

K E S T N E R

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C O S T N E R

C H O S T N E R

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And the Related Families
of
Estes, Hopkins, James, and Nanney

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By

The late James Earl Chostner
and
Doris Brennecke Davault

September 1991

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FOREWORD

Publication of this book is an achievement made possible by research by the late James Earl Chostner many, many years ago, and also by the contributions of descendants of the Costner/Chostner, Estes, Hopkins, James, and Nanney families.

Mr. Chostner had been collecting family information for many years but was actively working on and writing the family history at the time of his death. He had just been back to Missouri and had talked with me about the book. We had, however, done much corresponding several months before his coming back to Missouri as I was helping him acquire some of the historical information and family genealogy that he needed. He had sent some of his "rough-draft" material back here to another cousin - Juanita Chostner Abbott - to proofread and edit and she, in turn, sent it on to me to type in good form. I mailed the pages back to Mr. Chostner as I completed them. With his permission, I kept a copy of my typed material - the basis for which I was able to complete the history.

Now, 18 years after Mr. Chostner's death, I decided to carry on his project and it has taken many, many hours and days writing letters and calling people to get the needed family genealogy.

By continuing Mr. Chostner's project, I hope to preserve the rich history of the Kestner-Kastner-Costner-Chostner family and the related families of Estes, Hopkins, James, and Nanney. They were all from Bollinger County, Missouri.

Doris Brennecke Davault

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THE FAMILY OF NEWTON NANNEY AND ELLEN BROWN NANNEY

Parents of Elizabeth Nanney, 2nd wife of James M. Chostner, Sr.

Newton and Ellen Nanney, affectionally known as Grandpa and Grandma Nanney by all who knew them, were married at an early age and settled on a farm on Hog Creek. They lived and passed away on this farm where they started housekeeping. Newton N. was born April 10, 1841, and died Oct. 27, 1925; Ellen J. was born Feb. 10, 1851, and passed away May 21, 1913. They had a family of eleven children - seven girls and four boys.

Grandpa Nanney came from Hardin County, Kentucky, immediately after the Civil War. Nothing is known of his ancestors or early life in Kentucky. According to his own story, when the war was over some of his neighbors came to him and said, "Newton, you were on the wrong side during the war. It will be healthier for you if you go elsewhere." He followed their advice and as far as is known never returned.

They were honest, God-fearing, and loved by all who knew them. Grandpa was in the forefront of all local civic activities and church work. He was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church but was active in all churches of the community. He led in all Sunday School and church work and was always in the "Amen" corner. He was active in revival meetings or camp meetings as they were known in those days. He always assisted the pastor in his work. He will be remembered as being the person, who, on the last day of a meeting, got up on the platform and holding up a silver dollar would say, "Who will give another dollar - who will give another dollar to pay the ministers who conducted the meetings?" Finally it would be a half dollar, then a quarter. Then a collection would be taken. A meeting would last a week or ten days and usually closed on Sunday with a big community dinner and baptizing of the converts. Incidentally, the baptisms took place in the old swimming hole of Hog Creek.

When sickness or death came in a family, Grandpa was always there. Coffins had to be made, graves dug, and funeral rites conducted. With these sad things taken care of, and the time came to prepare land and plant crops, he was the leader of the men of the community who would donate a day or the necessary time to get farm work and crops going for the widow of the deceased.

The children of Newton and Ellen were: Genora, born Feb. 13, 1871, married Daniel Killian. Daniel was born June 10, 1867, and died March 13, 1925. Genora passed away Oct. 27, 1933. They made their early home in the hills of Bollinger County and raised a large family. They moved to Dunklin County later in life and apparently passed away in that district.

Not much is known of John Nanney. He married and raised a family. A portion of his life was spent farming and a portion in the general merchandise business in his home district.

Monroe was born Dec. 24, 1875, and passed away Jan. 17, 1966. He was 93 years of age. Early in life he married a local girl named Minnie. She was born Jan. 1, 1877, and passed away Aug. 21, 1933. They bought a farm adjoining his fathers where they raised a family and spent their entire married life.

Laura married Nick Robbins. Nick taught school in Bollinger County and later went into the mercantile business at Laflin. After many years they disposed of the business and moved into the southern part of the state. They had a family - all girls.

Elizabeth Nanney married J. M. Chostner, Jr., in 1902. They had a family of seven children - four girls and three boys. He taught in the winter and farmed in the summer. After years of teaching and farming, they moved to Scott County where they farmed for a number of years - later returning to Cape Girardeau and lived until their deaths.

William Nanney got his education in Missouri schools and taught there for a number of years. Not much is known of his family. He was married twice and has a small family. During the Roosevelt administration he was postmaster at Marble Hill. Shortly after retirement he passed away.

Ellen Nanney married Pinckney B. Chostner. He owned the old Chostner home. They made their home there and raised a family of four boys and two girls. He divided his time between farming and school teaching. They later moved to Scott County where he was killed in an automobile accident.

Lee Nanney taught school for a few years. He was married and raised a family. He retired from teaching and entered the postal service in Cape Girardeau. He was in that service until he retired and passed away there.

Ida Nanney married Andy Ray Pierce. They both taught school and were always active in school circles around Clarkton. They had a family and taught until she passed away. Andy Ray remarried after her death.

Zada Nanney, born Nov. 20, 1889, attended Bollinger County schools and Will Mayfield College. After graduation she taught for sometime and then married Early Upchurch. They had a child - maybe two. She suddenly took sick and passed away before medical attention could be secured. The date was Feb. 13, 1916. Early remarried.

Viola Nanney, the youngest, born March 1, 1894, taught school a few years and then married Jess Brasher of Benton. As far as is known, they did not have children.

Along the line of "lighter moments" a young man from Hardin County, Kentucky, showed up at Grandpa Nanney's home for a visit. By this time, a half dozen young daughters had arrived to grace Grandpa's residence. Some were of marriageable age. This was

just after the Spanish American War and the soldiers were returning. They brought back with them a disease known as "Cuban Itch." It was quite prevalent. One of the cures was to boil sassafras bark and bathe with the "tea" as hot as it could be endured. This young man had an injury or polio disability to one leg and walked with a limp. While visiting he acquired the itch. The antidote to the sassafras tea was unsalted pork grease. This was applied immediately after the bath; otherwise, the tea acted much the same as an acid applied to the irritated skin. The pain was almost unbearable. To make a long story short, the young man (name forgotten) boiled the water with sassafras bark, and took the ever-present old style washtub to the upstairs bedroom. He forgot to take the unsalted lard with him. After the bath he discovered his mistake and the pain was getting worse by the second. He yelled for the lard, but no one being near, it was not forthcoming. He could stand it no longer so he took himself, with his hop and in his "birthday suit," and headed down the stairs, across the open porch and into the kitchen where the evening meal was being prepared by a half-dozen young maidens! He got the lard!!!



CHOSTNER SCHOOL -Year not known
Teacher - James Monroe Chostner, Jr.
(front row right)



Elizabeth (Nanney) Chostner
and James Monroe Chostner, Jr.

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 Kentucky, USA
 Death: Oct. 27, 1925
 Bollinger County
 Missouri, USA

Married Ellen 'Josephine' Brown.
Farmer.

Per MO Death certificate #29278, burial 28/Oct/1925.
NOTE: Birth registration of son gives birth place as Lawton Co., IL (could not find on map)

Family links:

Spouse:

Ellen Josephine Brown Nanney (1851 - 1913)*

Children:

Genora Etta Nanney Killian (1871 - 1933)*

John Logan Nanney (1875 - 1946)*

James Monroe Nanney (1875 - 1966)*

Nancy Elizabeth Nanney Chostner (1877 - 1960)

*

Lou Ellen Nanney Chostner (1881 - 1932)*

William Henderson Nanney (1884 - 1957)*

Lee Nanney (1886 - 1954)*

Sada Nanney Upchurch (1889 - 1916)*

Ida Mae Nanney Pierce (1890 - 1942)*

*[Calculated relationship](#)

Burial:

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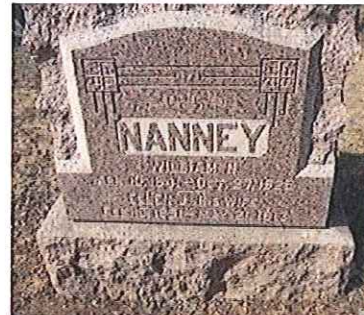
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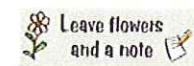
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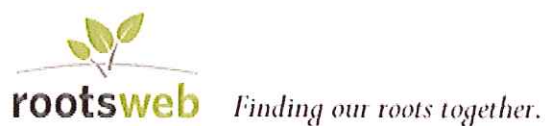


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ID: I40988

Name: WILLIAM NEWTON NANNEY

Sex: M

Birth: ABT 1841 in KENTUCKY

Reference Number: 40446

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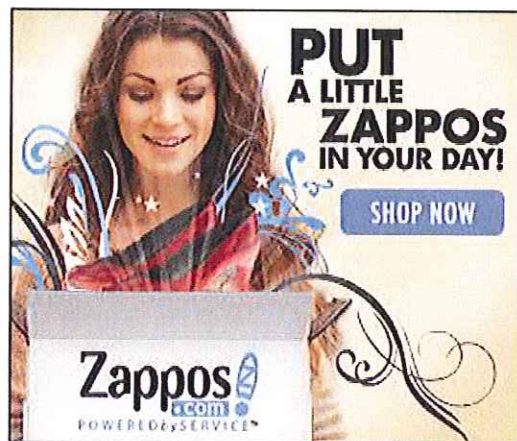
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Note: SOURCES: DJNA



Ancestry Hints for WILLIAM NEWTON NANNEY

[2 possible matches found on Ancestry.com](#)Father: [JAMES WASHINGTON NANNEY](#) b: 1820 in HARDIN CO., TNMother: [NANCY BRINKLEY](#) b: NOT RECORDEDMarriage 1 [ELLEN BROWN](#) b: NOT RECORDED

• Married: in

Children

1. [GENORA NANNEY](#) b: ABT 1870
2. [JOHN L. NANNEY](#) b: ABT 1872
3. [JAMES MONROE NANNEY](#) b: ABT 1875
4. [NANCY E. NANNEY](#) b: ABT 1877
5. [LAURA A. NANNEY](#) b: ABT 1880