

FACE FROM THE PAST, CROSSLEY STYLE

By Dani Crossley

As evidenced by Chris Sanders in the previous article, you never know when you will find that little treasure you've been seeking and that has eluded you for years. I have been researching my husband's family, the Crossleys, for over twenty years. You might recall from previous articles that my father-in-law, Elijah Jr., never knew much about his family. After his mother left when he was only four, he and his father spent time living with various kind relatives.

Elijah Sr. was one of fourteen children, eleven of whom lived to adulthood. I have long wanted to obtain photos of Elijah's thirteen siblings, especially the ones that offered him/them a place to live. I was fortunate to connect up with a couple of Elijah Jr's cousins who shared some photos with me. I also contacted another distant relative (whom Elijah never knew) who contributed to the collection. As of two years ago I had collected photos of four of the siblings: Libby, Lil, John, and Lafie. I was desperately on the hunt for a picture of Aunt Sade (Sadie Crossley Boyer Myers). Elijah Sr. had lived with the Boyers for many years before his death in 1944 and my husband's family was closest to this particular branch of relatives. They all still attend the annual Boyer reunion.



At the last pre-pandemic Boyer reunion, one of Sadie's descendants came with a bundle of "extra" photos to share with the group. Since they were extra, they were available for the taking. One snapshot of four people was a possibility. On the front was written Gram T. and Gram Boyer. The donor of the photo said at first that it wasn't Sadie, but a quick flip of the photo showed further information about the people in the picture and it indeed was Sadie Boyer! I couldn't believe I finally could see what she looked like (not having been around when my husband's family used to visit her in the 60s) and could add one more sibling photo to the collection—counting Elijah Sr. that now made six of the eleven surviving children of George Washington and Kate Swisher Crossley—more than halfway!

Next up, snappy dresser Perry Tillman Crossley (1866-1944). Echoing Chris's words, if you are in pursuit of family ancestor treasures, I also suggest you attend those family reunions, reach out to extended family members, and never give up!

P.S. After this article was written I was at the Society working with Mark Fritz. We were looking for some recently accessed photos that Mark had seen. While going through our collection, he came across a photo taken in front of the Jamison City tannery. He read off the name of Perry Crossley and I nearly fell off my chair! I couldn't believe that the next object on my list of Elijah Sr's siblings had magically appeared. I was overjoyed, but am still looking for evidence of the snappy dresser!



*L-R: Perry Crossley, H. W. Karschner, Charles McHenry
Circa 1900-1910*
