



Descendants of William Jasper Childers
Family Newsletter
June/July - 2006

This family newsletter is to be a forum for all Childers descendants who desire to contribute information and pictures for the benefit of all. All photos, comments, newspaper articles should be sent to John Childers, 593 W 7th St, Greenfield, IN 46140. They may also be sent by email to JHCLD@AOL.com. Calls at 317-462-6678 are welcome.



Childers Family Reunion. The Childers reunion on 11 June 2006 in Dayton, Ohio was a great success. Everyone enjoyed meeting new relatives and seeing old acquaintances. Attendees came from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Represented were descendants of Mayo Childers Combs, Edna Childers Pendleton, John Childers, Ethel Childers Begley and Carl Childers.

Attendance at the 2006 Jasper Childers Reunion: James and Edith Pendleton, John Childers and daughter Julia Childers, Maggie Childers Oldfield, Paul and Jean Childers Ward, Rosa Childers Debord, w/daughter-in-law Janis Debord and daughters Rachel and Michelle, Sharon Hatton, Marie Fugate Herbst, Tabatha Herbst and KJ Rowson, Tracy Benson, Steve and Mabel Fugate Schott, Stephanie Mumaw and husband Felipe Castillo and children Isabell and Antonio, Sarah Kinser, Burton Engle, Gary and Joyce Engle Staley, George and Margie Combs Stacy and daughter Janet Stacy Gibson, Lannie Begley Jr, Donald Begley, Tim and Jenny Childers, Maria Childers Smink, Wilma Burton, Kathalene and Morty Bilyeu, Debra and James Burke, Sarah J Burton, TJ and Angie Childers, Robert Childers, Earl and Lisa Childers Wagers, Bruce and Elizabeth Begley Warmoth, Bobbie Childers and wife, Judy Begley, Irene Miniard Harris, Michael Wayne and Kimberly Starkley Childers, Sara Childers, Charlie Haws, and Catherine Childers Back. Regrets are extended to any person coming whose name is not listed. A special Thank You to Marie Herbst who made sure that food was ordered and delivered on time, and to all who contributed to the expenses.

Once again, a **BIG THANKS** for all who came to the Reunion and made it a Big SUCCESS.

Send your reunion pictures so that they can be published in the newsletter.

Birthdays for June and July: Tabatha Herbst, John Hatton, Lannie Begley Jr., Mary Childers Hoskins, and Joyce Engle Staley
Happy Birthday and we wish you many more.

Anniversaries: Avon Pratt and Ola Faye Fugate Pratt
Congratulations

Thought of the Month- George Moore (1852-1933) Irish writer
A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

Let's get familiar with our Childers family: In this newsletter, we will continue to feature the children of William Jasper Childers:

Ethel C. Childers was the fifth child and fourth daughter. She was born 11 April 1898 and died 3 March 1969 at the age of 70 in Hazard, Perry County, KY. She is buried in the Childers Family Cemetery on Lost Creek Road in Perry Co., KY with her husband, Finley F. Begley. Finley died 16 August 1969 at 79. She married Finley Begley on 26 February 1921 as shown by the marriage license and certificate:

Commonwealth of Kentucky marriage license dated February 12, 1921 in Perry County. Full names of parties given as Finley Begley and Ethel Childers. Age of husband: 29 years and single. Age of wife: 22 years and single. Husband's place of birth: Confluence, Leslie County, Kentucky. Wife's place of birth: Staub, Perry County, Kentucky. Name of husband's parents: William Begley and Cordella Begley. Name of Wife's parents: Jasper Childers and Georgiana Childers. Occupation of husband: teacher. Signed by Finley Begley and Ethel Childers.

Commonwealth of Kentucky marriage certificate dated February 26, 1921. Performed by Elijah Harvey of the Regular Baptist church at Staub, Perry County, Kentucky and witnessed by Mayo Combs and Jasper Childers.

Finley Begley was a school teacher who married Ethel Childers who became a teacher. Their son, Finley Begley also became a school teacher and school superintendent in Perry County, KY.

Finley and Ethel's had two children:

Lannie W. Begley married Cleda Mae Childers and died in the US Army at Ft Lewis, Washington. Lannie was an adopted child.

Finley F. Begley Jr. lives in Hazard, KY with his wife Geneva Baker. Finley is a retired from the teaching profession and owns Real Estate Company.



Ethel and Finley

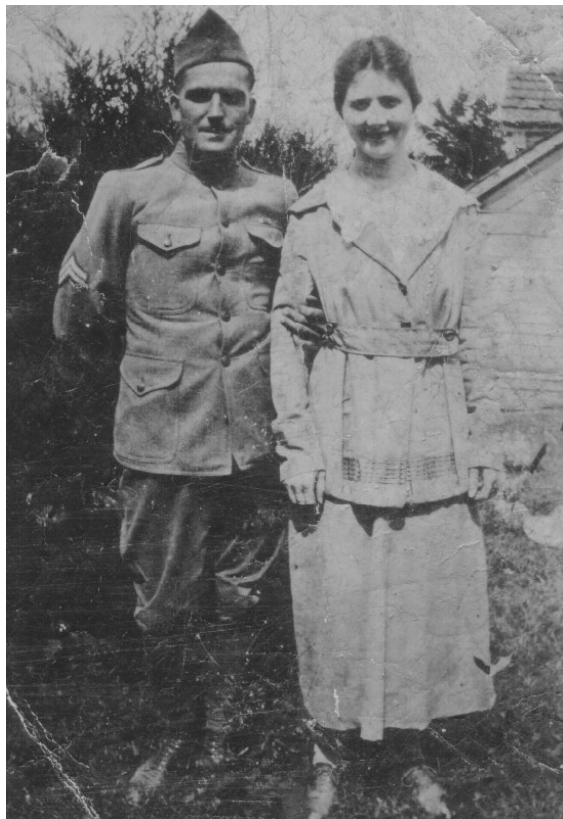


Finley Sr, Finley Jr
Ethel



Ethel, Finley Jr, Lannie

Photos of Edith and her family



Cousin Porter Pence and Edith



2nd from left – Findley Sr.



Lannie Begley



Lannie



Finley Begley Jr.

Mountain Memories

In the early fifties, while living in Wolfe County, KY, on Bear Pen Road, on my great-grandfather James Little's farm, tobacco was one of the main cash crops. It was a labor intensive crop. On a farm without modern power equipment all work was done by hand.

Late winter the tobacco bed was prepared by piling up all the brush from cleared fields, and burning it on the spot where the bed was to be planted. The burning wood provided nutrition and killed the weed seeds. The tobacco seeds were then planted, and the bed covered with a gauze type material to protect the young plants. At planting time when the plants were about 4 to 6 inches tall, the gauze material would be removed, the bed watered, and the plants pulled gently from the ground.

Planting the young tobacco plants was a two man back-breaking job. One carried a tobacco planter, which was similar to a corn planter. It was two pieces of wood joined together with a metal chute on one side, and a water container on the other. It was "jobbed" into the ground, a tobacco plant was placed in the chute, and when the planter was opened, the plant was placed in the ground with a dose of water. This continued until the row was done, or the planter ran out of water. One of the men usually went back over the row pushing dirt up around the new plants.



The growing season in hot July and August allowed the boys who were normally out of school to participate in keeping the crop free of weeds by hoeing. They also helped "sucker" and free the tobacco plants of tobacco worms (a fat green worm). As a young child I was afraid of the worms, but the older children would pick and crush them between their fingers. Tobacco grows on a single stalk, but additional growths (suckers) form at the joints of the main plant and must be pinched off to allow all the nutrients to reach the main plant. When the plants in the fields have matured, the bloom is broken out (topped) as well as some of the top leaves. This allows the tobacco to put all its growth into larger and better quality leaves. The tobacco leaves at this stage would be very gummy, and leave a hard to remove black gummy residue on hands and shirts.



Around Labor Day, the tobacco leaves will begin to turn yellow. On a dry day, when rain is not expected, a tobacco knife is used to cut the plant down at the base. The plant is then impaled upon a tobacco stick (about 3 or 4 feet long) stuck in the ground, with a sharp metal cone on the end. About 5 or six plants are placed on the stick; the cone goes through the middle of the stalk about six inches from the base. The harvested tobacco is left in the field up to a week to continue drying, unless rain is expected.

After spending about a week drying the field, the tobacco sticks with tobacco on them would be loaded on a sled or wagon to take to the barn to be hung. Hanging tobacco sticks was an art. First, you had to climb to the top of the barn, where there was usually a couple of large wasp nests, and it was very hot. Then, while straddling a rail, bend over and grab the sticks that were being handed up and hang them so they spaced properly to prevent house burn. Of course, everyone below was receiving a shower of dust and dirt shaken down on them. Everyone was happy when all the tobacco was in the barn. Curing depends on the weather, but the farmer helps by opening and closing the barn doors and shutters.



When the cooler weather begins it is time to start "stripping" the tobacco plants. Pa Little had a long shed beside his house where the stripping was done. There was a long table that ran the full length of the building. Tobacco was taken from the barn when it had enough moisture absorbed into the leaves so that they would not crumble when handled. The sticks would be stacked at the beginning of the table. Individual stalks would be passed down the table, with each person removing a different part of the plant. One would remove the bottom leaves, another removes the middle, and another the tips or top. Each leaf is used for a different tobacco product. Gloves were needed when stripping a large amount of tobacco, or hands would be covered with a sticky black stain hard to remove. Nicotine poisoning was also a possibility.



The final step during stripping was to bind the leaves by type, by pressing them in a "hand". A "hand" of tobacco was a group of leaves tied into a group by a leaf around the top. It was called a hand because it contained as many leaves as one could hold in their hand and then tie up. The hands were a skill that was seen as important because the presentation of the tobacco was believed to affect price. At the warehouse these hands of tobacco were arranged in a circular presentation on a basket.

The stripped, pressed tobacco would be taken by truck to Winchester or Lexington to be sold at auction. Being a child at the time, I was never given the privilege of witnessing the final results.



As remembered by John H. Childers

Got a Mountain Memory to share with us? Send us you favorite memories, or a picture, a snapshot, old or new. Just a few words about it and we will put it in the Childers Newsletter.



The girl on the right is Lenora Combs, daughter of Mayo Childers About 1922



Pearlie Combs Gayhart with children and husband Irvin Pearlle is oldest daughter of Mayo Childers about 1928

Web Site: For those of you who have access to the internet, a web site to share and display the available information on William Jasper Childers descendents has been established. Eventually, it will contain most of the information and pictures that I have in my database. The web address is: Jasperchildersfamily.com.

My Family History

Welcome to the William Jasper
Childers Family Home Page!

[Home](#)

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This website is dedicated to the known descendants of
William Jasper Childers, born February 1863



[William Jasper Childers](#) was born February 1863, in Flatwood, Wolfe County, Kentucky, and died 26 October 1931, in Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky. He left behind a large extended family now living in many different states. This site is being maintained by his great-grandson John H. Childers. The purpose of the website is to have a place where descendants may contribute information and pictures for the benefit of all.

[Visit my Guest Book](#)

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please send an e-mail to webmaster@johnchildersfamily.com