

Story of Burr Harris Manning
By Clara Manning McCall
History of Smith County, Tennessee
By Sue W. Maggart, Nina R. Sutton, Editors
Pg. 587

My father, Burr Harris Manning, was one of two children born to the union of Frank and **Clara Naracissia "Sissy" Denney Manning**. His sister, Lillian Manning died as a young girl. During the Civil War, Sissy Manning, my grandmother, owned a black slave boy. The duties of the black boy was to "ten the fires". In those days there were no matches, so they had to keep live fire coals to keep a fire going. One morning when the little black boy was called to get up and get the fires started, she asked him if there were any live coals in the fireplace. "No Man," said the black boy, "but the ashes are mighty hot"

On one occasion, Mrs. Manning heard the Yankees were coming. She owned a beautiful black mare and knew they would steal any kind of horse to travel with. Mrs. Manning hid the mare in the smokehouse. She was frightened while the Yankees were there that the mare would nicker and give her hiding place away. But the Yankees passed by without suspecting the mare could be in a smokehouse, a small building where meat was smoked.

B.H. Manning grew into manhood and married Lucy Campbell Hodges, the daughter of David Peterson and Amy Bennett Williams Hodges. To this union were born six children: 1.) Frank Campbell Manning, died at age 22-24 in World War I; 2.) Dave Hodges Manning married Mattie Denton; 3.) George Dewey Manning married Thelma Young. 4.) Nealous House Manning married Mary Sampson; 5.) Amy Barnett Manning married D.T. McCall; 6.) Clara Lillian Manning married John Alexander McCall, Sr. I was named for my grandmother and aunt. Both Frank and Dave Manning were soldiers in World War I.

Burr Harris Manning was a prominent Smith County land owner, and a merchant. He was a member of the New Middleton Baptist Church, and was favorably known throughout Smith County. He always enjoyed owning the new gadgets that came out. I always remember our owing a telephone and in 1914 we went from the surry with the fringe on top to this 1914 Ford "Touring" car. As you can see from the photo, it resembles a convertible today. This was the only car in the community at the time. It had to be cranked to get it started and had oil lamps on each side. In case of rain, there was a heavy fabric top that could be let up with buttons to close the curtains on the windows. Mr. Johnny Hiatt was the only mechanic, that was known at the time, so he was called whenever there was trouble with the car. My father died July 20, 1941, at the age of 73.

Merchandising has long been a favorable profession in our family. Along with my father being a merchant, so were two of my uncles. Dave Hodges had a general store where Rivermont is today and Richard Hodges operated a general store at

Enoch. Albert McCall, my husband's father, owned a general store at Flat Rock and my sister Amy's husband, D.T. McCall, operated a furniture store as do his sons and grandson now. My brother, Dewey Manning, once owned a general store, and my son, John a. McCall, Jr. owns and operates a general store in Rock City today.

I married John Alexander McCall, Sr., who was plagued early in life with ill health, but was always a devoted husband and father. He was well and favorably known for his honesty and fair dealings with his fellow man. He died December 26, 1962, leaving his wife and three children namely: Lucy, John a. Jr. and Ann.

I am the only surviving member of the immediate Manning family. I continue to live on the family farm, raising cattle with the help of my grandson.



In the 1914 Ford "touring" car is Frank Manning and two of his cousins.