

Biographical Sketch of John Vaughan, Jr.
The Life and Times of a Tennessee Farmer
By Helen Vaughan Michael



Tennessee Flag

. . . *Enquire I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow. . .*
Job, IX: 8 & 9. KJV

In my search for ancestors I have been aggravated by finding that--this record exists here and that record exists there, and that there exists family talk linking the two, but, no paper trail between them can be found. Recent news that in Texas old boxed up paper files are turning to dust means that more written family history could be disappearing. Add these to files that have gone up before in the fire and smoke of homes, churches, courthouses, and government buildings. Most of my family trees have suffered heavily from such losses.

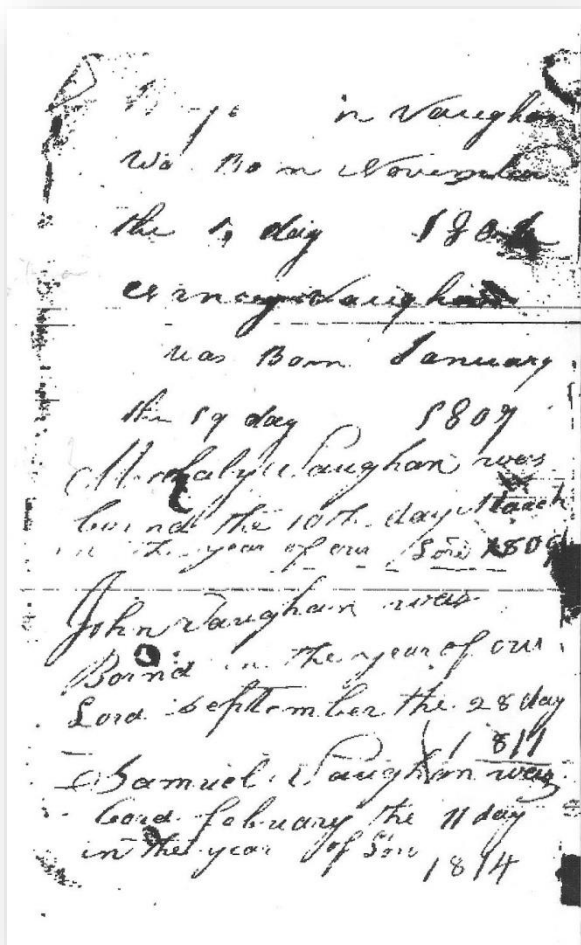
The Vaughans suffered the least. Thanks to my great-great-great grandmother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, one of the branches of my family tree left a fine paper trail to accommodate my talkative kin and my need to write down everything I hear. Sometimes I see a story emerge from what I've heard and what has been written, and most of the time the spoken word and the written word actually match up and form a fact about the Vaughans. Then, the loose ends, when played with, and trailed through American history, can turn into quite a yarn. Being in love with the English language, I spin words into my stories for fun. Loving history, I write to record what facts are still readable, combine them with stories Vaughan chroniclers have told, and in effect, use facts for fun and family. Along the way a photo or relic or letter has turned up here and there to help sort out the fibs from the facts. The final result is--my folks get to take up a page in the annals of their nation's history, which, though un-named, they helped to make. Sometimes, as in the case of James L. Vaughan, they should have been named

The *what-ifs*, the *wudduh-cudduh-shudduhs*, and the *maybes* expressed in my stories are products of a blend of curiosity and imagination and are intended to provide interest and provoke my descendants, and others, to keep digging before all they have to dig through is ashes and dust. Thanks to Linda Pelz, descendant of John Vaughan, Jr. for enhancing my imagination with intriguing family stories and *what-ifs* of her own. Tim Childress provides a repository at his website, <http://www.childresscousins.org> , to preserve my old-fashioned, often flowery ramblings in case I am on to something. Being deeply motivated by belief in a spiritual world—motivation that might be viewed in some circles as insanity—I always feel one ancestor or another may be reading over my shoulder, saying, “It’s about time.”

Helen Vaughan Michael
 9/20/2013

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. KJV

The Farm



Daybook, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, p.2

After fifteen years of marriage and the birth of three sons--James L., Beverley, and Benjamin--John Vaughan at last begets a baby boy to name after himself. In 1811, in Tennessee, John Jr. was born to him and Nancy Callicott Vaughan September 28 in Hawkins County. He was a baby born on the eve of war.

James Madison was President in 1811, and he presided over interesting times. Thirty years after John Jr.'s father served in the Continental Artillery and blasted the Redcoats back to England, they returned in 1812 to have a go at a new generation of American soldiers. A few Americans were still mad at them for the first fight—anger that showed up in events such as the adoption of the U.S. Constitution—of which President Madison was considered the father, the creation of Webster's dictionary—advocating the Americanization of the English Language, and continuous Congressional Acts passed in support of pensions for Revolutionary War veterans. This time around King George's son was on the throne, and it seems the British were still pretty mad too. They burned down the relatively new White House and Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" as he watched Fort McHenry get bombed; they fully intended to take back America, all the way to the valuable shipping ports on the Mississippi River. This time around, two men who were particularly good at soldiering were Tennesseans--Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston. After these two fought the British, and Jackson stopped them on

their quest for the Mississippi at the Battle of New Orleans, they made names for themselves, and by the next decade they had become Tennessee's most popular politicians. Many Vaughan sons of the future bore the name of Andrew, Andrew Jackson, or Sam Houston.

Under Madison, and his predecessors, the nation was well on its way to becoming an agricultural Mecca. From 1792 to 1818 the Vaughan family had seen all the lands—first, around Virginia and then Tennessee--annexed into the United States. Further down the western highway--Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri followed. By 1812, the Mississippi River was truly a valuable shipping lane. In the future, Vaughan progeny would move out into these areas to settle and to raise their crops and their kids.

The John Vaughan Homestead, Fields, and Farm



1. Original Home, pre 1985



2. Top: Fields above renovated house, 1997.

3. Below: Tobacco patch, planted back of house.



4. Barn, 1997 photo (above) and 5. 1985 photo (below)



6. Below:Harvested tobacco hanging up to dry from old rafters in the barn. 1997 photo



Photos, courtesy Mabel Harp and A.J. Vaughan family



Old barn, still standing, located on the original Vaughan homestead. 1997, Mabel Harp Photo.

Like most of the U.S. population, John, Jr. was born on a farm, and he grew up to toil over the acreage of his birth. America had started out as a nation of farmers. By 1811 agriculture in every free state was based on the family farm. Even in the South with all its slaves, the son of a farmer--often born in the farmhouse where he would live--was counted on to do the work. In John's Tennessee, family farms produced a lot of sugar, tobacco, grain, and corn, and farm boys helped raise these crops; earning their keep, they were valuable assets to pioneer families. Even while small they were taught how to do simple but vital chores—especially that of hoeing weeds out of corn rows and picking the ears when they grew full. They filled up the corn cribs from which they fed the hogs which every farm family raised for bacon; pork was the meat of the day. Milking the cow—and life on every farm depended on a good milk cow—was a chore even the smallest of hands could accomplish. A child just needed to be big enough to carry a bucket of milk without sloshing it. Children that big could slop the hogs and pick and husk the corn that fed them. Sons grew up as family field hands, and in the Vaughan family, farm land was parceled out as tenements or sharecropped acreage to sons and as nuptial dowry to daughters. In following the population growth on Hancock and Hawkins census records, such parceling seems so prevalent, it may have been an old Appalachian tradition. These hard-working stewards of the land started a fine family-based agricultural system that lasted, wherever they went, into the mid-twentieth century, up until the time big agri-business took over the growing of things.

Back in the early nineteenth century, farming and tending the land worked well for the Hawkins County Vaughans and for their neighbors. The family prospered under this system. Growing up in a house that was a home, with a father who provided well for his family—John Jr. was well off. The father always seemed to have enough money--buying and keeping at least two farms in his lifetime, then leaving his property to John, Jr. and his brothers when he died.

Mowed field in the hills behind the Vaughan farmhouse. Mabel Harp 1997photo



Of Two Vaughan Properties

Excerpt from 1858 Nancy Callicott pension application document mapping location of two Vaughan properties:

(Pronouns edited to make a consistent reading.)

On the 2nd day of June AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight

. . . they moved from the state of Virginia about the year 1800 and came to Hawkins County, Tennessee, that they settled on or near Clinch river some 5 or 6 miles from here where Nancy now lives; then Hawkins County, now Hancock County, Tennessee where sons Benjamin and Samuel Vaughan now live, and that they lived there all the while until about 10 years before his death which was in the year 1832 at which time (1832) her husband bought land on this side of Clinch mountain, and,

*“ . . . we moved over here in this valley, called then and now, Poor Valley in Hawkins County, where he lived till the day of his death which took place on the 14th day of July 1842 and in about one mile of where I now live with my daughter Polly. And that at his death he **left a will in which he divided his lands and tenements** among his children, that he left the place we settled when we first came to Tennessee to his sons to wit: Benjamin, Samuel and John Vaughan and that he left the place where he died to his youngest son George Washington. . . “*

Nancy (her X mark) Vaughan

Home Life for a Child of the Times

In 1858 John, Jr.'s mother had grown too feeble to even sign her name, but in her younger days she was quite literate. Records on his own literacy fluctuate from census to census, but with his mother and some siblings leaving signs that they could read and write, it's likely John Jr. could as well. While his father was illiterate, he had been an expert as a teenage gunner on a 1778 cannon in figuring amounts, velocities, and trajectories—a teenager with an intelligent head full of numbers and scientific facts. At the same time, his mother was seemingly well-educated, and her literate children left well-written, signed documents, so the Vaughan children may have had books and writing materials in the house; local history, however, does not mention a schoolhouse in the area until the 1830's. There is no consistent record that says whether John, Jr. learned to grasp the written word, but he did have a parent and siblings who were quite able to do so.

Families of the time knew by heart stories from schoolbooks and the Bible, and as an adult, John showed some enthusiasm for church matters. Verses from the Bible, Shakespeare, and Homer were often quoted amongst pioneering families. There may have even been a dictionary in the house, from the publication of Noah Webster's first edition in 1806. It was not uncommon for young Americans of this era to read and memorize great passages from books of poetry and from the classics; John's older peer in nearby Maryville, the truant schoolboy, Sam Houston, was known to read and to quote from Homer's *Iliad*—endlessly. In 1809, at age 16, Houston ran away from home, and school, and lived with the Indians. He stole the *Iliad* from his father's library to take with him on his odyssey.

When farm chores were done, a boy on the frontier learned to hunt and fish. Children played games, climbed trees, swam in ponds, and searched the pebbles of creek bottoms for pretty stones and arrow heads. Childhood games included Red Rover, Tag, Hide'n Seek, Drop the Hankie, and Musical Chairs. Boys carried pocket knives before they were ten and learned the art of whittling with hardly a nick. The lucky ones had horses and learned to ride bareback like an Indian. It was hard for a school lesson to compete with a frontier boy's world.

Toward the end of the War of 1812 John, Jr. had a new little brother, Samuel; he and Samuel would grow up side by side, jointly inherit the farm, and remain neighbors the rest of their lives. Their sister Martha was born in 1816, and a brother, George Washington, who was born in 1820, was the eleventh and last child in the John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan clan. By 1820, John's two oldest brothers, James L. and Beverley, had moved west and started families; his sisters Mary Polly and Rebecca also married about this time and had babies. Birth records of his own children suggest he was twenty-five when he and his wife, Susan Mauk, got married.

schoolhouse thence a due course north to the VA state line thence east with said line to the top of Clinch mountain.

Election to be held at George Anderson's.

List of taxpayers (condensed down to persons of interest)

George Anderson; Daniel Bloomer; James Bloomer; Frederick Baiinstiter; John Burton; Issac Bledsoe; Thomas Brown; James Collins; Peter Field; Henry Fisher; Wm Ford; Joseph Fisher; Reuben Ford; Beverly Ford; James Ford; Herd Sr; David Hickman; Heirs Of Huyson Horton; Cleman Herd; Elijah Johnson; John Johnson Sr; John Johnson Jr; Andrew Johnson; James Johnson; George Jones; Ambrose Lawson; David Lawson; **John Monk; Shadrick Monk; Dauswell Monk;** Johnson Medlock; George Medlock; Pheoby Muncyham; Susannah Minor; Thomas Moneyhun; Enoch Payne; Reubein Payne; **Hiram Payne; John Rolar;** Claibourn Roberts; Dauswell Rogers; Edward Sizemore; Owen Sizemore Sr; Owen Sizemore Jr; Soloman Sizemore; Ben P. Templeton; **Benjamin Vaughn; John Vaughn Sr; Samuel Vaughn; John Vaughn Jr;** John Vaughn; Stopel Yonds.

The 1840's

Four Years later, when the census taker came through Hawkins County, John, Jr. and Susan lived in a dwelling with two sons, wherein they had moved--seemingly inhabiting the Vaughan property which John Jr. will inherit in 1842 with the death of his father. The elder Vaughans had prospered, dwelling on the Hawkins place until John Sr. was well off enough to buy a second farm for his family in the southern foothills of the Clinch Mountains. When the old soldier died on July 14, 1842, ten days past his sixty-sixth Independence Day, he was eighty years old. John Jr. was thirty-one.

*WILL OF JOHN VAUGHAN, Page 474 Dated: Dec. 27, 1841, Proven: Aug. Term
Dated: Dec. 27, 1841
Proven: Aug. Term 1842*

Third. I do give and bequeath unto my sons Samuel N. Vaughan and Benjamin Vaughan during their natural lives and then to their lawful heirs forever all my lands on the north side of Clinch Mountain, it being about 110 acres and 10 acres on the south side to copper ridge whereon Samuel N. Vaughan now lives, to be equally divided between them according to quality.

Fourth. I do will and direct that the above named Samuel N. and Benjamin Vaughan for and in consideration of the above bequest shall within 12 months after my death jointly pay unto my son John Vaughan \$100.00.

Fifth. I give and bequeath unto my son George Washington Vaughan all my land whereon I now live and joining it being about 170 acres,

John his x mark Vaughan (seal).

In presence of: William Carmack, James T. Brice, William E. Carmack

The 1840 census happens to be a family and friends album of siblings, other relatives, and lifelong neighbors of John, Jr. and his brothers--brothers who will inherit the lands and tenements associated with the old home place. *Wright, Price, Webb, Shank, Johnson, Brown, Eden, and Fields* are family names that mix and mingle with those of the . . . *Vaughan, Callicott, Ford, Hickman, Church, and Sarginor* families for the next sixty years. The Mauk name of Dauswell shows up in the Rogers line which has links to John's in-laws, the Deckards. While the Mauks of the 1830's are missing, Susan is still there, and she has set up house on property her husband is about to inherit. Two young unidentified boys are listed along with her own children. Vaughans, more often than not, have visitors in their homes when the census taker arrives. According to the will of his father, the death of Mahala Deckard, John's sister, left "heirs" in the neighborhood; perhaps the unknown boys are John Jr.'s nephews--the orphans of Mahaly.

1840 Census

(No. 4.)

SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

35

NAME OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES																									
	MALES														FEMALES											
	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 and up							
Benjamin Forward	578	479	369	327	279	270	242	180	75	34	12	1		528	429	318	285	221	200	145	127	71	36	16	1	
Littlen Kozart			2			1									1											
Bliss Lavin			1												1											
Samuel Wright			1	1																						
Eliza White	1	2				1								2	1											
Jacob Rice	2	2	1				1							1	1											
Theoderick Webb		2	1	2	1									1												
Michael Shank	2						1								2			1	1							
Polly Shapshire	1	1														1										
Nathan Johnson	1	1												1	2	1										
Willie B. Kinnear	2	1													1	1										
George W. Kinnear							1							1	1											
John S. Brown	1					1								1	3											
Winstead Cobb														2												
Elizabeth Milam	1		1											2	1	1										
<u>Benjamin Vaughan</u>			1				1										1									
James Callicut							1							1												
James C. Ford							1							2												
Ruth Gibbons	1															1										
William Ford											1															
Brevity Ford		2		1		1								2	1	1										
John Vaughan, junr	2	1	1		1									1												
David Beckman	1						1							1												
<u>Samuel Vaughan</u>	2						1																			
John Callicut			1													2										
John Edens	2		1			1								1	2	1										
William Church							1																			
Rebecca Suggart			1											1		1										
Henry Church	1	1	1											1	2	2										
Peter Fields	2						1							2												
Josiah Bradley	1						1							2												
TOTAL	617	479	369	327	279	270	242	180	75	34	12	1		528	429	318	285	221	200	145	127	71	36	16	1	

John's mother raised all her eleven children to adulthood, but during the thirties the family had lost Mahaly Vaughan Deckard, a young mother at the time. The number of children John's older sister had is unknown, but she did have one baby boy listed on the 1830 census, making her heirs eligible to be the visiting youngsters at his house in 1840, (above). Deaths of women, especially during childbirth, were common in the nineteenth century, but its frequency made it no less tragic. Like his parents, down the road ahead John would also know the sorrow of losing a grown child--his oldest daughter, Sarah. As fate would have it, after a long life—but not too long, he would die and not have to wistfully ponder the mysterious death of a son who was murdered in Texas just after the turn of the century.

John's wife, Susan Mauk, was born in Tennessee in 1818. Her father, John Mauk, was born in North Carolina. Her mother's name may have been Sarah. Her first child, born in 1836 was named Sarah Ann. Seven more children are known to have been born to John and Susan over the next twenty years. Their sons and daughters, in addition to Sarah Ann, with the approximate year of birth are: George Vaughan 1838, James K. Vaughan 1840, Nancy Vaughan 1843, John Vaughan 1845, Mary

Vaughan 1847, Robert Thomas Jefferson Vaughan 1851, and Amanda Vaughan 1855. After the 1850 census John Jr.'s five year old John goes missing and there is no further record on his namesake.

There were several weddings, and before long John was a grandfather many times over. His married children left eventful records filled with interesting marriages, and deaths-- one, shadowy, and another—that of Sarah Ann--an unexplained tragedy.

The 1850's

Household enumerated by me, on the 7th day of Dec 1850. L. S. Willis Ann's Married

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10 11 12			13	
			Age	Sex	Color, (black, or mulatto)				Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Deaf or dumb		Blind
		Mary Ann	9	F				Domestic					
		Laura	7	M				Do					
		Grandville	5	M				Do					
289		John Vaughan	37	M		Farmer	200	Domestic					
		Lysan	35	F				Do					
		Sarah Ann	14	F				Domestic					
		George	12	M				Do					
		James	10	M				Do					
		Mary	7	F				Do					
		John	5	M				Do					
		Mary	3	F				Do					
289		Samuel Vaughan	34	M		Farmer	500	Domestic					
		Melvin	50	F				Do					
		William	12	M				Do					
		John	10	M				Do					
		Brian	9	M				Do					
		Julian	7	F				Do					
		George	6	M				Do					
		Robert	2	M				Do					
290		Larkin Willis	30	M		Farmer	400	Domestic					
		Elizabeth	37	F				Domestic					
		Melvin	7	M				Do					
		Allis	5	F				Do					
		Henry Gibbons	14	M				Do					
		Andrew Botany	19	M				Do					
291		Richard Stiles	29	M		Farmer		Domestic					
		Harvey	31	F				W.A.					
		William	8	M				Domestic					
		Mary	7	F				Do					
		John	5	M				Do					
		Margaret	4	F				Do					
		Mary	3	F				Do					
292		B. H. Ford	25	M		Farmer	650	W.C.					
		Mary	29	F				Domestic					
		William	20	M				Do					
		James	18	M				Do					
		Mary Ann	14	F				Do					
		Mary	12	F				Do					
		Rosanna	10	F				Do					
		Benjamin	6	M				Do					
		Sarah	6	F				Do					
		John	5	M				Do					

Whether or not John Jr. could read the Bible, there is some evidence that he was interested in what its verses had to say. Records show him to be a religious man, and along with his wife, in 1851 he demonstrated an interest in the religious activities of Hancock County.

Asa Routh and William A. Keen were a powerful team of frontier preachers. Keen had Vaughn ancestors. The pair planned to go on a mission to the extreme upper corner of Hancock County, north of Clinch Mountain--the Vaughn neighborhood. When it was known where they were going for a meeting, Routh's friends warned him that the people there held no respect for men of the church. Along with its splendid farms and pleasant people, the place was noted for its whisky, card games, and impious skirmishes with church leaders.

The people were fine farmers and good neighbors, Routh agreed, but with no meeting-house in the neighborhood, they were unchurched. They were irreverent and rowdy, played cards, and consumed way too much whiskey to suit the Baptist preacher. As men from the area set up the arbor in the woods for Routh and Keen's revival meeting, the ministers heard them swearing and jesting, good-naturedly, about preachers they had run off in the past. Routh told a later audience that the place was wicked and "so near to hell it seemed that I could smell the brimstone."

But after Routh preached the Gospel to Hancock's hell-raisers, eighty persons were baptized, and with the help of John Jr. and his friends a Baptist church was established.

LEFT: The Independence Baptist Church of Hancock County, 2010.

It seems the home of George Anderson provided a platform for faith as well as for politics. On November 8, 1851, following the revival held in the brush arbor by Routh and Keene, a group met in Anderson's home and began organizing the new Independence Baptist Church of Hancock County. Brother Benjamin Vaughan and his wife Eve were among thirty-four charter members. John, his wife, and his sister-in-law, Malvina Church Vaughan, were in attendance. For some reason, his brother Samuel did not accompany Malvina to the get-together. Later a meeting house of large prime logs was built at the foot of Looney's Gap in Clinch Valley on land donated by Nicholas M. Moneyham and his wife. Nicholas was a brother-in-law of one of Malvina Church's sisters. He was also a Methodist who had a Baptist wife, so it was agreed that both denominations would use the building. **Ancestry.com file.**

That same year, 1851, a son, Robert Thomas Jefferson, was born. Four years later the birth of Amanda completed the family.

By 1858 a relationship with the church became a welcome comfort. During that decade a young son died, and with rumors of a coming war flying all around him, and seeing his siblings moving off, John's mother died in September. On September 28, 1858, the attorney, William Strickland, wrote a final page to the old woman's pension application ordeal:

*Hawkins County, Tennessee
Sept 28, 1858, Sir, . . . In the case of Nancy Vaughn, widow of John, a Revolutionary Soldier, she
deceased a few days ago.
Wm C. Strickland*



Asa Routh, Baptist Pioneer



Sneedville
Sept 28th 1858

Sir.

Having just received yours of, the 11th of August 1858, in the case of Nancy Vaughn widow of John a Revolutionary War soldier, Claim to pension under act of July 29, 1848, and will now inform you that the Claimant Nancy Vaughn deceased a few days ago and we wish to know if we will not have to

Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, with excerpt from transcription of original

The 1860's

The 1860 census is faded out, but pertaining to John Jr., it says in part:

Age: 49; Click, Hancock, TN; Post Office, War Gap; Household: John Vann 49; Susan Vann 41; James Vann 20; Nancy Vann 17; Robert Vann 7; Manda Vann 5; Clemon Wininger 21; John Mouk 82, (Susan's dad).

His residence was now in Hancock County, but he had not moved—the part of Hawkins where he lived got lopped off and was then called Hancock. Abiding close by were siblings who were left, along with many of their young—his nieces and nephews. On the 1860 census his twenty-two year old son George was set up in a house nearby--the house where John may have spent his last years. His oldest daughter Sarah was missing, and probably recently married. She and her husband David Shelton would make John a grandpa with the birth of their daughter Susan in 1864. An old man living with the family was John's father-in-law. Winegars were longtime family friends of the Vaughans and their kin.

Nancy, John's sister, married to David Hickman, lived on the property between his fence line and Samuel's. By the end of the fifties, baby brother George Washington was gone to middle Tennessee, baby sister Martha and her family were in Knoxville, Rebecca had moved from her neighboring Scott, Virginia address to Missouri, and Beverley had been seen in Arkansas. A few years earlier, James L. came home for a visit, but he was back in Texas in 1860.

Brother Benjamin who had helped establish the Baptist church, which the Methodists also used, owned a farm already, but, nevertheless he took his family to Texas in 1860—hard on the heels of James L.'s visit. On the move, these brothers and sisters followed the American migration west toward cheaper lands, but John, his brother Samuel and his sisters Mary Polly Gilliam and Nancy Vaughan Hickman stayed put on their family farms in Tennessee.

Whether they left or stayed, everyone knew wherever they ended up civil war was headed their way.

1860 Faded Census
(Family of John Vaughan, bottom of page)

Page No. 197

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in the whole district in the County of St. Louis State
of Missouri enumerated by me, on the 28th day of July 1860. Joseph R. Bell, Asst. Marshal
Post Office Waverly, St. Louis County,

476

1	2	3	Description.			7	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		10	11	12	13	14
			Age.	Sex.	Color.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	571 20	John Vaughan	42	M	W	farmer	300	100	Ill				
2		Blanchette	40	F	W	housewife			Ill				
3		William	17	M	W	farmer							
4		John	15	M	W								
5		John	12	M	W								
6		John	7	M	W								
7		William	1	M	W								
8		John	11	M	W	farmer							
9		William	10	M	W								
10	571 200	John	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
11		John	15	M	W	farmer			Ill				
12		John	12	M	W				Ill				
13		John	9	M	W								
14	571 200	John	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
15		John	15	M	W	farmer							
16		John	12	M	W								
17		John	9	M	W								
18		John	6	M	W								
19		John	3	M	W								
20		John	1	M	W								
21	571 208	John	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
22		John	15	M	W	farmer							
23	571 201	William	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
24		John	15	M	W	farmer			Ill				
25		John	12	M	W								
26		John	9	M	W				Ill				
27		John	6	M	W				Ill				
28	571 207	John	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
29		John	15	M	W	farmer							
30		John	12	M	W								
31		John	9	M	W								
32		John	6	M	W								
33	571 205	John	17	M	W	farmer	200	200	Ill				
34		John	15	M	W	farmer							
35		John	12	M	W								
36		John	9	M	W								
37		John	6	M	W								
38		John	3	M	W								
39		John	11	M	W	farmer							
40		John	8	M	W	farmer			Ill				

No. white males, 20 No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____
No. white females, 20 No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____
No. idiotic, _____
No. paupers, _____
No. convicts, _____

57100
4290

When the Civil War started in 1861, John had war age sons, but like most of the family of Sergeant John Vaughan—a man who had served as a gunner in the artillery of the Continental Army—John Jr.'s boys may have chosen not to fight against the nation their grandfather had sacrificed to build. Along the eastern Virginia-Tennessee border--anywhere the old soldiers had gathered in numbers, they left such a legacy of patriotism that many of their fellow citizens were against secession. Western Virginians felt so keenly about it, they seceded from Virginia and became the state of West Virginia. East Tennessee's attempt to do the same was blocked by the state's governor declaring martial law. This Appalachian area, strongly dominated by free-thinking family farmers, contented with lives well-lived, opposed secession that the discontented planters were demanding. Until the planters could get their cohorts in power, in every state where secession was initially submitted to a popular vote rebellion was voted down. While Tennessee was the last state to secede, East Tennessee never supported the move.

June 14, 1861, **Memphis Appeal**:

...counties voted to remain in the Union. They are Anderson, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Roane, Sevier, Sullivan, Union, Washington, all in East Tennessee.

"You must give us a secession majority of over 10,000 west of the mountains or I fear East Tennessee will defeat us," wrote secessionist Stuart McClung of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad Co. in Knoxville. After secession, martial law was declared in the Tennessee hills, and it took the help of outsiders to try to keep the area under Confederate control. At one point, General James Longstreet wintered his troops in Hawkins. When the war ended, people were still mad enough to kill someone. . . . The men of both armies returned home, feuds arose, and the fighting in Hawkins and Hancock Counties continued, a state of affairs that would embroil a number of John's kin.

The cousins of John's boys, the sons of Samuel, fought for the Confederacy. These boys were lifelong neighbors and surely had been playmates as children. The cousins, if they truly were on opposite sides, were representatives of the "brother against brother" mantra that came out of that war as often as "Dixie" or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Were there hard feelings between the sons of Uncle Samuel and Uncle John? . . . It is known that the Confederate sons of Samuel moved on after the war, stating for the rest of their lives that they felt unsafe in their own Tennessee home after 1865. They went to Kentucky, leaving their widowed mother, Malvina, to run the old farm—Sgt. John Vaughan's original homestead. As these hearty Vaughan women kept their farm going next door, perhaps Malvina got a helping hand from her brother-in-law.

The Civil War devastated homes and farms all across the South, but no county suffered long-term more than Hancock. Emotionally and economically the devastation encircled their fine fields, quaint villages, and pleasant towns for the next thirty-five years. The family of John Vaughan, Jr. would have a hard time escaping the post-war trauma that touched so many lives.

Feuds and Family, etc.

From West Virginia and Kentucky, the Hatfields and McCoys set the pace all the way down to Tennessee and included a Vaughan relative here and there. Area feuds continued long after 1865 and spread to previously unknown parts of the United States. The most famous of the grudge holders were the James brothers in Missouri whose quarrel—in which a Vaughan or two may have taken part--was with the United States. Closer to home, along the Tennessee-Virginia border, even before the war ended, bushwhackers and violent gangs forced terror and tragedy right up to John Jr.'s front door and into the homes of his kin. All the while Hancock County descended into chaos that spread as far away as Texas and seemed to be never-ending. John's nephews, the grandsons of Nancy Vaughan Hickman, ran with the notorious Wright Gang that terrorized anyone with ties to the former Confederacy.

Vaughans—like John Jr.'s brothers, James L. and Benjamin—had traveled to Texas in sizeable numbers, most of them settling in a northeast section of the state. For whatever reason they had for leaving, these nomadic Vaughans did not escape the effects of the Civil War and the post-war feuding that went on. In one way or another, they had to be connected to the trauma left in the wake of the war. One post-war feud that set the tone for the future is indicative of Southern neighbor against neighbor—the Lee-Peacock Feud in Northeast Texas, an area where John's murdered son may have met his end. (Next page, **Dallas Morning News**)

The bloody Lee-Peacock feud

BY BOB ST. JOHN

THERE is an unmarked area of perhaps a 25-mile radius that encompasses a section of Northeast Texas where the counties of Grayson, Hunt, Collin and Fannin touch.

It is a quiet, peaceful rural area where narrow roads wind over both flat land and rolling hills of blackland soil and sandy loam. But, too, it is a section



in which one of the most fierce rivalries in the history of the state took place and, although it has been about 110 years since it ended, it still is talked about as though it were only yesterday.

Physically, there remains only a historical marker in the community of Pilot Grove, mentioning the Lee-Peacock feud of 1865-1871, which turned into a small war. But the story has been passed down from generation to generation and if you say the wrong thing about any of the parties involved to the wrong person, you still will get an angry response or a dirty look.

SOME HOSTILITIES that date back to the Civil War, although faded, are still present.

"I suppose," said Betty Stripling, who along with her husband Carl runs the Boot Hill Store at Pilot Grove, "everybody who grows up around here knows about Bob Lee and Lewis Peacock and their followers. It's a story that'll always be retold to kids and hashed over by adults."

In the 1950s, G. B. Ray published with the Naylor Company in San Antonio a small book called, *Murder at the Corners*, retelling the story. There also is a woman in Dallas named Aletha Barrett May who likely is the only person living who heard a first-hand account of the feud.

This was told her by her grandfather, William Adams, who, although unknown by most, was a follower of Lee during the hostilities.

Mrs. May, whose family is from

Leonard, a dozen miles southeast of Pilot Grove, recalled, "My grandfather kept reading accounts of the feud which just weren't accurate. He said he was there and wanted me to set down the story correctly. I've done that.

"They even tried to do a television show once on Bob Lee. It was on the Zane Gray Theater but was terribly inaccurate. I wrote them and let them know." Mrs. May plans to do her own book on the feud, which was said to have resulted in the killing of anywhere from 20 to 50 men.

Using both Mrs. May and *Murder at the Corners* as sources, the story they still tell went something as follows...

LEE LEFT HIS FAMILY spread to fight for the South in the Civil War. He progressed to the rank of captain and distinguished himself as a hero in the losing cause. When he returned to his home near Leonard in 1865 he found that many Union sympathizers and carpetbaggers had settled in the area.

Unlike many returning to the South, Lee hardly was destitute. He still had his family's place and also a great deal of gold, buried on the property by his father.

Apparently, his continued affluence and great popularity angered Union sympathizers, led by Peacock. One day a uniformed band of men, including Peacock, went to Lee's house, roused him out of his sickbed and said they were taking him to Gen. William T. Sherman to stand trial for crimes committed against the Union during the war.

A few miles from Lee's house the

band was joined by a group of civilians, including the somewhat-notorious Doc Wilson. Wilson began to hint to Lee that he would be released if he'd give them money. By the time they'd camped at Cocklaw Bottom, Lee had been told a number of times what he must do.

Weakened by his sickness, he finally agreed not only to give them a mule, saddle, bridle and a \$20 gold piece but he also signed a \$2,000 note. They let him go.

Lee returned home fuming and refused to honor the note. Furthermore, knowing they'd come back looking for him, he built a hideout on his property. When he didn't want to be found, he wasn't. Soon others who favored the South joined him.

Lee often went into Pilot Grove. He was there one day when Hugh Hudson, a follower of Peacock, confronted him. Hudson backed down, but when Lee had his back turned Hudson shot him, grazing his head. Dr. William Pierce was called and not only saved Lee's life but let him convalesce at his home.

This didn't set well with Peacock's group and one man visited Pierce. The doctor was called outside and shot and killed. It was said the authorities did little in the way of investigating the killing.

Lee vowed revenge on those involved. Both sides began killing. However, the Army was in control and a price of \$1,000 was put on Lee's head. But nobody could find him, much less trap him.

A FORMER FRIEND, Henry Boren, was said to have told federal soldiers where they could ambush Lee. On May 24, 1869, he rode away from his house and was shot and killed by the soldiers. The next day Boren was found dead.

Peacock rested easy, prospered. Lee had been killed and the gang seemed to have been dispersed. He rose early, as usual, on the morning of June 14, 1871, to go outside to get wood for the fire so his wife could cook breakfast. He was shot and killed by three men, hiding in trees in his yard.

With his death, the feud subsided and ended, although in the area where it took place its telling apparently never will end.



England Hickman would die in 1890. (Story, Right) Besides her husband being John's nephew, she was also the aunt of Robert Thomas Jefferson's first wife, Rebecca Arrington. John Jr. was still living when Rebecca abandoned his son and a house full of his little grandkids and married a Gilliam fellow. Pictured, above: **Son, RTJ Vaughan**; Photo Courtesy: Rhonda Cookenour

Tension in the region that had wrought the 1865-1871 Lea-Peacock Feud, twisted and turned its way into the twentieth century. Daniel Pete, it was said, served time in the state prison. His crime and Sarah Sallie's murder were the embodiment of the lawlessness in general which pervaded this area, the same as the breakdown of law that had afflicted Hancock County since the war. This Texas wrangling may have spilled over from the feuding in Tennessee.

John was no longer around in 1890 when his nephew's family moved to Texas or at the time Sarah Sallie was gunned down in her own front yard. Later still, it would be a child of his own who got murdered in Texas. Postwar Texas filled up with families of Tennessee Vaughans—John Jr.'s nieces and nephews marched southwest in numbers, so it was at the turn of the century his son James K. traveled there and was mysteriously slain. Only bits and pieces of the violent end which James K. Vaughan suffered are known. . . .

A family story tells how James K. went to Texas to check on property he owned there. First, his family in Madison, Missouri had never heard of this property and second, they never heard from James K. again. One day, they got a message that there was a delivery from Texas for them at the train station. When the Vaughans went to pick up the delivery, they discovered it was a coffin with their father inside and a note that said he had been murdered. Surely a friendly hand in Texas hoping to help the family with closure made this gesture—the hand of a decent kinsman who needed to remain anonymous? His cousins using aliases frequented the troubled Texas Corners. Perhaps that's where James K. was headed. He was killed about 1902, fifteen merciful years after John Jr. had passed on.

Since hostilities that dated back to the Civil War were still ongoing all the way to Kansas, Missouri, and Texas, perhaps John Jr.'s boy became involved in someone's relentless quarrel; the brother of Robert Thomas Jefferson, and also as an in-law to the Arrington-England clan, perhaps James K. Vaughan became involved in a broken hearted brother's family feud.

James K., himself, had endured the trauma of losing his own wife, Amanda. . . .

An old 1900 Missouri abstract shows that James K., along with his daughters Della and Mary Lily, transferred ownership of 40 acres to his son, J. E. Vaughn age 23. The transfer was exclusive of rights to a *griss-mill*, in what was commonly known as Vaughn Holler; rights were retained by James K. The present owners of a farm there believe some members of the Vaughn family died in a winter fire of 1900

A MOTHER KILLED.

Two Young Fellows Did It with a Shotgun.

LADONIA, Tex., Aug. 23.—Mrs. D. P. Hickman was shot and killed last night near Dial, eight miles northeast of here. Two young men came to the house last night about 8 o'clock, seeming to be under the influence of liquor. Mrs. Hickman was undressing her little boy to put him to bed. Some one had given him whisky, and she said:

"I wish whoever gave my child whisky was in Guinea."

The young men replied:

"We gave him the whisky, by God," and used other insulting language. They then left, but soon after returned and called for Hickman to come. His wife went to the door and told them her husband was in bed. They used very insulting language to her and she ordered them to leave. Both young men persisted and assailed her virtue, when she said they must leave or she would drive them away with an ax. She started toward them with an ax and when close to them, one of the young fellows discharged a shotgun and killed her instantly. Both young men are at large. Much excitement prevails, as all the parties are well known and of good families.

in the original house. One life lost was that of the niece of John, Jr., Amanda Jane Davis Vaughan—the daughter of his sister, Martha Vaughan Davis, and thus first cousin of James K.

The 1870's

The unthinkable happened on the home front when during the war, or, shortly thereafter, John and Susan's oldest daughter, Sarah Ann, died. In 1870 when John was fifty-nine, living in District 3, Hancock County, Sarah Ann's four orphaned children lived in his household. Their father David Shelton, a carpenter, evidently had died as well. The children—Francis, James, Henry, and Susan Shelton are listed as orphans. Their ninety-two year old blacksmith grandfather, John Mauk, was still around. It would be interesting to know what caused so many deaths in the family in this area—an epidemic, a genetic illness, or even the war?

SCHEDULE 1
of Sumner, enumerated by me on the 2nd day of June, 1870.
Post Office: War Sap Lane James B. Mitchell, Asst. Marshal.

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11			15	16	17	18	19		20
			4	5	6		9	10		11	12	13					14	19	
41	41	Levittin H	32	M	W	Farmer	100		Virginia										
		— Nancy	33	F	W	Keeping House													
		— Jesse	23	M	W	Work on farm													
		— Mary	22	F	W	At Home													
		— John	21	M	W	Work on Farm													
		— Sarah	17	F	W	At Home													
		— Robert	15	M	W														
		— Douglas	11	M	W														
		— Kinsey	8	M	W														
42	42	Berry William	45	M	W	Farmer	100	150	Sumner										
		— Maria	46	F	W	Keeping House			Virginia										
		— Sarah	26	F	W	At Home			Sumner										
		— Moam	16	F	W														
		— Martha	12	F	W														
		— Amanda	3	F	W														
43	43	Allen Carter	24	M	W	Farmer	700	250											
		— Alice	24	F	W	Keeping House													
		— James	1	M	W														
		— Per & Louisa	5	M	W														
44	44	Brown Samuel	64	M	W	Farmer	1000		VA										
		— Hannah	57	F	W	Keeping House			Sumner										
		— Peter	44	M	W	At Home													
		— Lewis	16	M	W	Work on Farm													
		— Peggy Nancy	11	M	W	At Home													
45	45	Taughen Carter	21	M	W	Farming	100												
		— Sarah	26	F	W	Keeping House			Virginia										
46	46	Taughen John	58	M	W	Farming	600	150	Sumner										
		— Susan	57	F	W	Keeping House													
		— Robert	18	M	W	Work on Farm													
		— Annd	14	F	W	At Home													
		Shilton Francis	19	M	W	Orphan													
		— James	11	M	W														
		— Henry	7	M	W														
		— Mary	6	F	W														
		Woodpecker	70	M	W	Blacksmith (retired)			VA										
47	47	Taughen George	31	M	W	Wagon Maker	250		Sumner										
		— Hannah	26	F	W	Keeping House													
		— Albert	11	M	W	At Home													
		— Lavinia	9	F	W														
		— Nancy	6	F	W														

Civilians certainly suffered and died during the conflict, but there is no telling if John's relatives died because of the conflict. By 1870 two of his children, his son-in-law, his mother-in law, his brother, his brother's children--Evan and Hiram, and two of his sister's daughters, to name a few, . . . all in the same area, in the same time span, were dead and gone. Two pages of the 1870 census made up a family compound that was left with quite a few vacant spots--without any record of what caused all these folks to vanish.

In 1880 John's sister-in-law, Malvina Church Vaughan, and his sisters, Nancy and Mary Polly, still lived on their farms and were nearby, but their farms may not have been so fine as Asa Routh once found them. In 1851 Brother Routh had met a community of fine farmers who lived life well, he said. But, he found the people too boisterous and fun-loving—gambling, drinking, and being profane in less than profound moments, so he built them a church. Then war came, and it destroyed the fine farms and impoverished and embittered the people, so life in Hancock was no longer lived to the fullest. The church still stands today and may have helped with the cussing, gambling, and drunkenness, but starting in 1861 much of the flourishing population of the Appalachian area began to struggle for its daily bread. After the census of 1880, John lived for seven more years in an agricultural community that looked far different than its hillside farms had looked back in a time when it was referred to as an American Switzerland—a land far, far different for his grandchildren than the idyllic land of his childhood.

Death for him came in 1887 on the 29th of October. He was seventy-six. ***The Rogersville Herald*** reported his death in the Saturday, November 5, 1887 issue. Some say he and his wife Susan are buried in Lee Valley Cemetery where their son, Robert Thomas Jefferson, rests atop a hill with a row of stately cedar trees standing like sentries over the graves. On the map, it doesn't look to be too far from the Independence Baptist Church.

The End

Scenic View of Lee Valley Cemetery, Hawkins County



Timeline

Birth: 1811 28 Sep Hawkins, TN

Residence

1850 Age: 39 Subdivision 32, Hancock, TN John Vaughn 39, Susan Vaughn 33; Sarah Ann Vaughn 14; George Vaughn 12; James K. Vaughn 10; Nancy Vaughn 7; John Vaughn 5(missing from 1860 census); Mary Vaughn 3.

Birth of Son, Robert Thomas Jefferson

1853 Age: 42 Hancock Co, TN, RTJ Vaughan's marriage to Rebecca Arrington is an Arnhart- Snodgrass- Chaney link... back to a Deckard family with many Mahalas.

Residence

1860 Age: 49 Click, Hancock, TN, Post Office, War Gap; Household: John Vann 49; Susan Vann 41; James Vann 20; Nancy Vann 17; Robert Vann 7; Manda Vann 5; Clemon Wining 21; John Mouk 82, Susan's dad.

Residence

1870 Age: 59 District 3, Hancock, TN. Household: John Vaughan 58; Susan Vaughan 51; Robert Vaughan 18; Amada Vaughan 14; Francis Shelton 12; James Shelton 11; Henry Shelton 9; Susan Shelton 6; John Mock 92, S.n's dad. Shelton's are orphan grandkids.

Residence

1880 Age: 69 Hancock, TN, . Household: George Vaughan 42 Lucy Vaughan 43 Nancy Ann Vaughan 17 Andrew Vaughan 15 Susan Vaughan 12 Josaphine Vaughan 11 Cordelia Vaughan 9 John Vaughan 6 John Vaughan 69

Death

1887 29 Oct Age: 76 Hawkins Co, TN, THE ROGERSVILLE HERALD reported death in the Saturday, November 5, 1887 issue.

Parents

John Vaughan 1762 – 1842/Nancy Callicott 1777 – 1858

Siblings

James L. Vaughan 1795 – 1862

Beverley Vaughan 1797 – 1858

Mary Polly Vaughan 1800 – 1880

Rebekah Greaser Vaughan 1802 – 1883

Benjamin Vaughan 1804 – 1864

Nancy Vaughan 1807 – 1881

Mahala Vaughan 1809 – 1835

Samuel N Vaughan 1814 – 1863

Martha Jane Vaughan 1815 – 1880

George Washington Vaughan 1820 – 1901

Spouse & Children

Susan Mauk 1818 – 1880, m. 1835

Sarah Ann Vaughan 1836 – 1864

George Vaughan 1838 –

James K. Vaughan 1840 – 1902

Nancy Vaughan 1843 –

John Vaughan 1845 – 1860

Mary Vaughan 1847 – 1860

Robert Thomas Jefferson Vaughan 1851 – 1920

Amanda Vaughan 1855 –

Sources

Daybook, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, 1811

1836 Hawkins Co. Tax List, List of taxpayers

<http://www.public.usit.net/billiam/hawkinscivildist.html>

Hello to all my fellow Hawkins county researchers. I thought some of you might like a description of the various civil districts of the county, as they are described on the 1836 tax list. I do not know if or when the various boundaries changed over the years.

Sincerely, Mary Rollis

<http://www.childresscousins.org>

WILL OF JOHN VAUGHAN, Page 474 Dated: Dec. 27, 1841, Proven: Aug. Term, Proven: Aug. Term 1842

Linda Pelz, family stories

1858 Nancy Callicott pension application

Death 29 OCT 1887 in Hawkins Co, TN, THE ROGERSVILLE HERALD reported Saturday, November 5, 1887.

Ancestry.com files and photos

Census: 1830, 1840, 1850 1860, 1870 (2), 1880.

Biographical Sketch of Nancy Vaughan, Helen Vaughan Michael, helenmichael347@yahoo.com

Rhonda Cookenour Turner Rdtmusicworld101@aol.com