

FORD HISTORY WRITTEN BY L.M. FORD IN 1904

SOURCE: FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, WINNSBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA

NATHANIEL FORD, Sr. is as far back as we can trace our ancestry. He came from Carolina County Virginia and settled on Dutchman Creek, Fairfield County, then known as Craven some time previous to the Revolutionary War in what year is unknown. Near this place he ended his earthly pilgrimage in 1843 in the nineteenth year of his age.

He was of stout muscular frame about six feet and two or three inches high and of dark complexion. He was possessed of a good intellect, but his education was quite limited. He was very fond of the social glass and indulged so freely that property dwindled away to nothing in the latter part of his life.

He served as a magistrate for many years, was a mason and as he never connected himself with any branch of the christian church his religious predilections are unknown. It was thought that he was tainted with Deism. In his last illness he was asked his thoughts concerning the future, the reply was: "God gave the soul and to him it will return." After he passed away his face had the appearance of a quiet sleep at the end of a long and eventful life.

In the Revolution he espoused the cause of the colonists against King George. In his latter days he often fought over the battles in which he was engaged not much of this is now remembered. He was about thirty-three years old when hostilities began. He very probably had married previous to that. He was in several skirmishes and battles among them cowpens, Orangeburg, Fort Mobe and Eutaw Springs are remembered. At cowpens he received a bullet, which lodged just under the skin of an arm. It could be seen and felt plainly often he was requested to have it taken out, his reply was "It shall go to the grave with me." And it did. He retained until his death the musket he used in the service, when Sherman's Army passed through it was in possession of his grandson, John L. Ford, they intended to break it up, but upon hearing its history left it uninjured. The last known of it William B. Ford son of John L. Ford had possession of it, this was several years ago. He may still have it.

On one occasion he received a furlough at Orangeburg, set out on foot to visit his home on Dutchmans Creek. After trudging all day, night came upon him some four or five miles above the present site

the source of much profit to some of the children. Keziah Gunthorpe died in 1863. With the exception of Osborne and Martha I think all her children are dead. John Long Ford married Miss Jemima Leggo, daughter of M.A. Leggo in Nov. 1837. Owing to the temperament of his wife they did not live very happily together, his life was very unpleasant. She bore many children to him but four sons and daughters lived through childhood: William Boyd, John Long, Riley McMaster, Moultrie Judson and Alice. William B. married two daughters of Jon P. Wilson. The first wife bore some children, second bore none, he now lives with his third wife who was a Mississippi widow, she bore some children to him. His present residence is Leggo near Water Valley, Miss. where he does a hotel business which he claims pays. Guests are attracted to his hotel by the mineral water of a high medicinal value.

John Long married ----- and lives in Texarcana, Texas. He has some children the oldest Mary, broke down mentally from over study at school. He and his father-in-law do a mercantile business selling dry goods and groceries. He does well financially.

Riley McMaster married ----- Poinsett Co. Ark. and she bore some children to him. He is a Baptist Minister and serves some churches in Poinsett Co. Ark.

Moultrie Judson espoused Miss --- Faulkner, Poinsett Co. Arkansas, she bore several children to him. He farms near Richardson Texas and is doing well at it.

Alice married James Griffin Hollis and bore to him eight children one of whom died in infancy. J.G. Hollis died a few years ago and Alice and her family reside in Winnsboro. Her oldest daughter Maggie married Thomas M. Haines, Longtown, S.C. in 1903. And Mary the second daughter married James Jackson of the U.S. Army in 1904.

John L. Ford's first wife died Sept. 27, 1857. His second wife was Miss Eliza Robertson. She bore two children who died in infancy. John L. Ford suffered many years with a heart trouble and died May 27, 1869. His remains are in the Aimwell cemetery near Ridgeway. He was a mason and a member of the Baptist Church.

Aaron Ford married Carolina daughter of William Kennedy. She died at the birth of her first child. It was a boy and was called William Nathaniel. He served in the Confederate War with Capt. Goodwins Co. 6th Regt. S.C.C. He was always regarded as a good man and brave