

Madewell

**Janelle Taylor**

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**From:** "Hershell Madewell" <madewelleh@blomand.net>  
**To:** "Janelle Taylor" <jcoats@cafes.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2003 10:24 AM  
**Subject:** Grundy County Heritage

I am Edwin Hershell Madewell, the seventh child of William Albert and Allie Jane "Jennings" Madewell, born in beautiful Grundy County, Tennessee, just south of where Wannamaker branch merges with the Collins River, a country baby that started life in a log house with a dogtrot. The house is modernized and still sits near the foot of Little Mountain looking over highway 56 towards the Collins River. Next to the river is where dad had a mule driven sorghum mill where sugar cane was hand fed through the mill and mashed between vertical rollers. I was very young at the time, but I remember going to the mill and watching the mule go around pulling an attached horizontal arm turning rollers that mashed the cane. The sweet juices collected and run through a pipe, to be cooked in dad's sorghum pan, which was located towards the river and at a lower elevation. There was a spring located back towards the road where dad had a pipe running from, to the pan, with a valve where he could control the amount of water needed. I remember chewing the cane for the sweet juice while watching dad. Dad was a farmer, cut timber, sawmill worker, cut hair, repaired shoes, a factory worker and later a house builder. I always remember my family as willing to go to work

Mom and dad had eight children, with six living today. Willie Albert was born and died in the same house in 1937 where I was born in 1939. Dad, mom, and Taskah have passed on and buried in the Philadelphia Cemetery near Willie Albert. Juanita, Etta, Alberta, Allison, myself, and Grace are carrying on the family's daily activities.

There was pea-shelling, bean hulling, quilting, dinners where many folks would come and eat, quality time with family, kinfolks, and neighbors. Games like skipping a rock across the water, hoop

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rolling, hide and seek, annie over, marbles, apple bobbing, red rover, skip a rope, hop-scotch, jacks, ring around the roses, musical chairs, simon says, drop the handkerchief, pop the whip, leap frog, and hula hoops are games I enjoyed or my sisters enjoyed. A cane pole with a line, sinker, hook and worms we would dig up from moist ground would give hours of enjoyment.

When I was five my family moved to McMinnville where I went to school, later living in Texas, Mississippi, and New Jersey, my permanent military duty station. For over thirty-three years, I worked at Arnold Engineering and Development Center, in Coffee County, retiring July 1999.

Edwin Hershell Madewell

Word Count, 460

Source, family

Submitted by

Hershell Madewell

102 Anngela Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

**Index**

**Edwin Hershell Madewell**

**William Albert Madewell**

**Allie Jane Madewell**

**Willie Albert**

**Juanita**

**Taskah**

**Etta**

**Alberta**

**Allison**

**Hershell**

**Grace**

**Seated**

Etta, Hershell, Albert, Allie, Grace, Alberta

Standing

Taskah, Allison, Juanita

**Subject:** Grundy County Heritage

Janelle this is just a contact so you will have a way to contact me. My e-mail address will be on this note.

I wish you well and the book will be a success. I have several things going for now and will probably need all the time I can muster to get something ready for you.

Hershell Madewell  
102 Anngela St  
McMinnville, TN 37110

Etta, Hershell, Albert, Allie, Grace, Alberta

Standing

Taskah, Allison, Juanita

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