

Timeline for Carl Danney Whalen

Updated 15.06.2020

Year	Individual Event
1889	Carl Danney is born on the 2 nd of February in Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee to James Knox Polk Whalen and Malinda C. Wilcox.
1895	His mother Malinda Wilcox dies (exact year and/or date is not known)
1896	Carl's father marries his second wife, Mary Lane née Blankenship, on the 17 th of September 1896 in Maryville, Blout County, Tennessee. Mary has two sons from a previous marriage, Willie and Emmett Lane
1900	According to the 1900 US Federal Census James is residing in North Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee with wife Mary, his four children and two stepsons, Willie L. and Emmett Lane. His occupation is listed as gardener.
1902	His brother, James Campbell Caywood, runs away from home because of ill treatment by his step-mother and ends up in a reformatory in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.
1903	His father, James Knox Polk Whalen, is residing in Sherman Heights, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.
1906	Carl was known, from his childhood, as a bad citizen. As a schoolboy he always had trouble with his teachers and was not allowed, after suspension, to attend the East Chattanooga schools.

When almost 18 years of age, he was so uncontrollable that he had to be removed from his parents' home. C. A. Bedell and his wife who owned a refreshment stand at Boyce, at the end of the East Chattanooga street car line, took Carl in and attempted to care for him.

The Bedell's refreshment stand had been robbed several times and efforts to apprehend the burglar proved unsuccessful. Finally bloodhounds were used to find the culprit. The bloodhounds picked up a trail and followed it several blocks until they came upon Carl who was lying by the side of a public road asleep and drunk. Carl's pockets were filled with things that had been stolen from the Bedell's refreshment stand - tobacco, cigars, foods of all kinds and other items that be carried away in pockets and hands.

Mr. Bedell did not press charges against Carl on account of his age and the respect he held for the boy's parents.

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1907	<p>A year or two after the burglary of Bedell's refreshment stand, a delivery horse belonging to John N. Brown, an East Chattanooga grocery man, went missing from its stable. At the same time that Carl disappeared from the neighbourhood, Mr Brown learned that a horse, answering the description of his missing horse, was seen on a public road leading to Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee. The horse was being ridden without a saddle by a young man answering Carl's description. Mr Brown pursued horse and rider and upon arriving in Cleveland discovered that his horse had been traded for another. Further investigation revealed that a second trade had been made. In each instance, Carl had parted with the animals for much less than their value.</p> <p>After much trouble, Mr Brown finally succeeded in recovering his own horse and returned with it to East Chattanooga.</p> <p>Carl was arrested for the crime and spent time in the Bradley Count jail awaiting trial. At trial Carl was convicted of horse-stealing and sentenced to three years in the state prison.</p> <p>He served part of his term, but his parents had friends and sympathizers and many signed a petition for his pardon on account of the fact that Carl "was not altogether right in his mind". Even John N. Brown signed the petition for his pardon in the hope that "his experience would make a better man of him". Carl's pardon was granted by the governor at that time.</p>
1909	<p>Carl was probably released from prison on pardon sometime in 1909. According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1909, Carl is living with his father, James, and his brother, William, at 404 Beck Avenue, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.</p> <p>A newspaper report dated 17th of January 1918 tells us: "Since his release from the penitentiary, Whalen has been a wanderer upon the earth - a typical hobo, going everywhere and staying nowhere. He has been in a many troubles in which he was caught up with and has served many terms in jail. During all his escapades he has never gone far from his home haunts and his people have never lost sight of him for any length of time."</p>
1910	<p>According to the 1910 US Federal Census, Carl's father is residing at 108 Sterling Avenue, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee with his wife Mary, son William Harrison, stepson Emmet Lane and three boarders. The other children have all left home.</p>

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1917	<p>According his World War I Draft Registration Card dated the 5th of June, Carl lives at East 16th Street, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. He is single, of medium height and medium build. He has brown eyes and dark hair. He is not bald. His trade is steel, structural work. He is presently unemployed.</p> <p>Under military service, Carl states that he was an apprentice seaman in the U.S.Navy for two years and was dishonourably discharged.</p>
1918	<p>On the 12th of January, Joe Gossett, a farmer, was able to volunteer information to investigators in Athens, McMinn County, Tennessee concerning the murder of a man whose body had been found by hunters during the latter part of December 1917 which led to the arrest of Carl Whalen on the 14th of January. He was arraigned in court in Athens on the 17th of January. Carl confessed to the crime, but claimed self-defense. He was remanded to jail without bail to await trial for murder.</p> <p>On the 11th of April Carl is given a sentence of ten to twenty years for murder in the second degree of Wade Smith to be served in Bushy Mountain Branch Penitentiary in Morgan County, Tennessee. He was received at the penitentiary on the 14th of April and his sentence began that same day.</p>
1920	<p>According to the 1920 US Federal Census, Carl is a prisoner at the Bushy Mountain Branch Penitentiary in Morgan County, Tennessee. He works as a pumper in the coal mines.</p>
1928	<p>Carl was paroled by the Parole Board on the 27th of June and discharged from the Bushy Mountain Branch Penitentiary in Morgan County, Tennessee the same day.</p>
1929	<p>Carl marries Bertha Mae Griffin on the 16th of February in Hamilton County, Tennessee.</p> <p>A daughter, Elizabeth Virginia, is born on the 15th of September in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.</p>
1930	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1930, Carl and his wife are living at 1808 Southern Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.</p>
1932	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1932, his wife , Bertha, is living at 1810 Olive Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl is not listed.</p>

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1934	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1934, his wife, Bertha, is now living at 1715 Bradt Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl is not listed.</p> <p>A son Jack is born on the 26th of May in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.</p>
1935	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1935, his wife, Bertha, is still living 1715 Bradt Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl is not listed.</p>
1936	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1936, his wife, Bertha, is still living 1715 Bradt Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl is not listed.</p>
1938	<p>According to the Chattanooga City Directory for 1938, his wife, Bertha, is still living 1715 Bradt Street, East Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl is not listed.</p>
1943	<p>Their son, Jack, dies on the 7th of February in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Cause of death was multiple furunculosis (a deep infection of the hair follicle leading to abscess).</p>
1947	<p>Carl dies from a heart attack on the 12th of November at the Hensley filling station in Daisy, Hamilton County, Tennessee. He has just returned from travels as a hobo and was on his way to a stopover at his sister-in-law's, Martha Alice Manning Whalen, and her family's house in Porter Street, Daisy, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Carl was buried in Hensley Cemetery, Hixson, Hamilton County, Tennessee where his father, James Knox Polk Whalen and his brother, William Harrison Whalen had also been buried.</p>