

Carol Wilbanks

The Manly McBrayer Family

As presented by Carol Wilbanks at the Cemetery Walk in June 2012

I am representing Penniah Taylor McBrayer. I was born **Feb 2, 1866 to Jessie T. and Melissa Taylor**. I was named after my grandmother Penina. My great grandfather, Jesse, donated the land for this church and cemetery. My father served in the confederate infantry.

My mother died when I was 2 1/2 years old. She died 3 weeks after my brother **Eugene** was born. My **father married Mary Rebecca Wade 5 months after my mother died.**

The 1870 census shows me living with my family in **Village Springs**.

In 1880 I was living with my **grandparents, James and Penina Taylor in Jefferson county**.

Manly Mcbrayer, my future husband, was living in **St Clair county with his older brother and 2 sisters** during this time. In 1880, Manly and his siblings were living 3 houses down from my father and his wife Mary, who by this time had several children of their own. So I imagine this is how I came to know Manly and **we were married on Christmas Day in 1884**. Both of our families were farmers and we followed on the same path.

Our 1st child was **Charles**, born in 1885. He is buried here. Son **Cathum born in 1888**. **Bessie Alma**, born in 1890 is also buried here.

Henry Grady followed in 1892 and **John L** in 1895. Another **daughter, Francis was born in 1898**.

Malise was born in 1900 and she died when she was only 5 1/2 yr old.

My daughter **Maude, was born and died on the same day in 1902. Both girls are here**. So this was a sad time for our family.

But then **Lula came along in 1905,**

Olen, who is also buried here, in 1907;

and our last child, **James** was born in **1911**. So we were accustomed to having babies and children in the house for many years. Of course, they helped with the farming.

In 1920, **Charles, Bessie, Lula and Olen** were still living at home with Manley and I. At this time, we had moved to **Blount County** on the Oneonta/Birmingham Rd. We were continuing to farm.

Our son **John** was **inducted into the US Army in Nov of 1917** for World War 1, but returned home safely.

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By 1930, we owned our home on the Remlap/Springville Rd in Blount County. **Charles, Bessie, Olen and Lula were still at home with us- none had married.** They were a lot of help in farming.

My husband **Manly passed away on Dec. 30, 1937.** We had been married 53 years. During our lifetime, we saw the aftermath of the Civil war, World War I, went from horses, buggies to cars and airplanes, and yet we still made our life on a farm. Our son Henry Grady worked in the coal mine as a digger. After Manley died, Charles and Olen became the men of the house. We went thru World War II and the uncertainty, rationing and death tolls. Lulu finally married in 1944. I was 87 years old when I died in 1953 and buried here.

So I returned to the land that my great grandfather provided many many years ago.