

### SILETHA JANE (ANDERSON) PRENTICE (#493)

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

PG.179 – Siletha Jane was born March 13, 1869 in District 9 of Putnam Co., TN. Her parents were Thomas and Mary A. “Polly” Carr Anderson. Jane’s maternal grandparents were Ira and Mary Jane Lack Carr. She was named for this grandmother.

Her family was living in District 13 by the 1880 Census. Jane wed George W. Prentice in 1887 also of District 13. George W. was the son of Robbert and Elizabeth Prentice. Jane, unlike her husband, had six siblings: Riley born 1866; Joseph born 1867; Ira born 1871; Vina “Viney” born 1874; James born 1876; and Dollie R. born 1879. Mary, mother of Jane, had eleven children in all with seven living to adulthood and four dying before 1900. All of these were born in Putnam County.

Jane was unable to read or write, like many ladies of that day. She could not even sign her own name as shown by deeds of the time. Her husband could both read and write.

On September 29, 1889, Jane gave birth to her only child. George and she named their baby daughter Effie Lou. Four months later her father-in-law died. She and her husband sold his portion of the land he inherited from his father. They sold all but a small section to Adelaide Prentice, step-mother to George. That was probably where they lived. The last record of her husband George was for the 1891 Male Census of Putnam County. Since he was not listed in the 1900 Census, it is thought he died before then. But Jane and her daughter Effie Lou were living with her parents near his father at the Christian Cemetery. Since the grave has not been found, it was probably marked with a field stone that became misplaced.

When Effie Lou was seventeen, she married Joseph F. “Joe” Cronk, a neighbor. Joe was born June 10, 1882 in Putnam County. In 1900 he and three of his siblings were living with his grandmother, Malissa Cronk, a seventy-year-old widow. Joe was twenty-six at the time of their marriage on January 30, 1907.

Two years later, Siletha Jane remarried. On August 12, 1909 she wed a widower William W. Pullum. Jane was forty years of age at the time. William and Jane had no children of their own, but she helped him rear his two sons: Charley E. who was born in February of 1894; and John T. who was born in April of 1896.

In 1910 the Pullum and Cronk families lived besides one another, most likely, Joe Cronk was a tenant farmer on the farm his father-in-law owned. Joe and Effie already had a two-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter. Joe had farm labor listed as his occupation at that time. William Pullum listed farming as his profession and general farm as his business.

By 1930 Jane was living with her daughter and son-in-law in District 16 of the county. She was about sixty-one and widowed again. Joe owned his own place and was a merchant by trade. The two oldest Cronk children, Archie and Norma had moved out. These younger children were still at home: Ola a son that was seventeen; Almer, a daughter that was fifteen; Audra a daughter that was thirteen; Haywood a son that was twelve; Benton as son that was ten; Zelma a daughter that was eight; Joe Jr. a son was even; Howard a son that was five; Evelyn a daughter that was three; and Helen a baby daughter not yet a year old. There may have been a couple more children that were born from 1910 to 1912 who had already moved out.

Siletha Jane died on January 28, 1934, and she was buried in the Smellage Cemetery. Jane lacked two months being sixty-five years old. Though Jane had only the one child, she was blessed with twelve or more grandchildren. Her son-in-law Joe died October 8, 1944, at the age of sixty-two. He too was buried in the Smellage Cemetery. Then on April 5, 1959, Effie Lou passed away. At sixty-nine years and seven months of age, she was laid to rest beside her husband.

Unable to locate any direct descendants of Jane or Effie Lou, I have used photos of some of the closest family known. The first photograph pictures a niece of Siletha Jane, Caroline Prentice with two of her

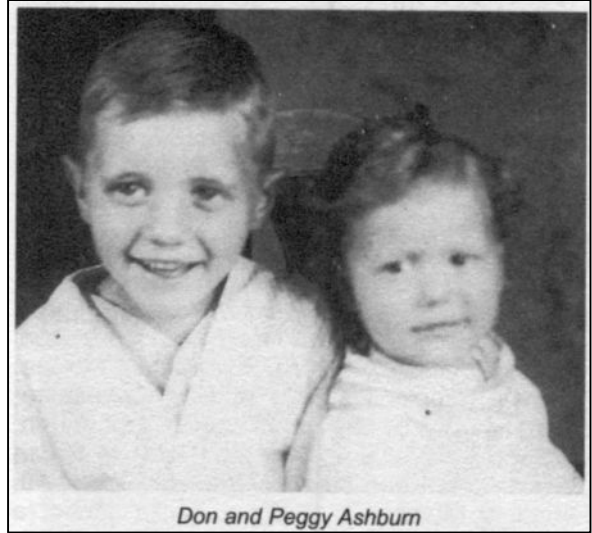
children and two of her grandchildren. They are from left to right Roy B. Ashburn, a son; Caroline; Maude May Ashburn Fisher, a daughter James Thomas – Jim Ashburn, grandson; and Verble Gail Fisher, granddaughter. Effie Lour and Caroline were first cousins, since their fathers were brothers. The second photograph contains a g-great nephew and a g-great niece of Siletha Jane, second cousins of Effie Lour. They are siblings don Carlos Ashburn, Jr., and Peggy Belle Ashburn Richardson.

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*Caroline Ashburn and family members*



*Don and Peggy Ashburn*