

Berry Levi Agee  
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*Smith County Tennessee History*  
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The Agee name has always been very prominent in Smith County, Tennessee. The earliest spelling of the name was Age' being French in origin. This was changed in the middle 1670's to Agee and is the same spelling used today.

Berry Levi Agee was born, one of six children, to the union of William Gletcher and **Athalenda Denny Agee**; (2) Nepolioan Bonaparte Agee who married 1<sup>st</sup> Greenie Agee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Louella Kent; (3) Serrepta G. (Rep) Agee who married 1<sup>st</sup> Frank Bradley and 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Cox; (4) Margaret Isabell (Is) Agee who married Bates Woodard; (5) Berry Levi Agee (more later); (6) Martha Millard Agee who married Tobe Martin.

Berry Levi was a tall, stocky built man who was raised in the New Middleton-Brush Creek area. He met the lovely Susie Jane Fuller, the daughter of Archibald B. and Rachel D. Bass Fuller. They married in Smith County, Tennessee on January 3, 1895. To this union were born eight children: (1) Altie Mai Agee who married 1<sup>st</sup> William "Bill" Barnett, 2<sup>nd</sup> James Johnson; (2) Ernest McKinley Agee who married Era Ragland; (3) Virgil Agee who married Ester G. Phillips; (4) Nelle Lou Agee who married James H. Jennette; (5) Sadie L. Agee who died young; (6) Bessie Lee Agee who married **Odie Denney**; (7) Fannie Lou Agee who married Johnnie William Richardson; (8) John Gordon Agee who married 1<sup>st</sup> Lorene Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathenne Lynch.

Berry wore a "handbar" mustache which was quite fashionable for the period of time. Berry and Susie Jane brought a farm on what is known as Pigeon Roost which is between Brush Creek and New Middleton. On this farm is where they would raise their children and would become known as their "homeplace". The land today is owned by Teaman Agee. Across the yard is located a cemetery where Berry had buried his mother and daddy. Berry and Susie Jane had a great love for their land and for their family. The children grew up and moved to other parts of the state but on the first Sunday in June everyone, young and old, would reunite at the little farm. Many fond memories are still recalled of these times.

After suffering for sometime of illness, Berry died at 2:00 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1933, at the age of 64. He was laid to rest in the cemetery on the farm which he had loved so much and been such a part of. Susie Jane continued to live on the farm for many years, but never remarried. She was 90 years, 21 days old when she died and was laid to rest in the Ridgewood Cemetery in Carthage on October 6, 1961.