

1951-1958

Wiser Adkins, father of Maude, was born in Virginia on March 10, 1840. He met and married Margaret Jane Williams, born in Randolph County (near Columbus) Georgia, December 16, 1842. They were married March 17, 1859. She was a school teacher and her father owned slaves. She taught grandfather Adkins to read and write after they were married. Wiser ran away from home at the age of 13 on horseback and made his way to Cincinnati (?) then on to St Louis, Mo. He rode Indian Scout on two wagon trains to California at the age of 15. He called it Californy. In St. Louis, he married Margaret Jane Williams. Her father was in the Civil War.

The first four children were born at Rush, Ky., and with these children and other adult members of the families, he started to Missouri by covered wagon. There was possibly more than one wagon as the party included Wiser's mother, Polly Adkins, and his sister Sarah who lived with them most of her life and she never married. Also Letitia, known at the family as Aunt Tish, and the sister of Margaret Jane who lived with the family for many years.

They endured many hardships on the way and lived for awhile in Indiana, saving money and provisions with which to continue their journey. While in Indiana, a son Jimmie was born. Later, as they were traveling on to Missouri, Grandmother Polly Adkins died on the wagon. He had to drive on until he came to a farm house, where he went in and told his story. The farmer was very friendly and invited him to bring his family in. Of course, he had his own food and bedding in the wagons.

The good farmer took the ceiling down from his kitchen to make a coffin. In those days, houses were built from logs that had been split in half, and much work had to be done to fashion a coffin from this type of lumber. The floors built from such logs were known as "punchon floors". Grandmother was buried and left behind on this farm.

Disheartened by the loss of his mother and by the many hardships that the family had to endure he turned back and returned again to Kentucky. The women and smaller children slept in the wagons on feather beds, while the father and larger boys slept under the wagons, or wrapped in quilts on the ground around the campfire, watching for Indians and wild animals. They lived on wild turkey, rabbits and such game as they could kill along the way. The story is told by Maude and Anna that one of the boys (Uncle Bee) sat one evening and held a jug under the drip of a rock cliff until it filled with water. On his return trip to the camp, he stumbled and fell, and broke his jug and had to return to the cliff and wait for another hour to get a jug of drinking water.

Upon reaching Carter County in Kentucky, he settled and built a log house at the east end of Geigerville between the Railroad and Williams Creek, just below Number Ten Station. At this writing (1958) there is a R. R. crossing and a small rickety bridge across the creek (where we are afraid to take the car). This is right below the house where another Adkins lived who was Wiser's brother (Harrison). Later, one of Frank Adkins girls bought the land and started to remodel the house that stood on the land. The girl (Josephine) died before the remodeling was completed and her husband abandoned the remodeling.

At this home site, other children were born. Grandfather Wiser still longed for the promises of the Golden West. Again he set forth in a covered wagon with his family, and this time he profited by his previous experience and was better prepared. He made the trip safely and settled in Arkansas near the present city of Little Rock. While living here, a snow storm covered their house, barn, outhouse, etc., and Grandfather and the boys had to

snowed tunnels to the barn to feed the animals. They also had a storm cellar where they had to dry clothes during wind storms. In Arkansas, their youngest son, Frank was born and also while here, their oldest son, Henry, married a girl whose first name was Arbanner.

Again the family returned to Kentucky by covered wagon. On this trip, they were more modern and had a wood burning cook stove tied onto the back of the wagon. They also killed all their chickens and livestock as much as possible, and had it along with them to cook on the way.

Upon return to Carter County, they settled in Grant, Ky., on Williams Creek. Maude says they staked claims for land which included four valleys; from the tops of the hills to the railroad tracks, beginning with Shanty Branch, which included the Pea Hollow, next to the Larken Hollow, then to Broke-down Bridge Hollow and last Gullet Branch, which is just above Number Ten station or next to Norton Branch.

Bertha Jones Kirkpatrick, a grand daughter, says that he purchased this land from his Mother's family, whose name was Lusk. And that the property is recorded in the County Court House at Grayson, Ky., in the name of Margaret Jane Adkins.

Later, by verbal agreement, Wiser Adkins gave the land to his children as follows: To Ella, 40 acres in the head of Shanty Branch (this was deeded) and later she sold it and bought again down on Williams Creek to get on the highway. To Henry Adkins, 40 acres in the mouth of Gullet Branch (this was deeded) and later sold by Henry. To Anna, 40 acres in the Larkin Hollow, and to Maude, 40 acres in the Broke-down Bridge Hollow. To Minnie, 40 acres in the head of Gullet Branch. Later, when Henry sold his 40 acres, he also included the 40 acres which belonged to Minnie, as she was not living on the property at the time.

At Grant, the family lived in a two room log house, built with a chimney in between the two rooms, (like two separate houses) with a porch extending all the way across the front. This house was between the mouth of Shanty Branch and the Larkin Hollow. Coal was found on the land and a mine was opened (known as the Morning Glory Coal Co.) and a tippie built near the Broke-down Bridge Hollow just below the "Big Cut". A siding was put in by the Ashland Coal and Iron Company where they set off cars, and the coal was filled into the cars from a "shute" at the tippie.

The old couple, their children now all grown, lived prosperously from the royalty obtained from the coal, and opened a small store on the place to supply their help with food, dry goods, etc.

They also built a two story frame house with large kitchen and dining room, which was painted white on the outside and was very attractive. A large porch all the way across the front of the house both upstairs and down, with a pretty white bannister. They owned a large barn, horses, cattle, pigs, turkey, geese, guineas, chickens and even owned a pair of pheasants that strutted up and down the barn yard.

Our father, Joe Simpson, helped to build and to paint the new house, which at this writing still stands on Shanty Branch, and is occupied by the family of Frank Adkins, the youngest son. The story is told that this house was built from the lumber cut from a single tree which grew in the Pea Hollow. The remains of the tree stump is still there at this writing. Charlie Brainerd, Ella's husband, set up a saw mill on the place and cut the lumber.

Joe Simpson and Maude also lived on the property at the time this house was built. They lived in a two room house at the foot of the Goat Rocks in what Grandma Adkins later called her upper garden. Our sister Nellie was born in this house. And the writer can remember the fence around the yard and the garden gate, as the house was later torn down and moved to Gullet Branch and rebuilt for Minnie and her children after she became widowed.

Henry married a girl named Mollie Corree and they had one child, Viole Adkins. Mollie died of tuberculosis at the age of 19 and was buried in the Jimmie Hall graveyard with our family. After her death, the following poem was found in one of her school books in her own hand writing and Henry had it engraved on her tombstone.

1873-1892

Dearest child thou has left us
And thy loss we really feel
Tis the Lord that has bereft us
Of the one we loved so well.

To those that now stand by
As you are now, once was I
As I am now, you all must be
Prepare yourselves to follow me.

Another story handed down by our Mother, after Mollie died, Maude, with the help of another girl, took the bed clothes from Mollie's bed and went down to the creek to wash. They heated water in an iron kettle and washed by hand, and hung the quilts on the bushes to dry. While they were washing, along came a handsome young man who introduced himself as Joe Simpson and he stayed and helped wring the quilts. That is how our Mother and Father met. Later, Henry Adkins returned to Arkansas and married Arbanner. He died and was buried in Arkansas.

Wiser set a small pine tree on a hill above the new house, marking the place where he wanted to be buried. Later he was placed there, and with his wife Margaret Jane by his side. Also Andrew Arnold, who came home and died from a heart attack. Frank and several grandchildren are also buried on the place.

Minnie, Letitia, Jimmie and Maude are buried at the Hall Graveyard at Number Ten, near Rush, Ky. At this writing (1958) Ella and Anna are still living.

Margaret Jane Williams had four sisters, named Josephine, Hannah, Cordelia and Letitia. Josephine married Jim Bates and had one child named Margaret and called Maggie. Josephine died when the child was small. Jim Bates married the second time to Susan Bailey and they has several children. Maggie was very unhappy, and at the age of 13, slipped away from home, going by the way of the hills to Ashland, Ky. where the first house she stopped at was a man by the name of Will Kirkpatrick, who was a widower, living with his wife's sister and his small children. They took Maggie in and kept her until the sister passed away, at which time Maggie was 17 and he considered it improper to keep her, so he took her back to the Wiser Adkins family. She cried after him and he said the only way to keep her was to marry her, which he did. They had three children named Nora, Eva and Willie Kirkpatrick.

Jim Bates had a son named Mark, who married Rose Vickers, and they had one child named Curtis Bates. Rose died, leaving the young child which Jim and Susan Bates raised as their own. This is the Curtis Bates that married Janie Simpson.

The mother of Margaret Jane Williams was Katie Shockley, who married the Reverend Jonathan Williams of the Methodist Church. His father was also a Methodist minister, Reverend Jonathan Williams, who married Margaret Marineth (or Mariney).

The mother of Wiser Adkins was Polly Lusk, who married Isaac Adkins.

The story was handed down from Maude and Anna that Frank, the youngest son, was sent to the County Seat at Grayson to pay the taxes for many year, and that by doing so, he paid taxes in his own name and claimed that the property should revert to him.

Wiser Adkins died October 20, 1916 without leaving a will, and no record has been found of a transfer of the property.

At this writing (1958) a property settlement is being investigated. One lawyer stated that to pay the taxes on land does not give ownership to the one who pays. Therefore, only four or possibly five of the families remain as heirs to the property. (If Andrew Arnold can be counted).

The families of Minnie, Lu, Maude and Anna are still living at this writing.

In 1958 the records in Grayson, Ky. have been searched by a member of the family, who reported that a tract of 40 acres in the Mouth of Shanty Franch and on the spot where the old store house stood, has been willed or deeded to Frank, date not given.

It was also found that the property was listed on the Deed Books as Margaret Jane Adkins and no transfer of the property in its entirety has been found.

Bertha Kirkpatrick says there was 419 acres originally, while Anna Kelly says there were 360 acres of which four 40 acre plots have been deeded and sold as follows: Two 40 acre plots sold by Henry, one sold by Ella and one 40 acre plot now held by the heirs of Frank Adkins.

The remaining acres are now under investigation and an effort being made to clear the title so that the property can be sold and divided.

MAUDE ADKINS AND JOSEPH LAFAYETTE SIMPSON
 Married at Rush, Kentucky
 January 28, 1893

Joseph Lafayette Simpson: Born Nov. 24, 1869
 Died February 20, 1944, Ashland, Ky.

Maude Adkins: Born August 26, 1876, Rush, Ky.
 Died October 16, 1949, Ashland, Ky.

Their children and descendants as follows:

David Arthur Simpson: Born Rush, Ky., Sept. 3, 1893
 Died Oct. 17, 1897, Rush, Ky.

Margaret Blanche Simpson: Born Rush, Ky., Dec. 12, 1894
 Died October 5, 1967, Williamson, W. Va.

Married: Daniel Erison Kenly on Oct. 8, 1920 in Cattletsburg, Ky.
 Died: February 14, 1950, Williamson, W. Va.
 Buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Ashland, Ky., Lot 341, Section H

Their children:

Ida Belle Kenly: Born July 9, 1921, South Williamson, Ky.

Married: Cecil Omer Durham on April 4, 1943, Camp Gordon
 Johnston, Fla.
 Born: Sept. 3, 1919, Oscar, La.

Their children:

Margaret Elizabeth Durham: Born March 7, 1944, Williamson, W.V

Married: Charles Wilson Bethany, Jr., El Paso, Texas
 Sept. 10, 1965 at Ft. Bliss, El Paso, Texas

Divorced: 1979

James Michael Durham: Born Sept., 21, 1949, Ft. Benning, Ga.

Arnold Nelson Kenly: Born July 24, 1927, Williamson, W. Va.

Married: Eleanor Grove Mc Inturff, Lexington, Ky. July 28, '50
 Born: April 26, 1929, Strasburg, Virginia

Their children:

Patricia Eleanor: Born March 15, 1955, Clearwater, Florida

Jean Elizabeth: Born July 29, 1956, Clearwater, Florida

Arnold Nelson: Born May 11, 1964, Clearwater, Florida

Descendants of Maude Adkins and Joseph L. Simpson, continued:

- Nellie Simpson: Born Grant, Ky., Sept. 14, 1890
Died April 2, 1919, Louisville, Ky.
- Essie Jane Simpson: Born Rush, Ky., Sept. 19, 1898 (Evelyn Rose Aug. 22, '21
Died: July 8, 1978 (Trexel Vernon Aug. 7, '22
Married: Curtis Bates (Earl Lee Sept. 2, '23
Nov. 20, 1920, Ashland, Ky. (Curtis Edward July 21, '2
Died May 25, 1971 (Infant boy born,
Died at birth ?
(Vivian Jane July 21, '35
- Joseph Franklin Simpson: Born Rush, Ky., Dec. 14, 1902 (Arthur Wayne, Apr. 30,
Died: Oct. 30, 1952, Fostoria, Ohio
Married: Alberta Stiel, Ashland, Ky. (Marion Louis, Feb. 18, '3
December 23, 1926 in Ashland, Ky. Died _____
- James Benjamin Simpson: Born Rush, Ky. March 10, 1905 (Peggy Sue, Nov. 3, '44
Died: _____ (Adopted, 1951
Married: Imogene Morman, Ashland, Ky.
June 15, 1927, Ashland, Ky.
Died 1978
Married: Rose _____
- Samuel Raymond Simpson: Born, Rush, Ky., Aug. 9, 1906
Died: Nov. 30, 1950 (Chaplain Capt. killed in
action in Korean War) (Hazel Marie
(March 21, 1937
Married: Hazel Hicks, Ashland, Ky.
July 28, 1929
Died: _____
- Kathleen May Simpson: Born Kilgore, Ky., May 10, 1908 (Imogene Duncan adopted
July 1, 1925
(Bobby Ray, Oct. 18, 1930
(Kaye Donna, Oct. 10, 1936
(Carol Sue, Nov. 26, 1940
(Daniel Allan, Mar. 25, 1950
Named for Daniel B. Kenly
- Curtis Zotto Simpson, Born Kilgore, Ky., Aug. 1, 1910
Died (Roy Walton, July 28, 1934
Married: Clarice McDavid, Ashland, Ky. (Curtis Dene, Sept. 13, 193
July 26, 1933, Ashland, Ky.
Died: _____
Married: Esther _____
Born: _____
- Lula Marie Simpson: Born Kilgore, Ky., June 10, 1912 (Paul Truman July 2, '47
Died: _____
Married: Truman Virgel Berry, Lavalette, W. Va.
Born Jan. 29, 1907
Sept. 24, 1945
- Clyde Adams Simpson, Born Kilgore, Ky., Mar. 8, 1914 (Clyde Adams, Jr. Feb. 8, '47
Died: _____
Married: Mary Artist, Ashland, Ky. April 14, 1934, Later divorced.
Married: Mav Merman, Dec. 10, 1933, Died
Married: Mary

Frances Susan Simpson: Born Rush, Ky., April 18, 1918
 Died _____ (Dorsie Joe, Feb. 19, 1940)
 Married: Dorsie Gibbs, _____ (Janice Rae, Aug. 19, 1941)
 March 20, 1939, (Dreama Dawn, Mar. 15, 1943)
 Ashland, Ky., (Gary, Nov, 25, 1946)
 Died: _____

Harvey Forsythe Simpson, Born Nov. 23, 1921, Ashland, Ky. (Billy, Sept. 20, '47)
 Married: Faye Lewis, Ashland, Ky., Nov. 26, (Carla Faye, Dec. 1952
 1946 (Randall wayne, aug. 19, '5
 (later divorced) (Michael Anthony,
 June 14, 1958

Married: May _____

MARGARET JANE WILLIAMS AND WISER ADKINS
 Married at Randolph County, Ga.
 March 17, 1859

Wiser Adkins, Born March 10, 1840 in Virginia (area now W. Va. near Ky. border)
 Died October 20, 1916 at Grant, Ky.

Margaret Jane Williams, Born December 16, 1842, Randolph County, Ga.

Their children as follows:

Henry Adkins, Born June 22, 1861, Rush, Ky.
 Died August __, 1922 in Arkansas, Buried there
 First wife: Mollie Coffee, Grant, Ky. Died 1892
 Second wife Arbanner _____ Arkansas (his childhood sweet-
 heart)

Andrew Arnold Adkins, Born April 13, 1864
 Died October 22, 1914 at Grant, Ky.,
 Married Pearle Peaton, Rush, Ky.
 (She married second time, died and buried in Florida)

Minnie Adkins, Born March 13, 1866
 Died April 23, 1937, Van Lear, Ky.
 Her correct name was Margaret Marineth (Or Mariny) from
 Margaret Jane Williams side of family.
 First husband: Jess Jones, Ironton, Ohio
 Second husband: Charlie Hewlett, Warner Creek, Ky.

Lu Annis Adkins, Born January 2, 1868 (?)
 Died Jan. 13, 1956 at Charlton Township, near Chicago
 First husband: Charlie Kliber
 Second husband: Robert H. Delaney

Jimmie Adkins, Born April 30, 1870
 Died Nov, 3, 1872 (Tombstone reads: "Died March 3, 1875
 2 years, 6 months, 3 days old")

Ella Adkins: Born November 4, 1874
 Died November 12, 1960
 Married Charlie Brainerd, Grant, Ky. (Died December 21, 1961)

Maude Adkins, Born August 26, 1877
 Died October 16, 1949, 2820 Main St. Ashland, Ky.

Married Joseph Lafayette Simpson, Rush, Ky.
 He died February 20, 1944, 2820 Main St. Ashland, Ky.

Letitia Alkins, Born March 9, 1878
 Died May 31, 1885

Anne Adkins, Born August 18, 1880
 Died
 Married Robert Lee Kelley, Grant, Ky.

Frank Adkins, Born April 15, 1884 in Arkansas
 Died Jan. 24, 1947, Grant, Ky.
 First wife: Annie Stewart from Garner Creek, Ky. She died
 when their children Herma and Pelva were babies.
 Second wife: Ada Davis, Grant, Ky.

May 1981 Ada Adkins still lives with son in the Wiser Adkins home, Rush, Ky.
 She is 87 years old.

History of the Ancestry of
Joseph Lafayette Simpson

John Carter Simpson, born June 27, 1827, died Jan. 10, 1914 at Millfield, Ohio
Margaret Elizabeth Ferguson, born Nov. 27, 1826, Garner, Boyd Co., Ky.
Died April 18, 1904, Rush, Ky.

Marriage date and place unknown.

Their children:

Margaret Elizabeth Simpson, born _____
Died: Dec. 21, 1896, W. Va.
Married to Samuel T. Lambert of Ironton, Ohio

Charles A. Simpson, born _____ Married to Sidney
Died Aug. 17, 1929

John Wesley Simpson born _____
Died Sept. 21, 1941

Samuel Simpson born _____
Died _____ Married _____

Henry Simpson born _____
Died Dec. _____ 1931
Married Maggie Schmidt, Rush, Ky. _____

Benjamin Simpson born _____
Died Sept. 29, 1940
Married Alma _____

Frederick Uhlam Simpson born _____
Died Jan. _____ 1921
Married Chloe Hall, Rush, Ky. _____

Joseph Lafayette Simpson, born Nov. 24, 1869
Died Feb. 20, 1944
Married Maude Adkins, Grant, Ky., Jan. 28, 1893

John Carter Simpson's mother was Margaret Elizabeth Uhlam, (called Peggy). Her father was Dr. Frederick Uhlam from Germany. She is buried near Princess, Ky. on the old Jim Sweet farm. Father of John C. Simpson, unknown.

Lizzie Simpson (Fred's oldest daughter) says that the maiden name of Margaret Elizabeth Simpson (wife of John Carter) was Lambert. That she had a brother Cal Lambert who lived in Ironton, Ohio. That there is a Cal Lambert in Ashland, Ky. who now owns a shoe store (1958).

Bertha Kirkpatrick, (Aunt Minnie Hewletts oldest daughter) also says the maiden name was Lambert. However, Ethel Lambert Hill, (daughter of Samuel T. Lambert) says the maiden name was Ferguson.

John Carter Simpson had a brother named Samuel Simpson who lived in Ironton, O