

My Layne Heritage From Around 1768 Until 2007

Research on Abraham K. Layne (1828-1879)

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There is no disputing that our Laynes can be carried back to John Hiram and Barbara Ellen (Devault) Layne of Victoria, Tennessee formerly known as Dadsville. Victoria is a small community between Jasper and Whitwell, TN. According to an old family Bible owned by Dan Layne (*see Sequatchie Valley Bible Records by James Douthat*), John came to America from Ireland about 1785; his wife was of Dutch descent. Some of John's children stated in Census records that he was born in Pennsylvania and that Barbara was born in Germany. This leans me toward the idea that John may have come from Ireland to a port in Pennsylvania as a very young man. Then soon he moved down into Virginia where he married Barbara. Many genealogical works have given her the name of Barbara Ellen Devault. Some records state that she is half American Indian, but I don't know how or if that was proven. There are countless ideas about the ancestry of these two people, but for this paper, let's just go with what the family Bible says. We can all agree that John and Barbara were responsible for many, if not most, of the Layne descendants in the Marion and Grundy area.

According to the Bible, **John and Barbara Layne's** children are listed as: Abraham Layne, **John Layne**, William Layne, Daniel Layne, Isaac Layne, Mattie Layne, Peggie Layne, Nancy Layne, Lou Layne, Polly Ann Layne and Sallie Layne. There are extensive works on the descendants of many of these children, but one of the sons, **John, Jr.**, is important to us because in the early 1840's, he left the Victoria area and came across the mountain and settled in Hollinsworth Cove below Monteagle, Tennessee. According to notes in the "Homecoming '86 History of the Elk River Valley," the cove was named for a few Hollinsworth families who were there at the time the Laynes came. John Layne, Jr. brought with him his wife Esther (Kilgore) Layne and his children who had not already married. Esther Kilgore was a daughter of Stephen Clayton and Rebecca (Salyer) Kilgore. Much historical and genealogical research has been done by Catherine (Kilgore) Flury on the Kilgore families,

and a copy can be found in the Tracy City Root Cellar. John and Esther were the parents of twelve children being: **Abraham K. Layne**, b. 1829 (*I cannot prove that the "K." stands for the name Kelly, but there are several Abraham Kelly Laynes in the whole Layne group*); John Layne, III b. 1831; William Harrison Layne, b. 1833; Preston D. or B. Layne, b. 1835; David Layne, b. 1837; Isaac Layne, b. 1839; Barbara Ellen Layne, b. 1841; Susannah "Sukey" Layne, b. 1843; Mary/Polly Anna Layne, b. 1845; Daniel Layne, b. 1847; Nancy Rutielie Layne, b. 1849 and Martha Tennessee Layne, b. 1852. John and some of his sons worked as wagon makers. Hollinsworth Cove became so full of John and Esther's descendants that it became known as Laynes, Cove. Our last knowledge of Esther was in the 1880 Census record where she is recorded as being seventy-two years old. Since she is not in the 1900 Census record, we can assume she died between 1880 and 1900. John lived until 15 April 1900. He would have been ninety-seven at his death. We do have some more information on John that I have gleaned from the book **John Gamp**. I will quote from the book here:

(pg. 117)—*"The governess and friends, in blissful ignorance of what was transpiring in the cave river, stopped at the Meeks farm for a chat with old Grandfather Lane, who stood beside "spring trough" as his granddaughter filled a pail and gave them to drink of the limpid waters. The old man was past his fourscore and ten years, nearing the end of his journey of life. He had spent the days as a tale that is told, preaching the word all along through coves and cliffs of the Cumberland Mountain, near and afar, and for many, many years. Mrs. Meeks and Mrs. Levane are his daughters. His children and grandchildren, unto the third and fourth generations, cover the mountains as the sands of the seashore in number."*

Mrs. Meeks in this quote is Nancy Rutelia Layne who married Francis Merrill Meeks. We may relate to her as being the mother of Priest Meeks who married Ellen Layne. Mrs. Levane in this quote is Susan "Sukey" Layne who married William Levan. We may relate to her as one of the Layne characters in the book **John Gamp** who is pictured sitting on a horse with her cleaning props. She lived in the little house that stood on the right just before the horseshoe

bend on Highway 41 below Monteagle. Both are daughters of John and Esther Layne. I find it so interesting how much of this ancestor's life is told in this one paragraph. Evidently he was a religious man; he was well known and loved by his family.

To help you remember our family line, I will insert the lineage starting with this old man in the paragraph—John Layne, Jr., Abraham K. Layne, Madison Monroe Layne, Arthur Alexander “Alex” Layne (*or from whichever child you may have descended.*) In my case it is Alex Layne. I have no doubt that John and Esther are buried at Summerfield. In fact there are two fieldstones side by side in the old Layne section with the following etched on them—*J. Lain* and *Ester Lain*. The spelling of the last name almost certainly tells me that these are the progenitors of Laynes' Cove. The spelling was changed to “Lane” and then to “Layne,” but our oldest ancestors used the “Lain” spelling. Their children who preceded them in death were buried at Summerfield. This burial place was used by most of our Layne ancestors. Actually, it appears that the Laynes were the earliest burials in the cemetery along with the Thompsons, Summers, McCoys and a few others.



Photo taken from the book

John Gamp

Back: John Lain, Jr. (1803–1900)



John Lain, Jr.'s grave stone at the Summerfield
Cemetery near Monteagle, Tennessee

Much work has been done on John and Esther's descendants, especially the ones who stayed down in the cove and valley below, but Abraham K. Layne's little bunch has never been uncovered or put in its rightful place in the Layne lineages. For our immediate family, **Abraham K. Layne** is the son from whence we came, so let's follow his descendants down to us here in Grundy County, Tennessee and points beyond.

Abraham K. Layne stayed over in the Victoria, Marion Co., Tennessee area for a while after his parents moved to the Grundy County area, (*not knowing exactly what year his parents came over the mountain leaves me at a loss as to say whether they settled in Grundy or Franklin County*). Hollinsworth Cove would have been in Franklin County before 1844 since Grundy was not formed until then. John and Esther were in the cove in 1850. Abraham married his first cousin, Elender/Eleanor/Ellen Tennessee Kilgore around 1849/1850 in Marion County. Elender Tennessee was a daughter of his uncle, Joseph Kilgore, who was Esther's brother. This was not unusual in those days taking into consideration the distance between families and settlements. For those who may be interested in the Kilgore connection, in Catherine Flury's great work, Elender Tennessee Kilgore is the unnamed first child of Joseph Kilgore toward the back part of the book. In 1850 Abraham (20) and Elender (19) were living next door to her parents, her brothers, Sim and Madison Kilgore, and her sister Emily Kilgore. They as yet had no children, but I found her siblings' names and that of her father, very helpful in researching this family. Her mother's name is given only one time that I can find and that is in the 1850 Census, and it has proven illegible for researchers; it could be Jerusa or something else. Hopefully it will turn up again in further research.

By **1860 Abraham K. Layne** had followed in his father's footsteps and made the journey over the mountain to settle in Hollinsworth/Laynes Cove. In the 1860 Census he (age 30) and Elender Tennessee (29) had two children **Matison** (3) and David F. (2), and Tennessee's sister Emily Kilgore was living with them. The closest neighbor was Abraham's brother, Preston D. Layne, and four households away were his parents John and Esther Layne. The child Matison is

later called Monroe, so putting the two names together, I believe we can safely say that the child's full name was **Matison/Madison Monroe Layne**. Notice also that Abraham and Tennessee had been married approximately 7 or 8 years before they had their son Matison Monroe. There is proof that Tennessee was having babies but losing them over the years. We will discuss that later. With this Census record we can fix Monroe's birth around 1857.

When the **1870** Census record is read, we find that Abraham is forty years old and Elender is thirty-nine, and they have these children: **Monroe** (13), David (11), Mary (8), **Simuel** (2) and Martha (5 mos.) Also living with the family was Peggy Bradford (66). Peggy was Margaret (Layne) Bradford, Abraham's aunt, who had married Richard Bradford. By this time, Richard had probably died, and Peggy/Margaret had moved in with her nephew. We can notice again the age differences in Tennessee's children. Normally children were born every other year, but in Tennessee's case there are years where there are no children recorded being born. I had noticed the age differences back in the 1850 Census with Tennessee's own mother's child bearing. It appeared back then that she too had lost children. Maybe there was a weakness in physical make-up inherited from her mother, or marrying her first cousin could have contributed some, or more than likely, the heavy poverty into which the children were born was the greatest contributing factor. Life was so hard for many in those days. The family was living down in Laynes' Cove at the time and survived by farming. Preparing land for farming took years of hard work, especially up in a cove area where there were rocks, rocks, and more rocks to be moved out of the soil before plantings could be accomplished.

In August **1879** at the age of forty-nine **Abraham K. Layne** died of typhoid fever leaving Elender Tennessee with a huge mountain to climb. In the account of his death in the *U. S. Mortality Schedules*, it is stated that he had lived in Grundy County fourteen years; this would have made his coming here around 1865. Of course, we know he was here in 1860, so as is in many cases, what was recorded was what the family thought since they just didn't make dates and times their priorities. He, no doubt, was placed to rest beside the many children that he and his wife had lost throughout the years. His parents were

still alive to attend his burial. There is a line of flat stones that have become buried under years of dirt and grass in the Summerfield Cemetery wherein I believe the bodies of his children were placed. One of the larger stones has the date "1879" etched on it. Tennessee may well have placed her husband in the line with her children. It is my understanding that the Laynes used this as a burial ground because of flooding in the valley, and there always seemed to have been some little church building on that spot.

Some of our Laynes occupied land on the three mountain flats, which worked their way down to the floor of the cove under Forrest Point. The Nick-a-jack Trail made access to "*old Summerfield*" easy. Unfortunately the graves were marked with fieldstones only, and many of those stones have been covered with soil throughout time. As one enters the cemetery now, the oldest graves are on the right-hand front corner area of the cemetery where I know many of our line are buried.

Let's make a note here that **Tennessee** and her husband **Abraham** may have been able just the year after he died to have some reasonable income for the family. There is a listing in the 1880 Grundy County farm census for a **Tennessee Layne** who had raised 400 bushel of wheat. If her husband had been alive, it would have been listed in his name as head of the house. If this is our Tennessee, and I think it is, then it was the death of her husband that brought her to the depths of poverty she was in around 1900.

The 1880 Census finds Tennessee (49), a widow with these children: David (21), Mary (16), Simeon (10) and Daniel (6). Margaret (Peggy) Brad(ford) (79) is still living with the family. We see that baby Martha had died, and a son Daniel had been added to the family. At this time let's show the **progressions and losses** of the family between 1850 and 1880. Remember that the Census records were made at different months of the year. Sometimes it was in winter, other times in summer or fall. So this would account for some of the differences in ages given.

1850—Marion	1860—Grundy	1870—Grundy	1880—Grundy
Abraham (20)	Abram K. (30)	Abraham (40)	Tennessee (49)
Elender (19)	Elen T. (29)	Elender (39)	
	Matson (3)	Monroe (13)	
	David F. (2)	David (11)	David (21)
		Mary (8)	Mary (16)
		Sim--? (2)	Simeon (10)
		Martha (5 mos)	
			Daniel (6)

Tennessee's son **Monroe (21)** had married a neighbor girl and was living next door. The 1880 Census account of Monroe's wife is wrong when it gave Monroe's wife's name as "Elizabeth"; on 26 January 1878, M. M. Layne and Rebekah Jane Cox applied for a marriage license in Grundy County, Tennessee, but the license was never registered. This was the case many times. Either the minister didn't send/take it to the courthouse, or the couple never actually had a ceremony. I can't explain what happened. All of Monroe's family knows that he married, or maybe I should say intended to marry, Rebecca Jane Cox, daughter of Alexander and Sarah A. (Smith) Cox. Rebecca's father Alexander and stepmother Lavina S. (Davis) Cox, and some of the children were living in the household numbered right before Tennessee's household. It is stated that Monroe and his wife "Elizabeth" (*a Census error*) had a seven-month-old daughter named Eleanor Layne. Doesn't that name remind you of someone, ie. her grandmother Elender/Elen? Each Census taker heard and spelled names differently. The baby grew up being called Ellen for short; it would surprise me if her whole name was not Eleanor Tennessee Layne. Some of her grandchildren are still around, but I can't budge their thinking. The next mention of Monroe Layne is found in the 1891, district 12 male voters of Grundy County, Tennessee.

The **1890** U. S. Census burned, for the most part, in Washington D. C. What a great, great loss to us genealogists and to you family members. I want to go back at this point to the book, John Gamp, which was published in 1901. The

setting for the book was the small town/village of Monteagle, Tennessee where some of our Layne ancestors lived and would have done much of their trading. It was meant to be a fictional account of developing love and respect between two adults who summered over at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly during its early days. In essence, it is a priceless account of the area and times in and around my hometown of Monteagle. It has and still is a much debated book as to what really was its original intent. Suffice to say, that Elizabeth Wilkins "Patti" Purnell knew those of the village, mountainsides and valleys below, or outside the fence as well as those on the inside of the fence; she wrote it like she saw it. She lived at the back of the Assembly near Central Avenue. She could not have placed herself any closer to the Lanes/Laynes in the area without living outside of the Assembly fence. Being a schoolteacher, it is quite possible that she taught school at the old Monteagle School on King Street at some time during her life on the mountain. So she definitely and personally knew the characters in her book. It appears that she changed the names to protect some innocent ones; for example, John Gamp was really John Sampley, but there were other times she just forgot to use a pseudonym, for example, when speaking of the Lane folks around the area. For this I am thankful in that it helps me in my family research. However, I can understand the hurt feelings that the book generated amongst some of the local people. The book was a tremendous aid for me in filling in some of the missing information during the 1890's on my Layne ancestry.

Ms. Purnell wrote about many towns and areas around the mountain, but the one that I am most interested in at the moment is the chapter on "Old Summerfield." Quoted from pages 131/132:

"The governess and Marietta had noticed an old woman sitting beside the chimney corner. She had not so much as turned her head toward the visitors since their entrance into the log room; but now, as the younger woman eased speaking, "gran." removed the pipe from her mouth, pushed aside the flaps

of the faded sunbonnet from her wrinkled, though kindly, face, and, with a slow movement, turned toward her son's wife, and a sort of grunt betokened that she thought it time to speak. "Aye, aye; ef hit's his will, hit mus' be our'n. They mus' come an' they mus' go, jes, as he's a mind fer 'em to, an' we-uns mus' be willin'. Thar's John Wesley, Sarie Ann, Mandy Jane, Easter Ann, Nancy, Marthy Bell, Joseph Henderson, William Walker, Nathan Edmonson, Lucy, Charlotte, Caledonia, Marguerite, Madison Monroe, Daniel Franklin, Little Benjamin [and here the old woman's voice lingered a moment, as though in tender memories], little Ben.; then Mary 'Liz'beth and Simeon Glover – eighteen on 'em," she said; "an' now thar's none whut's left but Monroe and Simeon and Daniel. The Lord gin'em an' the Lord tuck 'em," away. They's come an' they's gone, an' we-uns mus' be willin';" and the old mother in Israel drew the flabby flaps of her sunbonnet over the shrunken features again and refilled her pipe."

Please take note of the number of live births that the "Gran" had had. Another statement in the book said that all **eighteen** were born alive, and in the book, she named all eighteen children one after the other. Notice that by the time the book was published in 1901, she could only have had three surviving children—Monroe, Simeon and Daniel. Go back to the "progression/loss" chart above and notice in 1880 that **Monroe** (next door), **Simeon**, and **Daniel** were still alive. This says to me that Tennessee had lost all of her children but three by the time Patti Purnell had finished her book sometime in 1900/01. Why do I say this? What makes me think that this old lady in the book was Elender Tennessee Layne? The answers are coming up.

In 1900 in the Monteagle area lived a man named **Daniel Layne** (26) and his wife Georgia (26) and their son Taylor (4). Daniel's mother, Tennessee (65), a widow, was living in the house with them. Although Tennessee answered the question about her children's births and deaths as having had one live birth and one still alive in 1900, I am convinced that she is our Elender Tennessee Layne. Admittedly that threw me, until I found the same mistake from time to time in the Census records. To be more specific about this young family, Daniel's wife, Georgina/Georgia is also talked about in the book, **John Gamp**. She is the fretful young mother on page 128, 129, 130, and 131 who had lost children of

her own. She was so concerned that she had brought these children into the world knowing that she did not have enough food, clothing and shelter to sustain their lives. However, she had a strong love for God and believed that if she put everything into His hands, then all would work out for the best. At the time the book was written, only one child, a four-year-old boy, had survived. His name in the 1900 Census is Taylor. His full name is William Taylor Layne although sometimes he gave it as being Taylor William Layne. Thankfully, in 1905, Georgia did have a daughter who survived, and she reared both children to adulthood.

Also in 1900 living right next door to Daniel Layne was a **Sim Layne**, whom I believe to be his brother, one of the surviving three. I have searched and searched and can find no other Sim/Simeon Layne in the area who would fit the age or likeness of Tennessee's son Simeon. Remember that Tennessee was living right in the next household to Sim and his wife Josie. Right in the same context speaking of Georgina, we read about the other young woman who at the time had "*a boy of six, one of four, and the pretty twin girls.*" Without a doubt, that young mother was Josephine (Cook) Layne wife of Sim Layne. Look at the 1900 Census record for Sim's family: Sim Layne (30); wife, Josie (27); son, Arthur; (8); son, Robert O. (3); daughter, Lilly Bell (1); and daughter, Lilly May (1). This is an almost perfect match for the other young family in the book, including right down to the "*handsome pair of twin baby girls*". Josie had had five births with only four still alive. (Let's put a note here that Josie's mother Annie Shetters, her second marriage, is living next door also.) Whether I can prove that this Daniel Layne and this Sim Layne were two of Tennessee's surviving children or not, they most certainly were in the same room with Elender Tennessee Layne in the book and living with or next door to her in the 1900 Census record. I need to say here that I cannot find Monroe and Rebecca Layne in the 1900 Census. I can maybe tell you what I believe happened. Monroe reared his family down on the first flat under the north bluff of Monteagle. The Census that day was taken on June 27, which may have been a quite warm day. It was a walk to that area, not a ride. Maybe Mr. Ed Brazelton just conveniently missed Monroe and Rebecca, or he just really overlooked them. As the book John Gamp states on page 127/28, "*Law! Yes, ma'am; the*

woods hereabout is full o' Lanes as the town's full o' houses. Thar's Billy an'Dan. an'Sim. an' Monroe an' Pres. An' Wes, an' Uncle Spunky—." So we can extract from this, that missing one or two Lanes on a Census wouldn't matter so much. And of course, there's that wonderful idea of hiding from the Census taker because we are just too shy or just don't think the information is any of his or the government's business. Whatever!!!!

Let's move on to the **1910** Census record in search of Tennessee's three surviving children. The **Daniel Layne** that we are following is in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama working in the coalmines. His wife Georgia and their two children William (15), and by then, Annie Mae (5) are with him. I am very interested in finding out what lured Daniel so far from home since there were mines and mining jobs all around the Grundy area in 1910.

By **1910** **Sim Layne** and Josie had moved out into Marion County around Pryor Ridge not too far from Tracy City in Grundy County. Like his brother, Sim was working in the coalmines. Let's take a look at their family in 1910: Sim (43); his wife Josie (38 ?); son, Arthur (18); son, Robert (14); daughter, Adria (*Dearie*) (5); son, Herman (4); and daughter, Elizabeth (*Lizzie*), (5 mos). On this record Josie says that she had given birth to nine children and only five were surviving. We see that she still has all her surviving children with her in 1910. What this says to her descendants is that besides losing the twin girls, Lily Bell and Lily May, she had lost two others. We know one died before 1900 probably between Arthur and Robert. This means that she lost another child between 1900 and 1910. Coalmining was a big thing at this period even though there were "off and on" periods for the miners due to disputes over wages and convict labor. Unions were being spoken of and companies were unhappy about that talk. It was while Sim and Josie lived at Pryor Ridge that they met the Crowe family into which some of their children later married.

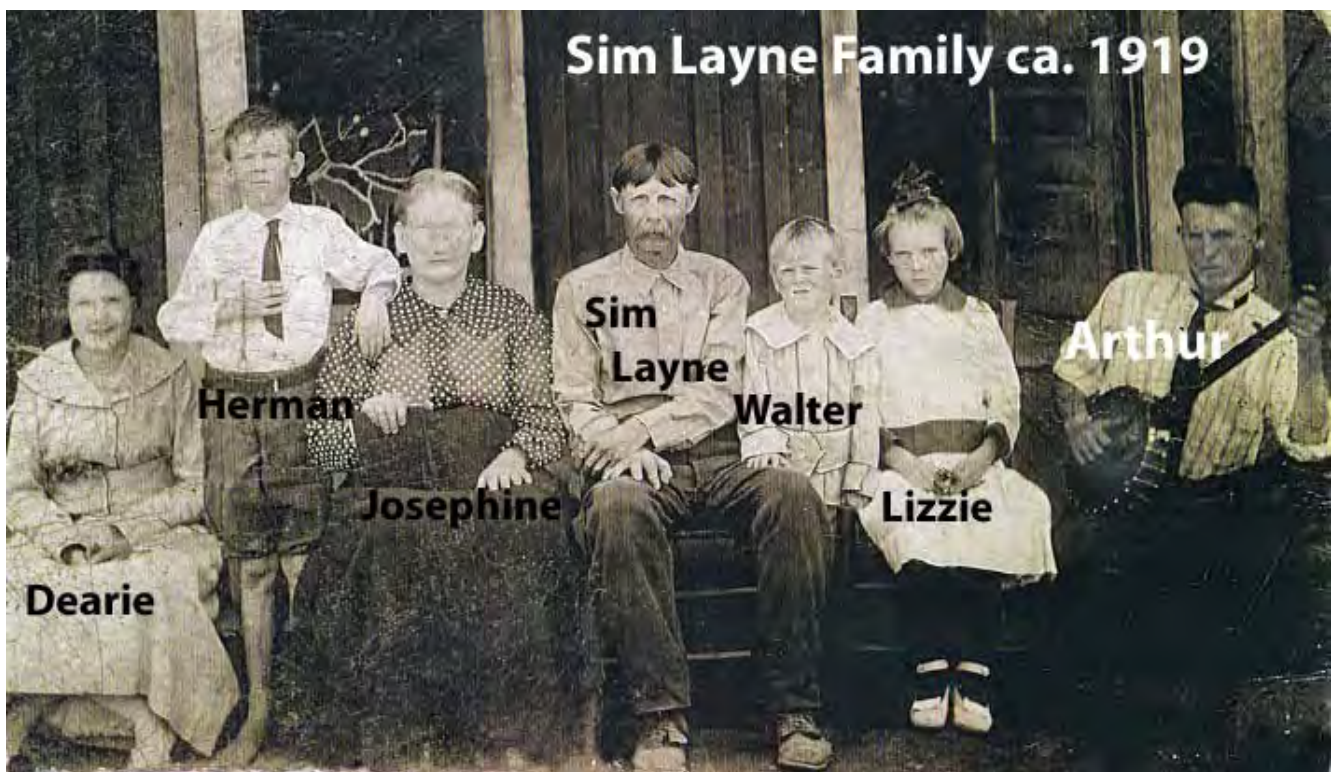
Thankfully, in **1910** **Monroe Layne** and his wife Rebecca weren't hiding, nor were they missing or forgotten. They were still living under the north bluff in Monteagle. At home with them were their five sons—Alex, Grover, Rush, Paris (the census taker misunderstood and put Harris) and Buford. Their four known

daughters had already left home or died. We knew of Eleanor/Ellen, but there were Lula Bell, Minnie and Fannie also. Lula Bell and Minnie had already married, had children and died before 1910. Lula Bell left one descendant; Minnie may have left some, but unless her name is Minnie Ethel, I cannot prove it one way or the other. We will talk about each of these nine children later. The greatest thing about this Census record is, "Guess who is living in the house with the family?" None other than Tennessee (73) herself; she is actually around seventy-nine years old. She probably has no idea how old she is because that wasn't on her list of priorities. Bless her little heart. She is listed as being a widow, and this will be the last time we hear of Tennessee. She died before the next Census year, but I can find no record of her death. NOW HEAR THIS!! When she was asked the question about her live births, she answered **eighteen**; when she was asked about how many were alive in 1910, she answered **three**. Now folks, what are the chances that there would be two women in this time frame in the little town of Monteagle who would answer those two questions the same way that she and the old "Gran" in the book **John Gamp** did? The old lady in the book was no doubt our **Elender Tennessee (Kilgore) Layne**.

In the decade before the 1920 Census, many sad things happened to **Monroe, Sim and Daniel's** families. **Monroe** had lost two of his daughters, Lula Bell and Minnie, before he succumbed to death in 1911. Fannie, another daughter, died around 1911 leaving two descendants. Ellen, his remaining daughter, died around 1913 and left two descendants; his baby son Buford Paskel died around 1918 and left no descendants, and his wife Rebecca died around 1919/20; his mother, Elender Tennessee, died at some point in that decade. In the Summerfield Cemetery there is a stone very close to the John and Esther Layne stones which reads, "MA L; TN E; MA LAYNE;" there are three lines on the fieldstone. It is my belief that this is Elender Tennessee. Her name could have been Tennessee Elender Layne. The Monroe Layne homeplace was emptied by a sad series of deaths. The only survivors of that family were Alex, Grover, Rush and Paris. Rush died not too long afterwards in 1923 leaving two descendants. Grover never had children. Alex had married and eventually had seven descendants. Paris married twice and had seven descendants.

Monroe and Rebecca have living descendants through all their children except Minnie, Grover and Buford living today in 2007.

Sim and Josie had had another son **Walter Dee** in 1912, but sadly lost their thirteen-year-old son, **Herman**, in 1920. He and his sister **Lizzie** got the flu at the same time. **Lizzie** pulled through, but **Herman** lost his battle. Sim and Josie eventually moved back to Monteagle where Sim died in 1932. Josie died in 1942 at her son Robert's house in Chattanooga. They are both buried along side their twin daughters, **Lily Bell and Lily May**, their son **Herman** and maybe the other two children in the Monteagle Cemetery in Marion County. To find their gravesites, go through the front main entrance. Up just a small distance on the left you will see a very small stone for Sim Layne. You will have to look carefully for it. His family is buried there to the right of his grave.



- Now let's take a closer look at the remaining children of **Sim and Josie**. Their son **Arthur Lee Layne** married **Rosa Lee Crowe**, and they had one child, **Edward Lee Layne**. Young Edward was playing with a young friend on a sand bar and had dug some large holes in the sand. Eventually, the sand must have

given way, and Edward fell into one of the holes, and not knowing how to swim, he drowned. He was buried at Duck Pond Cemetery in White Oak, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Arthur and Rosa later divorced; he never married again, but **Rosa** married **Quinton Brown**. In 1964 **Arthur Lee Layne** died and was buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. His sister **Lizzie** had taken care of him throughout a long illness just as she had cared for so many loved ones throughout her life. **Arthur** left no descendants.

- Their son **Robert Overton Layne** married Rosa's sister **Mary Christine Crowe**; they lost their first three children, but reared two children, **Florence and Lewis**, to adulthood. **Florence** married **James Alden Boynton**, and they have one son **David** and one grandson, **Christopher David Boynton**. Florence is still living near Dunlap, and I have been in contact with her; however, in 1989 her brother **Lewis Richard Layne** passed away having never married. **Robert and Mary Crowe Layne** are buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery near Pryor Ridge. (*Update on Florence: Florence passed away in 2008 after this paper was prepared.*)
- **Dearie Layne** had one descendant, **Clarice Flowella Layne**, whose father was **Bud Patrick**. **Dearie** first married **Garden Coe** in 1931 and later married **Arthur Dee King** after his wife **Olive (Layne) King** died. **Dearie** and **Garden** had no children. **Dearie** and **Dee** had no children together. **Flowella** married twice, and after the death of her first husband, **Jimmy Martin**, she married **Walter Bouldin** who was so much help to me in finding gravesites for his wife's family. **Walter** has since passed on. **Flowella** had no descendants.
- Their daughter **Vera Elizabeth "Lizzie" Layne** married **Charles Howard Cox**. **Charles** was the son of **William and Venner Cordelia (Farris) Cox**. Together they had seven children: **Josephine, Charles William, Susie, Bobby, James Wilson, Carolyn and Shirley**. Five of these children are still living, and we can happily say that we have all met together for fellowship and kinfolk talks. In 1983 **Lizzie** died and was buried at the Summerfield Cemetery beside her two children **Susie and James**. She was a strong believer in God and a wonderful helping hand to others.

- **Sim and Josie Layne's** youngest child, **Walter Dee Layne** married **Delia Helen Smith**, and together they had seven children: **Anna Ruth, Walter Dee, Jr., Orval Gene, Edward Lee, Marilyn Rae, Vickie Lynn and Stevie Robin**. This wonderful family had been lost to all of us for a long time, but we are all now in contact and have all visited together. It is so wonderful to see families brought together. **Walter Dee Layne** died in 1986 and is buried in Dayton, Rhea County, Tennessee. His wife **Delia** died two years later and is buried in Dayton also.

With all this information we can see that **Sim and Josie** have descendants living today 2007 only through their daughter **Lizzie** and sons **Robert and Walter Dee**. We need one more reunion to have all these first cousins together in the same place. Lord willing, that will happen maybe next spring.

Daniel Layne died during the decade between **1910 and 1920** either in Jefferson County, Alabama, or he came back to the mountain and died here and was buried. His wife, a widow, and two children were living in Tracy City in 1920. I hope that Daniel got back to Grundy County before he passed away. If he did, then he probably was buried with his parents in the Summerfield Cemetery. **Taylor's** name was listed in 1917 as one of the local Tracy City young men going off to war. He and **Annie Mae** were living in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio the last record I found on them. Annie had married a **Mullins**, but I have no information on any living descendants from her or her brother. Georgia's whereabouts after 1920 are a mystery at this time. *(Update by Dawn Opperman who married into Sim Layne's family. She found that in 1929 Taylor was in a Veteran's Home in Dayton, Ohio. He was honorably discharged from the Army on 13 July 1919. He stated that his mother lived in Kentucky. In his 1942 WWII Draft registration, he lists his sister Anna Mullens on his paper. He died 11 July 1945, with Anna Mullens listed as the informant. He lists his parents as being Daniel and Georgia Layne. His wife's named is listed as Viola Kilgore. Taylor is buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio. His sister Annie died 26 March 1981, in Cincinnati, Ohio and was listed as a widow. Thanks Dawn for the good work.)*

Now I would like to take the nine children of Madison Monroe and Rebecca Jane Cox Layne and discuss what I do know about each.

- **Ellen/Elender/Eleanor Layne** was born around September 1879 in Laynes Cove, which lies under the northern bluffs of Monteagle, TN. It appears that she was named after her grandmother Tennessee Elender Layne. On 02 Feb. 1896 in Grundy County, Ellen married Priest Meeks born March 1877 with W. H. Reider being the Justice of the Peace. Priest's mother was Monroe's aunt, Nancy Rutelie Layne who had married Francis "Frank" Meeks. This made Ellen and Priest close cousins. Together Ellen and Priest had three children. One child died young, but their son, Ernest Meeks, was born in 1896 and died 1971. Ernest married in his older days but left no offspring. Some of you remember him as the cousin who pulled his wife from his home in Summerfield to Monteagle town in a small wagon or cart. Ellen's daughter, Lydle S. Meeks, was born in 1902 and died in 1982. She married Marvin Patterson, and they have many descendants around the mountain.

Ellen died between 1910 and 1914, and I feel certain that she is buried in the Priest Meeks grave plot at Summerfield Cemetery along with her lost child. Years later when Ernest and Lydle died, they were buried nearby. Priest Meeks went on to marry a younger woman named Winnie B. (Ladd) Budurant of Monteagle and had several more children. When I look at Priest's grave plot, I see a stone for him and Winnie; there are three of their children there in marked graves, Mildred, Franklin "Bud", and James Meeks. I also noticed that there are two other fieldstones in the plot on the opposite end. It stands to reason that those stones are for his first wife Ellen (Layne) Meeks and the baby they lost. Priest had built a concrete block wall around his plot. One of his trades was that of a stonemason. When I asked his only living child, Thelma (Meeks) Watley, if her father ever spoke of his first wife, she said, "All he ever said was that she

was a good woman." Thelma told me that her father faithfully attended the Church of Christ that met in the little wooden building just passed where the old Summerfield School used to stand. The little church building eventually was surrounded and molded into the Dick Meeks house. I can remember that building, and my mind tells me that the old sign used to read "Disciples of

Christ.” When I asked around about it, I got a myriad of answers. I have limited contact with Ellen and Priest’s descendants.

- **Lula Bell Layne** was born around 1882/3 in Laynes’ Cove. On 10 September 1899 in Grundy County, Bell married **Thomas Isaiah King** with B. H. Gilland officiating. Isaiah was born in 1877 in Warren County, Tennessee to **Stephen N. and Sarah Catherine (Perry) King**. Bell and Isaiah had one child, a daughter, **Beatrice Virginia King** born 23 April 1901 and died April 1973 in Chattanooga. On 30 March 1903, Lula Bell died as a young wife and mother. Thanks to a good stick and my determination, I found a buried fieldstone in the Summerfield Cemetery for Bell King with her death date etched on it. She was the first of Monroe and Rebecca’s children to die. Bell’s daughter Beatrice married **Dan Tripp** and later married a **Davis**. She became the mother of **Douglas, Howard Franklin, Katherine and Barbara Tripp**. Beatrice’s sons have passed on, but happily at this writing in 2007 Katherine and Barbara are still with us and have visited with me. (*Update on Katherine(Tripp) York: she passed away in 2008.*)

In the book **John Gamp** on page 127 we read, *“After leaving Billy Lane’s, the governess and Marietta found themselves at a small log house of one of the mountaineers. Here Delle asked them to stop a while, as these were some of her kinsfolk, and she wished to hear from her home “down side the mountain.” Her mother and sister both had young infants, she informed them.”* The young girl in the book who was leading the governess from the Assembly to “Old Summerfield” and back was called **“Delle Wayne”** in the book. I believe that she was actually **“Belle Layne”**. Bell/Belle’s sister **Ellen** and mother **Rebecca Jane** were both having babies in that time frame, and both lived on the side of the mountain. This cabin where she said *“some of her kinfolk”* lived was the same cabin mentioned before with the *“Gran”* and the two young mothers.

- **Minnie Layne** was born around 1885/86 in Laynes Cove. Her name may have been Minnie Ethel. On 25 October 1904 in Grundy County, Minnie married A. R. England with W. D. Bennett, J. P., officiating. In the 1900 Census, Coffee County, Tennessee, which borders Grundy County, I found an “Andrew R.

England,” born around 1885 and still at home with his parents, Alexander and Mary M. England. This just seems to be the right A. R. England. In 1910 in Warren County, Viola, Tennessee, which also touches Grundy County and Coffee County, I found Andy England (23), his wife Ethel England (21) and son Frank England (2). Ten years later (1920), back in Coffee County, I found Andrew R. England (35), wife Mary (23), son Frank England (12), daughter Willia England (8), son Andrew D. England (5), and daughter Ida Bell (3). Now some or possibly all of these children were Ethel’s. If not, then Andy England had three wives in a short period of time. Mary is too young to be the mother of all of the children. It is possible that Minnie didn’t live long after their 1904 marriage; then Andrew married an Ethel, then a Mary. There is a fieldstone next to Lula Bell’s, which reads “Miniee Layne.” I can’t decide if it reads “Minie e Layne” or what, but it does not have the name “England” on it. I just need to work harder on that stone. My grandfather Alex Layne told me that his parents were buried beside two of their daughters. If Minnie is one of the two dead children that Rebecca spoke of in 1910, then she may not have been the mother of any of the children. She may have died soon after her marriage. It may be that she too died in childbirth with the son Frank. All efforts to contact someone in the England family have failed. Frank is definitely not Mary’s child, so he must be Ethel’s. The question still remains, “Is Ethel our Minnie?” If anyone has any memory of Minnie’s middle name, please let me know.

*After writing all of the above, I have gone back over the Census records and believe that Ethel is not Minnie because in 1910 **Andy England** says he has been married to Ethel for two years. This would have made their marriage around 1908, so she is the mother of Frank. Our Minnie married A. R. England in 1904. I still think this is the right Mr. England, but that soon after he married Minnie, she passed away. This may be why she is listed on the stone as **Mine e Layne**. I’m going to leave all this information for future references.*

- **Fannie Layne** was also born in Laynes Cove around 1887. She did attend school at the old Monteagle School on King Street around 1902. I found a penciled page from the school register to support that fact. On 08 November 1903 in Grundy County, TN, she married her sister Lula Bell’s widower

husband, **Thomas Isaiah King**. **Baby Beatrice**, over two years old by then, was probably cared for by her grandmother **Sarah Catherine (Perry) King** in Monteagle until **Fannie** became her step-mother around the age of sixteen. In 1910 on East End Avenue, Chattanooga, TN, the census taker lists this new family as follows: **I. T. King** (31), married once, married 10 years, house carpenter, living in a rented house; **Fannie King** (22), married once, married 10 years, given birth to three children with all three still alive—**Beatrice** (8), **Lessie** (6) and **Rebekah** (2). The Census taker was given wrong answers to the questions. Isaiah had two marriages not one, with both listed on the Grundy County registry. If Fannie had been married ten years, then she got married at the age of twelve. We know that Beatrice was her niece, not her daughter; Lessie and Rebecca were her children. Fannie gave birth to two children not three. Lessie grew up and married **Joe Vail**. They had two daughters, **Dorothy** who passed away June 2006, and **Virginia** who still lives in Monteagle. **Rebecca** married **Dillard King**. Their sons **Richard, Junior and Billy** have passed on, but **Malcolm** is still alive and living in Hubbards Cove, Tennessee, and his two sisters **Carolyn Fannie and Mary Ruth** are living in Illinois. I sent for a death certificate for a **Fanny King** listed as having died in 1911 in Hamilton Co., Tennessee. It had very little information on it. There was not enough to let me say for certain that this was our Fannie, but it probably was. She died of peritonitis, which probably brought about a ruptured appendix. At this writing I don't know where Fannie is buried, but it would not surprise me at all to find out that she is in the little Monroe Layne plot with her sisters. Isaiah King is more than likely buried by his mother Sarah Catherine Perry King in the Monteagle Cemetery. I have contact with Fannie's descendants.

Well, these four young women lost their lives so quickly. I find it interesting that Monroe and Rebecca had four daughters, then five sons. Now let's discuss the sons.

- **Arthur Alexander Layne** was born 30 April 1890 in the same cove as his sisters. He was Monroe and Rebecca's first son. While searching for Rebecca as a child, it was the name she gave her first son that gave me the clue as to what her father's name might have been—Alexander. Alex also attended the old

Monteagle School that stood on the very spot where he spent many of his years living with his son Cleveland, daughter-in-law Clara, and their five children—me being one of those five. He served in the Army Reserves around 1913-1916, and registered for the WWI draft on 08 June 1918 giving “Coast Artillery” as his military history. Just this past year or so, a picture unseen by most of us was discovered at his daughter Wilhelmenia’s house with Alex in his military uniform. He married Emma Rose King on 07 Dec 1916 at the office of William Bennett, which stood near what is now the Bill Jack Gunn farm. Alex and Emma had seven children. Wilhelmenia Cannon, Cleveland, Bonnie Rowen, Artie Mae, Alex Benson, Mary Rebecca and Patricia Ann. Alex was a coal miner, stonemason/carpenter and later a shoe cobbler; at different times he had shops in Cowan, Tracy City and Monteagle. Wilhelmenia was born in Cowan, Cleveland was born in Tracy City and the rest were born in Monteagle. On the Monteagle Assembly Grounds and in back of our house on King Street, he also had shops. He also worked as a night watchman and gatekeeper for the Assembly.

Alex (*Pop as we knew him*) died 25 January 1963. His children came home to Monteagle for his funeral, which took place during probably the coldest week that this plateau has ever experienced. He was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery near his grandson Larry Layne. He was a quiet, gentle and kind man. He always told me, “If you can’t say something good about someone, then don’t say anything.” Since Alex was my grandfather and lived with us all my life, that I can remember, I have written a more overall recollection on him. If anyone is interested in that, please let me know. I am in contact with several of my grandfather’s descendants.

- **Grover Cleveland Layne** was born 26 September 1892 in Laynes Cove also. He was also listed as having attended school with three of his siblings. Because of a photo from **Floy (King) Norwood’s** collection, I know that Grover worked as a young man on the Monteagle Assembly as did most of his Layne relatives. Grover helped light the gas lamps that were scattered around the grounds on the Assembly. On 01 June 1917 he

registered in Chattanooga for the WWI Draft. His employer at the time was Hardaway Contracting Company in Electric, North Carolina. This company was elected to build much-needed Army training bases for an expected participation in a foreign war. The company had a branch in Georgia also, so maybe Grover worked there and came home by rail for visits. He listed his residence as Monteagle, Tennessee. On his draft papers he stated that he had a physical problem “intestinae catarrah,” and I’m not certain what that is. I know from a photo that he did serve in the armed forces. In 1920 he was listed as Corporal Grover C. Lane, 27, soldier born in Tennessee, stationed at Camp Merritt, Bergen, New Jersey. Camp Merritt was a huge Army base with a constant flow of men replacing troops in France. I don’t know if Grover was one of those troops or not. He may have been stationed there after the war. About 1929 at the age of thirty-seven, Grover married a woman from Massachusetts named **Ethel**, and in 1930, they lived in or near Boston, Massachusetts. Grover was listed as a building contractor by trade; he also stated that he was a veteran. They never had any children. Grover died before 1954 since his brother **Paris, Sr.** speaks, in a letter he had written in 1954, of needing to find out where he was buried in Malden, Massachusetts. Grover is probably buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery. Alice Layne remembers her uncle when she was young but doesn’t have any information on when he died or where he was buried.

- **Rush Monroe Layne** was born 04 April 1895 in Laynes’ Cove. Rush was named after his mother’s brother William **Rush** Cox and his father **Monroe**. From his WWI military picture, dressed in his uniform, one can tell that he was a very handsome young man. He was in the Regular Army Reserves where he was recalled for active duty at Fort Warren, Massachusetts during the war. In 1920 in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Rush (25) was married to **Jennie Anderson** (25), and they had a daughter **Alice** (5 months); in 1921 a son **Warren Buford** was born. The name “Buford” was for Rush’s youngest brother who had died maybe two or three years earlier. Rush came down with pulmonary tuberculosis not long after his son’s birth. When he had exhausted all his options of healing in Massachusetts, he told his family that he might heal faster if he could go back down South to Tennessee where the weather was warmer.

What a heart wrenching decision to leave one's young family in hopes of finding healing for an opportunity to have a longer life with that family! It had to be a hard decision for Rush and Jennie to make. By this time, many of his extended family – his parents, all four sisters and one brother had preceded him in death. The only remaining close relatives were his brothers, Grover in Massachusetts and Alex and Paris in Monteagle. Paris had finished a first enlistment with the Army in South Carolina; he was still single and probably living at the old homeplace when Rush came back home. Paris thought that Rush was “...on the mend, and I felt sure that he was coming out of it, so sure in fact, that I left home and re-enlisted in the army and gave my part of the shop to brother Alex, but sadly, this was not to last, he turned suddenly for the worse and didn't last long...”. Soon Rush was so bad that he needed professional care, which he found at the Erlanger Hospital Complex in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Sadly, on 27 March 1923, Rush succumbed to his illness after a thirteen-day stay in the hospital. His brother-in-law (twice over) **Isaiah King** signed his death certificate. His body came back by rail to his hometown in Monteagle. His brother Alex Layne met the train with a wagon and transported the body to the Summerfield Cemetery where Rush was buried with his parents and siblings. Over twenty years later, Rush's wife and daughter had the opportunity to come to Monteagle, find Alex, and accompany him to the Summerfield Cemetery. My Pop showed them where their loved one was buried. Alice remembers it as being in the little plot where his parents and sisters were also buried. Rush's son **Warren Buford Layne** passed away in 1992, but his daughter Alice Layne is still in Malden, Massachusetts. Warren's son **Gary** died in 1997, but his two daughters, **Laurie and Brenda**, are still with us. **Alice Layne** has made us a wonderful newly found cousin. We are in contact from time to time.

- **Paris Francis Layne** was born on the side of Laynes' Cove on 31 August 1897. Paris attended the old Monteagle School, which was a good walk from the family home. On 12 September 1918, he registered for the WWI draft, and his occupation at the time was given as a section hand on the railroad. He listed his mother “**Rebecky**” as a dependent. Quoting from **Paris, Sr.** himself, “...I stayed with my mother until I was twenty four years old, and surely do not regret it, and if she was still living I would be with her, for she was just the sweetest girl I ever knew...” In

June 1920 he was single and stationed at Camp Jackson, Richland, South Carolina, so this says to me that Paris left home early in the year of 1920, and his mother was still alive although I cannot find her listed in the 1920 Census record. My Aunt **Patsy (Layne) Harris** thinks that her grandmother died around 1921. At some point Paris served in the U. S. Cavalry and was stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. This was probably the 6th Cavalry, which was an elite group of men trained for all aspects of battle on horseback. Around 1925 Paris met **Irene Mikesell** in Chattanooga. *“When I was leaving the Army in the last part of 1925, I had married a wonderful little girl; she was a Sunday School teacher...”* On 27 October 1925 Irene gave birth to a son **Francis J. Layne**. Paris wrote, *“When our baby, Francis came along, it was too much for her, I lost her after he was three days old; she is buried in Greenwood Memorial Park.”* Paris was left with an infant son to rear, and yet another month before his service tour would end. As soon as his military duty was over, Paris took his son and went back home to Monteagle. His **Uncle Eck Cox** had daughters and sisters who probably helped with the child. His brother **Alex** and his wife **Emma** may have helped, but they already had three small children by that time. Nonetheless, Paris soon married; years later he wrote, *“I married a half cousin, we had been sweethearts in school days, and luckily had not forgotten each other. Her name was Allene Cox, and so this solved the baby problem, she has made him a wonderful mother, and me a wonderful wife...”* **Allene** was a daughter of **Rufus Alexander “Eck” Cox** who was a half brother to **Rebecca Jane (Cox) Layne**.

In 1930 in Coffee County, TN, **Paris and Allene** were living on the Hillsboro/Manchester highway. By this time Allene had given birth to her first two children, **Grover Van Dyke and Paris Francis, Jr.** With Irene’s son Francis and her own two baby boys, Allene had her hands full. She was twenty-one and about twelve years younger than her husband. Paris, Sr. had taken training as a barber while in the Army and that was his occupation in 1930. The family grew with **Mary Evelyn, Geraldene, Shelby Jean, Bennie Lurie and Garland Keith**. Eventually the family moved to Pelham for some time. Later, a house was built by Paris, Sr. and his older sons near Camp Unaka on Central Avenue in Monteagle. I visited in that house many, many years ago. As the children married off, the family was soon dispersed into other parts of the U. S. **Paris, Sr.**

died in January 1961 in Ohio. **Eula Allene (Cox/Layne) O'kins** died on 30 March 1995 at her daughter **Shelby Jean Robison's** home near War Trace, TN. Their children who remain with us at this writing are **Paris, Jr., Geraldene, Shelby, Bennie and Keith Layne**. I have been in contact with Paris, Jr. and Shelby, but have not been successful in contacting the three other children.

A final note on Paris Francis Layne, Sr. Many years ago there was an old fiddle, which hung on a nail in my father's shop. The fiddle had come apart at some of the seams, but I remember my father and grandfather saying that is was the old fiddle which was handmade by **Paris Layne, Sr.** Then many years later, my mother had asked my husband to go up into the tiny attic space in her small house and get something for her. While up there, he noticed the old fiddle that used to hang in the shop was now in the attic. He asked my mother about it, and she told him he could have it. It had completely come apart from the heat in the attic. My husband hit upon the idea of having it put back together for me as a family heirloom gift. Little did he know that before it was restored he would have over four hundred dollars in the fiddle and bow. The young man who worked so tediously on the restoration had found penciled inside these words, "**P. F. Layne – Feb. 1927.**" It now hangs in our living room.

- **Buford Paskel Layne** was born 24 September 1900 on that first flat of Laynes' Cove. He was the last child born to **Monroe and Rebecca Cox Layne**. He registered for the draft 12 September 1918 at the age of eighteen. Evidently, he and his older brother Paris went together to register. He, too, put his mother as a dependent; this says to me that Paris and Buford were still at home with their mother and as very young men were taking care of her. Since Buford could not sign his name, I wondered if he ever attended school like some of his siblings. Like his brother Paris, he too was working as a section hand for the railroad. **Rush Monroe's** daughter **Alice Layne** sent me a note wherein her mother had sent a note to an author of the **Lain, Lane, and Layne** book saying that **Buford** died toward the end of the war while in the armed forces. This would have made him die around the age of nineteen and during the raging flu pandemic. I have not found a record yet of his death or his service in the Army. We do know, by word of mouth, that he was buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. If

he did die away from home, then it no doubt was another trip to the Monteagle Depot with a horse and buggy for my grandfather, **Alex Layne**, to pick up the body of his baby brother. It seemed that "Pop" had to bury all his family except Grover and Paris, Sr. One day a few years back in Columbia, Tennessee, I was sitting on a bedroom floor in my aunt **Artie Mae (Layne) Lappin's** house going through her photo albums. I noticed an oval photo of a nice looking young man in a WWI uniform, and when I asked her who it was, she said, "I don't know, probably one of daddy's brothers." Since I have photos of all my grandfather's brothers except Buford, and this was not one of them, I do now believe that this is a photo of young **Buford Paskel Layne**. Somewhere there is an account of Buford's military service and his death. I will continue to search for that.

This concludes the look at the nine children of Monroe and Rebecca Jane Cox Layne. There are a couple of notes that I need to make before I end this paper. According to the Census records, Monroe, Sim and Daniel had a brother named David F. Layne. He appeared to have been a year younger than Monroe. Firstly, if one looks at the list of eighteen children that Tennessee named in the book of John Gamp, there is no mention of a "David". This has plagued me tremendously. The only thing I can come up with at this time is that "little Ben" may have had the second or first name of "David." All the other sons have their second name mentioned, and none are David. David could have been a Layne orphan whom she took to raise. With all the losses of children, she certainly would have had the opportunity to feed another baby, which was not unheard of in those days.

Secondly, it strikes me as odd that **Tennessee** never named a child after its father **Abraham K. Layne**. There were several Abraham Laynes already scattered about, so maybe she didn't want to add to the list. Hey, there would be no fun in genealogy research if there weren't a few surprises along the way. Granted some could well be left buried.

Enjoy, enjoy!! And please send me any corrections, additions or family data that you would like to have saved for your descendants. If you know or think I

have it wrong, please let me know. (Jackie Layne Partin, P. O. Box 295, Monteagle, TN, 37356; jackiepartin@blomand.net or phone 931-592-3650.)