

2014

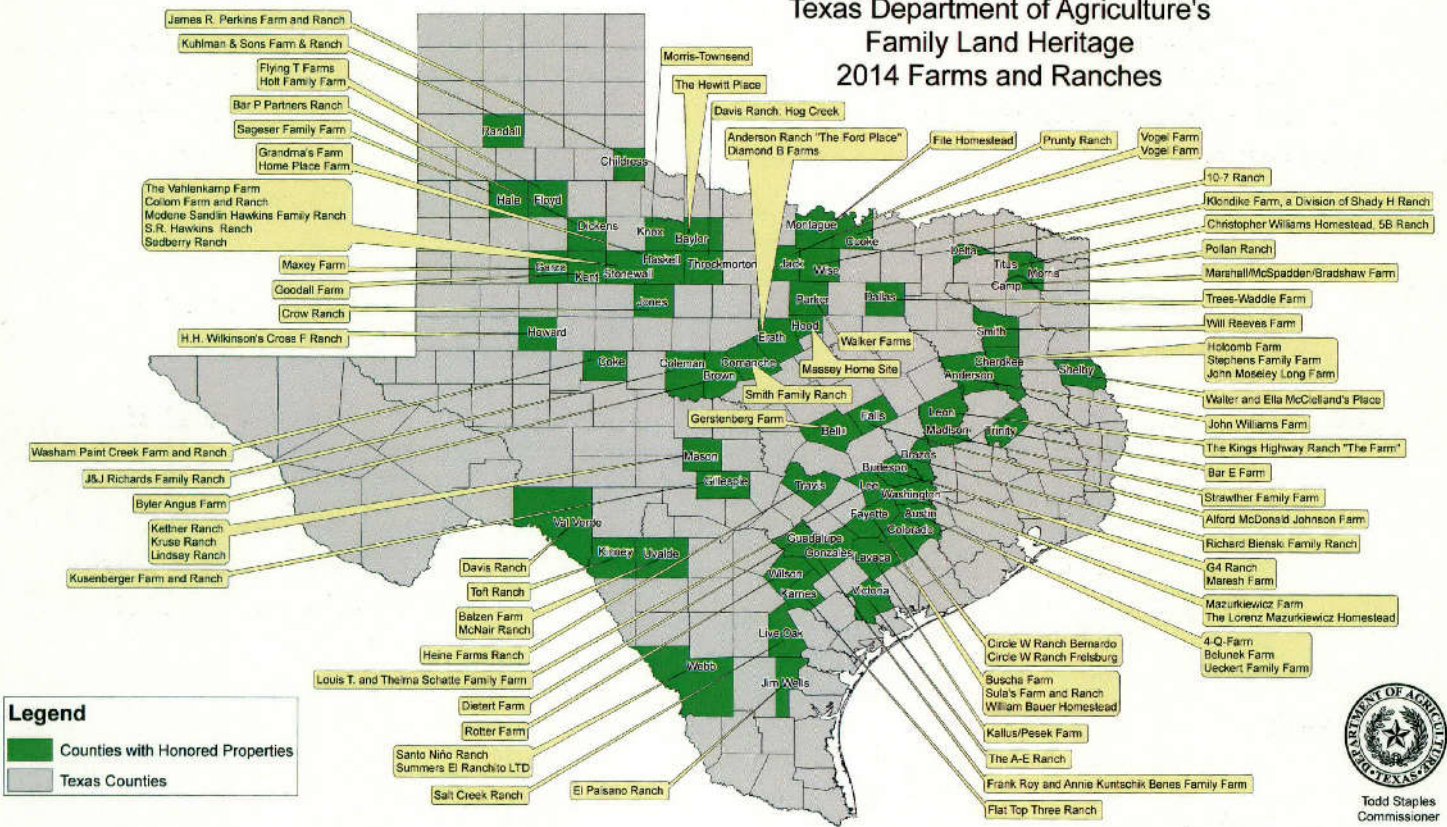
FAMILY LAND HERITAGE CEREMONY

Commemorative Program

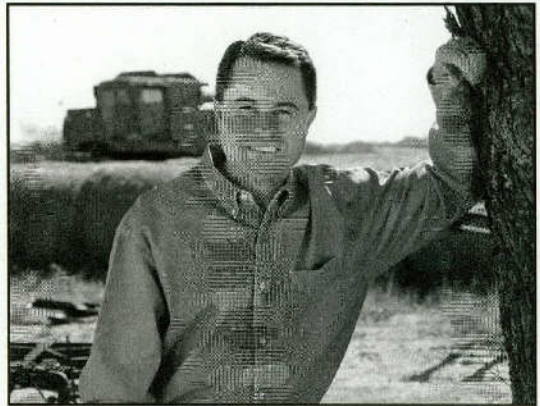
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage 2014 Farms and Ranches



November 6, 2014



Dear Family Land Heritage Honorees:

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to Austin for your well-deserved recognition as part of the 39th Annual Family Land Heritage ceremony. Today, in this historic House Chamber, I am reminded of our ancestors who came to Texas in search of a better life for themselves and their children. They created the foundation upon which each following generation of Texans has been able to build its dreams. They survived adversity through courage, fortitude and ingenuity, and their stories of survival and success make Texas what it is today – a nationwide leader in agriculture, an industry that provides more than \$100 billion to our state's economy.

For the past 100 years or more, you and those who came before you have made agriculture a way of life and, in turn, have made Texas a state rich in history and productivity.

Congratulations on receiving this momentous designation. I am pleased to add your name to our honor roll of Family Land Heritage recipients. You join an elite group of hardworking Texas men and women who help produce the safest, most abundant and most affordable food and fiber in the world.

On behalf of the Texas agriculture industry and the Texas Department of Agriculture, thank you for your tireless contributions. Best wishes to each of you as you continue to nurture the legacy of Texas with the next chapter in your historic operation.

Sincerely yours,

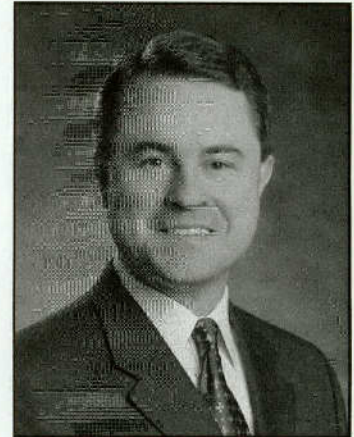
Todd Staples

COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples has an outstanding record of getting things done. Whether helping his family start a nursery and landscape business, serving on his hometown's city council or being part of local economic development, Todd Staples has proven to be a strong advocate for Texas.

While serving first in the Texas House of Representatives and later as a state senator, he was a recognized leader on such critical issues as worker's compensation reform, private property owners' rights, natural resources, school finance and education, just to name a few.

As agriculture commissioner, he continues to pursue policies that enable economic strength, youth development, healthy lifestyles and consumer protection. He is charting a course to bring job creation to rural Texas, further the promotion of Texas products around the world, and help farmers and ranchers face tomorrow's challenges and increase profit margins through the use of new technologies and value-added processing.



RON OLIVEIRA

Ron Oliveira is an award-winning journalist and has spent the past 34 years working in the television industry.

Ron graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Radio-Television and Film in 1976. He is a native of Brownsville, Texas.

He started his career as a television news anchor in 1977 at KGBT-TV, the CBS affiliate in Harlingen, Texas. In 1980 he moved to Austin where he became lead anchor for KVUE, the ABC affiliate. Several times, Ron was part of the KVUE anchor team that won Best Newscast in the USA.

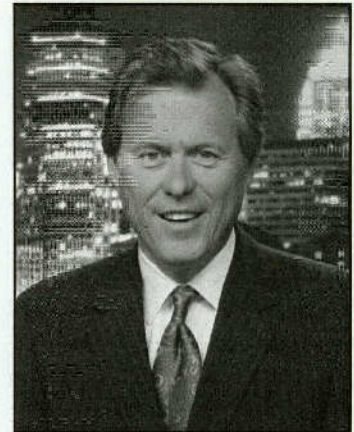
In 1994, Ron expanded his career in television when he started and became co-owner of KNVA-TV, the Warner Brothers affiliate in Austin. Then in 1999, he helped launch and became co-owner of KTLM-TV, a Telemundo affiliate in the Rio Grande Valley.

In 2005, Ron joined the KEYE-TV news team.

Besides helping to rear four children, Ron is also very active in the community.

He currently serves on the board of the Lola Wright Foundation, the Texas Secretary of State's Election Advisory Committee, and the advisory councils of Leadership Austin, Any Baby Can and Foundation for the Homeless.

He is a former member of the Executive Board of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau.



RED STEAGALL

For more than 40 years, Red Steagall has entertained around the globe as a recording artist, songwriter, television and motion picture personality, and cowboy poet.

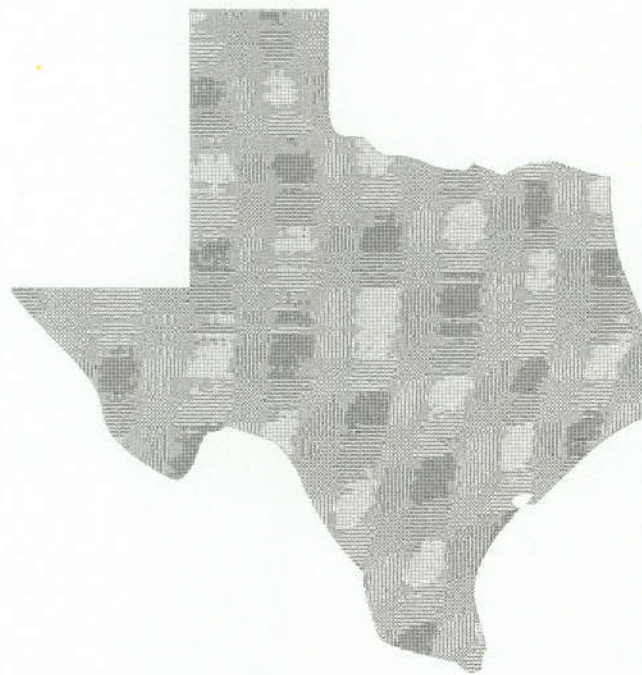
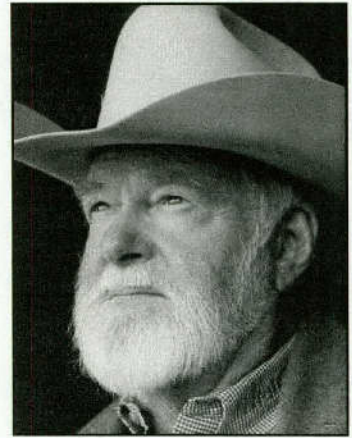
In 1991, the Texas Legislature named Red the Official Cowboy Poet of Texas. By 1994, he launched his one-hour syndicated radio show, "Cowboy Corner," which is now heard in approximately 165 markets across 43 states.

Musically, Red has won eight Wrangler Awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. As a writer, he has authored four books.

In recognition of Red's significant contribution to the western way of life, he was inducted into The Texas Trail Of Fame in October 1999. In 2003, he joined the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners. A year later, Red was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In 2006, Red was awarded the prestigious Charles Goodnight Award and also was named the Poet Laureate for the State of Texas.

Red's television show, "In the Bunkhouse with Red Steagall," first aired in 2009 and is currently in its fifth year of production.



Family Land Heritage Ceremony

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ron Oliveira

INVOCATION

Rick Rhodes

Texas Department of Agriculture

PLEDGE TO THE FLAGS

Texas FFA Officers

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Commissioner of Agriculture

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Family Land Heritage Honorees

ENTERTAINMENT

Red Steagall

BENEDICTION

Red Steagall

Family Land Heritage Honorees

150 YEAR HONOREES

STEPHENS FAMILY FARM

CHEROKEE COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTHEAST OF BULLARD
FOUNDED IN: 1847

FOUNDER: ALEXANDER S. JOHNSTON

CURRENT OWNER: SIDNEY STEPHENS

Alexander Johnston acquired acreage in 1847, just 11 years after the Texas Revolution. He married Indian Johnston, and they had one daughter, Mary.

Mary acquired the land in 1853 and left it to daughter, Ann S. Johnston. Ann never had any children. Upon Ann's death, she deeded the land to her niece, Ann S. Johnston Stephens. Ann and her husband, William, farmed the land until their deaths.

Their son, W. C. J., had three children with his wife, Ethel. Their son, William, took over farming the land at an early age before serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II. William married Mary Ellen Holt.

In 1974, their son, Sidney, moved to the farm and took over operations. He continues to raise livestock today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,620

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1847—CATTLE AND CROPS; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Christina Stephens Adkins, great-great-great-great-niece of the founder.



MASSEY HOME SITE

HOOD COUNTY • 12 MILES SOUTHEAST OF GRANBURY ON
ROLLINS ROAD

FOUNDED IN: 1860

FOUNDERS: WILLIAM R. AND CAROLINE C. MASSEY

CURRENT OWNER: MASSEY HERITAGE LAND, LLC

William and Caroline Massey left Alabama with their three young children in a covered wagon and were in Texas by the birth of their fourth child in November 1858. They first settled in Tarrant County before campsite raids forced the family to move, first westward and then southeast.

Eventually, in 1860, William and Caroline bought land and built a one-room log cabin, which is still standing today. It was there that they raised seven children. They later donated land to be used for a school, church and the Fall Creek Cemetery where several generations of the Massey family are buried.

Currently, the sixth and seventh generation Massey family members live on the farm and continue agricultural operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 636

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1860—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES AND MULES; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Michael A. Massey, great-great-grandson of the founders.



EL PAISANO RANCH

JIM WELLS COUNTY • SIX MILES NORTHEAST

OF FALFURRIAS ON CR 402

FOUNDED IN: 1835

FOUNDER: RAMON DE LA GARZA

CURRENT OWNERS: HECTOR G. AND MARGARITA G. GUERRA

Ramon De La Garza was born in Camargo, Mexico, around 1793. He married Estanislada Navarro in 1817. In 1835, he petitioned Mexico for vacant national land. After meeting all the legal requirements of the Colonization Law, Ramon was given possession of the land, which is located in present day South Texas.

Ramon and Estanislada had seven children. Their son, Homobono, inherited a portion of the land in 1852. Homobono and his wife, Josefa, had four children.

Their son, Ysidro, inherited a smaller portion of the land in 1908. Ysidro and his wife, Catarina, had one son, Eusebio, who was born in 1879. Eusebio inherited 316 acres in 1922. Eusebio and his wife, Maria, had three children.

Guadalupe and Procopio Guerra inherited part of the land in 1952. They had eight children. Their son, Hector, married Margarita. They inherited 21 acres of the original plot in 1974 and have acquired more from his siblings. They have three children.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 11,071

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1835—CATTLE AND HORSES; 2014—HAY

As told by Hector G. Guerra, great-great-great-grandson of the founder.



CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS HOMESTEAD, 5B RANCH

**TITUS COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTH OF MT. PLEASANT
ON U.S. 271 NORTH**

FOUNDED IN: 1860

FOUNDER: CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

**CURRENT OWNERS: MARGARET FERGUSON BURROWS
AND CECIL BURROWS**

Christopher Williams claimed a tract of land in 1860. Christopher sold the tract to his son, Isaac Newton Williams, in 1869. Isaac died in 1898 and left a portion of the land to his wife, Leah Jane Lazarus, and the remaining portion to his living children.

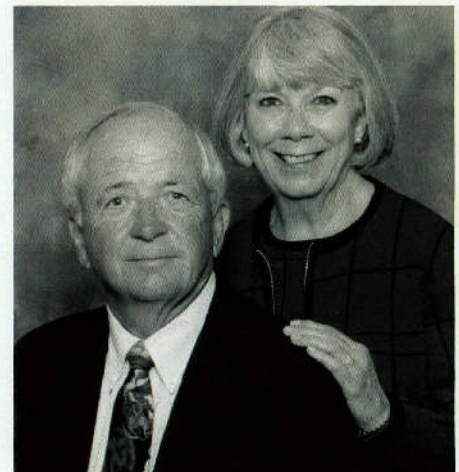
His son, Sam Williams, became a District Judge in Titus County. He never married and managed the land until the undivided interests were sold to his sister's son, Williams Arthur Ferguson, in 1971.

Williams Arthur and his wife, Cleo, later gave a portion of the acreage to their son, Williams Alfred. In 1972, Williams Alfred moved from the farm and sold the entirety of the original tract to his sister, Margaret. Together, Margaret and her husband, Cecil C. Burrows, continue to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1860—CATTLE AND COTTON; 2014—HAY

As told by Margaret Ferguson Burrows, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.



Family Land Heritage Honorees

100 YEAR HONOREES

JOHN WILLIAMS FARM

ANDERSON COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST OF PALESTINE
ON CR 396

FOUNDED IN: 1899

FOUNDERS: JOHN AND EMMA WILLIAMS

CURRENT OWNERS: JAMES WILLIAMS JR.,

DARRELL WILLIAMS SR., ISAAC WILLIAMS JR.,

BRENDA WILLIAMS, ILEF M. WILLIAMS,

ALISA WILLIAMS TRUESDALE, JAMES O. WILLIAMS JR., CALVIN PACE, ROYCE NORRIS,

SCHULONDA DIBBLE, ESSIE PACE LACY, MILLIE PACE MONTGOMERY AND EMMA J. WOODARD



John Williams was born in 1870 in Alabama. He married Emma Clewis in 1892, and in 1899, they acquired land. Additional acreage was added in 1909. John and Emma had 10 children: John, James, Cad, Isaac, Leander, Arletha, Lucy, Onie, Willie and Millie. Their children acquired the farm in 1967. Leander continued farm operations.

The grandchildren and current owners acquired the farm in 1995. Today, Darrell Williams Sr. operates the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 141

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1899—CATTLE, CHICKENS, HORSES AND SWINE; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Isaac Williams Jr., grandson of the founders.

4-Q-FARM

AUSTIN COUNTY • 15 MILES NORTH OF BELLVILLE NEAR THE
AUSTIN-WASHINGTON COUNTY LINE

FOUNDED IN: 1871

FOUNDER: WILLIAM REMMERT

CURRENT OWNERS: SIMON AND KNELLEN QUINTEROS

William Remmert was a 20-year-old who came to Texas from Germany. He married Karoline Thielmann in 1865. He started acquiring land in 1871. William and Karoline had 12 children, including two sets of twins.



Their son, Louis, purchased a portion of the acreage in 1899 and more in 1905. He had already built a home for his bride, Malinde, on the property in 1898. Louis left the property to his sons, John and Willie, in 1975.

After John's death in 1982, the property was divided between his three children. His daughter, Knellen, received 29 acres, along with the house and barns. Knellen and her husband continue ranching operations and raise cattle today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 197

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1871—CATTLE, HORSES AND VEGETABLES; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Knellen Quinteros, great-granddaughter of the founder.

BELUNEK FARM

AUSTIN COUNTY • FOUR MILES SOUTH OF SAN FELIPE ON I-10

FOUNDED IN: 1896

FOUNDER: FRANK BELUNEK

CURRENT OWNER: FRANCES LASTOVICA

Frank Belunek was born in Bohemia in 1866. He came to America with his wife, Maria, and daughter, Johanna. Later, Frank and Maria would have four more children: Antonia, Agnes, Frances and Charles.



Charles took over the family's operation after his father had a stroke at a young age. Charles married Martha Vysocki, and they had two children: Frances Lastovica and Lillie Stroud.

Frances married John, and they built a house on the farm in 1979. That's where they still live today. Frances and John have two children: Madeline and Gary. In 2006, Madeline remodeled and added onto the original 100-plus-year-old house on the property and lives there today. Gary is married to Rhonda, and they have three children: Stacey, Stephanie and John.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 60

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1896—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON AND HAY; 2014—CATTLE, HAY AND MILO

As told by Frances Lastovica, granddaughter of the founder.

UECKERT FAMILY FARM

AUSTIN COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTHEAST OF BELLVILLE OFF SH 159

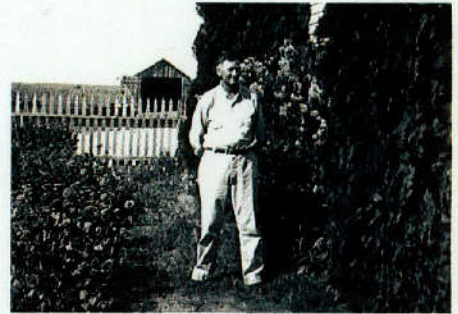
FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDERS: EMIL E. AND ALVINA BRAVENEC UECKERT

CURRENT OWNERS: ELEANOR E. UECKERT, RANDALL AND

MELANIE UECKERT, AND CHERYL BROWN

Emil E. Ueckert was born in Austin County. Emil and his wife, Alvina Bravenec Ueckert, acquired acreage in 1914. They had one son, Harry.



Alvina deeded title of the land to her son, Harry, in 1967 after Emil died. Harry and his wife, Eleanor, had two children: Randall and Cheryl. Harry continued to run the operation until his death in 2009. Since that time, Randall, has continued operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 72

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HOGS AND MILO; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Randall Ueckert, grandson of the founders.

THE HEWITT PLACE

**BAYLOR COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTHWEST
OF SEYMOUR ON RR 1919**

FOUNDED IN: 1914

**FOUNDERS: BENJAMIN TARRANT HEWITT AND LAVENIA
VICTORIA COLE HEWITT**

CURRENT OWNER: NANCY WORD



Benjamin Tarrant Hewitt was born in Alabama in 1840. He enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861. While fighting in the Civil War, Benjamin was captured and taken prisoner. After the war, he traveled to Texas where he met and married Lavenia Victoria Cole.

Benjamin and Lavenia had nine children: Ebenezer, John, Whitehouse, Caddus, Dotis, Holder, Joseph, Robert and Lavenia. Benjamin purchased land in 1914 as an investment for his children. They worked on the farm through World War I.

Robert and his wife, Minnie, acquired the land in 1923 and continued to live on the farm until 1959 when they moved into town. Their daughters, Ocle and Modena, continued to work the land with their families. In 1998, Ocle deeded the land to her daughter, Nancy.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 348

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, COTTON, CHICKENS, MULES, PIGS, OATS AND WHEAT;
2014—CATTLE AND WHEAT**

As told by Nancy Word, great-granddaughter of the founder.

GERSTENBERG FARM

**BELL COUNTY • 1.5 MILES EAST OF I-35 ON ELMER KING ROAD
FOUNDED IN: 1913**

FOUNDER: WILLIAM AUGUST GERSTENBERG

CURRENT OWNERS: KEN C. GERSTENBERG AND VERA M. GERSTENBERG

Johann Gottfried Gerstenberger and his family came from Germany to Texas on the ship Miles in 1854. They settled in Fayette County. William August Gerstenberg was a grandson of this family. In 1913, William purchased land in Bell County.

William had a son, Leonard. In 2008, Leonard's son, Kenneth Charles Gerstenberg, acquired title to the land.

Kenneth and his wife, Vera, continue to work the land and produce 13 different varieties of pecans. Gerstenberg pecans have won awards locally and regionally, as well as winning a state championship.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 247

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, MULES, SORGHUM AND SUGARCANE; 2014—CATTLE, HAY
AND PECANS**

As told by Kenneth Charles Gerstenberg, grandson of the founder.



RICHARD BIENSKI FAMILY RANCH

**BRAZOS COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST OF BRYAN OFF
LEONARD ROAD**

FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDER: ALBERT BIENSKI

CURRENT OWNERS: RICHARD J. AND PEGGY J. BIENSKI

Albert Bienski was born in Brazos County to Polish immigrants, Florian and Elizabeth Bajinski. Over the years, the spelling of the family name changed from Bajinski to Biansky to the current spelling of Bienski.

Albert married Sophie Cyva in 1904. Later that year, Albert and his brother-in-law, Joe, purchased land. In 1909, a portion of the acreage was deeded to Albert. Albert and Sophie had seven children. He worked the land and kept a moonshine still. Local neighbors would often stop by for a taste.

After Albert's death in 1961, his children acquired the land. Albert's son, Albin Bruno, continued the cattle operation until his death in 1996. Albin's wife, Josephine, willed their acreage to Richard and Peggy Bienski in 1997.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 304

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—CATTLE, COTTON AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Denice Bienski, great-granddaughter of the founder.



BYLER ANGUS FARM

**BROWN COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTHWEST
OF BANGS ON CR 139**

FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDERS: WILLIAM H. BYLER AND JOHN A. BYLER

CURRENT OWNERS: WENDELL H. BYLER AND ERMA D. BYLER

In 1908, William and John Byler left Blanco County on an adventure. They ended up buying acreage and settling down in Brown County. They cleared the land and got to work. William eventually bought out his brother, John.

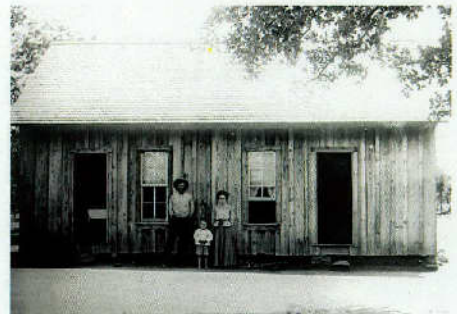
William gave the land to his son, Wilmer, in 1960. Wilmer continued to work the land. He passed the farm to his son, Wendell.

Wendell continues to work the land with his son, John Byler.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 216

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—CATTLE, MAIZE, MELONS AND MILO; 2014—CATTLE, HAY AND SMALL GRAINS

As told by Kristine Byler, great-granddaughter-in-law of the founders.



G4 RANCH

**BURLESON COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTHWEST OF CALDWELL
ON FM III AND CR 173**

FOUNDED IN: 1907

**FOUNDERS: JOHN MARESH SR. AND FRANCES BALCAR MARESH
CURRENT OWNERS: SYLVIA MARESH GROCE AND DON L. GROCE SR.**

John Maresh Sr. lived on the land that he purchased in 1907 until his death in 1952. He was cared for by Adolph and Ruth Maresh, who bought 92 acres from John's heirs in 1952.



Adolph and Ruth lived on the land until their deaths. In 1984, the land was partitioned — 52 acres to Sylvia Maresh Groce, and 40 acres and the house to Larry Maresh.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 140

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, MAIZE AND TURKEYS; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Sylvia Maresh Groce, granddaughter of the founders.

MARESH FARM

BURLESON COUNTY • SOUTH OF DEANVILLE ON FM 60

FOUNDED IN: 1907

**FOUNDERS: JOHN MARESH SR. AND FRANCES BALCAR MARESH
CURRENT OWNERS: SYLVIA GROCE, LARRY MARESH
AND JOHN MARESH**

John Maresh Sr. lived on the land until his death in 1952. He was cared for by Adolph and Ruth Maresh, who bought 92 acres from John's heirs in 1952.



Adolph and Ruth lived on the land until their deaths. In 1984, the land was partitioned, granting 52 acres to Sylvia Maresh Groce and 40 acres along with the house to Larry Maresh.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 140

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, CHICKEN, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, MAIZE AND TURKEYS;
2014—CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Larry Maresh, grandson of the founders.

MARSHALL/MCSPADDEN/BRADSHAW FARM

CAMP COUNTY • 3.5 MILES NORTHEAST OF PITTSBURG ON CR 4114

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: COLUMBUS SANFORD MARSHALL

**CURRENT OWNERS: MICKEY AND MARGARET BRADSHAW,
GEORGE EDWARD AND DELORIA BRADSHAW,
JAMES H. AND LANEEL BRADSHAW, CHERYL BRADSHAW
HONZELL MANLEY, VERLINDA BRADSHAW SHELTON AND
DEANEL BRADSHAW PATTON**



Columbus and Louisa Marshall moved from North Carolina to Arkansas in 1885. In the spring of 1912, they moved their family to Camp County, Texas, and in 1913, they purchased land.

Their daughter, Verlie, and her husband, Joe McSpadden, followed them to Texas in 1913 and helped out with operations until Columbus' death in 1918. Joe and Verlie bought acreage from the heirs and continued farm operations.

Joe and Verlie's daughter, Marie, married Howard Bradshaw in 1932. Joe and Verlie sold them acreage to live on, and they expanded operations. Marie and Howard had five sons, three of whom still reside on the farm.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 168

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON AND DAIRY CATTLE; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Mickey R. Bradshaw, great-grandson of the founder.

HOLCOMB FARM

CHEROKEE COUNTY • ONE MILE FROM ALTO ON HWY 21 WEST

FOUNDED IN: 1897

FOUNDER: GEORGE CREAGER HOLCOMB

**CURRENT OWNERS: CHRIS AND JAY ANNA DAVIS, AND GERALD AND
DIANNE WEST**



George Creager Holcomb was born in Arkansas in 1821 to Joseph and Sarah (Creager) Holcomb. In 1842, George traveled to Texas to seek land for his family, and in 1897, he purchased land outside of Alto.

After his death in 1902, his youngest son, Garrett, bought the farm. Garrett and his wife, Minne, continued to farm the land. They had eight children: Maudess, Mary Kate, Laura Pearl, Edna, Otha, Irma, Garrett Jr. and Jeff Creager (J. C.).

When Garrett died, J. C. and his wife, Juanita, continued operations. They have three daughters: Jay Nita, Dianne and Jay Anna. After J. C. passed in 1994, Juanita continued to work the land until her passing in 2010.

The farm then passed to their daughters, Dianne and Jay Anna.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1897—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HOGS AND POULTRY; 2014—CANTALOUPE, HAY,
TOMATOES AND WATERMELONS**

As told by Jay Anna Holcomb Davis, great-granddaughter of the founder.

JOHN MOSELEY LONG FARM

CHEROKEE COUNTY • 3.5 MILES WEST OF RUSK ON FM 1248

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: JOHN MOSELEY LONG

**CURRENT OWNERS: TRAE L. TREVATHAN
AND GEORGIA TREVATHAN**

John Moseley Long was born in 1888 in Cherokee County and died in 1954. He completed public school in Rusk and later enrolled in Sam Houston Normal Institute, which would become Sam Houston State University. He returned to Cherokee County where he taught at local area schools.



John married Maudess Holcomb in 1917. They lived most of their lives on the farm. They had three children: John Garrett, Maudelia Trevathan and James D. Long.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 45

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CORN, PEANUTS, SUGARCANE AND TOMATOES;
2014—CATTLE, TIMBER AND TOMATOES**

As told by Trae L. Trevathan, great-grandson of the founder.

JAMES R. PERKINS FARM AND RANCH

CHILDRESS COUNTY • 4.5 MILES SOUTH OF KIRKLAND ON FM 1033

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDERS: THOMAS JEFFERSON AND MARY M. PERKINS

CURRENT OWNER: JAMES RICHARD PERKINS

Thomas Jefferson and Mary M. Perkins moved from Tennessee to Texas in 1889 and purchased a farm. Due to the climate affecting their health, they moved to a drier area, where he purchased land in 1917. They raised eight children on the farm.



Their son, Clyde, went to Baylor, where he obtained a teaching certificate, and met and wed his wife. They bought an adjacent section of land and raised five children. Later, they would acquire his parents' land.

Clyde's son, James R. Perkins, inherited a portion of the land when his parents died, and eventually, he bought his siblings' shares. James, along with his children and grandchildren, continues to work and spend time on the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 482

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—COTTON, FEED GRAIN, HORSES, MULES AND WHEAT;
2014—CATTLE, COTTON AND WHEAT**

As told by James Richard Perkins, grandson of the founders.

WASHAM PAINT CREEK FARM AND RANCH

COKE COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ROBERT LEE ON FM 2034

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: J. E. AND DORA WARREN

CURRENT OWNERS: WES AND FARRELL JEAN WASHAM



John Elbert Warren was born in 1839 in Tennessee and moved to Missouri in the 1850s. John married Margaret Puthuff in 1860, and they raised nine children. The family moved to Coke County. John and Margaret divorced in the early 1900s.

John married Dora Waibel in 1903 in Coke County. In 1913, John acquired land. After John's death, his grandson, Marven Stewart, bought the land in 1914. Marven and his wife, Georgie, worked the land and raised three daughters: Marcille, Bryce and Louise.

Bryce and her husband, Weldon, inherited the acreage and raised livestock on the land until their daughter, Farrell Jean, acquired the title in 1996.

Farrell Jean and her husband, Wes, continue to work the land. They have one daughter, Jamie Washam.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 437

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP AND SMALL GRAINS; 2014—CATTLE, OATS AND SHEEP

As told by Farrell Jean Washam, great-great-granddaughter of the founders.

J&J RICHARDS FAMILY RANCH

COLEMAN COUNTY • FOUR MILES NORTHEAST OF SANTA ANNA ON CR 120

FOUNDED IN: 1903

FOUNDER: MERIT MONROE HICKMAN

CURRENT OWNERS: JOHN RICHARDS AND JOAN RICHARDS



Merit Hickman founded the farm in 1903. Shortly before his death, he sold the farm to his son, John E. Hickman. John worked the land, and eventually did so with the help of his sister's son, John Wofford. When John died, he left the land to his sister's children, Miles and Hessie, along with John Wofford's widow.

After Miles and Hessie died, ownership passed to Miles' widow, Margaret, and her five children: Joan, Miles D., Gary, Gordon and John. Joan took over operations and formed a trust to manage the farm. Later, the family deeded the farm to Joan and her husband, who have continued increasing the farming operations to this day.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1903—COTTON AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE

As told by John Richards, great-grandson-in-law of the founder.

CIRCLE W RANCH BERNARDO

COLORADO COUNTY • 18 MILES NORTHEAST OF COLUMBUS

FOUNDED IN: 1879

FOUNDERS: MAX H. AND ANTONIE DITTMAR

**CURRENT OWNERS: LYNETTE WEISHUHN
AND OLIVER J. WEISHUHN**



Max H. Dittmar was born in Colorado County, and in 1879, he acquired his original acreage from Texas Governor O. M. Roberts. Max and his wife, Antonie, had seven children: Hattie, Antonie, Leon, Herman, Alex, Otto and Max.

Alex Dittmar acquired the 160 acres in 1939. He was unmarried and had no children. His brother, Herman Dittmar, acquired a portion of Alex's land after Alex passed away. Herman added this land to the additional acreage he had already acquired. Elenora Frazier acquired portions of the land in 1971 and 1978.

Elenora Frazier and her husband, Dallas, had one daughter, Lynette Weishuhn. Lynette and her husband, Oliver, acquired portions of the family property and operate the land today. They have two children: Tonja Gilliam and Heath Weishuhn.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1897—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Oliver Weishuhn, great-grandson-in-law of the founders.

CIRCLE W RANCH FRELSBURG

COLORADO COUNTY • 11 MILES NORTH OF COLUMBUS ON

VOGELSANG ROAD

FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDERS: FRANK AND ELLA WEISHUHN

**CURRENT OWNERS: OLIVER J. WEISHUHN
AND LYNETTE WEISHUHN**



Frank Weishuhn was born in Colorado County, and in 1909, he acquired 150 acres. Frank and his wife, Ella, had eight children: Ernst, Florence, Franklin, Leroy, Lester, Lucille, Bernice and Laverne. They raised all eight children on the farm, and they attended Zimmerschiedt School.

Franklin and his wife, Adeline, acquired title to 77 acres in 1959 when Frank died. In 2009, their son, Oliver Weishuhn, and his wife, Lynette, acquired 30 acres of the original parcel. Oliver and Lynette have two children: Tonja and Heath.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2014—LIVESTOCK

As told by Oliver Weishuhn, grandson of the founders.

SMITH FAMILY RANCH

COMANCHE COUNTY • SIX MILES NORTH OF BLANKET ON CR 153

FOUNDED IN: 1882

FOUNDER: JOHN HENRY DAY SIDES

**CURRENT OWNERS: ORAN DON SMITH
AND FRANCES DARLENE SMITH**



John Henry Day Sides was born in Travis County. He traveled with his family to Comanche County, and in 1882, he acquired land. John and his wife, Louisa, had four children: George Washington, Lou Emmer, John Henry and Mary Emmie.

John Henry and his wife, Mary, were given 320 acres as a wedding gift in 1897. They worked the land and purchased additional acreage from his parents in 1919. They raised seven children: Lola May, Oscar Evander, Lottie Louisa, Geneva Goldie, Velma Annie, John Wilmont and Maudie Roberta.

Maudie Sides Smith acquired title to 167 acres in 1943. Maudie and her husband, Oran, had three children: Neita Myrle, Wanda Joyce and Oran Don.

Oran Don Smith received the acreage in 1993, and he continues to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1882—COTTON, GRAINS, LIVESTOCK AND TIMBER; 2014—GRAINS AND LIVESTOCK

As told by Oran Don Smith, great-grandson of the founder.

VOGEL FARM

COOKE COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTHWEST OF MUENSTER ON CR 388

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: EMIL VOGEL

CURRENT OWNER: LINDA VOGEL



Emil Vogel was born in Germany in 1873 and immigrated to America in 1889. He settled in Illinois where he married Anna Mary Kleiss. They moved to Texas and acquired title to some land in 1914. They had nine children: eight boys and one girl.

In 1971, their son, Theodore, purchased land from the estate. Theodore and his wife, Marie Hoenic, raised six children.

In 1974, Michael Claude Vogel, purchased a portion of land from his parents, Theodore and Marie. Michael and his wife, Linda, had two sons. Linda acquired title to the land after Michael's death.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 354

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—COTTON, DAIRY CATTLE, HORSES, OATS, SHEEP, VEGETABLES AND WHEAT;
2014—CATTLE, HAY AND WILDLIFE**

As told by Linda Vogel, granddaughter-in-law of the founder.

VOGEL FARM

COOKE COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST OF MUESTER ON CR 388

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: EMIL VOGEL

CURRENT OWNER: JEANNE VOGEL

Emil Vogel was born in Germany in 1873 and immigrated to America in 1889. He settled in Illinois where he married Anna Mary Kleiss. They moved to Texas and acquired land. They had nine children: eight boys and one girl.



In 1971, their son, Theodore, purchased the land from the estate. Theodore and his wife, Marie, raised six children.

Their daughter, Jeanne Vogel, acquired 19 acres from the estate in 1997. She continues to work the land and added additional acreage in 2013.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 354

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—COTTON, DAIRY CATTLE, HORSES, OATS, SHEEP, VEGETABLES AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE AND WILDLIFE

As told by Jeanne Marie Vogel, granddaughter of the founder.

TREES-WADDLE FARM

DALLAS COUNTY • SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF DeSOTO CITY HALL

FOUNDED IN: 1892

FOUNDER: CRAWFORD TREES JR.

**CURRENT OWNERS: BOBBY G. WADDLE
AND KIMBERLY WADDLE BUTTGEN**

In 1846, Crawford Trees Sr. and Anna Kimmel were issued the first Dallas County marriage license. Their families had arrived within months of each other from Illinois. They had 10 children, and in 1849, Crawford traveled by wagon and acquired his fortune during the California Gold Rush. Returning to Texas, he invested in land throughout Dallas County.



The Trees-Waddle Farm was deeded to Crawford Trees Jr. in 1892. He and his wife, Fannie May, raised three children: Dee, Joe and Janie. The land was deeded to Janie in 1936, and then to her son, Bobby G. Waddle, in 1984.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1892—CATTLE, COTTON AND SMALL GRAINS; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Janie Ruth Trees Waddle, daughter of the founder.

KLONDIKE FARM, A DIVISION OF SHADY H RANCH

DELTA COUNTY • 3.5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF COOPER ON CR 2005

FOUNDED IN: 1881

FOUNDER: JOHN ALEXANDER GOOD

CURRENT OWNER: GREGORY GEORGE HOOTEN



John Alexander Good was born in 1840 in Tennessee. He later moved to Missouri and married Sarah Melvina Baker. They moved to Texas and began acquiring land in Delta County. John and Sarah had six children. When each child was married, they were given 250 acres.

Their son, John William, married Sarah Ann Rattan in 1900. They raised five children.

J. W. and Sarah's daughter, Lois, inherited a portion of land in 1958. Additionally, she bought more land from her brother's widow; this portion was later sold to the Corps of Engineers in the 1970s to build Cooper Lake.

When Lois passed, the land was divided equally between her two children: Helen and Owen. In 2000, Owen gifted a portion of the ranch to his son, Gregory, who continues to farm and ranch the land today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 365

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1881—CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HOGS AND OATS; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Gregory George Hooten, great-great-grandson of the founder.

BAR P PARTNERS RANCH

DICKENS COUNTY • 12 MILES WEST OF SPUR ON CR 405

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: BELLE DORA GOFF MARTIN

CURRENT OWNERS: WINONA AND LOYD I. RINEHART



Belle Dora Goff was born in 1866. She married W. H. Martin in 1888, and as a family, they came to Texas in 1902. W. H. died in 1908, leaving Belle with five children.

One daughter, Georgia Ruth, took osteomyelitis of the hips from a fall and remained bedfast for six years. Georgia Ruth got well enough to get up, and then in 1922, she married Donnie L. Pace. Georgia inherited the property from her mother and continued to work the land with Donnie. Their only child, Velton Winona, later inherited the land.

Velton Winona and her husband, Loyd I. Rinehart, own the property today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—COTTON, FEED AND STOCK; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Winona Pace Rinehart, granddaughter of the founder.

ANDERSON RANCH “THE FORD PLACE”

ERATH COUNTY • 17 MILES SOUTHEAST OF STEPHENVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1911

FOUNDER: WILLIAM HACKLEY ANDERSON

**CURRENT OWNERS: WILLIAM GARY STASEY
AND DEBRA LYNN STASEY**



William Hackley Anderson was born in Mississippi in 1880 and moved to Texas with his family in 1884. In 1911, he acquired 80 acres previously owned by M. L. Ford. The land was always referred to as “The Ford Place” by the Anderson family and still is today. William and his wife, Viola, had 15 children. One of their sons built a small house in the 1930s and lived there for some time before moving into a place of his own.

W. H. sold the property to his oldest son, John Franklin Anderson, in 1948. John continued to work the land until he gifted it to his three children: Mary John, Paul and Steve.

Mary John and her husband, B. J. Stasey, operated the farm until 1994. Mary John and her brothers sold the property to William Gary Stasey and his wife, Debra Lynn, who together have continued to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 80

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1911—CORN, COTTON, LIVESTOCK, MILO, OATS AND WHEAT;
2014—CORN, LIVESTOCK, MILO, OATS AND WHEAT**

As told by William Gary Stasey, great-grandson of the founder.

DIAMOND B FARMS

ERATH COUNTY • 12 MILES NORTH OF STEPHENVILLE ON FM 1188

FOUNDED IN: 1889

FOUNDER: BERRY MCGUIRE

**CURRENT OWNERS: KATHLEEN WAYNELL BRAMMER
AND SHERRI LYNELL BIAR**



Berry McGuire was born in Tennessee to Henry and Nancy Duncan McGuire. They moved to Texas and settled down.

Berry married Nancy Caroline Dunn in 1872, and they had 11 children. Berry would allow neighbors to water their livestock at the springs on Sunday Creek during dry spells. Berry also was appointed as a Texas Ranger for a short period of time.

Caroline died in 1921, and Berry passed away four months later. They are buried in Liberty Cemetery less than one mile from the homestead.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 200

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1889—CATTLE AND COTTON; 2014—ANGUS CATTLE

As told by Kathleen Waynell Brammer, great-granddaughter of the founder.

ALFORD McDONALD JOHNSON FARM

FALLS COUNTY • IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF TRAVIS OFF HWY 77

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: ALFORD McDONALD JOHNSON

**CURRENT OWNERS: JAMES JOHNSON PROTHRO
AND ALFRED MARTINEZ**



Alford McDonald Johnson was born in 1876 in Georgia. He traveled to Texas with his parents in 1896 for better farming opportunities. In 1914, he bought land. Alford and his wife, Nannie, raised three children: Hubert, Cleo and Jewell.

Hubert Thedford Johnson purchased the family farm in 1968. He added additional acreage and started raising cattle. He also developed grassland waterways and reduced erosion. Hubert and his wife, Reba, had one daughter, Marie.

Marie Johnson Prothro inherited the acreage in 1989. Her sons, James and Charles, took over ownership in 1993 and continued operations. In 1998, James bought all interest in the land.

The Johnson Barn survives today as the oldest structure present representing pioneer settlement before construction of the railroad and development of Travis, Texas. Restoration is scheduled for 2015.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 65

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—COTTON; 2014—CORN AND WHEAT

As told by James Johnson Prothro, great-grandson of the founder.

BUSCHA FARM

**FAYETTE COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTHEAST OF GIDDINGS ON
BERNSHAUSEN ROAD**

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDER: JOHN BUSCHA

CURRENT OWNERS: EDWARD BUSCHA AND CHRISTINE BUSCHA



John Buscha was born in Germany. John boarded a ship and traveled to Galveston. He went on to Fayette County by wagon and acquired his land in 1906. John and his wife, Christina, had 11 children. John added more land prior to his death in 1940.

Christina acquired the land after John's death. She, along with her son, Albert, lived on the homestead and farmed the land. In 1952, Albert purchased the farm from his siblings. Albert married Esther and had two children, Edward and Carol, who he would later deed the land to.

Edward continues to live on the land with his wife, Christine. They have one son, Timothy. Carol continues to reside on her portion of the land with her husband, Mike. They have two children: Michael and Jason.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 333

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON AND HOGS; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Edward Buscha, grandson of the founder.

SULA'S FARM AND RANCH

**FAYETTE COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTHEAST OF
FAYETTEVILLE**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: PAUL SULA

CURRENT OWNERS: EDWARD J. SULA AND FRANCES J. SULA

Paul Sula purchased land in 1913. After Paul's passing, his son, John, purchased the land from his mother. When John passed away in 1980, he left the property to his three children: Margie, Mary Jane and Edward.

Margie Sodelak and Mary Jane Toddy sold their acreage in 1982. Edward continues cattle and hay production on his portion of the original acreage today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 200

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON;
2014—CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Edward J. Sula, grandson of the founder.



WILLIAM BAUER HOMESTEAD

FAYETTE COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST OF LaGRANGE

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: WILLIAM BAUER

CURRENT OWNERS: NORMAN AND LORALI SCHULTZ

William Bauer and his wife, Gesine, were born in Fayette County. In 1914, they purchased land near Oldenburg. William and Gesine had three children: Nola, Alletta and Weston. The children were raised on the farm. William died in 1944, and the farm was then owned by Gesine.

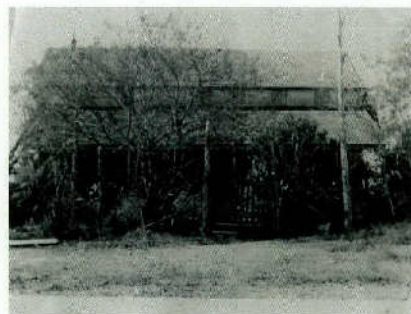
Weston acquired a portion of the acreage after his mother's death. Weston and his wife, Verbie, operated a dairy and continued farming. They had three children: Lorali, Sedalia and Roger.

Lorali acquired a portion of the original property in 2011 after her father's death. Lorali and her husband, Norman Schultz, also purchased a portion of her sister's acreage and have continued to add land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 191

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—BEES, CORN, COTTON, FRUIT, HAY, LIVESTOCK, MILO, PECANS, POULTRY AND
SUGARCANE; 2014—HAY AND LIVESTOCK**

As told by Lorali Bauer Schultz, granddaughter of the founder.



FLYING T FARMS

FLOYD COUNTY • 17 MILES SOUTHWEST OF FLOYDADA

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDER: M. W. HEARD

CURRENT OWNERS: STEVE AND GAYLE TROWBRIDGE

The Reverend W. H. Carr came from Coryell County to Floyd County in 1902 and scouted a section of land. He wrote to his son-in-law, M. W. Heard, about the land. In 1906, M. W. acquired his 400 acres. The family holdings in the area continued to grow, with M. W.'s brother, J. W. Heard, and brother-in-law, W. C. Clubb, also buying acreage.



In 1943, Floyd and Minnie Bell (Clubb) Trowbridge bought a portion of the south acreage from Mrs. M. W. Heard. In 1977, their sons, Stephen and W. C., inherited the land. In 1995, Stephen bought his brother's half of the farm. Stephen and his wife still own and farm the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 400

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—COTTON, HORSES, MILO, MULES AND WHEAT;
2014—CATTLE, COTTON, MILO AND WHEAT**

As told by Steve Trowbridge, great-nephew of the founder.

HOLT FAMILY FARM

**FLOYD COUNTY • 15 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SILVERTON
OFF HWY 207**

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: GREEN CLAY HOLT

CURRENT OWNER: PEGGY JEAN HOLT GARVIN

Green Clay Holt was born in Tennessee in 1871. He married Emma and came to Texas in 1900 in a covered wagon carrying two small children. They first settled in Floyd and Swisher counties, and in 1911, they bought land in Briscoe County. That was all before buying land in Floyd County in 1914. Green and Emma raised 10 children: Willie, Avie, Blaine, Edgar, Mattie, Minnie, Lorene, Charlie, Ina and Annie.



Emma acquired the land in 1933 after Green died. In 1944, her son, Willie, acquired the property and continued to work the land. Willie and his wife, Leona, had three children: Reba, Rex and Peggy.

Peggy Jean Holt Garvin acquired a portion of the original acreage in 1977. Peggy and her husband, Billie Wayne, have two children: Scott and Dara Ware. The family remains active in the farming community.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 640

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES, MILO AND SUGARCANE; 2014—GRASS

As told by Peggy Jean Holt Garvin, granddaughter of the founder.

MAXEY FARM

GARZA COUNTY • 12 MILES SOUTHWEST OF POST ON CR 125

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDERS: JOSEPH FRANKLIN AND

ELIZA BELLE (RENFROW) MAXEY

CURRENT OWNERS: LEWIS AND JANE MASON



Joseph Franklin Maxey moved from Illinois in 1873. He married Belle Renfrow in Texas, and they moved to Oklahoma for a brief period. In 1903, he returned to Texas with his wife and children by covered wagon to live in a half-dugout and work the land. Later, in 1914, they purchased land in the Graham Community. They had nine children: Pearl, Gladys, Ona, Frost, Minnie, Texola, Bryan, Ruth and Quanah.

In 1961, Quanah and his wife, Sue, purchased the acreage. They had three daughters: Orabeth, Jane and Diane. After his retirement in 1988, Quanah sold his acreage to Jane and her husband, Lewis Mason.

Lewis and Jane have three sons: Brent, Brad and Bart. The family continues to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—COTTON, GOOSENECK MAIZE AND LIVESTOCK;

2014—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND SORGHUM HAY

As told by Jane Ellen (Maxey) Mason, granddaughter of the founders.

KUSENBERGER FARM AND RANCH

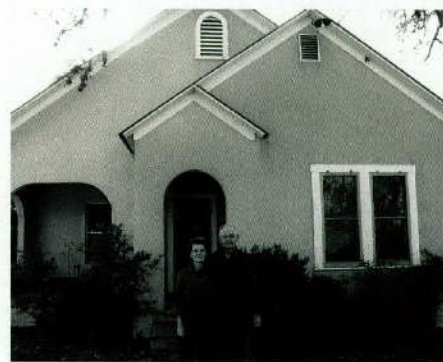
GILLESPIE COUNTY • 14 MILES EAST OF FREDERICKSBURG ON

HAHN ROAD

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: ALBERT KUSENBERGER

CURRENT OWNERS: HAROLD AND JOANNE KUSENBERGER



Albert Kusenberger was born in Gillespie County near Fredericksburg and lived there all of his life. Albert and his wife, Emma Heiligmann, had four children: Alfred, Alma, Olga and Ervin. They lived on the farm and attended country schools.

Alfred and his wife, Aminda Henke, had two children: Leola and Harold. They grew up on the farm and helped their parents from an early age. Harold was born in the original house his grandfather bought in 1913, and he lived there his entire life. Harold is a World War II veteran. Today, he continues farm operations with his wife, Joanne.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 524

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, COTTON, GOATS AND SHEEP; 2014—CATTLE, HAY, MILO, OATS AND WHEAT

As told by Harold and Joanne Kusenberger, grandson and granddaughter-in-law of the founder.

FRANK ROY AND ANNIE KUNTSCHIK BENES FAMILY FARM

GONZALES COUNTY • FIVE MILES WEST OF GONZALES ON FM 209I

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: MICHAL BENES

**CURRENT OWNERS: FRANK MICHAEL BENES, MARY GAYLE
BENES CARAWAY, NANCY JOSEPHINE BENES, JAMES ROY
BENES AND BETTY ANN BENES MARAK**



Michal Benes was born in Czechoslovakia in 1850. He came to Texas in 1889. Michal and his wife, Josephine, purchased land in 1914. They had eight children. After Michal died in 1945 and Josephine in 1948, their children sold the land to Frank and Annie Benes.

Frank and Annie had been living on the farm since 1940. They had six children: Frank, Mary Gayle, Nancy, James, Betty and Raymond John.

Frank died in 1980, leaving the farm to Annie. Their son, Frank Michael, took over operations and continues to work the land today. Annie died in 1999 and left the farm to her six children. Raymond John passed away in 2006. The estate is left for the family to enjoy for many more years.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, POULTRY AND SWINE; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Pamela M. Kardosz, great-granddaughter of the founder.

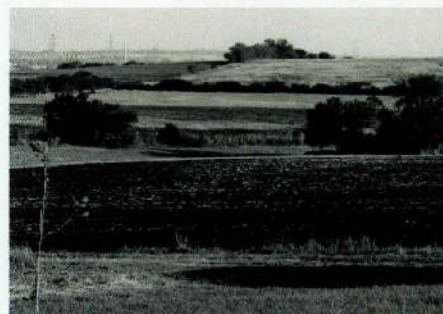
DIETERT FARM

GUADALUPE COUNTY • II MILES NORTH OF SEGUIN ON FM 1339

FOUNDED IN: 1902

FOUNDER: BRUNO DIETERT

CURRENT OWNERS: LEROY DIETERT AND WAYNE DIETERT



Godfried and Dorthea Dietert owned 293 acres, which they acquired around 1860. Godfried passed away in early 1902, and Dorthea sold 98 acres to her son, Bruno.

Bruno, the founder of the farm, was born in Texas in 1879. Bruno and his wife, Emma, had two children: Monroe and Lucille. They were raised on the farm. Bruno used horses and mules to dig a pond on the farm, which is still in use today.

In 1950, Bruno sold the farm to his great-nephew, Leroy Dietert. Leroy and his wife, Leatrice, had three children: Joy Lynn, Wayne Leroy and James Neal. Today, the land is operated by Leroy's son, Wayne.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 98

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1902—CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES AND MULES;
2014—CORN, HAY, MILO, OATS AND WHEAT**

As told by Wayne Dietert, great-great-nephew of the founders.

SAGESER FAMILY FARM

HALE COUNTY • 2.5 MILES WEST OF COTTON CENTER ON FM 37

FOUNDED IN: 1892

FOUNDERS: J. F. AND LUCY MAYS SAGESER

**CURRENT OWNERS: CHRIS DUANE AND RAYNIE SAGESER,
JACK SAGESER, CHARLOTTE McCLUSKEY McCRIGHT
AND SAGESER FAMILY TRUST**



J. F. Sageser was born in Kentucky and traveled to Texas in 1892. He and his wife, Lucy, had four children: Grover, Cauley, Lida and Forest. They raised all four children on the farm.

In 1950, Forest acquired a portion of the land after Lucy died. Forest and his wife, Emma, had four children: Emma Frances, Martha Lou, Jack Forest and Ray Max. As a teenager, Jack began farming with his uncle, Cauley. Over time, Jack continued to acquire portions of his relatives' land. Jack and his wife, Davene, had three children: Sharla, Chris and Nancy.

Chris Duane Sageser purchased a portion of the original tract in 1987. He continues to work the land with his wife, Raynie, and their two children: Cristalyn Danette and Jay Ray.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 640

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1892—CATTLE; 2014—CATTLE, COTTON, CORN, CUCUMBERS, MILO AND SESAME

As told by Cristalyn Sageser Parten, great-great-granddaughter of the founders.

GRANDMA'S FARM

**HASKELL COUNTY • SIX MILES NORTH OF HASKELL
ON U.S. HWY 277**

FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDER: VICTOR JOSEPH JOSSELET

CURRENT OWNERS: ROGER AND MOLLIE MOELLER

Victor Joseph Josselet was born in Belgium in 1846. He booked passage to the United States in 1873. He settled in Chicago where he worked as a coal miner for two years before moving to Texas. Once in Texas, he bought a farm and married Catherine Hugon.

Victor sold that farm and moved to Haskell County in 1900 where he purchased 2,952 of land. On this land, he raised nine children. He deeded each child 200 acres and \$500 as they married.

One of his sons, Paul John, married Carrie Rogers in 1919. They built their home on the land and raised three children. They continued to acquire parcels from the original tract. In 1973, Paul and Carrie's daughter, Alma, was given the 200 acres, and in 1997, Alma gifted the land to her daughter, Mollie.

Mollie and her husband, Roger, continue to farm the land today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,952

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—CATTLE, COTTON, HAY, SORGHUM AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE, HAY AND WHEAT

As told by Mollie Moeller, great-granddaughter of the founder.



HOME PLACE FARM

HASKELL COUNTY • SIX MILES NORTH OF HASKELL

ON U.S. HWY 277

FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDER: VICTOR J. JOSSELET

CURRENT OWNER: RICKY DRINNON

Victor J. Josselet came from Belgium to the United States in 1873. He married Catherine Hugon in 1880 in Sherman, Texas. Victor purchased land north of Haskell in 1900, and they had nine children: Lydia, Felix, David, Paul, Andrew, Annie, Ardonia, Esther and Jesse.

Lydia acquired a portion of the acreage upon Victor's death in 1931. Lydia's husband, G. A. Turnbow, and their six children continued to work the land. Their daughter, Veda Turnbow Drinnon, acquired some acreage after her parents' deaths. Veda and her husband, Robert M. Drinnon, had six children.

In 1971, Veda's remaining children received an undivided interest of acreage. Her son, Robert A. Drinnon, continued to work the land. Robert later purchased his siblings' shares of land. Robert's son, Ricky, acquired a portion of the founder's land in 2008. Ricky and his wife, Kitsie, have one daughter, Jaclyn Drinnon Rosbrugh.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,952

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—CATTLE, COTTON, MILO AND WHEAT; 2014—COTTON, MILO AND WHEAT

As told by Ricky Drinnon, great-great-grandson of the founder.



H. H. WILKINSON'S CROSS F RANCH

HOWARD COUNTY • FIVE MILES WEST OF BIG SPRING

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: H. H. WILKINSON

CURRENT OWNERS: CAROLYN WILKINSON FIERER,

MARK FIERER AND JOHN MICHAEL FIERER

H. H. Wilkinson's Cross F Ranch was named after the 'Cross F' brand, which was registered in Howard County in 1913 by H. H. Wilkinson. The brand originated in Bosque County in the 1870s by Micaja Phelps and was later sold in 1910 to J. Tom Mercer, along with Phelps' cattle.

In 1913, J. Tom Mercer and H. H. Wilkinson adopted the 'Cross F' brand for their combined herd. In 1914, H. H. purchased Mercer's interest in the ranch. After H. H. passed away, Jack G. Wilkinson and Elna Wilkinson took over operations. Together, they ran the ranch for 40 years.

They left the ranch to Jack's children: Carolyn Wilkinson Fierer and Bruce Wilkinson. In 2011, Carolyn's son, John Michael Fierer, took over operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 14,920

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE AND COTTON; 2014—CATTLE AND COTTON

As told by Mark Fierer, great-grandson of the founder.



PRUNTY RANCH

JACK COUNTY • 12 MILES EAST OF JACKSBORO

FOUNDED IN: 1908

FOUNDERS: ROBERT M. PRUNTY AND BERTHA JANE GUSTIN PRUNTY

CURRENT OWNERS: LUTHER AND DOROTHY PRUNTY

Robert Marion Prunty was born in Wise County, Texas, in 1877. He worked cattle drives to Kansas City. Once he got tired of riding, he sold his horse, bought a bicycle and rode it home to Prairie Branch. Bertha Jane Gustin was born in Missouri in 1882 and traveled by covered wagon to Texas. Bertha and Robert married in 1899. They had eight children: Dove, Ethel, Robert, Luther, Bertha and three others who passed away at an early age.



The family moved to Jack County and sharecropped the land they bought in 1908. Their watermelons were often stolen so they planted one patch near the road and another secret family patch.

After Robert's death, his widow inherited half the acreage, and the rest was split between the children. Over the years, Luther Prunty bought land from his siblings and his mother.

In 2006, Luther's daughter and her husband started an organic farming operation on the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 111

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—CATTLE, CREAM, FRUIT, HOGS, MULES, PECANS, SMOKED MEATS, SORGHUM AND WATERMELONS; 2014—CATTLE, FEED CROPS AND ORGANIC PRODUCE

As told by Gail Prunty Bialas, granddaughter of the founders.

CROW RANCH

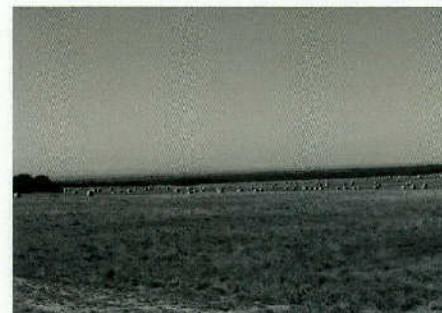
JONES COUNTY • 20 MILES NORTH OF MERKEL ON FM 126

FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDER: JUDGE LUMPKIN CROW

CURRENT OWNERS: BRENTZ CROW BROOKS, THOMAS EUGENE BROOKS, SAMUEL WORTHAM (BUD) CROW JR., JANET LAWRENCE AND BARBARA LAWRENCE

Judge Lumpkin Crow is not a title, official or honorary, rather it is the name given to him by his parents in 1877 in honor of his grandfather, William Thompson Crow, who was a district judge in Franklin County, Georgia.



Judge left Georgia in the late 1800s and joined his older brothers in Texas. He later settled in Jones County, and in 1900, he acquired acreage. He married a neighbor, Dora Ophelia Prather, in 1904. They raised seven children on the land.

After Judge died in 1952, his youngest son, James Robert, operated the property. James retired in the 1990s. Since then, four grandchildren have continued operations as a partnership.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 190

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—APPLES, HOGS, PEACHES AND PEANUTS; 2014—WEEPING LOVEGRASS

As told by Samuel Wortham (Bud) Crow Jr., grandson of the founder.

FLAT TOP THREE RANCH

KARNES COUNTY • 5.5 MILES WEST OF KARNES CITY OFF FM 99

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: CECILIE HONS VAJDOS

**CURRENT OWNERS: JERRY VAJDOS
AND TERESA VAJDOS BELCHER**



Cecilie Hons Vajdos was born in 1875 in the Czech Republic and came to America in 1890. She settled in Lavaca County. She married Frantisek in 1894 and had six children: Augustine, Joseph, Frank, Aloysia, Sr. Mary Florence and Barbara. Frantisek died in 1907 leaving Cecilie with the children. In 1908, she moved to Karnes County to be near her brothers.

In 1914, Cecilie purchased land. In 1930, she sold a portion of the land to her son, Frank, and his wife, Emiliana Linhart. In 1948, Frank and Emiliana bought the remaining acreage. Upon their deaths, the land was split between their children: Jerome (Jerry), Mary, Cecelia, Teresa and Francis.

Teresa and Jerry now own the original 130 acres.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 130

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HAY AND HOGS; 2014—CATTLE, GRASS AND HAY

As told by Jerry Vajdos and Teresa Vajdos Belcher, grandchildren of the founder.

GOODALL FARM

**KENT COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST OF GIRARD
ON HWY 1228**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

**FOUNDERS: GEORGE BOONE AND ALMA AUSTRALIA GOODALL
CURRENT OWNERS: PAT AND B. R. GOODALL**



George Boone Goodall purchased land in 1913 from a group of New York land investors. George and his wife, Alma Australia, raised three children and lived on the land through both World War I and World War II, as well as the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.

After George and Alma's deaths, the farm was left to their children. In 1989, their grandson, B. R. Goodall, and his wife acquired title to the original tract.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 240

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HAY, HOGS, HORSES, PEANUTS AND WHEAT;
2014—GRASS AND HAY**

As told by B. R. Goodall, grandson of the founders.

TOFT RANCH

**KINNEY COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTH OF BRACKETTVILLE
ON FM 131**

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: LARS S. TOFT

**CURRENT OWNERS: LORRIE S. MENDIVE, LAWRENCE C. MENDIVE
JR., ZANE T. LAND, R. L. BRET TRANT
AND KIMBERLY TRANT ISLE**



Lars S. Toft was born in 1854 in Denmark. Lars came to the United States in 1888 in search of new opportunities. In 1891, he established Arbeiter Verein Hall in downtown San Antonio. Soon after, Lars married Laura Jung from Fredericksburg.

In 1914, Lars purchased a plot of land and named it Toft Ranch. Lars and Laura had one son, Harold. After Lars' death, Harold continued working the land.

In the 1920s, Harold married Wilhelmina Zuehl. They had two daughters: Janice and Sharon. Harold died in 1952, and Wilhelmina took over all responsibilities until her death in 1989. The ranch was passed to Janice and Sharon.

After the two sisters passed away, their children and grandchildren have continued to operate Toft Ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 14,284

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE AND GOATS; 2014—CATTLE, GOATS AND SHEEP

As told by Lorrie Mendive, great-granddaughter of the founder.

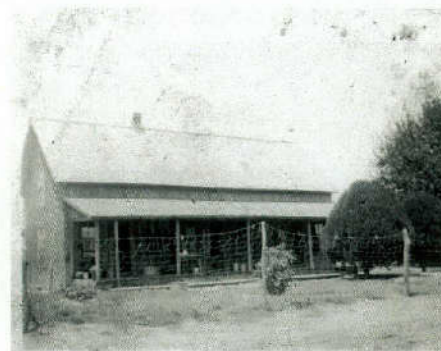
MORRIS-TOWNSEND

KNOX COUNTY • FOUR MILES SOUTH OF U.S. HWY 82 ON FM 266

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDERS: JOHN AND ROXIE MORRIS

CURRENT OWNERS: BETTY JO KINNIBRUGH AND BARBARA HOLT



Roxie Allen Morris married John Morris in Marlow, Oklahoma, where they had four children. In 1906, the family moved to Knox County and purchased 960 acres. Once in Texas, they had four children, including a set of twins.

In 1920, John passed away, leaving Roxie to run the farm and raise the children. She divided the homestead between her six surviving children.

Nora Mae Morris married W. J. Townsend in 1936. They built their own home and outbuildings in the early 1940s on the land. They later purchased some of Nora's siblings' portions of the land. Nora Mae and W. J. had two children: Betty Jo and Barbara.

Betty Jo Kinnibrugh and Barbara Holt are the current landowners. Betty Jo's son, Randal, continues to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 960

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE AND WHEAT

As told by Carla Coulston Hays, great-granddaughter of the founders.

THE KINGS HIGHWAY RANCH "THE FARM"

LEON COUNTY • FIVE MILES WEST OF NORMANGEE ON OSR

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: ALBERT W. AND ZELA LATHROP

CURRENT OWNER: ZELA G. HODGES



Albert W. Lathrop was born in Leon County in 1822. Albert married Zela, and together, they purchased 149 acres in Leon County. They had two children: Ethie and Lela.

In 1937, following the death of her parents, Ethie inherited 75 acres of the parcel. Ethie and her husband, Ira Gustavus, continued to farm the land and raise livestock. They had three children: Eunice, Derwin and Zela.

Zela acquired title to the land in 1988. Zela and her husband, Lowell Hodges, had three children, Beverly, Renita and Marc, and raised a foster son, Lynh Pham. In 1999, Renita's son built a home on the land. Renita and her husband, Paul, moved into the house in 2002.

In 2013, Marc and his wife, Phyllis, built another home on the land. Along with Paul and Renita, they continue to maintain the family estate.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 149

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HOGS, MILO, POULTRY AND RIBBON CANE; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Zela G. Hodges, granddaughter of the founders.

SALT CREEK RANCH

**LIVE OAK COUNTY • 4.5 MILES NORTHEAST OF WHITSETT
ON FM 99**

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: WALLACE D. SHELTON

CURRENT OWNERS: SHARON D. FORDYCE, LAUREN S. FORDYCE,

TYLER B. FORDYCE, MATTHEW W. RODRIGUEZ,

SEVRIANO RODRIGUEZ AND WAYNE NEW



In 1913, Wallace D. Shelton traveled from Caldwell County in search of land. He was married to Lenora Wright and had three children: Josephine, Charline and Wallace A.

Wallace D. farmed and ranched until his death in 1965. The ranch was inherited by his three children. Wallace A. and his wife had one daughter, Shirley. In 2004, Shirley's daughter, Sharon, inherited the land. The family now has oil and gas production on the land and continues to raise livestock.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 241

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND MILO; 2014—LIVESTOCK

As told by Sharon D. Fordyce, great-granddaughter of the founder.

KALLUS/PESEK FARM

LAVACA COUNTY • SEVEN MILES EAST OF SHINER ON FM 1891

FOUNDED IN: 1895

FOUNDER: ALOIS JOSEF KALLUS

CURRENT OWNERS: PATRICK J. PESEK AND BARBARA PESEK

Alois Josef Kallus was born in 1868 in Czechoslovakia. At the age of 13, he traveled alone to America, arriving at the Port of Galveston. He lived in Milam and Fayette counties before settling in Lavaca County. In 1895, Alois and his wife, Therezie Migl, purchased a small home and general store on three acres.

Alois continued to add acreage and work the land. Alois and Therezie had thirteen children: Lillie, Agnes, Stanislav, Elizabeth, Johanna, Jaroslav, Annie, Vaclav, Vaclav Thomas, Bohdanka, George, Filipka and Henrietta.

In 1946, their daughter, Henrietta, and her husband, Rudolph, bought the homestead and worked the land. They had 12 children: Dorothy, Agnes, Theresa, Henry, Dolores, Leonard, Rita, Lawrence, Patrick, Andrew, Marian and Diane.

In 1992, Henrietta sold the homestead and 93 acres to her son, Patrick Joseph Pesek. Patrick and his wife, Barbara, have two sons: Aaron Blake and Jeffrey Thomas.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 3

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1895—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON AND VARIOUS CROPS; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Barbara Pesek, granddaughter-in-law of the founder.



LOUIS T. AND THELMA SCHATTE FAMILY FARM

LEE COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTH OF GIDDINGS ON CR 220

FOUNDED IN: 1910

FOUNDERS: JOHANN CHRISTOPH SCHATTE AND LOUISE UMLANG SCHATTE

CURRENT OWNERS: THELMA ZOCH SCHATTE, LOUIS T. SCHATTE JR., DAN AND SUZANNA SCHATTE CARTER, SHARON SCHATTE BIRKELBACH AND KENNETH D. SCHATTE



Johann Schatte and his wife, Louise, purchased land in 1910. They had 10 children: Otilie, Henry, Lillian, Marie, Dorothy, Christopher, Elizabeth, Edwin, Louis and Frances.

Louis married Thelma Ruth Zoch in 1947. They lived on the farm and purchased it in 1959. They had nine children: Thomas, Ronald, Suzanna, Marlene, Louis Jr., Sharon, David, Benjamin and Kenneth.

Louis Jr. acquired title to portions of the land in 2000 and 2008. He farms the entire original acreage. His siblings also own small portions of the land. In 2012, the original 10-acre homestead was sold to his sister, Suzanna, and her husband, Dan. Thelma maintains residence on the property.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 235

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1910—BERMUDA GRASS, CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, MAIZE, PEANUTS, PIGS, SHEEP AND SUGARCANE; 2014—CATTLE AND COASTAL BERMUDA

As told by Suzanna Schatte Carter, granddaughter of the founders.



Congratulations

YOU HAVE JOINED A SPECIAL GROUP.
YOU ARE NOT JUST THE FAMILIES WHO MADE
TEXAS; YOU ARE THE FAMILIES WHO MADE
TEXAS GREAT. FOR THAT WE HONOR YOU. AND
FOR THAT, ALL TEXANS SALUTE YOU.



STRAWTHER FAMILY FARM

MADISON COUNTY • SIX MILES WEST OF MADISONVILLE ON HWY 21

FOUNDED IN: 1910

FOUNDERS: EPHRAIM LEONARD
AND LOULA BEATRICE ISGITT STRAWTHER

CURRENT OWNER: PATSY WESTMORELAND STRAWTHER

Ephraim Strawther was born in Jasper County in 1879 to Thomas Claiborne and Martha Jane Strawther. Ephraim had two sisters: Annie and Bertha. In 1889, the family moved to Madison County.

Ephraim married Loula Beatrice Isgitt in 1900. They had four children: Emma Idelle, Will Thomas, Aaron Nealy and Ouida Pearl. In 1910, they purchased land. Ephraim and his father were well-known for their skill at making syrup. Folks would come from far and near to purchase the syrup.

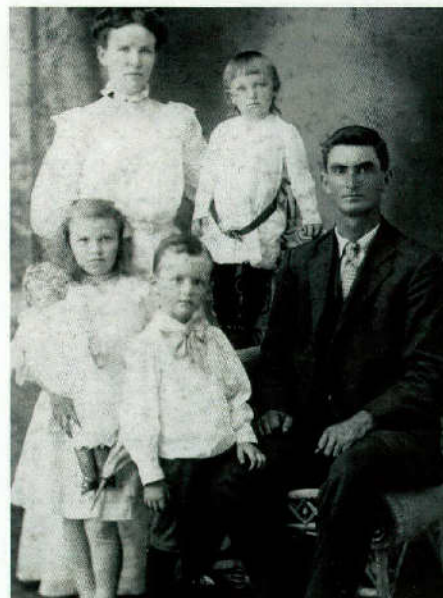
After Ephraim's death in 1954, the property went to his wife and children. In 1962, Loula and three of her children sold their portions of the land to her son and their brother, Aaron Nealy.

In 1975, Aaron Nealy died working cattle at the farm, and the land was inherited by his widow, Gracie E. Strawther. In 1977, Gracie sold the farm to her son, Charles Leonard. In 2012, Charles died and left the land to his widow, Patsy, who continues operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 83

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1910—CORN, COTTON, FRUIT TREES, HAY, LIVESTOCK, PECANS AND RIBBON CANE;
2014—EQUINE, HAY AND VEGETABLES

As told by Patsy Westmoreland Strawther, granddaughter-in-law of the founders.



KETTNER RANCH

MASON COUNTY • SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF MASON OFF U.S. 87

FOUNDED IN: 1871

FOUNDER: FRANCIS (FRANZ) KETTNER

CURRENT OWNERS: FRED LEE AND JOAN LEIFESTE KETTNER,
AND CHARLES A. AND SUZANN KETTNER

Francis Kettner was an early pioneer in the Texas Hill Country. Many details of his adventures are chronicled in letters exchanged with his parents in Germany. The letters were published as "Die Kettner Briefe."

Francis married Catherine Keller in 1857. He moved his family to Mason County in 1860, and in 1871, he bought land. In 1903, he handed over the land and operations to his three sons: Louis, William and Charles.

Charles married Louise Schmidt in 1898. They had three children: Ruby, Francis and Mary. Francis took over operation of the ranch in 1944. He married Ruby Coone in 1946, and they had two sons: Charles Adrian and Fred Lee.

Charles and his wife, SuZann, live part-time on the original property, adjacent to his brother's heritage property.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1871—CATTLE AND FIELD CROPS; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Charles Kettner, great-grandson of the founder.



KRUSE RANCH

MASON COUNTY • 7.5 MILES NORTH OF MASON ON HWY 87

FOUNDED IN: 1899

FOUNDER: WILHELM M. KRUSE

**CURRENT OWNERS: DEBORAH HOHN, DANIEL HOHN, DIANE HOHN
EDGE, DELORES HOHN HANSEN, DONNA HOHN, DORIS HOHN REILEY,
DONALD HOHN AND DENA HOHN COE**



In 1847, Wilhelm Kruse was born in Germany. His family arrived in Galveston in 1851 and made their way to Fredericksburg. In 1876, Wilhelm married Katherine Rosenbach. They moved to Mason and purchased property in 1899. They raised a family there.

Their youngest child, William, continued ranching and farming operations with his wife, Veda Butler. They had six children, and the ranch was self-sufficient.

The current owners are restoring ranch structures, upgrading fences and clearing plants in an effort to return the property to its 1899 working condition.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 583

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1899—CATTLE, CORN, GOATS, MAIZE, OATS AND SHEEP; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Lola Hohn, granddaughter of the founder.

LINDSAY RANCH

MASON COUNTY • FIVE MILES NORTH OF MASON ON HWY 87

FOUNDED IN: 1871

**FOUNDERS: JOHN ALLEN AND MATILDA ELLEN (MILLIGAN)
LINDSAY**

**CURRENT OWNERS: ALVA CLAY AND DELORIS LINDSAY, CLAY
HALEY LINDSAY AND ALICIA LINDSAY PORTER**



John Allen Lindsay and his family moved to Texas from Alabama in 1848. Matilda Ellen was born in Titus, Texas, in 1842. John and Matilda married in Mason in 1858. They raised 12 children. Together, they bought land in 1871. John died in 1891, and Matilda continued operations.

Their eldest son, Alva James Lindsay, acquired title to the acreage in 1904. He had five children: Eva, John Alva, Ruby, Sadie and Walter.

John Alva Lindsay acquired title to a portion of the land in 1922. He had five children: Jack, Effie Mary, Alva Clay, Doris and Peggy.

Alva Clay acquired title to a tract of land in 1949 and continued operations. Alva Clay and his wife, Deloris, had two children: Alicia Kay (Lindsay) Porter and Clay Haley Lindsay.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 480

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1871—CATTLE; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Deloris Lindsay, great-granddaughter-in-law of the founders.

FITE HOMESTEAD

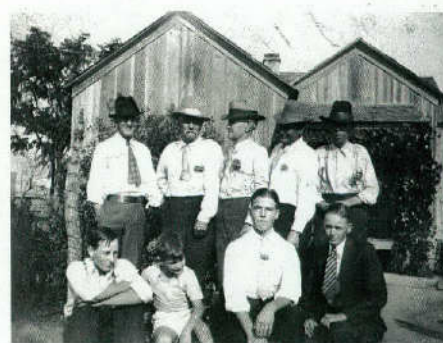
MONTAGUE COUNTY • TWO MILES WEST OF RINGGOLD OFF FM 2332

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: CLAUDE DOUGLAS FITE

CURRENT OWNERS: KATHRYN FITE FRANK AND CHANCE DEAN FITE

Claude Douglas Fite was born in Texas in 1880. He married Susan Annie Doty in 1907, and in 1914, he acquired land. He cleared the land and got to work. Claude and Susan had four children: Gladys, Lois, Coy and Annie.



Claude died in 1936, and Susan acquired the land. With the help of her sons, ranch operations continued. After Susan's death in 1976, the land was left to her four children.

In 1985, Coy bought the acreage from his brother and sisters. Coy and his wife had two children: Charles and Kathryn.

In 1996, Coy deeded the acreage to his daughter, Kathryn. She built a home on the old homestead in 1998. With the help of her brother and nephew, Kathryn has maintained the homestead. Upon her death, the land will transfer to her nephew, Chance Dean Fite, who has three sons.

Beginning with the founder, all male children in the family have the initials CDF.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 200

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CORN, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE AND WHEAT

As told by Kathryn Fite Frank, granddaughter of the founder.

POLLAN RANCH

MORRIS COUNTY • SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF DAINGERFIELD OFF FM 997

FOUNDED IN: 1912

FOUNDER: ABA GRAFTON POLLAN

CURRENT OWNER: JOE WAYNE POLLAN

Aba Grafton Pollan came to Morris County in 1900 with his father from Mississippi by covered wagon. Their distant cousin, John Pollan, died in San Antonio at the Alamo.



The Pollan family worked as sharecroppers. At the age of 22, Aba purchased land. He traded and bought land for many years and acquired 800 acres of virgin timber. He built a sawmill and furnished lumber for the government during World War II.

Aba's grandson, Joe Pollan, started working on the farm at the age of six. He was paid half a penny per bale of hay he hauled. He worked up to feeding cattle by the age of eight and has been working the land for more than 62 years.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 24

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1912—CATTLE, CORN, PEANUTS, SWEET POTATOES AND TIMBER;
2014—BAHIA SEED, CATTLE, HAY AND TIMBER**

As told by Joe Wayne Pollan, grandson of the founder.

WALKER FARMS

**PARKER COUNTY • 14 MILES NORTHWEST OF WEATHERFORD
OFF NEW AUTHON ROAD**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

**FOUNDERS: JOSEPH NEWSOM BARHAM AND EDNA OLIVIA
GRANTHAM BARHAM**

**CURRENT OWNERS: RONALD MARION WALKER AND WANDA
JUNE (WALKER) LANGFORD**



Joseph Newsom Barham lived in Tennessee and came to Texas with his brother to inquire about cheap land prices. Joseph took the train to Weatherford in 1908 and bought two mules and a new wagon, which is still in the family today. In 1913, he bought land and a house.

Joseph married Edna Olivia Grantham. Together, they worked on the land. Edna used to make cheese, which was aged in an underground cellar.

Their granddaughter, Wanda June, moved to the farm in 1958 with her husband and daughter. They have continued to make improvements.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 119

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—BEEF CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, DAIRY CATTLE, GARDEN CROPS, HOGS AND
TURKEYS; 2014—HAY AND PECANS**

As told by Ronald Marion Walker and Wanda June (Walker) Langford, grandchildren of the founders.

KUHLMAN & SONS FARM & RANCH

RANDALL COUNTY • FOUR MILES EAST OF CANYON OFF HWY 217

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDER: HERMAN KUHLMAN

CURRENT OWNERS: MIKE KUHLMAN AND GARY KUHLMAN



Herman Kuhlman emigrated from Germany in 1908 and arrived in Texas by way of Nebraska. He purchased land in 1914. Herman returned to Germany and married Alma Marie Gerdson in 1921. Together, they had three sons: Herbert, Alvin and James (Jim).

Herbert and Alvin farmed with their father until his partial retirement. Alvin took over operations in 1947 and worked the land until the 1960s when Herbert took over operations. Herman's wife, Alma, lived on the land until her death in 1993.

Herbert owned and operated the land with his sons and grandson until his death in 2003. His sons continue farm operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 165

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CHICKENS, DAIRY CATTLE, FORAGE SORGHUMS, GRAIN SORGHUMS, HORSES, OATS,
SWINE AND WHEAT; 2014—CATTLE, FORAGE SORGHUMS, GRAIN SORGHUMS, HORSES AND WHEAT**

As told by Jim W. Kuhlman, son of the founder.

WALTER AND ELLA McCLELLAND'S PLACE

SHELBY COUNTY • FOUR MILES EAST OF SHELBYVILLE ON HWY 87

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: WALTER AND ELLA McCLELLAND

**CURRENT OWNERS: JACKIE L. McCLELLAND
AND PAULA A. McCLELLAND**



Walter McClelland was born in 1884 in Shelby County. He married Ella Lovell in 1904. They had nine children: Cora, Edna, Charlie, Velma, Gladys, Lemond, Eula, Roosevelt and Billie. In 1913, they purchased 126 acres for \$600.

The family cleared the property and worked the land. Walter attended Texas College and taught at several schools in the surrounding communities. He rode a horse to and from work until he bought a car, which doubled as a bus when the weather was bad and students couldn't walk to school. Walter retired from the Shelbyville School District in 1952.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 126

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2014—TIMBER

As told by Jackie L. McClelland, grandson of the founders.

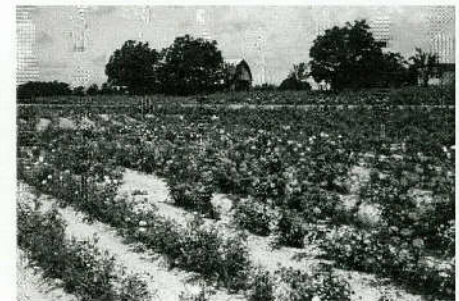
WILL REEVES FARM

SMITH COUNTY • 14 MILES WEST OF TYLER ON CR 417

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: JOHN WILLIAM REEVES

**CURRENT OWNERS: BILLY W. AND JANELLE REEVES, DWAYNE
AND DONNA REEVES, DURWOOD AND CINDY REEVES, SHANE
AND ADONDRA BETTS, VIRGIL AND EVA REEVES, DOUGLAS
WESTBERRY AND SHIRLEY REEVES WESTBERRY**



John William Reeves and his wife, Minnie, purchased land in 1913. They worked the land, as well as operating a cotton gin, syrup mill and general store on the property. John and Minnie raised four boys: George, Claud, Floyd and Lewie.

John died in 1917, and Minnie acquired the property. She and her sons continued operating the land. Upon Minnie's death, the land passed to her sons.

In 1943, Claud inherited 140 acres. Claud married Jewel, and they had eight children. Upon his death in 1975, Claud left the farm to Jewel. In 1995, Jewel passed away and left the farm to her children.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 190

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—COTTON, CORN, LIVESTOCK, ROSES AND VEGETABLES;
2014—BERRIES, LIVESTOCK AND VEGETABLES**

As told by Billy Wayne Reeves, grandson of the founder.

THE VAHLENKAMP FARM

**STONEWALL COUNTY • 14 MILES EAST OF ASPERMONT
ON HWY 283**

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDER: JOHN VAHLENKAMP

**CURRENT OWNERS: HERBERT VAHLENKAMP
AND GLADYS VAHLENKAMP**

John Vahlenkamp was born in Germany in 1869. He came to the United States at the age of 18. He came to La Grange where he met and married his wife, Anna. He purchased 150 acres in 1904. He added additional acreage in 1915 and 1922.

John and Anna had two sons: August and W. H. In 1944, John deeded a portion of the land to his son, August. Together, August and his wife, Minnie, raised six children: Herbert, Anita, Eugene, Verline, Virgil and Betty Jane.

Herbert bought 175 acres from his mother, sisters and brothers in 1954. Herbert and his wife, Gladys, have two children: Nancy and Marvin.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, COTTON, HAY, HORSES AND MILO;
2014—CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HAY AND WHEAT**

As told by Herbert Vahlenkamp, grandson of the founder.



COLLOM FARM AND RANCH

**STONEWALL COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTHEAST OF
ASPERMONT ON FM 1835**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: J. M. (JAMES MONROE) AND LILA GHOLSON

CURRENT OWNER: JAMES LARRY COLLOM

J. M. Gholson was born in Archer County. He originally purchased his land from Dudley Olcott and later sold a portion of the land to his brother, O. D. Gholson. On this land, O. D. lived and raised five children. After O. D.'s death in 1972, he left the farm to his children.

O. D.'s daughter purchased her siblings' portion of the land. After she passed, the land went to her husband, Travis Collom. The property was then left to their three children: Linda, James and Letha.

James now owns the original acreage purchased by J. M. Gholson.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE AND GRAIN; 2014—CATTLE AND GRAIN

As told by Linda Collom Messick, grand-niece of the founders.



MODENE SANDLIN HAWKINS FAMILY RANCH

**STONEWALL COUNTY • 12 MILES NORTHEAST OF ASPERMONT
ON FM 1835**

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDERS: WILLIAM AND LOU SANDLIN

**CURRENT OWNERS: JANICE HARRIS, JOHN HAWKINS, MARY
HARE, STEVE HAWKINS AND BO HAWKINS**

William and Lou Sandlin moved to Stonewall County in 1896. They originally lived in the Hooker Community in a brush house. In 1906, they bought their founding property just north of the Salt Fork on the Brazos River. In 1915, they sold a portion of their acreage to their sons: Terrell and James.

James built the beds for the railroad through Stonewall County using mules he raised on the property.

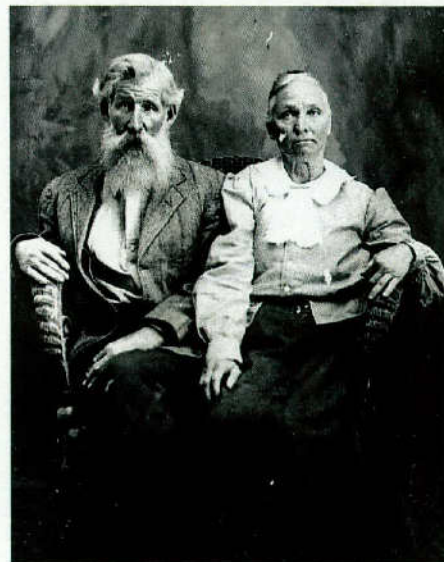
In 1954, Modene Sandlin inherited a portion of the property from her mother, Cassie Sandlin. In 1983, she bought the rest of the property from her brother after James Sandlin died.

In 1989, Bobby Jim and his brother, Benjamin, inherited the place. In 2000, Bobby Jim died and left the property to his children. In 2001 and 2003, his daughter, Janice Harris, bought her siblings' interest in the place. Janice and her husband, Danny, continue operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 328

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—CATTLE, GRAIN, HORSES AND MULES; 2014—CATTLE AND GRAIN

As told by Janice Harris, great-great-granddaughter of the founders.



S.R. HAWKINS RANCH

**STONEWALL COUNTY • 12 MILES NORTHEAST OF ASPERMONT
ON FM 1835**

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDERS: J. H. AND ZENIE JONES

CURRENT OWNER: RICHARD HAWKINS

S. R. Hawkins acquired the Hawkins Farm & Ranch from his sister, Zenie Jones, and her husband, J. H. In 1907, S. R. loaned Zenie and J. H. the money for the property. By 1909, the Jones no longer wanted the property so S. R. sold his place in Kent County and moved to Stonewall County.

S. R. and his wife, Antonia, raised seven children on the land. Antonia passed away in 1917, leaving S. R. to raise the children. The land was split between the siblings upon S. R.'s death and one of the sons, Bo, acquired his siblings' portions between 1958 and 1962. Bo was very active in his community.

Richard Hawkins acquired the land from his father, Bo, in 1989. Richard continues the family tradition of raising cattle and grain.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 164

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, COTTON AND GRAIN; 2014—CATTLE AND WHEAT

As told by Richard Hawkins, great-nephew of the founders.



SEDBERRY RANCH

STONEMOUNT COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTHWEST OF ASPERMONT ON U.S. HWY 380 AND FM 1646

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDER: W. E. GREEN

CURRENT OWNERS: JEFF AND PATTI SEDBERRY



W. E. Green came to Texas from Alabama and purchased land. He continued to add acreage. Upon his death, he willed the land to his two children: Claude and Iva. Claude operated the ranch, and Iva moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico, with her husband, William Sedberry.

Claude became unable to operate the ranch, so William's brother, J. M. Sedberry, started helping out. Upon Claude's passing, Iva became the property owner in 1973. After J. M. passed away in 1977, Jimmy Jeff Sedberry and his father, James G. Sedberry, operated the ranch.

When Iva died, she bequeathed the land to Jimmy Jeff Sedberry. Jeff and his wife, Patti, have lived on the ranch since they got married in 1980 and have raised their two sons, Jay and Trevor, on the ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 665

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—CATTLE, COTTON AND GRAIN; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Jeff Sedberry, great-great-nephew of the founder.

DAVIS RANCH: HOG CREEK

THROCKMORTON COUNTY • 22 MILES NORTHEAST OF THROCKMORTON ON FM 2459

FOUNDED IN: 1901

FOUNDER: ELI PENTECOST DAVIS

CURRENT OWNERS: JOHNNA DAVIS WEATHERBEE AND GAYLA CORLEY PRUETT



Upon his release from the Confederate Army at the age of 17, Eli Pentecost Davis purchased interest in a tannery and received tanned hides for his wages. After six months, his tanned hides were traded for fifty head of steer. That's where his story as a cattleman began.

Eli married Hettie Daws in 1886. They raised seven children. In 1901, Eli purchased land, and after his passing in 1902, his son, John T. Davis, inherited 1,245 acres of the plot.

John died in 1950 and left the plot to his son, John Jr., who was married to Elsie. Upon Elsie's passing in 2005, the land was left to their daughters, Betty and Johnna. Today, the ranch is operated by Johnna and her husband, Homer Weatherbee.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 4,068

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1901—CATTLE; 2014—CATTLE, HAYGRAZER AND WHEAT

As told by Johnna Davis Weatherbee, great-granddaughter of the founder.

HEINE FARMS RANCH

TRAVIS COUNTY • ONE MILE EAST OF SH-130 ON ELROY ROAD

FOUNDED IN: 1893

FOUNDER: FRIEDERICH AUGUST HEINE

CURRENT OWNERS: DAVID G. HEINE, DAVID Z. HEINE,
ALLISON KOTAL AND ALEXANDRIA HEINE



August Heine was born in 1857 and lived in Germany. Eventually, August lived and worked in Austin, where he met Christina Helfer. They were later married. August worked as a master mason in the building of the State Capitol in 1889.

August and Christina moved to Dessau. There, they had children and retrieved August's three eldest children from foster care. Later, the family moved to Del Valle, where the Heine Farms Ranch began.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 152

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1893—CATTLE, COTTON, FOWLS, GRAIN SORGHUM, HERBS, HORSES, MULES, PEACHES AND SUDAN; 2014—CATTLE, COASTAL BERMUDA, HORSES, PEACHES AND VARIOUS GRASSES

As told by David G. Heine, great-grandson of the founder.

BAR E FARM

TRINITY COUNTY • 11 MILES WEST OF GROVETON

FOUNDED IN: 1908

FOUNDER: E. D. BAGWELL

CURRENT OWNER: NANCY C. EVANS



E. D. Bagwell was born in Alabama. As a boy, he moved to Texas with his family. In 1908, he acquired land. He and his wife, Alice, had four daughters: Estelle, Bertie Lee, Tina and Ada.

Their daughter, Tina, married Rubin Otis and acquired a portion of the acreage in 1963. They had two sons: Bobbie and Terry.

Bobbie acquired 40 acres in 2001 after his father died. He later acquired additional portions of the acreage. Bobbie and his wife, Nancy, had four children: Mike, Keith, James and Kara.

Nancy Evans acquired the acreage after her husband died in 2007. She continues to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 50

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—CATTLE, CHICKENS, HAY, HOGS AND VEGETABLES; 2014—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by James R. Evans, great-grandson of the founder.

BALZEN FARM

UVALDE COUNTY • TWO MILES EAST OF KNIPPA ON U.S. 90

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDER: ROLF BALZEN

CURRENT OWNERS: BARRY BALZEN AND NANCY BALZEN

Rolf Balzen was born in Medina County and owned a lumberyard in LaCoste, Texas. When the lumberyard burned down, he and his wife, Mary, bought 303 acres in Knippa. Rolf and Mary had nine children who they raised on the farm.

Their son, Max, bought a portion of the original acreage in 1928. He added additional acreage in 1944. He raised six children there. During the 1950s drought, Max had to supplement the family's income by working nights at air bases in Hondo and Del Rio and farming during the day. Upon Max's death, he left the land to his six children.

Max's son, Barry, and his wife have farmed the land since 1974. They purchased a portion of the original tract from his siblings in 2011.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 303

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—CATTLE, COTTON, GRAIN AND HAY; 2014—CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM AND WHEAT

As told by Barry Balzen, grandson of the founder.



M McNAIR RANCH

UVALDE COUNTY • SIX MILES EAST OF CONCAN ON CR 336

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDER: MARION EDWARD "BOY" McNAIR

CURRENT OWNER: JOHN McNAIR

Marion Edward McNair was born in Texas in 1878 to Charles (Taylor) and Almyra McNair. Taylor McNair moved his family to Blanco County in 1870 after having served in the Confederate Army and then moved to Concan shortly after Marion's birth in 1878. Once there, the family purchased land along the Frio River. Marion grew up farming, and at the age of 27, he purchased land on which to raise his own family.

In 1953, Marion's son, John Taylor McNair, acquired the ranch and worked the land until he passed in 1975. John's son, Donald, assumed operations and raised cattle. Donald's son, John Collier, assumed ownership in 2012 and continues to work on the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 640

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CATTLE AND GOATS; 2014—CATTLE, GOATS AND OLIVES

As told by John McNair, great-grandson of the founder.



DAVIS RANCH

VAL VERDE COUNTY • 48 MILES NORTH OF DEL RIO
ON HWY 277

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDERS: RAY M. DAVIS, LINN E. DAVIS AND EMERY L. DAVIS

CURRENT OWNER: DARRELL A. DAVIS



Ray M. Davis purchased acreage in 1905. Shortly thereafter, Ray and his two younger brothers, Linn and Emery, moved to the property. In 1910, Emery purchased adjoining acreage. Linn also purchased additional land.

Ray sold his acres and livestock to his brothers in 1917, and the Davis Brothers Partnership was formed. Eventually, they divided their assets and operated independently.

Emery married a young widow, Florie Gallaway Newman, who had a daughter, Beatrice. Emery and Florie had two children together: E. A. and Elvie.

E. A. took over operation of the ranch in 1947 when Emery passed away. E. A. and his first wife, Cornelia, had three children: Van, Janalee and Darrell. In 1982, Darrell started operating the ranch. Darrell and his wife, Brenda, have three children: Justin, Shera Lee and Amy.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 5,120

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CATTLE, GOATS, HORSES AND SHEEP; 2014—CATTLE, GOATS AND HORSES

As told by Darrell A. Davis, great-nephew and grandson of the founders.

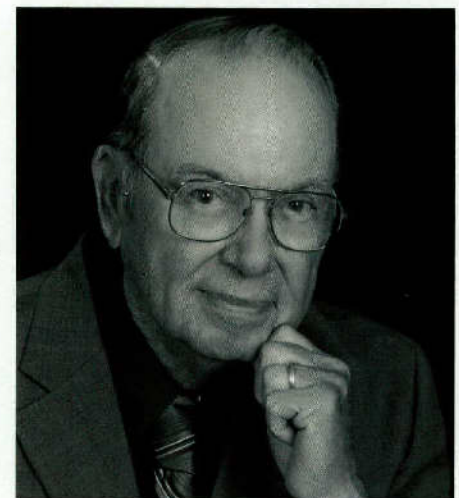
THE A-E RANCH

VICTORIA COUNTY • 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF VICTORIA

FOUNDED IN: 1902

FOUNDER: WILLIAM FRED BERGER

CURRENT OWNER: ALLAN R. BERGER



The A-E Ranch is part of an original tract purchased in 1902 by William and Bertha Kobitz Berger. Their son, Fred, married Helena in 1925. They lived in a house on the property and had six children: William, Allan, Doris, Marjorie, Baltus and Fred. The first three children were born in the original homestead.

Allan married Edna Mae Lau in 1948. They have five sons: Allan Jr., Ronald, David, Douglas and James. In 1971, after his father's death, Allan Jr. inherited the property. It is named the A-E Ranch for Allan and Edna.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 128

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1902—CANE, CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HORSES AND TURKEYS; 2014—CATTLE

As told by James J. Berger, great-grandson of the founder.

MAZURKIEWICZ FARM

WASHINGTON COUNTY • SEVEN MILES EAST OF BRENHAM

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: LORENZ MAZURKIEWICZ

CURRENT OWNER: ALOIS MAZURKIEWICZ

Lorenz Mazurkiewicz was born in Weglewo, Poland. He married Anna Pakulska in 1884. They immigrated to the United States in 1887. Lorenz became a citizen in 1906. In 1913, Lorenz purchased land in Texas. Lorenz and Anna had six children: Mary, Frank, Sophie, Stella, Tony and Steve.



In 1942, Lorenz and Anna sold the farm to their son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Frances Mazurkiewicz. They continued to work the land and had three children: Henry, Peter and Alois.

In 1971, Alois Mazurkiewicz acquired a portion of the land from his parents. He continues to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 177

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2014—HAY

As told by Alois Mazurkiewicz, grandson of the founder.

THE LORENZ MAZURKIEWICZ HOMESTEAD

**WASHINGTON COUNTY • ON CR 84 BETWEEN BRENHAM
AND CHAPPELL HILL**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: LORENZ MAZURKIEWICZ

CURRENT OWNER: PETER MAZURKIEWICZ

Lorenz Mazurkiewicz was born in Weglewo, Poland, in 1862. Lorenz immigrated with his wife, Anna, and his son, Frank, to the United States. They stayed in New Jersey for several years before traveling by ship to Galveston seeking opportunity for land. Lorenz acquired acreage in 1913. Lorenz and Anna had six children: Frank, Mary, Sophie, Stella, Anthony and Steve. They raised the younger children on this farm, as Lorenz sold the first farm he purchased to his oldest son, Frank.



Steve acquired the land in 1942 with the promise to provide care to his parents and pay each sibling \$250. Steve and his wife, Francis, had three sons: Henry, Peter and Alois.

Peter acquired the title to a portion of the acreage in 1971. Peter and his wife, Pauline, have three children: Jimmy, Deborah and Ronnie.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 177

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HOGS, HORSES AND MULES;
2014—CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Jim Mazurkiewicz, great-grandson of the founder.

SANTO NIÑO RANCH

WEBB COUNTY • NINE MILES NORTHEAST OF BRUNI

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDER: SEVERIANO PEREZ

CURRENT OWNER: GENARO PEREZ JR.

Severiano Perez was born in 1877 in Agualeguas Nuevo Leon, Mexico. In 1905, Severiano and his wife, Concepcion, acquired land in Texas where they raised a family.

Severiano's son, Amado, was born in 1904. Amado married Ester Trevino and had one son, Genaro Sr. Amado acquired land from his father and expanded farm production. He kept up with the property and established his own dairy business. Amado passed away in 1993 at the age of 88.

The current owner is Genaro Perez Jr., Severiano's great-grandson. Genaro and his wife, Nora, continue to improve the ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 659

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CATTLE, CHICKENS, GOATS, HORSES AND HAY; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Genaro Perez Jr., great-grandson of the founder.



SUMMERS EL RANCHITO LTD

**WEBB COUNTY • FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST OF SH 649 AND
VAQUILLAS COUNTY ROAD**

FOUNDED IN: 1898

FOUNDER: ANTONIO MATEO BRUNI

**CURRENT OWNERS: SHELLEY M. SUMMERS, EVELYN A. SAMES,
COURTNEY L. SAMES AND CARROLL E. SUMMERS JR.**

Antonio Mateo Bruni was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1872. He settled in San Antonio. In 1877, he moved to Laredo, and in 1898, Antonio acquired land. Antonio and his wife, Consolacion Henry, had nine children: Antonio H., Maria, Louise, Adela, Leopold, Herlinda, Minnie, Federico and Mateo Angel.

Consolacion acquired title to the land in 1931 when Antonio died. In 1936, her son, Antonio H., acquired title to most of the original acreage and continued operations. Antonio and his wife, Magdalena Martin, had three children: Alice, Fred and Ernest.

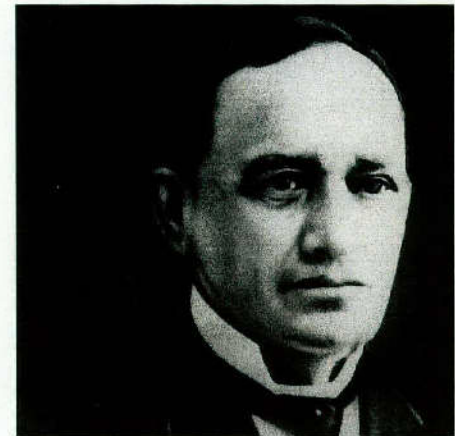
Ernest acquired a portion of the land in 1940. Ernest and his wife, Lilia Longoria, had two children: Evelyn and Ernest Jr.

Evelyn acquired a portion of the land in 1960. Evelyn and her husband, Carroll E. Summers Jr., had three children: Shelley, Carroll III and Robert. They continue the ranching operation today and have transferred ownership to a family trust.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 20,169

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1898—CATTLE; 2014—CATTLE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As told by Carroll E. Summers Jr., great-grandson-in-law of the founder.



ROTTER FARM

WILSON COUNTY • ONE MILE NORTHEAST OF POTH ON FM 427

FOUNDED IN: 1911

FOUNDER: ANTON F. ROTTER

**CURRENT OWNERS: ELAINE ROSE ROTTER OPIELA,
LEONARD ROTTER JR., EMMETT LLOYD ROTTER
AND ANTHONY RAY ROTTER**



Anton F. Rotter was born in 1877 in Texas. In 1911, he acquired land in Wilson County. Anton and his wife, Anna Seifert Maha, had nine children: Alma, Emma, Leona, Leonard, Annie, Otto, John, Alex and Millie. Anna died in 1943. Anton continued to live on the farm for a few years before passing off operations to his son, Leonard, in the 1950s.

Leonard Sr. and his wife, Rose, acquired all of the original acreage from Leonard's brothers and sisters, as well as adding additional acreage. They had four children: Elaine, Leonard Jr., Emmett and Anthony. Leonard Sr. died in 1997 at the age of 88, and Rose passed in 2012 at the age of 99.

Their youngest son, Anthony, built a home on the land and continued operations. The original acreage has been split between the four siblings and is still an active operation.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 122

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1911—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON AND VEGETABLES;
2014—CATTLE, NATIVE AND IMPROVED GRASSES, AND WHEAT**

As told by Elaine Rose Rotter Opiela, granddaughter of the founder.

10-7 RANCH

**WISE COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST OF DECATUR
ON FM 51 NORTH**

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: JOSEPH M. MCNEELY

**CURRENT OWNERS: DONALD R. STEPHENS
AND ANNETTE STEPHENS**



Joseph M. McNeely was born in 1848 in Alabama and migrated with his family to Texas. In 1913, he bought land. Joseph and his wife, Saphronia, had four boys: John, Joseph, Isom and James.

James acquired the land in 1930. James and his wife, Charlie Beatrice, continued to work the land with their children, Joe and Elmo. In 1958, Charlie assumed ownership of the farm and leased land to family members.

In 1984, their daughter, Elmo, acquired the land. In 1995, Elmo's son, Donald, acquired the land and began reclaiming pastures, building barns, digging stock tanks and erecting new fences. Donald and his wife, Annette, continue to work the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 80

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, PEANUTS, POULTRY AND VEGETABLES; 2014—CATTLE

As told by Donald Stephens, great-grandson of the founder.

TITLE SPONSOR

THE **Scotts Miracle-Gro**
COMPANY

PLATINUM SPONSORS

AG WORKERS™
INSURANCE



**Brookshire
Brothers**
*A Celebration of
Family and Community!*



CHS®



Dow AgroSciences



Texas Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



TEXAS TEA®

GOLD SPONSORS

RH



TEXAS CRYSTAL
WATER COMPANY



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE



SILVER SPONSORS

HILMAR CHEESE COMPANY • TEXAS CORN PRODUCERS BOARD • TEXAS COTTON PRODUCERS

BRONZE SPONSORS

AUSTIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION • CONCHO COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
COUFAL-PRATER EQUIPMENT • DOUGLAS KING CO. INC. • HISTORIC MESQUITE, INC
MEADOWS, COLLIER, REED, COUSINS, CROUCH & UNGERMAN, L.L.P. • NATIONAL OILSEED PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH TEXAS PROPERTY RIGHTS ASSOCIATION • SUNRAY COOP • TATER COMPANIES
TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-7476

www.TexasAgriculture.gov