

The Carson Family
By Mrs. Paul (Betty) Carson
Smith County, Tennessee History
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Our Carson Family came to Tennessee from Rowan County, North Carolina about 1800 and settled in a part of Sumner County which is now in Trousdale County. This pioneer, William Stewart Carson and wife Rachel (Blair) Carson, brought their infant son and daughter to Tennessee and purchased land on Goose Creek where they made their home. The son, James Carson (1796-1877) served in the War of 1812. He was a private in the First Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers Commanded by Captain William Alexander and later by Captain William Lauderdale, under the command of General Andrew Jackson in the war with the Creek Nations of 1812. After returning home, he married Lucinda Dalton. To them were born seven children. Our line, John D. Carson came to Wilson County with his parents in 1835. He married Nancy Casandra Johnson 5 February 1852 and to them were born eight children. The eighth child, John Walter Carson, Sr. of Wilson County married Willie Burr Belcher whose father, William B. Belcher (1851-1881), was born in Smith County. William B. was the son of Richard G. Belcher and Grandson of (Old) Richard Belcher of Amelia County, VA and his second wife (name not know). Richard G. married 20 December 1848 in Smith County to Nancy M. Paty. Richard G. sold his property on Mulhern Creek, which was left to him in his father's will, and moved to Warren County, TN where they reared their family.

To John Walter Carson Sr. and wife Willie Burr (Belcher) were born six children: 1.) Nellie Pearl married James Neal Powell, 5 March 1913; 2.) Loron Louise married Garvey McKee of Smith County, 25 March 1914; 3.) Frances married George W. Vann, 9 April 1922; 4.) Claude C. Carson married Bernice Neal Vann, 10 September 1939; 5.) Mattie Lou married Otis Chester Gill, 10 November 1918; 6.) John Walter Carson, Jr. married, 18 August 1923 in Smith County, Sammie Lois Manning daughter of Robert and **Minnie Lou (Denny)** Manning. John Walter Sr. and Willie both died at an early age and their children were sent to live with various Aunts and Uncles, however, they remained a close family and were always ready to lend a helping hand where the family was concerned. Three of the above children chose to live in Smith County after their marriage. They were: 1.) Mattie Ward Hollow Community. They had three daughters: Frances Louise, Mary Claudine and Billie Jean Gill. All were graduates of Gordonsville, High School. 2.) Loron Louise Carson married Garvey McKee who was born in Smith County, 6 December 1893. They made their home on a farm near the Grant Community. To them were born six children: Mary Frances, (Mrs. Marion L. Kieffer); John Carson McKee, died age 15 months; James Garvey McKee married Wiebena Hackett daughter of William Whinship and Jewell May (Smith) Hackett of Smith County. James and Wiebena McKee own and operate the Amoco station and market at the Gordonsville-Cathage exit of I-

40. They are the parents of Amy Mechelle and Jerry Miles McKee of Gordonsville, and a son John Scott McKee who died in infancy. The sixth child of Loron and Garvey is Franklin D. McKee who married Emma Faye Wall. Franklin and Mary Frances are graduates of Gordonsville High School, the others are graduates of Watertown High School.

3.) John Walter and Sammie Lois (Manning) Carson call New Middleton home and are the parents of four sons. Robert Edward Carson married Mildred Louise Winfree daughter of Vernon and Maggie (Harper) Winfree. Robert and Mildred with their daughter Gail Lynne and son Ross Edwin Carson make their home in Memphis, TN. Glenn Moore Carson married Ruth Oletha Cook daughter of Valter and Pearl (Hale) Cook. They have a daughter, Christy Ann Carson. John Donald Carson married Dorothy Lee Bailey daughter of Charles and Pauline (Phillips) Bailey. John and Dot are the parents of Keith Donald Carson and Karen Denese and her twin brother Kevin Lee Carson. Glenn and John are teachers and coaches in the Metropolitan schools of Davidson County. Paul Carson married Betty Jean Hackett daughter of Benton and Ovie Lee (Gregory) Hackett. Paul and Betty have on son Paul Gregory (Greg) Carson who is a student at Gordonsville High School. They make their home on a farm near New Middleton. All four of Lois and Walter Carson's children are graduates of Gordonsville High School.