

## FANNIE HATCH COKER

1865 - 1955



Fannie Hatch Coker was a member of the Hatch family, a historic and pioneering family of early Texas. She was born in Calhoun County on October 18, 1865 and passed away on July 9, 1955 in San Antonio, Texas. She became a member of the historic Texas Coker family by marrying John Harrison Coker on July 8, 1884. Her ties to the Texas Revolution and the formation of the Texas republic by her descendants and marriage are unmatched in the history of the Coker community and cemetery.

Fannie Hatch Coker was the mother of ten children and upon her death in 1955, she left to her legacy 27 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great grandchildren. She endured many hardships during her life as a mother of ten and witnessed many events in Texas history. Her husband, our ancestor John Harrison Coker, was a dairy farmer like many of the Coker community passed away in the middle of the Great Depression in 1932.

Fannie Hatch Coker's grandfather was Captain Sylvanus Hatch who is interred in the Hatch Cemetery in Calhoun County. Hatch was born into a family that had emigrated from England to Falmouth, Massachusetts in 1632. Hatch served under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in 1812. Hatch eventually made his way to Texas in 1828 and arrived at Stephen F. Austin's colony with his family. Hatch received a league of land on Lavaca Bay. He was later imprisoned at La Bahia Mission while his registration papers for his ship were taken to Mexico City for verification, and he was released after two months. Hatch's ship made regular trips to trade goods between his new homeland and New Orleans and his location on the bay.

Hatch kept in touch with other Texas colonists. In 1833, James Bowie retreated to Hatch's home for several weeks as he attempted to overcome his grief following the death of his young wife and children in a cholera epidemic. Both Sylvanus Hatch and Jack Coker joined the colonists rising up against President Santa Anna's concentration of power and repeal of the Constitution of 1824. Following the fall of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, Hatch was among the men General Sam Houston sent to help escort women, children and elderly men to safety during the runaway scrape. For his service to Republic of Texas, a centennial marker was placed on his grave at the Hatch cemetery in 1936. Hatch's memoirs (1827-1885) are housed at the Briscoe Center for American History on the campus of the University of Texas.

*Prepared by Dr. Tom DeKunder – February 2020*