

John Nathaniel Seay lived in Alabama. While courting, he was escorting his sweetheart home from church one Sunday when he was attacked and bitten by a dog which tore his Sunday pants.

He took his sweetheart to her home then went to his own home and got his pistol. Returning, he found the dog sitting in a breezeway of the dog owner's home between a man and his wife. John shot the dog and without a word, turned around and calmly walked away.

According to a 1993 interview with John's granddaughter, my Aunt Celia Vincent Bass, John moved his family to Texas by railroad in 1895 when my grandmother was 7 years old. His goal was to raise cotton. The family returned by covered wagon, when my grandmother was 14, in 1902. Family legend says he had to leave Texas because he killed a man there.

The return east took 6 weeks. Near the Vicksburg, Mississippi crossing, the roadway was so heavily shaded with trees, son Beaury had to walk ahead with a lantern in the day time for them to see. John pulled his team into a farm place and asked the land owner for permission to water for his team. The property owner said, "You can drink from the well but not your team." John went back to his wagon, got his pistol, and held the man at gun point until his team had had their fill of water from the man's well.

John's wife, Fannie, kept a diary of the 1902 covered wagon trip back to Alabama. It was last seen in possession of her daughter Johnnie Christine Seay. No one knows the diary's current whereabouts. John Seay's final destination was Talladega County, Alabama where John was commissioned as the local Constable. I have seen his commission and the .41 cal. Colt he used as Constable.

Ron Vincent

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John's pistol has his initials "JNS" carved into the butt plate. Photo of J.N. Seay

The colorized photo below includes John's father, Nathaniel David Seay, spelled "See" in his military record, which says he enlisted April 1, 1862 as a Private and served in the 31st Alabama Infantry, CSA. He is described as 5ft. 6in. tall with black hair, gray eyes, and a dark complexion. He died July 30, 1862.

Based on N.D. See's service record he has to be the corporal on back row, 2nd from Right. He would not have had time to advance to sergeant and there are only two corporals in the photo, the other being too tall to be N.D. See.

(Thanks to Cousin Ted McClellan for this discovery)

