

The Byrd Clan.

A Tiny sunbeam played across the floor at William Byrds Feet. He sat in his easy chair and watched it for a moment and then ^e lifted his eyes to his young son, Levi, who stood before him. He saw a pleasant faced young fellow of medium height whose dark violet eyes were looking steadily at him. Light brown locks worn rather long, a well set up young man though slender in build. The high bull forehead portrayed the scholar and the slender long fingered hands the musician. He liked what he saw in this son of his and it was hard to deny his request but he was very sure that his judgment was right.

"I'm sorry, Levi, but I do not feel that I can grant your request. None of the other children have gone to the academy and I cannot see the justice of letting you go just because you are the youngest. You've had a better education than most of the young men hereabouts. Its time now for you to settle down to making your own way."

"Very well, sir." Young Levi replied and turned on his heel and left the room. He wandered down by the river near his Tennessee home and lay down on the sweet smelling grass to think things out. His disappointment was almost more than he could bear. For years his dream had been to go to the academy at Morristown and study the higher branches of learning and above all his beloved music. "Perhaps a ride on Bess will clear things for me." And off he went to catch and bridle Bess. He rode long and hard and coming back he chanced upon pretty Harriet Babb also out for a ride. She was a charming lass with her deep blue eyes and chestnut colored hair which had tumbled down around her shoulders while she was riding. Levi stopped to chat awhile and rode up to her fathers house with her. They had been neighbors since childhood but he had never noticed Harriet particularly. His eye had been taken by her older sister Frances. But Frances was married now to a likely young man named Phillips. After spending a pleasant evening with the Babb family, of which there was a goodly number Levi rode on home. The more he thought of his father s refusal to let him go to school the angrier he grew. And one bright day in early summer he rode away on Bess and met Miss Harriet again and they visited the minister and were married.

"you're pretty young, Levi, to be taking on a family but now that you have done so, I wish you well. I have no money to give to you but my heartiest wishes go with you and Harriet. The young couple rented a small patch of ground and set up houskeeping in the tiny house that stood upon it. It was hard for two such youngsters to settle down to the business of making a home. It was work all day in the fields and come home at night and cook the evening meal and eat it. After the dishes were washed the young couple were ready for their bed and sleep.

And then one cold January day about a year later and after hours of agony Harriet presented Levi with his first born a daughter. They christened her Margaret Jane. Little Margaret was a sturdy child and grew into a healthy happy little girl despite the spankings Levi gave her when she kept him awake with her crying. They'd take her to the fields when the weather grew warmer and Harriet would lay her beneath a tree while she hoed the corn and vegetables. One day the baby began to cry and Harriet started towards her. Levi called her back and said "Let her alone, she's all right and we must get this field hoed today." However the persistent crying was more than Harriet could stand and she went to the baby. Great was Levi's shame when he learned that the sun had shifted and had burnt the baby's cheek badly. Grandpa Byrd could not see enough of his little granddaughter. She grew fast and was soon stepping about on her own little feet. She loved to romp and she and "Granddaddy" spent many a happy hour together. Sometimes Harriet would miss the baby and sure enough Granddad had come by and picked her up and carried her to his house. Harriet scolded him roundly for it but he persisted in doing so. When Margaret was two years old she spent several days with her grandparents. When she arrived home she found her Mommie ill in bed. A little stillborn sister had come and gone in her absence. Two years later a little brother, William Philip, came to live with her. She loved the tiny baby and little as she was she spent many hours watching and amusing him.

And now the threats of war that had been rumored about, became a certainty and the Byrd Home was a house divided against itself. William Byrd was a well thought of man in the neighborhood. He was the leader of many worthwhile projects but his sympathies were with the North. The neighbors whom he had befriended and helped began to turn away from him. Harriet's family were southern sympathizers and she was torn between the two loyalties.

When the Declaration of War was passed the young men began to enlist. Levi had been ordained a minister shortly before the Declaration and as such was exempt from active duty. His brothers Bill, Dick and Anderson were preparing to enlist with the Union Army. Because of a band of men called the Bushwhackers who began to pester the Union sympathizers the men were forced to hide in the woods. The boys escaped and found the Union forces but the old father was shot down. He was brought home one day carried by a few friends. No one noticed Margaret as she ran to greet her Granddaddy. The sight she saw was forever planted in her baby mind. Not content with killing him they had shot his face full of holes. After two years of fighting the Confederacy needed more men so they drafted Ministers, fathers and all able bodied men. Levi was called and accepted. After the cruel way they had treated his father he had no thought to fight for their cause. Making an excuse of needing a horse he was granted leave and he passed through his house on his way to the Union lines. He couldn't take time to see the new baby daughter, Frances Amelia, who had arrived a few days before. There must have been suspicion as to his intentions because a very short time after he had gone, soldiers were at the door asking his whereabouts. The months following were anxious ones for Harriet and the rest of the family. Great was their relief when finally word came that he had safely reached the Union lines. They were busy years for him and he distinguished himself in no small way during his Army career.

When finally the war was ended and the men came home little Margaret waited with the others for a sight of her Daddy. And when she saw him she ran to meet him and bust into tears of joy. The years following the end of the war were busy ones. It was hard going for every one. Levi found it hard to feed and care for his family with the income from the farm so he organized subscription schools in penmanship and music. Besides the educational factor of the schools they were a source of social contact for the pupils.

As the years flew by other children joined the family group. James Irving who died near the age of two, Martha Lucretia, Eunice Virginia and lastly David Clyde.

Levi taught his children himself as there were few schools at that time. One of Margarets earliest recollections was of him teaching her to sing. Amelia was the scholar and Martha was the beauty, but little Eunice was the sunny one and she inherited a love of music to equal Levis own. At the age of two she was singing a little song called "Wake up Little

Daisy".

Margaret being the oldest was called upon to help a great deal with the raising of the children. She told a tale of how Martha, who was rather obstinate would not wear the sun-bonnet made for her. Nothing daunted Margaret she dealt with the situation by cutting holes in the top of the bonnet and tying it on with two strands of Marthas hair. No freckles must mar that beautiful skin.

One day Margaret had a gentleman caller who was taking her for a buggy ride. Little Eunice who was sixteen years younger than Margaret crawled backwards down the stairs crying to go with. "Maggie" (as she now wished to be called.) When the young swain saw her he said "Aw let her go along" and Maggie gathered her up and put her in the buggy calling to her Mother as they drove off.

Levi had heard glowing tales of the farmlands in Iowa, so shortly after Eunices birth he travelled to that state, sending for the family when he had located there. Maggie never forgot the sight of him shivering in his cover of blankets as their train pulled into the station. It was their first journey by train and all had enjoyed it immensely.

About a year after their arrival in Iowa Clyde was born. Levi did not like the intense cold in Iowa so when Clyde was a small lad the family migrated to Kansas, Their first home was a dugout and Clyde showed his disapproval by declaring "Oh this is a dirt thawk" He had a little difficulty with his speech in his early years and thawk was his word for house.

The years spent in Iowa ;and Kansas were happy ones despite the hard work all were forced to do. There were corn huskings and work bees and threshing. The Bird family (As Levi now spelt his name) was a welcome addition to any party. Maggie bubbled over with fun and Will had a twinkle in his eye. Amelia was the vore sedate one and Maggie loved to shock her a little.

As some years were not as prosperous as others Maggie helped out the family income by working in families. Sometimes homesickness would overcome her and shed rife horseback for miles

over the prairie to visit for a few hours. She would have to sneak away from Eunice as she always cried so heart brokenly to go with her. Always there was a closeness between these two, as Margaret had taken charge of Eunice shortly after birth as Harriet was very ill at that time and very slow to recovering.

Young Martha fulfilled her promise of becoming a real beauty. The young men from neighboring farms swarmed around her and one day she threw a bombshell into their midst. She ran away and married Fleming Pratt, a late widower with five small children. Martha or Mat as she chose to be called, had taken on quite a task for her young hands. However she stuck to it and did the best she could.

Amelia had been the first to leave the family nest and had married a handsome young cowboy Isaac Pennington. Will and Maggie followed in short order. Will chose for his bride a goodlooking young lady by the name of Nancy Harpster.

Maggie's choice fell upon a man some years her senior. His name was Alfred Crumly and he was a circuit preacher and spent a good deal of his time travelling from one church to another.

In due time the babies began to arrive. Maggie and Alfred grieved over the loss of their first born, a boy. Amelia and Isaac became the proud parents of a boy Warren Harold. A year or so later Maggie gave birth to a girl. She was christened Eva May. A few months later a lusty young lad called Arthur Franklin took up his abode with Will and Nancy. Mat and Fleming followed in a few months with a young son and he was named Oliver Perle.

Levi now began to talk of moving west. Glowing pictures were painted of the wonderful country around Puget Sound in the northwestern part of the Union. I do not know in what order they went or if they travelled together but Levi and Harriet, Isaac and Amelia and Fleming and Mat all pulled up stakes and finally settled in the small but fast growing town of Seattle, Washington. Here the children Ray Pennington (Aunt Amelia & Uncle Ike) Hazel, and Maude Jaunita children of Mat and Fleming Pratt, followed in due order.

Here it was that Young Eunice found her romance and she became the wife of one William Murray, an engineer for a railway and also a piano player. To them two sons were born

the older dying shortly after birth. Ralph Earl appeared on the scene a year later.

Maggie and Alfred had been prevailed upon to move west also and they settled in a small town near Seattle called Bothell. During their residence there a daughter Eunice was born to them and four months later Mattie and Flemming became the parents of their fourth and last child Grace Pauline.

When Eunice was two years old Maggie and Alfred moved to a town near Mt. Si. Snoqualmie Washington. Here Jessie Pearl, the last of the Bird grandchildren was born.

Harriet and Levi had bought some lots in Seattle and built themselves a house. For many years Levi worked in a woodyard. By careful management of funds he and Blossom, his nickname for Harriet, spent many pleasant years in their Seattle home. Harriet did not live to see the first great grandchild (Violet Hargus) Some strange disorder that was prevalent at the time claimed her and she passed away at the age of sixty seven. Levi and Clyde, who never married stayed on in the old home and Levi lived to see all but three of his great grandchildren. He passed on at the age of 88 or 89 years.

Will was the first of the grown children to pass away several years before his father Maggie followed about twenty five years later. Then Clyde, Mattie, Eunice and Amelia.

THE BYRD FAMILY TREE

CHILDREN

Margaret Jane
William Philip
Frances Amelia
James Irving
Martha Lucretia
Eunice Virginia
David Clyde

Harriet Elizabeth Babb & Levi Browlow Byrd

Eva May
Enice Vanara
Jessie Pearl

Margaret Jane Byrd & Alfred Crumley

Warren Harold
Raymond Weldon

Frances Amelia Bird & Isaac B. Pennington

Arthur Franklin

Nancy Catherine Harpster & William Philip Bird

Oliver Perle
Hazel Gladys
Maude Juanita
Grace Pauline

Martha Lucretia Bird & Fleming Pratt

Ralph Earl

Eunice Virginia Bird & William Emmet Murray

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN

Violet Voyd
Alfred James

Eva May Crumly & Daniel Boyd Hargus

Margaret Ellen
Evangelyn Eunice
Howard Nelson Jr.

Eunice Vanara Crumly & Howard Nelson Smith

No Children

Jessie Pearl Crumly & Theodore Steffen

Lawerence Levi
Helen Lucile
Arthur William
Eleanor Catherine
George Robert

Esther Belle Bailey & Arthur Franklin Bird

Patricia Helen
Dorothy June
Marjorie Pearl

Svea Selma Anderson & Oliver Perle Pratt

Lemoyne Helen

Hazel Gladys Pratt & William Soby

Francis Gordon

" " Francis Galli

No children

Raymond Weldon Pennington & Pauline ? Gladys ?

Leon

Maude Juanita Pratt & Michael O'Bradovich

Lorraine Frances
Barbara Shirley

Grace Pauline Pratt & Edward Rounds

Earl Bernard,

Ida Isabelle Kelly & Ralph Earl Murray

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Loretta Mae

Violet Voyd Hargus & Francis Amos Greenlaw

Joan Irene

Irene Pringle & Alfred James Hargus

Teri Lee

Margeret Mahoney & Leon O'Bradovich

Robert Edward
Marjorie Carol
William Edward
Robert Arthur
Kathleen Gay

Lorraine Frances Rounds

Dale Allen
Carol Jean
James Andrew

Patricia Helen Pratt & James William Hunt

Judith Ellen
Theodore Howard

Margaret Ellen Smith & George Ernest Carlin

Audry Hazel
Patricia Eileen

Lemogne Helen Soby & Marlin Roy Loser

Kristine June
Paul Edward

Dorothy June Pratt & Clifton Edward Olson

Bonnie Lou
David Michael
Mark Louis

Marjorie Pearl Pratt & Louis Jacob Butler

Ronald
Janet L
Darrell Franklin

Eleanor Catherine Bird & Ronald Simonds Green

Diane Eunice
Roger Lester
Warren Harry

Evangelyn Eunice Smith & Lester Larson

Ronald Edward
Gary Gene
Dennis Wayne
Randall Michael
Barbara Gene
Steven
Darrell Gordon

Barbara Shirley Rounds & Gene Harris

Lawerence Levi Bird

-- Lavina & Gladys

No Children

Arthur William Bird

Mabel + *Barbara*

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George Robert Bird

Betty & Margaret + *Gloria*

"

Earl Bernard Murray

-- Gloria

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