

Elaine "Granny" Freeman



Elaine Freeman is better known as “Granny” not only to family but to everyone that knows her. She was born in the winter of 1912 in Bedford County to the parents of William and Rebecca Turner. Her family consisted of one brother and two sisters with Elaine being the youngest. Her mother passed away when Elaine was a small child, she learned at an early age life could be hard. Growing up she did family chores as well as milking cows, picking cotton, sewing and cooking. For education she attended the Haynes School in Rover. Granny can remember writing with penny pencils and studying the three “R’s” Reading, Rating, and Rithmatic.

Granny is known for her love of cooking, feeding everyone that stops by for a visit, and her handmade quilts, and baby blankets. The baby blankets are still crocheted by hand but the past few years the quilting has been done by the sewing machine. Every grand child, great grand child, and great-great child has either a handmade quilt or blanket. She doesn’t stop with family all we have to do is say there is a new baby on the way and she ask what colors can I make their blanket in.

Granny had three children: Earl Freeman, Sue Freeman Lamb, and Walter Freeman. She raised them through hard times as well as good. She has grand children, great grand children, and great great grand children. There are memories she can share about each and every one of them, and will be happy to share them if ask to. If you want to put a smile on her face just mention her grand children.

She has seen many changes and inventions in her 92 years of life. When talking with her she can remember riding in a horse drawn buggy to the first auto she rode in. She also has all of the old saying such as: “ You have to plant a crop when the signs are right.” Or a way to predict the weather: “Count the fogs in August to know how many times it will snow.” There is also a remedy for any illness you might have.

Besides farming and raising her children Elaine worked at Community School in Unionville, TN for many years until she was made to retire. She has many fond memories of her coworkers and still talks with them over the phone. The children only knew her as Granny however she knew them all by name and probably still does.

Elaine is a member of the “Red Hat Society” of College Grove and a member of the College Grove Enrichment Center. Up until the past few months you would find her at the center in the middle of whatever was going on. She enjoyed going on the outings with both the “Red Hats” and the center. It kept her active and feeling young. Due to illness she is no longer able to participate in the daily events the center offers. However, she loves to get visits and phone calls from all the great friends she has. She looks forward to the bingo parties that some of her friends come over to have at her house.





Everybody that knows Granny has a certain memory of her. If you ask the great grand children what food they think she cooks best it has to be the Famous Roni's and cheese (or course there is a family secret). As for the grand children it would be those home made chocolate pies with the mile high meringue on top (which is the one thing she could never teach any of us to do). You can also remember the feeling of going over for holiday and all the smell of good cooking from the kitchen, and the famous words "Eat some more I know you can't be full yet, there is still a whole cake in here." But there would not be a cake; there was a variety of all foods so everyone could have their favorite. Family, Friends, and Food all good times. I think that is the memory most people have of Granny.

When I ask her what her favorite time of the year was it had to be Christmas. She loves going to Gatlinburg in November to see all of the lights and shows. When there she has to add to her collection of snow babies and thimbles. Her village of Christmas houses now have suburbs and growing.

I ask her today of all the inventions she has seen in her life what she thought the best one was. Her answer air conditioning (of course it was 90 degrees and the repair person was working on her a/c.) I also ask her if she could do or have anything what would it be: Her replied, "Be well, cool, comfortable and have my family with me."