



## **My Civil War Connection (one of many)**

I am an amateur genealogist. I retired from teaching in the public schools in 2010, got divorced, and moved about an hour north to be near my daughter and grandsons. I had always remembered my aunt telling us a little of what she knew of our family history but I'd never taken the time to look into it until 2011. I discovered a book by Albert Ross Hogue (1873-1978) entitled *The History of Fentress County Tennessee*. My mother was born in Jamestown, Fentress Co. Tennessee so I was immediately interested. I also knew the surname "Hogue" to be a family name so I was excited to find out who this author was! It turns out that Albert Ross Hogue was my great grandmother's first cousin! Her name was Mary Ann Patience Hogue Madewell. Her father Vardeman Hogue and Albert's father Anderson Hogue were brothers.

You can imagine my excitement several years later when I found an article online about Isaac Jefferson Swallows, Jr. At first, I didn't know who wrote the piece so I did a little digging to learn the author's name. I used the clues the author mentions about his daughter Eva being married to Walter Swallows. The author, Hogue, says that Jefferson Swallows was the grandfather to his own grandchildren, but in fact Jefferson was the great grandfather to them.

Isaac Jefferson Swallows, Jr. was my great grandfather's uncle. My great grandfather Isaac Lafayette Madewell was the son of Moses Robertson Madewell and Dicey Jane Swallows. Her brother Isaac Jefferson Swallows, Jr. (AKA Jefferson) is the subject of this article from the view of Albert Ross Hogue.

I have taken the liberty to make minor corrections related to grammar and other English conventions to make the following piece easier to read.

Mona Vorhees Mehas

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Note: Thirty-odd years ago I visited at the home of **Isaac Jefferson Swallows Jr. (Jefferson)** at Brotherton, six or eight miles above Algood on the Tennessee Central Railroad. He was a special friend of mine and of special interest to me because of the fact that he was the grandfather of two of my grandchildren. My daughter, Eva, married **Walter Swallows** of Mayland and they raised two children.

**Jefferson Swallows** has been dead for more than 30 years. (**1848-1938**) His wife was **Manda Permelia Byers**. His father was **Isaac Jefferson Swallows Sr. (1808-1894)**, and his mother was **Frances Hammock (1812-1897)**. His grandfather was **Jacob Swallows (1786-1862.)** His grandmother was **Sarah Copeland (1796-1849.)** His father, **Isaac Sr.** drilled a company for service in the War with Mexico, but it was not called to service. Thousands volunteered from Tennessee, but only 2,800 were accepted.

**Jefferson's** grandfather, **Jacob Swallows**, was in the battle of New Orleans under General Jackson. He was in a company commanded by William Carroll. He also served under Jackson in Indian Wars and took part in the Creek War in Alabama and Florida with Jackson.

**Jefferson's** great-grandfather was **Andrew Swallows (1760-1843)**. **Andrew Swallows** served as a soldier in the American Army in the War of 1812. The family was originally from Scotland.

The subject of our sketch is **Jefferson Swallows**, who went to school before the Civil War at Olivet, near Oak Hill in Overton County. Oak Hill was then a post office. Netherland and Livingston were other post offices that were on the stage line from Monroe to Lebanon. The carriage was drawn by six horses. This stageline operated day and night. John Rabun drove the stage before the war. During the war he served in the Confederate Army and lost a leg at Chickamauga. After the war was over he continued as a stage driver. The road from Monroe to Lebanon was kept up by tolls, collected at the tollgates. One of these was at Chestnut Mound and one at Caney Fork. The approach of a stagecoach was announced by an army bugle when the stage came within a mile of a station. The horses came and went in a trot.

Here is the way **Jefferson** talked to me of his school days:

"I went to school at Olivet and also at Hiram Poston's place on the head of Matthews Creek. I went to school at John Pugue's at a place called Clay Springs. My first teacher was John West, a Methodist preacher. He was a first cousin of mine. West used the rod and applied it frequently and heavily."

"John Pugue was my second teacher. He taught at Clay Springs. As he walked the floor he repeated a slogan, 'Unless you study; you cannot learn.' First to school; first to recite was the rule."

"John Washburn was my third teacher. He taught at Olivet near Jasper Cannons on the James Gilline place."

"Miss Jane Gabbard was my fourth teacher. She was a daughter of Doctor Gabbard of Cookeville. This school was in the Elderidge Cove and was in a log schoolhouse."

"James J. Brown was my fifth teacher. He taught at Olivet near Spring Creek where he lived. Tom Phillips, nicknamed 'Head', was one of my schoolmates that I remember, because of the foot races that we ran. I generally out run Head and kept in reach of him when I was following him and slashed him with a hickory."

"Tom Stockton who lives in Putnam County is my only living schoolmate of post-war days. Some of my girl schoolmates were Patsy Stockton, Nancy Jane Lewis, Martha Moore, Margaret Smith, Eliza Yelton, Piney Peek and Eliza Jane and Sadie Peak."

"Many of my schoolmates became soldiers in the Civil War. Two grandsons of Wesley Johnson, Will and Ishan, both became Confederate Soldiers. Ishan was killed while serving under Forrest in Tennessee. He was killed at Triune. Rich McGahee was also killed at Triune while serving under Forrest. Lewis, Dick, and Huntsman Poston, three sons of Hiram Poston, and Frank, Touner, Nick, Will, and Nute, five sons of William Poston, also served in the Confederate Army."

"John and Tecurusseh, sons of Tom Poston, left Overton county after the Civil war. John Fought, another one of my schoolmates and the son of Peter Fought, left the country. I do not know where he went."

"Some of my schoolmates that became prominent in Overton County after the war were Columbus Marchbanks, Thomas

Gardinshire, Judge L. D. Bohanan and William Livingston who lived at Beaver Hill. Jessie Moore became a Methodist preacher and Noah, Tom, and William Stockton, sons of Albert Stockton, became prominent citizens of Overton County."

"Columbus Marchbanks, one of Washburn's students, was a very bright boy. He could write with both his right and left hand equally well. He would write the same line twice at the same time using both his right and his left hand. I heard Marchbanks make a speech in prosecuting the Brazzel boys at Cookeville, who were tried and convicted for murder. Marchbanks afterward moved to Sparta and I never heard him speak again."

In speaking of the old customs of teaching, **Jefferson** said, "Teachers required the children to bow to them when they entered the building in the morning and when they were leaving the school room. Families took their dinners to school in large buckets and the girls spread it on the ground for the children to eat. Arithmetic, Spelling, Writing, Reading, Geography, History, and Grammar were the subjects studied in school."

"McGuffey's Reader and the Blue Back Speller were books used in all schools. The New Testament was used as a reader in Jane Gabbard's school. I was the only student in History in Jane Gabbard's school and in Lewis' school."

In the conversation with me **Jefferson** mentioned a number of war tragedies:

"Ellis Gardenshire was killed at the Marchbanks place by Stokes' Cavalry. The other Gardenshire boys that I have mentioned went to Texas."

One other statement made to me was that **Jefferson** went to school after the war to John Lewis, a Methodist preacher, at a log school house on Bear Creek, at Rocky Hill about six miles west of Rickman and about four miles north of Algood.