

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Homeplace Houses

Farm estates of generations past included land, equipment, and personal possessions. In Bucklesberry, and many other rural areas, a homestead was also part of the estate. With few exceptions, the birth order of the surviving children determined who would get it.

Typically, the youngest (or only) son, who often cared for aging parents, would inherit the homeplace house as part of his share. In the absence of a son, the youngest daughter would receive it.

This practice was not unique to Bucklesberry. In his 1955 book about Kentucky life, Leonard Roberts acknowledged, “the usual mountain custom of equal division of property among the children,” with “the youngest often receiving the home place.” This custom stretches back centuries. Ancient Welsh law in Great Britain gave the youngest son first dibs on estate buildings.

Bucklesberry families generally followed this pattern through the early-1900s. A number of homeplace houses, still standing today, are prime examples:

Alex Milton and Delilah Blanche Creech Sutton homeplace (built 1910s): The white-framed, one-story house is located about a quarter-mile off Pine Bush Road. Milton and Delilah had seven children, in this order: Twin daughters (unnamed); Carl Lee; Rosalie; Sarah Crystal; Edith Alene; and Charlotte Virginia. Although not the youngest, Carl Lee, the only son, inherited the homeplace house.

Charlie Andrew and Bettie Ann Barwick Sutton homeplace (built about 1912): The white-framed, hip-roofed two-story house is located on Kennedy Home Road. Charlie and Bettie Ann had twelve children, in this order: Helen; Allie; Zell; Pauline; Jerry Woodrow; Bettie Lorena; John Charles; Violet Grace; Lenora; Hugh Edward; Wilton McLean; and Jack Randall. The youngest son, Jack Randall, also the youngest child, inherited the homeplace house.

Clellan Thomas and Pauline Sutton homeplace (built 1930s): The white-framed, one-story house is located on Kennedy Home Road. Clellan and Pauline had one child, Ollie, who inherited the homeplace house.

Jeremiah, Jr. and Agnes Mae Sutton homeplace (built 1906): The original white-framed, one-story house is located on Roy Sutton Road. Jeremiah, Jr. and Agnes had seven children, in this order: Glenn Marie; Sue Belle; Harold Junius; Agnes Louise; Violet Ruth; Panice; and Carol Beatrice. Although Harold Junius was the only son, Carol Beatrice, the youngest daughter, inherited the homeplace house.

Julian Marcus (Mark) and Mary Ann Sutton homeplace (built 1910s): The white-framed, hip-roofed one-story house is located on Kennedy Home Road. Mark and Mary Ann had seven children, in this order: John William; Effie Mae; Marcus Alton, Kirby Edward; Walker Wilson; Roger Nelson; and Julia Evelyn. Although Julia Evelyn was the youngest child, Roger Nelson, the youngest son, inherited the homeplace house.

Junius Eli and Susan Elizabeth Daly Sutton homeplace (built 1910s): The white-framed, hip-roofed one-story house is located on Pine Bush Road. Junius and Susan had five children, in this order: George Hardy; Minnie Bertha; Agnes Mae; Julia Ann Franklin; and Florence Inez. Although not the youngest child, George Hardy, the only son, inherited the homeplace house.

Marcus Alton and Lorena Sutton homeplace (built 1840s): The white-framed, two-story house is located on Pine Bush Road. Alton and Lorena had three children, in this order: Mary Christine; Elizabeth (Betsy) Jane; and Charles Marcus. The two youngest, Betsy Jane and Charles Marcus, together inherited the homeplace house.

William (Billy) and Sarah Mewborn Dawson Sutton homeplace (built 1870-1880s): The white-framed, one-story house is located about a quarter-mile off Kennedy Home Road. Billy and Sarah (Sallie) had eleven children, in this order: Huldah Truitt; Ava; Robert L.; Mary Ann; Albert Lemuel; Alex Milton; Martha; Lessie Virginia; Lillie Estelle; William G.; and Wesley Bryan. The youngest son, Wesley Bryan, also the youngest child, inherited the homeplace house.

[Caption for accompanying photograph]

Charlie Andrew and Bettie Ann Barwick Sutton homeplace, Bucklesberry, built about 1912. Son, Jack Randall Sutton, and wife, Sue Sutton, are current owners.

