

BEACHAM C. AND SARAH (HENSLEY) RHODES

Beacham C. Rhodes was born 14 Apr 1829 in Kentucky¹ probably in Hart County. His parents were Enos and Mary Rhodes, who moved to Shelby Co. IL when Beacham was a child of 1 1/2 to 2 years of age. Not much is known about Beacham's father, but he apparently died soon after the family moved to IL.

Enos and Mary Rhodes had three other children who were born in Kentucky. They were, in order of birth, Jane, John and Larkin. Beacham was the fourth child². In addition, the Rhodes' had one other child, a son named Allen, who was born soon after they arrived in Illinois. Allen is listed in the 1850 Shelby Co. IL census in the Amon Daniel household. His age is listed as 19 years old in 1850 which makes his birth date 1831. This is about the time that his father died and it was considerably before his mother married Amon Daniel. Allen is listed in other records as Allen Rhodes.³

After Enos' death, Mary Rhodes married Amon Daniel⁴ and the five Rhodes Children grew to maturity in the Daniel household. Amon Daniel, was a man of some prominence in Shelby County, having served in the Blackhawk Indian war⁵. The Daniels owned land in Shelby Co. and made their living at farming. They lived in the southeast corner of Shelby county near the Effingham County line to the south and near what was then the Coles County line to the east. Nothing notable is known about the childhood and early teenage years of Beacham's life.

On 27 Dec 1849 Beacham married Sarah Hensley⁶. Beacham was 20 years old and Sarah was 22. The 1850 Federal census lists Beacham and Sarah living in Shelby County IL. On 25 Oct 1851 Their son, Enos A. Rhodes was born⁷. Enos A. was apparently named for his grandfather Enos, just as his father had been named for his grandfather Beacham Rhodes. Repetition of given names, while not proof positive, is good evidence that these four people are directly descended.

Sarah (Hensley) Rhodes apparently died sometime in 1854 or 55. Either that or she and Beacham were divorced, although no record of either Sarah's death or divorce has been found. But whatever the situation, Beacham was married second to Sarah Farley on 26 Oct 1856⁸. The census records for 1860, 70 and 80 in Effingham County IL Show Beacham Rhodes and list his children, and although we do not know for sure that Beacham and Sarah Farley had children it seems apparent from her birth date that Nevada Rhodes was the only child from this union.

On 3 Mar 1855 Beacham bought 80 acres of land from his brother, John⁹. The description of the land was the east 1/2 of the NW quarter of Section 35 of T10N R5E. He paid \$300.00 for this land. Then on 7 Mar 1855, he apparently borrowed \$260.00 from Free N. Keller and gave a warranty deed¹⁰, as security, on land which he apparently already owned. This land was adjacent to that which he bought from his brother, John. This parcel of land is described as the east 1/2 of the SW quarter of section 35 of T10N R5E. A note on this recorded deed shows that Free N. Keller acknowledged that the mortgage was satisfied in full and it is dated 12 Aug 1857.

But seven months after Beacham bought the 80 acres from John, he sold it back to John for

the same price, \$300.00¹¹. His wife, Sarah (Hensley) is never mentioned in any of these transactions. This series of events seems to indicate that something happened to the Rhodes family during those years that caused a disruption in their life.

Beacham's second wife Sarah (Farley) apparently died before 1860 because, on 16 Mar 1860 Beacham married Rosannah Elizabeth Bingaman in Effingham Co¹². The 1860 census shows Beacham and Betsy in Shelby County and Enos age 9 is living with them. Eventually Beacham and Elizabeth had five children; Margaret, Cynthia Ann, Nettie Bell, Clarinda Lucell and John. These along with Nevada were all half siblings to Enos Rhodes, our grandfather.

Traditional information handed down in the family indicates that Enos, was bound out as a boy and that the person to whom he was bound did not treat him well. We know that Enos never learned to read or write so he obviously did not attend school. He was perfectly mentally competent, as shown by the fact that he held a job as a carpenter on the Pennsylvania Railroad for some 34 years, so the reason for his illiteracy was that he simply was never exposed to school. In the 1870 census of Shelby County Enos is shown living in the household of Ephream Deal, so we assume that it was this man to whom he was bound. According to tradition, Enos was not treated well by his bondsman. Beacham probably remained bound to Ephriam Deal until he reached manhood.

The circumstances that caused Beacham to bind his son to another person is not known, but in March of 1862, when Enos was 11 years old Beacham was indicted for the crime of passing counterfeit money to one John Draper. In the October 1862 term of the Effingham IL court Beacham was convicted of that crime and sentenced to prison for one year. He was promptly taken to the prison at Joliet IL and served his year¹³. This is probably the event that caused Enos to be bound out.

Between the time that Beacham was arrested and when his case went to trial, he was free on \$500.00 bond. Three men signed his bail bond with him. They were; Eli Daniel, who was his half brother, Nathaniel Ramsey, a neighbor, and his brother, Allen Rhodes¹⁴.

An entry in the Illinois Executive Journal for October 1863¹⁵ shows that the governor reinstated Beacham's citizenship. Beacham apparently returned to Shelby County because he had children born there after his return from prison

Beacham C. Rhodes continued to live in the vicinity of Effingham IL until his death in 1910 at age 82¹⁶. He was buried in Oak Ridge cemetery near Effingham and there is no marker on his grave.

1. Bible record: Leaves from a Rhodes Bible; original records are in the genealogical files of Bruce and Hazel Turner, of San Bernardino, CA. Bruce is a first cousin of the writer.

2. op cit. Rhodes Bible.

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3. Effingham Co. IL Circuit Court Records; Case of the State VS Beacham Rhodes, on the charge of counterfeiting, dated Mar 1862; Includes a bail bond signed by Allen Rhodes et al: Original records in the Archives of the Circuit Court, Effingham IL.
 4. License for the marriage of Amon Daniel to Mary Rhodes. Mary was the widow of Enos Rhodes: Original record on file in the Shelby Co. IL Courthouse Archives.
 5. Elliott, Isaac H., Record of the Services of Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War 1831-32 and the Mexican War 1846-48. Springfield IL. 1902: Journal Company Printers and binsers.
 6. Marriage License; Beacham Rhodes to Sarah Hensley: Original record on file in the Shelby County IL Clerk's office.
 7. Death Certificate, Enos Rhodes; shows his birth date: Original on file in the Effingham Co. IL Clerk's office.
 8. Effingham County Genealogical Society. Effingham County marriages 1833-1877. March 1987: Effingham Co. IL
 9. Shelby County Deed; John Rhodes to Beacham Rhodes dated 3 Mar 1855: Original record on file in the Shelby Co. IL Courthouse; Deed Book 16 p95.
 10. Shelby County IL Deed; Beacham Rhodes to Free N. Keller (to cover a mortgage), dated 7 Mar 1855: Original record on file in the Shelby Co. IL Courthouse; Deed Book 16 p95 & 96
 11. Shelby County Deed; Beacham Rhodes to John Rhodes, dated 28 Sep 1855: Original record on file in the Shelby Co. IL Courthouse; Deed book 16 p481.
 12. op cit. Effingham County Marriages 1833-1877.
 13. op cit. State VS Beacham Rhodes, on the charge of Counterfeiting.
 14. op cit. State VS Beacham Rhodes on the charge of Counterfeiting.
 15. State of Illinois Governor's Journal, October 1863: Original record on file in the Illinois State Archives, Springfield IL.
 16. Death Certificate, Beacham Rhodes: Original record on file in the Effingham IL County Clerk's Office.