

## Ernest James Pipkin

Ernest James Pipkin was born in Wayne County on March 23, 1884 to Moses and Cynthia Coats Pipkin. On July 4, 1906 he married Hettie Myrtle Rose who just happened to have a birthday on March 23 also. Both July 4 and March 23 became dates for huge family celebrations. Anniversaries were celebrated with lots of delicious food including barbecue and a three-tiered cake.

E.J., as he was often affectionately called, loved farming and had brick masonry as a side job. He usually walked to his work building chimneys and furnaces in tobacco barns. In the 1920's he bought a Model T Ford truck that was the only one in the area. He hauled tobacco for everyone in his neighborhood to Wilson, and the truck was popular transportation for the family and neighbors as well. Always seeking a better way to make a living, he turned to sausage making, which was profitable for him and many other families, black and white, during the depression years. Some members of the black families were always doing something with sausage making or other jobs that he had. They were paid well and treated with respect.

He had a lot of enthusiasm for keeping up with political and current events. He liked to discuss the news of the day with interested people and sometimes liked a good-humored argument with people who chose to see things differently. Having a sixth grade education he continued to learn by reading the News and Observer. After he retired from farming and other jobs that kept him on the road he had a small country store near his home, which was a great help to the community, since it was the only one around. It provided him with an interesting, as well as profitable, hobby.

His and his family's lives were centered around Rhodes Friends Church. He was a respected pillar of the community. He taught adult Sunday School class at Rhodes Friends Meeting for 30 years. The faithful service, financially and spiritually, of his family provided support for the Church for many years. He and his son John built pews for the Meeting House from lumber that was grown on his property. They took the cypress logs to Casey's Mill for dressing and sawing and then built the pews from the lumber.

The doors to his home were always open to ministers, friends and extended family. In later years visitors were served pound cake and coffee, which gave a chance for close fellowship and prolonged the visits. Ernest and Hettie loved to entertain in their simple ways.

E.J. was well known for his shock of white curly hair and would only let Coy Price, his son-in-law, cut it. Living to be 86 years old he died on his birthday March 23, 1970,

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**PIPKIN'S**  
**All Pork Sausage**  
**Guaranteed All Pork**  
**1 lb. Net When Packed**