

# Life on Cripple Creek



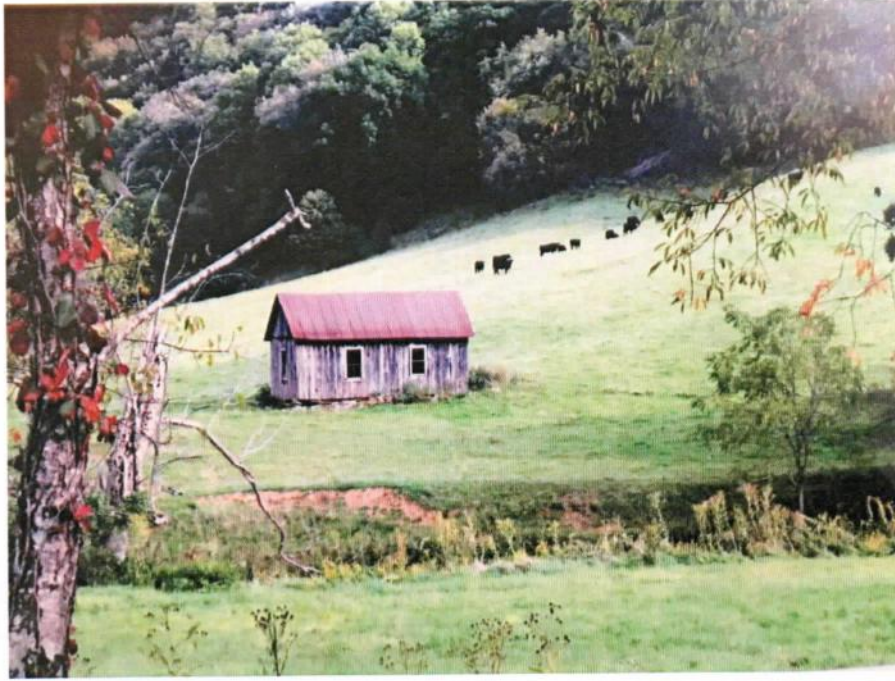
Researched and written by:

**Joanne Vaughan Boucher**

**January, 2019**



**Cabin in summer with bank of Cripple Creek in fore ground.**



**View from the other side of Cripple Creek.**



# MARRIAGE \* LICENSE

Virginia, Waysan County to wit:  
 To any Person Licensed to Celebrate Marriages:

You are hereby authorized to join together, in the Holy State  
 of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or  
 religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

J. S. Byard  
 and Julia A. Fielder

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the County Court  
 of Waysan this 4 day of April 1896  
H. J. Lundy Clerk

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE,  
 TO BE ANNEXED TO THE LICENSE REQUIRED BY SECTION 1226 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

Time of Marriage.	<u>April 5/96</u>	Place of Husband's Birth.	<u>Waysan</u>
Place of Marriage.	<u>Waysan</u>	Place of Wife's Birth.	<u>GA</u>
Full Names of Parties Married.	<u>J. S. Byard &amp; Julia A. Fielder</u>	Place of Husband's Residence.	<u>GA</u>
Color.	<u>white</u>	Place of Wife's Residence.	<u>"</u>
Age of Husband.	<u>37</u> <sup>ys</sup>	Names of Husband's Parents.	<u>Jno. P. &amp; Jane Byard</u>
Age of Wife.	<u>35</u> <sup>"</sup>	Names of Wife's Parents.	<u>Wm. &amp; Charlotte Burrows</u>
Condition of Husband (widened <del>single</del> ).		Occupation of Husband.	<u>Farming</u>
Condition of Wife (widened <del>single</del> ).			

Given under my hand this 4 day of April 1896  
H. J. Lundy Clerk

## MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE

I Certify, That on the fifth day of April 1896  
 at near Fallville, Ga. I united in Marriage the  
 above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.  
M. P. Carico.

The Minister celebrating a marriage, is required, within TEN days thereafter, to return the license to the Office of the Clerk who issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the fact of such marriage, and of the TIME and PLACE of celebrating the same.



## *Life on Cripple Creek*

*A Cabin stands out in a field  
On the other side of Cripple Creek  
Where in eighteen hundred and ninety eight  
A family lived, humble and meek*

*A man, young and strong  
Committed to his wife and son  
A growing family,  
another child soon to come*

*The new child is born  
Deep down in the Fall;  
And then upon that young man  
A sickness calls*

*Rest in peace,  
William A. Vaughan  
Now, alone the young woman  
Must find a way to carry on*

*Out the window  
She watches and waits  
For help to come  
Is it her fate?*

*As the woman and children  
Leave their home  
She sets a flower  
by his stone*

*The young widow married another man  
and Motherhood continued to call  
Her family grew,  
Seven children in all*

*After rearing her large family  
The woman chose to stay;  
From the hills of Virginia  
She never moved away*

*The hills of Virginia  
The place that forever holds  
Her life, her home, her all.*

*The young, strong man was William A. Vaughan  
(your great grandfather) born on August 15, 1868 and  
died in this cabin on Cripple Creek in Speedwell,  
Virginia on November 10, 1898.*

*The young mother was Lena Tabitha Byrd Vaughan  
(your great grandmother) born on March 10, 1878 and  
died on November 12, 1952.*

*The new child was William Jerome Vaughan (your  
grandfather) born in this cabin on October 14, 1898  
and died in Astoria, Oregon on May 26, 1951.*

By Joanne Vaughan Boucher

Quite often, when researching and documenting family history, you are left with missing pieces to the story. You may be left to guess or assume what happened based on what was going on at the time and in the area where your family lived. Or, if you are lucky enough, you may find an old newspaper article, an obituary, or discover an old letter stashed away in someone's attic that fills in the missing pieces. But, many missing pieces are never discovered.

I had some facts based on records such as Marriage Licenses, census records and family history, but there were questions I thought would never be answered. That was until I was given some old letters kept in a box in my Great Grandmother's cabin in Fallville, Virginia.

I knew that there was a marriage license issued on September 13, 1895 in Allegheny County, North Carolina for my Great Grandparents, William A. Vaughan and Lena Tabitha Byrd; but, there was no minister's return so it was believed that marriage did not take place. That marriage license confirmed that they both were born and lived in Grayson County, Virginia and confirmed their parents names. I did not know the story around that marriage license or why that marriage ceremony did not take place.

I also knew there was a marriage license issued on April 7, 1896 in Grayson County, Virginia for my Great Grandparents and that they were, in fact, married that day. According to the Minister's Return, the marriage ceremony was performed by Lena's Grandfather, my Third Great Grandfather, J.P. Byrd, who after the Civil War became a Methodist minister. This marriage license also confirmed William and Lena's residence in Grayson County and their parents names.

So I had the facts, but I also had some questions. Why were there two marriage licenses issued? Why was the first marriage license issued in North Carolina? Why were they not married in 1895 when the first license was issued?

Then, a cousin shared with me a box of letters kept in my Great Grandmother's cabin and after reading the letters, I found a few that were very interesting as they seemed to fill in some missing pieces.

The first was a letter from an Ernest to my Great Grandfather, William A. Vaughan written in Spring Valley, Virginia on September 15, 1895.

Spring Valley, VA  
Sunday, September 15, 1895  
Mr. W. A. Vaughan



Dear Will:

It is with pleasure that I write to you this morning and will say that Lena's family think that she is no better. But Dr. Fielder says she is better and there is hope for her recovery. Hope you are all well. I will be at home in a couple of days. Will Shupe said that you need not trade the old saw off as he and Bud Ward had all ready traded. Well I will close for this time. Guess I will see you soon.

Your best friend on earth.  
Ernest

This letter was written in 1895 just two days after the marriage license was issued in Allegheny County, North Carolina. Ernest told William that Lena is better and there is hope for her recovery. This letter gave me a clue as to why the 1895 marriage did not happen, but created another question, what was wrong with Lena?

*written about 3 weeks after Ernest's letter,*  
The next letter I found <sup>is</sup> from Julia Burris Fielder to her cousin Martin Burris and his wife Missouri written in Fallville, Virginia on October 6, 1895.

Fallville, Grayson County, VA  
Sunday, October the 6th, 1895

Dear Cousin:

It is much pleasure to me to seat myself to answer your kind letter that I received about three months ago. This leaves us all well except Bill, he has been puny for one month, has not done any work. He has been hoarse ever since last January. He cannot talk half of his time above a whisper. He had fell away until he is nothing but skin and bones. I think if you ever want to see him alive you had better come before long. Everybody says about the time the leaves begin to fall he will not last long. Well cousin, I hope when these few lines come to hand, they may find you well and enjoying your self. Well I have no news to write. We have had dry weather for about two months. People has not seeded hardly any yet about here, nor cannot until it rains. Corn crops is good. There is plenty of fruit this fall but money it is scarce as hens teeth. People is well generally except typhoid fever. They is four of some Byrd family down with fever, his wife and three children. Well Martin, I want you and Missouri to send me your picture and write to me as soon as you get this letter when you are coming home. So I will close for this time by asking you to write soon.

Your cousin  
Julia Fielder

<sup>is</sup>  
It was likely that Lena had typhoid fever along with her mother and two siblings. I know that Lena and her siblings survived, but her mother did not. Lena's mother, my Second Great Grandmother, Viola Sprinkle Byrd died on October 7, 1895, the day after Julia Fielder wrote her letter.

When Lena's mother died, she left her husband and eight children. Lena was the oldest, age 17, and the youngest was only three years old. My Great Grandparents, Lena and William married 7 months after Lena's mother died. Lena's father re-married two days before Lena and William wed, as I am sure he needed a woman in the house to care for all those children. To add another twist to the story, Lena's father married Julia Burris Fielder, the author of the letter that told of the Byrd family suffering from typhoid fever.

William and Lena's life together was very short. After they married, they moved from the Spring Valley, Fallville area over Iron Mountain to Speedwell in Wythe County where William was a miller. Just after their one year anniversary, Lena wrote to her brother, Lovic Byrd, in May of 1897.

*Speedwell, May the 24th 1897*

*Dear Lovic*

*I will drop you a few lines this eve to let you know that we still live and are all well and hope this will find you all the same. If nothing happens we will come home Sat. before the first Sunday in June and you must be sure and send Roscoe word to come home as we can't come to stay long enough to go down there now be sure and send for him. Well I must close as Will is in a hurry to go to the store so no more this time give my love to all. Lena*

At the time Lena wrote this letter, she would have been about three months pregnant with her first child. After the birth of two sons, the first in November, 1897 and the second in October, 1898, typhoid fever struck their family again. This time William got sick and died. The second son was only five weeks old. After William's death, Lena returned to Fallville with the two small children to be near her father. Later Lena would marry Jonathan Burris, cousin of Julia Burris Fielder, and have five more children. Lena lived the rest of her life in the Fallville area of Grayson County.

I was one of the lucky ones. Thanks to generations of family that saw fit to keep a box of letters stashed away in Grandma Lena's old cabin, I was able to piece together a small part of my family story.

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1895  
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NO. 621.-MARRIAGE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATES.-PRINTED AND FOR SALE BY COLE PRINTING CO., SANFORD, N. C.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
Alleghany County.

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS,

Sparta Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1895

To any Ordained Minister of any Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace for said County:

J. E. Kyle  
J. W. A. Daughan of Wythe County Va. aged 25 years, color white, the son of Mr. Daughan and  
Betty Daughan the father now dead, the mother living, resident of  
Grayson Co. Va. and Lena Byrd of  
Grayson County Va. aged 22 years, color white, daughter of  
Roan Byrd and Byrd, the father  
living, the mother living, resident of Grayson Co. Va.

\*And the written consent of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the said \_\_\_\_\_ to the proposed marriage having been filed with me.

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said County.

You are required, within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this License to me, at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License and with blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

J. N. Curran  
Register of Deeds.

\*If both parties are over 15 years of age strike out.

being duly sworn, says: That the parties applying for License are of lawful age, and as far as he is informed and believes, there is no lawful cause or impediment forbidding said marriage.

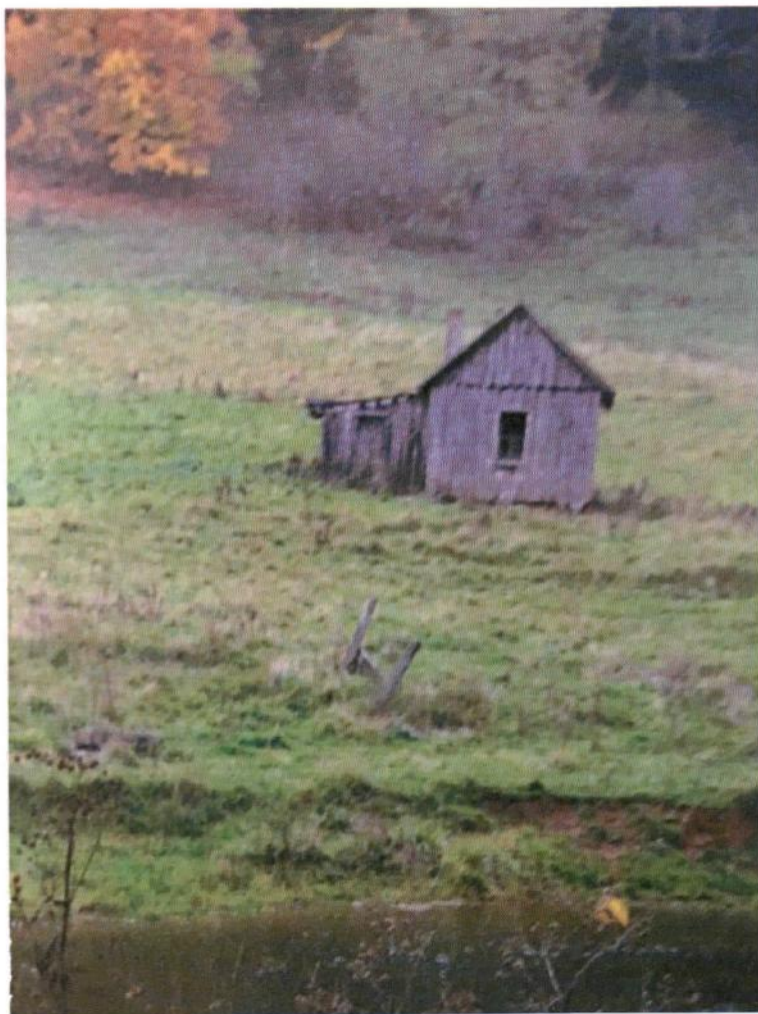
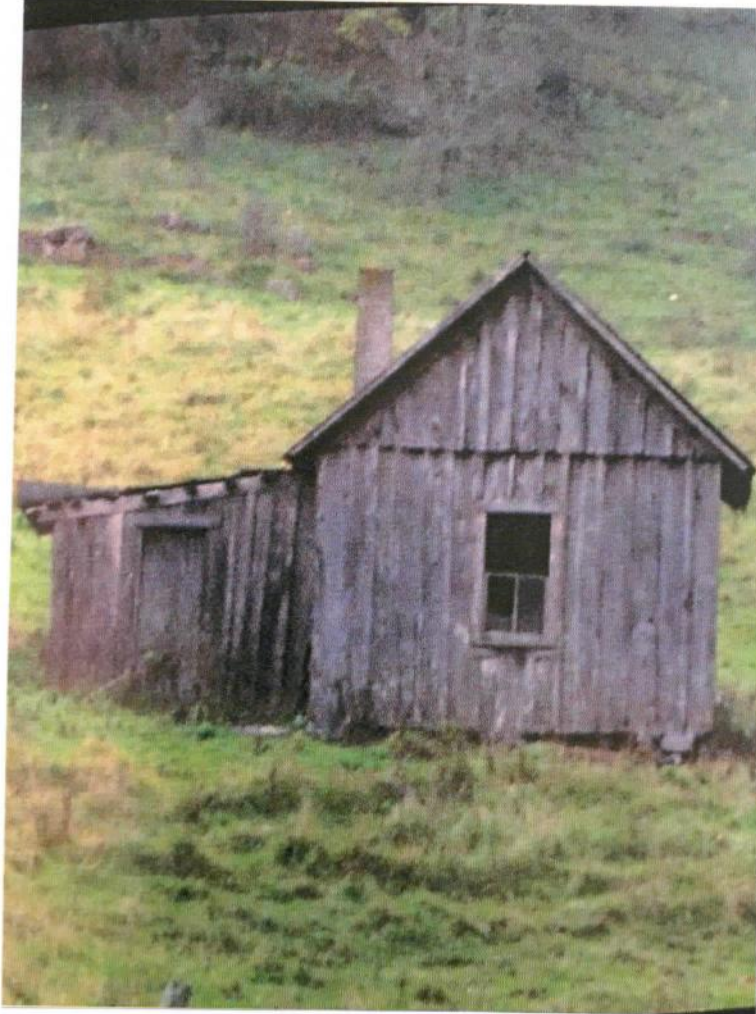
Witness \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, \_\_\_\_\_ County.

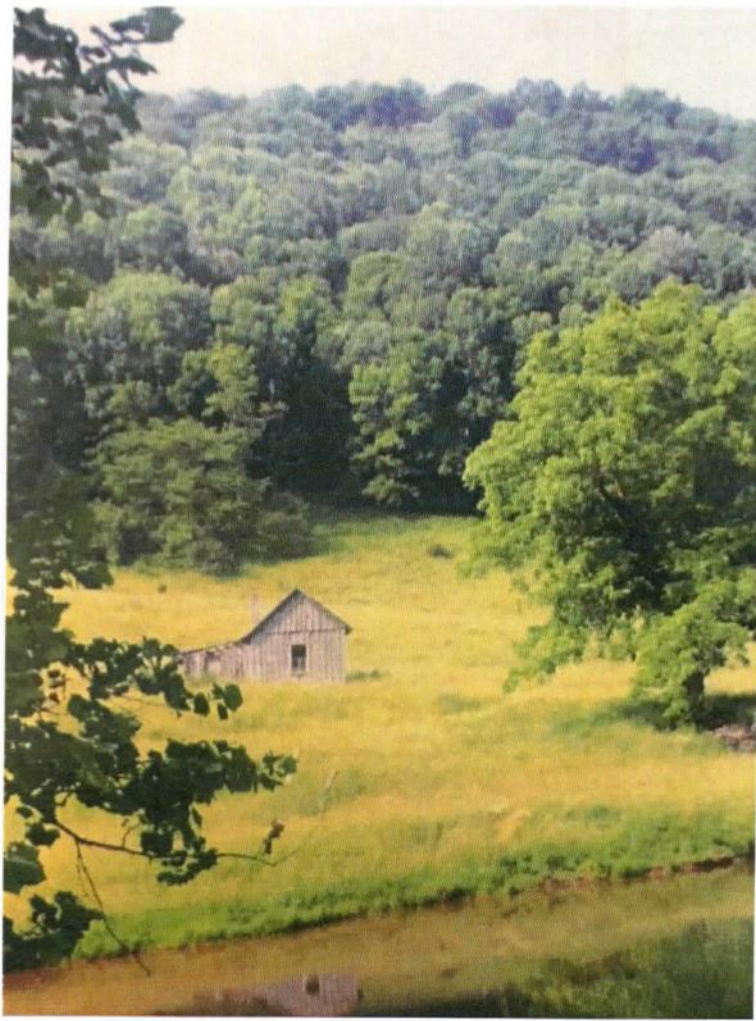
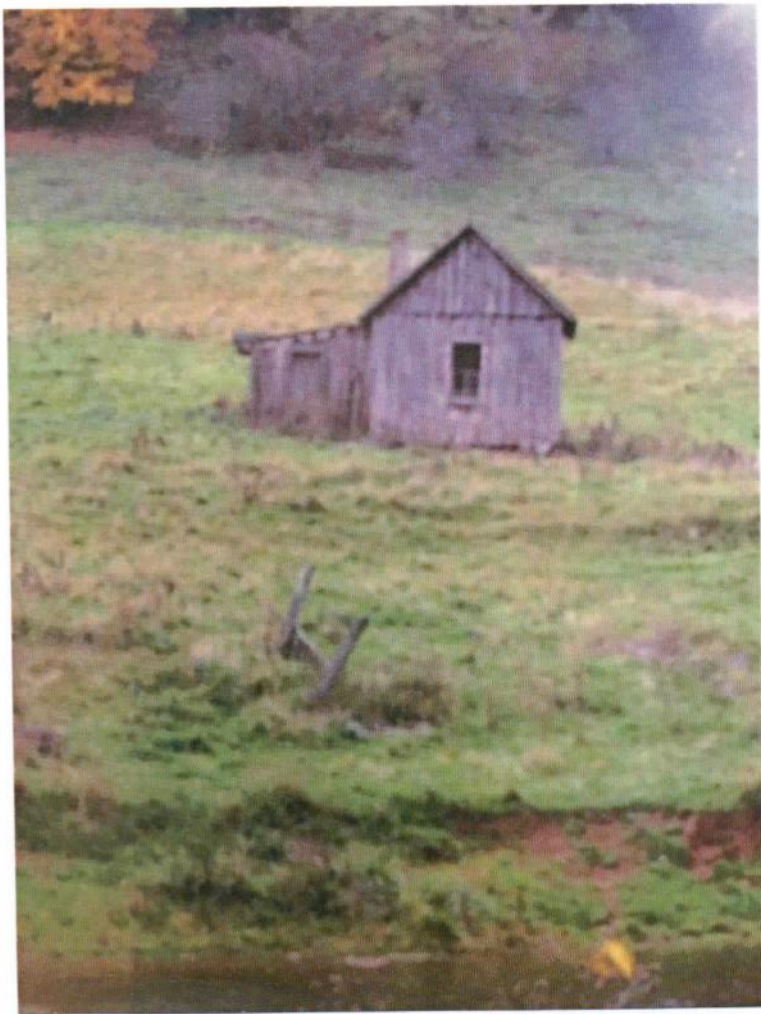
I, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ united in matrimony \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the parties licensed above, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 189\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ County, according to law. \_\_\_\_\_ Township in said

WITNESSES PRESENT AT MARRIAGE:

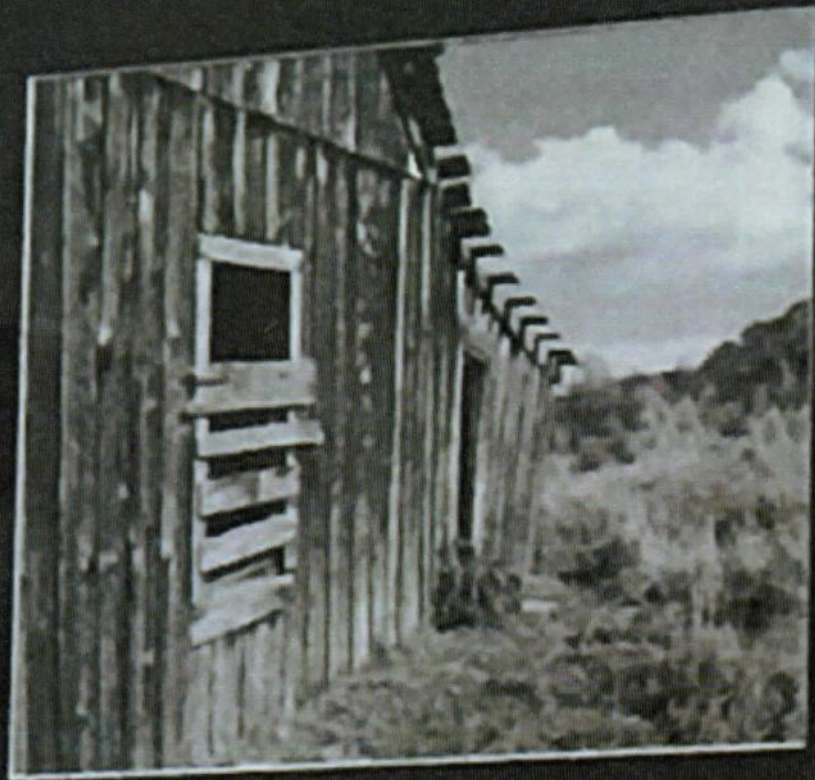
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# Life on Cripple Creek

A Cabin stands out in a field  
On the other side of Cripple Creek  
Where in eighteen hundred and ninety eight  
A family lived, humble and meek

A man, young and strong  
Committed to his wife and son  
A growing family,  
Another child soon to come

The new child is born  
Deep down in the fall;  
And then upon that young man  
A sickness calls

Rest in peace,  
William A. Vaughan  
Now, alone the young woman  
Must find a way to carry on

Out the window  
She watches and waits  
For help to come  
Is it her fate?

As the woman and children  
Leave their home  
She sets a flower  
By his stone

The young widow married another man  
and Motherhood continued to call  
Her family grew,  
Seven children in all

After rearing her large family  
The woman chose to stay;  
From the hills of Virginia  
She never moved away

The hills of Virginia  
The place that forever holds  
Her life, her home, her all.

The young, strong man was William A. Vaughan  
Born on August 15, 1868 and died in this cabin on  
Cripple Creek in Speedwell, Virginia on November  
10, 1898.

The young mother was Lena Tabitha Byrd Vaughan.  
Lena was born on March 10, 1878 and died  
November 10, 1952.

The new child was William Jerome Vaughan,  
born in this cabin on October 14, 1898 and died in  
Astoria, Oregon on May 26, 1951.