

# Preserve memories and personal history through photos

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Those of us blessed to be of a “certain age” often find ourselves heir to old family photos – beautiful photos – but sadly with no names or descriptions. We would give anything for just a few words that would add life to the people who might be relatives ... or important family friends.

Because we don’t ask questions of parents and grandparents while they are with us, all too often these memories are lost forever.

This Taylor County photo portrays five friends and a baby girl, sitting on the ground. What appears to be an American flag suggests the event being photographed might have been a picnic and that the event may have taken place on or around July 4th.

This photo, now at the Taylor Regional Archive Center, luckily does provide us with the names of the participants that help us better understand what’s going on more than 100 years ago.

The story starts with the young woman in the center of the photo – Lee Beams Vaughn. She is 19. The child is her first born, Mattie Lee.

Lee married Dennis Vaughn when she was 17 and Dennis was 18. She was the only child of Thomas Lee Beams and “Crissie” Pierce Beams. Dennis had a half-sister, who was 19 years older than he, married and living in Elizabeth-

town. Both of Dennis’ parents were deceased by the time he was 17 and although his uncle Billy lived with him in the Vaughn home in the Bengal community, it seems as though Dennis had a keen desire for a family of his own.

Luckily, he already had met Lee Beams who lived within easy walking and courting distance.

The story goes that Lee and Dennis left their homes to attend the 1914 LaRue County Fair in Hodgenville. According to the 1914 LaRue County newspaper, the fair did indeed open on Sept. 9 of that year.

The young couple, however, didn’t linger at the fair, and instead, kept traveling to Jeffersonville, Indiana, where they were married two days later. Their first child, Mattie Lee, was born July 31, 1916.

The couple remained in Bengal, close to Lee’s family, who became like a second set of parents to Dennis. Four of the couple’s five children were born in Bengal. The photo suggests that Mattie Lee might be around one-years-old at the time of the picnic. Along with the flag, we could easily make an assumption that the photo was taken in July of 1917.

The other names, crucial to this photo, are, from left, Betty Buckner who was holding Mattie Lee, Lou Willie Griffin, Lee Vaughn, Lucy Buckner and Elizabeth Massie. Among the five friends, only Lee was married. Perhaps this was



Friends gathered for a July 1917 picnic are Bettie Buckner holding Mattie Lee Vaughn, Lou Willie Griffin, Lee Beams Vaughn, Lucy Buckner and Elizabeth Massie.

the first time Lee’s friends had seen her daughter.

Bettie and Lucy were sisters. Bettie was born in 1895 and Lucy was born in 1901, the daughters of Richard Durrett Buckner and Elizabeth Ingram Buckner. Bettie later married John Shelby Chandler Sr. and Lucy married Burr Harrison Bowen. Both women and their husbands remained in Campbellsville and lived long lives. Lucy had one son, James Buckner Bowen. Bettie had four sons and two daughters.

Lou Willie Griffin was born in 1893, the daughter of William Griffin and Mollie Miller Griffin. She became a well-respected

local teacher and worked in Campbellsville for more than 10 years. She furthered her studies, taking special educational classes at what is now Western Kentucky University. Between 1922-1923, she moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where she continued teaching. She married somewhat late in life in 1949, and was married 27 years before her husband died. She had no children and is buried with him in Huntington.

Elizabeth Massie was born in 1906, the daughter of Horace and Callie Feese Massie. She was only 11 years old when the July picnic took place. She died of the Spanish Flu two years

after the picnic photo was taken.

Lee and her husband, Dennis, eventually sold the Vaughn home in Bengal and moved into Campbellsville. Dennis didn’t like farming, and instead, had a knack for the technology of his time. He sold radios, pointing out the entertainment and information aspect they could bring into the home.

He could fix all sorts of mechanical items and at a time when only professional photographers owned cameras, Dennis bought one of his own, providing over 300 hundred family photos that had never been labeled with names, dates or other information. The family

came very close to losing a vast family treasure.

This story has a happy ending, however. A few years before his death, an ailing Dennis Vaughn, who still had a remarkable memory, sat down with his youngest daughter, Mary Jewell, and identified almost every single photo - now being saved at the Taylor Regional Archive Center.

Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy. For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to [info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com](mailto:info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com).

## Notice to Taylor County Taxpayers

Mark Carney, Taylor County Clerk, pursuant to KRS 424.330, announces that a list of the 2024 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the Central Kentucky News Journal on Thursday July 17, 2025. To avoid having your name or certificate of delinquency listed in the paper payment must be received by 4:00 p.m. Monday July 14th. Any delinquent tax bills that have not been paid will be offered for sale on Wednesday August 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Taylor County Courthouse. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the County Clerk’s office located in the courthouse at 203 North Court Street. This list may also be viewed on the Taylor County Clerk web site by going to [www.tcclerk.com](http://www.tcclerk.com). You will need to follow the instructions to set up an account. and then click on the delinquent tax tab. The list will appear on the website beginning Thursday July 17, 2025. The tax sale will allow third party companies or other individuals the opportunity to purchase any delinquent tax bills that have not been paid by August 20, 2025. If you are a taxpayer who has a delinquent bill you should try your best to pay that bill before the August 20th sale date to avoid additional fees you will have to pay to anyone who may purchase your bill before they would release the tax lien that they would have on your property. Anyone wishing to pay their delinquent tax bill before the sale date should come by the County Clerk’s office to make payment. Any individual or company interested in purchasing more than three delinquent tax bills during the delinquent tax sale must register with the Department of Revenue in Frankfort and must also register with the County Clerk’s office by the close of business on Monday August 11, 2025. A Registration Form must be obtained from the clerk’s office and filled out and turned back in along with a non-refundable Registration Fee. The registration fee is \$250.00 if the list that you turn in as possible bills to purchase is 25 delinquencies or more, or a \$10.00 registration fee per each delinquency that you turn in on your list that you wish to purchase if you plan to purchase less than 25 delinquencies. If you wish to purchase three certificates of delinquencies or less then you do not have to register with the Department of Revenue, but you will need to register with the County Clerk’s office. The registration fee for individuals wishing to purchase three bills or less will be \$10.00 for each bill you wish to purchase. If you are a company that has purchased prior year bills, then you will have the opportunity to purchase any 2024 delinquent bill that is for the same property as the delinquent bill you are already holding. If you wish to claim the 2024 delinquencies based on your holding a prior year claim a list of these bills will have to be turned into the clerk’s office by Monday August 11th. You can obtain a form to list the 2024 bills you may have a claim on from the clerk’s office. If different companies have purchased two prior year bills on the same property, then the company with the most recent bill will have first priority. The sale of all other bills not having a prior year claim will be conducted in a manner similar to a professional sports draft in accordance with the provisions of House Bill 262 enacted by the 2009 General Assembly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk’s office at 270-465-6677

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO CAMPBELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXPAYERS

The Campbellsville Independent School Board will also be offering delinquent tax bills for sale this year. Any company/individual registering for the sale of county tax bills will also be allowed to participate in the sale of the Independent School taxes if they wish. If you only wish to participate in the sale of the Independent School Taxes and not the county tax sale, then you will need to register with the Campbellsville Independent School by calling 270-465-3867. The Independent School system will also advertise their delinquent tax bills in the **Thursday, July 17, 2025** edition of the Central Kentucky News-Journal and on their website at [www.cville.kyschools.us](http://www.cville.kyschools.us). Anyone with a delinquent Campbellsville school tax bill who does not want their name listed in the paper should pay their bill before the close of business on **Friday July 11, 2025**. Anyone who has a bill and does not want their delinquent bill to be sold to a third party customer should pay their bill before **August 1, 2025**. Any further questions about the sale of the Campbellsville Independent School Board taxes should be directed to Melissa Dooley at 270-465-3867.