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# Looking Back

*to***1930s Wilkes Co, NC**

## The 1934 Murder of Lloyd Casey

I recently heard about the story of Lloyd Casey and I wanted to learn more. He's not a close relative, but he is a distant cousin in several different ways. Also, he was the brother of my step great grandmother Maude Casey, so I can't help but have some interest in his story.

As the article at right states, Lloyd Casey was killed by Bill Teague in a knife fight on Saturday night, June 2, 1934, in Walnut Grove Township. The incident occurred at the Pleasant Hill polling place on the night of primary voting. This was probably in the Dockery community, perhaps near Greenstreet Mountain where he lived.

The two started arguing and soon the disagreement escalated to the use of their pocket knives. While Teague was wounded in his head and neck, Casey was fatally stabbed in the heart. Both were taken by car to the hospital, but Casey had died before they arrived.

Bill's full name was James Earl "Bill" Teague. He was born on 6/19/1907 and was almost 27 years old at the time of the incident. He appears to have been the oldest son of Inez Louisa Teague who married Franklin Calloway Armes in 1911 when Bill was three years old. He had several younger siblings.

### LLOYD CASEY IS KILLED IN KNIFE FIGHT

Walnut Grove Resident Succumbs To Stab In Chest  
Saturday Night

#### BILL TEAGUE JAILED

Fight Occured At Voting Precinct In Walnut Grove Township

Lloyd Casey, resident of the Joynes community, was killed in a knife fight with Bill Teague Saturday night about 8:30 at Pleasant Hill voting place in Walnut Grove township.

According to the most reliable information obtainable here the two men began talking to each other in an amiable manner and soon were engaged in a heated argument over some liquor.

According to Teague's statement of the affair both men used pocket knives in the affray which followed and Teague received two severe lacerations about his head and neck. Teague stabbed Casey in the chest, the knife piercing his heart.

Both men were placed in an automobile and started for the hospital here but Casey died on the way. Teague's wounds were dressed and he was remanded to jail, where he is now being held pending improvement of his condition and a preliminary hearing.

Casey was 24 years, 11 months and 1 day of age, a son of I. B. and Lou Emmie Casey, of Abshers. He was married to Bertha Byers Casey, who survives. There is one child, Baudie Casey.

The funeral service was held this afternoon, three o'clock, at Piney Grove Church.

Journal-Patriot, June 4, 1934, p1. The newspaper article announcing the death of Lloyd Casey after a knife fight on the previous Saturday night.

After Bill Teague's injuries were treated, he was taken to jail where he awaited a court hearing. As later newspaper articles point out, Bill Teague was held in jail without bond for five weeks until a preliminary hearing was held in July. In mid-August, a grand jury found him guilty of murder.

More information on the court proceedings could almost certainly be found in Raleigh in the Superior Court Minutes and in the case docket folio. Also, The NC Department of Corrections likely has a file for Bill Teague maintained during his time of incarceration.

James Earl Bill Teague was pardoned for the murder of Lloyd Casey in 1939. He and his wife Jessie Watson Teague later lived near Trinity in Randolph Co. He died in 1988, and his wife Jessie died in 2002.

## Teague Remanded To Jail Without Privilege of Bond

Hearing Held Saturday Be-  
fore Magistrate P. L.  
Lenderman

### EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

Bill Teague is being held in jail without privilege of bond on a charge of killing Lloyd Casey on the night of June 2 in Walnut Grove township.

Preliminary hearing was held before Magistrate P. L. Lenderman in Wilkes Saturday morning.

Evidence was submitted tending to show that Teague and Casey quarrelled preceding the knife fight, in which Casey lost his life and Teague was severely injured by a laceration across his neck.

The state was represented at the hearing by Attorney J. H. Whicker, Attorney J. M. Brown appeared for the defendant.

Casey was stabbed in the heart and died shortly after the fight. Both men were residents of Walnut Grove township and the altercation occurred at the Pleasant Hill voting place on the night of the first primary.

Journal-Patriot, July 9, 1934, p1.  
Bill Teague is held in jail without bond as he awaits the trial.

## Homicide Cases Put On Docket

Grand Jury Returns Three  
True Bills For Murder In  
Present Court

Three additional homicide cases were added to the already crowded docket as the grand jury complete its work in the present term of court in Wilkesboro.

A true bill for murder was returned against Click Waddel for the death of Mrs. Ennis Dimmette on May 5th of this year.

A second true bill charging murder was returned against Bill Teague, who is alleged to have slain Lloyd Casey in a knife fight at the polling place in Walnut Grove township on the day of the primary, June 2.

The third was against J. L. Busic for the death of Mack Felts on March 19.

Journal-Patriot, August 16, 1934,  
p1. The trial for Bill Teague  
resulted in a true bill for murder.

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application will be made immediately to the governor and to the Commissioner of Paroles for the parole of Bill Teague now serving a prison sentence imposed in 1934 on a charge of homicide.

This June 8, 1939.

JESSIE TEAGUE.

6-12-15-12-22 pt.

Journal-Patriot, June 12, 1939, p6.  
The newspaper notice was posted  
in four consecutive papers to  
announce the upcoming parole of  
Bill Teague.

## Bill Teague Is Granted Parole

Bill Teague, who was sentenced in Wilkes court five years ago to serve 18 to 20 years for manslaughter, received a parole last week from Governor Clyde R. Hoey.

Four others from other parts of the state were also given paroles on Wednesday.

Journal-Patriot, October 2, 1939,  
p1. This short article states that  
Bill Teague had been released on  
parole.



Lloyd Casey was born on 6/26/1909, the son of Ira Burk Casey and Louemma Absher. In early September 1933, he married Bertha Bowers according to the newspaper announcement. It was just nine months later on 6/2/1934, that he was stabbed in the heart by Bill Teague.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

## STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

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1. PLACE OF DEATH		Registration District No.		Certificate No.	
County <u>Wilkes</u>		No. <u>97-19</u>		St. <u>N.C.</u> Ward <u>10</u>	
Township <u>Walnut Grove</u>		or Village			
City		No.		St.	
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its Name instead of street and number)					
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.					
2. FULL NAME <u>Lloyd Casey</u>					
(a) Residence: No. St. Ward.					
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)					

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>Married</u>	
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of <u>Bertha Bowers Casey</u> (or) WIFE of			
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>June 26 1909</u>			
7. AGE	Years	Months	Days
<u>25</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>24</u>	If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Farmer</u>			
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. <u>UU-VV</u>			
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)		11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation	
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Wilkes Co. N.C.</u>			
13. NAME <u>G. V. Casey</u>			
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Wilkes Co. N.C.</u>			
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Lou Absher</u>			
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Wilkes Co. N.C.</u>			
17. INFORMANT <u>G. V. Casey</u> (Address) <u>Gaines N.C.</u>			
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>Pinney Grove</u> Date <u>June 4, 1934</u>			
19. UNDERTAKER <u>Rina Stindivant</u> (Address) <u>N. Wilkesboro N.C.</u>			
20. FILED <u>8-14-34</u> <u>J. C. Sparks</u> REGISTRAR.			

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>June 2, 1934</u>	
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____.	
I last saw h. alive on _____, 19____. death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>7:30 P.M.</u>	
The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:	
<u>Dead when brought to my office</u>	
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:	
<u>(174)</u>	
Name of operation	Date of
What test confirmed diagnosis?	Was there an autopsy?
23. If death was due to external causes, (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>homicide</u> Date of injury <u>6/2, 1934</u>	
Where did injury occur? (Specify city or town, county, and State)	
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.	
Manner of injury	<u>Stabbed in heart</u>
Nature of injury	
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased?	
If so, specify	
(Signed) <u>W. C. Shephard</u>	M. D.
(Address) <u>N. Wilkesboro, N.C.</u>	

Wilkes County death certificate for Lloyd Casey dated 6/2/1934.

Bertha Bowers was born about 1915, the daughter of Tyre Bowers and Fannie Cleary. She would have been 18 years old when she married Lloyd Casey. I didn't find a record of their marriage in Wilkes Co or in Virginia. Maybe the marriage occurred in Surry or Alleghany Co, or maybe it wasn't recorded at all.

**JOYNES NEWS**

**JOYNES, Sept. 8—Mrs. B. C. Venable, of Danville, is visiting home folks this week.**

**Miss Mary Lee Venable reports a very pleasant visit with her brother, Mr. Boyd Venable, and family, of Danville, Va., the past two weeks.**

**Mr. John W. Spicer, a leading barber of Atlanta, came up for the week-end to see his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Spicer.**

**Mrs. Emma Holbrook, of Trap-hill, is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. C. C. Sidden.**

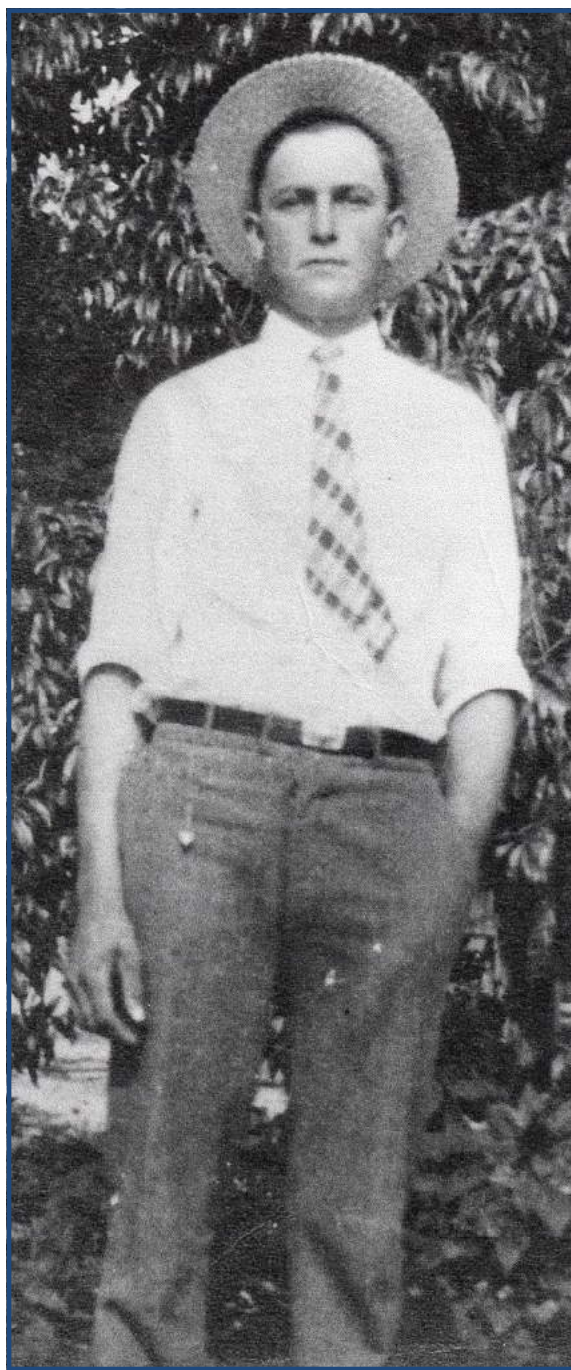
**The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Hort Holloway died last Friday and was buried at the Holloway cemetery. Rev. Barker conducted the service.**

**Mr. John Sidden, of Winston-Salem, came up to see his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sidden, today.**

**Mr. Lloyd Casey, of Joynes, was quietly married to a Miss Bowers, of Moxley, recently. They are making their home with Mr. Casey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Casey.**

**A. C. Sidden, W. C. McGrady,**

Journal-Patriot, September 11, 1933, p6. The news from the Joynes community included the announcement that Lloyd Casey and Miss (Bertha) Bowers were recently married.



Lloyd Casey (1909-1934), son of Ira Burke Casey and Louemma Absher.



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>CITY OR COUNTY OF <u>Grayson</u></div> <div>CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA</div> <div>32029</div> </div>							
FULL NAME OF GROOM <u>H. M. Waddell</u>				CLERK'S NO. <u>454</u>			
PRESENT NAME OF BRIDE <u>Bertha Casey</u>							
GROOM				BRIDE			
AGE	RACE	SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED	NO. TIMES PREV. MARRIED	AGE	RACE	SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED	NO. TIMES PREV. MARRIED
<u>38</u>	<u>white</u>	<u>widowed</u>	<u>one</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>white</u>	<u>widowed</u>	<u>one</u>
OCCUPATION <u>Farming</u>				MAIDEN NAME <u>Bertha Bowers</u>			
BIRTHPLACE <u>Wilkes County, N. C.</u>				BIRTHPLACE <u>Wilkes County, N. C.</u>			
FATHER'S FULL NAME <u>W. C. Waddell</u>				FATHER'S FULL NAME <u>Tyra Bowers</u>			
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Rosa Smoot</u>				MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Fannie Cleary</u>			
RESIDENCE P. O. ADDRESS (IF IN CITY ST. AND NO.) <u>Wilkes County Moxley, N. C.</u>				RESIDENCE P. O. ADDRESS (IF IN CITY ST. AND NO.) <u>Wilkes County Moxley, N. C.</u>			
Date of Proposed Marriage <u>December 24, 1938</u>				Place of Proposed Marriage <u>Independence, Va.</u>			
Given under my hand this <u>24th</u> day of <u>December</u> , 19 <u>38</u>				Clerk of <u>Grayson Circuit</u> Court.			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div><u>J. W. Larsons</u></div> <div><u>Grayson Circuit</u></div> <div>Court.</div> </div>							
<b>CERTIFICATE OF TIME AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE</b> I, <u>L. F. Frank</u> , Minister of the <u>Presidents</u> Church, or (Denomination.) religious order of that name, do certify that on the <u>24</u> day of <u>Dec</u> , 19 <u>38</u> at <u>Independence</u> Virginia, under authority of this license, I joined together in the Holy State of Matrimony the persons named and described therein. I qualified and gave bond according to law authorizing me to celebrate the rites of marriage in the county (or city) of <u>Grayson</u> Commonwealth of Virginia. Given under my hand this <u>24</u> day of <u>December</u> , 19 <u>38</u> . Address of celebrant <u>Independence</u> <u>L. F. Frank</u> (Person who performs ceremony sign here.)							
<b>Grayson Co, VA, marriage certificate for H. M. Waddell and Bertha Bowers Casey in 1938.</b>							

Four years after Lloyd's death, Bertha remarried to H. M. Waddell in Grayson Co, VA, in 1938. She died in 1948 of "uremia".

Bertha must have experienced more than her fair share of suffering in her 33 years. Not only was her husband killed in 1934, but her father Tyre Bowers was shot and killed three years earlier in 1931 by Squire Hutchinson. An article on the incident suggests that Mr. Bowers was angry at Mr. Hutchinson as "the result of unsatisfactory dealings in the liquor between (them)." Bowers was alleged to have been previously engaged in the manufacture for Hutchinson who furnished the supplies and received the profits. According to Hutchinson's defense, he took refuge in his own home when Bowers advanced on him with a knife and pitchfork. He had no choice but to shoot Bowers on his porch.

It seems that most tragic stories from this area involve the manufacture of illicit spirits. Unfortunately, that was the way of life for many residents in northeastern Wilkes Co. With few jobs — especially during the Depression — making liquor was often the only way to make money. Some people became very successful, but others like Lloyd Casey and Tyre Bowers suffered the consequences of a dangerous business.