

LIFE OF WILLIAM BURTON WHITAKER AND FAMILY

WILLIAM BURTON WHITAKER, son of William and Mary Lewis Whitaker from near Raleigh, North Carolina, was born February 18, 1838 near Dyersbury, Tennessee. He moved to east of Tupelo, Mississippi and settled there farming. In 1858 he married Matilda Jane Roberts, and they had two children: Hanner Elizabeth (1859-1909), and William Mark ((1861-1903)).

William Burton Whitaker enlisted March 9, 1862 in the Confederate army under General Jefferson Forest in Calvary. After this general's death, and until the end of the war, he became a Courier under General Nathan Bedford Forrest, being one of the noted Calvary leaders' advance guard. He was in contact thus with General Hood, General Claiborne, and many others. President Jefferson Davis offered him a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel for his bravery, but he declined the honor as he preferred his rank of Private soldier. He was discharged from C.S.A. May 4, 1865 and returned to his family in Tupelo, Miss. Some of his former slaves remained with his family, farming with the children. He had married Mary Elizabeth Simpson in 1865, and they had four children: Nancy Jane (1867-1931), James Thomas (1869-1957), John Robert (1874-1962), and Emma Victoria (1877-1917). The two children by his first wife made their home with the family until later they married and made own homes on their father's land, which he gave them. Upon return of the father from the war they farmed, ran a mill and gin, and later manufactured spokes in Tupelo. Ms.. They then bought the Foundry & Scale Shop in Tupelo, operated it for four years, sold out and moved to Grenada, Mississippi and run a Spoke Factory there for one year. They sold this and moved to Meridian, Mississippi in 1903 with all the family of six. They built a nice home at 1200-18th Avenue and erected a Spoke Factory near there on 17th Avenue and K Street, next to Eagle Oil Mill, on bank of Sowashee Creek and M. & B. R. Railroad. Demand for spokes

August 9, 1988

Dear Ms. White,

The enclosed seems to be the best I can do on Whitaker Brothers Spoke Factory in Meridian until 1931.

Good luck on your book on Pine Springs!

If I can be of further help, please feel free to let me hear.

Sincerely,

Ms. F. E. Johnston

Elizabeth W. Johnston

3815 36 St

Meridian 39305

Phone 483-1950

grew and the factory increased employment. Among the employees were a foremen, J. V. Shepard; sawyer, Evans; shop, Walter Platt, *and Mr. R.L. TORRANCE.* During World War I Whitaker Brothers Spoke Factory manufactured cannon and car spokes, also wagon rims, etc. William Burton Whitaker was active in the business until his death in 1916. The business continued on until 1926, when they manufactured handles, chairs and some kitchen furniture, until 1931.

The depression hit in 1931 and Whitaker Brothers Spoke Factory closed and was turned over the Citizens National Bank, Meridian, Ms. The Whitaker family also lost all their 240 acres of land at Pine Springs, Ms. to bank. The Whitaker family had bought that land years before and had part of it farmed by tenant farmers.

In 1932 James and John Whitaker built a small factory on B Street and 11th Avenue, named it Porch Furniture Company. They manufactured handles and chairs until the death of James in 1957. John Whitaker died in 1962,

Both Whitaker brothers married: James in 1906 to Anna Cora Moorhead of Alabama, and they raised five daughters. John married Frances Flynt of Meridian and they had no children, so that is the end of our Whitaker family branch as no male children.

*Sammy
Poque*

Aleawine, A. J.
F. Co. School Census 1885
Best 2

William A. 11 W
Sam 10 W
Jim 8 W

99

WHITAKER

ELIZ. W. JOHNSON 483-1950
3215 36th ST 39305

Aug, 1870 Frances Whitaker joined P. Church - dismissed by letter
Elizabeth Whitaker on roll - was excluded

Sept 12

1906 - 82-406

T & SA. DONALD sold N²NW⁴ sec 4 ^{80 acres} to WHITAKER BROS & Co.

Aug 17

1908 - 98-335 W.B. & J.R. WHITAKER sold to J.T. Whitaker

NOV 4

1909 JT & SA WHITAKER sold 7 acres to SPINKS & LAURA JONES
IN NE CORNER ^(of N²?) (to Build store) see 101-546

1888 - W.H. Whitaker was Co Supt of Ed. - Salary \$62.50 month

1878 M.H. Whitaker m SENIE PATTON -

about
date of
Wm. S. Patton
sr

1867 M.H. Whitaker - Prob. Judge } M. SARAH FRANCES PATTON,
MACKERNESS HUDSON WHITAKER

NOV. 2

1871 - R. J. WHITAKER m. MADORA ADELINA PACE (1852-1872)

daughter of Bennet Rose Pace

She d. early, a young bride, no children.

~~1861 - A. D. Taylor m Susan A. Whitaker~~

1850 Census - John S. Whitaker - 37 (1813) - didn't copy family -

1860 Census - M.H. Whitaker 24 (1836) Da - living in House - CERUSHING
* fam.

BOOKLENA 1860

879-797	1809	J.S. WHITAKER	51 AL	\$0 - \$400 (Bro. of JOHN S., B. 1813)
ELIZABETH	44 AL			
SUSAN	16 MS	1844-1861	SUSAN A WHITAKER m. B.D. Taylor	
MARTHA	15 MS	1845		
FRANCES (fe)	13 MS	1847		(1853 st. census) Land co.
RICHARD T.	10 MS	1850		JOHN D. WHITAKER 4 males, 4 females
JAMES S.	8 MS	1852		
CHARLES W.	8 MS			
MARY	6 MS			
JOHN W.	1 MS			

Whitlock Family

The Whitlock and Gealyen plantations were about the only two plantations that were located south of Meridian on the end of Valley Road at the time of the Civil War. Of Scotch-Irish descent, the patriarch of the Whitlock family was Rev. John Whitlock, an evangelist preacher. Rev. Whitlock believed in arranged marriages, and he and Mr. Gealyen arranged for their children, James Robert and Miss Irene Gealyen, to marry. James Robert, whom they called Bob, a handsome young bachelor who had been born in 1875, was 21 years older than his bride.

Bob and Miss Irene made a handsome couple. Both were possessed of unusually good looks, but it may be that Bob was somewhat unhappy with being forced into an arranged marriage. He took the money that was his inheritance and went off to Texas, leaving Miss Irene at home. When he returned with his money gone, he said that he had been in out in San Antonio where he had gambled away all his worldly goods. He was never able to recoup his fortune and spent the balance of his life as a sharecropper.

Bob Whitlock was brought to the Pine Springs community in 1926 by Mr. Pat Harris, who needed a tenant to work on his farm. Harris had just built a tenant house on the edge of the Pine Springs Road in the northwestern corner of his farm, situated directly across the road from the big house on the Threefoot place. Painted green, it was a small house, not more than four rooms, but it was new and clean. When the Whitlocks came they had four little daughters, pretty as their mother, who were Millie Belle, Winnie, Gleama, and little Willie Mae, who was three years old. Their only son, James Othell, was born on the Harris farm two years later in 1928.

The Whitlocks went to school at Pine Springs until the local school was consolidated in 1932. After that they rode the Harris school bus to attend the bigger school. They attended the Union Church when the Holiness came to preach, but after the Methodist Church was organized they stopped going church at all.

After farming for Mr. Harris for a few years they moved to The Lane in the 1930's while Willie Kinard was managing the place for the Threefoots. After a while they moved to a tenant house just across the Okatibbee to farm from Mrs Clara Griffin. Bob had a crippled foot, caused by a

crippling disease which was then called "White Swelling", which left him with a bad limp. They said a bone in one of his feet had been taken out, but his affliction did not slow him down. They said that they could plow as well as anyone.

The four Whitlock girls never lacked for beaux, and were married at an early age. The two oldest, Millie Belle and Winnie, married to Clifton Glaze and R.L. Love, half-brothers, the sons of Mr. Lee and Miss Allie Townsend. Millie Belle and Cliff Glaze lived in a little camphouse on the back side of Lee Love's farm near to the creek.

Gleama married Kutcher Cunningham of Center Hill community while the family lived in Pine Springs; they stayed around a while before they moved away. Willie Mae married Wade Cross and moved away, while Othell Whitlock married after the Whitlocks left Pine Springs in 1941.

I. Millie Belle 1913? - m. Clifton Glaze 1928^{L. m.}
He died and was buried at Pine Springs. They had two daughters. She moved, it is believed, to Coker, Alabama.

II. Winnie Whitlock 1916? - m. Reuben Lee Love, Jr. (R.L.) (1910-1968)
R.L. died with cirrhosis of the Liver, buried at Pine Springs.
Childhood sweetheart was Cecil Townsend.

III. ⁴⁸²⁻⁶⁹⁹⁶ ~~Gleama~~ ^{AR GLE MAR - correct} Whitlock 1918? - m. (1) Kutcher Cunningham (Div.) (2) _____ Culpepper, moved to Marion. Had a daughter that married Dr. Woody Abraham (Div.) Her childhood sweetheart was Billy Sam Griffin.

IV. Willie Mae Whitlock 1923, m. (1) Wade Cross, lived in Collinsville (2) (2) Henry Gray. Was three years old when family moved to Pine Springs in 1926.

V. James Othell Whitlock 1928, m. FRANCES
Lives at Dalewood, phone in wife's name.

Hortense Cunningham - widow of Owen Moody
482-1384
Meridian

WHITLOCK - d.P 1916

ENLISTED 1862 9th MS Battalion
WAS IN PRISON, Columbus, OHIO 5 Mo.
Lived 2 Son, WA. in 1916 he was 77, married

J.L. Whitlock Sr. ^{BOB} RFD 1, MERIDIAN - Fought in Civil War
SON W.A. Whitlock @ Mattie Odom - 1883 Land. Co.

PS. Cem: Allie Belle ^{TOWNSEND} Whitlock 1890 - 1968

John L. Whitlock m. Mary A. Gray Sept 23, 1858

BOB (Robert?) Whitlock - Lived just over Okatibbee Bridge -

Children:

- 1. Milly Belle Whitlock - m. Cliff Glaze
- 2. Willie Mae Whitlock m. (1) Calvert? (2) GRAY
- 3. Gleama Whitlock m. Katcher Cunningham Bus Fellowship
- 4. Winnie Whitlock m. R.L. Love, JR (1910-1968)
- 5. O'hell Whitlock m. (?)

Sugarcreek - ONNIE D. Whitlock Mar 22, 1906 - May 13, 1931

		1870	
MERIDIAN, 1860	Lived in Beat 4	147-147 beats	ASA Whitlock 75 SC 1795
1131-1107 ASA Whitlock	1795 65 SC \$800-\$10,000		Nancy 66 SC 1804
MARY	56 SC	34-34 BEATS	JOHN L. Whitlock 31 A 1839
E. SCARBOROUGH	30 SC OVERSEER		Mary 30 MS 1840
			Wm. A. 11 MS 1859
			Thomas 9 MS 1861
			JOHN LEE 7 MS 1863
			ASA 4 MS 1864
			NORMAN M. 2 MS 1868
			martha 5/12 1870

Descendants of William Burton Whitaker

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM BURTON² WHITAKER (*WILLIAM¹ WHITAKER(BILLY)*) was born February 18, 1840 in Orange Co, NC Near Raliegh NC, and died July 9, 1916 in Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co. He married (1) MATILDA JANE ROBERTS 1858. She was born December 24, 1838, and died 1863. He married (2) MARY ELIZABETH SIMPSON November 16, 1865 in Tishomingo, MS, daughter of MATHEWS SIMPSON and NANCY KERR. She was born February 21, 1841 in Purdy, TN, and died June 4, 1918 in Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co.

Notes for WILLIAM BURTON WHITAKER:

Jackson, Dept. of Archives shows he joined the army in Tupelo, MS, Lee Ct. Served under Gen. Jefferson Forrest and then Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest till the end of the Civil War. He was one of the Calvary Leaders advance guards and a courier between Jackson TN and Purdy TN & others. Once at Fort Pillow, Alcorn Ct. near Corinth, MS. This information was furnished by Victoria Elizabeth (Whitaker) Johnston on July 22, 1983. He was a member of Waltshall Camp, U.C.V. which is ?

His 1st wife, Matilda died very young when the children were very young he then married Mary Simpson and had the next five children. The family tells the story that when his much loved baby daughter Emma got suddenly married in Birmingham to a widower with 2 children. She was already in her late 30's and wanted to marry and have a family but Wm. Burton was so shocked at the suddenness of it that he had a stroke and died a few days after getting word of the marriage.

He died of Apoplexy on the death certificate in my files. My Aunt Euga said it was a stroke.

Barry McMullan told me on Dec. 3, 1998, that Gen. Nathan Bedford Forest was instumental in the organization of the Ku Klux Klan. He later removed himself from association with them because they had become radical hate mongers. His original participation was due to halt the growing interffering parties of the Northern Carpetbaggers who were stirring up trouble for the southern plantation owners. When it became obvious that the clan was persuing not only the carpetbaggers but extendingthemselves to persecute Jews, Blacks and many other ethnic groups, he distanced himself from the clan.

Barry suggested a good book for me to read was ???? concerning the trouble surrounding the clan. INTO THE NIGHT????

Notes for MATILDA JANE ROBERTS:

She was Wm. Burton's first wife that died very young. They had only 2 children.

Notes for MARY ELIZABETH SIMPSON:

On 5/29/97, her Granddaughter Elizabeth (Whitaker) Johnston spoke to me as I had rec'd. a photo of Mary E. Whitaker from the brother in law of Elizabeth while visiting him (Wiley Secrest) in Alexandria, VA during May '97. Elizabeth recalled that her Grandmother had been kicked or knocked over by a cow while milking and the rest of her life she walked very stooped over from her back being broken and they didn't know what do to fix it those days. This happened in the Tupelo, MS homestead where she was living with Wm. Burton and their 4 children. Wm. Burton had married Mary after his first wife died and her family had been caring for his two children following the funeral. That is how he became acquainted with her I believe.

Submitted By:
Shirley Swenson (Skelton)
3660-13 V. CAMPANA No.
Oceanside, Ca 92057
(760) 721-8388
1/31/00

Wiley had this small professional photo in his wife Josie's things and had no idea who Mary Elizabeth Simpson was as she had died long before he courted Josie.

Children of WILLIAM WHITAKER and MATILDA ROBERTS are:

2. i. WM. MARK³ WHITAKER, b. November 13, 1861; d. December 30, 1908, Tupelo MS Auburn Cemetery.
- ii. HANNAH ELIZABETH WHITAKER, b. August 24, 1859; d. June 22, 1909; m. NAME CLAYTON.

Notes for HANNAH ELIZABETH WHITAKER:

Married to a Clayton, and had 4 children Euga thinks, but James E. Christian indicated he thinks 5 children.

Children of WILLIAM WHITAKER and MARY SIMPSON are:

3. iii. JAMES THOMAS³ WHITAKER, b. October 5, 1869, Tupelo, MS, Lee Co; d. June 13, 1957, Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co.
- iv. JOHN ROBERT WHITAKER, b. September 17, 1874, Tupelo, Ms, Lee Co; d. August 8, 1962, Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co, Magnolia, Cemetery; m. FRANCIS LEWIS FLYNT, June 28, 1916; b. August 24, 1884; d. July 18, 1958, Meridian, Lauderdale Co. MS, Magnolia Cemetery.

Notes for JOHN ROBERT WHITAKER:

Stephens, Handled funeral, Buried at Magnolia Cemetery

- v. NANCY JANIE WHITAKER(DANE), b. December 24, 1867; d. August 23, 1931, Meridian, Lauderdale Co., MS.

Notes for NANCY JANIE WHITAKER(DANE):

She never married and had no Children. Called Aunt Dane by all

- vi. EMMA VICTORIA WHITAKER, b. August 25, 1877; d. June 17, 1917, Birmingham, AL; m. H. C. JONES, July 6, 1916, Birmingham. AL.

Notes for EMMA VICTORIA WHITAKER:

She played the piano beautifully. Shortly after marrying she became very ill and died on the operating table during surgery of the abdomen. May be ovarian type. She anticipated the death and wrote her invalid sister Dane a letter exclaiming her sadness at having to leave her husband with the 2 small children to raise so suddenly after marrying. (I have the letter in my files that she sent)

Notes for H. C. JONES:

He was a widower with 2 children when he married Emma.

- vii. MATHEW LEE WHITAKER, b. March 30, 1872, Tupelo, Lee Co., MS; d. February 28, 1874, Tupelo, Lee Co., MS.

Notes for MATHEW LEE WHITAKER:

In a letter rec'd. in Feb. 1997 from My Aunt Eliz. (Whitaker)Johnston, she noted that Matthew had died from eating grapes that his Daddy had brought home with the groceries and left out he back porch. The family was attending a funeral in the family and hadn't missed little Mathew until he already stuffed himself full. He got colitis from it and died.

Generation No. 2

2. WM. MARK³ WHITAKER (*WILLIAM BURTON*², *WILLIAM*¹ *WHITAKER(BILLY)*) was born November 13, 1861, and died December 30, 1908 in Tupelo MS Auburn Cemetery. He married JOHNNIE CARNATHAN. She was born July 10, 1862, and died May 11, 1952 in Tupelo , MS Auburn Cemetery.

Notes for WM. MARK WHITAKER:

Priceville Cemetery Hwy. 78 to 931 Feemster lake Road/Priceville Road

When the Whitaker girls would go up to visit their Uncle Mark and Aunt Johnnie from Meridian, my Mom, Shirley Milner Whitaker, would remember them as living way off on an old dirt road. she was always afraid that her Uncle Don(John Robert Whitaker) would get stuck in his car when it rained. He'd go there into that area on business and take one of the girls, his nieces, with him for company. they would play with the Bessie and William the youngest of their cousins.

Children of WM. WHITAKER and JOHNNIE CARNATHAN are:

- i. EMMA JANE⁴ WHITAKER, b. July 25, 1897; d. October 18, 1975, Tupelo, MS Auburn Cemetery; m. R. D. CHRISTIAN(CRUS); b. October 26, 1900; d. October 26, 1969, Tupelo, MS Auburn Cemetery.

Notes for EMMA JANE WHITAKER:

Euga's ltr of 2/8/1994 said that she died Sept. 1976....

- ii. WILLIAM BURTON WHITAKER II, b. October 19, 1898; d. December 4, 1978, Tupelo, MS Auburn Cemetery; m. LORAIN NANNY WHITAKER; b. November 6, 1910.

Notes for WILLIAM BURTON WHITAKER II:

He didn't marry until his 50 yr. No children so that is the end of the Whitaker line. He had the old homestead torn down with a center hall way.

He and Laureen built a new home on the old acreage. He died of cancer.

Notes for LORAIN NANNY WHITAKER:

Lorain is alive in 5/94 and living down the road from the old homestead with another family, The Stepfords. She was hurt pretty bad in an auto accident a few yrs. back.

- iii. BESSIE WHITAKER, b. July 28, 1901, Tupelo, MS; d. July 9, 1978, Tupelo, MS Auburn Cemetery; m. ALFORD W. CHRISTIAN(JEFF); b. September 12, 1901; d. February 13, 1984, Tupelo, MS Auburn Cemetery.
- iv. MARY EDNA WHITAKER(EDNA), b. November 29, 1883; d. May 26, 1979, Tupelo MS. Priceville Cemetery; m. WILLIAM H. GREGORY(GID); b. January 2, 1877; d. December 26, 1964, Tupelo, MS Priceville Cemetery.

Notes for MARY EDNA WHITAKER(EDNA):

A granddaughter wrote to Euga 12/26/1980:

Her address is: Mrs. Joseph Stringer, Jr. (Sharia)

803 A Miss. Drive
Waynesboro, MS 39367

She said that Edna died May 1979 at the age of 95 and she was the last of 1 brother and 2 sisters and her only brother Bill died without any children.

Euga said her health was not very good in 1979 and she wondered if Sharia was still alive in 1994.

- v. GERTRUDE WHITAKER, b. March 22, 1891; d. August 2, 1971; m. NAME LAMBERT.

Notes for GERTRUDE WHITAKER:

Their children all live in Memphis, TN

Notes for NAME LAMBERT:

Lived in Memphis, TN

3. JAMES THOMAS³ WHITAKER (*WILLIAM BURTON², WILLIAM¹ WHITAKER(BILLY)*) was born October 5, 1869 in Tupelo, MS, Lee Co, and died June 13, 1957 in Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co. He married ANNA CORA MOORHEAD November 27, 1906 in Bolige, AL, daughter of JOSEPH MOORHEAD and ANNA ROBERTSON. She was born May 16, 1883 in Bolige, Al Greene, Co., and died June 11, 1964 in Meridian, MS, Lauderdale Co.

Notes for JAMES THOMAS WHITAKER:

He came to Meridian, MS from Tupelo, AL in 1903 with his parents. He had already met his future bride in Tupelo, Anna Cora Moorhead. He was a boarder in her parents farm home while researching logging areas around

the Tombigbee River.

In Meridian the family went into the spoke mfg. business. The two sons and Wm. Burton running it until he passed away. It later became a furniture and handle mfg. business that eventually went broke during the depression yrs.

He built and furnished a home prior to marrying Anna in Boligee, Al. in November of 1906. (Also known in those days as Lizzieville.)

He taught Sunday School for many yrs. at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church for 26 yr. The 13 yr. old boys class. He was dearly loved by all and was a quiet soft spoken man. He told great stories to all the Grandchildren and made them up as he went along and had us spell bound with the adventures.

In later yrs. Anna Cora was pretty rough speaking to him as in their married young yrs. he had refused to buy a car and she with 5 daughters to raise had to depend on her sister-in-law Anchie, "Frances (Flynt) Whitaker married to John R. , in order to get around. They had no children of their own but were close to Anna and James' five girls. Perhaps it was the expense of the car that made him hold off as times got pretty tough with a big family to feed and cloth and he was a very conservative man in many ways.

Notes for ANNA CORA MOORHEAD:

Anna was a very spirited fun loving lady. She pursued James and set her cap for him as soon as he appeared at her parents home as a boarder. You can see from the correspondence prior to their marriage that she often got after him in her letters to him in Meridian for not writing more often or doing things promised according to her time tables. Always with a tongue in cheek tone.

Anna was a wonderful seamstress and made many of the girls clothes when they were growing up. One of her daughters, Josie, followed in her foot steps and Anna had great plans for her to be a designer someday. However, Josie fell in love with the local boy, Wiley Secrest, who would come and sit on her porch and talk with Anna regularly. Anna never suspecting they were planning to elope. This left them at odds for many many years for the hurt that Anna felt. She refused for many years to accept it but very late softened before she died and forgave Josie for the disappointment she had. Wiley made a wonderful life for Josie and their two boys In Washington D.C. as a mfg. of large machinery or as a broker of machinery needs and consulting. They lived in a colonial large home in Alexandria, VA with pillars on the porch.

Her wedding was at 5 pm on a Tuesday/

Children of JAMES WHITAKER and ANNA MOORHEAD are:

- i. SHIRLEY MILNER⁴ WHITAKER, b. September 5, 1913, Meridian, MS Lauderdale Co; m. DOZIER OLEN SKELTON(OLEN), December 26, 1936, Detroit, MI, Wayne Co; b. February 15, 1915, Collinsville, MS, Lauderdale Co.
- ii. ELIZABETH VICTORIA WHITAKER(EUGA), b. December 12, 1908, Boligee, Al Greene, Co. (Lizzieville,Al; m. FRANCES EARL JOHNSTON, August 28, 1930; d. December 13, 1966, Meridian, Lauderdale Co., MS.

Notes for ELIZABETH VICTORIA WHITAKER(EUGA):

No children

- iii. NAOMI OUIDA WHITAKER, b. February 10, 1912, Meridian, Lauderdale Co. MS; m. WILLIS EUGENE MCMULLAN(GENE), February 11, 1934; b. December 18, 1910; d. November 19, 1969, Meridian, Lauderdale Co., MS.

Notes for NAOMI OUIDA WHITAKER:

When she and Gene wed, they lived upstairs on 8th Ave, over her inlaws. They married at her parents on 17th aveue and Shirley, her sister, played the Bridal Chorus plus O Promise Me at the wedding ceremony. She wore a royal blue triple sheer dress of crepe with

rhinestone buttons at the shoulders and a rhinestone ornament at the cowl neckline. On her head was a black crepe turban.

Her maid of honor was Miss Ruby Dyess and the Best Man was Mr. Adrian Betts.

She was very popular and had two misc. showers given in her honor. One by her sister Shirley and Doris Hall and the other by Mrs. T.H. Snowden and Mrs. W.S. Busby.

Notes for WILLIS EUGENE MCMULLAN(GENE):

Gene as he was called, was loved by all and very dear to Ouida. They were as considered truly in love. He always referred to her as Shug for Sugar. I always thought they were true sole mates and sweethearts.

Gene was an amateur boxer in his young years and Shirley and Ouida went to watch him as a light weight boxer. Shirley told me that Ouida had a little charm of miniature boxing gloves on a chain that she wore around her neck.

He had heart trouble and died after a series of heart attacks while in the hospital.

- iv. OLGA GATES WHITAKER, b. April 7, 1918, Meridian, MS Lauderdale Co; m. GEORGE WILSON VALENTINE, September 29, 1940, Meridian, Lauderdale Co., MS; b. February 29, 1916, Meridian, MS Lauderdale Co.
- v. JOSIE LEE WHITAKER, b. April 10, 1910, Meridian, Lauderdale Co. MS; d. October 18, 1987, Alexandria, VA; m. LAWRENCE WILEY SECREST JR., August 29, 1937; b. December 22, 1914, Russell, MS; d. February 11, 1998, Baltimore, MD.

Notes for JOSIE LEE WHITAKER:

As a young woman, she had such a talent for fashion and could copy and sew up anything she saw. She made her wedding attire secretly up the street at Josie Prisoc's house where her intended husband Wiley roomed. Her mother Anna knew nothing of the impending marriage and since she had big plans for Josie's future was greatly upset by the secret marriage and didn't make life easy for them. Wiley became a very successful business man in the large factory machinery business and provided very well for his family after the years of struggle to get the business started. They owned a very lovely brick home in Alexandria, VA where Wiley still lives in 1997 spring hating to give up the home he and Josie loved so much. After Wiley died in 1998 the boys sold it in November 1998.

Josie became very ill and was on kidney dialysis for a long period and during that time the doctors discovered she was in addition a diabetic. This should have been known long ago according to the family. At the end she said she was ready to go and couldn't fight the process any longer.(or so I was told by my Mother.)

Josie got her middle name Lee from the little 2 yr old brother of her daddy's, Mathew Lee Whitaker., but no one knows how Grandma Anna Whitaker got the Josie. During my March 8, 1997 telephone conversation with Wiley he said that Josie wished they had spelled it Leigh as it would have been more feminine she thought.

She told Wiley that she wanted to stay home and raise her boys and not work and he agreed and said she did a wonderful job of it.

Notes for LAWRENCE WILEY SECREST JR.:

Wiley said years ago in MS he worked with a Lester Bynum. Does he show up anywhere in my file?

During the fall '96 and spring of '97, I began having regular telephone calls to Wiley gathering family stories or facts. He said he roomed with the Prisoc family a few doors up from the Whitaker clan, There was the father Grady, the wife Josie and two daughters, Katherine the oldest and Joyce the youngest who suffered from poor eyesight. There was a family relation called by the last name Ragsdale who had a daughter named Thelma and a son who's name he couldn't recall. They often visited the Prisoc family and lived near by on 8th Street.

Wiley was buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery, in Alexandria, VA next to his wife Josie. The memorial service was held at Westminister Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA22134 (703)549-4766. His son's gave a loving tribute to him at the services.

Wiley's parents are buried in Oak Grove.

- vi. ANNA LAURA WHITAKER, b. September 20, 1907; d. August 14, 1908.