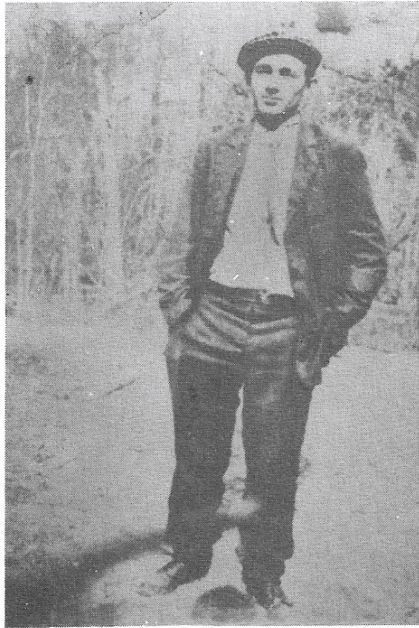


## COSBY AND MYRA



THOMAS COSBY CUNNINGHAM  
*(Taken January 25, 1916)*



MYRA AGATHA SANDERS  
*(Taken March 28, 1912)*

Thomas Cosby Cunningham was born on March 15, 1896 to William Joseph Cunningham and Rhoda Frances South Cunningham. When Cosby was still an infant his mother died. Joseph married his second wife, Lela Russell, a few months later. The family home was in the community of Bluff a few miles from Fayette, Alabama. The family moved to Vernon, Alabama in 1914.

Myra Agatha Sanders was born on February 9, 1895 to James Marshall Sanders and Emma Springfield Sanders. The family lived in Vernon, Alabama where James was the mail carrier and Emma was a school teacher.

After Cosby's family moved close to the Sanders family in 1914, Myra was doing the family washing one day at a

spring nearby. Cosby had been plowing and came down to the spring after dinner to water the mules. Cosby and Myra struck up a conversation and from that day on, Cosby would leave notes for her under the wash tub and she would answer in the same manner. Pretty soon, the courting became serious. Myra quit school and began making quilts and other things for her hope chest.

On February 16, 1916, the couple were married sitting in a borrowed buggy in her father's front yard. They spent their wedding night in the Baily Holliman home in Bluff. Their married years were spent in northwestern Alabama and northeastern Mississippi. They eventually had the following eight children:

Kate Laurene	August 5, 1917
Frances Jeweline	August 8, 1918
James Denton	February 9, 1920
Dorothy Faye	September 23, 1921
Thomas Ferrell	February 2, 1923
Tillie Clo	August 15, 1925
Billy Joe	August 15, 1925
Harroll Glenn	March 19, 1928

Cosby spent most of his life working in sawmills, on road and railroad construction, share cropping, and in the shipyards in Mobile. Myra spent her years raising the family and during World War II she worked at Columbus Air Force Base. Afterward she worked in a retail store in Aberdeen, Mississippi and this experience led them to open Hamilton Dry Goods Store, in Hamilton, Mississippi, on December 1, 1948. The store is next door to their home on Highway 45 and due to a bell which rings in their house, they are on call all the time. In the many years they have operated the store, they have been called upon at all hours of the day and night, holidays and Sundays. They still handle the full responsibility of the store in addition to all their other activities.

Among these activities, one of their favorite is traveling. Since their children left home in the 1940's, Big Mama and Pop, as they have been named by their first grandchild, have been to every state in the Continental United States except Rhode Island and have toured Alaska, Canada, and Mexico.

Another favorite activity is going to "singings." This lifelong love began in their childhood. Big Mama played the piano at her first singing when she was eleven years old and has been playing ever since. She has a flamboyant style, playing all over the keyboard, and is in much demand as a pianist even to this day.

Today Big Mama and Pop's family has grown to include approximately 29 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Roughly one-third of their family live within 75 miles of Hamilton, Mississippi. The rest are scattered throughout various parts of the United States, but visit frequently including an annual family reunion. This tradition began in 1956 and have been held almost every year since that time.

*Authors' Note: While this book was in the process of being printed, Pop passed away on October 23, 1977. Pop's and Big Mama's last day together was, as usual, filled with activity and the close communion they shared for nearly 62 years.*



*September 17, 1977 Cunningham Family Reunion*

## THE CHILDREN

*In the years that all of Cosby and Myra Cunningham's children were at home they were fun-filled, exciting, busy, a lot of hard work and most of all full of closeness. There was only a short period of time that all the Cunningham children were at home together, because of the age differences, then they began to spread out and start their own lives and families. What they had learned and experienced at "home" has had a tremendous effect upon their lives, but they are individuals with differences and their own unique qualities.*

*To learn about the lives of the Cunningham children from the time they left home, each child was contacted and asked to contribute whatever they wished to this section. Being individuals, each responded in different ways and with various types of information. What is presented on the next several pages is the contribution of each person (perhaps with the help of a husband or wife). In order to make the selection more personal most parts have been taken word for word from the contributor. So there is an effort not only to present what has happened to each child after they left home, but also to present something of the personality of each.*

KATE LAURINE CUNNINGHAM WINDERSAugust 5, 1917

On July 4, 1930 Kate Laurine Cunningham and James Kelly Winders noticed each other for the first time. James immediately began to seek the favor of Kate, but due to their tender age and incompleted education, love and courtship had to wait. During the next six years Kate took time to "date" and complete her high school education. During the courtship of Kate and James, the entire Cunningham family at times acted as chaperons. James had a black Model-T Roadster with a white stripe down the side. He removed the "Monkey box" (also referred to as mother-in-law's seat) and put in a bed to haul the family around in.

James and Kate were married on Monday, March 23, 1936 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. D.H. Matherly, of the First Christian Church in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Mr. Hutch L. and Mrs. Ada Walden and Mrs. Nellie Winders witnessed the ceremony. After their marriage James and Kate moved in the house with James' mother, in a little two bed-room house on Emmitt Reeves place, next to where James Cockerham now lives. In January of 1937 they moved into the Captain Dudd Walton house, where John Simms now lives. Also living in the house were James' mother and sisters--Muree and Katie Mae, who stayed with them until December 5, 1940.

During the time James and Kate lived in the Walton house their first three children were born. They farmed and James worked as a shade tree mechanic in his spare time. He set up and ran a sawmill for Mr. J.E. Brown in the summer of 1936; where he made \$2.00 a day, which was GOOD money. Kate says that at this time she bought James two new pairs of overalls at one time. During the fall months James worked for Mr. Macon Garner at a cotton gin.

In September 1937 James went to work full time for Mr. Litt Basham in a garage next to where Raymond's Service Station now is. He worked there until December 31, 1938.

On January 1, 1939 James and Kate went into business for themselves, in a little building where Pace Machine Shop now stands. Mr. Hosea Sims owned the building and ran a blacksmith shop on the north side of the building. The name of the place was Winders Garage and Service Station. They sold Texaco gas and oils. This was a B-I-G venture for them. They had to borrow the money to buy tools and equipment. Kind salesmen began, before long, to allow them some credit and soon they were on their way. James' former customers began to bring in work before he was even set up.

Kate had to manage the best she could to get the crop gathered. One fall she lifted and weighed every sack of cotton. Her weights tallied with the gin weights. Kate had to hire the picking to be done and pay the hands. They hired Marie and Gilford Sigh to make the crop in 1939, who lived in a tenant house on the place. Business at the shop got so pressing, James used Mr. Sigh at the shop. Paul and Jewel Pounders were hired to help out on the farm. Also, Wilson and Ozell Smith lived in the tenant house and helped part of the time.

Finally in July 1940 James and Kate bought the Herman Riefer's house in New Hamilton. On December 5, 1940 they got possession and moved in. This was their first home of their own. At that time James Harold was three months old, Garland was 21 months and Lonese was three years and eight months.

From Montgomery Ward they ordered: a new wood stove, cooking utensils, dishes, table ware (silver plated), and a few other necessities. Kate says that of all the happy days in their lives, she believes that was the happiest. Christmas they had their first lighted Christmas tree, bought their first refrigerator, and a new 1940 Chevrolet.

On the morning of December 7, 1941 James and Kate turned on their little bedside radio to get their favorite Sunday programs; the announcer said: "Pearl Harbor has been bombed." James was soon classified 1-A and called to report

for his physical for induction into the military service. When he went he was told to go home and they would call him later. He never was called. It was not until many years later that the local board advisors told them James was needed at home to keep the tractors and working cars running. He taught defense classes at the high school at night and worked in the day time--often he was called all hours of the night for repairs on defense workers cars. Kate was kept busy the long hours that James worked with the household chores, caring for the children, tending to the backyard garden, and canning.

On Friday evening, June 25, 1943, Dayle, who was only 13 months old was called home to heaven. Kate describes the baby's death this way: "There was such a heavenly atmosphere in his homegoing and I felt that it was God's will to take him, that I could not grieve as some mother's would. Of course he was missed, but it wasn't long until another son, Joe, was born." Emma, described as "their little red headed daughter" was born in 1945. Emma was named after Grandma Sanders and Nell, after James' mother.

It was 1945 when James and Kate bought the Porter House, where they have lived since that time. The Winder's family moved on Saturday, May 19, 1945. In August of the same year a building across the highway was started for their shop, which was ready by December. Kate began at that time to get very involved in the bookkeeping, which she has continued since then.

It was 1947; they helped get a church established--First Assembly of God in Aberdeen, Mississippi. They felt as if they needed a church for their faith and that of their children. Because they could get more help in the county seat than in their own community, the church was built in Aberdeen. Soon the entire family was involved in all types of church work. Kate also got involved in school activities. She served in several Parent-Teacher Association offices, and served as president three years.

Through the years Winders' family activities have included several nice vacation trips. They visited family and friends on these trips whenever possible. They have been on the coast; to the Smokies; to the zoo in Jackson, Birmingham and Memphis; swimming, to auto races, and church camps. They built a cabin on the church camp grounds in Hurley, Mississippi and went every summer for several years.

Children began to marry, and in 1963 physical problems beset Kate. She and James had surgery twice, between March and November of that year.

Kate says that Christmases were, and still are, the greatest time of the year for their large family, which now includes great-grandchildren.

James has retired from the family business--Winder's Parts and Equipment--because of ill health, heart and vascular trouble. Kate still helps out with the bookkeeping. They plan to travel and visit in the near future.

All the Winders children were born in Monroe Co., Miss.

Agatha Lonese, b. May 20, 1937

married: Noel Russell Weaver, March 28, 1954

Children:

Karen Sue, b. April 20, 1955

married, Donnie Whitaker, July 12, 1974

Children:

Russell Ryan, b. December 17, 1975

Gary Wayne, b. May 23, 1956

married, Linda Pere, July 2, 1977

Kathy Jo, b. August 21, 1959

married, Joey Dale Ridings, August 1975

Children:

Emily Jo, b. May 4, 1976

Garland Kelly, b. April 25, 1939

married: Judy Roberts, July 3, 1960

Children:

Timothy Kelly, b. November 19, 1963

Julie Michele, b. July 19, 1968

James Harold, b. September 24, 1940

married, Jo Ann Taylor, November 17, 1961

Children:

Richard Harold, b. March 15, 1963

Sandra Dene, b. October 10, 1965.

Thomas Dayle, b. May 11, 1942

d. June 25, 1943

Joe Don, b. August 21, 1943

married, Betty Jean Welch, October 22, 1961

Children:

Danny Joe, b. July 9, 1963

Donald Gene, b. September 28, 1965

Emma Nell, b. April 7, 1945

married, Loyd Darnell Dahlem, January 4, 1963

Children:

Thomas Loyd Dahlem, b. September 12, 1963

Douglas Scott Dahlem, b. July 12, 1965

Melanie, b. July 21, 1966

Mark Anthony, b. July 30, 1952

married, Carol Jean William, April 30, 1971

divorced, April 10, 1974

Children:

Scott Anthony, b. October 12, 1972

FRANCES JEWELINE CUNNINGHAM DE VILLEAugust 8, 1918

Frances Jeweline and Albert DeVille were married June 15, 1942 by Justice of the Peace Cowart in Amory, Mississippi. Albert, a native of Pollock, Louisiana, served almost 22 years in the Air force; during which time they moved 53 times.

Albert died on March 8, 1970 and is buried at Sanders Cemetery in Lamar County, Alabama. Since then Jeweline has spent a great deal of time in school. While acting as a legal secretary in Birmingham, Alabama she attended University of Alabama at Birmingham. Even now Jeweline is still accumulating college hours near the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home, where she lives (near Pensacola, Florida).

In addition to a full college load, Jeweline manages to stay busy with her activities in the Englin Air Force Base Chapel choir, the VFW Auxiliary Club, and the DAV Auxiliary.

Their children include:

Stephen Dale, b. December 5, 1950, Aberdeen, Mississippi  
d. December 5, 1950

Susan Kay, b. January 25, 1952, El Paso, Texas

married,  
divorced,

Children:

Stephanie Gale Chambers, b. November 26, 1973

Kim Douglas, b. May 16, 1954, Clearfield, Utah

JAMES DENTON CUNNINGHAMFebruary 9, 1920

James grew up as the oldest boy in the family with two older sisters, three younger brothers and two younger sisters. James says that the major part of the outside work fell on him and the three younger brothers; with the responsibility to get the job done resting on him, as well as answering why the younger boys were allowed to do this or not do that. Being the first to get up in the morning, James started fires in the fireplace and stove, then fed the mules and milked before breakfast. Usually by a little after sunup the mules were harnessed to start plowing or other work. The amount of work done depended entirely on how much the mules could do, since James says that he could work down any pair of mules by the time he was twelve years old and go home after supper and play outside for an hour or so.

James recalls that on Sunday afternoons, quite often Dorothy and Tillie would join in the activities with the boys for hikes through the woods, hunting plums, muscadines or such. Needless to say, James was the one who climbed the tallest trees to shake out muscadines, while the others picked them up. They never ate any until the berries were all picked up and fairly divided.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, James was working as an apprentice carpenter at the Columbus Air Base. He immediately left to work as a welder at the Mobile, Alabama shipyard until November 2, 1942, when he volunteered to join the Army Air Corps, although he was told that he could have an indefinite deferment due to essential work.

His basic training was at Columbus Air Base followed by a training course at Oklahoma State Teachers College, Edmond, Oklahoma. After a twenty mile march with full field pack one day, James relates that he could not resist the temptation to run full speed to the dormitories to show

the others, who had been grumbling throughout the march, what a bunch of "miseries" they were.

James was stationed at Page Field near Fort Myers, Florida for about a year at an advanced flying training base. He was then promoted to sergeant in G-2 intelligence, and was told by the commanding officer that he would be promoted much further, with little effort. James' response was that he would do his part but that rank or promotion had little meaning to him, his primary concern was to help get the war won as soon as possible and get out.

About January 1944, James was assigned to the 404th Fighter Group, 509th Fighter Squadron and stationed at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In March of 1944 the group received orders for movement overseas. James and his group spent about two weeks at Camp Shanks, New York for final combat training, and during that time James spent two days visiting New York City.

On March 12, 1944 the group went by train a short distance down the Hudson, across by the Weehawken Ferry and boarded the modern 20,000 ton cargo liner, the British "Sterling Castle." It was soon renamed the "Starving Castle" by the group due to the poorly prepared food. The crew landed at Liverpool, England on March 23, 1944. They went by train to Winkton, near Christchurch and Rourmouth. An airfield was set up in a pasture with steel mats for runways and pyramid tents for quarters and office. By March 30, 1944 the group was flying combat missions with P-38 and P-47 fighter bombers. During James' stay in England he made several visits to London and other places. He was able to see the historical sites of London as well as the results of German bombing attacks.

On June 26, 1944, D-Day plus 20, the group received orders to move to France. After water proofing the vehicles and other preparations were made, the group was assembled and told: "Men you are about to embark on a hazardous

mission from which some of you will not return." This proved to be correct.

James, along with the rest of his group, sailed from South Hampton, England on a liberty ship, the "Empire Crossbow," and was anchored off Omaha Beach. There the jeep James was to drive was loaded on a barge. The barge carried the men about 300 feet off the shore, where they drove off into water, about four or five feet deep, the jeeps completely submerged. James' first night in France, after a late arrival, was spent sleeping under an apple tree on an army cot with a shelter half spread over the cot. The following day James was told that it had rained all night and the ground had shaken, from nearby artillery fire. The air-strip was 10 miles from St. Lo, which was still in German hands, and the group was about three miles behind the front lines. The air-strip was steel mats; tents were put up and fox holes dug, after it was secured.

On July 24 James started to go to the mess tent for lunch. Sgt. Smith asked James to wait a minute, to wait for him. In about 30 seconds Sgt. Smith was ready and they started walking toward the mess tent. On the way a 500 pound bomb went off about 50 feet ahead of them, it would have been almost a direct hit if James had not waited. James first reaction was to try to peep over the edge of an imaginary bank, but he felt as if he would see half the world missing. When he did look, he saw more bombs falling and dived head first through some blackberry vines into a ditch. Several planes were destroyed and two men killed about 200 feet from where James had managed to find cover.

The break through the German lines came on July 25, 1944. The group moved to a base at Britigny-sur-Orge, 15 miles south of Paris. James visited Paris twice and several of the other surrounding towns. September 11, 1944 the group moved to Juvincourt, near Reim, and again the last week in September to St. Trond, Belgium. At St. Trond there was a

German airfield with paved runways and wood barracks, where the winter of 1944 was spent. Since this was the airbase nearest the front, many damaged planes, unable to return to their bases, landed there. One night, following daytime American air raids, the Germans zeroed in on the base where James was with V-1 Buzz Bombs, and continued the bombing activities for about a week.

During the Battle of the Bulge, when the Germans broke through the American front line, the base of St. Trond became the front line. James' group was given contingency orders to move back, but they were determined to stay as long as possible. Christmas Eve night of 1944, the entire group was out for several hours with all their battle equipment, to hold off a threatened enemy parachute attack. The last air raid by the Germans was on January 1, 1945; seven planes attacked and six were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. As James stood outside the barracks watching the attack, a bullet hit a wall about 20 feet away. As he turned, he saw a German plane with guns blazing coming straight toward the barracks. Once again James dove for the fox hole.

James' group moved to Kletz Germany in April and then to Fritzlar, which is in the heart of Germany; this is where they were when the war in Europe ended. The group had been in a combat zone of operation for ten months, and was awarded seven stars for major battles, and a presidential citation; as well as citations from the French and Belgium governments.

After a short stay at Beyruth, Germany to destroy German military equipment, James returned to the United States, with A-1 priority for assignment for the China-Burma-India Theater of operation. While enroute to Newport News, Virginia from Antwerp, Belgium, the war ended; and James was discharged from service.

After his military service James worked at the Savannah River H-Bomb project in South Carolina; and has lived in Piketon, Ohio; Childersburg, Alabama; Greenwood, Mississippi; Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and Hamilton, Mississippi.

James married Tessie Louise Hallmark on March 21, 1947 and they have the following children:

Denton Hall, b. February 9, 1948, Monroe County, Mississippi  
married Linda Evans, 1975

Children:

Evan Brooke, b. November 12, 1976

Janis, b. July 4, 1949, Monroe County, Mississippi  
married Randy Darrell McCoy, 1972

Children:

Brian Darrell, b. September 11, 1972

Polla Sue, b. September 7, 1957, Monroe County, Mississippi  
James Gregory, b. December 21, 1964, Monroe County, Miss.

DOROTHY FAYE CUNNINGHAM VAUGHN.September 23, 1921

Concerning their branch of the family tree, Dot presented a diagram of the Vaughns and stated: "This is all that is necessary to say about our family. There isn't anything to 'brag or complain' about--just facts."

Dot further warned that from the story telling of others not to get the idea they were "mean" as children.

Dorothy Faye Cunningham married Charles Lester Vaughn in 1939 in Hamilton, Mississippi and their children are as follows:

Joyce Faye, b. 1940, Monroe County, Mississippi  
married, Clyde A. Johnson, 1960

Children:

Jeffery Charles, b. 1960

Stephanie Ann, b. 1962

Barbara Jane, b. 1943, Pontotoc County, Mississippi  
William Thomas, b. 1945, Pontotoc County, Mississippi

married, Linda Ruth Shelton, 1966

divorced

Children:

Russell David, b. 1972

Reuben Terrell, b. 1946, Ackerman, Mississippi  
married, Anna Lois Gallaway, 1968

Children:

Michael Wayne, b. 1969

Christy Dawn, b. 1970

Glenda Frances, b. 1952, McCracken County, Kentucky  
married, Randall A. Green, 1970

Children:

Jesse Dean, b. 1970

Steven Douglas, b. 1973

Margaret Charlene, b. 1954, McCracken County, Kentucky  
married, Dennis Dale Smith, 1972

Children:

Robert Dale, b. 1973

Theresa Rena, b. 1974

Charla Denise, b. 1977

THOMAS FERRELL CUNNINGHAMFebruary 2, 1923

In the spring of 1941, a Greyhound Bus left Columbus, Mississippi with Ferrell Cunningham and Merle Smith aboard. They were headed for NYA School\* in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Merle sat next to the window and Ferrell was on the outside. Ferrell could just see over the driver's shoulder enough to see some of the instruments on the dash panel; and saw one instrument reading was 120. Of course, he didn't know anything but a speedometer, so he thought the bus was making 120 miles per hour (this probably was an air pressure gauge or RPM). So he sat very carefully all the way.

Ferrell and Merle stayed only a few days at the NYA School at Hattiesburg before getting homesick. So after breakfast one morning they started home, hitchhiking. They made it to Meridian by about midnight, where they stood under a highway sign which read: "Columbus 96 miles." By this time both were a little chilly, very tired and hungry, so they crawled into somebody's Model A Ford, which was in a plant parking lot nearby. Merle slept a little but Ferrell was so nervous he couldn't, anyway they stayed there about three hours. Then they got back on the road for Columbus and home. About 10 o'clock they were put out near a small grocery store, somewhere between Meridian and Macon. They were so hungry they could have eaten a "horse and snapped at the rider." Between the two of them they only had 10 pennies; Ferrell had 6¢ and Merle had 4¢, so they pooled their resources and bought a 10¢ loaf of bread; Ferrell remembers thinking how good it was. So with the bread and some tap water from the store the two considered themselves moderately refreshed. They got home before dark that day.

Ferrell returned to NYA School at Tupelo, but only stayed a day or two then hitched a ride to Pontotoc, Mississippi and stayed about two or three weeks with Dot and Charles Vaughn, who were living there.

\*National Youth Association School

James and Pop were working in the shipyard in Mobile, Alabama; Ferrell joined them in the summer of 1942. James had a first shift, Pop had a second shift, and Ferrell had the third (graveyard) shift. They all stayed in the same rooming house in Mobile. Ferrell remembers someone stealing his billfold. James and Ferrell went to a fortune-teller to try to find out who took it--they didn't find out--and Ferrell was out 50¢ for the fortune-teller's advice. The workers at the shipyard went on strike, there was some violence, so James and Ferrell left for Columbus Air Force Base to enlist, which they did on November 2, 1942. They were sent to Camp Shelby, then back to Columbus Air Base for basic training, together. Ferrell started to a Link Trainer School. He had only learned how to work on just one part, the turning motor, when he and five others were sent to Monroe, Louisiana as Link Trainer Instructors. In January, 1943 Ferrell was to set up a new department at Selmar Field. Ferrell says that they cleaned turning motors a lot!

In the early fall of 1943 he was transferred to Brady, Texas then in the spring of 1944 to Lubbock, Texas. One night while Ferrell was in town having supper at a cafe, sirens began blowing, and soon car horns were blowing everywhere. By the time he had finished the streets were full of cars and people. It was V-E Day (Victory in Europe) and people were celebrating wildly.

Ferrell had already been scheduled to go to advanced link training school in Bryan, Texas. V-J Day (Victory in Japan) came while he was in school at Bryan. The war was over. Soon he was back in Lubbock, and Link Trainer Instructors were no longer needed. So, he was sent to heavy equipment school at Warner-Robbins, Georgia (near Macon). Before long he was back in Lubbock with nothing to do. Soldiers were being discharged and only men with overseas time had high points, so it looked as if he would not get out for a long time; so he re-enlisted on a one-year plan

which was being offered. This re-enlistment included a 90 day furlough. After the furlough, Ferrell was sent to Barksdale Field at Shreveport, Louisiana, as Link Instructor. From there he went to Harshing, Austria (March 1946) to set up a training section. While he was stationed in Austria, Ferrell took a fifteen day furlough for a stay in Alpinblick Lodge with guided tours through the Alps including a ride on a cable car, cog-rail train up the mountain tour of a huge ice cave, and mountain climbing. The International Steeple Chase in Salzburg, Austria, and sailboating on a very large lake by the lodge were other highlights.

Ferrell returned from Austria on the Liberty Ship which took 10 days to go over and 14 days to come back. Four of the days on the return trip was spent in a severe storm, with waves thirty or forty feet high. Ferrell says that the waves were so high that the ship would seem to balance on them momentarily then dive over leaving the propellor out of the water; this would cause it to "race" and vibrate the boat as if it would break up. Ferrell was discharged at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on November 2, 1946, exactly four years from the date of his enlistment.

Ferrell worked with James until 1951 at Cunningham Brothers Contracting Company, building residential and small commercial buildings using mostly concrete blocks. James had a block plant in Hamilton. Later they bought a plant in Amory.

In 1951 Ferrell worked with California Eastern Airways, at Columbus Air Base, then was self-employed about a year, before going to Graham Air Base in April 1953. Ferrell and his family moved back to Mississippi and stayed until April of 1956.

At that time Ferrell went to work at Fort Rucker, as Link Trainer Maintenance and within two weeks was promoted to instructor. After three years he was moved to the Academic Division. In August of 1964 the family moved back to

Hamilton, after which time Ferrell was self-employed as a building contractor. In the summer of 1965 he joined Morris Ready Mix. In January of 1967 he went to work at American Potash as store clerk, and that spring took on the position of substitute mail carrier for Route 1 in Hamilton. In the fall of 1967 Ferrell put in Hamilton Dry Cleaners, then in 1968 added a washette. The dry cleaners and washette were sold to Ellen Cunningham in 1970, then bought it back in the summer of 1972. Finally the dry cleaners was closed in 1976 and the machinery and equipment for both establishments were sold by June of 1977.

Ferrell married Ellen Sanderson on April 2, 1947 and they were divorced in May of 1970. On October 14, 1973 he was married a second time to Mary Jansen Martin. Ferrell and Ellen had three children. Ferrell and Mary have one child. The children are listed below.

Ellen Sanderson Cunningham

Sandra Ellen, b. January 16, 1948, Lee County, Mississippi  
married, Dannie Roger Foster, September 7, 1968

Children:

Jeremy Scott, b. March 4, 1971

Dan Allen, b. June 7, 1975

Felix Allen, b. February 13, 1949, Monroe County, Mississippi  
married, Dolores Hubbard, January 29, 1977

Dorothy Lynn, b. June 7, 1952, Monroe County, Mississippi  
d. December 29, 1959, Odd Fellows Rest  
Cemetery, Monroe County, Mississippi

Mary Martin Cunningham

Phillip Ferrell, b. February 26, 1975, Monroe County, Miss.

TILLIE CLO CUNNINGHAM EDWARDS  
BILLY JOE CUNNINGHAM

August 15, 1925

Billy and Tillie were born into the Cunningham Clan on August 15, 1925, when the family was living in the Old Joe Stevens House in the Hamilton Community. Tillie arrived about fifteen minutes earlier than Billy. According to Billy, he was given the title Billy Joe to rhyme with his older sister, Tillie Clo. Tillie, on the other hand claims that she was given her name to rhyme with that of her twin brother. Although the twins names were similar, their dispositions were not; Tillie was active and mischievous, while Billy was calm and good-natured.

Billy says that things went very smoothly for him, until about the age of 2 1/2, when a baby brother was born and the family tried to move him out of his position as the baby of the family. He says that he soon became "reconciled to sleeping with Frances," and things were soon back to "normal."

Tillie's memories of her childhood include: following her big brother, James, around; climbing up the ladder into the barn-loft; dressing stick people with scraps of cloth to play with in make-believe houses; James making a "great" wagon from wooden wheels cut from a tree; Uncle Kelly giving her the first stick of gum she remembers, it was Dentyne gum. Tillie also recalls that when the family lived at the house by the railroad there was some tall Johnson grass growing on the opposite side of the tracks. There the children played church and the older boys would "baptize" the younger ones in the tall grass. Tillie says that the children put on a play about "Adam and Eve," in which they made costumes out of some big leaves, held together with thorns from a tree.

One of Tillie's most delightful memories centers around the time she and Pop went on a wagon loaded with cotton seed to sell to Aberdeen. She remembers feeling

very "big" because she had 15¢ to spend.

Billy says that being a twin did have its drawbacks. He relates that at the age of seven the two of them were considered as an adult when it came to hoeing or picking cotton or other chores around the farm. They also had to share school books. When the twins started to school there were two other pairs of twins in the same class. This resulted in considerable recognition. Whenever people came to the school or new kids started, all five sets (according to Tillie) would have to line up. By the way, Tillie still tells Billy to come stand beside her so she can show people her twin.

Billy says that school was a "snap" for him, and with very little effort he received high grades. Tillie tells that her greatest academic accomplishment took place when she was in the 11th or 12th grade. The class members had to write a four line poem. Having forgotten to prepare ahead of time, rather than take a zero for the day, she quickly composed the following verse.

My name is Tillie  
I sure am silly,  
I sure am dumb  
All I do is suck my thumb.

Not only did Tillie get an "A," but also her poem was posted on the auditorium bulletin board.

Tillie graduated as class historian in 1944, but without her twin. Billy's diploma was granted in absentia as he had received a letter of greetings from Uncle Sam in December of their senior year and had already started his military training in the Navy.

TILLIE

After graduation from high school Tillie left home saying that she would probably only stay two weeks. She went to Columbus, Ohio, where she has remained since that time. Three years after leaving home Tillie married Thomas Edwards on February 18, 1947. Their children are as follows:

Thomas Gary, b. July 4, 1951, Franklin County, Ohio  
married, Sharon Lee Braughton, January 1974

Children:

Shannon Renee, b. December 2, 1976

Sherry Jo, b. July 4, 1953, Franklin County, Ohio  
married, Roger Lee Fleegle, January 1974

Children:

Jason Charles, b. January 24, 1975

BILLY

After receiving his greetings from Uncle Sam, Billy began his Naval career. He started with boot training in San Diego, California. Then to the University of Chicago for radio school and finally to Norfolk, Virginia for placement and assignment to the USS Kinzer. After a shake down cruise in the Bahamas, Billy and his unit proceeded through the Panama Canal and up the Pacific coast to Treasure Island, where they were loaded out and then served duty throughout the Pacific, not setting foot on land again for nine months, and then only on a small uninhabited island. After the securing of Okinawa and the surrender of Japan, ending World War II, Billy's convoy immediately became involved in what was the forerunner of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; by transporting Nationalist Chinese Troops from French-Indo-China to Manchuria through the Formosa Straits.

Billy then returned to San Pedro, California for de-commissioning and discharge on June 6, 1946. Shortly after Billy's discharge he visited the family and saw the sights around Hamilton. After a short visit he left for Columbus, Ohio to visit his twin sister, Tillie, and find a job.

While in Columbus, Ohio Billy met Birtie Rachel Campbell. They dated quite regularly for about three months, at which time Billy decided to enter Airline Radio School in Kansas City, Missouri. Billy and Birtie continued to correspond by letter and telephone and upon graduation from radio school and assignment to Delta Airlines, in Birmingham, Alabama they became engaged and were married on December 19, 1947 by, and at the home of Rev. Franklin Stewart of Hamilton, Mississippi, with James and Kate Winders as witnesses. Billy states: "Then for some unexplained reason, children began to arrive."

In December of 1948 Billy began working for the Federal Aviation Administration. During his employment with

them, he was transferred several times: From Birmingham, Alabama; Miami, Florida; Dayton, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Pellston, Michigan; and finally to Kansas City, Missouri, where he retired from Civil Service on June 30, 1972. Upon retirement they relocated in the Lake of the Ozarks country of Missouri.

Billy and Birtie's family include:

Kenneth Wayne, b. 9/20/48, Jefferson County, Alabama  
married, Carol Dean, 1971

Children:

Scott, b. 2/24/73

Ronald Steven, b. 9/10/1949, Jefferson County, Alabama  
married, Valerie Neagle, 1968

Children:

Amy Elizabeth, January 23, 1969

Michael James, July 29, 1970

Rebecca Carrie, June 29, 1973

Emily Carrol, b. 10/2/51, Petoskey, Michigan  
married, Morton/Marty Heller, August 6, 1973

Children:

Nikole Rai, b. 10/12/76

Lyle Curtis, b. 7/1/58, North Kansas City, Missouri

HARROLL GLENN CUNNINGHAMMarch 19, 1928

Glenn says "you have read about the rest, now read about the best. On March 19, 1928 the sweetest, sparkling blue-eyed, and the most lovable as well as the 'last' of the Cosby and Myra duo was born." In pre-teen years he was known to "tag" along with his older brothers; however, he says that while he did not have their constant companionship and "influence" when he reached his teens, he managed to have his share of "fun" and "excitement." His teenage years were made up of entertaining himself while Big Mama worked at the Columbus Air Force Base and in Aberdeen, Mississippi. His amusements came mostly by "skipping" school occasionally, going home and making fudge (always making sure the "mess" was cleaned up and evidence hidden) before Big Mama got home from work. Then came the joys of getting a driver's license. And oh, yes, that "hot" 1936 Chevrolet: Glenn said "it would register 80, but with the 20 inch truck tires on the rear, it would "do" between 95 and 100 miles per hour easily, and then stop on a dime." This was the normal "cruising" speed for Glenn, E.C. Reeves and his brother L.D., when Big Mama and Pop were not along. Girls and dating were also very important; however, everyone must keep a few secrets, but from all indications one of the best parts was coming home to some of Big Mama's cornbread and milk.

Glenn quit school in the fall of 1945; he then worked in Mobile, Alabama, and other odd jobs until school was out, at which time he and E.C. Reeves satisfied their wanderlust by "seeing some of the country on their thumbs." Seeing this was getting him no place fast, he decided to return to high school. Finally, in 1947 the last of the current generation of Cunningham children had graduated from high school (all eight children graduated from Hamilton, Mississippi high school).

In the summer of 1947 Glenn entered the U.S. Army Air Force taking his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Following basic training he spent 26 months in Japan where he was with the 5th Air Force, 315th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. Glenn's military duties were performed mostly behind a desk. The one near catastrophe Glenn had while in service was that of writing. It seemed he was writing to several girls back home, somehow they got together and compared letters. Glenn was honorably discharged from the Air Force in California in 1950 and started for home. On the way he bought the "best" car he ever had; a 1940 LaSalle Coupe.

After a visit at home he left home to go to Columbus, Ohio to visit his sister. While there he got a job and met Ginney in June 1950. They started dating January 8, 1951 and were married April 7, 1951 at the East Columbus Church of Christ by Joe Belcastro in Columbus, Ohio.

They lived in and around Columbus for the next six years returning home periodically for visits. On some of these visits it is fun to recall the little trips that were taken with Big Mama and Pop. In particular comes to mind the trip they made to visit Ferrell and Ellen in Dothan (supposedly an overnight trip). This episode developed into a five day trip culminating in Key West, Florida with only the clothes on their backs (oh yes, Big Mama, Ginney and Judi Anne had a nightie). They bought the bare essentials as needed, sure was fun. Another little trip was made to Birmingham, where they ended up in Mobile, Alabama and new Orleans. Glenn and Ginney's work carried them to Massena, New York, where they both were employed during the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway project. One of the major adventures of their stay in Massena was walking in the bottom of Eisenhower Lock before it was flooded for commercial transportation purposes. On several occasions they drove to Montreal on Sunday, and the sights from the top of Mount Royal, especially

at night time were unbelievable. Another highlight was the time Big Mama and Pop came for a visit and they decided to take another over night trip. This "jaunt" found them sight seeing at 1:00 a.m. in Quebec City and then motoring back through Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. These impromptu trips with Big Mama and Pop have always been, and always will be a "fond memory" in their lives

The year of 1959 found them in Dixon, Illinois for a six month period. In 1959 they moved to Monon, Indiana and in 1961 they settled in and around Lafayette and West Lafayette, Indiana where they now reside. They have been in all of the Continental United States with the exception of Oregon and the state of Washington. They have also been as far south as Monterrey, Old Mexico and as far north as Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Prior to 1963 Glenn had attended business school where he took up accounting and office machines and office procedure studies. This training led him into various occupations, including: accounts payable work, freight manuscript work, insurance underwriting, payroll and timekeeping, purchasing agent, factory inspection and dispatching, as well as police patrolman work, where he was deputized as a county sheriff. He especially remembers one instance while working for Columbus Packing Company (1951), he wrote a check for \$250,000.

On March 9, 1965, Glenn and Ginney founded their own company known as Cunninghams Type & Copy Shop. Their primary function is complete thesis service for Purdue University students and drafting and typing for Purdue professors for publication and consulting purposes.

On March 10, 1971 came one of the bright spots in their lives. They were told they were going to be grandparents. Three days later, Judi and Bill became parents by adopting what Glenn and Ginney are sure is "the sweetest little boy that the good Lord ever put breath into." Brad has been a bright spot, joy and delight to his Gran and Pa ever since.

Currently Glenn and Ginney are both members of the Lions International Club where they both hold offices in their respective clubs. Glenn is a Master Mason of the Battle Ground Lodge #313; on the Board of Directors as well as a volunteer for the Lafayette Crisis Center; a member of the Lafayette Gasbangers CB Club, and a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Lafayette, Indiana.

While time marches on, many things do not change: Nothing, but "nothing" will replace a "hot" car "to rip and stave in;" fudge, cornbread and milk are still "gooder than snuff and not near as dusty," although a little hard on the waist line; and girls are still "pleasing to the eye," only a little harder to see with bifocals and an observing wife. One thing will never change--Glenn will always remain as "Myra's/my/our baby boy."

Glenn and Ginney (Virginia) have one daughter.

Judith Anne Nolen, b. 2/25/1947, legally adopted 4/18/1963 in Lafayette, Indiana.

married, William Floyd Chadwell, 6/7/1968

Children:

Bradley William, b. 3/8/1971, legally adopted 9/28/1972 in Lafayette, Indiana.

FAMILY REUNION PHOTOGRAPHS

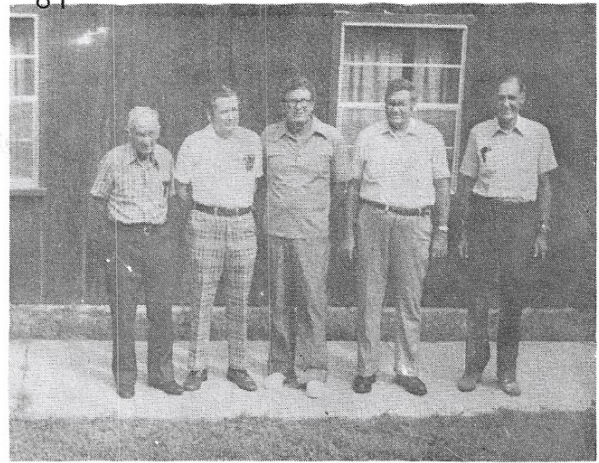


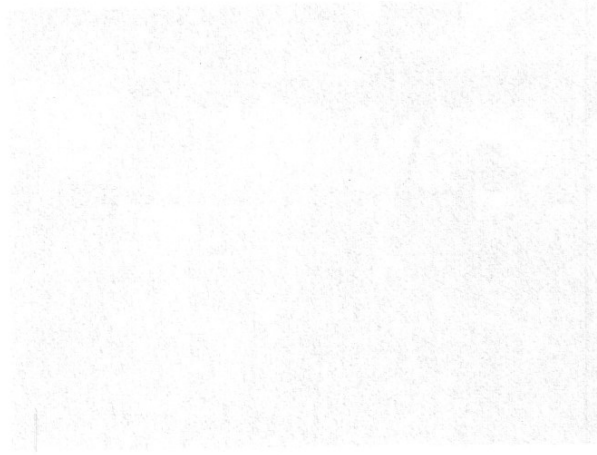
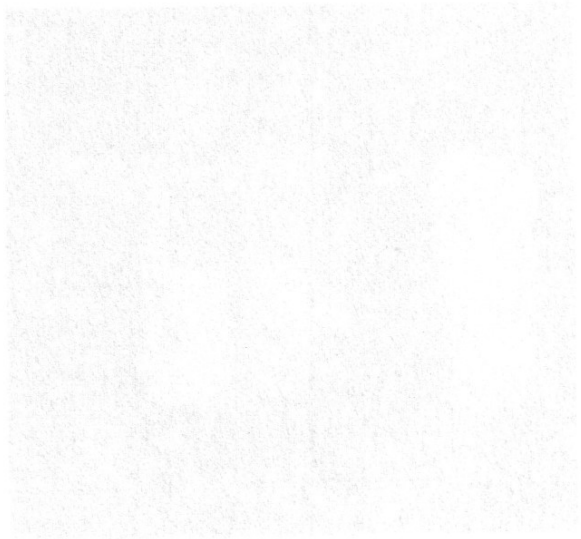
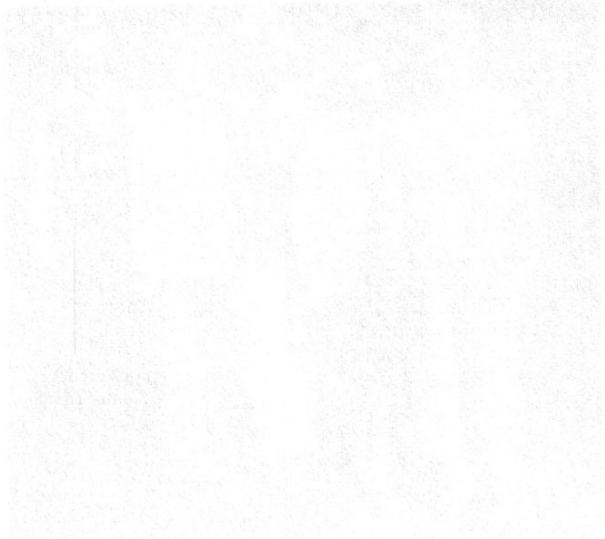
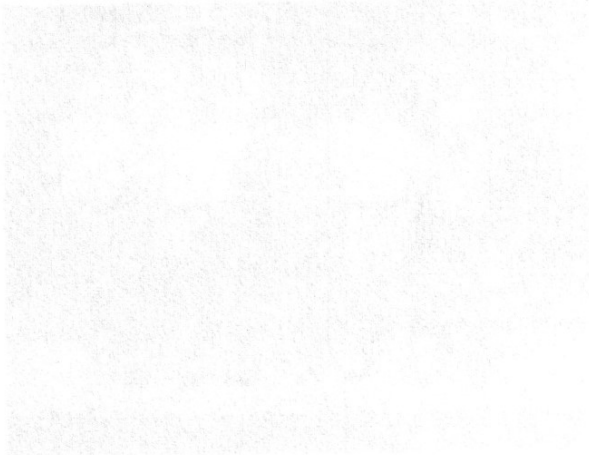


Top Left and Right: Cunningham 1977 reunion at  
Tombigbee State Park, Mississippi  
Big Mama, Kate, Frances, Dot, Tillie.  
Pop, Glenn, Billy, Ferrell, James.

Middle Left and Right: Cunningham 1967 reunion at  
Sharon Lee Cabins, Barkley Lake,  
Kentucky.  
Pop, Glenn, Billy, Ferrell, James.  
Kate, Dot, Tillie, Frances, Big Mama.

Bottom: Cunningham 1956 reunion at Hamilton,  
Mississippi.  
Back row: Glenn, Ferrell, Billy, James.  
Front row: Frances, Tillie, Big Mama, Pop,  
Dot, Kate.







Top Left: Pop and Big Mama  
Cunningham 1977 Reunion

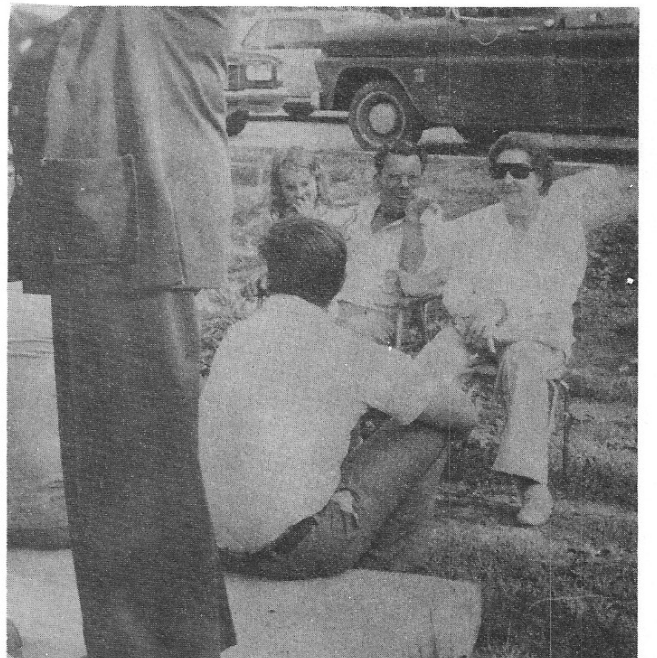
Top Right: Anna Banks Pounders  
Mark Winders  
Frances DeVille  
Tessie Cunningham  
Birtie Cunningham  
Glenn Cunningham  
(Partial)

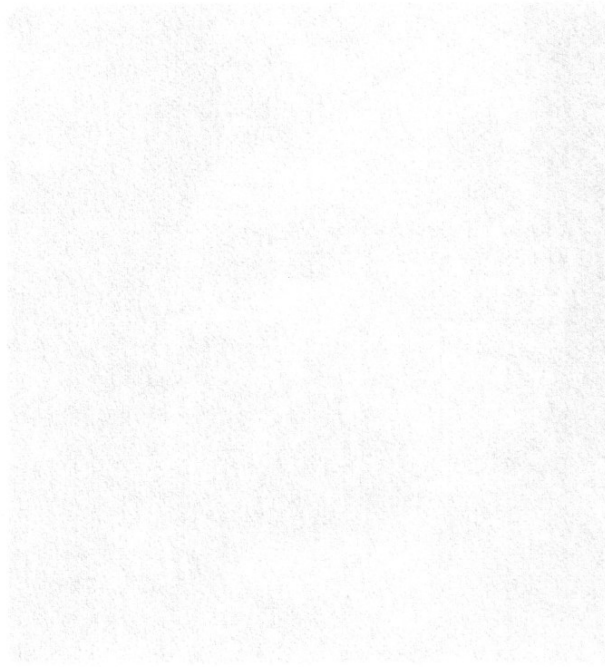
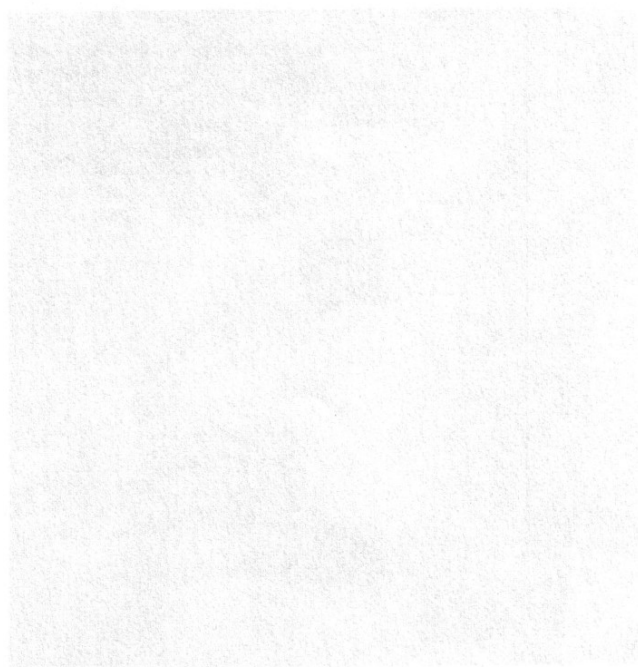
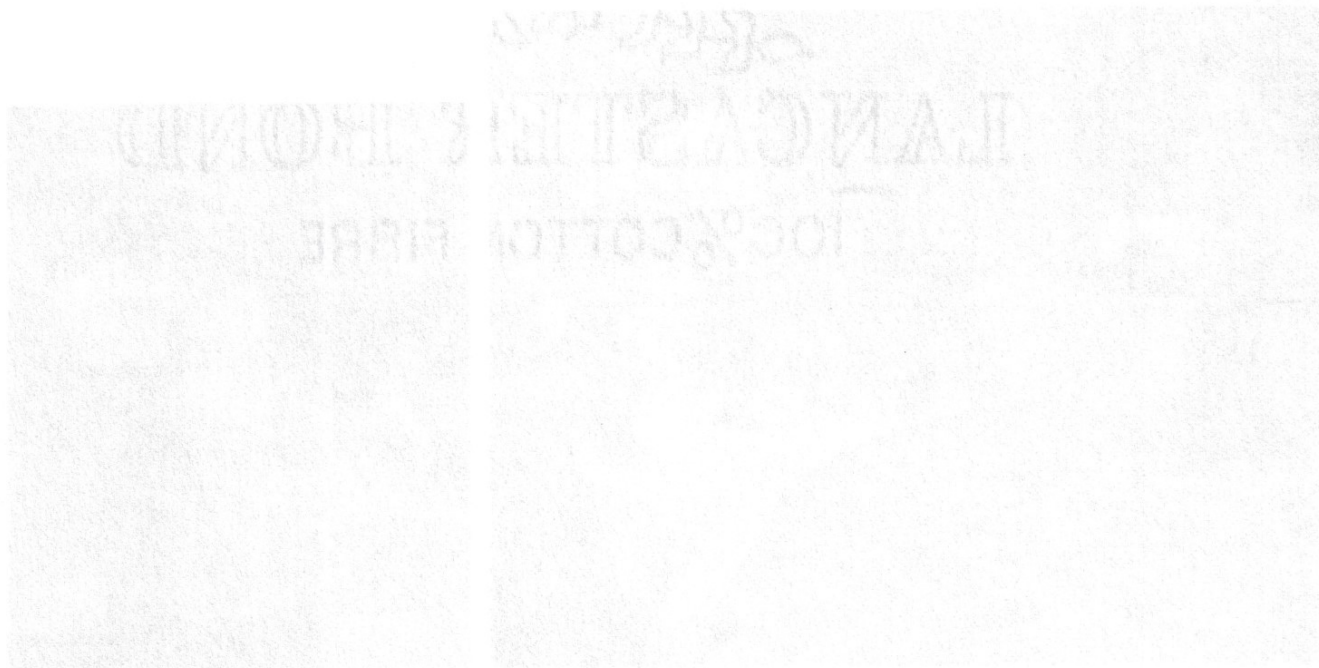
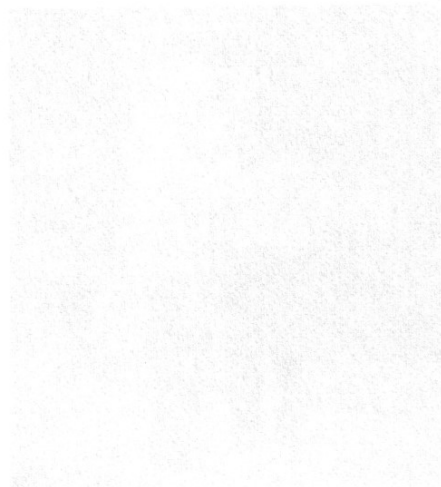
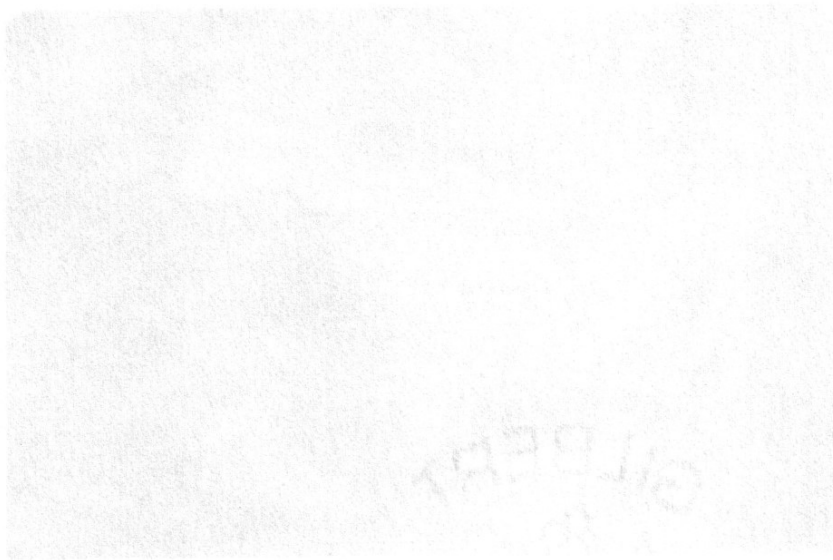
Middle Left: Billy Cunningham  
Donnie Whitaker  
Kay Whitaker  
Glenn Cunningham  
James Cunningham  
Tillie Edwards

Middle Right: Kay Whitaker  
Donnie Whitaker  
Tessie Cunningham  
Glenn Cunningham

Bottom Left: Big Mama Cunningham  
Tillie Edwards  
Pop Cunningham  
(Partial)

Bottom Right:  
Lonese Weaver (Partial)  
Christy Dawn Vaughn  
Charlie Vaughn  
Dot Vaughn  
Terry Vaughn (Back)







Top Left: Pop Cunningham  
Glenn Cunningham  
Big Mama Cunningham

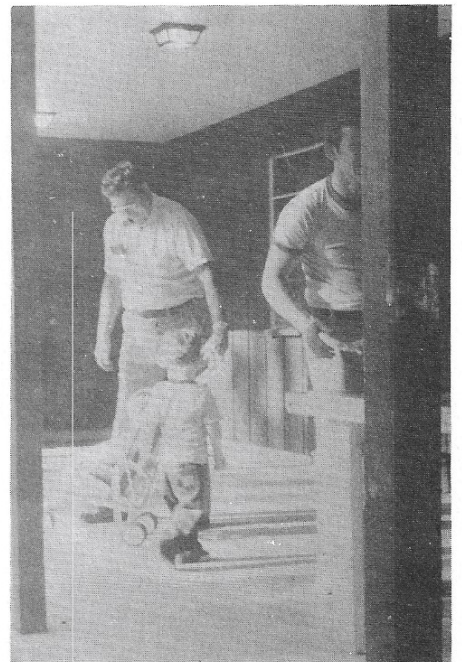
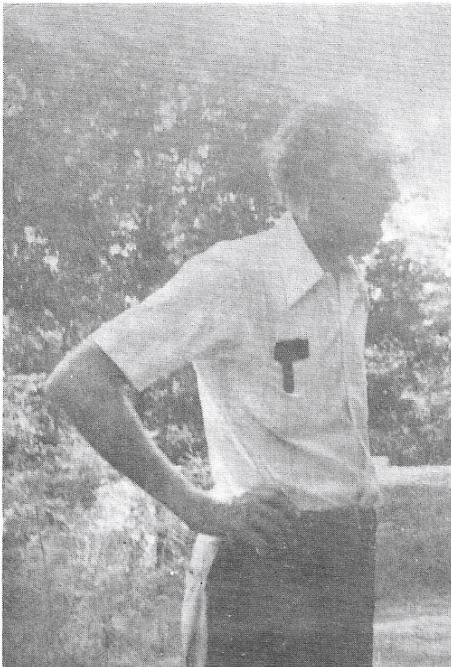
Top Right: Betty Winders  
Emily Jo Ridings  
Terry Vaughn  
Billy Cunningham  
Dot Vaughn (Back)  
Charlie Vaughn (Back)

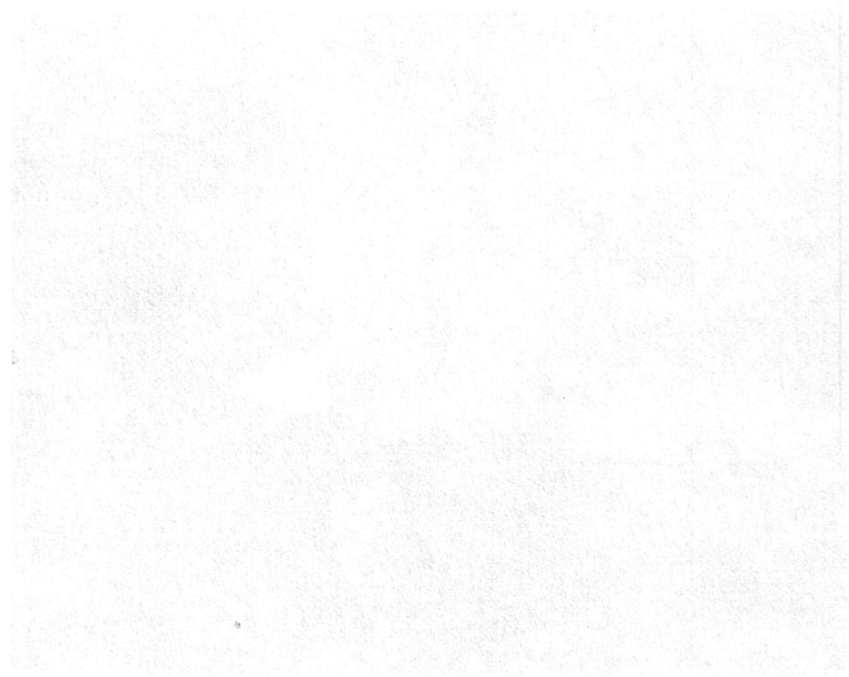
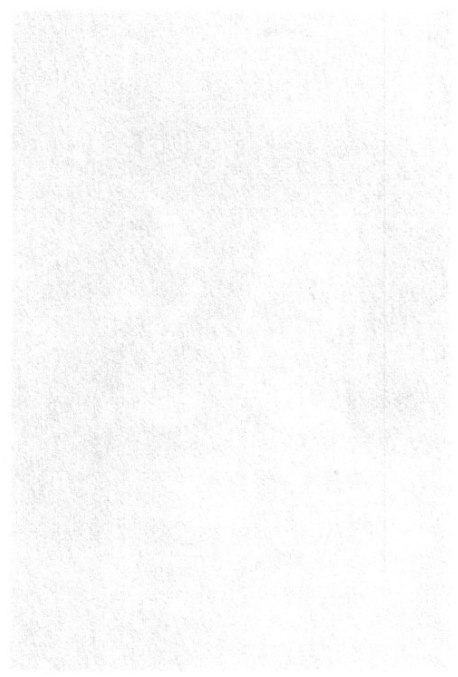
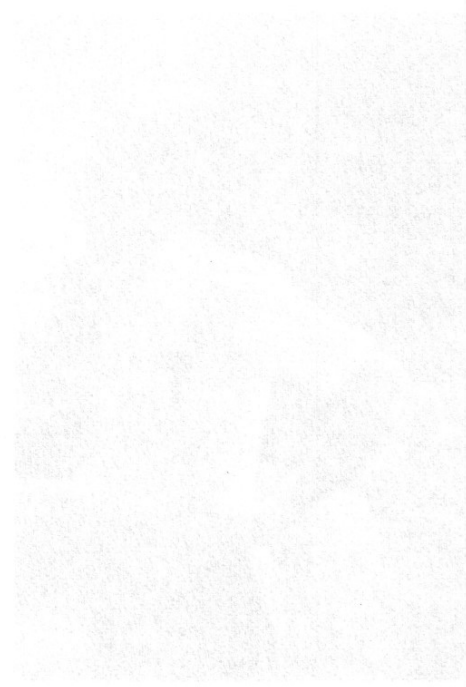
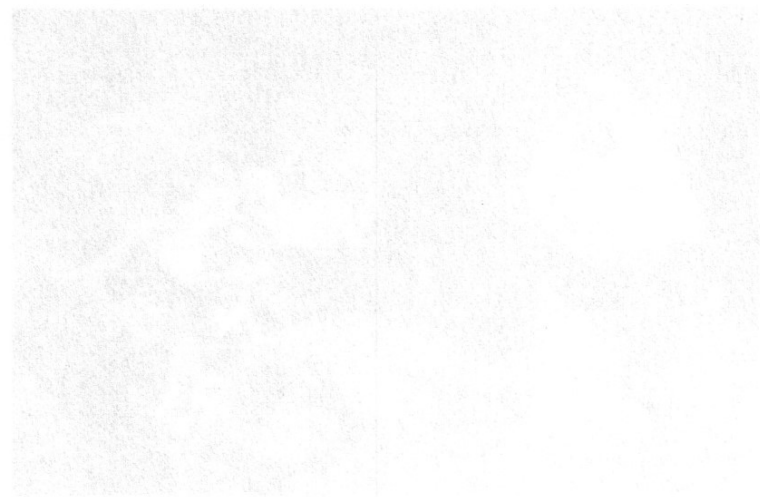
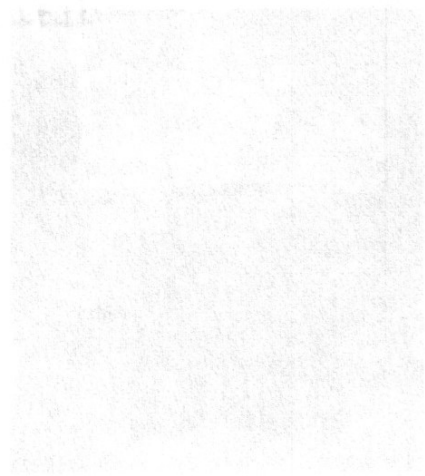
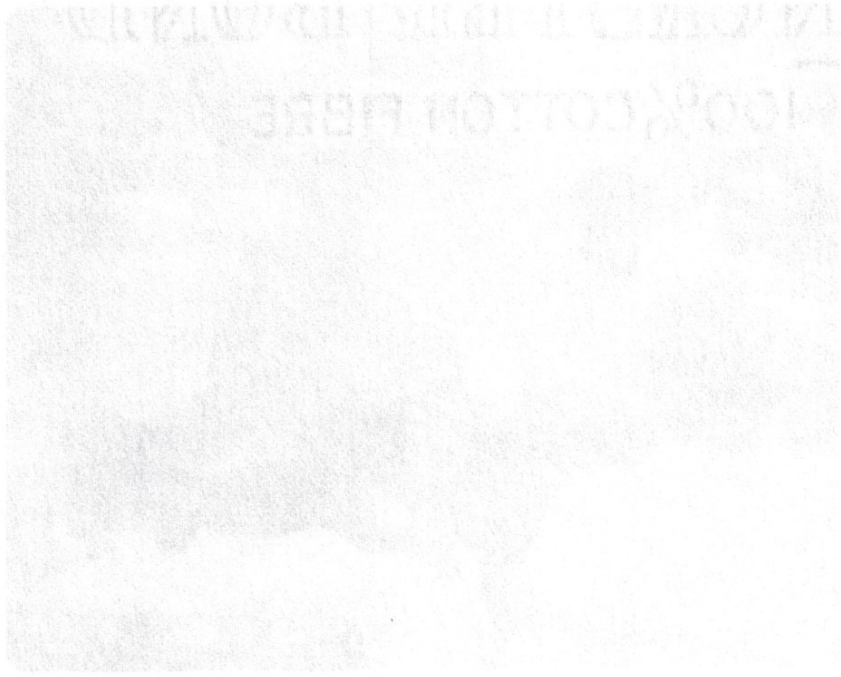
Middle Left: James Cunningham

Middle Right:  
James Cunningham  
Big Mama Cunningham  
Tillie Edwards  
Anna Banks (Partial)  
Billy Cunningham (Partial)

Bottom Left: Frances DeVille  
Tessie Cunningham  
(Back)  
Glenn Cunningham  
Lonese Weaver  
Christy Dawn Vaughn

Bottom Right: Ferrell Cunningham  
Dan Foster  
Gary Weaver (Partial)







Top Left: Anna Banks Pounders  
(Partial)

Mark Winders  
Frances DeVille  
Tessie Cunningham (Back)  
Birtie Cunningham  
Emily Heller  
Nikole Rai Heller  
Marty Heller  
Billy Cunningham (Back)

Top Right: Sandra Foaster  
Pop Cunningham (Back)

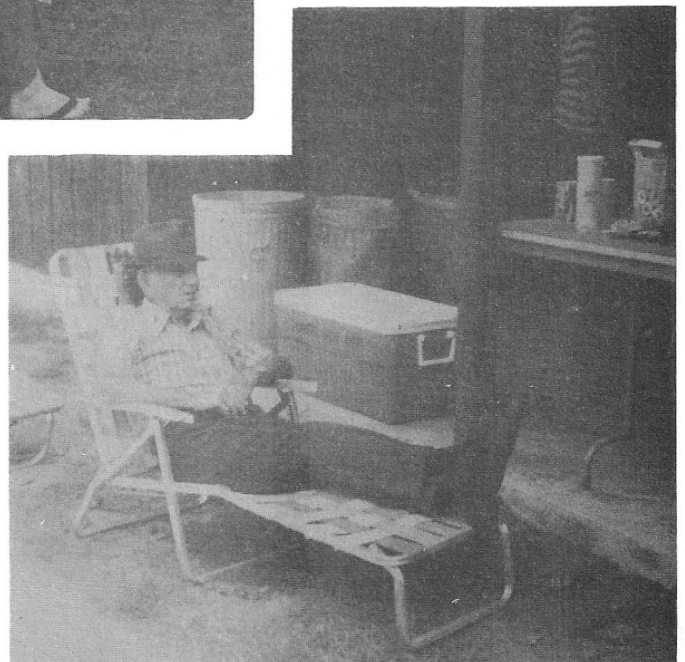
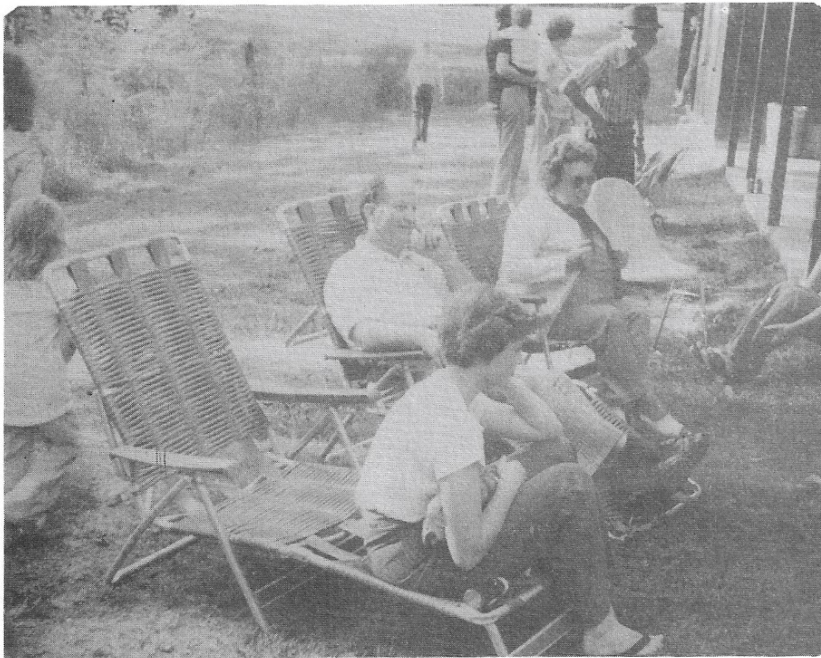
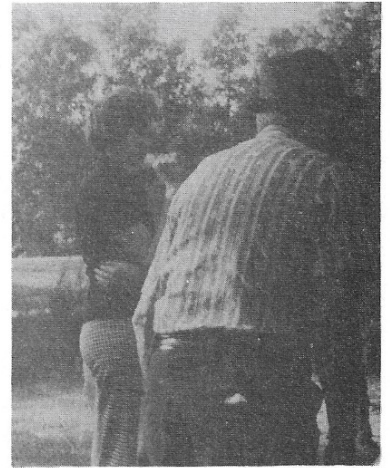
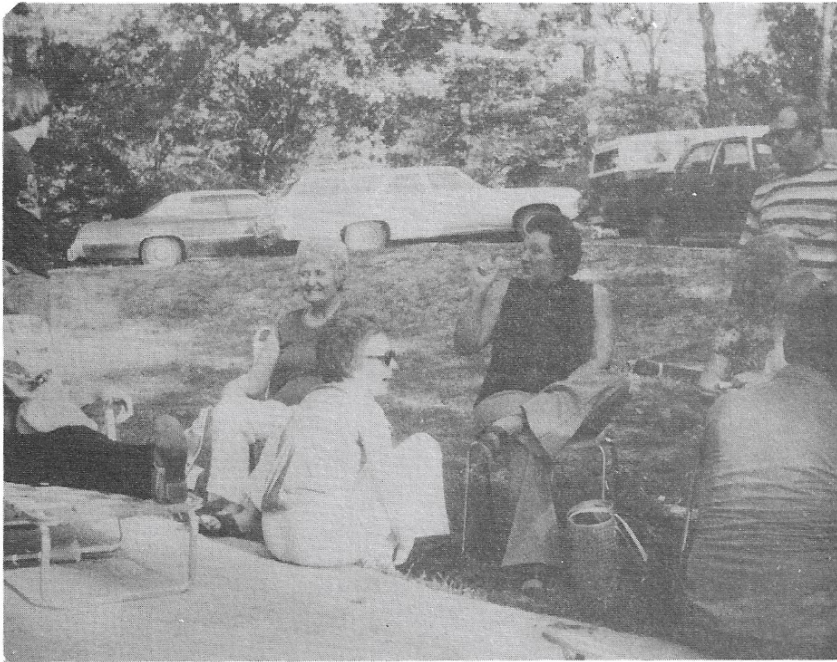
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Christy Dawn Vaughn  
(Back)

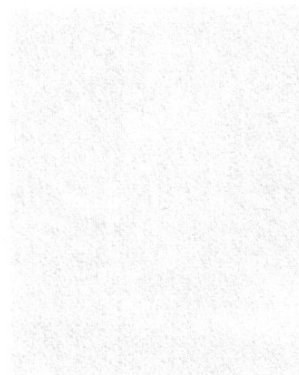
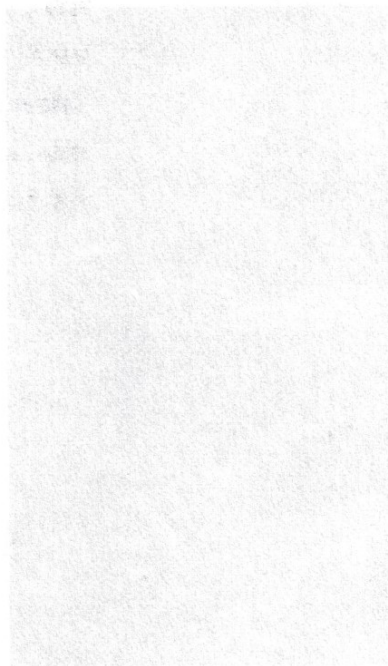
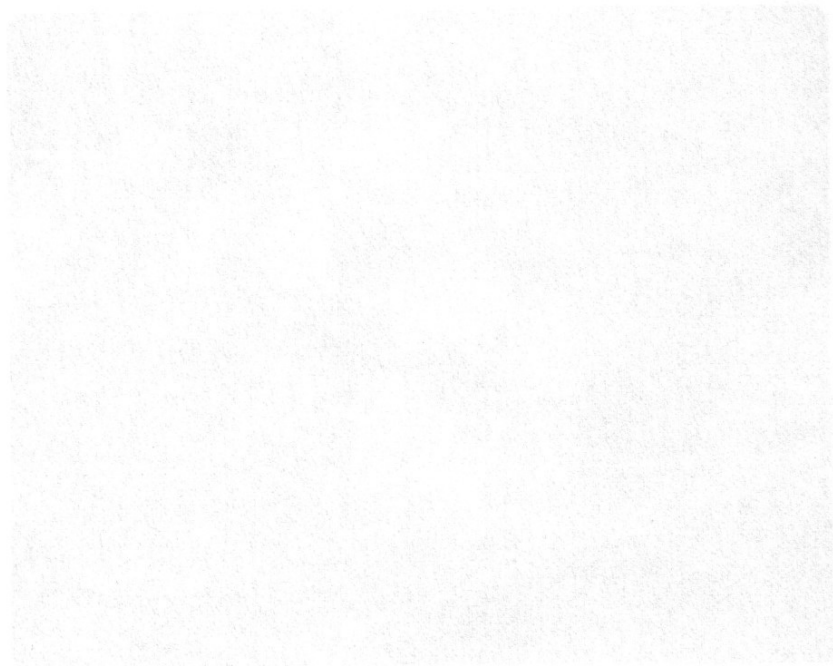
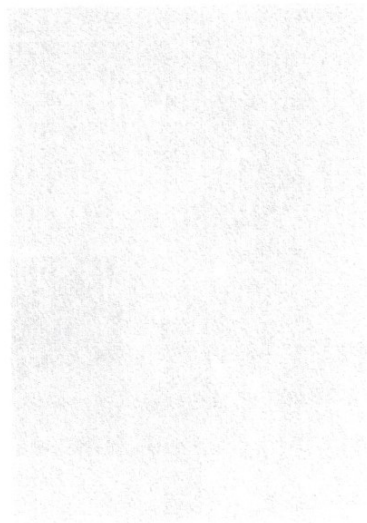
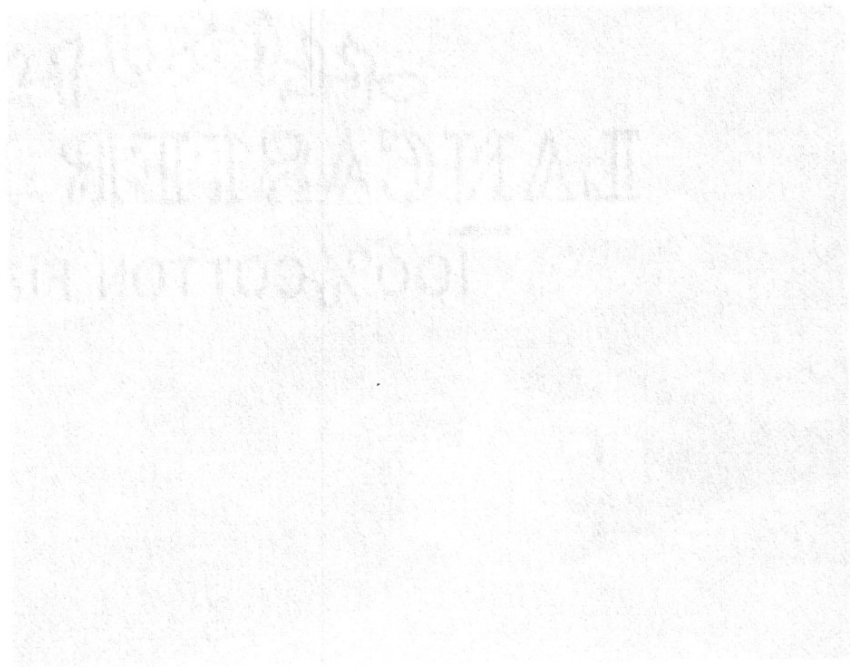
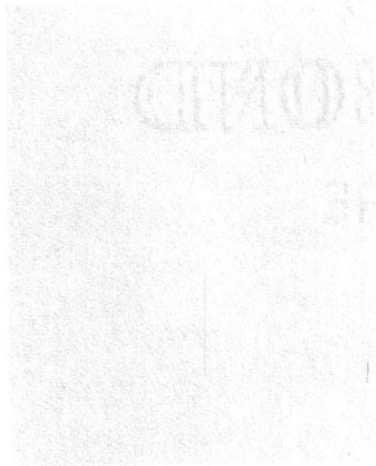
Kathy Ridings  
J.K. Winders  
Kate Winders  
Pop Cunningham  
Sandra Foster  
Dan Foster  
Mary Cunningham

Middle Right: Birtie and  
Billy Cunningham

Bottom Left: Big Mama and Pop  
Cunningham

Bottom Right: Pop Cunningham





## THE BEGINNING

*This is not the end.  
It is not even the beginning of the end.  
It is rather the end of the beginning.*

*--Winston Churchill*

As one nears the last pages of this book, it is tempting to say, "I'm finished," but that is not the case. One has only completed the reading of a small segment of history about a twig on a gigantic tree. We have linked this twig to a huge branch by a thin twig--nothing more.

Through the endless pages of numerous volumes, tramping over rough terrain, feeling to read inscriptions on long forgotten memorials, and hours of questioning to probe memories--we have begun. It has been a glorious beginning, not measured by what one can see on the written pages, but by the feeling of love, loyalty, genuine interest, and concern that has strengthened the ties which bind this family. We have seen the smiles and heard the laughter as people related their tales of younger days. We have also felt the pain and shed tears as we realized the pains and sorrows and troubled time others have endured. And we have realized that it is the culmination of all these which have made each individual just what he is--an individual, yet an integral part of the whole family.

From what you have read in these few pages many questions remain to be answered: Are we really related to King James of England? Did the Dolster woman hasten the death of Jim Black's first wife? Was Samuel Langston born in North Carolina or Ireland? What great or infamous acts will the

living generations perform? Some are unconcerned and some do not want to know, but for others of us--we have just reached the end of the beginning.

*Mrs. Janis Cunningham McCoy*

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