



Grandpa's Stories

The Little Devil

The big white farmhouse was yonder in the distance. **Clarence and Tommy** had left early after a hearty breakfast and wandered down by the muddy creek. The day before it had rained torrents and the wide creek was nearly overflowing. Long before Clarence's parents had moved to Nashville and built the big house with the Victorian windows and broad brick chimneys.

Gazing upwards, Clarence said happily, "looks like we're gonna have a swell day for fun, Tommy." The cerulean blue sky was clear - not a cloud in the sky. The greenery of the trees and scrubs was glistening like tinted glass washed clean of a hot summer's dirt and grime.

"Yup, sure does," Tommy

grinned. "Let's go over by that Mulberry tree and dig us a big hole."

The two six year olds strolled leisurely over to the big bushy tree. They squatted down with old spoons ready. "Hey, this digs easy.," yelled Clarence. "Last time this dirt was real hard, remember."?

"Yeah," said Tommy. "Sure was. It was like a rock. We didn't get to dig very deep that time. Boy, today I bet we can dig clear through to China." The two boys started seriously digging. Soon the hole was one foot deep and al-



Prisoner at Penitentiary is Divorced

March 24, 1925 Urbana Daily Citizen

Elza McConnaughey, sentenced to the Ohio peni-tentiary for three years in May, 1924, after having been found guilty of being one of the leaders in a gang of chicken thieves, was divorced by his wife, Elva McConnaughey* in the local common pleas. court, Saturday.

Upon his release from the penitentiary he will be compelled to pay his wife \$4

per week for the sup-port of their two children now eight and one years of age, respectively. The divorce was granted on the ground of McConnaughey*s imprisonment. The couple was married in September 1915.

**Wife was Elva Irene Evilsizor, daughter of Wm Irvin Evilsizor III and Mary Estella Haney. She remarried George Baker.*

Special

- *This is a continuation of the 2007 issue that I began posting my grandpa's stories and then suffered the death of my mother, so the series was put on hold. . I hope you enjoy them.*

The Little Devil (Continued)

most as wide. The dirt, soft by the recent downpour made their play-work easy.

Clarence stood up and stretched his small, lanky body. "We need somethin' besides these ol' spoons," he grumbled to Tommy. "We could dig faster if we had something better." Tommy slowly and grumpily raised his chubby body and said, "You're right, Clarence, we'll have to find somethin' better. How about that ol' piece of iron laying over by that plow." Tommy ran over and picked up what looked like a long, heavy, straight poker. At the same time he spied a tin can close by and grabbed that, too.

Tommy flew back to the mulberry tree and handed the can to Clarence. "I'll loosen the dirt and you haul it out, okay?" Excitedly, he began scraping the dirt out of the bottom of the hole and Clarence scooped it out with the tin can.

The hole was getting deeper and deeper. Soon the boys tired and sat back to rest, but almost immediately they were down on their knees peering down into the deep dark hole. Wide-eyed, their glistening eyes turned from the hole to the horrified eyes of each other. Without one word spoken, both small boys stood wavering on four wobbly legs, and like a bolt of lightening they sped across the plowed field each throwing the poker and the tin can into the air. Clarence headed for his house as fast as his unsteady legs could carry him while Tommy raced in the direction of his farmhouse a little bit further down the road.

The house seemed miles away, but in no time Clarence had pounded up the back porch steps and dashed into the sunlit kitchen past his mother standing at the hot stove stirring a big kettle of stew. "Hey, buster, what's going on," she yelled.

As Clarence tried to speak, only an unintelligible sound came from his lips. He darted into the hallway and up the flight of stairs to his bedroom. He plopped into the bed and pulled the covers up over his head.

"I wonder what's gotten into that boy," Melissa mused. She lay the long ladle down and covered the stew. Slowly she plodded up the stairs to Clarence's room. She eased her big-boned body onto the edge of his bed and pulled the covers from Clarence's head. She jerked back with a startled look from his chalk-white face. "Son," she said, 'you look like you've seen a ghost."

"Not a ghost, mom," Clarence said, his voice trembling with fear. "It was the Devil!" Just a small boy's active imagination," Melissa reflected, but before she could answer, Clarence began rapidly chattering. "We were digging....a hole...mom.... Tommy and me...stopped to rest....then looked into the hole.....there.....there her was.....a Devil. Believe me mom, it was a real Devil. He had horns, a long forked tail and a pitchfork raised over his head in his hand--just like those pictures we saw in the Sunday School Book."

Melissa reached over and planted a kiss on Clarence's cheek. "Son, there was no Devil down in that hole. You and Tommy shouldn't make up things like that."

"But, mom, we're not making it up--really we're not. We saw that ol' Devil down in that hole."

Melissa got up and stood by the bed with a frown on her face. She knew Clarence didn't tell fibs, but at times he did have quite an imagination. She looked down at him, saying, "Your Pa will be in for supper soon, so you better start washing up. I'm sure some of that dirt from that big hole clung to you." She shuffled out of his room and down the stairs back to the kitchen where she tested the stew and started putting plates on the table for supper. Looking up, she glanced out the window and saw the horse and wagon with John at the reins.

John came hurriedly in, saying, "Hi Melissa," with a peck on her cheek. He went to the wash basin scrubbing the dirt from his hands, then sat down at the far end of the table. "I'm starved, where's Clarence?"

"He's up in his room. I told him to wash up and come down. I don't know what to make of that boy - and Tommy, too. He says they were digging a hole and looked in and saw the Devil. I wish they would stop putting those Devil pictures in their Sunday School Books. You know what an imagination boys have - especially six year olds. But, when I looked in on him, his face was as white as a sheet and he did look mighty scared."

"That sounds like a tall one." John beamed, "But I've never known Clarence to fib about anything. "Hey , son, come on down to supper," he called.

Five minutes later there was still an empty place at the table. John was inclined to go after the boy, but Melissa said, "No, let him be."

The Little Devil (Conclusion)

Upstairs, Clarence still lay in bed and had pulled the covers again up over his head. Twilight was descending as Clarence peeked out. Hours glided by and small eyes stared into the pitch black room. In his mind's eye Clarence still saw the Devil down in the hole. He blinked. For an instant it seemed someone had flashed a mirrored light into his eyes. "That's funny," he thought, "Where did it come from?" He covered his eyes but soon peeked out again. From a distance a rumbling noise echoed and shattered the quiet of the night. Suddenly rain was pelting the tall window facing Clarence's bed. More thunder. Then a streak of lightning flashed. A blustering wind banged the shutters as the wind howled and the storm raged.

A sly smile crossed Clarence's face as he thought, "Ol' Devil, you'll drown tonight." With that thought, slowly his eyelids drooped and sleep finally overcame his frightened body.

Clarence awoke to sunlight streaming in through a wet spotted window. Quickly he dressed

and bolted down the stairs. As he heard voices from the kitchen, he stopped in his tracks. Had he heard clearly? "Tommy had died during the night." A muffled sound came from his lips as Clarence's knees gave way and his crumpled body slid in a heap to the floor.

The facts of this story were related by Clarence Evilsizer to his family on several occasions during his lifetime. The little boy had died during the night and there was no apparent reason for his death. Clarence was born in 1888 in Nashville, ILL. When he was seventy-five years old he still believed he had seen the Devil and in his "mind's eye" could see the Devil just as plainly as he saw him as a lad of six years old."

Written by Helen Evilsizer March 3, 1988

SEEKING CONNECTIONS



Gene and Cyndie Evilsizer of Troy and the late Rickie Whitenack of Muncie IN, parents of the bridegroom, Benjamin Andrew Whitenack who married Lore-dana Carmen Petrungaro in 2004

Darline Evilsizer died Jan 26, 1936 Franklin Co, Buckner, IL age 1 year.

(No Evilsizer families in Franklin Co, IL for 1930 Census, need to identify parents)

Has another death on same day for **Nadine Evilsizer**, age 1 yr. possibly twins.

Edith Evilsizer born c1902 married Melvin K Merrick 9/16/1922 in Wexford Co, MI. She was the daughter of Norman A Taylor and May Evilsizer. Norman and Carrie May are found in the 1910 and 1920 Wexford Co, Michigan census, both say they were married 2 times. There is a step-son named Forest Warner indicating Carrie must have married previously to a Warner. **This Carrie May (Evilsizer)** was born c1875 in Indiana and her parents born in Pennsylvania. It is not known who she is.

Springfield News-Sun Jan 14, 2007

Logan Ray Evilsizer, son of Steve and Christie Evilsizer was unexpectedly taken to be with the Lord, the morning of Jan 11, 2007. Although not carried to full term, Logan Ray will be forever cherished by his parents, family and friends. There will be no services.

(I have several Steve Evilsizer's in my database but do not know which is married to Christie)

Charlotte Evilsizer

1900 Cooke Co, Gainesville, Texas Film T623-1623 Book 2 Pg 130

Benjamin F Rook born 6/1845, 45, Married 37yrs, roofer
Sallie A, wife, born 6/1846, no children

Lottie Evilsizer, adopted daughter, born 4/1890, OK, GER, TX

Christopher Michael Evilsizer was born 8-15-1985 in Los Angeles, CA and his mother's maiden name was **CURL**.

EVLSIZER NEWSLETTER

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***Researching Evilsizer, Evilsizer,
Evelsizer, Evensizer***

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evilsizer/evilsizer.html>

Men in the Military (Continued from January issue)

EBENEZER FINDLEY THOMPSON EVILSIZER

Ebenezer served in the Civil War and was a private in Company E, 122nd Regt, of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was reported 150 lbs, 5'8", blue eyes, fair complexion, light hair. He was captured in Winchester VA on June 15th, 1863 and held at the Libbey Prison at Richmond, VA & Belle Island Prison, exchanged on July 23rd, 1863 and later discharged on June 26th, 1865. After his discharge he lived in Wood Co, then later moved to Noble Co, Ohio. He Had 7 children by his first wife.

IVAN PALMER EVILSIZER

My father, born 2/12/1928 St Clair, MO died 1/1/1997, San Diego, California. Liver Cancer. Enlisted in the US Army 4/19/1946 in Jefferson Co, Missouri and separated 4/21/1947 in Fort Dix New Jersey. He was a T5Clerk Typist with a qualification for the SS M-1 Rifle 176 and received the WWII Victory Medal. He was with Headquarters Troup 2nd Constabulary Regiment. His DD214 separation reason states "Convenience of the Government AR 615-365". He received an honorable discharge. My father wrote his autobiography before he

passed away and had some interesting stories about his year of service.

JAMES EVILSIZER

Co H 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mustered in OPct 3-Dec 25, 1861 at Camp Oliver by Second Lieutenants John Faskin, John R Spafford, Hyatt G Ford, and Joseph Jackos, USA Mustering Officers. Mustered out of Federal Service Dec 7 1865 at City Point, Virginia by Capt J Remington, ACM, Dept of VA, Mustered out of state service Dec 15, 1865 at Columbus, OH. James Eveleizen, also Evilsizer, Private, Enlisted Feb 1862 for 3 yrs. Discharged July 7 1865 at Tripler Hospital, Columbus OH by order of the War Dept.

JONATHAN EVILSIZER, JR

History of Washington Co, OH Jonathan, age 20, volunteer, July 1862 three years. Ninety Second Regiment, Company F, private died Sept 1863, mortally wounded at Chicamunga.

(Jonathan and Mary Sheeley Evilsizer had five sons who served in the Civil War and three perished as a result of that war)