

The Family Of Thomas, Jr. and Nancy Catherine Fincher Belue

Thomas Belue , Jr. was born in Union County, South Carolina on July 26, 1829. His parents were Thomas Belue , Sr. who was born December 15, 1788 and died January 26, 1873 and Rebecca Belue, born February 16, 1799 and died May 28, 1873.

In January of 1857, Thomas Belue , Jr. married Nancy Catherine Fincher. The Belue and Fincher families had neighboring plantations in the area of Union County now known as Bonham community. Nancy Catherine was born December 15, 1838 in Union County. She was the daughter of Jesse Paker Fincher and Mary Elizabeth Robinson. This marriage united two of Union County's old and well known families.

Jesse Parker Fincher was born August 6, 1816 and died in 1898. His wife, Mary Robinson Fincher was born February 4, 1815. An old newspaper account written by Allan Nicholson in 1928, states that Mary Fincher lived to be nearly 103 years old, but according to the dates on her tombstone at Upper Fairforest Church Cemetery, she lived to good old age of 92 1/2 years. Jesse Parker and Mary Robinson Fincher are buried at Upper Fairforest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Thomas Jr. and Nancy Catherine Fincher Belue had eleven children. Nine lived to adulthood. Their children were Robert Jones, Fincher, Laura Louisa, Mary Thomas Rebecca Manassa, Etna Elnora, Eveston, Briant Barner Barthwell Barnum, Clamantha , Barzeller, Rosie Della, and Ruth Isabell Magdeline.

Robert Jones Belue was born on December 4, 1857. He married Sallie , died June 3, 1878.

Fincher Belue was born on May 12, 1859, married Ida Scott, died in 1911.

Laura Louisa Belue was born March 12, 1861. On October 1, 1876 she married Robert Newton Sprouse who was born September 1, 1853 in Cobb County Georgia. Their ten children were: Frances Florence Sprouse, Robert Monroe Sprouse, Leatha Anna Sprouse, Gilbert Thomas Sprouse, Timey Jefferson Sprouse, Jamie McBeth Sprouse, Wallter Leon Sprouse, Ruth Neon Sprouse, Bennie Belue Sprouse and Blanch Emmons Sprouse. Laura Louise Belue Sprouse died November 4, 1944. Her husband, Robert Newton Sprouse died May 20, 1938. They are buried at New Hope Methodist Church Cemetery in Union County.

Mary Thomas Rebecca Manassa (named for Manassa, Virginia) , was born April 21, 1863. She married Frank Israel who was born November 12, 1859 and died August 12, 1910. They had ten children. Manassa Belue Israel died August 23, 1933. Her husband, Frank, died August 12, 1910. They are buried at Upper Fairforest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Etna Elnora Belue was born May 28, 1866, married Samuel Scott , died in 1887.

Eveston Belue , born April 16, 1868, died April 16, 1868.

Briant Barner Barnwell Belue, born March 12, 1869, married three times , died April 13, 1949.

Clamanth Belue was born March 1, 1871 married Joe Thomas Sprouse, died June 21, 1936.

Barzeller Belue, born April 20, 1873, died June 11, 1873.

Rosie Della Belue was born July 30, 1874, married Miles S. Gallman, died April 6, 1962.

Ruth Isabell Magdeline Belue was born October 28, 1876, married Omega Belue.

Thomas Belue, Jr. owned a plantation just north of the community now known as Bonham. The Sonoco Plant now occupies part of the plantation land .

When the railroad from Union to Spartanburg was being built, Thomas had a contract to build the section of road passing near his land . The dirt was excavated with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows, most of the labor being performed by slaves who were hired out by their owners.

Thomas Belue fought in the Civil War. For many years the family kept a memento of his service in the conflict. A bullet that had entered his body during a battle remained for a long time and finally worked its way out.

Thomas died on June 14, 1878 at the age of 49 years. He is buried in Giles Baptist Church Cemetery.

Nancy Catherine survived him fifty-one years. In 1928, on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday celebration, she related to friends and family some of the experiences of her long life. She said that she had begun school at the age of six years in a log house in the

area in which she lived. She joined the Baptist church at age sixteen under the preaching of the Reverend John Ezell and was baptized in a stream near where the church now stands (Upper Fairforst). She said she never voted and never wanted to do so. To her, women's right meant the right to make a home for her family. During the war when her husband was away, she cared for four children, plowed, planted, hoed and gathered the crops. There was no one else to do it. The only task she did not remember doing was cutting and thrashing the grain.

Nancy Catherine Fincher Belue died on July 31, 1929, at 91 year of age. She left 208 descendants. She had born eleven children and seventy-three grandchildren, one hundred and twelve great-grandchildren and twelve great-great-grandchildren.

She was buried beside Thomas in Gilead Church Cemetery, Union County.

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