

Childress family roots run deep in Montgomery County¹

Although the first Childresses arrived in Montgomery County 145 years ago, various ancestors came to Montgomery County as long ago as 175 years.

"My great-grandfather came in 1850, although other forebears were already here," said Floyd "Sonny" Childress Jr. "My great-grandfather was a farmer, and he and his two brothers farmed in the Childress Community."

Childress explained that the community's name changed to Childress Store when the post office came in about 1879, and then was shortened to Childress. However, several generations of the Childress family have lived in Christiansburg.

"My grandfather lived in Christiansburg; my father lived in Christiansburg. I lived in Christiansburg until I moved to the county in 1959. One of my sons lives in Christiansburg and one in the county. My sons, in fact, are fifth-generation cattlemen. I have grandchildren in both Christiansburg and the county."

In addition to his father's family, Childress also cites his maternal

grandfather as a resident of Christiansburg.

"Both of my grandfathers ran livery stables. My grandfather Robinson lived here for 12 years and ran a livery stable in Cambria. It was during that time that my parents met and married."

One of Childress' most vivid childhood memories was the Evans and Flanagan Furniture fire in downtown Christiansburg.

"That fire was early one morning in December 1931, and since it was there in the center of town, everyone came out to watch. I remember standing there watching the fire until it got so bad that my uncle took me home."

The Childress house was just a few blocks away, where the Christiansburg Recreation Center is now. Childress remembers standing in his front yard watching the fire.

"The fire flared up again a few days later on Christmas night.

¹Article written by Roberta Green in the New River Valley Current section of *The Roanoke Times & World-News* June 14, 1992