

September, 1958

Notes from conversation with mother

Sue Innes was staying with her sister on a little farm near Nashville, Tennessee. She left home because of her step-mother. Papa was buying and selling mules. Came to Aunt Lizzie's (Cousin Dora's Mama) house.

Conversation back to Kentucky

She was staying with Aunt Mag, not Aunt Lizzie. Sometimes there was fighting (from the Civil War) near the house. She spent a day and a night in a little cabin down the hill.

When Mama (Sue Innes) went back to Kentucky she saw my father (John William Burgess) driving up courting. John Hughes was courting her too. He was so rich. He had a better horse and buggy, so Papa got a better buggy and team of horses. I don't know how long they went together.

Grandpa Innes (Sue Innes' father) married Miss Lum (Columbia Davis). Mama got 200 acres.

Papa had the Richardson Place on the fork of the road on Russell Cave Pike. All the children were born there except Duke and Mary (my mother Mary Estill Burgess).

Papa made \$5,000 the first winter trading mules.

Papa talked about the war (Civil War) for hours.

Mama hated Lincoln, hated Yankees. They did so many things. They made the Negroes do so many dirty things. I guess that's the reason why people hate slaves. It explains Negro prejudice.

She was eight years old. She was cold. Miss Lum wouldn't buy her enough clothes. She got a red blanket and made a shirt to wear under her dress. Miss Lum found out and locked her in her room. When her daddy found out he bawled out Miss Lum.

Papa had a brother Jim. He had more brothers--just drunkards Papa had no use for. One day Uncle Kate came in drunk. Thomas Jefferson Burgess, his brother in St. Joseph, Missouri, was ok. (Cousin Mattie's father. Mattie Burgess later became a missionary to India. See her letters.)

Papa established himself in Lexington. A bank formed a syndicate near Abilene (Texas) and bought a lot of land. The bank asked Papa to investigate a ranch in 1885. Papa had a friend here (in Texas), Mr. Portwood, that held known in Kentucky. Papa found the grass waist high. It was good pasture land. Mr. Peter Smith took him to Blue Mound and Papa bought it. He came in 1885, went back to Kentucky, and came April 7, 1886. Mary Estill Burgess was born 1 year later.

The land here was 50¢, 75¢, \$1.25 an acre. Papa owned 9,000 acres when he died. In 1921

Mary sold her land for \$115 an acre.

Papa was very conservative. His four sons helped him. Warfield (Burgess) was charge of the cattle. Jim and John looked after the farming.

The only cross word Mama (Sue) ever said about her step-mother, Papa said, "Don't say that."

by Edna Deckler