

**Amy Snyder**

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**From:** Kate Rauhauser Smith <krsmith@northcarolinamuseum.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2018 10:26 AM  
**To:** Amy Snyder  
**Subject:** Fwd: Surry & Stokes history

----- Original Message -----

From: Donna Vaughn <dvonsmail@earthlink.net>  
To: KRSmith@NorthCarolinaMuseum.org  
Date: July 23, 2018 at 6:04 PM  
Subject: Surry & Stokes history

Hello KRSmith,

I recently came across some typed transcriptions from talks that were recorded by my Husbands Grandfather, James Watkins Vaughn. One in 1975 and another in 1979. He was born in Stokes Co. NC in 1890. In the transcriptions he talks allot about his family that were early residents of Surry Co. He also talks allot about the Marble Quarry (Granite Quarry) in Mt. Airy.

I have been researching the Vaughn family lineage for over 30 years but, we now believe grandpa JW Vaughn, and his siblings were all from different fathers. I have been unable to connect him to the person he says was his father. I have made progress on his mothers lineage. She was Flora Vaughn, daughter of Mary Jane Bostick and we believe, Beverly C. Vaughn who died in the Civil War.

But, I digress. I was wondering if you might like to take a look at the transcriptions of JW Vaughn? I have them saved as PDF files and can easily send them to you. I thought it might be of interest to others with Surry county family connections.

Thank you  
Donna Vaughn, Nampa, Idaho



Kate Rauhauser-Smith

Director of STEAM Education & Programs

Mount Airy Museum of Regional History

Notes from James Watkins Vaughn taped conversation with Martha Vaughn, March 1975.  
James Watkins Vaughn is the son of Flora Vaughn Brown and grandson of Mary Jane Bostick & Beverly Vaughn.

Charles and Hicks Vaughn deserted the British Navy in the Boston Area in 1777. One of these brothers came to Mt. Airy North Carolina area.

This information came from Jess Vaughn, a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> cousin of mine, years ago. He had worked on the Vaughn genealogy for years and had lots of information. He had been a navy man. Lived in Anaheim, CA. For years. Owned an orange grove. His wife left him and went to her native Kansas when they were up in years. She either stole or destroyed his records as he could never find them after she left. Jess was older than I, a big husky guy. Most of the Vaughn's, unlike me, are big.

I dropped the "a" in the name when I ran away in 1903. West of Mt. Airy, you will see Vaughn's Lumber company. Lots of Vaughn's in NC.

Flora Bostick was my mother. My great grandfather, William Bostick, came to NC in the 1800s. I think he was born in England but, had lived in Salem, Mass before coming to NC. Bostick was an officer in the U.S. Army. During the War of 1812, he built a stockade up against the mountain for the army. This was near Germanton, where he later settled down. During the War of 1812, he was warden of the stockade and he must have been well up in his 30s at the time because, he had been in the army long before that. My grandfather, William Bostick built the old home place in 1821 in Stokes Co. North Carolina near Germanton, which was the county seat. Over 100 years ago the county was cut in two and the county seat moved to Danbury. The south end of the county became Forsyth County with the county seat at Winston-Salem. It was settled in the colonial days and still has many of the old buildings.

Bostick home is a large square brick building. Its a big thing, looks like a courthouse. It was filled with beautiful antiques. Grandma and I visited many years ago and the house and furnishings were still there. We were treated Royally and had a chauffeured limousine at our disposal. We did not stay long. We're not comfortable around rich folks. There are several homes on the farm and a lot of slave shanties still standing out back. Great Grandfather and grandfather both kept slaves.

Great Grandfather William Bostick was up in years, 35 or 40, when he married a scotch/Irish girl, last name of Donahue. A beautiful redhead who had passed her red hair on to a awful lot of people. They had one child, my grandfather, William Bostick. Both Great Grandfather and grandfather are buried on the grounds of the old Baptist Church which was built on the farm in the 1820s. The church isn't there anymore but, the graves are on the south side of the highway that runs east and west, just on the edge of town.

The Bostick farm is still in the family. It cannot be sold except for taxes. It went to my Grandfather William Bostick and to the body of his heirs.

Grandfather Bosticks children were :

William

John

Jim (7 Jims named after him, 2 Jim Vaughns and 5 Jim Bosticks.

Mary, the oldest daughter, married Coy Tuttle.

Polly, married John Walls

Sarah, married Peirson, lived in Texas and died in NC.

Irene

Flora, my mother, born 1858 and died abt 1915, married William Edward Vaughn, my dad.

Grandfather William Bostick, died about 1898. His oldest daughter and her husband, Coy Tuttle, had moved in and remained to take care of grandma Bostick, who died about two years later, when I was 10. **Note: JW was born 9 Dec, 1890.** The Coy Tutttles gained control of the Bostick place, and the tutttles have had control ever since. They tried to break Great grandfathers will but, the courts would not let them. They tried to get rid of the rest of us legally. They tried to declare me legally dead in 1928, the Gardner boy told me!

I had a Bostick family Bible in my possession but, it disappeared after the end of WW II.

Aunt Polly Walls ha several grandsons killed in WW I.

Uncle John Bostick owned a sawmill and raised broom corn, a good cash crop, in western NC. He started in a small way to manufacture brooms. Piggly Wiggly bought Johns brooms. They helped John to enlarge his factory by furnishing the money and buying stock in the company. When Safeway took over Piggly Wiggly, they bought Johns heirs out and changed the name of the broom from Bostick to Safeway. John died in about 1917 or 1919, I think.

My mother, Flora Bostick, was a tall women, 5'10" and weighed 160 lbs. She had red hair, waist length an Gray eyes. Dad was 5'10", a slim man, with wide shoulders. My uncle Lev, Dads brother, was taller, 6' plus and, with even wider shoulders. It was like putting a yardstick across that mans back. Uncle Lev did not like farm work. He was a tobacco auctioneer.

My fathers youngest sister married one of the **Quissane, (sp?) family.** (in answer to my question), Thats French, I do not know the spelling. You will have to do the best you can with it. The Quissanes' owned one of the largest plantations in the territory. They lived halfway from us to Walnut Cove, a rich valley at one time but, built up in houses now.

My brother, Edward William Vaughn, worked for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco company in 1898.

My sister Carrie, married Marvin Elliott (sp?) around 1903.

My twin sister, Pearl was still in school when I left home. I was 12, almost 13. After I came back, she married Jess Jones and moved to Lowell, Mass. She and Jess were on their way to make their new home in New Mexico in 1959 when, she died on the way.

Jess had worked in the marble quarry near Mt. Airy before he married Pearl.

My cousin, Willoughby Jackson, son of Ethel Vaughn Jackson, his father also worked in the quarry. The quarry had been there for years. The British had worked it and the Indians before that. My ancestor, the original Vaughn who came to Mt. Airy, came there because he had seen some of the marble. The railroad line that runs through the **Bostick** farm was built to haul marble out of the quarry at Mt. Airy. The railroad twists up the mountain.

? Why did I run away? After my Dad died, when I was 5, my mother married the town blacksmith, Harrison Brown, whom my father had done business with. None of us liked him and did not want mother to marry him. The **Bosticks**, especially frowned on this marriage as they were very aristocratic people and he was a common blacksmith and constable. My brother and his wife wanted me to come and live with them when mother remarried. They had two children, Gilbert, (1891) and another child born 1901? I didn't feel I should live with them. McKinley was shot in 1901. My mother married Harrison Brown about that time. He was 45 and had never been married. Mom was 42.

Mom let me ride the horse to **Note:** (unintelligible, may be Walnut Cove.), twelve miles away on a Friday afternoon when I was 12 going on 13. I was suppose to come back on Sunday but, on Saturday night and Sunday, a thunderstorm swelled the creeks and branches and I couldn't get back so, I waited until Monday. It was a good four hours ride through those woods. When I got back, boy! my step-dad really chewed me out. I walked off and left a good home in the middle of the night. **Note:** (from prior conversation, he said he let himself down on a bedsheet.) My cousin Willoughby and I took off. He had run away several times before but, they always caught him. He was 4 1/2 years older than me, and I followed him around like a puppy. This was just before my 13th birthday and before Christmas, 1903. We traveled with the circus, spending winter in S. Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Alabama. In April, we left Jacksonville, FL for Maine and worked down the coast. Willoughby met a girl, last name Durant, in Greensboro, NC and corresponded with her. In the fall of 1908, he wrote to his mother that he was getting married in Greensboro and that I was with him. She got my mother, 12 miles away, and the two of them came down on the train to Greensboro and walked in on me and took me home.

We (I don't know who "we" are here), built the church at Alder Springs, (Alabama), 36x70, also, a 3 room school house on Sand Mountain. The place is named for the alder bushes that grew by the spring. people used to hunt for a spring to build their houses by.

My great grandmother, (I assume he means Bostick), was related to the Bynams, German, the Bosticks, English and Chafins, German.

The **Chafins** originally came from Germany to Halifax, Nova Scotia but, not liking the climate, they came to NC in the colonial days. They had a land grant for land that included half of Carolina.

Rhetta Caldonia Benson, Vaughns' Background. **Some Bostick information included.**

Her father, Captain Benjamin Franklin Benson, had been in military school near Baltimore, MD, when the Civil War broke out. He made captain in 1861, while he was in

his middle 20s. **Note:** ( Benjamin Franklin Benson was a corporal, his father-in-law, Blazer, may have been a captain.) He fought for the Union. After the war, he settled near Sevierville, TN and about 1868, married a Vasta Jane Loveday. They had two children.

William Benson, b: 1870

John Cadzwell Benson, b: 1873, Mrs. Benson died giving birth.

Rhetta's mother, Elizabeth Blazer, had been married to a Mr. Webb. They had 5 children.

Marshall Webb, b: 8 August, 1873 d: 1947

Dicie Webb

Thomas Webb

Beecher Webb

Nancy Webb.

The Bensons and Webbs were neighbors. After Mr. Webb died, Elizabeth Blazer, Webb, married Benjamin Franklin Benson, about 1887. They had 5 children.

Ethel Benson, married a Newman

Nora, married a Brown

Kate, married a McCown or McGown

Rhetta Caldonia, b: 8 April, 1897 d: 3 Dec. 1957, Riverside, CA.

Charles, b: Sept 1899, married Rella Daverson, Alabama

John Cadzwell Benson

Rhetta's mother died in 1903, when Rhetta was 6 and Charles was 3 years old. Rhetta's mother died from typhoid fever. Her father died when she was 9 years old. Her half brother, John Cadzwell Benson, and his wife, Euphemia brought her down to Alabama to live with them in Guntersville, AL or Birmingham. **Note:** (Romie Vaughn, son of Rhetta, says that Rhetta had a Uncle, last name Benson, that owned a great deal of land in the area of Bessemer, AL. He did not remember his first name.)

John Cadzwell Benson was a policeman or sheriff.

The 12 children shared in the Benson Farm when it was sold. Each got \$1000.00, a lot of money in those days.

Elizabeth Blazer's father and Rhetta's grandfather, George Blazer, had his family before the Civil War. I first met George Blazer in 1916. He and his wife were living on their farm of 335 acres, near the Pigeon Forge Mill. **Note:** ( George Blazer died about 1935, at the age of 102 years. My father-in-law, John Vaughn, remembers visiting them in 1929. They lived in a hand hewn house that George Blazer built. It had a tree growing through the living room and right out of the roof.)

They had three farms around Pigeon Forge. The mill, which was built in 1830, still runs and is a museum today. Located in the Smoky Mountains near the national park. The town of Pigeon Forge is S.E. of Knoxville on highway 441. The Blazer family today, has a chain of motels and eating places all through the Smoky mountains and the Blue Ridge.

The Blazers and the Lovedays were politicians. Between them, they ran the county: Sheriff, Judge, Superintendent of Schools was Walt Loveday.

I first met Rhetta (about 1910) at a funeral when she was about 13 years old. I had tied up my team that had hauled the body to the grave when I spied her. She was singing "Rock of

his middle 20s. **Note:** ( Benjamin Franklin Benson was a corporal, his father-in-law, Blazer, may have been a captain.) He fought for the Union. After the war, he settled near Sevierville, TN and about 1868, married a Vasta Jane Loveday. They had two children.

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Sheriff, Judge, Superintendent of Schools was Walt Loveday.

I first met Rhetta (about 1910) at a funeral when she was about 13 years old. I had tied up my team that had hauled the body to the grave when I spied her. She was singing "Rock of

Ages" at the grave. I came up to her, reached over and took her hymn book. I did not date her until a couple of years later.

We went over to Summerville, GA to get married. **Note:** ( according to family stories, JW kidnapped Rhettta , by pre-arrangement, from the school grounds during her lunch hour.) Cadz sent the sheriff after us because, he didn't want Rhettta to get married. It would cut off the pension that she recieved from the government as a dependent child of a deceased Civil War Veteran.

The sheriff, John Davidson, of Marshall county, knew where I was going and why! He did go after me but, he travelled in the wrong direction so he wouldn't find me. He sent me to Sheriff McGuire in Summerville and sent a fresh team for me, up to Crossville, so we could go on to Summerville.

About two years after we were married, we went to East Tennessee to get acquainted with Rhettas family in the Sevierville, Knoxville area. We had to show off Aaron who was several months old. During our time in TN., we stayed for a couple of months on Kates farm near Sweetwater, TN where Romie was born.

Transcript of tape made July 1979 of, James Watkins Vaughn

Hicks Vaughn and Charles Vaughn deserted the British Navy in Boston ,Mass in 1775. and joined the Revolution. In 1780, Hicks Vaughn married in Boston , Mass, a local girl there and he raised a family in Boston. In 1781, Charles married a girl and they raised a family in Salem, Mass. Salem is a little town up north of Boston. Two years or (a few years) later, Charles Vaughn Jr. worked his way from Mass. to Mt. Airy ,NC where they had one of these marble quarries, he went to work in a marble quarry. Then he married and raised a family in Mt. Airy.

My grandfather was born in Mt. Airy ,so was my father, on grandfathers old farm. This was Charles family, that came from Salem, Mass. Charles Vaughn Jr.? Not the old man, this was Charles Jr., come down there to Mt, Airy. They raised their family there in Mt, Airy. Of course, most of the Vaughn family still lives around there, around Mt. Airy. There lumber men and Jewelrymen and one has a clothing store. They still live around there. My dad and my mother, My mother was raised 12 east of Mt. Airy, down in a little place called Stokes county. Mt. Airy is a different county but, my mother was raised in Stokes county.

My Dad and my mother were married the 1st on January, in 1879, they was married on New Years Day at this little town called Germonton. Thats where my Great grandfather settled in 1812. Thats Bostick, i'm speaking of my Mothers Grandfather. He was my great grandfather. His name was Bostick. My mother was a Bostick. When my father and Mother married, Grandpa Bostick told my father that they could have 116 acres south of the creek . They could have that as long as they lived and farmed. So, they settled on what they always called the south 40, 116 acres of the Bostick Farm and thats where I was born, on the Bostick farm. Thats where my father died. My father got hurt in November of 1896 and died the first of may in 1897. He got hurt by a pair of mules. He bought and sold mules and he farmed on the side too. Then, my mother remarried in 1900. Oh course us kids, we grew up and scattered out. I never knew many of my folks.

? Was Charles Jr. that move down from Mass, he was your grandfather? Yeah, he was my grandfather, and my father, my fathers brother, my father had a brother named John Vaughn and he also had one named, Bill Vaughn and Lev Vaughn was an auctioneer in Winston-Salem at the warehouses, a public auctioneer. There was 5 girls, my father had 4 brothers and 3 sisters, No! its the reverse, i'm telling it wrong, he had 2 brothers and 5 sisters, thats what it was ,two brothers and 5 sisters. That was my fathers family.

Then the Hicks Vaughn, which was cousins, 1st cousins ,Hicks Vaughn Jr. now, he was the 3rd Junior, he headed down into Alabama, where there was cheap land, setteled down there in Alabama. I forget what year he went down there.

Grandpa Vaughn come down there to Mt. Airy in 18, I think it was 1811 or 12. He was just a young boy, about 20 years old. In his 20s. come down there and worked at that rock quarry. The funny thing is , that marble quarry was being quarried before this was America.

My Great Grandfather Bostick he hauled enough of those rocks back in his day, he could get them for nothing and he hauled them with oxen. And, he said it took a week, 12 miles up there to get a load of rocks and get back, 4 to 6 oxen to a wagon, .His old home place, they made the foundation out of that cut marble, they cut them 15 in wide, 12 inches

thick, 30 inches long. They cut them out just like brick and that foundation is 30 inches wide and the brick walls is built on that foundation. That was built in 1821. Your Grandma and I stayed back there awhile in 1953. That house was just as solid in 1953 as it was a hundred years before that. Its built of brick. That whole country there, where I was born just old red adobe clay. They dug a basement, 20 x 26', underneath, and they got enough dirt out of that basement to make all the bricks. They made the bricks, made them and burnt them, to harden them, they made them right there. Its a big two story brick house, square, funny looking house because it square, Now I visited my nephew and niece, I've got a nephew down in Fort Lauderdale, thats 77 years old. My brothers boy.

? How many brother and sisters did you have ?

Just one brother and 2 sisters. He was 10 years 3 months old when I was born. He was born in September of 1880 and I was born Dec. of 1890. My sister was between. I had a twin sister, she was born about 12 hours before I was. I was the runt, the rest of them are all much bigger then your Dad, (John Vaughn). My brother was 5'10", just about like Dale. Dale looks a whole lot like Ed did. My brothers name was Edward, called him "Ed". He worked 40 years for R.J. Reynolds, then, went to Florida and built a house, stayed down there 2 years, turned around, came back and begged them to put him back on his job. He worked 6 years after he come back. He went to work in 1898 and worked till 1938. They sent him his check every week just as if he was working for as long as he lived. He died before we got there. The neighbor women found him sitting on a couch in the front room dead. Had been dead a day or two. He married a girl, mama married at Christmas time in 1900, thats when she remarried, The following January, when he was 20 years old, and he married a girl that was 2 years older then he was. She was a music teacher. She died 2 years before he did. She died in 1951 and he died in 1953. He was dead and buried when grandma and I got there. by jove, that was in Ju-ly, July of 1953 when he died. He was 73 years old. He had over \$6000.00 laying in his bedroom in his dresser that the company had sent him and he had never cashed. When he went there, when he was a kid, when he and florence was first married, they bought about 3 1/4 acres at the end of the street car line. Thats where he lived all his life. They paid for the house and well and 3 1/2 acres, they paid \$375.00. had a three room house on it.

New subject:

Our dad, the Vaughns are from Scotland and the Bosticks were from Wales. Scotland and Wales are right there together, the Bosticks were from Wales. My great Grandpa Bostick was a professional soldier. He came to this country and was a warden at the stockade. Thats how come he settled there in NC. Of course, Vaughn came down there to work at that quarry. It was 12 miles apart, where they lived, I never really did know how my mother and father got aquatinted. They told me they got aquatinted at some kind of meeting, They use to have these big meetings, religious meetings in the summertime, and I think thats where they met, because they lived 12 miles apart. That was a long ways back in those days. Twelve miles in those days, you had to ride a horse, it would take you about 4 hours.

? Did the Bosticks come over to America about the same time as the Vaughns ?

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? Did the Bosticks come over to America about the same time as the Vaughns ?

yeah, uh ha, a little bit after. During the Revolution is when they came over.

? Bostick, did he run a British stockade? It was an American Stockade, where they kept the British prisoners. That house they built and all that work they did, he said, the British prisoners didn't want to stay in there. They had an adobe wall about 10 to 12' high and they had poles about ? big around and these British prisoners lived within that stockade. They call it a penitentiary now. Oh course, I never knew my great Grandfather, because Grandma lived with us, she would tell me all about the family. when I was 7,8,9 years old, After Daddy passed away, grandma would take me down and tell me, I was about like chad there, she would tell me all these things. Funny thing, I can remember her better then anything that happened in my life. My grandma, my mothers, mother. (Flora Bosticks Mother). She would tell me all these things and ,I can remember.

Part of the old stockade was still there. My great, Great Grandfather Bostick, He built the courthouse there. Made the bricks and built the courthouse, right there in the little old town of Germonton. Of course, he had help but, in building his houses. Now, the house we lived in, he built it first out of logs, the house that I was born in. He built it out of logs before he built the brick house. Grandma said he bought that land for 10 cents to 50 cents an acre. Most of it about 25 cents an acre. Oh course, it's steep, some of it's steep, but, there is a lot of good land on it, about 800 acres of it was cultivated land. Now, you couldn't touch an acre of it for \$10,000.00. The county grew up. Winston-Salem was nothing but a crossroads.

It used to take us 3 days to go to town and back. We would go one day, stay that night, shop the next day, camp that night and go home the next day. It took 3 days. Now, they get in the car and go down there in 15 minutes. The road was just red mud, had to take an extra team along for, every now and then, one team would get stalled and you had to put another team to the end of the tounge and pull them out. Thats the way they did it in those times. Always, when they would go, there would be 3,4,or 5 wagons that would go together. Now, they go down and shop and get back home in less then an hour, things have sure changed.

We had a good life. Way back there in the back woods, you know ,we had a good life. People raised everything in the world they wanted to eat. Just go into the fruit cellar plum full of vegetables, fruits, eats of all kinds. Grew their own wheat they own meat, there own corn, grew everything that they would eat. The only thing that we had to buy was karosene and salt and sugar, stuff like that. Mama had her own horse and buggy. She would throw a crate of eggs on the back of the buggy and maybe put a bunch of chickens in the buggy and go up to the store. It was a mile up to the store from where we lived, to the post office and stores. We had a couple of stores up there. She would take that stuff up there, maybe butter, butter was 10 cents a pound, eggs were 10 cents a dozen, she would take up maybe, 25 or 30 dozen ,they had those cartons that held 30 dozen. She would take up a carton on eggs nearly every week and get whatever she wanted and would sometimes bring money back. She would save that money to buy clothe with and make dresses. They made all of our shirts and our pants. They made them right there at home. Knit socks, you would see Grandma , during the winter months you know, it was long, if they weren't knitting sock they were quilting, making quilts. Funny thing, You can

remember those kid days. I can't remember nothin from the kid days till now, but, I can remember those kid days.

? Now, my grandmother, was she a Benson?

Yes, she was a Benson. The Bensons were English. They came over here after the Revolutionary War. Your Grandpa Benson was a Captain in the Civil war. That would be your Great Grandpa. and , the second time he married, he was married twice,. Your grandma Vaughns, grandfather, was a sergeant under your grandpa Benson. He married his sergeants daughter. The sergeant was older then he was. They live in east Tennessee, thats where they settled. Your Great Grandpa, grandma Vaughns' grandpa, her mother was a Blazer. Blazer was their names. George Blazer, which was Grandpa Blazer for grandma, he was a sergeant under grandpa Benson during the war. They were in the Union Army. He told me a story about gettin captured .Captain Benson never did get captured but, his sergeant, he got captured down in Mississippi by the southern Army. They kept him about 2 weeks. He was a trustee. He and his guard, they was setting by the fire one night, this was at Vicksburg Mississippi. There is a big battle field there. Its on a bluff on the other side of Vicksburg. Thats where he got captured. He was scouting for his captain, Captain Benson, he was a scout, so, he said he and his guard went out and got a load of wood, brought it in and were setting by the fire . They got to talking about terbacker and he said , this guy gave him chewing terbacker and they sat there chewing terbacker and telling tales to each other. After awhile the guard said, "George, I'm going to bed, You ready to go to bed?" and George said, naw, I think I'll set here awhile. He said the guard said " Well, see you in the mornin." and went on to bed and left him set out there. He said he sat there for probably half an hour, chewed terbacker, spit in the fire and then, he just took off out through the woods and went back to his own bunch. He said he thought the guy was trying to get rid of him so, he figured he better go. He walked the rest of the night and the next day , got back and found some of his own crew. He said he never did see the guy again but, they sure treated him nice for the two weeks he spent with them.

Those dog gone Blazers own most all those motels and eating joints back there through the smokies. The Blazer boys, they all work together. Pretty thrifty people. That was grandma Benson, Capt. Bensons wife. and grandma Vaughns mothers folks. Its her grandparents. These cousins of hers, o' they remember, I could go up there now and they would treat me as if I was Royal. We stopped and visited with some of them when we were back there about 15 years ago. (1964) . They just started in building a motel around Gattlinburg. Grandpa Blazer use to own most all that land in there around Gattlinsburg, in the Smokey mountains. They started there and built motel all through the Smokeys and on through the Blueridge. Every little town they have a night club or eating joint and motels. A guy that knew all the family there, he told me that the Blazers own half of the sleeping joints in that part of the country.

Uncle Neil, her uncle Neil , use to be Sheriff there. Her uncle Walt was the Superintendent of Education, Sevier county. There kids came along and got into the motel business. They own that old mill at Pidgeon forge, the old water mill, its still there. They use to grind corn with it. They still grind corn, it still works. They made a museum out of it. People stop and go through it. It was built in 1830. It was built by some of the Marshalls. Grandpa Blazer



owned the land around it. The Marshalls were not family, no relation, just neighbors. The Marshalls owned the land up the Pidgeon and the Blazers owned the land across the Rover.

When I first went up to Grandpa Blazers, was in 1916. Your Uncle Aaron was 3 or 4 months old. Mama had to take him up there and show him off to her folks. We lived down in Alabama. Aaron was born in Alabama. Grandpa Blazer was 94 years old and had a double bladed ax. He was out there cutting kindlin when we got there. We drove up in a buggy. Well, we went up on a train then, rented a horse and buggy. In those days taxies were all horse and buggy. You could go to the livery stable and rent a horse and buggy just like you rent a car nowadays. Your job was to feed it and take care of it. He was out cuttin kindlin when we got there. He lived to be 104 years old.

? Now, grandpa Blazer was my grandma grandfather? Yes, thats right. ? and her mother was his daughter? Yes, that right. ? Then her father was the captain in the Army ? No!, The Captain is the one that married Grandpa Blazers daughter. Captain Benson. His father-in-law, was a sergeant under him during the war. They weren't married then, they married after the war. Captain Benson was your Grandmas father. She was the baby of the family. No, Charlie is the baby, Uncle Charlie.

**Things I found out January 19, 1997 (Irene Burrow)**

\*Nobody really seems to know who Carrie's Father was. Tony's Mother heard this too.

\*Neither ever heard that JW and Pearl were twins.

\*Both heard that Carrie and Pearl were half sisters.

\*Neither believes Carrie was ever married to anyone other than Hilary Kiger.

\*Carrie believed that Edward went to work in the coal mines and was killed. (Interesting the coal mine also was what JW believed Carries "husband" did) I am going to send a letter today and see if I can get some kind of verification on Edward since JW heard he retired from Reynolds. They should have proof of birth or date and social security number.

\*Carrie did live with the Tuttles for a while. (Irene has a picture of Aunt Lu Tuttle but its faded almost white.)

\*Now the Kicker. I am trusting you to keep this low key. I know you are discreet. Irene said that her husband Homer grew up down near Walnut Cove where Grandma Brown lived. Irene did not know him then. He told her that he did not believe Grandma Brown was married when she had "all those kids". I said, "So who was William or Joe Vaughn." Irene said she didn't know. Anyway Irene was very embarrassed and said she had never told anyone this before. SOOOOOO I will definitely be checking the marriage, birth and death records next.

\*You said Aunt Pearl dipped snuff...According to my husband she and Carrie dipped Tuberose. He said he had stepped in more than one spit can when he was a

little boy. Also that Carrie had red hair. Even though she was pretty old when she died her hair never was totally white.

\*Irene knew that Mary married Newton Spears but said she didn't know where her Mother was buried. No one seems to know about Grandma Mary (H-mmmmm).

\*You know Hilary and Carrie had a daughter Opal Mae who died in her early 20's. She was married to Roy Wise. Margaret Williams who was Aunt Pearls friend was Roy Wise's half sister

→ Personally I think they acted a little "weird" when I mentioned her!

\* Also Pearl & Uncle Wash never had children but that Wash had children from another marriage. Grandma Brown lived with Pearl & Wash for a while