

to Pilot Point, Texas, in August, 1881, and spent several years here, returning to Sweetwater, and lived here until their death. John, as he was usually called, took a great pride in raising fruit, vegetables and melons. When he was a boy thirteen or fourteen years old, in trying to protect his melon patch from Federal soldiers, he was shot through the body and came near dying from the wound. His pluck and determination to get well were all that saved him. After this occurrence no one ever again tried to steal his watermelons.

The children of Jonathan and Sallie Pickel are:

(1) Emma B., b. November 30, 1876, at Sweetwater, Tenn. Married Wm. Moser in November, 1899. They live in Chattanooga, Tenn.

(2) Berta May, b. in Sweetwater, January 20, 1879. Died at Pilot Point, Texas, September 12, 1881.

(3) James Samuel, b. September 25, 1882.

(4) Janey Lee, b. at Sweetwater, Tenn., October 26, 1886. She was married to B. A. Boone, October 26, 1911. Residence, Chattanooga.

(5) Edith Lillian, b. November 25, 1888, at Sweetwater, Tenn.

3. James Mitchell Pickel. He was born November 17, 1850. He went to Pilot Point, Texas in ——. Married Nannie E. Murray at that place, May 16, 1888. He is a merchant.

4. Elizabeth Anne was born January 6, 1853. She married Robert H. Locke, of Meigs County, September 4, 1879. Died March —, 1909.

5. Sarah Jane, b. March 16, 1857.

6. Samuel Jefferson, b. April 5, 1855. Died February 12, 1911. Married Susan, daughter of Chas. Cannon, ——. He was a merchant at Sweetwater. Children. Samuel J. b. —, (2).

7. Hester Ella was born August 31, 1859. She married Hon. Frank P. Dickey December 20, 1883. She died ——. Dickey was a farmer in Pond Creek Valley. He and his wife were members of the M. E. Church, South. Dickey married a second time, Martha Washington Suddarth, of Harriman, November 20,

1907. One son, Franklin Pierce, was born to them November 4, 1908. They live at Harriman, Tenn.

8. Ada Baxter was born November 16, 1861. Married Frank L. Harmon of Germantown, Ky., on February 21, 1883. Their children are: Ethel, George, May and Ralph.

JOHN FINE.

From inscriptions on tomb stones we find that John Fine was born January 1, 1781, and died January 26, 1857. His wife, Nancy was born November 10, 1782, and died February 18, 1859; both arriving at the advanced age of more than 76 years.

It is very probable that they came here from Cocke County; they at least were originally from there. They came to this valley as soon as the Hiwassee District was open for settlement. The church records of Baptist Church on Sweetwater, show that they both helped to organize on Fork Creek what was afterward called the Baptist Church on Sweetwater, on the first Saturday in June, 1820. As has been stated heretofore this valley was not open to settlement till that year. The records also show that before the building of this meeting house the members met at the residence of John Fine on the first Saturday in August, 1821. It was the house above the springs where the city waterworks now get their supply. He paid for his land and obtained a grant, No. 686, from the State, dated September 7, 1827, and described as being the southwest quarter of section 34, township 2, range 1, east of the basis line. It corners in the road leading west to Pond Creek at the northwest corner of Mrs. Love's property. It runs thence south one-half mile (160 rods) and the same distance west, north and east to the beginning. The part on which the old house now (1914) stands is owned by the Charles Cannon heirs. The present Fair Ground is also on the tract.

In the days of the stage line the Fine house was a stage stand and stopping place. The stage road from Philadelphia to Athens went by there, the location of which was never much changed until the year 1913. Also the road from Madisonville west to Pond Creek Valley ran by there, leading almost straight from the Ramsey

(Waren) lane through the woods to the creek crossing near the house. The road from the McCroskey neighborhood on Fork Creek to the west took a turn at the Heiskell lane, led by the house and thence to Pond Creek. Thus from its natural location and the good accommodations obtained there by travelers, it was a well known stopping place. John Fine and his wife had been married and had a considerable family, when they came to Sweetwater Valley. They were in the prime and vigor of life, possessed of property and intelligence and consequently were an influential family. I have not found out the maiden name of Mrs. Fine. Mr. Fine was evidently interested in the cause of education, as the schoolhouse was located one-fourth of a mile south of his house on his land. This schoolhouse was built some time previous to 1834; for early in that year Baptist meetings are recorded to have been held in the Fine schoolhouse. The branch church here had authority to receive members for the old Sweetwater church. In the settlement of church difficulties and misunderstandings between neighbors John Fine was often called on to arbitrate. His fairness and sense of justice must have been generally recognized. His name sometimes occurs in the Circuit Court records on the jury lists. It was customary in the forties to summon men of the highest character and intelligence for that service. To be a jurymen was then a badge of honor and it was not considered good citizenship to try to get relieved without some valid excuse.

There was until some years ago a Fine family burying ground, in which thirteen of the family were interred. This was situated on a hill north of the house. It was enclosed with a stone wall. The bodies there were removed and re-interred in West View Cemetery.

The children of Jno. and Nancy Fine were: John, Polly, Abraham, Sarah, Mahala, Minerva, Martha, and Nancy.

One. John, date of birth not known. He may or may not have been the oldest child. He enlisted in the Mexican war, fought through it, and on his return from Mexico took sick on board of a ship in the Gulf. He died and his body was consigned to the waves. This was probably in the year 1847, but the date is not known.

Two. Polly was born November 25, 1803. Died January 29, 1857. (Unmarried).

Three. Abraham, married Mary S. Haralson July 3, 1838. They moved to Missouri. History not known.

Four. Sarah was born November 29, 1809. Died December 25, 1870. She was married to Dr. Ira L. Hill, on April 5, 1832. He was born November 18, 1804. He died July 31, 1843. He lived in Sevier County. He was a physician. Their children were:

1. Mary M., b. in 1834. She died in Brownsville, Neb., in October, 1884. She married Jos. Marshall Owen, August 28, 1849. (See history of Owen family).

2. John was born in Sevier County, July 15, 1838. He moved to Sweetwater with his mother in the year, 1844—not long after the death of Dr. Hill. She lived near the Fine residence on the hill above the spring. He married Isabelle Hotchkiss, daughter of Claiborne Hotchkiss, on January 17, 1871. They resided in Loudon County. He was a farmer. Isabella Hotchkiss was born in Roane (now Loudon County) April 16, 1848. She died January 8, 1902. John Hill died November 1, 1889, in Loudon County, and was buried in the New Providence graveyard.

They were the parents of eight children: Four girls and four boys:

(1) Sallie Abbott, age 43, Mineral Wells, Texas.

(2) C. H. Hill, age 41, Loudon, Tenn.

(3) Jno. W. Hill (age not given). Died in Texas.

(4) T. W. Hill, age 35, Loudon, Tenn.

(5) Mary Brazeal, died at the age of 32, in Loudon, Tenn.

(6) Ella Smith, age 28, Lenoir City.

(7) Sam Hill, age 25, Chattanooga.

(8)

This information was gotten from one of the family, I think C. H. Hill, in 1914. And the ages given refer to that date. He only speaks of three girls, Sallie, Mary and Ella, in listing the names.

3. Oliver Hazard Perry Hill was born in Sevier County July 15, 1840. During the Civil War, in 1861, he enlisted ——. Capt. Jno. A. Rowans, Co. of 43rd Reg., C. S. A. He was wounded at Chickamauga, on September

21, 1863. The lower portion of one arm was amputated and he was disabled from further service. On November 7, 1867, he married Mary Carter, daughter of Jno. Carter. She was one of 25 children. They settled near Lenoirs, Tenn. He was a farmer. He died March 23, 1911. She died —, (1914). They left children as follows:

- (1) Sarah Fine, b. December 13, 1868. Married Jno. Heffner of Lenoir City —.
- (2) Ira Lee, b. November 10, 1870. Married Kate Miller —, 1897.
- (3) John W., b. October 15, 1872. Died October 11, 1889.
- (4) Ambrose Parnell, b. August 15, 1874. St. Paul, Minn., is his address.
- (5) Nancy Lucinda, b. April 1, 1877. Died in 1878.
- (6) Martha E., b. June 8, 1879. Married Geo. O'Neal of Lenoir City, February 20, 1891. Their children are Levi, Paul, Cecil and Agnes.
- (7) Marion M., b. September 17, 1883.

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1, 2 and 3 of the Hill children, Mary, John and Perry, were all born in Sevier County, as to Ira, the fourth child, probably in Sweetwater Valley in 1844. He went to Minneapolis, Minn., after the Civil War and died there, not many years since. Not known to me whether he had a family or not. Mrs. Hill was married a second time to Welcome Beard, on December 29, 1859.

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Five. Mahala was born February 18, 1814. She was married to N. G. Walker of Mo. —. She died at the Fine residence while on a visit there on February 8, 1859.

Six. Minerva, b. —. She married Jabin Snow Taylor of Pond Creek Valley, and brother of Elicia A. Taylor on March 9, 1848. He was born in Grainger County, Tennessee, August 10, 1823. He died February 22, 1857.

Seven. Martha was born in 1828. She married J. C. Starrett on May 7, 1861. She died February 19, 1889.

He was born in Bradley County (date not given) and died September 14, 1874. Their children were:

1. Jno Starrett, b. October 27, 1864. Married Emma Boggs September 25, 1889, of Lenoir City. No children. He was married a second time. By this second marriage there were three children, Katharine Louis, in 1911, eight years old; Randall McKnight, in 1911, six years old; infant son, Jno. M., in 1911, three months old. Second child of J. C. and Martha Starrett, was Florence. She was born on October 12, 1868. She married Dr. J. T. Tillery, of Ebenezer, Knox County, on August 24, 1890. They had one son, Duncan E. Tillery.

Eight. Nancy E. Fine, b. October 15, 1836. Died April 9, 1857. From the time John Fine came to this country and built the old log house which now stands at the location mentioned, there were no deaths at that residence for about 37 years, although there was a large family. But from January to April, there were four deaths in 1857, viz: Jno. Fine, January 26, 1857; Polly, d. January 29, 1857; Jabin Snow Taylor, d. February 22, 1857; Nancy, d. April 9, 1857.

The disease which took them off was called pneumonia, but it occurs to me, or rather seems strange, that a whole family should have pneumonia, as I have never heard that it was a contagious or infectious disease. I believe that all of the family were attacked by some other disease and these four cases proved fatal. Now all the sons and daughters of Jno. Fine that were married in this country the Rev. Robt. Snead officiated at the ceremony with the exception of Martha, who married Starrett. She was married by Hughes W. Taylor, a brother of her brother-in-law, Jabin Taylor. None of the Fines or their descendants ever belonged to any other church, than the Baptist except Mrs. Starrett who joined the Presbyterian Church, with her husband after marriage.

AUSTIN FRY

Was born in Monroe County and died at Sweetwater, at an advanced age, in January, 1880. He married Jane Brandon in 1833. He moved to McMinn County, near Reagan Station in 1839, and then to near