

Nathan Cheairs
1826-1867
Enslaved at Rippa Villa

1826 (abt) Nathan Cheairs was born a slave, most likely in Maury County, TN.

1846 October 2 or 9: Nathaniel F. Cheers III died while visiting his son Thomas in Mississippi. In his will he bequeathed Nathan to his son Nathaniel. We know Nathan's age, 20, from the inventory in his estate papers.

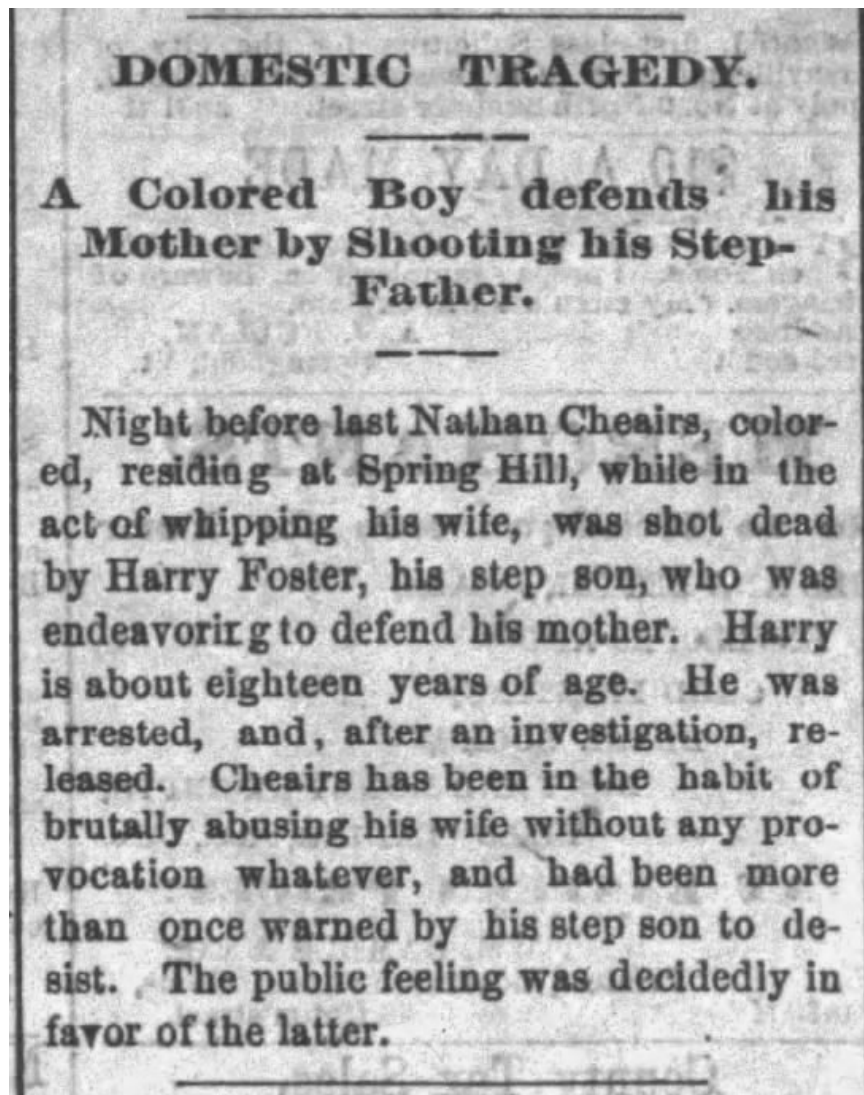
Son Nathaniel: Four Mules or four horses as he may choose to be of an average value, four average cows three calves, Remainder of my acreage, his mothers land when she dies and 70 acres of cedar land....and the following negroes Lewis, **Nathan**, Yellow Bob, Limber Bob, Nashville Billy & his wife Mahaly and when his mother dies Nat was to inherit Henry, Martha and their increase.

Total inventory of slaves owned by Nathaniel Cheairs upon his death (total 85) :
Fed-60, Bill-45, Sucky-40, Abraham-21, Davey-20, Jim-17, Granville-16, Alfred-14, Ben-13, Beck-10, Buck-7, Delia-5, Greene-6mo, Little Milly-38, Ruth-13, Angeline-11, Josh-8, Phillip-6, Mintia Ann-4, Emily-1.5, Sancho-65, Lefty-30, Burrell-10, Isaac-6, Lucy-4, Hal-22, Matilda-28, George-12, Jim-5, Tabitha-3.5, Child of Matilda-3mo, Henry-31, Martha-22, Phoebe-2, Willis-6mo, Polly-16, Charles-1, Big Milly-46, Austin-30, Stephen-80, Ally-60, Jesy-22, **Nathan-20**, Major-50, Ann-51, Ellen-26, Charles-8, Polly-8, Silvia-68, Wash-30, Harriet-25, Peter-7, Eliza-5, Betty-3, Stephen-27, Clone-17, Handy-2.5, Jim-1.5, Burrell-28, Mary-30, Gilbert-5, Parkham-6mo, Henry-27, Mary-18, Nashville Billy-25, Mahala-21(Nashville Billy's wife), Ellen-1, Limber Bob-18, Yellow Bob-23, Tenn-17, Peyton-25, Sam Bush-21, Long Sally-19, John-33, Margaret-20, Pleasant-20, Priscilla-14, Snoring Bill-28, Sam-20, George-19, Jack-18, Gregory Bob-20, Eliza-17, Daniel-16 and Easter-13

1850 August 21: The U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedule enumerated in District 22 of Maury County showed Nathaniel Cheairs owning thirty-one slaves. Two of these fit the age of Nathan: 1 male age 25, mulatto and 1 male age 26, black.

1860 August 13: The U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedule enumerated in District 22 of Maury County showed Nathaniel Cheairs owning seventy-five. Two of these fit the age of Nathan: 1 male age 36 , mulatto and 1 male age 36, black.

- 1862 May 25: Wartime letters from Nat mentioned many names of his slaves by name. "Tell Uncle Dick and Nath to take good care of Miss Susan."¹
- 1867 September 11: Nathan Cheairs, while beating his wife, was shot and killed by his step son, Harry Foster.²



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¹ All letters are part of the Cheairs/Hughes Papers Collection at TSLA.

² Although the newspaper article said Harry was released, he was arrested two more times for larceny and sent to prison in 1874.

³ Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Fri 13 Se 1867, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

November 3: In November, Nathaniel F. Cheairs, Austin C. Hickey and J.B. Alderon applied to be administrators of the estate of Nathan Cheairs, col., deceased.

Nathan Cheairs Col^d & Co^{rs}
State of Tennessee, Maury County,
We Nathaniel F. Cheairs, A. C. Hickey
& John B. Alderon
are held and firmly bound unto the State of
Tennessee, in the sum of One thousand
Dollars.
Witness Our hands and seals this 4th day
of November 1867.
The condition of the above obligation
is such that whereas the above bound
Nathaniel F. Cheairs has this day
been appointed and qualified Administrator
of Nathan Cheairs Col^d & Co^{rs} Deceased,
Now if the above bound Nathaniel F. Cheairs
shall well and truly as such
Administrator perform all the duties which
are or may be required by law of him
this obligation to be void, otherwise
to remain in full force and virtue.
Acknowledged by
Principal & Securities
And by the Court
approved,
Shury Harris J. P.
N. F. Cheairs Seal
A. C. Hickey Seal
J. B. Alderon Seal
Seal

November 23: An estate sale was held for Nathan's belongings. Note a black man, 2 years after war was over owned a surprising array of items, among those: a horse, a gun and a pistol!

*Inventory of Sale of Property belonging to the Estate of
Nathan Chains (Edd) Decd., 23rd day of November 1867—
on a credit of Several Months—*

<i>Names of Purchasers</i>	<i>Articles sold</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Sum Total</i>
<i>Doddson & Servell</i>	<i>1 horse,</i>	<i>\$96. 00</i>	
<i>Julius Blair</i>	<i>1 Cow & calf</i>	<i>33 00</i>	
<i>Rush Thompson</i>	<i>1 Sow</i>	<i>16 00</i>	
<i>Albert, Foster</i>	<i>10 Pigs</i>	<i>40 10</i>	
<i>James Bailey</i>	<i>1 Sow & 2 Pig</i>	<i>8 00</i>	<i>Paid</i>
<i>Sanders Register</i>	<i>2 Pork hogs</i>	<i>19 00</i>	
<i>William Chains</i>	<i>1 Sow,</i>	<i>3. 80</i>	<i>Paid</i>
<i>B. W. McLenore</i>	<i>1 Pistol</i>	<i>4 50</i>	<i>Paid</i>
<i>Thos. Jamison</i>	<i>1 Gun</i>	<i>3 50</i>	<i>Paid</i>
<i>Willson Bostie,</i>	<i>1 Ragged Whip</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>Paid</i>
<i>Arthur Bond</i>	<i>1 Old saddle</i>	<i>Paid 1 00</i>	<i>\$226 45</i>

*N. H. Chains adm^r
of Nathan Chains Decd.,*

*Given to before me March
18th 1868 John B Padgett att^r
By Pontiac, Tenn H C C*

⁴ Tennessee, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008 (accessed ancestry.com)