

Great-grandma King Bought a Car

by Jackie Layne Partin (g-granddaughter)

Life was hard when great-grandma, Mary Athelia (Perry) King, and great-grandpa, Alex Benson King, arrived on Monteagle Mountain around 1900. They had married in New Market, Alabama in **1893** and started their family there. Two babies did not live, but seven years later, they held the hands of their two surviving daughters, seven-year-old Emma Rose and five-year-old Della Lea as they stepped into the little one-room log cabin in Monteagle, Tennessee. This was called home for a few years until Alex could get his feet on the ground. His hope in Monteagle lay with the desire to become a merchant in a small town; then his business could grow as the town grew.



G-grandpa King holding daughter Emma Rose and G-grandma King holding daughter Della Lea (photo ca. 1900)

G-grandpa Alex's own father and mother were already living in Monteagle, so they might have been urging him to come to the plateau. His father, Stephen N. King (*the "N" in his name may have stood for his grandmother's family "Newbury."*), soon died leaving behind his wife Sarah Catherine and young son, Arthur Dee King, behind in the little cabin on 6th St. in Monteagle. Many people rented this little cabin for many years according to Floyd Turner.



The little cabin in Monteagle on 6th St. Alex and Mary Thelia's next child, Lillie Katherine King (later Wooten), was born in this cabin in 1903.

Nothing was handed down through the family to allow me to know what disability Alex had that allowed the following order from Grundy County to be sent to him. On **October 7, 1901**, it relieved him, indefinitely, from working public roads and paying of poll taxes. This was a required duty of all able-bodied men in their particular area. Local men worked on their own roads and kept them travelable to the best of their ability.

(Box 15.) Marshall & Bruce Co., Stationers, Nashville, Tenn.

STATE OF TENNESSEE *Grundy* COUNTY.

This is to certify that at the quarterly term of the County Court of *Grundy* County, held on the *7th* day of *October*, 19*01*, it was ordered that *Alex King* be relieved of *working Public Roads & Payment of Poll Taxes* for the term of *Indefinitely* from said date, on account of *Physical disability*.

J. John Scruggs, Clerk.
By *J. John Scruggs*, D. C.



Besides the two unnamed babies they had lost in Alabama, probably stillbirths or miscarriages, in 1909 in Monteagle, g-grandma lost a set of female twins that are buried in the Monteagle Cemetery. Wisely, g-grandpa Alex/Elec King bought WOW insurance coverage for his family, possibly after his twin daughter's deaths because today 2022, they have no stone.

Form 49.

No. 149 \$ 140

CLERK'S RECEIPT

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

RECEIVED OF B. B. King

this 22 day of May 1909 One 40/₁₀₀ DOLLARS,

as follows: For Assessment No. 224

Sovereign Camp Fund, - - - - -	\$ <u>110</u>
Camp Monthly Dues from.....190	\$ <u>30</u>
Specials, - - - - -	\$
Total, - - - - -	\$ <u>140</u>

* If any part of the above amount is paid for the purpose of reinstating the Sovereign so paying, it is received upon the condition and agreement that I receive and hold the same in trust for him, pending the necessary action upon his application for reinstatement and that he has no claim upon the Order until such application is accepted in accordance with the Constitution and Laws. If such application is not accepted the above sum to be refunded.
This Receipt authorizes any Consul Commander to communicate S. A. P. W. to holder thereof.

Julius Stasler CLERK.

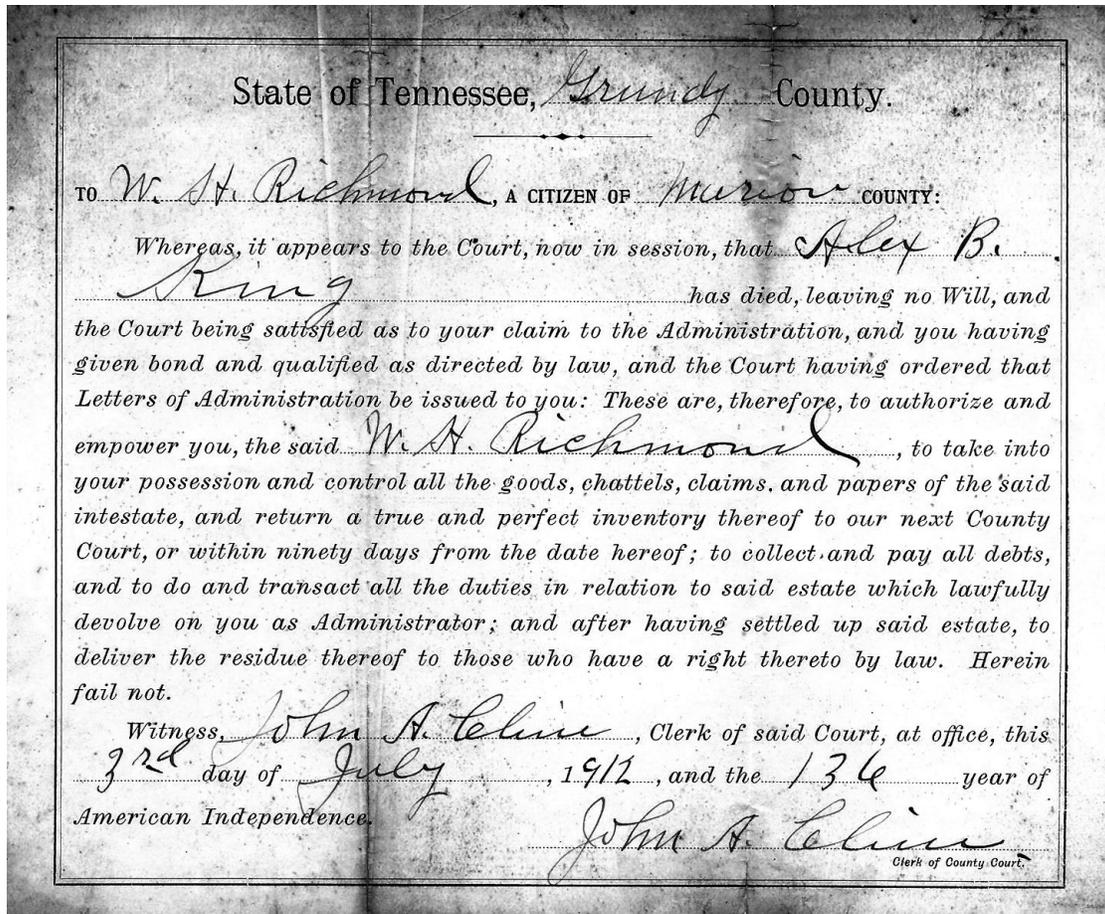
Monteagle Camp No. 304 State Tenn.

The Nashville American, 18 Jun 1912. "Drs. Hayes of Tracy City; Bryan of Monteagle, and Hudson of Nashville, performed an operation on A. B. King, one of Monteagle's merchants, for appendicitis Saturday. He is reported doing well." Dr. George Douglas Hayes operated his own sanitarium in Tracy City; Dr. David Hampton Bryan was Monteagle's resident doctor in 1912, and Dr. Hudson, I believe, was a visitor on the MSSA.

Alex Benson King had an operation on Saturday, **June 15, 1912** on his own kitchen table by the three doctors listed in the newspaper. He lived a pain-filled-five days before he succumbed to death on **June 20, 1912**. His wife Mary Athelia was pregnant with her tenth child, James Alexander Benson King. She still had Emma Rose, Della Lea, Lillie Catherine, Floy Marie, and Dillard West at home with her.

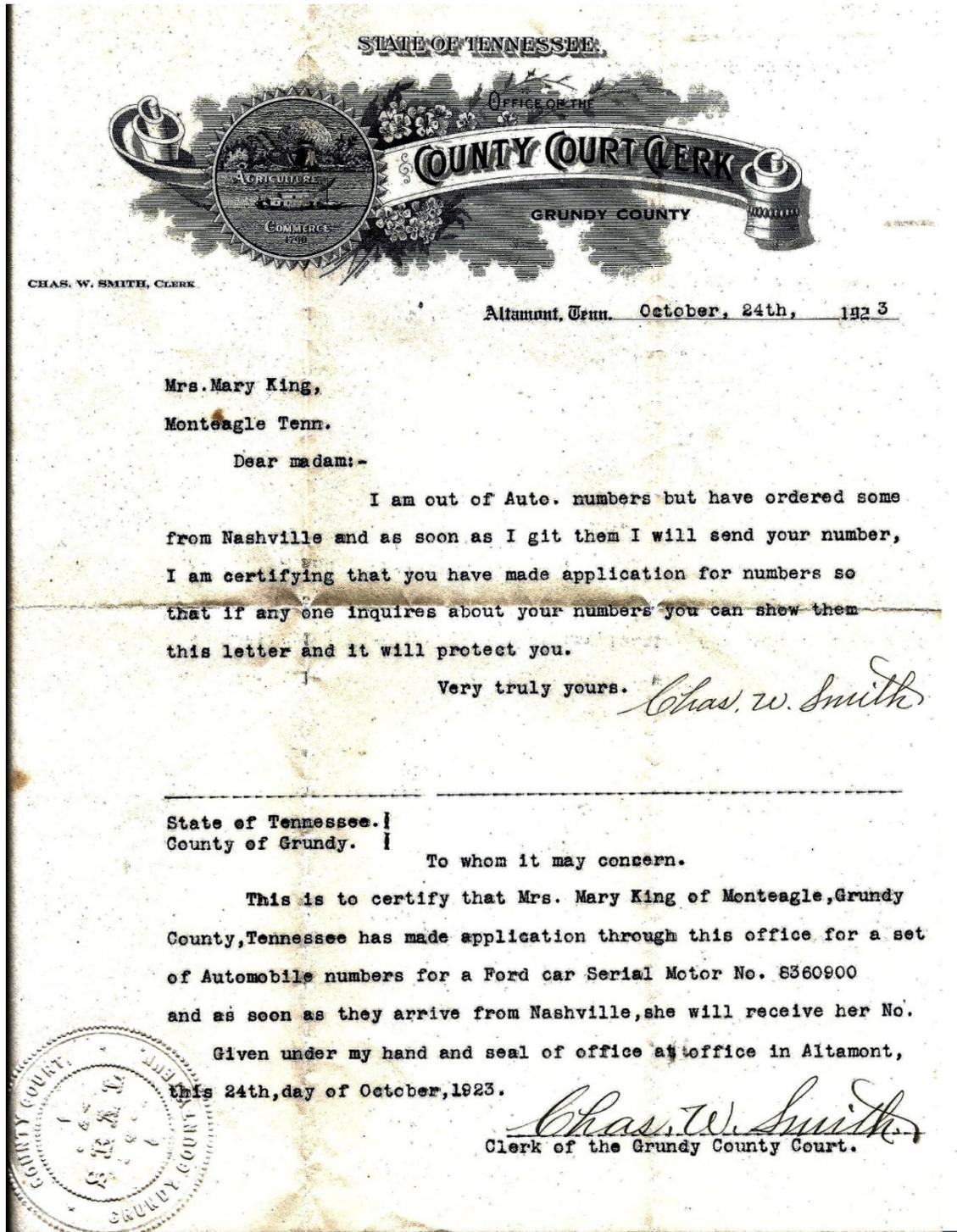
The Tennessean, 23 Jun 1912, "Monteagle News – June 22 –The "W. O. W." lodge, with their impressive ceremony, conducted the funeral service of Mr. A. B. King at the M. E. church this morning at 10 o'clock. Mr. King died Thursday morning and his death is the first that the Monteagle lodge has sustained." I visualize his funeral being greatly attended, not out of respect for g-grandpa, but because the funeral was the first in Monteagle officiated by the

WOW Lodge. Alex did not leave a will, so William H. Richmond, Sr. was appointed the administrator of his/her possessions.



G-grandpa was a merchant and had a small business, so Mr. Richmond did the job assigned to him. He then turned any leftover money to g-grandma. She immediately put her young daughters in St. Mary's school for she was not able to birth and care for a small son and a new baby son, plus deal with the loss of her loved one. I remember g-grandma, and she was a wonderful person who tried so hard to keep things together. How much money Mr. Richmond turned over to her from the WOW policy, no one knows, but what I do know is that "bless her little heart," she bought a car; she couldn't even drive. Maybe her older daughters talked her into that shenanigan. She didn't need a car; two doors up King St. was Mankins' Livery Stable with buggies or wagons for rent if she needed to travel far. But as seen in the document below, g-grandma wanted to go in style.

The document below was sent to Mrs. Mary King, Monteagle, Tenn., on October 24th, 1923. It was a temporary car tag for a Ford car. Charles W. Smith, Grundy County clerk instructed her to carry the letter until her "numbers" came from Nashville.





Dear Reader, I promise you there is a car in there somewhere, maybe a Ford Model-T. G-grandma's extended family was so excited that in posing with the car, they became the objects of attention. Now my dilemma is that I know some of those family members, including my grandparents, but seeing what I am seeing, this photo was made around 1930, so did g-grandma trade, sell, and rebuy another new car. I can only say that g-grandma bought a car. And to use a 2022 idiom, "Go, Girl, Go!"

**Great-grandma King as I
remember her.**

(1876-1951)

