

White Family of Grayson County, Ky.

The following transcription was done by Jerry Long, of Owensboro, Ky. in 1989. The James White referred to in the article is James Rogers White (6 January 1808 - 13 September 1901), who was buried at the Hanging Fork Baptist Church in Grayson County, Ky. He was the son of George White (20 January 1780 - 18 October 1812) and Nancy B. Rogers (15 September 1776 - 8 May 1870). Nancy, also buried at the Hanging Fork Baptist Church, was the daughter of Col. James Rogers (March 1742 - 24 March 1828) and Martha Blackburn (April 1741 - 30 April 1818).

Grayson County Newspaper, Leitchfield, Ky., circa 1951:

“Old Papers Give Part of Family’s History”

J. D. White recently found several old letters and papers pertaining to his relatives, one being a short history written by the late Rev. G. W. Stone about Mr. White's grandfather, James White. Mr. Stone died about twenty years ago. James White also was the grandfather of Mrs. Zella Watson, who lives north of Leitchfield.

The article written by Mr. Stone follows:

"Uncle James White died September 13, 1901, at the good old age of 93 years, 8 months and 7 days, and as there are many interesting facts in the history of the good old man, we will give a brief sketch of his life.

In the first place, we have known Uncle James since we were children. He was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, on January 6, 1808. His father died on October 18, 1812, leaving his wife and three boys. Mrs. White moved to Grayson County in October, 1817. He has resided in Grayson County ever since. Uncle James was married to Juda Wilson on January 8, 1828. This union was blessed with nine children, three boys and six girls.

He settled on the Leitchfield and Falls of Rough road at the head of Long Hollow. The Little Clifty Church now stands on a lot of the farm. A short time after he was married he built a horse mill for the purpose of grinding corn for the people of that day and time to make their breads as there were no steam mills in those days and but few water mills. Now, no doubt, this will sound very strange to the young people of today. At that time but few raised but little wheat. They cut it with reap hooks and trod it out with horses or flailed it out with flails and cleaned it in a sheet.

Uncle James made a bolt to bolt plain and ground wheat with horses and bolted by hand. Now you may guess we had black bread in those days.

Uncle James was a true Democrat and was always at his post on election day. He never failed to vote at every election from the time he was of age until his death. He always voted at Leitchfield.

He professed faith in Christ and joined the Baptist Church at Concord, now known as the Spurrier Chapel. In those days there was but one Baptist Church in the county. It was known as the Regular Baptist. It is known now by the name of Regular or Hardshell and Iron Jacket.

After he joined, the church split on doctrine and missionary work. Uncle James didn't go with either side and remained out of the church until after the institution of the Hanging Rock Church. He then took membership there and lived in the church there until the Little Clifty Church was built, and he was a member there until he died.

His mother's maiden name was Rogers. I suppose she was an aunt of Evan Rogers who died some years ago at Leitchfield. She never married after the death of her husband and made her home with her son, James. Her father gave her a Negro girl who became the mother of two boys. She died while they were very young. Their names were Isaac and Louis. Uncle James and wife helped his mother raise these two little colored boys. Uncle Ike is still living at Leitchfield. He married a girl who belonged to Dr. Moore and to them were born 13 children. Isaac and Louis made baskets. Uncle Charles Carter says he has a basket Louis made 50 years ago.

Uncle James was also a blacksmith and did all the blacksmith work for folks in the surrounding country in those days. Blacksmiths made horse-shoes and nails in those days. Anyone who wanted a horse shod, it made no difference how great the rush, he had to wait until the shoes and nails were made.

Mr. White was a man of ordinary size but of great strength and did not fear the bilk of a man when he came to the end of a hand-spike. When he failed, there wasn't any use for anyone else to try to carry the load. He was a very popular man in his younger days. He was nearly always on the petit and grand juries in time of circuit court. It is strange to say he was never out of the state on a train or boat, and as to his posterity, he lived to see the fifth generation. As we have said, he had nine children; also 53 grandchildren, 154 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Juda White, his wife, died in November, 1866. He was married to Rachel Buchanan who is still living and now 86 years of age. She able to walk about the yard. She was the widow of Rev. Simeon Buchanan and is the mother of six children, one boy and five girls. She has lived to see the fourth generation. She has six children, 36 grandchildren, 81 great-grandchildren, making a total of 124 in her family.

Uncle James was the step-father of her family, making him the father, stepfather and step-grandfather of the two families, a total of 354 persons. He lived to see all of them except about 18.

But, alas, he is gone. He has paid the debt we all must pay.. He was only confined to his bed for five days before he died. His body was taken to the Hanging Rock Church, and after a short service by Rev. Louis Sturgeon, was laid by the side of his first wife to await the Resurrection when we believe he will came up in the likeness of Christ and join his long departed ones on the banks of sweet deliverance where sickness, sorrow, pain and death are an eternal stranger. Sweet thoughts to the children of God while they have to die they have the promise of the Resurrection from the dead and eternal life. - W. G. Stone.

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The following article was copied by Jerry Long, of Owensboro, Ky. from a transcription by Thelma Morrison Nunn from the original then in the possession of her mother, Valona Avaline White Morrison, a daughter of Rev. Hosea B. White. Mrs. Nunn wrote that "part of the first of the article was missing and a little in another place had been torn off". Hosea Bishop White (3 June 1843 – 25 July 1914) was the son of Jonathan Rogers White (24 April 1810 – 11 August 1870) and Susanna Turner, grandson of George White (20 January 1780 - 18 October 1812) and Nancy B. Rogers (15 September 1776 - 8 May 1870) and great-grandson of Col. James Rogers (March 1742 - 24 March 1828) and Martha Blackburn (April 1741 - 30 April 1818).

White Family Reunion, 24 September 1910

by Rev. Hosea B. White (1843-1914)

"The Sisters and Brothers of Hosea Bishop White met September 24, 1910 in the home of H. B. White to celebrate the 80th birthday of their oldest Sister, Mrs. Nancy (White) Harrell.

In Grayson County, Kentucky on the waters of Little Clifty Creek, 4 ½ miles west of Leitchfield, Ky. Jonathan R. White died August 11, 1870 on his wagon several miles from his home. Shortly after he passed his 60th year. Susanna White, his wife died July 14, 1887 in her 80th year. Jonathan R. and Susanna White are the parents of H. B. White. They had nine children. One the oldest son and third child of the family, died July 2nd, 1853 in his 20th year. The remaining eight children now living are five daughters and three sons, as follows: Mrs. Nancy B. (White) Harrell of Duff, Ky. aged 80; Mrs. Phebe E. (White) Stone of Eveligh, Ky. aged 78; Deacon, Dr. William B. White of Lexington, Ky. aged 75; Deacon, George W. White of Caneyville, Ky. aged 73; Rev. Hosea Bishop White of Holly, Ky. aged 67; Mrs. Martha W. (White) Green of Millwood, Ky. aged 65; Mrs. Mary L. (White) Stone of Fragrant, Ky. aged 62; Mrs. Sarah F. (White) Paris of Fragrant, Ky. aged 60.

The combined age of this venerable family is 560 years. The average is 70 years and all reside in Grayson County, Ky. except one, Dr. William B. White, of Lexington, Ky. And they all

are members of the Baptist Church, and have been from 39 to 63 years. And all have held their membership, first with Hanging Rock Church, except Dr. William B. White of Lexington, Ky.

The combined weight of this family is 1337 lbs. The weights are as follows: Mrs. Nancy B. Harrell, 142 lbs; Mrs. Phebe E. Stone, 143 lbs.; Dr. Wm. B. White, 213 lbs.; George W. White, 156 lbs.; Rev. H. B. White, 182 lbs.; Mrs. Martha W. Green, 217 lbs.; Mrs. Mary L. Stone, 131 lbs.; Mrs. Sarah F. Paris, 153 lbs.

This aged family of brothers and sisters are enjoying remarkable good health, so much so that it was their blessed privilege to leave their respective homes on the 24 day of September 1910, and meet together at the home of the Rev. H. B. White, their youngest brother, to celebrate the 80th birthday of their oldest sister, Mrs. Nancy B. Harrell. And this being the first time that they had all met together for 23 years. And when they were assembled to partake of a sumptuous dinner which had been prepared by all contributing, and all eight were seated at the table at once. Four on either side with the only two surviving brother-in-laws, Wm. G. Green and Lloyd Paris, one at each end of the table.

While a goodly number of friends, children and grandchildren, looked on to behold the last such a sight that they ever expect to see. All having partaken of the dinner, we laid aside the socialities of family reunion and birthday celebration to engage in Social Thanksgiving to "God", together with a number of our friends and neighbors for having spared all our lives to such great age. By the Rev. H. B. White, reading the 90th Psalm, and making appropriate comment, upon the appointed time of life. Three score and 10 years, and that if by reason of strength they be four score, that one of the family had today reached the utmost limit, while the youngest had already past her 3 score, and the joys of meeting on such an occasion and sorrows of parting, when we realize in all probability that we would never meet again, in this world as we were then. But then again, the joyous thought recurs that we have that blessed hope that not far distant in the future we will all be reunited in Our Father's house, where parting will be no more. And then followed by Prayer by the two oldest brothers and prayers and talks by others, and interspersed with songs of praise and thanks giving, there by celebrating the religion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thus ended the day's service and the crowd dispersed.

The family all retired until afternoon the next day. That night all engaged in song service, singing the old songs that our fathers and mothers used to sing in childhood days. Next morning while yet seated at the breakfast table talking over joys of the occasion and expressing our thanks, we all agreed that if the "Lord" permitted us to live and granted us physical and mental ability, that we would meet again on the 14th day of July 1911, with our youngest sister, Mrs. Sarah F. (White) Paris, that being her birthday.

This family of children have all been married and all but two have lost their companions by death. Only two have married again. George W. White is living with his third wife. And Rev. H. B. White is living with his second wife.

Now to close this article we want to adopt the language of David in Psalm 71 and verse 18 only changing singular to the plural and making it the expression of our own hearts. "Now also when we are old and gray headed, O, God, forsake us not until we have showed Thy Strength unto this generation and Thy Power to everyone that is come."

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