THE HENSON FAMILY

Taken from Goodspeed's Records

WESLEY HENSON was born in Union County, North Carolina, September 3, 1843, and is the son of Jeremiah J. and Elizabeth Henson. The father lived in a native state of North Carolina until 1853. From that time until 1959 living in Saline County, Arkansas. He finally located on a farm at the foot of the mountains, in Vine Prairie Township, Crawford County, and there farmed until his death in 1877, age sixty two years, with the exception of some time spent during the war in Texas. He was of Irish and Spanish descent, and for twelve years was an ordained minister in the Methodist Church. His father was also named Jeremiah J Henson.

Wesley was the oldest of three children and when but a boy lost his mother. He came to Crawford County when nine, and at the age of eighteen joined the Second Arkansas Battalion. He operated in Virginia with Lee's army and participated in the Seven Day Fight, the Seven Pines, Fredericksburg, Antietam, and at Gettysburg was captured. He was taken to Columbus, Ohio, and after taking the oath of allegiance went to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and worked for sometime in a machine shop. In September 1863, he joined Company D Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, being mustered in at Harrisburg. After Lincoln's proclamation ordering all who fought in the Confederate Army to the Northwest, he went first to Minnesota and then to Ft. Wadsworth in Dakota, remaining until September 1865. He then went to Pennsylvania and was discharged the following year, since which time he has lived in Crawford County. In December of 1866 he married Johanna, daughter of George and Hester Ann Ragsdale who came here with her parents in an early day.

JEREMIAH J. HENSON, farmer and stock raiser, was born in North Carolina in 1849 and is a son of Jeremiah J and Elizabeth Henson. He was their youngest child and when young attended the neighboring subscription school but his studies were interrupted by the Civil War. The last two years he spent in Texas with his father. In 1870 he married Mary Wallace, the daughter of Jesse W. and Elizabeth Wallace. They are the parents of eleven children, of whom four sons and three daughters are living. His home farm contains 160 acres which is well improved with good buildings and a nice house. He also owns 200 acres of good bottom land, sixty-five of which are improved and all of which is the result of his industry and management. He began life owning but a horse, saddle, and bridle and has always engaged in agricultural pursuits. During the War he was a Union man but not an abolitionist, and in politics he is a Democrat, his first presidential vote having been cast for Greeley. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, and he belongs to Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge No. 233.

JOHN HENSON, farmer of Vine Prairie Township was born in Saline County, Arkansas, in 1853 and is a son of the Rev. Jeremiah J. and Margaret Hopper Henson, natives of North Carolina, where they were reared and married. In 1853 they came to Arkansas, living first in Saline and Garland Counties and in 1859 they came to Crawford County, their deaths occurring here in January 1877 and 1882, respectively. He was married twice, his last wife being the mother of our subject. Both belonged to the Methodist Church in which for many years Mr. Henson was engaged as a local preacher. He was captain of a company of militia at the commencement of the war. He was of Irish-Spanish and Scotch descent. John Henson was the eldest of four children and his education was received in the common schools of Crawford County and at Cane Hill College which he attended five months; he afterwards taught several months. In 1875 he married Eliza J Wigley, daughter of Richard Wigley, who came here from Georgia soon after the war. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living. Mr Henson began life a poor man, but is now comfortably fixed, and is one of the enterprising and worthy citizens of the township. He is a Democrat, cast his first presidential vote for Tilden in 1876 and for two years was a township constable. Himself and wife are Methodist, and he is a member of the Producers' Trade Union. He has some Cherokee Indian blood.

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