

and other distinguished men. Mr. Page was graduated from Cumberland in 1918 with the bachelor of laws degree and on the twenty-sixth of April of the same year joined the United States Army for service in the first World War, receiving his discharge January 10, 1919, at Camp Divans, Massachusetts, having been a member of the Thirteenth Field Artillery Replacement Troops.

Following his military experience, Mr. Page became the office associate of his brother-in-law, P. J. Anderson, but has always practiced independently of partnership relations and now has a separate office. He has made steady progress in his chosen calling and for eight years he served as city judge, in addition to which he has long enjoyed a large private practice. His political endorsement has always been given the Democratic Party and he has served on the executive committee of Jackson County.

On the twenty-first of June, 1931, Mr. Page was married to Ruth Cornwell of Jackson County, who was educated at Trevecca College. They have one son, Harry L., Jr., born March 27, 1934. Mr. Page attends the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner and was formerly an Odd Fellow. He also belongs to the American Legion and is service officer of the local post. He fishes and hunts for recreation in his leisure hours and he has always been interested in baseball since playing as pitcher of the local team in his school days.

### JEFFERSON DAVIS FULTS

JEFFERSON DAVIS FULTS is one of the well known and representative residents of southern Tennessee, now engaged in law practice in Tracy City. He was born at Gruetli, Grundy County, and is a member of one of the old families of the state. His grandfather, Daniel Fults, was born in Northumberland County, Virginia, and came to Tennessee about 1810 when a young man, settling in Nunley's Cove in Warren County. After his marriage he established his home in North Cut's Cove and in 1824 he removed to the mountain, taking up his residence about two and a half miles north of the present site of Coalmont. He had followed farming prior to this time but afterward gave his attention to hunting and the wild and undeveloped condition of the country at that time is indicated in the fact that he killed as many as seven bears in a single week. He also killed 749 deer with one gun, which he called "Old Betty" and he also killed other deer with the same gun of which no record was kept. This interesting old firearm is now in possession of his grandson, Jefferson Davis Fults. The grandfather married Delphia Thompson, who was born on Collins River in Warren County, Tennessee, and their children

were as follows: Feriba Virginia, who died at the age of 17 years; Lydia, who became the wife of Wilson Purdom; and Smith.

The last named, father of Jefferson D. Fults, was born in Northcut's Cove in what was then Warren County but is now Grundy County, August 28, 1822, and died September 26, 1908. He was a farmer and stockraiser and in matters of citizenship gave strong support to the Democratic Party all his life. He served several times as school commissioner. In 1847 he married Susan Winton, who died in 1854. Their children, James D., Johnie and Sarah Ann, are all deceased. His second wife, whom he married in 1856, was Timie Ellen Sanders, who was born near Pelham, Franklin County, now Grundy County, June 1, 1837, while her death occurred October 6, 1912. Of the second marriage there were eight children: Thomas B., deceased; Feriba Virginia, who died in childhood; Smith Jackson, who died in 1936; Tennessee, the widow of W. R. Johnson, now making her home near Coalmont; Delphia Ann, who died at the age of 19 years; Christina, living in Tracy City, Tennessee; Jefferson D.; and Florence, who is the widow of E. V. Overturf and resides on the old Fults homestead, near Gruetli, Tennessee.

After leaving the public schools of Grundy County, having pursued his early education at Mount Vernon, Jefferson D. Fults continued his studies at Shook College in Tracy City for a year and at the University of Tennessee for three years. He then enrolled as a law student at Cumberland University, where he won his professional degree in 1904, completing his course with the highest grades of any student in law up to that time. He had previously taught school altogether for ten terms, spending the last two years as a teacher in Shook College, and from 1902 until 1910 he was superintendent of education in Grundy County. Admitted to the bar in January, 1904, he began practicing in Tracy City, where he has since continued, his ability in handling his cases winning for him a large clientele. He has also served the public as mayor of his city for four or five years and was a member of the state senate from 1937 to 1939. He is now acting as special master in the federal court at Chattanooga in connection with condemnation proceedings growing out of the overflow of land caused by the Chickamauga dam. His political activity covers several terms as chairman of the Grundy County Democratic Executive Committee and he also formerly managed most of the major campaigns in the county for more than forty years. Until recently, when he retired somewhat from active political work, he was the manager in Grundy County of the campaign of every winning Democratic Governor of Tennessee.

The eighteenth of July, 1909, was the wedding day of Jefferson D. Fults and Annie Mary Williams, daughter of D. W. and Lou Frances (Walker) Williams of Grundy County. The six daughters are: Anna Carol, who is an instructor in the

State Teachers College at Conway, Arkansas; Dorothy Jean, the wife of Rev. John A. Troxler, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Springfield, Tennessee; Alma, teacher of home economics at Hampshire, Tennessee; Eleanor Margaret, a junior in the University of Tennessee; Mary Frances, attending high school in Tracy City; and Dale William, a sophomore in high school here. There was also one son, Jefferson D. Fults, Jr., who died at the age of 3 years. When Mr. Fults has leisure periods he greatly enjoys spending the time in hunting. He has membership in the Baptist church and in the Knights of Pythias lodge—associations which indicate much concerning the nature of his interests and the rules which govern his relations with his fellowmen. He has always made substantial progress in his law work and has been most careful to conform his practice to the highest ethical standards of the profession.

became  
 Cave in  
 22 and  
 citizen-  
 several  
 1854.  
 wife,  
 Pelham,  
 occurred  
 as B.,  
 1936;  
 Almont;  
 City,  
 and  
 nearly  
 Shook  
 years.  
 on his  
 of any  
 for ten  
 1902  
 to the  
 con-  
 he has  
 member  
 in the  
 rowing  
 civity  
 Com-  
 county  
 active  
 every  
 and  
 ms. of  
 in the

## Joel and Charity DeShields

By Reta DeShields Parton

Before Coffee County, became a county, and Tennessee was it's first decade of Statehood, Joel and Charity DeShields brought their family from the Spartanburg or Laurens County, South Carolina to the Beech Grove area of Tennessee. Beech Grove is a border town and the area where they lived changed Counties quite regularly. Bedford, Rutherford, Coffee and Grundy Counties all covered the area where they lived. In the property sale by Walter B Sorrels in Bedford County to Alfred Jacobs it states the property in question lies on the headwaters of one fork of Garrison Fork bordering John McBride, Samuel Hanner and Joel DeShields. This deed was registered in 1836. However, so far, we have not located where Joel owned property so he was probably renting or squatting.

In 1830, Joel and Charity were living in Bedford County with all their children living at home. I believe those children to be: William Jasper DeShields born Oct 28, 1808, Cyrus Josiah DeShields born about 1810, 1 unknown brother born 1810-1815, Handy DeShields born February 28, 1819, John born 1824-1825, Mary born 1800-1810, and 1 unknown sister born 1810-1815.

By 1840, Joel and Charity were living at home with 2 children. One son and one daughter we believe to be John and Mary. The rest of the children were on their way to Oregon and stopping over in Arkansas and Josiah had his own family and living nearby.

We know Josiah and Mary remained in Tennessee since they were members of the Garrison Fork Baptist Church and Josiah is mentioned in the Polly Crosslin Midwife records for the birth of his children. Josiah worked for French Rayburn and Hans Crosslin.

Handy always said he came to Arkansas when he was 16. In his obituary by the Buffalo Baptist Association it states he came to Arkansas in 1835 which does calculate. Elizabeth Martha McBride DeShields, wife of William Jasper DeShields, gave birth to William Jasper DeShields (the younger) on May 20, 1838 in Beech Grove, Tennessee. So we believe, William, Handy and the unknown brother may have come to Arkansas to investigate and came back to get William's family. William appeared on the 1841 tax records and the 1840 census in Marion County, Arkansas. Handy turned 21 in 1840 so he may have not registered or may have not been caught by the census taker, as he did not marry until he married Nancy Womic on March 14, 1843 in Arkansas.

The story which has been passed down from Generation to Generation is that Handy, William and the unknown brother started for Oregon and the winter was bad and the unknown brother's wife was with child. She was having difficulties and they decided to stay the winter and continue the next spring. This is where

the story gets confusing. We have no word or record of the unknown brother or the wife. It is possible the wife, child and husband all died that winter. But, we do not know anything for sure about the unknown brother or his family.

William and Handy DeShields and eventually John settled in Marion County, Arkansas close to Yellville, Arkansas. We were very fortunate that in the 1840s Silus Turnbo lived close to Handy and William and knew them well. In his book, The Turnbo Tales, he tells the stories of Handy and William in the years it happened. Handy lived his life in what became Sugar Loaf Township, Boone County, Arkansas and had several children. The oldest, William, born about 1848 joined the Missouri State Guard under Schnables. Handy was one of the Corporals. William had returned home due to measles, and was captured at home. He went to Alton Union Penitentiary and died of Smallpox only a few weeks before the war was over;. Sarah born 1849 died before 1860; John Wesley (my great great grandpa) was born in 1849 and married Frankey Green – daughter of Michael and Hannah Lacey Green of Roane County, Tennessee. Seib born 1852; Calvin born 1855; Brice born 1856, David born 1859, Mary Frances born 1865, Jacob born 1866, and Alice born 1870. Handy and Nancy lived their lives in Boone County, Arkansas, as well as my great grandpa John Wesley DeShields. Part of his land was covered by Bull Shoals Lake in Boone County, Arkansas. Most the other children or their children migrated to Oklahoma and eventually to California.

William never gave up hope that his family would reach Oregon. He continued to ask Handy year after year to go with them to Oregon. However, Handy had married Nancy who was an Arkansas native and did not want to continue to an unknown land. So finally, in 1855, William and Martha McBride DeShields left their older children Andrew Maxwell DeShields and Amanda Jane DeShields in Arkansas and continued on to Oregon settling in Clackamas County, Oregon. William loved the Willamette Valley and lived his life in the area with most of his children: Martha born 1836 in Tenn; William Jasper born 1838 in Tenn; Pleasant born 1840 in Arkansas, Lemonslee & Lemonster (twins) born 1843, Minerva born 1846 and James born 1851. Most stayed in Oregon except for William Jasper who followed the Gold Rush to California, not finding the cool damp weather of Oregon to his liking. He eventually gave up the Gold Rush idea and settled as a sharecropper on the land of Henry Dalton on the Rancho Azusa. He and the other share croppers eventually “squatted” the disputed land of the Mexican land grant to Dalton and after 14 years of legal battles, finally owned his own farm in the Azusa Valley.

John lived in Boone and Carroll County, Arkansas and worked as a farmhand all his life. In 1850, he worked for the Bailey Stone Family of Tennessee in Carroll County, Arkansas.

We would like to share information on the DeShields family and McBride Family. We have lots of documents and information to share. We also have a DeShields

*Root Cellar*

Family mailing list if you would like to join. Contact: Reta DeShields Parton,  
[rpsodapop@aol.com](mailto:rpsodapop@aol.com) or 479-751-6947 Other information is available for this  
family on our website: Rock Fence Genealogy at  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~jmwtlw/index.htm>

I think I am a little over on words, but maybe you can edit it.

The picture is of the Handy DeShields family. They are:

L-R

Standing: Alice, John Wesley, Jacob, Brice, Fran

Sitting: David, Handy, Nancy, Calvin

John Wesley is my great grandfather

*1075 words*