

**PIONEERING FAMILIES OF PUTNAM CO. TN
IN MEMORY OF JAMES CRONK & LOIS HERREN (#389)**

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pgs. 123 & 124 - In writing about my family history the only logical place to begin is with my parents, James Valter Cronk, in Silver Point, DeKalb Co., Tennessee, and Lois Fannie Herren, in Silver Point, Putnam Co., Tennessee. Both families, Cronk, Wallace for “Pop” and Herren/Medley for Mom, have long histories in Putnam County prior to 1870.

James Valter Cronk and Lois Fannie Herren married on November 1, 1947 in Peru, Indiana. They married after Dad was discharged from the Army in 1945. During their 46 year marriage, they had six children, born in three states. The eldest, Harold was born in Pen, Indiana. Shortly after Harold was born the family returned to Tennessee, moving to Cookeville where Kenneth, Jerry, and Doyle were born. Kenneth Eugene was born on March 19, 1949, died on July 19, 1929, and is buried in an unmarked grave in Smellage Cemetery in Boma, Tennessee. When Jerry was an infant, the family made another move looking for work. This time Dad moved the family to Detroit, Michigan.

One of my favorite stories, told by Mom and Dad, was the time Mom packed up Harold and Jerry and moved back to Tennessee without Dad! Having traveled in the military and following work opportunities, Dad was comfortable moving to a city as large as Detroit. On the other hand, Mom having grown up on a farm did not adjust well to city living where there may be less than ten feet of space between houses! Dad followed Mom soon after and they again resided in Cookeville. In the late 50's when Doyle was six years old the family once again moved north to Michigan, this time to a suburb.

The last two children, Elaine (self) and Larry were born in Wayne, Michigan. Their children gave them 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Although Mom and Dad resided in Michigan for 30+ years, they always considered and often referred to Tennessee as home. In the next section I will identify the lineage of both of my parents – documenting the depth of their roots within Putnam County.

LINEAGE OF JAMES VALTER CRONK:

On October 5, 1906 Thomas Filmore “Tinker” Cronk, b. December 20, 1885, d. about 1935, married Nancy Elizabeth “Betty” Wallace, b. November 11, 1889, d. February 9, 1909; Mary Alice, b. January 11, 1910, d. August 1988; Hazel, b. September 29, 1912, d. unknown; Arnold Taylor, b. March 15, 1915, d. November 9, 1966; Vinnie, b. August 29, 1917, d. unknown; Lela, b. December 29, 1919, d. September 7, 2002; James Valter, b. March 21, 1922, d. June 23, 1997; Melissa, b. August 24, 1925, d. unknown; and Filmore, b. January 25, 1934, d. November 12, 1992. Thurman and Mary Alice were born in Putnam County. All the other children were born in DeKalb County, TN.

During the 1900 census, Thomas Filmore was living with 3 other siblings at the home of his grandmother, Melissa (Roberts), in Putnam County. There is some mystery currently in relation to who the parents are of these children, in this census, Melissa reported that she had given birth to 12 children and only 3 were still living. Thomas Filmore may have had two additional siblings, Robert and Mary Alice, and his mother may have been named Melvina. Of the 12 children that Melissa reported, I have only successfully located 8.

Melissa Roberts married William Alexander Cronk, date unknown. William and Melissa resided in Civil District 13 of Putnam County in 1850. The 8 children that I have identified are Joseph S., b. about 1848, d. about 1863; George W., b. about 1849; Mary M., b. about 1851; Nella J., b. about 1856, d. March 12, 1924; Millard, b. about 1858; William A., b. about 1859, d. about 1860; Sarah, b. about 1860; and Violet, b. about 1862, d. 1936.

In the 1850 Federal Census William Alexander is listed as having been born in Jackson County. I have yet to locate William's parents. Melissa Roberts was born to Joseph William Roberts, b. December 6, 1797, d. April 1, 1854, and Rachel Smith, b. about 1797, d. about 1848 – both originating from North Carolina. Joseph and Rachel moved to the area now known as Putnam County prior to the birth of their first child, Sarah, who was born in 1815. Melissa was the 6th child for William and Rachel.

Thomas Filmore Cronk married Nancy Elizabeth Wallace b. November 11, 1889, d. September 4, 1960. Nancy or Betty as she was called, was the daughter of Abraham Wallace, b. June 1865 and Martha Wallace, b. February 1868. Both Abraham and Martha were born in Tennessee. Abraham was the son of Joseph Wallace, about 1830, in Tennessee, and Sally, b. about 1830, also in Tennessee.

LINEAGE OF LOIS FANNIE HERREN:

Charlie O. Herren, b. April 1, 1908, d. July 11, 2002, married Dona Medley, b. December 24, 1908, d. January 30, 1930, on April 4, 1925 and settled in what is known as the Herren's Chapel Community in Silver Point, Tennessee. Charlie and Dona had three children prior to Dona's death in 1930. C. A., b. August 8, 1926, d. August 8, 1926; Lois Fannie, b. September 11, 1927, d. April 1, 1998; and J. D., b. January 27, 1930, d. January 27, 1930.

Charlie comes from a long line of Tennesseans. His father, Amos Herren, b. February 20, 1889, d. October 5, 1980, married Lettie Lassie Roberts, b. June 25, 1891, d. December 16, 1972. Amos and Lettie Married on March 14, 1907. Amos Herren's father was Thomas Logan, b. April 30, 1859, d. July 16, 1950. Thomas Logan married Louisa Darliska Thomas, b. July 16, 1859, d. October 19, 1899, in February 1877. Thomas Logan's parents were Robert, b. April 24, 1831, d. September 18, 1899, and Mary Ann Whitefield, b. May 24, 1849, d. January 28, 1905. Robert and Mary married in 1831. Robert is the only child of Angeline Herren, b. about 1817 in Tennessee. Angeline's father was born in 1761 in Fredrick County, Virginian and married 3 times. His second marriage was said to be to a Cherokee woman – this woman would have been Angeline's mother.

Dona also came from a long line of Tennesseans. Her father, Robert Bradley, b. February 6, 1882, d. November 11, 1957 also lived in the area known as the Herren's Chapel community. Robert married Mary Medley, b. January 1888, d. May 31, 1914, on February 9, 1906. Robert and Mary had at least two children – Leila, b. May 24 1907, d. November 6, 1978 and Dona, b. December 24, 1908, d. January 30, 1930. Robert's father was James U., b. May 1844 in Jackson County, d. 1901 in Putnam County. James married Martha Butler, b. October 1844, d. unknown, about 1864. Father of James was George Medley who was born in 1795 in Bedford, Virginia and died in January 1850 in Jackson Country, Tennessee. George married Mary Powell Howell, b. about 1804, in Northampton, Virginia.

I also included family information for Melissa Roberts hoping that someone reads this and can help with the mystery relating to the identity of my great-grandparents. If anyone has information relating to the parents of Thomas Filmore "Tinker" Cronk please e-mail me at ecronk1970@wowway.com.

Submitted by: Elaine Cronk, 3322 Grange Road, Trenton, MI 48183.

Source: 1850 U.S. Federal Census, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, 1870 U.S. Federal Census, 1880 U.S. Federal Census, 1900 U.S. Federal Census, 1910 U.S. Federal Census, 1920 U.S. Federal Census, 1930 U.S. Federal Census, U. S. Veterans Gravesites, 1775-2006 Social Security Death Index, WW I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, One World Tree, Family Bible of James and Lois Cronk, Tennessee Genes Genealogy, Marriage Records of Putnam County, TN.

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