

Three Dead By Drowning
Children of:
John W. "Cluck" & Elizabeth "Betty" (Young) Watts
*See John Marlie Watts Story



This photo, right; taken before 1915. It shows; Fannie, Susie & Albert Jared, along with Layton & Frank Bryant. Fannie, Albert & Hixie Jared they all drowned in a flash flood at Hartsville, TN, December 28, 1915, after attending a Christmas party.

Brother and Two Sisters Lose Lives in Swollen Branch Tuesday Night.
Albert Jared, aged 20, his two sisters, Hixie aged 22, and Fannie aged 17, were drowned Tuesday Night near Mrs. Fannie Furgerson's in the Hawkins's Branch, which is the dividing line between the Fourth and Fifth Civil Districts of this County.

The young people had attended a party given at the home of Squire Will Davis, and were on the way to their home, which is on the farm of Capt. J.M. Henry, in the Fifth District. The road they traveled crossed the Branch, which was much swollen from the rains of the night, and it was into this stream that the three young people, with the happy thoughts of the pleasant evening spent yet fresh in their minds, when into their deaths. Just how the awful ending came probably will never be known, but it is surmised that they had crossed the branch and reached the opposite bank when the horse which they were driving became frightened and backed into the stream. It is probable that the buggy was overturned by the swift current and the occupants thrown into the rushing water and on account of the darkness were unable to extricate themselves or assist each other.

After leaving the home of Mrs. Davis the last time the young people were seen alive was about 11 o'clock, when they stopped at the home of Mrs. Fannie Furgerson and asked for some matches, stating that their lantern had gone out. The night was very dark, tempestuous, and a heavy rain was falling. The mother, who is widow, thinking they had probably spent the night at Mr. Davis' home, on account of the inclement weather, made no search and gave no alarm. The next morning Capt. Henry made inquiry and found that they had left the party, and as they had not reached home, search was made and the bodies of the two unfortunate girls were found in the branch, both cold in death, one under

a pile of driftwood, the other on top of it. The girls must have instinctively thrown their arms around one another, being washed by the strong current until they were drowned, then possibly being torn apart. The bodies were found by Holt Duncan.

The horse was found standing in the stream, the buggy shafts still attached to him, the bodies of the girls were found about fifty yards further down and the buggy still further down the stream.

The body of Albert, who is said to have been the Main Stay of the fatherless family, has not yet been found, although a large number of citizens have made a diligent search of the branch and also of Little Goose Creek, as far down as Hartsville.

It is reported that his hat and part of his coat were found near the scene of the drowning, and yesterday his raincoat was found in the "Long Hole", which is about a mile above town, the coat being wrapped around a bush, the buttons being torn off, and one sleeve turned, showing that he made an attempt to get out.

The terrible occurrence has cast a gloom over the entire community and much sympathy is expressed for the broken hearted mother and the surviving members of the family.



Back Row: L to R: Frances "Fannie", Albert, Jensie, Hixie.
Front Row: Mother (Margaret Watts Jared), Susan Jared