

PLAIN BROWN RAPPER

News for the family of Tandy and Grace Brown

Fall, 2007

Fall is in the air. The high country has begun its transition to fall colors making the drive through the mountains a pleasure. All the willows in the creek beds have changed to their gold and bronze colors, next will be the aspen into gold and the grasses brown. It is one of those times when your heart skips a beat at the wonder of it all.

This is also the time for the hunters to get out their ATV's, don their camouflage outfits, paint their faces like the combat soldiers and make their trek into the forest..... Well, if what we observe is the actual mode of operation, they hop on the 4 wheeler or in the back of some pickup and drive slowly on the mountain roads with their rifles at the ready. It appears as though they never get off the vehicle because they pass the cabin every hour which is about as long as it takes to make the loop. They set out at the awful hour of 5 am so they can get a start on the deer. We know this because they are better than any alarm clock we've ever had for waking us from a sound sleep. Since they don't leave their vehicles it can only be assumed they are waiting for some deer to stand along side the road and whistle "over here boys" which is not something I believe happens. I'm not sure if they get their quarry or not because when we pass the check station on our way home there is never anyone there except the game warden who patiently waits in a lawn chair with his cup of coffee at the ready.

For all you serious hunters, please accept my apology for making fun of hunters. I'm sure you never go along in the back of a truck with your gun at the ready. And, when you get up to leave at a terrible hour of the day, I know you are quiet and don't rev your engines.

Not much news from the family. Frank and Marilyn will be here to visit and we are all looking forward to seeing them. I'll hold off on sending this so I can include a picture of all the brothers and sisters who were here to welcome them.

Mary Elizabeth Davis

Its been quite some time since a Plain Brown Rapper was published and quite some time since there has been any news of consequence. Thank goodness we haven't lost anyone, but a weddings or anniversary would be fun to share. Recently, however a picture of the woman we always new as Grandma Eidam was presented and it is way too good not to share.

Mary Elizabeth "Molly" Davis was the eldest child of James B. Davis and Caroline Caldonia Hall. There were eleven children in this family and by any standards in Arkansas in the late 1870's (after the Civil War) they were quite well off.

James B was a farmer and his father was an "Herb Doctor" who had come from Missouri to Eureka Springs during the Civil War. He left his family in Eureka Springs and traveled on to Springfield, Missouri to treat the wounded Union Troops.

James was raised in Eureka Springs and married Carolyn Caldonia Hall. Her father was Tom Hall and her mother was Lonegry Holman. (Lonegry is our Cherokee connection.) Mary Elizabeth was born in 1876. Caldonia (Callie) was a "Mid-Wife." It is believed she delivered about 1500 children in Eureka Springs and the surrounding area.

Molly had to accompany Caldonia as she delivered these babies and she was not the least bit happy about having to do this job.

It is my assumption regarding Molly that she was more of a fun loving person and being forced into helping her mother was not a pleasant part of her life. Our mother said on several occasions how much she disliked delivering babies. Funny, since she was in on the delivery of many of us.



This picture is Mary Elizabeth Davis-Parker and her husband Fred Carpenter. He was in the Army at Fort Russell and there were married in Cheyenne. They were proprietors of the old "Wyoming Hotel" here in Cheyenne. The hotel was the old Western Ranchmen Outfitters during the years we were growing up. The building burned to the ground a couple of years ago.

It is worth noting, women were not allowed to be the proprietor of a hotel in the early 1900's and she probably married him so she could run the hotel. Our parents, Grace and Tandy were not happy about this union.



As a child, he was the only husband I knew but the older ones (Vivian, Anna, Roy and possibly June would have known Fred. Roy told me of having to take messages from mother to Grandma Eidam while she was married to Fred because the two weren't speaking.)

Just thought this was lots of fun having these old pictures to get a sense of history.

Later, Molly married Charlie Eidam. This picture was taken in Eureka Springs Arkansas after they were married and they returned to Cheyenne to be proprietors of the Metropolitan Hotel which is how most of us remember Molly (or Grandma Eidam as we knew her).