

## **THE LESLIE LUTHER DENNY FAMILY**

Leslie was born September 10, 1884 in Putnam County, to T. L. and Frances Ford Denny, the third of six children. Leslie's father was a prominent lawyer and county judge and Leslie's childhood was enriched by agreeable siblings and a loving family. Nonetheless, he found his true love early as Leslie was barely seventeen when he married fifteen-year-old Nallie Naoma Trousdale September 26 1901 in Granville, Jackson Co., TN. Nallie b.16 April 1886, was the daughter of Cynthia Lee Tittle m. John King Trousdale 21 November 1881. Cynthia b. 19 November 1859 and d. 24 July 1951. John King b. 19 June 1859 and d. 28 August 1918. He was related to the distinguished William Trousdale of Tennessee.

On April 1, 1903 Nallie gave birth to Rupert Lee Denny and it was a joyous time.

However, tragedy struck the beautiful young couple December 13, 1903.

Local newspapers documented the event:

“DENNY, LESLIE: Accidentally Shoots Himself at Granville - This community was shocked by the receipt of news Monday morning that Leslie Denny had accidentally shot and killed himself at the home of this father-in-law, Mr. Trousdale. Leslie was the son of Judge T. L. Denny of this city, and about 20 years of age. He leaves a widow and one child. The remains were brought here for interment.” (Putnam County Herald)

“DENNY, Leslie: Our little town was very much shocked and grieved early Monday morning, when a telephone message came from Granville that Leslie Denny had killed himself. Exactly how it was done will never be known, but it is thought he was cleaning out a pistol and while he was trying to dislodge a cankered cartridge the pistol accidentally went off, killing him instantly. Leslie was about nineteen and leaves a wife and baby son and many relatives to grieve that he should be taken. He was the oldest son

of Judge and Mrs. T. L. Denny. Of a kind and affectionate disposition and especially considerate to the old he had many friend who sympathize with the family, in this, their first loss. His remains were brought to Cookeville Tuesday and interred in the West End Cemetery, J. D. Stalling conducting the service.” (Cookeville Press)

Five years after Leslie’s death Nallie m. Bunyon Wilson and had daughters, Louise and Nell. She d. 27 March 1912, at age twenty-six, of uremia poisoning.

Rupert was raised in Jackson and Sumner Counties by his Trousdale grandparents, and in Putnam County by the Denny families. Aunt Minnie (Denny) Jared sent him to barber school, in Nashville, insisting he learn a trade. While in Nashville he met Martha Lucille Dowlen b.18 December 1907, daughter of Roger and Cora Hunt Dowlen. They married 24 August 1924 and had children, Martha Naoma, Mary Nell, Raymond Neal and William Robert. Rupert divorced Martha in1938 and married Gladys Moody Denny. Bill Lee Denny was the only child of their union. Gladys d. 28 October 1965 after which he married Georgia Newman. Rupert died 19 February 1979, in Augusta, GA. Martha m. Jena Hudson 22 June 1940 and had one child Jean Allen Hudson b. 9 June 1943. Jena d. 3 September 1984 and Martha d. 22 May 2005.

Submitted by Edward Neal Davis



Leslie Denny



Nallie Naoma Trousdale Denny  
and son Rupert Lee Denny



Rupert and Martha Denny



Rupert's first wife Martha surrounded by  
children Naoma, Ray, Jean, Mary, and Bob.  
Jean is by Martha's second marriage.

Submitted by: Edward Neal Davis  
Compiled by: Jean A. Hudson

Sources: Leslie Denny and Nallie Trousdale Marriage Certificate #348  
Rupert Denny birth Cookeville Press, April 9, 1903, page 5.  
Leslie Denny death Cookeville Press, Thursday, December 17, 1903 and  
Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN: 12/16/1903, Vol. L, No. 45, Page 8.  
Federal Census  
Cynthia Lee Tittle Trousdale obituary from NashvilleTennessean  
John King Trousdale Death Certificate and Luton cemetery records  
Nallie married Bunyan Row Wilson March 16, 1908. Wilson County  
Marriage, Tennessee State Library Archives  
Nallie's death certificate No 564,  
Springhill Cemetery records, and cemetery photographs, Nashville, TN  
Dorris, Karsch & Co. for burial preparation, certificate No. 2678. Funeral  
Home records, Tennessee State Archives

List of names included in Leslie Denny Article

Denny, Bill Lee  
Denny, Frances Ford  
Denny, Gladys Moody  
Denny, Larimore  
Denny, Leslie Luther  
Denny, Martha Naoma  
Denny, Mary Nell  
Denny, Nallie Trousdale  
Denny, Raymond Neal  
Denny, Rupert Lee  
Denny, Thompson Luther  
Denny, William Robert  
Dowlen, Cora Hunt  
Dowlen, Martha Lucille  
Dowlen, Roger  
Jared, Minnie Denny  
Hudson, Jena  
Hudson, Jean Allen  
Stalling, J. D.  
Trousdale, Cynthia Tittle  
Trousdale, John King  
Trousdale, William