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CATHEY FAMILY

John Cathey and Sarah A. Cathey moved from North Carolina to Floyd County, Georgia and purchased land in 1835-1837. There apparently was a large migration from North Carolina as the area around Coosa was known as the North Carolina section. They are listed in the Floyd County census of 1840 as follows:

John Cathey:

1 M 5-10 1 M 40-50 3 F under 5 1 F 5-10 1 F 40-50.

This would have been John and Sarah, Cyrus, the older son, the eldest daughter who I think might have been named Jane, the three little ones under five would be Frances, Nanny and Mary.

For some reason, they were not in the census of 1850; perhaps the census taker didn't do a good job that day for they were surely there. The 1860 census shows the following listing:

Sarah A. Cathey	59	Farmer	NC	12	3000	7500
Elizabeth Barry	86	Domestic	NC			
Nancy A. Cathey	22	Domestic	GA			
Mary L. Cathey	20	Domestic				
Emma C. Cathey	18	"				
Jeremiah L. Cathey	15	Laborer				
Sarah L. Cathey	13					

The numbers after Sarah's name are the numbers of slaves (12), the next figure is the value of real estate and the final figure is their personal property worth. I think they must have been fairly well off as that was a lot of money in those days. John has died, Frances has died, Jane has moved to Arkansas and I don't know where Cyrus is. The slaves mentioned in the diary are Alf, Moses, Green, Lee, Prince, Sucky, Harriet, Dicey, Dilsey and most importantly Jonas. Jonas was a blacksmith and was the main reason that the family was able to survive as his services brought in money or goods. Jonas was still with them six months after the war was over. None of their slaves went over to the Yankees which was lucky for the girls because they could not have run the farm by themselves. They had a sizeable farm with chickens, hogs, cattle, horses, oxen and grew corn and wheat. There were apple and peach orchards as well. In the diary, Emma is known as Em, Mary as Mary or Mollie, and Sarah as Sis or Sallie.

John Cathey must have been well respected and a kind man as he was involved with the care of the poor in Coosa (Coosa is the little community close to them). From the Court of Ordinary Minutes Book A 1837 - 1846:

Sept. 1838 term

Wm. Akins applies to the court for the relief of Mary Hays, a blind woman in indigent circumstances. Ordered that John Cathey, James Hart and Young Allen be appointed to inquire into the situation and report to the

July 3, 1843

John Cathey appointed overseer for the poor of Coosa in place of Alvan Lee
(resigned).

The family attended Sardis Church and are buried there. We were not able to find Sarah (the mother), Jeremiah or Cyrus' graves but during the war maybe it was not possible to have gravestones carved. There was, however, a rough plot marked with rocks driven in the ground that must be the Cathey plot. The graves we found were these and were marked as shown:

John Cathey
Was born Dec. 19, 1795
Departed this life April 27, 1850

Go home my friends weep not for me
I must lie here til Christ appears
When appears he then I shall rise
And see you with immortal eyes

And Nanny's older sister Frances who died at sixteen:

In memory of
Frances C. Stephenson
consort of
William M. Stephenson
Born 2-22-1835 Died 1-20-1851

Having her hope in God

Here are thy sleeping dust
Rolls deep affections tide
But thou art with the just
My smiling lovely bride

There is also the grave of Nanny's niece. The mother, who I believe was named Jane, married a D. S. Brown and moved to Arkansas where she had two little boys. They named the baby for Frances. There was a poem also for this stone, but it needed to be cleaned and we were cold and ready to go.

Frances Cathey
Brown
Daughter of
D S & J B Brown
born
August 2nd 1855
died November 17 1856
aged 15 months
and 15 days

Many, many of the names mentioned in the diary can be found in the church yard. The church looks and is exactly the same as it was when the family went there. It's on Route #20 going west out of Rome toward Alabama. The pews are just as they were as well as the wall sconces. There are two doors because the men and women were segregated. It's really quite touching.

Both of the sons joined the Sardis Volunteers as privates which later became Company G 6th Georgia Cavalry. They were listed:

Cathey, Jeremiah L.Q. b.1845 (wrong, but maybe he lied about his age)
son Sarah and John Cathey.

Cathey, Si (Should have been Cyrus, but oh, well) Sardis Volunteers Pvt.1861.

The following is taken from "A History of Rome and Floyd County" by Battey and tells the military side of what Aunt Nanny describes in October of 1864:

General Sherman entered Rome from Kingston October 12, 1864 on a chase after General Hood, who, after the fall of Atlanta, September 2, rambled all over the old Cherokee Nation. Hood had marched down the south bank of the Etowah passing through or near Cave Spring and crossing the Coosa at Veals's Ferry (At that time called Quinn's Ferry. Aunt Nanny was there.) near the village of Coosa.

Hood had crossed the Coosa October 10 and left a part of Harrison's Brigade (being the 8th and 11th Texas Regiments, the 3rd Arkansas and the 4th Tennessee) strung from Lavender Mountain to Veal's Ferry; also Stuart's Corps of 4 Regiments at Sardis Shurch, Coosa. A feint on Rome October 12th from 1200 to 1500 of these troops so alarmed General Sherman that he wired Atlanta that Hood was turning back on the Hill City (Rome) and ordered 50,000 men from Atlanta rushed to his aid. This order was countermanded later when Sherman learned that Hood's main force was bearing down on Resaca. Sherman went on to Resaca the night of October 12th and left Corse in charge at Rome, and Corse scouted into the Coosa Valley and brought back some prisoners and

guns. General Sherman returned to Rome the night of October 28th with his staff and again perched himself on 4th Avenue and for four days and a half until the morning of November 2nd directed operations from that point. On this occasion he was returning after a chase which had taken him to Gaylesville, Alabama (right past the Cathey's house). He left Rome November 10th.

After the war was over, Emma and Finis Ewing Carleton were married on December 5th, 1865. I don't know if they were married in Georgia, but I suspect so. Some of the erased entries in the diary show dates in the year 1865 where Jonas was still forging and making money for Aunt Nanny. I don't know what happened to Jonas or when the family abandoned the Coosa farm. The next time we know of them is in the 1870 census in Mississippi.

1870 Census Mississippi
Macon City of Macon Page #1

Finis E. Carleton	Age 30	Ala
	Manufacturer & dealer in furniture	
Emma B	25	Ga
Bertha C	2	Ms
Sarah Cathey	20	Ga

I think the ages of the ladies are incorrect. I believe Emma was 28 and Sarah, who had come from Georgia with her, was 23. Perhaps the ladies saw the opportunity to lose a few years! It is interesting that Finis was a furniture manufacturer. The little rocking chair that all of you children sat in, as Uncle Bill, Bob and I sat in, as Mun and Uncle Bubber sat in, was made for my Granddaddy to sit in probably by his father's business. It must have been lovingly and well made because it has held up so well and will have lots of other little bottoms in it in the future. In the Carleton family bible (see Frances' - Bubber's wife - letter) the following births and deaths were recorded:

Births: F.E. Carleton was born the 22nd Mar A D 1839
Emma C. Cathey was born the 7th Nov A D 1841
Bertha Cathey Carleton was born January 24 A. D. 1868
Robert Cathey Carleton was born September 2nd A. D. 1870
Finis Ewing Carleton was born April 13th A. D. 1873

Deaths:

Little Bertha died Feb. 7th A. D. 1873
F.E. Carleton died Nov. 5th A. D. 1875
Emma C. Carleton died April 9th 1885

I have no clue what happened to Robert; in fact I never heard of him before. I don't know when Aunt Nanny arrived in Macon, but Granddaddy always maintained that she raised him. Sarah must have gone back to Georgia because it is recorded in Floyd County that she married John Collier in 1874. I don't know what happened to Mary. In transcribing Aunt Nanny's diary, I have kept her spelling throughout. It's not the best and sometime made reading the original very difficult.