

Emma Ruth Kilgore Roberts

*Submitted by Ruth K. Roberts
PO Box 1184
Tracy City, TN 37387
931-592-2951
Number of words: 618*

These days, in 2003, moving away from the big city and having a home in the country, especially in the mountains, is very fashionable. But during the years when I was growing up, most children by the time they reached high school longed to move away to live in The City – any city.

My name is Emma Ruth. I was born February 6, 1934 to Clarence E. and Theona Haynes Kilgore and was the fifth of six children. See entry for *Kilgore, Clarence E.*

Daddy's father lived about 3 miles outside Tracy City in "the country." Every Sunday Daddy walked out to visit him and always took some of us children. We went every Sunday, no matter what the weather, even if it snowed or rained. Since I was five years younger than the next oldest and seven years older than the youngest, I often got to go with him alone. Some of my best memories of growing up were walking with Daddy

*My Daddy became Postmaster in 1936. As
a child I used to go by the Post Office every
Saturday afternoon to get my 25 cents from*

and having him all to myself.

Landmarks in Tracy City which I remember are The Company Store, a grocery and dry goods store established and run by TCI for its employees; the Depot; Shook School; Dixie Theater; the Courthouse, all of which are now gone; and Henry Flury and Sons Grocery and Dutch Maid Bakery, both of which are still in business.

I earned my B.S. in Music Education from Tennessee Tech in 1956. Also in 1956 I married Morris Waddell Roberts whose father, James Waddell, had been the minister at the First Methodist Church in Tracy at two different times during our childhood. See entry for *Roberts, James Waddell*. Morris and I met the first time when we were seven years old, in the second grade.

When we married we moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho and lived there four years. Our first child, Diana Carol, was born in 1959. In 1960, we moved to Atlanta for Morris to attend graduate school. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Georgia Tech. In 1964 our second child, Karen Dawn, was born.

Morris chose the field of university education and has been a full professor in the Computer and Informational Science Departments at Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University. Currently he works in continuing education at Kennesaw State.

Our children completed elementary and secondary schools in Atlanta. During their childhood years we made frequent trips to Tracy City to visit family; because of these close contacts, this town and area have always been an important part of our children's lives and have given them a strong sense of family ties.

After our parents' deaths I bought my brothers' and sisters' part of the home which our parents had willed to us, and have now made it my home. Both of our children have lived in this home for some period during their adult lives.

Diana earned her B.S. in Psychology at Georgia Tech and an M.A. in Linguistics at Cornell University. She is currently living in California's San Francisco area.

Karen earned her B.A. in Modern Dance at North Carolina School of the Arts. She and her husband, Christopher Edward Myers of Tracy City, and their children, Lydia Paige and Kenneth Waddell, live in Sevierville, TN.

Index:

Kilgore, Clarence E., Sr.
Kilgore, Theona Anastine Haynes
Myers, Christopher Edward
Myers, Karen Dawn Roberts
Myers, Kenneth Waddell
Myers, Lydia Paige
Roberts, Diana Carol
Roberts, Emma Ruth Kilgore
Roberts, James Waddell
Roberts, Morris Waddell

Henry Flury and Sons Grocery

