

HUGH BETHEA 1829-1887

Hugh Bethea was born June 25, 1829 in Alabama son of Rev. Goodman Bethea and Charlotte A. Grice. Goodman was the son of Jesse Bethea and Celia Harrelson. Jesse Bethea migrated from Marion District, South Carolina to Monroe County, Alabama in 1818. According to a Record Book kept by William Thomas Bethea (son of Hugh Bethea) Goodman Bethea died 22nd Sept. 8 PM 1863 and Charlotte A. Bethea died 12th of May 1862, 2 PM. Apparently W. T. Bethea had copied this information from an old family Bible record.

Hugh Bethea married Celiann Still. She was born February 25, 1833 daughter of John Still and Nancy (Pringle?). W. T. Bethea's Record Book stated that John Still died December 19th, 1855 and Nancy Still died 1868. The next line read "Nancy Jane Pringle 1868". This would lead one to believe that the maiden name of Mrs. Still might be Pringle.

Hugh and Celiann (Still) Bethea had the following children:

1. Charlotte Ann Bethea, born January 29, 1851 in Conecuh County, Alabama; married William Madison "North" Crews April 21, 1870 in Manatee County, Florida; died April 8, 1922, buried in New Hope Cemetery.
2. William Thomas Bethea, born December 8, 1852 in Conecuh County, Alabama; married Lucy Elinor Sellers (daughter of John and Mary Folsom Sellers) on June 19, 1873; died Dec. 8, 1928.
3. Evander J. Bethea, born December 15, 1855; died February 4, 1866.
4. Dougall Carmichael "Mike" Bethea, born January 19, 1857; married Sophie Sapphire Whidden on Dec. 29, 1877; died May 7, 1932.
5. John Bethea, born October 22, 1858; died October 26, 1858.
6. Nancy Jane Bethea, born October 24, 1859; married John Andrew Boyd on June 3, 1877; died April 13, 1922.
7. Salathiel Bethea, born January 5, 1864; married James W. Mercer.
8. Mary Malisia Bethea, born December 26, 1866; married Jerry A. Whidden.
9. Hugh C. Bethea, born January 11, 1870; married Mabelle Daughtry, daughter of Arthur and Maheny Jernigan Daughtry.
10. Virginia "Jenny" Lee Bethea, born February 1, 1874; married George Walter Collier on May 2, 1889 in DeSoto County.

Hugh and Celiann Bethea were enumerated in the 1850 federal census in Conecuh County, Alabama along with other relatives, E. J. Bethea (age 28) and family, Goodman and Charlotte A. Bethea, Joseph A. Bethea and family, Bartlett Still (age 26) & family and John and Nancy Still. They were also listed in that county in the 1860 census.

The Betheas moved to Florida in 1867 settling first at Medulla near Lakeland in Polk County. They later homesteaded 200 yards west of the Charlie Anderson place on the Zolfo Springs-Crewsville road.