

Biographical Sketch of William O. Daugherty

By Timothy L. Daugherty

William Orion¹ Daugherty was born June 29, 1881 on Bee Ridge in Putnam County, WV. He died June 25, 1963. He was the second child of John Daugherty (1851 – 1926) and Phoebe Jane Coulter (1860 – 1886). Will (as he was called) attended the common schools of Putnam County². He would take up farming as his primary means of employment. He often engaged in other means of employment that included timbering, stone masonry, contracting for road and bridge building and heavy construction. At the age of four in January of 1886, Will's mother Phoebe died. His father John remarried to Martha L. Garnes (1857 – 1933) of Jackson County. Will would meet and marry Nancy Juanita³ Rayburn (March 11, 1885 – August 4, 1972) daughter of George Oscar Rayburn and Sarah Virginia Johnston Simmons⁴. They were married July 02, 1902 in Putnam County, WV at the home of George O. Rayburn by the Rev. W. H. Beller. Will and Neta made their home on the old Daugherty farm located on Bee Ridge of Putnam County. Will and Neta were members of Walker Chapel Bible Church⁵; Will had been a member for 37 years prior to his death. Will and Neta were active in politics as Republicans and Will often worked as a precinct volunteer at election time. Their children were:

1. Lovel born early in 1903 and died at or near his birth⁶.
2. Marvel Eileen b. December 27, 1903. Married Leo S. Garrison. Died Oct.1986.
3. Ercel May b. May 23, 1905. Married William C. Garrison. Died April of 1989.
4. Delphia Lee b. August 21, 1906. Married J. H. Jividen. Died May 22, 1942.
5. Shirley Evelyn b. June 4, 1908. Not married. Died June 03, 1939.
6. Lawrence Clifford b. July 19, 1909. Married Rhoda Opal Null. Died Nov.1988.
7. Delbert Orion b. November 17, 1911. Not married. Died May 9, 1946.
8. Lester Dennis b. February 22, 1913. Married Maxine V. Bowles.
9. Pheobe Virginia b. December 5, 1915. Married Dayton Jividen. Died 10/14/2006.
10. Inez Theresa born May 15, 1917 died August 12, 1917.
11. Lorena Ernestine born April 9, 1920. Married Charles Hinzman. Died Jan. 2001.
12. William Warren born March 23, 1922. Married Margaret M. Oldaker.
13. Dorothy Juanita born June 01, 1924. Married Thomas Hartley.

Will Daugherty was a well respected member of his community and church. Will and Neta are buried in the Walker Chapel Bible Church cemetery Putnam County, WV.

¹ Was pronounced as Oren

² A log schoolhouse on Spring Branch Creek of the Daugherty family farm, known as Daugherty School.

³ Nancy was born Nanny Waneta. She legally changed her name later in life. She was known as Neta.

⁴ Sarah Virginia Johnston was the daughter of Oscar Fitzalan Johnston and Elizabeth French. She was first married to Jesse N. Simmons who died. She remarried to George O. Rayburn.

⁵ Formerly Walker Chapel Methodist Church.

⁶ The first child according to family tradition was a boy who died at birth or very soon after. He was supposedly named Lovel or John Lovel. Nancy had an uncle named Lovel Rayburn who this child may have been named after. The 1910 census supports this tradition. Nancy states then that she was the mother of six children of whom five were living in 1910. The five living are listed as two through six above. One other child was still born; the date of this birth is unknown.