



Yours truly, age three

CHAPTER ONE

BIRTH AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

My mother told me, and it is corroborated by the record in the old family Bible, that I was born March 31, 1888. What I write concerning my birth and early childhood up to the age of four, is of necessity hearsay. All that is written herein after I was four years old is well within my memory and is, as the title indicates, "MEMORIES OF THE PAST."

Now, of course, memory is not infallible, but there is nothing in this narrative that is fictitious and is true to the best of my memory.

I was born ten miles north of Palestine the county seat town of Anderson County, Texas in the school and church community known as Concord. The postoffice however was called Fitzgerald. Mail was delivered out from Palestine by a man on horseback once or twice a week.

I was not so fortunate (or unfortunate) as to have been born in a log house as other celebrities as, for instance, Abraham Lincoln. But log houses were aplenty at that time. Some of my older brothers were born in a log house on the same place where I was born. But at the time I was born my father had moved from the log house to a later model, a plank house that my grandfather had built before he died. The log house remained on the place for many years and we spoke of it as "The old house."

"MA" and "PA"

We children were taught to call our parents "Ma" and "Pa," and "Grandma" and "Grandpa." Times have changed since then and words also have changed. Later on in years "Mamma" and "Papa" were substituted for Pa and Ma. Today the evolutionary process has made it Mother and Daddy.

I am the eighth child of a large family of sixteen children born of my father and mother. Sometimes in answer to the query, "How many were there of you children?" I reply, "There were twelve boys and we all had four sisters each." There was only one set of twins,