

Fort Worth, Texas

Nov. 19, 2007

Subject:

The life and times of Grady Singletary in Vernon Parish and the Fort Polk area. Grady was born on August 31, 1899 in Sugartown, Calcasieu Parish, La. He died on March 6, 1941 in Leesville, La., Vernon Parish, what is now known as Fort Polk area.

He is buried in Shiloh Cemetery in Dry Creek, La. along with his father, mother, brother, two sisters and other relatives.

Grady's family came to Vernon Parish when he was a young boy. After school years he worked as a cook in the "Happy Hour Cafe." in Leesville owned by Bob Fieldon at the time. He worked at saw mills along the way from Pilkin to ALCO(Alexander lumber co.) with his father John Singletary.

Age 21 he married Mary Perkins in 1920. Her family all lived in the country, now Fort Polk area.

Grady and Mary had three children Dorothy, Carl and Archie. They lived out there and at Leesville, renting and working at several jobs, very little farming as that was not his click.

He was a carpenter and could build anything so could his two sons.

Grady worked in the woods cutting timber for the sawmills and hewing ties for the railroad.

We had a good life like everyone else at the time. He and his father always had a big garden and grew what we ate.

Along came the great depression and times were very hard. Soon to follow that "World war two" started to come into view.

Dorothy got married December 30, 1939 and left home.

Grady decided he and Mary needed to help Mary's mother, Martha Watson Perkins. She lived alone on the old home place. He built his log cabin on the 40 acre estate and started the homestead procedure. Grady went to work at Camp Polk to support his plans. I would have to assume at that time all the people out there had not been told about the move out that was going to take place. This was early to mid 1940.

Life was good until Grady got sick and died on March 6, 1941. That left two widow ladies, Martha W. Perkins and Mary P. Singletary to sadly carry on with their lives. Soon the U.S. Army came along and said "You Have to Go". So they got together their personnel effects and left.

We visited them several times before they left and took the following pictures.

No. 1— Grady's wife, Mary Singletary

 Granddaughter, (baby) Rose Jeter

 Son, Archie

 Mother-in-Law, Martha Watson Perkins

No. 2—Mary Singletary

No. 2—Dorothy Singletary Jeter Richter
and baby Rose Jeter

No. 3—Dorothy and Archie

No. 4—Dorothy's husband then Dennis Lee Jeter(brother to James Jeter)and baby
Rose,

This man and the machine is unknown. He was on the property but I donot
remember why. Dennis was talking to him when I took the picture.

All the people in these pictures are gone except Dorothy and Rosie.

She is 60 years old and a grandmother and I am 85 and a great-grandma