

JOHN CASSLIN "CASS" HAGGARD'S BIOGRAPHY

The Haggard/Hoggard Link

Vol. 1, No. 3, March, 1983

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(This history was written by Mary (Haggard) Kent,
and her daughter Barb Kent)

According to all the statistics that I have read, on the 9th of October in 1868 in Putnam County, TN, a son was born to John Nelson and Mary Elizabeth (Crowell) Haggard, the second child of a family of five boys and four girls born to them. They named the boy John Caslyn or Casslin. He was my father.

He grew to manhood, and in May, 1893 he married Sandra Tennessee Martin, a daughter of Annie Frances (Crowell) Martin? Ford. Five children were born to them. I was the first. I was born 6 September 1894. Then came my brother, Simon Casslin, who was a toddler wandered down to the railroad and was killed by a train. My sister, Myrtle, was born 29 April 1902. Nellie, born 20 January 1904 and died 17 December 1911 of pneumonia. Bessie, the youngest, was born on 15 April 1909 and died about one year later. She also had pneumonia.

For the most part of my young life, as I remember, my dad made a living doing farm work and helping Uncle Simon Maddux in his blacksmith shop until about 1900, when we moved to Sparta, TN, and he and a friend ran a saloon for a short while. About 1904 we moved to Fancher's Mill where he ran a distillery for a short time. Then, we moved back to Sparta and he made whiskey for the J. G. Hodges Distillery until prohibition forced them to close. He then worked at a saw mill for a while, finally turning to carpentry which he did the rest of his life. My dad was a kind and loving man and generous to those less fortunate than himself. My parents were strict in my upbringing for which I shall always be thankful.

At age five, I started to school at the Jett Schoolhouse. It was a country one-room school between Sparta and Doyle. We had one teacher. My Uncle Daniel (Carr) went to school with me to finish his grade school education and we shared that same teacher, Maggie Broyles.

I knew and loved all my dad's brothers and sisters except one. I never saw my Aunt Mary Massey, and I regret that very much.

In those days visiting was limited. We did not have the convenience in traveling that we have today and it took 12 to 14 hours to go from White County to Putnam County by wagon or buggy.

I saw Aunt Fanny Leftwich and her family more than any of the others. Aunt Parthona was good and sweet and I loved her very much. She and her daughter, Mattie, visited me in Akron one time. Uncle Maffett would visit us frequently, bringing some delicious Elberta peaches that he picked from his own trees. I remember my Uncle Jim (James

David) having a big black horse and he would take me up in front of him and take me for a ride. I loved my Uncle Jim, and I also loved his horse. Uncle Elijah would visit us for a week or more every year and I always looked forward to his visits. He, being the youngest was lots of fun, for he would play games with me or go fishing with me.

My mother died 20 February 1913 from tuberculosis. In 1914, my father married Flora Dodson, a divorced woman with one little girl, Clara Lee. Although I understand their marriage was sometimes stormy, they lived together until his death in 1927 from dropsy. They lived at Pleasant Hill in Cumberland Co., TN at the time.

As I said earlier, I loved all of my dad's people, and I was thrilled last summer when I had the opportunity to meet and learn to know and love so many more relatives joined by the Hoggard/Haggard link.

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