

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
AND THE
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



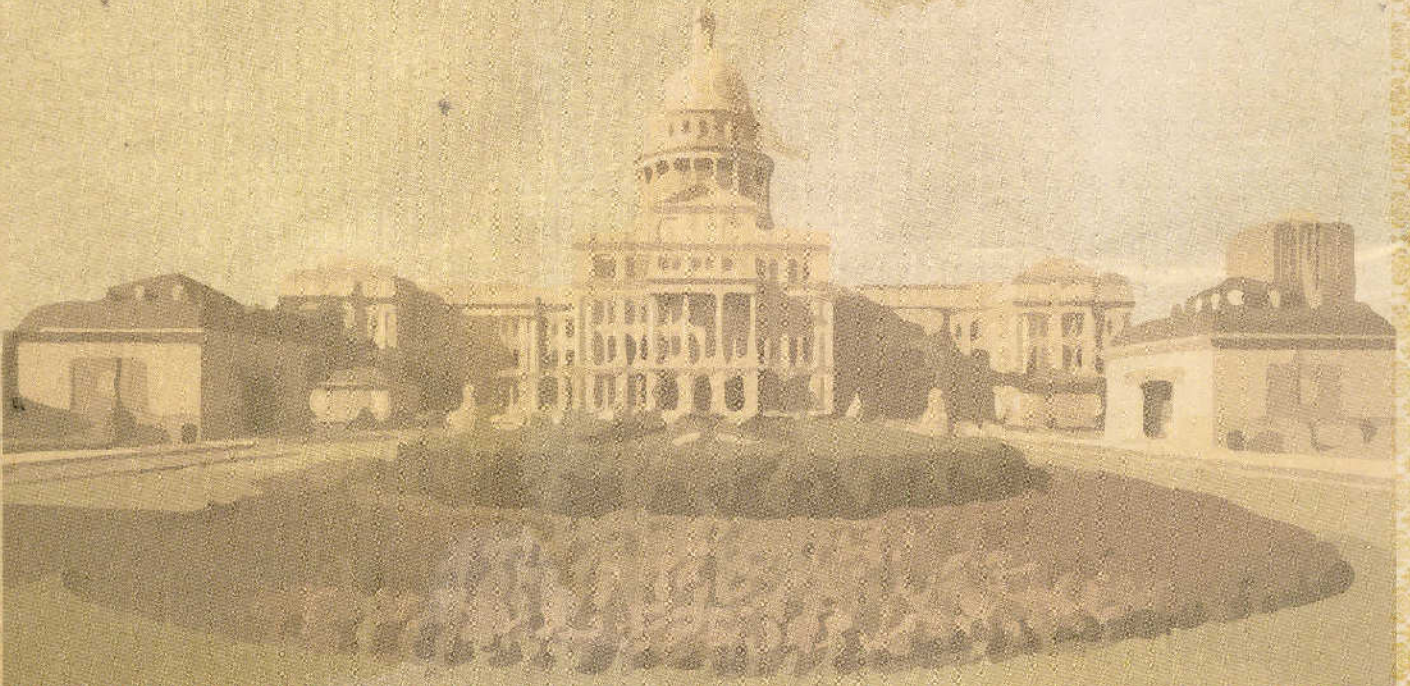
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2015

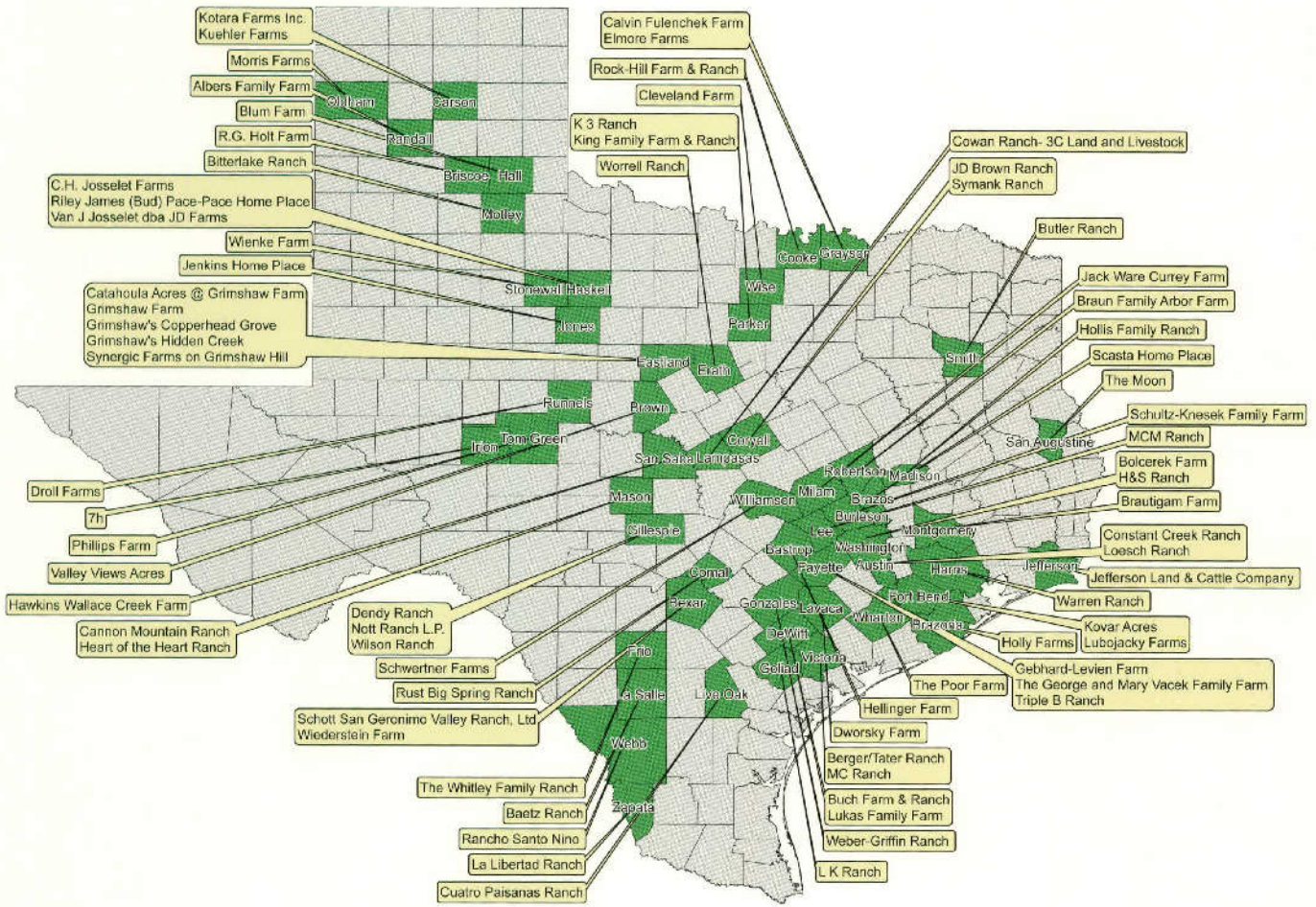
FAMILY LAND HERITAGE CEREMONY



Commemorative Program



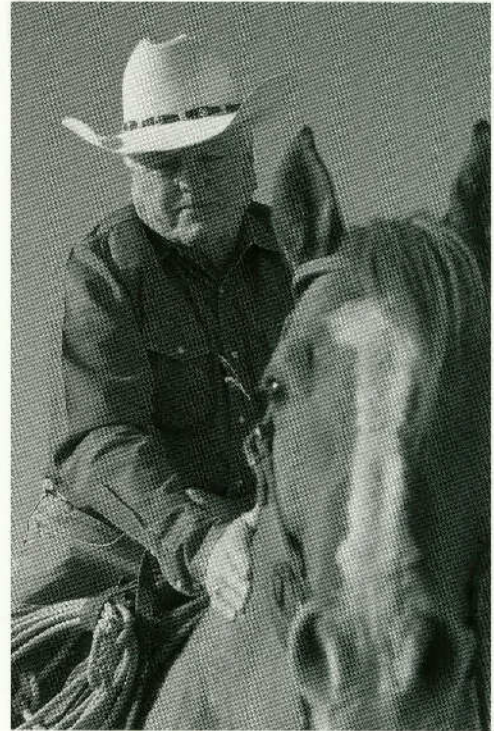
2015 FAMILY LAND HERITAGE FARMS & RANCHES



November 5, 2015

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 40th 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 \$115 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.

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sid Miller', written in a cursive style.

Sid Miller

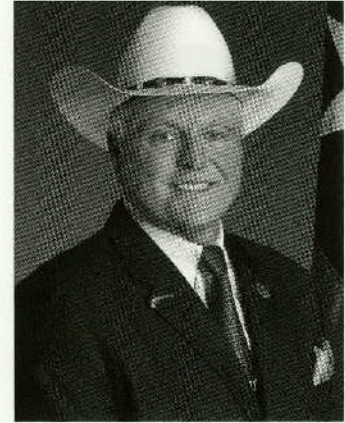
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Sid Miller is serving as the 12th Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, with his first term beginning in January 2015. Commissioner Miller brings a wealth of knowledge to the Texas Department of Agriculture. He is recognized as one of the state's most dynamic and effective conservative leaders, as well as one of the state's staunchest defenders of constitutional freedoms.

During his six terms as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, Commissioner Miller brought his real world agricultural experience to the table. He's your everyday man who's made a difference in his community and for the Lone Star State by working as a small businessman, community leader, school teacher, agriculturist and former school board member. In every aspect of his work, Commissioner Miller has proven his convictions in being pro-business and pro-job creation.

Commissioner Miller was born in De Leon, Texas, and is an avid rodeo and horseshow participant who holds nine World Championships. He is a graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Agriculture Education. Commissioner Miller maintains close ties to Stephenville, where he owns and operates a nursery business.

Commissioner Miller and his wife, Debra, have been married for 36 years. The Millers have two sons and two grandchildren.

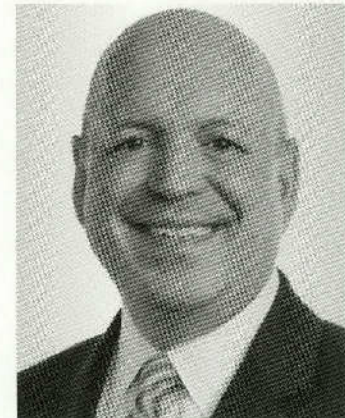


JIM SPENCER

Jim Spencer is an award-winning weathercaster for KXAN in Austin. He joined KXAN in 1990 and became the first weathercaster on Austin's first hour-long morning newscast. In 1993, Jim became chief weathercaster and took over the evening broadcasts. Jim has been forecasting weather on KXAN for 25 years.

Jim grew up in Lindsay, Oklahoma, in the heart of tornado alley, to which he credits his life-long fascination with weather.

He began his broadcasting career at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Jim spent two years at KADA-AM Radio before moving into television at Ada's KTEN-TV in 1983. He became chief weathercaster at KTEN upon graduating college and remained there until joining KXAN.



Jim has received numerous accolades and national recognition for his work. He is a past recipient of the National Weather Association's Weathercaster of the Year award. Jim is a five-time winner of the Texas Associated Press Best Weathercast award, and he has been voted Austin's Best Weathercaster by readers of the Austin Chronicle for 16 years. He has been named TV Personality of the Year by Austin's American Women in Radio and Television Chapter four times.

In addition to forecasting the weather, Jim has a long history of involvement in community and charitable organizations. Jim also lends his time to teaching hundreds of school children about severe weather safety every year. Football officiating is another of Jim's passions, and he has officiated high school football for 31 years.

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.

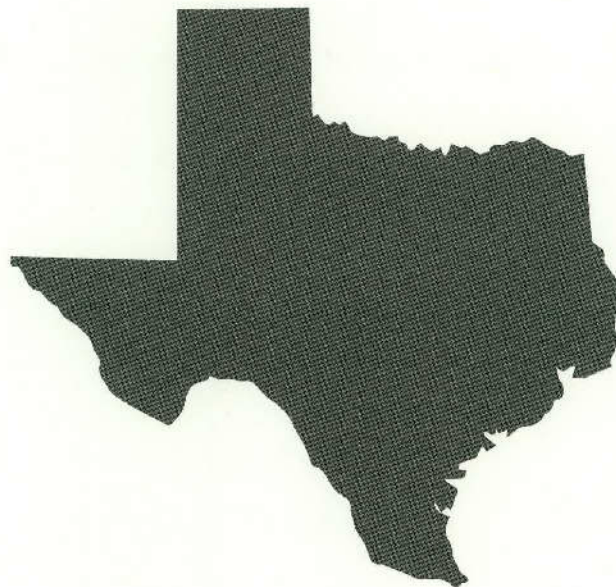
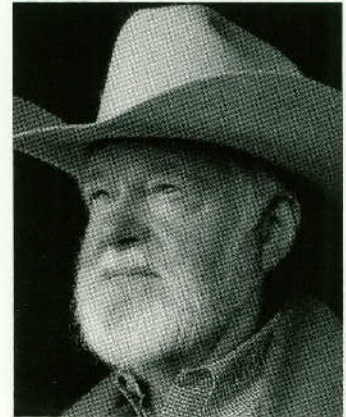
In 1991, the Texas Legislature named Red the Official Cowboy Poet of Texas. By 1994, he launched his one-hour syndicated radio show, "Cowboy Corner," which is now heard in approximately 165 markets across 43 states.

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 sixth year of production.



FAMILY LAND HERITAGE CEREMONY



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jim Spencer
KXAN News

INVOCATION

Rick Rhodes
Texas Department of Agriculture

PLEDGE TO THE FLAGS

Texas FFA Officers

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Sid Miller
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Family Land Heritage Honorees

ENTERTAINMENT

Red Steagall

BENEDICTION

Red Steagall

150 Year

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE HONOREES



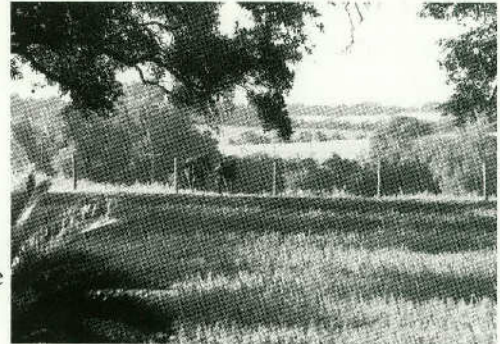
CONSTANT CREEK RANCH

AUSTIN COUNTY • SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF BELLVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1865

FOUNDERS: AUGUST AND HELENE GOEBEL

CURRENT OWNERS: VICKIE AND J. FRANK MONK



Current owners Frank and Vickie Monk have a daughter, Kyndal, who was born in 1985 and raised on the ranch. She grew up attending horse events and participating in youth rodeo activities. Kyndal also showed pigs and horses at the county fair through 4-H.

Frank and Vickie continue working the land and have become involved in restoring grasses. They have continued to acquire land and currently own 783 acres. They built a new home in 2000 and still use an old shed that is more than 100 years old.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 44

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1865—CORN, COTTON, PEANUTS, POTATOES, RYE, SUGARCANE, TOBACCO AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE, GOATS, HORSES, NATIVE GRASSES, SEEDS, TURTLES AND VEGETABLES

As told by Vickie Goebel Monk, great-granddaughter of the founders.

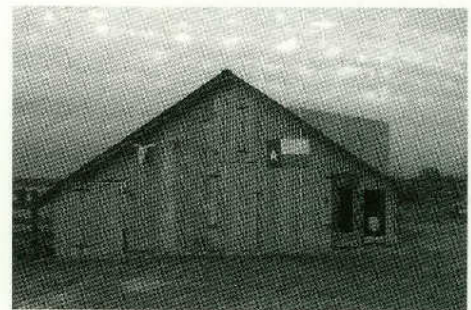
BRAUTIGAM FARM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY • 40 MILES NORTHWEST OF HOUSTON

FOUNDED IN: 1862

FOUNDER: CHRISTOPH BRAUTIGAM

CURRENT OWNERS: JOHN BRAUTIGAM AND SANDRA KAY BRAUTIGAM



Christoph Brautigam arrived in Texas from Germany on Christmas Day 1856. In 1862, he staked his claim to 190 acres and began operations. He married Martha Peters, and they had four children: Louisa, George, Friedrich and Maria.

Friedrick acquired land from his father in 1867. He became a naturalized American citizen after serving in the Civil War. With his first wife, Martha Eghling, he had two children, Maria and Friedrich Jr.

Friedrick Jr. acquired land from his father around 1906. Friedrich Jr. married Ida Hirsch, and they had six children: Martha, Edward, Lydia, Alma, Ida and Walter. Edward inherited portions of the land in 1948 and 1970. He married Cecilia Chunda, and they had three children: Edward Jr., Walter and Cecilia.

Walter, who goes by John, inherited a portion of the land in 1979. In 2005, his daughter, Sandra Kay Brautigam, purchased five acres from him. She lives in the original house and continues operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 190

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1862—CATTLE AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Sandra Brautigam, great-great-great-granddaughter of the founder.

BUTLER RANCH

SMITH COUNTY • 12 MILES NORTHEAST OF TYLER

FOUNDED IN: 1854

FOUNDERS: WILLIAM BOOKER AND ELIZABETH BUTLER

CURRENT OWNER: MICHELLE FLOWERS DIAL

In 1854, William Booker Butler left Alabama for a better life in Texas. He heard about a Texas town where a new log courthouse stood on the square. That town was Tyler. Booker moved with several slaves to Starrville, east of Tyler, where he purchased land. With the help of the men, he built the antebellum-style home. Upon its completion, Booker's wife, Elizabeth, and their seven children made the journey to their new home.



Robert Henry Clay, their youngest son, acquired the land in 1884. Robert and his wife, Lila, lived there until his death in 1933. Lila eventually began selling land, and their grandson, Jack, bought 100 acres from her in 1947.

Jack passed away in 2001, and the land was left to his granddaughter, Michelle Dial. Michelle, along with her husband and three children, continue to make memories on the land where so many other Butlers did long before.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 879

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1854—CATTLE AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE, HAY, HORSES AND TIMBER

As told by Michelle Dial, great-great-great-granddaughter of the founders.

RANCHO SANTO NIÑO

WEBB COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTH OF BRUNI

FOUNDED IN: 1836

FOUNDERS: JOSE ANTONIO AND MARIA ANTONIA C. LEAL

CURRENT OWNERS: ADRIAN S. PEREZ JR. AND CARMEN A. PEREZ

Jose Antonio Leal was born in Mexico. He married Maria Antonia Cantu in 1817. They had five sons. Jose and Maria lived in part of Mexico, which later became part of Texas after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



Hilario, their son, and his wife, Maria Trinidad Rios, raised 10 sons on the land. Hilario remained on the land and built a house in 1870, which still stands today. Hilario acquired title to the land in 1874. Hilario died in 1890, and the ranch became property of his sons.

Pedro, his son, married Concepcion in 1900. They had one son. Pedro died in 1903, and Concepcion remarried Severiano Perez. Together, they had four children. After Concepcion's death in 1908, Severiano remarried San Juana Guerra, and they had six children. Severiano died in 1928, and his children inherited the land.

One of the heirs, Estela Perez, married Adrian, and they had six children. Their son, Adrian Perez Jr., has since acquired portions of the original acreage.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 640

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1836—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, HAY, HORSES AND SHEEP; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Patricia P. Gonzalez, great-great-granddaughter of the founders.

LA LIBERTAD RANCH

ZAPATA COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTH OF ZAPATA

FOUNDED IN: 1852

FOUNDERS: RAFAEL VELA AND JOSEFA A. SAENZ

CURRENT OWNERS: MR. AND MRS. JOSE EMILIO VELA

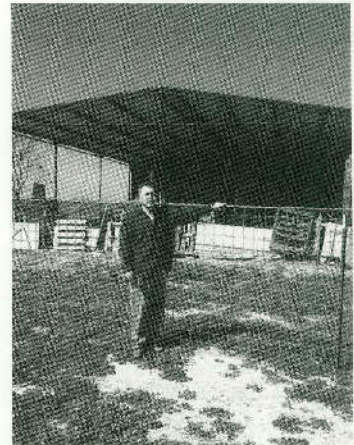
Emiliano Vela was born in 1880. He married Matiana Saenz in 1912. She died only five years after they were married. They had one daughter, Matiana. Emiliano remarried in 1922 to Felipa Vela. They had two sons, Emiliano Jr. and Octavio. Both sons died before Emiliano.

Felipa died in 1971. Emiliano died in 1979. In 1983, the estate was partitioned and equally divided between the estates of his two deceased sons. Emiliano Jr.'s estate kept the land together for 15 years. After that, the estate was divided amongst his eight married children. Jose E. Vela inherited his land in this way.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 6,018

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1852—CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Jose Emilio. Vela, great-great-great-grandson of the founders.



**BURN DOWN YOUR CITIES AND LEAVE
OUR FARMS, AND YOUR CITIES WILL
SPRING UP AGAIN AS IF BY MAGIC; BUT
DESTROY OUR FARMS AND THE GRASS WILL
GROW IN THE STREETS OF EVERY CITY IN
THE COUNTRY.**

William Jennings Bryan

100 Year
FAMILY LAND HERITAGE HONOREES



LOESCH RANCH

AUSTIN COUNTY • NINE MILES NORTH OF BELLVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1897

FOUNDER: CHARLES (CARL) FRIEDRICH LOESCH SR.

CURRENT OWNERS: DONALD AND BARBARA LOESCH



Charles Friedrich Loesch Sr. was born in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, in 1840 and traveled with his family to the United States in 1858. He initially settled in the Cedar Hill area of Washington County. In 1897, Charles purchased 357 acres of land in Austin County.

Charles and his wife, Henriette Heitmann Loesch, worked the farm before selling 101 acres to their son, Carl (Charlie) Jr., in 1910. Carl Jr. continued farming with his wife, Minnie Winkelmann Loesch, until they sold the land to their son, Paul Heinrich Karl Fritz Loesch, in 1955.

Paul continued farming operations with his wife, Adeline Sternberg Loesch, before selling 76 acres to their son, Donald Loesch, in 2009. Donald and his wife, Barbara Williams Loesch, continue ranching operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 357

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1897—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HAY AND HOGS; 2015—CATTLE

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

HELLINGER FARM

BASTROP • 23 MILES WEST OF LA GRANGE

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDER: LOUIS KUBICEK

CURRENT OWNERS: BENO A. AND JANE HELLINGER, AND ALFRED J. HELLINGER JR.



Alois Kubicek was born in Texas in 1878 to Mikulas and Kateryna Kovar Kubicek. Alois, known as Louis, married Elizabeth Zimmerhanel in 1901. In 1906, Louis acquired 110 acres of land in the Kovar community in Bastrop and Fayette counties.

Louis and Elizabeth's daughter, Bessie, married Beno Hellinger in 1920. Beno and Bessie acquired the land in 1954. They continued farming and ranching operations. At one time, four generations were living in the farmhouse.

In 1965, Beno and Bessie sold tracts of land to their sons, Alfred and Beno A. Alfred and his wife, Evelyn, raised cattle on their 45 acres. In 2000, Alfred Jr. acquired this portion of the land, and he has continued raising cattle.

Beno and his wife, Jane, have continued raising cattle and growing crops on their 65 acres. They have 10 children and 22 grandchildren.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 110

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906— COTTON, HAY, HOGS, LIVESTOCK, POTATOES AND SUGARCANE; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Laura Hellinger Duckworth, great-granddaughter of the founder.

SCHOTT SAN GERONIMO VALLEY RANCH, LTD.

BEXAR COUNTY - NINE MILES NORTH OF HELOTES

FOUNDED IN: 1898

FOUNDER: AUGUST D. SCHOTT

CURRENT OWNERS: GARY WILLIAM SCHOTT, HANK WILLIAM SCHOTT, LUKE MICHAEL SCHOTT AND KATIE MARIE SCHOTT MCCLAIN



In 1850, brothers Frank and Dominic Schott came to Texas from France. They were part of the Castro Colony. Frank married Margartha Haby and settled in Medina County. One year after their marriage, Margartha died during childbirth. Frank married Mary, and they had 13 children. One of their children, August, moved to the Pipe Creek area.

August married Lonie Callaham in 1899. They had three sons: Adolph, Leo and Howard. August bought land and gave 1,553 acres to Howard in 1950. Howard married Lucille Christilles, and they had three children: Betty Lou, Leslie and Gary.

Gary inherited the homestead. Gary and his wife, Madelyn, moved to the homestead in 2004. They have three children: Hank, Luke and Katie, along with six grandchildren.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 3,405

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1898—BARLEY, CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, DAIRY CATTLE, GOATS, HOGS, HORSES, MILO, OATS, SHEEP AND SPELTS; 2015—CATTLE, GOATS, HAY, HOGS, OATS AND SHEEP

As told by Madelyn Saathoff Schott, great-granddaughter-in-law of the founder.

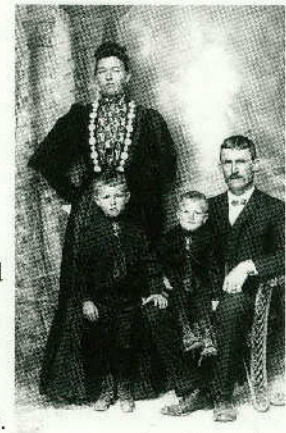
WIEDERSTEIN FARM

BEXAR COUNTY - 15 MILES EAST OF SAN ANTONIO

FOUNDED IN: 1915

FOUNDER: ALBERT HERMAN WIEDERSTEIN

CURRENT OWNERS: JEANNE AND REAGAN RAWE, ALLEN AND KATHY WIEDERSTEIN, DEANNE AND RONALD HULETT



Albert Herman Wiederstein was born in 1877 in Comal County. In 1915, Albert purchased acreage from Magdalena Stapper. Albert and his wife, Augusta, had two sons, Alfred and Richard. They worked the land and raised mules. Their mules were often startled by planes from Randolph Air Force Base flying overhead.

Alfred and Richard inherited the land. Richard transferred his ownership to Alfred in 1925. Alfred and his wife, Leonie, had a son, Lee Jay Wiederstein. Upon the death of his parents, Lee continued to work the land.

Lee and his wife, Lucille, had two children, Jeanne and Allen. Their children inherited the land and continued farming and ranching operations. In 2009, Allen deeded 11 acres to his daughter, DeAnne, and her husband, Ronald Hulett.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 237

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON AND MULES; 2015—CATTLE, CORN, GRASS, OATS AND WHEAT

As told by Jeanne Wiederstein Rawe, great-granddaughter of the founder.

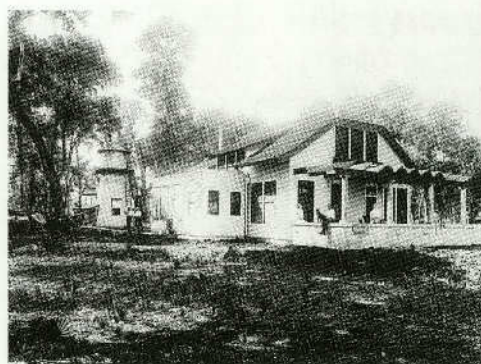
HOLLY FARMS

**BRAZORIA COUNTY • THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF
BRAZORIA ON CR 347**

FOUNDED IN: 1912

FOUNDER: DR. JOSEPH EARL HARRIS

CURRENT OWNER: MARY RUTH RHODENBAGH



In 1908, William Hannibal Brigance married Juliette Parker Harris in Wisconsin after having met in Texas. In 1909, they bought property near Brazoria and established Holly Farms.

Juliette wanted a dairy farm. However, conditions were not conducive to this, so the family turned to other operations. Juliette's brother, Joseph Earl Harris, joined their operation and helped out as he could.

William and Juliette's son, Joseph Harris Brigance, was born in 1918. Joseph married Marie Phillips in 1938, and together, they built a small home near his parents. They had three children: Mary Ruth, JoAnne and Philip.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,500

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1912—CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, great-niece of the founder.

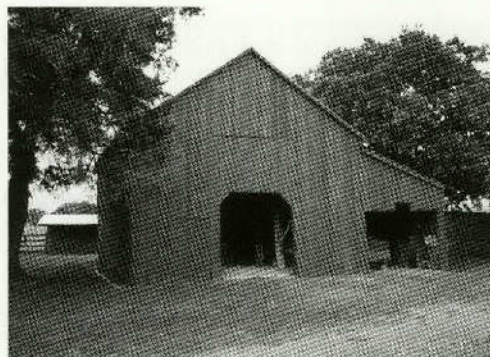
SCASTA HOME PLACE

BRAZOS COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTH OF WHEELOCK

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDER: JOHN N. SCASTA

**CURRENT OWNERS: WILLIAM CHARLES SCASTA JR. AND
JOYCE SCASTA**



In 1868, John N. Scasta arrived in Galveston with his family from Czechoslovakia. He was just 3 years old. They settled in the Steep Hollow Community in Brazos County. In 1905, John purchased 405 acres. Along with his wife and children, he worked the land.

Shortly thereafter, John sold 100 acres to his brother, Charley Adolph. Charley and his wife raised two children and worked the land. Their son, William Charles, was very active in farm operations. He married and had a son, William Jr.

In 1949, William Charles Jr. purchased additional acreage from John Scasta's original tract. He worked the land until 1957 when he sold the acreage to his father. William Charles Sr. and his wife, Nora, lived on the land until their deaths. Their son inherited the land and continues ranch operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 405

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CORN AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE

As told by William Charles Jr., great-nephew of the founder.

R.G. HOLT FARM

**BRISCOE COUNTY • 15 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SILVERTON ON
CR 6**

FOUNDED IN: 1906

FOUNDERS: GREEN CLAY AND EMMA HOLT

CURRENT OWNERS: REX AND THETA HOLT



Green Clay Holt was born in Tennessee. When his father died, he traveled with his mother and their family to Erath County. Once there, he met his wife, Emma. Green and Emma traveled with their two small children to Briscoe County in 1906. They bought land and worked it. Green and Emma had 10 children: Ina, Annie, Charlie, Lorena, Minnie, William Alfred, John Edgar, Blain, Avie and Mattie Laura.

Green passed away in 1933. William Alfred acquired 160 acres in 1934. He and his wife, Leona, had four children: Hattie Lorena, Reba Iweta, Rex Gilbert and Peggy Jean.

In 1977, Rex acquired the land from his father and continued farming. Rex and his wife, Theta, had four children: Karen Inez, David Gilbert, William Clay and Kent Stephen.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 800

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1906—GRAIN, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT; 2015—COTTON, GRAIN AND WHEAT

As told by Rex Gilbert Holt, grandson of the founders.

VALLEY VIEW ACRES

BROWN COUNTY • TWO MILES WEST OF BANGS

FOUNDED IN: 1914

**FOUNDERS: THOMAS JEFFERSON AND LOUISA ELIZABETH
(DAY) WELCH**

CURRENT OWNER: ONEITA LOUISE DAVENPORT EARLY



Thomas passed away while still living on the land, and Louisa lived to be 92 years old. The land and the house were left to Alma May Welch Davenport who would work the land until leaving it to their only child, Oneita Louise Davenport Early.

Oneita and her husband, Roy, moved back to the farm. Oneita's parents passed away in 1988 and 1997. Oneita and Roy plan to live on the land until they can pass it along to their three children.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 90

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CATTLE, COTTON, FEED, GRAINS, HAY AND HOGS;
2015—CATTLE, GRASSES AND HAY**

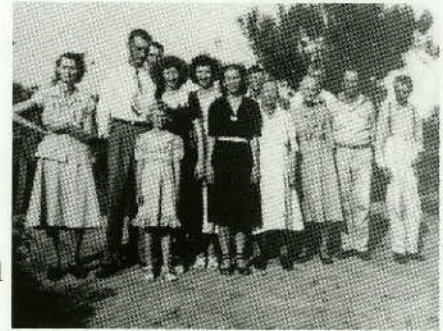
As told by Oneita Early, granddaughter of the founders.

SCHULTZ-KNESEK FAMILY FARM
BURLESON COUNTY - SIX MILES WEST OF LYONS

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDER: GUSTAV SCHULTZ

CURRENT OWNERS: KENNETH ERNEST KNESEK AND TIMOTHY ALAN KNESEK



In 1905, Gustav Shultz purchased 200 acres from Peter Urban. Gustav married Mary Benn, and they raised five children on the farm. Gustav later conveyed five acres to the local school district for the Birch community school. This is where his daughter, Grace, went to school.

After Gustav's death, Robert and Betty Schultz operated the farm. The land was then purchased and inherited by Grace and Ernest Knesek who continued to work the land. They conveyed the land to their sons, Kenneth and Timothy, in 2005.

Today, the Knesek brothers continue to run cattle operations, while enhancing conservation practices and promoting wildlife management.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 200

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON AND HAY; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Kenneth and Timothy Knesek, great-grandsons of the founder.

KOTARA FARMS INC.
CARSON COUNTY - TWO MILES NORTH OF WHITE DEER

FOUNDED IN: 1912

FOUNDER: JOHN KOTARA

CURRENT OWNER: KOTARA FARMS INC.



John Kotara purchased land in 1912. His son, John Jr., purchased land from him in 1948. John Jr. incorporated the land in 1973.

Today, the corporation farms 3,000 acres. There are four survivors currently carrying on the traditions of this land's founders.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1912—CATTLE, PIGS AND WHEAT;
2015—CATTLE, COTTON, MILO AND WHEAT**

As told by Joy Grange, granddaughter of the founder.

KUEHLER FARMS

CARSON COUNTY - ONE MILE WEST OF GROOM

FOUNDED IN: 1905

FOUNDER: MATHIAS BRITTEN

CURRENT OWNERS: RON AND LAURA (MYERS) KUEHLER



In 1850, brothers Frank and Dominic Schott came to Texas from France. They were part of the Castro Colony. Frank Mathias Britten was born in Germany in 1854. He immigrated to the United States. Mathias ended up in Iowa where he married Eva Bosen in 1882. He homesteaded land along a new railroad built through the Texas Panhandle. Mathias and Eva had seven children: Mary Loretta, John Mathias, Mathias Nicholas, Frank Sebastian, Lena E., Henry Sebastian and Emma E.

Mary Loretta acquired section 91 as an inheritance in 1932. She married George Kuehler and built a house. They had eight children: Paul Nicholas, Albin Mathias, Eva Lorraine, Cletus John, Francis, Robert Joseph, Rosella Marie and James.

Robert acquired part of section 91 as inheritance in 1961, and he bought the rest from his mother. He married Alice Detten in 1953. They had 12 children: Mary Clara, Martha Jean, Rose Ann, Ruth Marie, Margaret Helen, Karen Francis, Elizabeth Blanche, Dorothy Louise, Roberta Josephine, Loretta Lucille, Ronald Anthony and Nicholas Lawrence.

Their son, Ron, married Laura Myers in 1997, and they have four children: Lauren Elizabeth, Alex Anthony, Damon Michael and Stephen George. In 2012, Ron bought the land and continues operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 640

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—GRAIN SORGHUM, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT;

2015—COTTON, GRAIN SORGHUM, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT

As told by Ron Kuehler, great-grandson of the founder.

RUST BIG SPRING RANCH

COMAL COUNTY - 25 MILES NORTHWEST OF NEW BRAUNFELS

FOUNDED IN: 1882

FOUNDER: FREIDRICH WILHELM RUST

CURRENT OWNERS: CLARENCE H. AND BETTY K. RUST



Freidrich Wilhelm Rust was born in Germany where he became a farmer and brewer. He married Wilhelmine Pflingsten in 1845. They family took passage to Texas in 1855. Freidrich acquired 1,422 acres of land in 1882.

His sons, Gustav and Henry, filed a deed of partition in 1899. Gustav married Alma Kraft and raised three children on the farm. Gustav's sons, George and Gustav Jr., married sisters, Clara and Martha Simon.

Gustav Jr. acquired the land in 1914 and along with his wife, Martha, raised 11 children. The children inherited plots of the farm in 1966. Their son, Clarence, and his wife, Betty, still own 123 acres of the original farm. Their sons, Rocky and Randy, help with ranching operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,422

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1882—CATTLE, CORN, GOATS, HAY, OATS, SHEEP AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Rocky Rust, great-great-grandson of the founder.

ROCK-HILL FARM & RANCH

COOKE COUNTY • FIVE MILES NORTHWEST OF MUENSTER ON CR 424

FOUNDED IN: 1913

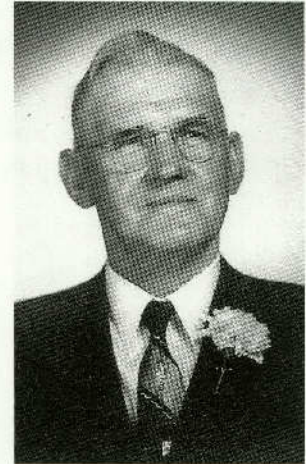
FOUNDERS: JOHN AND MARGARET KLEMENT

CURRENT OWNERS: DALE AND CHARLOTTE KLEMENT

John B. Klement moved to Texas in 1908. In 1913, he purchased land from F. J. Hess. He built a two-story house on the farm in 1913. John and his wife, Margaret, had nine children: Albert, Norbert, Marie, John A., Ray, Walter, Edgar, Martin and Roman.

Ray moved onto the land in 1942. He rented the farm from his father before purchasing it in 1960. Ray and his wife, Irene, had five children: Janice, Lloyd, Dale, Lynn and Lyle.

Dale and his wife, Charlotte, moved onto the land in 1977. They purchased the first 50 acres in 1987 and the other 103 acres in 2000. They continue to work the land. They have three children: Keith, Tina and Cody.



ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 153

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—ALFALFA, CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, GRASSES, HAY, OATS AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE, GRASSES, HAY AND WHEAT

As told by Dale J. Klement, grandson of the founders.

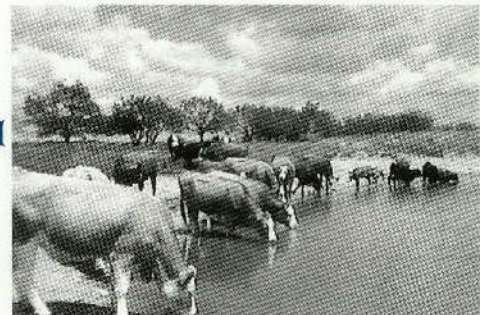
JD BROWN RANCH

CORYELL COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTHWEST OF GATESVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: J. D. BROWN JR. AND MYRTLE PERRYMAN BROWN

CURRENT OWNERS: ELIZABETH DANIEL, JOHN D. BROWN, MARY MELISSA BROWN, LLOYD P. BROWN JR. AND JAMES F. BROWN



J. D. "Johnny" Brown and his wife, Myrtle, bought land in 1913. They lived in nearby Gatesville where they raised four children.

After Johnny's death in 1951, Myrtle became the sole owner of the land. Their son, Lloyd, helped with operations. In 1962, Myrtle deeded the property to Lloyd.

Myrtle died in 1969, and Lloyd continued ranching. He was innovative and used new technologies to improve his herd.

Lloyd died in 2010, leaving the property to his wife, Elizabeth. She passed the ranch onto their five children: Elizabeth, John, Mary, Lloyd Jr. and James. Today, James and Melissa continue to operate the ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1019

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, HAY AND PECANS; 2015—CATTLE, GOATS, GRASS AND HAY

As told by Mary Melissa Brown, granddaughter of the founders.

SYMANK RANCH

CORYELL COUNTY • 14 MILES WEST OF VALLEY MILLS

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDER: FRITZ GASKAMP

CURRENT OWNER: BROOKS SYMANK

In 1904, Fritz Gaskamp purchased the homestead and surrounding acreage. Fritz and his wife raised eight children.

Fritz's youngest son, Adolph Gaskamp, and his daughter, Dorothy, lived with Fritz to help care for him as he grew older.

Fritz's son, Albert, obtained the land as the oldest living relative. After his passing, another relative, Monroe Gaskamp, purchased the land from Albert's siblings.

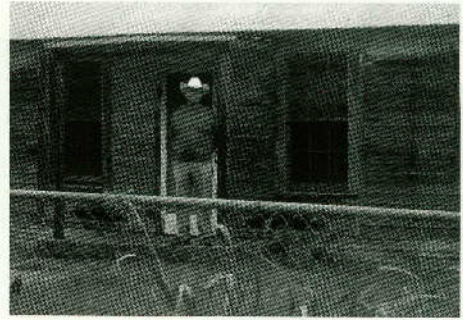
Dorothy's son, Brooks, retired from education in 2002 and moved next door to Monroe on an adjoining parcel of land. When Monroe retired, he sold the land to Brooks to keep it in the family. Brooks still works the land and lives on the farm.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 125

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, OATS AND WHEAT;

2015—CATTLE, HAY, OATS AND WHEAT

As told by Brooks Symank, great-grandson of the founder.



BUCH FARM AND RANCH

DEWITT COUNTY • EIGHT MILES EAST OF CUERO

FOUNDED IN: 1884

FOUNDERS: FERDINAND AND AUGUST BUCH, WILLIAM AND MARIE DOMANN, AND ROBERT BUCH

CURRENT OWNERS: MARYLIN (BUCH) FILIP, GLADYS (BUCH) BRANDSTETTER, AND DONALD AND JOYCE (BUCH) STRAUSS

Ferdinand Buch came to the United States from Germany in 1851. He landed in New Orleans and then headed to Texas. In 1856, he married Augusta Schneider and was a Pony Express rider. Ferdinand and Augusta had eight children. One was Robert.

William and Marie Domann came from Germany and bought property in 1888. They had three children. One was Anna.

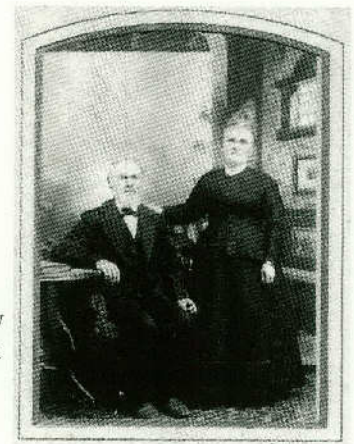
In 1897, Robert bought property, and in 1899, he married Anna. They had nine children. They raised cattle and crops. The older brothers herded cattle to the markets. One time, their little brother, Adolph, who was only 7 years old at the time, hid in the chuck wagon to tag along. By the time they found Adolph, the brothers were too far from home to send him back.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 464

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1884—CATTLE, COTTON AND INDIAN CORN;

2015—BIRDS, CATTLE, CUCUMBERS, POTATOES AND TOMATOES

As told by Joyce (Buch) Strauss, great-granddaughter of the founders.



LUKAS FAMILY FARM

DEWITT COUNTY - TWO MILES WEST OF WESTHOFF

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDER: JOSEF LUKAS

**CURRENT OWNERS: MELANIE G. DRIFFILL, VONNIE R. JACKSON,
MARK A. VEIT AND MATTHEW V. VEIT**



Josef Lukas arrived in the United States in 1872 through the port of Galveston. The family originally settled in Lavaca County. In 1907, he purchased land in Dewitt County. Josef and his wife, Rosina, had four children: Edward, Amalie, Louise and Joe.

Edward acquired half of the original farm in 1943 after his mother passed. Edward and his wife, Louise, had three children: Ellen, Addie Belle and Irene. Edward reached the age of 100, and he was still living on the farm.

In 1994, Irene inherited half of her father's land and bought the other half from her sister. In 2010, Irene moved back to the farm after her husband passed away. In 2011, she deeded the land to her children. She continues to live on the land today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 186

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HOGS AND TURKEYS; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

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

CATAHOULA ACRES AT GRIMSHAW FARM

EASTLAND COUNTY

THREE MILES NORTH OF DESDEMONA ON CR 495

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDER: FRANK DAVID HOGG

CURRENT OWNER: SCOTTIE WAYNE GRIMSHAW



Frank David Hogg and Cordelia Waters were raised in Georgia during the Civil War and Reconstruction. They married and moved to Texas in 1882. Together, they had 11 children. In 1904 and 1908, they purchased land.

Their daughter, Myrtie, inherited the land and home place. She traded it to her daughter, Nona, in 1944. Nona and James Grimshaw lived and worked the place for 50 years. They had three children. In 1973, they gave the farm to their children.

Their son, Gene Grimshaw, bought parts of the farm belonging to his siblings. In 2013, Gene and his wife, Marilyn, gave acreage to each of their five children. They still own part of the old place and live there.

When the land was divided, their son, Scottie Grimshaw, received the northwestern-most part of the property. It just so happened to be his favorite part of the family farm.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 232

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HORSES, MULES AND OATS;
2015—CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Scottie Grimshaw, great-great-grandson of the founder.

GRIMSHAW FARM

EASTLAND COUNTY - FOUR MILES NORTH OF DESDEMONA ON CR 495

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDERS: FRANK DAVID AND CORDELIA WATERS HOGG

CURRENT OWNERS: CARMAN GENE AND MARILYN BOSTICK GRIMSHAW

Frank David Hogg was born in Georgia in 1861. His father was killed in 1864 at the Battle of Jonesboro. Frank married Cordelia Waters in 1882. They had 11 children and moved to Texas. They purchased land in 1904 and again in 1908.

Their daughter, Myrtie Carrie Hogg Rogers, inherited the old home place and traded it to her own daughter, Nona, and her husband in 1944.

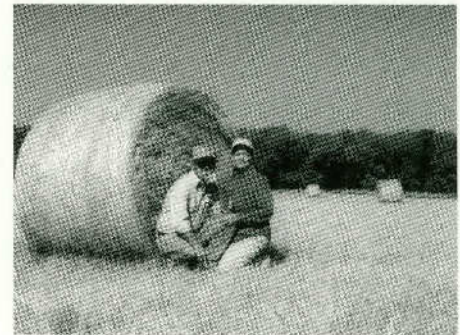
Nona and James Grimshaw lived on the land for 50 years. They worked the land and raised three children. In 1973, they gave the farm to their children.

Gene Grimshaw bought his brother's portion of the home place in 1976 and his sister's portion in 1977. Gene and his wife, Marilyn, gave acreage to each of their five children in 2013 and sold a portion to one son. Gene and Marilyn live on the 60 acres they still own.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 232

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HORSES, MULES AND OATS;
2015—CATTLE, HAY AND GRAIN**

As told by Carman Gene Grimshaw, great-grandson of the founders.



GRIMSHAW'S COPPERHEAD GROVE

EASTLAND COUNTY - FOUR MILES NORTH OF DESDEMONA ON CR 495

FOUNDED IN: 1908

FOUNDER: FRANK DAVID HOGG

CURRENT OWNER: CARMAN NICOLE GRIMSHAW

Frank David Hogg and Cordelia Waters Hogg were raised in Georgia during the Civil War and Reconstruction. They married and moved to Texas in 1882. They had 11 children. They purchased land in 1904, and in 1908, they added the acreage that Carman Nicole Grimshaw now owns.

Their daughter, Myrtie Hogg Rogers, inherited the 279-acre home place and traded it to her daughter, Nona Rogers Grimshaw, in 1944.

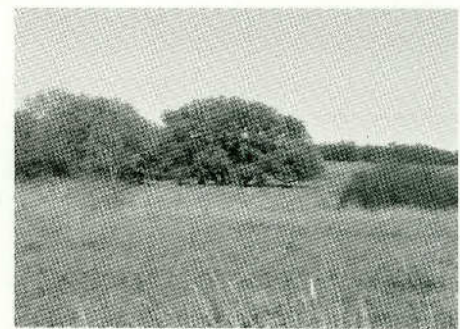
Nona and James Grimshaw farmed the land for 50 years. In 1973, they gave the farm to their children. Their youngest son, Carman Gene Grimshaw, bought his siblings' shares. In 2013, Gene and his wife, Marilyn, gave acreage to each of their five children and retained part of the home place, which is where they live today.

Their eldest daughter, Carman, works her portion of the old home place and intends to pass it on to her two children, Gage and Julianna.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 194

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HORSES, MULES AND OATS;
2015—CATTLE, HAY AND SMALL GRAINS**

As told by Carman Nicole Grimshaw, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.



GRIMSHAW'S HIDDEN CREEK

EASTLAND COUNTY • FOUR MILES NORTH OF DESDEMONA ON CR 495

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDER: FRANK DAVID HOGG

CURRENT OWNER: TONYA GRIMSHAW LEIKIS

Frank David Hogg and Cordelia Waters Hogg were raised in Georgia during the Civil War and Reconstruction. After marrying, they moved to Texas and purchased land in 1904 and 1908.

Their daughter, Myrtie Carrie Hogg Rogers, inherited the home place and traded it to her daughter, Nona, in 1944. Nona and her husband, James, lived and worked the land for 50 years. In 1973, they gave the farm to their children.

Their son, Gene, bought the parts of the farm belonging to his siblings. In 2013, Gene and his wife, Marilyn, gave acreage to each of their five children. They still own part of the old place and live there today.

Thirty acres of the land was gifted to their daughter, Tonya Grimshaw Leikis, in 2013. The acreage is currently leased to one of her siblings. It is Tonya's hope that one day her two children, Brock and Chloe, will inherit the land and live on it.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 232

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HORSES, MULES AND OATS; 2015—HAY

As told by Tonya Grimshaw Leikis, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.



SYNERGIC FARMS ON GRIMSHAW HILL

EASTLAND COUNTY • FOUR MILES NORTH OF DESDEMONA ON CR 495

FOUNDED IN: 1904

FOUNDER: FRANK DAVID HOGG

CURRENT OWNERS: BRANDON AND BRANDIE GRIMSHAW

Frank David Hogg was born in Georgia in 1861. Frank married Cordelia Waters and moved to Texas in 1882. They had 11 children. In 1904 and 1908, they purchased land. Frank and Cordelia died on the home place in 1936 and 1938.

Their daughter, Myrtie, inherited the home place. In 1944, she traded it to her daughter, Nona.

Nona and her husband, James Grimshaw, lived and worked on the place for 50 years. In 1973, they gave the farm to their children.

Their son, Gene Grimshaw, bought his siblings' portions of the farm in 1976 and 1977. In 2013, Gene and his wife, Marilyn, gave each of their children a portion of the farm. Their son, Brandon, purchased additional acreage from them in 2013.

Brandon and his wife, Brandie, live on the farm with their two children and practice sustainable agriculture.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 232

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1904—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HAY, HORSES, MULES AND OATS;
2015—CATTLE, GOATS, HAY, OATS, POULTRY AND WHEAT**

As told by Brandon Grimshaw, great-great-grandson of the founder.



WORRELL RANCH

ERATH COUNTY • 12 MILES SOUTHEAST OF STEPHENVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDER: T. B. WORRELL

CURRENT OWNERS: LEROY B. AND DIXIE E. WORRELL

Thomas Burley Worrell and his wife, Jimmie McDaniel Worrell, come to Erath County in 1907. They were married in 1889 in Waco. They purchased acreage in the Stephenville area. They had 11 children, four of whom died in infancy and one daughter died as a young woman. They raised six boys.

Thomas died in 1948, and Jimmie died in 1954. They are buried in the Duffau Cemetery near their home.

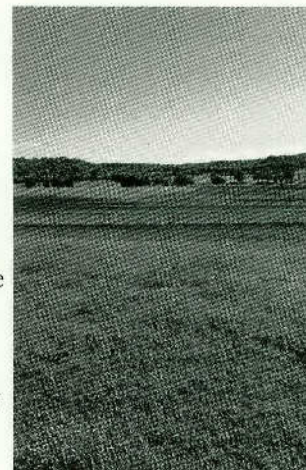
Their youngest son, J.T. (Tommy), purchased the land in 1949 and continued to operate the farm. In 1992, his nephew, Leroy Worrell, purchased the farm and continues to operate it today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 112

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES AND MAIZE;

2015—CATTLE, GRASSES AND HAY

As told by Leroy B. Worrell, grandson of the founder.



GEBHARD-LEVIEN FARM

FAYETTE COUNTY • SIX MILES SOUTH OF ROUND TOP

FOUNDED IN: 1890

FOUNDER: HENRY GEBHARD

CURRENT OWNER: LINDA GEBHARD LEVIEN

Henry Gebhard was born in Germany in 1858. Henry and his wife, Anna, first traveled to Washington D.C. They made the journey to Fayette County and purchased land in 1890. Henry and Anna had six children: Alfred, Henry George, Clara, Ella, Bruno and Lilly.

In 1920, Alfred purchased the land from his father. Alfred and his wife, Hulda, had three sons: Hilmer, Elgin and Quintes. The sons were raised on the farm and attended school and church in the Haw Creek community.

In 1946, Quintes bought 66 acres from his father. Quintes and his wife, Pearly, worked the land without using modern machinery. They had two children, Quintes Jr. and Linda.

In 1999, Linda acquired 33 acres from her father. Linda and her husband, Larry, have three children: Luke, Landon and Lacy. They still raise cattle on the farm.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1890—CORN, COTTON, LIVESTOCK, PIGS, TOBACCO AND TURKEYS; 2015—LIVESTOCK

As told by Linda Gebhard Levien, great-granddaughter of the founder.



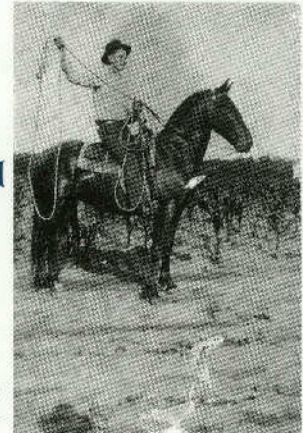
THE GEORGE AND MARY VACEK FAMILY FARM

FAYETTE COUNTY • 10 MILES SOUTH OF SMITHVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1899

FOUNDERS: FRANK AND ANNA ADAMCIK

CURRENT OWNERS: BETTY HASKEY VACEK, JANET VACEK JONES, NORMAN JONES, CATHERINE MARY VACEK, STEVEN VACEK AND GEORGE THEODORE VACEK SR.



In 1860, Frank Adamcik immigrated to Texas as a child from the Moravia region of the current Czech Republic. After a two month journey, he landed in Galveston with his parents. From there, they traveled by train, oxcart and on foot to Hostyn, located near present-day La Grange. Frank worked hard until he saved enough to marry and purchase his own land. He married Terizie and had a son, Frank Jr. Sadly, Terizie passed away shortly after her son's birth. Frank later married Anna Matula. Frank and Anna had 10 children.

In 1899, they moved to Fords Prairie, located south of present-day Smithville, and purchased land. In 1904, their daughter, Emilia, married Joseph Vacek. Emilia and Joseph had nine children.

Their son, George, married Mary Kana in 1930. George and Mary began acquiring the original farm from his mother.

George and Mary continued the farming tradition. They raised seven children on the farm. Mary lived there until 1966 when she gifted it to her surviving children. The current owners are either children or grandchildren of George and Mary Vacek.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 994

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1899—COTTON, FRUITS, GRAINS, LIVESTOCK, NUTS AND VEGETABLES;
2015—CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Frank Meneghetti, great-great-grandson of the founders.

TRIPLE B RANCH

FAYETTE COUNTY • 14 MILES FROM FLATONIA ON ELM CREEK ROAD

FOUNDED IN: 1908

FOUNDERS: WENZEL AND JOSEPHINE BREITSCHOPF

CURRENT OWNERS: JO BRUNNER AND LLOYD BRUNNER



Wenzel and Josephine paid handsomely for 318 acres of Texas land. Together, they raised eight children and prospered as cotton farmers until the 1920s.

Sabina, their youngest child, married Henry in 1936. They purchased the land from her parents and moved into the existing home on the property. While Sabina was pregnant with their second child, a fire erupted and destroyed the home. Neighbors, friends and relatives helped build a new place for the family on the same site.

Their daughter, Jo, went on to marry her high school sweetheart, Lloyd. Jo worked at the local courthouse and later excelled in technology. Her passions were teaching and ranching. Lloyd was the site superintendent of large construction projects.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 318

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—COTTON, CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Melanie Brunner, great-granddaughter of the founders.

KOVAR ACRES

FORT BEND COUNTY • 6 MILES EAST OF DAMON ON FM 1462

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: JOSEPH F. KOVAR

CURRENT OWNER: JOYCE (KOVAR) WENDEL

Joseph Kovar was born in Czechoslovakia. At age 14, he and his sister were sent to the United States to live with an uncle in Texas.

Joseph and his wife, Mary, made their home in East Bernard. That was until 1914, when they moved to Fort Bend County to live on 160 acres of farmland purchased from John Thiel. They had seven children: Mary, Annie, Elizabeth, Rosie, Joe, Frances and Georgia.

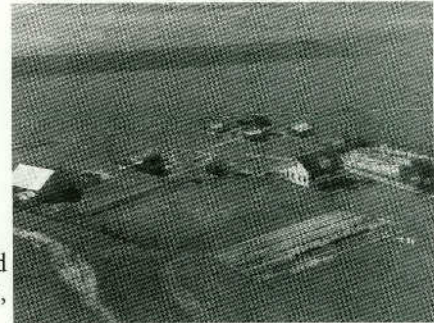
In 1948, Joe bought the land from his parents and continued operations. Joe and his wife, Henrietta, had five children: Joe Jr., Silvan, Patricia, Vickie and Joyce. In 1957, Joe expanded his farmland by purchasing adjacent acreage.

In 2007, title to the property was transferred to Joe's five children. Joe Jr. and his wife, Bonnie, currently live on the additional acreage. Joyce and her husband, Allen, live on the original acreage.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Joyce (Kovar) Wendel, granddaughter of the founder.



LUBOJACKY FARMS

FORT BEND COUNTY • THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF FAIRCHILDS

FOUNDED IN: 1914

FOUNDERS: JOHN AND FRANCIS LUBOJACKY

CURRENT OWNERS: ROBERT LUBOJACKY JR., CALVIN LUBOJACKY AND RONALD LUBOJACKY

John and Francis Lubojacky were born in Moravia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. They immigrated to the United States in 1892, along with four young children, through New York. They settled in Dewitt and later Archer before moving to Fairchilds. This is where they acquired land. Their family grew from four to seven children.

After John and Francis passed, the farm went to their children. By 1941, Adolph and his wife, Mary, had purchased interests in the farm from his siblings. Adolph and Mary had three children: Robert, Ethel and Calvin.

By 1975, Robert and Calvin acquired their parents' tracts. Robert operated both tracts. Robert had four children: Ronald, Dennis, Robert Jr. and Milana. Calvin had three children: Stephen, Lisa and Lamar.

Upon Robert's passing in 1993, his tract of land was passed to his sons. Today, there are four Lubojacky families residing on the original farm. Robert Jr. and his wife, Wanda, farm and ranch the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 115

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914— CORN, COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND MAIZE; 2015— CATTLE, COTTON AND MAIZE

As told by Ron Lubojacky, great-grandson of the founders.



THE WHITLEY FAMILY RANCH

FRIO COUNTY - 15 MILES SOUTHEAST OF PEARSALL ON CR 3000

FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDER: JOHN WILLIAM WHITLEY

CURRENT OWNERS: DOUGLAS E. WHITLEY, JIMMY H. WHITLEY AND VICKI WHITLEY CASTILLEJOS

John William Whitley descended from several families who came to Texas in the 1830s and participated in the Texas Revolution. He married Elizabeth (Bettie) Galloway in 1883 in Frio County. They had nine children. In 1916, John died after a battle with cancer, and Bettie and their daughters managed the property.

By 1921, their son, John, was living on the property when he married Bessie Applewhite. From 1947 to 1952, John and Bessie acquired his siblings' inheritances. Upon his mother's death in 1949, he acquired the homestead. They worked the land until Bessie died in 1971.

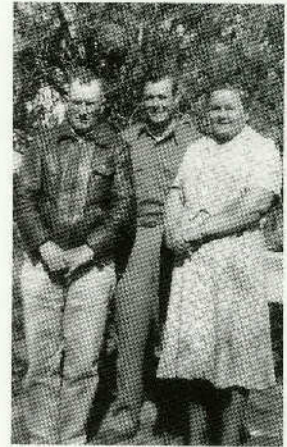
Their son, Harold, continued to work the land and reacquired portions of the property lost in the 1920s.

In the 2000s, Douglas Whitley assumed management of the property. Three of Harold's children inherited the property in 2011, and they continue to operate the ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 328

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES, JERSEY MILK COWS, MULES AND POTATOES; 2015—CATTLE AND BERMUDAGRASS

As told by Douglas Eugene Whitley, great-grandson of the founder.



DENDY RANCH

GILLESPIE COUNTY - EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF HARPER ON RR 783

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: ADOLPH AND LYDIA ANDEREGG DITTMAR

CURRENT OWNERS: FRANCES DITTMAR DENDY, WILLIAM C. DENDY JR., TERRYL DENDY JOHNSON AND WILLIAM C. DENDY III

Adolph Dittmar bought land in 1913 and continued adding acreage. To fence the property, he cut blueberry juniper for posts, dug postholes and hand-knitted the wire.

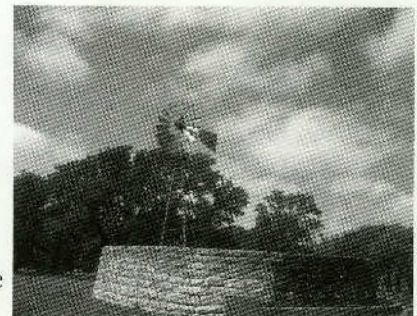
In 1935, Edwin Dittmar bought a portion of the land from his father. In 1941, his father deeded a large portion of the remaining acreage to Edwin. From 1971 to 1985, Edwin deeded more than 1,100 acres of land to Frances Jo Ann Dittmar Dendy.

Frances and her husband, William Dendy, built a house and moved to the ranch full time in 1995. Between 1991 and 2004, they deeded a large portion of the acreage to their two children, Terry Kay Dendy Johnson and William C. Dendy III.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,109

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, GOATS, HOGS, HORSES, MILO, OATS AND SHEEP; 2015—CATTLE AND GOATS

As told by Frances Jo Ann Dittmar Dendy, granddaughter of the founders.



NOTT RANCH L.P.

GILLESPIE COUNTY • EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF HARPER

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDERS: ADOLPH AND LYDIA ANDEREGG DITTMAR

CURRENT OWNERS: GAYLE DITTMAR REED, JORDAN DITTMAR REED AND REAGAN THOMAS REED

Adolph Dittmar grew up in Gillespie County. In 1913, Adolph and his wife, Lydia Anderegg Dittmar, bought land and continued adding to it. Adolph fenced the property by cutting native juniper for posts, digging postholes by hand and using a fencing machine to weave the single strand of wire into netting.

Edwin and his wife, Alma Baethge Dittmar, moved to the property in 1929 and continued operations. In 1935, Edwin bought a portion of the land from his father, Adolph. Then, in 1941, Adolph deeded another portion to his son.

Between 1971 and 1985, Edwin and Alma deeded to the property to their daughters: Frances, Elva and Gayle.

Gayle moved to her portion of the property in 1994 and continued the tradition of working the land. In 2007, the property was transferred to a family limited partnership, Nott Ranch L.P., so her sons could continue ranching.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,008

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, GOATS, GRAIN, HORSES AND SHEEP;

2015—CATTLE, GOATS AND SHEEP

As told by Gayle Dittmar Reed, granddaughter of the founders.



WILSON RANCH

GILLESPIE COUNTY • NINE MILES SOUTH OF HARPER ON RR 783

FOUNDED IN: 1913

FOUNDER: ADOLPH DITTMAR

CURRENT OWNERS: ELVA WILSON, DAVID WILSON AND DONALD WILSON

Adolph was born in Gillespie County. He purchased acreage from brothers, Sam and John Nott, in 1913. He bought additional land from Rufus Peril later that year. Adolph and his wife, Lydia, worked the land. Adolph and Lydia had six children: Ida, Helen, Martin, Edwin, Lydia and Norman.

In 1935, Edwin bought land from his father. In 1941, more of the land was deeded to Edwin by Adolph. Edwin and his wife, Alma, raised three girls: Frances, Elva and Gayle. Edwin and Alma deeded land to Elva between 1971 and 1985.

Elva married Delton Carroll Wilson in 1959. They raised three children: David, Deborah and Donald.

Elva gave Delton a portion of the acreage in 1994. After Delton's death in 2009, their sons received his property in an undivided interest. Elva continues to raise cattle on the property.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 1,009

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, GOATS, MILK, OATS, SHEEP AND SPLETZ; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Elva Mae Wilson, granddaughter of the founder.



L K RANCH

GOLIAD COUNTY - 10 MILES WEST OF GOLIAD

FOUNDED IN: 1885

FOUNDER: JAMES BYRON LOTT

CURRENT OWNERS: ALICIA LOTT COWLEY AND GARY E. COWLEY



James Byron Lott, known as Stang, was born in Texas. In 1885, he bought acreage from W. A. Pettus. The Pettus and Lott families intermarried over generations, producing a large group of people all focused on agriculture in this county.

Stang died young and left his widow, Virginia Pettus Lott, to raise their children. She lived in the house, which is still standing on the ranch. The family cemetery, as well as the family home, have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Virginia's sons received the acreage around the home place when she passed, and it has continued to be passed down through the next three generations of family members.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 4,000

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1885—CATTLE, CORN AND HAY; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Alicia Lott Cowley, great-granddaughter of the founder.

WEBER-GRIFFIN RANCH

GONZALES COUNTY - 26 MILES SOUTHWEST OF GONZALES

FOUNDED IN: 1891

FOUNDERS: HENRY KORSE (H.K.) WEBER, WILLIAM HAMPTON (W.H.) GRIFFIN, JOHN LEWIS (J.L.) WEBER AND HERMAN SEIDEL

CURRENT OWNER: JESSIE ALLENE GRIFFIN BANKHEAD



Johann Benjamin Weber emigrated from Germany and arrived in Indianola with his wife and children in 1840. Shortly thereafter, the Webers died, which left their five remaining children orphaned.

Benjamin Weber grew up in Nixon and married Minnie Korse. They had three children: Henry Korse Weber, John Lewis Weber and Sophie Weber. Benjamin was killed in Mississippi during the Civil War, leaving his wife to raise their children. As young men, Henry and John acquired thousands of acres with the help of their uncle, Herman Seidel.

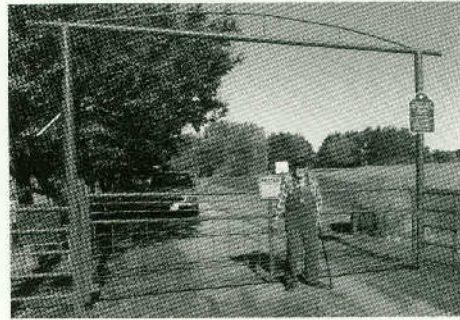
Henry transferred his property to his six children: Ben, Bertie, Paul, Seidel, Florence and Claudia. Claudia's tracts were connected to lands owned by her husband, Alvro Griffin and his family, which was founded by Alvro's uncle, William Hampton (W.H.) Griffin.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 575

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1891—CATTLE, CORN AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Corey Bankhead, great-grandson of the founders.

ELBERT CALVIN FULENCHEK FARM
GRAYSON COUNTY • EIGHT MILES NORTHWEST OF POTTSBORO
FOUNDED IN: 1914
FOUNDERS: J. M. AND IDA FULENCHEK
CURRENT OWNER: ELBERT CALVIN FULENCHEK



Joseph M. Fulenchek's family came from Czechoslovakia in the late 1800s and homesteaded in Kansas. Joseph was born in 1882 in Brown County, Kansas, and moved to Texas in a covered wagon.

Joseph married Ida B. McAlister in 1908. Ida came from Arkansas. They had nine children. They acquired land in 1914. Their son, Elbert Calvin, cleared brush and cut cedar trees. He sold these trees to a hospital in McKinney during World War II for 50 cents a post.

Elbert Calvin Fulenchek acquired title to the land in 1971 when his mother, Ida, passed away. He has two children, Susan Denton Clay and Calvin Dale Fulenchek.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 42
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCE; 2015—HAY AND PRODUCE

As told by Elbert Calvin Fulenchek, son of the founders.

ELMORE FARMS
GRAYSON COUNTY • RUSSWOOD ROAD NORTHWEST OF POTTSBORO
FOUNDED IN: 1914
FOUNDER: JOSEPH M. FULENCHEK
CURRENT OWNERS: JIMMY AND KAREN ELMORE



Joseph M. Fulenchek emigrated from Czechoslovakia. He bought the original acreage from J. F. Bennett in 1914 and continued to add acreage in the coming years. He married Ida Belle McAlister, and they raised eight children: George, Vivian, Annie, Viola, Josie, Joe, Calvin and Paul.

Ida Belle acquired the land in 1949 when Joseph died. Her daughter, Vivian, leased the land with her husband, Sam. They raised cattle on the land.

In 1971, Josie acquired 13 acres of the farm and worked the land until her death in 2012. After her death, the land was acquired by Jimmy Elmore who continues to grow hay on the land. Jimmy acquired land in 1983 from Judy Christman and her husband, Bobby. This was a portion of tract acquired by Vivian Fulenchek Roy in 1971 from the Ida Belle Fulenchek estate.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 42
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1914—CORN, COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND TOBACCO; 2015—HAY

As told by Jimmy Elmore, grandson of the founder.

BLUM FARM

HALL COUNTY • FOUR MILES SOUTHEAST OF MEMPHIS ON CR 26

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDER: H. R. BLUM

**CURRENT OWNERS: LYNDA GABLE, GAYLE GILREATH AND
CORY LOCKHART**

H. R. Blum and his wife, Bettie, had five children. They moved from Hall County to Floyd County with four of the children.

Their son, H. R. Jr., married Nettie Blum and worked the land with their four children: Francis, Melvin, Vonda and Jackie. Nettie acquired the acreage in 1962 after the death of H. R. Jr. Melvin and his wife, Ola Mae, acquired the land in 1963. Ola Mae acquired the land after Melvin passed away.

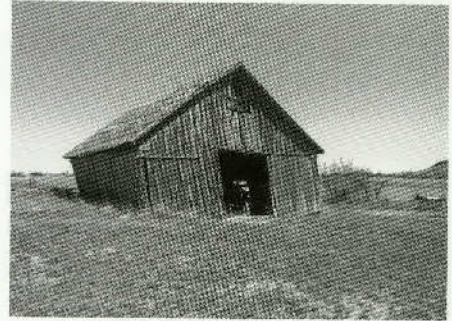
Lynda Gilreath Gable and her brother, Gayle Gilreath, along with Cory Lockhart, acquired the land in 2014 after Ola Mae's death.

Gayle Gilreath and Lynda Gilreath are the great-grandchildren of the founder.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 168

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, COTTON AND WHEAT;
2015—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM AND PASTURE**

As told by Lynda Gilreath Gable, great-granddaughter of the founder.



WARREN RANCH

HARRIS COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTH OF HOCKLEY

FOUNDED IN: 1883

FOUNDER: JOHN WARREN

**CURRENT OWNERS: JAMES A. WARREN, ESTATE OF JOHN
WARREN IV AND, ESTATE OF WILLIAM B. WARREN II**

John Warren was born in England in 1822. John and his wife, Jane, immigrated to Texas in 1852 with their two children. At first, he ran a stage relay station. In 1857, he ran a hotel and restaurant. He bought his first piece of land in 1872, but that land went to his daughter when his estate was settled.

In 1883, John purchased land with two partners. John was running cattle on the land before he purchased it. In 1897, he purchased his partners' interest. He continued adding more land. His son, John Warren II, continued the tradition of buying property to add to the ranch.

John Warren II passed away in 1927. Since then, more land has been purchased and some partitioned to descendants. Today, the Warren Ranch is 5,931 acres.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 5,085

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1883—CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE AND CORN

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



C. H. JOSSELET FARMS

HASKELL COUNTY - SIX MILES NORTH OF HASKELL

FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDERS: VICTOR AND CATHERINE (HUGON) JOSSELET

**CURRENT OWNERS: JUDY JOSSELET, CATHERINE BARTLEY,
VAN JOSSELET AND SANDRA SANFORD**



Victor Josselet was born in 1846 in Belgium Dee Lilie. In 1873, Victor and two brothers, Felix and Paul, booked passage to the United States. The brothers worked for two years as miners in Chicago. Then, they moved to Texas where they purchased a small farm. During this time in Sherman, Victor met and married Catherine Hugon. Her family came from Uruguay. The couple spent 18 years in Cooke County, and that is where five of their children were born.

In 1900, after selling their property, the family moved to Haskell by covered wagon. In Haskell, they purchased land. Victor deeded land to each of his children upon marriage.

Joel David Josselet, one of his sons, married Leona Davis in 1906 and was deeded his parcel of land. Joel and Leona had five children, three of whom grew to adulthood. Each were deeded land.

Clarence Homer Josselet acquired his land upon marriage to Geraldine Rinehart. In 1998, upon Homer's death, the land was deeded to his four children: Judy, Catherine, Van and Sandra.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,952

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—CATTLE, COTTON, OATS AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE, COTTON AND WHEAT

As told by Catherine Bartley, great-granddaughter of the founders.

RILEY JAMES (BUD) PACE—PACE HOME PLACE

HASKELL COUNTY - NINE MILES SOUTHWEST OF HASKELL

FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDER: JESSE JAMES PACE

CURRENT OWNER: RILEY JAMES (BUD) PACE



In 1854, William Alexander Pace and his wife, Sarah Jane, moved with their family from Indiana to Texas for his health. Their son, Marion Pace, moved with his parents, and in 1908, he moved to Haskell and built a house, which is still standing.

Marion's son, Jesse James, was born in 1871 in Bell County. In 1909, he came to Haskell from Salado where he had operated a grocery store and owned the light plant.

Jesse, known as J. J., bought land in 1909. Upon the sale of his holding around Salado in 1915, he paid the note in full. J. J. died in 1935, and the land passed to his widow, Eva, and his three children. J. J.'s son, William Lynn Pace, bought the remaining shares. Upon William's death in 1963, his son, Riley James Pace, inherited the land.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 913

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT; 2015—COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT

As told by Riley James (Bud) Pace, grandson of the founder.

VAN JOSSELET DBA JD FARMS

HASKELL COUNTY - SEVEN MILES NORTHWEST OF HASKELL

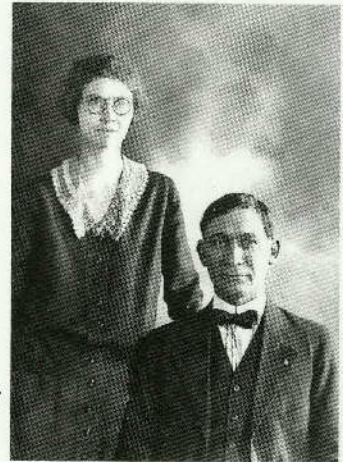
FOUNDED IN: 1900

FOUNDERS: VICTOR AND CATHERINE (HUGON) JOSSELET

CURRENT OWNER: VAN J. JOSSELET

Victor J. Josselet was born in 1846 in Belgium. He came to the United States in 1873 with his brothers, Felix and Paul. After two years in Chicago, Victor moved to Sherman, Texas. There he met and married Catherine Hugon. They remained in Cooke County for 18 years, and that is where five of their nine children were born.

In 1900, Victor and his family moved to Haskell County where he bought land. Victor donated money and land to the expansion of the railroad. A switch built to link the local cattle market to the national markets was named the Josselet Switch.



Upon marriage, each Josselet child received 300 acres of land. Joel David Josselet acquired his 300 acres with his marriage to Leona Davis in 1906. In 1957, Joel transferred ownership to his children: Ophelia, Richard and Homer. Richard's family sold his 100 acres to Homer's children. Van bought the land from his sisters and is operating the farm with his cousin, Johnny Josselet.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,952

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1900—CATTLE, COTTON, OATS AND WHEAT; 2015—COTTON AND WHEAT

As told by Van Josselet, great-grandson of the founders.

7H RANCH

IRION COUNTY - 15 MILES WEST OF MERTZON

FOUNDED IN: 1891

FOUNDER: WALTER MONTGOMERY NOELKE

CURRENT OWNERS: ELISABETH L. NOELKE AND

REBECCA L. NOELKE RICHEY

Walter Montgomery Noelke, known as Monte, was born in DeWitt County in 1873. His father came to Texas from Prussia. Monte attended Southwestern University in Georgetown. He then worked for his father and began acquiring land and ranching around 1890 in Irion County.



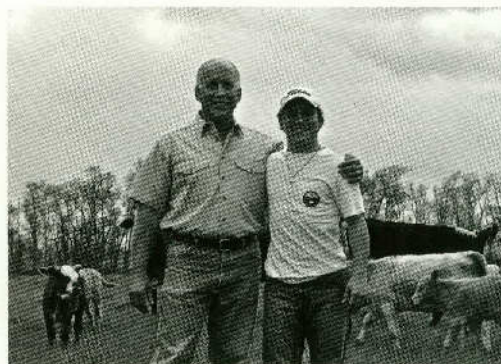
Monte and his wife, Mamie Emerick Noelke, had three children. Their son, Harry, inherited the western part of the Irion County ranch in 1931. His son, also named Harry, began operating the 7h Ranch in 1967 after his father died. The younger Harry's daughters, Elisabeth and Rebecca, now operate the ranch.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 5,551

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1891—CATTLE, HORSES AND SHEEP; 2015—CATTLE, GOATS, HORSES AND SHEEP

As told by Elisabeth Noelke, great-granddaughter of the founder.

JEFFERSON LAND & CATTLE COMPANY
JEFFERSON COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTH OF BEAUMONT
FOUNDED IN: 1915
FOUNDER: GEORGE W. BROWN SR.
CURRENT OWNER: GEORGE W. BROWN III



In 1901, George W. Brown Sr. moved to Beaumont from Nebraska to supply lumber to the newly discovered oil boom, Spindletop. In 1915, he purchased land from the Beaumont Rice & Canal Company. He then formed the Jefferson Land Company and brought in three partners.

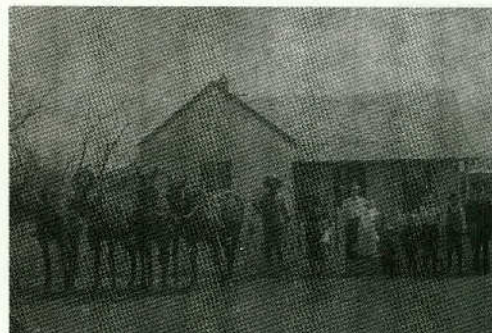
Jefferson Land Company began farming rice, as had been done in previous years. Within a short time, cattle ranching became a large part of the operation.

Over the years that followed, various interests of the original owners were bought back by the company. Today, only one direct descendent of the founder, George W. Brown III, retains ownership.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,210
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE AND RICE; 2015—CATTLE

As told by George W. Brown III, grandson of the founder.

JENKINS HOME PLACE
JONES COUNTY • SEVEN MILES EAST OF HAMLIN ON CR 132
FOUNDED IN: 1905
FOUNDER: JAMES WILSON JENKINS
CURRENT OWNER: STEPHANIE BRADLEY



In 1914, the family moved from the Hawley area with their expanding family and extended relatives to the community of Dovie. At one point, the farm included the house and about eight other buildings.

Chester and Pauline Jenkins, son and daughter-in-law of the founders, obtained the farm from the estate of Rosa Jenkins in 1945. They farmed the land and raised six children in the original house.

The land was sold to EL and Peggy Jenkins in 1984. EL is the grandson of the founders. The land been farmed by them and their daughter since that time. The land was deeded to the current owner, Stephanie Bradley, granddaughter of the prior owner, in 2006.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 110
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1905—CATTLE, COTTON, PIGS AND WHEAT; 2015—COTTON

As told by Chester Jenkins, grandson of the founder.

BAETZ RANCH

**LA SALLE COUNTY • THREE MILES EAST OF ARTESIA WELLS
FOUNDED IN: 1913**

FOUNDER: HERMAN MAX BAETZ

**CURRENT OWNERS: BERTRAND O. BAETZ III AND
ANNAMARIE BAETZ FALVO**



Herman Max Baetz was born in 1885 in San Antonio. In 1913, he acquired land from J. M. Ramsey. He continued to add acreage. Herman and his wife, Anna Marie, had one son, Bertrand Oliver Baetz.

Bertrand acquired title to the land from 1955 to 1966. He married Margaret Edwards Baetz, and they had three children: Courtney, Bertrand Jr. and Barbara. He continued to acquire land contiguous to the existing ranch. Upon his death, all the acreage was transferred to his wife.

In 1983, Margaret transferred the land to the Baetz Family Ranch Partnership. In 2005, Baetz Ranch, Ltd. purchased the land from the partnership.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 486

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1913—CATTLE, COTTON AND WATERMELONS; 2015—CATTLE AND NATIVE GRASSES

As told by Bertrand Oliver Baetz Jr., grandson of the founder, and Annamarie Baetz Falvo, great-granddaughter of the founder.

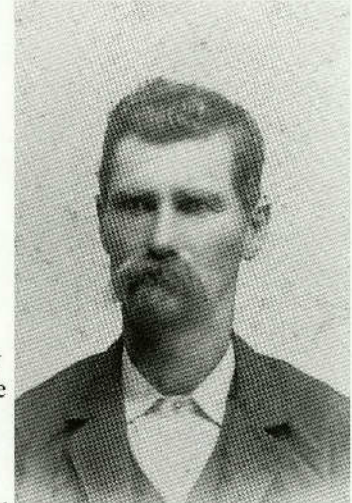
COWAN RANCH - 30 LAND AND LIVESTOCK

LAMPASAS COUNTY • 17 MILES EAST OF LAMPASAS ON CR 3270

FOUNDED IN: 1884

FOUNDER: HARRY MORGAN TAYLOR

CURRENT OWNER: LILLIAN KAY COWAN



Daniel Webster Taylor and his wife, Mary Jane Shanklin, settled in Kempner in the mid 1850s. He was the first county judge for Lampasas County. They had eight children. One of them was Harry Morgan Taylor.

In 1873, Harry Morgan Taylor married Clara Melinda Arnold, and they raised a family of eight children in Topsey. Harry founded the family ranch in 1873 and acquired the land in 1884.

In the late 1930s, Harry's son, William Albert Cowan, and his wife, Laura Evelyn Vardiman Cowan, settled on the ranch. Here they raised their three children: William A. "Dub" Cowan Jr., Maurene Cowan Edwards and Bettye Sue Cowan Pruett.

In 1997, William A. Cowan Jr. continued farming and ranching after his father passed away.

Family member and current owner, Lillian Kay Cowan, continues the ranching pursuits today. She has worked to restore the ranch house, portions of which are more than 100 years old.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1884—CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Lillian Kay Cowan, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.

DWORSKY FARM

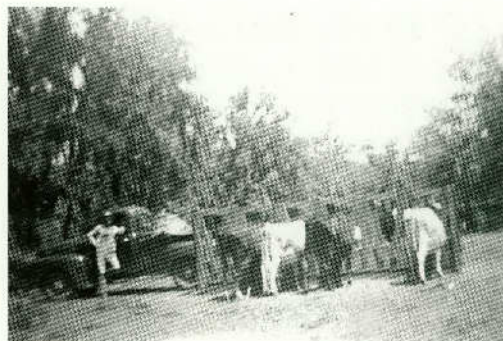
LAVACA COUNTY - TWO MILES WEST OF HALLETTSVILLE

FOUNDED IN: 1912

FOUNDER: EUGENE DWORSKY

CURRENT OWNERS: BENEDICT DWORSKY, EUGENE DWORSKY, DENNIS DWORSKY AND DORIS (DWORSKY)

FENNER



Eugene Dworsky was born in Austria in 1874. In 1912, Eugene bought land. Eugene and his wife, Annie, had five children: Joseph, Bertha, Agnes, Mary and Paul. Eugene died in 1931 and left the farm to his wife. Mary never married and stayed on the farm to care for her mother.

A neighbor, Emmanuel Etzler, worked around the farm to help the family. Paul ending up marrying Emmanuel's daughter, Emmerlin. Paul and Emmerlin had four children: Benedict, Eugene, Dennis and Doris. They all worked on the farm together.

In 1979, Annie died, and she left the farm to her five children. In 1992, Bertha died and left her interest to her son, John. In 2002, Joseph died and left his interest to his children, Joseph Jr. and Kathryn. In 2002, Mary died, and Paul died in 2005. Their interest was left to his four children.

Today, Eugene continues to live on the land and has acquired some of his relatives' shares. Benedict built a house on his share of land. Dennis and Doris kept their share but let Eugene farm it.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 178

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1912—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, HAY, HOGS, SUGARCANE, TOMATOES AND VEGETABLES; 2015—CATTLE, CORN AND HAY

As told by Doris (Dworsky) Fenner, granddaughter of the founder.

MCM RANCH

LEE COUNTY - FOUR MILES SOUTH OF NORTHUP ON FM 448

FOUNDED IN: 1899

FOUNDER: ERNST SYMANK

CURRENT OWNER: MONROE CARL MIERTSCHIN

Ernst Symank was born in Lee County to German immigrants. In 1899, he acquired acreage from Maria and William Winkler. He kept adding more land. Ernst and his wife had three children: John, Theodore and Wilhelmina.

In 1938, Wilhelmina and her husband, Carl Miertschin, acquired title to a portion of the land. They had five children: William, Marie, John, Monroe and Violet. Carl Miertschin, a Wend, was one of the last Wends to speak their native Wendish language.

In 1981, Monroe acquired 33 acres from his father. Prior to his retirement in 1992, Monroe and his first wife, Carolyn, spent several weeks a month at the ranch. They lived in New Orleans during that time, and after Monroe's retirement, they moved to the ranch. They lived in his parents' home until their new home was built in 1995.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 191

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1899—CATTLE AND PEANUTS; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Ralph Winkler, great-grandson of the founder, and Brenda Masselink, great-granddaughter of the founder.

CUATRO PAISANAS RANCH

**LIVE OAK COUNTY - ON US 281 HALFWAY BETWEEN THREE RIVERS
AND GEORGE WEST**

FOUNDED IN: 1881

FOUNDER: GEORGE W. WEST

CURRENT OWNER: CUATRO PAISANAS RANCH INC.



George W. West came to Texas in the 1850s with his family. As a teenager, he was the trail boss of the longest cattle drive on record. After he retired from the trail, George and his wife, Kittie, purchased land in Live Oak County in 1881. He added to this land over time. However, a devastating drought in 1882 killed off so many of his cattle that he was forced to sell half of his acreage.

Several years later, George sold land to Charles Simmons who used it to establish the town of Simmons. In 1910, George also founded a town, appropriately named George West, and successfully enticed the railroad to come through. In the town of George West, he built roads, bridges, a school and courthouse.

Upon George's death in 1926, he willed his land to the grandchildren of his brothers, Ike West and Sol West. Josephine "Dodie" West McClelland acquired her portion of the land and continued the tradition of running cattle. She and her husband, Col. C.K. McClelland, named the property Cuatro Paisanas Ranch, which translates to the four roadrunners after their four daughters: Jo, Libba, Vancie and Toby.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 60,000

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1881—CATTLE; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Josephine West McNamee Cook, great-great-grandniece of the founder.

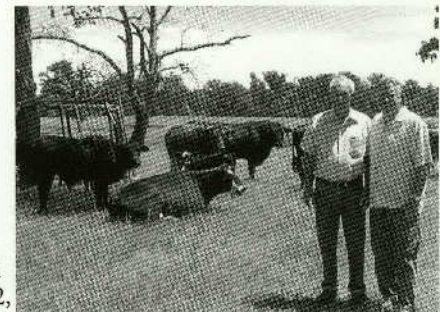
HOLLIS FAMILY RANCH

MADISON COUNTY - TWO MILES NORTH OF NORTH ZULCH

FOUNDED IN: 1912

FOUNDERS: JAMES AND MARGUETT CASEY

**CURRENT OWNERS: STANLEY J. HOLLIS, ROBERT M. HOLLIS,
RACHEL L. HOLLIS**



James B. Casey was born in 1850 in Illinois. He moved to Texas and married Marguett Barnett in 1875 in Liberty County. They had four children. In 1912, they acquired land in Madison County.

Their daughter, Amy Lugenia Casey, married Marques Alexander Mosley in 1908 in Madison County. They had four children. Marques and Amy acquired title to the property in 1927. Amy died in 1933, shortly after seeing her eldest daughter, Helen, marry Robert Carl Hollis.

Helen and Robert acquired title to the property and moved to the home located there. They had two children, Alton Ray and Robert Merle. Together, the family worked the land and made improvements.

Robert Merle married Joyce in 1965. They acquired title to the property in 1974. They have three children who remain active in the family ranch to this day. In 1987, Robert Merle gave the property to his children: Stan, Stacie and Stephen.

Stan married Geneva in 1994. Along with their daughter, Rachel, they continue to work the land today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 150

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1912—CATTLE, CHICKENS, CORN, HAY, HOGS AND VEGETABLES; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Stanley (Stan) Jay Hollis, great-great-grandson of the founders.

CANNON MOUNTAIN RANCH
MASON COUNTY - EIGHT MILES WEST OF HILDA
FOUNDED IN: 1880
FOUNDER: GOTTLIEB BRANDENBERGER
CURRENT OWNERS: PATRICK AND MARNEE LOFTIN

Gottlieb Brandenberger was born in Switzerland and traveled with his family to Indiana. He participated in the California Gold Rush and then made his way to Texas. He purchased land in Mason County and continued to build his holdings through other properties. Gottlieb and his wife, Maria, had six children.



The property was portioned among their four sons in 1898. John, the oldest, was born in 1854 in a log cabin. He and his wife, Sophia, had seven children. Their youngest surviving child was Wesley John Brandenberger. Wesley grew up participating in the family's ranching business.

Wesley and his wife, Esther, had four children. The property was partitioned amongst their children in 1966. The oldest child, Imogene, was married to Thomas Loftin. They lived in San Antonio and conducted their own ranching operations on the family property. They had three children and gave the property to their children in 2002.

Their middle child, Patrick Loftin, has been raising cattle on his part of the land ever since.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 2,240
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1880—CATTLE AND OTHER LIVESTOCK; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Patrick Loftin, great-great-grandson of the founder.

HEART OF THE HEART RANCH
MASON COUNTY - TWO MILES SOUTH OF HWY 71
FOUNDED IN: 1915
FOUNDER: VERNON EUGENE MILLER
CURRENT OWNERS: KADEN AND BEVERLY BAKER

Born in 1889, Vernon Miller was one of 11 children. He started from nothing and built his first home on this piece of property. Vernon always found a way to keep going. During the 1918 drought, he worked in an iron mine. During the Depression and drought that followed, he got a mail route.



He believed if he could sell a cow and a calf and pay for an acre of land, he would sell his cows and calves, and then buy land and borrow the money to stock it. It worked for him, and he acquired approximately 12,000 acres in his lifetime.

As a result, his decedents have a feeling of responsibility to keep working the land that he worked so hard to acquire. Kaden Baker and his brother, Kody King, are the sixth generation to own and run the acreage.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 80
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE, HOGS AND GRASS SEED; 2015—CATTLE, HOGS AND GRASS SEED

As told by Beverly Ann Shearer King Baker, great-granddaughter to founder.

JACK WARE CURREY FARM

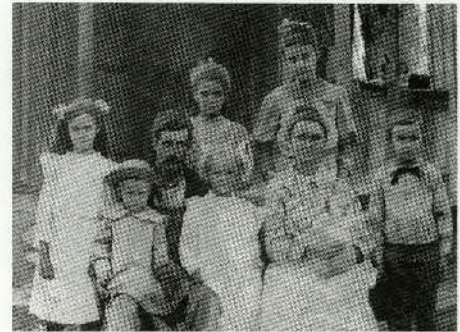
MILAM COUNTY • THREE MILES NORTH OF ROCKDALE ON HWY 77

FOUNDED IN: 1915

FOUNDERS: JACK AND WILLIE CURREY

CURRENT OWNER: JACKLINE CURREY THORNTON

Jack Currey came to Milam County as a child with his family from Louisiana. He bought land in 1915. Jack and his wife had eight children: Lottie, Nettie, Charry, Amanda, Edith, Ray, Noble and Robert. In 1916, Jack died from black jaundice. His wife and children were left to work the farm. The oldest child, Robert, quit school and took on the job of his father.



In 1973, Robert bought the undivided interest of his siblings, making him the sole owner. He continued to run cattle until his death in 1993. His heirs, Jackline and Kathleen, acquired title to the land through his will.

In 1994, Jackline became sole owner of the property. She continues operations on the land today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 187

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE AND FEED CROPS; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Jackline “Jackie” Currey Thornton, granddaughter of the founders.

BITTERLAKE RANCH

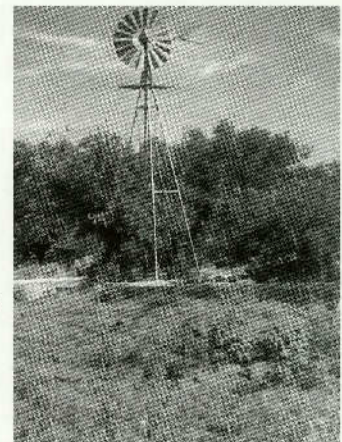
MOTLEY COUNTY • ONE MILE EAST OF NORTHFIELD

FOUNDED IN: 1897

FOUNDER: BENJAMIN F. SIMPSON

CURRENT OWNERS: TRAVIS AND LOU ANNE JAMESON

Benjamin F. Simpson was born in Missouri. He came to Motley County from Parker County in 1896 with his wife and two small children. The trip is said to have taken six weeks by wagon. Benjamin and his wife, Malinda, had 11 children: Ruth, Andrew, Monroe, Seth, Paul, Travis, Boone, Grace, Lurly, Fay and Celia, along with one child who died as an infant.



Ruth received the land in 1967 after her father’s death. Ruth and her husband, C. M. McDonald, had three children: Dorothy, Travis and Foy.

Dorothy received half the land after Ruth’s death in 1975 and bought the other 80 acres from her brother in 1981. Dorothy had three children: Faye, Franklin and Travis. Dorothy deeded her lands to Travis and Franklin and their wives in 1999.

Franklin and Susan Jameson deeded their half of the acres back to Travis and Lou Anne in 2011. Travis and Lou Anne have three children: Whitney, Rebekah and Justin.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 160

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1897—CATTLE AND CHICKENS; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Travis Jameson, great-grandson of the founder.

MORRIS FARMS

OLDHAM COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTHEAST OF VEGA

FOUNDED IN: 1910

FOUNDER: HENRY LEE MORRIS

CURRENT OWNER: MARTHA ELIZABETH MORRIS

Henry Lee Morris was born in 1868 and lived in Missouri. He married Mary Alice Godwin Pulliam in 1893. She contracted tuberculosis, and the doctors advised her to move to a drier climate. That's when they relocated to Vega, and Henry bought land. They had five children.

In 1922, their son, Roger Louis Morris, bought the land. Roger married Ruth Swanson in 1922, and they had one son, Roger Louis Morris Jr.

Roger Jr. acquired the land in 1970 after his parents gifted it to him. He married Martha Elizabeth Beene in 1957, and they continued operations. Roger and Martha had two children, Tanya Sue and Roger Louis Morris III. They continued to add acreage as well.

In 1990, Martha Morris acquired the land after Roger passed away. Roger Louis Morris III operates the land today alongside his two sons, Roger Louis Morris IV and Reese Morris.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1910—CATTLE, HAY, HORSES AND WHEAT;

2015—CATTLE, COTTON, GRAIN SORGHUM, SILAGE AND WHEAT.

As told by Roger L. Morris III, great-grandson of the founder.



K 3 RANCH

PARKER COUNTY • 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF WEATHERFORD

FOUNDED IN: 1872

FOUNDER: R. D. BILES

CURRENT OWNERS: KENNETH R. KING, BONNIE SUE KING,

TONYA RAE KING

R. D. Biles purchased two tracts of land from the state of Texas in 1872 and 1879. R. D. and his wife, Mary, had two daughters, Martha Ann and Mary Elizabeth.

Mary Elizabeth married Oscar Lafayette King. They acquired land from her father in 1889. They had two children, Zena Effie and Richard McDuffie.

Richard acquired the growing farm in 1912 and continued adding to it. Richard and his wife, Ora, had two children, Delmar and Lavern. Delmar served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives.

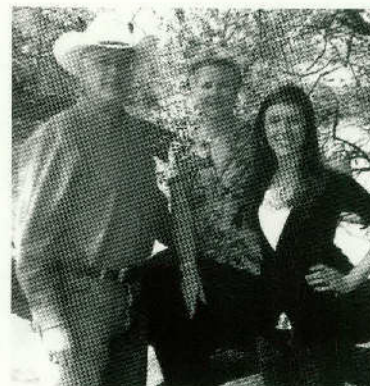
Delmar inherited 250 acres of the farm in 1968 and received the remaining acreage from his sister in 1997. He continued to add acreage. Delmar and his wife, Martha Jane, had two children, Larry and Kenneth.

Kenneth King inherited 275 acres in 2009. He continues the operation with his wife, Bonnie. They have one daughter, Tonya.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 249

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1872—COTTON AND LIVESTOCK; 2015—BERMUDA GRASS, LIVESTOCK AND WHEAT

As told by Kenneth King, great-great-grandson of the founder.



KING FAMILY FARM & RANCH
PARKER COUNTY • 12 MILES NORTHWEST OF WEATHERFORD
FOUNDED IN: 1872
FOUNDER: R. D. BILES
CURRENT OWNERS: LARRY AND LISA KING

R. D. Biles purchased two tracts of land from the state of Texas in 1872 and 1879. R. D. and his wife, Mary, had two daughters, Martha Ann and Mary Elizabeth.

Mary Elizabeth married O.L. King. They acquired land from her father in 1889. They had two children, Zena and Richard McDuffie.

Richard acquired the growing farm in 1912 and continued adding to it. Richard and his wife, Ora, had two children, Delmar and Lavern. Delmar served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives.

Delmar inherited 250 acres of the farm in 1968 and received the remaining acreage from his sister in 1997. He continued to add acreage. Delmar and his wife, Martha Jane, had two children, Larry and Kenneth.

Larry inherited 275 acres in 2009. He lives on the farm with his wife, Lisa. They have two sons, Mike and Kyle.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 249
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1872—COTTON AND LIVESTOCK; 2015—HAY, SWINE, SUDANGRASS AND WHEAT.

As told by Larry Baker King, great-great-grandson of the founder.



ALBERS FAMILY FARM
RANDALL COUNTY • SIX MILES EAST OF CANYON
FOUNDED IN: 1908
FOUNDER: JOHN ERWIN ALBERS
CURRENT OWNERS: RAYMOND E. LAUTERBACH AND BETH E. LAUTERBACH

John Albers and his wife, Catherine, were born in Germany. The Albers family came to America in 1885 and settled in Nebraska. In 1908, John purchased four sections of land near Canyon, Texas. He sold a portion of the land within three months to his brother, Ernest F. Albers.

Ernest and his wife, Emma, came to Canyon in 1909. Ernest sold the land to his nephew, Emil Albers, in 1916. Emil and his wife, Emma, had six children. In 1943, Emma died, and in 1946, Emil married Herta. Emil and Herta moved to New Mexico. Emil's son, John, and his wife, Hilda, carried on the farm. John and Hilda had eight children.

Hilda acquired title to the land in 1998 when John died. Her daughter, Beth, and her husband, Ray, began farming in 1993 and purchased the farm in 2008. Beth and Ray have three children: Brenda, Matthew and Emily. They continue operations and have six grandchildren who love to come to the farm.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 328
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—CATTLE AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE, HAY AND WHEAT

As told by Beth E. Lauterbach, great-granddaughter of the founder.



BRAUN FAMILY ARBOR FARM
ROBERTSON COUNTY • TWO MILES SOUTH OF NEW BADEN
FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDERS: HENRY AND CHRISTIANA LANGE
CURRENT OWNERS: KENNETH AND ANNA BRAUN

Henry Lange was born in 1849. He came with his brother, Robert, to purchase land around Ridge in 1884. Henry became a United States citizen in 1903. He purchased land outside Franklin in 1909. He moved to the land with his German bride, Christiana.



Henry passed away in 1917, and Christiana farmed the land until her death in 1940. Having no children, the land passed to his brother's children, Robert and Anna. Robert started the timber operation. He cut the first commercially harvested pine in Robertson County.

Robert passed away in 1961. His niece, Mary Collins, and her husband, Charles, purchased the farm in 1966. Mary's daughter, Anna, purchased the farm in 2005. Anna and her husband, Kenneth Braun, continue operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 70
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—CATTLE, COTTON AND MELONS; 2015—TIMBER

As told by Anna Braun, great-niece of the founders.

DROLL FARMS
RUNNELS COUNTY • THREE MILES SOUTHEAST OF ROWENA
FOUNDED IN: 1915
FOUNDERS: JOSEPH AND FRANCISKA DROLL
CURRENT OWNER: HARVEY WILLIAM DROLL

Joseph Droll was born in 1865 in Germany. He came to New York in 1883. From New York, he moved to Illinois. There he married Amelia Daniel. They had three sons. Amelia died at the age of 36. Joseph remarried in 1901 to Franciska Hoffman. They had seven more children.

Joseph moved the family to Texas in 1908 due to his bronchial trouble. Joseph and Franciska bought land in 1915, and that is where they raised all 10 children. When Joseph died in 1934, two of his sons, Adolph and Ben, farmed the land until Franciska passed away in 1965.



Harvey Droll, Joseph's grandson, and his wife, Sidona Multer, bought the land from the estate of Franciska Droll in 1966. They raised seven children. Harvey worked the land until he retired in 1987 after his wife's passing. Harvey then leased the land to his son, Dennis, who farmed the land until 2003. That's when his son, Eli Droll, took over operations.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 320
CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HOGS, HORSES, MILO AND OATS;
2015—COTTON, MILO AND WHEAT

As told by Eli Droll, great-great-grandson of the founders.

THE MOON

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY • TWO MILES WEST OF SAN AUGUSTINE

FOUNDED IN: 1915

FOUNDER: EZEKIEL SHARPTON

CURRENT OWNER: GEOFFREY REEDER

Ezekiel Sharpton was born in South Carolina. He moved to Alabama where he met and married Auzetta Consford. Auzetta had two half brothers living in San Augustine. They wrote her letters telling her good things about Texas. Ezekiel convinced Auzetta to move, and they came to Texas in 1900. Ezekiel and his 10 sons made a living clearing land, and in 1915, Ezekiel bought property.

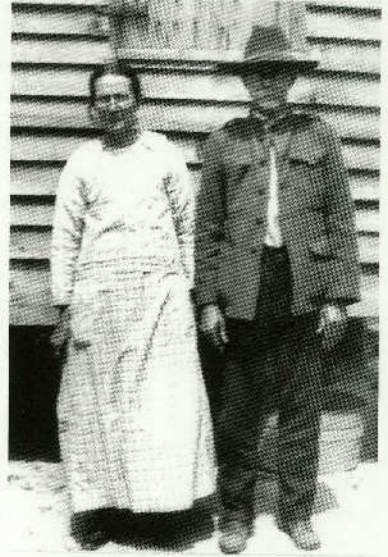
Ezekiel sold the land to his son, Bennie. Bennie and his wife, Altonia, had one child, Dorothy Faye. Bennie and Altonia willed the land to their daughter and only grandchild. When Dorothy died in 2004, her son, Geoffrey, became the sole owner.

Geoffrey and his wife, Ellen, continue to work the land today. The farm has hosted honeybees from Wisconsin, and in 2015, it will have its own apiary for honey production.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 50

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—COTTON AND TIMBER; 2015—FOOD CROPS, HAY AND TIMBER

As told by Geoffrey Reeder, great-grandson of the founder.



HAWKINS WALLACE CREEK FARM

SAN SABA COUNTY • SEVEN MILES WEST OF SAN SABA ON CR 308

FOUNDED IN: 1915

FOUNDERS: WALLACE E. AND EMMA HAWKINS

CURRENT OWNER: IMOGENE HAWKINS

W. E. and Emma purchased the property in 1915. They operated the property while various members of the family lived there and they lived a few miles up the road. After W. E. passed away, Emma moved to the property.

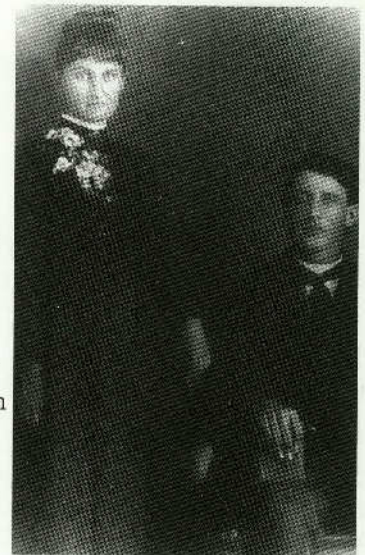
After Emma passed away, her daughter, Beatrice, bought the land. Beatrice and her husband, Oscar, owned and operated the property until 1989. At that time, their son and his wife purchased the property from other heirs.

Imogene, the current owner, still resides on the property.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 15

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE AND PECANS; 2015—CATTLE AND PECANS

As told by Imogene Hawkins, granddaughter-in-law of the founders.



WIENKE-SPITZER FARM

STONEWALL COUNTY • HALF MILE NORTHWEST OF OLD GLORY

FOUNDED IN: 1915

FOUNDER: W. G. WIENKE

CURRENT OWNER: KENNETH W. SPITZER

W. G. Wienke was born in Germany in 1876. His family came to America in 1881. They moved to Austin County where they operated a gin and sawmill near New Ulm. In 1898, W. G. married Lottie Klump. W. G. built the first Gin in the area in 1909 and lived in a half dugout. He bought land in 1915 and built a house ordered from Sears and Roebuck. H. G. and Lottie had six children.

Their daughter, ODine, married Garrett Spitzer in 1936. They acquired the land in 1973. Garrett and ODine had three children: Kathleen, Kenneth and Weldon. They continued operations.

Kenneth acquired the land in 1994 and continues operations today.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 437

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1915—CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HORSES, MILO, MULES, PIGS AND WHEAT;
2015—CATTLE AND WHEAT**

As told by Kenneth Spitzer, grandson of the founder.



PHILLIPS FARM

TOM GREEN COUNTY • FOUR MILES EAST OF TANKERSLY

FOUNDED IN: 1908

FOUNDER: JOSEPH DOUGLAS SAWYER

CURRENT OWNER: JOHN DOUGLAS PHILLIPS

Joseph Sawyer was born in Williamson County in 1879. He moved to Winters around 1904. That's where he met and married Annie Lelie Brown. They began their family in Winters with their first two daughters. They bought land in 1908, and Joseph moved the family to the plot. They had three more daughters.

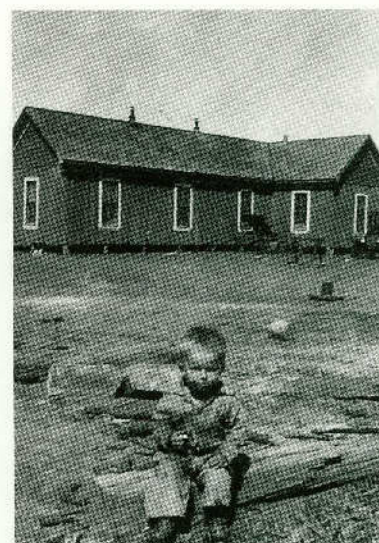
With the passing of Annie and Joseph in 1962, the land passed to their five daughters. Over the years, all the land was sold to one daughter, Minnie Ola.

Minnie later gave the farm to her seven children, and the oldest son, John Douglas, is the current owner.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 468

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1908—ALFALFA, CATTLE, COTTON AND HAY; 2015—CATTLE AND HAY

As told by Amanda Lyles, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.



BERGER/TATER RANCH

VICTORIA COUNTY • 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF VICTORIA

FOUNDED IN: 1902

FOUNDER: WILLIAM FRED BERGER

CURRENT OWNERS: KENNETH AND LARUE TATER

The Berger/Tater Ranch is part of a larger property purchased from multiple owners in 1902 by William and Bertha Kobitz Berger. The land was once owned by renowned horticulturist, Gilbert Onderdonk, who planted trees on the property that are still standing today.

Fred Berger, William and Bertha's son, married Helena "Lena" Reuter in 1925. They raised a family on his parents' land and lived in a two-story house with Fred's mother. They split the house in half after the birth of their first three children. Fred and Lena's half of the original house still stands today.

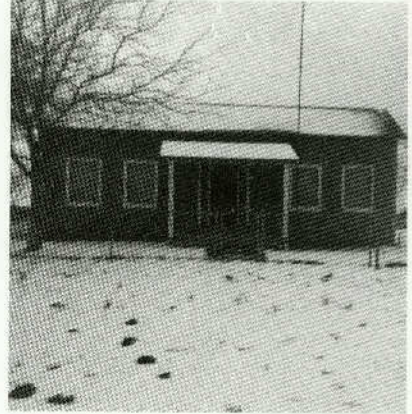
Fred and Lena had six children: William, Allen, Doris, Marjorie, Baltus and Fred.

Kenneth, the great-grandson of William Berger, raised three children on the property with his wife, LaRue Tater.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 164

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1902—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HORSES, SUGARCANE AND TURKEYS;
2015—CATTLE AND HORSES**

As told by Kenneth Tater, great-grandson of the founder.



MC RANCH

VICTORIA COUNTY • 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF VICTORIA

FOUNDED IN: 1902

FOUNDER: WILLIAM FRED BERGER

CURRENT OWNER: MARJORIE HELEN TATER

The MC Ranch is part of a larger property purchased from multiple owners in 1902 by William and Bertha Kobitz Berger. For more than 100 years, multiple generations and descendants have worked the land.

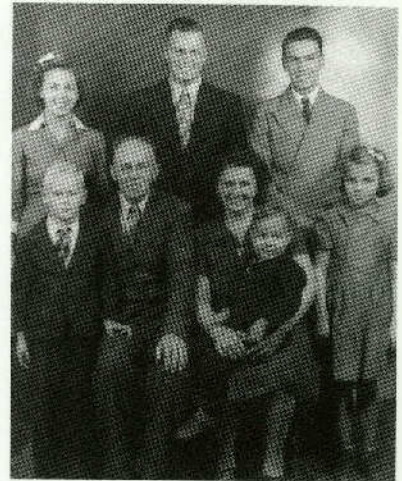
Fred Berger, William and Bertha's son, married Helena "Lena" Reuter in 1925. They raised a family on his parents' land. They lived in a two-story house with Fred's mother and split the house in half after the birth of their first three children. Fred and Lena's half of the house still stands today.

Fred and Lena had six children: William, Allen, Doris, Marjorie, Baltus and Fred.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 164

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1902—CATTLE, CORN, COTTON, HORSES, SUGARCANE AND TURKEYS; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Marjorie Helen Berger Tater, granddaughter of the founder.



BOLCEREK FARM

WASHINGTON COUNTY • SIX MILES WEST OF BRENHAM

FOUNDED IN: 1911

FOUNDER: STANISLAV BOLCEREK

CURRENT OWNER: FLORIAN BOLCEREK

Stanislav Bolcerek traveled from Poland to America to make a better life for him and his family. In 1911, he acquired land from the heirs of Stepan Adamek. Stanislav and his wife, Josephine, had five children: Lee, Victor, Mary, Louis and Pete.

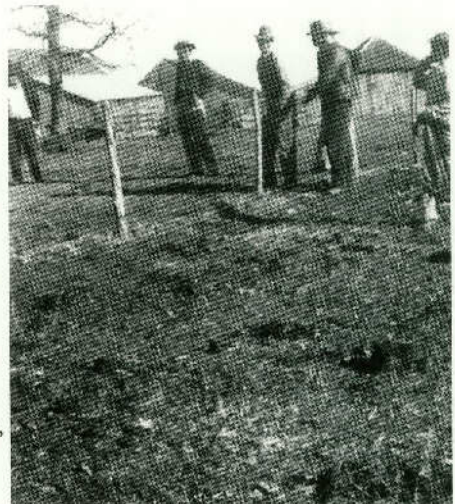
Louis acquired title to the land in 1946 after his father passed. He and his wife, Frances, raised seven children: Martha, Regina, Florian, Bruno, Albin, Bennie and Julian.

After Louis died, Florian and Bruno took ownership of the farm and used the land for ranching. Today, Florian still uses the acreage to raise and sell cattle.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 105

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1911—CORN AND COTTON; 2015—CATTLE

As told by Florian Bolcerek, grandson of the founder.



H&S RANCH

WASHINGTON COUNTY • THREE MILES NORTH OF BRENHAM

FOUNDED IN: 1909

FOUNDER: LOUIS HERMANN

CURRENT OWNER: BECKY HERMANN SALLACH

Louis Hermann was born in Germany and arrived in America in 1881. In 1909, he acquired land from Bertha Reichardt. Louis and his wife, Amalia, raised 12 of 14 children on the farm.

Their son, Fritz, acquired title to the land in 1944. He continued to work the land. Fritz and his wife, Antonie, had five children: Virginia, Marion, Jeanette, Frederick and David.

Frederick acquired parcels of the acreage in 1975 and 1976. Frederick and his wife, Janice, raised their daughters, Becky and Melissa, on the land.

In 2012, Becky acquired the property from her parents. Becky lives on the land with her husband, Warren, and their son, Travis. They continue operations and have recently added beekeeping operations to follow in the steps of Becky's grandfathers.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 157

**CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1909—BEES, CATTLE, CHICKENS, COTTON, HOGS AND SUGARCANE;
2015—BEES, CATTLE AND HAY**

As told by Hermann Sallach, great-granddaughter of the founder.



THE POOR FARM

WHARTON COUNTY • SEVEN MILES NORTH OF EL CAMPO

FOUNDED IN: 1894

FOUNDER: JOHN OTTA

CURRENT OWNERS: MARCIA AND RAY PALT

John Otta left Bohemia in the late 1800s. He came to America in search of land and a new life. John heard of land being sold in Texas, and with his son-in-law, John Halla, he bought 160 acres. Accidentally, John Otta built a house over the boundary line and ended up with a little extra acreage.

After John Otta died, the land went to his wife and then to his son, Joseph. In 1941, Joseph's sister, Anna Otta Wilbeck, inherited the land. Due to a series of crop failures by tenants, the farm was called the Poor Farm.

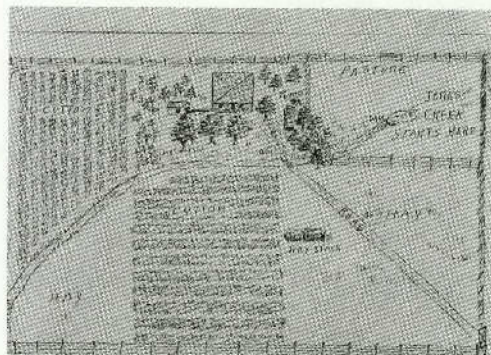
Shortly after that, Anna's grandsons, Roland and Bruce Marek, farmed the land. They were successful, and the farm flourished. Anna's oldest child, Viola Marek, eventually bought the land. Next, the land was passed to Isabell Kaltwasser and then to Marcia Palt.

Marcia and her husband, Ray, have lived on the farm since 1977.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 83

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1894—COTTON AND HAY; 2015—CHICKENS, COTTON, GOATS AND MILO

As told by Marcia Palt, great-great-granddaughter of the founder.



SCHWERTNER FARMS

WILLIAMSON COUNTY • 1/4 MILE WEST OF SCHWERTNER ON FM 1105

FOUNDED IN: 1878

FOUNDER: BERNARD SCHWERTNER

**CURRENT OWNERS: JAMES EUGENE SCHWERTNER JR.,
JAMES ROBERT SCHWERTNER, JASON MICHAEL
SCHWERTNER, SAMANTHA SCHWERTNER ROSENBERG,
SHERRI SCHWERTNER MADDEN, THOMAS HUNTER MADDEN
AND NICOLE MADDEN BRUECHNER**

Bernard Schwertner was born in Bohemia. He came to Texas in 1878 and acquired land. Bernard had eight children: Frank, Edward, Gustav, Adolf, Josef, Stefan, Thereca and Wilhelm.

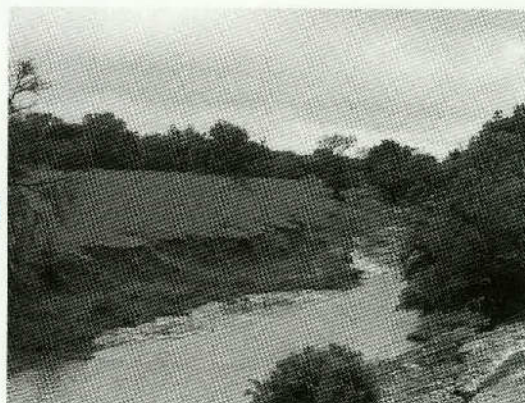
Fransicha Schwertner acquired title to the land in 1901 after Bernard's death. Fransicha deeded all but 100 acres to Bernard's children. Adolf and his wife, Marie, continued operations on the land. After Adolf's death, Marie deeded a portion of the original property to Herman W. Schwertner.

Herman and his wife, Ann Elizabeth, continued operations and sold the property to a family corporation in 1985. James Eugene Schwertner Sr. and James Eugene Schwertner Jr. established Schwertner Farms Inc. in 1985. Today, the corporation owns and operates more than 20,000 acres.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 242

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1878—CORN, COTTON, LIVESTOCK AND MILO; 2015—LIVESTOCK

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



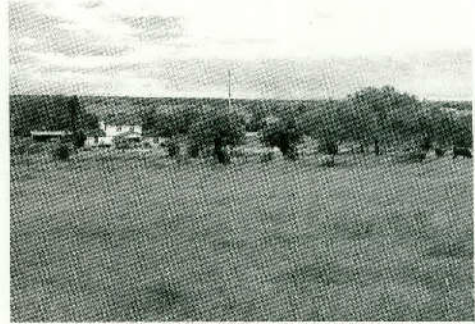
CLEVELAND FARM

WISE COUNTY • ONE MILE EAST OF COTTONDALE ON FM 2123

FOUNDED IN: 1907

FOUNDER: W.R. (WILL) CLEVELAND

CURRENT OWNERS: COY AND LINDA CLEVELAND



Will Cleveland was born in Johnson County. His family moved to Cottondale in 1882. Will married Sivivity Cunningham, and they had four children: Omar, Bob, Floyd and OlaMae. They began buying land in 1907. Will died in 1963.

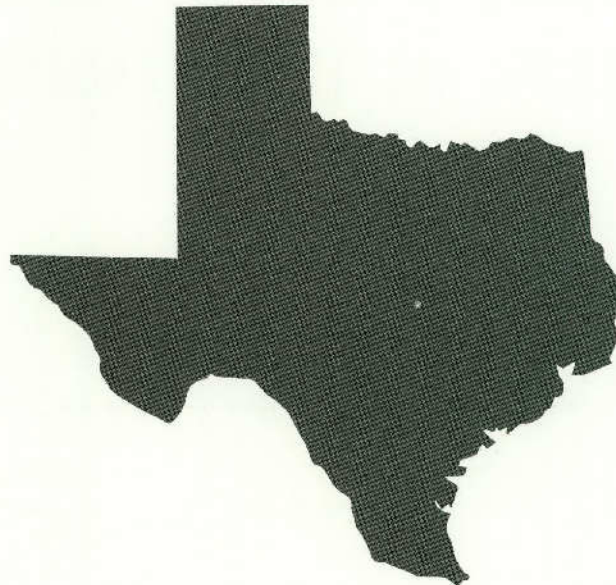
Floyd Cleveland was born in 1912. Floyd married Juanita Bailey in 1939. They had two children, Coy and Shirley. Floyd knew "Machine Gun Kelley" and said everyone in the community liked him. Floyd died in 1982.

Coy Cleveland was born in 1940. He married Linda Howard, and they have two children, Sherri and Carlin.

ACRES IN ORIGINAL PARCEL: 60

CROPS OR LIVESTOCK RAISED: 1907—CATTLE, HAY, HORSES, MAIZE, PEANUTS, PECANS, WATERMELON AND WHEAT; 2015—CATTLE, HAY AND WHEAT

As told by Coy Gene Cleveland, grandson of the founder.





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