

## MY LIFE IN BUFFALO VALLEY

By Keeble Phillips Tucker

My father **William Calvin Phillips**, better known as Bill Phillips was assigned by the Tennessee Central Railroad to the part of the railroad that included Buffalo Valley, and so we moved from the Carr's Chapel community to Buffalo Valley and moved into the first house of three located just below the railroad known as the section row. I was twelve years old and in the seventh grade. **Nell Beasley** was my teacher until the middle of the eighth grade when **Mrs. Cooper Loftis** from Cookeville came to take Nell's place. I believe this was 1941-1942. I lived there with my parents until October 24, 1947 when I married **Ernest Boyd Tucker** from Double Springs, better known as Pokey Tucker. Lots of folks ask me how he got that name and this was what I told them, Pokey's mother said that when Pokey and his brother **Albert Lewis Tucker** was in grade school they caught what folks called the Itch. She made some kind of a mixture of sulphur and grease and put on them to make the itch more bearable. Then one day they passed **Ed Pippin's** house, Ed called to him calling him Poke Root. Then Pokey said he would just call Ed all kind of bad names and the more he called Ed the harder he would laugh at them, with his big belly just a flopping. I do not know how Albert Lewis got the name Dude.

I remember one Halloween a group of kids decided to go to Mr. **Doug Farmer's** house and soap his windows. He turned his big dog out and you can imagine how we ran and on the way we had to cross the little creek which had stepping stones to get across. We missed the stepping stones and I along with other fell flat on our faces. We did not try that again. We played kick the can in **Luke and Pauline Medley's** yard. A whole bunch of us went up the hill to this house on Halloween that they had a big water tank. We thought it would be funny to turn the tap and let all the water out. I did not turn the tap but I was with the ones that did. Guess what! My mother made me carry water from the creek and climb the ladder and replace my part of the water that we wasted. That taught me a good lesson. When three girls and three boys made ourselves a playhouse on the creek bank on some big rocks we decided to build a fire and roast potatoes. Well I went and got potatoes from the place my daddy had stored them under the floor. We tried roasting the potatoes but caught the grass around us on fire. We finally got it put out along with some help.

**KEEBLE (PHILLIPS) TUCKER**, only child of **WILLIAM CALVIN "BILL" PHILLIPS**, born 10 November 1885, died 22 January 1976 & **VENNIE WEBB**, (2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Wm. Calvin Phillips). **CATHERINE HERD**, born 22 February 1888, TN, died 31 December 1922 (1<sup>st</sup> wife of Wm. Calvin Phillips) is the daughter of **ARMSTRONG HERD & LUCINDA "VENNIE" WEST**. William Calvin Phillips and his wife Vennie Webb are buried in the Holly-Palmer Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Catherine (Herd) Phillips is buried in the Holly-Palmer Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.



**Pictured: KEEBLE (PHILLIPS) TUCKER**, 1947 Highlander Yearbook, Baxter Seminary, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN.

**WILLIAM CALVIN PHILLIPS** married 2<sup>nd</sup> **VENNIE WEBB**, born 6 November 1859, died 3 March 1955, buried next to **WM. CALVIN PHILLIPS** in the Holly-Palmer Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

**KEEBLE (PHILLIPS) TUCKER** married **ERNEST BOYD TUCKER**. Keeble (Phillips) Tucker's brother was **ELBERT M. "MACK" PHILLIPS**, born 5 November 1919, Putnam Co., TN, died 20 December 2004, Algood, TN, Pvt. U. S. Army WWII. He married **IMOGENE (ROBERTS) PHILLIPS** on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1938. She was born 15 September 1920, Putnam Co., TN, died 17 April 1956, Peru, IN. Elbert M. "Mack" Phillips is buried in the Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN.

### **BUFFALO VALLEY SCHOOL RECORD:**

Keeble Phillips Tucker attended Buffalo Valley School, Putnam Co., TN from 1942 to 1943, grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Her teachers were: Nell Beasley and Mrs. Cooper Loftis.

Her classmates were: Patsy Askew, Vestal Carr, J. W. Williams, Susie Hinsley, Avannah Whitehead, Mary Waller, Sara Medley, Betty Joe & Marie Maddux, Frances & Gilbert Carr, Esther Medley, Robert A. Alcorn, Denton Whitehead, Philip Denny, Catherine Malone & Louise Sullins.

**Note:** Please send any memories, stories or pictures to Buffalo Valley Library, P. O. Box 93, Buffalo Valley, TN.



This is a picture of Vennie (Webb) Phillips was made in front of the section house where they lived in Buffalo Valley, TN.

Courtesy of Keeble (Phillips) Tucker.



L to R: William Calvin Phillips, daughter, Keeble (Phillips) Tucker and wife of Wm. C. Phillips, Vennie (Webb) Phillips. This picture was made at the side of their house in section row. You can see the front of the Askew house where Patsy Askew and her parents lived.

Courtesy of Keeble (Phillips) Tucker.

\*See History – Buffalo Valley at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>