

CHARLES RANDOLPH FORD FAMILY FACTS and LORE

Charles Randolph b. 26 August 1809, to Boaz and Wife (unknown) Ford, in Buckingham County Virginia. Many records indicate Boaz was in Buckingham 1780 through 1810, and not happy with the laws of Virginia, perhaps that is why he left sometime before 1820 and went to Smith County. Charles told the story of his father's name being DeFord, and dropping the De, to date no proof has been found. However, we know the Ford family was one of the earliest families of Putnam County.

An old crumpled typed page in the possession of my Denny cousin Nancy Jane Childress, great great granddaughter of Charles Randolph, provides details of his adventures. "When grown he went to Arkansas and finally settled in St. Louis MO., and ran a steamboat from St. Louis to New Orleans from about 1832 to 1835, then went to Mississippi and assisted in surveying public lands." We have no proof of these adventures.

Census data indicates Charles was in Smith County in 1830; Boaz is not listed in the 1840 census, however, Charles was in Smith County living with a female over fifty years of age, probably his mother. The 1850 census indicates Charles and business partner, Edward Douglas of New York, were merchants residing in Smith County in the home of a young couple, George and Henrietta Marchbanks.

On 24 January 1854 Charles m. Henrietta Pheobe Draper at Flynn's Lick, Jackson County TN.

By 1860, Charles had moved wife and children to Cookeville. Their residence was between the Holland Denton family, a prominent lawyer, and T. J. Shaw family the Grocer, and one door from William J. Reagan, another prominent lawyer. Charles occupation was Hotel Keeper. Life seemed to be on the upswing but the Civil War loomed; according to family lore he was a strong southern sympathizer and lost his property during the war. In 1870 Charles and family were again living in Flynn's Lick, Jackson County with James Draper, his eighty year old father in law. They were farming and struggling to reestablish their lives. The devaluation of land was severe. In 1860 James Draper's land and personal estate was valued at

\$5,000 and \$12,350, in 1870 the value was \$230 and \$1,660. Charles moved his family back to Cookeville and within ten years had become active in politics and twice elected Registrar of Putnam County, serving for a total of sixteen years. According to the old crumpled paper: "In infancy his parents had him baptized in the Methodist Church, he faithfully attended church but never formally joined one, was a Mason belonged to a lodge in Carthage TN, was an upright, faithful, honest citizen, splendid officer, kind and obliging to all, and made friends wherever he went." He died 18 June 1901 leaving his wife and six of their seven children to mourn his passing.

Children of Charles Randolph and Henrietta Draper Ford:

1. Frances Jane b. 24 October 1854 m. Thompson Luther Denny 1 December 1878. She died 12 September 1908. Both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.
2. Henry Clay b. 26 April 1857 never married d. 2 February 1878.
3. Cora Isabella b. 19 August 1859 never married, owned the home place.
4. Thomas Draper b. 19 June 1862 m. Virginia Belle Birdwell 27 November 1887.
Thomas was on the Board of Trustees of Dixie University, forerunner of Tennessee Tech.
Both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery. They were parents of George, Frances (m. Edward Neal), and Alice Keith Ford.
5. Sarah Bullard b. 1 June 1865 m. Herbert Watson 18 October 1905, their child was Charlotte Watson.
6. James Fitzgerald b. 24 March 1871 m. Nellie Wirt 24 December 1896. They had two children Gladys Maria and Charles Alvin Ford. Nellie d. 2 April 1919.
James married Morgan Cecil Brown of Calvert, AL 19 June 1922. Their children were Alice Martii and Willis Thomas Ford
7. Nan Denton b. 21 July 1873 m. Oscar Rauchfuss 14 June 1893. He d. ca. 1906.
Their daughters Wilhemenia and Minette Rauchfuss died in infancy.
Nan married Willis Baxter Boyd 29 April 1911. He was the President of University of Dixie, now Tennessee Tech, 1912 and 1913. They had no children. (word count 738 includes picture captions)

Submitted by: Lucille "Lucy" Elizabeth Lewis,
Charles and Henrietta Ford are her 3rd great grandparents.
Compiled by: Jean A. Hudson

Sources:

Ethel Nichols Anderson, Mrs. Willie Howard Draper Huddleston, Christine Spivey Jones, Eleanor Drake Mitchell and Mildred Draper Summers, compilers, *Draper Families In America* Copyright 1964, (The Parthenon Press, Nashville, Tennessee)

Federal Census <http://www.ancestry.com/>

Mary Hopson, compiler, *Siftings from Putnam County, Tennessee* (Diversified Graphics, 1991)

Personal conversations with Nancy Jane Clark Childress

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Four Generations: Henrietta Ford (R) daughter Frances Denny, granddaughters and great grandchildren

Sitting: Mabel Holladay, France Ford Denny, Ellen Jared,
Henrietta Draper Ford, Rupert Denny
Back: Maggie Denny Holladay son John,
Minnie Jared, Nallie Trousdale Denny

Charles Randolph Ford Index

Birdwell, Virginia Belle
Boyd, Willis Baxter
Brown, Morgan Cecil
Childress, Nancy Jane Clark
Denny, Thompson Luther
Denton, Holland
Douglas, Edward
Draper, James
Draper, James Fitzgerald
Draper, Thomas
Ford, Alice Keith
Ford, Alice Martii
Ford, Boaz
Ford, Charles Alvin
Ford, Charles Randolph
Ford, Cora Isabella
Ford, Frances
Ford, Frances Jane
Ford, Gladys Maria
Ford, Henry Clay
Ford, Henrietta Draper
Ford, Nan Denton
Ford, Sarah Bullard
Ford, Willis Thomas
Marchbanks. George
Marchbanks. Henrietta
Neal, Edward Holland
Rauchfuss, Oscar
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Shaw, T. J.
Watson, Charlotte
Watson, Charlotte
Wirt, Nellie

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