

## Families Reflect After Tragic Events

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Sometimes it takes a catastrophic event, such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11, to make us reflect on the importance of family. For most people, smaller tragic events will do.

Post tragedy, some people choose to make life-altering decisions, such as to marry, divorce, have children, or move. A recent news report states that hospital nurseries are starting to fill up across the country. (Check your calendar -- it's nine months after September.)

All of this makes genealogy work all the more crucial. A relative recently e-mailed me, "Thank you so much for what you are doing and have done. As we get progressively older, all of this becomes more meaningful."

A small minority of people think genealogy is an invasion of privacy. I believe it is a justified record of our precious past. "Preserving the past... to serve the future" is the byline on the Winchester Genealogy website.

Whether you live in a large metropolitan city that is always a terrorist target, or a rural area that can also be the target of bioterrorism, one thing is for sure, families are all united, now more than ever.

Ninety-nine years from now, when the 100th anniversary of September 11th is marked with small, quiet ceremonies outside state capitols by the grandchildren of those who died, won't it be nice to know that this generation was remembered?

Freedom is not free. Our ancestors knew this and fought for it. Let us never forget.

## Mission Statement

To document and preserve an accurate and complete family history of the descendants of Willoughby and Mary Wallace Winchester for future generations.

Willoughby & Mary  
Direct Descendant Count

# 5,990

October 2001: 5,471



Willoughby "Good" Winchester and June Abercrombie, shortly before their marriage in 1914.

## In Memory of June Elizabeth Abercrombie Winchester 1897 - 2002

At 104 years old, Granny June Winchester proved she was an inspirational matriarchal figure in the Winchester family. Born the daughter of David and Emma Abercrombie on June 26, 1897, she spent most of her 104 years within sight of Six Mile mountain in South Carolina.

An article from the July 2, 1997 issue of the Pickens Sentinel states:

What's her secret? Granny loves people. "People are my pride and joy. I love 'em all, black and white, red and yellow," she says.

And of course her special diet plays a part. "I eat whatever I can get."

At age 17, June married Willoughby "Good" Winchester on August 23, 1914 in Six Mile, South Carolina. They had six children. Good died April 10, 1972. June passed away January 2, 2002 in Six Mile. June was survived by four of her children, eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

I believe Granny June may be the only centurion in the family. She was dedicated to her family and her faith, and she will truly be missed.



June Winchester in 1997.

## On The Ancestor Trail

This column is a regular feature of this newsletter. It features ancestors who are escaping my research. If you have any information regarding these individuals, please contact me.

### ► Nancy GRAVELY

Nancy GRAVELY was born about 1833 in Pickens Co, South Carolina, daughter of John Hensley GRAVELY and Nancy WINCHESTER. Nancy is the 5th of seven children. Her siblings are John Hensley III, Richard C., Joseph, Margaret, James and Waddy.

Nancy married James YOUNGBLOOD who was born about 1831 and died before August 1870. They had 3 children, Margaret (b.1858), John (b.1859 d. before 1870) and Waddy B. (b.1864).

Nancy is shown in the 1870 Pickens County Census as living with her father, brother Waddy, and two of her children, Margaret and Waddy. No evidence of these Youngbloods appears in any area census reports after 1870.

### ► Elizabeth Jane WINCHESTER

Elizabeth Jane WINCHESTER was born January 17, 1854 in Walker County, Alabama, daughter of Willoughby WINCHESTER and Mary Polly PRUETT. She married William Barclay RHEA (1842-1931) in 1888 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Elizabeth died April 10, 1943 and is buried in Herd's Shoals Cemetery.

Elizabeth and William had three children, who are actually the ones I am searching for:

**Bertie** married Lewis Elmer HUMBER.

**Jenny** married Hubert KNIGHT.

**T.M.** (sex unknown) may have married a WINCHESTER.

## Winchester Reunion News

- **Wyoming:** The Winchester tri-annual reunion is scheduled for July 27-29 in Dubois, Wyoming. All relatives and friends are welcome. More information can be obtained by contacting Dolores Haslam at (307) 486-2271.
- **South Carolina:** The annual Winchester reunion is planned for September 15 in Pickens, South Carolina. Contact Doris Winchester at (864) 859-3203 or Helen Dodgens at (864) 878-2026 for more information.

## Will and Hannah Gravelly Experience Birth and Double Deaths Within 2 Months

- Alvin Willoughby GRAVELY 10 Jan 1866 - 17 Apr 1918  
m. Hannah MCKINNEY 10 Aug 1874 - 16 Jan 1969
- i. Rufus Artwell GRAVELY 08 Oct 1897 - 28 Oct 1901
  - ii. George Maurice GRAVELY 16 Nov 1899 - 28 Nov 1901
  - iii. Horace Edward GRAVELY 10 Oct 1901 - 07 Feb 1943
  - iv. William Marvin GRAVELY 31 Dec 1903 - 21 Jan 1995
  - v. Eula Emmalissie GRAVELY 07 Apr 1907 - 13 Jun 1968
  - vi. Thomas Carlisle GRAVELY 14 Nov 1909 - 7 Jun 1989
  - vii. Frances Elizabeth GRAVELY 23 Jun 1915 - 4 Apr 1994

Among the many stories I have read for the upcoming Winchester Family History book, some really stand out. This one is really moving. Willoughby and Hannah Gravelly were blessed with a son in October 1897, then a second son in November 1899, then a third in early October 1901. Three weeks after the birth of their third son, their first son, Rufus, died of a ruptured appendix. Their second son, Maurice, was taken from their home just one month and one day after his older brother died, also due to ruptured appendix.

Willoughby wrote the following expression of faith after losing their second baby:

George Maurice Newton, little son of Alvin W. and Hannah E. Gravelly, was born November 16, 1899 and took his flight to the arms of the Heavenly Father November 28, 1901. He was an unusually bright and lovely child, full of life and merriment, a joy and sunshine to our house. Though not quite 2 years old, he had learned parts of several songs "Happy Day" being his favorite.

Many times at the close of the day though weary of body, we have found comfort and rest in singing and playing until the little fellow would drop off to sleep. We rejoiced to know that he entered the region of eternal life, where it is an everlasting "Happy Day".

Our home is lonely without Maurice here. We are filled with grief. Yet there is so much to soothe our pain. May this dispensation of Providence wean us from earth, and draw us heavenward.

His Papa

### Call of the Big Eastatoe

A big THANK YOU to Dolores Haslam of Crowheart, Wyoming for sending me her copy of the book The Call of the Big Eastatoe by Lilly Winchester Smith.