

A Family Portrait - In 1976

① James
J. K. White - ^{July} 1846 - ^{July} 1925 (Pa)

My earliest memories are maybe significant, but I know distorted by feelings and ~~misremembered~~ by time. But I remember Pa vividly, his laughing eyes, good humor and gaiter. He was my grandmother's father, Elder J. K. White. Born in Harris County, Pa., in 1846. Moved to Elmore County, Ala. in the 1890's.

He was a Primitive Baptist preacher for many many years. Widely known and loved. "Miss Mattie" - as we all chose to call her, was Pa's fifth wife. She was Mattie Huey, - related to the Resnoke Hueys. She was a "factory hand" in the Tallapoosa mills when they married. I remember she would say things like, "Si, Mr. White, d'rether you have potatoe biscuits or plain?" and "Mr. White, si, I believe I will air the beds and Coverlets to-day". We were wary of Miss Mattie tho, because of her real red hair. We had always been told red headed people, were born with a fiery temper. Not true in her case, as we later learned.

On pretty mornings we could expect Pa. Grandmother would say, "match for Pa, run meet him and hold his hand". His body seem to want to go faster than his feet. She would have his chair ready, with pillows. When asked

if he would like a drink, he usually answered, "yes, right out of the north corner of the well". ~~we~~ had ~~running water in the house~~, but our elders still preferred to drink water from the well on the back porch.

One summer morning Mildred and I were running to catch the street car. We had already heard it clanging up the way. In our hurry, we failed to even look toward Pa's house. He shouted out, "Speak aw, mouth wont." How we laughed. That was the first time I had ever heard an adult use an "ugly" word.

Pa had five wives, but only ~~some~~ ^{son ter} children who lived to adulthood. Grandmother was the oldest. Pa's fourth wife, ~~Lucinda~~ ^{Lucinda}, was Grandmother's favorite. She said they were more like sisters than step-mother and step-daughter.

When Pa died in 1926, it was said, that the funeral procession was the longest any one in that town, had ever seen.

Pa was a soldier in the Civil ^{War} Army. I think he left for the war from Louisiana. Now he is listed, ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ Chambers County's list.

Alice
1865