Emeline Henderson. As Ollie was born March 3, 1881, P. Emeline was the only grandmother that he knew, so he called her Grandma.

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

No one with whom I have talked has been certain of the date that Grandfather James and his wife began their trek to Oklahoma. The Cross County, Arkansas, 1890 census was almost completely destroyed in Washington, D. C. by fire, so we cannot trace Grandfather James and his wife's whereabouts from this record.<sup>5.25</sup> Since Aunt Dovie married at age thirteen on July 26, 1891, I assume that she was still living at home with both of her parents, but within approximately six months she and her husband went to Ramona, Oklahoma. It is possible that Grandfather James, with this group of families, decided to go to Oklahoma to seek oil, and began their journey in the fall of 1893. Grandfather's wife, P. Emeline, died and was buried near Muscogee, Oklahoma. The group was already discouraged and if other deaths had occurred, they decided to return to Arkansas. It may have been that Aunt Dovie, upon hearing of her mother's death, also wanted to return to Arkansas, and to take care of her father, who also may not have been very well at that time. So Aunt Dovie persuaded her husband, George Daniel Hitower, to return to Arkansas. If so, this accounts for their short stay in Oklahoma Territory.

They were in Cherry Valley, Arkansas, when Aunt Dovie's second child, Jewel, was born on September 12, 1895. Aunt Dovie's brother, John W. Hydrick, had married Ora Lawrence on May 23, 1892, and was living in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Her brother, James D. Hydrick, however, did not marry Lula Mullins until June 6, 1896. The exact date of P. Emeline Henderson Hydrick's death, therefore, cannot be determined.

Grandfather James was not to live for many more years. Madie stated that he died in 1898 at the age of sixty-seven. My brother, Graham C. Hydrick, also told me that Grandfather James died in 1898. Madie has always thought that Grandfather died at the home of his daughter (Aunt Dovie) in Cherry Valley, Arkansas. Madie remembers going with her mother to see Grandfather James, who was ill at that time. Madie remembers that Aunt Mallie helped Grandfather out of bed and that he was wearing long drawers. Madie was three years old at the time, so I imagine the sight of the long drawers made an impression on her and caused her to vividly remember the visit. Grandfather James was buried in the Tyer Cemetery at Hydrick and has a Confederate stone marker at his grave [*Editor's note: vandals or souvenir collectors have since stolen the Confederate marker*].

### **NOTES**

<sup>5.1</sup> Cary Anderson, Priory School, 32 Hope, Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.

<sup>5.2</sup> Dougan.

<sup>5.3</sup> Chowning

<sup>5.4</sup> The Diary of an Unknown Soldier, September 5, 1862, to 1862. ElsaVaught, ed. Fayetteville, Ark.: Southwest Printing Co, nd

<sup>5.5</sup> Jones, Samuel. The Battle of Prairie Grove, December 7, 1862. Booklet reproduced from the original. August, 1965.

<sup>5.6</sup> Dougan.

<sup>5.7</sup> Dougan.

<sup>5.8</sup> James.

<sup>5.9</sup> Anderson.

<sup>5.10</sup> Billy Gene Hydrick, 5346 East 27th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114.

<sup>5.11</sup> Flynn Hydrick, 1107 Poplar St., Wynne, Ark. 72396.

<sup>5.12</sup> Graham C. Hydrick (deceased) and Flynn Hydrick.

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5.13 Elizabeth Smith Johnson, R.F.D., Cherry Valley, Ark. 72324.

5.14 Dr. Dewey Sifford, 1109 Thrush St., Jonesboro, Ark. 72401.

5.15 Flynn Hydrick.

5.16 Sifford.

5.17 Flynn Hydrick.

5.18 Johnson.

5.19 Sifford.

5.20 Sifford.

5.21 Sifford.

5.22 Flynn Hydrick.

5.23 Anderson.

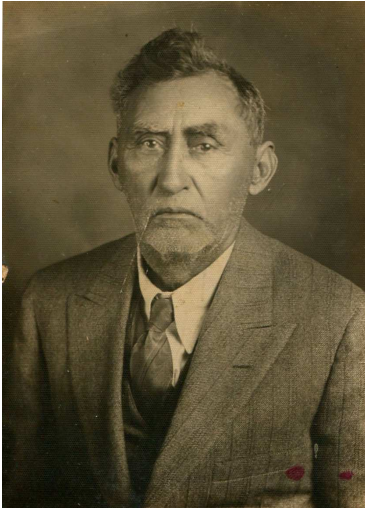
5.24 This story was confirmed by Mr. William Harrison Ball of Rural Route, Fisher, Arkansas 72429, which he either remembered or it may have been told to him by Grandfather James' son, John W. Hydrick who, for a while, lived in Hickory Ridge, as did Mr. Ball.

5.25 James.

# OLD BIG GRANDMA

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## CHAPTER VI



**George Washington Hydrick** My father, George Washington Hydrick, the son of Sarah R. Perry Greenwood and James H. Hydrick, was born March 6, 1857 at Hydrick, Arkansas, about one-half mile southwest of the Tyer Cemetery. As previously stated, Pa's mother died when he was about six years of age. His Grandmother Elizabeth (Little Grandma), whose husband, John, had died before the year 1860, still had some of her family at home, including Old Big Grandma, Mary Polly. Elizabeth's sons, James, Jacob, Isham, and Benjamin had enlisted in the service of the confederacy in 1862 as the Civil War was in progress, but she had one son and two daughters, Sarah and Catherine (Kate) at home. Also, as previously stated, Pa did not mention having uncles named Baker D., Robert, and Samuel, but I believe that the son at home with Elizabeth was Samuel. He would have been age fourteen in 1862 and hardly old enough to go to war. Baker D. would have been age nineteen, and Robert age seventeen, so both Baker D. and Robert would have been eligible for war service.

Therefore, I think that Baker D. and Robert died while they were still close to infancy. After the death of Pa's mother, apparently in 1863, Little Grandma took him, Aunt Mallie, and Aunt Florie to raise. Probably Grandmother Sarah's two children by her first husband (?) Greenwood, Rawls (Rolls) and Matilda, then lived with their Greenwood grandparents, or some other Greenwood relative. Rolls was about age fifteen or sixteen and Matilda age thirteen or fourteen at the time of their mother's death. I believe that Pa knew Elizabeth's son, Samuel, but that Samuel did not live to be grown and married, otherwise, Pa would have told me about this uncle and his family. Pa stated that he remembered seeing some of the soldiers of the Civil War as they passed through the town of Hydrick, but there was no fighting around his home. Pa was only seven years old when he saw the soldiers and he did not say if they were Confederate or Union, or both, but I feel certain that he knew a war was being fought and that Old Big Grandma and Little Grandma were frightened of the Yankees.

Pa and his sisters lived with Old Big Grandma and Little Grandma for about one and one-half years as Pa stated that when he was eight years old, Grandfather James married the Henderson girl. So the approximate time of Grandfather James' marriage to P. Emeline Henderson was early 1865, when Grandfather was age thirty-three. Grandfather James then took his three children, Pa, Aunt Mallie, and Aunt Florie, back home to live with him and his new wife.

During his childhood Pa stated that the family did their trading at the town of Wittsburg, formerly the old Spanish Grant #2379, which had become the flourishing river town of eastern Arkansas. Wittsburg was five miles north of the now vanished Cherokee Village, of which, I imagine, Old Big Grandma, and especially Little Grandma Elizabeth, vividly thought of many times since Elizabeth had spent at least a part of her childhood there. By the time Pa was grown, the town of Wittsburg had declined. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad had

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

been built, and it ran through the town of Hydrick where Grandfather James had established himself as a merchant and postmaster.

Little Grandma Elizabeth apparently died between 1870 and 1880 as she is not listed on the June 12, 1880 Coldwater and Mitchell Township, Cross County, Arkansas, census. Old Big Grandma, Mary Polly, is listed on this census as being eighty-eight years old and living in the household of her grandson, James Hydrick and wife, P. Emeline. She was blind by 1877. Madie stated that Aunt Mallie told her that Old Big Grandma rocked her (Aunt Mallie's) two oldest children, Ida Mae, who was born in 1877, and James Arthur, born in 1879. So I feel certain that she also rocked Pa's two oldest sons, Guy Ernest, born in 1879, and Oliver Story, born in 1881. Therefore, it appears that Old Big Grandma was in her early 90's before she passed away. I also think that she was buried somewhere in the Tyler Cemetery near Hydrick.



**Sarah Ella Summitt Hydrick**

When Pa was age twenty-one he married Sarah Ella Summitt on January 10, 1878. Sarah Ella was born January 18, 1856, in Decatur County, Indiana, and moved with her family to Cross County, Arkansas, on May 16, 1876. So she had only been in the vicinity of Hydrick for about one and one-half years when Pa married her. It is recorded in the Family Bible that they were married at the Crede residence by G. M. Settlemoir, Justice of the Peace. Witnesses to the ceremony were T. P. Greenwood and J. T. Smith.

I do not know if Pa and his bride continued to live at Hydrick or if they lived at "Old" Cherry Valley. This settlement received its name from a large grove of cherry trees on the western slopes of the Ridge north of Cleburne. Its first Post Office was in the home of G. W. Stacy, which is near the grove. When the

railroad went through that section in 1882, about one and one-half miles westward and downhill, Mr. Stacy erected the first building, a hotel, and moved the Post Office to the rails. The townspeople followed with their homes and businesses and among them was George W. Hydrick with a cotton gin and blacksmith shop.<sup>6.1</sup> I believe that Pa owned the blacksmith shop but did not own the cotton gin unless he bought the gin later. Pa was foreman of the gin which was owned by Mr. G. W. Stacy. Aunt Mallie's husband, Uncle Ben Greenwood, also worked at this gin.

The first child of Sarah Ella Summitt and George Washington Hydrick was Guy Ernest Hydrick, born January 4, 1879. Their second child was Oliver Story Hydrick, who was born March 3, 1881. So I think these two children were born either at Hydrick or "Old" Cherry Valley. Their third child, a daughter, Orda E. Hydrick, was born in "New" Cherry Valley on July 16, 1885.

According to Mrs. Clyde Eldridge, the Hydricks were Baptists. I have stated that Old Big Grandma Mary Polly and her family were Baptists, and records have shown that her son, John, was a very devout Baptist who helped organize several churches in the surrounding communities. I assume that Grandfather James continued in this faith of his family. Pa was also

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a Baptist. I found a penciled sheet of paper in the family Bible that I believe was written by my older sister, Beachie, before her death in 1917. I do not know if Beachie had kept this paper among her things and finally put it in the Bible for safe keeping or just what happened, but the paper was worn and torn at one edge. In fact, the pertinent data that Beachie was trying to preserve is missing - the date of the event she had recorded. This is how the paper read:

Mother perfect religion 1889  
+ joined the M church at  
Cherry Valley 1892  
Beachie perfect religion  
1905 + joined the M  
church at Bay ... as  
the same year  
Father perfect religion 18  
+ joined the Baptist church  
at Cherry Valley the ...  
then joined the Methodist  
church at Cherry Valley 189  
Homer Hydrick perfect  
religion 1909 + joined the  
Methodist church at Vann  
the same year

So I do not know what year Pa was converted and joined the Baptist Church. I feel that it was during his adolescence or young manhood probably before his marriage as there is no information on the paper where his wife, Sarah Ella, was a church member.

Pa was fifty-three years old when I was born. Age fifty-three is considered as middle aged at the present time but in 1910, the year I was born, a man that age was getting up in years. So I can hardly visualize Pa as being young and carefree and having fun as a young man. Mischievous? Yes. But he was always a quiet man, minding his own business, never gossiping or saying anything bad about anyone, and he attended and contributed to his church regularly. In fact, he was just a good man and everyone liked "Uncle George" as he was called. He had a dry sense of humor and wit and, with a twinkle in his eye, I can imagine that he enjoyed playing pranks on people in his younger days. At any rate, I'm sure had one very good time when he was a young man. HE DANCED! Now, I do not know if he only danced a jig but he not only danced one

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time, he danced many times, or if he had a partner, maybe Sarah Ella, but he danced! The Baptist Church was against dancing so he was "excommunicated", "churched", or "thrown out" of the Baptist Church because of his dancing. That made him angry so he joined the Methodist Church! Pa was a very stubborn man - he was sometimes called "hardheaded" by the family - so if the Methodist Church had not been near or handy for him to have joined, I believe he would have joined the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed, or any other church to show the Baptists that they could not throw him out and leave him without a church. As the rest of the sentence on the paper found in the Bible reads "...then he joined the Methodist Church at Cherry Valley in 18 ", the exact date is missing so I do not know how long it was before Pa joined the Methodist Church. In this case, knowing my father's disposition, I do not believe it was very long, that on this same paper that Beachie had preserved were dates that members of the family became church members.

As the above story came down through the years, instead of be indignant over Pa being expelled as a member of the Baptist Church, I have only been amused. It possibly embarrassed and humiliated him to some extent at the time, but because I have always loved music and also loved to dance, I can readily understand how the fiddles and harmonicas put Pa in the mood to dance, so he danced! I also rather admired him for not thinking of the consequences, or if he did, for not heeding them, as his actions were spontaneous and felt natural and right to him at that time. I believe that Pa liked music very much, and this might be one trait I inherited from him. If any kind of music is playing at any time, I hear it above everything else. Some of it is grating to my ears, but I do love to hear beautiful music.

Sarah Ella Summitt Hydrick died on August 30, 1886, leaving Pa with three small children. Guy Ernest was age seven and one-half years, Oliver Story was age five, and Orda E. had just reached her first birthday. Aunt Mallie had married, and Aunt Florie was still living at home with Grandfather James and his wife, P. Emeline. Aunt Florie went to Pa's home to keep house for him and to care for his children. However, Pa stated that when Aunt Florie was about twenty years of age, she married Tom Stafford of Cherry Valley. (I may have made an error when transcribing my notes about Aunt Florie's age. Census records indicate that Aunt Florie was born in 1862, therefore, she was near age twenty-four when Sarah Ella died). So apparently Aunt Florie married within a few months of Sarah Ella's death.

A new family had moved near Hydrick and Cherry Valley the latter part of the year 1885 or early 1886. This family was a large family consisting of a man and his wife and fifteen children. The man was Archibald Maker Pruitt and his wife was Eliza Ann Snellings Pruitt. This family came to Cross County from Independence County, Arkansas. Archibald Maker Pruitt was a doctor and had practiced medicine in Independence County before moving to Cross County. He not only continued the practice of medicine in Cross County in the vicinity where he settled, but he also taught school in the town of Cherry Valley. His children consisted of one son and fourteen daughters. The son, Matthew Holcomb Pruitt, was the oldest child. The youngest child, Minnie, may have been born in Cross County as her date of birth was June 15, 1886. The second child was Martha Marilda Pruitt, born October 16, 1864, in Independence County, Arkansas.

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**Martha Marilda Pruitt Hydrick**

On June 6, 1887, Pa married Martha Marilda Pruitt, so Martha Marilda Pruitt Hydrick was my mother. Pa and Sarah Ella may have known Mamma, but ten months and eight days after Sarah Ella's death, Pa and Mamma were married in Mitchell Township, Cross County, Arkansas, by Moses Pitts, Justice of the Peace. In 1979 while checking the Cross County records in the Courthouse at Wynne, Phil and I found the record of Pa's and Mamma's marriage license, their marriage certificate, and the certificate of the date their marriage was recorded. I have a copy of these certificates, so I have proof of the date of their marriage. Pa was age 29 and Mamma was age 22. Her name was recorded as "Mattie" on the marriage license, but Pa always called her "Rildie". The marriage license was signed by J. M. Levesque, County Clerk, and J. K. Malone, Deputy.

There may have been several reasons for this marriage. Pa certainly needed a wife to care for his three motherless children, especially if Aunt Florie was to marry soon or maybe had already married. Pa was not the type to go into the kitchen and prepare a meal, although he may have done so, and he may have been able to care for his children much better than I think he could. Also, Mamma was probably looking for a husband. She was age twenty-two and the oldest of fourteen sisters, so she already had competition in at least three or four of her sisters who were also of marriageable age. Being a spinster in those days was not as easy as it is now. Every girl was looking for a husband, so she was taught to cook and sew, keep a house, and attend to children.

I do not have a photograph of Mamma when she was young, but I recently received photographs of two of her sisters, Aunt Dainty (Eliza Jane) and Aunt Nettie, taken when they were young women. The photographs of these two sisters are very pretty, so naturally, I believe that Mamma was also very pretty when she was a young woman. When Sarah Ella died, Pa was only twenty-nine years old so I feel sure that he was soon looking for some social life.

My cousin, Beatrice Walls, a daughter of Aunt Geraldine, one of Mamma's sisters, said that Aunt Geraldine went to a dance at Hydrick when she was seventeen years old. She saw Hiram Hodges at the dance. Aunt Geraldine took a good look at Hiram and said, "That's my man!" Later they did become man and wife. I'm wondering if Mamma attended the same dance with Pa or, if not that dance, other dances. Mamma may have thought Pa a dashing young man. If so, his dash and dancing caused him to be thrown out of the Baptist Church! So, again I wonder. Could it have been from my mother that I inherited my love of music and dancing?

And so, Mamma and Pa married and had eight children of their own, and Mamma was a good mother to Pa's three children by Sarah Ella. Both Ern and Ollie, as we called our two half-brothers, have said that Mamma seemed like an own mother to them.

Another notation on the paper that I assume Beachie wrote and put in the Bible was that my mother was converted in 1887 (the year of her marriage) and joined the Methodist Church in Cherry Valley in 1892. Sol do not know if Mamma was of another faith and later followed Pa

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into the Methodist Church or why she did not unite with the Methodist Church until five years after her conversion.

I believe that Mamma soon won the trust and affection of her three young charges. Someone, and I do not remember who it was, told me the following story: Pa was always at work, so when Mamma wanted to go to some place, she would ask Ern to hitch up the horse and buggy and drive for her. Ern was very pleased to do this as it made him feel proud and much older than he was. He thought Mamma was depending on him, and, of course, that helped his ego. Since Mamma and Pa lived at Cherry Valley, Mamma probably often wanted to go visit her parents and sisters near Hydrick, so she had Ern drive her, Ollie, and Orda to make these visits.

Among the early families who settled at Hydrick were the Hodges and Fousts. As previously mentioned, Mamma's sister, Geraldine Pruitt, married Hiram Hodges. Her sister, Nancy Adeline Pruitt, married Hiram's brother, Richard Hodges. Eliza Jane (Dainty) Pruitt married Tom Foust, and Nettie Pruitt married John William Foust, a brother to Tom Foust. Nine of the Pruitt sisters lived to be grown and married and had children; three of them died while they were still infants. One died when she was age thirteen; and Aunt Minnie, the youngest sister, married Albert J. Gatlin, of Hancock, Arkansas, but they did not have any children. Aunt Minnie died in 1924 at the age of 38. Grandfather Pruitt died in 1894, but Grandmother Pruitt outlived him by fifteen years. She died March 10, 1909. These grandparents and also Aunt Minnie were buried in the Misener Cemetery near Cherry Valley. In 1979 when we were in Arkansas, we found Aunt Minnie's grave in this cemetery.

I have heard that Pa and Mamma lived in a house in north Cherry Valley across a creek. The following children were born to them at this house:

1. Beachie E. Hydrick, born July 2, 1888.
2. Minnie Hydrick, born June 9, 1890, and died October 13, 1890.
3. William Homer Hydrick, born January 8, 1892.
4. Graham Clayton Hydrick, born July 4, 1894.
5. James Talmadge Hydrick, born December 30, 1896.

I do not know why Pa decided to leave Cherry Valley, but in 1903 he bought a cotton gin at Bay Village and moved the family there. Pa was a machinist and had his tools for blacksmithing so he could make or repair almost anything that was needed. He could also do carpentry work if necessary, but most of his work by the time of the entry of the automobile was at a grist mill, saw mill, or a cotton gin. Cotton was the main crop during his working years.

Ira C. Hydrick was born at Bay Village on July 8, 1903, and Montie Pearl Hydrick was also born at Bay Village on October 16, 1906. Montie was born on Mamma's 42nd birthday.

Montie was a very young baby when in 1906 Pa moved again, this time to the town of Vanndale. He bought a saw mill and grist mill at the site of Mr. George Gardner's cotton gin where he also established his blacksmith shop. For many years he worked at these mills and ran the cotton gin for Mr. Gardner. Some of the family thought that Pa also had an interest in the cotton gin, at least in later years, but I am not certain of this. When he moved from Bay Village, Pa bought

## OLD BIG GRANDMA by Annie Odessa Hydrick

several acres of ground at the eastern edge of Vanndale, and the house sat back from the road a short distance at the top of a steep hill. I was born in this house on November 10, 1910.



**Back L to R: Buddy, Beachie, Jimmie,  
Ira in white shirt, Matilda seated with Dessie  
and Montie with bow 1911**

and there was an orchard of fruit trees: apples, peaches, and pears. There was one plum tree that bore large red plums. So we always had plenty of fresh fruit, and Mamma also canned fruit for winter use. There was a cellar under the floor in the hallway of the house where the fruit and potatoes were kept. A hinged door could be lifted to put the food in the cellar. There was a cistern on the large back porch. The milk and butter was put in buckets and hung down in the cistern to keep cool. Mamma also

Pa donated a large parcel of land at the foot of the hill to the town of Vanndale to be used as a cemetery. This was during the time that Vanndale was rapidly growing, which might have been one reason that Pa moved to Vanndale. At any rate, he was in Vanndale during the height of its prosperity.

Pa was never a farmer, but during his stay in Vanndale he bought a farm at Oak Grove, a small community a few miles from town. I suppose he rented this farm on the shares to other people during the time that he owned it. There was usually a cotton crop, or corn was planted for the hogs, at the house on the hill, and the boys usually tended these crops. There was a smokehouse where the meat was stored after the hogs

had been butchered. Mamma always had a garden,



**Montie and Dessie with Robert  
Rolland**

caught rain water to have soft water to wash our hair. Montie and I both wore our hair in curls when we were small. There was a large fireplace in this house. Mamma saved wood ashes in barrels and let the rain run through the ashes to obtain lye which she put with old grease and made her own homemade lye soap. There were two walnut trees in the yard. Irene, Mamma's Negro helper, washed and ironed the clothes under one of these walnut trees during the summer months, using the lye soap. I really do not remember Mamma doing any of these things. In fact, I do not remember Mamma at all except by looking at a picture of her. In October, 1912, Mamma became ill, and she died two weeks later on October 12, 1912. She would have been forty-eight years old had she lived four days longer. I was not quite two years old as my second birthday was not until November 10. Montie remembers that some member of the family held her up so that she could see



**Beachie E Hydrick  
Rolland**

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

Mamma lying in the casket. Mamma was buried in the Hydrick plot in the Vanndale Cemetery at the foot of the hill from her home.

Beachie had married Marel Rolland about two years previously, so she and Marel moved into Pa's house to keep the house and take care of the rest of the family. That was a lot of responsibility for a young woman. I was just passed the infant stage and, I'm sure, still needed a lot of care. Montie reached her sixth birthday on October 16 after Mamma's death on October 12. So Montie had recently begun her first school year.

On November 12, 1912, a still-born daughter was born to Beachie and Marel. The baby was buried in the Hydrick plot of the Vanndale Cemetery.

Beachie continued on with the care of the family, and on October 5, 1915, a son, Robert Washington Rolland, was born. Beachie did not fully regain her health, so she passed away on January 5, 1917, leaving Robert, a 15-month-old baby. Beachie was buried beside Mamma in the Vanndale Cemetery. I remember being at the grave site and I was crying. Pa knelt down and put his arm around me and said, "Don't cry, and I will let you and Montie go live with Aunt Mallie". Pa was a stoic person and bore his troubles in that manner.

After Beachie's death the family was separated. Homer and Jimmie had recently enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps as World War I had begun. Ira went to Hickory Ridge to live with Ern and family, and Montie and I did go to Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben's also in Hickory Ridge. Graham (called Buddy) had married Monra Akins. Marel took his infant son back home to his parents so Robert was raised by his Rolland grandparents.

That particular year of my life, 1917, is a little vague. As stated, I remember living in the house on the hill, and I remember many incidents that happened during that time. It seems that I started to school at Vanndale as I remember the school room and going to the front of the room to the recitation bench for the teacher to hear our lesson. However, I suppose I attended school only from September, 1916, until Beachie's death on January 5, 1917, so I evidently continued in the first grade at school when Montie and I went to live with Aunt Mallie. I also remember our going with Pa in the one-seated buggy to visit Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben several times, so Pa knew the thought of our going to Aunt Mallie's to live would please me. However, I'm sure the trauma of Beachie's death and the move was upsetting to me. I was very small for my age and a very timid little girl.

Pa, Marel, and Buddy had built a small house on Pa's place near the road but still near the top of the hill. Buddy and Monra were living in this house when Beachie died. So Buddy and Monra went back to the big house with Pa. Buddy was working at Mr. Gardner's store as a clerk at that time. A few months later he requested a raise in salary from Mr. Gardner, but Mr. Gardner refused. However, Mr. Gardner was getting old and crotchety, so his son, Mr. Harry, who worked for or was in business with his father, made Buddy an offer. Mr. Harry had been willed the large family home of his Grandfather Kellough. Mr. Harry suggested that Buddy and Monra move into this house, his rent to be free, with a \$100 per month raise. This raise was to be without Mr. Gardner's knowledge. Mr. Timothy Lambert, a very trustworthy man, had kept books for the Gardner Mercantile Company for many years, but I wonder if Mr. Gardner ever

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

looked at the books. He was crippled and was not able to work. He only came to the store every day to sit in his chair and to talk to the people. So after talking the matter over with Pa, Buddy moved into the old Kellough house. In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stroup, Sr. had been wanting to rent Pa's small house. Instead, Pa asked that they move into the big house with him, which they did, and this enabled Buddy to move without leaving Pa alone.

The arrangement with Mr. and Mrs. Stroup lasted only about a year as Mr. Stroup passed away during the flu epidemic that raged the winter of 1918. Pa decided to go to Hickory Ridge and stay with Ern and family. Montie and I had already been living with Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben for about a year so it was probably during the summer of 1919 that Pa came to Hickory ridge. I do not know what reason he gave to Mr. Gardner; however, Buddy had been working for several years at the cotton gin during ginning season then going back to the store, so Buddy was capable of taking care of the gin. Ern was the President of the Hickory Ridge School Board, so I feel sure it was due to his influence that Pa was hired as the custodian of the Hickory Ridge School for the school year coming up in the fall. Montie and I stayed after school and helped him sweep the school rooms. We used wide brushes with long handles but first spread some kind of mixture on the floors to absorb the dust. I was still a little girl and I probably did not want to sweep every day, but as I remember, it was not hard work for us. Pa, of course, had to keep the furnace going. When he was not busy, the warm furnace room was where he stayed.

Montie and I lived with Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben for three years. (I will tell more about our childhood in another chapter). I really do not know the reason for our leaving. Aunt Mallie was sixty-two years old when she took us so it may have been that she was getting too old to have the care of two children. It may also have been that Pa needed or wanted to return to Vanndale. So before the next school year began in 1920, Pa took us back to Vanndale. Buddy and Monra were living in the Stewart house. Pa offered to buy the house if we could all live there together. Buddy and Monra agreed to this arrangement. The house was across the street from Mr. Gardner's home. Pa resumed his going back and forth to the mills and cotton gin. I reached my tenth birthday on November 10, 1920, and Montie became fourteen on October 16 of that year. In 1922 Pa decided that Montie and I were old enough for the three of us to keep house together. So Buddy and Monra, with their son, Cornelius, moved to the Vann house, which was across from the new brick school building that had been built in 1917. Pa hired Delia, a Negro woman, to cook for the three of us since Montie and I were in school.

Buddy was offered a better position by another merchant in town. He accepted, and luckily so, as Mr. Gardner's gin burned in 1922. Within a short time Mr. Gardner went broke. I do not know if he took bankruptcy, but the rumor, at least among the family, was that he owed Pa \$1,000, which Pa never received. \$1,000 was a lot of money in those days.

Pa was always a conservative man. He did not believe in spending money for what he thought were foolish things. However, he always seemed to have enough money to pay his debts and to buy what he wanted or thought necessary. While at Hickory Ridge I had started taking piano lessons and practiced on Madie's piano. Montie started taking music first, but she would not practice and finally quit taking the lessons. I was just the opposite. I loved taking music lessons and never had to be urged to practice. At that time my hands were so small I could not reach an octave on the piano. So while we were living with Buddy and Monra in Vanndale, Pa bought us

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

a player piano. He said Montie could play the piano rolls and I could play the notes by hand. Of course, I enjoyed doing both.

In 1923 Buddy, with some other local men, was hired to build a cotton gin at Canalou and Sikeston, Missouri. The men went to Canalou and built that gin. Monra and Cornelius joined Buddy when school was out, and Pa, Montie, and I went along. We spent the summer in Canalou, then went back to Vanndale for the school year, and Delia resumed cooking for us. That year on April 2, 1923, Uncle Ben passed away.

When the Canalou gin was completed. Buddy and the men built the Sikeston gin so Buddy, Monra, and Cornelius moved to Sikeston. Montie was not too happy about keeping house in Vanndale even though we had our cook. At age sixteen I suppose she did have more responsibility than she needed. She kept wanting to go live with Buddy and Monra, and they were willing to take us. Maybe Pa also thought that we needed a woman's guidance at our age. He decided, to let us move to Missouri. He bought us a new trunk and, with all our worldly goods, on January 24, 1924, we came on the train to Sikeston.

Even though we did not realize it at the time, I feel sure it was not an easy decision for Pa to give up his daughters and let us go so far away from him. It was far away in those days, and people did not get around as easily as in later years. Most of the roads were gravel, and some were still dirt roads. I remember when they started building concrete roads down one side of the highways. However, I was able to visit Pa and Aunt Mallie during school vacations, also Cousin Leota, who had lost her family and had come back home to live. Montie was not able to go back to Arkansas very often as the next summer, 1925, she obtained a job at the new shoe factory. She also married Philip L. Sadler in 1928.

When we moved to Missouri, Pa was left alone. He then boarded with some old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Latta. But as Uncle Ben was deceased, I believe that Pa and Aunt Mallie soon came to an agreement that he would come to Hickory Ridge to live with her and Cousin Leota. I do not know how much property he owned in Vanndale at that time, but I know that he eventually sold the house on the hill, his farm, and also the house in Vanndale. I suppose his mills had burned along with Mr. Gardner's cotton gin. Pa was then sixty-seven years old and Aunt Mallie was sixty-nine.

So Pa went to Aunt Mallie's. Cousin Leota was there to help them both, and this made a very happy arrangement for all three. At least I feel that Pa was very contented there. He became the custodian for the Hickory Ridge School again and kept the job for several years. I found a letter from Pa dated March 27, 1927, that was written by Ern to me. The letter was as follows:

I am sending you a check for \$20. When will your school be out? We have four more weeks of school. Everyone is well here. Kate Lowery had a fine boy. I am going to stay with the school another year. I had a letter from Marel and they are well also.

Your father,  
G. W. Hydrick  
by Ern

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

According to Ern's daughter, Evelyn Mae, the next year, 1928, was not Pa's last year with the school. She stated that he was employed from 1925 to March, 1932, when he began to not function well at his job. He was then seventy-five years old. So Evelyn Mae and her mother did most of the cleaning. Her brothers, George and A. D., kept the cord wood carried inside the boiler room for the furnace. This continued until the end of the school year, 1932, and that fall Pa was replaced when school began. I hope that he realized that it was time for him to retire. Note that Ern wrote the letter for Pa. I do not know how much schooling that Pa, Aunt Mallie, and Aunt Florie received, but I doubt that their education was very extensive. Aunt Mallie was always reading her Bible, but Pa did not read much. But he could figure. I think that he was a pretty shrewd business man. At least he always had money in the bank and, if he did not write very well, he could write well enough to sign his name to checks to send to Montie and me after we came to Sikeston, then later to me when Montie started working and making her own money. No doubt people wondered why Pa did not marry again. Someone told me once that Pa said he had had two good women and that was enough; I did not want him to get married. There was a widow in Hickory Ridge, at people sometimes teased Pa about her. I knew this from my many trips Hickory Ridge. I didn't especially like for her name to come up, but as Pa made no effort to see her, I was not really bothered about her. But one summer when I was about grown, Pa told me that a woman had written him a letter, which she had given to Mrs. Lowery (my music teacher), that I should go pick up the letter from Mrs. Lowery. I told Pa that I was not going to do that. I cried and called the woman a bad name. I do not remember what I called her, but I carried on about her and made no move to go get the letter. Pa got after me and said I didn't even know the lady and why should I call her a name like that when I didn't even know her.

However, he did not insist or make me go get the letter, and the subject was not mentioned again. He probably received the letter in some manner, but if the lady wanted him to see her, I don't think he did. If so, he did not continue to see her. I do not know what explanation he made to her or to Mrs. Lowery, but he probably told Mrs. Lowery that Dessie threw a fit about it. I do not know why I acted in that manner unless -and not really conscious of it at the time - I did not want to share Pa with any woman. Of course, this did not mean Aunt Mallie and Cousin Leota. Many years later I realized that I had acted very selfishly.

In 1928 I graduated from high school in Sikeston. In the meantime, Pa bought his first and only car. He had gotten older and slower. Although he understood mechanics, he seemed to be unable to work the pedals and shift the gears on the car at the same time. Pa had never had to work hurriedly, so he shifted and drove the car too slowly. After he ran into a tree, Ern asked him to give up driving the car. I do not believe this request from Ern displeased him, and he did not try to drive again. The car was damaged very little, if any. So Cousin Leota learned to drive the car and was able to drive Pa and Aunt Mallie around. When school was out, Pa asked one of the young men of Hickory Ridge to drive him and Cousin Leota to Sikeston to see me graduate. They came and I returned home with them for my usual summer vacation.

I was now out of school but had no particular plans. One day during the summer when Pa was sitting on the porch in his rocking chair, I decided to ask him if I could go to Jonesboro Baptist College to take a business course. To my surprise and with out any hesitation on his part, he said that I could. I had already had two years of typing and one year of shorthand in high school, also a year of bookkeeping and business law. I had liked these courses very much. So by September,

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

1928, I was enrolled in the Business Department of this College where regular college courses were also taught. I completed my secretarial course, graduated in cap and gown with the other college students, and was ready for the Business World. In fact when an exacting business office in Jonesboro was in need of a stenographer and had called the college to send them a girl, my beloved teacher, Mr. B. H. Parrish, an older man, sent me to this office and I got the job. My starting to work did not end my visits to Hickory Ridge; however, they were not as often or for an extended stay. A week's vacation is not usually earned until after one year of work has been completed.

Aunt Mallie, Pa, and Cousin Leota continued to carry on peacefully for about five more years. Then Aunt Mallie became ill and after a two or three week's illness, passed away on March 18, 1934. We went to the funeral from Sikeston. During the funeral Pa was almost overcome, so some of the men took him home and put him to bed. He and Aunt Mallie had been very close. To my knowledge, there had never been a cross word between them. The only real home that Pa had had since Mamma's death was with Aunt Mallie and Cousin Leota.

Not too long after Aunt Mallie's death. Cousin Leota went to Madie's to live. Pa lived or visited around with his children and his granddaughter, Ruth, who, with her husband, John H. Williams, lived in the house on Ern's old home place. Pa considered Ruth's home as his home as the town of Hickory Ridge was home to him. In fact, according to Ruth, Pa told her Great-aunt Laura May (Sarah Ella's sister) that he wanted to live and die at Ruth's. Her Aunt Laura came from Wynne to Hickory Ridge and told Ruth what Pa had said. Pa had been staying at Cousin Julia's (Mrs. "Bud" Greenwood) and while there he became ill. I suppose Cousin Julia called the doctor who prescribed some medicine for him. Pa would not take the medicine as the doctor had directed. Instead of taking one tablet or capsule. Pa took two. He thought if one tablet would help him, that two tablets would be twice as effective. So Cousin Julia called Ruth, who came over and told Pa she would give him his medicine when he needed it, which she did, and Pa recovered. Ern came from the farm and fixed up a room for Pa and took him to Ruth's house. Ruth knew how to handle Pa. Cousin Julia lived just around the corner from Ruth but it was on the highway. When Pa took a notion to go see Cousin Julia, he walked around the corner on the highway, but if he heard a car coming, he would stop and look around to see who it was or if he knew them. Ruth was afraid a car would hit him as he did not always walk near the edge of the highway. So Ruth said to him, "Young man, I don't want to see you walking on that highway again. You are going to get run over by a car. When you want to go to Aunt Julie's (Ruth called her Aunt) you can go through the garden". Ruth said that Pa did as she asked and went through the garden from then on when he went to Cousin Julia's.

Pa would come to Missouri for a while, maybe visiting with Buddy and Monra at Bucoda, Missouri, especially in the fall of the year during ginning season as he could be around the gin and talk to the men. He would visit Montie and Philip in Sikeston for a while but would get tired and want to go back to Arkansas. While I was working in Poplar Bluff and he was in Sikeston, I would go to Sikeston each week-end to visit with him. When I came, I had to sleep on the divan in the living room as all the beds were in use by Pa and Montie's family. Pa did not like it because I had to sleep on the divan, so he had Philip to have a bedroom built off Montie's kitchen and to extend and enclose the back porch. From then on I had a bedroom when I went to Montie's house.

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

The winter of 1939 Pa was in Hickory Ridge with Ruth and John. On Friday after work, December 23, Philip and Montie and their four boys picked me up at Poplar Bluff and we went as far as Bucoda and spent the night at Buddy's. The next morning, Christmas Eve, we got up early and went on to Hickory Ridge to spend the day with Pa. He seemed well enough. That is, he did not act as though he was not feeling well. We ate our noon meal, and he sat up all day while we were there. We did not leave until rather late in the afternoon as we were only going back as far as Bucoda where we spent the night again. Christmas Day we returned home. The next morning, December 26, Ruth called Montie about 8:30 o'clock and told her that Pa had passed away earlier that morning. I lived with Harold and Irene Brase at Poplar Bluff. My friend, Irene, had formerly lived in Sikeston. Montie called Irene to tell her about Pa instead of calling me at the Prudential Office with this sad news. Irene came to the office to tell me, and I could hardly believe her. It had been only one day since I had seen Pa, and he had sat up all day and talked to us! But, of course, the news was true. Philip, Montie, and the boys picked me up again, and we began a very wretched trip to Hickory Ridge.

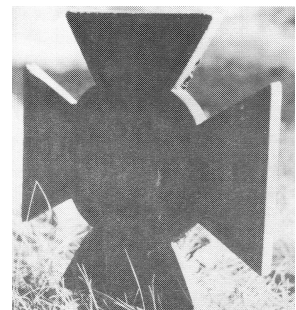
It was snowing heavily. In 1939 cars did not have very good defrosters. Philip had to get out of the car often to wipe the snow off the windshield to enable him to see the road. He finally bought a small fan or defroster, which helped some, and we finally arrived in Hickory Ridge. Ruth told us that Pa had seemed to be feeling alright after we left and also on Christmas Day. But the next morning he got up early, as he always did, and built a fire. He became nauseated and went back to bed. Ruth called the doctor who came, but Pa had suffered a heart attack and lived only a short while. His death was a shock to all of us, but I am really glad that he was not ill or bedfast for a long time. He was an independent person, so he was spared that indignity and dependency on others. He would have been eighty-three years old if he lived until March 6, 1940.



**Headstone of George W Hydrick**

The Woodmen of the World stone at the head of his grave stands next to the Confederate stone of Grandfather James.

George Lewis Hydrick said that he was at the cemetery while Pa's grave was being prepared. George said that wood was struck and the grave had to be moved over a little. So no one knows who is buried beside Pa. He had not mentioned anyone except his father, but it might have been Sarah Ella, or Sarah Perry Greenwood, Little Grandma, or even Old Big Grandma. Maybe Pa knew!



**OLD BIG GRANDMA**  
**by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

**Confederate marker**

**OLD BIG GRANDMA**  
**by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

**Obituary of George Washington Hydrick**  
**The Wynne Progress, Wynne, Arkansas**  
**Dec. 26, 1939**

**AGED PIONEER RESIDENT DIES Member of Pioneer Arkansas Family**

"Uncle George" Hydrick, 83, member of a pioneer eastern Arkansas family, died of a heart attack at the home of a grand-son-in-law, J.H. Williams, at Hickory Ridge this morning at 8:10 o'clock.

Mr. Hydrick was unusually active for his age and ate a large Christmas dinner Monday.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Methodist Church at Hickory Ridge Thursday with burial in Hydrick Cemetery. The Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hydrick was born at the town of Hydrick, named for his father, in Poinsett County near the Cross County line. He was a machinist by trade and for several years worked at Vanndale. He was a member of the Methodist Church and the Woodmen of the World.

Surviving are five sons: G. Ernest Hydrick of Hickory Ridge, Oliver S. Hydrick of Parkin, Graham C. Hydrick of Bucoda, Mo., William Homer Hydrick of Anguilla, Miss., and James T. Hydrick of Pensacola, Fla.; two daughters, Mrs. Montie Sadler of Sikeston, Mo., and Miss Dessie Hydrick of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; one half-brother, John W. Hydrick of Lone Wolf, Okla.; a half-sister, Mrs. Harmon Sifford of Cherry Valley, Ark., 22 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**A Tribute to George Washington Hydrick And Rebecca Malvina Greenwood**

One of the children of Marel Holland by his second wife was Harold, who married Naomi Sullins, formerly of Hickory Ridge, Naomi has been of great help to me as she has furnished me with all of the information on Marel's second family. With one of her letters, she enclosed a very nice tribute to Pa and Aunt Mallie which pleased me so much that I asked her permission to use it. Below is the tribute:

**I Remember Uncle George**

Uncle George was the janitor and maintenance man at the school in Hickory Ridge when I was a child. We thought we were kin to him because we called him Uncle George, as did everyone else in Hickory Ridge. We went home and told our parents that we had an uncle that they had not told us about and they said they also called him Uncle George. He had told us that he was everyone's uncle.

He was a very kind man. We had to walk quite a distance to school and Uncle George would come outside to get us. He would tell us to come in and stay with him in the basement where the big furnace was, but that we should not get too close because we might get hurt.

When we moved to town in my Grandfather's house, we played with Bud and Roy Greenwood's children. One time Uncle George came to our house and took my sister and me and some of Bud's and Roy's children to see the new cotton gin that had been built in Hickory Ridge. Then he took us to town and bought us an ice cream cone which was quite a treat in those days. Then he gave every one of us a dime. We thought he was the richest man in town. That dime was big money. He told us to take it to Sunday School but I'm not sure that we did. We went to Sunday School, but we probably kept the dime.

**OLD BIG GRANDMA**  
**by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

While living in Vanndale he used to visit Marel and his children, and would ride home with the children in a buggy that they brought to school. One time Marel was working on his house and Uncle George was going out to help because he was a pretty good carpenter. The children did not know he was to go help Marel, so when he went to the school to meet them, they said, "Uncle George, you may not want to stay with us tonight because Daddy is working on the house and we are sleeping in the barn". He told them, "If the barn is good enough for you, it is good enough for me, but I am not going to eat corn off the cob because that is for horses". I remember Grandma Greenwood working in her rose garden. She always wore a bonnet and apron. She had a beautiful rose garden, and we thought that was the prettiest place in town. Once her son, Roy Greenwood, planted a huge pea patch in one of their patches of ground and everyone in Hickory Ridge picked peas and ate them that summer. Times were really hard and Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood shared all of this with the people in Hickory Ridge.

By: Naomi Rolland

**NOTES**

<sup>6.1</sup> Hartness.

# OLD BIG GRANDMA by Annie Odessa Hydrick

## CHAPTER VII



**Benjamin F and Rebecca Malvina Greenwood**

### **Aunt Mallie and the Benjamin Franklin Greenwood Family<sup>7.1</sup>**

Aunt Mallie or Rebecca Malvina Hydrick Greenwood was born October 17, 1855, at Hydrick, Arkansas, the daughter of Sarah R. Perry Greenwood and James H. Hydrick. As stated, Sarah R. Perry first married (?) *[Editor's note: probably David]* Greenwood so she was a widow with two children, Rawls (Rolls) and Matilda Greenwood, when she married my grandfather, James H. Hydrick. Sarah R. Perry Greenwood Hydrick died about 1863 probably at age 34, when Aunt Mallie was 8 years old.

According to census records, Aunt Florie, the youngest child, was only about a year old when her mother died. After Grandmother Sarah's death, Aunt Mallie, Pa, and Aunt Florie lived with Little Grandma and Big Grandma for about one and one-half years. When Grandfather James married his second wife, P. Emetine Henderson, he took his three children back home to live with him and his new wife. The approximate date of this marriage was early 1865.

Aunt Mallie grew up at Hydrick, Arkansas, the town named for her father. Near the town of Cherry Valley lived a young man, Benjamin Franklin Greenwood, who met the dark eyed Rebecca Malvina Hydrick. She became his bride on March 27, 1873. In 1979 the record of this marriage was found in the Cross County Courthouse in Wynne, Arkansas. Aunt Mallie was age 18 and Uncle Ben was age 23 at the time of their marriage.

Uncle Ben or Benjamin Franklin Greenwood, was born July 24, 1850, at or near Cherry Valley, Arkansas, the son of Martha Greenwood, who was born May 13, 1819, and died October 11, 1851; and Benjamin Greenwood, who was born April 22, 1818, and died July 25, 1874, and who came from Alabama and settled near Cherry Valley in the 1800's.<sup>7.2</sup>

It is not known where Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben lived when they first married, but they later lived near Cherry Valley on Crowley's Ridge. In the spring of 1901 they moved from Crowley's Ridge to Hickory Ridge where Uncle Ben bought land for \$1.50 per acre. He also owned land on Brushy Lake which he called "The Ranch". His principal occupation was farming and raising livestock.

Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie were highly respected in the town of Hickory Ridge. Both were very valuable assets to the town. Uncle Ben was always interested in the betterment of the community and donated the land for the school and the first church (Baptist) of the town.<sup>7.3</sup> The Hickory Ridge Missionary Baptist Church was organized March 16, 1908. Aunt Mallie was a charter member, moving her membership from the Hydrick Baptist Church.<sup>7.4</sup> Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie had high ideals, and it was their desire that their children obtain as much education as possible.

## **OLD BIG GRANDMA** **by Annie Odessa Hydrick**

About 1903 Uncle Ben bought the Hickory Ridge Hotel from Mr. Joe Robinson and also bought a general mercantile store. Aunt Mallie ran a boarding house in the hotel. This was very hard work, but Aunt Mallie was a very capable person and also an excellent cook. A grown son, James Arthur (Bud), age 24, and a son, John, age 18, were still at home and no doubt were a great deal of help to Aunt Mallie. The younger children were Leota, age 13; Roy, age 11; Mary Elizabeth (Madie), age 8; and Orda, age 3.



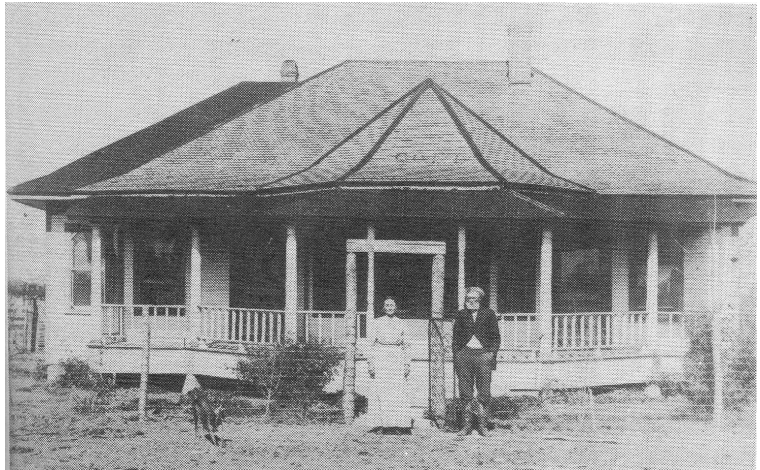
**Hickory Ridge Hotel 1903**

In 1905 Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben went to Oklahoma Territory to visit Uncle Ben's Uncle Pink Greenwood who had married Aunt Mallie's Aunt Ode. They took Leota and Orda with them. Pa stated that Pink Greenwood married Aunt Kate Hydrick. Madie stated, however, that to her knowledge, her Great-uncle Pink Greenwood did not have a second wife. So Madie and I suppose that Ode was a nickname for Kate. Pa also stated that Pink Greenwood and Kate had two sons, John and Jim (James) Greenwood, who lived in Oklahoma, but Pa did not mention having an Aunt Ode. So it does appear that Ode was a nickname for Pink Greenwood's wife. Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie sent their son, John, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to take a business course. He was able, therefore, to help run the store or at least to keep the books. The Post Office was in the store and John was Postmaster. In 1900 Annie had married Edward L. Cooper of Bay Village and later of Hickory Ridge, so Ed also helped in the store in the position of Manager. I suppose Uncle Ben was actually the owner and head man of the store; however, both John and Ed later obtained part-interest in the store which was called The B. F. Greenwood & Sons Mercantile Co. This Company acquired more land until each son and the son-in-law, Ed, owned a farm.

Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben had run the hotel for approximately seven years when Orda became ill. So in the spring of 1910 the family moved into a rented house until a new home could be built. Uncle Ben hired my half-brother, Ern, to build this house. It was a beautiful home on the southern edge of town. Bay windows extended from the living room onto a banistered front porch, which rounded the living room, past a front door near each end of the porch. One door

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led into a front hall with a bedroom opposite the hall and living room. The other door led to another bedroom. A large dining room adjoined the living room with scarcely any wall between as large sliding doors, which were usually left open but could be closed during the winter to conserve heat, were between the living room and dining room and the hall. Windows framed the entire northern wall of the dining room, overlooking a weeping willow tree and Aunt Mallie's back yard where some of her many flowers and plants grew. The kitchen, a large walk-in pantry, a hall, and a bedroom were opposite each end of the dining room. The family moved into this home in 1911.



**Greenwood House in Hickory Ridge 1911**

Aunt Mallie loved flowers and grew many different kinds. Her roses were especially beautiful. She also always had a vegetable garden. Uncle Ben's hobby was raising watermelons. He tended them with much care; therefore, he raised large delicious melons.

On December 28, 1911, Orda Josephine Greenwood died.

By the time Montie and I went to Hickory Ridge to live, all of Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben's children were grown. James Arthur had married Julia Wisemore of Hamlin, Arkansas, and Leota had married Clarence Earl Bennett of Fisher, Arkansas. John had married Sophia Butler of Cherry Valley, who died in 1917 or 1918. So John went back home to live but still worked in the store. Roy was in France as World War I was in progress. Madie continued to attend college in Valparaiso, Indiana. She did teach school in Hickory Ridge the year of 1918 while Montie and I lived there.

By this time Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben had several grandchildren. Ern and family lived about two blocks up the road and he also had several children. It was the grandchildren and our nieces and nephews who were mine and Montie's companions as children. We also had our friends that we made at school. Uncle Ben had whiskers and a rather long beard-an imposing looking man. He was a good and kind man but his voice, especially to us children, needed to be raised only slightly to quieten us down or to let us know he meant business. I think we were a little in awe of Uncle Ben and thought of him as being "the king of his castle". Aunt Mallie was a quieter person. She was a refined and gentle lady, she spoke rather softly, and she was very patient and kind. Although she made us mind, all of us children, as well as the grown-up's, loved her. I really do not remember Aunt Mallie ever being cross with me during the three years that we lived with her. The grandchildren or some of our friends came often to spend the night at Grandma Greenwood's. Her grown sons would often stop by at meal time instead of going home to eat. Aunt Mallie always cooked more food than was necessary for a meal as she never knew

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when someone would be stopping by to eat. There was always food on the big dining table, which was covered with a white spread after the noon meal until it was time for supper.

Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben were Baptists, and Aunt Mallie was a very devout Baptist. She donned her best dress and attended every meeting at the church. As the Minister did not live in the small town of Hickory Ridge and only held services bi-monthly or monthly, it was practically assumed by the entire congregation that he would go home with Aunt Mallie and Uncle Ben for his noon meal. Aunt Mallie read her Bible often, probably daily, unless something prevented her from doing so.

Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 27, 1923. The children and grandchildren brought presents. Someone gave them some gold money of which Uncle Ben was very proud. Within the next day or two he went to town to show off his gold. This trip to town caused him to catch a cold. He had been plagued with bronchitis for many years so the cold quickly developed into pneumonia. He passed away on April 2, 1923, only five days after his Golden Wedding celebration. He was age 73. The town of Hickory Ridge and also the surrounding towns mourned his death as Uncle Ben was well known in that section of eastern Arkansas.

Meanwhile death had also claimed Leota's husband and two children, so Leota had moved back home to live. Uncle Ben's death left Aunt Mallie and Cousin Leota in the family home. As Montie and I moved to Missouri on January 24, 1924, I believe that it was not very long before Pa went to Hickory Ridge to make his home with them. This seemed to be a very satisfactory arrangement.

In 1933 when John was on his way home from the store, he was robbed and beaten over the head with a hard object so badly that one ear was almost torn off. Someone who was probably passing by came to his rescue when they heard him groaning. He survived, but his spirit was broken. He died of a heart attack on March 7, 1934, while sitting in his chair. He was age 49. His assailant was never caught.

One of John's daughters, age 9 or 10, was sent to tell Aunt Mallie what had befallen her son. Aunt Mallie ran all the way to John's house, which was about two blocks away. The shock of hearing about her son and her exhaustion from running caused Aunt Mallie to faint when she saw him. She was taken to the hospital in Jonesboro, but the doctors could not pull her through her ordeal. She died on March 18, 1934, at the age of 78 years. Her death was a great loss to her family and to my father as well as the entire town of Hickory Ridge. Grandma Greenwood was gone, but the memory of her would live on.

### **Children of Rebecca Malvina Hydrick and Benjamin Franklin Greenwood**

George Thomas Greenwood: Born June 10, 1875, and died June 2, 1878.

### **The George Washington Stacy Family**

II. **Ida Mae Greenwood:** Born April 19, 1877, and died July 14, 1945. At age 16, Ida Mae married George Washington Stacy, a farmer of Cherry Valley, Arkansas, on December 7, 1893.

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George Washington Stacy was born August 11, 1870, and died January 7, 1964, at the age of 93.  
Children:

1. A still-born infant girl: Born 1894

2. **Charlie Ben**: Born October 18, 1895, and died October 24, 1899.

3. **Sarah Rebecca** (called Rhea): Born December 9, 1898, and died November 1, 1944. On August 11, 1918 she married William Claude Couch, Sr. of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, who was born August 14, 1897, and died November 2, 1955. They are buried in the Lewis Cemetery at Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Children:

A. **William Claude, Jr.** (called W. C.): Born June 13, 1919, and died March 15, 1982. On December 3, 1946, W. C. married Lillian Neal of Russellville, Arkansas. Both W. C. and Lillian were graduates of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

W.C. was a Certified Public Accountant. At the time of his death, he and Lillian were living in Des Moines, Iowa, so he was brought back to Russellville for burial in the Rest Haven Memorial Park. Children:

1. **Barbara**: Born at Russellville on May 25, 1958. She was also a graduate of the University of Arkansas. She is an architect. She is single and lives in Denver, Colorado.

B. **Charlie Ben**: Born Januarys, 1921, and died July 14, 1974. On February 12, 1945, he married Frances Lamb of Harrisburg, Arkansas. Charlie Ben and family were living in Memphis at his death, so he was brought back to Harrisburg and buried in Harrisburg Memorial Park. Frances is still living in Memphis. Children:

1. **Charlie Ben, Jr.** (called Chuck): Born September 23, 1946. On August 19, 1967, he married Terri C. Young of Trumann, Arkansas. Chuck and Terri live at Pocahontas, Arkansas. Children:

a. **Charlie Ben, III** (called Chad): Born August 1, 1968.

b. **Christopher Young** (called Chris): Born October 1, 1971.

2. **Cheri**: Born December 15, 1947. She has cerebral palsy so is still living at home.

3. **Craig Stacy** (called Chip): Born September 24, 1959. On June 24, 1978, Craig Stacy married Sydney Rivea of Memphis, Tennessee. They still live in this city.

Children:

a. **Craig Stacy, Jr.**: Born March 18, 1980.

C. **Sarah Evelyn**: Born December 25, 1926. Sarah Evelyn met M. D. McWayne (called Mack), in Harrisburg, Arkansas, after her parents moved from Hickory Ridge to Harrisburg in 1936. Sarah Evelyn and Mack were married on November 23, 1946. Their children were born in Harrisburg. They moved to Trumann, Arkansas, in October, 1958. Mack has been one of the top salesmen with the Wood Ford Sales, Inc. in their Memphis zone for 23 years. Sarah Evelyn is a homemaker and has been the pianist for the First Baptist Church in Trumann for 22 years. Their address is 100 Willow Road, Trumann, Arkansas 72472. Children:

1. **Sarah Rebecca** (called Becky): Born November 7, 1949. On September 19, 1966, she married Kenneth E. Allen of Trumann. Their present address is Batesville, Arkansas. Children:

a. **Kenneth E. Jr.**: Born July 5, 1967.

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b. **Stacy D.:** Born July 10, 1970.

c. **Melissa R.:** Born January 7, 1980.

2. **Gerald Mike:** Born January 12, 1955. On March 5, 1977 he married Patti Jean Brown of Trumann. They live only three doors from Sarah Evelyn and Mack on 612 Willow Road. Children:

a. **Michael Duffy:** Born October 2, 1982.

3. **Darrell Claude,** (twin to Gerald Mike): Born January 12 1955. Darrell is single and lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

4. **William Miles:** Born May 15, 1900, and died July 22, 1902.

5. **Thelma Irene:** Born September 25, 1902, and died September 5, 1978. On June 17, 1923, in Poinsett County, Arkansas, Irene married John Avril Sifford, Jr. of Cherry Valley, who was born April 4, 1902, and died January 12m 1969. He was a telegrapher for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He was the son of John Arvil Sifford, Sr., who was a brother of James Harmon Sifford, mentioned earlier, who married my Aunt Dovie Hydrick Hitower Sifford. Aunt Dovie, therefore, was John Arvil Jr.'s aunt, and was the great-aunt of Dr. Dewey Hurschel Sifford, the son of Irene and John Jr (see below). Approximately two years after John, Jr. and Irene's marriage in 1925, they moved to LaGrange, Arkansas, and lived there until 1942. They then moved to Marianna, Arkansas, and lived there until their deaths. They are buried in the LaGrange Cemetery, LaGrange, Arkansas. Children:

A. **George Avril:** Born July 3, 1924, in Cherry Valley, Arkansas. George was killed in an automobile accident on August 23, 1942. He was also buried in the LaGrange Cemetery, Grange, Arkansas.

B. **Dewey Hurschel:** Born September 9, 1930, at LaGrange, Arkansas. On August 6, 1958, he married Margaret Teresa Unzer, who was born May 3, 1931, at Shawnee, Oklahoma. At Present, Dr. Dewey Sifford is a Professor at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas. His address is 1109 Thrush St., Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401.

Children:

1. **Mark Dewey:** Born June 3, 1959, at Norman, Oklahoma.

2. **Steven Charles:** Born June 20, 1962, and died June 23, 1962, at Jonesboro, Arkansas.

3. **John Joseph:** Born March-31, 1964, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

4. **Susan Marie:** Born October 24, 1966, at Jonesboro, Arkansas.

5. **Charles Avril:** Born November 5, 1968 at Jonesboro, Arkansas.

6. **Mary Anne:** Born March 24, 1972, at Jonesboro, Arkansas.

7. **Michael Hamilton:** Born June 8, 1974, at Jonesboro, Arkansas.

6. **Hurschel Milton:** Born January 2, 1905, and died July 23, 1981. On October 19, 1946, Hurschel married Mildred Aston of Wynne, Arkansas. Mildred was born January 18, 1926. Her address is 312-A Crabb Lane, Wynne, Arkansas 72396. Children:

A. **Robert Hurschel:** Born October 1, 1954, at Wynne. Bob (as he is called) married Nancy Argo. Divorced. Children:

1. **Jessica:** Born June 10, 1974.

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On August 7, 1982, Robert Hurschel married Annette Smith, born July 12, 1954, the daughter of Jane Murray and William Maurice Smith, Jr. of Birdeye, Arkansas. Bob and Annette live at #3 Donegal St., Wynne, Arkansas 72396.

7. **Gladys Odena:** Born March 2, 1907. On December 18, 1925, at LaGrange, Arkansas, Odena married Marion Linsey Owens, who was born December 7, 1898, at Kingsland, Arkansas. Marion had been married previously and had three children: Sammy, Elizabeth, and Margaret. Marion was the son of Charles Owens, a pharmacist who owned a drug store at Risen, Arkansas, and later at Monticello, Arkansas, where he and his family lived until his death. Marion was living at McGehee, Arkansas, and working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad when he and Odena married. They had a long and happy marriage. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 18, 1975, and Marion died the following September 28, 1976. Before his death Marion had retired as a conductor from the Missouri Pacific Railroad after many years of service. Odena's address is 706 North Second St., McGehee, Arkansas 71654. Children:

A. **Billie Jean:** Born December 1, 1926, and died January 26, 1927.

B. **Charles Stacy:** Born February 21, 1928. Charles Stacy was married twice. First wife: Hazel Abbott of Pineville, Louisiana. Divorced. Children:

**Charles Stacy, Jr.:** Born February 4, 1949.

Second wife: Betty Nelson of Dermott, Arkansas. They have lived in Westminster, California, for twenty years Children:

1. **Dianne Karen:** Born Januarys, 1951.

2. **Odena Joyce:** Born September 22, 1958.

C. **Shirley Mae:** Born October 22, 1933. Married Thomas Joe Tullis of McGehee, Arkansas. Children:

1. **Cynthia Ann:** Born August 14, 1953. Married James Allen Sheffield.

Children:

a. **Jennifer Ann.**

b. **Brandon James.**

2. **Thomas Marion:** Born December 4, 1956. Married Denise Wilson. Children:

a. **Michale Lensey:** Born January 27, 1981.

3. **Melissa:** Born June 9, 1961. Single.

4. **Elizabeth Owens:** Born June 29, 1965. Single.

8. **Earl Edmund:** Born April 15, 1909, and died March 15, 1958. In 1931 Earl married Edna McLin of Harrisburg, Arkansas, who was born February 27, 1906. Earl was buried in the Bowers Cemetery at Cherry Valley, Arkansas. Children:

A. **Carolyn L.,** a still-born daughter: Born in 1932.

9. **Wyona Virginia:** Born December 12, 1912. On December 23, 1933 Wyona married Ivan B. Couch, who was born December 26, 1911, and died January 30, 1981. (Ivan Couch was not related to Sarah Rebecca's (Rhea) husband, William Claude Couch). Wyona's address is: Mrs. Ivan Couch, P. O. Box 556, Wynne, Arkansas 72396. Children:

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A. **Wanda Lee:** Born October 18, 1934. On November 5, 1955, Wanda married Dan Laudan, who was born January 19, 1936. Children:

1. **Christopher Daniel:** Born March 27, 1959. Christopher is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force in Oklahoma.
2. **Jeffrey Richard:** Born July 21, 1960.
3. **Keith Darren:** Born July 27, 1962.
4. **Yvette Danielle:** Born January 17, 1968.
5. **Lance Patrick:** Born May 9, 1970.

B. **Mary Lynn:** Born November 9, 1939. On June 7, 1959, Mary Lynn married Frank Hopper, who was born November 26, 1938. Children:

1. **Robert Franklin:** Born June 11, 1961.
2. **Deborah Lynn:** Born September 11, 1963.

C. **Ivan Wayne:** Born July 29, 1947. Single.

D. **Carol Jayne:** Born July 29, 1947, twin to Ivan Wayne. On September 14, 1968, Carol Jayne married Wayne Griffith, born June 7, 1947. They live at Valparaiso, Indiana. Children:

1. **Michael Wayne:** Born August 9, 1969.
2. **Holly Carol:** Born Februarys, 1971.
3. **Scott Randall:** Born December 30, 1973.
4. **Amanda Jo:** Born February 25, 1978.

10. **George Washington, Jr.** (called G. W.): Born September 30, 1915, and died May 16, 1963. On October 21, 1940, he married Lillian Maurice Holcomb, who was born May 2, 1922. (Maurice is a niece of Edith Holcomb Hydrick, the wife of my nephew, Flynn Hydrick, of Wynne, Arkansas. Children:

A. **George Larry:** Born November 8, 1941. On June 3, 1965, George Larry married Lynda Prestige, who was born March 17, 1948. Children:

1. **Larry Bret:** Born April 21, 1966.
2. **Kimberly Ann:** Born September 15, 1967.
3. **James Bart:** Born April 26, 1970.

George Larry and Lynda divorced. Lynda died February 16, 1978. George Larry married again, name of second wife unknown. They also divorced, and in December, 1981, he married his present wife, Lynda Spain. George Larry is a policeman in Memphis, Tennessee.

B. **Mary Anne:** Born November 2, 1949. On June 7, 1969, she married Kenneth Eugene Thomas, born November 1, 1948. They live at Lexington, Kentucky. Children:

1. **Jonathan David:** Born July 15, 1971.
2. **Kristen Danielle:** Born April 3, 1976.

C. **Paula Jean:** Born February 22, 1952. On February 12, 1971, Paula Jean married Lynn Hagler of Hickory Ridge, who was born February 4, 1951. Children:

1. **Jeffery Lynn:** Born August 19, 1971.
2. **Stacy Anne:** Born April 10, 1976.

After G. W.'s death, Maurice married again to Edgar Ray Hammonds on March 14, 1970. Edgar Ray was born May 7, 1921. Their address is Route #3, Box 245-A, Wynne, Arkansas 72396.

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11. **Walter Laroy:** Born March 31, 1917, and died May 6, 1978. On August 16, 1942, Walter married Vivian Green, who was born January 5, 1919. Her address is 305 W. Smithdale St., Parkin, Arkansas 72373. Children:

A. **Tommy:** Born February 28, 1943. He is a physician and lives in Memphis, Tennessee.

B. **Diane:** Born September 18, 1944. Married Jerry Dallas.

Divorced. Children:

1. **David.**

Diane married again to Donald Burnette. Children:

1. **Stacy Burnette.**

12. **James Arthur** (called Jimmie or Jim): Born February 2, 1920. Married Margaret Nott, who was born April 19, 1922 at British Falls, BC Canada. They were married at Vancouver, Washington, on June and divorced in 1964. James retired from the U. S. Navy. His address is Jagers Trailer Court, Space #3, Dumas, Arkansas 71639. Children:

A. **Marguerite Ann:** Adopted. Born October 11, 1955.

**The James Arthur (Bud) Greenwood Family**

III. **James Arthur Greenwood** (called Bud): Born October 1, 1879 and died November, 1962 at age 83. James Arthur married Julia Wisemore of Hamlin, Arkansas, on December 28, 1908. Julia was born October 6, 1893 and died on her birthday, October 6, 1967 at age 74. James Arthur 29 and Julia was age 19 at the time of their marriage. Children:

1. **Irma:** Born July 15, 1909. Irma grew up at Hickory Ridge working as a beauty operator in Wynne when she married Clarence of Hudson, Michigan on January 2, 1943. Britt, as Irma called born November 30, 1909, and was then a sergeant in the U. S. Army remained at her work in Wynne until the war ended. Then she husband moved to Britt's home town of Hudson. Britt attended college before the war and owned and operated a restaurant and bar in the basement of a hotel in Hudson. The hotel was owned by his mother. Britt continued in this occupation for five years after the war, then sold his business, and worked as a draftsman until his death on December 17, 1965.

Irma and Britt built a new home with a beauty shop in the basement for Irma so she resumed her work as a beauty operator. She continued until age 68 when arthritis in her hands forced her to retire. Irma, as did her Grandma Greenwood, loves flowers and working with them. She stated that her place looks like a flower garden in the spring. Also, like her grandmother, she has a weeping willow tree in her yard and still lives in her home at 421 Oak St., Hudson, Michigan 49247.

2. **Willard:** Died when a baby.

3. **Annabel:** Born January 15, 1913. She married Joe Coleman of Poteau, Oklahoma, who was born May 23, 1903, and died March 3, 1966. Annabel met Joe when he came to Hickory Ridge to visit his half-brother, and she married him in May, 1931. They lived in Hickory Ridge for about twelve years, and then moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where Joe was a fireman for the Cotton Belt Railroad. Annabel's address is Route 2, Box 800, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603. Children:

A. **John Raymond:** Born August 23, 1933. He married Carolyn Workman from Kingsland, Arkansas. They now live at 307 Spring St., Sheridan, Arkansas 72150. Children:

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1. **Keith:** In March, 1982, he married Cindy. Last name unknown.  
Children: None.
2. **Cindy.**
3. **Mike.**

**B. Elizabeth Ann** (called Sisser): Born in 1935. Sisser married Clarence Alford of Forrest City, Arkansas. They live on Route 1, Box 80, Forrest City, Arkansas 72335.

Children:

1. **Debra Ann:** Married Donald Chapman of Forrest City, Arkansas.  
Children: One son and daughter (twins)
2. **Sandra Jane:** Married Tony Burnett of Forrest City, Arkansas.  
Children: a. One son. b. One daughter.
3. **Brenda:** Married three times and divorced three times. The last name of her first husband was Schultz. Names of her last two husbands are unknown.  
Children by first husband: a. One son. b. One daughter.
4. **Donald Alford:** Single.

**C. Etta Maurine:** Born 1937. She married Wayne Keller of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Their address is 2202 Windsor St., Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603. Children:

1. **Joe:** Married and divorced. No children.
2. **Sherry:** Married. Name of husband unknown.
3. **Walter** (called Buzzy) Single

**D. Jackie:** Born, 1939. Married Howard Rhodes of Risen, Arkansas. Children:

1. **Tony:** Married Marty Lynn Rhodes of Risen, Arkansas. (He is not related to her father, Howard Rhodes).
- Children:

- a. **Lester Billy Rhodes, II:** Born October 6, 1982.
2. **Boyd Marty.**
3. **Annabeth.**
4. **Julia.**

4. **Jennie Lee:** Born April 22, 1916. Jennie Lee graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Nursing in Memphis as a registered nurse. She married Dr. Henry Neil Moore from Savannah, Tennessee, who was born August 1, 1909. They lived in Savannah for a few years before moving to Jackson, Tennessee, where Dr. Moore practiced for several years before and during World War II. After the war Dr. Moore joined a group of doctors who founded the Jackson Clinic and practiced as an anesthesiologist with that group until he retired three years before his death on October 11, 1978. He was the first anesthesiologist (M.D.) to practice in Jackson.

Jennie Lee did office nursing with her husband in the clinic and also hospital nursing. She worked during World War II, and then retired from nursing to rear her daughter. She lives at their home at 110-C Tinker Hill Road, Jackson, Tennessee 38301. Children:

A. **Jennie Lee:** Born August 4, 1940. Jennie Lee was given her mother's name for sentimental reasons. She married Dennis Ralph Hendrix, born January 8, 1940. Dennis is President of Texas Gas Transmission Corporation in Owensboro, Kentucky, where he and Jennie Lee live. Children:

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1. **Alisia Lee:** Born August 25, 1961.
2. **Natalie Moore:** Born May 31, 1963.
3. **Amy Louise:** Born December 24, 1964.

5. **Benjamin Franklin** (called B. F.): Born November 9, 1917. He married Nola McFarland of Tilton, Arkansas. He owned a large farm at Black Fish Lake, Arkansas, and also farmed land near West Memphis, Arkansas. He owned and operated a fertilizing business, which was an air spraying service. The family lived at 902 Cherry Lane, West Memphis, Arkansas. They adopted two sons. Children:

A. **Benjamin Franklin, Jr.** (called Benjie): Has a degree in business education. He is single.

B. **Jonathon:** Attending college in Little Rock, Arkansas. Single.

B. F. died on September 22, 1972. His widow, Nola, married Cecil Clark from Forrest City, Arkansas. At the wish of the two adopted sons, Nola retained the name of Nola Greenwood. She and her husband, with Benjie, are still at home at 902 Cherry Lane, West Memphis, Arkansas 72301.

6. **John Raymond:** Born February 21, 1920. John Raymond married Wanda Sudduth, the daughter of the former Eddie B. Sullins of Hickory Ridge, and who was a classmate of Montie in school. John Raymond owned a grocery store at Black Fish Lake. He died November 16, 1979. His wife, Wanda, still runs the grocery store. Her address is Route 1, Heth, Arkansas 72346. Children:

A. **John Raymond, Jr.** (called Johnny): Married Jean Wilburn of West Memphis, Arkansas. Children:

1. **Ginger Lee:** Born August 24, 1979.

2. **Thomas Sullins** (called Tommy): Single.

7. **Patsy Ruth:** Born Septembers, 1927. Patsy Ruth had completed her first year of high school at Hickory Ridge when the school burned. She went to Jackson, Tennessee, to live with her sister, Jennie Lee, and her husband. She finished high school at Bemis, Tennessee. Patsy Ruth also attended the University of Tennessee School of Nursing in Memphis and graduated as a registered nurse. She was presented a highly coveted gold medal for being the best all around nurse in the graduating classes that year.

Patsy Ruth met her future husband, Dr. Norman Scott Brandes, of Forrest Hills, New York, the son of Claire and Fred Emile Brandes of Forrest Hills, Long Island, New York, while attending nursing school. Dr. Brandes spent three years in the U.S. Army and public health work. Patsy Ruth worked as an operating room nurse in Jackson, Tennessee. They were married on December 16, 1948. They went to New York where Dr. Brandes took post-graduate work, and Patsy Ruth again worked as an operating room nurse. They eventually moved to Columbus, Ohio, where they settled. Children:

A. **Robert Neil:** Born November 23, 1952, in Jackson, Tennessee. On September 18, 1982, he married Deborah Sue Luce, the daughter of Betty and Walter Luce of Dayton, Ohio. Robert is in food and beverage management at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

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**B. Fred Emile:** Born October 29, 1954, in Kentucky. Married Loreen Grace Scandurra of Greenlawn, New York, the daughter of Betty and Aldo Scandurra. Fred is attending college in Long Island, New York.

**C. Deborah Ann** (called Debbie): Born July 24, 1957, in Columbus, Ohio. She married Robert Patstick of Xenia, Ohio, the son of Ruth and Edward Patstick. Debbie teaches radio and television in Dayton, Ohio. No children.

Patsy Ruth did hospital and clinic work for several years. For the past five years she has been selling real estate for Sam Krumm, Inc. Realtor Company of Columbus. She says she enjoyed nursing very much is tempted to return to it but she enjoys the freedom of being her own boss the real estate world. Patsy Ruth and Dr. Brandes were divorced on December 1, 1978. She lives in her home at 18 E. N. Broadway, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

### **The Edward Lee Cooper Family**

**IV. Annie Lydia Greenwood:** Born March 7, 1882, and died August 1955. On December 11, 1900, Annie married Edward Lee Cooper (called Ed) of Bay Village, Arkansas. Ed was born October 23, 1877. Ed and Am moved to Hickory Ridge in 1906. In 1920 he was elected Sheriff of Cross County so the family moved to Wynne. Ed served two terms as Sheriff. He was elected Circuit Clerk in 1924 and served two terms; he was again elected Sheriff in 1928 and served two terms. In 1932 he was elected County Judge and served until approximately 1937, less than two years before his death on August 3, 1939. He was the son of Alfred Cooper and Rebecca (Stone) Cooper, early settlers east of Cherry Valley on Crowley's Ridge.<sup>7.5</sup> Ed's half-sister, Fannie Cooper Holcomb Cunningham, born November 1900, is the mother of Maurice Holcomb Hammonds whose first husband was George W. Stacy, Jr. (Montie and I always called Annie and Ed "Cousin Annie and Uncle Ed". We also said "Cousin Ida and Uncle George", "Cousin Julia and Uncle Bud", etc.). Children:

1. **William Floyd:** Born December 16, 1901, and died March 18, 1941. Floyd was married twice. First wife: Opal Carmichael of Jonesboro, Arkansas. She lives at 1804 South Main St., Jonesboro, Arkansas. Children:

A. **Betty Ruth** (called Pat): Born July 31, 1925. Pat met Harold Eugene Waddle while attending Arkansas State College (now Arkansas State University) at Jonesboro. Harold came to college from Taylorville, Illinois, to play basketball. Pat and Harold were married May 23, 1948. They live at 3823 El Camino Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103. They have a home in Hardy, Arkansas, where they spend summers. Children:

1. **Patricia Lynne:** Born October 12, 1952. She married Michael Edward Burke of Chicago, Illinois, who is employed by Sandia Laboratories at the test site. Patricia Lynne is very active in dressage, a style of horse riding. They live at 2707 Redwood, Las Vegas, Nevada. No children.

Second wife: Jewel Mobley of Redfield, Arkansas. Jewel was born December 15, 1909, and died August 25, 1952. Children:

A. **William Allyn:** Born May 22, 1934. He married Darlene Halligan who was born March 14, 1934. Allyn is self-employed in the installation business. His address is 3768 South East 5th St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84101. Children:

1. **Gina Anne:** Born March 14, 1967.

2. **Tully Allyn:** Born December 15, 1969.

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**B. Henry Lee:** Born February 15, 1939. He married Anna Lou Johnson of Lake Village, Arkansas, who was born January 24, 1942. Henry Lee graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville as a chemical engineer. He is employed by the firm of Johnson & Johnson. Henry Lee and Anna Lou live at 857 Mitchell St., Conway, Arkansas 72032.

Children:

1. **Catherine Anne:** Born January 17, 1966.

2. **Matthew Henry:** Born September 29, 1968.

2. **Ethel Rebecca:** Born June 21, 1903. Rebecca married twice. First husband: Frank Allen Bowden, of Fisher, Arkansas. Divorced. Children:

A. **Frank Allen, Jr.:** Born April 29, 1923. Married three times. Present wife was the former Dorothy Joswiak from Michigan. Frank Allen and Dorothy live in Detroit, Michigan. Children:

1. **Frank Allen III:** Born January 25, 1951.

2. **Shelly Susan:** Born March 7, 1956. Married Timothy Keating.

Children:

a. **Kelly Jean.**

B. **Annie Lee** (called Sissy): Born April 18, 1924. Married Robert Phillips from Mexico, Missouri. They live in Dallas, Texas. Children:

1. **Edward Sills:** Born October 7, 1946. He married Karen Cooper of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Children:

a. **Erin Christine.**

b. **Jason J.**

2. **Rebecca Ann:** Born June 22, 1949. Married Russell I. Moore, a Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army and is stationed in El Paso, Texas. Children:

a. **Rebecca Susan**

b. **James Bradford**

Second husband: Frank Robert Fisher of Wynne, Arkansas. He was born October 6, 1902. Children:

A. **Robert Larry:** Born October 6, 1933. Larry married Betty Carolyn Stathen of Wynne, Arkansas. Children:

1. **Dana Carolyn:** Born October 21, 1955. She married Keith Duncan of El Paso, Texas. No children.

2. **Robert Larry, Jr.:** Born October 29, 1957. He married Karen John of El Paso, Texas. Children:

a. **Devin Leigh.**

b. **Frank John.**

3. **DedraAnn:** Born September 7, 1963. Single. Lives in El Paso.

3. **Alfred Ben:** Born June 18, 1908, and died December 25, 1979. On January 25, 1931, Ben married Una Fisher of Wynne, Arkansas. Una is sister of Frank Fisher who married Ben's sister, Rebecca. Children:

A. **Jere Ben:** Married twice. First wife: Martha Heliums of Memphis, Tennessee. Divorced.

Children:

1. **Jere Ben II:** Born December 30, 1961.

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2. **James William:** Born January 13, 1963.

Second wife: Eulalee DeBloise of New Orleans, Louisiana. Children:

1. **Matthew Ward:** Born April 10, 1967.

2. **David Fisher:** Born April 28, 1968. Died December 1, 1981, in an accident while riding a bicycle.

Jere Ben and his family live in Atlanta, Georgia.

B. **William Edward** (called Bill Ed): Married JoAnn Mobbs of Cortland, Arkansas. Children:

1. **William Edward II** (called Ed): Born October 12, 1966.

2. **Shannon Leigh:** Born February 20, 1973.

Bill Ed and his family live in Dallas, Texas.

4. **Marvin Edward:** Date of birth unknown. Died when about one year of age.

5. **Woodrow Wilson:** Born December 2, 1912, and died March 3, 1923.

6. **Elizabeth Ann:** Born December 8, 1916, and died July 17, 1918.

7. **Elton Lee:** Still-born infant son. Date of birth unknown.

**The John Cleveland Greenwood Family**

V. **John Cleveland Greenwood:** Born May 31, 1885, and died March 7, 1934. John was married twice. First wife was Sophia Butler of Cherry Valley, Arkansas, who died in 1917 or 1918. No children.

John's second wife was a widow: Maude Owens Marsh of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Maude's first husband was Thomas Franklin Marsh, Sr. of England, Arkansas. They had three children: Thelma and Velma, twins (no middle name), and Thomas Franklin II. Thomas Franklin Marsh, Sr. died January 29, 1918. In 1923, Maude married John Cleveland Greenwood. Thelma and Velma were only one year and nine months old, and Thomas Franklin II, was not yet born when their father died. So John Cleveland Greenwood was the "father" to these three children. They grew up thinking of him as their father and calling him Papa. Although they know differently, they have always thought of the Greenwood family as their "blood" relatives. Maude is now age 87 (1982) and lives in the Geriatric Nursing Home, West Memphis, Arkansas.

**Children of Maude Owens Marsh:**

1. **Velma Marsh:** Born April 30, 1917. She married Lloyd Adolph Diebold of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Lloyd was born January 3, 1914, and died June 17, 1979. Velma's address is Box 575, Hickory Ridge, Arkansas 72347. Children:

A. **Janice Lorene:** Born February 6, 1937. She married Charles Robert Ferrill of Calico Rock, Arkansas. Children:

1. **Charles Robert** (called Bob): Married Celia Reader of Nashville, Tennessee. No children.

2. **Leigh Ann:** Age 22 years.

3. **Leslie:** Age 14 years.

B. **Lloyd Adolph II:** Born January 9, 1939. Lloyd II married Roberto Jo Best of Wynne, Arkansas. Children:

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1. **Lloyd Adolph III** (called Laddy).
  2. **Elizabeth Locke** (called Libby): Laddy and Libby are attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.
  3. **Laura Lee**
- C. **Robert Thomas** (called Bob Tom): Born August 27, 1941. Bob Tom married Linda Ruth Goodhart of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Children:
1. **Sandra Jean**.
  2. **Bobby Ann**: Sandra Jean and Bobby Ann are attending the University of Mississippi at Oxford.
- D. **Thelma Lee** (called Doll): Born June 13, 1943. Thelma Lee married Bryce Ronald Smith of Tilton, Arkansas. Children:
1. **Sherri Lee**: Married Darrell Hess of Wynne, Arkansas. Children:
    - a. **Daren Heath**.
  2. **Marsha Ann**: Married Timmy Hal Partain of Cherry Valley, Arkansas. Children:
    - a. **Perry Hal**.
  3. **Karen Rena**.
  4. **Jenni Lynn**.
- E. **Paula Jean**: Born March 10, 1945. Paula married Lewis Dean Anderson (called Bill) of Memphis, Tennessee. Children:
1. **Treasea Elsie**.
  2. **LaDeana Jeanette**.
  3. **Amy Elizabeth**.
  4. **Lewis Dean III** (called Andy).
  5. **Lloyd Eric**.
- F. **Nancy Sue**: Born July 24, 1946. Nancy Sue married Earl Elvis House of Wynne, Arkansas. Children:
1. **Earl Elvis II**.
  2. **Corbin Dewayne**.
2. **Thelma Marsh**: Born April 30, 1917. She married Sidney D. Baldwin. Their address is East Side St., Marianna, Arkansas 72360. Children:
- A. **Billy Sidney** (called Billy Sid): Married Norma Gail Ziegenhorn of Newark, Arkansas 72563. No children.
  - B. **Beth**.
  - C. **Stacy**.
  - D. **William** (called Bill).
  - E. **Linda**.
3. **Thomas Franklin Marsh II**: Born May 8, 1919. Franklin married Polly Kindell. They reside at 1514 Roosevelt, Alamogordo, New Mexico. Children:
- A. **Thomas Franklin III** (called Tommie): Tommie married Mary Ann Fields. They live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Children:
    1. **Reina Teresa**: Age 15 years.
    2. **Gina Marie**: Age 12 years.
  - B. **Debbie**: Married Kelly Dunn. They live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. No children.

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## **Children of John Cleveland and Maude Marsh Greenwood:**

1. **Juanita Rebecca:** Born August 25, 1925, in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Juanita drowned on May 20, 1938.

2. **Emma Jean:** Born July 30, 1927, in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Emma Jean was married twice. First husband: Acey A. Swearingen of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Divorced. Children:

A. **Acey A. II:** Born September 23, 1956. Acey married Lee Ann Foster. They live at 128 East Cloverdale, Brinkley, Arkansas 72021. No children.

B. **Becky Sue:** Born March 27, 1959. Single. She is an interior decorator and works in a large department store in Rogers, Arkansas.

Second husband: John Cowan Meacham (called Cowan): Emma Jean and Cowan live at Route #1, Brinkley, Arkansas 72021. Children:

A. **Betsy Greenwood:** Born January 13, 1965. She is attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

**VI Edith Estella Greenwood:** Born March 2, 1888, and died October, 1889.

**VII. Leota Oner Greenwood:** Born August 21, 1890, and died June 28, 1957. Leota married Clarence Earl Bennett of Fisher, Arkansas, who died in 1920 of influenza and pneumonia.

Children:

1. An infant son: Lived about one hour.

2. **Clarence Earl, Jr.:** Died at eighteen months of age.

## **The Raymond Roy Greenwood Family**

**VIII. Raymond Roy Greenwood:** Born September 5, 1892, and died June 29, 1979. Married Nell Gresham of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, on July 9, 1922. Nell lives between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas. Address: 4323 Malvern Road" Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901. Children:

1. **Robert** (called Bobby): Bobby was killed during World War II when two airplanes collided in the air. All were lost in the Coral Sea.

2. **Joan:** Married John Koone of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Joan has a degree in music. She lives about one mile from her mother. Children:

A. **Bobby Nell.**

B. **Nancy.**

C. **Tommy,** a daughter.

3. **John Benjamin** (called J. B.): Married twice: First wife: Martha (?). Divorced. No children.

Second wife: Vivian Joy Hall of Jonesboro, Arkansas. J. B. is the Principal at Cloverdale, Arkansas, Elementary School. Children:

A. **Robin** (girl).

B. **Benjie.**

C. **Connie.**

4. **Sonny:** Married Lemazelle Owens of Paragould, Arkansas. Sonny works for Southwestern Bell as a Planning Engineer in Little Rock. Children:

A. **Terry.**

B. **Beth Ann.**

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5. **David:** Married twice. First wife: Erlene Medcalf of Hickory Ridge, Arkansas.

Divorced. Children:

- A. **Susan.**
- B. **Mary Elizabeth.**
- C. **David.**
- D. **Becky.**
- E. Still-born infant (boy).

Second wife: Nancy Core of Little Rock, Arkansas. She had three children by a previous marriage. Children: None. David works in Pulaski County government.

6. **Edwin Louis** (called Buddy): Married twice. First wife: Barbara Riley of Wynne, Arkansas. Divorced.

Children: A. **Riley.**

Second wife: Susie Regan of Dyersburg, Tennessee. Children:

- A. **Sean** (pronounced Shawn).
- B. **Colin.**

Buddy teaches Art in Osceola High School, Osceola, Arkansas.

7. **Reed.** Married Mary Ann Sallee of Pocahontas, Arkansas. Children:

- A. **Ann.**
- B. **Robert.**

Reed teaches at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

8. **Raymond Roy:** Still-born infant.



**Madie Greenwood Jones**

**The Ervin Rolleson Jones Family**

IX **Mary Elizabeth Greenwood** (called Madie): Born September 4, 1895. Mary Elizabeth married Ervin Rolleson Jones on March 13, 1920. Children:

1. **William Ervin Jones** (called Bill): Born December 22, 1920. He married Millie Stribling, born June 10, 1922 of El Paso, Texas, the daughter of Nora and Bill Stribling. Children:

A. **Elizabeth Ann:** Born April 4, 1946. Ann married Danny Lloyd Millaway of Carrollton, Texas, the son of Alva Mae Maddox and Cleatus Harmon Millaway of Farmers Branch, Texas. Children:

1. **April Elizabeth:** Born March 16, 1977 in Irving, Texas.

B. **Wendal:** Born July 2, 1949. Married Cheryl Lynn Horst, the daughter of Ione Wofford and Franklin Harold Horst of Waldenburg,

Arkansas. Children:

- 1. **Blake:** Born May 9, 1974.
- 2. **Sabra:** Born February 17, 1977.
- 3. **Spencer:** Born November 19, 1978.

C. **David Allen:** Born November 2, 1952. Married Rona Leigh Hogue, the daughter of Marcita Edwards and Ronald Lee Hogue, Sr. of Weiner, Arkansas. Children: None.

D. **Mary Lynn:** Born November 14, 1960. Single- attending college.

X. **Orda Josephine Greenwood:** Born July 31, 1900, and died December 28, 1911.

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Madie

Mary Elizabeth Jones has been one of our favorite cousins since Montie and I were young children and living with her parents at Hickory Ridge, Arkansas. Madie is a very special person. The thought of Madie also gives me a mental image of her mother, Aunt Mallie. I do not mean a picture of their physical features as Madie does not resemble her mother but of a gentlewoman. Madie is a gentlewoman as was her mother. She was given the name Mary Elizabeth but was called Madie by the family. She was six years old when her parents moved to Hickory Ridge. Madie attended school in Hickory Ridge. Her education would have been limited had she stayed there; a high school education was not available in Hickory Ridge at that time. When Madie was fifteen years old, Dr. V.C. Kays, the first president of what later was to become Arkansas State University, was looking for prospective students for the Jonesboro Agricultural School, which was started in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1909. Jonesboro is approximately thirty miles from Hickory Ridge. Dr. Kays came to Hickory Ridge and asked Uncle Ben if Madie could be enrolled at Aggie, which everyone called the school. Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie were glad of this opportunity for Madie so they gave their consent. Many years later Dr. Kays told Madie that she was the first person he enrolled for Aggie. Madie had finished the eighth grade when she started at Jonesboro Aggie. Aggie was also called "a glorified high school" as it offered home economics, art, animal husbandry, and other subjects that most high schools did not offer at that time.

Raymond Roy Greenwood, Madie's brother, was three years older than she was. His education had not progressed any further than the eighth grade so he went to Jonesboro with Madie and was also enrolled at Jonesboro Aggie.

Madie and Roy attended Aggie for one school term, but they were forced to stay at home the following year because of the illness of their younger sister, Orda, who died December 28, 1911. After Orda's death, they returned to Aggie in September, 1912, for another school year. Madie became interested in art during this term. Also, during this school year, Roy became known as one of the star players of the Aggie baseball team.

Both Madie and Roy stayed at home in Hickory Ridge for approximately the next four years. Madie had a natural talent for drawing and painting. In 1917 Uncle Ben and Aunt Mallie sent Roy and Madie to Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, where they worked for their room and board. Madie studied art and music. Roy stayed only a short time in Valparaiso as World War I was declared, and he enlisted in the United States Army at Chicago, Illinois. Madie stayed in Valparaiso throughout the year 1917 and also in 1918 until she had completed the summer term. She returned home in the fall of 1918.

Montie and I were living at Aunt Mallie's when Madie returned to Hickory Ridge. I remember that she brought home a beautiful china tea set and a dresser set of intricate designs that she had painted while in college. The tea set was placed on Aunt Mallie's buffet and I, as well as the other members of the family and her friends, greatly admired it. Madie still has the china, and it is as beautiful as ever.

In 1918 when the flu epidemic was raging, Madie did not yet have enough credits to have earned a high school education; therefore, she did not have a teaching certificate. Due to the illness of

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some of the teachers because of the epidemic, the Hickory Ridge School Board was greatly in need of her services. They allowed her to teach as a substitute teacher. She taught the remainder of the school term, which included most of the school year of 1918-1919. When school was out in May, 1919, she attended summer school at Conway State Teacher's College, Conway, Arkansas, and earned her certificate.

The next school year, 1919, Madie taught school at Fisher, Arkansas, six miles north of Hickory Ridge. She met Ervin Rolleson Jones and married him on March 13, 1920. Madie and Ervin lived on the Jones farm about two miles south of Fisher. On December 22, 1920, their son, William Ervin Jones, was born. In 1927 Ervin and Madie moved from the Jones farm to another farm about one-fourth mile from Fisher.

In 1929 Madie resumed teaching at Fisher. The following summer, in 1930, and each summer up to and including the year of 1934, she attended summer school at Arkansas State College in Jonesboro, the same school where she had first enrolled as a fifteen-year-old girl. Madie taught at Fisher each school year, including the year 1934.

In 1935 and 1936 Madie enrolled as a regular student at Arkansas State College and received her bachelor of science in education degree; in 1936. Teaching became Madie's major career, although she had many other hobbies, including gardening and pottery. In 1937 and 1938 she taught in Lafe High School at Lafe, Arkansas. In September, 1939, she returned to the Fisher High School and taught for eight years. She went to Hickory Ridge in 1947 and continued to teach at Hickory Ridge High School for fourteen years until she retired at age 65 in 1961. Altogether, she spent thirty-four years of her life in the teaching profession.

Madie's husband passed away on August 16, 1943, while their son, William Ervin (Bill), was in service in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. Madie resumed her painting about the year 1945. She has completed many beautiful paintings of scenes around her farm home and still lifes. These pictures decorate the walls of her home. In 1949 she painted her self-portrait. Throughout the years Madie, like her mother before her, has been a very good Baptist. Loving her church, she has always been active in it and has taught a Sunday School class almost as many years as she taught school.

Montie and I love to visit Madie and have tried to do so every year since our retirement. On one of our visits, she suggested that I write a book about the story of our family. I, therefore, have lovingly dedicated this book to her.

### **NOTES**

<sup>7.1</sup> Most of the early information on Rebecca Malvina Hydrick and Benjamin Franklin Greenwood was furnished by Mary Elizabeth Jones (Madie), Route 1, Box 2, Fisher, Arkansas 72429.

<sup>7.2</sup> Chowning.

<sup>7.3</sup> Chowning.

<sup>7.4</sup> "Hickory Ridge Baptist Observes Anniversary," The Wynne Progress, Wynne, Ark., March 24, 1982.

<sup>7.5</sup> Chowning.