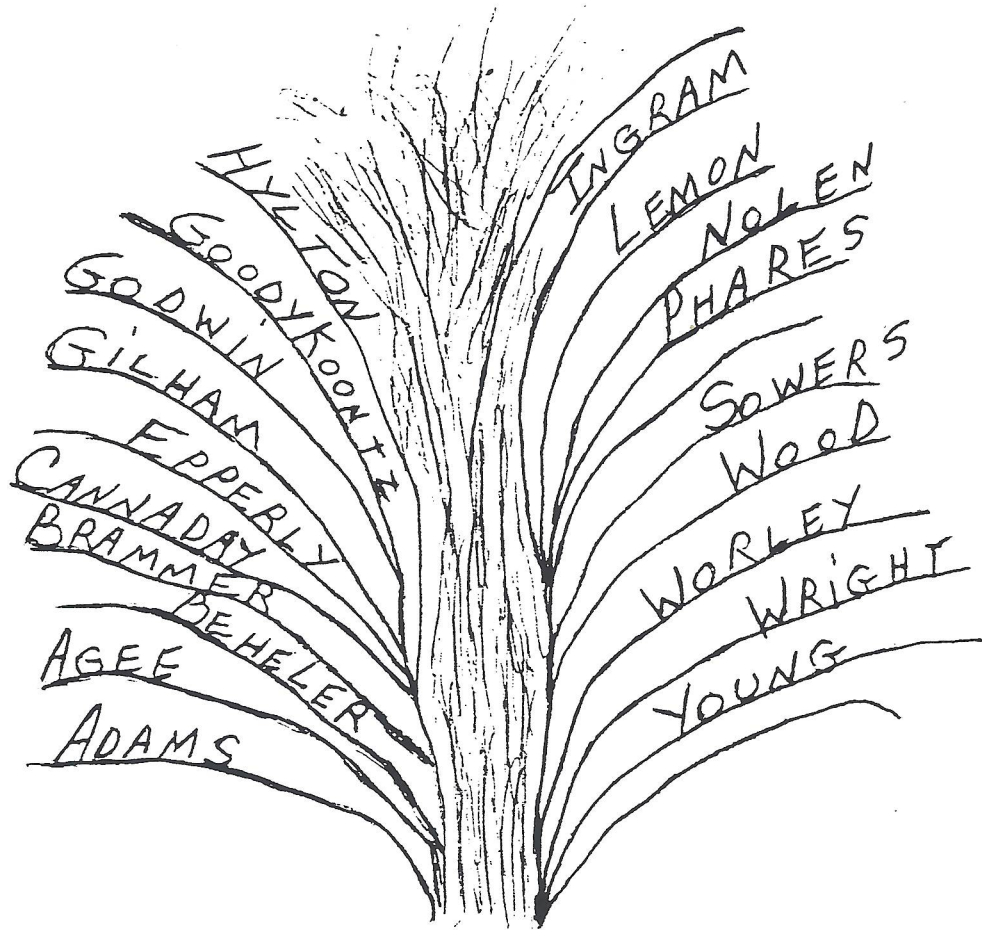


LAURA

AND

JOHN



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANCESTORS OF  
 JOHN TAYLOR AGEE and LAURA EPPERLY  
 married December 2, 1903

Researched and compiled by  
 William Clyde and Eugenia Callison Agee

TO OUR SONS

"BILL"

WILLIAM CLYDE AGEE, II

and

"JON"

SIDNEY JONATHAN AGEE

in memory of your grandparents

JOHN TAYLOR AND LAURA EPPERLY AGEE

WHAT IF

If you could see your ancestors  
all standing in a row,  
Would you be proud of them,  
or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made  
in climbing family trees.  
And some of them, you know,  
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors,  
all standing in a row,  
There might be some of them, perhaps,  
you wouldn't care to know.

But there's another question  
which requires a point of view.  
If you could meet your ancestors  
WOULD THEY BE PROUD OF YOU?

author unknown to me

Bill and I have been researching the lives of our ancestors for ten or eleven years, first traveling from Dover, Delaware to courthouses in Floyd, Franklin, Patrick, Augusta, Montgomery, Cumberland and other counties in Virginia as well as many in West Virginia. We've spent many days in libraries from Dover, Del. to Richmond, Va. to Charleston, W. Va.

Most of our ancestors "comings and goings" are public record as they documented their land holdings and other dealings by deed or other legal instrument. Many had no qualms about suing other family members if they felt they had been wronged.

One thing, among many, we learned early was to consider county boundaries as they were then. When counties were formed the records remained where they were created. A record for a resident of what is now Floyd County could be in Lunenburg, Bedford, Montgomery or Franklin County.

We've made an effort to document what we have written, but there will be errors. We have many files on the Aunts, Uncles and Cousins but have chosen to go back through the direct lineage to keep confusion to a minimum. We are willing to share our records and welcome your input.

Researchers are, I suppose, a strange breed of people - walking through creeks, cow pastures, dense forests and other eerie places looking for grave sites. In most cases our folks lived very near where they were buried so when we found their family cemeteries we had also found their home sites.

We've learned to know and care for our long ago grandmas and grandpas and, ofcourse, to pick favorites just as if they were still here with us.

We hope our efforts are enjoyed.

*Engenia C. Agee*  
"Jean"

*William C. Agee*  
"Bill"

May 23, 1989  
Route 1, Box 606  
Riner, Virginia 24149

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### TO READ THE FAMILY TREES (Pages 9 and 59)

The Fathers are entered to the right and the Mothers to the left--Example-- Laura Epperly's Mother was Nancy Adaline Cannaday, Nancy's Mother was Elizabeth Lemon, Elizabeth's Mother was Sally Young, Sally's Mother was Nancy Walker - the name of Nancy's Mother is unknown to us.

### TO READ THE ANCESTRY CHARTS

The couple on line 1 were the parents of the person on the left on line 2.

The couple on line 2 were the parents of the person on the left on line 3.

The couple on line 3 were the parents of the person on the left on line 4.

and so on and so on---



LAURA EPPERLY



Laura Epperly was born February 11, 1884 to John William and Nancy Adaline Cannaday Epperly in Floyd County, Virginia.

We're not sure where Laura went to school. She had as teachers, at different times, Miss Molly Thompson and Miss Lena Lawson. Elva Keith has told us of her Mother (Laura's older sister) telling them that Laura was exceptionally bright.

Laura's parents were members of West Fork Primitive Baptist Church so we feel sure that is where she went to church.

We're told that Laura met John Agee at his store at Falling Branch. This was not a great distance from her home. We don't know how long their courtship lasted. They married about three months before her 20th birthday.

JOHN TAYLOR AGEE



John Taylor Agee was born July 28, 1882 to John Tazewell and Ruth Lillian Nolen Agee at Elamsville, Patrick County, Virginia.

He apparently grew up in the Elamsville-Woolwine area among his Aunts, Uncles and Cousins on the Nolen side of his family. His Nolen grandparents had died prior to his birth.

We don't know where John went to school or what his life was like in Patrick County. We're told he loved to dance. His Agee grandparents lived in Floyd County (near the Patrick County line) and we have imagined that he probably visited them. It was not a great distance.

By age 21 John was a merchant at Falling Branch in Floyd County, which was a few miles south of the town of Floyd on what is now (1989) State Route 221. This is where he met his future wife, Miss Laura Epperly.

JOHN TAYLOR AND LAURA EPPERLY AGEE

The following wedding announcement appeared in the Floyd Press, the local newspaper of Floyd County, Virginia.

\*\*\*\*\*

AGEE EPPERLY

Yesterday at 11 o'clock, a very pretty wedding was solemnized at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Epperly, near town, when Mr. J. T. Agee led to the altar Miss Laura Epperly. The ceremony was performed in a very impressive manner by Eld. P. G. Lester, of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Their attendants were as follows: C. M. Epperly with Miss Annie Whitlow, Junius Brogan with Miss Linnie Cannaday, Emmett Turner with Miss Minnie Hooker, and Daniel Thomas with Miss Linnie Nowlin. The last four named are from Elamsville.

Immediately after the ceremony all repaired to the dining room, where a sumptuous repast was spread and to which all did ample justice. After dinner the bride and groom, accompanied by their attendants, left for the home of the groom's parents at Elamsville. They will return Saturday.

The groom is a prosperous merchant at Falling Branch, while the bride is one of our most popular and estimable young ladies.

The PRESS extends congratulations to this happy young couple and wishes for them a pleasant and prosperous journey through life.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. John Taylor Agee, son of John Tazewell and Ruth Lillian Nolen Agee and Miss Laura Epperly, daughter of John William and Nancy Adaline Cannaday Epperly were married on Wednesday December 2, 1903 in Floyd County, Virginia.

As shown in the wedding announcement, John was operating a store at Falling Branch at this time. Falling Branch was near the town of Floyd on what is now (1989) State Rte. 221 south.

By October 1904 they were living in Patrick County, Virginia where their first child was born. They moved many times after that living in Floyd, Patrick, Henry and Roanoke Counties in Virginia and, for a while, in McDowell County, West Virginia.



## JOHN TAYLOR AND LAURA EPPERLY AGEE

continued

While living in Roanoke County, John and Laura were members of Central Church of the Brethren. Bill remembers always getting there just on time or a little late and he also remembers that he and Louise always misbehaved and got spanked when they got home.

In 1939-40 they bought a farm near Forest in Bedford County, Virginia where they spent the rest of their lives. They had, at this time, three children at home - J. T., Jr., William and Louise. Emmett had married Mae Peters, Nannie Ruth had married Rex Beach, Ola had married Hubert Harris, Lois had married Stokely Terry, Doris was in nursing school. Two of their children had died shortly after birth, Mary in 1906 and James in 1909.

During World War II John and Laura had three of their children (John T., Jr., Doris and William) as well as three sons-in-law (Hubert Harris, Rex Beach and Stokely Terry) in the service. They kept up correspondence with all of them, sent pictures and gifts and prayed for the war to end. Their children all came safely home.

Their children visited often and large meals were prepared and enjoyed. Company was welcomed for meals as well as overnight. Any holiday was a reason to get together - but Christmas was very special. The family members began arriving early Christmas Eve and by afternoon the tables were spread with many kinds of meat, vegetables, breads, cakes, pies, fruits - some prepared there others brought from the various homes. Later in the evening gifts were exchanged in the living room beside the large tree brought from the woods and carefully decorated. Some family members spent the night and continued the celebration while others left for their own homes.

John worked as a merchant and a carpenter and after moving to Bedford County set up and operated a saw mill. He raised rabbits, chickens, hogs and cows for meat, eggs, milk and butter for the family. He also grew their vegetables and fruits as well as grain and hay for the livestock.

Laura's life was spent caring for her family, teaching and training her children, canning and preserving the mountains of food needed for the winters, doing the other necessary chores and still finding time to make quilts and to crochet bedspreads. One Christmas Laura and Louise made sets of seven dish towels (from feed sacks) for each of the couples, drawing threads near the hems and embroidering the day of the week on each towel.

JOHN TAYLOR AND LAURA EPPERLY AGEE

continued

John and Laura's youngest daughter, Louise, finished high school in Bedford County and later completed a business course in Roanoke. She had worked about six months when she decided she was needed at home to care for her parents. She stayed with them until their deaths, Laura in 1956 and John in 1965. John, with gentle urging from his other children, deeded the farm to Louise for her care and devotion.

Laura Epperly Agee died in Jefferson Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia March 17, 1956 of a brain tumor. She was buried in the cemetery of Mt. Carmel Methodist Church at Perroville in Bedford County, Virginia. This was where she had worshiped and is near where she had last lived. The cemetery is at the intersection of what is now (1989) Bedford county roads # 644 and 663 off State Rte. 221 from the town of Forest, Virginia.

John lived in the large house with Louise there to care for him nine more years. He died May 23, 1965 in the Bedford Hospital, Bedford, Virginia of a strangulated hernia. He was buried beside Laura at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

John Taylor and Laura Epperly Agee were the parents of:

- |     |                       |    |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Charles Emmett Agee   | m. | Siller Mae Peters     |
| 2.  | Mary Agee             |    | b.&d. 2/2/1906        |
| 3.  | James Agee            |    | b.6/28 d.7/2/1909     |
| 4.  | Nannie Ruth Agee      | m. | Rex Beach             |
| 5.  | Ola Virginia Agee     | m. | Hubert Earle Harris   |
| 6.  | Lois Epperly Agee     | m. | Richard Stokely Terry |
| 7.  | Doris Lillian Agee    |    | Never married         |
| 8.  | John Taylor Agee, Jr. | m. | Billie Dove DeWitt    |
| 9.  | William Clyde Agee    | m. | Eugenia C. Robertson* |
| 10. | Laura Louise Agee     | m. | Jesse Millner         |

\* maiden name was Callison