



I do not know what happened to Jasper Cannon, but Crock McKenzie married my grandmother's eldest sister. He was a giant of a man, 6'6" tall and very muscular.

He, like his brother-in-law Obidiah Shell, had trouble with the sheriff on a few occasions. One night while hiding out from the strong arm of the law, he was sleeping on his back with nothing but the sky for a roof. He began to feel a dead weight on his chest and looked through the slits of his eyelids to see a huge timber rattlesnake crawling there.

Now Crock knew the virtue of keeping calm. At that hour a rattler was carrying the heaviest load of venom. If the huge snake bit him it meant death for there was no way for him to get to a doctor. He simply remained still until the snake crawled off of him then he jumped to his feet and killed it.

Note: FRANCIS MARION MCKENZIE, variously called "Frank", "Mack", "Crockett" and "Crock", was born at Riceville, McMinn Co., Tenn. 17 Dec. 1851, fifth child of Francis Marion McKenzie, born N.C. c.1820, and his wife Amanda, born Tenn. c.1825. The 1860 Tenn. Census, taken 27 June at Riceville, shows FRANCIS aged 9, living with his parents; he was actually aged 8 at that date. The 1870 Census shows FRANCIS, aged 18, still living at home with his parents. On 16 Oct. 1870 FRANCIS married NANCY ABIGAIL SHELL, called "Nannie", born 17 Jan. 1852 at Spring Creek, McMinn Co., sixth child of James B. Shell (11 March 1817 - 8 Dec. 1877) and his wife Lucinda White (26 Feb. 1824 - 16 Sep. 1903), second child of Obidiah and Martha, called "Patsy", (Mansell) White who married and settled at Spring Creek in 1821.

Francis Marion McKenzie clearly was not a soldier during the Confederate War, being only aged 13 when the war ended in April 1865.

Charity Rebecca Shell (11 June 1846 - 29 May 1933), who married 20 Dec. 1866 George Washington Guffey, was the second of the nine Shell sisters. She and her younger sister, Nancy Abigail, were the only two sisters to escape tuberculosis which their brother, Captain Obidiah White Shell, C.S.A. (28 Mar. 1844 - 24 Mar. 1875) apparently contracted while on military service 1861-1865 and transmitted to his sisters.

In 1881 Francis Marion McKenzie and his wife emigrated to Arkansas where he served as Sheriff of Franklin County. They took with them their only surviving child, James Obidiah McKenzie, born 12 March 1872 at Spring Creek, McMinn County. Nancy Abigail (Shell) McKenzie died in Franklin Co., Ark. 14 Aug. 1913. Francis Marion McKenzie died in Norman, Okla. in 1927.

He came so close the bullet tore a chunk out of Crock's mackinaw. That made Crock angry and when Crock got mad he had no thought of tomorrow. He thought the sheriff was trying to kill him, so why not kill the sheriff first? He aimed at what he thought was the sheriff's forehead but luckily for the sheriff, the crown of that big hat was higher than Crock thought it was.

When Crock's bullet plowed into the sheriff's hat it raised the big hat up several feet. The sheriff and the deputy turned their steeds around and by the time that big hat landed on the ground the sheriff and his deputy were nearly

to the present site of the Ramon Guffey's house.

Crock picked up the big hat noticing his bullet had made a hole big enough to fit his index finger. After Crock reached the home of my grandparents he would sit by the fire and twirl that big hat on his finger for hours at a time.

Grandpa would ask Crock, "Where did you get that awful hat?" His answer

was, "I am going to let someone else tell you that, George." And he did just that for Grandpa didn't learn the facts about the big hat until they moved back to McMinn County.

Crock made a settlement with the black man and the sheriff tore up the warrants. For that Crock returned the hat and it hung in the sheriff's office.

A gentleman named Leslie told me Crock was buried in a neat little cemetery near Hillsview in the Rogers Creek vicinity. I mentioned in one section of my story that Crock was a racist. However, Crock hiked though unfriendly territory for more than a hundred miles and joined the Union army and fought to liberate the black man.

Note: FRANCIS MARION MCKENZIE, variously called "Frank", "Mack", "Crockett" and "Crock", was born at Riceville, McMinn Co., Tenn. 17 Dec. 1851, fifth child of Francis Marion McKenzie, born N.C. c.1820, and his wife Amanda, born Tenn. c.1825. The 1860 Tenn. Census, taken 27 June at Riceville, shows FRANCIS aged 9, living with his parents. The 1870 Census shows FRANCIS, aged 18, still living at home with his parents. On 16 Oct. 1870 FRANCIS married NANCY ABIGAIL SHELL, called "Nannie", born 17 Jan. 1852 at Spring Creek, McMinn Co., sixth child of James B. Shell (11 March 1817 - 8 Dec. 1877) and his wife Lucinda White (26 Feb. 1824 - 16 Sep. 1903), second child of Obediah and Martha, called "Patsy", (Mansell) White.

Francis Marion McKenzie clearly was not a soldier during the Confederate War, being only aged 13 when the war ended in April 1865.

Charity Rebecca Shell (11 June 1846 - 29 May 1933), who married 20 Dec. 1866 George Washington Guffey, was the second of the nine Shell sisters. She and her younger sister Nancy Abigail were the only two to escape tuberculosis which their brother, Captain Obediah White Shell, C.S.A. (28 Mar. 1844 - 24 Mar. 1875) apparently contracted while on military duty 1861-1865 and transmitted to his sisters.

In 1881 Francis Marion and Nancy Abigail (Shell) McKenzie emigrated to Arkansas where he served as Sheriff of Franklin County. Their only surviving child, James Obediah McKenzie, was born at Spring Creek, McMinn Co., Tenn. 12 March 1872. Nancy Abigail (Shell) McKenzie died in Franklin Co., Ark. 14 Aug. 1913. Francis Marion McKenzie died in Norman, Okla. in 1927.