

A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER, A COURAGEOUS, HONEST, HARD-WORKING MAN

BYRD FLINCHUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1893 --- FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1989

AGE 95

DAD WILL BE REMEMBERED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM AS A LOYAL AND HARD-WORKING MAN, ALWAYS HELPING TO KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE FOR HIS LARGE FAMILY. TO BE HONEST, LOYAL AND WORK HARD WAS HIS MOTTO. HE NEVER WHIPPED HIS CHILDREN, ONLY THREATENING TO DO SO WAS ENOUGH FOR US TO GET THE MESSAGE. HE WAS SOMEWHAT A LONER, AND DIDN'T MAKE FRIENDS EASY. BEING RAISED ON FLINCHUM MOUNTAIN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN THE WILD, GETTING HIS LIVING ANY WAY HE COULD, MOSTLY LIVING OFF THE LAND. THE HARD-SHIP HE AND HIS SMALL FAMILY ENDURED DURING THE DIFFICULT PERIOD, LEFT HIM WITH A COMPLEX IT TOOK YEARS TO OVER COME.

GETTING MARRIED TO HALLIE MAE YOUNG, APRIL 21, 1919, THEY RAISED A LARGE FAMILY, ALWAYS WORKING FROM SUN-UP TO SUN-DOWN. HE DID NOT TAKE A DAILY NEWSPAPER, BUT READ HIS BIBLE OFTEN. HE LOVED GOD, HIS FAMILY, HIS FARM AND FLOYD COUNTY. HE RAISED HIS CHILDREN TO BE HONEST, LOYAL AND A DEDICATED PEOPLE. HE WAS PROUD OF THAT ACHIEVEMENT.

AS THE DEPRESSION YEARS BEGAN TO GO AWAY, HE ALSO BEGAN TO BE MORE AFFECTIONATE AND LOVING TO THE YOUNGER CHILDREN. HE COULD NOT SHOW HIS EMOTIONS. CRYING, LONELINESS OR HURT FEELINGS NEVER SHOWING ON THE OUTSIDE. KEEPING HIS THOUGHTS TO HIMSELF AND OF COURSE, FINALLY TAKING MANY OF THEM TO HIS GRAVE WITH HIM. HIS FAMILY KNEW WHEN HE WAS TROUBLED INSIDE, BUT HE KNEW HE HAD OUR LOVE AND RESPECT. HE WILL BE REMEMBERED WARMLY BY HIS CHILDREN AND ALL WHO REALLY KNEW HIM.

HE MAINTAINED STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR THE FAMILY, STEAD-FAST IN HIS THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS. HIS FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE IS ISIAH 53:6, WHICH IS RECORDED ON HIS HEADSTONE.

HE WANTED HIS CHILDREN TO WORK AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY. WE ALL LOVED AND RESPECTED HIM. HE WAS A GREAT AND LOVING DADDY. HIS DIFFICULT LIFE HAS ENDED. HE IS IN HEAVEN NOW, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN BY HIS CHILDREN.

JAMES FLINCHUM

