

Personal letter about Rudolph "Rudy" Hall to Louetta Hall.

Louetta,

This is a note for you personally - I don't remember any dates or years, but these are a few incidents I remember growing up with Rudolph and his family.

We lived across the creek and across the railroad tracks. He lived in a big company house which usually two families shared - but they had the whole house. I remember Rudy's grandfather was called Mr. Doc. Anderson. I'm sure "Doc" was a nickname. His wife, we called Mrs. Annie Doc. As a child, that's the way we referred to all of our elders. Upon a hill there was a shed of some kind, that I remember. It was a place where they had a cow named Jersey. I really don't remember the cow, but two incidents regarding Jersey. There was a dogwood tree that was disfigured (branches twisted) and Jersey was responsible for doing that, eating from it, before being run away. It was on Mrs. Delphia and Mr. Carl Bragg's property. The other incident was once Mama sent me up to the shed to get some flower dirt, because horse and cow manure made the dirt richer. Mrs. Annie saw me up there getting it, and she made me put it back, because she said her Jersey left it for her. So I went home without the dirt. My mom just respected her decision. Rudolph's grandparents' house was between Mr. John Lester Jolly and Mrs. Myrtle (Mrs. Mirt, Mrs. Mirt Jolly) as she was affectionately called. They lived on the lower end of the lot and on the upper end was the Ransons. The Ransons were the relatives of Barbara Hortons, her grandparents. I can remember going by Rudolph's 'em house and hearing him playing the piano, but I haven't the faintest idea who taught him.

I remember Patty very well. Both she and Rudy stayed with their grandparents. I don't think Poochie-Charles and William stayed with Mrs. Annie until after Rudolph and Patty had left. Then I think Poochie (Charles) and William came to live with her. They called the area where the Andersons lived "Red Row." The Jones lived in "Trot" - short for Possum Trot.

Somewhere before I entered the 8th grade (1953), I don't remember when, Mr. Doc Anderson killed Mr. Ed. Wilson. Mr. Ed was the father of Kathleen Releford and Dorothy Horton (she was married to Red Horton). Their mother was named Mrs. Lib - probably short for Elizabeth. Mr. Doc shot him. I heard Mrs. Annie say 'No one said anything about Mr. Doc being stabbed with an ice pick.' Plus, she said, they were Lodge brothers, so why would he want to kill his lodge brother. . . Anyways I know he was convicted and sent to prison, and she had it rougher than ever. I remember Donnie and Jeter staying with her when Mr. Rich just came to Kingsport with Mrs. Lucille.

I don't remember when Mrs. Annie moved to Esserville, but I remember her house was among the first ones torn down when the company started selling the houses and tearing them down for lumber. I don't remember when I last saw Mrs. Annie or Mr. Doc. I left for college in 1960 and never came back except for a week or so. Charles and William went in the name of Crockett. William and I were in the same grade for a number of years. I think he may have quit school in the 9th grade. I don't think I remember him in the 10th grade. Poochie was older than me, but I think he and Poochie quit about the same time, or it could have been that's when they moved to Esserville and went to another school. I just don't remember. This would have been 1956, 1957.

So with what happened to his Mom in 1975. Coupled with his grandparents and the poverty. No one knows how it might have affected his soul (psychic) plus the way he came up made him want to help you raise the four children. For he knew what it was like to be without. Plus, to imagine that everyone was thinking evil about him and the family, because of all the public sins that were out in the open. I just remember once, after Mary Cathy and I were married and we were visiting, he shared with me, "Well, I'm what you call a recluse, I don't go out very much, I golf and go to work and sometimes I go to church, but basically I'm just a homebody." So I accepted him as he was. He always asked about Nannie, and Ben, and Wilhelmina at different times, but Ben he always brought up.