

## Hennessee, Dr. Emanuel Augustus

Life during and after the Civil War was difficult. Gus' grandmother, Nancy, had lost the family plantation to taxes. Father, Emanuel Augustus Hennessee, Sr., was shot in the head during the war, leaving him partially paralyzed, unable to speak, and mother, Elizabeth Caroline Johnson, thrust into the role as head of the family.

Gus enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Troop G, assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas. His service record there was from October 1, 1883 to September 30, 1888, and October 1, 1888, to December 31, 1891. He is shown with the Hospital Corps March 7, 1895 to November 22, 1896, with Battery D, First Artillery, November 22, 1896, to November 6, 1898, as well as (Add additional) Gus was honorably discharged September 14, 1899, from Jackson Barracks, Louisiana.

The 1893-1894 catalog of U. S. Grant University, Athens, Tennessee, lists Emanuel A. Hennessee of Morganton, North Carolina, as first year student in their Preparatory School and 1900 catalog as graduate of the Department of Medicine at Chattanooga during 1899-1900.

It is thought that Gus came to live in Burke County around 1900. "Transactions Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, Raleigh, 1904", page 536, under Burke County Society shows "E. A. Hennessee, Glen Alpine, licensed 1902, joined the State Society 1904, U. S. Grant University, 1900." Among others, Gus was a Charter Member of the Burke County Medical Society, component of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina.

On October 18, 1891, Gus married Mary Emily (Mollie) Merriott (September 27, 1867-July 28, 1912), (daughter of James Merritt and Mary Ann Garrison. Their children were:

Minnie Alice (1892-1896); 2. Eugene Lionel (1894-1955); Valentine Broadway (1897-1971); Charles Robert (1899-1973); William Nixon (1900-1983); Aubrey Conrad (1903-1959); John Alexander (1904-1978); Emanuel Augustus III (1906-1996); Frank Narcissus (1908-1986); Patrick Henry (1910-1973); and Ivison Merriott (1912-1913).

Gus married second December 20, 1912, Linnie Raye (Raye) Brinkley (February 12, 1893-January 15, 1981), daughter of James Marshall Brinkley and Minnie Rowe. Their children were:

Albert Edward (1914) and Nita Raye (1916).

Gus' stationery letterhead includes "Dr. E. A. Hennessee, Physician and Surgeon, Diseases of Women A Speciality, Member Co. Board of Health." It is said he would visit patients using whatever means of transportation needed – horseback, wagon, carriage, etc. He is said to be the first medical practitioner in Burke County to use an automobile in his practice. A large 1916 account book used by him, the year his youngest child was born, is in her possession.

Gus and the Pitts Family of Glen Alpine were good friends, going on hunting and fishing trips together. Unfortunately, trouble arose between the families, said to be over an exchange of bills. On one of a number of occasions, a fight broke out and in the melee, William Gorman Pitts was stabbed. He died at Grace Hospital February 23, 1913. Gus was badly hurt but recovered. In a trial that followed, Gus was acquitted and returned to his practice. A five year peace bond was posted. Shortly after its expiration, Gus was returning on Train #21 from Greensboro after visiting a patient there. Arriving in Glen

Alpine and after leaving the train, he was shot a number of times, dying immediately. Two sons of Noah Pitts, ages 19 and 25, were charged but acquitted. Later Aaron Wiseman, said to be known to the Pitts, was brought to trial for Gus' murder in Shelby. Wiseman was found guilty, sentenced to die in the electric chair. His sentence was commuted by Governor Thomas W. Bickett to 30 years in prison, then followed by parole of Wiseman (age 67) by Governor O. Max Gardner. It is said that a condition of his parole was to not return to North Carolina moving to Ohio.

At Gus' death, remaining were his wife, Raye Brinkley Hennessee and eleven children – 10 boys and one girl. Two children predeceased him – Minnie Alice in 1896 and Ivison in 1913.