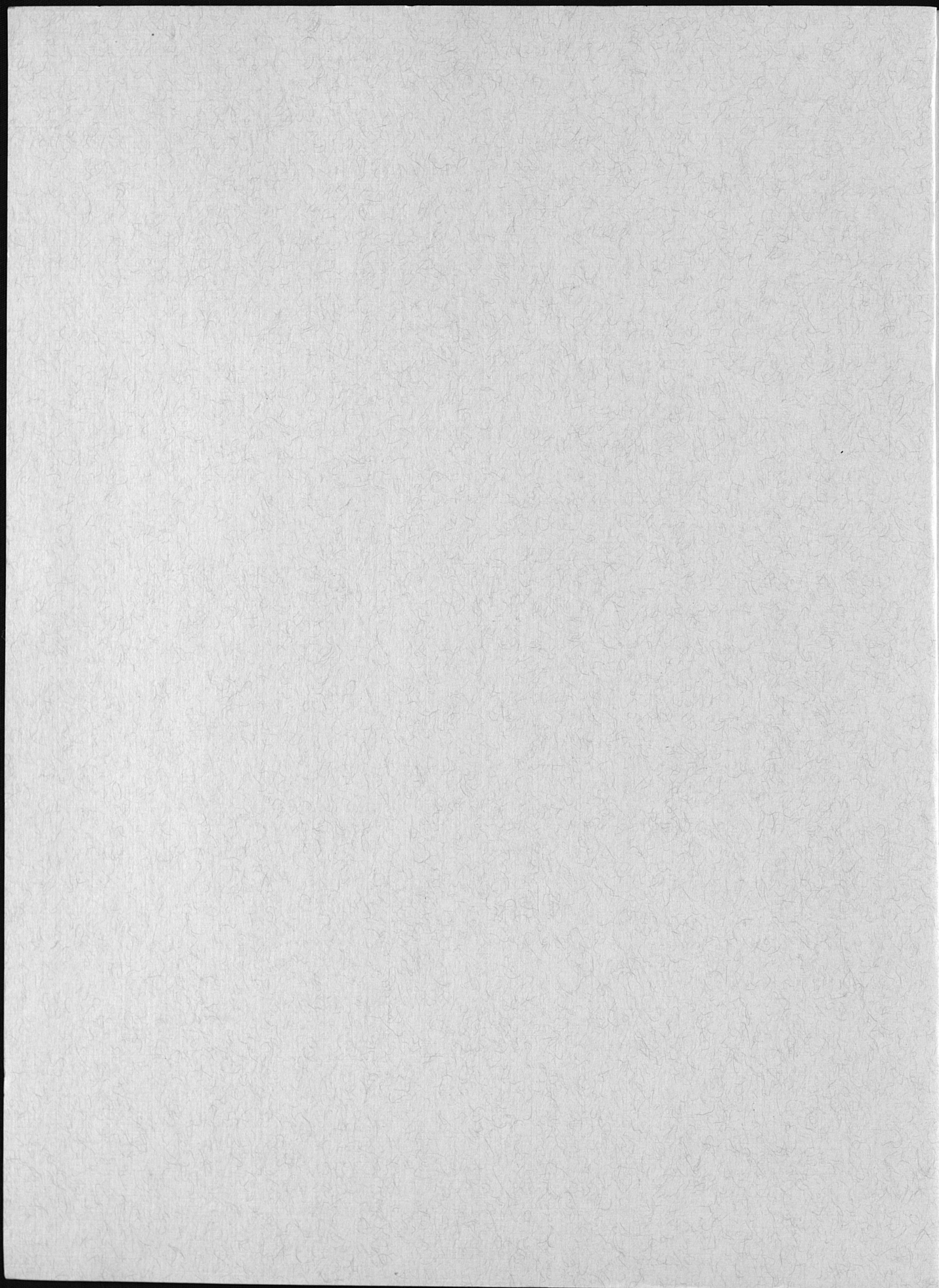


**MEMORIES OF
CANNEL CITY, KENTUCKY**

**Biographical Sketches of
EFFIE KILGORE AND WILLIAM THOMAS
CONGLETON**

1880-1976

by Helen Congleton Breckinridge



MEMORIES OF CANNEL CITY, KENTUCKY

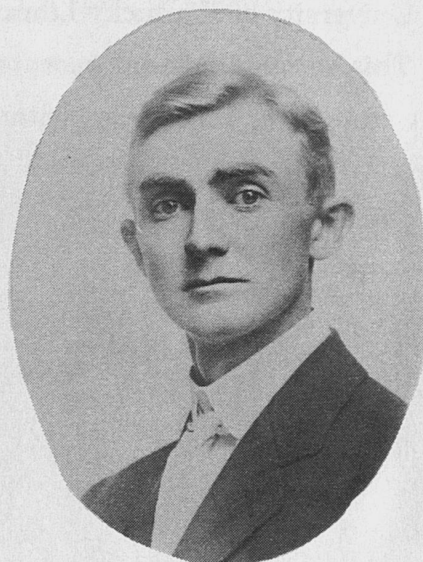
Biographical Sketches of
EFFIE KILGORE AND WILLIAM THOMAS
CONGLETON
1880--1976

"I never expect to live to see the time when I form as close friendships as those we were privileged to enjoy while we were together in the little mining town of Cannel City. The friendships made in our younger days are such that nothing ever takes their place as we grow older."

-- W. T. Congleton

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* Spec. Coll. 3-17-94 Gift Mrs. Helen Breckinridge



EFFIE KILGORE AND WILLIAM THOMAS
CONGLETON

(1880--1976)

(1880--1949)

Effie Kilgore was born in 1880 at the old Reed home in Neal Valley near ¹West Liberty, Kentucky. She lived in Morgan County until 1910 when she married William Thomas Congleton, a native of Powell County, whom she met while both were employed by the Ohio & Kentucky Railway and the Kentucky Block Cannel Coal Company in Cannel City. Three years before their wedding Tom had moved to Lexington, where they would make their home. He died there in 1949 and she in 1976.

Much of the last half of Effie Congleton's long life was spent in genealogical research, which included many family lines emanating from the Morgan County area. Members of her family have pieced together this biographical sketch from her worksheets and memorabilia so that it may be included with her genealogical

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the towns and counties mentioned in the text are located in Kentucky.

library and research microfilms now at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in West Liberty. Original papers are located in the Special Collections Department of the University of Kentucky Library in Lexington.

This encomium to our parents is dedicated to my brother and sister-in-law, Lucien and Jane Reagin Congleton, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their lives together encompass fifty enriching years of applied responsibility to their family and fellowman.

Others who contributed time and effort in helping to gather and properly assemble the material are Dr. Thomas H. Appleton Jr., of the Kentucky Historical Society; Hallie Day Bach Blackburn and Dr. Thomas Edwards Templin of Lexington; Helen Price Stacy, W. Lynn Nickell, and Henrietta McKinney of West Liberty; and Tom and Effie Congleton's grandchildren--Bill, Robert, and Lucia. Their fourth grandchild, David, died in 1987.

In addition, a special note of gratitude is due our young friend Hongqing Xu, without whose computer expertise, patience, and persistence these words would never have made it onto these pages.

Helen Congleton Breckinridge

September 4, 1993

EFFIE KILGORE
in West Liberty, 1880--1903



West Liberty, circa 1910

Courtesy of Helen Price Stacy

Effie Kilgore Congleton was ninety-five years old when she died. During the last years her eyesight was virtually gone, her memory waning, and she was frequently troubled with severe back pain. But at those times when her condition permitted, she would take up a bold marking pen and carefully record fragments of her lingering memories of West Liberty's Neal Valley where she was born:

How dear to my heart...the Old Reed home built by my great-grandfather [Thomas Reed]...hidden in the beautiful valley over the hill...on a slight incline near a bubbling spring, facing the spring...where my grandfather [Ananias Reed] and my mother [Lucy Reed] were born.... There I was born as well as my brother Emmett and sister Mollie.

And the graveyard and orchard just back of the house where my father Elijah Kilgore is buried by the side of two of his infants...and perhaps my mother's first-born baby George [Barber] whose father was killed by lightning.... I recall peeping over a picket enclosure at the decorated graves.

And the old schoolhouse over the hill where I went for the first school years, built on the plot of ground given by my grandfather...where we children brought pieces of broken dishes and gathered moss for our playhouse...under the trees by the school.

Through the years, this land had wonderful neighbors--Neal, Prater, Adams, Kendall, Hazelrigg, Turner, Mays, Wells, Henry, Williams, Barbour, French, Lewis.... I spent lots of nights at Nettie Neal's.

My mother took care of grandfather [Ananias Reed].... I recall only one time I saw him, sitting by the fire.

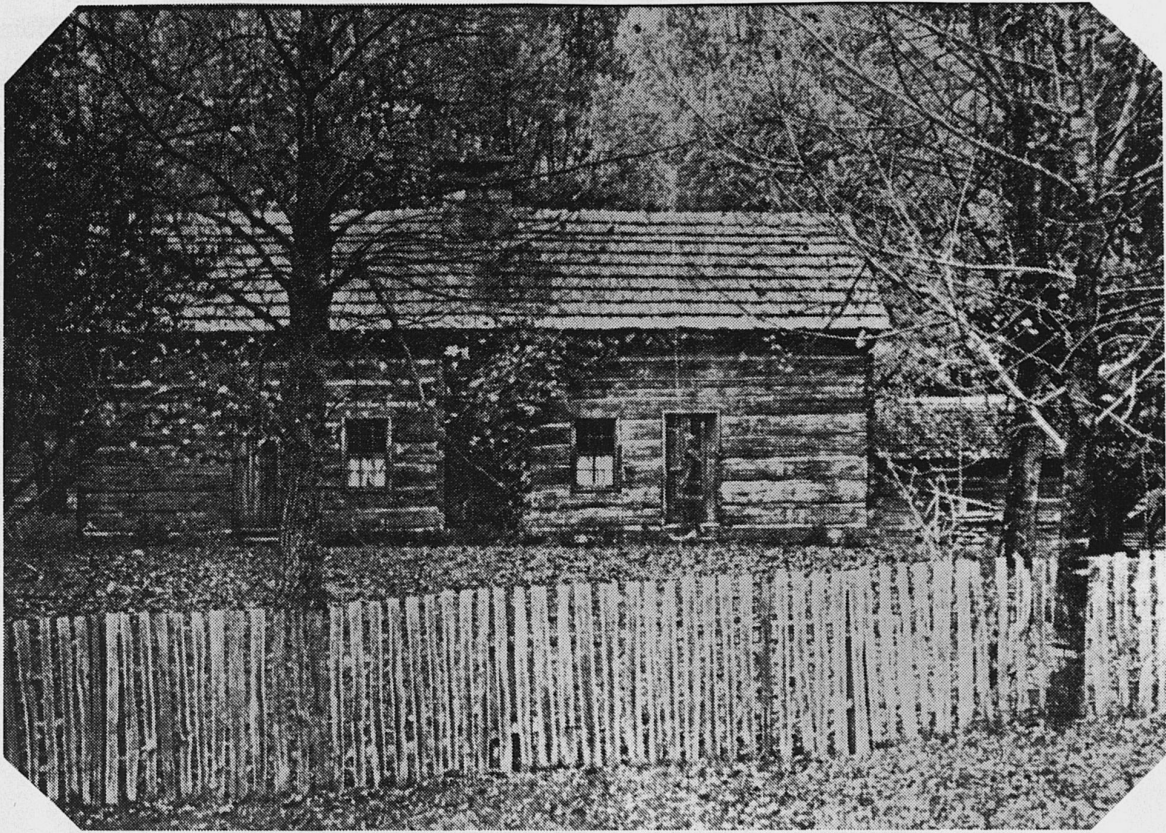
The old Reed home...the spring and the graveyard...only memories, inseparable....

Among Effie Kilgore's papers are articles published in the *Licking Valley Courier* "by our gifted writers Whitt, Stacy and O'Rear," she notes. Bernard Whitt, with a historical perspective, on March 6, 1958, relates that P. K. Neal bought a three-thousand-acre tract there in 1840 and that his name was soon adopted for the entire area. Whitt wrote in 1958 that the spring had been flowing through the valley for a hundred years and was still providing plenty of water for all its residents. He cites "Nias" Reed as among the first settlers. Ananias was born there in a house his father, Thomas Reed, built in 1825.

Judge Edward C. O'Rear, in an April 10, 1958, letter-to-the-editor response to Whitt's article, wrote that he remembered "Nias," and that "Ananias B. Reed was a type--stalwart, quiet, ingenuous--[that was] most highly respected."

Helen Price Stacy, in May 10, 1962, and April 1, 1974, articles, with the pen of an artist described Neal Valley as a scene of "pastoral beauty," and added cameo insets that liven all our senses:

Apple, pear and peach trees...dogwood and redbud...gentle slopes covered with a brilliant springtime green...squares of green, broken here and there with white canvas oblongs, signifying that tobacco beds are seeded and before long the plants will become neat rows in fields.... The creek threads like a curling vine through the valley...cattle graze in the lush green grass...peaceful.... The sounds are those made by birds--and at dusk the croak of frogs.



Courier-Journal by Harold Davis

Unidentified house among Effie Kilgore Congleton's papers with her note: "This old house reminds me of the old Reed home in Neal Valley."

Lucy Reed, mother of Effie Kilgore, was born in 1854 to Ananias Reed and his wife Sarah Cartmell at the old Reed place in Neal Valley, and lived there until after her father died in 1882. She was one of eleven children, four of whom died young.

When Sarah Cartmell Reed died around 1864, seven of her children were living at the Reed home: Mary, 20; George, 17; Cynthia, 16; Thomas Jefferson (Jeff), 14; Lucy, 10; John Milton (Milt), 7; and Ananias, Jr., 4. The daughters began taking turns running their father's household according to their ages or stations in life: first, Mary, until she married Thomas Elam and moved away in 1866; then Cynthia, who married Chambers Adams in 1873 and, in time, also moved; then Lucy, who remained until their father's death.

There being no younger daughter to take over the household responsibilities at the Reed home when Lucy married George Barber in 1875, the bridegroom moved in with the Reed family. Tragically, within a year he was killed by lightning, soon followed by the death of the child Lucy was carrying. Four years later Lucy married Elijah Kilgore. Three of their children were born at the old Reed place: Effie in 1880, Emmett in 1883, and Mary Ann (Mollie) in 1884.

Ananias Reed died in 188²~~8~~, and ownership of the Reed homestead passed to Lucy's only living brother, Milt. The basis for this provision in Ananias' will had come about years earlier when his sons Jeff, Milt, and Ananias, Jr., agreed to help him pay off a mortgage on the home, and in return Ananias promised to bequeath the property to them. By the time Ananias died, Milt was the only one of the three sons surviving.

When Effie Kilgore left the old Reed place in Neal Valley at the age of four, she would never live there again, but would always be a welcome guest at Uncle Milt and Aunt Fanny Reed's, and at the homes of her Neal Valley friends. The ties that continued throughout the years indicate that she spent a great deal of her time there as a girl.



Lucy Reed Kilgore, daughters and niece

¹ EKC papers

Children, clockwise from left: Maude Kilgore, Mollie Kilgore, Nettie Reed, and Emma Kilgore. All are Lucy's daughters except Nettie Reed, who is the daughter of Lucy's brother Milt.

Two years after Ananias Reed died, Lucy and Elijah Kilgore and their three children had moved from the old Reed place to a cabin near the Licking River at

¹ Effie Kilgore Congleton papers.

Mill Branch where Elijah owned and operated a ferryboat. Another daughter, Emma, was born there in 1886. The next summer they moved to a more convenient location in a three-room cabin by the ferry.

Within two months after the move, Elijah Kilgore suffered an intestinal illness and lived only a few days. He was thirty-two years old. For the second time in her life, Lucy was expecting a baby when her husband died suddenly. Four days before Christmas little Maude was born.

Gentle, amiable, undemanding Lucy Reed Kilgore was now facing what would be the most difficult period of her life. In order to provide for her children, she mustered her courage and employed a Mr. Waterman to run the ferry, and supervised the operation herself. She managed it well, and by 1890 was able to purchase--for the sum of one hundred dollars--the cabin where they lived.

Many years later Lucy's daughter Effie wrote to a cousin describing their life there:

When the river was high Grandfather [Elijah's father, John Kilgore] would come from Caney and stay with us and take charge of the boat for Mother. One incident I shall never forget. The river was high and muddy, and someone's urgent need to cross induced Grandfather to brave the current. When in midstream the boat was struck by sawlogs, and we thought it would capsize. But the cables held and he made the shore. It was a terrible moment for us watching from the bank, and, I am sure, for him, too.

I agree with you when you say he was a good man. He was a very quiet person and one who saw no evil and spoke no evil. I doubt if he ever had an enemy--he couldn't have had....

The last time I saw him, we were walking across the street to the hotel in Cannel City, and he told me that he was born in Scott County, Virginia. "Not Scott then," he said, "but Russell."



Effie Kilgore, circa 1892 EKC papers

When the two oldest of Lucy Kilgore's children were of school age, there undoubtedly were problems which made it difficult for them to attend. Whatever the reason, Effie and Emmett at some undetermined date were placed in a Presbyterian home for children at Anchorage, Kentucky, during this period. No particulars about the arrangement are found in Effie's or the school's present records, or remembered by her family. While she never hesitated to speak of having been in the home--and once drove her children around the area trying to locate it when they were on their way to Louisville--her account must have sounded uneventful to them, and they were too young to be attentive. The tintype reproduced above is believed to have been made at this time.

* * * * *

In 1894 a bridge was built across the Licking River at West Liberty, and the ferry's usefulness to travelers came to an end.

Lucy Kilgore immediately sold her property on the Licking River for three hundred dollars and married Alfred Davis of Cannel City, who fifteen years earlier had officiated at her marriage to Elijah Kilgore. Alfred was twenty years older

than she, and his daughter Fanny was the wife of Lucy's brother Milt who had inherited the old Reed place.

Lucy had her brood together again, and she and her four children--ranging in ages from seven to fourteen--moved into Alfred Davis' home. Two years later William Thomas (Tom) Davis was born. The future seemed promising for everyone concerned.

* * * * *

With the exception of her grandfather John Kilgore, who helped her mother with the ferryboat, Effie had little opportunity to know her father's kin during her childhood. She writes, "South Fork--where they lived--was a long way from Neal Valley. I don't remember that I ever knew much about my father's side of the family until about the time I was grown, when Aunt Sarilda, Aunt Elizabeth, and Uncle Paschal moved down near West Liberty."

After they became more accessible, Effie grew very fond of Uncle Paschal--her father's only brother--and his wife. Many years later Effie would often mention him to her own children, how he had helped her during that crucial period. "I always felt at home at Uncle Paschal's--they were my second parents and made it possible for me to continue my schooling." And about her other Kilgore kin:

While I was in school and teaching they were all so good to me. Aunt Cynthia took good care of me when I taught there. She was a dear--her smiling eyes. I was at Aunt Margaret's when little Nora died and when Price married. I thought Uncle George was the nicest uncle because he helped Aunt Margaret get breakfast.

I spent a week at Aunt Susan McGuire's when she lived beyond White Oak, and had a wonderful time. A beautiful McGuire girl was visiting them. She played the organ and sang. Aunt Susan's children would come to see us. [When I was researching our family lines] she was an inspiration, and I took notes from her wonderful memory. She told me several things I wanted to know. If I could have been with her more....



Jones Creek School

EKC papers

Standing at left, Effie Kilgore, teacher, with students and visitors on exhibition day, 1901.

Early in 1901 Effie Kilgore and her brother Emmett had completed a term at the Hazel Green Academy in Wolfe County. A fragile, yellowed receipt book found among her memorabilia had been used for her schoolmates' farewell good wishes. Names and initials still decipherable are:

K. P. N., Kels, S. G. Sample, Mattie Cope, Falay Long, James Rose, Myrtle Ringo, Callie, K. P. Nickell, J. O. P., Lille S., Dora, Lillie Rose, Lula Mae Evans, J. B. R., A. Wheeler, Smith Adams, Mae Nickell, Wm. H. Haney, Ollie Belle Swango, S. H. Kash, Julia Nickell, Madge, Graham Amner, Adie, D. H. Arnett, and Ezekiel.

A sampling of the poetic effort of the day produces those familiar bits of cheery affection or pithy wisdom which were once widely accepted for such leave-takings:

Remember well and bear in mind, a handsome man is hard to find,
And when you find one kind and true, marry him if he asks you to.

May your voyage through life be as happy and free
As the dancing waves on the deep blue sea.

While all alone at Graham Annex, room number four,
Consider me as your true friend forever more.

And from her brother Emmett:

May all that is sweetest and brightest in life be thine.
Be happy, God's blessings attend thee, is ever my wish and prayer.

* * * * *

Upon leaving the Hazel Green Academy, Effie lost no time in applying for a teacher's certificate, passing the tests, and beginning her appointment to the Jones Creek school near West Liberty.

Historian Bernard E. Whitt, then superintendent of the Morgan County schools, in a January 23, 1958, *Licking Valley Courier* article described how the system worked:

The county superintendent had a board of two examiners who, with himself, held teachers' examinations and granted certificates to teach. There were three types of certificates...in accordance with the number of children. Salaries of teachers ranged all the way from about \$15 per month to \$50.

Until after 1918 there were only a few college graduates in Morgan County teaching.... There were no teachers colleges at that time.

Textbooks used in schools for many years were McGuffey's Reader, Ray's Arithmetic, and the Eclectic and Blue Back Speller. Later the Eclectic Geography, Barnes History, and Harvey's Grammar were taught. Books were bought by parents. But many children were unable to get books and studied with other children. The beginners were taught ABC's which were printed on a wooden paddle or on the board.

Usually the superintendent made at least one visit per year to the schools. There was no attendance supervisor, no clerks, no supervisor of any nature. The superintendent would ride horseback over the county and his visit to the district was an important event. His speeches were rather set and long remembered by the children....

The teachers in the early days of this century did much to instill in their pupils the ideals of Americanism. Those were the days when the flag was about the most important thing in the world except the Bible.

In a November 20, 1967, *Lexington Leader* article, Helen Price Stacy quotes Mr. Whitt who recalled an exhibition day at the Jones Creek school where students and some parents were in attendance. The teacher, "Miss Effie" Kilgore, had the program well organized, opening with a recitation of Mary's little lamb following her off to school, and closing with a statesman-like rendition of Give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death. But the reading most impressive to Superintendent

Whitt concerned the boy who stood on the burning deck when all but him had fled. According to Mr. Whitt, reports Helen Price Stacy, "He was the bravest boy that ever lived."

* * * * *

Although Effie Kilgore would always have fond memories of her teaching days, after two years of trying to manage with the low salary, frequent residence changes, and the uncertainty of a beginning teacher's appointments, she began to consider the possibility of equipping herself for a more promising career.

Late in 1903 she wrote to a West Liberty attorney, Finley Fogg, concerning the possibilities of securing a secretarial position in the event she took a six-week course in typing and shorthand which was being offered by a Lexington business school. In his reply, Mr. Fogg could promise only a temporary position, but his letter was encouraging:

Dear Miss Effie:

If you are successful in school, which you doubtless will be, you need have no fears about a position, even a better position than I would be in a position to offer....

But I feel sure that I will be able to offer you such employment as will enable you to live all right until something better and more in keeping with your merits can be secured....

I can guarantee you one thing, however, and that is that you shall not starve out, and I will do the best I can for you.

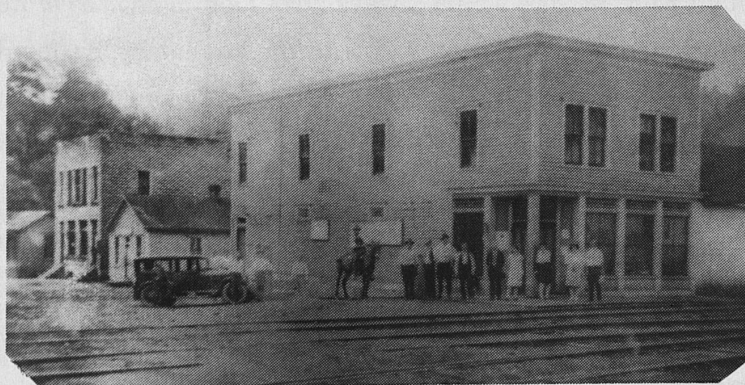
Effie's decision was made. By the end of 1903 she had taken the stenographic course at what is today the Fugazzi College in Lexington, and had been hired as secretary to Martin L. Conley, general manager of the new coal and railway companies in Cannel City.

Hallie Day Blackburn describes Conley as a person of great ability whom everyone admired, but stood a little in awe of:

He wanted everything done just right, and he saw to it all. He was always at the station to get the reports when the train came in.

Good luck, Miss Effie!

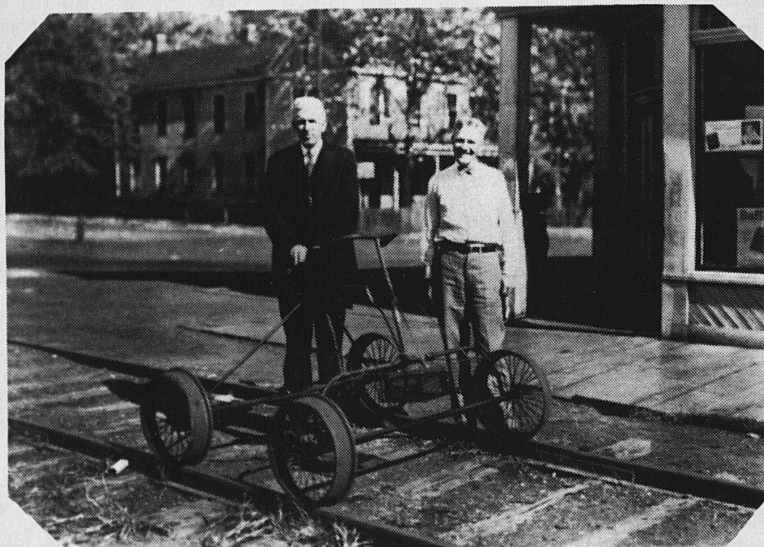
EFFIE KILGORE
in Cannel City, 1904--1910



Cannel City

Courtesy of W. Lynn Nickell

View of the general store, post office, bank, and part of the doctor's office.



Cannel City

Courtesy of W. Lynn Nickell

Dr. J. B. Whiteaker and Hugh Minor. The general store is on the right and the Hotel DeLancey is the background.



Cannel City, circa 1910

EKC papers

At the turn of the twentieth century the rugged coal-mining area around Cannel City seemed to spring overnight into a busy town, equipped with a school, church, bank, general store, thirty-room hotel, doctor's office, barber shop, railroad station, housing, and a handsome residence for the companies' general manager.

Newcomers appeared from as far as the eastern seaboard to as near as the next county, filling the jobs and houses and settling in with their families.

Two related companies were involved in the metamorphosis: the Kentucky Block Cannel Coal Company and the Ohio & Kentucky Railway, both of which had their principal offices in New York City. Eastern interests had leased five thousand acres for mining and had constructed a railroad to connect the area to the existing Lexington & Eastern Railway, which ran from Lexington to Jackson. The railroad would provide an outlet for the coal as well as transportation for the citizenry. The O & K began its operations on June 10, 1901, amid general hurrahs.

In its Remember-Back-When column of August 2, 1971, the *Lexington Leader* describes some of Cannel City's amusement offerings:

Soon after the rails reached Cannel City the boom was on in this new community and for years it was a lively town where easterners and natives of the Kentucky mountains and others mingled in work and in entertainment activities....

Professionals frequently gave performances, and the Sun Brothers circus usually was a summer visitor. The O & K ran excursions from each end of the line into Cannel City on circus days.

And Hallie Day Bach Blackburn writes:

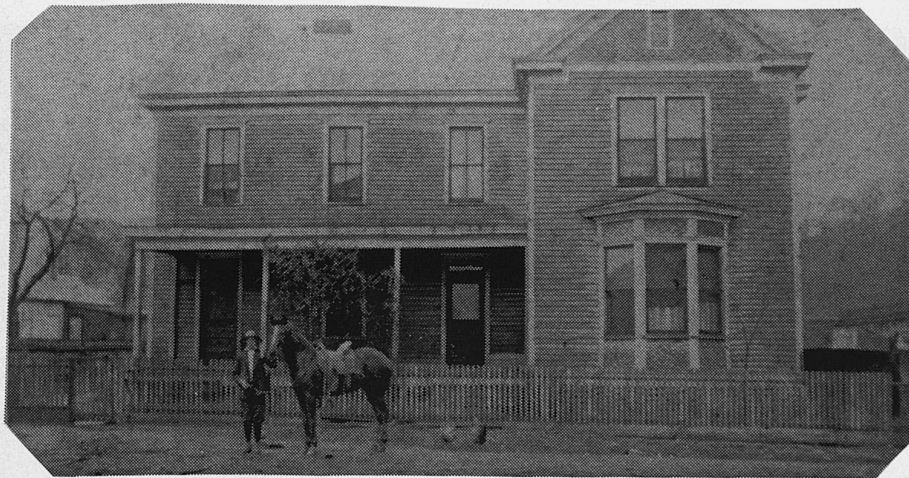
The company store sold everything from groceries, yard goods, hardware, clothes for adults and children, and medicine, to funeral equipment. Fruits were special during the winter months, as were meats.

Daddy [Everett Bach, O & K conductor] would purchase steaks in Jackson, and as the train passed in front of home, Mr. Urfer [O & K engineer] would slow down and Daddy would drop the meat into Mother's hands. By the time Daddy checked into the depot, Mother would have his steak ready for his arrival.... The wives of the train crew would prepare lunches to hand up to their husbands when Mr. Urfer slowed the train in passing their various houses along the tracks.



Emmett Kilgore at left; others unidentified.

EKC Papers



Hotel DeLancey

EKC papers

12-year-old Tom Davis

W. DeLancey Walbridge of New York was president of both the coal and the railroad companies, and his middle name was adopted for Cannel City's hotel, which was the hub of the town's social life. In the evening the guests--and anyone who dropped by--could gather about for piano music, singing, and conversation.

Helen Price Stacy notes:

Besides new business, the Easterners brought with them new music, new fashions, new speech. Their culture intermingled with the culture of the hill people, and the walls of the houses and the hotel often rang with "The Blue Danube" played on a violin, or "Turkey in the Straw" masterfully done on the fiddle.

The train stopped for the day at 6:30 p.m., and in pleasant weather the hotel guests often paired off and sauntered up the railroad tracks together. Mary Templin Faulkner Willmott tells us that her parents (Edward Faulkner, station agent, and Fairie Templin, piano teacher) first met on such an evening. Hallie Day Blackburn writes:

In the early days, the Hotel ³DeLancy was operated by Mrs. Lucy Davis.... It was noted for its good food--always three meals a day--which was prepared by Nancy Patton. The train schedule was planned to allow any passengers on the O & K to have time for the noon-day meal. Departure of the train awaited the return of passengers from their lunch.

³Various writers end the name with "cy" and/or "cey." The New York newspaper account of Walbridge's death uses the latter spelling.



Home of Alfred and Lucy Davis

EKC papers

From left: Milt Reed; his daughter Sallie; unidentified; Emmett Kilgore; Milt's daughter Nettie; unidentified; Effie Kilgore; Lucy's youngest child, Tom Davis; unidentified; Mollie Kilgore; unidentified.



Sunday Afternoon Buggy Ride

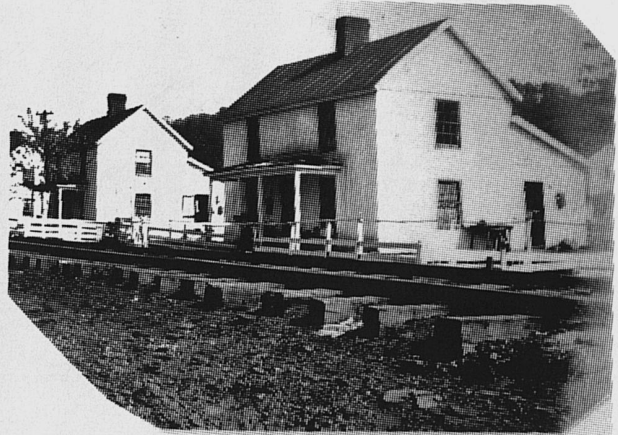
EKC papers

From Left: Emmett Kilgore; unidentified; Lula Allen; child unidentified; Mollie Kilgore; and Effie Kilgore.



Lucy Reed Davis

EKC papers



Home of Alfred and Lucy Davis

Courtesy of Hallie Day Blackburn

Prior to operating the hotel, Lucy Davis rented rooms in their home to one or two young women teachers. Across the railroad tracks, rooms were rented to young men employees. Both sets of roomers took their meals at the Davis house, and at least one couple who met there, Pearl Day and Everett Bach, were later married.

MRS. LUCY DAVIS, PROPRIETOR,
HOTEL DELANCY,
CANNEL CITY, KY.

F. 5. 2M-12-01-COPYING.

Audit No.

CANNEL CITY, KY. JUNE - 1909.

To KENTUCKY BLOCK CANNEL COAL COMPANY.

June 30. For balance due on Hotel Furniture. -- \$299.09

Cost to us.



Cannel City School

EKC papers

Mollie Kilgore, teacher; Tom Davis, standing, wearing cap and white shirt.

Every member of Lucy's immediate family was at some time employed by the coal or railway company, or by an enterprise which the companies had spawned--all excepting her husband Alfred Davis and their young son Tom. Her daughter Effie was secretary to the general manager; daughter Mollie was a teacher, then a clerk at the bank; daughters Emma and Maude assisted at the hotel; and son Emmett worked at the general store. Effie later married William Thomas (Tom) Congleton, station agent; Mollie married Hubert Gambill, station agent; and Emma married Alex Snowden, train conductor. Only Maude married outside the fold--to Alvin F. (Al) Garver, an oil-well driller from Pennsylvania. Little Tom Davis would one day drill wells, too, and marry Frances Lykins, niece of Mrs. J. B. Whiteaker.

* * * * *



Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey

EKC papers

A highlight of Effie Kilgore's Cannel City days occurred in 1906 when she was chosen the "most popular girl in Morgan County" in a contest sponsored in a number of counties by the *Lexington Herald*. The prize for each of the thirteen winners was a week's stay at the Chalfonte Hotel in Atlantic City.

Effie always disclaimed the "most popular" title, explaining that it was in reality a newspaper subscription-selling contest, and that a number of her friends and relatives had voluntarily busied themselves in her behalf in order that she might have the trip.



Effie Kilgore: second row, second from right

Lexington Herald 8/19/1906

HERALD PARTY IS AT ATLANTIC CITY

All Enjoying Themselves.
Miss Alger Entertains
With Recital.

ATLANTIC CITY, Aug. 13.—The Herald's guests are enjoying themselves to the utmost, although continual rain has somewhat interfered with the pleasure. Miss Alger, of Corbin, entertained the party and a large number of guests with songs and recitals in the parlors of the Chalfonte Hotel last evening.

All are domiciled at the Chalfonte where rooms were reserved for them by The Herald. No one has missed the bathing, and it has been enjoyed daily since the arrival last Friday afternoon.

This morning the entire party was photographed on the beach.



Effie Kilgore at Atlantic City, 1906

ATLANTIC CITY PARTY HAVING A GREAT TIME

Four of the Herald's Guests
Get Sidetracked at Har-
risburg, Pa.

ROUND OF PLEASURE

All Ladies Take to Bathing
in Ocean as if They Had
Lived on Coast.

ATLANTIC CITY, Aug. 14.—Promptly at 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon the second section of the regular Pennsylvania train for New York pulled out of Clinchmont with the entire Herald party and the two young ladies from the Corbin Times aboard, all bound for Atlantic City. Immediately contests were forgotten and general good fellowship reigned supreme. All cares for the time were cast aside and every effort turned to the pursuit of pleasure for the next ten days.

Four Are Lost.

The trip was uneventful until Harrisburg, Pa., was reached where some little commotion was created by the loss of four of the party, Miss Alger, Miss Wasserbohr and the two Corbin Times winners, Miss Lovell and Miss Campbell. This mishap was due to the failure of the railroad officials to notify the manager of the party of the intended transfer of The Herald car from the regular section to a train bound through to Atlantic City, and the young ladies mentioned were taken on in the diner of the regular train.

Telegrams were at once dispatched to the conductor of the New York train to drop the party at Philadelphia where they were again taken on The Herald car.

Arrived At Atlantic City.

At 2 o'clock Friday afternoon Atlantic City was reached and busses were immediately taken for the Chalfonte Hotel where the party was to spend the next seven days. All were too tired on Friday evening to attempt to see any of the sights, but bright and early Saturday morning the fun began and has continued one unending round of pleasure since.

As soon as possible arrangements were made for bathing and in a very short time they were enjoying themselves in the surf and soon seemed as much at home there as though they had been born and reared on the Atlantic beach.

Thanks Mrs. Faulconer.

The manager of the party feels under unbounded obligations to Mrs. Faulconer, the chaperone, and Messrs. J. N. Williams and Pete Glenn who came along on the car, for their untiring energy in entertaining the party.

Mr. Glenn is looking carefully and sedulously after the entertainment of one of the young ladies, and is making a pronounced success in that line, while Mr. Williams is looking after the entertainment of the other fifteen. This seems rather an unequal division but Mr. Williams is uncomplaining and Mr. Glenn insists that one is all he can properly entertain.

Tries To Go To Church.

Sunday morning Mr. Williams, after a careful canvass of the party and extended exhortations on the observance of the Sabbath, even in Atlantic City, succeeded in enlisting four to accompany him to church. With his face wreathed in smiles he boasted of his success and repaired to his room to make his preparations. The uncertainty of human nature, or it might more appropriately be said the uncertainties of the health of young ladies on Sunday, are the same in Atlantic City as elsewhere, and when Mr. Williams appeared ready for his party he received word that two of them were so badly indisposed that they were compelled to forego the pleasure. It is needless to say that their recovery was rapid and that they were shortly the merriest of the merry on the beach.

This morning the entire party visited the light house and went into the surf at 11. All took a seven mile sail on the ocean this afternoon. Several of the ladies were sea-sick. Manager Read felt rather queasy. But all soon recovered and enjoyed the sail immensely. The theatre was visited by the entire crowd tonight.

Moses Young, Wasserbohr and Hiffer go to New York for a visit tomorrow morning and will be gone until Friday night.

Many other Lexington people are registered at the various hotels here, including Harry McAdams, George C. Webb and wife, George Weeks, Mrs. J. L. Wehl, Miss Lou Schaefer, Ford Wilson and wife, Bragg Wilson and wife, George Dunlap, Rudolph Harting, and others.

Herald's Party Back From the Trip to Atlantic City

All Are Greatly Pleased With the Entertainment They Received—Had One Week of Solid Enjoyment. 8/19/1906

The Atlantic City trip given to the most popular girls in certain districts by The Lexington Herald is now a thing of the past, and the party has returned—happy, laughing and as brown as berries.

For a solid week, the party flattered itself in the "bad sea waves" at Atlantic City; for a week they stood under the burning sun and tried to enjoy being dashed about by the breakers, and for a week, they winced every time anyone touched a shoulder, arm or back. For all were burned almost to a blister by the sun, and for several days yet, there will be a sensation of pain whenever an affected spot is touched, and thus fond memories will linger about the trip.

Visit Wanamaker's.

At 9 o'clock, the party arrived at Philadelphia and, after checking all hand luggage proceeded to the large store of Wanamaker, where they spent about two hours looking through the different departments and making many small purchases.

From Wanamaker's, the party proceeded to the United States mint, where they viewed with much interest the various processes through which the gold, silver and copper ore passes before it becomes in reality the "rob of all evil."

Coins of All Nations.

The various coins in use by all the different nations of the world in every age also interested everyone and with much reluctance and from want of further time, they left this building and boarded a car for Independence Hall.

As one steps into this historical old building and allows his mind to wander back into the misty past he is almost unable to realize that he is not living in another age.

Sees the Liberty Bell.

The Herald party viewed with increasing interest the Liberty Bell, the pictures of various revolutionary commanders, and of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the chair formerly used by William Penn, the pew in which Washington sat when attending church and finally, the table

on which the Declaration of Independence was signed.

It was now time for lunch and hungry and tired from a morning of sight-seeing all were glad to get back to the Broad street depot, where a splendid meal was secured.

Viewing the City.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in viewing the city from the top of the North American Building, where pictures of the individual members were taken, and from the roof garden of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. They wound up the day by being shown through the hotel, saw the suite of rooms occupied by the President and his family, the ball room, banquet hall and kitchen.

Here the party was escorted by Miss Emily Young, Miss Salile Hifner and Miss Mary D. Wasserboehr, who went to New York for a visit, returning to Lexington about the middle of next week.

The party reached Cincinnati yesterday afternoon at 1:05 o'clock and later left over the various roads for their homes.

The main body came to the city over the Pennsylvania lines, and there Miss Rouden, of Millersburg; Miss Adamson, of Carlisle; Miss Perry, of Winchester, and Miss Sherwood, of Ewing, left over the Kentucky Central for their respective homes. The remainder then came to Lexington over the Queen & Crescent. The latter party included Misses Alice Moore, Susie Crystal, Amelia C. Terrell, Dona Hamilton, Effie M. Kilgore, Mayme Bohannon, Hazel Alger, of Corbin; Edna Lovell, of Corbin; Adelaide Campbell, of Middleboro; Mrs. Nannie G. Falconer, of Lexington, the chaperone; Frank S. Read, of the Herald staff, and I. N. Williams, of this city.

Corbin Times' Winners.

Misses Lovell and Campbell were the winners in the Corbin Times' popularity contest. They, with Miss Alger, left Cincinnati last night for their respective homes, over the Louisville & Nashville.

All expressed great delight with their trip, and were immensely pleased at

the manner in which they had been entertained by The Herald, by the hotel management at Atlantic City, by the ocean breakers, and, in fact, with everything connected with the trip, aside possibly, from the discomfort of the sun-burned portions of their bodies.

All seemed to be fully compensated for their efforts to secure this trip, and the management of The Herald desires to thank each member of the party and those who did good work, but were not fortunate enough to win.

Amusing Incident of Trip.

Probably the most amusing incident of those that occurred during the trip, was that which resulted in the acquaintance of a well known Lexington druggist, and one of the more sedate ladies of the party. This druggist, one day in a moment of gallantry and irresponsibility, invited the lady and another member of the party to venture out into the surf with him. The two ladies complied, and soon all were out in the waves.

The young druggist stamped his toe on a rock or other hard substance, with the result that he was incapacitated from showing the proper attention to both ladies. Manager Read, of The Herald, came along about that time, and the young man requested Mr. Read to take charge of one of the ladies, and hold her while the other tied a handkerchief about the toe.

Developments Came Soon.

Mr. Read took the young lady to a place of safety and awaited developments. They came soon. The maiden lady secured her handkerchief, the druggist elevated his toe out of the water, and stood on one foot like unto a sleeping turkey on a limb. When the attention of the party was directed to this toe, a breaker about the size of a small house came along and stood the druggist and the Good Samaritan

on their heads. The toe was not tied up until the water was far behind the party.

All are glad. The Herald is glad because it had the opportunity of entertaining as fair a bevy of young women as could be gathered in all Kentucky. They were The Herald's guests, and it hopes some day to have them, or others just like them, as its guests again.



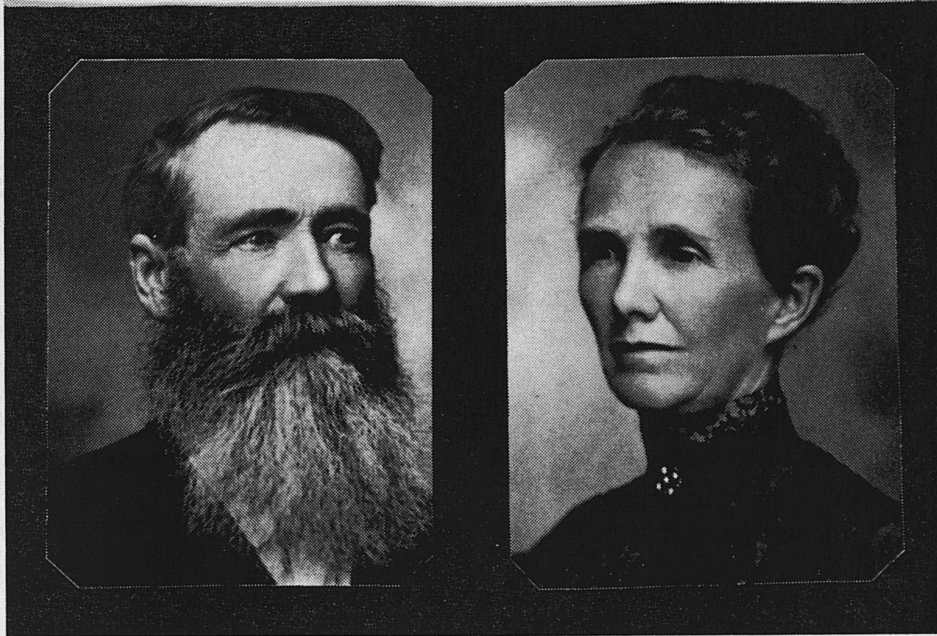
Effie Kilgore, circa 1909

EKC papers

Effie Kilgore held the position of secretary to the general manager of Cannel City's coal and railway companies for seven years. Through that association she met Tom Congleton, whom she later married. Both of them established friendships there which would become important to them for the rest of their lives--with Bertha and Guy Leslie, Pearl and Everett Bach, Fairie and Ed Faulkner, and many more who, like the Congletons, would move to Lexington. Other couples who did not live in Lexington but were in lifelong communication with Effie and Tom were Lillie and Hugh Minor, and Anna and Martin Conley.

WILLIAM THOMAS CONGLETON

in Slade, 1880--1901



WILLIAM BUTLER CONGLETON

1845--1919

ROWENA HOWE CONGLETON

1855--1934

William Butler Congleton was a native of Powell County, and his wife, Rowena Howe, came there with her parents from Lee County, Virginia, in a covered wagon when she was a child. Their son Tom was born June 3, 1880, in Slade.

The following quotations, edited for continuity, are to be found in a 1989 oral account of the family's life in Powell County by Stella Congleton Atkinson, one of their daughters, which was taped by their great-grandson, William Thomas Congleton II. Stella Atkinson was ninety-three years of age at the time of the recording, and she spoke without notes, prompting, or pause:

My grandfather William Congleton [1801-1889] was an uneducated doctor who travelled around the area where he lived in Eastern Kentucky and "doctored without portfolio." He evidently was interested in knowledge as he had some encyclopedias which I remember--huge volumes there in our home which very few of us looked at, but he seemed to have read them. He named some of his children and also grandchildren after Greek and Roman characters--

Eusebius, Archilaeus, Darius, Pythagoras, and Esculapius. And he was far-sighted enough to buy a rather large tract of land--it must have been several hundred acres--in Eastern Kentucky, and he was able to give each of his three sons and three daughters a small farm.

Our father was William Butler Congleton [1845-1919], and he was given a little farm on the middle fork of Red River. He brought our mother there when she was eighteen and he was twenty-eight, and they lived there the rest of both their lives. I guess our father had been raised there, at Slade, which was about two miles west of Natural Bridge. It was not a rich farm at all. I think it would be called a relatively poor farm, but our family was able to subsist on it. Their first home was a log cabin where the first children were born. Later he built a new home--one of the picture houses in that little valley.

Our mother was Rowena Howe, who had come with her parents from Virginia just after the Civil War when she was about twelve years old. They came through the Cumberland Gap from Virginia into Kentucky, which was a wilderness then, somewhat, and settled in the small village of Campton a few miles from Natural Bridge.

Our parents were uneducated, but they were very much interested in our education and did everything in their power to help us along in the world. They were very, very good to us and I bless their memory forever.



The Congleton homestead at Slade, Kentucky, was built in 1889 by William Butler Congleton. His family lived there until the place was sold in 1920, shortly after his death. The main distinguishing feature of this house, which was burned in 1967, was its steamboat gothic portico. Otherwise, it was a fairly representative two-story frame farm house of the period, with a one-story ell at the back.

--Thomas Edwards Templin



Congleton Farm at Slade

Courtesy of Thomas Templin

William Butler Congleton, standing in front of post at left, and his wife Rowena, on porch.

Stella Atkinson narrative continued:

The farm was self-supporting. There were always a horse or two, a cow or two, a flock of chickens, pigs to slaughter for food, and sheep to provide clothing.

Our father was something of a naturalist. He knew quite a bit about animals. He was a hunter and a trapper. He caught raccoons and opossums and would send skins to a dealer in Lexington to buy. At one time he caught two raccoons and built a little house on the back of the farm near the barn, and he kept them there and taught them some tricks. He named them Sam and Bill. And he would tell Sam to turn over, and then he would tell Bill to do something. They were very interesting animals and he was fond of training them.

Also, our father had a sugar-cane mill which made beautiful molasses. In the fall the sugar cane which he and his sons and hired men had cut would be fed into this mill when the juice in the cane was ready, and the juice would be squeezed out by a wheel turned by horses. Then they got it ready for boiling and making molasses. He would store barrels of molasses for his family.

There was a good deal of timber on our hills which our father guarded very carefully and would only sell off small amounts for railroad ties in order perhaps to pay the taxes which were indeed small. There was a small coal mine on the farm where he would hire a neighbor farm hand to dig our winter's supply of coal and bring it to the coal house on a sled. It was beautiful, shiny coal.

Our parents worked very hard to preserve what was raised. Our mother said it was as much work to take care of what was raised on the farm for winter use as it was to raise it.

There were a few sheep, and they would shear them and wash the wool. There was a little clear-water branch flowing down at the little ravine on our farm where they would wash the wool. Of course it would be full of burrs and dirt and everything imaginable. Our mother said that to wash that wool was very hard work, but they did it. They would get it clean, and she would card it. She had some cards that had sharp stickers on them, and she would take a piece of wool and fluff it up between these two cards, getting it into rolls, like a roll of one's hair when you go to the beauty parlor. They rolled it so that it would be lovely and fluffy. Then she would spin the wool into threads on her large spinning wheel. After it was dry she would roll it into balls. They used the crushed bark of walnut to dye the wool. The only color the yarn would have was a brownish-black.

Our mother would also knit stockings. She and your Aunt Lula would sit there in the evening by the firelight and knit. Then she would take them to the village store and sell them for about twenty-five cents a pair.

Very little food was bought. Our mother would always have chickens and would take eggs to the village store and barter for sugar and coffee. The rest we raised.

Her hands were never idle. She had a loom for weaving rag carpets, and in the winter when it was very cold and she and her four daughters couldn't go outside, we would cut our old clothes into strips, sew them together, then she would weave carpets. It was the only kind of carpet that we had. She also wove for others for ten cents a yard. I believe that they furnished the rags and the cotton warp which she ordered from the store.



Slade School

Courtesy of Thomas Templin

Teacher, Annie Wells Congleton, wife of George, the oldest child of William Butler and Rowena Congleton. Younger ones appearing in the picture are Everett, Charles, Ella, Minnie, and Lula. George and Tom were working by this time, and Stella was still too young for school.

Stella Atkinson narrative continued:

The only schools we had were little state schools with very poor teachers. There was a county examination for a certification, and you didn't have to know very much to get a certificate. In the elementary school we had reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling--all of that. Of course it was very, very imperfect; but every now and then a teacher would come along who would inspire the younger teacher and give him some ideas about how to carry on. It was much, much better than nothing. There again--if you wanted to learn, it was possible to learn quite a bit. Most of the schools were one-room, unpainted, a pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room, and no toilet--you went out into the woods to go to the bathroom. Very primitive.

Both parents wanted very much to help us to get an education. The oldest brother George went to Hazel Green where there was a little private school. He was there maybe two or three months--a short session--but he got a little idea, a germ of education, and he wanted to go on. And the second brother, Thomas--your grandfather--also went to Hazel Green. And I think there was little school in Campton about six or eight miles to the east where he went for a

little training and got enough to write a nice hand. We could all write a very nice hand, more than many people today who have been through high school.

About that time there seemed to be sort of a wave of prosperity that went through the mountain region. They wanted to get the coal out of there, and they built a railroad clear into the mountains up to about Hazard. Then there came along a little Presbyterian mission school. Some good-intentioned people managed to get some funds for building a school where we could have all of the grades, and that happened to coordinate with the time that these trains began running. That school was at Stanton, and the children of about a half-dozen families would go into Stanton in the morning and back home in the afternoon. They finally managed to establish a high school, so I went from the eighth grade through the high school at Stanton and got a diploma. Then I was considered fairly well educated and could get a good teaching job out in the country.

My sisters and I were all teachers. That was about all girls could do. But a couple of us were able to attend the Presbyterian mission school and to go on through high school in Stanton. We were nearly all able to stay at home, and sometimes we would have quite a walk to the little school where we would be teaching. To one school I taught, I walked eight miles a day. It didn't hurt me. I enjoyed it. The roads were very rough and practically tore up a car. People in the communities would band together to fix up the roads. You couldn't keep the children from running to the windows and gazing at this wonder when a car came by. The Ford was the first, but we were not in the automobile class at all. We still either walked or rode horseback.

There were four sisters at home, most of the time together. The four brothers were older. One of our sisters [Lula] was able to get a croquet set when she went away to school, and on Sunday afternoons we would play. In the winter we would play flinch--where you match up facts of history to make a game of cards. And we had an organ. Not more than one family in a dozen had one, but our parents managed by hook or crook to purchase a pretty organ and get it delivered to our home. So we were sort of important in the neighborhood because we had an organ. We sisters could sing some. Then my sister Minnie wanted a piano, and she took several lessons from the music teacher at Stanton and played in some of the little concerts they had there.

When the two oldest of the Congleton children were growing up, only the lower grades of public education were available to them; but over a span of twenty-two years--the range of the children's age differences--higher grades were

added to the county system and made more accessible by the train and automobile. By this time, however, all four sons were already working. But with their help, two of the daughters--Lula and Stella--were able to receive some college training. Stella was graduated and later, while she was teaching, obtained a master's degree in education by attending school during the summers.

Although some had little formal schooling, the great importance of striving for an education had been instilled in all of William Butler and Rowena Congleton's children, as evidenced by the fact that of seventeen of their grandchildren who have been in touch with each other throughout the years, all are college graduates, including one M.D., one Ph.D. in English, one Ph.D. in Chemistry, two master's degrees and four engineering degrees. Reaching into the fourth generation, one finds all that--plus Harvard, Vassar, ^{Princeton} Stanford, and Wellesley, too.



Children of Rowena Howe and William Butler Congleton



Natural Bridge at Slade

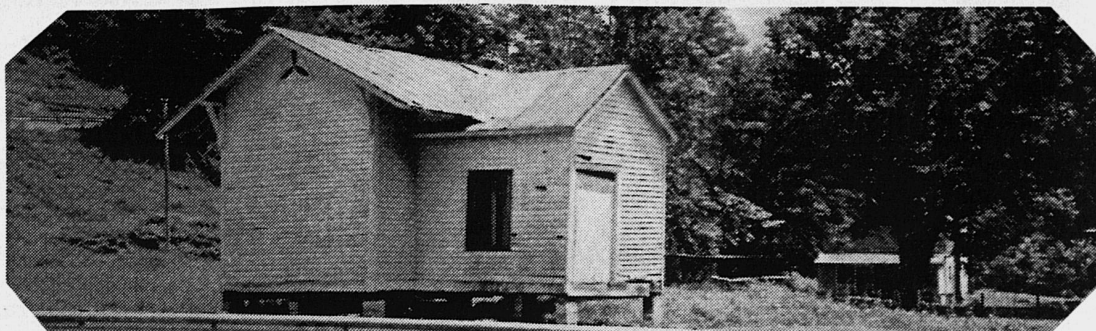
Courtesy of Kasey Congleton

Stella Congleton Atkinson, speaking of the early 1900s in Powell County where the young Congletons were raised, relates:

Natural Bridge was a beautiful setting and it came to be known. At one time they would run excursions by train--say, several coaches--to Cincinnati by way of Winchester and on up to Natural Bridge on Sunday. They would come early and stay late. Very beautiful. The train would be loaded every Sunday in the summer.

WILLIAM THOMAS CONGLETON

in Cannel City, 1902--1907



L & E Railway Station at Tallega

Courtesy of Kasey Congleton

Stella Atkinson narrative continued:

Our brothers got away from home early. George married young, worked as a tenant farmer, then purchased his own farm in Taylorsville. Charlie went out west to Oregon when he was young and remained there the rest of his life. He was able to accumulate a good sized ranch.

Thomas and Everett early got into the railroad business. The L & E was built from Lexington to Jackson at the time Thomas and Everett were just about grown, and they were very quick to learn telegraphy. They could drum out those messages over the wires from one station to another, and they got employment at the local railroad station and were soon holding jobs with the Western Union Telegraph Company by being able to adapt to that type of work. So they were employed, and Tom got a very nice job, I remember, up to the east, first at Tallega and Cannel City. I remember once they said he was getting a hundred dollars a month. That was a good salary a long time ago. And he was very generous with his family. He was a very, very wonderful person, your grandfather was, Bill. He helped his family, and he sent one of his sisters--Aunt Lula--to a normal school up in Ohio--Lebanon, Ohio--and she got quite a good education. He was always helping his family. He helped me when I was having domestic troubles--put me on my feet.

The correspondence quoted below is a series of replies, in full, received by Tom in his quest for employment through the L & E Railway Company's general offices in Lexington. All are signed by J. R. Barr, general manager, and the first dated is when Tom was seventeen years old.

Thos. Congleton, Esq., Slade, Ky, Nov. 8th, 1897. Your favor of Nov. 8th making application for position of telegraphy operator or agent received. I have no place which I can offer you at the present time.

~ x x x x

Thos. Congleton, Esq., Slade, Ky, Dec. 9th, 1897. You have been recommended to me as a competent man to take charge of an agency for this Company, and I will offer you the station at Elkatawa. This pays \$35.00 per month and express [additional allowance depending upon amount of express handled], and it will be necessary for you to be there ready to report for duty on Friday afternoon. I enclose you a pass to go up on No.2 that day. If this is satisfactory, wire me this afternoon.

* * * * *

W.T. Congleton, Esq., Agent, Elkatawa Apr. 12th, 1898. Enclosed find pass from Elkatawa to Tallega. Mr. Kratzer will be up on No. 2 tomorrow afternoon and check you out and you will accompany him to Tallega and be checked in there the following morning. Tallega is a better station than the one which you now hold, the pay being the same, but the Express being heavier, making your salary more. I trust you will look after this station and that you will make a first class man and put yourself in line for other promotions.

* * * * *

W. T. Congleton, Esq., Agent, Tallega Sept. 16th, 1901. You are hereby appointed Agent of the Ohio & Kentucky Railway Co. at Frozen Creek, and as soon as you are checked out of Tallega, you will please make arrangements to at once take charge of the new agency. The pay will be \$40.00 per month and express, and you will report, until further notice, to Mr. M. L. Conley, Superintendent of the Ohio & Kentucky Railway Co. His office is at Frozen Creek. When you are checked out, advise and instructions will be issued for your guidance.



O & K Railway Station, Cannel City

Early in 1902 William Thomas Congleton was officially transferred as station agent to the O & K Railway Company in Cannel City. Martin Conley, the general manager of both the coal and railway companies, found Tom useful in other areas as well, and the young agent became a familiar presence in Conley's office. After Effie Kilgore was employed as the office secretary late in 1903, a courtship began between the two and continued until 1907 when Tom was offered a position with the Congleton Brothers, a lumber and construction firm in Lexington owned by his cousins J. W. and Lee Congleton. Viewing this as an important step for his business career, he prepared to make the move.

Before Tom left Cannel City, the O & K Railway employees presented him with a watch chain, and members of the Sunday school class he had been teaching gave him gold cuff links. Donors of the latter gift were Merritt Gambill, Willie Faulkner, Tom Davis, Russell Vaughan, Porter Mannion, Charley Benton, John Day, Millard McGraw, Roy Fugitt, and Floyd Mannion.

The company management presented him with a gift which is not identified, but the typed list of donors includes F. E. Fogg, Hugh Minor, Hubert Gambill, Luke Powell, S. M. Freese, Custer Jones, Miss Effie Kilgore, M. L. Conley, and J. F. Reid.

Thirty years later Tom would write to Mrs. Conley: "I never expect to live to see the time when I form as close friendships as those we were privileged to enjoy while we were together in the little mining town of Cannel City. The friendships made in our younger days are such that nothing ever takes their place as we grow older."

* * * * *

The courtship between Effie Kilgore and Tom Congleton progressed long-distance for the next three years while he gained in business experience and funds, and in late 1910 they selected a February date to be married. Subsequently, he wrote requesting the ceremony be performed two months earlier because of certain business commitments he had for February. Effie did not consent to the earlier date, however, citing the time involved in clearing up her own work. At this point the frustrated young man wrote to Martin Conley, his

former employer and mentor, to express his disappointment--and indignation--with, alas, an allusion to the amount of esteem in which he held secretarial duties in general. In reply, Conley rather sternly advised him that the lady was "well worth waiting for":

She is not an ordinary stenographer...but a young lady with the highest sense of duty and responsibility, and I do not expect to be so fortunate as to secure anyone to fill her place. There are doubtless better stenographers--but I couldn't get anyone in whom I would have the same confidence.

However much I may regret to lose her services, any program she agrees to will be sanctioned by me.... [Whatever reasons she may have] for keeping the original date are entirely foreign to her work or any connection with railroads or coal mines.... I would advise you to abide by whatever decision you may get from Miss Effie, and arrange your business affairs accordingly....

And don't get hot at being lectured.

M. L. C.

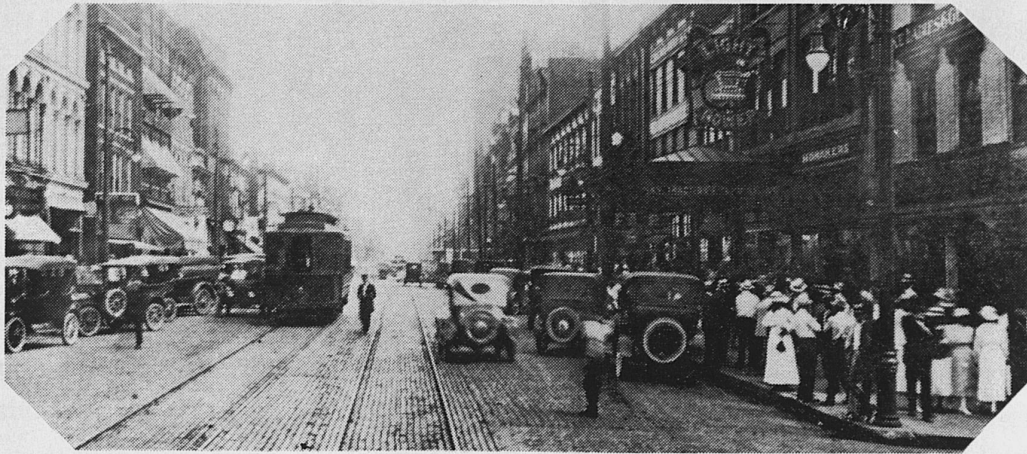
It turned out that "Miss Effie" did manage the earlier date after all, and the couple met in Winchester on December 10⁷, 1910, where they were married at the Brown-Proctor Hotel by Dr. I. J. Spencer, minister of Lexington's Central Christian Church. Attending the ceremony were Mollie and Hubert Gambill, Ella Congleton, Nora Congleton Stone, and P. Y. Drake.

* * * * *

The only notation concerning Tom Congleton's personal life in his early years is found in a copy of his will. In enumerating bequests to his son Lucien, he ends the list with "Also my Fife which was presented to me by my dear friend and relative, Mack D. Green, in the year 1889 at my boyhood home at Slade, Powell County, Kentucky."

In 1889 Tom was nine years old.

TOM AND EFFIE CONGLETON
in Lexington, 1911--1949



Lexington in Early 1900s

Courtesy of Lexington Public Library

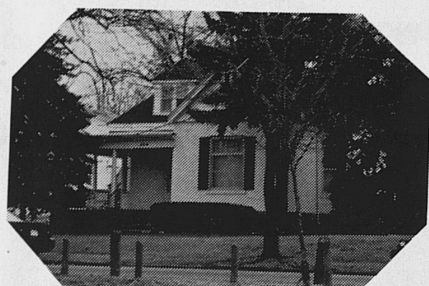
Before Effie Kilgore and Tom Congleton were married, he had resigned from his cousins' lumber company and started a business of his own--the Southern Building and Supply Company, located at 362 East Main Street in Lexington. A few years later he bought property at the corner of Walton Avenue and Third Street, where he erected an office building and warehouse, and renamed the business "W. T. Congleton Company." Silas Payne was employed to take care of the yard operations and make deliveries in the horse-drawn wagon, and Tom's sister Ella was persuaded to move to Lexington from Slade to join the firm. Tom--who had learned many business skills while employed at Congleton Brothers--taught bookkeeping to Ella, and she remained as secretary-treasurer for over fifty years.



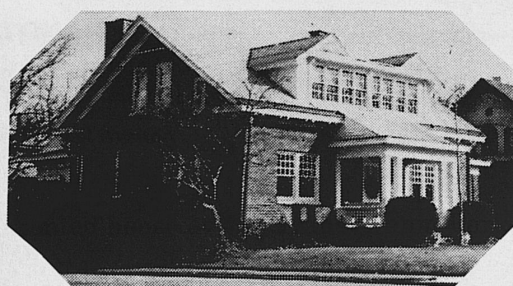
362 East Main Street

Courtesy of Lexington Public Library

Tom Congleton at right; Ella Congleton in front of door. Others unidentified.



424 Transylvania Park

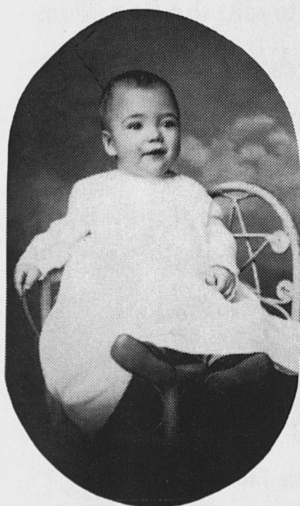


525 Russell Avenue

1992 photo

Tom and Effie's first home was a rented house at 424 Transylvania Park, where their two sons were born: William Edwin in 1911, and Lucien Howe in 1912. Around 1914 they designed and built a home at 525 Russell Avenue in the new Bell Court area, where their daughter, Helen, was born in 1916.

During the 1920s other family members and friends moved to Lexington from Cannel City, among them two women who would share most of Effie's future life: her sister Maude Garver and her across-the-street neighbor Pearl Day Bach. For years both women were almost daily kitchen-visitors. Pearl Bach was active in group affairs, and was beginning what would be a long career as a genealogist. She kept Effie apprised of what was going on outside of Bell Court, while Maude Garver was a source of help of every kind to Effie's entire family.



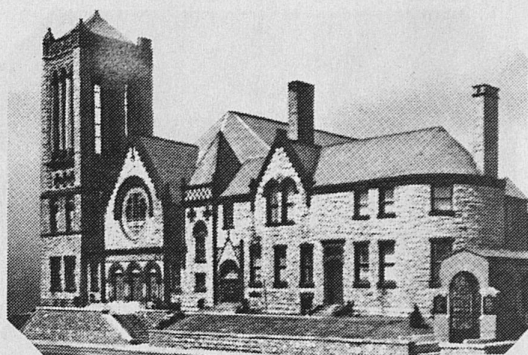
Edwin
Born 1911



Lucien
Born 1912

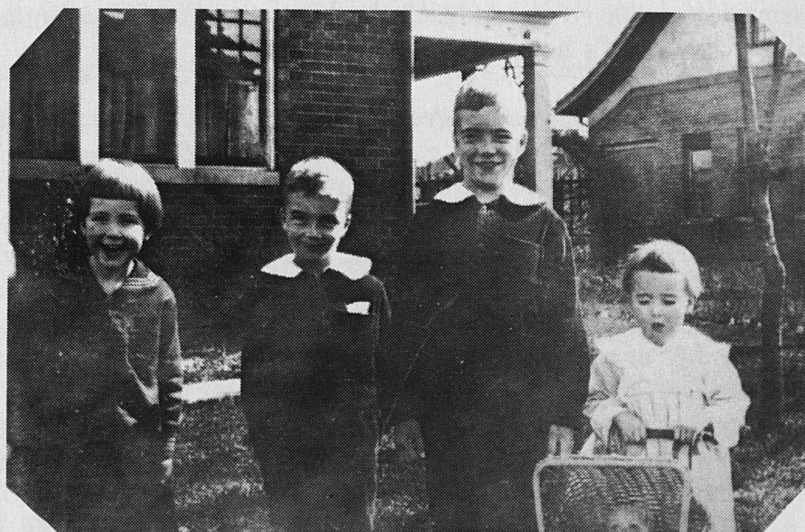


Helen
Born 1916



Central Christian Church, 1993

The Congleton family's social life evolved from their church and school activities. Each child was registered on the cradle roll of Central Christian Church soon after birth, and was baptized at about twelve years of age. All family members attended Sunday School and church, where Tom served as a deacon. Effie was active in her church circle, was robe-lady for the junior choir, attended the quilting sessions, and was always on hand to assist in the suppers. She and her sister Maude were famous for their angel food cakes, which were claimed in a hurry at the bake sales. In like manner, both Congleton parents attended their children's school functions, admired the drawings, applauded the stage presentations, and, above all, encouraged the homework.



Cousin Elizabeth Snowden; Lucien; Edwin; and Helen, singing to her doll.



Maude and Al Garver, unidentified worker, at drilling site.

Al and Maude Garver married in 1914 and moved to Lexington around 1916. Her mother, Lucy Reed Davis, made her home with them after Alfred Davis died that year.

For many years Al made frequent trips to Morgan County where he continued to drill oil wells, and occasionally Maude, Effie, and other family members would accompany him on a dawn-to-dusk automobile trip to Cannel City to visit Emma and Alex Snowden and their children Elizabeth and Robert. Much of the trip was over dirt roads which seemed always to be either too wet or too dry. In the case of rain, there was the chance of being mired for hours, or of sliding over an unprotected hillside while negotiating a mountain curve. On the other hand, had there been no rain for awhile, the driver of the car you pulled up behind really hated to move over to allow you to pass because of the volume of dust you would stir up; so you usually had to take *his* for a time, despite the vigorous use of Uncle Al's horn.

To the children this was all great entertainment, capped by the fabulous picnic lunch which--if the weather cooperated--was spread out on a tablecloth under a big shade tree, or--if it did not--was elbowed around inside the car. The end of the day was both comforting and exciting, while they experienced anew the magic glow and aroma of the coal-oil lamps, and looked forward to what the next day might bring. So much was possible: attending school on the hilltop with the Snowden children, or maybe even taking a short ride on the O & K, since Uncle Alex was the conductor and on a slow day was good about such things; or perhaps having lunch at the Hotel DeLancey, for although their grandmother, Lucy Davis, was no longer its manager, Nancy Patton was still serving those sumptuous meals. On one occasion at the hotel, eleven-year-old Edwin fractured his arm (somehow a door was involved), and luncheon guests Hugh Minor, Tom Barr, Custer Jones, and Mike Murphy participated in his transference on a cot to his Aunt Emma Snowden's house.



Hubert, Mollie, and Harold Gambill

In the summer of 1920, Effie, Lucien, and Helen spent several weeks in Asheville, North Carolina, where Effie tended the household duties of her sister Mollie Gambill, who was ill with tuberculosis. Mollie, Hubert, and their son Harold had moved to Asheville from Cannel City several years earlier when Mollie's health began declining. Now, with Hubert's work requiring him to travel for the greater part of each week, someone was needed at their home with Mollie and Harold.

During Effie's absence, Tom wrote to describe the goings-on in Lexington. His sister Minnie White had come from Hazard with her small son Robert to spend awhile with Tom and Edwin, and they had just attended one of the family dinners which the Garvers customarily provided for the clan. In addition to Lucy Reed Davis (who lived there) and Tom's group, other family members present were Effie's sister Emma Snowden, who was visiting from Cannel City with her children Elizabeth and Robert, and Lucy's sister Mary Reed Elam, who lived in Lexington. Minnie, Tom related, played "Farewell to Thee" on the piano, and

other selections on the Victrola. After dinner "Aunt Mary" accompanied Tom to his home in order to give him on-site instructions for the hanging of two country hams in the basement. In other news: the rabbits and the dog (Joe) were in good condition, as were the ferns "and things"; and Tom went on to say that Edwin--who had been his guest at a Kiwanis Club luncheon that day--had won a one-dollar prize in some undesignated contest. In a later account, Tom reported that he was taking his meals with the Garvers, explaining, "It's so much better than eating downtown." [I'll say.] Also, Minnie, Robert, and Edwin were spending a few days with Tom's mother, Rowena Howe Congleton, at Slade.

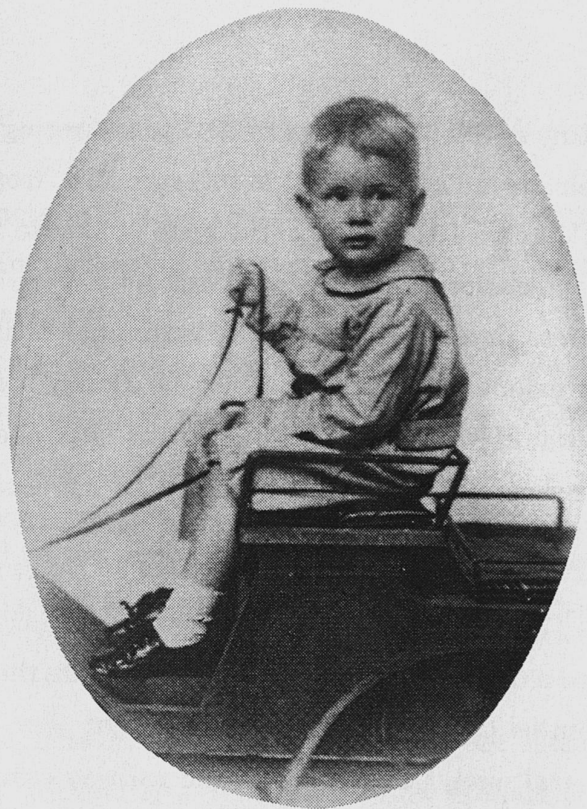
Letters indicate that Effie made a second trip to Asheville in October, this time taking all three children with her and entering the boys in school there for a temporary period. During a weekend visit from Tom, a decision was reached with Hubert to move Mollie and Harold to Lexington, and Hubert would arrange his business itinerary to be with them as often as possible. Mollie would be taken care of in the Congletons' home, and Harold would live with the Garvers.

Mollie Kilgore Gambill died eighteen months later, in April 1922. Pallbearers at her interment in the Lexington Cemetery were Tom Barr, Everett Bach, Alex Snowden, Merritt Gambill, Frank Crutcher, and John Bays.

Seven months after his mother's death, Harold Gambill fell victim to a scarlet fever epidemic which was sweeping Lexington. He died after a four-day illness at the Congleton home where he had come to stay for a week while the Garvers were out of town. He was ten years old.



Pictured at the gravesite of Harold Gambill: Elizabeth Snowden, Lucy Davis, Hubert Gambill, Maude Garver, Al Garver, Pearl Bach, and Effie Congleton.



Richard Conley

Yet another great personal loss came to Tom and Effie Congleton in 1922: in September they received word from Mrs. Conley's nephew that Martin Conley had died unexpectedly in Cincinnati. His wife Anna had made a second home there since their two oldest boys were of school age, and Conley had commuted from Cannel City as often as he could.

The Conleys had kept in touch with their proteges Tom and Effie Congleton since the latter married and settled in Lexington. Among Effie's papers we find a letter from Conley written shortly after her wedding in December 1910, requesting that "Miss Effie" buy some suitable present for his wife since he would be unable to make the trip to Lexington before Christmas...and a letter concerning his sending them a catalog from which they could order furniture at discounted prices...and a January 1911 letter from Conley to Tom regarding the latter's having made a payment on a note with the Cannel City Bank, of which Conley was president...and the following day a letter accompanying a wedding gift from the Conleys consisting of six place settings of flat silver...and a note which Effie jotted down in the summer of 1911: "Horse race--Conleys took me before Edwin

was born"...and a tiny envelope, received in 1912, announcing the birth of Richard Milton Conley, their second son...and a 1914 Easter card "from Leslie and Dick to Edwin and Lucien"...and a 1915 notice of the birth of Martin Eugene Conley...and a 1917 letter to Tom, enclosing his paid-off bank note.

In May 1919, Anna Conley had written Effie that her husband had undergone an operation the previous day to correct a serious kidney problem, and that "Dr. Mayo told him he would be all right." Two months later she wrote again:

Thank you a thousand times for the package which reached me today.... Surely you are coming out soon. You know you owe us a real visit. Mr. C. has only gained one pound since we came home, but he feels fine.

A 1920 letter to Tom from Conley cancelled a trip they had planned, explaining that he had received a telegram advising that Mr. Yandall, the company president, was arriving in Cannel City from New York. In that year Conley tendered his resignation as general manager of the coal and railway companies in order that he might live with his wife and growing children in Cincinnati. When he died two years later, the company management was still seeking the proper person and time to replace him.

Early in 1922 a road-bond issue bill had been before the General Assembly of Kentucky, and Conley was being promoted by local dignitaries and others to be appointed to the regulatory commission should the bill be passed and approved by the electorate. At the request of Senator J. D. Whiteaker of Cannel City, Tom wrote a letter endorsing Conley to the *Louisville Courier-Journal*:

Those of us who know M. L. Conley will feel assured that a commission of which he is a member will command the confidence of the people and support for the road bond measure.... A product of the Engineering Department of the University of Kentucky, his activities have reached out into many lines--railroad building, banking, mine operations and various enterprises in connection with the natural resources of the section of the state which he and his associates have organized and developed. For many years General Manager and executive in charge of railroad and mining operations valued at or near a million dollars, he has formulated the policies of these properties and has had the confidence and support of the interests he represents.

A clear vision--unerring judgment, his counsel is sought by those who know his qualities of mind and heart.... His aid and continued interest in the welfare of the young men who have gone out of his organization into

business or other activities has brought a measure of success to many.

Conley's last note to Tom, dated June 14, 1922, congratulated him on his success in the sale of certain coal interests, and also on his company's growing list of Lexington coal customers.

When the news came to the Congleton household three months later that Martin Conley had died unexpectedly, Effie's eleven-year-old son Edwin wrote in his diary, "Mother has cried all day."

The *Louisa Gleaner and Journal*, in reporting his funeral, describes Conley as:

...that rugged, robust, commanding figure--the very incarnation of physical force and intellectual energy, so characteristic of the man he was in his varied relations to the business world...and indomitable will power...always an attractive personality, always a gentleman.

Persons from out of town attending the funeral were listed as Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas Congleton, Mr. and Mrs. W. Everett Bach, William Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Garver, Professor Thomas J. Barr, Robert Rives, and Monroe Nickell of Lexington; Samuel M. Freese of Wheeling, West Virginia; F. Edward Faulkner of Paris; and J. J. Stricklin, Hugh Minor, Mr. and Mrs. Guy W. Leslie and daughter Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Snowden and daughter Elizabeth, Mr. Ellington, and Mr. Epfort, all of Cannel City.

A Resolution of Respect from Cannel City Friends of Martin Conley was written on September 24 and signed by Dr. J. D. Whiteaker, Custer Jones, W. T. Burton, Tom Davis, G. W. Leslie, and Hugh Minor:

...We feel the community has lost its foremost citizen; a man who stood for the best ideals of Christian citizenship, holding that the life is the true test of character. His life was one of singular purity; his character firm and resolute and not daunted by threat or intimidation.

Two months after her husband's death Anna Conley wrote to Effie, thanking Tom for signing the estate bond which was required of her as an out-of-state resident:

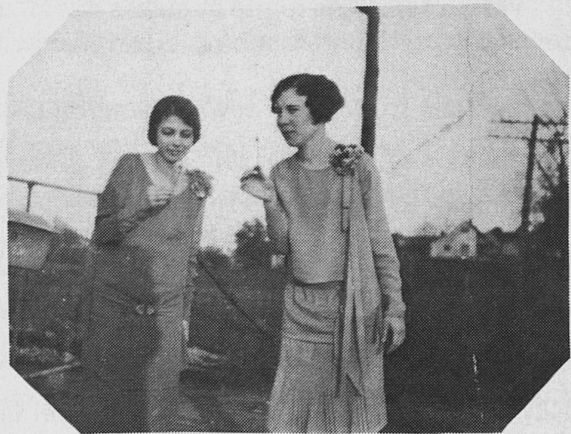
I have been trying for days to get myself together sufficiently to write and thank you and Tom for your last sweet work of love for Mr. Conley.... You were true friends, indeed, and I am overcome with gratitude when I recall the way you came to our distress.

When I told Mr. Conley of the little visit you and Helen made us in August and how you helped me can peaches, he was so pleased and said I'd have

to make you stand by that promise to come back and help eat them. He wanted to know what you thought of the house and how you liked the back yard, and seemed so delighted that you had been here. Oh, how I wish you were here now.... Some time soon if Tom can spare you for a few days please come up. You know how pleased Mr. Conley would be if you helped to relieve my loneliness....

The remainder of Mrs. Conley's eight-page letter was so heartbreaking in its expression of utter despondency over her sudden loss that we do not feel free to intrude further.

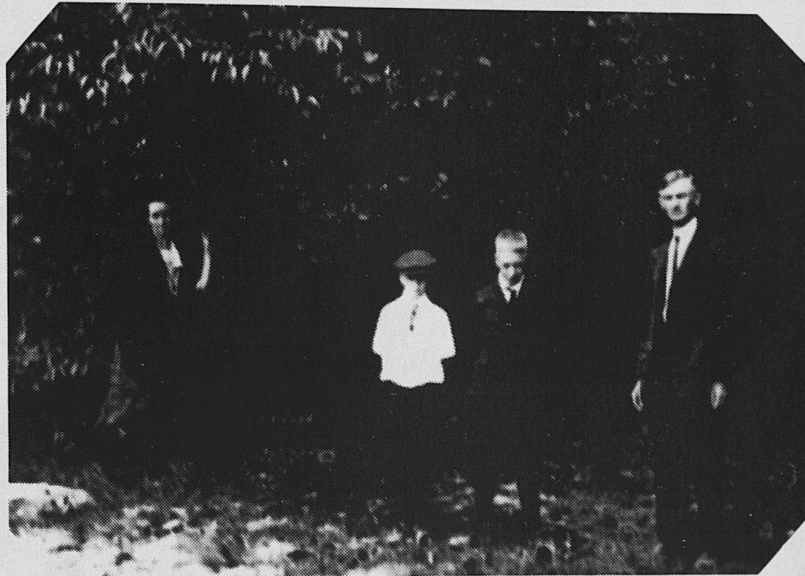
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Courtesy of Hallie Day Blackburn

1922: At left, Minnie Johnston, Maurice Carpenter, and Maurine Bach, daughter of Everett and Pearl Bach. Carpenter's wife, Margaret, who took the picture, was Mollie Gambill's nurse while she was at the Congleton home.

At right, Hallie Day Bach and Eula Mae Spencer, granddaughter of P. K. Neal for whom Neal Valley was named.



Gravesite of William Congleton, Powell County

EKC papers

Effie, Lucien, Edwin, and Tom Congleton at the grave of Tom's grandfather in Powell County.

During the weeks that Effie spent at the Gambill house in North Carolina in 1920, Tom began exploring a long-cherished interest in the lives of his Congleton ancestors. He explained the urge in a preface he prepared for a book which he never found time to write, once he had gathered the material:

As we cross over the line of middle life and observe the rapidly passing generations just before us, we pause to wonder if much of the tradition of our fathers which we hold dear is not passing with them.

Impelled by a sense of obligation to preserve for our children what knowledge of them we have, perhaps we take the time to visit the places where our forefathers lived in the pioneer days, to find only chimney rocks and mounds to mark the sites where the log cabins were built--the land they cleared of cane and wood, the spring of water near the chimney rocks and mounds, and lastly the silent places where they sleep.

We love them, not for the position they may have attained, but for their simple and hardy lives; their sacrifices and their toils; the hardships they endured in the pioneer days, that their children might live in a more abundant time. No descendants there now to keep and perpetuate the name--new lands and greater opportunities called them. In loneliness of

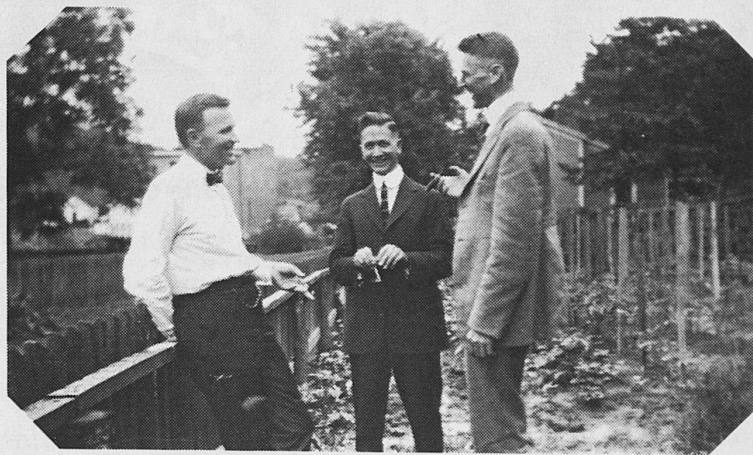
thought and heaviness of heart we live again with them for a time on these grounds.

In the early days of Tom's research a young cousin, Joe Congleton, had expressed a desire to receive a copy of anything which Tom might publish later about the family; so while Tom was preparing to store his files in 1924, he typed an eight-page summary of his findings and sent it off to Joe--then living in Waterloo, Iowa--on the chance that one day its contents might kindle a spark of interest in a potential Congleton historian of that or a later generation.



Congleton Graveyard at Nada, Powell County

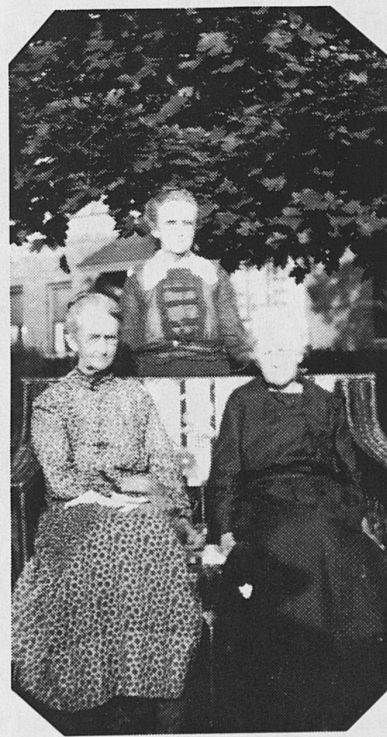
Pictures courtesy of Hallie Day Blackburn, made circa 1923



Hugh Minor, Guy Leslie, and Ed Faulkner



Dr. J. D. and Dora Lykins
Whiteaker



Lucy Reed Davis
Mary Reed Elam and Cynthia Reed Adams

UNSFORD P. YANDELL,
PRESIDENT.

ALL SALES SUBJECT TO OUR PRINTED CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

G.W. LESLIE
SUPERINTENDENT

The Kentucky Block Cannel Coal Company



TRADE MARK REGISTERED

HUGH MINOR,
TREASURER.

MINERS & SHIPPERS OF
"Pluto"
CANNEL COAL

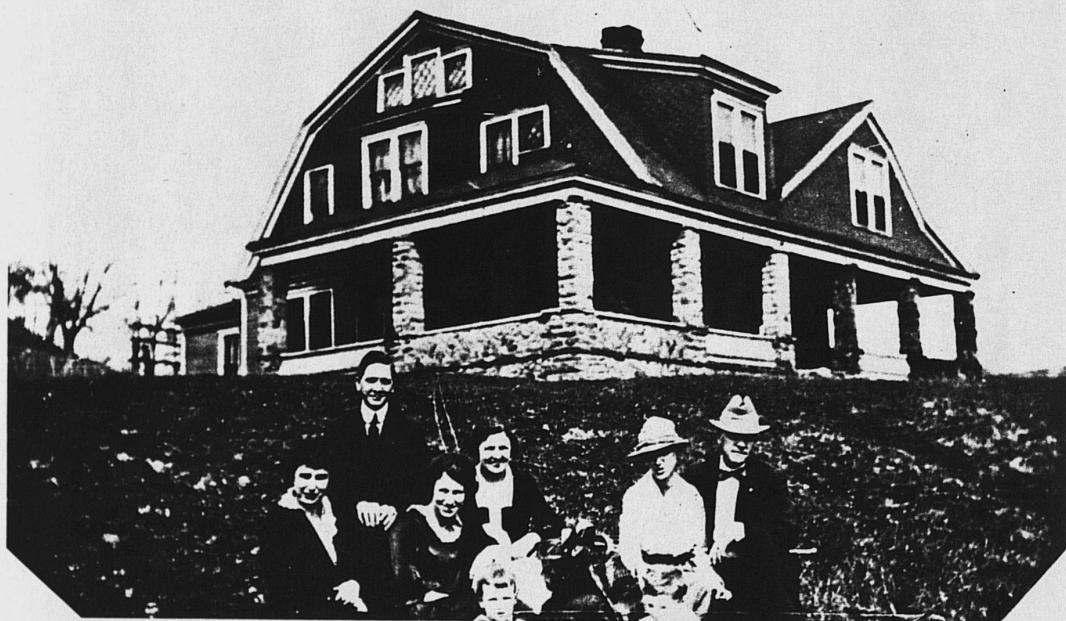
AND "BRILLIANT" GAS ENRICHING CANNEL

MINES AND SALES OFFICE

Cannel City, Ky.,



UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION
ST. LOUIS, MO.
1904



General Manager's Residence

Courtesy of Hallie Day Blackburn

Left to right: unidentified woman, Guy Leslie, Bertha Leslie, Lula Allen, Lillie Minor, and Hugh Minor.

Bertha Jones Leslie had long been a close friend of "the Kilgore girls"--Effie, Mollie, Emma, and Maude. After Martin Conley died, Bertha's husband, Guy Leslie, succeeded him as general manager of the coal and railway companies, and the Leslies moved into the handsome home provided by the companies for the chief supervisor. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was the same age as Elizabeth Snowden, and they were good friends, and when the Congleton children were in Cannel City they were often invited to lunch with the Leslies, or to drive to West Liberty with them for lunch at the Cole Hotel.

In later years when Elizabeth Leslie was in school in Lexington, some of her schoolmates would accompany her to Cannel City for the weekend. Among the activities were tennis (played on the court which had been laid out beside the Hotel DeLancey), horseback rides through the country, and card games and music on the cool, inviting porch of the Leslie home. When boys were included, meal-times were the truly high spots of the day.

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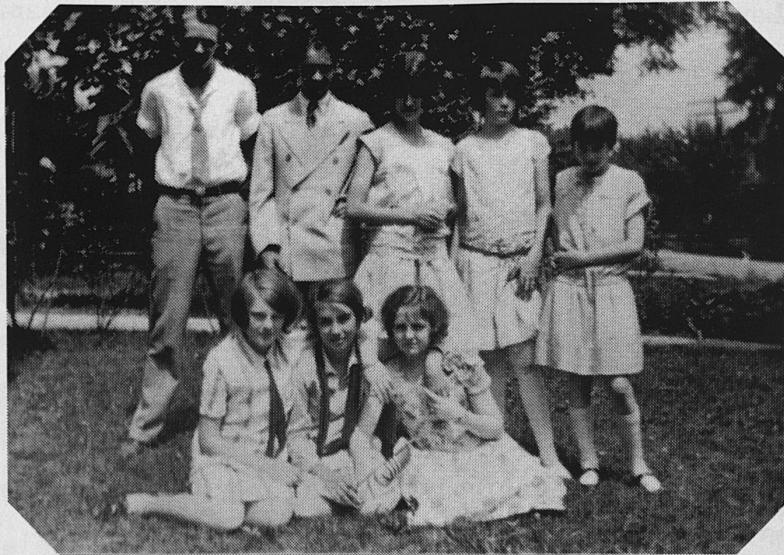
When the Congleton children were teenagers, neighborhood and school friends were always welcome at their home. The basketball hoop installed at the edge of the driveway was in regular use when enough players showed up, as was the never-empty apple basket on the back porch. Later the basement was converted into a playroom, with ping-pong and pool tables alongside the furnace.

Other than school friends, persons in the house after six o'clock in the evening were usually members of the family. Tom and Effie rarely went out. The children did their homework, Effie stayed busy with one of her many household projects and Tom read the newspaper, looking over his glasses now and then to say, "Children, don't worry your mother," when a confrontation seemed to be brewing.

During one phase, Tom leafed through the entire *Encyclopedia Britannica* series, staying with each article at least until he knew what it concerned. He once said he had read through the Bible as a youth, and sometimes would surprise the family with a quotation from Shakespeare. Although he had become quite active in civic matters, he rarely discussed them after hours. The one occasion when he could be counted on to speak at length voluntarily was when the family was on

one of its summer automobile tours. Then he would point out all the interesting geographical features, describing the course of the waterways and their historical changes, even in states where he had never lived.

For household entertainment, there was the radio. Never any whiskey. On either Thanksgiving or Christmas each year, every leaf was put in the table, the linens and silver were brought out and set agleaming, and all available kinfolk were gathered for dinner. The other holiday feast that season would be prepared at the Garvers' home.



Houseparty at Congletons' home. Standing: Edwin Congleton, Lucien Congleton, Elizabeth Leslie, Elizabeth Snowden, and Helen Congleton. Seated: Mary Templin Faulkner and two Paris friends.



Adolph Rupp's First Basketball Team at U.K.

Edwin Congleton, sitting next to Rupp on the back row, left.

Both Edwin and Lucien Congleton played on Hi-Y and Central Christian Church basketball teams when they were in high school. From a 1930 *Lexington Herald* clipping, we learn that the Central Christian team won the intermediate division "led by their stellar guard [Edwin] Congleton," in the 1930 citywide independent basketball tournament which was sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. and the Civic League.

In 1929--1930, his freshman year at the University of Kentucky, Edwin was a member of the first U.K. basketball team to be coached by Adolph Rupp. Another clipping reveals that Congleton, a substitute, was the second-highest scorer when the U.K. freshman team defeated Eastern Kentucky. Three of his teammates in that game went on to become basketball All-Americans: Aggie Sale, Carey Spicer, and Ellis Johnson.



Home of Al and Maude Garver, 107 Irvine Road

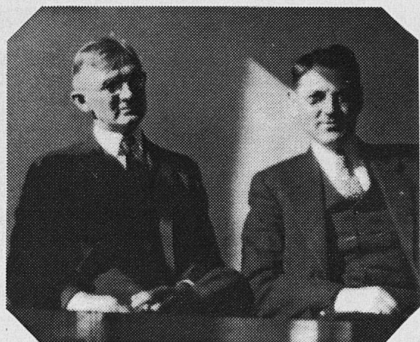
1993 photo

In 1929 The Kentucky Mountain Club was formally organized at the home of Al and Maude Garver, with forty persons in attendance. Pearl Bach--the prime mover from the beginning--was elected secretary-treasurer; S. M. Nickell, president; and C. X. Johnson, vice president. Earlier, Pearl Bach, Fairie Faulkner, Maude Garver, and Effie became active in contacting other Cannel City friends who might be interested in organizing a social and service club comprised of Lexington's Morgan County expatriates. When the Faulkners entertained prospective members at their home, the club concept was expanded to include seven other Eastern Kentucky counties.

In January 1930, soft-spoken, gentle Lucy Reed Kilgore Davis, who was born at the Old Reed place in Morgan County's Neal Valley in 1854, died of circulatory complications at the Congletons', where she was staying for two weeks while the Garvers were on a short vacation.

In 1931 Lucien Congleton was graduated from high school. His yearbook lists his activities as treasurer of his graduating class, president of the Hi-Y chapter, school proctor, and a member of the International Relations Club, the Junior Prom Committee, and the *Hi-Times* (yearbook) staff.

Other school news that year: Bertha Leslie and daughter Elizabeth arrived from Cannel City and took an apartment in Lexington, where Elizabeth was enrolled in high school at Hamilton College. Alex and Emma Snowden's daughter Elizabeth moved in with the Garvers and was enrolled at Henry Clay High School.



Tom Congleton and Ed Faulkner,
his Cannel City friend who was
working with the company.

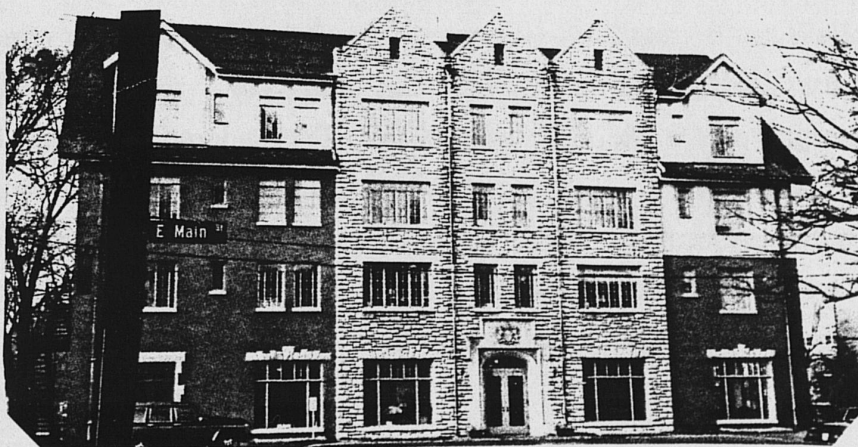


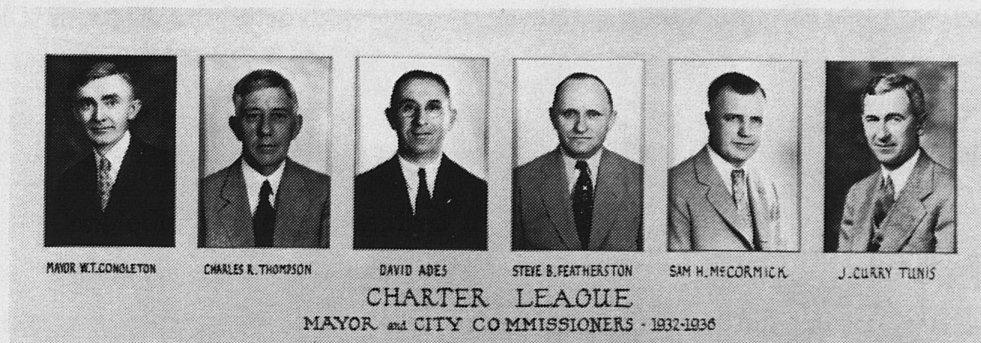
Ella Congleton,
bookkeeper and
office manager.

Prior to the onset of the Great Depression, Tom's business had grown steadily. He had purchased a sizeable plot on the Nicholasville Road opposite the University of Kentucky grounds, and he and Effie were busy drafting plans for a new home to be built there.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the W.T. Congleton Company was awarded numerous construction contracts of some prominence, including the Wellington Arms Apartments on the East Main Street. When the building was renovated in the late 1980s, a feature article in the *Bluegrass* magazine described it as "a gem of a building," and went on to quote the renovator:

Our problem was that the building was so well-built. The interior walls are all made of clay tile.... It was like trying to move a mountain.... The strength of the building's construction has helped it to endure.





Tom Congleton had never aspired to political office. His only interest in Fayette County politics was in working with other citizens who were anxious to bring about legislative reforms for their local government, and for this purpose had organized their group as the Charter League. When, after several years of promoting their cause, the measures they sponsored finally passed the Kentucky General Assembly in 1930, Tom agreed to the League's request that he head the ticket which they were putting together for mayor and ^{four} ~~three~~ commissioners in the upcoming election. In a letter to a Cannel City friend, Tom explained how his candidacy had come about:

It grew out of the activities of the Board of Commerce where I happened to be chairman of the Legislative Committee for the past four years, involving two campaigns in the legislatures of 1928 and 1930 and three campaigns in our city before the people for the adoption of the city manager form of government, including finally the election of a board of commissioners last November to put in the new system of government the first of next January. My activities in all of these events was the cause of the predicament into which I have landed.

Prior to his interest in government-reform legislation, Tom had served his community as president and finance committee chairman of the Welfare League (later the Community Chest, now the United Way), and on the board of directors of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, the Y.M.C.A., the Lexington Council of Boy Scouts, the Kentucky Female Orphan School, Transylvania College, the College of the Bible, and the Fayette County Children's Bureau. After the reform measures for city government had passed the General Assembly, he was awarded the prestigious Optimist Club Cup for "outstanding service to the community for the year 1929."

When Tom was elected mayor in 1931, among the congratulatory letters preserved are those of Walter Hillenmeyer, president of the Kiwanis Club (of which Tom was a charter member), who wrote:

You have been a credit to our club and I felt fortunate in having you as chairman of our Public Relations Committee.... I hope success smiles on all of your efforts, Tommy, old boy....

And from Florence Cantrill, an outstanding civic leader:

It was a pleasure to cast my vote for a man of your integrity and ability, traits which I had come to recognize in you through long association on the Community Chest board.

Cannel City friends were also heard from. Hugh Minor wrote:

Do not believe I could be any happier over an election had my own brother won....

And from Sam Freese:

I am sure Lexington will have the cleanest managed city in the United States with you at the helm....

And from Anna Conley:

Mr. Conley trusted you then, as the Lexington people are trusting you now.

* * * * *

After the election, Tom Congleton resigned his memberships in all community groups, declined a proposal to join the country club, and turned his attentions solely to his new mayoral duties and to the conduct of his own construction business in what was becoming a seriously lagging economy.

By 1932 the building trade had almost ceased. Tom and Effie had scrapped the plans for their new home; household and personal expenditures had been sharply curtailed; and the company's financial problem was no longer how to reduce the debt incurred in its expansion years, but how to meet the interest payments on it.

During Franklin Roosevelt's first term as president, the Public Works Administration came into existence, and federally-funded building projects were bringing new life to the industry. However, where Tom was concerned, as long as he was mayor, P.W.A. regulations would preclude his company from submitting bids on any contracts, or from selling materials to a successful bidder.



IN 1934, MEMORIAL HALL was the scene of an address by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States. Platform guests were Miss Marion Dickerman, Hyde Park, N. Y., a friend of Mrs. Roosevelt; W. T. Congleton, mayor of Lexington; Miss Mary Hughes, promotion director of Hamilton College; Desha Breckinridge, publisher of The Lexington Herald; Mrs. Ruby Laffoon, wife of the Kentucky governor; Louis Hillenmeyer, trustee from Lexington; Dr. Frank L. McVey, UK president; Dr. Paul P. Boyd, dean of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Edward Wiest, dean of Commerce; Dr. George H. Wilson, a trustee from Lexington; Dr. Alvin E. Evans, dean of Law; Ruby Laffoon, governor of the state, and James Park, commonwealth's attorney here.

Address by Eleanor Roosevelt, U.K. Memorial Hall

1934 photo

Mayor Tom Congleton, second from the left, with other state and city officials.

After carefully assessing his responsibilities to the city versus those to his family's well-being and hopes for the future, Tom Congleton resigned after two years as mayor of Lexington, in order to attend his company's affairs more closely, and to be in a position to submit bids on local P.W.A. projects. His goal of helping to secure legislation for city government reforms had been successful: in its first two years, the new administration and its appointed city manager, Paul Morton, had proven well-qualified for their tasks, as attested to on January 13, 1933, in the report of W. A. Hifner, Jr., the City's certified public accountant:

...You wound up the year with a surplus in cash and all debts paid and all sinking funds adequately provided for....

These results would be noteworthy in any period, but to have accomplished them in the year 1932, when deficits prevailed and defaults were common, is an achievement to be commended in no uncertain terms. And I doubt if it has been equaled by any city of comparable size in the United States.

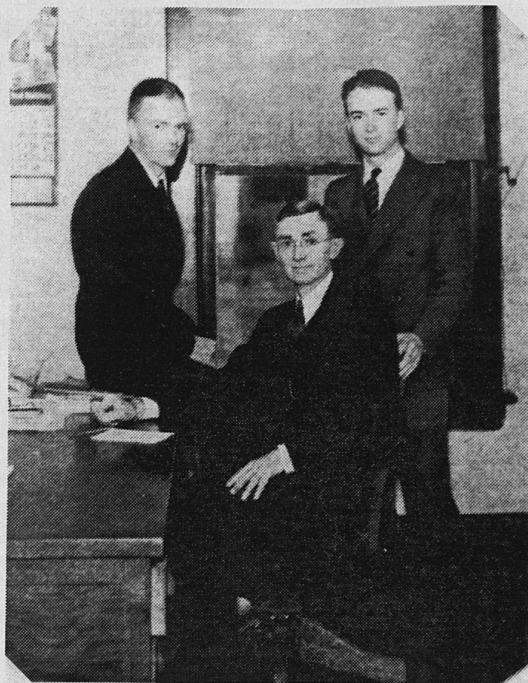
Upon Tom's resignation as mayor, City Manager Paul Morton wrote to him:

I do not recall having worked with--or I might say fought shoulder to shoulder with--a mayor or member of a commission who possesses any finer qualities and character than you, or made greater sacrifices to the temporary detriment of their businesses and families than you have, nor none of them accomplished more for their respective communities in a greater sincerity of unselfish aim than you have....

And a *Lexington Leader* editorial reads in part:

[Tom Congleton's] influence, his untiring efforts and his great faith in the proposal to which he was early committed, had much to do with the formation and success of the Charter League, organized for the purpose of presenting the issue to the citizens during the city manager campaign. He has fulfilled all expectations in the office from which he is now retiring.... City manager government in this community has been inaugurated and carried on under the best possible auspices and with the greatest success. The prestige of the city has been raised. Its credit is the best. During the hard years of the depression its affairs have been managed in the most efficient and economical manner possible....

A gold watch, inscribed "Presented to Mayor W. T. Congleton for distinguished public service," was given to him by members of the Charter League.



W. T. Congleton, seated, and sons, Edwin, left, and Lucien Congleton, of W. T. Congleton Company.

—Kenneth Studio

In 1933 Tom and Effie Congleton's son Edwin was diagnosed as schizophrenic. He had been working for a year at his father's company since graduating from college.

Few personal notations of family activities appear for the period from 1935 until 1939, but preoccupation with Edwin's welfare is evident. He visited Tom's brother George and his wife Annie Congleton on their farm ^{near} in Taylorsville late in 1933. The following May, at the suggestion of Edwin's psychiatrist, his uncle Al Garver drove him to a private sanatorium in Richmond, Virginia, for testing and evaluation. After a short stay at home when he returned to Kentucky, he was sent to Eastern State Hospital in Lexington. In 1937 he was granted regular home overnight visits, and on one of these occasions he entered a citywide tennis tournament at Woodland Park, making a good showing. Among his mother's

mementoes are his fishing license for the following year, and a permit to grow tobacco on the family's Nicholasville Road property. Also noted: on July 4, 1935, he, Tom, and Effie accompanied Al and Maude Garver to the Blue Licks celebration in Tennessee.

Son Lucien was graduated from U.K. in 1935 with a degree in engineering. The yearbook lists his activities as president of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity and of Scabbard and Blade; member of Omicron Delta Kappa, honorary leadership fraternity, Tau Beta Pi, honorary engineering fraternity, the Inter-Fraternity Council, and Lances. After graduation he accepted an engineering job with the state government in Casey County.

Daughter Helen was graduated from U.K. in 1937 with an arts and science degree. She immediately enrolled at the Fugazzi business school in order to prepare herself for the workplace--as her mother had done thirty-four years earlier. Upon completing the course, she joined the family company as assistant bookkeeper under the tutelage of her Aunt Ella.



Former Mayor Tom Congleton, Gene Raymond, unidentified, Jeanette MacDonald, Ed Wilder, and Hugh Meriwether.

Tom Congleton was never active again in ongoing civic enterprises, but at heart he remained a dreamer and a doer. During 1938 he became a great admirer of Jeanette MacDonald through her radio and movie performances, and when he learned that she would be making her first nationwide concert tour in 1939, he wrote to her manager, suggesting that Lexington be included on her schedule. Upon being advised that this would have to be arranged through a local concert-series group, Tom got in touch with his friend Anna Chandler Goff of the Lexington College of Music, and together they created the Lexington Artist Concert Series of 1938--1939, naming Tom as president and Miss Goff as manager. Hugh Meriwether, a local architect, was recruited to serve as vice president, and Mrs. Robert D. Short, wife of W. T. Congleton Company's engineer, as secretary-treasurer. With all details in order, contracts were signed for five programs: the Wagnerian Fleetwood Singers, the Salzburg Trapp Choir, Basso Alexander Kipnis, Pianist Walter Giesecking, and Miss MacDonald. The concerts were to be held at the Henry Clay High School auditorium, and all five were included in the season-ticket price of five dollars, plus eighty cents tax.

When the Jeanette MacDonald concert neared at the close of the series, all tickets had been sold and a clamor arose for more. Those in charge came to the decision that the concert would be held in the only large accommodation the city had to offer: the aged Woodland Auditorium. The citizenry had a nostalgic affection for the once-eminent landmark, and discounted its discomfort and poor acoustics. Effie Congleton and others did what they could to spruce up the star's

Jeanette MacDonald Recital To Be Presented March 31



Jeanette MacDonald

Jeanette MacDonald, singing star of "Sweethearts," "Naughty Marietta," "Maytime," and other motion pictures, will be heard in song recital at Woodland auditorium the night of Friday, March 31. Tickets for the concert, included in her first American concert tour, are on sale at the Lexington College of Music. Persons who have already made reservations are advised to call for their tickets immediately, if checks were not enclosed. If orders include

checks, self-addressed, stamped envelopes should be included.

For her Lexington concert, Miss MacDonald has chosen a program of familiar favorites, including several opera arias, German and French art songs, and two groups of songs in English. Numbers she used in her cinema appearances will be sung as encores. Her current tour, which includes 20 recitals in larger cities, is the fulfillment of a dream the Philadelphia-born girl has had for years.

dressing room, but there was little anyone could do with the hall itself. As it turned out, it really didn't matter. From all reports, the moment the radiant Miss MacDonald swept onstage, all else was inconsequential.

Lexington Herald - Friday March 31 - 1939

Enthusiastic Crowd Greet Miss MacDonald; Movie Star To Sing At Auditorium Tonight

By J. R. Kimbrough

Greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of more than 100 persons, vivacious Jeanette MacDonald of the screen and concert stage, arrived in Lexington early last night to fill a singing engagement at 8 o'clock tonight at Woodland auditorium.

It was fully 10 minutes after her train had pulled into the Southern Railway station at 6:25 p. m. before police officers could clear enough space around the Pullman-car steps for the sprightly red-haired actress to leave the coach.

And even after she had been escorted to a waiting automobile, Miss MacDonald was unable to escape the curious crowd. Men, women and children swarmed around the car to get a glimpse of the singing star.

"Turn on the light," called several of the curious, "so we can see her."

But Miss MacDonald had little to say to the crowd, although she did flash her famous smile from time to time.

After a few words of greeting to W. T. Congleton, president of the Artist's Concert Series which is sponsoring her appearance here, Mayor E. Reed Wilson and others in the official welcoming party, she was whisked away to the country home of J. Lindsay Nunn, where she will be a guest during her stay in the Bluegrass.

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Lexington Leader April 1 - 1939

Crowd Overflows Auditorium To Hear Jeanette MacDonald

A great crowd milled about the entrance to Woodland auditorium Friday night. Not in recent years has the big building housed such a crowd—a crowd that wanted to see as well as hear. Jeanette MacDonald was going to sing.

Yes, Jeanette MacDonald was the magnet that drew them in. They came from the far away places, because they had seen Miss MacDonald's pictures on the screen and heard her voice in sound reproduction. One woman said she drove a party of seven from Akron, Ohio, to Lexington just for this concert. How many others there were who traveled equal distances is only a matter of conjecture. At any rate, the entire seating capacity of the auditorium was filled, a part of the audience sat in the orchestra pit and in the balcony were standees. So much for the power of the cinema.

Miss MacDonald won over the audience by her mere entrance upon the stage. There was a spontaneous outburst that reflected her great popularity. The word got around that her husband was in the audience or backstage, so there was a restless desire to see him. But while Miss MacDonald sang, the audience was keenly attentive. There were times when the silence in the hall was broken by strange sounds emitted by the antiquated heating system in the building, but even this did not deter Miss MacDonald.

x x x x x

After singing an encore, Miss MacDonald retired for a brief while Giuseppe Bamboschek on the stage to play piano pieces, Chopin. It was at this period in the concert that the audience sensed the presence of Gene Raymond, Miss MacDonald's husband. Finally, it succeeded in inducing Mr. Raymond to appear on the stage. During the pandemonium that prevailed for the instant, Mr. Bamboschek retired somewhat hastily in favor of the blond and handsome presence of Mr. Raymond, who undoubtedly caused feminine hearts to beat faster.

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Lexington Herald April 1 - 1939

Jeanette MacDonald Wildly Applauded By Local Audience

By Era Wilder-Peniston

Lexington concert-goers, music-lovers from many sections of Kentucky and persons from neighboring states crowded Woodland auditorium last night to hear Jeanette MacDonald give the closing concert of the 1938-39 Artist Concert Series.

Such a pandemonium of applause as greeted Miss MacDonald as she swept upon the stage rarely has been witnessed in Lexington. The fresh buoyancy of her lovely voice and the sheer beauty of her personality quickly found a lasting place in the affections of Artist Concert patrons.

Miss MacDonald not only has a lovely voice, but she is really beautiful. Her trilogy of gifts: Animation, charm, and intelligence are not always present in the diva of the concert stage.

x x x x x

At the conclusion of the program, the artist was recalled to sing a number of encores. It was in these that the Jeanette MacDonald fans, whose presence was unmistakable, received their reward. Such favorites as Victor Herbert's "Italian Street Song," "Sweet Mystery of Life" and "Sweethearts" were received with outbursts that almost shattered the rules of music-hall decorum.

Miss MacDonald was generous, smiling, gracious, beautiful and vivacious. She rewarded her audience to the point of lavishness. What more could be asked?

The concert brought to a close a series of five attractions brought to Lexington under the local management of Miss Anna Chandler Goff, and an association headed by W. T. Congleton.

—C. G. DICKERSON.

Tom Congleton was never much on quips or cliches, but when pressed for details of the celebrity's visit, he had a little joke to tell which obviously delighted him: On the day after the concert he was driving Miss MacDonald, her husband Gene Raymond, and two other members of the group on a tour of horse farms. The glamorous movie star, sitting on the front seat between Tom and her husband, suddenly turned her head, and the slender plume on her hat brushed Tom's face. "Oh, Mr. Congleton," she cried in alarm, "did that strike your eye?" To which he replied, "Ah, Miss MacDonald, what's an eye!"



Effie Kilgore Congleton

A note in Effie Congleton's files established June 10, 1932, as the day she and Pearl Bach began their genealogical research in Frankfort, but it was not until several years later that Effie was interested in devoting travel time to tracing family lineages. Meanwhile, with Mrs. Bach's encouragement, she began to use her evenings in correspondence with Morgan County family members and with state and national statistics bureaus, and by 1938 she had secured the required information to gain membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through this organization she developed a circle of friendships with women of a kindred interest in history and ancestry; and coming as it did at a very difficult period in her life, these associations were of great value to her as a much-needed diversion.

In 1940 Effie's brother Emmett Kilgore returned to Kentucky to live after working in California as a hotel manager for many years. He immediately took an interest in his nephew Edwin--who was then living in a private home--and spent a good deal of time taking him about. Relieved to a degree from her

constant concern about her son, Effie took research trips with her sister Maude and Pearl Bach to Bath, Franklin, and Mason counties, then a two-week tour of Virginia and other eastern states. The pace picked up in 1941 with a second trip to New England, making stops in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. Also, there were excursions to Rowan, Wayne, Mason, Morgan, and Montgomery counties that year.

In 1942 Effie Congleton was chosen registrar of her D.A.R. chapter, providing her with the opportunity to assist prospective members in tracing their lineages. She held this position for eight years, finding it one of the most satisfying endeavors of her life.

* * * * *

In 1941 the United States had entered World War II. Lucien Congleton, a first lieutenant in the United States Army, was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was falling in love with Jane Reagin, an occasional visitor from Tallahassee, Florida. Jane's foster sister, Frances Teague, was married to one of Lucien's army buddies, and they lived on the post.

* * * * *

Late in 1942 Edwin began an extended stay in Jackson with Effie's sister Emma and her husband Alex Snowden. The Snowdens had moved from Cannel City some years earlier and now were operating the bus station and lunchroom in Jackson.

* * * * *

War ration books were issued in May 1942, putting Effie's travels--even those within Kentucky--to an end for the next two-and-a-half years. But her devotion to genealogical research increased, if anything, and every evening found her poring over her notes and correspondence.



The Snowden Family: Alex, Emma, Robert, and Elizabeth

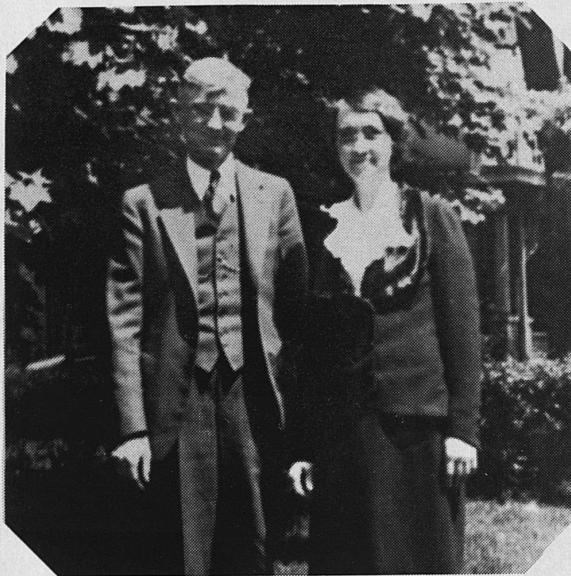


The Davis Family: Tom, Bill, and Frances.
A second child, James, was born later.

Emma Snowden had been ill with cancer for several years, and periodically reported to her doctor in Lexington. About six months after Edwin went to her home in Jackson, Emma came to Lexington to stay with the Congletons in order to be near her medical care. She died there in August 1943.

A similar situation would occur four years later, in 1947, when Frances Lykins Davis, wife of Effie's half-brother Tom Davis of Pikeville, would spend the last two months of her illness in the Congleton home.

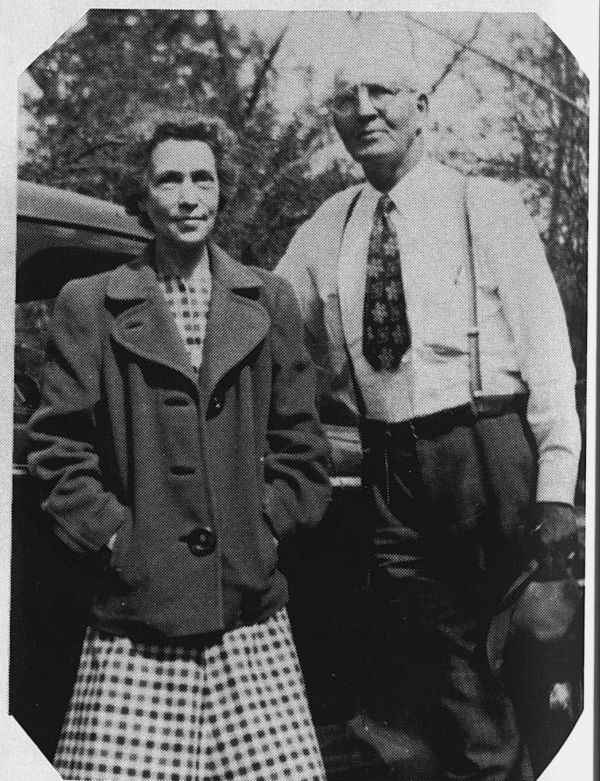
Tom Congleton was always ready to be of help to his wife's family, who had been so much a part of his life when they all lived in Cannel City before he and Effie were married. He was mindful of his own family as well, and in the early 1930s had lent supplementary college funds to three of his nephews. Each loan was repaid soon after graduation, although Tom always assured his young kinsmen that he could wait until they were more financially secure.



Tom and Effie Congleton



Everett Bach and Alex Snowden



Maude and Al Garver



Jane and Lucien Congleton
September 4, 1943

First Lieutenant Lucien Congleton and Jane Reagin were married at her home in Tallahassee, Florida, on September 4, 1943--the luckiest day of his life. During the war Lucien served eighteen months in Europe with the ninetieth division of the Third Army. One of the most amicable of young men by nature, Lucien fought through four major campaigns in France and Germany, receiving two medals: the Bronze star, its citation reading:

...for heroic achievement on July 6, 1944, in the vicinity of Foret de Mont Castre, France. During a counterattack, communications wires of a battalion were destroyed by artillery fire, leaving the battalion cut off from the main force. First Lieutenant Congleton, realizing the critical situation, advanced through the heavy barrage, established radio communications and, despite intense fire, maintained the position until the attack was repelled....

and the Silver Star, its citation reading:

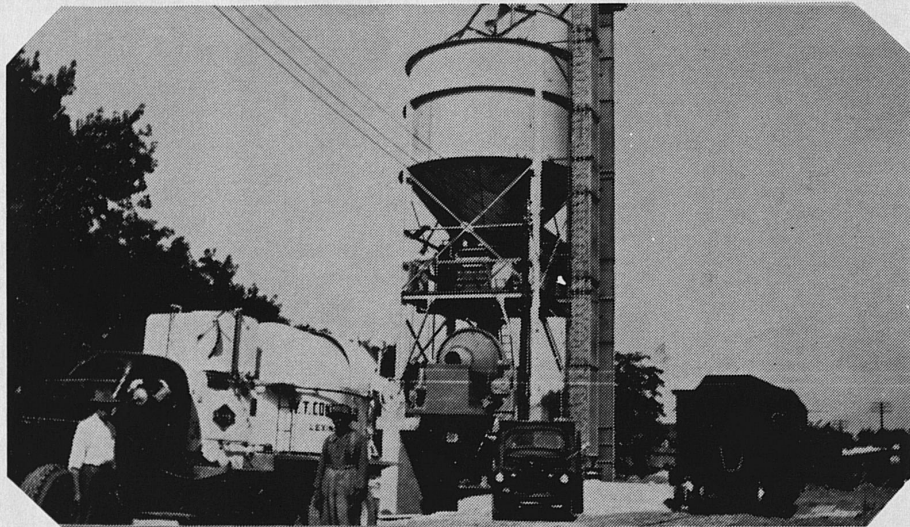
...for gallantry in action from Nov. 9 to 11, 1944, in the vicinity of Malling, France. During the Moselle River crossing, Lieutenant Congleton supervised and assisted in laying a wire line across the raging torrent and during this period worked night and day keeping in communications.... His courageous and determined leadership so inspired his men that constant communications were maintained, thus contributing to the success of the Moselle River operation.

In 1945 World War II was over and life began settling in once more. Captain Lucien Congleton was home again, with Jane; Helen was home after two years in New York; Edwin had returned to Lexington after a year with the Snowdens in Jackson and was living in a private residence; and Effie and Pearl Bach were on the road again, once to Virginia and once to Tennessee.

At W. T. Congleton Company, Lucien and an army friend, Robert P. Brown, were doing engineering work; Helen and Bob Brown's wife Helen were bookkeeping; and Tom's sister Ella was managing the yard sales. The Nicholasville Road property was being partitioned into seventy-four subdivision lots, and was called "Dantzler Court" for U.K.'s Dr. L. L. Dantzler, who lived on adjacent property. As soon as building materials became available to the private sector, lot sales started booming, with Lucien and Jane among the first customers.

* * * * *

Tom began working on yet another dream in 1945--the installation of Lexington's first central-mix concrete plant, the most efficient facility for producing the highest-quality product. The investment would be a large undertaking for the company, and he and Lucien explored the matter for three years, beginning with correspondence while Lucien was in the Army. The plant was installed in 1948.



Central-mix Concrete Plant at W. T. Congleton Company

1948 photo

Pictured at left, Tom Congleton; center, Silas Payne, who had been employed with the firm for forty years.



Still in 1948, another of Tom's dreams came true: his first grandchild, William Thomas Congleton II, was born to Jane and Lucien in September.

* * * * *

Although at the age of sixty-nine Tom was still youthful-looking and physically active, a few days after Christmas in 1948 he complained of breathing difficulties and was persuaded to contact his physician. The family was advised that Tom had developed an inoperable lung cancer. His decline was rapid; he was soon confined to his bed, suffering discomfort but little pain. He looked forward to Lucien's daily visits to consult about business matters, but never alluded to what his doctor's prognosis might have been, always planning to return to work "next week." Within two months, on March ^{1949,} 7, he died of a heart attack brought on by his condition.

A *Lexington Herald* editorial, headed "Idealist in Politics," read:

He was in reality the father of the Charter League and city management form of government in Lexington....

And another, headed "A Good Citizen," read:

He was a leader in the move to set up the city-manager form of government in Lexington. He was a leader in getting the city planning and zoning commission established. He was a leader in founding the Welfare League which later became the Community Chest [now the United Way]. He was a leader in obtaining a new city storm sewer system which eliminated floods in downtown Lexington.

Tom had never been drawn toward developing a social life outside of family activities, and it had been fifteen years since he had been active in public service, but on the rainy day of his funeral the mortuary chapel and adjacent rooms were filled to overflowing with callers and floral tributes; and later, when his daughter began using his Jeep station wagon to drive to work, almost every pedestrian she encountered along the five-block residential stretch would turn from habit to wave at the little car.

EFFIE KILGORE CONGLETON

In Lexington, 1950--1976



Effie Congleton and her brother Emmett Kilgore
1950

Late in 1949, the year her husband died, Effie Congleton sustained an injury to her back when raising a window. It was several months before she was able to resume her outside activities; meanwhile, she resigned her duties as registrar of her D.A.R. chapter. In 1952 she was travelling again, with Pearl Bach, Maude Garver, and Fairie Faulkner, plus a new recruit--Hubert Gambill's wife Ruth of Asheville, North Carolina, whom he had married after Mollie died. Over the years Effie and Maude became close friends with Ruth, and they often visited each other.

Besides their genealogical travels, Maude and Effie attended local functions of Central Christian Church, the Kentucky Mountain Club, the Women's Club of Central Kentucky, and the D. A. R. Usually accompanying them to these events was Bertha Leslie, who had in 1944 moved to Lexington, where her husband, Guy, had died two years later after a prolonged illness. After his death, Bertha had stayed busy, first as a fraternity housemother, and then as the resident manager of the Y.W.C.A. She was highly efficient, and made many friends through her

various connections. Her responsibilities precluded her from joining the extended research trips, but she and Effie occasionally spent an afternoon in Cincinnati visiting their friend Anna Conley, who had been living there in a Catholic retirement home since 1941.

Anna never lost touch with her Cannel City friends, who had shared with her all the years of her married life. In 1929, seven years after Martin Conley's death their oldest son Leslie was drowned. Noted on a telegram to the Congletons, advising of the tragedy, was the report of a later telephone message: "Aunt Anna hopes you can come today." Shortly after she moved into the retirement home, her son Dick brought her to call on the Congletons. Dick was with the Pan American Airways as an engineer during the war, and supervised the construction of the Guam airfield. In 1954 Anna wrote a long letter from California, relating that a series of illnesses had kept her bedridden for several months at Dick's home. She said she was "being spoiled" by her daughter-in-law and her grandchildren, but was eager to return to Cincinnati. She enclosed a newspaper clipping concerning her youngest son Mart, who had joined two of his friends, former Cincinnatians, in establishing "four fabulous Greater Los Angeles ice cream shops...with plenty of takers among the film and radio celebrities of Hollywood."

Another Cannel City friend, Hugh Minor, left there in 1940 to return to Charlottesville, Virginia, where he had lived before his Cannel City days, and where his sons William and Dr. George Minor now live. Hugh had been one of the first to join and the last to leave Cannel City's coal and railway companies. His wife, Lillie Faulkner, had died in 1925 and was buried near her family in the Lexington Cemetery. He too had kept in touch with Tom and Effie through the years, primarily concerning news of their mutual friends.

The last letter he wrote, a few years before he died, was about Dr. Harry Walker, Elizabeth Leslie's husband, who was at Pearl Harbor during the attack and had operated on the wounded for forty-eight hours, almost totally without sleep. Hugh was buried in the Lexington Cemetery in 1948.

West Liberty, Ky., Aug. 5, 1954

NAME THESE MEN IN HOMECOMING CONTEST

"Name these two men and win a prize at the Morgan county school homecoming," said Bernard E. Whitt this week. "This homecoming has got to be a live wire event and I think I have the perfect prize to give the first man or woman outside the county who sends me a postcard or letter telling me the names of the two men in the above picture and saying they will be here for the homecoming."

All homecomers read the rules carefully. You must correctly identify the men in the picture

and state that you will be at the homecoming here Saturday, Aug. 21. Whitt will present the winner a prize at the banquet Saturday evening at 6:30 at the high school cafeteria.

The day's activities will include a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Stacy at 2 o'clock that afternoon; the banquet will take place at 6:30 at the school cafeteria and the entertainment hour and square dance will follow at the school auditorium.

Here is the menu that will be served by the Margaret Stacy Guild—roast turkey and dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, creamed potatoes, green beans, tomato and cottage cheese salad, hot rolls, tea, coffee, pineapple upside-down cake and ice cream.

J. Luther Blair, president of the homecoming association, urges everyone to return to the old home town for this day of fellowship and fun with friends and former schoolmates.

Many reservations have already been made, reported Mrs. H. B. Murray, West Liberty. To make your reservation write Mrs. H. B. Murray, West Liberty, telling her how many places to reserve.

And don't forget, if you want to win a prize, identify the two men in the above photo.



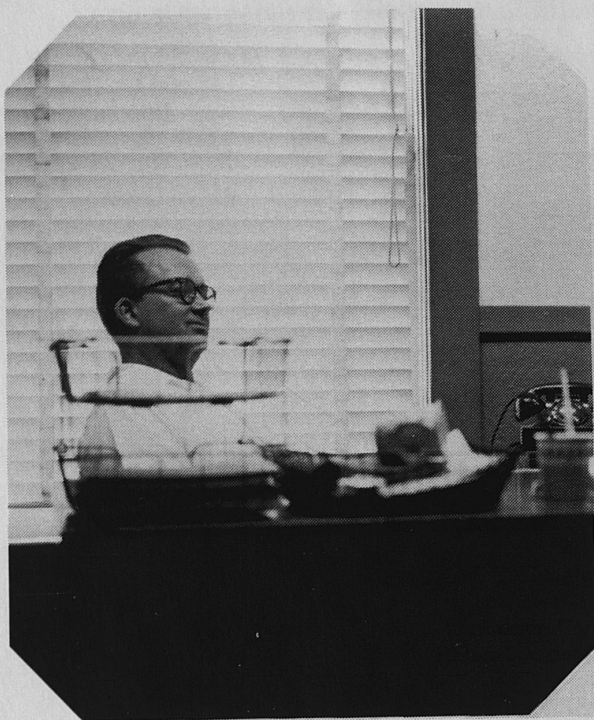
Licking Valley Courier
August 23, 1954

ALLEY COURIER

IN OL' MORGAN

(Continued from page 1)

won second prize. We have had old-timers identify most of the persons shown in these two early pictures. A photo of Al Garver and Sam Carter in a comic pose won third prize. The photos were property of Mrs. Hattie Baldwin.



W. T. Congleton Company, 1953

Lucien Congleton, president
Helen Congleton, secretary-treasurer



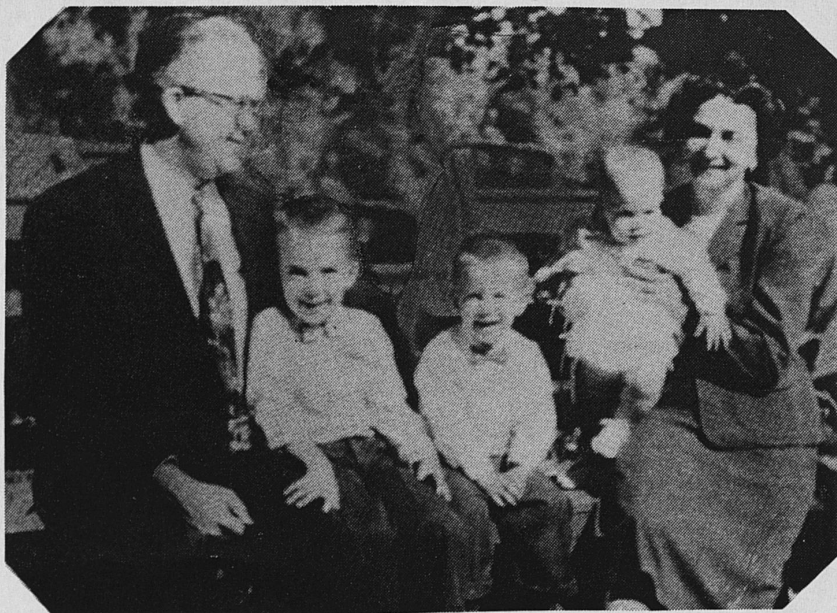


Effie Congleton, Minnie Garvin, and Mrs. Woodrow Stamper in Neal Valley

The osteoporosis which troubled Effie had so incapacitated her by 1957 that she was no longer travelling outside of Kentucky. She was seventy-seven years old and had been living alone on Russell Avenue since 1954, the year that her daughter Helen married John Bayne Breckinridge and moved across town. Effie's sister Maude Garver came by every day and saw to any errands, and Pearl Bach was still across the street, making regular visits.

Two contacts of great interest to Effie came about during this period. One was a renewed association with Minnie Johnson^T Garvin (not to be confused with Garver), the granddaughter of Effie's aunt, Cynthia Reed Adams of Morgan County. In her late teens Minnie had come to Lexington to help Effie during Mollie Gambill's illness, and had remained more than a year, becoming very close to the family. Now, living in Middletown, Ohio, with her own children grown, she found time to become interested in genealogy and had contacted her cousin Effie about it. In the beginning they corresponded; then Minnie started making visits of a week or more. On several occasions she drove Effie to Morgan County.

Effie's second contact was with Dr. Clinton Congleton, who practiced dentistry in Barbourville. In 1953 Clinton had happened upon the family-genealogy letter which Tom Congleton had written in 1925 to Clinton's uncle, Joe Congleton. Clinton first read the letter forty years after Tom had written it, and sixteen years after he died. Clinton was so inspired by the material that he soon became a dedicated seeker of Congleton history. At the top of his list of contacts was Effie Congleton, and for a number of years his many research visits brought her a great deal of pleasure.



Lucien, Bill, Robert, Lucia, and Jane



1100 Fincastle Road

1992 Photo

Home of John and Helen Breckinridge

In 1960 Effie Congleton was eighty years old. She had become insecure about staying alone at night, and the family added a small apartment for her at the back of John and Helen Breckinridge's home. The house was on a corner lot, and a private entrance to Effie's apartment was available from the side street.

Effie became quite satisfied with her new home. She had always been fond of her son-in-law, and now enjoyed his children Knight and John Jr., who lived in their father's home during some of their school years. John treated his mother-in-law in a gracious manner, which entertained both of them, sending her flowers on appropriate occasions--once, red roses on Helen's birthday.



Helen, John, Jr., John, and Knight Breckinridge

Dr. Clinton Congleton continued his visits with Effie after she moved from Russell Avenue. In 1961, as he was organizing his material for a publication of Congleton genealogy, he included the following tribute:

I reverently dedicate this volume to the memory of William Thomas Congleton, and to his wife Mrs. Effie Congleton.... It was the incentive of these two persons that first began the movement to get this work done as long ago as 1920 [when Tom Congleton started his research].... I made many visits to the home of W. T. Congleton's widow on Russell Ave., in Lexington, Ky.... It was at Mrs. Congleton's home that I got the greatest results for she had the files on Cousin Tom's work. I was given access to them and studied them long and finally prepared a copy of most of the material for my own personal use since I went on with the research.... It was through her that I gained the strength and made the effort to go ahead with Cousin Tom's work.

Dr. Clinton Congleton died before his work was published. His uncle Joe later further organized the material, and with his brother Isaac prepared copies for members of their family. Since that time Clinton's niece, Marie Allega, has extended his research into a ³⁹²125-page, computerized volume which was published in 1992. Mrs. Allega retained Clinton's dedication to W. T. and Effie Congleton, quoting it in full in her publication.



Front: Bill, David, Effie, Lucia, and Robert. Back: Helen and Lucien.



Kennedy Memorial Library, West Liberty

In 1966 the new Kennedy Memorial Library was dedicated in West Liberty. Its construction was made possible by a statewide fund drive sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, a group based in Louisville. Morgan County had been selected as the recipient of the funds, partially because the judges were impressed by its citizens' having recently voted to pass a tax measure to raise revenues for a new library.

By happenstance, the Friends had asked John Breckinridge (whom they first knew when he was Kentucky's attorney general) to be chairman of their statewide drive, so Effie felt that she was twice blessed.

A notice in the *Licking Valley Courier* acknowledged her contributions:

...Mrs. Effie Congleton, the former Miss Effie Kilgore of Cannel City... and mother-in-law of John Breckinridge, chairman of the fund drive for the Kennedy Memorial Library, has been most generous with her donations to the new library. She has retained her loyal feelings for her native county.

The Library wishes to express their appreciation for this contribution. As a small token of their appreciation they are planning to place a plaque in the library as a memorial to her and her many efforts in helping make the library possible.

--Morgan County Library Board



SIGNING THE GUEST REGISTER and looking at book on life of John F. Kennedy are from left, Edwin Lacy, librarian at the new memorial library; Mrs. George Gray, Louisville, an honor guest at Saturday's dedication, and Dedicatory Speaker John B. Breckinridge, former attorney general of Kentucky and state finance chairman for building fund. Mrs. Gray, well-known resident of Louisville, returned to West Liberty last night (Wednesday) to spend the rest of the week in the library, making trips with the bookmobile and greeting Morgan County people.

Minnie Garvin was making more frequent trips to Lexington now, and staying longer. Effie's sister Maude, from two blocks away, checked in almost every day, and Jane and Lucien and their children--also two blocks away--showed up frequently. Son Edwin was living in a private-care facility and paid occasional visits, arriving by a bus which stopped at the corner. Only her faithful neighbor Pearl Bach was less available.

Effie was endlessly absorbed in her paperwork or the radio (news, church service, Milton Metz, Eleanor Roosevelt, Christmas music), and never registered a complaint--about anything.



Courtesy of Hallie Day Blackburn



Above: Harlan and Nettie Reed Prater 1957 photo

At left: Pearl Day Bach elected Kentucky D.A.R. historian 1963 photo



Mart and Anna Conley's son Mart 1954 photo



225 South Ashland Avenue

1993 photo

Home of Jane and Lucien Congleton

In late 1972 John Breckinridge was elected to Congress, representing Kentucky's Sixth District. Effie moved to her son Lucien's home, where his wife Jane and the four grandchildren--Bill, Robert, Lucia, and David--provided attention and flawless care as her hearing and eyesight failed and painful back trouble continued. Princess Smith came full time for household duties; and William Beatty, who had done yard work for Effie since Russell Avenue days, showed up whenever she decided it would be beneficial to her to have her many reference books and some two hundred research notebooks rearranged.

Lucien was president of the W. T. Congleton Company, and, like his father before him, was active in civic affairs: treasurer of United Cerebral Palsy of the Bluegrass; on the boards of directors of the Y.M.C.A., the Lexington Homebuilders Association, and the Kentucky Ready-Mix Concrete Association; a member of the Lexington Planning and Zoning Commission; a deacon at Central Christian Church, and later an elder at Crestwood Christian Church.

Before marrying Lucien and coming to Lexington to live, Jane Reagin worked for the State of Florida in the Motor Vehicle Commission and in the office of the State Treasurer, and during World War II was a Red Cross and U.S.O. volunteer in Tallahassee. She was graduated from the Florida State College for

Women where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. After moving to Lexington she became a charter member and president of Chapter F, P.E.O., and served on the boards of the Lexington Y.W.C.A., United Church Women, Hazel Green Academy, Crestwood Christian Church, and as president of the Christian Women's Fellowship. She was a member of the Women's Club of Central Kentucky and a twelve-year volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

On Effie Congleton's ninety-fifth birthday, December 10, 1975, she received a congratulatory telegram from President Ford. It had been prompted by a letter to him from Effie's granddaughter Lucia, which read in part:

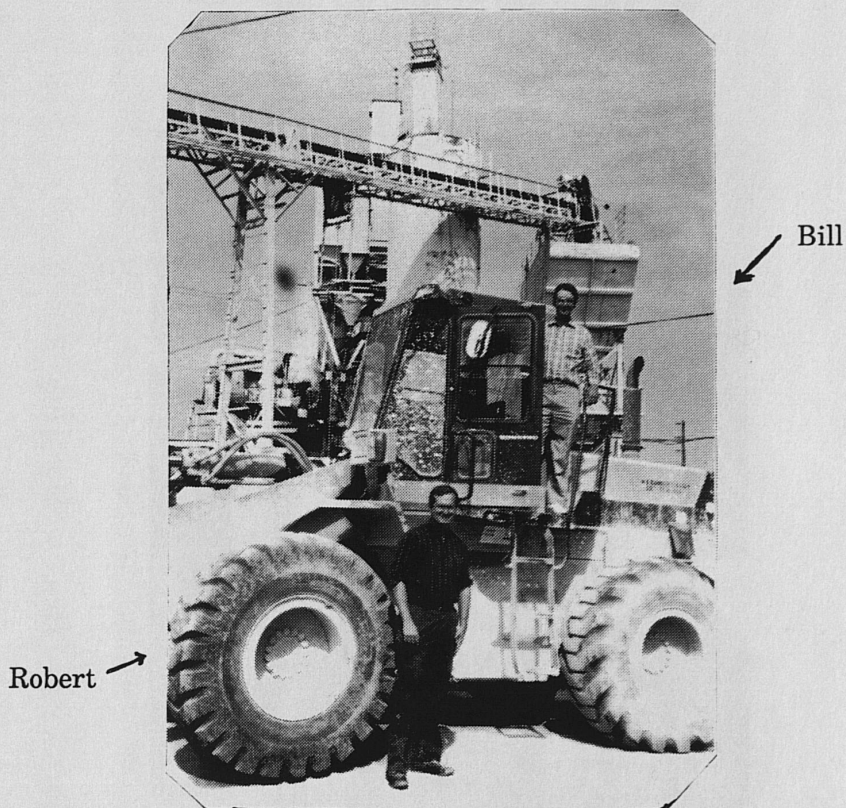
December 10th is my grandmother's birthday. She will be 95. She has been an amazingly alert woman, keeping always informed of what is happening in this beloved country of hers.... She was taught as a child and continues to live religiously. In these days of cynicism, her undaunted faith in what is good and right is beautifully refreshing.

Recently her alertness has begun to fade.... To receive a note from the President of her country would mean more than I can say....

* * * * *

Earlier in the fall Helen Breckinridge had taken her mother and Bertha Leslie for a short drive. The two elderly friends had not been together for many months; and while there was little conversation other than Helen's, it was easy to sense the depth of feeling and understanding existing between them, with a lifetime of shared memories.

The following May, the Breckinridges moved to a condominium at the Oaks in Lexington, and her mother moved in to live with them. She died there six months later, in ^{November} ~~September~~ 1976, the longest surviving of her siblings and of her good friends. Bertha Leslie had died in March.



In the eighty-six years of its existence, the W. T. Congleton Company has included three generations of brother-sister officeholders:

1907: W. T. Congleton, president;	Ella Congleton, secretary-treasurer.
1949: Lucien H. Congleton, president;	Helen Congleton, secretary-treasurer.
1986: Robert C. Congleton, president;	Lucia Congleton, secretary-treasurer.
W. T. Congleton II, vice president;	



← Lucia

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THE LEXINGTON CEMETERY

1993



Entrance to the Lexington Cemetery



Statuary on the Grounds

A number of Cannel City and Powell County friends and family members are buried here in two adjoining sections.

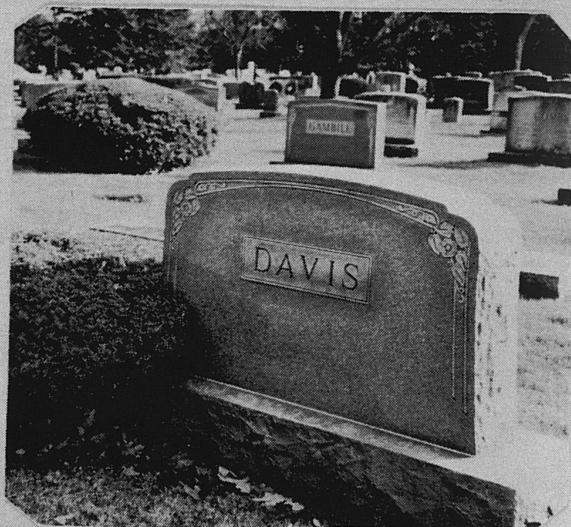


Garver-Gambill Lot: Al and Maude Garver, Lucy Reed Davis, Mollie Gambill, Harold Gambill, and Emmett Kilgore

Congleton Lot, at right: Tom, Effie, Edwin, David, and Ella Congleton, and Stella Congleton Atkinson



Snowden Lot: Alex and Emma Snowden, Elizabeth Snowden Franz, and Robert Snowden



Davis Lot: Tom and Frances Davis



Templin Lot: George Congleton's sons David and Ed Congleton, and son-in-law Edwards Templin



Bach Lot: Everett and Pearl Bach, and Maurine Bach Steele



Minor Lot: Hugh and Lillie Minor



Leslie Lot: Guy^{AND} Bertha Leslie, and Elizabeth Leslie Walker



Barr Lot: Tom and Stella Barr, and Louise Barr



Faulkner Lot: Ed and Fairie Faulkner



Henry Clay Monument



A portion of the Garver-Gambill stone is reproduced on the jacket of Burton Milward's 1989 publication, *History of the Lexington Cemetery*. The stone was placed in the cemetery in 1923, and an excerpt from a Lexington Granite Company letter at that time reads: "...This is the finest piece of work of this description in Central Kentucky, and we are proud that it will go up in the Lexington Cemetery."



John Breckinridge, son-in-law of Tom and Effie Congleton, is buried in this older section of the cemetery with his family members.

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