

FINE

Descendants of Wm. & Catherine (Sivley) Fine

fine family

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Jonathan Fine was born in Alabama and put down his first tiny footprints in her soil. Two years after his birth his family moved back to Tennessee where they had resided before settling in Alabama. For twelve more years he was to put down more tracks in the beautiful hills of that state. His family moved to Arkansas when he was 14 years old, and it was that state's Boston Mountains with their deep, rich valley muds that were to next bear evidence of Jonathan's traversings. He met and married there, around the year 1836, Rachel Mankins, the daughter of Peter Mankins, Senior and Rachel (Bracken) Lewis Mankins, Washington Co., Ark. Now Fayetteville, was his home for about 21 years. He spent 4 years in Texas and the remaining 19 of his 61 years in Crawford Co., Ark., northeast of Van Buren at Fine Springs.

The Jonathan Fine family on leaving Texas planned to return to Washington county. They drove their cattle and horses back into Arkansas and enroute camped one night at a big, beautiful spring. They liked the looks of the valley hills and big spring so well that they decided against going any further north and settled right there. Turning their cattle loose in the Dyer Bottom some break some 8 to 10 miles below the spring. That was sometime between 1857 and 1859, at which time none of their surviving 10 children were married. Peter Fine, eldest living son, was to visit kinsmen in Washington Co. and there find and marry Ruthy Cosby, youngest daughter of Wiley and Mary Cosby, of Virginia-North Carolina-Alabama and to Arkansas in 1810).

Jonathan Fine is buried at the New Berry cemetery, two miles south of the Fine Springs Community named for him. His wife, Rachel (Mankins) Fine, born 26 Jan. 1819, died 24 Feb. 1897 at the age of 78, rests beside him. Their graves both have grey sandstone, coffin shaped markers that rise above the graves and run the full length and breadth of them. They are similar in shape, size and height to the old fashion hand made coffin. In 1965 a 92 year old granddaughter (daughter of Millie (Fine) James) was still living and residing in Van Buren, Ark. She told

me at that time it was her father, William James, and another man who cut those coffin shaped stones that were placed on her maternal grandparent's graves. They are cut like some that were cut in the early days of Washington County by a Nathan Tharp. Many of Jonathan and Rachel's 11 children who lived to maturity, their wives, and

during the Civil War. I have a tintype of Jonathan, Rachel and all nine of their children who were living in 1865, which was taken when four of the sons had just returned from the war.

Following is a listing of the children of Jonathan and Rachel (Mankins) Fine:

1. WILLIAM RILEY (or WALTER) born 1 Nov. 1837 — died in infancy
2. PETER born 9 Feb. 1839 — died 4 Dec. 1882 married 1st Ruthy Cosby — 2nd Rebecca Taylor
3. ALFRED born 6 Dec. 1810 — died in 1865 in service of the C. S. A.
 1. WALTER "Watt" born 15 May 1842 married Mahalia Wiliford
 5. I. HAMILTON born 2 Mar. 1843 (He may be the ISAAC listed below) married 1st Margaret Matlock — 2nd Mrs. Mostello
 6. JOHN born 15 Jan. 1844 married Mary Ann Van Hoose
 7. MILLIE born 26 Nov. 1815 married William James
 3. THOMAS JEFFERSON born 15 June 1847 married Laura Rieff
 9. ISAAC (According to census records he was born ca. 1849, but in all likelihood he and ISAAC HAMILTON, listed above, are one in the same person. If not, this ISAAC probably died in infancy.)
 10. GEORGE "Kernel" born 1 Dec. 1852 married Mary Titsworth
 11. ELIZABETH born 23 Nov. 1854 — died in infancy
 12. JAMES CARROLL born 3 Feb. 1856 married Elizabeth Van Hoose
 13. CALVIN born 3 Aug. 1858 married Charity Titsworth
 14. RACHEL born 8 Oct. 1860 married Alex Taylor



WILLIAM & CATHERINE'S son
JONATHAN with his wife,
RACHEL (MANKINS) FINE

many of their 70 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and 2nd gr.-gr.children are not far from their place of rest. Also sleeping there are my two small babies who were great-great-great-grandchildren of Jonathan and Rachel two times, for my husband is also a descendant of this couple, we being 3rd cousins. An enlarged picture of Jonathan and Rachel hangs in my dining room today. (Editor's Note — see photo elsewhere on this page) The gate leg walnut dining table that Brancken Lewis made for his sister Rachel to start keeping house with is still in good shape, still beautiful, old and useful, as is the little walnut desk which he also made for his sisters home around 1836 when she married Jonathan. In my bunkhouse is a hand woven coverlet, dyed with native wool, cut, washed, carded and spun into thread by Rachel for her eldest son (my great-grandfather) to start his married life in 1860. I have with it the blanket he carried the four long years that he served in the C.S.A.

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