

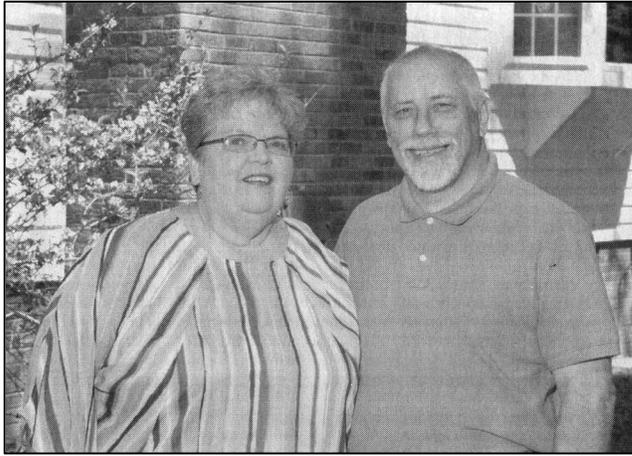
FAMILY RESEARCH LEADS TO 'ECHOES OF SPRING CREEK'

by Megan Trotter

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JACKSON COUNTY , TN-- As a teenager, Janice Hawkins Elrod saw her father, Harold Allen Hawkins, spend countless hours collecting genealogy information about the residents of Jackson County.

"He spent many hours visiting folks, sitting on front porches, in parlors or in kitchens having a meal, all the time gathering information about their family," she said. "He wrote notes -- names, dates, places -- on napkins, scraps of paper, anything he could find. He



was a total 'people person' who loved chatting. In my late teen years he asked me to begin researching census on microfilm at Tennessee (Tech). I spent many hours there filling out family record charts."

(Pictured: Author Janice Hawkins Elrod and her husband Larry in front of their home).

As she helped her father with his research, Elrod's own interest in the subject grew. She looked through her father's records gathered from local and extended family, people in the community, genealogists, military records, deeds, wills, land grants, social security death records, church records, family Bibles, newspaper archives, obituaries, library records and cemetery records, and decided to fill in the blanks in the information.

With help from her husband, Larry, Elrod continued her father's research until they had enough information to fill a 750-page book titled, "Echoes of Spring Creek" on the history of the Hawkins, Morgan, Lynn and related families of Jackson County, with ancestry traced back to the 1600s and more than 7,600 individuals documented.

While compiling the research, Elrod found many interesting stories, such as the life of Joseph Hawkins, who is also her great-great-great-great-grandfather.

"(He) moved with his family from Maryland to North Carolina, where his father entered a land grant of 200 acres in Burke County on Aug. 13, 1778," Elrod said. "When Joseph was only 16 years old, he became a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He served a total of 10 months during 1781 and 1782. He served mainly in operations against the Tories and Indians and fought in several skirmishes near Wilmington, N.C. In 1806, Joseph moved from North Carolina and resettled on Spring Creek of Roaring River in Jackson County, Tenn. It is believed that he followed his parents and sister and brother-in-law, all of whom had moved to the area about a year earlier."

While in Jackson County, Hawkins served as a Justice of the Peace and was appointed by the Tennessee State Legislature to a board of commissioners charged with laying out the town of Gainesboro.

"Among the responsibilities of this commission was a charge to raise funds for the construction of a courthouse and jail in Gainesboro," Elrod said. "This commission was also responsible for supervising the transfer of the county seat from Williamsburgh to Gainesboro."

Elrod was born in Jackson County, but grew up in Cookeville. She attended Tech Training and Jere Whitson Elementary Schools, Putnam County Senior High School -- where she graduated in 1970 -- and attended Tennessee Tech. She married her husband in 1971, and currently lives in North Dakota, where she is the owner of Little Sprouts Child Care in Durham, N.C. and the director of preschool ministries at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Durham.

For those interested in getting involved in genealogy, she advises, "... begin your search in the local library and courthouse. Of course the Internet has a wealth of free family history and genealogical resources. The key is to just get started!"

"Echoes of Spring Creek" is available for pre-order and will be delivered in mid-July. For more information about the book, or to order a copy, contact Elrod at 919-471-3756 or by mail at 112 Skylark Way, Durham, NC 27712.

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About the Authors:



Harold Allen Hawkins has been interested in genealogy for most of his adult life. It has been one of his great loves. But those who know him best know it isn't the facts and dates and lists of descendants which interest him. It is the People he cares about. He has always loved people. In fact, his life has been a ministry to people. During his many years as a preacher, teacher, and singer of the gospel of Christ and as a respected real estate broker, he has touched the lives of many, many souls. This book is merely the latest example of the many ways he has sought to minister to others. The information in this book is largely the result of the many years of research that Harold has done. Countless hours of dedicated effort – talking in person and by phone, traveling, writing and reading and copying correspondence and other documents, puzzling out lines of genealogy, and just plain old hard work – have been distilled in this book. The book represents the culmination of an astonishing amount of information gathered meticulously during an enormous investment in time and energy over many years. Current and future generation of the Hawkins family and related families will treasure this book and will doubtless appreciate the years of hard work that led to its publication. But one thing is certain. This book is not the end. As long as there is breath in his body, we may be sure that Harold Hawkins will continue to invest himself in the lives of people. Harold has two children and four grandchildren. He presently lives with his wife, Elaine, in Cookeville, Tennessee.



Janice Hawkins Elrod also has a great love for people. Like father, like daughter. She has invested untold hours in meticulously organizing information on over 5,400 people during the development of this book. She has also contributed a substantial amount of original research to this work and has gathered many photographs, documents, etc. which help the book literally come to life with historical significance. Her expertise with computer applications has enabled the enormous amount of data gathered by her father and herself to at last be put together in a coherent form. Janice's love for people has particularly been expressed in a great love for children. She has worked with children for many years and is presently the Director of Gorman Early Learning Center at Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina. Janice has two grown children and presently lives with her

husband, Larry, in Durham.

*Read more about Jackson Co., TN in the history section at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>