

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, April 25, 2005

“Tad” (TCM Sr) and His Steamboat, about 1900 (from Ralph Ryan (1885-1970 approx.): As a young lad, as in later years, Clarence loved mechanical things, and when he was about 15 (1900) decided to build a steamboat to operate on Red Clay Creek just below the Marshall Brothers mill and down to the covered bridge above the Snuff Mill dam. He started with something like a row boat and installed a boiler and engine according to his own design. Israel had a vague idea of what was going on but had not given the enterprise his blessing. The trouble was the boat was very top-heavy and unwieldy. On its very first trip, it upset and steam flew everywhere. No one was hurt, but Israel dressed down his younger son in no uncertain terms and told him never to try something like that again. Tad had to be satisfied with taking photographs until he built his first little steam car about three years later. (Clarence never told anyone this story).