

JILL,

MY HISTORIAN FRIEND, JAMES WILKINS (WHO RESEARCHED THIS EPISODE THOROUGHLY), SAYS THE STUFF IN THE BOOK'S VERSION IS SIMPLY LEGEND AND NOT VERIFIABLE. HERE'S HOW HIS RESEARCH SHOWS IT HAPPENED. HOPE THE LENGTH IS RIGHT. CALL ME IF IT NEEDS MORE WORK.

RANDY

The oldest home, the Faires House (ca. 1853), got caught in historical crossfire...literally.

Some historians believe Confederate guerrilla fighter Captain William Clarke Quantrill (also known as Charles W. Quantrell) and his notorious band of raiders wintered in 1864 in McKinney. When the band pillaged a local family, sheriff and Confederate Captain James L. Read took action, killing three of the raiders. In revenge, Quantrill's men cornered Read and his brother-in-law, a former county judge named James McReynolds, in a house. A firefight ensued, and the nearby Faires House took a few stray bullets, which were dug from its bois d'arc foundation blocks when it was moved to Chestnut Square.

(Footnote: Recent research shows that Read, McReynolds, and a third relative fled McKinney, heading southeast, and refugeed with relatives in Van Zandt County. There, a local posse arrested the three on trumped-up charges and took them to Tyler to Confederate authorities. When the authorities took no action, the Van Zandt posse headed home only after hanging Read and the other two about a mile from the Tyler courthouse. The sons of the hanged men dedicated their lives to punishing the murderers of their fathers.)