

Women of Grundy County - **Minnie Simpson Northcutt**

by

Mona Lee Moore Brittingham

Minnie Simpson was born in Grundy County on May 31, 1878, the daughter of Civil War veteran John Simpson and the former Lydia Clementine Purdom. She was raised in Tracy City and educated at Shook College there. She became a school teacher and in time married a fellow teacher and parttime circuit preacher, Jonathan Davis Northcutt. They had five children. In 1918, J. D. Northcutt fell victim to the influenza epidemic and Minnie became a widow with four living children under the age of twelve. In the following years she managed to raise and educate the children alone, and to maintain an active role in her community and church. She was an early member of the Tracy City Ladies Memorial Cemetery Association, an interdenominational organization whose goal was the preservation of the city cemetery. She also served as treasurer of the Tennessee Crippled Children and was active in child welfare work in Grundy County. Her most impressive achievement may be the fact that at age 62, she ran for public office and was elected as Circuit Court Clerk of Grundy County, a post which she held for twelve years until her retirement. The accompanying newspaper clipping, written on the occasion of a visit to Nashville by Minnie Northcutt for an annual meeting of the Tennessee Circuit Court Clerks, is interesting because the newspaper found her service and retirement to be newsworthy.

Minnie Northcutt was remarkable not only for her ability to overcome the inherent difficulties of raising four children during the war years and the Great Depression without assistance, but also for her energetic career as a social activist, as an advocate for education, and as a popular elected public official, the latter at the twilight age that most women of the time are known to have been content to spend at home.

Jonathan Davis Northcutt

Born	14 June 1875
Married	23 December 1897
Died	2 November 1918
Buried	Tracy City Cemetery

Minnie Nye Simpson

Born	31 May 1878
Married- Jonathan Davis Northcutt	23 December 1897
Died	23 September 1955
Buried	Tracy City Cemetery Grundy County
No. of Children	Five (5)

**Children of Jonathan Davis Northcutt
and Minnie Simpson Northcutt**

Terrell Simpson Northcutt

Born	25 February 1902
Died	21 February 1905
Buried	Tracy City Cemetery Grundy County

Mary Evelyn Northcutt

Born	4 February 1907
Married - James Horace Moore, Sr.	15 October 1925
Married - James Beggs Apperson	8 March 1968
Children	James Horace Moore, Jr. Thomas Davis Moore, Sr.

John Lawson Northcutt

Born 18 November 1910

Married - 18 April 1931
Lucy Catherine Rust

Died 23 March 1991

Buried Hebron Cemetery
Warren County

Children John Lawson Northcutt, II
Jimmie Northcutt

Martha Clematine Northcutt

Born 22 May 1914

Married - 8 June 1935
Auburn King

Children Martha King
Charlotte King
Rosalind King

Frances Alinda Northcutt

Born 7 September 1916

Married - 2 May 1936
Marvin Rhea

Children Marvin Rhea, Jr.
David Rhea
Minnie Evelyn Rhea