

Richard Timothy Fields Family

Wagon Carried Fields' Ancestors To Territory

Submitted by Grace L. Nix Sewell and Ruth C. Fields Daniels

Ancestors of Richard Timothy Fields, or Tim as he was called by his many friends, moved in a covered wagon from Georgia to Cowskin Prairie in Indian Territory. His great-grandfather was Richard Fields, chief of the Texas Cherokees who were driven from Texas by the Army of the Texas Republic in 1839. His grandfather was Ezekiel Fields who married Mary Ann Sexton. His father was Richard Fields who married Elizabeth Jane Blagg. Richard and Elizabeth Fields were living in Delaware District, Indian Territory, where Richard Timothy was born on January 16, 1860. Tim's mother, Elizabeth (Betsy) Blagg, grew up on a farm on Flint Creek, Indian Territory, northwest of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Richard Timothy was born in 1860. In 1862 his father died. His mother later married Daniel Muskrat and they had a son, Salix, born in 1871. Two years later, his mother died, and Salix was raised by his brothers and sisters.

On September 14, 1879, Tim Fields and Laura Jane Hampton rode horseback to Grand River west of Grove to be married. They moved on land west of the home place and east of Olympus Cemetery later in 1880, moving on the land which Tim filed on and which is still in the hands of heirs and has been for 100 years.

To this union was born the following children: Sophrania Elizabeth Fields, James Fields, Lee Fields, Grant Fields, Ruth C. Fields, Virgil C. Fields, Harvey E. Fields and Marshall Paul Fields.

Ulysses Grant Fields was born October 28, 1890, three and one-half miles southeast of Grove, Oklahoma, then Indian Territory. He died August 14, 1943, at the age of 52

years, 9 months and 16 days. He grew to manhood and attended school in Delaware County and the National Cherokee Male Seminary, also Chilheath Missouri business college.

He was married October 2, 1910, to Ethel Wilson of Delaware County and to this union was born six children, three having passed away—namely, Kenneth Fields, Grant Wilson Fields, and Dorris Woodward.

In his early days of marriage he farmed. Later he and Ethel owned and operated a cafe in Jay, Oklahoma. He also worked on Indian reservations in Nevada.

Ruth C. Fields was born in Delaware County Indian Territory.

She attended Olympus School, walking one and one-half miles. She also attended Carr School, Grove School, and the National Cherokee Female Seminary. After the seminary was closed she attended the Northeastern State College. She taught schools at Butler; Coyne near Centralia, Oklahoma; Prairie Chapel at or near Vinita. Salaries at that time were from \$50 per month to \$80 when she quit teaching. She attended business college and beauty college. She quit being a beautician to help her husband, George W. Hoggett, in their furniture store and Oklahoma Auction Company which they operated until ill health compelled them to quit business. They moved to northwest



Daughters of Henry Harvey Hampton are, left to right at back, Miss Addie Hampton, Mrs. Malissa Hampton Fields; and at front, Mrs. Mollie Hampton Doherty, wife of W. H. Doherty, and Mrs. Laura J. Hampton Fields, wife of Richard Timothy Fields.

Arkansas where they lived 10 years on their poultry farm. Selling there and moving to Pryor, Oklahoma, George passed away in 1969.

After 10 years of being alone, she married O. P. Daniels, also of Pryor.

Virgil C. (Peck) Fields, a lifetime resident of Delaware County, Oklahoma, died July 15, 1967. He was 71 years of age, having been born December 22, 1895, in Indian Territory. His wife, Esther, mother of Virgil C. Fields Jr., was killed in a car accident which left him crippled. Later, he married Lola Phillips; then after her death, he and Merle were married.

Every active member of the American Legion in Oklahoma was familiar with Virgil's long and distinguished service as a leader of that organization and recognized his significant contribution to programs and legislation benefiting American war veterans. He was a veteran of World War I, a member of the Jay Baptist Church, the Masonic Lodge of Gravette, VFW and 40 et 8 Veterans organization.

Peck was understandably proud of the wartime record of his son, Major Virgil C. Fields Jr., who as a command pilot of the 31st Fighter Group, 307th Squadron, was one of our country's most decorated World War II heroes.

Before his death in action over Anzio beachhead on Feb. 6, 1944, Major Fields flew his Spitfire in 188 sorties, was twice wounded and crashlanded once. His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Medal with 15 oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, the European-African-Mideastern Campaign Medal with five bronze service stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

The Jay Legion Post is named in his honor.

Marshal Paul Fields was born March 16, 1900, and died on May 6, 1966. He married Lucinda Bushyhead with whom he had one daughter, Helen Gail Fields Wink. Paul and Lucinda attended schools in Delaware County and Northeastern State where they earned their master's degrees. Paul taught school in Delaware County for 45 years; Lucinda taught 35 or 40 years.

They were much loved by all with whom they came in contact. Paul and Lucinda also cared for his mother and father in the years they were past doing for themselves.

Life on the farm when we were children was not a bed of roses. However, we had a very happy childhood. We were taught to do so many chores on the farm. Our cellar was always full of canned fruits and vegetables—kraut, piccalilli, chow chow, pickles, pickled beans, etc. We dried apples, peaches and beans. Our smokehouse was full of cured meats. To keep our sausage we fried it and packed it in jars and poured hot lard over it to keep it fresh.

Mother was a genius when it came to doing things. She was the oldest of 13 children. She had a spinning wheel—made cloth and yarn, knitted sweaters and socks, crocheted many doilies, tablecloths, etc.

My! How beautiful she could sew. She did sewing for the family and could make beautiful handmade button holes. She made our soap to

launder with, and also made hominy. Having an ash hopper which we would put our wood ashes in, water was poured in to make lye. The soap was so white. After our chores and work was over, in the evenings we would gather out on the porch. She would sit on the porch, leaning against the porch post and sing religious songs and also old-time songs. She loved to sing and also hear good singing.

She was always ready to go when the friends and neighbors called when they had sickness. As children we had many pleasures. We attended church singings in the homes, parties, went to church meetings at Butler and Scrapper churches, and heard beautiful singing among the Cherokee Indians.

My Dad was so dear to us, always kind and thoughtful. He would haul wheat, after it had been thrashed, to Seneca, Missouri, and to Southwest City, to be made into flour. He always had a good word for his friends and relatives—never judging.



Wedding picture of Robert Felix Nix and Sophronia E. (Fields) Nix, taken on December 24, 1902.