

Andrew J. W. Biggs and Fanny C. Godbey

By Karen Bailey Evans



The family believes the photo of Andrew was taken around 1925. The photo of Frances is a tintype photo given to me by their great grandson.

Andrew was also known as Jackson Biggs, Jr., or Jack. Frances was more often called Fanny or Fannie.

Their marriage record is in Raleigh county Marriages Volume Two. It reads January 18, 1881, Jackson Biggs Jr., 21, born Pulaski County, Virginia, resident of Raleigh County, son of Andrew Jackson and Susana Biggs, and Fannie Chapman Godbey, 25 years and six days, born Raleigh County, daughter of Anderson and Anna Godbey. They were married by William D. Lemon. Information was given by Judson Wilson and A.F. Godbey. A second marriage book says the bride was born in Pulaski County, Virginia. I believe the places of birth were reversed for Andrew and Fannie

Andrew was born in Raleigh County during the Civil War. We can find Andrew in every Raleigh County Censuses beginning in 1860 when he was 6 months old through 1920 when he was living with his daughter Grace on the Quinnmont Road, at Lanark. At that time, Andrew was widowed at this time and working as a timberman in the woods. In 1910, he was listed as a merchant of general merchandise. I have not located him in the 1930 Raleigh censuses. Andrew died on January 8, 1934, in Lanark, from lobar pneumonia. He was 75. I believe Fanny died in 1916 in Raleigh County.



The original photos were my fathers. They are on a heavy cardboard and have begun to crack with age. The picture above on the left is Andrew Jackson and his grandchildren Dorvin Richmond Bailey and Bertha Opal Bailey. The family believes the photo was taken in the spring of 1916. We think this may be the gravesite of Fanny. Near the area where Andrew is sitting, there are flowers and fresh dirt. In the upper left-hand corner, there are picnic baskets, well-dressed people, and the feet of a youngster, as if they were lifted in the air. Written on the photo are the words "Mother gone but not forgotten. Jany 1916." The picture on the right above is of Fanny and three of the Bailey grandchildren. The photo was marked Dorvin, Clariece, and Opal, but I believe differently.

Andrew and Fannie had five children based on birth records in Raleigh County.

- Mariette Biggs. Oct 22 1881. Father A. J. W. Mother Frances Biggs.
- Male Biggs. September 28, 1885. Father A. J. W. Mother Fannie Biggs.
- E. D. Biggs. April 20, 1888. Father A. J. W. Mother F.C. Biggs.
- Mason Hoy Biggs. April 1891. Father Andrew J. W. Mother Frances C. Biggs.
- Gracie P. Biggs. June 19, 1893. Prosperity. Father Andrew J.W. Mother Fannie C. Biggs.

In October 1886, two of their children died of dysentery according to death records for Raleigh County.

- Heneriette Biggs. October 15 1886. Page 40, line 10. White. Female. Dysentary. Age 4 years, 11 months, 2 days. Parents A. J.W. and Fannie C. Biggs. Reported by father.

- Minnie M. Biggs. October 24, 1886. Page 40, line 11. White. Female. Dysentary. Age 3 years, 9 months. Parents A. J. W. and Fannie. Reported by father.

Sources:

Raleigh County Birth Records

Raleigh County Death Records – Volume 1 (1853-1902)