

SAMPLE STORIES

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FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

500 words, and one photo FREE! Additional words @ 10¢, additional photos @ \$10.00. **Each word counts as one word** (including **a**, **and**, **it**, **for**, and **by**). The previous sentence contains 13 words. The only exception to the count each word rule is abbreviations: up to and including 4 letters/numbers or less = 1 word. 5 letters/numbers or more = 2 words (punctuation does not affect this).

GAY AND LOTTIE MURPHY

The Murphy's of Cherokee County are many and widespread. There are many descendants who live in and around the Murphy Township. In all probability the ones living in Cherokee County with the surname Murphy are related. However, the following article will focus on the family of Gay and Lottie Murphy of Violet, which is a community north of Murphy.



Gay and Lottie Murphy

The actual story of the Murphy family most likely began when a young woman named Mary "Polly" Murphy emigrated from Ireland and her path somehow landed her in Western North Carolina. Mary met and married a Native Cherokee named Cahstahteestee, which translates into Whiplash. Whiplash was one of the fortunate Cherokees who managed to avoid the Trail of Tears or the relocation of the Cherokee to Oklahoma. Whiplash and Polly had several children, one who was named Martin. Martin was the father of Manco Murphy, who was probably the first of the Murphy's to settle in the Beaverdam Township of Cherokee County. Manco married Alice Almond. The two had at least five children. One of those children was Gay Murphy.

Gay Murphy and Lottie Green, a young girl, from the area were married in October of 1926. They were the parents of eight children. Corena, J.D., Glenn, Grady, Herman, Olen, Kathrynne, and Calvin Murphy. As with most families from the area many of these children moved away in order to find jobs. Yet, as time passed all of Gay and Lottie's children returned and settled in or near Cherokee County.

Gay farmed the land in order to provide for his family. Lottie was a lady far beyond her time. She was a midwife, who wasn't so different from other women but she was also a schoolteacher, businesswoman, and avidly interested in politics. She owned a general store and traveled with a group from her church. That involvement in their church is the part of Gay and Lottie's life that continues to live.

Both Gay and Lottie were active members of their church. Gay was a deacon and music director, Lottie was Sunday school director, teacher, and directed Bible School for many years. The dedication to their faith gave them an inner strength that carried them through many years of hard times experienced by many families in Western North Carolina. Not only

did they survive many difficult years, the Murphy family flourished. Today there are almost too many members to count.

The beauty and tranquility of Cherokee County has nurtured and provided a home to many families. The Murphy family is one that has lived and grown in the beauty of the area. As members of the family leave and return it has been and will continue to be the area loved and called home to the Murphys.

FRED HEATH FAMILY

Frederick C. Heath b.3/24/1926 at Stafford Springs, Conn. and wife Julia Grace Brackett b.3/18/1931 in New Haven Conn. married 11/26/1964 at Springfield, Mass., moved to Murphy, NC in 1991.

Fred's father was Frederick L. Heath, b.1899 d.1982 his mother was Marion E. Cooley Heath, b.1902 d.1997. Julia's father was Guy F. Brackett, b.1899 d.1992 in Tewksbury, Mass. Her mother was Mary Elizabeth Weller Brackett, b.1897 d.1990 of Hyndman, Pa. All parents are entombed at Somers, Connecticut.

Fred has two brothers, Lewis Austin and Archie Dwight Heath. Julia had one sister, Virginia Ann B. Morgan and one brother Guy F. Junior who lives at Louisville, KY.

Fred Attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School at Falls Village, Conn. He graduated in 1944. Julia graduated from Rockville High School at Rockville, Conn. in 1949.

Julia and Fred have one daughter, Virginia (Ginny) Ann Heath Hitchcock Thomas, b.10/31/1966 in Springfield, Mass. They have one granddaughter, Amanda Nichole Hitchcock, b.4/18/1990 at Ft. Myers, FL.

In 1944, Fred enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. and served in the states for two years. They moved to Ft. Myers, FL in 1969. He was employed by the state of Florida Health and Rehabilitative Services as a warehouse supervisor. Julia worked for the Lee County School Board as a secretary to the Art and Music Coordinator. They moved to Cherokee County in 1991 and purchased the old Hardin house on 24 Fox St.

In 1990, Fred hiked the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain GA to Mt Katahdin, Maine. (A distance of 2,142 miles and through 14 states and over many high mountains). This included Mt. Washington, NH, 6,288 ft. He carried a backpack weighing about 38 pounds. Fred averaged about 11 miles a day for 176 days except in Virginia where he hiked about 24 miles one day. He hiked in sun, rain, snow and winds of about 30 MPH and temperatures of 32 degrees. Fred and some of his friends, Ben Deaton and Robert (Bob) Woody are hiking the Appalachian Trail again. They are hiking it in sections this time. Fred hikes 2 or 3 miles in Murphy each day. Fred and Bob have hiked the Lakeshore Trail from the Tunnel called "The Road to Nowhere", (Bryson City) to Fontana Dam about 40 miles in four days.

In 1995 Fred was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had surgery at Murphy Medical Center at Peachtree. "Thanks to the Lord, modern medicine and the Doctors", he is a cancer survivor.

Fred was a big game hunter and shot a black bear in Maine in 1949 and also shot several deer. He was one of the few class "A" trap shooters in the New England area and won several championships. He was an expert rifle and pistol shooter.

Julia was a past worthy Matron in the order of the Eastern Star in Enfield, Conn. They are both members of the First Baptist Church and volunteers at the Cherokee County Historical Museum of Murphy, NC. (501 words) Submitted by Fred Heath, 24 Fox St., Murphy, NC 28906.

CHURCHES, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

250 words and one photo FREE! Additional words @ 10¢, additional photos @ \$10.00.

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH 1897-2004

On December 26, 1896 Lower Hanging Dog Church was made as an extension of Hanging Dog Baptist Church. The Hanging Dog Baptist Church dismissed 15 members composing the extended arm of Hanging Dog for the purpose of organizing a church later known as Ebenezer Baptist Church. To the best of our records, Ebenezer Baptist Church was officially organized on September 9, 1897. On October 9, 1987 the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant were adopted and the church was officially named Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The first pastor, Rev. E.R. Treadway, was elected in May 1898. The first foreign missionary work recorded was in 1899 when a collection of \$1.79 was taken to send to Cuba. In September 1907 land was purchased to build a church. In 1910 it was reported that there were 83 members which belonged to Ebenezer Baptist Church. In 1927 the church was moved from the top of the mountain to where it is located now.



Ebenezer Baptist Church at Present

In August of 1931, Rev. Weldon West was elected pastor and was pastor for the next 46½ years. He didn't drive so he hitchhiked to Murphy part of the time or caught the bus to Murphy on Saturday and spent the night with someone in the community. Between the years of 1949 and 1952, a new church was built and dedicated. A fellowship hall was built in 1989 and a new sanctuary in 1992.

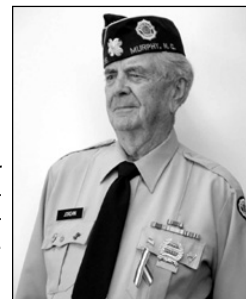
From 1987 to present, Rev. Edward Carter has served as pastor. Ebenezer Baptist Church has been a light for the Ebenezer Community for the past 107 years and has tried to magnify the name of God by bringing people to Jesus.

MILITARY

100 words and one photo FREE!

WW II VETERAN JOHN JORDAN

Note: you may write your 100 word story and include a photo of any military veteran in our book.



(Note: Genealogical charts and tabular material cannot be accepted. Stories must be flowing, narrative form.)