

NATHAN COWARD AND (1) JANE ROGERS AND (2) SOPHIA HEDDEN

by Mary Elaine Bird Nichols

Nathan COWARD (12 Jun 1818 - 22 Feb 1909), a well to do farmer, cattle dealer, merchant, and slave owner, was the son of Jonathan, SR. and Martha HUTSON. He married 17 Feb 1844 Jane ROGERS (25 May 1820 - 14 Apr 1885), daughter of David and Mary BERRY. Nathan was a Methodist, a Steward in the East LaPorte Masonic Lodge No. 358, and served in the home guard during the Confederacy.

Nathan and Jane lived in Caney Fork in a log house which grew as their family did. Jane planted in their yard a boxwood which is living today. Creek water was used for laundry. A spring furnished cooking and drinking water and kept milk and butter cool. Their children, born in Caney Fork:

Minerva Emeline (26 Jun 1845 - Oct 1852).

Clarissa Almira (Clara) (2 Mar 1847 - 29 Mar 1915) married Lewis J. SMITH. See separate history.

Taulvin Berry (8 Nov 1849 - 5 Nov 1892) married 6 Mar 1873 Rebecca BRYSON. Their issue: Charles W. (22 Oct 1874); George Oscar (11 Jun 1876); John N. (4 Mar 1879).

Jonathan David (26 Oct 1851 - 3 Jun 1928) married Martha Lou Ellen NORTON. See separate history.

Martha Samantha (5 Dec 1853 - 23 Apr 1885) married 3 Feb 1885 George TUMLIN; no issue.

Mary Alice (14 Aug 1856 - 15 Dec 1934) married 4 Oct 1877 Christopher Bradshaw ZACHARY. Their children: Mary Jane (24 May 1878); Maude (27 Mar 1880); Jessie Lee (20 Jan 1883); Ethel (6 Jul 1885); infant died pre1900; Woodie (30 Aug 1893).

Oscar Boman (20 Jan 1859) married Emma LONG. They had: Claude E. (13 Oct 1886), John Burke (11 Apr 1889); James Oscar (7 Dec 1882); Matt Ransom (5 Jun 1894). Oscar married second Eleanora ZACHARY. Their issue: Dixie Dean (9 Sep

1900); Rogers Zachary (14 Jan 1903).

John Hamilton (30 Jan 1861 - 27 Mar 1885) unmarried.

Sallie Jane (3 Jul 1863 - 2 Sep 1940) married William Preston Campbell

NORTON. See separate history.

Robert Rogers (3 Aug 1866 - 4 May 1943) married Lena Euella ALLEN. Robert bought his father's home in Caney Fork, where their children were born: Nathan Allen (6 Apr 1887); Lester Cordell (15 Sep 1888); George Thomas (28 May 1890); Nannie Jane (13 Apr 1892); Linden Jarvis (19 Aug 1896); Beulah Samantha (10 Jan 1899); David Lee (8 Mar 1901); Cora Bland (17 Jan 1903); Ollie Mae (2 Sep 1905); Robert Glenn (15 Jun 1908); Joel Winfred (1 Oct 1911).

In 1885 Nathan lost his wife and two children to typhoid fever. On 16 Oct 1885 Nathan married Sophia HEDDEN (19 Jun 1869 - 6 Dec 1922), daughter of William H. and Jane JENNINGS. They had:

John Homer (1886 - 27 Feb 1951) married Mrs. Jean (APPLEBY) SMITH. Their children: Elsie Jean, Edna, and Ruth.

Frances Emeline (18 Aug 1888 - 19 Jun 1962) married Raymond Loop GLENN who had a son, Raymond Loop, Jr. No issue.

Benjamin Franklin (18 Jul 1891 - 31 Oct 1964) unmarried.

Jane Hedden (16 Jan 1897 - 20 May 1984) unmarried.

Nathan and Sophia moved from Caney Fork to Webster and ran a hotel. After Nathan died Sophia had a hotel, "The Coward House," in Sylva. Her daughters ran it after she died.

The annual Coward Family Reunion began on Nathan's 73rd birthday when Sophia invited his children and their families for dinner.