

TOPPS

○ EXCERPT FROM INDEX OF BOOK "THE GOODWIN FAMILY OF CENTRAL N.C." BY THOMAS JERRY GOODWIN, SR - 2009 RPU 24NOV 2012. - NOTE: INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS MEMBERS OF THE _____ FAMILY - [WAKE/CHATHAM COUNTIES]

Topps

George Thomas 328

Nettie Mae 328

BILLY

TOPPS

Western Wake Herald WED 4 MAR 1992 Apex, NC

Billy Topps and his mother, Ruth from Niagara Falls visited Elmer and Doris Topps last week.

ELMER

TOPPS

○ Western Wake Herald WED 12 AUG 1992 Apex, NC

Doris and Elmer Topps were dinner guests last Sunday with his sister, Louise Yates in Durham.

ELMER

TOPPS

○ The Apex Herald WED 13 MAR 1996 Apex, N.C

I. ELMER TOPPS↑

MO () - - -

A. SAMUEL RAY TOPPS

T. O. SEWELL



MR. and MRS. ELMER TOPPS

...celebrate anniversary

Couple married 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Topps, residents of Apex for 45 years, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 12. They have one son, Samuel Ray Topps of Apex.

Mr. Topps retired from Southern Railroad and currently works in security at the N.C. Department of Corrections. Mrs. Topps retired from Westinghouse.

The couple were married at the old T.O. Sewell homeplace in Apex on March 12, 1946.

Those who served

The following is a list of names of men from Apex and New Hill who served in World War II:

Δ Joseph M. Arbushitis
 Δ Jay Lee Ashley
 Δ Virgil E. Ayscue
 Δ Bryant H. Baker
 Δ Wade Baker
 Δ Joseph G. Banks, Jr.
 Δ James H. Beal
 Δ Luther D. Beck
 Δ John H. Bright Jr.
 Δ William V. Brown
 Δ Charles H. Bryan Jr.
 Δ Clifton N. Bullock
 Δ Roland Carpenter
 Δ Roy M. Cooke
 Δ David C. Denson
 Δ Henry O. Denson
 Δ Layton R. Denson
 * Δ Everette M. Edwards Jr.
 * Δ Liggett Gilliam
 * Δ Dewey C. Goodwin
 * Δ Donald G. Goodwin
 * Δ Glen Goodwin
 * Δ Lennie M. Goodwin
 * Δ Robert L. Goodwin
 * Δ Wallace W. Goodwin
 * Δ Lloyd W. Goolsby
 * Δ Cosby F. Hoffman
 * Δ David H. Honeycutt
 * Δ Edmund D. Horton
 * Δ James Horton
 * Δ Dalton W. Howell

Δ Charles W. Jones
 Δ Luther R. Jones
 Δ Marvin T. Jones
 Δ Rex T. Lawrence
 Δ Oscar B. Lineau Jr.
 Δ Roy D. Mason
 * Δ John O. Maynard
 * Δ Durwood Maynard
 * Δ John H. Maynard
 * Δ Gerald Maynard
 * Δ Robert Maynard
 * Δ Carl L. Morris
 * Δ Cecil Morris
 * Δ Allen L. Olive
 * Δ J. K. Pearson
 * Δ Clabon Pendergraft
 * Δ William A. Poe
 * Δ Calvin P. Ragan
 * Δ Clayborn C. Rhodes
 * Δ W.T. Roundy Jr.
 * Δ Ray Scott
 * Δ Dawes L. W. Seagroves
 * Δ Phlin D. Seagroves
 * Δ J. Q. Seagroves
 * Δ Robert Sears
 * Δ William Sears
 * Δ Herbert A. Sutton
 * Δ Jehu B. Travis
 * Δ Elmer Topps
 * Δ Glenwood D. Umstead
 * Δ Cecil F. Upchurch
 * Δ Norman H. Upchurch
 * Δ Edward G. Walls
 * Δ Leo J. Wilson
 * Δ Miller D. Womble
 * Δ Sam K. Womble
 * Δ Wallace W. Womble

* Article copied in full for
 these individuals. For
 others may need to
 reference the article
 which was in
The Apex Herald WED
 9 NOV 1994 Apex, NC

○ Apex Herald WED 29 MAR 1995, Apex, NC

Reflections

Life stays pretty much the same at the Apex Grocery

By David Leone
Staff Writer

In 1945, Apex wasn't much more than farmland. In those days things were different. A Coke cost a nickel, cars still had that wonderful open, rounded-out look, and the Polio virus was still ravaging the nation.

Times have changed. Apex is on its way to bedroom community status, a Coke now goes for 55 cents, no matter what make or model of car you buy, it will look just like all the others, and the AIDS virus is the scare of a nation.

At the Apex Grocery though, things are still pretty much the same.

Harry Beasley has run the store ever since his brother, Dick, retired about five years ago. Before that, the two of them worked the store since it was built after their father's place, the City Feed Store, burned down.

The City Feed Store went up in 1945 to serve the needs of the tenant farmers in the area. The store provided the families with all their needs and many traded their goods to get by. Some of them still do.

There isn't a day that goes by when you can go into the general store at 122 South Salem and not see a couple of old guys hanging out in the corner chatting away.

And through the course of the day, the faces of these men will change as one goes out and another one comes in.

There's Raymond Allen, 81, of Friendship Road and Moody Long, who is 80 but could pass for 40.

"Do you know what the definition of a codger is?" Moody asks, and gives his own answer. "Raymond Allen."

"Moody saved his money by trading with Harry Beasley," comes the retort.

They've been coming into the store ever since it opened, and even before.

"I knew [Harry's] daddy before he was born," Raymond touts. Ray was one of those people who used the store for all of its goods.

Actually, the definition of codger is "an odd or eccentric fellow." That definition applies to more than just Ray and Moody though.

A little later on, Elmer Topps is in the grocery, gossiping to anyone who'll listen about the "deadman's curve on Schieffelin road" which caused a woman's car to recently overturn.



Dick Beasley takes his hand to fixing an old adding machine at the store.

I. — — Beasley
A. Harry Beasley
B. Dick Beasley

Raymond Allen
Moody Long
Elmer Topps ↑
Frank Cofield
John Maynard

Talk then turns to the influx of northerners into the town. "I have a lot of Yankee friends," Elmer said. "I have no problem if they come down looking for a job."

That seems to be the general opinion among these men. One thing that never changes is the need to make a good buck.

"I've worked for 50 cents a day for a six hour day," Raymond recalls.

Of course, not all of the men are so welcoming to strangers. One



Frank Cofield, 80, lights up in the back of the grocery.

Photos by David Leone

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old codger who wouldn't give up his name described the difference between a "Damn" Yankee and a "Good" Yankee.

"A Damn Yankee is one that comes and stays. A Good Yankee is one that goes back," he chuckled.

Round about lunchtime Harry's retired brother, Dick, comes in to check on things. Immediately he begins tinkering with an old adding machine.

"He don't come around much because I put him to work," Harry said.

After fixing the machine, Dick recollects on what would be the "most exciting thing to ever happen to Apex on a Sunday." That would be when his father's Feed Store burned down.

All of the fire trucks from Raleigh and Fuquay came to put it out, he said.

"The four bottles of black powder we had didn't help the situation much," he added.

After the fire, Dick said that the family teamed together to build the Apex Grocery.

Though many of these guys have wandered weekly into the store since its opening, some of them weren't here all the time.

John Maynard spent seven of his years in the military, 47 months of which he was stationed in the South Pacific during

World War II. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked.

"I saw the first bomb hit. I was fixin' to eat breakfast when we heard the planes, ran out and saw it hit the gas storage," he said.

John noted that part of the reason nobody was aware of the attack was because the boy on the radar had been playing crazy to get a section eight discharge. When he reported seeing all those blips 25 minutes out, command just assumed he was crying wolf.

Yes, there are all sorts of stories you can hear at Harry Beasley's

Apex Grocery. All one has to do is to walk in at any time and catch an old codger in a good mood.

Frank Cofield, who spent 59 years in the dry cleaning business before retiring as "Master Cleaner," summed the situation up best.

"I'm up here about every day. I have nothing to do and I don't want to do anything."

In the late afternoon before closing, most of the wanderers gone home, in comes a woman with her daughter who runs all the way around the counter yelling "Mr. Beasley, Mr. Beasley" as loud as a two-year-old can.

And with a smile, she is greeted by Harry Beasley who, though he may have been around for a long, long time, isn't too old to know young Kinyatta by sight. She has joined the tradition very early.

ELMER

TOPPS

○ The Apex Herald WED 19 JUN 1996 Apex, NC

Garden flourishes under care of Apex man

By MARK TODD
Editor

Elmer Topps, a lifelong Apex resident, has seen some fine gardens in his day, but he's never been prouder of any than he is of the one in his yard this summer.

Topps and his wife Doris have lived in the same house at 502 E. Chatham St., not far from downtown, for 45 years.

It's an established neighborhood of nicely maintained homes with a lot of character and a lot of life-long friends living side by side. Many of the yards are large, with huge shade trees and an ambiance you won't find in a new subdivision on the outskirts of town.

Those large lots allow for such things as gardens, and Mr. Topps has set up one that takes up a full quarter of an acre.

In its glory right now as the corn begins to rise higher and higher with the warm days and rain of recent weeks, the garden includes a wide variety of tasty produce.

Mr. Topps has planted tomatoes, peppers, corn, string beans, peas, butter peas, cucumbers, squash, okra and potatoes.

He tills the land twice a week to keep out weeds, and keeps a wary eye out for insects. He's also hoping to avoid a big wind that could damage the corn.

As Mrs. Topps noted, however, "It's up to God." So far this year, conditions for growing have been excellent.

Mr. Topps, a retired railroad maintenance man, takes great joy in seeing the garden grow from seed every year into a thing of beauty.

When he has extra produce, he gives it away to friends, widows and "a lot of visitors," he said.

His wife, of course, loves to can



GARDEN BEAUTIFUL— Elmer Topps of Apex has been a gardener for as long as he can remember, and this year's version at his home

may be the best garden he's seen yet. Ample rain has made the garden prosper. (Herald photo by Mark Todd)

and freeze the items whenever possible. You can just imagine that she's an excellent Southern cook, because she says "I cook just like Momma."

Mr. Topps, who now works as a security guard with Nationwide Security after a 31-year career with the railroad, and Mrs. Topps were both born at home in an era where the railroad and tobacco were king in Apex.

He worked for Southern Railroad from Norfolk to Charlotte and visited at least 15 countries during World War II as a member of the Merchant Seamen in the Atlantic Theater.

While some things in Apex, like the old homes, churches and businesses are the same, and there still are a lot of old time, friendly residents around, he is bothered by the growing traffic and some of the other changes in Apex.

Still, the couple go to the old Green Level Baptist Church and are firmly rooted in traditional values.

The couple remembers when tobacco was grown near their house, the roads were all dirt, and there was a hog pen not far away.

Today, the only pen nearby is the shaded compound used by their three beagles, Feebee, Phyllis and Joe.

Mrs. Topps retired 12 years ago from Westinghouse in Raleigh, where she made light meters.

She is also handy with the soil, and is responsible for a long row of flowers in the yard, including some beautiful roses.

A visit with the Topps leaves one feeling that he has found a real piece of old Apex, and an better appreciation for the type of people who have built the town.

ELMER

TOPPS

① Western Wake Herald WED 18 MAR 1992 Apex, NC

Last Thursday, March 12, Doris and Elmer Topps celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary. I was invited to have dinner with them at the Golden Coral in Fuquay to celebrate their anniversary.

ELMER

TOPPS

Western Wake Herald WED 29 APR 1991 Apex, NC

Doris and Elmer Topps visited his sister, Nora Cowley and family in Angier last Sunday.

ELMER D

TOPPS

○ THE COUNCILS - FROM VA TO NC - 2ND ED 1978 - BY: IRMA
RAGAN HOLLAND - [RPU REFERENCE CODE (35)] PG(S) 190
FROM GENERAL INDEX

TOPPS

Elmer D. ↑ 126

Samuel Ray, 126

ELMER D

TOPPS

XFD-27405

① Western Wake Herald WED 14 NOV 1990 Apex, NC

Doris and Elmer Topps visited his sister, Louise Yates and Willard last Saturday. Louise has been sick, but is better and at home in Durham.

② See Reference 35 Pgs 122-127

I. Charles C. Council of the North Carolina Union

A. Doris Council 121 AUG 1921 and 12 MAR 1946

Elmer D. Topps 23 APR 1923.

1. Samuel Ray Topps

HERMAN

TOPPS

○ Western Wake Herald WED 25 APR 1990 Apex, NC

Last Sunday, April 22, Doris Topps and Blanch Morris had their annual birthday dinner at the Topps home for their husbands, Herman and Elmer. These "young" men have the same birthday and are the same age (67). Attending this special meal were Wilma and Dwight Morris, Ivey and Laura Morris, their daughter, Diane and husband from Charlotte, Marie Morris, Nonnie McNeil, Rachel Lewter, the associate pastor of Green Level Church, Nathaniel Austin and his family. Rev. John Moody, pastor of Green Level Baptist Church and wife were unable to attend the dinner but visited them in the afternoon to wish them a Happy Birthday.

LOUISE

TOPPS

○ Western Wake Herald WED 26 FEB 1942 AYON, NC

Mrs. Louise Yates of Durham
spent last weekend with her
brother, Elmer Topps and Doris.

LOUISE

TOPPS

Western Wake Herald WED 28 AUG 1999 Apex, NC

We extend sympathy to Doris and Elmer Topps in the death of Willard Yates, the husband of his sister, Louise.

TO: TOPPS, ELMER & DORIS
FROM: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL - TO THE HONORABLE [illegible]

[illegible header text]

[illegible body text]

[illegible body text]

[illegible body text]

NETTIE MAE TOPPS

XFD-16212

① Nettie Mae Topps b 15 OCT 1901 and 9 SEP 1920
Irving Winslow Goodwin b 24 OCT 1891, d 3 MAR 1969
Irving was son of Varina Fisher H b 18 AUG 1861
of Mover/Murray H Han (28, Pg 65).

- ① See It MAR 1987 Mildred Mable Goodwin DRP
Nettie Mae Topps ↑ b. 15 OCT 1901 (Wash Co, NC) bur
 Olive Chapel Church, Wake Co, NC. and Irwin's
 Winslow Goodwin b. 1891 (Chatham Co, NC) (Ber-
 Olive Chapel Church, Wake Co, NC).
- ② See Mater of Conf Charlotte Jane Goodwin & RP 7 JAN 1987
Nettie Mae Topps ↑, was an Army nurse.
- ③ See It 14 JUN 1987 Mildred Mable Goodwin DRP
Nettie Mae Topps ↑ d. OCT 1960 (New Hill, Wake Co, NC
 and in the Court House in Raleigh, NC.
 Irwin Winslow Goodwin d Apex, NC

NORA

TOPPS

① Apex Herald WED 12 FEB 1997 Apex, NC

NORA TOPPS ↑

EDWARD AUSLEY

NORA A. COWLEY

Nora Ausley Cowley, 84, of Angier died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1997. Funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 7, at Overby-Johnson General Home Chapel with Rev. Thomas Gardner officiating. Burial was at Lakeside Memorial Gardens, Angier.

Surviving: daughters, Hazel Wood of Apex, Jean Carson of Macon, Ga., Ruth Jones of Angier; sons, Edward Ausley of Dunn, Cecil and Gerald Ausley, both of Angier, Bob Ausley of Fuquay-Varina, Sammy Ausley of Port Wentworth, Ga.; sister, Louise Yates of Durham; brother, Elmer Topps of Apex; numerous grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

NORA

TOPPS

○ Western Wake Herald WED 31 JUL 1991 Apex, NC

Doris and Elmer Topps invited Elmer's sister, Nora Cowley and her daughter, Ruth Jones and her husband Ed from Angier to have supper with them last Saturday night. They all enjoyed the gospel singing at Faith Baptist.

SAMUEL RAY TOPPS

○ THE COUNCILS - FROM VATD NC - 2ND ED 1978 - BY: IRMA
RAGAN HOLLAND - [RPU REFERENCE CODE (35)] PG(S) 170
FROM GENERAL INDEX

TOPPS

Elmer D. 126

Samuel Ray, 126

SAMUEL RAY TOPPS

○ The Apex Herald WED 13 MAR 1996 Apex, NC

I. ELMER TOPPS

MD () - - -

A. SAMUEL RAY TOPPS ↑

T. O. SEWELL



MR. and MRS. ELMER TOPPS

...celebrate anniversary

Couple married 50 years

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Mr. Topps retired from Southern Railroad and currently works in security at the N.C. Department of Corrections. Mrs. Topps retired from Westinghouse.

The couple were married at the old T.O. Sewell homeplace in Apex on March 12, 1946.

① See Reference 35 Pgs 122-127

I. Carlos C. Council of the Masonic / Murrough Subdors

A. Davis Council and Elmer D. Topps

1. Samuel Ray Topps A. "Sammy" b. 19 FEB
1952