



Coleman Wood Chapman 1817-1892 By A.L. (Al) Chapman 2016

Coleman Chapman was born in Spartanburg, SC, Dec. 27, 1817. His ancestors were from England and they settled in Virginia. The earliest known ancestor was Samuel, followed by John Sr., John Jr. and his father Edmond. They all lived in Amelia Co., Virginia. His grandfather, John Jr. was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Following the war John Jr. & family including Coleman's father, Edmond, moved to Spartanburg, SC. Edmond met & married Polly Wood from Spartanburg Co., SC. Coleman's father, Edmond, & family moved from Virginia to McMinn County, Tennessee c1823 and in 1835 the family, now with 16 children including Coleman, moved to Pike Co., Illinois. It is unclear whether Coleman moved to Pike Co., with his father or stayed in McMinn Co. In any case he had met his future wife Ann Ferguson while in Tennessee. Coleman married Ann on Oct. 21, 1838. By 1850 Coleman and his family moved from Tennessee to Pike Co., Illinois close to where his father lived. Coleman and Ann eventually made plans to move to Arkansas.

During this move in 1857 he came through Beaver Springs, MO (future Anderson) where they met James W. Tatum who, upon finding out he was a minister, talked him into buying land and staying at Beaver Springs. Coleman's land included much of what is now the City of Anderson, MO. To make a living he was a wagon maker as well as a farmer. As was common in those days, his ministerial duties provided little or no income.

In 1857 a log church was located on Coleman Chapman's land within what is now Anderson Cemetery. In 1858 Coleman became one of the first pastors of the Baptist church. He served as pastor for some 14 years and later one of his sons, William, also served as Pastor. At the beginning of the Civil War, Coleman and 3 of his sons were forced to leave the rest of the family and flee due to bush whackers. Church minutes show that in April 27, 1861 the Beaver Springs church was discontinued due to the beginning of the Civil War and presumably the lack of a Pastor.

During the Civil War, in order to escape bushwhackers, Coleman went to Texas and remained there throughout the war but did not join the Confederate cause. The three older sons did join the confederate army and served in Arkansas. All three were captured at the Battle of Helena, AR in 1863. One son (Thomas) later died due to illness contracted during the war and was buried in the Confederate Cemetery in Little Rock, AR. Another son, John, lost his rt. arm. The third son William ended up in Texas after the war where he and his family remained. He was a Pastor during his life in Texas. John returned to McDonald county area after the war and settled on a farm west of Anderson to raise his family. The author is descended from John.

Following Coleman's return to Beaver Springs, the Church was reestablished with him as Pastor. On Oct. 16, 1871 there was a first reference to the "Beaver Springs Baptist Church of Christ. This log church was eventually replaced by a frame structure which was enlarged in 1899 to seat some 400. Coleman Chapman subsequently donated the land for the present Anderson Cemetery as well as the Church site to the First Baptist Church as well as the land for the Beaver Springs Park to the city of Anderson. The cemetery was later turned over to the City of Anderson, MO for care.

Coleman Wood Chapman died Aug. 22, 1892 and is buried in the Anderson Cemetery along with his wife, Ann, and a number of his children and descendants. As a side note, his name on the gravestone was misspelled as "Coalman". Ann lived with their son, Jeff, until her death in 1914.

Coleman's other children were James (Jim) Riley, Lemuel Coleman both of Anderson: Robert, Doctor & Sarah, of Texas; Henderson, Williford Cephus, Harrison Jefferson (Jeff) of Anderson, and Albert Rice Chapman who moved to Oregon.

The site of Coleman's home is now 511 Eppard St., Anderson, MO. The original log house is gone but his son, Jeff Chapman, built a home adjacent to the original site in 1908 which remains as of this submission (2016).

NOTE: Al Chapman is the GG Grandson of Coleman Wood Chapman.