



Identification of Robert Lee Vest, Sr. Family group. Standing back row: Robert Lee, Jr., Forrest, Leona Virginia, Rayburn, Pearl, Raymond, Elmer. Front row: Flora Elizabeth, Mrs. Vest (Ruthie Alice Lynch) Mr. Vest (Robert Lee, Sr.) and Irma Ellen.

bridge had been washed away by the flooding waters. He rescued Otis, but was unable to save the two girls. In 1906 another son, Henry died with complications from the measles. All are buried in the Atkins cemetery.

Grandpa Vest sold the 160-acre bottom farm, jointly to his two oldest sons, James Thomas, and Robert Lee. The land was later divided with Robert Lee, my father, receiving

the south 75 acres. Grandpa moved to Norfork, Arkansas, and married Martha Eskew. He spent his remaining years in Norfork, where he is buried.

The rest of the family stayed in Atkins, until after they were married and rearing their children. Papa, called "Bob," and William, known as "Uncle Bill," were the only children who remained in Atkins the rest of their lives.

Robert Lee was married February 10,

1907, to Ruthie Alice Lynch (Feb. 9, 1885 - May 8, 1967) daughter of Benjamin Woodberry Lynch and his first wife, Ellen Elizabeth Jones Lynch, my maternal grandparents, of Atkins. Papa and Mamma started their life together in the log house on the Will Lynch farm, now owned by his daughter, Ruby Lynch Richardson. They moved in 1908 to the Scott farm in the Atkins bottoms, where their first child, Elmer, was born.

Papa purchased, July 19, 1909, a forty-acre tract of land located southwest of Atkins. The house was situated on the old military or wire road which runs through the property. Papa moved from the Scott farm to this house, called by his heirs the "Old House," which is now over one hundred years old according to records. They lived in the "Old House" from 1909 to February of 1918, when they moved to a new house built by Papa, and known as "The Big House." Papa and Mamma lived on this land the rest of their lives. They continued to work the bottom farm where they grew cotton, corn, and some alfalfa, until they retired.

The nine children born to this union were as follows: Elmer b. Sept. 24, 1908 - Jan. 18, 1942, married Annie Cloninger, who lives at 6025 Dias Ave., Sacramento CA 95824; Irma Ellen b.- Jan. 14, 1910, married George Harold Hatcher, Rt. 2, Ashdown AR 71822; Pearl b.- Sept. 29, 1912, married Edward Mignon Austin, Atkins AR 72823; Rayburn, a twin, b.- Feb. 9, 1914, married Mary Alice Sweeden, 1657 S. Gordon St., Wichita KS 67213; Raymond, a twin b.- Feb. 9, 1914, married Amie Hill, Rt. 2, New Albay MS 38652; Leona Virginia b.- Oct. 5, 1916, married Rayburn Keener, 1204 Ave. 4 NE, Atkins AR 72823; Forrest b.- Feb. 27, 1918, married Elizabeth Marie Kocsis, 4466 Eastwood Drive, Swartz Creek MI 48743; Flora Elizabeth b.- Jan. 8, 1920, married Thomas B. Breckenridge, 525 Lakeside St., Lake Village AR 71653; Robert Lee Jr. b.- Sept. 24, 1922, married Beatrice Williams, 475 S. 11th St., Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Mamma received her formal education in the Atkins public school. She finished the seventh grade. Elmer and Irma Ellen attended the Fronabarger school in Bells Chapel until the fall of 1919 when they transferred to Atkins. All the other children completed their formal education in the Atkins system. Irma Ellen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics, and a Master degree in General Home Economics from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

The extended family includes sixteen living and three deceased grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. Two daughters, Pearl and Leona still live in Atkins; also one of Leona's daughters and her heirs reside in Atkins. The remainder of the offspring are scattered throughout the United States.

by Irma Ellen Vest Hatcher



James Henry Buchanan Vest Family. Back row: Safroney Alberta, Robert Lee, William Franklin, James Thomas, Delaney Rosella. Seated: Alex Oakland, Albert Jackson, Martha Ann, Mr. Vest, Nancy Ann, Mrs. Vest, and Henry Samson.

JOSIAH VICK

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Josiah Vick, son of Samuel Vick, Sr., was