

What I know of my mother's, Audie Helton Broyles, family.

Her father was William (Bill) Helton and her mother was Freona Mackey. William was born 1872 son of Greenberry Helton and Freona was born in 1885 daughter of Eliza and Rebecca Mackey. They had a farm on Jacks Fork creek in Whitley County Kentucky, about 7 miles north of Williamsburg Kentucky. Freona's family had a farm in Mackey Bend in Knox County Kentucky, which was along a bend in the Cumberland river. William and Freona farmed, coal mined and timbered while raising six children. William died in 1953 with pneumonia, broken hip and gangrene in both feet listed as cause of death. Both are buried at Mackey Bend cemetery.

1. Luther Jan 21 1904
2. Charlie Jan 14 1906
3. Ada May 16 1910
4. Audie Feb 5 1913
5. Monas Dec 19 1914 (could be wrong that's less than 11 months apart.)
6. Marie Oct 7 1919

Luther was married to Nona Sharpe of the Sharpe family further up Jacks Fork creek. Luther did some cattle farming but made most of his income from lateral or ramp coal mining on his property. Luther was a chain smoker keeping a one or two cartons of Lucky Strike on his truck dash at all times. Luther was known to buy a new suit which he always wore even into the mine. When that suit was worn out he would discard it and buy a new one. He and Nona had three children.

1. Daymond 1928 -2010
2. Barbra Jean 1931 - 2022
3. Donald Bruce 1932 - 2010

Daymond was a fundamentalist minister and ran an orphanage near Cumberland Falls. Barbra Jean Roberts and Donald Bruce lived on Jacks Fork their entire lives.

Williams second child, Charlie, lived on Meadow Creek Rd just out of Rockholds Ky. He is best known for fathering sixteen children.

Ada married Gordon Henderson, a local school teacher. They raised four children in their home on the east side of the Helton farm, later moving to Corbin Ky where they lived most of their life.

1. Daughter name unknown

2. Gordon Jr. 1930 - 1999
3. Earl 1933- 2019
4. Ronnie dates unknown.

I remember Earl mostly as he was near my older brother Herb's age. I remember he had a motorcycle and would perform tricks for our enjoyment.

Monas, the fourth child of William I remember well. This is an excerpt from my developing biography.

"While Mom and Dad were working in Cincinnati I had the most thrilling experience of my life. Prior to this time, summer of 1942, I had not been further from home than Jacks Fork. This summer we got to go visit Mom and Dad in Cincinnati. Uncle Monas took us by car all the way to Cincinnati, a two-day trip to get there. Monas was driving with some lady I didn't know in the front and we kids in the back seat.

On the first day we went over a big river that we had to cross on a ferry boat. I remember how awesome it was with overhead lights strung out all the way across that river. This ferry must have been at Clay's Ferry over the Kentucky River just south of Lexington. The ferry was still there, though not used, as late as the late 1950's.

Shortly after the ferry ride we stopped at some "tourist" home. I remember how clean and white everything was with a white picket fence along the road, and again, all of those beautiful lights everywhere. We kids slept in a room by ourselves. On leaving the next morning uncle Monas made a point of letting us know that his lady friend had stayed in the room next to ours and he had slept in the car. I thought that was really odd that he would sleep in the car with all of these nice rooms here. I don't know why he felt the need to make sure that we knew where he had slept."

Monas was an aircraft mechanic in the air force where he retired. He married my aunt Faye, Betty's Banks Mom, then he married a lady in France, Monique.

I have other stories about Uncle Monas, here's one.

Monas had an open cockpit biplane. He was flying over the rugged terrain in the area of Cumberland falls when a loud banging noise came from the engine. The closest place he could land was a grass field where locals had two or three small airplanes. It was actually a cow pasture that lay along the L&N railroad near the intersection of US25 and US26 (Rockholds road). The field was about 15 miles away and he didn't have enough altitude to make it to the field. He would maintain his glide until he got to the tree tops, then restart the engine to gain some more altitude. He had to repeat this multiple times but made it to the field. He was in the process of repairing the engine on weekends when he could get time to travel from Wright Patterson to Williamsburg. He had left the wooden prop at Pa's, hanging on the back porch. Before he could get it finished an L&N train went by and sparks from the steam engine set the field on fire, burning his plane.

The other plane owners never lost their planes because they had placed individual fences around their plans to keep the cows away. The cows had worn paths around the fences enough so that the fire did not cross to their planes.

Aunt Marie, William's fifth child, married a man named Gross Cargile with whom she had one child, Jerry. Aunt Marie and her family moved to Muncie Indiana before Jerry was born, I think.

After our Mom died Aunt Ada and Aunt Marie were very good to me and my brothers and especially Wanda.

Helton Sisters - Marie,Audie,Ada

