



## Just Hunting by Steve Brewer

The year was 1988, I was in a blind on opening day of turkey season, in Sundance, Wyoming; it was 6 degrees, at daylight. I sat in my blind, warm and cozy, working my magic on my calls; my fingers without gloves, froze to the bone. I knew after I put them down, I would warm my hands in a pair of gloves my mother-in-law, Freeda Lucas had bought for me for this trip, as well as my thermal insulated boots, my wool suit, along with my wool hat, and underwear. She bought all of my foul-weather gear for years. She would hand me a Cabela's magazine, and say, Son, pick out what you want; I usually just stuck with what I needed for that hunt. I asked Mrs.

Lucas, "Mom, are you trying to keep me warm and dry, so I can make it back safe, or are you trying to hope I will think all is well and just freeze to death?"

The back of a coal truck would not hold all the hunting and fishing gear; top of the line, she bought me. GPS, watches, knives, every piece of clothing to wear on the coldest hunt or to wear in the swamps of Florida. Mom loved fish, and after every fishing trip, Sharon and myself would bag her up several meals; she fixed every meal with love. Mom, Mrs Lucas, was a "Special" type Lady, a lady of means, a retired school teacher; a devoted wife, and widow; she never remarried after her beloved John died in 1967, never even dated. She loved her small family of one daughter, my wife, Sharon, and two sons. She saw that all three were educated, made good in life; and enjoyed her grandchildren, and later in life, her great grandchildren. She had three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She saw her little brood do great in life,

Sharon, worked 35 years for Arch Coal, as a Human Resource Manager; Phillip, her oldest son, an owner of Summit Engineering, employing over a hundred people during the coal boom. Her youngest son, Tim, was a VP for Community Trust Bank and passed away a few years ago at

the age of 52. She was proud of each, and told anyone that asked.

She loved her Lord, church, and her community of Haymond. She gave her time and money to help, and would never speak of it. Mrs. Lucas left us this week, and has left a hole in our hearts. Mr. Henry Sword, my dad's best friend as I grew up, stopped by WNKY radio station in Neon, that I worked at for several years, he left me with this thought, "Stevie, the day you are born, you start walking toward the day you must die."

Mrs. Lucas stayed on that path for 91 years. She will be missed.

You can email Steve Brewer at <Steve@Estill-Tribune.com> and message is forwarded.



**In Loving Memory  
Freeda Marie Lucas  
1/28/29 - 7/27/20**

# Information is scarce for postmaster of defunct Pitts Post Office

One of the more elusive and intriguing characters found in Estill County's history might be a man called Benedict M. Lanald who lived some years of the early 1900s in the Cow Creek and Pitts area of the county and once served as postmaster of the now defunct Pitts Post Office. Not only is historical information on Lanald very scarce but his last name "Lanald," if that actually was his last name, is a rare surname in this country, and only seven people can be found with that name in Estill County; he, his two wives and four daughters.

The most commonly listed birth date for Lanald is October 29, 1878 but it seems there is no record of where he was originally from. A granddaughter of his who lives in the county, and others, believe he might have come from Canada although his death certificate indicates he was born in Kentucky and his father was from England. It also states that he was born in 1874 instead of 1878.

Whether 1874 or in 1878, Lanald should have been listed in seven different censuses, including the 1890 census which was destroyed, between the time of his birth and the time of his death on May 1, 1943, but no census record for his name, or names he used, has ever been found.

The earliest record of Lanald is that he served in the 4th Calvary of the Mounted United States Troop 2 in the Spanish American War in the Philippines (1899). His gravestone indicates (MUS TRP 2 4 CALVARY SAW) although no written record of that name has been found.

At least five Estill County soldiers also served in the Spanish American War in the Philippines at Barugo at the same time Lanald was supposed to be there. They served in an infantry unit that included four McIntoshes, Charles (18), Perry (30), Pleasant B. (19) and Simpson (22); plus Jessie P. Tipton (22). They are listed there in the 1900 United States census, but no listing has been found for Lanald or his aliases. Relatives say when the McIntoshes came home from the war,

they brought him with them to Estill County.

On August 7, 1901, Benedict M. Lanald filed for a veterans pension listing an alias of "Thomas Matchewica" and saying he was "invalid." He gave his military information as (19 United States Infantry) and (E4 United States Cavalry).

Benedict married in Estill County on 24 February 1903 to Myrtie Lee Crabtree who according to census records of 1900 was just under 12 years old at the time, being born in March of 1890. A daughter was born to them on February 22, 1905 and was known as Della Matthew (Matthews) or later Della Matthews Lanald.

His wife, Myrtie died December 6, 1907 and afterwards their daughter, Della Matthews was listed as living with her grandparents, Granville Pearl and Emma Baker Tipton Crabtree in the 1910 and 1920 censuses. Della's father's birthplace is listed as "Tennessee" in 1910 but in 1920 as "Canada." By the 1930 census, Della is married to Edd Gray and they have five children.

A daughter Mary Liz Lanald was born March 11, 1910 but only lived 13 days until March 24th and is buried in the Brinegar Cemetery at Ticky Fork. No mother is listed but she could belong to Martha Brinegar. A third daughter, Nettie Lanald, was born March 17, 1911 to Martha Brinegar, and a fourth daughter, Mary C. Lanald was born June 11, 1914. She is living with Martha Brinegar Tipton in 1930.

Lanald was appointed Pitts Postmaster on August 8, 1912. He was replaced in 1914 by William A. Alexander. The government later claimed he owed \$5.05 for missing equipment but the charge was eventually dismissed.

He registered for the draft for the World War on September 12, 1918. He lists his age as 37 and birth date as October 29, 1881. He checked "native born" and gives his present occupation as "shipping clerk" for the Indian Refining Company, a small exploration company that was based in Georgetown and worked at Pitts. His nearest relative to contact is Della Matthews of Pitts,

Kentucky, his 15-year-old daughter. He is described as having medium height and medium build with blue eyes and flaxen colored (yellowish-gray) hair.

Lanald had reportedly followed the McIntoshes to Estill County after the Spanish American War and he appears to have traveled with other McIntoshes again in the 1920's. Several Kentuckians including Miles McIntosh of Estill County had moved northward into Wisconsin on the border with Canada to cut timber. Entire companies and families moved there to follow the timber industry after it was nearly depleted in Kentucky. Many settled in a small town of 200-300 people, called Alvin in Forest County, Wisconsin. The town was named for Alvin Spencer, a Baptist minister from Powell County, Kentucky, who with his entire family settled there in 1908. Nearly all the residents of Alvin in 1920 were from Kentucky. Miles' brothers Joe and Nelson McIntosh were there briefly, but Miles and his family settled there permanently.

Benedict M. Lanald was appointed postmaster of the Alvin Post Office on January 3, 1921. It's not clear when his appointment ended but several Wisconsin newspapers reported in 1927 that Lanald had been charged with embezzling from the post office in 1924. Lanald pleaded guilty and although restitution was made, he was expected to serve up to six months in the 'house of correction.'

No other records have been found for Lanald between that time and the time of his death on April 19, 1943 in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. Cause of death is listed as tuberculosis with heart disease as a factor. His occupation was listed as "machinist." His father was listed as Frank Lanald from England and his mother was Rosie Gallagher. His remains were returned to Estill County where a military stone marks his burial place in the Gray Cemetery at Tipton Ridge.

Two of his daughters have big families in Estill County including Della Matthews Lanald Gray and Nettie Lanald who



Myrtie Lee Crabtree Lanald and Benedict M. Lanald from Ancestry.com and is shared here courtesy of the Debra French Tipton Family Tree. The photo has pastel coloring added. Notation says it is "Great Grandma and Grandpa Matthews, Myrtie and Benedict" and that it is "Grandma Gray's mom and dad."



Brothers Joseph "Joe", Nelson and Miles McIntosh, sons of Dudley and Mary Woosley McIntosh who lived at Millers Creek in Estill County. Photo was taken around 1920 near Alvin in Forest County, Wisconsin (at the border with Canada) where Benedict M. Lanald was later postmaster. Miles settled there permanently but Joe and Nelson returned to Kentucky. (Nelson McIntosh photo collection)

was married to Reuben McIntosh. Several of his McIntosh grandchildren were in service including a granddaughter who was one of the first women in the Marines. No record was found of what happened to Mary C. Lanald.

A photo was recently found on Ancestry.com and is shared here courtesy of the Debra French Tipton Family Tree. The photo has pastel coloring added. Notation says it is "Great Grandma and Grandpa Matthews, Myrtie and Benedict" and that it is "Grandma Gray's mom and dad."



The military gravestone of Benedict M. Lanald from the Spanish American War. He is buried in the Gray Cemetery on Tipton Ridge in Estill County.