

## THE HOOKS FAMILY

The Hooks family were natives of North Carolina who migrated westward around 1809-10. One son that came to settle in Lauderdale County, Mississippi was ERVIN P. HOOKS.

Ervin Hooks was born in Georgia in 1813 and traveled on to Sumter County, Alabama with his parents when he was young. The family settled in Sumter County and it was there that Ervin grew into manhood and married. He married a girl named Eliza, who had been born in Georgia in 1810. It is believed that they were married in Sumter County.

Ervin and Eliza Hooks had two children born in Sumter County before they came to Lauderdale County in 1839 where Ervin's name was listed on the poll tax roll for that year. They settled in the northwestern corner of the county near Hickory Grove Church where Ervin bought a farm. The young couple didn't have much money, but they were willing to face the pioneer life and make a home for themselves in the wilderness.

The Hooks had four more children born on the frontier of the new county, all of whom grew up on their farm. They were Baptists and attended Hickory Grove Church where several members of the Hooks family were buried. With time and hard work, their fortunes increased and they became steadfast, sturdy members of the community life of Lauderdale County.

Children:

### I. WILLIAM MADISON HOOKS, SR.

Born: Sept. 30, 1836, Sumter Co, Ala      Died: Oct. 20, 1880, bur. Hickory Grove.  
Married: Elizabeth Pamela Weatherford (1841-1924), about 1859. She was a dau. of Richard and Lucinda (Furlough) Weatherford of Hickory Grove. (qv) (LOCKHART)

Born in Alabama, William came to Mississippi when he was three years old. He grew up in the new land that had not been long vacated by the Indians and early learned the harsh life of a frontiersman. He worked the fields that his father had cleared but he found time to hunt and fish to supplement the family's food. The center of community life was the church, and there he met and courted the preacher's daughter, Miss Pamela Weatherford. When he was about 23 years old, they were married.

William and Pamela remained in Lauderdale County where they started a farm of their own. They had nine children, all born in Lauderdale County.

William Hooks joined the Confederate Army when the Civil War came. He left Pamela with their two babies to fight for the South. He returned when the war ended to try to put their lives back in order. They were able to buy a small farm east of the store at Bailey, in Lauderdale County.

In the fall of 1880, when he was 44 years old, William Hooks came down with the dreaded Typhoid Fever. He was desperately ill for weeks while Pamela cared for him day and night. He wasn't able to eat anything for days and he lost a lot of weight, but he stubbornly held on and refused to die. Slowly he started to get better until one day the doctor came by and told Pamela that he could begin to eat solid food again.

When the doctor left, Pamela asked William what he would like for supper. William said that he felt so much stronger and was very hungry. He had been thinking how good some 'possum and baked sweet taters would taste. Overjoyed at his improvement, Pamela sent the older boys out to get a possum which she cooked just like William liked it. Boy, it was good! It was the first solid food that William had eaten in some time and he made a pig out of himself. He



7. HENRY EDWARD "ED" HOOKS 1874-1962, m. Ida Pearl Vincent (1878-1961)<sup>in 1912</sup>. She was a dau. of Felix and Amanda (Jones) Vincent of Pine Springs.

(C.S.A.)  
FELIX  
AND AMANDA  
VINCENT  
PINE SPRINGS

Ed Hooks was a tall man, over six feet tall, which was a bit unusual back then as folks didn't generally get as tall as they do now. In his youth, Ed weighed close to 200 pounds, had black curly hair, a fair skin and bright blue eyes. He had a Christian upbringing and it was said that he was 'honest as the day is long'. He would give you the shirt off his back.

Six years old when his father died, Ed grew up fast and early on in life could do most the work of a grown man. All the Hooks children had to move out 'before breakfast' to help their widowed mother make their living on the farm. Ed didn't mind hard labor; he had worked hard all his life and he thought that that was the way it was supposed to be. The mother had taught the children to "do whatever is right". He enjoyed getting out into the woods but he didn't particularly enjoy church services and he didn't go to preachin' very much. He apparently felt that a fellow could be a good man without all that bother of formal religion.

Ed was busy working on the farm and helping earn a living for the family when one day he must have realized that he was in his middle thirties and it was high time that he found a wife. He started taking more note of the ladies and made an effort to get out to church and other social functions more. It was at a church picnic around 1910 that he met Miss Ida ~~Hooks~~ <sup>VINCENT.</sup>

Miss Ida was four years younger than Ed. She was still youthful but mature enough to leave behind the silliness of girlhood, and Ed felt comfortable with Miss Ida and before long they had reached an understanding. They began to plan their marriage, but illness intervened.

TURNER  
HOSP. LATER  
ANDERSON INFIRMARY

In 1911 there had been only one appendectomy performed in Lauderdale County and it had been unsuccessful; the patient had died. When Ida ~~Hooks~~ <sup>VINCENT</sup> showed up at Turner's hospital in Meridian, with appendicitis, Dr. Turner wasn't eager to lose another patient on the operating table. He gave her some pain medication and sent her home in hope that the condition would cure itself. It didn't. Ida's appendix ruptured. <sup>IN PINE SPRINGS -</sup>

Miss Ida was so ill that she couldn't be taken back to the hospital. Dr. <sup>DEASON</sup> "Dee" Pace was called. He came but he had never performed the surgery at all so he sent for Dr. Turner. Dr. Turner came and they consulted with the out-<sup>BEING</sup> come that they would operate on her at home on the Vincent's kitchen table.

Through all this excitement, Ed Hooks practically moved in at the Vincents. He couldn't go away, not with his Ida facing death. He already felt that she was his and he must care for her however he could. He couldn't leave.

Ed helped get Ida to the table and then he was sent from the room. Not being able to hold her hand, he stood at the kitchen window and watched as Dr. Pace put the patient to sleep with drip ether and Dr. Turner started to operate. Ed watched the whole procedure; wild horses couldn't have dragged him away.

Ida made it through the surgery and her long recovery began. Mr. Vincent hired a special nurse to care for her night and day. Ed was able to return to his fields, but he visited her every day.

In February of 1911, Ed had bought the 80 acres next to the Vincent's Pine Springs farm [ $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 3, T-7, R-15E, Deed Bk. 107, pg. 567] and began to farm and improve his new land. He left untouched a patch of ground that was near the Vincent home for a site to build his home. He had come to think of Ida's dad as the father that he had never known and consulted with Mr. Vincent when it was time to plan anything. The Vincents said that Ed Hooks was better to them than their own sons were and were glad to have him in the family.

Ed was born in 1874. He was last seen smiling and laughing to be

After long months of a slow recovery, Miss Ida Vincent was strong enough to get married. Ed Hooks and Ida Vincent were married on the front porch of the brides home in December of 1912.

The new couple stayed with the Vincents until they could build their house on their land. Ed's brothers came to help him on the project and they cleared away the big trees, some three to four feet across, to prepare the site. They built a house with four big rooms, one on one side and three on the other side of a wide, enclosed hall. The front porch was on the front of one of the front rooms and hallway and a spacious U-shaped porch in the rear. Ed had a well dug at the end of the back porch next to the kitchen door. The house was painted the usual white of that era and the roof was of hand-riven pine shingles.

Ed hired Wash Jones, Ida's uncle, to build Ida a picket fence around her front yard. Wash had been in the Civil War and although he couldn't take being in a group of people any more, he would do pretty good if he was left alone. Ed let him take his time on the fence and go at his own pace. Wash built a beautiful fence of one inch square pickets sawn from heart pine so it wouldn't rot. Each picket was the exact size and spaced the exact distance apart. Wash had a wide board running lengthwise around the bottom of the fence and a narrow rail at the top. He made a gate at the end of the front walkway and another at the side that led to the back yard. When he finished it was a solidly built sturdy fence of beautiful workmanship and symmetry that lasted for years and years. It may have been one of the last things that Wash Jones ever built before he had to go to the Veteran's home at Vicksburg to die.

The Ed and Ida Hooks family became a part of the life of Pine Springs community. Ed still hardly ever went to church, but he did join the Masonic Lodge at Shucktown (Longstreet) and became a Mason. Their first baby came in 1913, but did not live. They had three more children, Edna, Lester and Louie born in Pine Springs that grew up there. Whenever anyone about the neighborhood needed help they always knew that they could count on Ed Hooks. He didn't visit much socially, but he always came when needed. Ed was friendly to all but he had no close friends.

Ralph Snowden, son of Curtis Snowden that lived just up the road from the Hooks, was just the right age to play with Ed's sons when they were boys. One day Ralph cut through the edge of the woods on his way to play at the Hooks' house. The woods bordered the field where Ed Hooks had his mule hitched up to a distributor and was putting out fertilizer. Mr. Hooks was busy and didn't see Ralph and as he neared, Ralph could hear Mr. Hooks talking to his mule. Ralph stopped to listen.

Mr. Hooks had placed bags of fertilizer at intervals along the ends of the rows so he could refill the distributor whenever the fertilizer was used up. He had come to the end of the row with his load about half gone and he was going to refill the hopper before he started the next row. The sack of fertilizer was at the end of a row, just far enough from Mr. Hooks hand so that he could not reach it without turning the handles of the distributor loose.

He told his mule, "Now, you see here, I'm going to have to turn these handles loose. and you can move on a little and turn this whole thing over. But I'm telling you now, if you spill this fertilizer, I'm gonna come up there and knock the hell outta you!"

Ed turned the handles loose and took the two steps necessary to pick up the bag of fertilizer. Sure enough, the mule spied a piece of grass and took

a step forward so he could reach it with his tongue. The distributor fell and the fertilizer spilled out onto the ground.

Ed had picked up the new bag of fertilizer and he stepped back over to and righted the machine. He emptied the bag into the hopper, all except about two pounds. Knotting the top of the sack, he walked up to the head of the mile.

"Now, I told you what I was gonna do if you made that thing turn over," he said and swung the almost empty sack in an arc.

The knot of fertilizer in the bag hit the mule right upside the face and the mule dropped to the ground as if he had been shot. Mr. Ed just stood there and looked at his dead mule a minute while Ralph watched from the trees with his heart in his mouth. Mr. Ed slowly walked around the mule, just looking at him and sorta scratching his head. When he got back up to the mule's head the animal just sort of raised his head and looked at Mr. Ed as if to say, "Ha, Ha! Fooled you, didn't I?"

Ralph eased back into the bushes and ran on off to find Louie to play. He left with Mr. Hooks helping the mule get back up onto his feet and into his traces.

Another day that Ralph Snowden recalls was a day that he went to the Hooks on some errand. When he arrived at the front gate he could hear some kind of wild commotion going on behind the Hooks' house. He went on back to see what was going on. Miss Ida was in a frenzy, running about, looking under the house, calling for Lester. Lester had disappeared and they couldn't find him anywhere. They all started looking and looked in the barn, the crib, chickenhouse, everywhere, but Lester was not to be seen. Someone went in and called the neighbors on the old crank telephone and soon folks started showing up from all directions. By this time Miss Ida was convinced that Lester had fallen into the well. It was a deep well and the curbing was high enough to reach the back porch so it was so dark down in there that they couldn't see anything, so someone said maybe they could lower a lantern on a rope to see if they could spot him. Poor Miss Ida was beside herself.

A crowd had gathered when someone called out, "Here he is! I found him!"

It had been a sunny day and Miss Ida had put her featherbeds in the sunshine on the front porch to air out. Les had come by and had laid down in the warm sun. There had been a fresh breeze blowing and getting cold, he had snuggled up under the mattress and gone to sleep.

Mr. Ed thanked all the neighbors for coming to help and they all went home to milk their cows and do their other evening chores. That was the way it was back then. Neighbor helped neighbor, whether it be cutting logs, burning a field, making molasses or finding a lost child. Usually Ed Hooks would be one of the first ones there to help out.

As he became old, Ed Hooks developed chronic kidney trouble. A short while before he died Rev. Roy Wolfe, a native of Pine Springs who had moved away and had become a Methodist preacher, was called back to the community to conduct revival services at the church one year. He came to visit Ed Hooks and Ed finally conceded that good works were not enough, one should be baptised in order to get into heaven. Ida had died the year before and he surely wanted to go to heaven to be with his Ida. Rev. Wolfe sprinkled Mr. Ed as he sat on the side of his bed, and he was accepted into the Methodist Church. Now at last he was ready: he could go to heaven.

Mr. Ed Hooks died in 1962 and was buried at Pine Springs Methodist Church. Children:

A. BABY HOOKS 1913-1913, Infant daughter.

(Con't, next pg.)

- B. EDNA PEARL HOOKS 1915, m. Robert Lamar McDonald(1905-198\_) of Clarke Co,Ms.  
Children:
  - a. Rev. Robert Paul McDonald 1857- Methodist minister.
- C. CHARLES LESTER HOOKS ~~1818~~<sup>1910</sup>, Unmarried. Was in US Army, served in World War II.
- D. Louie Vincent Hooks 1919-1992, Unmarried.
- 8. IDA PEARL HOOKS 1878-1906, Did not marry.
- 9. WILLIAM MADISON HOOKS, JR. 1881-1963, m. Jewel Rebecca Kynerd (1887-1933): dau. of Jacob Burton and Martha R. (Hobgood) Kynerd of Marion, Lauderdale County.  
Moved to Pittsburg, Texas.  
Children:
  - A. Bettie Sue Hooks 1904- , m. Luther Jones (1983-1973).

II. PERMELIA ADELINE HOOKS

Born: 1838, Alabama Died:  
 Married: Stephen C. White, 1854, Lauderdale County, Miss. He was born in Alabama.  
 Lived near Marion, Ms.  
 Children:
 

1. EVAN B. WHITE 1857- , m. Burwell
2. CHRISTOPHER ARCHIBALD WHITE 1859 Moved to Oklahoma
3. JAMES B. WHITE 1862-
4. GEORGE WHITE 1865-
5. ELIZABETH "LIZZIE" WHITE 1870-
6. JENNIE WHITE 1872-
7. SARAH WHITE 1869-
8. STEPHEN BERRY WHITE 1875- Bur. old Marion Cemetery.

III ARCHIBALD T. HOOKS

Born: 1840, Lauderdale Co, Miss. Died:  
 Married: (?)  
 Nothing is known of this son. Probably fought in Civil War.

IV. RICHARD J. HOOKS

Born: 1842, Lauderdale County, Miss. Died: Aug, 1862  
 Married: NO

*Nothing is known of this son, probably fought in Civil War. \$800 and was appointed Adm. of the Small Estate.*

V. GEORGE CALEB HOOKS

Born: 1846, Lauderdale Co, Miss. Died: June 30, 1908, bur. Hickory Grove  
 Married: Maria A. Brown, May 9, 1867, Lauderdale County *she was youngest dau. of Samuel Arthur and MARIAN (WICK) BROWN*  
 Enlisted in Co. I, 13 Miss. Reg., Confederate Army in spring of 1861, was paroled at Vicksburg at end of Civil War. Lived near Hickory Grove in Lauderdale Co, had 3 sons and 5 daughters.  
 Children: (Names of most are unknown.)

1. William T. Hooks 1869=
2. Arthur Samuel Hooks 1871-1899 Died when 28 yrs. old, bur. Hickory Grove Cem.
3. AMELIA 1874
4. ANNA 1877
5. MARY 1879
6. [unclear] 1881
7. [unclear] 1883
8. Lewis C. Hooks 1885-1935 - m. FREENA M. [unclear] Both Bur Hickory Grove

1853

378/388

		40	
<u>EVAN HOOKS</u>	37	1813	GA
<u>ELIZA</u>	40	1810	GA
<u>WILLIAM</u>	14	1836	al
<u>PERMELIA A.</u>	12	1838	mi
<u>ARCHIBALD</u>	10	1840	mi
<u>RICHARD A.</u>	8	1842	mi
<u>CALEB</u>	5	1845	mi
<u>ALEXANDER</u>	4/12	1850	mi

Could be:

~~James 1781 NC~~  
~~Elizabeth 1784 NC~~  
 1. William R - 1801 NC  
 2. Evan 1813 GA

434/445

<u>ALFRED HOOKS</u>	25	1825	al
<u>SYNTHA J.A.S.</u>	21		al
<u>ELIZABETH S</u>	2	1848	mi

549/563

<u>JAMES HOOKS</u>	67	1783	NC
<u>ELIZABETH</u>	66	1784	NC
<u>MARTHA</u>	16	1834	AL
<u>THOMAS</u>	11	1839	AL
<u>GEORGE W.</u>	9	1841	AI

← ERVEN'S pa?

MISS Martha Hooks (m) Wm. Chambers JAN 6, 1858, L. Co.

James grand-Child

1825  
1784  
41