



Biography of Daniel Chapman b. 1843

Daniel Chapman was born in Arkansas in 1843, the son of Wilson and Sarah Chapman. The 1880 census shows that Daniels' widowed mother, who was living with him, was born in Kentucky. Her father and mother were born in South Carolina. It is likely that the family came to Arkansas from Kentucky. Other children of Wilson and Sarah Chapman were Pleasant, Mary Ann; and Charlotte, (Sarah Carroll Stockburger, wife of Alex Stockburger, was the daughter of Charlotte.). Another daughter was Cyrene, born in 1840 and died in 1889. Her nickname was "Teent", who lived all her life with her brother Daniel and their mother. Daniel's first wife Sarah Jane Reed, was born in Arkansas in 1849. No available records show anything about her background. It is quite possible that she was descended from the Cherokees who had been granted land in western Arkansas before they were forced to move farther west into Indian Territory. The children of Daniel and his first wife, Sarah Jane Reed, were Margaret, Walker Winn, Mary Ann, William Karnes, James, Dora Wyatt, Ada Bell, and Charley Lewis.

After the death of his first wife, Daniel Chapman married a widow, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Mills Gilliland. She had two daughters by her first husband. The first daughter Zora, was born in 1874. She married Clark French. Elizabeth's second daughter, Edie, was born in 1875. She apparently died young; there is no further record of her. The children of Daniel and Elizabeth Gilliland Chapman were Elsie, Adam Isaac Fagala, Lavada, Charles Jones, Herman, Ethel Skelton, and Nellie Boaz.

It is interesting to note how the family, so interwoven, accepted each other as one large family. "Granny", mother of Daniel, was so-called by the family and neighbors and friends alike. She was noted for making and selling eye salve. Sore eyes were prevalent in those days and "Granny's" salve was in demand by fold far and near. She never gave out the recipe, but she said she always used water from the melted snow that fell in March. She would not use any other. She also said that she never knew a March when there wasn't enough snowfall for her to get water to make her salve.

Daniel was a doctor of sorts. He had a recipe and directions for the cure of skin cancer. He never age out the recipe but handed it down to his son, Herman, who had many patients before his death. They used to travel great distances to visit him in his home office on Sugar Mountain. Neither man would apply the ointment to a cancer that had previously undergone a surgeon's knife. They claimed that surgery would sever the cancer "roots" and that they could not fa out the roots of such a cancer. Herman later sold the recipe to Mayo Brother's Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Daniel's sister, Teent, was a peculiar person, but was accepted and loved along with the rest of the family. She never removed her bonnet. Once when a young, mischievous boy caught her unaware and yanked it off, a mass of beautiful long dark hair fell to her shoulders; but after her death when neighbors came to "lay her out" for burial they found her hair was clipped close to her head. The bonnet in which she died was replaced by a fresh one and thus she wore her bonnet to her grave.

During and immediately following the Civil War, the only schools in rural Washington County were subscription schools in which parents paid for each child attending. After the nearest such school to the Chapman family burned sometime after the Civil War, the Round Mountain Public School District was formed northeast of West Fork. Mr. Chapman gave the land near him home for the erection of the school building. A large spring of water near the family residence furnished water for the school. Close by, down the hill was a large cave in which the children played. The cave was so large that in later years the man who owned the land stored his winter produce there. The spiring and the cave were known respectively as the School House Cave and Spring.

Records of the Civil War in the area make frequent references to Daniel Chapman's participation in numerous skirmishes. No record has been found to determine whether he was an officer or an uncommissioned enlisted man.

After the Chapman place was sold, it was known for many years as the Valentine Place. In 1981, the house was occupied by Reese Marshall. (The original Chapman house has long since been replaced by a more modern dwelling.) After the Chapman children had all left home and Daniel and his second wife, Elizabeth, were left alone and could no longer care for the farm, a plot of ground was given to them on the farm, a plot of ground was given to them on the farm of his daughter, Mary Ann, and her husband, William Karnes, south of West Fork. A neat cottage was built for the aging couple and here they spent their last days. Both the Chapman and many of their relatives and descendants are buried in the Baptist Ford Cemetery south of Greenland.