

May Betts / Wetmore Ladies Aid / Wetmore Community Church

May Charlotte (Burroughs) Betts (17 June 1880, - 20 Nov 1983) was 103 yrs. old at time of her death. She was the youngest of 7 children born to Henry M. and Sarah L. (Bruce) Burroughs; being born on their homestead near the Fremont-Custer County line in Hardscrabble Park (off of Siloam Rd about 3-4 miles north of Wetmore). Note: her grandfather, Franklin Bruce, was the first of many killed when the Espinosa brothers went on their murderous rampage in 1863.

May married Jacob Alfred Betts 27 March 1901 and had 4 children - Ralph, Gladys, Stanley and Alfred who died at birth. May and Jake lived in an adobe brick home (Jake made the adobe bricks) at the end of County Road 395 (or Plum Street "cuz it ran Plum through Wetmore") just to the northeast of gas station. They made a living by having a large garden as well as the usual assortment of animals. After the death of their daughter Gladys and her husband, they raised 3 grandson's Carl 7, and twins Verl and Vernon 4. Their son Ralph married Beulah Bush; they had two children Ralphlynn and Jack. Ralph built the Lone Pine for Beulah in the late 1920's and he died in 1946. Their son Stanley married Shirley and moved to Springfield Missouri. In 1944 Stanley's daughter Marilyn, 10-months old, came to live with them.

May was a charter member of the Wetmore Ladies Aid and very active in the Wetmore Community Church. It was the Ladies Aid who decided in October 1913 at a meeting at May's home to build a community church and build it they did. Attending the meeting were Mrs. Ike Taylor, Mrs. Maude Bernard, Irma Allen, Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Roy Cantrell and Mrs. Mollie Watson, president of Ladies Aid. They realized they would need money so they organized many fundraising dinners. Most of the labor was donated with Charles Essmeire as the general overseer; construction began in 1914 and after 4 years, the church was completed in 1918.

After Jack's death in 1946, May moved to Florence. At the time of her death, she had 6 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.