

William Henry Gladden, son of James Gladden and Sarah Christmas Gladden was married to Tiny Mae Hornsby Nov 18, 1906. Their children were daughter Ollie Mae, twin boys Henry Edmund And William Edward, Harvey Thomas and Charles Clyburn.

William Henry was 7 feet tall an extreme height for that day and time, very slim...dark hair...a good man..hard working.

He was a sharecropper...worked for a land owner that provided an old house for the family to live in. In exchange..William Henry worked the soil planting crops to harvest for each season. He was able in this way to provide for his family as well as make a profit for the landowner.

The winter of 1916 ws bitter cold in Blaney SC. <sup>(P. 100)</sup> The rains had pelted the fields for weeks, without ceasing. To keep his job, William had to produce crops for harvest. That meant getting an early start to prepare the soil for plantng.

During the first weeks of January, William dressed in the warmest clothes he owned and headed out towards the fields...hoping to get an early start on the plowing. Day after day he trudged back and forth...row after row...all day in the cold and rain, most likely with the help of Tiny Mae. At night fall, he came in to the drafty old house. With light flicking from the oil lamp he ate the meal prepared by Tiny Mae.

Before long the weather conditions took their toll. William Henry was gravely ill... soon followed by Tiny Mae. They were both put to bed with pneumonia. Relatives tried to help especially Sarah. Family members that were able took tums trying to assist the family.

The chlidren having overheard the adults talking, understood that their father and mother were dying...but were unable at their young ages to express their fears. They instead crouched down in the background of the dimly lit room and said little.

Soon the families worse fears were realized and William Henry died. He was not even 30 years old yet.

The six year old twins remember seeing the hearse drive into the yard. As the boys scrambled to get under the big old oak tree out front, they watched the hearse back up to the front door. Later, as it pulled out of the yard into the road, the boys run behind and waved goodbye.

William was so tall there not a casket to be found that would fit his length. They went to the state capitol thinking surely an extra long casket could be found. Other surrounding areas were checked also without success. The undertaker had no choice. His legs were broken to make his body fit into the coffin. During the funeral the rains continued as folks huddled together against the cold blowing winds.

The property owner evicted William Henry's family the day after he died. Charlie Hornsby... Tiny Mae's father, came with a horse and buggy to remove the family and their few possessions from the old house. Tiny Mae was too ill to attend the funeral.

She eventually did recover but was destitute. With five children... the youngest a baby, and no means to support her family... she worried about the welfare of her children. Her parents were too old to help her raise them. There was not even enough room at their house for the family to stay.

With no other options, Tiny Mae set about to find places for her children to live. Ollie Mae the oldest and Harvey the third child, were placed in a Methodist oprhanage in Columbia SC. Cousins told Tiny about a childless, older couple named Wooten that wanted to adopt the twins. Mr Wooten and Ms Maggie lived in Blythewood SC and were financially secure farmers.

Mr. Wooten had paperwork for adoption prepared when he visited Tiny. After his promising to treat the boys well and sent them to school, Tiny signed the papers. It was important to her that her children have an education.

When the twins saw Mr Wooten's 1914 Ford drive up to the house and realizing what was about to happen, they ran crying to

Grandpa James Gladden's house begging for help from their grandparents.

Sarah had spent the day with Tiny Mae, helping her prepare for the boys leaving her. Being very close all their lives to Sarah and James Gladden, the twins wanted to stay with them.

Unfortunately, James was disabled. He had been Two-thirds blind since he was forty years old, and unable to work.

Sarah was eight or more years older than James and did crochet and tatting to help support the two of them. They lived at the time in an old one room schoolhouse and cut firewood for the stove from land owned by Sarah's youngest sister Roxie Christmas Rose and her husband Dolphus.

Since Charles was a baby, Tiny Mae kept him and sought unskilled work in Columbia SC..to be able to provide for him. She always had plans to have the children with her again.

Ollie Mae and Harvey were treated very well at the orphanage and Ollie Mae was given piano lessons during those years, however she still missed mama and wanted to go home. Ollie Mae slipped out of the orphanage one evening and run away but later returned before she was missed.

She did adjust and was taught to cook, can, sew and later became a sharp competitor for the visiting collage debating teams in the area. She also felt the desire to do Mission work after becoming a Christian but lacked the education needed for the mission fields.

After Ollie Mae's death, her children found in her belongings, a small piece of jagged wood taped to a piece of paper. On the paper these words, by a nine year old were written: *piece of wood off the house where we lived when Papa died 1916 - Feb 2.*

This small piece of wood had been kept by her all these years.

The twins were put to work on Mr Wooten and Ms Maggie's farm, working in the fields from sun up each morning. They came in to Ms Maggie's hot biscuits, syrup and thick slices of fried bacon for breakfast.

Ms Maggie packed them biscuit and bacon sandwiches in a lard bucket to take to school for lunch. Being young hard working field hands with large appetites, they usually had eaten their lunch before arriving at the little one room schoolhouse. The several mile walk to school while smelling the biscuits and bacon was too much to resist.

Years later... the twins with families of their own, returned to visit the Wooten couple and continued to visit them often until the couples death.

The twins had each other but they longed to find mama. They dreamed and planned of running away and made several attempts but were found and returned to Mr Wooten's farm. After a few years they again run away. Mr Wooten this time made no attempt to find them.

They trudged down the railroad tracts for hours until they come upon an old farmhouse with a light in the window. The farmer let them sleep in the barn that night and gave them food to eat.

The following day the farmer directed them to another farmer down the way that might be able to hire them. The farmer did give them work for their keep and later helped them get jobs at the cotton mill..At the age of twelve.. they earned the first money they'd ever had.

Tiny Mae meanwhile, had been struggling to make a living and take care of Charles.

While working in Columbia she met a soldier...Ream Saucer, stationed at Fort Jackson SC. She later married him. In 1918, the war being over, they moved to Rockingham NC.

About 1920 or 1921, they arrived in Jacksonville Florida, the hometown of her husband. The twins in 1923 knowing mamas whereabouts, made their way to Florida. They were in their early teens by now and happy to be going home to mama again. A year later Ollie Mae and Harvey arrived and once again joined the family.

William Henry and Tiny Mae's children raised families of their own and made successful lives for themselves. Throughout thier lives they maintained close relationships with each other and with thier mama.

They've all gone on to meet their Savior and to be reunited with William Henry. At last...the family is together again...now in their Heavenly home.

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