

No. 36 In A Series

Strictly Kentucky Genealogy

Various Materials To Aid In Family History Research.

Crace

My grandparents, Shadrick Wilson and Louisa Angeline (Whitt) Crace were born and reared in Kentucky, and all their children were born there. Additionally, ancestors of both were in Kentucky, quite early.

Shadrick (S. W. or Shady) was born May 1, 1863, in Magoffin County, Kentucky, the second of ten children of Nehemiah and Mary Franklin Crace. He grew up in the area of what is now

Wheelersburg, Kentucky

Louisa Angeline (Angie) was born October 1, 1869 in Pike County, Kentucky, the third of 11 children of Isaac N. and Polly Ann Hunt Whitt. Her family moved to Magoffin County, Kentucky, sometime before the 1880 census.

Shady and Angie were married on May 14, 1890, at the home of her father in Magoffin County, Kentucky. Their first four children: Lonnie, Lewis, Lester, and Roland T., were born there.

In the late 1890s they sold property

in Magoffin County and moved to Culp Creek near Argillite in Greenup County, Kentucky. Here Shady worked as postmaster at Sandsuck and did some timber business. Five more children: Bura, Lillian, Linnie, John Herman (my father), and Beecher, were born there. The children attended Old Field School.

As a young man in Kentucky, Shady joined the United Baptist Church. He became a pioneer preacher, helping to organize many churches. He was also a country schoolteacher.

In 1914 the family moved to Scioto County, Ohio, near South Webster, where he and his older sons helped in the timber business and farmed.

Two sons, Lewis and Lester, were in the service during WWI, but Lester was the only one who fought overseas.

On January 21, 1921, Shady and Angie bought a 214.61-acre tract of land in Bloom Township, Scioto County, Ohio,



Bonnie Crace Harrison of McDermott, Ohio, shares this photo of the Shadrick Wilson (S. W. or Shady) and Louisa Angeline Whitt Crace family, taken in 1923 on the Crace farm on Brady Creek Road, South Webster, Ohio. The family is originally from Magoffin and Pike counties, Kentucky. Standing, l-r: Lewis; Bura; Roland, with daughter, Eva; Lester; John Herman, Bonnie's father; Lillian; and Lonnie, with son, Howard. Seated in chairs, l-r: Carrie Jackson, with Kenneth; Rachel Crabtree, with Charles; Shadrick; Angeline; Linnie; and Carrie Minor, holding Russell. Seated on grass, l-r: Virginia; Homer; and Harold. Absent from photo: son, Beecher; and Ethel Rawlins, wife of Roland. See "Strictly Genealogy" above.

Kentucky's great Civil War general, John Hunt Morgan, was killed on September 4, 1864, in Tennessee.

from the Scioto Farm Land Company (a Kentucky Corporation). This was on Brady Creek, three miles east of South Webster. With the help of his sons, he built a large two-story house, barn, corncrib, smokehouse, and a cellar in the bank behind the house. They planted fruit trees, a large garden, and corn for the farm animals. There were huckleberry bushes on the hillside, and blackberry and raspberry vines. The woods had numerous trees which yielded hickory nuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, persimmons, pawpaws, etc. Grandpa was well-known for his prize patch of watermelons grown in the creek bottom. Except for a few items bought at the nearby general store, they were self-sufficient. Timber from the land supplemented income.

On March 12, 1921, Shady and Angie deeded 60.04 and four acres to their son, Lonie, and wife, Carrie.

By this time some of the older sons were married. The younger children attended Hales Creek School. Shady and Angie were devoted parents and reared their family in church, attending Hales Creek Church. They were good neighbors, always friendly and willing to lend a helping hand.

On March 11, 1938, they deeded 75 acres of land from their original tract to their son, Roland, and wife, Ethel.

Grandpa was a great lover of the outdoors. He was never happier than when out among the trees and wilds of the woods. He was truly a student of nature, quite knowledgeable about roots and herbs for their food value and medicinal properties. Also a sportsman, he kept the family supplied with fish and game. He could walk for miles, which kept him lean and in good physical condition all his life. Whenever he wanted to visit family or friends, he would start out early in the morning, taking a route through the woods, keeping to the lowlands, and arrive at his destination for the noon meal.

He was a great reader and kept abreast of current events. Also a clear thinker, he possessed sound logic and a keen mind and was a pleasing conversationalist. He loved to be surrounded by his family, and his birthday was often an occasion for family reunions.

Grandma devoted her time to the needs of her family. She and Grandpa also reared a granddaughter, Wilma (daughter of their son, Bura), following her parents' divorce. They were a musical family, with an organ in the home to provide

entertainment.

The family circle was broken when Grandma passed away on April 3, 1938, at the age of 68. She had been ill for some time with a heart condition, and cause of death was congestive heart failure. Hers was the first funeral I recall attending. At age eight, seeing my father so grief-stricken left a lasting impression.

Following her death, their daughter, Linnie; husband, Richard Hughes; and family moved in with Grandpa. Sadly, on March 16, 1939, another tragedy struck. While the adults were working outdoors, a fire started in the kitchen of the house. By the time it was discovered flames were too thick to enter, and Dale, the 16-month-old-son of Richard and Linnie, perished.

Grandpa moved into a small cabin on the property until his son, Lester, built a cottage on the site of the old homeplace, where he continued to live and farm. His "victory gardens" helped with the food effort during WWII.

Several grandsons served in the military during the war. One, Roland, Jr., paid the supreme sacrifice.

About 1944 Grandpa was persuaded to move closer to sons in Oak Hill, Ohio. He had his own cottage, so as to be independent, but could call on family if needed.

In 1945 my parents bought the cottage and remaining 75 acres of the original tract of the homeplace. I finished my last two years of high school at South Webster High School, and my four brothers and one sister grew up in the surroundings that Dad loved. Dad passed away in 1965, but Mom remained there until her death in 1986.

On the morning of February 22, 1946, as Grandpa and Uncle Beecher were preparing for an outing in the woods, Grandpa was suddenly stricken and died a short time later. He and Grandma are buried in the C. N. Cemetery in Oak Hill, Ohio.

Most of their children stayed in Ohio. The sons were all successful; most of them preferring to be self-employed. Aunt Lillian, the last surviving child, passed away in 1997, at age 93.

I only have vague memories of Grandma and the big house: sleeping in a feather bed, roaming the hills with cousins, playing in the creek, and family reunions on the big front lawn. We continued the reunions after we moved there and have had several at a nearby lake since Dad's death.

I remember Grandpa quite well. We visited him often and he also visited us.

On one visit he caught a very large turtle in our pond. He and Dad cleaned it and Mom fried it. (It really does taste like chicken!) One of his favorite treats was fresh-churned butter mixed with sugar to spread on biscuits. There was a close family. Brothers and sisters visited each other and we cousins had some wonderful times together.

When I was a teenager Dad took us for a Sunday afternoon drive to Culp Creek in Kentucky, where he was born. There was no road to where the house had stood, so we drove up a dried-up creekbed. The rocks started scraping the bottom of the car, so we had to walk the remaining distance. The view from the old homesite was lovely.

Scioto County is just across the river from Kentucky, so I'm close to my "roots." We've spent quite a lot of time there doing family research, visiting relatives and friends, and touring various sites around the state. Of course, shopping at the malls in Ashland is a special way to spend the day.

My information on the family's time in Kentucky, is sketchy. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may know more about their time there, or anyone who would like to correspond.

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Anita Brewer, 202 Locust Grove Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065, shares this photo of (l-r): John Garfield Kelly, born 4/11/1882, d. 12/24/1965; Elijah Kelly, born 4/25/1923, died 11/29/2003; and Bernice Kelly. The photo was taken in Allentown, Kentucky. Date of photo not given.