

YOUNG'S HISTORY (1744-1924)

Source: Young's History (1744-1924) compiled and written by Eleanor (McAllister) Hall and organized into the book format by Charnelle (McAllister) Manson.

pp 3-7: **OUR HERITAGE AND FAMILY BACKGROUND:**

WILLIAM YOUNG (1744-1818) & ELIZABETH HUFF (1754-1819)

Our earliest known and proven ancestor, on the Young side of the family, is William Young, born 15, 1744, in Augusta, Frederick County Virginia. He was a pioneer of middle Tennessee. (Questions remain as to his origins and his place of birth is still in question.) Rhoda Byrne Jared, who grew up near where William lived, and was married at different times to two of his grandsons, Adolphia Young and Alfred Douglas Young, made a genealogy record in which she indicates that William was of German descent and that he came to Tennessee from Virginia.

Rhoda Bryne (Jared) Young, obtained her information from an old family Bible that was later destroyed in a house fire, but her account should be reliable.

William Young married Elizabeth Huff on March 25, 1770. Elizabeth was born October 27, 1754, in Frederick County, Virginia. It was said that she called herself a "Virginian." Their family of five boys and four girls reported their birthplace as Virginia in the Jackson and Smith Counties of Tennessee Censes returns of 1790 and 1800. Some of our Huff relatives are said to have come from Frederick County, Virginia, and that they settled near the "Young" family in Jackson County (now Putnam County), Tennessee. William and Elizabeth's children were: David born 1772, Jacob born 1774, Susanna born 1775, John born 1778 (our ancestor), Mark born 1780, Naomi born 1782, Lovina born 1785, and Samuel born 1787. All of these children were born in Virginia, lived to adulthood, married, and had families.

So on the "Top Rung" of our ancestral ladder sits William Young, pioneer, explorer, and reconnoiter. He being the first of our ancestral string to push beyond the frontiers opened by America's Revolutionary War. He is the great-grandfather of Brigham Lawrence Young, and I suppose is as much responsible as any person can be for "Brig's" time and space on earth.

A PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY

In those tremulous years, immediately after America's independence, there were no factories, only a few stores or trade centers. Everything a family needed or possessed had to be produced at home. If there was a need beyond a man's ability to produce the article himself, he looked for a neighbor with whom he could trade. What they could not produce they went without or invented a substitute. William, Elizabeth, five sons, and three daughters were looking for a home place that could provide these requirements for their family. William went exploring beyond the mountains immediately after the close

of the Revolutionary War. He knew what he was looking for. He needed a good, cool spring of water for livestock and daily household use. He wanted to be near a stream that could take a flat-boat or raft down the Cumberland River to a trading post he knew would be established at Nashville. William's search ended in the area we now call, "Middle Tennessee." It is a gorgeous country spread over copious hills and wide vales. There were no roads through this forest, and because of the abundance of natural streams, all travel was by canoe or rafts. There were Indian trails aplenty. Some of them were worn down a foot deep, but led where no white man wanted to go.

"WILLIAM FOUND SUCH A PLACE."

He and his sons were able to obtain "Revolutionary War Grants" that gave them additional choice land. They soon added to their original three hundred acres. There is a deed from Lee Sullivan dated December 6, 1811, to William Young and grant found that is dated 1815. This was issued to David Young, the eldest son of William. Whether they earned this property through was service or purchased it from North Carolina soldiers is not clear.

Vern and I viewed this place, in between Buffalo Valley and Silver Point, Tennessee. We were in Luck Shank's front yard and looked as far as our eyes could reach, but we still couldn't see "all the land" that was originally taken up by William Young and his boys. They owned and occupied all the land from the Caney Fork River at Buffalo Valley on Indian Creek to the top of the hill toward Cookeville, Tennessee, at a place now called Boma. It is easy to see why many generations of our people have stayed in the Cumberland River Country, and why many of them still hold portions of the original grants.

THE OLD HOMEPLACE:

On a gorgeous April day in 1951, Vern and I found ourselves at the home of Luke Shanks. There were: Sarah Rogers and her son, Loyd Young. Luke and Dona Shanks, Elmo Maddux, Vern, and myself. We all climbed into an old rebuilt school bus they arranged for us to take to the original William Young's "Home Place." The place that had nurtured our family roots, so many generations ago.

We followed the steep creek road up Young's Fork, past the plowed-over graves of Matilda and John Harmon, on past the old mill site on the falls, where once our great grandfather, John, and our great-grandmother, Matilda (Gibson) Young ground flour and meal. This is where they gave meal to the hungry, as they passed, indifferent as to whether their loyalties were for the north or south. John and Matilda's son, John Harmon, got himself bushwhacked (killed) for it, before the mess of the Civil War was cleared away, and the fighting and hunger it caused finally stopped.

On this special day, high on the steep hillside, we found the "Old Young Home." It was last occupied by Sam Bartlett, a great grandson of Mark Young. The location is secluded and remote, but not isolated enough to prevent scavenging souvenir hunters from

carrying off the old furniture, carved casing bits, and what not! Nothing of value was left of an antique nature except, perhaps, the six by eight inch pane of imported widow glass Robert Shanks was carefully removing for my souvenir.

The most desirable farms, in that day, were supported by a good source of pure water. The first Young home arose on Young's Creek. It was high enough on a hillside for the family to control the stream and direct it to its many and varied uses. In William's day, all manufacturing done on the farm. The rotting of hemp to make linens was usually done in a pool below the house. This and other activities such as distilling, hog killing, hominy making, ash and saltpeter leaching (mineral sodium found in rock), dyeing, and soap making all called for large amounts of water.

This secluded farm place had many advantages beyond the clean, clear water for the families' use. On William's particularly choice farm place, there were some limestone caves. Some were large enough to make a shelter for our first pioneer family to camp in while they were building their home. There were many other things only the limestone formation itself could give. Limestone rocks made the building of fences easy. As they built their fences, it cleared off their crop land. Limestone could be burned as needed for the tanning vat, or for chimney mortar. It made medicine for a sick child, and was also a source of income, as lime could always be sold "down river." There were also saltpeter caves, which are common to limestone formations of the high Cumberland river valleys which were rich enough to supple many needs for their family. These caves were later used as a temporary hold for their livestock, as well as a blacksmith shop, gunpowder factory, distillery and armory. Here the boys became expert in producing guns, as well as gun powder. The William Young boys were all natural mechanics who built with much ingenuity. An outcropping of limestone ridges were almost universally thick with red cedar woods, and cedar was a must for churns, buckets, and milk tubs.

No two farms were alike, yet roughly they all followed a definite pattern. Few settlers wanted to live in the low valleys, and high on the hills took them too far from their corn and tobacco fields. They compromised and settled on the slopes. Their crops and barns were built below the house, but above the pastures and fields. Below the fields and near the houses were the orchards, and that is where they kept their "bee gums" (a hollow gum tree in which bees nest). Even now a long old fashioned beehive may be seen under the half-live limb of a decadent apple tree. They always found a level spot, or made one, for the house and family vegetable garden.

In the home of William and Elizabeth, stands two well-built fireplaces. The fronts of each had about an inch thick slab of pink sandstone attached to them, each beautifully cared with an ivy leaf and flower design. There were still in place, mute evidence of the artistic nature of the Young family. The fireplaces stand back to back, one facing the parlor, the other facing the dining room, still in place, probably simply because they overlaid by a hand carved hard-wood mantle piece. The many other rooms of the house were now filled with baled hay and curing tobacco. The upstairs bedrooms were impossible to examine because of drying hanks of tobacco that hung from the ceilings, making entrance undesirable, if not impossible.

The kitchens of their homes were usually built first. When the family completed the house and moved into the kitchen, it was connected to the new house by a breezeway. Through the breezeway (also called a dog trot) across from the dining room door was this offset detached kitchen. It was built, as were all proper kitchens of the time, to keep the house cool in summer, and rid it of cooking odors. On the edge of a clearing, the small stream had been ditched to supply the household with culinary water, which they used for cooking, and cleaning.

Next to the kitchen was the cut-rock spring house that served as a refrigerator, pantry, cellar, and milk house in the summer. It also kept food from freezing in the winter. The stream ran under and through the spring house. From the spring house, the stream was directed into the barn, to water the stock and to help keep them from having to go out into the elements in cold weather. From there it emptied into a stream that flowed down between the caves and the house. This would, I suppose, supply their black smithing needs. After this additional use, it was again allowed to mingle with Indian Creek. From here it flowed down to Caney Fork and into the Cumberland River. Next it joined the Ohio, and finally the Mississippi River, before it made its escape into the Gulf of Mexico.

Harriet Simpson Arnow in her book, "Seed Time on the Cumberland," said, "No country on earth is more bountiful, or more beautiful. Down the region of the Caney Fork River, there is, even after one hundred and seventy-five years of farming, an air of peace and plenty, good homes, big barns, fat cattle, tall corn, and tobacco, set mostly in wide valley between low hills." As we climbed up the Caney Fork in search of the old William Young homestead, we came to understand why our people would risk much and endure all for the land. They made their beautiful homes from raw nature by ingenuity, cooperation and hard work.

*Read more about the history and people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:
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