

## **SETH FIELDS HAZEL**

**and**

## **CAROLINE M. BUCKHOLTS**

Seth Fields Hazel was born in Columbia, South Carolina in 1800. He grew up in this vicinity and attended South Carolina University. He had red hair and whiskers, and was of stocky build. After graduating from the University, he was Recorder of Deeds before migrating to Alabama in 1830. There he met Caroline Matilda Buckholts. She was born 7 May 1816. They were married 22 October 1830 and twelve children were born to this couple: John Null, twins Walter Columbus and William Buckholts, Phillip Buckholts, William Henry, Amanda Melvina, Zadoc Augustus, Seth, James Polk, Caroline Elizabeth, Jonathan (our direct descendant), and Darlin Augustus Hazel.

The family left Alabama in February 1833 for Texas with the Austin Colony pioneers. There were nine families in the party including the Motts, Lucketts and Kokernots. They travelled by ox team, arriving in November 1833; the journey took nine months. John Null was born before they left Alabama, the twins were born 12 July 1833 while en route to Texas. They died a month later. Three children, Phillip, aged 10, Zadoc, age 2 and Seth, an infant, died in 1845, no doubt from some epidemic. John and William Henry reached maturity before they succumbed to measles during the Civil War 1862-3. John is buried at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Hazels came when Texas was under the Spanish rule and were both given 400 acres of land in Lavaca and Fayette counties under the old Spanish grant system. He fought in the war against Mexico, receiving land in payment for his services. He was given a league (about 4000 acres) and 10 labor' (@177 acres each) or 1770 acres. This was located in Preston Bend near Sherman and Denison, Texas.

Caroline B. Hazel made an historic ride during the Mexican War. It was necessary to send word to the soldiers at one of the forts that the Mexicans were going to surround them. Knowing that a man couldn't get through the lines, she volunteered to ride and deliver the message. With her baby on her lap and her two other children riding behind her, tied to her with a bedsheet, she rode on horseback through the lines and arrived in time to save the fort. What fortitude!

They lived in Texas under four flags -- namely, Mexican, Texas Republic, Confederate, and the United States. Their slaves remained with them after the Civil War and later took the name of Hazel. Seth F. Hazel died in 1867. After their son, Jonathan, married, Caroline M. Hazel went to live with him and his family in Indian Territory. She died in 1892.

To our greatgrandmother we owe a debt of gratitude. She could foresee that some day the Government would make recompense for lands taken away from the Indians. She realized the importance of proving our Indian heritage. She and Grandpa made several trips to the Office of Indian Affairs at Tishomingo, Indiana Territory (a distance of 100 miles, made by wagon), to contact Government officials and submit proof of our Choctaw lineage. She had to do this while there were still people living who could vouch for her. Finally, the Indian Legislature passed an act declaring us members of the Choctaw Tribe. In 1900, the rolls were opened and those whose claims were accepted were allotted land. Mother, Dad (by marriage) and Lois received land at this time; also Jonathan Hazel and all his children. There was still land left over, so all children born by 1905 were registered on the newborn roll. My brother Joe and I received our land under this allotment.