

Story of Hugh Wallace & Family
by Lewis Huston Gill
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Hugh Wallace husband of Nancy Jared³, Joseph², John¹, came walking over the mountains with a gun in one hand and an ax over his shoulder. When he died he owned a lot of land. He built a log cabin in 1820. His two brothers Abe and Joe must have come with him or very soon after.

The 1862 Insurrection Tax List shows he owned 790 acres. How much money he had in his pockets we will never know. Various records say he was born in NC, VA & TN.



His cabin is actually a square hewn log house with a raised wooden floor. About fifty feet wide, a full width porch and is divided into three rooms and a loft. There is a chimney made out of hand-made bricks at each end of the house. It wasn't built in a day. Near the house is the Hugh Wallace Cemetery. A couple hundred feet away you can look down into a cut in the woods

and see today's modern Interstate I-40.

Matilda Isabelle Wallace, was born in this log cabin to McDonald & Juliann (Hendley) Wallace . Matilda married Lewis Monroe Anderson. The log cabin & cemetery are located on Tucker Ridge near Silver Point, Tennessee near the Expressway. A descendant, Jig Wallace and his wife Grace owned the property and cabin later. Jig has passed away, but his wife Grace still lives on the property. The log cabin is falling down but is still there as of October 2000.



Nancy Jared, wife of Hugh Wallace, was considered an old-maid at 25 years. Nancy lived on the next ridge from the Wallace farm She lived at home with her family and parents.

It's been said the Wallace boys stole some of the Jared girls, causing a feud. If that is true the feud couldn't have lasted long because in 1821 Nancy and Hugh were married and raised a family in the log house. They are buried just a stone's throw away among many relatives.

Grandma Anderson
by Lewis Huston Gill



As related by her daughter, my Aunt Audra Camilla (Anderson) Denny while visiting me (Louis Huston Gill). Matilda Isabelle "Tilly" Wallace, my "Grandma Anderson" was born 23 January 1872. Her parents were, Julia Ann Henley who married ca. 1865, McDonald Wallace, son of Hugh & Nancy (Jared) Wallace.

When Matilda was only three weeks old her mother died suddenly while sitting in a rocking chair combing her hair. Her mother was Julia Ann Henley, she died 15 February 1872, TN.

When Matilda was four years old her father died. McDonald Wallace died 8 April 1876, TN. McDonald plowed a field of potatoes, ate supper and went to bed. The next morning he was dead. Matilda was unable to remember her mother and only dimly, her father.

After their parent's death several of their children were cared for by family relatives. Nancy Josephine "Josie" Wallace was taken to be raised by her maternal Aunt Lucretia Wells. William M. "Little Billy" Wallace was taken by his paternal Uncle John A. Wallace, who raised him, and in fact, his Aunt Naomi (Smith) Wallace stayed with "Little Billy" until her death in 1925. Matilda was taken by a paternal Uncle William Wallace, but she cried so much they took her to Lucretia, "Aunt Creese", where she stayed until she married. Lucretia also



Byrd & Lucrecia "Creese" (Henley) Wells. She was the daughter of Aden Henley who lived in the Hopewell Community, Tennessee.

took Gar Gentry, another orphaned nephew and raised them together. Lucretia was a seamstress and Byrd was a teacher. They had no children of their own but raised these orphan children.

Gar Gentry married and went to Ada Oklahoma and raised five children, Charlie, Florence, Ovi, Flora and Mary. They all became school teachers.

Matilda Isabelle "Tilly" Wallace md 18 August 1887, Lewis Monroe Anderson. They are the great grandparents of Audrey June (Denny) Lambert.

John A. Wallace
s/o Hugh & Nancy (Jared) Wallace
by Lewis Huston Gill

“This information came to me, Lewis Huston Gill, on May 25, 1975, from my mother, Addie (Anderson) Gill.”

“Naoma Smith was my mother’s great aunt by marriage to her Great Uncle John A. Wallace. The Wallaces raised William M. Wallace, my Great Uncle William “Little Billy” Wallace, when he became orphaned at age 7. He was their nephew. His parents McDonald & Julia Ann (Henley) Wallace died and their children were raised by several family relatives. Mc Donald Wallace was the brother of John A. Wallace. His two sisters were Nancy Josephine “Josie” Wallace & Matilda “Tildy” Isabelle Wallace. They were ten and four years old respectively and were raised by their mother’s sister, Lucrecia “Creese” (Henley) Wells.”

“Naoma was a sister to Rutledge Smith, publisher of the Putnam County, Herald and Citizen’s Newspaper at Cookeville, TN. They are first cousins to Felix Smith on my father, Preston Gill’s side so she is both a distant cousin and Great Grand Aunt by marriage.”

“Naoma rests with her husband in the Hugh Wallace Cemetery near Silver Point. They have a common marker about 5^{1/2} feet high. After her husband, John A. Wallace died (10 February 1839 – 21 April 1911) she lived with William M. “Little Billy” Wallace for the rest of her life.”

“In the 1860 Census of Putnam Co., 13th District #964 we find her in the family of T.J. Smith 52, and his wife Matilda also 52, and their children as follows: Murady 17, Naomi 15, Waymond S. 11, Matilda 9, Murvina 6.”



William M. “Little Billy” Wallace



Many local people left farming or commerce to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the new enterprise. Rutledge Smith, Cookeville newspaper publisher, joined the Tennessee Central RR in 1914. Recognizing his ability, the company promoted him to general agent and eventually moved him to a top managerial position in its Nashville office.

RUTLEDGE SMITH, publisher of the Cookeville Press from 1886 to 1911, became an industrial agent for the TC in 1914. Picture taken from the book, Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970, by Mary Jean DeLozier - Pg. 102.



Major Rutledge Smith

Major Rutledge Smith was born August 1, 1870. He was the son of Capt. Walton Smith, who served in the Confederate Army, and Marion Richardson Black Smith. He married Graeme McGregor Smith. They were the parents of Albert Perrine Smith, McGregor Smith and Eudora Anderson Smith (Mrs. Malcom William). Major Smith, at age 18 brought the Cookeville Press. He later bought the Cookeville Courier and combined the two papers. He was also active in banking, public education and federal government. He served many years as assistant to the president of the Tennessee Central Railway. He was friends with Orville and Wilbur Wright. He was a witness to the crash that killed Lt. Selfridge, the first fatality in connection with aviation. He also witnessed the first cross-county flight by Orville Wright. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Malcolm Williams.

Story and photo from the book: Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1st State Bank. Page: 93