

CALVIN MCMILLIAN AND GLENDOL STEWART:
MARRIED 75 YEARS

Today's Seniors

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By Margaret Shuster: Herald Citizen Staff

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Glendol L. and Calvin McMillian Stewart – age 91 and 98, respectively – have trouble hearing people now, but they seem to hear each other just fine. Maybe it's from nearly eight decades of practice.

(Pictured left: Glendol and Calvin Stewart in the door of their home on Carr's Ridge. Photo by: Margaret Shuster, Herald Citizen Staff.)

The couple, who celebrated their 75th anniversary in April, have spent their entire married life on Carr Ridge near Boma. Calvin still drives and serves as the eyes and able body for Glendol, who is nearly blind and has trouble walking. He does the shopping and cleaning and cooks most of their meals.

"I cook beans, taters, I cook me some cabbage. I'll cook anything rough, but no big cakes, now," he joked. "I can make some cornbread, now. I had to do that back when I was a little feller."

"He makes us breakfast," added Glendol. "He buys those frozen biscuits and some canned gravy."

"I'd still rather do it, though," said Calvin.

Glendol does most of the couple's remembering.

"She can still remember everything, and I forget," said Calvin. "I can ask anybody's birthday and she can tell me."

That's a lot to remember – the couple has four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a community of friends.

Said Glendol, "Sometimes I have to study a little to remember things, but he forgets his own birthday, sometimes."

They met and started courting when Calvin and his brother came to play ball at Glendol's school. She was 13 and he was 21.

“She was a pretty good ball player, and I thought I might could handle her,” said Calvin. “I let her get too old, though. She was about 15 years old when we got married.”

They’re startlingly, humorously honest about each other, and neither seems to mind.

“She was a right pretty girl back then,” said Calvin. “She didn’t look like she does bow. If she hadn’t had to work so hard in them tobacco patches and gardens, she might’ve looked even better than she does now.”

Replied Glendol, “I’d rather be outside doing something as in the house.”

“She was a big ol’ girl,” said Calvin. “She was 160 or something – a big ol’ fatty.”

“I didn’t weight that much when we married,” said Glendol.

“How much did you weigh?”

“A hundred thirty-eight. Then I got goin’ and got up to 186.”

“She used to have a heedful of hair.”

Neither of them can remember how he asked her to marry him.

“I’d imagine he just said, ‘Let’s get married,’” said Glendol.

“And she said to herself, ‘I’d better get him while I can,’” said Calvin.

They eloped to Rossville, GA, in 1931, right in the middle of the Great Depression.

“It cost us three or four dollars,” said Calvin. “Back at the time, we had a big wedding, didn’t we?”

Their friends and family helped them get their start.

“He went down to the store, and the merchant gave him a dishpan and a washpan. Just gave it to him,” said Glendol, whose parents gave her 10 hens, a rooster and a cow as wedding gifts.

“We had milk and butter and chickens and eggs,” she said. “We started out making gardens and making our vegetables, which was fun to me then, I felt like a kid.”

Added Calvin, “We started out rough, but I was a guy that I’d do anything to make a dollar. I’d work. I plowed around these hillsides about 10 acres of corn, and I had a cane patch and we had a garden. The sun wouldn’t be up ‘til I’d be out in the field. I’d have to get up and milk an old cow or two before that.”

“I’d cook breakfast while he milked, then half the time, we’d go to the field and leave the dishes and have to do them when I came back from the field,” said Glendol.

In addition to cooking, cleaning and caring for their two children, her job was tending the tobacco.

“I’ve hoed it and stripped it and cut it and spiked it, and I’ve hung it up in the barn and gotten stung by waspers,” said Glendol. “Standing all day long and it hot and that old sticky tobacco...I’d hate to do it now.”

But she made sure they had some fun, too.

“My favorite times were when we’d go fishing,” said Glendol.

“I’d be needing to work in my garden and she’d say, ‘Let’s go fishin’, and I’d say ‘I need to work in my garden,’” said Calvin. “And she’d aggravate me, and I’d finally say, ‘Get a pole and we’ll go.’”

The couple spent their first two married years in Boma, then moved into a house Glendol’s grandfather built 125 years ago. Now they live in a small trailer next to that house on the same lot. *(Pictured left: This is the home where the Stewarts lived for most of their married life. They now live in a trailer next to it. Glendol’s grandfather built 125 years ago. Photo by Margaret Shuster, Herald Citizen Staff).*



“We’ve been here 70 years on this property,” said Calvin.

Glendol corrected him: “It’s been 73 years.”

The couple attribute their longevity to living off the land.

“We’re the two youngest old people in the country,” said Calvin. “I reckon it’s healthy to be out on an old place like this, and we had better eats than we do now.”

What’s the secret of their long, happy marriage?

“Hard work and working together,” said Glendol. “We found a few thorns in the rosebed, but we pushed them out of the way and moved on.”

She offers this advice to today’s married couples: “When both of you are gonna get made, one of you better get good humor right quick,” said Glendol. “No knock-down dragouts, either.”



(Pictured left: Calvin Stewart still puts out a garden each year behind the couple's old home. Photo by Margaret Shuster, Herald Citizen Staff).

“We’ve had good days, and we’ve had bad ones,” said Calvin.

“I believe the good day out-weighed the bad, though,” said Glendol. “It was like the George Jones song- we were holding onto each other. That’s about all we can do.”

“We never did have any big falling outs,” added Calvin. “We always got along pretty good.

Malissa (Stewart) Statom Obt.

BAXTER - Funeral services for Malissa Statom, 85, of Baxter were held today, February 17, at 2 p.m. at the Boma First Church of God. Burial was in Smellage Memory Gardens.

Ms. Statom died on Saturday, February 15, 1997, at Cookeville General Hospital.

Born on March 15, 1911, in Putnam County, she was the daughter of the late William S. and Elizabeth Herron Stewart.

She was a textile worker and attended Boma First Church of God.

Her family includes her daughter and son-in-law, Mary L. and Winell Lee of Baxter; two grandchildren and their spouses, Tony and Jeanie Lee and Connie and Phil Gentry, all of Baxter; four great-grandchildren, Shea and Jason Lee and Connie and Amanda Gentry; two great-great-grandchildren, Logan and Jason Lee; and **one brother, Calvin Stewart of Baxter.**

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Huston Statom; an infant son, James Statom; an infant daughter, Elizabeth Statom; two sisters, Virgie Harris and Cheerful Herron; and four brothers, Jack, George, and Woodrow Stewart, and Grover Pendergrass.

Pallbearers were Morris and Ramey McBroom, Bill Shanks, Rich Anderson, Jimmy Burgess, Randy Dyer, Burl Rodgers, Fred Hawkins, Loyd Shores, and Harmon Garris.

The Rev. Clyde Cunningham officiated at the services.

Baxter Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

*CARR, WILLIAM GROVER - b. 16 February 1890, TN - d. 8 June 1978

WIFE: Velma Jane (Medley) Carr

PARENTS: Joseph "Joe" Calhoun Carr & Elizabeth Jane Evans, d/o (Thomas J. Evans & Margaret Shanks). (William Grover Carr married 24 November 1912 Velma Jane Medley).

(*See Joseph Calhoun Carr).

(Joseph "Joe" Calhoun Carr & Elizabeth Jane Evans are both buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, TN).

(1900 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 45 - Joseph "Joe" C. Carr is head of household, 50 yrs. old, b. December 1849, TN md 27 yrs. to Elizabeth "Bettie" Jane, 44 yrs. old, b. September 1855, TN, 13 children born, 9 children living. Children: Alfred, 17 yrs. old, b. May 1883, Martha B., 15 yrs. old, b. March 1885, Ida A., 13 yrs. old, b. March 1887, William G. (Grover), 10 yrs. old, b. February 1890, Gennie, 7 yrs. old, b. July 1892 & Sarah L. Carr, 4 yrs. old, b. July 1895. Living with them is: Margaret Ellen Shanks Evans, mother-in law, 68 yrs. old, b. January 1832, widow, 6 children born, 5 children living & Mary, sister-in-law, 73 yrs. old, b. March 1827, single. All born in TN).

(1910 census 11th Civil Dist., Indian Creek Rd., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 64 - Joseph C. Carr is head of household, 60 yrs. old, TN, parents both born in VA, md 36 yrs. to Elisabeth J., 54 yrs. old, TN, 13 children born, 8 children living. Children: Ida J., 23 yrs. old; William G., 20 yrs. old; Jennie, 18 yrs. old; Sarah L. Carr, 14 yrs. old. All born in TN. Living in the household: Elija Anderson, grandson, 10 yrs. old, TN; Martha O. Anderson, granddaughter, 8 yrs. old, TN & Margarite E. Evans, mother-in-law, 78 yrs. old, VA, widow, 6 children born, 3 children living, both parents born in VA, own income).

(1920 census 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 6 Family: 6, Joe Carr is head of household, 70 yrs. old, TN md to Elizabeth, 64 yrs. old, TN. Living with them is Margaret Evins, mother-in-law, 87 yrs. old, VA, parents both b. in VA. Census states that Joe Carr's father was b. in VA & his mother was b. in TN. Elizabeth's parents both b. in TN). (1920 census shows Margaret Evins, should be Margaret Evans, d/o Simon Shanks & Margaret "Peggy" Maddux. Margaret Ellen Shanks md Thomas Jefferson Evans. Elizabeth Carr (nee Evans) is the d/o Thomas Jefferson Evans & Margaret Ellen Shanks, sister of Craven Shanks).

(1930 census, 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 16 Family: 16 - Grover Carr is head of household, 40 yrs. old, TN, md at 23 yrs. old to Velma, 33 yrs. old, 33 yrs. old, md at 16 yrs. old. Child: Glendal, dau., 14 yrs. old, TN. Living next to them: Dwl: 17 Family: 17 is Joe Carr head of household, 80 yrs. old, TN, md at 26 yrs. old to Bettie, 74 yrs. old, TN, md at 20 yrs. old). (1930 census: Grover Carr's parents both born in TN. Joe Carr's parents both b. in TN. Bettie's father b. in TN, mother b. in VA).

*CARR, VELMA JANE MEDLEY - b. 5 November 1895, Putnam Co., TN -

d. 14 October 1986, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

HUSBAND: William Grover Carr

PARENTS: James Hugh Medley & Margaret "Betty" Elizabeth Leftwich, both buried in Smellage Cemetery.

(*See James Hugh Medley).

(SS Death Index: Name: VELMA CARR - Birth: 5 November 1895 - Death: October 1986 - Age: 90 - Last Residence: Silver Point, Putnam, TN 38582- Last Benefit: (not specified) - SSN: 410-44-4754- Issued By: Tennessee). Place & Time: Chapel-Baxter Funeral Home, Thursday, 16 October 1986 at 2:00 p.m., in the chapel of the Baxter Funeral Home Bro. Clyde Cunningham, clergyman, officiating, arrangements by: Baxter Funeral Home, Baxter, TN.

(1900 census, 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 83: James H. Medley is head of household, 28 yrs. old, b. February 1871, TN md to Margaret E., 22 yrs. old, TN, 2 children born, 2 children living. Children: Vela J., dau. 4 yrs. old, b. November 1895, TN & Wincie V., dau., 1 yr. old, b. December 1898, TN).

(1910 census, 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 22: James H. Medley is head of household, 41 yrs. old, TN, md 21 yrs. to Margret E., 32 yrs. old, TN. Children: Velma J., 14 yrs. old; Viola W., 11 yrs. old; Joel L., 7 yrs. old & Willie M., dau. 3 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1920 census 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 9 - James H. Medley is head of household, 48 yrs. old, TN md to Margaret E., 43 yrs. old, TN. Children: Winey V., dau., 21 yrs. old; Joel L., 16 yrs. old; Willie M., dau., 12 yrs. old & Arlie Medley, dau., 6 yrs. old. All born in TN).

Children of William Grover Carr & Velma Jane Medley are:

Bard Carr (died in infancy).

Glendol Lee Carr, b. 10 July 1915, md 6 April 1931, Rossville, GA, Calvin McMillian Stewart, b. 12 April 1908, TN, s/o William S. & Elizabeth Herron Stewart.

(*See Malissa (Stewart) Statom Obt.) (*See Calvin & Glendol (Carr) Stewart Story)

STATOM, HUSTON - 1st Buried in Stewart Cemetery - Re-interred: 9-29-92, Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN.

B 17 Dec 1907 - D 31 Dec 1989

(SS Death Index: Name: HUSTON STATOM - Birth: 7 December 1907 - Death: 31 December 1989 - Age: 82 - Last Residence: (not specified) - Last Benefit: (not specified) SSN: 416-01-0108 Issued By: Alabama).

Wife: Melissa Stewart

Children: James, Elizabeth Statom & Mary Louise Lee, b. 25 Dec. 1929

(*See Melissa Stewart Statom & Mary Statom Lee Obs.)

STATOM, MELISSA STEWART

B 15 Mar 1911, Putnam Co., TN - D 15 Feb 1997, Cookeville, TN

Buried: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

Husband: Huston Statom

Parents: William S. Stewart & Elizabeth Herron

Children: James, Elizabeth Statom & Mary Louise Lee

(1900 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 127 - William Stewart is head of household, 33 yrs. old, b. June 1866, TN, parents both born in TN, md 3 yrs. to Elizabeth, 18 yrs. old, b. June 1881, TN, 1 child born, 1 child living. Children: Grover, 7 yrs. old, b.

June 1893, TN & Virgie Stewart, 1 yrs. old, b. August 1898, TN. Living in the household are: Potter C. Pendergrass, 11 yrs. old, b. September 1888, TN, single, at school & Lissie Stewart, mother, 57 yrs. old, b. December 1842, TN, widow, 7 children born, 4 children living, parents born in TN).

(1910 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 18: William Stewart is head of household, 44 yrs. old, TN, M2, md 13 yrs. to Bettie F., 31 yrs. old, TN, 5 children born, 5 children living. Children: Virgia I, 11 yrs. old, dau.; George W., 8 yrs. old; Cheerful M., 6 yrs. old, dau.; Jackson "Jack", 4 yrs. old; Calvin, 2 yrs. old & Grover C. Stewart, 16 yrs. old. All born in TN. Living in the household: Parter Pendergrass, step-son, 19 yrs. old, TN).

(*See Mary Louise Statom Lee, b. 25 Dec. 1929, Huntsville, AL - d. 31 Oct 2005, Cookeville, TN

w/o Winell Lee, both buried in Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN).

(*See Melissa Stewart Statom & Mary Statom Lee Obts.)

(*See Calvin & Glendol (Carr) Stewart Story).

(In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Huston Statom; an infant son, James Statom; an infant daughter, Elizabeth Statom; two sisters, Virgie Harris and Cheerful Herron; and four brothers, Jack, George, and Woodrow Stewart, and Grover Pendergrass).

STEWART, CALVIN MCMILLIAN

B 12 Apr 1908, TN

Wife: md 6 April 1931, Rossville, GA, Glendol Lee Carr

Parents: William S. Stewart & Elizabeth Herron

Smellage Memory Gardens Cemetery, Boma, TN

(1910 census 17th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 18: William Stewart is head of household, 44 yrs. old, TN, M2, md 13 yrs. to Bettie F., 31 yrs. old, TN, 5 children born, 5 children living. Children: Virgia I, 11 yrs. old, dau.; George W., 8 yrs. old; Cheerful M., 6 yrs. old, dau.; Jackson "Jack", 4 yrs. old; Calvin, 2 yrs. old & Grover C. Stewart, 16 yrs. old. All born in TN. Living in the household: Parter Pendergrass, step-son, 19 yrs. old, TN).

(*See Calvin & Glendol (Carr) Stewart Story) (*See Malissa (Stewart) Statom Obt.)

STEWART, GLENDOL LEE CARR

B 10 July 1915, TN

Husband: md 6 April 1931, Rossville, GA, Calvin McMillian Stewart

Parents: William Grover Carr & Velma Jane Medley

Smellage Memory Gardens Cemetery, Boma, TN

(1930 census, 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 16 Family: 16 - Grover Carr is head of household, 40 yrs. old, TN, md at 23 yrs. old to Velma, 33 yrs. old, 33 yrs. old, md at 16 yrs. old. Child: Glendal, dau., 14 yrs. old, TN. Living next to them: Dwl: 17 Family: 17 is Joe Carr head of household, 80 yrs. old, TN, md at 26 yrs. old to Bettie, 74 yrs. old, TN, md at 20 yrs. old). (1930 census: Grover Carr's parents both born in TN. Joe Carr's parents both b. in TN. Bettie's father b. in TN, mother b. in VA).

(*See Calvin & Glendol (Carr) Stewart Story) (*See William Grover Carr)

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