

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

WILLIAM FRANKLIN UNDERWOOD

This, Aug 28th. 1961 Pocatello Idaho.  
 I William.Franklin.Underwood. Born April 15th  
 1885.Do here by to the best of my memory.  
 began the history of my life.up untill the  
 presant time.I was Born in Christan County .  
 Kentucky. on a Farm about Tenn miles from.  
 Hopkinsville.K.Y. which is the County seat of  
 Christan County.on Uncle Jim,Underwood,s.Farm.  
 Tho not very much Relation too me.but might say  
 A chip off the same block.  
 I lived there as meny as Thirteen years of my  
 life.but not One year just after the other.  
 I am just stateing this as a starteing off point  
 As where I was Born.for I had a Brother that  
 was Born June 26th.1880.and a Sister Born.  
 September 18th.1892.before me in our Family.  
 But I will get to that part of it a little  
 lator on.as some time in the late Sixties.or  
 or the early Seventies.my Father had Married.  
 A Girl by the name of Alas Fuller.  
 and they had One Child Laura Allas Undrewood.  
 and a while after that his Wife died.and that  
 left him with a small Child on his hands.but  
 his Wifes Mother taken it over.then my Father.  
 being a young Man. hansom as they say he was.  
 and in his early Thirties.of corse began to be  
 on the look out for another Wife.he was tall  
 black hair.good looking young Man.so I have been  
 told since I came into this World.here is where  
 I can get started into the Picture again.  
 My Father was Born over in the North Eastern.  
 part of Christen County Kentucky.on what was  
 called Tread Water Creck.and still is as too  
 that.but he drifted over to the Northwestern.  
 part of the County.shortely there he wound up  
 at Uncle Jim Underwood,s.Farm.but very little  
 kin to us.so in the time from what I have herd  
 that it was some where around Two years.that  
 he met Miss Martha Ellen West.Oh.I sopose that  
 they had met by chance a time or too.  
 for the Farm that she was Born and Reard on.  
 Joined Uncle Jims Farm.well I think that they  
 got Married in around the year of Seventy Eight.

Or Seventy Nine. I think that I have herd her say that she got Married when she was Nineteen. she was Born May the Nineth 1861. and my Father . was Born Feb. 29th. 1851. his Birthday came every Four Years. well when they got Married. they moved Too. the Old Ben Lacy place. he and his Wife were Old. and just about Blind and Deaf. Too. so they were sopose to move in there with them. and take care of them the rest of their days. it Joined, Uncle Jims Farm on the West side I cant say just how long that they lived there with Uncle Ben and Aunt Betsy. his Wife. my Brother Tom. was Born there and I had a Sister that was Born there Too. Molly Eller. Underwood. on July 11th. 1882. I learned in time to come after I was Born. that my Father and Mother. was to live there and take care of. them the rest of their Old days. and at their Death the Farm was theirs. So something came up in the corse of a few years. that they moved back too. Uncle Jims place. in the House where I was Born. Tho, that was a big mistake on their part. of it. for when they left them. some one else had to take it over. So Seth Myers and his Wife taken it over the same way and neither one of the old people lived but a few years after they taken the Farm. they were both up in their Eighties then. and Myers got the Farm. Two Hundred and Fifty. Acres of good Land. with lots of good timber on it. worth Tenn Thousand Dollars at that time. so I guess that my Father and Mother. wanted back across the Fence to Uncle Jims place where I was Born. on April the 15th. 1885. down under the Hill at Uncle Jims old Home place. But that was the First year that we ever lived. there at that place. that County. along them days sure did have some fine timber in it for years to come. for I lived there Thirteen years of my life. from the time that I was Born till 1899. we' could have lived there all the while. I never could see why my dad wanted to move around so much. when we could have lived there always if he wanted Too.

We lived there the year of 1885, and the next year 1886, and then moved too Mrs Fords place back on Tread Watter Creek, near Kelly Station, it was. Just a whistle stop at that time, on the L. & N. Rail Road, my Dad, wanted to work on the Section Gang there then, and did, that is where my Brother Lonnie was born, July 11th, 1887, that is where my Dad started too work one cold Frosty Morneing.

with his lunch basket on his arm, and just up the fence from the house. He spied a little Fawn Deer, lyeing in the corner of an old rail fence suning just a little after sun up, and thought that he would fall over on it and catch it, and did, but he wished that he hadent, it cut his hands, and tore his cloths, and he had to come back to the house, to get his hands taped up, that is why lsay that l can remember when l was Eighteen Months Old.

l cant remember eny thing else about the place, except there was a big rock queary just below our house, one of these fine rocks, that they make these whet Stones out of, people would come for Miles around, after them, my Dad taken one too, Uncle Jim, a great big one, for his Shop, when we left there after Lonnie was born in July we moved back to where l was born again that Fall, in 1887, well then we lived there untill the year of 1891, l was Six years old, on the Sixth of March, 1891, my Sister Ethel was Born, then, in the Fall of 1891, we moved from, Uncle Jims place over in the hollow, Two another place of his, over on the Road out from Hopkinsville KY, about Six miles on the Hopkinsville and,

Johnsonmill, Road, this place belong to him also, it was called the old Tilman Russell place, Just Off the Johnsonmill Road, Two miles South of Dogwood Chapel School House, that was sposed to be my First School, Dogwood Chapel School, Hanabel Holt was the Teacher.

that was my First time to be out in the public  
 I had been kept down there in that old Hollow.  
 where I was born, and I didnt seem too like the  
 Public any too well. So, at noon my Brother Tom  
 had to take me home, for I laid on the seat and  
 untill then, so I didnt go to School any more  
 that year, it didnt make any difference  
 wheather you went to School or not, but I better  
 had, for my dad got his self a team, and Wagon.  
 that year, and went to halling stove wood and  
 any thing that he could get a Dollar out of.  
 and Uncle Jim, gave him about Two Hundred old  
 hard oak Trees over there in a field that he  
 wanted them cut out, and me and my Brother Tom,  
 had to cut them up in stove wood sixteen inches  
 long, and split it all up as dad halled it too  
 Town, I had to pull one end of a cross cut saw,  
 and split wood the rest of the year.

beside work in the Truck patches, we didnt have  
 out any crop, except a little corn patch.  
 Hopkinsville, was about Seven miles from there,  
 and he only got One Dollar a load for it,  
 and One load a day, tho he would try and pick up  
 some little something, to get a nother Dollar  
 or so to help out.

Well, in those days, it didnt hardely pay to rais  
 Tobscco, for you couldnt get any thing for it,  
 and it took the year round to rase it, and get it  
 Off to the market.

we have sold it for Fifty Cts, Per Hundred pounds.  
 Well as usel, we moved again just before  
 Christmas, of 1892, Two, Henreta, Armstrongs, place  
 near where we had moved from at Mrs Fords place  
 near Kelly Station, tho we only stade there for  
 just a short while.

my dad sold his Wagon and team, and some time  
 about the middle of Febuary, we moved again,  
 Two, Bee, Underwoods place just across the Creek,  
 Tread, Water, Creek, but I know that we were live in  
 at the Armstrong place, on Christmas, of 1892,  
 for I never will forget, what they did too me on  
 Christmas Eve Night, there, and what I found in

my socks socks the next Morneing. that I had hung up for Santy Clause to put something in. they had. moved them. and hung up some others in their place. and filled them up with something else. but it wasent something that I would like to eat. they were full of old dried Chicken litture. out of the old last years old hens nest. and both of them were full of it. but they were sorry that they did it.

for I taken them by the toe. and slung it all over the house beds and every thing. they tried to make me clean it up. but I wouldent do it.

but we got moved again. and we made a crop of. Tobacco that year of 1893. then I was Eight years. Old. then. we had good land to make our crop of Tobacco on. but we liked to have ever got a season to set it out. it was so dry all Spring. that we. were goeing to plant it in corn but on the . Night of July the Fourth. it just rained a flood. Tobacco is sposed to be sit out in May.

or the First of June. but we got some hands on the Fifth of July. and got it sit out. that Old Tread Water Creek got all over them bottoms.

nearly got over plant beds. but we got enough. plants off of them . to get out our Eight acres. of Tobacco. eny way. but that ground was rich. and we made the best crop of Tobacco that year. that we ever did make. but we couldent get eny. thing for it. as useal. it didnt pay to raise it. we had plenty of time to Fish. that year and a. big Creek too Fish in. but I was most too small todo much Fishing. I never was much of a Fisherman No way. I do rember a few things that happoned.

That year Tho. one thing that my Mother had some Hens setting out there beside the Hen House. and Prat. Long. had Three Old Blue Fox Hounds. and they broke up her setting Hens one Night. and eat all of the Eggs that was under them. and the next day she got an old broken Fruit jar. and beat it up. and mixed it up with some corn. Neal. Doe and had it redy for them when they came back for some more Eggs. but she fed them meal and Glass. and the next evening. they were there.

for some more.

So the next day she didnt beat it so fine and and they came back for it and got it.but they didnt come back eny more.after that so she just took it for granted. that they didnt like corn Meal.and another thing.that me and my Brother. had herd of was Goast.Hants.we called them. so up in an old field about a mile above our house and about a Quarter from our Spring where we got Water.there was an old House that they called. the Old Robin Fuller House.and that old Robin had killed his self in there.years ago. it was horrible looking old place No.fooling. in the day time let alone at Night.so me and my Brother.decided one Night.that we would go up and see if we could see us a Goast.so we told. our Mother that we would go too the Spring. and get some fresh water.so we got our buckets. and took off for the Spring.and started on off up yhe Hill to the old House.way out in a big weed field.and me the little Ape.got a hand full of rocks when we came by the Spring.and I had my . pockets full too,and Tom my Brother,dident know that I had eny rocks at all.so he was in Front going up to the old House.and it was dark and Sprinklin-rain a little.so we eased on up in Front of the Old House.and we could see the old. Stair way in the Hall.all fallen apart.it sure Did look Goasty.we hunkered down in front of the Front Door.to watch for a Goast.we sat there for a.minut or so.and we herd somethingg Breathing. through its nose.and I was hunkered behind Tom. and he whispered to me and sed did you hear that and I sed yes.then we herd it again.much louder that time.so we still sat there and herd it very Ofon.so I decided to find out what was makeing that nois.so I raised up on my Feet but Tom didnt know that l was on my feet and he didnt know. that l had the rocks but l blazed away with one of them.

eny way.and another one all of a suden and it seemed like they rolled all over the old House.and he was right up closte to the front Door of the old Hall way.and l was about six feet behind him. when the First one of them old Sheep began to Jump out.and of corse .when one Sheep goes.all the others will follow.till the last one is out.

he couldnt get up till another one came out on him.and me still throing rocks.but when they allgot out and he got on his feet. and we got the blood wiped off him.he sed there. is your Dam Hants.Well.we took off down the Hill to the Spring.and got our water.

and took off for the house.when we got to the house our Mother and Dad sed.what in the world has.

happoned too you Tom .

Well.Paw.you know that the old people talks about Goast and Hants. and such things.well you sed. that old Robin Fuller House was Hanted.

so we thought that we would go up there and mabe get to see some.

and l guess that we did.for we got right up in the Front Door.and hunkered down to liston to see or hear eny thing.and we could hear something goeing like something strugglin for some time. and we didnt know what it was.

so that little Devel.had some rocks in his pocket and began to through them in there.

and there was about Fifty Sheep came out on me. l couldnt get up untill another one would knock me down again.Bill was behind me.and he got out of the way of them.l didnt know that he had eny rocks in his pockets.so our Dad got a big laf out of it.while our Mother got Brother Tom patch ed up.and got him some cloths that wasent all torn up.

Well that Fall was moveing time again.so my Dad. took off back too our old stomping ground again back to our Grand Mother West place where my Mother was born and reard.

when he came back.he had a wagon and team to. move our things back up there.and we moved in a Log cabin that had been built about Two years. with a side room by the side of it for a kitchen.



I Remember my teacher there too.it was Miss Georgia Wilkins.a red head.it was late in the evening. and she had to hear some of the large Girls. lessons.they were verry hard ones.and she asked and she asked us little kids to be quite so she could get through with it.and we would all be dismist and go home.so I guess that I had forgot about what she sed.when I saw my little Brothers. slate laying over on one of them old benches. with the frame all torn appart. and reached over and drug it over on mine.and. began to put it back together.when she came up behind me and hit me across the back with a little old switch. and never sed a word too me.she made every thing worse than it was.for every one began to laf then even she did her self. but that one was the only one that I ever got in School.not that I didnt deserve deserve another. One.I dont guess. we lived on there through that year and the next. One Too.us kids with our Mothers help. practily made the crops for the next Two years. for our Dad worked at the Saw Mill very much of his time.it was a very big Mill.and we had to have to buy something to eat.and get a few cloths with but my Mother was a better manager in every way than he was.she sure did take the lead in most. every thing around the home not saying that she was bossy.or eny thing like that. my Mother was in good health on up untill the last few years of her life.but the West family wasent a very long life family.but she lived to be the . oldest one of them all. So.long through the years of 1895.and 1896.My. leg was getting better all the time.but I did all the work that I could.and we didnt get to go too School but very little.Through those Two years. for it was crops in the Spring.and Summer.and Fall and of course we only had Five Months of School/ them days.

So that fixed me up for nearly Two years.that is why my leg has a big cavity in it now.

I never did get back to School eny more from the time my Brother had to take me home from Dogwood Chapel.in 1892.

untill 1895.fpr that year of 1894.we lived on . there in the cabin across the field the field . from Grand Maws West place.

untill that Fall.and then we moved just across To where to where her and my Uncle Warner.her Son lived.there with her.while we were liveing there in the cabin.long late in the Fall.we were. eating our supper just about sun down.and there was a big old yellow Bee.flew in under the eve. of the house.and flew around over the table. a time or Two.

and we all seen it.and my Mother sed that it was a news Bee.which I guess that it was.for the very next Morneing.there was a Man came and told us Grand Mother Underwood was Dead.

right from where we had moved from.she was 95. years Old.that Man.was on his way up their when that Bee was flying around our supper table. for he had to come Horse back.then my Dad,went back the next day with him.

when my Dad got back from his Mothers Funeral.we moved over there in her old place.

Uncle Warners Wife ran off with another man. and left him with Four little Childrien.One a small Baby.and his Mother.my Grand Mother.West.had to keep house for him.and his Four Childrien. she came back.but he told her to get out and stay Out.so she got goeing.

I got started back too School that year again. you might say that was my First one. that year was 1896.we had to walk Three miles . it was at the Old Walkers School House an oldlog House whith slabes sawed off the logs from a saw Mill.with the bark on the under side of it. with big holes bored through them to put round. poles in them for legs.

Well, that coming year, was 1894, I was Nine years old, we had a part of a crop of corn and Tobacco, my Brother Tom was Fourteen then.

We were large enough then to go on with the crop with our Mothers help, and what our Dad could do, when he wasnt workeing in the timber,

or at the Saw Mill, my Uncle George West, my Mother Brother, and Jim, Gambel, had bought a big Saw Mill and had it set up on a big Creek, that run through the place.

there sure were timber Through that part of the Country then, old Vergin Timber.

Well, we had things goeing pretty good, till I went up in the field too where my Brother Tom was,

Flowing, with a Two Horse Plow, so I wanted to plow for a while, Tho, I was a little light for it,

so I plowed on for a round or Two, and when I started to lift the plow around at the corner, I sliped and brused my knee on my left leg just above my knee, and by the next Morneing, my knee was swollen so I couldnt walk on it,

and it had too began to turn purple, all over, and of corse we had no Doctors eny nearer than, Hopkinsville, and they let it run on for about Tenn days before they seen that something had too be done about it,

then my Dad got a Horse from some body, and taken me, to old Dr. Sargent, in Hopkinsville,

But, he came verry near weighting Two long about it the bone was ceacked, and White swelling had set in,

and believe me, I liked too have lost my leg, I was on a crutch for Nine Months,

and had to go to the Dr every Two weeks for Nine Months, when it broke, long late in the Fall, I

was climbing out of a deep guly just out in front of the House,

But, I crawled too the Door steps, and my Mother, came Two my rescue, and got it cleaned up and, and drest good, there was a whole plumb around the big leaser, a piece of the bone had came off,

Of the side of the bone about the size of my middle finger.

then when Winter time set in, my Mother and I had another good Job. we went to the Sugar Camp Two, make Mapel Sugar and Syrup. for there was lots of fine Mapel Trees in those Old bottoms and Hill sides. Too, we had more Trees than we could look after, but we went after it with both body and sole. we got Dad to build our big Furnice for us. and put our Kettles in for us, and hall us some Wood to boil our Sugar water with, and to help me cut down enough Poplar Trees about a foot. Through to saw off Three feet long and split it open and it would make Two Trough out of One cut that way, then I would take my sharp ax and chop out a Trough too catch the Sugar water in, which would hold about Two gallon of water. then, we gerneraly had our spiles, we called them alrely made. for the sap too run through, that is the water that runs out of the Tree, we made them out of these old Box elders that grows around fence corners, and Creek banks. that has peth runeing through it, punch out that peth and that will leave a hole for the sap to come out through, leave about Three inches at one end of the spile, round, so that it can be trimed with a pocket knife so it will fit a Three, quater auguar whole, and cut the rest of the spile down to half, and scrape the peth out of the spile on down to the end, and punch out the peth out of the round end of it, the whold thing is about a foot long, it took Two, too a Tree. on the North side of the Tree, over the Trough, we didnt have to go very far eny of the Material that we kneeded around the camp, for it grew right there closte by, well the main thing was to have about Five big Barrels there too put the Sugar water in. when the Trees began to thaw .out, there has to be a Freese before they start to run the sap out the Trees has to began to thaw out, then the sap begins to come out, and lf it is a good spell, it will keep you buisy day and night too.

we have had to get up at mid night too go too.  
 the Sugar camp and carry the water up to keep  
 it from runeing the trough over and wasteing  
 out on the ground. when Mother and I got all the  
 Barr. els full. We. would start the fire under the  
 Kettles. Two. boil the water down to a Syrup.  
 Dip from one to the other. put it all in the middle  
 kettle. dip from the too on each side of the.  
 middle one let it be the biggest one of them all.  
 and after a hared days boiling.  
 about Five Fifty gallon barels. of Sugar water.  
 you have about Five gallons of Syrup. then. we  
 would take that to the house. and we had Two big  
 stove kettles.  
 that we cooked it down in to where it would grain  
 then we would have sausers and cups. to take it  
 up in. one big spoon full to each one. that way  
 we could tell more about how to sell it. Tenn.  
 cents a cake. or Three for a Quarter.  
 Well. Five barniels of Sugar water. made about.  
 Twelve Pounds of Sugar.  
 and the Three cakes. Weighed One pound. the way .  
 that we doped it out of the kettles.  
 Well if we could get a good long Winter. and good  
 Freezes and thaws. we could make a Hundred Dollars  
 in one Winter. Through. December. January. Febury.  
 we some time got a light spell the First of March  
 But. we couldent make Sugar out of it.  
 for it wouldent grain when the sap begans Two.  
 rise. but we made Syrup out of it.  
 Well. it was time for us too move again. we moved.  
 just up the Creek. from Grandmaws. place to where I  
 was born. to Uncle Jim Undrewoods place just about  
 a half mile from Grand Maws .place. down the  
 Creek. my Dad decided that he wanted to make  
 another crop of corn and Tobacco.  
 and Uncle Jim was always glad to get us back there  
 I was always glad to get back there for it sure  
 did seem just like home to me. and all the rest  
 of us all. it was a pretty old log house. with a

Wide Poarch around both Fronts, and a big kitchen at the back side, and a big green yard, with a big Hickory Nut Tree that bore Nuts every year, and a big Walnut Tree just over the yard fence, and a good Orched, with all kinds of good fruit in it, and a big Spring just across the Creek, in front of the House, right at the foot of a big Bluff right down from Uncle Jims big Two Story House on top of the Hill,

and a big Tobacco Barn, and a good well, pump on it, and a wash House and another big Sugar, Camp with plenty of fine Sugar Trees, and a big Furnice with a shed over it, too boil the watter under, so my Mother and I, had a good job there, for the next two Winters,

but then my leg had got back in good shape then and it didnt bother me very much then, it had been Two years and it was just about well didnt bother me but very little,

so we went to School still at the same place, Walkers School House, but the old one, had burned down some time in the Winter, and Mrs. Ella, Walker, was the teacher, for the next, School, so she Taught it in a big room there at her Home, out on the main road that run through their Farm, it was just a mile and a half from our house,

they built a new one for the next School, but, they built it just above the old one that burned down, but we didnt care much about that, for we knew that we didnt have but one more, there no way, it was about a mile and a half, father for us,

we knew that we didnt have but one more School in that Distric, eny way, but them years that I spent through them old hills and hollos, was the happiest days of my life,

There was Eva, Maud, and Carry, Underwood, Uncle, and Aunt Harret, Three Daughters, all from Six, Teen, to Twenty years of age, and we all went, Togather, we would come Home from School in the late after noon, and look over our house, on them

old Hills in late afternoon, and the sun would be shineing on the leaves of all Collers, and it was so Beautiful we sure did hate to come over there on the last day of School, we would all go On the rest of the way home crying.

I often think of the happy days that I had there, on my old birth place, and just in site of my Grand Mother West old place that I had lived on except about Four years of the time untill I was Thirteen years old.

and of the meny things that happoned too me on both places, it all started when I hurt my leg, in 1894, the most of my troubls started on my Grandmaws place, for one thing.

I was up at the Tobacco Barn one evening and there was a spring wagon with Three men and Two women in it, Jipses, in it, they had left the main roade about Two miles from our place, to make a short, cut across the vally to get in the other road that led to the Kirkmensville, Road that would take them too Kirkmensville Kentucky.

and when they started across the Creek down there By our stables, when they started out of it, goeing up the bank, which was very steep, their Bolster pin broke, and the team went on out on the bank with the front end of their old wagon, and left them all sitting in the water.

so I had to see what it was all about, and I took off down through the field like a Jack Rabbet, and hit my left foot against a sharp rock,

and put a whole just behind the heel, that I could have put my thum in, my Mother had to get some Sut, out of the old Chimney to bind it up/ in to keep it from bleeding me to death, and then, and then, another time, I jumped out of an old wagon bed, and stuck a Eight penny nail through my foot, between my big toe and one next to it, and my Brother pulled it out,

it very near gave me lock jaw, than my Dad bought me a little Ax, to cut wood with,

and he bought me a new pair of Boots, at the same time, and he and I were cuting some wood down there

below the house.and I split my big toe open on my left foot.I hated more! so about the boot. than I did the toe.

then my Brother got hold of a piece of plug. Tobacco.some way from our Dad.stold it I guess. and he and I were down at the stables feeding the stock that evening.and he taken a little piece in his mouth and cut me off a piece about twice that big.and gave it to me. and I went to chewing away on it like he was. and the next thing that I knew.they were drageing me out of the hay loft.

getting me to the house and to bed.I have . since thought about Dagwood.since he came in. Too.the Funnies.he comes out at the little end of the Horn every time.so I think that I should have got in them with him.

I.remember one day my Dad and I were plowing . corn up in a field above the house.and they were very long rows.and it was getting along clost to noon.and I was at the far end of the field. when Mother.rang the dinner Bell for us to come to dinner.

and my Dad was at the end next to the house. and he didnt weight for me to get there.He taken his Mule loose from the plow.and took off for the house.that just suited me.

for I had killed a big old black snake at the end where I was.and I knew that he was scard of snakes.so I got me a piece of hickory bark. and tied it around the old snakes neck.and draged it back to where his plow were setting.and tied it too the bottom of his plow.

and let the old snake lay down in the bottom. of the furry that his plow had made.and covered it up with dirt.so when he went back to the . field.I let him go on ahead of me.so he would get started just before I got there.and he got. his Mule hitched up to the plow.and started him up.and he was standeing on that old snake and the plow pulled it out from the dirt.and he saw



It. and he was jumping all over that plow and.  
turned plow Mule and every thing loose.  
and the Mule ran away .tore loose from the plow  
had gear plow and every thing scateredall over.  
the field. when he finely got his Mule. and got  
every thing back together. he seen that the old  
snake was still tied to the plow. then he knew.  
that I was the one that had put it there.  
after he left for dinner. then he sed.  
what did you do that for. I ought to take a plow  
line and give you a good thrashing. then he began  
to laugh. his self.  
and just stand there and look at that old snake.  
Oh. I guess that I was a little Deval. all right.  
but I wasent mean. or ment to be. as the kids say.  
this day and age. I just did it for kicks.  
Well. as I sed it looks like the most of my  
troubles. was in my younger days of my life. and.  
happoned at my Grand Mothers place. for some time  
after that. my Dad came in the house just after  
dark. and my Mother hadent lit the old lamp yet  
and we had a big old black Cat. and he was lyeing  
in a chair in front of the fire place.  
and my Dad came and started to sit down in the  
in the chair. and he didn see it. but I seen that  
he was goeing to sit down on it. and I pulled it  
out from under him .so he and the cat both went  
over in the floor. him cat and all.  
the floor slanted back quite a bit, being an old  
and he Cat chair and all was piled up in the.  
middle of the floor. my Mother came runeing in the  
kitchen and esd Jim. what in the world happoned.  
he sed that Dam. little Deval pulled the chair out  
from under me when I started to sit down. in it.  
well you didnt see my cat lyeing in it.  
and I didnt want you to mash him. but I got a little  
padleing out of it eny way. But I never did let  
eny thing worry me in the least. I never did worry  
about eny thing in my whole life. and dont untill  
this day. worring makes life unhappy.

of. corse we raised our hogs the most of the. most of the time. and always had a good Cow. but. we had an old Sow. and Pigs. and they kept getting in our corn field. and we couldent find where they were getting in at. so Dad and I watched watched her one day to see where and how she was getting in. we watched her go off up the Hill in to the woods. above the corn field. and take off up the old rail fence .up there. some time or other. some body had cut abig old Poplar Treedown for Saw logs. and it was Hollow at the but up about Tenn feet. up. and they had left that part of it laying there and somebody had built the old rail fence. over it .between two big rocks. and that old Saw was goeing through that big old Poplar log. to get in the corn field. you may think that is a lie. but it is not. my Dad I taken the fence down. and moved the log away. and put the fenc back. where it was. and got the old Sow and pigs out of the corn field. and we thought that we would . watch her and see what she would do. so we went. back up on the hill and climed up on some big rocks to watch her. so in a few minuts we seen her comeing up through the woods. she came on up to the old log. and looked around a little while. and walked through the log. and didnt come out in the corn field. so she made another trip or so. through it and gave it up. my Dad sed to me oh we out smarted her this time. I guess. but we sit there just to watch her for a while eny way. and she walked off up the hill for a few feet .above the fence. and began knaw on a grape vine that ran up a Tree and when she knawed it in too. she taken the end of it in her mouth. and swung off of the hill. over the fence and droped off over in the corn. field. again. now that part of it is a lie. that one about her knawing the grape vine off. and swinging over the fence over in the field.

I lived more years just up the creek from Grand Maws place. than I did at any other place any where. just half mile up the creek at Uncle Jim Underwoods. place where I was born.

I just loved that old place. and do until this. Day. I would give most any thing just to go back there once more and see if there is any thing that was left there by me. that I could say . that I did that years ago.

I. Remember lots of little things that happened . there Tho. I remember when me and my Mother was. going down to Grandmaws.

and we had to go around the fence. at the edge of the woods and there was a lot of Fox dens. along the Bluff.

and a great big old Gray Fox. came up behind us and she picked up a sharpe limestone rock and threw it at that old Fox. and hit it just over eye. and killed it dead on the spot.

that thing acted like it wanted to fight us. and would she sed if she hadent killed it. it was right closte to our house. it was where we fed our Hogs. we let our hogs run in them big woods. there above our house.

and another time I went to the spring just across the creek from our house to get some water .

it was just about sun down . and I seen a great big old Rack Coon sitting there by the spring and I threw a rock at it. and it went in a den there under that old bluff there by the spring. so I got me some big rocks and stped the whole up. but left just enough room for him to come out of. and set a steel trap there. where he couldnt come out of it.

with out steping in the trap. I thought that I . would have him the next morneing.

but I didnt have him. but that day at Twelve O'clock we were all sitting on the front porch. just after eateing our dinner. and we herd the trap fall. and the old Coon yell.

me and my Brother took out over there and he was trying to get back in the den. but we had a Big

hammer back, and it was redy to shoot, then I stuck the gun bariel, through the crack of the fence, and got my sight on the little squirl, and and pulled the triger, and closed my eys about the same time, but she seen it fall off the Tree, and she sed you got him Buva Bill, we went across the fence and there it lay kicking, and we were afraid to pick it up but I got me a stick and picked it up to make sure that it was dead and then picked it up by the tail and started to the houde with it, drageing the old rifel along behind me, my Mother was Washing up at the spring a little awys above the house, and came on out to see what it was that popped out there like a rifal, and met us with therifel and a Squirl with it, how did you know how to shoot that rifel, I sed .I have seen Dad shoot it and I done like he did.

Well, I guess that I was just one more Hill Billy just starteing out, but I never was a bad boy I didnt do eny thing mean, nor what things I did do, I I didnt think that it was funy, I, just did it and that was that, I guess that I was like Pecks bad Boy or something, Huckel Berry Finn I, gues that I was always thinking of some mischief, but not for eny harm in it.

I worked at something around the house all the time, when I wasent out, in the field doeing doeing something, or in School, I helped my Mother in the Sugar camp in the Winter,

at Grand Maws place and Uncle Jims place too, I remember one day, Mother and I was just on our last days for the winter season for makeing Sugar long the last days of Febuary,

when the sap begans to come up, we boiled all the water that we had, and pulled our fire, and taken out our Five Kettles, and got every thing put away, got the kettles put where they wouldent rust, and just that day, the wind blew quite hard, and I sed to my Mother, see that big old dead Hickory Tree standeing up yhere, that thing is, goeing too fall some time and come and come right down here on this Furance,

for it was rotted nearly off at the bottom, and the very next day, it tumbled down on that Furnice

yellow Dog. with us but he was a young Dog. and we didnt much want him to jump on that old big Coon. for he hadent ever saw a Coon before.

but we let him on too him before we taken the chane off the Spoon. or taken the iron pin out of the ground that I had drove down in the ground. to put the chain too.

and that darn Coon whiped that Dog and would have killed Him. if my Brother hadent hit the old Coon in the head with a rock.

and knocked him out a little. but that Dog was good and mad. he got that Coon by the throat

and wouldent turn him loose till he was good and dead. we made a fine Coon and Oposam. Dog out of him. for we went to traneing him roght then.

he wasent but a year and a half old then. but he was a big Dog then. we called him Tige. my Brother.

and me caught lots of Coons and Opposams .

with him through them old hills as long as we.

in them. that Dgg was our best friend. we all

loved old Tige. all Of us. he lived too be .

Fourteen years old. and then somebody poisoned.

Him. there was lots of game there in them old

Hills and Bottomes where I was raised up in.

I never lived out of there but Four years untill

I was Seventeen years old. I guess that I killed

a Million Squirles in all of them old hills .

and that meny rabbits too.

the Squirls would come to that old Hickery nut

Tree there in our yard and cut Hickory Nuts.

the first one that I ever killed was just out.

side our yard. I wasent tall enough to get my Dads

old Rifel out of the rack over the door where

he kept it. had ot had to get a chair to get it.

my little Sister seen it out there. and called

me she sed Buver Bill I see a skurl out there.

get gun and kill him. she was just Three years

old. so I got the old cap and ball rifel off the

rack and draged it on out there .

and she went along with me. I remembered how my

Dad pulled light on the streight on the streight

triger till it clicked. and then pull the

and smashed it all to pieces. it was just a God sent thing that it didnt happon that windy Day before. the Lord was with us no doubt. we went to School that year very little. that. year my Dad got his Thum. and Two fingers shot Off. with a Dymite cap. and he wasent able to do eny thing hardely at all. to amount to eny thing that was the year that they Built the New School House at Walkers School Grounds.

just above the one that burned down. that was my last year there at my old birth place. but we had one more year down the Creek ay Ceands Place. but that was Two more years to come after that. after after that one. I still had lots of time to live in the old bottoms yet.

Uncle Jim and aunt Harret. would have me up there at their house lots of times. that we lived there on their place. for I seemed to be their favoret one of us kids. with them.

Eva. Carrie. Maudie. their Three Daughters. Maud. was. about Seven years older than me. but I would go up there and help her gather up the Eggs in the evenings. they had about Three Hundred Hens. and they would lay all over the place. some time Maud and me would bring in over Three Hundred Eggs in One day. I remember all those things as same as it had been last year.

I. would be up there helpeing do little things picking up apples. or helpeing Uncle Jim make Sider. just eny thing that come handy.

I would began to get tired. or they thought that I was. and they would make Maud and me go and get under the bed on the rug and go to sleep.

then when we came out. she would give us some good old home oven light bread. and honey.

wow. I wish that I could live it all over again.

I lived there clost to Unele Jim White to. and long after I got to be a good size boy. He would come to get me to work for him some by the day. Fifty Cents a day and board.

I would go up there on Sunday evenings. if he wanted me all the week. and stay untill Saturday

Evenings. if he wanted me all the week. and stay  
 untill Saturday evening.  
 he would always go to town on Saturday. and take  
 off the Markentin. and I would work in the field  
 till just about sun down.  
 go to the house and he would give me Three  
 Dollars for my weeks work. then I would go home  
 then my Dad would ask me the First thing if he  
 did he pay you. I would say yes  
 and he would take it all away from me. all the  
 that I done the work for Two years that I worked  
 it was when I could be spaired out of our crop.  
 that I would work for himwell I guess that part  
 of it was all right.  
 for I wasent nothing but a kid. and no where  
 eny where clost to spend eny part of it. my Brother  
 Tom. and me. and Joe White and his Brother Walter.  
 were all born and raised there on Joining Farms.  
 Uncle Jim Underwood. and Tobitha White.  
 were Brother and Sister. we were together every  
 week end. except the years that I was away from  
 them Two other places. untill we were  
 lust about grown Men. we seemed more like Brothers  
 than neighboes. and finely. Joe White. and I got  
 to be Brother. inlaws. he and I never had a cross  
 word in our whold life. eny of us Four.  
 I remember when we lived there at Uncle Jims  
 place. and Grandma was liveing down there on her  
 old place. me and my little Sister.  
 and Brother Lonnie. wanted to go down that evening  
 to play with Uncle Warners Childrien. and we.  
 were way down in the paster where the Horses. were.  
 and we thought that they were in the paster.  
 up above our house. but they wasent. they were up  
 on the Hill . on the other side of the Creek.  
 above our house. and we had just got in about a  
 Hundried yards of the fence between us and Grand  
 maws place. when that old Mair. Dolly. seen us.  
 and they were about half mile up the Creek from  
 us. but I seen her start after us. and I grabed  
 both of them by the hand. and made for the fence.  
 lsd to them. we have got to run for our lives.  
 and I held on to them drug them and half carried  
 to. and just got to the fence. and just threw.

over the fence and just got on top of it. when  
 that old Mair .run up and very near knocked me  
 off the fence. and all the others came up at  
 that time. she had them ears laied back on her  
 neckso flat that it didnt look like she had any  
 ears. and her mouth wes wide open. Women and.  
 Childrien couldent go in to a paster where she  
 was. if I hadent seen them when I did.  
 there would have been Three kids stomped to death  
 there in that field. I wasent goeing to turn them  
 loose. we had been warned to not go through the  
 field where she were. I remember that the last year  
 we lived there at Uncle Jims place.  
 our Old Tige Dog. saved a mans life. one night.  
 it was in the Winter time. and was Snoweing very  
 hard. and it was about a Foot deep then.  
 and this old Man. was Drunk. and had got off the  
 Road. and he got down the hill below our house  
 in the field. and he got down there in the snow.  
 and couldent get up. and it was about Twelve.  
 Oclock in the night.  
 and Old Tige herd him down there in the field.  
 and would go off down there and bark. like he was  
 goring to tare something to pieces.  
 and then come back to the house. as comeing for  
 help. which he was. it woke us allup. and when my  
 Dad went out to see what it was.  
 he taken on back where the man was lying by the  
 fence. that he had came over. and fell and couldent  
 get up again. it was way off down there in our  
 field. and when my Dad got up to him. he asked  
 him who he was. and he sed. Tom Word by God.  
 then my Dad knew who he was. he lived way over  
 on the other Road. from the one that he had came  
 off of. he was takeing a short cut  
 but he was takeing a short cut too death. also.  
 we got him to the fire. and got him Thawed out.  
 and got some hot Coffee in him. and then he began  
 to come to. and when he did come too.  
 he wanted to know how come him there. so my Dad  
 told him. him that our old Dog saved his life  
 by letting us know that he was down there.



we kept him there till the next Morneing.and.  
gave him his Breakfast.and he taken on off down  
the Creek towards home.well that was my last.  
year at my old Birth place.

for the next year.1889;l was Fourteen years Old;  
of corse it came moveing time again.but we  
didnt have eny stock then but one old Blue and  
white muley Cow.so we moved so meny times that  
she got so when she saw us loadeing the wagon.  
with Funiture.she would come up behind the wagon  
with a haulter.in her mouth.

all set to be tied behind the wagon.Well. we  
moved just around the Farm.that we were liveing  
on then.to a Farm.joineing the one that we were  
liveing on then.

that was where l was like Cane.saw my Wife.and there  
l knew her.and that is the truth.for she is the  
Mother Childrien.we were both quite young of corse  
but love hit us both at first site.

and never failed in either one of us.never in  
the years to come.the first time that we saw each  
other.she came in too the house where l had  
just moved in too.and l was sitting on the foot  
of the bed.playing the Fiddle.

but of corse we seen each other very near every  
Day.but of corse we didnt get very serious  
about it.for we knew that we had a year to be.  
together.and we did just that.we went to School  
that year together.or what time l could take out  
of the crop.but l got to go quite a bit.

and of corse we went too and Fro together.  
in that way.we were together quite a lot.we had  
we had lots of fun goeing to Church.

and diffrient places .Parties.and such like.  
we enjoied the wear Through to the last.there.  
wasnt so meny things that happoned too me that  
yeantho.l had to help clear up some New land  
that Winter.too have enough good land for us all.  
to make a crop on.and it was just across the fence  
from the field that l had worked in the year.  
before in.l remember one evening my Mother and l  
were goeing to the field to work.

when we were walking along the road, through the field, a big old Blue Bellied Lizzard, ran up my Mothers dress and stoped right on my Mothers. sholder, and she jurked her blouse off, and I grabed the thing with my hands and threw it off, my Mother and me were the main stake at our. House, in the crops, or very near every thing else. the man that we lived with that year. did quite a lot of halling, that Winter, and the roads were very bad, and when he would get back with his team, they would be a solid cake of mud, and then, us kids got to ride them through the big Pond, to wash the mud off of them. my Brother Tom was still with with us, and that, Winter, it came a big snow, and on Sunday, he and I went Rabbit hunteing, and killed One Hundred, and Four Rabbits, we lived out on the road that year, but wasent eny such a thing as a Pike, eny where near that Cuontry. Mud in the Winter, and dust in the summer, and Fall, we left there early in the Fall, where did we move back too, Grandmaws place agan, back too the old Sugar Camp again, so that year was Ninteen Hundred, I was, Fifteen years old then, but my Dad had bought him another team then, and my Brother had got him a Horse of his own then, my Brother was Twenty years old then, but that year of 1899, was my First year after I got up in my middle, Teens, Two get out of the hills, but now I was, moveing right back in them, I had found me a pretty little Girl Friend, and I didnt intend to loose her if I could help my self, but of corse my Dad, and big Brother, just considered, me yet just a kid which I guess that I was in a way, just being out of the hills for about Nine, Months where I could see the sun come up and go down, I could only see the sun, where I had lived the, most of my life, that is up untill I was Fourteen, years old, but I got back in the old hollow just after School was out in the Fall of 1899, and of corse, our old Blue and White spotted Cow, folloed us on around the fence back to where she thought that there wasent eny other place to go, but it was like I sed before, about our old Sow, getting in our corn field.

when they get a taste of eny thing they are hard to keep out.that was the way it seemed with me with my little Girl friend.for I hadent been. moved back in the hills but Two weeks. till her and her Brother came rideing up on . Saturday. on Saturdat Evening.on his Horse.

Two stay the Night with us.then we got our heads. togatherto see each other as ofton as we could. So.my Two Cousins.that had moved away from where lived just down the road.about a mile and a half from where she lived.so I would go over there to their too **their** House. about twice a Month and stay the Night. with them.then she would tell her folks at home that she was goeing to go down and spend the Night with her Two Girl friends. they were all neighbors and friends and School. mates.No harm.just all of us wanted to be together.

and all of us born right there on joining. farmsof each other.so I could get a Horse once and a while.to go to Church.or some other place. we would see each other at Church along every now and then.we wasent trying to slip eny thing over on our Parent.or eny thing.for we all were the best of friends and neighbors. I guess if there was eny slipeing around done. it was me.for I wanted to be with my Girl friend as much as I could. and I knew that I couldent get a Horse very ofton. so them Two.Girls had to help me out in t9 some. and did.for we were together quite ofton that year.we moved back over there at Grandmaws place early as we could so that we could get.

All.done that we could before Winter set in. for that was goeing to be the last year in the Hills for me,I was sure.my Mother and I had our old Shuger Camp **again** that Winter. and we knew that it would be the last one for us ever in our old Sugar Campes in that old Hollow

We got our old Sugar Trought together, or meny of them as we could find, and I made the rest of them. we had a very good season that Winter. we made a very good crop of corn and Tobacco But, of corse my Dad had his own team again, and he halled the most of the time. after the crop was put out, and my Brother Tom, had his Horse, and he was Twenty years old then.

and had some Girl friends, of corse, and my Mother and I just about had to make the crop. I didnt get to go to School eny that year. at all. that was the year of 1900/I remember dad came home from Town one Evening with a New. Dresser, in the wagon, and me and my Brother taken it out of the crate and taken it in the House. and my Mother sed put it up in the Front Room. and it had Three Drawers in front, and Two little ones at the top one on each side, and of corse my Brother had to pick the one that he wanted. First, and he sed that the one on the bottom, was his, and I sed that the one next too it was mine. that left the <sup>Top</sup> middle one of corse. and my Dad sed that was his, then the top one. so that was that, and there wasent but one Kee. and Tom sed that he wanted it. and I sed sure I dont want eny Kee. I got nothing Two lock up. Dad handed him the Kee, he goes and gets and gets every thing that he had. and puts them all in his bottom Drawer, and locks them up. I sed that I would put my things in mine lator, and Dad put a few of his things in his top Drawer, and then went and got his old Fiddle . and put it in it, and went on off. in a few minuts, Mother sed come and get it. and then they all taken off to the supper table. and I went in and got my old rags, and put them in my drawer, the middle one. I didnt want my Brother to see me put my things in, for when my drawer, was open, he could see that his Kee wouldent do him eny good.

for all that I had to do was pull my drawer out. and see every thing that was in his drawer. then I went on in and sit down at the table with them. I knew that he had a letter in his drawer. that he got from his Girl friend the week before, but I wasnt in eny Hurrah about readeing it. then he would come up to the Dresser . and put the kee in and unlock the drawer. get what he wanted. and lock it right back again. I just let him go on and on to see how long that it would take him. to find out that his kee wasnt eny good to him. he got another letter or Two. and I never did leton that I knew eny thing . more about the Drawer than he did. but I was readeing his letters just after him but one day. he came in. and fooling with the lock and I came in. and sed what are you doeing. and he sed I lost my kee. it had been about Three Months. I sed to him. you havent got eny problums. he sed well how am I goeing to get in my drawer; move I can let you get in it. and I just pulled my drawer out and sit it on a chair. and sed now you can get in your drawer.

and get out what you want cant you. well he was so beat out with his self. he couldnt say eny thing for Five minuts. what a fool that I have been. I bet that you have red my letters. I sed you should taken the top drawer Tom, well we went on through that year .made a very good crop of corn and tobacco. my Brother and me never did fight each other. he would let me have his Horseonce in a while. but I didnt have much use for a Horseupp untill the next year. for where I went it wasnt to far that I couldnt walk .and then getthere before some of them. could get there on a Horse. I was rideing a little

Mule. my Dad had bought from a Doctor. or traded for it rather. that year. I had been over to my Uncles over on the main road. I rode him in the creek after I gor over in the hills. goeing on up the hollow where I lived. and he. droped his head down to get him a drink of . watter. and I didnt have a saddle on him. and it just about sun down. and just above us was a

Bluff.of rocks and big timber.and there lay on.  
a big muddy rock.a big old Catymount.that is a  
Herald Cat.only about as big again as the she

Ones. that darn thing just raised up and  
Screamed.you could have herd it a Mile.  
and that blasted Mule.went out from under me just  
ilke an Eal.but I held on to the bridle reins.  
I cant see why he didnt see it when he stoped  
in the water,or why I didnt a thing as bit as  
was.but I guess that me and the Mule made so.  
much noise it scarde it off.

over the Hill.there was lots of wild animols .  
Through that part of the country them days.  
Wild Hogs.lots of them.Deer a plenty..  
just a shotr while before we moved out from there  
that year.I was comeing home one Night fromover  
from my Uncles.over on the main road.and when I  
came in to the woods.and started up the creek.  
bottom .I herd something scream just like a woman.  
but it seemed to be quite far away.

but the horse that I was rideing.got so nervos.  
and scard I couldnt hardely hold him.he was my  
Dads Horse.a Ball face,and stocking legged.  
just Five years old,

he kept getting more scard the father we went.  
and when I got to the creek.where the Mule.  
jumped from under me.the Dam thing screamed again  
right over that Bluff just in front of me.

it sure was traveling fast.for the first time I  
herd it.it was way over in the next hollow.a  
mile or more from me.but that Horse knew that it  
was folling us.I guess that he could smell it.  
but when that thing screamed that time.

that Horse liked too have went wild.I was about  
a mile below our old Sugar Camo then.and about  
Two miles from Home.but when I got about Two  
Hundred yards above our Sugar Camp.that thing had  
cut me off.and came out off the hill and cposed  
the creek.just in front of me.

had me cut off the road on toards Home.

Well. that was the scariest thing that I have ever seen up till this day. any where that I have ever been. I thought that Horse would go stark. Mad. he fought at that thing. with both front feet it was a Black Panther. and it was standeing on its hind legs and just such screams you never herd. I was so scard that I forgot about haveing my Brothres Gun on me. it came on me so suden. but I didnt know that I was goeing to stay on that Horse, or not. I had to get that gun some way. and finly got hold of it. and that Horse was

was standeing on his hind feet fighting at that thing. well. I got the gun pointed some where . near towards it or the best that I could. for it was dark. but I pulled the triger. and that thing screamed again. well that Horse there. wasent any kneed to try to hold him then. for he his chin against his breast. and took off up the creek. it was dark. and the road was rough. I was afrade that he would fall. for it was so rough and narrow from there to the House. but I was glad to get away from that thing.

every time he would hit the ground. he would snort and when I rode up to the lot gate.

I didnt know wheather to get down or not. but I had too. I couldent get the gaiter open without getting down. but my Big old Tige Dig came down to me then. I put the Horse in the stable.

and he just kept blowing. and snotreing. and my Dad asked me what was . the matter with that.

Horse. and I told him. and he went down to the stable. and went in to see if he could quite him down some. when he came back to the house. he ask where the shot came from. so I had to tell him that I had a gun. but it was my Brothers gun. which it was. but I expect that gun was what saved my life that Night. it had been seen a time or Two. before that Night. a coon hunter seen it one night around Two oclock in the Morneing. it circled around him Three times he told me.