



Mattie Bradley, a McMinn County resident (deceased), who raised her family in McMinn County, has been honored by the Cook Civic Garden and Park Association as a part of Black History Month. Mattie, the wife of the late Alec Bradley, lives in Lanetown, just outside Niota, less than one-half mile where she was born 88 years ago.

Both Mattie and her husband were born around the Lanetown community, which is named after her grandmother, Ellen Lane. The community was formed after blacks were freed from various farms, and walked up into the cedars of what are now the Lanetown and Oak Grove communities.

Alec's brothers were named John, Bill, Fred, Henry, and Neal, and he had one sister, Cora Lee. Mattie had three sisters, Beatrice, Maudie, and Willie, and two brothers, Carl Hurst and Muriel Hurst.

Mattie said her family always worked on farms, including those owned by John Cates, Horace Moore, and H. A. Collins. She and her husband raised 10 children, including Earnest, who lives in Massachusetts, Lewis, a concrete finisher in Athens, Martha, who lives in Washington, D.C., Geneva of Sweetwater, Anna Belle of Athens, and Louise and Grace of Lanetown. Three of her sons are deceased. She has more than 30 grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grand-children.

*Source: NAME OF BOOK Anna Belle Hardy- Daily Post Athenian, Athens, TN*