**Charity and Eddie Headspeth Biography**

Charity Headspeth was born Charity Medley to Warisk Medley and Elvira Vass probably in 1872 in Christian County, Kentucky. Her origins are somewhat confusing since she seems to get younger with every census. Also her mother is variously listed as Viney Murray (1900 census), Henderson Medley (1920 census), Monie Medley (her death certificate), and Elvira Vass (Charity’s death certificate). In June 1886, Charity Medley married Joseph Headspeth in Stewart County, Tennessee.

The next record of the family is the 1900 Montgomery County, Tennessee census. Joe, aged 56, was working as a furnace Laborer and was renting 417 Lee Street which is near where Austin Peay State University is located today. Charity, aged 35, was working as a laundress. They were listed with two children Lulu, age 14, who was working as a nurse. A nurse in 1900 was a child care worker not a health care professional. Eddie, age 3, who was born in July 1896. Charity’s mother was listed as living with them.

Joe Headspeth died sometime before 1910 as did their daughter Lulu. There is no record of either of their burial places. The 1910 census listed the family renting 422 Lee Street. Charity, aged 38, was working as a Laundress. Charity’s mother is not living with them. Eddie, age 12, was attending school. The family had a new addition. Jennie, age 8, was born in 1902 and was attending school in 1910.

The family moved to 513 Kellogg Street (now named 8th Street) between 1910 and 1920. In 1920, Charity, aged 48, was working as a cook for a private family. Eddie, aged 22, was also working as a cook for a private family. Jennie, age 18, was working as a laundress. Charity’s mother, aged 87, moved back in with the family at this point.

On July 21, 1925, Charity’s mother died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage also known as a stroke. She was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery the next day by Nace Dixon’s Undertaking Firm.

By 1930, Charity had three grandchildren. All of them were Jennie’s children, and in the 1930 census they are all listed with the Headspeth surname. Charity, aged 53, and Eddie, aged 30, were both working as laborers in a tobacco factory. Jennie, aged 28, was working as a laundress. The children were Bennie Joe, aged 10, Elgie M., aged 5, and Charity M., aged 3 months. No record of marriage has currently been found for Jennie. Clues to the fathers of the children are found in the 1940 census. At this time, Charity, aged 76, is now a pensioner. Eddie, aged 43, also has no occupation listed. The census indicates she was crippled. Jennie, aged 39, was working as a cook for a private family. Bennie Joe was still listed with the Headspeth surname, but Elgia, aged 15, and Charity M., aged 10, are listed with the surname of Chilton. A new granddaughter, Bertie Will, aged 10 months, is listed with a surname of Milam. The family is well-to-do enough to have a live in cook named Lou Ella Ellis. They also have a lodger named Ben Stone.

On July 14, 1942, Eddie Headspeth died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. She was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery two days later by Nace Dixon’s Undertaking Firm. Charity Headspeth died of Bronchial Pneumonia due to exposure on April 17, 1947. She was buried in Mt Olive four days later. Her funeral was delayed to allow out of state family members to attend.

Most of the remaining family relocated to other states. Bennie Joe and Elgie remained in Clarksville. Jennie and her daughter Charity moved to New York. No record currently has been found on Bertie Will Milam after the 1940 census.

**Bibliography**

Montgomery County, Tennessee Census (1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940).

Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1958; Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee.

Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002; Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee.