

Charley and Mansfield Clark

Charles and Mansfield Clark were brothers who were buried in Mt Olive Cemetery. Their parents, Lewis Clark and Minnie Collins, were married on August 3, 1893. The family lived originally in District 6 south of St Bethlehem, but by 1900 they were living in District 1 near Hampton Station. The family was composed of Lewis, age 34, Minnie, age 27, Reaves, age 9, Mansfield, age 7, June, age 3, Charley, age 1, and Charles Clark, age 88. Charles was Lewis's father. The last child in the family, Frank, was born in 1904.

On September 15, 1909, Lewis Clark died of consumption¹. There is no record of where Lewis is buried. The family moved in with Minnie's brother Judge Collins. Judge Collins was a widowed farm laborer who lived on the Hampton Station & Port Royal Road. Mansfield, now aged 15, was working as a farm laborer. On March 15, 1912 tragedy struck the family again when Judge Collins died. On the day before, Judge drove his wagon to Clarksville and was accompanied by Thomas Gill and Mansfield. Mansfield and Thomas Gill were dropped off a short distance before Judge was to get to his house. Judge was intoxicated but since the distance he had to travel was so short, the other two men thought he would be alright. Before Judge got to his house, he stopped the wagon and went into a field. Apparently, he fell asleep and died of exposure during the night. Judge was found by Minnie the next morning. Again, there is no record of where he is buried.

Mansfield was called up for duty for World War I but was found to be physically unfit for duty in August 1917. The Montgomery County 1920 census recorded Minnie, age 48, serving as a live in cook for Thomas Gill, a farm laborer. Four of her children: Mansfield, age 26, Irene, age 24, Zenora, age 9, and James, age 7, were living there with her. The family was in District 12 on the Port Royal Road. It is unclear where Charles was living in 1920, but on September 3, 1926 Charles died of tuberculosis. He was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery. The information for his death certificate was given by his uncle Quent Collins of Guthrie. It is possible that Charles had been staying with this uncle. Charles was working as a laborer when he died. Mansfield died two years later on April 5, 1928 of double lobar pneumonia. He was buried in Mt Olive the next day. Neither Charles nor Mansfield have headstones.

The 1930 census records that Thomas Gill married Minnie although there is no record of a marriage license for them in Montgomery County. They were living at 108 Carpenter Street in Clarksville. The remains of Carpenter Street are on the campus of Austin Peay State University today. The street consists of less than two blocks and there are no residences on it. Thomas was working as a farm laborer and Minnie was working as a cook for a private family. Living with the couple was Frank Clark, Minnie's youngest son, who was working in a tobacco factory and James Gill, Thomas's son from his first marriage, who was doing housework for a private family. Minnie died nine years later on January 16, 1939 of Broncho-pneumonia. She was buried the next day in Evergreen Cemetery.

¹ Consumption is an archaic term for tuberculosis.

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