THE HISTORY
OF
DEWITT COUNTY, TEXAS

By
The DeWitt Historical Commission

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Our ancestors fought their way
into this country and fought to stay—
For good or bad we are that part
of them that remains today to look back.
It has been our duty to preserve
the past and insure the future.
This book is our effort to preserve the past,
future generations will have to judge
how we insured their future.

by: Rosemary Blackwell Sheppard

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DEWITT COUNTY HISTORY
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS iv

PROJECT COMMITTEE vi

SOURCES vii

COUNTY HISTORY

- Prehistory of DeWitt County 2
- Spanish and French Explorers in the DeWitt County Area 3
- Early Settlement 11
- DeWitt County Volunteers in the Mexican War 19
- DeWitt County Military Units and Volunteers in the Civil War 21
- DeWitt County and the Cattle Industry After the Civil War 28
- DeWitt County Feud 30
- 1890's 45
- 1900–1920 46
- 1920–1940 50
- DeWitt County in the 1940's 53
- DeWitt County Railroads 57
- DeWitt County Data–Statistics, 1850 Census, Post Offices, County Officials, Doctors, Land Heritage, Historical Markers, Creeks, Streams and Bridges, Cemeteries 59

BUSINESSES 195

FAMILY STORIES 257

INDEX 839

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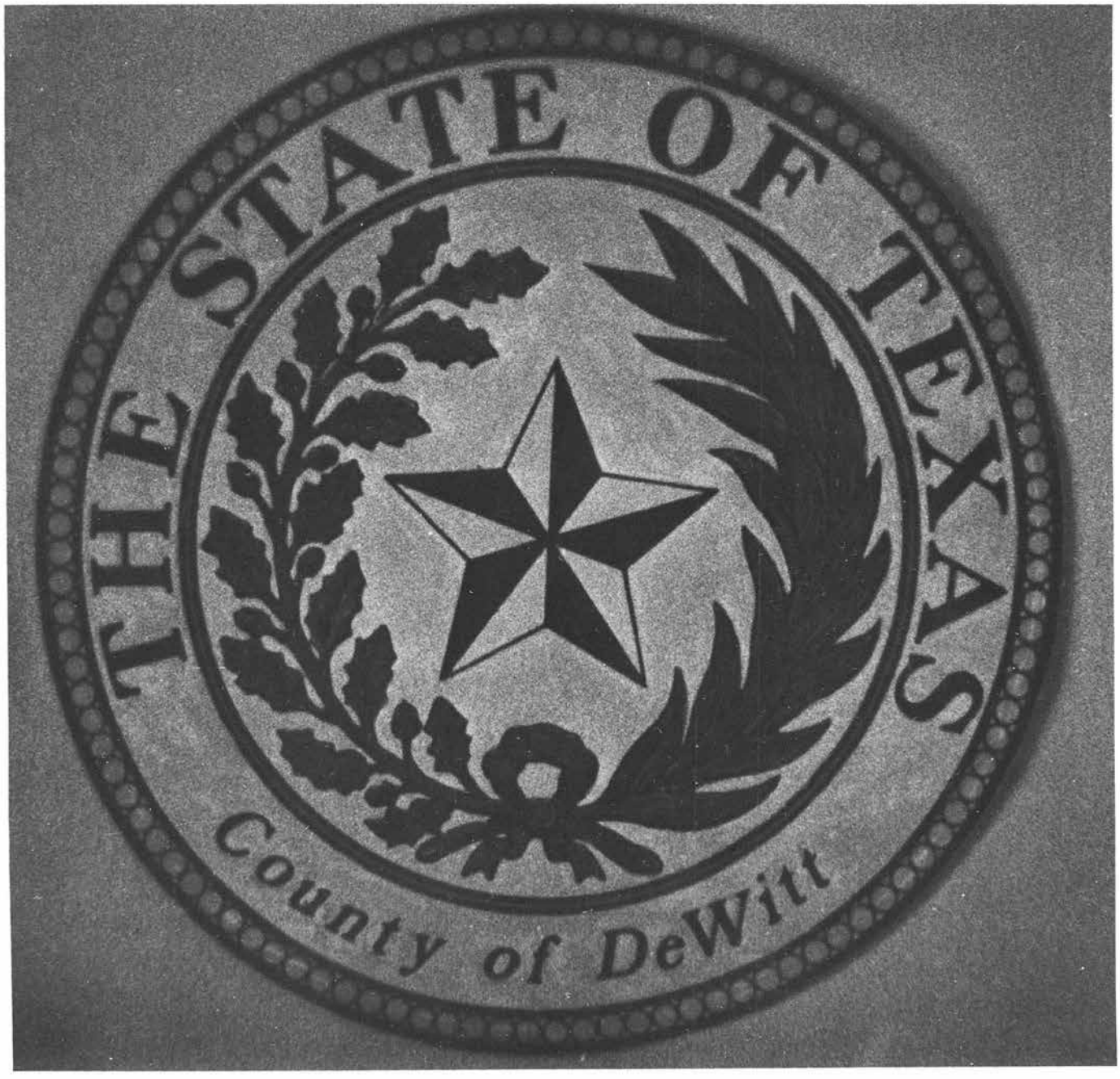
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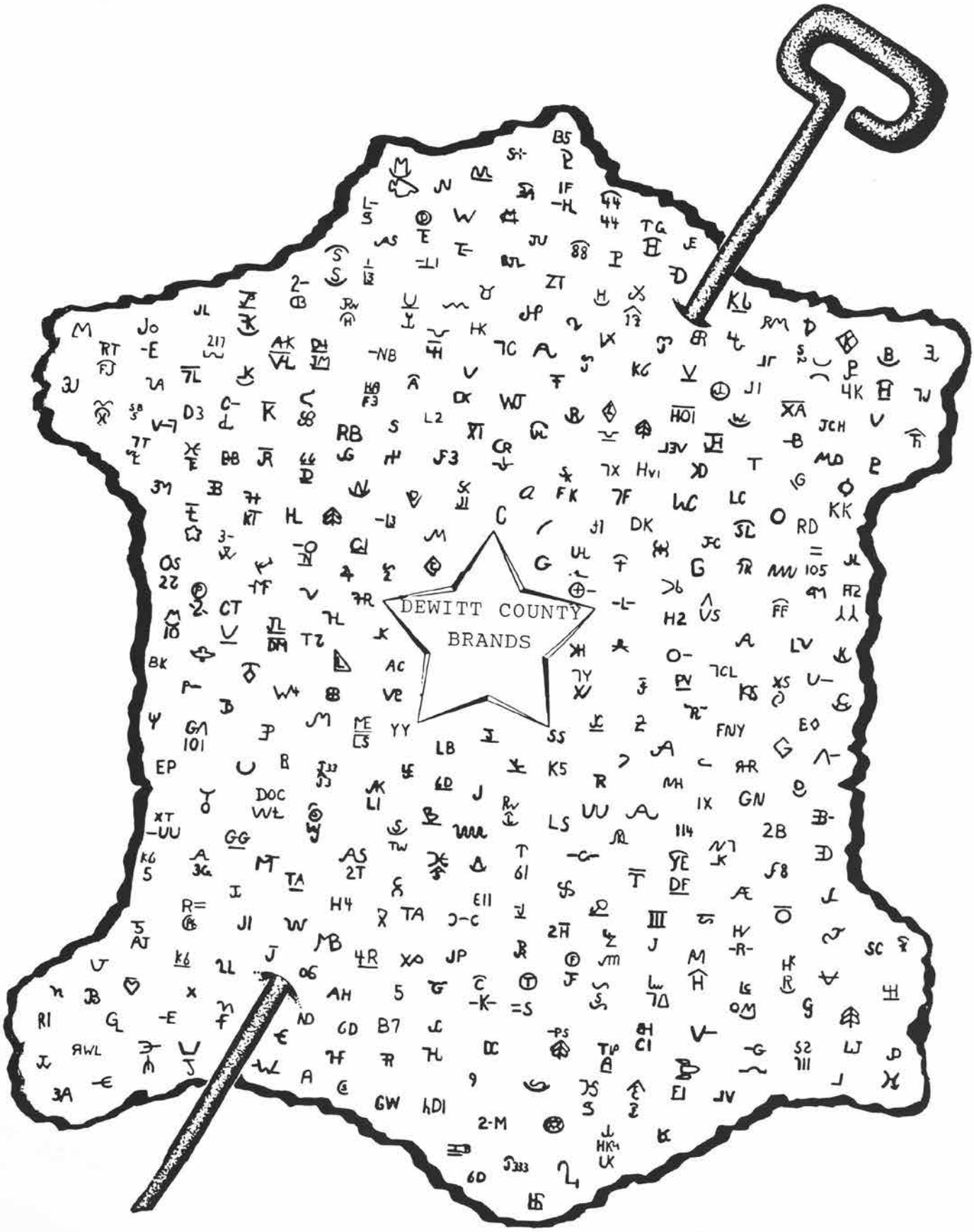
County of DeWitt

COUNTY HISTORY



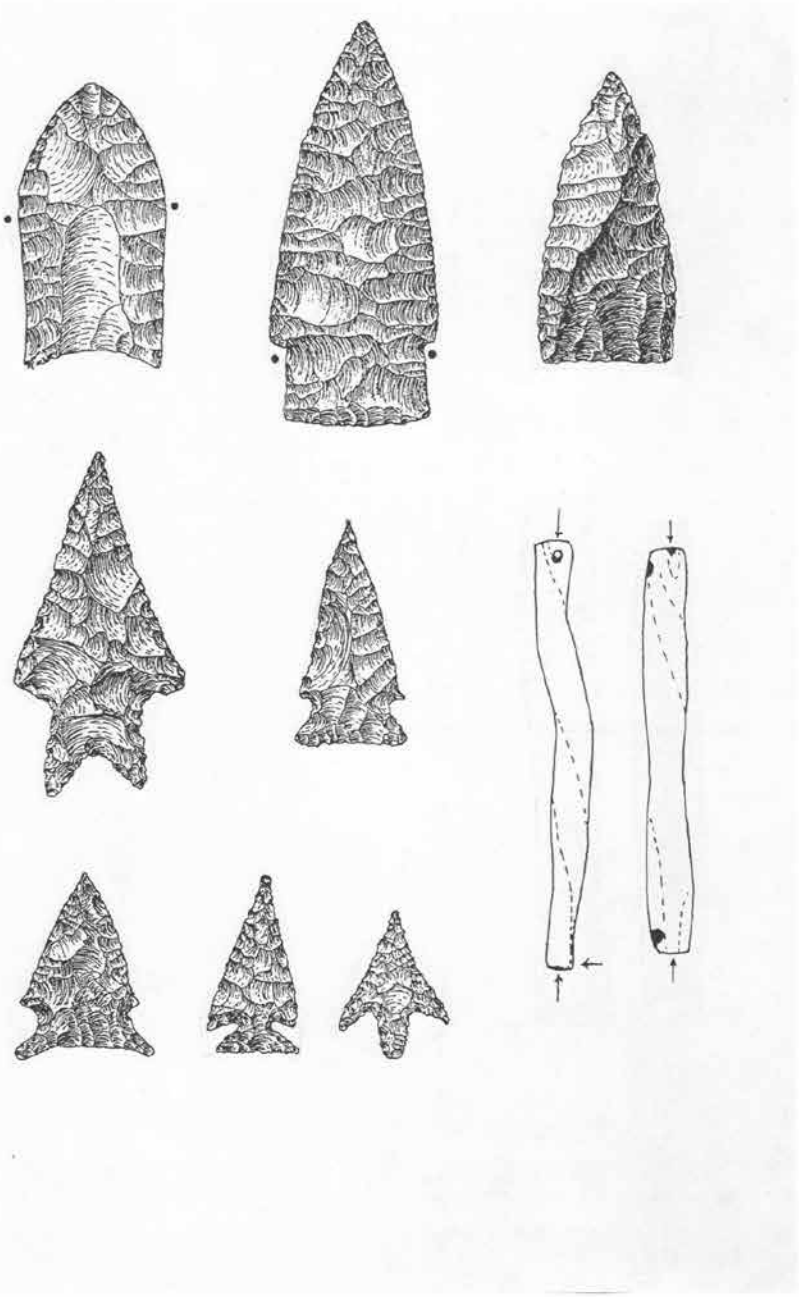
THE PREHISTORY OF DEWITT COUNTY

T1

DeWitt County lies on the coastal plain of Southern Texas. From an archaeological standpoint, its ancient cultural remains share many of the traits described by Hester (1980) for the southern Texas area. However, a more recent study by Hall (1984) places the county within the "central coastal plain" archaeological area.

Both Hester and Hall divide up the region's 11,000 years of human prehistory into three major time periods: Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. With the advent of Europeans into the area in the 17th and 18th centuries, the native Indian cultures are disrupted and soon disappear. In addition to the European intrusion, the native peoples, perhaps linked to the Coahuiltecan Indians, were also severely affected by non-native Indian groups, such as the Lipan Apache, Tonkawa, and Comanche, who began moving into the region in the 17th century. Indeed, these latter Indian groups, who were not native Texas Indians, dominated the central coastal plain by the mid to late 18th century and for a short period into the 19th century.

My focus here, however, will be on the prehistoric archaeological remains. There has actually been only one major archaeological project in DeWitt County — the initial survey for the proposed Cuero I Reservoir published by Fox and others in 1974. As of June 1990, 260 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites had been recorded with the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin. Most result from the Cuero I survey of the early 1970s; others are from brief work by professional archaeologists in the area (such as the survey by Bement and Robinson in 1983) and from sites reported avocational archaeologists, including Cecil Calhoun in the 1960s, Mark Hudgeons in the 1970s and E.H. Schmiedlin in more recent years.



Some Types of Prehistoric Artifacts Found in DeWitt County. (top row, left to right) Clovis, Scottsbluff (dots indicate edge dulling); Tortugas; (middle) Pedernales, Ensor; (bottom left) Fairland, Scallorn, Perdiz; (bottom right) sketches of two conch shell ornaments from the Dunn Site. Projectile point illustrations by Kathy Roemer (from Turner and Hester 1985).

Though this research has been limited, with the exception of the Cuero I survey, archaeological remains from all of the three major time periods have been found. The *Paleo-Indian* period represents the earliest Indian occupation, between 9200-6000 B.C. An overview of the archaeology of Texas counties done by Biesart, Roberson and Spotts (1985) reported three Paleo-Indian sites in DeWitt County. There is also the published report of a fluted *Clovis* point (ca. 9200 B.C.) found near Cuero (Hudgeons 1979) and *Scottsbluff* points found in the county and reported by Birmingham (1980). Though poorly known in DeWitt County, we know from the archaeology of surrounding regions that the early part of the Paleo-Indian era was during the closing years of the Ice Age (Pleistocene) and that the early hunters (such as the peoples who used *Clovis* points) hunted such now-extinct animals as the mammoth and large bison. As the Ice Age ended, the Paleo-Indian peoples continued their nomadic hunting and food-gathering way of life, until about 6000 B.C.

After 6000 B.C. and for thousands of years, to perhaps A.D. 500, the archaeological record in DeWitt County is represented by the *Archaic* period. These Indian peoples, some perhaps the descendants of the Paleo-Indian populations and others more recent migrants, also lived as hunters and gatherers in an environment much like that seen in the area today. To be sure, there were periods of drought and perhaps centuries of more rainfall than today; but, the modern plants and animals were mostly in place and were utilized by the Archaic peoples. We are uncertain how widely distributed mesquite was in much of the prehistoric era and whether the nutritious beans of that plant were available during the entire Archaic era. Still, there were abundant trees and shrubs that yielded nuts and berries at different seasons. Whitetail deer, rabbits and other game were likely abundant, along with other animals, such as bear and wolf, buffalo and antelope, none left in the area after modern times ensued. Absent from the Archaic diet would have been armadillo (probably not in the area until the 1830s-50s) and the *javelina* (peccary), which moved into the southern Texas area in the 1400s.

The bulk of the 212 archaeological sites recorded by the Cuero I survey (Fox and others 1974) date to the Archaic period. Interestingly, Fox and his colleagues found few sites dating to early in that time period. They suggest that the meandering Guadalupe River has cut into and eroded these older sites in ancient times. They did find abundant evidence of Middle and Late Archaic occupations. These are identified by distinctive projectile point types (dart points, used on spears thrown with a spear-thrower — before the advent of the bow and arrow), including *Tortugas, Pedernales, Montell, Ensor and Fairland* (for type descriptions, see Turner and Hester 1985). These range in time from about 2000-1000 B.C. *(Tortugas, Pedernales)* to the early centuries of the Christian

era to (ca. A.D. 500; *Ensor, Fairland).* Most of the known Archaic sites are campsites — areas of daily life where encampments focussed for a few weeks at a time in the mobile hunting and gathering lifeway. One such site, the Pat Dunn site in eastern DeWitt County, reported by Hudgeons and Hester (1977), was an Archaic campsite, with such artifacts as *Matamoros* and *Refugio* dart points and specialized adzes, known as *Clear Fork* tools (Turner and Hester (1985). However, eroding from a bluff overlooking a small creek running through the site, were the remains of an Archaic Indian burial. The remains appeared to be those of a young male, 15-25 years of age. Around the base of the skull, perhaps in the neck area where they had been suspended as pendants, were five shell ornaments. These were made from the central columella of a Gulf of Mexico conch or whelk *(Busycon* sp.) — long, cylindrical ornaments drilled at both ends. Although the antiquity of the Dunn site burial is not certain, these kinds of ornaments have elsewhere been found with Late Archaic burials, around 1000 B.C. or somewhat later.

Another Archaic site studied in DeWitt County is 41DW247, where test excavations were carried out by Bement and Robinson (1983). This site, west of the Guadalupe River and north of Cuero. It is located on a gravel terrace and functioned as a quarry area, where Archaic Indians procured flint cobbles and worked these into stone points and tools. The age of the site if likely Middle Archaic, based on a *Tortugas* point found there during the investigations.

Other Archaic site studies have been reported by Schmiedlin (1981) from sites 41DW243 and 244 in southwest DeWitt County. Site 41DW243 (Kerlick site) yielded artifacts ranging from Early through Middle Archaic times. Prehistoric food remains food in test excavations at the site included much deer bone, as well as that of turtle; one of the deer bones (an ulna) had been worked, probably made into a flint-working tool. Site 41DW244 also yielded deer bones, including some that had been intentionally decorated with asphaltum (natural tar that washes up on the Texas coast). These may have been associated with a disturbed human burial also noted at the site. The date of the burial is uncertain, but much of the site appears to be linked to Middle and Late Archaic occupations.

Around A.D. 500-700, the bow and arrow is introduced into the Texas area. Somewhat later, many of the Indian groups on the coastal plain began to make plain pottery. These new technologies, and some shifts in diet and lifestyle that are still hazy, marke the *Late Prehistoric* period (A.D. 500/700-1650). Sites of this time period are fairly common in DeWitt County and are most easily recognized by tiny arrow points (often mistakenly called "bird points") used with the bow and arrow. Fox and others (1974) found arrow points and pottery fragments at a number of sites during the Cuero I survey. The earlier arrow points, known as *Scallorn,* date around A.D. 500/700-1200. Later, these are replaced by *Perdiz* points from A.D. 1350-1650. *Perdiz* points, pottery, beveled knives and end scrapers used to process buffalo meat and hides, are part of what archaeologists call the "Toyah Phase." These Late Prehistoric Indians seem to have focused on the hunting of buffalo; though buffalo had been present in earlier times, their presence greatly increased on the coastal plain after about A.D. 1250-1300. Though no Toyah campsites are yet reported from DeWitt County, one has been published in adjacent Goliad County (Hester and Parker 1970). One recent study of a DeWitt County Late Prehistoric site, on the Kerlick Ranch, has been published by Schmiedlin (1981). Among the discoveries at site 41DW242 were abundant deer bones and an arrowpoint of the Scallorn type; another Scallorn was found at 41DW243.

This brief review has sketched the prehistory of DeWitt County. Indeed, all we can do at the present time is a sketch — very little is known about the county's archaeological record. Much work must be done in DeWitt County and most of it has to be done by local avocational archaeologists. Sites must be located and properly documented; artifacts have to be cataloged from each site. Interaction with professional archaeologists is critical. Casual collecting of Indian artifacts is destructive of the archaeological record; if a person collects, he or she ought to keep track of where the artifacts were found, and should report these to trained avocational or professional archaeologists. Reports of sites and artifacts can be sent to the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, as it served as a centralized clearinghouse for archaeological data from around the state.

by Thomas R. Hester

SPANISH AND FRENCH EXPLORERS IN THE DEWITT COUNTY AREA

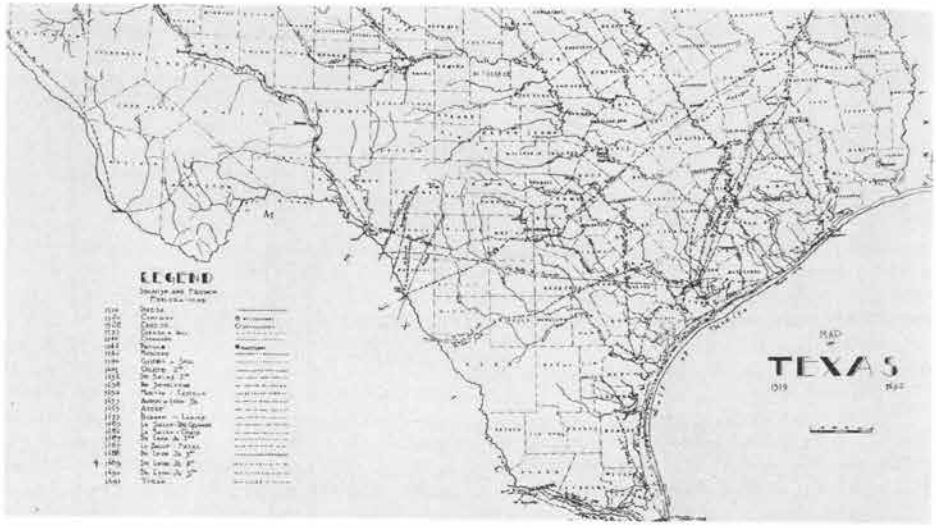
T2

The three most significant early Spanish, French and Mexican explorers who visited the Texas coastal region during the 16th and 17th centuries crossed the present DeWitt County area during their journeys according to historians of that early Texas period. The Spaniard Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca visited the county area while escaping from his coastal Indian captors in the fall of 1534; Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle and his French troops in the fall of 1685 crossed western DeWitt County headed for the Rio Grande from Matagorda Bay; and Governor Alonso de Leon made the Guadalupe River bank in northern DeWitt County his campground for operations during both of his expeditions to the Texas gulf coast from Mexico in 1689 and 1690.

Cabeza de Vaca was the first Spanish explorer to wander through the county area near the Guadalupe River in 1534 when he was escaping from the Texas coastal Indian tribes with whom he had lived as a captive after being shipwrecked on the Texas coast in 1528. Cabeza de Vaca's exploration commenced in early 1527 when he was appointed treasurer to the Panfilo de Narvaez expedition from Spain sent to explore and colonize parts of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico coastal region. After a series of well documented misadventures, he and his companions were shipwrecked on Galvestor Island. Cabeza de Vaca and a few other survivors then spent the following six years living, but barely surviving, with the Texas coastal Indians, much of the time being spent as captives of the Karankawa Indians, moving along the central Texas coastal area including visits to gather pecans on the Guadalupe River, which was referred to as the "River of Nuts" in Cabeza de Vaca's detailed journal, "The Relation."

In the fall of 1534, he and three companions, one a black man, escaped from their Karankawa captors while in the Corpus Christi area where several bands of Indians gathered annually to feast on the fruit called "tuna" of the prickly-pear. The four survivors had tried to escape during the annual tuna feast the year before, but their plan had been frustrated by a dispute among the several tribes that separately held the Spaniards.

In addition to their unofficial leader, Cabeza de Vaca, the escape party included Alonso del Castillo, a former Captain in the expedition from Salamanca; Estevanico — an Arabian or Moorish black who frequently served as a translator and scout; and Andres Dorantes de Carranza — the closest and most enduring friend of the leader. The four first made their way inland and northward from the Nueces River, crossing western DeWitt County near present Yorktown, according to the historian Carlos E. Castaneda. The first settlement found by the party after their escape was a small Avavare Indian village near the Guada-



Texas 1519-1692

upe River.

The Avavare band of Indians was loosely connected to the larger Aranamas tribe that lived in the DeWitt County area between the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers during that period. The Aranamas spoke a local dialect of Coahuiltecan, a language that was commonly used throughout much of south Texas and northern Mexico. The existence of the common language stock spread across the area that the four visited allowed Estevanico to converse crudely with each tribe as their journey progressed. Explorers who came later reported the usage of a common sign language among the tribes in the region.

The four remained as guests of the friendly Aranamas Indians over the winter, occasionally performing as medicine men "curing" Indians of diseases. Two hundred years later, this same tribe that sheltered the escape party in this area near the Guadalupe would form the nucleus and largest contingent of Indians living at the Mission La Bahia and became some of Texas first cowboys.

The following spring the Spaniards moved northward with the Indians toward the headwaters of the Guadalupe. By early summer of 1535 the escape party had moved through the Hill County and on westward. The four then turned southwestward and crossed the Rio Grande near present El Paso, where they saw an Indian community with houses and adjoining irrigated farming areas for the first time.

The four moved from one small usually friendly local Indian tribe to another from west Texas and into north-central Mexico in search of the Mexico City area, which they knew was under Spanish control and offered protection. Cabeza de Vaca reported that he remained naked while making his escape and that he changed skins every six months like a snake.

Eighteen months after initiating their escape effort, the party was captured, or as it turned out, rescued in April, 1536, by Spanish troops of Nuno de Guzman, who were engaged in a roundup of Indian slaves in the present Mexican northern state of Sonora. Capturing Indians for use and sale as slaves was not continued or widely practiced by the Spaniards other than Guzman, but during this period human roundups enslaved an estimated 10,000 Indians in northern Mexico.

The four survivors arrived safely in Mexico City in July, 1536. They were received with great acclaim by Hernando Cortes, the Spanish conqueror of Mexico, and were honored with a bullfight and fiesta. From Mexico City the four split — the leader returned to Spain, Castillo and Dorantes remained near the capital, but Estevanico returned northward by foot as the guide for the advance party of the next major Spanish explorer on the America scene, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. Coronado's expedition made a swing through west Texas, missing the Gulf coast area, concentrating attention on New Mexico and regions further west. The Spanish expedition led by Hernando de Soto and Captain Luis Moscoso in 1542 made a swing through east Texas, also missing the Gulf coast area.

For 150 years after Cabeza de Vaca and his companions established a Spanish presence, albeit tentative, on the Texas Gulf Coast, there was no serious challenge to the Spanish claim to the coastal region. But in 1685 La Salle, the accomplished French explorer who earlier had discovered and claimed the Mississippi River area for France sailed into the Gulf of Mexico with four large vessels carrying a total of over 400 sailors and colonists. This was the first fleet to enter the Gulf waters flying a flag other than that of the Spanish crown. La Salle established a small French colony which he named Fort St. Louis near the mouth of Garcitas Creek, a stream that drains an area between southeastern DeWitt County and present Matagorda Bay.

The Matagorda Bay area is significant to the early history of DeWitt County and all of the Texas central coastal region because its bay was one of the very few inland locations along the 400-mile Texas coast from Galveston to the Rio Grande made accessible by a natural pass through the barrier inlands that ring the Texas coastline. Pass Cavallo leading into the bay was known to be treacherous but nevertheless adequate to allow carefully times and executed vessel movements to pass from the Gulf of Mexico to the mainland. The French usually referred to the inland waters adjoining the entrance as St. Bernard Bay; the Spanish named the bay, Espiritu Santo; and the Americans called it Matagorda Bay.

La Salle considered the Matagorda Bay area part of French Louisiana and planted the French flag, but he was intent also on challenging the Spanish claim to south Texas and exploring Mexico. La Salle directed his first exploration from the Bay area toward Mexico, moving inland and then to the southwest in the fall of 1685 with 50 men. Although his line of march has not been identified with undisputed precision, Carlos Castaneda has marked the route as skirting the western boundary area of present DeWitt County. By the end of the year, La Salle had reached the Rio Grande, and by early 1686 had returned to Matagorda Bay. There is no detailed record of where he crossed the Guadalupe River.

La Salle's settlement deteriorated rapidly over a period of a few years. He was assassinated in February, 1687 by some of his own men in northeast Texas during their trek to reach the Mississippi River. By late 1689, the St. Louis settlement was nonexistent — the members had been captured or killed by local Indians, had died of disease, or had abandoned the community in favor of tribal life with the Indians. There are records of survivors of La Salle's settlement remaining with the Indians in the Guadalupe River area, but there is no information on their precise location.

The presence of the French settlement of St. Louis on Garcitas Creek 20 miles east of the Guadalupe River occasioned a protective response by Spain which sent a series of three military scouting excursions between 1686 and 1688 under Captain Alonso de Leon from northern Mexico to the Rio Grande and the south Texas coast in an attempt to locate and confront the French invaders.

Captain de Leon was a first generation Spanish or Mexican explorer having been born in Mexico in 1640. His father, Alonso de Leon, Senior, had earlier explored northern Mexico including the Rio Grande. Captain de Leon's first expedition left Coahuila in northern Mexico in June, 1686. It was of one month duration and only reached the Rio Grande. The following year he made a second military effort that reached the Nueces River along the coast near Corpus Christi. No Frenchmen were located on either overland trip. No Frenchmen were located by Spanish Captains Rivas and Yriarte who sailed from Veracruz to Pass Cavallo in 1687 searching for the reported French invasion force — they only found two wrecked French vessels and inquired no further.

Upon receipt of specific information the following year that a Frenchman had been sighted living with an inland tribe of Texas Indians, a third, small expedition including only de Leon and 17 soldiers, rushed to an Indian village near present Brackettville about 50 miles east of Del Rio in May, 1788. By early June, de Leon, former Captain but by then Governor of the Province of Coahuila and Commander of the Presidio of Monclova, had returned with his captured evidence of French trespass — one unstable Frenchman named Jean Henri (also identified as Jean Gery), who had been located living with the small band of Indians as their chieftain.

The interrogation of Jean Henri was all the evidence needed by the Spanish officials in Mexico City to initiate another maritime expedition to the Texas coast and to mount two considerably larger and more serious overland expeditions to locate and defeat the French presence and, for the first time, to establish several Spanish forts and missions on Texas soil. The marine excursion led by Captains Rivas and Pez left Veracruz in early August aboard two vessels each crewed by 50 men. The one hundred men spent two weeks in September exploring Matagorda Bay from their vessels, but found nothing suspicious. They reported that the summer drought had dried up the streams preventing the crew from searching upstream. They understandably feared the Karankawas and limited the inspection to what could be observed from aboard ship. They were within a few miles of what they sought. The fast four-day return voyage by the two captains from Matagorda Bay to Veracruz, which was completed on September 29, illustrates how much easier and faster the 100 man marine expedition could move compared to the similar sized overland expeditions that began the following year.

Utilizing a full year to prepare and Jean Henri initially to guide the overland expedition to the Matagorda Bay area, Commander de Leon left Coahuila on his first colonizing mission to Texas in March, 1689. The 1689 expedition was Governor de Leon's most ambitious to that date consisting of over 100 men, two padres including Father Damian Massanet, over 700 horses and 80 loads of flour and other supplies for distribution as gifts to Indian tribes along the route. The list of articles to be distributed as gifts included beads, 200 blankets, tobacco, shirts and other clothing. The unstable but apparently likable Frenchman Jean Henri performed splendidly, guiding the group directly toward the lower Guadalupe River.

This expeditionary force crossed the Rio Grande above present Laredo, crossed the San Antonio River west of Runge, and entered DeWitt County near Yorktown reaching the Guadalupe River on April 14, 1689. The historian J.W. Williams, who has located and written extensively about early Texas trails, places Governor de Leon's base camp location on the Guadalupe in DeWitt County near Hochheim where Texas State Highway 183 crosses the River. At that location the unusually broad valley that lies along the west bank of the River can be seen for over 20 miles from the high ridge approaching the Guadalupe at that point from the southwest.

The approaching caravan must have been an impressive and startling sight 300 years ago, as the first major overland colonization effort into Texas advanced to spread camp in DeWitt

County on the Guadalupe near Hochheim. Following a banner painted with a cross and a picture of the patron saint of the expedition, rode de Leon, mounted in light armor and accompanied by over 100 heavily armed cavalry troops in loose column stretched out ahead of the two padres, probably dressed traditionally in robes, carrying crosses, and astride burros. In the rear was a cloud of dust kicked up by the stable of over 600 horses and assorted other hoofed animals. This impressive number of Spanish soldiers with their caravan made the Guadalupe valley near the present DeWitt-Gonzales county boundary line their base camp in the spring of 1689 and again the following year.

Father Massanet reported that a Thanksgiving was celebrated by him at the Hochheim camp on the Guadalupe on April 16, 1689, with a High Mass sung at 9 o'clock that morning in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the protection bestowed upon the expedition. At that time and place, Captain de Leon named the Guadalupe River for the patron saint.

A few days after establishing his camp, Father Massanet, de Leon and 60 of his men left base camp to locate the remnants of the original French colony which was to be found about 40 to 50 miles to the southeast near Matagorda Bay. On the trip to the Bay while still near the DeWitt County area, de Leon discovered an Indian Village of over 250 inhabitants where several Frenchmen, survivors of La Salle's ill fated colony, were living. After securing their reluctant release, de Leon proceeded to the site of the old French fort on Garcitas Creek. De Leon and Father Massanet next crossed the Colorado River to visit the Tejas Indians in east Texas before starting their return journey to Coahuila where they arrived in late May.

On de Leon's second and last colonizing expedition undertaken the following year, he was instructed to establish a small fort and mission in east Texas near the Trinity River in the principal camp of the friendly Tejas Indians. In addition, he was directed to return to Matagorda Bay to destroy the ruins of La Salle's colony. For this campaign, he again organized an impressive caravan of over 100 men, 400 horses and 150 mules but this time, for colonizing purposes, he included 200 head of cattle, 2,400 pounds of powder and lead, and five priests as missionaries, again including Father Massanet. An extra 12 pack mules were provided the church delegation to carry extra chocolate, soap, wine and wax candles. The expedition was launched in late March, 1690 and followed the same route as the one found by Jean Henri the previous year. De Leon and his troops returned to the Hochheim former base camp on the Guadalupe arriving on April 24, 1690.

The first task assigned the soldiers and priests was to burn the ruins of the old French fort near Matagorda Bay. After this was accomplished, they located three French children whom they ransomed from the Indians. After the padres had helped set aflame the remains of the French settlement and surveyed the bay area, they continued to east Texas. They established the Mission San Francisco de los Tejas located between the Trinity and the Neches Rivers before returning to Mexico.

Governor de Leon died shortly after he returned from his last expedition. But before the close of the year 1690, a Spanish marine survey team sailed from Veracruz back to Matagorda Bay to map in detail the bay area.

In the following year, 1691, the Spanish government directed the newly appointed first governor of the Province of Texas, Don Domingo Teran de los Rios to lead fifty soldiers in an overland expedition to establish missions in east Texas. Governor Teran took with him two senior officials who had accompanied de Leon in both 1689 and 1690 — Father Massanet who was the leader of the spiritual conquest and Captain Francisco Martinez. Martinez had served as a translator on the 1689 de Leon expedition and in 1690, as a senior officer.

The new element added to this expedition and not employed with de Leon was a simultaneous amphibious movement across the Gulf from Veracruz by forty additional soldiers under the command of Gregorio de Salinas Varona who was to rendezvous with Teran on Matagorda Bay. As indicated by the marine survey team sent to the bay from Veracruz in 1690 and the marine troops under Salinas Varona dispatched in 1691, the seafaring Spaniards considered Matagorda Bay not only a strategic military location to be defended but a critical marine transportation point from which conveniently to resupply their forces and missions in central and eastern Texas from Veracruz.

Governor Teran and Father Massanet left Monclava in early May, 1691, followed de Leon's route except, according to most historians, he veered northward, crossing the Guadalupe near New Braunfels. On May 18, Father Massanet recorded in his diary that the expeditionary party encountered a large gathering or community about 3,000 friendly Indians at the Guadalupe or Comal River near present New Braunfels. The Indians, who were riding mounted on saddles with stirrups, held a parade for the Spanish visitors with each tribe riding or marching in review, one tribe carrying a wooden cross and two others carrying an image of our Lady of Guadalupe which had been distributed among the tribes by de Leon the previous year. One Indian leader spoke and understood Spanish very well. This spectacle of an early Indian mounted parade involving several thousand Indians carrying crosses and banners across the open plains area occurred only forty miles upriver from where de Leon crossed DeWitt County three years earlier.

During the following two days, Massanet reports the expedition moved 18 to 20 miles to the east to reach the other branch of the Guadalupe River, cited as the San Marcos River, at a point apparently a few miles above present Gonzales. An area on the San Marcos River near the present Palmetto State Park is a location where hot water springs emerge in the manner described as being near their camp by the Father in 1691. By the 26th of May, the party had reached the Colorado River.

From this camp Teran sent Captain Martinez, who had become very familiar with Matagorda Bay on his two previous trips, and 20 men south to meet Salinas Varona's troops who were to be arriving by sea. After this rendezvous failed, Teran continued on to east Texas to explore and support Father Massanet in establishing the new missions. By September 8, Teran had returned to meet Captain Salina Varona who had since arrived at the appointed place on the bay. Teran returned to east Texas to deliver the cargo and supplies to Father Massanet and then again returned to Matagorda Bay to sail directly back to Veracruz. According to an authoritative early history of Texas, written in 1772 by Antonio Bonilla, Governor Teran left fifteen missionaries and some troops at Matagorda Bay.

A second and final small overland resupply expedition was organized with only 20 soldiers under the command of Captain Varona who had led the marine operation in 1691. It left Monclova in May, 1693. Varona's route has not been charted in detail. Since he was most familiar with the route to east Texas followed by Teran and Spanish troops and padres were at Matagorda Bay, he may have selected the same route skirting the DeWitt County area a few miles to the north to resupply those at the bay. After Varona resupplied the mission in east Texas, Father Massanet decided to abandon it, having concluded that success required a substantial and continuous military troop presence to force the natives to live in the mission. The priest in haste returned to Monclova in 1693, perhaps again traveling on the most familiar and direct route crossing the Guadalupe in the DeWitt County — Gonzales area, which he knew well from his several visits during the previous five years.

The colonizing expeditions and the resupplying efforts of de Leon and Teran failed to establish any permanent missions or settlements but benefited the Spanish government and the Catholic Church by suggesting how it could be accomplished — with a strong continuous military presence organized around a frontier line of forts and the associated local missions made economically self sufficient with agricultural development, including adequate herds and protected grazing lands.

The Spanish Colonial Period in the DeWitt County Area

The Spanish renewed efforts to colonize Texas with more substantial expeditions or entradas that included a larger number of troops and colonists with supporting herds of cattle, horses, and sheep about 25 years after discouraged Father Massanet fled east Texas returning to Mexico. The two significant but limited expeditions of Father Isidro Felix de Espinosa in 1709 and Jose Domingo Ramon with the Frenchman Louis Thuchereau St. Denis in 1716 only confirmed that modest efforts lacking strong and permanent military support would not survive.

The leaders of the two major colonizing expeditions into Texas who initiated the Spanish colonial period both crossed the DeWitt County area. These expeditions, establishing a line of forts and missions supported by Spanish soldiers, colonists and substantial herds of cattle, were led by Governor Martin de Alarcon in 1718 and Marques de San Miguel de Aguayo in 1721.

The Alarcon entrada brought seven families to establish and settled in the new community Villa de Bexar and brought a large supporting herd of cattle, horses, goats and mules for the new town, mission and fort on the upper San Antonio River. Bexar was selected as the site for the first mission, San Antonio de Valero, by Governor Alarcon in May, 1718, as a midway station between San Juan Bautista and other recently established missions and villages on the Rio Grande and the new Spanish missions and presidios in east Texas. After initiating the construction work at the Mission of San Antonio de Valero and the community of Villa de Celiz and Fray Pedro Perez de Mezquia, left San Antonio on May 6, in search of Matagorda Bay. This brief ten-day excursion from San Antonio by Governor Alarcon and his party

was different from other Spanish excursions in several respects — the leader was almost killed, the party was lost and without guides, but lastly the brief expedition had two, not just one diarist. Still, authorities differ on where the party went.

It is certain that Alarcon first moved north eastward, crossing Cibolo Creek on the first day and the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers on the following day. They reached the San Marcos River a few miles above Ottine in Gonzales County on the 9th. Father Mezquia wrote that moving downstream a few miles on the San Marcos River the party discovered first a broad flat two-mile area under irrigation by Indians. This was not the first or only reference to irrigation by Indians in south central Texas. Father Espinosa reported that he found about 500 Indians irrigating land near San Antonio in 1709. A short distance downstream from the irrigated lands, Father Mezquia noted an unusual grouping of large white mounds of earth with distinct bubbling bogs which trembled when they rode near on horseback. They undoubtedly had found the warm sulphur springs and bubbling bogs on the San Marcos River at the present Palmetto State Park near Ottine. Nothing in the San Marcos — Guadalupe River basin area resembles the padre's description other than the prominent bleached raised mounds that quake and belch water in the park area.

Just downstream from this unusual phenomenon, the party found two large creeks (presumably present Mule Creek and Canoe Creek) and to their surprise a temporarily deserted but well established large Indian community with well over 120 huts. Authorities on Indians in central Texas, report that it was customary for some peaceful Indian tribes, particularly the Tonkawas in south central Texas to abandon their huts and communities and disappear into the woods until any foreign party had left their area. Conservatively assuming each hut accommodated a family of four to six, the community had a population exceeding 600. During the next several days, Indians were sighted, but the quickly disappeared into the bushes and woods only to return to pick up tobacco left as a peaceful gesture by Alarcon's party.

The two diarists report that Alarcon located the confluence of the San Marcos and the Guadalupe Rivers about 10 miles downstream below the spongy bogs and bubbling springs area. This distance is consistent with that between present Ottine and Gonzales. Although the interpretation of the two diaries is not without question, it appears that about 20 miles below the junction of the two rivers, Alarcon's party located the ford of the Guadalupe for which they had been searching. Both fathers vividly describe how Governor Alarcon on horseback almost drowned crossing the Guadalupe, grasping at last a submerged branch of a cypress. The Texas historian Carlos Castaneda has suggested that this crossing location near present Hochheim became known thereafter as "Paso del Gobernador" or the Governor's Ford. But the confused reports also permit an interpretation placing the crossing near New Braunfels. Any further attempt by the party to reach Matagorda Bay was abandoned, and Alarcon was safely back near Bexar on the 17th.

After returning to Bexar and to the Rio Grande for additional supplies, Alarcon and his replenished troops in September, 1718, headed again for Matagorda Bay, moving this time first south toward the coast along the east bank of the San Antonio River. With Alarcon on this trip was Salinas Varona who could serve as a guide having had met Teran at Matagorda Bay twenty-five years earlier.

The military procession passed through western DeWitt County area and on September 12, established a camp on the Guadalupe near Hochheim according to Fritz Leo Hoffman, the translator and annotator of the diary of Fray Francisco Celiz, the chaplin of the expedition. Celiz reports that during that same day they saw a cross with a pedestal of rock placed on the crest of a hill. This religious sign could have been left by Governor de Leon who camped near Hochheim twenty-eight years earlier. Celiz says that Alarcon named the east bank of the river crossing "The Camp of the Most Holy Name of Mary." They forded the river by raft and moved downstream along the left bank past Cuero to near the present community of Nursery, according to the annotator, before turning away from the Guadalupe toward Matagorda Bay.

Governor Alarcon searched the bay area, found no French presence and, on September 28, moved on to east Texas. Celiz reports that in December on Alarcon's return trip to Bexar from east Texas, the party again crossed the Guadalupe near the ford where the governor almost lost his life crossing the river in early May of that year. Even the branch of the cypress that saved the governor's life was found and noted. Shortly after Alarcon's inspection trip was concluded, Spain and France were at war, the French captured Spanish Pensacola, and French troops drove the Spanish from east Texas.

Three years after Alarcon's inspection trip, the Marques de Aguayo was appointed Governor of the Province of Texas and was requested by the Spanish government to secure Spanish dominion over Texas including the reestablishment of the east Texas missions. While Aguayo was enroute to Bexar with his entrada he ordered Captain Domingo Ramon to proceed to Matagorda Bay through San Antonio to establish a presidio and mission. Captain Ramon who had earlier led the expedition to eastern Texas in 1716 and had been with Alarcon, arrived with 40 men at Matagorda Bay in April, 1721. The captain had been ordered to locate a mission site that would be suitable to receive supplies sent from Mexico by the coastal water route from Veracruz, a water route that had proven successful 25 years earlier.

After Captain Ramon had commenced his work at Matagorda Bay,. Aguayo toured east Texas and successfully reestablished Spanish control over the mission area there. By April, 1722, Aguayo had returned to Bexar. Shortly thereafter, he commenced his trip south from San Antonio across Coleto Creek, through the DeWitt County area, crossing the Guadalupe to Matagorda Bay. Aguayo formally dedicated the mission and presidio in late April. While the Marques was at La Bahia, a vessel he had earlier chartered arrived with supplies from Veracruz, illustrating again the feasibility of that naval resupply route.

The relative military strength of the Presidio La Bahia at that time is indicated by the size of the military force assigned by the Spanish to each presidio in Texas — east Texas presidios were allocated a total of 100 men; La Bahia had 90 and San Antonio received 53. Even these modest numbers were reduced by half over the following decades.

The La Bahia mission and presidio, however, remained on the bay for only four years. In 1726 the mission and presidio were moved to the Guadalupe River near Mission Valley a few miles below the present DeWitt boundary line. Although the Mission at its Garcitas Creek location had been well situated to receive supplies and reinforcements directly by water through Matagorda Bay from Veracruz, it also had been very vulnerable to attacks by the Karankawa Indians who had killed Captain Ramon during an uprising in 1724. The captain was killed in a skirmish that arose while he was engaged in executing a number of local Indians, mostly Indian women and children, whom he held as captives.

The area surrounding the new location on the Guadalupe River Valley, inland 60 miles from the coast, was inhabited principally by the Aranamas, a less militant and more sedentary and agricultural tribe that earlier had sheltered Cabeza de Vaca. The setting was even more peaceful. Mission Valley is well named — a gentle open valley with an easy broad slope rolling to the low Guadalupe River bank, a setting reminiscent of other pictured scenes of a mission positioned to overview the surrounding valley or countryside leading down to a river. The mission and presidio were developed over the following decades to include an impressive dam and irrigation system that extended at least five miles upstream into the DeWitt County area.

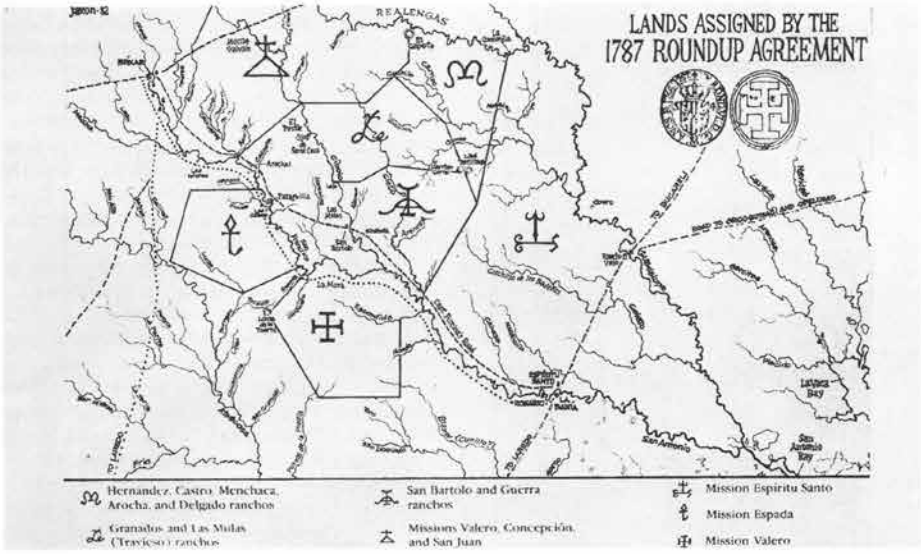
One recommendation to construct the dam and irrigation system originated from Pedro de Rivera, who was requested by the Viceroy in Mexico (or New Spain) to inspect the presidios in Texas in 1728. Rivera visited La Bahia after he had been removed to the location 25 miles inland near present Mission Valley. He recommended that the presidio be reduced in size from 90 men to 40, pointing out that the Aranamas and the other tribes at the new location were peaceful. While at the Presidio La Bahia he ordered the local captain to explore the Guadalupe River and made it navigable so there would be a water link with Veracruz. He also advised the captain to construct a dam so fields up to 15 miles upstream on either side of the river could be irrigated and settlements could be established there. The recommendations for La Bahia and other Texas presidios were accepted by the viceroy. He issued his decree in April, 1729, implementing the recommendation, and specifying the reduction in force.

by William C. Foster

SPANISH AND FRENCH EXPLORERS

T3

One of the few accounts of the mission life at Mission Valley was written by Charles W. Ramsdall, Jr. He related from extensively cited Spanish sources that over 400 Aranama Indians were gathered at Mission La Bahia when it was first reestablished on the Guadalupe in 1726. He states that the irrigation project on the river was abandoned in 1736 when it was discovered that corn could be grown without irrigation and that the mission prospered with the commencement of the cattle ranch. One of the few documents depicting life at the mission during this period is a report on a celebration



According to this map prepared by the historian Jack Jackson, who has written extensively on the Spanish ranching period, Rancho Viejo was located in DeWitt County on the south bank of the Guadalupe near the Anastasia Crossing where the river was crossed by the La Bahia Road.

Longhorns roamed the prairies

held in honor of the Spanish king in February 1748, a year before it was moved to present Goliad. Reportedly the celebration included parades, dancing, duels with wooden weapons, and a modified bullfight with riding and roping bulls. It is conservatively estimated that over 150 unmarked graves of these Indians formally buried by the church fathers between 1726 and 1749 are located in two or more unidentified Indian graveyards in the vicinity of Mission Valley.

The relocation of La Bahia to Mission Valley on the Guadalupe in 1726 and the relocation again later to the San Antonio River near present Goliad were the dominant events affecting the DeWitt County area during the Spanish colonial period. The location of the La Bahia mission required that the La Bahia Road between the mission and the Colorado River cross the DeWitt county area. That road served the mission as the route for commerce and supplies moving northward to East Texas and Louisiana and the road connected with Laredo and northern Mexico, or more precisely identified as the northeastern provinces of New Spain, offering a southern and more direct alternative route between Mexico and the east Texas missions.

The La Bahia Road also served as the route east for cattle drives that were made during the Spanish ranching period. Spanish mission ranching first developed from the need of the newly established frontier missions and presidios, principally these near Bexar and on the Guadalupe River, to become economically self sufficient. After the missions were established, exclusive grazing lands were assigned to each mission to support the inhabitants of the mission and those assigned to duty at the military post.

The La Bahia mission, while located near Mission Valley between 1726 and 1749, occupied one of the most extensive cattle grazing areas ever amassed in Texas covering over 1,000,000 acres between San Antonio River and the Guadalupe River. The mission grazing lands commenced at the point where the two rivers converge about 10 miles inland from the San Antonio Bay, up each of the two rivers for about 60 to 80 miles to points on the two rivers between which the northern boundary was established. The northern boundary was frequently in controversy and was forced southward restricting the mission acreage by the encroachment of private Spanish ranchers. But originally, the northern boundary followed from a point west of Nordheim on the San Antonio River where Ecleto Creek enters the River to several miles above present Gonzales at a location named El Capote for some prominent hills that lie along the Guadalupe near Belmont.

Therefore, during the early Spanish mission and ranching period, the present DeWitt County area south and west of the Guadalupe River was the central part of La Bahia's grazing lands. The county area east of the river was unappropriated Spanish crown lands, occupied often by the Aranamas who had escaped the La Bahia Mission, but under the primary domination of the Apache and Comanche Indians during that early period.

The privatization of Spanish cattle ranching developed as officials from the military presidios retired and wished to remain on the land or during their military service period otherwise sought to raise their own herds. In 1749, under Don Jose de Esandon's comprehensive new mission plan, the Mission La Bahia was

Buffalo followed the Guadalupe River for food and water.

moved about 30 miles southwest across Coleto Creek to the San Antonio River. During the same period, a line of private Spanish ranches was being established along the San Antonio River from Bexar south to near present Runge in Karnes County and from there northward along Cibolo Creek.

The relocation of La Bahia in 1749 also coincided generally in time with the increased number of Comanche raids and the celebrated peace accord reached at Bexar between the Spanish authorities and the Apaches. The latter permitted both mission and private ranching activities to be conducted in a relatively unmolested way for only a short period of time. One of the most prominent early private Spanish ranches near the present DeWitt County area was called "Los Corralitos" (Little Pens), located north of Nordheim and Runge.

The principal ranching headquarters for the La Bahia Mission was "Rancho Viejo" (Old Ranch) which remained on the Guadalupe after the mission was moved to the San Antonio River. Rancho Viejo was a typical mission type "rancho" outpost which housed the cattle and livestock operation including the Spanish and more numerous Indian cowboys required to husband the herds of cattle, horses and sheep. The precise location of Rancho Viejo is uncertain but it is thought to be close to the site of the old mission near Mission Valley.

The ranching area between the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers has been referred to as the cradle of Texas ranching, the land that first produced substantial wealth in Texas — in the form of longhorn cattle, hides, sheep, wool and later mustang horses, some to be sold south in the municipal fairs in Mexico, but most animals to be driven up the La Bahia Road eastward for sale in Louisiana and distribution up the Mississippi and to Florida. One of the earliest dated mission reports on the size of the La Bahia herd places the number of branded cows at 3,220 and the number of sheep at 1,600 in May, 1758. The number of branded cows had reached 16,050 at La Bahia in 1768.

Events in Europe and on the North American continent between 1756 and 1763 changed the adversarial relationship between Spain and France that had been reflected in Texas during the previous 150 years. Spain sided with France and against England in the French and Indian War on the American continent and the Seven Years War in Europe. The Treaty of Paris signed in February, 1763, awarded Spanish West Florida to England. At that time, West Florida included the entire coast of the present Florida panhandle, parts of the coastal and inland areas of present Alabama and Mississippi, plus the east bank of the Mississippi River to a point beyond Natchez. France, as a major force, faded from the Texas Gulf region by relinquishing the west bank of the Mississippi including New Orleans and Louisiana to Spain. No longer was east Texas a buffer area facing the economically aggressive French. Moreover, the coffers in Spain had been drained by the war. The threat to Spanish Texas, for a time, would come from the British who would edge and expand across the Gulf and down the Mississippi. It was, therefore, imperative for Spain to redesign the purpose and arrangement of its missions and presidios in Texas.

The first step in this realignment was to send two inspectors, Father Fray Gaspar Jose de Solis and the Marques de Rubi, to visit and make recommendations concerning the missions and presidios in Texas. These two visits led to one of the earliest written references to the location and identification of a place called Cuero. The word "Cuero" as a geographical point of reference is found in the diary of Father Solis, who in 1767 and 1768 inspected the missions in Texas.

Solis left Mexico by the La Bahia Road to visit first the missions of Rosario and La Bahia on the San Antonio River. The Father then traveled up the San Antonio River to the missions near San Antonio. Lastly, he returned down the La Bahia — San Antonio Road to cross the Guadalupe near present Cuero to follow the La Bahia Road to visit the missions in east Texas. He was instructed also to report on the condition and associated ranching operations of each mission.

It is significant that Father Solis entered Texas from northern Mexico to commence his survey by following the southern leg of the La Bahia Road that crosses the Rio Grande a few miles south of Laredo rather than following the "Camino Real," the major road that entered Texas near present Eagle Pass and continued a more northerly route to San Antonio. By February 26, 1768, the padre had crossed south Texas and was at the Mission Rosario, which was located at that time a few miles south of the La Bahia Mission. Solis had completed his investigation of Rosario and was at the nearby Mission La Bahia by March 6th, where he reported cotton, watermelons, cantaloupes, sweet potatoes, peaches, and figs were under cultivation. Among the 300 Indians at the mission were a large number of Aranamas, the tribe that helped Cabeza de Vaca when he escaped during the winter of 1534.

On March 15, Father Solis left the area near La Bahia to continue his inspection trip up the San Antonio River to the missions near Bexar. Solis was a very exact and an unusually detailed diarist. On the route which followed initially along the present western boundary of DeWitt County, Solis reported seeing a great number of wild animals including wild cattle and horses and many deer, wolves, coyotes, rabbits, and an occasional mountain lion, wild cat, and wild boar. He also saw ducks, geese, turkeys, quail, partridges, hawks and screech owls. The wild cattle, Solis said, originated from the herds brought by Governor de Leon about 80 years earlier, in 1589 and 1590.

By early April of 1768, Father Solis had concluded his tour of the missions near Bexar and had commenced his journey toward east Texas, first moving back south along the east bank of the San Antonio River. The father noted that on April 8th, he, his guards and 100 men going to the Presidio of Los Adays in Louisiana were all detained by a fierce norther with freezing rain and snow.

On his trip Father Solis continued to make detailed notes on the names of previously established overnight camps and watering locations visited and of creeks crossed. He specifically mentions in his diary on April 11th, leaving the east bank of the San Antonio River at the ranch "Los Corralitos" and moving along an existing road or broad pathway to the northeast toward the Guadalupe River. The padre passed a landmark grove of live oaks called "Encinas de la Sinfonia" which has been located near Runge by historian Robert H. Thonhoff, and camped on "Cuchiyo Arroyo" (Knife Creek), which has been identified as either Sandies Creek or the upper Coleto Creek in DeWitt County. Sea fish including haddock were abundant there. Here, the party was again hampered by sleet and snow.

On April 15, Father Solis reached the Guadalupe where he noted that the grapevines cover the tree tops, but the grapes (probably the mustang grape) were harsh tasting. Father Solis added that he was confident that the local grape stock could be improved and made palatable. He also added that the wild onion and

leafy lettuce made a delicious salad when oil and vinegar were added.

Solis crossed the Guadalupe River by raft accompanied by armed Indians from the La Bahia Mission. He described with admiration the beauty and fertility of the land but also noted the serious illness of one companion, Brother Antonio Casis, caused by poison ivy. The following day was spent by the party on the east bank of the river awaiting the "convoy" (presumably, the 100 soldiers) to pass.

On April 17, Father Solis reported that after crossing the Guadalupe River, they "arrived at Cuero, which is at an oak tree on a bend or corner down the river." The Solis diary translation made by Margaret Kenny Kress notes that Solis arrived at an overnight campsite named Cuero, without making any reference to any directly associated creek.

In fact, the April 16 diary records that after crossing the Guadalupe, most likely at the Governor's Ford near Hochheim, the padre's party camped on the river bank awaiting the company to pass. The following day, the 17th, they moved along the east bank downstream twelve miles past two creeks (most likely Queen's Creek and Cuero Creek) before camping overnight at Cuero where, on the 18th, the father's party seems to have picked up the northern leg of the La Bahia Road above the Guadalupe to follow the road toward the Colorado River and on to east Texas. By the date Solis visited a place on the Guadalupe he called Cuero in 1768, La Bahia had been relocated on the San Antonio River for about 20 years, and the La Bahia Road northward to east Texas as well as southward to Mexico had been well marked. The father consistently refers to following "the road."

Solis suggests that from the use of the Spanish word "Cuero," some location or camp site associated with animal hides or skins on the east bank of the Guadalupe close to the La Bahia Road was the overnight camp used by him on April 17. It was customary for the Spanish to name major rivers or creeks for a prominent church or national figure and to give smaller streams descriptive place-names associated with contemporary local conditions. But the Spanish before the 1760's may not have prepared animal hides or skins on the east bank of the Guadalupe River, an area recognized then as Indian country beyond the operating and grazing lands of La Bahia. However, there had been buffalo and wild longhorn cattle in that area of the river for well over one hundred years. The Aranama Indians, and perhaps other tribes, during that time may have used Cuero Creek and that immediate area as a convenient location to skin animals, both cattle and large game, for their personal use or shelter. Governor Alarcon, fifty years earlier had reported a very sizable community of Indians living just 30 miles upriver, above present Gonzales.

But the creek or location called "Cuero" more likely predates the appearance of both the Spanish explorers and longhorn cattle. "Cuero" probably referred to a location where the Aranamas and other tribes had cured hides of buffalo and smaller game for centuries. Father Massanet reported in 1691 that tribes he met from west Texas and New Mexico, where there were no buffalo, annually visited the Guadalupe area to kill buffalo and tan their hide.

This thought is also supported by the journal of Cabeza de Vaca who related that buffalo, deer and small game were in the Guadalupe River area in the 1530's and that the inland Indian tribes then made leather capes, blankets and straps from animal hides. He reported trading leather straps made by inland tribes for shells and other sea products from the coastal Indians; and during his escape (near the Guadalupe River), he personally engaged in scraping animal skins for his Aranama Indian hosts to cure for leather and for him to obtain scraps of meat to eat.

Having a particular location to prepare animal hides and skins each year would be consistent with the itinerant seasonal life cycle of the local Indian tribes that annually moved on circuit to gather pecans on the Guadalupe (River of Nuts) and to feast on cactus tuna near Corpus Christi. A location customarily used for cleaning and skinning animals and for drying hides and preparing leather would be easily identifiable, and would gravitate toward a special set of natural conditions — first, an abundant supply of accessible local game to kill, abundant fresh water available to clean the game; sharp, preferably flint, rocks to scrape the hides, and motts of live oak trees to provide both strong low branches for stretching and drying the hides and oak bark for curing or tanning the hide for leather.

An area near a creek called "Cuero" met this conditions for some Indian people who were clever enough to produce leather, faithful enough to accept the requirements of the Catholic Church, and tough enough to become Texas first cowboys, but still were not adaptable enough to survive swift and persistent encroachment and avoid extermination. Cuero is one of the few Spanish place names in Texas that has its origin in pre-Spanish Indian culture.

It should be noted that the word "cuera" was also used in Spanish mission days to refer to the protective thick leather jacket worn by presidio soldiers as armor. The soldiers who wore the armor were known as "hombres de cuera."

But Cuero was not only the location identified by a place name by Father Solis along the La Bahia Road east of the Guadalupe in the immediate DeWitt County area. The La Bahia Road by the 1770's had a number of clearly identifiable and well used rest stops and overnight campgrounds that offered fresh water which was essential for the horses and herds being driven. On the first day while still near the DeWitt County area, the party first passed through a rest stop at a location named "Rosebush" (El Rosal). The distinctively large wild rosebushes or rose hedges in eastern DeWitt County were perhaps in early bloom and apparently prevalent over 200 years ago. After overnighting at the campground called Cuero, and passing El Rosal, the padre's party moved northeast twenty miles along the La Bahia Road to camp the following night, on the 18th, at "Father Campa's Pond" (La Mota del Padre Campa), where there was ample fresh water. Twenty miles up the La Bahia Road from the Guadalupe crossing would be near the small branches of the headwaters of Cuero Creek.

The notes written by the father at his overnight camp at Padre Campa's Pond in eastern DeWitt County record that "the road" followed that day led through green and pleasant plains spotted with oaks. Deer, flocks of wild turkeys and quail were in abundance. But, Solis found also poisonous spiders, sluggish water snakes, mites, mosquitoes, gnats, flies, and ticks. In his concluding comments on the area he affirms that despite the nuisances mentioned, the air was pure and climate was temperate, healthful and mild.

Father Solis and his party continued on to east Texas and visited the missions near Nacogdoches during the months of May and June. Father Solis commenced his westward trip returning to the Guadalupe to visit again the La Bahia mission after his visit to the east Texas missions was completed. The father's party was intercepted by a large number of very hostile Indians near the Colorado River. Only with the protection of his Indian guides from La Bahia was the party permitted to pass. The hostile Indians encountered by the padre were identified as Aranamas, many of whom had escaped from the La Bahia mission.

On July 15, the father returned to El Rosal to camp overnight before reaching the Guadalupe the following day on his return trip to La Bahia. His diary reference to the location where he camped overnight cites "Pielago del Rosal" meaning pond or a lagoon associated with rosebushes.

Similar diary references to rest stops, overnight watering camps and creeks are found in the diary recorded during the Marques de Rubi's journey from California through Bexar to east Texas that crossed the DeWitt County area during the year before Solis made his journey. Rubi took with him two experienced engineers, one of whom was Nicolas de Lafora, who carefully mapped the area of south and east Texas and maintained a detailed diary.

Many of the Lafora's diary notations of place names and distances traveled are similar to those of Solis. In August, 1767, the Rubi expedition left San Antonio and followed the same route that Solis traced the following spring. The diary entries record Rubi following the east bank of the San Antonio River south, crossing first the Cibolo Creek and camping the next night, on August 26th, at the mouth of Cleto Creek on the San Antonio River. The following day the group changed course, moving in a north by northeast direction for 18 miles to "Cuchillo" Creek (probably a northern fork of present Coleto Creek, near Yorktown). Twenty miles further east Rubi crossed the Guadalupe at a location that the diarist called "Vado del Gobernador" (the Governor's Ford), presumably the crossing near Hochheim. Two governors had earlier reportedly used the Hochheim area as the Guadalupe crossing. Governor de Leon crossed at Hochheim in both 1689 and 1690; Governor Alarcon almost lost his life at the crossing in 1718.

According to Lafora, "Cuervo" Creek was crossed ten miles east of the Guadalupe on the next day. Following the road Solis would also later follow, Rubi passed "El Rosal" on the La Bahia Road fifteen miles beyond "Cuervo Creek" and then the Pond of Padre Campa two miles further along the road.

In October, on Rubi's return trip westward back toward the La Bahia mission, the party camped overnight on October 27th at the watering station "El Rosal." Twenty-five miles down the La Bahia Road the following day, Lafora records that the Guadalupe was reached but the river was very high. The party then moved five miles downstream to a place on the river Lafora called "El Pielago" (a pond or large lagoon). This was at a point where the river forms a semi-circle, according to Lafora. A later map of the La Bahia Road prepared by the Texas Land Office in 1870 shows the road intersecting the Guadalupe at a horseshoe bend near a large associated lagoon. Rubi's

rossing of the Guadalupe westward apparently was made several miles downstream from the Governor's Ford, which he had used earlier. Most likely, Rubi used the Anastasia Crossing on the road to the La Bahia Mission.

On October 30, Rubi's party continued moving through DeWitt County south of the Guadalupe along the La Bahia Road passing several creeks identified by Lafora as "Las Mojarras" (The Sea Fish), "El Bagre" (The Catfish), "Las Cruces" (The Crosses), and "La Cabecera" (The Headboard). La Bahia mission was reached the following day. Rubi's report confirmed the presence of members of both the Aranama and Tamique Indian tribes at the mission, but was generally discouraging. Without any extended delay, Rubi was shortly on his journey following the La Bahia Road to Laredo and into Mexico.

The third visitor to the DeWitt County area during the 1767-1768 period was a young 20-year old Frenchman, Pierre Marie Francois de Pages. He was on a personal journey rather than an official state or church visit, traveling with heavy escort, from the Presidio Los Adaes in western Louisiana to San Antonio, and then on to Rheda near Laredo on the Rio Grande. During the fall of 1767, Pages crossed the Guadalupe apparently along the southern route as did Solis and Rubi. His notes reflect that after crossing the Guadalupe by raft on the road to San Antonio, he encountered "plantations of Indian corn" with extensive herds and flocks. He also observed wild myrtle bushes or trees which are found today near the Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers. The cultivation of crops undertaken by the local Indian population near the Guadalupe apparently contrasted starkly with the absence of any agricultural interests shown by the Indians near Adaes. The local Indians living west of the Guadalupe were "not so miserably idle as those at Adaes," reported Pages.

Contemporary topographical maps also suggest that a more open, less wooded, route from San Antonio to east Texas would have been to travel from San Antonio first south along the San Antonio River to the point where Ecleto Creek enters the river, then in a northeastward direction crossing the Guadalupe at either the Governor's Ford or the La Bahia Road ford, crossing Cuero Creek and on eastward crossing the Colorado at La Grange. This route, referred to as the "Southern Loop" by several Texas historians was used extensively during the middle and latter part of the eighteenth century to reduce the risk of Indian surprise attacks in the heavily wooded areas that were encountered on the more direct road from Bexar to the Colorado River.

The cattle herds of the missions and private ranches continued to suffer heavily from the Comanche raids during the 1770's. By that time, a stockade named El Fuerte del Cibolo or Fort Cibolo with twenty soldiers was located on the Cibolo Creek about ten miles northeast of DeWitt County to protect local ranchers and allow them to recover some formerly unprotected ranches that they had been forced to abandon because of Indian raids. The small military post served also as a temporary refuge for the 160 Spanish families who were ordered to abandon the east Texas missions in 1773 and to move to Bexar.

During this period of Comanche unrest, and particularly after Spain declared war on England in May, 1779 and became allied with forces supporting the American Revolution, the demand for beef to feed the expanding number of Spanish troops in Louisiana provided a profitable market for the mission herds near the Guadalupe. A serious beef scarcity developed in Spanish Louisiana between 1779 and 1782 during which time the Governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, with up to 7,000 soldiers, launched a series of successful military attacks against the British strongholds up the Mississippi River and on the Gulf Coast including Natchez (July, 1779), Baton Rouge (July, 1779), Mobile (March, 1780), and Pensacola (May, 1781).

The Guadalupe River valley during the years of the American Revolution was active serving as the collection point for the first large cattle drives to Louisiana. The earliest out-of-state drives were organized in 1779, almost a hundred years before the much larger drives involving many more cattle over much longer distances were made from the DeWitt County area to Missouri and Kansas after the Civil War.

One of the early drives was organized in May, 1780, by a resident of La Bahia who had received permission to drive to Louisiana 1,500 cattle gathered on La Bahia pasture lands near Arroyo de los Nogales, a tributary of Sandies Creek. This drive was made at the request of General Galvez after he had taken Mobile from the British but before he had launched his even larger attack on Pensacola, then the capital of West Florida. But the cattle drive was attacked by a band of Comanche warriors near Sandies Creek, and the herd was disbursed. This raid triggered a reported shootout or skirmish with the Comanches at a mustang corral located on the south bank of the Guadalupe River in DeWitt County in late June, 1780. The raid also illustrates how dominant the Comanches had become by this time. As the one hundred plus Comanche warriors rode along the high banks and watched boldly from across the river, the numerically overwhelmed Spanish troops and cowboys carefully measured the opposing force and singularly resolved the dispute by retiring without getting wet or firing a shot.

The cattle drives continued during the years 1779 to 1782, using La Bahia area as a principal assembly point according to the historian Robert R. Thonhoff, who was written extensively on this period. The drives would be collected near Rancho Viejo perhaps using the horseshoe bend which forms a natural corral on the southern bank of the Guadalupe leading to the La Bahia Road ford. Soldiers from Bexar, La Bahia and the small outpost fort or stockade on Cibolo Creek named El Fuerte del Cibolo would ride escort. But the mission Indians predominantly were the cowboys. Between the Guadalupe and the Colorado Rivers was one of the most dangerous stretches of the drive. "El Monte del Diablo" was feared by both the Indian herd drivers and Spanish military escorts because the high ridge was used by the Comanches as a camp and observation post from which to attack the drives along this stretch. Military records confirm that some of the Spanish troops in Texas remained to fight with Galvez, and that a small number of Americans fought with Galvez at Mobile.

The last large Texas herd, one exceeding 1,000 head, was gathered to be shipped to General Galvez's army under the direction of Antonio de la Garza, a citizen of La Bahia. The roundup occurred between Sandies Creek and the Guadalupe River in the spring of 1782. Although this was several months after the surrender of British General Cornwallis, Galvez was still preparing for his next military venture against the British, the invasion of Jamaica. Estimates of the number of cattle driven from Spanish mission and private ranch lands between the San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers to Louisiana to feed Spanish troops fighting the British and in support of the American Revolution during the early 1780's range from 10,000 to 15,000 head.

by William C. Foster

SPANISH AND FRENCH EXPLORERS

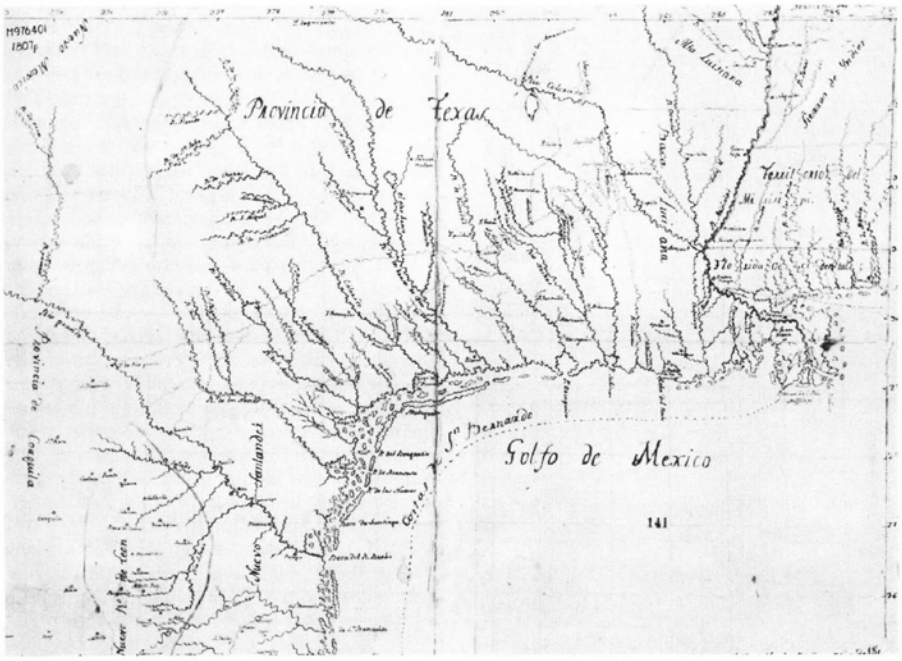
T4

Galvez reclaimed from the British the Gulf coastal lands lost to the British at the conclusion of the Seven Years War twenty years earlier. The contribution made by Spain to the success of the American Revolution has been summarized by R. Ernest and Trevor M. Dupuy, scholars of the Revolutionary period, as follows: "France, and to a lesser degree Spain, were thus enabled to project their land and sea power to the American continent and to the West Indies, to give direct and indirect assistance to the Americans which was probably decisive in shaping the outcome of the Revolution." The Spanish General Galvez became, or at least should be recognized as, a hero of the American Revolution, successfully driving the British from the Gulf while depleting British military resources and occupying the attention of their navy and limited armed forces.

By 1787 the private ranchers near Bexar, with both church sponsorship and direct participation by the La Bahia mission, organized the largest area roundup of cattle ever conducted in the region. The lands included in the roundup, according to the Texas historian Jack Jackson, stretched over 100 miles from Bexar to the Gulf Coast — all of present Karnes and Wilson Counties and up to half of DeWitt, Victoria, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Goliad, Bexar and Atascosa Counties. The results of the roundup illustrated not only how the herds had suffered from out-of-state shipments and Indian raids but also how the private ranches by that time dominated the mission ranch operations. The dominance of the La Bahia ranching operations over those of the Bexar missions, which were nearing the point of being secularized, could also be seen. Out of the total number of about 7,500 cattle counted, the several independent ranches identified 6,000 head of their own and La Bahia identified only 1,500.

By 1790 the Louisiana cattle trade from Texas had ceased. The missions of Bexar were fully secularized by 1793, and the control over Bexar mission grazing lands was transferred to private Spanish ranchers. This development brought the emancipation of the Bexar mission Indians, who were declared to have most of the rights of Spanish citizens. However, the La Bahia missions, which included the newer missions of Rosario and Refugio, were not then secularized. They were, however, on the decline. In 1790, only 124 Indians resided at the three missions, and the missions controlled a herd of less than 2,000 cattle compared to the once huge herd that exceeded 40,000.

During the early 1790's, the east side of the Guadalupe River was first opened for private Spanish ranching operations and the ranching family of Simon Francisco Arocha established



An accurate perception of how the Spaniards pictured the Texas coastal region at the beginning of the nineteenth century is found in maps prepared by the Spanish map makers during the period. One of the earliest map references to Cuero Creek is found on the 1807 map of the Texas coastal area prepared by Jose Maria Puelles entitled "Mapa Geografico de la Provincia de Texas." The map was contained in a report filed by Padre Puelles when he was a Franciscan friar stationed at Nacogdoches.

one of the first spreads on the left bank. But the large cattle exports were replaced in the 1790's with mustang drives from the same grazing grounds west of the Guadalupe that had produced the cattle drives fifteen years earlier. The La Bahia Road was used during the final years of the decade for the mustang drives moving east.

Puelles' map prominently identifies "el Cuchiyo" (Knife Creek) as present day Sandies Creek flowing from the west into the right bank of the Guadalupe River a short distance upriver from and "el Cuero" (Cuero Creek) flowing through the eastern county area into the left bank. On the 1807 map, the La Bahia Road is identified as originating in Laredo, crossing south Texas past the Nueces River and through "Bahia" on the San Antonio River, to "el Cuchiyo," the Guadalupe River, "el Cuero" and then on to the "La Baca," "Navidad, "Colorado," "Brazos," "Trinidad" to "Nacodoches."

Shortly after Puelles map of Texas was published in 1807, the American explorer Z.M. Pike was sent by the President of the United States to explore the newly acquired but unsurveyed lands included in the Louisiana Purchase. Initially following the Arkansas River from the Mississippi to the headwaters of the river in Colorado, Pike explored parts of the present states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and into Colorado, locating the mountain peak later named in his honor. During the following winter, Pike was rescued or captured by a Spanish military unit in neighboring New Mexico, and he was taken to Mexico City. On Pike's return trip across Texas back to Louisiana, and home, he left San Antonio in mid-June, 1808, and crossed the Cibolo Creek south of New Braunfels, and crossed the San Marcos above Gonzales closer to Luling. He made only a few comments about the area noting the presence of large bodies of Spanish soldiers along the road which he thought were present as a consequence of the simmering disputes between Spain and the United States.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Spanish government first formally authorized the establishment of a city in the general area of DeWitt County, a few miles above present Gonzales on the San Marcos River. San Marcos de Neve was organized in 1808 by Texas' first empresario, Felipe de la Portilla, who brought Mexican families from present Matamoros to locate on the ford of the San Marcos River used by the Camino Real. This was on the route pioneered by Teran and Massanet in 1961 across the San Marcos River in northern Gonzales County near the hot springs identified by Father Massanet on the journey and also near the large Indian village that Alarcon found in the present Palmetto State Park area. The city reached a population of over 80 but was abandoned as a result of a series of devastating floods and Indian raids.

The presence of large droves of mustangs in the DeWitt County area at the commencement of the 19th century attracted not only Spanish interest in exporting horses to Louisiana but also attracted the interest of several Indian tribes, particularly the Comanches, who were dependent on the animals for mobility and the pursuit of their preferred range animals, the buffalo. The horse only stimulated their aggressiveness. This increased aggressiveness by the Comanches, as reflected in the boldness and frequency of their raids during the early 19th century, coincided with the decline of Spanish influence over Texas and the rise of revolutionary moments in Mexico.

Father Hidalgo first tolled the church bell for the Mexican Revolution in 1810. The revolutionary spirit reached the DeWitt County area first when the 500 man Magee-Gutierrez Expedition crossed at the Anastasia Crossing of the Guadalupe marching south on the La Bahia Road from Nacogdoches to attack the presidio at La Bahia in early November, 1812. As the name given the expedition suggests, the military force was composed of both Mexican republican revolutionaries led by the former Mexian official, Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara, and American adventures led initially by former West Point graduate and U.S. Army officer, Augustus Magee.

One of the American officers on the Expedition, Captain Josiah Taylor, crossed the Guadalupe along the La Bahia Road and later remembered the land located on the north bank of the ford. Captain Taylor distinguished himself in the Mexican revolutionary cause during the expedition and was so honored by being presented the sword of surrender of the City of Bexar from the royalist Spanish Governor on April 1, 1813. Captain Taylor had helped assure victory in the battle for the provincial capital city of Bexar by leading the raid on the royalists cavalry herd on the evening before the day of battle, capturing 60 guards and 300 horses at the Battle of Rosillo outside Bexar. The captain, however, was very seriously wounded in the Battle of Medina, in which the revolutionaries were soundly defeated a few months after the victory at Bexar, and Taylor was fortunate then to leave Texas alive.

Fifteen years later, Josiah Taylor returned to Texas, became a new colonist with Green DeWitt and applied to the Mexican government for a land grant of the property in DeWitt County he had seen in 1812 on the north bank of the La Bahia Road river crossing of the Guadalupe. The new Mexican government remembered Taylor's early service record in support of the Mexican Revolution and granted the property to his widow, Hebzebeth Taylor, in 1831. The legal instruments of Mexican title, including Green DeWitt's sworn statement citing Josiah's distinguished military service at Bexar to the Mexican revolutionary cause, noted that the boundary of the tract included the La Bahia Road. The ford of the river used by the road was referred to in the deed as the Anastasia Crossing.

There were no significant mission ranching operations from La Bahia after the Magee-Guierrez expedition occupied the mission and fort during the fall and winter of 1813. By 1814, hostile Indians had reduced La Bahia to ruins and the mission effectively was abandoned. The sacking of La Bahia by Indians in 1814, after almost a century of service, signaled an increase in the destructive power and mobility of the dominant Indian tribes. During the following decades the neighboring communities of Gonzales, Victoria and Linnville would be established as San Marcos de Neve had been earlier only to be attacked by Indians and then later either be reassembled or abandoned.

The lands of DeWitt county remained largely uneffected by any Spanish colonizing influence during the last few years of the decade preceding the close of the Spanish Colonial period and the raising of the Mexican green, white, and red flag of independence over the DeWitt County area in the 1820's.

by William C. Foster

EARLY SETTLEMENT

T5

The Mexican government offered extraordinary inducements to the people of the United States to settle in Texas. In the early 1820's Texas was a vast unsettled wilderness except for Spanish missions around which clustered a few settlers. Over this vast domain roamed

Dentler Family Log Cabin — Given to DeWitt County Historical Museum by the Dentler family.

twenty two tribes of Indians.

The country was beautiful. It's warm climate, clear streams, vast herds of wild game and nutritious grasses made it a veritable paradise to look upon.

Soon the restless American pioneers began to pour in. James Norman Smith, an early settler, was later to describe DeWitt County: "I told of the beauties of the Guadalupe River and valley and told of its beautiful scenery. I told of the prairies all covered with lovely flowers, all colors and varieties; the large spreading, shady live oak trees many with boughs bending under the weight of numerous clusters of delicious looking grapes; the river bottom covered with large pecan trees. I said when the pecans were ripe the ground would literally be covered with the largest size of these nuts. Numerous cattle were thriving on the best of mesquite grass. These herds of cattle grazed over the wide extended prairies. There were wild mustang horses in droves of hundreds which with their different leaders would make the ground of the prairies tremble under the weight of their flight. The wild deer abounded with any number of herds of five hundred or more in droves. I told all this to folks from Kentucky and suggested that they should visit Texas and DeWitt County."

The history of present DeWitt County actually begins with the coming of the colonists. In May 1828, when Stephen F. Austin secured confirmation of his right to inherit the colonization contract granted earlier to his father, there were in Mexico City other would-be empresarios seeking to have their contracts confirmed. One of these was Green B. DeWitt, who was born in Kentucky September 16, 1797. He moved to Missouri in 1819 settling in St. Louis County and later to Ralls County where he was elected sheriff. He came to Mexico from Missouri as early as 1822. But before DeWitt could obtain his contract, the laws under which he had applied were changed. A new national colonization law was passed in August 1824, and a new colonization law for the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas followed in March of the next year. Both of these laws affected the territory in which DeWitt hoped to found his colony. Austin, having made friends with DeWitt while they were both waiting for their contracts, kindly recommended him to Baron de Bastrop, then a member of the state congress of Coahuila and Texas. This recommendation, no doubt, was instrumental in securing for DeWitt an early confirmation of his contract in accordance with the new laws. The grant, which he finally secured April 15, 1825, allowed him to introduce 400 families. Following are the boundaries of the DeWitt grant: "On the north of the old San Antonio road, on the east the Lavaca River and from its head a line extended in the same direction as the general course of that river up to the old San Antonio Road, on the west a line commencing on said river two leagues west of the Guadalupe River and running toward the coast at a distance of two leagues west of said river location. This area embraces in a general way the counties of DeWitt, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Caldwell, and parts of Comal, Lavaca, Fayette, and Victoria."

For every 100 families introduced, up to 800, DeWitt was to receive premium lands amounting to five sitios of grazing land, and five labors of other lands, at least one-half non-irrigable. (A sitio is 4,428.4 acres and a labor is one twenty-fifth of a sitio.) The empresario was required to bring in at least 100 families to maintain the validity of his contract.

After obtaining his contract DeWitt employed James Kerr, another Kentuckian, then a member of the Missouri Senate, as his surveyor general. Kerr was to select the site for a town, survey the lands and to manage the establishment of a colony. Kerr left Missouri and came to Texas, bringing with him DeWitt's first settlers. Major Kerr was accompanied by the afterwards famous Deaf Smith, Bazil Durbin, John Wrightman, — Strickland, James Musick, and Guron Hinds to act as chainmen, rodmen, or hunters. Kerr selected a beautiful site near the Guadalupe River for the town and named it Gonzales for Rafael Gonzales, who was at that time governor of Coahuila and Texas. In August 1825, he established the first settlement on the DeWitt grant, near where the town of Gonzales now stands. The young settlement, the first American one on the Guadalupe River, had a short life. While Kerr was absent on a business trip, the majority of the settlers went to a dance on the Colorado to celebrate the fourth of July, leaving a few of the colonists remaining at Gonzales. The travelers were attacked by Indians at night, who drove off their horses and left them stranded to walk back to Gonzales. Upon their return they found their homes partially burned and deserted except for one man who had been scalped and was dead. The frightened settlers then fled toward their original port of entry, the mouth of the Lavaca River. About six miles above tidewater they found a small group of DeWitt's settlers who had just arrived in Texas, and who were camping for a short rest period before journeying to the inland center of the colony. These later arrivals and the refugees from Gonzales formed a temporary settlement which came to be known as the Old Station.

When Kerr returned and learned of the raid he decided that his advanced position on the Guadalupe River was untenable with the Indians so unfriendly. He withdrew his settlement to a point nearer other colonists on the west bank of the Lavaca, Old Station. The name "Kerr" was later given to a newly organized county because he was the first American to settle on the upe River.

Kerr continued his survey of DeWitt's colony using the Old Station as his base. DeWitt arrived there in 1827 bringing his family. The little colony harvested its first crop of corn that year. The major part of the colonists food consisted of wild game which was plentiful. Major Kerr remained the surveyor of DeWitt's colony for several years and also became the surveyor of DeLeon's colony and surveyed most of its land including the city of Victoria.

One event that made a lasting impression on Kerr's daughter, Mary Margaret, the grandmother of DeWitt County's late Newton M. Crain, was an occasion when her father took her for a ride on his horse, holding her in front of him on his saddle. Suddenly a small party of unfriendly Indians appeared between them and the settlement, and with wild whoops began the chase. Major Kerr's horse was much faster than the Indian ponies, however, the country was brushy and the little girl was suffering from the hard ride. Out of sight of the Indians the father deposited the child in a thick clump of bushes with the admonition to lie there until he returned no matter what might occur. He then led the Indians in a wide circle and headed for his nearest neighbors. Now with his reinforcements the Indians escaped and Major Kerr found his child safe because she had not stirred when the Indians rushed by.

In early January 1827 DeWitt, who had been absent from the fledgling young colony, sent a number of men to the Gonzales site to begin construction of a fort. The group, under the supervision of Byrd Lockhart, labored on the fort until February. Baptist Lacount, one of the members of the work party, arrived at "Old Station" that month with a report that all work in the area had ceased. The men there were talking of leaving since there was a good possibility of renewed Indian attacks. It seems that a party of Comanche and Waco Indians attacked a party of Lipan and Tonkawa Indians nine miles from Gonzales on the San Marcos River. The Lipans and Tonkawas were badly defeated, losing many men and horses. The surviving Indians retreated down river hoping to find safety in De Leon's colony and told DeWitt's work party of the presence of the Comanches.

Lockhart apparently dissuaded the men from abandoning the site for by April 1827 the fort was completed. Probably as important as the good news of the completion of the fort was Lockhart's report that all was quiet in the area and no Indians had been seen since that day in

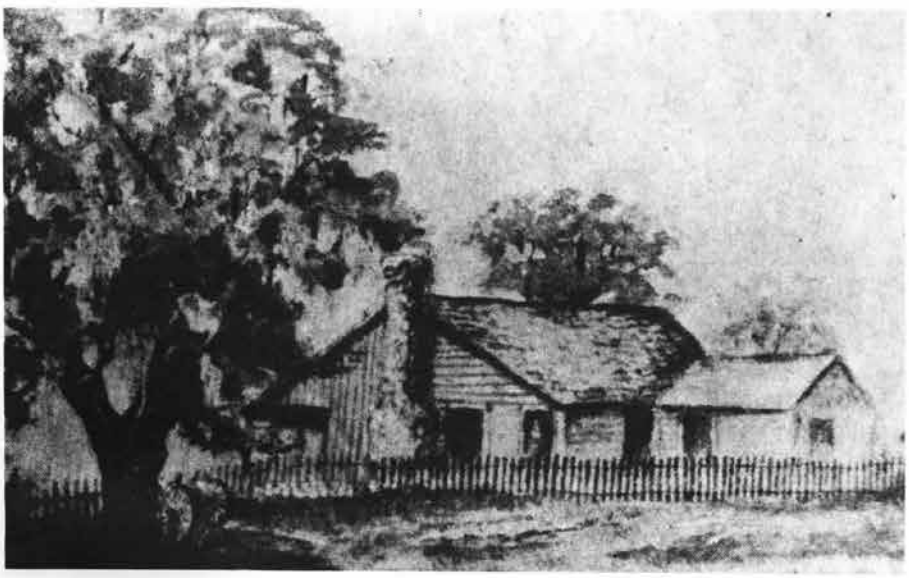
February. Obviously DeWitt always intended to locate in Gonzales but had been waiting for an opportune time. Now that the fort was built, DeWitt and his colonists abandoned "Old Station" by the end of December 1827. Possibly DeWitt moved the colony before the June date so as to avoid any further problems with the Mexican authorities over their fear of contraband trade by settlers and a dispute with DeLeon over the location of the colony boundaries. DeWitt also removed the colony, so he could begin the actual settlement of his grant and hopefully qualify for his "premium lands".

EARLY SETTLEMENT (CONTINUED)

T6

Empressario Green DeWitt's colony. Grants to widows were made in their maiden names. This list contains the names of the grantee, marital status, date of arrival and the size of the family. Some large families may have included slaves.

Alexander, Caleb P., married, February 26, 1830, 25; Allen, George, married March 31, 1831, 4; Arrington, Wm. W., single, February 15, 1831, 1; Ashby, John M., married, February 20, 1830, 7; Baker, Isaac, single, August 13, 1830, 1; Baker, Moses, married, February 20, 1831, 5; Barton, K.W., married, March 15, 1829, 3: Bateman, Si, married, February 20, 1831, 38; Bedford, Jose Ramon, single, September 20, 1830, 1; Bennet, Valentine, single, April 1, 1831, 1; Berry, Esther, widow, November 6, 1830, 4; Berry, Francis, married, May 12, 1825, 6; Blair, George, married, February 10, 1829, 7; Branch, Umphries, married, May 29, 1830, 4; Brand, David W., single, April 20, 1830, 1; Brock, Caleb, married, February 26, 1830, 15; Burket, David, married, June 1, 1830, 6; Burns, Arthur married August 1, 1826, 7; Burns, Squire, single, August 15, 1826, 1; Caldwell, Mathew, married, February 20, 1831, 5; Campbell, Joseph, married, March 22, 1827, 7; Chase, William, married, August 30,1826, 3; Chisholm, R.H., married, January 1829, 4; Clements, Joseph D., married, December 25, 1829, 2; Cobbey, William, single, August 22, 1830, 1; Cottle, Almond, single, certificate missing, 1; Cottle, G.W., married, July 6, 1829, 2; Cottle, Harriet, widow, November 12, 1827, 2; Cottle, Isaac, married, January 15, 1830, 9; Cottle, Jonathan, married, July 6, 1829, 3; Darst, Jacob C., married, January 10, 1831, 4; Davis, Daniel, married, February 20, 1831, 3; Davis, George W., married, March 20, 1831, 6; Davis, James C., single, March 28, 1829, 1; Davis, Jesse K., single, September 29, 1830, 1; Davis, John, single, February 16, 1830, 1; Davis, Zachariah, married, February 20, 1831, 6; Derduff, William, single, March 20, 1830, 1; Denton, Abraham, single, July 16, 1825, 1; Dewitt, Eliza, widow, January 19, 1830, 1; DeWitt, Green, married; Dickinson, Almeron, married, February 20, 1831, 2; Dickinson, Edward, single, April 25, 1825, 1; Dikes, M.G., single, December 28, 1829, 1; Dowlearn, Patrick, single, June 24, 1827, 1; Duncan, Benjamin, single, October 16, 1828, 1; Fennel, John, single, June 5, 1830, 1; Fenny, Ambrose, married, March 20, 1830, 4; Foley, George, widower, November 20, 1827, 1; Fullshear, Benn, single, December 19, 1826, 1; Fullshear, Churchill, married, March 31, 1831, 3; Fulshear, Graves, single, January 20, 1829, 1; Fuqua, Benjamin, single, March 6, 1830, 1; Fuqua, Silas, married, May 11, 1830, 6; Garvin, John E., single, February 20, 1831, 1; George, James, married, February 20, 1830, 5; Gibson, James, married, August 1, 1830, 2; Gillen, Michael, married, February 20, 1831, 5; Haven, Eben, married, July 13, 1827, 2; Heath, Richard, single, October 24, 1828, 1; Henry, John, married, February 20, 1831, 7; Highsmith, Samuel, married, September 4, 1829, 3; Hill, William, married, June 10, 1830, 8; Hinds, Gerren, married, April 13, 1825, 2; Hinds, James, married, February 24, 1830, 5; House, William, single, November 17, 1830, 1; Hughart, Edward, single, June 20, 1820, 1; Hughes, James, single, February 15, 1831, 9; Jackson, Thomas, married, July 6, 1829, 4; James, Phinehas, married, January 7, 1831, 2; Jones, John, single, September 14, 1825, 1; Kent, Andrew, married, June 12, 1830, 10; Kent, Joseph, single, July 20, 1827, 1; Kimball, George C., single, March 5, 1825, 1; King, John G., married, May 15, 1830, 9; Kistler, Frederick, married March 20, 1830, 7; Lawlor, Joseph P., single, February 20, 1831, 1; Leech, William, single, July 19, 1830, 1; Lockhart, Andrew, married, March 25, 1829, 9; Lockhart, Byrd, widower, March 20, 1826, 5; Lockhart, Byrd B., single, February 1829, 1; Lockhart, Charles, married, March 2, 1829, 6; Lockhart, John B., single, February 24, 1829, 1; Lockhart, Samuel, married, July 29, 1830, 3; Lockhart, George W., single, March 25, 1829, 1; Lockhart, William b., single, March 15, 1829, 1; Managhan, George F., single, March 25, 1830, 1; Matthews, William A., single, February 19, 1830, 1; Middleton, Samuel P., single, December 30, 1829, 1; Miller, Thomas R., single, June 16, 1830, 1; Mills, David G., single, February 20, 1830, 1; Mills, Robert, single, April 23, 1830, 1; Morris, Bethel, single, February 20, 1831, 1; Morris, John, single, February 20, 1831, 1; Morris, Silas M., married, February 20, 1831, 8; Morris, Spender, married, February 20, 1831, 5; Morrison, Stephen B., married, February 20, 1831, 8; Moss, Elihu, married, January 1831, 5; McClure, Abraham O., single, May 10, 1830, 1; McClure, B.D., married, May 10, 1830, 2; McCoy, Daniel, married, March 20, 1830, 2; McCoy, Jesse, single, March 9, 1827, 1; McCoy, John, Sr., married, March 9, 1827, 4; McCoy, John, married, March 9, 1827, 4; McCoy, Joseph, married, January 29,1829, 7; McCoy, Joseph, Jr., single, March 20, 1830, 1; McCoy, Samuel, single, January 4, 1829, 1; McCrabb, John, single, March 20, 1830, 1; Nash, Ira, married, May 29, 1829, 6; Neill, John A., married, February 20, 1831, 3; Olivar, John, married, May 20, 1825, 2; Page, William, single, June 15, 1830, 1; Patrick, James B., married, March 27, 1829, 2; Ponton, Andrew, single, December 17, 1829, 1; Porter, Alexander, married, February 20, 1831, 2; Priestly, P., single, May 24, 1830, 1; Richeson, Edwin, married, April 15, 1830, 3; Robinson, Jesse, single, September 10, 1827, 1; Roe, John, single, April 25, 1827, 1; Roney, James, single, January 1828, 1; Sanders, Stephen F., single, March 26, 1830, 1; Scott, Jonathon, single, August 20, 1830, 1; Seal, Solomon, married, February 20, 1831, 2; Shaw, James, single, February 20, 1831, 1; Shupe, Samuel, single, March 27, 1827, 1; Smith, Robert, married, February 20, 1831, 5; Smith, Stephen, married, May 25, 1830, 4; Smothers, John, widower, September 1828, 4; Sowell, Lewis D., single, May 3, 1830, 1; Sowell, John, married, May 3, 1830, 6; Sowell, William A., single, May 31, 1830, 1; Stapp, Darwin M., single, June 4, 1828, 1; Stapp, Elijah, married, March 20, 1830, 8; Stapp, William P., single, February 20, 1830, 1; Stinnett, C., single, May 20, 1830, 1; St. John, William, single, certificate missing, 1; Strode, William, married, Certificate missing, 2; Tate, Elijah, single, February, 1828, 1; Taylor, Feliz, married, certificate missing, 5; Taylor, Hephzibeth, widow, January 16, 1829, 11; Taylor, William, married, June 28, 1828, 3; Teal, Peter, single, April 24, 1829, 1; Thompson, James, married, December 1, 1830, 9; Tumlinson, David C., single, December 15, 1831, 1; Tumlinson, James, single, December, 1828, 1; Tumlinson, J.J., married, 1828, 2; Tumlinson, Joseph, single, February, 1828, 1; Tumlinson, L.F., single, November, 1828, 1; Turner, Winslow, married, December 4, 1829, 8; Turner, Winslow, Jr., single, November 18, 1829, 1; Ward, Russel, single, March 5, 1830, 1; Weldon, Isaac, single, July 25, 1828, 1; Wentworth, Tobias, single, June 24, 1828,1; Wickson,



The Columbus Burns log house

Byrum, single, March 13, 1829, 1; Williams, Allan B., married, May 16, 1830, 10; Williams, Christopher, single, February 20, 1831, 1; Williams, Ezekiel, single, January, 1829, 1; Williams, Malkijah, single, August 1, 1830, 1; Williams, Samuel, single, November 9, 1830, 1; Woods, James T., married, February 20, 1831, 8; Zumwalt, Abraham, married, June, 1830, 3; Zumwalt, Adam, Jr., married, May 22, 1830, 9; Zumwalt, Adam, married, May 20, 1829, 9.

Those who obtained land directly from the Mexican Government and the dates of concession were: Baume, Joseph De La, November 4, 1828; Cantu, Jesus, March 8, 1830; Chirino, Marjila, May 30, 1828; Clements, Joseph D., February 9, 1831; Esnaurizar, Antonio M., July 23, 1830 (he purchased his land); Fullshear, Benn and Fulshear, Graves, February 11, 1831; Gortari, Eligio, May 27, 1828; Kerr, Santiago, February 15, 1831; Lockhart, Byrd, February 9, 1831; Mansolo, Anastacio, April 12, 1831; Pettus, Edward, February 15, 1831; Pettus, Wm., February 9, 1831; Salinas, Jose Maria, July 4, 1827; Seely, Sarah, February 15, 1831; Valdez, Jose Antonio, no date of concession but received title October 25, 1833.

EARLY SETTLEMENT (CONTINUED)

T7

Gonzales was rebuilt a little later, and gradually became the most important point in the colony. For many years the colonists in the outlying portions of the grant were harassed by the Towakana Indians from the interior, and by the Karankawas, who seldom bothered the main settlement.

Neither the Old Station nor Gonzales was in the limits of what is now DeWitt County,nor was a settlement established within those limits. E.Z. Rather's *DeWitt's Colony,* lists 199 grants were taken by 179 persons under Green DeWitt's empresario entitlement or directly from the government of Mexico. The dates of arrival for these first settlers vary from March 5, 1825 to December 15, 1831. Titles granted for both DeWitt colonists and the direct grantees range from April 15, 1831 to July 10, 1835. Of these 179, 39 grantees took up titles in what is now DeWitt County. Only four of these tracts did not include Guadalupe River frontage and all were laid out in regard to water availability whether river or creek. These thirty nine grantees were as follows.

K.W. Barton, July 11, 1821; Si Bateman, Apr. 23, 1821; Valentine Bennet, Nov. 8, 1831; Arthur Burns, July 9, 1831; Squire Burns, July 10, 1831; R.H. Chisholm, Sept. 7, 1831; Joseph Clements, Feb. 9, 1831; Daniel Davis, May 1, 1831; George W. Davis, Sept. 6, 1831; William Derduff, Nov. 5, 1831; Green DeWitt (premium land) Nov. 18, 1831; Patrick Dowlearn, July 25, 1831; John Fennel, Sept. 15, 1832; Benn. Fullshear, April 24, 1831; Churchill Fullshear, April 24, 1831; Graves Fulshear, April 24, 1831; James Hughes, June 6, 1831; Joseph Kent, June 10, 1832; Andrew Lockhart, Sept. 14, 1831; Byrd Lockhart, May 24, 1831; Charles Lockhart, May 10, 1831; George W. Lockhart, Sept. 10, 1831; John B. Lockhart, Dec. 2, 1831; Sam'l Lockhart, July 9, 1831; John McCoy, May 5, 1831; Samuel McCoy, July 9, 1831; John McCrabb, July 13, 1831; Samuel P. Middleton, Sept. 12, 1831; Thomas R. Miller, Sept. 20, 1831; Davis G. Mills, June 15, 1832; Robert Mills, Sept. 13, 1831; Elihu Moss, Nov. 24, 1831; Hephzibeth Taylor, July 26, 1831; Peter Teal, May 29, 1831; J.J. Tumlinson, June 15, 1831; Joseph Tumlinson, Aug. 8, 1831; Tobias Wentworth, May 18, 1832. Also included were Jose Antonio Valdez and William Cobbey.

One of DeWitt's colonists, Arthur Burns, with his wife and five children settled in 1826 on his headright grant of 4605 acres on Irish Creek near the Guadalupe River south of present day Cuero in DeWitt County. That same year he built a house which was probably the only dwelling between the settlements of Gonzales and Victoria, more than 50 miles apart. Their son, Columbus Burns, was born in Gonzales in 1829, where his mother could be cared for by a physician. Columbus Burns has always been said to be the Anglo child born in DeWitt's Colony.

Although 166 land titles had been issued to settlers introduced by DeWitt, his contract expired April 15, 1831, and his petition for extra time was refused. At this point he had received premium lands for only 100 families. Saddened and completely disillusioned by the failure of his colony and his own financial reverses, he went to Monclova, Mexico, hoping to secure the lands due him for his other 66 families. Without having accomplished anything in this regard, DeWitt died in Mexico on May 18, 1835. Much of his unoccupied land reverted to the Mexican government and was later granted to other empresarios.

In 1832, the year after the expiration date of DeWitt's contract, the colony was organized as a municipality and given control of its own governmental affairs, which until this time had been controlled by authorities at San Felipe de Austin. Ezekiel Williams was appointed first alcalde. During the period of the municipality at least two men from DeWitt County proper served in official positions. In 1833 Charles Lockhart was elected second "regidor" and in 1835 Joseph Clements served in the same office.

DeWitt's Colony is generally considered after Austin's to have been the most successful of the Anglo American colonies in Texas. Local government in DeWitt's Colony was similar to other settlements in Texas though DeWitt's personal influence seems to have been weaker than Austin's.

An August 8, 1830 letter in which Catherine Barton Lockhart writes to her mother in Ohio, referring to conditions in what is now DeWitt County, describes the climate as being extremely pleasant with warm sun in the months of June, July, and August and a constant pleasant breeze flowing. She also reported that corn, sugar cane and cotton do well with little labor. Her greatest regret seemingly was being separated from most of her family, except for a brother, Kimber Barton, and the prohibition of the Protestant Religion. In her letter she tells about William Lockhart being appointed surveyor and "he and 'Brother' Kimber Marton have been constantly employed because immigration was so great". The surveyor received four dollars for measuring a square league "which in good running takes one day to a day and a half". She happily reported that they had a teacher to teach the children. Judging from the location of the surveys, Catherine and her family were near the area of Concrete and her brother's family south on the Guadalupe in the Hell's Gate river area.

TEXAS REVOLUTION

T8

When the first signs of open rebellion began to show themselves in Texas, the DeWitt colonists were quick to declare their loyalty to the Mexican nation. On January 27, 1827, in a meeting held at "Old Station", they drew up resolutions condemning the actions of the Edwards brothers and the movement known as the Fredonian Rebellion. But in 1832 a delegate was sent to the convention at San Felipe de Austin in October which was called to consider grievances of the colonists against Mexico. By April 1833 a second convention of the people of Texas assembled in San Felipe de Austin. George Washington Davis was a delegate to this convention which drafted a "Constitution for the proposed State of Texas to be forwarded to the Mexican Congress for approval". Sam Houston served as committee chairman of the convention to establish Texas into a Mexican state independent of Coahuila. The political relationship between the colonists and the Mexican authorities continued to deteriorate and by 1835 the colonists felt some action was necessary.

In 1831 the Mexican Government had given

Arthur Burns Home

La Bahia Road

DeWitt's Colony a valuable four pounder cannon which was kept at Gonzales. Late in September 1835 a Mexican force of one hundred fifty men, was sent from San Antonio to Gonzales to seize the cannon and remove it from the Texians because of the continuing discontentment among the settlers. A small group of men in Gonzales held up the Mexican force at the Guadalupe River until reinforcements arrived from other settlements. The following 18 men were the patriots who defended the cannon: Albert Martin (Captain), Mr. Darst, Winslow Turner, W.W. Arrington, Graves Fulcher, Geo. W. Davis, John Lowell, James Hinds, Thos. Miller, Valentine Bennet, Ezekiel Williams, Simeon Bateman, J.D. Clements, Almeron Dickinson, Benj. Fuqua, Thos. Jackson, Chas. Mason and Almon Cottle. On the second of October 1835 the Texians, having crossed the Guadalupe River the previous night, attacked the Mexican force and drove it back to San Antonio. This was the first armed clash between the Texians and the Mexicans and the beginning of the War for Texas Independence and is often referred to as the "Lexington of the Texas Revolution".

Captain John York, later to found the town of Yorktown, was in command of a company of Scouts who saw service in the storming and capture of Bexar December 5-10, 1835. He and his men volunteered to follow the intrepid Ben Milam in storming the well fortified place, defended by General Cos and about 1500 Mexicans. James Madison Bell, corporal under Captain York, was beside Ben Milam when he fell December 7 or 8. Milam had sent Bell under fire with a message and Bell had returned with an answer when Milam was instantly killed by a rifle ball. The battle ended December 10th with the surrender of Cos to the citizens army of Texians. Valentine Bennet, "one of the old eighteen at Gonzales", later to serve Texas in many ways, also served at Bexar as did David Murphree and Creed Taylor.

Siege of Bexar

Muster Roll, Capt. York's Company volunteers while in the Army before Bexar 1885.

1835

John York — Captain; John P. Gill — 1st. Lieut.; John F. Pettus; Edward Peters; Euclid M. Cox; J.A. York; D.M. Jones

Privates

Ephraim Anderson; James B. Alexander; Moses Allison; John Balsh; William Barnett; James Madison Bell; Wm. S. Brown; Michael Coda; Peter Conrad; Thomas Clifton; Robert Cunningham; Andrew Devault; Alex Dunlavy; Wm. Edwards; Davis Gregg; William G. Hill; F. Haligan; A.H. Jans; William Bell; Horace Alsbury; R.C. Wallace; Squire Burns; John S. Black; John William Burton; Byrd Lockhart, Sr.; John R. Taylor; Pleasant Bell; Alfred Dunlavy; Samuel Ralph; Samuel Srafer; William Drake; Dr. Polard; Dr. Moore; Albrecht von Roeder; Louis von Roeder; Charles Amsley; Dempsey Pace; Henry Karnel; Thomas King; G.B. Logan; Byrd Lockhart, Jr.; Washington Lockhart; James Lewis; Wm. McDowell; Albert Pratt; E.P. Pullam; John Pickering; John Pamie; C.K. Reese; Wm. P. Reese; V.W. Swearingan; Wm. Thornton; James Tumlinson; Littleton Tumlinson; Robert White; — Walsh Thomas —

The Texans met several times and attempted to organize a government. Santa Anna and his large army was in Texas to force the colonists either to submit to his dictatorship or flee beyond the Sabine River.

The Convention met at Washington-on-the Brazos. A cold norther swept down as the meetings opened. On the second day of the session, March 2, 1836 the Declaration of Independence was adopted by a unanimous vote. Having declared themselves free of Mexico, these Texans began to write the Constitution for the Republic of Texas. It came not a minute too soon as the siege of the Alamo had begun in late February, 1836. A messenger from the Alamo reached the little town of Gonzales February 24. Though no one planned to leave the Alamo, a small band of men from DeWitt's colony left Gonzales to join their comrades at the Alamo. Through the dim light of the early morning of the first of March thirty-two men from Gonzales, surged into the Alamo. After the tragic fall of the Alamo March 6, 1836 these thirty-two volunteers from the DeWitt Colony who died at the Alamo were memorialized as the "Immortal Thirty-Two." Their names and ages are: Issac Baker 32; John Cane (Cain) 34; George Cottle 38; David Cummings 27; Squire Damon (Daymon) 28; Jacob Darst 48; John Davis 25; William Dearduff; Charles Despallier, 24; William Fitzbaugh (Fishbaugh); John Flanders 36; Dolphin Ward Floyd 29; Galba Fuqua 16; John E. Garvin 27; John E. Gaston 17; James George 34; Thomas Jackson; Johnny Kellogg 19; Andrew Kent 38; George C. Kimball (Kimble) 26; John G. King; William P. King 24; Jonathan L. Lindley 31; Captain Albert Martin 30; Jessie McCoy; Thomas Miller 41; Isaac Milsap; George Neggan 28; William E. Summers 24; George W. Tumlinson 27; Robert White, 30; and Claiborne Wright 26.

James L. Allen, was also a defender at the Alamo until March 5, 1836, when William B. Travis dispatched him as a courier with a final appeal to Fannin at Goliad for aid. By this time the most experienced scouts were all gone from the Alamo. However, 16 year old Jim Allen, in his words, "a marvelous rider, and with a first rate mare", was sent through the gates.

John W. Smith gets all the glory and deserves much of it, for he carried Travis' last dispatch to the Convention on the night of March 3. According to Lord's *A Time to Stand* and other local stories another messenger left later with a final appeal to Fannin. Jim Allen reached Goliad on March 8 and his arrival is noted in two different letters dated March 9, 1836. Allen evidently left the Alamo considerably after Smith for the report he carried is much more gloomy. This last courier, 16 year old James L. Allen, rode from the Alamo after nightfall March 5, through the Mexican lines. Allen later served as a scout with Deaf Smith and in the Texas Rangers. According to *The Texas Handbook*, Allen served as mayor of Indianola later joining the Confederate Army. He was captured and imprisoned during the Civil War at Pass Cavallo. Allen owned a stage line which ran from Indianola through DeWitt County. He and his family moved to DeWitt County in 1867 and lived between Hochheim and Concrete, near the head waters of the Cuero Creek, until his death in 1901. He is buried in the Allen family cemetery near Hoch-

ıeim.

Other DeWitt County men who gave their ives at the Alamo were William Dearduff, Thomas R. Miller, and Jesse McCoy, for whom McCoy Creek was named.

News of the disaster spread panic through :he settlements. Settlers gathered their famiies to move out of the way of the Mexican army. This is often referred to as "The Runaway Scrape". Arthur Burns was asked by General Houston to organize and assist in the movement of the Texian families to safety from :he local area.

Although present day DeWitt County was centrally located with regard to the historic battlefields of the Revolution (south of Gonzales, north of Goliad, east of San Antonio, and west of San Jacinto) it was the scene of no important battle. It was, however, the highway traveled by many of the most important people of the period. Sam Houston crossed the Guadalupe on his way from Refugio to San Felipe and spent the night in the home of Arthur Burns. Santa Anna passed through the northern tip of the county enroute to San Jacinto. People of the area were part of the hardships and struggle for independence of their beloved Texas.

The Washington-on-the-Brazos Convention, after declaring Texas independent of Mexico March 2, continued with its business of establishing a legitimate government. Sam Houston left the convention and hurried back to Gonzales where he heard of the fall of the Alamo. He organized the ragged Texas army to meet the Mexican army. A short time before his death, Valentine Bennet, who had participated at Valesco, Gonzales, Concepcion Bexar, San Jacinto, and had been a Santa Fe prisoner, served as a commissioned officer 1835 to 1843 in the Texas Army, was asked by a group of officials who were arguing about what was the official uniform of the Texas Revolution. The question was asked, "Major Bennet, you have probably seen more different commands of the Texas army and have known them under more different circumstances than any other man in Texas. What was the official uniform of the soldiers of the Texas Revolution?" Bennet's reply was, "Rags, sir, just rags; nine out of every ten soldiers who fought in the Texas Revolution wore this same uniform, and sire, it was a fighting uniform."

Fannin's group at Goliad was massacred on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836. Thomas York, of DeWitt County, died at Goliad. O.H. Perry Davis of Fannin's command was among the few who survived. This came three weeks after the fall of the Alamo. Nothing more was needed to arouse the Texans. "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" was to be the battle cry at San Jacinto.

The spring of 1836 was extremely wet, and the normally balmy days were punctuated by repeated northers. Hardly a day passed without cold rain that pelted the people mercilessly. Houston's ragtag bunch of poorly armed, untrained men, many concerned about their families who traveled with them, were mainly bound together by desperation over their common plight — fear of the Mexicans and Houston's iron will and personal magnetism.

On April 12, 1846 the Battle of San Jacinto ended in a victory for Sam Houston's army. Among the recorded heroes of San Jacinto from the DeWitt area were: David Murphree, John F. Pettus, Thomas H. and James Madison Bell, Joseph Kent, Berry Doolittle, Allen Caruthers, Robert J. Kleberg, John McCrabb, James J. Tumlinson, Louis von Roeder, Albert von Roeder, Daniel Boone Friar, John York, Joseph Tumlinson, Valentine Bennet, George Washington and Daniel Davis.

Dr. Robert Peebles of DeWitt County is credited with saving the Land Office papers of Stephen F. Austin's several colonies.

The ten years of Texas Independence were fraught with constant Indian attacks and fear of Mexican invasion. John Henry Brown wrote of a frightening event that occurred on the west side of the Guadalupe River across from present day Cuero. In October 1838 Matilda, thirteen year old daughter of Andrew Lockhart, and three small children belonging to the Mitchell Putman family, left the home to pick pecans in the river bottoms. Hours went by and the children failed to return. The parents feared that the children had been taken by Indians. Brown continues that the family needed nightly protection and so the men could not pursue the Indians. For several years Mr. Lockhart accompanied other Texans searching Indian villages for missing children. During the spring of 1840 the Putman boy was found and returned to his family. The older Putman girl was not heard from for 27 years after her captivity. She had been recovered by an Indian agent in the western part of the state and had been educated with his family. Years later, visiting in Gonzales County during the Civil War, she was identified as one of the missing Putman children. The third Putman child was returned to her family when she was about five years of age. The return of Matilda Lockhart to San Antonio was the beginning of the largest and longest Indian battle in Texas. The Indians brought only two captives into San Antonio, a Mexican boy and 16 year old Matilda Lockhart. She had been terribly abused. Her head and arms were full of bruises and sores. Her nose was actually burned off to the bone, an eyewitness reported. Matilda said that the Indians would beat her and wake her from sleep by sticking a chunk of fire on her, especially to her nose. She also said that there were 12 more captives in the camp. When the Comanches were told to return them, a battle began. When it was over about 40 Indians were killed along with seven Texans. This was the beginning of the Indian Wars that continued to plague the area. The Comanches made their last big raid in South Texas crossing DeWitt County in 1840 to threaten Victoria and burn Linnville. The wars finally ending at the Battle of Plum Creek.

Since the early 1830's, when DeWitt's settlers became the first inhabitants of present DeWitt County, many other families had entered the region and established themselves. Some of them came in before Texas gained her independence, but most of them came after the termination of the Revolution. In 1840 James Norman Smith, a pioneer schoolmaster from Tennessee, brought his family to Texas, intending to open a school somewhere in the new Republic. His first offer came from two families at Tide Haven, on the gulf coast; but he decided to come inland to Cuero Creek, where a Mr. Blair promised to secure for him at least 30 pupils. As soon as Smith and his family arrived in the Cuero Creek settlement (Concrete area of the County), the neighbors gathered and helped him build his schoolhouse, the first to be built in that area. The day school was a success, and he soon decided to teach a Sunday school also. Regular prayer meetings followed the organization of the Sunday School, and within a few months the Methodists and Presbyterians organized themselves into congregations and were visited by circuit riders such as DeVilbiss, Sneed and Blair. Within a year the little schoolhouse, a small log building in a grove of trees on the bank of McCoy Creek, became the center of social activities for the entire community. Day school, prayer meetings, parties, singing fests, and original plays brought the settlers together; and by 1841 they were becoming anxious to secure the organization of a new county with their settlement as its center. In 1842 an area to be called DeWitt County was set apart by legislative enactment, for judicial purposes. In the same year, however, judicial counties were declared unconstitutional; and the McCoy (Cuero) Creek settlement remained part of Gonzales County. No further attempt was made to create DeWitt County until shortly after Texas became a part of the United States.

Invasion by Mexican troops in 1842 under Gen. Vasquez was feared by the people in DeWitt County Area to be the advance guard of a large Mexican force. Families began their preparation to flee from the invading army reminiscent of the earlier 'Runaway Scrape.' Hiding and burying treasured possessions, the people prepared once again to leave their homes, crops and livestock.

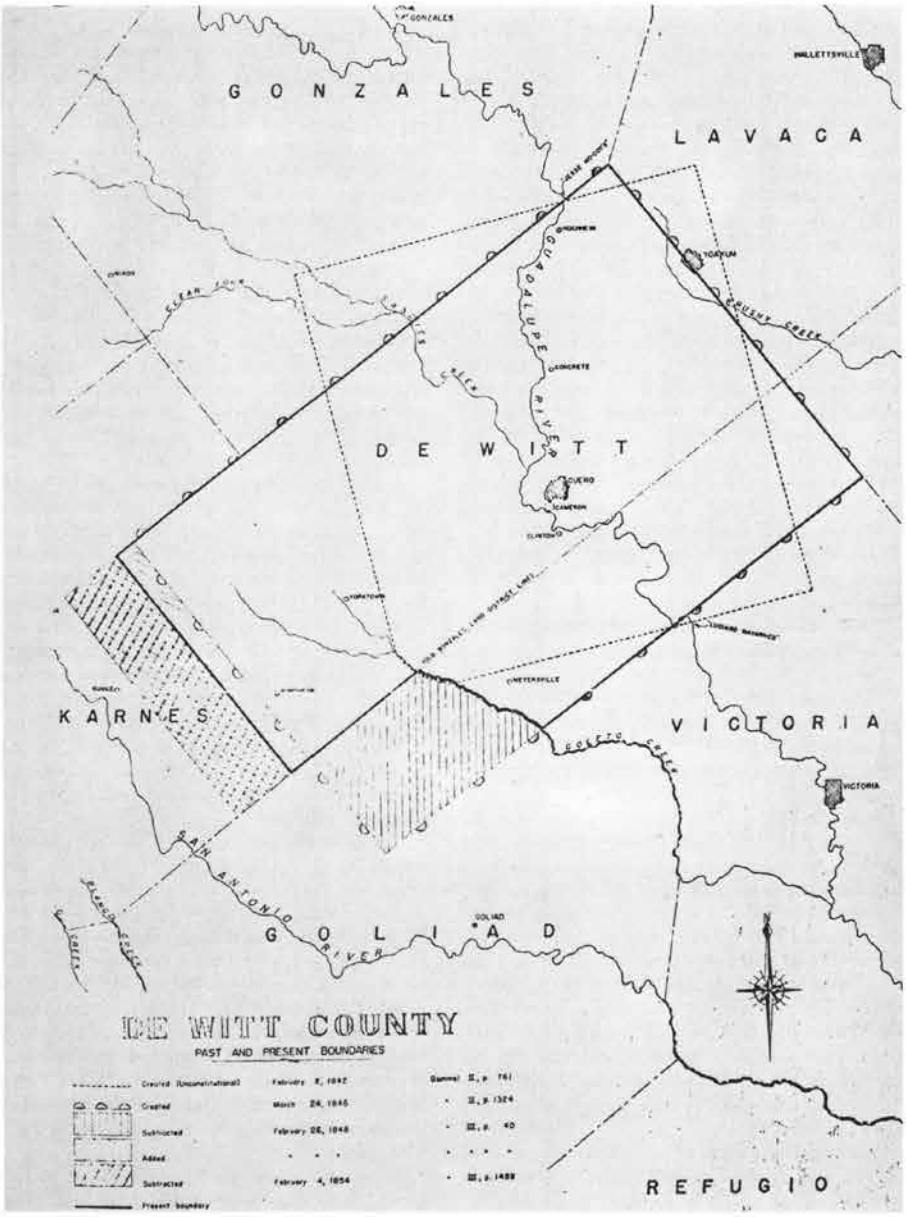
In his diary, Miles S. Bennet recorded a trip to Houston to meet his father, Major Valentine Bennet and his comrades, Capt. M. Caldwell and Curtis Caldwell who had just returned from imprisonment in Perote Prison for their participation in the ill fated Sante Fe Expedition.

Daniel B. Friar, James J. Tumlinson, Josiah Taylor, Creed Taylor, Miles S. and Valentine Bennet participated in the defeat of General Woll and 120 Mexicans at the Battle of Salado and some also engaged in the aborted Somerville Expedition. George Lord and Alfred A. Allee continued with the Meir Expedition. They were captured at Meir by the Mexican Army only to later escape and be recaptured. They drew white beans in the macabre lottery ordered to punish their escape attempt. Their "good" fortune resulted in imprisonment in Perote Prison in Mexico City rather than the death by execution suffered by seventeen of their compatriots. They survived prison and returned to DeWitt County.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

T9

Directly after Texas became a state in 1846, a bill was introduced into the legislature creating forty new counties, and DeWitt County was among the number. This law stated: "That all portions of the counties of Gonzales, Victoria, and Goliad comprised within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the corner of a quarter of a league of land granted to Jesse McCoy, on the north northeast of the Guadalupe river; then in a direction on N 75 E. to Lavaca County line; thence with said line of Lavaca County, down, continuing the same direction until a line S. 75 West will cross Guadalupe River at the lower corner of a league of land, deeded to Lucian Navarra near Prices Creek; then continuing the same course to Colito Creek; then up said creek to the fork of the main branch; thence N. 75 E will inter-



DeWitt County Boundaries

sect the Guadalupe River opposite beginning corner here and the same is hereby constituted a separate district for judicial purposes with the like privileges enjoyed by inhabitants of the several counties of this republic, except that of separate representation in Congress which shall be regulated as heretofore;

Section 2. Be it further enacted that the above described district or territory shall be known by the name of the county of DeWitt and Daniel B. Friar, Ralph Campbell, Joseph Lawrence, James Wood, Ben Craig, James Smith, or a majority of them are hereby appointed commissioners to select a site for the seat of justice in said county and shall be authorized to receive by donation or purchase not exceeding 640 acres of land, to be laid out in lots and sold in such a manner as may be most beneficial to the county, the proceeds of which shall be applied to the erection of public buildings.

Section 4. That the seat of justice to be chosen shall be known and styled as the town of Cuero, and that the county courts shall be held therein for said county on the second Monday in January, April, July, and October, and said county shall constitute a part of the fourth judicial district."

On March 24, 1846, the county of DeWitt was legally created, and named for Green B. DeWitt. Less than three months after the passage of the act of creation, the question of location the county seat became an important matter of dispute. At least three landowners wished to have the courty seat located on their land. Captain Daniel Boone Friar, whose home was designated temporary county seat, hired a surveyor to see if his land was within 5 miles of the center of the county. But his hopes were doomed. The corner of his land nearest the geographical center of the county was at least 7 miles from that point. R.H. Chisholm, owner of the most important ferry in the new county, naturally wanted to have the county seat near his ferry. Four men persuaded him to donate 600 acres to them, in return for which they promised to secure the location of the county seat near the ferry. They were to lay out the town of Clinton on the donated land. However, when the appointed committee came along the river inspecting proposed sites, the four men refused to donate or sell a courthouse site to the county; and Chisholm, believing the promises already made him, also refused to donate. The committee then crossed the river and continued upstream to a point 3 miles above Chisholm's ferry, and chose a site. The landowner at this point, probably a Mr. Blair, granted a 50 acre tract to the county for a courthouse site. This decision of the committee precipitated a contest for the location of the county seat which continued with little rest until late in 1850, and caused the records to be moved back and forth across the river at least four times.

The county was organized and its first corps of officers elected on July 13, 1846. At the first meeting of the commissioners court early in August, held in the home of D.B. Friar, the following officers were present: James M. Baker, probate judge; John Troy, county judge; James N. Smith, county clerk; Joseph L. Baker, district clerk; and V.V. Poinsett, John York, and Crockett Cardwell, commissioners. A few days later, on August 11, K.W. Barton was installed as the fourth commissioner, and William P. Patterson as sheriff. V.W. Poinset and R.H. Chisholm were Magistrates for District #1. John Tumlinson was the first County Treasurer.

The commissioners declared that the home of D.B. Friar should continue to be the county seat until proper buildings could be constructed as the official county seat. This "official county seat" the commissioners noticed as follows: "The Court after due deliberation, believing it to be their duty to give a name to the county seat, and after reflecting upon the great services rendered to this state while it existed as "the Republic of Texas" by the much beloved and lamented, Ewing Cameron who was basely and inhumanely murdered by the barbarous and treacherous Mexican and the Court believing that a more noble patriotic and brave spirit never commanded a band of soldiers. They therefore wishing to perpetuate his memory to future ages, do hereby agree eto call the County seat of DeWitt County by the name of Cameron."

The first County seat, Cameron, was on the east side of the Guadalupe River J Tumlinson survey about four miles northwest of present day Cuero. There was probably never very much there. All of the official records were kept at one house.

The summer of 1846 found James Norman Smith, the county's first teacher and county clerk, acting as a surveyor. He laid out the townsites of Concrete and Clinton.

In March, 1847, the DeWitt County Commissioners' Court arranged for the construction of a Court House, as follows: "The Court appointed William A. Blair an agent to receive proposals for the building of a court house at the town of Cameron and to make a contract with the lowest competent bidder to build the same of the following size: a log house sixteen feet by eighteen feet, the logs to be hewed down after the house is raised — to be eight feet high in the body, to be covered with three feet of clapboards, cabin fashion with one door and shutter — to be done in a good substantial manner — the House to be raised on block one foot high; and ordered that the Clerk furnish him a copy of the same."

During the occupation period of settlement, this section of the country was called the Cuero Settlement by the pioneers. The town of Cuero, however, was not founded until 1873, one hundred and twenty years after the time the name first appeared on the map of Texas, and

fifty years after the date of DeWitt's grant. The earliest reference to the word Cuero is in a *Diary of A Visit of Inspection of the Texas Missions Made by Fray Gaspar Jose De Solis in the Year 1767-68.* "On the 17th I passed by two creeks of good water, very leafy and pleasant banks, plenty fish. We arrived at Cuero, which is a bend or corner down the river, and we stopped on the bank of the Guadalupe River."

DeLeon had named the river Guadalupe in 1689 for the Patron Saint. Later Spaniards continued with the designated name Guadalupe, but left all its tributaries unnamed, with the single exception of one small stream only twelve or fifteen miles long, which they marked "Cuero." Because the other tributaries were unnamed on the map, the colonists gave then Anglo-Saxon names.

The Court met regularly at Cameron until July, 1850, which was probably the last time the County Commissioners met at that place, for the next meeting that is known was in the town of Clinton, in August of the same year. Court was held there for several years; and then a frame building containing offices for the various officials of the county was erected.

A description of the Court House may be found in the *Diary of James Norman Smith,* who was commonly known as Uncle Jimmy Smith. The following excerpt is from his memoirs; "Clinton Began to Improve Some — the County sold off her Lots (at least many of them) And we had a nice Large Framed Court House Built altogether with Pine Lumber — The Court-Room was up Stairs — This was the whole Length and Breadth of the House — Except the Lawyers and Judges Seat and Juries boxes were Enclosed to themselves — with a Door on Each Side of the House to Enter Into the Lawyers and Clerks — The Balance of the upper Story was Large and Spacious for citizens to attend and hear the Trial Cases & what served us For Preaching on Sabbath days and Nights which was a Great convience (sic) to us."

The clerk's office was furnished with hide-bottomed chairs; and a strong, rude, old-fashioned desk was presided over by James N. Smith. He held the office of clerk without opposition from 1846 to 1865, when he was forced to resign on account of feeble health. His son, Tom, who was appointed to finish the unexpired term, was later elected for another term.

The second building that was erected for a Court House in Clinton was moved to Cuero in about 1877. This new structure was destroyed by fire and for two years Court was held in the old Nash School House. About 1895 the present Court House was constructed at a cost of $107,000.

Miss Nell Murphree, a great granddaughter of James N. Smith, gave the following facts concerning County Seats and Court Houses in DeWitt County:

"The Texas Legislature created DeWitt County and appointed commissioners Friar, Troy, Blair, and Baker to select a county seat not over five miles from the county's center. Where the Victoria-Gonzales road crossed the road to LaGrange, Commissioner Friar had a combination store, home, and post office. He wanted the country seat located there, but a survey showed that it was seven miles from the county's center. West of the river Captain Chisholm had deeded 640 acres of land to Patterson, Stapp, Donalds, and Miller with the understanding that they would try to get the county seat located on it. But they refused to give any land to the county. Joseph Tumlinson donated 100 acres east of the river. June 23, 1846, the commissioners reported this gift to the court which instructed James Smith to lay it off in blocks and lots. So November 10, 1846, Cameron, names for the Ewing Cameron, became DeWitt County's first county seat.

August 12, 1846 the court decided to use the Friar store as a meeting place until a court house was built. The county seat met there each month; but when the district judge came to hold his court; he refused to hold it outside the county seat and gave orders for the district suits to be re-issued for trial at the next session of his court to be held in Cameron. The court's next meeting in January, 1847, was the last one at Friar's store. Quite heated arguments came up over holding court there. Finally, Judge Troy said, "Adjourn court to meet in hell, for I'll send Sheriff Patterson there by morning." Clerk Smith replied, "Appoint another clerk, for I can't meet at the designated place." The Judge adjourned court to meet in Cameron at the county Clerk's office, a house built of pecan clapboards.

At the February meeting the court appointed William Blair to have built a log house sixteen feet wide by eighteen feet long. April 12, 1847, court met in the Cameron court house and Blair was told to have benches and a table made. At the July session he was instructed to have the cracks in the court house lined with boards.

November 12, 1848, by a majority of four votes Clinton was voted the county seat. Because some votes were not numbered the election was contested. Finally May, 1849, the Supreme Court decided against Clinton, so the county seat was moved back to Cameron. In 1850 the people again voted Clinton the County seat. The county was given a public square and thirty nine other lots. For several years a log court house was used. Then a two-story, frame, glass-windowed building served as a court house, church, and entertainment hall until the county seat was changed to Cuero.

In 1876 the people's vote made Cuero the county seat. Clinton's court house lumber was used in building Cuero's larger court house. This burned in 1893. Court was held in the Nash school house until 1895. Then the county began using its $107,000 granite court house." This court house is still in use and is an imposing structure from the exterior and well kept inside having been completely redone in 1957.

Prior to the year 1846, there were no towns in what is now DeWitt County. Settlers in this section were compelled to go to Victoria or Gonzales to market their produce, purchase supplies, and post letters. This situation existed for six or seven years. Then, in 1838, Daniel B. Friar erected a store about four miles north of Cuero, where the road from LaGrange to Goliad was first known — before DeWitt's colony came — as the road from Burnham's store (LaGrange) to La Bahia (Goliad). The road was crossed by another leading from Gonzales to Victoria later, and at this crossing Friar erected his store. Some five or six years later Friar sold his store to Crockett Cardwell, and it was then known as Cardwell's Store, with Leroy Fudge as manager. In 1847 Mr. Cardwell postmarked letters from his store as Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas, although this was twenty six years before the town of Cuero was officially founded.

About the same time that Friar erected his store, R.H. Chisholm installed a ferry boat where the La Bahia Road crossed the Guadalupe River. Afterwards, when Clinton was the County Seat, there was considerable travel over Chisholm's Crossing by prospectors, adventurers, and fugitives from justice on their way to Mexico or the unsettled Southwest. In addition to his ferry, Chisholm put up a small grocery store made of logs; and from this hut he sold coffee, sugar, tobacco, and whiskey. Clinton, from its very birth, was a whiskey-drinking town, notwithstanding the fact that many cultured and Christian people lived there.

Concrete was the first town founded in the county; the date of its settlement was 1846-1847. Perhaps the name was chosen because of the sandstone found in the area which was hewed from the earth in a soft stage and hardened when exposed to the air. The stone was used in constructing chimneys and building foundations. No doubt DeWitt County's earliest business enterprises were in the Upper Cuero Creek Concrete area Settlement. In the 1840's there was a post office located in the William A. Blair home. Nearby the Grimes brothers from Liverpool, England, had a dry goods store; and Dr. Duck, an excellent physician from London, practiced medicine, and sold medicine from his own small drug store to the neighbors. (Dr. Duck moved to Corpus Christi in 1846.) On the border between the Upper and Lower Settlements the D.B. Friar combination home, store and post office was established in the early forties.

Clinton was founded in 1847-1848 and established as the County Seat in 1849. By 1850 Clinton's hotel was a one-room log house, where, during Court, the Judge and lawyers found entertainment. The cooking was done out-of-doors, and the table was spread in the open air. Later Oliver Stapp built a frame hotel. The main feature of the opening supper was oysters, which had been brought up from the coast in the shells — the first fresh oysters ever served in the county. Before 1850 Clinton had an old horse mill. The county's only water-power mill was the gristmill belonging to Uncle Moses Rankin.

In regard to the growth of Clinton at this time, J.N. Smith recorded the following: "There was a Few Settlers in Clinton before It was Established as a County Seat. It was a Small place and Much Dissipation In Drinking Gambling &c. — No Preaching near us — The Different Elections for a County Seat Caused Much opposition (sic) to Clinton for a Long Time. Public Stages for Passengers Run From the Bay up to Austin and Elsewhere on the North Side of the Guadalupe about Six Miles of Clinton and also Stages Run From the Bay to San Antonio about ten miles South of us — Thus Clinton was Left Alone without Much Public Conveyance of any Kind —

I Sold My Two Hundred Acres of Land on the River Where I Lived when I went to Cameron. And with the Proceeds of the Sale of This Land I purchased 3200 acres of Land on Cuero Creek and Its water about one Third Timber Land and the other Prairie almost as Rich as the River Land — I gave Mr. Murphree one Thousand acres of Land. Several Families Settled in Clinton and In a Short time Several Young Lawyers —"

The names of some of the doctors who resided in Clinton at this time are: Dr. Leak, Dr. A.J. Hodge, Dr. C. Blackwell, and Dr. Goodwin. Dr. Williams, who had lived at LaGrange, moved to Clinton and built near Smith's house. The first glass window panes brought to Clin-

ton were seen in the windows of Dr. Williams' home. Later young Dr. Robinson from Tennessee built a concrete house on a lot adjoining Smith's land. He was Smith's family physician for many years.

An epidemic of influenza in the Clinton neighborhood in February, 1851, caused thirteen deaths. Little Mary Murphree was a victim, and tradition has it that she was the first person to be buried in the Clinton Cemetery.

A majority of early DeWitt County pioneers were American, immigrating from the southern states, certainly there are instances of northern settlers also. It is interesting to note that many of the families were acquainted or related to people in the states through which they traveled on their way to Texas. The emigration to DeWitt County was part of the Westward Movement.

The bargain the young Texas Republic offered settlers was unbeatable: A huge grant of free land for all newcomers. At first, each family was given 1,280 acres (2 square miles) of land, each unmarried man received 640 acres. Over the years it was reduced and after 1844, new settlers — regardless of martial status — received 320 acres so by 1850 four year old DeWitt County had a population of over 1,716 people. Early census records indicate these people were merchants, farmers, blacksmiths, millers and other much needed craftsmen plus doctors and lawyers. Also, as in any time, there was an influx of lawless adventurers. This vocation is not listed on census rolls.

Most of these land hungry emigrants from the United States loaded their worldly goods on a wagon and trundled west over so-called roads that were quagmires in the spring, filled later with dust. Only a few American immigrants came by boat. But large numbers of Germans landed at New Orleans, Galveston and later, Indianola. They were seeking greater personal freedom and better business opportunities than their homeland afforded them. The German pioneers, noted for the energy with which they attacked the problems of the frontier, were faced with an unusual hardship peculiarly their own. They had to learn to use an axe. In the old country, their homes had been stone huts with thatched roofs; and their fuel, peat or coal. At Meyersville they had to cut down large trees for logs to build their homes. Smaller trees and branches of the larger ones had to be cut into proper lengths for their fireplaces. But they mastered the new technique, built their homes, and provided themselves with firewood; and in 1850, they undertook the larger and more important project of building a church for their community. When they began to plant their crops and work in their fields, however, the German immigrants needed no tutor; they taught their neighbors new methods. One of the men, a Mr. Dreier, had brought with him a plowshare, which he had attached to a rude wooden frame. When he proposed to use this crudely made implement to cut furrows in his land, his neighbors scoffed at him. They had been accustomed to clearing their land with axes and scythes; and their planting had been done by the use of a dibble and point stick. Plows and furrows had no place in their methods of farming. But Dreier's enterprise was successful, and the score with regard to the axe was evened.

Soon after the organization of DeWitt County, German settlers began to filter into the area, and gradually became one of the most important elements of the population of the county. On April 1, 1848, Charles Eckhardt, Theodore Miller, C. DeSchutz, and John L. Mueller bought a tract of land from John York, intending to lay out a new town. Under their agreement, York sold a half interest in his league of land for one dollar in cash; the purchasers agreed to lay out the town at their own expense, and allow York to keep each alternate lot, block, and acre lot. The agreement stipulated that the town was to be named Yorktown. On July 24, 1848, Eckhardt and his associates wrote York that they were sending him a copy of the town plat. Shortly afterwards the first settlers began to arrive. Among the first ones were Andreas Strieber, Peter Metz, C.G. Hartmann, and Mrs. Hoppe. Some time in 1848, a German traveler arrived in DeWitt County and methodically recorded his impressions of the countryside. He was delighted with the stately oaks, the deep black soil, and the rushing streams. He was overjoyed with the beauties of the Guadalupe River area.

Meyersville was the second German settlement to be established in DeWitt County before 1850. Adolph Meyer and Fritz Hausmann may be called the founders of this town, for they arrived in the county and took up lands along Coleto Creek in 1846. Other settlers came over from Germany in 1848, and it was about this time that the settlement began to be called Meyersville. Some of the families landed at Galveston, and came by flatboat to Houston. From there, they had their goods hauled by four-horse wagon to Victoria. Unfortunately the wagon would hold only the boxes and trunks; the immigrants had to walk. As if the walking itself were not hard enough, the teamster forced them to travel the entire distance without hot meals; he would allow no fires to be kindled for fear the smoke would attract the Indians. At Victoria, two of the families dropped out of the party, but the others pushed on to Meyersville. Beyond a doubt, that spot, which meant food and rest and the end of their journey, must have looked like a paradise to those travelers.

Burns Station, which was named for one of the first settlers, Arthur Burns, had two or three stores and a post office as early as 1848. It was later called Verhelle because of the Railroad. Terryville, named for J.D. Terry, afterward a County Judge of DeWitt County, began in the late eighteen-forties. Stratton was named for John Stratton of Cuero. It was originally Crosson's Store, named for G.W. Crosson who operated a business near there during and after the Civil War.

Hochheim began in the late eighteen forties and was first called "Dutchtown," because a majority of the residents were German. The town was named in honor of the Patriarch Hoch, whose rock building — originally used for a home and a stage stand — is still standing. HOCH in English means "high", and HEIM means "home," so Hochheim not only commemorates the pioneer citizen, but is also suggestive of the hills upon which it stands.

The house was built by Valentine Hoch in 1856 and 1857. He was an expert rock mason, having learned this trade in Germany. The rock was quarried nearby; the cement he made himself. The timbers were hand-hewn, and the shingles were hand-split. The house was plastered, both the walls and ceilings, with a nice white finish. For many years the house was used as a stage stand, and it is supposed to have been the oldest house between Gonzales and Old Indianola. It was so well built that it has lasted until today. Some years ago the Old Stage Coach Inn was restored by the Ross Boothe family of Gonzales.

Yoakum, founded at the advent of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway, occupied the site of Bansy Mahon's store of early times. This was about 1850. The town is named for B.F. Yoakum, and it is divided by the DeWitt and Lavaca County line. Westhoff is build on the site of the Whiteso store of reconstruction days. It was also a railroad town and was first called Bello and then changed to Westhoff. This town was established about 1900.

The land of which present day Nordheim stands was surveyed by the Goliad Land District in 1838 and was patented to Robert Galletty in 1841. By 1879 Vachel Weldon had acquired some of that land from the Galletty family and in 1881 the R. Galletty heirs and V. Weldon sold large holdings to H. Runge and Co. of Cuero. There had been numerous early settlers in the area. After the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was completed in 1896, the railroad built a siding near the entrance to the H. Runge and Co. Ranch in 1897 and called it Weldon Switch. William Frosbese of the H. Runge and Co. Ranch changed the name to Nordheim after his hometown of Northeim in Hanover Province, Germany. The U.S. Post Office Department officially recognized the name of Nordheim in 1898.

Thomaston became DeWitt County's first railroad townsite with the extension of the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railroad from Victoria in 1872. It was named for Col. Nathan Thomas from whom land of the Amadore Survey was obtained. Arneckeville was begun about 1859 and was settled by German immigrants. No name was given the settlement until 1872 when a U.S. Post Office was established.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard

DeWITT COUNTY VOLUNTEERS IN THE MEXICAN WAR

T10

A military confrontation between the United States and Mexico was expected in Texas by the Summer of 1845. The dispute over whether the southern boundary of Texas was the Nueces River emptying into Corpus Christi Bay or the Rio Grande terminating thirty miles below Matamoros near Point Isabel was a minor geographic issue compared to the larger continental question of whether Mexico or the United States would dominate the American West from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific.

The Fourth of July was first celebrated by Texans when the Congress of the Republic of Texas voted on that day in 1845 to accept annexation by the United States. The Congress of the United States delayed and did not act until December of that year. In the meantime United States Brigadier General Zachary Taylor, under direct orders from President James Polk and in command of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, left Louisiana in July 1845 and landed near the small predominantly Mexican town of Corpus Christi at the mouth of the Nueces River — the coastal area near the Rio Grande at that time being under the control of

DeWitt County Monument

Mexican General Francisco Mejia. Although Texas remained an independent Republic, the United States by the words of two Presidents had assured Texas that the United States would help protect the Republic from foreign invasion during the time annexation was pending in Washington, as it was during the summer and fall of 1845.

By October 1845, General Taylor's strength had increased to over 3,500 regular army troops. The size of the General's army was substantially larger than any army in Texas before 1835 — almost twice the size of General Santa Anna's Mexican army at San Jacinto ten years earlier. However, General Taylor's army was only one-fourth the size of the Federal Union Army that invaded and occupied Corpus Christi and adjacent south and central Texas coastal cities during the Civil War.

General Taylor's command in Corpus Christi included Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant. Both General Taylor and Lieutenant Grant, after illustrious military careers in the Mexican and Civil Wars respectively, would be elected President of the United States. Captain E. Kirby Smith who was also in General Taylor's command, would become the Confederate General responsible for the defense of Texas and the Trans-Mississippi Theatre late in the Civil War. Some DeWitt County residents who served under General Zachary Taylor would serve the Confederate cause under the field command of his son, General Richard Taylor, during the Red River Campaign.

Talk of war with Mexico and the presence of United States troops on the Texas southern coast during 1845 triggered the organization of two Texas Ranger companies which included volunteers from DeWitt County. The first was organized by Captain P. Hansbrough Bell in Corpus Christi in September, 1845 with Private Alfred L. Friar of DeWitt County among the enlisted ranks. A few weeks later in San Antonio, Captain Richard A. Gillespie organized a second company of Texas Mounted Rangers which included three DeWitt County residents — Privates Josiah, James and Rufus Taylor.

Although United States regular Army troops were in position to move south from Corpus during the Fall of 1845, it was not until early January of the following year, after the U.S. Congress had acted to admit Texas into the Union, that President Polk ordered General Taylor to commence operations to occupy all of the region in south Texas north of the Rio Grande. The orders from Washington reached General Taylor on February 3, three weeks after being dispatched. General Taylor's departure from Corpus south-westward along the Nueces River in March coincided with the enactment of legislation in Austin creating DeWitt County for the second time, the first act passed in early 1842 having been declared unconstitutional.

General Taylor's scouts on the overland march to the Rio Grande were members of another newly organized mounted Texas Ranger Company, this one commanded by Captain Samuel Hamilton Walker. Captain Sam Walker had previously gained a nationwide reputation for his prominent participation as a Captain in the Mier Expedition of 1842, his leadership role with his fellow Scotsman Captain Ewin Cameron in the prisoners' escape leading to the Black Bean drawing in Rancho Salado and his subsequent escape from a Mexican prison near Mexico City. Four Taylor brothers from DeWitt County, Creed, Pitkin, James and Josiah joined or transferred into Walker's Ranger Company, although Josiah was assigned to continue scouting duty for Captain Gillespie.

The contribution made to General Taylor's successful march to the Rio Grande and during the Battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma by the forty men in Walker's Rangers Company has been fully documented and praised in every major treatise on the Mexican War. The Ranger Company performed extensive and valuable scouting services for the General during the initial overland march of 150 miles south of Corpus Christi to establish Fort Polk on Point Isabel and to construct Fort Texas across from Matamoros by late April.

In the morning of May 3, General Taylor left Fort Texas to return 30 miles back to the coast where he had stationed his main body of troops and supplies. This separation of United States forces supplies gave the new and more aggressive Mexican General Arista the opportunity to cross the Rio Grande above and below Fort Texas, encircle and shell the isolated Fort and block General Taylor's only direct route of return. The noise and flares from the shelling of the fort were the only reports General Taylor had of the condition of his garrison at Fort Texas and the location of his enemy.

On the night of May 3, General Taylor directed Captain Walker with four of his men to undertake an urgent mission to slip 30 miles back through enemy lines and heavily occupied enemy territory to obtain first-hand information about the condition of the Fort from its Commander, Major Jacob Brown. By the evening of May 5, Captain Walker and his men had secretly visited Major Brown, surveyed the conditions of the fort and returned through the heavily fortified terrain to report that Fort Texas was not in distress and could continue to resist the Mexican Army until General Taylor's reinforcements could arrive.

The success of this daring two-night mission by Walker and his men caught the attention of the U.S. national press just at the time President Polk needed politically to galvanize the wary American public in support of an unattractive war with Mexico. The American press followed the war with Mexico with reporters, sketch artists and photographers in a detailed manner that signaled the extensive press coverage of military personalities and engagements to be given during the Civil War. The Walker raid also gave General Taylor the assurance and time he needed to gather reinforcements and supplies before advancing to dislodge the Mexican Army entrenched on the United States side of the Rio Grande.

The ensuing attacks by General Taylor during the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma on May 8 and 9 set the tone of the engagements between the two armies for the balance of the year. On the first day at Palo Alto Taylor's artillery carried the day. In the afternoon on the second day, Ranger Walker and his band of thirty men rode ahead of the guns and other troops guiding the artillery batteries through the battle area of dense brush, called Resaca de la Palma. The late afternoon attack on the unsuspecting Mexican army unintentionally copied the deliberate siesta timing of General Sam Houston at San Jacinto and the resulting Mexican army confusion and rout was repeated. The two victories on May 8 and 9 pushed the Mexican Army out of Texas, all the way back to Monterrey.

Shortly after the area around the mouth of the Rio Grande had been occupied by U.S. troops and Texas Rangers and the name of Fort Texas had been changed to Fort Brown, the State of Texas raised for the Mexican War which had now been formally declared, two regiments of mounted riflemen and one of foot riflemen. Colonel J.C. Hays raised the First Texas Mounted Riflemen at Point Isabel to serve as General Taylor's scouts for the march on Monterrey. After Captain Walker's Ranger company was disbanded, the Colonel selected Walker as his Lieutenant Colonel with seven company commanders including Captains Ben McCulloch, Tom Green and Jerome B. McCown, each company with about 40 men.

Several DeWitt County residents rode to Point Isabel in May and June to enlist in these three Texas cavalry companies. Alfred Friar's enlistment period with Bell's company had expired that summer, and he joined McCulloch's Company, along with another prominent DeWitt County resident, Clinton DeWitt. DeWitt County residents, Reddin J. Pridgen, who was a Second Lieutenant, and his brother Sergeant Bolivar Pridgen volunteered to serve in Captain McCown's Company. Wesley Sutton whose family later resided in DeWitt County but who at that time was a resident of LaGrange in neighboring Fayette County, enlisted as a Corporal in Captain Tom Green's Company.

The Second Regiment of Texas Mounted volunteers was organized at the same time at

Point Isabel. William R. Scurry who later was an attorney and elected representative from Clinton, enlisted as a private in Company A of the Second Mounted Regiment. Scurry was serving as a Major in the unit when he mustered out after the Battle of Monterrey.

Captain Augustus Buchel commanded Company H of the 1st Texas Foot Riflemen, the infantry regiment organized early in Texas for the Mexican War. The Captain had enlisted from Indian Point, near Indianola, in late May and was in command of his Company at Point Isabel in June.

McCulloch's Mounted Company was singled out by General Taylor in early June to scout the best route to advance on Monterrey. When McCulloch determined that the route through Linares would be impractical because of the lack of sufficient water, General Taylor moved his troops up the Rio Grande to Camargo. McCulloch's men, however, diverted from the main route up the Rio Grande to search out General Antonio Canales who was known to have been the Mexican official who had secured the execution of Captain Ewin Cameron during the Mier Expedition after he had drawn a white bean at Rancho Salado. Captain Cameron had been a neighbor of McCulloch's Guadalupe volunteers and the County seat of DeWitt County was named "Cameron" in his honor in the Summer of that year.

At Camargo in August the short three-month enlistment term of some Texas volunteer troops expired. The Texas Infantry Regiment with Captain Buchel's company voted to return to Texas, but most Mounted volunteers reenlisted. The independence of some of the DeWitt County cavalrymen including the Taylor brothers who did not reenlist is noted from the written comments made on their official federal muster-out rolls that U.S. Army equipment such as a Colt pistols, halters, chains and martingales were missing.

After missing General Canales and regrouping, McCulloch's Company rode off from Camargo on August 19 to the south 50 miles to the city of China and then westward to join General Taylor's main body of troops at Marin, 24 miles northeast of Monterrey. A week before Captain Tom Green's cavalry company joined the other troops at Marin, Corporal Wesley Sutton and 25 other volunteers were discharged for undisclosed reasons. From Marin to Walnut Springs, General Taylor rode with the Texans who he was pleased to have rejoined the main body of troops despite the Rangers lack of uniform or discipline.

After Taylor reached the outskirts of Monterrey in late September, he ordered Hays' Mounted Texas unit with General William J. Worth's regular troops to lead a circling movement to the west, cutting the road to Saltillo and attacking the city from the west. Major Scurry with the Texas 2nd Mounted Regiment remained as escort with the General and his staff. This westward diversion proved successful.

On September 21, six companies of McCulloch's Rangers and three regular infantry companies alone scaled the 400 foot south face of Federation Hill overlooking the city. The summit gave the artillery unit coverage of the city area. A truce was called on September 25. All DeWitt County volunteers in the Battle of Monterrey came out unscathed except Clinton DeWitt who had been wounded on the 21st during McCulloch's dramatic advance on the city from the west. The County of DeWitt, four years later, in August 1850, would name its relocated county seat "Clinton" in his honor.

The two Texas cavalry Regiments returned home after the fall of Monterrey. The parting of the Texans was welcomed by General Taylor who admired the rugged cavalry scouts in battle but had become repulsed by the excesses of the Texans after the fall of Monterrey. The parting was also welcomed by the Texans who had not been paid for their services since they enlisted. A special note was made to the official pay record of Lieutenant Reddin Pridgen reflecting that he received an extra $100 for the loss of his horse which "died from fatigue of the march on the 17th of Aug."

Only a small elite Texas spy company remained with General Taylor after the fall of Monterrey. This was a mounted scout unit that Ben McCulloch had organized with 27 members including Sergeant Bolivar Pridgen. The company was directed to remain near General Taylor's headquarters throughout the winter of 1846-47 as the General moved only a short distance south of Saltillo. These men slipped with McCulloch in Mexican uniform and dress deep behind enemy lines and spent the night of February 20, within the enemy's camp to count precisely the size and composition of Santa Anna's forces. This amazing and detailed intelligence report to General Taylor formulated the basis of the General's successful initial withdrawal and defensive strategy against General Santa Anna's forces at Buena Vista six miles south of Saltillo on February 23, 1847 and made Captain Ben McCulloch personally a Texas legend years before he became a Confederate General. During the Battle of Buena Vista, at Captain McCulloch's side, was Captain William T. Sherman who also became a prominent Civil War General.

After the Battle of Buena Vista, General Taylor's troops remained near Monterrey and McCulloch's spy company returned to Texas. Although Texas troops including Texas Rangers were present at Vera Cruz and Mexico City during the second phase of the war in central Mexico under the command of General Winfield Scott, DeWitt County residents were not prominent in these subsequent engagements in the Mexican War. However, several DeWitt County families and neighbors who served with General Zachary Taylor, were prominent in the Civil War, including General William R. Scurry, General Augustus Buchel, General Ben McCulloch, and in the enlisted ranks, the Friar, DeWitt, Taylor, Pridgen, and Sutton family members.

The settlement of Mexican claims completed by the Mexican War 1846-1848 promised a bright future for the county. Cotton, general farming, the raising of cattle and other livestock were free to develop as early industries of the county. Many homes were enlarged and built. During the fifties, DeWitt County knew a period of real social progress. In 1851, the Meyersville settlement erected its Lutheran church and churches for other denominations soon followed in other communities. On September 1, 1856, the legislature of the state chartered Concrete College, "a school of learning, consisting of male and female departments," to be located in the town of Concrete. In 1857 there were two post offices listed in DeWitt County, at Clinton and at Cuero (Cardwell's Store). Clinton, Yorktown, Meyersville and Concrete were towns in DeWitt County at this time. The schools of the various communities were reported to be "well sustained." A new courthouse, the last to be built in the town of Clinton, was accepted in the summer of 1858.

Most of the early settlers of DeWitt County found either stockraising or farming their most profitable occupation. Few of them are engaged in cross-country freighting, or in other commercial pursuits. But on the eve of the Civil War, the ferries and well-marked roads, which the county had first maintained for protective purposes, were in use as parts of some of the main commercial routes of the state. DeWitt County lay between Indianola, the main port of entry on the central gulf coast, and the important inland city of San Antonio. Some profit is bound to have accrued to the county from the large amount of freight which crossed it, for stage coaches and wagon trains were constantly passing along the roads. In the summer of 1856 the famous camels, to be used on the western frontier, crossed the county on their way to Camp Verde. In the early 1860's, the citizens of DeWitt County began to entertain hopes of having a railroad extended from Victoria to DeWitt County. But the coming of the Civil War killed their hopes. Construction on the road was abandoned, and Victoria remained the terminus of the line until the early 1870's.

The Texas Secession Convention, held in Austin, January 28 – February 4, 1861, passed the Ordinance of Secession and joined the Confederate States. DeWitt County was represented at the Convention by William R. Seurry, a 39 year old lawyer from Clinton. In the referendum election February 23, 1861 held in DeWitt County the total returns wee 472 votes for Secession and 49 votes opposed Secession. March 1861, Texas became one of the Confederate States of America.

by William C. Foster

DeWITT COUNTY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

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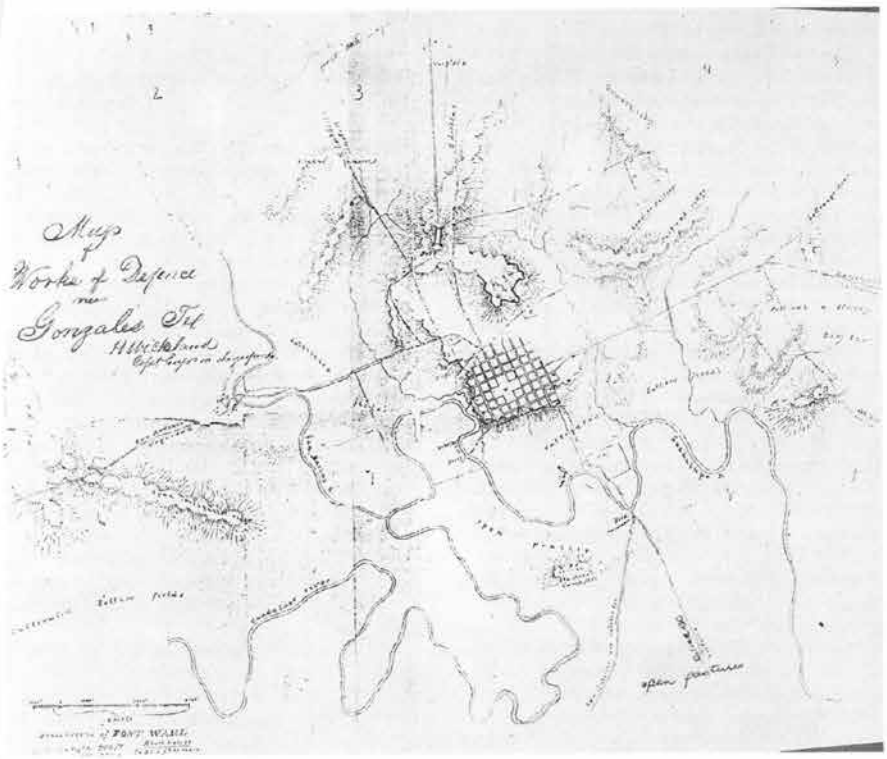
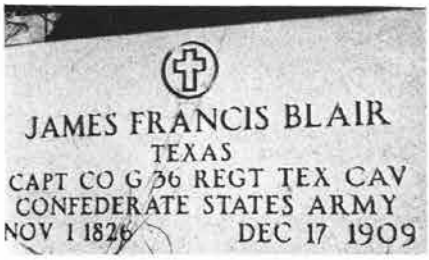
When civil war became publically accepted as the way the North-South conflict would be settled and the question of secession had been resolved, most of the young men and many of the older men of DeWitt County commenced to organize into military units of company size with a captain as unit commander, two or three other officers and usually from 60 to 100 men. Some companies were organized into local home guard militia units, others as Texas State Troop units for service anywhere within the state to meet invasion and others for Confederate States services either inside or outside Texas. The enactment of conscription legislation first by the Texas Legislature and later by the Confederate Congress encouraged able bodied men between the age of 18 and 50 to enlist in the local unit of their choice with family and friends. Texas State Troop companies organized in DeWitt County were included in the 24th State Brigade with units from Calhoun, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria Counties.

Based on military records in the Texas State Archives and in the office of DeWitt County Court, no less than twelve companies were organized for military service in DeWitt County between the Spring of 1861 and the Winter of 1863-64. Each company was re-



Civil War Works of Defense, Gonzales, TX

Civil War Grave Marker — Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, TX.



Civil War Grave Marker — Rabke Cemetery — Five Mile Community

Civil War Grave Marker — Arneckeville, TX

Civil War Grave Marker — Clinton Cemetery

Civil War Marker — Arneckeville

quired to file with the state and have certified by the County official a Muster Roll identifying the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates enrolled in the unit at its time of organization and the date and county of organization. Some companies filed two or more monthly muster rolls after organizing.

The names of the members of each unit were handwritten, sometimes with meticulous care but not infrequently with a casualness that makes identification uncertain. It was not unusual for a member to transfer to a second company or to enlist with a Confederate Regiment being organized in a neighboring county.

Confederate muster rolls for DeWitt County companies differed as to the type of information recorded. Some rolls noted the availability of horses and wagons (pistols, shotguns, rifles, lances), or identified the place of birth, age, or county of residence for each member, or specified the special duty of members such as engineers, surgeons or musicians. Most members of units organized in DeWitt County were residents of the county but many residents of Goliad, Gonzales and Victoria Counties enlisted with DeWitt County companies. Since many DeWitt County residents also enlisted directly in Texas State Troop units or Confederate units organized in neighboring counties, there is no definitive records of the military service of each DeWitt County resident who served during the Civil War. But, based on the fact that over 700 individuals have been identified as volunteering, it is thought that the number of DeWitt County residents who served but are unidentified is not large.

Of the twelve companies organized in DeWitt County during the Civil War, nine were organized early in 1861-1862 and three were organized about two years later, in the Winter of 1863-64, when Union General Nathaniel P. Banks invaded the lower and central Texas coast. Of the nine companies organized early, four enrolled as recognized and lettered companies in Confederate Cavalry Regiments which subsequently served from New Mexico to the Carolinas. One of the companies organized in 1864 immediately joined Colonel Rip Ford's Confederate Cavalry on the Rio Grande.

Many of the initial volunteers in the other militia companies later joined Confederate units being organized in adjoining counties. The units formed in neighboring counties that attracted DeWitt County volunteers included McCulloch's Texas Regiment of Mounted Rifles, a company of which was organized in April, 1861 in Gonzales; Colonel Alfred Hobby's 8th Infantry Regiment formed in Refugio in May, 1862; Waul's Legion organized by General Thomas Waul of Gonzales; and Major Edwin Wallers' Brigade in the Texas 2nd Cavalry organized in San Antonio. Individual Confederate volunteers from the County identified by Nellie Murphree in "A History of DeWitt County" include the following: 1) John D. Anderson; 2) George Monroe Alexander; 3) Andrew Jackson Bell; 4) Colonel August Buchel (1st Texas Cavalry); 5) Columbus Burns (Giddings Battalion); 6) Samuel Daniel Calhoun (8th Cavalry); 7) John Richard Calhoun; 8) Austin H. Clegg; 9) George A. Ferguson; 10) Dr. William D. Finney; 11) Alfred Friar; 12) William S. Friar (24th Cavalry); 13) Rudolph Kleberg; 14) Captain Francis J. Lynch; 15) John Frederick McCrabb (Hudson's Co.); 16) James Albert McDonald; 17) William J. McManus (2d. Cavalry); 18) James Hollis Moore (McCulloch's Brigade); 19) Judge David Murphree; 20) Alex Murphree (1st Cavalry); 21) James Hill Pridgen; 22) Redding Smith Pridgen (5th Cavalry); 23) Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr.; 24) Sam Rankin; 25) Robert Rankin; 26) Major Gustav Schleicher; 27) James Sutton (Waller's Regiment); 28) William Sutton (Borden's Regiment); 29) John Pettus York; 30) Josiah York; 31) William J. Weisiger; 32) Dr. William Watt White; 33) Edmund Fox Wilson (Wood's Regiment)

The first company to be organized in DeWitt County was the "DeWitt Rifles." On April 24, 1861, just two weeks after Fort Sumter was fired upon, Captain W.R. Friend organized in Clinton a company of volunteers for service to the Confederate States. The "DeWitt Rifles" subsequently became Company "E" of the 8th Texas Cavalry, referred to as Terry's Texas Rangers. The company after being organized filed two muster rolls in late April which included the following officers and men: Captain W.R. Friend; 1st Lt. James K. White; 2nd Lt. Alexander H. Sample; 2nd Lt. John M. Brownson; 1st Sgt. Thadeus J. Brownson; 2nd St. Gilbert Gay; 2nd Sgt. William C. McCann; 3rd Sgt. H.J. Tuggle; 3rd Sgt. J.R. Hosmer; 4th Sgt. Martin King; 4th Sgt. H.C. Thomas; 5th Sgt. Benjamin F. McCann; 1st. Cpl. William C. Odom; 2nd Cpl. Mason Arm; 3rd Cpl. Samuel A. Wofford; 4th Cpl. John H. Pleasants; Privates: Franklin Wofford; James M. Wheat; William A. Stevens; Wiley W. Pridgen; James K.P. Pridgen; Jessee M. Kirkland; James M. Brooks; Hugh C. Thomas; M. Cassidy; H.B. Shelton; John Bumpass; Thomas S. Ritchie; A.J. Duren; William Augustine; Isaac F. Felder; Jasper S. Gilbert; W.R. Scurry; William White; C.H. Leckner; Julius Gendky; Carl Brown; John Brown; James R. Hosmer; William C. McCann; J.M. Austin; Wm. Eckhart; Wm. C. Thompson; Otto Kleburg; Charles M. Sherman; Wm. H. Webb; John Mauer; Evan S. Weiseger; Thompson Brown; T.H. Sharpe; Felix Roan; Columbus Brown; Cornelius Brown; D.L. Peoples; I.M. Odom; John C. Terrell; A.W. Pridgen; Ferdinand Noelke; Daniel J. Nations; E.W. Phillips; August Lehman; J. Manley Troup; J.C. Rhode; D.L. Peebles; Wiley Canady; Daniel McAlister; John Fields; Joseph M. McCrabb; Peter Sager; Andres Meunch; Simon Weber; Henry Koehler; Wm. Augustine; Henry Brown; John Field; H.B. Shelton; Wilheim Trautwine; Julius Franke; John Stadtler; Cirenus Hotz; A.I. Patterson; James P. Patterson; Gustav Schroeder; M.O. Brien; James Billings; Bartlett Gilbert; Theodore Thieme; Wilhelm Arnecke; Phillip Schiwitz; J.C. Rhodes; James River; C.C. Lynn; J.H. Armstrong; Michael Hiller

On May 11, 1861 Chief Justice H.B. Boston of DeWitt County certified to the Governor that an election had been held at the Armory of the "DeWitt Rifles" for officers on April 22, and that the named four officers had been duly elected according to the returns made by the First Sergeant. It should be noted that one of the original early volunteers as a private in this the first company organized in the county was W.R. Scurry, who four months later would be appointed Lieutenant Colonel and command the forces in Sibley's Brigade in a decisive battle in New Mexico within a year. According to records available, William R. Scurry was the only Confederate General from Texas who entered Confederate service first as an enlisted private.

The following additional volunteers joined the "DeWitt Rifles during May and June: James M. Wheat; Michael O'Brien; Samuel D. Calhoon; Franc Reidel; J.C. Wilson; Daniel Reid; Henry Reid; Robert Roehl; Nathan Arm; John Roberts; E.F. Wallace; P. McNeil; — Stevenson; James P. Patterson; J.M. Brooks; M. Miller.

On August 9, 1861, Captain Friend wrote to Colonel X.B. Debray who was at that time Adjutant to the Governor of Texas, advising that his men were ready to move. The movement occurred shortly thereafter with the "DeWitt Rifles" Company enrolling as Company "E" of the 8th Texas Cavalry in Houston on September 9, The Company movements from Houston were swift and numerous. By mid-September Terry's Texas Rangers were in New Orleans and by October had been assigned to General Wheeler's cavalry command then in Kentucky.

Terry's Texas Rangers was recognized as one of the most daring and colorful Texas cavalry units that fought in the Civil War. Shortly after leaving New Orleans in the Fall of 1861, it was occupied in the skirmishes that preceded the Battle at Shiloh fought in Spring of 1862, the first major battle in which the unit served with distinguished valor. In 1863 and 1864 Terry's Rangers were engaged in numerous raids deep behind Northern lines, reconnaissance missions and dismounted front line duty across the Western Theater, but primarily in Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Few of the original officers and men from DeWitt County who first organized Company "E" of the Texas 8th Cavalry in Clinton in the Spring of 1861 were paroled with the unit in June, 1865 when those who remained returned home.

The second DeWitt County company to organize and enroll as a Confederate Cavalry Company was the "Davis Guards" from Terryville and Concrete under the command of Captain Andrew Jackson Scarborough who filed its initial muster roll in June 1861. The original muster roll contained the following four officers, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 54 privates: Capt. A.J. Scarborough; 1st Lt. J.B. Holland; 2nd Lt. J.D. Terry; 3rd Lt. A.T. Brooks; 1st Sgt. Wm. P. Atkinson; 2nd Sgt. A.H. Wyley; 3rd St. Daniel Doherty; 4th Sgt. James Byers; 1st Corpl. A.B. Cudd; 2nd Corpl. Jas. A. Goode; 3rd Corpl. Robt. Goode; 4th Corpl. B.F. McDonald; Engineer A.H. Wilson; Privates: John Shows; G.B. Goode; J.T. Smith; T. Thigpen; Wm. C. Cavendish, Ser.; C. Thomas; John Hollan; A.J. Goodson; W.J. Hargrove; A.P. Atkinson; J.H. Adkinson; Geo Byars; Jas Coble; R.A. Holland; John McManus; Wm. W. Burge; J.D. Sellars; E.M. Smith; J.A. Crawford; A.G. Gibbs; A. Granberry; H. Hollan; Wm. Rush; W.H.H. Holland; L. Farrer; L.W. Byars; N.B. Wiley; J. Hester; W.E. Barnes; J.A. Boothe; G.H. Boothe; R. Sawyers; J.C. Terrell; T.B. Doyle; W.C. Cavendish Jr.; Thos. Clifton; John Spaulding; Felix McDonald; H.H. Rush; Thos. Howard; John Howard; Wm. V. Boothe; C.C. Woodward; J.E. King, Surgeon; J.E. Lynch; Edward Rayly; H. Vanderhider; J.C. Beasly; Dan Cudd; P.L. Barns; Wm. B. McDonald; Chs. Curry.

The "Davis Guards" had been unofficially organized for over six weeks before formally filing the state required organizational papers. The company in mid-April along with Captain Friend's "DeWitt Rifles" had engaged in the first Confederate combat action taken in Texas directly against Union forces. The federal vessel the "Star of the West" lay at anchor in the Gulf off Indianola ready to disembark to an east coast port with 500 Union troops that had been stationed at posts in Texas and were awaiting departure at Green Lake and Saluria. Under the command of Colonel Earl Van Dorn on April 17, only five days after the commencement of hostilities at Fort Sumter, Texas troops captured the vessel and attempted to block the exodus of the Union troops. However, Major C.C. Sibley who was in command of the Federal forces secured two schooners to evacuate his troops. This final escape effort was blocked on April 25, by four Confederate ships occupied by 20 companies with about 1,200 local militia volunteers. These companies had reported together at Victoria on the 23rd and 24th. The "Davis Guards" and "DeWitt Rifles" were the two companies from DeWitt County that were on board the Confederate vessels ready to fight with the other companies from Victoria, Gonzales, Lavaca, Goliad, Fayette and Matagorda. The first naval engagement involving DeWitt County companies was a clear victory.

At the time this naval action occurred off Indianola, the local Indianola home guard companies had not been formally organized. This organization occurred in June of 1861. Many of the volunteers at that time and others who joined the effort later, subsequently moved to DeWitt County. These include members of the Proctor, Howerton, Woodward, Muegge, Reiffert, Frobese, Kleinecke, Sheppard, Wagner, Freund, Reuss, Flick and many other Indianola families.

Captain Scarborough filed for the "Davis Guards" as required formal monthly muster rolls to the Adjutant General in Austin for the months of June, July, and August, 1861, before the company was enrolled as a unit in General Sibley's Cavalry Brigade. The June report noted in the column for "Remarks" that "Owing to incessant rains, I have not been able to get my company together for 3 weeks. Before I can comply with the Act of 15th February, 1858, we will have to hold another election which we will do in a short time if it ever does quit raining and then you can have commissions issued accordingly." The Captain's enthusiasm was reflected when he added "The Company is willing to anywhere if it is to New York to get a fight." The July report noted that each member had a horse and that the unit had their own weapons which included 50 shotguns, 35 rifles and 15 revolvers.

During the Summer the following new volunteers joined the Company: Wm. C. Terrell; W.C. Thompson; S.G. Gibbs; W. Atkinson; F.C. Beasley; W. McCord; M.H. Allen; J. Terry; John Shows; H. Garrett; S. Wright; A.J. Goodson; C. Thames; Wm. Thames; R.H. Ray; S. Bradley; C. Simpson; J. Hickey; J. Valentine; W. Valentine; J.C. Collinham; Charles Sanders; J.E. Sellers; W. Harris; Charles Sanders; A. McAlman; J.W. Middlebrook; James Johnson; James Riley; George Riley; E. Bagby; F. Batchalor; G. Morgan; A.C. Daniels; John May; P. Dunn; J. Smith; John Spalding; J. H. Andrew; F. Buchel; Wm. Murphy; Wm. Priestly; M.H. Alber.

The "Davis Guards" became Company "B" of the 4th Texas Cavalry in August, 1861. The DeWitt County company had recognizable companies to fight with in the 4th Regiment since Company "A" had been organized by Captain W.P. Hardeman from neighboring Caldwell County and Company "D" had been formed from the "Guadalupe Rangers."

In the Fall of 1861 the 4th Cavalry Regiment was brigaded with the 5th Cavalry and 7th Cavalry into General H.H. Sibley's Brigade. Captain Redden S. Pridgen and other DeWitt County volunteers had earlier joined the 5th Cavalry. The Brigade, in October, rode west out of San Antonio to drive the Union forces from New Mexico. They followed many of the same steps taken during the Santa Fe Expedition in 1841 when citizen soldiers from the Republic of Texas at President Lamar's direction rode across West Texas from San Antonio to occupy New Mexico and the fate of the

Brigade was not dissimilar to that of the earlier Expedition.

This DeWitt County company was unique because in command of the 4th Cavalry Regiment was their own DeWitt County commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Read Scurry. General Sibley had initially commissioned Colonel James Reily to command the 4th during the New Mexico Campaign, but before the troops departed San Antonio, General Sibley sent Colonel Riley on a special mission to Mexico and ordered Lieutenant Colonel Scurry to command the Regiment.

William Scurry had moved to Texas from Gallitin, Tennessee as a young attorney in the late 1830's and settled initially in Brenham. He married Janette B. Sutton in December, 1846. His prior military service was distinguished by having been an aide-de-camp to Texas General Thomas J. Rush in 1842, having later enlisted as a private in the 2nd Texas Mounted Volunteers during the Mexican War, and having been promoted before the close of the War to the rank of Major. He had practiced law in Clinton immediately before the outbreak of hostilities and represented DeWitt County as a member of the Secession Convention.

General Sibley's battle campaign in New Mexico commenced on February 21, 1862 with the engagement at Valverde on the Rio Grande above Fort Craig. General Sibley's Confederate forces there were under the direct command of Colonel Thomas Green. Since Colonel Riley was otherwise assigned, Lt. Col. Scurry commanded the 4th Regiment. This, the first battle in New Mexico was a clear victory for the Confederate forces. Colonel Green in his formal report on the action stated: "I will only mention the principal field and staff in the engagement. The cheering voice of Lieutenant Colonel Scurry was heard where the bullets fell thickest on the field." Scurry was shortly thereafter promoted to full Colonel.

Sibley's command then advanced to Albuquerque. On March 28th Colonel Scurry was in direct command of the Confederate troops at the decisive Battle of Glorieta. The DeWitt County Davis Guards fought that day with Lieutenant Holland in command of the Company. Colonel Scurry, in his official report as field commander, noted that of the Confederate loss of 36 men killed, 24 were from the 4th Regiment, 1 from the 5th and 8 from the 7th. Colonel Scurry and most historians have characterized the engagement at Glorieta as a victory for the Confederate forces. But a loss of supplies and support shortly thereafter required the territory of New Mexico to be abandoned and the Confederate troops were forced to return to Texas by the Summer of 1862.

The 4th Cavalry was subsequently remounted and placed under the command of Colonel William P. Hardeman in time to participate in Confederate General Magruder's successful joint assault by land forces under the direct command of General Scurry and sea forces under General Tom Green to retake Galveston on January 1, 1863. The Texas 2nd Cavalry Regiment was also significantly engaged in this battle and numerous DeWitt County volunteers were included in the ranks of Major Waller's Brigade. The close relationship between the DeWitt County Company "B" of the 4th Texas Cavalry and General Scurry continued into early 1864 during the Red River Campaign.

The "DeWitt Guerilla" Company was organized by Captain Josiah Taylor in Clinton on September 1, 1861. The Chief Justice of DeWitt County, H.B. Boston, certified on October that the following officers and Orderly Sergeant had been elected: Captain Josiah Taylor; 1st Lt. W.J. Porter; 2nd Lt. John R. Kelsoe; 3rd Lt. Charles Ormand; Orderly Sergeant James Brown.

The muster roll filed and certified by Captain Taylor at the time the unit was organized, noted that "This Guerilla Company furnishes their own horses, arms and accoutrements, will serve without pay or reward from the Confederate Government and will go into service, wherever the State of Texas is actually invaded by an enemy." It included the following names of privates: L.L. Warren; Samuel Epperson; Wm. Culpepper; R.B. White; James M. Dow; T.H. Clark; J.F. Blair; P.T. Brown; Georg Witting; D.B. Peavy; Hugh Buschick; G.W. Humphreys; J.G. Montgomery; W.B. Prator; William Aaron; Julius Gleiss; W. von Hinueber; W.G. Bell; Robert Kleberg; William S. Brown, James B. Brown; T.H. Reed; M.V. King; Johnson Henryes; H.W. Corley; W.A. Rainey; R.B. York; Charles F. Thieme; Ben Dalley; G.W. Brooks, jun.; James Brooks; A.M. Summers; W.D. Ford; Wm. A. Adams; Turner Tate; R. Flowers; James Brown, jun.; Edmond Marlow; Adolf Haun; C.C. Whittington; Peter Walker; Gustav Holzapfel; B.B. Brooks; James Humphreys; Montgomery Blackwell; W.A. Taylor; David Murry, jun.; Thomas Chandler; J.M. Murry; John R. Hamilton.

During the months before the Guerilla Company enrolled as Company "G" of Colonel Peter C. Woods 36th Texas Cavalry, Captain Taylor filed several monthly muster rolls that reflect the location of the unit, new enlistments and general remarks. In March, 1862, Captain Taylor filed a muster roll that was certified in Meyersville which included a number of new recruits but noted that "Great many of our Company has gone off to Kentucky, at least six or seven." This note probably referred to the members who had left the "DeWitt Guerilla" Company to join the "DeWitt Rifles" with Terry's Texas Rangers who were then in Kentucky.

The last muster roll filed on April 11, 1862 by Captain Taylor from San Antonio reflects a large number of additional new recruits from Goliad, Karnes and Victoria Counties. A list of the new recruits added to the company follows: J.F. Blair; W.A. Adams; R.C. Eckhardt; John Adcock; J. Austin; T.C. Smith; M.A. Porterfield; J. Robertson; H. Foster; B. Lampley; W.B. Praytor; C.G. Bruce; Urban Bluntzer; Charles Ormond (musician); Russell Baker; Rosseau Baker; H. Bower; R.B. York; Julius Sharry; L.P. Wilson; G.M. Williams; R.B. York; Jonathan York; W.C. Middleton; B.F. Middleton; J.D. Newberry; C.W. Nau; A. Ott; J.R. Russerman; J.L. Reed; L. Rimschneider; J. Von Roeder; D.D. Scrivener; John M. Taylor; R.E. Tower; John D. Adams, John Adcock; Wm. G. Bell; Frederick Whitting; C.B. Holmes; A. Kelly; Wm. Kahn; Geo. Lunderbach; Ed W. Marlow; L. Menn; Martin Minke; Fred Menn; H. Menn; C. Davis; R.M. Gill; Wm. Gerhardt; M. Galbert; P.T. Hall; W.M.C. Hall; J. Hays; Fred Hennig; D.B. Peavy; W.B. Wallace; Joseph Wofford; Charles Bruce; H.S. Clark; Julius Wagener; J.T. Hardy; J.L. Reed; T. Roberts; A. Lides; Richard Rupnarm; L. Brown; Chas. Brown.

When Colonel Peter Woods' 36th Texas Cavalry was organized in San Antonio in June, 1862, the DeWitt Guerillas became Company "G" with Captain Taylor as Company Commander. Woods' cavalry regiment was assigned duty primarily along the Texas coast during 1862 and was placed in positions to defend the central Texas coast when Union General Banks' successfully invaded and occupied Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass and Indianola. When the Union forces were withdrawn from the Texas coast in early 1864, Colonel Woods' 36th Cavalry rode east to join forces under Cavalry General Tom Green during the Red River Campaign.

The fourth and last company organized in DeWitt County that subsequently enrolled as a mounted company in a Confederate Cavalry Regiment was the "Shiloh Home Guards." It was organized in July 1861 by Capt. H.G. Woods. Captain Woods' sworn statement noted the company was "organized at Shiloh in the County of DeWitt on the west side of the Guadalupe River and about eight miles west of the town of Clinton." This stated identification of the location of the DeWitt community of Shiloh apparently was considered helpful at that time.

The muster roll filed when the company was organized included the following officers and men: Captain H.G. Woods; 1st Lt. D.N. Hardy; 2nd Lt. E.M. Edwards; 3rd Lt. J.H. Calliham; 1st Sgt. Joel L. Miles; 2nd Sgt. C. Hartman; 3rd Sgt. Anda Brown; 4th Sgt. Wm. Aaron; 1st Corp. J.D. Campbell; 2nd Corp. J.T. Graves; 3rd Corp. S.F. Hester; Privates: W.S. Friar; G.M. McFarland; E.F. Harris; F.W. Callaway; Mason Lowrey; Math Anderson; Fred Brown; J.N. Fraser; J.F. Ainsworth; Robert Bobit; J.D. Goldman; J. Escuelaro; T.W. Robert; W. McMillan; J.D. McFarland; J.B. Lowrey; R.W. Insall; M.Z. Woods; B. Goldman; Walter Anderson; David Murray; Wyatt Hanks; J.O. Brantley; Wm. L. Brown; J.H. Friar; L.H. Yocum; W.M. Lenton; Joseph H. Brown; J.F. Shannon; Jacob A. Miller; R.H. Dickson; Milan A. Harper; O.T. Cedro; D.B. Calliham; Clay Woods; B.J. Brown; Nathan Lambert; H.T. Lowrey; Tho. Glimp; James F. Baseter; T.J. Bailey; Jonathan York; T.M. Murry; Peter Metz; Lilvenes Brown; Ch. Dahlmann; Anton Metz.

Captain Woods' "Shiloh Guards" were enrolled as Company "K" of the 24th Texas Cavalry, Colonel Francis C. Wilkes' Regiment, at Hempstead, Texas in April, 1862. Poor health required the resignation of Captain Woods in September of 1862. However, the men from DeWitt County continued to serve in what became one of Texas proudest infantry brigades.

The 24th Cavalry Regiment was dismounted at the time it was captured at Arkansas Post in January, 1863. Many of the 5,000 Confederate troops captured at the Post, including the men of the 24th and those with Colonel Garland's 6th Texas Infantry which had been organized earlier at Victoria, were held prisoners of war at Union camps during the Winter and early Spring of 1863. After these troops were exchanged at City Point near Richmond, Virginia in April and May, 1863, the 24th was consolidated with the 17th, 18th, and 25th Cavalry (dismounted); into Deshler's Brigade before the Battles of Chickamanga and Missionary Ridge fought near Chattanooga, Tennessee in the Fall of 1863. In early 1864 the 24th was consolidated into Granbury's Texas Brigade for a long succession of bloody and costly battles including those at Dalton, Georgia, New Hope Church, Picket's Mill, and Atlanta, and then with Texas General John Bell Hood at Franklin, Tennessee and Nashville in late 1864. Few members of the 24th survived these

engagements and were present when the Regiment was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina, in May, 1865.

In the Summer of 1861, three additional militia companies were organized in southwestern DeWitt County, the "Hulan Reserve" from Yorktown, the "Coleto Guards" with headquarters at Mayersville, and a company organized from residents near the county line between DeWitt and Goliad Counties.

The DeWitt County Court certified the muster oll of the "Hulan Reserve" as submitted by Captain Caesar Eckhardt on June 16 as follows: Captain Caesar Eckhardt; 1st Lt. Fredrick Bauer; 2nd Lt. Louis Fuch; 2nd Lt. Chas. Karnei; Orderly Sgt. Robt. Eckhardt; Sgt. I. Gohlke; Sgt. G. Potter; Sgt. L. Lenz; Corp. John Lickor; Corp. A. Greissen; Corp. A. Vorwerk; Corp. F. Hoppe. Privates: Julius Meyer; S. Grun; I. Quast; F. Wehe; D. Schneider; P. Metz; C.H. Husig; A. Riedesel; C. Duerr; I. Schweizer; S.C. Spies; A. Kraege; G. Schulz; W. Gohmert; E. Fechnor; F. Schrafer; F. Mann; F. Hart; A. Fechner; J. Grun, jun.; C. Stephan; A. Andelman; Chas. Fedler; A. Lauermilch; L. Riedesel; G. Baecher; I. von Roeder; B. Engels; I. Schneider; R. Greenberg; L. Klotz; F. Gohlke; H. Potter; S. Gohmert; W. Gohlke; G. Fedler; H. Borchers; A. Strieber; E. Krueger; F. Gips; W. Starke; A. Schuetze; G. Neumann; F. Schley; B. Range; C. Hoff; E. Gaebler; C. Gaebler.

The notation made on the muster roll of the "Hulan Reserve" was that they were "lancers" and that except for the officers and several privates, the only weapon carried by the enlisted men was the lance. References to the company in the State Archives include notations identifying the same unit as the "Yorktown Light Guard" and the "Hopkinsville Home Guard." The "Hulan Reserve" was organized as a reserve company for service only within the state to repel invasions and did not join as a unit any Confederate States regiment.

The "Coleto Guards" organized in Meyersville by Captain Robert Kleberg was certified on June 17, one day after the certification of the "Hulan Reserve" militia company. The DeWitt County Clerk certified the following muster roll of officers and men: Captain Robert Kleberg; 1st Lt. Jakob Schiwetz; 2nd Lt. Andreas Buehrig; 3rd Lt. Cristopher Diebel; 1st Sgt. George Witting; 2nd Sgt. Bernhard Eckhardt; 3rd Sgt. Frederick Albrecht; 4th St. Jakob Schiwetz, sen.; 5th Sgt. Hugo Buschick; 1st Copl. W. Wilms; 2nd Copl. G. Holzapfel; 3rd Copl. A. Sievers; 4th Copl. C. Hartmann. Privates: A. Adicks; Andreas Albrecht; Henry Arnecke; Anton Atzenhofer; Christopher Albrecht; Paul Arnold; John Arnold; Jakob Breunich; Joseph Bomba; John Baldinger; F. Buerking; Urbanus Bluntzer; H. Bauer; Liptus Bluntzer; H. Clark; Lorenz Conrad; Fr. Dreyer; Fr. Dreyer; C. Diehrmann; F. Duderstadt; L. Dreyer; Gideon Dreyer; L. Dorange; Fred Diebel; Edward Fuchs; W. Fromme; L. Fromme; L. Franke; R. Fromme; Joseph Grunewald; A. Golly; John Gerlach; Wm. Gerbert; F.J. Gleis; W. Hoff; A. Haun; Valentin Koehler; Anton Holz; F. Haupmann; E. Holzapfel; W. von Hinueber; Fred Hiller; Anton Hofer; Ambros Hans; W. Kaufmann; H. Ideus; S. Ideus Simms; John G. Junker; Henry Jakob; A. Koenig; Valentin Koehler; H. Kienzy; Pantaleon Luther; Louis Letok; Cornelius Luterback; Fr. Mark; Adam Meisenhoelder; A. Meyer; Fr. Mumbrauer; W. Meyer; John Marr; J. Moeglin; Martin Mimke; H. Mumbrauer; C. Miller; A. Ott; Thomas Olenik; Henry Olfers; J. Pieterle; F. Ploeger; Geo. Palmie; J.H. Richter; A. Rabke; Louis Reinhardt; John Richter; Michael Rehm; Adolph Rabke; W. Schorlemmer; Julius Schorre; C. Schaefer; Chas. Schrade; Charles Schenken; Rudolph Schenken; Gustav Schroeder; A. Seitz — surgeon of the Company; John Urbahn; L. Villemain; Peter Walker; W. Westhoff; J. Wagner; Tobias Wilms; F. Zengerle.

The "Coleto Guards" like the "Hulan Reserve" was organized only as a reserve company to repel any invasion of Texas and not to serve as a unit in a Confederate States regiment.

A third militia home guard company identified as being assembled from the limits of Goliad and DeWitt Counties was organized in August, 1861 by Captain Jacob Schiwitz. Officially the unit was within the 29th Brigade of Texas State troops. The officers and men were certified as follows: Captain Jacob Schiwitz; 1st. Lt. A. Buhrig; 2d. Lt. C. Diebel; Sgt. Rudolph Tampke; Sgt. Fred Albrecht; Sgt. Willie Wilms; Sgt. Berhard Eckhart; Corp. Christoph Albrecht; Corp. Tobias Wilms; Corp. Louis Letsch; Corp. Louis Franke. Privates: John Arnold; John Buddinger; Joseph Bluntzer; Jacob Braunig; Fred Duderstadt; Gottlieb Frederichs; Rudolph Fromme; Joseph Grunewald; Fred Hausmann; Nicol Horny; Dajobert Arnold; Anton Atzenhofer; Urban Bluntzer; Fred Diebel; Fred Dreier; Ritian Dreier; Eduardo Fuchs; L. Fromme; Martin Grunewald; Joseph Haller; William Hoff; Louis Jacob; John Ideus; Focke Ideus; Simon Ideus; Pentelum Luder; Fred Maegelin; Henry Mumbrauer; Fred Mumbrauer; Robert Bauer; August Rapke; John Urban; John Wilkeson; Franz Wilhelm; Franz Zengerle; Fred Hille; Christian Hartmann; Conrad Lidier Laurent; Thomas Olnick; Rudolph Lehenke; Chris Miller; Anton Kohler; Michael Rehm; John Richter; William Hausmann; Jacob Schiwitz; L.F. Macha; Anton Hotz; Anton Goly; Henry Arnecke; Adam Kruhmer; Julius Franke.

During the fall and winter of 1861-1862, no additional companies were organized in DeWitt County, but during March of 1862, the 24th Texas Brigade certified the election of officers for 6 new companies in DeWitt County. One of the six companies is identified in Texas Archive records as "Company D" from DeWitt County's Precinct Number 5 organized by Captain J.T. Kilgore of Yorktown in March, 1862. Most of the men were residents of Yorktown and about fifty percent gave Germany as their place of birth. The State Archives had no record of any county official certification of the unit, but the following muster roll was certified by its Commanding Officer, Captain Kilgore: Captain J.T. Kilgore; 1st Lt. L.B. Wright; 2nd Lt. M.J. Wiethau; 3rd Lt. W. Anderson; 1st Sgt. C. Hartmann; 2nd Sgt. T.M. Stevenson; 3rd Sgt. O.H. Bennett; 4th Sgt. T.C. Caruthers; 5th Sgt. D.N. Hardy; 1st Copl. W.T. Terrel; 2nd Copl. L. Albrecht; 3rd Copl. E. Klaes; 4th Copl. T.H. Caliham. Privates: Jacob Dentler; Jno. Haller; Henry Hubert; Amos Ayers; Joseph Kobitz (musician); Aug. Foch; Franc de Lagarza; Emanuel Garza; Juan Gutierrez; Francisco Teherena; Simon Castillo; Juan Hernandez; Ros. Hernandez; K.W. Singleton; F. McDonough; Justo Barrera; Franc Escoral; Robt. Hoyan — Drummer; D.B. McDonald; Refugio Garcia; Jno. Reeves; L.M. Jones Santa; N.B. Atkinson; Berry West; A.T. Jacobs; L. Tug; Chr. Kellix; Ferdn Gehring; I. Neumann; P. Homrichhausen; W. Gohlke; C. Meissner; F.W. Calliway; W.T. Cornick; E. Lassmann; T. Stoops; T. Lynch; A. Westphal; H. Borchers; T. Glimp; F. Johnske; T.H. Brown; L. Westphal; Fn. Gohlke; Louis Grun; D. McFarland; G. Patter; H. Schulz; P. Gehrhardt; F. Rummel; H. Burt; L. Riedesel; W. Landgraber; H. Heraff; A. Mertens; Jacob Hochet; Walter Edwards; E.G. Sevier; F. Tahnso; R.L. Foster.

The second company to be organized in March, 1862, was the Concrete Home Guard under Captain M.G. Jacobs. The State Archives had a record of the company's certification of officers but no roster of enlisted men. The officers certified as being from Precinct Number 4, DeWitt County were: Captain M.G. Jacobs; 1st Lt. J.E. King; 2d Lt. H. Edgar; 2d Jr. Lt. R.P. Carr.

A list of the officers and men in the Concrete Home Guard is included in "A History of DeWitt County" by Nellie Murphree as follows: Captain M.G. Jacobs; 1st Lt. T.J. Stell; 2d Lt. John C. Terrell; 2d Lt. Henry Edgar; 1st Sgt. M.J. Baker; 1st Sgt. Hyman Edgar. Privates: J.A. Crawford; W.P. Priestly; R.P. Carr; D.L. Peebles; F.M. Cunningham; John O. McGhee; J.G. Alfonds; W.W. Baker.

The officers elected for the companies organized in Precincts Number 1, 3, 4 and 6 were as follows: Precinct No. 1 — Capt. N.M. Stukes; 1st Lt. R.F. Scudder; 2nd Lt. J.M. Smith; 2nd Jr. Lt. J.B. Cox. Precinct No. 3 — Capt. Wm. J. Wisiger; 1st Lt. R.H. Dixon; 2nd Lt. S. Myers; 2nd Jr. Lt. J.D. Stenchcomb. Precinct No. 4 — Capt. W. Hinuber; 1st Lt. Charles Diebel; 2nd Lt. W. Wilms; 3rd Lt. B. Eckhart. Precinct No. 6 — Capt. I.D. Terry; 1st Lt. H.C. Spener; 2nd Lt. T.F. Johnson; 2nd Lt. N.V. Scarborough.

No roster of enlisted men was found for these four companies.

Despite what appears to be an enthusiastic response to the Confederate call to colors from DeWitt County, County Chief Justice Boston felt compelled to explain by letter dated March 19, 1862 addressed to state enlistment officials that the County was not delinquent in providing enlistments. The Justice noted that over 490 men from DeWitt County had left or were leaving immediately, with only the companies of Captain Taylor and Captain Schiwitz uncommitted.

During the 18-month period between the Winter of 1861-62 and the Fall of 1863 no military companies were organized in DeWitt County. But three relatively small companies or units were organized during a six-month period between September, 1863 and February, 1864. It was during this six-month period that General Nathaniel Banks, a pre-war Governor of Massachusetts, initiated the largest and most sustained military effort ever undertaken to occupy Texas. The largest hostile military force in Texas before the Union 13th Corps with over 12,000 men invaded the south and central Texas coast was Santa Anna's army from Mexico which included no more than 2,000 men during the Texas Revolution.

The reasons for the special effort to occupy Texas and particularly the Houston-Galveston area in late 1863 include the President's international relations concern over the growing closeness that was developing between the Confederacy, and particularly elements in Texas, and France which at that time had occupied and was in military control of Mexico. The extensive Confederate cotton trade that moved overland across Texas along the Gulf coast to ports in Mexico for export was supplying Europe with scarce cotton to be manufactured into goods in competition with eastern United States mills which were in need of the same

raw product. The cotton export trade also provided the South with one of its few sources of revenue and, in exchange, desperately need medical and military supplies.

The Union forces first major attack to occupy Texas was initiated in early September, 1863 with the unsuccessful naval action at Sabine Pass where 5,000 Union troops on a flotilla of 20 transports led by four gunboats were halted, turned around, embarrassed and defeated principally by a young, unassuming but determined Texas naval artillery junior Lieutenant Dick Dowling and his 42 men.

This action at Sabine Pass triggered an alarm, and in later September the "Mounted Minute Men" were organized for home defense in Yorktown by Captain Joseph Tumlinson. The muster roll certified by Chief Justice Kilgore of DeWitt County included the following officers and men: Captain Joseph Tumlinson; 1st Lt. Walker Anderson; 2nd Lt. L.B. Wright; 3rd Lt. C. Eckhardt; 1st Sgt. J.T. Kilgore. Privates: J.H. Brown; J.H. Callihan; F.W. Caloway; C. Dahlman; E.N. Edwards; Adolph Gentsch; Tho. Glimp; M. Gilbert; C. Hartman; C. Hoff; F. Hoppe; Daniel Farris; N. Kaufman; J.L. Miles; A. Newcomer; M. Oppenheimer; J.T. Porter; W.R. Russell; Joseph Riddle; J. Sickor; Joseph Stewart; C. Strunner; Jno. M. Taylor; F. Welke; John Warsiker; A.C. White.

All members of the "Mounted Minute Men"; were recorded as residents of Yorktown. Their ages spread from 26 to 65.

Two months later, in November 1863, the Union command in New Orleans launched a second attack on the Texas coast but this time initially landing at the southern most point on the Texas coast near Point Isabel. The seriousness of this invasion effort was emphasized by the presence of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks with the sixteen vessel invasion fleet. The General who at that time was Commander of all Union forces west of the Mississippi had no mission more urgent than that of occupying the State of Texas. As a former Governor, General Banks had very serious presidential aspirations which would be greatly enhanced by the notoriety of being the conqueror of Texas and liberator of southern cotton for New England mills.

In November, 1863, the General's 13th Corps with 7,000 men having disembarked from 13 transports occupied Brownsville and then moved northward up the Texas coast. General Banks led the troops up to Corpus. A Union military map held in the National Archives, depicts the location of Union Troops on the Texas coast in November, 1863 with the Stars and Stripes flagged at Brownsville, Point Isabel, Mustang Island off Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Matagorda Light House, Saluria and Indianola. The port of Indianola had been harrassed, looted and briefly occupied earlier, shortly after Galveston harbor had fallen in October 1862. During late November elements of Colonel Hobby's 8th Infantry Regiment which included Captain Joseph M. Reuss' Artillery Battery and Captain P.H. Breeden's Company had engaged the enemy. During the engagement Company I of the 8th Regiment was captured on Mustang Island and later dispatched as prisoners of war to New Orleans.

By late November, 1863, three Union Divisions with over 12,000 troops were in the southern Matagorda Bay area, poised to march overland to Houston and Galveston by routes crossing the lower Guadalupe, Colorado and Brazos Rivers. DeWitt County located up the Guadalupe River less than 60 miles from Indianola presented a good prospect for a battleground.

A new unit, the "DeWitt Militia", was formed during late January and enrolled in the 24th Brigade of Texas State troops. The muster roll which included no officers was certified by the Enrolling Officer, Sam W. Lane, on January 30 to include with a subsequent addition, the following names: Samuel Hayes; T.W. Robinson; C.W. Csafon; I.T. Garnes; M. Blackwell; Rufus Smith; Henry Edgar; F.M. Taylor; W.S. Purson; I.N. Dunlay; Cy I. Stevens; John Arnold; C. Carsner; D.G. Cuero; Harvey Page; W.E. Tips; Jacob Gugenham. Additions: A. Seers; — Sieviers; O. Hoyer; Julius Waggoner; B. Kinsey; L. Mean; F. Ploger; A. Buhrig; N. Kohler; W.O. Neinumber; I. Gaunould; Jacob Reinhardt; A. Hotz; G. Sumken; Geo. Dryer; A. Kohler; Chas. Miller; Julius Franks; W. Mangold; I. Mar; A. Meyer; P. Arnold; H. Mumbrane; O. Worthmiller; — Setwick; — Proskey; A. Seitz; W.G. Venable; — Hantz; — Singler; — Ireman.

The last unit to be organized in the county was Captain Jacob G. Powers' Company raised to support Colonel Rip Ford's Regiment on the Rio Grande. The following officers and men were enrolled in DeWitt County on February 15, 1864 in Captain Powers Confederate Company: Captain Jacob G. Powers; 1st Lt. Robert Bishop; 2nd Lt. James R. Murrah; 3rd Lt. Gilis McDaniel; 1st Sgt. J.M. Dowling; 2nd Sgt. Wm. J. Park; 3rd Sgt. Wm. Murrah; 1st Corp. Lewis J. McClanahan; 2nd Corp. James Simmons. Privates: Moses G. Ayers; David F. Ball; Andrew J. Butts; James H. Carnson; Rufus Colman; Vincent Cissell; Ira A. Duris; Andrew Garner; Robert Goldman; John Goldman; J.C. Ives; Hermes Johnson; Julius Kysel; Wm. A. Lawrence; Andrew J. Law; Peter Lex; George Harrison; Abel Malloe; Lewis May; F. McDonald; Joseph McCord; M.S. Osburn; Joel Petty; George Petty; Wm. Prusse; Aba S. Rice; James B. Riley; Frank Smith; J.M. Tankerly; John Turner; Andrew Wisloby; Henry Young.

Preparations for a possible Union army invasion up the Guadalupe River from the coast had commenced earlier in December, 1863 in Gonzales where Fort Waul was being constructed on the Guadalupe River. The Confederate fort was located on a ridge within a mile of the Guadalupe and San Marcos Rivers. The location and configuration of the fort was designed to provide a defense from a river attack from Union gun boats and allowed for the placement of over a dozen cannons.

by William C. Foster and Rosemary B. Sheppard

DeWITT COUNTY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

T12

The threat of a Union advance up the Guadalupe River using light draft river steamboats was real. General Banks had acquired two river steamboats, one the "Mustang," in Brownsville belonging to the King and Kennedy business enterprise. These vessels had been used to occupy Rio Grande City more than 100 miles up the Rio Grande. The lightest draft vessels drawing three and one half feet were used in the operations on Matagorda Bay. A detailed Union map of the Texas coastal region prepared in February, 1864 for General Bank's Texas Expedition noted that the Guadalupe River was "navigable to Victoria for boats drawing three and one-half feet of water" and that "the average width of the Riv. from Victoria to Gonzales abt 60 yds" with a rapid current and "supplies plenty, on both sides." This type of information placed on the Union map would be included only if requested for purposes of planning the scope of the Expedition.

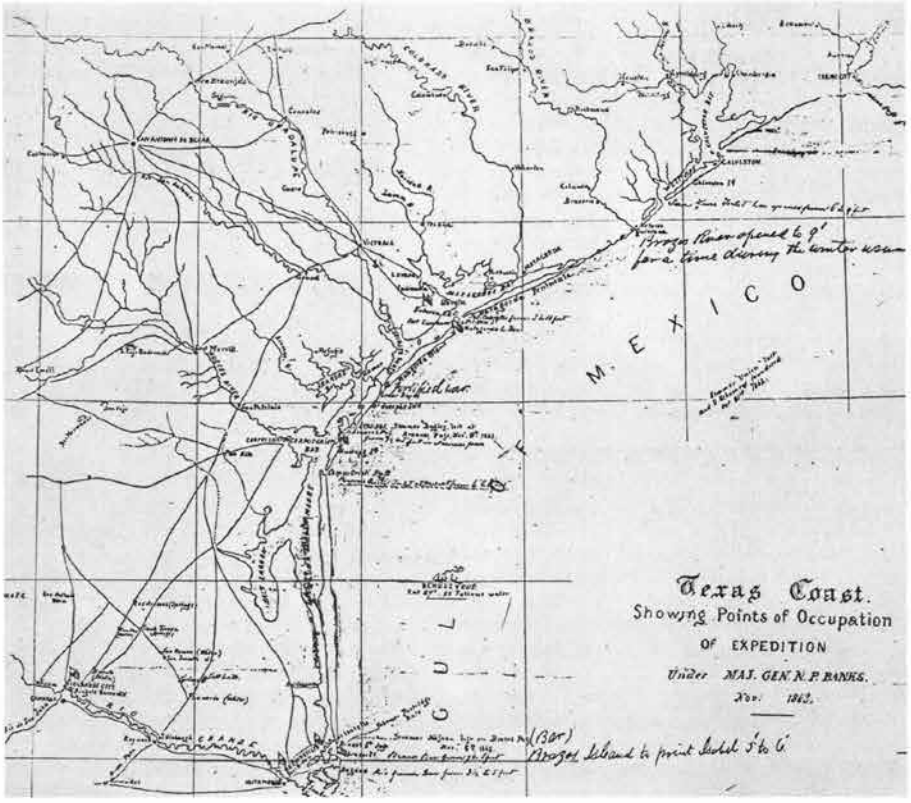
Fort Waul was large, measuring about 750 feet in length by 250 feet in width and including an interior block house with the powder magazine and granaries, a well and cistern. The detailed architectural plans of the fort including cross section diagrams of the parapet are in the National Archives. The fort was twice the size of Fort Debray constructed earlier by Confederate forces to defend the critical entrance to Matagorda Bay. An extensive three-mile system of breastworks and rifle pits was designed along the southern rim of the city facing the Guadalupe River and on three elevated points between the fort and the river. The large fortress could have been used only against Union gun boats that had fought their way through DeWitt County and passed Clinton.

Surplus ration for large Confederate troop movements had been stored earlier at Gonzales, Clinton, Victoria, and Hallettsville. Defensive preparations and military plans had been approved for alternate routes of Confederate retreat through Victoria to Clinton and Gonzales or to Hallettsville. Military orders had been issued to burn or destroy supplies that could not be removed. Reports were made of Union scouting activities fifty miles inland from Indianola. The Union threat was taken seriously.

The strength of the Union forces can be understood easily from the troop report of the 13th Corps filed on January 13 by Major General N.T. Dana from his Headquarters in Indianola. General Dana reported having three divisions on line, the 1st Division at Indianola with twelve regiments under the command of Brigadier General William P. Benton with 4,200 men from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin and Ohio; the Second Division at Decrows Point on Matagorda Bay with seven regiments under Major General Francis J. Herron with 2,000 men, and the 4th Division also at Decrows Point with twelve regiments under the command of Brigadier General Thomas Ransom with 4,000 men. When the additional unassigned Union regiments of engineers, cavalry and artillery located along the coast in Texas were added, the total Union troop strength was approximately 13,000 to 15,000 men.

On January 25, 1864, Confederate Colonel James Duff reporting from Victoria to the Adjutant General at the Headquarters of the Army of Texas, stated that "The forces of the enemy at Decrows and Indianola consist of 3 divisions of the Fifteenth Corps, (cit. Thirteenth Corps) one division at Indianola and two at Decrows; say, in all, 15,000 men." The Colonel's intelligence report was accurate.

In defense, the Confederate troops headquartered near Houston in January, 1864 numbered about 12,000. These included General Tom Green's 4th and 5th Cavalry at Virginia Point and Colonel Woods' 36th Cavalry near San Bernard. In addition, there was in the vicinity



Points of occupation of Maj. Gen. N.P. Banks 1863

Civil War grave marker, Hillside Cemetery, Cuero

of Houston Colonel August C. Buchel's Texas 1st Cavalry which had been organized on the Rio Grande during the previous Spring by men from around San Antonio and as far north as Belton and south as DeWitt and Jackson Counties. Colonel Buchel had received his basic military training in Paris and had served as a military instructor in the Turkish Army. After immigrating to Texas in 1845, he served as an aide-de-camp to General Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War. Before the Civil War commenced, he was a resident of Port Lavaca and served as collector for the port. His family association with DeWitt County extends back to the Civil War period, and many DeWitt County volunteers served under him.

General Dana filed on January 18 a detailed report from Indianola to Union Major General E.C. Ord in New Orleans. After suggesting in the report that the remaining Union cavalry located near Brownsville should ride across the country to join his forces near Victoria or Refugio, the General mentioned that he had no cavalry at his headquarters but that the Confederate forces under General Magruder had a large cavalry which he considered critical. The General closed the report with the resignation that he would await an increase in force with wagons and cavalry before moving inland from the coast.

This awaited increase in Union forces never came, and General Dana never moved toward Victoria or DeWitt County or Houston and Galveston. Confederate Colonel Duff reported to Brigadier General J.E. Slaughter on March 28, after entering on abandoned Indianola, "Citizens say they have gone to Louisiana to invade Texas from that direction." And so they had. General Banks had pulled his 15,000 troops and five general officers out of the Matagorda Bay area and redirected the 13th Corps back to Louisiana and up the Red River.

Two weeks after the report that General Banks had removed the Union's 13th Corps headquarters and thirty-three regiments from Indianola, the Union General was leading an even larger army with two Corps and 30,000 men up the Red River out of Alexandria, Louisiana enroute to Shreveport, the headquarters of General E. Kirby Smith, Commander of all Confederate troops west of the Mississippi. General Banks had with him the 4th Division and seven regiments that had been moved from Decrows Point. He also had replaced General Dana as Commander of the 13th Corps with General Thomas Ransom.

During the same two-week period between March 15 and the 1st of April, the DeWitt volunteer companies with their respective regiments had scrambled overland to the same destination, the Sabine Crossroads in the Red River Valley. General Scurry was one of the six Confederate Brigade Commanders under General Richard Taylor at Mansfield, the site of the first battle of the Red River Campaign. General Waul of Gonzales was Commander of the Brigade on Scurry's left flank. Colonel Buchel's 1st Texas Cavalry, Colonel Hardeman's 4th Cavalry, Captain Wood's 36th Cavalry Battalion were all present and under the command of Major General Tom Green. The Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill on April 8 and 9 decisively defeated General Banks and turned his forces around to return back down the Red River to Alexandria. General Banks had now lost three times — he had been embarrassed at Sabine Pass, bluffed by the Texas Cavalry at Indianola and militarily defeated on the Red River. No further attempts were made by Union forces to occupy Texas.

The war, however, was far from over for either the Texas infantry units under General William Scurry or the Texas cavalry units under Colonel August Buchel and General Tom Green. Colonel Buchel died on April 15 from wounds received during the Battle of Pleasant Hill. Both Generals were killed in battle within days after the Battle of Mansfield. General Green was killed four days after the battle by a canister while leading his cavalry troops against General Banks' retreating gunboats. General Scurry was killed at the Battle of Jenkins Ferry on April 30.

In General Waul's report from the Battle, the General from Clinton was referred to as the "gallant and daring Scurry." Gallant and daring the Clinton General was — he had been the lone commander of Confederate forces at Glorieta in New Mexico, the Commander of Confederate land forces during the daring and successful raid to retake Galveston on New Year's day and the Battalion Commander who General Richard Taylor selected to lead the initial charge at Mansfield. The State has erected a monument, a thirteen feet high marble obelisk, at the State Cemetery in Austin im memory of the Clinton General. Standing near is a second obelisk, this one erected by the State in the memory of "August Buchel — Colonel 1st Texas Cavalry — Brigadier General Confederate Army."

The two DeWitt County companies serving on the other side of the Mississippi in Northern Georgia during the Spring of 1864 were retreating with General Johnston toward Atlanta. The 24th Cavalry (dismounted) with numerous DeWitt County men had been consolidated into Granbury's Texas Brigade earlier that Spring and Terry's Texas Rangers were on the rampage with General Wheller while sometimes serving dismounted. The two units divided ways after the Battle of Atlanta in September. The Rangers followed and harrassed General Sherman on his march to Savannah, and Granbury's Brigade returned north with General Hood to Tennessee.

During the end of 1864 along the Rio Grande, some DeWitt County volunteers were still fighting the few Union forces in Texas then located near Brownsville. These skirmishes continued into the Spring of 1865 and finally provided the engagement generally recognized as the last battle of the Civil War. This action, the Battle of Palmito Hill, involved the Union forces at Brazos de Santiago and a Texas cavalry battalion that included DeWitt volunteers under the command of Major George Giddings. This last successful Confederate action occurred on the Texas coast on May 13 and provided an appropriate conclusion to the naval venture that the DeWitt Rifles and the Davis Guards helped initiate as the first Confederate action in Texas early in April, 1861.

During the war, once the early excitement had died away, DeWitt County faced the common problems of the day, and went about

solving them in much the same manner her sister counties followed. On September 13, 1861, the commissioners court appropriated $150 for clothing and supplies for the Davis Guards, and appointed a committee to solicit clothes and supplies for the Confederate Army. A war tax was levied; and, in 1862, the number of "arms in DeWitt Co. fit for use in the service and number of persons left capable to bear arms, etc." was reported to the court. Sugar and coffee soon became scarce, and many substitutes were evolved. Cotton was carded, spun, and woven, and garments were made of the resulting cloth. Hair ropes were made to serve the purpose of grass ropes, and palmetto leaf hats became quite the vogue. In 1864, the citizens protested against the use of the courthouse for military or hospital purposes, probably because they wished to have nothing interfere with their custom of using the courthouse building as a place for public worship on Sundays.

With the end of the war came the provisional government of the state, under A.J. Hamilton. This transition was noted in DeWitt County as follows: "Be it remembered that on Friday the 1st day of Sept. 1865, the Hon. Co. Court of DeWitt Co., under the Provisional Government of the State of Texas, (the officers thereof having been appointed and commissioned by His excellency A.J. Hamilton, Prov. Gov. Said State) met at the Court House in the town of Clinton, Texas, and was opened in the form of law. Officers Present: Hon. J.M. Baker, Chief Justice, J.F. Shannon and C. Cardwell, Co. Comm. Thos C. Smith, Clerk and Jacob A. Miller, Sheriff."

DeWitt County was placed in the 5th Military District and 9th Brigade District Nov. 13, 1866. The Commissioner's Court at Clinton was ordered to divide the county into five Justice Precincts. Precinct No. I — Clinton; Precinct II — Concrete; Precinct III — Yorktown; Justice Precinct IV — Meyersville; Justice Precinct V — Terryville and Prices Creek.

Muster Roll, April 22, 1871. Volunteer State Guard of DeWitt County W.J. Weisiger, Captain; L.G. Harman, 1st Lt.; Jos. McCrab, 2nd Lt. W.A. Stevens, W.F. Barton, A.W. Pridgen, T.G. Peterson, O.F. Williams, R.T. Ferguson, W. Baker, Henry Hausman, J.H. Power, J.P. Beck, J.H. Cobb, D. Brown, F. Nolke, T.F. Youngblood, J.A. Parker, W.A. Hapen, J.H. Floyd, H. Arnecke, T.J. Word, H.A. Word, Charles Cassel, J.A. Prater, W.H. Prater, M.J. Prater, W.H. Anderson, J.P. Amsworth, J.M. Anderson, F.A. Caloway, J. McFarland, D. Calaway, J. Frazer, I.J. Caloway, J.F. Theim, O.F. Theim, M.V. King, Alfred Tuggle, Wm. Davis, G.H. Youngblood, J.P. Montgomery, Ed. Power, W.D. Youngblood, Nathan Armes, W.F. Ferguson, R.A. Patterson, G.W. Slaughter, Edward Koenig, Harmann Grotehaus, W. Sutton, W.R. Simpleton, Peter Dlugosh, R.J. Anderson, Clayton Powers, Jn. A. Long, O.D. Fleming, Jn. C. Henry, Jasper Dalley, C.C. Wood, H.L. Wood, J.A. Taylor, E. Ratliff, A.B. Milburn, H.L. Adams, W.J. Friar, Jas. Taylor, G. McKerbing, Jno. Tomlinson, N. Bowen, Andrew Brown, J. Farris, James Frazer, W.D. Caloway, Norman Woods, J.C. Chick, Jas. Pinswat, H.R. Glimp, C.H. Hahnn, A.C. Hahnn, L. Glimp, F. Golke, W.C. Wallace, H. Hartroup, O. Hasly, J.B. Heard, J.M. Munez, D.L. Munez, R.H. Spinks.

Immediately after the war was over Jayhawkers committed a series of robberies, but local committees of safety soon suppressed these activities; and the county gradually took up the same quiet existence it had lost with the opening of the war. In 1868 a gristmill and cotton gin were opened for business in Meyersville, and in 1869 a public ferry was established at Clinton. By 1872 the county was again bidding for the extension of a railroad from Victoria to Cuero, and the line was extended early in 1873. On April 23, Cuero became an incorporated town. In the same year, Rudolph Kleberg established the first newspaper in the county, *The Cuero Star*. On the first day's subscriptions he raised more than $1,000. Nash Institute, which later became Guadalupe Academy, was also opened in Cuero in 1873. Thus it may be seen that the period of Reconstruction was, in DeWitt County, as great a period of progress as any she had previously known.

With its establishment as the terminus of the county's only railroad, Cuero grew by leaps and bounds, and for a time had the reputation of being one of Texas' wildest frontier towns. Descriptions of the little town before "law and order"/ came, sound almost as if they had been borrowed from a western story magazine. Restless cowboys drifted into saloons and engaged in intensely played poker games, where too many aces barely preceded the rattle of gunfire. Wagon trains and prairie schooners drawn by Mexican mules passed through the streets and camped outside the town, their faintly glowing campfires and the soft songs of the teamsters providing a strange contrast to the gaudy lights and boisterous noises of the town's saloons. Feuding parties chose the main street of the town as a place to settle their difficulties, while the business houses closed their doors. In 1874, however, the Home Protection Club was organized as a local militia unit, and issued a manifesto to the effect that any fighting to be started in the future would be started by them. Later the Texas Rangers were called in. The undesirable element was soon weeded out, and the growing pains were over.

In 1877 the county seat was transferred from Clinton to Cuero. The courthouse itself; fence and all, was removed from Clinton to its new site. This building burned in April 1894, and was replaced by the present three-story sandstone building in 1896. As described by the Texas Historical Records Survey Division in the 1930's, the DeWitt County Courthouse stands, "on the public square in the town of Cuero several blocks southeast of the main business district. The building is a three-story structure of light brown sandstone with facings of red sandstone. The steps are of rough pink granite. The tall clock tower rising above the front steps gives the entire building an air of dignity and stateliness."

By 1950 DeWitt County officials were finding their quarters crowded and outmoded. After discussion it was agreed, to the credit of DeWitt County citizens, to modernize rather than replace the old building which was structurally sound. Judge Stephen P. Hebert and the following County Commissioners, Joe B. Hunter, T.J. Ward, Joe R. Gras, and Fred D. DeDear, engaged the Guido Brothers Construction Company of San Antonio to renovate the building. The task was completed late in 1957 at a cost of $572,000.00. The present courthouse is unique; while maintaining the general appearance of the original structure the interior is distinctive, beautiful yet practical. Necessary space was added by excavating a basement to provide three modern floors and a basement. Central air conditioning, automatic elevators, handsome office furniture, soft decor, and well lighted offices and halls made the DeWitt County courthouse one of the most attractive official buildings in the state. The courthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites in the United States.

by William C. Foster and Rosemary B. Sheppard

DeWITT COUNTY AND THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

T13

The Years After the Civil War

The Civil War formally ended at Appomatox Court House on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1865. As usual the Texans were late getting the news and the last Confederate victory was at Palmetto Ranch, near Brownsville, in May, 1865.

Two major events occurred in DeWitt County in the next ten years. One was the development of the cattle industry; the other, the founding of Cuero. In this chapter the cattle industry will be explored. Future chapters will deal with the founding and growth of Cuero.

Following the war the southern states were left prostrate. An agricultural economy had been destroyed by four years of war and neglect. Farms had run down, vast areas had been devastated by the ferocity of battle, great armies had traveled back and forth across some of the Old South's most fertile lands with catastrophic results. The economy was bankrupt, there was no hard money, vast plantations were bereft of labor, the transportation system was destroyed, commerce had virtually ceased. To many it seemed an impossible task to resurrect the once prosperous states of the Confederacy.

Texas had, however, a great natural resource unavailable to the rest of the southern states — cattle. According to Dr. Walter Prescott Webb, there were in Texas in 1860 3,353,768 head of cattle. One investigator judged in 1880 that the number for 1860 should have been 4,758,400 head. In any event they multiplied rapidly during the war and represented economic salvation for Texas if Texas beef could only join up with Yankee dollars. As an added benefit to DeWitt County, the great bulk of this enormous herd of cattle was located in South Texas.

Although Texas had suffered the economic devastation of the war it had not suffered the physical damage of most of the south. Realistically Texas had scarcely been touched by Union armies. The Texans returning home were more easily able to pick up their ives and their occupations than were their brothers whose lands and cities had been fought over for four long years. There was, nevertheless, the galling presence of an occupying army and a carpetbagger government.

There had been attempts at marketing Texas cattle before the War Between the States although the greatest utilization of cattle had been for their hides and tallow. The marketing of beef had mainly consisted of the delivery of small herds to Indianola and Galveston for shipment by Gulf steamers to Cuba and New Orleans. A few Texas cattlemen had driven

"Gathering" Cattle

herds to St. Louis and an even smaller group had driven herds as far as Illinois and California. It was obvious, however, to the farsighted cattleman and trader that the real bonanza lay in trailing cattle to the railheads in Missouri and later Kansas for sale in the industrial north. Tough and unsavory the beef might be, but the worst of it was good enough for factory workers and the pick and shovel men of the railroads and too good for the reservation Indians under the corrupt regime of the Grant Republicans. The only question then: how to effect the union of Texas beef and northern appetites?

In the spring of 1866 Crockett Cardwell, a DeWitt County rancher and merchant, decided that the way to effect this was by driving a herd overland to St. Joseph, Missouri. Crockett Cardwell came to Texas in 1833, possibly was in Gonzales about that time. He was probably the first chain store operator in Texas as he had stores in Port Lavaca and Hallettsville. Following that, he bought the D.B. Friar store in the Cuero Creek area at the junction of the LaGrange-LaBahia and Victoria-Gonzales roads. He purchased the property in 1849 and operated it for the next 25 years in conjunction with a plantation and cattle business.

For the drive overland he assembled a herd of 1800 longhorn steers on Cardwell Flats, 4 miles north of present day Cuero. This herd was selected not for conformation or beauty but for stamina. It is a long walk from South Texas to St. Joseph, Mo. There were reds, whites, roans, duns, blue greys, black and whites, etc., each with a great spread of dagger pointed horns. Cardwell named Thornton Chisholm, a respected and capable cattleman from Clinton, as his trail boss. The herd was divided into two groups of 900 head each with Frank White and Dave Augustine as herd bosses. Each herd had a crew of 15 men. Peas Smith, a Negro, was the cook for the trip and evidently a good one because he made seven more trips up the trail. Some of the hands (they were not called cowboys) on the first drive were: Jack Lowe, Claude and Gene Guilminot, Leo and Eli Newman, Dock Augustine, G.M. (Tip) Alexander, Jim Hickey, Bigham White, Daly Davis, a Mr. Cruse, A. Kuykendall, Scrap Taylor, John Tumlinson, Jonas Mills, and Green Alexander.

On April 1, 1866, the first herd out of DeWitt County, and probably the first herd out of South Texas, was started for the railroad in Missouri. As nearly as can be determined they went by way of the present day towns of Gonzales, San Marcos, Austin, Round Rock, Georgetown, Glen Rose, Mineral Wells, Graham, Olney, Seymour, and Vernon, where they crossed the Red River at what was later to be known as Doans Crossing. After leaving the Red River, their route went by way of the present day Oklahoma towns of Frederick, Lawton, Anadarko, Chickasha, Blanchard, Norman, Oklahoma City, Chandler, Bristow, Sapulpa, Tulas, Collinsville, and Talala. From here they crossed into Kansas and headed northeast to St. Joseph, Missouri, where the herd was sold. The drive had taken seven months and ten days. Even though Crockett Cardwell lost money on the drive because of a large drop in the market, the way was now open. South Texas cattlemen knew they could get their herds to market. 260,000 head of Texas cattle went up the trail in 1866. Before the end of the trail, some 5,000,000 Texas cattle walked to the railroad in Missouri or Kansas or to the ranges of Wyoming and Montana. Texans returning with hard cash helped the state back on its feet and had as large an economic impact on the state, relatively, as the discovery of oil had in the early 1900's. The trail was the Spindletop of the 1860's and 70's.

The movement of cattle to northern markets became a major industry in DeWitt County throughout the late 1860's, 1870's, and into the 1880's. Many DeWitt Countians made the trip up the trail. No complete list of those who made the drive is available. Those who are known to have made one or more trips, other than those on the initial drive, are John R. Calhoun, Arthur Burns, Jim Bell, Dunn Houston, Harry Cunningham, John Charles Murphree, Joe Milligan (9 trips), Buck McCrabb, John T. Wofford, Will Sutton, Elisha Stevens, John B. Conner, Leo Tucker, John May, Joel Bennett, J.X. May, Bill Gentry, Dick May, A. May, Sam Bennett and Vol Bennett, Louis Deloney, Jim Sumners. It is also known that members of the Sutton, Taylor, Tumlinson, White, Bell, and Burns families other than those whose names are listed here were pioneer trail drivers. It is of interest to note that Wes Hardin accompanied several herds from DeWitt County.

In assembling a herd for the trail it was customary for one man to buy several herds or for several cattleman to join together in order to form a herd large enough to make a profitable drive. Since all of these cattle had ordinarily been previously branded, what was known as a road brand was burned on the cattle to identify the trail herd to which they belonged. Once the drive was completed the trail boss collected the money for the cattle and delivered it to the owner or owners of the herd in Texas. Some of the road brands listed in the DeWitt County brand book are those of: Coppedge & Sutton, 3-27-1872; H.P. Eckhardt and H.E. Dahlman, 11-03-1882; C. Eckhardt & Sons, 5-26-1886; James Hickey, 4-05-1879; O.G. Hugo, 4-01-1882; R.A. Houston, 6-25-1887; John M. King, 7-03-1884; Marcos & McCutcheon, 7-31-1878; Pat May et al, 2-27-1880; Rutledge, Hooper, & Roeder, 4-05-1877; F.E. Rockfellow, 3-18-1887; Roeder & Rutledge, 11-03-1878; Leon Saldano, 7-05-1879; Mollie Taylor, 4-25-1874; J.T. Wofford, 1-14-1879; and Wofford & Stevens, 3-26-1880.

By the 1880's the trail days were about over. Cattle leaving Texas were mostly headed for Wyoming and Montana to stock the ranges of those territories. The proliferation of railroads throughout the west had made trail driving unprofitable. Tom Stell relates that he went with a herd to Wyoming, was hired by the rancher who bought the herd, and stayed in Wyoming for four years before returning home. Stell was later sheriff, tax assessor-collector, and treasurer of DeWitt County.

The end of the trail days is illustrated by a comment in Miss Nellie Murphree's *History of DeWitt County.* She relates that John T. Wofford and Jim Bell each had a herd of 3500 head outside Abilene, Kansas, in the fall of 1882. Because of a severe drop in the market, Wofford decided to hold his cattle over until spring. Bell, anxious to return home, sold his herd to Wofford at the depressed price and left for home. The winter of 1882-83 was the most severe ever experienced on the plains and in the spring of 1883 Wofford marketed 600 of the original 7,000 head. A final epitaph to the trail days may be found in an item in the Cuero paper the following year. It states "John Wofford, having quit the trail, is now busy breaking out and putting into cultivation some of his lands in the Lindenau area."

Although stock raising remained an important source of income for DeWitt County in the years following the end of the trail, the trend was toward farming. Many tracts, large and small, were broken out and put into cultivation. Cotton was the favored crop and even the largest of the cattlemen usually had some acreage in cultivation. Nearly all of the immigrants to DeWitt County following the Civil War were farmers and DeWitt County became primarily a farming area. Virtually every community had its gin and many a small community sprang up around a gin. The gins ran night and day during cotton season and it was by far the busiest time of the year. All merchants carried their customers from cotton crop to cotton crop. Although "King Cotton" reigned from the late 1880's until the 1930's when drought, depression, and low market prices

finally took their toll on the struggling farmers, the cattle industry had quietly continued and improved.

With the eradication and control of Texas tick fever in the late 1800's, South Texas cattlemen were able to bring in registered blood lines and start upgrading their herds. The end of the trail was not the end of the cattle industry in DeWitt County nor the end of its contribution to quality cattle state-wide. By the end of the 1940's DeWitt County was the largest shipping point for cattle on the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Cuero Livestock Commission Company, presently operated by Buddy and Johnny Blackwell, Jimmy Mudd and Burl Jones who purchased it from their uncle Finley and fathers Claude Blackwell, James Mudd and Burl Jones Sr. is the premier market in South Texas and injects millions of dollars a year into the DeWitt County and South Texas economies. In 1989 the company sold 85,000 head of cattle with an approximate value of $38,000,000 dollars. Cattle are marketed locally from as far as Zapata.

Obviously DeWitt County has come full circle. Once all cow country, it is practically all cow country again. What farming remains in the county today is primarily feed stuffs to maintain the county's beef and dairy herds. Throughout the years many fine herds have been developed and maintained by the old ranching interests. The Blackwells, Hamiltons, Friars, Peebles, Alexanders, Smiths, Roeders, and many others too numerous to mention have been active in the DeWitt County cattle industry for well over one hundred years.

Douglas Burns, son of trail boss Arthur Burns, was manager of the Pitchfork Ranch for over 25 years. His brother, John Burns, was professor of animal husbandry at Texas A&M, a much sought after judge at major livestock shows, a trustee and general manager of the 6666 Ranch, and a consultant to the largest ranching interests in the United States. The Roeder family established and still operates one of the outstanding herds of Hereford cattle in the country. J. Carter Thomas, son-in-law of Alfred Friar, developed and his widow, Ann Friar Thomas, still maintains a world-renowned herd of Brahman cattle.

Finally below is a report that indicates how the cattle business was operated in the days of the open range. It is a letter from a foreman to his boss.

Dear Sir:

We have branded 800 caves this roundup we have made sum hay potatoes is a fare crop. That feller yu lef in charge at the other camp got to fresh and we had to shot him, nothing much has hapened since yu lef.

Yurs truely.

Jim

Letter quoted in the *Story of the Cowboy*, 1897

by Joseph L. Sheppard

THE DE WITT COUNTY FEUD

T14

William and Laura Sutton

Author's Prefatory Note

The conflict between the so-called Taylor Forces and Sutton Forces was deadly in the post Civil War era. The participants may have known what the primary causes were, but even this is debatable today. Why? Newspaper reporters and chroniclers during the time of the feud could not lay blame, or establish cause, or give a beginning . . . at least to the satisfaction of the 20th Century researcher. There were several brief "histories" of the feud printed in the newspapers of the 1870's. As early as 1880, Victor M. Rose wrote a history of the Texas Vendetta, but solid answers are elusive. The result of some years of studying this feud as well as, other aspects of 19th Century Texas history is that the definitive study of the feud is not yet written, and maybe historians will have to be satisfied with continuing to study and to look for answers, perhaps for ever.

A few questions which elude us are: Was the killing of Charles Taylor the real "immediate cause"? Rose wrote of the handling of wild cattle as a cause, and the social conditions of Texas following the defeat of the Confederacy. But most of Texas experienced those same conditions, and the feuds of other Texas counties pale in comparison. Today no one can say with positive authority if Charles Taylor was even a member of the DeWitt Taylor family. Would the feud have happened if Charles Taylor had been named James Smith or William Johnson?

Another important aspect to consider is the personality of William E. Sutton. His name has been linked to the feud since his death in early 1874. His brother James resided in an adjacent county, yet apparently took no part in the feud. This at a time when family ties were much stronger than today; this at a time when so many of the young men involved were related

James C. Taylor

William Taylor

to one or both sides of the fighting forces. How did James Sutton stay uninvolved living so close to the violence? What was there about William E. Sutton that attracted so many followers willing to die in "his cause"?

If the feud began in 1868 following the death of Charles Taylor, as some accounts say, why do others claim that it had its origins back in Georgia and the Carolinas, as early as the 1840's? The fighting men were Texans. Yet most persistent stories have a grain of truth somewhere in their origins.

Whatever the cause, wherever the origins, even the ending is controversial. By rights the death of William Sutton should have ended the feud. Or, by rights the death of Jim Taylor should have ended the feud. But feelings of antagonism remained for some time after the deaths, long after the gunsmoke had cleared away from the streets of Clinton. Some criminal acts were committed no doubt, for personal vengeance, the perpetrators probably believing they would be blended in with the feuding activities so as to escape prosecution.

Someday these many questions and others may give up satisfactory answers. The following essay is just that — an "essay," or attempt to chronicle the events of the day which made up what is generally considered the Sutton-Taylor Feud. The sources have mainly been identified within the text, but besides court records of DeWitt County (which tragically are not complete), the following newspapers have been a goldmine: The Galveston Daily News, Weekly News, Austin Daily Democratic Statesman, Corpus Christi Weekly Gazette, San Antonio Daily Express and Daily Herald, and several others. Secondary sources include: *The Sutton-Taylor Feud* by Jack Hays Day, San Antonio, 1937; *Forty Years a Peace Officer* by Lewis S. Delony, Abilene, Texas, 1937?, reprinted in "Old West" magazine, Winter, 1970, Vol 7, No. 2, Pp. 69-96; *Famous Texas Feuds* by C.L. Douglas, Turner Co., Dallas, Texas, 1936 and facsimile edition by State House Press, Austin, 1988; *The Life of John Wesley Hardin, As Written By Himself,* Seguin, Texas, 1896, and reprinted by University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1961; *The Taylors, The Tumlinsons and The Feud,* by Marjorie (Burnett) Hyatt, Smiley, Texas 1986 and revised edition 1988; *Fuel For A Feud* by Marjorie (Burnett) Hyatt, Smiley, Texas, 1989; *A History of DeWitt County,* Compiled by Nellie Murphree, Edited by Robert W. Shook, Rose International Press, 1962; *"Pidge" A Texas Ranger from Virginia* by Chuck Parsons, Henington Publishing Company, Wolfe City, Texas, 1985; *They Died With Their Boots On* by Thomas Ripley, Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc. 1935; *The Texas Vendetta; or, The Sutton-Taylor Feud,* J.J. Little & Co., 1880, facsimile edition by The Frontier Press, Ed Bartholomew, Houston, Texas, 1956; *I'll Die Before I'll Run-The Story of the Great Feuds of Texas* by C.L. Sonnichsen, Harper & Brothers, Publishers, New York, 1951, and enlarged edition by Devin-Adair Co., Old Greenwich, Connecticut and Bison Books Edition, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1988; *The Taylor-Sutton Feud,* by Thomas Stell, unpublished manuscript in C.L. Sonnichsen Collection, University of Texas at El Paso; *The Sutton-Taylor Feud* by Robert C. Sutton, Jr., Nortex Press, Quanah, Texas, 1974; and *Tumlinson A Genealogy* by Samuel H. Tumlinson, privately printed, 1986?.

by Chuck Parsons

The DeWitt County Feud

Victor M. Rose, the first serious historian of the Sutton-Taylor Feud, wrote the following in the opening paragraphs of his book, *The Texas Vendetta, or The Sutton-Taylor Feud* published in 1880: "Fourteen long and weary years have passed away since the terrible 'Taylor-Sutton Feud' originated in DeWitt County, Texas. Fourteen years ago, with the extinction of one life, a cloud 'no larger than a man's hand' arose above the horizon of our political sky, already surcharged with the latent elements of a storm that was destined to sweep West Texas with a breath more potent for destruction than the besom of war itself."

Fourteen years prior to that would give a date of 1866 as the year of the opening salvos of the great feud. It was certainly the most notorious of the Texas feuds of the 19th century. Among the western conflicts of the post Civil War it stands out in relief. One could make a strong argument that it has received more attention than all other Texas feuds combined, that even among other western feuds it is the best known — better known than the Graham-Tewksbury range war of Arizona and the Johnson County War of Wyoming. Rose called it The Texas Vendetta, which seemingly would place any of the other feuds several rungs below in the ladder of feuding intensity. C.L. Sonnichsen, pre-eminent feud historian, entitled his study "Thirty Years of Feuding" declaring that no other feud had "covered so much ground, lasted so long, caused so many deaths, or left such a brand on the lives of so many people."

Rose was by profession a lawyer (after serving in the Army of the Confederacy) but spent most of his career as a newspaper editor and writer. He had been admitted to the bar in 1870 and became a local political leader. This is important as at least Victor M. Rose was a native of the general area in which the feud occurred, and was an educated man capable of writing a history, such as his book on the feud claimed to be.

According to Rose the vendetta was originally confined to a few individuals of the County of DeWitt but spread until "many hundreds of good men" were involuntarily involved in the "ghastly Saturnalia." Being willing to place a beginning date of the feud — 1866 — Rose also was willing to identify a cause, its primal source being "the irregular manner in which the nomadic stock-raisers conducted their business . . ." The cause, in Rose's mind, was the institution of the free range and custom of branding beeves. The practice easily lent itself to abuse because of the geographical characteristics of the land, a vast expanse of country and prairie, woodland, dense chaparral with settlements often twenty to thirty miles apart. Brands were meant to identify the owner but brands could be easily altered in many ways. Cattle and horses as well were subject to the practice. A man with a horse and a branding iron could increase nothing to a manageable herd. The "recording of another man's brand was the speediest means of acquiring an independent fortune. Hence its popularity." Rose blamed the negligent manner in which the stock interest was conducted as the cause of this which was practiced in nearly all counties from the Guadalupe to the Rio Grande.

Besides the problem of the brand, Rose admitted the fact that the defeated Confederates were humiliated by the military authorities. The authority of Federal rule was challenged by a "rebel element" and it was the Taylor family who was most conspicuous. At the head of the family was Creed Taylor, a man who had joined a military company under Robert M. Coleman and John James Tumlinson. He earned much experience fighting Indians and Mexicans in the 1830's and 1840's. His sons were to get into trouble with the military authorities.

John Hays and Phillip Dubois or "Doboy" were the Taylor boys who according to history first felt the wrath of the Reconstruction government. They were sometimes referred to as The Taylor Party and sometimes as The Taylor Gang, the terms each having a definite connotation. Rose dismisses the actions of Hays and Doboy Taylor in a few short paragraphs, describing them as "naturally reckless and dar-

ing — a characteristic of the time, section of the country, and manner of life." He merely states their act of "punishment of a negro for some offense" caused the military authorities to outlaw them, and in the aftermath "many Federal troopers fell before their unerring aim." Major General J.J. Reynolds was the man commanding the military district of Texas. E.M. Pease, acting Governor of Texas, reported what was the true feelings of many Texans, and perhaps of the feelings of many of DeWitt County especially: ". . . a large majority of the white population, who participated in the late rebellion, are embittered against the government by their defeat in arms and loss of their slaves, and yield to it an unwilling obedience only because they feel that they have no means to resist its authority. None of this class has any affection for the government, and very few of them have any respect for it. They regard the legislation of Congress or the subject of reconstruction as unconstitutional and hostile to their interests, and consider the government now existing here, under the authority of the United States, as an usurpation upon their rights. They look upon the enfranchisement of their late slaves and the disfranchisement of a portion of their own class as an act of insult and oppression."

Hays Taylor was involved in a difficulty as early as April 15, 1867. In DeWitt County he shot William North through the thigh, the difficulty arising from some misunderstanding about a horse race. North did recover. His name here in this context may be significant as at the time he was a boarder in the home of one Nichols; the name of Lazarus Nichols would later appear in significant acts of the feud.

J.R. Polley of Floresville left a lengthy account of these two sons of Creed Taylor which was printed in the July, 1928 issue of Frontier Times magazine. According to Polley, who seemingly wrote much from his personal experience or observation, the Taylors were not in serious trouble with the military until the killing of Major Thompson in Mason County. Polley identified the killers as Hays and Doboy Taylor and one Jones. More accurately, the men were identified by the military as Hays Taylor, P.G. Taylor and one Spencer. The killing of Major Thompson occurred in Mason, November 14, 1867. The official report commented: "Major Thompson was murdered by the three desperadoes named while attempting to quell an altercation between them and a party of soldiers. The desperadoes escaped." It is believed the third man was W.A. Spencer, who married Hays and Doboy's sister Caroline Hephzibeth. Although this incident had seemingly no direct connection to the troubles in Dewitt County it placed the Taylors in the antiauthority camp. Polley claimed there was a $5000 reward for the capture of the trio; naturally there were men who would attempt to earn the reward.

One man who reportedly made the attempt was Captain John W. Littleton of Helena, Karnes County. Polley wrote "He was known to be brave, resolute and persistent, cunning and resourceful, and if he once entered upon the chase would move heaven and earth to accomplish his object . . ." The advantage the Taylors had was a network of spies which kept them informed of Littleton's movement. One early report of the killing appeared in the Galveston News of September 27, 1874. The following appeared in a lengthy article about the feud: "It is stated that the next two killed were Littleton and Stannard, who were shot in Wilson County, both friends of Sutton's. The supposition was that Taylor's friends committed the act." The end came on December 3, 1869, when Littleton and companion Stannard were ambushed and killed on the Old San Antonio-Gonzales road. Littleton was buried the following day with full Masonic honors. He had been elected sheriff of Karnes County on September 12, 1857, re-elected August 2, 1858 and served until April 3, 1860. He was again appointed sheriff on January 23, 1866 and served until June 25, 1866. Of interest is that in March of 1866 he had given shelter and care to a dying man in his home named Polk and Polk had been shot by a man named Charles Taylor.

Following the death of Littleton, Charles S. Bell received orders to eliminate the desperado element. To assist him in this endeavor he brought in a man whose name would become notorious among virtually all classes of Texans: Captain Jack Helm. The sons of Creed Taylor were two on the lawmen's list. On August 23, 1869 the Bell group caught up with Hays Taylor and killed him. Doboy was later corralled and killed by Sim Holstein in a confrontation having nothing to do with the troubles of the feud.

In early 1868 the name of Taylor again appeared, and for the first time the name was in opposition to the name of Sutton. Although there was but one Sutton involved his name is linked as leader of one of the factions. The incident first was reported in the Bastrop Advertiser. Apparently in March of 1868, a sizeable number of horses and cattle was stolen from DeWitt County ranchers. William E. Sutton joined a posse whose intentions were to capture or kill the thieves and to recover the stolen stock. Reportedly Sutton took part of the sheriff's party under his command; at Bastrop the group caught up with its object.

The Galveston News of April 7, 1868 reported in its "Texas Items" column as follows: "On the 25th ult., as we learn from the Advertiser, Bastrop was the scene of considerable excitement, caused by the appearance of a posse from Clinton, DeWitt County, armed with authority for the arrest of horse-thieves. Two of a gang of fourteen thieves had arrived in Bastrop a few days previously. The citizens from DeWitt seeing one of these on the street, called to him to surrender; but he tried to escape and was shot and killed. His name was Charles Taylor. James Sharp, another of the thieves, was arrested and taken to DeWitt County. Two Germans from the country, father and son, named Longee, were accidentally wounded during the firing — not dangerously, however. Another squad of citizens are in pursuit of other members of this gang of horse thieves." One contemporary report stated that Sutton and a Doctor White were charged with murder in Bastrop County of Charles Taylor and a German citizen ". . . and the wounding of another German in the town of Bastrop in 1868." The article further stated that Sutton and White "plundered Taylor of his clothes and fine saddle, and would have killed Mr. Sharp, but for the interference of the citizens. They then started with Sharp for DeWitt County, but killed him the first night near Mr. Elson's, in Caldwell County, and reported that he had tried to escape."

The report that James Sharp never arrived in DeWitt was correct. Mr. Sutton was in command of a squad of eight citizens from DeWitt and headed home. Shortly after passing Lockhart, Caldwell County, the squad "riddled their prisoner with bullets, a short distance from that place, and left the body on the roadside." The citizens of Lockhart buried Sharp "soon after the act was committed." The act of murdering a prisoner and then claiming he was killed in attempting to escape would occur again and again. James Sharp's name does not appear other than on the death scene so we know nothing more about him.

Charles Taylor is also a mysterious figure. Victor Rose wrote that he was a distant relative of the family of Creed Taylor. As yet his precise connection to the Taylors — if there is anything other than the same surname — has not been established. Some historians claim he was related, others say he was not. One newspaper item, the Galveston Daily News of May 19, 1875, dated the origin of the feud as the fall of 1868, recording that there was a widow lady named Mrs. Thomas, residing upon Thompson's Creek, in DeWitt County, from whom Charles Taylor stole a number of cattle. William Sutton decided to avenge the wrong, as she was "a widow and without protection." It was this act that caused William Sutton to pursue and kill Charles Taylor.

It was at this time, according to Rose, that Captain Jack Helm entered into the picture. His orders came from General J.J. Reynolds and he quickly established himself as an authority figure. He quickly vowed to purge the State of Texas of all "bad characters." He was an individual who believed that what he was doing was right and for the best. He found it necessary with some frequency to communicate his feelings and intentions in the columns of the Texas newspapers. One such example appeared in the Victoria Advocate of September 23, 1868, and reprinted in Rose's history. it is worth presenting here in full.

"To The People of Texas:

"As there has been so much said by the people of the State regarding my operations, and as many know not of what they speak — attributing to me motives that are false — I take this occasion of enlightening the law abiding citizens as to what I have done, and why I did it. About the first of June I was duly summoned by the military authorities, through Captain C.S. Bell, special officer, to assist in arresting desperadoes in Texas known as the 'Taylor party.' We found the party near the rancho of Mr. Creed Taylor, and attempted to arrest them. We succeeded in wounding one, Spencer by name, the other effecting an escape. I now proceeded in company with Bell to the city of Austin, where I received emphatic orders to arrest the party. On my return home I found that about forty had collected, in open defiance of the law, determined to resist the legal authorities of the State. I immediately proceeded to summon good citizens to assist me in the capture. The sheriff of DeWitt County, James Francis Blair, accompanied me, myself being deputy sheriff. Both our lives had been threatened by these desperadoes, as well as the lives of all those cooperating with me for their arrest. Mr. Jacobs, the sheriff of Goliad County, had just been killed by members of this same party. Finding that I was ready and determined on action, they divided, separating in squads of from five to fifteen. I proceeded in pursuit of the strongest of these bands, commanded by Jim Bell, a noted desperado of DeWitt County. I succeeded in capturing him and more, who were afterwards killed in attempting to escape from the authorities.

"About this time the Peaces — the murderers of Jacobs — were arrested, but subsequent-

ly effected an escape. One Stapp was killed in attempting to do so. The Peaces proceeded to the rancho of John Choate, in San Patricio County, stating to Choate that they were pursued by a 'vigilance committee,' and that they came to him for protection. John Choate now went to the rancho of Joe Tumlinson in DeWitt County, fifty or seventy-five miles from his home, and informed Captain Tumlinson that he had left the Peace boys at his house, and that he had loaned them one hundred and fifty dollars with which to effect an escape to Galveston. Choate insisted that Tumlinson should join him; said he had a band well fortified at his house, fully able to whip Jack Helm anywhere. Choate also avered that Helm was a d—d rascal, and had joined the Yankees for popularity, and that he could not raise over thirty men, and they only Dutch and Yankees. Tumlinson told Choate that he knew Helm to be a good man, acting under proper authority, and that he intended to co-operate with him; that he knew the Peaces to be murderers and thieves; that he had hunted them, and would do so again. Becoming convinced that Joe Tumlinson was not his man, Choate proceeded to the rancho of Creed Taylor, about fifty miles distant, where he remained about three days, when he came to the neighborhood of Yorktown, in company with four or five desperadoes, Hayes Taylor among the number. Choate now sent word to Tumlinson if he did not join him he would be killed, and that the Yankees had offered twelve hundred dollars reward for him, for the supposed killing of Stapp. Tumlinson replied that if he had done anything wrong he was willing to surrender to the proper authorities of his country, but would have nothing to do with Choate or any of his gang. Choate replied that Tumlinson must risk the consequences of his folly. Choate now went by the house of Jim Bell, and took the clothing and other effects of the Peace boys to his house in San Patricio County. Here he met the Peaces, Fulcord, the Broolans, Doughtys, Gormans, Perrys, and about forty two others, all known desperadoes, and many having indictments against them for thieving. Choate informed them that Jack Helm would be upon them, and that they must prepare for a fight. The house was fortified and put in condition for a regular siege, having loop-holes cut on all sides and secret passages connecting from room to room. They had one keg of powder, five hundred shotgun cartridges, two hundred Spencer rifle cartridges, preparations for receiving five hundred gallons of water, provisions, and all that was necessary for conducting a siege fifty days by fifty men. I had with me one hundred and twenty-five of the best citizens of the country. Arriving at Choate's a little after day, expecting to have to fight one hundred desperadoes, I immediately proceeded to carry the house by storm. I had one man killed and two wounded in the attack. Crockett and John Choates were killed, and two others wounded. Choate perfidiously attempted to shoot me after he had surrendered, and was killed by myself in defense of my life. I now made all necessary preparations for interring the dead, which was done. And right here let me nail to the counter those lies that allege that my men disturbed any of Mrs. Choate's property or the property of any one else. They did no such thing. I encamped in the neighborhood of San Patricio, and conferred with Captain Smith at Corpus Christi. I now proceeded to Yorktown, and sent a report to Helena. I was met at Yorktown by C.S. Bell, and disbanded my force until I could find out the whereabouts of the Taylors. Spent three days in this matter; collected my men about twenty-five, and proceeded to the forks of the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers, where I succeeded in arresting the Hogans, who were members of the same party. I now sent the prisoners to Helena under charge of Tom Flemming and six others. I then proceeded in pursuit of the Taylors. At Yorktown I met Bell, and detailed fifteen men to accompany him, stating to the boys that Captain Bell was a good and true man, and would lead them. I remained in camp with the remainder of my men, to attract attention while Bell could operate. The next morning I took up the line of march for Creed Taylor's, followed by one hundred men. I proceeded by a circuitous route up the Sandies, arresting all persons that I suspicioned, and cutting off all means of escape. I arrived within seven miles of the house, when I received intelligence of the fight with the Taylors. I here disbanded my men, after complimenting them for their orderly conduct, gentlemanly bearing, and devotion to the laws of the country. Taking ten men, I proceeded to Helena, where I met Majors Crosland and Callahan, Lieutenant Thompson, and other gentlemen, who approved of all I had done.

"I and my men are ready at all times to act with the legal authorities of my country in the enforcement of law and suppression of crime. I am a citizen of DeWitt County — deputy sheriff — and am opposed to mob law; but I am ready to give assistance to the authorities, either civil or military, to arrest thieves and desperadoes who defy the laws, either in Texas or any other part of the United States, regardless of all threats, and the desperado my enemy, which is the only guaranty that I desire to know that I am right. Jack Helm."

This document is significant not only because it provides a version of the work of Jack Helm but because it brings together several names of individuals who would act predominantly in the feud. A newspaper reporter identified only as "A.H.B." provided a version of the vigilante work of the spring of 1869 which was printed in the San Antonio Daily Express. By reputation Choate entertained men at his ranch of "more than doubtful character" and Helm sent him word that "he would shelter whom he pleased" and if Helm did pay a visit "They would be warmly received." The result was that Helm and Company did pay the Choates a visit. Crockett Choate reportedly killed one of the vigilantes and wounded several before he himself was killed. Another Choate companion was Skidmore and he was seriously wounded. John Choate was willing to surrender if terms could be arranged and stepped onto the porch for that purpose, Mrs. Choate's arms around him. The talk turned to shooting but ". . . being encumbered by his wife's embrance he failed to draw in time. The clear shots from Helm and Tumlinson's pistols rang out and Mrs. Choate held nothing but her husband's corpse."

F.O. Skidmore, the visitor, also left an account of the bloody August 3rd. He described himself as an intimate friend of the family, relating how the Helm party charged the house at daybreak. One Kuykendall of the Helm party was shot by Crockett Choate. Helm informed Mrs. Choate that anyone who wished to surrender could and they would not be harmed. Skidmore claimed "I was shot seventeen times . . ." and when the raid was over both Crockett Choate and his fifty-one year old cousin were dead. Although Crockett defended himself in firing at the Helm party, John Choate's "sole aim appeared to be to save his life. He appealed to Captain Tumlinson, as a Mason, to save him." In contrast to Helm's own self-justification, historian Rose interpreted his actions as being of no set policy other than doing what he imagined would please Radicals. In the mind of Victor Rose, Helm acted for notoriety alone and possibly some spoils of war, that being "sufficient for his vainglory."

In December of that same year another incident occurred which resulted in bloodshed — and again William Sutton was involved, and again it was a Taylor's blood which spilled. Buck Taylor was how he was known. He was born William P. Taylor to William Riley and Elizabeth (Tumlinson) Taylor, November 1, 1837. On February 22, 1866 he married Mary Anderson, and one child was born to them, William Walter Taylor. On Christmas Eve, 1868, Buck Taylor was with his cousin Richard Chisholm. There was a dance at the Clinton courthouse when tragedy struck.

Jack Hays Day, a not always reliable historian of the Taylors, recorded that Buck Taylor had called William Sutton a horse thief. it was at this dance, or "concert" as Day called it, that William Sutton killed Buck Taylor. When Richard Chisholm investigated the shooting he too was killed. Day commented: "When we had fully investigated these murders, efforts were made to bring Sutton and his henchmen to trial, but ended in failure. It was apparent that Sutton was the ringleader of a rowdy clique willing to take human lives at the slightest provocation; that he was capable of intense hatred and fed on trouble." Although it may have been "apparent" when Jack Hayes Day wrote his memories, much of what he described was perhaps what he had been told by others. At the time of the Taylor-Chisholm killing he was but ten years old.

Lewis S. Delony also wrote of the double killing in his memories *Forty Years A Peace Officer* and he too was a youngster when the killing occurred. Born October 21, 1857 at Clinton, he was as old as Day. Among his early memories, were how his father returned home from the war in rags and how hard life had been in his father's absence. Delony, writing in the middle of the 1930's, recalled the night of the double killing. "When we came down the street, we heard some loud talking, and as we passed the first saloon we saw a crowd of armed men in there. We hurried to get to the steps, when a man ran out of a saloon just ahead of us and shot at someone coming out of the saloon back of us. We ran under the steps at the square and waited until the battle was over. Dick Chisholm, a young man about twenty years old who lived just across the street from our house was shot down and killed, within ten feet of us. I heard him say, 'My God I am killed.' Another man was killed close to us by the name of Buck Taylor. As soon as the shooting was over, we ran to the courthouse and up the stairs. Just as we got to the head of the stairs, someone asked me who was shot and I said Dick Chisholm is killed. I heard a scream and saw Mrs. Chisholm, his mother, fall in a faint . . ."

Victor M. Rose recorded that a "dispute" arose between Buck Taylor and William Sutton. He pointed out Sutton was "one of the party engaged in the capture of the horse-thieves." Thus Rose seemingly made a point that two Taylors and a kinsman had been killed by William E. Sutton. Sutton and —

White were tried for the killing but were acquitted. Rose doesn't provide a first name for White. C.L. Sonnichesen called him "a character from Clinton known as 'Doc' White who had been a member of the posse that killed Charley Taylor in 1868."

An early newspaper history of the feud printed in the Galveston News of September 27, 1874, also recounted the killings. The reporter must have talked to quite a number of people and recorded what was perhaps commonly believed — in 1874. He wrote that Charles Taylor was not a relative of the DeWitt County Taylors, but "came among them" when he and his friend Jim Sharp were accused of stealing horses. They fled to Bastrop County with William Sutton and a posse in pursuit. Later Buck Taylor and Chisholm "expressed their feelings so strongly regarding the killing" that Sutton and "a Mr. White" were offended. Taylor and Chisholm were killed.

William Sutton had by 1869 become the leader of a group which would be termed the Regulators. Rose called him the "spirit of the party." He was described as a young man in his early twenties, six feet tall, fair complexion with blue eyes and light curly hair." His manners were mild and gentlemanly, and his appearance altogether prepossessing. Had his lot been cast in more peaceful times, his life and destiny would have been far different." Sutton was born October 20, 1846, and was to die young, March 11, 1874. The statement of Rose would no doubt have been true of most of the men participating in the Sutton-Taylor Feud! By this time four men had died reputedly by William Sutton or men closely associated with him — Charles Taylor, his friend, James Sharp, William "Buck" Taylor and his cousin, Richard Chisholm. Victor Rose offers the family motto as the command to seek revenge: "Who sheds a Taylor's blood, by a Taylor's hand must fall." The shedding of blood would go on for years.

The force under Jack Helm (and unfortunately we have no roster listing his men) created a great turmoil as too frequently prisoners in their custody were killed, the "justification" being that they had attempted to escape and it was necessary to kill them to prevent it. During the next year Helm made attempts to correct that "erroneous impression" as he termed it. The issue of the Victoria Advocate of August 19 carried yet another "card" from Helm, the leader of the Regulators, in which he again claimed that he was acting under orders from Military Headquarters, the highest authority in the State. Jack Helm "seeks to molest no one. To the honest, law abiding citizens he offers protection. For those thieves who have been depredating upon the stock interests of the country with impunity, he had orders to arrest and bring them to justice. That this will be done, and effectually done, there is no doubt."

Not long after this self-justification appeared, two more members of the Taylor family met their deaths. The press apparently paid little attention to the killing. Martin Luther Taylor, son of Rufus and Elizabeth (Lowe) Taylor and an older brother of Alfred P. and Rufus "Scrap" Taylor was born in 1843. On March 16, 1867, he married L.S. Morris, a daughter of W.B. "Dave" Morris. W.B. Morris and M.L. Taylor were to be killed on November 23, 1869 in McMullen County. Jack Hays Day wrote that Captain Tumlinson led several of the Sutton followers to where Morris ranched and captured him. They then went to Martin Luther Taylor's ranch, a quarter of a mile away, and captured him. The pair were taken from their house and shot down. Day erred in dating this as having occurred in April, 1870. According to Day the only reason for their deaths was that they were kin to William "Buck" Taylor.

1870 gave a new decade to Texas, and a new factor to be reckoned with for all those who claimed to be wanting justice and law and order. On July 1st of that year the State Police Bill went into effect. James Davidson was named Adjutant General and Chief of Police. He was met with the problem of selecting the best men to serve in the ranks of the force. Wrote Davidson: "In selecting these men, it was necessary to be assured of their courage and nerve. As you are well aware, in a State overrun with desperadoes and refugees from justice, these qualities are absolutely essential in a police officer; and, as many of the criminals in the State are persons of known desperate character, I have always, as far as possible, satisfied myself before recommending an applicant, that he was possessed of these qualities." Davidson selected as Captains of this force M.P. Hunnicutt, E.M. Alexander, L.H. McNelly and Jack Helm. Of this quartet little is known of Hunnicutt or Alexander. McNelly earned the respect of his contemporaries and later gained undying fame as a Captain in the Texas Rangers, commanding a force for a while in DeWitt County. History has been highly critical of Jack Helm.

Helm claimed that to select the men to serve under him he would go to the various counties of his district, interview respected "old citizens of known probity for information" and thus receive only qualified men. This was thoroughly explained in an interview with Helm conducted by the editor of the Gonzales Index and then reprinted in the San Antonio Daily Herald of July 27. He may have had the best of intentions. The most noted of the men who joined the Helm force were James Cox, Joseph Tumlinson, and William E. Sutton. These four men together have become, in the mind of history, the leading force of the so-called "Sutton Party." Their rivals — or anyone who was considered to be an enemy — gathered under the Taylor flag. In the press of the 1870's the two opposing forces were sometimes termed the Sutton-Tumlinson group opposed to the Taylor-Pridgen party, as Bolivar J. Pridgen, being a senator, commanded considerable influence and would soon be strongly anti-Jack Helm.

The four deserve separate attention. James W. Cox was born about 1824. His first wife, Arrena Wofford, died on his return trip from California to Texas. His second marriage on August 22, 1872 was to Laura (DeMoss) Hanks. Cox would live until May 15, 1873 when he would be killed with John W.S. Christman. Prior to the war Cox, on August 4, 1857, had petitioned the court to file charges against Bradford and Thornton Chisholm for a debt of $576.50. Bradford was a brother of Richard Chisholm, killed alongside Buck Taylor. Thornton was his father.

Joseph Tumlinson was born February 16, 1811, near Yorktown, and by the time of the feud had become respected if for no other reason than for his survival skills. His first wife had been Johanna Taylor, the daughter of Josiah and Hephsebeth Taylor, they having been married April, 1832. When she died is unknown but he married a second time to Elizabeth Newman on February 14, 1840. Of the leaders of the feuding parties he was the one who would die peacefully with his boots off, dying November 23, 1874.

William E. Sutton was born October 20, 1848 and learned of conflict first hand by serving in the Confederate Army. He had a brother James but he successfully avoided involvement in the feud. So far as known William E. was the only man with the Sutton name to figure in the feud.

Jack Helm has received the most negative criticism of all the Sutton group. Witness how Senator B.J. Pridgen described him in a letter of October 29, 1870, printed in the Daily Austin Republican of November 1st: "Helm is comparatively an ignorant man — knows nothing about the laws of the State, and less about the rights of its citizens. He is an unscrupulous liar, which, added to his recklessness and indiscretion, renders it extremely dangerous to the people of Western Texas for him to be clothed with the authority of captain of police. A majority of the policemen under him are not only ignorant, and can scarcely write their names, but stand charged with having shed the blood of human beings. Criminals, who for years have been refugees from the law and country, have lately returned from Mexico, and are now acting under Helm as policemen." What brought about a storm of indignation and ultimately Jack Helm's downfall was what would become known as "The Kelly Affair."

In mid-August the four Kelly brothers — William, Henry, Wiley and Eugene, with their families, attended an entertainment, or circus performance, at Sweet Home in Lavaca County. Something was not right with the performance; some say it was not a show suitable for family entertainment, and the Kelly men shot it up. On the other hand there is a version stating that the Kelly brothers were "young men who disturbed a circus performance, very disgracefully and dangerously, by noisy conduct, shooting off pistols, etc. . . ."

Captain Helm resolved to arrest the guilty parties. At first their identity was unknown. To solve that problem Helm arrested twenty-five or more persons who had been present at the performance and interrogated them, finally learning it was the Kelly brothers. It can not be determined if the Kellys were marked because of shooting up a circus performance of if Helm was looking for an excuse to arrest them because of who they were. They were of the Taylors, however, as Henry was married to Amanda Jane Taylor, daughter of Pitkin. William B. had married on October 4, 1869 Elizabeth Day Bennett Rivers, she being the daughter of Robert and Susan Day. Susan remarried Pitkin Taylor. Thus — was Helm after men who simply disturbed the peace in Sweet Home, or was he finding a reason to destroy more of the Taylor Party?

The Austin State Journal, very sympathetic to the State Police, reported the killing briefly, that William and Henry Kelly ". . . attempted to escape during the night of the twenty-fifth of August and were shot by the guard." It went on to report of others arrested by the State Police force — Wiley and Eugene Kelly, Alexander Cudd, John Criswell, Whit. Johnson. There had been fifty-four other arrests in Lavaca County. The Journal concluded its report: "The good citizens turned out unanimously to aid the police, which is fast becoming popular."

The testimony of the Kelly family members reveals that the two Kelly brothers were murdered. Senator Pridgen obtained sworn affidavits from several family members, made out before Justice of the Peace O.K. Tuton. The

statements were from Amanda Kelly, wife of deceased Henry Kelly; Delilah Kelly, the mother of the brothers; Pitkin B. Taylor, father-in-law of the Kellys; John W. Day, son of Robert and Susan Day, and F.K. Hawks. The statements were prepared October 13 and sworn to before Tuton two days later. According to Mrs. Amanda Kelly, three men rode up to their home, men she identified as "Doc" White, John Meader, and a man she later learned was one Simmons. Henry Kelly was informed that he was under arrest and that he would be taken to Hallettsville, some thirty-five miles away. At the same time William Sutton was arresting William Kelly at his home. The most damning portion of Amanda Kelly's eye-witness statement was as follows: "They had halted in an open place, surrounded by thick bushes and trees, and were engaged in conversation. Henry Kelly was sitting on his horse near Doc White and the stranger — Simmons — and William Kelly was sitting on his horse also, near William Sutton, and engaged in cutting up some tobacco with which to fill his pipe. He dismounted from his horse, and took out a match, and was squatting down with one knee on the ground, and in the act of striking the match on the bottom of his boot of the other leg, when William Sutton shot him! William Sutton was sitting on his horse at the time, and I saw him as he suddenly raised his gun, and pointing it downward in the direction of William Kelly, fired it off. William Kelly, in his doubled-up position, immediately fell to the ground. In another instant another gun was fired, and I saw Doc White with his gun up to his face, pointed in the direction of Henry Kelly, and smoke between them, and Henry Kelly instantly fell from his horse. A general firing of guns by the party at the bodies on the ground now occurred. Everything immediately became enveloped in smoke so as to completely shut out everything from my view. After the firing ceased, and while I was screaming and making toward the party, I saw the men escape in the brush. John Meader was not with the party when the killing took place. When I reached the bodies, Henry Kelly was motionless and lifeless. William Kelly showed signs of life, but did not speak . . . I was uneasy about the fate of my husband . . . from the fact that they were in the charge of men, two of whom, Sutton and White, were notorious for killing prisoners, and there was an improper feeling existing between Henry Kelly and these two men . . ."

The other sworn statements were very similar and corroborated that of Amanda Kelly. The statements were all printed in the Daily Austin Republican of November 1, 1870, along with a letter from B.J. Pridgen which contained a scathing denunciation of Jack Helm: "Even had they been killed in an effort to escape (which the laws of the State by no means justify), was it not the duty of properly disposed officers and men to have remained with and cared for the bodies, and have a legal inquest held over them? This they did not do; but abandoned them (as prisoners generally are who are killed by the notorious Jack Helm, or his crowd) to the mercy of buzzards, wolves, and hogs . . . Helm, himself keeps constantly in the saddle, swing to and fro through the country, apparently exulting in the manner in which he is terrifying the people."

The two other Kelly brothers were later delivered to Hallettsville where they were turned over to the civil authorities, stood trial and were aquitted. The press gave great coverage to this incident and to Captain Jack Helm. The Victoria Advocate pointed out that "Killed in Attempting to escape" and "Killed While resisting arrest" were two expressions "fast coming to have a melancholy and terrible significance to the people of Western Texas." The Advocate stressed that murder by men sworn to uphold the law and to ensure security to society's members was murder ". . .most foul, strange and unnatural."

Other questionable acts of Helm were brought out when John R. Baylor's letter to the San Antonio Herald was printed in its issue of November 19. He reported that the citizens of Hallettsville had been taxed to pay for the expenses of Helm and his men while there. Those who refused to pay were threatened. Baylor fearlessly said ". . . it is time that the career of this man (Helm), who is a murderer and professional cut throat, should be stopped. It is the duty at least of every one to hold up to public gaze his infamous acts." The Herald of November 22, printed a statement of W.W. Boyce supporting the claim of Baylor. It was able to report having the pleasure of reporting that in Austin Helm had been given "a knock-down from an honest man's fist" and that the man doing the knocking down was none other than Bolivar Pridgen!

Nothing more severe than that happened to the men accused of murdering the Kelly brothers. They were allowed to testify on their own behalf — claiming that the Kellys were killed while attempting to escape from an officer of the law in the performance of his duty. The resulting publicity did cause Adjutant General Davidson to suspend and then discharge Jack Helm from the State Police force. He still had plenty of power, however, as he had, on December 3, 1879, been elected to the office of Sheriff of DeWitt County. General J.J. Reynolds reinforced that with his own Special Order #65. Helm would serve as an enemy of the Taylor force until mid-1873 when he met his demise at the hands of John Wesley Hardin and his friend James C. Taylor, the son of old Pitkin who had lost his sons-in-law, the Kelly brothers.

Jack Helm had other concerns on his mind as well. On August 6, 1872, he was required to post a new bond, the reason being that the bond then on file had not been filed in the time as prescribed by law, thus inoperative and void. A new oath had to be administered as well. The bond was in the amount of ten thousand dollars. Besides the signature of Jack Helm on the surviving document are those of bondsmen and witnesses William Sutton, Joseph Tumlinson, R.B. Hudson, James P. Beck, J.W. Cox, R.W. Thomas, J.B. Tucker, and surprisingly, Jo. Taylor. One wonder why Joseph Taylor would have signed such a document . . . and one also wonders if the R.W. Thomas had any connection to the widow Thomas, the person whose cattle were allegedly stolen by Charles Taylor a few years before.

Supposedly Pitkin Taylor made a personal vow to somehow bring to justice the men who had killed the Kelly brothers. According to Jack Hays Day, his efforts so enraged Sutton and his friends that he was thus marked for death. Apparently the newspapers of the day missed out on this incident as no report of the shooting of Pitkin Taylor has been found in the contemporary press. The Taylor accounts state he was shot some six months before his actual death, having been lured out of his home during the night. His head stone in the Taylor-Bennett Cemetery gives no birth date, only March, 1873 as his date of death. If Day was correct the midnight ambush was about October of 1872.

Day claimed that Sutton and four of his men stole the bell off one of Pitkin's oxen in the night. Then one of them stole into a cornfield and rattled the bell to awaken Taylor. Naturally he came out to investigate and then was shot down. Amanda Jane Taylor Kelly, the widow of Henry and Pitkin's daughter, rushed out into the night, almost stepping on one of the assassins. She hurried to John Day's house to gather help. No one was ever formally charged with this shooting, but the Taylors blamed William Sutton and his men. John Wesley Hardin, who had not yet made a full commitment to the Taylor cause, believed the killing had happened thusly: "Some of the best men in the country had been murdered by this mob (Sutton, Helm, Cox and Tumlinson). Pipkin Taylor had been decoyed by them at night from his house and shot down because he did not endorse the killing of his own sons-in-law, Henry and Will Kelly, by the brutal Helms' mob. Anyone who did not endorse their foul deeds or go with them on their raids incurred their hatred, and it meant death at their hands. They were about 200 strong at this time and were waging a war with the Taylors and their friends."

At Pitkin's funeral in March of 1873, James C. Taylor vowed to avenge the death of his father. Again we have only Jack Hays Day's word for it but he very well may have been there and remembered it accurately. "It was a grim and tragic scene. The burial plot was near the river on a shaded knoll. Around the open grave the relatives of the murdered man were assembled. Among the mourners were young Jim Taylor, son of the deceased, and five other youthful kin of the slain man. In hideous contrast to this grief-stricken group, across the river, while the funeral services were being conducted, Bill Sutton assembled his cut throat gang in bold mockery. With raw drink and coarse jest and wild firing of guns they celebrated the death of Pipkin Taylor while he was being lowered into the grave . . .Jim's mother, who had borne up well under her grief, broke down and wept. If there had ever been a doubt in young Jim's mind what he should do about the slaying of his father, it was cleared up then. If ever a man was provoked into taking the law into his own hands, Jim Taylor was inspired by that reason." According to Day, Taylor and the other five young men vowed to wash their hands in Sutton's blood.

Almost symbolically the State Police force was terminated not long after the death of Pitkin B. Taylor. April 22, 1873, was its final day. As a whole the State Police force was unpopular at best, and hated at worst. By the time the State Police force was ended the Taylor clan could list the following as being victims of either Yankee rule or the State Police force: Hays and Doboy Taylor, Pitkin Taylor, William "Buck" Taylor, Martin Taylor, W.S. "Dave" Morris, Richard Chisholm, Charles Taylor, James Sharp, Will and Henry Kelly. William E. Sutton was directly involved in the deaths of at least half of them, giving the Taylors reasonable cause to place him at the head of their list of enemies. Along with the name of William E. Sutton, there were the names of his close associates, James W. Cox, Joseph Tumlinson, and Jack Helm.

Pitkin Taylor's headstone places his death at simply March, 1873, suggesting possibly it was erected sometime later and no one was positive as to the exact date. Whenever the last day

was, James C. Taylor assumed leadership of the Taylor clan. Jim Taylor was born January 15, 1851, the son of Pitkin and Susan Day Taylor. His older half-siblings were John, William, and Elizabeth Day. His full sibling was Amanda Jane, the wife of Henry Kelly. On April 5, 1870 he was married, in DeWitt County, to Mary "Molly" Elizabeth Kelly, the younger sister of Henry and William who were killed by Sutton, White and C.C. Simmons. Jim Taylor did not waste much time in laying plans to kill Sutton.

On April Fool's Day of 1873, action was taken. William E. Sutton was in Banks Saloon and Billiard Hall in Cuero when someone shot at him, wounding him, but not too seriously. John Wesley Hardin wrote as if he knew positively that Jim Taylor was the trigger man. Jack Hays Day wrote that it was Jim Taylor and his nephew Alfred Day. He also wrote that Sutton filed charges against Alf. Day and R.P. "Scrap" Taylor. In an interview with C.L. Sonnichsen, he stated: "When Jim Taylor shot Bill Sutton in the arm in a Cuero saloon, Bill ran — and how — as it is well known and he made his escape. He was laid up in his home while his wound healed, guarded day and night by his gang." Rose quoted the Victoria Advocate's report, date not provided, as follows: "Attempted Assassination. — We learn that Mr. William Sutton was shot in Cuero last Friday night, by some party or parties unknown. Sutton was sitting in a billiard saloon when some one from the outside fired two shots at him in rapid succession, one of which took effect in his left arm and breast, inflicting a serious wound, shattering the arm badly."

Within two months Sutton was ready to utilize his legal options. He brought a charge against Rufus P. "Scrap" Taylor, a younger brother of Martin Luther Taylor who had died alongside W.B. Morris allegedly by the hand of William E. Sutton. Having been born May 20, 1854, the son of Rufus and Elizabeth Taylor, he was younger than John Wesley Hardin who would become more successful at killing enemies of the Taylors.

On June 16, 1873, William Sutton left home to attend the examination of "Scrap" Taylor. He was in the company of Horace French, Dr. White (again no first name provided), John Meador and Addison Patterson. Some one in Cuero the next day wrote a letter to the San Antonio Herald which included this report: "The Taylor party, seven in number, fired into the Sutton party on the road to Clinton, and killed French's horse and wounded two other horses, John Medor [sic] was slightly wounded in the leg. There is a great deal of excitement here today, while the examination is going on at Clinton. The people are out on a scout after the parties who did the shooting." According to Jack Hays Day the ambushing party consisted of Jim Taylor, Patrick Hayes "Bud" Dowlearn, "Scrap" Taylor, Alfred Day, William Taylor, and "one other." The latter is suspected to have been Day himself who may have feared some type of retaliation even at that late date! Jim Taylor, being the oldest one in the party — all of twenty-two years old — was acting as leader. Day wrote that they were "over anxious in their effort to wing him . . . and [Sutton] fled as the boys fired. Unable to ride horseback, he and one other man was in a buggy." Hardin also pointed out that Sutton was a hard man to kill. Besides the arm wound he had received in the Cuero saloon, Sutton ". . . had a horse killed under him in a fight on the prairie below Cuero and he had another killed while crossing the river below there. He was looked on as hard to catch, and I made futile efforts to get him myself. I had even gone down to his home at Victoria, but did not get him." The newspaper reporter wrote that there were seven in the attacking party. Day identifies but six. One wonders if Hardin himself was not also in the ambushing party!

John Wesley Hardin, by his own account, had never been in the DeWitt-Gonzales County area until 1871 when he had met for the first time his cousins the Clements brothers. That summer of 1871 he was hired to work with them taking cattle north to Kansas markets. He had already been involved in numerous gunfights, resulting in the death of several men. It has been suggested that at this time Hardin became a hired gunman for the Taylor force. This has not been supported by strong evidence. Hardin had by 1872 married into the Bowen family, aligned to the Clements family, aligned to the Tennille family. As well, he was a fugitive. Jack Helm was the sheriff; Cox, Sutton and Tumlinson were deputies. Seemingly if Hardin wanted to attempt to reside in that area he would have had to side with the Taylor force. By his own account Hardin did not meet up with Jack Helm until the spring of 1873. Hardin challenged Helm to arrest him but Helm refused, claiming he wanted to have some type of understanding with Hardin. The pair met but came to no agreement other than to meet again. Supposedly at the second meeting held at the house of Jim Cox, Hardin made his decision: that he had to join the Taylor side as his friends George Tennille and Mannen Clements were slated to be killed. Hardin wrote: "I told them that I would not swap work with them [meaning he would not be prosecuted for his criminal charges if he would kill certain 'enemies' of the Helm force], but that they would let me know if any danger threatened me, but swore eternal vengeance on the Taylors and their friends."

What is certain is that with Hardin's entry upon the scene, having established himself as a Taylor partisan, the death toll began to mount. On March 30, 1873, a man identified only as Jack Slade shot a man named Cooper. On April 1, 1873, John Morgan was killed in Cuero by one "Fred. Johnson." The sheriff who reported these acts did not know that J.B. Morgan had in reality been shot and killed by Hardin; in fact the mysterious "Jack Slade" could easily have been yet another alias of John Wesley Hardin. The Gonzales County sheriff reported that an unidentified man had been killed in March. Gonzales County authorities may not have had any idea as to the identity of the deceased, but they knew Hardin; on October 19, 1871 he had shot and killed State Policeman Green Paramoor and in the same gunfight wounded another policeman, John Lackey.

In early 1873 (Hardin dated it as April 23) Helm and a group of possibly fifty men came into the Hardin territory looking for him, Mannen Clements and George Tennille. The men were not to be found but the women — who refused to say where their men were — were insulted. Then the Hardin and Taylor forces began serious planning. Wrote Hardin: "There [at Mustang Mott] I met Jim, John, and Scrap Taylor, while Manning Clements, George Tennille and myself represented our side of the house. It was there agreed to fight mob law to the bitter end, as our lives and families were in danger." By mid-July they could claim one victory. In an ambush James W. Cox was killed along with his companion John W.S. Christman. The newspapers merely reported that the pair had been "waylaid and murdered near the edge of DeWitt county." Jack Hays Day wrote that the ambushing party consisted of Jim and Scrap Taylor, Alf. Day and Bud Dowlearn. Supposedly the two groups met by accident, with Cox, Tumlinson, "and three more of the Sutton outfit." These names have been variously given as Wells, J.L. Griffin, H. Ragland, and Joe Tumlinson. Victor Rose, citing an unidentified newspaper account, recorded: "Double Murder. — There was a shocking double murder committed last week between Helena and Yorktown. It appears that two men, Cox and Cresman [sic], were journeying between the towns named, when they were ambushed by unknown parties and killed. Cox was found with nineteen buckshot in his body, and his throat cut from ear to ear. He was with Helm in his Regulator depredations, and no doubt he was killed to avenge some injury inflicted then. The unfortunate Cresman was a stranger in this section, and not a party to the feud. Capt. Tumlinson and Ragland were riding a few yards to the rear when the volley emptied the saddles of their companions, and thus warned, saved themselves by a hasty retreat."

Hardin was perhaps there on the scene. He had this to say: "It was currently reported that I led the fight, but as I have never pleaded to that case, I will at this time have little to say, except to state that Jim Cox and Jake Chrisman [sic] met their deaths from the Taylor party about the 15th of May, 1873."

Some reports indicate that a few days later Hardin and Jim Taylor next killed Jack Helm. Since Hardin was there, his version needs to be considered. Supposedly he had earlier set up a meeting on May 17, at Albuquerque, a settlement now but a memory, in the far western portion of Gonzales County. Hardin took along a "trusty friend" — no one other than Jim Taylor. Hardin and Helm had their meeting, with Taylor strangely not included. (Perhaps he was aside covering Hardin.) Hardin and Helm could come to no agreement as to the feuding action. Apparently the Cox-Helm-Tumlinson force believed that some agreement could be worked out with Hardin. Hardin wrote that Jim Taylor asked to be introduced to Jack Helm, which is strange as one would certainly think that he would know an enemy such as Jack Helm! In a blacksmith shop in Albuquerque, Helm made a verbal attack on Hardin. "I looked around and saw Jack Helms [sic] advancing on Jim Taylor with a large knife in his hands. Some one hollered, 'Shoot the d—d scoundrel.' It appeared to me that Helms was the scoundrel, so I grabbed my shotgun and fired at Capt. Jack Helms as he was closing with Jim Taylor. I then threw my gun on the Helms crowd and told them not to draw a gun . . . In the meantime Jim Taylor had shot Helms repeatedly in the head, so thus did the leader of the vigilant committee, the sheriff of DeWitt, the terror of the country, whose name was a horror to all law-abiding citizens, meet his death. Many of the best citizens of Gonzales and DeWitt counties patted me on the back, and told me that was the best act of my life." Note that in this version Hardin wrote as to place himself in the role of defender — that Helm was attacking and he had to kill Helm to save the life of Jim Taylor. Another version deserves attention here. R.R. Smith wrote on October 1, 1943, to C.L. Sonnichsen, that it was Taylor who started the fight. "He

walked towards the blacksmith shop and started to shooting at Helms, who jumped up with a long knife in his hand. Green McCracken yelled, "Shoot the son-of-a—h.' Hardin switched his shotgun and pulled the trigger. The knife dropped and the arm that had held it fell. The boy closed in for closer shooting. He was Jim Taylor. Helms ran through the blacksmith shop and around it, Taylor following and shooting. He dropped almost at the point he started from." Smith was born in 1880 and had heard the tale from various community members who were probably there the day the killing took place. Of interest is that in the same 1943 letter Smith wrote that during the Civil War "Old Man Riddle," who was "northern in his sympathies" had refused to grind corn for the war widows whose husbands were in the Confederate armies. For this refusal, Pitkin Taylor hanged Riddle. In retaliation "Jack Helms and his men" killed "two boys of Pitkin Taylor's."

The date Hardin gave for the Helm killing was May 17, 1873. Victor M. Rose wrote that Helm, working on an agricultural implement he had invented, was in the blacksmith shop when "two young men, supposed to have been friends of the Taylor, rode up to the shop, and announced through the threats of their revolvers the implacable message of fate." The implement Helm was working on was a type of cotton worm destroyer. The United States Patent office shows Patent No. 13902 dated May 20, 1873, and application filed November 16, 1872. Helm and Charles Tim, assignor, were both of Hochheim, Dewitt County. There is no dispute over the slayers of Jack Helm but there has been considerable question as to the date.

Jack Hays Day wrote that the killing was "about the first of March, 1873." Rose is vague, stating that it was "a little while afterwards" following his election as sheriff. A brief item in the Dallas Times Herald of August 2, 1873 states briefly: "The notorious Jack Helm, one of General Davis' State Police, was killed last week, near Seguin, by a man named Hardin." The Houston Telegraph of July 30 reported: "Jack Helms, Davis' ex-State policeman, was shot to death, in DeWitt county, while riding along the highway." The San Antonio Daily Express of July 25, reported: "Jack Helm Killed. In DeWitt County a desperado by the name of Hardin with several others of the same stripe rode up to the blacksmith shop of Jack Helm, while he was engaged at his work and riddled him with bullets." These various reports, although they are not in agreement as to the exact details of Helm's death, do mark the death date as possible late July, instead of March as Jack Hays Day wrote, instead of May, as Hardin wrote, and much earlier than November when the coroner presented a bill of six dollars for the inquest on Helm's body. In the Civil Minutes Book of DeWitt County, cause #1279, is found, B.J. Pridgen vs J. Helm, Sheriff et al, "Death of Deft Helm suggested."

This bears the date of August 6, 1873. Whatever the exact date was by the half way mark of 1873 two key enemies of the Taylor force were dead — James W. Cox and Jack Helm.

It was at this point in the progress of the feud that the growing community of Cuero — soon to become the county seat of DeWitt County — became concerned for its reputation. An attitude of self-respect seemingly was asserting itself. Lawlessness would damage the reputation of the area; people would avoid transacting business. Thus the feud at this point took on overtones of a conflict with financial implications. A lengthy item from the Victoria Advocate was reprinted in the San Antonio Daily Express of August 12, headlined: Midnight Scouts on the Rampage — Mystic Riders Flitting in the Dark. "Bands of armed men have been seen during the past week hovering around the outskirts of town under the friendly darkness of the late evening or early morning. Several persons passing to and fro have been stopped and interrogated about quite a number of our citizens . . . This state of affairs is the sequel to the reign of terror with which this unhappy section was afflicted some three or four years ago, over which Jack Helm and C.S. Bell were the presiding spirits. We learn that the two parties — possibly numbering fifty men each — are upon the 'war path.' The shooting of Wm. Sutton in Cuero, some time since seems to have been the spark that rekindled the smouldering embers, and since then, Helm, Cox and Chrisman have fallen — the victims of revenge — whether just or not, it is not our province to determine. Their comrades, in all probability, will seek to avenge their death, and thus continue the bloody carnival, which if not checked, must continue, until heaven only knows when. This slaughtering of men on our highways, and in the very towns, is an infamous disgrace to our manhood and our civilization. It should be stopped at once. There is enough law-abiding citizens to do it, and they are ready and willing to respond to the Sheriff's call at any time for this purpose. It is the Sheriff's duty to arrest all violators of the law, and to protect the citizen in life, liberty and property. it is no excuse that there is fifty or a hundred men violating the laws — the more numerous, the greater necessity for their arrests. Let him vindicate the majesty of the law if it should take a posse comitatus of every man in the county to do it. If this cannot be done, we had better burn the court house, abolish law, and transform the State into a seething, hating, murderous hell, and be done with it. To that point we are hastening, unless Sheriffs can nerve themselves to full performance of duty."

Perhaps some lawmen took the message to heart. On the morning of August 12, Deputy Sheriff D.J. Blair summoned every able man from Cuero to suppress what the Cuero Star termed, a riot, some four miles west of Yorktown. The riot turned out to be some three dozen men under the leadership of John Wesley Hardin having surrounded the house of Captain Joe Tumlinson. The Sheriff's party found both groups "well armed and equipped." The Sheriff was informed that no public disturbance was intended by either party, that the whole affair was of a personal nature, that a compromise had been effected and that both wished to repair to the county seat to draw up papers to keep the peace, to which the sheriff agreed. Thereupon the whole party, consisting of about one hundred men reached Clinton about 4 o'clock p.m. All was peaceably settled. The parties then dispersed." The San Antonio Herald of August 20 briefly reported the incident, concluding the difficulty had been "amicably adjusted."

Further details were forthcoming. The San Antonio Daily Express of august 17, reported that Tumlinson had been besieged in his house with about twenty friends for over thirty-six hours. Some sixty men were in the besieging party. Commented the Express: "We know nothing of the merits or demerits of the parties to the guerilla warfare, but one thing we do know, and that is the state of affairs existing in DeWitt was unheard of until the State Police was abolished." The Houston Telegraph of August 20, presented a more factual report, reprinting an article from the Gonzales Enquirer. "Hardin had some three dozen well armed in his group which marched to the Tumlinson residence, surrounding it for two nights and one day. Tumlinson managed to dispatch a courier to Clinton to seek the aid of the Sheriff. The Sheriff with some fifty men responded and started for the "seat of war" and found Hardin's men "formed in line of battle." The Sheriff was an above average negotiator, as soon, the two parties had agreed to sign a treaty of peace. "The line of march" was at once taken up. Hardin's men leading the column, the Sheriff's posse following, and Tumlinson's party bringing up the rear. Arriving at Clinton, Hardin halted on one side of the town, and Tumlinson on the other, while the Sheriff's men marched directly into the town. After signing the documents and having the same recorded in the Clerk's Office, both parties quietly dispersed to the intense gratification of the law-abiding and peace-loving citizens." Hardin was more candid in revealing the brutality of the attacking party, recalling that he and his group had planned to attack the Tumlinson house at night, sneaking up close and firing into the men as they slept on the porches. . . .This plan failed as the dogs of the vigilants announced the arrival of Hardin's group and aroused the Tumlinson force. Hardin expressed disappointment in the authorities coming to end the battle before it had begun, saying that things had begun "to get in shape for a good fight." Irregardless of how many men actually were involved in the siege, only forty-one men signed the treaty of peace. The original has been lost but a copy preserved by descendants of Joe Tumlinson allows one to see who did sign. It was signed in the presence of H.B. Boston, County Clerk on August 12. The introductory statement reads as follows: "Be it known by those persons whose names are hereto signed, that we severally recognize the fact that disputes and controversies of a nature likely to result in blood shed have existed between the undersigned. Those whose names are in the left column hereto of one party, and those whose names are in the right column of the opposite party, and for the purpose of promoting peace and quiet and order in this community, we each for himself, here promise on honor, to abstain from all hostile acts, or demonstration calculated to create a breach of peace or to induce any one to suppose that any violence is intended. And be it further more severally promised on honor that we will not connect ourselves with any organization of any armed character contrary to the spirit and meaning of above agreement. And we further promise and agree that should we or either of us at any time know of any organization being in existence for the purpose of doing violence to any man whose name is hereto signed, that we will, as soon as is our power, give notice of such organization to the party so threatened. To which we hereon sign our names, this the 12th day of August, A.D. 1873."

The following names were recorded in the left hand column: Joseph Tumlinson, A.F. Newman, C.C. Simmons, R.B. Busby, W.B. Belding, William Lechie, Ed Power, P.C. Tumlinson, J.W. Amment, J.W. Ferguson, C.V. Busby, W.N. Templeton, H. Ragland, William Peavy, R. Power, O.K. Tuton, H.H. Tuton, R.H. Brown, W.C. Wallace.

The following names were recorded in the

opposing column: Lazarus Nichols, George C. Tennille, E.J. Glover, M. Clements, A.J. Allen, J.W. Hardin, Gibson Clements, John L. Reynolds, J.M. Taylor, P.H. Dowlearn, J.P. Beck, E.J. Heins, James Clements, J.H. Clements, M.O. Nichols, E.A. Kelly, A.C. Day, Y. Hawks, J.W. Shipworth, J.S. Howard, J.W. Brazzell, J.J. Coche. Possibly there were more men involved who just did not wish to sign such an instrument. One name absent is that of William E Sutton.

The next known killing related to the feud was the murder of Wiley W. Pridgen of Thomaston Station. He was at the Pridgen store when several horsemen rode up and shot him down, his body "perfectly riddled with buckshot" according to one account. One newspaper source dates the killing as "on the last day of December, 1873." John Wesley Hardin wrote of nothing "tragical happening until December 27th, 1873 when Wiley Prigon [sic] was attacked by four men and murdered in his store eight miles below Cuero. Prigon was a Taylor man and his murderers belonged to the Sutton gang. Thus was war stirred up between the two parties again." Jack Hays Day went so far as to identify the slayers. John Goens, Jim Mason alias Jim Long, William E. Sutton, Doc White and Jeff White. Day also claimed that later, Bolivar J. Pridgen was able to track John Goens down and killed him. DeWitt County Court records show that James E. Smith, Ad. Patterson, Edward Parkinson, William Meador and John Guyens were charged with the murder of Wiley Pridgen.

There are conflicting stories as to why Wiley Pridgen was killed. Mr. Zachary Taylor Pridgen, cousin and eye-witness, reported in the victoria Advocate that he (Wiley) was conversing with several men when five men rode up and dismounted. "They hitched their horses, and returned, presented their pistols at the breast of Pridgen, saying, 'D—n you, you haven't a minute to live!' and immediately fired, shooting him through the heart, and as Wiley fell back, exclaiming 'I'm a dead man,' he was shot again through the head and arm. Pridgen lived a few moments only, and died without knowing who killed him, and unconscious of having committed a crime that demanded his life in propitiation, for, as the party rode up, some one asked Wiley who they were, and he replied by saying that he did not know them." Wiley W. Pridgen was a brother of Bolivar whose name was occasionally linked to the feud as the "Taylor-Pridgen Party" against the "Sutton-Tumlinson Party."

Although the name of Pridgen would suggest this was feud related it is possible the killing had nothing to do with the hatreds of the feud proper. According to Nellie Murphree, early historian of DeWitt County: "The shooting was an act of revenge by the teenage son, Jim, of the Jim Brown whom Wiley W. Pridgen, Jr. had killed in Mission Valley about 1863 when the two men quarreled over a race horse transaction." This may indeed have been the case as it is supported by House Miscellaneous Document 127 of the 40th Congress, 2nd Session of May 11, 1868. The list of murders and assaults with intent to kill shows that on September 20, 1867, in Victoria County, Wiley Pridgen murdered Neill Brown. "Some words passed between the parties in regard to a horse, when Pridgen drew his sixshooter and shot Brown, killing him instantly." It seems strange that Wiley Pridgen, living in the midst of the feud in which his brother was directly involved, and who had killed a man only a few years before, would not be alert to the danger of the dead man having friends to avenge his death. Seemingly that still would be a part of his psyche as "late" as December, 1873. Yet it may have been a public act of a private feud.

By the end of 1873 the Sutton and the Taylor forces were ready for combat, each apparently believing that the treaty agreement of a few months before had been broken by the other party. On the last night of December, 1873, there was a skirmish in Cuero. Robert J. Clow was there and recorded in his diary for entry on January 1st, 1874: "The hostile forces had a 'skirmish' in suburbs of the town. No one hurt. Both parties stopped all night. One at B & Bros Hotel & other in Lumber Yard." In the entry of the next day Clow wrote: "Last night very quiet. Both war-parties still in town. The forces mustering. Hardin has arrived. Expect fight this evening . . . The hostile forces are still in town. Took possession of Brown's hotel [Gulf Hotel owned by D. Brown and W.S. Brown.] . . Dark. No fighting yet. Things look gloomy. Everybody complaining. Don't know what will be the result." The result of this was another treaty of peace. One correspondent recorded that on January 1st, 1874, William Sutton had entered Clinton to make "an affidavit against waylayers" when he was surrounded by eighteen members of the Taylor party. Apparently he wasn't alone as then the tide turned and the Taylor force was pursued to Cuero. The bloodless skirmish continued until a compromise was reached. Possibly Judge Henry Clay Pleasants convinced both groups of combatants that a peace treaty was desirable. This treaty was presented in full in the Galveston Daily News of May 19, 1875. The treaty was sworn and subscribed before Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1, O.K. Tuton, on January 3. This time the introductory paragraph was much briefer: "We, the undersigned, individually and collectively, do pledge ourselves and solemnly swear to keep the peace between each other and obey the laws of the county, now, henceforth and forever. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves never more to engage in any party organization against any of the signers of this agreement." The newspaper provided but a single list of names without distinguishing which names were of which party. The eighty-six names were as follows: Lazarus Nichols, A.J. Denmark, J.T. Bratton, O.H. Clements, W.W. Davis, James Clements, R.A. Randle, O.F. Pridgen, A. Tuggle, B.J. Pridgen, T. Duderstadt, A.P. Allen, J. Howard, L. Tuggle, M.V. King, F. Duderstadt, R. Anderson, George C. Tennille, J.H. Clements, Thomas Caffall, F. Hartkose, W.E. Ganden, J.M. Taylor, R. Myers, J. Irwin, William Sutton, J.M. Ferguson, F.F. McCrabb, Ed. Power, Joe F. Sitterle, John Pettit, J.C. Johnston, J.E. Smith, J. Brown, John Andrews, W.M. Murphy, Sam H. Wofford, Walton Scurry, J.J. Mudor (Meador?), Buck Power, James Floyd, William Locke, C.T. Hunter, W.R. Scurry, John H. Power, Addison Kilgore, H. Boston, Jr., Frank Cox, W.W. Peavy, Add. Patterson, L.C. Day, G.W. Harris, M. Nichols, J.C. Taylor, R.P. Taylor, A.C. Day, A.G. Flowers, W.R. Taylor, J.J. Sanders, James Robinson, James Goodrick, M.O. Harrison, J.H. Hines, F. Robson, Jesus Narteano Garsed, J.W. Glover, W.F. Petit, John J. Tumlinson, Ed. Parkinson, W.L. Meador, G.A. Peavy, John Gyns, James Kassen (Hasen?), W. Toureenton, W.C. Wallace, M.J. Ryan, John Newcourt, W.J. Ragland, Ed. Hayton, Joseph DeMoss, J.G. Berry, J.W. Mason, J.A. McCrabb, G.W. Slaughter, George Merz, D.J. Blair.

As Hardin described the situation: "They met this time at Cuero, each trying to get the drop on the other. Shooting was the order of the day, but finally friends of both parties undertook to pacify them and an armistice was agreed to, both parties again signing articles of peace." Since some of the names on this treaty appear no place else in the literature of the feud one is forced to wonder if the two opposing parties had by now gathered up men just to swell their numbers. With a second treaty of peace signed in such a brief time it is not surprising that DeWitt County and the surrounding area perhaps breathed a sigh of relief. The Cuero Weekly Star in its twenty-third issue, dated January 16, 1874, announced in the local matters column: "All is quiet in Cuero tonight." Editor W.C. Bowen continued with more good news: "Order and peace are restored." Bowen had a right to be concerned. He believed that the bad name of Cuero "abroad" would be detrimental to local business. A week later this item appeared: "One thing is certain, Cuero has a much worse name abroad than she in fact deserves. For really she has done more to silence the clamor and clatter of rowdyism than any other community, in the county, and if our fellow citizens in the county will only acknowledge candidly, Cuero is a great acquisition, as well, pecuniarily, as morally to the tax-paying and law-abiding population of DeWitt."

Ironically in the issue of January 16, it was reported that a "stabbing affray" had taken place the previous Monday, January 12, in Clinton — just across the Guadalupe, between Charles Stratton and the freedman Armstead Johnson. The latter was instantly killed. Presumably this killing had nothing to do with the feud violence. The following week, in the issue of January 23, Editor Bowen had this to say, headlining the article with "Who Next Is To Be Killed?: Armstead Johnson, in Clinton, and McVea, in Cuero, were killed, and John Krohn, dangerously wounded, all during last week, all in a radius of three miles. At this rate we may well ask who next. The last killing was that of McVea by our Marshal, R. Brown, who committed the act in sheer self-defense." The inquest under Judge O.K. Tuton rendered a verdict of self defense. Reuben H. Brown had signed the earlier peace treaty. McVea was James Gladney McVea, a young former cowboy in his middle twenties. Although there is no contemporary indication linking this to the feud it is important to at least consider Jack Hays Day's report. According to Day, Gladden McVea was a "quiet and peaceful young representative of a respectable Gonzales County family" when he and a friend visited Cuero for a few drinks. The pair were jailed for being intoxicated. Upon their release McVea claimed that Marshal Brown had taken his money, about $100. McVea demanded his money and "The city marshall [sic], who was left handed, sprang to his feet, shoved McVea against the wall with his right hand, and with his left shot him down in cold blood." One can logically deduce from this contemporary reporting of a violent action, compared to the reminiscence of a half century later by a partisan, how the McVea killing could have become a "remembered incident" of the feud, when in reality it perhaps was an isolated incident of violence in an area without strong law enforcement.

Elsewhere the murderous John Wesley Hardin was supposedly visiting friends and family in far off Comanche County. He recalled that he had left his cattle business in the hands of

his father-in-law Neill Bowen, taking James Monroe "Doc" Bockius with him. Supposedly the trip, the visit and some horse racing took up about six weeks. He reported his arrival back in Gonzales as around mid-February. He was not specific but pointed out that in the meantime ". . . the Sutton party had violated their pledges and on several occasions had turned our cattle loose." It is known that Hardin was in Cuero by mid-February. The weekly Star announced that on the evening of February 17, "Wesley Hardin visited our town, and created quite a sensation by his presence. We were told when he left next morning that he wore two six-shooters and a Spencer rifle, and that our Marshal (R.H. Brown) failed to see the arms about Hardin. We hope our Marshal will keep a better look out the next time . . ."

It appears certain that the Hardin visit to Comanche had a direct bearing on the next fatal act of the feud. No hard evidence exists but Hardin indicates that his brother Joseph G. Hardin and Aleck Barrickman had come to Gonzales to return the visit. During the visit Hardin persuaded brother Joe and cousin Barrickman to go to Indianola — shipping point for cattle — to see if it could be learned when Bill Sutton would be there. It was believed that while Sutton would send his herds north he himself would take a land route to Kansas, leaving Indianola to sail to New Orleans. If Hardin is to be believed, his brother Joe and Barrickman went to Indianola and while attending to some cattle interests actually became acquainted with Sutton. The latter's plans were learned as to when he intended to leave Texas . . . the 11th of March on the steamer Clinton.

The word was quickly delivered to Jim Taylor, who was eager to avenge the death of his father, Pitkin, irregardless of treaties of peace. Jim Taylor and cousin William R. Taylor quickly made their own plans. Joe Hardin arranged for two fast horses to be close to the dock for them to make their getaway. Supposedly there were a half dozen or more "brave men ready there who stood in with the play."

Victor M. Rose, writing but six years after the fact, gave nearly a page over to the death of William Sutton and the young man who happened to be with him on that day, Gabriel Webster Slaughter. He has frequently been described as an innocent bystander but he did sign the treaty of peace of January 1874, as a Sutton sympathizer. Rose described briefly how the January treaty had been drawn up, that men then dispersed to their homes . . "But, alas! the hopes born of this compromise were short-lived, for Mr. Sutton, in pursuance of his intention to leave the State, had started his herds on the trail to Kansas, and with his young wife set out for Indianola, at which port he would ship for New Orleans on one of the Morgan Line steamers. But the lynx eyes of the Taylors never lost sight of him. Jim and Bill Taylor, implacable as fate, followed him to Indianola. Sutton's noble little wife suspicioned their intentions, and so assiduous was her solicitude for her husband that she remained at his side, and thus shielded him from the murderous lead already molded and consecrated to his destruction. Sutton, with his wife on his arm, entered the steamer Hewes [sic]. He was accompanied by a young friend, Gabriel Slaughter, descended from a good Kentucky family. Jim and Bill Taylor followed the devoted little party. Several shots in rapid succession are heard. The Taylors retrace their steps to the wharf, from the wharf to the city, from the city to the boundless prairie. Officers, spectators line the way; no attempt is made to prevent the assassination or the escape. The first witnesses upon the fatal scene behold the heroine girl-wife weeping over the lifeless form of her murdered husband, and Gabriel Slaughter, the generous young stranger who raised a hand to defend his friend, lying near, cold in death."

The Taylors made a clean escape from the scene. Perhaps the surprise and audacity of the act prevented anyone from trying to prevent their escape. And perhaps it was this factor of surprise which prevented Slaughter or Sutton from making some type of defensive action. And perhaps the half dozen or so of Hardin's men placed nearby made some motion to discourage any type of interference. Jim Taylor now had, at least symbolically, "washed his hands in Bill Sutton's blood." Jack Hays Day recorded that on the following day the Taylor boys stopped at Senator Pridgen's residence and participated in a celebration. "It was an occasion for great rejoicing . . . a lavish meal was prepared. Needless to say everyone had a good time." It also reminds the reader of the celebration which allegedly was held opposite the funeral rites of Pitkin Taylor, across the Guadalupe, back in 1873.

A reward of $500 for each of the Taylors was offered by Governor Richard Coke. After their successful deed they quickly joined up with John Wesley Hardin who was preparing herds for the Kansas markets. But before the escape was complete, the Cuero City Marshal had arrested Bill Taylor. As the Weekly Star reported it, Brown arrested Taylor for carrying a pistol on April 3. He was ready to give bail when someone handed Marshal Brown the Governor's proclamation offering a reward for Taylor's arrest. Marshal Brown called citizens to assist him. The next morning Taylor was sent down to Indianola on the train. Taylor was first placed in the Calhoun County jail, and then moved to Galveston which had a more secure facility. Ironically it was on the steamer Clinton. Taylor would not rest in jail for long. In mid-September he was back in Indianola waiting his trial. A storm came up on September 15, and increased in strength until a good portion of the town was destroyed. District Attorney W.H. Crain released the prisoners to prevent them from being drowned in the high waters. Feud historian Sonnichsen recorded that Taylor and another prisoner actually saved about one hundred people from death by their heroic actions. But the prisoners also took advantage of the opportunity. The Victoria Advocate of September 24, 1875, in an extra, told how Bill Taylor and the others found freedom: "During the violence of the storm the jail became filled with water, and the prisoners, Bill Taylor (charged with the murder of Sutton), George Blackburn (charged with rape), and the two Ruschaus (theft of cattle) were removed to a place of safety and placed under guard. On Monday night (September 20) they effected their escape by knocking down the guard and are now at large."

II

With the death of William E. Sutton the historian of over a century later should be able to point to that killing as marking the end of the feud. He was the only man with that name involved. But William E. Sutton had many friends and followers, many of whom had signed the same treaty of peace. They would not rest until Sutton's death was avenged. The turmoil of the later sixties and the early seventies would continue as many young men in DeWitt County and the surrounding area now had scores to settle.

Following Sutton's death, if we believe Hardin's account, the days were spent getting the herds ready for the trail north to Kansas. Cousin Joe Clements was placed in charge of one herd directed to Wichita. Brother Joe Hardin and Aleck. Barrickman went home to Comanche, taking Hardin's wife and baby along to visit the Hardin parents. John Wesley planned to follow quickly and visit them before going on to Kansas as well. At this point Jim Taylor joined up with Hardin, along with Ed. Glover and the three remaining Clements brothers. Within two weeks another herd of a thousand head was ready. This was placed in charge of Dr. J.M. Bockius with instructions to go by Hamilton, Hamilton County.

Hardin and Taylor arrived in Comanche toward the latter part of April. There was no rush to get to Kansas: if there had been great tragedy would have been averted. As it was it made Hardin such a hunted man he had to leave the state; many of his friends and relatives were killed by mobs in the following weeks. Hardin and Taylor were both wanted men. On May 26, 1874, the day Hardin turned twenty-one, there was a celebration in Comanche. Hardin participated heavily in the gambling, horse racing, as well as, the drinking. Whether there was truth in the rumor or not will never be known but Hardin claimed a deputy from neighboring Brown County, Charles S. Webb, had friends there purposely to arrest the fugitive pair for the rewards. Charles Webb left no version of his actions. Hardin claimed Webb had sworn to get them "before the sun went down." As Hardin explained it to posterity, the Webb plan had been to kill Hardin first, then capture Taylor. Of the gunfight which took place on the dusty Comanche street it was Hardin who left history an account. He recalled that Webb actually had his pistol out before Hardin drew his, making Hardin's action sure self-defense. Hardin wrote: ". . . as I turned around, I saw Charles Webb drawing his pistol. He was in the act of presenting it when I jumped to one side, drew my pistol, and fired. In the meantime, Webb had fired, hitting me in the side, cutting the length of it, inflicting an ugly and painful wound. My aim was good and a bullet hole in the left cheek did the work. He fell against the wall, and as he fell he fired a second shot, which went into the air." As Webb fell Jim Taylor and cousin Bud Dixon fired bullets into him as well "not knowing that I had killed him."

Only indirectly do we have a version of one of the others involved in that fatal shooting. Thomas M. Stell, long time resident of DeWitt County, left a brief account of the feud. He was eleven years old "when it started in 1867" and was nineteen "when it ended in 1875." Stell was respected and was elected County Sheriff November 8, 1892, re-elected six terms and served until November 6, 1906. Just when he wrote his feud essay is not known but it was between the death of Captain Creed Taylor which occurred on December 19, 1906, and his own death, July 3, 1939. According to Stell, who learned of the Hardin-Webb gunfight from Jim Taylor, Hardin provoked Webb and both drew their pistols. "Taylor claimed afterwards that he fired once, shooting Webb through the pistol-arm, and but for that, Webb might have killed Hardin. As it was, Webb fell with Har-

din's first shot, his arm useless. Webb could not shoot, and Hardin shot him twice more after he had fallen." Jim Taylor had tried to prevent the gunplay by getting away from the "drinking, boisterous crowd, but to no avail." It was this killing which brought such dire results to the Hardin-Taylor connection. In the aftermath of the Webb killing mob law took control. Although Comanche was many miles northwest of DeWitt County, the aftermath included actions which are properly a part of the Sutton-Taylor Feud.

Ironically, on May 26, the day of the Webb killing, back in DeWitt County, the Buchanan family was mourning the loss of their Billy. The San Antonio Daily Express in its issue of May 26, reported: "A man named Bill Buchanan was killed by unknown parties near Cuero a few days ago." This killing even received attention out of state as the New Orleans Daily Picayune in its issue of June 5, reported: "Bill Buchanan was killed recently in DeWitt County." Reportedly Buchanan had attempted to lead some of the Taylors into an ambush. The definite family connection to the feud was that his uncle, Thompson Brown, had married Lucinda E. Pridgen. Supposedly it was Bolivar J. Pridgen who did this killing as well.

But back in Comanche, Hardin and Jim Taylor were on the run staying out of the grasp of Comanche posses or men of Texas Ranger Captain John R. Waller's command. Joseph G. Hardin, William A. "Bud" and Thomas K. "Tom" Dixon were jailed, partly because of Bud Dixon's role in the Webb slaying, but more than likely to prevent them from being of any assistance to Hardin and Taylor. On the night of June 7, the mob acted. Among the first reports of the deed was this appearing in the Austin Daily Democratic Statesman of June 11, reprinted from the Comanche Chief. "Last night (Sunday), a body of armed men came into town about twelve o'clock, overpowered the guards and took the above named parties (Jo. G. Hardin, W.A. and T.K. Dixon), who were under arrest as the accomplices of John Wesley Hardin, carried them about two miles west of the town and hung them. The citizens of our town, we are confident, had nothing to do with this affair, nor do we think any one living in the county took part in it. The parties were disguised, and none of them recognized by the guard or those present at the time. The guard, which was composed of but few men, and those present, were taken off and strictly guarded for some time after the prisoners had been removed. This is a plain and true statement of the case, as observed by the writer, who was himself placed under arrest with the guard. Four other prisoners — James Anderson, Thomas Jefferson Waldron [sic, Waldrip], William Green and Dr. Brockless (Bockius) — were in the room at the time, arrested under suspicion, but were not harmed."

A later report in the Statesman of June 17, told of the lynching, calling Hardin "the notorious murderer who has killed twenty-eight men, is but twenty years old and the son of a preacher . . . He and his party of seven or eight (including Jim Taylor) fought forty men all day. Last Tuesday (June 9) ten miles from Comanche on Leon bottom he had his horse killed from under him. He is a fearless man, and I expect he will kill some more before he is taken. The authorities have his wife and child with his father, the preacher, in jail at Comanche."

But the lynching of brother Joe and the Dixon brothers was not the end of the tragedy. On June 9, two more of Hardin's cousins were killed. A group of Waller's rangers caught up with Hamilton Anderson and Aleck. Barrickman and they were shot to death. The rangers then arrested seven men who were guarding Hardin's herd. Besides "Doc" Bockius there was James White, G.W. Parks, J. Elder, Thomas Bass, A. "Kute" Tuggle and Rufus P. "Scrap" Taylor. Sergeant J.V. Atkinson was ordered to deliver the prisoners to the custody of the DeWitt County Sheriff. They were placed in jail but on the night of June 21, a mob stormed the jail. Whether or not the charges of cattle stealing were true would not be determined. The mob took out Bockius, Taylor, Tuggle and White. Bockius managed to escape because of the bravery of Joseph Sunday taking him up behind him on his horse. The other three were lynched. A Galveston News special reported to Texas and the world that they were hung by the Sutton party ". . . as they have an old feud with the Taylor crowd, and one of the prisoners who were hung was named Taylor." The same special reported that the group which delivered the prisoners to the Clinton jail had stayed there thirty-six hours and did not leave until they believed the prisoners were safe from violence. The Sheriff had twenty men to help protect them. Jack Hays Day identified several others who narrowly escaped being mobbed: Alfred Day, Ples Johnson, and Pink Burns. According to Day, R.B. Hudson had charged them with stealing cattle, a charge which Day claimed was false. Continued Day: "The Sheriff (William Wieseger) knew that they were innocent boys hired to drive the cattle; also, that one of them was a stranger in that part of the country. He had hired to Jim Taylor to work. Kute Tuggle had never carried a gun and at no time had had anything to do with the feud. Jim White, also a stranger, had just come over from Mississippi and hired to Taylor."

However innocent the boys may have been the fact remained that A. Tuggle and R.P. Taylor had signed the January 3, 1874 treaty of peace. This would place them in the camp of the Taylors, opposed to Sutton, hence an enemy. The Cuero Weekly Star reported: "On Sunday night last, about 1 o'clock a.m., Taylor, White and Tuggle were taken from the Sheriff's guard by a large body of disguised men, and hung near the Clinton grave yard. The corpses of the three men hung until next morning when they were taken down by their relatives and interred. The above parties (Taylor, White and Tuggle) had been brought to this county by a detachment of Capt. Waller's Ranger Company, with four other prisoners from Brown and Comanche Counties, where all of them had been arrested. As the jail was already full, the prisoners were guarded by the Sheriff, and a citizen's guard in the Courthouse, where they were held to prepare for an examining trial. Justice Tuton released the other prisoners on Monday morning as no complaints had been made against them. It is said that the parties who were lynched, were accused of theft and of having been accomplices in the murder of Webb, in Comanche county; and while public opinion condemns the manner of their execution, it does not deplore their fate." The San Antonio Herald of July 1, 1874, summarized an eye-witness description of the lynching, stating that the ". . . deed was accomplished by about 35 men, and that one of the men constantly protested he was innocent. None of the parties hung had participated in the steamboat murder, as had been reported."

The violence seemingly was escalating. Whereas a reign of terror may have existed at the turning years of the sixties to seventies decade — early 1874 witnessed an increase in killings. The January peace treaty may have promised the best of intentions but six months later the violence was still continuing. The most significant result of the June violence was that Adjutant General William Steele was sent to DeWitt County to investigate the reports which had by now attracted state wide attention. Another company of rangers was being formed from Washington County, and its leader was none other than the former State Police Captain — Leander H. McNelly.

III

Within weeks of the death of Sutton his widow had arranged for rewards to be paid to the man who could bring Jim Taylor inside the jail house door. The earliest notice yet found of this important reward — and one of the rare instances where a widow offered a reward — was the notice appearing in the Victoria Advocate. The notice itself was dated May 21, 1874, just five days before the Webb killing which brought death to so many of her enemies. The notice, printed here in its entirity, is perhaps what solidified the attention at the highest state level to send in troops to DeWitt County.

"On the 11th of March last, Wm. Sutton, my husband and Gabriel Slaughter, while engaged in getting their tickets for Galveston, on board the steamer Clinton, at Indianola, were murdered by James and Bill Taylor, in my presence without any warning or notice, James Taylor shooting my husband in the back with two six shooters. One of the murderers, Bill Taylor, has since been arrested by Marshal Brown, of Cuero, and is now in Galveston jail. James Taylor, the murderer of my husband, is still at large, and I offer to any one who will arrest and deliver him inside jail of Calhoun County, Texas, one thousand dollars in addition to the reward of $500 offered by the Governor of Texas. Marshal Brown, of Cuero, can say whether the Governor's has been promptly paid, as he is the man that arrested the murderer Bill Taylor. As to my ability to pay the $1000, I refer to Brownson's Bank, Victoria, Texas."

"Description of James Taylor, age 23 years; weight, 165 or 170 pounds, very heavy set; height, 5 feet and 10 inches; complexion dark; dark hair; round features; usually shaves clean about once a week; wears no whiskers, beard rather heavy, talks very little, has a low dull tone, and very quiet in his manners. Mrs. Laura Sutton, Victoria, May 21, 1874."

It is impossible to determine just when the reports of violence in DeWitt County caused Governor Richard Coke to give serious attention to the troubled area. He himself was accustomed to violence and controversy, having risen to the rank of Captain in the late war. In 1873 he had defeated Edmund J. Davis for the governor's chair, but had it not been for the interference of President Grant his taking control might have been accomplished only with violence. A major concern for 1874 would be to establish law and order in Texas.

On May 2, 1874, the Frontier Battalion was placed under the command of Captain John B. Jones. A smaller "Special Force" was placed under the command of Captain L.H. McNelly, and his first assignment was to settle the war in DeWitt. Possibly the original idea may have been to destroy the raiding taking place on the

Rio Grande, but pressure was frequently exerted to solve the DeWitt County affair. A Stock Journal article described a "regular battle" between the Taylor and Sutton parties at Cuero, on Sunday, June 7. Upon the battlefield were six dead horses in view Monday morning. If there had been men killed or wounded they had been removed. Commented the Stock Journal: "This is a lovely picture of society, and it is thought that many valuable citizens will be drawn from the county by it. Can't our friend, Governor Coke, do something in the matter?" Elsewhere in the same issue it was reported that Coke had sent Adjutant General William Steele to DeWitt County to "inquire into the (Tuggle, White, Taylor) lynching there, and to take steps to suppress the lawlessness."

But in Cuero the citizenry had already organized a "Home Protection Club." This was in existence as early as April. On May 19, a committee of three had been selected to decide where to hang the alarm bell. It was described as one of the finest bells in the country and could be heard seven miles.

The Cuero Weekly Star frequently reported notices of meetings for citizens who wanted to do something. But seemingly there were problems from within as well. City Marshal Reuben H. Brown failed to qualify properly and thus tendered his resignation June 8. He had accomplished the notable deed of arresting Bill Taylor, but Jim Taylor was still at large.

The coverage given the feud was extraordinary by now. The San Antonio Daily Express of June 14, headlined its review of matters with: War In DeWitt County and told of how "parties of armed men" had been "swarming through the country in pursuit of each other," how "a fatal collision is expected every hour, and rumors of skirmishes are rife through the county. Old family feuds are the cause of this pending drama, and it is said that good men have enlisted on both sides, for deadly combat . . ." The citizens' mass meeting of June 20, elected Henry Clay Pleasants, Lazarus Nichols, W. Wofford, Mont. Blackwell and William R. Friend to draft resolutions expressing a purpose. The five resolutions appeared in the Cuero Weekly Star as follows:

"That we deprecate the fact that a portion of our community is arrayed in arms against another portion, and that deadly hostility exists between the contending parties.

"That it is the duty of every good citizen to use all his influence to induce these parties to lay down their arms and appeal to the law for protection and a redress of any wrongs they may have suffered.

"That we will do what is in our power to have all parties now in arms and seeking each others lives arrested and prosecuted for the offenses they may be about to commit, and which they have committed.

"That we will watch with a jealous eye the conduct of all officials, and in every case of omission of duty we will endeavor to have them indicted and broken of their offices if they have been negligent, or amiss in their duty.

"That we distinctly declare that we are not parties to the unhappy feud now existing in this county; that we are determined, so far as in our power, to uphold and vindicate the majesty of the law against all offenders, from the assassin down to him who wears his pistol in violation of law."

At the same time editor W.C. Bowen of the Weekly Star expressed feelings approaching joy — that troops would soon be on the scene. A company was to be formed in Washington County to assist civil officers in DeWitt. The editor wrote: "The presence of troops will prejudice no good man, and will nerve the officers of the law to arrest notorious outlaws and bring them to justice, give the good citizens of this county a nucleus of justice, around which they may rally, and law and order will soon be restored. Witnesses and jurors must have a tangible support to fall back on. Let us have a little legal vim instead of so much moral suasion."

Adjutant General Steele arrived at Cuero on July 2 and began interviewing citizens. He was to also visit Clinton, Victoria and Indianola to learn from public opinion the best course to follow. It was the Star's opinion that a mounted military company was needed, to be stationed in either Clinton or Cuero, whose duty would be to disarm every man in the county and to arrest all offenders and bring them to justice. Steele was back in Austin by July 10 and reported "unfavorably on the position of affairs in DeWitt County. The Taylor faction is hiding in the brush, but may gather head and avenge themselves on the Sutton party."

By early August, McNelly and his company had arrived in San Antonio Daily Express commented he had been an "excellent" State Police officer under Governor Davis. The coming of the rangers was not soon enough for the senior fighter of the faction, George Culver Tennille. Why Tennille was marked for death by the Sutton forces and then pursued by Gonzales County lawmen is as yet undetermined. Born December 29, 1825, he could have played a father figure to most of the feuding men. Possibly he acted more as an advisor to the young warriors. Hardin spoke of him as a trusted friend and noted the last time he saw him in this life. We only have Gonzales County Sheriff Green DeWitt's version of the final battle of the old warrior: "Holding writs from Bexar county for the arrest of George C. Tennel [sic], and learning of his whereabouts, on the morning of July 8th, (I) summoned a posse of nine men, and at 11 o'clock, a.m. started from the town of Gonzales. With this posse, I proceeded in the direction of Salt Creek, and between two and three o'clock reached John Runnell's house, distant some fourteen miles from the town of Gonzales. One half of my force advanced from one side of the house, and the other half from the other. As the party who were on the front side rode up, and while at a distance of some one hundred and fifty yards, George Tennel, with gun in hand, ran out of the house, jumped a fence into a cornfield and made for the lower end of the corn-field toward the woods. The field was quickly surrounded, and near the lower end of it Tennell was discovered lying behind a brush fence. Repeated summons were made upon him to give himself up, but without making reply, he continued trying to fire at the advancing party. His gun failed to fire, as when we got possession of it one cartridge was found lying by his side and having four or five indentures on it where the hammer had hit. This cartridge failed to fire, Tennel had pulled it out and substituted another, and was again in the act of attempting to fire when he was fired upon and killed. Every effort was made to get Tennell to surrender, and only after all such effort was found useless was he fired on."

McNelly had arrived by August 1st with his company — a group of young men properly termed the Washington County Volunteer Militia Company "A." Victor Rose utilized appropriate military terminology in his description: "In conformity to the provisions of the law, Captain McNally [sic], formerly a policeman under the Davis regime, organized a company of soldiers, repaired to the distracted kingdom of DeWitt, where the houses of York and Lancaster were struggling for the supremacy."

Within the week McNelly saw action — and realized perhaps just how deadly the situation was. John M. Taylor was to be a witness in the William Taylor murder trial. McNelly detailed Sergeant C.M. Middleton and privates J.T. Irvin, J.F. Turner and John W. Chalk to escort him from Yorktown back to the ranger camp at Clinton. About eight miles from camp some dozen or more men challenged the rangers with gunfire. As McNelly described it in his August 7 report to Steele: "[My men] were suddenly met in the road by about fifteen armed men who demanded 'Who are you.' The Sargt. replied 'Who are you' [and] they immediately reported 'Que Dow' (look out) here they are boys, give em hell' and immediately fired a volley from their rifles . . ." For some fifteen minutes the battle raged — McNelly against Joe Tumlinson. He summed up the early report: "they are all alike, Taylor & sutton equally turbulent, treacherous and reckless." During the fight John Taylor ran off, Private Chalk was wounded and several ranger horses were hit, two of which were hit mortally. Taylor was recaptured the following morning.

Rose reprinted an item from an undated Victoria Advocate: "McNally's [sic] men have already had an engagement with the chevaliers d'Encinal, in which it appears that the soldiers came out second best. Call up the reserve!" When the smoke had cleared, Tumlinson apologized to McNelly, claiming that he thought the group were Taylors, and offered to replace the dead horses of McNelly's men.

Tumlinson was described by McNelly as a man who had "always righted his own wrongs and he tells me that the only way for this county to have peace is to allow him to kill off the Taylor party . . ." McNelly anticipated the Tumlinson group to resist surrendering their weapons. He also complained about not having enough men — "fifty men cannot over awe these people; they have been in the habit of overriding the officers of the law so long that it will require more force than I have . . ." To the San Antonio Daily Express the lack of immediate results was worthy of public complaint: "The Sutton-Taylor War in DeWitt County continues with unabated fury. We have just learned that Capt. McNelly, with his small company of Coke's State Police, finds himself powerless to quell the insurrection, or to give any relief to the county. His company consisted, at first, of forty men, but five of them have deserted him, others are still leaving, and he is unable to cope with the difficulties of the situation. He has called upon Gov. Coke to reinforce him with a hundred men. The Taylor party, we learned, have come into Capt. McNelly's camp, and remain there. We suppose that, finding themselves in danger of being overpowered by the Sutton party, they have sought McNelly's camp more for protection than anything else. Of course, however, they can be made prisoners, and be turned over to the civil authorities whenever Capt. McNelly chooses, or whenever he is able to assure their protection while in the hands of the civil officers. The Sutton party are still defiant and triumphant. They are banded together to the number of forty men, well armed and mounted, and led by old man Tumlinson, an experienced and daring leader, who is well acquainted with the coun-

try. They doubtless have a reserve force at their homes which, in an emergency, could be mustered, and greatly increase the strength of their party."

McNelly was "reasonably certain" that Hardin and Jim Taylor were to be back in the area in early September. He vowed if he saw them he would capture them even if it cost him all his horses in doing so. "The capture of Hardin and Taylor would go a long way to quiet things in this County and I feel quite sanguine of success in my contemplated effort at their capture." McNelly left a long report prepared for General Steele which is in part reprinted here. It was dated August 31, one month after the arrival of the ranger company.

"On arrival here about 1st inst a perfect reign of terror existed in this and adjoining counties, armed bands of men were making predatory excursions through the country, overawing the law abiding Citizens, while the civil authorities were unable, or unwilling to enforce the laws framed for their protection. The lives of peaceful citizens who had given no cause of offense to either party, were in jeopardy, as neutrals were considered obnoxious to both factions. From the facility with which treaties of peace and compromises had been broken, confidence in each other's respective promises, was a thing unknown. The Sutton party on my arrival numbered about 100 men (they claimed 150) and were defiant and triumphant. The strength of the opposing Taylor faction could not at that time be definitely ascertained as their main strength lay in the adjoining counties of Gonzales and Lavaca and they kept up no regularly organized force. They can at this time bring into the field about 100 well armed men.

"The District Court commenced here on the 3rd inst., and on the night of the 5th, three men of the Taylor party came into my camp and claimed protection (they being Lodwick Tuggle, brother of 'Kute' Tuggle, Martin King, and John M. Taylor).

"On the night of the 8th, I sent out 3 men under command of a Sergeant for the purpose of bringing before the Grand Jury an important witness in a case of murder involving some of the Sutton Party; they were fired into on the public highway by about 25 men led by Capt. Joe Tumlinson, wounding one man and disabling 3 horses. The attack was made for the purpose of destroying the witness, whose evidence was to be dreaded by some of them; had he not sought safety in flight his life would have been taken as the small force of my men would have been unable to protect him. The favorite manner of destroying testimony is to kill the individual by whom that testimony is to be given, and has been in vogue here for some time.

"The Tumlinson organization were in camp near the county seat, during court term, and subsistence furnished them by the Sheriff under the plea of being prisoners, but they were never disarmed. No effort was made by the Judge of the District or the Attorney for the state to have them dispersed or disarmed, although I told them that orders to that effect would be gladly received & promptly executed. An armed guard was necessary for the protection of witnesses before the Jury from day to day, yet no steps were taken by those in authority to render such guard unnecessary by disarming the Suttons. In a country of such strong prejudices much has been accomplished by the good conduct of the State troops, which has been most exemplary. No sympathy with, or favoritism to either party has been shown by the men of this command, and our presence here is favorably looked on by all peaceful citizens and is considered by them to be an absolute necessity for their protection and for the welfare of the country. Many men, whose lives have hitherto been insecure, have been unable to attend to their usual avocations in peace, although boasts have been made that our withdrawal will be the signal for a renewal of hostilities. The duty of guarding so many houses has been rather onerous, but I think will be less so, as these parties are beginning to learn that it is the purpose of the Governor of the State to protect its citizens at all hazards. Scouting parties have been sent out from time to time, as the men could be spared, in pursuit of notorious criminals (Hardin and Taylor no doubt). The County prison has been rendered more secure by sentinels whose duty consisted in preventing a repetition of the effects of mob law, such as were exhibited here a few months ago under the eyes of the guardian of the public peace. Several arrests have been made and the accused parties imprisoned here, or delivered to officers from other counties. Long and arduous trips have been made, often without success, but showing to the people of this section the utmost willingness to suppress disorder wherever it might exist. Several commencements of the old vendetta have been successfully quelled without bloodshed. Security to person and property has been rendered much greater, and the state of affairs found on our arrival materially changed, for the better. Though guards have attended members of one party in all their movements, the giving offense in the slightest degree to their opposers has been studiously avoided. The strictest orders have been given & obeyed by the men of this command, to avoid giving cause of offense to members of any party whatsoever. By the most vindictive of the Sutton party our presence here is simply tolerated and but for fear of immediate consequences, we would have been attacked by them, in fact Tumlinson has avowed his intention of attacking an ex-senator of this section on his return to the country, if not guarded in the camp of the state forces. (This is a reference to Bolivar J. Pridgen, whose son Oscar F. Pridgen was at that time a member of McNelly's company.) On one occasion one of my non-commissioned officers was compelled to use force in ejecting one of the Sutton party from a car on the Indianola R.R. into which he attempted to force an entrance for the purpose of raising a difficulty with one of the Taylors, who was being guarded to and from the trial of his nephew.

"To show to what length they will go, a party of the Suttons came to my camp on the 3rd ult., and reported that they were fired on by concealed assassins, the leader showing his clothes perforated by bullets, which by personal inspection, I am satisfied was done by himself, merely for effect, and he pretended to be highly indignant at my having so expressed myself. The Sutton party regards ex-Senator Pridgen as the prime mover of all wickedness perpetrated by the Taylors. Capt. Joe Tumlinson is supposed to be the originator of the deeds of the Suttons. Several men have been compelled to leave the country, but can now return with the assurance of protection as long as we remain here.

"The action of the District Judge and States Attorney, or rather their inaction, has been the cause of trouble which might otherwise have been nipped in the bud, and I am satisfied that if a Judge and attorney of probity, ability, and nerve, were sent down to hold court in December, they could effectually prevent a continuation of disgraceful scenes in and out of the halls of Justice. With the present incumbents there is no hope; fearful of giving offense they have passed over in silence infringements on the law which have transpired under their immediate observation, and have given just cause for bringing the majesty of the law into contempt among a class of men who at best have but a slight regard for it.

"A system of espionage kept upon the leading spirits in this feud becomes the means of my having a knowledge of their plans and they can make no plot of which I will be ignorant, and the scouting parties which are kept continually on the move prevent any gathering of these people for unlawful purpose. The leaders are men long accustomed to doing as they please regardless of consequences and have never experienced restraint upon their movements until now. To the law abiding, the presence of the State forces has been of incalculable value, the intimidation of the weak by armed bodies of lawless men has ceased and a feeling of security unknown until recently, prevails. Numbers of both factions would willingly witness a renewal of hostilities as peace leaves them out of employment. These have nothing to lose and everything to gain by a return to open warfare and will do all in their power to promote discord. A strict watch is kept upon these characters and they are beginning to learn that they can no longer persist in their lawless course with impunity.

"The next Session of Court commences in December when both parties will be here in full force and a difficulty between them may be expected, but if prudence & circumstances can prevent it, shall not occur; but if it does take place you may rest assured that I will have my men in such a position as you will render the escape of the survivors impossible, and they will be held to answer on account for their offenses."

One of McNelly's men left a valuable record of his experiences in DeWitt County during the feud. Lieutenant T.C. Robinson was his name and his contribution to the feud literature was in the form of a number of letters which were printed in the Austin Daily Democratic Statesman. He signed his communications as "Pidge" but no doubt most everyone knew his true identity. He described the Sutton leader in a letter of August 28: "Tomlinson [sic] goes about like Robinson Cruso with a gun on each shoulder and two Smith & Wesson's (No. 3) in his belt. I had the pleasure of seeing this gentleman a few days since; he has the frosts of sixty winters on his head, and green spectacles on his nose, and, it is said, can see with his naked eye farther than any hawk this side of the Rio Grande; when he gets on his spectacles there is no telling what he can see, as he magnified half of the company who were traveling the road into an ambuscade of the Taylor party . . ." Of John Milam Taylor, the uncle of William Taylor, he wrote: ". . . when on foot, reminds one strongly of an old sundried bucket about to fall to pieces; when on horseback his powers of endurance are almost incredible."

"Pidge" had heard of John Wesley Hardin before coming to Texas and wrote: "He kills men just to see them kick, and on one occasion charged Cuero alone with a yell of 'rats to your holes!' and such a shutting up of shops has not been seen since the panic! He can take two six-shooters and turn them like wheels in his

hands and fire a shot from each at every revolution. There is a reward of eighteen hundred dollars for him, and it will be well earned when he is captured. He is said to have killed thirty men and is a dead shot."

Reuben H. Brown reappeared on the scene at this time. On September 25, he and some of the Tumlinson party attempted to board the train to kill John Taylor. McNelly wrote ". . . as Corporal Ellis was bringing John Taylor from Indianola, some of the Tumlinson party (headed by Rube Brown) threatened to kill Taylor and were only prevented from doing so by my guards drawing their pistols and threatening to shoot any one that attempted to come into the cabooses that my men occupied by my order. They have apologized for it and said they were drunk but I constantly fear a recounter [sic, "recontre"] under just some like circumstances."

The October 13, letter of "Pidge" contained this interesting social comment: "That evening I attended church in Clinton, and listened to a very good minister from Cuero, who took issue against skepticism; he fought with doubts and mosquitos for an hour and a half in a most able manner. One thing was deserving of notice — not an old man was seen in church, not a silverhead could be observed, and I suppose that old people are never seen in DeWitt. If they are not killed they hide out in a country above here called 'the brush,' where the words of the gospel will never reach them unless used as wads for a double-barreled shotgun."

By early November McNelly was anticipating receiving writs issued from the United States Commissioner's Court in Galveston — many of which were for Tumlinson and associates. McNelly wrote: "I am inclined to think if they get Tomlinson in the clutches of the U.S. Court at Galveston, they will at least break him up if they don't penitentiary most of them. Their papers are issued in the case of that old negro they "hung gutted" and I am satisfied the thing is being managed by Ball (Bolivar) Pridgen who is in Galveston. He came over to Indianola on Thursday's steamer and the Tomlinsons run him out of town that night and reshipped for Galveston next day." The reference to the "old negro" is to "Uncle Abraham," an ex-slave of Pridgen who remained with the family after emancipation. McNelly uses the expression "hung gutted." Jack Hays Day described how Abraham had been tortured and then disemboweled and his corpse weighted down and thrown in the river. This was because he had refused to tell the "Sutton gang" where Pridgen could be found. Day claimed that some of Abraham's children still lived on the Pridgen farm as late as the 1930's. Robert C. Sutton, Jr., identified the man as Abraham Pickens. McNelly concluded his report with a comment on Tumlinson: ". . . old 'Joe' has just joined church and I think must be meditating on the death of some preacher or some kindred amusement. I have been more on the alert than ever."

The leader of the Sutton force did not have long left. The Cuero Weekly Star of November 24 reported: "The ranks of the old Texas veterans and pioneers have again been thinned by the loss of the fearless old Capt. Joe Tomlinson. He had received baptism only a few days previous to his death, and met death with the same calmness with which he had so often faced it in battle with the treacherous Indian and Mexican. He was buried to-day with Masonic honors; mourned by his family and his many friends, to whom his aged arm was still a strong protection."

By the end of 1874, Cox, Helm, Sutton and Tumlinson of the Sutton party were dead. R.H. Brown assumed the mantle of leader. Bill Taylor was in custody, Jim Taylor and Wes Hardin were still free but hunted men. These two were reported to be together in San Antonio in mid-December, stopping to visit a fandango for a few hours. Also, the end of 1874 saw the rangers leave DeWitt. There were events of international dimensions happening on the Rio Grande which caused his superior to send the force there. Looking on McNelly's four months in DeWitt County one gets the feeling that they were there to gain experience for the war against the cattle raiders on the Rio Grande. As far as known the ranger troop killed or wounded not a single man in the violent feud center. On the border the opposite was true as he had orders to treat Mexican cattle thieves as Major Jones had treated Indians on the western frontier — that is, to kill and to take no prisoners. McNelly's fame in Texas history was a result not of his experience in DeWitt County but of his following orders to destroy the raiders on the Rio Grande frontier . . . even if he had to invade Mexico to do it.

The year 1875 saw fewer acts resulting in bloodshed, and the beginning of the court system having some power. Bill Taylor was to be in jail much of 1875, escaping during the September hurricane which nearly destroyed the town of Indianola. Before he left the feud troubles he would play one more violent role. With the death of Captain Joe, the ex-Senator had to turn to other enemies. He succeeded in having twenty-two men indicted as Klansmen. Their trial was moved to Galveston before the United States Court. The Galveston Daily News attempted to explain why these twenty-two men had been indicted as "Kuklux," stating that the movement which resulted in the arrest and appearance of the men "had its birth in the enmity long existing between the Sutton and Taylor-Pridgen parties." The Daily News thereupon provided a brief history of the feud, identifying 1868 as the starting year when allegedly Charles Taylor "stole a number of cattle" from the widow Thomas. William Sutton's desire to avenge this act brought about the feud. The most important aspect of this lengthy history of the feud is the printing of the January 3, 1874 treaty of peace with all eighty-six signers identified. The men who were identified as "Kuklux" were also listed, with their home address: Joseph Sitterle, Victoria; Addison Kilgore, Clinton; John J. Meador, Cuero; W.C. Wallace, Clinton; Joseph DeMoss, Cuero; Buck and John Powers, Mission Valley; Peter Tumlinson, Yorktown; Zan and W.W. Peavy, Clinton; Andrew Jordan, Cuero; William Cox, Clinton; Andrew Newman, Karnes County; W.D. Meador, Cuero; William Pettit, Clinton; Gus Tumlinson, Harrisburg; Addison Patterson, Karnes County; Charles Lips, Goliad; James Mason, Clinton; Jeff. White, Cuero; J.W. Ferguson, Clinton; John Tumlinson, Atascosa. Reportedly when it was learned Marshal DeWees was in the DeWitt County area for the arrest of these men, "each one of the number immediately surrendered."

What is not stated in this important Galveston Daily News article is the charge against these men. The DeWitt County court records show these same men, as well as Joseph Tumlinson, James Smith, Ted Parkinson, Christopher Taylor "Kit" Hunter, David Haldeman and W.H. Leckie (Lackey?), as being charged with the murder of Abram Bryant on August 18, 1874. It is believed that Abram Bryant was the man who has also been identified as Abraham Pickens. The murder motivated B.J. Pridgen to bring charges of KuKlux Klanism against them for the murder of his former slave. This legal move finally was quashed and it was all for nought.

Bill Taylor was in custody of the law until his break during the hurricane. His months of imprisonment did not cause him to lead a more peaceful life. He did stay out of the limelight for a while however, but traditionally he sent word to ex-City Marshal Reuben H. Brown that he would kill him. Whether Brown took any precautions against Taylor is not known, but the end came at Cuero on the night of November 17, 1875. The first reports stated that Brown was sitting in the Merchant's Exchange Saloon when five men entered and started shooting. Brown and one Thomas Freeman were killed and others wounded. The special from Harwood dated November 18, concluded its report: "The general supposition is that it was Bill Taylor's crowd, as Brown was the officer who arrested him previous to his escape at Indianola during the flood, and it is stated Taylor sent Brown word he would kill him." The coroner's jury rendered its verdict that Brown and Freeman came to their deaths from pistol wounds, "delivered by parties unknown to them."

Great excitement prevailed and the Home Protection Club reorganized and placed guards out every night. Rumors, probably, were out that three of the Taylor party were killed and one Bennett was badly wounded. This killing brought nation wide attention to the feuding in DeWitt County. Many Texas newspapers reported it and even the New York Times of November 19 gave it page one coverage, headlining the article Two Men Murdered in Texas. The article reads as follows: "Galveston dispatches report a terrible tragedy which took place at Cuero this morning. A party of five men entered Ryan's saloon and killed Reuben Brown, City Marshal, who was formerly a member of the Sutton party. His body was riddled with balls. The saloon was crowded with men, both black and white. One negro, named Tom Freeman, received two shots and was instantly killed, while another was wounded in the face. Marshal Brown was the man who arrested Taylor for the murder of Sutton. Taylor escaped from the Indianola jail during the September cyclone. It is supposed his party did the shooting. Alarm bells were rung and a guard was placed over the town. No arrests have yet been made."

Other reports brought out additional details. It was generally agreed that the negro Tom Freeman, and the other seriously wounded man were shot by accident, Brown being the sole target. One of the men stated when it was over that they "got their man." Brown had been playing cards, some reports say dealing monte, "when a man walked in, took a drink at the bar, took a look at Brown, and walked out, when immediately five persons came in and commenced firing at Brown. They then dragged him outside and shot him again." Victor M. Rose had identified Brown as the head of the Sutton party after the death of William Sutton. He described Brown as "a young man, liberally educated, and almost a perfect specimen of physical manhood. But, after a brief reign, he too 'was got away with.' " Rose made the statement that three masked men had entered the barroom "and without further introduction commenced emptying Colt's revolvers into his body. After the death of Brown probably the

clan had no recognized chieftain."

Jack Hays Day wrote that Jim Taylor "was accused" of killing Brown and that of the three men who entered the saloon "only one did the shooting." Supposedly Jim Taylor had wanted to be the trigger man, requesting that others "keep the dogs off and I'll do the rest." It was within hours following the Brown shooting that the Taylors were ambushed by Sutton men, Bill Taylor and Joseph Bennett being the only two wounded. A doctor was sought and, still according to Day, obtained. The Taylor party guarded him through the entire trip but were not molested again that night. If indeed there was a doctor who cared for the wounded it could have been Aaron Chapman White. Murphree recorded this statement: "The leaders of the Feud held a meeting and decided that Dr. White would be granted permission to doctor patients of either side without molestation or interference by any one of the opposing side."

R.H. Brown's death could have marked another ending of the great feud. If history could do this then the winning side would be the Taylors. Jim Taylor was alive and well. His enemies — Cox, Helm, Tumlinson, Sutton and now Brown were all dead. Bill Taylor was — at least until September — in the hands of the law and relatively safe. He would live through his legal battles and would ultimately emerge victorious.

Whatever feelings Jim Taylor may have contemplating the death of his enemies it was to be short lived. He had a $1,500 reward on his head for the Sutton killing and he certainly knew there were plenty of men eager to earn the money. Jack Hays Day wrote that at this time Taylor wanted to use the law for protection, that Taylor even met with the noted attorney T.T. Teel to discuss trial arrangements. Day may have been involved, or it may have been his memory clouding the issues after more than half a century, but he wrote: "Then he proceeded to Clinton . . . to make arrangements with Judge (Henry Clay) Pleasants to have rangers come for his protection if he surrendered . . . He didn't apprehend any danger of the Sutton gang as long as he had his gun on; but if he surrendered he was supposed to go unarmed. If unarmed he would be at the gang's mercy like his friends, who had been taken out and hanged."

Lewis Delony wrote at length of the final day of Jim Taylor, stating that it was the belief of Sheriff Weisiger that Taylor and his friends had come to town to burn down the courthouse. Delony wrote of Taylor having "forty armed men (who) took possession of the town."

It is known for certain that on December 27, 1875, James Creed Taylor and two companions whose names had not before appeared in the feud records were in Clinton . . . for a reason which now cannot be determined. His companions were Mason Arnold, known also as "Winchester Smith," and A.R. Hendricks. Arnold may have been distantly related to the Kelly family and thus had reason to side with the Taylors. Hendricks came to DeWitt County as a Texas Ranger, a sergeant under Captain L.H. McNelly! He found love amidst the feuding families and on September 23, 1875, married Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Kelly, the widow of William Kelly killed back in 1870. The trio may have had with them Martin King, his son Mark and one of the Tuggle brothers. The battle received considerable coverage by the Texas press. The Corpus Christi Daily Gazette's report of January 6, 1876 is perhaps the most complete. It was headlined, Fatal Feud.

"A private letter from a reliable source gives the Galveston News an account of another bloody affair at Cuero, between the Taylor and Sutton parties, in which the former was badly worsted. The writer says: 'Since Sunday night Jim Taylor, with two or three men, has been in and about Clinton, walking through the streets with two six-shooters on each; and, as our Sheriff was at home and remained there, no arrest was made. The party had, in conversation with Martin King, sent Dick Hudson word that they would come and kill him unless he left the county within 24 hours.

"Dick could not exactly see the point, and together with six or seven of the Sutton boys, went to Clinton Monday, Dec. 27th, to offer his services to the Sheriff. As they reached there and dismounted, the Taylors (five men) at once got their guns, and commenced firing and retreating through a field, the Suttons after them, and after hard running and much shooting Jim Taylor, Winchester Smith (the man who is now recognized as having given Rube Brown the first shot when he was killed), and Hendricks (one of the Capt. McNelly command, who married into the Taylor family) were killed. Mark King and young Tuggles threw up their hands and surrendered, and were, therefore, not hurt. I am in hopes that this will have a good effect.

"The writer hopes this affair will be the last of the kind arising out of these old feuds."

The San Antonio Express, the Herald, the Austin Daily Democratic Statesman, and perhaps many many other newspapers printed this report with little variation. Day stated unequivocally that the trio had been betrayed by Martin King, comparing the blacksmith-livery stableman to Judas himself. Delony claimed that Captain Weisiger had "framed up" with King to lock up the Taylor horses to prevent their escape. In exchange, King's son, Tom, and adopted son Edd Davis, riding with the Taylors, were to be spared. Thomas Stell made no mention of a betrayal, simply stating that Taylor had appeared in Clinton with his brother-in-law Hendricks and Arnold when "the Sutton party immediately surrounded them and shot to death all three of them."

The trio — Taylor, Hendricks and Arnold, were all buried side by side in the Taylor-Bennett cemetery a short distance from modern day Cuero, on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The "Sutton party" who were involved in the triple killing later stood trial for murder. On June 28, 1877, R.B. Hudson, D.J. "Jeff" White, Henry J. White, Christopher Taylor "Kit" Hunter and W.C. "Curry" Wallace were tried. After two days of examining witnesses and hearing arguments the jury spent all of ten minutes to determine its verdict of not guilty. The charge of murdering Hendricks and Arnold was struck off the docket. No doubt the fact that the survivors were under the orders of the Sheriff had a great deal to do with the legal decision. Of interest is that Delony identified Hudson, Wallace, Meador, Hunter, Buck and John McCrabb, Frank and Bill Cox, Jake Ryan and the two Sitterle brothers, Joe and Ed, as also being in the group who killed Taylor.

Bill Taylor could have planned to gain vengeance on the men who had killed his cousin and friends but had his own problems of survival to consider. For all practical purposes the death of Jim Taylor marked the end of the feud. Thomas Stell, who certainly was in a position to know, wrote in his essay: "Thus ended the notorious feud. (Since) the leaders, Sutton and Taylor, were now dead there was no disposition on either side to continue the feud. Of the participants not one of the Sutton party is now living and only two of the other side. Some of the descendants of each party live here today in perfect peace and harmony, and they know so little of the history of that quarrel that they frequently come to me for information relative to the same."

R.B. Hudson left no real account of the feud, but did make a small contribution to the literature worthy of inclusion here. It appeared in the form of an article in the Austin Daily Democratic Statesman of May 5, 1877. ". . .the people were once annoyed by horse thieves and outlaws of other states and counties, but it soon got too hot for them in DeWitt County. You speak of the Taylor and Sutton feud, that has been raging in this county, as having subsided. That is true, to some extent. The Suttons are all here yet, sir. That never was anything but the honest working men against a band of thieves, who overrun the country and stole thousands of head of cattle and murdered whom they pleased. It takes the name of the Sutton party because Bill Sutton was the first man to resist the thieves in this county. The leaders of the thieves were the notorious Jim Taylor and West. [sic] Hardin. They killed Sutton at Indianola on the steamer Clinton in 1874, and returned to this county and gathered two large herds of cattle under the muzzle of the Winchester and six-shooter. One of the herds was captured in Hamilton County, and Jim Taylor and West. Hardin killed Deputy Sheriff Webb, of Brown County. They then returned to this county to renew their thefts and murder, but Jim Taylor and two of his associates were killed, and West. Hardin and others left the country and we have not been troubled with outlaws since; but we are under no obligation to anyone but the good citizens or the so-called Sutton party for getting rid of them; but indebted to Capt. L.H. McNelly's company for many recruits to the thieving party."

Numerous acts of violence occurring in this time frame have been considered feud related. On March 3, 1876 Dewitt County Sheriff Captain Weisiger summoned a posse of sixty men to arrest parties who had shot and killed deputy J.E. Lampley. The reports contain names of men who were definitely involved in the feud — the four Clements brothers, John Sharp, one Day, Joseph Allen, two Callison brothers. The main complaint of the law officers was that there was a group of a dozen men who found enjoyment in breaking up social gatherings "by shooting out the lights and other similar acts." In one report of the law's movements deputies J.E. Lampley was killed and deputy Joseph Agee was wounded, perhaps by their fellow possemen.

A lengthy report from Cuero dated March 4, stated that Bill Taylor had been recognized riding a gray horse but no intimation made that the spring campaign against lawlessness had any real links to the Sutton-Taylor Feud. A "special correspondence" from Gonzales to the Galveston News dated March 21, stated: ". . . the Taylor-Sutton feud of DeWitt had nothing directly to do with the late reported excitement in this county, though several of the young men (actors) are said to belong to the Taylor party."

Bill Taylor's name continued to appear in the press in connection with Sutton. In May of 1878 he was tried at Texana, Jackson County,

and acquitted of the Sutton slaying. His bondsmen had been R.S. Flourney and three others — John Milam Taylor, Eugene Kelly, and Bolivar Pridgen. In 1880, Taylor was in the DeWitt County jail having been arrested by McNelly's successor Captain J.L. Hall. He wasn't there long as by the following year Captain D.W. Roberts of the Frontier Battalion complained of his "raising cain" in Kimble County. Bill Taylor's fate is clouded in mystery.

One other violent act deserves consideration, mainly because it has been treated as an act of the feud and because so many men who were directly involved in the feud were also linked to the double killing. On the night of September 19, 1876, Dr. Philip Brassell and his son George were taken from their home and murdered. Historians of the feud have been unable to explain why Dr. Brassell was killed, although his son James W. was listed on the Texas Rangers List of Fugitives from Justice as being wanted in DeWitt County for a "threat to take human life," being indicted April 11, 1876, after what some consider the end of the feud. He was a physician like his father. Of interest, however, is that a J.W. Brazzell signed the August 12, 1873, treaty of peace.

On September 20, warrants were issued for Dave Augustine, Jim Hester, William Cox, William Meador and Jake Ryan . . . all men whose names had figured prominently in the feud. Later the names of Frank Hester and Charles Heisig were added to the list. Captain J.L. Hall with sixteen rangers arrested the men at the wedding dance of Melissa Cox, daughter of Captain Jim, and Joseph Sitterle, a Sutton follower, the night of December 22. The arrest of these men was the initial act of legal battles that were to last for years. The final decision in the legal matters was made on October 30, 1899, when Dave Augustine, accused and convicted of Dr. Brassell's murder, was pardoned by Governor Joseph D. Sayers.

Eminent feud historian C.L. Sonnichsen devoted a chapter to the DeWitt County War in his first feud book *I'll Die Before I'll Run – The Story of the Great Feuds of Texas.* The chapter was entitled "Thirty Years A-Feuding." The length of the actual feud may be debated, and some of the violent acts of DeWitt County and surrounding area may be argued as to whether they were indeed feud related. But the fact remains that the DeWitt County vendetta was the longest and most deadly of all the many feuds of Texas.

by Chuck Parsons

Buggies, hacks, wagons and saddles – big business of 1890's.

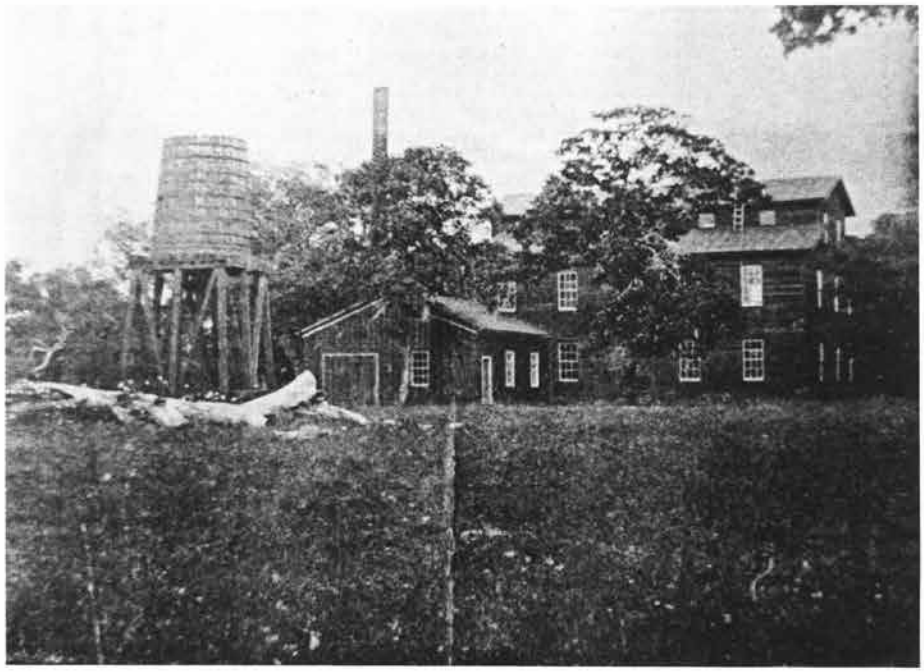
DE WITT COUNTY 1890'S

T15

The 1890's found DeWitt County busy and prosperous. Cotton was "King." Railroads were easily available for shipping or bringing in products. The Cotton Oil Mill, South Texas Ice Plant, Cuero Cotton Factory, Guadalupe Valley Cotton Mill, and Cotton Compresses all had their beginnings about this time. Yorktown, Cuero, and Nordheim had busy cotton gins, some with four or five operating. Most small communities also had gins. All farm work still required a large labor force plus mules, horses and oxen. Dairying was a growing business. Yoakum was a busy railroad center with a large "round house" to repair engines and other railroad equipment, providing many jobs. The town merchants enjoyed active and busy customer trade.

An 1896 *Cuero Record* gave an account of Green's Brigade Reunion of Civil War Veterans held in Cuero. Many DeWitt County men served under General Tom Green. A Texan, Green served in the Texas Army at San Jacinto, in the Indian campaigns of the 1830's and 1840's and in the Mexican War. Thus he was well known to the people of this area. Many DeWitt County men served in the 4th and 5th Texas Cavalry or 2nd Texas Infantry and were part of Green's Brigade which saw service in New Mexico at the Battle of Val Verde, with the Trans-Mississippi Departments, in the recapture of Galveston against General Banks, and in Louisiana in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill.

The old veterans and their families gathered from all over the state. Many railroads gave special rates to the men to make the trip possible. One of the events was a parade. Among the dignitaries on the reviewing stand was an invited guest — a former veteran of the Union Army, the popular W.H. Graham, long time DeWitt County Tax Collector.



Cotton Factory

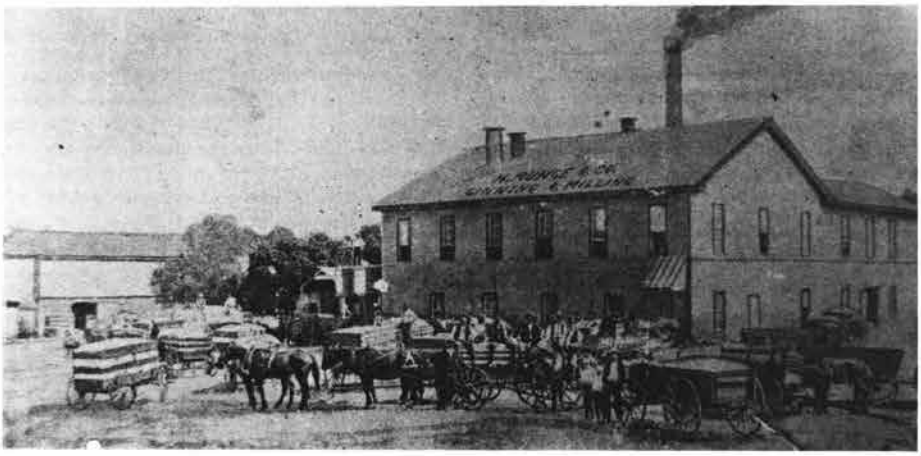
1890 Main Street of DeWitt County seat.

The officers elected for the following year were: Henry Isle, President; F.S. Wade, 2nd Vice President; J.C.J. King, 3rd Vice President; and John T. Wofford, 4th Vice President with Commander for Life of the group General Wm. "Gotch" Hardeman. Mayor G.W.L. Fly of Victoria extended a warm welcome for the next reunion to be held in Victoria 21 February 1897. Some members of the planning committee were D.C. Proctor, A.B. Petticolas, C.C. Linn and A.B. Fields. The reunion concluded with a large reception held at Turner Hall (Turnverein c. 1870's) that evening. The veterans, ladies and general public attended and according to the reporter there was a large and most enthusiastic audience.

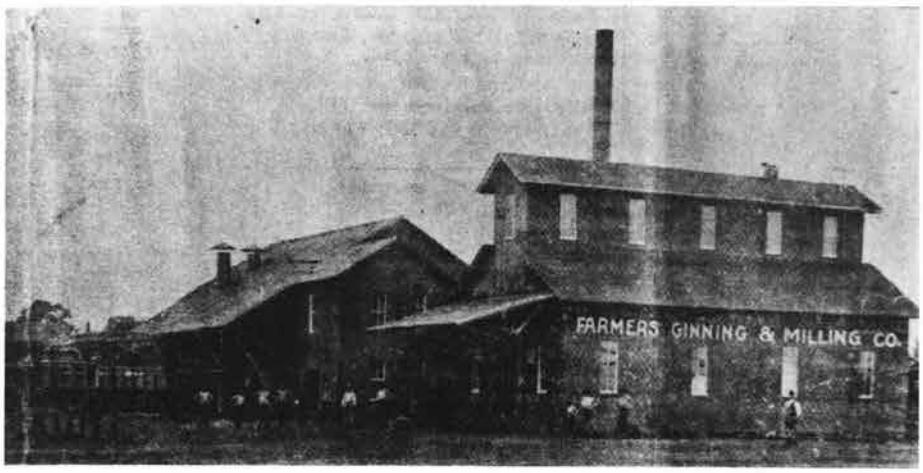
The program opened with the singing of 'Dixie' followed by other musical entertainment and readings. At the conclusion of the program chairs were removed and the dancing began. The Record described it thus: "The grand march was led by 'Old Gotch' and Miss Kirk, daughter of the Brigade. Many an old soldier with his fair escort followed the leader, whom he had followed many times before on the battlefields, to the sweet music. The old soldiers had a big time and enjoyed the hospitality of the town."

This was a period of home construction. Many one and two story houses occupied today were built in the 1890's as was our DeWitt County Courthouse in 1895. Business places were remodeled and rebuilt of brick. The Buchel dam on the Guadalupe was completed by 1898 with plans to provide electricity for Cuero and irrigation of nearby land.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard and Sis Gips



H. Runge and Company's gin and mill.



Farmers Gin

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OFFICE: Room No. 1. Buchel Building.

J. C. CRISP,
Attorney at Law,
Beeville, Texas
Notary Public. Complete Abstracts.

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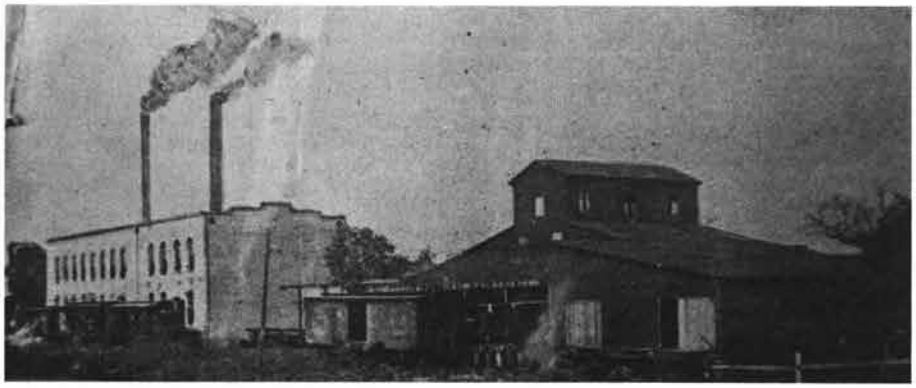


Cuero Oil Mill

DE WITT COUNTY 1900-1920

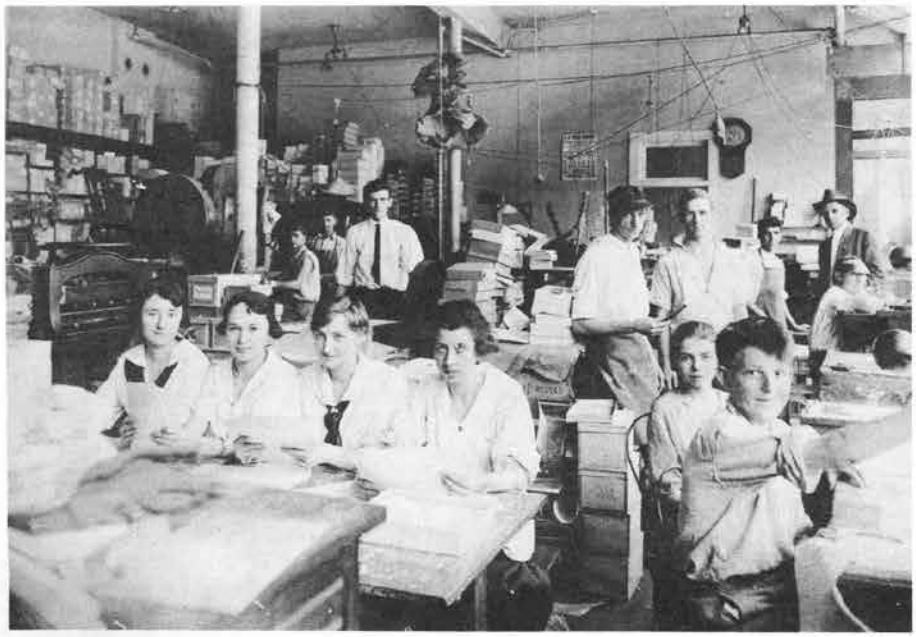
T16

At the turn of the century DeWitt County was enjoying a period of economic and cultural growth. The Spanish-American War declared in April, 1898 had been successfully concluded and a period of peaceful development was being enjoyed that lasted for fourteen years, before the affairs of the county would be dominated by military and national commitments of World War I.

Texas got off to an economic fast start in 1901 with Spindletop and the rapid development of oil fields in east Texas near Beaumont. Although the repercussion of the first oil boom would not be felt immediately and directly in DeWitt County, the impact of the petroleum industry on the county during that period and the ensuing decades was significant. During the early years of the two-decade period, cotton was the most important agricultural export crop with an estimated 60 per cent sent to Europe by 1914. The local economy was also directly affected by the decision to extend the Southern Pacific rail line from Cuero through DeWitt County to San Antonio in the early 1900's connecting through Westhoff in 1906.

One of the dominant political issues voted on by the county during the early decades of the Twentieth Century was prohibition. This was not a new issue for the State and the county. The Texas Legislature in 1876 first enacted a local option law allowing each county to vote whether to be "wet" or "dry." But it was not until 1911 that the legislature acted to authorize a statewide vote on a statewide ban prohibiting the sale of liquor. The ban was narrowly defeated statewide at that time. But DeWitt County overwhelmingly voted in opposition to any such restriction, casting only 530 votes in favor and 2,285 against. The neighboring counties of Victoria and Gonzales also opposed the proposal, but not as decisively. Victoria cast 415 votes in favor of prohibition and 1,799 opposed; Gonzales voted in a closer decision 1,558 for and 1,720 against. The statewide vote on the prohibition issue cast twenty-four years earlier, in 1887, reflected a similarly overwhelming vote against the proposition.

Cuero street scene with horse and buggies.

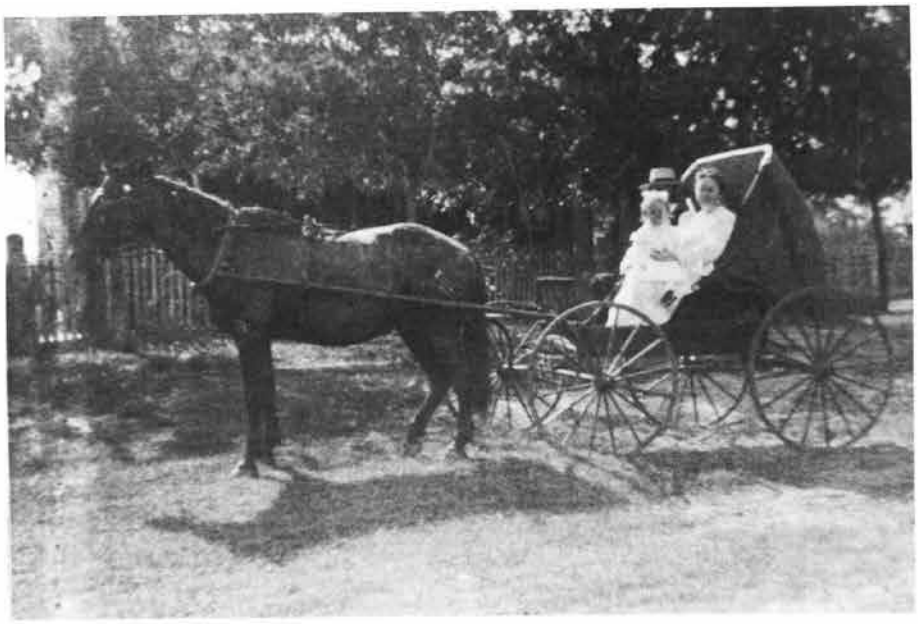


Red Cross workers.

The prohibition issue was raised again in connection with the patriotic movement associated with World War I and the need for grain for food. By June, 1918 Texas had closed all saloons, and by the summer of 1919 a federal statute blocked the sale of liquor. The vote in DeWitt County was 1,437 against, 788 for. By early 1920 the federal constitution had been amended sealing the fate, for a while, of the "wets."

A second major political issue that confronted the male voters of the county late during the period was whether to allow women to vote. The statewide referendum on the issue was held in May, 1919 with the men successfully refusing to permit women to exercise the right to vote. The DeWitt County vote was not even close, 1706 against to 689 for. However, with the favorable vote of the Texas Legislature, the Federal Constitution was amended the following summer and women were thereafter permitted to vote.

The community and the young men and women of DeWitt County responded enthusiastically to the call to arms in April, 1917, during the first days of World War I, as they had



Dr. James Edward Pridgen, 1905-1906, making house calls by horse and buggy.

DeWitt County Courthouse

1906 street scene, Nordheim.

1905 circus parade.

during the Civil War. The community organized in support of the war effort in an even more aggressive manner under the State Council of Defense. The county offered monetary help with liberty loan drives and savings stamp campaigns, food assistance with the National Food Administration and emergency help from local community and branch chapters of the Red Cross.

The Texas Council of Defense was composed of 240 local county councils, each with seven members. The membership of the first DeWitt County Council appointed by County Judge R.J. Waldeck, consisted of Philip Welhausen (Yoakum), J.F. Elder (Cheapside), M.G. Eckhart (Yorktown), Alex Hamilton (Cuero), D.B. McManus (Thompston), Walter Reiffert (Cuero), and C.G. Breeden (Cuero). Other supporting committees were also designated including a DeWitt Women's Council, a Medical Advisory Board, a Legal Advisory Board, and the county branch of the National Food Administration.

During the war, about 200,000 Texans served mostly in Texas units. The servicemen from DeWitt County joined units of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. They served at sea on the battleship "Arizona" and in naval aviation; they fought with the 13th Regiment of the Marine Corps and in the 36th and 90th Infantry Divisions. There were no training fields or bases in DeWitt County, but Kelly Field near San Antonio opened in 1917.

A total of nine hundred and seventy-eight men and women served in the armed forces from DeWitt County during World War I. For the first time, a number of women entered the service from DeWitt County, and their names are included in the Roll of Honor. As mentioned earlier, the women volunteers were not permitted to vote until after the war and the Women's Suffrage Amendment to the federal constitution had been adopted in 1920.

Two hundred and fifty-eight of the total served in separate African American military units but all fought for the same cause and under the same Commander and Chief. There were family names on the World War I Roll of Honor that had appeared previously on the DeWitt County rolls during the Mexican War

and Civil War — including Buchel, Friar, Pridgen, and Reuss. And there were many Spanish names — Benito Amador to Emilio, Francisco and Manuel Perez. And there were German names on the roll again — from Otto Arndt to Otto Zengerle.

The Roll of Honor follows: Adams, Rodney Elmer; Afflerback, Chas. R.; Alexander, Blake; Alexander, Irwin; Allbritten, Val.; Allen, Claud W.; Allen, Hudnal B.; Allen, James Velma; Allison, Arthur E.; Alvarez, Nicholas; Amador, Benito; Anderson, Walter G.; Anderson, Willie; Archer, Olga L.; Angerstein, James W.; Arndt, Emil B.; Arndt, Julius; Arndt, Otto W.; Asebedo, Miguel; Atkinson, J.J.; Avant, Frank; Backermann, Willie; Bade, William N.; Black, J.H.; Blackwell, Calvin; Blackwell, J.D.; Blackwell, Johnnie; Blackwell, Willie; Blakeslee, Leo A.; Blakeslee, V.M.; Blank, Henry John; Bludworth, Ben F.; Bluntzer, Urban Sam; Bock, Marcyan J.; Bock, Phillip; Bock, Sylvester; Bode, H.E.; Bode, Waler H.; Bode, W.O.G.; Boehl, Walter W.; Boehl, Emil C.; Bohne, Chas.; Bohne, Jesse; Bohne, Joe; Boldt, Arnold Albert; Boldt, Gus B.; Baeckermann, Carl M.; Baeckermann, John G.; Baingo, Florian L.; Baingo, J.; Baker, Fred; Balhorn, Arthur A.; Barkhausen, Alfred A.; Barnard, Jas. H.; Barnett, Chester R.; Baros, Joe; Baros, Wm. E.; Barre, Ben G.; Barre, Herman F.; Battles, James M.; Bauer, H.F.; Becker, Willie Jerome; Benkelberg, Otto M.; Bennett, Milton Oers; Bennett, Thos. J.; Bennet, Valentine Jr.; Beutnagel, Aug. F.M.; Bidwell, E.M.; Bitterly, Edwin A.; Bitterly, Charles B.; Bitterly, Ludwig John;

Boldt, Henry C.; Bomba, Ildenfonsa M.; Bone, Perry Nat.; Boone, Johnnie H.; Boothe, Grover; Boothe, S.P. (M.D.); Borma, Virgie A.; Born, Fredrich; Born, Henry; Bosak, Peter Jr.; Bowen, Jewel W.; Bowen, Rupert C.; Boyd, Henry; Boyd, Jim Henry; Brandt, Herman O.; Brantley, Royal L.; Brasher, Clarence; Brazett, Nathan; Brazil, Edward; Brieger, Alfred Chas.; Brissett, Floyd D.; Broll, John; Broll, Lewis; Brookins, Leon; Brown, Carter; Brown, Daniel; Brown, Eddie Lee; Brown, Jno. Jr.; Brown, Mack; Brown, Newton; Brown, Prince; Brown, Sylvester; Brown, Willie Daniel; Brown, Willie M.; Bruce, Millard; Buchel, Otto; Buchhorn, William; Buehrig, Hugo F.; Buendel, Wm. A.A.; Bunjes, Chas.; Burdett, Newell W.; Burleson, Edward; Burns, Arthur; Burt, Fred; Burt, Henry; Burt, William A.; Byars, Claude F.; Cain, Arthur Benton; Cain, Otto; Caldwell, Howell; Calhoun, Tom C.; Calhoun, T.J.; Campbell, Lavaughn; Campbell, Henry; Campbell, Sherman; Canada, Willie O.; Cantu, Manuel B.; Carrol, Millard; Carter, Albert; Carter, Allen; Carter, Faris; Carter, Guy; Carter, Jack O.; Carter, Seth; Carthell, C.M.; Caviel, Walter; Cellmer, Edw. Paul; Chaddock, Horace; Chaddock, Robt.; Chaddock, Temple; Chattman, Henry; Christal, Ellis; Christiansen, Jno.; Christiansen, Paul; Clark, E.B.;

Clark, Johnny; Clement, Gilbert J.; Cockrell, Virgil; Coldeway, Gustav J.; Coldeway, Henry J.; Condl, John J.; Conley, Emil; Cook, Bertram E.; Cook, Sam; Cooper, Colier; Cooper, Love; Cotter, Ruby; Covey, L.G., Jr.; Cox, Wm. A.; Crain, J.K.; Crisp, Marshal; Cross, Earl R.; Cunningham, Stanley; Cunningham, Wm. A.; Curtis, Walter; Custer, Wiley R.; Czaja, Thomas; Dahme, Leslie C.; Dahme, Otto G.; Damiani, Ceasar; Danysch, Peter; Danysch, Steve; Davis, Alonzo; Davis, Blaine; Davis, Homer; Davis, John H.; Davis, John Walter; Davis, Lugen; DeLeon, Miguel; Debose, Sterling; Denson, Eugene; Dinter, Wm. A.; Doehrmann, Alex.; Doell, Henry Wm.; Dornberger, K.W.; Dostalik, Alois J.; Dowlearn, Chas. W.; Drake, Oliver; Drake, Samuel; Drapalla, Egnac; Dreier, Willie O.; Dubose, Lester L.; Duderstadt, R.W.; Duke, H.O.; Duke, Ben; Dunlavey, Alvin G.; Dworaczyk, Thos. P.; Eason, Alfred; Eckert, Jno. Burns; Eckert, Willie E.A.; Eckhardt, Robert W.; Edgar, Clifford; Edgar, Henry; Edgar, Wm. Madison; Edge, Walter S.; Edwards, Collins; Edwards, John; Edwards, John; Edwards, John; Edwards, Nathan; Edwards, Robert; Edwards, Taylor; Eggleston, S.S.; Eldredge, Joe; Elliott, Grant; Ellis, Chas. W.; Erb, Horace Chas.; Erb, Marion J.; Erdeelt, Louis; Erdelt, Rudolph; Estes, Fred Earl; Evans, Horace W.; Evans, Tonie Robert;

Evers, Earl; Farias, Alfred G.; Farias, Jose; Farrow, Fred W.; Farrow, Sam; Fawcett, Jno.; Ferguson, Edmund; Fey, Edwin F.; Fields, Eddie; Fields, Swanee; Fields, Wm.; Filla, John A.; Find, Walter W.; Finner, Walter; Fischer, William T.; Fischer, Werner; Fitch, Jno. Estill; Flick, R.F.; Flores, Jose; Flowers, Louis E.; Ford, August; Foster; Foster, Thornton; Foyt, Charlie G.C.; Franke, Archie; Franklin, John Henry; Franklin, Jimmie; Fredricks, Albert; Frels, Ben G.; Frende, Albert G.; Frenzel, Albert; Friday, Miles; Friedel, Otto; Fuchs, Johnny; Fuess, Emil Raymond; Fuess, Zodak A.; Fullmore, John C.; Fuhrken, Wm.; Gaebler, Ernest; Gaedke, Walter F.; Galvan, Lazaro; Gansow, Herman Chas.; Gansow, Berthold; Garrett, Johnny F.; Garrett, Mack; Garrett, Sextus; Garrett, W.R. Jr.; Gary, Perry; Garza, Casamero; Garza, Domingo; Garza, Victoriano; Gates, Hardy; Geffert, Frederick H.; Geffert, Anton E.; Gerhold, Edwin Geo. J.; Gerhardt, Hubert C.; Gerhold, Herman W.; Gibson, Robert; Gillum, Richard; Gips, Oscar G.; Glen, Tom; Glenn, Louis; Gloor, Willie; Goehring, Hy. August; Gohlke, Arnold O.; Gohlke, Fritz Wm.; Gohmert, Louis; Gohmert, Oscar; Gohmert, Wm.; Goode, Henry; Goodson, Dalton; Goodwin, Cornelius; Gott, Arthur Staffor; Granberry, Olie; Granberry, Earl B.; Grant, George; Grant, George; Graves, Jno. A. Jr.;

Graves, Willie; Green, James; Green, Joel; Green, Marion; Green, Otis; Green, Spencer; Green, Willie; Griffin, Richard; Grobe, Wm. Clay; Gross, Bruno V.; Grossman, Jake C.; Groves, Willie; Grun, Edgar E.; Grun, Chas. A.; Gurtzmacher, Max; Grutzmacher, W.C.; Guiterez, Frank; Gwosdz, Conrad; Gwosdz, Peter M.; Haak, Julius F.W.; Haase, Herbert; Hackett, Samuel; Hagemeyer, Robert; Hahn, August B.; Hahn, Fred G.; Hairell, A.J.; Hairell, E.E.; Hall, Willie; Hamilton, Roy; Hamilton, Thornton G.; Hampton, Joel; Hanna, Joe; Hans, Raymond; Hansen, J.B. Gordon; Happner, Robert; Hardaway, Emmet; Haris, Sherod; Harmes, Herman; Harmes, Otto W.; Harrell, Henry; Harris, Chester; Harrison, Ford Wm.; Harrison, Nugent; Harryman, Hubert; Hartman, Chas. F.; Hartman, Christian G.; Hartman, Gus August; Hartman, Herbert A.; Hartman, Rudolph A.; Hartman, Walter F.; Harvey, Simon M.; Harwood, Wm.; Haun, Albert J.J.; Haun, Fritz A.; Hauser, Emil E.; Hausmann, Paul; Hausman, Willie H.; Hays, Bennie; Hays, Oscar; Hedges, Chas. Russell; Hefner, David; Hefner, Chas.; Hefner, Wm.; Henderson, Ernest; Henderson, Ralph E.; Henneke, Emil H.; Henry, Afl. Garner; Henry, Chas.; Henry, Charlie; Henry, Oliver; Herndon, Robert; Hester, Charlie; Hester, Ollie; Hildebrandt, W.A.; Hildebrandt, Ben O.; Heldebrandt, Herbert; Hill, Isaac; Hill, Oscar;

Hillen, Adolph; Hillen, Berthold; Hilliard, Albert; Hilliard, Eddie; Himmelrich, Gus A.; Hinton, Mrs. J.D.; Hoch, Fred J.; Hoff, J.R.; Hoff, Julius W.; Hollan, Henry Q.; Hollan, John Coleman; Holmes, Granville; Holmes, Lee; Hopkins, Ruby; Hopkins, Nathan; Horton, Frank; Hoser, Rubin; Houston, John E.; Houston, Tom; Howerton, Jack W.; Hranicky, Emil; Hrcek, Frank Joseph; Hrcek, Henry H.; Huck, Arthur; Huebner, Robert C.; Hulse, Robert F.; Hulse, Willie C.; Hutchings, Frank; Hutchings, Ralph; Huth, John C.; Ideus, Edmund J.; Isdale, Joe C.; Ivory, Aaron; Jacobs, Audley; Jacobs, Bertram; Jackson, Arthur; Jackson, Clarence; Jackson, Hilborne; Jackson, James; Jackson, William; Jacubik, Jos. F.; Jaeger, Fred; Jaeger, Paul R.; James, Alfred; James, Chester; Jamison, Maceo T.; Janca, John C.; Janca, Willie; Janiszieski, Raymond; Janssen, Henry E.; Janssen, Otto J.; Jarmon, Lee; Jecker, Vincent; Jendry, Mike H.; Jendrezey, Jerome B.; Jersig, Paul Edmund; Jiral, John W.; Johns, Otis; Johns, Robert; Johnson, Aurelius W.; Johnson, Andrew; Johnson, Blanton; Johnson, Chas. Edgar; Johnson, Eddie; Johnston, Eddie; Johnson, Garfield; Johnson, Glanton; Johnson, Hiram; Johnson, John; Johnson, Leonard V.; Johnson, Sherman; Jones, Charlie; Jones, Clofer H.; Jones, Ernest; Jones, Ernest Vollie; Jones, Robert; Jones, Robert; Jones, Thos. A.;

Jones, Oby T.; Jones, Ocy; Jones, Willie; Jost, William Mike; Jurach, Henry J.; Kahlich, Fred W.; Kaiser, Charles Ben; Kaiser, Ludwig W.J.E.; Karm, J.; Karow, Rudolph H.; Kaufmann, Ed C.; Keever, Claud B.; Kelch, Berthold G.; Kelch, Carl F.; Kelch, Herman G.; Kelley, James Pat Jr.; Kelley, Thomas; Kennedy, Jack; Kenzie, Jack; Kerlich, Louis C.; Key, William Wood; King, Emmett; King, Horace; King, Thomas Irving; Klesel, Henry Emil; Knippa, Eberhardt H.; Knippa, Reinhardt A.; Knox, George; Kobitz, August; Koehler, Henry; Koenig, Berthold E.; Koenig, Charley F.; Koenig, Edwin; Koenig, Henry; Kolodziejczyk, Aloise; Kolodziejczyk, Frank; Kolodziejczyk, G.; Kolodziejczyk, Thos. D.; Kolodziej, Raymond; Konrad, Paul G.; Korth, Edwin Herman; Kozielski, Felix; Kozielski, Jerome; Kozielski, Joe D.; Kozielski, Willie V.; Krauze, Wm. F.; Krum, Hugo J.; Kubala, Jerome; Kuck, John G.; Kuecker, Robert; Kueckler, Joe N.; Kulik, Joseph; Kulik, Simon; Kunetka, William; Kurtz, Albert Wm.; LaBauve, Robert; Lackey, Cabel; Lackey, Blaine; Lackey, Richard; Lamprecht, Otto; Lane, Dan; Lane, Sam W.; Langley, James H.; Langreen, Tom; Laster, Allen; Lau, Willie Joseph; Lawrence, Barney J.; Leake, Theodore A.; Ledwik, John; Lee, A.J.; Lee, Curtis; Lee, Robert; LeFrige, Solomon; Leonardt, Bruno C.; Leonardt, Herbert E.; LeSage, Joseph H.; Lewis, Arthur D.; Lewis, Herman L.;

Lewis, Sam; Lewis, Sam E.; Lewis, S.K.; Lewis, Willis; Lewis, John B.; Ley, Jonathan; Ley, Louis; Lienhard, Albert C.; Likens, Ben S.; Littleton, A.H.; Livingston, Willie; Locherer, Walter; Locherer, Willie; Lockett, Berthold J.; Lopez, Jose; Love, Arthur; Luder, Alfred N.; Luersen, Alfred H.A.; Lunschein, Daniel W.; Lunschein, Frank M.; Lyons, Ernest; Lytle, Clarence; Mabe, Hugh P.; Mabry, Frank; Machost, Alfred A.; Machost, Caesar W.; Machost, Ferdinand; Mahler, Alfred A.; Majefski, Frank J.; Manning, Jesse R.; Manuel, Irvin W.; Mareth, August F.; Mareth, Frank Jos.; Marie, Archie F.; Marie, Wm. H.; Markowski, Emil; Martinez, Amado; Martinez, Manuel; Marquis, Alfred E.; Marquis, Chas. W.; Mar-

shall, William; Massey, John; Mauer, E.R.; May, Louis; Mayzes, A.F.; Meadow, Robert; Menn, Hubert L.; Metting, Alfred G.; Metz, C.H.; Meurett, Harry E.; Meyer, C.H.G.; Meyer, Eugene; Meyer, Fred A.; Meyer, Oscar A.; Middleton, Collier; Migura, Frank J.; Mike, Burrell; Mike, Cornelius; Mikulenka, Edw. John; Miller, Blake; Miller, Cleveland J.; Miller, Jos. A.O.; Miller, Hawley; Miller, Willie; Milligan, Chas.; Milligan, Edward F.; Milligan, Nathan; Mitchell, Isaac; Mitchell, Joseph F.; Mitchell, Newton; Moeller, John A.; Monsur, Chas. J.; Mooney, Robert S.; Mooney, Wm.; Moore, Carl Lenwood; Moore, Samuel; Moore, Shelton; Morisse, Bruno H.;

Morley, Joe G.; Morris, Jimmie; Morris, John Sam; Morrow, Jos. C.; Mosely, Bonnie; Moser, Barnett; Muecke, Chas. F.; Muecke, Henry V.; Muecke, Joseph A.; Muecke, Walter R.; Mueller, Edwin; Mueller, Edwin E.; Mueller, Henry L.; Mueller, Leo; Mueller, Louis; Mueller, Walter; Mueller, Willie Jr.; Muenter, Theodore; Murphree, Robert Lee; Murphree, W.T.; Mylius, Herman A.; Mylius, Richard J.; McCormick, Wm. W. Jr.; McCullough, Cyril; McCullough, Earl; McDavid, Libudor H.; McDonald, Leonardt; McElyea, Geo.; McGee, Duffie; McGeehee, Daniel J.; McGuffin, Ralph; McHenry, Melton; McKinney, Felix; McMahus, David S.; McNary, Fielding; McNary, Wallace; Nami, Herman; Nami, Sam George; Neeley, Joe C.; Neeley, Louis M.; Neely, Casper; Neff, Fred; Nelms, J.B.; Newman, Willie Ward; Nesloney, Sigmund; Neuman, Joe; Neuman, Oscar; Neumann, Jesse H.; New, William L.; Newman, Joseph T.; Newman, Wm. H.; Niblett, James D.; Nickols, Richard; Noble, Anderson D. Jr.; Novak, Bohumir E.; Nowierski, L.W., 1st I; Nugent, Samuel; Olivarez, A.; Olivarez, Theodore; Olenick, Aloise F.; Ollenick, Sylvester P.; Olle, Arnold C.; Orman, Merle Vernon; Palmie, A.G.; Palmie, Henry; Parham, Ivory; Pargman, Fritz A.; Parker, Joseph I.; Parks, Crockett; Parks, Jasper; Parks, Joshua; Partain, Burns; Peavy, Will; Pechacek, Rudolph L.; Perez, Emelio; Perez, Francisco; Perez, Manuel; Perryman, Iels;

Petering, Henry W.; Pettit, Roy B.; Pfeiler, Adolph; Pfiler, Jos.; Phillips, Aug. J.; Phillips; Pickens, Herman; Pickens, Sylvester; Pinkston, Dolly DeW.; Piske, Chas.; Piske, Gerhardt H.; Piske, Herman Jr.; Piske, Hugo A.; Placke, Ernest E.; Placke, Fred; Plasczyk, Valentine; Pleasants, Joshua; Pleasants, Ollie; Pleasants, Sammy; Poch, John; Poch, Joseph K. Jr.; Poch, Paulus; Polzin, Edmund J.; Post, Otto C.F.; Poth, Edwin R.; Preston, Wm. H.; Prewitt, Roy H.; Pridgen, Floyd; Price, George; Pridgen, Fred; Prukop, Frank; Rabenaldt, E.C.M.; Rackley, Frank Loyal; Range, Fritz J.; Rath, John F.; Rathbone, Wofford; Rayes, Edward C.; Rayes, Perry Lee; Redies, August E.; Regner, Ben; Rehling, Chas. W.; Reid, Jerry; Respondek, William; Reuss, Gillard Thos.; Reuss, Joe; Reuss, John Alfred; Reuss, Theodore; Rice, Truman C.; Richards, Arthur; Richter, Edwin; Richter, Gustav; Ridgeway, J.K.; Riedel, Alvin E.; Riedel, Carl W.; Riedel, Richard H.; Riedel, Wilfred H.; Robbins, Mathew J.T.; Robinson, Earl; Robinson, Curtis; Roeben, Albert L.; Roeben, F. Wm. Von; Roeben, Heinrich; Roeben, Wm. H.; Roeder, Robert H.; Roehl, Otto C. Jr.; Roewe, Otto G.; Roewe, Robert H.; Roewe, Willie F.; Rogers, Archie; Roggenkamp, Ben F.B.; Roggenkamp, Walter; Rohan, Edmond; Rohre, Stuart; Rohre, Walter; Rose, Frank; Ross, Alonzo; Ross, James; Ross, Ollie;

Ross, Walter; Ross, Walter E.; Rusche, Ulrich L.; Russell, Lewis; Rutkowski, Julius J.; Ryan, Gilbert; Ryan, Oscar; Sager, John C.; Salines, Manuel; Salles, Gabriel G.; Sanders, Daniel; Saum, B.C.; Schaefer, Fritz; Schaffner, Adolph; Schendel, Carl W.; Schendel, Otto; Scherlen, Emil W.; Schiller, Wm. B.; Schiwetz, Edward M.; Schiwetz, Max; Schlein, Chas. F.; Schlinke, August John; Schmidt, Goe F.; Schmidt, Otto; Schneider, Otto; Schneider, Paul H.; Schneider, Willie R.; Schoenfeld, Walter; Schorlemmer, H.W.; Schorre, Albert; Schorre, Edwin; Schorre, Fritz; Schorre, Robert; Schrade, Berthold F.; Schroeder, Arnold; Schroeter, Ernest E.; Schroeter, Paul W.; Schroller, Otto A.; Schuenemann, A.W.; Schultea, Martin; Schultz, Ben; Schultz, Chas. H.F.; Schultz, Willie F.A.; Schulz, Walter G.; Schurchardt, J.M.; Schwab, Clarence D.; Schwab, Edwin; Scott, Loyd; Scrogin, H.; Scrogin, O.B.; Scrogin, W.R.; Seeligson, Elliott; Seidel, Otto Joseph; Seiffert, Berthold J.; Seim, Rudolph; Semmler, Wm. G.; Shandy, James; Shandy, Willie; Shapu, Leon; Sheppard, H.F.; Sheppard, Joseph L.; Shindler, Emmett; Shiner, Robert; Shows, Harley D.; Shiner, Robert; Shuler, Riley; Shuler, Walter; Simecek, Joe; Sims, Thomas; Singer, Oliver B.; Skrehot, Victor W.; Slade, Edward; Sloma, Lou Allen; Smith, Jim Holland; Smith, Jodie D.; Spears, Jno. Claud; Spears, Sam; Spicer, Elby;

Smith, Abram; Smith, I.G.; Smith, James M.; Smith, Leslie U.; Spinks, Wm. M.; Staerhr, Fritz; Staerker, Otto; Staerker, Walter; Stahala, Oscar; Stark, Carl W.; Steen, Lewis Edward; Steen, L.A.; Steubing, Mark; Stevens, Frank; Stiles, Moses; Stirl, Ernest A.; Strahala, Chas. A.; Strieber, Leslie J.; Stricker, Marcus N.; Stolleis, Alfred J.; Stolleis, Otto; Stubbs, C.; Stubbs, B.; Sullivan, Clifford W.; Sumners, Clement; Swenson, Andrew W.; Shopshire, Ducan F.; Tam, Frank J.; Targac, Raymond; Tarkington, French S.; Tarkington, S.G. Jr.; Taylor, Caleb; Taylor, Chester; Taylor, Fred; Taylor, John; Taylor, Richard W.; Taylor, Zill; Teiwes, Willie A.; Teller, Edwin F.; Thieme, Berthold; Thieme, Charles; Thieme, Frank; Thieme, Willie; Thigpen, Floyd; Thigpen, Fred; Thigpen, Joe; Thigpen, Nathan C.; Thigpen, Oscar; Thomas, Frank; Thomas, George; Thomas, Jewel W.; Thomas, Pleas; Thompson, Henry R.; Thoms, Henry A.; Till, August; Tilley, Rufus; Tolliver, Rufus; Trantham, Walter E.; Traylor, J.H. (M.D.); Treude, Henry L.A.; Treude, Jno. H.O.; Tribble, J.M. (M.D.); Tucker, Walter E.; Turner, Isaiah; Tyley, Fred D.; Tyree, A.E.; Urban, Wm. Aug. Fred; Vaughn, Bonnie Wm.; Vick, Willis; Villalabous, Joe; Volney, Frank; Wade, Forest; Wadswarth, Thos. J.; Wagener, Willie H.; Waldeck, Paul L.; Wallis, Chas.; Wallis, Haze; Wallis, Taylor;

Ware, Matthew; Warling, Chas. F.; Washington, Geo.; Warwas, Paul; Warwas, Stephen; Warzecha, Ben; Warzecha, Frank; Warzecha, Joseph; Weaver, Sam C.; Weber, Harvey H.; Weir, Claud; Weir, Leo R.; Weischwill, Fred M.; Weyman, Thos. J.; Whitby, Ernest J.; White, Carl; White, Miss E. (Nurse); White, Porter; White, Ward; Whitley, Hubert; Wilkerson, Henry; Wilkins, James; Wilkins, Joseph; Williams, Almo; Williams, Elliott M.; Williams, Jos. W.; Williams, Lawrence; Williams, O'Banion; Williams, Sylvester; Williams, Walter; Wilson, Ward; Wimbish, Oscar; Wofford, Clarence; Wofford, Clarence; Wofford, Vernon R.; Wofford, Walter W.; Wofford, Wm. H.; Wollney, Teador; Wood, Hugh T.; Woods, L.H.; Woodworth, Ned; Wright, Fred; Wright, John A.; Wuensch, Walter; York, Robert A.; Zengerle, Hugo A.; Zengerle, Oswaol A.; Zengerle, Otto B.; Zirjacks, Leslie; Zissa, John Joe.

Many who served did not return. Families lost more than one son — three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Bohne died while in service. Many men who died never made it to the battlefield in Europe. A number were killed in action in France — including Vincent Blakeslee, Burns Partain, Max Schiwetz, Earl S. McCullough, F.J. Range, H.O. Duke, Ben Hildebrant, Steve Danysch, John Christiansen, Alfred J. Stolleis, Paul W. Schroeder, B. Edgar Cook, and Hy Goode.

The following is the list of men who died in World War I: William A. Dinter, Jesse James Bohne, Joseph Lawrence Bohne, Charles W. Bohne, Vincent Blakeslee, Burns Partain, Max G. Schiwetz, Earl G. McCullough, William A. Cunningham, Steve Warwas, F.J. Range, Otto Cain, John Fawcett, H.O. Duke, Willie Thieme, Willie Beckermann, Henry Koehler, Theodore Wallney, Ben W.Q. Hildebrant, Steve Danysch, Peter Bednorz, Emil Hausseer, John Christiansen, Alfred J. Stollies, Paul W. Schroeder, Paul Henry Schneider, August F.M. Beutnagel, Henry W. Schorlemmer, H. Harms, B. Edgar Cook, H.O. Brandt, Hy Goode, Geo. McElyea, Joel Green, James Blackwell, Cornelius Mike, Grant Elliot, Bernard Barre, Jerome Jendrzey, Fred Placke, Geo. Johnson, Dr. J.H. Traylor, Willie H. Trlica, M. Martinez, Joe Newman.

After the close of the war, the American Legion Post III was established in DeWitt County and was named for William A. Dinter, the first young man to die in World War I from Dewitt County.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the DeWitt County American Red Cross Chapter which was organized on May 1st, 1917. This debt is not only for the service they rendered, but for publishing a booklet after the World War I which gave a brief history of the activities of the Red Cross Chapter, the names of all DeWitt County men who served in World War I and pictures of most of the young men who gave their lives during the conflict.

This Red Cross Chapter encompassed the entire county and was supported by all of the people as it was their opportunity to assist in the war effort. The following served as officers or department heads and workers: Mmes. Goe. J. Schleicher, R.E. Kleas, J.S. Day, F.P. Games, A.S. Bush, I.N. Mitchell, F.W. Kunetka, Henry Wilson, L.A. Carter, Herbert Leonardt, Bettie Peavy, John Welch, J.W. Russell, W.W. McCormick, G.M. Duckworth, W.D. McManus, E.R. Grosse, A.S. Kellog, and Ms. Lena Strieber.

The following men also served: Willie Frobese, Walter Reiffert, Rev. J.W. Allbritten, Rev. A.A. Hahn, C.A. Gramann, Weldon Crisp, Judge Grimes, Joe Sheridan, F.W. Jaeggli, F.P. Games, L.A. Carter, Rev. Gaynor Banks, J.P. Bridges, Geo. Schleicher, A.S. Bush, W.B. Montgomery, Rev. R.E. Porterfield, Chas. Strieber, R.C. Fechner, Rev. C.P. Hass Karl, Dr. Chas. Mernitz.

In the following communities, branches of the Red Cross were formed:

Westhoff: Mrs. Joe Carter, Mrs. W.S. Dubose, Ms. Ruth Wallis

Yorktown: Rev. J.K. Poch, Ms. Julia Lenz, Gus Nau, K.A. Jones, and Mrs. Kolodzcy

Nordheim: Dr. Charles Mernitz, Theo Richert, H.A. Stuermer, and Mrs. H.J. Laging.

Polish Congregation: Mr. Anton Ibrom, Rev. Jno. Zachtyl, Mr. Ray Styra

Hochheim: Mrs. J. Bennet, Ms. Lucille Bennet, Ms. Willie Mae Timm

Meyersville: Mrs. A. Egg, Mrs. Walter Dubose, Mrs. E. Richter

Concrete: Mrs. Claudia Barth, Mrs. W.W. McCormick, Ms. Maydell Pruitt

Clinton: Mrs. A.E. Brown, Ms. Mary Klohan

Dony: Mrs. A. Poetter, Annie Hopper, Lulu Smalley, A.H. Brantley, and Mr. Wm. Poetter

Svoboda: Mrs. Joe Chamrod, Mrs. Frank Rohan, Ms. Frances Wagner, Mrs. Frank Chamrod, Ms. Emma Chamrod

Nopal: Mrs. F.H. Billings, L.M. Riggs, E.D. Horton, Ms. Mary Steubing, Ms. Annie Sunday

Helping Hand: Mrs. M.E. Sweeney, Mrs. M.B. Armstrong, and L.J. Rogers

by William C. Foster

1920-1940

T17

Though in DeWitt County 1,437 men to 788 men voted their opposition to Prohibition and 1,706 to 689 opposed allowing women to vote in a county wide election held 24 May 1919, the 18th and 19th United States Constitutional Amendments did not agree with the local vote.

Cars brought new business: Magnolia filling station, Willie Menn, Oscar Hagan, Walter Umbalman and Ed Mugge.

William and Bill Ferguson preparing for a drive.

Floyd Pridgen and his Model "T."

Charles Riebschlager with his Model "A."

1920's Reo cars for sale.

The passing of the prohibition amendment produced a new county industry — that of making bootleg whiskey and there were plenty of customers. This business prospered until after the repeal of the Prohibition 21st Amendment in 1933. The 19th Amendment now permitted women to vote, but they would not be allowed to serve on a grand jury or act as a jury member for about 30 years in Texas.

Automobiles were prevalent in the 1920's but the county roads and bridges were still better equipped for wagons or buggies than cars.

The Klu Klux Klan was strong in Texas in

Gustav A. Markowsky's family with their cars.

the early 20's. A 1923 *Cuero Record* reported a "Monster K.K.K. initiation that was held on the road between Yoakum and Cuero." Candidates had come from surrounding communities as far away as 75 miles. Not only were the Klan members in attendance but many curious onlookers were also there. All went well with a large circle of cars enclosing a huge fiery cross burning against the night sky, the Klansmen in their white robes and a speaker from San Antonio addressing the group. The approach of an electrical storm caused an exodus of the crowd. However, a surprise awaited them — someone had scattered thousands of one inch roofing tacks for miles along the roads during the meeting. The drive home included fixing tires that night and for several days. No one ever knew who did this but the *Record* suspected that opponents of the organization placed the tacks there!

The weather was capricious during the middle 20's. A record cold in the county in 1924 with sleet and snow caused some cattle to freeze in unprotected areas. Also periods of little rain fall resulted in poor crops. Though the '29' crash on Wall Street seemed remote and far away, by 1933 the failure of several county banks, resulting in loss of lifetime savings, had a severe impact on life in the county. Jobs were non existent. Many unemployed young men took advantage of such government programs as the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.). The enlistees were furnished clothing, medical care, room and board, and received $30 per month in wages. Of this $30, $8 was retained by enrollee and $22 was sent home to the boy's family. These young people worked on public parks, forest, rivers, and other state and federal projects. The W.P.A. (Workers Progress Administration) was also a program to provide work. The county still has legacies of many of these Depression and New Deal Projects — roads, bridges, streets, flood control, sidewalks, centennial markers, Cuero's Municipal Park, its clubhouse, lake, golf course, swimming pool, baseball field and old high school stadium. The N.Y.A. (National Youth Administration) building contained the dormitory, cafeteria, shop to train young people for jobs, and provided their living quarters.

Through these difficult times Yoakum had its "Tom Tom" celebrations, Yorktown its "Little Worlds Fair" and Cuero its "Turkey Trot." The state celebrated its 100th birthday with some county people going to the big party in Dallas by special trains. Our county still has some distinctive 1936 granite markers that were placed to honor county events, sites, and people that had contributed to its history. The inscriptions on these markers were so well researched that they are as relevant today as they were in 1936.

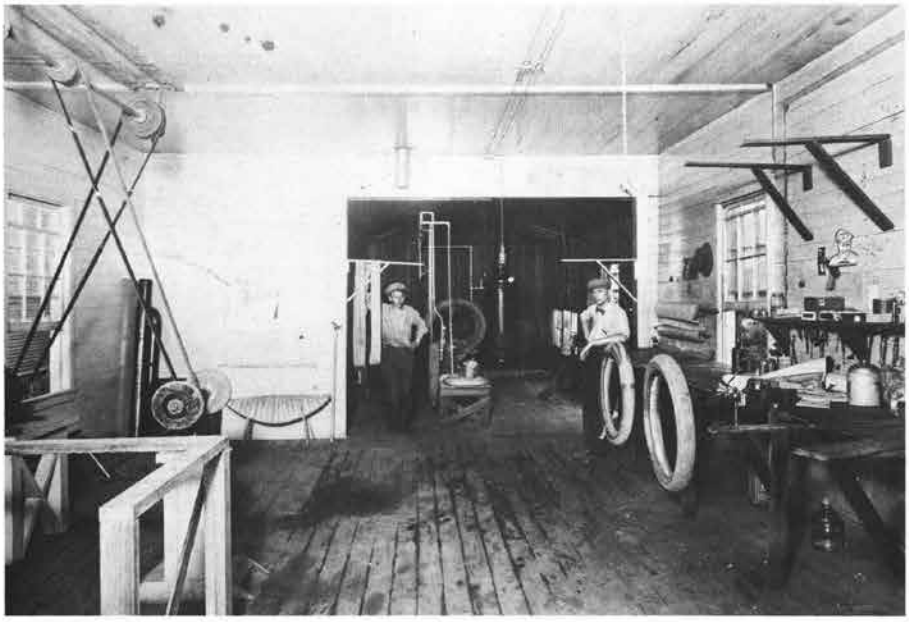
Slowly life was changing — farm tractors and machinery were replacing the old methods of farming; many community schools were beginning to consolidate with the larger schools. The long awaited R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Administration) lines were in place on some of the county farms and life in the country was changed forever.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard

EARLY BRANDS OF
DEWITT COUNTY

Asher, Pleasant	PA	1847
Bennet, Miles S.	JB	1846
Bonner, William	△	1852
Cunningham, Saml.	SC	1846
Chisholm, Richard	HC	1846
Cardwell, Crockett	CC	1849
Doolittle, Berry	B6	1846
Dilland, Boon	B	1846
Davis, Perry	✝	1849
Eckhardt, Caesar	€E	1850
Forrester, James	M	1847
Farrell, James	JF	1848
Friar, Daniel B.	Ⓕ	1849
Grimes, Thomas	TG	1846
Gilbert, Jasper L.	JC	1846
Harwood, John	C	1846
Hay, Wm.	W	1847

Parking problems on Cuero's main street.



New business for cars: vulcanizing shop, 1920's.

Bringing turkeys to market.

Keeping turkeys corralled.

DE WITT COUNTY IN THE 1940S

T18

According to Roger Babson the financial outlook for the first half of 1940 would be the best ever. That certainly looked true in Cuero. President Roosevelt had given final approval for the funds to build a new athletic stadium and football field! Oh, yes, football was king then too. In November 1,000 fans came by train from Victoria to see the long awaited game between the Gobblers and Stingerees. The Stingerees won 19-13 and would advance to play Kenedy. Moonshine liquor was still plentiful and the oil boom started at Thomaston with Humble oil crews moving in.

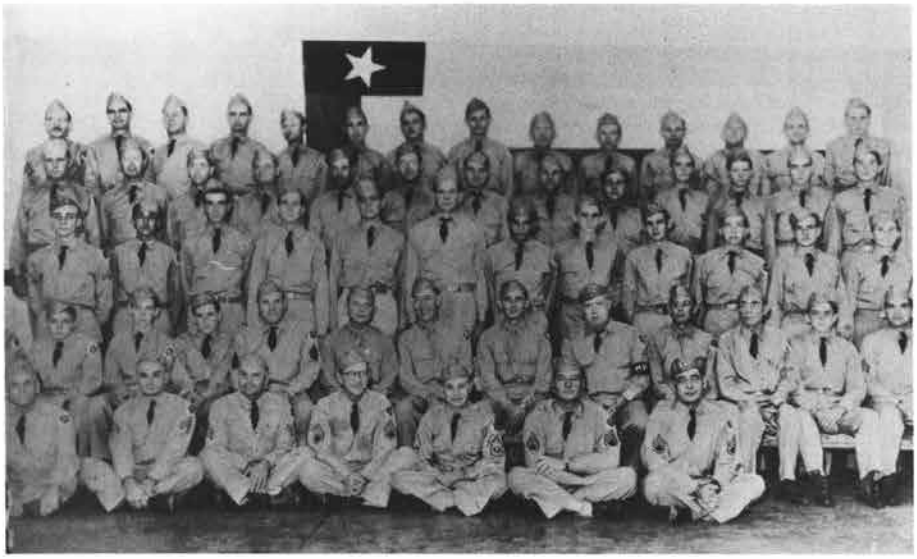
Cuero had two movie theaters down town, the Rialto and the Trot, with first run movies featured at both. "Gone With the Wind" opened at the Rialto on May 11, 1940. There were two showings daily, with reserved tickets sold.

A grant of $6,000 was made to the city to

1940's flood showing Gonzales Street and Church Street in Cuero.

Turkey herding.

Turkeys settling down for the night.



Company D, 45th Battalion, State Guard of Cuero. Back Row: Cpl. Freeman Schultz, C.L. German, Cpl. Fred Junker, Chas. Parker, H.C. Schaefer, Frank Peavy, Ben Hernandez, Haak, E.E. Shirar, Utis Carpenter, Rudolph Demmer, Walter Doell, Glen Sigmund, Alton Junker. Row Two: Edgar Atzenhoefer, David Spellman, Sr., Earl Dodds, F.E. Meyer, Wm. Wehman, Arthur Koehler, Ray Gips, W.G. Miller, Sr., Joe Joseph, David Spellman, Jr., Deryl Newman, Ray Fulk, Jr., Ned Thigpen. Third Row: Cpl. Eldred Schultz, Bugler Rudy Riveria, V. Afflerbach, 1C Pvt. T.B. Phillips, Hadley Edgar, Jr., Allen Indorf, Frank Bass, W.G. Miller, Jr., Jolly Badgett, Jerry Marquis, Ernest Goodwin, Jr., Jimmie Carlton. Fourth Row: Blas Hernandez, Fielding Breeden, Jr., Glenn Mauer, Joe L. Sheppard, S.Sgt. Clarence Sigmund, 1st Lieut. R.F. Blackwell, Capt. J.W. Angerstein, 2nd Lieut. B.B. Thorn, 1st C. Pvt. Eugene Burt, Rees Shannon, J.J. Fischer, Daniel Kohutek, Sgt. Billy Morri. Fifth Row: J.W. Jackson, Sgt. Francis Blakeslee, Sgt. O.G. Marlin, S.Sgt. Werner Fischer, 1st Sgt. T.O. Buchel, S.Sgt. Alvin Krueger, Sgt. Frank R. Thieme. Members not pictured include: G.P. Day, Harold Block, Ferd Koenig, Jr., Eugene Ball, Wayne Bowen, John Junker, Elliott Smith, Dee Badough, Jack Taylor, Mateo Perez, Bobby Clanton, Clarence Zinke, Alois Gavilik, Reuben Henneke, Ashton Hesse, Harry Putman, E.B. Smith, Paul Breeden, L. Ortiz, Inez Perez, H.G. Keseling, Jesse Parks, Herbert Dornbluth, Sam Sutherland, Guajardo, and Ernest Villarreal.

Turkeys raised for market.

retire existing debts and expand the facilities at the Municipal Park by NYA workers. The expansion would include tennis courts, a wading pool, and children's playground known as Lion's Park. There was also a $32,952 WPA grant for water works improvements which would benefit all areas of the city. The REA planned a new $35,000 building that would also include a ladies' lounge. There was a grant received by the NYA of $41,000 to build dorms and a dining room for the proposed industrial workshop.

On March 17, 1940, the city of Cuero took over the electric system, making the electric, water, and sewage systems all municipally owned. After a bitter dispute and two bond elections LCRA won control of the distribution system from CPL. CPL took their case to the Texas Supreme Court where it was ruled that the elections were legal. LCRA still bought electricity from the CPL dam, but the city now owned the two transmission lines from there to the town.

Prices were way low, but so were salaries. The 75 cents per hour minimum wage law wasn't passed until 1949. Bass' Shoe Store advertised boots on sale for $4.95, regularly $7.45, with children's for $2.89. Keds sold for 98 cents to $3.50. Koehler's had ladies' good dresses priced from $2.95-$10.95 and men's suits from $14.95-$21.50. Stower's had a Philco radio and phono console for $100. McClungs sold Scott tissue 3 rolls for 22 cents, 10 pounds sugar for 47 cents, Admiration coffee for 25 cents a pound and salmon 2 cans for 29 cents. The three Red & White stores advertised veal roast at 19 cents pound, spare ribs for 12 cents, pan sausage for 10 cents, and bacon for 25 cents a pound. J.C. Penney sold sheets for 74 cents, towels for 15 cents and wash clothes for 3 cents. Bleached winter unions sold for 79 cents and good print fabric for 7½ cents a yard. Wagner's sold a baked ham sandwich and creamy ice cream soda for 20 cents. A year's subscription to the daily *Cuero Record* was $3.50.

J.T. Newman defeated H.F. Sheppard for mayor with 1422 votes cast. S.P. Hebert was reelected county judge, W. Lee O'Daniel was governor, and Franklin Roosevelt defeated Wendel Wilke in a landslide for his third term as president. The Lulacs netted $156.51 at a dinner and dance and the Cross the 'Ransus fund for poor children reached $213.48 plus toys, books, and clothes to be distributed Christmas.

Even though the United States had not become actively involved in the European war, the Draft Board opened on October 16, 1940. Local board members were John Seekamp, Werner Fischer, and J.J. Fischer. Young men between the ages of 21 and 35 had to register that day. The first two in line were Coot and Dick Coppedge with Bill Stockton next. 827 registered in Cuero with 2,652 in the county. The first number drawn in Washington was 158. Draft number 158 in DeWitt County was Arnold Leonhardt, a young married man from Westhoff.

The first volunteers from DeWitt County were Jesse Manning, Charles Morgan, and Tom Peavy from Cuero; Edwin Williams, Yoakum; and Melvin Noster, Frank Zamazal, and Charles Zamazal, Yorktown. Next were Henry Menke and Daniel Boone.

On November 22, the first five men left by train for Fort Sam Houston for basic training. Jesse Manning, C.E. Morgan, Jr., Brinkley Peavy from Cuero; Edwin Williams, Yoakum; and Melvin Noster, Yorktown marched through town to the railway station. Downtown stores closed from 11:30-12:00 that morning so the townsmen could accompany them. The group was led by the colors and Cuero Municipal Band. Mayor J.T. Newman, a member of the first contingent of W.W. I, Rev. A.A. Hahn, who also spoke 23 years earlier to that group, and Dr. W.A. McLeod all made rousing talks at the station.

The July census showed that Cuero was the second largest small town in South Texas with a population of 5,481. Beeville was listed as largest. DeWitt population was down from 27,447 to 24,972. There were 250 aliens registered that year.

The city was flooded after 12.4 inches of rain in July, with water all downtown. Damages reached $150,000. Three floods were recorded that year due to the poor drainage system in effect.

Keyes Carson of Cheapside was Cuero's Ambassador. The Aggie hitchhiker traveled 12,000 miles through 35 states and Alaska promoting our city. At Thanksgiving, he presented a turkey to President Franklin Roosevelt, which was accepted by a member of his staff. During W.W. II Carson quit the highways for the jungle trails of New Guinea where he vowed to get him 30 Japs.

Roger Babson predicted that 1941 would be the best business year in U.S. history. That seemed likely in Cuero too. Mayor Newman and Sherrod Harris, Chamber of Commerce President, heard that the U.S. government was going to five contracts to civilians who would establish flying schools and they wanted one for Cuero. After the city purchased 500 acres from Kos Morgan and Frank Kunetka, they contacted Clyde E. Brayton and told him the city would put up $50,000 if he would come here.

The actual construction of Brayton Field began January 13, 1941. The airport was formally dedicated April 27 and remained open until August, 1945. During the peak of operation there were 550 employees with a payroll of over $1 million. 175 aircraft were in operation with as much as 1,000 hours of instruction in a single day. The firm built five landing fields and trained 6,611 pilots while in operation. There were 150 flight instructors and 150 mechanics helping. Brayton was one of the first to use women mechanics during W.W. II. New classes of cadets required ground school, 65 hours flying time, and physical education.

The first man in was Pvt. Eddie Jennings from Randolph Field on April 14. The classes were expanded to a maximum of 325 men per class. There were upper and lower classes as the war effort increased making a total of 650 cadets at a time.

On May 1, 1941 U.S. Savings Bonds and Stamps went on sale at local banks and the post office, but sales were slow. On May 9, work began on the NYA Center. This would be one of the largest in Texas with four buildings, including dorms, constructed at a cost of $61,000. One hundred boys would be employed and trained in the workshops and 40 girls in the food service. They remained in operation until June 1, 1943.

Amateur radio operators Ray Faulk, B.B. Thorn, and Rees Shannon were called on to aid the War Department in case of hostilities. The Cuero Home Guard was also activated with Ashton Hesse as captain.

From 1942-1945, the Texas State Guard D 45th Battalion was active. In 1943, it had 75 members. The guard was made up of men too old to serve, men in essential occupations, or physically unfit, and boys too young to serve. Its real intent was morale — to give a sense of purpose and security to civilians who were not directly involved in the war. They were called on for traffic control which was rarely necessary because no one had gas or tires. Jim Angerstein was selected Captain, Reiffert Blackwell, 1st Lieutenant, B.B. Thorn 2nd Lt. At first they met once a week at the City Hall, but after having weapons and ammunition rounds issued they moved to the old CPL building so they could be kept in the vault. Occasionally they would spend the weekend at Camp Bullis.

In 1949, a permit for $31,556 was issued to build a new National Guard Armory to be located east of the Cuero Municipal Park on Highway 87.

In 1940, the Texas Legislature finally voted to get with most of the states and change to a 12 year school system. This was gradually phased in and most of those who finished school during this decade actually went only 11 years. After taking a comprehensive academic test many students "skipped" a grade to make the transition smoother.

Sports were always big here. Football, baseball, tennis, track, and golf were all on the scene. During war times when the schools thought they would have to discontinue out of town games, loyal fans pooled their gas coupons and Mr. O.A. Zimmerman (coach, principal, superintendent, teacher, and friend), along with some parents, took the boys in their cars to competition.

As late was 1946 the Cuero Gobblers and Victoria Stingerees played a big game the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. (Victoria won that year 25-0.) Yorktown, Kenedy, Yoakum, Edna, Goliad, and Gonzales were all competitors.

During the war years there were few male teachers in the schools and many retired female teachers went back to school. Many of the young men volunteered for the service instead of staying in school. When the war ended, these same young men came back to school and completed their education. Others came back to school and took refresher courses before entering college under the G.I. Bill.

In 1946, Cuero school registration was 1,191. High School had 338; Junior High, 326; French, 180; West End, 70; and Daule, 277. There were 35 schools listed in the county then.

By 1949 Cuero had an enrollment of 2,500 students. The start of school was pushed back to Sept. 6 that year so that water lines could be completed to two new campuses. The new Daule school was built on land donated by Willis Barfield and was open until full integration in the 60s. A new elementary school was built for the Victory Addition on land donated by J.T. Newman. This school was later named

Oak View and remained in operation until a larger central school was built. Both were very modern buildings. Daule had a music building and gym in addition to adequate classrooms.

Turkeys were big business in the 40s. In November, 1940, 30,000 turkeys were shipped to market with hens selling for 12 cents a pound and toms 10 cents. Altogether, 60 cars carrying 85,400 turkeys weighing 1,200,000 pounds at a market value of $144,000 were shipped that year.

After a long debate, it was decided to stage the world famous Turkey Trot November 9-11, 1940. Bill Combs served as general chairman with many civic leaders working hard to make the affair a big success. Car caravans went all around south Texas to promote the affair. Basil Bell was crowned Sultan Yekrut IX, and Elizabeth Alexander was Sultana Oreuc. Murray Tarkington and Donna Faye Barfield were junior attendants. It was estimated that 40,000 people viewed the big parade and all but $465 was recouped by investors.

The first tribute to turkeys after the war was held at the Municipal Club House on Nov. 15, 1946. Birds were exhibited for judging and free turkeys were given away during the day. There were concerts presented by the Turkey Trot and Cuero High School bands. Food booths were sponsored by local church women, and the American Legion brought in a carnival. One of the highlights of the day was a Turkey Hat Contest. There were 14 entries and the winning hat was made by Mrs. V.E. Couch. All of the hats were later exhibited by Joske's in San Antonio.

In 1947, Beverly Bell was named Miss Turkey Trot. She traveled to surrounding towns wearing a turkey feather dress. The dress was made of 1½ pounds of turkey feather tips, and 1 pound of down at a cost of $7. The foundation material cost $2.97, and the dress was made by Mrs. Ione Bell, Mrs. J.D. Bramlette, Mrs. V.E. Couch, and Mrs. George Trowell. The beautiful and unusual garment was written about in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" on August 4, 1947.

That year the Turkey Trot Coronation and Parade was renewed in a big way. J.D. Bramlette was chief executive. It was said he had about 500 helpers! J.S. "Dote" Edgar, Jr. was crowned Sultan Yekrut X by General Jonathan Wainwright, Ret. and Mary Helen Burns was Sultanna Oreuc X. This ceremony took place before a Texas-Baylor B team football game at Gobbler Stadium. Henry King and his big band played for the ball held at the old Brayton Field. 7,000 turkeys (rented at a cost of 35-50 cents each), seven royal floats and bands from Lockhart, Yoakum, Edna, Yorktown, Beeville, Hallettsville, Kenedy, Floresville, Gonzales, Cuero, and the Turkey Trot Band all participated in the big parade. The event cost $5066 and was underwritten by local merchants.

During W.W. II the U.S. government began a system of rationing of goods deemed essential to the war effort. Every person was issued a certain number of stamps for a given amount of time. In 1943 Ration Book No. 2 was issued to 7,7171 persons — a 30% gain over book No. 1. No. 3 was issued to 7,330 and didn't include the "floating population." Red stamps were needed to purchase sugar, coffee, meat, butter, shortening, lard, canned milk, cheese, and processed meats. Blue stamps were needed for shoes. Gasoline and tires were restricted by the stamp on your car. The A stamp was for 5 gallons of gas a month per family, the B stamp was for a bit more. The C stamp was good for an ample supply of gasoline for farmers or businesses related to the war effort. There were also some T stamps for large trucks. Tires were even harder to come by. Only doctors, firemen, and policemen could buy spares. Everyone walked — to school, to work, to the Doll House, to the park, to church, to town — everywhere. Most families in the county also planted victory gardens to supplement rationed foods.

The old Mohawk Club was used for a U.S.O. There were dances there every Saturday night for the young men at Brayton Field. Mrs. Jeanette Woodworth organized a group of unmarried girls to go by bus to the field on Friday nights for parties. This organization was called "The Liberty Bells."

When the "Blood Mobile" came, people flocked to give blood to be made into plasma for our servicemen. Many people had black-out curtains in case of a raid. When air-raid drills were sounded these curtains were pulled. Thank goodness, we never had a real raid in the continental United States.

In 1943, the "Cozy Nook" opened in downtown Cuero, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Edgerton opened a privately owned airport by the Municipal Park. 15,000 bales of cotton were baled, but there was a huge labor shortage that caused the cut-back.

In September of 1943 it was declared unlawful to own frozen turkeys and they had to be sold to the Army. There were few frozen turkeys in the county then anyway because it was July of 1944 before Holmes and Wood opened a 500 locker frozen food plant. In 1946 I. Stein's Feather Processing Plant was opened to further the million dollar turkey industry.

The stores in Cuero closed for a big bond rally in September, 1943. The slogan for the drive was "Back the Attack With Bonds and Stamps" and the goal was $100,000. Chill Wills and three Hollywood starlets were in town for the big promotion. They were Helen Gilbert, Betty Wells, and Gale Storm who later starred as "My Little Margie" on TV.

Yorktown and Meyersville were the new oil hot spots that year. Italy surrendered September 8 and the first draft call of fathers was in October of 1943.

Scrap metal drives were held and the W.W. I cannon from the park was donated. Large wire bins were set up by the railway station to pitch in tin cans. One high school student even had to rescue his old jalopy for the scrap heap at the school!

In 1943 the biggest payroll was Brayton Flying Service, followed by Guadalupe Valley Mills, Cudahy Packing, Cuero Cotton Oil & Manufacturing Company, and the Cuero Livestock Commission. 31 other businesses were listed with payrolls exceeding $30,000 per year.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the towns in the county closed to offer prayers for the Allied boys — and for a quick victory.

DeWitt County had six newspapers in the 40s. The *Cuero Record*, a daily publication with weekly county edition and *The Standard* were in Cuero. Yoakum had *The Times*, established in 1892, and the *Herald*, established in 1897 merged in 1943 to become the *Times-Herald;* Nordheim had *DeWitt County View* and Yorktown published *The Yorktown News.*

On January 1, 1946 an auto-train crash killed five and injured three members of the Otis Leggett family as they turned into the family lane between Cuero and Thomaston.

A city bus service was begun by Belcher and York of Victoria on February 2, 1946 and continued until January, 1948. The fare was 5 cents and 10 cents and it had a 20 minute route.

The first bikinis appeared on French beaches! Meanwhile, back on the home front, the Guadalupe Valley Baseball League was organized with Dr. F.W. Miller president. Teams from Cuero, Victoria, Edna, Gonzales, and Yoakum made up the league. Baseball had always been popular in this area with amateur and semi-pro teams at different times. Six hundred fans attended the first night baseball game at the Cuero field on April 15, 1948. Mayor J.J. Fischer threw out the first ball and Cuero defeated Yorktown 6-2. The Beaumont Exporters, a Yankee farm club, came to Cuero for spring training several years starting in 1946. Several major league stars of the 50s started their professional career here. They stayed at the Muti Hotel and worked out at our splendid baseball field.

The Cuero Youth Recreation program began in June of '47. The first year's drive collected $3,319.58 and had $1,624.81 left at the end of the summer. Swimming, ping-pong, archery, dancing, tennis, and miniature golf (you had to furnish your own clubs) were all offered for entertainment.

On August 14, 1947, a $30,000 fire swept thru Arneckeville. Destroyed by the blaze were Dr. C.A.H. Arnecke's office, the drug store, the post office, and Walter Wolf's General Store.

Turkey Trot Downs opened September 7, 1947 with 7,000 racing fans there the first week-end. Mae West and Miss Princess were the favorites in the main race. When the dust settled it was Miss Princess, first, and Blondie, second. Mae West didn't prove to be as "fast" as her namesake. Speaking of Blondie, Cookie Bumstead was born in the 40s.

The House Un-American Activities committee was formed and started its infamous "Red-Hunt" in 1947.

In 1948, the war having ended and Brayton Flying Service having returned Brayton Field to the City, the City was searching for an appropriate industrial development of the site. S.M. Patterson, manager of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, made contact with Earl S. Tupper of Worchester, Massachusetts. Tupper was a young entrepreneur convinced that there was a great future for plastics. He was looking for a site near the source of the petrochemical raw materials needed for plastics manufacture. He looked over Brayton Field and liked the looks of the field and its buildings. He negotiated a contract to purchase the field and make it the site of his manufacturing efforts. A city election was held on July 20, 1948, to secure the approval of the voters for the transfer of the property to the new manufacturer. The election carried by a vote of 807 to 20 and a contract was entered into between the City and Tupper. Tupper-Texas, Inc., was chartered as a Texas business corporation and Tupper installed expensive machinery in the old hangars. A dispute arose between the City and Cuero Flyers, Inc., the previous lessees of the field, which culminated in a lawsuit. Relations between the City and Tupper became strained and series of law suits were initiated between the parties. Despite the efforts of a series of plant managers sent to Cuero from Massachusetts, Tupper-Texas, Inc. never succeeded in getting the plant into operation. After several years plans for a Cuero plant were abandoned and Tupper moved his operations to Florida. "Tupperware" in its Florida headquarters became known nation-wide, but was never again associated with Cuero.

Interestingly, Tupper's chief attorney at the time was Stephen A. Mitchell of Chicago, who later was appointed by Adlai Stevenson as National Chairman of the Democratic Party. Mitchell made many visits to Cuero in the course of the contract negotiations and of the litigation which later resulted.

Cuero grew 60% in 9 years and the population was estimated to be 8,791. In addition to annual Cuero High School FFA stock show, in 1949 the Southwest Texas Livestock Show, Inc. was created and produced shows for several years.

The city started spraying with DDT after a big rise in typhoid; the Lions Club donated $1800 for a machine to use. Free immunization clinics were set up. Polio was also on the rage with cases reported all over the county.

There were nine new car dealerships in Cuero in 1949. They were: McLarty Buick, Smith Chevrolet, Probst Dodge, Weber Ford, Ray Smith Kaiser-Frazir, Edu Mugge Mobil Motors (Oldsmobile), Harrison-Richter Plymouth and Chrysler, McGlothlin Pontiac, and Gay Implement (Studebaker).

The farmers were very unhappy over cotton allotments that were ordered by the government to control cotton production and prices. They threatened to march to Washington to protest.

The United States water situation was declared serious and conservation was urged while we could still preserve our resources.

In August of 1948, the temperature hit 107 degrees. Six months later on January 31, 1949, it was 2 degrees, a difference of 105 degrees! There was also three inches of snow on the ground.

The *Cuero Record* was raising its price to $5.00 per year.

Practically every DeWitt home had one or more boys and/or girls in military service. Citizens knew that war was inevitable and many enlisted before the draft called. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Forty three minutes after President Roosevelt addressed Congress war was declared on December 8. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., but Russia pledged to aid the Allies. John Tate of Cheapside was aboard the U.S.S. Arizona and was unofficially our first casualty. Brantley Block, a Yorktown native was listed the second. The U.S. lost six warships and 2,730 men that day. On December 31, Roger Babson predicted a long war.

Harold Thigpen Green, U.S. Navy, was DeWitt's first war casualty. He went down with his ship April 26, 1942. His brother, Bill Green, was also killed in Pacific action later in the war. Second killed was Joseph Peter Zaiontz on Aug. 23, 1942. He was followed by Randolph Goebel, Meyersville; Lt. Henry Dick Morisse, Nordheim; and James Huff, Cuero.

Leonard Harmon of Cuero received the Navy Cross and was the first black to have a ship named after him. Harmon gave his own life to save a shipmate and at least two officers on the U.S.S. San Francisco on August 1, 1943. A destroyer escort was named the U.S.S. Harmon after him and was christened by his mother, Mrs. Naunita Harmon Carroll. The destroyer escort carried his name until it was scrapped in 1967 and got three battle stars for service. The Harmon Hall Bachelor Enlisted Quarters barracks building 783 was named for him in 1975, the American Legion Post 917, Harmon Post, and finally Leonard Harmon Drive in his home town of Cuero.

The first women to join the marines were Oleta Edgton and Margaret Cook in 1943. Callie Jamison was a daring young black woman in 1941 when she joined the WACS. She trained as a nurse and served overseas. After her discharge she was hired as a nurse for Roy Rogers' young son, Dusty, who later lost his life in Vietnam. Her friendship with the Rogers family continued through the years.

The highest ranking officer in W.W. II from DeWitt County was Major General James Kerr Crain. He served in the European Theater as Ordinance Chief.

Texans always seem to be able to find a light side to dark happenings. The War Department printed a mandate put out by 54 Texans at an air base operated by the N.W. African Air Force. DeWitt boys at the base included Sgt. Mertes Koenig and Cpl. Bernie Arnold, Cuero; Pvt. Edwin Frers, Lindenau; Sgt. Walter Kneten, Yorktown; and Cpl. Helmuth Luddeke, Yoakum. They were among those indoctrinating Arabs and other natives to the effect that:

1. Texas is the United States. The other 47 are merely satellite territories.

2. Satellites have banded together and are helping Texas in winning the war.

3. The National Anthem is "Deep In the Heart of Texas."

4. The capital of the United States is Austin, Texas.

5. The most beautiful girls in the world live in Texas. The sun always shines. The crops never fail. Oil and other riches abound. It is a happy land.

Lee Ryan was the first local casualty on the second day of the Normandy invasion. Lt. Charles Grunder, Jr. and Sgt. A.A. Schaffner were reported missing and later declared dead. Capt. Floyd Buchel was declared missing in the Philippines May 7, 1942, and officially declared dead February 13, 1946.

On October 26, 1947 the families of 1st Lt. John Edgar, Sgt. James Elkins, Pvt. George Kubala, Pvt. Felix Schorlemer were notified that their bodies had arrived in New York and they would be sent home for burial. On January 14, 1948, the body of Charles Lee Ryan, our third war dead, was returned.

June 6, 1944, was D-Day in Europe. War there ended on May 7 and was officially signed by the Allied and Axis powers on May 8, 1944. The United States had decided when first drawn into war to concentrate on ending hostilities with Germany and Italy first and then finish Japan. On August 6, 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Japan signed the surrender August 14, 1945. The war was officially declared over on September 2, 1945, nearly four years after Pearl Harbor.

Eighty four from DeWitt County gave their lives fighting during W.W. II. In 1949 the DeWitt County Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers erected a monument where the names of all who gave their lives in four wars are listed.

The inscription on the monument located at the DeWitt County Courthouse reads: "To keep forever living the freedom for which they died, this symbol of our dead is dedicated. The following names are listed from W.W. II: Alfred H. Afflerbach, Otto C. Afflerbach, Edward R. Aguero, Carl A. Autrey, Richard B. Bednorz, Frank Biemer, Leo A. Blakeslee, Robert R. Braswell, David L. Braunig, Floyd M. Buchel, Reis Canales, Victor Carrisalez, Joseph Chilak, Derle Cortez, Ernest Cross, Marcellus D. Danish, Agapito DeLeon, Jr., Joseph W. DuBose, Martin H. Dworaczyk, John Burns Edgar, James W. Elkins, John Green Ellzey, Joe P. Farris, Ramon A. Gallegos, Almack Garrett, Henry Garza, William F. Gavlik, Lester B. Geffert, Randolph C.M. Goebel, Fritz W. Gohlke, Jr., John R. Goldman, William H. Green, Jr., Harold T. Green, Sammie Green, Charles L. Grunder, Leonard R. Harmon, Denton E. Hasdorff, Ellis James Haun, James F. Hefner, Edgar C. Hengst, Joe Roy Herrera, Fred Hoermann, James F. Holliday, James Huff, Victor Ideus, Curley M. Jackson, Henry Jalufka, Herman G. Keseling, Jr., Eriley King, Eugene E. Kolodziejczyk, George Kubala, Samuel W. Lane, III, Leroy A. Lundschen, Cecil May, Johnie Michal, Joe Wayne Milligan, Henry D. Morisse, Elden W. Mueller, Gerhard J. Mueller, Thomas A. Muniz, Jose Munoz, Joseph T. Newman, Jr., William H. Newman, Jr., Ernest Ochoa, Charles E. Orsak, Jr., Don N. Riddle, Jesse O. Rodriquez, Edward W. Roeder, Jesse Rogrez, Charles L. Ryan, Alton A. Schaffner, Felton C. Schorlemer, Armin F. Schwartz, William R. Scott, Stanley Smith, Arthur A. Spies, Ernest W. Stewart, John Tate, Willis A. Teller, Herbert J. Tieken, Kenneth M. Thigpen, Herman Vela, Albert S. Williams, Joseph P. Zaiontz.

The monument also carries the names of the dead from the Korean War (1951-1953) and Vietnam (1964-1975). Even though this history does not cover those decades we feel their names should be listed. The Korean War: Julius W. Gohmert, Donald R. Harryman, William J. Kenigseder, Cecil E. Newman, Jr., Herbert Rice, and Frederick Zentner. From Vietnam War: Franklin D. Audilet, Wallace S. Dworzczyk, Jesse E. Herrera, Fernando A. Hinojosa, Adrian J. Ibrom, Robert E. Ragland, James L. Slade, Jr., and Salvador P. Triana.

We do not have a complete list of all of the POWs from this county. In the annual edition of the *Cuero Record* issued November 11, 1943, the following names were listed as either Japanese POWs or assumed to have been captured: Lt. Floyd Buchel, Herbert Tieken, Charles Tolbert, Arvon Carruthers, Denton Hoefling, Denton Hasdorff, Antonio Villa, Roland K. Towery, Joe Chilek, Edward French, Jake Gallia, Albert Williams, and Lt. Col. John Atkinson.

Louis Bailey and Elliott Bailey, brothers of Mrs. Jesse Parks of Cuero, were also listed.

Survivors from POW camps who currently reside in DeWitt County and are known include Herbert Frels, Jim Stone, W.F. Luthy, Warren Elder, Simon Richards, Charles Jurene, Gail E. Waites, Will Friedell, Garcia Petugib.

E.M. Mueller of Cuero was an "internee" in Switzerland after his plane went down there. He was not actually a POW, but he wasn't allowed to leave the country.

Many of those who were taken prisoner died while in camp or on enforced marches to places of interment. We truly regret if we have not listed someone who should have been. Every effort has been made to find information, but many have died after returning home, or they and their families have moved away.

An article from February, 1946, related that the Eighth Army sentenced Cp. Naraichi Chihara, a Japanese prison camp guard, to six years of hard labor for beating POW Charles Tolbert who was captured when Corregidor fell in 1942. Tolbert was still in the hospital then, but eventually returned to his family and lived many more years.

by Faye Manning Duckett

DeWITT COUNTY RAILROADS

T19

Of all the political, economic, and social events which shaped the development of DeWitt County and all of South Texas, the advent of the railroad was probably the most dramatic.

To understand the impact of the "Iron Horse," we must picture the rudiments of transportation as it existed during the days of Texas' history as a Mexican state and then as a republic. Rude trails were used by pedestrians and horseback riders, while rutted dirt roads served the wagons and stagecoaches pulled by oxen or mules or horses. Freight shipment were limited both by the capacity of the wagons and carts and by the strength of the draft animals.

Westhoff Railroad Station

Curiously, the first railroad into DeWitt County was initiated by a steamship tycoon from New York City. Before the Civil War Charles Morgan had expanded his profitable Atlantic Coast shipping business into the Gulf of Mexico. Through a keen business acumen, he had won a virtual domination of the Gulf trade and had established several major ports of call, including New Orleans, Galveston, and Indianola.

Indianola's inland trade territory lay in the area west and south of the Colorado River, and its major inland shipping point was San Antonio. After 1865 this pattern became threatened by railroads probing southwestward from Galveston and Houston toward the Indianola hinterland. Morgan's response to this competitive threat was to build his own railroad. In 1870 he purchased the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railway Company, which had been chartered to build from Port Lavaca to San Antonio and had already laid its rails over the twenty-eight miles from Port Lavaca to Victoria. In 1871 Morgan and a partner, Henry S. McComb of Wilmington, Delaware, acquired the Indianola Railroad and combined it with the S.A. & M.G. to form a new company named the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific Railroad. In May of 1871 the new company laid track to connect Port Lavaca with Morgan's major steamship terminus at Indianola.

As indicated by its name, the ultimate objective of the new railroad was to extend westward to the Pacific coast, with connections at both San Antonio and Austin. Construction beyond Victoria was begun in March, 1872, and reached the DeWitt County boundary early in that year. General H.E. McCulloch was manager of the project, and Colonel Gustav Schleicher was the chief surveyor. In the spring of that year the road established its first DeWitt County station at Thomaston, named for Colonel Nathan Thomas, who sold part of the Refugio Amadore Surrey for a townsite. The Thomaston station was in operation until 1929, with a full-time agent and telegraph operator on duty.

Construction continued in a northwesterly direction, and in the late summer of 1872 a second station was established six miles from Thomaston at Burns Station, named for Arthur Burns and his family, who were the first settlers in the area. Unlike the other terminals, Burns Station did not develop into a full-fledged townsite, and in the early 1900's the name of the station was changed to Verhelle.

The route of the G.W.T. & P. followed a public road which had been laid out from Victoria to Gonzales in 1841. In January, 1873, the construction crew completed the last five miles to the terminus which was to become the city of Cuero, located near the Guadalupe River in central DeWitt County on a 640-acre tract of the Jose San Antonio Gonzales Valdez league. The first passenger train rolled into Cuero on March 4, 1873, with a crew consisting of Conductor Gould, Engineer Pat P. Smith, Fireman James Mooney, and Brakeman Festus Farnsworth. Among the passengers were Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Howerton and their children, Jim and Miss Lelia.

Henry Sheppard, a captain on the Morgan steamship line, was named president of the G.W.T. & P. Railroad in 1876, a position he held until his death in 1879.

Except for Burns Station, the impact of the railroad upon its terminal sites was immediate and dramatic. Thomaston developed into a

Yorktown Depot, built in 1886.

thriving little town with good schools and churches and several business establishments. Cuero's population grew rapidly with a variety of businesses, churches, schools, residential areas, and a newspaper, the Cuero Weekly Star edited by Rudolph Kleberg, who went on to become a United States congressman.

As an inducement to the G.W.T. & P. to route its line through Cuero, the Cuero Land & Immigration Company had deeded 100 acres of its land in the J.A.V. y Gonzales League to the railroad. This property, known as "Morgantown," was subdivided and developed as Cuero's first residential area. Within a week after completion of the railroad's survey, the Land & Immigration Company had sold most of its lots in the business section to buyers including Nicholas Fuchs, Qualls & Kent, C.C. Howerton, Tom Womack, and H. Runge & Company. The Cuero post office was moved to the new town from its former location in the Friar-Cardwell store four miles to the north. The DeWitt county seat was moved to Cuero from Clinton in 1876.

The first excursion train to Cuero ran from Victoria on July 4, 1873. The excursion train was composed of four flat cars equipped with benches nailed to the floors and sideboards for passenger safety, several stock cars with canvas covers, a caboose, and a regular coach. The fare from Victoria to Cuero was $3, and from Indianola to Cuero $4.

Cuero Train Station (Freight)

In 1887 the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad constructed DeWitt County's second rail line, crossing the county from northeast to southwest. The S.A.A.P. entered the county at Yoakum and established stations at Edgar, Cuero, Yorktown, and Nordheim on its run to San Antonio. A major locomotive repair depot was established at Yoakum.

By 1906 the Southern Pacific had taken over the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific line; and another of its branches, the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railroad extended a road southeast to northwest to Stockdale, where it joined an existing line from Stockdale to San Antonio. This line crossed the Guadalupe just west of Cuero and established stations at Lindenau and the settlement of Bello. These two lines — the S.A.A.P. and the G.H. & S.A. — operated independently until 1925 when the Southern Pacific Company became the owner of both railroads and operated them jointly as the Texas and New Orleans lines.

With the advent of motor trucks, buses, and private automobiles, the railroad passenger routes faded into oblivion. The last passenger service through Yoakum and Victoria was cancelled on November 15, 1950, and today rail service to DeWitt County consists of freight service only. However, the impact of the coming of the locomotive to the DeWitt County frontier still persists, through the towns and cities which it sired throughout the county.

by W. Lamar Fly

Railway Time Table

San Antonio & Aransas Pass

EAST BOUND

No. 4 Due..... 1.50 A. M.
No. 2 " .....1:23 P. M.
No. 16 " .....6:40 P. M.

WEST BOUND

No. 3 Due.....2:35 A. M.
No. 15 " .....9:25 A. M.
No. 1 " ..... 2:40 P. M.

Train No. 15 makes connection at Cuero for San Antonio and at Skidmore for points on Refugio branch.
Trains No. 2 and 4 make connection at Yoakum for points on Waco division.

Southern Pacific

HOUSTON AND SAN ANTONIO

No. 301 to San Antonio.....4:35 P. M.
No. 302 to Houston.....11:09 A. M.

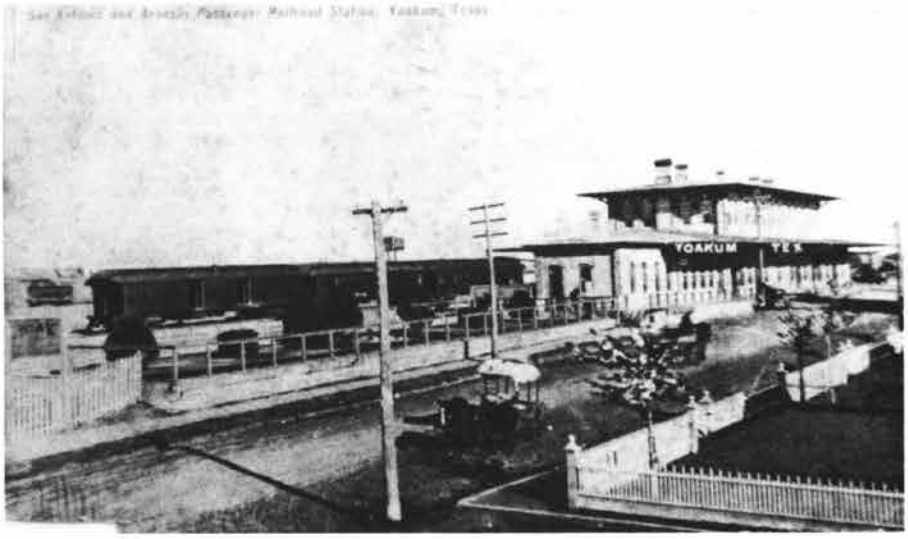
VICTORIA AND SAN ANTONIO

No. 304 to Victoria.....10:09 P. M.
No. 303 to San Antonio .....9:25 A. M.

PORT LAVACA MIXED

No. 315 Arrives .....10:30 A. M.
No. 316 Leaves.....1:00 P. M.

Lindenau Train Station



Yoakum Train Station

Cuero Train Depot (Passengers)

POPULATION OF DE WITT COUNTY 1850-1985

T20

1850: 1,716; 1860: 5,108; 1870: 6,443; 1880: 10,082; 1890: 14,307; 1900: 21,311; 1910: 23,501; 1920: 27,971; 1930: 27,441; 1940: 24,935; 1950: 22,973; 1960: 20,683; 1970: 18,660; 1985: 20,200.

Population of Incorporated Towns in DeWitt County

Cuero, 1880: 1,333; 1890: 2,442; 1900: 3,422; 1910: 3,109; 1920: 3,671; 1930: 4,672; 1940: 5,474; 1950: 7,498; 1960: 7,338; 1970: 6,956; 1985: 7,576.

Yorktown, 1880: 430; 1890: 522; 1900: 846; 1910: 1,180; 1920: 1,723; 1930: 1,882; 1940: 2,081; 1950: 2,596; 1960: 2,527; 1970: 2,411; 1985: 2,596.

Yoakum, 1890: 1,745; 1900: 3,499; 1910: 4,657; 1920: 6,184; 1930: 5,656; 1940: 4,733; 1950: 5,231; 1960: 5,761; 1970: 5,755; 1985: 6,355.

DeWitt County Information

Area (square miles) 910
Altitude 163 — 400 feet above sea level
Annual Rainfall (in inches) 33.37

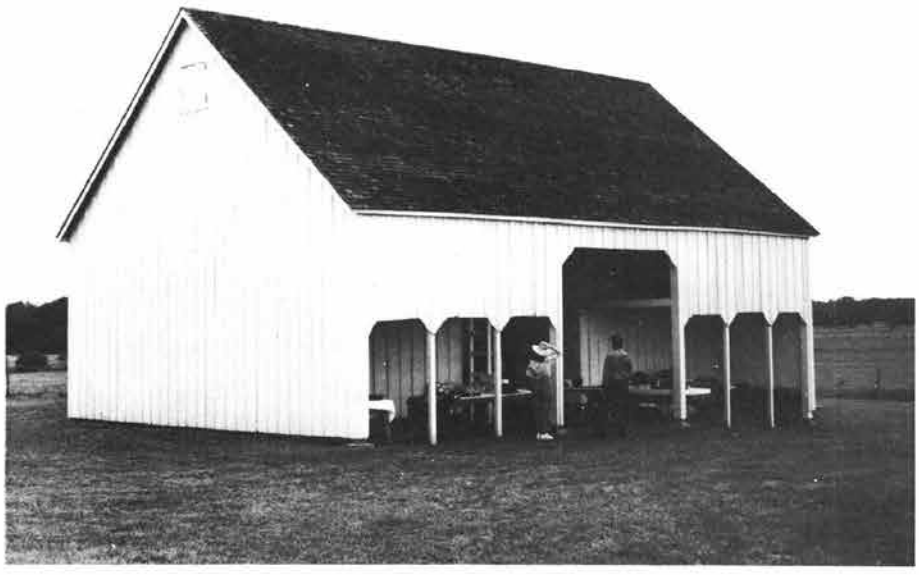
DeWitt County is drained by the Guadalupe River, which crosses the county from north to south, and its tributaries. Along the river and its tributaries the soils are rich loam covered with heavy brush. Trees native to the country are live oak, walnut, hackberry, hickory, cottonwood, pecan, cypress, and elm. The prairie sections have black and sandy soils; the sandy ridges are covered with post oak, black jack, mesquite, weesatche and retama. Some areas of the county produce grain, corn, and other feed stuff; however, a large portion of the county is pasture land for production of livestock. Oil, gas, sand, gravel, and pecans are produced commercially.

1850 U.S. Census, DeWitt County Texas

1. Henry Chantult, 30, M, England; 2. D. Murphree, 39, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 3. Buckner Harris, 50, M, Farmer, Georgia; 4. America Aldridge, 30, F; 5. Augustin D. Harris, 24, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Mary Ann Harris, 16, F, North Carolina; 6. John Houston, 24, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Julia Houston, 18, F, Mississippi; Robert Houston, 1, M, Texas; 7. W.W. Pridgin, 60, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Polly Pridgin, 52, F, North Carolina; Franklin Pridgin, 15, M, Alabama; Martin Pridgin, 13, M, Alabama; Wilie Pridgin, 9, M, Texas; James P. Pridgin, 7, M, Texas; 8. John A. Murphree, 38, M, South Carolina; Tobitha Murphree, 32, F, South Carolina; William Murphree, 13, M, Mississippi; Mary J. Murphree, 12, F, Mississippi; James G. Murphree, 9, M, Mississippi; Elvira J. Murphree, 7, F, Mississippi; 9. Arthur Burns, 64, M, Farmer,Pennsylvania; Sarah Burns, 51, F, Kentucky; Columbus Burns, 21, M, Texas; Ardelia Burns, 19, F, Texas; Mary Burns, 17, F, Texas; 10. John Buchanan, 45, M, Teacher, Canada; Emily Buchanan, 37, F, Missouri; Mary Buchanan, 12, F, Tennessee; Sarah Buchanan, 10, F, Tennessee; Alex

Early DeWitt County log house near Meyersville.

Buchanan, 8, M, Tennessee; John Buchanan, 6, M, Tennessee; Ellin Buchanan, 3, F, Tennessee; Amanda Buchanan, 2, F, Tennessee; 11. William C. Thomas, 38, M, Farmer, Georgia; Caroline A. Thomas, 31, F, New York; Albert Swift, 14, M, Missouri; Almyra Swift, 10, F, Texas; Isabella Swift, 8, F, Texas; James W.F. Thomas, 11, M, Mississippi; Jacob A. Davis, 42, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 12. Daniel Friar, 60, M, Farmer, Georgia; Ann Friar, 40, F, South Carolina; Alfred Friar, 19, M, Tennessee; Sarahann Friar, 16,F, Texas; William Friar, 14, M, Texas; Susan Friar, 12, F, Texas; John Friar, 10, M, Texas; Mary Friar, 8, F, Texas; Francis Friar, 3, F, Texas; Juliet Friar, 6/12, F, Texas; James C. Wright, 18, M, Farmer, Texas; 13. John L. Johnson, 31, M, M.D., Georgia; Maryann Johnson, 20, F, Georgia; Jessie Johnson, 12, M, Alabama; John Johnson, 10, M, Georgia; Malisa Johnson, 8, F, Georgia; James Johnson, 6, M, Alabama; Nathan Johnson, 4, M, Texas; William M. Miscall, 20, M, Farmer, Mississippi; 14. E.D. Wright, 38, M, Farmer, North Carolina; M.C. Wright, 36, F, Tennessee; Wm. Johnson, 22, M, Carpenter, Pennsylvania; 15. Geo. A. Miscall, 40, M, Farmer, Virginia; Juliet A. Miscall, 36, F, Virginia, Thos. Miscall, 14, M, Virginia; Mabela H. Miscall, 12, F, Louisiana; Laura O. Miscall, 6, F, Texas; Mary Miscall, 4, F, Texas; Georgiana Miscall, 2, F, Texas; 16. B.F. Low, 26, M, Labourer, North Carolina; Nancy A. Low, 25, F, Georgia; John Dowling, 20, M, Farmer, Texas; Joshua Dowling, 8, M, Texas; Jane Dowling, 18, F, Alabama; 17. Francis Low, 45, F, North Carolina; Jackson Low, 20, M, North Carolina; Francis Low, 15, F, Alabama; 18. T.C. Tomlinson, 27, M, Farmer, Alabama; Mary Tomlinson, 21, F, Alabama; Charles M. Tomlinson, 6, M, Alabama; Andrew C. Tomlinson, 4, M, Texas; John L. Tomlinson, 4/12, M, Texas; Bery P. Tomlinson, 4/12, M, Texas; David Gutman, 55, M, Farmer, South Carolina; 19. Theofalis Petty, 37, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Sarah Petty, 39, F, Alabama; Margaret Petty, 12, F, Arkansas; George Petty, 10, M, Arkansas; Manerva Petty, 7, F, Arkansas; William Petty, 4, M, Texas; Mary Petty, 1, F, Texas; 20. Gipson Petty, 27, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Mary Petty, 23, F, Ohio; Aramanda Petty, 1, F, Texas; Vanard Stran, 49, M, Louisiana; 21. William Smith, 27, M, Farmer Louisiana; Nancy Smith, 16, F, Arkansas; Elizabeth Smith, 1, F, Texas; 22. Amos A. Hill, 48, M, Saddler, New Hampshire; Amanda Hill, 41, F, Canada; Henry F.W. Hill, 20, M, Farmer, Canada; Maria L. Hill, 5, F, Mississippi; 23. Pepkin B. Taylor, 28, M, Farmer, Alabama; Susana Taylor, 38, F, Georgia; John Day, 12, M, Georgia; William Day, 8, M, Texas; Elizabeth Day, 10, F, Georgia; Amanda J. Day, 2, F, Texas; 24. Elizabeth Rice, 45, F, Ireland; Oliver Rice, 20, M, Farmer, Ohio; Thos. Rice, 8, M, Texas; 25. L. Gairy, 60, M, Farmer, Connecticut; Ana Gairy, 50, F, Connecticut; Benj. Gairy, 18, M, Pennsylvania; Amanda Gairy, 16, F, Pennsylvania; Lafayett Gairy, 8, M, Texas; Royal Gairy, 6, M, Texas; Thos. Whitfield, 50, M, Teacher, Ireland; James Moore, 23, M, Teacher, Vermont; 26. Isaac Read, 30, M, Farmer, Georgia; Harriet Read, 20, F, Pennsylvania; George H.H. Read, 2, M, Texas; 27. Rufus Taylor, 26, M, Farmer, Alabama; Elizabeth Taylor, 24, F, North Carolina; Martin L. Taylor, 7, M, Texas; Alfred P. Taylor, 5, M, Texas; Maryann H. Taylor, 2, F, Texas; Victoria Taylor, 3/12, F, Texas; 28. John Vanler, 35, M, Farmer, Germany; Caroline Vanler, 20, F, Germany; John W. Vanler, 2, M, Texas; Lewis A. Vanler, 3/12, M, Texas; John Ringiwood, 11, M, Germany; 29. Elizabeth Taylor, 37, F, Tennessee; Crede Taylor, 19, M, Texas; Joseph Taylor, 17, M, Farmer, Texas; John M. Taylor, 15, M, Texas; William Taylor, 13, M, Texas; Martha Ann Taylor, 10, F, Texas; Elizabeth Taylor, 8, F, Texas; Eliza Jane Taylor, 5, F, Texas; Hepsibeth Taylor, 4, F, Texas; 30. Mary McCrabb, 39, F, Tennessee; Joseph A. McCrabb, 14, M, Texas; Mary J. McCrabb, 11, F, Texas; John F. McCrabb, 7, M, Texas; Susan E. McCrabb, 4, F, Texas; 31. A. Holdridge, 57, M, Mechanic, Pennsylvania; Polly Holdridge, 33, F, Georgia; William Dowdy, 11, M, Texas; Susan Dowdy, 9, F, Texas; Sarah J. Dowdy, 5, F, Texas; 32. Sarah Marshal, 30, F, Arkansas; Betsy Marshal, 9, F, Texas; Tennessee Marshal, 6, F, Texas; Susan Marshal, 2, F, Texas; 33. Washington Stephens, 37, M, Farmer, New York; Nancy Stephens, 30, F, Tennessee; Sarah Ann Stephens, 8, F, Texas; Delila Stephens, 6, F, Texas; Joseph Stephens, 4, M, Texas; Robt. L. Stephens, 1, M, Texas; 34. Joseph Allen, 30, M, Carpenter, Ohio; Sarah Allen, 30, F, Tennessee; James Jarvis, 12, M, Texas; Laurence Allen, 1, M, Texas; 35. Wm. Moris, 25, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Mary Moris, 21, F, Mississippi; Maryann Moris, 3, F, Texas; Safronia Moris, 1, F, Texas; 36. Perry Davis, 33, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Adeline Davis, 4, F, Texas; Laura Davis, 2, F, Texas; 37. Lewis J. Brisset, 32, M, Farmer, France; 38. James N. Lain, 27, M, Farmer, Georgia; Martha Ann Lain, 26, F, South Carolina; Edwd. C. Lain, 3, M, Mississippi; Richd. N. Nickerson, 22, M, Georgia; 39. Lewis Demoss, 48, M, Missouri; Catharine Demoss, 15, F, Texas; Laura Demoss, 12, F, Texas; Eliza J. Demoss, 4, F, Texas; Joseph Demoss, 1, M, Texas; 40. John Jordon, 46, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Valuna Ann Jordon, 23, F, Tennessee; Ann C. Jordon, 4, F, Tennessee; William W. Jordon, 6/12, M, Tennessee; Geo. A. Rusworm, 16, M, Farmer, Germany; Gus. R. Rusworm, 12, M, Germany; James F. Blair, 23, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Alonzo Blair, 22, M,



Restored 1850's barn near Yoakum.

"Old-fashion" baptism.

Farmer, Tennessee; 41. John Archer, 35, M, Farmer, Iowa; Rosana Archer, 28, F, Iowa; Julia Ann Archer, 7, F, Texas; Eliza J. Archer, 2, F, Texas; Elizabeth Archer, 4/12, F, Texas; 42. James N. Smith, 60, M, Clerk, Tennessee; Elizabeth Smith, 46, F, Tennessee; Martha Smith, 14, F, Tennessee; Susan Smith, 8, F, Tennessee; Joseph Smith, 7, M, Tennessee; Thos. C. Smith, 2, M, Tennessee; 43. Wm. C. Cavett, 30, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Sarah Ann Cavett, 27, F, Alabama; James A. Cavett, 10, M, Mississippi; Wm. A.S. Cavett, 7, M, Mississippi; Elizabeth C. Cavett, 7, F, Mississippi; Joseph F. Cavett, 5, M, Mississippi; Elvira J. Cavett, 2, F, Mississippi; 44. Adolphus Wright, 21, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Francis Wright, 18, F, Mississippi; John Wright, 13, M, Mississippi; Wm. Wright, 11, M, Mississippi; Saml. Wright, 6, M, Mississippi; 45. Wm. F. Leake, 26, M, M.D., South Carolina; Amanda Leake, 17, F, Mississippi; 46. Crockett Cardwell, 38, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Ann E. Cardwell, 24, F, Tennessee; Caroline Savage, 10, F, Tennessee; Leroy Fudge, 17, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Franklin Howard, 35, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Jacob Hull, 35, M, Carpenter, New York;Archabald March, 27, M, Labourer, Tennessee; 47. Bill Odum, 23, M, Farmer, Georgia; Margaret Odum, 45, F, Georgia; Hugh Odum, 15, M, Farmer, Texas; Harret Odum, 12, F, Texas; William Odum, 10, M, Texas; Napoleon Odum, 7, M, Texas; 48. William Means, 40, M, Farmer, Georgia; Francis Means, 39, F, Mississippi; Ferdinand B. Means, 19, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Margaret L. Means, 17, F, Texas; Sarah F. Means, 13, F, Texas; Napoleon F. Means, 11, M, Texas; William B. Means, 9, M, Texas; Francis Blackburn, 82, F, South Carolina; 49. I.R. North, 34, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Martha J. North, 11, F, Mississippi; Ophelia C. North, 8, F, Texas; Wm. North, 6, M, Texas; E. Nichols, 24, M, Farmer, Mississippi; P.H. Hatchet, 24, M, Teacher, Georgia; 50. James Priestly, 36, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Elizabeth Priestly, 30, F, North Carolina; John Priestly, 10, M, Tennessee; William Priestly, 8, M, Texas; Edwd. priestly, 7, M, Texas; I.P. Priestly, 5, M, Texas; Saml. Priestly, 3, M, Texas; Ann J. Priestly, 6/12, F, Texas; John P. Cunningham, 45, M, Farmer, Alabama; 51. George W. Davis, 47, M, Pennsylvania; Eugene M. Davis, 21, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Geo. W. Davis, 18, M, Farmer, Texas; John B. Kellog, 13, M, Texas; 52. A.G. Stephens, 29, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Nancy Stephens, 28, F, Mississippi; W.R. Stephens, 4, M, Texas; R.R. Stephens, 2, M, Texas; Narcisisa Steen, 26, F, Mississippi; 53. Wm. Stevens, 26, M, Farmer, Mississippi; James Stevens, 18, M, Farmer, Mississippi; 54. Wm. Vandyke, 35, M, Illinois; Maryann Vandyke, 24, F, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Ross, 6, F, Texas; John Vandyke, 2, M, Texas; Joseph Vandyke, 1, M, Texas; 55. Sarah Blair, 56, F, Virginia; George Blair, 19, M, Farmer, Texas; Travis Blair, 14, M, Texas; Sarah Ann Cumings, 7, F, Texas; 56. R.E. Ross, 30, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Susan Doolittle, 31, F, Amanda Doolittle, 12, F, Tennessee; George Doolittle, 5, M, Tennessee; Mary J. Doolittle, 4, F, Tennessee; 57. Isaac J. Clark, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Angelina Clark, 23, F, Alabama; Margaret J. Clark, 4, F, Mississippi; Hugh L. Clark, 2, M, Mississippi; James H. Clark, 6/12, M, Texas; 58. John G. Rice, 37, M, Farmer, Alabama; Augusta Rice, 23, F, Prussia; 59. William Rice, 61, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Sarah Rice, 60, F, North Carolina; Elizabeth Rice, 30, F, Alabama; Wm. Rice, 24, M, Tennessee; Mary J. Davis, 9, F, Texas; 60. John H. Clayton, 39, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Maryann Clayton, 33, F, Tennessee; Nancy E. Clayton, 14, F, Tennessee; Mary J. Clayton, 10, F, Tennessee; Margaret A. Clayton, 8, F, Tennessee; Joseph M. Clayton, 7, M, Tennessee; Sarah A. Clayton, 2, F, Texas; Tennessee Clayton, 3/12, F, Texas; 61. Joseph Stephens, 40, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Sarah A.J. Stephens, 26, F, Mississippi; Mary S. Stephens, 9, F, Mississippi; William S. Stephens, 7, M, Mississippi; Mary S. Stephens, 9, F, Mississippi; William S. Stephens, 7, M, Mississippi; Asanath J. Stephens, 4, F, Mississippi; Ann M. Stephens, 3, F, Mississippi; Elisha Stephens, 2, M, Texas; Mary Stephens, 17, F, Texas; Miles W. Enoch, 38, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 62; Elish Stephens, 74, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Mary Stephens, 60, F, North Carolina; William Thompson, 9, M, Mississippi; Elisha S. Thompson, 7, M, Mississippi; Charity S. Thompson, 4, F, Mississippi; Elizabeth D. Thompson, 3, F, Mississippi; 63. B.M. Craigg, 36, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Safronia Craigg, 20, F, Mississippi; James Babb, 74, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Elizabeth Babb, 60, F, Tennessee; Amanda H. Babb, 16, F, Tennessee; 64. A.J. Hodge, 26, M, M.D., Alabama; A.V. Hodge, 19, F, Tennessee; Saml. B. Hodge, 2/12, M, Texas; 65. Walter Houston, 40, M, Farmer, Virginia; Jane Houston, 35, F, Tennessee; William Houston, 21, M, Alabama; Andrew Houston, 18, M, Alabama; John Houston, 16, M, Farmer, Alabama; Elen Houston, 14, F, Alabama; Mary Houston, 11, F, Texas; Robt. Houston, 9, M, Texas; Abrt. Houston, 7, M, Texas; Margaret Houston, 4, F, Texas; Nancy Houston, 1, F, Texas; Jno. P. Cunningham, 38, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 66. James Kelsoe, 49, M, Kentucky; Maryann Kelsoe, 37, F, Tennessee; William Kelsoe, 19, M, Alabama; Sarah Kelsoe, 17, F, Alabama; John Kelsoe, 16, M, Mississippi; Paraciler Kelsoe, 13, F, Missis-

DeWitt County Historical Museum, Cuero.

sippi; Calvin Kelsoe, 12, M, Mississippi; Algre Kelsoe, 7, M, Mississippi; Jefferson Kelsoe, 5, M, Mississippi; Almond Fudge, 21, M, Kentucky; 67. Kimber Barton, 57, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Margaret Barton, 50, F, Illinois; Kimber L. Barton, 13, M, Texas; Henry Kelsoe, 22, M, Tennessee; 68. William Pinchum, 26, M, Wagon Maker, Virginia; Nancy Ann Pinchum, 24, F, Tennessee; Robt. B. Renick, 19, M, Wagon Maker, Missouri; Andrew R. Renick, 17, M, Wagon Maker, Missouri; Laughlin McFarland, 21, M, Wagon Maker, Texas; 69. Mary North, 24, F, Tennessee; Ann North, 2, F, Texas; Saml. North, 1, M, Texas; 70. Isaac Steen, 31, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Nancy W. Steen, 25, F, Mississippi; Sarah E. Steen, 6, F, Mississippi; John C. Steen, 4, M, Texas; Martha Ann Steen, 1, F, Texas; John Cooper, 21, M, Farmer, Alabama; 71. A.J. Cloud, 30, M, Farmer, Alabama; Nancy Cloud, 25, F, Texas; James Cloud, 8, M, Texas; Paralue Cloud, 4, F, Texas; Joseph N. Cloud, 2, M, Texas; William Pinchum, 1, M, Texas; 72. N.R. McDaniel, 35, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Zelia McDaniel, 33, F, Tennessee; Mary D. McDaniel, 9, F, Mississippi; Martha W. McDaniel, 7, F, Mississippi; Robt. P. McDaniel, 4, M, Mississippi; William McDaniel, 2, M, Mississippi; Rebeca McDaniel, 1, F, Mississippi; C.P. Miles, 30, M, Farmer, Virginia; R.C. Miles, 28, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 73. John Harwood, 55, M, Farmer, Virginia; Mary Harwood, 44, F, Virginia; Margaret Harwood, 22, F, Tennessee; James Harwood, 20, M, Farmer, Tennessee; John Harwood, 18, M, Farmer, Tennessee; William Harwood, 16, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 74. M.G. Jacobs, 40, M, Farmer, Georgia; 75. Saml. Cunningham, 64, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Ellen Cunningham, 47, F, Virginia; Frank Cunningham, 19, M, Farmer, Alabama; Nancy E. Cunningham, 17, F, Alabama; Susan A. Cunningham, 14, F, Alabama; Araminto C. Cunningham, 13, F, Alabama; Cull Sprees, 12, M, Germany; 76. William Averhart, 50, M, Farmer, Germany; Theofilia Averhart, 22, M, Farmer, Germany; 77. August Carle, 38, M, Farmer, Germany; Christian Carle, 34, F, Germany; Caroline Carle, 10, F, Germany; 78 Volentine Hoe, 40, M, Farmer, Germany; August Hoe, 15, M, Germany; Frederick Hoe, 17, M, Germany; Martha Hoe, 12, F, Germany; Amanda Hoe, 10, F, Germany; 79. August Moris, 37, M, Farmer, Germany; Adaline Moris, 27, F, Germany; August Moris, 3, M, Texas; Joseph Moris, 2, M, Texas; 80. James M. Baker, 54, M, South Carolina; Mary C. Baker, 24, F, Tennessee; James Baker, 20, M, Tennessee; Elizabeth Baker, 19, F, Tennessee; William Baker, 17, M, Farmer, Tennessee; John B. Baker, 16, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Michael J. Baker, 11, M, Mississippi; Eliza A. Baker, 7, F, Texas; Sarah Baker, 5, F, Texas; 81. James Walace, 41, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Ellen Walace, 26, F, Kentucky; Leonardus, 13, M, Alabama; Elizabeth Walace, 10, F, Mississippi; Ellen Walace, 2, F, Alabama; 82. James A. Crawford, 50, M, Farmer, Virginia; Rachel Crawford, 46, F, Tennessee; John A. Crawford, 22, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Archabald W. Crawford, 18, Farmer, Tennessee; William H. Crawford, 17, Farmer, Tennessee; James L. Crawford, 16, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Pleasant A. Crawford, 7, F, ARkansas; Isaac C. Crawford, 5, M, Arkansas; Nancy M.E. Crawford, 3, F, Arkansas; Thomas Crawford, 1, M, Texas; Emanual Case, 81, M, New York; 83. George C. Moore, 38, M, Kentucky; Elizabeth J. Moore, 33, F, Louisiana; John J. Moore, 10, M, Texas; Robt. H. Moore, 9, M, Texas; Felix H. Moore, 7, M, Texas; William E. Moore, 5, M, Texas; Thomas N. Moore, 4, M, Texas; Julian Moore, 2, F, Texas; George Moore, 2/12, M, Texas; 84. Mary Ann Buget, 45, F, Missouri; Isaih Buget, 21, M, Farmer, Missouri; John Buget, 17, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Margaret Buget, 13, F, Tennessee; Barthalomew Buget, 12, M, Tennessee; Ann Buget, 10, F, Tennessee; 85. Harvey Neely, 28, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Nancy Neely, 19, F, North Carolina; Francis W. Neely, 1, M, Texas; 86. Miles S. Bennett, 37, M, Farmer, New York; Bathsheba Bennett, 27, F, New York; Mary G. Bennett, 5, F, Texas; Sarah K. Bennett, 3, F, Texas; Saml. Bennett, 1, M, Texas; 87. Corroll W. Spencer, 25, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Francis A. Spencer, 18, F, Alabama; Virginia Spencer, 2/12, F, Texas; 88. Robt. Peebles, 50, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Mary I. Peebles, 35, F, Tennessee; Elen P. Shenott, 7, F, Texas; John R. Foster, 50, M, Farmer, Tennessee; 89. Michael Miller, 33, M, Farmer, South Carolina; 90. David Miller, 31, M, Alabama; Jane Miller, 35, F, Tennessee; Malinda Jones, 17, F, Tennessee; Amanda Jones, 14, F, Tennessee; Elizabeth Jones, 12, F, Tennessee; Milton Jones, 8, M, Tennessee; 91. Helen Turner, 35, F, Georgia; George Sligh, 30, M, Georgia; 92. Jonathan Scott, 41, M, Farmer, Georgia; Deana Scott, 23, F, Kentucky; Caroline Scott, 13, F, Texas; Mary Scott, 10, F, Texas; Ann E. Scott, 4, F, Texas; Noah H. Scott, 2, M, Texas; 93. Rosana Davis, 45, F, Tennessee; Maryann Davis, 16, F, Texas; Viena Davis, 15, F, Texas; Lavina Davis, 10, F, Texas; Nancy Davis, 9, F, Texas; Rosana Davis, 8,F, Texas; Emaline Davis, 5, F, Texas; 94. Vilie Duran, 42, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Burnetta Duran, 31, F, Alabama; Sarah J. Duran, 13, F, Alabama; Abraham Duran, 9, M, Alabama; Eliza A. Duran, 7, F, Alabama; Thomas Duran, 3, M, Texas; James Duran, 1, M, Texas; 95. J.B. Sample, 26, M, Farmer, Alabama; Ann J. Sample, 20, F, Alabama; Martha J. Sample, 5, F, Alabama; Amanda Sample, 4, F, Alabama; Thomas Sample, 1, M, Alabama; 96. James Billings, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Louisa Billings, 28, F, Missouri; W.N. Billings, 9, M, Texas; Rebeca Billings, 7, F, Texas; Amos Billings, 2, M, Texas; John Billings, 1, M, Texas; 97. Geo. Tennell, 79, M, Farmer, Pennsylvania; Sarah Tennell, 53, F, Kentucky; Geo. Tennell, 24, M, Farmer, Missouri; Sarahann Tennell, 17, F, Texas; 98. S.B. Conally, 38, M, Farmer, New York; Mariah C. Conally, 19, F, Texas; Thos. Conally, 1, M, Texas; 99. Jessie K. Davis, 48, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Eliza Davis, 30, F, Alabama; Thomas Davis, 14, M, Texas; Frances M. Davis, 13, F, Texas; Warren Davis, 9, M, Texas; Tepit Davis, 5, M, Texas; Louisa A. Davis, 3, F, Texas; 100. James Forister, 55, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Sarah J. Forister, 13, F, Texas; Maryann Forister, 45, F, Tennessee; Barbary A. Forister, 12, F, Texas; Mary Ann Forister, 8, F, Texas; Rebeca E. Forister, 5, F, Texas; James W. Forister, 2, M, Texas; 101. Francis Buchanan, 35, M, Farmer, Alabama; Nancy Ann Buchanan, 23, F, Alabama; William Buchanan, 4, M, Texas; Mary Buchanan, 6/12, F, Texas; 102. Thos. Asher, 50, M, Farmer, Tennessee; James Asher, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Thos. Asher, 28, M, Farmer, Illinois; Anastatia Asher, 20, F, Georgia; Robertson Asher, 22, M, Illinois; Franklin Asher, 14, M, Texas; Nancy Asher, 12, F, Texas; John Asher, 10, M, Texas; Eliza Asher, 8, F, Texas; Marion Copeland, 18, M, Farmer, Texas; 103. John Tomlinson, 44, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Polly Tomlinson, 24, F, illinois; Amanda Tomlinson, 6, F, Texas; Ann Tomlinson, 6/12, F, Texas; 104. James Walker, 3, M, Blacksmith & Farmer, Georgia; Elizabeth Walker, 28, F, Alabama; Elizabeth Walker, 12, F, Alabama; William Walker, 9, M, Texas; 105. Webb Woford, 40, M, Farmer, Alabama; Frank Woford, 20, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Amanda Woford, 15, F, Mississippi; Webb Woford, 5, M, Texas; Mary A. Woford, 1, F, Texas; Elizabeth Woford, 70, F, Missouri; 106. Anderson Williams, 37, M, Teacher, North Carolina; Emily Williams, 30, F, Mississippi; Elizabeth Williams, 14, F, Mississippi; Saml. Williams, 12, M, Mississippi; Harriet Williams, 10, F, Mississippi; Maryann Williams, 9, F, Mississippi; Joice Williams, 8, F, Mississippi; Cisero Williams, 7, M, Mississippi; Frances Williams 6, F, Mississippi; Eliza Williams, 5, F, Mississippi; Anderson Williams, 4/12, M, Texas; 107. R.B. Waford, 42, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Frances Waford, 30, F, Virginia; John T. Waford, 5, M, Texas; Ann E. Waford, 1, F, Texas; 108. Wm. Cooper, 40, M, Mississippi; Jane Cooper, 35, F, Mississippi; Mary Cooper, 14, F, Mississippi; George Cooper, 12, M, Mississippi; Pernina Cooper, 9, F, Mississippi; William Cooper, 3, M, Texas; Sarah J. Cooper, 1, F, Texas; 109. Danl. Woford, 22, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Nancy Woford, 16, F, Mississippi; 110. J.P. Woford, 36, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Malinda Woford, 30, F, Kentucky; William Woford, 12, M, Mississippi; Saml. Woford, 9, M, Texas; Frank Woford, 6, M, Texas; Granberry Wofford, 4, M, Texas; Elizabeth Woford, 2, F, Texas; 111. John Woford, 57, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Polly Woford, 50, F, South Carolina; Emily Woford, 18, F, Mississippi; Robt. Woford, 14, M, Mississippi; John Woford, 13, M, Mississippi; Frank Woford, 10, M, Mississippi; Pinkney Woford, 3, M, Texas; William Alney, 45, M, Farmer, Connecticut; James David, 24, M, South Carolina; Robt. David, 22, M, South Carolina; 112. James Gipson, 50, M, Farmer, Virginia; Sarah Gipson, 50, F, Virginia; John Gipson, 18, M, Farmer, Indiana; James Gipson, 16, M, Farmer, Ill; Mary Gipson, 14, F, Iowa; Rachel Gipson, 10, F, Texas; 113. Jessie Peland, 27, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Elizabeth peland, 24, F, Indiana; James W. Peland, 1, M, Texas; 114. Joseph Murphree, 38, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Sarah Murphree, 37, F, North Carolina; Deaper H. Murphree, 13, F, Mississippi; W.W.N. Murphree, 10, M, Texas; John C. Murphree, 8, M, Texas; Sarah J. Murphree, 6, F, Texas; Nancy A. Murphree, 1, F, Texas; 115. Mary Powers, 56, F, Delaware; Josiah Powers, 26, M, Farmer, Pennsylvania; Ira Powers, 15, M, Illinois; Sarah J. Powers, 14, F, Illinois; 116. Mack Clark, 30, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Sally Clark, 26, F, Mississippi; Will Clark, 6, M, Mississippi; Joseph Clark, 2, M, Mississippi; 117. Patsy Means, 50, F, South Carolina; John Means, 20, M, Farmer, Alabama; 118. Elias Powers, 21, M, Farmer, Illinois; Elizabeth Powers, 22, F, Alabama; 119. Jacob Carroll, 50, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Sally Carroll, 49, F, Virginia; Lewis Carroll, 24, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Elizabeth Carroll, 14, F, Georgia; George Carroll, 16, M, Farmer, Georgia; Jacob Carroll, 11, M, Georgia; Sarah Carroll, 10, F, Georgia; Columbus Carroll, 5, M, Georgia; Jno. Clark, 50, M, Farmer, New York; John Arnold, 27, M, Teacher, Ohio; 120. Jno. J. May, 35, M, Farmer, Missouri; Catharine May, 28, F, Pennsylvania; John May, 10, M, Texas; James May, 6, Texas; Lewis May, 4, M, Texas; Abrh. May, 1, M, Missouri; James Lowey, 27, M, Illinois; 121. James May, 43, M, Farmer, Illinois; Maryann May, 65, F, Maryland; Patrick May, 25, M,

Farmer, Missouri; Benidict May, 22, M, Farmer, Missouri; Stephen Dunn, 4, M, Texas; 122. Charles Bradley, 30, M, Farmer, Missouri; Elizabeth Bradley, 24, F, Missouri; Mary Bradley, 1, F, Texas; 123. Jasper Gilbert, 41, M, Blacksmith, Tennessee; Eliza Gilbert, 32, F, South Carolina; Pleasant L. Gilbert, 10, M, Texas; Baethy Gilbert, 8, M, Texas; Frances Gilbert, 3, F, Texas; 124. W. Templeton, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Malinda Templeton, 24, F, Missouri; Andrew Patterson, 8, M, Texas; James P. Patterson, 6, M, Texas; Lactitier F. Patterson, 4, F, Texas; Al. Patterson, 2, M, Texas; 125. Alfred Berry, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Dennis Carroll, 26, Farmer, North Carolina; 126. Jno D. Barnhill, 40, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Elizabeth Barnhill, 36, F, Tennessee; Saml. C. Barnhill, 15, M, Tennessee; Wm. P.M. Calhoun, 13, M, Tennessee; John Calhoun, 11, M, Tennessee; Elizabeth Calhoun, 10, F, Tennessee; Martha J. Barnhill, 1, F, Texas; 127. Robt. B. Houston, 42, M, North Carolina; John Houston, 12, M, Mississippi; Sarah J. Houston, 14, F, North Carolina; A. Skarpe Houston, 38, M, Farmer, North Carolina; 128. David E. Smith, 34, M, Farmer, Connecticut; Lotitia D. Smith, 29, F, Georgia; Thos. A. Smith, 5, M, Texas; Fenero Blunzer, 10, F, Germany; 129. Richd. Power, 35, M, Farmer, Ireland; Jane Power, 35, F, Ireland; Dorah Power, 6, F, Louisiana; Edwd. Power, 4, M, Louisiana; John Power, 1, M, Texas; 130. Elizabeth Arendal, 30, F, Ireland; Michael Dabon, 23, M, Ireland; Lewis Esperaso, 40, M, Farmer, Mexico; 131. Osburn Calaham, 24, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Joseph Calaham, 66, M, Farmer, South Carolina; Rachel Beasly, 77, F, South Carolina; William Beasley, 18, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Malina Beasly, 14, F, Texas; 132. David McFarland, 24, M, Farmer, Alabama; Sarah McFarland, 27, F, Louisiana; Malina McFarland, 6/12, F, Texas; John Asberry, 13, M, Texas; Calfernia Asberry, 5, F, Texas; 133. Elisha Odum, 47, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Martha Odum, 42, F, Louisiana; Lusana Odum, 14, F, Louisiana; Justis Odum, 12, M, Louisiana; Martha Odum, 8, F, Louisiana; Elizabeth Odum, 6, F, Louisiana; Jane Odum, 3, F, Louisiana; 134. J.K. Rankin, 60, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Elizabeth Rankin, 53, F, Kentucky; Robt. Rankin, 17, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Saml. Rankin, 14, M, Mississippi; Malinda Rankin, 10, F, Mississippi; 135. Moses B. Rankin, 33, M, Farmer, Alabama; Christine H. Rankin, 33, F, Tennessee; Manirva Rankin, 6, F, Mississippi; Margaret Rankin, 3, F, Mississippi; Lucy C. Rankin, 2, F, Mississippi; 136. John P. Bullard, 33, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Sarah Bullard, 30, F, Louisiana; Mary A. Bullard, 11, F, Louisiana; John P. Bullard, 8, M, Louisiana; Sarah E. Bullard, 6, F, Louisiana; Nicholas C. Bullard, 4, M, Louisiana; Martha E. Bullard, 6/12, F, Texas; 137. D.M. Read, 38, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Lucy H. Read, 32, F, Georgia; Mary J. Read, 12, F, Mississippi; Louisa C. Read, 10, F, Texas; Thos. J. Read, 8, M, Texas; George M. Read, 5, M, Texas; Nancy J. Read, 3, F, Texas; Rachel V. Read, 2/12, F, Texas; 138. Mathew Anderson, 26, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Louisa Ann Anderson, 19,F, Virginia; Richmond Anderson, 2, M, Texas; Mary Anderson, 6/12, F, Texas; 139. Wyatt Anderson, 30, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Nancy Anderson, 30, F, South Carolina; Wade Anderson, 3, M, Texas; Ann Anderson, 1, F, Texas; 140. William Rease, 27, M, Farmer, Kentucky; Matilda Rease, 23, F, Mississippi; Thomas B. Rease, 2, M, Texas; Martha Rease, 1, F, Texas; 141. James Hainsworth, 27, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Margaret Hainsworth, 23, F, Texas; 142. Charles A. Burchel, 45, M, Farmer, Germany; Julia Burchel, 40, F, Germany; Frederick W. Burchel, 14, M, Germany; Earnest A. Burchel, 12, M, Germany; Rousa Bruchel, 10, F, Germany; 143. Charles A. Tuton, 42, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Rebeca Tuton, 40, F, North Carolina; Ann W. Tuton, 19, F, North Carolina; Charles A. Tuton, 9, M, Texas; 144. W.W. Wilkerson, 55, M, Farmer, England; Elisa Wilkerson, 50, F, England; 145. John Keseah, 60, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Frances Keseah, 50, F, Tennessee; 146. Frederick Shalemer, 22, M, Farmer, Germany; Isabela Shalemer, 17, F, Germany; Frances Shelemer, 3/12,F, Texas; 147. Antono Golin, 40, M, Farmer, Germany; Catharine Golin, 35, F, Germany; Jacob Golin, 18, M, Germany; Hanse Golin, 16, M, Farmer, Germany; Susana Golin, 14, F, Germany; Irene Golin, 12, F, Germany; Eliza Golin, 8, F, Texas; 148. Wm. M. Jones, 42, M, Farmer, New York; Polly Jones, 36, F, New York; John Jones, 14, M, Texas; Saml. Jones, 9, M, Texas; Sarah Jones, 7, F, Texas; 149. J. McFall, 26, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Sarah McFall, 22, F, Tennessee; Albert McFall, 1, M, Texas; 150. Lewis Reinhart, 25, M, Farmer, Germany; Catharin Reinhart, 50, F, Germany; Jacob Reinhart, 20, M, Farmer, Germany; 151. Julius Shone, 24, M, Farmer, Germany; Irene Shone, 20, F, Germany; 152. Christopher Shewitts, 43, M, Farmer, Germany; Catharine Shewitts, 38, F, Germany; Johana Shewitts, 15, F, Germany; Catharine Shewitts, 13, F, Germany; Philip Shewitts, 6, M, Germany; 153. Jacob Shewitts, 40, M, Farmer, Germany; Elizabeth Shewitts, 40, F, Germany; Fritz Shewitts, 7, M, Germany; Catharine Shewitts, 3, F, Texas; Lanos Shewitts, 6/12, M, Texas; 154. William Shelamer, 38, M, Farmer, Germany; Ashor Shelamer, 22, F, Germany; Charles Shelamer, 5, M, Germany; Hanah Shelamer, 3, F, Germany; Mina Shelamer, 2, F, Germany; 155. Edwd. Lockousen, 32, M, Farmer, Germany; Mary Lockousen, 18, F, Germany; Mary Lockousen, 2/12, F, Germany; 156. George Shewitts, 41, M, Farmer, Germany; Catherine Shewitts, 20, F, Germany; Christina Shewitts, 15, F, Germany; Elizabeth Shewitts, 12, F, Germany; Jacob Shewitts, 10, M, Germany; Michael Shewitts, 8, M, Germany; Louisa Shewitts, 1, F, Germany; 157. Henry Dyer, 65, M, Germany; Frederika Dyer, 60, F, Germany; Eustean Dyer, 17, F, Germany; Calina Dyer, 13, F, Germany; Ludowick Dyer, 10, M, Germany; 158. Frederick Hausman, 30, M, Germany; Charlotte Hausman, 26, F, Germany; Henry Hausman, 2, M, Germany; 159. Frederick Dyer, 25, M, Farmer, Germany; Louisa Dyer, 27, F, Germany; Anna Dyer, 2, F, Texas; 160. Christopher Teamer, 39, F, Germany; Elizabeth Teamer, 45, F, Germany; Henrietta Teamer, 15, F, Germany; Dorothy C. Teamer, 14, F, Germany; Frederick Teamer, 12, M, Germany; Olamar Teamer, 11, M, Germany; Theadore Teamer, 7, M, Germany; Louis Teamer, 5, M, Germany; Houlda Teamer, 1, M, Texas; 161. Christian Miller, 24, M, Germany; Elizabeth Miller, 58,F, Germany; 162. Latamer Fanger, 23, M, Farmer, Germany; Mariah Fanger, 22, F, Germany; Julius Fanger, 10, F, Germany; Emeal Fanger, 8, F, Germany; Orval Fanger, 6, M, Germany; Emaline Fanger, 5, F, Texas; 163. George Roseman, 34, M, Farmer, Germany; Palina Roseman, 17, F, Germany; 164. Johan G. Mear, 52, M, Farmer, Germany; William Mear, 36, M, Farmer, Germany; Otto Mear, 34, M, Farmer Germany; Maryann Mear, 33, F, Germany; Caroline Mear, 23, F, Germany; Dora Rubery, 8,F, Germany; Henry Keernbar, 12, M, Germany; 165. Peter Blunzer, 48, M, Farmer, Germany; Terese Blunzer, 48, F, Germany; Teafer Blunzer, 19, M, Germany; Urban Blunzer, 16, M, Germany; Nick Blunzer, 14, M, Germany; Terese Blunzer, 12, F, Germany; Fermin Blunzer, 9, F, Germany; Leo Blunzer, 6, M, Germany; 166. Loue Westfall, 36, M, Germany; 167. Christian Hoof, 61, M, Farmer, Germany; Mary Hoof, 61, F, Germany; William Hoof, 28, M. Germany; 168. August Rapker, 32, M. Farmer, Germany; Caroline Rapker, 33, F, Germany; Charles Rapker, 4, M, Germany; 169. Frederick Hermon, 58, M, Farmer, Germany; Henry Hermon, 14, M, Germany; Frederick Herman, 11, M, Germany; 170. William Gaiver, 36, M, Farmer, Germany; Charlott Gaiver, 33, F, Germany; 171. Adolph Haun, 31, M, Farmer, Germany; Antonia Haun, 19, F, Germany; Augusta Haun, 6/12, F, Texas; 172. Martha Pettus, 43, F, South Carolina; Wm. J. Porter, 23, M. Tennessee; Mary J. Porter, 18, F, Texas; 173. John F. Pettus, 42, M, Farmer, Virginia; Sarah Pettus, 32, F, Alabama; William A. Pettus, 11, M, Texas; Sarah B. Pettus, 8, F, Texas; Martha W. Pettus, 5, F, Texas; Altha Pettus, 3, F, Texas; John M. Pettus, 1, M, Texas; 174. William Wallace, 32, M, M.D., Alabama; Amanda Wallace, 22, F, Alabama; Susan H. Wallace, 1, F, Texas; William McKinny, 32, M, Labourer, Ohio; James O. Fanell, 32, M, Farmer, Pennsylvania; 175. Julius Shorry, 26, M, Farmer, Germany; Sofia Shorry, 24, F, Germany; Edward Shorry, 28, M, Farmer, Germany; 176. Julius Wagner, 33, M, Germany; Amelia Wagner, 30, F, Germany; Hans Kinus, 20, M, Labourer, Germany; 177. Robert Kleberge, 46, M, Farmer, Germany; Rose Kleberge, 37, F, Germany; Clara Kleberge, 14, F, Germany; Caroline Kleberge, 11, F, Germany; Otto Kleberge, 9, M, Germany; Rudolph Kleberge, 4, M, Germany; Maselus Kleberge, 1, M, Texas; Joukin J. Rheader, 14, M, Germany; Frederick Albright, 26, M, Labourer, Germany; Henry Hillbrand, 26, M, Labourer, Germany; Herman Hollsafer, 28, M, Labourer, Germany; 178. Albert Von Roeder, 39, M, Farmer, Germany; Caroline Von Roeder, 30, Germany; Louisa Von Roeder, 12, F, Texas; Rosa Von Roeder, 8, F, Texas; Ludwick Von Roeder, 7, M, Texas; Herman Von Roeder, 5, M, Texas; Segermont Von Roeder, 3, M, Texas; Albert Von Roeder, 1, M, Texas; Christia Chewell, 16, M,F, Germany; Usta Walsoffer, 30, M, Labourer, Germany; 179. Caroline Von Roeder, 80, F, Germany; Hanah Von Roeder, 16, F, Germany; 180. Mary G. Bell, 28, F, Texas; Sarah J. Bell, 7, F, Texas; Julia Bell, 5, F, Texas; John Y. Bell, 4, M, Texas; James R. Bell, 2, M, Texas; Andrew Paltiria, 7, M, Texas; Ann E. Tonitiman, 10, F, Texas; 181. Palestian Brown, 38, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Myram Brown, 33, F, Tennessee; Jesse K. Brown, 16, M, Tennessee; Josaphine Brown, 9, F, Tennessee; Bazil J. Brown, 5, M, Tennessee; Joseph Brown, 1, M, Texas; 182. Pheby Scott, 38, F, Tennessee; Thomas P. Scott, 15, M, Farmer, Texas; John James Scott, 12, M, Texas; William A. Scott, 11, M, Texas; Susan Scott, 10, F, Texas; Nancy Tatum, 27, F, Alabama; Edward Tatum, 10, M, Alabama; Andrew Tilley, 19, M, Farmer, Texas; 183. Josiah Taylor, 28, M, Farmer, Alabama; Sarah J. York Taylor, 21, F, Texas; Saml. O. Taylor, 6/12, M, Texas; 184. Lycritia York, 46, F, Kentucky; James A. York, 20, M, Farmer, Texas; William York, 17, M, Farmer, Texas; John York, 14, M, Texas; Elvira York, 11, F, Texas; Adaline York, 8, F,

Texas; Robert York, 5, M, Texas; 185. A. Lober, 30, M, Merchant, Germany; J. Higher, 30, M, Merchant, Germany; 186. John I. Porter, 37, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Persia Porter, 43, F, Tennessee; Isaac Porter, 26, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Emily H. Porter, 19, F, Tennessee; John T. Porter, 15, M, Tennessee; 187. G.W. Humphreys, 33, M, Carpenter, Alabama; Mary J. Humphreys, 20, F, Tennessee; Elijah J. Humphreys, 4, M, Texas; Virginia A. Humphreys, 2, F, Texas; John T. Humphreys, 6/12, M, Texas; 188. John Choat, 35, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Caroline Choat, 27, F, Louisiana; Saml. Yoakum, 12, M, Texas; Abrt. McCoy, 21, M, Texas; 189. Thos. J. Choat, 28, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Eliza Choat, 23, F, Louisiana; Sarah M. Choat, 4, F, Texas; William Dawling, 19, M, Farmer, Texas; 190. Albert Odum, 24, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Louisa Odum, 17, F, Louisiana; 191. Mont. Stitle, 40, M, Farmer, Germany; Johana Stitle, 42, F, Germany; Caroline Stitle, 14, F, Germany; Hans Stitle, 8, M, Germany; Joseph Stitle, 5, M, Germany; Christoph Stitle, 1, M, Texas; Adolph Stitle, 12, M, Germany; France Stitle, 11, M, Germany; Fritz Stitle, 9, M, Germany; Charles Stitle, 16, M, Farmer, Germany; Montz. Stitle, 15, M, Germany; 192. Johanas Snider, 30, M, Farmer, Germany; Elizabeth Snider, 31, F, Germany; 193. John A. King, 48, M, Surveyor, Tennessee; Mary M. King, 42, F, North Carolina; N.C.T. King, 21, F, Tennessee; Rufus King, 14, M, Mississippi; Wilber King, 10, M, Tennessee; John M.B. King, 2, M, Tennessee; Frederick Hoathaus, 15, M, Labourer, Germany; Jno. Snider, 30, M, Labourer, Germany; 194. John Yore, 40, M, Farmer, Alabama; Margaret Yore, 30, F, Alabama; Mary E. Yore, 7, F, Texas; Misouri E. Yore, 5, F, Texas; John R. Yore, 3, M, Texas; Margaret Yore, 6/12, F, Texas; Charles R. Yore, 21, M, Farmer, Texas; 195. Joseph Tomlinson, 30, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Elizabeth Tomlinson, 30, F, Texas; Ann E. Tomlinson, 9, F, Texas; John J. Tomlinson, 2, M, Texas; Martha C. Tomlinson, 1, F, Texas; John Stewart, 38, M, Farmer, Scotland; Danl. Brown, 10, M, Texas; 196. Sarah Scull, 33, F, Illinois; William Oconel, 7, M, Texas; John Quorn, 30, M, Labourer, Germany; 197. Hubana Lohoser, 35, M, Handyman, Mexico; Henovova Lohoser, 19, F, Mexico; Mary J. Lohoser, 1, F, Texas; 198. James M. Elder, 29, M, Farmer, Tennessee; Sarah Ann Elder, 20, F, Alabama; William F. Elder, 2, M, Mississippi; Columbus Davis, 22, M, Farmer, Alabama; Amanda Davis, 15, F, Mississippi; Louisa Davis, 13, F, Mississippi; Isham Davis, 11, M, Mississippi; 199. James M. Sullivan, 27, M, Farmer, Alabama; Susan Sulivan, 18, F, Alabama; 200. Peter Uitz, 34, M, Farmer, Germany; Louisa Uitz, 28, F, Germany; Louisa Uitz, 2, F, Texas; 201. William Hart, 52, M, Wagonmaker, Germany; Henry Hart, 23, M, Wagonmaker, Germany; Mariah Hart, 18, F, Germany; 202. Grebins Hardman, 30, M, Farmer, Germany; Sofia Hardman, 21, F, Germany; August Hardman, 1, M, Germany; 203. Francis Hopper, 34, M, Farmer, Germany; Ann L. Hopper, 27, F, Germany; Lutwick Riles, 21, M, Labourer, Germany; 204. Henry Mann, 38, M, Farmer, Germany; Christine Mann, 30, F, Germany; Frederick Mann, 14, M, Germany; Henry Mann, 12, M, Germany; Eustevon Mann, 8, F, Germany; Louisa Mann, 6, F, Germany; 205. Andrew Strieber, 50, M, Farmer, Germany; Louiza Strieber, 50, F, Germany; Adolph Strieber, 11, M, Germany; Charles Strieber, 7, M, Germany; 206. Joseph Lutabac, 43, M, Farmer, Germany; Mariah Lutabac, 44, F, Germany; August Lutabac, 5, M, Germany; Josaphine Lutabac, 10, F, Germany; Rokean Lutabac, 2, F, Texas; 207. Verner Vancraver, 30, M, Farmer, Germany; Mariah Vancraver, 22, F, Germany; Eliza Vancraver, 2, F, Texas; Mariah Vancraver, 1/12, F, Texas; 208. John Alfferbac, 30, M, Farmer, Germany; Eliza Alfferbac, 20, F, Germany; George Alfferbac, 2, M, Texas; 209. Adolph Yench, 34, M, Farmer, Germany; Uleas Yench, 45, F, Germany; Ulea Yench, 41, F, Germany; Henish Uberhaver, 56, M, Farmer, Germany; 210. Nicholas Vaughn, 39, M, Farmer, Germany; Augusta Vaughn, 40, F, Germany; Ann Vaughn, 8, F, Germany; Ameal Vaughn, 4, M, Germany; 211. Cason Ekhart, 44, M, Farmer, Germany; Louisa Ekhart, 39, F, Germany; Robert Ekhart, 14, M, Germany; William Ekhart, 12, M, Germany; Louisa Ekhart, 10, F, Germany; Emily Ekhart, 8, F, Germany; Jeney Ekhart, 6, F, Germany; Mary Ekhart, 4, F, Germany; Herman Ekhart, 2, M, Texas; 212. Miram Keneday, 62, M, Mississippi; Wright Keneday, 22, M, Farmer, Mississippi; Martha Moore, 78, F, Mississippi; 213. William Rankin, 35, M, Farmer, Alabama; Mary Rankins, 32, F, Louisiana; Eliza Rankin, 24, F, Texas; Emaline Rankin, 23, F, Texas; Mahala Rankin, 10, F, Texas; Elizabeth Rankin, 5, F, Texas; James H. Rankin, 2, M, Texas; 214. John Callaham, 36, M, Farmer, Louisiana; Malinda Callaham, 35, F, Louisiana; Young Callaham, 14, M, Texas; Lucinda Callaham, 12, F, Texas; Sally Callaham, 9, F, Texas; Elizabeth Callaham, 7, F, Texas; Beasley Callaham, 5, M, Texas; Caroline Callaham, 3, F, Texas; 215. Clayton Blackwell, 28, M, M.D., Massachusetts; Montgomery Blackwell, 26, M, Farmer, Massachusetts; Evaline Blackwell, 22, F, Massachusetts; Allace Blackwell, 5, F, Massachusetts; 216. Abraham Sumers, 37, M, Farmer, Missouri; Mary Sumers, 26, F, Missouri; Thomas Sumers, 5, M, Missouri; James Sumers, 3, M, Texas; John Sumers, 6/12, M, Texas; 217. Saml. Andrews, 45, M, Farmer, Arkansas; Susan Andrews, 22, F, Alabama; William Andrews, 35, M, Farmer, Alabama; Harvey Andrews, 18, M, Farmer, Alabama; Stephen Andrews, 12, M, Texas; Malinda Andrews, 11, F, Texas; Ellen Andrews, 6, F, Texas; John Andrews, 4, M, Texas; James Andrews, 2, M, Texas; James McCord, 35, M, Painter, Scotland; 218. M.B. Pridgin, 28, M, Farmer, North Carolina; 219. John N. Morison, 23, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Margaret Morison, 16, F, Alabama; L.H. Delany, 25, M, Teacher, Louisiana; J. Martin, 33, M, Gun Wright, Louisiana; 220. Margaret Brown, 40, F, Alabama; Thompson Brown, 21, M, Farmer, Alabama; Eliza Brown, 14, F, Alabama; Martha Brown, 9, F, Alabama; 221. James McFarland, 60, M, Farmer, Ireland; Margaret McFarland, 46, F, South Carolina; John D. Brantlie, 9, M, Mississippi; 222. Thos. A. McFarland, 24, M, Alabama; Lucinda McFarland, 16, F, Texas; 223. Francis Caloway, 33, M, Carpenter, Tennessee; Mary A. Caloway, 31, F, Alabama; William D. Caloway, 4, M, Texas; Emily F. Caloway, 2, F, Texas; 224. Christoph Walace, 31, M, Merchant, Germany; Hermenia Walace, 32, F, Germany; Adaline Walace, 11, F, Germany; 225. D.S. Page, 30, M, Carpenter, Louisiana; Caroline Page, 20, F, Germany; 226. Richd. H. Chisholm, 51, M, Farmer, Georgia; Hardina Chisholm, 46, F, Tennessee; Thornton Chisholm, 19, M, Farmer, Texas; Bradford Chisholm, 14, M, Texas; Maryann Chisholm, 19, M, Farmer, Texas; Richard Chisholm, 7/12, M, Taylor, Maryland; Julia Burchel, 8, F, Maryland; Augustus Burchel, 6, M, Maryland; Otto Burchel, 1, M, Maryland; 228. James Cox, 25, M, Farmer, Pennsylvania; Ana Cox, 21, F, Mississippi; Eliza J. Cox, 1, F, Texas; Jacob Levin, 25, M, Labourer, Pennsylvania; 229. James McMillan, 35, M, Farmer, North Carolina; William McMillan, 30, M, Farmer, North Carolina; Nancy McMillan, 10, F, Alabama; 230. W.B. Prater, 28, M, Farmer, Alabama; Margaret Prater, 27, F, North Carolina; James A. Prater, 5, M, Alabama; Jane Prater, 3, F, Alabama; Franklin Prater, 1, M, Alabama; 231. William Cox, 50, M, Kentucky; Eliza Cox, 46, F, Kentucky; Thomas Cox, 18, M, Farmer, Indiana; John Cox, 14, M, Indiana; Joseph Cox, 12, M, Indiana; Elizabeth Cox, 7, F, Missouri; William A. Blair, 25, M, Clerk, Missouri.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard

POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS

T21

No United States Post Office in Texas can boast a date of establishment more than just a few months earlier than the Cuero Office which was authorized in May, 1846. This first DeWitt County Post Office was located in the home of Daniel Boone Friar which was used as a stage stopover from Victoria, Gonzales, Goliad, and La Grange. Friar sold the property in September, 1849, after serving as postmaster for three years. Crockett Cardwell then purchased and maintained the post office in combination with a store, stage-stop, and tavern for nearly a quarter century. Letters were postmarked Cuero DeWitt County.

Of the many United States post offices established in DeWitt County, five of these — Cuero, Yorktown, Meyersville, Hochheim and Thomaston offices — have been receiving and sending out mail for more than a century. The post office at Nordheim has had its 93rd anniversary and that at Westhoff, its 83rd. Yoakum and Cheapside Post Offices are located in Lavaca and Gonzales Counties.

Arneckeville (3 June 1873-c. 1955): Henry Arnecke, William F. Harsdorff, Louis F. Schorlemmer, Richard L. Haus, Alvine Jacobs, Alvine J. Schrade, Charles H. Arnecke.

Benada (9 August 1877-16 December 1879): Francis M. Robertson

Brown (16 March 1900-9 June 1900): Edward F. Vollers

Burns Station (1 July 1873-18 June 1877): Joseph Shults, Samuel Meyers, Calvin B. Phillips, Daniel Reed.

Cabeza (6 April 1899-15 May 1907): Charles Moore, Walter Box, William Rutherford, Hedley Langley, Jefferson M. Mixon, Lillian A. Box, John M. Morris

Caples (21 September 1901): Henry Lundschen

Cheapside (5 June 1882-29 March 1890) (1890-1988): Charles M. Gooch, W.W. Fox, Wright W. Fore, A.J. Fore, Leonidas A. Preston, Mary C. Kullin, Henry E. Braeuer, Arthur Carter, Earl Freeman, Lucella Watson

Clinton (9 October 1849-11 May 1886): Richard S. Chisholm, William R. King, Theron Brownson, C.H. Clinton, E.E. Platt, Samuel H. Puckett, Andrew Stevens, Louis Lichtenstein, Carrick W. Nelson, Willis Fawcett, Lewis W. Miller, Johnson Henrys, Samuel J. Webb, James T. Kilgore, Albert Webb, Jos. R.

One room of this home in Lindenau was used as a post office.

Wofford, Jeff. D. Schrivner

Coletto (3 December 1851-21 March 1855): Adolph Tobel

Concrete (22 August 1853-30 March 1907): Joshua P. Kindred, Crockett Cardwell, Joshua P. Kindred, Thomas J. Stell, John Arnold, Ellen M. Wallis, Addison G. Bonney, John C. Woodworth, Thomas W. Dodd, Thomas R. Taylor, James H. Halse, Thomas M. Dodd, Robert L. Williams, Robert S. Williams, John B. Roehel, Thomas A. Young, Samuel F. Orman, Sarah E. Mahaffey, Mary S. Coppedge, Lena H. Jordan, Mary S. Coppedge, James H. King, Jas. P. Brown, Thomas E. Coppedge, William C. Coppedge

Conroy (16 June 1886-6 September 1887): Stephen Dunn, John P. Jamieson

Cuero (22 May 1846-Present): Daniel B. Friar, Leroy C. Fudge, Lorenzo Heaton, Rudolph Frank, August Holzapfel, J.C. Woodworth, William Drawe, David W. Nash, William Drawe, Ebb P. Butler, J.C. Woodworth, William J. Ott, Shelly Tarkington, Henry Sheppard, Jerry Sager

Davy (3 December 1895-c. 1938): William Poetter

Edgar (Grassbur 1 June 1873-30 January 1888): (1 June 1873-15 April 1907 — to Cuero): (23 February 1912-c. 1940): Thomas M. Dodd, James F. Cunningham, Sam B. Pincham, William A. Bates, Sanders Dykes, Samuel E. Ricks, Annie J. White, Guy Smothers, Edna Lee Smothers

Foresville (29 September 1871-2 October 1876): Thomas Duren

Grassbur (1 June 1887-30 January 1888): Allea A. Hutton, Alexander M. Hutton

Guilford (17 August 1903-14 January 1905): Edward R. Piland

Heaton (17 November 1899-31 January 1902): William A. Squyres

Hesterville (16 October 1855-1 August 1857): Robert H. Hester

Hochheim (17 August 1870-Present): Theodore Schwab, John W. Schwab, Charles T. Schwab, James W. Hulse, Charles T. Schwab, John H. Cunningham, Charles F. Timme, Francis K. Lynch, Finley D. Blackwell, Wiliam C. McCaskill, Hans Boedecker, William H. Schweitzer, William C. McCaskill, James P. Kelly, Jr., Chester L. Laufer, Eula Mae Jaeger

Irish Creek (9 June 1851-27 October 1853; (7 November 1853-14 August 1854): Arthur Burns, Samuel D. Reynolds

Kokernot (19 December 1890-17 June 1895): John B. Rachel

Langley (24 August 1898-9 May 1899): Hedley F. Langley

Lindenau (29 July 1895-1948): Gustav A. Markowsky, August Pfeil, Robert Kahlert, William C. Buchhorn, Joe Dieringer

Live Oak (12 November 1849-9 October 1868): Johnathan Scott, Wiley Duren, Elisha B. Davis

Meyersville (22 December 1851-Present): Adolph Meyer, Mrs. Mariana Meyer, John Kron, Henry Hausmann, Isaac Egg, Edwin Egg, Rudolph Egg, Isaac Egg II, Walter Egg

Mount Petrea (9 September 1851-22 May, 1856): James A. Crawford

Nopal (24 October 1896-c. 1960): Fred F. Schwab, Casper Hattenbach, Frank J. Schubert, James W. Archer, Louis M. Riggs, Mrs. Ioma Munson, Ioma Munson, Rugus D. Archer, Birdye Baker, J.W. Deborah, J.B. Lowry

Nordheim (23 January 1896-Present): Henry Schlosser, Gustav Osterloh, Carl W. Buehring, Alfred M. Zedler, Theodor Reichert, Bruno Morisse, Thelma Estell, Herbert Mutschler, Alice Voelkel

Peru (5 June 1857-6 August 1858): Robert P. McCorkle

Pierpont Place (31 August 1852-4 August 1870): William Pierpont, William R. Wallace, William Albrecht

Prices Creek (Thomaston after 23 June 1873); (25 April 1854-11 October 1866); (3 February 1869-23 November 1877): Bolivar J. Pridgen, Lauren Smith, Charles L. Stadtler, Valentine R. Cook, Bolivar J. Pridgen

Rabke (14 April 1898-15 July 1905): Andrew M. Coats, Edward T. Rabke

Stratton (16 November 1887-28 February 1905): Charles F. Middlebrook, William W. McKissack, William A. Luhrsen, George A. Peavy, William J. Drake

Terryville (15 February 1869-31 December 1907): Eli McDonald, John Gerber, James D. Terry, E.M. Switch, John I. Woodrowe, William Thrift, Mrs. Dora Woodrowe, George S. Cook, William C. Thrift, John S. Stell, Charles W. Dickinson, William A. Goodson, Joseph F. Moffett, Arthur T. Moffett, John B. Treagforth, Perry E. Edgar

Thomaston (Prices Creek prior); (23 June 1873-11 December 1873); (23 November 1877-Present): Emile Lautom, Humphrey Heard, Hanford McD. Whiteman, James H. Pridgen, William J. McManus, Oscar F. Pridgen, David C. Pridgen, John H. Conwell, Oscar W. Pridgen, Howard Conwell, David Calliham, Faye Calhoun, Arline Popp, Barrie Sue Davis

Westhoff (Bello 1906-1909); (10 December 1906): William S. Moore, George E. Rehmet, Emanuel T. Teller, Frances K. Lynch, Emanuel T. Teller, Laura Bruening, Marvin Cordes, Joyce Kahlich

Yorktown (10 March 1851-Present): John A. King, James S. Kilgore, Mathias Kreisle, John A. King, William Stark, Jacob Gugenheim, Frank B. Gohmert, Mortiz Riedel, W.J. Stark, J.W. Hoff, Charles T. Hoff, Ada A. Ladner, Lou A. Sloma, Cecil Garner, Dale Prescott, Pat Kainer

Republic of Texas Post Office: Quairo (very likely Cuero) This site is mentioned in William Kennedy's *History of Texas.* It is likely the location of the later Friar-Cardwell Store.

Yoakum — 20 feet in Lavaca County line 1887

1920: T.P. Woodard, Dr. T.J. Hill, Perry Wentland, J.A. McFadden, J.M. Woolsey, C.M. Hagen, G.H. Witte, Louis Olsovsky, V.P. Huehlefeld

Confederate States of America Post Offices

Clinton (12 July 1861-1865): T. Brownson

Concrete (17 July 1861-1865): John Arnold

Meyersville (14 August 1861-1865): Adolph Meyer

Pierpont Place (12 July 1861-1865): W.R. Wallace

Prices Creek (12 July 1861-1865): V. Cook, M.B. Rankin, Edwin L. Snow, Thomas F. Cook

Yorktown (13 August 1861-1865): Walton Anderson

by Rosemary B. Sheppard

DeWITT COUNTY OFFICIALS

T22

Judges and Commissioners

1846-1847 John Troy, Judge; V.V. Poinsett, Crockett Cardwell, K.W. Barton, John York

1847-1848 Hugh R. Young, Judge; V.V Poinsett, Crockett Cardwell, K.W. Barton, John York

1848-1850 Rollins B. Wofford, Judge; K.W. Barton, Jonathan Scott, Robert Kleberg, William P. Patterson

1850-1852 James M. Baker, Judge; Daniel B. Friar, Crockett Cardwell, Jonah Taylor, Robert Peebles

1852-1854 Robert Kleberg, Judge; Pipkin B. Taylor, Lewis L. Williams, H. McBride Pridgen, C. Blackwell

1854-1856 Robert Kleberg, Judge; P.B. Taylor, B.M. Odom, A. McAlister, James Brown

1856-1858 Thomas J. Waters, Judge; P.B. Taylor, Benjamin Cage, B.M. Odom, John H. Slaughter

1858-1860 Thomas J. Waters, Judge (died July 1859, H.B. Boston elected August 1859 to complete term); James A. Wimbish, Benjamin Cage, James W. Meador, James P. Collins

1860-1862 H.B. Boston, Judge; Benjamin Cage, James W. Meador, William S. Pearson, Caesar Eckhardt

1862-1864 H.B. Boston, Judge (resigned 1863; J.T. Kilgore elected May 1863); William S. Pearson, Walter Anderson, A. McAlister, J.A. Chamblin

1864-1865 J.T. Kilgore, Judge; S.W. Lane, J.F. Shannon, James W. Meador, J.A. Chamblin

Provisional Government – Officers appointed by A.J. Hamilton, Provisional Governor of State of Texas:

1865-1866 J.M. Baker, Judge; J.F. Shannon, C. Cardwell, A. McAlister, Moses B. Rankin

1867-1869 J.T. Kilgore, Judge; L.B. Wright, R.G. Whitsett, W.J. McManus, P.B. Taylor

1869 Police Court Established

1869-1870 F.E. Grothaus, Judge (Jan.-Mar.), Johnson Henrys (April); F.B. Gohmert, L.W. Miller, Ferdinand Ploeger

May 1870-1874 Oliver K. Tuton, Judge; L.B. Wright, Ferdinand Ploeger, Wm. Byars, Joshua N. Edgar

1875-1876 O.K. Tuton, Judge; Willis Fawcett, J.D. Terry, F. Ploeger, J.N. Edgar

1877-1878 O.L. Threlkeld, Judge; D.B. Peavy, W.N. Booth, C.W. Nau, H.J. Stephenson

1879-1880 O.L. Threlkeld, Judge; D.B. Peavy, H.T. Edgar, C.E. Nau, H.J. Stephenson

1881-1882 O.L. Threlkeld, Judge; J.C. Woodworth, H.T. Edgar, C.W. Nau, J.J. Woodrum

1882-1883 Frances J. Lynch, Judge

1883-1884 J.D. Terry, Judge; J.C. Woodworth, W.J. McManus, L. Menn, Ed Koenig

1885-1886 J.D. Terry, Judge; J.P. Wright, J.H. Schwab, Louis Menn, Wm. Trautwein

1887-1888 J.D. Terry, Judge; J.P. Wright, J.H. Schwab, Louis Menn, Ed Koenig

1889-1890 J.D. Terry, Judge; J.P. Wright, F.B. Smith, H. Dahlmann, Ed Koenig

1891-1892 J.D. Terry, Judge; J.T. Wofford, W.J. Simpson, B.R. Burow, Ed Koenig

1893-1896 Ed Koenig, Judge; J.P. Wright, W.J. Simpson, B.R. Burow, John Junker

1897-1898 C.A. Sumners, Judge; A.W. Eatman, W.J. Simpson, B.R. Burow, John Junker

1899-1902 C.A. Sumners, Judge; A.W. Eatman, H. Neumann, B.R. Burow, John Junker

1903-1906 C.A. Sumners, Judge; A.W. Eatman, George P. Willis, C.W. Thuem, John Junker

1907-1908 C.A. Sumners, Judge; A.W. Eatman, George P. Willis, M.F. Mueller, John Junker

1909-1910 Rudolph Kleberg, Jr., Judge; A.W. Eatman, P.R. Witte, M.F. Mueller, R.C. Brown

1911-1912 Rudolph Kleberg, Jr., Judge; J.F. Card, G.P. Willis, M.F. Mueller, R.C. Brown

1913-1914 R.J. Waldeck, Judge; Charles Lenz, Otto Wagener, Fritz Poetter, R.C. Brown

1915-1918 R.J. Waldeck, Judge; Charles Lenz, Otto Wagener, Henry Buesing, R.C. Brown

1919-1922 J.L. Boal, Judge; Sam D. Hefner, Otto Wagener, Henry Buesing, R.C. Brown

1923-1928 Stanley Kulawik, Judge; S.D. Hefner, C.B. Kaiser, Henry Buesing, R.F. Junker

1929-1932 Stanley Kulawik, Judge; S.D. Hefner, H. Seekamp, Henry Buesing died, (Paul F. Gips app.) R.F. Junker

1933-1936 Thos. A. Graves, Judge; S.D. Hefner, H. Seekamp, Pat Riley, Ernest Richter

1937-1940 Thomas A. Graves, Judge; S.D. Hefner, H. Seekamp, George Morisse, Ernest Richter

1941-1942 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; A.A. Otto, H. Seekamp, George Morisse, I.J. Goebel

1943-1948 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; Alfred A. Otto, Herman Seekamp, Joe R. Gras, W.J. Lau

1949-1950 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; Joe B. Hunter, H. Seekamp, Joe R. Gras, Wm. J. Lau

1951-1952 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; Joe B. Hunter, J.T. Ward, Joe R. Gras, Fred DeDear

1953-1956 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; Joe B. Hunter, T.J. Ward, Joe R. Gras, Fred DeDear

1957-1962 Stephen P. Hebert, Judge; Dave Weber, T.J. Ward, Joe R. Gras, Fred DeDear

1963-1964 George Trowell, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert Ruppert, Joe R. Gras, Bonnie Buenger

1965-1966 George Trowell, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert Ruppert, H.R. Mutschler, Bonnie Buenger

1967-1968 George Trowell, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert E. Ruppert, H.R. Mutschler, Bonnie Buenger

1969-1972 George Trowell, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert E. Ruppert, Gilbert Koopmann, Bonnie Buenger

1973-1974 George Trowell, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert E. Ruppert, Bill Lemke, Bonnie Buenger

1975-1976 Robert B. Sheppard, Judge; Dave Weber, Herbert E. Ruppert, Bill Lemke, Odell White

1977-1978 Robert B. Sheppard, Judge; Harold Heyer, Herbert E. Ruppert, Bill Lemke, Odell White

1979-1980 Robert B. Sheppard, Judge; Harold Heyer, P.G. Schaffner, Bill Lemke, Odell White

1981-1986 Robert B. Sheppard, Judge; Harold Heyer, P.G. Schaffner, Gilbert Pargmann, Odell White

1987-1988 Ben E. Prause, Judge; Harold Heyer, P.G. Schaffner, Gilbert Partmann, Odell White

1990- Ben E. Prause, Judge; Wallace Beck, P.G. Schaffner, Gilbert Pargman, Odell White

DeWitt County Sheriffs

William P. Patterson, 1846-1849; K.B. White, 1849- 1851; Jacob A. Miller, 1851-1852; James P. Collins, 1852-1853; John R. Foster, 1853-1859; B.M. Odom, 1859-1865; J.A. Miller, 1865-1867; James F. Blair, 1867-1869; George W. Jacobs, 1869-1870; Jack Helms, 1870-1873; W.J. Wiesiger, 1873-1881; T.G. Peterson, 1881-1887; Addison Kilgore, 1887-1889; P.F. Breeden, 1889-1893; Thos. M. Stell, 1893-1907; Jessie Farris, 1907-1917; John Pace, 1917-1923; Gus Lenz, 1923-1934; E.B. Markowsky, 1934-1939; L.A. Buehrig, 1939-1947; Bill Hartman, 1947-1949; Ray Markowsky, 1949-Aug. 1964; Norvan "Cutter" Dietze, Sept. 1964-1977; Bobby McMahan, 1977-Present.

DeWitt County Clerks

James Norman Smith, 1846-1865; Thomas Crutcher Smith, 1865-1868; Willis Fawcett, 1868-1876; William (Bob) Fawcett, 1876-1878; James Porter Baker, 1878-1900; G.P. Box, 1900-1920; J. Terry Newman, 1920-1924; J.P. Bridges, 1924-1934; Henry J. Koenig, 1934-1954; Ray Gips, 1955-1981; Patricia (Pat) Braden McMahan, Jan. 1982-Nov. 1982; Ann Drehr, Dec. 1982-Present.

DeWitt County Tax Assessors and Collectors

John McCrabb, 1846-1848; Charles A. Tuton, 1849-1851; Lewis Delony, 1851-1852; Jacob A. Miller, 1852-1853; Achilles Stapp, 1853-1854; Nicholas I. Ryan, 1854-?; James Brown, ?-1879; Charles T. Schwab, Sr., 1880-1907; Thomas M. Stell, 1908-1923; Fritz Poetter, 1924-1942; Frank Thieme, 1943-1972; Helen Bulgarin, 1973-1976; Ken Wiggins, 1977-1985; Margaret Mueller, June 1985-Present.

DeWitt County Auditors

Joseph Smith Edgar, 1917-1920; Legrand G. Covey, 1920-1935; Nic L. Ladner, 1935-1954; R.J. Skinner, 1954 (resigned in Aug. 1954); Jerome W. Koenig, 1954-1968; Lawrence Henneke, May 1968-1975; Dorothy Gannon, 1975-1981; Terry Wyatt, 1981-June 1988; Kathleen Roberts, July 1, 1988-Present.

DeWitt County Treasurers

Robert Peebles, 1848; David Smith, 1848-1851; Louis DeMoss, 1852-1853; William P. Stapp, 1854-?; Samuel Webb, 1858-1860; D.D. Scrivner, 1860-1862; H. Heard, 1862-1866; Wm. R. Friend, 1866-1868; No Record 1869-1873; J.H. Richter, 1874-1892; Herman E. Dahlman, 1892-1909; Ed Koenig, 1910-1915; William Wagner, 1916-1926; Thomas M. Stell, 1926-1939; Alvin Barnes, 1940-1947; Henry Mugge, 1948-June 30, 1974; Walter Wolf, July 1, 1974-1989; Peggy Schultz Ledbetter, July 1, 1989-Present.

DeWitt County Attorneys

S.F. Grimes, 1870-July 1878; Rud. Kleberg, Aug. 1878-May 1882; E.C. Jones, June 1882-Dec. 1884; O.L. Crouch, Jan. 1885-Dec. 1890; Sam C. Lackey, Jan. 1891-Nov. 22, 1898; George J. Schleicher, Nov. 29, 1898-Dec. 1904; H.B. Edgar, Dec. 1904-Dec. 1905; F.S. Schleicher, Dec. 26, 1905-Nov. 1914; N.M. Crain, Dec. 1914-May 1919; W.E. Neeley, June 1919-Mar. 1920; Tom Cheatham, Mar. 1920-Dec. 1924; G.L. Patterson, Jan. 1925-Dec. 1928; T.A. Graves, Jan. 1929-Dec. 1932; Stephen Hebert, Jan. 1933-Dec. 1940; Stanley Kulawik, Jan. 1941-Dec. 1942; Wayne L. Hartman, Jan. 1943-Nov. 1943; August C. Hartman, Nov. 1943-May 1946; Wayne L. Hartman, May 1946-Aug. 1951; Arthur M. Green, Sept. 1, 1951-Dec. 1952; Wiley L. Cheatham, Jan. 1953-Dec. 1955; James K. Crain, Dec. 1955-Dec. 1960; Leonard M. Cox, Jan. 1961-Dec. 1964; Frank B. Sheppard, Jan. 1965-June 1970; Robert W. Post, July 1970-Present.

DeWitt County District Clerks

Joseph Baker, 1846-1849; George H. Davis, 1849-1851; W.A. Blair, 1851- 1867; William Grafton, 1867-1870; G.W. Brooks, Jr., 1870-1872; William Grafton, 1872-1876; R.J. Kleberg, 1876-1880; C.C. Howerton, 1880-1893; H.B. Edgar, 1893-1905; T.J. Kennedy, 1905-1933; Maggie Edgar, 1933-1950; Pershing Hiller, 1950-1974; Gerry Smith, 1974-Present.

DeWitt County District Attorneys

John A. Green, 1846-1849; William L. Glass, 1849-1855; R.E. Williams, 1855-1860; William Tate, 1860-1866; A.B. Peticolas, 1866-1867; Samuel Lackey, 1867-1869; J.A. Abney, 1869-1873; P.B. Word, 1873-1877; L.H. Brown, 1877-1879; S.F. Grimes, 1879-1889; A.B. Davidson, 1889-1897; J.V. Vandenberg, 1897-1904; G.E. Pope, 1904-1910; Guy Mitchell, 1910-1914; Wayne Davis, 1914-1918; A.C. Hartman, 1918-1920; Wayne Davis, 1920-1922; R.L. Daniel, 1922-1926; J.V. Vandenberg, Jr., 1926-1930; Howard P. Green, 1930-1940; Frank Martin, 1940-1951; Wayne Hartman, 1951-1956; Wiley Cheatham, 1956-Present.

DeWitt County District Judges

24th Judicial District – Originally included DeWitt, Jackson, Refugio, Victoria, Calhoun and Goliad Counties – one judge served these six counties. William E. Jones, 1846-1846; Fielding Jones, 1848-1863; J.J. Holt, 1863-1865; S.A. White, 1865-1868; Wesley Ogden, 1868-1873; Daniel Claiborne, 1873-1877; H. Clay Pleasant, 1877-1893; S.F. Grimes, 1893-1896; James Wilson, 1896-1910; John M. Green, 1910-1928; J.P. Pool, 1928-1940; Howard P. Green, 1940-1963; (Retired and became Chief Justice of Court of Appeals. Retired in 1970) Joseph P. Kelly; Clarence Stevenson.

Second Court, 135th Judicial, established in 1951. Frank Martin; Frank Crain; Mac Lewis.

267th Judicial District: Mac Lewis; Weyland Kilgore

DeWitt County Doctors

Adams, J.L.G.; Alkire, Margurite M.; Allen, Geo. W., Sr.; Allen, G.W.; Archer, Francis Cowan; Arnecke, A.H.C.; Arnecke, C.A.H.; Atkinson, R.S.; Atktinson, John J.; Baldwin, Denison Holmes; Barth, John Henry; Barfield, Arthur Z.; Bartlett, H.L.; Bauer, James Edward; Baxter, C.L.; Beckman, A.; Bell, T.C.; Benbow, E.A.; Berger, August; Berry, Jno. L.; Blackwell, Finley D.; Blake, J.V.; Bohman, Alfred John; Bonham, O.F.; Boon, H.E.; Boothe, S.P.; Borchers, Charles Lewis; Bowen, Joy Sharon; Boyd, A.E.; Boyd, John M.; Bradbrook, Henry; Brassell, Jas. W.; Brannan, Harold Moulden; Brassell, P.H.; Braly, Walter Grant; Braun, Isadore; Breuer, Chas. H.; Brohn, Alfred James; Brown, Harry H., Jr.; Brown, Marcellus Newton; Bryan, T. Pettit; Buehring, Theodore; Burke, T.S.; Burleson, John H.; Burns, Arthur; Burns, J.C.; Burns, John Gillett; Burns, John W.; Byers, James; Cameron, H.A.; Campbell, Henry; Chandler, C.E.; Church, Edgar A.; Chvojka, Victor Edward; Ciborowski, Crayton Edwin; Clark, John T.; Connelly, William Edward; Cook, L.F.D.; Coppedge, O.D.; Covington, Benj. Jesse; Crawford, Clayton Wilson; Corerra, Carlos; Cross, G.W.; Curlcher, F.B.; Currie, A.B.; Curtis, Kim D.; Davenport, O.H.; Davidson, Alex H.; Davis, John Crispen; Davis, Wm. A.; Delipelig, C.A.; Diaz, Pablo Deaz Y.; Dietze, William Edward; Dittebrandt, Herman H.; Dobbs, J.C.; Dodson, Pattie Mae; Douthit, Walton Emery; Dove, C.E.; Drake, William J.; Drisdale, William E.; Duck; Duckworth, Jas. F.; Dugi, Dan; Duncan, T.H.; Dupont, Chas. J.; Eason, N.W.; Eckhardt, H.C.; Eckhardt, J.W.; Eddens, Chris B.; Edwards, Ricky Dale; Ehlers, William Arthur; Elder, Nathan A.; Elexander, Virginia; Eska, Terry Fuller; Fanning, Francis; Farrell, N.E.; Fertz, Henry F.; Fetherstor, Ernest Albert; Finney, W.D.; Fleming, Richard Edwin; Forchhammer, Z.; Frelchet, C.A.; Fretchet, Eugene Alphonse; Frey, Conrad; Friend, N.; Frobese, J. Ruess; Frueholz, Bertha; Frueholz, Frederick; Futrell, R.L.; Galney, A.; Gastering, Joseph Bennett; Gillett, William R.; Gillett, William Roswell; Glass, Barney J.; Godwin, J.M.; Goerss, T.C.A.; Gohlke, Marvin Henry; Gonzalez, Arturo; Gonzales, Domingo; Grant, James D.; Gravelly, E.R.; Gray, W.J.; Greiner, Theodore Herman; Gremmel, Gibert Carl; Guerra, V.; Haley, Robert J., Jr.; Hall, Oscar Edward; Hall, Walter E.; Hardman, Roy Eugene; Harper, R.L.; Harrison, Chs.; Hartman, Henry; Hawkins, Chas.; Hassell, S.J.; Hawkins, Jas. R.; Hassel, Nellie; Hawkins, J.T.; Hastings, Willard A.; Hawthorn, Samuel McC.; Heard, Mark A.; Henao, Mario; Hentsley, M.T.; Herbst, Walter Egon; Herman, Robert Charles; Hewitt, Henry Miller; Higgins, Frank B.; High, Harold Rutledge; Hohn, Anselm Charles; Hopkins, R.R.; Horton, J.T.; Howard, Frank; Howe, A.E.; Howe, Geo. M.; Isaacs, A.Y.; Jacob, Norman Henry, Jr.; James, William James; Johnson, A.J.; Johnson, John M.; Johnson, W.P.; Jones, W.T.; Jordan, A.M.; Kelso, Kip Gordon; Kahn, Sylvan D.; Kent, Frank; King, Gerald Atherton; King, John A.; King, William Anthony; Kilgore, Nute; Kirkham, Fredrick W.; Kirkham, H.L.D.; Kolbye, Halgar Victorius; Kyle, Joseph Allen; Lackey, Joseph M.; Laster, Dan Wayne; Landry, Luchian Bernard; Lea, Jesse Worthy; Leach, Majer H.; Levine, Herbert; Lindsay, John J.M.; Longford, W.L.; Mahaffey, M.L.; Malone, J.A.; Maness, John Abedriego; Mannering, M.; Mantzel, Sherwood William; Manuel, J.W.; Mgebroff, Arthur Earl; Marin, Gustavo; Marshall, A.E.; Matthew, Earl Bertram; McBride, M.A.; McClelland, H.L.; McCrary, L.B.; McGeehe, Robert W.; McGravay, Lena; McLennan, J.D.; McLin, Leonard Dale; McShan, Francis Adams; Mease, W.E.; Merian, Frederick Louis; Merrill, J.; Meritz, Charles; Miller, James R.; Miller, J.A.; Milner, George C.; Milner, Robertson; Morgan, Robert Frederick; Moore, J.A.; Moore, W. Claude; Mugge, Oscar Julius; Nau, C.A.; Nelson, F.H.; Newmann, James F.; Nichols, Clay H.; Norman, Ruskin Curry; Norwuiski, Leon Wenceslaus; Nowerski, Brownslau Joseph; North, S.I.; O'Banion, W.H.; Obert, Paul Michael; O'Brian, A.L.; O'Brian, L.W.; Paine, W.H.; Parks, W.S.; Pascual, Fernando Jordan; Patterson, Morris Kircheville; Peavy, Charles D.; Peebles, Robert; Pierce, D. Solomon; Phillips, Calvin B.; Poth, Norman A.; Prather, Frank Ault; Presley, D.A.; Pridgen, J.L.; Pridgen, James Edward; Pridgen, J.E.; Pugh, W.W.; Putman, Ellis H.; Pucheck, Mark; Ragsavoelgyi, M.D.; Rea, Wm. D.; Reese, Raymond Randolph; Record, James Alfred; Remby, F. Alex; Reuss, August T.; Reuss, Joe H.; Reuss, Theodore A., Jr.; Richter, L.B. Saunders; Riley, Fred Whitcomb, Jr.; Rittiman, Melrose Charles; Riverall, A.J.; Rives, Mervin; Robinson, S.S.; Roth, H.G.; Ross, Alonso A.; Ruppold, Joseph; Rushing, Finis E.; Rushing, Holding; Rutland, W.H.; Sale, Walter H.; Salles, C.G.; Scheffield, Joseph C.; Schwab, Edward Henry; Seger, Eva Yznaga; Sellers, O.P.; Shepperd, James; Shimer, W.H.; Shimer, Chas. S.; Shropshire, Walter; Smith, C.E.; Smith, J.G.; Smith, Joseph Lee; Spencer, Thomas C.; Spiller, W.F.; Stammer, P.J.; Stewart, Chester; Stewart, James Richard; Stoeltje, Frank W.; Stratton, Carl Raymond; Stratton, Richard Leland; Stukey, Grover; Tanning, Francis; Taylor, Bruce Carson; Thayer, Edward J.; Thompson, J.; Thompson, J.M.; Thorne, W. George; Tinsley, Will Houston; Traylor, J.H.; Trible, J.M.; Trott, John Edward; Turner, Louis; Uncapher, Elizabeth; Urwitz, Max; Von Roeder, Ludwig; Wadgymar, Arthur; Wagner, Robert George; Walker, E.H.; Wallace, W.R.; Waltrip, P.M.; Ward, J., Jr.; Watson, Coralus E.; Watson, David Henry; Webster, Thomas Addison; Webster, William; Westphal, Corinne; Westphal, Robert; Weyman, R.H.; White, Aaron C.; White, William Watt; William, Frederick R.; Williams, H.G.; Williams, Raymond Delano; Wolf, H.T.; Wolters, Robert William; Womack, Walter A.; Woods, Everett W.; Woodson, Everett W.; Works, Bynum McWhorter, Jr.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard and Patsy Goebel

DeWITT COUNTY CREEKS AND STREAMS

T23

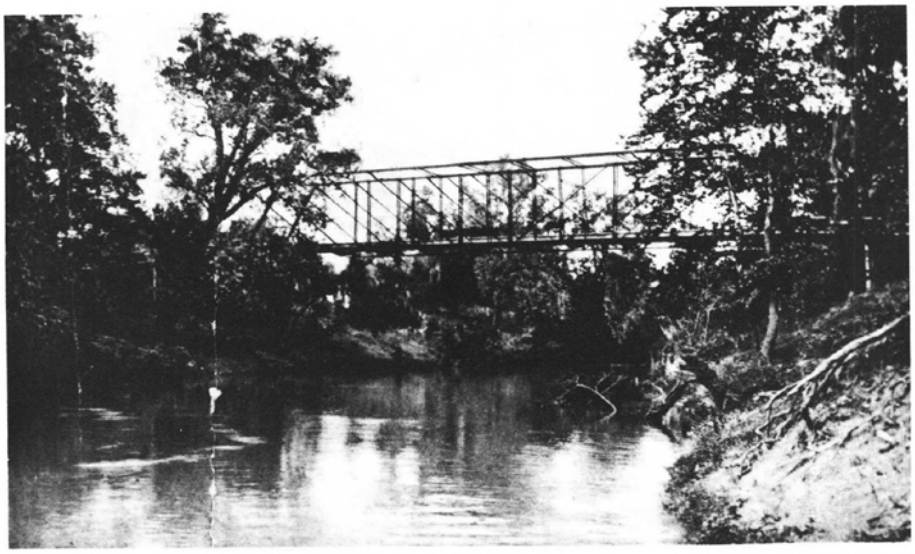
DeWitt County Creeks East of the Guadalupe River

McCoy Creek is in the Hochheim-Concrete area of northeastern DeWitt County; there are several branches in the upper course. The general direction of its flow is southeasterly, and it unites with the Guadalupe River a few miles south of the town of Concrete. This creek crosses the John McCoy headright league on which he and his family settled in 1827. It was named for these McCoys, especially to honor the son Jesse who was slain in the Alamo in 1836. It is definitely known that it had its name as early as 1840.

Live Oak Creek is a short tributary of McCoy Creek that runs by the town of Concrete. It gets its name from the huge live oak trees in this area. Because the Old Concrete Cemetery is nearby, it is sometimes locally called Graveyard Creek. It is without water except in rainy seasons. There are many Texas creeks named Live Oak; however, this one has the distinction of being the shortest — about three miles — before entering the McCoy Creek.

Cuero Creek runs into the Guadalupe River about four miles north of Cuero. Word has been handed down that prior to the time of the Spanish possession of Texas, the Indians called this stream Skin Creek — most likely because they got many skins from animals killed along its banks. On a map made by Spaniards in the 1700's they translated the work skin into Spanish and used the name Cuero Creek on their map. James Norman Smith taught the DeWitt County area's first school in a log house called Upper Cuero Creek Settlement on McCoy Creek near the present town of Concrete, beginning in May, 1840. Soon Sunday School and occasional church services began to be held in this school house, and the area's first church organization was effected there in June, 1842 by the Cumberland Presbyterians. This Upper Cuero Creek Settlement played an important part in the section's worthwhile development during the time of the Texas Republic and the early years of Texas statehood.

Friar Branch was so named because much of



Clinton Toll Bridge

the land that drains into it has been in the possession of Friars since Sidney Friar bought it in 1891. It is in the area about three miles south of Cuero and has a dry bed except in rainy times when much water is carried along its westerly course to empty into the Guadalupe River.

Bonner Hollow was named for Nelson and Julia Burns Bonner who in 1880 settled on the land that drains into this hollow. It unites with the Guadalupe River several miles above the mouth of Irish Creek.

Irish Creek rises in the central part of eastern DeWitt County not far from the town of Edgar; it flows in a general southwesterly course to empty into the Guadalupe River near the location of Old Burns Station, or about midway between Cuero and Thomaston. In 1826 about two miles from the mouth of this creek and near its southern bank the Arthur Burns family settled on his headright league in the first home ever built in the entire area that later became DeWitt County. In its upper course the creek runs through some rugged country and when heavy rains come it can really become a raging torrent. Arthur Burns was of Irish descent and it is said when it was on the rampage, the early settlers joked him about his creek's "having its Irish up" and that in time this led to its being called Irish Creek. In dry seasons much of its course is without water, but because of the violence of its flash floods the bridges across are high and strong.

Reed Branch is about three miles below Irish Creek. It forms the northern boundary of land purchased by Dan Reed in 1865. Though most of the time it is a dry ravine, in rainy seasons it flows with a swift current to join the Guadalupe River.

Spring Branch runs across land of the Charles Lockhart headright land in the Thomaston vicinity and unites with the Guadalupe River. In the deed for 1094 acres that Charles Lockhart sold to Orlando Jones on November 10, 1845 Spring Branch is given as a boundary of the tract. It usually has a dry bed.

Price's Creek rises about five miles northeast of Thomaston, flows in a general southwesterly direction, and empties into the Guadalupe River two miles below the DeWitt-Victoria County boundary line. it drains some rugged country, and in places has cut out a rather wide and deep bed and in times of heavy rains it becomes a really deep and swiftly flowing stream. In dry seasons much of its course is without water. In the lower part there are some deep, permanent, spring-fed pools in which there are perch and trout. Legend attributes the naming of the creek to have been for an early settler, but no definite knowledge has been obtained of a Price family's ever having lived along its course.

Big Brushy rises in the extreme northeastern section of DeWitt County and flows across that area and on into Lavaca County where it unites with the Lavaca River. In early years much of the land along its course was covered with thick brush and that accounts for its name by which it was called as early as 1850.

Little Brushy is a tributary of Big Brushy; it rises in the central eastern part of DeWitt County and flows in a southeasterly course. In early days Charles Hume had a saw mill on Little Brushy.

Thiele Creek is a prong of Big Brushy in its upper course and is so named because it crosses land owned by a Thiele family.

Tonqua Creek is in the Stratton area and is tributary to Little Brushy. Though it has a different spelling Tonqua Creek was named in long-ago days for the Tonkawa Indian tribe that roamed and hunted along its course.

Chicolete Creek is in southeastern DeWitt County. It has two branches in its upper course. It is said this creek was named for Chicolete Indians who were a division of the Cherokee tribes. This is an intermittent stream.

Bear Creek is in southeastern DeWitt County very near the Lavaca County boundary. From statements made in "Texas Camel Tales" by Chris Emmett there seems some evidence that in days of yore there were black bears in the area around Victoria. This is not far from Bear Creek, so there may also have been some bears along its course and this may account for the name.

Creeks of DeWitt County West of the Guadalupe River

Denton Creek rises in Gonzales County and flows across into DeWitt County where it empties into the Guadalupe River. There were several early-day families bearing the Denton name who lived in the locality through which this creek flows, and it was named for them.

Fisher Creek starts in northern DeWitt County near the Gonzales County boundary and flows in a general southeasterly course into the Guadalupe River. Research has yielded no reason for its name.

Fulcher Creek rises in northern DeWitt County almost on the Gonzales County line, flows southeast across the Churchill Fulcher league that was granted him as a headright in 1831, and empties into the Guadalupe River about five miles downstream from the mouth of Fisher Creek. Early settlers named this creek for Churchill Fulcher.

Boggie Creek is in the northern part of DeWitt County and its source is near the DeWitt-Gonzales County boundary. It runs in a southwesterly course to join the Sandies some three miles above where Clear Creek flows into it on the opposite side. Boggie Creek derives its name from the fact that it has quicksand in its bed and from earliest times on down to the present many cattle have "bogged down" in it. It is risky for a horseman to attempt to ride across its bed even when it is entirely dry.

Bird Creek is a tributary of the Sandies and runs along the outskirts of Westhoff which is very near DeWitt County's northwestern boundary. This creek is located on the James Bird survey — hence the name.

Thomas Creek is near Westhoff and is crossed by U.S. Highway 87. It is named for the Thomas family who live in the vicinity.

Sandies has quite a long course and may be counted as a permanently flowing stream. Its source and much of its course is through sandy land, and this accounts for the name, Sandies. It rises in the central western part of Gonzales County and runs on across the northwestern boundary of DeWitt County where after a meandering course in which at times it flows south, east, west, and finally southeast it joins the Guadalupe River in the central part of the county across from the Cuero area. It has such a large watershed that in times of heavy rains it really goes on the rampage and pours such a large volume of raging water into the river that it has no small part in bringing it up to flood stage.

Chisholm Creek is near Clinton and flows into the Guadalupe River. The Richard Chisholm family of four took up their abode in January 1829, on his headright league across which this stream runs and it soon came to be called Chisholm Creek in his honor. Except for pools from springs near its source, this is a dry creek bed most of the time.

Cattail Creek joins the Guadalupe River several miles below Clinton. It got its name quite early from the cattail bushes that then grew and blossomed along its banks. It seldom has water in it in the present time.

Carlisle Creek (also spelled Carlyle in some deed records) is mentioned in a DeWitt County deed record dated September 30, 1859. It is reputed to have been named for Henry Carlisle (not sure which spelling) who in early years lived in his home about 200 yards from the stream. It is located in southern DeWitt County and has two branches. One flows in a southeasterly course and crosses the southern end of the Green DeWitt survey; the other branch runs northwest and is partly on the Quinn league; they join a short distance from where the creek unites with the Guadalupe River.

Clear Creek rises in the area near Nopal in northwestern DeWitt County where it has

several branches. It flows in a general southeast course on into the central part of the county and hence drains quite a large area and is more or less a permanent stream. It flows into the Sandies about midway from where that creek crosses the DeWitt County border and its confluence with the Guadalupe River. Pioneer settlers gave Clear Creek its name because, even though at that time it was quite deep, its waters were so unusually clear that its sandy, pebble-covered bed could be seen clearly.

Deer Creek rises a little west of the center of DeWitt County, flows ina general easterly course, and empties into the Sandies near Lindenau about two miles from its mouth. This stream was called Deer Creek by the pioneers because of the many deer in the locality.

Lost Creek starts about two miles west of the mouth of the Sandies. It flows south for several miles then makes an abrupt turn to flow east about a mile before it empties into the Guadalupe River near Schleicher Bridge. The real source of the stream is underground springs from which in former years waters bubbled up to the surface to form pools and then sink out of sight for some distance before reappearing to form a running creek. This accounts for the name of Lost Creek which was given to it prior to 1850. Because of the early-day graveyard near its bank, in later years this creek was sometimes called Graveyard Creek.

Quinn Branch was named for James Quin across whose headright league its usually dry bed goes in a northeasterly course to join the Guadalupe River a short distance below the mouth of Carlisle Creek. Locally this is sometimes spoken of as Queen Creek, but this is merely a mispronunciation of the correct name Quinn Creek.

McCrabb Creek rises on the southern boundary of the Miguel Ortiz survey almost on the Victoria-DeWitt County boundary; it flows northeast across to the northern border of the Ortiz survey and on into the John McCrabb quarter-league where it makes a decided bend and flows southeast back into the Ortiz survey and on a short distance to empty into the Guadalupe River. It was named for John McCrabb who came as DeWitt's colonist in 1829 and was granted his quarter-league on the west bank of the Guadalupe River. This is usually just a dry arroyo.

Coleto or Coletto Creeks. There are four streams in DeWitt and another one in Goliad County that bear the name Coleto. Just why and when they came to be called this has not been ascertained. However, Texas history records that Fannin's surrender in 1836 took place near Coleto Creek. After Yorktown was located on the main Coleto, in order to designate it more definitely, it was for a time spoken of as Yorktown Creek. Likewise the Coleto on which Meyersville was located was sometimes called Cottonwood; in its upper course some cottonwood trees grew along its banks. Cottonwood Creek is mentioned in a deed for land on this stream in the Yorktown vicinity; this deed is dated August 12, 1899. When Clinton became county seat of DeWitt County in 1850, the Coleto Creeks were definitely designated and these names continue to the present time. They were called the Three-Mile, the Five-Mile, the Twelve-Mile, the Fifteen-Mile, and the Eighteen Mile Coletos; these mileage figures are the distances from the courthouse door at Clinton to the respective creeks. The Three-Mile joins Five-Mile which forks with Twelve-Mile about three miles from the Victoria County border; the Twelve-Mile runs into the Fifteen-Mile after they cross into Victoria County; the Eighteen-Mile also joins the Fifteen-Mile which then goes on to unite with the Guadalupe River a few miles below the town of Victoria which is county seat of Victoria County.

The Fifteen-Mile, or main Coleto, forms part of the boundary between DeWitt and Goliad Counties; it has an unusually large watershed and during times of heavy rains even in recent years has become a raging torrent with exceedingly swift current.

Boggy Creek in central DeWitt County is a tributary of the Five-Mile Coletto. Often times portions of its bed are very boggy. At one point in its course there is a deep lake or pool with a mott of trees close by. In early years numbers of alligators lived there, so this place was given the name "Alligator Mott." The American Crocodiles have long since been killed out, but the mott and pool are still called Alligator Mott.

Manahuilla Creek rises in southwest DeWitt County and flows on into Goliad County where it unites with the San Antonio River about five miles below Goliad. According to legend it was named for an Indian girl, probably in years when the Indians roamed along its banks.

Jane Creek is located in western DeWitt County in the area between Yorktown and Nordheim. It runs in a southeasterly direction and is a tributary of Smith Creek. Intensive research failed to discover a reason for its being named Jane Creek.

Smith Creek rises in northwest DeWitt County; there are two branches in its upper course; one is called the East Fork; the other the West Fork. Smith Creek flows in a general southeasterly direction to join the Fifteen-Mile Coleto about three miles before it crosses the Goliad County border. It seems reasonable to say it was named for Smith, but just which one has not been ascertained.

Salt Creek is a tributary of Smith Creek in the northern part of its course and is located in the Davy area. It was given the name of Salt Creek because in early years there were salt deposits along its course. Pioneers obtained supplies of salt from these deposits.

Cabeza Creek rises in northwestern DeWitt County and flows on south very near the Karnes County eastern boundary until it finally crosses over into Karnes County. In an account of the battle with Indians on the Escondida Creek near Karnes City when Captain John York was killed in 1848, one of the participants says, "We camped for the night on Cabeza Creek." The word Cabeza is Spanish meaning head, but that does not indicate why the creek was so named. Can it be that early-day Spaniards gave the stream that name to honor Cabeza de Vaca who is reputed to have been the first Spaniard to travel about in Texas and who may have passed somewhere near this locality in his trek across Texas.

Mustang Creek flows in a southwesterly course across the extreme northwest corner of DeWitt County and on into Karnes County. It was given that name by early settlers because many wild mustang ponies roamed over that locality.

Volume B of the DeWitt County Commissioners' Court Records gives the report of the fixing of boundaries for school districts by the Court on April 17, 1854. In this the following creeks are mentioned: Clear Creek, Deer Creek, Five-Mile Coleto, Twelve-Mile Coleto, Lost Creek, Sandies, McCoy Creek, Big Brushy, Chicolete, Irish Creek, Cuero Creek, and Price's Creek.

Bridges Over the Guadalupe River

DeWitt County is one of the best watered counties in Texas with at least fifteen creeks and the Guadalupe River. The Guadalupe twists and turns as it meanders across DeWitt County. The river is beneficial and can also cause havoc.

Schleicher Bridge

The first bridge built across the Guadalupe River near Cuero, was a wooden truss bridge called the "Schleicher Bridge." It got the name "Schleicher" from Gustave Schleicher. It was located about two and a half miles southwest of Cuero where the Old Cuero-San Antonio road crosses the river. It was built in September, 1873 and was replaced by Cuero's second iron bridge for which the contract was let May 21, 1887. It was completed in 1887. The old iron bridge had served for many years, but the need for a bridge to replace it and to take some of the traffic from the "New River Bridge" arose. Bridges on roads that are not state or federal highways are called "off-system bridges." To build the new Schleicher Bridge would cost $1,500,000.00 total. DeWitt County and the City of Cuero paid $300,000.00; $212,000.00 came from county funds and $88,000.00 from city funds. The city bought the necessary land or right-of-way in the city limits and the county bought necessary land or right-of-way in the county to build the road to the new bridge. The new Schleicher Bridge was completed in 1983, thanks to DeWitt County, the City of Cuero, the Texas Highway Department, and the Federal Road System.

Clinton and the New River Bridge

Several years before Clinton was established in 1846, Richard Chisolm began operating a ferry boat across the river near where the Clinton town site was located and three miles below where the Sandies Creek flows into the river. On April 12, 1886, a contract was let for an iron bridge to replace the ferry and pontoon bridge built across the Guadalupe River in the vicinity of Cuero. It was completed August 13, 1886. By 1934 it was decided that a longer and higher bridge near Cuero was needed, so the bridge was built. This bridge was built a mile up the river from the Clinton Bridge. We now call this bridge the "New River Bridge," though it was completed in 1938. It is used in traveling both the Goliad and San Antonio Highways from Cuero.

Heard Bridge

Heard Ferry began operating across the Guadalupe River several miles below the Chisolm Ferry. The "Heard Bridge" is located three and a half miles south of Cuero and the contract for this fourth iron bridge in DeWitt County was let February 1889. This iron bridge was used until the most recent "Heard Bridge" was completed September 1965 on FM 236. This bridge was named for the nearby Heard family.

Hochheim Bridge

This bridge is named for the early settlement of Hochheim (Hoch Home) which got its name from Valentine Hoch, who had built a

two-story home of rock quarried from nearby hills. A stage stop was in Hochheim and Lip's Ferry crossed the river in this area. About 1889, an iron bridge replaced the ferry. This iron bridge was used until 1956 when the present modern bridge was constructed across the river on Hwy. 183 from Cuero to Gonzales.

Thomaston Bridge

In February 1893 a petition was made for a wire suspension bridge to be built over the Guadalupe River near Thomaston. The contract was let to the Lone Star Suspension Bridge Company in May, 1893. The bridge was complete in the summer and used until the fall of 1913, when the flood washed it away. A contract was let to Missouri Bridge Iron Company to build a bridge in place of the suspension bridge. It was located three miles southwest of Thomaston. The "Thomaston Bridge" was accepted by the Commissioners' Court on August 20, 1914. It was closed in 1983 because it was considered dangerous. The new "Thomaston Bridge" was completed sometime in 1984. It was paid for by county and federal funds.

"Hells Gate" Bridge

Over the years many people have wondered how "Hells Gate" got its name. For a number of years before the building of the bridge, there had been a "Hells Gate" ferry operated there. In the early days, the section of the Guadalupe River northwest of Cuero was considered dangerous because of treacherous deep holes and jutting rocks. At one place, two rocks extended out from the bank into the river with a passage way or entrance between them. This was given the name, "Hells Gate." In 1898, Buchel Dam was constructed across the river about two miles downstream from there. This caused these rocks to be under water and hidden from view, but the name continues. The iron bridge that spanned the river near where these rocks were was called "Hells Gate Bridge." it was about three miles northwest of Cuero and was completed and accepted September 4, 1889. After using the iron bridge for many years, a new bridge was constructed in May, 1958 on FM 766. The Captain George T. Lord homeplace was west of the river. Approaching the bridge from the east, the road had beautiful moss-covered trees and flowering shrubs and was called "Lovers' Lane." So some Cueroites still speak of going "Down the Dam Road, through Lovers' Lane, across the Hells Gate Bridge, over the Devil's Backbone, and into the Lord's Pasture."

You will notice that four iron bridges were built in DeWitt County in the 1880's and it is rather interesting that two new bridges were constructed in DeWitt County in the 1980's. Will they, too, last almost 100 years?

In the Diary of Miles Bennet, the following advertisement appeared:

Valentinock Ferry, 1850

A new ferry boat at Bennets' old landing four miles below Concrete. Teamsters are reminded that by leaving the Victoria road on the east side of the river at Mr. Stevens' and crossing here, the distance to Gonzales is much shorter and the mud of Peach Creek avoided.

Dec. 22, 1850 Miles Squire Bennet

There were probably many more ferries across the river than we found information about, and certainly there were many places the river could be forded. We include a list of fees set by the Commissioners of the County to be charged by the ferry owners. There was little difference found in prices charged in the late 1840's and those charged in the late 1860's.

Public Ferry

The Court assess an annual Tax of Thirty Seven Dollars and fifty cents on the Ferry established at town of Clinton and order that the Clerk issue License to the present proprietors or Leasers upon their complying with the Law, by entering into Bond, paying said tax etc.

The Court establishes the following rates of Ferraige to be received for crossing at said Ferry: For one Road Wagon with one yoke of oxen, Fifty cents (50¢); For Each extra yoke of oxen, Ten cents (10¢); For one Road Wagon with four horses, Sixty cents (60¢); For Each extra Horse, Five cents (5¢); For Each one Horse Buggy, Twenty five cents (25¢); For each two Horse Buggy, Thirty five cents (35¢); For Each Man and Horse, Ten cents (10¢); For Each foot-man, Five cents (5¢); For Each Pack horse, Ten cents (10¢); For Each Loose Horse or ox, Five cents (5¢); For Each Ox cart and one yoke oxen, Twenty five cents (25¢); For Stock cattle per head, Three cents (3¢); For Sheep and Hogs per head, Two cents (2¢); For Each Family Carriage, Forty cents (40¢); For Each one Horse Cart, Twenty cents (20¢); For Each Jersey Wagon or Ambulance, Forty cents (40¢).

The above rates are chargeable and receivable in Specie or equivalent.

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

T24

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Bettge, M/M Chester, Chester Bettge Dairy Farm; Original Owner: Friedrich Duderstadt, Founding Date: 1855.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Boothe, Mr. John E., Boothe Ranch; Original Owner: William S. Boothe; Founding Date: 1856.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Ideus, Miss Meta, Meta Ideus Farm; Original Owner: Ahrend Adickes, Founding Date: 1858.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Jendrzey, Mr. Leon P., Sr., Jendrzey Farm; Original Owner: Valentine Jendrzey, Founding Date: 1864.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Stanchos, Mr. George H., George H. Stanchos Farm; Original Owner: David Stanchos, Founding Date: 1872.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Stanchos, Mr. George H., Gustav H. Stanchos Farm; Original Owner: David Stanchos, Founding Date: 1872.

Date of Award: 1974, Present Owner and Property Name: Westphal, Dr. Corinne, Westphal Farm; Original Owner: August Westphal, Founding Date: 1866.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Blackwell, Finley D. "Dick", Blackwell Place; Original Owner: Joseph Stevens, Founding Date: 1847.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Bozarth, Mrs. Ella B., Brandt Ranch; Original Owner: Louis H. Brandt, Founding Date: 1874.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Brandt, Mr. E.C., Brandt Ranch; Original Owner: Louis H. Brandt, Founding Date: 1874.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Brandt, Mr. Harold E., Brandt Ranch; Original Owner: Louis H. Brandt, Founding Date: 1874.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Carson, Mr. Keyes F., Carson Ranch; Original Owner: Weldon Terry, Founding Date: 1869.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Crawford, Mr. Henry E., Crawford Farm; Original Owner: James A. Crawford, Founding Date: 1851.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Duderstadt, Ms. Jeannette, L. & J. Duderstadt Ranch, Founding Date: 1860.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Dukes, M/M John E., Heritage Acres; Original Owner: Wilhelm H. Schorlemer, Founding Date: 1854.

Cotton Farm

Oxen were used to farm.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Egg, M/M Ralph, Egg Dairy; Original Owner: Christian Hartman, Founding Date: 1850.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Haun, M/M Herbert Haun, H. Haun Farm; Original Owner: Adolf Haun, Founding Date: 1856.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Muir, Mrs. Elizabeth A., Alexander Peebles Ranch; Original Owner: Dr. Robert Peebles, Founding Date: 1849.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Muir, Miss Patricia P., Pat Peebles Ranch; Original Owner: Dr. Robert Peebles, Founding Date: 1849.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Nagel, Mr. Donald C., SNS Ranch; Original Owner: Charles L. Schaefer, Founding Date: 1869.

Date of Award 1975, Present Owner and Property Name; Nagel, Mrs. Pearl W., Old Schaefer Place; Original Owner: Charles L. Schaefer, Founding Date: 1869.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Powell, Mrs. Leona P., Pieper Ranch; Original Owner: Johann Diedrich, Founding Date: 1875.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Sagebiel, Mrs. Carol A., SNS Ranch; Original Owner; Charles L. Schaefer, Founding Date: 1869.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Smith, Mr. Charles E., Smith Ranch; Original Owner: M/M Rufus Smith, Founding Date: 1856.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Smith, Rufus H., Smith Ranch; Original Owner: M/M Rufus Smith, Founding Date: 1856.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Soehnge, M/M E.C., C & J Ranch; Original Owner: Eilhelm H. Schorlemer, Founding Date: 1854.

Date of Award: 1975, Present Owner and Property Name: Wofford, Mrs. John T., II, Lane Ranch; Original Owner: Lazarus Nichols, Founding Date: 1870.

Date of Award: 1976, Present Owner and Property Name: Haun, M/M Adolph B., H. Haun Farm; Original Owner: Christopher Doerhman, Founding Date: 1876.

Date of Award: 1976, Present Owner and Property Name: Haun, M/M John W., Haun Farm; Original Owner: Christopher Doerhman, Founding Date: 1876.

Date of Award: 1976, Present Owner and Property Name: Wendel, Mr. Cleo Paul, Wagon Wheel Ranch; Original Owner: George Wendel, Founding Date: 1869.

Date of Award: 1977, Present Owner and Property Name: Dreier, M/M L.A., Dreier Farm; Original Owner: William Dreier, Founding Date: 1877.

Date of Award: 1977, Present Owner and Property Name: Kirk, Mrs. Ada K., Koenig Place; Original Owner: Louis Koenig, Founding Date: 1877.

Date of Award: 1977, Present Owner and Property Name: Koenig, Charles L., Jr., Koenig Place; Original Owner: Louis Koenig, Founding Date: 1877.

Date of Award: 1977, Present Owner and Property Name: Koenig, C.L., Sr., Koenig Place; Original Owner: Louis Koenig, Founding Date: 1877.

Date of Award: 1977, Present Owner and Property Name: Noster, Mrs. Clara Ann, Noster Ranch; Original Owner: Andreas G. Buehrig, Founding Date: 1866.

Date of Award: 1978, Present Owner and Property Name: Butler, Mr. S.A., Sr., Butler Ranch; Original Owner: Joshua J. Butler, Founding Date: 1878.

Date of Award: 1978, Present Owner and Property Name: Wallis, Mr. Samuel J., Wallis Ranch; Original Owner: John Wallis, Founding Date: 1878.

Date of Award: 1979, Present Owner and Property Name: Nagel, Mr. Charles Edwin, Nagel Dairy; Original Owner: Friedrich Krueger, Founding Date: 1875.

Date of Award: 1980, Present Owner and Property Name: Boone, M/M Floyd Evert, Adams Place; Original Owner: Aquilla Adams, Founding Date: 1850.

Date of Award: 1980, Present Owner and Property Name: Thomas, Mrs. Ann, Friar Ranch; Original Owner: John and Ella Friar, Founding Date: 1880.

Date of Award: 1983, Present Owner and Property Name: Metting, M/M Erwin, Erwin J. Metting Ranch; Original Owner: Gottfried Metting, II, Founding Date: 1883.

Date of Award: 1983, Present Owner and Property Name: Sievers, Mrs. Alvera, Alversa Sievers Place; Original Owner: Andres Saurmilch, Founding Date: 1867.

Date of Award: 1984, Present Owner and Property Name: Herder, M/M Ralph F., Herder Big Tree Ranch; Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1984, Present Owner and Property Name: Kleine, Mrs. Sarah Emily Collins, R.P. Gohmert Ranch; Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1985, Present Owner and Property Name: Meischen, Mr. Robert H.,

"Modern" farm equipment.

Robert Meischen & Sons Ranch; Original Owner: Charles Gaebler, Founding Date: 1878.

Date of Award: 1986, Present Owner and Property Name: Kerlich, M/M Herman C., Wuzagully Ranch; Original Owner: Mortz & Johanna Riedel, Founding Date: 1858.

Date of Award: 1986, Present Owner and Property Name: Neal, Edward M., Dock Neal Place; Original Owner: Andrew Jackson Neal, Founding Date: 1874.

Date of Award: 1987, Present Owner and Property Name: Edgar, M/M Cybril S., Edgar A-Lazy E. Ranch; Original Owner: William E. Edgar, Founding Date: 1885.

Date of Award: 1987, Present Owner and Property Name: Hartman, Dr. Walter F., Jr., Heritage Oaks Ranch; Original Owner: Ferdinand C. Hartman, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1987, Present Owner and Property Name: Lassman, Mr. Gary Lynn, Gary Lassman Farm; Original Owner: Ehrenfred & Bertha Lassmann, Founding Date: 1878.

Date of Award: 1987, Present Owner and Property Name: Leck, M/M Gus, Leck Ranch; Original Owner: Ambrose Hans, Founding Date: 1887.

Date of Award: 1987, Present Owner and Property Name: Stoldt, Mrs. Virginia H., Heritage Oaks Ranch; Original Owner: Ferdinand C. Hartman, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1988, Present Owner and Property Name: Bolton, Mrs. Hildred L., Rebel Ranch; Original Owner: James Richard Benbow, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1988, Present Owner and Property Name: Martin, Mr. David Terry, Rebel Ranch; Original Owner: James Richard Benbow, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1988, Present Owner and Property Name: Martin, Mr. James Richard, Rebel Ranch; Original Owner: James Richard Benbow, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1988, Present Owner and Property Name: Martin, Marianne & Waymon, Rebel Ranch; Original Owner: James Richard Benbow, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1988, Present Owner and Property Name: Martin, Mr. Michael W., Rebel Ranch; Original Owner: James Richard Benbow, Founding Date: 1884.

Date of Award: 1989, Present Owner and Property Name: Ernster, Mrs. Kathleen, Hiller River Place Estate; Original Owner: George Friedrich Hiller, Founding Date: 1889.

Date of Award: 1989, Present Owner and Property Name: Hiller, Mr. Francis, Hiller River Place Estate; Original Owner: George Friedrich Hiller, Founding Date: 1889.

Date of Award: 1989, Present Owner and Property Name: Kacir, Mrs. Pauline, Hiller River Place Estate; Original Owner: George Friedrich Hiller, Founding Date: 1889.

Date of Award: 1989, Present Owner and Property Name: Tinney, Mrs. Ann Lee, Hiller River Place Estate; Original Owner: George Friedrich Hiller, Founding Date: 1889.

Date of Award: 1989, Present Owner and Property Name: Mueller, M/M Edmund, MHN Farm; Founding Date: 1887.

The Family Land Heritage Program is designed to honor those farms and ranches which have been in continuous agricultural production at the hands of one family for 100 years or more. This program is sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

by Patsy K. Goebel

DeWITT COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

T25

Year: 1936, Name: Allen Caruthers, Location of Marker: Epperson Cemetery near Ratcliffe on private land.

Year: 1936, Name: DeWitt County, Location of Marker: .3 miles NW of Yorktown on Hwy 72.

Year: 1936, Name: DeWitt County Monument, Location of Marker: East City Limits of Cuero on US 87.

Year: 1936, Name: Robert J. Kleberg Home, Location of Marker: 11 miles SW of Cuero off 183 on private land.

Year: 1936, Name: Capt. John York & James Bell, Location of Marker: 7.7 miles SE of Yorktown off FM 237, then 1 mile on County Road. On private land.

Year: 1936, Name: Capt. John York Home, Location of Marker: Same as above but about 3 miles further on County Road.

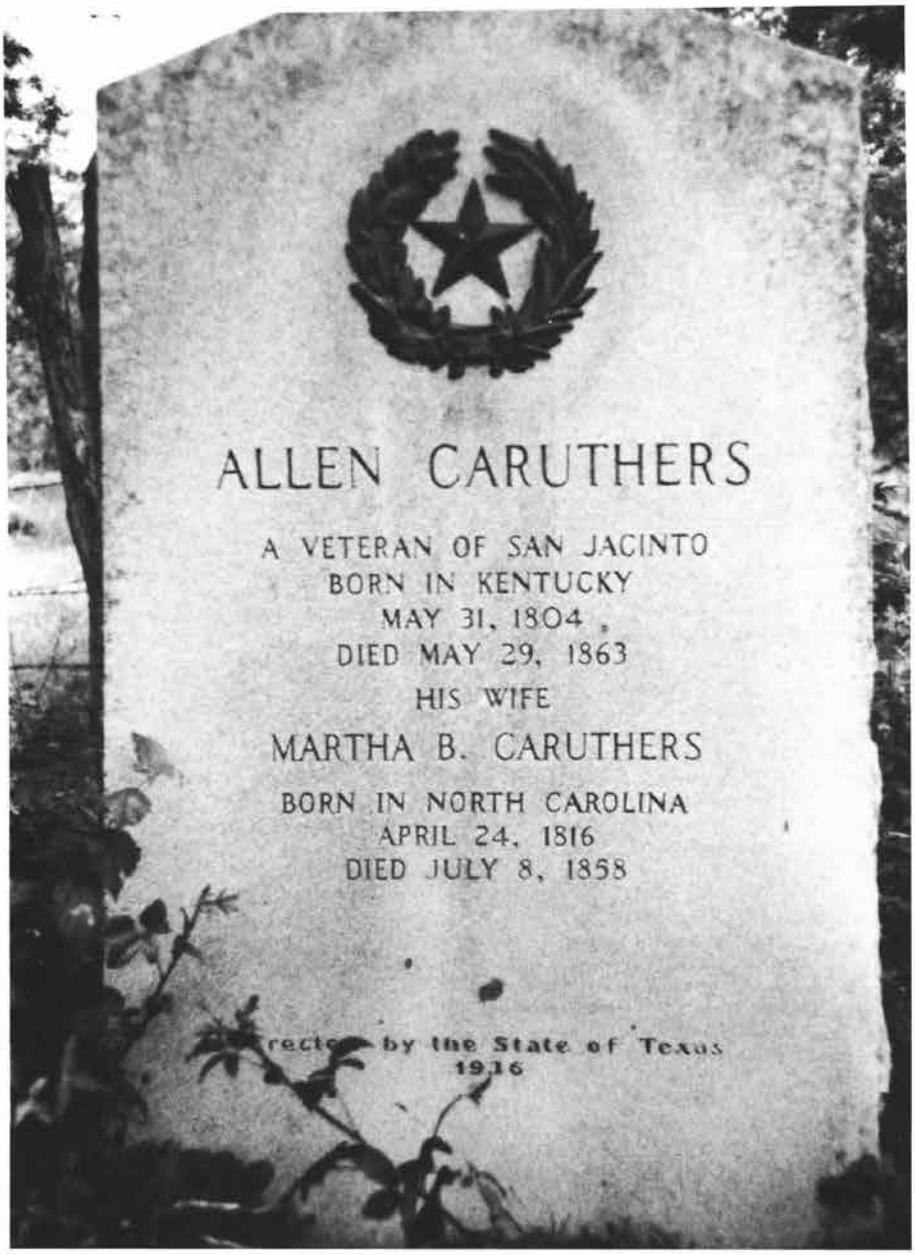
Year: 1961, Name: George Washington Davis, Location of Marker: Davis Family Cemetery 7.6 miles N of Cuero off US 183 near Hochheim.

Year: 1962, Name: St John Lutheran Church, Location of Marker: Meyersville.

Year: 1963, Name: General August Buchel, Location of Marker: DeWitt County Courthouse grounds.

Year: 1964, Name: Stagecoach Inn (1856), Location of Marker: US 183 near Hochheim.

Modern Historical Marker



1936 Texas Historical Marker.

Year: 1964, Name: John Tyler Wofford Home, Location of Marker: 210 W. Reuss Blvd., Cuero.

Year: 1965, Name: Eckhardt & Sons Building, Location of Marker: Main & Eckhardt Sts. in Yorktown.

Year: 1965, Name: English-German School, Location of Marker: 210 E. Newman St., Cuero.

Year: 1965, Name: Emil Reiffert Home, Location of Marker: 304 W. Prairie St., Cuero.

Year: 1965, Name: Dr. W.W. White, Location of Marker: 7 miles N. of Cuero on US 183.

Year: 1966, Name: Chisholm Trail, Location of Marker: 4 miles N. of Cuero on US 183-Alt. 77.

Year: 1966, Name: DeWitt County Courthouse, Location of Marker: 307 N. Gonzales St., Cuero.

Year: 1966, Name: Morgan Steamship Lines, Location of Marker: 600 block of E. Morgan St., Cuero.

Year: 1966, Name: Grace Episcopal Church, Location of Marker: Esplanade & Live Oak Sts., Cuero.

Year: 1966, Name: Hoch House Stage Stand, Location of Marker: US 183 near Hochheim.

Year: 1966, Name: Co-Founders of Yorktown, Location of Marker: Yorktown City Park.

Year: 1967, Name: Brayton Flying School, Location of Marker: City Park, 200 Block of East Main St., Cuero.

Year: 1967, Name: Clinton, Location of Marker: US 183, 3 miles S of Cuero.

Year: 1967, Name: Thomas M. Stell, Location of Marker: Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

Year: 1967, Name: Early Texas Bandstand, Location of Marker: City Park 200 block E. Main St., Cuero.

Year: 1967, Name: James F. Blair, Location of Marker: Clinton Cemetery 3 miles S. of Cuero.

Year: 1968, Name: Chisholm Trail Centennial, Location of Marker: 307 N. Gonzales on Courthouse lawn.

Year: 1968, Name: Cuero, Location of Marker: Intersection of US 183 & 77A.

Year: 1968, Name: H.W. Laging, Location of Marker: Nordheim Cemetery at Pilot Knob.

Year: 1968, Name: Nancy Shows, Location of Marker: Hebron Cemetery SE corner of DeWitt County.

Year: 1968, Name: Pilot Knob, Location of Marker: Nordheim FM 239.

Year: 1968, Name: Judge Henry C. Pleasants, Location of Marker: Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

Year: 1968, Name: Yorktown, Location of Marker: FM 237 & SH 72.

Year: 1969, Name: Peter Bluntzer, Location of Marker: St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Meyersville.

Year: 1969, name: Jubilee Park Pavilion, Location of Marker: Nordheim.

Year: 1970, Name: Burns Station Cemetery, Location of Marker: US 87 6 miles SE of Cuero.

Year: 1970, Name: William Frobese Home, Location of Marker: 305 E. Newman St., Cuero.

Year: 1970, Name: Westhoff, Location of Marker: US 87 W of Cuero.

Year: 1971, Name: Concrete (Covey) College, Location of Marker: US 183, 10 miles N of Cuero.

Year: 1971, Name: Meyersville, Location of Marker: 12 miles S of Cuero on FM 3157.

Year: 1971, Name: Edward Mugge Home, Location of Marker: 218 Terrell St., Cuero.

Year: 1971, Name: James Norman Smith, Location of Marker: 302 N. McLeod St., Cuero.

Year: 1972, Name: Gohmert-Summers House, Location of Marker, 606 Terrell St., Cuero.

Year: 1972, Name: Hochheim, Location of Marker: US 183 N of Cuero.

Year: 1972, Name: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Location of Marker: 400 N. Esplanade, Cuero.

Year: 1973, Name: Robert Allert Home, Location of Marker: 610 N. Indianola St., Cuero.

Year: 1973, Name: Buchel Bank, Location of Marker: 106 N. Esplanade, Cuero.

Year: 1973, Name: Cuero Land & Immigration Co., Location of Marker: Cuero City Park, 200 Block of E. Main St.

Year: 1973, Name: Hepsibeth Taylor, Location of Marker: Taylor-Bennett Cemetery 2.5 miles E of Cuero off US 87.

Year: 1973, Name: Josiah Taylor, Location of Marker: Same as above.

Year: 1973, Name: Thomaston, Location of Marker: US 87 S from Cuero (Victoria Hwy)

Year: 1974, Name: Friar-Cardwell Stage Stand, Location of Marker: 4 miles N of Cuero at the intersection of US 183 & 77A.

Year: 1975, Name: Eckhardt Ranch House, Location of Marker: 0.5 miles S of Yorktown off SH72.

Year: 1975, Name: St. Michael's Catholic Church, Location of Marker: 202 McLeod St., Cuero.

Year: 1976, Name: Alexander Hamilton Home, Location of Marker: 906 N. Esplanade, Cuero.

Year: 1977, Name: Breeden House, Location of Marker: 112 W. Broadway, Cuero.

Year: 1977, Name: Cameron, Site of 1st County Seat, Location of Marker: 2.4 miles NE of Cuero on FM 766.

Year: 1977, Name: Leonard Roy Harmon, Location of Marker: Cuero Municipal Park.

Year: 1978, Name: Bates-Sheppard House, Location of Marker: 312 E. Broadway, Cuero.

Year: 1979, Name: Cabeza, Location of Mark-

er: County Road NW of Nordheim 6.5 miles.

Year: 1979, Name: Cuero I Archeological Dist., Location of Marker: US 183 near Hochheim.

Year: 1979, Name: Keller-Grunder House, Location of Marker: 409 E. Morgan St., Cuero.

Year: 1979, Name: Lindenau, Location of Marker: Rifle Club grounds FM 953.

Year: 1981, Name: Bellvue-Cheapside, Location of Marker: FM 766 11 miles N of Cuero.

Year: 1982, Name: Stratton, Location of Marker: FM 1447 14 miles E of Cuero.

Year: 1983, Name: Shiloh, Location of Marker: 4 miles E of Yorktown on SH 72.

Year: 1983, Name: Arneckeville, Location of Marker: FM 236 8 miles S of Cuero.

Year: 1983, Name: Hochheim Cemetery, Location of Marker: Hochheim.

Year: 1983, Name: Hopkinsville Community, Location of Marker: US 183 S 7 miles from Cuero.

Year: 1984, Name: Hebron Community, Location of Marker: FM 682 S 12 miles S of Yoakum.

Year: 1985, Name: Five-Mile (Ratcliffe) Rabke Community, Location of Marker: FM 2718 8 miles SW of Cuero.

Year: 1985, Name: Golly Hollow School & Community, Location of Marker: Golly Road off 236

Year: 1986, Name: Buchel Community School, Location of Marker: 4 miles N of Cuero on old Yoakum Road.

Year: 1986, Name: George Washington Davis, Location of Marker: 7 miles N. on US 183 from Cuero

Year: 1986, Name: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Location of Marker: 11 miles NE on 77A from Cuero.

Year: 1986, Name: Terryville, Location of Marker: FM 682 10.5 miles S. of Yoakum

Year: 1986, Name: Thomaston Cemetery, Location of Marker: Wright & Wilson St., Thomaston

Year: 1986, Name: Von Hugo-Von Clausewitz Family Cemetery, Location of Marker: SH 111 3.2 miles W of Yoakum

Year: 1989, Name: Nordheim Shooting Club, Location of Marker: Nordheim

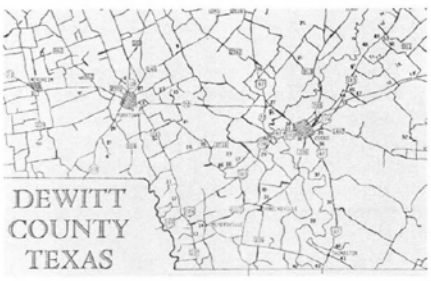
Year: 1990, Name: Heaton-Breeden House, Location of Marker: 310 N. Terrell St., Cuero

Year: 1990, Name: May-Hickey Log Home, Location of Marker: S of Yoakum

by Patsy Goebel

DeWITT COUNTY CEMETERIES

T26



Map of some DeWitt County cemeteries.

Key to DeWitt County cemetery map showing some of the cemeteries of DeWitt County: 1. Nordheim Cemetery, 2. House Cemetery, 3. Sand Gate Cemetery, 4. Jonischkies Cemetery, 5. St. Paul Church Cemetery, 6. Westside Cemetery, 7. Holy Cross Cemetery, 8. St. Louis Cemetery, 9. National Cemetery, 10. Woods Cemetery, 11. York Cemetery, 12. St. Joseph Cemetery, 13. St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, 14. St. Johns Lutheran Cemetery, 15. Jonischkies Cemetery, 16. Rabke Cemetery, 17. Schorre Cemetery, 18. Holzaphel Cemetery, 19. Richter Cemetery, 20. St. Thomas Church Cemetery, 21. Whitsett Burials, 22. Westhoff Cemetery, 23. St. Aloysius Cemetery, 24. Lord Cemetery, 25. Wallace Cemetery, 26. St. Johns Cemetery, 27. Lost Creek Cemetery, 28. Clinton Cemetery, 29. Antioch Cemetery, 30. Hopkinsville Cemetery, 31. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, 32. McCrabb Cemetery, 33. County Cemetery, 34. Woodman Cemetery, 35. Hillside Cemetery, 36. Westville Cemetery, 37. Taylor Cemetery, 38. Burns Station Cemetery, 39. Ponteon San Isidro Cemetery, 40. Mt. Bethany Cemetery, 41. Thomaston Cemetery, 42. Power Cemetery, 43. Murphree Cemetery, 44. Memory Gardens Cemetery, 45. Bellview Cemetery, 46. New Hope Cemetery, 47. Memory Park Cemetery, 48. Stevens Cemetery, 49. San Pedro Cemetery, 50. Concrete Cemetery, 51. Nelms Cemetery, 52. Leesville Cemetery, 53. Terryville Cemetery, 54. Hebron Cemetery, 55. Cook-Holland Cemetery, 56. County Line Cemetery, 57. City Cemetery West, 58. St. Anns Cemetery, 59. Sons of Hermann Cemetery, 60. Guadalupe Cemetery, 61. Hochheim Cemetery, 62. Davis Cemetery, 63. Teppin Cemetery, 64. Von Hugo-Von Clausweitz Cemetery, 65. Allen Family Cemetery, 66. Hoch Family Cemetery, 67. Hulse-Cunningham Cemetery, 68. Evergreen Cemetery (Edgar), 69. Alexander Cemetery, 70. Lowrance Family Cemetery, 71. Stevens Cemetery, 72. Edgar Family Cemetery, 73. Boothe Cemetery, 74. Taylor Family Cemetery, 75. Leissner Cemetery, 76. Lockhart Cemetery, 77. Pleasantville Cemetery, 78. Burns-Cardwell Cemetery, 79. Clayton Cemetery, 80. Davis Cemetery, 81. Sandies Cemetery, 82. Andrew-Ander Cemetery, 83. Shannon Cemetery, 84. Boldt Family Cemetery, 85. Luntzel Family Cemetery, 86. Porter Cemetery, 87. Menn-Truede Cemetery, 88. Borchers Cemetery, 89. Upper Yorktown Cemetery, 90. Taylor Cemetery, 91. Kleberg-Eckhart Cemetery, 92. Tumlinson Cemetery, 93. Strickland Cemetery.

DEWITT COUNTY COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

T27

In 1825, a decree from the Mexican governor or Coahuila and Texas stated that "in each new town a block should be set aside for a school." The settlers brought to this area by empresario Green DeWitt were eager to comply. In the area that became DeWitt County, the people of nearly every settlement built a church as soon as possible, and in most cases it was also used for school purposes. Even though in some cases, a town never grew from the settlement, there was often a school.

James Norman Smith established the first school in what became DeWitt County. On the banks of the Cuero Creek near later site of Concrete, Smith opened his school of thirty pupils in 1840.

In 1854 DeWitt County began plans for public schools. Thirteen districts were laid off and elections were held to select three trustees for each district.

Beginning about 1890, the county judge was also county superintendent of schools, ex-officio. Judge J.D. Terry held this dual office in 1891. In 1892 Professor Tom Colston became Cuero's first superintendent of public schools. In 1896 Charles A. Sumners became County Judge and school superintendent and continued in office twelve years, until his death, April 1, 1908. He took great personal interest in the schools and did much for their improvement. In an article written for the Illustrated Edition of the Cuero Star, March, 1906, Judge Sumners said: "DeWitt County schools are under what is known as the community system. There are 45 white schools and 19 colored schools in the county, besides the independent districts of Cuero, Yoakum, and Yorktown."

Community and school names that have been found in DeWitt County are listed below. When possible there will be a sketch of each later in this chapter.

Other county school Superintendents were, Le Grand Covey, H.B. Montgomery, W.F. Hancock and Ken Leisman.

Names of known Communities, Schools, and Settlements in DeWitt County: Arneckeville, Bear Creek, Bellview, Benada, Big Brushy, Blackjack, Blue Mott, Bomba (Upper Meyersville), Boyd Ranch, Brown Ranch, Buchel, Buesing, Burns Station, Cabeza, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Caples, Center, Cheapside, Chicolete, Clear Creek, Clinton, Coletto, Concrete, Conroy, County Line, Crossenville, Cuero Creek, Cuero Institute, Cuero, Davy, Deer Creek,. Ebenezer, Ecleto School, Edgar, English-German School, Evergreen, Five Mile, Fordtran, Foresville, Friedland, Garfield, Garrett, Gohlke, Golly, Grassbur, Greenbur, Green DeWitt, Gruenau, Guadalupe Academy, Guilford, Heaton, Hebron, Hesterville, Heinzville, Hochheim, Hochheim Prairie, Hopkinsville, Irish Creek, Lander, Langley, Leesville, Lindenau, Lithuania, Little Chicago, Little St. Louis, Little Milwaukee, Liveoak, Lone Tree, Lockhart, Lost Creek, Metting, Meyersdale, Meyersville, Middletown, Morris, Mount Petrea, Mustang Mott, New County Line, Nash Academy, National Hall, Nopal, Nordheim, Oakdale, Ortmann, Panther Creek, Peebles Farm, Peru, Pierpont Place, Petersville, Pleasantville, Polish, Prairie Hill, Prairie View, Prices Creek, Province Hill, Rabke, Ratcliffe, Roseville, Sandies, Sandgate, Sandy Fork, Salt Creek, Sasseville, Shiloh, St. Joseph Academy, St. Michaels, St. Peter and Paul, Schleicherville, Stratton, Sunset, Taylor Ranch, Terryville, Thomaston, Tonqua, Twelve Mile, Upper Cuero Creek, Upper Meyersville, Valley View, Verehelle, Wallis Ranch, Weldon, Westhoff, Westville, Yoakum, Yorktown.

by Patsy Goebel and Rosemary B. Sheppard

Ross & Shall Lumber Co.
YOAKUM - - TEXAS.

ARNECKEVILLE

T28

This community is located eight miles south of Cuero on farm road 236 in DeWitt County. Mr. Adam Christopher Henry Arnecke came to the area about the year 1853. He was of German descent. Other families who came were: Sager, Olfer, Gerhold, Post, Wilms, Friedrichs, Turk, and Rath.

The community was first called Zionsville, then Five Mile Coletto, and later was called Arneckeville in honor of A.C.H. Arnecke.

After the Civil War, Mr. A.C.H. Arnecke started the first general merchandise business. He built a log cabin for himself and his wife and then later added another room of lumber, into which he moved his general merchandise store.

In 1865, Mr. Arnecke added a large two story house to his store. It was thought that since a stage coach came from Clinton through Arneckeville, the space was probably rented to the passengers wishing to stay overnight.

Others who operated stores in Arneckeville were: William Hasdorff in 1898, Louis Schorlemmer in 1908, Richard Hans in 1915, Emil Afflerbach in 1919, Isaac Egg and Sons in 1922, W.T. McLarty in 1944 and Walter Wolf in 1946. Walter Wolf was the last person to have a store in Arneckeville.

In 1869 a school was started in the church, a one room log house. In 1889 A.C.H. Arnecke donated two acres of land for a school. A large one room frame school was built. In 1894, Mr. Arnecke donated a few more acres to the school and in 1913, Mr. George Gerhold donated land to the school.

Blacksmiths in Arneckeville were, Henry Post, 1878; John Recker, Sr., Louis Schley, John Recker, Jr., Oscar Rodien, Otto Koenig, August Boldt, Fred Jutz and Walter Gerhold.

Arneckeville Community Band – Back Row: Otto Haun, Henry Haun, Charles Arnecke, (Leader) Ferdinand Jutz, Alfred Henneke, Herbert Hartman. Middle Row: Walter Gerhold, Louis Afflerbach, Herman Henneke, Albert Hartman. Front Row: Ernest Hartman and Henry Schorlemmer.

Charlie Arnecke's service station (dance hall in back)

Charlie Arnecke's appliance shop.

Arneckeville Drug Store — Dr. C.A.H. Arnecke built prior to 1880

Arneckeville Store after gas pumps were added.

Arneckeville street scene

The first cotton gin was built in 1870. Another modern gin was built in 1900.

Doctors in the community were Dr. Watkins, Dr. Fuchamner, Dr. Moore, Dr. Johnston and Dr. C.A.H. Arnecke. Dr. Arnecke was the last doctor to serve Arneckeville.

Dr. Arnecke built a two story house for his family and also built a two story building with a Drug Store and Post Office and a store where some chinaware was sold. Upstairs was a hospital and a large hall for lodge meetings and a telephone exchange. The telephone exchange was moved to Dr. Arnecke's home and operated by his daughter and later was moved to the Egg General Merchandise Store. After the close of the Egg Store, the telephone was moved to the Thieme home and operated by Miss Julia Thieme.

Other people who migrated to Arneckeville were: Brandes, Wurst, Thieme, Eismann, Koehler, Hiller, Schorlemmer and Krohmer.

In 1947, a couch in Dr. Arnecke's office ignited and burned the building to the ground. This was the end of the Drug Store, Post Office, Hospital and Lodge Hall. Shortly after this tragedy, Dr. C.A.H Arnecke died.

Arneckeville never recovered from the fire. There was still a grocery store, dance hall, filling station and car repair shop, but they closed through the years due to the ease of shopping in larger towns nearby. Today the Church and the school building are still used by the community. There is also a cemetery at the church with many of the past leaders at rest.

by Elorine Hartman, Nell Rose Knebel, Pat Arnecke, Edith Nagel

1912 — Arnecke Drug Store, McLarty-Wolf Grocery, Doctor's Office, and Telephone Office. Burned in 1947.

ARNECKEVILLE SCHOOL

T29

The Arneckeville school is located about eight miles south of Cuero, Texas just a short distance off of FM 236.

The Lutheran Church was the first group to form a school for the children of Arneckeville. This was started in 1869 according to church records. In 1872 this school became a state supported school. The school continued until 1888.

1889 saw the first land deeded by Mr. Arnecke to the German-English School Association. No names were mentioned in the deed but it was to be used for a school forever. A school building was built in 1889 on this land. Repair and upkeep was performed by the German-English Association. Later the association became known as the Arneckeville School Patrons.

In 1894 a second deed for land was given by Mr. Arnecke and in 1913 Mr. Gerhold deeded some land to the school. Directors at this time were: Ed Zengerle, Willie Schley, R.L. Hans and H.C. Sager. This was twenty four years after the first land was acquired.

By 1918 the County Superintendent's records show the first school tax of ten cents was voted in. Even then, the record shows the only state aid received was for teachers salary and fire wood.

In 1923 the Arneckeville Community Club was organized to serve as a parent-teacher organization, working for the benefit of the school. Mrs. A.E. Brown and Mrs. Wm. Schorlemmer, Sr. helped with the organization of the club. The women of this club worked very hard to improve and modernize the school. They raised money by having sausage suppers with a dance at the Red, White and Blue Pavillian in Arneckeville. The Arneckeville Community Club was responsible for the addition of the stage and basement. The club also raised money by presenting home talent plays and having band concerts and ice cream socials.

The building is still being used at this time for celebrations, meetings and reunions.

The Golly and Green DeWitt Schools consolidated with Arneckeville School and in 1963, Arneckeville consolidated with Meyersville School. In 1963 Frieda (Krueger) Sager wrote the history of Arneckeville School.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman, Nell Rose Afflerbach Knebel

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1924 Arneckeville students. Top Row: Felix Sager, Edwin Thieme, Leonard Sager and Arthur Sager. Next Row: Rueben Sager, Lillian Bade, Flora Koehler, Frieda Krueger, Mexican Boy, Elmer Krueger, Edwin Henneke, Hilmuth Bergner, Mexican Boy, Berner Bade. Next Row: Malina Galindo, Mexican Girl, Wilma Sager, Bertha Hahn, Ruth Bergner, Madaline Bergner, Rocelle Grunwald, Ellen Sager. Next Row: Teacher — Mrs. Stollis, Teacher, Mrs. Montgomery, Albert Sager, Ruth Koehler, Malinda Junker, Cavases, Edwin Dolgner, Emil Afflerbach, Reuben Henneke, Benjamine Henneke, Mexican Boy, Mexican Boy. Next Row: —, Carl Arnecke, Arno Henneke. Next Row: Mexican Girl, Leona Sager, Ruth Bergner, Julia Cavasas, Olga Koehler, Norma Thieme, Vera Hahn, Alvin Bade.

1936 Arneckeville School

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ARNECKEVILLE

T30

The first settlers of this community, later to be known as Arneckeville came here from across the ocean during the years 1855-1860, and were the nucleus from which developed our present Zion Lutheran congregation. They were a hardy lot. Coming from Germany they landed in a raw wilderness then known as Five Mile Coletto, some eight miles south of Cuero. By hard physical labor they wrested a subsistence from the soil. Their crude houses they built by splitting logs. What a change and what a challenge for these Germans who in their native homeland had lived in well-established and well-ordered villages, with their community within walking distance. Here the closest church was Meyersville, six or more miles away, where they walked, as buggies were an unknown luxury. Unlike so many others from Germany, this group had not left their Bibles, their faith, and their church in the homeland but brought them along as a source of hope and strength during those trying, troublesome pioneer years. Distance and fear of marauding bands of Indians and white outlaws separated them from Meyersville and drew them together in this community which was to be their permanent home.

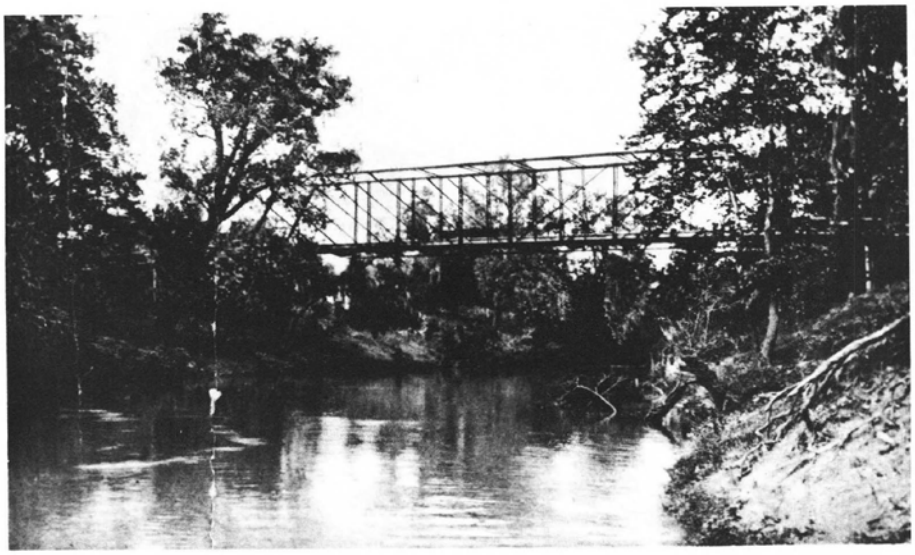
Why was the Church built on this location? Perhaps there were several reasons. First this was a well traveled trail or road in this point in time. The trail went mainly from one house to the next, and from Meyersville to Clinton, Texas, the DeWit County Seat. Also they would have to look for places to cross creeks and rivers. Going to Meyersville on the Hauser place was a natural crossing at the five mile Colleto. That made the road come by this location. People going to church in Meyersville went in wagons or walked so they used this crossing for wagons, ox carts and walking. When the population grew in this area, they began to talk about having a Church of their own. They also needed a school for the children since it was too far to walk to Meyersville everyday. Since the trail came by here and they saw all the beautiful trees, perhaps they talked about putting a church here. Then Michael Sager offered to give 10 acres of land to build a church, so building began here. School was conducted at the church until 1889 when a public school was built for all children of the community.

If these beautiful trees could talk, they could fill us in on many unanswered questions.

Thus a number of families with their axes and saws built a simple log church from the trees growing nearby, hauled in by ox teams, drawing a sledge. Records reveal the following ten family heads as charter members of Zion congregation: Michael Sager, John B. Olfers, Henry Arnecke, William Arnecke, Henry Koehler, Michael Hiller, John C. Thieme, George Gerhold, John Eismann, and Adam Krohmer. These, and possibly assisted by others, with Pastor Christoph Adam Sager who was skilled in carpentry and a possessor of a few special woodcraft tools, built the church. The building was modest indeed — 21 feet long, 16 feet wide and 8 feet high. It served as a house of worship school house, and possibly for a time as a parsonage. The congregation was organized and the building dedicated to the glory of God on November 1, 1868. So, by God's grace, the church was planted in the wilderness but the wilderness was in later years to bloom as a rose.

Truly the heart of every God-fearing Israelite was lifted high in admiration and praise as he viewed the Temple of his God and King, established firmly on the highest point of Mount Zion in the holy city Jerusalem.

Some of these selfsame emotion of elation, joy and pride have always surged through the worshipers at Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville as they gathered in the house of God. Like the centuries-old gnarled, sturdy oaks whose roots are sunk deep in the peaceful countryside, so stands Zion's church today — extending a warm welcome to all to participate in fellowship with God. She stands solid, the spire pointing heavenward, as a monument to the sturdy, defiant, undaunted faith which has characterized the membership during its first century of existence. Truly, in Zion God is



Clinton Toll Bridge

the land that drains into it has been in the possession of Friars since Sidney Friar bought it in 1891. It is in the area about three miles south of Cuero and has a dry bed except in rainy times when much water is carried along its westerly course to empty into the Guadalupe River.

Bonner Hollow was named for Nelson and Julia Burns Bonner who in 1880 settled on the land that drains into this hollow. It unites with the Guadalupe River several miles above the mouth of Irish Creek.

Irish Creek rises in the central part of eastern DeWitt County not far from the town of Edgar; it flows in a general southwesterly course to empty into the Guadalupe River near the location of Old Burns Station, or about midway between Cuero and Thomaston. In 1826 about two miles from the mouth of this creek and near its southern bank the Arthur Burns family settled on his headright league in the first home ever built in the entire area that later became DeWitt County. In its upper course the creek runs through some rugged country and when heavy rains come it can really become a raging torrent. Arthur Burns was of Irish descent and it is said when it was on the rampage, the early settlers joked him about his creek's "having its Irish up" and that in time this led to its being called Irish Creek. In dry seasons much of its course is without water, but because of the violence of its flash floods the bridges across are high and strong.

Reed Branch is about three miles below Irish Creek. It forms the northern boundary of land purchased by Dan Reed in 1865. Though most of the time it is a dry ravine, in rainy seasons it flows with a swift current to join the Guadalupe River.

Spring Branch runs across land of the Charles Lockhart headright land in the Thomaston vicinity and unites with the Guadalupe River. In the deed for 1094 acres that Charles Lockhart sold to Orlando Jones on November 10, 1845 Spring Branch is given as a boundary of the tract. It usually has a dry bed.

Price's Creek rises about five miles northeast of Thomaston, flows in a general southwesterly direction, and empties into the Guadalupe River two miles below the DeWitt-Victoria County boundary line. it drains some rugged country, and in places has cut out a rather wide and deep bed and in times of heavy rains it becomes a really deep and swiftly flowing stream. In dry seasons much of its course is without water. In the lower part there are some deep, permanent, spring-fed pools in which there are perch and trout. Legend attributes the naming of the creek to have been for an early settler, but no definite knowledge has been obtained of a Price family's ever having lived along its course.

Big Brushy rises in the extreme northeastern section of DeWitt County and flows across that area and on into Lavaca County where it unites with the Lavaca River. In early years much of the land along its course was covered with thick brush and that accounts for its name by which it was called as early as 1850.

Little Brushy is a tributary of Big Brushy; it rises in the central eastern part of DeWitt County and flows in a southeasterly course. In early days Charles Hume had a saw mill on Little Brushy.

Thiele Creek is a prong of Big Brushy in its upper course and is so named because it crosses land owned by a Thiele family.

Tonqua Creek is in the Stratton area and is tributary to Little Brushy. Though it has a different spelling Tonqua Creek was named in long-ago days for the Tonkawa Indian tribe that roamed and hunted along its course.

Chicolete Creek is in southeastern DeWitt County. It has two branches in its upper course. It is said this creek was named for Chicolete Indians who were a division of the Cherokee tribes. This is an intermittent stream.

Bear Creek is in southeastern DeWitt County very near the Lavaca County boundary. From statements made in "Texas Camel Tales" by Chris Emmett there seems some evidence that in days of yore there were black bears in the area around Victoria. This is not far from Bear Creek, so there may also have been some bears along its course and this may account for the name.

Creeks of DeWitt County West of the Guadalupe River

Denton Creek rises in Gonzales County and flows across into DeWitt County where it empties into the Guadalupe River. There were several early-day families bearing the Denton name who lived in the locality through which this creek flows, and it was named for them.

Fisher Creek starts in northern DeWitt County near the Gonzales County boundary and flows in a general southeasterly course into the Guadalupe River. Research has yielded no reason for its name.

Fulcher Creek rises in northern DeWitt County almost on the Gonzales County line, flows southeast across the Churchill Fulcher league that was granted him as a headright in 1831, and empties into the Guadalupe River about five miles downstream from the mouth of Fisher Creek. Early settlers named this creek for Churchill Fulcher.

Boggie Creek is in the northern part of DeWitt County and its source is near the DeWitt-Gonzales County boundary. It runs in a southwesterly course to join the Sandies some three miles above where Clear Creek flows into it on the opposite side. Boggie Creek derives its name from the fact that it has quicksand in its bed and from earliest times on down to the present many cattle have "bogged down" in it. It is risky for a horseman to attempt to ride across its bed even when it is entirely dry.

Bird Creek is a tributary of the Sandies and runs along the outskirts of Westhoff which is very near DeWitt County's northwestern boundary. This creek is located on the James Bird survey — hence the name.

Thomas Creek is near Westhoff and is crossed by U.S. Highway 87. It is named for the Thomas family who live in the vicinity.

Sandies has quite a long course and may be counted as a permanently flowing stream. Its source and much of its course is through sandy land, and this accounts for the name, Sandies. It rises in the central western part of Gonzales County and runs on across the northwestern boundary of DeWitt County where after a meandering course in which at times it flows south, east, west, and finally southeast it joins the Guadalupe River in the central part of the county across from the Cuero area. It has such a large watershed that in times of heavy rains it really goes on the rampage and pours such a large volume of raging water into the river that it has no small part in bringing it up to flood stage.

Chisholm Creek is near Clinton and flows into the Guadalupe River. The Richard Chisholm family of four took up their abode in January 1829, on his headright league across which this stream runs and it soon came to be called Chisholm Creek in his honor. Except for pools from springs near its source, this is a dry creek bed most of the time.

Cattail Creek joins the Guadalupe River several miles below Clinton. It got its name quite early from the cattail bushes that then grew and blossomed along its banks. It seldom has water in it in the present time.

Carlisle Creek (also spelled Carlyle in some deed records) is mentioned in a DeWitt County deed record dated September 30, 1859. It is reputed to have been named for Henry Carlisle (not sure which spelling) who in early years lived in his home about 200 yards from the stream. It is located in southern DeWitt County and has two branches. One flows in a southeasterly course and crosses the southern end of the Green DeWitt survey; the other branch runs northwest and is partly on the Quinn league; they join a short distance from where the creek unites with the Guadalupe River.

Clear Creek rises in the area near Nopal in northwestern DeWitt County where it has

Zion Lutheran Church 1875

Zion Lutheran Church Band

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

C. C. GARRETT, chief justice; H. C. Pleasants and F. A. Williams, associate justices of court civil appeals, First district. Court at Galveston.
W. H. CRAIN, congressman Eleventh district.
L. S. LAWHON, senator 22nd district.
J. H. BAILEY, representative 82nd district
S. F. GRIMES, district judge.
A. B. DAVIDSON, district attorney.
H. B. EDGAR, district clerk.

District court convenes in Cuero the fifteenth Monday after the second Monday in February and the first Monday in September, and may continue in session four weeks, or until its business is disposed of.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

E. KOENIG, county judge.
S. C. LACKEY, county attorney.
J. P. BAKER, county clerk; G. P. Box, deputy.
W. H. GRAHAM, collector of taxes.
H. E. DAHLMANN, treasurer.
WM. GRAFTON, assessor of taxes.
G. H. SCHLEICHER, surveyor.
T. M. STELL, sheriff.

County court convenes in Cuero the first Monday in January, March, May, July, September and November.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Precinct 1—J. P. Wright, Cuero.
Precinct 2—W. J. Simpson, Terryville.
Precinct 3—B. R. Burow, Yorktown.
Precinct 4—J. Junker, Arneckeville.

Commissioners' court meets in Cuero the second Monday in February, May, August and November.

JUSTICES AND CONSTABLES.

Precinct 1—H. F. Hill, justice; C. T. Hunter constable. Court meets in Cuero on the fourth Monday in every month.

Precinct 2—C. E. Ragland, justice; B. F Autrey, constable. Court meets in Hochheim on the second Saturday in every month.

Precinct 3—J. T. Kilgore, justice; T. A. Calloway, constable. Court meets at Yorktown on

Precinct 4—F. Schiwetz, justice; F. Buehrig, constable. Court meets at Meyersville on the fourth Saturday in every month.

Precinct 5—J. V. Bridgefort, justice; N. B Hollan, constable. Court meets at Terryville on the third Saturday in every month.

Precinct 6—T. Y. Plume, justice; W. A. Newsom, constable. Court meets at Yoakum Friday before the first Saturday in every month.

Precinct 7—J. H. Moore, justice; J. D. McMasters, (acting) constable. Court meets at Clinto Friday before the first Saturday in every month.

Precinct 8—J. Junker, justice; T. S. Gerhold constable. Court meets at Arneckeville on Friday before the first Saturday in each month.

Zion Lutheran Church Choir: Men Standing: Henry Hiller, Henry Sager, Fritz Koehler, C.A.H. Sager, Church Pastor, Richard Sager, Christian Krueger, Louis Schorlemmer, Emil Hauser. Women standing: Caroline (Sager) Koehler, — (Arnecke) Hiller, Mina (Sager) Wolf. Women seated: Friedericke (Sager) Koehler, Emilie Elisa (Schorlemmer) Krueger, Justine Koehler, — Hauser, —, — Hauser, Emilie (Sager) Schorlemmer.

BEAR CREEK SCHOOL

T31

In 1884 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Byars and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Samuel Cook donated two acres of land for a school. This school became the first Bear Creek School and combined the Hebron and Terryville schools. The two acres were near the bank of Bear Creek. The same hurricane that destroyed Indianola, also blew down the Bear Creek School on August 20, 1886. The men of the community built a new building and it was used until 1911 when the trustees decided to sell the old school and build a new one at the crossing of the Cuero and Hebron roads. This school was used until the 1930's.

Some of the families in the area were the Coopers, Carrolls, Goodes, Hollans, Plackes, Vicks, Garretts, Meyers, Utz, Byars, Michnas, Shows and Granberrys. Also, Moffats, Werlands, Browns, Stevens, Squyres, Osburns, Williams, Glawkas and Benbows.

This school was located near the southeastern county line, near Terryville and Hebron.

Some of the teachers of the Bear Creek School were: Mr. and Mrs. Baukman, Mr. Bill Simpson, Sallie Simpson, Jennie Kennedy, Dock Carroll, Mr. Neighbors, Sara Drake, Katie Hunter, Ruby Tracy, Bessie Jones, Nell Davis and Letha Granberry.

by Sibyl Northcutt and Sherie Carroll

Bear Creek School

Bear Creek School — 1903-1904. Front Row: Rudolph Michna, Eddie Michna, Harley Hollan, Leslie Carroll, Leslie Hollan and Sam Stevens. Second Row: Willis Hollan, Oscar Brown, Minnie Cooper, Carrie Michna, Ruth Myers, Connie Brown, Eva Goode, Eva Garrett, Guy Hollan, Alonzo Cooper, and Miss Nora McMaster, teacher. Third Row: Lula Vick, Ruth Stevens, Mattie Vick, Mattie Myers, Willie Garrett, Nona Stevens, Matt Goode, Cora Williams, Pearl Granberry, and Minnie Garrett. Last three boys in back are Otto Vick, Lee Granberry, and Robert Brown.

BIG BRUSHY

T32

In October of 1909, Robert and Eva Tippins sold for $25 one acre of land for the Big Brushy Union School. This was from the southeast corner of land which was bought from J.P. Morris on the Abraham Dillard survey.

BLUE MOTT SCHOOL

T33

On July 9, 1896, Wm. M. Garrett and wife M.A. Garrett donated 1 acre of their land to Edward Koenig, County Judge of DeWitt County. The land was to be used for a public school.

The area residents took up a collection to buy lumber to build the school. The school started in 1898 with Frances Margaret Kyle as the teacher. She roomed and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Garrett. Eventually, she married the Garrett's son.

The school building was used for school, church and community meetings. Church was whenever a preacher of any denomination came through the area.

In 1898, C.H. Stell sold one acre of land to the Blue Mott School community. The location was in the extreme southeastern part of DeWitt County and was bordered very near Victoria County.

by Sibyle Northcutt and Adelaide Garrett Gill

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERS. ROOS BROS. YOAKUM, TEXAS.

BUCHEL COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL

T34

A few miles north of Cuero, Texas, in DeWitt County, there is a very unique community, chock full of history. This is the community where Daniel Boone Friar bought acreage in 1839 in the Samuel Lockhart Survey in the Cuero Creek area. He built his home at the juncture of the LaGrange-LaBahia and Victoria-Gonzales Roads. The Friars used the home as a combination home, store, and post office. In 1842, during the Republic of Texas, a post office called Cuero was established and a record of this is in the files of the DeWitt County Historical Museum. Also, in the files are papers that state that when Texas became a state the Cuero post office became a United States post office on May 22, 1846. Friar sold his house with fifty acres, September 28, 1849 to Crockett Cardwell. Cardwell used the building as a store, post office, Stage stand, and tavern. In 1866, Cardwell, after the Civil War, gathered 1800 steers (longhorns) to take up the Chisholm Trail. When the terminus of the railroad came into being, the post office, Cuero, was moved a few miles south to the railroad and the town became known as Cuero, instead of Morgantown or Germantown as before. The Cuero Creek house lasted until 1916 when it was torn down and rebuilt as a barn and other out buildings on the nearby Lewis Burns ranch.

In 1894, Otto Buchel gave an acre of land for the present site of Buchel School. The patrons donated materials and erected a building. Miss Emma Tully later named the school Oak View because of the many beautiful oak trees nearby. Mrs. Carrie Kilgore of Yorktown taught the first class in the new building. Other early teachers were Miss Tully and Miss Ura Woods of Gonzales.

In 1921, the need arose for a modern building. The school was erected and named Buchel for the man who gave the land. At this time the trustees of the school were B.F. Thigpen, Richard Lucas, and Mr. Preston. In early years the school had an enrollment of 60 pupils. By 1930 it dropped to 30 pupils, and during World War II it reached a low of 10 pupils. By the spring of 1950, there were 26 pupils enrolled in Buchel School.

Some of the teachers of Buchel School were: Columbus Burns, Lou Schleicher, Effie J. Brantley, Mary (Milligan) Fanette, Isabella (Kruse) Schaffner, and Marily Jean (Brantley) Tidwell and Eddie Blackwell.

Area families were: Frels, Blanks, McDonalds, Hoehnes, Lucas, Wisian, Orsaks, Nacks, and others.

After the Gilmer-Aikin Bill that became law in 1949 went into effect, Buchel School ceased to exist when both white and black children were bussed to Cuero.

The school building became a community building. The Buchel Home Demonstration Club paid the insurance and utilities for twenty five years. After 1975, the Buchel 4-H Club assumed this responsibility and the club leases the building from Cuero Independent School District.

by Isabella Schaffner

BUESING SCHOOL

T35

Buesing School

The Buesing School was located seven miles west of Yorktown and was named for Henry Buesing on whose land the school was built in 1914. Early settlers of the area were John Schmidt, Charles Gruetzmacher, A.R. Dworaxzyk, Anton Meinen and Henry Morisse. Their children were students of this rural school. The original building had only one room. The first teacher was Mrs. Bernice Shropshire.

BURNS STATION

T36

Burns Station Cemetery

In 1826 Empresario Green DeWitt colonist, Arthur Burns, built a two-story home near the east bank of the Guadalupe River, south of Irish Creek. This was the first home built within the present bounds of DeWitt County. The house was later used as a refuge during Indian Raids.

Arthur Burns operated the county's earliest water-powered grist mill and after his death, Moses Rankin operated this mill from 1856 until 1869 when it was destroyed by flood. Then for a number of years maintained a grist mill run by a Dutch windmill. Near it clustered the Sherman and Thomas General Store, Charlie White's Blacksmith Shop, and the Warn Hardware Store. The first church was erected in 1853.

The settlement became known as Burns Station as it was a stage stop on the Victoria-Gonzales road where the stage would stop for the purpose of changing horses.

In the 1870's, Burns Station lost business to Thomaston and Cuero, but was a stop on the Gulf West Texas and Pacific Railroad. About 1902, The Burns Station depot was given the name "Verhelle", honoring a railroad official who had never lived in the area.

The post office was established in 1851. Postmasters between 1 July, 1873 and 18 June, 1877 were Joseph Shults, Samuel Myers, Calvin B. Phillips, and Daniel Reed. Original inhabitants of the Irish Creek settlement were Josiah and Hephzibeth Taylor, Patrick Dowlearn, John Morrison, Rev. Thomas and Ardelia Burns Cook, Columbus and Mary Ann DeMoss Burns, James Irvin and Eliza Cottingham, William H. Kirkland, T.B. Womack, Moses Rankin, John Keith and Elizabeth (Butler) Rankin, Samuel and Mary "Polly" (Rankin) Myers, William J. and Susan (Friar) Weisiger, Evan S. and Gabriella (Cook) Weisiger, William Thomas, C.M. Shermans, B.F. Lowe's, William "Bill" and Laura (McDonald) Sutton, and Aaron and Laura (Myers) Neel.

The cemetery is all that remains of the once thriving and oldest settlement in DeWitt County. It is on Irish Creek alongside the Victoria highway and a marker is placed on the highway to mark the historical site.

The site was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, trustees listed as Lewis Smith, M.D., John D. Cobler, William M. Jones, Nathan Thomas, William R. Wallace, M.D., and James Smith by Thomas F. Cook and his wife, Ardelia Burns Cook, for and in consideration of the sum of five dollars on the 23rd day of June, 1853. This deed is on record in the DeWitt County Courthouse. The cemetery adjoined the Irish Creek Methodist Church.

The first known grave is that of Joseph Allen, born in Ireland, and died in October, 1853. At present, there are over 90 known graves. Many unmarked graves were lost during the period of neglect.

Up until 1930, relatives would meet occasionally to clean their family plots and as many more as they could. For a number of years Eddie Neel, who lived nearby, kept individual plots. After 1930, nothing was done. Nearly forty years of neglect followed except for fencing of family plots. The Key lots were fenced in 1940.

About 1968, Jesse Mills contacted members of the DeWitt County Historical Survey Committee asking for help in restoring the cemetery. This committee visited the cemetery, saw the neglect and the word spread that something needed to be done soon. The project committee, W.W. Key, Mrs. W.W. Key, and Mrs. Lee Benbow, took charge. The cemetery was cleaned and fenced with funds donated by descendants buried there.

Fielding B. Key left an endowment for the care of the cemetery upon his death in 1974 and donations have been made by descendants since 1983. This money had been combined and the Burns Station Cemetery Perpetual Maintenance Fund established at the Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association with interest only to be used for maintenance.

by Rosalie Myers

An Ironical Eulogy on Burns's Station

I dare say you all have long ere this heard of the beautiful, flourishing town of Burns Station, situated in a very romantic district of country on the Southern Pacific R.R.

Through the centre of this village flows a lively little brook known as Irish Creek, which is always rippling merrily along on its way to the beautiful Guadalupe.

North of the village are some high rugged hills which possibly are remote outlying spurs of the Rocky Mountains — this fact alone may make some of my young friends desirous of visiting this lovely picturesque place.

You would doubtless be greatly surprised to

see the yards which are laid off in lovely style, and of course are neatly kept. They contain such rare and lovely flowers and beautiful evergreens that it is a feast for the eye to behold them.

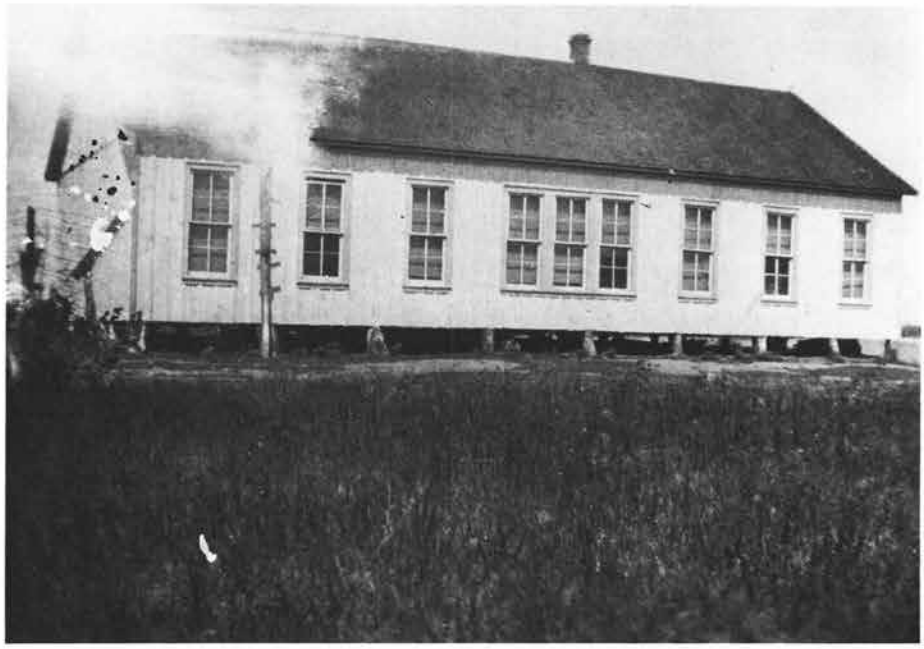
The buildings are mostly cottages of pretty designs, and are well furnished.

The cemetery here is one of the objects of interest, the soft green grass natures emerald carpet is not regularly removed as in our city cemeteries, and the luxuriant weeds grow to such a height that one can hardly see the mounds and fallen tomb-stones.

The school building reflects credit upon the enterprising citizens of the place, and the school is their especial pride. There are twenty-six pupils I think. The people believe in educating their children, for they send them to school — during the entire free school term and let them take a course in music and art at the same time.

People wishing to find a place where they can have good religious and social privileges might do well to visit Burns Station before locating elsewhere.

by Willie Sutton
February 5, 1892



Cabeza School

CABEZA

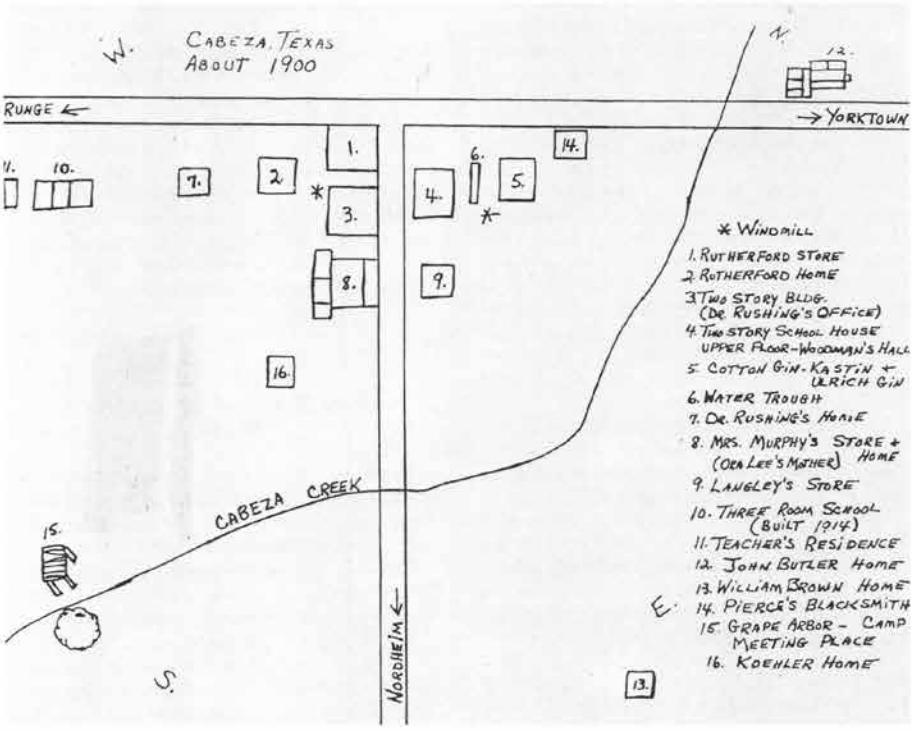
T37

The Spaniards gave the name "Cabeza" to a creek which is located in the southern part of the Francisco Real Survey near the center of DeWitt County's western boundary. It was on the headwaters of this creek that the town of Cabeza was founded.

Cabeza is the highest section of the county being at an elevation of 850 feet. It was the only town between Yorktown and Helena in Karnes County, in 1876. Three sheep men settled in this area and began the town. They were: P.O. Short, John Riley, and Joshua Butler. The only other name was for the Strickland ranch which was abandoned by 1876. The Butlers, Shorts and Rileys were farmers and sheep and cattle men.

The first office was established in Cabeza by Dr. Rushing. He came to Cabeza from Tennessee and was a young unmarried man. The first store was owned by J.O. Short. He was the son of P.O. Short. The store was run by Dick Wilbarn. Other merchants were: H. Langley, Charles Moore, William Rutherford, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Johnny Mixon. The Cabeza Post Office was established April 6, 1889 and discontinued May 15, 1907. At this time Cabeza had three stores and John C. Butler's Blacksmith Shop. There was a cotton gin built and run for a number of years before being bought by Ulrich and Kasten, who moved it to Nordheim.

First Church at Cabeza. Also used for school and lodge



Map of Cabeza by Wayne S. Thomas

By 1948 Cabeza was a ranching area with 150 inhabitants, maintaining two schools, one for Whites and the other for Mexicans. Both schools were discontinued in the 1950's.

There was one church in Cabeza, the Methodist Church, which had Sunday School and preaching services every fifth Sunday. Many camp meetings and revivals were held by the Methodists and the Baptists.

Other names in the Cabeza area were Haynes, Brown and Koehler. The last remaining direct descendants of the first three settlers are the Butler family.

The first school in the Cabeza area was built of barn wood that was the ruins of Mr. Short's barn that had been blown down in a storm. This community school, called the Short School, remained on the Short Ranch for six years. There were sixteen pupils in school: three Rileys, two McNamaras, two Shorts, one Granberry, two Butlers, and three Thomases. The first teacher was Robert E.L. Magee. Later the public school in Cabeza was started in a one room house. Early teachers were, Miss Carrie Kilgore, Miss Homy Hargrave, and Mrs. John

Manlove.

By 1914, the school was a three teacher school, and a home for the teachers was built in 1915. Miss Katie Mountz was the music teacher, and her sister Mary a school teacher. Mrs. Paralee Menn taught classes in the upper story of a later school and Mrs. McMurry taught in the lower story.

The school closed in the 1950's. Prof. Ed. Horton and Miss Nona Young, both of Runge, were among the schools last teachers. The school enrolled as many as 135 students at its peak.

by Mrs. Frank Stefka, Mrs. Alfrieda Huck and Mr. Jack Butler

CALHOUN SETTLEMENT

T38

In the early 1870's, Sam D. Calhoun and John R. Calhoun built their homes near the Heard Ferry crossing on the West Side of the Guadalupe River. They had come to Texas from Tennessee as children and had lived in Clinton with their mother, Elizabeth Hungerford (Smith) Calhoun. She was the daughter of James N. Smith. After the Civil War, the Calhoun brothers settled on land that their mother had left to them, on Cattail Creek. This area soon became the Calhoun Settlement because of the Church and School built for the Calhoun families. There was a Presbyterian church that was later moved to Clinton and a school that was later moved to Green DeWitt. A small family cemetery was also at this location. At some time, a saloon was established in this settlement.

There are no remains of any of this settlement in 1990. The buildings and the cemetery are gone. Information was found through Garrett Abstract Co., interviews with area residents, and Calhoun family records.

by Patsy Goebel

CALLAHAN SCHOOL

T39

On February 4, 1880, for $10.00, Charles Sasse and his wife deeded to school trustees, William Wagner, Fred Henig, and F.W. Brown, 4,460 square varas, or of an acre of the James Foster survey. This land was situated on Twelve Mile Coletto Creek for Callahan school community no. 21. This school continued to operate as a one teacher school until 1945. The smaller children of the community then attended Ratcliffe, three miles to the east and the older pupils went to Yorktown, six miles to the west.

Callahan School

CAMERON

T40

The site of Cameron is located about one mile west of Cuero. This site was chosen in June 1846 as the first seat of DeWitt County and named for Capt. Ewen Cameron (1811-43), slain prisoner of the Mier Expedition. Although a town was platted on the 100-acre tract, donated by Joseph Tumlinson, a log courthouse and a county clerk's office were the only buildings erected. In 1850, after four elections and four court decisions, Cameron lost the title of County seat to the nearby town of Clinton. County offices moved to Cuero in 1876.

Beginning of Cameron Lodge #76 A.F.&A.M.

Cameron Lodge originated Nov. 2, 1850 by a committee of petitioners, all members of Gonzales Lodge #30, and recommended by Deputy Grand Master Andrew Neill, Esquire.

It being so far to ride horseback to Gonzales to attend lodge, and the participants living in the Cuero and Clinton area, the meeting was held at Cameron Stage Stop and Store, where court was also held.

The petitioners were: James E. Smith, William Means, L.J. Brisette, Lazarus Nichols, Joseph Tumlinson, Henry Wrigley, B.M. Odom, K.B. White, D.S. Page, Joseph Stevens, Daniel B. Friar, John Tumlinson, Arthur Burns and Thompson Brown.

After the proceedings the Deputy Grand Master installed the officers-elect as follows: James N. Smith, Worshipful Master; Daniel B. Friar, Senior Warden; L.J. Brisette, Junior Warden; William Means, Treasurer; Henry Wrigley, Secretary; Thompson Brown, Sr. Deacon; Lazarus Nichols, Jr. Deacon; B.M. Odom, Tiler.

At this time it was resolved to adopt the bylaws of Victoria Lodge #40 as their government, the Lodge to meet on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 P.M.

A meeting was held on Nov. 9, 1850 for instructions, at which time members were appointed as a committee to procure furniture and other accessories necessary for use of the lodge. At this time the lodge was operating under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Texas, until they were established and before receiving their charter.

The Lodge was formed and operated at Cuero for a short period while a building committee was working to build a lodge hall at Clinton. A report from them was read and motion made and carried for the building committee to make all purchases necessary to complete the lodge which was now held in Clinton.

Cameron Lodge moved and dedicated their new hall in Clinton on Jan. 22, 1853, and at this time two degrees were conferred. They had applied and paid for their charter Dec. 24, 1850, and this was granted March 22, 1851.

Cameron Lodge continued operation in the town of Clinton until 1877 at which time, it is not clear as to the reason, it closed and moved to Yorktown. The first Yorktown meeting was held July 6, 1877 with S.F. Grimes, Worshipful Master protem. At this meeting the following brethren, formerly of Coletto Lodge #124, L.T. Grun, L. Schumacher, A. Kraege, L. Lenz, F.H. Hoppe, Robert C. Eckhardt and John Grun, petitioned to affiliate with Cameron Lodge #76 A.F.&A.M., which is still an active lodge in 1990.

Coletto Lodge #124 had formed in Yorktown a few months after Cameron Lodge was formed at Cameron, just north of Cuero, but had demised.

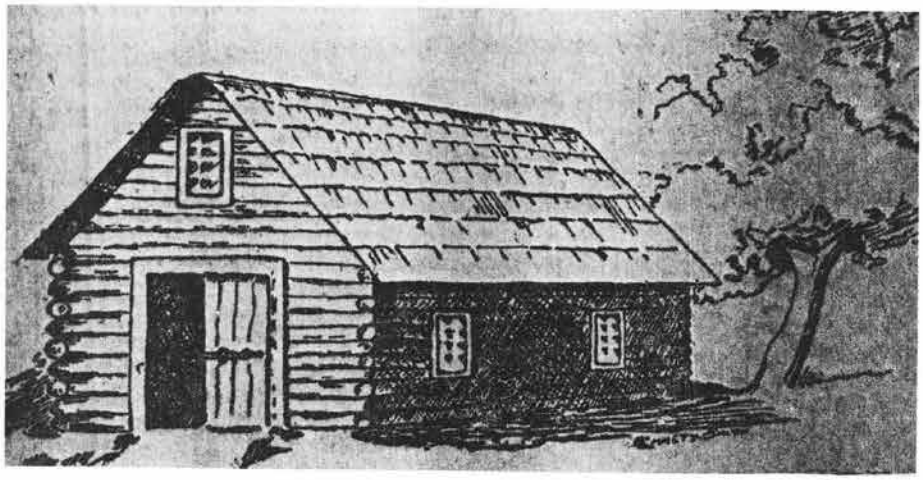
An interesting entry in the minutes of Cameron Lodge, of November, 1854 concerned the building of the Washington monument, at which time the lodge voted to donate $8.00 to this project. This was a considerable sum, and in gold, which was hard to come by.

by A.C. Baylor

CENTER SCHOOL

T41

The Center School was located about half-



First Court House of Cameron, Texas

Center School

way between Concrete and Yoakum in northeastern DeWitt County. Some early families to settle in the community were those of W.E. Edgar (1855), Price Allen August Schultz (1890), and Dr. R.W. McGehee. The school was started in 1902 and was given the name "Center" because of the school house's central location in the community. On July 25, 1905, John and Johanna Benga transferred a small tract of Joseph H. Wood survey land, 92 yards long and 50 yards wide to the trustees of Center School Community for school purposes and it was to revert back to the grantor when the school was discontinued. Any orthodox religious organization could worship in the schoolhouse. The first teacher was Frank Hagon. In 1945, the school was discontinued; the children went to school in Yoakum.

CHEAPSIDE

T42

Early Cheapside School.

Pioneer settlers of English descent settled an area about eighteen miles northwest of Cuero and named it Cheapside after a well known street in London, England. The first settlers were recorded in the area as early as 1857. By 1874 a Cumberland Presbyterian church was established in the area and also a cemetery called Bellevue.

The town of Cheapside has had saloons, a broom factory, a drug store, a livery and blacksmith shop, a hotel, grocery and mercantile stores, a cotton gin and a grist mill. The town plat was laid out by Mr. Thomas Carter. Store and business owners were: W.D. Wofford, Dr. George C. Milner, E.F. Elder, C.S. Riggs, H.N. Smith, A.T. Young, E.L. Bellinger, M.L. Wood, Joseph Carter, William Poth, Thomas Carter, Henry E. Braeuer, Rufus L. Barnes, W.J. Allert, Jessie Preston, and Dan Gates. Others were: Oscar Schroeder, Ira Arnold, John Schrader, Earl Freeman, Elgin Fehner, Alton Baker, and Joe Watson.

1924 — Cheapside School. Back Row: Brinkley, Evie J. Brantley, Edna "Boots" Lord, Gladys Wood, Olive Moore, Bessie Lee, Evie Arnold, Nettie Shultz, —, Fairy Ulman, Lottie Johnson, Homer Hester, Leonard Boysen, Alfred Johnson, "Bunk" Brantley, J.F. Elder, — Dunlap, Lehman Ballinger, Olga Kruse, Lias Steen, Isabel "Curly" Poth, Next Row: Miss Birdie Pitchford, Mr. Cottingham, Miss Beth Coleman, Odell Johnson, Jessie Lois Watson, Clifford Elder, Adyce Lord, Docia Lee, —, Earl Denson, Stanley Denson, —, Irving Mannering, Clarence Stock, Ray Lee, Haskell "Hank" Hester, Joe B. Elder?, —, Orville Ballinger, Bert Barnes, Grafton Crocker, Hartwell Stein, Henry Elder, Next Row: Marjorie Elder, —, Elsie Pakebusch, Doris Moore?, Inez Arnold, Marie Mannering, Myrtice Chaffin, Jessie Lee Denson, Bill Denson, Earnest Poth, Brandon Brantley, Wiley Ulman, Crockett Barnes, Louis Pakebusch, Charles Ballinger, Elgin Poth, Joe Watson. Front Row: Ruby Baker, —, Annie Lee Poth, Jewel West, Carroll Moore?, Byrta Carson, Agnes Stock, Lucy Pakebusch, Bernice Johnson, Azilea Barfield, Adolph Ulman, Dalton Joe Brantley, Merlin Lee, Raymond "Skunk" Moore, Clark Barfield. Others that could not be placed are: 2 McClanahan boys, Keyes F. Carson, Leonard Miller, F.W. Miller, Ruby Miller, Emil Pakebusch, Rudolph Schultz, Nina Kruse, Sam Kruse, Horace West, and Annie Lee Ulman.

The Cheapside Post Office was established in DeWitt County on June 5, 1882 with Charles M. Gooch appointed Postmaster. The Post Office closed on December 30, 1988 with Mrs. Lucella Watson as Postmistress. Mrs. Watson had served for thirty years. The last Cheapside Post Office was in Gonzales County.

Names of other area land owners were: George Lord, William C. Peterson, Frank Baker, John W. Carson, J.L. Lowe, Dr. E.R. Henry, Dr. R.T. Burke, Dr. M. Mannering and Dr. John Rappold There were also families of Arthur L. Young, A.J. Barfield, George Barfield, John Arnold, Shelby Rackley, John Johnson, and Weldon E. Terry.

In 1876, L.G. Harmon gave five acres for a school in DeWitt County near Cheapside. In 1882 a school for the black children was built near Cheapside and called Middlefork. By 1884, Cheapside school was listed in Gonzales County. In 1909, L.A. Carter donated land for a school in DeWitt County to be part of the DeWitt County School System. On this land was built a two room school which opened later in the year of 1909. By 1914, an upper story had been added to the school. In 1949 the school consolidated with the Cuero Independent School District and the Cheapside school was closed.

In 1983 the Lavaca River Baptist Association showed the organization of the Cheapside Baptist Church. As the population declined, the citizens organized the Cheapside Community Church and it continued on for many years.

Bellevue cemetery is still in use in 1990 but the town of Cheapside only has a small community center still active.

by Patsy Goebel

CHICOLETE SCHOOL

T43

Chicolete School Building

Chicolete School was also known for a short time as the Hefner School because the man who donated the land for the school was named Hefner. There were eight grades taught there until later years when they started teaching ten grades. In 1912 Mr. Kahlich bought the land and his daughter Lillian attended school there for eight years.

There was no mail delivery and mail had to be picked up in Stratton. It was Lillian's job to ride horseback once a week to Stratton (5 miles) and back with the mail for her neighborhood.

Teachers boarded with the Kahlich family for four years, then the Kahlich family got too large and the Key family boarded the teachers.

by Lillian Kahlich Macha and Sibyl Northcutt

CLEAR CREEK CHURCH AND SCHOOL

T44

Clear Creek School

On October 12, 1885, Joe Card deeded two acres of Squire Pharris Survey land on the north bank of Clear Creek, just east of where the Southern Pacific Railroad crosses it, for church and school use. On May 9, 1889, John Wallis donated acres for the use of the Clear Creek Methodist Church. A building was erected and for a number of years was used for both church and school by the name of Clear Creek. The first session was taught by J.A. Webber in 1886; the trustees were John Wallis, Elias M. Wallace and Fred Noelte. In 1898 the school pupils began attending the near-by Guilford school but the church work at Clear Creek was continued many years.

The Clear Creek School that was there in 1948, was started in 1892 with John Myrt Delony as teacher. Its location is some fourteen miles to the northwest of the first Clear Creek school on land of the Francisco Gonzales league one mile from the Gonzales County line and three miles southwest of Nopal. There, some of the early settlers were the families of Joe, Willie, and Charles Jalufka, and the Frank Mettings.

In 1925 the Nopal school joined with the Clear Creek school and then for several years it was a three teacher school. In the 1950's the school was discontinued.

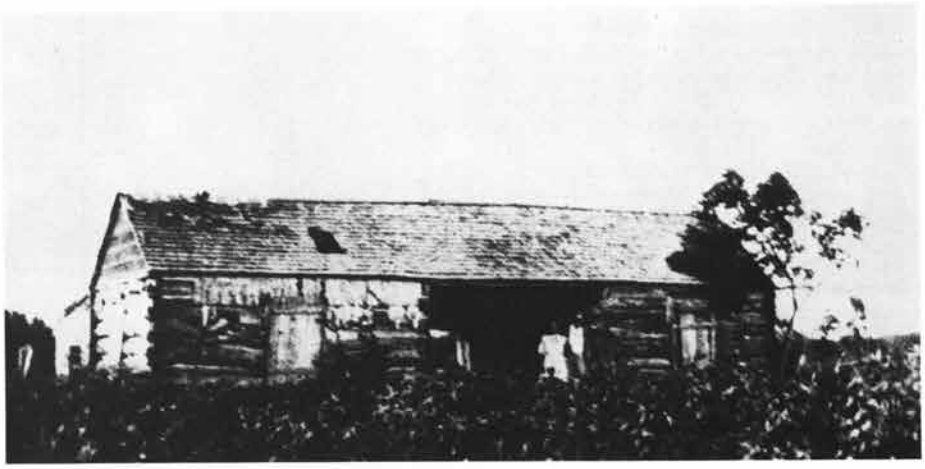
For 30 years Methodist Sunday School and Sabbath afternoon services were held in this school house.

CLINTON

T45

Clinton, located on the West bank of the Guadalupe River on the Richard Chisholm Survey, is in central DeWitt County. It was laid out as a townsite in the summer of 1846 and named for Clinton DeWitt, a son of Empresario Green DeWitt. Clinton was the county seat of DeWitt County from 1850-1876.

A two story Masonic Hall was built in 1852 and when it was dedicated on January 22, 1853, Cameron Lodge No. 76 was moved to Clinton from Cardwell's Store where it had been located since it was organized in 1850. It was later moved to Yorktown in 1877.



Early Courthouse at Clinton

The Live Oak Presbyterian Church became Clinton's first church in 1850. The Methodists and Presbyterians both held services in Clinton's log courthouse until the Presbyterians built their church in 1856 and shared it with the Methodists.

Clinton boasted of both private and public schools during the time that it was in existence. Sam J. Webb had a General Dry Goods and Grocery Store which also housed the Post Office. This store was later moved to Weesatche in Goliad County. Judge Kilgore had a drugstore in Clinton which moved to Yorktown in 1877. John Wofford had a store in Clinton that he later sold to Charlie Sherman. Martin King had a Blacksmith and Livery business. Dole Davis had a Saloon in Clinton. W.O. Wheeler of Victoria had a branch store in Clinton. J.R. Nagel also had a Hardware and Tin Shop. Clinton's first hotel was a small log house. Later Oliver Stapp built a two story frame hotel. C.G. Hartmann was a noted DeWitt County Surveyor of the times.

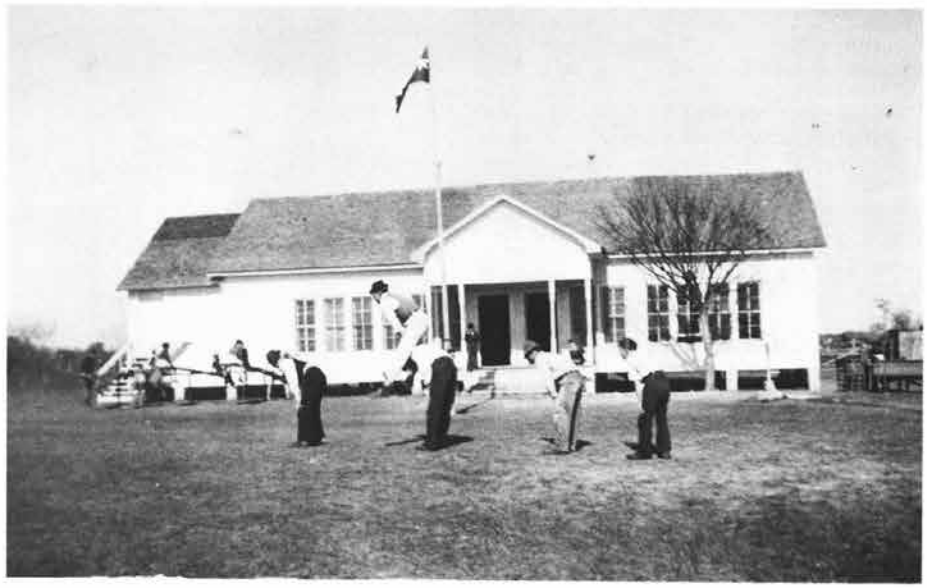
Doctors who were in the area were Drs. Aaron C. White, Andrew J. Hodge, Lewis Williams, and Joseph Weisiger. Lawyers of the time were Robert E. Williams, William Friend, Sam C. Lackey, Sr., John W. Stayton and Henry Clay Pleasants.

Civil War and Reconstruction brought lawlessness and ruin to the area. The final blow was the coming of the railroad to Cuero in 1872-73. Many businesses moved to the railroad town and then the county seat was moved to Cuero in 1876. Clinton slowly declined until the 1950's when the school was finally closed. Now all that remains of Clinton, is the cemetery.

The first school in Clinton was started by Rev. and Mrs. Conelley as a private school in about 1854. Mrs. Viola Case moved her school for girls to Clinton during the Civil War but closed it and returned to Victoria after the war. A Major Carruth also had an early day school in Clinton for a number of years.

The first public school in Clinton was started in 1881 and continued as a small rural school until the early 1900's even though Clinton declined and the county seat was moved across the Guadalupe River in 1876.

One source of information set the attendance of 94 pupils in the Clinton School in the year of 1889.



Clinton School

Mr. Alvin Schorlemmer stated that he attended the one-room Clinton School in 1912 with Mrs. Mamie Bruce as his teacher. Mrs. Bea (Brown) Steen (Mrs. Lias Steen) recalls her Clinton School days back in 1917 with Mr. Scott as her teacher.

In 1921 there was a consolidation of schools program in DeWitt County. Mr. H.B. Montgomery was county superintendent at the time. Part of the students who had attended the one-teacher Five Mile School were redistricted to Clinton while others attended the new Ratcliffe School.

The children in the Vincent Lempa family entered the Clinton Community School in 1921. The building had been enlarged to a two-teacher school. It was divided by a heavy canvas curtain. This proved impractical as it wasn't exactly sound proof. Furthermore, some wise-acre would walk past it and either punched it with his fist or elbowed it, making it bellow about and attract attention. There was a porch on the south side and a cloakroam (including a book storage closet) on the north side of the building. The water pump was in front of the building, slightly to the east. The flagpole was about 25 steps south of the porch.

In the beginning there wasn't much playground past the flagpole until some time in 1922 when some fences were moved and the Clinton school students found themselves with some nine to eleven acres to play on. The source of information on this could not recall if this acreage was bought or donated by a DuBose family.

Some of the teachers during the twenties were Mrs. Alfred Olle, Miss Jewel Manning, Louise Marquis, Maude Wilson, and Lula Rhodes.

At some point in time, a large stage had been added to the west end of the building with a storage for firewood beneath it. Also a two car and one buggy storage shed had been erected behind the schoolhouse. The outdoor restrooms were built on opposite sides of the car shed. The privy on the west side was for girls because it was nearer the main building. The outdoor toilet on the east side of the shed was for boys.

Other teachers were Frances Peyton, Alice Rath, Ernest Meier, Mary Etta Bunting, Edith Hans, Iva Lee Rabke, Mrs. Jones, Evie Joy (Brantley) Dieringer, Jessie Dodds, Odell (Johnson) Darr, Lottie (Johnson) Coker, Clyde Cameron, Laura Overby, and Mrs. Tom Cheatham.

There were two teachers employed at the Clinton School until about 1945. Later, there were so few students that only one teacher was hired. The eighth grade students were transferred to the Cuero Public School.

by Frances Peyton

CONCRETE

T46

Concrete School Building

Ruins at Concrete College

The Upper Cuero Creek Settlement (1827) developed to be Concrete, DeWitt County's earliest townsite. James N. Smith surveyed the town blocks for the village in the early summer of 1846 prior to his surveying the bounds of Clinton. Concrete is located near the east bank of the Guadalupe River in the northeastern part of the county on the land of the John McCoy league.

The town was established on the Gonzales to Victoria stage route. The stage brought mail and passengers, twice daily, at four a.m. and

Taylor-Lewton House. Part of house built in 1860

Concrete School 1935-36. Back Row: Edna Rathcamp (teacher), Henry Saenitz, Irene Shows, Herman Saenitz, Bernice Maresh, Gertrude Stubbs, Laura Frels, Raymond Schmidt. Second Row: —, Sterling Maresh, Joseph Laufer, Calvin Schmidt, Joel Jackson, Aileen Staeher, Wilburn Frels, Ruth McCormick (teacher), Richie Prewett. Third Row: Lawrence Frels, Eldridge Kelch, Julius Shows. Front Row: Bertha Saenitz, Dell Stubs, Gertrude Frels, Rosemary Blackwell, Doris Kelly, Carl W. Weber, Bryan Stubbs, —, Felton Shows.

nine p.m. The town had a large two-story hotel owned and run by Isham North. There were seven stores. Also, a blacksmith shop and a shop where shoes were made. The soles were nailed with wooden pegs, as nails were scarce. Concrete was a prohibition town. There must have been early saloons but Concrete remained a "dry precinct" in the county until about 1981. In later years there was a mule-driven gin. There was a Dutch windmill where the people could have their corn ground into meal, when the wind blew. Concrete was the only post office for miles and when the stage arrived everyone could hear the bugle blow. Traildrivers moved their herds through the village on their way to northern markets.

There were two church buildings: one was the Cumberland Presbyterian (1846) and the other Baptist. The Masons built a large two-story building. They used the upstairs for lodge purposes and the downstairs for church meetings. The Methodists held their church there. This building was moved in the 1890's to Hochheim. The Baptist church was built in the 1850's. The benches were built by hand as were the doors and windows. This wood frame building burned in the 1970's.

Concrete had an early college started by J.V. Covey and Woodlief Thomas. Concrete college was a state-chartered coed institution with dormitories for boarding students, from 1867-1881. In 1873 there were 12 instructors and 250 students in the famous school.

Some of the early residents and their families in the Concrete Community were: Dr. Robert Peebles, Joseph Stevens, Captain Lynch, Dr. Wimbish, Dr. W.W. White, Dr. O.D. Coppedge, J.B. Worth, James M. Baker, T.R. Taylor, Isham North, W.E. Orman, John Clayton, Joseph Edgar, Ben Milligan, Spear Hudson, Lish Stevens, Henry Stevens, and Dr. King.

There was a ford on the Guadalupe River across from the Miles Bennet Plantation that enabled people from across the river to attend church and school in Concrete.

Concrete was a thriving town in the 1870's until the coming of the railroad, about ten miles away, brought about a great change in the county. People moved their business to a better location for trade. The busy Concrete college apparently became less and less successful and finally closed.

Through the years farming along the river continued to be the most important way of making a living.

In later years, Concrete had three public schools. Mr. Will McCormick and his sons operated a large general store for many years. It sold everything required: groceries, shoes, clothing, meat, farm tools, and machinery. The store was also the community gathering place for daily news. Claude Lombertson operated the Concrete Cotton Gin. Rudolph Mueller had a blacksmith shop. After the McCormick store burned, Jim and George McElroy each had grocery stores. The following are some of the families who made their homes in the Concrete area in later years: Frels, Barth, Pruitt, McCormick, Williams, Leister, Leisner, Laufer, Parks, Young, Daniel, Boothe, Rathkamp, Blackwell, Stubbs, McElroy, Coppedge, Smith, Weber, Lombertson, Jackson, Enoch, Baylor, Mueller, Lucas, Green, Brown, Parker, Staire, Lockett, Imminhauser, Nelms, North, Fleming, McCurdy, Stevens, McMahan and Poth.

There is very little farming done today except for feed crops. Most of the land that once was farmed is now grazing land for cattle. There are several well tended pecan farms that are very successful in the community.

The county's oldest town has almost disappeared. Remnants of old cisterns and building foundations can sometimes be found while the old cemeteries reveal the names of many early county inhabitants and are a reminder of the settlement of the 1820's when the untouched virgin land brought settlers to the Guadalupe Valley.

Concrete Schools

James Norman Smith began and taught the first school in the county in an area called Upper Cuero Creek Settlement in 1840. Mr. Smith taught about thirty students of all ages in a log one room school. The tuition paid by students was two dollars per month.

Mr. Smith resigned his position after the county was organized and for some years itinerate teachers taught short school terms. About 1855 Concrete citizens built a two room frame building of lumber hauled from Indianola. The school was called Concrete Academy. Rev. and Mrs. J.V.E. Covey taught there briefly in 1865 until it was mysteriously destroyed by fire. Concrete college later had a Primary, Intermediate and College department so the children of the area could attend school there.

The first public school was erected about 1895 and continued until it became part of the Cuero Independent School District.

Concrete College

The date of the establishment of Concrete College is difficult to determine. P.N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas,* states that "on September 1, 1856 the Legislature of the State of Texas chartered Concrete College, a school of learning consisting of male and female departments to be located in the town of Concrete, with J.M. Baker, F.M. Taylor, Josh Stevens, J.R. North, and F.J. Linch trustees; curriculum to be 'purely literary and scientific'; students of all religious denominations to enjoy equal advantages." This charter evidently did not grant the college the right and privilege to confer Bachelor's and Master's degrees because the state granted another charter in 1873, section three of which read, "Concrete College through its president and faculty be, and is hereby empowered to confer the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts, grant diplomas, certificates of proficiency, and rewards of merit."

Indications lead one to conclude that some prominent pioneer residents of the community took an advanced view concerning the education of their children. Many of the settlers were college trained individuals, and recognized the advantages offered men and women by education. Thus the time that elapsed between the original charter and the time Dr. J.V.E. Covey came to the community in about 1864 would mean that time was needed to finance the school and find a man to establish a college. It does seem odd that it would be possible to begin a college at the end of the Civil War.

Dr. J.V.E. Covey's chief purpose in life was to preach the Gospel and instruct coming generations. Though he was born in New York, while attending Colgate College, he heard a Baptist Missionary to Texas speak of the need for religious endeavor in Texas, then a Republic. It apparently made a lasting impression on Covey's life. Soon after his graduation and marriage, Covey established a Female College in Tennessee. He then went to Palestine, Texas as head of Franklin College, a Masonic School. While there he also established churches. From Palestine the Covey family moved to Hallettsville where Dr. Covey served as president of Alma Male and Female Institute which had been established in 1852. Dr. Covey left Hallettsville in 1864 to move to Concrete. There had been a wooden school building in Concrete built of lumber hauled from Indianola. This building burned about 1866. He instructed his first pupils in church buildings and plans for a new building were started immediately. The new building was built of stone quarried in the local area. The contract to build the college was given to Mr. Germandt of Concrete who lived on the McCoy Creek north of the town.

The buildings of Concrete College were in three divisions. The largest known as Covey College, was the regular college building. The dimensions of this building were about 150 feet by 40 feet with partitions dividing the class rooms. This building had an ell which contained the large dining room and kitchen. Near at hand was a girl's dormitory and at the opposite end of the main building the boy's dormitory and a frame building for primary students and servants quarters. On the campus, in addition to the buildings mentioned, were several homes and a building for the Commercial School. Back of the College was a playground area for various athletics and outdoor games. The girls played apart from the boys and sat in separate sections in the same classes. Tom Stell described the college thus: "The college was made of rock with a log foundation. The floors were made of split logs with the surface hewed smooth. The interior walls were plastered white which gave ample light. The college was located on a slight hill which afforded good drainage. The lawn was Bermuda grass with cedar trees and roses here and there to add to its beauty. As a whole the campus was beautiful and well kept."

Concrete College had primary, intermediate, and college departments. This was necessary to prepare and furnish students for the college. After the college had been in operation for a few years it would only accept students over twelve years of age.

Some of the subjects taught were Latin, oratory, German, French, Spanish, music, math plus history, English, and science. There was a special department of Business and Penmanship. Banking, bookkeeping, business arithmetic, political economy, penmanship, business correspondence, and commercial law were some of the courses taught. Many early successful business men of Texas received their early training in Concrete College. Two students, W.H. Crain and Rudolph Kleberg, were later United States congressmen.

An interesting educational idea was developed. Students were graded according to ability and expected to produce accordingly. If they failed to do what was expected, they were demoted to the grade below. It was also customary to recognize merit by passing superior students to classes above. At commencement time, a Board of Visitors consisting of twelve members conducted the public examinations of the proposed graduate students. These men were from different communities and were educated people.

Certainly an important item in connection with operating a college was the matter of tuition. Though the college received some support from the Baptist denomination, it was not

controlled by the church and student tuition and local aid was necessary.

A flat fee of $100.00 would pay for a student's instruction and board if he furnished his bed and linens for 5 months. In those days $200.00 for a ten month term of school required sacrifice on the part of many parents. Often students would attend the term they were not needed at home. Also many were day students and there were separate fees for them, also for musical instruction, languages, and needlework.

The college was very strict — all firearms or deadly weapons must be left at home or deposited with the college president. Games of chance, smoking, profane language, use of liquor could mean expulsion. Boarders at the college got up at five and dressed by ten minutes past five. Everyone then attended chapel until six thirty. After chapel students attended class until breakfast. At night everyone was to be in bed by 9 PM. Visits to town were limited to once a month and this was a short time on Saturday morning. Attending church services were the only opportunity to leave the campus. No matter how many rules were made it would be difficult to believe that the students of the 1870's were so different from those of today. The students found ways to have a good time no matter how severe the punishment might be. Many of the students did not come from highly cultured or stern families, and several boys were known to be expelled for having wild parties in their rooms.

Dr. Covey did endeavor to keep everyone very busy with studies, exercise and other activities, so that did help with maintaining discipline. His belief in coeducation was unusual at that time; however, he stated the belief that young people learned better in a coed environment.

The college enrollment reached its height in 1875 with 250 students out of which 100 were boarders. It was probably one of the largest boarding schools at that time in Texas. By 1880 the student body had dwindled so low that the following year the college closed. Several factors brought about its close — the rise of the public school and the fact that the railroad did not come through Concrete. Also, another reason for the decline of the college was an epidemic of measles followed by pneumonia and flu which occurred two successive years causing deaths among some of the students. This frightened the public as a whole and caused people to keep their children at home.

There is nothing left of the college today except the foundation outlines of some of the buildings. The Concrete cemetery nearby is a silent sentinel and the only reminder of a one time busy campus area.

by Rosemary B. Sheppard

COUNTY LINE SCHOOL, CHURCH AND CEMETERY

T47

In the early 1860's, when the tools of rural carpenters were limited, a little log school house, patterned after the other log dwellings, wooden windows, shutters and puncheon floors included, was built about four hundred yards from where the cemetery now stands, on

County Line School

land belonging to Dr. J. Dickinson. Dr. Dickinson's wife, Mrs. Caroline Dickinson lived to witness the many changes in that district, living to be 107.

In this house some of the present day citizens, grandparents and parents attended their first school. Among them were Mrs. Charles Powers, Mrs. Taylor Woodrome, Miss Jennie Nelson, later Mrs. J. Hargrove was the first teacher. Professor Younkin, well known practitioner of Yoakum rode horseback daily from Hope to County Line to teach. Other teachers were Jeffries, Covey, and Edgar.

In the 1870's a school house was built of lumber. Rev. Wade Hollan, a Baptist minister, one of the pioneer landowners, sold this tract to J.B. Cook and C.W. Cook. C.W. Cook donated the land for the building to be used for both church and school. The patrons of the school were Dickinson, Hollan, Stephenson, Rush, Barnes, Bradley, Powers, McDonald, Simpson, McManus, Yarborough and Woodrome. Trustees were C.W. Cook, W.H. Hollan and J.E. Autry.

That was the era when, may we quote, "Reading, writing and Arithmetic were taught to the tune of a hickory stick" by conscientious instructors, who literally observed the injunction, "spare the rod and spoil then child." However, the practice was considerably modified in time and the County Line School, beginning in the little log house. The knowledge implanted by this method proved a stepping stone from which many treked on in life to become useful men and women.

In 1877 J.B. Cook deeded to the church, one-half acre of land for a burial ground. In 1902 the school was moved to the Woodman's Hall. Miss Katie Powers and Mr. S. Hopkins were the teachers and the trustees were H. Koehler, P.E. Edgar, and James McCoy. The old building was moved to a location between Terryville and Stratton, and was used as a place of worship.

The school trustees reserved three acres of the land for the cemetery and sold the rest to C.H. Stephens. Also, a Cemetery Association was organized with W.C. Steineman, C.E. Powers, and S. Hopkins as trustees. The late Charley Stephens was the first caretaker, followed by S. Manning and then J. Rehak. The first grave was dug by Uriah Mott, Buck Hollan, Sam Leaton, John Alexander and Bill Cook and Sam Manning.

CROSSENVILLE

T48

Crossenville School

The first store established in the area, on the Abednego Biddy Survey, was built by George W. Crossen in 1858. George Crossen came to a small settlement where the J.M. Alexander family were living in about 1850. The settlement was named for Mr. Crossen. His family included his sister, Mrs. Jeffreys, a widow with two children.

By 1859 there was a log schoolhouse with Bill Edgar as teacher. Mr. Edgar rode horseback eight miles from his home in Edgar to teach the Crossenville school. In 1880 the log building was replaced with a frame building. Other teachers were Loretta Reynolds and Birdie Jennings. In 1925 the Crossenville School was consolidated with the Stratton School three miles to the southeast.

Other families from this area were the Adams, Bowen, Rice, Coldman Parker, Buch, Fudge, Kirkland, Matthews, Morrow, Means, Woods, and Newman.

The famous "Elm Street Meetings" conducted by Joe "Bud" Newman were held at the Joseph Austin Newman home in Crossenville. Every July the Primitive Baptist would gather to hear the preaching from 1926 to 1935.

The Alexander Cemetery is the only reminder of the people who once lived at nearby Crossenville.

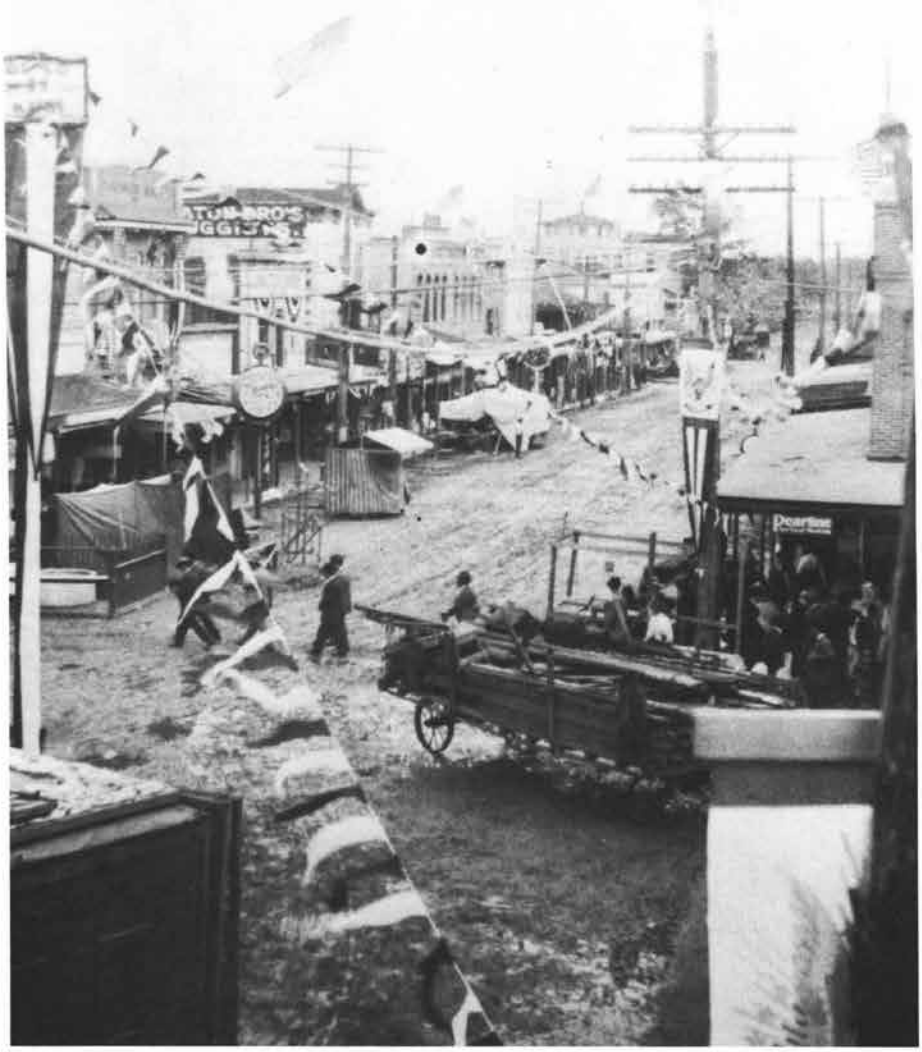
by Sibyl Northcutt

CUERO

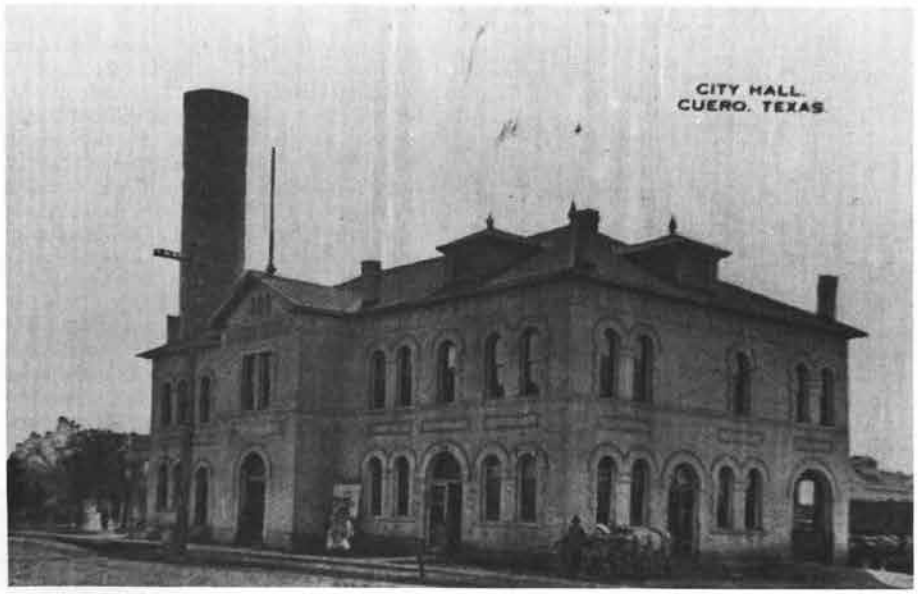
T49

The City of Cuero is situated in the J. Antonio Valdez y Gonzales League, one of eleven leagues of land granted to Father Valdez by the State of Coahuila y Texas on July 5, 1831. The League had a number of owners before J.O. Wheeler, of Victoria, purchased it in 1860. In 1870 the land was vacant except for occasional herds of cattle grazing across it. Across the River lay Clinton, the thriving county seat.

In New York, New Orleans, and Galveston, however, great plans were afoot for the development of this otherwise empty Guadalupe River valley. Before the Civil War, Mr. Charles Morgan, of New York City, had established his supremacy in the shipping industry of the



Getting ready for Turkey Trot



1903 City Hall

Honorable Rudolph Kleberg, first editor of the *Cuero Weekly Star.*

Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Howerton, passengers on first train from Indianola to Cuero.

western Gulf of Mexico, meeting and defeating the challenge presented him by Commodore Vanderbilt, and establishing a virtual monopoly of transportation in the Texas Gulf region with his regular schedule of passenger steamers from New Orleans to Galveston to Indianola and return. Morgan's shops made Indianola the principal port of entry for traffic destined for San Antonio, northern Mexico and the forts of the western frontier. In the great expansion of industry and commerce which followed the Civil War, new competitors to Morgan sprang up and commenced building railroads southward toward San Antonio, from the north and east, presenting a serious threat to Morgan's dominance of the western traffic. Accordingly, in May, 1870, Morgan announced the formation of the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railway Company and his intention to build a railroad westward from Indianola to San Antonio with a projected extension to Austin.

Mohawk Hall — American Legion

On December 25, 1871, Col. Gustav Schleicher, John C. French, Charles Terrell, and Fletcher Stockdale formed the Cuero Land and Immigration Company, a state chartered private corporation. Col. Schleicher was an engineer and surveyor who laid out the route of the G.W.T.&P. Ry. He later served as a United States Congressman. John C. French was a San Antonio businessman. Charles Terrell was a colonel, later general, in the United States Army. He was prominently connected with real estate development in San Antonio. Fletcher Stockdale was an Indianola lawyer, a member of the Board of Directors of the G.W.T.&P., and a former Lieutenant Governor of Texas. On February 8, 1872, Col. Schleicher, in behalf of the Company, paid the J.O. Wheeler Estate $10,0320.00 in gold for 4,128 acres of the Valdez League. A few days later, on February 13, 1872, Col. Schleicher conveyed legal title to the property to the Cuero Land and Immigration Company. That company, as an inducement to the Railroad to bring its tracks to Cuero, conveyed 100 acres of its land to Morgan's new G.W.T.&P. Ry.

1913 Turkey Trot marching east on West Main Street

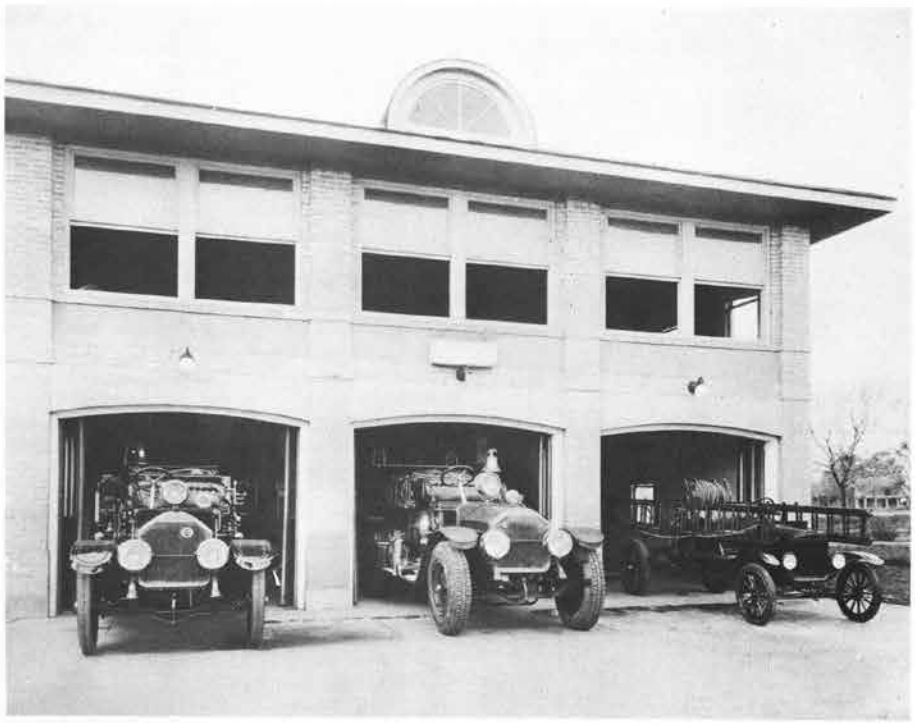
Five months behind schedule the first passenger train arrived from Indianola at the new Cuero station on March 4, 1873. Among the passengers on that first train were Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Howerton and their two children, Jim and Lelia. Before the week was over most of the Cuero Land and Immigration Company's lots in downtown Cuero had been sold. Nicholas Fuchs bought the lot where the old post office now stands; Qualls & Kent bought the site on Esplanade where the Texas Hotel was built; C.C. Howerton bought the lot at Main and Esplanade where Breeden Bros. store (now Klecka Drug) was later built; Tom Womack purchased the property where the Warn Building, later Bates (now Wagner) Hardware, would be built. It was April before H. Runge & Company, pioneer Indianola and Cuero banking and merchandising firm, bought the lots at Main and Gonzales where it built its bank, grocery store, and hardware store. Others who bought Cuero real estate within the first few months after the Railroad reached Cuero include Frederick Buschick, G. Schleicher, Eleanor T. Schleicher, S.W. White, Mary Hausmann, William Hausmann, Henry Seligson, B.E. McCullough, Robert P. Carr, B.S. Milligan, Robert Wulfinch, August Hyck, William Hasdorff, Hugo Schindler, Rudolph Kleberg, Gideon Egg, Thomas Ball, Wm. Trautwein, R. Fromme, Lizzie Fromme, L.C. Fudge, J.C. Houston and Brothers, J.R. Nagel, Julius Bade, Wm. Gohmert, H. Nitsche, J.E. Mitchell & Co., and E. Seider, who purchased the lot where the Seider Hotel was erected. For a few years the extension of the railroad westward to San Antonio remained uncompleted and Cuero prospered as the temporary western terminus of the railroad. All goods and passengers from Western Texas bound for the east through Indianola had first to board the train in Cuero and all goods and passengers from eastern ports destined for Western Texas had to disembark in Cuero and proceed further west by stage coach or freight wagon. It was during the middle years of the decade (1875-1876), after Cuero supplanted Clinton as County Seat, that such familiar names as S.C. Lackey, John T. Wofford, L. Seligson, J.C. Woodworth, H.J. Huck & Co., W. Westhoff & Co., J.C. Heaton and Bros., Wm. Frobese, Otto Staerker, Ed Koenig, Otto Buchel, Mrs. Mary Breeden, and J.M. Reuss first appear as owners of Cuero lots. Many businesses based in Indianola established branches in Cuero which eventually became larger and more profitable than their home offices.

The Railroad subdivided its 100 acres into "Morgantown" in honor of Charles Morgan, its founder and principal owner. Morgan Avenue was the principal thoroughfare through the addition. Sale of lots in Morgantown also commenced as soon as the first train arrived from Indianola. Although there were many busi-

Turkey Trot going north on Esplanade — Cuero

nesses in Morgantown, it developed principally as the first residential area of the new town. During the first week after the train arrived the Railroad sold lots in Morgantown to N.E. Green, J.M. Austin, J.T. Kilgore, Wm. Sutherland, Alex Hamilton, C.M. Sherman, Wm. Westhoff. Later in the year D.K. Woodward, Adeline Brown, and N. Chaddock acquired lots in Morgantown. In the middle years of the decade Morgantown lots were sold to R.M. Forbes, Henry Keller, J.M. Reuss, F. Flick, J.F. Hamm, J.W. Lienhardt, Ms. Johanna Marshall, Wm. Mangold, Stephen Minot, Henry Doell, Pauline Kunitz, Fred Schmidt.

In 1876 the Cuero Land & Immigration Company added to its Cuero town site a subdivision called "Centennial Town Addition" in honor of the centennial of American Independence. It was designed as a residential area for the black population, with streets named Douglas (for Frederick Douglas, the famous abolitionist), Toussaint L'Ouverture (for the black liberator of Haiti), Grant, and Lincoln. Early purchasers of lots in Centennial Town included Sam Smith, Peter Anderson, J.D. Asbury, Fannie Paschal, Susan and Elliott Green, Laura Blackwell, Fred Sweeney, Docia Canfield. In 1891 Professor E.A. Daule, for many years principal of the black public school, bought a lot in Centennial Town.



Early Fire Station — Cuero

In the summer of 1873 the *Cuero Weekly Star*, edited by Rudolph Kleberg, later Congressman from this District, went into publication. Twenty-two years later the *Cuero Weekly Sun* could boast that Cuero supported six newspapers, one in German and five in English.

In September of that first year Professor D.W. Nash opened the first session of his Academy which was the first and was to be the most renowned of Cuero's schools. On May 22, 1877, Emil Reiffert conveyed a lot on South Line Street to Hugo Buschick, Edward Mugge, William Frobese, and Charles Kleinecke, Trustees of the English-German School Association of Cuero, and the school was located on that lot. St. Michael's Parochial School was founded in 1877 and the Sisters conducted classed in a building behind the Church. Today St. Michael's School has been in operation longer than any other educational institution in DeWitt County. On July 18, 1893, Sarah R. French conveyed Block 112 to Henry F. Hill, Mayor of Cuero, and his successors in office in Trust for the sole use of the public free school in the City of Cuero. The large brick school house with bell tower which was erected on this site was named John C. French School in honor of Mrs. French's deceased husband, one of the original members of Cuero Land & Immigration Company.

On April 23, 1873, little more than a month after the first train arrived and the first lots were sold in Cuero, the Legislature adopted an Act to Incorporate the Town of Cuero, providing for election of a Mayor, Recorder, Marshal and five Aldermen. The first election took place on the first Monday in June, 1873. In November, 1875, Cuero Land & Immigration Company conveyed twelve acres to the City for the establishment of Hillside Cemetery. A hotly contested County-wide election in 1876 resulted in the removal of the County Seat from Clinton to Cuero. In 1894 the frame courthouse burned down and in March, 1895, the cornerstone of the present Courthouse was laid. In 1898 the Buchel Power & Irrigation Company completed the Cuero Dam, 120 feet long with a 21 foot crest, and electric lights were introduced to Cuero. After the Austin dam was destroyed in a flood in 1901, the Buchel Dam was for a time the largest dam in Texas. In 1903 the citizens of Cuero passed a bond issue to pay for a new two-story brick city hall which was erected at the southeast corner of the Main and Gonzales Street intersection. In 1954 the second story was removed and the City Hall substantially remodeled. In 1927 the first natural gas distribution system was laid in Cuero and for the first time the City enjoyed gas heat.

On September 15, 1875, the first of two destructive hurricanes struck the flourishing port city of Indianola. Some 175 lives and thousands of dollars in property were lost. The people of Cuero contributed $500.00 to the relief of their mother city. A great exodus from Indianola occurred at this time, many of the inhabitants moving the remains of their homes and businesses to Cuero via the G.W.T.&P. Ry.

1989 Cuero scene Esplanade and Church Street

On August 19 and 20, 1886, a second great hurricane struck Cuero itself with considerable force, damaging stores, churches, and homes in the new town, but obliterating what remained of Indianola. The winds and tides broke up the railroad wharves which extended a mile into the bay and used the massive timbers as battering rams against the frame buildings of Indianola. A fire resulting from a falling lamp completed the destruction. The survivors of Indianola then left their homes for the last time enroute to Cuero and other inland points on the railroad. As a result of this influx coupled with the continuing prosperity of the city, the population of Cuero almost doubled from 1,333 in 1880 to 2,442 in 1890.

During the first three decades of the twentieth century Cuero's growth and prosperity continued as a manufacturing and distribution center as well as a market town for a prosperous agricultural economy. Although the city lost population between 1900 and 1910, its growth resumed in the years from 1910 to 1930. Cotton was the dominant crop in DeWitt County and Cuero boasted five gins, a cotton compress, cotton oil mill, cotton textile mill, and several cotton merchants. Cotton picking time was the time of greatest business activity and prosperity in the city. It was customary for merchants to carry their customers from one cotton harvest to the next with settlements being made when each cotton crop was picked and sold.

Although turkey raising was not a major industry, virtually every farm family raised turkeys for sale in the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets. Because motorized trucks were still far in the future the farmers customarily drove their flocks on foot into Cuero to market. Flocks from more distant areas were joined by flocks closer to town and by the time they approached the City thousands of the Thanksgiving birds might be seen marching into town. A "drummer" staying at the Multi Hotel observed this sight with great interest and suggested that the march of turkeys would be an interesting tourist attraction. Mr. Jim Howerton, publisher of the *Cuero Record*, took up this suggestion and promoted a civic festival centering around this parade of turkeys. The "Turkey Trot" was a popular dance of the day and was adopted as the name of the festival. The first Turkey Trot was held in 1912, followed by celebrations at irregular intervals culminating in the Cuero Centennial Turkey Trot of 1972. The celebrations achieved national attention and attracted crowds of spectators from throughout the state and elsewhere. The elaborate parades were accompanied by spectacular pageants in which a local business man and a popular young lady were crowned as "Sultan Yekrut" and Susltana Oreuc". Although virtually no turkeys are now raised in DeWitt County, the Cuero Turkey Fest has been a popular local celebration since 1973.

When the United States entered the Great War in April, 1917, Cuero responded with a wave of genuine patriotism. The Cuero Machine Gun Company was mustered into service as part of the 36th Division. Many Cuero boys lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe. The ladies at home wrapped thousands of bandages for the American Red Cross.

The 1920's were prosperous ones in Cuero. A new John C. French School and a new High School were built. Many local churches built new sanctuaries or auditoriums or remodeled existing ones. A c stock broker established a local office with stock ticker to make it easier for local customers to invest in the booming stock market. But this prosperity came to a crashing end with the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930's. The fact of depression was brought home to the people of Cuero when H. Runge & Co., the oldest bank in Texas, closed its doors in 1932. J.T. Newman was elected Mayor of Cuero in 1934 on a platform of utilizing federal aid to combat the effects of depression. Under his leadership and with the aid of the W.P.A, P.W.A., and other federal relief programs, the Cuero Municipal Park with clubhouse, lake, swimming pool, golf course, and baseball diamond was built; the NYA facilities were put in place; the electric distribution system was acquired by the City; a new sewer plant was constructed; a storm sewer system was installed. As American entry into the Second World War drew near, Cuero became the site of Brayton Field, a civilian contract flying school. As Cuero became immerse in the war effort its population increased and it enjoyed probably its period of greatest prosperity.

Many distinguished statesmen have lived in Cuero. Although Cuero has never much exceeded 7,000 in population it has been the home of four United States Congressmen: Gustav Schleicher, William Henry Crain, Rudolph Kleberg, and John J. Bell. It became the home of Fletcher S. Stockdale who had served in 1863-1866 as Lt. Governor of Texas and had acted briefly as Governor after Gov. Murrah

Early Cuero Street Scene — Looking south on Esplanade from Main Street

First Turkey Trot 1912 marching west on East Main Street

Turkey Trot 1930's East Main Street — Cuero

Looking East on Main Street — Cuero

fled to Mexico upon the fall of the Confederacy. Cuero's A.B. Davidson served as Lt. Governor of Texas from 1906 to 1912.

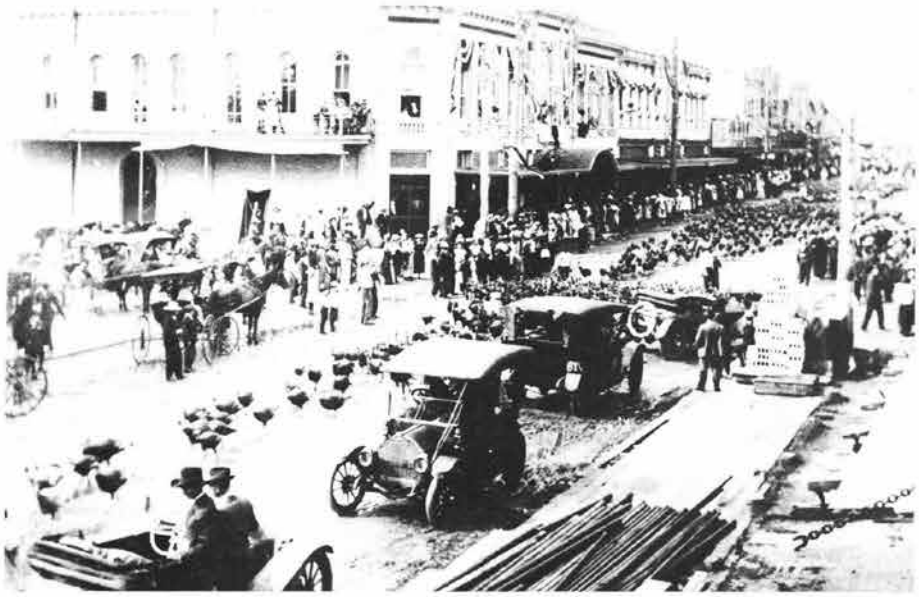
by Frank B. Sheppard

WHAT IT CONTAINED.

A Number of Valuable Articles Deposited.

List of articles deposited in corner stone of court house at Cuero, Texas and by whom given:

$500 confederate bill, John Ross; constitution, by laws and a list of names of members of the M. P. H. Co., B. Schiwetz, Secretary; holy bible, R. H. Barnes; information, H. E. Dahlmann; Deutsche Rundschau, Wm. T. Eichholz; badge, Germania Association; $20 confederate bill, Louis Keller; silver dime, Annie Laura Strauss; Cuero Bulletin, Lizzie C. Kyle; Mexican coin, Carrie Kilgore; names of articles, contractors, superintendent and foreman on March 19, 1895, Paul Helwig, sup't of con'ts; doctrinial memoranda, H. V. Phibpot D. D., geneology of J. T. Wofford and family; business record of H. Runge & Co. and J. M. Reuss; branch of the tree under which the first legislature of Texas met, F. S. Coffin; copy of Cuero DAILY RECORD and copy of DeWitt county WEEKLY RECORD, Cuero Publishing Co.; two copies of Cuero Star, A. S. Crisp; Houston Sunday Post, John McRell; list of district and county officers, G. P. Box; copy of Cuero Bulletin and $10 confederate bill, B. L. Hausman.



1913 Turkey Trot marching east on East Main Street

Looking north on Esplanade — Cuero

CUERO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

T50

1925 Cuero High School Team – Back Row: J.W. Ross, Bill Nami, Dick Meyer, Charlie Ott, Bert Mauer, Rufus Smith, Coach Evans. Middle Row: Milton Froelich, Ocie Arnold, L. Badough, Bill Gillette, Bully Bell, August Kleinecke, Harry Morre, Lawrence Laster. Front Row: Maurice Boehl, Jack Edgar, Bernie Arnold, Frank Burns, W.K. Laster, Cutter Dietze, Joe Bentley, Burns McAlister, Edwin Engbrock.

Graduating Class of Cuero High School, 1918. Back Row: Walter Gohmert, Graham Hamilton, Howard Greeen, Oscar Friar, Sam Cotton. Middle Row: Sally Graves, Peggy White, Norman McAlister, Minnie —, Grace Lewis, Adelaide Garrett. Front Row: Irma Schwab, Billie Shimer, Elizabeth Schiewetz, —.

John C. French School

Black Cuero School — Daule

1912 Cuero High School

Historical Facts

The first public school in DeWitt County, as recorded in Volume E, Page 373, of the minutes of the Commissioners Court of DeWitt County, was established May 27, 1884. At that time there were 336 white children and 326 colored children living in the area. On August 12, 1884,

Nash Academy – Teacher Prof. Nash – Back Row: 1. May Wallace 2. Dromgoole 3. — 4. Jenny Nash 5. Lou Wofford 6. Josie Demoss 7. Ruth. Middle Row: 1. John Alexander 2. Clyde Wofford 3. Wm. Drawe 4. Early Benbow 5. Ben Alexander 6. C.H. Edgar 7. Taylor Kemp. Front Row: 1. Robert Albrecht 2. E. Stephens 3. Chancey Wofford 4. King Stevens 5. Robert Stell 6. Robert Nash 7. Walter White 8., Vivian Nash 9. Bennet Wofford 10. Ray Dixon. 1880's.

the first Board of Trustees was elected. Its members were Mr. V. Weldon, Mr. E. Mugge, and Mr. W.H. Graham. The State paid $5.60 per capita that year.

The Texas State Historical Association in "The Handbook of Texas" states that in 1892 there was a public school in Cuero with Mr. Thomas A. Colston as Superintendent.

The Cuero Independent School District was created by the Texas Legislature on August 31, 1911. Governor O.B. Colquitt signed the legislation creating the new district.

20 year class reunion of the class of 1959. Back Row: Manuel Longoria, David Warzecha, Robert Birchum, Tommy Watson, Dickie Barber, Charles Striedel, Robby Coppedge, Shelton Albrecht. Next Row: Glenn Dromgoole, Sandra (Aschen) Kasper, Rose (Morganroth) Drost, Judy (Moore) Brumbly, Patsy (Morrow), Mary Margaret (Heyer) Rieger, Marjorie (Miller) Lassman, Ann (Smith) Marshall, Doris (Hahn). Third Row: Tommy Kennedy, Bill Miller, Nelda (Sinast) Schulle, Peggy (Taylor) Hood, June (Holster) Benton, Dee (Blackwell) Sager, Mary Gayle (Weber), Sally Lewis. Front Row: Homer Smith, Robert DeLeon, Anna (Kueker) Jon Whiteman, Susan (Snapp), Patsy (Krueger) Goebel, Bobby Goebel, and Louis Layton.

West End School — Cuero

The School Board met Wednesday, September 6, 1911, to reorganize under the new state law governing schools. The new law gave the local School Board the right to govern school affairs and permitted separation from the City Council. At the meeting a petition was presented calling for an election to be held in October. Attorney H.W. Wallace was present to explain the new law and to point out to the opposition that it was now the law of the land and that their arguments were useless. On September 7, the Cuero Record, in an editorial, defended the law and asked that the objectors forget their complaints and give the new law their fullest support. To quote the writer, "Our District is favored above the average new district in that we have men of experience — successful men of affairs — at the steering wheel." On October 10, 1911 an election authorizing the school district to be operated by its own school board passed by a vote of 200 to 29.

On April 16, 1912, the Cuero Independent School District School Board met to plan for a bond election to be held on the following day. Present at the meeting were Mr. Sterling F. Grimes, Mr. Frank Hutchings, Mr. Berthold Schiwetz, Mr. Henry Nagel, Mr. C.H. Burghard, and Dr. W.R. Gillette. On April 17, 1912, a bond issue for $30,000. was approved by a vote of 203 to 80 to build a school. This building was used from the time of completion through the 1971-72 school year. An editorial in the Cuero Record stated, "Opposition put up a game fight, but with the thought of the children before them, those in favor of the bond issue charged to victory."

On May 5, 1912, Professor A.S. Bush of San Marcos Baptist Academy was elected Superintendent. During the month of May, 1912, several committee meetings were held to decide on the location of the site of the new building. $5,000,00 was raised to purchase the site because it was ruled that it was illegal to spend bond money for sites. Lawyer H.W. Wallace ruled that local maintenance money of around $3,000.00 could also be spent for a site. The committee was composed of Dr. J.W. Burns, Chairman, H.W. Nagel, J.C. Howerton, H.W. Wallace, C.T. Schwab, and H.A. Mugge. Judge Sterling F. Grimes was also mentioned in connection with the committee's action. The building was finally located on a block of land purchased from Mrs. Helen Reiffert, who obtained it from Mrs. Cora R. Nash (Deed recorded Vol. 71, P. 81-82, June 8, 1912).

In 1928 the people of Cuero approved a $125,000.00 bond issue to build a high school and the first John C. French Elementary School. The red brick high school is no longer being utilized by the school district and the first John C. French building was torn down and replaced by the present John C. French building. Members of the school board in 1928 were as follows: Dr. J.C. Dodds — President;

Miss Nora Fudge's class 1890's John C French. Front Row: L-R 1. Irvin K. 2. George Dietze 3. — Evers 4. Will Farnsworth 5. Theo Reuss 6. David Gorman 7. John Henry 8. Fritz Schorre 9. — Wallis 10. James Darby 11. Joseph Reuss 12. John Wetheral. Middle Row: 1. Lucy Jaeger 2. Alice Rohre 3. Roselie Budge 4. Jessie Sumners 5. Louise Bowen 6. Gladys Schwab 7. Eugenia Lanaster 8. Ethel Dahme 9. Carrie Franke 10. Gussie Wiegand 11. Mary Escamilla. Back Row: 1. Lillian Chaddock 2. Gertrude Islieb 3. Edna Lancaster 4. Nora Fudge 5. Nellie Bennet 6. Birdie — 7. Alma Wallis 8. Ethel Logan 9. — Gohmert.

Mr. Paul Breeden — Secretary; Mr. A.S. Reed; Dr. J.H. Pridgen; Mr. Fassett Sheppard; Mr. E.A. Tully; and Mr. E.A. Davidson, Jr.

In 1938 a bond issue for $17,000.00 was approved to build the school gymnasium that is located across the street from Hunt Elementary School. Bond issues in 1946 ($110,000), 1948 ($125,000), and 1950 ($125,000) provided bunds to build the Daule School, Oak View Primary School, and to make improvements to all existing facilities.

In 1956, $700,000.00 in bond funds were made available to build a new high school on Park Heights Drive. In 1965 the citizens of Cuero approved $650,000.00 in bond funds to construct a 20 classroom air-conditioned facility on the Hunt campus and a 12 classroom air-conditioned facility on the John C. French campus. The 1965 bond issue also provided funds for the construction of a vocational building at the high school.

In 1972 a bond issue for $1,400,000.00 was approved to build an air-conditioned junior high school, an 8 air-conditioned classroom addition at Hunt, a 4 air-conditioned classroom addition at John C. French, an 8 air-conditioned classroom addition at Cuero High School, and an air-conditioned band hall at the high school.

Although there has not been a need for bond money since 1972, facility improvement has remained a priority in the school district. Several major projects have been completed in recent years (1985-89) that have not only improved facilities but have also enhanced the instructional offerings of the school district. Historically speaking, the Cuero community has always supported the facility needs and the instructional needs of the school district.

The following is a list of superintendents who have been employed by the Cuero Independent School District: M.V. Peterson 1911-12; A.S. Bush 1912-13; J.W. Ross 1923-26; J.H. Head 1926-27; S.M. Melton 1927-36; O.A. Zimmerman 1936 — January 1, 1948; E.B. Morrison January 1, 1948-1957; Dr. L.S. Richardson 1957-58; Thad McDonnell 1958-1961; John W. Barnes 1961-1963; Marvin Kirkman 1963-1967; Joe Ward 1967 — November 30, 1968; Dr. E.E. Sims February 1, 1969-1979; Harry Holder 1979-1983; Dr. John Wilson 1983-1985; Derrith Welch 1985-.

by Lamar Fly

1959 Cuero High School

"School Days" — Hoping to Bring Back a Memory —

After the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railroad reached Cuero in the year 1873, the village prospered and the people became concerned about the education of their children. Even though there were private schools in Cuero, the people felt that the opportunity to attend a free, public school would not only increase opportunities for their children, but give Cuero a mark of importance. There were no public funds available, but as interest in creating a public school increased, a tax bond was passed in 1893 and construction on the long awaited John C. French School began.

The school was built on land given by Mrs. Sarah French. When completed, the school was one of the finest structures in South Texas. Grades 1-10 all attended school in the same building, with the younger students on the first floor and the older students on the upper floor.

The first graduating class was in 1896. It consisted of only four people. There were Mamie Kate Henry, Luella McConnell, Annie Thomas, and Brink Peavy. Around this time a public school for the black citizens of Cuero was established. Daule School was constructed near the area of West Morgan Avenue with all grades attending.

The Cuero Independent School District was created by House Bill 39 on August 31, 1911. Some citizens fought against the establishment of C.I.S.D., but it was the law and their arguments were useless. On April 17, 1912, a bond issue of $30,000.00 to be used for a new school building was passed. A local attorney ruled that $3,000 of local money could be spent for a site for this new, larger, more modern building. During this time, there was a controversy over a site for the building, but finally a block of land was purchased from Mrs. Helen Reiffert. The first Cuero Independent School District High School, built about 1912, was a three story, tan brick building which was torn

1906 Graduation Class: Back Row: Leroy Hamilton, Adolph Dickerson, John Willis Wallis, August Wagner. Front Row: Edith Feuss, Ollie Stratton, Lucille Crouch, Bessie Adkinson, Bessie Philpot, Kate Hart.

down in 1980. One of the early high school principals of this school, later became the famed author, college professor, and historian — Walter Prescott Webb.

In 1927 more space was needed and another bond issue was passed to build another high school and elementary building. The new High School was constructed across the street from the tan building on land purchased from Mr. T.A. Reuss, Sr. In the same year, 1928, and out of the same red bricks, a second John C. French was built.

The years passed, and in the late 1940's another school for the black citizens was needed. Mr. Willis Barfield, at that time owner of the Cuero Livestock Auction, gave the Cuero Independent School District a large tract of land at the West end of Cuero on which to build the second Daule School. The last big building project C.I.S.D. embarked on was the construction of the present High School in 1959, at a cost of $700,000.00.

The C.I.S.D. has continued to upgrade its school plant by the construction of a modern Junior High, Hunt Elementary, and John C. French. The John C. French School presented an unusual problem when the C.I.S.D. was offered a nice price for its site on Highway 87 for commercial property. The district had other land available that was not on a busy highway. However, upon having their lawyer examine the deed for the land, they learned that if the time came when the property was not to be used for a school, it would revert to the French heirs — needless to say John C. French remained on the same location.

Cuero Schools have produced people with a wide spectrum of occupations and abilities. A majority of these people can look back to some teacher, friend, person, or event during their school years that had a profound effect on their later lives.

by Kim Duren

Nash School — Cuero — Back Row: 1. Chauncey Wofford, 4. John Wofford, Middle Row: 1. Lila Warn, 2. Tillie Kleberg. 3. Jenny Nash, 4. Ollie Stell, 5. Jane Dahlman, 6. Vivian Nash. Front Row: 1. FAnny Graves, 2. Alice Thornhill. 3. Hilda Reiffert, 4. Erna Buchel, 5. Alfreda Dahlman, 6. Jenny Breeden, 7. Maggie Smith. Teacher — Miss Mary Teas.

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1923 John C. French School. Back Row: 1. — 2. — 3. Annie Marie Nickel 4. Thelma — 5. Alton Wachendorf 6. John Arthur Burns 7. — Scott 8. Dorothy Brown McCurdy. Middle Row: 1. Dorothy Jean Bohne 2. — 3. — 4. Sarah Frances Reese 5. Mildred Dunn 6. Miss Clara Bow 7. Lottie Mae Henecke 8. Anna Pliskel 9. Susan Hamilton 10. Margie Schroeder 11. —. Front Row: 1. Joe Wayne Milligan 2. — 3. Charlie Bill Calhoun 4. Homer Lee Harryman 5. Caraway 6. Clarence —.

HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SINCE 1887

T51

As soon as the Catholics of Cuero were organized as a parish with a church (St. Michael's) and resident pastor, Frank Manci, plans were made to open a school. The school was supported by state money. Records indicate the number of students ranged between 40 and 85 each year. In the late 1800', not only did the Sisters teach school, they conducted a private informary, called the Salome, which had been opened sometime earlier by Dr. Joe Reuss, in the upstairs portion of the school, and was operated until a hospital was built on Factory Hill.

In 1908, all grades were taught by Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio. The school continued to be operated behind the church, with many of the students being boarded with the Sisters in their home above the school.

Second School — 1909

On July 23, 1909, the school was moved to the home on the property known as "The Old Baker Home."

In 1912, the Baker Home School was moved to Lot 3 in Block 16 where the school continued in operation during the building of the first permanent school for the parish. According to Sister Eucharia, who taught at St. Michael's in 1915, "There were normally five Sisters assigned to Cuero; three to teach in the grades, a music teacher, and a Sister who did the housekeeping. Degrees in music were awarded by St. Michael's School, as well as high school certificates. German was also taught at St. Michael's in these days."

First Permanent School — 1912

Under the direction of Rev. G.J. Hendricks in 1912, the first permanent two-story frame school was built for St. Michael's. This school had three classrooms with a wide central hall on ground level, and assembly hall with a stage, and a kitchen area on the second floor. Sister Eugene Courtney of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, remembers the school as "a large empty building with two floors."

They obtained desks for the school by contacting local merchants and by asking for donations from farmers on their way to Cuero.

"Sister Loyola taught the High School students, and she relates her first students at St. Michael's in 1916 to 1917 were: Barney Byrne, Bertha Koenig, Margaret Heyer, Edna Zedler, Roberta Mayne, and Gladys Jecker."

"In those early years," according to Sister Loyola, "the Sisters received $20 a month pay for lower grades, and $23 for High School. Nearly the entire salary was turned in to the Mother House. The Sisters lived on the income from music lessons, for which they charged very little, and the generosity of the parishioners."

In 1927, Gideon Dreyer was the last student to graduate from High School at St. Michael's. He was the only graduate in his class. High school continued being taught from 1927-1929, but there were no graduates. At the end of the 1929 school year, the High School closed, the reason being that it was not accredited. Since that time, grades 1-8 have been taught at St. Michael's.

Sr. Lucilla Donnelly, who is now the present principal at St. Michael's, taught at the school. She remembers the school "as a wooden two-story building that shook when the wind blew." The basic subjects were taught, along with a rhythm band, music, and singing. Each Sister taught more than one grade. Sister Lucilla taught grades 2-3. The Sisters who taught lived in a two-story building where the present school stands now.

She further remembers that school life was at a much slower pace then. She said, "there wasn't such a rush, and not as many outside activities such as meetings."

Second Permanent School — 1955

In 1926, Mrs. Lydia (John) Welch donated Lot 10 in Block 11 to St. Michael's. The money from her will was designated to build the school. The Sisters' convent was moved into the old "Welch Home" in the 40's, where it remained until 1955. Rev. William Jansen directed the building of the St. Michael's School, consisting of four classrooms, with a brick exterior. The school office and library were built in 1955. The Sisters' living quarters were built above the office and library.

St. Michael's School 1950's

St. Michael's Academy

1966-1975

In 1966, Rev. John Flynn made plans to double the size of St. Michael's School. The additions consisted of four classrooms, music room, and a teachers' lounge. The air-conditioning system was also added at this time.

It was anticipated that St. Michael's would have to meet the State standards in a few years in order to qualify for the State Accreditation. It was announced that all the schools in the Archdiocese would receive blanket accreditation.

During the years 1964-1970, Sister Emilie Eilers was principal and set out to perfect the school for the Accreditation Team. A separate building from the school was built to serve as a science lab. Reading and science laboratories were added. Visual aid equipment was utilized. A pre-planned number of books and research materials were added each year until it met State standards.

1975-1989

In 1953, Mrs. Hedwig Lucas became the first lay teacher. Since 1975 there have been 38 different sisters stationed at St. Michael's. There have been seven different principals. In 1984, Mr. Robbie Kirk became the first lay principal.

"Finding teachers is not a problem of St. Michael's School. St. Michael's School pays well for a private school," says Father Herbst.

St. Michael's School 1912

St. Michael's School needs money to operate and depends on the support of its parishioners. The largest single contributor was from the Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Zengerle estate. Father Herbst also established an Endowment Fund for St. Michael's School which has grown rapidly.

St. Michael's has always kept tuition costs down. There have been only two small increases since 1975.

The St. Michael's School sports program has grown throughout the years. When Coach Marie (Clarke) Rangnow began teaching twelve years ago, the S.M.S. track meet was in its twelfth year. Coach Rangnow has continued the track meet for a total of 23 years. She and Mary Kay Solo have started volleyball tournaments, which have occurred for three years. They have had baseball tournaments for the past three years.

St. Michael's is a small school compared to other schools, but in most events they have prevailed. The coaches have always encouraged their students to do their very best. St. Michael's School was especially proud of the sportsmanship trophies won in the baseball tournaments in 1989.

In the 1988-89 school year, two new programs were started at St. Michael's School. "Sparkle" was the name of a new "fun"tastic learning experience. "Students participate in a significant learning experience once a week that combines fun with challenging activities to promote a higher level of thinking skills," explained Mrs. Jean Nagel, second grade teacher.

The second new program, called "Just Say No," makes students aware of drugs and how to say "no" to them.

In 1989 St. Michael's School was visited by an accreditation team. The school was commended for its excellence.

In 1989 St. Michael's was staffed by two sisters, one being the principal, Sr. Lucilla Donnelly, and the other, Sr. Celine Pisklik. St. Michael's teachers are Cynthia Spanihel, Nancy Hajovsky, Jean Nagel, Carol Beer, Donna Beach, Laurie Pokluda, Mary Kay Solo, Marie Rangnow, Ruth Lampley, Gertrude Reese, and Kathy Sager. The current enrollment is 125 students from Kindergarten through eighth grade. St. Michael's accepts students of all races and religions.

St. Michael's 1988-1989 PTC officers were Peggy Bullard, Susan Halepeska, Mary Alice Klaus, and Terri Bradene. The School Board members were Richard Carbonara, Dot Hoffman, Arthur Bowers, Annette Rath, Darryl Stefka, Veronica Zimmerman. Ex Officio members were Msgr. Herbst, Sr. Lucilla, and Peggy Bullard.

According to Mrs. Pauline Kacir, "St. Michael's students, because their early formative years are spent in this positive, wholesome environment found in our school, are the hope and future of our parish."

by Shannon Bullard,
Brian Gomez and
Courtney Kacir

Rosenberg & Ray

House Painters
And Paper Hangers

Owners of the Celebrated Nealite Roof Paint. Leave orders at J. M. Reuss Sons' Drug Store, Main street, Cuero, Texas.

1929 St. Michael's School Class

THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

T52

The Cuero Assembly of God Church observes it's sixty-second anniversary this year, 1989, having been organized in 1927 and affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, headquartered in Springfield, Missouri.

At the turn of the century, the Pentecostal revival swept across the continent, including Canada and Mexico. Those adherents of the Pentecostal movement in this area began meeting in homes, and sponsoring tent meetings. Soon the need was evident that there must be some organization and governance.

In 1914, a delegation of three hundred (300) Pentecostal ministers and lay leaders from a wide area of the country met in Hot Springs, Arkansas and the name "Assemblies of God" was chosen for the new Pentecostal fellowship.

The group in Cuero had depended largely upon itinerant ministers to come by and conduct services. Among those ministers was a Rev. Rube Johnson, who was already ordained by the General Council. He conducted a successful tent revival and many more of those embracing the Pentecostal faith, were added to the local group.

Rev. Johnson remained in Cuero for about a year and led the group into a building project.

1943 Assembly of God Church

Julia Scott, Herbert Dromgoole and Dovie Kuchler — Assembly of God Church Charter Members

The organization purchased land on West French Street, and within months the small church was completed.

Mr. Jake Wagner, father of Mr. R.L. Wagner of this City, helped to finance the indebtedness that was incurred.

Early in the year of 1927, the congregation of about forty members decided to pursue affiliation with the organization of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Mo. Three men were selected to approach the officials of the Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God. The three men were Mr. Jack Boone, Mr. George Allen, and Mr. Hubert Dromgoole, who is one of the surviving charter members of the congregation.

The Committee contacted Rev. Hale, Presbyter of the San Antonio Section of the Texas District Council, who came to Cuero in March of 1927, and officially received the church into the parent organization.

Rev. Cyril Isom, a graduate of the new Evangel College of Springfield, became the first pastor of the newly organized church.

Twenty eight pastors have served through the next sixty years. In 1936 Rev. Bernice Robison came to serve as pastor. During his tenure with the church, he built the present structure at 313 West Live Oak Street. The rock for the front of the building was donated by Mr. Kos Morgan, and hauled into town from his ranch at Cheapside. Also Mr. O.T. McAlister donated the light fixtures, which are still in use. In 1963 Mrs. E.T. Summers, Sr. donated the air-conditioning and heating unit for the church.

The congregation, in 1950 erected a parsonage at 703 E. Heaton Street, which served as the pastor's home until the purchase of the present parsonage at 601 W. Johnson Street.

Acreage has been purchased on the Yoakum Highway, North of Cuero Community Hospital for construction of a new sanctuary and christian education facilities. The congregation is looking forward to the time when construction can begin.

There are three surviving charter members of the church; Mr. Hubert Dromgoole, Mrs. Julia Scott and Mrs. R.L. Kuchler, who has served as pianist for more than sixty years. Accompanying is a picture of the three in front of the present church, also a picture of the entire Sunday School in 1943.

The present pastor is Rev. David Washburn, who also serves as presbyter of the Yoakum Section of the South Texas District Council.

This data was compiled by Hubert Drom-

goole and wife, Carmen Dromgoole, Dean Wiggins and from information gathered from charter members, church records and long time members of the congregation.

May 30, 1989.

by Carmen Dromgoole

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

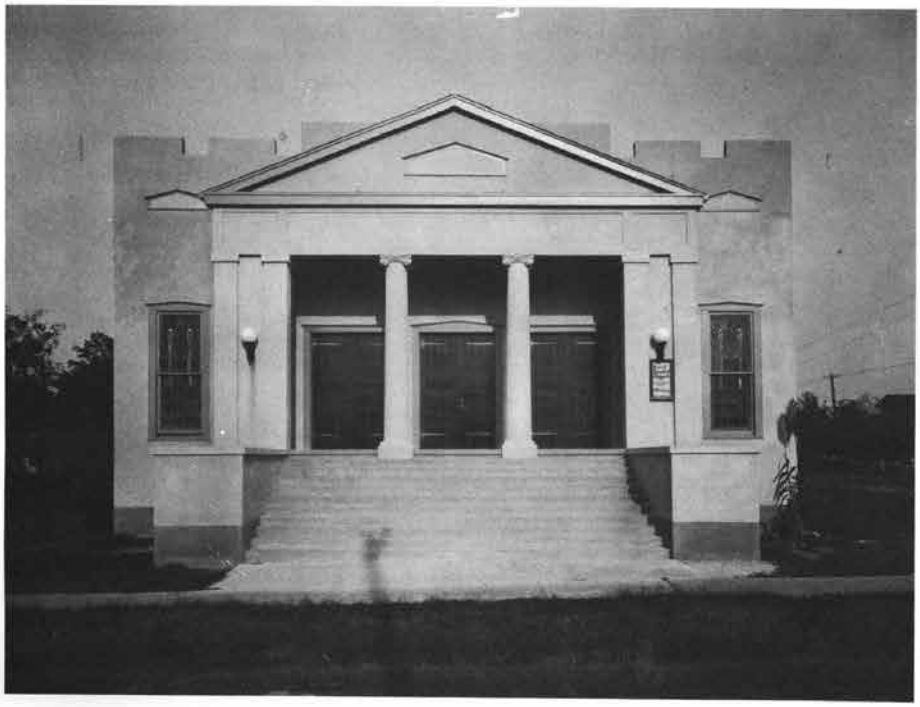
T53

408 N. Gonzales 275-3401

The First Baptist Church of Cuero, Texas, was organized on February 20, 1878, at three in the afternoon, in the Union Church, which was located at 223 Morgan Avenue. Eleven Baptists, members of this Union Church, requested a conference for the purpose of presenting their letters to the Presbytery, in order to organize a Baptist Church.

The Union Church was owned by Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists. The Baptists sold their interest to the Methodists, but continued to worship in this building until they erected their own in or around 1885, on the site of the present Church.

First Baptist Church 1989 Cuero



First Baptist Church 1950's

When the Church was organized, services were held once a month. In 1882, the church with nineteen members listed, was holding services twice a month. Sometime between 1882 and 1909 the Church acquired a parsonage, located at 134 South Valley Street. Early in 1909, this parsonage was sold in order to more centrally locate the pastor. In 1913, the house at 204 East Reuss Blvd. was purchased.

In 1912 the Church was rebuilt. This was the second church. In 1918, the Colorado Association, which had been organized in 1847, met in Cuero for it's Seventy First Anniversary. It was at this meeting that the Association was divided, and the Guadalupe Association was formed.

In 1919, the house at 301 East Prairie was purchased. This was the third parsonage the Church owned. In 1950, this house was demolished and a new house built on the site — serving as the parsonage until 1972, when the property at 509 West Johnson Street was acquired.

The church membership was listed as 253 in 1920. In October of that year the church voted to buy property at the corner of Broadway and Clinton for the site of a new Church. These lots were sold in 1931, because the restriction clause in the deed prevented sale of the present site.

An Annex was built in 1922, because of the pressing need for more Sunday School Class Rooms. The Sunday School enrollment was 190, with an average attendance of 142.

The budget for 1926 revealed the spirit of the Church concerning evangelism and missions. In a total budget of $6,028.00, Revival meetings were designated $500.00, Denominational Programs $1,200.00, and Associational Missions $337.00.

In 1928, the year of the reduced budget, the church voted to begin construction of a new church. The first service was held in this church on July 7, 1929. This was the stucco Church, which was torn down to make way for the present building.

Despite restrictions which the years of the thirties brought, Church Records reveal all of the Organizations remained strong. Missions was never neglected. In 1935, the church helped with the organizations of the Yorktown Baptist Church. The following year, excavation work was begun under the main building for additional Sunday School Class Rooms.

A new organ was installed in July of 1937. Property at the rear of the church, and, facing on Broadway, was purchased from Mr. Poetter in November of 1939. The remainder of the Poetter property was acquired in 1945.

The years of the forties brought rapidly enlarging programs. A Homecoming Celebration, in commemoration of the Church's Sixty-Third Anniversary, was held in February of 1941. Two former pastors returned for this celebration. They were Brethren M.M. Wolf and W.N. Percell. The church membership in October of 1940 was 401 — the average attendance in Sunday School was 159. By the middle forties, the church membership had increased to 663, and the Sunday School average attendance had increased to 350.

Jerusalem Baptist Mission was organized in the early forties, under the leadership of Bro. Refugio Garcia, the Latin American Associational Missionary. The Church adopted this Mission. Their first building for worship was a house on King Street. In 1947, property was purchased at Live Oak and Indianola Street for

the site of their first building. This building was torn down to make way for the new church, which was dedicated on May 2, 1976. Bro. Roland Lopez is the pastor.

Early in 1952, construction was begun on an Educational Building, the site being the property acquired from the Poetter Estate. The church met in regular conference in this new building on October 8, of that year.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for a new sanctuary were held on Sunday, March 29, 1970. Dedication of this building was on Sunday afternoon, December 20, 1970. In May of 1976 the Church called it's first full time Minister of Music and Youth.

Pastors of The First Baptist Church

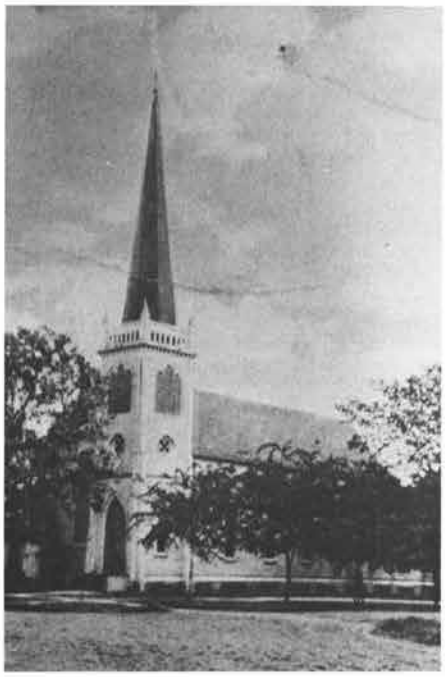
Cuero, Texas

Frank Kiefer, 1878-1878; J.V.E. Covey, 1879-1880; William Howard, 1882-1883; H.M. Rowland, 1884-1887; Marten; G.H.M. Wilson, 1888-1891; S.B. McJunkin, 1892-1892; C.C. Green, 1893-1893; S.B. Callaway, 1895-1898; Hutchison, 1898-1899; M.M. Wolf, 1900-1904; C.A. Earle, 1904-1905; C.R. Lee, 1906-1906; J.W. Israel, 1906-1908; H.J. Matthews, 1908-1908; G.W. Sherman, 1909-1909; J.W. Israel, 1910-1911; W.A. Freeman, 1911-1913; J.W. Israel, 1914-1916; Theo Heisig, 1917-1918; D.B. Allen, 1919-1921; W.N. Percell, 1921-1924; A.H. Clark, 1924-1930; J. Ernest Young, 1930-1933; T.A. Gray, 1934-1934; M.R. Soileau, 1934-1941; Ben M. David, 1941-1949; N.A. Sanders, 1950-1968; Bob L. Hairston, 1969-1985; Michael J. Shillings, 1986 —.

by Mrs. Coot Coppedge

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

T54



Grace Episcopal Church

On March 4, 1873, the first passenger and mail train pulled into the town of Cuero. Among its passengers were Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Howerton and family, who were the first Episcopalians to settle here, being members of Grace Church in Lavaca. By July of that year, he recruited the help of Mr. T.C. Smith (Presbyterian), Mr. J.T. Wade (Campbellite), and a Mr. Auston (Methodist), and had organized the first community Sunday School. In the autumn of that year came Louis Selligson and family from Lavaca and the Otto Buchels.

In December, 1873 Cuero had grown to 250 persons. On New Year's Day, 1874, the R.M. Forbes family moved into town from Lavaca; this made seven members of the Episcopal Church living within the town. These people were the seed from which sprung Grace Episcopal Church, Cuero.

In March of 1874, The Rt. Rev. Alexander Gregg, Bishop of Texas, arrived in Cuero to hold services and to preach what was probably the first sermon ever heard in the town of 600 people. McColloch Hall, now extinct, was the scene of this service, and was located across the tracks from the old Railroad Depot. As a result of this service and a meeting which was held in the Walter K. Breeden home, the idea was born to built a Church in the town. Mr. Howerton and Mrs. Forbes met with Mr. R.J. Evans, President of Gulf, West Texas, and Pacific Railroad and discussed the possibility of moving the old Episcopal Church from Lavaca to Cuero. Apparently Mr. Evans thought very kindly of the idea; not only did he agree to transport the Church and all the furnishings, but do it free of charge!

However, there was a cost involved in tearing down and rebuilding the Church. To this end, Mrs. Forbes with the assistance of several other ladies, gave a benefit supper, at which they raised the sum of $60.00. Col. Schleicher himself made a most generous gift of a plot of land for the new building, and now all that remained was to raise more money. The community was canvassed and came up with numerous gifts and donations from individuals and business firms.

In July, 1874, a contract was signed with the company of McIntosh & Clark of Lavaca to take down and move the Church from that town to Cuero, "with bell and furnishings, and to enlarge the Church, to add a chancel, put in a new front of dressed plank and a gothic door for the sum of $375.00. The move was accomplished in July, which was quite a remarkable feat in itself, not only was transportation slow at that time, but July is a pretty hot month to do any heavy labor in this part of Texas. The heat and humidity can be quite overpowering. Added to the difficulties faced by these people was not only the heat, but the fact that one of the flatcar wheels on the train broke, spilling the load and necessitating immediate repairs. For a cost of $17.50, billed to the then non-existent Grace Church, Cuero, the wheel was replaced, and

Grace Episcopal Church 1800's

Grace Episcopal Church Diamond Jubilee Pageant 1949 — Robert Craze, Carver Richards, Marilyn Richards, Emily Ferguson, Gaye Kokernot, Dee Blackwell, Nancy Hesse and Bill Blackwell.

the work went on. Success crowned the efforts of these people, and by September, 1874, Grace Church, Lavaca, had become Grace Church, Cuero, the total cost, including the new wheel, was $392.50. The Church and property, along with the $112.50 debt, were turned over to Mr. Howerton; the Episcopal congregation at this time numbered 35 communicants, namely: Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Howerton, Mrs. R.M. Forbes and two daughters (Mrs. Alice Townsend and Miss Jennette Forbes), all of Cuero; Dr. and Mrs. T.S. Burk, of Concrete; Mr. (later Judge) Henry Clay Pleasants, Mrs. Pleasants, and daughter; Abb Webb, and Mrs. Jennie McCormick, all of Clinton; Mrs. (Dr.) J.A. Wimbush, Mrs. F.L. Lynch, and Mrs. Montgomery Blackwell, of DeWitt County.

Continuing with excerpts taken from Mr. C.C. Howerton's journal: "As this building was the only house of worship in the town, the Union Sunday School, which had been organized in 1873 . . . was invited to occupy the building. The invitation was accepted." "Now up to this time, Mr. Howerton having entire control of the church property and affairs, notified the members of the Church, and all who contributed to it, to meet at the Church for the purpose of electing a vestry. The following gentlemen were elected as vestrymen: Dr. T.S. Burk, H. Clay Pleasants, Abb Webb, F.B. Wimbush, and C.C. Howerton. The newly elected vestry in turn elected Henry Clay Pleasants as senior warden, and C.C. Howerton as junior warden as treasurer, and F.B. Wimbush, Secretary. The unanimous voice of the vestry was to invite any christian church which believed the Apostles' Creed to worship in our Church. This has been the voice of the vestry ever since."

Grace Church was now an integral part of the town of Cuero, which by now numbered close to 750 persons. The Church building was there, on its own lot (behind which is now Means Furniture Store) and like many a Church before and since, this parish started its existence in debt. This debt, remarkably enough, was entirely cleared in less than a year; again it was "the ladies" who did the lion's share of the work, turning the town gay and giddy with ice cream socials, entertainments, dinners, and the like, until the entire sum of $112.50 had been raised. Spearheading these efforts was the Ladies' Aid Society, the first parish organization, which was formed in October of 1874 "to uphold the hand of the vestry and Priest in all parish matters." The year 1875 saw quite a few "firsts" for the little parish. The first debt was cleared in June; in the fall of that year, the first organ, costing $225.00 was bought, installed, and paid for by the Ladies Aid Society. Included among the many donations was a gift of $10.00 from the Hon. F.S. Stockdale, Governor of the State of Texas also $50.00 was contributed by Mr. Charles Morgan of New York, President of Gulf, West Texas and Pacific Railroad. Mrs. Friend was the first Church organist (1873-1876). Another "first," just as important as the others, came in January, when the Rt. Rev. R.W.B. Elliott, first missionary Bishop of the new district of Western Texas, made his first Episccpal visitation to the little Church, and officiated at the first confirmation ever witnessed here. In this first confirmation class were three persons. This was also the first "formal" service in the little Church presided over by a clergyman. The first marriage in the Church, Mr. Tom Smith to Mrs. Josie Brown (both Presbyterians) took place in the fall of 1874. First marriage performed in the Church by an Episcopal rector, The Rev. F.R. Starr, was to Mr. Otto Staerker and Miss Margaret Forbes, March 7, 1877.

In March, 1877, Bishop Elliott appointed The Rev. Francis R. Starr as first missionary Priest in Cuero; his ministry was to last until June 1883, when he resigned and accepted a call to Waco, Texas. Since the parish records for this period have been lost, it is impossible to gauge the effectiveness of his pastoral ministry. Upon his departure, the communicant strength of Grace Church stood at 38 persons, while the Sunday School (still the only one in town) numbered 80 students on its rolls. Mr. Starr's tenure did see quite a bit of material improvement in the parish, however. We read from Mr. C.C. Howerton's journal again.

"In 1878 Bishop Elliott promised if the Church was ceiled he would put in a round art glass chancel window. The ladies again went to work and made the sum needed: $275.00, and appointed a committee of gentlemen who had the Church ceiled. In August, 1879, the Bishop had the chancel window shipped. The Rev. F.R. Starr had it put in place." During this year Mrs. Montgomery Blackwell presented to the Church a lovely walnut lectern, handsomely carved and lettered, together with a large Bible and some altar cloths. The first infant baptized in the Church was Miss Addie Smith daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Smith.

The Rev. F.R. Starr was succeeded at Grace Church in October of 1883 by The Rev. C.E. Cabiness, who remained until December, 1885. Under his pastorate, 24 names were added to the rolls of baptized members, and the communicant strength grew by 21 persons. During his tenure in Cuero, the parish witnessed two more "firsts." Early in 1885, the convocation of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the missionary district of Western Texas (forerunner to Diocesan Convention) assembled at Grace Church, with The Rt. Rev. R.W.B. Elliott presiding. It was the first time this little parish had been no honored; and it was to be so honored once more, this time in 1895. Later this same year, The Rev. A.W. Borroughs, assigned to Trinity Church, Victoria, was ordained to the Priesthood at Grace Church; this was the first such service ever witnessed in Cuero.

"First young girl's society named *The Gleaners* composed of girls in and out of the Church who had the Church painted on the outside, Miss Annie Blackwell being the leader in this work" (Bishop Elliott's Diary). The first bell was given by Mr. Frank Bates and Mr. Frank Hutchings.

The Rev. J.B. Fitzpatrick held his first service in Grace Church, having succeeded Rev. Cabiness. During Rev. Fitzpatrick's term as rector, seven persons were baptized. The number of communicants at that time is not known, due to a gap in the parish records; however it is estimated that he left a congregation of 50 to 60 persons.

The following year, 1888 The Rev. George Hinson, a former Methodist minister, was ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church by The Rt. Rev. James Steptoo Johnston. Mr. Hinson served Grace Church for about two years. The town was rapidly growing and as the city stretched its youthful legs, so also the Parish grew. There were those who dreamed of something larger as their place of worship; there were those who talked of a more churchly structure. So it was, in 1889 during Rev. Hinson's rectorship that the present Church building was erected on the corner of Esplanade and Live Oak Streets, where it remains to this day. The building was Gothic in style, with white clapboards and a cedar shingled roof on the outside, the inside, adorned by three handsome stained glass chancel windows, was of dark walnut. Cost of the Church was $375.00. all of the interior wood was imported from New Orleans, La., and carefully tongued and grooved for the walls and cathedral ceiling. The baptismal font was moved from the original Church and is still in use today. The Church has remained substantially unchanged to the present. As the Church was built, the Ladies' Aid Society undertook the task of converting the first little Church that had been moved from Grace Church in Port Lavaca to Cuero into a rectory, in which capacity it served until 1961. It was sold by the Church in 1963, and now serves as a private residence. The first baptized in the new Church was Corrine Staerker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Staerker in 1890 by The Rev. Hinson. First memorial windows were given in memory of Miss Kate Seligson, Mr. Ed Menifee, and Miss Minnie Chapman.

The Rev. Hudson Stuck succeeded The Rev. George Hinson in the year 1892. During The Rev. Stuck's tenure, several memorial gifts were presented to the Church. Among these are the brass altar cross given by the first Altar Society. This cross still graces the altar in the church today. In the same year, a new communion Chalice was presented to the Church and this cup is still used at all services, a gift from the entire congregation, this silver cup was made by smelting down many small baby cups, pieces of jewelry, and some silver plate, then moulded into the cup. A jeweled ring, the engagement ring of Mrs. Carey McNelly, wife of Captain McNelly (a Texas Ranger) adorns the top of the stem; the jewels that ring the bottom of the cup and stem were at one time jewelry pieces worn by members of the congregation. Also in use today are the brass missal, a pair of brass candlesticks, altar vases, and a large prayerbook.

The Rev. Austen F. Morgan succeeded The Rev. Stuck in 1895 and stayed until June 1897.

The Rev. Alfred W.S. Garden succeeded The Rev. Morgan in 1898 and stayed until 1903. During his tenure the first Altar was given to Grace Church by Mr. and Mrs. Otto Buchel in memory of their little girl, Norma. Also the first brass processional cross was given and presented by the Altar Guild, first brass and wood candelighter and snuffer presented by "Lad and Lasses Society". First vested choir was organized by The Rev. Garden with 19 members and sang on Easter Sunday April 12, 1903.

Later rectors of Grace Church were: The Rev. F.R. Godolphin, May 1903 — Nov. 1904; Rev. John M. Hamilton, Nov. 1904 — April 1907; Rev. Upton B. Bowden, Sept. 1907-1917; Rev. A.J. Gayner Bank, May 1918 — July 1920; Rev. G.W. Smith, Oct. 1920 — June 1924; Rev. W.W. Reese, Jan. 1925 — Jan. 1926.

Next came The Rev. Everett H. Jones, July 1927 — March 1930. The Rev. Mr. Jones served Cuero and Yoakum until March of 1930 when he accepted a call to St. Paul's Church in Waco. The parish experienced an additional pride in 1943 when The Rev. Mr. Jones who had been ordained to the Priesthood in Grace Church was consecrated the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas.

The next minister to serve Grace Church was The Rev. W.A. Allan, April 1930-1936.

Until 1936, Grace Church didn't have a parish hall in which extra activities could be held. Vestry meetings were usually held in private homes. On March 21, 1936, Bishop Capers acting as administrator to the estate of Mrs. Emma Proctor presented to the vestry a resolution that a parish hall be erected in her memory. The resolution was adopted and the present Proctor Hall now serves the parish and community.

Next came The Rev. Allen Day, July 1937 — August 1939; The Rev. Jay Scott Budlong, Sept. 1940 — March 1946.

The Rev. F. Randall Williams Jan. 1947 — May 1951. During his tenure 2 lots were purchased northwest of the present Church building. Also an historical Diamond Jubilee Pageant was held to celebrate the 75 years of the Church's history. An historical pageant was presented by the children of the Parish, none of whom were over ten years of age. The pageant consisted of tableaux which had to do with the organization and establishment of Grace Church as well as scenes in which the first baptism, wedding, and confirmation were depicted.

Next came The Rev. John W. Herman, Sept. 1951 — Nov. 1954; The Rev. James C. Soutar, Feb. 1955 — Jan. 1957; The Rev. John H. Battles, April 1957 — July 1962.

The Andrew R. Krumbhaar, Sept. 1962 — Jan. 1966. During his tenure the educational building in back of Proctor Hall was added in October of 1963. The Rev. Paul Abbott served June 1966 — Aug. 1972. During this time the first stained glass memorial window, within 50 years, was given in memory of Paul Hamilton Breeden by his children in 1971. The second memorial window and celestial windows were also added.

The Rev. Clayton Holland May 1973 — July 1975; The Rev. John McRae Beebe, Jan. 1976 — Nov. 1980. During his tenure the George Phillips family of Houston gave the Church their home in Cuero to be used as a rectory, this house was originally the William Frobese home. Frobese came to Indianola from Germany and in time built this home. After the 1875 hurricane in Indianola Frobese dismantled the house, numbered every part and brought it to Cuero by ox-cart and rebuilt it.

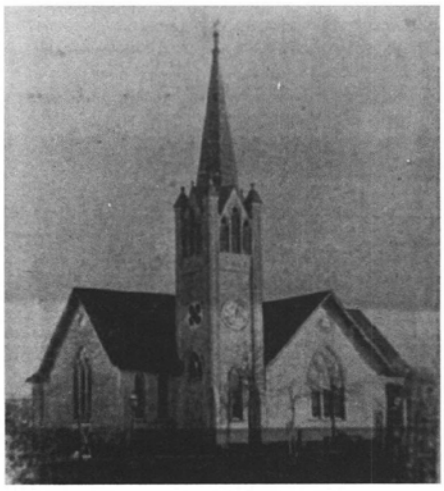
Next came The Rev. Neil Fraser Innes, a very popular minister who brought in many new people and reactivated numerous to the congregation. During his tenure The Grace Episcopal Day School was opened and has proven to be very popular and successful. "Father Scotty" as his parishioners called him served Grace Church June 1981 — Aug. 1984.

The Rev. George Patterson Connell, Father Pat to his parishioners served Sept. 1984 — May 21, 1989. During his tenure much was accomplished at Grace Church — a copper steeple was given by contributions in 1986, the sesquicentennial tour of homes and historical sites were held and Grace Church was on this tour, Proctor Hall was renovated and a garden area added complete with fountain, a new sidewalk, Church sign, and a paved landscaped site in front of the Church were given by contributions. Memorial plaques have been given and some still remain to be given, also the library has been refurbished along with the bathrooms. He brought in many young families with children necessitating a nursery for Sunday services.

The present congregation numbers close to 200 communicants. The vestry is still the governing body of the Church and is made up of 10 to 12 members of the congregation. The Altar Guild consists of 25 women of the Church, who are on teams and set up the Church Altar every Sunday and for special services. The Choir consists of 8 members and an Organist. The Layreaders are responsible for helping with the service and read the lessons — 10 men and women serve on this. Acolytes are scheduled to help with the services and these are made up of 12 boys and girls aged 8 and up. Ushers number 12. An adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:45 AM and the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopalian children meet every Sunday for combined Sunday School classes. Services are held every Sunday at 8:00 and 11:00 AM, also a Wednesday service is held at 10:00 AM.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CUERO

T55



Methodist Church 1880's

The first preaching by an appointed Methodist minister in DeWitt County is credited to Reverend Joseph P. Snead who was assigned as a missionary to Texas by the Mississippi Annual Conference in 1840. He organized churches in Victoria, Port Lavaca, Gonzales, and Seguin, and held services at Concrete in 1841. The Concrete Methodist church was later established in 1847. In 1866 Concrete and all DeWitt County became a part of West Texas Conference (formerly Rio Grand Conference). The Cuero First Methodist Church was established on February 12, 1876 by trustees M.B. Rankin, Samuel Myers, Stephen Minot, John McCullough, and J.M. Austin with eight charter members. Reverend W.H.H. Biggs, while serving the Victoria Methodist Church, apparently laid the groundwork for a Methodist Church in Cuero.

West Texas Conference Journal of 1876, 1878 show appointments of J.W. Brown, J.F. Cook, and J.W. Vest to the Concrete Circuit. Cuero lists them as pastors for the same years. This shows that Cuero was part of the Concrete Circuit. 1880-1883 Journals list Cuero and Victoria as a charge, and in 1884 the appointment was listed as "Cuero Mission", J.H. Dibrell as pastor. In 1887 Cuero became the District Headquarters. In 1928 the District was moved to Yoakum.

The first place of worship owned by The Cuero Methodist Episcopal Church South was located at 407 East Morgan Avenue. The building and property were sold to the German Methodist Church in 1888. The present church site at 301 East Courthouse was bought in 1885, and the building was erected in 1886 while G.B. Shaw was pastor. That building is the upper story of the present sanctuary which is shaped in the form of a cross with beautiful Gothic windows of lead framed art glass. Minutes of the West Texas Conference of 1886 state that the Conference Session was held in the "beautiful new audience chambers" of The First Methodist Church of Cuero.

In May of 1901 property which is now 208 Hunt Street was bought by the trustees. This was used as the parsonage until 1911. In 1908 electricity was installed in the church, but coal-burning stoves were still used for heating and three ceiling fans for cooling.

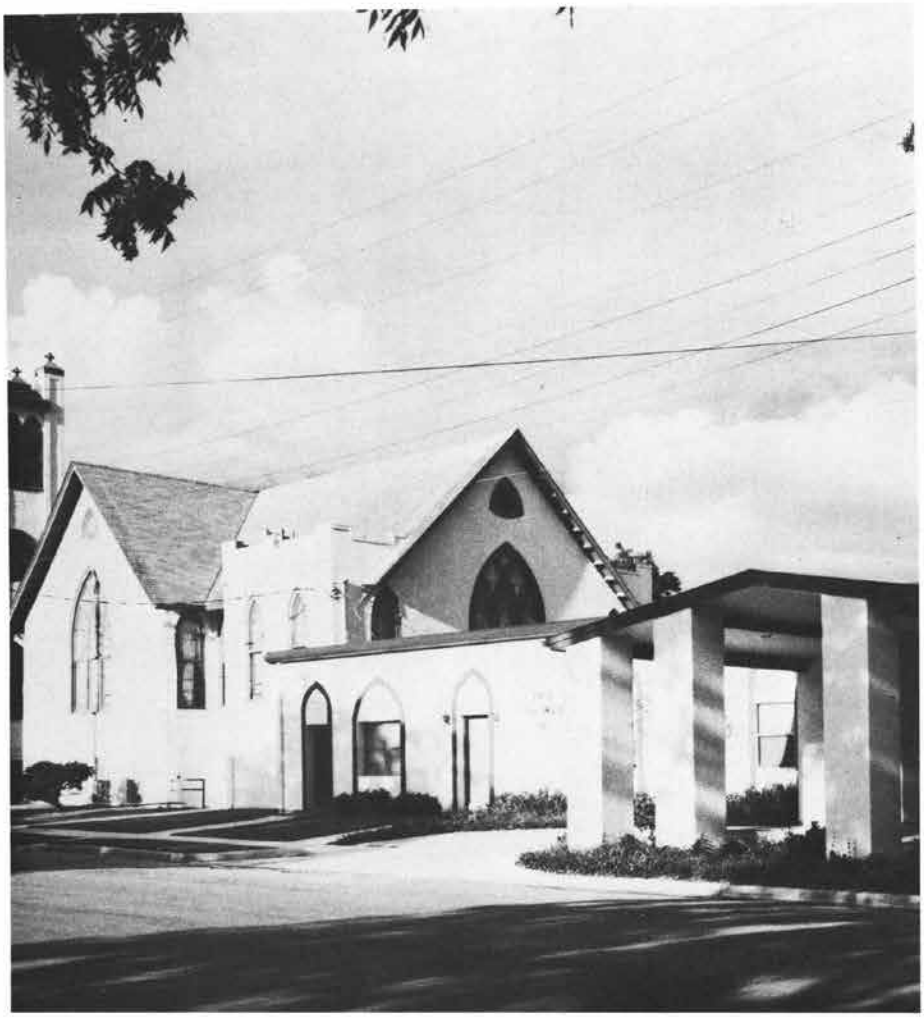
In 1910 the site of the present parsonage on Clinton Street was bequeathed to the church by Marietta Smith. The house was sold and moved to 515 East Reuss Blvd., and a new two-story frame parsonage was built in 1913. The parsonage was valued at $5,000 and the Church building at $7,000. Mrs. C.G. Smith became the first woman in 1922 elected to the official board as a steward. Reverend T.N. Barton was pastor. Just prior to 1922, Miss Edith Fuess had gone out as a foreign missionary of the church.

In 1929, when J.W. Black was pastor, the entire church building was raised and a basement was constructed underneath the building. The tall spire was removed, and a tall tower was built at the northeast corner with lower towers added at the other corners. In the basement were rooms for Sunday School classes, a kitchen, and two rest rooms. The exterior was stuccoed. The $15,000 debt for these repairs was not paid off until May 3, 1943 because of the effects of the depression. On April 20, 1929 a pipe organ was bought for $5,500. That debt was paid off in 1936. In 1933 the Reverend Wood H. Patrick, pastor from 1930 to 1933, made these remarks; "We are ending the best of three years here — a year trying in the extreme. Finances worry us but we have raised $70. more than last year. The use of weekly envelopes is to be stressed. Choir is improved, Sunday School is well organized, workers interested and prepared, attendance is not up the last years. Thirty members have left town with a net decrease of twenty. Debts embarrass us."

During Reverend T.K. Anderson's ministry in Cuero (1938-1942) the church membership began to grow. Cuero had a primary flying school to train pilots for World War II, and a number of young students and instructors attended church. In 1941 Cuero was put in the Corpus Christi District, where it is today. A Methodist Men's Class, started during Anderson's ministry, attracted 30 to 40 men.

In 1946, during the ministry of Ewart Watts, the church was refurnished and redecorated. New pews and new pulpit furniture were added. Much of the furniture was given as memorials to the boys who lost their lives in World War II: Willard Green, Harold Green, Kenneth Thigpen, John Burns Edgar, Sam Lane, Jr., and Richard Bednors.

The Educational Building was built in 1953



First United Methodist Church and Faith Fellowship Hall

when Reverend A.C. Peterson was pastor. Sunday School attendance averaged 80 and jumped to 120 the year it was completed. The value of the property at this time was $73,000. Additional property was purchased in 1955 — the property south of the church known as the Annie Speed property. The church was equipped with central heat and air-conditioning in 1957. At this time a Miss Alice Halt was reported in premedical school preparing for work as a medical missionary, and James Miller was in a school of theology in Nashville.

In 1958, due to deterioration of supporting timbers of the upper floor, architects advised that the church building not be used until properly repaired. Services were held in Freund Chapel and in the Presbyterian Church. Trustees finally contracted with architects in Austin to make the necessary repairs to the church building and guarantee its safety.

In 1959 plans were adopted to build a new brick veneer parsonage for $21,577, using material from the old two-story frame parsonage. $5,800 of the debt was satisfied by the sale of a home willed to the church by Mrs. E.M. Wallace. The balance of this bank loan was paid by April 4, 1967.

Out of the General Conference Meeting in Dallas in April 1968 came The United Brethren and The Methodist Church merger — The United Methodist Church. During the late 60's and early 70's Cuero followed the national trend in a lowering of Sunday School and Church attendance. A Lay Witness Mission in 1972 stimulated the spiritual life of the church to a greater extent than any event in recent years.

In 1974, the Reverend and Mrs. Allen G. Roe were sent to Cuero. In 1976 when the church celebrated its 100th birthday, improvements had been made on the church, parsonage, and other property. The Sunday School Classes (adult, children, and youth) were going well, and one of the largest confirmation classes in many years had been received into the church on Christian Education Sunday, September 28, 1975.

Four days during March of 1976 were used to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Cuero United Methodist Church. On Sunday, March 14, 1976, at 11:00 A.M., the Reverend Ewart Watts was guest preacher. Special music was given by the choir. Pictures, deeds, and old wills were on display in the basement and a history booklet was available. On Tuesday, March 16, 1976, there was a musical celebration followed by a covered dish supper. On Thursday, March 18, 1976, a story night was held. Stories were put on tape and made available through the church library. On Sunday, March 21, 1976 at 11:00 A.M. Bishop Eugene O. Slater rededicated the church building and reconfirmed membership vows. At 1:00 P.M. recognition was given to members who had held 50 years or more membership in the Methodist Church.

During Reverend Roy Wold's pastorate (1978-1981), all church property was vastly improved. The parsonage was renovated. The interior of the sanctuary was completely repainted and the floors were revarnished. New red carpets were installed and new light fixtures were added. The pews were upholstered and padded in the same red color of the carpet. The interior of the basement was redone, and partitions were removed to make one large fellowship hall. All walls were paneled, ceilings refinished, and floors carpeted. An electric lift was installed on the east side of the church. The priceless stained glass windows were covered with clear impact plastic. On the west end of the Educational Building facing Clinton Street, a modern kitchen, a pastor's study, a secretarial office, a store room, and two rest rooms were built in 1981. In 1981, a historical marker was placed on the north side of the church by Texas Historical Commission.

During the pastorate of Reverend Robert Allen (1981-1985), a fellowship hall was built adjoining the 1981 addition with the kitchen opening through sliding doors into the new hall. Since the hall was built on faith that the cash would be there to pay for it when completed (and it was), the name Faith Fellowship Hall was adopted. On March 25, 1984, it was dedicated by Bishop Ernest Dixon. In 1982 an 8:30 worship service was started. During this period of time the United Methodist Men were rechartered after being disbanded in the 1960's.

During Reverend Kent Kinard's pastorate (1985-1990), the Educational Building was repainted inside and out, a complete new air-conditioning and heating system was installed in the church, and new furniture was placed in the parsonage. In 1987, property at 209 East Morgan was bequeathed to the church by Mrs. Julia Adcock. This house is now used to house the CAMAL Center (Cuero Area Ministerial Alliance). This program helps in areas of groceries, utilities, and lodging, for those in need in the community. In September, 1986 the Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building itself with a "Sweet Memory" Sunday. Video tapes made by church members on this occasion are in the Church Library. A Calling and Caring Ministry began in 1988 and is still active.

The Cuero United Methodist Church has grown from 8 members in 1876 to over 325 members in 1989. It has been served by 50 pastors during that time. The 1902-1903 records list three active organizations working in the church: The Woman's Home Missionary Society, The Sunday School, and The Epworth League. In 1989, active organizations include: Youth Groups — Junior and Senior EMPS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Cooperative Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, Choirs — Chancel and Bell, Council on Ministries, and Calling and Caring Ministry.

A complete history of this church was published in 1976 to celebrate 100 years of church history. This booklet was compiled from records and from a history written by Myron Bass, long time historian.

Local Railroad Time Card.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

Arrives.....2:25 p. m. | Leaves..... 9 a.m.

ARANSAS PASS.

GOING EAST.		GOING WEST.	
Arrives.....	2:50 p.m.	Arrives.....	4:45 p.m.
Leaves.....	2:50 p.m.	Leaves.....	4:45 p.m.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CUERO, TEXAS

T56

Presbyterians have been in America since before 1625, but the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America was convened in 1789 in Philadelphia.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, a great division occurred on the issue of slavery with the churches in the South taking the name Presbyterian Church of the U.S. and those in the North the name of Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Three other groups — the United Presbyterians, the Reformed Presbyterians and the Cumberland Presbyterians — remained independent.

In 1988, all Presbyterian churches were reunited and from June, 1988 — June, 1989, the United Presbyterian Churches U.S.A. will celebrate their Bi-Centennial.

First Presbyterian Church of Cuero will observe the Bi-Centennial to honor its beginnings and founders and to recognize the advancements made through the years 1849-1989.

On July 8, 1949, Rev. William Blair, a missionary evangelist for this part of DeWitt County, met with neighbors of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Peebles to organize a Presbyterian Church. Because the meeting was held under a large oak tree on the Peebles plantation, the church was called the Live Oak Presbyterian Church. The six members who signed the covenant and elected two elders were Elizabeth Calhoun Smith Barnhill, Miles Squire Bennet, Bathsheba Bennet, Mary C. Trigg Peebles, James Norman Smith, and Elizabeth Morehead Smith. The elders named were J.N. Smith and Miles S. Bennet. Samuel Bennet, the three month old son of the Bennets, was also baptized. This Live Oak Church became one of the first seven charter churches of Presbytery of Western Texas.

Presbyterian Church, 1989.

1916 Presbyterian Church.

In August, 1851, with the location of DeWitt County seat in Clinton, the Live Oak Church moved there and met first in a grove of trees, then in homes, or in the courthouse. On August 26, 1860, Clinton Live Oak Church dedicated its own house of worship.

A second church was chartered in Concrete, September 16, 1855, on the east side of the Guadalupe River. The fifteen members of Concrete Presbyterian Church include Mrs. Lucy Arnold, Mrs. Sarah Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Miles S. Bennet (who now lived nearer Concrete), Samuel Cunningham, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hodge, Dr. Francis J. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. James Priestley, William Priestley, Mrs. P.H. Smith, Mrs. James Wallis, Miss Antoinette Wallis and Louis Weddington. Dr. Hodge and Dr. Lynch were elected elders.

In the spring of 1876, the county seat for DeWitt County was moved from Clinton to Cuero. A Presbyterian Church was organized in Cuero October 13, 1878, with nineteen charter members. They shared a meeting house with the Episcopal members. These charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, Charles Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. Festus F. Farnsworth, Adolph Weisenberg, Dr. W.R. Wallace, Mrs. Virginia F. Smith, Mrs. C.A. Sidall, Miss Adaline Ryan, Miss L.C. Rutherford, Miss Elizabeth Ogsbury, John McGee, R.E. McGee, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Mitchell, Mrs. Nannie Lackey, and Mrs. Annie Hamilton. Dr. Wallace, J.D. Anderson, and Festus Farnsworth were elected elders.

In 1883, Live Oak Church of Clinton, Concrete Presbyterian Church and Cuero Presbyterian Church merged to form First Presbyterian Church of Cuero. The Clinton frame building was dismantled, floated across the River, and rebuilt on the present site. A few years later an "ell" was added for Sunday School rooms.

A storm on August 20, 1886, destroyed the town of Indianola, and on April 2, 1887, members of the Indianola Presbyterian Church were added to that of First Presbyterian in Cuero.

Presbyterian Choir 1950's — Back — Jeanette Stroud, ?, Douglas Miles, Nancy Hesse, Frances Prather, ?, Middle: Mrs. Annie Benton, Janice Benton, Sally Lewis, Lena Lira, "Dubbie" McDougal, Penny Lee Mood, Steve Dunn, Mary A. Kleinecke, ?. Front: ?, Frank Hansen, Linda Pennington, Velores Benton, —, —, —, D'Ette Fly and —.

In 1916, a brick sanctuary was built, debt free, costing $13,529.00. The Ladies Aid Society purchased a pipe organ to replace the hand-pumped organ used in the old frame building. The brick Educational Building was added in 1925.

On June 18, 1939, nineteen members of the Thomaston Presbyterian Church merged with the Cuero congregation.

In 1949, the Education Building was remodeled in time to celebrate the Centennial of First Presbyterian Cuero Church which now numbered 260 members.

In 1960, a brick manse was built across the street from the church. (The street name had been changed from Depot to McLeod, in honor of Dr. Wm. A. McLeod.)

Contracts for a new brick church, to cost about $200,000, were drawn up on April 18, 1969, and groundbreaking ceremonies were held April 27, The congregation moved into its new church on March 8, 1970. The church, with a new pipe organ, was dedicated on March 28, 1971. By December 15, 1974, the building debt was paid in full and the old brick church was moved from the corner.

In 1981, the Fellowship Hall was remodeled to add a nursery, a loft for three Sunday School classrooms, and to improve the acoustics. The memorial windows from the former church buildings were used in the new sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

It was not until 1973 that women were elected as officers in Cuero, First Presbyterian Church. The first elders were Mrs. Virginia Lewis, Mrs. Virginia McCurdy, and Mrs. Anna Schorre. In 1975, two deacons were elected. They were Mrs. Elizabeth Murphree and Mrs. Joyce Ware. In 1983, Mrs. Evelyn Cates was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Thirteen pastors have served First Presbyterian Church from 1883-1989. They are these: William Edward Caldwell (1883-1885), A.H.P. McCurdy (1886-1889), Jeromo P. Robertson (1889-1901), William T. Abrenbeck (1901-1908), J.L. Green (1908-1919), W.A. McLeod (1919-1947), Sam B. Hill (1948-1950), John P. Minter (1950-1954), Marshall W. Doggett, Jr. (1955-1962), Walter C. Guin (1963-1967), C. Rogers McLane (1967-1976), J.W. Ware (1976-1977), Harvey L. Friedel (1978-present).

Our present membership is 179.

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

T57

Lutheran Parsonage

German Lutheran Church

The early records state that "In 1880, Mr. George L. Koch, a leader and a God fearing man", organized the German Lutherans in the small town of Cuero with the purpose of obtaining a pastor. Pastor G. Stricker from Meyersville was sent to organize the "Evangelical Lutheran St. Mark's Gemeinde." This took place in July of 1886. The group adopted a constitution that had been written by Pastor Stricker. A Council was elected. Mr. George Koch, President, Mr. Wm. Gerloff, Secretary, Mrs. George Dietze, Treasurer, Mr. George Marquardt and Mr. J.F. Hamm. In addition to the five elected to serve as the Church Council the other Charter Members were: M. Peschke, Val. Hardt, Theo. Eberhardt, Louise Gohmert, Heinrich Wieland, Adolph Abel, Henrietta Abel, G.C. Letsch, August Dietze, Louis Peschke, Carl Rudolph, Victor Mueller, E. Domann, Friedrich Kastner, W. Bahlmann, Wilhelm Domann, Heinrich Moehlmann, Henrietta Palmie, Marie Friese, Marie Marquardt, August Gohlke, Marie Mader, Pauline Keller, Mrs. Chas. Kleinecke and Mary R. Kleinecke.

Pastor C. Buttermann came as Pastor of St. Mark's on Christmas Day 1886, and was installed on January 23, 1887. Services were then held regularly every Sunday afternoon in the Episcopal Church, and a Sunday School was organized with Mr. C.F. Gerhardt as superintendent, on February 20, 1887. At the first congregational meeting on October 9, 1887, action was taken to buy a lot for a building. Mr. Dietze was authorized to purchase a suitable lot, which resulted in the purchase of a lot on the corner of Esplanade and Live Oak Streets from a Mrs. Maria Hausmann of Meyersville for $375.

Soon after the arrival of Pastor Cornelius Ziesmer in December of 1888, the congregation employed Mr. Charlie Schley, a contractor, to draw up plans for a building. Construction on the new church was begun on May 5, 1889 and the first service was held in it on August 4, 1889. The large bell was purchased by sales of potted plants and flowers by Mrs. Caroline Fuhrman," whose name is inscribed on the bell.

After three years of existence the congrega-

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1990

tion still had no parsonage and considered building on to the church, but, as one records notes "fortunately decided not to do this!" Again Mrs. Fuhrmann came to the rescue. She offered to build a parsonage on a lot adjacent to the church at a cost of $450.00. Her proposition for the congregation to pay her $4 a month for a period of five years was gratefully accepted on September 8, 1889. Also, in 1889, Dr. L.C. Kleinecke, a local dentist, was elected Sunday School Superintendent, a post he was to hold for nearly sixty years.

Pastor Ziesmer died on February 24, 1894 and during the following months the congregation was served by Pastors E. Dziewas, Theo. Traubel, John Mgebrof and F. Apfelbach. On July 22, 1894, Pastor Hurtzig was installed as Pastor. Pastor Reinhold Schubert was called on December 27, 1896 after Pastor Hurtzig left to recuperate from malaria. Pastor Wilhelm Utesch was called and came to Cuero on July 3, 1902. The English language was introduced into the Sunday School and evening services and were well attended.

In 1911 a committee was appointed to "enlarge the church." A new pipe organ was installed.

On September 16, 1917 Pastor A.A. Hahn was called from Illinois, and was installed as the sixth pastor of St. Mark's on October 21, 1917. Beginning in October two services each month were conducted in the German language for the benefit of the older members who "were not too familiar" with the English language. Pastor Frank Eberhardt was called after the resignation of Pastor Hahn in 1920. He arrived in Cuero on April 16, 1921.

At a meeting on January 7, 1923, a vote was taken to build a new church. On June 24 it was noted that the Rose property adjoining the Knights of Pythias and the Kobitz property was bought for $831. Also during 1924, the first Daily Vacation Bible School was introduced, covering four weeks of the month of June.

In 1926, Pastor Eberhardt was approached by Dr. S.P. Boothe with a proposition that the Texas Synod purchase his hospital for $25,000. The proposition was accepted, and caused Pastor Eberhardt to devote much of his time during the next two years to the securing of funds to pay for the hospital. During Pastor Eberhardt's leaves, Pastors M.A. Ritzen, J.C. Pfenninger, Immanuel Bowoldt and P. Ilgen served the congregation. Pastor Eberhardt died on January 17, 1930 from complications of an appendectomy.

Pastor John W. Kern was called and served until 1937. Then Pastor Otto Oelke of Ander served as Supply Pastor until Pastor A.A. Hahn was called to be pastor of St. Mark's for a second time.

After many years of planning, a new church was authorized in 1939 and an architect was chosen, Harvey P. Smith of San Antonio. The new church was dedicated on Christmas Eve of 1939.

In 1951 Pastor Hahn tended his resignation but it was rejected. It was finally accepted on June 8, 1952. Pastor John A. Jacobs a native of Goliad, was called in on July 13, 1952 and served until July 1, 1967. Pastor Jacobs and his family had to live across the street in Mrs. Houston's house until a new parsonage was completed.

Pastor Vernon Breitkreutz was appointed Vice-Pastor during the vacancy before Pastor Hubert A. Hanson was called on June 28, 1967. In 1972 Mr. Jim Drury was employed as Lay Assistant to the pastor.

In October of 1972 an Official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated. Pastor Hanson retired from St. Mark's on September 20, 1987 and Rev. Alfred O. Hoerig became Pastor on September 1, 1988.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH SINCE 1875

T58

The history of St. Michael's Catholic parish in Cuero dates from the foundation of the town. When the first train came into Cuero in the spring of 1873, several Catholic families were already in residence. In the year 1874-75 a movement to establish a Catholic Church in Cuero was started by six families: Mrs. Mary Martha O'Brien, John Welch, W.H. Graham, Marie Demonet, Herman Nitsche, and Pius Fey.

In 1875 the Cuero Land and Immigration Company donated Lot 6 in Block 11 in the town of Cuero to the "Roman Catholics for the construction of a church," the Deed being dated May 13th of that year. On that same date the first Bishop of the new Diocese of San Antonio, Anthony Dominie Pellicer, decreed the erection of a parish in Cuero.

The Catholic families in Cuero proceeded to secure funds to build a church. A dedication souvenir of St. Michael's Church presented by Rev. Francis Pallanche on March 31st, 1931 commemorating the completion of the present church, state: ". . . back in 1875 when this parish was founded, two zealous ladies, Mmes. Michael O'Brien and John Welch, solicited subscriptions from merchants until enough money was secured to finish the church and purchase an organ." Rev. V.L. Manci, a member of the Jesuit Order, stationed in Indianola, served the missions of Cuero, Texana, and Port Lavaca, and he encouraged and assisted the Catholics in Cuero during that year, guiding them in building the first church. He came from Indianola to Cuero frequently to baptize Catholics of the area and say Mass in their homes. The first Baptismal records in the parish date back to 1875, while Marriage records date from 1876, and Confirmation and Funeral from 1881.

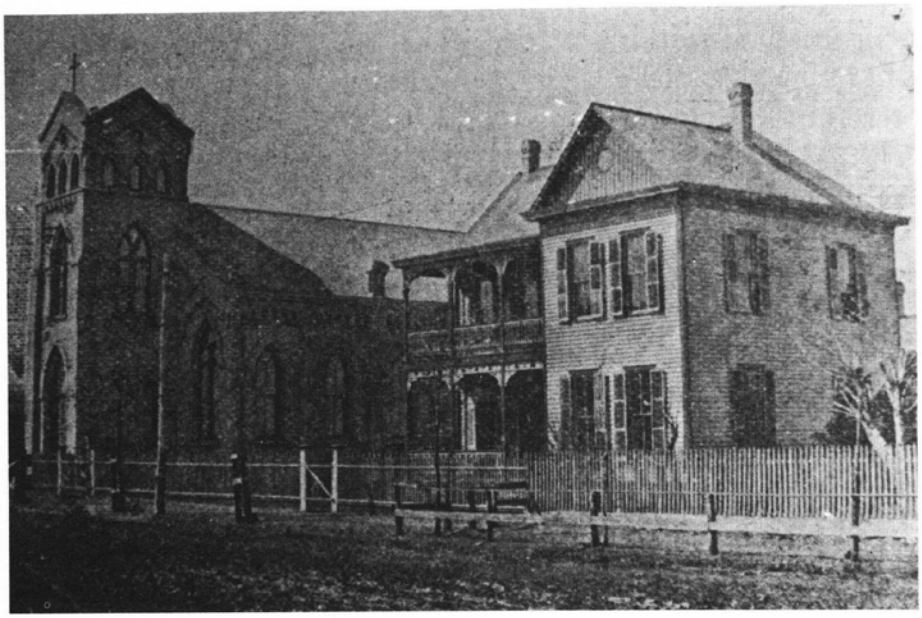
Before the end of 1875, several more Catholic families lent their efforts in raising funds to build the first Catholic Church in Cuero: Mrs. Johanna Marshall, Frank Marie, C.L. Stadtler, Frederick Flick and M.D. Monserrate.

A small frame church was completed in 1876. It was approximately 27 by 54 feet, wood construction with 1 by 12 outside siding and pine flooring. The name of St. Michael in honor of the Archangel Michael was chosen for the church. Rev. V.L. Manci became the first resident Pastor of St. Michael's in 1876.

Soon after the completion of St. Michael's Church in 1876, Rev. Manci made plans to open a school. In 1877 after the purchase of land and a building in the rear of the church, St. Michael's School was established with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio as the first teaching Sisters.

As more immigrants of the Catholic faith came to settle in Cuero, the original frame church of St. Michael's became inadequate. It was decided in 1886 to erect a larger church, and the foundation was laid in the spring of 1886, and the cornerstone on June 10th by Rev. J. Ferra, Pastor.

On August 19th, 1886, the storm which destroyed Indianola struck Cuero, and according to the Cuero Bulletin "The Catholic Church (built in 1876) was lifted from its blocks, set out onto the sidewalk and badly twisted." The foundation of a larger church had been laid some months earlier, but difficulties arose, and the foundation was left standing until 1892. In that year, Rev. J. Sheehan, the new Pastor, is said to have brought new life to the parish and completed the building of St. Michael's second church. The Cuero Star in its October, 1895 edition carried a picture of the brick church on its front page and stated it to be "the handsomest in the city." The church measured 40 by 90 feet, a white brick structure of Gothic style architecture. The bricks were donated. The



St. Michael's Church and Rectory 1895

cost amounted to $6010 exclusive of the cost of the foundation. The church was dedicated on September 29th, 1892 by Most Rev. J. Neraz, Bishop of San Antonio.

After the new brick church was dedicated, the frame church was sold to the Second Baptist Church of Cuero with some furnishings for $300. The church was torn down, moved to their site and rebuilt by members of the congregation. This church continues in use today known as Macedonia Baptist Church. The original auditorium with sanctuary and Communion Railing remain basically the same as constructed in 1876. The iron cross made from a wagon wheel which was placed on the steeple of the first church is now bolted on the outside front of the present St. Michael's.

In the fall of 1894 a two-story Rectory of frame construction was built next to the church replacing a house where the resident Priests had resided up to that time. Rev. J. Sheehan was Pastor. Records in the files of the church indicate that $900 was borrowed to apply to the erection of this Rectory. Trustees of the church at this time were: C.L. Stadtler, Wm. Hasdorff, Joseph Sheppard, Chas. Kossibel, V.J. Grunder, and W.H. Graham.

In 1902 the tower of the brick church was completed at a cost of $485. It was built by Chas. Kossibel. Upon the completion of the tower, a one thousand pound bell was placed there in memory of Mrs. C. Stadtler. At this time Rev. Sheehan donated the main altar. The pulpit was donated by Mmes. J. Muti and J. Welch. The Stations of the Cross were obtained by Rev. M.J. Mertes in 1904; each Station donated by individual members of the Congregation. The bell and Stations of the Cross are in the present church.

In 1912 under the direction of Rev. G.J. Hendricks, a two-story frame school was built with a parish hall on the upper floor. From the beginning of the first St. Michael's School in 1877 until 1927 all grades through High School were taught.

In the 1923 religious census of the city, it was indicated that there were many Mexicans of the Catholic faith in the city who for language difficulties did not attend St. Michael's. Rev. Francis Pallanche, resident Pastor of St. Michael's, decided to provide a church for them. A block of land was donated by W.H. Graham and funds were secured from St. Michael's parishioners and friends as well as the Mexican people for the erection of this church. The church cost $6200 including the bell, furniture and fixtures. It was named Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the first Mass was celebrated there on February 22nd, 1925 by Rev. Pallanche. The new church was taken charge of by the Dominican Order, and was solemnly blessed by Most Rev. A.J. Drossaerts, DD., Bishop of San Antonio on May 4th, 1925.

Even after the building of Our Lady of Guadalupe, it was only a short while before it became evident that St. Michael's brick church had become too small for the Congregation. Since the church showed signs of decay, it was decided to build a larger church, and by January of 1930 definite steps were taken to draw plans and receive bids for a new church. The last Mass was celebrated in the brick church on April 25th, 1930, and from that date until the completion of the present church, services were held in St. Michael's Hall above the school.

The laying of the Cornerstone of the new church took place on the morning of August 6th, 1930 with Most Rev. A.J. Drossaerts, D.D., Archbishop of San Antonio officiating. The inscription on the Cornerstone reads: Domus Dei at porta Coeli A.D. 1930 (House of God and Gate of Heaven) with the names of the Pastor, Rev. Francis Pallanche, the Architect, F.B. Gaenslen, and the Builder, Falbo & Guido Construction Co. A solemn High Mass was celebrated at the entrance. The Council of St. Michael's at this time, having been elected by the parishioners in 1928, consisted of: Victor J. Grunder, Jos. C. Kossibel, Michael Byrne, Wm. P. Meissner, Stanley Kulawik, Jos. L. Sheppard, and L.W. Sciba.

St. Michael's present church was completed in 1931. It is 63 feet by 117 feet, is faced with tapestry brick, backed with common brick, built along the Romanesque plan of Architecture. The trimmings and belfry are of tamped artificial stone. It cost approximately $67,000 with furnishings. St. Michael's was dedicated on March 31st, 1931 by Archbishop Drossaerts of San Antonio, and a solemn High Mass was celebrated. The Cuero Record in its account at the time of the dedication recites: ". . .the beautiful new Catholic Church of St. Michael's Parish, is an event which sets a new mark in community church history for it gives to Cuero an edifice the match of which can be found in few towns of the size in the state."

Rev. Pallanche died while Pastor of St. Michael's in July of 1932, and he was buried on July 26, 1932 in the sanctuary of the church.

In 1937 Rev. Wm. Jansen came to Cuero as Pastor of St. Michael's where he was to remain for twenty-nine years. During these years, he paid off the debt left on the parish by the building of the present church. He built the present modern school and convent which were dedicated on September 18th, 1955. In the summer of 1962 work began on a new Rectory for the priests. It was completed in January of 1963. During Rev. Jansen's pastorate, men who served on the parish board were: Judge Stephen Hebert, John Berning, Barney Byrne, Henry Koenig, Gordon Kyle, Dr. F.W. Miller, Charles Riebschlaeger, Dr. Wm. Grunder, John J. Bell, Rudy Fuchs, and Joe Hoffman.

Upon the retirement of Rev. Jansen, Rev. John Flynn was named Pastor in April, 1966. He directed the remodeling of the sanctuary of the church as well as air-conditioning of the parish buildings. He doubled the size of St. Michael's School adding four classrooms, a music room and teachers' lounge.

In the fall of 1972, ground was broken for a parish hall, Rev. Peter Higgins, Pastor. The new hall was dedicated on March 25th, 1973. St. Michael's Hall is a steel building 60 by 100 feet with stage and kitchen. An annex meeting room was added in 1978 under the pastorate of Msgr. Henry Herbst who came to St. Michael's in June of 1974.

On May 18th, 1975 St. Michael's parish celebrated the Centennial of its founding. The Most Rev. Francis J. Fury, Archbishop of San Antonio was Principal Celebrant and Homilist of the opening Mass. A history of the parish from 1875 was written for the occasion.

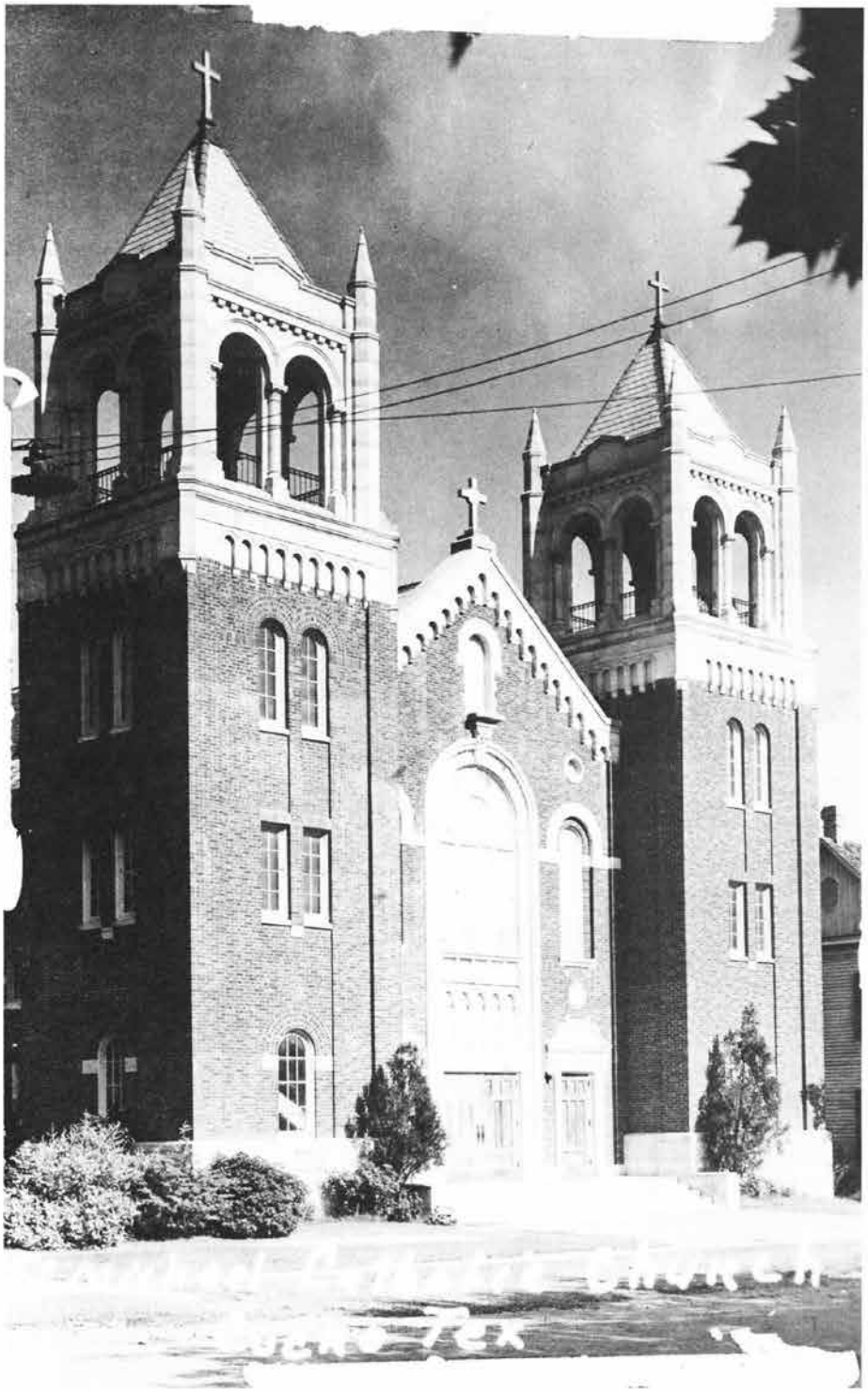
On May 23rd, 1976 an official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated at St. Michael's Church.

In September of 1977 a Centennial Celebration of the founding of St. Michael's School was held at St. Michael's Hall with particular recognition to the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria who have staffed the school continuously since 1916.

During 1978 stained glass windows were installed in St. Michael's Church donated by individual parishioners and Msgr. Herbst. In the main auditorium of the church, the windows depict the salvation history and the four evangelists. In the sanctuary, the depict the Eucharist. At the side entrance the windows are the two American Saints and the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the choir the large center window is the Archangel Michael and the two smaller windows are the Archangels Gabriel and Raphael. The high windows at the front and rear of the church depict church symbols.

In 1981 Msgr. Herbst, realizing the difficulties of continuing to operate a Catholic School financially, started a School Endowment Fund with a gift of $10,000. Today, contributions to the fund have made it possible to continue to provide a Catholic education for the children of St. Michael's and the community. In 1984 a Kindergarten room was added.

The Diocese of Victoria in Texas was estab-



St. Michael's Catholic Church — 1930's

lished on May 29th, 1982 from part of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Houston, at which time St. Michael's parish came under the new Diocese. Msgr. Herbst was appointed Vicar General of the new Diocese.

From the very beginning of St. Michael's parish, the church societies have played an important role. St. Michael's Altar Society dates back to 1875 when the ladies worked to raise money for the first church. Today this society provides all the requisites of Divine Worship and assists with other needs in the parish. Cuero Council 1682 of the Knights of Columbus was organized on May 4th, 1914 and support local and national Christian education and charitable activities. Court St. Michael No. 347 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas was instituted September 22nd, 1918. They assist in areas of need at the church and school as well as support community, diocesan and national projects. St. Michael's PTC was first organized on October 29th, 1931. The members work with the teachers and pastor for the special needs of the school in financial aid and personal assistance. The newest society is St. Michael's Outreach organized on August 27, 1986 for the purpose of rendering personal service to parishioners in special need.

Since the beginning of the parish in 1875 and the completion of the first church in 1876, lay people have served as organists and choir directors. Mrs. Louis Sciba served as organist and assistant at St. Michael's for forty-two years, longer than any other person. Since 1972 Lay Ministers of the Eucharists have assisted in the distribution of Communion at Masses and in the nursing homes, hospital and homes of the disabled. Mr. Ben E. Prause was the first Lay Minister of the Eucharist. Lay people also serve as Lectors at church services, and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers.

In 1989 St. Michael's parish has 452 registered families. In 1909 there were 45 families; in 1930, 153 families; in 1951, 210 families; and in 1974, 425 families. The parish plant consists of the church dedicated in 1931; a modern school teaching Kindergarten and grades one through eight, and CCD classes for High School students and Catholic young people attending public school; Sisters' convent; Rectory; and parish hall and annex.

Pastors Who Have Served at St. Michael's Parish

The following is a list of the Priests who ministered to the spiritual needs of St. Michael's Parish as Pastors.

1. Rev. V.L. Manci S.J., May 1875 to February 1878; 2. Rev. F.W. McLaughlin S.J., March 1878 to February 1881; 3. Rev. P. McMahon, April 1881 to May 1883; 4. Rev. J. Ferra, February 1884 to August 1886; 5. Rev. H.A. Milno, September 1886 to April 1890; 6. Rev. J. Robert, March 1891 to April 1892; 7. Rev. John Sheehan, May 1892 to December 1897; 8. Rev. John Pinnel, December 1897 to December 1901; 9. Rev. J. Sheehan (2nd time), January 1902 to October 1904; 10. Rev. M.J. Mertes, March 1904 to February 1908; 11. Rev. G.J. Hendricks, May 1908 to February 1919; 12. Rev. W.E. Heffernan, May 1919 to May 1920; 13. Rev. Peter M. Baquet, May 1920 to November 1922; 14. Rev. Francis Pallanche, November 1922 to July 1932; 15. Rev. Leo Goertz, August 1932 to January 1937; 16. Rev. Wm. Jansen, January 1937 to April 1966; 17. Rev. John Flynn, Asst. June 1962 to April 1966; Pastor April 1966 to November 1969; 18. Rev. Peter Higgins, November 1969 to June 1974; 19. Msgr. Henry Herbst, June 1974 to —.

Besides the above Priests, several others came occasionally, but did not make their residence here as regular Pastors.

by Pauline Kacir

A HISTORY OF THE HOSPITALS OF CUERO

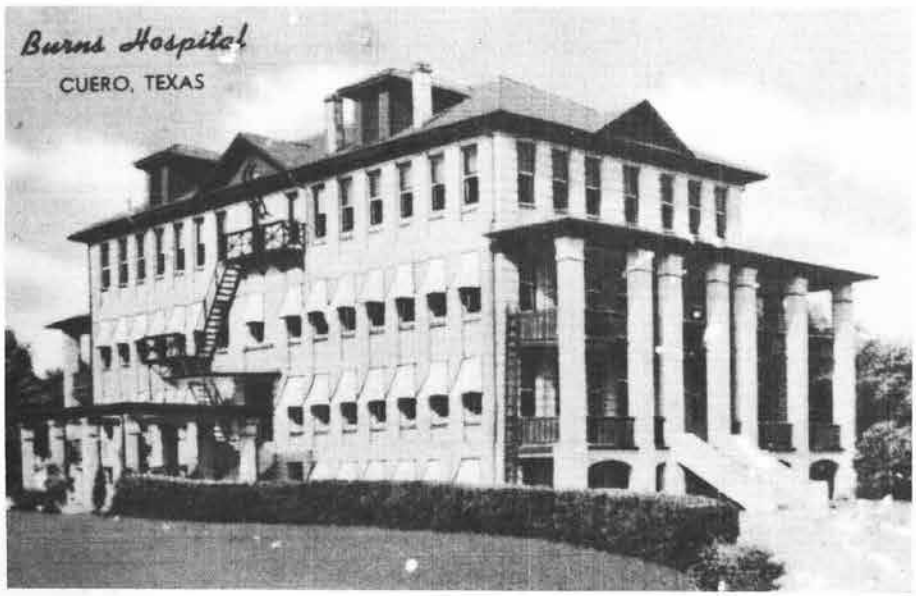
T59

In an era when hospitals in Texas are failing at an alarming rate it is hard to believe that at one time the small town of Cuero boasted of three privately owned hospitals. Two of the three were fully accredited medical facilities. The third was an osteopathic hospital. Brochures published by each of the medical hospitals give interesting accounts of their beginnings.

Salome Hospital

The story of the hospital which eventually became the Cuero Hospital Foundation is closely connected with the early history of Cuero. About 1872, Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss, a physician of the port of Indianola, Texas, opened a drug store in Cuero. After the hurricane of 1875 which devastated Indianola, he moved to Cuero and began his practice there. In 1892 his youngest son, Dr. Joe Henry Reuss, established a temporary hospital called, for whatever reason, "Salome", in the upper story of the Catholic school. It soon became inadequate, and the good citizens of Cuero, notably the ladies, undertook the task of raising funds to build a new hospital. A Hospital Association was formed to oversee the process. In 1893 the state of Texas granted a charter for the hospital and a building site was purchased from the Schleicher estate for $700. Funds, collected from individuals and businesses, entertainment and mite boxes, slowly accrued. In 1894 the new "Salome" hospital was erected on what was known as "Factory Hill". Dr. J.H. Reuss was named manager and superintendent. In 1904 he moved to Dallas where he remained in practice until 1911 when he returned to Cuero. He then purchased the "Salome" from the Hospital Association and in 1916 erected a new building which he called Reuss Memorial Hospital. It was intended to be a lasting memorial to his father, Dr. J.M. Reuss, who had died in 1909.

Newspapers accounts of the time are fulsome in praise of the new facility. It is described as having what we now call "state of the art" accommodations and equipment. Dr. Reuss enjoyed flourishing practice in the new building until his untimely death in 1919. Thereafter the hospital saw many changes.



Burns Hospital

The hospital was conducted as an open staff hospital by the estate until its purchase by Dr. Sterling Boothe who named it the "Boothe Hospital." In 1936 Dr. Boothe offered it to the Lutheran Church which, after some deliberation, accepted the offer. It then became the Lutheran Hospital Reuss Memorial. The Lutheran Board ran the hospital until 1940 when it was leased to Dr. A.J. Bohman, who purchased it in 1944.

Dr. Bohman continued to operate the hospital up to 1957 when he arranged to convert it to a foundation. It was known as the Cuero Hospital Foundation until 1971 when it was closed. All monies and assets of the foundation were given to the new Cuero Community Hospital in the names of the Bohman Clinic partners, Dr. A.J. Bohman, Dr. F.A. Prather, Dr. O.E. Hall, Jr. and Dr. R.R. Reese, and the board of directors of the foundation. At that time Mr. Fain McDougal was chairman of the board of the foundation. Other members were Mr. Nathan Post, Mr. William Ferguson, Mr. E.T. Summers, Jr. and Mr. Jimmie Reiffert. The Cuero Hospital Foundation thus became the largest contributor to the new facility.

The Burns Hospital was the second of the medical facilities of Cuero. It was opened in 1911 as a private, non-sectarian establishment by Dr. John W. Burns and was named in honor of his father, Columbus Burns. Before opening his own hospital, Dr. Burns had cared for patients in the old "Salome" hospital.

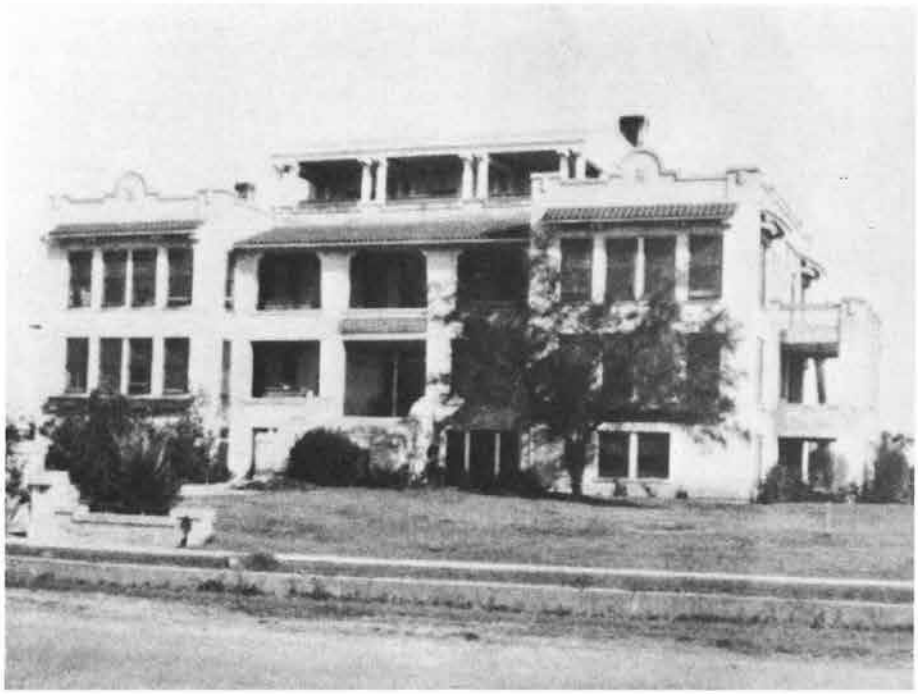
The Burns Hospital brochure, published in 1935, describes the many modern conveniences available, from patient rooms to treatment rooms. In an interesting aside, the pamphlet notes that a four day stay in the hospital, plus use of the delivery room was offered to expectant mothers for the sum of $17.00.

Dr. Arthur Burns and Dr. Gillett Burns, sons of the founder, maintained the hospital for many years. In 1934 it was sold to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Shriner. They continued to manage it until 1972 when it, too, was torn down. Dr. Gillett Burns was associated with the hospital through 1958. Thereafter, Dr. Harold High, Dr. John Davis and Dr. L.B. Landry were on staff at the hospital.

Cuero's third hospital, the osteopathic hospital, was owned and operated by Dr. Carl R. Stratton and his sons, Dr. Richard L. Stratton and Dr. James A. Stratton. It offered osteopathic services in its own facility from its establishment in 1956 until the opening of the Cuero Community Hospital.

The Cuero Community Hospital opened its doors to patients for the first time on September 8, 1970. It was at once a beginning and an end: the beginning of a new hospital, the culmination of many years of hard work on the part of a number of the fine citizens of the area.

In 1964 the State Board of Health found the city's old hospitals inadequate. Cuero citizens immediately reacted to the situation. A steering committee was organized and meetings were held. The architectural firm of Page, Southerland and Page of Austin, who specialized in designing hospitals, were consulted. They proposed that a hospital district be set up. This was done with the final proposal settling upon an area composed principally of DeWitt County portions of the Cuero, Meyersville, and Westhoff school districts, plus sections of the Concrete, Stratton, Five Mile, and Meyersville voting precincts and the Bear Creek voting precinct. Voters approved the



Reuss-Boothe-Lutheran-Bohman Hospital

hospital district in an October 30, 1965 election.

The next step was to raise the money for the hospital. Government grants, known as Hill-Burton funds were available in the amount of $850,000. They were, however, contingent on matching funds being raised. In April, 1966 passage of a $750,000 bond issue took care of that. The State Board of Health then approved the proposal and the new hospital was on its way to being built. Additional funds of $200,000 were raised through private donations. All of the existing hospitals were closed upon completion of the new hospital. Physicians, personnel, and patients were transferred to the new facility.

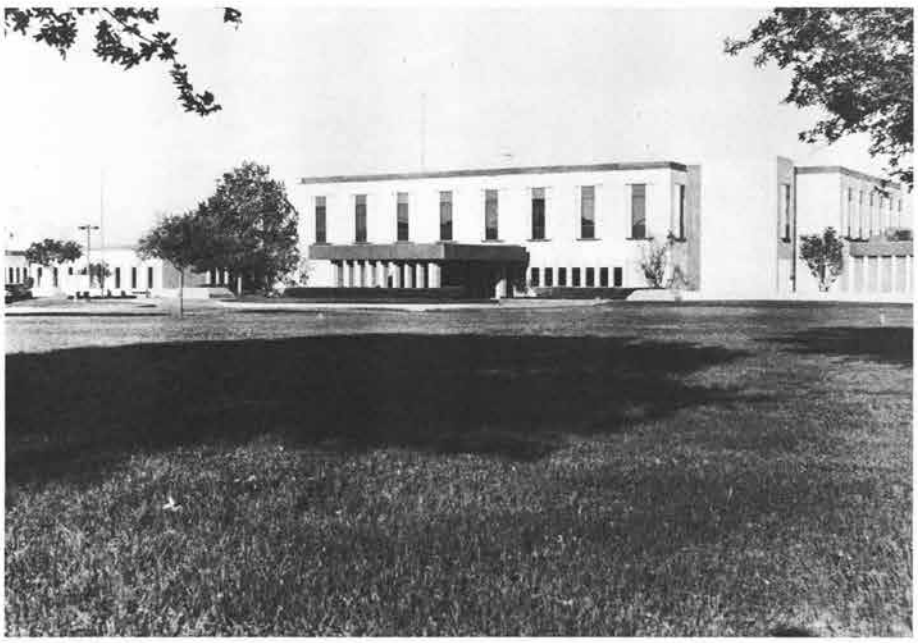
Members of the original Board of Directors of the hospital were: Mr. Clifton Weber, President, Mr. Howard Keinecke, Mrs. Patricia Leske, Mr. Dewey Henderson, and Mr. Dewey Schorre. Mr. Riley Aldrich was the first administrator, Sister M. Lucilla Donnelly, director of nurses.

The Cuero Community Hospital was built just outside the city limits of Cuero on the Yoakum highway. It was described as a completely modern facility, boasting the most up-to-date equipment. The twenty acre site provided for adequate parking for the 92 bed hospital.

In 1990 the hospital will celebrate its twentieth anniversary. It is still a first-rate facility which, through struggling with the same problems which face many rural hospitals, continues to provide quality medical care for the citizens of the district. Present administrator of the hospital is Mr. Larry Krupala. He has been associated with the hospital since 1970. Mr. Krupala is a member of the Texas State Board of Health, treasurer of the Texas Hospital Association, Chairman of the American Hospital Association Rural Hospital Governing Council and a member of the American Hospital Association House of Delegates.

The annual audit of the hospital, conducted by an independent auditing firm, revealed the Cuero Community Hospital to be "very, very strong for a rural hospital." The hospital is approved by the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Hospitals.

by Bernice Bohman



Cuero Community Hospital 1990

Nurses by gate at Salome Hospital. Nurse on right is Rae Lancaster

Salome Hospital

The first Salome Hospital was founded in 1894 and occupied the second story of the St. Michael's Academy in the 300 block of East Church Street just to the rear of the Catholic Church. It was established by Drs. J.M. and J.H. Reuss. There were accommodations for male and female patients in separate wards and private rooms. The wards contained from twelve to fifteen beds. The Hospital Fund Association maintained a certain number of beds which were free to needy patients. The hospital employed two professional nurses, had water connections and modern conveniences. The Sisters of Charity oversaw the kitchen.

In a October 1895 letter from Bertha Reuss to her sister Alfreda, she stated "Josie (J.H. Reuss) had completed surgery the day before at the Salome on a young girl confined to her bed over a year and ailing fifteen years. Seven doctors were present, several from the county, to see the operation. There are eight patients in the hospital, all surgical patients and several waiting for rooms."

Dr. J.M. Reuss retired in September 1895 after fifty years of medical practice. His son continued at the hospital for a number of years. The need for a larger institution was noted and a Hospital Association was organized with the following officers: Mrs. John Welch, president; Mrs. H. Hitchens, vice-president; Mrs. Otto Buchel, treasurer; and Mrs. W.R. Rathbone, secretary. Initiation fees and nickel collections

during the first month brought in $34.75. A charter was applied for and granted on Feb. 6, 1893, by the state of Texas. A building site was purchased for $700 from the Schleicher Estate. Some other members of the association were Mrs. Gus Tips of Runge, Mrs. Oscar Reuss, Mrs. Schleicher, Mrs. Anna Flick, Mrs. Bates, Mrs. Crain, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Vahldieck, Mrs. S. Lee Kyle, Mrs. Luther, Miss Bertha Reuss, Mrs. John Wofford, Miss Alma Froebese, Mrs. Otto Staerker, Mrs. Rudolph Kleberg, Miss Lizzie Kyle and Mrs. Theo. Reiffert.

The nickel collections from members and from boxes placed in various business houses were continued. Other fund raising events included a children's concert at Neil Schultz residence conducted by Miss Neelie Schultz with proceeds of $1.05 raised. Those participating were Misses Neelie, Jessie and Ivy Schultz, Ella Nagel, Winnie and Dotrie Staerker, Ruby Swain and Masters Emil Staerker, Joe Flick and Richard Kunitz. A children's masked ball was held and raised $22.45. A patchwork quilt was to be given away to the collector securing the largest amount of donations. Each collector was to make a 12" square to be made into this quilt. Unfortunately the recipient of the quilt is unknown.

In the spring of 1897 the organization found itself in position to build. A building committee was elected with Dr. J.H. Reuss as manager and superintendent and Dr. D.B. Blake as sanitary inspector. All Cuero physicians pledged their support. The hospital was completed and the name remained Salome. The hospital was located at the end of Morgan Avenue and was situated on a slope of hill. A news clipping states "The hospital is a large two-story structure and surrounded by large oak trees, an ideal place for such an institution. Miss Orrell is matron and in her absence, W.H. Powell is in charge. The place requires five trained nurses who are kept busy most of the time. They are Misses Norton of Schulenburg, Neal of Runge, Bass of Wrightsboro, Slavitsch of Beeville and Hohn of Cheapside. The patients rooms are equipped with neat iron bedsteads, while the linen is faultless and the whole is scrupulously clean and good enough for the most fastidious. The operating room is well equipped with surgical instruments, irregators, sterilizers and heating apparatus. In all rooms of the building there are electric call bells arranged near beds for the use of the patients." The hospital was self-supporting to a degree in that it had chickens, a garden and it's own cows.

Dr. Reuss left Cuero in 1904 to move to Dallas. He returned in 1911 and resumed his work at Salome. When he became head of the medical department of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad he decided to build a larger hospital. In 1916 he realized his lifelong dream and opened the Reuss Memorial Hospital as a memory to his father.

The Salome Hospital was sold in the late 1920's to Rollie Simon and ceased as a medical institution.

by Wanda Reuss

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BRAYTON FLYING FIELD

T60

In 1939 as Nazi German commenced its conquest of Europe and the Japanese Empire accelerated its military aggression in Asia and the Pacific, the United States recognized an immediate need for thousands of trained aircraft pilots — many more than could be trained at military fields alone. The government turned for help to a system of civilian contract flying schools.

Cuero Mayor J.T. Newman and Chamber of Commerce President Sherrod Harris conceived the idea of locating such a civilian pilot training school in Cuero. They contacted Clyde E. Brayton, veteran pilot whose first license (1926-1931) had been signed by air pioneer Orville Wright. On December 31, 1941, Bray-

Brayton Flying Field 1942

Back Row: —, —, Capt. Wegenhoft, Marshall M. Lyons, Dr. Linus Munding, Lt. William G. McDonald, —, —, —, —, Lt. Bert Kirk, 1st Lt. Sylvester E. Sullins. Front Row: Lt. Dick Steele, Queebe, Major O'Keefe, Commander Col. Fitzgerald, —, —, Lt. Russell Chambers.

Type of aircraft used to train pilots at Brayton Field. Fairchild PT-19

Air Force Insignia which was placed on every plane and piece of equipment at Brayton Field. Designed by Col. (Ret.) R.A. Steele

ton flew into Cuero to look over a proposed site. He liked what he saw and an agreement was reached. The voters passed a bond issue to purchase land for the field and on January 28, 1941, the City purchased 500 acres about one and a half miles north of the City from Kos Morgan and Frank Kunetka. The land was leased to Brayton and construction was started immediately.

The first class of student pilots, Class 41-H, was enrolled in mid-March, 1941. Thereafter new classes reported every five weeks. Army Air Corps cadets came to the field as well as enlisted men, Air Corps officers, and West Point cadets. Each class required ground school, physical training, and 65 hours flying time. At its peak a staff of 550 civilians and 100 military men trained the aspiring pilots. The first women mechanics used by the Air Corps were employed at Brayton Field. During the life of the field, Brayton trained 6,611 student pilots who flew a total of 335,000 hours. The first 35,000 hours were flown in Stearman PT-17's and the last 300,000 hours in Fairchild PT19's. Brayton Field received numerous awards for safety and meritorious service including, in 1943, the Safety Award from the Aeronautical Training Society for flying the most hours with the fewest accidents.

Cuero enjoyed perhaps its greatest prosperity during the years Brayton Field was in full operation. At its peak Brayton's annual payroll in excess of $1,000,000.00 was the largest in the city. Many Cuero homeowners rented rooms to one or more civilian instructors, officers, mechanics or dependents. Although merchandise was scarce during the war local stores were crowded with shoppers. The City's first bus service was organized to transport students and employees from Brayton Field to town and back. Cuero was a beneficiary of the nation-wide shift of population from the north to the south and west as many students, instructors, and officers met and married DeWitt County girls and later returned to make their permanent homes here. Cuero's population grew from 5,474 in 1940 to 7,498 in 1950.

Brayton Field ceased operations in August, 1944.

by Rosemary S. Sheppard

1941 Hangar being built at Brayton Field

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1940 First airplane arrives at Brayton Field Stearmer Bi-plane

CUERO ORGANIZATIONS

T61

The Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary

In the beginning . . . there was a dream! A dream of a new hospital to serve the community of Cuero, and a group of dedicated men and women to serve that hospital. The Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary was organized and soon became a part of the Texas Association of Hospital Auxiliaries, Inc. On February 19, 1970 the first slate of officers were elected: President, Mrs. Robert Post, 1st Vice President, Mrs. Lias B. Steen, 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Joe Reuss, 3rd Vice President, Mrs. Grady McDonald, Secretary, Miss Sharon Bauer, Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Kuecker and Historian, Mrs. Leo Semper.

The Cuero Community Hospital opened its doors for public inspection on August 30, 1970 and began receiving patients on September 8, 1970. The Auxiliary was given the task of supervision of landscaping the hospital grounds. The Cuero Hospital District Board approved a plan by Jim Simpson of Alamo Landscaping Company of San Antonio. Mr. and Mrs. J.B. McAlister were appointed co-chairmen of the project. They were assisted by Mrs. Jim Conrad, Mrs. Harold High, Mrs. Emil Penner, Mrs. Grady McDonald, Mrs. C.L. Duckett, W.G. Foster and Mrs. George Trowell.

The Hospital Auxiliary donated $100 for the project. Donations and assistance came ion from various community clubs, such as the Cuero Lions Club and the Rotary Club. The landscaping was completed and the beauty of the hospital was greatly enhanced.

The Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary membership swelled to 100 in the first year. Since its beginning, the Auxiliary has been and continues to be a vital part of the hospital program. Many types of service has been provided to the patients and hospital workers. All proceeds earned by the Auxiliary have been used to provide gifts to the hospital, in the form of equipment, etc. These gifts and the donation of time and service worked by the Auxiliary members have saved the tax payers of DeWitt County many, many dollars. The Auxiliary has also provided numerous Nursing School Scholarships.

Of the original Charter Members five are still active. They are J.B. (Burns) McAlister, Mrs. J.B. (Bert Marie) McAlister, Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Steen, Mrs. E.A. (Jeannie) Brown and Mrs. John (Margaret) Diebel. Mr. and Mrs. McAlister were presented a plaque in 1989 in honor of their combined total of over 20,000 hours worked.

The Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary currently has a membership of 48, which includes active, affiliated active, inactive and Honorary and Life members. Officers for 1990-1991 are: President, Mrs. Cliff (Sharon) Weber, 1st Vice President, Mrs. Nolan (Audrey) Wendel, 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Rubye Goodson, 3rd Vice President, Mrs. Tom (Kathy) Gunn, Treasurer, Mrs. G.C. (Helen) Smith, Recording Secretary, Mrs. R.M. (Lonnie) Maywald, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles (Veronica) Wanjura, and Historian, J.B. (Burns) McAlister.

by Mrs. R.M. (Lonnie) Maywald

1900 Cuero Century Club. Back: Nellie Thompson, Gertrude Clement, Last on Row: Mrs. Lonie Howerton. Front: —, Viva Crain, Mr. Lewright, —, —.

Cuero Chapter 618 Order of the Eastern Star

The Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star issued a charter on October 13, 1919 for the Cuero Chapter #618 in Cuero, Texas. The Charter Members were Mrs. Carrie Kunetka, Worthy Matron, Tom Cheatham, Worthy Patron, Mrs. Marion Leonard, Associate Matron, Mrs. Nettie Gillett Burns, Mrs. Katie Cheatham, Mrs. Beebie Crafton, Mrs. Vida Finney, Mrs. Valerie Froebese, Miss Annie Froebese, Miss Bessie Graves, Mrs. Elinor Jaeggli, Mrs. Jennie Lackey, Miss Luelsie Nagel, Mrs. Louise Phillips, Miss Pauline Reuss, Mrs. Irene Stell, Joseph Froebese, F. William Jaeggli, Herbert H. Leonardt, John A. Reuss.

The Cuero Chapter #618, O.E.S. was allowed to hold meetings upstairs in the old Masonic Lodge Hall of Cuero Lodge #409 A.F.&A.M. on the corner of Gonzales and Church Streets.

In 1962 when the new Masonic Temple for

Cuero Lodge #409 A.F.&A.M. was built, the privilege was again extended to Cuero Chapter #618, O.E.S. to hold the meetings in their building. This privilege is still being given to this date.

The chapter has contributed to the service of the community by donating items to the residents of the local nursing homes, Gulf Bend Center Home, needy families, and working with the Masons for a Community Easter Egg Hunt annually. The chapter also sponsors a Blood Drive in Cuero with the South Texas Regional Blood Bank. Another project has been the purchase of a Lift Chair to be loaned to a physically disabled person in the community. The chapter also supports many of the projects and financial upkeep of the Order of the Eastern Star Home in Arlington, Texas, a home for aged ladies of the Order. Gifts have been donated to the Masons of Cuero Lodge #409 for special projects. Many other projects have been sponsored over the years that reflect the purpose and Biblical teachings of Charity, Love and Benevolence.

The Order of the Eastern Star is an organization for the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and widows of Masons. Its teachings are scriptural and the heroines of the Order are based on the ladies of the Bible: Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa. The membership also includes some of the Masonic brothers that have been initiated into the Order.

The chapter has 90 members, and 9 are 50 year members.

In the 70 years of Cuero Chapter #618 the dedication and responsibility of its members is shown by the numerous members serving as Grand Officers — Committee Members. The Worthy Grand Matrons of The Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern star, has, over the years, appointed six Deputy Grand Matrons for District 5, Section 8 from Cuero Chapter #618: Mrs. Lucy Cotton, Miss Ann Morgan, Miss Cecelia Schott, Mrs. Estelle Atzenhoffer, Mrs. Doris Ware and Mrs. Catherine Nichols.

Cuero Chapter #618, O.E.S. has been host chapter for the School of Instruction for this District on several occasions. The most recent school held in Cuero on October 30, 31, 1989 had an attendance of 303, a record for this district and section. Other chapters in District 5, Section 8 are Austwell, Beeville, Port Lavaca, Victoria, Seadrift, LaVernia, Stockdale, Yorktown, Yoakum, Waelder, Kenedy, Gonzales and Helena.

by Doris Ware and Lonnie Maywald

Stayton Chapter #18, Order of the Eastern Star

The records of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern for 1895 show that Stayton Chapter #18 was chartered on October 10, 1895 for Cuero, Texas. The chapter was named for Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court John William Stayton. That same year the Masons of Cuero Lodge #409 laid the cornerstone for the new DeWitt County Courthouse. Thousands of people rode a Special train to Cuero for this event. The Eastern Stars took part, as did every organization in town.

The Charter Members were Mrs. P.F. Breeden, Worthy Matron, T.A. Graves, Worthy Patron, Miss Belle Wallace, Secretary, R.P. Breeden, Mrs. R.P. Breeden, Mrs. D. Brown, Mrs. F. Coffin, F. Coffin, Dr. M. Evans, Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. F. Farnsworth, Mrs. Nannie Lackey, Mrs. J.W. Stayton, Mrs. A.J. Thomas, W.W. Peavy, Mrs. V. Proctor, A. Weisenberg, Mrs. A. Weisenberh, Miss Kate Wallace. Meetings were held in the Masonic Lodge building on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

In 1897 the records state that the meetings were held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Members were Mrs. P.F. Breeden, Worthy Matron, W.W. Peavy, Worthy Patron, Miss M. Thomas, Secretary, Miss Georgie Box, R.P. Breeden, Mrs. R.P. Breeden, Mrs. D.A. Brown, Mrs. George Clegg, F.S. Coffin, Mrs. F.S. Coffin, A.E. DeViney, Mrs. A.E. DeViney, Rev. Morris Evans, Mrs. Morris Evans, F. Farnsworth, Mrs. F. Farnsworth, T.A. Graves, Mrs. N. Lackey, F.M. Lackey, Mrs. W.W. Peavy, I. Salmon, Mrs. I. Salmon, A.G. Thomas, Mrs. A.G. Thomas, Miss Kate Wallace, Mrs. Belle Wallace, A. Weisenberg, Mrs. A. Weisenberg, Mrs. T.W. White. Listed as Past Matron: Mrs. P.F. Breeden, and Past Patrons: T.A. Graves, W.W. Peavy.

Other information is scarce. This chapter had demised prior to October, 1907.

Another Chapter was organized and a charter granted for Cuero Chapter #430 in October, 1908. This Chapter demised October 1, 1912.

by Mrs. Lonnie Maywald

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Cuero Fire Department

The need for a Women's Auxiliary unit to the Cuero Fire Department was recognized with the result that a group of women decided to get together and form such an organization. Since that time the Organization has flourished and has been of invaluable assistance to the Firemen.

The initial meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cuero Fire Department was held August 19, 1948 with thirteen (13) ladies in attendance. They were Mrs. Georgia Boysen, Nell Buehrig, Martha German, R.H. Heyer, Sr., Hilda Hingst, Bernice Kleinecke, Ethel Koenig, Gladys Laake, Mildred Nack, Jewel Papacek, Alta Reese, Jerry Stone and Helen Wiley.

Officers elected at that meeting were: Mrs. Wiley, president; Mrs. Laake, Vice-President; Mrs. Nack, Secretary; Mrs. Frers, Treasurer; Mrs. Koenig, Press Correspondent and Mrs. Reese, Chaplain.

Primary objective of the Organization include Welfare Work, promotion of interest in the activities of the Local Fire Department and to render moral support, encouragement and assistance to the Department in it's work.

Mrs. R.H. Heyer, Sr. was given the title of "Fire Mother", at the meeting. Her late husband served as Chief of the Local Department for many years and during his tenure was highly respected by the Community as well as the Department Members.

For many years, the Auxiliary sponsored the Annual Christmas Ball for the purpose of raising funds to maintain the Organization, however the Auxiliary has discontinued this and in turn sponsor an Annual Bake Sale for this purpose.

Regular monthly meetings are held at the Fire Station every third Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. with various members serving as hostesses.

Present membership numbers 45 with the following Officers presiding: Betty Bade, President; Alta Reese, Vice-President; Kay Rath, Secretary; Brenda Arndt, Treasurer; Peggy Schorre, Reporter; Georgia Boysen, Historian and Agnes Wanjura, Chaplain.

Cuero Lions Club

The Cuero Lions Club held its first meeting on October 26, 1938, at noon in the American Cafe with 18 members and 18 guest present. The minutes show that President Edgar of the Victoria Lions presided.

Charter members were A.E. Hensley, M.F. Menking, L.E. Van Horn, J.D. Bramlette, Jr., C.J. Riebschlaeger, Robert G. Wagner, Edwin C. Buchhorn, Gerald A. King, William S. Grunder, Bruce Gibson, C.E. Morgan, O.G. Probst, H.L. Grant, R.H. Hartman, Cecil Newman, Lee Roy Turner, W.T. McLarty, Ed F. Deleon, Fred L. Hansen, H.P. Cragin, E.H. Neilsen, William W. Hrncir, Garfield Kiel, J.B. Dodd, Virgil Howard, Stephen P. Hebert, Bailey Thomas, Floyd Bohne, T.K. Anderson, F.F. McAlister, John J. Bell, Ralph Upshaw, and R.E. Bradley, Lillian M. Ryan was the pianist. Charter night was at the Cuero Municipal Club House on November 30th, with 102 guests and 16 members present. Victoria and Yoakum were cosponsors of the new club.

A.E. Hensley was the first president of the club. Since then the following have served: E.H. Nielsen, Jr., in 1939. From 1940-1948 two men were elected for six months terms each. They were: Fred Hansen, LeRoy Turner, John H. Berning, J.B. Dodd, M.C. Weber, C.E. Morgan, H.P. Cragin, Gerald King, Dewey Schorre, Frank Thieme, Cecil Newman, B.B. Thorn, T.O. Buchel, William Grunder, Royce Wood, Walter Wagner. The 1948-49 term started with each serving a full year. Those include: W.R. Towery, J.D. Bramlette, Jr., Penn Beakley, O.M. Boyle, Rollie Brantley, Walter Richter, Joe Keesler, Jim Stone, W.F. Kautz, A.J. Engbrock, E.T. Summers, Jr., Frank Sheppard, J.D. Kauffman, Nick Cameron, Lester Frers, Howard Kkeinecke, John Wheeler, Leon Polzon, Murray Tarkington, Tom Heron, C.L. Duckett (1½ years), Mike Weber, Gene Grafe, Bill Nami, Don Albrecht, Howard Bennett, Robert Post, Glenn Portis, Alan Kahlich, Harold Tiffin, Paul Gebauer, Wallace Beck, Ken Adams, Jack Calk, Bob Wood, Don Shaw, John Pokluda, Terry Wyatt, Wayne Tiffin, Heine Bade, Cliff Weber, Mike Wheat, and Gerald Zengerle.

An interesting and unusual note is that Clifton Weber served as president in 1942, his son, Mike Weber in 1969, and his grandson Cliff, in 1988.

The club has had only nine secretaries over the years. They were: Garfield Kiel, T.K. Anderson, Ed C. Buchhorn, J.D. Bramlette, Jr., W.F. Kautz, Nick Cameron, Jim Stone, Gene Grafe, and Paul Gebauer. Dr. W.R. Towery is the only member of the Cuero Club to serve as District Governor.

The Lions have always devoted most of their funds to helping the youth of Cuero. They were largely responsible for the youth recreation program that began in the 40s and still support those endeavors. They sponsor handicapped and/or blind youth to the Lion owned and operated camp at Kerrville, they provide eye care and glasses for needy children, and present a $500 scholarship to a deserving senior each year.

In 1973 the Cuero club sponsored a Leo Club for youths 16-21 years of age. Their first president was Corey Duckett and the sponsor was Lion Bob Hesse.

Glenn Portis is the only member in the Cuero club who holds the Monarch Key from Lions International for signing, and retaining for a year, 150 new members. In 1987 Portis was nominated by the Cuero club, and elected by District 2-S4 to the Texas Lion Hall of Fame.

The Cuero club currently has about 120 members and has been chosen outstanding club of District 2-S4 many times. The motto of Lions International has long been "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety." Their credo is simply "We Serve."

by C.L. and Faye Duckett

The Hawthorne Club

The Hawthorne Club was organized on February 26, 1895 as the women of Cuero were beginning to feel a need for a common bond to draw them together. Several women gathered in the parlor of the Stayton Weldon residence to form a literary society limited to a membership of thirty. The ladies voted to name the society "The Hawthorne Club" after the popular writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne. His works were the basis for the first outline of study.

Organizers were: Mesdames Lee Joseph, W.R. Rathbone, D.H. Heaton, J.W. Stayton, Stayton Weldon, John Welch, Frank Coffin, Willie Breeden, D.B. Blake, S.C. Lackey, R.H. Wofford, Misses Mary Breeden, Nannie Lackey, Elizabeth Kyle, Jessie McConnell and Mary Wofford.

A fifty cent initiation fee and weekly dues of five cents were voted by the ladies. Meetings were held each Tuesday, and the programs for the club were printed in the Cuero Record. A limit of a two hour duration for each meeting was set by the charter members, and a fine of twenty five cents was assessed for being absent at roll call. Absence without cause carried a fine of one dollar.

In 1898 under the sponsorship of the Bronte Club of Victoria, the Hawthorne Club became a member of the Fifth District Federation. The Hawthorne Club carries the distinction of being the second oldest club in Texas.

During the early years meetings were held in the Epworth League Hall of the Methodist Club, then in the Odd Fellows Hall. Later they met in the homes of members.

One of the early projects of the Hawthorne Club was to establish a library. At first they maintained a library in a private home for members only. Gradually they expanded and formed a public library with a volunteer librarian. Later the University Club took over the library project.

In 1914 on property donated by Mr. and Mrs. John C. French a permanent clubhouse was built on the corner of Hunt and Clayton. Cost of the clubhouse was $900, but did not include water or plumbing of any kind. Money for the building has been raised by Hawthorne members through many projects and donations. During World War II the clubhouse was used as a Red Cross Sewing Center. Over the past 40 years other groups have shared the use and expenses of the house.

In 1916 the Hawthorne Club sponsored the organization of the DeWitt County Federation. The group functioned for many years until the home demonstration clubs of the county took over the work.

Members have served on the Texas State Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1936, Texas Centennial Year, a pageant depicting the history of DeWitt County, written by Dr. W.A. McLeod, was sponsored by the Hawthorne Club and presented by prominent members of the community.

A nursing scholarship was established by the club, and the first recipient graduated from Santa Rosa School of Nursing in 1946.

Today the Hawthorne Club has 37 members and continues to meet monthly in the Women's Building at the corner of Hunt and Clayton and in private homes.

by Betty Gossett

The University Club of Cuero

In 1923, Miss Carrie May Smith was invited to a luncheon in San Antonio by a past classmate from the University of Texas named Mrs. George Abbott. At that time, Mrs. Abbott invited Miss Smith to join the National Organization of University Club Women. The entrance requirements were limited and only graduates of prestigious schools were eligible for membership.

Miss Carrie M. Smith gave a tea to get prospective members and only a few had qualifications to be invited to join. Only ladies who had two years of college in acceptable colleges were bidden. This caused ill feeling and changes were needed. The due to the National Organization were so high that the Cuero group broke away and called their club The University Club of Cuero — Contemporary Literature.

Miss Smith, better known to us now as Mrs. T.O. Buchel, Jr. (or Carrie May) recalls that her first recruits or charter members were Mrs. J.C. (Grace) Ley, Lucy Rathbone, Hermine Burkhardt (Claggett), Mrs. Tom Cheatham, Kathleen Burkhardt (Steen), Mrs. T.A. Reuss (Ruth Sigler), Tennie Mae Bass, and Mrs. Earl Evers.

Meetings were held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month until 1961-62. After that, the Club met only on the first Tuesday monthly until the year 1971-72 when the meeting date of the University Club of Cuero was changed to the third Wednesday of each month — September through May.

Looking through the minutes of years past presented a number of facts: rent for the use of the Women's building was $25 and paid to the Hawthorne Club; the yearbooks were not typed, and printing was only $1.65 for about thirty copies; anyone absent from a meeting paid a 50¢ fine. In 1943 and 1947 the University Club placed 31 books and 68 books into the public library. The Cuero Public Library was a University Club project; Dewey Henderson was the first library president and received strong support from Rev. C. Rogers McLane.

Also, the minutes of past years, tell of the University Club's participation in the PTA Halloween Carnivals to raise funds for library books. Cookies were donated to the U.S.O. during WWII and families of University Club members invited men in uniform for Christmas dinner. The Club always donated to the "Cross the Ransus Fund". One of the desks in the Women's Building was purchased by the University Club. In the 1945 minutes there is an indication that the Club was still an affiliate of the DeWitt Co. Federation of Women's Clubs. A 1¢ post card was found in one of the minute books that showed that the gas bill had been paid that amounted to $1.00 (1950-51). A May luncheon was held in 1946 at the Live Oak Club — the price of the meal was $1.50.

The University Club celebrated its silver anniversary in 1948. Officers serving that year were: President, Mrs. Fritz Koehler, Sr.; 1st. Vice-Pres. Mrs. W.B. McClung, Jr.; 2nd. Vice-Pres. Mrs. A.J. Phillips; Rec. Sec. Mrs. Ray Smith; Corres. Sec. Mrs. Juanita Dahme; Treas. Mrs. Dewey Schorre, Parliam. Miss Mary Barthlome; and Historian, Mrs. J.C. Ley.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated at the home of Mrs. T.O. Buchel (nee Carrie May Smith) on Sept. 12, 1973 with a few charter members present. They shared their memories of the Club in its formative years. Officers for the 1973-74 year were: Pres. Mrs. James Peyton; 1st. Vice-Pres. Mrs. John Pokluda; 2nd. Vice-Pres. Mrs. Ken Long; Rec. Sec. Mrs. Burch Ware; Corresp.-Sec. Mrs. Bill Blackwell; Treasurer — Mrs. Claude Blackwell, Jr.; Parliament. Mrs. A.D. Wood; and Historian, Mrs. A.W. Schaffner.

The 1988-89 club year marked its 65th anniversary with Mrs. James Peyton presenting this resume of the University Club of Cuero history. Serving as officers for the 1988-89 year were: Pres. Mrs. Arthur Koehler; 1st. Vice-Pres. Mrs. Charles Murphree; 2nd. Vice-Pres. Mrs. A.C. Ater; Rec. Sec. Mrs. Nathan Post; Correspond. Sec. Mrs. Doug Flessner; Treas. Mrs. Jerome Wild; Historian — Parliamentarian — Mrs. A.W. Schaffner; and Trustee — Mrs. E.T. Summers, Jr.

Members give book reviews at monthly meetings. The reviewer usually selects a book which is on the best seller list. The book can be obtained from the Cuero City Library — the brainchild of the University Club of Cuero.

by Mrs. James (Frances) Peyton

T62

History of Cuero Lodge No. 409 A.F.&A.M.

In June, 1874, C.C. Howerton, with sixteen other Masons, and with the approval of Cameron Lodge No. 76, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Texas, in Annual Communication in Houston, for a charter. On June 6, 1874, the charter was granted and Cuero Lodge No. 409, A.F.&A.M. was born. The Charter Members and Officers of the new lodge were: C.C. Howerton, Worshipful Master; Otto L. Threlkeld, Senior Warden; L.C. Fudge, Junior Warden; Louis Seeligson, Treasurer; W.S. Lybrook, Secretary; Moses Oppenheimer; B.X. Miligan; James D. Terry; T.B. Priddy, C. Reeves; W.W. Davis; R.P. Carr; J.A. McCrabb; Ben E. McCulloch; William Thomas ; James DeMoss; Hugo Buschick.

The Lodge's first meeting was on June 11, 1874, in Pearch Hall, believed to have been located on the corner of Valley Street and South Railroad Street. The New Lodge quickly began working and raised seven new Master Masons in the first six months.

In June, 1879, the Lodge was moved to Hohn Stratton's building at the present location of 115-117 N. Esplanade, and in the summer of 1882, the Lodge was again moved to Alex Hamilton's building on the corner of Esplanade and Church Streets. In 1885 the Lodge, with D.C. Proctor as Worshipful Master, purchased a part lot from S.C. Lackey facing Church

Masonic Lodge #409 Cuero A.F.&A.M. Dr. G. Towery, Fred Schiege, James Taylor, O.L. Eaves, Pete Newman, Rev. Norman Sander, Sam Smith, Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Dr. Charlies Tubbs, Claude Austin, Tom Cheatham, B.B. Thorn, —, Martin Pundt, and —.

Street between Gonzales and Clinton Streets and moved an existing building to the site to serve as the Lodge Hall.

On March 19, 1895, with W.S. Fly acting as Grand Master and the officers and members of Cuero Lodge assisting, the Grand Lodge of Texas leveled the cornerstone of the new DeWitt County Courthouse. Morris Evans was Worshipful Master of Cuero Lodge. In attendance at this gala event were a host of Masons from many surrounding lodges, members of the Order of Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, and their families. After the ceremony, the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star served a banquet to all Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and their ladies.

During the years of 1910-1911, with E.C. Barnard as Worshipful Master, the Lodge purchased the balance of the Lackey lot which extended to Gonzales Street and erected a new, two-story brick building. The top of the building was used as the Masonic Temple, and the bottom was rented out for a garage.

On November 14, 1945, the Lodge, acting through the trustees (Bros. Tom Cheatham, L.L. Buttery, and P. Fielding Breeden) purchased a 10.43 acre site from T.&N.O. Railroad for the erecting of a new Masonic Temple. In the early 1950's the west end of the site was developed into a beautiful picnic area for Masons from Cuero and other lodges in the area. It became a popular spot for open installations and other functions.

On September 21, 1962, Most Worshipful Robert L. Dillard, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, leveled the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple located on the brow of the hill overlooking the city. Dr. Charles R. Tubbs was Worshipful Master. Also in attendance at the ceremony was Rite Worshipful Claude Austin, Past Grand Master, Worshipful Sam Smith, Grand Senior Deacon, and the remaining officers and members of Cuero Lodge. The new building was dedicated on November 30, 1962, with Most Worshipful Robert L. Dillard, Grand Master again officiating. The Lodge began their meetings in the new Temple soon thereafter, and still use it today.

On March 7,1964, Lester Lodge No. 799 of Westhoff consolidated with Cuero Lodge No. 409.

In the same manner of many noble Brothers of the fraternity the world over, the men of Cuero Lodge No. 409, A.F.&A.M. have been instrumental in the building and development of the community, state and nation. With its strong moral code and honorable teachings, Masonry seeks to make good men better and works towards the betterment of the community.

Some of the many activities of Cuero Lodge include the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children of the community, a Public Schools Week Essay Contest, a Community Blood Drive, a Masonic Widows' Night, and a Past Masters' Night. The Lodge and its members also support many charities which include the Masonic Home for Aged Masons, the Masonic Home and School for Children, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children, the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled and Burned Children, and many others.

Past Masters of Cuero Lodge No. 409, A.F.&A.M. are: C.C. Howerton 1874-75; O.L. Threlkeld 1875-78; C.T. Hill 1878-1879; G.H. Law 1879-81, 84-85; L.C. Fudge 1881-81; S.F. Grimes 1882-83; A.W. Evans 1883-84; D.C. Proctor 1885-86, 88-92; F.C. Coffin 1886-87; A.B. Davidson 1887-88; John H. Bailey 1892-93; A. Weisenburg 1893-94; Morris Evans 1894-95; W.W. Peavy 1895-97; J.C. Woodworth 1897-99; A.G. Thomas 1899-1900; J.H. Burleson 1900-01; J.R. Whitaker 01-02, 02-03; J.C. Howerton 03-04; C.A. Summers 04-05, 05-06; B. Schwetz 06-07; W.R. Gillett 07-08; T.A. Doxey 08-09; T.J. Kennedy 09-10; E.C. Barnard 10-11, 11-12; H.L. Heyer 12-13, 18-19; O.J. Muegge 13-14; J.W. Benjamin 14-15, 15-16; W.A. Schorre 16-17, 17-18, 47-48; Thomas M. Stell 1919-20; D.I. Pattison 20-21; J.R. Froebese 21-22; F.W. Jaeggli 22-23; John W. Burns 23-24; Tom Cheatham 24-25; O.T. McAlister 25-26; Arthur C. Fischer 26-27, 43-44; H.E. Miller 27-28; C.E. Otts 28-29; Arthur Burns 29-30; John H. Pieper 30-31; John W. Herring 31-32; P. Fielding Breeden 32-33; A.R. Ruckert 33-34; E.D. McClanahan 34-35, 39-41; Joe E. Woods 35-36; C.R. Carney 36-37; Emil Reiffert 37-38; Joy W. Arnold 38-39; J.W. Jackson 41-42; E.C. Frisbie 42-43; Ben Bludworth 44-45; H.E. Weatherly 45-46; B.B. Thorn 46-47; W.R. Towery 48-49; E.C. Satterwhite 49-50; James K. Lee 50-51; Norman A. Sanders 52-53; Maurice Aronstein 52-53; Earl Dodds 53-54; Charles R. Wilson 55-56; Homer R. Wright 56-57; Tilmann G. Caraway 58-59; Emil Reuel 58-59; Fred L. Moore 60-61; Henry Wood 61-62; Charles R. Tubbs 62-63; Ray Vaughn 63-64; Don Strain 64-65; Howard C. Bennett 65-66; O.A. Zimmerman 66-67; Irmon (Bob) Bishop 67-68; J. Glenn Coffey 68-69; Glynn M. McWhorter 69-70; Edward L. Johnson 70-71; James D. Edgar 71-72; 73-74; D. Roy Parker 72-73; Donald E. Chesser 74-75; Charles M. Striedel 75-76; Odell White, Sr. 1976-77; Russell J. Shelton 77-78; Wilson K. Cook 78-79; Gordon F. Ruschhaupt 79-80; Jimmy M. Jones 80-81; Danny Strain 81-82; Charles E. Wilson 83-84; Harold W. Tiffin 84-85; Darryl J. Berger 85-86; David G. Dodge 86-87; D.W. "Nick" Nichols 87-88; Jon W. Nichols, Sr. 88-89.

Present Officers: James M. Nichols, Worshipful Master; Mitchell E. Goldman, Senior Warden; John Glaze, Junior Warden; Gordon Ruschhaupt Treasurer; D.W. "Nick" Nichols, Secretary; John W. Nichols, Sr. Chaplain; Paul Jackson, Jr. Senior Deacon; Homer Lee Harryman, Junior Deacon; Rick Loosier, Senior Steward; W.A. Pairett, Junior Steward; Arnold Goldman, Tiler.

by Jim Nichols

CUERO TURKEYFEST

T63

"Setting Up" for Turkeyfest

The Cuero Turkeyfest started in 1973 because of national publicity received during the 1972 Centennial and Turkey Trot. Two towns, Worthington, Minnesota, and Cuero, Texas were both claiming to be the Turkey Capital of the World. Lew Hudson, editor of the *Worthington Daily Globe*, and Ken Long, editor of the *Cuero Record* got together and decided it might be fun to settle the feud with a race featuring a turkey from each town.

The Cuero Fair and Turkey Trot Association, incorporated in 1947 to handle the Turkey Trot festivals, formed a committee in early

1973 to sponsor an annual self supporting celebration. In the past, townspeople had been called on for donations to put on the big Turkey Trots.

Officers and directors were elected and the assumed name of Turkeyfest was adopted. A race team consisting of Ken Long, Bob Pickens, and Jack Hartsell, and our racing turkey, Ruby Begonia, flew to Minnesota for King Turkey Days in September, 1973 for the first heat of the big race. They in turn sent a team to our celebration in October for the second heat. The event has been held annually since then with the trophy going back and forth. The turkey capital question has never been resolved, but a lot of good times and friendships have been developed over the years.

The annual celebration was held in downtown Cuero for many years and the corporation has bought two vacant buildings for use as entertainment facilities. The turkey race and big parade are still held downtown, but the rest of the celebration was moved to Cuero Municipal Park and Club House in 1988.

Many local civic organizations sponsor food or entertainment booths to make money for their charitable works. In addition to a dance, there is also continuous free entertainment, a chili cook-off, barbecue cook-off, horseshoes, volley ball, baseball, bingo, rodeo, carnival, and many arts and crafts to make this a family affair.

The presidents of Turkeyfest have been Paul Gathings, Dr. Charles Tubbs, Clete Ernster, Lias "Bubba" Steen, Jack Calk, Mike Milbery, Alan Kahlich, Burns McAlister, Davis Kainer, Billy Joe White, C.L. Duckett, and Butch Prause.

The Chamber of Commerce, The City of Cuero, Turkeyfest officers and directors, and many other local citizens spend a lot of time all year — every year — to make this celebration a continued success. Cuero had gains unmeasurable publicity and rewards because of it.

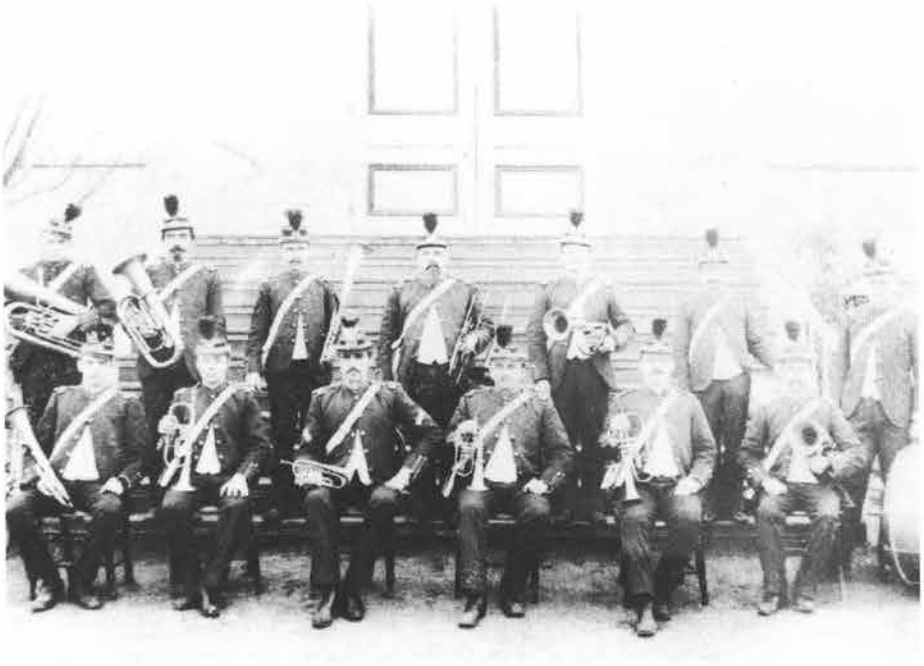
by Faye Manning Duckett

CUERO'S GOLDEN MUSIC AGE – BANDS AND MUSICALES

T64

Cuero's golden age of music covers the years from about 1880 until 1941 when World War II brought an end to many musical and social affairs of Cuero. During this time span. Cuero

Ben B. Prause Orchestra (1940-1950). Back row: l-r: Ray Allen Voelkel, Bobby Prause, Jack Dudney, Charlie Prause. Front row: l-r: Bill Wendtland, Driz Dreyer, Ben E. Prause, Ben B. Prause (director)

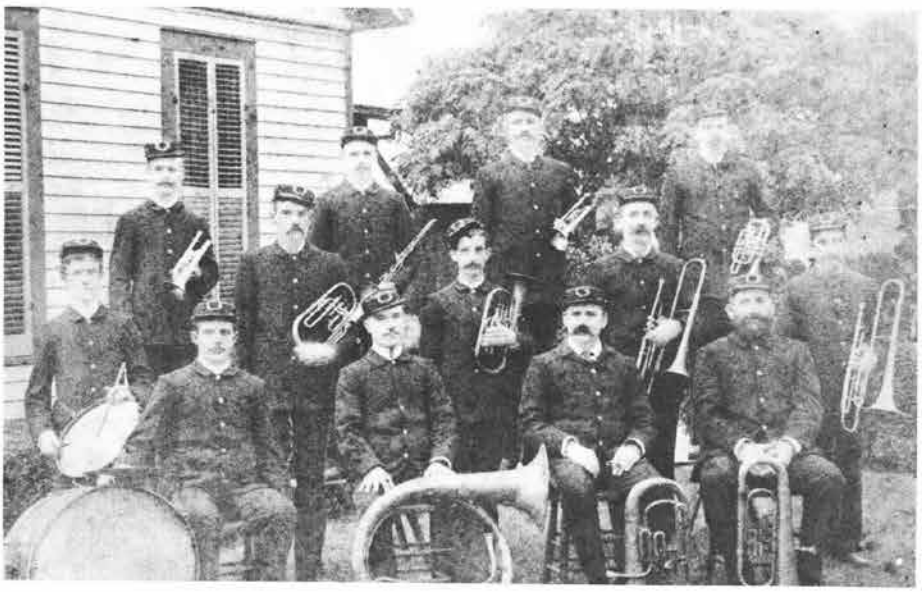


1886 Front of Turner Hall. Cuero Municipal Band; Flick Bros., Lienhardt, Wasserman, Kunitz, Hausman, Schrade, Otto Buchel, Charles Fischer, Herman Nagel.

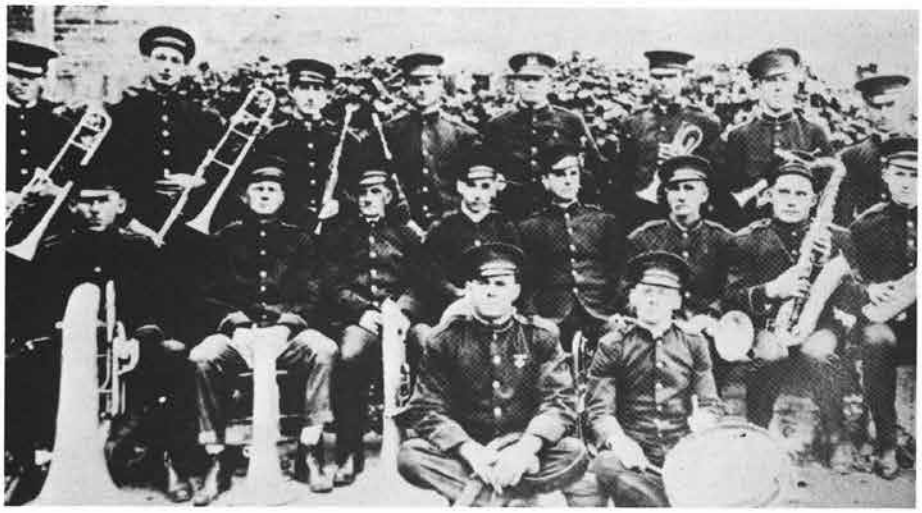
was known for its Golden Brass Bands, Minstrel Evenings, Orchestral Balls, Grand and Light Opera Concerts, Sacred Choral Concerts, and Dance Bands. One of the large newspapers in a nearby city quoted, "that for a town of less than 10,000 people, Cuero is second to none in musical artistry".

On December 10, 1865, the first brass band of Old Indianola was organized. This band consisted of members who later moved to Cuero and played in Cuero's Brass Bands. The members were George French, 25, retail druggist, Nassau, Germany, Louis Budde, 25, store porter, Kour Hesse, Germany, Frederick Holtzheuser, 21, laborer, Nassau, Germany, John Freund, 18, draymand, Prussia, Louis Bernard, 26, barber, Baden, Germany, Herman Nitsche, 21, barber, Schleswig, Germany, A. Mylius, 18, butcher, Hanover, Germany, A. Bauer, 21, butcher, Saxony, Germany, and C. Volk, 24, butcher, Hesse Darmstadt. The Casino Society of Indianola sponsored monthly band concerts by the Indianola Brass Band. This band also played for parades and political rallies. After Indianola was demolished in 1886, many of these young men became members of bands in Cuero.

In 1882, the A.J. Lienhardt Amateur Brass Band was organized and played concerts for Cuero citizens. The members of this band were the Flick brothers, Mr. A.J. Lienhardt, Sr., Mr. Wasserman, Mr. Kunitz, Mr. Hausman, Mr. Schrade, Mr. Otto Buchel, Mr. Charles Fischer, and Mr. Hermann Nagel. Members of



Albert Lienhardt, Sr. Brass Band (1890) Back row: l-r: Mr. Nitche, unknown, Albert Lienhardt, Sr., unknown. Center row: l-r: Unknown, Henry Lienhardt, Gus Wasserman, Jr., unknown, Guss Wasserman, Sr. Front row: l-r: Unknown, Oscar Kunitz, August Dietze, George Wasserman, Sr.

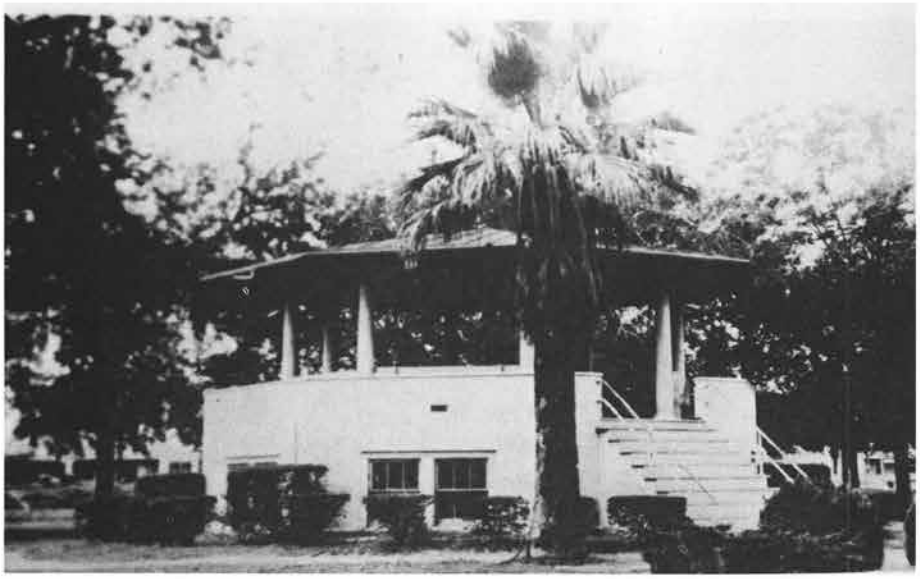


Cuero Municipal Band (1926). Back row: l-r: G.P. Box, Ray Voelkel, Berthold Thieme, Edgar Davidson, Albert Lienhardt, Albert Hartman, Robert Heyer, Ed Wasserman. Center row: l-r: E.B. Markowsky, U.O. Rushce, Gus Wasserman, Jr., Norman Wasserman, Dad Zetler, Gus Markowsky, Berthold Hausman, Fred Pieper. Front row: l-r: W.g. Markowsky, Walter Doehl.

this band rehearsed and practiced at various homes. The Lienhardt Brass Band played for band concerts and for other social events such as the golden wedding celebration of Mr. and Mrs. George Wasserman, Sr. on August 10, 1892 and for the wedding of Guss Wasserman, Jr. and Ida Kunitz in 1896.

The Cuero Military Band was organized on November 10, 1891 with 9 members. By 1904 this band had 14 pieces and was renowned as one of the best in th state for the size town. The members were Charles Flick (E. Cornet), A. Nitsche (Solo B Cornet), Ed Zedtler (1st B Cornet), A. Flick (Clarinet), R. Klienecke (Picola), R. Heyer (1st Alto), EMil Wasserman (2nd Alto), H. Curlinn (3rd Alto), Gus Wasserman, (1st Tenor), Fred Hamner (Slide Trombone), Oscar Kunitz (Baritone), A.C. Flick (Bass), Charles Klienecke (Snare Drums) and H.L. Heyer (Bass Drum). The Business Manager was R.F. Heyer, Secretary, A. Flick, Treasurer, L. Heyer, and the Leader of the band was Charles Flick. They practiced over Gohmert's Billiard Hall. They led many parades in Cuero. On one occasion, as the Home Protection Hose Company #2, called "Old Reliables", drew their hose cart down Esplanade Street to the new fire hall on Main Street and dressed in their new uniforms, the Cuero Military Band led this group plus several carriages with Mayor Summers, the speaker of the occasion, Mr. H. Bailey, the board of alderman and a number of other Cuero leading citizens.

Around 1890, the first Cuero bandstand was erected at Factory Hill (now Fairview Park) in the area of Salome Hospital and the old factory. The band continued to play at Factory Hill for Sunday afternoon concerts until a new bandstand was built in the City Park about 1910. From the Lienhardt Brass Band and Cuero Military Band evolved the Cuero Municipal Band which continued the Sunday concerts in the park. Later the schedule changed to Friday evening concerts and were often joined by ice cream festivals sponsored by the town's churches and other organizations.



Cuero Municipal Bandstand — City Park

In 1900, there were other bands and orchestras in the area such as the Wasserman Orchestra which played for the Leap Year Ball in 1904 in Turner Hall. Members of this orchestra were Gus Wasserman, Sr., Gus Wasserman, Jr. Albert Lienhardt, and A. Nitsche. Dr. Kleinecke was chairman of the committee which held this chief social function of the year (1904). This orchestra also played for the Lindeneau Mayfest (1904) for the May Queen, and a Red Cross Fund Raising dance at the Mohawk Club. The Flicks, Charles and Pauline, played for social functions with the Flick Orchestra. In the 1890s there was also a string band which played for Cuero social events.

The Cuero Turkey Trot Band evolved from this wealth of musical talent in 1913 when they marched in the second annual Turkey Trot Parade. This band practiced in the old Mohawk Club (or City Auditorium) and Cuero recognizing what they had was one of the first cities in the state to levy a tax in order to support the band. The money was used to pay the conductor, purchase green uniforms and pay their travel expenses to other towns in the area. This tax was levied in 1926 and repealed in 1949.

On May 15, 1916, Mr. Gus Wasserman, Jr. led the Turkey Trot Band at "An Evening in Minstrelsy" at the Opera House in Cuero. At the last concert of the Turkey Trot Band in 1919-1920 season, Director Gus Wasserman, Jr. led the band in such tunes as "That's It, Trombone Meow", "Till We Meet Again Waltz" and "National Emblem March".

The Wasserman Orchestra played for dances and social functions such as the Senior Class Play at Cuero High School, "Home Came Ten" and soloists for the orchestra were Miss Gladys Wasserman and Miss Delka Dietze. All of Cuero banded together for a special Musicale at the Princess Theatre on June 27, 1921 where a special orchestra consisting of Mr. Alfred Marquis, Mr. A.F. Lienhardt, Mr. Gus Wasserman, Jr., Edgar Davidson, Edwin Zedtler, E.R. Wasserman, and Mr. Alfred Marquis as the special violin soloist. Mrs. Fritz Koehler led the Cuero Community Chorus.

One of the musical highlights of the year 1921 was the Cuero Community Chorus' performance under the direction of Mr. David Griffin of San Antonio of Handel's Messiah in the Methodist Church in Yoakum, in the Presbyterian Church in Cuero, and in the Lutheran Church in Cuero. The Chorus members were Mrs. A.O. Froebese, Mrs. E.H. Putman, Mrs. F.F. Eberhardt, Miss Nell Putman, Miss Delka Dietze, Miss Gladys Wasserman, Mr. L.A. Bauer, Mrs. Olga Mueller, Mrs. E.O. Kunitz, Mrs. F.H. Meyer, Miss Esther Pannen, Miss Ruby Boutwell, Mrs. Sophie Nitsche, Mr. Carl Bohne, Mr. C.W. Robinson, Mr. H. Currlin, Mr. F. Gohlke, Mr. H.E. Miller, Mr. F.H. Meyer, Mr. Earl Evers, Mr. Rudolph Evers, Rev. F.F. Eberhardt, and Mr. H.S. Brownell. Appearing as soloists in these performances were Mr. Alfred Froebese, Miss Nell Putman, Miss Gladys Wasserman, Leroy Hamilton, Mr. Carl Bohne, Mrs. Newton Crane, Mrs. E.O. Kunitz, and Miss Delka Dietze.

Cuero was graced with the sound of Grand & Light Opera on May 30, 1922 when members of the Victoria and Cuero Choral Clubs performed at the Dreamland Theater in Cuero. One of the numbers was "Three Little Maids from School" from Madame Butterfly by Puccini sung by Miss Gladys Wasserman, Miss Delka Dietze, and Miss Minnie Lee Mangham.

The Cuero Municipal Band of Cuero (Cuero Turkey Trot Band) will be remembered for its

many parades and for its great band concerts in the City Park on Friday nights. While the band played and parents visited, the park had a giant grass covered star where local children rolled and played to the tunes of overtures and

Last Turkey Trot Band in Main Street Concert. Back row: l-r: Alfred Marquis, Ray Allen Voelkel. Front row: l-r: Junior Davidson, Glenn Wagner, unknown, Ray Fehner, Ray Voelkel.

Sousa's marches.

In later years the old bandstand in the City Park was torn down and the gazebo constructed and a marker put into place as a reminder of the golden age of band music. In 1969, this marker was unveiled and dedicated at a Turkey Trot Festival by W. John Sprigg (11 yrs.) son of Shirley (Voelkel) Sprigg, Debra Voelkel (9 yrs.), and Dinah Rae Voelkel (8 yrs.), all descendants of the Wassermans and Voelkels who played for five generations in the bands.

Directors of the Golden Brass Bands of Cuero through the years were Mr. Charles Flick, Henry Lienhardt, Sr., Albert Lienhardt, Sr., Mr. Guss Wasserman, Jr., Mr. Martino, Mr. Cohoe, Mr. Welles, and Bennie B. Prause.

In the 1930s and 1940s the Turkey Trotters Orchestra and Ben B. Prause Orchestra played for many dances and social events in the community. Some of the members of these orchestras were Lillian (Ryan) Shelton), Charles Marquis, Pop Krause, Ed Wasserman, Norman Wasserman, Leon Boldt, Ray Voelkel, Ray Allen Voelkel, Alfred Marquis, Edgar Davidson, Jr., Ben B. Prause, Ben E. Prause, Bobby Prause, and Gladys (Mickey) Voelkel. For a time the Turkey Trotters Orchestra had a regular radio show from WOAI in San Antonio.

Members and residents of Cuero who played such great music in the golden era of bands and orchestras are as follows: George Wasserman, Sr., Gus Wasserman, Sr., Gus Wasserman, Jr., Edward Wasserman, Norman Wasserman, Albert "Pete" Wasserman, G.A. Markowsky, Fred Hamm, August Dietze, Oscar Kunitz, Dolly Nitsche, Carl Isleib, Edwin Zedtler, Ray Sager, Werner Sager, Mr. Punchin, Herman Henneke, Harry Lee Henneke, G. Westerberg, Bobbie Prause, George Turk, Roy Brunkenhoefer, Harold Martin, Ernest Schultz, Paul Gustwick, Bernard Zengerly, David Miles, William Lienhardt, Leon V. Lienhardt, Henry J. Lienhardt, Robert Heyer, Jr., E.B. Markowsky, Berthold Hausmen, Hugo Hausmen, Walter Doell, Wm. Markowsky, Chas. Ott, Sr., Chas. Ott, Jr., Edgar Davidson, Jr., Edgar Davidson, Sr., Alfred Marquis, Charles Marquis, Paul Marquis, Charles Marquis, Jr., Charles Bunker, Ed Klavermann, Sue C. Jones, Alois Laake, Leon Boldt, Abe Martin, Pop Krause, Cap Rusche, Billy Gas, Roy Voelkel, Sr., Ray Voelkel, Jr., Elvis Hockett; Harold Martin, Bennie B. Prause, Ben E. Prause, Albert Hartman,

Turkey Trotters Orchestra (1935-1942). Back row: l-r: Leon Boldt, Norman Wasserman. Center row: l-r: Edward Wasserman (director), Mr. Kirby, Mr. Eckhardt, Lillian (Ryan) Shelton. Front row: l-r: Alfred Marquis, Pop Krause, Charles Marquis

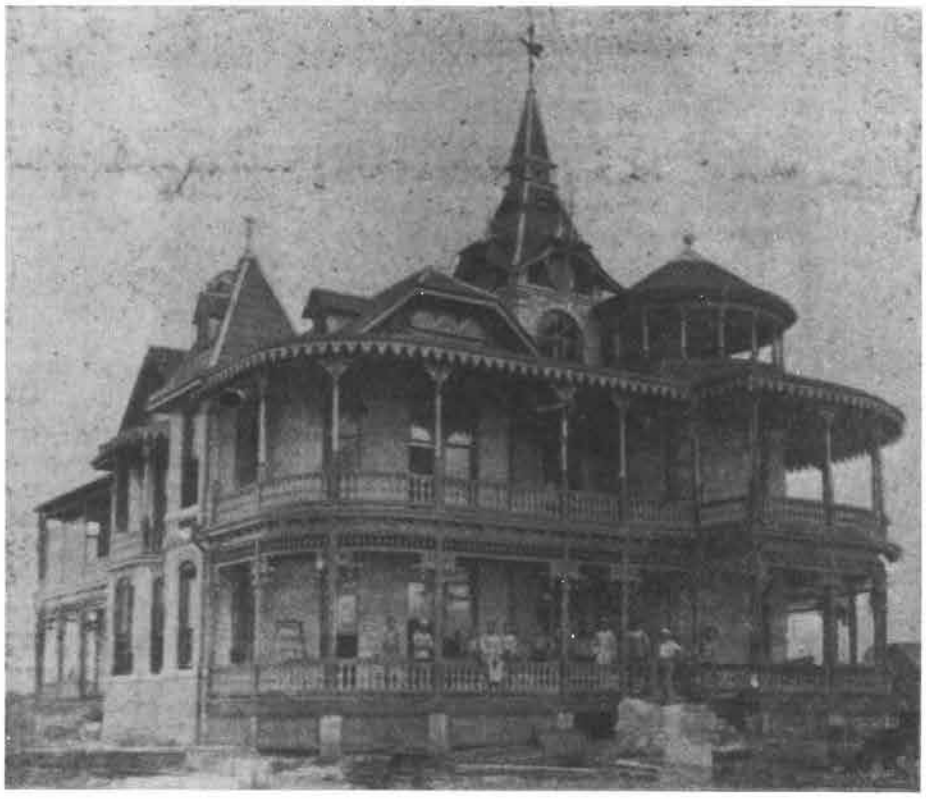
Robert Stewart, G.P. Box, Jr., Joe B. Hunter, Bryan Hunter, Ben Bludworth, Mack Seffel, Raymond Burnett, J.J. Rische, Henry Hahn, Charlie Carlyle, August Boetz, Charles Schorre, Ben Turk, Waco Laake, Frank Rother, Mr. Walicek, Tommie Beverdorff, Walter McClung.

If you listen closely on these warm summer nights which we have in DeWitt County and in Cuero, you can still hear the laughter of children, the talking of people sitting in cars and on the grass, as on the winds come the strains of long forgotten overtures, waltzes, and marches as the Cuero Municipal Band played them like no other. For those of us who remember, it was a time of joy and pleasure, those Friday night Band Concerts. We can still hear the tooting of horns as each piece ended and our memories linger on and on and on . . .atime never to be forgotten.

by Shirley V. Spriggs

CUERO HOUSES

T65



Otto Buchel house

William Grafton house.

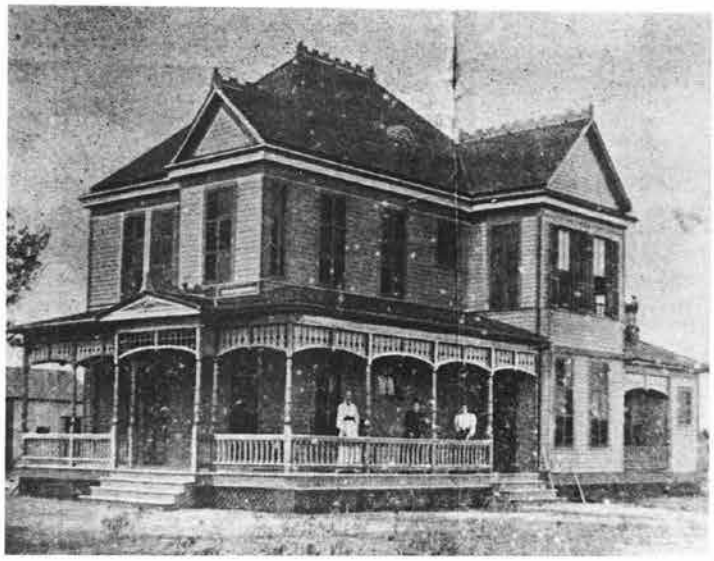
Charles Fritz Kleinecke house, moved to Cuero from Indianola.

Fischer-Bowman house.

Sheppard-Sorrell house.

Otto Starker house.

Hunter house.



F. N. Roche house.

D. C. Proctor house.

T. O. Buchel house.

Bennett-McDougal house.

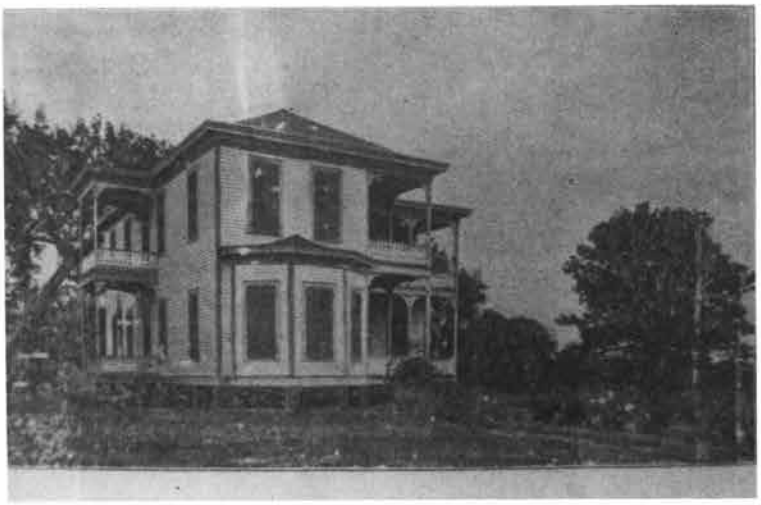
Elisha Stevens house.

Wofford house.

Frobese house—given to Episcopal Church.

Breeden house.

Wofford-Blackwell house.



William Westhoff house.

Howerton-Wofford house.

Allert house.

Burns-Haak-James house.

Hamilton-Oliver house.

Cusack-Allert house.

Knetka-Morrow house.

Theo. Reuss house.

Sames-Cole house.

Burns-Windel house.

Finney-McAlister house.

Boldt house.

Gohmert-Summers house.

Reiffert-Thomas house.

Hamilton house.

Blackwell-Sheppard house.

E. T. Summers, Sr., house.

Heaton-Breeden house.

Dr. J. M. Reuss house.

Kossbiel-Kahlich house.

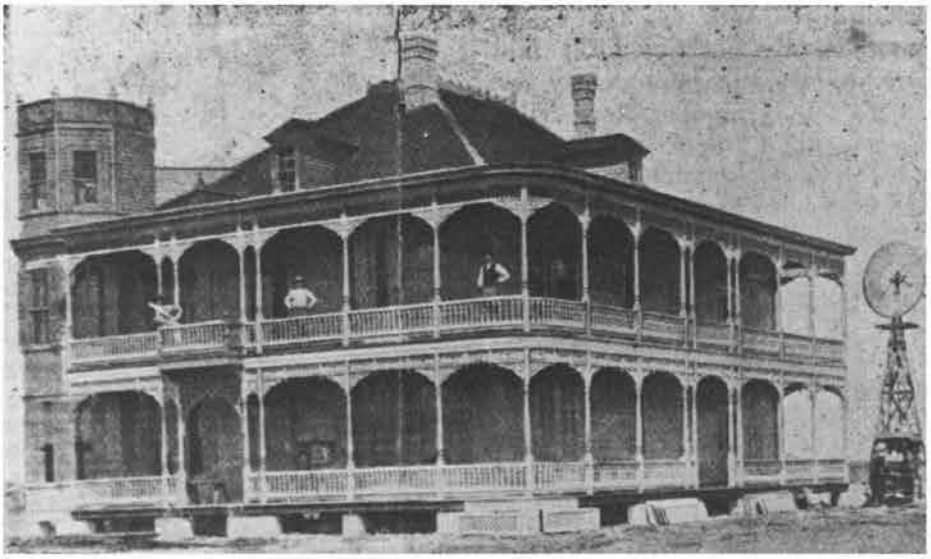
Bell-Wheat house.

Reiffert-Mugge house.

McCurdy-Bland House.

Barnes house.

Sam Lackey house



August Buchel house

DAVY

T66

Davy is located in northwestern DeWitt County near the Karnes County Line. In its day there was a post office (opened in 1895), a blacksmith shop, drug store, and a general store. Also, there was a blueing factory operated by Isaac Walton Griffin which was very well known. In 1885, Fred House gave land on the east side of Salt Creek for a school and church. Trustees at that time were William Burt, W.A. Smalley, and J.T. Holdermann.

Other family names for the area were Sunday, Poetter, Morrison, Hartmann, Powell, Byram and Grun.

The post office discontinued service in the 1930's, and the town gradually closed.

In 1894 Louis Seifert and his bride came to Davy where five of their twelve children were born.

There is a store on highway 119 that marks the site of "New Davy". (1990)

by Patsy Goebel

Davy School building

THE Muti Hotel

TABLE SET WITH THE BEST
THE MARKET AFFORDS : : :

J. Muti, Proprietor.

CUERO, TEXAS.

The CUERO STAR.

A. S. CRISP, Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at Cuero Postoffice as 2d-class Mail Matter

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1896

Local - News.

Bird seeds at Breeden Bros.

Some building is going on in our town.

Fresh shrimps at Breeden Bros.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Newsome and daughter Miss Maggie are in the city from Charco.

Get your Valentines from R. C. Warn, the Stationer.

The Presbyterian ladies will have a tea at Mrs. Alex Hamilton's Friday, February 14.

Seed Potatoes $2.50 per barrel at Otto Buchel & Co's.

Licensed to Wed: Pedro Tyerina and Mrs. Antonita Moro; Ed Scott and Odelia Blackwell.

Onion sets, fresh and fine, 10 cents a quart, at Heaton Bros.

Mrs. Thornton of Victoria is up on a visit to her daughters, Mesdames Hamilton and Joseph.

For Sale.
15 head of mules. Apply to
GEO. ECKERT.

We are glad to say that Mrs. R. H. Wofford is rapidly recovering from her recent serious spell of sickness.

1916 Davy School Class

DEER CREEK

T67

Deer Creek is a short tributary of the Sandies, and is located in central DeWitt County. In 1847, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Calhoun taught the Deer Creek School near this stream, and one of her pupils was a daughter of Captain John York. This community school did not continue long. In the 1930's Deer Creek School was the black school of the Lindeneau School district.

The School was located in the H.C. Slade Survey.

EDGAR

T68

In 1853 James and Selah Edgar came to Texas from Tennessee to settle on the land grant of their son, Joseph Smith Edgar. Joseph had participated in the Battle of San Jacinto but had died before he claimed his land grant. The grant was in northeastern DeWitt County.

Edgar School

Restaurant at gin in Edgar — Sidney Oliver Wood, Lem Wood, and Lonnie Wood

Other early settlers were the Browns, Milligans, Claytons, Kennedys, Parkers, Boothes, Barthes, Stells and Bachelors. The population was never more than three hundred at its best. In the late 1800's, Edgar had its own post office, telegraph and depot. Their first school was called the Grassbur School. It was taught by Joe Covey and J.W. Cook.

Businesses included a cotton gin, grocery store, blacksmith shop, and railroad spur to the gin. By the 1950's the population had decreased so that the post office was closed. Farming and ranching were always continuing in the area. There were two churches in Edgar, the Presbyterian and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The Mt. Zion Baptist is still being used in 1990. It was built in 1869 for the black population of the area. Charter members of this church were Nelson Parks, Jack Harryway, Liddie Green, Winnie Webb, Margaret Crawford, Matilda Calvin, Mary Hunt, Marinda Hunt, Marinda Douglass, and Easter Drake. In 1890 the church was located south of the Cuero-Yoakum Highway at Edgar. This church received a Historical Marker in 1985.

Edgar is no longer a business community. All that remains are the cemeteries to remind one of days gone by.

by Patsy Goebel

FIVE MILE COMMUNITY

T69

Five Mile School

In 1849 a group of four families came to DeWitt County from Germany to make their homes. They settled on Five Mile Creek in central DeWitt County. These families were: the Gus Holzapfels, the Carl Schleuters, the Henry Hildebrands and the Herman Holzapfels. These families were all very well educated and were proficient in the Latin language. Because of their knowledge of Latin, the community was first called Latimer.

In 1850 the first families were joined by Captain Robert Kleberg. Others who followed were the Edward Holzapfel family, the Frederick Grothaus family, Charles Lang family, Carl and Gus Schrade families and the Julius Schorre family. By this time the area was referred to as the Five Mile Community.

Robert Kleberg was a lawyer by profession and Gus Holzapfel was an editor and a naturalist. Carl Scholeuter was a teacher. Carl Schrade and George Brandt were chemists. This group also operated a freight line from Indianola to San Antonio and to Austin.

About the year 1860, Mrs. Ottilie Ploeger taught school in her home. The first schoolhouse was built on land in the George W. Brooks Survey, donated by Gus Holzapfel and was called Five Mile School. Its first teacher was Carl Schleuter, one of the original settlers. Over the next several years the school was moved twice to be nearer the public road.

As was typical in that era, the schoolhouse served as more than a place of instruction. It was also a community center, and a church house. The German Methodist Church met on Sundays.

In 1872, the school became a public school with John Pflug as its first teacher.

In 1921 a new school was built on the Ratcliffe farm which was on the Clinton-Weesatche Road. The Five Mile school children then attended the new school called Ratcliffe School.

by Patsy Goebel

FRIEDLAND

T70

Friedland School building

On December 4, 1807 Joseph and Agnes Bohac gave one acre of land in the Northeast corner of section 9 of the Indianola Railroad Company land to trustees Anton Fojtec, Philip Rohan and Joseph R. Bohac. This land was given with the understanding that if the land ceased being used for school purposes, it would revert back to the Grantors. This acre of land was part of a tract of 178 acres conveyed to Joseph Bohac by Mrs. Sophie Weldon by deed on October 30, 1897. Friedland School was nine miles northeast of Yorktown and was a one teacher school. It was discontinued in the 1950's.

There was a thriving community of Czechs in Friedland, located off the Westhoff highway between Yorktown and Westhoff. The National Cemetery is still a reminder of the Czech heritage of the area.

The Friedland school was a one room structure which Ethel Simecek taught for some time.

by Nellie Murphree

GARFIELD

T71

John Schneider, Charles Gaebler and Ed Buschek were the first settlers of Garfield. Later settlers were Borchers, Gohlke, Wulf, Richter, Harper, Huck, Morris,Rannefeld, Hackfeld, Block, Bruns, Schroeder, Hengst, Radicke, Meischen, Thieme, Peters, Helmers and Weischwill.

These settlers were progressive with many ideas to improve their community. They built the schoolhouse and had church services in the same building, organized the Shooting Club, built the dance hall, organized a butcher club to provide fresh meat once a week, built their own telephone line into Yorktown and organized the Garfield Farm Mutual Insurance Association, now headquartered in Karnes City.

In later years a brass band was organized by August Hengst. Also, a dance orchestra called the Braun-Thieme Orchestra, directed by John Thieme. A Garfield Athletic Club was organized under the management of Otto Hengst.

A small country store was operated by F.M. Banks who was also the school teacher. Later this store was purchased by O.A. Audilet and a larger building was erected and a gasoline filling station was added.

In 1921 another brass band was organized and called the Garfield-Gruenau Band and later, it was called the Farmers Band under the direction of Hugo Meischen. By 1940 another brass band was organized under the direction of Ben Meischen.

When the first settlers moved to the Garfield area it was open country, no fences. Cattle rustling was quite common. There were many shootouts between the ranchers and rustlers. In those days a pistol was man's best friend. In one instance a man by the name of Mack and another named Tannel had a shootout about two miles west of the Garfield Hall on the Gaebler ranch near a dry creek. This creek still bears the name Mack-Tannel. This was where Mack shot and killed Tannel.

After barbed wire was invented the area around Garfield was fenced and as more people moved into the area the land became farmland and cotton and corn were the leading crops.

The Garfield School District consolidated with the Yorktown School District and the Garfield School building now serves as the American Legion Post Home in Yorktown.

After losing the school and the store, there would be no Garfield if it were not for the dance hall, the Shooting Club and the Garfield Mutual Fire and Storm Assn. and the ladies organizations.

President James A. Garfield would have liked his namesake.

by DeWitt County View

Garfield School

GOHLKE SCHOOL

T72

Gohlke School

This school was named for William Gohlke who donated the land. It was on the John Hall Survey in northwestern DeWitt County. It began in 1900 with Jim Buch as the teacher. In 1918 a modern two room building was erected. In 1948 it was a small one teacher school. It was discontinued in the 1950's.

On June 2, 1924, the first county commencement exercise was held. Tests were given in the different subjects in 1922, 1923 and 1924, by the teachers and the County Superintendent, H.B. Montgomery. Whenever a student had passed the tests satisfactorily on all the subjects, they became eligible to enter any High School no matter what class or age.

The following received certificates to High School in 1924: Edna Mae Nilsson (1923) from Lone Tree School; Elmo Boehl from Green DeWitt School; Ella Brandt and Ora Lee Bluntzer from the Upper Meyersville School; Jesse Parks and Ralph Dubose from the Ratcliffe School; Frieda Krueger and Leona Sager from Arneckeville School; Julius Schaefer from Meyersville; Della Gifford from Cabeza School; Olga Wagner and Anita Schroeder from Gohlke School; Gertrude Reichert from Nordheim; Robert Mickus from Lone Tree School; Reinhold Mueller from Lindenau; Eva Adcock, Blanche Milligan from Thomaston; and Roberta Preston from Buchel School.

by Mrs. Rudolf (Anita Schroeder) Lippke

GOLLY HOLLOW

T73

Golly Hollow, 1985

The Golly Hollow School stands today on the one acre of land donated to the trustees of the school, Mr. Gideon Dryer and Mr. Michael Jacobs, by Mrs. Theresa Hubersburger. This deed was recorded on July 18, 1884. A part of the Mumford House League, located approximately four miles southwest of Arneckeville and five miles northwest of Meyersville.

Around the year 1847, the first settlers came to live in this area leaving their homeland across the sea. Their children were taught at home by the parents. By the year of 1876, a building near the Boggy Branch was used as a school. Because of the distance, the circuit minister serving Arneckeville Lutheran Church came here to teach the children that gathered at the church. These children had only gone to school a few days in their entire lifetime.

When more families settled in this area it became necessary for a school to be built nearby. Some settlers before 1884 were the

Afflerbach, Peavy, Hubersburger, Semmler, Dryer, Jacobs, and Golly families. These families banded together and constructed a small school on private property about one-half mile west of the present location. The school devised its name Golly Hollow from an early settler, Antone Golly who helped build the school but died before it was completed. Mrs. Theresa Hubersburger, out of the love for free school and the support thereof, donated this one acre of land so the schoolhouse could be moved to higher ground. The school was a private school until about 1893 when the public school system of Texas came into being.

All needs of the teacher and students were met by the community, namely trustees and parents. Water was hauled to the school in wooden barrels on sleds and the children would each carry their own drinking water. If the teachers were not from the immediate area, they would live with a family that lived near the school. The community members paid for the teacher's salary in the very early days.

The population in the area continued to grow by the early 1900's and the structure had to be enlarged. Then a few years later a cistern was bought and gutters were put on the building so the school children had rain water to drink and use.

All through the years the school and the community would work together to achieve their purpose. In 1929, a club was formed with thirty-two members that met in the homes, for the purpose of working together to help one another and to help with the school needs. Records show they did both. Among their money projects, one was the presentation of a three act play and the selling of cake, pie, etc. This play was also presented in other communities and the proceeds were used to put a water well at the school. The club paid for the many extra needs that the teachers would request to be filled. Blackboard chalk, playground equipment, seesaws, new teacher's chairs, lunch cabinets, telephones — to name a few.

In 1946 with only four students to be enrolled, Golly Hollow School closed its doors and was consolidated with the Arneckeville School. However, the Golly Community Club stayed active and continued to help Arneckeville School with some supplies for the children.

Since August of 1952 the old Golly School building has been used as a community center. The few able club members worked together again to improve and repair the closed building. Window panes were replaced, minor carpenter work was done and Golly was made to shine again. After Arneckeville consolidated with Meyersville, work was done on the school district properties. In 1966, the Meyersville School trustees deeded this old school property to the Golly Community Club to be used as their center.

In 1982, the active Golly Club planned and had a reunion for all former students of Golly Hollow School. It was well attended with students sharing their happy school day memories.

In July 1984, the 100th anniversary of the school was observed. On September 1, 1985, the Golly Hollow School and the community dedicated an official Texas Historical Marker.

The Golly Community Center is used for small family affairs and as the club meeting place. Records show that perhaps this is one of the oldest school buildings still standing in this area.

by Mrs. Fritz Thamm

GREEN DEWITT SCHOOL

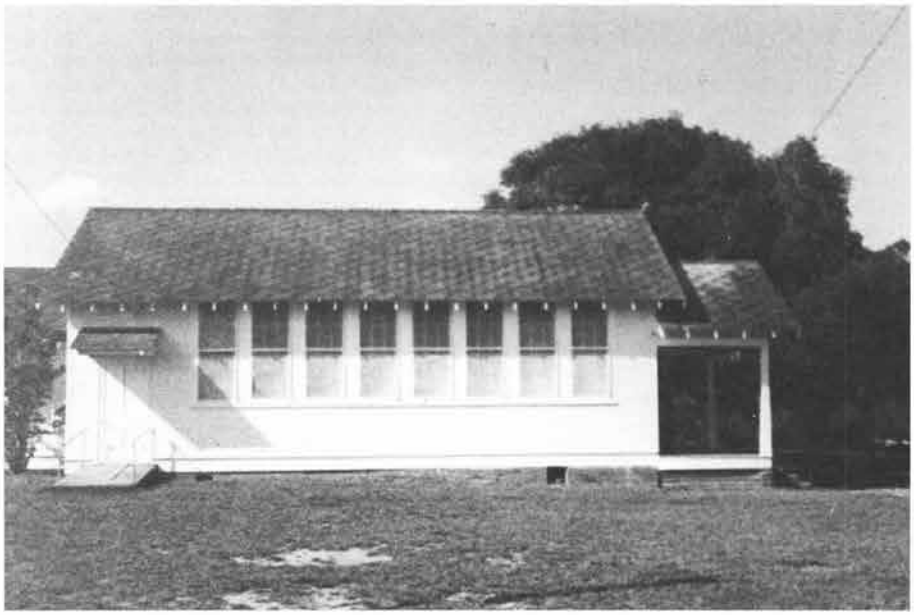
T74

February 3, 1900 was a momentous day for the Green DeWitt Community at the time, as well as, for the future generations. On this day, Louis Koenig deeded an acre of land in his front pasture to Ferdinand Hartman, Louis Koenig, and Arthur LeSage, trustees of the Green DeWitt League School Community for the purpose of establishing a school. It has been passed down orally that the trustees bought the Calhoun Community School which had been built on Judge Koenig's place around 1870. It was then moved to the Heard land near the Heard Bridge over the Guadalupe River. From the Heard site, it was moved to the center of the Green DeWitt Survey and called the Green DeWitt School. The first-generation children of the Koenig, Hartman, Goebel, Rath, Boehl, Raak, Wolf, Hoffmann, Sauer, Hiller, Hotz, and Mueller families — walking, riding horses, or driving buggies — came to this school. Many of the same families came as second-generation children to the Green DeWitt School but not in the original structure.

One of the first teachers was Nora (Hartman) Mernitz who taught German-English classes one or two summers. Other early teaches were J.W. DeLoney, Emma Arnold, Maude Reed, Irven LeSage, Annie (Leurssen)

From left to right: Eddie Boehl, Walter Boehl, Walter Hartman, unidentified child, and Charles L. Koenig with bass fiddle in front of Green DeWitt School about 1910. A note on back related: "They played for dances — waltzes, two-steps, and grand marches."

Front Row (left to right): Robert Hartman, Herbert Sager, Eugene Wolf, Ruben Sauer, Richard Sauer, August Hoffmann; Second Row (left to right): Alvin Sager, Georgia Raak, Erna Raak, Mary Louise Goebel, Earl Hoffmann, Teacher, Elnita Nagel; Third Row (left to right): Theo Sager, Bill Hartman, Jerome Semmler, Elmo Boehl, Walter Raak, Victor Goebel, Richard Hartman.



This structure was built in 1929 for the Green DeWitt School after a fire completely burned the original building February 11, 1929. It is now used as the Green DeWitt Community Club House.

Cook, Annie (Hartman) Krage, Nadine (Billingsly) Reichmuth, Ruebie (Collier) Wheeler, Frieda (Gohlke) Boehl, Zara Miller, Mary (Shimer) Koenig, Elnita Nagel, Lola (Schleicher) Edwards, Winifred (Kuehl) Russel, and in 1929 Edith (Loos) Hans. History stopped for this structure on February 11, 1929 when it burned. It was said that the community raised funds and built the new schoolhouse with ". . . never a penny of tax money." In the meantime, the students were channeled to Walter and Mary Koenig's place where classes were held in a vacant farm-worker house. Mary, at 91 years, recounted, "When the recess bell rang, Charles and Edward Koenig raced to the water pump in our yard; filled their bucket; put the long-handled dipper in; and walked back carefully so that the rest of the students could "dipper" a drink. Then at noon, it might have been Eugene and Armin Wolf's turn. My four-year-old son, Louis, would often return with the "water carriers" to visit and he still recalls that Miss Loos taught him to draw a beautiful rabbit wonderfully well."

But times were changing for small one-room schools and on June 20, 1949 by consent of the DeWitt County School Board of Trustees, Green DeWitt and Arneckeville were consolidated into Green DeWitt-Arneckeville School.

Since the families of the Green DeWitt School children wanted to continue as a community, they formed the Green DeWitt Community Club. The schoolhouse became the center for many social gatherings — from birthday parties to annual Fourth of July chicken barbeques. When Louis Koenig deeded the land in 1900, it was stipulated that "if said Land at any time cease to be used for school purposes, it should revert to said Louis Koenig or his heirs." Since the structure needed repairs, the club discussed purchasing the land. Through the efforts of the trustees, Erwin Rath, J.B. McAlister, Rudolph Goebel, Mary (Shimer) Koenig, and Marguertie (Goebel) Johnson the acre of land was purchased February 16, 1966. The first option to buy was given to the Koenig heirs should the site cease to be a community club. In the years following, modern improvements have been made — the latest a fenced-in and roofed-over barbeque area adjoining the property. Olivia (Bitterly) Rath donated the land for this in 1987. The same spirit that moved the first generation to found the school, has moved the second and third generations to preserve it.

by Ada Koenig Kirk and Katherine Koenig Goebel

Unidentified group Green DeWitt School early 1900's with rainwater cistern clearly visible in background.

GRUENAU COMMUNITY

T75

Gruenau, which means green meadow, is located in the rich blackland prairie six miles north of Yorktown. It was settled by frugal German farmers as early as 1872. David Stanchos, then residing in Yorktown, owned a large tract of land reaching into the Gruenau vicinity and can be considered the first family that settled in the area. Vachel Weldon, Sr. acquired land from the Indianola Railroad Company and opened it for development in 1890.

Descendants of many of the early German settlers still reside in the area. Names like Koopman, Warmuth, Mueller, Jansen, Buesing, Remmers, Stanchos, Straube, Kimmel and others are familiar to all of us today.

The sons of these various early settlers organized what was known as the Turnverein, an athletic organization, and practice began in 1897. Gymnastics and calisthentics were a popular sport with German folks as were shooting clubs. Along with these athletic and shooting events were coronations, brass band music and dancing and feasting. These are some of the traditions still carried on by the Gruenau Verein although the athletic events have been disbanded down through the years.

In 1927 the first Turn and Schuetzen Verein building was torn down and the present spacious hall was built. Many additions and conveniences have been added down through the years.

No longer is the area around Gruenau the "Green Meadow" it once was for the purpose of hay making from native grass. The rich soil has been heavily cultivated and while at one time cotton was king, it also yielded to flax, grain sorghums, corn forage, and wheat.

Soon after his arrival to the Gruenau area around 1895, George Langley built a store and saloon at a site just east of the southwest corner of Section 12 of the J.H. Richter Survey across the road from the Heinrich Mueller farm. He called it the Little Chicago Store. The first school in the area was built across the road in the southeast corner of Section 13 Indianola RR Survey, which was later known as the Blake Ranch. The area became the center of social activities where the first Brass Band was organized under the leadership of Mr. Langley. This band played for most functions in the area for many years until Mr. Langley moved to Westhoff around 1908. There was also a Lincke Band composed of

Gruenau Brass Band — In the year of 1915 the band poses at Gruenau at the side of the club house. Pictured are: top row, left to right — Eddie Seifert, valve trombone; Herman Peters, slide trombone; Otto Seifert, baritone; Caesar Metting, alto; Gus Seifert, alto; and Dick Lamprecht, bass. Bottom row, left to right: Otto Lamprecht, bass drum; Osmar Audilet, snare drum; Emil Seifert, trumpet; Joe Richter, trumpet; Fritz Peters, Jr., coronet; and Oswald Seifert, clarinet.

members of the Carl Lincke family. In 1912 another band was organized with eight members and named the Gruenau Brass Band. The members of this band included Otto Seifert, Emil Seifert, Gus Seifert, Oswald Seifert, August Beutnagel, Dietrich Lamprecht, Otto Lamprecht and Herman Peters. The band played for feasts and dances in the area. In 1914 the Brass Band was enlarged to a group of twelve men. This band was composed of Edward Seifert Sr.; Herman Peters; Otto Seifert the Manager; Caesar Metting; Gus Seifert, the Treasurer; Dietrich Lamprecht; Otto Lamprecht; Osmar Audilet; Emil Seifert, the Leader; Joseph Richter; Fritz Peters Jr; and Oswald Seifert. Later two more were added, Carl Lincke, clarinet, and August Theilengerdes, clarinet. Since the feasts were always held on Sunday, the rifle competition would start in the morning. The Brass Band would also begin playing in the morning for which they received their supper. For the night dance, each member was paid $4.00. In 1917 Otto Lamprecht received his call to the U.S. Army. The Brass Band accompanied him to Cuero and played at the train depot before he left. He was replaced in the band by his nephew Otto Koopmann, on the bass drum, until his return in April of 1919. In later years as several of the members married and moved away from the area, the band eventually dispersed. Since the automobile had become the major source of travel and it was more convenient to travel further distances, most of the former members joined the Nordheim Brass Band, which played for the after-concerts at the Gruenau feasts into the 1950's. Also some of the members organized the Joe Richter Orchestra which played for the night dances in the area for many years.

by Nordheim View 1971 and Hilmer E. Koopmann

Gruenau Hall — 1989

GUILFORD

T76

Guilford School

The people of a farming community in north central DeWitt County attended the Clear Creek Methodist Church, located north of Clear Creek, from 1885 to 1935. The children attended a school taught in this church for some ten or twelve years. In 1898 Charles Wofford donated an acre of land for a school about four miles from the church and on the south side of Clear Creek. It was named Guilford for his wife, Guilford (Whitsett) Wofford. He also opened a store there in 1898. For a number of years Guilford Community had this store, a gin, and a community post office. There was a Woodmen of the World organization which held its meetings in a room upstairs over the school house. In 1942 Guilford School consolidated with the nearby Lindenau School.

In 1911, according to the County School Superintendent's Records, there was one teacher here, Miss Sophia Schroeder. Other teachers through the years were: Walter Wehman, J.F. Petter, Miss Minnie Linn Vaugh, Lillian Stolleis, Josie Pieper, Emmett Ferguson, Gertrude Chamrad, Emma Chamrad, Una Mae Eck, Thelma Wright, F.A. Crisp, Estella Clark, Lela Wehman, Grace Wallis, Amy Hoffman, Ella Brandt, and Mrs. A. W. Schaffner and Lela Aschen.

Some of the trustees were: R.H. Boethel, W.A. Rau, Ed Wehman, John Logemann, Ed. Buchhorn, Fred Wolters, Vincent Warzecha and B.F. Roggenkamp.

by Patsy Goebel

HEBRON COMMUNITY

T77

In the late 1840's pioneers in ox wagons came from the eastern states looking for a good place to settle. When they arrived in the southeastern part of DeWitt and Lavaca Counties, they found a good place to settle. They settled near Bear Creek and Little Brushy Creek both having clean, clear running water. They settled in both counties and near both creeks.

There were wild mustangs and cattle in this

Hebron Church 1897. Back Row: Sam Hollan (preacher), Richard W. Hollan, ?, Will Hill, ?, ?, Press Brown, John Cooper and Wayman Garrett, ?, ?, ?,. Middle Row: ?, Mattie Carroll, ?, Maggie Garrett, Sallie Carroll, Nan Cook, Luther Carson, Ida Carroll, Ada Hill, "Sis" Deida Goode, Fannie Goode, Lola Brown and Henry Byars. Front Row Left Bench: Bob Brown, Barnes Brown, Pete Brown, Harriett Brown, Connie (baby), Laura Cook, ?, ?. Right Bench: Saphronia Caladonia Fatheree Byars, Pearl Granberry, Delila Byars Granberry and Lee Granberry.

area, and the Indians were not too bad at this time.

In those days a man's wealth was in a good horse. Land was cheap and it has been told by some, a man once traded a good horse for one section of land, 640 acres.

Among the first settlers were the Granberry, Hargrove, Shows, Bissett, Squyres, Hollan, Hill, Byars, Williams, Goode, Cook, Carroll, McDonald, Garrett, Cooper and Brown families.

Hebron Baptist Church

History passed down by the church members says that the first church was the Hebron Baptist Church which was a one room log building with split log benches. This church was established in 1852.

Then in 1855 it was moved to the present site and was organized into a cooperating missionary Baptist Church. Hebron Baptist joined the Colorado Baptist Association in 1856 and reported a membership of 136.

In 1855 Adam Shows, a carpenter, was hired to build the church with the help of others in the community. In that day lumber had to be brought from Florida to Texas by boat, from Indianola, 75 miles by ox cart to Hebron.

On November 30, 1867 Amos Granberry, Sr. and John G. Hargrove donated to Hebron Baptist Church and the deacons of said church Amos Hill and L. Bissett, two acres more or less on which the house of worship now stands. The deed was recorded March 13, 1868.

On May 19, 1890 W.P. Carroll, W.A. Goode, and Lou Goode, his wife, deeded in trust to Sam M. Hollan for Hebron Baptist Church one acre of land more or less. This deed was recorded December 30, 1891.

Pastors of this church were: Wade Hollan, Henry Crocker, J.D. Cook, L.L. Bissett, B.F. McDonald, J.F. Carson, S.M. Hollan, J.M. Barnes, G.W. Newsom, W.P. Carroll, W.D. Fleming, W.E. Self, P.T. Brown, J.T. Hollan, C.S. Fathergill, H.C. Wroten, W.T. Cobbs, J.C. Johnson, C.M. Smith, J.W. Storms, R.O. Holcomb, George Newsom, J.E. Moreland, J.T. King, W.C. Chavers, F.L. Williamson, W.E. McGahagin, J.A. Munson, Frank Deavers, William Bearfield, William Walker, Ellis Epps, David Moore, Lynn Maudlin, Charles Gilliam, Richard Mayberry, and Buddy Means.

Hebron Cemetery is next to the Hebron Baptist Church. It is thought that a cowboy may have been the first to be buried in the cemetery, but there was no marker or record of his name. Nancy Shows is the first recorded person to be buried in the Hebron Cemetery. She was the daughter of Amos Granberry, Sr. She died at age 38 April 29, 1867. She was the wife of Adam Shows.

There is an Official Historical Marker for Hebron Community, Church, Cemetery and School.

School was held at Hebron until 1884 but not on a regular basis. In 1884 land was donated for a school in the area which was named Bear Creek School.

by Sibyl Northcutt and Sherie Carroll

HEINZEVILLE

T78

Heinzeville School

In southwestern DeWitt county near the Goliad County Line, a one teacher, one room school was started in 1888. A Mr. Engelke was the first teacher. The first trustees were Edward Lundschen, August Baake, and M. Kerlick. Some other nearby settlers were Louis Menn, George Lundschen and Fritz Heinze, on whose land the school was located and for whom it was named.

During the 1890's, Rev. A. Falgenberg held Lutheran services in the school building. The first child baptized was Ed. G. Lundschen, who received his education in the Heinzeville School and was one of its trustees for many years. From 1901-1912, William Lundschen ran a store there. There was also a community blacksmith and a "syrup-maker". A two room school was built in 1932. Mattie Hodges was also one of the teachers who taught at Heinzeville School.

by Reflections

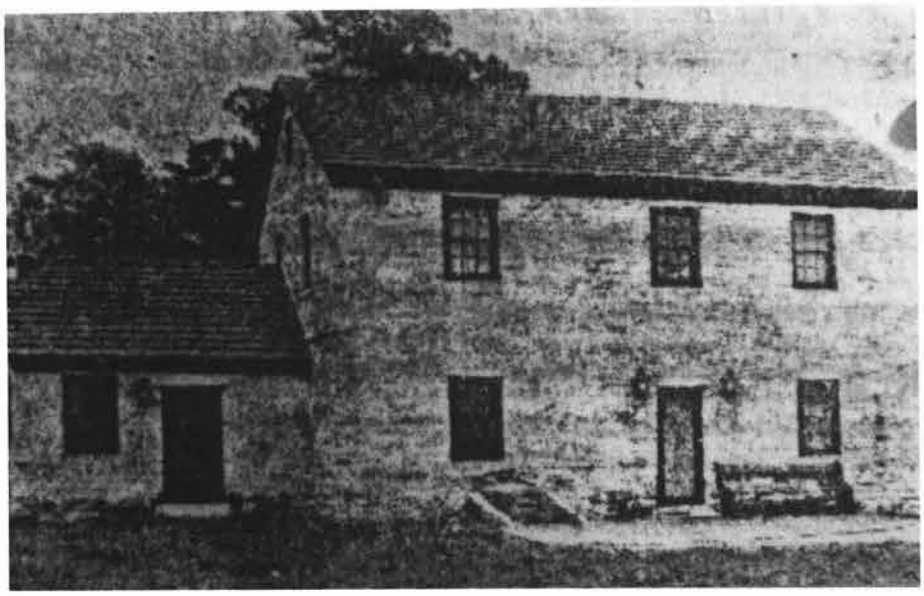
HOCHHEIM

T79

Hochheim is east of the Guadalupe River on the J.D. Clements survey, in northeastern DeWitt County near the Gonzales County line.

It was named Hochheim (Hoch home) for Valentine Hoch who, in 1857, built a two story home there of rock quarried from surrounding

School — Hochheim



Valentine Hoch Home

hills.

In 1864 the Hoch's built a German Methodist Church which was also used as a school until one was built in 1875. The first teachers were a Mr. and Mrs. Wright.

In 1895 Hochheim consisted of two general stores, a hardware, saddle and blacksmith shop, saloon, drug store, post office and hotel. The Cumberland Presbyterians had a church here and the Methodists also had monthly services. There was also a large gin run by Herman F. Raetzsch. The druggist was F.K. Lynch and some of the doctors were Dr. A.A. Ross and Dr. Finley Blackwell. Other families in the area were the Hulse, Morris, Baker, Glass, Bellamy, O'Banion, Moore, Swayze, Krumm, Blackwell, Braden, Allen.

Hochheim Cemetery and School

Rachel S. and eldest son of John Alexander Crawford deeded 4 1/2 acres of land in DeWitt County, Texas being a part of the Samuel McCoy's 1/4 league survey on May 16, 1876 to be used for a school, cemetery and church for the Hochheim Community. Rachel S. was not satisfied with her husband, James A. Crawford, being buried in the Concrete Cemetery, some six miles away. A portion was set aside for a cemetery and Rachel S. had James A.'s remains moved from Concrete to the Hochheim Cemetery, as the first person buried there. Also, John W. Moore, a son-in-law, husband of Rachel Emma Crawford, body was moved from Concrete to Hochheim Cemetery.

There are five generations of Crawfords buried in the Hochheim Cemetery. Also, generations of many other pioneer families are buried there, as the: Cunninghams, Green, Blackwell, Flemming, McCormick, St. Clair, Hoch, Steen, Boothe, Jacob, Granberry, Mayfield, Wilson, Schwab, Jaeger, Schweitzer, Pittman, Laufer, Parks, Talley, Neuiszer, Timm's and others. There are a number of unmarked graves, some of the early immigrants and settlers that no one remembers. Also, buried there are Veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I and II. The Yoakum V.F.W. Post 2456, places a USA flag on the veteran's graves each year for Decoration Day.

I can remember as a child in the 1920's, when the families gathered for a day of work and cleaning the cemetery with lunch on the grounds, usually the Saturday before Decoration (Memorial) Day, was on Sunday. We would go to a spring-fed creek back of the old Crawford home and gather wash tubs of native (wild) Boston Fern from the creek banks to be used with zinna's, roses or other yard flowers to make bouquets for the graves in the cemetery.

The Hochheim Cemetery Association was later organized. There have been many faithful workers and they have kept the cemetery clean and in good repair and we are thankful for these dedicated people. At present, Lewis Y. Saunders is Custodian and Mrs Chester M. St. Clair, Secretary-Treasurer. Hochheim Cemetery has Decoration Day the first Sunday in May each year.

A Texas Historical Marker was placed at the Hochheim Cemetery, May 6, 1984. Sponsored by the Hochheim Cemetery Association and the DeWitt County Historical Commission. The *Victoria Advocate* newspaper carried a write-up of the Official Dedication in *Henry's Journal*, by Henry Wolff, Jr., May 13, 1984.

The old Hochheim School building that is by the cemetery is a two story building made of cypress. No one is sure if this building was built in the late 1870's or 1880's. However, my father Charlie L. Crawford attended school in this building in the early 1890's.

When the land was given for a school by Rachel and John Alex. Crawford May 16, 1876, three school trustees were named, as follows: L.B. Green, James L. Crawford and J.A. Cunningham. I think some kind of building was made available almost immediately for a school, as there were many young children living in the community. Rachel had ten or more grandchildren and the trustees had children of school age. The school had three teachers and taught through the ninth grade and closed in 1923, when a new three room school was built at another location in Hochheim. Later, Mexican-American children attended school in the building for a few years.

The Hochheim Masonic Lodge No. 182 used this building for meetings for over a hundred years. In the eighteen hundreds a school building or church building usually held school on the week days, church on Sunday and any other community meeting was also held there. The Masonic Lodge has done a wonderful job in maintaining the building and the grounds.

by Loraine Crawford Wingo

Hochheim, TX — Fairbanks Morse Power Plant for Hochheim Gin, 1920's.

St. Michael's Academy

This institution directed by the Sisters of Divine Providence offers to its pupils a thorough and practical course of studies. German taught free of charge. Every facility for art and music. Piano Violin, Mandolin and Guitar taught at moderat, terms. Session begins September 6th. For particulars apply to

Sister Superior.

1920's — Jaeger Garage and Filling Station — Hochheim

HOCHHEIM PRAIRIE

T80

Hochheim Prairie School

Hochheim Prairie, located on the James King survey six miles west of Yoakum, was so named because of its being in a prairie region near where the Hoch family settled.

A one room frame school building was built in 1893 and Minnie Rieder was the only teacher until 1897 when a two room school was built and Ettie Coppedge became her assistant.

A two room stucco building was erected in 1925. At its peak Hochheim Prairie School had an enrollment of 125.

The first public building in Hochheim Prairie was the Turnverein, which was put up for athletic purposes in 1892. Since 1897 it has been known as Turner Hall.

Early settlers of the community were Jacob Poth, John Weigelt, William Eschenburg and H.M. Glass.

Mr. Poth gave land for St. Ann's Catholic Church which started in 1906.

Hochheim Prairie Lodge #90

The Peter F. Ludwig Hermann Sons Lodge #90 was organized on March 26, 184 at the German farming community of Hochheim Prairie. The first officers were elected the same day. Ditrich Othold, Ex Pres.; C.P. Timm, Pres.; F. Schmidt, V. Pres.; William Schmidt, Sec.; Adolph Hagans, Treas.; August Nieman, Trustee-18 months; William Runge, Trustee 12 months; August Polzin, Trustee-6 months; John Blank, Guide or Fuhrer; Geo. VonHaefen, Inner Guard; Robert Riedle, Outer Guard.

The original membership rosters, financial records and lists of officers from 1894 through 1903 were written in German and preserved by Mrs. Walter Schmidt. In 1894 there was 16 members. This membership was soon joined by W. Wagner, Jan. 2, 1895; Herman Raetzsch, Apr. 16, 95; F. Denker, F. Boening, Gerhard Warling, J.J. Kuck, R. Gloor all in 1895. In 1896 Otto Wagener, M. Rathkamp and Gerhard Suhr became members.

Dues were $1.50 per month of which $1.00 per month was forwarded to the Grand Lodge to cover the death benefit. So local dues were $6.00 per year. The secretary salary or gehalt, was $1.00 per month. By 1897 the lodge had grown to 28 members and the secretary salary was raised to $1.50 per month. Some of the new members of that year included F. Till, Dietrich Backermann, and Heinrich Toenjes, who transferred from Lindenau, Lodge #83. He lived there in 1886 because M. Rathkamp walked from San Antonio to Toenjes that year.

By 1900 the officers were, C.F. Timm, Ex Pres.; F. Boening, Pres.; Henry Toenjes, V. Pres.; William Schmidt, Sec.; Adolph Hagans, Treas.; Dietrich Backermann, John Blank, John Kuck I, Trustees; Otto Wagner, J.J. Kuck and Herman Schmidt, Finance Committee; Fred Schmidt, Guide; Henry Ahrens (father of Jo Albrecht), Inner Guard and M. Rathkamp, Outer Guard.

By 1901 the lodge had grown to 41 members. Some were Gerhart Gerdes, A. Raetsch, Fred Schmidt (father of Carl and Gus), Henry G. Schmidt ("Shemmel" father of Elsie Schmidt), Carl Herm (father of Flora Bressel), Herman Schmidt, Henry Hagans, Wm. Bruns, Ernst Hagans, Frank Konecny, Joe Till, Frank Till, and Eilert Schumacher.

On May 3, 1908 the Frohsinn Schwaster (Cheerful Sister) Lodge #49 was organized. Mrs. Henry Toenjes was Pres. and Mrs. Stamer, mother of Mrs. Gerhardt Koehler was Sec.

These lodges met in the Hochheim Prairie Turn Verein. In December of 1894, the Hochheim Prairie Turn Verein headed by Fred Boening (grandfather of Dr. Louis Boening) bought one acre of land adjacent to and west of the Hochheim Prairie School property. The building built was called Turner Hall. A turner is defined as a tumbler or gymnast, also as a member of a turn verein. This was an athletic society, some of whose members moved here from Half Moon. However, some members soon moved away and the turn verein became inac-

Ground breaking for hall renovation completed in 1978. Pictured on right Lenore Langhoff, Janet Zabransky, Robert Schmidt, Wilbert Zabransky, Jim Mainz, Edward Kubos, Donald Prause, Mark Zinke, Larry Kirkosky, Glenn Ondrusek, Wilburn Pargmann, Sec.-Treas.; John Langhoff, Pres.

tive.

On July 3, 1909, the Peter F. Ludwig Verein bought the land and hall from the Hochheim Prairie Turn Verein. This was the Hermann Sons Lodge #90. They tore down the 1894 hall and built a larger one. This was the second Turner Hall and the name Turner Hall stuck. It was used for dances and school functions. This hall was built by Henry Toenjes. This hall burned on May 21, 1927, the day Lindberg flew the Atlantic. Hugo Rathkamp remembers that J.J. Kuck was so disgusted that he threw a good board in the coals and ashes and said, "You might as well burn up too".

They soon got busy with a plan to raise money to build the third hall, which was built by Geo. Jansen of Shiner. From this plan the Hochheim Prairie Hall Association was formed, now called Hochheim Prairie Hermann Sons Hall Association. $6,000.00 stock was sold to Hermann Son members only. The deed conveying the land from the Peter Ludwig Verein was signed by J.J. Kuck, (father of Mrs. Edmund (Lenore) Langhoff and Otto Kuck), for a price of $150.00. In the purchase of this, the Hochheim Prairie Hall Assn. was represented by J.J. Kuck, Eilert Kuck, Henry Toenjes, M. Rathkamp and H.H. Stratmann. A successful opening day celebration raised over $1,000.00 to pay off the balance due on the building program. The program the hall association sponsored was to provide dancing entertainment for the community, which it still does.

The land for Hochheim Prairie Hermann Sons Cemetery was donated by Robert Riedle in 1894 or 1895. The first grave site was sold on February 2, 1885. The cost of a site was $0.75. The care and upkeep of the cemetery is now supported by endowments.

by John Langhoff

HOPKINSVILLE

T81

Hopkinsville is located about seven miles south of Cuero and about three miles west of Arneckeville. This black community was started in 1872 when the first land was acquired by Henry Hopkins. This land was on the west side of the Guadalupe River on Five Mile Coleto Creek. The land was purchased from William and Louis Barton.

The Hopkins family came to Texas in 1854 as slaves of Judge Henry Clay Pleasants. They came from Virginia and settled with Judge Pleasants near Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas. There were ten members of the Hopkins family: Henry Hopkins, Nat Hopkins, Scott Hopkins, Simon Hopkins, Alfred Hopkins, Ellen Hopkins (Mrs. Jerry Jones), Onie Hopkins (Mrs. Salford), Julia Hopkins (Mrs. Jim Johnson), Betsy Hopkins (Mrs. Green Williams), and Lucy Hopkins (Mrs. Walter Hopkins). Eight of the original family members settled in DeWitt County after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

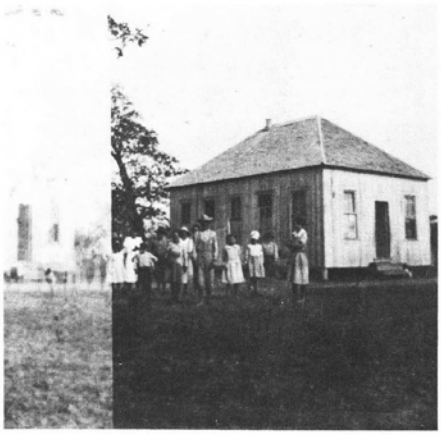
Antioch Baptist Church was organized in 1873. Trustees were Jerry Jones, Henry Hopkins and Thomas Friar. The church was built on a hill at Middletown, just below the county seat of Clinton. In 1899 the church site was moved to another hill located to the east of the original site. The land was sold to the church by Henry Hopkins, Sr. for $1.00 and included five acres. The existing church building was built in 1900 and the cornerstone has the names of F. Hopkins, H. Hopkins, J. Jones, G. Mike, G. Elliott, N. Lyarels, and T. Friar, with Rev. Styles, Pastor, inscribed in the stone. A cemetery is also located on the grounds. There was also a cemetery at the location of the first church.

On September 10, 1881, Henry Hopkins purchased a one-half acre tract from D.B. Peavy for a "Free and Public School". The school site was located near the center of the community. This school was deeded to the county judge which made it a part of the County School System. A one room school building was erected. When the schools began consolidating, Hopkinsville school became a part of the Arneckeville-Green DeWitt School District. Mrs. Zula Houston, great granddaughter of Lucy Hopkins was the last teacher in 1955-56 school year. The school building was converted into an addition to the Antioch Church building.

This community received a Historical Marker in 1983.

LANDER

T82



Lander School

Lander School in southeastern DeWitt County was on land in the J.A. Moody survey. In 1905 J.A. Lander gave an acre of land for the school so the school is named after him. In 1934 it became DeWitt County's first rural state aid school and from then on until it was discontinued in 1944, it was a grade school with modern buildings and splendid equipment. Children of the area were later transported by bus to Yoakum. A Church of Christ congregation held services in the vacant school building.

LINDENAU

T83

Lindenau, in central DeWitt County, was established by German farm families in 1891 near the junction of the Sandies Creek and the Guadalupe River. When the early farmers settled this community, it had no name. The large oak trees reminded Charles and Daniel Wild of Linden trees that grow in Germany and the white cotton reminded them of a little town in Germany so they named it Lindenau.

According to courthouse records, much of the land sold to the German families was John T. Wofford land. Wofford was here much earlier. Much of his land was purchased by Frank and Elnora Brockhaus and John Brockhaus and they sold it to the German farmers. Most of the farmers came from Germany but some were born in America.

Some of the early German settlers were: Brockhaus, Henry Rau, Fritz Kruse, Charles Wild, Daniel Wild, Joe Blascke, Henry Menke, John Arndt, Anton Thormahlen, Rudolph Gloor, August Olle, Henry Rogge, Henry Buchhorn, Herman Buchhorn, Charlie Juenger, Joe Boehm, John DeReese, Budde, Henry Duevel, Gustav F. Schrade, Joe Dieringer, Frederick Schroeder, Carl G. Wild, Fritz Meyer, K.D. Bolting, Gerhard Finke, Herman Currlin, Henry A. Doell, Wm. T. Eicholz, F.A. Goehring, Warling, Meischen, Biedermann, Schlinke, Kuester, Hingst, Robert Kolert, August Pheil, Adolph Mueller, Rudolph Kahlich, Wehman and Boethel. Descendants of most of these still owned the land in 1978-79.

Early non-German families who owned land and whose descendants still own land are: Wofford, Lane, Hamilton, Blackwell, Card, Smith and Murphree.

Due to changes in farming practices, descendents of many early families still live on the old farms and earn their living by commuting to nearby cities and industries to work.

There was no school or church in Lindenau when the early Germans came. They were thrifty householders who saved their money to educate their children. Children old enough helped with the chores before and after school. Chores such as, milking cows, separating the milk from the cream which they churned into butter or made into cheese, feeding animals, butchering hogs to make sausage, bacon, ham and lard, raising chickens for meat and eggs, making soap for washing clothes, planting large gardens to can the vegetables. There were fruit trees, and grapes to be made into jelly or wine. Wine was used for cooking and medicine. When children came home from school in cold or wet weather the mother had a cup of hot wine for each child to drink. She also had warm fresh baked bread and coffee cake for them to enjoy. Father went to town once a month to buy a barrel of flour, sugar, and other staple items the family needed. As roads and transportation improved, they went to town more often.

At one time cotton was the largest crop grown. Corn and grain were grown for the animals. Sugar cane was grown to make barrels of molasses. Corn was ground into meal to be made into cornbread. The corn husks or shucks were used to make mattresses for their beds. Later, before the cotton gin, children would pick the seed out of the cotton and the cotton was used to make mattresses, pillows and quilts. They raised geese from which they plucked the down for pillows, feather beds, and quilt comforts. These were very warm. The geese were also eaten for food.

Before the railroad came, Daniel Wild used large wagons and oxen to transport goods to and from San Antonio and Galveston according to Mrs. Charlotte Wild Knocke.

The largest general mercantile store in Lindenau was owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Hollenman. They stocked groceries, dry goods, all farm equipment, plows, cultivators, planters, anything that was needed on a farm. He also owned the drugstore. He bought the cotton from the farmers and shipped it to Galveston.

Lindenau Rifle Club — 1990

Cotton loaded on railroad cars — Lindenau

Blaschke cotton patch — Lindenau

In 1913, Hollenman bought all the cotton, a big crop, shipped it to Galveston where a storm destroyed all the cotton and he went bankrupt. This information was received from Mrs. Leona Bookers.

There was a doctor in Lindenau, Dr. Roth, who lived in the August Olle home. There was a public scale and public water well between the Hollenman and Joe Dieringer Stores.

George Franke built the first blacksmith shop in Lindenau. He could build a complete wagon. Later, Chris Menning owned the shop. Then Walter Ummelman worked in the shop. Peter Roggenkamp and his father later bought the business. Ben Roggenkamp worked in it.

Fritz Kuester was the constable. There was no calaboose. He would lock any law breakers to his porch post until they could be taken to the Cuero jail.

The German men formed an organization they called Lindenau Schuetzen Verein, in 1901 (The Lindenau Shooting Club). Each member bought a share. They built a long building and called it a hall. They would have a shooting contest to determine the best marksman. They also held gatherings at the hall for anyone who wanted to come called "fest", feast, and dances. They would sell food and these gatherings grew into sausage feasts. Later their club became the Lindenau Rifle Club. A new hall was built in May of 1926, with Roscoe Smith as contractor. Many members helped. Ernest Leubert did much of the building. The Lindenau Hall is still a voting box for elections. Dances are held in the hall, both private and public. It is also rented out for birthday and wedding celebrations, receptions and family reunions.

Even to this day the sausage is cooked in big kettles — first wood was used and now butane to heat the kettles. The sausage suppers are for the benefit of the rifle club. As more settlers came and the railroad came, the shooting had to cease because of the danger, even though they had a target to shoot. Some of the settlers moved close to the hall. Robert Kolert took care of the hall.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kolert had a post office in their home. Mr. Fissel went to Cuero twice a week with a cart pulled by a horse to get the mail. At that time there were no public roads so the farmers let him drive through their land to go back and forth for the mail. All the farmers made gates so they could cross one another's land.

In 1906, the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad bought 5.26 acres of land from Joseph Boehm, for $210.40. When the railroad started buying and building the railroad the settlers decided to move Lindenau closer to the railroad, its present location. Robert Kolert moved to Cuero. William Buchhorn who had the first saloon, moved it to Westhoff.

After Lindenau was moved, Joe Dieringer continued with the mail that was delivered by Mr. Fissel. After the railroad was finished, the "Dinkie" (train) brought the mail. In 1916, William Wehman went into the cotton ginning business with his brother Max for 5 years. In 1925 he opened a store. Then in 1933, William became postmaster until 1947. In 1921 Henry Hingst was assistant postmaster and worked until 1947 when the post office was closed.

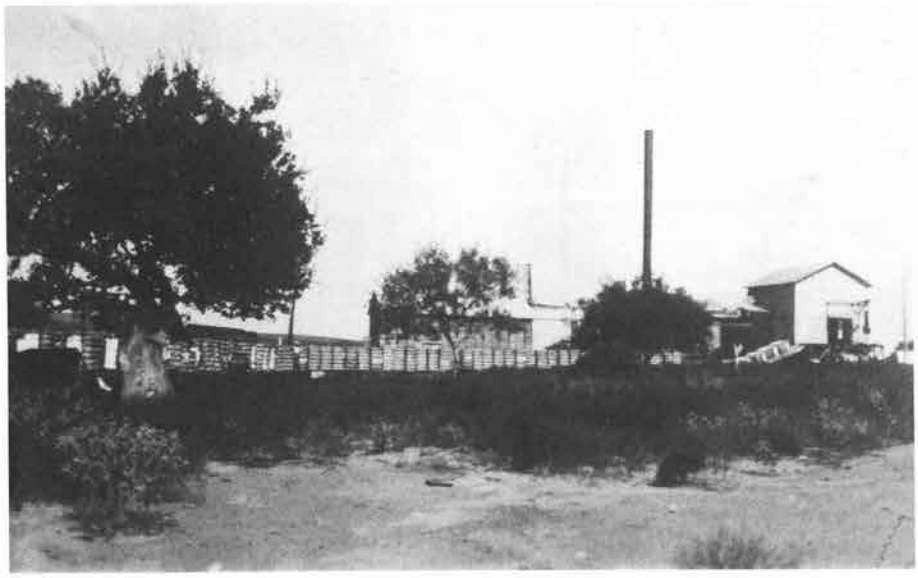
August Olle owned the first saloon at the new Lindenau location. Then Bill Meischen owned it and Kolerts moved back and took ownership. Later Joe Dieringer owned it and added a pool table. Then the saloon was turned into a grocery store. Later Albert and Annie Dieringer Kuester took over the store. Albert also bought cotton and wool. This was the last store that stayed and it later burned.

All that's left of Lindenau now is the hall and nearby homes. Land is owned by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation descendants of the early settlers, whose homes are well kept. Only one place has been sold to someone from Houston, and one place sold to a firm in Yoakum (1978-79).

Lindenau Rifle Club King & Queen — Edna Boehm & Walter Ummelman. Others: Hilda Boehm, Sophie Boehm, Rosie Kuester, Arnold Wehmann, Adela Boethel, Bill Kuester & Hetha Boehm.

Lindenau School

The first tract of land for Lindenau School was purchased on Dec. 9, 1893, from Frank Brockhaus and wife Elenora for $60. It was



Lindenau Cotton Gin

Lindenau Lutheran Church

purchased by Gus Schrade, August Phiel and Henry Rau, who were Lindenau Trustees at that time. This land is part of the H.G. Slade and John T. Wofford Survey. Money to build the school was collected from settlers who lived in the Lindenau District. The school house was built large enough to make two rooms by using a dividing wall. Later the settlers also built a home for the teachers to live in, and a barn for horses and buggies on the school property. The water supply was drawn by bucket from hand dug wells.

Records show that teachers were paid by days taught instead of months as early school was not held for nine months. Epidemics, cold weather, and field work interfered. Almost complete records in the DeWitt County Courthouse cover 1897 to 1951, showing trustees and teachers, salaries, etc. In 1938, Guilford School consolidated with Lindenau School, and in 1951, Lindenau consolidated with Westhoff School.

The original school house was used for other purposes than instruction. Before St. John Lutheran Church was built, services were held in homes as stated before, but when the school house was constructed, services were held in it. Pastor William Utesch came from Cuero once or twice a month to hold Sunday services. He came by wagon pulled by a pair of horses. The pastor also taught the Germans reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school building was used for the Grand Lodge of Order of the Sons of Hermann meetings organized Feb. 7, 1897 and Hochheim Prairie Fire Insurance meetings, organized in 1916.

Teachers had children put on plays and Christmas programs for the community. Schools went all out for sports like baseball, volleyball, and track events. The school participated in community meets with other schools. Another entertainment was the box supper. Girls prepared sandwiches, cake and fruit, decorated the boxes and auctioned them. The young men who bought the lunches shared it with the girl who prepared it.

Later the school house was a three room, three teacher school. Children walked, rode horseback and, after consolidation, rode buses. Teacher salaries started low, increased, then decreased during the depression, then in the 1940's increased again.

by Mrs. Gertrude Boehm

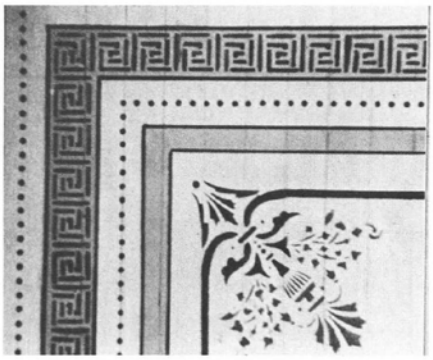
BOEHM HOME NEAR LINDENAU

T84

Original stenciled wall pattern — still clear in 1990.

Walter Reiffert Wm. Frobese
H. Runge & Co.
(Unincorporated)
BANKERS
Established in 1845
General Banking and Exchange
Interest all on all Time Deposits,
Safety Deposit Boxes for rent in
the safest fire and burglar proof
vault in South Texas.
Drafts drawn on all parts of the
world. We solicit your banking
business.
CUERO :-: TEXAS

Boehm home near Lindenau built in 1890's.



Original stenciled ceiling pattern in 1990.

LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY

T85

The author, V.J. Banis wrote in his novel, *SAN ANTONE,* "If God had anything in mind when he made Texas, it must have been to let a man know what freedom feels like".

This word "freedom" was probably the driving force that led a group of Lithuanian immigrants to leave their homes and loved ones and travel to the unknown frontier of Texas to establish new homes for themselves and their families.

Between the years of 1850 and 1860 these families arrived on the Texas coast and made their way to DeWitt County. Most of them ultimately became farmers and settled on land near Smith (Schmidt) Creek near Yorktown, Texas.

Descendants of these families have told stories of gold buried somewhere along the banks of the creek. Others tell of a grist mill that was constructed there and in later years the grinding stone was placed in front of the fire station in Yorktown. For years this stone was used as a stand to support the annual Christmas Tree. There are countless stories concerning a tragedy that occured in October 1869 in which two lawmen and two Kirlicks brothers were killed. (See related story.) There is a lone grave along the creek bank, and one can faintly read the name, E— Praetz, b. 1790 d. 1864, on the old weathered tombstone. Why was this person buried here, instead of in a cemetery that was only a short distance away?

Related stories concerning the Kerlick (Kirlicks), Stanchos, Scholze, Lundschen (Lundzin), Mertine (Mertien), Jonischckies, and Geldzus (Gelsus) families can be found elsewhere.

Other families were:

Michael Raguszus b. 25 Sept. 1806, Kreis Heydekrug, Lithuania landed at New Orleans in November 1852 and reached DeWitt County in February 1853. His wife, Schulie (Julie) (Lapp/Loup/Lobs) b. 15 Dec. 1798, Kreis Heydekrug, Lithuania and three children came with him.

Only two of the children lived to maturity . . . Katherine b. about 1830 married Heinrich Mertins in DeWitt Co. on 13 Apr. 1855. Another daughter, Anna (Emma) b. about 1836 married Ludwig Heinrich. Their son, Frederick Wilhelm Heinrich, became mayor of Yorktown in April 1913.

Michael Raguszus did 27 June 1869 and his wife, Schulie died 22 Feb. 1875. They are buried in the Jonischkis Cemetery near Yorktown, Texas.

Heinrich Mertins (b. 18 Feb. 1825, in Schakuenan, Lithuania) landed at Indianola, Texas on 18 Feb. 1853. (Note . . . Albert Mertins who was one of the founders of Yorktown may have been his brother. Albert Mertins married Mary Praenz (Praetz) on 21 March 1859 in DeWitt Co., Tx. Their son, Charles had a grocery store in Yorktown at one time. He also was a justice of the peace and a very active notary.)

Heinrich Mertins married Katherine Ragaszus on 13 Apr. 1855 in DeWitt County. Their children were: Gustav, Daniel, Rudolph, Richard, Mary, Berthold, Amelia, and Friedrich. They were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas. Heinrich Mertins was a member of the DeWitt County Confederate Co. I, 6th Reg. Texas Infantry.

Jurgis (George) Praetz (b. 18 Dec. 1917 in Prussia) immigrated on 5 Nov. 1856. His wife was named Anna, b. about 1815 in Prussia. There were two known children: Elizabeth b. about 1840 who married Juluis Quast on 5 June 1860 in DeWitt County and Fredericke (no info).

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

LITTLE CHICAGO

T86

Little Chicago was a German farm community located in northwestern DeWitt Community near Gruenau. This was seven miles north of Yorktown. A store was built by George Langley. Little Chicago was known for its athletic activity such as most German settlements started.

About 1897 athletic practice began at the Brandt farm continuing until May 1898. This was the section that became known as Little Chicago. A school was also established. Members of the first community athletic organization were the Brandts, George, Adolph and John; the Koopmanns, Willie, John and Anton; John Pundt; Arthur Haertig; Henry Remmers, and Henry Buesing.

LITTLE ST. LOUIS

T87

Little St. Louis was on the northern edge of Yorktown. It consisted of a saloon, restaurant, dance hall, cotton gin, blacksmith shop and a produce business. Some of the names familiar to the area were: Hengst, Klecka, Geffert, Rugge, Schumacher, and Riemenschneider.

The saloon was in front of the building owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ferd Geffert with a walkway between the saloon and cafe. Tables for domino playing were set up in the walkway. Known as the Little St. Louis Saloon the business offered cold beer and soda water.

Later, the old buildings were torn down and Little St. Louis Inn was built. Lumber from the old dance hall was used to construct the first Yorktown Community Dance Hall.

Little St. Louis was only thriving for a short time but it is remembered by many people.

Cuero Compress & Warehouse Co.
A State Bonded Warehouse
STORING CAPACITY OVER TEN THOUSAND BALES
The Place To Store And Protect Your Cotton.

LITTLE MILWAUKEE

T88

The site known as Little Milwaukee was located about one mile south of Yorktown on the Goliad Highway. Herman Gruenewald had a dance hall at this location in about 1925.

LONE TREE

T89

Lone Tree School

Lone Tree School was located six miles northwest of Yoakum on the west side of the Petersville Road. Some early settlers whose names appeared in the school attendance were William Huth, Adolph and E. Hagens, F. Kaspare, R. Helrveg, Joe Horn, John Hrecek, Otto Kerchaff and Henry Ahrems. In 1896, by a lone tree on the prairie area of the county, the local people established a school with Fred Schmidt as the first teacher. The Lone Tree School later became part of the Yoakum Independent School District.

LOCKHART

T90

The Lockhart Black School was located east of the Guadalupe River on the Cuero-Gonzales Highway in about the center of the Samuel Lockhart Survey. It was started in 1902. The Lockhart Cemetery is about two miles to the north of the school on the George W. Davis league, which lies just north of Samuel Lockhart's survey and the cemetery is almost on its southern boundary. The New Hope Baptist Church was started in 1903 and is near the cemetery. The teacher who taught the longest was G.W. James. Other teachers were Lexie Wimbish and Callie (McNary) Grant.

LOST CREEK

T91

Lost Creek was located west of Cuero on the Old San Antonio Highway. The only remaining reminder is the Lost Creek Cemetery. In 1911, the County School Board of Education for DeWitt County designated District 8 as Lost Creek School District. It was classified as an Intermediate School.

Names of the area included Chaddock, Nichols, Albright, Boldt, Hartman, Schlinke and Pullen.

Lost Creek School

METTING

T92

The first reference to Metting School was found in the school records of 1901-1902. Miss Alevine Gerhardt was employed to teach in Metting for a period of six months. The Metting school took the place of the Shiloh school and was located on land of the J.T. Callahan Survey. It was named for H. Metting who had owned the land. This was a one teacher school until it joined the Yorktown Independent School District in 1949.

On August 28, 1909, the DeWitt County Commissioners' Court subdivided the County into school districts and formed a school district of Callahan and Metting with both schools in one district. On May 2, 1921 the DeWitt County Board of School Trustees redefined the school district boundaries of DeWitt County, divided Callahan and Metting into two school districts.

Teachers for the Metting School were Lulla Riley, Pauline Echardt, Lena Hardt, Lydia Jacob, Katie Mainz, Valeska Galle, Jane Schmidt, Carmen Hermes, Irene Wanier, Mattie L. Brown, Josie Pieper, Lillian Placke, Hilda Schroeter, C.M. Jacobs, Millie Jacobs, Opal Powell, Frances Lau, Flora Grun, Edna P. Jacob, Annie Sue Murray, Frances Morgenroth, Milton L. Thuem, Edna Semper, Mrs. Edgar Dittfurth, Georgia Smalley, Georgia Kneifel, Leona Pieper, Frieda Nurnberger, Ellenora Baca, Mary Respondek, Mrs. Alton Spies, and Mrs. Eva Schostag.

MEYERSDALE

T93

After the death of Adolph Spies, Sr. in 1919, his ranch was divided among his ten children and cut up into farms. This created a community of young families and the necessity for a school. Old Bomba School, two miles to the east, had been started in 1899 as the school for Upper Meyersville; and the Oakdale School which was near the Goliad County line was started in 1886. Each of these schools had only a few students in attendance. They agreed to join with Spies Ranch Community to form school district number 43.

In 1923, a modern two room schoolhouse was located two miles northwest of Upper Meyersville and two miles northeast of Oakdale on the Yorktown-Meyersville Road (237) and nine miles east of Yorktown. It was named Meyersdale, a combination of Meyersville and Oakdale. For a number of years it had two teachers and was proud to be near the homesite of Captain John York.

MEYERSVILLE

T94

Adolph Meyer and Meta (Freidrich) Meyer

Meyersville Blacksmith Shop

Meyersville was the second German settlement to be established in DeWitt County before 1850. German dukes and princes organized in 1844 for the purpose of establishing German families in the new world, selecting the state of Texas as that place. This organization was known as the Mainzer Adels-Verein (the Society for Protection of German Immigrants in Texas). In May 1846, Adolph Meyer, his sister, Mariane, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Hausman, Mr. and Mrs. August Rabke, and Fr. Hoermann/ and family arrived and settled along the twelve mile Coleto Creek. Meyer-

Dry goods store in Meyersville — owners at different times: Friedrich Hausman, Lewis Reinhardt, Bill Thamm, Bill (W.C.) Schorlemmer and Christian Hartman (1924-1938).

1888 Meyersville Band — 1. Fritz Junker, 4. Gus Markowsky, 5. Herman Jutz, 6. George Hausman, 7. Berthold Jacobs, 11. Ferdinand Jutz.

Silver Coronet Band of Meyersville. Hy Pflug 3rd from left on front row.

sville was named after Adolph Meyer and Mr. F. Hausman is considered co-founder. By December of 1846 other families in Meyersville were those of Ludwig Franke, W. Goebert, A. Haun, Henrich Rosener, Chr. Moeller, and Chr. Thieme.

Among those who followed soon after, we find the names of Adickes, Albrecht, Arnecke, Arnold, Atzenhoefer, Bluntzer, Braunig, Buecking, Buehrig, Buesing, Diebel, Dreier, Doehrman, Egg, Gerbert, Gohmert, Hasdorff, Hiller, Ideus; Jacob, Jonischkie, Junker, Krone, Landgrebe, Letterman, Lockhauser, Manngold, Marr, Mauer, Meisenhelder, Mohr, Preus, Rath, Reinhardt, Roeder, Rauch, Sager, Schaeg, Schaefer, Schlorlemmer, Schiwetz, Seiler, Talmje, Wacher, Wendel, Wilms, Westhoff, Wolf, Wurz and York.

These German immigrants fleeing the unrest and turmoil of Prussia's wars faced stormy sea voyages. On one such rough sea oyage of about two months, it is reported that immigrants prayed to their God for protection and vowed, if granted safe arrival in their new homeland, to build a church in His honor. Their prayers were heard and their petitions granted. The immigrants kept their promise and built the Lord a House of Worship, as soon as circumstances permitted. This was the beginning of Meyersville.

Meyersville is located about ten miles south of Cuero. Meyersville at one time had several stores, a drug store, a mattress factory, woodwork shop, saddlery, tailor shop, hotel, blacksmiths, cotton gins, a gristmill, powered by a Dutch type windmill, and a castor bean oil press. The oil was used on saddles, harnesses, and other leather goods.

By 1855 some settlers built two story rock and wood homes with a basement to use for food and wine storage. They dug their water wells by hand.

When war came, men enlisted in Captain Robert Kleberg's Coleto Home Guards Reserve Company Texas Militia which was organized in 1858 to repel invaders. Headquarters were made in Meyersville in 1861. During the Civil War, teamsters hauled cotton by wagon to Mexico, taking about three month's time for the round trip.

During the post Civil War days when the Union Soldiers came through to ransack the homes, the children would hide and the pioneers would protect some of their beginnings by hiding them in large trees and cellars.

After the close of the Civil War, a Brass Band was organized and practiced in the upstairs of the drug store. Twice a week a Stage Coach carried passengers and mail from San Antonio to Indianola through Meyersville. Many of the early pioneers hauled freight from Indianola to San Antonio for a livelihood.

The 1860 Agricultural Census for Meyersville showed that seventy two of its eighty landowners were of German background.

In the early years, the community was served by a butcher who would pack the meat neatly in covered wooden box beds on a horse drawn spring wagon. Deliveries were made to the homes. Cost of choice roasts was six to eight cents per pound.

In the horse and buggy days when the days work was done and the cool evening breeze was laden with the scent of blooming flowers, families would gather on the front porch and sing favorite songs and hymns.

Doctors who practiced in Meyersville were Dr. Thompson, Dr. Bartlett, Dr. Voelkel, Dr. Payne, Dr. Shimer, Dr. Bonham, Dr. Mernitz, Dr. Curry and Dr. Sutton.

Meyersville is a community of people where neighbor helps neighbor when there is a need. There is a devotion to a noble cause. It provides recreation for the body and food for the soul. A Historical Marker was dedicated on March 14, 1971 in Meyersville to honor our ancestors and to provide hope for the future.

by Mrs. Chester (Ruth) Bettge

Meyersville Saloon and Grocery: Adolph Kornfuehrer, Joan Ideus w/son, Edmund, Henry Dreier, Albert Bammert, Henry Wendel, Edwin Dreier, and —.

THE FIRST

Meat Market

Corner Main and Gonzales Streets.

BEEF, MUTTON and PORK.

PAUL LEHMAN, PROPRIETOR.

MEYERSVILLE, POST OFFICE

T95

Meyersville Post Office can trace its beginning to the city of Hanover, Germany, the birthplace of Johann Heinrich Adolphius (Adolph) Meyer. He was born there in 1813, and later became the first postmaster of Meyersville, Texas. Early in the 1840's, Adolph Meyer decided to take advantage of an offer of the "Mainzer Adelsverein" an organization of a group of German noblemen, whose purpose it was to secure land in Texas for Germans and other Europeans wishing to settle in this "land of opportunity". The head of each household was to be entitled to 320 acres of land and other benefits, as well. So, on September 9e, 1845 Meyer and two sisters set sail for America, landing in Galveston December 4, 1845. They traveled to Indianola, and then, inland to Coleto Creek. They arrived there May 28, 1846, being some of the first settlers there. Others soon followed.

Meyer built his home where the LaBahia Road crossed the Coleto. On its regular trips from Goliad to San Antonio, the stage would stop at the Meyer home to change horses and leave mail. This led to the establishment of a United States Post Office at this site on December 22, 1851, with Meyer appointed as Postmaster. His sister, Mariana Meyer, lived with him and helped him in the post office. The settlement became known as "Meyersville".

In 1856 a mail route was established from Cuero, through Meyersville, to Goliad. The post office was moved from the Meyer home to the Wm. Westhoff Store, which later became the Kron Store. In 1866 Adolph Meyer was succeeded by his sister, Mariana, who served as postmistress until her death May 21, 1872. John Kron was appointed to take her place, but served only until November 1872, at which time he was succeeded by Henry Hausman.

At this time a mail route was established between Cuero and Arneckeville, Meyersville, Weser and Goliad, and the post office was moved again, this time about three miles, to its present location, the Isaac Egg Store. From that time on, even though Henry Hausman was officially the postmaster, Isaac Egg tended the post office, Mr. Egg was officially appointed postmaster December 9, 1879.

Isaac Egg was the first of a long line of the Egg family to serve as postmaster in Meyersville. He served until his death on July 20, 1909. His oldest son, Edwin Egg, succeeded him on November 10, 1909. Edwin served until his death, after which his brother, Rudolph Egg, was appointed on January 12, 1912. He served until his death on February 4, 1934, after which his son, Isaac E. Egg, served as acting postmaster until he was officially appointed as postmaster on August 29, 1934.

During World War II, while Isaac served his country in the U.S. Army, his twin brother, Henry Egg, served as postmaster until Isaac returned from the military service and resumed his position as postmaster. After Isaac's' retirement on June 30,1975, his brother, Walter Egg was appointed to fill the position. He is still the postmaster in Meyersville today. His daughter, Barbara (Egg) Mueller, serves as Assistant Postal Clerk.

The Meyersville Post Office is one of the few Fourth Class Post Offices left in the area. Here, in Meyersville, are several families who still have boxes, and pick up their daily mail at the Post Office rather than have it delivered to them on the Meyersville Star Route, which covers a number of miles of state and county roads. Many others utilize the post office for purchasing stamps, money orders, and other services which the post office provides. This small post office may not be the busiest post office in the area but it serves the community well, and the services it provides are appreciated by all local residents.

by Ruth Egg

Meyersville Post Office 1975 Isaac Egg, Postmaster 1934-1975 and Edward "Buck" Schiwetz, Artist.

MEYERSVILLE SCHOOL HISTORY

T96

Adolph Meyer, his wife, and his sister, Freda Hausman, were the first settlers in Meyersville. They came all the way from Germany in 1846. Meyer and the other German immigrants settled along the 12 Mile Coleto Creek. At first, they only had a school at the church. Later, they built the public school.

Meyersville Independent German English School was created July 22, 1889, when the community bought 4 acres of land from Mary Hausman for $60. On October 1, 1898, two tracts of land from the estate of Henry Rossner were added to the school district. In 1899 two schools were built at Meyersville, one for the younger children and one for the older children. Between 1906 and 1914 the two buildings were expanded to accommodate four grade levels in each.

From 1920 until 1929, there were nine grades at Meyersville. There was only one building divided into two rooms. There were approximately 40 students enrolled in the school.

From 1930 until 1938, there were eight grades and one building. The grading system used letter grades. They had baseball and volleyball equipment to play with. The summer vacation was three months long. They received punishments such as standing in the corner, writing 100 sentences, and whipping with a paddle. They ate their lunch under the trees. Sometimes in winter, lunch was held around the wood stove. They took their lunches in syrup buckets. School pictures were taken in black and white. In future years, some modernized changes occurred. The school became larger and was able to provide more children with an education.

During the 1940's there were one to three classrooms with about eight or ten students per grade. The curriculum included reading, writing, math, spelling, health, and history. Science, physical education, and fine arts were not part of the curriculum during that time. The school provided no kind of transportation. Children had to walk or ride a horse. Each child was given a book to use for each subject. Sometime a workbook would be made available to a student.

Meyersville School began to grow very rapidly in the next few years and the school went through many changes and improvements. The year 1950 brought the annexation of the New County Line School with Meyersville School.

From 1951 until 1958, students enrolled in first grade at the age of five. During these years, there were 5 to 6 students in every class. On July 28, 1958, the blueprints for the original construction of the present day facility were approved. In order to construct the new facility on school property, the old school building was moved across the road by the St. John's Lutheran Church. Classes continued to be conducted in the old building. One teacher taught students in grades one through four and another taught grades five through eight. The new school was completed in 1959. The old school building became the Parish Hall for the Lutheran Church as it is today. The 1958-59 construction consisted of an office, four classrooms, library, restrooms, cafeteria, and kitchen. The first equipped playground was con-

Meyersville School Class (1st) L-R: Bill Hartman, Mamie Egg, Mr. Brady (teacher), Meta Schaefer, Helen Egg, —, (2nd) —, F.C. (Fidd) Shaefer, Carl Schwab, Otto Buehrig, — Wendel, —, — Bitterly, —, Alfred Haun, —, Lillie wendel. (3rd) —, Rudy Wendel, Gus Hartman, Hugo Buehrig, Alonzo Duderstadt, — Hausman, Tillie Lang, —, —, Maggiee Doehrmann, Julia Buehrig. (4th) E.C. Schaefer, Bill Dreier, Edwin Hartman, Edgar Hartman, — Post, Natalia Dreier, Helen Buehrig, Katy Hausman, Sophie Hasdorf.

structed in 1959.

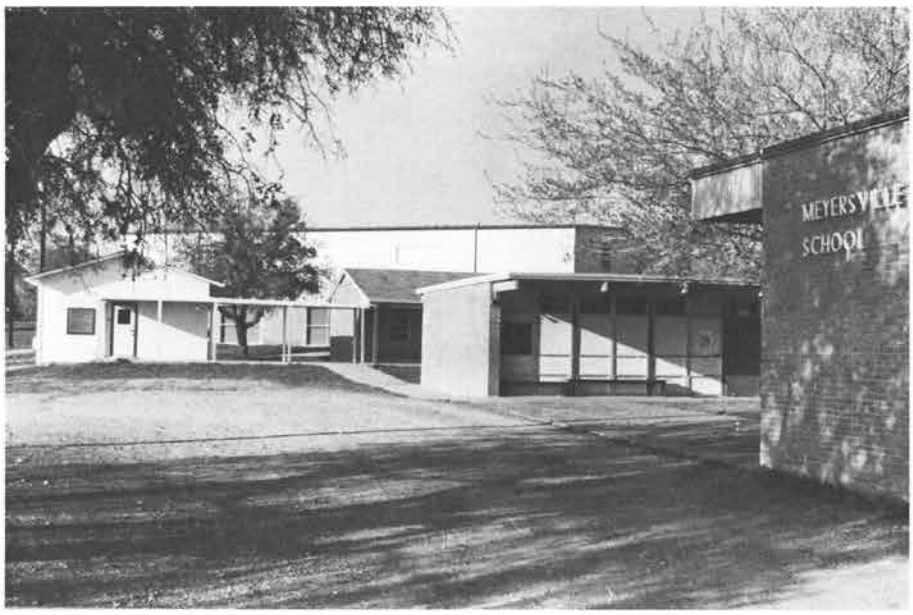
Arneckeville annexed to Meyersville in 1963. That increased the number of students at the Meyersville School.

Between the years 1967-1977, first through eighth grades were taught. Enrollment ranged from 80 to 100 students.

Meyersville Common School District Number 20 became Meyersville Independent School District on September 1, 1978, when the state dissolved the supervision of rural schools by county superintendents. Prior to this date the DeWitt County School Superintendent and a campus principal had overseen the school.

Many improvements were added to the school during the late 70's and the 80's. The kindergarten addition was approved to be built on April 26, 1979. The first kindergarten class started school in 1979-80.

The fourth and fifth grade classrooms were built and became a new addition to the campus in August, 1985. The administration building was then moved to its present site. Air conditioning units were also installed in the school.



1990 Meyersville School

A gymnasium was constructed and completed in August, 1987. The school experienced growth and had approximately 130 students enrolled.

A satellite dish and receiver were presented to the school by DeWitt County Electric Cooperative for educational programming in 1988. This generous gift has increased educational opportunities for students and the community.

During the 1989-90 school year the Meyersville School serves approximately 150 students in grades K-8 and transfers about 65 high school students to Cuero. The students excel in academics and citizenship. The first nine years of education at Meyersville provide a firm foundation for the students to build upon for years to come. Meyersville Independent School District has high expectations for its students and dedicates its efforts and resources to assure that every student has opportunity to learn.

Principals: John Krhovjak — 1959-1961; J. D. Franklin — 1961-1963; Delvin Jaster — 1963-1965; Mr. Williams — 1965-1966; Madeline Boyle — 1966-1967; Leslie Flessner — 1967-1977; Frank Stephenson — 1977-1987; Laura Whitson — 1987 — Present.

DEWITT COUNTY BRANDS
PLACED IN THE ANIMAL
SCIENCE BUILDING AT
TEXAS A & M COLLEGE

T	Raetch Wagner
(B)	Sylvester Butler
10	Haun Family
-W-	Dr.Corrine Westphal
V	Rudy Roeder
P_	Patty Muir
⌒	Alfred Friar
UZ	J.L.Sheppard
∼	Reiffert Blackwell
B	Buelah Bennet McDougal

Meyersville School ca 1920's

STS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

T97

Historical Highlights

House of God and Gate of Heaven

The Meyersville Catholic Church stands proudly in Upper Meyersville surrounded by giant liveoaks. Its history would come alive if the trees could talk — the were here first. The church building does speak to those who approach it, but in Latin. The Church Motto, inscribed on the cornerstone, says, "House of God and Gate of Heaven."

Unusual Beginning

Is this Church in Meyersville the result of an accident? If we ignore the Providence of God, we will say "Yes." Peter Bluntzer and his family landed on the Texas coast, at Indianola in the year 1842. Their destination was Castroville, a few miles west of San Antonio. The trip was by wagon, on a wagon trail. Unfortunately Peter's wagon turned over, and his wife Theresa suffered a broken leg. This accident interrupted their journey, while the other colonists continued on their way to Castroville.

The Bluntzer family lived for a few years in Victoria. They then bought land on Coleto Creek. There they found a German community in the making, near the point where the Goliad-Cuero road crosses the creek. The first of these settlers was Adolph Meyer. Local historians indicate that on December 22, 1851, a Post Office was opened in Meyer's home. — This was the origin of the name Meyersville.

Peter and Theresa Bluntzer are the ancestors of all the Texas Bluntzers. Their claim to fame, however, is their strong Catholic faith, as well as their good effort to preserve that faith. Priests from Victoria came only "once in a while" for Mass and Religious instructions. For some time Mass was celebrated in the Bluntzer home. The need for a church was obvious. Mr. Bluntzer took the lead by donating fifteen acres of land, the site of the present parish. The settlers had limited means, but they contributed generously. Their first small church building was only 24 by 26 feet. Father J.A. Koenig celebrated the first Mass in the new church on November 4, 1859, and the formal dedication was on New Year's Day, 1860.

It is noteworthy that the accident which stopped the Bluntzers on their way led to the forming of this new parish in honor of Sts. Peter and Paul. This was the very first Catholic parish in DeWitt County.

Good Times and Bad Times

The first small church served the needs of the parishioners until 1880, when a larger and more convenient building was dedicated. This one, in turn, was destroyed by a storm, but it was promptly rebuilt. In spite of difficulties the parish grew and prospered. Then in 1892 Father Gerlach, a zealous German priest took charge of the parish. He made many improvements, including the building of the first rectory.

Unfortunately, during this time, the Polish people of the congregation withdrew and built their own church, St. Joseph's, three miles west, in the direction of Yorktown. This separation lasted for many years. Complete reunion came only in 1947, when the St. Joseph's Church building was removed completely. Meantime, the people of Sts. Peter and Paul suffered the loss of their church building, by fire, in the year 1938. The people rebounded quickly, and under the administration of Father Benz, they dedicated a new church on July 2, 1939. Monsignor John J. Sheehan was sent by Archbishop Drosserts of San Antonio to officiate at the celebration. The Building Committee for the new church and rectory were the following: W.H. Arnold, Albert Bammert, Wm. Bitterly, Henry Braden, Alvin Doehrman, William Lau, Fred Ohrt, Alfred Semmler and Walter Zengerle. Apparently they did a good job — Father Benz has recorded his commendation, "May God reward your service a hundredfold in this work and in the hereafter."

Modern Times

The new Church of 1939 still serves the Meyersville parishioners. In recent years the parish was served by Fathers Endler, Murski, Flynn, O'Shaughnessy and Smerke. When Father Smerke left in 1976, Father Edward Bartsch was appointed Pastor. Since he lived in Yorktown, Father Henry Moczygemba was assigned to help in Meyersville. Father Bartsch moved into the Meyersville rectory in October, 1982. At the same time he was given charge of St. Aloysius Church in Westhoff. This arrangement continues at the present time. Apparently the people appreciate the present situation. They are donating generously, and have continued to make improvements. Outstanding examples are the new hall in 1980, six extra classrooms in 1983, complete remodeling of the hall kitchen in 1984, new siding on the church in 1987, air-conditioning of the church in 1988. Improvements underway in 1989 are a new roof on the church and on the rectory.

The parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, at the same time, supports the diocese of which it is a part. Since 1982 that diocese has been "Victoria in Texas", with Bishop Charles V. Grahmann its Chief Shepherd. At its beginning the parish was part of the Diocese of Galveston, and then, in 1874, it became part of the Diocese of San Antonio. It has remained in the San Antonio jurisdiction until the creation

Early view of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

of the Diocese of Victoria in 1982.

On To The Future

About sixty-five families call the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul their "House of God and Gate of Heaven." Many others attend once in a while, and they feel welcome. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated not only on Sundays, but also on weekdays, except Thursdays, when the pastor goes to his other parish in Westhoff.

History can record numbers, buildings and events. Between the lines, however, one finds the good will of the people. To survive the community must have a strong faith in God. The present generation has built on the faith of their ancestors. They now continue to build for the future.

The spiritual life of the Meyersville parishioners stands out in the Religion Program for youth, and Adult Education Program, Rosary Group, continuing Confirmation Instruction, Fatima Devotions, Advent and Lenten Projects, and other events according to the Church Calendar. This writer begs the Good Lord to bless these and the many other good efforts of many loyal parishioners!

by Rev. Edward C. Bartsch

St. John Lutheran Ladies Aid. Back Row: Mrs. Mathilda (Schiwetz) Wendel, Mrs. Annie (Wendel) Schaefer, Mrs. Charles Schaefer, Mrs. Adickes, Alma Wendel, Bettie Egg, Martha Wendel, Mrs. Gus Buehrig, Mrs. Ben Eckhardt. Middle Row: Mrs. Buehrig, —, Mrs. Buehrig, Mrs. Schorre, Mrs. Gershmann (Preacher's wife) —, Amalia Schaefer, —, —, Mrs. Alfred Dreier. Front Row: Minna Hausman, Mrs. Bartlett, —, Johanna Shimer, Mrs. Elizabeth Diebel, —, Mrs. Albert Duderstadt, Mrs. Oscar (Mathilda) Egg, Mrs. Sophie Hartman.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF 1867

T98

The most cherished landmark in DeWitt Co. by many members of St. John Lutheran Church of Meyersville, Tx is the Old Stone Church, which stands under the massive old live oak trees, beside the cemetery where so many of its faithful members have been laid to rest.

The Stone Church was the second of three sanctuaries in which this congregation has worshipped. The first, a little log church, was built in 1850, even before the church was organized into a congregation. It served as a place of worship and as a schoolhouse until after the end of the Civil War.

1867 Stone Church

In spite of many hardships endured before, during, and after the War, the congregation, on Ascension Day in 1866, passed this resolution: "As a thankoffering for peace which we now enjoy and for the fruitful times, a new house of worship is to be built for the Lord." The following were appointed as a building committee: Jacob Schiwetz, Ludwig Franke, Aaron Adickes, Christian Hartman, Freidrich Hausmann, and Carl Schaefer. Lists were posted in neighborhood stores where members and friends could sign up for pledges for contributions.

The building was to be 46 feet long, 28 feet wide, and the walls 14 feet high and 2 feet thick. Mr. Seiler and Mr. Badinger were given the contract for quarrying the stones from a nearby quarry for $200.00. Friedrich Hausmann got the contract to erect the walls for $650.00, which included the hauling of sand and water. Members of the congregation hauled the stones free of charge. Cost of the church was $3,000.00.

The bell for the church had arrived some time before the building was finished and was kept in the Hausman's Store. If customers wanted to hear the tone of the bell, Mr. Hausman would ring it for a dime. Those dimes helped pay for the bell, which now hangs in the steeple of the present church and still calls the faithful to come to worship the Lord each Sunday morning.

The cornerstone of the Church was laid Sunday, Sept. 30, 1866. After the constitution was read, 44 members signed it, and it was placed into a container, which was then put into a tin box, made by William Schorlemmer. This was placed into the cornerstone and lowered into the foundation, accompanied by the customary three strokes of the hammer.

The Church was dedicated to the Glory of God on May 12, 1867. Pastor Roehm, president

1990 St. John

of the Texas Synod, led the service of dedication. It was, indeed, a day filled with great joy.

Since, after thirty years, the church was in need of repairs, it was completely renovated in 1896. The ceiling was raised 6 feet, a new roof was put on, and the steeple with a cross was built 17 feet higher. Other improvements were made, both inside and outside. The Ladies Aid, which had recently been organized, in 1895, bought the pulpit, altar and the pews. Cost of the renovation was approximately $1,000.00. Three worship services were held on the day of rededication, June 21, 1896. That year was also the 50th anniversary of the founding of Meyersville, and the 30th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of this stone church.

But with the passing of time, all things deteriorate, and so it was with the Old Stone Church. And since the congregation had also outgrown this small building, in 1919 a resolution was passed to make no more repairs on it. So a large brick church with basement was built. The last service in the Old Stone Church was held in May, 1921, and on July 20, 1921, the new sanctuary was dedicated. It still serves the congregation today.

However, the Stone Church was still being used. It served as a storage place for tools and other items, and as a place to eat when there was picnics or other church gatherings. But after years of neglect, in July, 1951, it was decided to dismantle it if or when that became necessary.

However, many older members and friends refused to accept this decision, and when the DeWitt Co. Historic Commission inquired about leasing the old building to convert it into a county museum, the feeling that we should keep the church under our control was stronger than ever.

In the spring of 1957, lightning struck the steeple, doing considerable damage, which made it clear, either restore the old building or dismantle it. In 1958 the congregation reconsidered, and rescinded the motion of 1951, and decided to restore the Old Stone Church.

Work was begun immediately, and on Oct. 26, 1958, a rededication service was held, combined with a Historic and Homecoming Celebration for St. John members and friends. In Jan. 1959, a Stone Church Restoration Committee was appointed to continue the restoration and to keep up what had been done.

August 12, 1961 this landmark was awarded a Texas Historic Building Medallion by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

September 29, 1968 the thirteenth Texas Restoration Award was presented to the Old Stone Church by the DeWitt County Historical Survey Commission.

Today the Stone Church is St. John's Museum, containing many old Bibles, documents, books and other artifacts from this church and the Little Log Cabin Church. They are on display in large display cases. The old pulpit and altar stand in their original spots.

Here on this historic and hallowed ground, under the great oak trees, stands the Old Stone Church of 1867 as a memorial of gratitude for Divine Blessings to the Glory of God.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, TX

In 1846, a group of German Lutherans sailed across the stormy Atlantic, to America. It was a difficult voyage across the turbulent sea. They made a vow to God that, if He would bring them safely to their destination, they would build for Him a house of worship. He answered their prayers, and soon they had built the church, a little log cabin church, with a dirt floor, a door on each end and a window on each side. In 1856, a wood floor was installed. Christoph Thieme, one of the settlers, had donated one acre of land as the site for the church. Later, the congregation bought 5 more acres from him for $1.00 an acre.

Since there was no Lutheran pastor in the area, a Methodist, Pastor Bauer, probably a Circuit Preacher, served them. One of the settlers, Mr. Dreier, had met him in Victoria, and had told him of their great need for spiritual help in times of illness, stress and death. Later Mr. Grote, also a Methodist, served them.

But these Germans were of the Lutheran faith, and when they heard that two young Lutheran missionaries had been sent from Basel Switzerland to Victoria to minister to the Indians and others in the area, Wilhelm Schorlemmer went to Victoria to ask one of them to come to their aid. So, Christoph Adam Sager came to work in Meyersville, where, in 1851, he organized the Lutherans into a congregation. This was the beginning of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville. A constitution was drawn up. Friedrich Hasdorf and Christian Hartman were the first Church Council. A log cabin parsonage was built and a cemetery was laid out. A school was opened, classes being held in the church, with the pastor as teacher. In 1859 a Mr. Barnes was hired to teach in the English language, with the pastor teaching German, Pastor Sager left Meyersville in 1855 to serve elsewhere.

The constitution was revised in 1859 and was signed by 46 members (heads of households only). So it seems that the church in Meyersville was well established by this time. In 1864 a house was bought for $100.00 to replace the log parsonage. It was moved to its new location by a team of oxen.

In 1867, a new stone church was dedicated to God as a thankoffering for peace after the Civil War. This story, with pictures, is given separately.

The years following the war were years of growth and development.

1884 — The Pastor Stricker organized a congregation in Kilgore with the help of St. John and served both congregations.

1895 — Pastor Westerhoff organized the Ladies Aid, and in 1886, he started Saturday School for religious instruction for the children.

1899 — A Mission Festival was held, with an offering being sent to starving people in India. This led to the custom of having an annual Mission Festival. It is still observed with a mission offering and a potluck dinner after services.

1904 — Pastor Gerstman organized the Sunday School.

1918 — Pastor Gogolin organized the Luther League, an organization for the Youth.

1920 — One English worship service was held each month, but Sunday School and confirmation Instruction were continued in the German, as they had been.

1920-1922 — A new church, made of cement bricks, was built, and was dedicated on June 20, 1922. The bricks were made on the church grounds. It was of Gothic style and had a basement. The cost of the church was $24,000.00. It is the church in which the congregation still worships. It has been renovated several times. The last time was in 1987, at which time, a new roof was put on, the cross on the steeple was replaced with a new one, walls were repaired and painted, and other major repairs were made.

1923 — Widows and other single women were given the right to vote. It was not until forty years later, 1973, that this right to vote and the right to hold office was extended to include all women of the congregation.

1934 — Three worship services a month were held in English. Thirty years later, in 1964, all German services were discontinued, even though many older members opposed this.

1940 — The first Summer Vacation Bible School was held, 3 teachers and 46 pupils were enrolled.

1941 — A new parsonage, the fourth and the present one, of stucco, was built.

1948 — A two manual pipe organ was built for the church and installed. In 1953 chimes were added.

1951 — The congregation celebrated its

100th anniversary.

1959 — The congregation bought the Meyersville Schoolhouse, moved it to the church, remodeled it and added on to it. It was dedicated to serve as a Parish House for the church.

1975 — The 125th Anniversary of the congregation was celebrated.

1986 — Nancy Egg Maeker was ordained as a Lutheran pastor. She was the first of St. John's members born and reared in Meyersville, to join the ranks of the Lutheran clergy.

Through the years of its long history, this congregation has been served by eighteen pastors. The church now has 354 members. Sunday School and worship services are held each Sunday morning, with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Dedicated Christians serve as teachers and leaders in the Sunday School and in the various organizations within the church, which include something for everyone.

May the Lord continue to bless St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville for many more years, as He has done in the past.

by Ruth S. Egg

MORRIS

T99

Morris School

Morris settlement was located about five miles southwest of Yoakum off of Highway 77A. The land was from the Fream League and the Joseph H. Wood Survey. It was originally bought by J.P. Morris and he sold parts of it to settlers in the late 1800's.

Three trustees were elected for the purpose of overseeing a school for the children of the settlers. J.P. Morris gave two acres to the trustees, J. Peters, Chas. Frels, P.R. Witte, on June 24, 1891. A one room building with a porch was erected in 1891 and was used for a school for several years. Another room was added later to make it a two room school which was used until 1928 for a school. This was a two teacher school for five months of the year and a one teacher school for two months of the year. School was also taught at night for children who worked in the fields at a fee of $100 per month. Classes were first grade through seventh grade.

Besides the two room school building on these two acres, was a three room house and porch for the teacher, a small barn which stored hay, buggy and horse, and two toilet facilities. There was also a hand dug cistern for drinking water. About 1907, a well was drilled and a hand pump was installed.

Some of the families who sent children to Morris School were: Petering, Leist, Hickey, Pilzner, Schmidt, Buesing, Onhaiser, Peters, Friedel, Pargmann, Edgar, Maresch, Brosch, Cudd, Walicek, Benys, Drabeck, Prause, Allen, Stevens, Duke, McCoy, Wendel, Coldeway, Thomas, Barre, DeDear, Erdelt, Baros, Boening, Ceesa, Peterick, Orsak, Hodges, Rice, Urban, Drozd, Long, Rinn, Kuechler, Hanzelka, Witte, Mudd, DeeReese, Hilmers and others.

The Yoakum School Trustees gave this school and improvements to the Morris Community in 1953 and in 1965, the Center School District gave their nearby school building to add to the Morris building. Today the Morris Center Community Center consists of four large rooms, with running water, butane and wood heat, and two fans for cooling.

This Community Center has been a success because so many have given of their time, talent and means to keep this Community Center active.

NEW COUNTY LINE

T100

New County Line School

The New County Line School was located three miles from Meyersville toward Mission Valley, near the DeWitt-Victoria County line. It was started in 1919 on land given by the Dreyers and the Wendels.

Students were: Noll Arnold, Lawrence C. Arnold, Wamon Arnold, Winifred Arnold, Joyce Arnold, Weldon Bammert, Delores Bammert, Harold L. Bammert, Mary Jane Brandt, Max Brandt, Jr., Raymond Brandt, Lucilla Dreier, Lillian Bitterly, Ruby Bitterly, Louis Bitterly, Jr., Warren Bitterly, Anita Dreier, Marjorie Dreier, Ruby Nell Dreier, James Henry Dreier, Eleene Dreyer, Nelson Price, Allan Buddy Price, Frank Price, Jr., Leonard Price, Geraldine Moritz, Faye Marie Moritz, Edna Thamm, Dorothy Thamm, Jacob H. Stehling, Edna Loreen Stehling, Netty Marie Stehling, Lena Rose Stehling, Victoria Louise Stehling, Lucille Martin, Jimmy Truehart, Evelyn Wendel, Nolan Wendel, Edna Wendel, Lawrence Wendel, Margaret Wendel, Walter Stollies, Albert Stollies, Jenny Stollies, Daniel Zengerle, Wayne Zengerle, Edward Charles Volkmer, Rose Lea Volkmer, Virgil Allan Volkmer, Gloria Mae Volkmer, Alton Moritz, Waldine Moritz, Gladys Moritz, Harold Goebel, Alton Goebel, Leroy Sieler, Florence Sieler, Newton Sieler, and several Spanish students from the area.

The teachers were : Mrs. Myrtle Parks, Mrs. Bill (Kitty) Ruschhaupt, Mrs. Bertha (Moller) Wieland, Mrs. Alice Gabler, Mr. Werner Egg, Mrs. Hellen (Wendel) Egg, and Mr. Leon Adickes.

There were outdoor restrooms and an old water pump, for water for people and a horse trough for the animals. There was also a wood pile because the building was heated with a wood stove. The playground had a volleyball court and seesaws and a baseball diamond.

by Netty Marie Stehling Boeck

NOPAL (SASSEVILLE)

T101

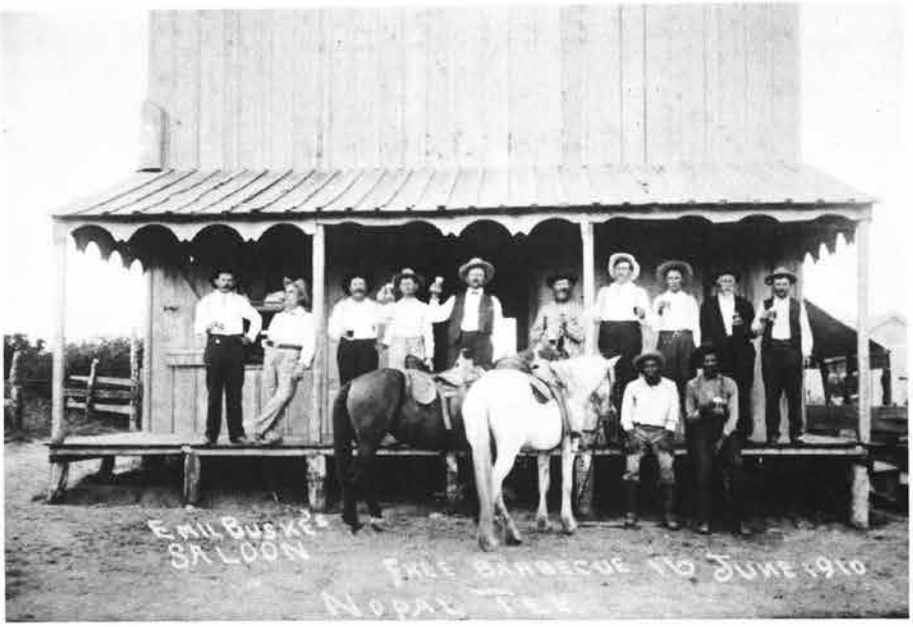
The community of Nopal was at one time a relatively important asset to the local area residents. It is located on present day FM 108, between Smiley and Yorktown, just inside DeWitt County, near the DeWitt/Gonzales County boundary.

At one time W.H. Graham and Geo. J. Schliecher owned 301 acres in the Francisco Gonzales League on Clear Creek. They probably were growing cotton in the area, and may have built the grocery store/saloon. They sold the 301 acres to Emil Sasse on Dec. 5, 1890, for the sum of $2,633.75, which they financed at 10% interest. The deed specifies that the lien is against the premises *and improvements,* suggesting that some part of the community may have already been built.

On December 11, 1896, Emil Sasse and his wife sold 8 acres of land to F. Huebner. This 8 acres was located in the southwest corner of the 301 acre tract. One of the stipulations in the deed was that the cotton gin cannot be removed. And that it cannot be used for any other purpose than what it was then being used. It is evident that during the period 1890-1896, was when Emil Sasse had operated a grocery store as well as the cotton gin, and the community came to be known as Sasseville.

Several years later Sam Schwab had become owner of the Sasseville community, and on May 14, 1902, Sam Schwab etal sold the community to Buske and Buchhorn for the amount of $4,500. The deed states that the sale includes the cotton gin, and all tools and equipment, all houses, fences, and all improvements. Also in 1902 the same Sasseville was changed to Nopal (Spanish for cactus) when a post office was moved there. Besides the post office, the community had a German Lutheran church, a gin, blacksmith shop, two general stores, drug store, and a school was also established.

by 1910, Emil Buske was operating the old Sasse Grocery as "Emil Buske's Saloon", as evidence by the photograph. A close examination of the photograph reveals that the name "C.E. Sasse", along with the word "Groceries", on the bottom, is still visible on the sign-board of the building front, although it is very faded. This building is evidently the original Sasse Grocery store. In the 1910 photograph the building appears to already have been quite a few years old judging from its condition, and may have been built prior to 1890. Also note that the porch roof is board and batten con-



Nopal, TX. Emil Buske's Saloon 1910. Old sign on building read C.E. Sasse — Groceries

Nopal School

Nopal School

The Nopal School was started about 1902. The children of the area had at one time attended a school called "Sandgate School". Also, there was an area nearby called Sasseville whose children attended Sandgate. In 1902, the Nopal School began by combining Sandgate and Sasseville and continued as a public school until it united with nearby Clear Creek School in 1925.

by Malcom and Ann Johnson
(Granddaughter of Hugo Rau)

struction instead of being covered with shingles, which were in common use by this time.

In the 1910 photograph of "Emil Buske's Free Barbecue", most of the men are unidentified. The man on the far left wearing the black hat with his hand on his hip is Hugo Rau from Westhoff. (See write up of Otto and Hugo Rau Saloon). The man third from left, wearing the black hat, is believed to be O.C. Bruening, the distributor of "San Antonio Brewing Assn., Triple X Lager Beer" (Now Pearl Beer). The man in the center of the photograph, wearing the vest and light colored hat with the cigars in his vest pocket, is believed by some to be Emil Buske, saloon owner. The colored man seated on the porch next to the white horse, wearing boots and spurs and white shirt, also appears in other photos taken in Westhoff, and may have been an employee of Bruening or the Rau's.

The object on the left end of the porch roof is a beer advertisement, possibly of "Triple X Lager Beer".

Past the right side of the saloon, a fairly large house and picket fence can be seen in the distant background, beyond the attached lean-to shed for horses or buggies.

Barely visible under the middle of the porch, beyond the legs of the horses, is someone's white and tan hound, busy sleeping the day away.

NORDHEIM – DEWITT COUNTY, TEXAS

T102

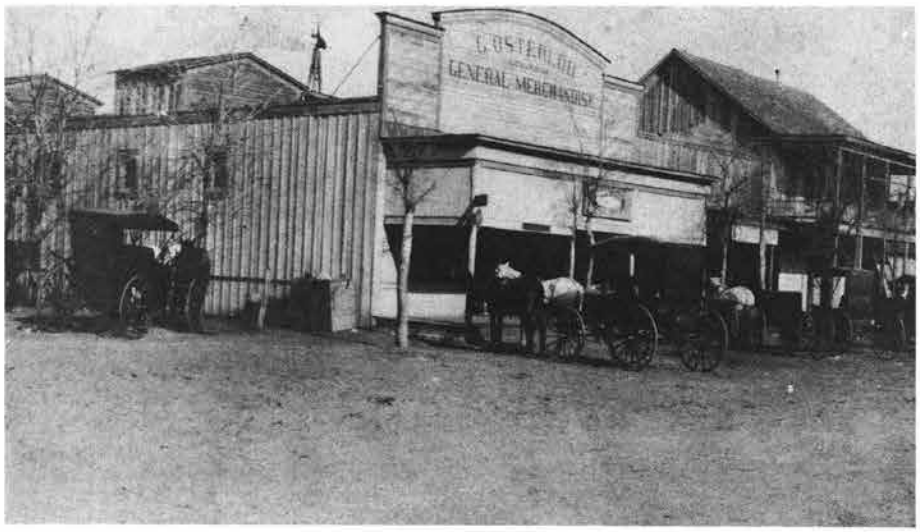
At the southwest end of DeWitt County and at the northern base of historic Pilot Knob nestles the little town of Nordheim. Old-timers insisted that the treacherous Mannehuilla Creek had its beginning with the ponds in Nordheim and flowed around the eastern side of Pilot Knob southward into the San Antonio River. This may very well be true, because *The Handbook of Texas* locates the creek's beginning in southwest DeWitt County and flowing into the San Antonio River.

There has always been this typically German, hard to define but pervasive, style of complacent fellowship best described as "Deutche Gemutlichkeit". You sense it at socials, card and domino games, conversations at street corners, and over beer and coffee. But don't misread Nordheimers completely — they also know how to live it up with good food, beer and music in an "Immer Lustig" fashion. Usually, non-Germans have had little difficulty adjusting and becoming a part of it all. Many former Nordheimers, plus some newcomers, have chosen to quit the "rat-race" and retired in laid-back Nordheim. Young people have chosen to come back to live and raise their children in Nordheim, and they strive to keep the old spirit and customs alive.

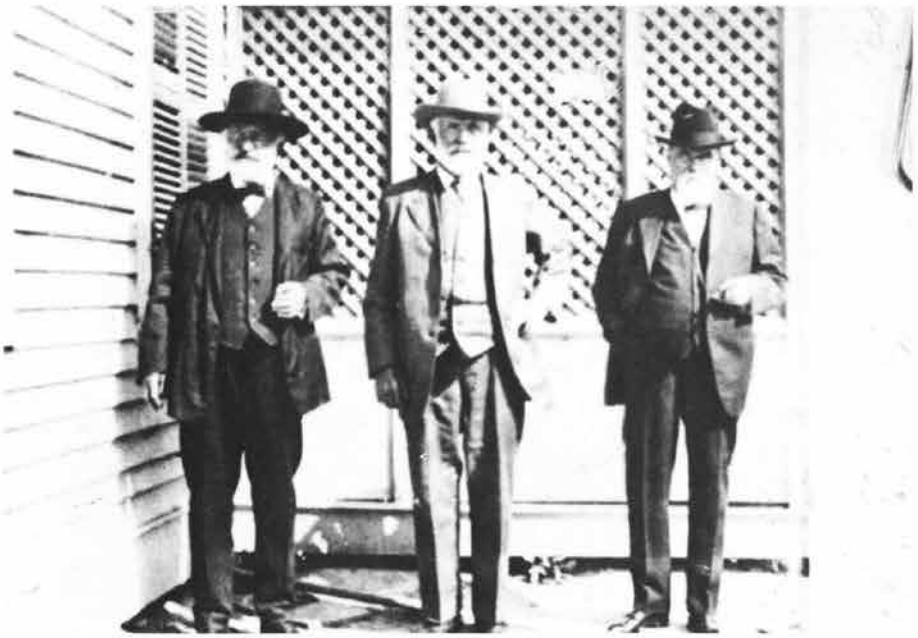
Typically, there are no modernized store fronts on main street — only a few metal awnings have been removed and the old boardwalks have been replaced with concrete sidewalks. There are even a few old hitching posts and rings left to remind the visitor of the day of the horse. Wim Wenders, a German movie producer, decided Nordheim was the perfect place to film part of his movie, *Paris, Texas,* when passing through. Main Street, the Washateria and The Broadway Bar, with its original bar, brass rail and its undisturbed interior, became an integrated part of the movie.

Early Beginnings

This area of DeWitt County was first surveyed by the Goliad Land District in 1838 and was patented to Robert Galletty in 1841, while Texas was an independent Republic. In 1879 Vachel Weldon began acquiring the land from



Gus Osterloh two story store and living quarters. Built in 1897 in Nordheim. The newer store on the left was built later.



Burow Bros. — Carl, August, and Bruno came to Nordheim in 1870's

the R. Galletty heirs. By 1881 the R. Galletty heirs and V. Weldon had sold out a large part of their holdings to H. Runge and Co. of Cuero.

There were numerous settlers in the area before the town was laid out in 1895. August Burow bought land two miles east of the present town in the 1870's. Henry Meyer acquired land about two miles north of the present town in 1887. Parts of these early land holdings are owned and operated by heirs today; namely, the Heldt Estate on Burow land and Edmund and Mildred (Meyer-Huck) Mueller on H. Meyer land. Three silver-inlaid Mexican spurs were recently found on the Meyer land by Edmund Mueller. After the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was completed in 1886, many more settlers bought land and moved into the area. In 1897 the Railroad built a blind siding near the entrance to the H. Runge & Co. Ranch and the name Weldon Switch was given the area by the railroad. Early Texas maps showed the name Weldon where Nordheim is now located. William Frobese of the H. Runge & Co. Ranch changed the name to Nordheim after his hometown of Northeim in Hanover, Germany. The U.S. Post Office Department officially recognized the name of Nordheim in 1898.

It was H. Runge & Co., particularly William Frobese and Walter Reiffert, that had a great impact on the early development of Nordheim. The company laid out the town site in 1895 and settlers and speculators were soon buying up the blocks and lots for building or resale. H. Runge & Co. "sold" two acres of land on Pilot Knob for $10 to a group of men organized to establish a cemetery. This beautiful cemetery has been regularly enlarged by popular demand, because so many former Nordheimers want to "return" to be buried there. The Company also donated land for the erection of a Lutheran Church in 1908 and a Catholic Church in 1922. Land was also given for the building of a one-room frame school house located where the FFA sheds are now situated. In 1922 city block #14 was presented to the town of Nordheim for a park as a silver Jubilee gift from H. Runge & Co.

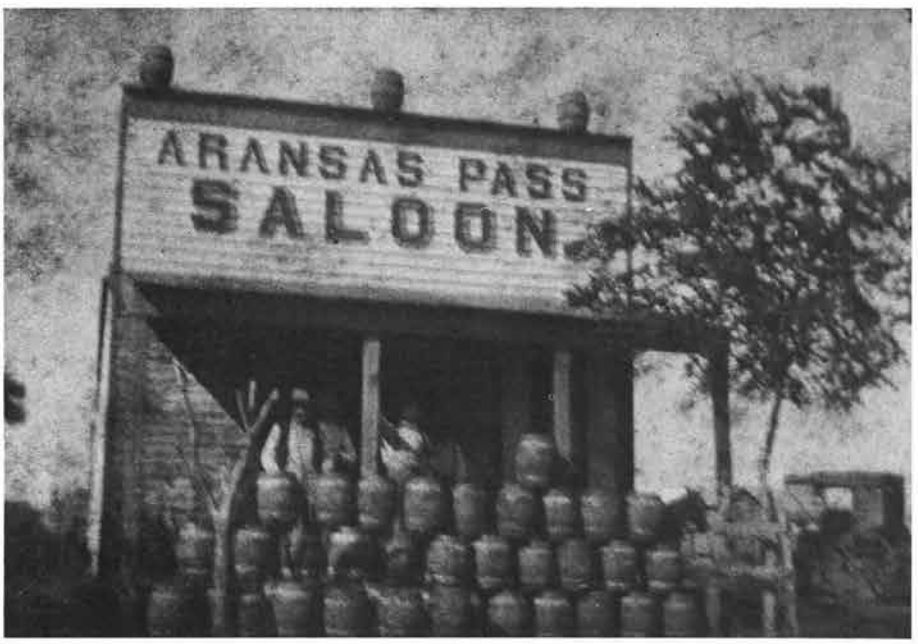
The first business block was bought by Henry Schlosser, Sr. in 1895. He erected the first store building and in 1897 the first post office was set up in the store with Henry Schlosser, Sr. as Nordheim's first postmaster. The building is still in existence and is now owned by the Garland Wagenschein family. Mrs. Henry Schlosser, Sr. was named "The Mother of Nordheim" and appropriately so, for the H. Schlosser's daughter, Lillie, was the first child born in the town of Nordheim. Sadly, Mr. Schlosser suffered a premature death in 1911.

In 1895 August Kasten bought a section of land south of Pilot Knob and acquired the first residence lot in the new town. In the same year he erected the first cotton gin with Ernst Westphal and Paul Ullrich as operators. In 1902 August Kasten financed a general mercantile store for William Kasten and Edward Wied. In 1904 Kasten & Wied brought the Cabeza gin, operated by Otto Kasten, into Nordheim and, as active cotton buyers and ginners, they contributed their share to bringing Nordheim into prominence as a cotton market. That same year the business was divided with Ed Wied owning the gin while the mercantile store was owned by William and Louise (Westphal) Kasten, the parents of Arno Kasten, first boy and second child born in Nordheim.

Gustav Osterloh cast his lot with Nordheim by buying part of block #1 and erecting a two story wood building thereon in 1897. the lower story was used for a general store while the upper story served as a temporary residence for the family. Another store building was erected on the north side of the original one and the Osterloh store stock was greatly expanded. Leo C. Neutzler came to Nordheim as a teacher in 1903 but in 1906 he joined Gus Osterloh in the mercantile business. In that same year (1906) they established Nordheim's first bank. In 1911 they erected Nordheim's first brick store building, but Gus Osterloh did not get to enjoy the new building for long, since he tragically died of food poisoning the same year. The title of "Father of Nordheim" was deservedly bestowed upon Gustav Osterloh, for his energy and devotion helped set Nordheim in motion as a prosperous pioneer town.

Carl Burow erected a gin in 1898 which eventually became the Farmers Union Gin Co., then the Farmers Co-op and today is operated as a Feed Mart.

The above mentioned individuals are usually considered the founding "movers and shakers" by early local historians. However, there were many more farmers, ranchers, and businessmen who played an important role in Nordheim's beginning, growth and survival. Many of the early families remained to help build, nurture and sustain Nordheim through two, three or four generations while others stayed a short time and moved on. Some additional names of permanent settlers that appear up to 1900 were Washow, Sonneborn, Hohn, Dahlman, Schulz, Schlbach, Teiwes,



Aransas Pass Saloon opened by H. Charpentier in 1903.

1908 Street scene

Film truck parked on Main Street of Nordheim while filming "Paris, Texas" in 1983.

Producer-Director of "Paris, Texas", Wim Wenders (on right) and a crewman

Morisse, Janssen, Pevestorff, Helmers, Wolf, G. Mueller, D. Bolting and Fritz Thormaehlen.

During 1901 and 1902 there was an upsurge of families who tried their hand at all the services necessary to serve a community's survival such as: Heer, well driller; Blanton, newspaper; Grosse, store; Steinbach, hosiery factory and cafe; Dr. Buehring, drug store; Pundt, saloon and Frohsinn Hall; Heldt, butcher and saddlery; Osterloh, lumber yard; Gaedke farmer; Haertig, hotel; Schulz, blacksmith and Scuher, builder.

The years beginning in 1903 to 1920 brought an enormous influx of people anxious to ply their trade in a new settlement. Some such names were Pace, Charpentier, Gohmert, Reinhardt, December, Wied, Boeer, Laging, Brukenhoefer, Bode, Fuhrken, Riedesel, Stuermer, Bues, Onken, Meischen, Reichert, Huck, Rabenaldt, Mueller, Buesing, Ammermann, Wolpman, Katzmark, Duderstadt, Woods, Menn, Wagenschein, Riedel, Schuenemann, Ladner, Pfeifer, Stirl, Krause, Zedler, Schnabel, Emanuel, Blaschke, Schaefer, Butschek, Leister, Jochen, Klaevemann, Stoever, Voelkel, Beinhauer, Schroller, Boerm, Harms, Natho, Pilsner, Gips, Ckodre and Reibschlaeger.

Silver Jubilee Parade — 1922

1920 to 1990

Immediately before and after the 1920's a number of businesses were begun in Nordheim which remained in continuous operation by the family until death or retirement, even into the 1980's.

The Wagenschein family had been in continuous business operation for 62 years — from 1913 until 1975. Ervin Wagenschein started in the undertaking and hardware business in 1913 and his son, Garland Wagenshein continued the hardware part until retirement in 1975.

Another businessman, C.B. Dean, practiced his tinning and plumbing trade for 52 years with a clientele all over south Texas. He opened Dean's Tin Shop in Nordheim in 1918 and it continued in operation until his death in 1970.

In 1920 the J.G. Steiger family moved to Nordheim and opened a bakery which they operated for more than 40 years.

Everest Kolodziejczyk purchased the Nordheim Barber Shop in January 1926 and operated the business for 57 years until his death in 1983.

The Charpentier Brothers (Monroe and Leon) began a confectionery in May 1926 and expanded to drugs and then groceries until they retired in 1973. This business existed for 47 years.

Another business in the longevity category was the W.P. Schulz Grocery which opened in 1926 and closed in 1979 — a span of 53 years. The son, Lawrence Schulz, was 13 years old when he began helping in the store, and he took it over at his father's death in 1961.

There was Dr. D.C. Sheffler who, after graduating from dental college, opened a dental office in Nordheim on February 1, 1930. His highly successful practice extended over a large part of south Texas and continued for 54 years until his retirement in 1984.

The Amos and Andy Cafe was opened in 1931 by Emily Wolf and Leona Krause. Emily Wolf Mullins soon was the sole owner, and the business was in constant operation for 58 years until her retirement in 1989.

Mrs. Bruno (Jane Schmidt) Morisse bought the Nordheim View from J.W. Blanton in 1938 and published the newspaper in Nordheim until 1951. At that time "Miss Jane", as she was affectionately known, and her brother, Paul Schmidt of Yorktown, agreed upon a joint venture of their newspapers and the new publication was called *The DeWitt County View*. The new paper was published in Yorktown but Miss Jane maintained a branch office in Nordheim until her retirement in 1970. She enjoyed 32 years of newspaper ownership but had worked with newspapers long before.

At this writing in 1990 most of the owners, wives or direct descendants of the above business people are still living in the community.

There have been many more business men and endless numbers of farmers who have been a part of the Nordheim scene from before the 1920's and since to the 1990's. Lack of space

does not permit the naming of everyone, and the writer's apologies go to them. Perhaps they have claimed their place in history by turning in their family histories to this book.

Economic Summary

Beginning approximately in 1910 there seems to be evidence of many turnovers in business ownership in Nordheim. It is hard to determine whether this was due to native restlessness or simply difficulty to realize a reasonable profit from their business enterprises. Cotton and corn were the backbone of the economy, and the German farmers easily diversified by raising and shipping chickens, turkeys and eggs out by railroad. In 1906 the cotton farming industry yielded 5,000 bales, while in 1924 four gins put out 10,000 bales, Nordheim's biggest cotton crop ever. However, the Depression of 1929 played havoc with Nordheim's economic base — the growing of cotton. The advent of the boll weevil also crippled the cotton industry and in 1934 only 2,000 bales were ginned by two operational gins. Today there are no gins and no cotton is grown.

Great changes were in store for Nordheim due to the discovery of oil and gas south of town in 1934. This new oil industry was the mainstay of Nordheim's economy until the international oil glut of the late 1970's and 1980's. Today mostly businesses essential for local needs and enjoyment are in operation while the farmers concentrates on cattle, feed, maize, corn, peanuts, melons and dairy farming.

Social Aspects

Despite Nordheim's laid-back appearance, the populace, from earliest times, was always looking for an opportunity to party or celebrate. The beginning community had an ideal place to stage their celebration; namely, on Pilot Knob, situated on the edge of town and overlooking the country-side in every direction for miles. By 1910 most activities had moved down into town, for a local theatrical club called the Fortschritt Verein had built Frohsinn Hall, which became the main entertainment center. The new center sparked renewed interest in forming a brass band and musician, Alfred Zedler, soon had such a band of young men practicing and entertaining. In 1903 a group of men organized a rifle club known as the Schuetzenverein (Shooting Club) which built a target range and dance platform on Pilot Knob. This club sponsored the annual May and October Feasts and still does so at this writing. Fraternal lodges such as the Herman Sons, Woodmen, Modern Order of Praetorians and Rome Circle were organized as social and beneficiary societies. Today the Garden Club supervises the City Park and Pavilion and the recently organized Friends of Nordheim promotes many community projects and activities. The Broadway Bar, Smokies, The Wagon Wheel, and The Cactus Drivein serve as centers for group gatherings at this time.

Cultural Aspects

Nordheim does not neglect its cultural needs which are satisfied through its school programs, the museum and projects of the Garden Club, Extension Clubs, churches and the Friends of Nordheim. The first school was built in 1897, a one room frame building enlarged to two rooms in 1908. This building also served as a church and a cultural center as well as a school. Today Nordheim is proud of its modern educational plant.

The Nordheim Historical Museum was dedicated in 1986 and depicts all aspects of life in the Nordheim area from its early settlement. The community has been very responsive by providing the museum with significant articles and objects for exhibit. Nordheim is also proud of its historical markers which are located on Pilot Knob, the cemetery, at the Jubilee Park Pavilion and at the Nordheim Shooting Club.

The community works diligently to support its two churches which are St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Ann's Catholic Church. These two churches provide the community with spiritual as well as cultural inspiration.

Special Events

1990

According to Alvin Teiwes the first telephones in Nordheim were furnished by the Eureka Telephone Co. which had its headquarters in the two-story Hill Building erected in 1898. The building became the home of Amos and Andy Cafe in 1937.

1901

The SA&AP Railroad built a depot at Nordheim and erected a sign with the following legend: "Pilot Knob, highest located point between Houston and San Antonio on the old SA&AP including the Waco branch." The swank passenger train that came through Nordheim was referred to as the "Davy Crockett."

1902

Nordheim's first and only newspaper called *The Nordheim View* was established with James W. Blanton as publisher.

The Nordheim Hosiery Factory was set up with Robert Steinbach in charge.

John Pundt opened a saloon with an open dance platform and operated Frohsinn Hall often referred as The Opera House.

1903

SA&AP Railroad installed first telegraph office and a permanent ticket agent was sent to Nordheim. This meant that Nordheim ceased to be a flag station.

L.C. Neutzler moved to Nordheim and built the largest home ever erected in Nordheim. Fire destroyed the home in 1922.

1904

According to a youth magazine Nordheim had the youngest telegrapher in the country. He was 13 year old Jesse L. Yelvington whose brother-in-law was telegraph operated in Nordheim and he had taught Jesse the telegraph code. When tending the depot alone, young Jesse took a persistent emergency call and saved a freight train several hours of delay.

1905

A canning factory was put into operation in Nordheim with George Bode in charge. The factory would run every day in July and 6,000 or 7,000 cans of tomatoes were expected to be filled. The factory paid 25¢ per bushel for tomatoes.

Nordheim also had a cigar factory and a soda water bottling works in operation.

1909

At this time the town's first waterworks were installed by Hugo Rabenaldt for the purpose of protecting his own property but he did furnish other settlers with water. The present system was installed in 1927.

1911

Nordheim's first sidewalks were built and some were board walks while others were concrete with railings for tying horses. There were also water troughs at intervals so customers could "water their horses" while in town.

1915

O.P. Schnabel worked for Ben Zedler in his grocery store. O.P. later moved to San Antonio and became famous for his "Keep San Antonio Clean" campaigns.

1922

Nordheim celebrated its Silver Jubilee for three days with a beautiful parade, meals for 25¢ each day and a dance each night.

1924

Central Power & Light Co. completed power lines into Nordheim from Yorktown and for Nordheim citizens "The Lights Were Here!"

1936

The Texas Centennial was celebrated by Nordheim in a big way with a parade and the planting of trees in Jubilee Park. Seven trees were planted in memory of the seven founders of Nordheim who had passed away. The founders were Henry Schlosser, SR., Gus Osterloh, Fritz Thormaehlen, Fritz Schulz, Sr., Paul Ullrich, W.J. Kasten and Ernst Westphal.

1947

Nordheim celebrated its Golden Jubilee in its usual big way with an opening parade and two days of exhibits, speakers, bands, Firemen's Races, dances and an abundance of food.

1972

There was a huge one day bash on September 16, when Nordheim celebrated its Diamond Jubilee honoring 75 years of existence.

1986

The Nordheim community was approved by the Texas Sesquicentennial Committee to function as a Texas Independence Community. Organizations and groups carried out Sesquicentennial projects during the whole year.

One beneficial outcome for the whole community was the organization of the Friends of Nordheim which has remained a permanent organization. They have remained active in sponsoring community projects such as the float, street Christmas decorations, community Christmas tree, Easter Egg Hunts and much more.

(Written by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk with the help of Alfreda Huck and her vast collection of Nordheim history materials.)

by Mrs. Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

T103

Nordheim Lutheran Church 1908

Nordheim, Texas

In 1896 the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Nordheim was organized by Rev. J.K. Poch of Yorktown. The first service was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schlosser by Rev. C. Freling who was a traveling missionary. He then moved to Nordheim from Sasseville and served until 1898. By then services were held in the schoolhouse and the first baptism was performed on Nov. 22, 1896. The child was Bertha Helmers who died at 20 months.

Rev. John Harder conducted services from June 1898 to May 1899 confirming the first confirmation class on March 26, 1899 with 36 confirmants taking their first communion on March 31, 1899. Rev. J.K. Poch came to serve as pastor from 1899 to 1913.

The earliest membership list of which there is a record was made in 1901. The following families were listed: F. Ullrich; E. Westphal, G. Helmers; F. Heldt; F. Buering; John Gaedke; H. Harms; F. Bruns; L.C. Neutzler; Franz Heer; F. Schlenstadt; Alf. Mueller; W. Kasten; Aug. Kasten; H. Wied; Chas. Wied; L. Riedesel; A. Dahlmann; W. Pevestorff; J.F.A. Mueller; H. Meier; A. Havermann; Henry Meyer; H. Schlosser; and F. Hilmer.

At the first congregational meeting held on Jan. 20, 1901, A. Dahlmann was elected president; W. Kasten treasurer; and W. Pevestorff secretary. The first two marriages were Paul Schulz and Lena Heine on Sept. 21, 1899 and Edward Wied and Emma Kaelke on Oct. 24, 1899.

On June 16, 1901 Runge and Company donated a half block of land for a church site and on Dec. 26, 1908 the congregation decided to build a building which was erected for $1500.00 with Robert Sucher as contractor. The building was dedicated on March 2, 1909 by Pastor Poch. A charter was received from the Secretary of State of Texas on oct. 21, 1909 and given the name of Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Congregation of Nordheim. But in Jan. 1917 the building was blown off of its foundation by a windstorm and rebuilt with an annex.

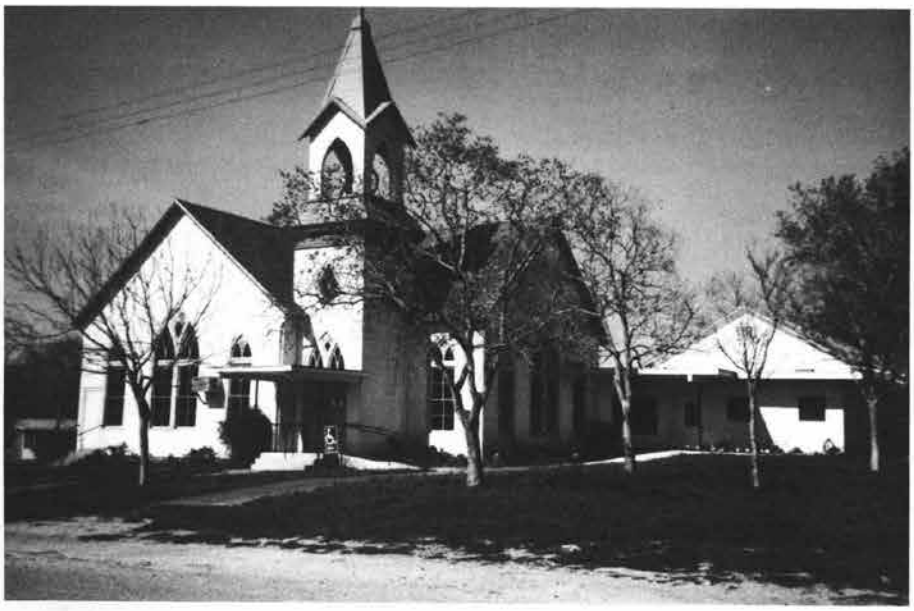
Rev. D.A. Jud became pastor in 1913 during which Nordheim and Runge became a joint parish. He first lived in Runge, later moving to Nordheim because of health reasons. The Nordheim Parsonage was built in 1914. The first English service was held in 1914 and Sunday School classes were also started then. The Ladies Aid was started by the ladies in 1913 with 17 members. Rev. Jud's resignation was accepted in Aug. 1916 and Rev. C.P. Haskarl came until 1920. German services were discontinued in Sept. 1918 but were resumed by Rev. A.T. Kluge in 1920. He left Nordheim on April 1, 1928. Then Rev. T.J. Roth came and served until 1937. By then it was decided on English services only on the last Sunday of the month. On Jan. 24, 1934 the church celebrated their silver jubilee with Rev. J.K. Pock as the central figure of the celebration. By then there had been 748 baptisms, 568 confirmations, 183 marriages, 196 burials. The membership was 110 members.

Rev. O.R. Schawe succeeded Rev. Roth in Nov. 1937 and served until Oct. 10, 1941 when he became a chaplain in the U.S. Army. By now the minutes of the church were written in English. In 1941 the Parish House was also built. Rev. Louis Kramer served as supply pastor until 1942 when Rev. Max Heinrich came and served until 1945. Rev. Kramer came back and served again until 1948. In 1949 Rev. William Durkoph became pastor until 1953. He had the pleasure of ordaining his son David into the ministry, while here. Rev. Manno Shatto served until 1954 after which Rev. Martin Burow came in 1955. During his stay repairs were made to the parsonage, additions to the parish house, and the inside of the church was renovated and modernized. The 50th anniversary of the church building was celebrated on July 12, 1969. Rev. Burow passed away suddenly in 1966 and Rev. Renslo came to serve until Rev. Nelson Klar came on March 1, 1967. Rev. Klar stayed until 1974 when he decided to return to his native Nebraska. Pastor Jeffrey Thompson became our pastor on July 14, 1974. He stayed until 1981 after which Rev. Russell Vardell came to serve, followed by Rev. Charles Mantey, and Rev. Don Fredine. During Rev. Fredine tenure a fellowship lounge was added between the church and the parish house connecting the two buildings. After the retirement of Rev. Fredine on Jan. 31, 1989 the church was again served by supply pastors until Rev. J.R. Westerfield accepted the call to serve on August 1, 1989.

In 1984 the Ladies Aid Society was disbanded. However, the Evening Circle and the Circle of Hope continue to serve the church.

A native son, Nolan Sucher, was ordained into the ministry by Rev. D. Lee Muehlbrad on June 30, 1968. Two other sons of the congregation that served the church were Rev. Henry Mueller and his brother, Rev. William Mueller.

by Mildred Lee Mueller

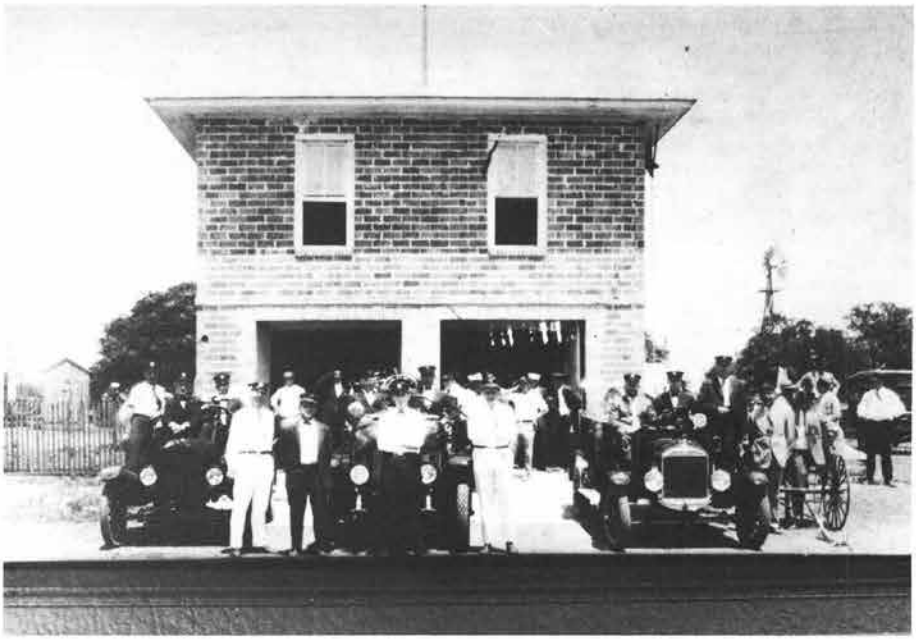


Nordheim Lutheran Church 1987

NORDHEIM MUSEUM

T104

The little town of Nordheim's creation of an exceptional museum has been called a true "Labor of Love". Mr. Neil Hanson was impressed by the rich collections, peculiar to the community's rich heritage, he had noted in some local homes. Believing these items should be preserved for posterity, he approached the



1923 Old Fire Station now Nordheim Museum. Fire Chief J.G. Steiger in dark suit in front row.

writer and together we sparked the interest which culminated in the present museum.

A group of interested people with the backing of Mayor Herbert Mutchler and Banker Lindy Voelkel began to meet at the bank and discuss the possibilities of a museum. Those present resolved themselves into a committee with Lula B. Kolodziejczyk as president, Bernice Charpentier as secretary and Caroline Klaevemann as treasurer.

On September 3, 1976 Mr. John Wilson, Museum Consultant from the Texas Historical Commission of Austin and Mrs. A.W. Schaffner of the DeWitt County Historical Commission, met with the executive committee. Mr. Wilson gave valuable advice, materials and guidelines for establishing a small museum.

At a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Neil Hanson the committee received much encouragement from them. The Hansons extended the use of their old lumber yard building plus financial aid for the securement of a state charter. The museum committee gratefully accepted the offers.

The committee held many lengthy sessions at which they drew up by-laws, a constitution and Articles of Incorporation. An application for a charter was sent to the Texas Secretary of State and in January 1977 was granted, which meant the Nordheim Historical Museum was now a reality on paper.

The following were the charter members of the first board of directors: President, Lula B. Kolodziejczyk; Vice-President, Rev. Jeffery Thompson; Secretary, Bernice Charpentier; Treasurer, Caroline Klaevemann and Vance Frosch, Gilbert Pargman, James Audilet, Leola Stirl and Sobena Wied. Mr. and Mrs. Neil Hanson are honorary members of the board at this writing.

After some delays and apprehensions over using a wooden building, Mr. Neil Hanson offered to build the city a metal storage building in return for leasing the old Fire Station to the Museum Association. The old tile fire Station was built in 1923, is two-story and makes an excellent museum building.

The present members of the Nordheim Historical Museum Board of Directors are Pres., Lula B. Kolodziejczyk; Vice-President, Alfreda Huck; Secretary, Bernice Charpentier; Treasurer, Vance Frosch and Gilbert Pargmann, Bernice Pilsner, Elsa Leister, Georgie Voelkel and Mildred Mueller. Co-directors of the museum are Mildred Mueller and Lula B. Kolodziejczyk.

The Nordheim Community and former Nordheim residents have been very supportive of the museum project. All the renovation, arrangement of exhibits and yard maintenance have been accomplished through volunteer work and monetary donations. The museum operates from membership dues, donations, fund raisers and memorials.

On April 28, 1985 a "sneak preview of the museum was held on Cemetery Decoration Day on the first floor. The many visitors were so impressed that articles for exhibit began pouring in until today we are literally bursting at the seams. As a Sesquicentennial project the official dedication was held one year later on April 27, 1986 and a huge crowd had high praise for the museum.

The museum is proud of a Sesquicentennial gift presented by Bruce and Barbara (Scheffler) Morisse, honoring family members. The gift included microfilms of *The Nordheim View* and a reader on which the microfilms can be projected. Many come to do family research in the old newspapers.

The Nordheim Historical Museum is fortunate in having many fine items for exhibit. There are the many instruments used by the famous Nordheim Brass Band displayed in a miniature band stand, the beautiful old wedding dresses hanging in an original Osterloh & Neutzler Store glass wardrobe, and the tin bathtubs, designed and built by tinner C.B. Dean, which took not only Nordheim residents but surrounding settlements out of the Saturday Nite wash tub bath. There is much more reminiscent of early pioneer life in the Nordheim area. On display is the Feather Christmas Tree which was Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Stover's first Christmas tree when they married in 1927. These artificial trees were first made in Germany and the leaves or needles are made of green dyed feathers. The old tree was coaxed into shape by Bernice Pilsner and Wilma Clark and decorated artistically with old ornaments and metal holders with candles inserted. There is an old bedroom and kitchen on display plus and interesting exhibit of the history of *The Nordheim View.* The visitor can view many, many old photographs plus an excellent display from the Cabeza Community.

A visit to this interesting museum would not be regretted. If the museum is not open there are numbers listed on the door to be called.

(Written by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk with material collected by Alfreda Huck.)

by Mrs. Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

PILOT KNOB

T105

A high hill known as Pilot Knob towers at the southern edge of the town of Nordheim in western DeWitt County on Highway 72. As far back as early ranchers and settlers could remember people recounted tales of Pilot Knob. Since the area was all prairie land with oaks scattered here and there, the hill could be seen from long distances. The earliest travelers spoke of charred rocks and Indian relics seen on the hill, which alerted them that Indians might not be far away — what an ideal lookout point and place for sending smoke signals. Old "Judge" Gillon of Runge, Texas would tell young Conrad Tips of seeing remains of Indian Camps on Pilot Knob when he came through the area at a very early date.

From the early 1800's through the turn of the century, Pilot Knob served as a guide for travelers and settlers on their way inland from Indianola and the coastal plain to Goliad, San Antonio and points West.

This area, including Pilot Knob, was first surveyed in 1838 by surveyors from the Goliad Land District and patented to Robert Galletty in 1841 by the Republic of Texas. In 1879 Vachel Weldon acquired the area from the R. Galletty heirs. In 1880 V. Weldon sold out to H. Runge & Company based in Cuero, Texas.

V. Weldon had specified that Pilot Knob was never to be sold to private owners but be reserved for the public's use. No documentation has been found to date concerning V. Weldon's specification, but most of the older citizens attested to the fact. About one-fourth of the top was reserved for Nordheim's Cemetery but the other portions are now owned by private individuals.

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built in 1886 along the northern edge of Pilot Knob with a blind siding named Weldon Switch built one-half mile westward. Railroad surveyor discovered that Weldon Switch (Nordheim), nestling at the northwest base of the hill, had an elevation of 400 feet above sea level while Pilot Knob had an elevation of 447 feet. The railroad later erected a sign which read, "Nordheim, the highest located town along the S.A.&A.P. Railroad from Houston to San Antonio including the Waco Branch."

Many German settlers were attracted to this area from the 1870's to the 1920's. The first settlers held all their public gatherings and socials on Pilot Knob during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The flat top with its sturdy live oaks afforded a commanding and exhilarating view of the country-side. The only buildings ever erected were a dance platform and refresh-

ment stands and by 1910 all activities had been moved down to the town.

Two of Nordheim's oldest organizations were formed on Pilot Knob. They were the famous Nordheim Brass Band in 1898, now disbanded, and the Nordheim Schuetzen Verein which is now the Nordheim Shooting Club.

A historical marker was erected on the crest of Pilot Knob in 1968 to forever remind travelers of its significance.

Many interesting social and human interest stories have been told and recorded connected with people's enjoyment of Pilot Knob.

Illustrating the feasts held there is the following abbreviated local newspaper account of a celebration held in 1902. "Big school feast held at Pilot Knob the Sunday before. Two thousand people present: Music by Yorktown Ideal Band. Speaking by Edward Kleberg, Esq. of Yorktown and Prof. Eicholz of Cuero, Texas. Ten head of cattle barbecued. Forty-two kegs of beer and fifty cases of soda sold. Grand ball at night. Major Gohmert and Miss Lena Kate Duer of Yorktown leading the grand march.

Also there is the account of a "tragedy" which befell a little girl: Mrs. Louise Steinbach Boldt remembered as a child of 7 or 8 walking up to Pilot Knob to a feast with a nickel tied in the corner of her handkerchief. Little Louise enjoyed herself, for just before time to go home, she would untie the nickel and buy candy to share with her smaller sisters; but; alas, the nickel was gone and a heart-broken little girl went home empty-handed.

Mrs. Sobena Schulz Wied remembers her grandmother, Mrs. Fritz Schulz, telling of young people, including her own, straggling home from all-night dances on Pilot Knob about the time she went out to milk the cow and do her early morning chores.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

JUBILEE PARK PAVILION

T106

During the month of April, 1923 a long awaited dream of the people of Nordheim became a reality. Their well-known Nordheim Brass Band now had an official home for its practice sessions and concerts. A pavilion or bandstand in the center of the park was begun and finished along with immediate plans for beautification of the park. The Brass Band had promised an occasional summer night free concert therein, which the people of the community enjoyed intensely. The uniqueness of this pavilion is not necessarily its age, but the fact that its same Nordheim Brass Band is still in existence today. Old settlers claim that the very first Brass Band in Nordheim was organized in 1896. The park site was presented to Nordheim as a surprise birthday gift during the ceremonies of Nordheim's Silver Jubilee celebration on September 25, 1922. The presentation of Block No. 14 for a park site was made by Walter Reiffert, President of Nordheim Townsite Co., a subsidiary of H. Runge & Co. which owned most of the land in this area at one time. However, a special provision in the deed specified that the block would revert to H. Runge & Co. if it was not maintained and used as a park.

From the proceeds of the Jubilee celebration, a fund of $400 was placed at the disposal of the newly formed Park Committee composed of L.P.F. Hohn, L.C. Neutzler, Chas. W. Gohmert, H.J. Laging, John Wolf, M.G. Mueller and August Mueller. This committee decided a pavilion was a prime necessity for the park, particularly since Nordheim had a Brass Band and much community activity centered around bandstands during early times.

Lumber, which had been used for the floats in the Silver Jubilee parade was also donated to the pavilion project. Henry J. Laging, local builder, and a crew of workers erected the structure, and Martin Osterloh remembers delivering the lumber to the pavilion site on a wagon from the Osterloh Bros. Lumber Co. The pavilion was octagon in shape and 24 ft. in diameter with a flag pole projecting from the top center of the roof. The Central Power and Light Co. equipped the building with lights free of charge.

According to old Nordheim View records, the first social function held in the park with the new pavilion was an all school picnic with the Brass Band rendering a program of concert music from the bandstand. Through the years many band concerts, socials and even practice sessions by the band were enjoyed by citizens of Nordheim and neighboring communities in the cool of the evenings as well as on all-day affairs. Likewise, the local high school band has rendered concerts from the bandstand. Many May Pole dances, children's parties, school and private, were held on the pavilion even up to the present time.

The Nordheim Garden Club took over the operation and maintenance of Jubilee park in 1952. One of the first acts of the Garden Club was to repair the roof of the pavilion.

In 1961 winds of hurricane Carla caused the pavilion to lean to one side, but it was not repaired for some time. However, in 1968 the Nordheim Garden Club undertook the project of repairing and painting the old structure. The Garden Club also sponsored the obtaining of a Historical site marker for the interesting old bandstand.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

NORDHEIM SHOOTING CLUB

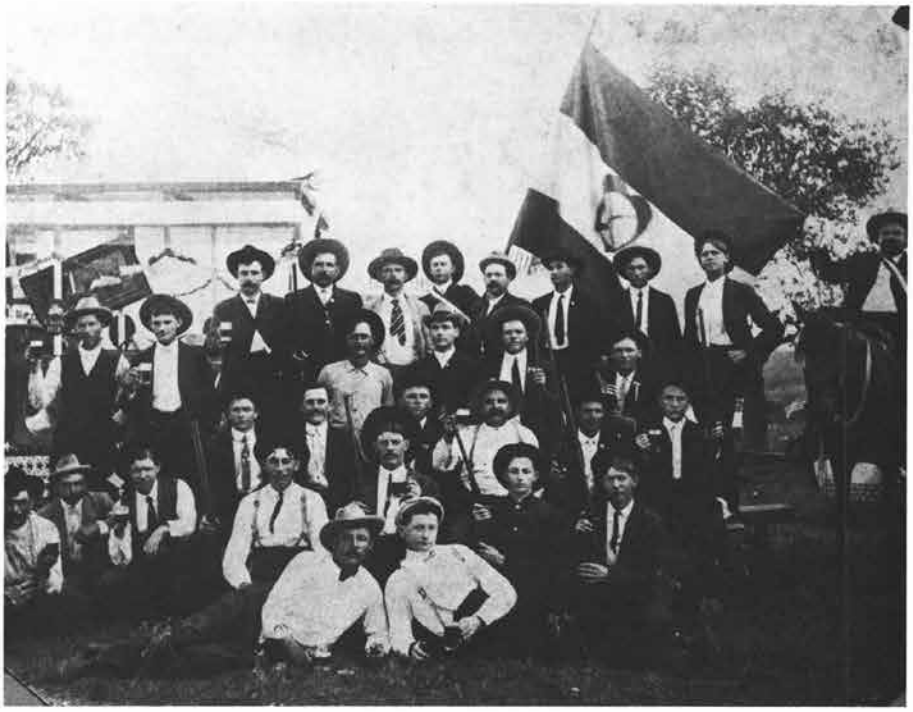
T107

Shooting Club Flag

In March of 1927, the Nordheim Schuetzen Verein joined with the Nordheim Fortschritt Verein to become one club known as the "Nordheim Schuetzen Verein." This union was by mutual agreement since most of the men were members of both clubs and the remaining members were given full membership in the Schuetzen Verein. The original Schuetzen Verein was organized in 1902 with seventeen members. In 1930 the Nordheim Verein was incorporated and took the name of "The Nordheim Shooting Club."

Shooting matches for members were held often, usually on Sundays. Prior to each May Feast a King Shoot was held and the best marksman was named king of the May Feast. He then selected the Queen of the Feast, if single. If married, his wife was the Queen. Invitations were sent to neighboring shooting clubs to participate in their regular target shoot. They used regular target rifles for these

Nordheim Shooting Club 1990



Nordheim Schuetzenverein on Pilot Knob early 1900's Members: Julius Reuser, Fritz Menn, Louis Piehl, George Truede, Doctor Theo. Buehring, George Janssen, Emil Osterloh, Gerhard Mueller, Willie Bues, Robert Sucher, Herman Charpentier, Martin Osterloh, Eugene Reinhardt, Aug. Burrow, Ernst Pfeifer, Henry Bues, Henry Morisse, Otto Reinhardt, Charlie Havaman, Aug. Teiwes (On Horse), Otto Kursel, Fritz Schulz, Fritz Ullrich, George Morisse, Emil Charpentier, Fritz Bues, Hugo Rabenaldt, and Willie Osterloh.

shoots.

The Nordheim Schuetzen Verein adopted its own Flag and Emblem which is symbolic of the competitive marksmanship shoots between men. The colors being red for bravery and courage; green for youth and hope for eternal life; and white for faith and purity. This flag was used in parades and other activities.

In 1908 the club built its first hall, modeled after the shooting clubs of Germany, as a community amusement center just west of town. In those early days it was already the "Mecca" of amusement seekers for miles around.

In March 1939, the entire dance hall was razed and the O.D.H.S. halls were razed and rebuilt into a recreation hall which is now used for banquets, reunions and meeting places for various organizations. The whole complex is one of the largest amusement halls in South Texas.

To date the Club has approximately 300 members. The Nordheim Shooting Club is Nordheim's oldest organization that is still in existence.

MAJESTIC DANCE ORCHESTRA

T108

The Majestic Four Orchestra was formed around 1924 in Nordheim, Texas. As the band grew larger, it became known as the Majestic Dance Orchestra and was managed by Edwin and Bennie Klaevemann. The Majestic was loved and admired by thousands of South and South Central Texans. Edwin would write some of the music for the members of the band. They played shottisches, polkas, waltzes, and many other old-time and popular numbers. Radio listeners also enjoyed their popular music for several years. The band dispersed around 1947-1949.

Members of the band were: Paul Dittfurth, who played banjo; Herbert Klaevemann, who placed the concertina and E-flat clarinet; Bennie Klaevemann, who played the drums; Edwin C. Klaevemann, who played the trumpet and violin; and Eddie Stoever, who played the trombone. On occasions, Mrs. Edwin (Caroline Peters) Klaevemann would accompany the band by playing the piano and singing.

The Nordheim Brass Band, in all probability, was the only continuous pioneer German type brass band that existed in Texas for so many years, or perhaps in the nation that we know of. When formed, city bands were common everywhere, but not for long. A musical organization of which Nordheim and all DeWitt County is justly proud.

The only "pay" members of the Band received was free beer and a free meal when they played at Country Feasts. The band's principal source of income, and this was a small amount, was donations from individuals. A few fund raising projects and sometimes a dance was held and the profit was given to the band. All funds were used to buy new uniforms, music, music stands, and occasionally, instruments that remained the property of the Brass Band. Some of the instruments were in use for 40 to 50 years. Only one year the band had a sponsor, The Nordheim Fire Department.

Some old settlers claim the band was organized at Nordheim in 1896 with Louis Wied, Charles Waltersdorff, August Waltersdorff, Frank Riedesel, Henry Riedesel, Richard Riedesel and John Roessler, leader. In 1898 the band grew with Louis Pheil, Louis Wied, Louis Henge, Emil Wied, Willie Bues, Hugo Rabanaldt, Willie Klaevemann, George Steinbach, Ben Zedler, Paul Ullrich, Alfred Zedler, Emil December and George Bode, with Adolph Janssen, then school teacher at Nordheim, as band leader.

The band held its membership from 14 to 16 members, being at its lowest in the year 1913 when it numbered only 13 members. It was at this time that San Antonio staged a State Band Contest in which 42 of the State's best bands competed. The Brass Band entered the contest

Nordheim Band at Ottine, TX. Mayfest 1904. Members: William Brieger, Alfred Zedler, August Burow, George Bode, Louis Phiel, Dr. Theo Buehring, Emil December, Louis Wied, Emil Wied, Curt Reinhardt, Herman Charpentier, Gus Gross, Albert Dahlmann, Paul Ullrich, Louis Henze, John Pundt and Arthur Haertig.

July 4, 1904 Nordheim Brass Band: Louis Pheil, Louis Wied, Louis Henge, Emil Wied, Willie Bues, Adolph Janssen, Hugo Rabenaldt, Willie Klaevemann, Geo. Steinbach, Ben Zedler, Paul Ullrich, Alfred Zedler, Emil December and Geo. Bode.

and played the popular numbers March, Fort Popham, Serenade and Passing Thought. They captured second place!

After that the Band began to grow and in a short time brought the membership to 25 members. Then came years when bands and band concerts were in great demand and the band soon accumulated enough money to purchase new instruments.

Three of its members served as first class musicians during World War I. E.A. Stirl served with 360th Infantry Band, Bruno Morisse with the 344th Field Artillery, and Henry Morisse with the 70th Field Artillery, while the whole band was enlisted by the Council of Defense and played for every rally in the County.

In one of the write-ups found on the Brass Band, it stated the total number of musicians who had been in the band since 1896 ranged from 120 to 150. We are trying very hard to find out who these members were so we can list them in our "History of the Nordheim Brass Band."

The most active months for the organization were May, September, and October. They played for the feasts held throughout this area. During these months the band practiced twice a month.

These boys passed through long ordeals, most bravely and many compliments were passed on their music. It was doubtlessly one of the most continuous practices on record.

The past Brass Band leaders were: John Roessler, Professor Adolph Janssen, Emil December, A.M. Zedler, Dr. S.V. Kahn, Dick Morisse, Paul Koerner, C.A. Meischen, E.A. Stirl and Bruno Morisse.

The Brass Band members when it was disbanded after a colorful history were: Edwin Klaevemann, Wilson Jacobs, Caesar Metting, William Hartman, Alfred Butschek, Bennie Klaevemann, Stephen Schroeder, Ben Meischen, Harold Stirl, Eddie Stoever, Alfred Marquis, Albert Stirl, Fred Stirl, Roy Brunkenhoefer, Robert Jacobs and Frank Katzmark.

A token of remembrance was presented each of the surviving members of that great Brass Band.

Living Band members, some of which attended the celebration are: Alfred Brieger, Bennie Meishcen, Alfred Butschek, Caesar Metting, LeRoy Mueller, Louis Stoever, Eddie Stoever, Harold Stirl, Carl Bolting, Eddie Hengst, Wilson Jacobs, Stephen Schroeder, Robert Jacobs, William Hartman, Alfred Hartman, Carlos Klaevemann, Floyd Nickelson, L.A. Sloma, Bill Smolik, Herbert Klaevemann, Bennie Prause, Sr., E.A. Davidson, Clark Clindinings, Robert Meischen, Otto Pieper, Werner December, and last, but not least, Mr. Emil Onken who is the oldest living member, 94 years old, who started playing with the Band in 1908, being a member for three years.

A memorial plaque was hung in the recreation hall as a reminder of the many, many hours of pleasure these men have given to our community.

Many of its members have passed to the Great Beyond, and many have moved to other parts, but the Band still lives on in our memory and the community can be proud of the honor of having had an organization as this, at one time. Maybe some day it can be done again.

(History provided courtesy of Mrs. Raymond Huck)

by Mrs. Alfreda (Fay) Huck

Nordheim's Firemen's Band

PATRONIZE ALFONZO REYES'

TONSORIAL o PARLOR

FIRST-CLASS WORK BY FIRST-CLASS WORKMEN

Main Street, Next to Muti Hotel

YOUR WORK IS SOLICITED.

Majestic Dance Orchestra L-R: Paul Dittfurth, Herbert Klaevemann, Binnie Klaevemann, Edwin C. Klaevemann, Eddie Stoever.

PIERPONT STAGECOACH STOP

T109

DeWitt County, Texas

William Pierpont married Elizabeth (Ellet) Austin Parrott in the mid-1840's. She was the widow of John Austin, hero of Velasco, and of Dr. T.F.L. Parrott. It was she who sold one-half of John Austin's league of land on Buffalo Bayou to the Allen brothers who founded the city of Houston.

William and Elizabeth moved to the newly created DeWitt County, in 1846, where, at the junction of Five Mile Coleto Creek with Twelve Mile Coleto Creek, they erected a log store and stagecoach stop on the route between Indianola and San Antonio over which wagon trains and stagecoaches bearing freight and immigrants travelled to the interior of the state.

In 1868 while Texas was still occupied by Federal Troops after the war, William Pierpont died mysteriously or was killed in Wharton County while enroute to Houston. Some said he might have been murdered for the money and deeds in his possession. His wife Elizabeth and their son John Austin had long preceded him in death. She is believed to be buried near the stagestop.

Reference used: *Gonzales County History* William John Davis Pierpont Family Story

by Patsy Goebel

PLEASANTVILLE

T110

Pleasantville was a black community intermingled with the Edgar community. The cemetery is located West of the community of Edgar in a pasture on private property. Names in this cemetery are of inhabitants of this area such as Allen, Battles, Blackwell, Brown, Calloway, Coleman, Cook, Davis, Edwards, Enoch, Ford, Green, Hardy, Harper, Henderson, Hunter, Jackson, Johnson, Lewis, Lucas, Pleasants, Manuel, Price, Steen, Thomas, Williams, Wimbish, Young and others. The cemetery is well kept and fenced.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church is east of highway 77A and is still active. It received a historical marker in 1988.

Pleasantville School was started in 1904 on the K.W. Barton Survey and was part of the Edgar School District. Mr. G.L. Prince was one of the teachers.

PRAIRIE HILL

T111

Prairie Hill School

This school was on the John J. May Survey in North eastern DeWitt County and was six miles south of Yoakum. It was started as a community school in 1885. The neighborhood was at that time sometimes called "Dog Town". On August 11, 1897 James Hickey sold an acre of land on which to establish the Prairie Hill Public School. A one room school house was located there on the Yoakum-Terryville road on an elevated part of the prairie. That is the reason for the name. In 1920 a two room school was erected. By 1948 the students had dwindled and the school was a one teacher school.

Two of the teachers were Mae Middlebrook and Nora Stevens.

PRAIRIE VIEW

T112

Prairie View School

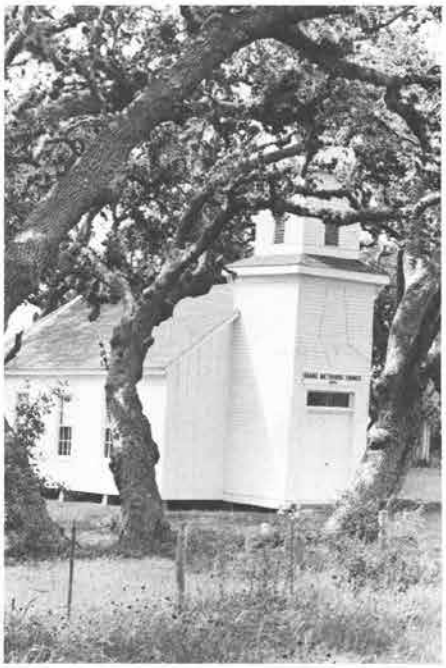
This community was established in northeastern DeWitt County by the families of William Schmidt, Eilert Schumacher, William Burns, John Hagens and Charles Herns.

In 1900 they established a school in a one room frame house located ten miles northwest of Yoakum, William Schmidt was trustee from 1902 to 1919. A modern two room school was built in 1924. This building was used until the district consolidated with Yoakum Independent School District.

RABKE

T113

Five Rabke families came to DeWitt County to settle in 1845 but did not form a community until 1883 when land was acquired by Adolph Rabke, Sr. from Thomas W. Bell. Here on 300 acres of land, Adolph built a dirt floored log



Rabke Methodist Church 1985

Dedication of Marker — 1985. Dr. Lamar Fly, Mrs. Isabella Schaffner, Mrs. Iva Lee (Rabke) Morrow, Mrs. Lornette (Rabke) Dukes, County Commissioner Odell White and Rev. Kent Kinard.

1894 Adolph Rabke II, Henry Rabke (standing) while building Rabke Church.

cabin in an oak grove near the present site of the Rabke Cemetery. Adolph lived until 1889 and is buried in the Rabke Cemetery.

In 1894, Reverend Fredrich Vordenbaum, a widower, was united in marriage with Dorothea Rabke, widow of Adolph Rabke, the pioneer settler. On March 27, 1894, land was donated for a church by William C. Gohlke and his wife, Joanna (Rabke) Gohlke. A small one room church was built by the efforts of the whole community.

In 1896 Edward T. Rabke opened a grocery store to serve the community. He built a two story building across from the church. The upper story was used as a meeting place for the Woodmen's Lodge. On April 14, 1898, the store was designated as a United States Post Office with Edward Rabke as postmaster. The post office was closed in 1905 and the store closed in 1917.

Until 1921, the children of Rabke went to the Twelve Mile School about two miles west of Rabke. Then the Rabke children went to the Ratcliffe School.

The Rabke Cemetery was established in 1900 by the gift of one acre of land by Edward Rabke to the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The Rabke Methodist Church is still standing today (1990) as a reminder of busier days. Church services are still held occasionally on special occasions.

Information from notes of Lornette (Rabke) Dukes

by Lornette (Rabke) Dukes

RATCLIFFE SCHOOL

T114

In 1921 a school was built on the Ratcliffe farm on the Clinton-Weesatche Road. The Five Mile School pupils and the Rabke pupils from the Twelve Mile School moved into this school. In 1923, the rest of the Twelve Mile School children came to the new Ratcliffe school. In 1923 the Brown Ranch School also joined the Ratcliffe school. This school operated until the 1950's when the children were sent to Cuero Independent School District.

School trustees through the years were: E.T. Rabke, F. Parks, A.G. Schorre, H.E. Murray, C.A. Waldeck, C.C. Gohlke, Albert White, Will Schorre, Gus Pflug, Ben Parma, Walter Pieper, Heinie Bade, and David Murray.

Teachers employed in the Ratcliffe school were: Lurel Paine, Claudia Milligan, Maude Russell, Nellie Singletary, Edna Pieper, Rose Lee Murray, Annie Sue Exelby, Evelyn White, Amelia Barthlome, R.M. Stovall, F.L. Stovall, Beatrice Leifeste, Mabel Stovall, Marian Cearley, Iva Haynes, Margaret Sherrod, Esther

Ratcliffe School Class 1925. Back Row: L-R: Albert Schorre, Mabel Brown, Elsie Rabke, Sarah Hill, Chester Maxey, Paula Pieper, Willie Parks, Mercy Brown, Jessie Parks, Jack Murray, Lottie Hall, Joe Magee, Myrtle Stewart, David Maxey, —, — Hall. Third Row: Alva Burch, Albina Hahn, Iva Lee Rabke, Fermin Schorre, H.E. Richter, Ollie Karm, —, —, Roseman Sasse, Walter Pieper, Mildred Maxey, Capitola Gohmert, Arlene Karm, Earlein Rabke, — Magee, Robert Gross. Second Row: Charlie Hall, — Karm, Charles Richter, Rice Maxey, Hilton Schorre, Ceasar Sasse, — Summers, — Tucker, —, Rena Maxey, — Hall, —, — Summers, Amos DuBose, —, Maylen (Mean) Brown, Wesley Sasse, and — Hohn. First Row: Norman Boldt, Arleen Schorre, —, —, Alice Gohmert, Mabel Stewart, Rena DuBose, Iva Bell Dubose, —, Lanell Rabke, Mimi Dell Maxey, Lonie Karm, Andrew Pickens, Donald Sasse, Felix Hahn. Teachers were Nellie Singleterry and Rose Murray Johnson and Edna Pieper Jacob

McQuillian, Ethel R. Hartman, Katherine Casal, Josephine Wofford, Arlene Schorre, Mrs. Milton Froelich, Zelma Neubauer, Grace Frey, Mary Fanett, Mrs. Addis Houston, Mrs. Corrie L. Urwin, Mrs. Millie Jacob, Frances Boldt, and Frances Peyton.

ROSEVILLE

T115

Roseville School

A rural school was located in southeastern DeWitt County on the Squire Burns Survey, five miles east of Cuero. So many wild roses bloomed there that it was named Roseville School. It was started in 1874 and continued as a one teacher school for many years. Some early settlers of the community were the Jeff Morrows, and the William Meadows who came in 1876. Roseville School closed in the early 1950's.

During the year 1896-1897, Miss Willie Alexander taught there.

From 1880 until 1913 the Baptists had services in the Live Oak grove church which Columbus Burns built in the Roseville community. The Columbus Burns family had moved into this area from Concrete in 1873.

SHILOH

T116

This community was located four miles east of Yorktown in western DeWitt County. In 1847 Hence McBride Pridgen bought 200 acres of Callahan survey land. Soon he had thirty acres under cultivation. There were three log cabins and a well on his land. Some other early families were Hamiltons, McFarlands, Andersons, Odoms, and Woods. In 1851 John Keith Rankin called together what is reputed to have been "the first worshiping band west of the Guadalupe River". Near the grove where they met, a Methodist Church was built in 1852 and given the name Shiloh. This church continued to have services until 1910. Then the Methodist Conference sold the lot and building.

Shiloh school was established in 1856 and kept open until 1914. At first Shiloh school was a community school in a log house. On December 16, 1884, for one dollar, Isabella Woods deeded acre of land to trustees C.G. Hartmann, and C.F.W. Hewing for a school. A frame building was built and Shiloh Public School started. Some of the teachers were William (Bill) Kissack, William Badago, Willie Ryan, Jim Buck, Tastus Hedges, Phil Howard, Laura Hudson, Annie Gips, Lena Gerhardt, and for many years Anne Ferguson. Shiloh became Metting School. In 1884 there was a black school established on the Callahan Survey. This school was called Sunset School.

To aid the Confederate cause the "Shiloh Home Guards" were organized under Capt. H.G. Woods. On December 25, 1861 they were included in Brigade District 24 of the State Troops.

In 1990 only the Woods cemetery and the Shannon cemetery were left to remind us of Shiloh. A historical marker was erected in 1983 for Shiloh.

STRATTON

T117

Stratton School Building

Stratton is located on the James G. Swisher League ten miles east of Cuero in northeastern DeWitt County. A Post Office was established there in November of 1887. The name Stratton came from a well known Cuero saddle maker, John Stratton, who had land in the Stratton area. For about two years, Charlie Middlebrook used his home as the Post Office. In 1890, William W. McKissack built a store and then he became postmaster and had the Post Office in his store. This store closed in 1943. The Post Office was discontinued on February 28, 1905. Mail is now delivered from Cuero and Yoakum by rural delivery.

Prior to the Civil War the farming community of this area had a cotton gin. It was built and first owned by Mrs. Bill Pierson who had formerly been Mrs. Benbow. W. Jasper McManus bought this gin and ran it until he moved to the Thomaston section in 1885. Later Charlie Middlebrook and G.J. Neil moved this gin into the village of Stratton and operated it there. In 1883 William Luhrsen fenced his nearby land with barbed wire — the first to be used in that section. Scott Smith had an early day blacksmith shop. Lassig had one later.

W.A. McKissack taught the first Stratton School in a rented house in 1891. A one room school was built in 1893. A.J. Neel gave land for the site of the school. In 1925 Stratton became the first consolidated rural school of DeWitt County. A modern two room building was built in 1948. This school was discontinued in the 1950's. Kate Wallace was one of the teachers in the late 1890's.

Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church (Stratton)

In August 1883, an arm of Mulberry Church in Fayette County, Texas was extended to a group of members meeting in the school house at Burnt Camp, three miles south of Sweet Home in Lavaca County. In November 1883, Elder J.G. Curington was appointed by Mulberry Church to serve in the presbytery to constitute this group into a church.

On December 01, 1883, Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church was constituted by Elders J.G. Curington and J.W. Shook, at Burnt Camp school house, with the following members: Elder and Sister J.G. Curington, L. Curington, J.S. and Miranda C. Newman, Wesley Vick, Sarah Price, M.E. Day, H.C. Curington and M.J. Curington.

In 1889, the Church moved to DeWitt County, first to the Crossenville School, and then to the Stratton School located on the Harry Neal place, two miles east of present location on Farm Road 1447.

In 1920, the Smiley Primitive Baptist Church building was bought, dismantled and shipped by boxcar to Cuero and erected on the Marcus Morrow place, about ¼ mile east of the present location. On October 29, 1921, Marcus and Mollie Morrow acknowledged and confessed their love for Pilgrim's Rest Church and its membership by conveying to the Church and its Trustees 1.5 acres of land. In 1927, the building was moved by log rollers and mules to its present site. This small sanctuary — lighted with kerosene lamps until 1938, and heated by a pot-bellied stove — served the congregation for many years.

On January 16, 1957, 2 additional acres were given to the Church and her Trustees — C.T. "Pete" Matthew and Alex Benbow — by deed of gift by Mrs. Marcus Morrow and family; the Stratton School building was purchased, and the auditorium was built. The older part of the building, with a 12-foot addition to the west end added in 1938, was converted into a dining area with modern kitchen facilities.

In 1969, the entire building was remodeled and a baptistry was built behind the pulpit. Previously, baptisms by immersion were held in nearby stock tanks.

In 1974, the Church voted to erect a large tabernacle on the south side of the church building. Friends and neighbors from far and near volunteered their labor. It is used for camp meetings and other outdoor gatherings.

Incidental to the history of the Primitive Baptists in Stratton is the story of the elm tree services. As children, J.S. Newman and his little sister, Martha Frances, planted an elm seedling near their home in 1867. Joe carried water and dug the hole, while Fannie gathered corn cobs in her apron to use for mulch to hold moisture around the delicate roots. Years later, following his ordination, Joe and his sister made a return visit to their old home place. The buildings were gone, but they found a towering elm tree surviving. For many years, Joe, the minister, conducted an annual worship service beneath the spreading branches. It became widely known as the "Tree Meeting" and was held each July from 1926 through 1935, with hundreds attending. Elder Newman died in October 1935.

Primitive Baptists do not use musical instruments in their worship service, nor do they have Sunday School. Adults and children alike are taught by the Elders from the pulpit, using the scriptures as the only printed reference.

Irene Matthew Alexander, who joined the Church in 1914, and Lula Hefner in 1916, are among the oldest living members.

Pastors: J.G. Curington (1883-1893); J.S. Newman (1893-1897); R.W. Harrell (1897-); J.A. Moore (1914-1930); J.S. Newman (1930-1935); J.C. Morgan (1936-1944); Ariel West (1944-1945); W.J. Chambers (1945-1958); Dale Magers (1958-1962); Billy Derrick (1963-1969); and Billy J. Walden (1969 to present).

Deacons at this writing are A.B. Benbow, Glen Blundell, Royce Blundell, Leon Jennings and T.J. Morrow.

by Mary Adams, Julia Dunn, Henry Young

TERRYVILLE

T118

Terryville was first located on the Michael Devine Survey in eastern DeWitt County. One of the first settlers was Robert "Bob" Alexander who arrived in 1850 from Mississippi and built a blacksmith shop.

In 1852, James D. Terry and John Terry selected a site among the oak trees and built a mercantile store. This was when the settlement was given the name Terryville.

The community soon grew to include a steam operated cotton gin and grist mill, a physician and a school and a sawmill. The sawmill was run by Charles Hume.

On June 22, 1861, Capt. Andrew Jackson Scarborough raised the Scarborough's Davis Guard, a volunteer cavalry company at Terryville. They were in support of the Confederacy. Later part of this group was known as the 4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers. Some of the men joined Sibley's Brigade and went with Sibley to New Mexico.

The first mail to the community was brought by men who rode horseback to Victoria; the round trip took two days. On September 1, 1868, Eli F. McDonald applied to the US Post Office Department to establish a Post Office at Terryville. It was approved and the Terryville Post Office was established February 15, 1869, with Eli F. McDonald as the first postmaster. On September 27, 1881, the post office was moved to a new location on the L. Dunbar League, two ½ miles northeast of the first post office. Here John J. Woodrome built a store and the post office was in this store.

Store owners in the Terryville area were James and John Terry, John J. Woodrome, Mrs. Dora Woodrome, G.A. Woodrome, D.W. Doss, Sam Alexander, R.M. Dodd, B.F. McDonald, Eli McDonald, and W.J. Hodges. Also, John Hargrove, C.W. Dickinson, W.C. Thrift, Perry E. Edgar, John Squyres, Alonzo Cooper, Joseph Cook and Horace Cook, Luther Williams and Mrs. Luther Williams.

The gin and grist mill was run by B.L. Tanksley, G.A. Woodrome, and Caswell W. Cook and son. Alonzo Cooper also ran the grist mill. Lawyers were T. Cameron and D.L. Cameron. Constables were Will Goodson and N.B. "Pole" Hollan. The blacksmith shop was rung by Bob Alexander, F.J. Schubert and Walter Scott Smythe. Hugh J. Stephenson was the Notary. Doctors were Dr. D.A. Pressley, Dr. R.H. Weyman, Dr. W.H. O'Banion, Dr. Cagle, Dr. W.J. Drake.

By 1884 most of the businesses had moved from Old Terryville to the new location.

August 14, 1884, Joseph Cook and wife Laura Goode Cook and Joseph Byars and wife Saphronia C. Byars donated two acres of land in the Michael Devine Survey to Judge James D. Terry, to be used for a common free school. The school house was built by Sam Stevens, John Hawkins Goode and other men of the community. The school was given the name Bear Creek School. The Old Terryville School and the Hebron Church School merged with the new Bear Creek School. Some of the teachers at the Terryville school were J. Covey, Mr. and Mrs. Baukman, W.J. McManus, W.J. Simpson, J.L. Garrett, and D.R. Carroll.

By 1885 all that remained of Old Terryville was the cemetery with seventy five or eighty graves. Most were marked with rocks, concrete slabs, concrete curbs or Cypress boards. About twenty graves had monuments.

About 1889 the new site of Terryville reached its peak population prosperity, which continued past the turn of the century. The population was about 120. Today all that remains is a Baptist Church and a few houses.

A Texas State Historical Marker was placed on FM682 in 1986 near the site of Old Terryville.

by Sibyl Northcutt

Bolivar Pridgen Home

Mrs. John L. Pridgen and Ethel Pridgen 1908 Thomaston

THOMASTON

T119

Thomaston is located eleven miles south of Cuero and seventeen miles north of Victoria on Highway 87.

An interesting historical report of the Thomaston area was found by County Auditor Nic Ladner and apparently is the work of a previous auditor L.G. Covey. Part of that historical sketch follows.

When the first settlers came to the Thomaston area, fords were ready for their use across the Guadalupe River. They were known as the Power, Cottingham and McCrabb fords. The Power ford early became the main crossing between Mission Valley and the settlers east of the river. For untold years thousands of buffaloes came from the north in the spring. Their biannual trampings across the Cottingham ford made the banks low, and it was much used by the early colonists in passing from Goliad to Austin's colony on the Colorado and Brazos rivers.

Early settlers found scattered about millions

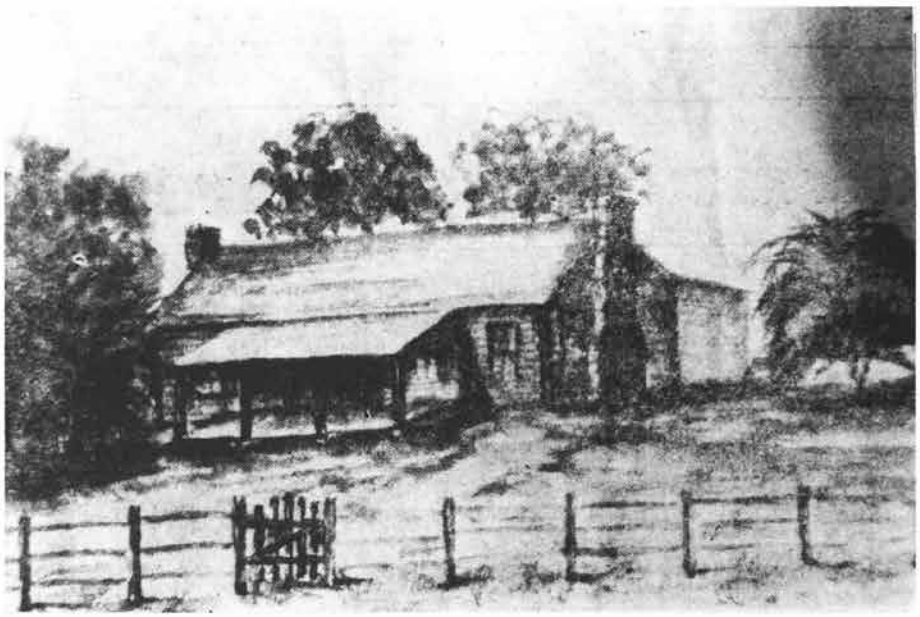
1890 John B. Pridgen Home Thomaston

James Cottingham House. Thomaston

of bleached bones of wild animals and perchance, those of some unfortunate human beings. Later these ghostly reminders of death were sold for fertilizer and brought many needed dollars to the settlers.

Of the log houses built in the 1840's, 1850's and 1860's by the Twohigs, Houstons, Judge Harris, McDonalds, Judge Irvin, Cottinghams, Wrights, and Pridgens, none are standing today. The Frank Rabel home west of the river was built about 1848 of undressed lumber by Richard Power. The lower story of the R.E. Clegg home on Price's Creek was put up about 1849 of native rock for David Murphree, noted for prize winning horses and mules. The Ruby Pridgen place just north of Thomaston was first built in 1852 by Boliver Pridgen, Republican Senator under Governor Davis, and was rebuilt when "pappy got back from the senate." Irvin Anderson's home, three miles north of Thomaston, was built by Carpenter Berry for Ivens Weisiger about 1860. The Eatman home, one mile north of Thomaston, built in 1849 by Wiley Pridgen, father of Bolivar, was burned in 1928.

Our first School was in a log house on the Lockhart land. The teacher was a Mr. Moore from Missouri. Oscar and Willie Pridgen and Alex and James Owen Murphree attended this school. Students from Mission Valley came across the Power ford to attend. A later log School was near the Buck McCrabb home, teachers were Miss Sallie Sangster and then a Mr. Bagget.



McDonald Log House near Price's Creek

Other early settlers were Meyers, Neels, Lowes, and Suttons.

In 1872 Colonel Nathan Thomas planned to donate land for the townsite of Thomaston, hence the name. General McCulloch who had charge of the railroad construction, located the station on the northern border of the Thomas tract instead of farther south where the Colonel wanted it. Angered almost to the fighting point Colonel Thomas refused to give any land. Mrs. John P. Wright made large donations of the land inherited from her father, Charles Lockhart and Thomaston was placed on the map. This was written about ? by L.G. Covey.

Thomaston grew to include a gin, owned by Mr. W.J. McManus, a blacksmith shop owned by Mr. Thomas W. Lanmon, a lumber business owned by Mr. George W. Ferguson, a newspaper run by Mr. Eatman, a Doctor, Dr. J.E. Pridgen and many other fine farmers and ranchmen.

At one time there were three churches in Thomaston, the Methodist, the Presbyterian and the Baptist. All held regular services. There was also a black African Methodist Episcopal Church and later the Mount Bethany Church. The latter is still in existence today.

By 1906, the school building at Thomaston was a three room structure. Some of the teachers were E.C. Haskell and L.L. Haskell, Anne Ferguson and J.W. Carroll. Also, Janie Finch, Rev. Z.B. Graves, and Legrand Covey.

The black community also had a school. One of their teachers was Julia Johnson.

Later families who came to Thomaston were the Calliham, DeDear, Adcock, Atkinson, Brown, Caldwell, Conwell, Edgar and Fanett.
oyd Pridgen

DEWITT COUNTY BRANDS

Tumlinson,Joseph		1846
Taylor,Josiah		1846
Troy,John		1847
Von Roeder,Joachim		1852
Voekel,Johann		1853
Walker,Alfred		1846
Wofford,Rollins B.		1846
Wofford,Webb		1846
White,John A.		1846
Westphal,Augustus		1854
Woodward,Felix		1846
Zedler,Martin		1853

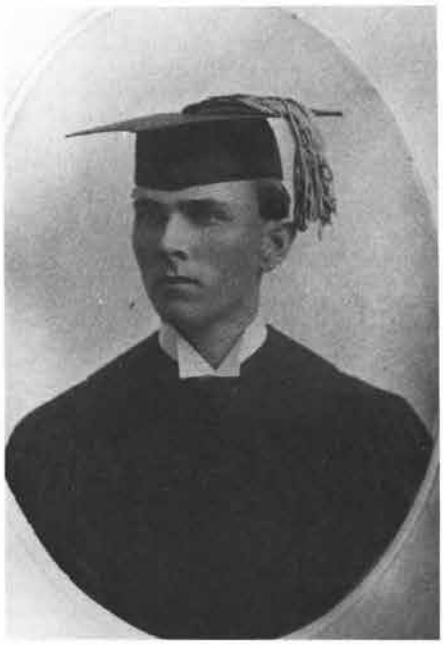
Thomaston Gin and Mill

Mr. John Bowden Pridgen 1870's

THE DOCTORS PRIDGEN OF THOMASTON

T120

Dr. John L. Pridgen



Dr. James Howard Pridgen

Dr. Ross Edwin Pridgen 1917

Two brothers came from Alabama to settle at Thomaston in 1872. They were James Hill Pridgen (1840-1937), a confederate veteran, and John Bowden Pridgen (1853-1896). James had married Margaret Hart before coming to Texas. John was a bachelor but married Margaret Lucinda Wilson, a grand-daughter of Charles Lockhart, on October 10, 1876.

From these two families came five doctors. James "Jim" had two sons who became medical doctors. They were Drs. James Edward, I and James Howard Pridgen, Their other children were Warren, Ethel, Lucille, and Jennie. John also had two sons who became M.D.s. They were Drs. John L. and Ross Edwin Pridgen. Other children were Floyd, Wilson, Ethel, Mary and Pearl.

Dr. and Mrs. James Howard Pridgen had a son who also became a noted surgeon. He is Dr. James Edward "Jim", II of San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. John L. (1884-1961) received his medical degree from Tulane University in 1905. He married Mozelle Beatty shortly thereafter. They made their home in San Antonio. He practiced medicine for fifty-two years. The Bexar County Medical Association honored him with a fiftieth anniversary party at the San Antonio Country Club. The theme of the party was "From the Horse and Buggy to the Jet Age". He was most beloved by his patients and friends. Dr. John Pridgen was a 32nd. degree mason, member of the Bexar County and American Medical Associations and Xi Sigma Xi Medical Fraternity. He and Mrs. Pridgen were very active in the Baptist Church, civic, and social organizations. They had a daughter, Mrs. William B. (Evelyn) Ford and a son, John L. Pridgen, Jr.

Dr. Ross Edwin (1888-1921) received his medical degree from Tulane and married Edith Fox. He served as Captain in the Medical Corps during World War I. He had a very successful practice in El Paso, Texas but he unfortunately died at the early age of thirty three at Mayo Clinic. He was 32nd. degree mason.

Dr. James Howard (1882-1957) married Ada Beth Harwood on April 7, 1908. He received his Masters degree in Pharmacy from Tulane and a medical degree in Pathology from Northwestern University. He became associated with Burns Hospital in Cuero, Texas in 1906 and remained on the staff for forty years. He was a steward in the First Methodist Church and was a member of the Cuero Masonic Lodge and the Rotary Club. He and Mrs. Pridgen were very active in civic and social affairs. They were the parents of Dr. James E. "Jim" Pridgen, II of San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. James E. Pridgen

Dr. James Edward "Ed" Pridgen (1873-1934) obtained his medical degree from Texas University and married Josie McManus. He was the beloved great "country" doctor that delivered a large percentage of the babies born in rural south DeWitt and Victoria Counties. He was known for his treatment of pneumonia which ran rampant in those days and for his great diagnostic ability. He was often called out of town to diagnose difficult cases. Dr. Ed was known for his extreme kindness and generosity. He often provided the unfortunate with their medicines as well as attending to their medical needs regardless of the fact that many could never pay him for his services. This writer, at the age of fourteen attended his funeral and has vivid memories of the extremely large gathering, many of the men and women were openly crying. Dr. Ed had a daughter, Mrs. Hugh J. (Jewell) Donnelly.

Dr. James Edward Pridgen, II, the son of Dr. and Mrs. James H. Pridgen, married Betty Rabb. He graduated with a B.A. Degree from Texas University and received his medical degree from Tulane. He went on to Mayo Clinic where he specialized in surgery for five years. He and Betty decided that they wanted to make their home in San Antonio. They are living there at the present time. He has been on the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, Past President of the Texas Surgical Society, Chief of Surgery at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, and Chief of Staff at the U.T. Medical Hospital in San Antonio. He currently is clinic Professor of Surgery at UTSA Medical School, Consultant of surgery for Brooke General Hospital, Consultant of Surgery for Wilford Hall Hospital in San Antonio, which is the largest Medical Hospital in the world and on the development committee for Mayo Clinic. Jim and Betty are very active in the Methodist Church, civic, and social organizations. They have three children, Mrs. Melvin (Gay) Gray, Mrs. Robert G. (Carol) Storey, III, and Jimmy.

by Floyd D. Pridgen, August 1989

TONQUA

T121

Tonqua School

The Tonqua School was in eastern DeWitt County on land of the L. Dunbar Survey. The community was named after the nearby creek by the name of Tonqua. The creek is believed to have gotten its name from Indians who lived in the area. The earliest White settlers in the area were the Charles and Elizabeth Bradley who had a family of seven girls and one boy. They came in 1846.

The Tonqua School was started in 1878 on land donated by the Bradley family. This school was discontinued in 1944 because of lack of pupils. Two of the teachers were Dora Granberry and Matilda Squires.

A Baptist Church was organized in 1852 but it soon merged with another congregation of a nearby community.

UPPER MEYERSVILLE

T122

Louis C. Bluntzer owned and operated a dance hall in Upper Meyersville for a number of years along with his wife Mary. Mary would bake pies for a couple of days before dance nights and sell them to the dancers. Two pieces of pie and two cups of coffee sold for a total of fifty cents and she often said she made more money than he did selling dance tickets. One night during a dance an argument began between a Shefler and a Duderstat and ended with Schefler being stabbed by Duderstat. He died on a counter in the dance hall. Blood stains remained on the floor for many years until the building was partially remodeled. The building still stands in Upper Meyersville although it has been turned around and moved a short distance to make way for the paving of FM 237. Although now covered with panelling, one of the old walls still bears the names and dates, in the early 1900's, of people believed to be a popular mexican band who played for dances in those early days. For many years now the trail riders from Victoria stop and spend a night on the adjoining property on their way to San Antonio. There are no more dances held here but the trail riders queen is elected here each year.

Upper Meyersville School

The building was sold to M.J. and Mary Bluntzer after the dance hall was closed. They turned it into a grocery store and a one pump gasoline stop. Next it was sold to Joe and Annie Migura who ran it as a grocery store, also selling beer and gasoline for a number of years. After Joe and Annie died it was sold to Victor and Theresa Warwas who operate it at the present time as a grocery, beer, and gas stop. Many of the local people and also people who travel through the area stop by to have some refreshments or play a game of dominoes. Some are daily customers.

by Marvin C. Bluntzer

Upper Meyersville Cotton Gin

VALLEY VIEW

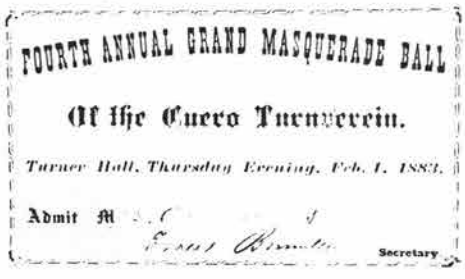
T123

Valley View School ca 1915 – Fourth Row: Faye Laster, Frisbie, Rena Morrow, Edward Thigpen, Louise Thigpen, Mayne Laster, Ed Frisbie, ?, ?. Third Row: Teacher, Sasky, ?, Winsley, Ned Thigpen, Minnie Hartman, Robert Holley, Mabel Thigpen, ?. Second Row: Hartman, W.K. Lasiter, Myrtle Thigpen, Otto Frisbie, Rufus, ?, Sasky, Raymond Regnar, Lawrence Laster, ?. Bottom Row: Floyd Nichols, ?, Preston Morrow, Burton Thigpen, ?, Emma Sasky?, Bernice Thigpen, Christine Preston, ?, James McCurdy

Valley View School

The Valley View school was started in 1900. The first location of the school was near the Schleicher Bridge and the second site was near Hells Gate Bridge. It was located on land with a lovely view of the Guadalupe River Valley; thus the name. Belle Neighbors taught the first session in 1900. Tina Wimbish was its second teacher.

The first school building burned. The last building was built on the Cheapside road. A one teacher school was maintained until the late 1940's when it became a member of the Cuero Independent School District.



FOURTH ANNUAL GRAND MASQUERADE BALL

Of the Cuero Turnverein.

Turner Hall, Thursday Evening, Feb. 1, 1883.

Admit M . . . .

Secretary

WALLAS RANCH SCHOOL

T124

Wallis Ranch School

Wallis Ranch school was first located on the John Wallis Ranch in northern DeWitt County. The school trustees were John Wallis, Fritz Noelte, and Elias M. Wallace. The school began on September 6, 1886. Around 1910, the school was moved to a second site.

From the records, it seems there sould have been two Wallis Ranch Schools; a second built about 1884 on Cooper Creek, with the first teacher being Miss Helen Reed of Cuero. Then in 1910, the district passed a school bond, purchased an acre and a half of land from E. Christian Lieck for $67.50 and built a two room school building. This was about five and one half miles southwest of Westhoff and combined the children of that community into one school.

The Wallis Ranch School continued until the late 1940's. After that the children of the area attended the Westhoff School.

WELDON SCHOOL

T125

Weldon School Building

When the Indianola Railroad Company abandoned the idea of building a railroad along the Old Indianola Trail, the company sold land to various purchasers. About 1885 Vachel Weldon, Sr. acquired some of this land in western DeWitt County. He opened up his land for settlement in 1890. Soon the Gruenau Community was located on some of the Weldon land, eight miles northwest of Yorktown. On March 9, 1894 V. Weldon, Sr. gave an acre of land for a school. This school became the Weldon School and was the school of the Gruenau area. It was discontinued in the 1950's.

George Langley was one of the teachers.

WESTHOFF (BELLO)

T126

Early Westhoff Primary

In 1906 the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended from Cuero to Stockdale. A town was surveyed for a railroad station fifteen miles northwest of Cuero. The men engaged in the task of grading the path of the railroad used "frisnas" drawn by mules. They pitched their tents near the surveying project and called the site "tent city".

The townsite's elevation was 300 feet and its location was in a beautiful section of rolling

Old O.C. Bruening's Saloon which was sold to Otto Rau in 1908. O.C. Bruening is in front of buckboard. Building to the left was Scharnberg Grocery. To the right is Gerhardt's Barber Shop and probably Langley Grocery. Picture taken before fire of 1913 in Westhoff.

Early Westhoff School

Band from Westhoff, Yorktown & Gruenau. Front Row Middle is Chas. F. Lincke who owned Lincke Dance Hall in Westhoff.

Inside Otto's Saloon prior to 1913. Note hexagon fly traps hanging from ceiling and brass oil lamps.

country which inspired the name of Bello. Bello is Spanish for beautiful. The first passenger train reached Bello on August 8, 1906.

The town grew rapidly. Soon the following businesses and professional services wee established: O.C. Bruening and W.D. Buchhorn, saloon; R.E. Scharnberg, grocery; Hodge & Lord, meat market; F.K. Lynch, drugs; Dr. Milner, physician; A.F. Teller, confectionery; William Emler, sandwiches; Charles Wild, grocery and hardware; Gus Theime general merchandise; Robert Kahlert, furniture; William Bruening, boarding house; I.A. Walker and Charles Mecke, bank; Olenick Brothers, grocery and hardware; H.D. Prusmerfer and Ed Mueller were carpenters; J.E. Denmark, public weigher; J.S. Gentry, drayman; Charles Small, rancher and salesman; Drs. S.P. Boothe and A. Barfield served as physicians; George O. Rehmil and E.T. Teller sold insurance and J.E. Warburton was postmaster.

A post office was established December 10, 1906. Because of the confusion between Bells in Bell County and Bello in DeWitt County, the designation Bello was rejected by the Post Office Dept. in Washington. The citizens of the town were reluctant to change the name of their settlement, and the controversy continued for some time. Finally the name Bello was discontinued and the name Westhoff was given to both the post office and the town, in honor of William Westhoff, Sr.

The town continued to grow and new businesses prospered. William Hillman and Son operated the first gin and it was followed by the Smith and Sons Gin moved from Smiley to Westhoff: later Theo Rogge of Shiner built the third gin. The farmers of the surrounding territory produced large cotton crops requiring all three gins to process from daylight until dark. As many as 4800 bales of cotton were ginned in some seasons before the advent of the boll weevil.

Carter Brothers built a spacious general merchandise business about 1910. George Langley also entered the general merchandise business. Meichen and Seim operated a tin shop, George B. Wird had a saddlery and harness shop; Blaschkel Kutac sold groceries and notions; J.F. Goehring operated a meat market; Mrs. Goehring kept a hotel; Julius Kasper, C.T. Roberts and Albert Gerhold had barber shops; Oscar Wild and F.L. Koehler sold confections; J.J. Bomba sold drugs; Jim Matijok maintained a dry goods store and a millinery shop; John Schober operated a bakery and Walter W. Eatman edited the *Westhoff Advertizer,* a weekly newspaper. Otto Rau had a saloon.

Tragedy struck the prosperous town of Westhoff in 1913. A midnight fire destroyed 13 business houses and the town never fully recovered its former status.

As the years went by various businesses have prospered in Westhoff. Fuchs Welding and Lumber, Lynn Nessel, welding; Albert Torres, groceries and service station; W.J. Ortman, Big Four Domino hall; George Baros, grocery store; James Allison, service station; Jeanni Real, City Cafe; Raymond Brozozowski, Whiteleghorn Inn restaurant; American Legion Hall; Home State Bank; Westhoff Post Office; volunteer fire department and the school have all survived in Westhoff. Today the main agricultural businesses are poultry and cattle.

In 1972 fire once more took four businesses. A cafe owned by Raymond Brozozowski, A cafe under the management of Mr. Jodie Cleve-

Otto's Saloon in Westhoff after being rebuilt after the 1913 fire. Seim's Hardware is on the left.

land, The Big Four Recreation club owned by W.J. Ortman and Gene Burnett, and the fourth building was a warehouse for Lone Star Beer, owned by E.T. Teller, were all destroyed by fire.

In 1988 fire again visited Westhoff and destroyed its sixty year old school. Westhoff's first school was established in the early 1900's when the town was still called Bello. It was in a one room fram building built by subscriptions. The first teacher were Florence Chess and Burns McMurray. In later years Westhoff built a two story four room brick school. This served until 1928, when by another bond issue a modern six room brick building was erected. Long time teachers were Miss Lydia Christiansen, Mrs. Grace Barfield, and Mrs. Leona Bruening.

The school was rebuilt and is going strong in 1990. Mrs. Irene Hahn is the superintendent of the kindergarten through junior high school. The High School age children go to Cuero High School.

The community has had a Presbyterian Church, a Catholic Church, a Lutheran Church, a Methodist Church and a baptist Church as well as a black Baptist Church.

by Malcolm & Ann Johnson

ST. ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

T127

Through Storms And Hard Times 75 Years – Going On 100

Could it be just coincidence that the first Baptismal entry in the St. Aloysius records was "Aloysius"? Born February 18, 1914, this child, named Aloysius Geo, was baptized by Father A.J. Miedanna, on March 15, 1914. His parents were Herman Buchhorn and Anna Wild. An insert on the first page, however, seems to prove that Aloysius was not the first. – An affidavit, witnessed by Father J.V. Hamala, states that Maria Gomez was the first child baptized. Her parents were Florencio Gomez and Nieves Ochoa.

St. Aloysius Church – early Westhoff

The many Baptisms and other priestly ministries in the early years of the Westhoff Mission indicate that there had been an urgent need for a church. One can only imagine the negotiations and petitions by the local Catholics, until Bishop John Shaw gave his permission. The origin of the parish dates from the year 1911, when a generous benefactor Joe Neumann donated ten acres of land for the purpose of building a church.

The land, provided by Mr. Neumann, was just off the Cuero-Westhoff Highway. The church building was completed in 1913, with much volunteer labor, and with the help of a $500.00 donation from the Catholic Church Extension Society. Bishop Shaw came for the dedication, and also the following year for the blessing of the bell. Besides Buchhorn and Neumann, some of the "charter" families were Kutac, Parma, Gallegos, Guzman, Voelkel, Nollkemper, De La Cruz, De La Garza and Raska. These and many more appreciated their new House of Worship, and they supported it cheerfully.

Early in 1915, Father Miedanna was succeeded by a Redemptorist priest, Father Milton P. Cahill. Even though Father Cahill lived in San Antonio, he had more than enough work in Westhoff. He continued this busy schedule for four years. His most "prosperous" year was 1916, in which he baptized 37 babies. This record has stood all through the years, and it is not being challenged now.

The Redemptorist Fathers continued serving Westhoff, as well as Nixon, until the year 1926, when Father Edward Marco was appointed resident pastor in Nixon. From that date, until 1970, St. Aloysius Church in Westhoff was a Mission of St. Joseph's in Nixon.

When the present highway was built through Westhoff, the Church was moved back from its original site to make room. The church building was damaged by storms in 1929 and in 1942. Each time it was restored, and it is still intact.

On October 23, 1955 at Aloysius Church was rededicated by the Rt. Rev. John Gerberman, Dean of the Floresville Deanery. Under the direction of Father J.V. Hamala the building had undergone extensive remodeling – painting both interior and exterior, new pews, new Stations of the Cross. A large crowd attended the dedication, as well as the chicken stew supper which followed.

The 50th anniversary of the Church was reached in 1963, and was commemorated on Sunday, October 20. Under the supervision of the pastor, Father Benton Thurmond, the parish celebrated with a special Mass, and a big feast at the American Legion Hall in Westhoff.

In the late 60's more improvements were made in the St. Aloysius Church building, through the ingenuity of Father John Wagner. Some of the present-day parishioners still speak of the good work done during that time.

The Mission of St. Aloysius was never promoted to be a Parish with its own pastor. In the beginning the priests came from San Antonio and from Nixon. In later years they came from Cuero, for Sunday Mass and religion classes during the week. At present the Mission is attached to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Meyersville, with Father Edward C. Bartsch as Pastor. Other priests, not already mentioned, who served the people of Westhoff, were Fathers Maneth, Kolodzie, Galle, Ehlinger, Murski, Kahlich, Pugh, Flynn, Kunz, Mackin, Appleby and Leyva. Some of these have completed their earthly service, and we trust that they are enjoying their eternal reward.

The present pastor, Father Bartsch, is proud to point out that he is well received in Westhoff, and that he is very grateful to all the people there. Even though they are few in number, they are very generous.

by Rev. Edward C. Bartsch

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – WESTHOFF

T128

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Westhoff

On March 29, 1908, a congregation consisting of five voting members was organized. These five members were: William Bruening, Herman Gaedke, Ludwig Harms, Gustav Thieme, and Albert Veit.

The Birthplace, as well as the place of the first service, was a dance hall. The dance hall, however, was not long to be had for a place of worship. It was sold, and so the congregation had to look around for another place of worship. Two times divine services were held in a saloon. Not a very appropriate place for a divine service, indeed! One service was held under a large live oak tree, as even the saloon was no longer to be had. The small congregation was again without a building in which to worship the triune God. Finally, however, in November, the church was completed. A simple and plain building it was. It consisted of four board walls without being finished on the inside.

The congregation grew very, very slowly.

In 1916, the congregation finally decided to have the inside of the church finished and 16 feet added to its length. The pledges were willingly made. The Ladies' Aid had the arch windows installed. The Luther League donated the pulpit and the altar in appropriate harmony.

On December 4, 1920, a resolution was passed to the effect that the congregation be self-supporting, thus relieving the Mission Board. On May 21, 1921, a resolution was passed to buy a parsonage. The present parsonage was bought, to which, however, an addition was later built.

In 1968 the Church Councils of Westhoff and Yorktown and a member of the District office met and decided to share a pastor. In 1969 the Lindenau Congregation was without a pastor and the two churches formed a Parish. This arrangement is still in effect today. In 1978, the *Lutheran Book Of Worship* was introduced.

At present, there are 202 baptized members and 180 confirmed members.

by Edwin A Baros

WESTVILLE

T129

Westville was located two miles south of Cuero on the Victoria Highway. It consisted of a church, school and cemetery. All that remains today (1990) is the cemetery. The church was started in 1887 and was called the Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church. The school was the Westville School and it continued until the students were sent to the Cuero schools. One of the teachers was Eliza Day, who taught in the 1890's. Westville was a black community and the cemetery is still used.

HISTORY OF YOAKUM, TEXAS

T130

The history of Yoakum could be summed up in these words: cattle, railroads, tomatoes, leather. From the dangerous days of Indian massacre, to cattle drives, railroad building and bustling prosperity. Later, bleak depression days and railroad decline to a thriving business in green-wrap tomatoes; the gradual development of Yoakum as the Leather Capital of the Southwest. Yoakum has had many devoted and farsighted men and women, all endowed with moral and physical courage.

The area of Yoakum and nearby rural areas was first settled by the John May Family, Patrick Sawey, John Douglas, and a widower named O'Daughtery and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, their son and daughter in 1836. This was during the "Runaway Scrape" time.

The John May family that settled near Brushy Creek received a grant of a league of land from the government of Coahuila and Mexico shortly before the Texas Revolution.

The small settlement was used as a collection point for cattle drives called the Chisholm Trail. A stone monument to these drives is located at the intersection of West Gonzales Street and Highway 77A. It was erected in 1936, the Texas Centennial year.

The dream of a railroad was in every community in the years following the Civil War and Reconstruction. The first railroad was just pushing into Texas at the time of the adoption of the present Texas Constitution in 1876. Before the days of highways, trucks, buses, and passenger cars, not to mention airplanes, railroad service was absolutely essential to the development of growth of a community. The dream was in the minds of the May family.

John May, Sr. did not live to see the realization of his dreams but his son James Xavier "Bud" May, Sr. and Alex May, Sr. donated 200 acres of land for railroad shops and right-of-ways for San Antonio-Houston tracks and other facilities. John May, Sr. and Pat May gave every other acre of land for a townsite, and donated land in other areas. It is said that a woman in Concrete, a small community between Hochheim and Cuero, refused to give land for the railroad. Cuero and Hallettsville also refused to give land, and so lost the railroad to Yoakum. Small towns such as Moulton and Sweet Home, which were bypassed in the building of the S.A.A.P., moved to new sites on the railroad.

Colonel Uriah Lott was the great railroad builder and promoter, with his vice president and general manager B.F. Yoakum, for whom the City of Yoakum was named. Mr. Mifflin Kenedy, provided much of the funds for building the S.A.A.P., lending about seven million dollars to develop the road. Captain Richard King of the fabulous King Ranch provided many acres of land and millions of dollars of help to extend the railroad into his area.

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad came to Yoakum in 1887, this being the official founding date for the city. The main line ran from Houston to San Antonio, a line operated

Grand Avenue – Yoakum

Yoakum – corner of Lott and W. Grand 1900

Yoakum Fire Station

from Yoakum to Waco, northeast of Lockhart, southwest to Corpus Christi, and a branch to Falfurrias.

A Yoakum Townsite Corporation was set up whose president was John G. Kenedy, son of the deceased Mr. Mifflin Kenedy, and lots sold very rapidly.

Yoakum, the working headquarters of the S.A.A.P. grew into a bustling small city in a few short years. According to the *Yoakum Weekly Times* of a January 1896 edition, which called Yoakum the magic City of the Sunny South, the railroad then was rapidly expanding, there were no empty houses, and all the hotels and boarding houses were filled to capacity. There was a cotton mill, three cotton gins and a compress, a daily and two weekly newspapers. A ten ton ice factory, electric light plant and a cistern factory, telephone system, a National Bank and one private bank, an excellent school system with over 700 pupils. Although only eight years of age, Yoakum business property had a value of one to five thousand dollars per lot exclusive of improvements. U.S. Postal receipts for 1895, were $4,500. This was a pretty tidy sum in 1895 dollars. Railway express receipts were over $5,000 for nine months of 1895.

The First National Bank was organized in 1890, with a capital of $50,000 with John Bennett as President. Ground breaking ceremonies for its new building were held on July 22, 1970. the Bank of Yoakum was established in 1890, with its building at the corner of Lott and West May Street. This building is still standing, but remodeled.

The present Yoakum State Bank, in its new quarters, was organized to replace the First State Bank wich failed during the early days of the Great Depression, along with the Farmers and Merchants State Bank.

D.B. Cain established one of the general merchandise stores in 1894, which continued in operation until 1927. Mr. Cain died only a few years ago. One of his sons, Arthur Cain, is the present manager of the Yoakum Chamber of Commerce.

Yoakum Railroad Park

The government of Yoakum was of the mayor-council type until April of 1915, when the present commission-manager form was adopted by the voters.

Many churches have been built in Yoakum. The oldest is St. Joseph's Catholic Church, which celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in 1969, though it's first church, now in ruins a short distance outside the city, was built before Yoakum existed. Built in 1869, it was called the Brushy Church. The late Dr. T.J. Hill stated in the *Yoakum Daily Herald* of July 11, 1932, that stones for the church were hauled by ox cart after being quarried at Hochheim. The mortar used was made from burned stone, which was brought from Rocky Creek near Hallettsville.

The First Baptist Church of Yoakum celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1964. H.M. Rowland was its first pastor. The First Methodist Church was begun in 1889, with T.S. Armstrong as its first pastor. At present there are 21 churches of 10 denominations.

Depression hit Yoakum several hard blows. The railroad shops closed, railroad business declined, two banks failed, and depression conditions hit farming and ranching in the Yoakum trade area. At the height of the season in late spring, several hundred cars of greenwrap tomatoes were shipped to northern markets each year.

The development of Yoakum as the Land of Leather was begun by Mr. Carl Welhausen, who took over a small tanning company and developed it into a company manufacturing saddles, bridles, and harness. Later, belts, billfolds and novelties were made. As its sales extended over the United States, Canada, and Mexico, it became one of the leading leather manufacturing concerns in the United States. Known as Tex-Tan, it later became a part of the giant Tandy Corporation, and a great boom to employment and prosperity in Yoakum.

Other smaller leather firms for the sale and manufacture of leather goods have sprung up

1911 – Model T Fords – Lott St. – Yoakum

to make Yoakum truly the Leather Capital of the Southwest.

Meat processing plants and other industries, about 30 in all, have been established in Yoakum. An excellent modern airport has been in operation for several years.

The first school of the Yoakum area was situated in a log building at the east side of Brushy Church. It was built in 1876. The first religious school in the Yoakum City Limits was built about 1889. A standard parochial school was established in 1928, by St. Joseph's parish. The present brick building was completed in 1929, just in time to fell the full blast of the Gread Depression. A high school and elementary school were operated through May of 1970, when the four senior high school grades were discontinued.

The Yoakum Public School system began in 1892, when the city levied its first school tax and took over several private schools which had operated until that time. A block of land was donated by the Townsite Company, and a six room building was constructed. This was the land on which the old East Side Building now stands facing Simpson Street.

West Side School was erected in 1894, with J.W. Cook as principal. By 1896, enrollments had reached 620, and by 1909, one thousand. Park Place Grammar School, a wooden structure for a school was built on Elnora Street, and a two-room elementary school in the "Wye" section.

The three-story brick East Side School, still in use in 1969-1970 as an intermediate school but soon to be demolished, was opened for use in 1912, according to records, but the cornerstone date was 1909.

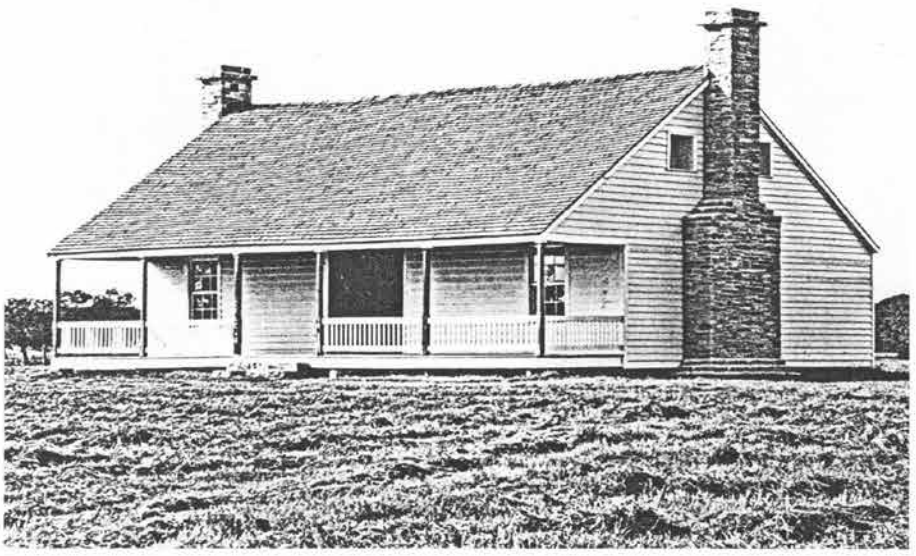
Brick grammar schools were opened in 1915, at the West Side location on West Grand Avenue, and at the Park Place site. The West Side building was torn down about 15 years ago. the Old Park Place building has been sold to a private owner. The first high school class graduated in 1898. A new high school building was opened at Poth and Cecilia Streets in 1937. There are now six buildings on the Senior High School Campus. A million dollar building program is just being completed, featuring the new airconditioned Junior High building. the Yoakum public schools have been completely racially integrated for several years.

Yoakum now has a modern hospital, two nursing homes and two clinics. It's beautiful and spacious city park has many attractions. Plans are underway for a community and leather museum.

Early in April of each year a Garden club sponsors Wild Flower Trails, with visits to historic sites in the surrounding area. In early June of each year Yoakum presents it's annual Tom-tom celebration, begun in 1929, to remember it's founders and pioneers and to celebrate it's accomplishments. Appropriately, the first Tom-Tom queen was Dorothy May, daughter of Alexander (Eck) May, Jr, of the pioneer May family.

From the dangerous days of Indian raids, to cattle drives and railroad boom and prosperity, Yoakum has survived depression to face a prosperous and confident future.

by Mrs. E.G. Raska, R.G. Winchester, John E. Janack



May-Hickey Log House restored by Oliver & Betty McBryde. Near Yoakum

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

In 1888, one year after Yoakum was founded, some Lutheran pastors came as missionaries to scattered families in this area. In the vicinity of Pilot Grove, Pastors C. Geiger and W. Westerhoff held services in the home of farmer Henry Quast. When German Farmers settled Hochheim Prairie, a little congregation formed, and Pastor Geiger held services in the home of Valentine Hoch.

From available records it appears that Pastor Cornelius Ziesmer, who became pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, was instrumental in organizing a congregation in Yoakum Jan. 27, 1891, with about 10 families. Services were first held in homes of members. Later, services were held in the old Opera House, then in the City Hall, and still later, in the old Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

A corner lot at Hochheim and Schwab streets was purchased in 1892 for $250. A church building was dedicated Oct. 29, 1893. A cyclone the next month completely demolished the building. Services, however, were held that afternoon in the home of Christian Schaefer. This small congregation began rebuilding and Jan. 28, 1894, this building was dedicated — heavily laden with a debt of $800. Pastor Ziesmer died a month later; so Pastor Dzewasof Charlottenburg held services twice a month.

We Are A Tradition Of Ministry

Christmas Day 1894: Pastor W.C. Wolfsdorf preached first sermon here.

Spring 1895; two room parsonage built prior to arrival of Mrs. Wolfsdorf, who came from Holland to wed Pastor Wolfsdorf at Galveston. Constitution was adopted. A Women's Society (Frauenverein) organized — now known as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Later: lot adjoining church purchased; par-

sonage and church enlarged.

1921: after 26 years and 5 months, Pastor Walfsdorf, resigned to go to Shiner.

1921-1925: Pastor William Hoebel served the congregation.

1921: a Luther League was organized.

1924: Scout Troop 225 had its beginning; sponsored by Holy Cross since 1939.

1926: (Lent and Easter) Pastor J. Ritter of Pennsylvania emporarily supplied.

Fall 1926: Dr. and Mrs. Pedro Llgen arrived. She died 1932; he resigned.

1932: Moeller pipe organ installed.

June 1933: Pastor and Mrs. Paul Bechter arrived. Margaret Bechter served as organist and choir director and helped in other ways. Congregation's membership grew and Sunday School used all available space for classrooms: nave, sacristy, lawn, parsonage basement and front porch, adjoining house which had been purchased.

During World War II and gasoline rationing, Sunday School was taken to rural children in Hochheim Prairie School and in Center School.

1945: planning began for new house of worship. May 1948, little over 7 acres purchased for $10,000. Henry Steinbomer of San Antonio engaged to draw plans.

Jan. 1951: Ground Breaking for construction. Cornerstone laid May 13, 1951.

Jan. 13, 1952: church proper and small wing completed and dedicated.

Jan. 28, 1952: big wing (Hall and classrooms) completed and dedicated.

Later: old church building moved to new property – known as Youth Bldg.

June 14, 1953: Pastor Hugo Rathkamp was ordained in Holy Cross.

Aug. 195: ill health necessitated Dr. Bechter's retirement; moved to Houston.

Dec. 1957: Pastor Del Dolton accepted call and preached Christmas Day; moved family to Yoakum Feb. 1958, and lived in old parsonage across town.

1958: the new Service Book and Hymnal was introduced. In Nov., a new parsonage beside the church was dedicated. Facilitates and service began to be expanded.

1960: central heating and cooling system installed. Two Sunday morning services began being held in place of one morning and one evening service.

1962: authorization given for $18,875 to improve property inside and outside: including addition of sidewalks, paving parking areas, floor-covering in Youth Bldg.

1963: Zone Plan worked out to try to maintain contact with all members.

1966: celebrated 75th Anniversary of congregation; Al Hoerig ordained at Holy Cross in June; all indebtedness cleared off.

1968: as the first secretary, Ruth Barre helped organize an office; a Youth Choir of 40-50 singers and instrumentalists presented Folk Musicals during the next 4 years and sang for synod convention in 1970.

1970: a sound system installed; "65-Plus" gatherings begun for older members.

1971: Dial-A-Prayer phone ministry started — and still continuing.

1973: Elda Mae Petrich was employed as secretary; Pastor Sid Roden was ordained in June; "The Open Door' ministry with young people was initiated by student pastor Brant Pelphrey.

1974: Pastor Perry Sloop called as Associate Pastor; served until 1976.

1975: parsonage built for Associate pastor; corner property sold for $10,000; nave carpeted; narthex transformed with drapes credenza, lighted painting.

1977: Council began to function under leadership of a Lay president; Dr. Brant Pelphrey interned at Holy Cross from January through August.

1978: Pastor Dan Lauderdale called as Associate; served until 1981.

1979: Dial-A-Story phone ministry begun; *Lutheran Book of Worship* introduced; organ enlarged for around $32,000; $24,810 invested in new heating/cooling system; sponsored settlement in Yoakum of the Syakhasone family from Laos.

1980: Social Concerns Committee initiated Meals-On-Wheels for community; Architect Jack Cloutier of Shiner hired for perspective drawing of Children's Bldg.

1981: Construction approved for $200,000 Children's Bldg; congregation celebrated 90th Anniversary; Rose Dolton was certified by LCA as a Parish Worker.

1982: Ground Breaking for Children's Building in January and Dedication in October; sound system renovated; Associate Pastor Thomas and Susan McCrone called.

1984: Pastor Dolton retired July 1st after 26 years and 6 months at Holy Cross, and 40 years in parish ministry. The remaining indebtedness on the Children's Bldg. was contributed.

1985: Pastor Lee and Myrlene Diekhoff began ministry at Holy Cross as Senior Pastor on Jan. 1st. September 20th pastor Thomas McCrone resigned to accept a call to Grand Prairie.

1986: Holy Cross celebrated its 95th anniversary. Pastor Jeff and Stephanie Wallace came to Holy Cross as associate Pastor in May.

1987: Elda Mae Petrich resigned as church secretary and Cindy Kelley began working in the office as our new secretary.

1988: Jan. 1st Holy Cross and thousands of other congregations began life anew in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Cindy Kelley resigned as church secretary in June and LaJoyce V. Brennan became the church secretary.

by Rev. Leland R. Diekhoff

Yoakum Lodge #662, AF & AM

The Grand Lodge of Masons in Texas granted a charter on September 29, 1888 for Yoakum Lodge #662 AF & AM in Yoakum, Texas. The first Worshipful Master was RE Bethel, other officers were: William Green, Senior Warden, E Montgomery, Junior Warden, and PP Stephenson, Secretary. The first candidate to receive the Masonic degrees was George H Woodrome.

The first Masonic lodge was located in the second story of the BP Stephenson building at the corner of Grand Avenue and Lott Streets. Then it was moved to the building across the street to the second story of what was the old Yoakum National Bank. There was a fire in that location so the Lodge was moved to the third floor of the Tatum Furniture and Untaking business. The Lodge purchased thid third floor. Then this third floor was burned; so the Lodge was moved again to the second floor of the old Goetz Motor Company. At a later date it was neccessary for the Yoakum Lodge #662 and the Royal Arch Chapter #209 to sign a release to the third floor of the old Tatum building (which was no longer there) so the building could be sold.

In 1916 the corner stone was laid at the corner of West May and Irvin Streets for a Lodge building that was constructed at a cost of $16,000.00. To pay for the building, the Lodge formed a corporation and sold stock to the local members and other Masonic bodies at a cost of some per share.

When the new building was opened in 1916 there were six certified members who taught the Masonic work. At that time the Lodge had a membership of 450. This lodge has been active for more than 100 years and has met twice a month and there has never been a meeting when they failed to have a quorem to meet.

To date there have been 85 Worshipful Masters, several who have served twice. Howard L. Johnson has served three times as Worshipful Master and Grady F Glas has served four times. The Lodge has only had four secretaries: PP Stephenson, JW Cook, FC Schiege and James B Taylor.

The Yoakum Lodge has several paid Endowed Memberships, some are from active members and some have been purchased by the families in memory of their loved ones who are gone but not forgotten.

Yoakum Lodge #662 AF & AM meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

by James B. Taylor

Yoakum Chapter #282, Order Of The Eastern Star

The Grand Chapter of Texas, order of the Eastern Star issued a dispensation on July 31, 1911 for a new chapter in Yoakum, Texas. The Charter was granted to Yoakum Chapter #282, Order of the Eastern Star on October 11, 1911. Mrs Edyth Pindlation was Worthy Grand Matron. Edmond J Hosey was Worthy Grand Patron, and Mrs Cassie C. Leonard, Grand Secretary.

Mrs Sarah F Orth was the first Worthy Matron and SK Buchanan the first Worthy Patron.

During the depression years many members had to drop their membership because they did not have the money to pay their dues. The Chapter dropped the dues to $2.00.

Mrs Maude Raiford helped to organize the Shiner Chapter #272 in 1914. Mrs Raiford also had a pass to ride on the railroad and when no one else could go to Grand Chapter or other meetings, she would represent Yoakum.

The first husband and wife team to serve in the East were Mr and Mrs Merrem in 1933.

In 1936 the School of Instruction for this Section was held in Yoakum. The weather was so cold and the Lodge Hall was not well heated that the school was moved to the home of Mrs Lelia Michot, Worthy Matron, and continued there.

In 1942 Mrs Gladys Davis, Mrs Lucille Marek and Mrs Marguerite Witte organized the Rainbow Assembly for girls in Yoakum. This was Assembly #2. It demised a number of years ago.

To date Yoakum Chapter #282 has only had four secretaries: Mrs Emma Stanley, Mrs Lizzie winfree, Mrs Lelia Michot and Mrs Mary W Taylor. All records have been destroyed by fires on two different occasions.

Over the years the Worthy grand Matrons of Texas have appointed seven ladies from Yoakum Chapter #282 as Deputy Grand Matrons.

They are Mrs Maude Raiford, Mrs Bernice House, Mrs Gladys Davis, Mrs Pauline Sistrunk, Mrs Mary W Taylor, Mrs Maxine Autrey, and Mrs Eula Mae Jaeger. Mrs Bernice House also held many other Grand Chapter Appointments.

Mrs Mary W Taylor, Past Matron and current Secretary is the only member holding a Life Membership in Yoakum Chapter #282, Order of the Eastern Star.

Each Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron can tell of some experience they had during their term. Each Worthy Matron has tried to leave something behind – the chairs in the reception room were refinished, the kitchen renovated, the ladies room was refurnished, altar cloths and pedestal covers were made, venetian blinds were installed, payments were made on the air conditioner, speaker system and the rug for the Masonic Hall of Yoakum Lodge #662, AF & AM. The Masons allows the Chapter the priviledge of meeting in their lodge hall.

Yoakum Chapter #282 has stated meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month.

by Mary W. Taylor

HISTORY OF YORKTOWN, TEXAS

T131

The situation in Europe after Napoleon abolished the Holy Roman Empire in the early part of the nineteenth century was chaotic. Many individuals who lived in Germany became disillusioned because a national union of Germany had not been founded and Prussia had become even more powerful than it had been. A Bund, which was merely a league of German rulers, each dependent upon a Diet of diplomatic delegates from independent rulers, was formed to keep peace and order among the thirty-eight states.

Revolutionary movements for Germany unity and liberty broke out in 1848 and 1849. In Frankfurt, a national parliament met to write a constitution for a federal German empire headed by Prussia. When the king of Prussia refused to become the German emperor, the old Bund was restored and thousands of German liberals emigrated to the United States to seek personal freedom.

Other reasons also contributed to the German immigration. Many of those who fled hoped for social betterment in the new land. Religious freedom was an added incentive. Texas presented special opportunities to these immigrants. It was touted as a land of opportunity which would provide a good living. Texas was both a republic and a democracy, an advantage to the Germans who were coming to "the land of milk and honey." Germany itself was overpopulated and underindustrialized. Thus, immigration to Texas provided a growing opportunity for many German individuals.

Lt. J.V. Hecke, a retired Prussian army officer, who came to Texas in 1818 or 1819, is believed to have been the first German to visit the state. When he returned to Berlin, he published in 1821 his *Travels in the United States*, suggesting the colonization of the state by Prussia.

In 1828 Friedrich Ernst of Barel in Oldenburgh brought his family to Texas and obtained a land grant from the Mexican government. He wrote a letter back home which pictured Texas in such glowing terms that a group including Joseph Biegel, Robert J. Kleberg, Louis von Roeder, and others from Oldenburgh and Estphalia emigrated to Texas.

Ludwig von Roeder had been an officer in the German army, and when he decided to emigrate with his family in 1834, he sent some of the unmarried children ahead to select a place for all to assemble. The advance party consisted of Louis, Albrecht, and Joachim von Roeder, their sister, Valesca, and a servant.

Several months later on September 30, 1834, the group from Oldenburgh set sail on the sloop *Congress*, commanded by Captain J. Adams. The party consisted of Ludwig S. von Roeder, Mrs. von Roeder, their children Louise and Caroline von Roeder, Robert Justus Kleberg and wife Rosa von Roeder, Mrs. Otto von Roeder, Antoinette von Donop, John Rennemann and family, William Frels, and others. After a voyage of sixty days, they reached New Orleans where they remained for two weeks and then set sail on the schooner *Sabine* for Brazoria. On December 22 the vessel wrecked off Galveston Island. After a long delay and a very tedious journey, the passengers finally reached their destination. Louis and Albrecht von Roeder were located in a hut fourteen miles from San Felipe de Austin, emaciated from disease and lack of nourishment. Joachim and Valesca had died.

At San Felipe, while the men were building their log huts and cleaning their fields, the Indians would furnish the Germans with game and skins in exchange for ammunition and trinkets. The company of Oldenburgh farmers under the leadership of Leverenzen settled on Cummings Creek while the Roeder colony located on the lands which had been located by the Roeder party of 1833 at Cat Springs, about seven miles from San Felipe. It was quite hard for the Roeder party to settle down to hard work and accomodate themselves to frontier circumstances. The young von Roeders had pictured pioneer life as one of hunting and fishing and of freedom from restraints of Prussian society; it was hard for them to surrender to the drudgery of splitting rails and grubbing brush and fighting the fever.

Less than a year later, the Texas Revolution began. The younger men promptly joined Captain John York's volunteer company, and under this patriot they participated in the fiercest battle of the revolution — the storming and capture of San Antonio from December 5 to 20, 1835. Later many of these same men fought at San Jacinto.

As far back as 1843 Charles Eckhardt was a merchant in Indianola. He had come from Paasphe, Germany in 1832, fifteen years earlier than his brother Caesar Eckhardt. He also participated in the War of Texas Independence and helped to establish the Republic of Texas under Sam Houston. He began a prosperous mercantile business in the main seaport of Texas — Indianola.

On April 2, 1848, Charles Eckhardt, Theodore Miller, C. DeSchutz, and John L. Mueller bought a tract of land from John York, intending to lay out a new town. Under their agreement to lay out the town at their own expense and allow York to keep each alternate block and acre lot. The agreement stipulated that the town was to be named Yorktown. On July 24, 1848, Eckhardt and his associates wrote York that they were sending him a copy of the town plat. Shortly afterwards the first settlers began to arrive, among them Andreas Strieber, Peter Metz, C.G. Hartmann, and Mrs. Hoppe.

On February 7, 1848, Charles Eckhardt entered into an agreement with John A. King of DeWitt County for $150 in which King agreed to survey a road leading from the town of Victoria to his residence on the eastern branch of the main Coletto, the road to be run as nearly true as practicable, having water on the way no more than fifteen miles apart, and the road not to cross the Guadalupe to the town of New Braunfels. This road became the main thoroughfare, known as the Indianola Trail. Freight leaving Indianola arrive in San Antonio six days later. Yorktown was midway between — an important relay and supply station for freighters and trail drivers.

Pioneers who hauled freight on the Old Indianola Trail were beset by many hardships. An old salve recalled the following:

"I hauled freight between San Antonio and Port Lavaca and also Indianola, or Powder Horn as it was called in Indianola, when the yellow fever epidemic in Texas hit that town.

People died so fast they could not dig graves for them. They just dug a long trench on the beach north of town and buried them in it. When anyone ill with yellow fever began to spit black blood, they was done for. In some cases they were put into boxes before they quit moving. I had to help take two girls off beds and put them in boxes before they quit moving. Only people who had been living there a long time was affected. Those who were from outside like I was wasn't taken sick with the yellow fever.

When we was freighting, we had to guard against robbers and cow skinners all the time. We would make a corral each night and put our steers into them to keep them safe. Cow skinners was sure bad in them days. They would steal anybody's cattle just for the hides. I've seen thousands of carcasses on the prairie north of Yorktown where the skinners had killed them."

(Inventory of the Archives of County Archives)

Peter Metz and John Frank built the first house in Yorktown in May, 1848 on Block 58. The contract stipulated that the building is "to be a good and substantial block house to be built of good, sound logs hewn to the inside and outside, and well joined together, either weather boarded on the outside ot plastered, the house to be 12 feet front and 20 feet long with a partition and 3 door frames, chimney in the rear room, and the floor well laid out and nailed down and smooth in both rooms."

A.G. Hartmann, who had come to Texas in 1845, had served under August Buchel in the Mexican War and had laid out the town of Indianola in 1845-46, relates how he came to Yorktown:

"In the spring of 1848 Charles Eckhardt, a merchant of Indianola, came to my house and stated that he was in partnership with Captain John York, had surveyed a town and named it Yorktown, and that the first ten settlers had a choice of a lot and ten acres of land, gratis, and requested me to visit the new town. After having visited the place with Mr. Hardt, Jr., I decided to settle permanently. After having disposed of my property in Indianola, I returned in company with William Hardt, Sr., and Henry Hardt, Jr. After arriving with my wife, I built a house on the north corner of Block 31, on the west side of the creek and on the public square. The house being nearly completed, about the first part of August, 1848, I moved in it. This was the first dwelling house

put up in Yorktown and occupied." (*Yorktown News*, "History," October 4, 1923.)

The next family that arrived in Yorktown was that of Johann Andreas Strieber, the father-in-law of Hartmann. Next in 1848-49 came Franz Hoppe, N. Kaufmann, Messrs. Lutenbacher, Goly Julius, and Adolph Gentsch.

"The early settlers were far from having an easy lot. Many and difficult were the obstacles with which they were forced to contend. The houses — or most of them — were not yet built. In the interval many of them were compelled to live in tents. They lacked all the conveniences and comforts of life. The woods were fairly alive with game of all kinds, and a man could well rely on his own gun to supply him with all the meat and lard he needed. Yorktown Creek contained an abundant supply of the purest water the whole year through in its deep crystal pools and it was quite a time before wells were dug." (*Yorktown News*, "History," October 4, 1923.)

Some time in 1848 a German traveler arrived in DeWitt County and methodically recorded his impressions of the countryside. He was delighted with the stately oaks, the deep black soil, and the rushing streams. He was overjoyed with the beauties of the Guadalupe, and chose his words well in describing it:

"O, the Guadalupe, its water clear as day, flows ten to twenty feet deep over the rocks. The rocks and green luxurious plants and fishes and tortoises and alligators appear not as if they were in the water, but rather as if surrounded by green transparent air. Charmingly restful! And the trees and cliffs, how picturesquely they overhang the stream and bathe their feet in the water! There is no more beautiful stream than the Guadalupe! Who would consider the turbid and slimy waters of the Rhine beautiful after he has seen the Guadalupe! Here the legends of water fairies appear natural;' and crystal palaces resting on cliffs of glass are easily imagined."

Several versions of the demise of Captain York in the epic battle with the Indians appear in historical accounts. But the consensus is that Captain York was a gallant pioneer with a portly and commanding presence, a blue-eyed blond with more suavity than is ordinarily attirbuted to men of cabin and forest life. From *Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas* comes this account:

"For several years prior to 1848, the country between the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers was not annoyed by the Indians. Early in October, 1848, a party of Indians descended from the Cibolo and joined another band, totalling about forty Indians, including some outlawed Mexicans. They had already killed two settlers which alarmed those on the west side of the Guadalupe. A company of 32 men and boys from the west side of the river in DeWitt County assembled to meet and repel the raiders. Captain York, a brave old soldier, was made captain; Richard H. Chisholm, another veteran was his lieutenant. B. McB. Pridgen and Newton Porter were named sergeants, and Joseph Tumlinson was guide.

On the night of October 10, these hastily collected volunteers encamped on the head waters of the Cabesa, 25 miles above Goliad. On the morning of the 11, they travelled up the country, striking the trail of the Indians which led in a southerly route towards the mouth of the Escondido, a tributary of the San Antonio from the southwest side. The Indians had acquired a large group of horses and were leaving the country, so York and his followers quickened their pursuit. The settlers pressed forward rapidly until those in front were ambushed, receiving heavy fire accompanied by yells of imprecations in broken English. The inexperienced company was confused, and those in the rear recoiled. York ordered the men to dismount in a grove of trees and some of his followers returned and kept up the fire.

James Sykes, a stalwart man of reckless daring, dashed up to the dense chaparral in which the Indians were sheltered and was killed. James Bell, son-in-law to Captain York, was shot down between two contending parties. Captain York ran to rescue him and was shot through the kidneys. The brave couple expired in the embrace of each other, and were buried in a single large coffin.

Joseph Tumlinson and Hugh R. Young were severely wounded, and James York, son of the dead captain was shot through the cheeks from side to side. The contest endured about an hour, when both sides retired. So far as is remembered, this was the last raid in that section of the country below the Seguin and San Antonio Road."

Another account of the final battle of Captain York was recorded by Judge Robert Kleberg, who settled in DeWitt County in 1847 and who was elected County Commissioner the following year.

"One October morning Captain York and Mrs. Albrecht Roeder, and my brother, Ernst Kleberg, summoned me to go on a party of volunteers to fight a tribe of hostile Indians who were depredating the neighborhood of Yorktown. We were soon mounted and equipped for the place of rendezvous. We reached the Cabeza that night, where our troops, consisting of some thirty men, camped and elected Captain York as commander, and Messrs. William Taylor, Jno Tomlinson, and Rufus Taylor were detailed as spies and skirmishers. Next morning the company as organized, started out to meet the foe, whom we encountered about three o'clock, p.m., on the Escondido east of the San Antonio River about fifteen miles west of the present town of Yorktown, just as our company filed around a point of timber. The Indians, about sixty to seventy strong, lay in ambush. Our company was not marching in rank and file, but in an irregular way, not expecting to meet the enemy so soon. Captain York and Mr. Bell were in front, followed immediately by John Pettus and myself.

The Indians raised up the well-known war whoop and immediately opened up on us with a terrible fire of musketry. The majority of our men took to flight and left not more than ten to twelve of us who made a stand, taking advantage of a little grove nearby where our company returned a sharp fire upon the Indians who still remained in ambush, only exposing their heads now and then as they fired, thus having a decided advantage over the men who were only protected by a few thin trees. It was here the Mr. Bell and Captain York were killed. The former, the son-in-law of Captain York, was shot at the first fire and mortally wounded, but he was carried along to the little mott, where Captain York and myself bent over him to dress is wounds, but he died in our hands. At this juncture, Mr. Jim York, son of Captain York, was shot in the head. Captain York called me to assist him in dressing his son's wounds. I tore off a piece of his shirt and bandaged his wounds as well as possible. Captain York, overcome with grief, ran continually from his son to his son-in-law and thus exposed himself to the fire of the enemy, notwithstanding I kept warning him. A counsel of war was now held by the remaining troops, consisting of eight or nine men all told, and we decided to proceed to a little mound or elevation nearby where we might flank the Indians in their ambush. They soon retired from their position and disappeared from the field. Thus ended probably the last Indian fight in Southwest Texas."

The country surrounding Yorktown was a wilderness, overrun with mustang horses, deer, and other wild animals native to the state. Their clearly marked trail led close to Yorktown. The horses were wiry and tough, and they travelled in pairs as they roamed through the country. Meyersville, Clinton, Victoria, Port Lavaca and Indianola to the east, Goliad to the south, Gonzales to the north, and San Antonio to the west were the nearest settlements.

Fred House came to Yorktown about 1850 riding behind Old Man Campbell on Campbell's mule. He was only thirteen years old. Four families comprised the community then — the Striebers, the Hoppes, the Hardts, and Peter Metz. Probably the first two children born in Yorktown were August Hartmann on September 21, 1848 and Miss Louise Metz on November 16, 1848.

John King lived near the Yorktown settlement, and Fred House hired out to him for a period of two years, doing necessary chores such as chopping wood, driving the team, washing dishes, and whatever else was essential to keep the place going. King was the stage man, and in 1852 he sold out to Friar. The stage started its run from San Antonio to Port Lavaca, and Mr. House saw the first stage pass. For his services, Fred House received ten acres of land, five cows and calves, and a horse.

The first school in the Yorktown section was located between Upper and Lower Yorktown, near where Peter Metz lived. It was erected in 1853 at the cost of $324. The house was originally designed for a residence and had only two sides, both ends being open. The first school was presided over by Mr. Davis, who came from Iowa, although some records state G. Fuchs was the first teacher. The children came from an area of twenty to thirty miles around, accompanied by their parents who camped in the vicinity in order for their children to attend the school sessions.

In 1853 some of the early settlers made a contract with the laying off of what was first called Yorkland, but later changed to Yorktown. The nine articles of this contract were originally written in German, but Professor Otto Schmidt translated them in 1910. The signers of this historic document were Andreas Strieber, Albert Mertins, Franz Hoppe, Johann Range, Caesar Eckhardt, Adolph Schultz, Henry Hardt, Moritz Riedel, Jr., Moritz Riedel, Sr., Carl Gaebler, Wilhelm Hardt, Heinrich Post, F. Hennig, Peter Metz, Ludwig Klotz, Friedrich Bauer, and Julius Gentsch.

The following year the York estate sold the land upon which Yorktown now stands, and seventeen of the inhabitants jointly purchased this tract of land consisting of 2800 acres for $1.00 an acre, thus paying a second time for the property which they had previously bought. The caused the city to be surveyed, and for the benefit of the city they waived their just rights to the land in the streets, parks, and cemeteries.

However, in 1856 three attorneys from Gol-

iad brought suit to recover the 2800 acres of land for the heirs of Stephen Best. They tried to frighten the inhabitants of Yorktown into a compromise, but these early settlers were men of principle. The suit was decided in favor of the citizens, but attorney fees cose them an additional $600. (*Yorktown News,* October 11, 1923.)

A second version of the land transactions regarding early Yorktown were recorded in an abstract of title owned by George Korczinski:

It appears that John York who laid out the town of Yorktown died some time after laying out the town and before he obtained from the state of Texas a patent to the land on which Yorktown is situated. At the April term of the County Court in 1854, the administrator of the John York estate was ordered to sell at public auction certain of the York lands, including the Yorktown tract.

On the 30th day of July, 1854, the agreement was drawn up by eighteen landowners of Yorktown authorizing Franz Hoppe to buy certain land of the York estate, particularly the streets and public squares of Yorktown if they were to be sold separately. The names of the 18 signers follow: Julius Gentsch, Carl Gaebler, Friedrich Bauer, Heinrich Post, Peter Metz, Moritz Riedel, Wilhelm Stark, F. Hennig, Ludwig Klotz, Andreas Strieber, Franz Hoppe, Caesar Eckhardt, Henry Hardt, Albert Mertins, John Range, Adolph Schutze, Moritz Riedel, Jr., and Wilhelm Hardt.

On the first day of August, 1854, Franz Hoppe bought on the Yorktown tract of 1050 acres at $2.00 an acre and several other tracts at prices ranging from 25 cents to $1.20 an acre. The sale was made at the court house door of old Clinton, then the county seat. On the sale under order of the court, nothing was reserved for streets, public squares or cemetery; so on the seventh day of July, 1856, Franz Hoppe executed a paper giving the streets, the public squares, and the cemetery tract (now Westside Cemetery) to the public.

Franz Hoppe also deeded to each of the other signers several town blocks, five, ten twenty, and seventy acre farm blocks, presumably as a partition of interest they all had in the purchase of the Yorktown tract.

It would appear from these records that Franz Hoppe was the leader, the guiding spirit of these early settlers in the time of stress and trouble when the land they had previously bought and paid for had to be bought again and equitably divided among those entitled to it.

The paper signed by the eighteen landowners does not necessarily mean that they were the only landowners in Yorktown at the time. The land on which the Heissigs, Dahmans, Anton Metz and others, who lived before the Civil War, is on the W.W. Gant survey and was not involved in the troubles of the settlers living on the Stephen Best Survey, on which practically all the present Yorktown is situated, who had to fix title to their possessions. But the eighteen named were the ones that bore the brunt of the troubles. (*Yorktown News,* October 4, 1923.)

On September 24, 1936, these eighteen founders were honored by having evergreen trees planted in the city park in their honor. In front of each tree was a plaque inscribed with the name of the founder.

With a school in progress and the deeds to the land properly executed, German colonization in Yorktown was well underway although few of these settlers had any of the qualifications for pioneer life. Everything in the new land was different from their former surroundings. Their university knowledge was of little use to them in splitting rails and building homes. Even the methods of farming in Germany were different from those employed in America. But they were hard-working, morally upright individuals who enjoyed wholehearted good fellowship. They found their own amusements and made the best of the new lives they had selected for themselves. They received visits from each other with great delight and shared whatever they had with one another. When an old settler met another at his home, the host would see that the horses of his guests were well fed and would offer his guests the best cheer he could, usually beginning with strong black coffee.

A most important part of the cultural heritage of Germany was a love of music. As early as 1855 balls and parties were held in Strieber's private hall with Mr. Julius Meyer providing the music. Later Heissig's hall in the Upper Town was the site of many balls and parties. Mr. Meyer was the first musician of Yorktown, long before the Civil War. He organized the first band, thus laying the foundation of the Old Band which was organized about 1869 by Messrs. Riedel and Gips.

Gohmert's Theater, having a large dancing hall and a regular stage complete with a curtain and scenery, was constructed in 1856. Mr. Frey created the scenery; he could transform white canvas into an exciting landscape with marvelous rapidity. Once the stage was set, the Gesangsverein was established in 1857 under the leadership of A. Greisen. The amateur theater was under the guidance of Mr. Greisen, and Mr. Heichling directed the Gesangsverein. The first members of the club were Messrs. Heissig, Lenz, Kraege, and Greisen together with Mrs. Greisen and her sister. Although no play books existed in Yorktown at this time, Mr. Greisen made manuscript copies for his casts, and the first performance was the presentation of *Einer Muss Heiraten.* This success was quickly followed by *Zring* and *Sopf und Schwert.*

These performances, given every four weeks by local talent, attracted so much attention that teamsters who traveled between Indianola and San Antonio arranged their business in such a way as to arrive in time to see these amateur performances.

The first church was erected in Yorktown in 1857-58 in a building designed to accommodate the church on the lower level and the Masonic Lodge on the upper level. The surrounding countrside attended church services and Sunday school in this church. Members were baptized in the Coletto Creek. Camp meetings were very popular and the first one ever held in DeWitt County was at Shiloh.

The community by this time had enlarged with the addition of such families as the Bauers, Riedels, Gruns, Zedlers, Gohmerts, Heissigs, Freys, and Lenzes. On September 1, 1856, the legislature of the state chartered Concrete College, a school of learning consisting of male and female departments to be located in the town of Concrete. By 1857 two post offices were listed in DeWitt County — Clinton and Cuero. Five towns had achieved status by 1857: Clinton, Yorktown, Meyersville, Concrete and Cuero. Each of these areas boasted a school which was well-sustained.

On June 10, 1861, a group of Yorktown community citizens organized a Hulan Reserve Company with Caesar Eckhardt as captain. The company was composed of 60 officers and men as certified by Caesar Eckhardt on June 15, 1861: Frederick Bauer, 1st lt.; Louis Zuch, 2nd lt.; Robert Eckhardt, orderly sgt.; C. Gohlke, E. Poetter, and L. Lenz, sgts.; John Sucher, A. Greisen, A. Vorwerk, and F. Moppe, cpls.

Julius Meyer, E. Grun, J. Quast, F. Wehe, D. Schneider, Peter Metz, C. Heissig, A. Riedesel, C. Duerr, C. Schweizer, S.C. Spies, A. Kraege, E. Schulze, W. Gohmert, E. Fechner, F. Schroeder, F. Menn, F. Hardt, A. Fechner, F. Frun, Jr., C. Stephan, A. Andelman, L. Riedesel, B. Baecker, J. von Roeder, E. Engels, S. Schneider, R. Spremberg, L. Klotz, F. Gohlke, F. Poetter, S. Gohmert, W. Gohlke, E. Zedler, H. Borchers, A. Strieber, E. Krueger, C. Gips, W. Stark, A. Schulze, J. Neumann, F. Schley, S. Range, C. Hoff, E. Gaitler, and C. Gaebler were privates.

Once the early war excitement had dissipated, DeWitt County settled down to solving the problems posed by the war. On September 13, 1861, the commissioner's court appropriated $150 for clothing and supplies for the Davis Guards. They also appointed a committee to solicit clothes and supplies for the Confederate Army. A war tax was levied and in 1862 the number of arms in DeWitt County fit for use and the number of persons capable of bearing arms was reported to the court. Sugar and coffee became scarce, and many substitutes evolved. Cotton was carded, spun, and women; and garments were made from the resulting cloth. Hair ropes were made to take the place of grass ropes, and palmetto leaf hats became the high style of the moment. In 1864 the citizens protested against the use of the courthouse for military and hospital purposes, probably because this building was used as a place for public church services on Sunday.

Up to the time of the Civil War, Yorktown had enjoyed a slow but steady growth; however, during the war all growth seemed to cease. Once the war was over, the population slowly began to increase, and by 1866 a newer and larger school house was deemed necessary. Although the Yorktowners were noted for their love of peace and respect for the law, after the war Yorktown suffered with the rest of the state from lawlessness and mob rule. Society was torn apart by private feuds such as that of Sutton and Taylor, and for several years the county housed desperadoes who harassed the peaceful citizens of Yorktown. Local committees of safety soon suppressed these activities, and quiet growth replaced the problems of Reconstruction.

From 1866 to 1872 the main portion of Yorktown extended upward from the old Frair Place, and this area was known as Upper Town. Most of the business was located in that part of town. Eckhardt's store was at one time the only business house in Lower Town, while Upper Town contained the business houses of Heissig, Gugenheim, Dahlamann, Stark, and Kilgore, all dealing chiefly with general merchandise. Brassel's Drug Store and the post office were there until Lower Town incorporated in 1871, at which time the post office moved to Lower Town and B. Gohmert was made postmaster. The blacksmith shop was located in Upper Town, but Mr. Fechner had the first smithy in Lower Town. Moritz Riedel erected the first grist mill. When the dam he had constructed to power the mill washed out, Mr. Riedel moved his mill to town and converted to steam.

The first gin was built by Riedel on Smith Creek; however, it was never placed into opera-

tion because an overflow tore away the dam which was the source of power. In 1866 the gin was moved to Yorktown, and Joseph and Gustav Riedel operated it until it burned in 1874. It was soon rebuilt, run by C. Strieber, and burned again. Another early gin was operated by Strieber and Zedler, who also owned a wagon factory in connection with it.

August Kraege, Sr. was the first tanner in Yorktown. His tannery was located in west Yorktown. One of his employees, Robert Gohmert, learned the trade and afterwards bought the business from Mr. Kraege, who entered the general mercantile business with B.F. Gohmert.

C.W. Nau, who moved to Yorktown in 1864, went into business with Mr. Bauer. Located on the lower floor of a two-story house, the business was deeded to Mr. Nau's wife by her father, M. Riedel, Sr. The firm's name was C.W. Nau and Co. and handled merchandise and some hardware. Mr. Nau and his family lived upstairs. When the building became too small, Mr. Riedel and Mr. Nau constructed a new building, adding a drugstore, the only previous pharmacy having been operated by Dr. Schulze as a private pharmacy from his residence.

In 1870 Gohmert and Kraege founded a general merchandise business which later became the business of Kraege and Ladner. In about 1872 B. Gohmert also built a stone house on the west side of Coletto Creek which for many years was the seat of the post office.

On April 3, 1861, L. Schumacher opened his school with a beginning enrollment of fourteen students. In spite of the hardships of the Civil War, his school prospered, and by October, 1865, fifty students were enrolled. For twenty-seven years he continued to instruct the students of the Yorktown area, insisting upon a daily handshake with each student.

Materials for the school were difficult to obtain and they were expensive. A slate and a pencil were very precious and were handled with extreme care. If a slate were broken, the pieces were carefully saved and transformed into pencils. The fragments of pencils were placed into goose quills and used until they were entirely worn away. To lose a pencil or to break a slate was a gave offense. Composition books were manufactured at home by sewing together loose sheets of blue paper. In one school in DeWitt County there was but one reader which was known by the name of *Waschlappen*, (dish rag) used by all the class. Despite these lacks, the students were taught by professors from Germany whose encyclopedic knowledge and fantastic memories provided these pioneer students with knowledge which made them true scholars and lovers of literature.

Although many of the citizens disapproved, the town was incorporated in 1871.

Governor E.J. Davis appointed Robert C. Eckhardt mayor with F. Hoppe,F. Bauer, A. Kraege, F. Zedler, and Robert Gohmert as aldermen. During Eckhardt's administration the Fortschrittsverein built a bell tower adjoining the school house in which was placed a short chronicle of the city of Yorktown which recorded that F. Bauer, Wm. Eckhardt, and Chas. Strieber were entrusted with execution of the plan. The copper point and weather vane were presented by Dr. Schultz. Plumbing was done by Rudolph Gohmert and the woodwork was completed by L. Zuch and Poetter.

The total population in Yorktown in 1872 was 360. Average wages of carpenters were $1.75 to $2.00. Day laborers earned from 75 cents to a dollar a day. Flour cost $11.00 a barrel, and beef sold for 3½ to 4 cents a pound. Pork was 5 to 8 cents a pound, and Indian corn was worth $1.00 to $1.25 a barrel.

Henry Cook a former resident o Yorktown, recalled Yorktown as it was in 1876:

"Yorktown 65 years ago was a nice clean little city of several hundred inhabitants.

There were no churches in the city proper. There was a small Lutheran church on the outskirts of the east side, attended mostly by nearby country folks. Two miles east of the city was, and is today, a very fine Catholic church.

There were four saloons — Louis Lenz, Fritz Riedel, Hoppe and Duerr, and Heissigs with dance halls. Heissigs in Upper Town and Lenz's in Lower Town had theater stages.

There were two general stores — C.C. Eckhardt and Sons and Berthold Gohmert; two butcher shops — Jacob Grun and Noster and Kratz; one tannery — Gohmert; two saddle shops — Anton Metz and Louis Grun; one drug store — C. Nau and Co.; one brass band — Moritz Riedel's Kapelle; one doctor — Dr. Schulz; one tailor shop — Schneider Zuch; two wagon and buggy factories — Zedler and Zuch and the Gips and Heinze Co.; one cotton gin — Joe and Gus Riedel.

The city was populated mostly by Germans. There were only two American families — John Rutledge and Berry Wright. Later Dr. Wallace of Clinton moved to the thriving little city of Yorktown.

Of course, in every small town you find a few "populars" among the ladies. There were four — the Misses Anna Meyer, Malvina Heissig, Emma Stark, and Agnes Range. The writer claims he loved one of them as hard as a mule could kick down hill.

The leading young men of that day and time were Mike Stark, Fritz Kraege, Albert Meyer, Julius Hoff, and Robert Zuch.

I neglected to say there were two tinshops instead of one — the one mentioned above and the Ad. Strieber shop. Also one fine paint shop operated by Ed and Dave Kline of Houston."

In 1877 there was a great shortage of water, so William Eckhardt began boring a well on the edge of a bed in Yorktown Creek, explaining to his wondering companions that he was boring an artesian well from which the water would flow of its own accord. In spite of the disbelief, the artesian well at the crossing near Gohmerts was the result.

As life became somewhat easier and some leisure time became available, various organizations or Vereins were organized. One particularly beneficial group was the Schulverein, organized in 1884. It was an incorporated society which controlled the public schools of the city; and after the public funds were exhausted, it provided a private school until the ten months; session was completed. A fine new school building incorporating the most modern equipment at the cost of $2600 was provided for the students. Some of the following were listed as teachers in the Yorktown schools: Professors von Trenk, Rudolph Kleberg, R.J. Kleberg, T.J. Eichholz, Robert A. Plesants, L. Tampke, Judge Kilgore, and Professor Schmidt. By 1898, 143 students were enrolled in the school which boasted one of the finest libraries of English and German classics in the area.

Other groups banding together were the Sandwich Club, organized in 1894, and the U.T.D. Club, both social organizations. One of the largest and most enduring groups was the Lesezirkel which included nearly all of the principal families of Yorktown.

In 1886 the railroad came through Yorktown, which marked the beginning of Yorktown as a modern city. This same year a terrific storm which destroyed Indianola completely also incurred much damage in Yorktown on August 20, Witnesses recalled that the storm lasted for most of the evening hours. Many frame houses in Yorktown were damaged or destroyed, and rock houses such as the old C. Eckhardt and Sons store and the old Gohmert store were places of refuge for the children and women during the disturbance.

In 1892 Riedel's Opera House provided Yorktown with as fine an opera house as any town its size in Texas.

1897 saw the christening of the new Strieber Gin. This event was recorded in the *Yorktown News* of 1897:

From early in the morning until the hour of the ceremonies, people were coming in on the trains and by private conveyance from all adjoining counties. At least 1000 people witnessed the christening and the crowd on the street was nearly as large as ever.

At 4 o'clock the Ideal Band after a short parade of the principal streets halted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Wanier, brother-in-law and sister of Miss Galle and her "knights," Messrs. J.R. Farris, and Arthur Grun — wearing with unconcealed pride the badge of their office, conducted the young lade and her maids, Misses Lena Zedler and Nettie Mollenhauer, to their carriage. This carriage was certainly a thing of beauty if not a joy forever. It consisted of light running gear surmounted by an ample float and canopy, all richly and artistically decorated with the national colors. Gus Metz officiated as engineer of this resplendent car and his magnificent sorrels furnished the motive power.

The young ladies, having been safely seated, the band playing a lively air the while, the procession made its way down Main Street, across the creek and back the same street to the gin, the band leading.

Arrived at the gin, the procession halted and all listened with the most respectful silence and attention to Miss Galle's address, which was delivered from notes in a tone of silvery distinctness. The address was delivered in German and was quite lengthy, giving first a short history of Yorktown and its founders; then a history of the gin and its destruction by fire on more than one occasion only to rise after each vicissitude to assume a more substantial station among the enterprises of the town. She then spoke in the most respectful tones of the late Mr. Strieber and the numerous improvements that had been added to the gin while under his control.

She wished for his sons a continuation of the unparalleled prosperity and progress which thus far marked their management. In conclusion she spoke in English, modestly assuring her friends of her high appreciation of the compliment rendered in her selection as the one to formally start in motion the new engine.

At the conclusion of her address, Miss Galle and her maids were assisted to alight and escorted to the engine room where she turned the wheel and formally started the ponderous machinery. The band played one of the most thrilling selections and everything worked like a charm.

After the christening ceremonies were over, the crowd repaired to the Riedel Hall and were regaled with a few choice selections by the

Ideal Band. Mr. Gus Lenz delighted the expectant audience with his matchelss rendition of a very difficult and classical song entitled *The Palms*, being accompanied on the piano by Professor Burgy.

Most appropriate and enjoyable was the culmination of the festal day in a magnificent ball at night. The spacious hall was probably never graced by a larger or more cultured assemblage than on this night. The Grand March, led by Miss Galle and Mr. Farris, was participated in by 44 couples and the seats around the hall and upstairs were full.

As an indication of the types of entertainment which prevailed at this period of time, the following excerpt from the November 11, 1897 *Yorktown News* is highly indicative:

The Mannerchor sang an appropriate song and the play began. *English Spoken Here* was the name of the piece presented but notwithstanding the significant title the attitudes and gestures of the actors were a great deal more intelligent to this writer than the conversation. The play was a one-act farce comedy and very ludicrous and laughable. The actors, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Schultz, Misses Ida Strieber and Martha Tietz, Mrs. Albert Zuch, and Messrs. Albert Fechner and George Wanier, performed their respective parts in a really meritorious manner.

After the conclusion of the play, throughout the remainder of the evening the Singing Club varied the monotony with an occasional song. The dance began soon after the theater and was continued until two or three o'clock in the morning.

One very novel and interesting feature of the entertainment was the skirt dance executed by Miss Nettie Thuem, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thuem. This little girl is only 12 or 13 years old, but her matchless execution of the intricate figures of the dance was truly astonishing.

Later in the evening Mr. Gus Lenz favored the audience with one of his popular solos. The Lone Star String Band was on duty both for orchestra and dance music.

On December 7, 1897 the Woodmen presented an original play at Riedel's Hall. *Rube Simons of Davy Joining the Woodmen* was a presentation of the application, recommendation, election, and initiation of a country boy into the mysteries of Woodcraft. The second act, dealing with the initiation of the frightened candidate, was hilarious.

At the conclusion of the play, the ball opened and all the audience participated in the enjoyment of the music provided by the Lone Star Band.

The following list, published in 1898, includes the business enterprises of Yorktown together with the date they were founded.

General Merchandise: C. Eckhardt and Sons 1850, F. Kraege 1870, F.J. Wasser 1897. Fancy groceries: C.W. Gohmert 1897, F. Korth (successor to C. Mertins) 1893, F. Notzon 1895, B. Kuwalik 1895, E. Mollenhauer 1896. Dry goods: M. Strieber and Sons 1893, A.F. Dietze 1896. Drug store: M. Riedel and Sons 1877. Hardware: A. Tips 1898. Tinware: O.A. Gohmert 1893. Lumber: Wethoff and Eckhardt 1886, Harper and Rudd 1896. Saddleries: J. Kolodzey, 1889, B. Kasparik 1897. Boots and shoes: G.R. Schultz 1893, J.A. Bujnoch 1897. Millinery: Miss E. Heuchling, Mrs. A. Greisen. Barber shops: L.F. Buergner 1890, A.W. Elmore 1894. Tailors: William Zuch 1869 George Dodzuweit 1888. Blacksmiths: Wm. Thuem 1876, Otto Gips 1870, L. Ledwig 1897. Windmill agencies: J.W. Hoff 1890, H.F. Grosskopf 1892, C. Eckhardt and Sons. Cotton gins: Strieber Bros. (2 gins) 1894, Hoff and Zuch 1895. Butchers Adolph Noster, E.W. Grun. Hotels: L. Lenze 1866, W. Duerr 1874, E. Riedel 1866. Saloons: Lone Star 1871, Live Oak 1888, White Swan 1886, Atlantic 1890, First and Last Chance 1894, Cotton Exchange 1894, Little Joe's 1895, Fritz Schult's 1896, E.V. Gerhardt 1897, Bob Machost's 1897, L. Lenz 1866, Wm. Duerr 1874. Livery stable: J.B. Farris (succ. to C.L. Strieber) 1890. Undertaker: (with hearse) Otto Gips 1897, Fritz Riedel 1898. Beer Agencies: Gus Thuem – Lone Star, H.F. Grosskopf – City. Bottling Works: C.W. Braun 1897, Confectionary: Adolph Emmet 1897. Physicians: F. Howard, B.J. Nowierski, Homer Powers, H.H. Brown, H.B. Kolbye, A.E. DeLipsey. Newspaper: *The Yorktown News* 1895.

Early in May, 1900, business men of Yorktown met with H. Hollingsworth of Gonzales, to initiate a subscription drive to raise runds to build an oil mill. The square belonging to C.J. Eckhardt and Sons, near the S.A.A.P. depot was selected as the site. Within ten days the following Yorktown citizens had subscribed the necessary $30,000.

H.B. Hollingsworth $5000, F. Kraege 5000, F. Riedel 1000, F. Dahme 1000, August Burow 1000, Emil Grun 1000, J. von Roeder 1000, Wm.Esthoff 1000 Wm. Eckhardt $5000, M. Riedel 2000, M. Stark 1000, Henry Borchers 1000, Jesse Kasprizik 1000, C.J. Eckhardt 1000, Theo Spies 1000, August Wetphal 500, B.R. Burow 500, L.A. Hohn 200, I.W. Griffin 100, P.C. Stark 100, J.S. Douglas 300, R.H. Eckhardt 200, L.F. Webb 100.

From these investors the following were chosen as officers and board of directors: W. Eckhardt, president; F. Kraege, vice president; J.B. Hollingsworth, manager; C.J. Eckhardt, secretary and treasurer; Wm. Eckhardt, F. Kraege, August Riedel, C.J. Eckhardt, M. Stark, F. Dahme, and J.B. Hollingsworth, directors.

Thus the history of the first fifty years of the city of Yorktown reveals steady growth. From its inception in 1848 with one family's building of a home, Yorktown had grown to a city with many churches, a variety of businesses, a highly-revered school system, numerous homes exhibiting many different types of architecture, cultural activities featuring music, theater, and dancing, and a healthy economic foundation. These early hard-working, dedicated pioneers had created a lasting memorial to their dreams, ideals and goals.

by Dorothy C. Strieber

YORKTOWN'S POSTAL SERVICE

T132

Earliest postal service for Yorktown is recorded for 1851 when John A. King became postmaster. The Brassel's Drug Store, near the stage stop in Upper Town was the postoffice for several years before the incorporation of the town in 1871. Other postmasters during that time were: J. Kilgore, 1856; Matthias Kreisle, 1857; John A. King, 1858; William Stark, 1860; and Jacob Guggenheim, 1866.

The first postmaster after the incorporation was Frank B. Gohmert who moved the postoffice to his place of business, a stone house built in 1872 on the west side of the Coleto Creek. (This building once served as a sauerkraut factory and later, 1923-29, for third and fourth grade classes in school.)

When Moritz Riedel became postmaster he moved the postoffice to his drug store in the 100 block of East Main and William J. Stark, in 1910, moved it to his business at 149 East Main. While J.W. Hoff and Charles F. Hoff were postmasters in 1914 and 1915, respectively, the postoffice was situated in the 100 block of South Riedel Street. When Mrs. Ada Ladner became postmistress in 1922, the postoffice was housed in the Eckhardt Bank Building adjacant to the present museum building.

Lou Sloma became postmaster in 1934 and during his 29-year tenure in office, a brick building was dedicated at 106 East 4th Street for a new postoffice in 1957. Cecil Garner became postmaster in 1963; Dale Prescott in 1983 and postmistress Patricia Kaienr was appointed in 1989.

The one cent postal card now costs fifteen

Yorktown Postoffice – Dedicated in 1957

cents and the five cent first class rate of mail now costs twenty five cents.

by Frances Hartmann

THE YORKTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

T133

First attempts in 1934 to organize a public library in Yorktown, finally materialized in 1938 with help from the WPA and the Times Study Club, of which Mrs. R.H. Kraege was president. The library was first housed in the second floor of the old City Hall with Mrs. T.L. Allen as the librarian.

In 1939 the Civic Club, with assistance from the State Library Extension Service, reorganized the library. However, with the start of World War II the library was closed and the books stored in the basement of City Hall.

In 1943 the Yorktown Civic Club reorganized and reopened the library and moved it to a room beneath the gazebo in City Park. This area was enlarged to 1,000 square feet in 1968.

The library became a member of the South Texas Library System in 1977 and was designated a Texas Heritage Resource Center in 1982. when more space was needed for the 10,000 books, the contents of the library were moved temporarily to rooms in the new City Hall in 1985, and the old building was dismantled. It took a great community effort to match the $100,000 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Dedication of the new 5,000 square foot brick facility on the same site as the old one, was held on December 7, 1986 at 2:30. The program follows: Welcome by Mayor George Klein; Presentation of Flags by Boy Scout Troop 250; Pledge of Allegiance led by Luellen Smiley, Chairman of the Library Board; Invocation by Pastor Paul Ziese, Austin, Texas, former Library Board Chairman; Recognition of Guests by Mayor George Klein; Address by Ms. Mary Thames Bundy, Coordinator of the South Texas Library System; Presentations included a U.S. Flag and flagpole by Mr. Richard F. Voyer in honor of Dr. Carl Nau; a Sesquicentennial Flag by the Sesquicentennial Committee; a Texas Flag (outdoor) by State Representative Phyllis Robinson; a Texas Flag (indoor), by Mrs. L.C. Sievers for the Yorktown VFW and its Auxiliary; and a cash gift by the First National Bank of Yorktown.

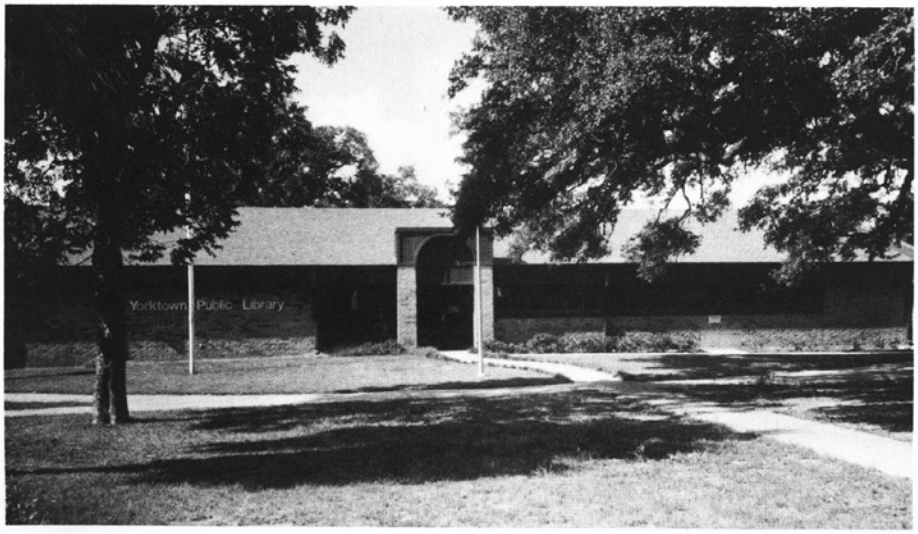
Dedication lines were read by Mayor Klein and Comments were given by Michael Ehrlich, president of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce; the Keys were presented by Alvarez and Associates and Associated Engineers and Surveyors representatives; the Benediction was given by Mrs. Jean Striedel, Chairman of the Friends of the Library; the ribbon was cut by Mrs. Kurt Hartmann, Librarian; A donor Plaque in memory of Pastor Kurt Hartmann, Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman, was unveiled by Mrs. Dorothy Clements for the committee. Open house and serving of light refreshments followed.

City Council Members in addition to Mayor Klein were Leroy Buelter, Leslie Flessner, Cecil Garner, Lee Roy Griffin, Jr., Robert Grunewald and City Secretary Milton Ledwig. Friends of the Library officers were: Jean Striedel, chairman, Judy Wilder, vice-chairman; Ruby Lee Braun, treasurer and Frances Hartmann, secretary. The Library Fund Raising Committee was Lou Gips, chairman; Eva Frisbie, Wilfred Lamprecht, Ann Schendel, Margaret Weldon and Frances Hartmann. Library Board Members were: Luellen Smiley, chairman; Lorene Migura, secretary; Wilfred Lamprecht, Ann Schendel, Patty Strieber, Betsy Weischwill and Mark Landrum.

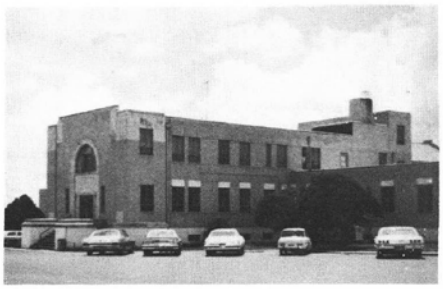
Librarians through the years in addition to Mrs. Allene and Mrs. Hartmann include: Mesdames Margaret Weldon, Raymond Meyer, Floyd Reese, Ralph Wofford, Joyce Davis, Toby Boldt, Inge Gohlke and Miss Marguerite Riedel. Luellen Smiley became librarian on June 1, 1988 and Jean Striedel assistant librarian in July 1989.

In its fifty years the library has not only grown in size but also in additional service to the community. While books and magazines were the earlier basics, now also movies, videos, computer and microfilm materials are available to the public. More than a dozen groups use the meeting room alone on a regular basis. The library is a valuable resource center for the community.

by Frances Hartmann



Yorktown Public Library



Yorktown Memorial Hospital, 1951-1986.

YORKTOWN'S DOCTORS AND HEALTH FACILITIES

T134

Yorktown's first hospital owned by Dr. G.W. Allen stood near Fourth and Riedel Streets. Dr. B.J. Nowierski and Dr. Robert Westphal were among other physicians practicing there. To accommodate a growing number of patients, Dr. Allen built a modern two-story hospital at 439 E. Main Street. In the late 1950's this was made into the Laster Nursing home with Mrs. Mayne Laster as administrator. On January 1, 1979 the building became the Hygeia Health Retreat, stressing diet and life style, with Dr. Ralph Cinque as administrator.

The Yorktown Memorial Hospital, established with local and government funds in 1951 at 728 West Main, was a 27-bed health care facility operated by the Felician Sisters for thirty-five years. It served the area to the utmost until a decline in occupancy and inadequate Medicare payments caused severe financial distress which led to the closing of the facility on November 30, 1986. The last patient to use the hospital was Ruth Hartmann Brady with Dr. John Barth and nurses Josie Styra and Shirley Schultz in attendance. Dr. Barth has been a family practitioner here since 1950 and his son, Dr. Gordon Barth, came to Yorktown in 1983, and is now Yorktown's leading physician. Other long-time resident doctors were Dr. Leon Nowierski, Dr. G.W. Cross (a brother-in-law to Dr. G.W. Allen) and Dr. Corinne Westphal, an ophthamologist, who practiced here from 1934 to 74. Her father Dr. Robert Westphal ministered to the sick from 1902 to 1916 and her brother Dr. Darwin Westphal, served from his office in the Riedel Building from 1934 to 1941.

The Memorial Hospital stood vacant until 1989 when it was sold to the Skyline 24-Hour Club, Inc. of Travis County. Presently it is the Skyline Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center with Lee and Kay Tillman as administrators.

For a number of years Dr. Herman Eckhardt owned a small hospital at 215 N. Range Street adjacent to his spacious (1914) two-story home at 207 N. Range. During the 1960's to '80's Dr. Marvin Gohlke, another local physician, and his family lived in this house while he used several rooms for his office.

On November 12, 1969 at 670 West Fourth Street, the Yorktown Manor 92-bed nursing home was established by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ploeger. It is of brick construction and the present owner is the Diversicare Corporation of America. The facility has eighty employees with Mrs. Lyndal Patillo as administrator.

by Frances Hartmann

YORK CEMETERY

T135

York Cemetery — Lynn Kenne and Crystal Audilet — Girl Scout Troop #429 had charge of upkeep of cemetery.

The York Cemetery and Home Site Marker are eight miles east of Yorktown on Highway 237. Inscription of the home marker reads: Site of the Home of Captain John York, a member of one of Austin's ranging companies at San Felipe in 1829; commanded a company at the capture of San Antonio in 1835; Yorktown, named in his honor was laid out in 1848 on his land; born July 4, 1800; killed by Indians, October 11, 1848.

Captain John York's marble tombstone has the following inscriptions on its four sides: 1) John York, Born July 4, 1800; died October 11, 1848. Lutitia York, Born January 30, 1804; died February 22, 1858. W.G. York, Born November 15, 1833; died October 28, 1857. 3) John P. York, Born August 10, 1837; died April 9, 1861. Sarah J. Taylor, Born February 8, 1828; died February 8, 1850. 4) James M. Bell, Born July 18, 1817; died October 11, 1848.

A separate low granite grave marker in the York Cemetery is for another son-in-law of Captain York. It is inscribed: In loving memory of L.S. Warren, March 24, 1865, age 35 yrs. (After a cross insignia): L.S. Warren, Texas, Pvt Co. G. 36 Regt Texas Cav. Confederate States Army 1830-1865.

by Frances Hartmann

YORKTOWN'S SCHOOLS

T136

The first attempt to establish a school in Yorktown came in 1853 when the Masonic Lodge, Coleto No. 124, received a memorial requesting that the lodge take action in the formation of a school. On December 19, 1853, a Board of Trustees was elected, including Robert Kleberg, D.B. Friar, G.M. Reese, L.D. Smith, John Choat, E.M. Edwards, M.J. Pleasants, R.E. Williams and Rev. J.E. Ferguson. The school, opened on the lower floor of the lodge hall in Upper Town, was referred to as the C.L. Academy. In 1855 a separate school building was erected, costing $324. G. Fuchs was the first teacher.

Rev. A. Holzinger of the Lutheran Church established a private school which continued until the church was disbanded as a result of the Civil War. On April 2, 1861, L. Schumacher opened his school beginning with fourteen pupils. Despite the hardships of the war, his school prospered and in October 1865, he had fifty pupils enrolled. During the 27 years of his teaching career in Yorktown, nearly everyone in the town and surrounding area had been one of his pupils. In observance of his 25th year of teaching, his pupils honored him with a "torchlight procession" and the mayor publicly thanked him for the good he had done. He died two years later at age 80 and was remembered as the kindly old gentleman who insisted on shaking hands with class members each morning, but who disliked improperly done copy work. The early school stressed arithmetic, spelling and formal grammar.

In 1870 the Catholic Church opened the Holy Cross School, taught by Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. A new school building was constructed in 1898 which was replaced by a larger one in 1947. The school was in operation for nearly a hundred years, closing in June 1969.

A private schoolhouse, costing $525, was constructed in 1866. Some of the teachers in the following years were: Profs. Von Trenk, Lud. Kleberg, R.J. Kleberg, William Eicholz, Robert A. Pleasants, L. Tamke, Judge Kilgore, Prof. Schmidt, A.B. Erb, Miss Hedwig Nau, O. Mundt, Max Bernstein and in 1898 the head of the school was Prof. J.L. Boal. He added Latin, Algebra and Plane Geometry to the curriculum. Most courses were taught in German and it was also taught as a language.

The first public school, established in 1878, chartered by the state, was known as Yorktown Normal. It stood just north of the City Park, opposite the Wm. Metz home. School was held for ten months: The first four months were a pay school with tuition from $1 to $2.50. During the remaining free months beginning with February 1, attendance increased about 25%. Children ages six to eighteen years were assigned to one of the four rooms in the school, according to age and number of years in school.

In 1884 a new schoolhouse, designed by Wm. Eckhardt and L.A. Hohn was completed, with modern desks and seats. When Yorktown became an independent school district in 1902 the board of trustees elected were: L.A. Hohn, August Riedel, F. Kraege, Gus Schultz, George Wanier, C.J. Eckhardt and Ernest Welch. The superintendent was T.A. Gullett.

Need for more room resulted in the building in 1910 of a modern two-story brick building complete with classrooms, offices and auditorium with a stage and in 1929 a new brick high school. Other facilities added were an Ag. shop, administration offices, library, auto mechanics shop, elementary school, gym, lunch room, homemaking cottage, band hall, playtorium, and the Edgar L.L. Mueller Baseball Field. The Hubert L. Menn Science Building, added in 1986, honors Mr. Menn, who retired from teaching science and mathematics in 1963 after 27 years of service to the high school.

From 1910 to the present date, the superintendents of the Yorktown Public Schools were: N. Wilson; K.A. Jones; M.V. Peterson; H.A. Bagley; W.B. Connell; John Stormont; George W. Kelly; R.M. Harrison; A.E. Teltschik; J.D. Boone; Ben Stricklin; James Keese, Dale, Pitts and W. Frank Stephenson.

Pupil enrollment in February 1990 is 749.

by Frances Hartmann

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

T137

First Baptist Church

The following nine charter members organized the First Baptist Church on July 7, 1935: Mrs. C.L. Smart, Mrs. R.N. Kraege and sons, Roland and Carter, Mrs. E.W. Sunday, Mrs. L.M. Lytton, Mrs. Frank Salley and Mr. and Mrs. Helbider. They met on the Yorktown Methodist Church property. Later services were held in the old Masonic Hall on North Hoppe Street, with Rev. F.S. Brown of Runge as part-time pastor, to be succeeded in January, 1941, by J.H. Treadwell.

Little progress was made the first twelve years, but at a revival in October 1939, ten more adults became members. Finances were another problem so that the pastor's salary in 1942 was only $10 per month with the provision that he could receive several dollars more if available. After Rev. Treadwell's resignation in 1943, he was succeeded by Bro. Bryan Teague, who served the 14 resident members until 1945. Former army chaplain Fred Delk, the church's first full-time pastor, who came in 1945 and served until 1947, helped the church to "move toward acquisition of a church home." The congregation purchased Mrs. Clarence Smith's home at Main and Nau Streets for $8500. At this time the State Mission Board paid $100 per month for the pastor's salary which was to be matched by the congregation.

After Pastor Delk's resignation, Rev. F.E. Kirchner became the pastor in September 1947. In spite of continued financial shortages, the church still supported missionary work and continued to grow. By 1948 the Sunday School had an enrollment of 48 and the first Vacation Bible School was held. Leon Adudell was the pastor from November, 1951 to May 1954. Through the diligent work of the building committee of G.E. Smith, Mrs. R.H. Kraege, Dr. David Towery and Louis Staggs, and the cooperation of the members, ground breaking for a church building was held on March 1, 1953. Joe Roth obtained donations of cement and steel; Bill Janssen completed the building; Herman Eckhardt and his son, Buddy, donated the painting of the interior and G.M. Smith built the pulpit. Seats were obtained from the old York Theater; R.F. Allen provided free legal services and Mrs. R.H. Kraege donated a piano. The church was dedicated on

November 14, 1953.

On June 15, 1954, Rev. Chandler became the minister and in 1955 the church purchased an old school cafeteria, which after remodeling still serves as an educational building. Feeling the need for more seminary training, Bro. Chandler resigned in 1955 and was succeeded by Bro. Robert Latham that same year. In May 1957, 115 new pews were installed and are still in use. Bro. Latham was followed in December, 1957, by Rev. Cornelius. During his pastorate, the educational building was remodeled and a landscape painting by Mrs. Mae Barbee was placed behind the baptistry. Bro. Cornelius resigned in 1959 and was succeeded by Keith Massey who resigned in 1962. Bro. Jodie Cunningham served only a year and resigned to get more seminary training. Sunday School enrollment had climbed to 99 by this time. Rev. J. Ray McVoy served from 1963 to 1970, when he retired from full-time pastoring. Bro. Jesse Lundsford, was interim pastor until July 1971, when Rev. Jimmy Davis came to the church and served until 1979. Dr. Jack Green was interim pastor until October 1979. At that time Bro. Joe Orr, a recent graduate of the seminary, accepted the call of the congregation and was ordained in the local church. In 1985 the church purchased a new parsonage and converted the former one into Sunday School rooms.

In October, 1986, Brother Joe resigned to accept a call to the First Baptist Church in Bertram. Several interim pastors helped during the vacancy until Bro. Randy Marshall became pastor in May 1986. He accepted a call to the Baptist Church in Stockdale on January 1, 1990, and the congregation is again served by an interim pastor, Bill Stockton from Goliad.

by Frances Hartmann

CHURCH OF CHRIST

T138

Church of Christ

Churches were established in Victoria, Yorktown, Goliad and Beeville. At Victoria, a small congregation under the direction of Elder James Lovelady in May 1860 requested a good preacher to come to this "large and vacant field". Three years later, Evangelist A.P.H. Jordan organized a "frontier or border congregation" in Yorktown. The Yorktown church experienced an amazingly rapid growth. Within four years, it numbered about two hundred and far outstripped "the sects of the region".

In 1949 the Central Church of Christ in Victoria picked up the challenges to re-establish a "border congregation" in Yorktown. Under the eldership of Brothers Dave Ponton, Noah W. Crisp, and J.J. Ray they provided the financial support and help in rebuilding the church for Yorktown. They sponsored the hiring of a very fine young evangelist, Brother Gary Adams for one year. Accompanied by his wife, he later spent many years as a missionary in Belgium.

The members first met in Mrs. Dedear's home until a barracks building was moved from Victoria to the lot next to her home. At a minimal cost she sold this lot to the church, and this is the same place where the church still meets, at 205 North Riedel. Some of the early families who were active in building and supplying the needs of the church were: Bill Morris, G.W. Vollmering, Max and Frank Boldt, Mrs Brown from Nordheim also attended regularly.

Through these many years there have been many wonderful Christians in all walks of life who have met and worshipped in this small church. There have been farmers, ranchers, mechanics, oil field workers, business men, teachers, preachers, doctors, bankers, and many other types of workers who have shared their talents and love with their fellow man in trying to make this a better community in which to live. Many of these have moved due to their needs to make a living.

Some of the men who have served as ministers during this time are: Gary Adams, Ronnie Pope, Allen Vann, James Garner, J.L. Wright (5 years), James Gray, D.C. Jennings, Clifton Crisp, (13 years), Bubba Phillips, Roy Clements (1977-1984). In 1989 the elders now in service are: G.W. Vollmering, Leland Ahrens, and Al Goodman, who is also serving as minister.

by Frances Hartmann

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

T139

The First United Methodist Church and Annex

A small Methodist congregation was organized in Yorktown in 1854. For some time they met in the Peter Metz home and in other private homes. Supply pastors served the congregation. The trustees were: Henry Hardt, Louis Rhinehardt, F.R. Gohlke, Peter Metz and Adolph Rabke. Rev. August Tampke, who served Yorktown and Goliad Mission Churches, received a salary from Yorktown of ten dollars a year plus farm produce. By 1877 Yorktown had 26 members. After the Rabke Methodist Church was built in 1894, it and the Yorktown church interchanged Youth activities and Sunday School until 1984.

The Yorktown Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized on October 5, 1919 with 21 charter members. Meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month, were held on the upper floor of the Yorktown City Hall and the lower floor of the Masonic Hall. In 1922 the church built a tabernacle, a framed, and shingled building with deep sawdust floor, capable of holding 400 people. when in 1928, land between Fifth and Sixth Streets on Riedel was purchased from M.G. Eckhardt, the tabernacle was torn down and the lumber was used in the construction of a new brick church was was completed in 1929. Mr. H.R. Gohlke was the contractor for this project. In 1948 the church purchased a parsonage on Eckhardt Street which was occupied by the first full-time pastor, Rev. George J. Barth in 1953. During this time the following items were donated to the church: a pulpit Bible from Mr. and Mrs. Otto Frisbie, a communion rail and lectern from Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Koch, a piano in memory of Mrs. G.W. Cross and the Worship Center in memory of Mr. C.G. Beken. By January 27, 1957 a new educational building was dedicated. Since the church found it difficult to support a full-time pastor in the late 60's, some of them lived in Runge. Nevertheless, the church always managed to send financial aid to the mission work, attend to upkeep of the property and to further the spiritual life of the church. After selling the Eckhardt Street parsonage, the church purchased the present brick parsonage on Sixth Street from Mrs. Lucille Haun in 1975. Middleton D. Morehead, a lay minister, was the first occupant. In 1982 a new fellowship hall was added to the church, the old educational building was rearranged to house four classrooms, a nursery and the pastor's study and the sanctuary was renovated with wall to wall carpeting, new pews, altar rail and altar furniture, all donated.

Pastors of the church were: O.W. Benold (1919-1921), G.C. Baumgarten (1921-23), L.U. Spellman (1923-). T. Miller (1923-24), E.A. Potts (1924-26), B.G. Regan (1926-27), E.W. Dechert (1927-29), R.K. Heacock (1929-30), M.C. Stearn (1930-32), E.J. Sloan (1932-33), J.B. Wells (1933-35), F.C. Harrell (1935-36), H.A. Stroud (1936), W.R. McPherson (1936-37), W.L. Hightower (1937-39), R.P. Waters (1939), M.H. Keen (1939-42), A. Guyon (1942), J. Wesley Jones (1942-44), Robert H. James (1944-46), S.M. Bailey (1946-50), E.W. Dechert (1956-58), S.R. Harwood (1958-59), H.S. Goodenough (1959-60), T.L. Christensen (1960-61), H.S. Goodenough (1961-66), John A. Robinson (1966-68), D.D. Hogan (1968-69), Carl Taylor (1969-72), Herbert L. Frederich (1972-74), Harold Camp (1974), Guy Wilson (Supply, 1974), Middleton D. Moorehead (1975-76), Wayne Boyce (1976-77), Guy Wilson and Dean Thompkins (Supply, 1977-78), Milton Bohmfalk (1978-81), Walter Parr, Jr. (1981-82), Charles W. Walker (1983-88), Charles A. Miller (1988-89), Dave Crabtree (1989-).

The Methodist church alternates with other local churches in conducting weekly services at the Yorktown Manor Nursing Home, has an active women's organization and Sunday School.

by Frances Hartmann

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

T140

First Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in Yorktown began formally in 1896 when the Masonic Lodge allowed the church to use the lower story of the lodge. Rev. A.H.P. McCurdy of Cuero held the first service in the lodge on June 2, 1896. Before that time services had been conducted at the home of Dr. John Atkinson. It has been suggested that the Presbyterian Church was started because there was no church service in English in Yorktown at the time. The Roman Catholics used Latin and the Lutherans German.

The first church building was built in 1897 on a lot on Third Street. The lot cost $100 which was donated by Mrs. Henrietta King. Debts for building costs were paid by donations and various fund raising projects, including rummage sales.

"That first church", Mrs. Menn says "was just like all the little first churches — a little rectangular building with a cupola and a bell on it." Mrs. Ada Ladner played the organ for the first church and continued as the organist until the 1950's or '60's.

A succession of supply ministers and students from the Theological Seminary in Austin served the early church. Rev. C.H. Spence was installed as the first resident minister on May 19, 1911. A manse was built for him on Eckhardt Street.

Mr. J.G. Kerlick was one of the Sunday School teachers and he always tried to persuade the young people to stay for church by keeping them overtime in Sunday School. Another teacher Mrs. William Mae Menn had a cardboard box shaped like a little green church into which the children put their coins in order that the church might grow and grow.

The congregation soon outgrew the old building. In 1924 Mr. and Mrs. John Alford of Topeka, Kansas donated a lot for a new church. Rev. McCurdy returned on September 13, 1925 to hold the first service in the new building. The church still meets in this building.

The Alfords also donated pulpit furniture, pews and a bell. It was 1935 when the bell tower was finally built by the J.G. Kerlicks in memory of their son, J.G. Junior.

Sunday School in the basement of the new church was not confined to the "studying the catechism and repeating it". There were fun projects like constructing a scale model of the Tabernacle. This was many weeks in progress.

Money was in short supply, and the Sunday School paid its own way by selling hamburgers, sandwiches, soda water and watermelons.

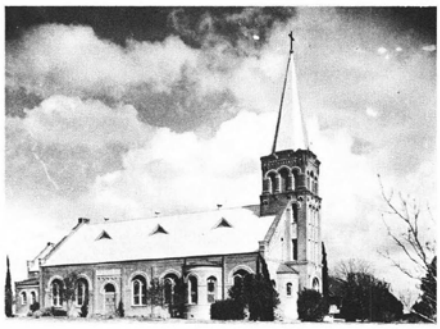
The present manse was constructed in 1947 and in 1953 the church was redecorated and stained glass windows were added. The educational building was added to the church property in 1957.

Fourteen resident ministers have served the church: C.H. Spence (1911-12), R.E. Porterfield (1913-12), J.H. Freeland (1922-29), C.I. Kelly (1929-36), James Johnson (1935-41), F.E. King (1942-45), C.M. Campbell (1947-57), W. Schuetter (1958-63), G. Matthews (1964-66), H. Travis (1967-73), T. Bailey (1974-76), L. Solomon (1976-81), M. Stoub (1982-86), Milton Bierschwale (1986-89).

by Frances Hartmann

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

T141



Holy Cross Catholic Church

In 1867, ten years after the first Polish families came to Yorktown, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was built. It was a log building capable of accommodating about fifty people.

In 1886 the church was damaged by a hurricane. It was rebuilt in 1887 and enlarged to a length of ninety feet. In 1901 a second addition was made and the main altar was replaced by a nicer one.

There have been many pastors. The first was Father John Frydrychowicz, who served the parish until 1872. He was followed by Father Adolph Snigurski, who served from 1872 to 1874, T. Kututowicz, Joseph Arzynski, F. Zwiardowski, F. Smelcer, A. Heinke, Gerlach, then Hagel served successively until 1888. Then came Father Magott (1888-92), Fr. J. Wolenczewica (1892-97) and Fr. Thomas Moczygemba (1897-1912). When Father Moczygemba arrived, he found 100 Polish, 35 Bohemian and a few German families.

There are tales of Fr. Moczygemba's disciplinary accomplishments. It was said that before his time, some found it necessary to leave the church during the sermon, giving various reasons — "Horses were restless," and so on. "But when Father Tom took the pulpit, even the jackasses listened."

On the night of April 7, 1914, the Church of the Immaculate Conception burned to the ground. Though it was said that even the bells melted, by some miracle the cross atop the steeple and two statues on the face of the church survived the fire. The cross is on the present church steeple.

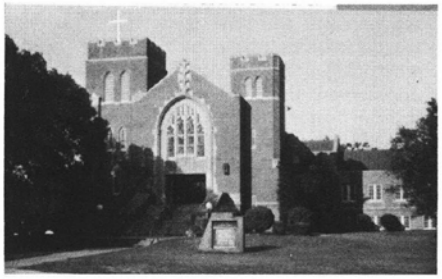
A new red brick church was built and the cornerstone was blessed on September 14, 1915. The church was renamed "Holy Cross Church" and is situated on a hill about two miles east of the city of Yorktown.

The pastors in 1988 were Fr. Alphonse Padalecki, of Sweet Home, Texas and Fr. Gustavo Bedoya, of Columbia, S.A.

by Frances Hartmann

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH – YORKTOWN

T142



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

The first German Methodist Circuit Rider, Pastor Korte, came to the Yorktown area as early as 1848. He found opposition to any church activities being started in Yorktown. Many of the early settlers were openly hostile to any church. Many of the early settlers in the community were Rationalists of self-styled "Free Thinkers" who had left Germany and France in order to get away from the influence of the established State Church.

The first Lutheran Pastor to preach here, the Rev. Haerdtle, began to preach in private homes from 1851-1853. He was followed by Rev. A. Sager of Coleto, 1953-1861. In 1861, the Rev. A. Holzinger, Field Man for First Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas, came here to survey the field and to make recommendations concerning further developments. While Rev. Holzinger was in charge of the newly organized Lutheran Church, he also organized the first school in Yorktown and served the public as teacher.

By 1865, pastor Holzinger had to abandon the work in Yorktown because the bulk of his people had moved away. Rev. Schaeg of Meyersville, occasionally provided preaching and later the Rev. A. Holzinger was pastor at Meyersville and preached in Yorktown on occasion. Next came pastor M. Oehler from Meyersville to help with services.

Rev. M. Oehler organized the first St. Paul Lutheran Church on April 21, 1872 in the upstairs of the Public School in Yorktown.

The first church building, 30 by 60 feet, was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Nau at a cost of $3,000.00. Willie Schorlemmer's grandfather hammered the ball for the bell which served not only the first church but is also hanging in the present church.

In 1930 the congregation contracted for a new church at a cost of $80,000.00. It took the congregation until 1947 to retire the debt.

In 1949, the Buesing school house was bought for $1,400.00 and placed east and tow-

ard the back of the church to alleviate the congested condition of the Sunday School which was overcrowding the basement of the church.

In 1957, the building committee was given the authority to call for and accept the bid of a contractor and, thus, began the actual construction of the Educational-Recreational Building.

Pastors who have served were: Rev. H.A. Lettermann (1872-1881), Rev. A. Falkenburg (1882-1893), Rev. J.K. Poch (1894-1921), Rev. E.A. Sagebiel (1921-1928), Rev. C.G. Hankammer (1928-1952), Rev. Alvin H. Bohls (1953-1960), Rev. Walter C. Probst, Jr. (1960-1966), Rev. Robert Cordes (1966-1975), Rev. Leroy Deans (1975-1978), Rev. Paul Ziese (1978-1984), Rev. Lynn Ziese (1978-1983), Rev. Richard Garbus (1984-1988), Rev. David A. Heidtke (1985-), Rev. James Pearson (1989-), Rev. Harold Tesch (Visitation Pastor) (1985-). Interim Pastors who have served the Congregation were Rev. William Feller, and Rev. Kurt C. Hartmann.

THE OPEN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF YORKTOWN, TEXAS

T143

The Open Bible Baptist Church.

The "Open Bible Baptist Church' began in the year 1977, when a group of believers began meeting together in homes for weekly Bible studies.

With the supervision of Bro. Bill Patterson, from Baptist Mid-Missions, on November 3, 1977, they elected officers for the purpose of starting a church. The Fellowship was called "Bible Baptist Fellowship." The first Sunday services were held in the home of Lloyd and Ida Blackburn. The first officers were: Scott Hay — Chairman, Pete Grantham — Vice Chairman and Ida Blackburn — Secretary/Treasurer.

On December 8, 1977, Bro. Robert Cooley, a home-missionary under Baptist Mid-Missions, was called as their first Pastor. The church began meeting in the Old Community Bank Building and continued meeting there for several months. On March 2, 1978, the name was changed to "Open Bible Baptist Church" and the church voted to rent the old "Barbee Hatchery Building" located on Highway 72 at FM 237. After *much* clean-up, in May, 1978, the church began holding regular services at this new location.

On June 18, 1979, a certificate of Incorporation was granted to the Open Bible Church of Yorktown, Texas by the Secretary of State.

The church wanted to own its own property and on November 4, 1979, the congregation voted to buy the property on Hwy. 72 at FM 237. Many improvements have been made and the church was able to pay for the property in January, 1990.

The present pastor, Bro. Jack Blackwell, began pastoring in November, 1985.

by Mrs. Scott Hay

THE YORKTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

T144

The 1912 Business Men's Club with Hugo Junker president was the forerunner of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, organized in 1918. Rev. C.H. Spence was the first president and Paul Schmidt served continuously as its secretary until 1955. The purpose of the organization is to promote the city — its businesses, industries, products, public facilities and surroundings. One way to carry out this was through the annual Little World's Fair which began in 1922. The Yorktown Fair Association, organized in 1920 to promote the fair, had Gus Nau as Grand Chairman. Caravans of interested citizens advertised the fairs in neighboring and far-away cities. Once the High School band got to broadcast from San Antonio's radio Station WOAI for publicity.

The main events of the fairs included a parade, rodeo, dances, a carnival and exhibits in long exhibit halls of livestock, agricultural products, arts and crafts, pantry goods and some commercial products. The fairs brought people closer together and boosted community spirit. The last fair was held in 1948. Grand Chairmen of the fairs in addition to Gus Nau were Wm. von Roeder, W.E. Metz, A.A. Ladner, Herman Mollenhouer, E.G. Schiwetz, A.J. Braunig, Walter Reifschlager, W.F. Stuermer, Charles F. Hoff, W.O. Gohlke, Duffie McGee, Wilfred Riedel, Raymond Simecek, Joe W. Gras, Charles Bauch, Felix Schorlemmer, Gene Schwietz and Jesse Strieber.

In 1958 the annual Western Days celebrations were begun. These included choosing a queen and her court, a parade, a carnival, street dancing, music, food, arts and crafts booths, auctions and contests. In recent years the Chamber of Commerce honored its Outstanding Citizens of the Year to be parade marshals. These were in 1984, Marcellus Weischwill and Deloris Sievers; in 1985, Gene Czaja and Pastor Kurt Hartmann; in 1986, John Koopmann and Milton Ledwig; in 1987, Arthur Goehring, Sr., and Milton Jasek. In 1987 Larry Vasbinder was named Outstanding Farmer-Rancher. In 1988, Dr. John Barth was the Outstanding Citizen and Edward Roeder the Outstanding Farmer-Rancher.

The Chamber helped the City observe its Jubilee in 1923 and its Centennial in 1948 with large celebrations and elaborate historical pageants. For the Texas Sesquicentennial, Yorktown found a "sister city" in Yorktown, Australia and feted its mayor and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. George Sherriff) at the annual Chamber banquet in 1985. The Chamber annually sponsors a Springfest, observes Memorial Day in cooperation with the VFW and promotes the Christmas Sale Days. Just recently the organization gained publicity at the Guadalupe Valley Days at the San Antonio Stock Show with pictorial displays of Yorktown and in cooperation with the Industrial Foundation entered pictures and information about this area in the 1990 Golden Crescent Magazine which is available in all places welcoming tourists to Texas. Beautification of the City Park is the Chamber's most recent project.

Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce in

Scarlet Audilet — 1986 — Sesquicentennial Chamber of Commerce float

addition to Hugo Junker were: C.H. Spence, Gus Nau, Otto Kraege, Walter Reifschlager, E.G. Schiwetz, Charles F. Hoff, Joe R. Gras, Albert Schwarts, F.E. Strieber, James Schroeder, F.M. Schneider, Henry E. Wehe, Felton Lemke, M.L. Bogish, George Klein, Elmo Weischwill, Dalton Metting, Leslie G. Flessner, La Verne Brieger, Ivan Finke, Lee Roy Griffin, Jr., Elmo Weischwill, Kenneth Grahmann, Warren Schorlemmer, Claude Chaney, Ben Stricklin, Rev. Louis Solomon, John Koopmann, Scott Wolf, Ron Willis, Irene Wulf, Renae Pierce, Michael Ehrlich and Michael Janacek.

Present members in addition to president Janacek are: Pat Wiggins, 1st vice president; Dewayne Curry, 2nd vice president; Robbie Czaja and Lorene Migura, treasurers; and directors Shirley Collins, David Fitts, Mark Dugie, Rosie Rios, Joan Urban and Gene Warzecha. Janie Metting is in her 16th year as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Yorktown, Texas.

by Frances Hartmann

YORKTOWN'S PRODUCTS

T145

Tommie Nuinez displaying one of her "brush" Brahmans.

The early settlers of Yorktown found that the area had an abundant supply of deer, other wild game and fish for food. The clear Coleto Creek supplied water for all the needs of man and beast. Dewberries grew in the wild and gardens produced potatoes and other vegetables. Some of the first products from the fields, plowed with oxen, were corn and cotton. As more families came and the area developed, cotton gins and grist mills for crushing the grains, were built, and later a cotton oil mill and grain elevators were established. Freight wagons took loads of potatoes to San Antonio.

Before the railroad came in 1886 and cattle drives helped get many local longhorns and other bovines to the markets in Kansas. Tanneries in Yorktown prepared the 10¢-a-pound-hides to be made into saddles, chaps, shoes, belts, etc. In the early 1900's Yorktown became known as "Krauttown" because the farmers brought many wagonloads of cabbages to be shipped out by rail. An 1897-'98 report shows that 5,200 bales of cotton at 5¢ per pound and 40 carloads of cattle at 5¢ to 10¢ per pound were also shipped. C.W. Gohmert and F. Kraege shipped about 2,600 turkeys, 5,500 chickens and 10,000 dozens of eggs. Another report from a 1912 Yorktown News lists a great increase in the shipments: 16 cars of eggs, 50 cars of hogs, 17 cars of onions, 10 cars of cabbages, 2 cars of tomatoes, 78 cars of potatoes, 5 cars of live chickens, 286 cars of cattle, 11 cars of dressed turkeys, 12,752 bales of cotton and 10,000 pounds of butter.

Oil and gas discoveries in the area began in the 1930's and continued through '60's and 70's, but declined somewhat in the 1980's. For a time flax was grown on a trial basis, but the crops were not productive enough to continue growing it. Many ranches of Hereford, Brahman, Holstein, Guernsey, Angus and other cattle breeds add color to the Yorktown countryside.

Perhaps the best summary of Yorktown's products is from the 1990 Golden Crescent Magazine:

"Beef cattle ranching, cattle feeding and dairying, as well as poultry, sheep and hogs, are major contributors to the region's economy. Equally, diversified farming is part of the area's agricultural industry, making Yorktown a center for feed mills, grain storage and other operations. Principal crops are wheat, grain, sorghums, corn, peanuts and melons. Chief resources are oil, uranium, gas, sand, and gravel. Major oil and gas discoveries have made Yorktown a natural center for petroleum interests and allied operations."

In addition to the products of the land, Yorktown has also produced statesmen, soldiers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, pastors, engineers, electricians, musicians, vocalists, housewives, druggists, blacksmiths, teamsters, merchants, postmasters, seamstresses, cooks, morticians, beauticians, bankers, saloon keepers, lapidermists, carpenters, plumbers, farmers, mechanics, actors, authors and artists, just to name a few!

Yes, Yorktown was and still is a productive, progressive "Little City with big city ways!"

by Frances Hartmann

DeWitt Motor Company

YORKTOWN'S FIRST HARVEST FEAST

T146

Great preparations were made by September of 1912 for Yorktown's first Harvest Feast (Erntefest) to be held November 18, 19 and 20. The Business Club formulated the plans by appointing R.J. Jersig, Henry Hohn and Paul Schmidt, secretary, a committee "to solicit subscriptions from the business men and citizens of Yorktown. Each firm was pro rated according to its wealth and name of business. In the majority of cases, the business men put up their pro rata. Suffice it to be said, however, that the committee met with unprecedented success and that the people of Yorktown amply manifested their enthusiasm and progressiveness. The committee expects to obtain $1500."

This was to be the most elaborate and most attractive feast every given in the boundary of Yorktown. There had been smaller and anniversary celebrations, Mexican festivals and German days. The greatest attraction was described in a 1912 Yorktown News: "Our greatest attraction will be the aeroplane flights. We want all people to understand that this will not be a petty balloon flight nor a halfway airship ascension. This is going to be a guaranteed aeroplane flight and all people will have the opportunity to see the aviator encircle the city in his flying machine. To see an aeroplane hundreds of feet above our heads, soaring like a huge bird, defying gusts and perhaps, making graceful, and awe inspiring ascents and descents will alone be worth coming here! It is our intention to engage the services of one of the most daring aviators in Texas. To do this we must guarantee him three hundred dollars, ($300)."

To publicize the feast, fourteen automobiles (luxuries in those days) were taken on a 125-mile tour to surrounding areas including Nordheim, Charco, Dobskyville, Weesatche, Weser, Goliad, Meyersville, Cuero, Westhoff, Smiley, Nixon, and Gillett. The accompanying Ideal Band striking up its "oompah" tunes created a great deal of enthusiasm.

The stock, agricultural, and handwork exhibits needed sheds and pens that also required some of the $1500 to be built. These stood along

Entry in First Harvest Feast Parade

the east side of the park fence. Prizes went to the best horses, mules, cows, turkeys, chickens, hogs, corn, handwork, etc. Other attractions were a wrestling match between Yorktown's Paul E. Kardow (whose shoulders had never been pinned) and Yoakum's Hancock; a football game between Cuero and Yorktown High Schools and a children's day featuring potato, foot and barrel races, and other contests.

The business men had to guarantee one hundred dollars for the high-class dramatic company and its fine band to perform on the vacant block on the west side of the park fence. The Southwestern Novelty Company with its many "skill" booths occupied the south side of the park fence as far as the postoffice building.

Mr. J.R. Evans, manager of the Light and Ice Plant, had elaborate displays of electrical fixtures such as electrical stoves, irons, lights, etc. Flashers were strung from the end of the park fence to the top of the water tower standing near the park fence and to the right of the old firestation.

The parade was another great feature with its decorated floats, vehicles, buggies and autos. These represented cowboys, cowgirls, the firemen, lodges, clubs, organizations, football team, businesses, etc.

An elaborate ball was held at the Riedel Opera House honoring the Harvest Feast Queen, Miss Annie Heinrich.

Harvest Feasts were held regularly until 1920 when they were called the Yorktown Fair and in 1922 The Little World's Fair and more recently Western Days!

by Frances Hartmann

FRIENDS OF THE YORKTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

T147

The Friends of the Yorktown Public Library were organized January 19, 1967 with Mr. Sam Suhler as guest speaker. City attorney Robert B. Eyhorn prepared a charter for the

Yorktown's "Gazebo" Library 1968-1985

"Yorktown Friends", submitted it to the Secretary of State for approval in June and in October it was approved. By November the group had already raised a hundred dollars which were given to the library board to purchase items for the library. In 1970 the Friends' chairman, Tommy Haley, was invited to attend library board meetings. By 1976 the board had furnished the Friends a list of needs which included shelving, filing cabinets, a book cart and a goal of 10,000 books. A book drive by the high school student council helped in meeting the book goal.

Through the years the Friends have sponsored fund raising projects of book and bake sales, country stores, bazaars, concession stands and so on. These funds were used to provide the library with furnishings, equipment, books and other needs. A big project in which they assisted in 1985 was the moving of books and equipment from the old library into the temporary space in the new city hall, and upon completion of the new library in 1986, helped again in carrying books and equipment to the new quarters. Boy Scout Dave Metting organized the latter move.

As early as 1973 the Friends sponsored a float entry for the October Western Days parade. This one featured children dressed as storybook characters. Another entry carried a replica of a large electric light globes with the caption, "Light up your life, READ!" Still another was a white Chevrolet Suburban carrying a replica of the new library with the invitation, "Follow me to the Yorktown Public Library." In a recent parade a float with the new library replica displayed recordings, movies, books, magazines, newspapers and videos to show the services available. Once children of different sizes carrying books of different sizes, represented, "Grow with Books!" In 1988 children marched in the parade sheathed in large cardboard boxes painted with the titles and pictures on the covers of many children's books. The high school art class helped with this project. In recent years the winners in the summer reading program were privileged to ride in the parade.

The Friends have had Saturday movies and storytimes for the children, sponsored open house for National Library Weeks and for the dedication of the new library in 1986. They helped with refreshments for closing of the summer reading programs and for library workshops. The held an open forum on constitutional amendments in 1989 and more recently helped get a Literacy Council organized locally. They provided funds for microfilming The Yorktown News from 1912 to 1962 and held an open house and reception honoring Frances Hartmann, retired librarian, for her ten years of service during which the new library was built and for eleven years as secretary of the Friends.

Chairmen of the Friends over the years were: Margaret Weldon, Joyce Davis and Jean Striedel. Vice chairmen were: Joyce Davis, Luellen Smiley, Janie Gaida, Pat Wiggins and Judy Wilder. Treasurers were: Thelma Goehring, Arlene McTighe, Ruby Lee Damerau Braun and Ann Schendel. Secretaries were: Annie Beth Harp, Lydia Champion and Frances Hartmann. Present officers include Melinda Straube, president; Daphne Buelter, vice president, Ginny Smith, treasurer, Frances Hartmann, secretary; Shirley Mohrig, reporter and Margaret Weldon and Annie Beth Harp, telephone committee.

With the leadership of the librarians, Luellen Smiley and Jean Striedel, the Friends were able to organize a Junior Friends in 1989. They are very helpful with many library procedures. They designed their Western Day float to represent Abe Lincoln, as young man and president: "Follow in the steps of Abe Lincoln — READ!" The Friends meet monthly. Dues are: $2 active member; $5 inactive; $10 for organizations and businesses.

by Frances Hartmann

Dreamland
FAMILY THEATER
ON ESPLANADE BETWEEN CHURCH AND MAIN STS.
MOVING PICTURES
Illustrated Songs.
Every Night Except Sunday At 7:30
Matinee Saturday Afternoon 3 P. M.
Chiidren 5 cents Adults 10 cents
Come and stay as long as you like.

YORKTOWN'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

T148

Judge Rudolph Kleberg was the guiding force to get a volunteer fire company organized in 1901. Gus Nau was the first fire chief. A women's auxiliary with Miss Hedwig Nau as president, helped with the fund raising projects.

The first firestation, built in 1902, was a two-story frame building surmounted by a cupola type bell tower. In 1951 a one-story brick building housing both the station equipment and an auditorium, was constructed on the same site.

A great step forward was made in 1979 when the organization received new red 700-gallon-tank Ford fire truck complete with ladders, hoses and a 1,000 gallon pump.

The firemen have weekly training sessions and an annual fund-raising supper. They also participate in area firemen's races. Through the years, in addition to Gus Nau the following have been fire chiefs: William Gohmert, Jim Hollingsworth, Charlie Strieber, Andrew Streiber, Joe Neumeyer, Joe Ploeger, Joe Gras, Harry Potcinske, Warner Borth and Arthur Goehring.

The membership list for 1990 includes: Norris Schultz, Marvin Jaeger, Arthur Goehring, Weldon Blaschke, Terry Lamprecht, Pete Styra, John Bolting, Edward Gips, Pete Duderstadt, Fred Hughes, William Potcinske, Ricky Boerm, Jerry Pierce, Michael Migura, Marvin Schulze, Charles Styra, Bobby Strieber, Wayne Bolting, Carl R. Kreitz, Stephen Blaschke, Darryl Borth, Thomas Rabke, Dwain Harbers, Thomas Kraege, Bruce Parma, Bret Audilet, and Tim Strieber.

The city is "in good hands" with these active, alert and trained members in the organization.

by Frances Hartmann

MASONIC LODGE

T149

Yorktown's first lodge of Masons received its dispensation in 1852 and held its meetings in a log cabin. This dispensation was obtained from the Grand Lodge of Texas, signed by James T. Lytle, District Deputy Grand Master, Eighth Masonic District and was dated at Lavaca on the 2nd day of September, 1852.

Petitioners were: Daniel B. Friar, Jacob A. Miller, J.A. Miles, A.J. Prayter, Joel M. Walker, J. Tumlinson, C.W. Spencer, G.M. Reese, James McMillian, J.P. Collins, J.C. Rankin, Josiah Taylor, John Choate, Jonathan York and Walter Anderson. It was known as Coleto Lodge No. 124 and the charter was granted in December to G.M. Reese, WM; J.T. Kilgore, SW and T.J. Ives, JW.

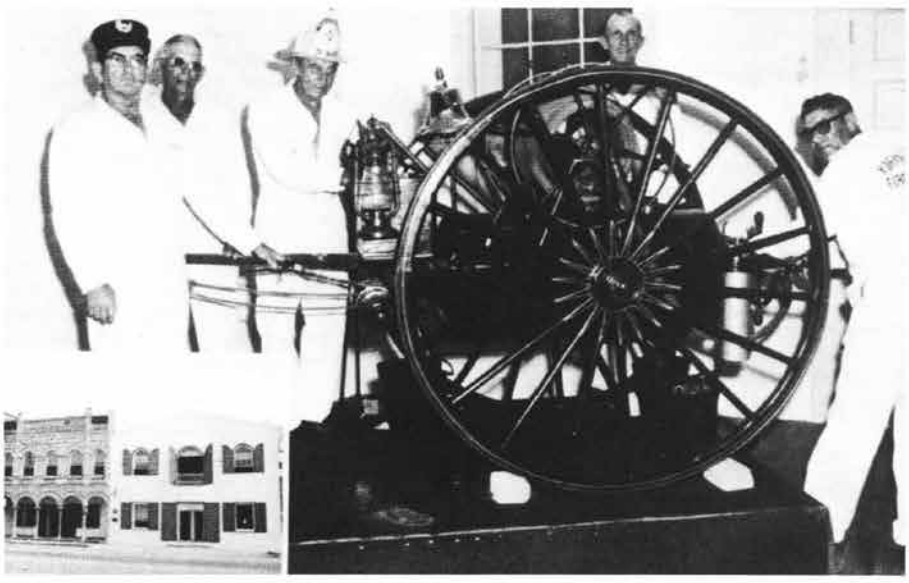
This lodge, however, became dormant. Another lodge was founded shortly afterwards and followed the same course. An older lodge, founded February 24, 1851 at the original county seat at Clinton and members of the dormant Coleto Lodge were accepted in this lodge, Cameron Lodge No. 76. In 1877 after the removal of the county seat to Cuero and the abandonment of Clinton, Cameron Lodge No. 76 moved to Yorktown. A two-story lodge hall was built on Eckhardt Street, just north of the city square. In 1956 a single story brick lodge hall was constructed in the 500 block of East Main on property donated by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Heinrich in honor of their parents. The lodge meets there on the second Tuesday of each month.

by Geraldine Goehring

YORKTOWN COUNTRY CLUB

T150

In 1923 the Yorktown Country Club was organized with a liberal policy of membership.



First Yorktown Fire Pumper — patented 1885 — Edward Hardt, Henry Jaeger, Fire Chief Harry Poteinske, Leroy Poteinske and Leroy Buelter — volunteer firemen

Yorktown Country Club

Situated in beautiful surroundings a mile and a half southeast of town, it offers its members the facilities of a clubhouse for dinners, parties or dances, barbecue pits, a swimming pool and a fine golf course.

Records show that the first president was T.L. Allen and the first secretary was Paul A. Schmidt.

Present officers in 1990 are: president, Warner Borth; vice-president, Ron Willis; secretary, Melvin Sinast and treasurer, Felton Schroller.

by Frances Hartmann

YORKTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

T151

A group of people interested in restoring the old Eckhardt Building at the corner of Main and Eckhardt Streets met at the City Hall on November 11, 1974. Those present were: Connie Boyles, Eugenia Studer, Leon Maeckel, Sylvia Blaschke, Mary Sue Happel, M.W. Weischwill, Lou Gips, James Metting, Bud Haun, August Riedesel and Robert Eyhorn.

Carol Blain and Eugenia Studer were elected co-chairpersons; Sylvia Blaschke, secretary-treasurer; M.W. Weischwill, M.W. (Bud) Haun and Robert B. Eyhorn, Advisors and Mrs. Rosa Lou Skinner, scrapbook chairman. A committee to raise funds was appointed. The building was named the Yorktown Historical Museum and the organization the Yorktown Historical Society, Inc. By December 10 the charter for the organization was approved and the building was donated to the group by Mrs. Ila Mae Gras Riedesel, her daughters, Page Graves and Gail Riedesel, and the Yorktown Lions Club.

The museum is composed of two buildings once used by the C. Eckhardt & Sons store. The older building on the corner, with twenty-four inch walls, was constructed in 1871 of sandstone transported by ox-drawn wagons from Rocky Mound in Karnes City, about 15 miles north of Yorktown and midway between Gillet and Smiley. The stones were covered with plaster to form inside and outside walls. The window frames, ceilings and floors were made of yellow pine. Square nails were used. The building has iron shutters and doors.

The adjoining building, finished in 1876, also used sandstone from Rocky Mound. Its supporting arches, however, were of brick, fortified with cast iron. A second story which was added later, was built with brick walls.

Through nomination by the Texas Historical Commission in 1976, the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings and

Yorktown Historical Society and Museum. Eckhardt and Sons store building ca 1905 with bank building at far left.

has received the Texas Historical Medallion.

Through intensive solicitation of funds, willing donors, advice from Mrs. Cindy Sherell of the Texas Historical Commission, help from the architect, Pat Weaver, and the work of August Riedesel, a local contractor, and of many volunteers, the renovation was finished in August, 1977. This included a new roof, ceilings, floors, etc. A hand-operated elevator and a water cistern were added in the interior. Rooms were provided for the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, a meeting room, a small kitchen and rest rooms. Three large display areas were provided, including one upstairs.

The museum was dedicated on April 2, 1978. Special programs sponsored by the Historical Society include displays of Texas Rangers, Sam Houston and Albert Einstein, as well as Christmas sing-alongs, historical and Indian narrated slide shows and the sesquicentennial ceremony designating Yorktown as a valid participant in the State Celebration.

The museum boasts of many historical pictures, newspapers and documents, antique furniture, clothing, appliances, tools, books and much more. There is even a grand piano that weathered the 1866 Indianola hurricane.

Chairpersons after those mentioned include: Pastors Kurt Hartmann, Will Paul Menn and Milton Bierschwale. Present officers are: Frances Hartmann, chairman; Shirley Karnei, secretary and Everett Cole, treasurer.

The most recent project of the organization was the rewriting and updating of the History of Yorktown, published in 1956. The new 170-page paperback, Yorktown, Texas — Its History 1848-1989 has over 50 pictures and was published December 8, 1989. It was printed by the DeWitt County View Press and co-edited by Everett B. Cole, retired teacher and Frances Hartmann, retired teacher-librarian.

Annual dues for membership in the organization are $5 per person; $7.50 for a family and $100 for a life membership.

by Frances Hartmann

F. KRAEGE
General Merchandise
BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, CLOTHING
HAMILTON BROWN'S CELEBRATED $2.50 SHOES
GROCERIES, NOTIONS, ETC.
Deere Riding & Walking Cultivators
John Deere's Bulky Plows, Deere's Improved Corn & Cotton Planters.
Highest Prices Paid for Cotton, Wool, Hides and Country Produce.
YORKTOWN, TEXAS

YORKTOWN LIONS CLUB

T152

The Club was organized on December 19, 1939 and chartered on February 10, 1940. B.C. Butler was chairman of the Charter Night Committee. District Governor William Offer presented the charter to President Charles Lamprecht. The Club had 34 members: Garland Allen; 2-year Director G.W. Allen; Charles Bauch; Orville Beckman; Roy Boeckmann; Gus Braunig; 2nd Vice President B.C. Butler, Oscar Eckhardt; Bob Edger; R.M. Harrison; Dave Holland; John G. Kerlick; Hilmer Kraege; Tail Twister, P.C. Kromer; A.A. Ladner; President Chas. Lamprecht; Ed Lieberman; 1st. Vice President Virgil Mattingly; T.J. McLarty; F.M. Pieper; 1-year Directors, R.A. Randow and W.H. Riedel; Douglas Riggs; Lion Tamer R.J. Roeder; Albert N. Schwartz; Alvin Sievers; 3rd. Vice President J.E. Simpson; L.A. Sloma; Secretary and Treasurer L.N. Smith; 2 year Director W.C. Smith; F.L. Stovall; B.E. Thuem; Ray P. Waters and J.E. Wolf.

The Lions Club is the world's largest and most active service club organization. It has more than 1.3 million members in more than 150 countries. It is a non-profit organization which will make every effort to go out and help any needy person. Mr. Melvin Jones, a Chicago Insurance man, started this organization on June 7, 1917.

The Lions Club of Texas owns a tract of land near Kerrville known as the Crippled Children's Camp and hundreds of children go there each year for fun and help. Not only crippled or blind children use this camp but also many diabetic children.

All members of the Lions Club are dues paying members who attend meetings regularly and sponsor money making projects to be used for buying glasses for needy people, food, clothing, and medical expenses. They help in the operation of the Crippled Children's Camp. The club also collects old eye glasses that are re-worked to be used by needy people.

The slogan of Lionism is Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety. The motto is simply, "We Serve".

The following members have been President of the local club from the year 1940 through 1990: Charles Lamprecht, John G. Kerlick, B.C. Butler, J.E. Simpson, J.M. McMillan, Jr., M.W. Haun, Tony Schmidt, Dr. W.P. Menn, J.W. Deborah, A.E. Teltschick, Dr. D.C. Towery, Morris E. Albers, L.M. Staggs, Fred Hamilton, F.H. "Jack" Schneider, Felton Lemke, Gordon E. Barrett, J.D. Boone, Felton L. Schroller, O.A. Jonischkies, Tony Schmidt, George Klein, Elmo Weischwill, F.M. Pieper, M.W.

Yorktown Lions Park Groundbreaking Ceremony, September 26, 1973. Standing, L-R: E. Guy Wilson, Ozzie Jonischkies, Gayle Stimson, Robert Jackson, J.D. Boone, Melvin Podsim, Mayor Albert Schwartz, City Secretary Wanda Turner, Ladis Burda, Chief of Police Guy Nobles, Lou Gips, Lion President Elmo Weischwill (with shovel), Donor Paul Schmidt (with shovel), Donor Mrs. Paul Schmidt, Ellen Bargmann, Lee Roy Griffen, Jr., Elvie Beken and Gus Grun. Kneeling, L-R: Ruppert Egg, Felton Schroller, Dalton Metting and Wilfred Lamprecht.

Haun, James W. Monroe, Wildred Lamprecht, Dalton R. Metting, Charles Edgar, Melvin W. Podsim, Doyle W. Albright, Elmo Weischwill, Guy Nobles, Gayle Stimson, Ben R. Stricklin, Wildred Lamprecht, Dalton R. Metting, Rev. Kurt Hartmann, John C. Campbell, David G. Styra, Manroy Wolpman, Ricky Boerm, Jay Stimson, Wilfred Lamprecht, Felton Schroller, Dr. John H. Frels, Allen C. Wiggins, Harvin C. Suggs.

On February 10, 1990, The Yorktown Lions Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. After Frank Stephenson gave the banquet invocation, president Harvey Suggs introduced toastmaster Manroy Wolpman who acknowledged visiting clubs, guests and the District Governor, Charles Matthews. Henry Wolf, journalist, was the speaker and music was furnished by Yorktown High School band members directed by Jim Miller. The menu of turkey and dressing and the singing of "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner" were in keeping with the program of the original Charter Night.

Through the years probably the Lions' largest local project was helping the City and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to establish the Lions Park along the Coleto in 1973. The Lions initiated the project after former DeWitt County View editor Paul A. Schmidt and his wife gave the Lions a four-acre tract of land. The $28,000 project using federal and local funds, included clearing off the property, installing playground equipment, concrete slabs, tables, lights and barbecue pits. Through a similar grant to the City in 1990, this same area is to be enlarged and rejuvenated with baseball field, jogging trail, tennis court, rest rooms, etc.

by Frances Hartmann

YORKTOWN CHAPTER #945 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

T153

The Yorktown Chapter #945 Order of the Eastern Star was Instituted July 1, 1948 by Pat Boone, Worthy Grand Matron. It was constituted on February 11, 1949 by T.G. Rogers, Worthy Grand Patron. The first Yorktown Chapter had demised years before when the Eckhardt Bank failed.

The furniture, jewels, Bibles and a piano were donated by the twenty petitioners. The Altar Bible was donated by Berdie Easterling. We still treasure it as it originally came from the old Clinton Lodge.

In the 41 year history of this Chapter only one meeting was missed.

There are 68 members of which four are Life Members, four are fifty year members (3 are still active) and 2 dual members.

Special projects have been donations to fire victims and needy families, Special Christmas Baskets for the needy, the sponsoring of a girl in the Masonic Home until she graduated from high school, donations to the Masonic Lodge, and food to bereaved families.

Projects to raise funds have included greeting cards, vanilla and spices, Easter Eggs, baked goods, etc.

by Cymbeline Deborah, Secretary
Yorktown Chapter #945

YORKTOWN'S Y.M.A. CLUB

T154

The Young Men's Amusement Club of Yorktown is best described in excerpts from an article by their committee in a 1912 Yorktown News. It seems that the club was "regarded by some to be a corrupt, dangerous and selfish organization composed of poor, fanatical boys." In their defense the committee explains: "They (the members) believe in organization as a means of self control; they believe in athletic and literary pursuits as a means of developing the soul, the mind, the body; they believe in social and mutual entertainments as a means of providing that restful diversion from toil and study that man's instinct longs for; and they believe in fostering friendship and aiding materially in the progressiveness of our town."

"What class of individuals compose the Y.M.A.C.? Honest, gentlemanly, progressive young men — young men who stand for the highest and best in social, literary and municipal affairs. In fact, the Y.M.A.C. is composed of some of the best and most enlightened young men to be found anywhere . . . They are true citizens. Let the following statement of donations speak for the club:

1. Donation to the Park Association from receipts of play January 17, 1912.
2. To the Fire Company from receipts of ball game.
3. To the Mothers Club from ball game.
4. To the Park Association from the receipts of ball game.

Can it be justly considered a selfish club? No, a fairminded person will readily concede that the Y.M.A. Club is an institution whose motives and aims are of the highest and most progressive nature."

Details of a play presented by the Club on Thursday, November 28, (Thanksgiving Day) at the Riedel Opera House are listed in another 1912 Yorktown News. The drama was entitled, "Imogene" and had the following cast of characters: Imogene, Mrs. J.G. Kerlick; Mrs. Maud Mansfield, Miss Bella Metz; Mother Mundy, the Witch of Dismal Hollow, Mrs. Nic. Ladner; Susie, Mrs. Mansfield's maid, Miss Hilda Gips; Snooks, a newsboy, E.G. Knape; Charles Mansfield, J.G. Kerlick; Dr. Harris, Nic. Ladner, Deacon Austin, Mrs. Mansfield's uncle, O.W. Ehlers; James Reed, an Attorney, E.R. Sauermilch; Dennis O'Brian, Mansfield's valet, G.A. Zedler; Waiter and Surgeon, E.E. Luddecke. Act 1: The Witch's appearance; Act 2: Mansfield's home; Act 3: Hall in Mansfield's home; Act 4: Reed's law office.

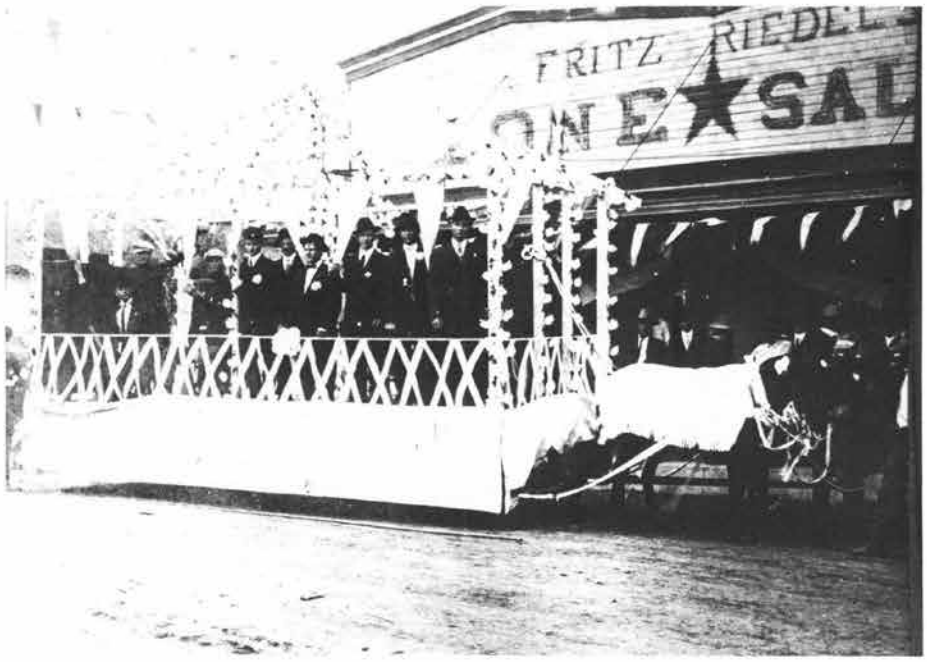
It was noted that the Club raised $85 with this presentation and a free dance followed. The Club, which me in the Riedel Opera House, sponsored dances, socials and gave a party for each member who married. Such a wedding reception honoring the George Wieds was held in June 1912 at the Opera House. The hall was decorated in blue and gold, the Club colors, good music was furnished, "delightful refreshments were served and a merry time was had until the wee small hours."

by Frances Hartmann

TRANSPORTATION IN AND OUT OF YORKTOWN

T155

John King, who lived on the eastern branch of the Coleto in DeWitt County, on February 8, 1848, made an agreement with Charles Eckhardt, co-founder of Yorktown, to survey a road leading from Victoria to the King residence. From there the survey went to Corporta Mounds and from there to the Guadalupe river for a crossing "not higher up than the upper line of the land that belongs to John York," and finally the road reached New Braunfels. This



The YMCA Club float in First Harvest Feast Parade in 1912

route was to provide water at about 15 miles and to shorten the present route by 20 miles.

While Yorktown was still quite young, the stage started on its run from San Antonio to Fort Lavaca with John King as the "stage" man here. The first stage to pass through Yorktown carried mail and passengers, was drawn by four horses and driven by Tom Fuqua. King sold out to Daniel Friar in 1852.

The Old San Antonio Road ran from the coast to Victoria, through Meyersville, through the northern part of Yorktown, and then to Helena and on to San Antonio. It served smaller settlements along the way. Freight wagons were used to haul goods from Indianola to San Antonio. That was mainly why this road came about. Some of the local teamsters were Louis Wehe, Peter Gerhardt, Fred Sinast, Gus Zedler, Gottfried, Fred and Herman Metting and Francis Gruetzmacher. Taking a load of potatoes or other produce to San Antonio took three days and two nights. On the return trip the teamsters would bring back flour, sugar, cloth, furniture, medicines and lumber. Children were delighted to see barrels of apples and brown sugar wrapped in shucks called polunica. Tomatoes, lemons and oranges were rarities. Wagons were often repaired at the wheelwright's shop at the northeast corner of Main and Riedel Streets. Many of the teamsters stayed at the two-story Duerr Hotel, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Duerr, in the 300 block of present West Fifth Street across the creek.

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass railroad came to Yorktown in 1886. Its first plans were to bypass the town, but Wm. Eckhardt furnished the finances required for eight miles of right-of-way. For nearly a century the railroad furnished an outlet for the products of the community like cotton, cottonseed products, peanuts, cattle and oil. For travelers there were passenger services with excursions to Port Lavaca, Hallettsville and New Braunfels. There were four daytime and two night trains. The railroad became a part of the Southern Pacific Lines and continued these services into the 1930's, but as private ownership of automobiles and trucks increased and the bus established a route here, the railroad began to lose business. The last train came through Yorktown on February 10, 1972. The rails were removed some time later.

In 1990 Yorktown still does not have neither train, nor bus services; therefore, the mail is carried in small vans while freight is hauled in and out by 18-wheeler trucks. The Elder Oil Tools utilizes a helicopter.

The first streets in Yorktown were of a deep sand and after a rain were quite boggy. The first bridge across the Coleto Creek was a wooden structure built in 1904. A City ordinance forbade anyone crossing the bridge to drive or ride faster than a walk! In 1929 the wooden bridge was replaced by a modern concrete and steel bridge and in 1934 a low-water bridge of similar construction was completed a block north on Fifth Street.

The first paved streets came to Yorktown in 1927 with the building of the Davy highway to the depot. In 1929 the Highway 72, running through Main Street, brought more pavement. Today, 1990, there are very unpaved streets in the city.

by Frances Hartmann

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD OF YORKTOWN

T156

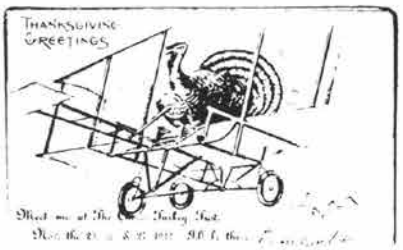
1880-1890 Woodmen of the World of Yorktown

by Marianne Little

RURAL SCHOOLS

T157

Taylor Ranch, Dist. #15



Golly — Dist. #18

Twelve Mile — #45

Clinton-Dist. #14

Arneckeville — Dist. #18

Meyersville — Dist. #20

Cabeza

Nordheim — #40

Oakdale, Dist. #17

National Hall — #23

Thomaston. Dist. #37

Brown Ranch, Dist. #45

THE COLLEGE INDEPENDENT.

DEVOTED TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS OF OUR STATE.

"As You Sow You Shall Also Reap."

VOL. 1. CONCRETE, TEXAS, JULY 1, 1874. NO. 1.

THE COLLEGE INDEPENDENT is intended to supply a want which the educational interests of the country

The Object of Our Institution.—A portion of nearly every family is below twenty years of age. Civil law

so a matter of experience that, when men with the proper use of their wonderful powers of mind, engage

ders of our beloved State, with an honest pride of character, preferring intelligence and moral worth to de-

BUSINESSES

North Esplanade—Cuero.

East Main—Cuero.

BREEDEN BROS.

B1

Inside Breeden Bros. during a busy day. L-R: Mr. Dubose, Gus Hiller, Paul H. Breeden. Others unknown.

In a corner building, just across Main Street from the present building, the firm of Breeden Bros. came into existence in 1889. Walter Kibbe Breeden and Charles Goodwin Breeden, brothers, and their brother-in-law, R.H. Wofford, were the founders of this business. R.H. Wofford invested in the business but he was never active. Prior to this time, Walter Breeden worked for the Seeligson Wholesale and Retail Grocery in 1873 when he first came to Cuero from his hometown, Victoria, Texas. He was the oldest son of Capt. Paul Hamilton Breeden and Mary Elmira (Kibbe) Breeden and was fifteen years old. Later he worked in the grocery department of H. Runge Co. Charles Goodwin Breeden was a salesman for P.J. Willis Co, a position he held for several years, leaving the control of the business to Walter. In 1911 Breeden-Runge Wholesale Grocery Co., was formed and Charles Breeden was President and head of the company.

The real credit for the foundation of Breeden Bros. went to Walter Breeden. Due to his untiring efforts the store grew to be the largest grocery and feed store in Cuero. Standard and high quality merchandise was a prominent part of the business. A household word was "if you bought it at Breeden Bros., you bought the best!"

In 1907 Breeden Bros. moved into its new building, the present site. The architects for this well built structure were the prominent Jules Lefflend and Sons of Victoria. Bailey Mills, the contractors were also from Victoria.

In 1908, Paul Hamilton Breeden, Walter Breeden's only son and namesake of his grandfather, graduated from Eastman Business College of Poughkeepsie, New York. Paul had grown up in the store helping his father from the time he was a very young man. He joined the firm and was made manager.

Breeden Bros. were also cotton factors. They dealt with spot cotton and in cotton futures. Cotton was "King" in the 1920's and was a very profitable crop. However after the Depression of 1929, this was a different story. As the Depression set in, the once flourishing business began to flounder. Customers could not pay their accounts. Cotton stood unpicked in the fields.

In 1931, February 15, Walter Breeden died in San Antonio at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Marjory Mabe. He suffered Artherosclertic disease (hardening of the arteries) and had gone there with Mrs. Breeden for medical treatment.

Paul Breeden became his father's successor as Head of Breeden Bros. in very adverse economic times.

Against the advice of his lawyer, H.W. Wallace, he refused to take bankruptcy for the company. He was determined to keep Breeden Bros. going and pull it out of its failing condition. He moved the store to the back part of the building, and rented the front half to Klecka Drug Store. He cashed in his large life insurance policies, putting the proceeds into the business. In spite of everything he could do, he was forced to finally close Breeden Bros. in 1938.

When Charles Breeden died in 1925, Walter Breeden generously divided all the assets of the business with the C.G. Breeden Estate. At the time the Breeden Bros. business was closed, Paul Breeden owned one half of the building. He sold his interest in the building to the C.G. Breeden Estate at that time.

It was a sad time for the Breeden family and its dependents. The store was a landmark for Cuero and the surrounding territory. Many of its respected and valued employees had been with the company for their lifetimes. William Muenter was the oldest. Others were: Frank Lackey, A.R. Reuckert, William Casal, Gus Hiller, Richard Waldeck, Fritz Goehring, Henry Garcia, Clarence and Sylvester Williams, Vollie Jones, Jesse and Otto Littles.

John Lewis had a vegetable stand on the west side of the building. He handled all kinds of delicious fresh produce and fruits.

by Bess Breeden

Breeden Bros. Grocery, corner of Main and Esplanade. Date of picture unknown – possibly around 1920. L-R: Unknown, Mr. Minter, unknown, A.R. Rueckert, Frank Lackey, Alvin Wofford, Gerhold, unknown, unknown, Walter K. Breeden (owner) and son. Paul H. Breeden. Far right: John Lewis fruit stand and John Lewis far right.

WIELAND POULTRY AND EGG COMPANY

B2

Wieland Poultry and Egg Company, located at 110 East Hamilton, Cuero, Texas, was operated by Gilbert A. Wieland. The firm was opened March 8, 1950 and specialized in custom dressing of poultry and sale of fresh dressed poultry in both retail and wholesale lots.

The plant was modernly equipped with scalding tank, washing tanks, cooling and freezing facilities, and an electric picker being among the features.

In addition to handling poultry, Wieland bought and sold eggs, Nutrena feed, and carried a complete line of Staffel's feeds, seeds, and insecticides.

Wieland had built up his clientele by catering to the wishes of his patrons in custom dressing and packaging poultry for freezing. "The best dressed birds in town come from Wielands" was the slogan of this firm.

Gilbert A. Wieland, a native of Yorktown, Texas, attended the Gohlke and Yorktown public schools, and the San Antonio Business College, San Antonio, Tex. He worked as station produce buyer for Swift & Co. for 4 years (1933-1937). Gilbert went to work for Cudahy Packing Company 1937 at Cuero Office, was transferred to Victoria in 1938. In 1943, he was transferred back to Cuero and was employed with this firm for approximately 13 years as bookkeeper, salesman, and assistant manager. He served as relief manager of plants at Kenedy, Goliad, Yorktown, Cuero, Victoria, Port Lavaca, and El Campo. He was the manager of Cudahy egg canning plant in San Antonio, Tex. during World War II. Gilbert left the employment of Cudahy Dec. 1949 to open his own business.

His wife, the former Alberta Mueller of Nordheim, Tex., worked right along beside him in the office until 1960 when she returned to teaching. Their daughter, Barbara Ann, also, helped in the office during the summer and on Saturdays during her high school years. Wieland's customers considered her as one of the best bill collectors in town.

Wieland had one regular employee and 6 to 8 additional employees on regular and designated dressing and processing days.

Due to the shortage of poultry and eggs and the competitive pressures from larger firms,

Wieland Poultry and Egg Company, 110 East Hamilton, Cuero ca 1952

Wieland Poultry & Egg Company closed January 10, 1966.

by Alberta M. Wieland

FERGUSON'S 10¢ STORES

B3

William Lynk Ferguson, Augusta (Moeller) Ferguson and William L. Ferguson, Jr.

The *Victoria Advocate* of May 18, 1907 reported the following: Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Ferguson of Chicago have leased the Keef building on Main Street where they say they expect to open up the finest racket store in Texas. They are here now and are making preparations to receive their immense stock. The *Advocate* wishes them success in their venture.

1945: William L. Ferguson, Jr. in front of Ferguson's 10¢ Store.

Thus began the "Ferguson 10¢ Stores" adventure. William Lynk Ferguson Jr. was born in Victoria in 1912.

In 1913, the Victoria store was sold and the Fergusons went to North Carolina to join in a similar venture with a Mr. Rose. By 1916, Mr. Ferguson decided his future lay in Texas and he returned to Cuero to open the first store of what later became a small chain of ten stores. In the next twenty years stores were opened in Yorktown, Edna, Gonzales, Nixon, Goliad, Kenedy, Pt. Lavaca, and Karnes City. The Cuero store served as headquarters and merchandise warehouse for all the stores. William Lynk Ferguson joined his father in the business when he graduated from the University of Texas. A fatal heart attack claimed the senior Ferguson on the eve of his son's departure to serve as a Lieutenant in the Purchasing department at the Naval Supply Depot in Oakland, California. He was there from August, 1944 to October of 1945. During that time Bill's wife, Carolyn, operated the stores. After the war Bill continued to operate the stores until 1962 when he sold or liquidated all of the stores.

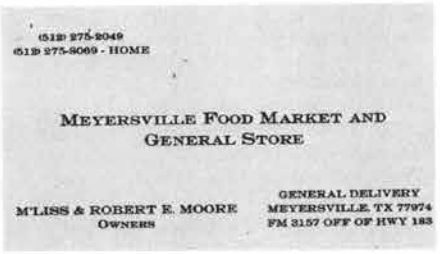
by Mrs. Bill Ferguson

W. C. SWAIN, M. D.
Practice limited to diseases of the
EYE, EAR, NOSE
AND THROAT
OFFICE OVER REUSS DRUGSTORE

THE MEYERSVILLE STORE

B4

Isaac Egg & Sons – Meyersville Store – built in 1917. Business started in 1868.


(512) 275-2049
(512) 275-8069 - HOME

MEYERSVILLE FOOD MARKET AND GENERAL STORE

M'LISS & ROBERT E. MOORE
OWNERS

GENERAL DELIVERY
MEYERSVILLE, TX 77974
FM 3157 OFF OF HWY 183

Business Card from present owners

Isaac Egg & Sons

The Meyersville Store was established on October 31, 1868 by Isaac Egg upon his arrival in Meyersville from Goliad, where he had lived for about four years. He was a native of Zurich, Switzerland. Before he moved to Meyersville, he had hauled freight for a number of years to many towns in Texas and to Matamoros in Mexico.

His business, which was started as a small tim shop with almost no capital, grew steadily. Through years of hard work as a tinner and dealer, working seven days a week for twelve hours or more, Isaac Egg succeeded in turning his small business into one of the largest and best rural stores of hardware and groceries in the area.

The business has always been owned and operated by Isaac Egg and his descendants. It is presently owned by his great-great grandson, Robert L. Moore. The store became the permanent home of the Meyersville Post Office on April 1, 1973. Isaac Egg was appointed postmaster on December 9, 1879. (This story is given elsewhere).

On July 20, 1909, Isaac Egg died at the age of 74 years. At that time, two of his sons, Edwin and Rudolph Egg became the joint owners of Isaac Egg and Sons, as the business was called. When Edwin died at an early age in 1912, Rudolph oversaw the business, with Mrs. Edwin (Betty) Egg and her children as partners. this partnership continued for a number of years.

As the business and line of merchandise of Isaac Egg grew, he built a second building, and then another. The first building contained the tin shop and other tin wares, another one housed farming machinery and equipment, saddles and harnesses. The third building was

used for the sale of groceries, drugs, clothing, hardware and many other items. In 1917, the three buildings were replaced with one story building, a large concrete structure which was built under the supervision of Moritz Jacob, brother-in-law of Isaac's son, Rudolph Egg. The building, with eight inch outer walls, was constructed by local labor, using 1100 bags of cement hauled from Cuero by Edwin Otto Egg, gravel from Betty Egg's pasture, and sand hauled from the Five-Mile Coleto Creek. The concrete was mixed by hand labor on a large wooden platform and pushed up to the top in wheelbarrows. They worked hurriedly in order to finish before the start of the cotton and turkey seasons in the fall, when all hands were busy hauling cotton and turkeys. A dance was held in the store when it was finally finished.

When moving into the new store, the tinner's table, with all its tools, and which had been made by Isaac Egg, was moved in with everything else, and it is still there today. Throughout the years, many items were made in the tin shop, including tubs, pails, stovepipes, strainers, water troughs, etc. Although the old tools and tables are still in the original place, they no longer are being used.

Freight for the store was hauled from Cuero in two wagons. The large wagon was pulled by four mules, Big Pete, Little Pete, Mike and Kit. The smaller wagon was pulled by two other mules. Feed for the animals was raised on the Egg farm. Turkeys, chickens, eggs and cotton were bought from area farmers and hauled to Cuero for resale. All family members were involved in work in the store, either as clerks, tinners, hauling produce or merchandise, or even making home made ice cream on Saturdays to sell in the store. The younger children helped by herding the flocks of turkeys in a field near the store until they bedded down for the night. As daylight came, the turkeys were started on their trip to Cuero, following a wagon carrying corn which was dropped along the way to lead the turkeys on. At dusk, when the turkeys began to fly into trees along the road to roost, the herders called it a day and made camp for the night. In later years, turkeys were hauled in trucks.

Hired workers employed by Isaac Egg Sons lived in the house behind the store, formerly the home of Isaac and Helene Egg. The hands ate meals provided at the home of Betty Egg.

There were no shopping carts in the store at that time. All items were gotten by the clerks and put into bags or boxes for the customers. The customers were also provided with a place to store any of their valuable documents in the two large safes that were kept in the store.

In 1922, the Eggs bought the store in Arneckeville from John Hans. At different times it was operated by Edwin Egg, Oscar Adickes, Oscar Egg and Ruben Thamm. After Edwin moved to Golly and Oscar Egg moved back to Meyersville, the property in Arneckeville was sold in the mid 1940's. When electricity became available in rural areas, the Meyersville Store provided the community with a fresh meat market and a meat cooler.

In 1946, the hardware/tin shop and the grocery/feed store were separated when ElRoy Luerssen bought the grocery/feedstore merchandise. A wall was built to separate the two businesses. The Post Office, tin shop and hardware store continued to be operated by twin brothers, Henry and Isaac Egg. Later, Willie C. Egg bought Mr. Luerssen's business. On February 1, 1965 it was sold to Arlen and Barbara Egg Mueller, who ran the business for eight years, after which Charles and Ruth (Egg) Moore bought it from the Muellers. On July 1, 1981, their son and his wife, Robert and M'Liss (Mueller) Moore bought the business.

In 1986, after the passing of Isaac and Henry Egg, the Egg Estate sold the hardware inventory also to the Moore's, and the partition wall was removed, so now it is one large store again.

The store that had been started by Isaac Egg as a small tin shop now is really like a museum with many old and interesting items on display, and at the same time, Isaac's descendants are carrying on the business of Great-grandfather, Isaac Egg.

by M'Liss Moore

KEESLER'S

B5

It was a cold day in February, 1946, when Joe and Bob Keesler completed negotiations with the Webb family to purchase the confectionary business located at 118 E. Main Street in Cuero. The name of the business was immediately changed to Keesler's. After a few months Joe became the sole owner of the business.

The building housing Keesler's was built on the west ½ of town lot 4, block 2, by Pedro (Peter) Alonso (sometimes known as Pedro Alonso Fernandez) in 1895. Records indicate that Peter Alonso was a most interesting person. He was born in the Kingdom of Spain but became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and had a family here. After the death of his first wife he returned to Spain to visit family and friends, and his second wife and two sons were in Spain. While in Spain Peter Alonso executed his Will, dated October 19, 1917, at which time he must have been approximately 70 years of age. Enroute back to the States he died, and was buried at sea on or about September 2, 1918. The Will became a problem. It was in Spain — and the family there was not about to release it to the courts here. It was several years before a certified copy could be obtained. He left his possessions in Spain to his family in Spain and his possessions in Texas to his family here.

Soon after purchasing the business Joe Keesler made many changes. His homemade ice cream became quite famous, and Bill Cunningham, formerly of Cuero but not in San Antonio, still has (1989) bus tours stop at Keesler's for what he calls the famous Keesler sodas. Joe added a record shop at the rear of the building, with two small listening and recording rooms. Records advanced from 78's to 45's to the long playing 33's, and, of course, record players, radios, and eventually TV's were added. The first colored television set, a Hoffman, was sold to Ann Cusack.

During those early years — late 40's and 50's — the store was open until 10:00 P.M. and was a "hangout" for youths as well as a convenient refreshment stop for theater goers. Many high school students worked part-time behind the fountain, and so many Hadamek girls worked there that we laughingly called it the "Hadamek Finishing School". Later, when the Hallmark girls came along, it was the 'Hallmark Finishing School."

After a time Joe felt the urge to serve hot meals — breakfast and lunch. He had to remodel. But first he had to purchase the building. After Peter Alonso's death the building had been acquired by the Graves family and in 1968 Joe purchased the building from a member of that family. The store was closed several weeks for extensive remodeling. The ceiling was lowered, new fountain and kitchen equipment was added, one front door replaced the original two doors, and for a teaser, a $1 bill was glued to the floor just inside the door. Fans, microwaves, microwave equipment and supplies were added to the merchandise line. Microwave cooking classes were held regularly, taught first by Mary Stratton and later by Hazel Coyle.

A reporter for the San Antonio Express who happened to eat lunch at Keesler's discussed the store at considerable length in his column, stating that it was the only place he had ever eaten where he could buy a TV or microwave oven while enjoying a good meal. He also warned visitors not to be fooled by the $1 bill on the floor.

Calvin Johnson became part of the establishment in 1972. He and Joe were a good pair and handled the early morning (6:00 A.M.) breakfast business without additional help. That was possible because customers served their own coffee, read their papers, and when they were ready to eat Joe would yell to Calvin "Fred's ready" (or whatever name applied). Calvin knew just what to prepare.

Only two cafes in DeWitt County were listed in the Best Country Cafes in Texas, published in 1983. Keesler's was one of them.

Keesler's served as football ticket headquarters for many years. There had been many "lean" football years in Cuero before Gilbreth's "Cinderella" team came along, and for those playoff games a long line of fans would be waiting for tickets when Joe unlocked the door at 6:00 A.M. Often coaches stayed to help sell tickets, and the camaraderie between coaches and fans was healthy and pleasant.

Keesler's was Joe Keesler's life. Children understood his gruffness and liked him. He taught many of them how to make change. Perhaps it was appropriate that he should die at the store. It happened July 29, 1988. The store is still owned by the Keesler family — Lytha, Vicki Jo (Coppedge) and Larry, but at the present time is leased to others.

The friendly atmosphere at Keesler's was unique for eating establishments. It was an atmosphere by "Main Street Joe" over a period of more than 40 years.

by Lytha Keesler

FIRST STATE BANK

B6

Yoakum, Texas

In the summer of 1931, Herbert Hoover had been in office two and one-half years as President of this country, and the Great Depression was at its lowest point. Banks and bankers were not among the best-loved people in the land, and it took some courage to organize a bank in those days. Some gentlemen, Mr. A.G. Hermann, Sr. among them, had that kind of courage and organized the First State Bank of Yoakum. Along with Mr. Hermann were Messrs. M.C. Parrish, C.B. Sullivan, and Durell Miller who are reflected in the stock record books as being among the original stockholders.

The First State Bank of Yoakum is successor to the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, 516 Lott Street, Yoakum, whose charter dated from 1917. The latest statement of condition of that bank available to us, which was 1930, shows deposits of $317,000 and loans $214,000; and the officers were Messrs. C.J. Huth, John Machac, E.J.A. Mertz, and Harry Thiele, Jr., all of whom are now deceased. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank reorganized under the name of First State Bank, Yoakum, Texas, moved to the familiar First State Bank location on the corner of Lott and West Grand in July, 1931 and remained in those quarters until January, 1969. The present structure was completed in 1969 and is a modern and attractive addition to the city.

The First State Bank originated and was accepted by the Department of Banking on June 27, 1931 with total assets under $150,000. Under stringent banking management and active participation in city, school and community activities, the small business steadily grew. The 1930's proved to be quite successful for the new bank as figures rose from $158,635.36 in December of 1931 under President M.C. Parrish, to December 1935 figures of $265,830.11 and December 1939 records showing $508.460.78. The latter two figures represent years under the direction of President A.G. Hermann, Sr. Closing figure on June 30, 1989, 58 years after the bank originated, were $59,130,782.59.

A.G. Hermann, Sr. served as President of the First State Bank during the 1930's until his death in 1970. He was succeeded by his son, A.G. Hermann, Jr. who served from 1970 to 1977. Under their direction were the talents of John Kvinta and his son, Charles J. Kvinta, who served as President from 1977 to 1986, and President Dennis O. Kutach state that their concept of "serving the people" is reflected in the helpful and friendly attitude of their employees. Both of these gentlemen, as others before them, have devoted many hours to help First State Bank fulfill this objective.

First State Bank has come a long way from the days of manual bookkeeping on ledger sheets for each customer; and as Chairman Hermann, III puts it,"using rocks as paperweights on stacks of checks that were being sorted so they didn't fly out the window during those hot summer months". Today's fully automated and computerized banking world would truly astound yesterday's banker. First State Bank has been "on computer" since 1972, simplifying and advancing every service that is offered to its customers. Some conveniences that the original First State Bank officials would never have imagined include: TransAct, the automatic teller machine, easily accessible 24 hours a day; credit cards, MasterCard and VISA; bank statements printed by computer; viewing up-to-the-minute information on fingertip on-line terminals; and they certainly wouldn't believe the "interest rates" and the long list of services that the bank offers.

The First State Bank is proud of the role it has played in the history of Yoakum. The Bank's motto, "First to Serve, First to help" has fared well through the years.

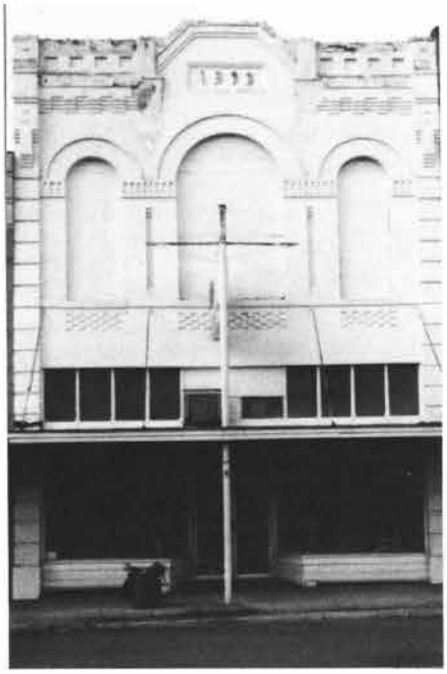
by Shirley Kocian

J. G. SHANKS.

The best Horseshoer in Cuero.
We do anything in the Blacksmith and Wheelwright line.
Your Patronage Appreciated.

ANDERS AUTO SUPPLIES

B7



1989 Anders Auto, Main St., Cuero

Anders Auto Supplies was established in 1921 by Oscar Anders. He and his brother, Eugene, worked together as principals. Eugene was the mechanic and welder and Oscar was in parts and service. They bought parts in quantities large enough to become parts jobbers. Emil Papacek, the brother-in-law of Oscar, joined them in 1929. "Pap" was an asset to the business until his stroke and death many years later.

In the thirties Oscar bought several trucks and started a route to surrounding towns, selling parts. A store was opened in Yoakum. Eugene was the manager. In 1935 Oscar moved to Cuero and opened his business at 105 E. Main Street, now Cuero Music Store. The first employed hired in Cuero was Lillian Ryan Shelton. In 1940 Emma Anders, his wife, became the bookkeeper.

During the war, sometime in the 1940's, Oscar opened an Electrical Supply and Appliance Store in Brenham. This was at the start of REA in that area. This store was operated by C.G. Whitte. The date the store was closed is unknown.

During the war Oscar opened a hardware store. He bought the building and several years later sold out his hardware and moved his automotive business there. This is where the present automotive business is now located.

The end of the war brought several changes. In November 1945, Dave Kauffman, husband of Corinne Anders, joined the organization. In January 1958 Oscar Anders retired and Dave bought the store. In 1969 Alan Kahlich, husband of Mr. Anders' oldest granddaughter, Mary C. Kauffman, joined the organization. In January 1986, Dave retired and Alan bought the store. In 1989 David Kahlich joined the organization with DECA. David, the only great grandson of Oscar Anders, became the fourth generation of the family to join Anders Auto Supplies.

by Mrs. Dave Kauffman

THE BASS BROTHERS STORES AND THE BASS SHOE STORE

B8

In 1913 the Bass brothers: John McMillan, James Lewis, and Paul Leon(my grandfather) opened the Bass Brothers dry goods store in Yoakum. My grandfather did not remain in the business for a very long period, but John and James Bass operated the store for more than two decades. In 1920 they bought the Graves dry goods store in Cuero paying for it with a suitcase full of cash (see Bass Family History). The store in Cuero was located on Main Street in the Graves Building.

Some stationery for the store survives and it indicates that the store was "the one price quality store" with resident buyers in Yoakum, Cuero, and New York. The store sold clothing for men and women including shoes and hats along with rugs, linoleums, window shades, and some furniture. There was a central office up near the ceiling in the middle of the store. Purchases, sales slips, and cash were sent up there in baskets riding on wires, checked by the cashier, wrapped, and returned in the basket to the starting point and turned over to the customer with whatever change was coming.

For many years the store was very successful, employing a dozen or more people. The Bass brothers made semiannual train trips to New York, the principal market for high style ready-to-wear for ladies. The Bass Brothers store, however, along with the rest of Cuero, was keenly affected by the depression and the consequent closing of the Runge Bank. The Cuero store closed in 1935. The Yoakum store remained open until 1941.

My father, F. Myron Bass, Sr., had been employed in the Cuero store since his graduation from Southwestern University in 1922. After the Bass Brothers store in Cuero closed in 1935, he opened the Bass Shoe Store at 108 East Main Street in Cuero. The initial capital required to start the store was $2,000 in borrowed funds. The store featured shoes manufactured by the Brown Shoe Company including Buster Brown shoes for children. Many styles in adult shoes sold for $2.98, and the most expensive shoes in the store sold for $4.95.

The business succeeded despite the depressed state of the economy in Cuero. Generations of Cuero families acquired their shoes there. Around 1940 the store was air conditioned, the first store in Cuero to have this feature. My father operated the store until 1966.

by Frank M. Bass

B. SCHIWETZ,
FIRE INSURANCE.
Strong Companies.
Safe Policies.
Prompt Adjustment of Losses.
Call on him at the bank of Runge & Co. when you have anything to insure.
COTTON GINS A SPECIALTY.

JANK BOTTLING WORKS

B9

Traugott Jank and Caroline (Jonischkies) with Jank soda pop bottles

Traugott Jank (1866-1952)

Yoakum, Texas

In late 1912 or early 1913, Traugott Jank purchased equipment from Ernest Hagens, moved it to his property on Hickey Street and Jank Bottling Works was established. It was a one-man operation, but produced many delightful memories for those who recall enjoying the root beer, orange, lemon, grape, strawberry and cola flavors that were produced. In those days, the beverage was referred to as "soda pop" due to the distinct popping sound made as the bottles were opened.

The bottling equipment was housed in a small building with a loft or partial second floor at the rear of the building where Traugott would mix his syrup. The various flavors were mixed as needed and the syrup was then gravity fed to the bottling machine which was located directly under the loft. This machine was hand-operated . . . a hand lever controlled the amount of syrup and carbonated water that went into the bottle. The bottle was then moved by hand to another part of the machine and a foot pedal was used to cap it . . . one bottle at a time. Then, again by hand, each bottle was placed into a case of twenty-four (6 oz.) bottles.

Jank first used a spring wagon and a horse to deliver his soda pop around Yoakum. Later, he delivered in a ½ ton Model-T Ford pick-up truck. Finally, he was said to have had a flat-bed* truck to deliver his carbonated beverages.

The "empties" were brought back to the bottling works for cleaning in semi-automatic bottle washer. The bottles were fed into the back by hand and came out the front clean.

Jank Soda Pop sold for a nickel a bottle during this first quarter of the twentieth century. It was sold wholesale for 80¢/case of 24 bottles.

One family story that cannot be confirmed, is that Traugott Jank paid a fine for putting saccharin in his soda pop. If he had been in operation a few more years, he could have made a fortune with this idea. However, in the fall of 1927, the building burned and the equipment inside was charred beyond repair and had to be "junked". The crowning blow came when a gentleman bought the remaining soda pop bottles by check and it bounced. This gentleman was not from the area and could never be located.

Thus ended 15 years of one small, but still remembered business in the history of

*one ton.

by Mrs. Paul Jank

YORKTOWN NEWS

B10

James Walton Blanton (9/2/1873 – 2/13/1941) was born at Glenfawn, Rusk County, Texas. As a young man he learned the printing trade and in 1895 he acquired the Yorktown Weekly News which had been in publication for a short time under Mr. Staples. In 1902, after selling the News to William Hausmann, Blanton founded the Nordheim View, publishing that paper until November 1, 1938.

William Hausmann (12/11/1837 – 5/12/1914) was born at Besingfeld, Lippe-Detmold, Germany and came to Texas in 1848. The family settled on a farm at Meyersville. After Civil War service in Sibley's Brigade and later under General Green in Louisiana, Mr. Hausmann returned to Meyersville and established a general merchandise store at Clinton. He moved to Cuero in 1873 and built the first business house of Main Street. In 1892 he moved to Runge, then in 1898 moved to Yorktown. Four years later, he bought the Yorktown News from Mr. Blanton. He continued publication of the news until 1912, when he sold it to G.R. Beckham.

The paper applied for its telephone in mid 1912 and received phone number 143. On August 22, 1912, the paper celebrated its eighteenth birthday and began its nineteenth volume. At that time, the subscription price was $1.00 per year. Later in 1912 the paper published an advertisement offering a Chicago Stop Cylinder press and an old style Gordon 8x12 jobber press for sale. These had been in use up to June 1, 1912. By May 22, 1913 a Babcock Reliance press had been installed and remained in operation until a Goss Cox-O-Type press was installed. The issue of December 15, 1971 was the first to be printed on this Goss press.

On February 27, 1913 the News moved into a new building leased from Mrs. Strieber and located on South Church Street just north of the Yorktown Lumber Yard. Construction was done by Contractor H.R. Gohlke. This building is still occupied by the Yorktown News.

In May, 1914 the News installed a paper folder. An article published on May 7 of that year stated that the paper then had a "fairly well equipped print shop, the one thing lacking

The Yorktown News

being a modern typesetting machine." Mr. Beckham had previously observed of an intertype machine in operation at Runge and a Linotype machine was acquired later. The paper folder continued until early 1912, when a new Sidney folder was ordered. This folder attached to the press and was capable of folding up to twelve pages.

The News's statement of ownership as of April 1, 1915 showed the Editor, Managing Editor, Business Manager and Publisher to be G.R. Beckham. Mrs. Wm. Hausmann was listed as holding some "bonds, mortgages or other securities". The November 18, 1920 edition listed G.R. Beckham as Editor and Publisher and Paul A. Schmidt as Associate Editor.

Mr. Beckham operated the newspaper until June 1, 1951, when he relinquished control to Glenn Orville Beckham and to F.M. Pieper, who had been associated with the News for some years as a linotype operator.

Glenn O. Beckham (11/6/22 – 3/5/55), a native Yorktowner, studied journalism at the University of Texas until 1942, when he enlisted in the Air Corps. After his discharge in 1946, he joined the staff of the Yorktown News.

The June 7, 1951 issue of the News listed F.M. Pieper and G.O. Beckham as Publishers; F.M. Pieper, Editor; G.O. Beckham, Advertising and Business Manager; Eleanor Beckham, Circulation Manager; Joe Pieper Social Events Editor.

After Glenn Beckham's unexpected and untimely death, Fred and Jo Pieper bought Mrs. Eleanor Beckham's interest in the News and became sole owners. The staff was composed of Mrs. Emily Iris Showalter, office assistant, Miss Helen Gips, make-up and job printing, assisted by Bruce A. Beckham, who also was Mr. Pieper's understudy on the linotype.

On April 15, 1966 Mr. Pieper retired and sold the News to Lee Roy Griffin junior and Jo Ann Griffin. Mr. Griffin had joined the News staff in 1955, mastering all phases of the industry.

Every shop has its accidents and the least these can do is to waste time. Mr. Griffin referred to one of these in a brief article in the April 26, 1972 issue:

"After operating a linotype machine for the past 16 years, I got careless shortly after 9 PM Tuesday and got one of my fingers on my left hand smashed following a foul-up on the machine when I was attempting to fix it. After we got the bleeding to stop and the finger wrapped up, I found it difficult to operate with the bunged up finger, but did manage to get most of the copy set for this week's paper. Some items, however, did not get set and we may be a little later with the paper this week, but hope you will bear with us."

Whether this incident had anything to do with a future decision is questionable, but the fact is that the Griffins decided to keep up with progress and change from linotype to offset. They purchased a Compugraphic Execuwriter II from the Shiner Gazette to set all straight matter and a few ads. Then in September, 1979 a Compuwriter Jr. was purchased and put into use in December, 1979.

On June 6, 1987 the Yorktown News started using the computer system and purchased the necessary equipment including two Macintosh plus computers, two 800 K drives and connectors, a Laser Plus printer, along with a regular Apple computer printer, toner cartridge and two pagemakers. A Xerox copier was added in December, 1987.

In the last ten years the News has grown from a six or eight page paper to a weekly 12-20 page publication.

The News has received numerous meritorious service awards, including DeWitt County Soil & Water Conservation Newspaper Award (1977), Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Distinguished Service Award (1979), Honorary Chapter Farmer, Yorktown Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month, VFW Service Award, National Safety Council Defensive Driving Award, and others.

Due to the cost of supplies, printing and postage, the yearly subscription rate has had to be steadily increased. It was once $1.00 per year. By 1952 it was $2.50 in DeWitt and adjoining counties and $3.00 elsewhere. By July, 1970 the price had risen to $3.00 per year locally and $3.50 elsewhere. Six years later it was $4.00 and $4.50. Effective March 1, 1982 the rate went to $7.00 in county and $8.00 elsewhere. In December 1985 the rate became $7.36 in county and $8.41 elsewhere, including taxes. In 1988 the in-county rate became $10.50, the out-of-county rate rose to $11.50 and the out-of-state rate was $12.50.

Unfortunately the issues of the News from its founding until 1912 have been lost. However, future losses of this nature are being guarded against. All of the back issues of the paper are being microfilmed, thus insuring greater permanence and a definite saving in storage space.

In 1966 when Lee Roy Griffin, Jr. and his wife bought the paper, Lee Roy was the youngest Editor in Texas.

by Lee Roy Griffin

GRIFFIN'S TINY MARKET

B11

Gus Hengst opened a grocery store and filling station in March 1939 north of Yorktown where the Rogge Gin was located at 731 N. Riedel St., Yorktown,, Texas. The establishment was called Midway Service Station.

In 1942 Mr. Hengst sold the business to Albert Bartram who operated it until August 1943, when Lee Roy Griffin, Sr. purchased the business. Soon after purchasing the business Mr. Griffin changed the name from Midway Service Station to Griffin's Grocery and then in the late 1950s to Griffin's Tiny Market.

When Lee Roy and his wife, Meta (Hengst) Griffin, operated the store they offered a full service station, groceries, beer and soda water and later they added fresh meats and produce. During the 1940s and 1950s they sponsored a butcher club where members took turns each week butchering a cow for fresh meat.

Mr. Griffin's motto was "If we ain't got it, we'll get it". Lee Roy and Meta made a lot of friends in operating the business for 36 years. They helped many a person through many rough times.

Due to Mr. Griffin's untimely death on July 4, 1979, their son, Lee Roy, Jr. and wife, Josephine Ann (Jo Ann) (Warzecha) Griffin, bought the business effective August 1, 1979. They continued running the business until August 1985 when they decided to close it due to the demands of their other business, The Yorktown News.

The building was leased to the Assembly of God Church in 1987 and then to Gary Boldt and Debbie Krause as B&K Tiny Market for several months at the end of 1988.

The building is now vacant and is up for sale or lease.

by Lee Roy Griffin, Jr.

GIPS T.V.

B12

Gips T.V., originally called, Gips & Leggett, was owned and operated by Clifton E. Gips and W.R. (Ray) Leggett and started business in May, 1946. The business was purchased from H.B. Caddell and was located in the Brueggman Building on Esplanade St. In May of 1947, Clif and Ray bought the adjacent building from Means Furniture store, the present site of Gips T.V., 211 N. Esplanade. Mr. Means moved his furniture store across the street into a building (the Flick Bldg.) and is the present site of Means Furniture.

Prior to this business venture, Clif and Ray had both served in the Armed Services. Clif was in Personnel Services in the Army and stationed at Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, Calif. Ray was in the 5th Air Force Division – Squadron 240 and was stationed in the South Pacific – New Guinea. He was an electronics operator. After the Peace Treaty with Japan was signed and World War II was over they both returned to Cuero, Ray in Nov. of 1945 and Clif in April of 1946.

The business began as a small Radio and Appliance Service Store. At this time T.V. was becoming more popular and affordable and they started selling Philco, Zenith and Motorola, T.V.'s. To get any kind of reception you had to have an antenna and they installed these. Stereos, sewing machines, cabinets, and other small appliances were added.

In 1972, because of a serious illness, Ray sold his share of the business to Clif and Grace Gips. The continued to run the store and in 1975 their son, Don, joined them as the service manager. Don had completed his Naval Training, graduated from Southwest Texas in San Marcos, and had two years of T.V. electrical training at the Univ. of Corpus Christi. (See C.E. Gips story).

Don is married to Antranette Shull, they have two sons, Doak Ross Gips and Clinton C. Henderson. In 1982, Don and his wife bought the business from Don's parents. Clif is semi-retired but continues to go t the store and does repair service on small appliances and sewing machines.

Don loves golf and is active in the Cuero Golf Assn and the Cuero Country Club golf tournaments. He likes football and baseball and is an avid drag-racing fan. Nette is an Aide at John C. French Elem. School. The Gips' are happy to have been a part of Cuero these many years and appreciate our many friends and customers who have helped make our business a success.

by Grace L. Gips

J. M. REUSS, M. D. J. H. REUSS, M. D
DRS. REUSS & REUSS
Offer their professional services us
Physicians and Surgeons
to the citizens of Cuero and vicinity
Office over J. M. Reuss' Drugstore.

WAGNER HARDWARE

B13

The hardware store presently known as Wagner Hardware was established in 1890 by R.C. Warn. The succeeding owners were Hutchings and Bates. Mr. Bates was the nephew of Mrs. Warn; while Mr. Hutchings was the nephew of Mr. Warn. The two nephews worked for Mr. Warn and after his death they became owners of the store. In 1945, Walter (Bully) Wagner and Faye Wagner purchased the business from the LeGalley estate.

It is the oldest continuously operated hardware store in Cuero and one of the oldest in the state. Newcomers and visitors often remark "A real hardware store" and "Just like old times".

Bob Wagner joined his mother in the management of the store after his father's death in 1957. They continued to offer their customers service, quality, and availability of hard to find items.

A third generation joined the business in 1977 when Reed graduated from college and returned to the store to continue a family tradition.

by Bob Wagner

MUSTANG MOTT STORE

B14

Midway between Cuero and Westhoff on Highway 87, Mustang Mott store is located, near a mott of live oak trees. Mustang Mott consists of a store, a saloon and a gas station. Our knowledge of history on the store is taken back to the owner of Herman Boethel. The previous owner was Berthold Hillen, but unable to find any dates on their ownership.

Mustang Moss was purchased by Dorothy E. (Kahlich) Pakebusch on June 19, 1944, while her husband Paul was serving in the U.S. Marines. Both Dorothy and Paul were residents of DeWitt County for their entire lives. Dorothy passed away July 24, 1973 followed by Paul on July 6, 1982. They made the store their life for 42 years.

Mustang Mott was a very friendly place to be. It was either a daily or weekly meeting place for many people of the community to play dominoes, cards, or just get together and talk. Dorothy and Paul never knew a stranger. They opened their home to anyone and everyone. They helped many people passing through to reach their destination by giving them food and gas, as well as a place to rest and relax.

After Paul passed away, preceded by the death of his wife Dorothy, the store was willed to their sons, Garland and Robert Pakebusch. Garland and his family reside in Cuero, while Robert and his family reside in Yoakum. The two brothers decided to sell the store. The store was then sold to Chuck and Ruby Morton in 1983 to the present.

The history behind the name of Mustang Mott is significant to a clump of live oak trees that stand to the west of the store, where a large drove of wild horses sought their protection from the heat of the summer and cold of winter. Also the wagon trains that hauled freight from Indianola to San Antonio used this area as a rest stop under the mott of trees.

Mustang Mott was the site for many Bar-B-Ques and a stopping place for the Rawhide Riders on the trip to San Antonio on the trail ride.

by Nita Pakebusch

KATIE'S DRESS SHOP

B15

In December of 1946, Katie Turek bought Vlasta's Dress Shop in Yorktown from Vlasta Frels. She changed the name to Katie's Dress Shop. Katie bought the shop in order to support herself and her two daughters after the death of her husband, Albert J. Turek. She had prior experience in the retail business from working as a salesperson at B.A. Goodfriends and Nau's Dry Goods Store.

When Katie's opened it was located in a building on the south side of the 100 block of Main Street. The store remained at that location for twenty years. In the beginning Katie's Dress Shop actually covered the space in two buildings, but later the floor space was reduced and it was nestled next to The York theatre.

Katie's Dress Shop has always catered to the missy customer, but has also tried to provide youthful styles so that many junior customers could find sportswear, lingerie and accessories to suit their needs. The store has provided quality ready-to-wear at fair prices for women in Yorktown and the surrounding communities.

In the spring of 1961, Katie decided she no longer wanted the responsibility of doing the buying and the bookkeeping for the shop and she wanted to liquidate. Her daughter, Patty (Turek) Swenson, who had been in merchandising at Foley's in Houston before her marriage, expressed an interest in continuing the business. In July 1961, Patty and her sister, Shirley Turek, formed a partnership and purchased the business from their mother. Katie continued in the shop as resident manager and salesperson while Patty began performing the buying and bookkeeping from her home in Austin. Shirley, who lives in Wharton, has bee a relatively silent partner, but has helped in various capacities during store sales and the holiday season.

Katie's Dress Shop moved to the north side of Main Street when the Hinsey building was remodeled in 1965. This move tripled the floor space of the shop and provided a more modern facility for its customers.

Although Katie's Dress Shop has had a number of valuable part time employees over the years, Katie herself has stayed in the store much of the time. In fact, Patty discovers when she is working in the store that there is frequently disappointment when customers walk in and Katie is not there. Men customers like it when she knows their wives' sizes and women like the relaxed atmosphere in which they can shop and visit with an old friend.

by Patty T. Swenson

Breeden Bros.
GROCERS
Cuero, Texas

CUERO JEWELRY SHOP

B16

Cuero Jewelry Shop, on the first block of West Main Street, was owned by Jacob Alvarado from 1920 to about 1970. It was located behind the Buchel Bank. The two-story building was also occupied by Albert Fey's photography studio and by attorney, George Schleicher.

Jacob Alvarado had come to Cuero fleeing the Mexican Revolution of 1918. He was working in San Antonio when he heard there was a need for a watchmaker in Cuero. Working with him at the beginning was his young cousin, Frank Martinez, who later opened his own jewelry shop in Yorktown; and later he also owned all the original jukeboxes placed in businesses through south Texas. When his two sons, Gilbert and Robert, were growing up, Mr. Alvarado taught them watch repair as well, and they would help in the shop. He was taught his trade in Mexico by a watchmaker from Switzerland.

It was necessary to diversify during the depression years. Mr. Alvarado also sold and repaired Singer sewing machines, Victrolas, phonographs and music boxes. He carried the latest hits in phonograph records in both English and Spanish. Customers would listen to the records before purchasing. During the 1930s and 1940s, there were a lot of people milling around and walking on the downtown Cuero sidewalks, especially on Saturday nights. The people came in from "the country" to do their shopping and for recreation. Farm families enjoyed coming into the store on Saturdays to listen to their favorite records. Regular customers could buy their watches and jewelry on credit and could later also trade them in for a finer watch or ring. It was a known fact that Mr. Alvarado would loan money to those in need never expecting to be repaid.

In the 1930s on Sunday mornings after church, Mr. Alvarado would load a sewing machine, a phonograph, records and parts onto a small platform on the rear of his Dodge car. The family of 5 would drive on country roads visiting farm families to try to make sales. Sometimes, the Uresti ranch and grandparents in Nursery, near Victoria, would be visited on these Sunday outings. The return drive back to the "city" and 401 West French Street would be after dark.

In the 1940s, business bustled in Cuero during World War II when an airfield was established for the training of Army Air Force cadets. The cadets would come into town on Saturdays. There were two movie theaters in Cuero on Main Street. At this time, Cuero Jewelry Shop was distributor for Zenith products, record players and radios. No television at that time.

When the Alvarado family bought a house in southeast San Antonio, near downtown, in 1947, Mr. Alvarado commuted by bus to San Antonio every weekend after closing the shop on Saturday nights. He also had Port Lavaca Jewelry Shop at the De Leon Red and White Store on South Main Street in Port Lavaca during this period. With the introduction of battery-operated watches, watchmaking as a trade may soon be a thing of the past. Because of his age and ill health, Mr. Alvarado closed his shop in the 1970s. He died at the age of 86 in February 24, 1979, in San Antonio, Texas. His wife, Maclovia, 90, still resides in San

Antonio and also his three children, Gilbert, Robert and Lois. Gilbert is owner of Alamo Furniture Company on 2916 Nogalitos Street in San Antonio.

by Lois Alvarado Cilfone

DEWITT COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

B17

Prior to the formation of DeWitt County Electric Cooperative very few of the rural folks of our area had electric service. And, chances of them ever getting central station electric service were very slim. Area cities and investor-owned utilities just were not interested in extending electric service to the sparsely populated rural areas. Our area was not unique, most rural American were without electric service.

Seeing the need for a way to get electric power to the rural area, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 7037 establishing the REA. A year the Rural Electrification Act, co-authored by Representative Sam Rayburn, was passed and the lending program that became the REA got under way.

In the late 30's across the nation electric cooperatives were being formed. In September of 1938 a group of rural citizens from our area met at the DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero and laid the ground work for DeWitt County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Twelve men were selected from the group to serve as incorporating directors. Each incorporating board member was to represent four school districts as there were 48 school districts in DeWitt County at that time.

After the September meeting it became the responsibility of the twelve incorporating directors to go back to their respective districts and try to contact everyone in their district to sign a membership application and pay a $5.00 membership fee. This was not an easy job. What was promised was so new and unexpected and something too good to believe. Some were suspicious of the whole thing. Others thought that to sign an application was giving a mortgage on their farms to pay the loans the board members were wanting to receive from the REA, and had to be convinced that this was not the case. The few that had Delco or gas lighting systems wanted to postpone joining until these were worn out or else to trade them in for wiring, etc.

The incorporating directors were Thos Shults – Cuero, R.D. Westphal – Yorktown, C.T. Matthew – Stratton, J.F. Elder – Cheapside, Albert Roth – Concrete, Louis Stapelfeldt – Hochheim Prairie, Henry Morisse – Cotton Patch, H.O. Angerstein – Meyersville, A.E. Schorlemer – Clinton, Joe Wishkaemper – Gruenau, W.F. Kahlich – Mustang Mott, and F.W. Schorlemer – Garfield. The incorporating directors and other members spent days on end going from farm to farm trying to convince their neighbors that the cooperative concept was a good think for all of them.

The incorporation board hired Mr. T.O. Buchel as their coordinator (Acting Manager). Mr. Buchel with the help of the Cuero Mayor J.T. Newman, got the Cooperative its first wholesale power contract from the Lower Colorado River Authority.

With enough memberships signed to make a loan application to REA, the first loan application was submitted. In March of 1939, the Cooperative's A Section Loan was granted, for the sum of $172,000, to construct 230 miles of line to serve 450 members. Construction began that summer with the first members near Cuero receiving power for Christmas, 1939. In October, 1939, the B Section Loan was approved, followed by the C Section Loan in 1940. The Cooperative enjoyed steady growth until WWII at which time load funds were cut, materials were very limited, and the Cooperative growth came almost to a complete stand still.

It was during the war years that everyone could see just what electric power could and was doing to overcome the shortage of manpower on the farms. Everyone was ready to sign a membership and application for service from the Cooperative. In 1945 the Cooperative began to grow and applications began to come in from neighboring counties. The post-war years and the decade of the 50's were a time of rapid growth for the Cooperative. The basic backbone for our distribution system was built during this time. In 1954, the present headquarters building, warehouse, and pole yard were constructed at 909 E. Broadway, Cuero, Texas.

During the 60's, continued growth, and the membership addition of more applications and electrical load to the Cooperative system, kept us busy uprating our lines and services. Electricity was cheap. The agricultural and national economy were good and the Cooperative was again growing up leaps and bounds.

The 70's brought the energy crisis, and higher rates for electricity. Conservation and efficient use of energy became everyday words. Wholesale rates kept increasing, but our Cooperative continued to grow.

The past eight years of the 80's have brought still further change. The economy has slowed the Cooperative growth. Today we are striving for efficiency-cutting line losses, lowering outage time, and implementing a load management program (Peak Time Intermission) to get a better handle on wholesale power cost.

The Cooperative began an aggressive capital credit rotation program in 1980 with the goal of attaining a twenty year cycle in the rotation of capital credits in 1990. As of 1988 the Cooperative has returned $447,731.48 in capital credits to the membership. The goal of reaching a twenty year cycle is now very close and should be reached in the next two years. The next few years should also bring the completion of our remodeling of the Cooperative headquarter facilities as well as the distribution system with pole change-outs – with some poles being originals installed in 1939.

The challenges that faced the twelve incorporating directors were unique, but the board of directors of our Cooperative have always been faced with challenge, and will remain the case in the future. Whenever you own and operate your own business and are not faced with challenge, you are not doing anything.

Over the past 50 years, 69 different members have served on the Board of Directors.

Since the incorporating boards hiring of Mr. Buchel as our coordinator in 1938, we've had three General Managers, Charlie Beck, 1938-1945, Fain McDougal, 1945-1980, and Jim Springs, 1981 to present.

Our Cooperative now serves in excess of 6080 meters over 2043 miles of line. We serve members in DeWitt and six adjoining counties. We're a $15,000,000 business with 37 employees.

by Fain McDougal

DeWitt County Electric Co-op 1989

DOLL HOUSE

B18

"Cuero's Favorite Meet and Eat Place", better known as the Doll House, was started by Mr. Rollie Brantley and his brothers. One of Mr. Brantley's brothers, Mule, bought it from a man named Shorty Tucker, an ex-jockey, for a whole twenty-five dollars. After the sale was completed, the Brantley brothers discovered Shorty Tucker still owed the original owner twenty-five dollars, so they had to pay a total of fifty dollars for the future Doll House.

Doll House 1935

Originally Mr. Raymond Cook built the Doll House, known then a Spanish Gardens. The first location was twenty feet back toward Brantley's Service Station. At this time the cafe was just a small place – 18X10 or seven foot square. It had one dining room and two tables.

When the Brantley brothers purchased "Spanish Gardens" from Mr. Tucker, the building was approximately twelve feet square and had a counter in front of it. The customers would walk up to the front of the building and their food would be served through an open window, something similar to the "old hamburger stands." In May of 1935, Rollie Brantley graduated from high school and decided to take over the operation of the cafe. At this time the "meet and eat place" had a two burner stove and a grill. The eating places of this day served mainly hamburgers and Coca-Cola. Just as the Cokes were kept cold, so was the hamburger meat. The hamburger patties were kept in Coca-Cola boxes on ice.

The question of a name came up so Mr. Brantley put an ad in the Cuero Record – prize to be five dollars – for the best name. Polly Howerton's idea of a name was chosen – The Doll House – because the building was so little.

The Mr. Brantley decided to remodel his cafe. He wanted the "new" cafe to be back further from the road so the customers could park in the front. One morning, however, when he came to survey the new beginning, Rollie found a concrete slab next door laid near the road so his "new" building needed to match that slab. That's why there is no parking in front of the Doll House today.

The menu of the Doll House then, as compared to today, contained a couple of the same items, but the prices show no comparison. The first plate lunch was 35¢; the hamburgers were a nickel and Coca-Cola and chewing gum were always a nickel. In the early 1930's beer was sold at 15¢ a bottle or two for 25¢. During World War II, Mr. Brantley could get about thirty to forty steaks at a time. At this time Brayton Air Base in Cuero housed quite a few Cadets, and on Saturdays, they would come to eat at the Doll House and before Mr. Brantley could get started for the day, all his T-bone steaks were gone.

There were no cafeterias or fast food places so all the students came to eat at the Doll House during lunch on school days. Mr. Brantley made sure there were plenty of hamburgers and cokes for the students. The kids used to sit in booths that had varnished wood-top tables. A favorite pasttime while eating lunch, was to carve their initials in the wood tops. As the years went by so many students carved their initials that the tops became too rough to even set a drinking glass on. Mr. Brantley decided to refinish the table tops and also had the idea of an initial board. In each booth he hung a board on a chain so the students could carve their initials on that. He said no one ever touched the tops with a knife again! Occasionally someone would enjoy the initial board so much, they took it with them. Mr. Brantley just hung up another one for a new set of initials.

All of the changes at the Doll House have taken place in a span of forty-eight years. Many people have eaten at the Doll House; people stopping as they drove through Cuero, such as salesmen and politicians. Even the Lone Ranger of the radio, who at that time was sixty five or seventy years old, stopped in and ate. As Mr. Brantley states: "The place is more of an institution than a business – everybody comes back to the Doll House!"

by Russell White

CITY MEAT MARKET

B19

The City Meat Market of Yoakum, Texas is presently located at 518-24 Lott Street occupying two buildings that were constructed by 1910 by S.A. Carnes. The meat market was originally established in 1921 at 520 Lott by Emil Herder and Otto Colle, in the building that previously housed the National Drug Store. In 1923 it was sold to Ed and Ernest Steinmann and B. Flint. The Steinmanns gave their interest in it to Mr. Flint in 1925 and he remained in business for some time. Mr. Grover Harrell also owned the meat market sometime before 1928.

City Meat Mkt. Yoakum, Tx 1985

In 1928 Charles B. Kaiser acquired the business and soon after, his brother, L.W. Kaiser, became his partner. They bought live cattle, mostly beef, also hogs and sheep and had them slaughtered at Thiele's Slaughter House about a mile west of Yoakum. They cooked BBQ and sold it at the back of the building, mostly for working men; ladies did not eat there. Market employees served as waiters.

In 1934 Kermit M. Thiele, L.W. Kaiser's brother-in-law, bought the meat market. He continued the business as it was, plus curing ham and bacon and making beef and pork sausage.

L.H. "Big" Kaiser, L.W. Kaiser's son, owned and operated the meat market from 1944 until 1948, continuing Mr. Thiele's operation.

In February, 1948, Leslie C. Kaiser, "Big's" brother, and R.M. Hagan bought the City Meat Market. Leslie C. Kaiser was manager of the business until 1983, when he became sole owner. In 1952 a walk-in freezer was installed, adding processing of fresh beef, pork and lamb for home freezers. In 1962 the adjoining building at 518 Lott was leased from the Carnes Estate and the retail meat business was moved to this location, and a BBQ Restaurant was added with a lunch menu and two waitresses; so that ladies could also enjoy the BBQ. This building, also constructed about 1910 by S.A. Carnes, had previously housed a domino hall managed by Claude Hoover and the Texas Bar and Cafe owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Zacharias and later owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd O'Neill.

In 1971 the City Meat Market acquired the building on the other side of the original building, which is 524 Lott, the corner building. This building, we believe, always housed a grocery business – The Farmer's Co-op, Witte and Wunderlich, Neely Brothers, Neely and Dickinson and finally E.E. Dickinson Grocery. The meat market also expanded to include a line of groceries. At the same time, the meat market applied for and was granted the status of Meat Inspection Plant No. 245.

In 1973 Floyd Dickinson leased the front part of the building at 518 Lott Street and moved his Barber Shop there. He and Mr. Otis Hermes cut hair there until Mr. Hermes retired about 1984, and Mr. Dickinson still is in business there.

In 1974 the plant was partially destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and opened for business as usual, three months later.

Now the meat market consists of a wholesale and retail meat market, state inspected, a BBQ Restaurant and a grocery store. The market specializes in country style pork, beef and head sausage, weiners, boneless ham and dry cured bacon. The restaurant specializes in real pit

BBQ and side dishes with full service. The business employs fifteen people, and has been in the Kaiser Family for 57 years, spanning three generations since Paul Ross Kaiser, Leslie's son, is now owner of the business, since Leslie's retirement in 1-89.

by Leslie C. Kaiser

FIFTEEN MILE TELEPHONE COMPANY

B20

The Fifteen Mile Telephone Company did not run on computers. In November of 1913, a group of neighbors in the Upper Meyersville area of DeWitt County met to form a group of "rules" for the telephone company. According to the minutes of the meeting, it was motioned and seconded by all members that if any person wanted to join the Fifteen Mile Telephone Company, they must pay twenty dollars. They would also have to "stand" his own expense and build his own line to the main line. The payment he makes is to join the line. After the person has paid the sum of twenty dollars and has built his own line to the main line, he is considered a full member.

These minutes of the phone company were kept by Michael J. Bluntzer who was the secretary. The next entry was entitled, "Not to move the Line". "If any one of the members should happen to get angry or contrary against the Fifteen Mile Telephone Company and would want them to move the line off his land, a deal like that should not be lawful. The line should stay where it was built." If all members agree please sign here! Signed: J. Gregorzcyk, Louis Migura, L.C. Bluntzer, A. Jendry, M.J. Bluntzer, August Duderstadt, J.A. Moeller, Peter Bomba, and J.B. Arnold.

On November 30, 1913, three directors were elected: Louis Migura, Adam Gentry, and Joe Gregorzcyk. They were elected "for the purpose to keep the line in good shape." If the line was broken or down, the directors were supposed to fix it.

August 15, 1914 said that by a vote of all members of the company, August Duderstadt and Peter Bomba had become full members. They also agreed that if any of the sub-lines were ruined or out of order, all members should help fix them and pay "pro-rata" on expenses.

April 26, 1920, L.C. Bluntzer, Louis Migura, P. Bomba, Tom Jendry, Joe Gregorzcyk, Adam Jendry, M.J. Bluntzer and Aug. Duderstadt each contributed 25¢ for some unstated purpose.

On April 1, 1928, J.B. Arnold paid twenty dollars for a membership on the line and on April 4, 1928, Adam Jendry and Otto Bluntzer got some materials.

On August 6, 1934, a meeting was held and the following were present. J.B. Arnold, L.C. Bluntzer, Adam Jendry, Peter Bomba, B. Danish and M.J. Bluntzer.

Motioned and carried that each member pay two dollars for repairs. They had a balance of five dollars and ninety five cents. When the two dollars per person was added they had a balance of seventeen dollars and ninety five cents. Mr. R.S. Bammert added another two dollars.

On November 9, 1938 when the balance on hand was six dollars and forty cents, Philip Jendry, Adam Jendry, Wm. Westhoff, L.C. Bluntzer and M.J. Bluntzer had bills for various repairs. Each member contributed two dollars and ninety five cents so they could pay the company bills.

The last date entered in the minute book was for September 13, 1944. Bell Telephone Company came to Meyersville but they wouldn't use the lines of Fifteen Mile Telephone Company and insisted the people buy the lines from them. Some of the members were very bitter about this. They resisted Bell Telephone for a long time and continued to maintain their own lines.

by Virginia Fetters

SOEHNGE DO IT CENTER

B21

Soehnge Do-It Center

J. Lee Fawcett Lbr. Co.

Soehnge Do-It Center, formerly J. Lee Fawcett Lumber Co., located at 408 West Grand, Yoakum, Texas, was begun in 1947 by J. Lee Fawcett. The business was run by him until his death in February 1968. Ownership was then taken over by his daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Charles Soehnge.

For many years the company has specialized in custom-built homes. Both Lee and Charles have drawn plans for numerous Yoakum homes.

The business has been remodeled and expanded many times through the years. The business joined HWI, a member owned co-op in 1982, in order to offer an expanded line of products at a better price. The Do It Center concept is a result of this association.

An extensive remodeling was begun in March 1985. The new concept emphasizes products for the do-it-yourself customer. Lumber and building products are still available also. The grand opening for the newly remodeled and renamed business was held October 3, 4 and 5 of 1985.

The owners decided to change the name to Soehnge Do-It Center to fit the new image and because of the association of their sons, Charles Lee and David with the business.

by Judith (Fawcett) Soehnge

HERBERT'S TAILOR SHOP

B22

Bennie Klaevemann and Aaron Gips in front of tailor shop in Nordheim. 1930's

Nordheim, Texas

In 1929 Herbert Klaevemann purchased a cleaning and pressing business from Clarence Riedel, known as the City Tailor Shop. The shop was renamed and called Herbert's Tailor Shop. In 1930 Edwin C. Klaevemann purchased the tailor shop from his brother, Herbert. Edwin operated the business until 1935, then sold it to Clarence Riedel, the original proprietor.

by Alfrieda Huck

THE PEEBLES-ALEXANDER RANCH

B23

Lying on the west bank of the Guadalupe River in northwest DeWitt Co., the Peebles-Alexander Ranch consists of the Churchill Fulcher League of land plus parts of the John Harwood Survey and a bit of the Graves Fulcher. The abstract on this land makes interesting reading and gives insights on the trials of the family which has lived here for the past one hundred and forty years.

Peebles-Alexander Ranch Headquarters

First there is the deed granting this land to Churchill Fulcher by Coahuilla and Texas. It is signed by Jose Antonio Navarro, Special Commissioner for the distribution of land, is translated from the Spanish, and is dated April 1831, in the town of Gonzales. Then a deed dated May 1, 1849, conveys this land from C. Fulcher to Robert Peebles.

Dr. Robert Peebles and his wife Mary (Trigg) Peebles built a two story frame house on this property across the river from the town of Concrete, which was reached by fording the river. Mary died in 1853 before completing her signature on a will which would have left her entire estate to her husband, and although the act of her signing was witnessed by A.J. Hodge (her attending physician) and S.F. Hester (probably an attorney), the document did not stand up in court. Therefore, her half of the community property was divided between her husband and her many brothers and sisters or their surviving children. This resulted in Dr. Peebles' having to purchase the interests of the other heirs.

Not much is known today of the activities of Dr. Peebles on his land except that the pastures were unfenced and his cattle grazed on the open range. He seems to have had a mill somewhere on the river or on Fulcher's Creek as an old account book shows charges for grinding corn into meal and sawing wood into lumber. Fulcher's Creek originally meandered across the broad floodplain of the river valley, but Dr. Robert, using slave labor and teams of oxen, had a new channel cut going more directly to the river, thus leaving the large field of the floodplain undivided.

On the ranch is a large grove of liveoaks which has traditionally been called Buck's Mott. Since there were no deer in this country until recent years, the origin of the mott's name was a mystery until neighbors (the Elders) told us that one of the oxen used in changing the creek bed was named Buck. It seems that he was a very good worker until he got hot; then he would break out of his chains and run away to hide in a certain large mott of oaks. After allowing Buck time to get cooled down, someone would go to the mott and bring him back. Hence that grove of trees became known as Buck's Mott.

The years of the War Between the States brought many hardships to the Peebles family. Although Dr. Peebles was too old to serve in the Confederate Army and his son was a mere baby, the war drained people of all wealth but land, which had little value. The old abstract tells us that in 1867 Dr. Peebles was unable to pay a sum of $583 owed to A. Glenn & Co., causing a judgement to be laid on one league of his land. It was, therefore, offered for sale on the steps of the courthouse in Clinton by the Sheriff of DeWittCo., where it was sold to the highest bidder. Thomas Rawlings of New Orleans, La. bought the land for $1320; and since he was an uncle of young John Peebles (and may have come to Texas solely for the purpose of saving the land), Mr. Rawlings promptly deeded the property to his young nephew.

Dr. Peebles died in 1871. His son, John, grew up owning the land, but upon reaching maturity, deeded half his acres over to his sister, Kate. It was during John's lifetime that the land was fenced.

When John Peebles died in 1904, his young widow, Warrenetta Blake Peebles (see Blake Family), was left to raise six children and run the ranch. In 1905 or 6 she hired Blake Alexander, a young nineteen year old man from Cuero, to come take care of the cattle. He and Mrs. Peebles eventually formed a partnership, together with her youngest son, Pat. They bought adjoining land as it became available and even purchased a ranch in Jackson Co., which Pat operated for many years.

In 1914 Blake married Fannie Peebles, Warrenetta's daughter. They continued to make their home on the ranch with Fannie's mother, and to them was born one child, Elizabeth Blake Alexander.

Good times and bad came to the ranch. More bad, we fear! Drought, flood, the Great Depression — each brought its hardships. The ranch house caught fire several times — usually on a cold winter night. Mr. Blake (as he was generally addressed) always called all the "hands" and put the fire out with hoses, buckets, and the old milk can before the fire truck arrived from Cuero.

Many families of workers lived on the ranch through the years. Some were Colored, some Mexican. Among the former were Stewarts (the only ones that we know to be descended from Dr. Peeble's slaves), Bishops, Glovers, Franklins, McClouds, Steens, Thomases, and Hendersons. The men worked as cowhands and each farmed a piece of land. The Mexican families lived in the "Quarter", a row of houses along the edge of the fields in the river valley. They farmed on shares raising cotton, corn, maize, and hay. Among these families were De La Cruz, Salazar, Rivera, and Martinez. Many children grew up here.

Warrenetta lived until 1959 at age ninety, having held the land for 55 years. Both Blake and Fannie died in 1966. During his management of 60 or 61 years, Blake had bred the original common cattle over to "White Face" by using good Hereford bulls. Then because of trouble with photosynthesis, he switched to Black Angus cattle. In later years buyers wanted cross-bred calves, so his daughter Elizebeth (the present owner) has put Brahman bulls with the Angus cows, producing F-1 Brangus and is using Simmental bulls with the Brangus cows she has raised.

Elizabeth's son, Blake Muir, works with her on the ranch; and her daughter, Patricia Muir, who inherited Pat Peebles' land and cattle, manages her part of the old Peebles Ranch.

by Elizabeth Taylor

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION.

CUERO, TEXAS, February 28, 1895.

The Legislature of the State of Texas having passed a law requiring the election of all aldermen by the qualified voters of the city, the proclamation heretofore issued is annulled and notice is hereby given that an election will be held on the first Tuesday in April, the same being the second day thereof, for the election of the following officers:

Two Aldermen for Ward No. 1.
Two Aldermen for Ward No. 2.
Two Aldermen for Ward No. 3.
One City Marshal.
One City Assessor and Collector.
One City Secretary.
OneCity Attorney.
OneCity Engineer.
OneCity Treasurer.

The following presiding officers and voting place have been appointed:

J.C. Woodworth for Ward No. 1—Voting place, Klenicke building.

G.W. Gerlof for Ward No. 2—Voting place heC ourthouse

WH. Marhal for Ward No. 3—Voting place Gulf Hotel.

C. A. SUMNERS, Mayor.

CUERO BAG, AWNING AND TENT COMPANY

B24

W.K. Hill (third from left) Maurice Hill (second from left) and Vivian Hill (young girl in front) 1920's

In the late 1920's, William Kline Hill, with his family, came to Cuero from El Paso, Texas. He had sold his El Paso Tent and Awning company to come to Cuero and fill a large contract for cotton picking sacks. After the stock market crash, the family then moved to Houston.

W.K. Hill was born in 1879 at Little Rock, Arkansas and died in Houston, Texas in 1950. He learned the canvas business from his brother-in-law in Arkansas. His children attended school in Cuero. His son, Maurice Kenneth Hill was killed in World War II while flying Patrol Bombers in the U.S. Navy Air Corps. His daughter was Vivian Hill who later married a Mr. Jordan.

by Vivian H. Jordan

THE JOHN JANACEK FAMILY: DE WITT COUNTY VIEW PUBLISHERS SINCE 1970

B25

The *DeWitt County View*, established in Nordheim in June of 1902 as the *Nordheim View*, by James Walter Blanton, was acquired by John and Mary Ann Janacek of Yoakum on January 1, 1970. They purchased the weekly from the partnership of Publishers Paul Schmidt and his sister, Jane Morisse. The *View* plant was moved to Yorktown in June of 1951 by the late Publishers and was named the *DeWitt County View*.

The Janaceks were associated with newspapers of the Malec Publishing Co. which owned seven newspapers in the area. At the time Janacek was serving as editor of the *Yoakum Herald-Times* but prior to that was managing editor since 1955 and had charge of publishing three of Malec's newspapers at the Yoakum plant, which also had a large commercial printing department.

At Yorktown, the *View* soon became the first newspaper printed offset in DeWitt County (the Yoakum paper was officially mailed in Lavaca County), and the innovations at the *View* included expansion of offset facilities, word processing and computer equipment. All nine of the Janacek children – four boys and five girls – participated in the newspaper printing endeavor and the family also published *The Kenedy Times* for a period of six years before its sale to Westcom. The family continues to publish various historical booklets, church and family histories and most recently published the *History of Yorktown, Texas*. Many of their children have found residences in the Yorktown area and one son is serving his third term as Chamber of Commerce president, as all continue to claim Yorktown home.

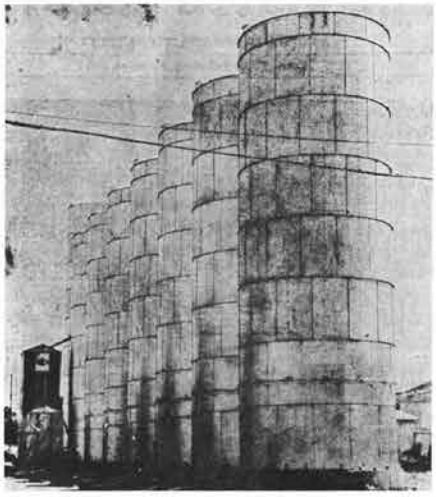
Janacek, a native of Liberty County, Texas, is an honor graduate of Dayton High School, Class of 1944, and attended Texas A&M on a valedictorian's scholarship. Following a tenure of service with the Signal Corps during World War II, he was employed by Malec Publishing Co. in Hallettsville in 1947 where his career in journalism was launched. Mrs. Janacek is the former Mary Ann Peter, a great granddaughter of the founding Peter family of Dubina, known as the first Czech settlement in Texas. The Peters family came to Texas in 1856, prior to the Civil War. Mrs. Janacek's family was also associated with Czech publisher A. Haidusek in LaGrange, who published the *Svoboda* which was later acquired by the late Sen. Culp Krueger and continued publication in El Campo. Aside from her work with newspapers, she was a devoted mother to her nine children all of whom are finding a niche for themselves in the world.

by John Janacek

The family of John and Mary Ann Janacek of Yorktown, formerly of Yoakum, prior to acquisition of the *DeWitt County View* in January of 1970. Younger children in front are Peter, Marietta, and Paul. Standing around to right are Rosie, Amy, Jacob, Michael, Pamela and Connie. The siblings refer to themselves as "The Gang", and often move en masse to endeavors.

FARMBILT MILLS

B26



Farmbilt Mills – Elevators built by A.W. Schaffner in 1954. Capacity – approx. 60 carloads of grain.

Three veterans, after World War II, pooled their savings, borrowed some money, and bought the Buchel Gin Building and went into the feed business. They were A.W. Schaffner, P.G. Schnaffner, and Leon T. Kruse. They worked very hard, especially, like breaking concrete to convert the gin building into what they wanted.

A.W. was experienced in feeds, being poultry specialist and resale person for Uncle John Mills of Houston. P.G. and Leon went into World War II very young. A.W. was given his job back after he returned from World War II. P.G. served in the Army and Leon served in the Air Corp. A.W. served in the Marines.

After purchasing the Buchel Gin Property and much hard work the Veterans opened their first venture, a feed store, November 9, 1945 their ad said "Announcing The Opening of Farmers Supply Co. A complete line of Uncle Johnny Feeds" "A Feed for Every Need."

At first, P.G. and Leon took care of the feed store and A.W. kept on working for Uncle Johnny Feeds, but then the work got too much and T.G. and Leon asked that A.W. quit his job to help them. This he did and soon they were making their own feeds also.

Soon the feed made by this firm was named Farmbilt. In 1948 the mill expanded. Feeds were turkey feed, dairy feed, poultry feed, and swine feed. A pellet machine was bought. After four years a new addition was added. In 1952 the mill bought additional property for a hammer mill. An additional half block bordering the present Farmbilt Mills was purchased. After only seven years in operation the mill had a capacity of 80 tons per day, sacked and ready for delivering. Forty eight types of feed were mixed. Another $11,500 addition was added to Farmbilt.

Seven large storage bins were completed in 1954, each 21½ feet in diameter and 60 feet in height capable of holding 110 bushels or 60 railroad carloads of grain. This provided for storage and drying. This had been a long felt need for this area. Farmbilt Mills did much to aid the welfare and economical progress of Cuero and DeWitt County.

The first expansion took place in 1948. In 1950 it was incorporated, then in 1954 the grain elevators were added.

The three veterans took in some partners in 1958-59. A new manager was Dick Stegall, then replaced by H.G. (Rip) Scarbrough. By 1962 the three veterans were no longer connected with Farmbilt Mills.

The Farmbilt Mill Property and Grain Elevators are still in use under the name of Allied Feeds, Inc. Although there is no Farmbilt or is it owned by the three veterans, that which they built in use and still serves Cuero and DeWitt County after 43 years.

by Isabella Schaffner

THE YOAKUM HERALD-TIMES UNDER MALEC PUBLISHING CO.

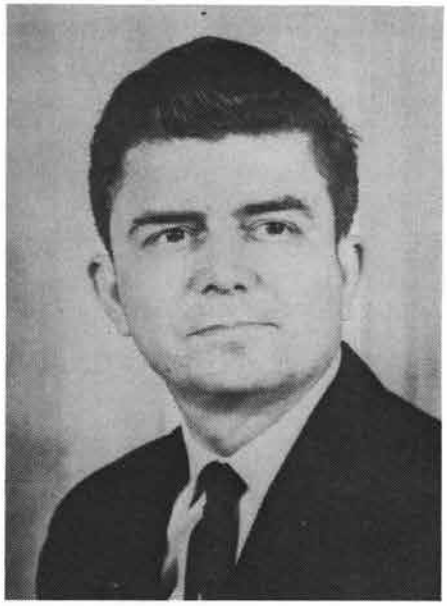
B27

Walter Malec – Yoakum Herald-Times Publisher

(1945-1970)

Yoakum Herald-Times Publisher Walter Malec (1887-1975), head of the Malec Publishing Company which published the Yoakum semi-weekly and six other newspapers in this area, was a staunch defender of the small farmers and small businessman. His journalistic career which was fashioned around Hungarian-born Publisher Joseph Pulitzer of Pulitzer Prize fame, was influenced also by such notables as William Jennings Bryan, the silver-tongued orator, whose quote, "Destroy our farms and the grass will grow on the streets of our cities", he used in his newspapers. His slogan with the *Tribune-Herald* in Halletsville was "The community and whole country stand or fall with the farmers".

Malec was one of the few remaining foreign-born leaders who knew the true value of American freedom and did his best to protect and promulate its attributes. He was outspoken against Communism and his Czeck publication, *Novy Domov*, was denied circulation in that country. It would be a tremendous joy for him to witness in 1989 the crumblings of this menace once threatening the entire Free World.



John E. Janacek, Editor/Publisher

Malec acquired the *Yoakum Herald-Times* from the Meister family after World War II and continued its publication until the summer of 1970 after which it was sold to a corporation by Buddy Preiss and Franklin Kasper of Giddings. Its sale also was the end to hot type newspaper publishing as the *Herald* and its sister publications, also purchased by the new owners, went offset. During the first years under Malec, the *Herald-Times* was managed by the owner's son, Joseph Malec. In the susmmer of 1955 management of the newspaper went to John E. Janacek who at the time was managing editor of the *Moulton Eagle*, one of the seven Malec Publications. Under Janacek the newspaper expanded its circulation to nearly 3,500 paid subscribers, increasing by more than a thousand, and commercial printing was expanded through offset equipment. At one time the *Herald-Times* had a larger commercial printery than even those in neighboring Victoria, employing over twenty people, due largely to the Yoakum leather industry. Three of the seven Malec publications were printed and published at the Yoakum plant with Janacek as managing editor, Leo Brier as city editor, Joseph Netardus serving as photographer, Rosemond Nollkamper office manager, Edgar Findeisen head of commercial printing and Calvin Lockstedt in charge of production. The commercial shop was later terminated under the new owners and by the mid-1980s only the *DeWitt County View* in Yorktown, owned by the Janacek family, was the only newspaper-operated printery in DeWitt County. Local book publishing was a specialty with the company as local histories were preserved especially for parishes. *St. Joseph's Parish, Yoakum, Texas, 1869-1969* was co-authored by Janacek, one of several other books compiled during his publishing career. (See *DeWitt County View).*

The Gulf Coast Tribune (Ft. Bend County), was started by Malec in February of 1961 and

published at the Yoakum plant along with the *Ganado Tribune* with Janacek serving as managing editor for the three publications. The company also published the *The KJZT News*, official organ of the Czech Catholic Women's Organization. Malec fought the KJZT move out of Yoakum where the organization was founded in 1897, one of three insurance associations with roots in DeWitt County. On advice of their legal counsel after a tax issue with the Yoakum School District appeared unresolved, directors voted to move the headquarters from Yoakum, first to Granger and later to Austin where the multi-million-dollar family fraternal is now located. Meanwhile, the two farm mutuals founded in DeWitt – Hochheim Mutual and Garfield Farm Mutual – remained in the area. Malec deeply regretted this loss of the fraternal for the Yoakum community, especially since the insurance firms are tremendous assets to the community.

Malec's interests also included Texas history from the Revolution. He was a member of the State Historical Survey Association and the Sons of the Republic. On January 16, 1968, the Texas Historical Survey Committee and the Texas Historical Foundation presented the 1967 award for Historical preservation to the Malec Publishing Co. As early as May 14, 1943, the Texas Legislature in a resolution commended Malec, stating in part: "his great interest in the history of Texas, where he made his home, he became an authority on its local history and particularly in the location of graves of the early Texas heroes who are buried in that area." Malec was also instrumental in furthering and preserving the Czech Culture in Texas through his *Novy Domov* and *The KJZT News*.

Publisher Malec was known among the Czech people throughout the United States for his part establishing the Czech gymnastic association known as the Sokols (Falcons). In his early manhood he traveled over the country, including Texas, in training young men and women in the arts of gymnastics. But this type of athletics was never popular in the U.S. where baseball and football prevails. Malec did not favor a few players on the field while thousands only cheered.

Malec, born in Ruda, Moravia, Czechoslovakia,, Sept. 3, 1887, died at his residence in Hallettsville on July 10, 1975 at the age of 87 years. It was on Feb. 14, 1909, in Omaha, Nebraska, he married Anna Smisek who preceded him in death on March 12, 1965. At the time of his death he was survived by a son, *Tribune-Herald* Publisher Richard Malec; four daughters, Miss Anna Malec and Mrs. Lawrence Rothbauer, both of Hallettsville, Mrs. Lawrence T. Biehunko of Moulton and Mrs. William D. Pearson of Austin; and two brothers, Joe Malec, Sr. of Omaha and Bob Malec of California and numerous grandchildren.

Publisher Malec was in newspaper publishing for 45 years. He wrote his final Line or Two column the morning of his death.

by John Janacek

H. RUNGE & CO., Grocers
The best the land affords
Prompt Delivery
Phone 4
Karo

BOHNE MEAT MARKET
B28

On December 16, 1889, Henry Bohne, Sr. bought the red brick building at 119 West Main Street in Cuero, Texas from John T. Wofford. Bohne and his son, Fritz, occupied the building with a boot and shoe repair shop while Henry Bohne, Jr., also a son, was in the meat business in partnership with W.I. Anderson at 201 E. Main Street, the current location of Cuero City Hall. Later, the partnership was dissolved. Bohne moved into the 119 W. Main address which was partitioned to share the building with his father and brother. Later years the Boot Shop moved to 138 E. Main Street, which was last owned by Fritz's son, Floyd Bohne, who followed his forefathers shop-made boot business until his death.

Grandpa Bohne, a native of Germany, is remembered walking to Main Street from his home on Newman Street at South Line Street to visit each son and his business every day. He continued to do this after his sons' deaths until shortly before his own death in 1937 at the age

Bohne Meat Market – Fred Bohne, Eddie Fuchs, Harry Holster, Mitchel Strait, Alphonce Sheffler.

W.I. Anderson, Abb Mueller, customer, Henry Bohne, Jr. at Bohne Meat Market.

of 97.

After the floor space was available the market installed a walk-in cooler (or cold storage). Also, tables and chairs were arranged to serve lunches of hot beef sausage every day. Cowboy stew was served on Wednesday, barbecue was served on Friday and Saturday, which also sold over the counter and at the back entrance.

After the death of Papa Bohne in 1930, his son, Fred, and son-in-law, Albert "Abb" Mueller, having been connected with the business for many years, continued the business in partnership.

During that time Bonnie Harrison rented the space in front of the large meat counter for a grocery business. After he retired the market continued to carry staple groceries to accommodate customers.

Also, at one time the market rented and operated the refrigerated meat counter in the building on the corner of East Main Street and Gonzales Street, now known as the Crain building. It was used by the M System Grocery business before W.T. McLarty owned the store at that location. The meat business was independent of the grocery business. Meat was cut at the market and taken there every morning and retailed by meat owners and employees alternating serving shoppers in the grocery store. After Mr. McLarty closed the store, meat was no longer sold at that location.

Bohne and Mueller dissolved partnership due to Abb's health and other interests. Freddie, as he was known by many, was then sole owner, until his death in 1962. His widow, Marguerite Bohne, continued the business as owner eight years with the help of Alfonce Scheffler as manager. Fonce, now deceased, was an employee more than fifty years having begun as a teenager.

There was more to the meat business years ago than selling meat. Following is a slight insight of proceedings in order to have fresh quality meat. Cattle and hogs were bought on foot by owner riding horse back, and later in a car, driving many miles to a pastures and ranches to select range fat cattle.

E.A. Tully owned a slaughter house at the end of West Heaton Street where animals were driven or hauled to be dressed, then taken in quarters to Cudahy Packing Company and cold storage. E.C. Hesse was manager for many years. Storage space was rented and the meat quarters were brought to the market as needed in a two wheel cart with man power, until pickup trucks were available.

Cattle often were butchered by our helpers on property of land owners who were equipped for slaughtering and at times were dressed under a tree using a limb as a derrick. My father, Bill Holzapfel, several times fed calves that were dressed there by our helpers, since he was set up for butchering for a meat club in the Five Mile Community.

At one time the business leased acreage with a house for help to live in, to feed cattle and supervise butchering in an improvised slaughter house. John Junker, a dependable young man and his wife, Minnie, nee Demmer. now both deceased, lived on the place. They and all our helpers were friends we remember most kindly.

At that time the business owned a one ton Ford truck for hauling cattle and transporting dressed quarters to our own cold storage. There was much competition in Cuero in the meat business. At one time we counted more than a dozen businesses that sold meat. Our market specialized in making homemade pork sausage, the popular hot beef sausage, and liver sausage until the seasoning no longer was available for the latter. Another service to customers who made their own sausage was to grind their meat and sell them pork or beef to add if needed. Also, they bought casings and seasonings. During deer season hunters brought in meat to cool and have processed. Some had deer and pork sausage made by our helpers.

In more recent years packing house meat was required by the State Meat Inspection Act. The work load was lighter and less help was needed. Scheffler, being a judge of good meat and being an excellent meat cutter, at times refused to accept meat delivered by packers and would reorder.

The market did credit and delivery business at a loss and gain. Statements were not mailed but on the first of every month someone in the family would walk the business streets and residential areas to collect. It was amusing to see other business collectors out each month carrying a money bag and folder full of bills. After cars were available, transportation was faster and easier.

Teenage boys were always available for delivering. Freddie, as a teenager, delivered meat every morning, including Sunday, rain or shine. He used a horse and two wheel cart which had a step built on the back to stand on. Deliveries were in the cool of the day, before school. Many customers at that time did not have refrigeration, nor a telephone, so would order from day to day. Later a car was used which saved time and the labor of feeding a horse. Then deliveries were made at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

To name a few boys who worked in the market and also delivered during vacation time and on Saturday were: Muller's son, Albert, Jr., a nephew, Irvin Buesing, my nephews, Alton, Harold, Billy and Gene Holzapfel, also J.W. and Charles Pieper, Sheffler's son, Kenneth, and Shelton and Kirby, sons of Irvin Albrecht. The latter was a long time employed until closing the business.

The boys helped with everything – stuffed sausage, waited on tables and customers, also with continuous cleaning of appliances, all electric meat grinders, saws, meat slicers, tenderizer, and scales. Also, hand saws and knives, wooden meat blocks, and display counter. At closing time floors were swept and covered with fresh saw dust shavings to keep the floors free of blood and grease spills. In later years saw dust was not allowed by the Inspectors.

Full time employees appreciated when one or two boys were there to help. Solomon Taylor was good help for many years in every department. Another employee, Newton Gohmert, knew the meat business and was a good counter salesman.

When in town the market was our nieces' and nephews' favorite spot for a sandwich, snacks, and soda pop. They and also long time customers were sorry the business closed. On December 23, 1970, *The Cuero Record* headlines in large black print read, "Bohne's Meat Market Closes After 75 Years Service". My niece, D'Ette Pieper, after reading the above, expressed her disappointment by saying, "They didn't have to make it so Black".

In behalf of the business I express my appreciation to our accountant Frank Burns II, now deceased, and his widow, Polly Burns, for many years of service and their friendship.

It is interesting to know deeds of the property at 119 West Main Street in Cuero are recorded six times in the Bohne name in the DeWitt County Courthouse, in three quarters of a century.

Throughout the many years the market enjoyed good patronage and it was appreciated. After the doors were closed all fixtures and equipment were sold without advertising, to individuals, meat markets, and meat processing plants. For many months I still had calls for various items if they were were still available. The building was sold to Norman Powell who was in the wholesale fruit and vegetable business. He did trucking from the valley or San Antonio to supply local merchants. He had good use of the walk-in cooler. The building has changed owners several times. It is intact, but the red brick was painted and does not look familiar.

I have many fond memories and many sad memories.

by Mrs. Fred Bohne

MASSEY FURNITURE STORE AND MATTRESS FACTORY

B29

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Massey purchased the Casal Building at 211 N. Esplanade St., Cuero, Texas. At this time they had two daughters, Arta and Verna, a baby. The building had a store on the first floor and the living quarters on the second floor. On the north corner was the first Farmers Bank. There was a wide wooden sidewalk from the Bank to the store. A son James Monroe Massey was born on Feb. 24, 1910. While Arta was pushing the baby in his buggy up and down the sidewalk, Mrs. Massey walked out the door of the store to check on the children. To her horror, when she looked to the North, she saw a horse and buggy bearing down on the children. Not thinking of the danger to herself she pushed the children off the sidewalk and the horse and buggy ran over her. She lived two years after this. Mr. Massey took her to many doctors but her lungs were crushed. She died leaving a husband and three children.

Mr. Massey raised his three children at the building on Esplanade. Mr. Massey died in 1934 and the children sold the store to the brother-in-law Arthur L. Means. He later tore the building down and built a new one. The mattress building James, Jr. and his father built in the back of the store is partly standing.

James Massey, Jr. moved to Beeville, Texas and joined the National Guard. He served in the 36th division, in Roma-Arno, Naples-Foggie, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. For his work in the army he received the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and EAme Campaign Medal with 6 Stars. After returning from the service he married Shirley (Storms) Carter in Beeville on Aug. 30, 1946. They moved to Cuero and purchased the store from Arthur Means. In 1949 they built the store at 119 E. Church St. Shirley joined him in the store full time in 1951. Shirley had two children when she and James married. When they were grown they changed their last name from Carter to Massey.

It has been a Mom and Pop store and has

sold to at least three generation of families. They have been proud to help any number of newlyweds get a start in buying their furniture from Massey Furniture Co. They always tried to see that their customers got the most for their money. They had great employees and remained their friends.

Their grandchildren just said this Christmas (1989) they will never forget the times they spent in the store and at the farm in Lindenau. The store was closed in March 1987. They miss the store and the great customers and the salesmen that have been their friends throughout the years.

by Mrs. James Massey

ROBERT J. FRIEDRICHS VEGETABLE FARM AND SWIMMING POOL

B30

Robert J. Friedrichs (Dec. 9 – June 26, 1947) was the son of Fred and Caroline Friedrichs from the Arneckeville community.

In 1909 he bought land on the Old Yoakum highway about one mile from Cuero. There he started farming and also had an irrigated vegetable farm. People in Cuero remember him delivering vegetables to their homes. As children, they looked forward to him coming because he would also give them a ride on the truck.

He also had the only swimming pool in Cuero. I can't find any paper to document a date when the pool was built. A slab of concrete side-walk had 1925 on it. Everyone I have talked to seems to think that could be about the time it was built. His funeral notice in the June 26, 1947 Cuero Record in part reads – "He was well known in this area, as he had operated a park and swimming pool near the Gold Fish Club for more than 30 years". A hand-dug well, six feet in diameter, was his source for water He had a Delco power plant to pump the water for the pool. In 1931 he made an agreement with Central Power and Light to supply electricity for the purpose of serving his service station and swimming pool. The agreement was made from March 1931 to March 1936, renewable one year at a time after that 1936 date.

A lot of people in Cuero today still remember going swimming there and the one thing they remember is that the water was always cold. There were large liveoak trees that shaded the pool. Children would climb the limbs and jump into the pool until Mr. Friedrichs would make them use the diving board. Under the large oak trees were picnic tables and it would be a popular place for families to have Sunday picnics. The children enjoyed diving after pennies and nickels that Mr. Friedrichs would throw into the pool. They could keep the money. One person told me that he would put the money in his mouth so he could pick up more money before he had to come up for air.

As an added attraction, Mr. Friedrichs, had an alligator in a pen. No one has forgotten about the alligator. The story is told that during the time that Brayton Flying Service was in Cuero that the alligator got out of his pen and was in a pond close to Brayton Field. One of the instructors killed it and was so excited about killing an alligator that he took it to the Cuero Record and a picture was taken and story written up. I have looked through the papers that they have at the Record office. However I have not been able to find it.

Harold and Georgie Heyer now live on the land that was the truck farm.

by Elorine Hartman

R.J. Friedrichs Vegetable Stand.

KLECKA DRUG COMPANY, INC./CENTER PHARMACY

B31

Louis J. Klecka 1927. First owner of Cuero Pharmacy – later Klecka Drug Co., Inc.

In the Summer of 1927, Louis J. Klecka moved to Cuero with his family of six. Encouraged by his relative by marriage, Dr. Ferdinand W. Miller, a prominent local dentist, Louis

Charles Joseph Riebschlaeger. Second owner of Klecka Drug Co., Inc.

Ray Franklin Katzmark, 1989. Present owner of Klecka Drug Co., Inc.

opened Cuero Pharmacy. He had sold his thriving business in Granger, Texas, taken a year off to have surgery and started a new business in the first block of West Main Street between Comnas' Cafe and Bohne Meat Market.

At that time, West Main was a busy street with Sciba Bakery, Larcade's Grocery, A.F. Dietze Dry Goods, Fey's Studio, Guhmert Furniture, Hausman's Garage, Nami's Dry Goods and Grocery, Arnold Motor Company, Stephen Hebert's Law Office, Byrne Grocery and others. Further down West Main was the Cudahy Packing Plant. Dietze's was on the south corner of Main and Esplanade while Byrne Grocery was on the north corner, where the Buchel Bank addition is today.

When the time came for Louis Klecka to renew his lease of the Dickerson Building, he was told that the building had been leased by someone else. Mr. Paul Breeden offered the corner of the Breeden Brothers large grocery store on East Main and Esplanade. To accommodate this offer, he divided the store in half. This is how what is now Klecka Drug Company, Incorporated, ended up on such a prominent corner, an ideal location for a business.

In 1929 the Stock Market crashed and businesses struggled to survive. In the Summer of 1933, Dan Conaly, a drug salesman from San Antonio, introduced Charles Riebschlaeger, Jr., a young pharmacist, to Mr. Klecka. He was hired at a meager salary of about $20 per week. However, he was grateful to have a steady job, and this opportunity would be the beginning of a successful business career for him. It was his first job since graduating from Danforth Pharmacy School in Fort Worth. He had served his apprenticeship in Runge under Mr. Mosel.

In March of 1934, Louis Klecka succumbed suddenly following surgery Scott and White Hospital in Temple. Surgery had proven that he was a victim of cancer. In May of that same year, Evelyn Klecka and Charles Joseph Riebschlaeger, Jr., who has been engaged before Louis' death, were married. Charles and Evelyn's stepmother, Stella Klecka (Louis' second wife after his first wife, Albina Spacek, died) managed the store until Charles and Evelyn bought all shares belonging to Theodore, Loyce, and Doris (Louis' children) and Stella. The new owners worked hard to make the business a success.

In 1941, about the time when the country entered World War II and Cuero got Brayton Field (training center for young pilots), the owners opened a confectionary next door and named it "The Cozy Nook". It turned out to be a popular "hangout" in town for the young generation and a family gathering place on Sunday mornings for breakfast after church services. Frank, Rip's brother, was famous for his hand-stirred malts and managed the "Nook" until his death in 1967. During the War, Charles stood in the main intersection in front selling War Bonds.

Eventually the store was incorporated. Charles Riebschlaeger became involved in civic affairs as a member of the Cuero business community. He was Polio Drive Chairman for the "March of Dimes", served several terms on the City Council, founded the Cuero Industrial Foundation and was its president for eighteen years. He also served as Chairman of the Turkey Trot in 1960, worked with the Fat Stock Show, served as President of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce for years, was named Citizen of the Year in 1970, and an Honorary Chapter Member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) as well as Honorary Member of the 4-H Club because of his support of the organizations for young citizens. He was an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, served as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Catholic men's organization, and received the papal award of "Knight of St. Gregory" as well as the Archbishop Fuery Award for his service to the Church on May 15, 1970.

In 1949, Ray Franklin Katzmark, nephew of "Rip", graduated from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Texas in Austin. Ray had interned at Klecka Drug during his student days, and upon graduating, he and his wife, Beverly (Hansen) Katzmark, formerly of Denison and Austin, settled in Cuero. Ray went to work as pharmacist at Klecka Drug Company.

Riebchlaeger, keen businessman that he was, opened a second store, Center Pharmacy, on North Esplanade, to extend his services to more Cueroites. Both Rip and Evelyn welcomed customers at both stores, and Ray and Beverly became important members of the business. When "Rip" suffered his first heart attack on Labor Day in 1971, he decided to retire. Ray and Beverly purchased both stores and since that year have presented the same dedicated and courteous service to the community.

Ray has also been an active citizen, serving as Rotary Club President and then as its Secretary-Treasurer for fifteen years. He was also Director and President of the DeWitt County Polio Foundation and March of Dimes. In the business community, he has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board, is a member of the Downtown Business Association and is a past President of that organization. He served as Director of the Stock Show for fifteen years and is a member of the Firemen's Auxiliary. He served several years on the School Board of the Cuero Independent School District and is a past President of the Board. He is an active member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and has served on the Church Council. He has been Director of the Choir at St. Mark's for over twenty years.

After purchasing the stores, Ray and Beverly decided to close the Cozy Nook Confectionary. From July of 1976 until 1981, the space served as a storage area. In 1981, the original Klecka Drug Company Store was enlarged to include what had been the Cozy Nook, and also totally remodeled. In 1989, Ray and Beverly began the Bridal Registry which includes an extended gift area with selections of crystal and china.

No successful business is ever the work of just one or two persons. Dedicated and trustworthy employees are also essential. Both Klecka Drug and Center pharmacies and the Cozy Nook have been blessed with many such employees over the years. Berniece Spacek, of Fayetteville, Texas, and niece of Louis Klecka's first wife, Albina Spacek, was one of the earliest employees of the original owner. After coming to Cuero, Berniece met and married Ed DeLeon, a local rancher and descendant of Ponce and Martin DeLeon. Louis Layton, Herbert Marquis, Myrt Morgenroth Jackson, Jeannine Marquis Sample, Ernesta Morgenroth, Rita Thamm, Dolphie Kubecka, Lucille Hennecke, Irene DeLeon, brothers of the Prause, Sciba, Adams, and Dietze families, Helen Pullin, Rose Kristek, Muriel Stevens Monk, and "Junior" Saenz; pharmacists Don Ridgeway, Elton Burns, Charles Berkowsky, and Patricia Duglosch have all contributed to the stores' efforts to serve the community.

Daryl Stefka, who came to Cuero as a young man to work at Center Pharmacy as a pharmacist now serves as Assistant Administrator of Cuero Community Hospital. Three present-day physicians all worked as pharmacists during their medical school years: Dr. Theodore Klecka (son of Louis) now retired, orthopedic surgeon in San Antonio; Dr. Raymond Reese, presently in Family Practice at the Bohman Clinic in Cuero; Dr. Larry Poth, dentist now practicing in Floresville; and Dr. Bill Dietze, ear, nose and throat specialist now practicing in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Over the years, Klecka Drug and Center Pharmacy have been examples of American free enterprise and small business in service to a community in neighborly fashion that have been the backbone of the American economy. It is the hope of the Klecka, Riebschlaeger, and Katzmark families that it will continue to be so.

by Evelyn Riebschlaeger

DAIRY BAR

B32

The Dairy Bar first opened for business on Aug. 11, 1953. Founder Arlon C. "Shrimp" Schroeder wanted a business in which he could

Dairy Bar 1954

be his own boss and yet provide a secure financial future for his family. The fast food restaurant, which specializes in hamburgers, fried chicken and ice cream, accomplished its founder's goal, but it required a lot of hard work, long hours and sacrifice along the way.

From the beginning the restaurant was a family business. Mr. Schroeder's high school sweetheart and fiance, Clydelle Jacob, worked for him until they were married on Dec. 26, 1954. After that, they owned the Dairy Bar jointly. Mr. Schroeder's sister-in-law at the time, Jo Ann Schlinke Schroeder, worked for them awhile, as did his mother, Annie Kimmel Schroeder. As they grew old enough, the couple's children, Stuart, Arlene and Norma, also took their turns behind the counter.

At first the Dairy Bar was mainly a drive-through restaurant with limited counter space. Booming business, however, required the addition of a dining room with table seating, which was added in February, 1955. An awning to provide covered parking for customers was added in 1961.

In 1961, the Schroeders also built a connecting house on the Dairy Bar so that their growing family could live closer to the business. They moved into their new home on Aug. 13, 1961. Three days later their third and last child was born.

Mr. Schroeder, with his keen business sense and entrepreneurial spirit, was always looking for new sidelines and innovations. He added Shrimp's Tackle Shop in September, 1959, in which he repaired rods and reels and sold hunting and fishing supplies. In June, 1960, he opened a trampoline game behind the Dairy Bar which was very popular. However, he was forced to close it in April, 1962, because liability risks grew too great. He began selling fireworks in December, 1963, and continued to sell them biannually during the July 4 and Christmas holiday seasons until the city of Yorktown outlawed the sale of fireworks within city limits in 1968. During the summers of 1963 and 1964, Mr. Schroeder operated an ice-cream truck from which he sold ice cream door-to-door throughout Yorktown.

The Dairy Bar suffered a major set-back on Sept. 17, 1967, when Hurricane Beaulah caused the Coleto Creek to overflow its banks. The Dairy Bar was flooded by 38" of water. The connecting house, built on a higher foundation, received about half that amount. All the machinery in the restaurant, including ice-cream and drink machines, refrigerators and freezers, had to be rewired or replaced. In addition, all the inventory of food and paper products was destroyed. Moreover, the insurance carried by the business did not cover rising water, so the family had to pay all these costs themselves.

The clean-up job was monumental. But many of the people of Yorktown, who were customers and friends of the family, pitched in to help. The Dairy Bar re-opened on Oct. 1, 1967 after a lay-off of only ten days. Service has been continuous since then, with the exception of a week or two off in the summer and two more weeks off at Christmas for vacations.

Mr. Schroeder died in 1982, but his widow has continued to run the business. The Dairy Bar has operated under continuous management much longer than any other restaurant in Yorktown.

In addition to family members, the Dairy Bar has also employed 48 High School children as part-time help throughout the years. Nineteen cooks have also been employed to help Mrs. Schroeder, who does most of the cooking herself. Junell Danysh has worked for the Dairy Bar for twelve years, and functions as manager in Mrs. Schroeder's absence.

The restaurant has celebrated its anniversaries in various fashions throughout the years, but the highlight was undoubtedly the 30th anniversary on Aug. 11, 1983. On that day, the Dairy Bar sold hamburgers for the opening-day price of 25¢. Ice-cream cones were a nickel. Cars were parked for blocks and people stood in long lines all day to take advantage of these bargains and to participate in the celebration.

by Arlene Schroeder

THE FRIAR-THOMAS RANCHES

B33

From Longhorns to Registered Brahmans

A lot of the cattle history of DeWitt County, Texas has passed through the Friar-Thomas Ranch which was founded in 1849 by Daniel Boone Friar. He had been prominent in the pioneer activities of the DeWitt County area since about 1838. In 1849 he began putting his T (Circle T) brand on Longhorns. Soon he had acquired a substantial acreage west of the Guadalupe River where he operated his cattle business with the help of his slaves. He died in 1858. The sons — William S., Alfred L., and Jack — continued the Friar ranch business. Also, two D.B. Friar daughters married

J. Carter Thomas dressed in his favorite khakis and Western hat. He is leaning against his green pick-up on the ranch. About 1985.

stockmen. Julia became Mrs. John Shoat; Ella married John Rutledge.

William S. Friar engaged in the cattle business near Yorktown. He helped drive his own and neighboring stockmen's Longhorns up the Chisholm Trial in the 1870's. He gave up ranch work about 1885, when the son John Friar took over the range.

Sidney Johnston Friar was the oldest son of William S. and Ann Elizabeth (Smith) Friar.

Eclipse wooden windmill established by L.H. Wheeler in Wisconsin in 1867. This Eclipse is the last of four. It stands on the prairie of Friar Ranch in DeWitt County, Texas. It was probably erected by Sidney J. Friar in the late 1890's. Visible are cattle, a water trough, a stock tank and live oak trees. The windmill is in working order. Rare indeed!

Alfred Friar dressed in his usual khakis. He is on his ranch in DeWitt County, Texas. In background are a few of his Jersey-Brahman cross cattle. Late 1960's.

Sid worked as a "cow hand" for his uncle Alfred L. Friar for four years. Then he started out "on his own". He bought thirty-seven head of cattle, a horse and a saddle. In August, 1886 he made arrangements to buy three hundred twenty acres of land east of the Guadalupe River. He used land unfenced for some time and "batched" in a small cabin with a stick chimney. Soon he married Annie Williams.

From time to time Sid Friar bought more land until he had a large acreage and prospered in the cattle business. In 1913 he leased his land and busied himself with other activities until his death in 1931. His brands were circle O on each hip and 7F (Seven F bar) on the right hip.

The son Alfred Friar married Anna Nagel. He inherited land from his father and bought much additional land. He was very successful in the ranching business that he began in 1916 and continued until his death in 1973. He started out with "East Louisiana" cattle; later he changed to purebred Brahman. Since 1957 he used Brahman bulls with Jersey cows, principally. The Alfred Friar brand was (quarter circle) on the right hip.

The daughter Anne Friar married J. Carter Thomas. He raised cross-bred cattle. He developed and maintained a herd of Supermarket Milkmasters, which consists of one half Brahman, three-eighths Jersey, one-eighth Brown Swiss. But Carter Thomas was well-known for his prize herd of registered American Brahmans. Over the years the ranch sold many registered Brahmans to both foreign countries and in the USA. Anne and Carter continued using (quarter brand) and added C. brand.

After Alfred Friar's death in 1973 the ranch was owned and operated by Anne Friar Thomas and her husband J. Carter Thomas. Their daughter, Margaret A. Thomas and their two granddaughters, Debra Benge and Dinah Voelkel also own sections.

After Carter Thomas's death in 1986 Anne has continued ranch operations with the help of their daughter Margaret. They have added a new phase, crossbreeding some of the Brahman cows with Hereford bulls, raising Brafords. Ann's brand is a (quarter circle a).

We are proud to say that five of our cowhands have been employed for numerous years. C.L. McMahan (Uncle Charlie) began working on the Friar Ranch in 1933, making fifty-six years. C.A. Glover moved with his family to the dairy when he was eighteen years old in 1943. Since 1950 he has worked on the ranch thirty-nine years. On the Thomas Ranch the cowboys are younger. Joe Adams Jr. started out of high school in 1979; Emmitt Glover started in 1981; Eugene Jenkins started in 1984. Our span is five to fifty-six years, but all are faithful to the ranching cause.

In 1980 four hundred ninety-seven acres of the ranch were declared "A Texas Century Ranch" certifying that it had been owned and maintained in continuous operation for more than one hundred years by the Friar family.

In 1983 Anne Friar Thomas and her family built the Friar Ag Center in Cuero as a memorial to their Friar ancestors who had ranched in DeWitt County. This honored Daniel Boone Friar, Alfred L. Friar, William S. Friar, Sidney J. Friar and Alfred Friar. Both school and community groups enjoy using the facilities for their agricultural activities.

The Friar-Thomas Ranches have surveyed many of the usual hardships: fever ticks, screw worms, army worms, snakes, mosquitoes, flies, grasshoppers, fire ants and severe freezes and total droughts — even bad markets. It has also made numerous improvements and additions. The many years of operation have been tough, but very satisfying. We feel our cattle and wildlife have contributed much profit and pleasure to DeWitt County and Texas — beginning with Longhorns and ending with registered Brahmans!

by Anne Friar Thomas

J. Carter Thomas Ranch prize-winning Brahman cow No. 981/1, Houston Livestock Show, 1974. Back row l-r: J. Carter Thomas, Anne Friar Thomas, Margaret A. Thomas (daughter) and John Watson (fitter of Devine, Texas). Front row l-r: Dinah Voelkel, Debra Voelkel (granddaughters holding trophies).

ADICKES BUILDING SUPPLY

B34

History of William Adickes and three sons, Oscar, Edgar, and Caesar moving from a Meyersville farm in the fall of 1926 to Cuero, where they started doing carpenter work and contracting of houses and Commercial Buildings.

From 1926 to 1937 they bought their materials from the lumber yards already established in Cuero. In 1937 they built their own lumber yard, Adickes Building Supply Co. in the first building where the office is still located. As the business drew, they purchased more land from the Moore and Bell families and built the warehouse and lumber storage across the street in 1950, and Display room and warehouse across the alley from the first building in 1954.

From 1937 to 1943 Oscar Adickes and Edgar Adickes were in charge of construction jobs with at one time a crew of 15 workers. Nathan Post, Willie Tolbert, Marion and Allen Fetters, and Leon Polzin all worked for Adickes Co. at one time. They built many homes in Cuero and did country building also. One home was built

in Goliad Co. and Edgar and his wife and the helpers stayed in a barn during the week and came home on weekends. They rented an old house in Port Lavaca and built a 5&10 Cent Store Building there for the late W.L. Ferguson, Sr. who was a very good customer of theirs. Edgar also did lots of work for the late Willis Barfield at the Cuero Livestock Commission Co. with his crew.

The first commercial building they built was the original Coca Cola Building during the depression for the late E.T. Summers, Sr. About 1940 they built Cuero's first Central air conditioned home on East Broadway for him.

On Oct. 12, 1943, Wm. Adickes passed away at age 70 and on Dec. 31, 1943 Edgar Adickes passed away at age 40. After that Oscar and Caesar Adickes bought out the business from their mother and Edgar's wife and continued as partners of the business. Caesar became ill with severe arthritis in his twenties, which caused him great pain, but he did a lot of work on Hillside cemetery where they made concrete grave cradles and lot curbings and he also sold monuments. He was very good at cutting glass and built up a good business cutting safety glasses for local car dealers to replace in cars, until the curved glasses came out. He could cut plate glasses and they replaced lots of broken glasses in town.

Oscar Adickes continued with the construction work and in 1945 Julius Nesrsta came to work for them after completing his military service and in 1947 married Oscar's daughter, Iris Lee. Julius had worked at a lumber yard in Hallettsville before serving in the Army Engineers where he did some building and also learned the building end of the business with Adickes Co. They built the Standard Printing Co. Building for the late W.F. Kautz. In 1957 the built the original Clinic for Dr. Harold High. They remodeled the Buchel Bank Building three times and also the front of Koehler Dry Goods Store next to the Bank – which now belongs to the Bank also. They built Dr. Wm. Grunder a Dental Clinic at 205 N. Esplanade in 1946. They built the Jr. High School Cafeteria in 1951.

The remodeled the former LeRoy Hamilton home on Esplanade St. under the direction of well known Architect Atlee B. Ayres of San Antonio, quite a number of years earlier.

They did all their work with the best quality materials and best quality workmanship and their work stands as proof of this today and in time to come.

Since the death of Caesar in May 1981, when his son and daughter inherited his share, the business is being run by Oscar, age 88, and Julius and Iris Lee Nesrsta on a small scale. Julius does millwork in the workshop and considers it a challenge to duplicate all types of antique wooden pieces that can't be bought anymore ready made, including wood windows.

There has been a great change in the Lumber Business since the advent of the large discount businesses, who have the buying power to buy cheaper in larger quantities -- but they also do not handle the quality of lumber and other products in many cases.

The Adickes family worked hard all through the years – but at the same time, found their work to be a rewarding experience. They have met and served many wonderful people as customers and friends. Due to age and health conditions, it is not known how much longer they will be able to carry on and hope someone else will be able to carry on for them.

LESTER FRERS – JEWELERS

B35

John H. Berning – Jewelry Store was located on East Main St. in Cuero, Texas. John H. Berning, a native of Hillsboro, Texas attended Watchmaking and Jewelry College and a college of Optometry in Peoria, Illinois. After World War I John Berning opened the Jewelry Store in Cuero. He also practiced Optometry in the same location.

In 1945 Carl R. Wagner joined John H. Berning in the business and shortly thereafter the name was changed in Berning and Wagner-Jewelers. At that time Carl R. Wagner became the owner of the Jewelry business and John R. Berning concentrated his time in the Optometry business. Both businesses were located in the same building on E. Main St.

In December, 1945, after completely Watchmaking and Jewelry College, Lester Frers joined Berning and Wagner-Jewelers and Repair Department.

On July 1, 1969 Carl R. Wagner retired from the Jewelry business and it was sold to Lester Frers. The name was then changed from Berning and Wagner-Jewelers to Lester Frers-Jewelers, located at 121 E. Main St.

After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, Mike Frers joined his Dad as Manager of the store on Jan. 1, 1974.

On Jan. 1, 1981 the business was sold to Mike Frers, who continues to operate the Jewelry business as Lester Frers-Jewelry, Mike Frers – owner. The store continues to have a complete line of Jewelry and Gifts, has a Repair Dept. and recently a complete line of Trophies, Plaques and Ribbons was added to the Store.

CUERO FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

B36

Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association had its birth in July 1921 under the name of The Cuero Building and Loan Association. The original organization operating under a state charter with limited assets became Federalized in 1935 with assets totaling more than $64,000.00. Those early day founders visioned an association operating with two objectives in view: First, to furnish a convenient, safe and profitable method of investing the savings of working people and others. Second, to furnish money at a reasonable rate of interest and on easy terms to people who wish to borrow to buy, build, or remodel their home.

The motto reprinted from the July, 1921, brochure explained in the purpose in founding Cuero Building and Loan — "It pays to own a home of your own. The Association can Build, Improve, or Help you purchase one. Do it now through the Cuero Building and Loan Association of Cuero, Texas. Consult the Secretary — It costs nothing to talk it over."

The motto is certainly true today as it was in 1921 and Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association still operates on an open door policy. Each and every individual is most welcome.

Fourteen Cuero Businessmen and Civic Leaders were in attendance on that historical day in July 1921, when V.J. Grunder became the first president of the new association. Other elected officials included Dr. J.W. Burns, Vice President, and W.D. Peavy, Secretary. Directors were V.J. Grunder, J.W. Burns, W.D. Peavy, F.S. Schleicher, R.B. Evers, C.T. Schwab, J.L. Loan, J.D. Young, J.J. Fischer, H.R. Frosbese, L.L. Buttery.

Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association has its main office at 218 North Gonzales Street, Cuero, Texas, and has two branch offices — the one located in Yorktown, Texas, was opened in November, 1974, and one located in Victoria, Texas was opened in November, 1975. The present assets of the association are now over one hundred sixty five million ($165,000,000.00).

The officers of the association as of this date, September 19, 1989, include M. Clifton Weber, Chairman of the Board, E.T. Summers, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Eugene F. Grafe, President, Kenneth W. Adams, Senior Vice President, Gladys Dieringer, Vice President – Treasurer, Alice Scheibe, Assistant Vice President – Insurance Supervisor, Grace Binz, Assistant Vice President Tax Supervisor, and Cheryl Bramlette, Roseann Jacob, Janyce Kuecker, Mary Linda Arguellez, M'Liss Moore, Assistant Secretaries.

Directors of the association are M. Clifton Weber, Howard Kleinecke, E.T. Summers, Jr., Lester E. Frers, Frank B. Sheppard, Kenneth W. Stimson, and Barry Wineinger, O.D.

Other employees of the association are: Genevia Hahn, Jackie Lange, Bea Laake, Kathaleen F. Krause, and Joyce Carson, Tellers, and Robert Love, Custodian.

The Yorktown Branch is under the management of Valda B. Lamprecht, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager, and Donna War was, Teller.

Attorneys for the association are Frank B. Sheppard and James K. Crain.

Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association does not have a large turn over in employees or officers. Many of the officers and employees have served in excess of twenty years and remain very active and very efficient.

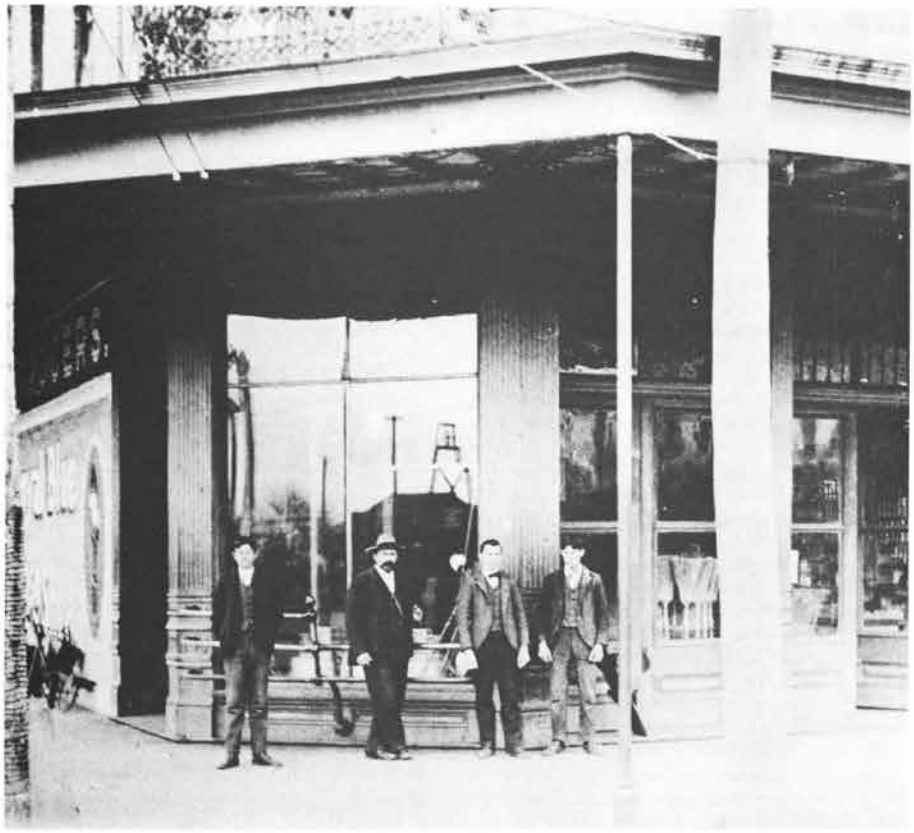
Though many changes have occurred through the years, Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association still remains a convenient place to save and invest and to obtain funds to build, buy or remodel your house.

It is considered to be a community owned financial institution dedicated to serving the people of the Cuero, Victoria, and Yorktown areas.

BUCHEL BANK

B37

Otto Buchel, the founder of this bank, was born in Indianola, Texas in 1849. When he came to Cuero, he started working for Mr. George Seeligson and became a partner in the grocery store in 1887. The City of Cuero, Texas was laid out in 1872 and one of the first



Buchel Building 1910

business lots was purchased by the mercantile firm of Seeligson and Buchel. As a favor, Mr. Buchel kept proceeds of the sale of goods and produce of an area man in the store's safe. After receiving other "banking requests", Mr. Buchel agreed to keep their money safe for a small fee. This was the beginning of "Otto Buchel, Banker".

In 1907, the bank incorporated under the National Bank Act with a capitalization of $100,000.00 and became known as Buchel National Bank. Mr. Otto Buchel was elected the first president. After Mr. Buchel's death on November 4, 1909, Mr. Joseph Sheridan succeeded him as President.

Buchel Building established in 1873

The first bank building was destroyed in 1886 by the Indianola storm and a temporary site for the bank and grocery was located across the street while a new brick building was erected on the original site. This brick building also met destruction. On the night of June 10, 1911, one of Cuero's most spectacular fires burned the Buchel Block which included the bank. A new two story building of reinforced concrete and brick was then constructed and was built strong enough to support two additional floors if needed.

In 1914, the bank became a member of the Federal Reserve System and the National Currency Association. The Buchel National Bank issued money with the bank's name imprinted on the bank notes until some time in the 1930's. In 1934, Mr. Leroy Hamilton was elected president of the bank. After the bank holiday, during the depression, the bank was renamed Buchel National Bank in Cuero. Even though one bank in Cuero failed during the depression, Buchel Bank remained a sound banking institution.

In the early 1950's, the bank was remodeled and the marble teller windows with the iron bars above them were replaced to give a more modern look. The bank was again remodeled and enlarged in the 1960's. The corner building on Main and Esplanade was purchased from the Kirkham family of whom Otto Buchel's daughter was a member. This property was incorporated into the existing building. During this expansion, two buildings in the back of the bank were purchased. The Leonhart property was purchased and demolished to make way for the drive-in portion of the bank.

In 1967, the control of Buchel Bank passed from the heirs of Otto Buchel for the first time with the sale of the bank to Jno J. Faubian, Agent, of Port Lavaca and on March 21, 1967, Mr. Grady McDonald was elected president. In May of 1968, the control of the bank was sold to Robert B. Baldwin, III of Houston and on October 6, 1969, the bank became Buchel Bank and Trust Company, a state chartered bank.

Mrs. Dorothy B. Ploeger purchased control of the bank in March of 1976 and was elected Chairman of the Board. Mr. Jack L. Mills was elected president on March 29, 1978, with Mr. McDonald becoming Vice-Chairman of the Board. During this time, the "Hamilton Brothers" property, consisting of the corner buildings at Esplanade and Church streets and land on Church Street was purchased. The ATM, existing motor bank and employee parking lot are located on this property.

After the death of Mrs. Erna B. Koehler, who was also a daughter of Otto Buchel, the bank purchased the "Koehler" building from her heirs. This property is being held for further expansion. The bank also purchased a building located on West Main that adjoined the back of the bank property from the Reuss family. This building was demolished and is now the site for customer parking.

On the resignation of Mr. Mills, Mrs. Ploeger was elected Interim President on August 12, 1983. On June 19, 1984, Mr. Robert S. Neel was elected president of Buchel Bank. Mary Ann Menning was elected Chairman of the Board on August 4, 1987 and replaced Mr. Neel as president on January 19, 1988.

Since its humble beginning as a bank, Buchel Bank has survived a disastrous fire, the Great Depression, two major floods, several

hurricanes, drought and inflation. It has continued to prosper.

by Mary Ann Menning

WEBER MOTOR COMPANY

B38

Weber Motor Company began operations June 28, 1937 in the 1st floor of the old Masonic Lodge building located at the corner of Church and Gonzales. The company was a 50/50 partnership between Clifton Weber and his sister Agatha Weber. Although Ford Motor Company had a strict policy against women dealers, an exception was made in the Webers case since they were badly in need of a representative in Cuero.

In the beginning the staff was limited to a porter named Charles Brown, Clifton Weber, who handled sales and Agatha, who handled the bookkeeping part time. Service was provided by the Rath Brothers who ran independent repair shop in the back of the building. Business was very good until the interruption brought on by World War II. During these years the company had to rely on a few used vehicle sales and parts and service sales.

After the war the dealership moved across the street to its present location. While post war production was rather slow the pent up demand caused by the war boomed sales and the staff eventually grew to 15 full time employees and usually at least one part time employee.

In 1958 Clifton's son Mike joined the dealership as a new and used car salesman. In 1969 Agatha, who had married local jeweler Carl Wagner, retired. Upon her retirement Mike's wife, Merilyn, became very active in the dealership first serving in the office and later as Parts Manager. Also in 1969 the firm added the Mercury line in time for the 1970 new model showing. In 1977 Mike and Merilyn bought out Clifton and added some much needed services and sales facilities. In July of 1980 their son Cliff joined the company and presently serves as its General Manager. 1982 saw the company expand as it opened a satellite dealership at 141 S. Riedel in Yorktown.

The dealership has won numerous Ford Motor Company awards including the most prestigious President's Award in 1987. This award was given to only 119 out of 5,600 dealers and is the highest award for customer satisfaction that a Ford or Mercury dealer can achieve. The Distinguished Achievement Award, also given only to a select number for progressive management, sound merchandising practices, and high quality standards of service, has been won over 20 times.

All of the Webers have been very active in community affairs. Some of the highlights of their activities follows. Clifton Weber has served as Cuero Fire Chief, Chairman of the Hospital District, President of the Lions Club, Chairman of the Houston District Ford Dealers Advertising Fund, and in 1967 was awarded the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award.

Agatha Wagner was a member and past Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of St. Michael's Church in Cuero and she organized the Junior Catholic Daughters. She was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club. She helped organize and is a past president of the Pilot Club of Cuero. She has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 1937.

Mike Weber is a Past Chamber of Commerce President, Past Lions Club President, Past Chairman of the Houston District Ford Dealers Advertising Fund, Past President of the Cuero Livestock Show, Past President of the Cuero Campfire Girls, and is currently serving as Treasurer of the Cuero Industrial Foundation, Treasurer of the South-Texas Lincoln Mercury Dealers Advertising Fund, and is a member of the Cuero Economic Development Team.

Merilyn Weber was awarded the Future Farmers of America's Honorary Chapter Farmer Award for her years of service to the Cuero Livestock Show. She has served on numerous committees at First Baptist Church and is a Past President of the Women's Missionary Union. She also was the costume chairman for the Junior Coronation of two of the Cuero Turkey Trots. She was the Registrar for the Cuero Campfire Girls for several years and has served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. In December of 1979 she was elected President of the South Texas Parts and Service Club. She is currently President of the Pilot Club of Cuero, Inc.

Cliff Weber has also served as a Director for the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and like his grandfather, and father is a past President of the Cuero Lions Club. Cliff is also active in the Cuero Golf Association and the Cuero Country Club.

by Merilyn Weber

WYATT HATCHERY AND FEED STORE

B39

In October, 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Earl Wyatt opened the Wyatt Hatchery and Feed Store at the northeast corner of Esplanade and Railroad Streets in downtown Cuero. Occupying the red brick Breeden Brothers building built in 1907, their formal opening was held on Saturday, January 31, 1942. Featuring the latest Cugley incubators with a capacity of handling 198,000 eggs at one setting, the new business also sold Dittlinger Mills line of livestock and poultry feeds. With their introduction of Christie Farm's New Hampshire and White Leghorn hybrid chicks in this area, full hatchery output was soon furnishing day-old chicks for the thriving broiler industry in DeWitt and Gonzales Counties. The Wyatts had brought in the Christie strain of chickens from Kingston, New Hampshire to provide tastier and faster growing broilers.

Within two years, the capacity of the hatcher was increased to help furnish more poultry during a time when beef and pork production was limited by World War II. In addition, the firm began to buy and sell pecans and poultry produce of all kinds at a second building on Railroad Street. Employees included Bonnie Buenger, Alvin Schorlemer, Paul Oehlke, Patsy Huehlefeld, Victor Vasquez, Calvin Webb, Alton Baker, Elbert Rentz, Earl Mathis, Raymond Zella, and Lee Harrison. The business was sold to Jess Ward in 1954.

by Earl F. Wyatt

Wyatt Hatchery – L-R: unknown, Calvin Webb, Alton Baker, Alvin E. Wyatt, unknown child, Paul Oehlke, Patsy Huehlefeld, Elbert Rentz, unknown, unknown.

FARMERS STATE BANK

B40

Farmers State Bank and Trust Company was organized March 25, 1926 and located at 201 N. Esplanade with Louis Schorre, President; S.C. Lackey, Vice President and Chairman of the Board; and Walter Breeden, Vice President and Secretary of the Board; Fritz A. Schorre, Jr., Cashier; and Joe Edgar, Jr., Asst. Cashier. The directors were J.L. Dubose, J.N. Card, S.J. Friar, G.M. Duckworth and Wm. Buehrig. Farmers State Bank and Trust Company was formed from the reorganization of the third bank in Cuero, which was the First State Bank that was organized March 17, 1906.

In 1927, F.J. Lackey and August C. Schorre were added as Bookkeepers.

In 1931, two members of the founding Board of Directors of Farmers State Bank died, Walter K. Breeden on 2/15/31 and S.J. Friar on 9/14/31. Paul H. Breeden filled the unexpired term of Walter K. Breeden on 4/14/31 and Alfred Friar replaced S.J. Friar on 12/8/31.

In 1932, Fritz A. Schorre, Cashier, resigned on 12/31/32.

In 1933, J.L. Dubose was elected Vice President; Joe Edgar, Jr., Cashier; August C. Schorre, Asst. Cashier; and G.W. Lassman, bookkeeper. J.L. Dubose, director, died July 1933.

In 1934, Paul H. Breeden was elected Vice President; Sam C. Lackey, Vice President; Joe Edgar, Jr., Cashier; August Schorre, Asst. Cashier; and William Buehrig and G.M. Duckworth were elected to the Board of Directors.

In 1935, Sam Lackey was elected Chairman of the Board and Vice President; Joe Edgar, Jr., Cashier, Secretary and Trust Officer.

In 1943, Joe Edgar, Jr., was elected Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; August Schorre, Cashier; G.W. Lassman, Asst. Cashier, W.P. Meissner, Asst. Cashier.

In 1947, Reiffert F. Blackwell was elected to the Board of Directors.

In 1948, Joe Edgar, Jr., was elected Vice President. Louis Schorre, President and Director resigned as an Officer because of poor health on 10/11/48. Joe Edgar, Jr., was elected President; and August Schorre, Secretary.

In 1949, Reiffert F. Blackwell was elected Vice President; Alfred Gerhold, Asst. Cashier; Mertes Koenig, Teller; Estelle Schorre, Teller; W.A. Drawe, Bookkeeper; Bernard Benton, Bookkeeper.

In 1950, Mertes Koenig was elected Asst. Cashier and William Holzapfel was hired as a Bookkeeper. Nathan Post, Post Lumber Co., remodeled the bank at 201 N. Esplanade.

In 1951, G.M. Duckworth, Director, died 8/3/51.

In 1952, Louis Schorre was elected Chairman of the Board and August Schorre, Cashier and Secretary.

In 1955, Paul H. Breeden was elected Vice President and Chairman of the Board; One week vacation was approved on 6/14/55. Louis Schorre, resigned, as a Director on 7/7/55 and Estelle Schorre was elected to fill his vacancy. Voted and accepted on increase of directors from 5 to 9. The four new directors were Dr. A.J. Bohman, L.N. Smith, Bert Kirk, and Jess Ward.

In 1956, Paul H. Breeden was elected Exec. Vice President and Chairman of the Board. On 8/4/56, Nathan Post, Post Lumber Co. installed a Night Depository.

In 1957, Paul H. Breeden was elected President and Chairman of the Board; Reiffert F. Blackwell, 1st Vice President; Bert Kirk, 2nd Vice President; Estelle Schorre, 2nd Vice President. Jess Ward resigned as director on 7/9/57 to move to Uvalde.

In 1958, Farmers State Bank decided to close at noon on all Saturdays on 10/25/58.

In 1959, Farmers State Bank bought Dr. William Grunder's property for a new bank building next to the present building at 201 N. Esplanade. S. C. Lackey, Director, died on 12/8/59.

In 1961, a contract was signed with T.A. Reuss, Sr. for exchange of property at 201 N. Esplanade for Lots 3, 4, 5 in Block 4, located at 307 N. Esplanade. A contract was signed for a new bank, located at 307 N. Esplanade, with Nathan Post, Post Lumber Co. doing the building.

In 1962, additional Safe Deposit boxes bought on 8/14/62 for the new bank building located at 307 N. Esplanade. Farmers State Bank moved into its new bank building on October 1962.

In 1965, the bank decided to close on Saturdays and Holidays (Christmas, New Years, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving).

In 1966, Paul H. Breeden resigned due to ill health on 12/31/66.

In 1967, E.P. Mixon was named President and Director on 1/1/67. C.J. Kehoe, purchased controlling interest in the bank and was named a Director; Reiffert F. Blackwell was named temporary Chairman of the Board and then at the next meeting named Chairman of the Board. Estelle Schorre was elected 1st Vice President; Alfred Gerhold and Mertes Koenig were elected Asst. Vice Presidents; Janell Warling and Dean Wagner were named Asst. Cashiers. Paul H. Breeden former President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, died February 22, 1967.

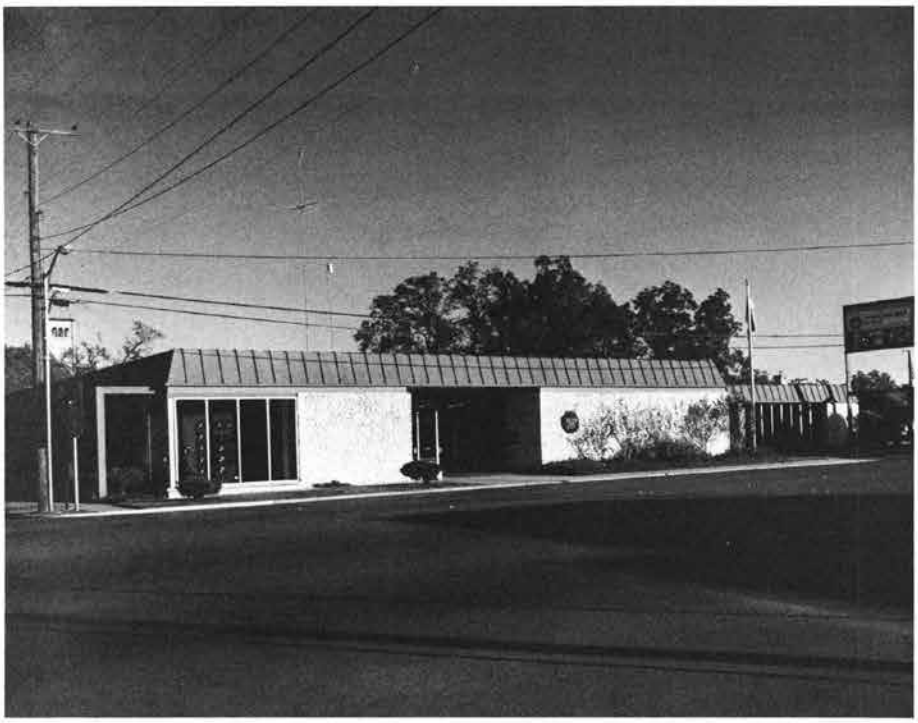
In 1969, Dr. John F. Wheeler was elected a director. The Claggett property was purchased on 5/12/69 for future expansion.

In 1971, Claude T. Allen was elected a director. Bonus Pass Book Saving Accounts became effective 1/1/71. Bert Kirk died 3/71 and was replaced by D.B. Collins. Raymond G. Novelli elected as director 8/9/71, after purchasing controlling interest in the bank.

In 1972, the directors were increased to 12 on 1/10/72. The four added to the Board of Directors were: William A. Blackwell, Thomas L. Orr, Charles G. Orvel and Dr. Raymond R. Reese. The O'Connor's Interest from Victoria purchased controlled interest in the bank in 1972. The Board of Directors decided to keep the Drive In open till 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.

In 1973, Warren Nelson, G.C. Pittman and Munson Smith were elected to the Board of Directors. Alfred Gerhold was elected Vice President; Mertes Koenig, Vice President; William A. Blackwell, Asst. Vice President; Wayne Hill, Asst. Vice President and Janell Poth, Asst. Vice President. The Employee Retirement Plan was adopted on 7/9/73.

In 1974, William A. Blackwell was promoted to Vice President, Mertes Koenig, Vice President and Cashier; Wayne Hill, Vice President; Lenard Poehler, Asst. Cashier; and Rose Lee Fritz, Asst. Cashier. On 4/1/74, Farmers State Bank and Trust Company joined with Victoria Bank and Trust Company, Victoria;; Home State Bank, Westhoff; 1st Nat'l Bank, Nordheim; Smiley State Bank, Smiley; and Community State Bank of Runge to form Victoria Bankshares, Inc. On 4/8/74, approved plans for adding on to the present bank building and proceed with construction, contract signed 10/1/74. On 8/12/74, Ella Johnson property purchased for additional parking behind bank. Janell Poth and Mertes Koenig both retired in 1974.



1989 Farmers State Bank

In 1975, Lenard Poehler was elected Cashier; Rose Lee Fritz, Asst. Vice President; and Virginia Bohne, Asst. Cashier.

In 1976, William A. Blackwell was promoted to Senior Vice President.

A Profit Sharing Program was initiated for employees. Denis R. Mueller was hired as Vice President and Cashier on 11/15/76.

In 1977, William A. Blackwell, Senior Vice President, was elected as Secretary of the Board, Emmett T. (Toby) Summers, III was elected to the Board. G.C. Pittman resigned as a Director on 2/28/77. Estelle Schorre, Officer and Director died 4/7/77.

In 1979, Laura Kocurek was promoted to Asst. Cashier.

In 1980, Lawrence Stange was elected to the Board. Rose Lee Fritz was promoted to Vice President; Laura Kocurek, Asst. Vice President; and Janet Smith, Asst. Cashier. On 7/21/80, Farmers State Bank and Trust Company leased the property adjoining Grace Church for additional parking from the church and paved the lot.

In 1981, Denis R. Mueller was elected to the Board. Janet Smith was promoted to Vice President and Lunnett Boysen was promoted to Asst. Cashier. Property belonging to Steen, Conrad and Dietz was purchased for future expansion of Drive In facilities, located at 808 N. Esplanade.

In 1983, William A. Blackwell was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer; Denis R. Mueller, Exec. Vice President and Cashier; Laura Kocurek, Vice President; Virginia Bohne, Asst. Vice President; Lunnett Boysen, Asst. Vice President; Ken Dale Kahlich, Asst. Vice President. Dr. A.J. Bohman, Director, died on 2/2/83. The Bank's new Drive In and Convenience Banking Center opened 11/16/83 at 808 N. Esplanade.

In 1984, Frieda Coleman was elected to the Board. Those promoted at Farmers State Bank and Trust were Virginia Bohne, Vice President; Shirley Berner, Asst. Vice President; Marsha Bauer, Asst. Cashier; and Sylvia Parker, Asst. Cashier. when the new Drive In and Convenience Banking Center was completed, the old Drive In area at the Main Bank was converted into the Investment/C.D. Department. Donation of a new Electronic Football Score Board was made to Cuero High School on 7/84.

In 1985, Those promoted were Ken Dale Kahlich, Vice President and Jim Calliham, Asst. Cashier.

In 1986, Dr. John F. Wheeler, Director, died on 6/27/86.

In 1987, Robert J. Hewitt,Jr., Robert Post and James Gill were elected to the Board. Harold R. High, II was elected Asst. Cashier. The Hebert house was purchased for future expansion. The Discount Brokerage Department was added with Denis R. Mueller and Janet Smith as certified agents. Reiffert F. Blackwell was recognized as a director for 40 years on 12/15/87.

In 1988, Bryan Haun was elected as Vice President. Letters of appreciation were sent to P.K. Stubblefield, Chairman of the Board of Victoria Bankshares; and G.C. Pittman, President of Victoria Bank and Trust Company for their loyalty and fidelity to Farmers State Bank and Trust Company upon their retirement, 7/19/88. A $5,000.00 donation was made to the University of Houston Endowment Fund.

In 1989, Laura Kocurek was promoted to Vice President and Cashier; Sylvia Parker, Asst. Vice President; and Harold R. High, II Asst. Vice President. Branching of all Victoria Bankshares Banks was announced in June. Rose Lee Fritz retired after 25 years of service.

by Jeanette Smith

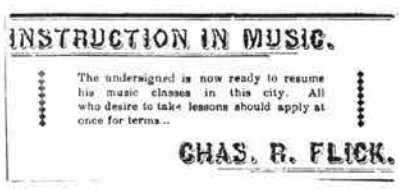
LITTLE CHICAGO STORE

B41

The original Brass Band in the Gruenau Area, under the Direction of Mr. George Langley, posing front of the Little Chicago Store during an early celebration around 1900.

The Little Chicago Store and Saloon was built by George Langley, father of Mrs. W.G. Bargmann Sr. about 1895. It was located at the Intersection of the Gruenau road and the Little Chicago road a short distance from where the Weldon School was originally located. Around 1908, when Langley moved to Westhoff, the Store was sold to the Jarrett's. Later it was owned by the Willie Wolters family. In the 1930's it was owned by Richard and Hermina Geyer who then sold it to Marcellus W. Weischwill. Mr. Weischwill sold the business to Harry and Clara Sachtleben when he went to the U.S. Army during World War II. The last people who operated the business were Elmo and Lavern Weischwill who closed the store in the late 1940's. Marcellus Weischwill sold the property to John B. Mueller, Lavern's father, who tore down the building for the salvage lumber and returned the real estate to his farm which joined it. The house was used for a while as a tenant dwelling but was also later demolished.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann



INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC.

The undersigned is now ready to resume his music classes in this city. All who desire to take lessons should apply at once for terms..

CHAS. R. FLICK.

STILES CATTLE COMPANY, INC.

B42

1947-1989

A cycle of ups and downs. An industry of many variables and for the Donald Maddy Stiles, Sr. family of Cuero, Texas, it's more than a business – it's their life.

Don, Sr. and his wife, Nita, started the business in 1947 and their three sons have chosen to follow in their footsteps in a time when second generation cattlemen are becoming a rarity.

Today Stiles Cattle Company, Inc., includes Don, Sr. and his wife Nita, Don, Jr. and his wife Paula, Clint and his wife Sue, Harvey and his wife Joie and ten grandchildren. It's a very family oriented operation and is equally shared by all.

Even though Don, Sr., is still a very active participant, the business is operated by Don, Jr., Clint, and Harvey and each has his own specialty. Don, Jr. manages the office with the help of Paula, Sue, and Nita, the cow-calf operation is in Clint's hands and Harvey is in charge of the shipping pens located at headquarters.

Buying and shipping cattle on order is a big part of the overall operation and listed among their customers are several major feedlots, as well as individuals in the Southwest. It takes between 25,000 and 30,000 head of cattle a year to fill these orders and they are bought at several livestock auctions in the area and in the country. Cattle bought during the week are assembled at the shipping pens and processed to the customers specifications before being shipped. Don, Jr. and Harvey do the order buying and their motto is "quality not quantity."

Another service the Company offers to its customers is a pre-conditioning program. This

Stiles Cattle Company

consists of branding and vaccinating their cattle and keeping them under observation for about three weeks for any sign of sickness before shipping.

Equally important is the cow-calf operation. The cowherd consists of 3,000 to 4,000 head of F-1 Braford, Brangus, Brahman, and Simmental mother cows. Simmental and Hereford bulls are used to produce a top quality marketable calf. It takes many acres of pasture land to house this many cattle and the Company owns and leases about twenty places, in several South Texas counties for this purpose.

The cowherds are worked twice a year. In the spring the calves are vaccinated and castrated and the cows are given necessary vaccinations and a vitamin A shot. Then in September the round-ups begin. Often it takes until December to cull the herds and gather the calves that are to be sold. At this time the herd bulls are moved and maintained on rye and oat pastures through the winter. They will join the cowherds again in May.

For several years one of the major feedlots have contracted the calves in late summer. As they are brought to the shipping pens in Cuero and put in the aforementioned pre-conditioning program before being shipped.

The Company has one herd of registered Simmental mother cows which help provide the 200 to 300 head of bulls needed for the cow-calf operation.

Horses are a big item and the Company raises their own. A herd of twelve registered, grey brood mares serviced by a registered grey stud provide these, with some left for sale.

Many hours are required to keep the entire operation running smooth and with the assistance of several capable long time employees this is accomplished. One can say that hard work, family strength, a love for cattle and an appreciation for the land makes Stiles Cattle Company, Inc. a true American Success.

by Mrs. Don Stiles, Sr.

THE CUERO ICEHOUSE

B43

The Cuero Icehouse was originally owned and operated by a Mr. Hubert Leonardt. When the icehouse was opened by Mr. Leonardt, it served an important function in Cuero as during that period of time there were no electric refrigerators to keep food and drinks cool. Mr. Leonardt also ran a soda shop in the icehouse where he sold his own soft drink, Ironbrew, which was a cross between Coke, Dr. Pepper, and Root Beer.

The Cuero Icehouse was then bought by Central Power and Light Company. Central Power and Light was mainly in the electrical business, and in 1944, Central Power and Light decided to sell over eighty of the icehouses which they owned in South Texas. When CP&L decided to sell their ice plants, H.B. Holloway, who would later move to Cuero, was the ice supervisor for Central Power and Light in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mr. Holloway bought CP&L's icehouses in Cuero, Goliad, Yorktown, and an icehouse substation in Nordheim. Mr. Holloway purchased the Cuero Icehouse on August 7, 1944, and moved to Cuero at that time.

The ice business was a booming business in Cuero and required the icehouse to be in operation twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This was especially due to the raising, killing, packing, and shipping of turkeys and chickens. The demand for ice was so high in Cuero at times that ice had to be brought in from surrounding plants to meet the demands of icing down railroad cars of poultry and farm products. These cars were iced so that the fresh turkeys and other produce items could be shipped by boxcars all over America. Ice was a necessity and the demand was great.

To ice a freight car required at least five people. The ice truck would pull up next to the end of the boxcars where a four foot by ten foot section with a trap door on the top was filled with ice. Smaller pieces of ice were then scattered over the tops of the crates of poultry stacked inside the boxcar. This process of icing the boxcar was accomplished by one man cutting three hundred pound blocks of ice into small twelve and a half pound blocks. Another man would throw the smaller twelve and a half pound blocks to a third man on top of the car. The third man would then hold the ice with the ice tongs over the trap doors, and a fourth man would chip it into smaller pieces that fell into the boxcar compartment. The fifth person would keep a flashlight on the pieces of ice so that it could be seen in the darkness of the early morning hours. This function of the fifth person is a fond memory of Kay (Holloway) Reese as she often helped her father, Mr. Holloway, in this capacity.

The Cuero Ice House

The men that worked in the Cuero Icehouse under Mr. Holloway included Jack Harryman, Chief Bill Schrieber, Oscar Lee, Raleigh Hillard, Adolf Stewart, Albert Harris, Pete Hargrove, Sid Alexander, and Alan Carter. Mr. Holloway's secretary at the icehouse was Lydia Sucher. Peter H. Bluntzer delivered door to door. These men worked long and hard hours as cars were iced seven days a week including Sundays and holidays.

When Mr. Holloway along with his wife, Eva, and daughter, Kay, moved to Cuero in 1944, all of the eating establishments kept blocks of ice on hand to be crushed. These blocks of ice were delivered to the various restaurants in the area. The Cuero Icehouse served Frank Riebschlaeger's Cozy Nook, Joe Keesler's, Neighbor Hensley's, The Dollhouse, Green Gardens, The Goldfish, and Blue Moon. A sack of crushed ice cost twenty-five cents and weighed approximately thirty pounds. A twelve and a half pound block cost eight cents and a twenty-five pound block cost fifteen cents. The chicken houses got a three hundred pound block for ninety cents and Meyersville paid a $1.05 for delivery of a three hundred pound block.

Many homes used blocks of ice in their iceboxes as well. People would come all day long to the icehouse to pick up their ice. Those on foot, horseback, or in wagons would wrap the blocks of ice tightly in a gunnie sack and hurry home. This portion of the ice business began to fail when people began to buy electrical refrigerators for use in their homes and businesses began to use their own ice makers.

The ice was made by submerging three hundred pound cans of fresh water into freezing tanks of brine. As the cans of water froze, they were pulled from the brine by a huge crain and dumped into a large vat of water to loosen the ice from the cans. The blocks were then dumped onto a slide and pushed into the subfreezing vault to be stored.

If you knew the tricks of the trade, you could flip, lift, or turn, and split a three hundred pound block of ice very easily. A scouring machine was used to cut grooves in the block so it could be divided into smaller pieces. Dividing the large blocks was the difficult and tricky part. A skilled worker would take a ice pick and punch along the grooves in the block, and the block would neatly divide. It was like cutting a diamond, large nice pieces or small shattered chips. the smaller shattered chips were not watered as they were put into the crushed ice bins to be sacked.

Cuero was a busy town during this time, and the ice business was good until progress stepped in. The beginning of the end of the ice business began when turkeys began to be shipped in refrigerated boxcars, and Cuero began to raise less turkeys and chickens. Finally, Cudahys and Wood Homes closed and the poultry business began to collapse. The Cuero Icehouse was bought in 1959 by Smithland Ice Company. Southland shut down the Plant and brought ice into Cuero by refrigerated trucks, and an era in Cuero had come to an end.

by Kay Reese

CENTRAL HOTEL
Mrs. E. M. Harris, Prop.
Rates $2.00 Per Day.
MEALS 50c BEDS 75c

HENRY T. HENNEKE AUTO SUPPLY STATION

B44

Henry T. Henneke Auto Supply Station

After the Henneke Bros. dissolved their partnership, Henry T. Henneke opened up the Henry T. Henneke Auto Supply Station at 302 N. Esplanade in Cuero in 1933. This was located in the downstairs section of the Pythian Lodge building. The rent of $40 per month was considered high then, but the rent money was needed to pay for patching the roof.

The Station had not been opened very long when the highway department came through and tore up Esplanade from the railroad tracks on past the Station. It was impossible to reach the gas pumps from Esplanade so Mr. Henneke leaned old boards from Courthouse Street onto the high curb. This enabled his few faithful customers to drive up the boards onto the sidewalk between the building and the posts. There they could receive service from the gas pumps. After filling with gas, the customers had to drive around Pop Barnes' little cafe and then exit through the large double doors at the rear of the building. The cafe customers also used the makeshift driveway. The highway was torn up for a long time and business was "rough."

Since Mr. Henneke had been reared in the country (Arneckeville), he had a soft spot in his heart particularly for area farmers and ranchers during the depression. He frequently allowed his customers to "charge" their gasoline, tire, and repair purchases although he knew that the chance of recovering the money was slim. In fact, upon his retirement, over $35,000 was on the books as outstanding debts.

In 1937 Mr. Henneke's son-in-law, Roscoe Chaddock, started working at the station. Oil activity started in the area about then and the doodlebuggers used a lot of gas. They stored their trucks at the station. Up to eight trucks could be stored at a time. In later years the covered, enclosed area was used as a storage barn for the Cuero Independent School buses, seismic companies, and private vehicles.

In 1939 Henry and Rosa Henneke took a much needed vacation trip leaving Chaddock and Edwin Kuester to work at the station. At their return the Pythian Lodge members approached Mr. Henneke and told him that someone else had offered more money to rent the building. Mr. Henneke topped the other man's offer and the rent was increased to $140 per month. Earlier the building had been used as a bus depot with the weight of the buses damaging the wooden floors. Finally the Lodge replaced the wooden floor with cement.

Sinclair gas was sold at the Station. Mr. Henneke retained the last manual gas pump in Cuero at his Station for many years. Some of the older farmers of the area liked to "see" the gas being pumped. On many occasions when the city's electricity failed, there was a traffic jam around Cuero's only manual pump.

The Station was the biggest tire dealer in town, handling Firestone tires. In 1939 Mr. Henneke was a special guest invited to tour the Firestone Tire Plant in Detroit, Michigan. In 1941 with World War II needs, the complete stock of tires was recalled and rationing began with a special permit being required to purchase a tire. Mr. Henneke received a 30-year-service award from Firestone prior to his retirement.

Through the years in addition to providing gasoline, Mr. Henneke performed light repairs on automobiles of all makes. He also had a thriving business in bicycle repair.

Beginning in the late 1930's and for many years thereafter, Lud Ecichhold and Mike Young headed the Sinclair Oil distributorship in the upstairs balcony office area.

In 1946 Ray Smith and Murray Marie leased the front part of the building from Mr. Henneke for a showroom for the Kaiser-Fraizer dealership. They had some of the first cars in Cuero after the war. Mr. Henneke's son, Harry, would ride the bus to San Antonio to pick up the new cars and drive them to Cuero.

Mr. Henneke retired in 1957 after 50 years in the automotive business. The Henry T. Henneke Auto Supply Station was dissolved.

by Harry and Dee Henneke

DEWITT COUNTY PRODUCERS ASS'N

B45

1990 DeWitt County Producers Assn. 14,000 square ft. built in 1988, located at 401 W. Church St.

The DeWitt County Producers Association was founded in 1948, but its history and the history of cooperative begins much earlier. The first concept of forming cooperatives dates as far back as 1873 when the Granges were formed. During 1873 to 1933 Texas farmers lived through periods of agricultural depression. In desperation various methods were tried in an attempt to improve their impoverished condition. The approach was always the same: Farmers buy in a retail market and sell in a wholesale market. Efforts were made to bypass the wholesaler and all others who claimed a share of the farmer's dollar. Many ways and methods were tried. Many of them failed by not being able to cope with major

problems that were not anticipated and the inability to obtain finances to establish an ongoing enterprise. But through all the problems and disappointments a new movement emerged with the banding together of many for the good of all, and thus, Farm Cooperatives came into being.

Seeing the cooperative movement as a way of self-help in distressing economic times a group of farmers and ranchers of DeWitt County set out to form a local cooperative. They were of the firm belief that by banding together they could as a cooperative, deal with the markets in the buying of the products needed in their business and also make a difference in the marketing of their products.

After a time of inquiry, research, and discussions, a meeting was called inviting all interested persons to attend. The meeting was held in the county courthouse and it was at this meeting that the first steps were taken to form a local cooperative.

Nine men were chosen to be the first board of directors. Each man to represent the community in which his farm or ranch was located. Chosen that day were: J.S. McCurdy, S.C. Parker, Emil Wild, J. Carter Thomas, Carl Weber, Bonnie Buenger, Fritz Lane, Paul Sager, and Oscar Meyer.

In the beginning much of their time was spent starting the new business, finding a store location, hiring personnel, and contracting with the feed and seed companies. But above all, these men became salesmen.

They had to sell the concept of a cooperative to farmers, ranches, and other producers in the community by selling them stock in the organization to help finance its beginning.

The first property owned by the association was a lot located on the corner of Terrell and Church Street on which it planned to erect a building. It was purchased in 1948 and although the board tried to negotiate with the railroad and other land owners to secure rail services to the property, it was never accomplished. Seeing the necessity of such services for transporting feeds and fertilizer to the store, the directors abandoned the plans to build on the property and in May 1951, decided to sell the lot. In June 1954, the Carnation Plant on the corner of Church and Frederick William Street was purchased. This building had been occupied by the local cooperative since 1949. As business grew additional lots adjacent to the property was purchased. In 1971 the Breeden Runge property across the street was purchased.

This building was to be used primarily as storage for fertilizer. In 1980 the cooperative again expanded its facilities by purchasing two additional lots on which a fertilizer blend plant was built. Continued growth again initiated expansion in 1987 when additional land was purchased and the old Breeden-Runge warehouse building was demolished. In 1988 a new 14,000 square foot building was erected and opened for business the last week of December 1988. This modern facility will better serve the needs of farmers and ranchers in DeWitt County for many years to come.

Success and progress seldom come easy or cheap and the history of the DeWitt County Producers Association was no exception. Many people worked hard in laying the ground work for that meeting where the first steps were taken to organize the association. Pioneers in this effort were Mr. J.S. McCurdy, J. Carter Thomas, August Wisian, and many other community leaders. The first board of directors spent untold hours during the struggle for existence. They met weekly to discuss the affairs of the association, then spent hours looking into building sites, selling stock, searching for a manager and employees, etc. after the feed store opened on July 15, 1948. The Directors would come to the store to help operate the store and wait in customers, load feed, or anything needed to be of assistance. The records show that even the annual meetings were hosted by the directors with each director assigned various details for which he was responsible. The early directors received no per diem or reimbursement for mileage but those who served during the first years remember those meetings when they sat on feed sacks and drank red soda water while tending the business of the association. Years later folding chairs in the display area replaced the feed sacks, but the red soda water was still available.

Since its beginning, DeWitt County Producers Association has basically been a feed, seed, fertilizer and supply cooperative, dedicated to serve the needs of its members. In the first years of its operation a hammer mill and complete molasses mixer were installed which served many members during the early years of the Association. Directors again responded to the needs of its members when they added a fertilizer blend plant to its existing facilities. This plant continues to increase the volume of business each year and is a profitable addition to the business.

The Board of Directors as well as its current Manager, Arlen Goebel has a commitment to serve its members and the community with a sound business enterprise. Serving on the Board today are Heinie Bade, Charles Nagel, Fred Diebel, August Schulle, James Koenig, Bill Braden, Clifford Haun, Alton Goebel, and Carroll Blank.

W.R. GARRETT ABSTRACT OFFICE

B46

Garrett Abstract C. 1990.

The W.R. Garrett Abstract Office was founded in 1894. It is one of the oldest business in Cuero. Records kept at the office date back to 1836, when Texas was struggling for independence.

Mr. Garrett, at that time was a DeWitt County surveyor, having succeeded Mr. Gus Schliecher. As a side job he did private surveying and abstracting which resulted in an office being established in his home. Abstracts on guaranty titles on 90% of property changing hands in DeWitt County were drawn up in the abstract office. If property was being purchased on time, an abstract or guarantee title policy was requested by the loan company.

In 1930, Mr. Garrett and Mr. Tom Cheatham built the present building at 203 N. Gonzales Street. Each owned and occupied separate offices.

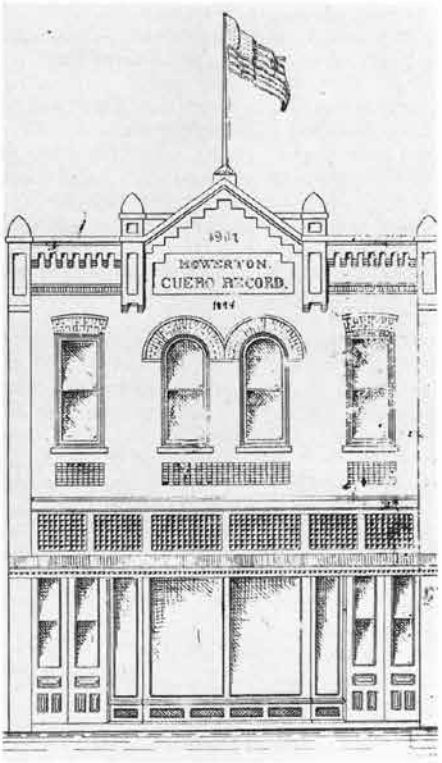
Due to failing health, Mr. Garrett requested his son-in-law, Robert Ira Wilkes, to move to Cuero from Houston to learn the abstract and surveying business. Mr. Garrett died February 19, 1938, at which time Mr. Wilkes took over the business with the help of Miss Anna Koch. Miss Koch had been with the company for the previous 17 years along with Mrs. T.C. Simon, Jr. and Miss Augusta Naunheim for a portion of this time.

Mr. Wilkes died in 1961, and the business was sold to Frank W. Burns, Jr. of Cuero and Mr. Will Rob Miller of Westhoff. Prior to Mr. Miller's death in 1973, his half of the business was sold to Frank W. Burns III. It has been in operation continuously at the same location with Mrs. Simon as office manager. Since the death of Frank W. Burns, Jr. in March 16, 1981, the company is still owned by the Burns family.

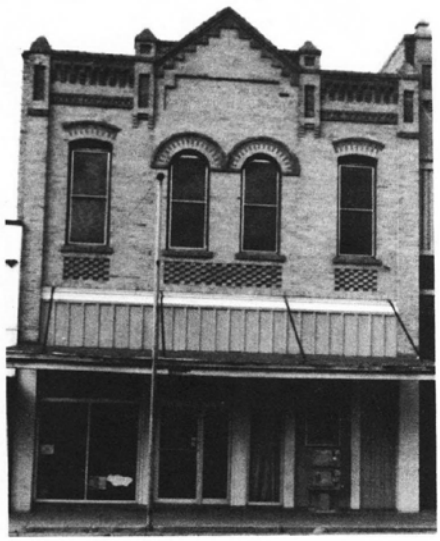
by Pauline M. Burns

THE CUERO RECORD TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

B47



1907 Architects Drawing



1990 Cuero Record Building

When the first edition of The Cuero Record was published in November of 1894, it faced stiff competition with five other newspapers in Cuero.

The first issue of The Cuero Daily Record was published under the combined management of H.G. Wood, B.S. Wright and J.C. Howerton. The Record was a consolidation of The Daily Hustler, purchased by Howerton and The Weekly Record, published by Wood and Wright. The three men resolved the goal of giving Cuero "a creditable daily newspaper." This consolidation cut the number of papers in Cuero to six.

The other five papers were "The Star", oldest paper in the field, which was edited by A.S. Crisp; and "The Sun", "The Truth", "The Bulletin", and "The Devtsche Rundschan", all published by William T. Eichholz.

It was in 1873, the year Cuero was incorporated, that a local attorney and later U.S. Congressman Rudolph Kleberg established "The Cuero Star". According to early accounts of Cuero's history, "The paper pursued a vigorous policy for the enforcement of the law, and every issue contained pungent articles in the interest of the supremacy of the law and urging citizens to form organizations to restore law and order."

Twenty-one years later when Howerton and his partners consolidated The Hustler and The Weekly Record, he thanked the paper's patrons for their support ". . . of The Hustling infant and now that in discarding her short dress and assuming the garb of a full grown maiden, we trust you will extend to her the courtesies due one of her sex as a debutante and aid us in making her the true, noble and progressive matron she's destined to be."

Howerton acquired the interest of B.S. Wright through purchase a few years later and in 1903 assumed full control with the title of editor-publisher when Wood sold his interest.

In 1895, The Daily Record acquired "The Bulletin" and with it came a Chicago Stop Cylinder press to replace the old Georgia Washington hand press upon which the early issues were printed. This reduced the number of newspapers in Cuero to four. Soon after "The Sun" closed its doors and "The Truth" faded away, leaving only "The Star", "The Rundschan" and "The Record". The Star inaugurated a daily edition which continued publication until after the death of A.C. Crisp in 1918.

In 1919, his heirs sold The Star and its subscription list to The Record which also acquired "The News", successor to "The Rundschan", through consolidation. Cuero was then one-newspaper town.

The first lino-type machine, an automatic type-setting machine, was installed in 1911. Prior to that the type had all been set by hand. Then in 1926, The Record first appeared off a new Duplex web perfecting press. This press printed eight pages at one time, as compared with only four by the old presses.

The Howerton family continued to run The Record after J.C. Howerton, Sr. died in 1935. His son, Jack W., assumed the presidency while two other sons, Pete and Charles, maintained part ownership. Jack Howerton continued as the paper's head until his death in 1971. His wife, known to all Cueroites as Polly, succeeded her husband until April 3, 1972.

On that date The Record was sold to Todd Publications, Inc. of Austin. William K. Todd, president of Todd Publications, served as the paper's publisher while Ken Long served as president and general manager.

During Long's tenure The Cuero Daily Record was restructured to a twice-a-week newspaper and was converted from hot-metal paste-up to cold-type paste-up. It was on July 24, 1972, the newspaper was printed for the time time on an offset press.

On April 1, 1987, Todd Publications sold its interest in The Cuero Record to Cuero Newspapers, Inc., a group of 12 South Texas newspaper publishers. The group named Glenn Rea, a 20-year veteran of the Texas newspaper business, as its new editor-publisher.

The Cuero Record has been published continuously in its present location since 1907 and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1994.

Although The Cuero Record has won many state and regional awards for excellence in editorial and news reporting, in competition with state and area newspapers, unquestionably the top award to this newspaper was the Pulitzer Journalistic Prize Award in 1955 in competition with all the nation's newspapers.

The 1955 Pulitzer award was won by R. Kenneth Towery, then managing editor of The Cuero Record, for his series of news stories disclosing irregularities in administration of the Texas Veterans Land Program. They led to corrective measures by the Texas Legislature returning the benefits to the war veterans for whom they were intended, rather than the land promoters.

The first of Towery's articles published by The Record, was an interview with then Land Commissioner and prominent Texas political figure Bascom Giles. Commissioner Giles was difficult for newsmen to interview, but a persistent Towery finally gained admittance to his office, engaged him in long discussion regarding the Veterans Land Program and then drove back to Cuero and printed Giles' statements almost verbatim in the Sunday morning edition of The Record.

Towery then developed and published succeeding articles which related certain facts that he had learned concerning the land program, but which did not jibe with the detailed statements that came from commissioner Giles's lips.

These news stories by Towery in The Record caused a sensation, and much attention throughout the state and even outside of it was focused on Cuero.

As a result, Commissioner Giles was indicted and convicted and was sent to the state penitentiary for his part in the affair.

Ken Towery, and The Record, won the Pulitzer Prize, the highest award that can be earned for journalistic achievement.

by Glenn Rea

ELDER OIL TOOLS COMPANY

B48

Elder Oil Tools on N. Riedel St., in 1989 was Yorktown's largest commercial employer

In April, 1979 the Elder Oil Tools Company moved its manufacturing plant to Yorktown, opening with 29 employees. Currently, Elder employs 150 people, of whom 100 are employed at thee yorktown headquarters on North Riedel Street. The remaining fifty are in Elder's retail district locations in three states. The Elder team includes engineers, salesmen, machinists and many other highly trained professionals.

Elder Oil Tools manufactures and distributes packers, service tools and gas lift equipment for the completion of oil and gas wells worldwide. Elder products are sold in the 28 oil producing states domestically and in 46 countries over the world.

In 1985 Elder expanded their multi-million dollar facility to include the company's research and development division. This facility enables engineers to test each new tool before it is added to the product line.

Elder's stated mission is, "To be the most respected downhole completion and service company in the oil and gas industry worldwide."

by Frances Hartmann

THE BREEDEN RUNGE COMPANY

B49

The Breeden runge Company, a wholesale grocery company, was organized during the latter part of 1910 under the guidance of Charles Goodwin Breeden, Robert Perry Breeden, and Walter Kibbe Breeden, with the assistant of the firm of H. Runge and Company, composed of the two partners Emil Reiffert, Sr. and William Frobese, Sr. Other original stockholders in the corporation were Dr. John W. Burns, Mr. Lee Joseph (president of

the First State Bank and Trust Company), Mr. Louis Gohment all of Cuero, Mr. F. Krage of Yorktown, and Mr. N.D. Arnold of Yoakum.

The business began in February of 1911 with Charles G. Breeden as president, R.P. Breeden, and N.D. Arnold, vice presidents, and Louis Gohment, secretary and treasurer. The original capital stock of this firm was $85,000.00. In 1923 the capital stock had grown to $375,000.00.

Charles G. Breeden continued to serve in the capacity of president of Breeden Runge Company until his death December 30, 1925. R.P. Breeden succeeded his brother as president until his untimely death in March, 1926. W.K. Breeden was elected president of the organization with P. Fielding Breeden as vice-president and general manager, and Paul H. Breeden, vice-president, secretary and manager. The board of directors in 1931 was composed of W.K. Breeden, P. Fielding Breeden, Paul H. Breeden, Walter Reiffert, A.W. Bourke, and Henry Fasset Sheppard of Cuero and R.C. Roose of San Antonio. Following the death of W.K. Breeden, P. Fielding Breeden became president.

At its inception, the future success of the Breeden Runge Company was assured through the farsightedness of its founders, and the ability of Charles G. Breeden and R.P. Breeden to visualize the trend of future events. They endeavored from the earliest days of operation to secure established, reliable, and exclusive lines of merchandise, thus identifying the Breeden Runge Company as distributors of high grade, dependable goods. The successors to the founders of the business perpetuated this farsighted policy. The company was the exclusive distributor of the following lines of merchandise: H.G. Prince canned fruits; New York Canners canned vegetables, Goblin brand canned vegetables packed by the Marshall Canning Company of Marshalltown, Iowa, Staley's syrups, O.K. and Pal's syrups, Bee Brand spices and extracts, Purity Oats, and Southern Blend Coffee.

When originally established, the Breeden Runge Company had but one house, the parent house at Cuero, and covered out of this house only a limited territory, that section of southwest Texas adjacent to the home office. However, four branch houses were established as follows: Kenedy in 1916 with D.C. McManus as manager, Alice in 1924 with J.H. Edgar as manager, Yoakum in 1928 with I.J. Alexander as manager, and Yorktown in 1929 with W.E. Reifschlager as manager. The Yoakum house was closed January 1, 1930, on account of the proximity to Cuero, and the ease and decreased expense with which this territory could be served out of Cuero. The company, however, enjoyed a splendid business in the city of Yoakum, and its adjacent territory.

During the latter part of 1916, the Breeden Runge Company bought out Pine and Crane of San Antonio, and operated a wholesale house in that city under the management of the company's vice-president, R.P. Breeden. A large section of southwest Texas was covered out of this house, and due to the able guidance of its manager, this venture proved a very profitable one. Mr. Breeden's health failed in 1921 and the house was sold to the Walker-Moore Company of that city. Another consideration leading to the sale of San Antonio house was the excellent price offered by the Walker-Moore Company, the deal being consummated during the peak of business inflation succeeding the World War I.

During the first few years of its existence, the Breeden Runge Company employed two traveling salesmen, and a total of ten or eleven employees, including the managers. Later, this firm employed nine traveling salesmen and furnished employment to a total of thirty-eight or thirty-nine persons. B.H. Lamkin, C.R. Carney, R.B. Colley, and I.J. Alexander, traveled out of the Cuero House; B.F. Hill, out of the Kenedy house; B.E. Pacch, out of the Kenedy and Alice Houses; John M. White out of the Yorktown and Kenedy houses and J.H. Edgar and Stayton Calhoun, out of the Alice house. Branch managers were W.E. Reifschlager, Yorktown, D.C. McManus, Kenedy, and R.E. Edgar, Alice.

The territory covered by the salesmen were the following counties: Lavaca, Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson, Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, Bee, San Patricio, Nueces, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Duval, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Live Oak, and Goliad.

This company did an extensive credit business, and the assistance was extended to the retail merchants through this section. This company did much toward building up of this trade territory, and enabled some of their most prosperous friends and customers to tide their businesses through the days of depression and crop failures. As this section of the state became more thoroughly developed and diversification of crops more universal, the demands for financial assistance was lessened. Time was to come when there were sufficient funds in the hands of consumers throughout the year to enable the merchants to finance their own businesses without outside help.

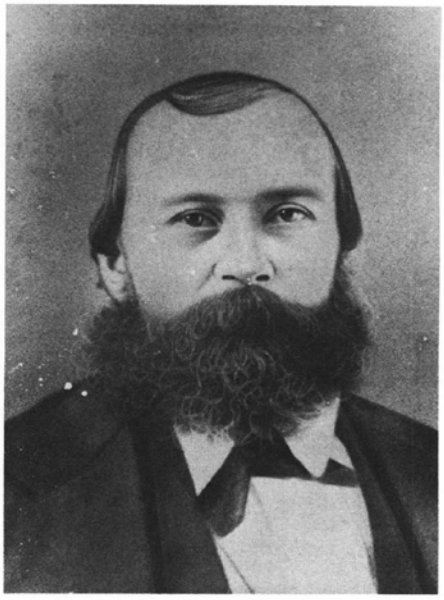
Breeden Runge Company was in operation for twenty-nine years. The company had been financed almost entirely with Cuero capital. The late Charles G. Breeden had planned for the company to last. From a small start the company developed into one of the biggest in South Texas with an annual sales volume in excess of $1,000,000. Times changed and the Great Depression left the liberal credit policy of the company in trouble. Chain (grocery) store expansion and truck competition together with increasing federal taxes made it difficult to show a profit. Breeden Runge was sold to Groce Parish Company of Victoria Saturday, July 30, 1939. The Victoria company continued to operate in Cuero. They assumed charge of the business on Monday 31, 1939. Royce Wood of Runge became the manager of the Cuero house with B.H. Lampkin as office manager.

by Rosemary Kokernot

THE HOUSE OF NAGEL OLDEST FIRM IN THE CITY OF CUERO

B50

The distinction of being the oldest business house in Cuero (in 1923) belongs to the Nagel Hardware Company, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Hardware and Seed. The Nagel business was started in Cuero in January of 1873, which was before the organization of Cuero as a town. This business was started in Clinton in 1871 as a tin shop, doing business in a building owned by Wm. Hausman and used by him for a corn crib. The following year J.R. Nagel, who started the business, prepared to



J.R. Nagel, founder of the Nagel Hardware business

build a business house in Clinton but on hearing that the railroad was to come to Cuero, decided to move here and continue business in a town of larger opportunities.

On coming here in 1873, Mr. Nagel bought a 29x70 lot and built a two-story house, where the present brick building of the Nagel Hardware Company now stands. With his family, Mr. Nagel lived upstairs and operated the business, which he had enlarged to that of a tin shop and dealer in Stoves, Iron, etc., on the lower floor. A kitchen and dining room for the family was built in the rear. One of the interesting incidents in the Nagel family is that during the feud days of Cuero, a bullet was fired on the street in front of the building and passed through that building, went through the dining room in the rear and shattered the knob on the kitchen door. Later an adjoining lot and building was purchased and the business was enlarged to meet the demands of a growing community. And in 1888 this second building was torn down and a larger and better building was erected. The business was continued in these buildings until 1907, when the old two-story building was dismantled and taken to Westhoff and the other building was removed in order to make room for the modern two-story brick building that was built in the same year and is the present home of the Nagel Company. This building is 40x100 feet and gives a large amount of floor space for the up-to-date line that is carried by this enterprising concern. The present lot is 40x150 feet with an adjoining piece 20x30 feet covered by a warehouse. And acquired in five separate purchases.

The business was operated under the name of J.R. Nagel until 1888 when a son was taken into the business and the firm name was changed to J.R. Nagel and son. Mr. Nagel died in 1897 and the business was under the direction of H.J. Nagel, who was the junior partner of the firm, until 1907, when the firm was incorporated as the Nagel Hardware Company with a capital stock of $10,000 and H.W. Nagel was elected president, H.J. Nagel, vice president, and R.A. Nagel secretary-treasurer. The business of the firm continued to grow and in 1913 the capitalization was increased to

Modern house of Nagel Hardware built 1907

First Nagel Business House in Cuero, built 1873

$30,000 and to $60,000 in 1920.

The business enjoys a large local trade and covers a radius of sixty miles around, doing a large business in hardware and seeds. In addition to the main building a warehouse, 60x100 feet, is used for storage as a stock sufficiently large to supply the needs of their customers is kept by this company.

The Nagel Company is proud of its record of achievement and of the fact that they have had long years of pleasant relations with the buyers of this section. One thing that affords them a particular amount of pleasure is that among their numerous customers there are thirty-five that have dealt with them since the business was established here fifty years ago.

This company is also proud of its high class employees and attributes a large part of their business success to their courtesy to the public. In addition to the officers of the company mentioned above, the following are employees of the firm: C.R. Nagel, Retail Hardware Department; Oscar Probst, Assistant Secretary; S.S. Purnell, Household Goods Department; Albert Nagel, Shipping Department; Hugo Hausman, Accounting; Adelaid Probst, Stenographer; and Edwin C. Buchhorn, Traveling Representative.

What has come to be one of the most important branches of the Nagel Company is the Automobile Department which has the agency for the well known Dodge Brothers car. The Nagel Company showed that they were alive to the possibilities of the automobile industry by establishing an agency in 1914. They first sold only the Maxwell car, but later began to sell both the Nash and Dodge cars. Finally, however, they decided that they could best serve the Dodge owners by confining themselves to that one car. Accordingly, they discontinued the agency for the other cars and put in a complete garage and service station for the purpose of giving a first class service to the owners of Dodge cars. They carry a complete line of parts and accessories and occupy a large building for this important department of the Nagel business.

Mr. R.A. Nagel is the active member of this department and through his efforts a large number of Dodge cars have been sold in this section and that business is one of the most healthy of the various automobile concerns in the city. Thirty cars have been sold thus far this year which goes to show the popularity of the Dodge in this section. Mr. Nagel's son, August, is in charge of the Parts Department and through him Dodge owners are able to get the best of service in this line.

From article in *Cuero Record* October 24, 1923.

by Ann Friar Thomas

RYAN'S FLOWER SHOP

B51

Ryan's Flower Shop became a reality in 1951 when Mrs. Virginia Ryan and her son Richard bought Haak Floral Shop from Julius Haak. It was formerly Wedemeier Florist and was located on East Broadway in Cuero next to the Doll House Cafe. The display ice box in use today at Ryan's was used in the Wedemeier shop. Richard and his mother moved the shop to the W.O.W. building next to Freund Funeral Home on Gonzales Street where it was located for eight years. When this building was sold it was

Ryan's' Flower Shop

moved to 102 Gonzales Street. A family friend, Howard Person, of Gonzales had a flower shop there and he helped a great deal to get Ryan's started.

After a few years of work Virginia felt that she needed some formal training so she went to Houston to attend Buddy Benz School of Floral Design. When she returned she could compete with the best. Virginia's creations in corsages and wedding flowers were spectacular and she especially enjoyed this delicate work. When Richard was there he did most of the large centerpieces, church and home decorations. They did lovely work for customers to express their sympathy when a loved one was lost. Richard: "We were proud of every floral piece that went out of our shop."

In 1973 Virginia and Richard decided it was time to retire. Virginia's daughter, Rosemary Ryan Carbonara and husband Neal wanted to move from New York to Texas and they purchased the shop.

The shop on Gonzales Street was moved to 112 E. Main in July 1974 when Neal and Rosemary bought the building on Main St. It is housed in former Dixie Cafe spot. Mrs. Ryan continued to work in the shop for about eight years retiring at age 82. She maintained an interest in everything until her death at age 93. Rosemary and her daughters, Roberta and Rosemary, started working in the shop in 1973. Roberta is now manager and a Master Floral designer. Regina, another daughter, is now with the shop as floral designer and bookkeeper. Ryan's Flowers is very active with the Downtown Business Association and The Cuero Chamber of Commerce.

by Richard Ryan and Rosemary Carbonara

CONRAD AND TARKINGTON INSURANCE AGENCY

B52

Conrad and Tarkington Insurance Agency – Back Row: Lynda Worthington, J. Fischer, Elsie Johnson, Jim Conrad, Murray Tarkington, Jack Calk, Neal Carbonara, Richard Carbonara. Front Row: Carolyn Boomer, Valarie Duckett, Monica McAdams, Mickey Parma, Dorothy Wolf, Molly Escobedo, Mattie Diebel, and Bea Jahnson.

At about the same time George Bush came to Texas with his family loaded in his Studebaker, James A. Conrad brought his family to Cuero in their Studebaker after purchasing the Woodworth and Dent Insurance Agency from Jeanette Woodworth on April 27, 1961. Early records of the agency are sketchy. Originally, the business was Newman and Juenger Insurance Agency. A seventy-five year plaque awarded to Conrad & Tarkington February 19, 1962, by the Aetna Insurance Company establishes 1887 as the founding date. Interview with several Cuero citizens reflect that Edith Dent purchased the agency December 1, 1925. It is believed she was assisted in the office by either a brother or a sister and upon that person's death, J.C. Woodworth, Jeanette's husband, became a partner. At some later date, Jeanette became active in the agency. Mrs. Woodworth died unexpectedly on May 7, 1961, only days after selling her agency to Jim Conrad. Mr. Conrad retained the name of Woodworth and Dent as well as the location, the second floor of the Graves Building, 101½ North Gonzales. Mr. Conrad hired June Holster, (now Mrs. June Benton) as his "girl Friday" to hold down the office while he went out meeting the people of Cuero and seeking new business. Shortly thereafter the office was moved to the first floor of the Graves Building at 107 North Gonzales for customer convenience.

By September of 1963 the business had grown to the extent that it was necessary to hire additional personnel. Mrs. Lucille Clarke joined the firm on August 26, 1963, and remained until her retirement on December 31, 1988.

On November 1, 1963, Mr. Conrad purchased the J.S. Edgar and Sons Insurance Agency of Cuero, merging the book of business with Woodworth and Dent.

During those early years several other endeavors were handled by the two-girl office; such as the Western Union office and an answering service for Orkin Exterminating – anything to help pay the bills.

The agency continued to grow and on February 1, 1967, Murray Tarkington joined the agency as a partner.

Following the purchase of the Schorre Insurance Agency on May 1, 1969, Mr. Conrad and Mr. Tarkington felt the name of the agency should be changed to Conrad & Tarkington Insurance Agency to more readily identify with the principals of the agency, and this was completed in the early months of 1970. On April 1, 1971, Conrad & Tarkington purchased the Zimmerman Insurance Agency, and on April 15 of the same year the E.T. Teller Insurance Agency of Westhoff was acquired. Westhoff business was serviced out of the Cuero office.

Effective July 1, 1972, Conrad & Tarkington purchased the Breeden, Dornbluth and Fisher Agency from J.J. Fisher and Herbert Dornbluth. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Dornbluth remained with the agency as producers. At this time the office was moved to 210 North Esplanade due to the need for additional space. The staff had grown to four, with four producers.

The agency was incorporated on July 1, 1973. The J.W. Hoff Agency of Yorktown was purchased on April 1, 1977, and a branch office was opened in that city known as Conrad & Tarkington Insurance, Inc. of Yorktown. The agency operated the branch office until July 1, 1980, at which time the business was sold to John Love who had been the producer in Yorktown.

Conrad & Tarkington, Inc. of Yoakum was opened June 1, 1979. In March, 1981, this office was closed and all business was absorbed by the Cuero office.

In January of 1979 the agency installed an in-house computer, one of the first agencies in this area to do so. Also, additional personnel had been added. These things were done in order to continue to give the people of Cuero and the surrounding area the best possible service and product. With the continued growth of the agency, the time had come to again move to larger quarters. Conrad & Tarkington moved to its present location, 212 North Esplanade, in March of 1981.

January 1, 1985, Conrad & Tarkington merged with Foss, Cates, Hudson & Sims Agency, Inc. of Victoria, Texas. This merger was executed in order for the agency to continue having access to more and varied markets to handle their customers' needs. The Cuero agency retained the name Conrad & Tarkington. Further changes in the insurance industry revealed the need for access to an even broader market; therefore, on November 1, 1988, the agency became a part of Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Company, whose home office is located in Richmond, Virginia.

Through the years the agency has always been involved in the many varied activities of the Cuero community and will continue to do so. Shortly after going into business in Cuero, Mr. Conrad became President of the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, and at the present time, Mr. Tarkington has just completed a term as President of the Chamber.

Elsie Johnson, Mickey Parma, Dorothy Wolf, Mattie Diebel, Bea Johnson, Valerie Duckett, Mollie Escobedo, Monica McAdams and Lynda Worthington make up the present office personnel. Producers are Jim Conrad, Murray Tarkington, Jack Calk, Richard Carbonara, Jr. and Neal Carbonara. This compiles the staff of fourteen; a giant step from the one producer, one girl, one typewriter office started in 1961.

by Margaret Conrad

BUCHEL DAM

B53

Buchel Dam

Buchel Dam

In the year 1892, the three Buchel brothers acquired large land holdings North of Cuero, extending along a considerable water frontage of the Guadalupe River, and including the present (1923) dam site of the Texas Central Power Company. These brothers were Otto Buchel, Frederick W. Buchel and C. August Buchel.

A power dam was built in 1898, with a view to supplying lights and power for Cuero and also, water for a rice irrigation project the brothers were interested in. The destructive flood waters of the Guadalupe River, adversities in connection with the rice farming, difficulties in connection with the management of the light plant and finally the shock from the accidental death of August Buchel, caught in a cog wheel and crushed to death, a disastrous fire which destroyed the power house, caused Mr. Buchel to place the dam and kindred interests on the market, and it was taken over in 1908, by a company headed by Wm. M. Ratcliffe and known as the Cuero Light & Power Company. They rebuilt the burned house and reconstructed the dam, and enjoyed a prosperous business until 1914, when it sold out to the Texas Southern Electric Company, backed by Boston capital and later known as the Texas Gas & Electric Company.

The bad luck continued with this company until November, 1921, when a receiver sold out its interests here as well as other places to the Texas Central Power Company. In spite of serious reverses by way of washouts, Texas Central Power Company has again rebuilt the dam, added a one hundred foot wing, installed the latest machinery and out of the Buchel beginning has given to Cuero one of the most substantial power plants in the whole of Texas.

From the Cuero Record of October 24, 1923 Fiftieth Anniversary Edition

by Patsy Goebel

HENNEKE BROS

B54

Auto Sales, Service, Supplies-Farm Equipment Sales & Service

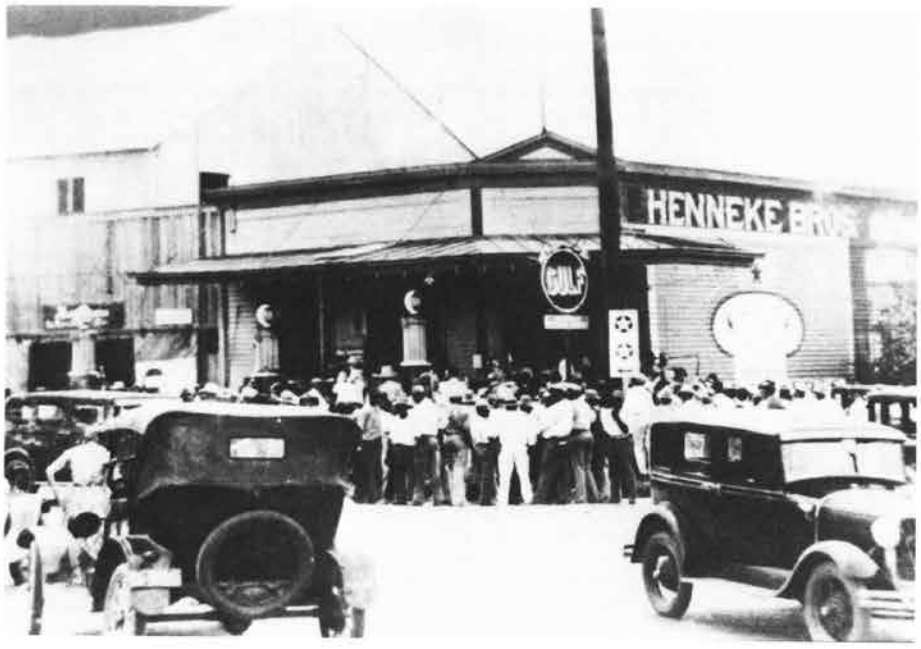
In July 1924, Fred H. Henneke and Henry T. Henneke formed a partnership and purchased an automotive and farm equipment business along with a gasoline service station from their brother, "Charley" Henneke. The Henneke brothers were reared in the Green DeWitt Community of DeWitt Co.

Fred Henneke had worked briefly for the City of Cuero before joining the bookkeeping department of Breeden Bros. General Store. Henry Henneke had been employed by the Buick Automobile Agency. While employed there, he was sent for mechanical training at the Buick Manufacturing Plant. With this schooling, Henry became a highly-qualified factory-trained mechanic on all phases of the gasoline engine and mechanical parts of the automobile.

The two brothers made a good business team. Henry's mechanical knowledge was a rarity at the time and Fred's experience in merchandising and bookkeeping rounded out their business experience. Both Fred and Henry could speak, read, and write the German language which brought them much of the German farming trade in the area.

Henneke Bros. was based on the business generated by the local farm and ranch economy. Most of their business was therefore on "credit." The customer bought everything on a "charge account" payable when the crops were harvested and sold or when the poultry or livestock were marketed. In this type of business, debts were usually paid once a year "When the crops came in."

The business establishment of Henneke Bros. consisted of three adjoining buildings which were located on the West Side of South Esplanade extending from South Railroad St. to the Cuero Water Tower. The corner building included the business office, the sales room for the Moline Farm Implements Agency, and the agency for "Star," "Durant" and "Flint" autos manufactured by Durant Motor Co. As radios became available, the Henneke Bros. had the agencies for Atwater Kent and Stewart Warner radios. This corner building also contained the Firestone Tire Agency and the less expensive Star Tire Agency as well as the Willard Storage Battery and the Reliable Storage Battery Agencies. Anders Auto Parts and Supply, then based in in Moulton, was also represented in Cuero by the Henneke Bros. Along the curb of the corner building and extending in front of the second building were four Gulf Oil Co. gasoline pumps and oil drums. Oil was sold only in bulk since oil in cans had not yet appeared. Alongside they also sold Texaco Oil and gas. Fred usually handled this unit, although the brothers worked together as the situation required. Employees included one full-time tire department employee who changed flats, mounted new tire and vulcan-



Henneke Bros. – Crowd drawn by Amos and Andy Show

ized damaged tires or tubes if necessary. Two employees, usually an adult and a teenager were hired to handle the gas pump and oil business.

The center building of the complex housed a "Tin Shop" in the rear. This was owned by Mr. Alois Ramiriez, an immigrant from the German-Austrian border. As a "tinner", he made cisterns, feed and watering troughs for farm animals, and could mend rusted or damaged metal auto fenders and bodies. The front part of this building unit was used as a storage space for four cars and housed the Henneke Bros. wrecker as well as a "road service vehicle" so that service could be provided any place in the trade area for flats, motor trouble, accident damage, etc. This rounded out Henry's full service garage.

The garage occupied the third and largest building of the complex which had four doors opening on Esplanade. Each opening could accommodate three or four cars. Three of these doors were used for all types of mechanical and body repair. Besides Henry, there were three trained mechanics and usually two young men apprentices.

The fourth opening was the "Official Headlight Inspection Station for DeWitt County." This was operated under the sole supervision of Henry who held a "Texas State Headlight Inspectors License." In about 1927 the State of Texas passed a law requiring all automobiles and trucks to install electric tail lights in place of the oil lamps on the cars. Henry taught his nephew, Larry Henneke, the installation procedure for electric tail lamps. Henry gave Larry a cardboard box full of the tail lights, a roll of insulated lamp wire, a pair of pliers, and a screwdriver. Larry pulled the box with a rope from car to car (mostly Model T's) which were lined up usually for blocks. Larry's small size was an asset since he could easily work underneath the cars.

The state law required each auto owner to present an official inspection certificate when purchasing license plates each year. Each county had only one inspection station so every car in DeWitt County had to be inspected by Henneke Bros. each year for a fee of 25 cents plus the cost of bulb replacement, realignment, or other repairs.

In the late 1920's the Henneke brothers sponsored one of the biggest events in Cuero when they brought the original Amos and Andy of early radio fame to their store. Freeman Gosden (Amos) and Charles Correll (Andy) entertained a large crowd in front of the Henneke Bros. store.

Henneke Bros. did very well until 1929 when the stock market crashed. The Great Depression hit suddenly and farmers did not have enough money to pay for items bought on "credit." Due to the rapid expansion of Henneke Bros. from 1924-1929 and since most sales were on "credit", the firm was suddenly in bad financial condition. After they had managed to collect a few of the accounts, in an effort to recoup they acquired a small neighborhood service station with a small grocery which was located on the southwest corner of Morgan and Esplanade. They also acquired another small station with gas, oil, and groceries including a water well and campground for migrant farm workers. This was located on the Yoakum Highway about ¾ mile north of Cuero.

In 1933 Fred and Henry dissolved the partnership. Henry moved to another location on the corner of Esplanade and Courthouse St. and opened a garage and gas station including auto parts, wrecker service, and Firestone tires. Henry continued to operate under the name of Hy. T. Henneke Auto Supply Station (See separate story.) until he retired in 1957. Fred kept the small convenience store with gas station and the campground with small grocery and gas station for farm laborers. He also kept the Star Tire Agency. Fred later disposed of these and became associated with the Crescent Valley Creamery in Cuero.

by Lawrence E. and Harry Henneke

ART STUDIO

B55

Art studio and real estate office in Yorktown. Former Yorktown depot.

When you reach the end of Riedel Street, traveling south in the city of Yorktown, the old railroad depot will loom up directly in front of you. The sign on the building reads "Circle N Realty".

In 1978, Joe and Tommie Nuinez became real estate brokers and started doing business as "Circle N Realty", operating out of the Yorktown Produce Company, which was a feed, seed, and fertilizer business owned and operated by Mr. Nuinez, located on the corner of Westhoff and Eckhardt Streets. In 1982, Mr. Nuinez went to full time ranching and closed the doors of his business.

Looking for a new location for Circle N Realty, it was decided to remove the fertilizer and hay which was stored in the old depot building and set up business there. The depot had been purchased from South Pacific Transportation Company in 1973, to be used as a warehouse for feed and fertilizer.

Along with selling real estate, Tommie Nuinez set up her easel and painted in her spare time. This turned into an ongoing business that is still enjoyed at this writing.

Inspiration for hundreds of paintings came to realization in this historic, hundred year old building, and today the paintings are in homes and businesses scattered to the far edges of Texas, Oklahoma, and maybe another state or two.

by Tommie Nuinez

NEW STAND, NEW WORK.

For the best in tinware, see J. F. Lobenstein, Straton building, between Whitaker's and the saddlery.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

B56

First National Bank – Yoakum

Like many other small-town general stores, the store of C. Eckhardt & Sons became a gathering place and from time to time, people would ask Caesar Eckhardt to hold money for them. It was put in tagged pouches and stored in the back of the store. At times, as has been done since earliest history, Mr. Eckhardt used some of these funds for his own investments, replacing them as soon as a transaction was completed.

In time, it occurred to him that this was in itself a good business and he started a private bank — still in the back of his store. The bank grew and another building was constructed for it, adjoining the store building.

In October, 1903, William Eckhardt, son of Caesar Eckhardt, withdrew from the mercantile business and established the First National Bank, the Eckhardt family being the principal stockholders. Officers elected were: William Eckhardt, President; Fred Dahme, Vice-President; Charles J. Eckhardt, Cashier and Gus Eckhardt, Assistant Cashier.

By March 2, 1904 all the capital stock in the bank, amounting to $25,000, had been paid in. The panic of 1907 spelled doom for a great many banks about the nation but the First National Bank came through it in good shape. It was reported in January, 1908 that a four percent semi-annual dividend of $2,000 had been paid and $3,000 had been added to the surplus fund. By June, 1908 the surplus fund was $18,500.

During this period the Eckhardt family had gradually acquired more of the bank's stock and the bank continued to grow. By mid April, 1913 the capital stock had increased to $75,000. A statement during this month indicated loans of $218,824.79 and deposits of $177,174.15.

About this time the majority control of the bank stock was sold by the Eckhardt family to Messrs. William Green and Philip Welhausen. Mr. Green took over as president and the bank entered into an era of new ideas. For one thing, it was decided that the bank had outgrown its quarters. By 1914 the bank was installed in a new building at the southwest corner of Main and Riedel Streets and at that time, Mr. Green said, "The new bank building is not too small. It will accommodate the bank as long as there is a bank in Yorktown."

Bank deposits grew until 1928, when they amounted to $868,000. A new president, Mr. E.B. Zincke, had taken command in 1927 after the death of Mr. Green. Apparently Mr. Zincke

saw financial storm warnings in advance. In late 1929 the "Great Depression" came, to be marked by bank failures all over the country. However, Mr. Zincke had put more assets into Government bonds and once again the First National Bank of Yorktown came safely through a period of national financial disaster. Deposits did drop to a low of $343,000 in mid 1933 but by December, 1975 Mr. Lou Evans Gips became president of the bank and in the following August, ownership was sold to Family Financial Institution.

Despite the addition of a drive-in facility and a walk-in facility, the bank's quarters were inadequate. A new and far larger building was planned, to include a spacious assembly room for meetings of civic and other organizations, and upstairs office space was provided. Property on the corner of Main and Gohmert was acquired.

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies were held in January of 1981 and the institution's new home was formally opened on March 21, 1982.

by Frances Hartmann

MAIN FLOWER AND GIFT SHOP

B57

The Main Flower Shop was established by Mary Frances Gruneward and her brother, Lovel (Dickie) Blain in May of 1972 in their mother's home at 502 E. Main Street. They continued this business until September, 1, 1978.

On October 3, 1978 the present owner Wiona M. (Tonie) Metting, reopened the shop and continued the business in that place for another five years. Then she moved it to the present location at 136 W. Main Street, the former site for housing the First National Bank in the two-tory brick building adjoining the Charles Eckhardt and Sons store. Several offices were upstairs and as a child, Tonie, visited the dentist, Dr. P.C. Kromer's office there.

The brick building was dismantled in the 1970's, leaving a beautiful stone wall exposed. The Metting family, utilizing the old foundation footings along with a new slab, built a two story building of steel framework, steel siding and steel inside paneling. Very little wood was used inside the building. The beautiful stone wall has been cleaned and replastered and adds much to the inside of the shop. Much of the structural steel is salvaged bridge framework.

Almost all of the building was done by the James Metting family with James doing the engineering, designing and most of the work. James, Jr. and David did the welding of the framework. John, even though only ten years of age, put many of the bolts in place. Everyone, including the girls helped with the big job of pouring and finishing the slab.

Tonie and her daughter, Marie, operate the shop with the help of a fine staff. In 1985 the shop was renamed Main Flower and Gift Shop. Many gift items, as well as, china flatware and crystal have been added. Children love the stuffed animals and balloons. Flowers have been prepared for many weddings and special attention is given to families in their bereavement. The florists truly care about the needs of each customer. This full service shop does its utmost to give the best personal service possible.

Flowers — God's Thoughts in Bloom!!

by Frances Hartmann

Main Flower Shop, site of original First National Bank, other two buildings are the museum 1990

GENE'S STUDIO

B58

Gene's Studio was established in Yorktown in January, 1946 by Eugene Czaja, a young man just back from World War II and trying to decide what to do for a career. "Gene" as he is known to everyone, decided on photography and went to Texas College of Photographic Arts in San Antonio, Texas, where he received his certificate in photography. He operated out of his home for three months before opening a business at 140 East Main Street. He was strictly in photography until 1982, when he married. In 1984, he and his wife Robbie, moved the business to 143 East Main and expanded their operation to include Wedding Rental Equipment and Supplies, Party Supplies and Gift Items.

Gene and Robbie Czaja, owners of Gene's Studio

Gene has taken pictures of couples' weddings, of their children's weddings and of their grandchildren's weddings through the forty-four years he has been in business.

Gene still operates his studio, which is now one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Yorktown.

by Frances Hartmann

WILDER'S GENERAL CERAMICS

B59

Chuck and Judy Wilder in front of their gas kiln loaded with bisqued pottery.

General Ceramics, owned and operated by Chuck and Judy Wilder, is situated three miles south of Yorktown on FM 884. They moved the pottery studio from Corpus Christi to its present location in 1979. They wheel-throw and hand-build a large selection of products. They make decorative vases, dinnerware and all occasion gift items.

The clay for making the pottery is purchased in San Antonio in a moist, processed form. Glazes are made from minerals and oxides in powdered form that are made liquid in the studio.

The Wilders employ three Yorktown residents and have plans for expanding the facilities in the future for increased production. Their products are wholesale throughout the United States.

In several public demonstrations in Yorktown, youngsters, especially, watched wide-eyed as the Wilders created handsome vases using a hunk of clay, deft hands and a potter's wheel.

Recently the Wilders opened a retail shop called "Creations" at Padre-Staples Mall in Corpus Christi and a second store will open March 1, in Fredericksburg, Texas.

by Frances Hartmann

YORKTOWN COMMUNITY BANK

B60

Yorktown Community Bank

After nearly 18 months of planning and effort, the Yorktown Community Bank received its charter from the State Banking Commission in July, 1964. The bank was approved as a member of the Federal Deposit Corporation in late January, 1965 and opened its doors in the Ganzow building at 127 East Main on February 1, 1965. Board members were: J.O. Frisbie, president and chairman of the board; Frank Burda, vice-president; Roland Kraege, assistant cashier; M.W. Weischwill; T.J. Koopmann; O.A. Jonischkies and Dr. Marvin H. Gohlke, M.D. The bank with 240 stockholders, had a capital stock of $100,000 and surplus of $100,000. By 1974 the bank had outgrown its leased quarters on Main Street and purchased property on the corner of Riedel and Fifth Streets. A new building was constructed and the bank moved in on September 3, 1974.

The statement of condition of December 31, 1983 showed the bank's assets as $20,354,349.12 with capital stock and surplus each at $400,000, undivided profits of $713,511.34. and deposits of $18,671,570.02. The bank has 17 employees and offers drive-through and PULSE services.

The 1989 board of directors of J.O. Frisbie, chairman of the board, James P. Burda, president; O.A. Jonischkies, Dr. Marvin H. Gohlke, M.D., Robert W. Moore, Dr. John H. Frels, DDS and L. Gary Taylor. Other officers of the bank are: Robert W. Moore, cashier; Carol A. Schroller, Margie Boltin, Donna L. Karnei and Bernice Zaiontz, assistant cashiers.

by Frances Hartmann

NAU BROTHERS OF YORKTOWN

B61

E. Nau

The Nau Brothers business was a dry goods store. The brothers were E. Nau and G.J. Nau, who started their business in Yorktown on July 15, 1901. Having a very small capital, they could not make much of a show, but their motto from the first day was to be strictly honest and upright, and by always selling for cash at the lowest possible prices, they succeeded in building up a splendid trade. Their patronage extended throughout the entire county and surrounding counties. They carried general dry goods, clothing, shoes, hats, trunks, etc.

G.J. Nau

Nau Brothers also had a well fitted photo studio in connection with their store. E. Nau, the senior member, had worked at photo business for thirteen years with Fey & Braunig of Hallettsville and had a reputation of being an artist equal to almost any in this part of the state.

G.J. Nau was also secretary and general sales agent of the Yorktown Truck Growers Association, and president of the Yorktown fire department.

WELCH'S JEWELRY STORE

B62

Welch's Jewelry Store

The leading jeweler of Cuero established his business in Cuero in 1873, and had always kept abreast of the times. He had a full line of diamonds, watches, jewelry, silverware and optical goods and a fine display of art pottery and cut glass. He also had a department for the sale of cutlery, guns, ammunition, fishing tackle and other sporting goods. He was the leading dealer in pianos, organs and musical goods and handled a large line of sewing machines and attachments.

Mr. Welch was one of the pioneer watchmakers of America. He served an apprenticeship of seven years and came to this country to work in the U.S. watch factory at Marion, N.J. He then accepted a position with Bell Brothers, of San Antonio until 187? when he came to Cuero to open his own business.

Mr. Welch was prominent in both business and social circles. He was president of the Hose Company No. 1 and was manager of Casino hall. Mr. Welch had considerable histrionic ability and Mrs. Welch was an experienced promoter of amateur theatricals and church

entertainments.
From 1895 *Cuero Record*

by Patsy Goebel

OTTO AND HUGO RAU SALOON

B63

1910 L-R: Otto and Hugo Rau inside Otto's Saloon

Inside new saloon after 1913 fire. L-R: Hugo Rau, Walter Rau, Otto Rau.

Westoff, Texas

On Nov. 10, 1908, Otto Rau purchased Lot 16, Block 16, in Westhoff, Texas from Otto Bruening which was the site of Otto's saloon. Otto Rau was a farmer and a land owner in the Westoff area since at least the early 1900s and continued to live in Westoff with his wife Mary (Metting) where they raised their two sons Oscar and Arnold.

Hugo Rau moved his family from the Lindenau area to Westoff in the early 1900s to help his brother, Otto, in the saloon business.

At the time Westoff was a new booming community, the prosperity of the saloon business was evident. The Rau brothers, in addition to their saloon and farming endeavors became early land speculators and developers, buying and selling lots in Westoff. On Nov. 19, 1912, Otto Rau dedicated a subdivision on the North West side of Westhoff containing 56 lots called, "Otto Rau's Addition to the town of Westoff."

In 1913 an arsonist set fires to several buildings in Westoff after first draining the town's water tower. Since fire fighters had to bring water from as far away as Cuero, 13 businesses on Houston Street had burned down to the ground before the fire was brought under control, including Otto's saloon. The arsonist fled town and was never caught. The effects of the fire was so devastating to the town, it never fully recovered.

Hugo and Otto Rau rebuilt the saloon after the 1913 fire and the new saloon's bar is shown in the photo with the three men behind the bar. The business name "Rau Brothers" is engraved on a name plat on the top of the brass cash register. On the mirror above the cash register is a sign, "God Bless Our Home". The men are (left) Hugo Rau, (center) possibly Walter Ray, (right) Otto Rau. The calendar on the wall was put out by Lynch Drug Co. of Westoff and indicates a date of Feb., 1915. Sitting on the counter under the calendar is a game board which was a game of chance. This along with cards and dominoes probably provided most of the entertainment. The bar was custom built of solid walnut with a brass foot rail, brass spittoons, and beveled glass mirrors. Behind the bar appears to be two large pillars supporting a section of decorative woodwork. This actually is a hand painted mural on the wall. The new building had electricity and a telephone as can be noted in the photograph.

New saloon built after 1913 fire W. Westhoff. Man holding reins is Otto Rau. Man standing at rear of wagon may be Town Marshall Charlie Rau.

The bar was fully equipped with all the favorite brand brews such as Triple X Lager Beer, Schlitz, and Texas Pride, which were sold for 5¢ a glass. Various Brands of cigars could be purchased. Liquors were from Hirsch Distillery, Sunny Brook (sign on wall) and probably others.

An event that caused a great deal of excitement occurred when a burglar tried to break into Hugo's safe in the saloon one night and jammed the lock. The next morning, Hugo discovered the burglary, but could not open the safe himself since the lock was damaged. He decided to dynamite open the safe himself, however, not being very proficient with dynamite, he evidently used far too much, for the resulting explosion destroyed all their money that was in the safe. His wife never let him live that one down and it became a family joke that always brought a good laugh.

Another matter of interest, during this same time period, the Rau brothers had a younger brother named Charlie, who was elected by the town folks as town marshall. His jail was located beyond the outhouses that were directly behind the Rau Brothers' Saloon.

Hugo Rau became sole owner of the saloon in 1917 and continued to operate as a saloon until 1920 when prohibition came into effect. He then was forced to convert the saloon into a short-order cafe. Hugo's wife, Ida (Metting), and daughters, Elsie and Erna, managed the cafe. Ida baked fresh pies and bread every day while the daughters waited tables. The cafe was not as profitable as the saloon business had been, therefore, it was sold on Dec. 11, 1922 to E.A. Tully.

Hugo later sold his farm on the Yorktown Road 1 mile South of Westoff and moved his family to Alice, Texas, where he farmed and lived out the rest of his life.

by Annie Marie Turk Johnson, granddaughter of Hugo Rau

LOUIS KELLER, CROCKERY AND HOUSE FURNISHINGS

B64

Probably no city of this size in the Union could boast of a finer or more complete stock of china, crockery, glassware and house furnishing goods than was shown by this firm. The two-story brick building 30x75, which was erected and occupied in the year 1890, is a handsome structure. Inside you could see show cases filled with silver and silver-plated hollow-ware, of which all the best brands were kept in stock. On the left was Haviland china, white and decorated, for painting. This china could be had in tea or dinner sets. In English decorated dinnerware they showed ten open-stock patterns. Cut glassware, in handsome designs, mingled with Royal Worcester and Milano Art Pieces, were shown on center tables. The firm was an agent for the American Lamp Company, who were considered the most artistic lamp manufacturers in the world. Also, a line of fancy baskets, stationery and druggists' sundries were kept, with samples of toys and dolls kept down during the summer, completed the lines shown on the first floor.

On the second floor, all the heavy glassware, Carlsbad China and toys were kept. The whole length of this floor had shelves running from floor to ceiling filled with toys.

In the house-furnishing department, 25x65, there was a handsome line of Buck's stoves and ranges; 26 samples were shown. These stoves had exclusive features not to be found in others, and all were in line. Coal oil, gasoline and alcohol stoves, tinware, woodenware, willow-ware and stove fixtures could be had. Agate-ware was shown, and samples of this ware covered half the side shelves.

Messrs. Louis, Anton and Chas. Keller would take care of you in the house furnishings department, while in the crockery department Messrs. V.J. Grunder, George Kleinecke and Miss Nora Nitche would show you the finest stock in all Southwest Texas and Dave Lewis would deliver your purchases.

From 1895 *Cuero Star*

by Patsy Goebel

Louis Keller's Crockery and Home Furnishings

CUERO CREAMERY

B65

The Cuero Creamery had been in successful operation here for several years, by 1906. It was an enterprise that had earned a neat dividend for its shareholders every year of its existence, and its products were sold all over the state. Some of its patrons had received high receipts during it monthly pay rolls, while a great many farmers of this immediate section of country had been enabled to milk good stock for this creamery and had to maintain themselves and their farms the year through on a cash basis, with all of the satisfaction and advantage which this condition means to a farmer's affairs. The directors of the creamery were Judge Edward Koenig, Charles Fischer, H.F. Dahlman, Henry Rau and Walter Reiffert. They had as buttermaker Mr. J.M. Eubanks, who did all of the work of the plant and kept everything in such thorough and perfect condition as to put out a product second to nothing manufactured in America. The test of merit of this creamery's butter had been that the dealers of the different cities of the state who had been using it for years continued with it and had no complaint except that they could not get enough of it. The introduction of the creamery in Cuero brought scores of the finest dairy cattle to be obtained in the country into this immediate section.

1906 *Cuero Star*

by Patsy Goebel

RICHARD HARRIS HACK SERVICE

B66

The bus and transfer business is quite an important item in the transactions of a city as well as a public convenience. This line of business is conducted by Richard Harris, who came to Cuero in 1890 from Tennessee with a wagon and team as the sum of his worldly possessions. He began driving a hack about 1891 and the extensive business he built up was due to his energy and close attention to the wants of this customers. His carriages and baggage transfer, ran from all trains, and he also had a number of fine vehicles which were in constant demand. He owned several draywagons and took contracts for moving household furniture and hauling building materials. He contracted to excavate foundations and remove the dirt and when a new business block was erected in Cuero he usually did all the necessary hauling. His stable contained fourteen head of horses, five fine carriages and other vehicles representing an investment of $4000. Dick Harris built up a paying business in Cuero and there were few cities in the state which had better service. Cuero offered a fine field for operations in his line and he filled the want in a manner which reflects credit upon himself and made a good impression upon the traveling public.

THE NOSTER MEAT MARKET

B67

Workers at the Noster Meat Market on First Street with the specially equipped horse-drawn delivery wagon. The only person identified is Oscar Noster, 2nd from the left.

Later view of Noster Meat Market building

A Noster Meat Market was maintained over a hundred years in Yorktown by three generations of the family. The first one was established by Gustave Adolph Noster ca 1874 in the area of the southwest corner of the present City Park when beef sold for four cents a pound. His mall rectangular wood frame shop was the first such for Yorktown. Adolph came from a line of butchers, having learned the trade from his father, Rudolf Julius Wilhelm Noster whose wife was Alvina Ernestina Rosalie (Kraege) Noster. When Adolph was born on April 21, 1851, his parents resided in Freideberg, Province of Brandenberg, Germany, Kingdom of Prussia. His grandparents, who lived there too, were butcher Johann Friedrich and Dorothee Frederike (Benekendorf) Noster and Johann Friedrich Wilhelm and Auguste Dorothee (Warnicke) Kraege. Adolph had two younger brothers, Fritz and Rudolf, and a younger sister, Elise Anna (Schuchardt).

When Adolph, as he was called, came to Texas at the age of 18, his ship first landed in New York, then in New Orleans on January 12, 1870 and finally at Indianola. From there he went through Victoria and Meyersville to Yorktown. He made his Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States of America on August 5, 1873 in Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas. This citizenship was granted on March 12, 1875 by the District Court at Helena, Karnes County, Texas.

Adolph married Ida Range in Yorktown in 1874. Her parents were Johann and Pauline (Reuser) Range of Yorktown. Ida had three brothers, Julius, Herman, and Albert, and one sister, Agnes. Ida attended school in Yorktown. The Adolph Nosters had the following children: William (who died at birth), "Fritz," Adolph and Herman (twins), Oscar, Pauline, Agnes, Alvina, and Frieda (who died in infancy). Adolph was a strong husky man. Once when a steer charged him, he caught the animal by the horns and wrestled him to the ground. With his father-in-law, he roped wild horses at Pilot Knob near Nordheim, Texas, and brought them home to tame and to sell. In a more gentle role, Adolph often starred by having the leading part in the monthly dramas presented at the Lenz Theatre. This theatre, saloon and hotel combination, was situated on Main Street where City Hall and Wolf's Store are now.

Ida (Range) Noster died at age 35, on February 22, 1894, after the birth of her ninth child, Frieda. A blizzard that night covered the ground with snow. Her bier was carried on a wagon drawn by horses from her home at Second and Eckhardt Streets to the Westside Cemetery for burial. Thee band to which Adolph belonged, followed the wagon, played and marched in the snow all the way to the cemetery. Baby Frieda lived only a few months. Adolph and his mother-in-law worked together to rear his seven children to be a large family of honorable sons and daughters.

Adolph retired from the meat market around 1914 and turned the work over to his sons, Herman and Oscar, who had learned the trade from him and had helped in his market a number of years. For some time a shop was maintained on First and Eckhardt Streets and later one at 115 S. Church Street in the small frame Louis Strieber building which had a smaller shop in the back for smoking sausages. Emil Galle was a helper and when Herman left the market, Oscar's wife worked with her husband in his shop. Due to ill health, Oscar retired in 1945. Soon after this, his son, Henry, returned from the armed service and reopened the meat market. His partner was Herbert Baschnagel. They named the shop, "H. and H. Meat Market." In 1956 after Herbert moved to Houston, Henry moved the market to 202 E. Main, added a grocery section and had his wife, Mildred, as a partner until the business was sold in 1988 to Gary and Kay Hilbrich. That transaction ended an era of over one hundred years of meat marketing for the Noster Family — from a time when the hide of a cow was worth more than its meat to a time when a soup bone costs as much as a whole cow used to cost!

by Frances Hartmann

"THE OLD BLACKSMITH SHOP"

B68

1925 Blacksmith Shop with Minnie (Eilers) Mueller and Rudolf Mueller with sons Rudy and Willie

It was a proud day for Rudolf Mueller when he and his brother Johann arrived in the port of Galveston in 1914. Leaving their homeland of West Germany was not an easy decision, knowing they might not see their family again. Crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the "Bremen", a huge passenger ship to America, was quite an adventure. Rudolf had just turned 21 and Johann was only 15. They had relatives in the Shiner, Texas are and had hopes of finding jobs.

1959 Rudolf Mueller in front of Blacksmith Shop

1953 Mueller home in Concrete, TX

Rudolf had completed 4 years of training as a blacksmith and wheelwright at one of Germany's best schools of trade. Good blacksmiths were in demand and he soon had a job in Shiner. Johann grew homesick and returned to the family in Germany; where he still lives today at 90 years of age. Rudolf was determined to succeed and worked hard at the career he had chosen. Soon he was able to go into a partnership with Mr. Joe Ruby, the owner of the shop.

During these early years house parties were the popular way for friends and neighbors to get together. It was at a Christmas party where Rudolf met Miss Minnie Eilers from Dreyer, Texas; a small town southwest of Shiner. A special friendship grew into love and they were married on July 20th, 1916 in the beautiful DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas. The 16 year old bride was lovely in an old-fashioned lace trimmed dress. She watched in amazement at the jewelers while the matching wedding bands were carved from a block of pure gold and engraved inside with the couple's initials. They traveled to Shiner in a Model-T Ford and moved into a little white frame house that still stands there today.

In 1924 Rudolf and Minnie built their own blacksmith shop in Dreyer on the John H. Mueller farm, where Minnie had spent her childhood. By this time they had 2 sons. Rudy, born in 1919 and Willie, born in 1923. A daughter, Annette was born in 1925. In 1926 the Rudolf Mueller family moved to Concrete, Texas; a tiny settlement located 11 miles north of Cuero.

They rented a house on the W.W. McCormick place. The blacksmith shop was moved from Dreyer to Concrete on wagons pulled by teams of horses and mules.

Arriving at Concrete near sundown, the teams were exhausted and there was very little light to see by. The horses and mules were unhitched and stabled while the shop was left standing in the dirt road which passed through the little town. The large double doors were opened wide and lanterns were hung to light the traffic which had to pass through the shop. There were wagons, buggies, old-tyme cars and even a bus passed through during the night. At daylight the shop was moved onto the McCormick place where it stood for 2 years as a business. In 1929 a 63 acre farm was bought

from the Staplefeldt acreage and a new home built. Once again the shop was moved; where it became a lifetime heritage for the Mueller family. Rudolf and Minnie worked hard, with the help of their children, working both the blacksmith shop and the farm. Another son, John Fred was born in 1934 and another daughter, Jo Anne Minnie in 1936.

Rudolf was excellent at his trade, making quality horseshoes, wagon wheels, branding irons, sweeps, plow-points, tools and farm equipment parts. He made special "shoes" for "fresnors" and with the help of his sons, Rudy and Bill, took them to the Allen-Rich Taylor and Boothe gravel pits for "mounting". He also sharpened tools, plow-points, water well bits and many other items.

In 1935 when Highway 183 came through, lots of blacksmith work was needed by the highway department and business was good. One of Rudolf's favorite jobs was working with horses and mules and he was an excellent horseman. The hooves were trimmed and filed with a rasp; then horseshoes nailed on with loving care. This was also a favorite line for the children when they got to hold the horse by the reins and were assured of an exciting horseback ride later. John Fred enjoyed going with his Dad to shoe the horses at thee Tex-Tan Tannery in Yoakum. He held the horses by their harnesses and comforted them during the work so they would not have to be tied or hobbled. The daughters too have special memories of helping out at the shop. Many times Annette would be needed to turn the blower to the home-made coal forge; standing on a wooden box to reach the handle. There was always plenty to do during summer months. During the winter when farm work was slow and business slack, Rudolf would find work in blacksmith shops all over the State of Texas, always returning to his little shop and family in Concrete where his special times were spent on creative work; such as initials and ornamental ironwork.

The shop was sold; dismantled and moved from Concrete in January 1959 and a dream was ended for Rudolf. He left this world the following September at the age of 66. Minnie, his wife lived to the age of 65, enjoying their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren until November of 1984. They are both buried in Hermannson's Cemetery; not too far from where they had spent most of their lives.

Now only photographs and memories remain, along with a heritage that will long be cherished and remembered by their descendants.

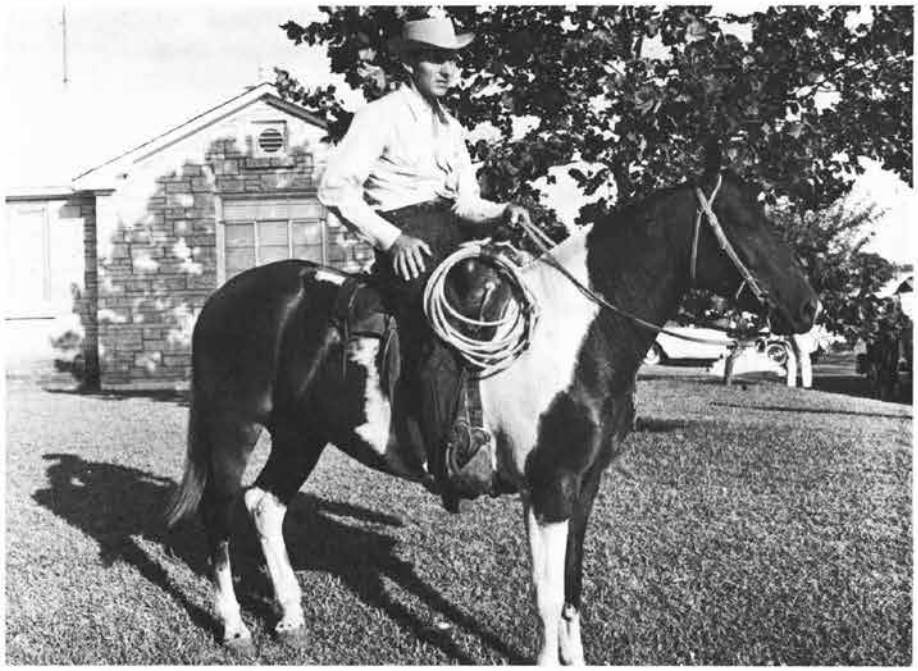
by JoAnne Mueller Shimek

THE BAR LS RANCH

B69

The dream of being a real "cowboy" is one shared by many Texans over the years, since earliest times of the wild frontier days. For Leo Shimek this became a reality and a way of life. Born in 1928 on a farm near Sweet Home, Texas, he lost his mother at age three. This caused many heartaches for him, his Dad and three older brothers. The depression of the 30's brought hard time for all the country and jobs were scarce.

In 1936 the family moved to the Eugene Placke Ranch near Yoakum in DeWitt County. They did farm and ranch work and Leo learned to love the horses, cattle and country life. They lived in an old log house with a "dog-run", which once had a stagecoach in and relay station. After growing up he tried various jobs but he preferred the country life and work he grew up to love.



Leo Shimek and "Paint" ready for Yoakum Tom-Tom parade 1961

1975 Leo Shimek and Tex II, Concrete, TX

1976 Leo Shimek and "Dusty" after a hard day's work

In 1955 he met Miss JoAnne Mueller from Concrete, Texas and they were married on October 19th, 1956. By this time he was employed as a lineman for Lay Construction Company in Corpus Christi, Texas. In 1960 they returned to DeWitt County where they started a small ranch. They raised Braford, Brangus and Charbray cattle over the years; many descended from "Tex I", their first registered Brahma Bull.

Leo did farm and ranch work for many local ranchers, living 13 years on the "Brushy Creek Ranch" near Yoakum. The ranch was owned by the Garland Houck Family. Leo was well known and liked for his good work and his honesty. His pleasant personality won him respect and many friends.

In the 70's Leo and his cow horse "Dusty" became a favorite pair to call on at round-up time and when special jobs needed doing. He was joined by his sons, David and Danny as they grew up under his teaching. His young daughters, Laurelie and Leilanie also learned horsemanship plus farm and ranch chores; so the family was close. The children loved and respected their Dad and he was always a good provider.

The Bar LS Ranch, located near Concrete and Hochheim, Texas grew and prospered. In October of 1979, Leo was called home at the age of 51, leaving a great emptiness in the hearts of his family and friends. Today six lovely grandchildren are told about their Granddad who was a real cowboy, and are taken on horseback rides on "Dusty", who is still a beautiful spirited mare, age 20. For JoAnn and the family, many precious memories remain, along with photographs and the Bar LS Homestead, and a very special heritage. This story is lovingly dedicated to: Tammy Shimek, Nicole Shimek, John Shimek, Issac Lokey, Sharalie Lokey and Cassondra Holeman — The grandchildren who never got to meet their wonderful Granddad, Leo Shimek.

by JoAnne Shimek

SEED POTATOES

Consisting of
TRIUMPHS ORUS EARLY ROSE AND PEERLESS. THE STOCK IS VERY FINE.

We Handle
All Kinds of Feed, such as Corn Oats Corn Chops Wheat Bran Bice Feed Dairy Feed and Hay

Our stock of
Groceries Farming Implements Woodenware Crockery and Glassware is worthy of your inspection.

Otto Buchel & Co.

THE FRITZ RIEDEL OPERA HOUSE

B70

A fascinating history is that of a small tract of land at the corner of North Church and Main Street in Yorktown, which through many transactions, went from the hands of Captain John York's Estate to that of the present owners of a modern Texaco Station, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Riedesel. The first transaction came in 1854 when it became necessary to sell some of the York Estate to pay for some debts. At that time Franz Hoppe purchased over 1,000 acres ($2 per acre) of the Yorktown Tract whereby he literally saved the little town from being dismembered by sale to many outside buyers. He was the agent for many Yorktown citizens who had pledged to buy plots from him. Through the years, other owners of the corner lot were the Moritz Ridels, Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Cornick, the Fritz Riedels, the Herman Riedels, the Harlan Riedels, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gras and eventually the Roland Riedesels.

In 1872 Fritz Riedel purchased the corner "one acre" from Mrs. Mary Cornick for $150. After Fritz Riedel married Johanna Duderstadt in 1866, they lived in a rock home near the corner of North Riedel and 19th Streets. He operated the first brewery in Yorktown and in 1871 established his Lone Star Saloon on the North Riedel and Main Street corner. To the east of the saloon, in 1892, he built the Riedel Opera House. The new two-story colonial style Riedel home was situated just east of that.

The opera house was unique in that it and the saloon were cooled by ceiling fans operated by a gas engine outside of the buildings. The opera house had an arched entrance, a balcony, a stage with footlights, draw curtains and a painted backdrop. Here home talent and traveling vaudeville presentations drew large crowds. Yorktown's own musical groups called the Ideal Band, the Lone Star Orchestra and the later Yorktown Concert Orchestra all appeared regularly at the monthly presentations. A Texas Lutheran College group presented a play. Teamsters made it a point to be in Yorktown for the balls, socials, etc. The town marshall, Mr. Gus Lenz, is still remembered by citizens today for his vocal solos and his melodious voice like that of the late Italian Enrico Caruso.

An excerpt from the Dec. 7, 1897 Yorktown News, notes: "Last Saturday night the Woodman entertainment came off at Riedel's Hall . . . from the applause and hilarity with which it was received, it must have pleased the audience immensely." The first movies in Yorktown were silent and shown in tents. These air domes, as the tents were called, were later named the Electric Garden, which in 1916 advertised, "Three big reels every night." When movies were shown later in the opera house, it actually became the first movie house for the town. Not all movies were for mere entertainment. An ad in the October 17, 1912 Yorktown News announces a movie at the opera house on October 22: "The Clothing Industry.' (From sheep to wearer . . . shows all stages of making clothes.) "The Graduate" showed hand tailored clothes for young men and "Wooly Boy" was about clothing for boys. Admission was free. In 1927 C.W. Frels brought talking pictures to town in his L'Arcade Theatre on East Main.

A favorite type of dance at the opera house was that for which the young ladies made themselves calico dresses and saved a sample of the material. At the dance the men would draw a swatch from a box and whoever got one that matched a lady's dress, became her dancing partner! Masquerade dances for adults and for young people were also popular.

Other places of entertainment before Riedel's Opera House included Strieber's private hall in 1855 and Heissig's hall in Upper Town. In 1856 Gohmert's Theatre was built having a large dance area and a stage with curtain and scenery painted by a Mr. Freye. This theatre was destroyed in an 1862 tornado. Lenz's Theatre at the southwest corner of Riedel and Main, was built ca 1866 and was the center for balls, receptions, musicals, etc.

The Riedel Opera House and the Lone Star Saloon were torn down in the 1940's to make room for a Texaco Gas station and in 1985, the colonial home was moved to make room for expansion of this station owned by Mr. and Mr. Roland Riesdel, and to provide parking space for Cuero Federal Savings situated next door at 225 East Main Street.

by Frances Hartmann

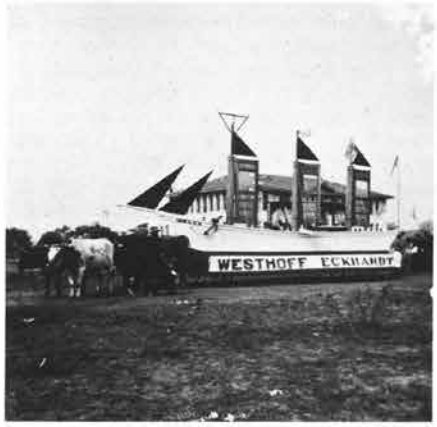
The 1913 Yorktown Fire Department and Nau Brothers Yorktown Harvest Feast horse-drawn floats "parked" on the Riedel Corner at Church and N. Main. Festoons across the street and on the Riedel home (right) were hung by a Mr. Todd. In the center is the Fritz Riedel Opera House with its tall facade, and to its left is the Fritz Riedel Lone Star Saloon with its sign: "Glad U Kum."

For the Harvest Feasts begun in 1912, festooned streets and buildings by Mr. Todd add a festive atmosphere to Fritz Riedel's Lone Star Saloon, his adjoining Opera House and the Riedel home, all facing Main Street at North Church. The rider is unidentified.

YORKTOWN'S FIRST LUMBER YARD

B71

In 1886 Cuero resident, William Westhoff senior and William A. Eckhardt established Yorktown's first lumber yard. It was situated on South Riedel Street near the depot and became one of the best suppliers of lumber in DeWitt and surrounding counties. The plant grew to occupy two and one-half acres with warehouse, store, sash and doors and office in separate buildings. The business was called



Mr. Westhoff had a penchant for creating unusual floats for parades. This oxen-drawn boat with wooden door "sails" and "propelled by Messrs. Heath and Wells," was the Westhoff-Eckhardt Lumber Co. (WELCO) entry in a Harvest Feast Parade.

Westhoff-Eckhardt Lumber Company. After the death of William Westhoff, senior, his son, William, junior became owner of his father's share. In1914 he purchased Mr. Eckhardt's share and named the plant W. Westhoff Retail Lumber Yard, which in 1923 was changed to Westhoff Lumberyard. In 1944 the business was sold to Alamo Lumber Company and later the property was sold to Yorktown Elevator Company.

William Westhoff Senior came to Meyersville before the Civil War, moved to Indianola and from there to Cuero in 1878. William junior, born at Indianola came to Yorktown in 1888 after attending Texas A&M College. On November 16, 1897, he married Louise E. Korth in Yorktown. They had one daughter, Rosa Lou (Skinner).

In addition to owning and managing a lumberyard, Mr. Westhoff was a director of the First National Bank, and organizer and director of the Yorktown Cotton Oil and Manufacturing Company. He served as an alderman in the town and in 1929 was elected Mayor of Yorktown.

William Westhoff junior died on July 20, 1940 and Louise, his wife, died on October 15, 1944. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery at Yorktown.

Presently 1990 Yorktown has two lumberyards. They are The Blaschke Lumber Company and The Home Lumber Company.

by Frances Hartmann

TEXAS HOTEL

B72

Texas Hotel 1920's

The first recorded land transaction on which this building is situated was a deed from Cuero Land & Immigration Co. to A.L. Qualls and J.H. Kent of Gonzales County in March 1873 for $275.00. This was for the corner property being 60's on Esplanade and 125' on Church Street. In September of that year, the property was sold to Baker and Woodworth for $375.00. In August 1881 they sold 15½' fronting on Esplanade going back 50' on the south part to George Wallingford for $400.00. Jeff Dietze now has his law offices on this land.

In February 1894 John Stratton purchased the corner property from Baker & Woodworth for $6,000.00. There had been some improvements made and evidently it was a dry goods store. In that same year Mr. Stratton built a two-story brick building on this corner complete with basement. The eye-catching feature was a corner turret with a tin roof of unusual design on the upper story. Mr. Stratton dealt in harnesses, saddlery, carriages, buggies and wagons. An old newspaper article stated he came to Cuero in 1875 and opened a saddlery and harness business the next year. Two years later he added "a fine line of vehicles". This article also noted he would be moving on November 1, 1895 to another building he was erecting which would be two doors down on Esplanade.

In October 1879 Mr. Stratton had purchased a piece of land from Cuero Land & Immigration Co. for $150.00. This was immediately behind the corner property and fronted on Church Street. This land is referred to in deeds as the Stratton Livery Stables property. In 1897 Mr. Stratton extended the brick corner building onto this property. It is not known what the second floor of this building was designed for, but at one time Dr. DeViney had his dental offices in the "tower room". When the addition was put on, the stairway to upstairs was changed. At an early date there was also a two-story wooden porch fronting out on Church Street.

In 1897 Mistrot & Bros. occupied some part of this building. This was a chain dry goods store that had moved from a building in the 100 block of West Main. Also, the front of the building on Esplanade had been glassed-in between the columns.

There are references to the upstairs being the Navidad Hotel in 1912. In 1913 Maude Butler purchased the building for $25,000.00 and the name changed to Butler Hotel. In 1916 Mr. R.M. Insall assumed a note on the building for $18,000. He evidently did not pay this as it was sold at sheriff's sale in 1917 and Mr. Stratton bought the property back for $5,205.00.

In 1929 Mr. C.D. Peavy purchased the property from the Stratton Estate. In the many years past it has also been the Florence Hotel and Texas Hotel and has housed many different businesses on the ground floor. It has been home to the Chamber of Commerce, Cuero Butane Gas Co., Thigpen Shoe Repair, Edgar Insurance, an antique store, a barber shop and an upholstery shop. There was a bowling alley downstairs at one time.

In 1979 Theo A. Reuss acquired the property from Margaret Peavy Heisig through a trade of buildings with the Buchel Bank. It had been used as a hotel until sometime in the 1960's and Mrs. Menke had had a dining room in the rear part at one time.

Joe Reuss acquired the property after the death of his father. Much of it stayed vacant for many years. In 1988 Joe decided to restore the exterior that was badly in need of paint and mortar around the bricks. The metal columns had been covered by wood and the glass in the upper portion of the porch covered over. These were returned to the original state. It was during this time that it was decided to "fix up" the back portion of the downstairs. It had been used for storage for a long time and the roof was gone on much of the one story portion. The interior walls of the front room had to be replastered but it was decided not to change the 15' ceiling. During this time interest had been shown in the upstairs so that came next. Joe decided to paint the hall walls, the stairway and install lighting. The original screen doors on all of the rooms were reworked and rehung. A basic amount of carpentry work was done. The upstairs now is fully occupied by offices, artists, crafts, antiques and pottery. The ground floor contains a dress shop in the newly decorated rear portion, an antique shop, a deli, gift shop and pet store.

This is certainly a far cry from the original intent of the builder and if the walls could talk, it would really be interesting.

This building is listed on the National Historic Register.

by Wanda Reuss

DRS. REUSS & REUSS,

PHYSICIANS - AND - SURGEONS.

Office over Reuss Sons' Drug Store.

CUERO, - - - TEXAS.

"LITTLE" STRATTON BUILDING

B73

This property in the 100 block of North Esplanade was also part of the Cuero Land and Immigration Co. and in March 1873 was sold to W.B. Gorman. In November of that year he sold the south half of the property to Anton Miller. That portion now houses Ruschaupt Plumbing. There is a reference in the abstract to a saloon called "Merchants Exchange" but it is not clear on which portion of land it resided.

In March 1879 John Stratton purchased the north half of this land. He had come to Cuero in 1875 and gone into the harness and saddlery business. It is assumed on this property. He also bought land to the rear of this, fronting on Church Street at the same time.

In 1894 he bought the property to the north of him on the Corner of Esplanade and Church Streets which adjoined his property on Church. He built a two story building with basement on that property. When this building (now referred to as the Texas Hotel) was completed, he moved his leather business there. In 1895 he erected a fire-proof iron, brick and concrete building on his original site. This two story building contained an apartment upstairs and an unfinished basement. The apartment had concrete floors and two fireplaces. It isn't known if the Strattons built this for themselves. The basement was used for tanning hides and had wooden racks suspended from the ceiling and a dirt floor. In November 1895 he moved back from the larger corner building.

In 1929 Mr. Stratton passed away. He was living in Bexar County at that time and the occupant of the building is now known. At one time Mr. and Mrs. Kautz, owners of the Standard Printing, lived upstairs in the apartment. Elmer Luddeke purchased the building from the Stratton Estate. During recent years it has housed Mr. Luddeke's office, Thompson Cleaners, Fischer Realty, an insurance company and a book store.

After Mr. Luddeke's death, the property was sold to Joe and Wanda Reuss. The ground floor had been divided into two businesses in earlier years and the front changed. Joe found the original doors, put them back on and restored the outside. During this time he decided something "had to be done" about the basement. The entrance was through a hole in the sidewalk covered over with boards. A portion of the front was moved to make room for an outside stairway down. A concrete floor was poured, ceiling installed along with lighting and air-conditioning. This has housed a gift shop and a game room but now is occupied by a financial adviser, Steve Wilde. He and his wife added partitions, installed kitchen facilities, painted the brick walls, carpeted and made a beautiful office in what had been a dirt floor basement.

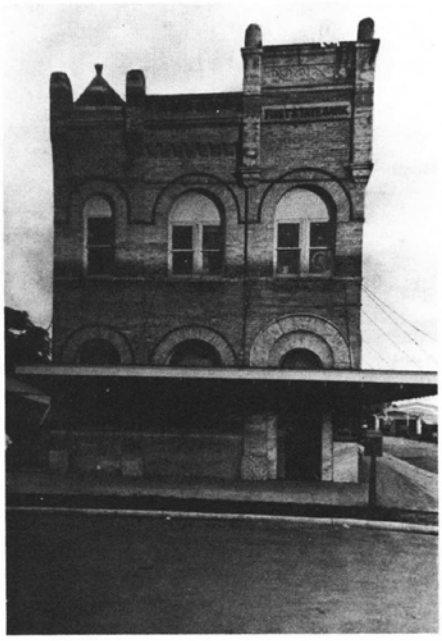
The upstairs apartment was totally refinished and the fireplaces made to work again. Partitions were added to the one huge room to make a kitchen, bath, closet, utility room, bedroom and living area. A porch was added over the one story part of the downstairs to add a patio area. This apartment is occupied also.

This building is on the National Historic Register.

by Wanda Reuss

FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST CO.

B74



First State Bank – Cuero

In May 1873 the Cuero Land and Immigration Co. sold to Robert P. Carr a parcel of land having a frontage on Esplanade of 78' and 125' frontage on Church Street for $45.00. This is the land housing the Burt Witcher Jewelers now and commonly thought of as the old Farmers State Bank and Trust Building.

In July 1876 the property was sold to Mike Omeara and reference is made to stables and stall improvements on it. In August 1877 it was sold to Mrs. Lizzie Baker and Mrs. V.W. Woodworth.

In 1892 a portion of the original tract was sold to the First National Bank of Cuero for $4000.00. This was a portion with 26' frontage on Esplanade and 125' frontage on Church Street. There was an agreement at that time that the bank was to erect a brick building of not less than two stories to be used for banking purposes. In agreement with this, the Bakers and Woodworths were to remove, within 90 days after completion of the building, the stable buildings situated on an adjoining lot and would not use or allow to be used for stable purposes or as a feed yard or stock pen of any kind. If the agreement was not complied with, damages of $20.00 per month would be assessed until removal. The building was erected in 1893 and was of pressed stone and brick, 26'X75' in dimension, two-story high and contained a two-story double fire-proof vault fitted with burglar proof chests, protected by Yale double time locks.

In 1907 the First National Bank agreed to voluntary liquidation and the First State Bank and Trust applied to the banking commission for charter and assumed this bank property for $11,000.00 on March 1907. At this time the following were named as Board of Directors for the first year and until their successors are elected and qualified as provided by law: Lee Joseph, C.G. Breeden, W.K. Breeden, J.J. Sumners, John Y. Bell, M. Byrne, William Buehrig, Stayton E. Weldon, T.A. Graves, Sam C. Lackey, S.J. Lackey, S.J. Friar, J.L. Dubose, A.S. Billings, J.N. Card, Emil Leonardt, John Rogge, Frederick Terrell, T.R. Taylor, John Duderstadt, Arthur Burns, W.D. Finney, Geo. J. Schleicher, J. Ed Lord and John M. Bennett.

In April 1913 the Woodworths and Bakers sold the north 26' of this property to Sam Lackey for $2,000.00 and he in turn sold it to the bank for the same amount. There is no mention of the use of this portion after the removal of the stables and stalls. This is the vacant property that was used for a drive-thru for many years.

In March 1926 the banking commission filed suit to declare the bank insolvent, the bank having closed its doors. The bank showed assets of $643,984.10 and capital and surplus of $147,195.72. They showed liabilities of $496,688.38 with corrections to this later and individual deposits of $340,595.61. The commission in the petition stated that the Farmers State Bank and Trust of Cuero had tentatively entered into a contract and agreement with the commission to take over all of the assets of the First Bank and Trust Co. and assume all liabilities of the bank. The following were selected as Board of Directors: Sam C. Lackey, S.J. Friar, William Buehrig, G.M. Duckworth, J.N. Card, J.L. Dubose, W.K. Breeden and Louis Schorre.

In July 1947 the bank sold the back 40's fronting on Church Street for $3,000.00 to David Stiles with the stipulation the property not be used or occupied as a place where any business prohibited, or made illegal by law, is carried on or where beer or intoxicating liquor is kept or offered for sale or sold, or as a pool or billiard parlor or room or similar game room or a moving picture show or theatre. In August 1950 the property was deeded from David Stiles back to the bank.

In April 1961 Theo A. Reuss acquired this property in a trade with the bank. Mr. Reuss owned the property where the bank is now located on Esplanade and Live Oak Streets and they switched properties.

Since the bank moved out, the building has housed the Selective Service, a beauty shop, a flooring company, an accounting firm and a real estate office. While the bank was there the telephone company was quartered upstairs for many years. Upon the death of his father, Joe Reuss assumed ownership of this property. The ground floor is occupied by Burt Witcher Jewelers and the upstairs is rented as office space.

This building is listed on the National Historic Register.

by Wanda Reuss

REUSS PHARMACY

B75

Texas' oldest drug store came into being in Indianola, Texas, in 1845 when Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss immigrated from Germany. Its first home was a tent shared with Dr. Reuss' medical practice and later a wooden structure was built on Main Street. In 1853 Dr. Reuss entered into an agreement with David Lewis and Dr. F.E. Hughes to form a partnership with Lewis and Hughes each having a fourth interest and Dr. Reuss one-half interest. In 1860 Dr. Reuss sought out his partners and

J.M. Reuss and son in late 1800's

operated as sold owner.

When the railroad to the coast was completed, Dr. Reuss opened a branch store in Cuero with his son Dr. August Reuss as operator. J.M. Reuss & Son Drug Store was opened on Main Street in a one-story wooden structure.

In September 1875, the hurricane did major damage to all of the coastline. Dr. Reuss made his decision to move inland. He dismantled his home and business and moved to Cuero. In 1876 August passed away and upon completion of pharmacy school, Oscar joined his father in the drug store. They also built a small building to the rear of the store and operated a soda water bottling works that operated as late as 1895.

In 1885 the one-story building was moved to make room for a two-story brick building with the ground floor occupied by the drug store and the second story to house doctor's offices. The 1895 Cuero Star is quoted "This store is handsomely furnished in all white fixtures and the stock of drugs, chemicals, oils, paints, varnishes, proprietary medicines, toilet articles, school supplies and druggist sundries is full and complete. The wooden structure was moved to the 300 block of Gonzales Street across from the courthouse and served as a home for Oscar and his family. This structure is still occupied as a residence.

Dr. Reuss retired in 1895 and Oscar continued in the store until his death in 1908. At that time, Dr. J.H. Reuss, the youngest of Dr. J.M. Reuss' children, returned from Dallas to see to the operation of the drug store. In 1912 Theodore A. Reuss purchased the store from the Reuss Estate. Theo was the son of Oscar Reuss and he continued as owner/operator until 1957. In January 1957 Theo's son, Joe, graduated from pharmacy school and became associated with his father. Shortly after Joe joined the firm, Theo retired due to ill health.

In 1971 Joe decided to build a new and larger building thus ending 99 years on Main Street. The new building was erected at 515 North Esplanade and the name changed to Reuss Pharmacy and after 144 years is operated by the 4th generation in the Reuss family.

The Main Street location that housed the drug store for so long is still owned by Joe Reuss and is now occupied by a ladies ready-to-wear chain.

This building is on the National Historic Register.

by Wanda Reuss

VALUMART PHARMACY

B76

Heaton Bros. Drug Store

The beginning date of this business is not known, but the October 1895 edition of the Cuero Star states that "the widely known and popular Heaton Drug business was founded in 1854 by Lavaca, Texas, by J.C. Heaton who purchased the business of Niells & Wilson, leading druggists of that town." In 1860 L.D. Heaton arrived in Texas from New York to become associated with his brother. From 1865 to 1867 Thomas Wilson was a partner and the firm was Heaton & Wilson until the death of Mr. Wilson. Mr. Heaton bought his partner's interest and the firm again was known as Heaton Drug until July 1870 when it became J.C. Heaton & Brother. In that year the railroad was extended from Indianola to Victoria and the firm broadened their business with L.D. Heaton in charge in Victoria.

In 1870 D.C. Heaton came to Texas and stayed in the Lavaca store until the following spring when he entered the Victoria store. In 1871 they purchased a Cuero site and began a building. D.C. Heaton moved to Cuero and took charge of this store when it opened. In 1879 this store burned down but reopened within 24 hours.

In 1889 they built a two-story brick building on a site next door to their first store and moved into it. In 1891, J.C. Heaton died and his interest was purchased by the other brothers. The firm name was changed to Heaton Brothers, with L.D. Heaton being in charge of the Victoria store and D.C. Heaton in Cuero. The prescription department in Cuero was handled by W.C. Booten, who later became a partner in Booten & Kunitz Drug Store. The store in Victoria was sold in 1907. It is not known if Harding & Parker were the purchasers at that time but they did purchase the store at some time. It is still in operation in a different location and now is owned by Joe Cohen.

In 1921 L.L. Buttery purchased the Heaton Bros. Drug Store in Cuero and it became known as Buttery Drug. Even before the turn of the century, the store was one of the main suppliers of school books, sewing machines, paint, glass, veterinary supplies in addition to the usual medicines. Mr. Buttery, like the Heatons before him, was always looking for better ways the citizens of Cuero and could always be counted on to serve anyway the city, civic clubs, church and customers to their betterment.

In 1972, Mr. Buttery sold the store to Joe Reuss, owner of Reuss Pharmacy. The name was changed to Valumart Pharmacy and David Polasek, a Cuero native and pharmacy graduate, became the operator. Even after selling the store, Mr. Buttery arrived every day to serve in an unofficial capacity of "public relations" and continued in this manner.

Luckily, not much had been done over the years to change the interior or exterior of this building. Mr. Buttery had several times consulted architects about changes but did not make any. when Cuero became a "Main Street City" in 1985, this was the first building to be restored. The awning had been changed and with the permission of the City of Cuero, was changed back. There were a few changes to the pharmacy department in 1972 but structurally it is the same as when completed in 1889 and the original fixtures are still in place inside.

This building is on the National Historic Register.

by Wanda Reuss

AUGUST DUDERSTADT'S AT-HOME TAILORED SUIT BUSINESS

B77

Duderstadt's at home tailored suit business samples

In the late 20's August Duderstadt of Yorktown, Texas, felt the need to supplement his farmer-stockman income for his five-member family. Consequently, he became a representative of the Strand Tailoring Company of Baltimore, Maryland. He succeeded in selling num-

erous tailor-made suits to his male relatives and friends.

by Frances Duderstadt Hartmann

YORKTOWN'S BUSINESSES

B78

Kraege's Store

Strieber's Ginning Plant

"1898 TO 1989"

In 1898, fifty years after its founding, Yorktown had the following business with dates of their establishment: Fancy Groceries: W. Gohmert, 1887, T. Korth, 1895 (Successor to Chas. Mertins). B. Mulawik, 1895, E. Mollenhauer, 1896. General Merchandise: C. Eckhardt & Sons, 1850, F. Kraege, 1870, F.J. Wasser, 1897. Dry Goods: M. Strieber & Sons, 1893, A. Dietze, 1896. Drug Store; M. Riedel & Sons, 1877. Tinware: A. Gohmert, 1893. Hardware: A. Tips, 1898. Lumber: Westhoff & Eckhardt, 1886, Harper & Zuch, 1896. Saddleries: K. Kolodzey, 1889, J.E. Kasprizik, 1897. Boots and Shoes: G.R. Schultz, 1889, J.A. Buznoeh, 1896. Milliners: Miss L. Heuchling and Mrs. A. Greisen. Barber Shops: A. Buergener, 1890, A.E. Elmore, 1894. Tailors: Wm. Zuch, 1876, George Dodzuweit, 1888. Blacksmiths: M. Thuem, 1876, Otto Gips, 1870, L. Ledwig, 1897. Windmill Agencies: J.W. Hoff, 1890, H.F. Grosskopf, 1892, C. Eckhardt & Sons. Cotton Gins: Strieber Bros. (2 gins), 1894, Hoff & Zuch, 1895. Butchers: Adolph Noster, 1874, E.W. Grun. Hotels: L. Lenz, 1866, Wm. Duerr, 1875, E. Riedel, 1866. Saloons: Lone Star, 1871, Live Oak, 1888, White Swan, 1886, Atlantic, 1890, First and Last Chance, 1894, Cotton Exchange, 1894, Little Joe's 1895, Fritz Schultz's 1896, E.V. Gerhardt, 1897, Bob Machost's, 1897, L. Lenz, 1866, Wm. Duerr, 1874. Livery Stable: J.B. Farris, 1890 (Successor to C.L. Strieber).

Also Undertakers (with hearse) Otto Gips, 1897, Fritz Riedel, 1898. Beer Agencies: Gus Thuem (Lone Star), H.F. Grosskopf (City). Bottling Works: C.W. Braun, 1897. Confectionery: Adolph Emmel, 1897. Physicians: F. Howard, H.H. Brown, B.J. Nowierski, H.V. Kolbye, Homer Powers, A.E. Delipssey. Newspaper: The Yorktown News, 1895.

In 1989 Yorktown had the following businesses: A-1 Paint and Auto Works, AAA Butane Gas Co., A&J. Flowers & Gifts, Baacke Cleaners, Biermer's Garage, Blaschke Lumber Co., Bobby's Auto Body, Borth's Garage and Welding Service, Burlson's Self Service, Carl's Floor Covering, Carmona's Hair Co., Central Concrete, Inc., Cole Graphics, CPL, Century Co. of America, Circle K. No. 1553, Circle N Realty, Cuero Federal Savings & Loan, Dairy Bar, Das Kaffe Haus, Deal Auto Service, DeWitt County View, DeWitt Tractor Co., Elder Oil Tools, Farmers's Feed & Supply, Farmers Insurance Group, First National Bank, Gene's Studio, Joe Green Office Supply, H.&H. Grocery, Hairworks by Rachel, Home Decorating Center, Home Lumber Co., Home Western Wear, Jerry's Liquor Store, Katie's Dress Shop, Kraege Drug Store, Lamprecht-Janssen Funeral Home, Lemke Insurance & Real Estate, Logeman Exxon Station, Logeman Grocery, Main Flower and Gift Shop, Mein Haus, Mercantile Company, Mom's Kitchen.

Also Pal's Foods, Parma's Chevron, Perry Bros., Radio Shack Dealer, Ressman Tree Service & Nursery, Robinson's Service Station, Satellite Video Systems, Schwab's, Sears, Seifert's Optical Shop, Simecek Firestone Dealer, South Texas Savings Assn., Strieber Bros. Hardware, Styles by Susanne, Taylor's Farm and Ranch Supply, Tee's Music House, Texaco Distributor, Texas Metals, Violeta's Beauty Boutique, W.&W. Trucking Co., Warren Ag Service, Weber Motor Co., Weischwill Insurance & Real Estate, White Top Motel, Wolf Real Estate, Wolf Super Market, York Welding, Yorktown Appliance & Hardware, Yorktown Automotive Supply, Yorktown Bakery, Yorktown Bar and Grill, Yorktown Cable Company, Yorktown Community Bank, Yorktown Garage & Body Shop, Yorktown Locker Plant, Yorktown Machine & Implement, Yorktown Motel and Yorktown News.

Yorktown's Census Figures: 1872 – ca 360; 1900 – 846; 1910 – 1180; 1920 – 1723; 1930 – 1882; 1940 – 2081; 1950 – 2596; 1960 – 2527; 1970 – 2411; 1980 – 2498.

by Frances Hartmann

YORK WELDING

B79

York Welding has been located at 535 E. Main Street, Yorktown, TX since 1953. Originally it was called Yorktown Body & Welding Service and owned by Nelton Lee Borth. At that time it was a combination welding, auto and body garage.

In 1969 Nelton sold the garage business to Werner Borth. Werner remained at this location until 1974 when he moved his business down the street to 233 E. Main Street and used the name Yorktown Garage and Body Shop.

At that time Nelton, with the help of his wife Dorothy, felt they would like to change the name of the business from Yorktown Body & Welding Service to York Welding Service.

On March 26, 1987 John C. Oliver bought the business from Nelton and Dorothy Borth. In the garage portion of the business is located Bobby's Auto Body owned by Bobby Lee Hranicky.

John is a fully certified welder and has been welding since 1965. He formerly owned Big John's Welding Works, located at Rt. 1 Yorktown, Tx. At that time he mostly worked in the oilfield and construction.

York Welding is now a fully equipped welding and machine shop. John has had some major contracts since buying York Welding for Brooks Air Force Base, Wyatt Field Service Co. in Houston and the U.S. Navy in Corpus Christi. He has fabricated and built a sulphur extracting unit for Freeport Mac Mo Ran Sulphur Co.

He still does work for the oil and gas industry and enjoys working for the farmers of the area. He builds cattle guards, hay movers, trailers, installs goose neck hitches and custom builds bumpers for trucks. The Texas shaped rose trellis is one of his special items..

John stocks nuts and bolts, trailer parts and sells welding materials and supplies.

by John C. Oliver

SOUTH TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

B80

(a division of Palm Beach County Utilities Corporation)

The Gas Company

South Texas Utilities Company and its predecessor companies have been providing natural gas distribution and services to the seven communities of Cuero, Yoakum, Shiner, Gonzales, Lockhart, Luling and Ottine for 63 years.

Southwest Natural Gas Company, the original Company, was organized in 1927 and in 1961, Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company (Arkla) purchased Southwest and its gas distribution system along with 82 miles of steel main transmission pipeline connecting the South Texas communities from Lockhart in Caldwell County to Cuero in Dewitt County.

In 1974, a 17 mile transmission pipeline extension was constructed from Kyle in Hays County to Lockhart, giving the capabilities of bi-directional gas flow. This expansion provided safer lower operating pressures and increased security of gas supply in case of a line rupture. In 1983, the transmission pipeline to Cuero was replaced with an 8" steel line.

In September 1987, Palm Beach County Utilities Corporation ("PBCUC") acquired the entire distribution properties in all seven South Texas communities and transmission pipeline from Arkla and South Texas Utilities Company, a division from PBCUC, was formed to operate the gas system. An IBM computer facility for customer billing and management information to service the entire South Texas system and permit more local controls was installed in 1988 in Yoakum.

In 1990, South Texas Utilities Company now has some $14,000,000 of gross assets and 33 employees dedicated to serving 12,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers – of which 3,550 approximately are in DeWitt County. The Company's transmission and distribution pipeline system now totals some 759 miles (in 2" equivalent).

Improvements in technology, modern equipment and continuing education training for an experienced professional employee group pro-

Cuero Gas Company

vides a reliable source of gas for the South Texas area.

The Chief Executive Officer of PBCUC is John H. Hickman III and David A. Brownlee is the Executive Vice President. The headquarters of South Texas Utilities Company is located at 111 Nelson Street, Yoakum, and the corporate headquarters are located at 10180 Riverside Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The Officers of the Company located in South Texas are: James E. Stone, Vice President of Operations, Yoakum; E.T. Gibson, Vice President of Operations, Gonzales; Charles T. Tounley, Assistant Vice President of Operations, Cuero; Dwayne E. Nall, Assistant Vice President of Operations, Yoakum, Glenn R. Kahanek, Assistant Vice President of Computer Operations, Yoakum; and Patricia A. Stark, Assistant Secretary.

The earlier history of South Texas Utilities Company, when under the ownership of Southwest Natural Gas Company and Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company, was led by managers and foremen who built a professional reputation that remains today one of the best in the gas utility industry in Texas. The State Manager was Frank Adlam; Assistant State Manager, R.E. Copeland; and auditor, Whit Dubose, all located in Lockhart and Elmer Coward, Transmission Foreman; and D.C. Talley, Assistant Transmission Foreman, both from Yoakum. Later Mr. O.C. Rutledge replaced both these men and was South Texas Operations and Transmission Manager. In August 1981, this title was changed to Area Manager. He served in this capacity until his untimely death in June 1982. Upon his death, James E. Stone was transferred from Pittsburgh, Texas to take over as Area Manager for South Texas. Stone had previously served in Stephenville, Texas; Cuero, Texas; and Springhill, Louisiana before going to Pittsburgh. when the business was sold to PBCUC in 1987, he became Vice President of Operations and is still serving in this capacity.

Community involvement of South Texas Utilities Company is a major part of Cuero and DeWitt County history. Employees have served in all civic clubs and organizations, including the volunteer Fire Department, School Board, Chamber of Commerce and religious organizations. The Company also has contributed resources to all local projects. South Texas Utilities owns its DeWitt County offices at 111 W. Main Street in Cuero and 111 Nelson Street in Yoakum and recently renovated both facades as part of the Cuero and Yoakum beautification process.

Persons presently employed in Cuero's distribution district are: Charles T. Tounley, who was promoted to District Manager and Assistant Vice President in early 1989; Janice L. Fuller District Office Clerk; David G. Buenger, Distribution Operations Technician and Assistant Manager; and Anthony T. Yruegas, Distribution Operations Technician.

Retirees from the Cuero office are Aline Reed Patterson, Arthur Rauch, Roland Dieringer, Victor Brier, Freddie Langhoff.

Former managers of the Cuero distribution district are: H.E. Northcutt, A.C. Steubing, Ed F. Meyer, C.E. Morgan, B.B. Thorn, Earl Adams, C.C. Ervin, James E. Stone, Freddie Langhoff and possibly others.

Former cashiers of the Cuero distribution district are: Florence Jones, B.B. Thorn, Evelyn Kloesel Barfield, Zella Winslett, Wesley Menking, Bea (Shaw)) Smith, Madeline (Putman) Miles, Dorothy (Manning) Crisp, Aline (Reed) Patterson, Kathy (Calk) Brown and possibly others.

Other former employees include: Kenneth Hogan, Jake Parker, W.T. Spears, Sammy Sutherland, Garlan Bauer, Ronnie Stratton, Larry Nelson, Bobby Bland, Earl Bland, Kenneth West and possibly others.

South Texas Utilities looks toward a bright future in the 1990's for the Company, its customers and the development of its service area as a preferred place to work and live. All employees are dedicated to providing the lowest price natural gas, gas appliances and superior appliance service available, along with the safest distribution of gas.

by Charles Tourney

Yoakum Gas Company

ERMA'S BEAUTY SALON – HAIR DESIGNS UNLIMITED

B81

Erma's Beauty Salon was started by Erma Pierce Green in 1969. She moved from Oklahoma to Cuero to open up a beauty salon. the salon was located in the old Farmer's State Bank building on the corner of Esplanade and Church Street. Erma started out with a total of four employees, but later grew to seven employees.

Erma's business began to grow so she decided to move to a larger building. She moved her business to the Cuero Mall.

Erma was suffering from cancer, so she decided to sell her business. Nita Pakebusch, a present employee, bought the business from her in February 1981. Erma passed away in March of 1981.

The salon operated and owned by Nita Pakebusch since 1981 to the present (19900), has a new name of Hair Designs Unlimited. Today, Nita has six employees and is open Tuesday through Saturday.

by Nita Pakebusch

GIPS MACHINE AND WELDING

B82

Will Gips established his business, Gips Machine and Welding, in a shop behind his home in 1982. He started with one employee, Kenneth Boothe. The business consists of fabrication, repairs, oilfield work, and machining. The business grew and a new shop was built near the Victoria Highway in 1987. There are now five employees. The business was incorporated in 1990 and is located about two miles south of Cuero on the Victoria Highway.

Will Gips is married to the former Lucille Chumchal of Shiner, and she is the office manager. The couple has twin daughters, Amber and April.

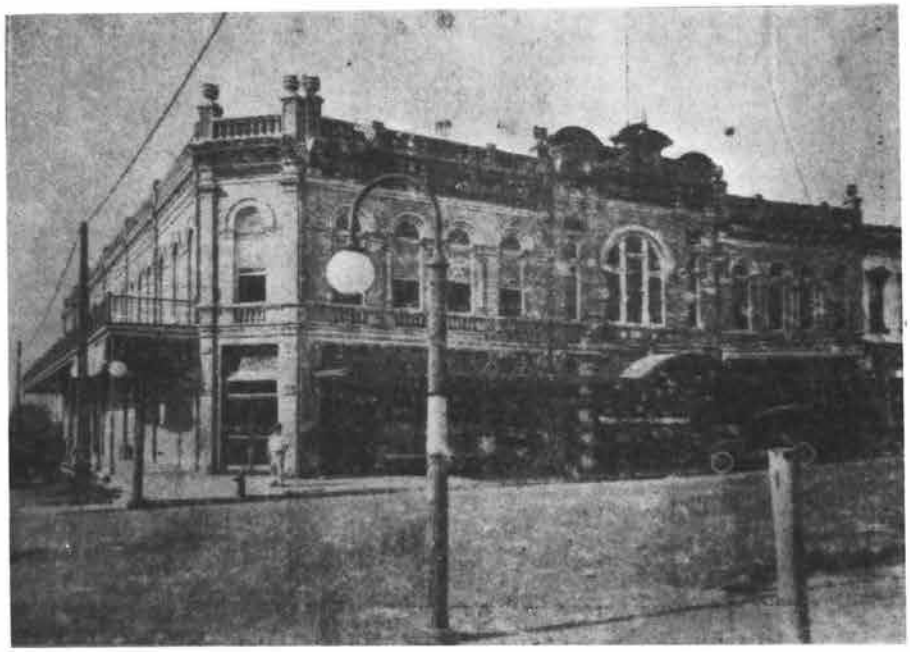
by Mrs. Will Gips

H. RUNGE AND COMPANY

B83

In 1845, Henry Runge founded H. Runge & Co. in Indianola, Texas. Mr. Runge was the sun of a German merchant, according to the story told, and received his education and practical business training in his native land. He immigrated to America prior to 1845 as a member of the colony of the German Prince Solms who established the trading post of New Braunfels. Henry Runge saw the possibilities of a Southwest Texas port and cast his lot with a small band of settlers, who established old Indianola on the site where Magnolia Beach now stands.

The original firm was Runge & Fromme Co. and their first business house was a tent, no lumber being available for the construction of a house at that time. The business which was confined principally to the storage of supplies from the old country to the inland posts, was successful from the start.



Building built for H. Runge & Co. in Cuero

In 1846, a two and a half story frame building was built and in the same year Mr. Fromme, tiring of the frontier life, withdrew and Herman Runge, who had crossed over from Europe about the time the young business was taking hold, became a partner in the firm. In 1855 the business moved with the town to Powder Horn, where the steamship wharves were built. From 1855 to 1861 Andrew Dove was associated with the two Runges and as is told elsewhere, he rounded out a very successful business career with the firm of Kaufman & Runge, until the time of his death.

Although the firm bearing his name had prospered and grown in Cuero, it is doubtful if Mr. Henry Runge ever visited Cuero. The Cuero business was not established until 1873. Mr. Emil Reiffert and Mr. William Frobese became associated with H. Runge & Co. in 1866. Mr. Edward Mugge joined the company in 1868.

In the year of 1868, Mr. Reiffert, Mr. Frosbese and Mr. Mugge bought out Mr. Henry Runge's interest in the H. Runge & Company. In 1873 a branch of the firm moved to Cuero with Edward Mugge as the first head of the Cuero business. At this time Mr. Frosebe was head of a branch in Victoria. Mr. Ferdinand Frobes, brother of William, was the head of a branch in Luling and Mr. Reiffert remained in Indianola until the storm of 1886. Mr. Reiffert then moved to Cuero. Mr. Frobese also moved to Cuero and the business was consolidated in Cuero.

The Cuero business consisted principally of forwarding goods to interior points brought to this place by rail from Indianola, though a bank and grocery department were also started. Early settlers within a sixty mile radius drove to Cuero with ox and mule teams to secure the supply of groceries and beverages. With the founding of the Cuero branch, those at Luling and Victoria were discontinued. And Cuero and Indianola, each dependent on the other, became two of the most important trading points in South Texas.

After the storm of 1886 which destroyed Indianola, the firm headquarters were established in Cuero and the business conducted under the joint management of Emil Reiffert, Wm. Frobese and Edward Mugge. During the same year a branch was opened at Runge under the management of Mr. Gus Tips, bearing the name of Reiffert & Tips, subsequently Reiffert-Frobese.

The first Cuero building was a frame structure built on the corner of Main and Gonzales St. It served as a home for the grocery and banking business. The grocery was managed by Walter Breeden and Gus Tips and later by Henry Keller. A furniture store was also run in connection with G.W. Gerloff as manager. He was succeeded by Charles Kossbiel and the business later became Lord & Kossbiel.

The gin and mill was purchased in 1884 from W.W. Pearce and in 1886 the machinery department opened under the management of Arthur Palmie. H. Runge & Co. also owned and oper-

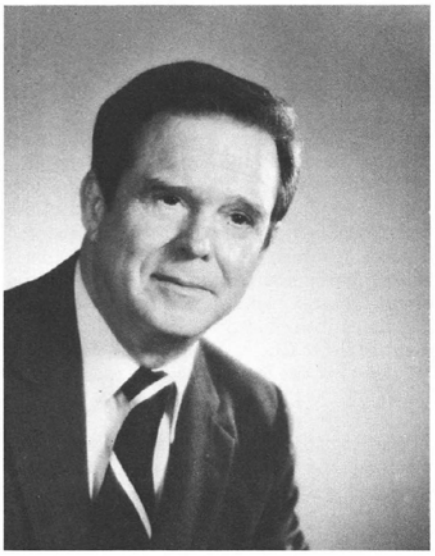
First H. Runge & Co. in Cuero

ated a store and gin at Whitsett and had extensive land holdings in that section, in addition to the Runge Ranch near Nordheim and other properties in this and neighboring counties.

Following the deaths of the principle stock holders, Walter Reiffert and William Frobese, Jr. took over the business. Other men associated with H. Runge & Co. were: Herman Riedel, Otto Staerker, Henry Frobese, Paul Dornbluth, B. Schiwetz, Fritz Goehlke, Emil Reiffert, Jr., Henry Koenig and Walter Marquis, Joe L. Sheppard, Mr. Herman Currlin, John Freund, Fritz and Jake Wagner, John Mueller, Victor Moeller, Alfred Palmie, Alois Naunheim, Henry Mugge, Fred Mugge, Alfred Marquis, Dave Lewis, Albert Waldeck, Tom Mayne, Harry Merritt, George Schmidt, Irvin Lehman, and Richard McGuffin were all employees.

HIGH-DAVIS CLINIC

B84



Harold R. High, M.D.

High-Davis Clinic

In September of 1955 Dr. Harold R. High and his family moved to Cuero to establish his medical practice. The family at that time consisted of wife, Paula, and daughter, Karon. They moved from Fort Worth where he had just completed his internship at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Dr. High established and equipped his first office in a two story frame house which was owned by Mrs. Marion Leonardt. His medical office was in the downstairs portion and consisted of two small waiting rooms, one bathroom, a combination consulting and examining office and a small kitchen which served as a small laboratory. He practiced medicine and was associated with the Burns Hospital which was owned and operated at that time by the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The hospital was originally owned and operated by the Burns family.

In 1957 Dr. High contracted with Adickes Building Supply Company of Cuero for construction of a medical clinic building to be located at 615 North Esplanade, adjacent to the dental office building of Dr. John F. Wheeler. The original clinic building consisted of two waiting rooms, three rest rooms, Dr. High's private office, a small laboratory, limited business office space and an outside courtyard. The new clinic building was formally opened on July 7, 1957.

Willie Marie Kahlich, R.N., and Rosalie Parks (Mrs. Horace), L.V.N. were nurses at the clinic in the beginning, and Mrs. Billie J. (Mitzie) Merzbacher was the only business office employee.

In 1958 Dr. High invited Dr. John C. Davis who was practicing at the time with the Trott Clinic in Yoakum, TX., to join him in Cuero. Dr. and Mrs. David and their family moved to Cuero in August of 1958 and Dr. Davis became associated with Dr. High, and some three years later Dr. Davis purchased an interest in the clinic. The name was changed to High-Davis Clinic.

Additional land was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Cravens located at the back of the original property on Clayton Street, and the clinic building was enlarged to include additional examining rooms and office space for Dr. Davis, and complete X-Ray facilities.

Additional land adjacent to the clinic property was purchased from Joe B. Reuss, and in 1980 the clinic building was almost tripled in size and completely refurbished throughout. The name was changed to Cuero Medical Clinic. The building now boasts complete office suites to accommodate four physicians. Each suite consists of the physician's office, three examining rooms, and a rest room. The clinic building also contains X-Ray facilities, complete laboratory, emergency room and minor surgery room, treatment room, X-Ray file and viewing room, nurses station area, staff coffee room and rest room, greatly expanded reception area, enlarged registration and billing-filing area, as well as three separate office staff facilities. The staff has grown from the original number of three to fourteen employees, plus janitorial coverage. Longtime employees as of this writing are: Willie Marie Kahlich 33 years; Barbara Flessner (Mrs. Harlan) 24 years, Anna Macha (Mrs. Albert) ? years.

Since the enlargement of the clinic and the change of name to Cuero Medical Clinic there have been some young physicians who have come to Cuero to practice medicine — the first being Dr. R.D. Edwards who stayed in Cuero for five years and moved to Fort Worth area; Dr. Mark Pucek who was here for two years, and then moved to the Fort Worth area. At the present writing Dr. Mark A. Heard is associated with the clinic and also has his own facilities in nearby Goliad.

Drs. High, Davis and Heard are all members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, which requires continuing medical education on an annual basis to maintain membership. The American Academy of Family Physicians established a specialty board in1970, and in that same year Dr. High took the required examination and was duly certified a charter member of the specialty board. He has continued the board certification status through required examinations, and as of this writing is certified through 1996.

Dr. High has been extremely active in the efforts of organized medicine throughout his entire medical career — his interest being in the preservation of patient care and the physician-patient relationship, and first rate medical care for all.

Highpoints of his activities have been his membership in the Texas Academy of Physicians, having served as president, treasurer, director, Texas delegate to the American Academy Congress of Delegates. In the American Academy he has served two terms on the scientific program committee, two terms on the commission of continuing education, charter diplomate, charter fellow, ad hoc task force on cardiovascular diseases, sub committee on home study – self assessment, and on the American Diabetes Association on diagnosis and treatment of type II diabetes mellitus.

In the Texas Medical Association he has served as family practice program chairman at the annual session, delegate from DeWitt Lavaca Counties, Member of the Executive Committee, Man Power Committee, Alternate Delegate to AMA and then full delegate to American Medical Association. He is presently serving an elected term on the Board of Trustees (1986 to present) where he has served on the Physical Reimbursement Committee, Future Planning Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committee.

He has maintained membership since 1955 in the DeWitt-Lavaca County Medical Society, Inter-County Clinical Society, and the Southern Medical Association. He has served on the Medical Educational Committee of Victoria Regional Medical Center, and is Chairman of the Victoria Regional Medical Center Advisory Committee. He was Assistant Chief of Staff of the Family Practice Section of the Victoria Regional Medical Center Hospital.

Dr. High has been very active through the years in Cuero's community activities as well as business and social activities. High points being presented with the Outstanding Community Service Award by the Cuero Chamber of Commerce in 1984, and being named Sultan of the famous Cuero Turkey Trot of 1967, with Mary Blackwell as Sultana.

by Paula High

THE LESKE BUILDING

B85

The first record of this building is in the year 1890. Built of long-leaf (pitch) pine, it was erected in the 100 block of West Main Street in back of the present Buchel Bank. An early Cuero pioneer, Mrs. C.A. Waldeck, related being born in this building at this location.

In January 1896 the building was purchased by Mr. Thomas S. Williams and moved to its present location in the 400 block of West Main Street. It was turned into a saloon and named the "S.P. Saloon", no doubt because of its' proximity to the depot. The local artist, Mr. Drew Reese, captured this perfectly in his oil of the old depot, long torn down, and this building.

In July 1896 Julius Leske purchased the property. Ida and Julius Leskie ran a boarding house where meals were served family style each day and it was most popular especially on Saturday when "everyone came to town". Rooms also were "let".

Julius Leske died in 1904 and several years later, the property was turned over to the eldest son, Rudolph, and changed into a restaurant and saloon. There was an outdoor, treed "biergarten" which proved popular especially with train travelers who came to eat and rest. But, the busiest time of the year was August and September when the farmers brought wagonloads of cotton to be ginned at the gin across the street and often had to wait in line all day and into the night.

During the prohibition era, the building was turned into a confectionary and service station with a paint shop next door. There were times when payment for gas and oil was made with bushel baskets of vegetables, and on one occasion, a horse.

The exact age of this building has not been determined as of this date; however, it has been in the Leske family 94 years.

Things of interest taken from the deeds in 1896:

The payment of a note was "to be made in gold coin of present standard of weight and fineness".

Also, in 1896 the first use of a typewriter appeared on a deed by a notary.

CAGE HATCHERY, CAGE FARMS, CAGE FEED STORE

B86

Margaret and Gus Cage moved from Weimar to Cuero in 1942 where he was an Ag teacher at Cuero High school. Sons Lowell, now an attorney in Houston, and Don, now a banker in San Antonio, were born in Cuero. Lowell and Connie have Shea, Hunter and Travis. Don and Sharon have Kyle and Chad.

Gus became interested in the turkey business, and he and Fred Hansen went into business with a feed store, several farms, and a hatchery managed by Wilbert Aschenbeck starting in 1956.

Later, the dissolved the partnership, pursuing separate business careers.

Gus' philosophy was that you had to be in the turkey business from "womb to tomb" or "basket to casket" (total vertical integration) to make any money. Some years you made money in one phase and lost money in another. So, besides a feed store, hatchery, he had three farms where 360,000 birds were raised to maturity each year. He also got into special vehicles to take poults from hatchery to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Mexico, and San Salvador. To protect against price fluctuations, he acquired an interest in a freezing plant in Fredericksburg. He was a true entrepreneur — he took chances.

He was very active in state and national turkey associations, having served in many offices. When he, or any of his customers had a problem, he called in expert help from A&M. He got help for domestic and foreign customers alike.

From Fresno, Cal., he got the idea of a special hatch in the off season. Birds were kept in a dark room to retard maturity, delaying egg production. This idea spread from Cuero over the whole United States. This increased the hatch from 125,000 per year to 1,000,000. He was fortunate in having a man like Wilbert Aschenbeck to keep up with the demand.

He was on the phone constantly selling feed, poults, etc. He also spent much time in his car; his driving was legendary. Too bad car phones weren't as available as today.

He was the consummate salesman. He believed in himself and the turkey business. He brought to Cuero a lot of out-of-town money, and, with his varied enterprises, had a very good payroll.

It's too bad he died before turkey got to be everyday fare rather than Thanksgiving and Christmas specialties. Now there is turkey sausage, turkey ham, and turkey hamburger. Reportedly, it is one of the healthful foods.

He was an integral part of Cuero's Turkey Trot, furnishing birds for many years. In 1972 his success in producing birds for the table was a factor in spelling the end of Turkey Trots as we knew them. Broad breasted birds would die before they'd walk.

BAUER PRODUCE

B87

In 1947 Kenneth A. Bauer (see Bauer Family story) bought out a produce business from James Pearson, and called it Bauer Produce. Kenneth's brother, John D. (see John D. and Dot Bauer story) went to work running the business for him. John D. recalls that they started the business with a new blue and black

John D. Bauer Sr., John D. Bauer, Jr. L-R: father and son with first production truck July 1950.

1946 Chevrolet model bob-tailed truck. To get the business off to a start, Mr. Pearson rode with John D. about three times to the San Antonio Market.

After a while Kenneth bought out a produce route from Eldred Schultz and another from Finley Benton. After increasing their business, Kenneth began working with the produce business for a while before he died in 1956.

After Kenneth's death, John D. took over the business and things were really booming. The routes were getting bigger and another truck had to be added, so John D. called upon his other two brothers, Bill and Garlan, for their help.

At this time they covered areas of Yorktown, Goliad, Fort Lavaca, Schulenburg, Moulton, and Flatonia, plus smaller surrounding areas.

Through the years, the routes have been changed somewhat and John D. has changed types of trucks a number of times, going up to the very largest of 18-wheel trucks and vans.

Between 1975-76 John D.'s youngest son, Chuck, went to work in the family business.

After 42 years in the produce business, the route now consists of two trips a week to San Antonio. Produce is bought from the large market where produce is shipped in fresh daily from California, Mexico, and other areas. They leave for San Antonio in the middle of the night so that they can be at the market when it first opens in the early hours before daylight. After loading up with produce they leave San Antonio before dawn and start their way back home and deliver to all of the grocery stores, cafes, and restaurants along the way.

by Marsha Bauer

JAKE COHN – THE FAIR

B88

Jake Cohn came to the United States from Poland at the age of 16 with few worldly possessions and didn't know a word of English. From his port of entry at Galveston, he was sent to San Antonio. There he met and married Mollie Tudzin, a Russian immigrant, in 1916.

Jake worked first as a peddler and then as a salesman in clothing stores. He was learning about the clothing business and making contacts that would serve him well for many years. One of his friends told him about Cuero and the need for a store here. His dream was to own his own business so the Cohns came to Cuero and after meeting the friendly people and seeing how pleasant the town was, Jake felt this was the right place to open his business.

Jake Cohn's Dry Goods Store was founded in 1918 by Jake Cohn and his wife Mollie. The store was located in the 200 block of West Main Street in the Gohmert Building. At that time, West Main Street was the main thoroughfare to San Antonio and was the hub of many thriving businesses. Jake needed no financing; he had saved enough money to finance his own business.

"A good name is something you always own" Jake was fond of saying. Mollie was famous for her sermonettes, her favorite – "Be Yourself". Important values of the Cohns were honesty, good credit and a good name. These were considered priceless possessions. In San Antonio they had learned to speak Spanish and much of the population of DeWitt County were

Jake Cohn's Dry Goods Store. L-R: Jake Cohn, Alious Bullard and Dr. T.A. Bullard. 200 Blk. West Main – Cuero

German, Czech, Polish and Hispanic so there was no language barrier and business was often conducted in these languages.

During the depression years money was scarce and merchandise was cheap. Overalls were 99¢, shoes 1.98 and 2.98 a pair, piece goods 25¢ a yard and men's work shorts 59¢. Work was hard and the hours long as the store was usually open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week.

By 1930 the Cohns had three daughters – Annie, Sarah and Bernice. The children grew along with the store. There were no latch-key children in those days so after school the girls walked to the store, studied their lessons and learned about the business.

The many friends and customers the Cohns gained through the years resulted in the growth of the business and in 1934, the Cohns moved "Uptown" to 101 West Main, corner of Main and Esplanade. The name was changed to The Fair and the building was bought from H. Runge & Co. The Cohns were very aware of their customers needs and kept the store well stocked with good quality merchandise. Jake's contacts made in San Antonio were invaluable. Salesmen called on him and kept him informed of the latest styles and trends. Jake and Mollie Cohn were popular buyers. The Cohns were now making apparel and shoe markets in New York and St. Louis, as well as Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

During WWII The Fair was able to supply their customers with many rationed items – shoes, linens, nylon hose, and many more. Because the Cohns had always bought in large quantities and had a good credit rating, they received their allotments of merchandise. All, when certain items were available, their salesmen friends saw that they got their share.

In 1946 after WWII, their son-in-law and daughter, Maurice and Sarah Aronstein came to Cuero to assist in the operation of the store. In 1951 their daughter and son-in-law, Harry and Annie Jacobs joined the firm. Maurice was in charge of the shoe department and Harry was in charge of the men's department. Mollie Cohn and her daughters took an active part in all phases of the business – buying, selling, bookkeeping and advertising. As the daughters children grew, they also worked in the store. Bernice did not return to Cuero, but lives in San Antonio with her husband, Larry Mazer.

In 1968 The Fair was completely remodeled inside and the business was incorporated and the name changed to Jake Cohn, The Fair, Inc., doing business as The Fair. Two years later the outside of the building was remodeled.

Cuero has a large trade territory since it is the county seat of DeWitt County. Through the years many first, second and third generations of families were clothed at The Fair. Mollie Cohn personally outfitted many young brides in their wedding dresses and trousseaus. As the customers families and children grew, many went to the cities to work and live, but when they came home to visit, would always come to The Fair to shop and were always warmly welcomed. Some fondly referred to The Fair as Cuero's little Joske's, a reputation the Cohns were proud to have.

The Fair had 10 to 15 employees on their payroll most of the time, more during the war years. Many DECCA and VOE high school students were hired over the years and many young boys and girls received their early business training at The Fair.

The Cohn family sold The Fair in February 1987. They had many loyal employees; Tony Hahn had been with them over 46 years, Polly Schultz and Mary Galindo were employed over 20 years each, Mrs. Hertha Morgenroth retired with over 20 years service, Mrs. Annie Adams Brantley started working during the war and returned twice, Iriz Hotz and Rose Sysdek were new employees of 2 years each. Other employees with many years of service were Mr. George Dietze, Charles Matejek, Mrs. Nora Adams, Mrs. Myrtle Rentz and Johnny Johnson.

For 68 years, the name – Jake Cohn, The Fair – was synonymous with good quality merchandise and friendly personal service.

by Sarah Aronstein

HISTORY OF THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF CUERO

B89

In 1912, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company was moved to Cuero from the plant location in Yorktown, established 1910. It was located on West Broadway near the old SAAP railroad depot. Owner's name is unknown. The plant was purchased by Mr. W.E. Bogard for $2,700.00 in 1913. Their first truck was a Buick passenger car converted to a pick-up. They were very proud to produce and sell 5,429 cases of Coca-Cola in 1913.

Mr. H.C. and R.A. Randow purchased the plant from Bogard for $14,000.00 in 1916. They immediately moved into a new building located on West Main Street. They were good business people, and the plant prospered for by 1918 they were delivering Coca-Cola to Victoria, Texas. Just two years later, 1920, they delivered Coca-Cola to Calhoun County by rail on a temporary basis. In 1921, 7,976 cases were produced and sold bringing their per capita consumption to 8.7 drinks consumed by their territorial population. Plant warehouses were opened in Victoria and Yoakum in 1922, and in 1923 the first cartons holding six bottles were introduced. This changed a season cold bottle business to a year-round business. The advertising slogan, "Thirst knows no season" was used for the first time.

In 1925, Mr. E.T. Summers, Sr., and Mr. W.H. Carr of Covington, Louisiana bought the plant from the Randows for $55,000.00. Mr. Summers had been associated with Coca-Cola in Covington, Louisiana before coming to Texas to buy and manage the Cuero plant. Mr. Carr remained in Louisiana. H.E. Dromgoole became the plant foreman. (Mr. Dromgoole still lives in Cuero.)

"The pause that refreshes" was introduced in 1929. A big step forward was the erection of a modern red brick building designed in Coca-Cola architectural style at 306 East Main Street for both plant and business operations. The year was 1931. A fleet of five Ford trucks was also purchased, and Calhoun County was added to the franchise.

In 1932, per capita consumption reached 15.4 bottles with a total population of 23,323 in the territory. By 1933, the total population climbed to 55,597, and the plant had a per capita consumption of 17.2 bottles per person. By 1934, the total population of the territory was approximately 83,147, and the per capita consumption went to 176. Lavaca County was added to the territory and was responsible in a large part for the increase in population and per capita. By 1935, the first models of coin-operated vending machines were placed in factories, offices, and institutions. In 1936, a new Red Diamond Bottling Line was added, and a new warehouse was constructed at 1707 North Main, Victoria with Mr. W.H. Carr of Covington, Louisiana moving to that city to become manager. The territory now consisted of four and one-half counties: Dewitt, Lavaca, Victoria, Calhoun, and half of Refugio. In 1937,

a new Liquid Carbonic Line was added, and the company was incorporated.

In 1939, E.T. Summers, Jr. graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Business Degree in Management, and joined the firm as vice-president and sales manager.

Karnes and Goliad Counties were purchased from Louis W. Anderson in 1940 with the plant remaining in Kenedy. B. Aoueille, Sr. moved to Kenedy from Covington, Louisiana to manage the plant.

W.E. Tolbert, Sr. joined the company in 1941 as refrigeration and sales manager and remained there until his retirement. World War II brought sugar rationing to civilians, but military bases such as the Brayton Flying Service in Cuero, and Foster Airforce Base and Aloe Field in Victoria were not restricted. By 1947, sugar rationing was removed and business boomed.

F.M. Summers joined the company as manager of the Victoria Warehouse. He had received his B.B.A. Degree from the University of Texas and worked in San Antonio with Joske's before joining the company. Ed Heisler was another talented employee. He was head of the vending department and an inventor as well, and remained until his retirement. Jack Rohan joined Cuero Coke moving from Yoakum to become plant foreman in 1948. He was a valued employee serving in that capacity until ill health caused his early retirement.

In 1948, second plant expansion in Cuero was begun by Nathan Post, contractor, with approximately 60x102 feet added. Just two years previous an expansion had been made. In1949, the first Port Lavaca Warehouse was built at 148 Seadrift Street with W.W. Lorrance as manager.

Paul Summers joined the organization in 1951 upon receiving a B.B.A. from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Anthony Miculka was made head of the sign department. He was a talented artist in his own right as well as an excellent sign man.

By 1956 16-oz. and 26 oz. Coke were added as well as pre-mix bulk dispensing. A new Meyer 34 valve washer-filler was added. Mr. W.H. Carr passed away. Roy Binz, Sr. joined the firm, and remained until his retirement. He became famous as Co-Co the Clown, appearing for Coke at all fairs and celebrations in their territory. Orange, strawberry, root beer, and lemon flavors were added under the "Buck Brand" flavor name.

1960 was an important year for the firm celebrated its 50th anniversary of bottling Coca-Cola. This event took place at the time of the Cuero Turkey Trot. Souvenirs for guests and tours of the plant were featured, and the President of the Company, E.T. Summers, Jr. was chosen Sultan Yekrut XII (King) of the celebration. Pages were his two sons, E.T. Summers, III (Toby) and John Morris Summers. Over 565 out-of-town visitors and Coca-Cola officials attended.

Everyone was saddened by the death of E.T. Summers, Sr., founder of the company, the following year, 1961. He had led his company and witnessed great growth and achievement.

A new warehouse was built at 4002 North Navarro in Victoria that same year, and Coca-Cola in cans was added to the line in 1962. The next year, employees of the company were given a non-contributory pension plan, and a new, popular low-calorie, sugarless soft drink TAB, was introduced.

The next six years saw tremendous growth. The Cuero Plant added its third expansion; a second Port Lavaca Warehouse was constructed on Highway 35; the product, CHIME, was added as was a new sugar-free product, FRESCA. There was also an addition to the Yoakum warehouse, a new product line was installed in Cuero, and a new office wing built, a Fanta flavor line added, and the Kenedy plant merged with Cuero. The company now had 67 employees, 41 vehicles and comprised seven counties: Dewitt, Victoria, Calhoun, Lavaca, Karnes, Goliad, and one-half Refugio. In 1970, production for Gonzales started.

To commemorate Cuero's centennial in 1972, the company issued a special bottle showing scenes of Cuero's past, the All-American City logo, and a picture of the Summerses Medallion home.

E.T. Summers, III (Toby) joined the firm as a vice-president and general counsel after graduating from the University of Texas in 1969 with a B.B.A. degree, serving in the National Guard, and graduating from the University of Texas Law School in May, 1973. That same year, the quart returnable, resealable was introduced, and in 1974, a new production line was installed that would produce over a million cases a year. MR. PIBB was introduced, and the Port Lavaca warehouse was doubled in size, and the Yoakum warehouse enlarged.

Paul Summers, Sr., son of the founder of the company, passed away March 18, 1975. Only the year before his son, Paul, Jr. had joined the firm at the Victoria warehouse upon his graduation from the University of Texas. Consumption of the company's products rose to 310 bottles per person this same year, and a further warehouse was added to Cuero.

John Morris Summers, son of E.T. Summers, Jr., joined the firm after his graduation from the University of Texas Business School in June,e 1976. The 16-oz. returnable/resealable Coke was introduced, and a 32-oz. sugar-free Sprite was introduced. A new production line to be installed in 1977 was ordered, and the company had 83 employees.

Coca-Cola of Gonzales was purchased in 1978. The office was kept open for several months, but all bottling was done in Cuero.

In 1980, the Rialto picture show and the Muti Hotel property were purchased. The building was converted and modernized for reception office, business office, and five corporate offices and a director's meeting room. The facade was kept in original design and was tiled entrance and ticket foyer in interest of historic preservation. The hotel site was utilized for parking. The original 1931 plant was now used with all additions and warehouses for bottling operations.

In 1981 a canning co-op, "Crossroads Canning", was formed with Cuero, San Marcos and Del Rio as partners. Land was purchased in the Cuero Industrial Foundation, and a modern canning plant was built. In 1982, McAllen joined the co-op.

In 1981, Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Cuero had the largest per capita Coca-Cola consumption in Texas, and ranked 17th in the nation. In 1982, they continued to have the highest in Texas, and rose to 14th in the nation.

In 1985, Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Cuero and Victoria as well as their interest in Crossroads Canning was sold to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Southwest, San Antonio. Bottling operations were transferred to San Antonio, but the business office remained open, and the former plant was used as a warehouse.

This was the end of an era. Coca-Cola, Cuero had been in continuous operation for 75 years, and under the same ownership for 60 years. The company produced 1½ million cases of product in 1985. Per capita consumption was 450 bottles or cans per person as compared to 15.4 bottles in 1932.

In 1986, the entire operations, offices and warehouses, were moved to Victoria. This same year, the parent company, Coca-Cola, U.S.A. celebrated their 100th anniversary in Atlanta, Georgia. Crossroads Canning Co. remains in Cuero where it has expanded and continues operations under different owners.

Cueroites still remember the free Cokes furnished the elementary grades of all schools for their Christmas parties, and the colorful football programs provided the Gobblers for their games. The Coca-Cola Company of Cuero was always ready to help their community when asked.

by E.T. Summers, Junior

W.B. McCLUNG'S GROCERY AND MARKET

B90

W.B. McClung's Grocery and Market was preceded by several family businesses. The first such enterprise was begun in Indianola by Mrs. Dora McClung's grandfather, August Fuhrman, sometime in the 1840's. Mr. Fuhrman purchased his first business, a saloon, from Louis Kleinecke. Later he added a billiard parlor. August Fuhrman and his wife Caroline had one daughter, Mary Fuhrman. She married August Franke on March 16, 1885.

August Franke operated a general merchandise store and sold supplies and water to boats at Indianola. He used two one-horse delivery wagons. After the storm of '75, a store room was all that survived. He rebuilt but in the '86 storm, all was lost to the pounding waves. Mrs. Caroline Fuhrman, widowed in 1877, was then living with Mary and August Franke. She rescued the Presbyterian silver communion service, now displayed in the First Presbyterian Church in Cuero.

August and Mary Franke and Caroline Fuhrman moved to Cuero on August 27, 1886. August first operated a furniture and mortuary business on Main Street. His hearse was drawn by a matched pair of black mules decked in plumes. Later, he moved to the Coppedge Building on Esplanade where he continued in business until his death in 1915.

In 1912 W.B. McClung established McClung's Dry Goods and Ready to Wear in the Hamilton Building on Esplanade, moving to Cuero from Victoria because he felt there was no future in the latter town. He made trips to New York twice a year to buy merchandise. In 1918 he bought Bonham's Cash Grocery located in the corner building next to his dry goods store. He changed the name to W.B. McClung's Grocery and Market, establishing the first meat market in a grocery store in Texas. He learned of this new trend in New York. His store was also the first Cash and Carry Grocery in Cuero.

Dora Franke, daughter of August and Mary Franke, married W.B. McClung on July 26,

W.B. McClung Grocery and Market

Millinery Dept. — Mezzanine of McClungs Dry Good c. 1923

1920 in the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero, the Reverend Green officiating. Dora, her sisters Mamie Yoas, Agnes Spangle and her brother Charlie Franke all worked for Mr. McClung.

Within a year of the death of her husband in 1928, Dora McClung sold the dry goods store to Leo Mendlovitz. She continued to operate the grocery store until 1936 when her health failed. Mrs. Agnes Spangle then managed the grocery store until 1945 when Walter Brown McClung Jr., the only child of W.B. McClung and Dora returned from college and army service with the United States Air Force. On June 21, 1946 Walter B. McClung, Jr. married Ernestine Elser of Dearborn, Michigan in the Martha Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village, Dearborn. They have three children. Irene Dora (McClung) Hahn, Franke Lois (McClung) Albrecht and Walter Brown McClung III, all of whom worked at the store. Their grandchildren include Clay and Luke Albrecht and Walter Brown McClung IV. W.B. McClung Jr. managed the store until 1975 when the store was closed and he moved to Edna to operate his cattle ranch.

The building was subsequently torn down and the site of McClung's store is now the drive in area of the Buchel National Bank.

H. W. WALLACE HORACE WIMBERLY
Wallace & Wimberly
ATTORNEYS AT-LAW
YOAKUM. TEXAS

DUCKETT MOTOR COMPANY

B91

Duckett Motor Co. Nov. 1956. C.L. Duckett '57 Olds

C.L. and Faye Duckett purchased Mobil Motors, an Oldsmobile dealership at 201 N. Gonzales from Edward (Edu) Mugge on November 7, 1956. They renamed the dealership Duckett Motor Company. Mugge had opened this dealership in June, 1946. It was located in the old Masonic Lodge Building.

In 1958 Duckett Motor Company also handled Rambler automobiles and opened a used car lot at 307 N. Esplanade. The lot was under the management of Vic Schroeder. Ramble automobiles were dropped in 1959.

On August 1, 1959, L.N. Smith, owner of Smith Motor Company (Chevrolet) and C.L. Duckett, owner of Duckett Motor Company (Oldsmobile) merged the two dealerships to form Smith-Duckett Motor Company at 712 E. Broadway.

On May 1, 1964, Duckett bought out the dealership and it again became Duckett Motor Company. L.N. Smith moved to Houston where he was affiliated with the Bill McDavid Oldsmobile dealership.

On June 7, 1976, C.L. sold the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealership to Bob Farris of Houston, and it became Bob Farris Chevrolet-Oldsmobile.

After selling the dealership, the Ducketts purchased the property at 511 E. Broadway in 1976 and moved the used car operation to that location, where Duckett Motor Company remains today.

On May 19, 1978, they opened a parts store next door to the used car operation at 507 E. Broadway. This store was first called Mr. C Auto Parts. On April 1, 1983, they re-named the store Duckett Auto Parts. Their son, Brett, is manager of that business.

by Faye Duckett

GULF COAST WOOD PRODUCTS

B92

Back in 1956, Clete P. Ernster, then a thirty-two year old salesman living with his wife and three small kids in Cuero, Texas, twenty eight miles northwest of Victoria on U.S. 87, got the urge to go into business for himself.

His homebuilder customers, mostly in Victoria, really didn't like the metal cabinets he sold for a St. Louis, Mo., manufacturer. (The metal cabinets were prone to rust in the humid climate of South Texas)

Mr. Ernster saw an opportunity to manufacture quality wooden cabinets and sell them to those same homebuilders in the Victoria area.

So he rented an abandoned Buick dealership showroom near downtown Cuero, and established Gulf Coast Kitchens, Inc., with $5,000 (borrowed from a Cuero bank) and a Sears Roebuck sabre saw. In 1958 the name was changed to Gulf Coast Wood Products.

In 1972, the firm began manufacturing laminated plastic doors, and had to move this production into a separate plant at the old Brayton Airport on Cheapside Road, three miles north of Cuero.

A new company was founded — Timco Industries, Inc. Using about 100,000 square feet of former airplane hangar buildings on a 10 acre tract, Timco shipped its doors nationwide in the company fleet of 14 trailer trucks.

The largest and most modern laminate door manufacturing facility in the United States, Timco combined the durability and color diversity of high pressure laminate forces with the workability of hardwood edges to meet the heavy demands of the commercial and institutional construction market.

In 1974, another major expansion was realized when a new division, Modulect, was opened in a 40,000 square foot building on ten acres of land at 514 West Sarah Street in Cuero.

Modulect was organized for the production of institutional furniture and cabinets, referred to in the business as casework. At it's peak Gulf Coast Wood Products, Modulect and Timco employed 360 people.

The July, 1979, issue of Plywood and Panel Magazine, a national trade publication, described the Modulect plant as "one of the most automated casework plants, and perhaps the most innovative, in the United States."

Mr. Ernster's manufacturing firm, Gulf Coast Wood Products, Inc., and its two affiliated firms — Timco Industries, Inc., and Modulect — served a national market with architectural millwork, custom cabinets and furniture, and laminated plastic faced doors for office buildings, schools, hospitals, banks, and other institutional buildings.

Gulf Coast Wood Products

CUERO ICE AND BOTTLING WORKS

Ice in any quantity and for all purposes.
All kinds of soft drinks.
Cold Storage for all purposes.
Orders for shipment of ice or bottled beverages given prompt attention.

CUERO ICE AND BOTTLING WORKS.

Two of the children, now grown, were active in the family business. The oldest, C.P. "Phil" Ernster, Jr., was executive vice president of the Gulf Coast Wood Products, Inc. A decorated Army veteran of the Vietnam War, Phil and his wife, Sherre, are the parents of two children, C.P. Ernster, III, and Sharleen.

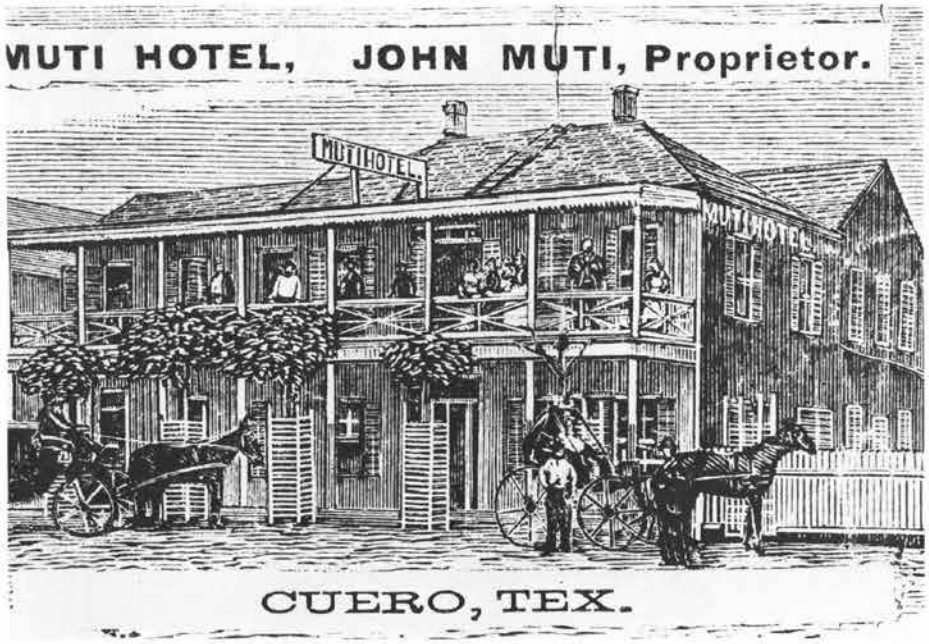
Mr. Ernster's other son, Timothy "Tim" Ernster was president of Timco Industries, Inc., the door manufacturing company.

Mr. Ernster has received national recognition for his industrial accomplishments. In 1979, he was named "Texas Small Business Person of The Year" by the United States Small Business Administration. In competition with recipients of similar awards in the other states, Mr. Ernster was one of three businessmen chosen for a national award as businessman of the year, presented personally by President Jimmy Carter. In 1981, he was president of the Architectural Woodwork Association of America, a national trade organization.

In 1983, C.P. Ernster, Sr. sold his controlling interest in Timco Industries to Tim Ernster, and in 1985, Gulf Coast Wood Products and Modulect were sold to his son Phil Ernster.

The business operated through 1989 under family management.

by Mrs. C.P. Ernster



Muti Hotel — Cuero — First structure

HOTELS – BUSINESS PICTURES

B93

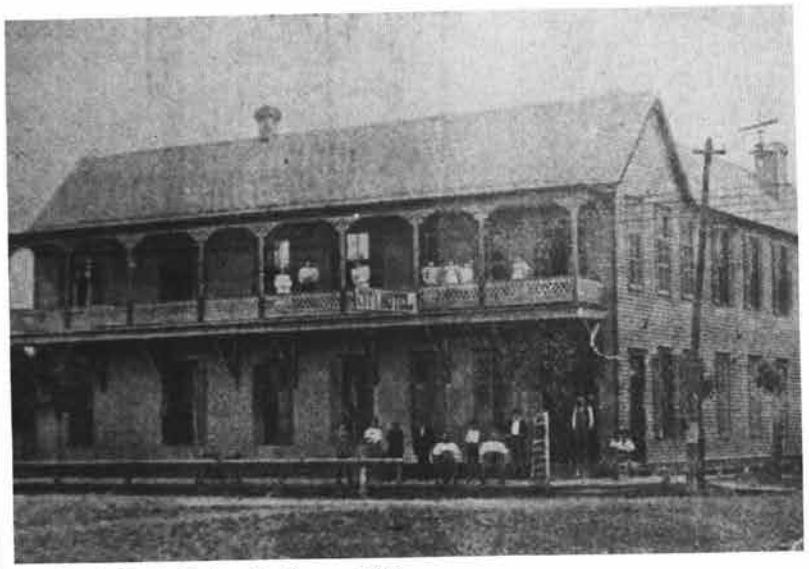
OTTO BUCHEL WILLIAM WAGNER
OTTO BUCHEL & CO.,
Banking and Exchange.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL Grocers . . .
CUERO, TEXAS

Muti Hotel, late 1940's.

Cuero Turkey Trot, 1912—The Sieder House.

City Hotel in Cuero, 1900.

The Sieder House.



City Hotel, North Esplanade, Cuero—1895.

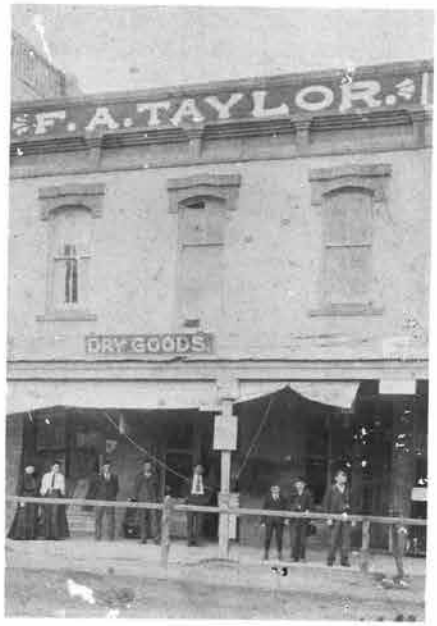
Muti Hotel, Cuero—1898.

Kleinecke Building.

Doel Building, Cuero.

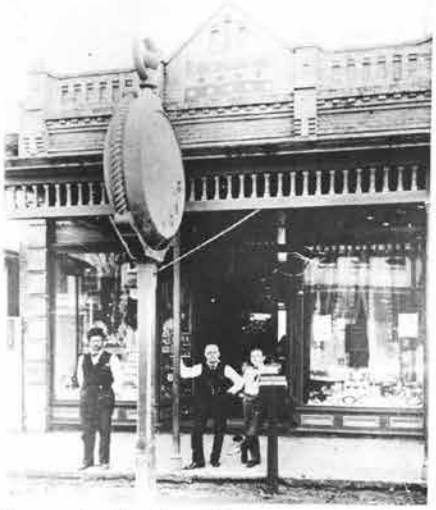
Mrs. Dunn's Dairy—James and Pat Dunn.

H. G. Keseling.



F. A. Taylor, Cuero.

Cook and Day Motor Company.



Barnes Jewelry Store, Cuero.

Concrete Grocery.

Dippel & Stefka.

Artesian well in Cuero.

Grand opening of Dietze Store.

H. J. HUCK & CO.

—DEALERS IN—

Lumber, Sash, Doors, Blinds

Moulding, Building Material, Lime, &c.

Fish Bros. and Other Wagons

PLOWS, CULTIVATORS AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AT REDUCED PRICES TO CLOSE OUT.

Cuero, Texas.

Weber Motor Company.

Dietz Dry Goods.

Kunitz Drug Store.

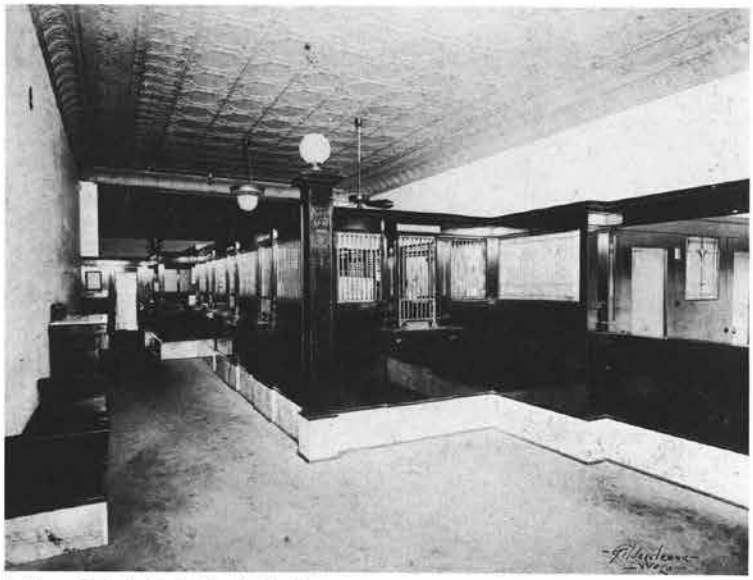
Coca-Cola Company—1931.

Coca-Cola Company—1945.

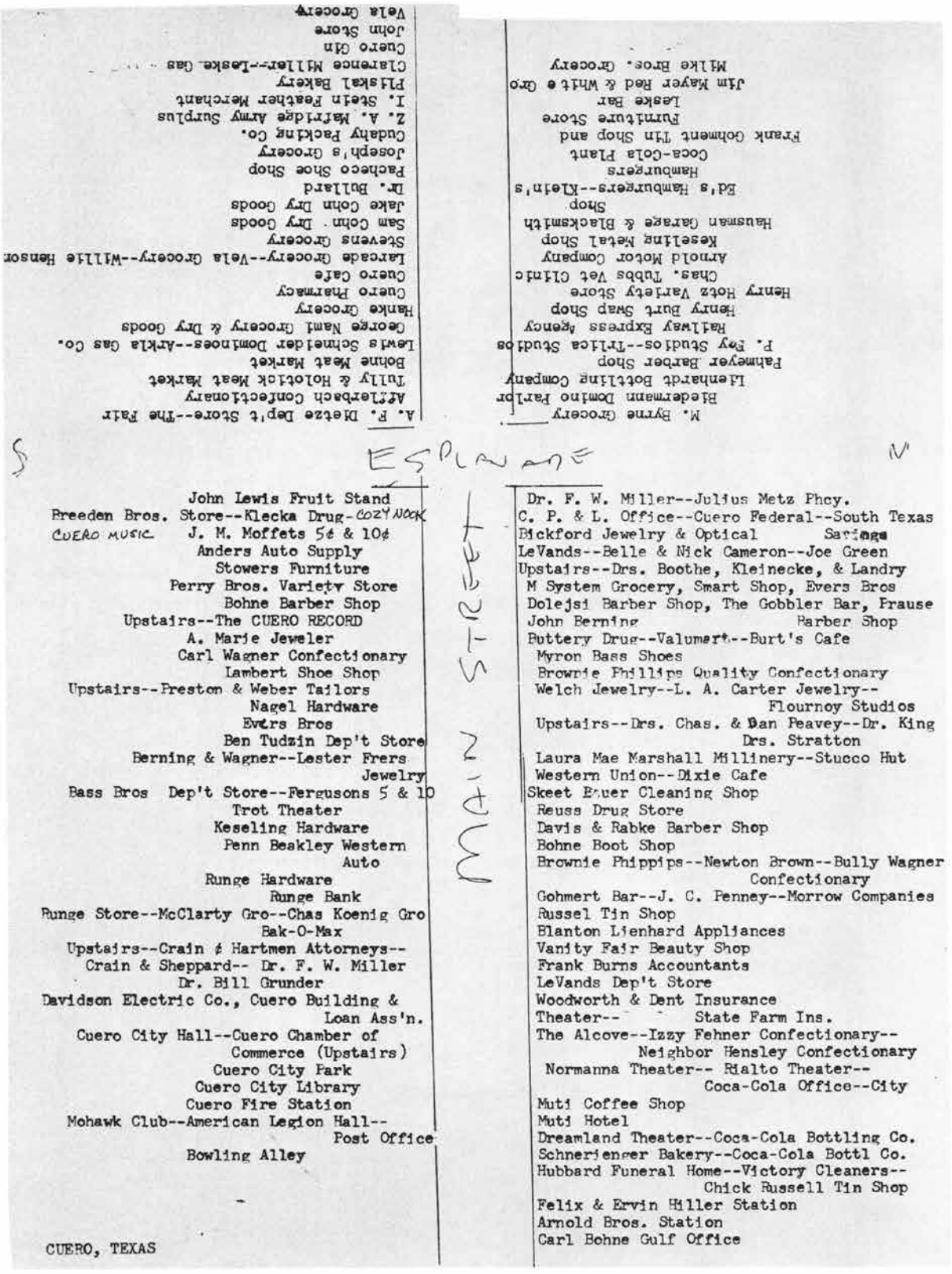
Cottage Studio.

Andy's Service Station.

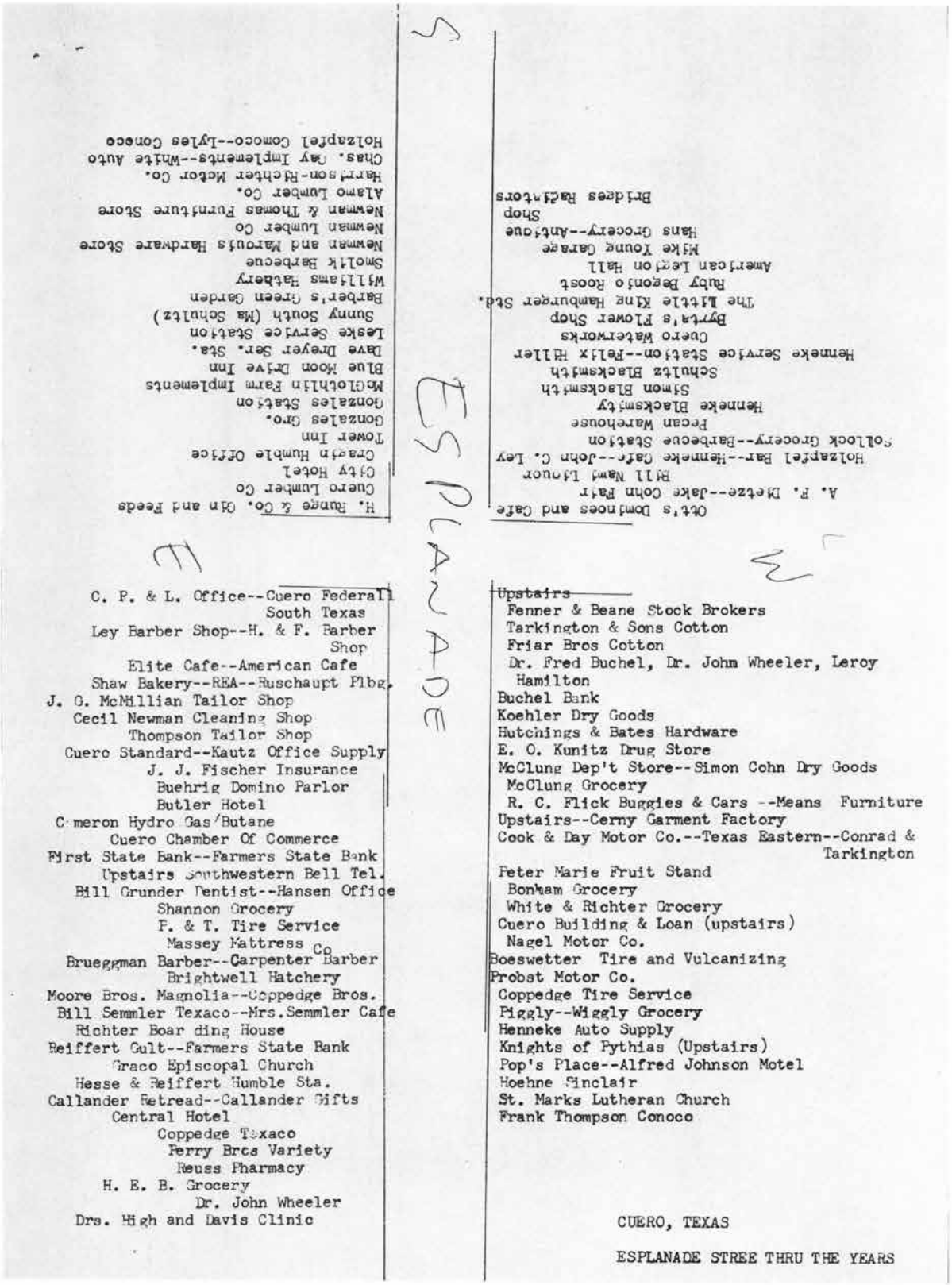
Cotton Oil Mill, Cuero.



Lobby of First State Bank, Yorktown.



Cuero Main Street through the years.



Cuero Esplanade Street through the years.

Creamery provided service to DeWitt County dairies. Located on Courthouse St. in Cuero.

Built in 1931 at 306 East Main in Cuero. Designed in Coca-Cola architectural style.

Picture show and Muti Hotel.

FAMILY STORIES

Destroyer Escort Harmon — Named for a DeWitt County war hero, Leonard Harmon.

ADICKES, CAESAR HENRY

F1

Caesar Henry Adickes was born September 27, 1906 in Meyersville, Texas. He was the youngest son of William August and Bertha (Post) Adickes. The Adickes' experienced much tragedy since their first two infants died in 1898 and 1899. Oscar was born in 1901, Edgar in 1903, and then Caesar. The children were educated in the Meyersville School and the family attended St. Johns Lutheran Church.

The Adickes family originated in Wurstenland, a division of the Province of Hanover on the northwest coast of Germany. The Adickes family of Germany spent most of their lives designing, building and maintaining the dikes which reclaimed the marshlands from the floodwaters of the North Sea. The family became known as "The Keepers of the Dikes".

Arhend Adickes, a descendant son, married Dorathea Hass in the early 1840's. Their children were Marie born in 1842, Dora born in 1846, and Ibe Fredrick born in 1848. They departed Germany in the mid 1800's and came to settle in Meyersville, Texas.

Ibe F. Adickes grew up, worked and farmed in the Meyersville area. He married Katherine Urban September 18, 1872. Their children were William A. born in 1873 and married to Bertha Post, Emilie born in 1874 and married to Ben Eckert, Laura born in 1876 and married to Otto Stahl, Louis born in 1879 and married to Dora Ruschaupt, Otto born in 1883 and married to Mariechen Soehnge, Emma born in 1887 and who never married, Edmund born in 1890 and Lillie born in 1894 who both died during childhood.

During the late 1920's, the William Adickes family moved to Cuero, Texas. They purchased property located at the corner of Gonzales street and Prairie street and built a home and the business of William Adickes and Sons Building Supply.

Emma Nathlie Konrad came to Cuero in 1931 to work as a companion for Mrs. Huddleston. During this time, she met Caesar and they were married on June 4, 1933 by Reverend J. Kern at the St. Mark Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas. Caesar and Emma built their home at the corner of Gonzales and Prairie streets in Cuero. The beige stucco house still stands with a large A on the chimney at the front of the house.

Emma was born on January 4, 1907. Her parents, Fredrich and Elizabeth (Uhl) Konrad came from Steinau, Austria to Texas in the mid 1890's. After living in Lavaca County near Moravia, they finally settled at Nopal, near Westhoff in Dewitt County. They had a family of 13 children. Their children were: Henry born in 1891 and married to Nancy Heinson; Paul born in 1896 and married to Albertine Schneider; Willie born in 1897 and married to Anita Schneider; John born in 1898 and married to Elsie Schlenker; Wilhelmina born in 1901 and married to Henry Hahn; Adolf born in 1902 and married to Helen Ashurst; Elsie born in 1903 and married to Eric Munke; Arnold born in 1905 and married to Leona Schlenker; Rudolph born in 1909 and married to Ella Schulte; Emil born in 1911 and married to Hertha Pfeifer; Adelhide born in 1912 and married to Alfred Pfeifer; and Caroline born in 1914 and married to Edwin Pilsner. The Konrads were blessed with 35 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

Caesar and Emma were blessed with two children, Marjorie Mae born on August 19, 1934 and Melvin Caesar born on September 17, 1936. Marjorie married Lee Robert Hartman, Jr. of Houston, Texas and Melvin married Evelyn Radjnoch of Gonzales, Texas and they reside in Conroe, Texas. Emma and Caesar were blessed with two grandsons, eight granddaughters, four great-grandsons and six great-granddaughters.

Life was difficult for Caesar due to the arthritis which crippled him, but despite his handicap, he worked very hard at the family lumberyard. Glass cutting, lathe wood work and locksmithing were a few of his specialties. He was patient and eager to help his friends and customers with special home projects or whatever they required. One of Caesar's hobbies was growing, grafting and managing the many pecan trees on the Adickes property. He enjoyed harvesting and eating them as well, and since he and Emma were good cooks, there were many pecan goodies at their house. Emma always had fresh homemade bread and coffee cakes waiting whenever the family came to visit. This expected treat always excited the grandchildren who loved the trips to visit their grandparents.

Emma's love in helping other people led her to a career as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. She worked for many years at the Burns Hospital and the Cuero Community Hospital. In later years, she did private duty nursing. She was very active in organizations at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. One of Emma's favorite hobbies was sewing beautiful clothes for her grandchildren. She also made quilts and did crochet work which today is cherished by her family.

Caesar celebrated his 75th birthday on September 27, 1980. All his family and many other relatives and friends were present to help him celebrate this memorable occasion.

Caesar passed away in the Cuero Hospital on May 20, 1981 after a prolonged illness. He was buried on the Adickes plot at the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Emma lived eight more years and after suffering a stroke, she passed away on June 2, 1988. She was buried beside Caesar at the Hillside Cemetery.

by Marjorie M. Hartman

L-R: Caesar Adickes, Melvin Adickes, Marjorie Adickes and Emma Adickes

AFFLERBACH, GEORG (GEORGE) AND KATHERINA (JUNKER) FAMILY

F2

Katherina (Junker) Afflerbach

Johann Georg (George) Afflerbach was born January 5, 1849 in Stunzel, Westfalen, Germany. He was one of five children that included Heinrich, Louisa, Carolina, and Mary born to Johannes (John) Heinrich Afflerbach and Marie Elise Friedrich. Johannes Heinrich was born April 28, 1820 in Balde, Westfalen Germany and Marie Elise was born in Stunzel on August 29, 1830. They were married in Weidenhausen, Germany on January 30, 1848 and immigrated to Texas in 1849 with their first child, Johann Georg. They settled in the Yorktown area and are buried in the Yorktown

AFFLERBACH, JOHANN AND MARIE

F3

George Afflerbach Family, Back Row: Berthold, Edward, Emil, Fritz and Louis. Front: Anna (Afflerbach) Jutz, Katherina (Junker) Afflerbach and Lena (Afflerbach) Atzenhoffer.

Lutheran Cemetery.

Johann Georg (George) Afflerbach married Katherina (Junker) in Meyersville on April 4, 1875. She was born on June 6, 1855 in Germany, probably in the Hesse-Darmstadt area. She immigrated to Texas in the late 1850's with her parents, Johan Georg Junker and Margaretha Zimmerman. She died January 21, 1919 in Cuero and is buried in Hillside Cemetery. George died March 2, 1923 and is buried in Yorktown. George and Katherina had nine children.

1) Louis H. Afflerbach was born October 27, 1876 in DeWitt County, Texas. He never married and died April 19, 1953 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery. He ran a confectionary on Main Street in Cuero.

2) Anna Johanna Katherina Afflerbach was born February 22, 1878 in Yorktown. She married Ferdinand Gottfried Wilhelm Jutz and had six children, Natalia (Tallie), Katherina Denecamp, Edmund Emil Jutz, Elsa (Elsie) Seffel, Irena (Irene) Eilert, Julia (Judy) Delaney, and Alvin Neland Jutz. Anna died in San Antonio on January 1, 1973, and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

3) Frederick (Fritz) Afflerbach was born March 20, 1880 in DeWitt County. He married Anna Mueller on November 8, 1905. He died May 31, 1964 and Anna died in June 1979. They had three children: Ella Hilbrich, Werner, and Victor. In his early years Fritz was a freight hauler. He picked up freight in a wagon in Victoria and delivered it to surrounding areas. He told of Mustang Mott as being one of the rest stops for freight haulers where they fed and rested their horses and enjoyed the coolness of the mott of trees.

4) Carolina Afflerbach was born April 2, 1882 in DeWitt County. She married Berthold Henry Atzenhoffer and had two children, Herbert Charles Atzenhoffer and Edgar Henry Atzenhofer. Carolina died June 8, 1945 and Berthold died on July 8, 1952. They are buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery in Arneckeville, Texas.

5) Emil F. Afflerbach was born April 18, 1885 and died May 6, 1965. He married Ethel B. Jones November 17, 1915. They had two children, Emil F. Afflerbach, Jr. and Nell Rose Knebel. Ethel died September 1, 1984 and both are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. During World War I, Emil ran the Arneckeville grocery store, saloon, and dance hall. He later became a farmer and was a Woodman of the World. He loved baseball and at one time was considering becoming a professional but a bout with typhoid fever ended those plans.

6) Friedericke Sophie Julianne Afflerbach was born July 8, 1887 and died October 7, 1889. She is buried in the Meyersville Lutheran Church Cemetery.

7) Wilhelm Friedrich Edwin Afflerbach was born September 14, 1889 and died February 15, 1891. He is also buried in the Meyersville Cemetery.

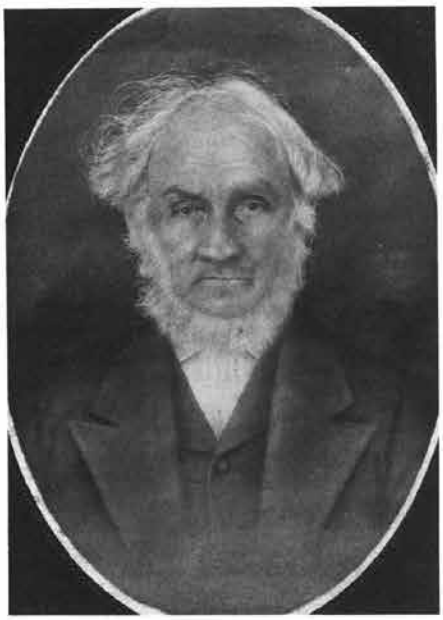
8) Edward Charles Afflerbach was born February 3, 1892 in DeWitt County. He married Anna Wilhemina Bade and had two children, Anita Johanna Boethel and Katherine Alma Riedesel. Ed was a barber in the Bohne Barber Shop on Main Street in Cuero for many years and later became a farmer. He died August 20, 1969 and Anna died October 10, 1959. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

9) Berthold Henry Afflerbach was born September, 1895 in DeWitt County. He married Alma S. Bade (twin to Anna Bade), and they had one son, Clifton W. Afflerbach. Berthold was a farmer and died June 29, 1932.

Researched by Sharon Schafer.

by Nell Rose Knebel

DR. C. A. H. ARNECKE
Physician and Surgeon,
ARNECKEVILLE, TEXAS.
Office at the Arnecke Drug store
Telephone in office.



Johann Heinrich Afflerbach

Johann Heinrich Afflerbach was born in Westphalia, Germany on Sept. 23, 1824. As a young man, he was apprenticed to a blacksmith. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, he was presented with a pipe which his still in his descendants' possession.

Johann then left Germany for religious reasons and to escape military service. He landed at Indianola, Texas on December 17, 1852, and settled near Yorktown, Texas, where he worked as a blacksmith. Johann's sister came to Texas at a later date and married Moritz Riedel, who owned Riedel's Drug Store in Yorktown. Her name was Sophia Afflerbach Riedel.

On April 12, 1858, Johann married Marie Aschmann in Yorktown. Marie was born March 19, 1828 in East Prussia to an aristocratic family. Her reason for coming to Texas in November of 1856 with her brother was to search for adventure.

She also landed at Indianola and then moved inland to the town of Clinton, near Yorktown. The sense of adventure soon died, however, with the death of her brother. To support herself, Marie worked as a servant, quite a comedown from her background in Prussia. Her fortunes improved, however, when she married Johann. They built a log house two or three miles from Yorktown. Johann became a farmer while continuing to do his own blacksmithing.

Their first child, Emma, was born on Feb. 4, 1859. On March 26, 1860, Johann applied for citizenship in Clinton, which was the county seat of DeWitt County at that time. On July 24 of that same year, their second child, named for her mother, was born.

Twins named Heinrich and Bertha were born on March 14, 1863. The twins contracted an ailment common to children at that time. The illness, known as the "summer complaint," caused its victims to become nauseous and

unable to eat. The twins died of dehydration the following year within six days of each other — Heinrich on May 21, 1864, and Bertha on May 27.

On March 3, 1865, the Afflerbachs had another daughter which they named Bertha after her dead sister. On Sept. 9 of that year, Johann gained the right to vote. On Feb. 8, 1867, another Heinrich was born. Tragically, he died on June 5, 1870 of the same sickness that had claimed his namesake. On a happier note, Johann received full citizenship in the United States on July 22, 1867, after he had been living in Texas for more than fourteen years.

The Afflerbachs' last son, Berthold, was born April 8, 1869. The last daughter, Lydia, followed on Feb. 2, 1872. Of Johann and Marie's eight children, five lived past infancy. Emma died on Jan. 9, 1941; Marie on March 27, 1913; the second Bertha on June 1, 1936; Berthold on Aug. 4, 1938; and Lydia on April 4, 1961.

Johann did not believe in slavery, nor would he fight in the Civil War as he had left Germany in the first place to avoid the military. He was classified as a Conscientious Objector and forced by the Confederacy to haul freight on the Indianola Trail, which ran from Indianola to San Antonio and passed close to the Afflerbach farm.

A story has been passed down in the family of how Northern soldiers came to the farm one day to fill their canteens, but killed Johann's chickens for food as well. When the next group of soldiers came, they were told they could have water only if they left the rest of the farm alone. A captain then guarded the gate, allowing only two soldiers in at a time, and making sure they took only water with them.

On Nov. 2, 1883, the Afflerbach family moved and built a new house two miles from where the original log cabin had been. They wanted to be closer to a creek which assured them of a better water supply. This land is still owned by their descendants today.

Johann died on Oct. 4, 1907. Marie died on Nov. 26 of that same year. Their fifth child, Bertha, was the only one to marry. Her history is given in another story.

by Arlene Schroeder

ALBRECHT, FREDRICK AND LOUISA (HARSDORF)

F4

Fredrich Albrecht, laborer, farmer, rancher, soldier, home guardsman, and ranger. He was born March 25, 1824, in Schmalsfeld, Grafenschaft Wernegerode, am Harz, Prussia, a Province of Germany. He emigrated in 1848 and landed at Indianola, Texas. He had instructions from the ship's captain to go to Clinton, Texas, where he was to be employed by Mr. Robert Kleberg. He started out on foot, but became ill and was picked up by a passing freight wagon going to Clinton.

Louisa F. (Harsdorf) Albrecht was born in Finenburg, K/R Hanover, Germany, on April 1, 1831. She emigrated to Texas, landing at Galveston on November 30, 1850, from the Bark "Solm" out of Bremen. Her parents, Fredrich and Caroline Harsdorf, six other children and numerous other German emigrants settled in the Meyersville, DeWitt County area.

On April 9, 1853, Fredrich Albrecht and Louisa Harsdorf were married in Clinton, Texas, by their friend, Robert Kleberg, Chief Justice, in the courthouse, which was a log structure. In 1854 they became members of St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville. He helped in th building of the new church by hauling rocks for the building.

Fifteen children were born into this family. The first, Ferdinand, was born January 20, 1851, soon after his mother's arrival in Texas, father unknown, but adopted by Fredrich. 2) Fredrich Ludwig, born November 30, 1854. He drowned July 5, 1863; 3) Ludwig Christoph, born September 17, 1856; 4) Louisa Sophia, born September 19, 1858; 5) Karoline Theresia, born August 28, 1860; 6) Maria Henrietta, born November 6, 1862; 7) Wilhelmine Johanna, born February 8, 1865-died February 13, 1865; 8) Fredrich Christoph, born December 20, 1866; 9) Marcellus Robert, born May 12, 1869; 10) Christian, died at birth; 12) Henry Fredrich, born May 30, 1871; 13) Robert William, born January 24, 1873; 14) Albert F., born April 1, 1874; and 15) Sophia, born February 5, 1877.

On July 25, 1856, at Clinton in DeWitt County, Texas, Fredrich Albrecht became a citizen of the United States with the evidence of Jonah Taylor and John Richter, both citizens of the United States, who testified that the said Fredrich Albrecht has continuously resided within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States of America for more than five years and at least one year in the state of Texas. James N. Smith served as clerk of the court.

At the beginning of the war between the states, Fredrich joined the Home Gaurd. Mr. Kleberg outfitted him with a horse, saddle and side arems. Kleberg was also his captain. In 1861, Fredrich served with the Coleto Guards Reserve Company under Capt. Robert Kleberg, who had headquarters at Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. In August of 1861, he mustered in or joined Home Guard under Capt. John Jacob Schiwitz. On October 28, 1863, he served in a company of unattached infantry at Fayetteville, Texas, under Capt. Martindale with Gen. Wm. Webb commanding. Fredrich also served in the Victoria area, in the 24th Brigade of the Texas Militia. During the Indian uprising, he volunteered for a six-month enlistment in the Texas Mounted Volunteers, better known as the Texas Rangers.

Fredrich "Fritz" Albrecht came to Texas by a request from Robert Kleberg, who operated a general store in Clinton, Texas. He asked a ship captain to bring him "A strong German boy" to work for him. He may have worked for his passage or Mr. Kleberg paid for it. He apparently lived with the Kleberg family until he married. The 1850 census of deWitt County shows him as a member of the Kleberg Household.

When he saved enough money, he would send for another brother and his family, if he had one. He had six brothers: Andreas, Christoph, Christian, Wilhelm, Ludwig, and August. A sister Sophia did not come over.

by the Albrecht Family

ALBRECHT, LUDWIG "LOUIS" AND MARY (LUTENBACHER)

F5

Ludwig "Louis" Christoph Albrecht was born September 17, 1856 in Clinton, Texas. His parents were Fredrich and Louisa (Harsdorf) Albrecht.

Louis married Mary J. Lutenbacher on November 13, 1877, in Goliad, Texas. Her parents were Cornelious and Mary Lutenbacher. She was born June 2, 1861 in DeWitt County.

Louis and Mary's children were: 1) Mathilda, born June 12, 1880-died May 20, 1962. She married Louis Miller on January 22, 1902; 2) Mamie, born March 25, 1882-died February 17, 1968; 3) Molly, born March 2, 1884-died April 15, . She married Louis Schiwitz on November 9, 1904; 4) Lillian, born July 15, 1886-died March 10, 1976; 5) Louis J. "Bud," born August 26, 1888-died January 27, 1966. He married Lenora Schwartz on February 9, 1915; 6) Minnie, born December 22, 1890-died as an infant; 7) Alonzo T., born December 24, 1893-died December 1, 1961. He married Louise Weigmann on September 20, 1920; 8) Irene, born April 5, 1895. She married Jim Miori; 9) James "Jim" Emil, born December 1, 1898-died January 30, 1949. He married Lydia Metting on November 20, 1919; 10) Rubena, born August 12, 1904-died June 19, 1925. Two other infants died in this family.

Ludwig "Louis" C. Albrecht and wife Mary seemed to be an exceptionally happy couple with a good sense of humor. They married quite young, he 21 and she 16. They seemed to get a lot of fun out of their family and just out of life in general. He loved to listen and tell jokes and get a good laugh out of them. He was tall, 6 ft., 6 in., and slender with broad shoulders. He was always a neat dresser. They were excellent family parents and good providers.

During the early years of their married life, they lived on his ranch on Milby Creek in a small house on land out of the J. Clifford Grant, which he purchased from Henry Maumbrauer on February 25, 1882. About 1900, the family moved to Goliad where he bought a saloon in The EBerhardt Building located on the southeast corner of the Square. About 1904 or 1905, he built one of the nicest homes in the area on his Milby Ranch but did not move back immediately. While in Goliad, they lived for a while in the Redding house on East Pearl Street and later in the Dr. Knott house on Franklin Street. About 1909, they sold the saloon in the Eberhardt Building, which later became the Lindberg Market, to his brother-in-law, John Bluntzer. The family then moved back to the ranch.

They lived on the Milby Ranch until his death in December of 1920. The family moved to San Antonio for a time but returned to the ranch about 1925.

Mary Albrecht died June 9, 1948. Both of the Albrechts are buried in the Meyersville Catholic Cemetery.

by the Albrecht Family

Cuero | BASS BROS CO. THE ONE PRICE QUALITY STORE. | Yoakum

ALEXANDER, AMOS ADAMS

F6

Amos Adams Alexander born to George Leander Alexander and Anna (Hill) Alexander on March 24, 1893; died Sept. 30, 1972: farmed in Wharton County, dragline operator in Harris County and in Florida, bus driver and carpenter in Katy, Texas area.

Rosie Drew (Sullivan) Alexander born Feb. 13, 1893; died Oct. 12, 1986: married Amos Alexander 11/19/13, housewife, mother of four children, members of Church of Christ, last home at Katy, Texas.

1) Warren Amos Alexander born 9/1/14; B.S. in Elec. Engineering, Rice Univ., 38 years geophysical work for Exxon, 2½ years W.W. II military, member Church of Christ.

Dorothy Anne (King) Alexander born 3/4/17; died 12/6/76: married Warren 8/8/44, lived in Tulsa, Okla., Houston, Tx., Industry, Tx., office work Shell Oil Co., housewife, mother of 3 children, Church of Christ.

Margaret Elizabeth (Hale) Alexander born 8/28/12; school teacher, geophysicist and Exec. Sec. Western Geophysical Co., lived in Shreveport, La., Houston, Tx., Industry, Tx., married Warren 8/26/78;

a) Dale Bruce Alexander born 10/18/45 in Tulsa, Okla., B.S. in Mech. Eng'g, engineer for Texas Instrument Co. and Hewlett Packard Co., lived in Dallas and Lubbock, Tx. and Ft. Collins, Colo., member Church of Christ.

Doris Jean (Smith) Alexander born 2/17/45, business course Tulsa Univ., married Dale Hayes June, 1965, mother of two children, housewife, part time business work, member Church of Christ.

aa) Leslie (Alexander) Hayes born 7/29/66; B.A. degree in Marketing, Abilene Christian Univ., married Lee Hayes June 1987, marketing computer software.

Lee Edward Hayes born 8/23/63; Systems Eng'g student, Univ. of Tx., Arlington, Tx., members Church of Christ.

bb) Eric Maston Alexander born 5/15/70; working in Ft. Collins, Colo.

b) Dave Wayne Alexander born 10/18/45 in Tulsa, Okla., B.S. in Mech. Eng'g, engineer shipyard San Francisco, Calif., Eng'gr City of Austin, Tx.

Sandra (Hamilton) Alexander born 3/9/50; married Dave on 4/8/89, artist designer and craftsman in glass;

c) Annette (Alexander) Bird born 4/29/51; B.A. degree in Art, Univ. of Houston, draftsman (piper) refinery planning, computer data processor Western Geophysical Co., married Bruce Bird 1/16/87.

aa) Ronald Bruce Bird, Jr. born 7/15/55; B.A. degree Univ. of Tx. at Austin, computer data processor Western Geophysical Co., Houston, Tx. and

bb) Casey James Bird born 3/10/88;

2) Lloyd Claude Alexander born 3/28/18; auto repair trade school, pilot reconn. aircraft W.W. II, oil field roughneck, farmer, Brown Co., Tx.

Alta Alexander born 10/31/?, died 6/6/69; post office work, married Lloyd in 1946, housewife;

3) Doris (Alexander) Matzke born 6/11/20; business school, clerical work Harris Co. courthouse, married Carl about 1940, lived at Fairbanks, Tx., Hatfield, Ark., mother of 4 children, member Church of Christ.

Carl William Matzke born 9/23/17, died 7/30/83; metal worker welding supt. Mosher Steel Co., Houston, Tx., retired about 1973 to Hatfield, Ark., rancher, preacher, Church of Christ.

a) Carl William Matzke, Jr. born 7/2/41; military service, game warden, Beaumont and Madisonville, Texas areas.

Diane (Collier) Matzke born 8/29/?, married Carl "Bill" about 1965, housewife, mother of one son.

aa) William Flint Matzke born 10/27/67; student TAMU;

b) Timothy Adams Matzke born 4/16/44, died 8/24/84; B.A. in chemistry, Abilene Christian Univ., PhD Univ. Tx., married Glenda Osborn about 1970, worked Environment Protection Agency, Dallas and Washington, D.C.;

Glenda (Osborn) Matzke born 9/15/?; B.A. degree Abilene Christian Univ., married Tim about 1966, housewife, mother of two children.

aa) Casey Lynn Matzke born 11/12/72; and

bb) Alexis Joy Matzke born 12/21/77;

c) Cynthia (matzke) Clayton born 4/10/48; B.A. Harding Christian Univ., married Phillip Clayton about 1968, housewife, other of 3 children.

Phillip Henry Clayton born 4/24/48; B.A. Harding Christian Univ., preacher, insurance, real estate, Houston, Texas. Their children:

aa) Angella Noelle Clayton born 8/10/70; student at Univ. of Texas;

bb) Kristena Nicolle Clayton born 9/11/73; and

cc) Phillip Garrett Clayton born 9/11/80;

d) Hope (Matzke) Motz born 3/14/54; housewife, mother of six children.

William Andrew Motz born 8/11/?; metal worker, New Braunfels, Tx. Their children:

aa) Erin Aline Motz born 11/27/73.

bb) Megan Rebecca Motz born 7/18/75.

cc) Hawley Brandis Motz born 7/18/75.

dd) Joshua Nathan Motz born 12/4/78.

ee) Rachel Terrell Motz born 1/21/85 and

ff) William Zachary Motz born 9/26/87;

4) Wilma (Alexander) Mann born 4/22/23; B.A. Sam Houston State Univ., public school teacher, housewife, mother of six children.

H.C. Mann born 12/16/17; Air Force pilot European theatre W.W. II, retired U.S.A.F, commercial pilot, retired Temple, Tx., Church of Christ.

a) Greg Alexander Mann born 4/4/43; B.A., ROTC, Texas A&M Univ., retired U.S. Air Force, Albuquerque, N. Mex., engineer Sandia corp., married Sally Cisney.

Sally (Cisney) born 11/19/?; teacher, housewife, four children:

aa) John Nicholas Mann born 7/7/64; U.S. Coast Guard.

bb) Lee Whitfield Mann born 2/16/66; U.S. Coast Guard.

cc) Michelle Lynn Mann born 10/12/70 and

dd) Alexa Sullivan Mann born 2/4/75;

b) Novie Louise Mann born 11/28/51; B.A. Harding Christian Univ., reporter San Antonio newspaper.

c) Gary Paul Mann born 8/5/53; B.A. Univ. Ariz., military 3 years, insurance records San Antonio, Texas, married to Heather Burnett.

Heather (Burnett) Mann born 9/28/?; B.A. degree, law enforcement office, housewife, mother of one child.

Josslyn Alexandra Mann born 3/31/88.

d) Sharon (Mann) Depmore born 4/25/55; married David Depmore 5/21/77, registered nurse, housewife, mother of 3 children, Round Rock, Texas.

David Kenneth Depmore born 9/16/54; B.A. Univ. Tex. in advertising, worked in Houston and Austin, Texas, outdoor advertising.

Paul Ryan Depmore born 2/16/80.

Adam Christopher Depmore born 9/21/83.

Sarah Emily Depmore born 4/24/87.

e) Terry Joe Mann born 12/21/57; B.A. Univ. Tex., worked U.P.S. in Temple and San Angelo, Texas, married to Terrie Mazuk.

Terrie Finch (Mazuk) Mann born 11/28/?; housewife, mother 2 children.

John Clayton Mann born 8/20/83.

Jacob Taylor Mann born 6/27/89.

f) Amy Elizabeth Mann born 3/23/67; B.A. Texas A&M Univ., communications working in Dallas, Texas.

by Warren A. Alexander

ALEXANDER, CHARLES H.

F7

Charles H. Alexander, one of seven children born to James Sidney and Ann Allison Alexander, was born, raised and died on the land bought by his father in the early 1850's. The land was bought from A. Biddy and wife and deeds were recorded in the DeWitt County Courthouse on Jan. 1, 1855. This property was in the Stratton area.

Charles H. Alexander was born in May, 1859. On Dec. 22, 1879 he was married to Eliza Adams, the daughter of Aquilla and Mary Bowen Adams. The Adams land joined the Alexander land.

James Sidney later divided his land among his children. Charles H. later bought land from other brothers who were leaving DeWitt County to go further West.

Charles H. and Eliza Alexander had nine children, six boys and three girls.

Lee Alexander died early in life, a bachelor.

Mary Ann married John Means and had two sons, Arthur and Hugh. Arthur had two girls, Beatrice (Boone) and Sybil, and twin sons, John and Arthur who still own their father's business, Means Furniture Co. John Means, Sr., died of typhoid while still a young man. Mary A. Means later married Ben Benbow and had two sons and two daughters. One son, Tom, lives in Yoakum and one daughter, Melva Benbow Koehl, lives in Victoria, Texas. One daughter, Johnnie Benbow married Joe Kirkland, deceased. William "Bill" Benbow married Merle Maness. He is deceased.

George Thomas Alexander married Nellie Ridgeway and they had three boys and a girl. Joseph Berlin lives in San Antonio, Charles M. lives in Cuero and Ruth married Bill Cox and lives at Lake Mathis. George Thomas, Jr. married Wynell Wyatt and lives in Texarkana.

Aquilla Alexander married Nora Rice and they had one son, John B. and one daughter, Jewell Alexander Henderson. She lives in Houston. John B. is deceased. Aquilla died of typhoid while still a young man.

Charles H. Alexander married Zora Carter, a school teacher in the community. They later left DeWitt County and moved to West Texas. Both are buried in San Angelo, where they had lived for many years. They had two boys and one girl, Louie Conner, Charles, and Iris Lorea Alexander Grady. They all still live in San Angelo, Texas.

John Wesley Alexander married Irene Matthew in 1912. They had five children, 3 girls

and 2 boys. Roxie Alexander Cage, Fay Alexander Calhoun and Wesley B. "Alec" Alexander all live in Cuero and Fannie Corinne "Connie" Alexander Carroll lives in El Campo and John Henry "Fritz" Alexander lives in Corpus Christi.

Sidney "Sid" Alexander married Ethel Boothe. They had 3 girls. Two died in infancy. One daughter, "Billie" (Mrs. Bob) Lee lives in Cuero.

Susie Alexander married Albert Morrow in 1916. They had 3 girls and 2 boys. Edith Morrow married Curtis Owen and lives in McMahan. Aline Morrow married Joe Deir and they live in San Antonio. Pauline Morrow married Elvin Eggelston and lives in Catsprings. Aline and Pauline are twins. Joseph Morrow married Dorothy Parr and lives in McAllen. Marcos Morrow drowned at an early age.

Lottie Alexander married Henry Parker and had 3 boys and 2 girls. Charles Parker married Myrtle Schultz. Charles was killed in an accident early in life. Hayes Parker married, is retired and lives in Cuero. Kathleen Parker married Huson Maness and lives in Cotulla. Ruby Lee Parker married Philip "Phil" Asbeck and lives in Victoria. Arnold Peavy Parker married, and lives in Victoria.

Typhoid fever left its mark on the Alexander family. It struck the family three different times. The first time it killed one; the second time, one; and the third time, two. Charles H. Alexander and his son-in-law were buried on the same day.

After Charles H. died, Eliza continued to live on their old home place, still having unmarried children. When the children later married, Eliza gave John W. the house and it was torn down and rebuilt on his part of the land. Eliza had divided the land equally among her nine children. Part of the land stayed in the Alexander name for 116 years. The last Alexander land was sold by Aquilla Alexander on August 17, 1971. J.C. "Bud" Adams now owns the land where the old home place was. Jess Sapp owns the land where the John W. Alexander family lived. The original house has been remodeled but still sits beneath large oak trees on a hill. I still remember climbing those oaks with my sisters and brothers when we were children.

All the Alexanders are buried in the Alexander Cemetery at Stratton except Charles W. who is buried in San Angelo. The original acre was given for a cemetery by my great grandfather, James Sidney Alexander. He and his second wife, Ann, are buried there in a family lot. There are three known graves of sons in the cemetery — Uncle George, Uncle Ben, and my grandfather, Charles H.

I have been told "Uncle Frank" and his wife, "Aunt Lizzie" are in the family lot. Uncle Frank was a freed slave who stayed with the family. No records can be found to verify this.

by Roxie Cage

ALEXANDER, ELAN EDWARD

F8

Elan Edward Alexander was born November 28, 1872 in DeWitt County to George L. and Annie Amanda Alexander. After leaving school and obtaining employment with the railroad in Lee County, Elan met and married Emma Opal Lawrence. Three children were born of this union: Ivy Mae, 1900, George Wesley, 1902 and Thomas Edward, 1904. Emma died in 1904 shortly after the birth of Thomas.

After the tragic death of Emma, all the children went to live with Grandma Annie in DeWitt County. Sometime later, Elan left the railroad and returned to DeWitt County. Attempting to farm for awhile, he finally gave it up in 1911 and moved the family to Delhi in Caldwell County, only to again, take up farming. Around 1914, he quit the farm one last time and moved the family to Sour Lake in Hardin County. Shortly, after this move, the children were sent to live with various relatives. Elan migrated to California for work in the oil fields of Bakersfield.

Ivy married Charlie Alfred Freeman in 1921. Charlie and Ivy had six children, Howard, July 27, 1922, Fannie Mae, May 10, 1924, Charlie, May 3, 1926, Joel Leo, September 18, 1928. Mary Opal, 1930 and Cleoma Joy, December 11, 1933. The senior Charlie Freeman was killed in an industrial accident in 1935. Ivy died in 1951. Elan returned to live with his grandson, Charlie Freeman, in 1949. He died in August 1951, and was buried in Pine Ridge cemetery in Hardin County. Only two of Ivy's children survive, Charlie (Buddy) Freeman in Sour Lake and Fannie Mae Green in Livingston, Texas.

George, never married, died in 1932 and was buried in Delhi, Caldwell County. Thomas married Delphia King in 1946 and had no children. Delphia died in 1982. Thomas lives in Kerrville, Texas with his stepson, Streeter King.

by Streeter G. King

ALEXANDER, EMMA LETITIA

F9

Emma (Alexander) Goodman

Emma Letitia, daughter of George Leander and Annie Amanda (Hill) Alexander, was born August 11, 1883 in the Stratton Community. She grew up there and attended school in a one room school house that was located a short distance west of the Alexander Cemetery. Mr. Edgar was teacher.

After the death of their grandfather, Henry F.W. Hill, the daughters of George and Annie took turns staying with their grandmother Susan in Cuero. It became Emma's turn when she was fourteen and she lived with her grandmother until she left to go with her family when they moved to Caldwell County in early 1899.

Soon after their arrival in Caldwell County, Emma met Edward Alexander Goodman. They were married November 13, 1900. Ed farmed in an area near Mineral Springs and Clarks Chapel before moving to Carruth where he ran a gin. In 1911, they sold the gin and purchased a ranch in Delhi Community. The land is still owned by her son Thomas and daughter Veltmon White.

Shortly after her marriage, Emma's parents returned to DeWitt County. She missed them and her friends there, very much. (Many years later, as an "only child" growing up on a remote ranch, I spent many happy hours listening to stories about her friends and relatives in DeWitt County).

Emma had four children: 1. Albert Eli, born January 29, 1902, married Pearl Perry. They had three daughters: Loraine Keller, Bessie Thorn and Susan White. Their grandchildren were: Shirley Thorn, Lois Keller, Jacqueline and Latricia White. 2. Covey Lee was born August 31, 1903 and passed away July 21, 1927. 3. Thomas Edward, born February 20, 1905, married Radie Rawlinson. They had one daughter, Olamae who married Lester Jacobs and had Glenda and Judy. 4. Veltmon Olivia, born March 24, 1925, married George Alexander Black June 2, 1945, had one son Arthur Alexander Black, two granddaughters, Heather Alexander Black and Amber Alexander Black. After George's death, Veltmon married Norval P. White on May 4, 1986.

Emma was a Christian and nothing less than a serious problem or illness prevented her attendance at the nearest Baptist church, for every service. She was an avid gardener and her pantry was always filled with canned vegetables, jams and jellies. She loved her fellow man and was always ready to aid friends and neighbors when they needed a helping hand.

A few years after Emma's father passed away, her mother Annie came to make her home with the Goodman family. Emma cared for her mother until 1930 when Annie passed away.

When Emma was left alone in 1952, she lived with her daughter in Lubbock, for a few years. She was fiercely independent and wanted a place of her own. She chose a warmer climate and rented an apartment in San Antonio, near her sons, where she lived until her death February 2, 1966.

Her love of DeWitt County remained to the end and when she passed away we honored her wish to be laid to rest beside her parents in Alexander Cemetery near Stratton.

by Veltmon G. White

ALEXANDER, GEORGE LEANDER

F10

George Leander Alexander, son of James Sidney and Mary (Allen) Alexander, was born April 30, 1839 in Mechlenburg County, North Carolina. His mother died in 1841, when he was only two years old. His father remarried in 1843 and after a few years moved the family to Yalobusha County, Mississippi. When George

Henry F.W. and Susan (Garey) Hill, Annie (Hill) Alexander's parents.

George L. and Annie (Hill) Alexander

was eleven, in 1850, the family moved to DeWitt County, Texas, where he grew to manhood.

During the Civil War, George served in the Confederate Army, Company H, Captain John J. Dix's Frontier Regiment of Texas Rangers, later changed to Texas Cavalry, CSA.

George left home in early spring of 1866, with trail boss Thornton Chisholm, to go on the first cattle drive going north from Texas. It was a long and perilous journey that lasted until late fall of that year.

George was married in DeWitt County on October 28, 1868, to Annie Amanda Hill, daughter of Henry F.W. Hill and Amanda Susan Seymour (Garey) Hill. Annie was born in DeWitt County, July 27, 1853.

They lived on a farm in the vicinity of Stratton Community where fifteen children were born to them: (1) Mary Ann, born September 25, 1869, died December 17, 1875, is buried in Alexander Cemetery, Stratton, Texas. (2) Royal Henry, born February 25, 1871, died October 13, 1873, is buried in Alexander Cemetery. (3) Elam Elijah, who changed his middle name to Edward when he was grown, was born November 28, 1872. (4) Susan Harriet, born in 1874, first married Henry Cook. They had three children, Henry, Adderine and Kelzie. After Henry Senior's death, Susan married a Mr. Driscoll and had Irvin. (5) George Benjamin, born May 23, 1875, married Lily Popps in Caldwell County and had Elroy, Bertha, Dovie, Alma, Artell, and Beatrice. Ben died about 1915 and is buried in Caldwell County. (6) Noah Ishmael, born June 6, 1877, married Annie Grunewald October 28, 1908 in DeWitt County. After her death, Noah married Mrs. Ernestine Alex November 5, 1913 in DeWitt County. They were parents of Mary Esther and Georgia. (7) Timothy Seymour, born Jan. 3, 1879, died, unmarried, in an Oregon paper mill accident on July 2, 1907. (8) Annie Ninnie, born August 9, 1882, disappeared from her grandmother Susan Hill's home in Cuero about 1902 and was not heard from again. (9) Emma Letitia was born August 11, 1883. (10) Edith May was born January 15, 1886. (11) Nellie Garey, born June 18, 1887, married T. Coleman Wilson on November 28, 1906 in DeWitt County. They had one daughter, Naomi who married Newt Hahn. Naomi is a widow and lives in Gonzales. Nellie next married Malcolm Smalley and had two sons, Freeman and Roy. She passed away, Jan. 13, 1928, at the home of her sister Emma and is buried in Delhi. (12) Curtis Lee was born May 8, 1889. (13) Irvin Ross was born March 3, 1891. (14) Amos Adams was born March 24, 1893. (15) Ola Pearl, born March 26, 1895, married C.C. Flowers October 9, 1912, had one daughter, Cleo, passed away January 14, 1914 in DeWitt County.

In late 1898 or early 1899 George moved his family, less the four oldest, to Caldwell County where they settled south of Lockhart. Ben and Emma were married while in Caldwell County and were left behind when their family returned to DeWitt Co. in 1902. They lived near Yoakum until George passed away February 27, 1911. Annie lived with her son, Elam, in the same area, for a few years then moved to Delhi and lived with her daughter Emma until her death February 2, 1930. They are both buried at Alexander Cemetery.

by Veltmon G. White

ALEXANDER, GEORGE M. (TIP) FAMILY

F11

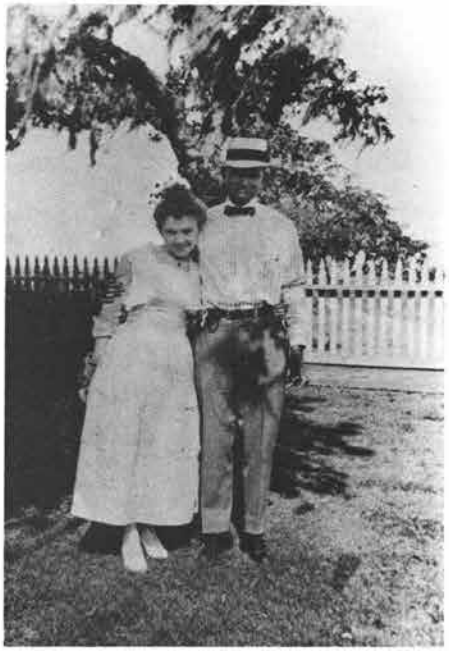
George Monroe Alexander was born in 1840 in Yalabusha Co., Miss., the son of Robert and Sarah Alexander. According to stories he told his children in later years, his family came to Texas about 1854 by going to the Mississippi River and traveling by boat down the river to New Orleans, then out into the Gulf of Mexico and across to Indianola, Texas. He said that so happy was he finally to be on land again that he knelt and kissed the earth, thanked his Maker, and swore never to get into another boat as long as he lived. He kept his word.

The Alexanders settled in DeWitt Co., and when the Civil War began young Tip (as George M. was always called) enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was, however, never in battle as he served in West Texas guarding the frontier from Indians and Union sympathizers.

Soon after the end of the war, Tip hired on as a cowboy to herd cattle going "up the trail." He was one of the men who left DeWitt Co. on April 1, 1866 with 1800 head of Longhorn steers belonging to Crockett Cardwell. Thornton Chisholm was trail boss of this first herd to be driven north to market. The drive took all summer. Tip's brother, Green, who was also with the cattle drive, took sick and died on the way. He was buried somewhere on the prairie.

An account of the trail drive written by descendants of Chisholm from notes written by his son, Jim, who was born only days before the drive began, states that the drive ended at St. Joseph, Mo., where the cattle were sold. Tip Alexander told a different story, saying that when they reached Sedalia, Missouri, in September the cattle market had broken and there were no buyers for the steers. According to him, Mr. Cardwell had to winter the cattle there and sell them the next spring. Tip said he was "paid off" with the saddle he had ridden up there and that he and the other men then began the long ride home.

During the following year, 1867, Tip was married to Miss Susan Marshall. She was the daughter of Isham and Elizabeth Music Marshall, who owned land which is now a part of north Cuero. Susan was born there in 1847. She rode horseback to school in Clinton, having to ford the Guadalupe River.



Fannie (Peebles) and Blake Alexander, 1918.

The George M. "Tip" Alexander family. Standing: Robert, John, Ben, Aaron, Blake. Center: G.M. "Tip" and Susan (Marshall) Alexander. Front: Sally (Alexander) Peavy, picture of G.M., Jr., Annie Alexander.

Tip and Susan raised eight children: George M. Jr. (Young Tip), who died young leaving one daughter, Bonnie Lou; Robert (Bob), who was a farmer near Edinburg, Tx.; John, who lived in Sinton, Tx.; Aaron, who lived in Beeville; Ben and Blake of Cuero; Sally, who married Zann Peavy and lived in Houston; and Annie (see Dunn family).

Blake was the youngest of this family except for baby Susan, who died of burns received when she tipped a pot of boiling water over onto herself. He grew up running behind older brothers on the north outskirts of Cuero, went to school at "Old Man" Nash's, and at the age of 11 ran away from home, making his way down into Jackson Co. to the prairie where his brother Ben was herding their papa's cattle on the open range. Blake never returned to school, and having always regretted not getting an education, he helped a number of young people to stay in college.

When he was nineteen, Blake went to work for Mrs. Warrenetta Blake Peebles, a widow, taking care of the cattle on the Peebles Ranch. He and Mrs. Peebles formed a lasting partnership which was cemented by his marriage to her only daughter, Fannie, in 1914. Perhaps we should explain that he was named for Mrs. Peebles' older brother, Dr. Dan Blake, who brought him into the world.

Mrs. Peebles passed away in 1959, after which Blake and Fannie continued to operate that land which had come to them. They had one child, Elizabeth Blake, who was educated at the Valley View School (where Blake served as trustee for many years) and the Cuero schools, after which she attended Southern Methodist University, earning a degree in English. In Dec. 1942 she married Lt. Douglas H. Muir from Birmingham, Ala. During World War II he served as an Army Test Pilot at Bell Aircraft Corp. in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and with an Electronics Experimental Squadron at Ft. Dix Air Base, N.J. After the war, they lived first in Alabama and later in San Antonio. Their children are Douglas M., who lives in Birmingham, Al.; Patricia P., a practicing

attorney in Houston; and Blake A., who lives on the Peebles-Alexander Ranch working for his mother.

Blake and Fannie both died in 1966, and Douglas Muir died in 1969 at the age of 51. Elizabeth and her son Blake moved to the ranch from San Antonio in Jan. 1970. He transferred into Cuero High School, and later attended college in San Marcos and Kingsville. She assumed management of the ranch, being helped greatly by her uncle, Pat Peebles, who was by then a near neighbor. After his death in 1973, she struggled on with the help of a longtime family employee, Vollie Henderson.

In 1987, after seventeen years of widowhood, Elizabeth married Julian W. Taylor of Nanafalia, Ala. and Lake Jackson, Tx.

by Elizabeth Taylor

ALEXANDER, IRVIN ROSS

F12

Irvin Ross Alexander was born March 3, 1891 in DeWitt County, Texas, the son of George Leander and Annie Amanda Hill Alexander. On the 19th of Nov. 1913 he was married to Lola Irene Wofford, daughter of John and Mertice Hoggatt Wofford. They settled on a small farm near Yorktown where their children were born. Orval Ross was born April 5, 1915; Wyvonna Belle was born June 6, 1916; and Sybil Irene was born Sept. 29, 1919.

Early in the winter of 1919 along with some other families in that area, they rented a railroad box car into which they loaded their belongings and moved to Alberta, Canada. The first few years were spent west of Calgary where Irvin worked on a sheep ranch, a wheat farm, in a general store, and running a truck line which ceased after an accident totaled the truck. In 1924 or 1925 they moved to Red Deer where Irvin worked in a meat market. Feeling the extreme distance from families and seeing their children growing up without knowing the land of their birth, in 1929 Irvin and Lola decided it was time to go back home. In Oct. of that year they sold the household goods and motored back to Texas. They had a tent and camped out each night and every turn in the road revealed something new about our country. In Texas, old friendships were renewed and families reunited. This was the year of the stock market crash and the beginning of the depression so Irvin felt lucky to find a job at a grocery in Drumright, Oklahoma. He also did work as an oil field roustabout until he went to work for the Tide Water Oil Refinery at Drumright where he stayed long enough to get a 20 year pin and take early retirement when the refinery was sold. By this time all the children were married. Orval to Eleanor Johnson; they have retired to Pleasant Hill, Tn. Wyvona married Joseph Lane; they live in Alexandria, Virginia. Sybil married John Hickam; they retired to Langley, Oklahoma, where she still lives.

After retiring, Irvin and Lola moved to St. Cloud, Florida, where they lived for a time and then returned to Texas and settled in Rockport where they could fish, have a garden and flowers, and enjoy the good fellowship in the Methodist Church. Irvin died at Rockport April 19, 1970 and was interred in the Alexander Cemetery at Stratton. Lola was placed beside him after her death Oct. 14, 1988. They were survived by their three children, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

by Sybil Irene Hickam

ALEXANDER, JAMES SIDNEY "JIM"

F13

Traditionally, seven Alexander brothers came to the new world, from Ulster, and settled in Cecil and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas of Maryland in the late 1680s. The DeWitt County Alexanders descended from two of these early settlers: James born ca 1650 (through his son Moses and grandson Daniel) and Samuel born ca 1655 (through his son Andrew and grandson Moses).

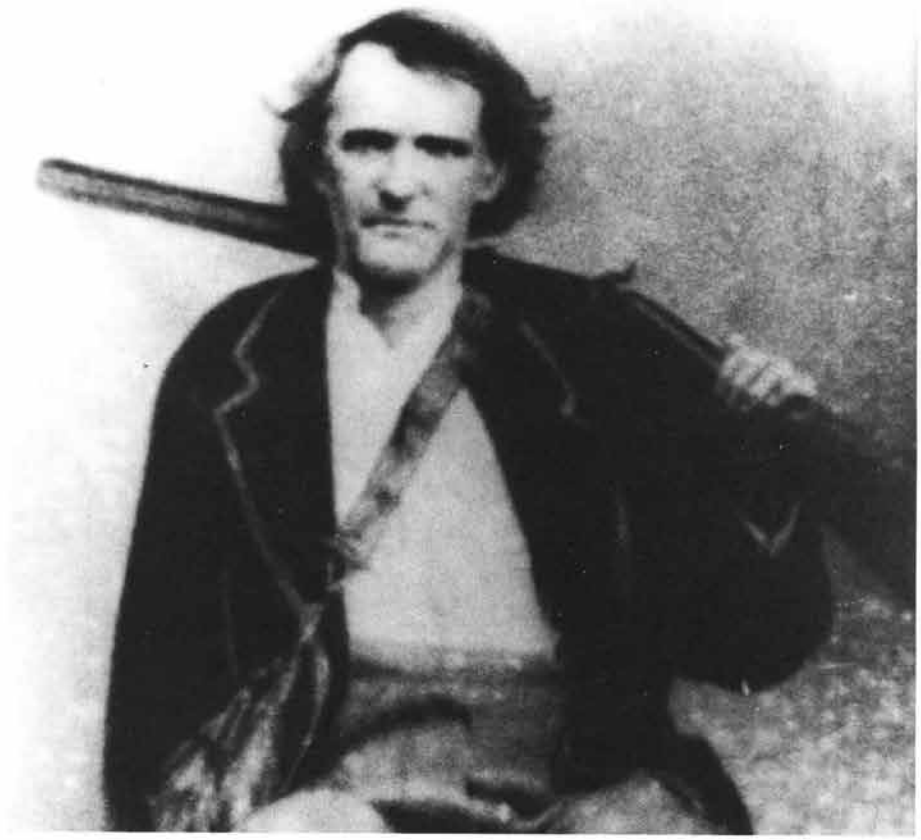
Under heavy handed English rule, the freedom they were seeking was elusive. In the 1740s and 50s, due to political unrest and need for more land for their rapidly increasing numbers, most of them started moving farther inland. They settled in what is now Mechlenburg and Cabarrus Counties in North Carolina, where they were soon to outnumber settlers by any other name.

They established plantations, were active in many areas of government and helped plot the overthrow of English rule, with six Alexanders signing the Mechlenburg Declaration of Independence. They were prominent in the Revolution and James Sidney's story will start with three of Captain Stephen and Martha (Wilson) Alexander's daughters.

Stephen was the son of Daniel and Prudence Alexander and Martha was the daughter of Mechlenburg Declaration of Independence signer Zaccheus Wilson. Prudence, who died July 18, 1800, was honored June 23, 1953 by the naming of the Prudence Alexander D.A.R. Chapter in Dallas. Stephen and Martha's daughters were (1) Mary, born February 8, 1785, married Benjamin Alexander on June 28, 1808, son of Moses and Martha (Kirkman) Alexander. They lived in Cabarrus County, near the Mechlenburg County line, where they raised eleven children. Among them were two sons, James Sidney, born February 7, 1811 and Robert, born April 22, 1815, who were to settle in DeWitt County. (2) Sarah, born August 26, 1777, married George Allen Jr., March 18, 1802, lived in Mechlenburg County and had a daughter, Mary Allen. (3) Martha, born July 23, 1793, married William Allison, December 27, 1814 and lived just over the state line in South Carolina. They had a daughter, Anna Allison.

James Sidney "Jim" b. Feb. 7, 1811 in Cabarrus Co., North Carolina, married his first cousin Mary Allen, February 17, 1836 in Rocky River Church, Cabarrus County. They lived in Mechlenburg County where they had three sons: Robert, born in 1837; George Leander, born April 30, 1839 and James Jr., born in 1841. Mary died soon after James Jr.'s birth and the children went to live with their grandparents, Ben and Mary Alexander.

Jim's second marriage was to another first cousin, Anna Allison in 1843. After the wedding, Robert and George made their home with their father and new mother but James Jr. was



James Sidney Alexander

left with Ben and Mary.

In the latter part of 1846, Jim and his family started on their long trek to Texas, where he and his brother Robert had gone several years earlier to join the Texas forces in their fight with Mexico. They stopped in Yalobusha County, Mississippi to visit relatives and were persuaded to settle in that locale. About four years later Jim's oldest son, Robert, was killed by an alligator while playing in Yalobusha River. Soon afterwards they started to Texas for the second time.

The first land they purchased in DeWitt County was in 1850. Their land surrounded the site of Alexander cemetery and they lived a short distance east of that site. The last of the Jim Alexander land, purchased in 1855, was sold by a great-grandson in 1971, after 116 years in the family.

Jim and Anna's children were: (1) Allison, born 1844 in North Carolina. He was killed in battle during the Civil War. Upon receiving a letter from his sister Mary, informing him of his brother Allison death, George replied to her from the Confederate camp where he was stationed. From George's reply dated March 25, 1863: "I often think of my brother James and think he too may be gone but, oh sister, he is not as dear as the one I so often played my youthful hours away with". (2) Martha Ann, born February 14, 1846 in North Carolina. (3) Benjamin Franklin, born January 28, 1847, in Mississippi. (4) Mary Talitha, born October 7, 1849 in Mississippi. (5) Letitia Caroline, born September 25, 1854 in DeWitt County. (6) Thomas Livingston, born 1858 in DeWitt County. (7) Charles Henry, born May 1859 in DeWitt County.

Jim set aside land for a family cemetery and it is believed that his grandson Royal Henry Alexander, who died in 1873 was the first person to be interred there. Anna died April 5, 1879 and is buried in Alexander Cemetery. James Sidney died December 24, 1888 and is buried beside Anna. Jim's beloved brother Robert (with whom he traveled, on horseback, to so many far away places when they were young) passed away in 1882. Robert and his wife Sarah (Turner) Alexander are buried beside Jim and Anna, in unmarked graves.

The accompanying photo was taken in New Orleans when Jim was returning from service with the Confederate forces. He was discharged in July 1862 for disability.

by Veltmon G. White

ALVARADO, JACOB AND MACLOVIA (URESTI) FAMILY

F14

Jacob Alvarado was a resident of Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas from 1920 to 1970. He was the owner of Cuero Jewelry Shop on West Main Street. Jacob was born in Matehula, a town founded in 1520, state of San Luis Potosi, Mexico on February 15, 1893, and was baptized on March 10, 1893, Church of the Immaculate Conception there. His parents were Isidro Alvarado and Josefa Ramirez, whose families were pioneers of that town. Jacob's maternal grandparents were Claro Ramirez, a tailor, who died October 17, 1894 in Matehula, and Jesus G. Vda de Ramirez, died September 17, 1897, Tampico, Mexico. His father's people were ranchers, landowners and workers at the silver mines near Real de Catorce. His mother's families were tailors for three generations of Matehula residents. The sons were sent to France to study tailoring.

Maclovia Alvarado, Jacob Alvarado, Charles Jacob Cilfone (8 months), Lois Alvarado Cilfone, 1959.

Jacob grew up in San Salvador, near Saltillo. His schooling was provided by Jesuits. Not liking school, he would jump the fence to go observe the watchmaker from Switzerland in town, who gave him a job sweeping and taught him watchmaking and the jewelry business.

During the Mexican Revolution of 1918, Jacob was sent to San Antonio several times by the leaders because he was an intelligent and trustworthy young man. Many times Jacob talked of having met Pancho Villa and knowing the colonels and generals who later became the presidents of Mexico and governors of various states. Because of the revolution, Jacob, who was in his 20s, decided to leave Mexico. In San Antonio, he worked for the jewelry firm of Betancourt. When Jacob heard of the need for a watchmaker in Cuero, he moved there.

Jacob brought with him from Mexico his mother's sister, Dona Silvina and her husband, Don Miguelito. This aunt has raised him from childhood when his mother died. He also brought his aunt's son, Frank Martinez. Other family members who came to live in Cuero were his sister, Aurelia Hernandez and her daughter, Carmen, who married Henry Uresti, Maclovia's brother. In Cuero, Jacob met his wife, Maclovia Uresti of Victoria, during her visits to her half-sister, Guadalupe Uresti Henson, wife of Julius Henson.

Maclovia was born at the Uresti ranch in Victoria, Texas, on April 25, 1899. She was baptized in San Diego, Texas, at St. Francis de Paula Church by Rev. I.P. Bard, on 26 August 1900. Maclovia's parents were Inocencio Uresti of Victoria and Maria Garcia of San Diego, Texas, where they married on December 9, 1889, by Priest J.P. Hass. Inocencio Uresti was born on December 28, 1855 in Spring Creek, Victoria, Texas. At the age of 37, he was appointed School Trustee of Spring Creek No. 5, in Victoria by the Department of Education "for the year beginning September 1, 1892 and ending August 3, 1896." Innocencio Uresti died at age 79, on his ranch in Nursery while sitting at his dining room table after returning from horseback riding, February 3, 1934. Maria Garcia was born in San Diego, Texas, May 17, 1871, baptized May 20, 1871 at St. Francis de Paula Church by Rev. Adolph Guichon. Maria was 18 when she married Inocencio, 34, a widower with 6 small children. His first wife was Carmen Mora. Maria and Inocencio had 10 children. Four died very young. Maria's parents were Matianna Perez and Jose Maria Garcia, ranchers and landowners of Duval County, Texas. Her brother, Vidal, was one of the earliest postmasters of San Diego. Maria was widowed at age 63, at the Uresti ranch, later came to Cuero to live with Jacob and Maclovia and died on June 17, 1955 at age 84, in San Antonio. Both are buried in the Uresti family plot in Victoria.

Maclovia's early education was at the country school in Nursery, where she went to school on her horse, Charlie, or in bad weather by buggy driven by her father. She later became a boarding student at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Maclovia loved riding her horse bareback, playing the piano and canoeing on the Guadalupe River at the pecan bottom of the Uresti ranch in Nursery, 9 miles from Victoria. This 442 acres of the Sylvestre De Leon grant was purchased by Maclovia's paternal grandparents, Guadalupe Uresti and Francisca Garcia from Francesco DeLeon on July 17, 1854. Maclovia's father, Inocencio was a general store owner in Victoria, and a rancher and farmer in Nursery, who took his cattle to Kansas to sell.

Jacob and Maclovia were married in a civil ceremony in Houston on November 5, 1921. They were married by Catholic rites at Guadalupe Church in Cuero, November 19, 1933, witnesses being nephew Ernest Henson and Emma Lee Joseph of Cuero. They had three children: Gilbert, September 9, 1922; Robert, February 25, 1924; and Lois Josephine, August 5, 1927, all born in Cuero.

During the depression, hungry men who came to the Alvarado house at 401 West French Street, were given a warm meal. Needy women were given employment at the modest home during these lean years. During World War II when his son, Gilbert, served in the U.S. Navy, Jacob proudly became an American citizen with the help of his friend, District Judge Howard P. Green, who drove him to Victoria for the ceremony. Maclovia planted a victory garden, raised chickens and did canning of fruits and vegetables. They grew many roses and had bee hives in their yard. She made homemade soap, ice cream and root beer capped in bottles. She was recognized for her outstanding cakes.

Jacob was a respected leader in his community and was often called upon to deliver eulogies at funerals because of his eloquent speech. An avid reader, he taught himself to read and write in English by using phonograph records and dictionaries. He had great admiration for President Franklin Roosevelt, whom he liked to quote.

Jacob died at the age of 86 on February 24, 1979, and is buried at San Jose Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas. Maclovia still resides, at age 90, in her home at 1017 South Mesquite, San Antonio, since 1947, with her son Robert, a bachelor and retired watchmaker. Gilbert Alvarado and wife, Yolanda Flores Marquez reside in San Antonio and Port Aransas. Lois Alvarado and husband Charles Joseph Cilfone reside at 134 Postwood Drive in San Antonio. Their story is given separately. Jacob and Maclovia had 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. One namesake, great grand-

son, Jacob Ross Alvarado, age 7, resides in Fredericksburg, Texas.

by Lois Alvarado Cilfone

AMBERSON, JAMES

F15

James Amberson (22 Jun 1816 – 9 Feb 1886), of Swedish descent, was born in western Pennsylvania where the Ambersons had settled in Mercer County in colonial times. James married his first wife ca 1834. Their three children — William, ca. 1835, a daughter, ca 1838, and Anna Elizabeth in 1847 — were born in Monroe County, Mississippi. James' wife apparently died soon after Anna was born.

James moved his family to Texas where he married his second wife, Mrs. Mary Jane (McKenzie) Finch, on 13 November 1851 in San Antonio. Mary Jane was the widow of John H. Finch who had land holdings in Caldwell and DeWitt Counties. Mary Jane (30 Mar 1836 – 25 Aug 1909) was born in Tennessee. She and John Finch had only one child, John M. Finch, born in 1847 in Texas.

James and Mary Jane first settled in Caldwell Co. along Clear Fork of Plum Creek near Lockhart, Tex., accumulating other properties from time to time. Four children were born to them in Caldwell Co.: Roderick Toliver (18 Aug 1852 – 3 Jan 1931), Martha Ann (20 Jun 1855 – 4 Jul 1940), James R., Jr., (Mar 1858 – 3 June 1909), and Mary V. "Jennie" Amberson (b. Dec. 1860).

William Amberson (1835-1858) married Sarah Louisa Tomerlin (22 Jan 1837 – 14 Feb 1898), a daughter of James Tomerlin (1804-1854) and his wife Frances, who had moved their family from Washington County, Arkansas, to Rusk County, Texas, in 1846, then on to Caldwell County in 1852 where James was shot from ambush and killed on 29 May 1854 near Lockhart, Texas. William and Sarah had two children: Frances J. "Fannie" Amberson (1854-1902) and George Wesley Amberson (b. ca 1857). After William died (under unknown circumstances) in Medina County, Sarah married James P. Shoemake in 1859, and had eleven more children.

James Amberson's residence during the Civil War has not been discovered, but the DeWitt Co. tax roll of 1868 and deed records show that he bought land in the Benjamin McDaniel League east of Yorktown. In 1872, he bought more land located nearby in the Caruthers survey along Twelve-Mile Creek. James' family was enumerated in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of DeWitt County. The Texas Agriculture Schedules indicate that he was an industrious farmer and stockraiser, and the county tax rolls indicate that he was a prosperous landowner in DeWitt County.

Mary Jane and her son, John M. Finch, were the only heirs of John H. Finch. He provided a substantial inheritance of land for them, much of which was located in DeWitt Co. on Clear Fork of Sandies Creek, However, by 1872 most of Mary Jane's inheritance had been sold off.

Anna Elizabeth Amberson (March 1847 – 4 Jan 1916) married David R. Maxey (Sep 1833 – 15 Jan 1938) on 22 Dec 1870 in DeWitt Co. Their children: Rice (b. Mar 1871), Cora (1874), John M. (1877), James S. (1881) and David (1884). Anna and David remained in DeWitt County the rest of their lives. Rice Maxey was listed as a widower in the household of his cousin Frances J. "Fannie" (Amberson) Ragsdale in the Cooke Co. census of 1900. The 1910 census listed Rice as a farmer in Travis Co. with his (second) wife Janie (b. 1882 in Arkansas) and four children: Jennie C. (b. 1903), Georgia O. (b. 1905), Chester (b. 1907), and David R. (b. 1909). Some of these children later returned to DeWitt County where they married.

Roderick Toliver "R.T." Amberson married Georgia Ann Wilson (20 Feb 1860 – 7 Nov 1945) on 6 Nov 1878 in DeWitt Co. She was a daughter of Samuel Wilson and Rachel Leric. R.T.'s children (all marrying in Kimble County) were Emma Rebecca (b. 1880) m. William Chandler, Mary J. (Jul 1882) m. Aaron D. Cummins, William (1885-1926) m. Mary Bell, Addie (1888-1973) m. John Spruell, Roderick Ray (1892-1978) m. Lydia Deck (1895-1984), Ethel (1894-1916) m. Mr. Duff, and Tom (1901-1959)) m. Eva Strader.

Martha Ann Amberson m. ca 1882 to Samuel A. Hunter (1 Mar 1854 – 25 Nov 1936). Their child was James R. Hunter, b. June 1884.

James R. Anderson, Jr., m. Georgie Celeste Walton (16 Apr 1868 – 1 Jun 1941) on 8 Nov 1887 in Kimble County. Children: George (Sep 1888) m. Carrie Pullen in 1911, Lessie Virginia (28 Dec 1889), James R. (Oct 1891), Samuel H. (28 Jan 1893 – 29 Oct 1972), Joseph Harris (28 Sep 1894 – 7 Jan 1959), and Rosa L. Amberson (July 1896).

Mary V. "Jennie" Amberson married 22 Jun 1879 to David M. Epperson (Feb 1856 – 21 Feb 1937) in DeWitt Co. Their children: Samuel (Mar 1881), Sallie (July 1884), Walter (March 1887), and Myrtle (March 1889).

In 1882, James Amberson, Sr., moved to Kimble County. He died there, and was buried in the Saline Cemetery near London, Texas. Mary Jane was buried at her husband's side in 1909.

In 1888, James' heirs sold the 209 acres he had bought in 1868 and 1872 in DeWitt County. One of the heirs sharing in the estate was his granddaughter Frances J. "Fannie" (Amberson) Ragsdale, with husband Theodore Ragsdale (1849-1895) whom she had married 9 Aug 1869 in Atascosa Co. Their children: Sarah (1870-1934) m. (1) William Lowe, Ida (1872-1961) m. David Boston, William (1875) m. Gertrude Langworthy, Theodore T. "Doc" (1876-1931) m. Lillie Seward, Margaret Dow (1878-1957) m. John Seward, Carrie (1880) m. (1) Sam Dillon, Missouri (1882-1966) m. Alson Ferrill, Elma (1884) m. Quincy Langworthy, Thomas Jefferson (1885), Roberta Elizabeth (1888-1949) m. Perry Whitley (1885-1975), Henrietta (1890-1979) m. Harmon Ferrill, and Crockett Monroe (1894-1977) m. (1) Mary Arnold.

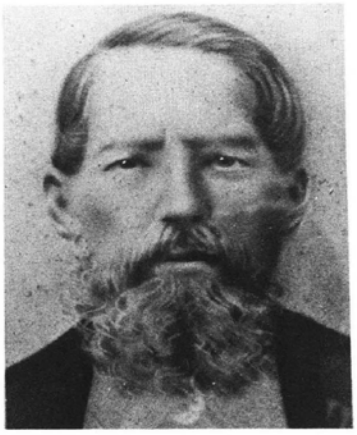
Perry Whitley, a son of Jefferson Franklin Whitley (1861-1946) and Sarah Elizabeth Mathis (1866-1916), and Roberta Elizabeth (Ragsdale) had one child, Vernon Edward Whitley (1908-1988), who married Letha Appling (1910-1987), of Guadalupe Co., in 1926. Their children: James Edward m. Gloria Wilcox, Chester Perry m. Marjorie Collins, Victor Wayne m. (2) LaVerne Benning, and Kenneth Rea m. Rena Jeannine Plourde, of Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada.

by Kenneth R. Whitley

Jno W. Burns M. D. H. R. Hartmann M. D
Drs. Burns & Hartmann
Physicians and Surgeons,
Cuero : : : Texas.
Office Over Booton & Kunitz Drugstore

ANDERSON, WYATT

F16



Wyatt Anderson

Wyatt Anderson was born December 27, 1818 in Louisiana. His parents are unknown at this time, but he did have two brothers who lived in DeWitt County by 1850, Walter and Matthew. He married Nancy Jane McFarland Brantley on January 7, 1847 in Harris County, Texas. Nancy Jane was born in South Carolina September 14, 1818. She was the daughter of James and Margaret Dial McFarland. The McFarlands were in Montgomery County, Texas by 1842. Both the Andersons and the McFarlands were in DeWitt County by 1848. Nancy Jane had been married to Thomas R. Brantley in Mississippi. They had one son, John David Brantley b. 1839.

Wyatt and Nancy Jane lived in the Shiloh Community. The following children were born to this union: Wade (1848-1936) m. 1) Adaline Humphries, 2) Amanda K. Fleming; Ann (1849-1940) m. Montreville Zadock Woods (1847-1912); James M. (1851-1938) m. Emma C. Humphries; Mary (1854-1921); Milton (1856-1869); Jane (1859-1935) m. John F. Miller; Walter (1861-?) m. Sarah D. Fleming.

Wyatt died December 19, 1886 and Nancy Jane died September 9, 1903. They are both buried in Shannon Cemetery near Yorktown on the Benjamin Harral Survey.

by Jean B. Tidwell

ARMSTRONG, BILL FAMIILY

F17

Billy D. Armstrong was born August 27, 1931 in McMullen County to Mr. and Mrs. George Millard Armstrong. He is the seventh child in a family of 7 boys and 5 girls. He grew up in Three Rivers.

Anna Lorene Lee Armstrong was born October 5, 1933 in Bastrop County to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lee. She is the second child in a family of 3 girls and 1 boy.

Bill and Lorene were married January 30, 1953 while he was in the Air Force stationed in San Marcos, Texas. To this union was born 4 children – 2 boys and 2 girls.

Paul Douglas was born December 21, 1953, Carol Ann was born October 17, 1957. Judy Lee

Standing, L-R: Barry, Judy, Carol Ann and Paul. Sitting, L-R: Anna (Lee) and Bill Armstrong

was born May 4, 1960 and Barry Millard was born October 16, 1961. The Armstrong family moved to Yoakum in August, 1966 to pastor the First Assembly of God Church. They continued to pastor the church for the next 15 years but after living in Yoakum for 5½ years, they built a home on the farm they had bought near Hochheim. On November 13, 1971, they moved to their home in DeWitt County.

The children all graduated from Yoakum High School. Paul graduated from Victoria College and has done work toward a degree from Bible College. He married Linda Gould on August 6, 1977 and Paul succeeded his Dad as pastor of First Assembly of God in July, 1981 and continued to pastor for the next 5 years.

Carol married Terry Boening August 12, 1978 and they are both graduates of Texas A&I. They have three children, Tammy Lerae born February 2, 1982, Barry Ryan born October 30, 1984, and Cara Danae born March 1, 1989.

Judy graduated from Texas A&I and married Aaron Blevins of Port Lavaca on July 24, 1982. They have two girls, Julianna Lee born February 17, 1987 and Elizabeth Elise born September 6, 1989.

The family was very grieved when Barry met an untimely death in the crash of an airplane on February 2, 1984 in College Station, Texas where he was a junior Animal Science major at Texas A&M.

by Bill Armstrong

ARNECKE, C.A.H. FAMILY

F18

Dr. Arnecke lived in the community of Arneckeville – named for his father – his entire life. He was a successful and well known pioneer of DeWitt County. In addition to his medical practice, he also operated a drug store. He practiced medicine in Arneckeville and the surrounding area for over 50 years – from 1895 until his death on September 02, 1947.

Dr. Arnecke was born Christoph Adam Henry Arnecke, April 20, 1860 – the son of immigrants, who came to America from Germany in 1854. His parents were Andreas Christoph Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke and Ursela Barbara Sager. (see related story)

He attended the public schools of DeWitt County and worked in a local drugstore for fourteen years before attending the medical schools of the University of Kentucky at Louisville, University of the South at Sewannee, Tennessee, and the Sewanee University of Nashville, where he graduated and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1895.

Dr. Henry Arnecke in buggy with his horses Nellie and Dollie

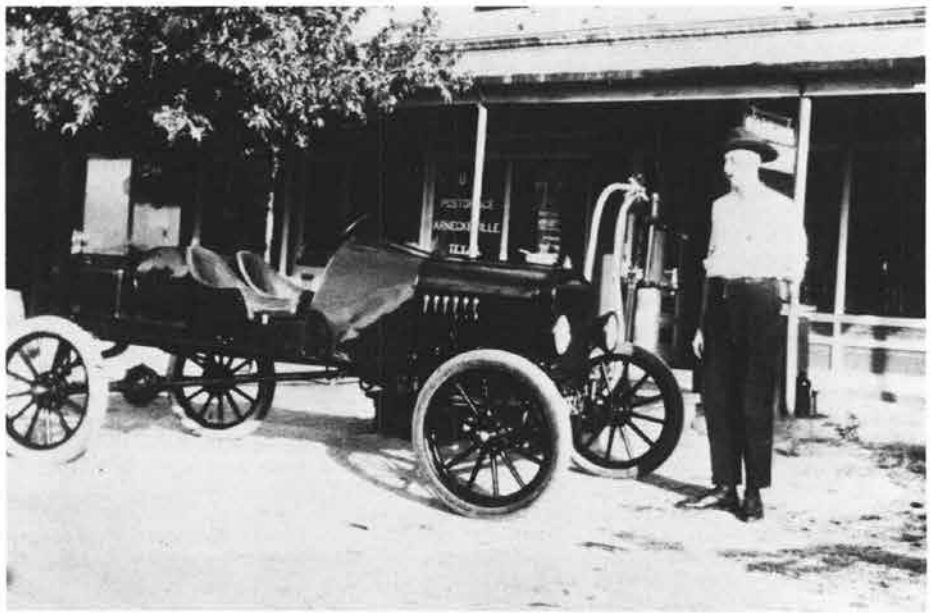
Dr. Arnecke was a member of Woodmen of the World, Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, O.D.H.S., Modern Order of Praetorians, and County, State, and American Medical Associations. He also served as a Notary Public. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville.

In his time, very few people went to the doctor's office – the doctor came to them, sometimes free of charge. Dr. Arnecke was a typical country doctor – first on horseback and then by buggy pulled by two horses, Nellie and Dollie. He had to travel rugged roads, with no bridges, and many gates to open, but he never refused a call, regardless of circumstances. In 1820, he bought his first automobile, a 1920 Custom Model T Speedster, and hired drivers – the first two were Sylvester Jendry and Newton Koenig – since he never learned to drive.

On 08 April 1883, Dr. Arnecke married Mary Louise Wilhelmina "Minna" Hausmann, the daughter of Henry and Caroline Dreier Hausmann. She was born July 05, 1858 in the community of Kilgore in Goliad County; died June 05, 1948 in Arneckeville. Both she and the doctor are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

Minna was a small, very energetic woman. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed gardening and growing flowers. In her childhood days, she was a very good horseback rider, helping her father on their farm and on cattle roundups.

Dr. Arnecke and Minna were the parents of



Dr. Arnecke's 1920 Custom Model T Speedster, driver, Sylvester Jendry pictured.

Dr. C.A.H. Arnecke M.D.

Wilhelmena "Minnie" (Housmann) Arnecke

four children: (1) Caroline Barbara Heinricke was born August 01, 1884; died January 25, 1969. She married Alfred Hiller April 14, 1909 and had six children. (2) Wilhelmina Christiana Emilie was born November 17, 1896; died March 02, 1988. She was married April 20, 1949 to William Goebel; no children. (3) Christoph Adam Heinrich, Jr. "Henry" was born November 14, 1894; died November 30, 1894. (4) Carl Adam Henry "Charlie" was born September 07, 1890; died July 31, 1947. Charlie was married June 14, 1911 to Bonnie Mae Guilminot, the daughter of Claude and Pauline King Guilminot of Clinton. (see related story)

Charlie was a druggist and operated his father's drugstore. The building was a combination drug store and Post Office, with an emergency hospital on the second floor. (Dr. Arnecke's office was in a separate building, next door.) He also sold gasoline and tires, and had an electrical appliance shop. Charlie became Postmaster in 1919, and served as such until his death in 1947. The store was destroyed by fire August 14, 1947.

Charlie and Bonnie had two children: (1) Carl Earl – born March 25, 1912 and (2) Hazel Jean – born September 08, 1921.

On October 12, 1931, Carl married Gladys Kaiser (born December 05, 1914); they have one daughter – Patricia Ann, born August 21, 1932. Patricia married Howard Lee Slemp April 10, 1954. They have a daughter, Susan Elaine, born August 06, 1957. Susan married David Lee Long May 30, 1981 and they have a son, Christopher Lee, born October 24, 1982.

Hazel married William Henry Laster (born February 15, 1926, the son of Allen Osborn Laster and Lou Ella McDonald) on December 31, 1948. They had five children: (1) William, Jr. – born October 15, 1951; (2) Joe Wayne – born October 20, 1954; (3) Vickie Eileen – born October 28, 1956, died – June 05, 1970; (4) Bonnie Lou – born December 30, 1958; and (5) Jean Ann – born October 02, 1961.

Dr. Arnecke and Minna had grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, too numerous to mention here.

by Patricia Arnecke

Home of Andreas and Ursela Arnecke

ARNECKE, HENRY FAMILY

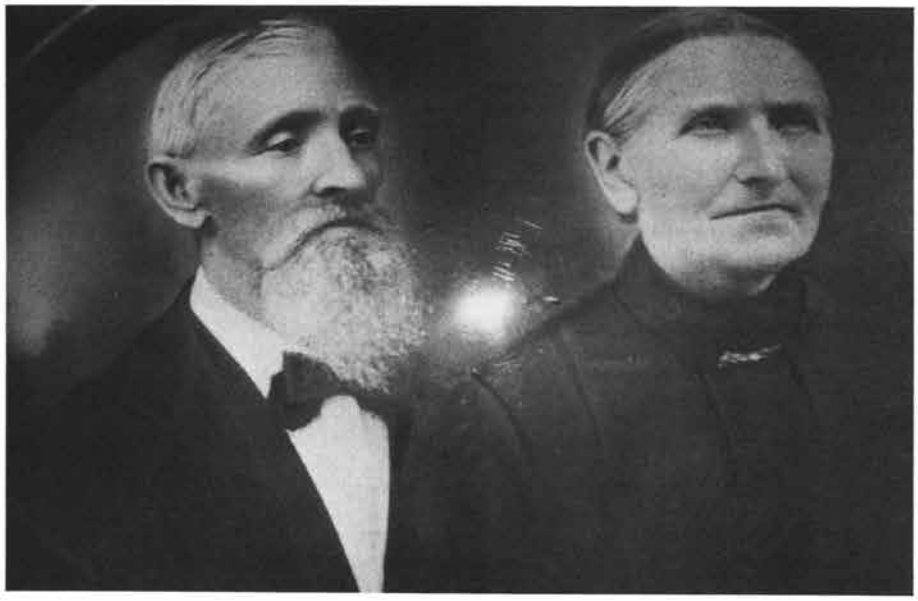
F19

Andreas Christoph Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke was the first born of Heinrich August Christoph Arnecke (born June 06, 1795; married November 24, 1828 in Luettgenrode, Prussia; died May 01, 1851 in Germany) and Marie Sophie Henriette Brandes (born December 05, 1804 and died December 05, 1871 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas). Henry – born August 09, 1833 in Luettgenrode, Prussia, died August 17, 1903 in Arneckeville; (2) Friedrich Christian Heinrich – born July 06, 1836, died May 17, 1848 in Germany; (3) Christian Christoph Wilhelm – born October 16, 1839, died June 24, 1913 in Goliad County, Texas; (4) Andreas Christoph Friedrick – born February 08, 1847, died October 11, 1847 in Germany;

Henry came to America on the ship Ammerland December 10, 1854 with Andreas Duderstadt and the Fredrick Duderstadt family, and settled in DeWitt County. Henry and Andreas were both stonemasons by trade.

On May 16, 1859, Henry Arnecke married Ursela Barbara Sager in Meyersville. Ursela was born August 16, 1839 in Wurttemburg, Germany, one of six children, to Adam Sager and Friedericke Elizabeth Rath. Henry and Ursela's first home was built in Arneckeville in 1859 from logs.

Henry and Ursela were the parents of nine children: (1) Christoph Adam Henry married Mary Louis Wilhelmina "Minna" Hausmann. (see related story); (2) Friedricke married Friedrick Hennecke (3) Sophia A. – married Charles W. "Carl" – Schultz; (4) Bertha D.



Andreas Christoph Heinrich. "Henry" and Ursela Barbara (Sager) Arnecke

married Friedrich "Fritz" Thieme; (5) Eliza B. – married William A. "Willie" Thieme; (6) Christiana married Louis Schley; (7) Edward died at the age 17; (8) Friedrich died in infancy; (9) Amalia F. married Julius M. Hiller.

In June 1861, Henry enlisted in the Coleto Guards, Reserve Co., DeWitt County, 24th Brigade, under the command of Capt. Robert Kleburg. After the war, Henry built the first general merchandise store in Arneckeville, and when the Post Office was established June 03, 1872, he became its first Postmaster. Formerly known as Five-Mile Coletto, Arneckeville was re-named in his honor in 1872.

by Patricia Arnecke

ARNOLD, ALBERT F. AND AUGUSTA A. GUDAT

F20

Arnold, Albert F. and Augusta A. (Gudat)

Albert F. Arnold was born in Weser, Texas on Nov. 14, 1863 to John Peter Arnold and Fanny Braden (Bluntzer) Arnold. His father, John Peter Arnold was born in Kruth, Alsace on July 14, 1832 and emigrated to Texas in August of 1855 through the port of Indianola. Albert's mother, Fannie Braden Bluntzer was born on November 14, 1838 in Oderen, Alsace and emigrated to Texas with her father Peter Bluntzer in December of 1843. John P. Arnold and Fannie B. Bluntzer were married on April 6, 1858 in Meyersville, Texas by Rev. A. Gardet, a Catholic priest from Victoria. Their marriage was blessed with 14 children, 7 boys and 7 girls. They acquired extensive lands near Weser on the Coletto Creek in DeWitt and Goliad Counties; 1600 acres in all, at the time of his death. They also owned a General Merchandise Store, Cotton Gin, and a Grist Mill at Weser and also operated a freight line by wagon. It can be concluded that he was ambitious, energetic, and possessed considerable business instinct. However, John Arnold in no way accomplished his fortune on his own, the assistance of a dutiful wife and the motivation, cooperation, and hard work of all the children must be properly acknowledged.

The girls were all taught the skills of home management. The most delightful aspect being crocheting, knitting, quilt-making, and embroidery of all kinds. It was instilled so deeply that in later years and generations it was considered almost sacreligious to sit without one's hands occupied. The boys were directed in woodcutting, fence-building, herding sheep, tending cattle and horses, hauling freight, crop production, and some understanding of accounting and finances. The value of ambition and hard work was the cornerstone of their early development.

John died on January 5, 1897 and Fannie died on January 29, 1904. They are both buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

Albert F. Arnold was the 4th child of John and Fannie Arnold and married Augusta Amelia Gudat on December 26, 1889. Augusta Gudat was born on March 19, 1868 to Henry Gudat (6-27-1828) and Johanna (Englke) Gudat (7-20-1833). Her parents were married in Germany in 1857 and emigrated to Texas in 1872. Albert and Augusta lived and farmed in the Weser area and later moved to Falls County, Texas. They raised 11 children and 1 foster child. Frank N. Arnold (9-10-1891), Charles Henry Arnold (9-11-1893) twin Alonzo A. Arnold (9-11-1893) twin, George Wlm. Arnold (11-15-1896), Effie J. (Arnold) Zengerle (7-17-898), Walter Leon Arnold (10-14-1901), Geneva T. (Arnold) (Raabe) Rieger (1-3-1904), Dicy Johanna (Arnold) Harms (10-18-1906), Theresa Elizabeth (Arnold) Witzsche (12-18-1908), Joseph B. Arnold (4-7-1911), Mary Agnes (Arnold) Rabrocker (1-12-1913), fosterchild Frank J. Gudat (1-19-1916).

Albert F. Arnold died on January 16, 1949 and Augusta A. (Gudat) Arnold died on March 26, 1953. They are both buried in the family plot in St. Mary's Cemetery in Westphalia, Falls County, Texas.

by Gerald Zengerle

ARNOLD, JOHN

F21

Jean (John) Arnold was the son of Joseph Arnold and Therese Hans. He was born in Kruth, Alsace, on July 14, 1832. He emigrated to Texas in 1853.

John Arnold married Veneranda (Fanny or Fannie) Bluntzer, daughter of Peter Bluntzer and Therese Jacobs, on April 6, 1858. Fanny was born in Oderen, Alsace on November 14, 1838. She was five years of age when she and her family departed from Oderen, Alsace, via Antwerp, Belgium to Texas in December of 1843.

John and Fanny Arnold acquired extensive lands near Weser on the Coletto Creek in DeWitt and Goliad Counties. They also owned a General Merchandise Store and cotton gin at Weser and operated a freight line (by wagon). They had fourteen children, seven boys and seven girls.

John Arnold died in Weser, Goliad County, Texas on January 5, 1897. He was buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. Fanny (Bluntzer) Arnold died in Weser on January 29, 1904 and is also buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Meyersville.

The children of John Arnold and Fanny (Bluntzer) Arnold are: 1) Joseph Henry Arnold, born March 20, 1859. He married Rosie Dentler on January 8, 1884; 2) Leo B. Arnold was born April 11, 1860 and died December 30, 1938. He married Mary L. Gudat on June 19, 1883; 3) Mary T. was born on September 10, 1861. She married Henry Lutenbacher on April 25, 1882; 4) Albert F. was born on November 14, 1863. He married August A. Gudat on December 26, 1889; 5) Justine Arnold was born May 17, 1865 and died September 7, 1866; 6) Michel J. (Max) was born on January 5, 1867. He married Sophie Diebel on July 15, 1890; 7) Benjamin L. was born on October 21, 1868. He married Elizabeth C. Schiwetz on January 30, 1895; 8) John Peter was born August 29, 1870. He married Katherine J. O'Rourke on May 3, 1910; 9) Frances was born July 12, 1872. She married Frank J. Gudat on February 18, 1895; 10) Sophie M. Arnold was born August 5, 1874. She married Gottlieb Jacobs on November 26, 1896; 11) Cecelia T. was born on January 19, 1876. She married Otto P. Jacobs on October 8, 1901; 12) Amelia A. Arnold was born on April 10, 1877. She married Bernard H. Gudat on September 1, 1902; 13) William Nicholas was born on August 15, 1879. He married Mary Elizabeth Angerstein on August 24, 1904; 14) Theresa Mathilda was born on February 19, 1883. She married William F. Fredericks on January 7, 1904.

by William N. Arnold, Jr.

ARNOLD, WILLIAM NICHOLAS

F22

William Nicholas Arnold, son of Jean "John" Arnold and "Fanny" Veneranda Bluntzer, was born August 15, 1879. He was the youngest boy and the 13th child. He married Mary Elizabeth Angerstein on August 24, 1904. She was born December 12, 1881 to Henry Angerstein and Catherine Winifred (O'Bryan) Angerstein.

Children born to William and Mary E. Arnold were: 1) William Nicholas Arnold, Jr., born in Germantown (now Schroeder) Texas on September 6, 1906. He married Martha Elizabeth DuBard, the only child of William Alvin DuBard and Viola (Howell) DuBard on June 1, 1933. Martha Elizabeth was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi on July 8, 1911. She died May 28, 1977 in Houston and is buried in Garden of Gethsemane Cemetery. 2) Bernial Lee Arnold, "Bernie" was born in Thomaston, DeWitt County, Texas on April 13, 1908. He married Mardelle Virginia Carter on November 12, 1945 in Cuero, Texas. She was born January 5, 1923 in Beaukiss, Williamson County, Texas. They have four children; 3) Claude Henry Arnold born January 23, 1910 in Cuero, Texas. He died March 13, 1910; 4) Oscar Colquitt Arnold was born January 17, 1911 in Cuero. He married Mary Roberts, daughter of Clement H. Roberts and Stella (Ridgway) Roberts of Tyler, Texas, on July 25, 1946. O.C. Arnold died in Tyler on August 12, 1977 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. No children were born to this union; 5) Henrietta Arnold was born in Berclair, Goliad County, Texas, on April 16, 1916 and died in kBerclair, Texas

April 6, 1916. She was buried in Cuero; 6) James Kenneth Arnold was born in Cuero on October 23, 1917 and lived most of his life in Cuero. He married Mary Emily Forster on May 2, 1938. She was born in Nursery, Victoria County, Texas, on May 6, 1918. They have six children. William Nicholas Arnold died in Cuero, Texas, April 22, 1944. Mary E. died April 11, 1952.

by William Arnold, Jr.

ARONSTEIN, MAURICE AND SARAH COHN FAMILY

F23

Maurice and Sarah Cohn Aronstein came to Cuero from Houston, Texas, November 1946 with their six weeks old daughter Marian.

Maurice was born in Houston, Texas to David and Annie Haar Aronstein November 20, 1915. He was the youngest of seven children; four boys Lee, Charles, Sam and Maurice, and three girls, Rae, Fannie and Eva Joan. His mother died March 8, 1928 when he was very young. His oldest sister, Rae, took over as head of the household and kept the brothers and sisters together until 1940. His father later married Esther Lieberman and lived with Esther and her children. David Aronstein died in Houston in 1956 and is buried in Beth Yeshurun Cemetery in Houston. Maurice went to school in Houston and graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1934. He spent two years in California, then worked for P. Lorillard & Co. in charge of the Sea Stores Division for the Texas Gulf Coast, headquartered in Houston.

Sarah Cohn Aronstein was born in Cuero, Texas February 29, 1920 to Jake and Mollie Cohn. She had two sisters, Annie Cohn Jacobs and Bernice Cohn Mazer. Sarah attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1936.

In 1938 Sarah went to Houston to go to business college. In Houston she met Maurice Aronstein and they were married in Cuero, Sunday November 24, 1940 at the home of her parents, 502 E. Prairie Street, corner of Hunt and Prairie. This was the year of the terrible flood in Cuero, when the water came up Main Street into the Muti Hotel and Stowers Furniture Store on Church Street. Hunt and Prairie was a very bad flood area in those days. The Aronsteins were married by Rabbi Jacobson of San Antonio. By the time the Rabbi arrived, all the streets were flooded and Charles Aronstein carried the Rabbi into the house. The ceremony was performed quickly and the Rabbi left immediately because all roads in and out of Cuero were being closed because of the flood.

Maurice and Sarah lived in Houston until Maurice was drafted into the Army in February 1942. He was inducted at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, then shipped to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, Ark. for basic training. From Little Rock he was shipped to Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado for training in the Medical Corps. After three months in Denver, he was shipped to Topeka, Kansas, where he was attached to Winter General Hospital as a Medical Technician. He remained in Topeka until his discharge as a Staff Sergeant, November 22, 1945. Sarah visited him in Little Rock, from there went to Denver, and later to Topeka, Kansas. She found employment in the personnel department of Winter General Hospital and later was Secretary to Director of Personnel.

After Maurice was discharged, they returned to Houston. He went back to his old job, but after several months decided to make a change in his employment. Jake and Mollie Cohn, Sarah's parents, asked him to come to Cuero and help manage "The Fair" store. They arrived in Cuero with their infant daughter, Marian Adele, who was born in Houston, October 5, 1946. Their son, Robert Allen, was born in Cuero, January 12, 1950. Marian and Robert attended Cuero Schools. Marian graduated in 1964, went to the University of Texas two years, then decided to seek a career and went to work in Houston in 1968. On December 2, 1973, in Houston, Marian married Gabriel Joseph Braun from Tel Aviv, Israel. They have one son, Dan Benjamin Braun born March 30, 1977. Robert graduated from Cuero High School in 1968 and attended the University of Texas where he graduated in 1972. After graduation, Robert went to Houston where he worked until he went into business for himself as a Sysmetic Data Broker. On November 19, 1978, Robert married Suzanne Steinfeld in Houston. They have one daughter, Jennifer Lauren, born February 12, 1982.

During the years Maurice and Sarah both worked at "The F air". Maurice was active in community projects and downtown merchants' activities. He held offices in various organizations, was Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, Worshipful Master of Cuero Masonic Lodge, member of Alzafar Shrine Temple of San Antonio, and a member of the Rotary Club.

After Jake Cohn died in 1981, Maurice and Sarah and Annie and Harry Jacobs took over full management of The Fair until it was sold February 4, 1987.

by Sarah Cohn Aronstein

Maurice Aronstein, Sarah Cohn Aronstein, Marian and Robert Aronstein.

ATER, ALLEN C. FAMILY

F24

Allen Clement Ater and Doris Pamela Ater were married in the First Baptist Church in Cuero, Texas on Sept. 5, 1938 with M.R. Soileau conducting the service.

Mr. Ater was born in Bertram, Texas to Allen Clement Ater and Cora Bailey Ater. The Aters had emigrated from Germany and his father, Allen Clement, operated a general mercantile store. His mother's father was James Bailey, who was born in Luling and whose people had come from England. Mr. Bailey moved to Bertram and operated a general mercantile store. He married Mary Smith who was a school teacher and had obtained her education in Round Rock.

Allen Clement Ater, Sr. worked for the Santa Fe Railway and became the General Passenger Agent for that company.

A.C. Ater, Jr. graduated from Temple High School and attended the University of Oklahoma at Norman. Later he worked for the Temple Daily Telegram as the advertising manager. He went to Sherman as the General Manager. While there he suffered a severe stroke and the family moved to Cuero.

The Aters have three children, Pamela, Jack, and Fred. They all went to Cuero schools and graduated from high school. Pamela graduated from Mary-Hardin Baylor in Belton and later received her master's degree from the University of Texas. She married Hugh Fritsch of Cuero and they live in Wimberely, Texas, where she teaches school. They have three

children, Pamela Ann, Susan Carmel, and Gregory.

by Pamela Ater

AUDILET, ALEXANDER AND ANNA

F25

Franz Alexander Audilet "Alex" was one of the two sons of Karl Audilet of Saxony, Germany. Karl, a prosperous well educated man wanted his son to become a priest. Alex, faced with the drab prospect of the monastic life of a priest decided there were worse things than losing his birthright to share in the family estate. Considering his options, his choice was clear. Without benefit of parental blessing, he would go to America.

Alex Audilet had a good education, good knowledge of the Bible, and could converse in seven languages. He had studied music and played the violin. He was a natural musician and could read music or play by ear.

Since he left Germany without his father's blessings, and was short of funds, he went to sea as a member of a ship s crew. He was a sailor for seven years. No record has been written relative to where he went or his experience during that time. However, on his last voyage there was trouble on the ship and Alexander suffered a severe beating. The nature of the trouble is not known, but when the ship landed in Savannah, Georgia he was cast ashore.

Alone, destitute and severely injured he was placed in a charity ward on the upper floor of a hospital. Because of his financial status, Alex was receiving minimal care and little food. He was befriended by a young female orderly in the hospital, named Anna Bertha Bathke. Anna, herself a recent immigrant, was trained as a nurse in Germany. She shared her food with him, and his health and spirits improved. They became friends, and friendship blossomed into romance, and soon they were talking of marriage.

Alex had an aunt, named Rosa Kurtsch or Krusch, whose husband owned, or worked in, a button factory, in Brooklyn, New York. Alex queried his relatives about work and living conditions, and found that jobs were available.

His health restored, Alex Audilet and Anna Bathke went to Brooklyn, New York, where they were married an August 25, 1894 by Reverend C.H. Schwarzbach.

They worked and lived in Brooklyn for about three years. During that time they had two daughters. Ruth Annie Wilhelmine was born September 11, 1895, and Hertha Elizabeth was born January 17, 1897.

After the birth of Hertha, they decided to move to Texas. They set sail from New York, and landed in Galveston, Texas, sometime during the year 1897. Their first home in Texas was in the Weesatche community in Goliad County. Their first son, Osmar, was born on December 2, 1898, probably while living in Weesatche.

The family later moved to Nordheim, DeWitt County, and from there they moved to the Nopal Community, in DeWitt County, Texas.

Though the family occupation was farming, it was not easy as Alex had no training or experience in agriculture. While repairing the windmill, Alex fell, and was badly injured. The injuries were aggravated when he imbibed too freely and literally fell off the wagon, and it was necessary for him to use a cane at an early age.

Though he had his problems as a farmer, Alexander Audilet was a well read, multilingual man who had more education than the average settler in the Clear Creek neighborhood. He had a high regard for education, and took the lead in helping to provide schooling for the children of the community. He was on the school board of the Clear Creek School District No. 39, which was founded July 8, 1891. The school was probably first called Sandgate, then renamed Clear Creek in 1893. The first school was there when he arrived in the area. Most of the Audilet children attended the school, and some of the teachers took room and board with the family.

Anna Audilet served the community as a nurse and midwife in addition to her normal household duties.

Church services were held in the Clear Creek School house twice a month. The church, known as the Gruenau-Nopal Church, was transferred to Yorktown in 1936.

They had hard times and happy times. Alex had an active and inquisitive mind and he enjoyed visiting with the neighbors, exchanging ideas on politics, current events, farming and education, while the women talked of cooking, sewing, and babies. There were house dances, hunting, and Easter egg hunts in the pasture for the children and grandchildren.

Money was short and many times that are now commonplace could not be bought. By necessity most things used on a day-to-day basis were homemade, or raised on the farm. Such items included cottage cheese, butter, bread, sausage, and other cured meats, soap, goose down pillows and comforts, and farm tools. Homebrewed beer was a special delight. Anna had a concoction that was considered a very nutritious and refreshing afternoon drink. The recipe has not survived, but it is remembered that the first of the ingredients was an egg and the last was beer.

The Audilets were a musical family. Economic conditions precluded formal training for the children, but they were good, natural musicians. Osmar played the drums in different bands most of his life. Gustav "Gus" and Henry "Buddy" played the violin, banjo, and accordion. The entire family enjoyed singing.

Married life was not completely harmonious for Alexander and Anna. They had marital troubles that led to divorce in the 1920's. The land was divided and the large house was cut in two. They each lived in their own portion of the house, on their own portion of the land.

Alex, who gave up his birthright rather than become a priest, was not long content to live alone. He apparently did not deem any of the local crop of widows as a suitable mate, or perhaps vice versa. At any rate, he answered a magazine ad of a "Lonely Hearts Club". An interested correspondent was found, and letters and pictures were exchanged. The pictures were meant to impress rather then inform, and both parties felt it expedient to use pictures other than their own. In due time, Alex proposed and Mrs. Alice House of Kentucky saw fit to accept.

The small train that ran twice daily between Cuero and Kenedy was dubbed "The Dinky" but its patrons, and on this noble conveyance Mrs. House was to arrive. On the appointed day, several family members accompanied Alex to the station in Yorktown to meet her. Recognition was a bit of a problem as neither party had a reliable photo to go by. Alex approached several suitable looking women only to be rebuffed, but by the process of elimination he finally found the right lady. They ere married December 12, 1928, in Yorktown, Texas.

After a few years, Alice longed to go back to her native Arkansas. They moved to Evansville, Arkansas, and found a place on the edge of town. They had a small plot of ground, large enough for a garden and an orchard of apple and other fruit trees. Alexander was in his early sixty's and with their plot of land, and family help, they were able to sustain themselves until the fell victims to the problems of old age.

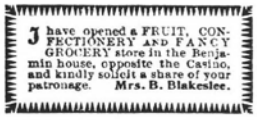
Old, alone, and away from family, they were beset with ill health, and neither was able to help the other. Neighbors by the name of Bristow, helped them and kept the family informed. Franz Alexander Audilet died January 2, 1944, at the age of seventy four years, seven months, and fourteen days. He was buried in Arkansas.

When Alvin Salge, a son-in-law, Walter Audilet, and Rugh Audilet Thieme, children of Alexander, arrived for the funeral, the children of Alice (House) Audilet had taken their mother and the possessions to Kentucky. They never saw her again.

The life of Alexander Audilet was hard, and beset with frustration and disappointment. In some respects, a man of his ability and knowledge was wasted on the frontier, but probably no more so than if he had become a priest. One can only wonder why he left the East Coast, where his talents could have been better utilized, to settle in the raw frontier and to follow a strange occupation for which he was not well suited. It is a pity that his father was not more flexible in his choice of a career for his son.

Anna Bertha (Bathke) Audilet was born April 7, 1869 in Koepitz, near Stettin, Pomerania, Germany. She always longed for her native Germany and it was her lifelong hope that she would return. This hope was never realized. She died in the Garfield community February 14, 1948. In accordance with her wishes, she was cremated and her ashes were taken to Corpus Christi where they were scattered in the sea. Her hope was that some of her remains would wash ashore in her native land.

Franz Alexander Audilet and Anna Bertha Bathke Audilet had ten children: 1) Ruth Annie Wilhemina was born September 11, 1895, married Charles F. Thieme, and died September 8, 1976. 2) Hertha Elizabeth was born January 17, 1897, married Otto George Schroeder, and died April 14, 1987. 3). Osmar A. was born December 2, 1898, married Selma Block, and died July 11, 1965. 4) William Paul was born September 1, 1900, married Minnie Hulda Louisa Rabenaldt, and died July 16, 1956. 5) Jack Ernest was born March 14, 1901, married Vella Mae Hickmon, and died July 27, 198?. 6) Arno Albert was born March 19, 1904, married Tracey Strakos, and died January, 1986. 7) Walter A. was born October 19, 1905, married Ethel Bolt, and died August 11, 1985. 8) Gustav Adolph was born December 2, 1906, married Laura Lee Hoffman, and died March 28, 1974. 9) Forrest Marie Lina was born September, 1909, married Alvin Adolph Salge, and died March 11, 1971. 10) Henry Alexander



was born September 2–, 1912, married Clara Lorena Hoffman, and died July 11, 1986.

by Bernice Schroeder Schedel and Vella Mae Schroeder Strecker

BACA, JULIUS

F26

Julius Baca, son of Adolph and Julia Jalufka Baca was born near Nopal, Texas, DeWitt County on May 19, 1910. He went to school at Clear Creek. He did not finish high school because at the age of 16 he became the man of the house. He was to farm for his mother and care for a sister. His father had died when he was six years old.

Julius loved baseball, fishing, and dancing.

Julius met the girl of his dreams at a house party. This young lady was Ellenora Schaffner of Westhoff. Ellenora was the daughter of Gus and Rosa Mueller Schaffner. Ellenora was born January 3, 1916. Now Ellenora desired to go to college. She finished high school in Yorktown and attended S.W.T.T.U. at San Marcos, Texas from which she received a Bachelor of Science Degree. After two years of teaching, Julius and Ellenora were married in St. Paul Lutheran Church, December 30, 1937 by Rev. Hankammer.

They farmed and ranched together and Ellenora continued to teach.

In August, 1951, they were blessed with a son, their only child. Ellenora took leave of absence from the Yorktown Independent School District. She had taught seventeen years, so she would enjoy her baby.

Tragedy happened in 1954. Julius was in a combine accident in which he nearly lost a foot. For two years he was unable to operate the farm, but Ellenora did, and also looked after the leased cattle ranges with her little son.

Byron grew up, went to college, served in the Air Force and then got married. He is employed in the U.S. Post Office in Victoria.

Julius' poor health caused the doctor to give him this ultimatum: Quit your work or die. Julius and Ellenora sold their farm, and everything else. They moved into Yorktown in 1974. They bought a home in 1978. Ellenora retired from teaching in May 1979, after 42 years with Yorktown Independent School District. Julius died in November 19, 1980. Ellenora still lives in Yorktown.

by Mrs. Gus Schaffner

BADE, HEINIE AND FRIEDA (SAGER)

F27

Heinie Bade was born October 22, 1917, in DeWitt County, Texas, the second child of Henry J. and Amanda Krueger Bade. His grandfather, William Frederick Bade, came to America from Viescke Germany in 1867 at the age of 4 years. William grew up in the Arneckeville community and settled on a farm in the area. There he raised his family, one of which was Henry J., the father of Heinie. On October 13, 1940, Heinie married Frieda Sager. Frieda was the daughter of C.A. Henry Sager, whose story is given separately.

After struggling through the depression years followed by a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in World War II, Heinie and Frieda bought a farm. They raised turkeys and Heinie was active in the Cuero Turkey Association. In 1947 Heinie personally coaxed his flock of Beltsville white turkeys down Main Street in the famous Turkey Trot Parade. In 1948 a herd of dairy cows was acquired and the family started a small dairy operation.

The Heinie Bade Family – Heinie Bade and Frieda (Sager) Bade. Standing – David Bade, Lois (Bade) Tolbert, and Norman Bade. Seated – L-R: Lawrence Bade, Bernice (Bade) Huie, Margaret (Bade) Drushel, and John Bade.

Heinie's ambition to make the farm as progressive and productive as possible led to involvement in various farm organizations. He was dedicated to soil and water conservation and has served on the district conservation board since 1947. He is a member of the state legislative Committee of 100 and chairman of DeGola, a seven county resource conservation district.

Knowing personally the need for assistance in financing the farmers' operation and production, he became involved in the Farm Credit System. He served as a director of the local Production Credit Association and on the Texas Farm Credit Bank board of the national organization.

Heinie was always a leader in the community. He served as a director of Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Golden Crescent Council of Governments, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, Cuero community Hospital, Cuero school, DeWitt County Producers Association, and Lions Club. He is also on the Board of Regents of Texas Lutheran College.

Frieda Sager Bade was also actively involved in the family business and supportive of Heinie's civic involvement. In addition to raising a family, she was bookkeeper for the business and spent time doing farm chores. She kept a garden and canned the produce. She enjoyed cooking and sewing for the family and found time for PTA, home demonstration club, and other community activities.

The Bades' involvement in the community stemmed from their faith in God and desire to serve their fellowman. They both taught Sunday school for many years and served on various church committees in the local congregation and in state and national areas. They were co-recipients of the Distinguished Service Award given by Texas Lutheran College for service to church, community, and profession.

Heinie has been honored by many agricultural and community organizations. He was named Outstanding Conservation Farmer. He received the Cuero Chamber Community Award and Agricultural Award and many other plaques from various organizations.

The Bades have seven children. All seven graduated from Cuero High School and went on to receive college degrees. They have been recognized as leaders in their professions, churches, and communities. Lawrence is a Lutheran minister serving as the assistant to the bishop of the Southwestern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Norman is an agronomist with the Soil and Water Conservation Service. He served in the state office in Temple. David is an agronomist with the Agricultural Extension Service. He serves an area of south central Texas as a forage and small grain specialist. Margaret Drushel works with the Texas Employment Commis-

sion in Houston. Lois Tolbert teaches math at the Cuero Junior High School. John is a Lutheran minister serving a congregation in south Austin. Bernice Huie is an accountant with an electronics manufacturing company in New Hampshire. The Bades also have eleven grandchildren.

by Lois Tolbert

BAKER, CALVIN CASON

F28

Calvin Cason Baker and daughter, Jerry Baker Mauer

Calvin Cason Baker was born Feb. 7, 1903 in Williamson County, Texas, the first son of Robert Zebulon and Ellen Swindle Wilson Baker. He grew up on his father's farm with his brother, Bethel, and nine sisters – Bertha (Bernard), Eva (Maness), Edna (Weisse), Lovie (Pipkin), Florence (Day), LeLa Mae (Baker), Grace (Stubblefield), Arminta (Chance), and Emilee (Love).

Calvin and Bethel worked with their father to produce foodstuffs to eat, corn for the livestock, cotton to sell at the gins in Florence and Georgetown, and keeping bees for honey. But Calvin was not born to be a farmer. After his long days of labor in the rich, rocky fields, the kerosene lamp burned late into the night while he studied everything available to him about electricity, power, and a new form of communication and entertainment called "radio".

His talents were recognized by his brother-in-law, the late Frank Weisse, who has been called an electronics genius. Frank encouraged Calvin and helped him find employment with Central Power and Light Co. in Cuero and later in their shops in San Antonio.

In December, 1922 in DeWitt County Calvin met and married Pearl Matthew. He took his bride back to the farm to live in the little house his grandparents, Obed and Eliza (Cottle) Baker had built in 1884. I was born there May 15, 1926, their only child, and was given the name "Geraldine", the title of a song my father loved.

My earliest recollection of "home" is that little Texas-style house with its wide gallery, stone fireplace, and lilacs blooming by the gate. A "dog-trot" divided the four rooms – the parlor and my Mother's kitchen on one side, the bedroom and a room my father equipped as a little shop on the other.

For as long as I can remember, my father has had a shop. He devised a system of light for our house long before anyone heard of REA and built a crystal radio that brought music and far-away places into our lives. As a child I often sat by his side watching as he drew electrical diagrams. Once, when he needed copper wire, I "helped" by removing a coil from our Model T. I unwrapped yards of wire from the cylinder and brought it to him, expecting him to be pleased by my ingenuity. Obviously I did not inherit his mechanical talents.

We lived in Stratton for a time and during the Great Depression my parents found work as weavers in the Guadalupe Valley Textile Mills in Cuero. Finally he realized his life-long dream of opening a business for the sale and service of radios, continuing to study a new field called "television".

Through the years he had shops in a number of places – Western Auto in Cuero and Yorktown, Stowers Furniture, with B.B. Thorn on Main Street, adjacent to his own home on Clayton Street, and finally in association with Thomas Kahlich downtown on Esplanade prior to his retirement.

My mother ran his business office, answering the phone and the mail and doing his bookkeeping. She died December 3, 1965 of a massive coronary and is buried in Alexander Cemetery, Stratton, beside her mother, Martha Frances Newman Kirkland Matthew.

I married Ray Mauer June 1, 1941. We were pleased to live in Cuero near both our parents for a number of years. Our three children David Ray (June 15, 1942), Robert Michael (Sept. 25, 1945), and Melinda Lou (Aug. 3, 1951), Calvin's only descendants, were born while we lived there.

In 1958 we moved to San Antonio. Our children graduated from Highlands High School and attended San Antonio colleges. David, who lives in Lakehills, married Sandra Joy Laue. Their sons are David Ray, Jr. (Jan. 13, 1961) and Randall Keith (May 5, 1964). David commutes daily to his insurance office in San Antonio. Sandra is employed in the business office of Bandera Independent School District. Following his graduation from Texas A&M, David Jr. joined his father in business. Randy also attended Texas A&M and works for Tracor Corp. in Austin. He is married to the former Sherri Marshall of Pipe Creek. Their daughter, Heather Christine (b. June 7, 1985), is of the fifth living generation on both the Baker and Mauer sides of her family tree.

Michael married Shirley Alice Moran. Their children are Lisa Marie (Nov. 14, 1969), a student at Texas University, Austin, and Garrett Michael (May 5, 1974), who lives with his mother in San Antonio, where he attends Judson High School. Divorced, Michael later married DeAnna Skinner. They live in Topeka, Kansas where he works in management for Yellow Freight Lines. Her children are Nicole and Russell Skinner.

Melinda married E.A. "Bubba" Hermes, Jr., whose mother was the former Mary Alice Koenig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Koenig of Cuero. Melinda's and Bubba's three children were born in San Antonio. Ashley Alise (Feb. 13, 1974), Lindsey Reagan (Apr. 7, 1978), who died May 5, 1978, and Todd Everet (Apr. 11, 1979). Bubba is a San Antonio home builder and Melida works for Tesoro.

Ray served with the U.S. Air Force during World War II and maintained Reserve status until his retirement in 1982. His civilian career in Federal civil service concluded at Kelly AFB with his service as world-wide systems manager of C5 aircraft. I worked as a medical secretary at Baptist Memorial Hospital and for a physician-surgeon in private practice.

On retiring, we built a home in Lakehills on Medina Lake in Bandera County. Ray is presently serving as Bandera County judge, an office to which he was elected in 1986.

In 1966, my father and Eddie Merle Carroll Matthew, widow of my mother's youngest brother, were married in San Antonio. They lived in Cuero until Dad retired. They now live in a country home near Terryville in the Bear Creek community. Her two sons, Jerry Arlen and Dennis Van Matthew, live with their families in Houston.

by Jerry Baker Mauer

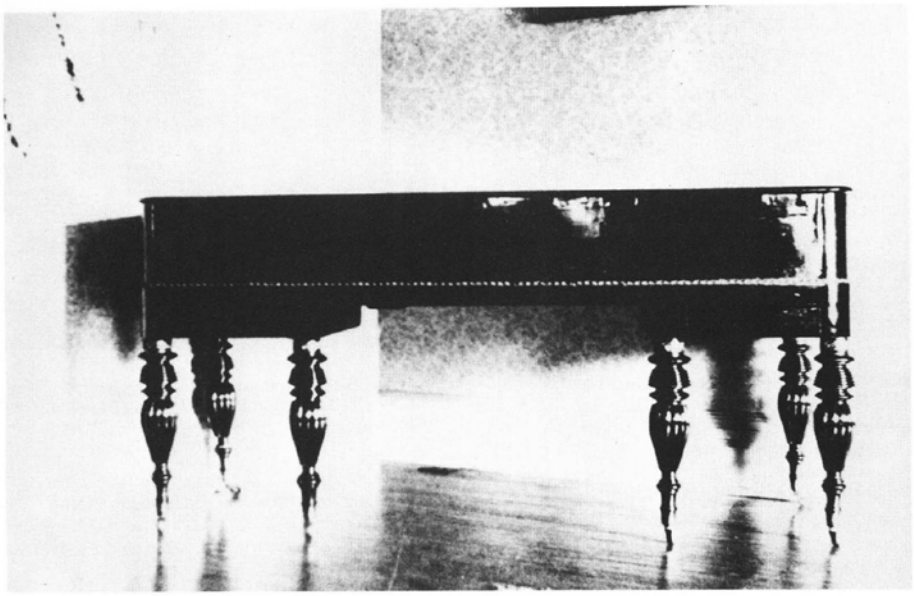
BAKER, JUDGE JAMES McCULLOCH

F29

James McCulloch Baker

Judge Baker was a prominent figure in the pioneer times of Texas, especially along the Guadalupe River. He was a cousin of Generals Ben and Henry McCulloch, two of the most brilliant soldiers Texas ever produced.

Judge Baker was born November 27, 1797, in South Carolina. He married Martha Jane Smith in Maury County, Tennessee, August 27, 1818. Their first ten children were born in that county, and the other three were born in Mississippi and Texas. The names of their thirteen children were: Martha Jane, Samuel Smith, Joseph Lock, Nancy Ann, Mary Clementine, Margaret Mackey, James Porter, Elizabeth Gillia, William Williams, John Brown, Michael Jefferson, Eliza Eudora, and Sarah Alison who married John Harland Blackwell in Concrete, Texas, August 19, 1863. To this



First piano brought to area

union ten children were born, and my mother, Beulah, was one of them. (See John H. Blackwell family)

James M. Baker moved his family from Tennessee to Sharon, Mississippi, when it was still a territory, and there he enjoyed association with some of the most prominent men of the time. He held a number of important positions in early Mississippi history.

In 1840, when Texas was still a Republic, Baker moved his family to the Cuero Creek area (Concrete), where he purchased a plantation, which is still owned by family members today. In 1841, he was a founder and Ruling Elder of the first Cumberland Presbyterian Church in what is now DeWitt County. The Honorable James McCulloch Baker served the Republic of Texas as Chief Justice of Gonzales County and as Probate Judge from February 26, 1844 to February 19, 1846. He then served as the first Chief Justice and the first Probate Judge of Gonzales County, State of Texas from February 19, 1846 to July 27, 1846. As Chief Justice, he was designated by the first governor of Texas, J.P. Henderson, to "inaugurate" the government of DeWitt County.

Journal Of Record For the Commissioners Court Of DeWitt County, Texas
Book A., pages 1 and 2.

"Be it Remembered that on the 27th day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-six the oath of office was administered to John Troy as Chief Justice for said County of DeWitt (who was duly Elected to said office on the 13th day of July, 1846 agreeably to the Proclamation of the Governor of the State of Texas) by James M. Baker, the Chief Justice for Gonzales County, and the State of Texas, and said Oath of Office was ordered to be filed in the Clerk's office. Be it also Remembered that on the 27th day of July, A.D. 1846 that James M. Baker did subscribe to and take the Oath of Office for Probate Judge of DeWitt County, agreeably to the Constitution of the State of Texas."

Thus, he became a "Founding Father", of DeWitt County after having guided Gonzales County through the transition period from Republic to Statehood. He served as County Judge of DeWitt County from 1850-1852. Later after the Civil Way, in those early trying days, he was appointed by the Provisional Governor to Texas, A.J. Henderson, to again serve as County Judge from 1865-1866 in the Provisional Government of Texas.

When the Bakers came to Texas in 1840, they brought a piano with them, most of the distance by wagon. Later, it was buried in the Guadalupe River bottom land near Hochheim, Texas. This was done to hide it from the Mexican army when the family hurriedly left their home during the "Second Run Away Scrape", and it remained buried for almost two years. It is conceded to be the first piano seen on the west side of the Colorado River.

This spinet had been a cherished possession of the Baker family for a long period of time prior to 1840. A duplicate of this musical instrument, one of the very few built, is in the New York State Museum, Albany, New York. Today it is the property of Mr. Ross Boothe, Jr., of Gonzales, who is the great, great grandson of Judge Baker.

J.M. Baker lived through two generations and was on his way into the third when he died at his family home near Concrete in March, 1882. His public career was quite a success, and he was the typical personification of the grand old southern gentlemen of chivalry and honor.

He and his wife, Martha Jane, were buried on their plantation on a hill overlooking the Guadalupe River, and a beautiful granite tombstone marks the location of their graves.

by Beulah Bennet McDougal

BAROS, EDWIN AND MAYBELLE (NAGEL)

F30

Edwin A. Baros was born September 8, 1925. His parents were, Frank A. Baros who was born April 2, 1891 in Lavaca County, Texas and died on October 27, 1967, and his mother was Amelie (Lukas) Baros, who was born on July 9, 1895 in Lavaca County, and died July 24, 1935.

Frank A. Baros was the son of John Baros and Pauline (Huff) Baros. John Baros was born in Moravia on May 25, 1862 to Michael Baros and Anna (Zelenka) Baros. Pauline (Huff) Baros was born on January 24, 1869 to Fritz Huff and Augusta Huff, in Germany. John died in 1944 and Pauline in 1935.

Amelie (Lukas) Baros was the daughter of Josef Lukas who was born April 22, 1869 in Roustka, CSSR and Rosina (Hurta) Lukas who was born on November 1, 1865 in CSSR. Josef died on October 6, 1934 and Rosina (Hurta) Lukas died March 22, 1943. Josef was the son of Josef Lukas, Sr. who was born in 1832 and died in 1902. Josef's mother was Rosina (Novosad) Lukas who was born in 1837 and died in 1876.

Edwin Baros and MayBelle (Nagel) Toller were married in St. John Lutheran Church in Westhoff on August 24, 1956. They had one daughter Janet Ann Baros. She was born on February 8, 1958 and married Douglas Sterling Daniel on June 12, 1982. They have one son, Sterling Montgomery Daniel who was born in San Antonio on November 28, 1988.

"Ed" served in the Army Artilliary from December 7, 1950 until December 7, 1952. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1987 after 28 years. He has four older brothers and a younger sister. Ed is a member of St. John Lutheran Church.

MayBelle (Nagel) Toller was born May 1, 1923 to Albert Julius Nagel and Della Faye (Laster) Nagel. Albert was born in Waco, Texas on December 12, 1900 and died December 4, 1977 in DeWitt County. Della Faye was born June 28, 1904 in DeWitt County and died July 12, 1967.

Albert Nagel was the son of Henry William Nagel and Annie Mae (Thomas) Nagel. Henry was born in Cuero on October 6, 1871 and died January 4, 1953. Annie was born February 14, 1876 and died November 11, 1959. LuEliza Thomas White was the mother of Annie and she was born in 1852 and died in 1923.

Della Faye (Laster) Nagel was the daughter of William Henry Laster and Edna Belle (Neighbors) Laster. William Henry was born February 15, 1856 in Mississippi and died February 28, 1938. Edna Belle (Neighbors) Laster was the daughter of J.C. Neighbors and V. Johnson Neighbors.

MayBelle (Nagel) Toller Baros had three children by a previous marriage. These children are: 1) James Andrew Toller III, who was born January 28, 1945 in Cuero. His children are, Andrea Kay Toller, who was born September 20, 1972; Michelle Renae Toller, born January 20, 1972. 2) Mary Katherine Toller was born June 24, 1950 in Ft. Worth. She married James Rabe and they have two children, Shannon DeLeigh Rabe, born July 6, 1972 and James Michael Rabe born September 7, 1976. 3) David Albert Toller was born September 4, 1951 in Ft. Worth. His children are, Courtney Rae Toller born January 8, 1972, and Stephen Patrick Toller born November 7, 1975.

MayBelle Baros is a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Westhoff, Texas. She and her husband make their home in Westhoff and she writes the Westhoff News column for the *Cuero Record* and the *DeWitt County View.*

by Edwin A. Baros

THE GULF HOTEL
MRS. D. BROWN, Prop
RATES, $1 Per Day . . .
Cool rooms. Best accommodations. Table supplied with best in market
MORGANTOWN, TEX.

BAROS, JOHN F. AND PAULINE (HUFF) FAMILY

F31

Sometime in the year of 1870, Michael Baros living in the area of Roznov pod Radhostem Moravia in Czechoslovakia made a decision which would make a drastic change in the life of his family and many generations to come. That decision was to immigrate to the United States of America. This is where Michael, wife Anna and their eight children began their long journey not certain what obstacles may lie ahead. They arrived in Bremen Germany about the 24th of October of the same year. They boarded the ship Frankfurt. After 22 days at sea, where Anna gave birth to their ninth child, Captain J. Barre steamed his ship into the port of New Orleans La. It's difficult to imagine what went through the minds of this family and the other two hundred sixty six Czech immigrants on board, when they had their first sight of their new world.

They made their way to Frelsburg Texas a few miles north of Columbus. In a short time they began their new life in this farming community under what seemed harsh conditions. They were not accustomed to the hot climate found in the general area, nothing like the colder environment of their homeland. Excessive rainfall and flooded streams brought hardship and disease. Tragedy struck on Sept. 4, 1873 when the head of the household Michael passed away, followed by wife Anna on Jan 18, 1874, leaving the nine children to comfort each other and forge for themselves. One of these was John F. Baros. In his early youth he was employed by the saw mills of the local area. When reaching manhood he met and married Pauline Huff, also an immigrant from Prussia which is now Germany. She was the daughter of Fritz and Augusta Huff, arriving in America with her mother, her father being detained by service in the Prussian army, after the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian war. They chose the Bleiberville community in Austin County for their first home, where the first two children, Albena and John Jr. were born.

In the early 1890's they moved to Shiner in Lavaca County. This change came about as Austin and surrounding counties were bearing the brunt of influx of immigrants continuing to arrive from the old world. Also favorable publicity from newspapers such as *Colorado Citizen*, Columbus Texas Nov. 30 1871, as in part, "picturesque landscape" and "fertility of soil" can not be surpassed, if equaled, by any other in the world. Cotton farming being their main occupation, living on three different farms during their stay of about twenty years. During that time eight of their children were born. They were Frank, Louise, William, Edward, Emilie, Joe, Gus and Anna. They all attended Michna School located in the general area of the lodge hall, Vlastenec SPJST and the Czech Moravian Brethren Church. Dances at the hall were very popular of that era. During their stay in the Shiner area Albena was married to Charles Malina. They continued farming and spent the remaining years of their lives in the area. John Jr. married Emilie Malina and they continued to live on the Malina homestead for most of their lives. He was active in SPJST lodge functions and served as board member at the Shiner Farmers Co-op Gin Assn.

In the year of 1911, John F. and the balance of the family moved to the Westhoff community, DeWitt County Texas. Tragedy struck the same year when their daughter Emilie, age 13, passed away.

Three of their children married members of the Joe Lukas family. Frank to Amalie, Louise to Edward and William to Louise. Farming was the main occupation of these three families. William took some time off to serve his country in US Army in WW I. They all took part in SPJST social and business activities.

The year of 1916 brought about a new adventure, the purchase of a new automobile, a 6 cylinder Buick touring model. This provided ample transportation for families living in other towns to gather for reunions.

Edward married Matilda Orsak, farming their main occupation. They lived in the general area of Yoakum, Petersville and Hochheim, later residing in Victoria Texas. He took some time off to serve in the military in the post WW I era. Their next two sons married into the Jim Simecek family, Joe to Frances and Gus to Vera. Joe and his family started farming in Westhoff, and later moving to the Yorktown general area. After a few years of farming, Gus went into the automobile repair business and continued into semiretirement. They too were SPJST members. Anna married Lee Danish, farming most of their lives. They resided in Shiner, Westhoff, Beeville, Berclair and Goliad. Charlie the first born in Westhoff married Beaulah Heider. He served in the US Army, European theatre of WW II, then continued to live in the Lindenau area. Otto the youngest of all the family married Earline Belitz. After active duty in the US Navy, Pacific theatre in WW II, he lived in the Victoria general area.

Pauline (Huff) Baros passed away July 24, 1935, John F. Baros following her Sept. 18, 1944. They are buried in the Westhoff cemetery with members of their family.

They left behind a legacy of hard work, honesty and a love for family friends and neighbors. They instilled into their offspring the facts concerning the harsh realities of life. Those qualities they possessed will be passed on from generation — to generation — to generation.

by Adolph Baros

BARRERA, CARLOS L. FAMILY

F32

Carlos, son of Angelita and Carlos Barrera was the second born of nine children in Concrete, Texas, where he also attended school. In June of 1953, Carlos married Rachel Cardenas of Yoakum. She was the second of four children born to Joe and Otelia Gomez Cardenas. Rachel attended school in Yoakum. To the union of Carlos and Rachel three children were born: Debra Ann born August 2, 1956; Mary Alice born August 24, 1959; and Carlos Jr. born June 16, 1965. Carlos and Rachel still reside in Yoakum today. Carlos works at Standard Printing Company in Cuero with their daughter Debra and son-in-law Gerard Gonzales (owners of Standard Printing Company). Rachel works in Yoakum as a private sitter. They have one grandson, Michael Gerard Gonzales.

Carlos Barrera Family: Carlos, Rachel, Mary Alice, Carlos Jr. and Debra Ann (Barrera) Gonzales.

by Gerard Gonzales

THE BASS FAMILY IN DEWITT COUNTY, TEXAS

F33

The earliest Bass that can be identified from family records was my great, great, great, great grandfather, Benjamin Bass (birthdate unknown). His son, John Hix Bass (1763-1850), was born and raised in Brunswick County, Virginia, and later moved to Georgia. At the time of the Civil War my great grandfather, James Arnold Bass (1828-1912), lived in Carrolton, Georgia. He was a cotton broker and owned general merchandise stores in Athens and Rome as well as in Carrolton. A shipload of cotton he had shipped out of Savanah before war broke out was confiscated by the Yankees upon its arrival in New York. At the time of his death in 1912, an attorney in Georgia was still attempting to collect from the U.S. government.

Following the Civil War three of my great grandfather's sons moved to Texas. James Lewis Bass (1864-1941), John McMillan Bass (1871-1937), and my grandfather, Paul Leon Bass (1875-1955) all worked as young men for the Perkins Brothers dry goods chain owned by noted Texas philanthropists, Joe and Sam Perkins.

In 1913 Uncle Jim, Uncle John, and my grandfather quit their jobs with Perkins Brothers and opened a dry goods store in Yoakum. The slogan for the store was 'Just one price, one just prices," and the building for the store survives to this day. The Bass Brothers logo is embedded in the sidewalk in front of the hardware store it now houses. Later that year my grandfather moved to Kenedy where the Bass Brothers had opened another store. His stay there was brief, however, as he found the "low moral standards" of the town not to his liking. He returned to his previous residence of the historic northeast Texas town of Jefferson as Manager of the Perkins store there and later opened his own store. He is buried in the historic Oakwood Cemetery in Jefferson.

In 1920 Uncle John bought the Graves dry goods store in Cuero from John Graves. Family legend has it that Mr. Graves refused to take a check in payment and that Uncle John had to

deliver a suitcase full of cash to pay for the store. The store was located in the Graves building on Main Street in Cuero and for more than a decade, until the effects of the great depression were felt in Cuero, was a prosperous enterprise. I have memories as a small child of Uncle John's Pierce Arrow automobile and his fine gun collection. Although Uncle John's daughter, Tennie Mae, was a grown woman when they moved to Cuero and lived there for only a few years before her marriage to W. Scott Robinson of Chicago, she always regarded Cuero as her home town and maintained lifelong friendships in Cuero.

In 1922 my father, F. Myron Bass, Sr. (1901-1986), graduated from Southwestern University and moved to Cuero to work for Uncle John in the Bass Brothers Store. In 1923 he married my mother, Elnora Thomson (1902-1931). She was a teacher in the Cuero schools. My father and mother met while they were students at Southwestern University.

In 1926 my parents built a house on the northwest corner of Clinton and Clayton streets in Cuero. The basic plan for the house came from *Holland's Magazine*, but my father modified the basic plan to include, among other things, an attached garage, the first such in Cuero. They moved into the house on December 15, and I was born on December 27 in the house which stands today at 702 North Clinton Street.

My mother died in August 1931, and in the summer of 1932 my father traded the house on Clinton Street for some cash and a house at 905 East Morgan Avenue. My grandmother, Ida Mae Thomson (1879-1956), lived in the house with my father and me while I was growing up.

In 1935 the Bass Brothers store in Cuero closed, a victim of the depression. At that time my father opened the Bass Shoe Store in Cuero. He operated the store until 1966 when it was sold. For many years he was a director of the Cuero Federal Savings and Loan. My father lived in Cuero for sixty-four years. Throughout that period he was a dedicated and active member of the First Methodist Church. Following my father's death in June 1986, my aunt, Olivia (Bass) DeVaux moved into the house at 905 East Morgan Avenue.

by Frank M. Bass

BASS, ESSIE NAOMI WALKER CROZIER

F34

Essie Naomi (Walker) Crozier Bass was born in Waelder, a small Gonzales County community about 15 miles north of the DeWitt County line, on January 4, 1884, the youngest daughter of Ezekiel Dennis Walker (1854) and Sarah Maleta Chandler (1857-1929). Her grandparents Ezekiel Wesley Walker (1828-1923) and Mary Ann Hopkins (1828-1903) had moved by wagon from their farm in the Pearl River in Simpson County in southern Mississippi to Copperas Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River in northeastern Gonzales County in December, 1850. Her Chandler grandparents, Willis Chandler (1811-1897) and Miranda Hildebrand (1818-1888), had moved south in 1851 from their home on the Missouri River where Willis operated the "Maleta," a river freight boat, to western Fayette County near the Gonzales County line.

Guy Crozier and Essie (Walker) Bass, c. 1900.

Ezekiel Wesley's grandparents, Isaac Walker (1721-1807) and Elizabeth Stuart, had immigrated to Maryland from Scotland with a price on his head immediately after the Scottish Rebellion of 1745. Isaac had fought against England while serving under Bonnie Price Charlie. He fought them again as an officer in the Maryland Militia during the American Revolutionary War.

Isaac had a second grandson in Texas during the 1840's, Ezekiel's cousin, Captain Samuel Hamilton Walker, the distinguished Texas Ranger and leader in the Mier Expedition, who designed the Walker Colt revolver. Captain Sam Walker was killed during the Mexican War near Mexico City while leading the advance guard of Rangers to capture Santa Anna at the battle of Huamantla in early October, 1847.

Mary Ann Hopkins' father's family had immigrated from Wales and England first to Maryland like the Walkers, but had done so at an earlier date in the 1660's. By 1812, Mary Ann's father, Samuel Hopkins, was in Georgia having successfully drawn land in an early Georgia land lottery. He enlisted in the Second Regiment of the Georgia Militia during the War of 1812 and fought first the Creek Indians in northern Alabama at the Battle of Talladega (1813) and later the British at Mobile (1814). Mary Ann's brother, Dennis Hopkins, and his family moved from Georgia, first to Mississippi and then with the Walker family on to Gonzales County to establish the community of Hopkinsville.

After returning home from serving as a sergeant in the Texas 17th Infantry during the Red River Campaign, E.W. Walker was elected Justice of the Peace in Waelder in 1866. "Squire" Walker, as he was later called, was reelected to that office every two years for over fifty years, refusing to stand for reelection once he reached the age of ninety. His numerous court and personal journals with daily notations about the Waelder community from 1866 to 1918 are held in the Barker Library at the University of Texas Archives. In the early 1920's Ezekiel was recognized as the oldest Mason in Texas.

E.E. Walker, Ezekiel Wesley's son and Essie's father, was elected Constable for Waelder in 1878 and served the community as a lawman for several years thereafter. During his period of public service, Constable Walker took a Derringer pistol from the boot of a belligerent barroom gunman. He later gave it to his daughter, Essie, who carried it, with appropriate .41 caliber rim fire shells, tightly knotted in a handkerchief in her handbag until she died.

In 1900, Essie married William Guy Crozier whose grandparents, James Allen Crozier (1817-1899) and Nancy Ann Nation (1828-1858) had moved from northern Mississippi, Yalobusha County, to Gonzales County, Texas

Jackie (Crozier) Wilkinson, Ura (Crozier) Lester, and Avis (Crozier) Reiffert.

near Hopkinsville in the early 1850's. Nancy Ann's father, Baalis Nation (1801-1851), and his older brothers, James and Nathaniel, who had earlier fought the British under General Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans, moved together as a large and extended family with the Croziers and their slaves into Gonzales County. James Crozier's son, Robert Baalis Crozier (1848-1910), was too young to serve the Confederate cause, but his oldest brother William was killed in the Battle at Franklin, Tennessee serving in Grandbury's Texas Brigade. William Guy, who was Robert's eldest son, loved his studies, excelled in school and graduated with distinction from San Marcos Academy in 1903. He subsequently taught in one-room schools in several small communities in central Texas before developing terminal consumption and retiring to the Crozier farm near Waelder to die at the young age of 29. The Crozier family still owns and operates the farm. Guy was survived by Essie and their three young daughters, Ima, Ura, and Avis, ages five, four and three.

After Guy's death, Essie with her three young girls moved from the Crozier place to live with her parents who farmed the Walker place adjoining the Crozier farm. Work in Waelder for a young woman, age twenty-four with three young girls, was hard to find in 1908, but Essie found employment first in Waelder with the post office and the local dry goods store and later near Corpus Christi. She moved to Cuero in the early 1920's to work for and later marry the prominent local dry goods clothing store owner, John M. Bass. Essie's family then affectionately referred to her as Mama Bass. Mama and Mr. Bass were both active members of the Cuero Methodist Church.

Essie's oldest daughter, Ima, married Robert Sims Wilkinson when Essie and her three daughters were living in Robstown near Corpus Christi. Sims and Ima moved to West Texas, Sanderson, where Sims served as County Judge of Terrell County for many years and where Ima still is the organist at the Presbyterian Church. The Wilkinsons had two sons, Jim, who is retired in Durango, Colorado, and Bobby who is a construction contractor in Florida. Ura married Mack Lester. They reside in Cotulla, Texas, and their son Preston lives nearby.

Essie's youngest daughter Avis married Chester C. Foster shortly after Essie and Avis moved to Cuero to work. Avis had two children, Avis Marie and Billy C., before she received her divorce in 1930. She then returned to Cuero with her two young children to live with her mother and Mr. Bass and to work at Bass Brothers' store. In 1936 while she was still working at Bass Brothers', Avis married Walter Reiffert, Sr. of Cuero. After their return from their honeymoon in Mexico City, they lived at his residence on Reuss Boulevard until Mr. Reiffert died in December, 1941. Avis Marie graduated from Cuero High School in 1945 and Billy C., in 1946. After World War II, Avis was employed as an accountant by Cuero Lumber Company and later, Coppedge Tire Company. She constructed her present home on the Reiffert family property adjoining the Reiffert-Muegge residence that had been moved to Cuero from Indianola after the 1886 hurricane. Avis died in 1989.

Avis' son Billy C. graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 and has been practicing law in Washington, D.C. since 1961. He has four children, William Crozier, who married Kirsten Westervelt in 1988, Ebba Birgitta, who married John Red Horse in 1985, Eric Lindh, who married Monique Lowery in 1987, and his young daughter Claire Kearney born in 1983.

Avis' daughter Avis Marie married Bill Cochran of Sanderson, Texas in 1949. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Cuero where he was employed by Texas Eastern Transmission Company for whom he continued to work until his retirement from the company's Houston office in 1988. They now reside at their new home on the Reiffert ranch on Verhelle Road near their son Bobby who directs the ranching operation. The Cochran's daughter, Avis Ann, her husband Lovell Blain, a well known rancher and horse breeder, and her three daughters, Avis Lynn, Amanda Rose, and Alexis Ann Bramlette, are residents of Meyersville, Texas. The Cochran's daughter Susan Lynn, her husband Mark Fischer, an oil man formerly of Cuero, and their two children, Scott and Christy, live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Before Essie's death in Cuero in December, 1972, she selected the family burial site at the Cuero Hillside Cemetery based upon her own personal criteria — there should be members of the Woodman of the World Lodge buried nearby — (she had known some good men in that lodge and wished to have their continued support), there should be no cedar trees near the plot because cedars discolor tombstones, and lastly there should be no neighboring burial sites with artificial plastic flowers because Mama Bass loved real roses. Red rose bushes at the four corners of her burial site are a reminder that Mama often got her way.

by W.C. Foster

BATTLES, HARRIETT FAMILY

F35

Harriett Battles came to Texas from Mississippi. The exact date is not known. She raised two daughters and one son in DeWitt County. Her son Vollentine was born around the year 1863. He and Mattie Goodson were married by Rev. A.D. Norwood around 1900. They had four children. They were Vollie, Earl, Callie and Barney. Both Vollentine and Mattie along with all of their children are dead now. Vollentine was a farmer. He died October 2, 1953. Mattie preceded her husband in death October 19, 1947.

Barney Battles

by Wanda Carter

BAUER FAMILY

F36

Lawrence A. (Buddy) and Ruby (Coward) Bauer

Anton Bauer (August 22, 1841 in Saxon, Germany-January 25, 1915) immigrated to the United States, and in Indianola, Texas, met and married Catherine Kessler (November 18, 1847-November 23, 1907). On January 25, 1888, Lawrence Alexander (Buddy) Bauer was born.

On April 6, 1888 in Sealy, Texas, Ruby Ann Coward was born to Willis B. Coward and Elba Thomas Coward.

Buddy Bauer met and married Ruby Coward in 1911 in Galveston, Texas. On November 13, 1912 their first and only daughter, Elbie, was born. The first son to be born on December 4, 1913 was Lawrence Alexander Bauer, Jr. (nicknamed Bill). After the bad storm of 1917 hit Galveston, Buddy and Ruby took their family and left Galveston and moved to Cuero. During his first years in Cuero, Buddy worked as a druggist in one of the local drug stores.

On September 11, 1922, the second of their four sons, Kenneth Anton was born; on July 6, 1924, John Davis was born; and the last of their family, Garlan L. was born on April 3, 1926.

After his days as a druggist, Buddy bought the Sinclair Agency and delivered gasoline to the local filling stations using cans similar to the old milk cans. After getting out of the gasoline business, he worked for Southern Pacific Transport for a number of years, and then became a rancher.

Their first son, Kenneth (see business – Bauer Produce) preceded his parents in death due to a drowning accident on February 21, 1958, when he was 35. Buddy and Ruby owned property off of the new San Antonio River Bridge. During early flooding stages as the Guadalupe River began to rise, Kenneth took out on horseback to round up some cattle. After a while, his horse returned to the house without him. After a search in boats, his body was found, and laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Lawrence Alexander Bauer, Sr. (nicknamed Buddy) died on November 28, 1964, at the age of 76, after having lived in Cuero for 47 years. He was buried along with his son in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

The only daughter, Elbie Gaida (married name), died of cancer on April 14, 1969, at the age of 56. A year later Ruby Ann Coward Bauer

died on June 4, 1970 at the age of 82, leaving behind her remaining three sons. Both Ruby and her daughter were buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Bill Bauer remained in Cuero, and died on July 12, 1984 at the age of 70. He is also buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. The remaining two sons, John Davis Bauer, Sr. (see his story) and Garlan L. Bauer are still living in Cuero.

by Marsha Bauer

BAUER, CHUCK AND MARSHA

F37

Chuck, Chandra and Marsha Bauer

Chuck Alan Bauer and Marsha Gail Morrow were married on June 17, 1978 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas, by Pastor Hubert A. Hanson.

Chuck was born February 27, 1955 in Cuero, Texas, the youngest of two sons born to John Davis Bauer, Sr. and Dorothy Jean Guinn Bauer (see their story). He was delivered by Dr. Carl R. Stratton at the Stratton Clinic.

Chuck has lived in Cuero all of his life and attended the Cuero schools. During his high school years he began working with his father in the family produce business (see business – Bauer Produce). He graduated from Cuero High School in 1973. After graduation he attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville for a year, then Victoria College for another year. He worked for Brown & Root Construction for about a year and then somewhere between 1975-76 he went back to work in the family business.

Marsha was born on October 3, 1960 in Gonzales, Texas, the youngest of three children born to Sterling Boothe Morrow and Norma Jean Koenig Morrow (see their story). She was delivered by Dr. Walter Sievers at the Holmes Memorial Hospital.

Marsha's early childhood days and first few years of school were in San Antonio, until the family moved to Houston in 1968. There she attended Spring Branch Schools until 1972, at which time the family moved to Cuero. In Cuero she attended Cuero Junior High School, and graduated from Cuero High School in 1978.

Following Chuck and Marsha's wedding, three weeks after her graduation, she worked for her parents at Morrow Fence & Hardware and The Decor Shoppe until October 1978. At that time she started a career in banking that would last for nine years. Periodically, during that time, she attended Victoria College.

On December 17, 1980 Chuck and Marsha were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Chandra Gail. She was delivered by Dr. Michael Burditt at DeTar Hospital in Victoria, Texas. Chandra attended pre-school at Cuero's Playschool, and then began attending Cuero's elementary schools where she is now in the third grade. Chandra is a member of the Flying V's Gymnastics Team in Victoria, the Cuero Hermann Sons Dance Class, and is also enrolled in piano.

On June 17, 1987 Chuck and Marsha renewed their wedding vows at the Chapel of the Fountain in Las Vegas, Nevada. Chuck is still working in the family produce business and Marsha is now devoting her time to being a mother and housewife, and helping out occasionally in her family's business.

by Marsha Bauer

BAUER, FRED C. AND MATILDA (EHRENBERG)

F38

Fred Christian Bauer was born in Prussia 30 August 1818. He married Matilda Ehrenberg in 1846. Her maiden name may have been Ehrenberg or Ehrenbrecht. She was born 22 September 1821 in Landsberg on the Warte, Prussia, and died 21 September 1917 in Yorktown, at the age of 96 years.

Fred C. and Matilda Bauer and their two daughters, Anna and Bertha, immigrated to Yorktown from Prussia in 1853. He was a saddler. He was a charter member of Yorktown when it was laid out. The town was incorporated in 1871 and Fred Bauer was one of the aldermen appointed by Gov. E.J. Davis. He served as a Lieutenant in Capt. Eckhardt's Homeguard Company during the Civil War. For 22 years Mr. Bauer owned a saddle shop in Yorktown, moving to Oakville, Live Oak County, Texas in 1876. He died there in 1833. Mrs. Bauer lived either in Beeville, Bee County, Texas or in Yorktown with one of her children after his death.

Their first daughter, Anna, was born 16 October 1847 in Prussia and died 15 February 1918 in Yorktown. She married Franz Gips 14 July 1872 in Yorktown. They had seven children. (See separate story.) The second daughter of Fred and Anna Bauer, Bertha, was born about 1850. She did not marry, and we were unable to trace her. After Fred and Matilda arrived in Texas, a son, Paul, and another daughter, Amelia, were born. Paul was born in Yorktown 30 October 1855 and died in Beeville 28 October 1934. He married Carrie Reagan 12 February 1878 and they had five children. The 1880 Texas Census for Live Oak County shows a daughter, Amelia, 12, but we were unable to gather information about her. We found a cemetery lot in Oakville with the headstone showing only Bauers – no dates. Perhaps Fred Bauer and his daughters are buried there.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

BAUER, JOHN D. AND DOT

F39

Dorothy Jean and John D. Bauer

John Davis Bauer was the fourth child born to Lawrence Alexander (Buddy) Bauer, Sr. and Ruby Ann Coward (see their story). He was born on July 6, 1924 in Cuero, Texas. He attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1941. After high school he went to work for Marvin Junker's Grocery Store for a while, and then moved to Louisiana where he worked for Kellogg's Magnesium Plant. He was only in Louisiana for about three weeks when he was drafted into the Navy, on May 20, 1943. During the war he became a Ship's Cook, Third Class, on the landing craft, Infantry 577, until discharge on April 5, 1946. In 1947 he began working for his brother Kenneth in the produce business (see busy story – Bauer Produce).

Dorothy Jean Guinn (nicknamed Dot), born Nov. 9, 1925 in Sugarland, Tex., was the youngest daughter of John Henry Guinn, Jr. and Clara Brooks (see their story). She grew up and attended grade school in Sublime, Texas; attended high school in Hallettsville; but graduated from Cuero High School in 1944. After graduation she went to work for Perry Brothers and became Assistant Manager. She then went to work for The Doll House Cafe.

While Dot was working at The Doll House Cafe, she met and married John D. Bauer on July 31, 1948 at her Aunt Ora Kersch's house in Hallettsville. After their marriage, Dot worked at Henneke's Hardware Store and Piggly Wiggly, before having children.

On November 9, 1949 their first son, John Davis Bauer, Jr. was born in Crews Hospital in Gonzales, Texas. He was delivered by Dr. Carl R. Stratton of Cuero. A second son, Chuck Alan Bauer, was born on February 27, 1955 at the Stratton Clinic in Cuero, and also delivered by Dr. Carl R. Stratton.

In 1958, John D. took over his brother's produce business and Dot entered beauty school in Victoria, Texas, and became a beauty operator.

Their eldest son, John Davis Bauer, Jr.

attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1968. He met and married Virginia Rae Goode on May 25, 1974 at the First Baptist Church in Cuero, Texas. They have two sons, John Davis Bauer, III, born on June 5, 1977 at DeTar Hospital in Victoria, Texas and Caleb Mitchell Bauer, born on July 27, 1982 at DeTar Hospital in Victoria, Texas. Davis and his family live about 7 miles out of Cuero.

Their youngest son, Chuck Alan Bauer attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1973. He met and married Marsha Gail Morrow on June 17, 1978. They have one daughter, Chandra Gail Bauer, born December 17, 1980. Chuck and his family live in Cuero (see their story).

by Marsha Bauer

BELL, JAMES MADISON

F40

James Madison and Miriam York Bell

James Madison Bell was born in Hardeman County, Tennessee, July 18, 1817, a son of William and Julia Johnson Bell, who came to Texas in January, 1834 with their family and settled near the present town of New Ulm in Austin County. Their children in order of their birth were Thomas H., William, Granville, Andrew Jackson, John, James Madison, Joseph, Adaline and Frank. William Bell, the father, died within a year after arriving in Texas. The mother died in 1846.

James Madison Bell served in the Company of Volunteers of Captain John York at the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5-10, 1835. He also participated in the Battle of San Jacinto as a first corporal in Captain Mosely Baker's "San Felipe Company."

History states that the first Texas Congress was sworn in with a Bible belonging to James Madison Bell. This was the only Bible to be found at the assembling of the first Texas Congress and was used in the administering of the oath of office and was so inscribed by the clerk.

James Madison Bell married Miriam York, daughter of Captain John and Lutitia Cain York. Miriam York was born in August 22, 1822 in Austin County, Texas. Children of James Madison and Miriam York Bell in order of their birth were: Sarah Jane, Julia, John York and James Robert Bell.

James Madison Bell and his family moved to DeWitt County in 1846 and settled on the Coleto Creek, near present day Yorktown. He engaged in farming and ranching. He was killed along with his father-in-law, Captain John York, in the Indian fight on Escondido Creek, October 10, 1848. Mr. Bell was buried in the York Cemetery. Miriam York Bell died in January, 1898 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

by Margaret Sturges

BELL, JAMES ROBERT

F41

James Robert (Jim) Bell, Sr. Pioneer Day Celebration in Yorktown (c. 1929)

Miss Sallie Bell (c. 1900) on her prized mount, Coon

James Robert Bell was born in DeWitt County in 1848, the youngest child of James Madison and Miriam York Bell. He was six weeks old when his father was killed along with his grandfather in the Indian Raid on Escondido Creek, October 10, 1848. His siblings were Sarah Jane, Julia and John York Bell.

He married Mary Eliza Pullen February 3, 1870 at Clinton, Texas. They were married by the Rev. Theodore Gillette. Mary Eliza Pullen Bell was born January 8, 1849 at Washington-on-the Brazos, the daughter of Bird Smith and Frances Mary McFaddin Pullen.

In the 1880's James (Jim) Robert Bell, bought extensive ranch land in the vicinity of Yorktown. For a number of years he raised Longhorns on his unfenced acreage. In the 1890's, barbed wire became available for fencing and Longhorns gave place to Shorthorn breeds. Jim Bell chose Herefords and was successful in the ranching business until his death in 1932. His brand was the 8.

Mrs. Bell preceded him in death, November 21, 1920. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

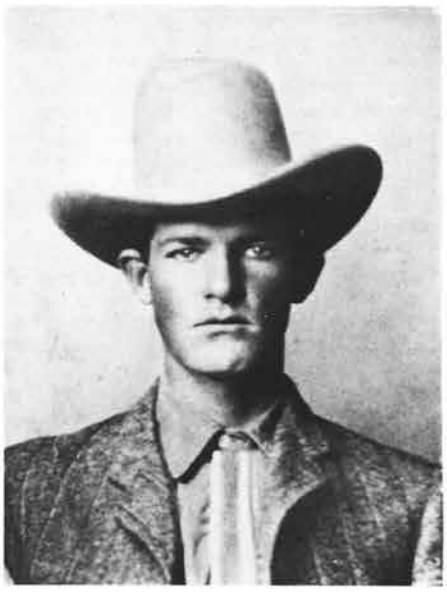
Children of James Robert and Mary Eliza Pullen Bell in order of their birth were: Hamilton (Hamp) (1870-1921), Hodge (1872-1941), Carey McNelly(1874-1923), Miriam Frances (1878-1882), Sarah Greenwood (1881-1973), James Robert, Jr. (1882-1961), John York (1885-1946) and Frank Cochran (1890-1957).

by Margaret Sturges

BELL, JAMES ROBERT, JR.

F42

James Robert Bell, Jr., sixth child of James Robert and Mary Eliza Pullen Bell was born November 3, 1882 in DeWitt County. He moved to LaSalle County in 1903 and engaged in the ranching business. He married Willie Emily Baylor Bell of LaSalle County in 1906. She was the daughter of pioneer residents



James Robert Bell Jr.

John William and Rhoda Mariah Burks Baylor. Their children in order of their birth were: 1. James Baylor (1908-1972) 2. Mary Elizabeth (1910-1918) 3. Amanda Burks (1913) 4. Virginia Keith (1918).

Jim Bell served LaSalle County as a county commissioner and the First Presbyterian Church of Cotulla as an elder. He died March 26, 1961. Mrs. Bell died in 1955. They are buried in the Cotulla City Cemetery.

Children of Jim and Willie Baylor Bell:

1. James Baylor Bell (1908-1972) married Virginia Curtis. Their children:

A. Mary Burks Bell married William Houston Albert. Their children: (1) William Houston Albert, Jr. married Kathleen Sharrock. Their children: Stephanie Ann, Carrie Michelle, William Houston, III. (2) James Baylor Albert.

B. Sally York Bell married Thomas Rodney Summers. Their children: (1) David Curtis Summers (deceased 1986) (2) Robert Alan Summers.

C. James Robert Bell, III married Felicia Walton. Their children: (1) James RobertBell, IV married — (divorced). Their child: Sabrina (2) John Walton Bell married Lori Murphy. Their child: Edgar Walton (3) Jeffrey Curtis Bell.

2. Mary Elizabeth Bell (1910-1918)

3. Amanda Burks Bell (1913) married Frank Moffett Newman (deceased 1972). Their child: Amanda Burks Newman married Roy Leslie Menke (deceased 1973). Their children: Roy Joaquin Menke and Frank Newman Menke.

4. Virginia Keith Bell (1918) married Roy Alonzo Sturges (deceased 1973). Their children:

A) Roy William Sturges married Sharon Brown. Their children: Jenifer Lynn and Melissa Kay. Divorced and married Joy Chalk 1989.

B) Margaret Burks

C) Harry Frank

D) Ida Louise married Martin Wayne Franklin. Their children: Roy Sturges and Keith Wayne.

by Margaret Sturges

BELL, JOHN J.

F43

John Junior Bell, member of a prominent pioneer Texas Family, was born May 15, 1910, in Cuero, Texas, at the home of his maternal grandparents, Victor J. and Augusta Keller Grunder. This home, located at 409 East Morgan Street, has been designated as an historical site by the Texas Historical Commission.

He was the eldest son of John York and Gertrude Grunder Bell. His paternal ancestors were early ranchers in the DeWitt County area, his family having lived in Texas since before the Texas Revolution in 1836. He was a direct descendant of James Madison Bell and Captain John York, both of whom participated in the Texas Revolution. His great grandfather, James Madison Bell, was a combatant in the storming of San Antonio and fought with the Texian army at the Battle of San Jacinto. His great grandmother was a daughter of Captain John York founder of the city of Yorktown in DeWitt County. He was also a direct descendant of Josiah Bartlett, governor of the state of New Hampshire and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

His maternal ancestors were early settlers of the ill-fated seaport town of Indianola in Calhoun County, Texas. His great grandfather was a Confederate veteran. Following the storm of 1875, in which Indianola was washed away, the family moved to Cuero, where they later became engaged in the cotton compressing business.

John Junior Bell

Mabel Claire (Breeden) Bell

John J. Bell was educated in the public schools of Cuero and was valedictorian of his high school graduating class. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree in government and economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1932, and the L.L.B. degree from the same university in 1936. While attending the University Law School, he was a member of the University teaching staff, a member of the debating society, and of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. He was president of the Student Assembly, and held memberships in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Delta Sigma Rho, the Texas Cowboys, and the Friar Society. In the *1935 Cactus*, yearbook of the University, he was described as "An Outstanding Senior. A leader of men and a speaker of great ability, John Bell has been the ideal Student President."

Upon graduation from law school, John Bell was elected to the Texas Legislature in 1936, serving in the House of Representatives from 1937 to 1944, when he waived his legislative draft immunity to enlist as a private in the United States Army during World War II. While he was still in the military service, the people of his legislative district again placed his name on the ballot and reelected him to the House of Representatives. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945, and returned to the Legislature, serving as a Representative until 1947, when he was elected to the Texas Senate.

On December 29, 1948, he married Miss Mabel Claire Breeden, daughter of Charles Goodwin Breeden, a prominent South Texas merchant.

During his years in the Texas Legislature, John J. Bell served on many important committees. A recognized authority on water law, he was a leader in establishing the water conservation program in Texas, initiating the plan which resulted in establishment of the Texas Water Development Council. In 1949, as a State Senator, he called for an amendment to the United States Constitution repudiating the federal claim to the Texas tidelands.

He was also the author of an amendment to the State Constitution which resulted in a reduction of the state ad valorem tax for general fund purposes. He was a leader in bringing the Rural Electric Cooperative to DeWitt County and served as attorney for the DeWitt County Electric Cooperative from the time of its inception until his election to Congress.

On February 12, 1963, the Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution in Bell's memory: "In Memory of the Honorable John J. Bell, who has served here with distinction; and in respect of John J. Bell and to pay tribute to this outstanding statesman, the House adjourn this day in respect of John J. Bell as a token of our esteem and respect."

On January 30, 1963, a unanimous resolution was passed by the Texas Senate: "To recognize the manifold contributions of John J. Bell and to express its sympathy, a page of the *Senate Journal* on this day be set aside in his memory and the Senate adjourn in his honor."

In 1954 Bell was elected to the Eighty-Fourth United States Congress from the Fourteenth Congressional District, where he served from 1955 to 1957. In the Congress he continued his efforts in the areas of water conservation and agriculture. He was also active in a variety of projects ranging from small watershed developments, post offices, and radar stations to multimillion dollar dam and bridge construction appropriations.

On January 28, 1963, former United States Representative Bell was eulogized on the floor of the House, with the *Congressional Record* of that day including these statements: "During the time John Bell served here, he made many friends. Every Member seemed to respect him, and all admired his courage and his statesmanship. He always put the welfare of his country ahead of all other considerations and never faltered in his sincere efforts to serve his district and his country well. By so doing he

soon earned and commanded the admiration and respect of the membership."

John bell was admitted to the State Bar of Texas upon his graduation in 1936 and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1955. He was a general practice attorney, specializing in corporate, probate, administrative law, and litigation. He was a member of the DeWitt County Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society. In 1948, and again in 1952, he was a delegate to the Democratic Convention.

Following in his family tradition, Bell was president of the Victoria Compress and Warehouse Company, the Shiner Compress and Warehouse Company, the Cuero Compress and Warehouse Company, and the Taft Compress Company.

He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero and the Knight of Columbus. He was a charter member of the Cuero Lions Club, and a member of the American Legion, Herman Sons Lodge, the Ex-Students Association of The University of Texas, Texas State Society of Washington D.C., and the Texas Cotton Association. He held honorary memberships in the George Washington Memorial Battalion, was a Director of the Texas Safety Council, Sultan of the Cuero Turkey Trot in 1936, and Honorary State Farmer of the Future Farmers of America in 1955. His hobbies were hunting and fishing.

John Bell has been listed in *Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, The Congressional Directory,* 84th Congress, *Campbell's List, The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Texas Bar Journal* of March 22, 1963, and the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress.*

John Bell died at his home in Cuero following a heart attack on January 24, 1963. He is interred at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Rosemary Kokernot

BELL, JOHN YORK

F44

James Madison Bell came to Texas from Tennessee with his parents and brothers and sisters in January 1834. James served in the army during the revolution under Captain John York. He married Miriam York, the daughter of Captain York and moved to DeWitt County in 1846. They had two daughters, Sarah Jane Bell and Julia Bell, and two sons, John York Bell and James Robert Bell. In 1848 a group of volunteer soldiers which included Captain John York and James Madison Bell surprised a band of Indians raiding near Yorktown. The group drove the Indians away but in the battle, Captain York and James Madison were both killed. They are buried in a single homemade coffin near the York home.

John York Bell married Miss Annie Wofford and they had two children, Myrtle and William Albert. William Albert married Jenny Stevens and they had 3 sons, Seth Pettus, John York, and William Albert Jr. John York married Charlotte Traylor in 1926. They had three children, William Traylor, Elizabeth Ann and Charlotte Traylor. William married Margie Singletary in 1954 and they had two children, John York and Katharine.

by Katy Bell Nagel

BELL, PERMELIA JANE

F45

Permelia Jane Bell was born in 1857 in Middletown, Texas (Goliad Co.) and died in 1906 in DeWitt County, Texas. She married William Edward Bennett, son of Joseph W. Bennett and Elizabeth Jane Day, on June 18, 1879. She is buried in Taylor-Bennett Cemetery near Cuero, Texas. Their children are: 1. Joseph W. (Johnny), born December 7, 1881 and died April 19, 1909. He was married to Annie Karms October 12, 1905. 2. James Preston was born September 9, 1883 and died March of 1964. He was married to Emma Williams on October 21, 1920. 3. Dale Edward was born July 27, 1884 and died on December 13, 1943. He was married to Lizzie Kelly Nunez on December 16, 1908. 4. Thomas Jefferson was born August 26, 1886 and died April 3, 1980. He was married to Elsie Hotz on September 27, 1923. 5. Milton Oris (Bill) was born on November 8, 1888 and died on April 23, 1980. He was married to Annie (last name unknown) They had no children. 6. Alvin Kirksey was born December 24, 1891 and died November 5, 1934. He was married to Grace on August 2, 1917. 7. Amy was born July 6, 1892 and died October 2, 1948. She was married to John Miller on April 21, 1912. 8. Evaline was born on September 14, 1894 and died December 9, 1943. She was married to Claude Rice. 9. Roxanne was born February 2, 1896 and resides in San Antonio. She married the second time to Ed Ashley. 10. Stella Aurora was born August 6, 1898 and died in 1987 in San Antonio, Texas. She was married to Leslie Ploeger. 11. Pearl was born January 18, 1900 and lives in a nursing home in Seguin, Texas. She married Riley Capper in 1916.

Permelia Jane's parents married in Washington County, Texas which was very likely the home of her mother, Martha Ann (Marcella) Pillow Bell. Her father, Wm. G. Bell, owned 177 acres in Austin County, Texas, near San Felipe on East side of the Brazos River. Today it would be Waller County. Wm. G. Bell was the oldest son of James H. Bell and Wincy (Bird?) and the brother of James C. Bell who married Fannie Busby. Wm. G. Bell enlisted in the Confederate army in Clinton, Texas in 1861, under Capt. Josiah Taylor, Jr. It looks as though he left the State under General Hamilton Bee and was in the awful battles in Louisiana where so many Texas cavalry men died. Wm. G. Bell's widow remarried in 1865 to Alvan Carter Walker who was dead by 1870.

Permelia Jane's sisters and brothers were: 1. Thomas Jefferson Bell who was born in 1853. He married Missouri V. Walker in Fayette County, Texas, in 1875. 2. James Preston Bell who was born in 1855 in Goliad County, Texas. He married Bertha Tauch in 1889 in Fayette County, Texas. 3. Lou Rena Bell born in 1859 in Goliad County, Texas and died in 1951 in DeWitt County, Texas. She was married to James H. Day in 1880. 4. William G. Bell, Jr. was born in 1862 in Middletown, Texas in Goliad County, Texas.

We feel that Permelia Jane was close to her siblings and her half-siblings because she named her children after them.

by Jeanette Probst Tabb

BENBOW FAMILY

F46

David Harrison Benbow and Ruth (Morrow), 1903.

The Benbows who now live in DeWitt County are descended from two Benbow brothers who came to America as boys, from Wales, in the year 1718. They first landed in Pennsylvania. After serving their apprenticeships, they headed south to the Carolina colonies. The DeWitt Benbows went to what is now South Carolina between 1725 and 1750. They moved to Alabama territory which was newly opened. They served in the militia during the Indian Wars that were fought to win the territory.

James Benbow and his wife, Nancy, were married in early winter, 1839. They had two sons, James Richard, born in 1844 and George Washington, born in 1850. Their father died about 1850, leaving Nancy a young widow with two small sons. After his death she married William Pierson and came to Texas, to the Stratton community, about 1860.

James Richard enlisted in the Confederate Army. He returned after 1865 and began to acquire substantial holdings in DeWitt County. Much remains in the hands of descendants today.

After the Civil War, George Washington Benbow became one of the most skillful horsemen in the county. He was one of the trail riders who drove herds up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene and Kansas. After several trail drives, George married a young widow, Frances Elizabeth Cudd. They settled in the Stratton community where he farmed and ranched, and around 1890 he operated and owned a gin. He and Fannie had eleven children, one of whom, Mrs. Ima Hilburn, survives to this day.

David Harrison Benbow (Man) was born in Stratton in 1878. He married Ruth Morrow in 1903. They had five children — Alta Belle, Lee Coffery, Gertrude, Alex Boyd and George Morrow.

Man Benbow and Ruth Morrow both attended the Nash Academy.

Alta Belle married Frank Hallon and Gertrude married Arlin Borrom. Both are deceased. Man and Ruth Benbow are buried in the Alexander cemetery.

by Mrs. Lee Benbow

BENBOW, LEE C. AND MARY ANN

F47

Lee C. and Mary Ann Benbow

Jo Ann (Benbow) Davis, Lee Ann, and Clay Thomas Davis.

Lee and Mary Benbow, March 30, 1930, wedding photo.

Lee Benbow was born April 11, 1907 in the Stratton Community, the eldest son of D.H. Benbow and Ruth (Morrow) Benbow. Lee attended Stratton school, also, Baldwin's Business College. He served in World War II and was overseas 14 months. He retired from Mobil Oil.

Mary Ann was born in Victoria, Texas, October 5, 1913 to Sam DuBose and Dicey Ann Parker DuBose. When a small child they moved to Bay City, Texas where her father died during the flu epidemic of World War I. They later moved to Stratton where her mother cared for the elderly parents.

Lee and Mary Ann met at the Stratton School when she was nine years of age. Years later they were sweethearts and were married March 29, 1930 in a Baptist Church in Yoakum, Texas and have been of that faith all their lives.

Lee and Mary Ann's daughter, Jo Ann, born Feb. 5, 1949 resides in Austin Texas. She has two children: 1) Clay Thomas, born Nov. 7, 1970 and 2) LeAnn Davis, born Feb. 16, 1976.

Mary Ann's mother, Dicy Ann Parker, married Sam DuBose in Cuero, Texas in 1904. She was left a widow with three children. Besides Mary Ann, there were Suda and Farris DuBose. Suda passed away Oct. 8, 1981 and Farris Jan. 20, 1990. Dicy Jennings, 1886-1985, lacked four months reaching the age of 100 years.

Dicy DuBose later married Almer Jennings, a Church of Christ minister. To this union a son, Edwin Parker Jennings, was born. He had a daughter, Victoria Ann and a son, Edwin Parker Jennings, Jr. who are both deceased. Edwin P. Jennings resides in Florida.

Dicy's parent, William James (Bill) Parker, was born November 7, 1849 and died in 1933. He was from Macon, Georgia. He came to Texas with his mother, Dicy Parker, a sister Sara, and his twin brother Henry. In Georgia they owned a plantation with slaves. After the Civil War they decided to leave all their possessions behind as their slaves had been freed. They came to Texas for Bill's health. He had studied medicine to become a doctor, but due to his health didn't finish. The Yankees destroyed most of their buildings and took their food. After coming to Texas, he went on the Chisholm Cattle Drive to Kansas.

Mary Clay Jeffery was born in Searcy, Arkansas on Nov. 21, 1852 and died in 1938. She was also in the Civil War zone. The enemy took over their house, made her cook for them and when they left they took their barrels of flour and molasses and cut open their feather beds and let the feathers fly. She later married Bill Parker.

Her uncle, G.A. Crossen, had come to Texas earlier for a land grant. He had written such glowing things about Texas, that he sent for his sister, Martha Jeffery and her children, Mary Clay and Marion. They boarded a boat on the Mississippi River, came to New Orleans, Louisiana and on to Old Indianola and from there to Crossenville by ox cart. Her uncle had a store and a school at Crossenville.

Bill Parker and Mary Clay Jeffery were married Nov. 1876. To this union were born six children: 1) Edward, 2) Champ, 3) Harriet, 4) Anna, 5) Dicy and 6) Mary Agnes. All are buried at the Alexander Cemetery except Mary Agnes who is buried in Houston and Anna is buried at Burns' Station Cemetery in DeWitt County. After Bill and Mary were married they settled on a homestead in the Chicolete Community. They built a log cabin which had a fireplace where they cooked. Having no bedstead, they made shuck and feather mattresses placed on saplings laced together with rope.

Suda, 1906-1981, eldest daughter of Dicy Jennings, has a daughter Alva Sue Bridge, who resides in Louisville, Kentucky. Sue married Sam Bridge and they have a son, John.

Lee and Mary Ann have celebrated their 25th, 50th and, the Lord willing, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in 1990.

by Mrs. Lee C. Benbow

BENNET, MILES DUDLEY AND BEULAH BELL BLACKWELL

F48

Miles Dudley Bennet

Beulah Bell (Blackwell) Bennet

1938, Beulah (Bennet) McDougal

Dudley and Beulah Bennet lived their entire lives in DeWitt County. Their parents were Texas pioneers who had the urge and the will to gain freedom against great odds and to enjoy the blessings of individual liberty.

Dudley Bennet, born December 31, 1864, was the son of Miles Squier and Bathsheba Gipson Bennet. (See Miles and Bathsheba Bennet story.) He was born in Gonzales where his mother and siblings were residing during the Civil War, as his father was away with the Confederate forces at Galveston. Dudley was reared at Valentinook, the name of the family ranch which was granted to his grandfather, Valentine Bennet, by the Empresario Green DeWitt in 1831. Valentinook is located ten miles from Cuero up the Guadalupe River, and was inherited by Miles S. Bennet from his father. When Miles died in 1903, he left Dudley all but two hundred acres of the ranch, and later Dudley acquired the remaining acreage. Today the Bennet Ranch, Valentinook, is owned by Dudley's descendants.

Dudley was educated at the Nash Academy in Cuero, and later he started his own ranching business. He held the position of "cattle buyer" with the Houston Packing Company of Houston, Texas, for thirty five years. He traveled by railroad to the important ranches in south Texas to purchase cattle. In 1912, Dudley was installed as Ruling Elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Cuero, which was the outgrowth of the Live Oak Church that his mother and father had helped organize in 1849. In 1927, he represented the local Presbytery at the meeting of the General Assembly held in El Dorado, Arkansas. This was seventy-five years after Miles Squier had attended General Assembly in 1852 at Charleston, South Carolina. So it came to pass, that father and son for four score and six years served the Presbyterian Church and Presbytery most efficiently and devotedly as Ruling Elders.

On February 8, 1911, Dudley Bennet married Beulah Bell Blackwell. His brother, Valentine, had married Zorah Blackwell earlier. Thus, two Bennet brothers married two Blackwell sisters, which was not unusual at this time. Beulah Blackwell, born February 8, 1876, was the youngest child of John Harland and Sarah Allison Baker Blackwell. (See John Harland Blackwell and James McCulloch Baker stories.) Prior to her marriage, Beulah lived with her father at their family home near Hochheim. She attended Concrete College and later Cornell Institute in San Marcos.

Beulah and Dudley's courtship lasted fifteen years before they were married at her family home near Hochheim in 1911. They moved to Cuero in 1912, where they participated in church and civic activities. He had the honor of being selected the "Grand Marshall" of the first Turkey Trot parade in 1912. In 1924, Dudley built a two story, brick home for Beulah, and today it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Bennets were married thirty-one years before their deaths in Cuero. Dudley died May 3, 1942, and Beulah died November 13, 1950. Both funeral services were held from the home that they loved.

The Dudley Bennets had two daughters, Sarah Claire and Beulah Margaret.

Sarah Claire was born in Cuero July 21, 1914. She attended Gulf Park College in Gulfport, Mississippi and the University of Texas in Austin. She married Arlton George Hermann, Jr. in 1935, and they lived in Yoakum. They had one son, Arthur George Hermann, III, who was born October 22, 1943. Claire developed a serious heart condition, and died in Yoakum February 19, 1954, at the age of thirty-nine. She was buried in Cuero Hillside Cemetery.

Arthur George Hermann, III graduated from St. Edwards University in Austin. He married Janis Rohan, daughter of A.J. and Fay Rohan in Yoakum. She graduated from Southwest Texas State University, and taught in elementary school a few years before she married. Today she serves as Treasurer of St. Joseph Catholic School P.L.C., and is a counselor for the Juniorettes. Arthur is a Director and Chairman of the Board of the First State Bank of Yoakum. He is a member of the Economic Development Board and the Finance Committee of St. Joseph Church. He is a board member of Yoakum Community Hospital. The Hermanns have two children: Claire Christine, born March 8, 1978, and Clay Bennet, born May 12, 1983.

Beulah Margaret Bennet was born in Cuero, May 31, 1918. She graduated from Gulf Park College in Gulfport, Mississippi in 1937 and the University of Texas in 1939, where she was a member of Delta, Delta, Delta sorority. In 1938, Beulah was selected to be Sultana Oreuc of the Cuero Turkey Trot. Dr. James E. Pridgen was selected to be the Sultan Yekrut. She is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church as were her father and grandfather. Beulah is a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. In 1940, Beulah married Fain McDougal, and two sons, Fain, Jr. and Dudley Bennet were born to this union. (See Fain McDougal story.)

by Beulah Bennet McDougal

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

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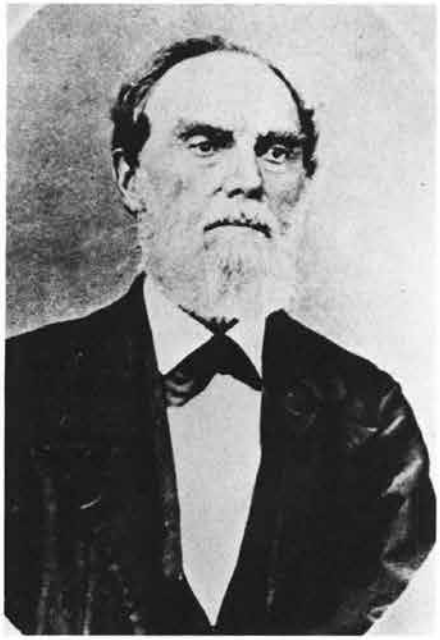
Practice in all the Courts.

Cuero, Texas.

BENNET, MILES SQUIER

F49



Miles Squier Bennet

Bathsheba (Gipson) Bennet

Miles Squier Bennet came to Texas with his father Major Valentine Bennet in 1838, when he was twenty years old. Upon their arrival in Galveston, they were greeted by the famous Captain Moseley Baker with these words, "Well, Major, I see that you have brought another rifle for Texas." This was a time in Texas when rifles really counted. In the coming years, Miles was to fight Indians, take part in the Battle of Cibolo, the Woll campaign, Battle of Salado, and in the Somerville campaign. These campaigns took place in 1842, when Texas was a republic. Later he served as a Confederate soldier fighting against his own Yankee "kith and kin."

Miles was born December 14, 1818, in Buf-

falo, New York. He came of the same racial strain as the Austins, who were well known to his parents, all being New Englanders. His parents were Valentine and Mary Kibbe Bennet. In 1820, Miles and his twin sisters, Sarah Jane and Mary Jane, migrated with their parents, Valentine and Mary, and their grandfather, Gaius Kibbe, to Attakapas, Louisiana. A large number of Gaius Kibbe's sons, daughters, and grandchildren went with him to this new country. Miles' mother and little sister, Mary Jane, died October 14, 1821, soon after the Kibbes reached Louisiana. Valentine took young Miles and Sarah Jane to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they spent most of their childhood with relatives. Valentine migrated to Texas to seek a home in the new land of his old friend, Stephen F. Austin. He had been in Texas a short time when the Texas Revolution began. Miles joined his father after the Texas Revolution was over and served with him in many of the campaigns that followed in 1842.

In that same year, Valentine and Miles went to Cincinnati, Ohio. They brought Miles' sister, Sarah Jane, to Gonzales, Texas. Here she met and married Thomas J. Pilgrim, who historians say established the first Sunday School in Texas.

Miles married Bathsheba Gipson February 20, 1845, in Montgomery County in the home of her parents, James and Sarah Gipson. The Gipsons came to Texas from Kentucky in 1839, and made many contributions to the early days in Texas. Soon after their marriage, Miles brought Bathsheba to the log cabin he had built at Valentinook on the Guadalupe River. Valentinook is the name of the land that Valentine acquired from Green DeWitt when he joined his colony in 1831. Miles and Bathsheba lived at Valentinook their entire married life of fifty-eight years. To this union, the following eight children were born: Sarah Kibbe, Mary Gipson, Samuel Davis, Anna, Valentine, Arabella, Robert Mills, and Miles Dudley.

It was not long after Texas won her independence and became a Republic and later a state, that a group of pioneer Christians gathered under a live oak tree on the plantation of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Peebles. The Peebles plantation on the west bank of the Guadalupe River was very near the home of Miles and Bathsheba. On July 8, 1849, the Live Oak Church was organized, and Miles and Bathsheba were charter members. James Norman Smith and Miles Squier Bennet were elected the first elders of this church, which was later to become the Cuero Presbyterian Church. Samuel Davis Bennet, the three month old baby son of Miles and Bathsheba, was the first child baptized in the Live Oak Church. In 1851, the Presbytery was organized at Victoria, and Miles was present as a charter member. He served the Presbyterian Church in DeWitt County faithfully for fifty-four years. He and his only surviving son, Miles Dudley Bennet, served the church and Presbytery devotedly as ruling elders.

Miles kept a "journal" which has valuable historic information on the pioneer days of Texas, beginning in 1838. He also wrote his memoirs of important people and events of DeWitt County for the following newspapers, *The Cuero Star* and *The Gonzales Inquirer*. The journal is a most respected and prized possession of his granddaughter, Beulah Bennet McDougal.

Bathsheba died at the home of her daughter, Mary, in Houston, June 3, 1901. Miles died at his beloved Valentinook May 3, 1903. Both are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

Wolls Campaign, Battle at Salado, Battle of Galveston

50 years Ruling Elder in Presbyterian Church

DeWitt County Soldier, Patriot, Christian

He served his country and his God faithfully.

by Beulah Bennet McDougal

BENNET, SAMUEL D. AND JOSEPHINE (McRAE)

F50

Samuel Davis Bennet (1849-1913), partner in Bennet Brothers, Cattle Buyers, DeWitt County. Went up Chisholm Trail twice with own herd.

Samuel Davis Bennet (called Sam) was born on 17 March 1849, the eldest son of Miles S. and Bathsheba (Gipson) Bennet of Valentinook, DeWitt County. He was the first baby to be baptized at the Live Oak Presbyterian Church when it was organized at the Peebles Ranch in 1849, and he also was one of the first students to attend Concrete College when it was founded in 1865. He graduated in 1869 and became engaged in the freight business, hauling merchants' goods in an ox-drawn wagon from the port at Indianola to San Antonio. On the way back, he would stop at his father's farm-ranch on the Guadalupe to load barrels of honey, beeswax and butter for market at Indianola. During the spring rains, it would require weeks to make the round trip, the muddy roads slowing the oxen used to draw the heavy wagons.

After the first year, Sam gave up merchandising and entered the cattle business, buying, selling and dealing in cattle over South Texas. He also filed his own cattle mark in the DeWitt County Brand Book. In 1879, Sam and his brothers, Robert and Valentine II (called Vol) formed Bennet Brothers Cattle Buyers with offices in the new village of Cuero which was growing up beside the recently arrived railroad track being built from the coast to San Antonio. On one of his cattle buying trips, Sam met Josephine Alice McRae of Lamar. They were married on 4 April 1883.

Josephine A. McRae (called Josie) was born on 2 October 1862, the eldest of nine daughters of Murdoch W. and Mary Ellen (Heard) McRae of Lamar, Aransas County, Texas. Her grandfather, Archibald McRae (1792-1851) brought his family to Texas from Florida in 1838 and was the second settler at Lamar on Arkansas Bay. He was the son of Colin McRae, who had emigrated from Kintail, Ross-shire, Scotland to North Carolina in 1774. Archibald McRae owned the three-masted schooner, the *Belle of Lamar*, and engaged in the coastal trade. This ship was sunk by Yankee shells when Lamar was raided by Union forces in February, 1862.

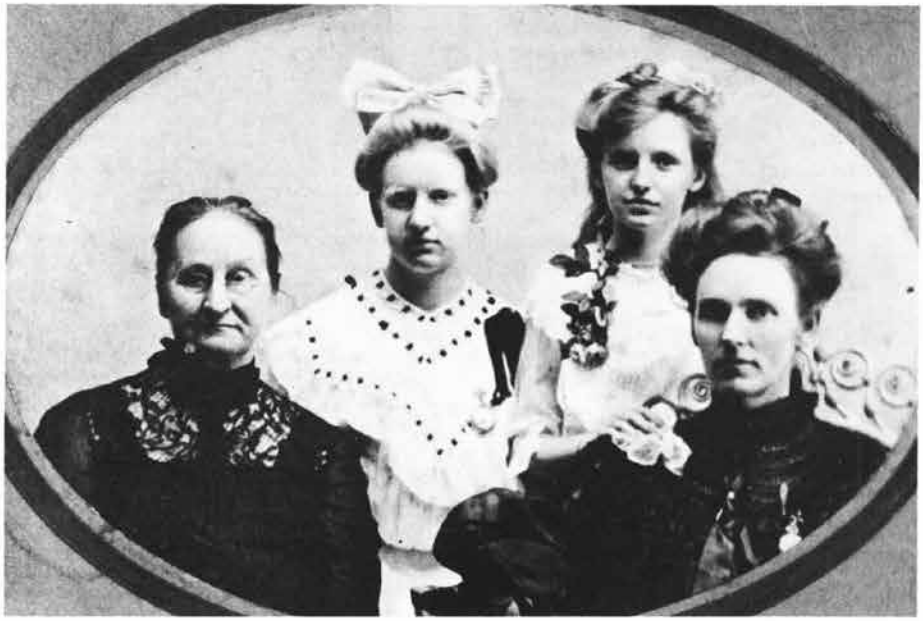
Archibald's son, Murdoch McRae (1832-1889), Josie's father, enlisted in May, 1862 in Maj. Alfred Hobby's Regiment (later part of the 8th Texas Infantry), but because of his sailing knowledge, he was detached to become the captain of a Confederate supply ship plying between Bolivar's Point and Galveston. After the war, Murdoch established a ship yard on the McRae homestead premises at Lamar, hired employees, and under contract with the U.S. Government built sailing vessels to be used by customs officials. There was no Protestant church at Lamar, and it was in the McRae home in 1869 that the Lamar Presbyterian Church was organized. Murdoch was elected the first Elder and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Josie and Sam were married in the McRae home, after which he took his bride to Valentinook to live. When the rolls of Live Oak and Concrete churches were merged to form the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero on 5 May 1883, Sam, as a member of the Concrete church, became a charter member. Josie later transferred her membership from the Lamar church.

In April, 1884, Bennet Brothers Cattle Buyers gathered a herd for themselves and Sam and Vol took it up the Chisholm Trail to Dodge City on the drive headed by John Wofford. Arthur Burns was the Trail Boss. When they returned, Sam kept two mementos which are still in the family: an iron bean pot from the chuck wagon and a set of cowbells worn by his cattle. Sam made a second trip up the trail the next year, and his participation in the drives makes his descendants eligible for membership in the Old Chisholm Trail Drivers Association.

Sam and Josie moved to the Phillips Ranch at Nursery in 1884 to manage it for his widowed sister, Mrs. Mary (Bennet) Phillips of Victoria (later Mrs. Max Urwitz of Houston). A neighbor, Gilbert Onderdon, owner of the celebrated Mission Valley Nurseries and pioneer botanist, furnished Josie with trees and shrubs to plant around her new home, and Sam developed the place into a model farm-ranch. It was called a show place by Carey Pilgrim, Editor of the Gonzales *Inquirer*.

The Bennets lived at Nursery until 1877 when Sam became ill and they returned to Valentinook until he recovered. He then went back into the cattle business. An item in the *Cuero Record* in 1895 stated, "A big cattle deal was consummated in Cuero yesterday wherein Bennet Brothers closed out their stock of steers of some five thousand at a good price. The buyers were Kennerly and Pumphrey of Fort Worth and Green and Flato of Shiner."



Three generations L-R Mrs. Murdoch McRae (Mary Ann Heard), Mary (McRae) Bennet, Nelle Bennet and Mrs. Sam Bennett (Josephine McRae), ca. 1900.

In 1897, Sam bought a ranch on the Guadalupe River in the old Hunt league which adjoined Valentinook. He built a home Josie named Oak Hill, and they resided there until 1904 when they moved into Cuero so that their daughters could attend Nash's Academy. Sam died in Cuero in 1913, and Josie died there in 1950. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Mrs. Josephine (McRae) Bennet was a member of Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, U.S. Daughters of 1812, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and Daughters of the Confederacy. She was active in the Cuero Presbyterian Church for over fifty years. She and Sam were the parents of five children, but three died in infancy. The survivors were Mary McRae (called Rae) Bennet (1880-1970) and Nelle B. Bennet (1892-1986) who married in 1917 Ernest Barnaba Meynard (1890-1978) of Charenton, La. Mr. Meynard was agent in Cuero for the Southern Pacific Railroad for 48 years, from 1911 until his retirement in 1955. Their story is given separately.

by Ernest Bennet Meynard

BENNET, VALENTINE

F51

It is indeed a cherished privilege to write the historical life story and accomplishments of my great grandfather, Valentine Bennet. He came to Texas in 1825 and became a colonizer with the Empresario Green DeWitt in 1831 when Texas was still a province of Mexico. As a soldier and patriot, he fought for Texas independence and was dedicated to the preservation of freedom and individual liberty which is truly our Texas heritage.

Valentine, born in Massachusetts in 1780, was a Puritan by birth and education. As a youth, he became a soldier in the War of 1812. He fought in the battle of Lundy's Lane in 1814, and was promoted on the battlefield for gallantry. He married Mary Kibbe October 7, 1817, in Buffalo, New York. Mary Kibbe was the daughter of Gaius and Mary (Polly) Pease of Enfield, Connecticut.

To Valentine and Mary were born twin daughters, Sarah Jane and Mary Jane, and one son, Miles Squier. Gaius Kibbe, Mary's father, secured a grant of land in Attakapos, Louisiana in 1820, and induced his large family of sons, daughters, and grandchildren to accompany him to that new country in St. Mary Parish. Their journey to Louisiana was very difficult, and acclimating fever attacked them and many died. Mary Kibbe Bennet and one of the twin daughters, Mary Jane, died October 4, 1821. The Kibbes, the Dudleys, and the Bennet families came from the survivors of this expedition.

Valentine moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he left Miles and Sarah Jane with relatives and went to the new land of Texas, where he settled at Velasco in 1825. He joined the Empresario Green DeWitt's colony in Gonzales in 1831, when he was granted land that still is owned by his descendants. In 1832, he took a leading part in the battle of Velasco and was severely wounded in the face and hip. On October 2, 1835, Valentine was one of the eighteen men who fought to defend the cannon at Gonzales in the "Come and Take It" battle, known as the Lexington of Texas.

When the Gonzales militia was organized, Bennet was elected lieutenant and from that time on was in the thick of the Texas Revolution. He participated in the battle of Concepcion and the siege of Bexar in December, 1835. He held the rank of assistant quartermaster and received honorable mention from General Edward Burleson for efficiency in keeping the army well supplied. Later, as quartermaster of the Texas Army, he was kept busy supplying beef for Sam Houston's increasing forces as he retreated from Gonzales to the battlegrounds of San Jacinto. After the battle of San Jacinto, Bennet remained with the Texas Army and, early in 1838, after a three-month furlough, brought his son, Miles S. Bennet, back to Texas with him. On December 25, 1838, he brought his daughter, Sarah, to live in his home in Gonzales.

In 1841, Bennet was commissioned a major in the quartermaster's department of the Texas Army and was sent on the Texas Santa Fe Expedition. Among the other Santa Fe prisoners he suffered many indignities and cruelties at the hands of his Mexican guards. In August, 1842, the prisoners were released, and Bennet returned to Texas. He reentered the Texas Army when General Adrian Woll invaded Texas and subsequently engaged in the Somervell Expedition.

A short time before his death he was called before a group of officials who were arguing about what was the official uniform of the Texas Revolution. The question was asked, "Major Bennet, you have probably seen more different commands of the Texas Army and have known them under more different circumstances than any other man in Texas, what was the official uniform of the soldiers of the Texas Revolution?" Bennet's reply was, "Rags, sir, just rags; nine out of every ten soldiers who fought in the Texas Revolution wore this same uniform, and sir, it was a fighting uniform."

Valentine died at his home in Gonzales July 23, 1843, and his son, Miles Squier, erected a beautiful monument to mark his grave in the cemetery at Gonzales.

Major Bennet is duly honored and well remembered for his military service for Texas Independence as found in Texas State Archives, University of Texas, Austin.

by Beulah Bennet McDougal

BENNET, VALENTINE AND ZORAH

F52

Valentine Bennet II, ("Vol"): was born in 1856 at "Valentinook," the Bennet Ranch, in DeWitt County, Texas. Son of Capt. Miles Squier Bennet and Bathsheba (Gipson) Bennet, he was named in honor of his grandfather, Texas Revolutionary hero Major Valentine Bennet, who participated in firing the First Shot for Texas Independence at Gonzales, Oct. 2, 1835, and who was Quartermaster of the Texas Army on its march from Gonzales to San Jacinto.

Valentine Bennet, II, was reared at "Valentinook," and after completing his education, became extensively involved in the Bennet Brothers Cattle Company with his brothers and family. Locating later near Hochheim, in DeWitt County, Mr. Bennet was a leading stockman and highly respected citizen of the area, engaged in cattle raising and agriculture. Some of the most memorable experiences of his life were his trips up the "Old Chisholm Trail" from DeWitt County to Kansas City, while driving cattle with his brothers, representing the family enterprise.

Mr. Bennet is remembered with admiration as a gentleman of the greatest integrity, highest moral principles, and steadfast courage in the face of adversity. He was a member of the Order of the Maccabees, and a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1894, Valentine Bennet married Miss Zorah Harland Blackwell, daughter of Col. John Dunn Harland Blackwell and Sarah Alison (Baker) Blackwell. Born in 1866, Zorah was named in honor of her father, Col. Blackwell, who was an early pioneer settler of DeWitt County in the Concrete-Hochheim area, a prominent planter, and veteran of the Confed-

erate States of America. She was the granddaughter of Judge James McCulloch Baker, who, as Chief Justice of Gonzales County, inaugurated the first county officials of DeWitt County, 1846, and was elected the First Probate Judge of DeWitt County, July 13, 1846. Judge Baker, with his friend James Norman Smith, established the first Presbyterian (and also Protestant) Church in DeWitt County in June, 1841, in the Upper Cuero Creek Settlement.

Zorah was a talented and accomplished young lady, especially interested in religion, history, and music. A gracious hostess to friends, family, and community, she is remembered for her social and religious leadership, and for her compassionate and understanding heart. She was a graduate of the Chautauqua Curriculum, having received the highest marks in her studies. She was a devout, lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, and an early member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She was the sister of Dr. Finley Dunn Blackwell, M.D., of Hochheim, a prominent DeWitt Co. physician, and the sister of Beulah (Blackwell) Bennet of Cuero, wife of Miles Dudley Bennet, her husband's brother.

Zorah and Valentine Bennet had three children: (1) Joel Blackwell Bennet, born 1896 at Valentinook, a graduate of Texas A&M, and Capt. of his Company in his senior year. A planter and stockman in Bastrop, La., he married Ora V. Timm, of Hochheim, and had two daughters: (1) Fay Maecile Bennet, married Mayor Robert Hamilton Walker, of Gonzales, Tx.; (2) Rosemary Bennet, married John William Waters, of Alexandria, La. one son: John Bennet Waters. He married Madelyn Ringgold, and has three children, Bennet, Michael, and Elizabeth.

(2) Lucile Bennet, born 8-18-1898, in the Blackwell Plantation Home, DeWitt Co., grad. SWTSTC, U. of Mexico, U. Colorado; a teacher in the schools of DeWitt Co., and at Yoakum, for many years. She married (6-16-1930, Bastrop, La.) Ross Boothe, a leading citizen of Gonzales, Tx. She was active in religious, historical, civic, and community affairs; President, Gonzales Chapter, D.R.T.; Chairman, Gonzales Co. Historical Survey Committee; member D.A.R., Magna Carta, and Colonial Dames. Died Nov. 22, 1988. They have one son: Ross Boothe, Jr., of Gonzales and Houston, born 10-14-1940.

(3) Valentine Bennet, III, born 1900, in Cuero; grad. Texas A&M; member of the "Ross Volunteers." A cattleman and planter in DeWitt Co. and in Mississippi; married Dorothy Sarah Seabrook, no children. Later resided in Gonzales, Tx., where he was an enthusiastic A&M Alumni, and a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

by Ross Boothe, Jr. and Fay Bennet Walker

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BERGER, ERNST CHRISTIAN AND ERNA REGINA (RAAK)

F53

Ernst Christian Berger, Sr. was born to Matthis and Annie Singer Berger on Nov. 9, 1912 in Victoria County, in Schroeder, Texas. Ernst attended grade school and St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Schroeder. Ernst farmed and ranched and helped his mother after his father's death. Then he met Erna Regina Marie Raak, born September 7, 1914, daughter of George and Annie Meissner Raak. Erna attended grade school in Green DeWitt and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. She and Ernst Christian Berger were married November 16, 1938 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Erna kept her part of the Raak estate. Ernst and Erna ranched and farmed until the draft board called Ernst for military service during World War II. He served in the European theater during the War.

To this union three children were born. Ernst Christian Berger, Jr. was born September 7, 1940 and married Nedra Brennaman who was born Feb. 6, 1946. They were married in St. Mark's Lutheran Church August 14, 1971. She was a nurse. Their three children are Shena Marie Berger born December 30, 1973, Naomi Kate Berger born April 10, 1975, and Nathan Todd Berger born November 25, 1979.

Darryl James Berger was born October 18, 1942 and married Donna Strain in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero on January 8, 1966. She was born July 8, 1943. To this union three children were born and one grandchild. They are Deborah Ann Berger born September 1, 1966, Deanna Kay Berger born February 1, 1969 and Darryl James, Jr. born May 9, 1974. The grandchild, Kristin Kay Berger, was born Nov. 12, 1984.

Opal Doreen Berger was born September 15, 1948 and married Douglas Mueller in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero on December 29, 1968. He was born July 2, 1943. Their children are Wendy Gay Mueller born July 7, 1969 and Julie Mae Mueller born February 10, 1973. Opal Doreen later married Billie Joe Drehr February 17, 1980 in Victoria. He was born August 14, 1933. They have one child, Emit Ernst who was born October 17, 1982.

by Emilie Bethke

BETHKE, ALLEN AND HELEN (PINN)

F54

Allen Ray Bethke was born September 16, 1935 in DeWitt County, on South River Road, Cuero, son of George W. and Emilie Raak Bethke. He attended Green DeWitt grade school and Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and later transferred to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Allen attended Cuero High School and graduated in 1954. His father died January 19, 1954. While in high school in Cuero he majored in FFA and showed some fine animals in Cuero and Houston. After graduation he worked on the farm and also served in the National Guard in Cuero. Then from the farm he took a job at Jess Ward Hatcheries on Esplanade Street. When the business closed he found work at a dairy at Nursery, Texas. One day at the Dairy Queen he was introduced to Helen Bernice Pinn.

Helen Bernice Pinn was the daughter of Ben Frank and Gladys Dora Zumwalt Pinn and was born in Gonzales August 21, 1941. When Helen was six years of age the family moved to Cuero. Here Helen attended all Cuero schools and graduated. She then worked as a clerk at Perry Brothers. Helen and Allen's friendship extended into marriage on October 26, 1958 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Helen put her full time into housekeeping and taking care of their children. When the children were of school age, Helen worked as an Avon Representative. Allen worked for Safety Steel in Victoria and Union Carbide in Seadrift to support his family. Allen and Helen live near Victoria on part of the family property.

To this union two sons were born. Allen Ray Bethke, Jr. was born March 7, 1964 and is a diesel mechanic. He married Elise Barnabei November 21, 1987 in St. Mary's in Victoria. She was born August 6, 1966 and works in an office. Steven Carl Bethke was born August 10, 1966 and is a machinist. He married Sharon Wacker, a student, June 17, 1989 in Zion Lutheran Church in Mission Valley. She was born January 23, 1971.

by Emilie Bethke

BETHKE, GEORGE AND EMILIE (RAAK)

F55

Erna (Raak) Berger, Emilie (Raak) Bethke and Georgia (Raak) Buehrig.

George Wilhelm Bethke was born February 4, 1903 to Wilhelm and Emma Kerlick Bethke in Yorktown, Texas. At the age of four, George, with his parents, moved to Ander, Goliad County. George was the oldest of thirteen children. He attended Albrecht grade school and St. Peters Lutheran Church in Ander, Texas. He helped on the farm. George was eighteen years of age when his father died. Then George was the total support and provider for the family. When time permitted he worked for neighbors and relatives in field work, animal slaughtering for home use, wood cutting, ranching and truck driving for a country store.

Emilie Karoline Raak was born November 7, 1905 to George August and Annie Pauline Meissner Raak in DeWitt County, South River Road, Cuero. She attended sewing classes in Victoria for three months. At home she did field work and house cleaning. She learned to cook very well and cooked for other people which extended all the way to Ander. Here she met

George Bethke. When the cotton season ended so did the cooking but not the friendship with George Bethke. It continued into marriage on December 28, 1927. Emilie and George lived in Ander for five years and then moved to the Green DeWitt Community. George farmed and ranched on Emilie's portion of the Raak estate. They also raised chickens and turkeys commercially. Then on January 19, 1954 George died. Emilie stayed on the farm until the children were out of school and then moved to Cuero. In Cuero Emilie worked as an Avon Representative until retirement.

To this union three children were born. Barbara Ann Bethke was born August 17, 1931. She married Wilburn Stall. Allen Ray Bethke was born September 16, 1935 and married Helen Pinn. Imogene Grace Bethke was born March 18, 1944. She married Antone Kortz. Their stories are given separately.

by Emilie Bethke

BETTGE, CHESTER FAMILY

F56

Chester H. Bettge family. Back: Chester, Art S. Meadows, Richard F., Catherine (Motal) Bettge. Front: Ruth (Duderstadt) Bettge, Hazel (Bettge) Meadows, Ryan Meadows, Angie Bettge and Lisa Bettge.

Chester and Ruth Bettge

Chester H. Bettge was born August 22, 1920 in Redwood near San Marcos, TX, the fourth son of Fred and Anna Schubert Bettge. Since his parents were farmers, he helped work the fields to grow cotton, corn, and hay.

During World War II, Chester enlisted in the Air Force, serving our country from October 1942 until November 1945, eighteen months in England.

On July 22, 1945 he married Ruth Justine Duderstadt, the daughter of Richard W. Duderstadt and Frieda nee Hartman. Ruth, born Dec. 31, 1923, attended Meyersville Public School on horseback, and graduated from Cuero High School in 1941. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Hazel L. "Joy" and Richard Fred.

Chester managed the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store in Gonzales for a year until they became owners of the Albert and Caroline Duderstadt place and home, a Texas Classic, built in 1880 near Upper Meyersville Coleto Creek where they have implemented a modern grazing system to raise their Beefmaster cattle. Six generations have lived on this land with the original family cattle brand, 6D, still in use. They received the Land Heritage Award for a century or more of continuous ownership of the land by the family since 1855 in the N.J. Ryan League. From 1959 to 1979 dairying was their main source of income as they maintained a herd of Holstein cows, selling milk to the Borden Company and to A.M.P.I. This was a family affair as each person had chores to do.

Hazel graduated from Meyersville Public School, Cuero High School and Texas Lutheran College. She is an Art Designer and creator of handcrafted gifts and decorative accessories in Austin, is married to Arthur Sembera Meadows, a University of Texas graduate, and co-owner of "Natures Joy." They have a son, Ryan Conrad.

Richard graduated from Meyersville Public School, Cuero High School and Texas A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He is an Area Civil Engineer for USDA's Soil Conservation Service. His wife Catherine M. Motal, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, and is a teacher in the Meyersville Independent School District. They built a new home and reside with their daughters Lisa Renee and Angie Denise on the old home place.

Over the years Chester was active in church and community work. He was elected to serve on the Meyersville and De Witt County School Boards for 18 years and was chairman for 9 years. He taught Sunday School many years, was elected president of the Yorktown Teachers Federation, was active in Brotherhood, and served on the St. John Lutheran Church Council as secretary, president, and elder. For 8 years he was on the Southern District Council of the American Lutheran Church, served as budget committee chairman, and was a member of the Executive Committee for four years. Locally he served as Adult 4-H Leader, Farm Bureau president, first secretary and treasurer of the Meyersville Fire Department, director on Cuero Chamber of Commerce, member of the Cuero Community Hospital planning board, and a director of the Cuero Community Hospital.

Ruth is active in church and community projects, serving as ALCW president, vice-president, and secretary for stewardship. She taught Sunday School thirteen years and served as Junior Lutheran Leader and/or teacher for twenty years. She is active in the Altar Guild, choir, Sermon Tape Ministry, Prayer Chain, Evangelism Visitation Committee, and The Old Stone Church Historical Committee. She found great enjoyment in serving fifteen years as Adult 4-H clothing leader and receiving the first 4-H Alumni Award in De Witt County. Other community responsibilities include Cancer Crusade Chairman and Meyersville School Club president and treasurer. Her hobbies are sewing, quilting, flower gardening, enjoying nature, and swimming with her grandchildren.

During the 44 years of their marriage, Chester and Ruth have put their faith and trust in Christ, their Head. The Bible verse Psalm 118 verse 24 "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it," has been their joy.

by Ruth D. Bettge

BIALEK, ADOLPH D. AND ALBINA FAMILY

F57

Adolph D. Bialek was born in Edna, Texas, on June 10, 1869, the son of Frank (b. September 4, 1825, d. September 7, 1893) and Mary M. Bialek (b. July, 1833, d. December 7, 1908). In June, 1907, he married Albina Shulak (b. April 10, 1879), the daughter of Joe (b. January 19,

1838, d. October 1, 1910) and Rosie Shulak (b. 1843, d. August 12, 1927), of Shiner, Texas. The Bialeks were Jackson County farmers, having originally owned the tract of land where the City of Edna now stands. The Shulaks were large cotton farmers in Lavaca County, at one time farming as much as 1500 acres. Their grandchildren remember that they kept two white horses used only for pulling their buggy to Sunday Mass in Shiner.

Adolph and Albina purchased land and settled at Stratton. In 1918 they sold this property and bought part of the present ranch on the Victoria Prairie. Adolph died April 28, 1926, leaving his widow with a houseful of young children. In 1935 his widow bought adjoining property from Mr. Otto F. Hartman.

In their nineteen years of marriage the Bialeks had eight children: Twins Ida Pesek and Eva Najvar, Maggie Huehlefeld, Frank J. Bialek, Joe E. Bialek, Rosemary Berger, Carrie Bialek, and Adolph Bialek. The older children first attended school at Stratton and then at Fordtran. They drove to the Fordtran school in a buggy with a two-horse team. Later the younger children attended school in Thomaston. Ida and Maggie moved to Cuero where they took an apartment in Mr. Graham's house across from St. Michael's Catholic Church and went to work in Czerny's clothing factory upstairs over Flick's at Esplanade and Church. In 1929 the widow Bialek bought a house next to Burns Hospital in Cuero and the younger children completed school at St. Michael's School.

Both Frank and Joe saw service in the U.S. Army during the Second World War, Frank as a TEC 4 in the 429th Field Artillery and Joe as an Army Sergeant. Mrs. Bialek died in 1948 and thereafter Ida Pesek, by then a widow, Joe Bialek, and Carrie Bialek acquired the ranch and made their home there. During Joe's lifetime they raised registered Brahman cattle, having acquired their original stock some fifty years ago from the Hudgeons Ranch. In 1977 the three of them received the Resident Ranchers Conservation award from the DeWitt County S.W.C. District. Through the years the Bialek ranch home has served as a gathering place and family headquarters for the large family as well as for numerous friends who have enjoyed the hospitality of the Bialek Ranch. Frank J. Bialek died September 6, 1952, and Joe E. Bialek died August 1, 1983. Since Joe's death Miss Ida and Miss Carrie have carried on the ranch alone. They recently sold most of their herd and leased the ranch for pasture but they still keep a few cows and maintain a large garden.

by Frank B. Shepard

BISSETT, LODOWICK AND MOURNING

F58

Lodowick Bissett was born in Nash County, North Carolina May 8, 1807. His father was probably Lodrick Bissett who on the 1810 Census of Nash County had a son and a daughter under ten years of age. This Lodrick died in 1815.

Grandfather of our DeWitt County Lodowick Bissett was David Bissett who was born in Germany about 1749. The Bissett family settled in Nash County about 1786. David Bissett's will was probated in 1805 and his property was divided between his sons Lodrick, John David and Joseph.

Daughters of Lodowick and Mourning Bissett – Standing – Mary Jane Thomas, Lelia Bissett, Emily Butler. Front: Aquilla B. Burwell, Amanda Granberry, Barzilla Granberry.

Little is known about Lodowick's early years. It is supposed that after the death of Lodrick, Sr., the children went to live with the family of Joseph Bissett.

By the late 1820's Lodowick had left the Nash County area with the Henry Williams family. The marriage record of Lodowick Bissett and Mourning Williams, daughter of Henry and Mary Williams, was found in Greene County, Alabama, dated December 15, 1829.

The Williams and Bissett family continued their move southwest in search of land. From Greene County, Alabama they moved to Pickens County, Alabama and later on to Mississippi. By 1862 the Lodowick Bissett family had moved to Jackson County, Texas carrying everything in three ox wagons.

From Jackson County, the Bissetts moved to DeWitt County. Lodowick received a patent for 160 acres, on the headwaters of Chicolete Creek, from the State of Texas in June of 1871. Lodowick died June 17, 1883 and is buried in the Hebron Cemetery.

After the death of Lodowick, Mourning Bissett and her family sold the land that the Bissett family owned in DeWitt County. Most of the family moved to Skidmoore and Blanconia in Bee County. Mourning died September 29, 1905 and is buried in Blanconia in the Williams Family Cemetery on the Williams Ranch.

Lodowick and Mourning Bissett had twelve children. (1) Lancelot L. Bissett, born November 13, 1830. (2) Barzilla Bissett, born May 7, 1832. In 1866 Barzilla married Jasper Granberry, son of Amos Granberry of DeWitt County. (3) James Lee Bissett, born March 30, 1834. (4) Celety Ann Bissett, born July 26, 1835. (5) Amanda Bissett, born October 20, 1837. Amanda married Amos Granberry, son of Jasper Granberry. (6) Aquilla Bissett, born April 29, 1839. Aquilla married Jim Burwell. (7) Emily Bissett, born February 20, 1841. Emily married John Butler. (8) John Henderson Bissett, born May 24, 1843. John married Martha Francis Smith. (9) Christopher Chase Bissett, born March 29, 1845. (10) Lelia A. Bissett, born May 9, 1847. (11) Henry Hines Bissett, born February 16, 1850. Henry Hines Bissett married Annie Amelia Granberry, daughter of Jasper Granberry. (12) Mary Jane Bissett, born June 12, 1852.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

BITTERLY, CHARLES AND JULIA BRADEN

F59

Julia (Braden) and Charles Bitterly 1945

Charles Berthold Bitterly was born August 27, 1894 to William Bitterly and Leone Golly, near Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. Julia Margaret Braden was born January 5, 1895 to George Braden and Cecilia Weigelt near Hochheim, DeWitt County, Texas. The two had childhoods much alike, being second generation Texans; he born to Alsatian parents and she to German parents. Both families were Catholic, reared the children on a farm and taught them early in their life the benefits of frugality, perseverance, hard work and faith.

Charles Bitterly and Julia Braden were married November 23, 1920 at St. Ann's Catholic Church near Hochheim. They bought land from William Bitterly near Arneckeville, built an house and bought cattle. This venture was unprofitable because of drought, little or no crop and poor cattle prices. Charlie's father took the land back, bought the remaining cattle and Charlie and Julia moved to Hochheim to live on land owned by Julia's father, George Braden. Here they spent the rest of their life.

The first two children, Charles (1922) and John (1924) were born while Charlie and Julia lived near Arneckeville. The next two children, Lucille (1926) and Donald (1928) were born at Hochheim.

Julia was a great cook, having learned this art she said, by cooking for her four brothers. Whatever Charlie raised in the garden, Julia canned, pickled or preserved. She made bread, sometimes twice a week, until shortly before she died. Charlie's smoke house would be filled with specially cured hams, bacon and sausage. His decendants are still trying to match the quality and taste of his sausage. Like most families living during the Depression of the 30s Charlie and Julia did not have much money to spend but they enjoyed good health, plenty to eat and a home. They were very busy with the various agricultural activities, especially gathering pecans in the fall, but there was time for

a little hunting, trapping and fishing. As was the custom in the days before television, Charlie and Julia did a lot of visiting with their relatives, and enjoyed especially the large family gatherings for Sunday dinners at various homes.

Aside from church, an important function for Julia was the Hochheim Ladies Club, of which she was a charter member. In the early years of the club, meetings were held in members' homes. Julia spent much time and effort preparing for this event when the meeting was held in her home. Refreshments there were more like meals, with salads, sweets of all sorts and her sought-after bread.

Charlie was an avid church choir member from boyhood. While in France during and after World War I, he sang with his Army Unit Choir. Once he had the honor of singing a solo during Mass at the Cathedral in Lyon, France. He became a member of the choir at St. Ann's Catholic Church and sang with that group for many years. He loved to sing old army songs and other songs made popular during the twenties. For many years he served as a trustee for the Hochheim School and as an Election Judge or Clerk during various county, state and general Elections. Charlie spent many Saturday afternoons at Braden's Store at Hochheim, playing dominos with his friends.

Charles Bitterly died January 31, 1979 and Julia Braden Bitterly died in June, 1989. They are buried at St. Ann's Catholic Church Cemetery, near Hochheim.

The Bitterly children are: Charles (1922) who married Florence Sowa; they have four children; Charlotte, Ronald, Cynthia Ann and Lawrence; John (1924) who remains single; Lucille (1926) who married James Clarke; they have six children; Michael, Patrick, John, Marie, Terese and Timothy; Donald (1928) who married Jeane Gorden; they have four children; Joseph, Catherine Ann, Gerald and Charles.

by Jeane Bitterly

BITTERLY, JOSEPH AND ANNE MARIE FURTER

F60

On April 28, 1691, a man from Wissen, Canton Lucerne, Switzerland, by name of Jean Jacob Pitterle, the son of Jean Pitterle and Anne Nicht, married Eleonore Welceker, daughter of Jean Jacob Weleeker and Barbara Seufferlin in the little village of Mollau, Upper Alsace France. There is evidence of the Pitterle name, soon evolving to Peterli, Biterli, Bitterli and finally Bitterly, earlier than 1691, but for all practical purposes, the Bitterly Saga begins here in the Thur Valley, Upper Alsace France in 1691. Jean Jacob Pitterle was probably one of many who went to Alsace, France after the Thirty Years War to help the people of the Thur River Valley overcome the adversities of the recent battles of war, which had reduced the population of that part of Alsace to a few struggling survivors, plagued with disease, poverty and famine. From this one Bitterly beginning, the family soon expanded and by 1792, the name Bitterly was prevalent in Urbes, Mollau, Fellering and other towns in the Thur River Valley. Like most of the inhabitants of the area, the Bitterly men worked as day laborers, weavers, carpenters, wheel makers and barrel makers. The women, for the most part, had no profession but by the late 1700s gave occupations as weavers and day laborers.

Joseph Bitterly, a fifth generation descendant of the Jean Jacob Pitterle from Switzerland, was born into the absolute Catholic Community of Urbes, Frances to Joseph Bitterly and Catherine Sanner on the 16th of July, 1822. He was followed by Catherine (1825), Christine (1827), #2 Catherine (1830), Caspar (1833), Julie (1835), Louise (1837), Bernard (1840) and Marie Anne (1842). Joseph lived with his parents and siblings in a little house which is still standing, and in use, near the Catholic Church in Urbes, Frances. The family soon moved to the neighboring town of Fellering where Joseph and the other children received a short period of education. Like his father, Joseph became a day laborer at about the age of 12. His sisters were trained as weavers and they operated looms at home, making yarn and also weaving cloth.

In 1842, Joseph Bitterly was inducted into the Army and after training a short time, began his term in the Army on December 24, 1843. He was assigned to the 42nd Infantry Regiment in the Signal Corps and spent the next six years in that unit. On June 30, 1849 Joseph Bitterly was discharged from the Army and went back to his home in Fellering.

Not long after his return home, Joseph met Anne Marie Furter, born 26 Sept. 1822, the daughter of Jean Furter (sometimes Hassenfurter) and Marie Anne Hoffman. On April 6, 1850 Joseph Bitterly and Anne Marie Furter were married. On December 1 of that same year their first child was born and she was named Anne Marie. The next year on December 23, 1851, Rosalie Bitterly was born, followed by Marie Anne on October 1, 1853.

During this time there was much discontent in the Thur Valley. The textile mills, which had provided most of the jobs, were becoming more mechanized so the days allowed for each employee to work was cut to about four days a week. Generally, times were hard and men worried about the always impending threats of war, providing for their families and knowing full well that they would never be able to own enough land to earn a decent living.

Word came back through letters from friends and relatives who had immigrated to Texas 10 years earlier. They told of the difficulties encountered in Texas, but said at least there was always plenty to eat, the Indian problem was not nearly as bad now as it had been, and land was still plentiful. They said that if a man would work at all he could surely do well for himself. The temptation was too great for Joseph Biterly and in September 1854, he packed bag and baggage, his wife Anne Marie, their three little girls, Anne Marie, Rosalie and Marie Anne (called Nanette) along with Jean Furter, his widowed father-in-law, who was 64 years old, and his unmarried sister-in-law, Marie Anne Furter. They sailed from LeHavre, France on the ship Ferriere, bound for New Orleans in September 1854. Ship records show that all seven of this group did arrive at New Orleans in mid-November 1854. It must have been some time after the arrival in New Orleans and the 1860 U.S. Census, that the little girl Marie Anne (Nanette) died. No record of her death has been found and no mention is made of her in any personal papers found in the Bitterly family possessions. Joseph Bitterly and his family left New Orleans for a closer port in Texas, most probably, Indianola, and from there traveled on to a site near Meyersville Community where many of their former neighbors from Alsace were living. It seems most likely the Bitterly family had made arrangements to live with one of these families, either that of Peter Bluntzer, who had been instrumental in getting his old friends from Alsace to immigrate to Texas, or the Antoine Golly Sr. family.

On October 1, 1855, not even a year after arriving in Texas, a daughter, Emilie, was born, followed by Caroline on Feb. 10, 1857, then William in June, 1858 and last John, born December 6, 1862.

Joseph Bitterly is shown paying taxes on a horse, cattle and hogs in Goliad County in 1858. Deed records of DeWitt County show that Joseph Bitterly and wife Anne Marie, purchased 100 acres of land in the T. Bell Survey, which locates this property near the Five Mile Coleto. They continued to purchase land until a sizeable amount had been accumulated.

In 1869, the first child, Anne Marie (now called Mary), married Michael Jacob, the nephew of Theresa Jacob Bluntzer and Genevieve Jacob Winckler Golly, all former residents of Oderen, France. Mary and Michael Jacob had five children. Mary died in 1934 at 84 years of age. Rosalie and Caroline Bitterly never married. They continued to live on the "home place" and began purchasing land of their own. They spent their lives caring for their grandfather, Jean Furter, their mother, Anne Marie Bitterly, and their aunt, Marie Anne Furter, whom family tradition says was called, "The Boss." Rosalie died in 1934 and Caroline died in 1925. Both are buried in the Catholic Church Cemetery at Meyersville. Emilie Bitterly married Herman Conrad Schlein in 1885. They lived in the Meyersville area all their lives. Emilie and Conrad Schlein had nine children. William Bitterly married Leone Golly in 1883 and John Bitterly married her sister, Eugenie Golly in 1890. These girls were the children of Antoine Golly Jr. and Rosalie Haller. William and Leone Golly Bitterly had 16 children and John Bitterly and wife Eugenie, had at least 4 children. William Bitterly died in 1930 and John Bitterly died in 1920. Both are buried in the Meyersville Catholic Cemetery beside their wives, their parents, grandfather, aunt and other relatives.

Joseph Bitterly was a short fellow about 5 feet 4 inches, with light hair, blue eyes and a "reddish" beard, who came to Texas a rather poor man, but achieved what he had set out to do, which was to own his own land, make a better life for his family and raise his children in the Catholic Faith. He wanted to live in peace without the constant threat of war, as that had been the threat he had lived with all his young life.

In 1861, the call to arms came once again to Joseph Bitterly at the beginning of the Civil War in the United States. He enlisted in the DeWitt Co. Home Guard, along with many of his neighbors, and was recorded as being the musician for his group. Perhaps this is where some of the Bitterlys got their powerful singing voices!

On July 25, 1869 at the age of 47, Joseph Bitterly died. He is buried in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Meyersville. Anne Marie Furter Bitterly died Feb. 28, 1899 and her father, John Furter died December 20, 1875. Marie Anne Furter, "the Boss," who remained

single, died March 3, 1882.

When Joseph Bitterly left his home in Alsace, France to immigrate to Texas, his parents were still living but died shortly thereafter. Joseph's brothers, Caspar and Bernard had died, as well as both his sisters, named Catherine. His sister, Christine, married Joseph Walch. Julie Biterly married Joseph Lutringer and Louise married Ambroise Koehl. Records found recently show that Julie Bitterly, Christine Bitterly, their husbands and the single sister, Marie Anne, had made application to emigrate from Alsace to Montevideo, Uruguay. This was in 1862 when no immigration was taking place in the United States due to the Civil War raging at the time. Possibly these girls and their families immigrated to the United States at a later date.

It is interesting to note that Joseph Bitterly did have one relative already living in Galveston, Texas when he and his family arrived there in 1854. She was Marie Anne Bitterly, Joseph's aunt, who had emigrated with her cousin, Jean Stephan and his fiancee Agathe Arnold. Stephan and Arnold were married in Galveston, Texas in 1844 and Peter Bluntzer, who had made the voyage on the same ship to Texas, was the witness to the wedding. This aunt, Marie Anne Bitterly married an Andreas Hotz in Galveston in 1845 and was living in the area until 1857. She and Andreas Hotz had four children: Carl Franz, Joseph, Marie, and Thaddeus. To date, descendants of this family have not been found.

by Jeane Bitterly

BITTERLY, WILLIAM AND LEONE GOLLY

F61

William Bitterly was born in Texas on June 18, 1858 to Joseph Bitterly and Anne Marie Furter, who had emigrated from Fellering, Alsace, France to Texas in 1854. Two daughters were born in France and two more daughters were born in Texas. The birth of this first Bitterly son to be born in Texas was indeed a joyous occasion for Joseph and Marie Bitterly. The hope of having a son to perpetuate the family name was a reality and the hope was inforced with the birth of another son, John Bitterly, in 1862. The latest survey of Bitterly decendants in Texas would probably startle Joseph Bitterly, but it is evident that his name will not be extinct any time soon.

William Bitterly grew up on the land that his parents purchased in the Meyersville area of DeWitt County several years after their arrival in Texas. The family did some farming, raised hogs and chickens, but tax records of DeWitt County show that the Bitterly agricultural activities centered around raising cattle. Cattle brands registered in Bitterly names in DeWitt County more than a hundred years ago are still being used today.

In 1869 Joseph Bitterly died. William was only 11 years old and his brother John was 7. Marie Bitterly, their mother, continued to buy large amounts of land and as soon as her children were old enough, they did the same. William and his brother were very close. They bought land together, did much of their work together and even married sisters. The two families have continued to be close friends, as well as relatives, for over a century.

In 1883, William Bitterly married Leone Golly, daughter of Antone Golly, Jr. and Rosalie Haller. John Bitterly married Eugenie Golly, a sister to Leone. William and Leone Bitterly had a large family — 16 children in all – with most of them reaching adulthood, most of them marrying and all of them remaining in the Catholic Faith to which they were born. The William Bitterly family lived on a large tract of land on the Fifteen Mile Coleto on the DeWitt-Goliad County line. William and his wife prospered and were respected by their friends and neighbors.

Like many other Alsatian and Germany families in the community, the Bitterlys retained many of the customs that their parents had brought with them to Texas, especially the art of fine cooking. The smokehouse was filled with cured meats and sausage, made using recipes that were typically Alsatian. They made many varieties of fine cheese, along with breads and pastries that were slightly different than such edibles found in other European emigrant homes of Texas. The wine that was produced was made from methods used in Alsace, but adapted for use with the highly acid Mustang grape that grows profusely over most of South Texas. Many of the customs used by Bitterly decendants today clearly had their origin in Alsace, in particular the afternoon lunch. This custom proved very adaptable to todays living, however, coffee or tea has replaced the usual wine as the drink. Most decendants of William and Leone Bitterly still make sausage of some variety. What was once practiced as a necessity is now done more for enjoyment, but the family gatherings, centered around the butchering and sausage making, still result in a day of good fellowship.

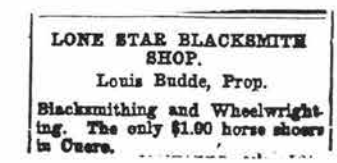
Elenora (1884-1943), was the first child born to William and Leona Bitterly. She married Benjamin Dreyer and had three children; Berniece (Heyer), Margaret (Hutcherson) and Aileen (Hahn). John, born in 1885, died 1890. William Jr. (1886-1974) married Rose Arnold and had four children; Alice (Rath), Olivia (Rath), Doris (Single) and James (M.Meissner). Alfred, born 1888 was killed in 1901 by a fall from a horse. Mayme, (1889-1991), and Lillie, (1891-1975) remained single. Josephine, (1892-1972) married Hugo Kenne and had one son, Dennis (W. Fromme). Ludwig, (1893-1974) married Helen Lau and had four children; Lillian (Mayer), Ruby (Schrade), Louis (V.Bruns) and Warren (M.Bethke). Ludwina was the twin of Ludwig and died at birth. Charles Berthold Bitterly, (1894-1979) married Julia Braden and had four children, Charles (F.Sowa), John (single), Lucille (Clarke) and Donald (J.Gorden). Alma, (1895-1973) remained single. Edwin (1896-1972) married Clara Hans and had four children; Merle (Rangnow), Genevieve (Dreier), Lawrence (single) and Judy (Heil). Richard (1898-1898) died. Leona Bitterly (1901-1973) married Raymond Hans and had seven children; William (M Batson), Lawrence (W Grant), Arlene (Lewis), Joseph (K Casey), Rosemary (Richard), John (E.Honda), and Joyce (Wetuski). Luella Bitterly (1902-1982) married Martin Helfrich and had three children; Milton (b Schultz), Leona (single) and Delores (Kreitz). Lorene, (1907-1989) married Eric Mauerer. They had no children.

All the Bitterly children lived and died in DeWitt County except Luella, who lived in Waller County, and Leona, who lived most of her married life in Harris County.

William Bitterly suffered a stroke and was bedridden for a time before he died Feb. 13, 1930. Leona Golly Bitterly died the following year, September 10, 1931. Both are buried in the Catholic Church Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas.

by Jeane Bitterly

William Bitterly Family – Back – Lillie, Charles, Josephine, William, Jr., Elenora, Ludwig, Edward and Alma. Front – William, Sr., Luella, Lorene, Leona, and Leone (Golly) Bitterly.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BLACKWELL – FRELS

F62

Ella Louise (Hillmann) and John Ernest Frels 1954

Claude North Blackwell and Finley Dunn Blackwell were born September 23, 1914 in Hochheim, Texas, the twin sons of Dr. Finley Dunn Blackwell (1874-1934) and Mary Henrietta "Ettie" Coppedge Blackwell (1873-1968). On June 23, 1941 Claude North married Dorothy Evelyn Frels in Ennis, Texas.

Dorothy, the daughter of John Ernest Frels and Ella Louise Hillmann Frels of Yoakum, was born on July 26, 1917. Mr. Frels was born in Frelsburg, Texas (near Columbus) on July 5, 1882, the son of a John Frels (April 17, 1854 – December 24, 1930) and Doris Fredericka Koenig Frels (February 14, 1862 – September 30, 1951). He died at home in Yoakum on June 28, 1956, and is buried at Oak Grove Cemetery there. Mrs. Frels was born on January 20, 1886 in Fayette County, Texas, the daughter of Charles Henry Hillmann (December 9, 1853 – June 24, 1898) and Emma Sauer Hillmann (December 28, 1860 – May 17, 1894). Mr. Hillmann's parents, Charles and Dorothea (Meyer) Hillmann, were from Bremen, Germany before coming to Fayette County. Mrs. Frels died on September 30, 1963 in Cuero and was buried beside her husband in Yoakum.

On August 24, 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Frels were married in Yoakum, and they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary there in 1954. Mr. Frels had moved to Yoakum when 17 and had begun to work as a machinist apprentice with the old San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway. He was promoted to machinist, roundhouse foreman, general foreman, and in 1922 to master mechanic. In 1936 he was transferred to the Austin-Dallas Division with shop operations at Ennis, Texas. He retired after fifty years of service to the S.A.&A.P. and Southern Pacific Railway and moved back to Yoakum, where he had come with his parents in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Frels were members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Yoakum.

John Ernest and Ella Frels and seven children: Ethel Frieda "Dotta" (Mrs. Wilson G. Gustwick, 1905-1984), Edith Louise (February 1, 1908 – April 15, 1908), Anne E. (Mrs. I. Howard Brown, 1911-1988), John Fred (March 9, 1913 – November 2, 1944), Harry H. (February 17, 1915 – May 14, 1918), Dorothy Evelyn (Mrs. Claude N. Blackwell), and June Marie (Mrs. Calvin E. Hearn, b. 1926).

After Claude and Dorothy Blackwell married, they bought the Schwab home in Hochheim, and lived there until 1948 when they moved to Yoakum. On September 20, 1942, while they were living at Hochheim, their son Claude North, Jr. "Buddy" were born. Betty Jo, their daughter, was born on October 3, 1943. Their third child, John Richard, was born on April 28, 1948.

In 1951 Claude moved with his family to Cameron, Texas where he and his brother, Finley, owned a farm. In 1953 they built the Cameron Livestock Auction, which burned down almost exactly a year after its completion. They sold the farm and auction and moved to Hallettsville, Texas where they owned the livestock auction there. The family moved in 1958 to Cuero because Claude and Finley had bought the Cuero Livestock Market and the Victoria Livestock Market. The Blackwells have been in the livestock auction business since they began the Cameron auction. In 1983 Buddy and John Richard bought Claude's and Finley's shares in the Cuero and Victoria Livestock Markets, and they continue in the livestock auction business today. Claude and Dorothy are members of the First Baptist Church in Cuero, and he is a member of the Masonic Lodge #182, at Hochheim.

Claude North Blackwell, Jr. (Buddy) married Mary Adele Kleinecke, the daughter of Howard and Mary Kleinecke of Cuero, and they have two children – Kimberly Lynn (Mrs. Carl Richard Powers) and Finley North – and one grandchild, Paige Adele Powers. Betty Jo Blackwell (Mrs. Douglas Pagel of Gonzales) has four children: Michael J., Gary Paul, Dotty Kay and Charles David. John Richard Blackwell married Vicki Waggoner, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Waggoner of Refugio, Texas. Their children are John Dakota, Molly Anne, and Tucker Lee.

by Mary Adele Blackwell

BLACKWELL, CLAUDE N. AND MITCHIE (COPPEDGE)

F63

Claude North Blackwell (1870-1905), the son of John Harland and Sarah Allison (Baker) Blackwell, was born in DeWitt County. He attended Professor Covey's school at Concrete with his brothers and sisters. Claude North Blackwell married Mitchie H. Coppedge (1871-1951) daughter of Dr. Oliver D. and Mary S. Coppedge of Concrete June 4, 1890 in the Concrete Baptist Church. Mitchie had attended school at Professor Covey's Concrete School, Nash Academy, Cuero and Baylor Female College at Belton, Texas.

Claude was a rancher and bought and sold cattle in South Texas to be shipped by train to northern markets. Claude died at the age of 35, probably from typhoid fever, in Concrete. Mitchie cared for their six children, living in Cuero for the children to attend school, and at the farm in Concrete. She was an active and interested member of the Baptist church until her death in 1951.

Mitchie and Claude were the parents of eight children, six survived infancy. 1. Mary Will (1891-1977) married Arthur Charles Fischer. 2. John Luther (1892-1982). 3. Claude North (1894-1931). 4. Ettie Coppedge (1900-) married Werner Fischer. 5. Finley Dunn (Dick) (1902-) married Mary M. (Jane) Meurer. 6. Raleigh White (1905-) married Velma C. Norvel. After her death he married Audrey Barfield.

by Mrs. Joe Sheppard

BLACKWELL, FINLEY (DICK) AND MARY (JANE) (MEURER)

F64

Finley (Dick) and Mary M. (Jane) Blackwell

Finley Dunn (Dick) Blackwell (1902-) was the fourth son and seventh child of Claude North and Mitchie (Coppedge) Blackwell. He was born in Concrete, Texas and attended the public schools in Cuero, Texas. Dick married Mary Margaret (Jane) Meurer (1906-1980), daughter of John and Maggie (Albe) Meurer in Cuero, Texas December 15, 1925. Jane was born in Kerrville, Texas and she and Dick met while she was studying to be a nurse at the old Burns Hospital nursing school. Dick and Jane have one daughter, Rosemary. Rosemary married Joseph L. Sheppard II, February 14, 1953. Jane and Dick celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1975, and continued their life together until Jane's death in 1980. They were faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Cuero — Dick having served as a church deacon for many years.

Dick has spent his life as a farmer and rancher in partnership with his older brother John L. Blackwell. John made his home with Dick and Jane until John's death in 1982. The farm that Dick and John operated was listed in

1975 as a Texas Family Land Heritage farm. The citation reads in part, "To the dedication and perseverance of the founders and heirs of these lands, we owe the basic wealth of Texas." The continuous ownership and operation of the farm dates back four generations to 1847 when the land was purchased from one of DeWitt's original settlers, Joseph Stevens of Mississippi.

by Mrs. J.L. Sheppard

BLACKWELL, DR. FINLEY DUNN

F65

Mr. Finley Dunn Blackwell

Mary Henrietta "Ettie" (Coppedge) Blackwell with twin sons, Claude North and Finley Dunn.

Dr. Finley Dunn Blackwell was born on July 30, 1874 in Hochheim, Texas. He was one of seven children born to his parents, John Harland Blackwell and Sarah Allison Baker Blackwell. After attending school at Hochheim and Concrete, Dr. Blackwell traveled to New Orleans where he attended Tulane University, and received his medical diploma.

On November 13, 1896, Dr. Blackwell married Mary Henrietta "Ettie" Coppedge in Yoakum. They were married by Rev. T.W. White. Mrs. Blackwell was born on November 30, 1873 in Concrete, Texas, the daughter of Oliver DeWitt Coppedge, M.D. and Mary Stevens Coppedge, who were prominent DeWitt County residents. As a new bride, Mrs. Blackwell traveled with her husband to New Orleans while he was attending the university there.

After graduation, they returned to Hochheim, in DeWitt County, where Dr. Blackwell began his practice of medicine and they began their family. Merle was born in Hochheim on October 21, 1899; Joel "Chum" Coppedge was born in Hochheim on December 18, 1904, but died on February 21, 1906; Finley Dunn and Claude North (twins) arrived on September 23, 1914 in Hochheim. The Blackwells also had a son born in 1898 who only lived two days, and a baby girl who was born in 1902 and lived only two months.

The medical career of Dr. Blackwell spanned two eras. When he began his practice his calls were made in a buggy. He always kept several buggy horses in his stable, and often he would come home during the day to change horses if he had long distances to travel. Later he purchased one of the first fifty automobiles in DeWitt County, and used it to call on his patients.

Dr. Blackwell was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Hochheim where he gave a stained glass window in memory of his parents John Harland and Sarah Allison Blackwell. He was also a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge #182, at Hochheim.

While opening a fence gap when on his way to deliver a baby, Dr. Blackwell cut his right hand on the barbed wire. He got blood poisoning from this cut, and died on May 28, 1934 in the Burns Hospital in Cuero, Texas. Dr. Blackwell was buried in the Hochheim Cemetery.

After his death, Mrs. Blackwell continued to live at her home in Hochheim with her children and two grandsons, John and Earl Davis. In 1949 or 1950 she and Merle moved to Yoakum. Mrs. Blackwell was a member of the First Baptist Church in Yoakum. She died on May 12, 1968 at the age of 95, and was buried with her husband at Hochheim Cemetery.

Their daughter, Merle, married L.E. Davis on June 25, 1922. She had two sons: Dr. John Crispen Davis of Cuero, and Lafayette Earl "Sonny" Davis who died on December 18, 1966 in Yoakum.

On June 23, 1941, Claude North and Dorothy Evelyn Frels were married in Ennis, Texas by Brother Hugh Bumpas. They have three children: Claude North "Buddy" and John Richard, both of Cuero, and Betty Jo (Mrs. Douglas Pagel) who lives in Gonzales, Texas.

Finley Dunn and Courine Barnett of Yoakum were married on August 23, 1947. Courine died on November 7, 1982 in Cuero and is buried at the Hochheim Cemetery. Their three daughters were Mary Maurine (Mrs. Bill Allaway) of Austin, Janet Dunn Blackwell of Austin, and Sally Ann (Mrs. George Taulbee) of Houston.

by Mary Adele Blackwell

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BLACKWELL, JOHN H. AND SARAH A. (BAKER)

F66

John Harland Blackwell

Sarah Allison Baker Blackwell

John Harland Blackwell (1842-1918) was born in Lauderdale County, Alabama on February 15, 1842, the son of David Finley Blackwell, born in Virginia in 1812, and Margaret Dunn Blackwell. David Finley and Margaret Dunn married in Alabama and John Harland was the only child of this union. John Harland's grandfather, Josiah Blackwell, married Isabella Abercrombie, who was born in South Carolina in 1776. Her father, James Abercrombie, born near Stirling, Scotland about 1707/1709, married a Miss Gordon and they came with their family to Pennsylvania and then moved to South Carolina.

The mother of John Harland, Margaret Dunn, was the daughter of John and Susie (Rochelle) Dunn of Sussex County, Virginia.

They had the following children: William, John, Eliza, Jack and Margaret. John Dunn was the son of Hardyman Dunn. Margaret died during an epidemic in Lauderdale County, Alabama and David Finley moved with his young son, John Harland, to Shelby County, Tennessee where the 1850 Census lists him as David F., age 38 with son, John Harland, age 8. David died while they were living in Tennessee and John Harland was sent to the home of his aunt in Chico County, Alabama. At the age of 9 years, December 1851, he came with his aunt, Mrs. Rebecca Blackwell Hampton and located in Lockhart Bend in Gonzales County, Texas.

John Harland received his education in Gonzales County. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he spent three months in the command of Major Fly of Gonzales, largely around Galveston. Later he joined Col. Norris's Regiment, where he remained in the frontier service, later joining Steele's Battalion of Waul's Legion and continued within the state until 1865. On August 19, 1863, John Harland Blackwell married Sarah Allison Baker (1844-1880), youngest daughter of Judge James McCulloch Baker and Martha Smith Baker in DeWitt County. At the close of the Civil War, John Harland Blackwell bought a ranch on Brushy Creek near Yoakum, Texas and spent eight years there as a rancher and farmer. They then moved to Concrete to place their children in school under Professor Covey at Concrete College and Academy. John Harland and Sarah bought land from James M. Baker on the Guadalupe River between Hochheim and Concrete which was to be their home for the rest of their lives. Sarah Allison died at age 36 and John Harland never remarried. The eight children were between the ages of 15 and 4. Apparently the older children helped and cared for the younger ones.

John Harland listed his occupation as a farmer. Grandchildren remember that he raised and loved horses; sometimes having as many as 50 or 60 brood mares. He was very proud of a stallion, Colonel Mac, who was a noted pacer and trotter and produced fine buggy horses. John Harland was an active member of the Presbyterian Church at Concrete and later at Hochheim and a member of the Masonic Order.

The children of John Harland and Sarah Allison Baker Blackwell were:

1. Inez W. married Otto Eckhardt of Goliad County. Children – John, Lena, Robert, Sarah and Zora.

2. Zora married Valentine Bennett. Children – Lucille, Jolly, and Joel.

3. David married Annie Leisner. To this union was born one child, Allison. After his wife's death, David married Josephine. Children – David, Beulah, Sarah, Josephine, and Thomas.

4. Claude North married Mitchie Coppedge. Children – Mary Will, John L., Claude N., Jr., Ettie C., Finley Dunn (Dick), and Raleigh White.

5. John Hampton never married. He moved to Sherman County, ranched and served as sheriff of that county.

6. Joel C. died in 1893 at the age of 21.

7. Finley Dunn married Mary Henrietta Coppedge. Children – Merle, Finley Dunn, and Claude North.

8. Beulah married M.D. Bennett. Children – Sarah Claire and Beulah Margaret.

The confusing overlapping of names can be attributed to the fact that two Blackwell sisters married brothers (Bennetts) and two Blackwell brothers married sisters (Coppedges).

by Mrs. Joe Sheppard

BLACKWELL, R. F. AND DOROTHY (BREEDEN)

F67

R.F. Blackwell

Clayton Blackwell was born May 20, 1820 in Princeton, New Jersey, Essex County, the son of Martha Lanning and Elijah Blackwell, one of the founders of Princeton University. As a young man, he and his brother, Montgomery Blackwell came to Texas settling in Clinton, DeWitt County where he practiced medicine. He bought land in the Peter Teal Survey and John York Surveys and raised long-horn steers and horses. He met and married a young widow, Mrs. Marian G. York Bell, who was the daughter of Captain John York the founder of Yorktown, Texas. Dr. Blackwell lived only a few short years leaving Marian a widow again at the age of 34 and one son William Albert Blackwell who was born December 17, 1852 and was lovingly reared by his mother and half-sisters.

Their son young William Albert visited his grandparents in New Jersey and received an inheritance from his grandfather. He returned to Texas and inherited property from his mother. He raised long-horn steers and drove his cattle to market on the historic Chisholm Trail. He married Jeannette Forbes, July 18, 1877. They had two sons, William Albert Blackwell, Jr. born February 29, 1880 and Edwin Blackwell born 1883. They moved from their ranch home into Cuero when the boys reached school age. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell also helped to rebuild the First Baptist Church in Cuero.

William Albert (Will) Blackwell, Jr. attended Nash Academy, Peacock Institute in San Antonio and Texas A&M. He married Alma Reiffert, daughter of Emily and Helene Tips Reiffert in APRIL 1906. They had three children William Albert, III, who died at the age of 6 years. Reiffert Forbes Blackwell, who married Dorothy Ann Breeden April 1935 and Jeannette Alma, who married Richard Miller May 1935. They divorced in 1944 and she married Lem Duderstadt November 1946.

William Albert (Will) inherited 890 acres of land and acquired an additional 5,000 acres. He raised purebred hereford and high grade commercial cattle. The grass fattened steers he sold on the Fort Worth and Kansas City markets in 1918 set two records for the highest priced steers – a record which stood until 1948. He was one of the first conservationists of his time, practicing light-stocking of cattle and deferred grazing.

Will's and Alma's son Reiffert Forbes Blackwell graduated from Cuero High School, winning many medals in track and tennis. He attended Texas A&M and The University of Texas and returned to Cuero at the death of his grandfather W.A., Sr. to help manage the Blackwell ranches. He married Dorothy Ann Breeden, daughter of Paul Hamilton and Bess Philpott Breeden. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Patricia Ann Blackwell married Dr. Pat Hedgcoxe and their children are Howard Reiffert Hedgcoxe, who married Anne McCauley. They have one child Claire Anne Hedgcoxe. Lillian Lou Hedgcoxe married Mark Houser and they have one child Dixie Lynn Houser.

Dorothy Breeden Blackwell (Dee) married Walter Christian Sager (Bucky) and their children are Stacey Lynn Sager, who married Robert O'Connell Alvarez and they have one child Robert Forbes Alvarez. Their son Walter Steven Sager (Steve) is unmarried and resides in San Antonio.

William Albert Blackwell, IV. is married to Nancy Nash Porter and they have three children. Ashley Porter Blackwell, Stephanie Porter Blackwell, and Courtney Porter Blackwell.

Reiffert served as trustee for the J.L. DuBose estate and the W.A. Blackwell, Jr. estate. He was school board member for 8 years, a director of Breeden-Runge Company, 1st lieutenant in the Texas National Guard, member of the DeWitt County Ration Board during World War II, and one of the organizers of the Tax League, an officer and Director of Farmers State Bank for 40 years, a vestryman and past senior warden of Grace Episcopal Church. He raised FI cross cattle and purebred herefords.

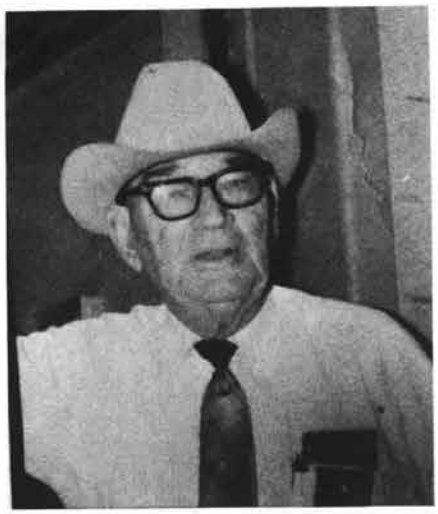
Dorothy is active in civic and church affairs. She has been Altar Guild chairman of Grace Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DeWitt County Historical Commission and Museum, Women of Grace Episcopal Church past treasurer, Hawthorne Club program and social chairman and past vice-president, a member of the Cuero Art Guild, and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

by Dorothy Breeden Blackwell

BLACKWELL, RALEIGH FAMILY

F68

The Raleigh Blackwell family's story began with his birth at Concrete January 28, 1905. His father, Claude North Blackwell, died in September of the same year, leaving Mitchie (Coppedge) Blackwell to raise children, John, Mary Will, Ettie, Claude, Dick, and Raleigh, alone. By the time she was 35, Mitchie had lost (by death) two small children (Oliver and Sally), her husband, and both parents.



Sheriff Raleigh Blackwell 1972

Raleigh says he grew up *between* the house where brother Dick lives now, his grandfather Coppedge's house located then where the Daniel Frels home is, and the location on Clinton Street which would become the lifelong home of Mary Will and Arthur Fischer. Raleigh's uncle, John Blackwell, had gone to the Texas Panhandle about 1900, locating in Stratford where his cousin Dick Pinchem had settled. As Mitchie's family grew up, they were drawn to that area by Uncle John's presence there.

So it was natural that about 1924, when there was little hope of a decent crop, Dick and Raleigh went to Stratford to help with the maize and wheat harvest. In these next years there were trips back and forth when illness or death of a family member occurred, and at some point both Dick and Raleigh returned to South Texas. But Raleigh returned to Stratford, where he remained until John Blackwell died suddenly at his home a mile south of Stratford.

About 1926 or '27 Raleigh had met Velma Celeste Norvell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Norvell. Velma had completed a year of college at Hardin Simmons when they married in August, 1927. In the spring of 1928, Mitchie, Claude (whom everyone called "June" or Junior), Raleigh, and Velma returned to Cuero for a surgical procedure Raleigh needed. The return trip to Stratford in a Model A was complicated by an unexpected late snowstorm in early April. It was a difficult and dangerous time for Velma, who was expecting their first child in May. Bobby Jane Blackwell was born prematurely April 14, 1928, surviving by Dr. Norvell's experience and God's mercy.

Raleigh and Velma enjoyed several good crop years at the "Standard Farm", whose 640 acres were located ten miles southeast of Stratford. Ann was born at the farm in 1930, and Claude joined the family in 1931. The years that followed were characterized by the terrible blowing dirt of Panhandle history. Velma told later of shoveling dirt out of what was, for the times, "a pretty good house" after a storm had blown itself out. She also recounted having gone from child to child as her three children napped, blowing dirt away from their noses and mouths.

In 1934 the Blackwells decided to move "home". Raleigh and his "brood" occupied a small house northwest of Dick's house. During the next several years, John was born in 1935 and Sally in 1938. About 1936 Raleigh and Velma purchased the Applewhite place at Edgar and moved their family there. Close ties remained between the Blackwell brothers and sisters, just as family closeness had survived the Panhandle separations. Raleigh Jr. was born while the family lived at Edgar — in 1941. He was the first of Raleigh's children to be born in a hospital.

The family grew and flourished at Edgar. During this period of time Raleigh began to supplement farming income with work at Cuero Livestock Commission Company's Friday sale. As this job became primary rather than secondary, another move seemed wise. The Edgar place was sold, and the family lived for several years across the highway and just south of Dick's house. Dr. Norvell's death in this period was a severe blow, and, shortly after that occurrence, Mrs. Norvell and their other daughter, Dr. Leta Boswell, and her son Mac moved from Stratford to Canyon where Dr. Boswell still resides.

In the years that followed Raleigh's acquaintance with the Cuero livestock auctions played a vital role in his family's lives. The sales at Halletsville, Three Rivers, Pleasanton, and Edna were the means by which he supported his large family. Later, Raleigh became associated with the Sheriff's Department of DeWitt County, serving for some time as a deputy.

Raleigh and Velma began construction of the present family home in 1946, with Velma supervising and planning every part of the construction. The completion of the house was a high point in the family's life. Other big events were in store, as Ann graduated and began college at Canyon's West Texas State College (now a university) and Raleigh and Velma began to plan for "one more baby". Willis was born March 8, 1948. Velma died the next day.

The next months were difficult ones for the family. Mary Will Fischer took charge of the baby, and the situation began dramatic improvement only when Raleigh and Audrey Barfield were married in November 1948.

Audrey said — and *meant* — that she never planned to "replace Velma", but to make a place for herself. She did this — in the home and in the hearts of Velma's children and her home — a unique place — for 36 years. Marsha Kleinecke and Robert Kleinecke joined the family with Audrey; Sue arrived in 1949 and Merilyn in 1954. One child is deceased at this time; Bobby Jane died in 1954, Mitchie's death in 1951 and Audrey's death in 1985 were other severe blows – but fond and humorous memories have kept them and Velma very much alive in the hearts of their family. Raleigh lives alone at Concrete, surrounded by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren — 64 in all. He is rich — not in dollars and cents, but in the love and respect of those who know him best.

Baptist churches have played such an important part in the family's life that this must be included. The little church at Concrete (located for many years north of where Dick and Raleigh live), the small church at Stratford where the Norvells were active, the smaller-still church at Edgar, and finally First Baptist at Cuero have been spiritual "home" at different periods in Raleigh's 84 years. They have witnessed and participated in the joys and sorrows of family living, and will continue to do this. A scripture from Ephesians summarizes the story better than I could do otherwise: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother — which is the first commandment with a promise — that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

by Ann Blackwell Laster

BLACKWELL, WILLIE AND ELNEETA YOUNG FAMILY

F69

Willie Blackwell

Elneeta (Young) Blackwell

Willie Blackwell was the son of Georgia Brown and Henry Blackwell. He was born November 11, 1893 and was raised in the Hochheim area. He married Elneeta Young. They were married by Rev. T.T. Bradford November 18, 1920. They had eight children; they were Lillian, Henry, James, Shelly, Willie Earlene, Artelia, Evelyn and Emma Jean.

Willie served in the army. He enlisted April 29, 1918. He was honorably discharged June 24, 1919. He was about 24-25 at the time of his enlistment. He and his wife were residents in the Cheapside area. Willie preceded his wife in death. Elneeta was a housewife. She died September 26, 1982.

by Wanda Carter

BLAIR, GEORGE

F70

George Blair was born 1789 in Berkeley County, Virginia, fifth child of the six sons and one daughter of John and Susannah Ewing Blair. John BLAIR, Revolutionary soldier from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, married Susannah Ewing and lived in Berkeley County, Virginia, where his first son was born in 1778. He first moved his family to Bourbon County, Kentucky 1790, and then migrated to Franklin County, Ohio by 1800, where he died in the newly formed county of Madison County, Ohio, July of 1810. By 1817 his sons and daughter were in Orange County, Indiana, and all except George were in Vigo County, Indiana in 1820, and later in Fountain and Parke Counties, and some went to Pike County, Illinois in 1828.

George Blair left Indiana and went to Madison County, Illinois where he married Mrs. Sarah Lockhart Fulton December of 1818 (see Lockhart sketch). George Blair arrived in DeWitt's Colony 10 Feb. 1829 with a wife and five children, James Fulton born 1816, Susannah Blair born 1819, Sarah Blair born 1820, Margaret Blair born 1824, William Blair born 1826, George Blair 17 Feb. 1831 and Travis Blair born 23 Dec. 1836. The last two were born in Texas, I presume, in the Cuero Creek Community. George Blair made application for land located on Plum Creek (still in Gonzales County) 26 Nov. 1831, which was granted, but he lived and died on land he bought from Kimber W. Barton and the McNutt league near the Guadaloupe River in the Cuero Creek Community. George Blair died there in the Fall of 1840, his obituary is in the Austin City Gazette. Much was learned from the "Memoirs" of James Norman Smith, a school teacher from Tennessee, whom George Blair had met on the coast in the Spring of 1840, and had offered a school in the Cuero Creek community. He had sent a wogan and moved him there and settled him into a house in his own yard. Mr. Smith describes the Blair home as a center for activities in the area. Sarah Lockhart Blair continued to live at Cuero Creek until after 1850. Susannah Blair had married Berry Doolittle about 1838 and had three children, Amanda, George W. and Mary Jane. Berry Doolittle died about 1846, and Susannah Doolittle remarried to Robert E. Ross 1 November 1850 (my great grandfather). Sarah Blair married Wiley C. Cummings in 1842 and died in 1843, leaving a child, Sarah Cummings, which Sarah Lockhart Blair reared. Robert E. and Susannah Ross moved onto her part of the George Blair land on Plum Creek in Gonzales County, which Robert E. Ross had bought from her before they married. Sarah Lockhart Blair also moved onto the land on Plum Creek in Gonzales County, which Robert E. Ross had bought from her before they married. Sarah Lockhart Blair also moved onto the land on Plum Creek in Gonzales County, with her sons, George W. and Travis Blair, and her granddaughter, Sarah Cummings. Saran Ann Lockhart Blair died in Gonzales County before 1870, and is buried near Blair land, in Stonewall cemetery, with a fieldstone marker inscribed with S.A. Blair, no dates.

Robert E. Ross and Susannah Blair's four children, Thomas Hulen, John Travis, Sarah Ann, and Elizabeth, (my grandmother), were all possibly born in Gonzales County. Susannah Ross died soon after the birth of Elizabeth, 28 May 1856. Robert E. Ross took his four children and moved to Williamson County by 1860, and Sarah Lockhart Blair kept the Doolittle children.

George W. Blair married Mrs. Margaret Hodges Darst 19 March 1860 in Gonzales County. He served in Waul's Texas Legion, which fell at Vicksburg, but he died in Coleman County, Texas 24 Feb. 1865, still in service. By 1870 Margaret Darst Blair was back in DeWitt County, as were the Doolittle children, living in the Terryville-Hebron cemetery area. Amanda Doolittle married Samuel Stevens, George W. Doolittle married 1st to Mary E. Hume, 2nd to Susan Darst, stepdaughter of his Uncle George W. Blair, and Mary Jane Doolittle married Albert W. Darst, stepson of Mrs. Margaret Darst-Blair. Many from these families are buried in Hebrun cemetery.

George W. and Margaret E. Blair had two daughters, Sarah F. married James Hester, and Georgia E. married Alfred C. Dowlearn. Travis Blair married Josephine Barnes in DeWitt County, listed on 1870 census there, was listed on 1880 Brown County census, sold out in 1890s, no further record found.

by Mrs. T.H. Gorley

BLAKE FAMILY

F71

Warrenetta (Blake) Peebles and Robert Blake Peebles

The Blakes, who came to DeWitt Co. in the latter part of the 1880's, were descended from a Robert Blake who arrived in Virginia from England in 1650, received a grant of land in Isle of Wight Co., Va., and in 1652 pledged an Oath of Fidelity to the Commonwealth of England. He was a nephew and Godson of Admiral Robert Blake, commander of the British Fleet during the rule of Oliver Cromwell and Parliament.

In about 1805 Joshua Blake and his wife Charlotte Vaughn Blake moved from South Hampton Co., Va., to Chester Co., S.C., and settled near Bascomville. Their son Joshua was married first to Martha Eckles in 1837.

Martha Blake died in 1849, and in 1852 Joshua married Frances (Fanny) Jemima Bigelow. She was born in 1827 in Chester, Vt. to Daniel and Jemima Johnson Bigelow. Orphaned at an early age, she was reared by an aunt and attended Troy Female Seminary in Troy, N.Y. She went to South Carolina to teach at Fishing Creek Seminary, taught there for three years, and later served as principal of Bascomville Seminary. She and Joshua had eight children.

The years of the *War Between the States* brought great hardships to the Blake family even though Joshua was too old to go to war. Although Sherman and his Union Army passed through a few miles away, the Blakes still had to contend with stragglers, who raided their livestock and burned the warehouse in which was stored all the cotton raised during the war years. For a time, Joshua even had to hide in the woods and Fanny had to slip out during the night to take food to him, as none of the servants could be trusted with knowledge of his whereabouts.

During the 1870's two of the Blake sons attended The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and graduated from the School of Medicine. The eldest, Dr. Daniel Bigelow Blake, received his degree in 1877 and came to Texas, where he stayed at first in Gonzales with his half-sister, Katherine Blake Knox, and her husband, Robert Knox. In 1880 he married Mary Clair Weldon (Mollie) of Yorktown, Tx, and they settled in Cuero, where he practiced medicine. Eleven children were born to Dr. Dan and Mollie, eight of whom survived to maturity. In later years this family moved to Nashville, Tenn., where Dr. Blake continued medical practice and the sons all attended Vanderbilt University. In 1906 three of them were members of the first string of the varsity football team.

Other members of the South Carolina Blakes also came to Texas. In the early 1800's one of the daughters had fallen in love with a cousin, and her family were strongly opposed to the match not only because of the close blood relationship but also because the young man was considered "fast". Therefore it was decided to send Marion to Texas to visit her brother Dan in Cuero. The young lovers planned for him to take her off the train at the next stop, after which they would elope. Fate intervened, however, for fire destroyed a station down the line so the train was re-routed. Marion came on to Texas and never saw her beloved cousin again.

In 1885, Marion met and married young John Peebles instead, and letters which she wrote her mother seem to verify that she was happy with her new life. Let us hope she was, for she had not long to live. In October of 1886 she gave birth to a son and died soon after. She was twenty-four years old.

Fanny Bigelow Blake, now a widow, soon came to DeWitt Co. to help care for Marion's baby. With her came Warrenetta Elizabeth, her youngest child, who John Peebles married in 1888. (See Peebles Family).

Fanny Blake lived until 1914, making her home with her daughter "Warnie" on the Peebles Ranch. She was greatly loved by all her family and had many friends.

by Elizabeth Taylor

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BLAKESLEE, BERNARD AND ISAURE (SNAER)

F72

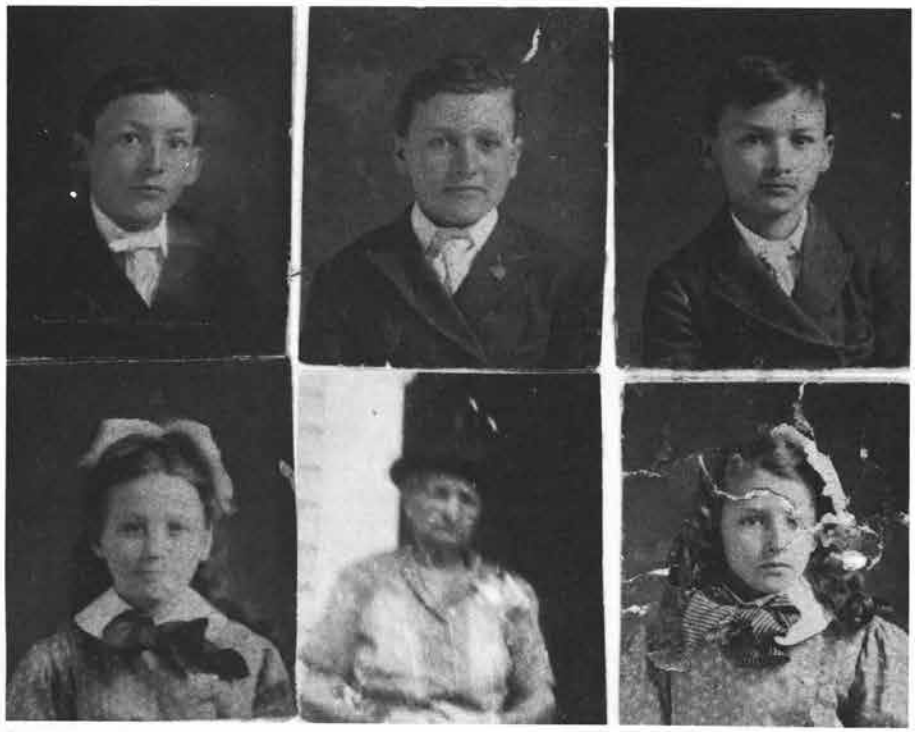
Isaure (Snaer) and Bernard Blakeslee

Bernard Francis Blakeslee was born June 22, 1857 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the oldest of three sons born to Abraham Blakeslee and Mary Virginia Lovett. His younger brother, William Edward, was born August 20, 1859 and his youngest brother, John Eugene, was born April 30, 1862. Abraham and Mary were born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1830 and 1837 respectively. They were married in Baltimore on September 9, 1856. They moved to St. Louis, Mo. after marriage and established a flag-making business. Then, they moved to Houston, Texas in 1877 and on to Gonzales in 1878 and again to Hallettsville in 1886. "Grandma" Blakeslee, as everyone called her, had an exciting war experience. While in St. Louis, her husband was caught in the act of making flags for the Confederacy and was arrested and put in a civil prison in Alton, Illinois. After a long confinement, he was exchanged for a war prisoner and was brought to prison in Mobile, Alabama. When she found out he was in Mobile, she started out on foot with her three sons to make the long journey. She followed in the footsteps of Grant's Army, between the lines of the Confederate and Federal troops unattended by a protector. She had a legacy of 500 dollars in 20 dollar gold pieces which she had to carry hidden to protect it from being stolen. She thought of sewing the gold pieces in cloth as buttons for her dresses as a means of concealment. She arrived safely in Mobile and was able to rescue her husband and they returned home safely together. While in Gonzales their devotion to the Catholic Church prompted them to build the first Catholic Church there. Abraham died in Hallettsville on January 20, 1911. Mary died in Hallettsville on May 28, 1915.

Bernard Francis Blakeslee met and married Isaure Rose Snaer in Gonzales, Texas at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on October 16, 1888. Isaure was the oldest child of Dr. Peter Snaer, who was born in New Orleans, La. in August 1844 and Mary (Casine) Snaer, born October 6, 1847 in New Orleans, La. Dr. Snaer was the grandson of General Bullach of France. The family came by boat to Galveston, Texas, in 1880 and moved on to Gonzales where Dr. Snaer practiced his profession of dentistry. They had six children – Isaure, Alice, Randolph, William, Lydia, and Elnora. Bernard Blakeslee and Isaure Blakeslee also had six children. Angklus was born and died September 14, 1889; Leo Anthony Blakeslee was born October 17, 1890 in Hallettsville; Vincent Blakeslee born January 1, 1892 in Hallettsville; Francis Blakeslee born July 17, 1893 in Cuero; Mary Virginia born September 21, 1894 in Cuero and Pauline Veronica born July 7, 1896 in Cuero. Bernard Blakeslee owned and operated "Blakeslee's Confectionery" in Cuero for five years. He then moved his family back to Hallettsville in 1897 to help run his family's business there. He died a few months later on July 29, 1897. He is buried in Hallettsville. Isaure brought her family back to Cuero. They attended St. Michael's Catholic Church and School. She was very active in all church organizations and a charter member of all of them. She died at age 92 on April 23, 1959.

Francis Blakeslee worked at Koehler's from his youth until it closed – well over forty years. He married Lillie Boehl, who also worked at Koehlers for many years, on April 27, 1941. She died in 1969. Francis died December 29, 1979. Francis was very active in the Boy Scouts of America from 1925 until his death. He received The St. George Award on November 22, 1966. He wa a charter member of the Knights of Columbus and a fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Then, on November 9, 1976 he received the Pope Paul VI Por Esslesia et Pontifice Award at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Vincent Blakeslee was killed in World War I on November 4, 1918. Leo Blakeslee was in both World Wars and was injured in both of them. He was in the same engineers unit in both wars. He died in Cuero, Texas on May 22, 1947. Vera Blakeslee graduated from St. Michael's Academy in 1915. She was very active in St. Michael's Church affairs and was a charter member of all their organizations. She worked at many local offices throughout the years as a stenographer and bookkeeper. She died January 27, 1978. Mary Virginia Blakeslee after graduation from St. Michael's Academy in 1912 went to Teachers College and taught school in several towns. While teaching in Ottine, Texas, she met and married Richard Thomas Ryan in Cuero, Texas (See Ryan) on September 20, 1920 at St. Michael's Church. Richard Ryan Sr. was born December 4, 1882 in Belmont, Texas to Patrick and Mary (Doran) Ryan from Ireland. He is credited with the foundation of the Warm Springs in Ottine. He was the driller of a well there and, when they hit hot water instead of oil, the owners wanted to close the well. He talked them into leaving it flowing. As young children in Ottine, we were almost daily visitors to the hot wells to bathe and wash our hair. Soon the people of Ottine had built a bathhouse around the well with ladies' and men's sides. Richard Ryan, Sr. died in Cuero, Texas on November 3, 1948. Virginia Blakeslee and her son Richard Ryan Jr. purchased Haak's Flower Shop after his death (See Ryan's Flower Shop). She loved her worked and was very active in all phases of the shop until a few years before her death. She was always very active in St. Michael's Catholic Church and School functions. She loved to travel. Among the places she traveled to were Mexico, Canada and most states in the U.S. She died September 25, 1987 at age 93. She enjoyed her 24 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three grandchildren. Residing in Cuero are her



Blakeslee Family – Top – Leo, Vincent, Francis. Bottom – Virginia, Isaure, and Vera.

son Richard Ryan Jr. who has five children, one being deceased; and her daughter Rosemary who has ten children, one being deceased (See Carbonara – Ryan). Her daughter Frances lives in Cleveland, Texas and has six children, one being deceased. Living in Victoria is her son Bernard who has three children. Her son Vincent William of the Woodlands, Texas, has three children. Rosemary married Richard Neal Carbonara on December 28, 1946 in New York.

by Neal & Rosemary Carbonara

BLANTON, BESS AND HOMER

F73

Bess and Homer Blanton came to Cuero in 1935 as bride and groom. They were both reared in Granger, Williamson County, Texas, attended Southern Methodist University, graduating in 1931.

Bess' (nee Elizabeth Easley Wilcox) parents were Nancy Turner and George Frank Wilcox, pioneer Williamson County residents.

Homer's parents were Betty Hicks and James M. Blanton, also long time Williamson County residents.

Homer was with Farm Security Administration until World War II broke out. All during the war he was dispatcher at Brayton Field. When the war was over, he opened Blanton Real Estate. He retired in 1971, and he and Bess traveled extensively until his death in 1982.

Bess still lives at 1400 N. Hunt in Cuero. For the past four years she has kept busy as Beautify Cuero, Inc. chairman.

by Mrs. Homer Blanton

BLANTON, HARTMAN AUGUST AND MURIEL MORRISON BYRAM

F74

August Blanton Hartman, son of William and Emma Ardelia Woods Hartman, was born 7 March 1897, in Yorktown, Dewitt County, Texas. August was baptized on 1 July, 1900, by Rev. W. Matysiak in Holy Cross Catholic Church, Yorktown, Texas. His sponsors were Frank and Brigid Wasser.

Near Christmas, 1899, William Hartman sold his property in Yorktown and bought land and a house in Mound Creek from John House and moved his family there soon afterwards. August attended school in Mound Creek.

On 5 June 1918, August enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Austin, Texas for most of WW I. On leave from the military, August courted the beautiful Muriel Morrison Byram, only child of Presley Randolph and Lena Zenobia Morrison Byram. After an honorable discharge, August Blanton Hartman married Muriel Morrison Byram on 21 November 1923, at the Byram Ranch, Davy, Texas. The first of four children born to this union was Vernon Blanton "Bob", born 29 November 1924, at Davy. Jacquelyn "Jackie" Woods was also born at Davy on 25 July 1926,

August Blanton Hartman WWI Photo 1918 Yorktown, TX

Muriel Morrison Byram 1918 Davy, TX

followed by Lavelle, born in Yorktown on 28 March 1928, and finally, Alton Randolph, born on his father's birthday, 7 March 1934, in Yorktown, Texas. All four of the Hartman children graduated from Karnes City High School.

During WW II, August served as a member of the Selective Service Advisory Board for Karnes County, Texas. His son, Vernon Blanton "Bob", joined the U.S. Navy and served in the war efforts in the Pacific. August's future son-in-law, Ray Slater Hall, also served in the war efforts in the Pacific, with the U.S. Marine Corps. Both were fortunate to return home and were honorably discharged from military service.

Jacquelyn "Jackie" was the first to marry, on 4 May 1946, to Sidney Ross Rhodes. Lavelle married Ray Slater Hall on 23 June 1946, and Vernon "Bob" married Mary Fuller on 19 November 1946. (This was Bob's second marriage, his first, to Edna, having ended in divorce.) Unfortunately, Bob and Mary's marriage was painfully short as she died of typhoid fever on 7 January 1947. Mary was buried on 10 January 1947, in the August Hartman family plot in Karnes City cemetery. The first Hartman grandchild, Marianne Elizabeth Hall, was born in Houston, Harris County, Texas on 20 August 1948, (daughter of Ray Slater and LaVelle Hartman Hall) and was named for Mary Fuller Hartman and her paternal grandmother, Anne Elizabeth Slater Hall. The next Hartman grandchild was Laurinda Rae "Lori" Hall, born 18 February 1951, Karnes City, Texas.

Vernon Blanton "Bob" Hartman married third Mickey Lorraine Blake on 16 November 1952. They had a musical act called "Bob Hartman and Buttercup" and they performed all over south Texas, with Buttercup playing the tub and Bob playing the piano or fiddle and often Peewee played guitar. They were well known, especially in Port Aransas, where they lived for many years. Mickey was also a registered nurse and cared for many patients who always recalled her kindness to them while they were seriously ill.

The next two grandchildren were Suzanne Rhodes, daughter of Sidney Ross and Jacquelyn Woods Hartman Rhodes, born in Karnes City on 28 June 1956, and Jann Rhodes, born in Karnes City on 30 November 1959. William Allen "Bill" Hall, son of Ray Slater and LaVelle Hartman Hall, was born in El Paso, Texas on 27 February 1960.

August Blanton Hartman served as Deputy Sheriff for Karnes County, Texas and as a bailiff in the courts at Karnes County. He also worked for Smolik's Meat Market at different times. August was a Master Mason in Smiley Lodge and a member of Eastern Star, Helena chapter, Karnes City, Texas. In 1962, August and Muriel Hartman sold their ranch at Davy to Bobby Muschalek and moved to a lovely brick home in Karnes City, where August could be closer to a hospital due to his severe heart condition.

After graduating from High School in Davy, Muriel Byram Hartman taught school at New Bramen, Arneckeville and Meyersville. Muriel graduated with honors from Southwest Texas State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education on 20 August 1953. She taught school at Ecleto, Gillett and then in Karnes City Elementary School until she retired in 1977. Muriel Hartman is a member of Eastern Star, Helena chapter, at Karnes City, Texas.

Marianne Elizabeth Hall was the only Hartman grandchild to be married in the home of August and Muriel Hartman in Karnes City, Texas, on 25 July 1966, to Ronald Mauldin. B.A. "Pete" Hartman performed the wedding ceremony and August Hartman gave the bride away as her father, Ray Slater Hall, was in Panama. Later on 10 March, 1979, Marianne married Robert Forsyth Little IV in Houston, Texas.

Alton Randolph Hartman married second on 15 May 1966, to Evelyn Henke. They had three children in Karnes City: Presley Randolph born 14 October 1967, Perry Blake born 17 November 1969, and Sandra Kay born 27 January 1972.

The first Hartman great grandchild, Michelle Marie Mauldin, daughter of Ron and Marianne Hall Mauldin, was born in Brawley, California on 13 August 1967. The next Mauldin child died in Kingsville, Texas. Kelly LaVelle Mauldin was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on 14 April 1970, and finally, R. Scott was born in Ijmuiden, Velsen, Holland, The Netherlands, on 3 March 1972. Michelle Mauldin married Glenn Roy Earl Klusendorf in Friend-

swood, Texas on 7 October 1983, and had Karee Anne Elizabeth, born 9 march 1984, Chase Forsyth Glenn born 9 September, in Houston, Texas and Joshua Alexander Glenn on 15 April 1989, in La Mesa, California.

August Blanton Hartman died of a heart attack at home on 10 November 1971, and was buried in Karnes City cemetery, Karnes County, Texas.

by Marianne E.H. Little

BLANTON, JIM

F75

Jim Blanton and Agnes (Zuch) 1905

Jim Blanton and the Nordheim View

James Walton Blanton was born September 2, 1873, in Glenfawn, Rusk County, Texas. His parents were Walton Wilkins Blanton and Elizabeth Frances (Wood) Blanton. In 1887 the Blanton family moved to Manor, in Travis County; then, in 1878, to Floresville, where Jim and his two brothers grew to manhood. Part of Jim's schooling took place at the Floresville Academy, where he received several "Certificates of Distinction". After working at several jobs in Floresville, the young man migrated to Yorktown, where he either founded the *Yorktown News* in 1895 or bought it shortly thereafter. In 1902 he sold it to William Hausmann, who in turn sold it to G.R. "Cap" Beckham in 1912.

It was in the summer of 1902 that Jim Blanton moved to Nordheim and established *The Nordheim View*, with offices in what was known as the Gohmert building. Ownership of the newspaper was at first shared by the building's owner, Chas. W. Gohmert, but in 1903 Mr. Blanton bought him out for $200, and, a few years, later, acquired the premises as well in exchange for a field located within the city limits of Nordheim.

On December 24, 1905, Jim Blanton was united in marriage to Agnes Zuch, daughter of Robert and Emma (Stark) Zuch, members of Yorktown pioneer families. To this union were born Helen Agnes (1906) and James Wilkins (1916). Mrs. Blanton went to her eternal rest June 10, 1923. Her mother, Mrs. Robert Zuch, then took over the responsibility for managing the household and rearing the children to adulthood.

Mr. Blanton published *The Nordheim View* from 1902 to 1938. For two or three of those years, however, he leased it to Claude M. Forehand (probably 1911 or 1912), during which time he acquired and edited the *Center Point News* in Center Point, Texas, the family having moved there for the sake of Mrs. Blanton's health. They returned to Nordheim about 1913. Jim retained ownership of the Center Point paper for several years, but leased it to others until he finally sold it. He sold the *View* to Mrs. Bruno Morisse in 1938 and retired to the Hermann's Sons Altenheim, in Comfort, Texas, where he died on February 13, 1941.

Mrs. Morisse continued to publish the *View* for a few years in Nordheim; then she and her brother, Paul Schmidt, moved it to Yorktown and changed the name to *DeWitt County View.* They later sold it to John and Mary Janacek, who continue to publish it as of this writing (August, 1989).

During most of the Blanton years the *View* was very nearly a one-man operation, from editor to janitor. Not quite though as the two inner pages were hand-set by Mr. B. while the two outer pages were machine-set in Yorktown by the *News* staff. (Yes, it was a four-page weekly). On Wednesdays — printing day — he had the help of a succession of local lads whose duty it was to ink the type with a rather heavy muscle-propelled roller, while "ye editor cranked the manually-operated flatbed press. Folding and addressing were also done by hand. Many subscribers would drop by the office on Wednesdays and pick up their *Views* ("hot off the press", as they delighted in saying). When Jim addressed the papers for mailing the next day, he managed to recall who had fetched their *View* and to refrain from mailing them one! It was his custom to give a year's free subscription to newlyweds as a wedding present; no doubt many present-day subscribers, or their parents, were the beneficiaries of this delightful custom. It should also be recorded that, through the years, there were any number of unsung volunteer, or nominally paid, "reporters", whose help was essential, and duly appreciated by the editor.

Research for this history unveiled a rather interesting sidelight. Among the documents examined was a subpoena ordering J.W. Blanton to appear in the Karnes County courthouse on September 22, 1902, as a witness for the defense in the case of the State of Texas vs. Gregorio Cortez, "a criminal action." Cortez was charged in the killing of two peace officers. One was Karnes sheriff, "Brack" Morris, (father of the late Harper Morris, long a sheriff of Karnes County) and one was Henry Schnabel (father of the late Q.P. Schnabel of "Beautity San Antonio" fame). A book, a movie, and a ballad were based on this infamous shootout. The subpoena also required Mr. B. to bring copies of "each edition of *The Nordheim View* from June 12, 1901, until July 15, 1901." One wonders how Jim coped with this demand, in as much as the *View* was not in existence until the year 1902!

by James W. Blanton

BLOCK, ARTHUR AND SUSIE (BRANTLEY)

F76

Arthur and Susie (Brantley) Block

Arthur Dietrict Block, the third son and fifth child of Edward and Alwina Dittman Block was born at Nopal, Gonzales County, Texas on September 2, 1891. He moved with his parents to the Garfield Community in DeWitt County in 1900 and attended school there.

Susan Eliza Brantley was the oldest child of Arnold and Rena Scott Brantley and she was born in DeWitt County on January 26, 1893. Susan was named for her grandmother, Susan Woods Brantley, but changed her name to Susie and her family members always called her Sis or Aunt Sis.

Susie and Arthur married at the bride's home on October 6, 1915. A conflict arose before the wedding due to the fact that the groom's parents wanted to furnish the bride's dress and the bride's family were offended, thinking they were looked on as cheap. However, the custom in those days was for the groom's family to help pay the expenses. These were the differences in German and American customs.

Susie and Arthur lived their entire married life on their farm at Garfield. Here they raised their family of two children. Rose Elizabeth was born August 1, 1916 and Arthur Lloyd was born October 22, 1925. Rose lived with her grandparents and attended school in Yorktown and Arthur Lloyd attended school at Garfield.

Arthur farmed the entire 43 years on the farm at Garfield until his death in 1958. Arthur was school trustee of Garfield and was a member of the Garfield Shooting Club Hall, where he served as Club President twice. Both Arthur and Susie worked closely with the Red Cross for many years and during World War II were active in many war efforts due to their son being in the Navy during the War. Arthur was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown and served for many years as an Elder in the Church.

Susie was also an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown and sang in the choir for many years. She served as President and held other offices of the Women of the Church. Susie was a member of the Home Demonstration Club and held local offices as well as District and State Offices.

Susie was the Garfield correspondent for the local newspapers for many years, and after she moved into the nursing home, she became the

nursing home reporter. Susie spent many of her mornings at the nursing home going around to patients rooms and reading the Bible to them. Until the end she lived a true Christian life.

Arthur died suddenly on June 15, 1958 and Susie died January 4, 1979. They are both buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Rose Lee Niemeier

BLOCK, EDWARD

F77

Alwina (Dittman) and Edward Block

Edward Block, the youngest of ten children and the eighth son of Philip and Margaret Block, was born September 1, 1852 in Tespe, Province Hanover, Germany. He served in the military under the Kaiser while there. Dissatisfied with conditions in Germany, the main one being that he was unable to get the consent of his parents to marry his sweetheart who was a milkmaid on his uncle's dairy farm, Edward left his mother county and sailed for the United States on September 17, 1882 on the ship, *Cimbria*. He arrived in the New York Harbor on October 8, 1882. Edward came to Lavaca County, Texas and worked on ranches where he dug post holes and built fences to earn enough money to send for his sweetheart.

Alwina Dittman Block was the eldest child and daughter of Ludwig and Wilhelmine Steoresandt Dittman and was born July 13, 1863 in Dahlenburg, Province Hanover, Germany. After Alwina arrived in America, she and Edward were married the same day. Edward and Alwina were to make their first home in a log cabin in Lavaca County, Texas, near Breslaw which is located near Hallettsville.

In 1890, they bought their first farm in DeWitt County at Nopal, about fifteen miles north of Yorktown. They built their home using plans that were used in Germany where the residence, hay barn and stock stables were all under one roof. This was their home for ten years. At this time they joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown where they remained members for the rest of their lives. They attended services as often as possible, heating bricks and placing them in the wagon to keep them warm during the 15 mile drive across the prairie from Nopal to Yorktown.

In 1900 the Blocks bought a farm in the Garfield Community, eleven miles north west of Yorktown. The farm consisted of more than 200 acres and here they grew cotton, corn and hay. Their home was a large, roomy structure where they raised eight of their ten children to adulthood. The farm also had many barns, a smokehouse, a cistern house and a buggy shed. There was always a large garden to supply food for the large family, as well as a fruit orchard. Raised were cows, chickens and hogs.

Edward and Alwina were both very active in community affairs, including getting a Lutheran pastor to hold services in the Garfield school house. Edward was a school trustee for the Garfield school. He also took an active part in the Garfield Snooting Hall Club or "Schutzen Verein" as it was known at that time. Alwina was a practical nurse and midwife and she assisted at the birth of many future Garfield citizens.

In 1905, Edward and Alwina returned to Germany for a visit to their families. In their trunk they packed a cotton stalk to show their family in Germany because the family could not understand how cotton grew. The word for cotton translated in German was "tree wool" and they thought the cotton grew like a tree. When Edward and Alwina returned from their trip, they became American citizens in January of 1906.

In 1926, Edward and Alwina Block retired from farm life and sold their farm to one of their sons. They bought themselves a home on West Main Street in Yorktown where they continued to live until Edwards death on October 15, 1928. Their daughter, Emma Block Meischen and her daughters came to live with Alwina until her death on September 21, 1939. Edward and Alwina are both buried in the family burial plot in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

To this union were born ten children, five sons and five daughters. Their son, Otto, the third child, was born while they lived near Breslaw. He was eight months old at the time of his death. Their daughter, Betty, was almost two years old when she was scalded by falling into a pot of hot water and died in July of 1902. She was the ninth child and fourth daughter and is buried in the family burial plot in Yorktown.

The other children are Alwina Block Buelter, Albert Block, Emma Block Meischen, Arthur Block, Rudolf Block, Edward Block, Jr., Selma Block Audiletand Helga Block Worley.

by Rose Lee Niemeier

BLUNTZER, CALVIN PETE AND MARGARET (NOLAN)

F78

C. Pete Bluntzer was born in Cuero on August 9, 1924. He attended Cuero Schools and graduated from Cuero High School in 1942. He was very active in athletics while in high school and in his senior year he was elected to the "Eleven Iron Men of 1942 All South Texas Class A Team." He attended L.S.U. on a football scholarship. After one year, he was drafted and served three years in the

Margaret and Pete Bluntzer, 1948

Pete Bluntzer, 1944

U.S. Army. After World War II, he attended Texas A&I University on a football scholarship. He received numerous honors throughout his college football career.

In 1947, Pete Bluntzer married Margaret Nolan in Three Rivers, Texas. They had three children: Elizabeth Ann (now Mrs. Bruce Evans) of Austin, Thomas Nolan of New Braunfels, and Richard Clay of Austin. Ann and Bruce have two children: Melissa and Matthew. Thomas married Anna Lisa Biery of San Antonio. They have two children, Samuel and Nolan. Richard is a student at the University of Texas in Austin and works in the House of Representatives.

After graduating from the University of Corpus Christi in 1950, Pete Bluntzer coached football at Miller High School in Corpus Christi. He then coached and taught at Alice High School in Alice, Texas for two years. In 1953 he became head football coach at Patti Wealder High School in Victoria, Texas. In June of 1954, while working on his Masters Degree at the

University of Houston in Houston, he was stricken with polio. After his release from the hospital, he and his family moved back to Cuero. Margaret began teaching in the public schools and is still a teacher in Cuero Independent School District. Pete received his Master of Education Degree from the University of Houston in June of 1955.

Although confined to a wheelchair, Pete remained active in community activities. He served as City of Cuero councilman from 1959 to 1967. He also took an active part in football and athletic programs in Cuero. He was always in attendance at local games, football as well as basketball, baseball and track. He was a life long member of the Gobbler Booster Club.

He died in Houston on March 15, 1972. After his death, the Gobbler Booster Club established the "Pete Bluntzer Award." This award is given annually to the most dedicated football player exemplified by his courage, work, sacrifice and sportsmanship. Pete Bluntzer is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Mrs. Pete Bluntzer

BLUNTZER, LOUIS C. AND MARY KOLODZIEJCZYK

F79

Louis C. Bluntzer was born March 30, 1868 in DeWitt County near the community of Upper Meyersville and died there on May 27, 1939. He was a son of Urban Bluntzer (May 31, 1831 – December 11, 1899) and a grandson of colonizer Peter Bluntzer who brought settlers to the Meyersville community.

On April 11, 1893 he married Mary Kolodziejczyk at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Upper Meyersville by Father Henry Gerlach. Mary was born April 25, 1869 and died June 27, 1947. Both are buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Upper Meyersville.

Nine children were born of this marriage as follows: Carolina (January 10, 1894 – April 2, 1956) married Alois Willms; U.S. (Bonnie) (January 15, 1896 – April 15, 1973) married Carrie Olenick (May 1, 1923); Joseph (November 9, 1898 – November 15, 1898); Florence (February 25, 1900 – June 12, 1989), married Charles Bodden September 2, 1930; Otto (March 3, 1902 – August 5, 1966), married Elorine Jacob November 11, 1929; Margaret (September 18, 1904 – March 14, 1979), married Henry Egg May 24, 1932; Helen L. (February 28, 1907 – October 25, 1923) never married; Ora Lee (Anna) (October 25, 1908), married C.L. Stueve February 8, 1937; Elenora (January 15, 1912) married Herman Migura (October 25, 1939).

Louis and his family were mostly engaged in ranching although they did some farming, mostly for feed for the horses and cattle. At one time he did own some property in Thomaston, DeWitt County, and in Goliad in Goliad County, which was later sold. Also in the early years he owned and ran a dance hall and saloon in Upper Meyersville. Louis was noted as an excellent maker of wine, using wild mustang grapes. The children had to pick the grapes for him. The wine was used for giving to people as a treat.

At the time of Louis and Mary's death there were almost eleven hundred acres of land stocked with cattle, which was divided amongst the seven living sons and daughters. All of the land including the old home is still owned by his children or their heirs.

by Marvin C. Bluntzer

BLUNTZER, MARVIN C. AND RITA MUYRES

F80

After completing high school, Marvin C. Bluntzer (whose life to this point is given separately) took his first job as a soda fountain clerk for owner-operator Carl Wagner in Cuero, Texas. Then along came World War Two. The soda fountain was closed and in 1943 Marvin went into the Army serving in Europe. He returned home in 1946 and signed up for the Reserves for three more years. In January 1948 he hired out with Sun Oil Company on a geophysical crew. By November he was in Alberta, Canada working on the crew. There is where he met Rita M. Muyres. Rita, the second eldest daughter of twelve children of Michael R. and Rosa (Kueffler) Muyres, was born September 30, 1929 in Galahad, Alberta, Canada. Marvin and Rita were married November 19, 1949 in St. Donatus Catholic Church in Galahad, Alberta, Canada. Her parents owned a farm near Forestburg, Alberta and also mined coal during the winter for extra income.

During the twenty-three years and five months with Sun Oil Company, Marvin and Rita made approximately forty-five moves and lived in eleven states and Canada. The final move was to Cuero in DeWitt County in 1969. Sun Oil Co. sold the Geophysical Department in June of 1971. Marvin continued working with the contract geophysical crew for another two or three years, but when they moved out of the area he resigned and quit moving. Marvin worked on various jobs in and around Cuero. Rita worked as a grocery store checker in Cuero and also was an Avon Representative for fifteen years.

During Marvin and Rita's moving days, their only son, Daryl James, was born February 16, 1958 in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Daryl attended schools in a number of different towns graduating from high school in Cuero, Texas. On August 4, 1979 he married Linda Dlugosch in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero. Linda was the youngest daughter of Phillip and Lorene (Jablonski) Dlugosch and was born on January 2, 1961. Daryl and Linda have two children. Kelly Ann born in Victoria on May 25, 1980 and Kristopher Daryl born in Cuero on February 17, 1989. Kelly is presently attending Yorktown School and rides the school bus from the old farm where they now live. They have added on to the old house that was built after the fire in 1948. Daryl is at present a heavy equipment diesel mechanic employed a short distance out of Cuero. Linda attends college part time to further her education for future work. They own their own herd of cattle. Marvin and Rita have their herd of cattle but all look after the cattle and feed them. Other than taking care of the cattle, Marvin and Rita consider themselves retired.

by Marvin C. Bluntzer

BLUNTZER, PETE BERNARD AND LYDIA (KORHMER)

F81

Woodrow Bluntzer

Peter B. Bluntzer was born in Arneckeville, Texas in September, 1878. He married Lydia Krohmer on January 1, 1908 in Arneckeville. They had three sons: Cornelius Sixtus Bluntzer, Woodrow K. Bluntzer, and Calvin Pete Bluntzer. He was a farmer and delivered ice in Cuero for many years. He died in September 1957. Lydia Bluntzer died in 1964. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

Cornelius Bluntzer married Loraine Tietz on March 12, 1933. They had one son, Robert Lee Bluntzer, who lives in Austin. He and his wife, Jo Nicklin Bluntzer, have two children, Peter and Alice. Cornelius Bluntzer died in 1973, Loraine in 1975. They are buried in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

Woodrow Bluntzer married Maurine Sinast on July 8, 1934. They had two children: Joan McKee, who lives in Salado and Bill Bluntzer, who lives in Austin. During World War II, Woodrow served in the U.S. Army in Europe. He retired from service as Lt. Colonel. Woodrow died in 1984 and is buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. Maurine lives in Salado.

by Mrs. Pete Bluntzer

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Lydia Bluntzer and Bernard Bluntzer with grandchildren Ann Bluntzer and Tommy Bluntzer. 1952

BLUNTZER, PETER

F82

In July of 1842 agents of Count Henri Castro were in the Thur Valley of the Alsace region of France. They were looking for people to colonize a land grant that Castro had gotten in return for help he had given J. Pickney Henderson in his quest to get King Louie Phillipe of France to recognize Texas as a Republic. They had heard the residents of the Thur Valley were industrious, hard working people. Peter Bluntzer was among the 180 people recruited to go to what is now Castorville, Texas. His brother-in-law Jacques Winkler was also in this group.

Peter Bluntzer was born November 24, 1805 in Oderen in the beautiful Thur Valley in Alsace, France. The first Bluntzer had come across the mountains from the Swiss canton of Zug in 1648, after the Thirty Years War. On October 17, 1826 he married Theresa Jacob from the neighboring village of Kruth. Her family had been in the Valley for 6 generations. Her sister Geneieve was married to Jacques Winkler.

Peter and Theresa and their 7 children left Oderen in November of 1843. They sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, aboard the *Henrich*, a two master of rather small size, for Galveston, Texas. From Galveston they went to Indianola where they loaded their goods on a 2 wheeled cart headed for Castorville. Theresa was riding on the cart and she fell off when they were a few miles from Victoria. Her hip was broken and the Bluntzers had to stay in Victoria. Peter began to explore the countryside. When he found the Coleto Creek and its surroundings he thought this was paradise and acquired some land in the Meyersville area.

By 1852 a number of relatives and friends in Alsace were ready to come to America. Peter Bluntzer returned to France. Families coming to Texas between 1852 and 1857 were the Bitterlys, Dreyers, Lutenbacher, Fuchs, Arnold, Haller, Luder, DeDear, Hans, Zengerle, Golly and many others. Over 300 people had left the villages of Kruth Oderen and Fellering by 1856. They were bound for Meyersville, Texas.

All of these families were Catholic and they wanted a church. They began to have Mass in the Bluntzer home. A priest from Victoria would come. (Story elsewhere in this book). The young girls in the area would go to the Bluntzer home the day before church and bake pies all day and arrange the furniture for Mass.

The Bluntzers had their share of sorrow. Their youngest daughter, Madeline, died sometime after they began their voyage. Their oldest son Leo, joined the army of "Old Zac Taylor" and was killed in the Battle of Buena Vista in Mexico in 1846.

The Bluntzers who survived the trip and the early years all married in DeWitt County. Geneveva Bluntzer, born March 20, 1829, married Michael Rehm. She moved to D'Hanis, Texas, where she is buried. Urban born in 1931, married Amelia Gerhardt in 1857. He is buried in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Meyersville. Nicholas was born in 1831 and married Justina Peters in 1858. He moved to San Patrico, Texas in the 1860's. Theresa was born in 1837. She married Frederick Harsdorff. After his death she married Joseph Hubersberger. She died in 1892. Fannie (Vanaranda) was born November 14, 1838. She married John Arnold in 1858. She died in 1904 and is buried at Meyersville. Sixtus Bluntzer was born August 6, 1841. He married Catherine Walter. She was Franz Zengerle's step-daughter. Sixtus died in 1895. He is buried in Meyersville.

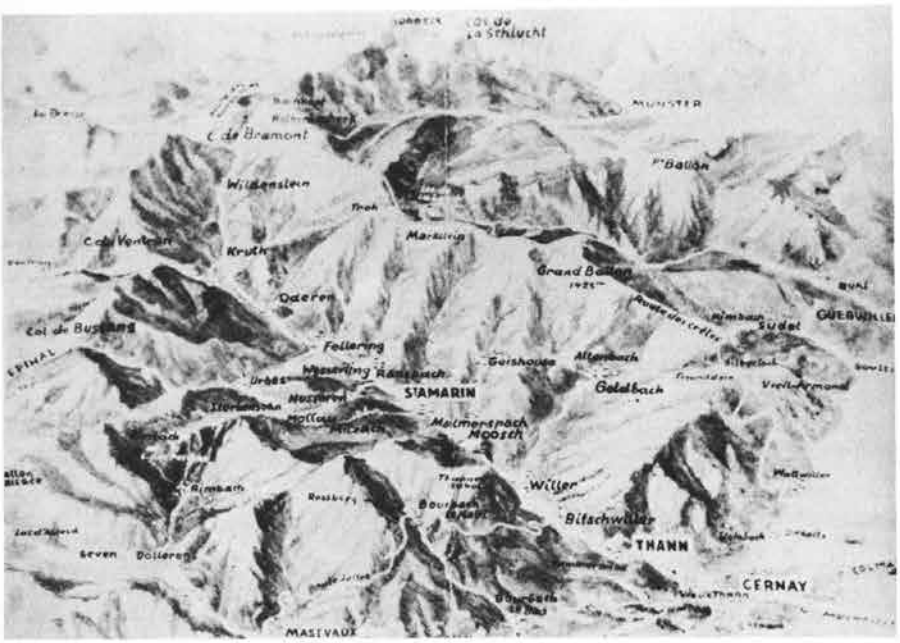
Theresa Bluntzer (Peter's wife) died shortly after the church at Meyersville was built. She was one of the first to be buried in the cemetery. Peter Bluntzer and his son Sixtus moved their cattle to San Patrico during a dry spell. While they were there Peter died. They buried him in a little country cemetery close to San Patrico.

During the Texas Bi-Centennial the Bluntzer family had a reunion in Meyersville, Texas. Five hundred and forty-nine descendants attended from five states and two foreign countries. A special guest was Claud Gewiss of Waterloo, Belgium who had helped research the family history and put us in touch with our families left in the Thur Valley.

by Virginia Fetters

Peter Bluntzer and Theresa (Jacob) Bluntzer

For Sale by L. L. BUTTERY



Map of Alsace, France Region

BLUNTZER, SIXTUS AND CATHERINA (WALTERS)

F83

Sixtus and Catherina Bluntzer

Sixtus Bluntzer, son of Peter Bluntzer and Theresa Jacob Bluntzer, was born August 6, 1841 (one source says 1838), in Oderen, Alsace Lorraine, France. He came to America with his mother and father in 1844 landing at Indianola. On September 29, 1869, he married Catherina Walters. They had three sons: Michael H., Peter Bernard, and Louis.

Sixtus Bluntzer was a Confederate soldier serving under Captain Robert Kleberg's company of Caleta Guards, 24th Brigade, Texas Militia. He was a farmer and rancher.

Sixtus Bluntzer died January 29, 1895, and is buried in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Meyersville, Texas. Catherine is also buried in the same cemetery.

by Mrs. Pete Bluntzer

BLUNTZER, U.S. AND CARRIE OLENICK

F84

U.S. (Bonnie) Bluntzer was born January 15, 1896 in DeWitt County near Upper Meyersville. More people knew him, and referred to him, by his nickname "Bonnie". He was the eldest son of Louis C. and Mary Bluntzer, whose story is given separately. He served in the Army during World War One in Europe. After the war ended he returned to DeWitt County and on May 1, 1923 he married Carrie Olenick in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Upper Meyersville. Carrie Olenick, one of seven children of Peter and Anne (Neslony) Olenick, was born near Upper Meyersville on March 28, 1899. After marriage they lived on a rented farm between Weser and Ander in Goliad County, Texas. On June 17, 1924 Marvin C. Bluntzer was born and on July 19, 1927 Calvin James Bluntzer was born. Birth certificate lists Ander, Texas as birthplace of Marvin. Later the family moved to another rented farm between Ander and Schroeder, Texas. Marvin C. started school from this farm at a country school (Hoff School) about a mile across the pasture.

In the early 1930s the family moved back to DeWitt County on property owned by Louis C. Bluntzer. Louis C. came to own this property by paying off a debt to the Federal Land Bank for the people who had previously owned the property. These were years of the Great Depression and money was in short supply. U.S. moved the farm machinery, mules, cattle, feed, and many of the household items by wagon and mules to this new home in DeWitt County. A new frame two bedroom home had been built on the acreage. Many neighbors, friends, and kinfolks helped move on the final day which was in December. I remember dad (U.S.) stopping along the road where a man was riding a cultivator behind two mules in a field. As the man came to the turning row at the road dad got out of the car and went across the road to talk to him. After talking a few minutes dad came back to the car but we did not leave. The man turned the mules around and proceeded to the other end of the field which was adjoining a brushy pasture. After a while the man returned to where we were stopped and again dad went across the road to talk to him. While talking dad reached in his pocket and gave the man some money. The man reached under his coat and gave dad something wrapped in a newspaper. After everyone was unloaded at the new location dad brought out the newspaper wrapped package and opened it for a treat for all who helped move. The comments from everyone – "Some of the best moonshine I have ever tasted".

Susie Olenick, a partially crippled sister of mothers, lived with us at the time and did most of the cooking. Mother worked in the field with the men folks as did most of the women in those days. Cotton, corn, and feed for the livestock were grown along with a big garden. Dad loved his cattle and as long as I can remember he had a fine herd of cattle along with good horses and mules. He raised all of his mules and most of his saddle horses. Chickens, turkeys, and hogs were raised for meat. Home canning was done from the garden. At one time we were members of a butcher club. Taking turns, one member gave a beef each week which was butchered by a local country butcher and he would deliver fresh meat each Friday for the weekend. There was no electricity in the country as yet, so no refrigerators. Few families had radios to listen to and they were battery operated so weren't turned on too often.

Calvin and Marvin attended Meyersdale School, a two room country school, two miles away. We either walked or rode horseback. This was a ninth grade school and after completing her I rode the bus to Cuero for two years graduating in 1941. Calvin only finished the ninth grade at Meyersdale. Calvin remained at home on the farm until his untimely death on June 4, 1957. He died just short of his 30th. birthday of a cerebral hemorrhage. He had never married. Along with the farming and ranching he did much work in the local oil fields as a roust-a-bout, road work, bar tender in Yorktown, and as a truck driver, or wherever he was needed or could be used. In the summer of 1948 the house burned to the ground on a Sunday morning while everyone was away at church. Within the same month the neighbors house burned under the same circumstances. Arson was suspected. Marvin's mother, Carrie, died December 20, 1966 and his father, U.S., died in Cuero while living with Marvin and Rita on April 15, 1973. All of Marvin's family are buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery at Upper Meyersville. Marvin C. Bluntzer family story given separately.

by Marvin MC. Bluntzer

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BOEHL, ELMO WILLIAM AND FLORA FRIEDERICKE KOEHLER FAMILY

F85

Elmo William Boehl (1908-1959)

Flora Friedericke (Koehler) Boehl

Elmo William Boehl was a man of superior intellect, a man constantly in search of new experiences and further learning, a man of high moral fiber, and a man greatly respected and loved by those who knew him. Devoted to his Lord, his family, and his church, the life of Elmo Boehl served as an example which all mankind might wisely emulate.

Elmo William Boehl was born in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas, on 21 January 1908. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 12 April 1908 and received the baptismal name Elmo Emil Wilhelm. His baptismal sponsors were Willy Poehler, Anna Rath, and Emil Boehl. He was the son of William Frederick Boehl (b. 12 April 1869 Viesecke bei Kletzke, Potsdam Administrative District, Westprignitz District, now Perleberg District, Province of Brandenburg, Prussian-German Federal States, Germany; d. 4 March 1933 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 19 November 1891 Arneckeville) and Johanna Boehl, nee Rath (b. 24 January 1871 Meyersville, DeWitt County; d. 24 March 1955 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.) Elmo William Boehl died in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, on 11 July 1959 and was buried at Restland in Dallas.

On 11 November 1932 in Arneckeville, Elmo William Boehl married Flora Friedericke Koehler, triplet daughters of Frederick Christian Koehler (b. 19 March 1879 Arneckeville; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 29 June 1904 in DeWitt County; m. 2: 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Friedericke Sager, sister of the deceased Caroline Koehler and Caroline Koehler, nee Sager (b. 29 September 1875 Arneckeville; d. 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Flora Friedericke Boehl was born on 11 September 1909 in DeWitt County. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 17 October 1909. Her sponsors were Friedericke Sager and Carl Schorlemmer. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Zion on Palm Sunday 1924.

Two children were born to the marriage of Elmo William Boehl and Flora Friedericke Boehl, nee Koehler. John Elmo Boehl, Ph.D. was born 1 February 1941 in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas; he died on 26 December 1977 in Garland, Dallas County, and was buried at Restland Cemetery in Dallas. Glenn Edward Boehl was born on 8 February 1943 in Corpus Christi; he married Beverly Jean Whaley (b. 20 November 1946 San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas) on 9 July 1966 in Odessa, Ector County, Texas. John Elmo Boehl never married, and one child was born to the marriage of Glenn Boehl and Beverly Jean Boehl, nee Whaley: Charles William "Bill" Boehl (b. 4 June 1972 Dallas).

Elmo Boehl, this son of an immigrant farmer, was one of the most intelligent, industrious, and successful stars ever to rise above the horizon of DeWitt County. After having completed courses in English, Spanish, history, civics, general science, physical geography, chemistry, typing, algebra, plane geometry, solid geometry, and trigonometry, he was valedictorian of his class at Cuero High School, from which he graduated with highest honors in 1927. Elmo Boehl was offered scholarships to many colleges, including Trinity University, Howard Payne College, Abilene Christian College, John Tarleton Agricultural College, State Teachers Colleges of Texas, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, St. Edward's University, and Brantley-Draughon College. However, his father forbade him entrance into any institution of higher learning because none of the other children had attended.

Elmo Boehl left the farm in 1929 and commenced his career, first working in Cuero for an abstractor and surveyor, W.R. Garrett, from whom he learned the fundamentals of land surveying, field notes preparation, property map preparation, and land title abstracting. In 1931 Elmo Boehl accepted a position in Cuero as draftsman and office assistant with the Texas State Highway Department, where his duties first consisted of assisting in the preparation of plans and estimates; however, after a few months, he served as assistant plant inspector on a concrete paving job. His salary at that time was $3.50 per day. In February of 1932 Elmo Boehl was transferred to Beeville, Texas, where his duties consisted of preparing plans and estimates for all types of highway construction. He prepared all right-of-way maps and deeds and occasionally performed inspection work on construction. His salary was then $100.00 per month.

Elmo William Boehl continued his work with the Texas State Highway Department until December of 1934, at which time he accepted a position as assistant county engineer of Bee County for $175.00 per month. He was then responsible for the survey and preparation of right-of-way deeds and of complete plans for a twenty-two mile W.P.A. highway project from Beeville to the Bee-Refugio County line. This project consisted of grading and drainage structures, caliche base course and asphaltic concrete pavement. He supervised the construction of grading and drainage structures but left before the job was completed to accept the position of assistant county engineer in Nueces County in March of 1936.

Elmo Boehl served as assistant county engineer of Nueces County from March 1936 until December of 1940 at a salary of $225.00 per month. During this period he was responsible for the making of surveys and for the preparation of plans on approximately two hundred miles of various types of roads. In addition, he prepared plans for over one hundred miles of roads in Bee and Jim Wells Counties. It was during his term with Nueces County that he received his professional engineer's license from the State of Texas in 1938.

From January of 1941 until July of that year, Elmo Boehl was engaged in private engineering work in and around Corpus Christi. This work consisted mainly of making land surveys, preparing subdivision plans, and laying out utility lines for various new subdivisions. In July of 1941 he was employed as field engineer by James Stewart and Company, contractors on the construction of an electrolytic zinc plant for the American Smelting and Refining Company at Corpus Christi. His duties consisted of staking, laying out of buildings, footings, foundations, grading, utilities, checking structural steel, etc. His salary was $50.00 per week at the beginning of the job and $70.00 per week at the completion of the job in October of 1942.

From November of 1942 until the latter part of February of 1943, Elmo Boehl was employed for $70.00 per week by E.B. Badger and Sons, contractors on the construction of the Sinclair Refinery in Corpus Christi. His duties were very similar to those at the zinc plant. Lack of materials and considerable changes in plans necessitated a drastic reduction in personnel. He was given the opportunity of going to another Badger job in Baytown, Texas; however, he elected to accept a position with Robert and Company, Inc., engineers and architects on the U.S. Naval Air Training Station at Corpus Christi, where he was employed from 1943 to 1944 as an engineer in the municipal department at a salary of $1.70 an hour. His duties consisted of drawing layout plans of

roads, walks, and buildings for Chase Field, Beeville, and numerous extensions of other fields, such as taxiways, warm-up platforms, storm sewer extensions, etc.

From 1944 until 1946, Elmo Boehl was employed as a structural engineer by Gasoline Plant Construction Corporation in Corpus Christi. A relocation to Dallas in 1946 brought employment as a structural engineer at Process Engineers, Inc. From 1951 until his death in 1959, he was employed by Tears Engineers in Dallas as vice-president, mechanical design. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Elmo William Boehl was always an active, conscientious, and giving member of his church. He was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on Palm Sunday, 19 April 1922, and was accepted as a member there on 8 January 1933. When he moved his family to Corpus Christi in 1936, Elmo and Flora Boehl transferred their church memberships from Zion to the First Lutheran Church of Corpus Christi, and they transferred their memberships to Christ Lutheran Church in Dallas when the family moved there in 1946. Elmo Boehl served his church as member of the council for four years, as Sunday School Superintendent for five years, and as President of the Men's Club for two years. He also sang in various church choirs for thirty years and was active on several building committees, on stewardship emphasis, and on evangelism and loyalty assignments. He was also scoutmaster for Christ Lutheran's B.S.A. Troop #570 for six years.

Christ Lutheran Church of Dallas issued the following memorial resolution on 13 July 1959, just two days after Elmo Boehl's untimely death at the age of 51: " 'The just shall live by faith' — a God-inspired tenant of Lutheran faith was wonderfully made alive in the life of Elmo Boehl . . . For his life and the privilege of serving with Elmo, we praise a gracious God."

by Beverly Boehl

BOEHL, WILLIAM FREDERICK AND JOHANNA RATH FAMILY

F86

William Frederick Boehl

Johanna (Rath) Boehl

William Frederick Boehl was born on 12 April 1869 in Viesecke bei Kletzke, Potsdam Administrative District, Westprignitz District, now Perleberg District, Province of Brandenburg, Prussian-German Federal States, Germany. He was baptized in Viesecke on 2 May 1869 and given the baptismal name Joachim Friedrich Wilhelm. He was the son of Matthias Boehl (b. 13 April 1818 Gross Gotchau bei Rosenhagen, Potsdam Administrative District; d. 30 October 1878 DeWitt County, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. 7 May 1850 Viesecke) and Maria Boehl, nee Evert (b. 18 April 1828 Viesecke; d. 20 June 1893 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). According to oral history, when young William Frederick was about four years old, the Boehl family sailed from Bremerhafen (the port of Bremen, Germany). In DeWitt County, where the family had settled, on 15 September 1890, in his Declaration of Intent to become a naturalized citizen of the United States, William Frederick Boehl stated that he arrived at the port of Galveston, Texas, on or about 15 November 1873. Having stated that he "doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Emperor of Germany," William Frederick Boehl was granted citizenship on 8 April 1899 in DeWitt County. He died of cancer on 4 March 1933 in Cuero, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 19 November 1891 in Arneckeville, William Frederick Boehl married Johanna Rath, daughter of Johann Peter Rath (b. 18 January 1847 Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany; d. 10 April 1899 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 10 October 1867 Meyersville, DeWitt County) and Hulda Charlotte Rath, nee Thieme (b. 6 October 1849 Arneckeville; d. 14 April 1931 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Johanna Boehl, nee Rath, born on 24 January 1871 in Meyersville, was given the baptismal name Maria Augusta Johanna. When she was about two years old, reportedly in 1873, her family moved to Arneckeville. She was confirmed on Palm Sunday, 29 March 1885, in the Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. Johanna Boehl died on 24 March 1955 in Cuero of cerebral vascular hemorrhage resulting from hypertensive cardiovascular disease and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

The marriage of William Frederick Boehl and Johanna Boehl produced six children, all of whom were born in Arneckeville: John Frederick Walter Boehl (b. 19 August 1892; d. September 1966 Cuero; bur. Cuero; m. Frieda Gohlke); Edward Albert Boehl (b. 10 September 1893; d. 6 June 1913 Cuero; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Kathryn Boehl, baptized Martha Johanna Katherine (b. 23 September 1895; d. 16 March 1983 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas; bur. Roselawn Memorial Park, San Antonio; m. H. Tracy Barnes); Lucille Boehl, baptized Marie Emma Lucille (b. 15 December 1897; d. 1 August 1986 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 22 February 1927 Arneckeville to Walter Hartman); Herbert Henry Boehl, baptized Herbert Heinrich (b. 9 June 1900; d. 12 July 1963 Cuero; m. #1: Anna Emelia Bolt; m. #2: 19 November 1946 Lorene Flick); Elmo William Boehl, baptized Elmo Emil Wilhelm (b. 21 January 1908; d. 11 July 1959 Dallas, Dallas County, Texas; bur. Restland Cemetery, Dallas; m. 11 November 1932 Arneckeville to Flora Friedericka Koehler).

William Frederick Boehl was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. He was confirmed there on 18 March 1883 and was accepted as a member when he signed the constitution on 24 April 1892. He was elected trustee at congregational meetings on 23 December 1894, on 27 December 1903, and in January of 1916. He was appointed secretary on 26 July 1896 and was elected to that position on 27 December 1908. He was recommended as treasurer at the congregational meeting of 4 January 1922 and was elected treasurer at the meeting of 3 January 1926. On 18 January 1928 he was elected as alternate delegate to the Synod meeting, and he was elected delegate on 27 December 1931. In addition to his church work, he was also a member of the Arneckeville Community Council of Defense during World War I, as well as a member of the Woodmen of the World.

Johanna Boehl left the following most detailed and interesting account of the last days of her beloved husband, William Frederick Boehl:

Dear Children, or whoever reads this,

Papa . . . died on March the 4th, 1933 just 11 months after his operation. He recuperated nicely all summer, was able to walk some. He plowed a few acres, moved some feed and raked it. In Nov. he seemed to be getting weaker; on Thanksgiving day, he and I went to church together for the last time. He took the flu and never did get over it entirely. He grew weaker and weaker. On the 18th of Jan. 1933 he took to bed and was not able to be up any more. He

had no pain, just wasted away, would sleep mostly day and night. We rallied Dr. Booth on Jan 21st and again March 2nd. He advised us to bring him to the Hospital. We took him there in the morning March the 3rd. He was in a coma, did not seem to know what was going on, and could not speak. On the 4th of March he went quickly to sleep, at ten minutes after nine o'clock in the morning. He had a very large funeral but just as we were leaving the house, a terrible weather came up from the north. We had to hurry to lay him in his last resting place. People had to rush to their cars. Then it began to rain. It rained so hard the creeks were up. It was such a pity. People came from far and near. The pall bearers were: Henry Sager, Rudolph Hartman, Otto Wolf, R. Waldeck, Adolph Hagens, Albert Wolf. Rev. E. Meier officiated at the last rights.

Mother

by Beverly Boehl

BOEHM, EDMUND "EDDIE"

F87

Gertrude and Eddie Boehm

Edmund "Eddie" Boehm was born February 20, 1910, the son of Joseph Boehm and Emelia (Juenger) Boehm. On October 10, 1936, he married Gertrude Natho, daughter of Otto Natho and Lydia (Boerm) Natho. She was born in 1916. Otto Natho was born April 13, 1887 in Shiner, Texas. He died April 7, 1950 and is buried in Orange Grove, Texas. Lydia (Boerm) Natho was born October 10, 1887 in Shiner, Texas and died March 6, 1978 in Orange Grove, Texas. Otto and Lydia had five children: 1) Edgar Natho was born May 8, 1911 and married Irma Boehm. 2) Adela Natho was born December 7, 1912 and married Otto DeReese. 3) Bernice Natho was born September 3, 1914 and married Edgar Boehm. 4) Gertrude Natho was born August 11, 1916 and married Eddie Boehm. 5) Edna Natho was born April 4, 1919 and married Adolph Kraatz. The Natho family lived in Runge, Nordheim and Orange Grove, Texas.

Eddie Boehm stayed on the Boehm family farm and took over the farming business from his father. After he married Gertrude, they lived with the Joe Boehms and farmed, raised cattle, chickens and turkeys. Eddie and Gertrude had three children: 1) Harvey Lee Boehm was born March 15, 1938 at Lindenau. He married Karen Parker on December 6, 1968. She was born January 10, 1945 and died in 1989. Their children are: Mellisa Boehm born July 14, 1969; Stephen Boehm born January 17, 1971. 2) Betty Myrl Boehm was born January 25, 1943 and married Bobby Tacker on November 7, 1965. He was born on January 4, 1945. Their children are: Greg Tacker born June 26, 1966 and Brit Tacker born December 29, 1967. 3) Jerome Boehm was born September 29, 1948 and married Vivian Sue Judd on December 27, 1969. She was born September 30, 1950. They have one son, Matthew Boehm who was born February 2, 1972.

After Eddie's mother's death, his father sold the home farm to Eddie and Gertrude. In 1938 Eddie bought the first tractor for the farm. When the government started cutting production in the cotton and corn acres, Eddie went to work at the Cuero Cotton Mill for a number of years until the strike at the Cotton Mill. He then applied for a job at Gulf Coast Wood Products and worked there until his death.

Gertrude still lives on the Boehm "home place."

by Mrs. Eddie Boehm

BOEHM, JOSEPH "JOE" AND EMELIA (JUENGER)

F88

Joe Boehm was the son of Franz and Theresia (Boenish) Boehm. Franz Boehm was born in Austria, November 11, 1830 and died April 11, 1906 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Theresia (Boenish) Boehm was born October 5, 1832 in the little village of Bortchendorf, Austria and died January 6, 1905 at Indianapolis, Indiana. Nine children were born to Franz and Theresia in Bielau, a little village called Wagstat, near Vienna, Austria. The children were: 1) Mary (Boehm) Feilhauer; 2) Augusta (Boehm) Weisenberger; 3) Anna (Boehm) Fissel; 4) Frank II who married Caroline Schneck; 5) Joseph Joe who married Emelia Juenger; 6) Raymond who married Josephine Lehman; 7) Ludwika (Boehm) Kistner; 8) a son who drowned in a river in Austria; and the ninth child is not known.

Mary the oldest child did not come to America. She married and her family did not want to come. Some of the older children came to America before the parents, Then they encouraged their folks to come to America, also.

In 1885 the folks and the rest of the family decided to come to America. Joe was nineteen years old which was the age all the boys had to join the Military Service in the old country. His folks had to plead with the military to let their son come along to America. Finally they came over by boat and landed at Galveston, Texas. They journeyed overland and settled in Schulenburg. The home that they built there was a large two storied house and was still standing in 1974. Some of the children moved to Indianapolis, Indiana to a cooler climate which they were used to in the old country. Later the parents joined their children in Indianapolis.

Joe stayed in Schulenburg and married Emelia Juenger. She was the daughter of Anton Juenger who was born February 2, 1829 in a small village called Klein Peterdorf, Austria. Anton never came to America. Emelia's mother was Rosina (Schindler) Juenger who was born November 21, 1828 in Heinzendorf, Austria. She came to America and died January 27, 1909 and is buried in the Lindenau Cemetery.

Joseph "Joe" Boehm was born April 18, 1866 and died September 18, 1948. On October 26, 1892, Joe and Emelia Juenger were married. Emelia was born October 16, 1872 and died June 27, 1941. Soon after their marriage the couple moved to Shiner, Texas where they lived for a year. In 1893 they moved to Lindenau, Texas. They lived on a farm in a house with two rooms and a porch. The house was owned by Elenora and Frank Brockhaus. Later the Boehms bought the farm and lived there until their deaths. They had nine children: 1)

Back Row, L-R, Standing: Joe and Emelia Boehm Family. Back Row: Irma, Hertha, Hilda, Eddie, Erwin, Sophie and Selma. Front row: Emelia, Agnes and Joe.

Selma Boehm was born June 13, 1893 and married Joe Till (1888-1981); 2) Erwin Boehm was born July 20, 1894 and married Ida Duevel (1897-1984); 3) Edna Boehm was born February 20, 1896 and died October 30, 1977. She married Walter Ummelman (1896-1982); 4) Hilda Boehm was born June 23, 1897 and died in 1984. She married Ed Sharke (1895-1982); 5) Sophie Boehm was born April 10, 1899 and married Leo Hoffman (1901-); 6) Hertha Boehm was born August 1, 1901 and married E.F.H. "Ed" Morganroth (1898-); 7) Irma Boehm was born April 23, 1907 and died in 1987. She married Edgar Natho (1911-); 8) Edmund "Eddie" Boehm was born February 20, 1910 and died November 11, 1980. He married Gertrude Natho (1916-); 9) Agnes "Aggie" Boehm was born May 2, 1915 and married Werner Afflerbach (1910-1975).

The Boehms moved to Lindenau in a wagon pulled by two horses. They did not have very much, just what they needed and could move on a wagon. Some things that they brought were: a wood stove, few pots and pans, eating utensils, table, few chairs, trunks, bed and little bedding, wash tub, wash kettle, washboard, few chickens, few geese, hogs, a cow or two, hand plow, wood barrels, stone crocks and a cross cut saw.

In Lindenau the land was cultivated, a little more each year, the children grew, and the Boehms prospered.

by Gertrude Boehm

BOHMAN FAMILY

F89

A.J. Bohman, M.D.

The Bohman family of Cuero are relative newcomers to DeWitt County having lived in the area a mere fifty years. They have, however, been active in civic affairs during those years and have had some impact on the life of the community of Cuero.

Alfred John Bohman was born on February 16, 1911 in the town of Shiner, Texas in Lavaca County. He was the second son of Johanna Othold and John Frederic Bohmann. He attended the Shiner public schools and graduated from Shiner High School in 1928. Upon graduation he was sent to Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas. In later years, he consistently referred to it as "reform" school, perhaps because it was a military school and he spent many an hour on guard duty walking off demerits.

Bernice D. Bohman

In 1931, having graduated from "reform" school with an Associate of Arts degree, he enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin. He completed his premedical studies there, and went on to Texas University School of Medicine in Galveston. Treatment for a childhood injury sustained while playing with holiday fireworks had so impressed him with the practice of medicine that he had decided to be a doctor. He received his M.D. degree in 1935 and subsequently interned at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At the age of twenty-five he established his first practice in the little town of Nordheim, Texas, in DeWitt County. He practiced there from 1936 to 1939 when he moved to Cuero.

It was in Nordheim that A.J. Bohman (he was generally referred to by his initials) met his future wife. A native of San Antonio, Bernice Marie Dullnig came to Nordheim in 1937 as a first year teacher. Educated in the Catholic schools of St. Joseph's Academy and Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, she had received her Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching certificate the previous spring. Miss Dullnig was a member of a pioneer San Antonio family, the oldest of the three children of Veronica Teich and Allen Jesse Truax-Dullnig. Dr. Bohman and Miss Dullnig were married in March of 1941 and established their home in Cuero at the end of the school year.

That year saw the atrocity of Pearl Harbor and the U.S. military involvement in World War II. Dr. Bohman volunteered and was commissioned a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, in the U.S. Navy. He was rejected for active service because of a medical problem. He spent the war years building up his medical practice and, in the process, acquiring ownership of a Cuero hospital, originally Reuss Memorial Hospital. (see hospital section)

A.J. Bohman was always a believer in progress, in keeping up with the times. In 1949, he built the first medical clinic in Cuero on property adjacent to the hospital. Dr. F.A. Prather of Runge who had recently returned from service in the U.S. Army joined him. Dr. Bohman owned and operated the hospital until 1957 when he converted it to a Foundation. The Cuero Hospital Foundation was dissolved in 1970 when the new Cuero Community Hospital was opened. Dr. Bohman was one of the chief promoters of the Community Hospital. All assets of the Cuero Hospital Foundation, some two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, were given to the new facility in the names of the Bohman Clinic doctors and the trustees of the Foundation. At that time the members of the medical staff were: Dr. F.A. Prather, Dr. O.E. Hall Jr., Dr. Raymond Reese, and Dr. A.J. Bohman. The Foundation directors were: Mr. E.T. Summers Jr., Mr. Fain McDougal, Mr. W.L. Ferguson, Mr. Jimmie Reiffert, and Mr. Nathan Post. Dr. Bohman subsequently demolished the old hospital building and used the property for much needed parking space for the clinic. He continued to practice until shortly before his death in February of 1983.

Dr. Bohman was a member of the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, the Southwest Surgical Congress, and the Post Graduate Medical Assembly of South Texas. He was a Life Fellow of the American Society of Abdominal Surgeons.

The Bohmans enjoyed a rich and satisfying life in Cuero. They were the parents of four daughters: Veronica Frances, Joan Marie, Sonja Bernice, and Barbara Helen. Though Dr. Bohman might have welcomed a son he was never heard to say so. On the birth of his fourth girl he was quoted in the *Cuero Record* a s saying that four queens were hard to beat. Dr. Bohman did play poker, as well as golf.

Bernice Bohman, though a city-bred girl, relished the small-town friendliness of Cuero. She was, and is, active in the DeWitt County Historical Commission and the DeWitt County Historical Museum. During the famous Turkey Trots, which Cuero held at odd intervals, she served on various committees. All of the Bohman girls participated in one or the other of the celebrations and their beautiful costumes are still exhibited on occasion.

In 1946 when Mrs. Bohman's father died, Mrs. Vera Dullnig, mother of Mrs. Bohman, moved to Cuero. She made her home with the family for thirteen years. She died in 1959 and is buried in San Antonio.

The Bohman children were educated in St. Michael's Catholic School and Cuero Public High School. All are honor graduates of Cuero High. Barbara was valedictorian of her graduating class, 1970. Upon graduation they chose to attend the University of Texas at Austin from which they all hold degrees. Veronica (Ronnie) and Joan like their father were interested in scientific studies. Joan was elected to Phi Beta Kappa her senior year. Sonja (Sunny) and Barbara were more inclined to literature. They chose to major in journalism and have pursued careers in that field.

All the Bohman daughters are married and have presented Dr. and Mrs. Bohman with twelve grandchildren. Veronica (Mrs. Richard Rushing) has five children, three girls and two boys. Tragically, her second child, John Bohman Rushing, died of leukemia at age seven. The Rushings live in Houston, Texas. Joan (Mrs. Theodore A. Leslie) who returned to Cuero to live shortly after the death of her father, is the mother of two girls and one boy. Sonja (Mrs. Steve McKinnon) and Barbara (Mrs. Darrell Barger) each have two girls. Sonja lives in Houston; Barbara, in Corpus

Christi.

The Bohman grandchildren are: Veronica Joan, Catherine Maureen, Kristen Bernice, and Richard Raymond Rushing; Sonya Elizabeth, Robert Bohman and Annemarie Frances Leslie; Lanie Marie and Barbara Louise McKinnon; Johanna Bernice and Vera Elizabeth Barger.

Mrs. Bohman maintains the family home in Cuero.

(My daughters will remonstrate with me for having written as much as I have about them. I shall tell them this is not written for them but for my grandchildrens' grandchildren.)

by Bernice Bohman

BOLDT, CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH (FRITZ), SR.

F90

Friedrich Boldt was born in December 1820 in Alt Haferwiese Prussia. He spent his early years in Prussia where education and military service were compulsory. He married Christine Wilhelmine Ernestine Kannewiesher who was born in 1822.

Due to the revolution in the Germanic regions in 1848, many people sought peace in America. Societies were formed by families who would immigrate together on the same ship and form settlements in their new home. In 1855 Friederich and his older brother Christian joined one of these societies and traveled by way of Berlin to Bremen. They boarded the ship *"Sophie"* and sailed to Indianola, Texas. They traveled by wagon train from Indianola to a German settlement which was already established at Yorktown in DeWitt County.

Fritz was 34 years old, his wife was 33, and their children were Albertine aged 9, Christian 7, and Wilhelm 5 years old. Fritz reportedly purchased one thousand acres at fifty cents an acre. Two more children were born after they had built a homestead in Yorktown. When the children married, Fritz gave each of them a home and 200 acres of land.

Fritz received his naturalization paper on July 29, 1867. He was a skilled farmer, a blacksmith, and served as the local veternarian. Wilhelmine died in 1874 and was buried in the Callahan burial ground near Cuero. Fritz did not remarry and when he lost his sight, he went to live with his daughter Albertine and her husband, George Wendel.

The children of Fritz and Wilhelmine were Albertine (1845-1914) m. George Wendel (1842-1924); Christian Frederick, Jr. (1848-1929) m. Ernestine Reimann (1853-1944); Franz Wilhelm (1849-1922) m. 1) Marie von Riedesel (1856-1901), m. 2) Sophie von Riedesel (1867-1926); Mathilda (1859-1933) m. William Dreier (1857-1940); Charlotte (1860-?) m. Fritz Goehring.

Fritz Boldt died in 1906 and is buried in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Meyersville, Texas.

by Jean B. Tidwell

Daily Star 50c per month.

BOLTING, CARL DIEDRICK FAMILY

F91

Carl Diedrick (Dick) Bolting was born Aug. 30, 1865 in Jaderburg, Grosharztum, Oldenburg, Germany. He was a son of John Bolting and wife Sophie Boening Bolting of Germany. He had a brother, Heinrich Bolting, of Germany, and two sisters, Meta, who died in Germany, and Lina Bolting Finke. Lina came to the United States in 1893. Diedrick Bolting was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He received a good education in Germany and served three years in the German Army. He came to the United States in March 1891, arriving at the port of New York. He passed through Ellis Island. In 1905 he became a citizen of the United States. He settled in Shiner, Texas, later moving to Lindenau where he was married to Mary Goehring. The couple moved to a farm near Nordheim in 1900. Nine children were born to this union, three survived – Erna, Carl and Otto Bolting. Four children died in infancy and a daughter, Martha, died June 11, 1909 at age one and one half years. One son, Theodore Gerhardt Bolting, died at age 24 years, in 1924. In 1922 they turned their extensive farms over to their sons and moved to the town of Nordheim. Diedrich Bolting was a well known carpenter as well as a farmer and he also raised cattle. Diedrich (Dick) died Dec. 19, 1947 and Mary Goehring Bolting died Jan. 12, 1951. They are both buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Erna Bolting, daughter of Diedrick and Mary Bolting, was born May 2, 1895, near Lindenau. She married Albert B. Mueller of Runge in Dec. 1914. He was a well driller and a tinner. To this union three daughters were born – Alfreda, Alberta, and Anette.

Alfreda Mueller married Raymond Huck Oct. 15, 1934. She was born Nov. 22, 1915. Raymond was born Aug. 25, 1914 and died Sept. 23, 1989. To this union three children were born: June Nell, Dolores, and Dickie Ray. June Nell was born June 1, 1935 and married Wilfred Buchhorn Jan. 24, 1954. One son, David, was born to them on Aug. 17, 1958. He married Margaret Gayle Dix. They have one daughter, Kristy Gayle, born Dec. 3, 1987. The second daughter, Dolores Ann Huck, was born Aug. 4, 1938. She married James E. Denman July 6, 1956. Three children were born to them: Diane Lynn, born Oct. 8, 1958, married David Lee Wilkerson. They have one son, Kevin Lee Wilkerson born March 16, 1982 and a daughter, Kristine, born Dec. 28, 1983. Janet Denman was born Oct. 14, 1960 and she married Ken Risinger. They have a girl, Gena, born Aug. 2, 1986 and two sons, Kyle Edward, born Aug. 15, 1984 and Kurt, born in May 1989. The third child born to Dolores and James Denman was a son, Mark Denman, born Sept. 19, 1962. The third child of Alfreda and Raymond Huck was Dickie Ray Huck, born Oct. 15, 1941. He married Marjie Lynn LeSturgeon on March 25, 1964. They have three children: Larry Shane born March 9, 1967, Rodney born June 12, 1969 and Dayna Laine born Oct. 23, 1970.

The second daughter of Albert B. and Erna Bolting Mueller, Alberta, was born Sept. 27, 1917. She married Gilbert Wieland Nov. 12, 1939. They have one daughter, Barbara Ann, born Oct. 1, 1942. She married Bruce Abel June 5, 1965 and they have one daughter, Wendy Celeste Abel, born Sept. 27, 1968.

The third daughter of Albert and Erna Bolting Mueller, Anette, was born June 10, 1920. She married Victor Wagner Oct. 4, 1941. They have three children: Gayle, Dennis, and Michael. Gayle was born Sept. 17, 1945 and married Michael Fox Jan. 28, 1967. They have one son, Brent, and a daughter, Brandi. Dennis Wagner was born Oct. 3, 1950. He married Miss Yoka Imakubo, July 14, 1974. They have

Back Row: Erna (Bolting) Mueller, Theodore Bolting. Middle Row: Mary (Goehring) Bolting, Carl Bolting, Carl Diedrick Bolting. Front: Otto Bolting

one daughter. Michael Wagner was born Sept. 29, 1952. He married Monica Luno Dec. 21, 1974. They do not have any children.

Carl Bolting, son of Carl Diedrick and Mary Goehring Bolting, was born June 9, 1900. On Jan. 12, 1926 he married Mary Janssen who was born 22 Dec. 1904. She died Aug. 14, 1988. Their son, Carlton Bolting was born March 22, 1934. He married Sandra Wieland Dec. 23, 1962. She was born May 8, 1942. They had three children: Steven, Wade, and Shellie Kay. Steven Bolting was born Feb. 21, 1964. Wade Bolting was born Feb. 14, 1969 and married Tiffany Alisse Godby Jan. 21, 1989. They have one daughter, Jennifer Mischelle Bolting, born May 16, 1989. Shellie Kay Bolting was born Oct. 10, 1974.

Otto Bolting, son of Carl Diedrick and Mary Goehring Bolting, was born Jan. 9, 1904 and married Alice Mueller Oct. 16, 1928. She was born Sept. 8, 1907. Their children were Otto F., Jr., Iva Mae, Georgia Fay, John, and Carroll James. Otto was born in April 1930, married Orna Hicks Nov. 10, 1961. She was born June 6, 1925. Their daughter, Tammy Mae, was born Sept. 12, 1965 and married Steven Garner Oct. 22, 1983. Iva Mae Bolting, born May 31, 1931 died June 14, 1951. Goergie Fay Bolting was born in Dec. 1935 and married Stanley Guzy Sept. 7, 1957. Their daughter, Laurie Guzy, was born June 30, 1964 and married Todd Metting Dec. 14, 1985, and their daughter, Elaine Marie, was born July 6, 1965 and married Barry Michael Watson in July 1987. John Bolting was born Nov. 25, 1940 and he married Margie Stirl Sept. 10, 1960. Their children are: Wayne, born Sept. 8, 1962 and Pamela, born Nov. 2, 1965. She married Robert Scott Rath Dec. 10, 1988. The youngest child of Otto and Alice Mueller Bolting was Carroll James, born FEb. 19, 1943. He married Gladys Haak June 21, 1964. Their children are Brett Carroll, Todd David, and Holly. Brett Carroll was born March 31, 1965 and married Nancy Garvy in 1988. Todd David was born Oct. 17, 1968 and Holly was born Dec. 16, 1973.

by Mrs. Raymond Huck

Elsa, Michael and Joe Bongiovi, 1958

BONGIOVI, JOSEPH CHARLES (JOE)

F92

It was a sunny day in the spring of 1949 when Joe Bongiovi first came to Cuero with his wife Elsa. They were enchanted with the small town, stayed a week, but determined to return one day to live. After their return to San Antonio, they received a call that the "Gold Fish Bowl", a restaurant on the old Yoakum Highway two miles from Cuero was for sale. Immediately they came to Cuero and made a deal to purchase the restaurant. At that time Joe and his wife owned and managed Harvey's House Restaurant on Nacogdoches Street in San Antonio. It took them a year to sell their restaurant in San Antonio, after which time they moved to Cuero to manage the restaurant they had purchased. They changed the name to Live Oak Club.

Joseph Charles Bongiovi (Joe) was born June 8, 1922 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, son of Charles and Susan Bongiovi. (Charles Bongiovi was born in Sciacca, Italy, immigrating to America around 1900. Susan Hovance was born in Mahoney, Penn.). Joe Bongiovi had two brothers and one sister. Elsa Wurth was born June 26, 1919 in Zurich, Switzerland. She immigrated to Canada with her parents, George and Emma Wurth and one sister at the age of six. In 1927, Elsa came to San Antonio with her parents. A brother and sister were born in San Antonio. At the age of sixteen, Elsa became an American citizen.

Joe served in the 36th Division of the National Guard, called to active duty in 1942. He saw overseas duty in Italy and France, and was injured in line of duty in 1943. He was discharged in 1944. On August 31, 1945 Joe married Elsa Wurth in St. Joseph's Church in

Live Oak Club

Joe and Elsa Bongiovi — Live Oak Club

San Antonio. In 1956 Joe and Elsa adopted a two-week old boy born July 11th. They named him Michael Joseph. Michael graduated from Texas A&M in 1978 with a degree in chemical engineering. He married Cheryl Williams December 5, 1981 in Cuero. Michael and Cheryl have two children: John Michael born October 27, 1982 and Kathryn Ann born May 3, 1984. Michael and his family reside in Baytown. He is employed in Pipeline Management with Texas Eastern. His wife, Cheryl is an attorney in Houston.

Joe and Elsa Bongiovi operated the Live Oak Club for eighteen years. They served the Rotary and Lions Clubs weekly. They became well known in this area for their steaks and fish, and special salad dressing which Elsa made. During this time Joe and Elsa built a house on Indianola Point where they made weekly trips to catch fish which they served in their restaurant.

After closing the Live Oak Restaurant, Joe and Elsa managed the Sands Steak House for two years. Joe also did carpenter work, and Elsa started a catering business. Elsa had learned decorative catering from her father as she was growing up. Her father was a speciality caterer at the Gunter Hotel and the country clubs in San Antonio. Joe began working for Gulf Coast Wood Products in 1970 where he was employed until his death in 1983.

In 1971 Joe and Elsa purchased the John Berning Ranch, 106 acres, about nine miles from Cuero on the Yorktown Highway, and in later years they purchased 200 acres adjoining. After that they built a home on the ranch and began their cattle operation.

Joe Bongiovi died March 28, 1983. His wife Elsa, continues to live on the ranch on the Yorktown Highway raising cattle and improving the land with coastal bermuda and irrigation.

by Elsa Bongiovi

BOOTHE, WILLIAM SEALS FAMILY

F93

In the mid 1800's the William Seals Boothe family arrived in Texas from Georgia. William Seals Boothe was born January 10, 1809, in Elbert County, Georgia. His parents were Gabriel and Elizabeth Boothe. William married Lucy Parkham, also of Elbert County, on February 21, 1829. On arriving in Texas they bought land in the Swindell Survey on McCoy Creek in DeWitt County. He was a loyal confederate and sent four sons to the war between the states. He was a Mason and a Baptist. Children born to this union were Russell Crawford Boothe, William S. Boothe, Jr., Serapta F. Boothe, Gabriel H. Boothe, Milasce Boothe Moore, John A. Boothe, and Leander Cleveland Boothe. Three children died in infancy, one little girl dying during the long hard trip from Georgia to Texas.

Of these ten children, Leander Cleveland was one of the youngest, being born December 12, 1851. He married Nannie Cunningham on December 12, 1865. To this union thirteen children were born. Marion Otis Boothe, Minnie Boothe Parks, Frank Boothe, Effie Boothe Edgar, Joe Boothe, Sterling P. Boothe, Nora Boothe Adams, Mattie Boothe Steen, Mary Boothe Patterson, Grover Boothe, Claude Boothe, Willie Boothe Morrow, and Kitty Boothe Moore.

Leander C. Boothe was a large landowner. Descendants of this family live in and around Yoakum and Cuero. His wife, Nannie Cunningham's family came from Ireland to America in 1717. It is said they were subject to fines, imprisonment and other forms of persecution probably caused by their sympathies against the government and the persecuted Presbyterians. Nannie was the fifth of ten children. Three brothers, Leander, John and Russell married three Cunningham sisters, Nannie, Armitra and Sallie.

The majority of the Boothes are Baptists and have lived in and around DeWitt County. Many are buried at Hochheim Cemetery with some being buried in Cuero and Yoakum cemeteries.

Otis Boothe, the oldest son of Leander and Nannie Cunningham Boothe, married Artie Jacobs, daughter of John and Nettie Jacobs. Nine children were born to this union. They are as follows: Ethel Boothe Alexander, Myrtle Boothe Thompson, Lee Cleveland Boothe, Sr., Mable Boothe Bonner, Doma Boothe Lentz, Erma Boothe Thompson, Bernice Boothe Brown, and Joe Henry Boothe. One daughter, Etta Merle died at age two.

Lee Cleveland Boothe, Sr., born August 29, 1900, was the third child of Otis and Artie Jacobs Boothe. On July 11, 1920, Lee Cleveland Boothe married Willie Bertie Morrow. Willie Bertie Morrow, born February 1, 1900, was the daughter of Marcus and Mollie Parker Morrow of Stratton, Texas. Lee, a farmer and rancher, lived most of his life in DeWitt County. Lee Boothe died in 1962. Willie Bertie Boothe died in 1977.

Four children were born to Lee and Bertie Boothe. La Merle Boothe Goode, April 12, 1921, Berdie Rae Boothe Mueller, August 18, 1923, Lee Cleveland Boothe, Jr., December 18, 1925, and Curtis Wayne Boothe June 21, 1933.

La Merle married Joe Mitchel Goode, of Yoakum, on July 25, 1946. Joe served in the Marine Corp in World War II. He died in Cuero in June of 1979.

Their children are Jo Beth Goode, born May 14, 1948. Jo Beth married Drew Concelman of Houston in August of 1983. She was living in Houston when she died on May 25, 1985.

Judith Lee Goode was born on June 30, 1949. She is a Medical Technologist, living in Waco, Texas.

Virginia Rae Goode was born December 23, 1953. She married John Davis Bauer, Jr. on May 25, 1974. They live in Cuero, and have two sons, John Davis Bauer III, born June 5, 1977, and Caleb Mitchel Bauer born July 27, 1982.

Lee Cleveland Boothe, Jr. was born December 18, 1925. He joined the Navy on March 26, 1944 and served in the Pacific Area. On March 21, 1947 he married Evelyn Rae Frisbie of Cuero. Lee Cleveland retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in February of 1983.

They have two sons. Michael Lee Boothe, born August 19, 1951. He is married to the former Sandra Oehlke of Victoria. At present they are living in Dallas, Texas.

Roger Lynn, born September 15, 1955, is married to the former Linda Kubecka of Cuero. They have two children. Lee Cleveland Boothe III was born December 19, 1979, and Lindsey Marie was born December 15, 1982.

Berdie Rae, born August 18, 1923, married Edward W. Mueller on November 1, 1946. He served in the Air Force in World War II. He retired from Shell Oil Company in 1979 and they now live in Cuero, Texas. The Muellers have three children. Marcus Ray and Melissa Kay, adopted twins, were born on May 25, 1954. Suzanne Beth was born June 7, 1961. Marcus married Renee' Stewart in 1975 and they have one son, Joshua Ray, born November 24, 1985. Suzanne married William Mitchell Adams on July 18, 1981 and they have one son William Mitchell Adams II, born May 26, 1983.

Curtis graduated from Cuero High School in May 1950. On April 30, 1951, he joined the U.S. Navy, and served on the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge during the Korean War.

After returning to civilian life he married Myra Beth Arnold of Yoakum, Texas, on December 31, 1955. Curtis was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for 30 years before retiring in 1986.

Curtis and Myra have one son, Kenneth Wayne, born January 8, 1960, in Cuero. Kenneth was married to Terri Hilbrich of Westhoff, Texas on October 9, 1982.

Most of this family still live and work in De Witt County.

by La Merle Boothe Goode

BRADEN, GEORGE AND CECILIA WEIGELT

F94

George Braden and Cecilia (Weigelt) 1899

George Joseph Braden, a tall, thin man with piercing blue eyes, was born September 10, 1865 in Colorado County, Texas to John Baptiste Braden and Julia Pieper. He was the fourth of six children, the other being John Jr., 1858; Elisabeth, 1860; George, 1865; Adolph, 1867; and Frances, 1869.

George's father immigrated to Texas from the town of Bingen, Germany, which is situated on the South side of the Rhine River, not far West from Mainz, Germany. Most think of the Braden name, especially in Texas, as being German, but in fact it is known that the Bradens from Bingen, Germany had actually emigrated from England to Germany during the 1600s' the name being Braddon or Bradon.

George's mother, Julia Pieper, was born in the Republic of Texas in 1840 to Peter Pieper and Elisabeth Koetter, both from the Munster, Westphalia area in Germany. Peter Pieper had immigrated to Texas in 1833 and received a league of land from the Mexican Government; his land being situated on Cummings Creek in Colorado County.

George Braden lived with his parents and his brothers and sisters on their farm in Colo-

rado County, attending the Catholic Church at Mentz, and school at Bernardo. When George was 7 years old his mother, Julia Pieper Braden died, leaving her husband with 6 children to raise; three of them being not more than babies. George's father was married again, to a woman from home town of Bingen in Germany. Her name was Theresa Schmitt, the widow of Samuel McBride, a shipbuilder at Indianola. Theresa was living in Indianola with several of her children, who soon became part of the Braden household in Colorado Co.

When George was quite young he worked for the Stafford Brothers, cattle barons of the Colorado Co. area, as a wrangler. Later in life George regaled his grandchildren with stories about his "wrangling days". George soon had enough cowboying and at age 16 went to San Antonio to work for his cousin, Edward Braden. Edward was a great deal older than George and was already well established in San Antonio, Texas, operating a hotel, called the "Braden House", a livery stable and a growing construction company. The Braden Construction Company built many commercial buildings of note in San Antonio. George, knowing much about horses and their antics, was put in charge of the livery stable and the draft horses used in the construction business.

On October 27, 1891, George Braden married Cecilia Weigelt at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas. Cecilia was the daughter of John Weigelt and Margaret Wendel. Cecilia was born of German immigrant parents on Christmas Eve, 1870, in Colorado County, Texas. In 1875 the Weigelt family, that is Cecilia, her parents and her sister, Magdalena, moved to Victoria County, Texas. Cecilia and her sister attended Nazareth Academy in Victoria and Cecilia's two brothers, Phillip and Frank, born after the Weigelts moved to Victoria County, attended another parochial school.

Soon after George and Cecilia were married, her father, John Weigelt, decided it would be advantageous to move from the Victoria prairie to a location with more trees for wood and better farm land. John Weigelt purchased 600 acres of land in 1892 in the Daniel Davis League on the West side of the Guadalupe River at Hochheim. The first few months were spent building a house for Cecilia's parents. George Braden and Cecilia Weigelt would spend the next fifteen years in a small house already on the place.

The first child, Magdalena, was born to George and Cecilia in July, 1892. Julia was born Jan. 5, 1895, followed by Phillip in 1896. Anne was born May 15, 1898, then John in 1900 and Joseph in 1902. The last child was George Sylvester, born in 1905.

The Braden family, like most families living in the lowlands along the river, was plagued by mosquitos. If not mosquitos, it was floods or droughts. After the death of their first child of typhoid fever and Julia's contracting Malaria, George and Cecilia decided enough was enough. George Braden bought land on the high side of the Guadalupe River at Hochheim and moved his family there, into an old house built many years earlier. The house was not so fine, but it was high and dry and the threat of mosquito-borne disease was lessened somewhat. The Braden family lived in this old house several years until Cecilia declared that they needed a larger house. The last residence of the George Braden family is still standing in Hochheim where the road to Dreyer intersects Hwy. 111. The old house the Bradens first lived in at Hochheim was home to several more Braden decendants, the last being Donald and Jeane Bitterly. The old house was finally torn down to make way for a new one in 1966.

George Braden continued to purchase land in and around Hochheim, accumulating enough so that each of his children would have a sizeable plot. The Bradens engaged in farming and the development of several large pecan orchards in the bottomlands of the Guadalupe River.

George and Cecilia were faithful members of St. Ann Catholic Church on the Hochheim prairie. They had been instrumental in organizing it and both are buried there in the cemetery beside the Church.

Julia Braden married Charles Bitterly and had four children; Charles Braden, John William, Lucille Marie and Donald George. Phillip Braden married Maggie Mae Calliham and they had five children; Patricia, Frances, Cecilia and twins, James and Jerome. Anne Braden married Curtis Johnson and had one son who died in infancy. John Braden married Mary Onhaizer and they had one son, John Braden, Jr. Joseph Braden never married. George Sylvester Braden married Willie Mae Schwab and had four children; Ann, Faye, Margaret and a son who died in infancy. All the Braden children continued to live at Hochheim on land purchased by their father except Joseph, who has lived most of his adult life in Austin, Texas. George Braden, who was bothered many years by asthma, died Jan. 31, 1953 and Cecilia Weigelt Braden died five years later on January 27, 1958.

by Jeane Bitterly

BRAEUER, REINHOLD AND EMILIE

F95

Reinhold W. Braeuer was born in Germany 2 June 1853, the son of Rudolph Adolphus and Henrietta (Freitag) Braeuer. He and his parents came to Texas aboard the ship Neptune in 1854, settling in Fayette County on Ross Prairie. He had a sister Clara who married Fritz Kruse (lived at Runge) and a brother Herman who married Theodora Schulz (lived at Needville, TX.). His mother died 25 September 1861 and his father married Victoria Knezek. Their children were: Emma Josephine, Henry Ernest, Annie, Bertha, and Adolph Victor.

Emilie Goebel, the daughter of Johann and Elise (Wied) Goebel, married Reinhold, 3 February 1877, near Shelby in Austin County. Her sisters and brothers were Adolph, Henrietta, Gustav, William, and Emma. Half sisters were Bertha, Lina, and Maria.

On 18 October 1877, for $550, Reinhold purchased 45 acres in Fayette County where they lived when their daughter Selma was born. This property was sold for $800 in June 1881. 155 acres were obtained in Lavaca County in July 1880 for $1275 in the Witting area. (Emilie's father and other members of her family also lived in this area) They resided there until 1890 when they purchased a parcel of land, located on the Gonzales-DeWitt County line (acreage in both counties) in the Cheapside Community, for $4150. They were residing in DeWitt County when their daughter Ella was born. By 12 June 1892 when son Emil was born, they were living in Gonzales County where their home was built and where they spent the rest of their lives (this farm was later purchased by their son Edmund). When they moved out of the big home Reinhold built a smaller house for them which after Emilie's death was sold, and moved to Westhoff. It still stands there on the highway and they sell eggs on the front porch!

Reinhold was a farmer, carpenter, sold books and windmills, and at one time also owned some land in Runnels County. He was one of several men who paid for the land for the Ruppert School which his children and grandchildren attended along with others from DeWitt and Gonzales Counties. The last few years of his life he was blind, and his wife would sew along the lines of a tablet, and by feeling the lines, he could write letters and corresponded with his brother Herman's family in Needville.

Reinhold and Emilie had 9 children; an infant daughter, Herman, and Richard,

Selma born 30 January 1880, married on 26 December 1898 Carl Schroeder of Dryer born 18 March 1874 in Hanover, Blecfide, Germany.

Amalie, born 28 May 1882, married on 16 December 1903 Ernest Boysen of Gonzales County, born 24 June 1880 in Hannover, Germany.

Wilhelmine Mathilda, born 30 July 1886, married on 22 November 1906 Emil Schrade, born 10 December 1874 at Five Mile in DeWitt County.

"Ella", born 16 October 1890, married on 23 December 1912 Otto C. Bressel, born 21 December 1888 in Lavaca Co.

Emil Reinhold, born 12 June 1892, married on 10 December 1912 Hulda Alvina Meyer, born on 10 December 1892 in DeWitt Co. near Yorktown.

Edmund Carl Reinhold, born 16 December 1894, married on 1 December 1915 Charlotte Hermine Friederike Gerhardine Norma Fehner, born 3 October 1897 in Gonzales County.

Mathilda, Ella, Emil, and Edmund bought acreage from their parents. The Schrades sold their farm to the Bressels and moved their family to Orange Grove. Emil sold his farm to the Boysens and moved his family to Gonzales Co. for a while and then to Victoria. The Schroeders lived at Dryer for a few years and then settled at Westhoff.

Reinhold and Emilie are buried in the Ruppert Cemetery in Gonzales Co.

by Dorothy A. Johnson

BRAMLETTE, J.D. JR.

F96

James DeWitt Bramlette, Jr. (1916-1979), the only son and second child of J.D. Bramlette, Sr. (1880-1967) and Selma Georgia Mitchell Bramlette (1893-1979), was born in Teague, Texas. His father's people had come to central Texas from Georgia. His grandfather, Virgil Mitchell, (1869-1934) came from Arkansas. His grandmother, Sarah Louetta Adams, was born in Gonzales County. She lived for a time at Terryville which was in Gonzales County at the time.

J.D. Bramlette, the father, was a school man so J.D., Jr., and his two sisters, Sarah Jo Buenning (1914-) and Jane Bramlette Hughart (1920-) attended schools at Stephenville, McAllen, Kingsville, and Comanche. J.D. Bramlette, Jr. was graduated from Henrietta M. King High School in Kingsville in 1933. He

entered Baylor University that same year and stayed only a short time and transferred to A&I University at Kingsville. He finished college at Howard Payne at Brownwood in three years by attending summer and winter sessions.

After his graduation, he returned to his home in Stephenville. After a brief stint at teaching in a little community of Walnut Springs, he got a job with Higgenbotham General Merchandise in Stephenville. While there he began to help out in the undertaking part of the store. After a time the undertaker there persuaded him to go to mortuary school in Dallas to get his license, and lent him the money to do it on. While he was in Dallas, the terrible New London School explosion occurred and J.D. was sent there to help.

After getting his embalming and funeral director licenses, he went back to Higgenbothams at Stephenville for a time. In 1937, at the age of 21, he came to Cuero and applied for a job with Freund Funeral Home, which was owned then by Mrs. Josie Freund and managed by Bob Heyer.

In 1940 he was married to Merle Rose Fischer (1916-), the daughter of Arthur Charles Fischer (1887-1956) and Mary Will Blackwell Fischer (1891-1977).

In 1941 he purchased two lots in the middle of the third block of E. French Street from Mrs. Joseph Sheppard. He built two small houses on them. He rented one to Captain Gerald Fitzgerald, the commanding officer of Brayton Field, and sold the other to O.A. and Cleo Zimmerman.

J.D. and Merle had moved from their first home (the old Milligan house on Sarah St.) to her mother and father's home at 608 Clinton Street. Merle was teaching at the time in Concrete. She had taught two years at John C. French (monthly salary $90.00) but had to resign when she married because of a depression ruling against married women teachers. After the second World War started, the ruling was rescinded or forgotten and later she taught in the Cuero school system again.

In 1942 J.D. volunteered for the army and was inducted at Ft. Sam Houston. He had his basic training at Camp Roberts in California. Then he went to Officers Training School at Ft. Benning, Georgia and became a Second Lieutenant. Next he was assigned to Camp Ritchie, Maryland, which was the Army's G-2 or intelligence training camp. From there he went briefly to Fort Hamilton in New York and then in May 1944 was sent to the south of England for more schooling and the rigorous training that preceded the invasion of the continent. He was in the 29th Division.

On June 6, 1944 when the invasion began, he went in on Omaha Beach in Normandy. He was able to get off the beach but on June 13th he was shot through the shoulder by a sniper. He was found and taken to the beach where a Colonel Shep recognized him and got him on a boat to England and a hospital there. After some months there, he was flown back to the U.S.A. in July 1944, and to McKlosky General Hospital in Temple, Texas. Shortly he was allowed to come home to finish his recuperation. He had a complete recovery and finish his military career at a desk in Ft. Sam Houston. He received his discharge in July of 1945. His decorations and citations were: The Purple Heart, EAME Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, Distinguished Unit Citation, and the Bronze Star Medal.

After his discharge, J.D. came back to Cuero and Freund Funeral Home. Bob Heyer had died while J.D. was overseas. J.D. became the manager. Then in 1946 Mrs. Freund sold the business to him.

J.D. had other business interests. For a time he sold air conditioners. Cuero at that time had very few air conditioners. By the time J.D. quit the business, virtually all the business section was air-conditioned. He also bought the O.K. Courts from Julius Gohmert, his wife's granduncle. Later he sold that to the Coppedge twins, Coot and Dick.

In 1948 J.D. and his wife adopted a daughter, Lou Mitchell Bramlette (1948-) who later married Richard Egg (1948-) of Meyersville, Texas. They have two daughters, Mary Elizabeth (1972) and Laura Mitchell (1974).

In 1951 they adopted a son, James DeWitt Bramlette, III (Jay) who in 1972 married Avis Ann Cochran. They have three daughters: Avis Lynn (1974), Amanda Rose (1978) and Alexis Ann (1982). Jay is now married to Cheryl Roth Blaine (1948-).

In 1950 J.D. had bought 20 acres of land on the old road to San Antonio by Schleicher Bridge. He and his wife remodeled the old farm house there, intending it for recreation. They were soon spending summer and winter there. When the daughter reached school age, they enlarged and remodeled the house at 304 E. French and moved back in it for the school months.

As a landowner, J.D. had one farming venture. He and Fletcher Houston decided to grow watermelons. That taught him all he cared to know about farming and marketing. After that he tried cattle and leased more land to raise cattle. Later, when he bought the Lewis Kaye place on the road to Concrete, he ran cattle there.

In the mid fifties, J.D. was approached by Texas Eastern Gas Pipeline Company and asked to build a warehouse they could lease. He bought the land and built the warehouse on the Victoria Highway.

By 1974, J.D. was thinking of retirement. He wanted to continue in the funeral business just long enough for his son, Jay to learn it. Jay, in the meantime had gotten his license and was working at Freund Funeral Home. In March of 1975, while J.D. was conducting the funeral service of Barney Finch in Nixon, he suffered a heart attack. This was followed by a stroke which left him partially paralyzed. Jay had to take over the business completely. J.D. sold the Kaye place.

J.D. was active in Cuero's community life. He was a member and past president of the Chamber of Commerce. In 1971 he was chosen Citizen of the year, by the Chamber. He was a charter member and past president of the Cuero Lions Club. He served as president of the United Fund and as a director of the Cuero Hospital Foundation. He was a member of the American Legion, V.F.W., Cuero Masonic Lodge and Knights of Pythias. He was chairman of the Turkey Trot in 1947. He was chosen Sultan of the Turkey Trot in 1956. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

by Merle Rose Bramlette

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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
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BRANTLEY, ARNOLD FAMILY

F97

Arnold Henry Brantley, the son of John David (Tobe) Brantley and Susan Woods Brantley, was born November 30, 1864, in Shiloh, near the Woods community, between Yorktown and Cuero, Texas. Arnold was the great-grandson of Zadock and Minerva Cottle Woods, who were among Austin's Old Three Hundred. Zadock Woods was killed at the Salado Creek Battle during the Texas Revolution. Arnold is the grandson of Norman and Jane Boyd Wells Woods. Norman was captured at the Salado Creek Battle and force marched to Perote Prison in Mexico where he later died.

Rena Rebecca Scott was born on June 15, 1868 the daughter of Warren B. Scott and Eliza Russell Scott. Rena's parents eloped during the Civil War and kept moving so that Warren's induction papers wouldn't find him. Warren's parents were for the North and Eliza's parents for the South. Warren, however, did journey to New Orleans where he joined with the Union forces and he served for several years. He was wounded and later received a pension from the government. Warren's father and brother were among those captured and hung outside of Comfort, Texas by the Confederate soldiers because they were loyal to the North.

Arnold Brantley and Rena Scott married at Shiloh, Texas on April 29, 1891. Rena had come to DeWitt County as a teacher at Shiloh, and they married on the last day of school. The young couple farmed around Cuero and Yorktown and in 1912 they bought a farm outside of Davy where they built a large two story bungalow-type house. Here they farmed for several years until moving to San Marcos and Yorktown where they operated meat markets.

To this union were born eight children. They are Susan Eliza Brantley Block, Royal Lester (Roy) Brantley, Ada Belle Brantley Block, Raymond Henry Brantley, Margaret Ruth (Mag) Brantley Block, Arthur Howard (Otto) Brantley, Clara Reed Brantley Parr, and Harold Clayton Brantley. Three of the Brantley sisters married three Block brothers.

Arnold Brantley died April 2, 1945 and Rena Rebecca Scott Brantley died December 10, 1940. They are both buried at the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Rose Niemeier

BRANTLEY, GEORGE DAVID

F98

George David Brantley (Dave) was born April 4, 1895 near Yorktown, Texas. He was the son of Thomas Jefferson Brantley and Jessie Jay Canion. His father was the son of John David and Susan Mary Woods Brantley. Dave grew up on a farm and since he was the oldest of twelve children, he learned responsibility at an early age. He was a serious student for the eight years he was able to attend school.

He was called into the army in 1918 and was trained in automobile mechanics at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. He was proud of his time in service and was a life member of the American Legion. In December of 1918, he

David and Mary Louise (Thigpen) Brantley

returned home and worked at an ice plant in Yoakum until August of 1919 when he was appointed as a rural mail carrier on Route 3. His starting salary was $1620 a year and his car maintenance was his responsibility. On his first route there were 75 mail boxes and 90 families. When he retired in 1965, he was the carrier on Route 4 and servicing 340 boxes and 1200 patrons. He enjoyed his work, cared about the people and their families, and was always willing to help any way he could. During his 45 years as a rural mail carrier, he used 23 different automobiles and travelled over a million miles without an accident.

In 1922 he bought two lots at the corner of Morgan Ave. and Villa St. in Cuero and had Roscoe Smith built a cottage. On January 10, 1923, he married Mary Louise Thigpen, daughter of Samuel Edward and Edna Wilborne Thigpen. After a wedding trip to Austin, they moved into their new home. By April of 1925, both of Mary Louise's parents had died, and her younger sisters, Bernice, Gladys and Irene Thigpen came to live with them. Dave and Louise had one child, Marilyn Jean, who was born Feb. 8, 1927. In 1929 Dave's mother died and in 1930 his father died, leaving Rollie who was 13, and Olena who was only 10 years, old. Dave assumed some of the responsibility for them.

Dave's life was centered around his work, his family, and his friends, He was a member of the First Methodist Church, IOOF. and the Retired Rural Carriers Association. He was interested in history, Dewitt County and Cuero and was never comfortable when he found himself too far from home. David died November 25, 1972 at the age of 77. He was survived by his wife of almost 50 years, one daughter Mrs. Andrew J. Tidwell and three grandchildren: Terran J. Tidwell, Tara Lynn Tidwell, and Teresa Louise Tidwell.

by Jean Brantley Tidwell

Dr. JOHN W. BURNS,

Physician and Surgeon

Office over Barnes & Bunker's jewelry store.

Residence on Broadway, the Fred Buchel building.

BRANTLEY, JOHN DAVID

F99

John David Brantley

John David (Tobe) Brantley was born in Mississippi the 24th of April in 1839. He was the son of Nancy Jane McFarland and Thomas R. Brantley. We assume that he was born in Kemper County because of the document that his mother carried with her to Texas when she came here in 1842. This document asks for appraisal of the property of Thomas Brantley who is presumed to be deceased. It was never filed with the county court and acted upon. It is dated December 5, 1838, prior to John David's birth.

To date (1989), I and other Brantley researchers have found only one Thomas Brantley in Kemper County, Mississippi. This Thomas was born in North Carolina in 1809. He was the son of Jesse who was the son of Thomas of Northampton County, North Carolina. The Brantleys are descended from Edward b. 1615 and d. 1688 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia who came to the American Colonies in 1638.

John David came to Montgomery County, Texas, in 1842 with his mother and his grandparents, James and Margaret Dial McFarland. In 1848 they moved to the Shiloh Community in DeWitt County. His mother, Nancy Jane, had married Wyett Anderson in Harris County, Texas on January 7, 1847. They lived nearby. Wyett Anderson was born in Louisiana and his father had been in Texas by 1817. Nancy Jane was born in Newberry County, South Carolina, in 1808.

John David enlisted in the Shiloh Home Guard when it was formed in July of 1861. In 1862, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in Company K of the 24th Regiment of the Texas Cavalry in the Confederate Army. He was taken prisoner at Fort Hindman, Arkansas in January of 1863 and released in an exchange of prisoners from City Point, Virginia two and a half months after his capture. The remainder of the war, he appears to have been free to change his command. His record shows that he served two months with Co. K and two and a half months as a prisoner. After resigning his commission in September of 1863, there is no evidence that he enlisted in the ranks.

After the war, his letters and bills of sale indicated that he was gone from home much of the time. He travelled through the South trading in livestock. Susan died in the fall of 1870 at the age of 29. She is buried in the Woods Cemetery near Yorktown. Susan and John David had five children: 1) Margaret Jane b. 1860, married Sam Garrett, 2) Thomas Jefferson b. 1863, married Jessie Jay Canion, 3) Arnold Henry b. 1864, married Rena Rebecca Scott, 4) Warren b. 1867, married Laura Ernest, 5) Mary Caroline b. 1869, married Andrew Fayette Schilling.

By 1880, John David is in Gonzales County, Texas with his children. Sam Garrett and Margaret Jane are living in the next dwelling. John David moved to Babyhead in Llano County, Texas in the spring of 1882. Relatives who lived in DeWitt County moved away in the 1870's and 1880's due to the adversity caused by the Sutton-Taylor Feud. Since John David was a witness at Buck Taylor's wedding, it can be assumed that he had an interest in that action. Anda Brown, Thomas Glimp, A.J. Frazier and Robert Insall who had all married Woods women left the county and moved to Burnet County, Texas.

John David died October 13, 1907 and is buried in Brown School Cemetery near Fredonia, Texas in McCulloch County.

by Jean Brantley Tidwell

BRANTLEY, ROLLIE B.

F100

Rollie B. Brantley was born July 13, 1917 near Cheapside, Texas. He was the son of Thomas J. Brantley and Jessie Jay Canion. His mother died when he was twelve years old and his father died a year later. He lived with his older brothers and sisters and graduated from Cuero High School.

After graduating he went to work for his brother making hamburgers and selling drinks in the Spanish Garden which was a 10'x10 building located under an oak tree at the back of the lot where the Doll House is today. In 1936, Raymond Cook built a small building which was a down-scaled house and Rollie moved his business into this building. It had the appearance of a doll house and Polly Howerton won the contest for a name for the restaurant. It has retained this name, The Doll House, since then.

In 1939 Rollie married Claire Duckworth, daughter of George W. and Della Hallet Duckworth. Rollie and Claire have two daughters, Barbara Lee b. 1946 and Margaret Helen b. 1953. Margaret has two sons, Ryan and Marshall Quigley.

Through the years, Rollie has had many interests other than his business. He served two years in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was active in the Cuero Aviation Club and the Lions Club. His hobbies have included flying, photography, car restoration, sailing, and music. At present he still plays for private dances with Tommy Vanek's orchestra.

by Jean Tidwell

L. L. BUTTERY

GRADUATE PHARMACIST

SERVICE PHONE 32

L-R: Margaret Helen Brantley, Claire (Duckworth) Brantley, Barbara Lee Brantley and Rollie Brantley.

BRANTLEY, THOMAS JEFFERSON

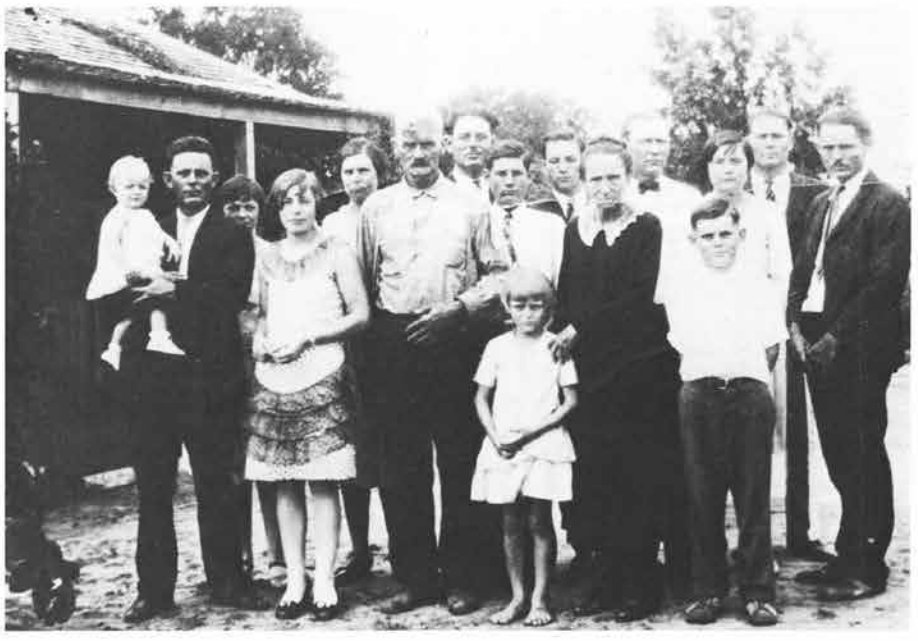
F101

Thomas Jefferson Brantley was born October 24, 1862 in DeWitt County near Yorktown. He was the son of Susan Mary Woods and John David Brantley. He probably attended school at Shiloh School as he lived with his mother and father in that community until after his mother died in 1870. At that time he was only eight years old. His sister Mary Caroline was only one and the oldest child, Margaret Jane was ten. The children were reared in part by their grandmother, Nancy Jane McFarland Anderson. Tom spent some of his time traveling with his father who traded in livestock. By 1880 he is listed with his father and the other children on the census in Gonzales County. Not much is known of his early life.

He married Jessie Jay Canion on June 6, 1894 in Gonzales County. They moved back to Dewitt County shortly after that as their first child, George David was born near Yorktown in 1895. They lived and farmed in DeWitt County until 1903 and then were in Gonzales County at Sample until they moved to Cheapside around 1915. They had twelve children: 1) George David (Dave) b. 1895 d. 1972 m. Mary Louise Brantley. 2) Alma Francis b. 1896 d. 1938, Cuero, Texas. 3) Edwin Warren (Biggun) b. 1898 d. 1976 Globe, AZ m. Emmaves Harris. 4) Vera May b. 1900 d. 1959 Nixon, Tx. m. Carl Gaylord. 5) Arnold Lester b. 1903 m. Evelyn Cole. 6) Evie Jay b. 1905 m. Emil Dieringer. 7) Thomas Bethel (Bunk) b. 1907 m. Ann Adams. 8) Brandon Odell (Mule) b. 1909 m. Evelyn Hiller. 9) Oscar Delton (Joe), b. 1912 d. 1974 Phoenix, AZ m. Lena Marie Thuem. 10) Elwood b. 1914, d. 1917. 11) Rollie B. b. 1917 m. Clare Duckworth. 12) Olene b. 1920 m. Alfred Prasek.

Jessie Jay Brantley died August 6, 1929 from burns suffered in the explosion of a kerosene stove. Thomas Brantley died July 22, 1930 after a lengthy illness. Both died in Cuero, Texas but are buried in the Burdick Cemetery in Smiley, Texas.

by Jean Brantley Tidwell



Marilyn Jean (baby), David Brantley, Louise (behind Dave), Alma Brantley, Back row: Warren (Biggun) B., Delton (Joe), Brandon (Mule), Carl Gaylord, Vera B. Gaylord, Bethel (Bunk), Lester (Doc). Next to David – Evie Jay B. (Dieringer), Thomas Brantley, Olene (Prasek), Jessie Canion Brantley, Rollie Brantley in front.

BRAUNE, ED FAMILY

F102

Seated: Sophie (Schlosser) and Egon Braune. Standing: Allen Braune, Kathleen (Braune) Birchfield, and Clifford Braune.

Edward Braune was born in Germany in 1865 and immigrated to Texas with his brother Christian and wife in 1883. He settled in the Rogers Ranch Community of Caldwell County, located close to Lockhart. Here he married Marie Holter who died several years later and left him with a small child, Hedwig. In 1891, Ed married Agnes Schulz in Hortontown, Texas, near New Braunfels and they moved to Maxwell where Egon was born in 1892. They lived in other small towns in that area and in New Braunfels for about twelve years. During this time, all of their children were born, Hedwig (Newmann), Raymond, Egon, Irma (Sager), Norma (Karrer), and Berthold.

They moved to Rivera in about 1904 when the railroad was being completed to the valley. Ten acre lots were for sale to lure northerners

to settle in South Texas and Ed planned to sell nursery stock to these folks to help establish their new places. The developers went broke, as did Ed's dreams, so he went further south to Sarita, where the family bought and operated a small hotel and plant nursery. This operation was not very successful because all of the surrounding land was owned by the King Ranch and their workers bought their goods from the ranch owned Commissary. The main customers they had were railroad workers and travelers. In 1907, the oldest daughter, Hedwig, married one of these railroaders, Charles Newmann, and they lived in Mercedes the rest of their lives.

In 1910, Ed and Agnes decided to leave Sarita and moved to Nordheim. Just as the Braunes were to move, their youngest son Berthold died. Ed was due to take possession of their farm in De Witt County, but he and the family escorted the body for burial in Lockhart. Ed sent his seventeen year old son, Egon, to Nordheim on another train. Egon stepped off of the train in a strange town and was directed to the seller of the farm, John Wolf, who took him out three miles where Egon stayed in a small shack until the rest of the family arrived. Egon lived on this place for the rest of his life.

The Braunes probably moved to Nordheim for several reasons: the lack of German speaking people in Sarita, the poor business in the area and possibly because of the warlike activity of Pancho Villa on the not too distant Mexican border.

Edward and Agnes bought the 192 acre farm four miles south of Nordheim which had been a small part of the Taylor Ranch in west De Witt County, located on the Manahuilla Creek. The farm home was not completed until 1911. During this time the family lived in a one room cabin.

In 1917, Egon married Sophie Schlosser and they had three children, Allen, Kathleen (Birchfield) and Clifford and they lived on this farm. During the Great Depression in 1932 part of the farm was lost because it was impossible to come up with one hundred forty four dollars per year for the mortgage payment. Egon lived on part of this farm until the time of his death in 1970. Sophie lived there until her death in 1971.

Descendants of the Braunes still own part of the original farm and at this writing Clifford and Dorothy (Feuerbacher) Braune and Cliff Ed and Licia (Linscomb) Braune still enjoy the weekends in that old farm home.

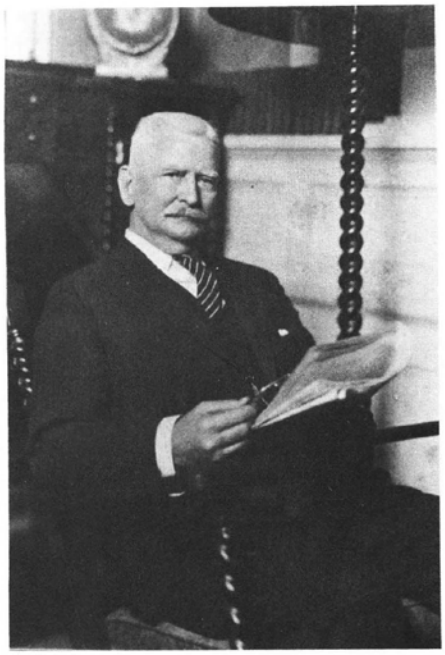
by Clifford W. Braune

BREEDEN, CHARLES GOODWIN

F103

1860-1925

Charles Goodwin Breeden, a native son of Texas, was born in Victoria on January 27, 1860. He was the second son of Paul Hamilton Breeden (1830-1874), a captain in the Army of the Confederacy, and Mary Kibbe Breeden (1833-1901). He was named for a noted physician in early Victoria, Dr. Sherman Goodwin. The time and ambience of his childhood days, the threshold of the War Between the States and the environment of early frontier days in



Charles Goodwin Breeden

South Texas, undoubtedly exercised a material influence in shaping his strong character and sense of values.

In the spring of 1875, on his fifteenth birthday, he came to the new town of Cuero to accept work in the printing office of The Cuero Weekly Star, then published by J.H. Tucker. Before leaving Victoria, he had acquired a proficiency in the printing trade in the office of The Victoria Advocate, published by Thomas A. Sterne.

In the year 1876 Mr. Breeden gave up his position with The Star and his association with newspaper work in order to accept employment with one of the most highly regarded men of the area, Mr. Otto Buchel, a merchant and banker. Breeden continued in Buchel's employ for twelve years, in a relationship of cordial good will which continued for a lifetime. In the year 1888 he accepted employment with the business firm of P.J. Willis and Brother.

In the following year, 1889, with his eldest brother, Walter Kibbe Breeden (1857-1931) and his brother-in-law, Robert Henry Wofford, he established the firm of Breeden Brothers, dealing in cotton, wool, pecans, sugar futures, agricultural implements, and groceries, at both wholesale and retail. This firm occupied a leading position in the economic life of South Texas for the next half-century.

So successful was the firm of Breeden Brothers that in 1911, in conjunction with his brother, Robert Perry Breeden (1869-1926) and the H. Runge Company, C.G. Breeden assumed leadership in the organization of the Breeden-Runge Wholesale Company. Charles Goodwin Breeden was the first president of this prestigious company, a position he held until his death on December 30, 1925. Breeden-Runge achieved a flourishing growth and became one of the first chain wholesale houses in South Texas. Branch houses were established in Kenedy, Alice, Yorktown and, for a time, in San Antonio. The counties covered by the company included Lavaca, Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson, Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, Bee, Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Duval, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Live Oak, and Goliad.

Charles Breeden served as a director and vice-president of The First State Bank and Trust Company of Cuero. His judgment and advice were often sought and appreciated by his associates. He was interested in the Cuero Packing Company and other enterprises. Service to his community is exemplified by the fact that he served twice as a director of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and was re-elected to serve again in that post. He was a charter member of the Cuero Rotary Club and served as a loyal member of the Jewel Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He was an ardent member of the first firefighting company established in Cuero, the old "Stonewall Fire Brigade." He was a member of the Council of Defense during World War I, discharging those duties with kindness and consideration, yet with patriotic fidelity to his country.

Charles Goodwin Breeden was married to Mabel Claire Hall (1895-1974) on December 15, 1915. Two daughters were born to the union, Mabel Claire Breeden Bell (1916-1983) and Rosemary Kibbe Breeden Kokernot (b. 1919). In 1924 he purchased a home for his wife and family at 310 Terrell Street in Cuero, but died before the remodeling was completed and the house was occupied. Mr. Breeden was an Episcopalian and an admirer of Bishop Alexander Gregg, who reciprocated by jokingly calling Breeden "the little Bishop."

Charles Goodwin Breeden's contributions to the city of Cuero and to South Texas were those of a civic leader and businessman over a fifty-year period. He helped the city to grow from a railroad stop on the Gulf, West Texas, and Pacific Railroad Company to a prosperous and thriving community. He never held a public office but was known for his devotion to Cuero, the State, and the Nation. The Cuero Record summarized his successful life as follows:

He was a friend to everyone with whom he came in contact. It is but natural to think of him in terms of bigness. Large in stature, noble in impulse, broad in judgment, and lofty in ideals, his was a life most worthy of emulation. He combined a modern business judgment with an old-fashioned ideal of chivalry. He possessed in rare form that courtesy and politeness of manner that signified gentility and gave him rating as a pronounced type of Southern Gentleman of the old school. His memory remains . . .

by Rosemary Kokernot

BREEDEN, JANE MATHILDA HARRIS AND P. FIELDING

F104

Jane Mathilda Harris was born in Cuero on July 2, 1898. Jane was the daughter of William F. Harris, a Cuero attorney, and Mathilda Hunter Harris. Jane had two brothers – Walter Sherrod and Hunter. She had two sisters. Elizabeth Harris Neill who married Geo. H. (Jack) Neill and resides in Sonora, Texas. Bertha Harris was a lifelong resident of Cuero and taught school for over thirty years. She passed away in 1968. Jane graduated from Cuero High School and then entered the University of Texas. After completing her studies there she attended Business College.

P. Fielding Breeden was born in Victoria on November 4, 1897. Fielding was the son of

Robert P. Breeden and Blanche (Wofford) Breeden. Fielding had two sisters – Constance Breeden Sheppard and Jessie Breeden Tonroy. Fielding graduated from Cuero High School. After completing his formal education at Texas A&M College, he attended Business College. Fielding and Jane were married April 8, 1922.

Fielding entered the wholesale grocery business, Breeden Runge & Company, with his father and uncles. He subsequently became president of the company. After the business sold to Groce Wearden, Fielding acquired the Budweiser Beer distributorship of South Texas. In 1953 Fielding bought his sister's insurance business and was still in the insurance business when he passed away in 1971. Fielding played a very active role in Cuero's community organizations. He was a former member of the Cuero City Council, past president of the Chamber of Commerce and Cuero Rotary Club. He was also a past president of the Texas Wholesale Grocery Association. He was an active member of the Travelers Protective Association. He and Jane were lifelong members of Grace Episcopal Church.

Fielding and Jane had two children. Their son, P. Fielding Jr., was born November 29, 1926. After high school Fielding served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Texas A&M. He married Barbara Hardy of El Paso. They have three children, Diane, Gray and Tad. They all reside in Austin, Texas. Their daughter, Blanche (Bebe) was born July 29, 1929. After high school, Bebe graduated from Trinity University. She married Albert G. Benson of San Antonio, Texas. They have five children, Guy, Blanche, Elizabeth (Betsy), Rebecca (Becky), and Fielding. Albert and Bebe retired in Hawaii. Their children all reside in the Hawaiian Islands.

by Bebe (Blanche) Breeden Benson

BREEDEN, PAUL HAMILTON AND BESS (PHILPOTT)

F105

Paul Hamilton Breeden, the only son of the Walter Kibbe Breeden, was born in Cuero in the Breeden house, 112 West Broadway, October 26, 1886. He attended Nash Academy, Cuero; Sewanee, Nashville, Tennessee; the University of Texas, Austin, Texas (where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity); and Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York. After graduation from this last school, he returned to Cuero to work with his father in Breeden Brothers.

In 1909, September 15, he married his boyhood sweetheart, Henrietta Bess Philpott. They were married in the First United Methodist Church, Cuero, with a reception in the home of her sister, Eloise Philpott Moore and her brother-in-law, Claude Bentley Moore.

Bess (who dropped her first name, Henrietta) was born in Bryan, Texas, December 1, 1889 to the Reverend Horatio V. Philpott and Henrietta Clay Bledsoe Philpott. Bess's mother died in Austin, Texas when she was four years old. Her oldest sister, Eloise, asked to have Bess and she came to live with the Moores when she was five years old. She was educated in the Cuero Public Schools and was in the first graduation class of John C. French High

Paul Hamilton Breeden

Bess (Philpott) Breeden

School in 1906. She was an active and energetic workers in the Methodist Church. Later after the birth of her children she joined her husband in the Grace Episcopal Church.

To Paul and Bess Breeden four children were born: Bess Eloise Breeden, September 10, 1910, Dorothy Ann Breeden, August 5, 1913, Marjorie Jane Breeden, October 14, 1915 and Paul Hamilton Breeden, Jr., September 29, 1924.

Paul Breeden was active in civic and church affairs. He was a faithful member of Grace Episcopal Church, serving as an acolyte in his youth and later on the Vestry many times. He was a member of the Cuero Independent School Board for twenty-five years. Always interested in the growth and progress of Cuero, he endeavored to bring in new business and was helpful and supportive to many young businessmen. After his father's death he became head of Breeden Brothers until that business was dissolved in 1938. He then formed the Cuero Pecan Company and Cuero Distributing Company. He held office and owned stock in Breeden-Runge Company, Cuero Produce Company and Farmers State Bank. In 1954 he was elected president of Farmers State Bank, a position he held until January 1967 when he resigned because of failing health. He died February 22, 1967 in a Cuero hospital and was buried in Hillside Cemetery. He devoted his life to his family and community and was deeply loved.

After the death of her husband Bess Philpott Breeden remained in the Breeden homestead with her daughter, Bess. She suffered a stroke on September 15, 1968 and was a semi-invalid until her death on March 5, 1976. She was a beautiful woman. She had sustained a wonderful spirit, keen wit and intelligence. She was a lovely, cultured lady who was greatly loved by her family and friends. She was buried at the side of her husband in Hillside Cemetery.

Bess Eloise Breeden, the oldest child in the Paul Breeden family, was married to Henry Reiffert Noll, November 10, 1937. They divorced in 1939 and her maiden name was restored.

Dorothy Ann Breeden married Reiffert Forbes Blackwell, a Cuero man, in the home of her parents on April 7, 1935. Three children were born to the Blackwells: Patricia Ann Blackwell, March 14, 1937, Dorothy Breeden Blackwell, August 18, 1941 and William Albert Blackwell IV, January 28, 1943. Patricia Ann Blackwell married Pat Garner Hedgcoxe in Cuero, April 11, 1959 and they had two children: Howard Reiffert Hedgcoxe, August 3, 1960 and Lillian Lou Hedgcoxe, October 21, 1963. Dorothy Breeden Blackwell married Walter Christian Sager, April 27, 1962 and they had two children: Stacey Lynn Sager, January 29, 1963 and Walter Steve Sager, January 26, 1964. William Albert (Bill) Blackwell married Nancy Nash Porter July 10, 1971 in Bryan, Texas and they had three children: Ashley Porter Blackwell, August 16, 1973, Stephanie Porter Blackwell, August 29, 1976 and Courtney Blackwell, August 14, 1981.

Marjorie Jane Breeden married Ashton Cleveland Hesse in Houston, Texas on April 23, 1940. Four children were born to this couple: Nancy Anne Hesse, July 13, 1942. She married Lowell Matthews III, December 16, 1961. Two children were born to the Matthews: Lowell Charles Matthews IV, October 1, 1962 and Nancy Jane Matthews, December 17, 1963. The Matthews were divorced October 1965 and Nancy married Bobby Dwayne William, September 14, 1973. Robert Cleveland Hesse, born February 24, 1946, married Marsha Arnold December 28, 1968. They divorced in 1979 and he married Margaret Ruth Gullick Dantzic, November 21, 1987. Margaret Lynn Hesse was born September 2, 1948. She married Dennis Ralph Wennerstrom November 16, 1967. They had two children: Courtney Brooke Wennerstrom, July 19, 1974 and Ashley Breeden Wennerstrom, April 28, 1980. They divorced January, 1985. Sarah Jane Hesse, born March 5, 1950, married Bobby Lynn Freeman, June 25, 1977 and they had two children: Jeremy Bennett Freeman, August 8, 1979 and Whitney Brooke Freeman, October 25, 1981. Marjorie Jane Breeden Hesse died August 19, 1951 in San Antonio of polio. She was a beautiful, kind, lovely young woman who left four young children, her husband and her family shocked and greatly grieved. She had been ill only a short time. She was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Paul Hamilton Breeden, Jr., the only son,

married Sarah Margaret Davidson, a Cuero girl, on December 24, 1945 while he was serving in the Naval Air Corps in World War II. They were married in Moss Point, Mississippi. He was employed by the Dupont Plant for over thirty years. Sarah Margaret taught in the Cuero Schools. They have three children: Paul Hamilton "Buddy" Breeden IV, August 2, 1950, Susan Margaret Breeden, October 31, 1953 and Charles Randall Breeden, August 18, 1960. "Buddy" married Doris M. Post, December 28, 1973 in Cuero in the Lutheran Church. They have two children: Kristen Margaret Breeden, February 6, 1978 and Paul Hamilton "Brad" Breeden V, November 26, 1980. Charles Randall Breeden married Ann Lorraine Prause, August 11, 1984.

by Bess Breeden

BREEDEN, ROBERT PERRY

F106

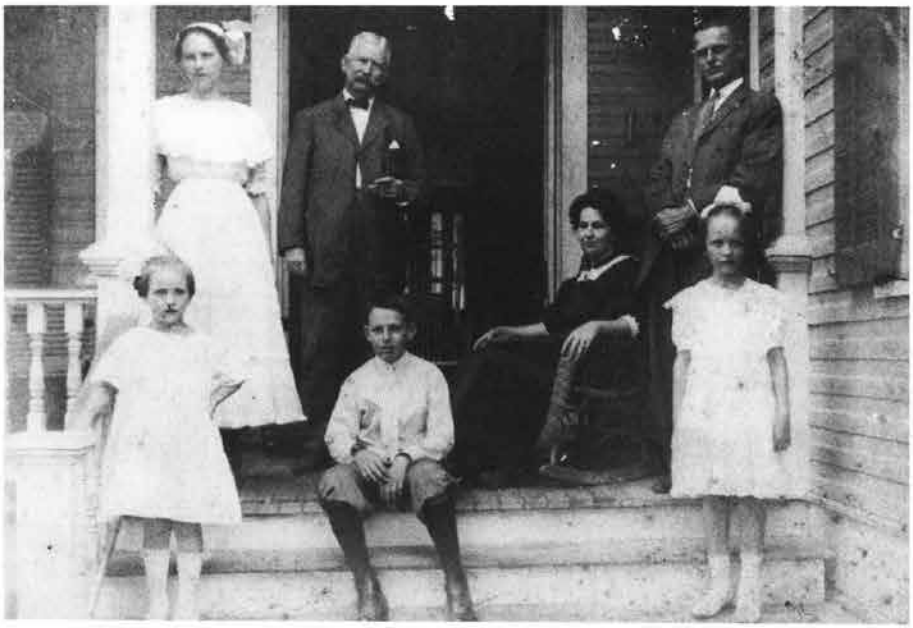
Robert Perry Breeden, youngest son of Paul Hamilton and Mary Kibbe Breeden, was born in Victoria, September 9, 1869. He married Blanche Wofford (born Clinton, November 29, 1875), daughter of John Tyler and Josephine Stevens Wofford, at Cuero on August 16, 1893. They had four children: Constance Lackey (b. Cuero, May 28, 1894, d. August 18, 1965) married Henry Fassett Sheppard; Paul Fielding (b. Victoria, November 4, 1898, d. February 26, 1971) married Jane Harris; Blanche (b. Cuero, May 31, 1902, d. September 30, 1926) married Julius C. Metz; and Jessie Rathbone (b. Beeville, November 12, 1905, d. 1971) married Morris Tonroy. Breeden entered the mercantile business with Frank Lackey in Victoria in the 1890's. He was later associated with his brother, Charles G. Breeden, in Breeden-Runge Company, wholesale grocers. He managed the San Antonio branch of that company and succeeded his brother Charles as president on the latter's death in 1925. He was a founding member and first president of the local Kiwanis Club, a Knight Templar and member of the Alzafar Shrine, and a director of Cuero Building & Loan Association. Breeden died at Cuero, March 8, 1926. His widow, Blanche Wofford Breeden, died at Cuero, April 14, 1953.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

BREEDEN, WALTER KIBBE

F107

Walter Kibbe Breeden



C. 1912, Back Row: Constance Breeden, Charles G. Breeden, Blanche (Wofford) Breeden, Robert Perry Breeden. Front: Jessie Breeden, Paul Fielding Breeden, and Blanche Breeden.

Margaret Pleasants Breeden

Walter Kibbe Breeden was born in Victoria, Texas on August 5, 1858 to Paul Hamilton Breeden and Mary Elmira Kibbe Breeden. His father, Paul Hamilton Breeden was born in Hinds County, Mississippi, to Hezekiah and Mary Curtis Breeden on June 6, 1830. Paul Breeden came to Texas in 1854, settling in Victoria. He married Mary Elmira Kibbe, the daughter of a prominent Victoria family in 1857. Walter Kibbe Breeden was the oldest of five children born to the Breedens.

At the beginning of the War Between the States, Paul Breeden joined Company F, Eighth Regiment, Texas Infantry, C.S.A. He served as a gallant officer of the Confederacy, having risen to the rank of Captain. In 1865 at the end of the war he was paroled and returned to his family, but he was in poor health. Mary Kibbe Breeden, in order to support her family, founded a private school for young ladies and the boys in the family went to work as soon as they were of age.

It was soon after Cuero was made County Seat of DeWitt, that young Walter Breeden came to Cuero to work for H. Seeligson, who had established a branch of his retail grocery in this thriving small town. In 1873 Walter wrote home promising to send money to help support his family. He was fifteen years old.

Paul Hamilton Breeden died in Victoria after a protracted illness on November 30, 1874. He was buried on the Kibbe lot in Evergreen Cemetery. A memorial C.S.A. marker was placed at his monument.

After his father's death, Walter brought his mother and her family to Cuero.

In 1882 Walter Kibbe Breeden and Harriet Margaret Pleasants were married in Cuero on March 1, in the Grace Episcopal Church with a reception in the home of her parents, Henry Clay Pleasants and Ann Atkinson Pleasants. Harriet Margaret Pleasants, affectionately called "Maggie" was born in Clinton, Texas, June 2, 1863. Her parents moved to Texas from Virginia in the early 1850's. Henry Clay Pleasants was born in Richmond, Virginia where he was educated and practiced law until he came to Texas, settling in Clinton, Texas. The Pleasants moved to Cuero when it became the County Seat of DeWitt. "Maggie' Breeden was a loveable, kind, hospitable person, who, with

her husband Walter, made their home at 112 West Broadway, a haven for relatives and friends. Bishop Jones, a friend of the family, once said "This home has always held its arms open to me". This was true not only for friends but to anyone in need.

The Walter Breedens had four children: Annie Pleasants Breeden, September 8, 1883; Paul Hamilton Breeden, October 25, 1886; Mary Jane Breeden, December 27, 1893; and Margaret Pleasants Breeden, December 25, 1895.

Annie Breeden married Ewing Keasler in Cuero in the Breeden home on September 11, 1907. They had one child, Walter Ewing Keasler. After Ewing Keasler died, Annie married John Fentiman in San Antonio. She died there in 1948 and is buried in Mission Park Cemetery.

Paul Hamilton Breeden and Henrietta Bess Philpott were married September 15, 1909 in Cuero in the Methodist Church. A reception was held in her sister Eloise's home, the Claude Bentley Moore's. Four children were born to Paul and Bess: Bess Eloise Breeden, September 10, 1910; Dorothy Ann Breeden, August 5, 1913; Marjorie Jane Breeden, October 14, 1915; and Paul Hamilton Breeden, Jr., September 29, 1924.

Bess Breeden and Henry Reiffert Noll were married in Cuero November 10, 1937 in her parent's home. They divorced in 1939 and her maiden name was restored.

Dorothy Breeden married Reiffert Forbes Blackwell in her parents home in Cuero on April 7, 1934. Three children were born to the Blackwells: Patricia Ann Blackwell, March 14, 1937; Dorothy Breeden Blackwell, August 18, 1941; and William Albert Blackwell, January 29, 1943.

Marjorie Jane Breeden and Ashton Cleveland Hesse were married in Houston April 23, 1940. Four children were born to this couple: Nancy Ann Hesse, July 13, 1942; Robert Cleveland Hesse, February 24, 1946; Margaret Lynn Hesse, September 2, 1948; and Sarah Jane Hesse, March 5, 1950.

Paul Hamilton Breeden, Jr. married Sarah Margaret Davidson at Moss Point, Mississippi December 24, 1945. Three children were born in Cuero to Paul and Sarah Margaret: Paul Hamilton ("Buddy") Breeden, August 2, 1950; Susan Margaret Breeden, October 31, 1953; and Charles Randall Breeden, August 18, 1960.

Mary Jane Breeden, the third child of the Walter Breedens, married Arthur Carver Jones, June 16, 1923 in the Breeden home. Two children were born to this couple: Jane Breeden Jones, June 11, 1924; and Arthur Hamilton Jones, November 23, 1926.

Jane Breeden Jones married John Charles Tracey in San Antonio, November 23, 1944. Four children were born to the Traceys: John Charles Tracey III, January 9, 1946; Arthur Terrell Tracey, July 25, 1947, Cynthia Tracey, February 18, 1951; and Lawrence Tracey, February 3, 1955.

Arthur Carver Jones married Patricia Forbes, January 24, 1953, Houston, Texas. This couple had four children: Carver Hamilton Jones, December 11, 1954; Jeanine Jones, October 8, 1957; Lee Forbes Jones, January 9, 1960; and Janis Patricia Jones, May 6, 1965.

Margaret Pleasants Breeden, "Marjorie", the youngest child of the Walter Breedens, married Hugh Prescott Mabe in her parents home on November 1, 1915. Two children were born to the Mabes: Hugh Prescott ("Pete") Mabe, Jr., December 4, 1916; and Walter Breeden Mabe, July 10, 1919.

Hugh Prescott Mabe, Jr., married Marine Edwards and they had two children; Hugh Prescott Mabe III, and Margaret Mabe. Hugh and Marine divorced and Hugh married Mae Donnelly.

Walter Breeden Mabe married Helen Corinne Braswell in Louisiana, May 30, 1954. Two children were born to this copule: Debra Kathryn Mabe, May 8, 1955 and Patricia Sue, February 6, 1958.

Walter Kibbe Breeden was one of Cuero's pioneer business men, as well as one of it most prominent citizens. In 1889 he and his brother, Charles Goodwin, formed Breeden Brothers Retail Grocers and Cotton Brokers. This firm was numbered as one of South Texas' most substantial businesses. It was founded and managed on the high principles and precepts of Walter Kibbe Breeden. In addition to being the head of Breeden Brothers, at the time of his death, he was President of Breeden-Runge Company, Vice President of Farmers State Bank and for many years was associated with several Produce and Cold Storage Plants in DeWitt and Gonzales Counties – particularly Cuero Produce Company. He was a faithful member of Grace Episcopal Church having served on the Vestry many years. He was a Mason and a member of Kiwanis Club. Mr. Breeden died in San Antonio February 15, 1931 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mabe. He was buried in Hillside Cemetery February 17, 1931 with full Masonic ritual. Services having been held in Grace Episcopal Church with Bishop William T. Capers, a close friend, officiating. The whole town ot Cuero closed its doors for business during the ceremony to honor this good man.

Mrs. Walter Breeden remained in her home in Cuero until her death in San Antonio on February 22, 1936, which was the result of a tragic automobile accident. She is buried at the side of her husband in Hillside Cemetery, services have been held from her home and from Grace Episcopal Church.

by Bess Breeden

BRESSEL, GOTTLOB AND MATHILDE (VEITH)

F108

At Neustein near Birnbaum in the Province Posen, Germany, Gottlob Bressel was born on 25 August 1844, the eldest son of Gottfried and Beathe Bressel. On 11 August 1867 he sailed for Texas aboard the sail ship Fortuna landing at Galveston on 7 November, settling in Fayette County where he lived for 10 years.

Emma Mathilde Theresia Veith, the daughter of Friedrich and Friederike (Siebert) Vieth, was born 3 May 1851 at Trebitscherfeld near Driesen in Province Brandenburg, Germany. In October of 1868 she together with her parents, brother Hermann, and sisters (Emilie, Auguste, Wilhelmine, Bertha, and Anna) sailed aboard the Fortuna landing at Galveston in December. The family settled near Shelby in Austin County.

On 17 December 1871, Gottlob and Mathilde, both having been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Germany, were married by Rev. R. Jaeggli, a Lutheran minister at Round Top, Texas. They resided in Fayette County until 1877 when they moved to Lavaca County around Hallettsville for 4 years and then to Antioch for a year. They bought their first farm in 1882 in the Bovine Pilot Grove Community about 4 miles east of the site where Yoakum was later founded. On 13 November 1901 they moved to their home place on the Guadalupe River in the Hochheim Community of DeWitt County where they spent their remaining years. They were the parents of eight children:

Herman Friedrich William, the eldest son was born 22 January 1877 near Shelby, died 22 March 1897, and was buried on a bluff beside his grandfather Gottfried on the family farm at Pilot Grove.

Carl Emil was born 30 October 1879 near Hallettsville and married Anna Helene Gloor on 14 December 1909 at the home of her parents, Rudolph and Elise (Mueller) Gloor, Jr. They lived in a house on the family farm until 1932 when they moved to Hochheim.

Bertha Hulda and Hulda Bertha were born on 3 January 1882 at Antioch, Lavaca County. Bertha married Herman Boysen in a double ceremony with Ernest Boysen (Herman's brother) and Amalia Braeuer on 16 December 1903 in Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The brides wore identical wedding dresses. Hulda married Rudolf J. Nieman son of August Nieman of Dryer on 8 December 1910 at the home of her parents.

Emma Anna was born at Pilot Grove on 13 April 1884. In the Westhoff Lutheran Church, she and Wilhelm Gloor (brother of Anna Gloor), of Lindenau were married on 1 June 1931.

Willy Oscar was born 20 June 1886 at Pilot Grove and on 6 December 1911 he married Flora Herm. They also lived in a house on the family farm in DeWitt County, later moving to the Dryer Community and, in about 1948, moving to 618 Nelson Street in Yoakum.

Otto Carl, born at Pilot Grove on 21 December 1888, married Anna Louise Eleonora "Ella" Braeuer on 23 December 1912.

Lydia Martha was born 24 April 1892 at Pilot Grove.

Gottlob and Mathilde applied for their citizenship prior to WW I, but being German immigrants and the United States at odds with Germany, they weren't naturalized until 20 January 1922 in DeWitt County.

Mathilde died on 18 December 1928 and her husband Gottlob on 18 July 1930. Both are buried in the Ruppert Cemetery, Gonzales County beside their daughter, Lydia, who passed away on 2 December 1926.

by Dorothy A. Johnson

BRESSEL, OTTO AND "ELLA" (BRAEUER)

F109

Otto Carl Bressel and Anna Louise Eleonora "Ella" Braeuer were married at the home of the bride's parents on 23 December 1912 by Rev. W.C. Wolfsdorf, minister of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Yoakum. (All of her brothers and sisters also married in the winter months because her father didn't want to waste time during the year when there was work to do.) They resided in the Cheapside Community at

Otto and "Ella" (Braeuer) Bressel

the Gonzales-DeWitt County line on a farm bought from Ella's parents, Reinhold W. and Emilie (Goebel) Braeuer, and on the adjacent farm purchased in 1922 from her sister and husband, Emil and Mathilda Schrade, who were moving to Orange Grove, Texas.

Ella was born in DeWitt County on 16 October 1890, one of nine children: Infant Girl, Herman, Richard, Selma (married Carl Schroeder from Dryer), Amalia (married Ernest Boysen from Gonzales Co.), Mathilda (married Emil Schrade of DeWitt Co.), Ella, Emil (married Hulda Meyer of DeWitt Co.), and Edmund (married Norma Fehner from Gonzales Co.). The Braeuer family moved to the Cheapside Community in the fall of 1890 from Witting in Lavaca County to their recently purchased farm, part located in Gonzales County and part located in DeWitt County. When she was 14 years old, Ella's father sent her to Cuero to reside with a family there and work for them to pay for her room and board. This enabled her to attend school and get another year of education.

Otto was born 21 December 1888 in the Pilot Grove Community east of Yoakum in Lavaca County. In 1901 he moved with his parents, Gottlob and Mathilda (Veith) Bressel, to the Hochheim Community. Otto and his sister Emma took photographs, developed the film, and printed the pictures. Many of the early Bressel pictures are their work. He was a happy person, with a chuckle, who played the guitar in a three-piece "House Dance" band. His daughter said one day he came home from town a very proud man. He had taken his part of the money he received from the sale of his parents farm, after their death, and bought a new Ford touring car!

Anita Emilie Mathilde, their only child, born 22 December 1913, attended Ruppert School in Gonzales County, traveling the four miles on her horse Dan, who sometimes bucked her off (he did stand and wait for her to remount!). Along the way she was joined by her cousins Edgar, Viola, and Rudolph Braeuer. On 30 June 1934 she was married in Holy Cross Lutheran Church to Robert Ludwig "Pete" Thiele.

Recalling that they had no electricity until REA came to the area, Anita said they would wrap ice in a cotton sack and bury it in the cotton seed to keep it from melting. She said, "Ice cream was a big deal!" Another important day on the farm was the first cold norther. That's the day they butchered a hog. This took a full day, from the scalding and scraping of the animal, to stuffing the sausage and curing the bacon to get it all into the smoke house by night. The fat was rendered in a black kettle over an open fire for lard. The next day they cooked the trimmings and made liver sausage. Dry sausage, bacon, and ham were preserved by pouring lard over them to seal out the air.

On 19 February 1947, Otto passed away and the farm was sold. Ella moved to Yoakum to live in 1948 in a home on the Edna highway. Around 1950 she moved to 317 Poth and lived there until she entered the nursing home where she died on 30 June 1986. They are both buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum.

by Dorothy Johnson

BROOKS – GUINN FAMILY

F110

Dot and Eunice Guinn, c. 1926.

John Henry and Clara (Brooks) Guinn

In the area of Sublime, Texas in Lavaca County, James R. Brooks (April 19, 1864-June 19, 1957) married Epsie Harris (November 26, 1866-March 3, 1953). Both of them had grown up in Sublime and remained there all of their lives. During their marriage, they had 13, or more, children. Some of them died at birth, or at a very young age, but three are still living.

On May 8, 1896, Clara Brooks was born in Sublime. It is uncertain, but she is believed to have been their seventh child. Clara grew up in Sublime and met and married John Henry Guinn, Jr. (born November 14, 1894) on December 16, 1916 in Sublime. John was an only child, and was believed to have been raised by some of his cousins. During their first years of marriage John was a farmer.

On June 16, 1917 their first and only son, Victor, was born. When he was nearly 5 years old he came down with whooping cough and passed away on May 24, 1922. He is buried in the Geiger Cemetery in Sublime.

On February 16, 1923, their first daughter, Eunice, was born in the area of Oakland in Lavaca County. Sometime within the next couple of years, John, Clara, and Eunice moved to Sugarland, Texas, where he began working at the Sugar Refinery. While living there, their second daughter, Dorothy Jean (nicknamed Dot), was born on November 9, 1925.

After staying in Sugarland for a few years, the family returned to live in Sublime where John took up farming again. Both of the girls attended grade school in Sublime and went to Hallettsville High School.

Eunice graduated from high school in 1939 and met and married Victor A. Brier on January 17, 1942 at Sacred Heart Catholic parsonage in Hallettsville.

Sometime in 1942 John and Clara left Sublime and moved to Cuero, where they both began working at the Guadalupe Valley Cotton Mill.

At this time, Dot was a junior at Hallettsville High School and she stayed with her sister and brother-in-law, Eunice and Victor Brier, until Vic was drafted into the service. In the latter part of 1942 or the beginning of 1943, after Vic had been drafted, Eunice and Dot followed their parents to Cuero. Dot went on to graduate from Cuero High School in 1944. She later met and married John Davis Bauer, Sr. on July 31, 1948 (see their story). Both daughters are still living in Cuero.

John and Clara Guinn remained the rest of their lives in Cuero. John preceded Clara in death on November 1, 1960 at the age of 65. Clara lived another 28 years without her husband. She passed away on August 3, 1988, at the age of 92. Both of them are buried beside their young son at the Geiger Cemetery in Sublime, Texas.

by Marsha Bauer

BROOKS, GEORGE WASHINGTON

F111

George Washington Brooks was born on May 21, 1808, probably in Chesterfield County, Virginia. He married Eliza Clayton (from Louisiana) on April 19, 1831, in Jefferson County, Mississippi. Their names appear on Stephen Austin's Colonist Application Book in May, 1831 (from the genealogical records of Myrtis

Brooks). It was in Montgomery County that they settled on a league of land deeded to G.W. Brooks (as he was most often known) by the Mexican government. The land was on the Neches River, and final settlement was made with the government of Mexico on August 22, 1835, at Nacogdoches. He was legally guaranteed as an approved colonist by Lorenzo de Zavala.

G.W. Brooks served Texas from the time of his arrival. He was a member of Captain John Austin's company and was involved in the Battle of Velasco in 1832. In 1836 he belonged to Captain Bird's company under Colonel Burleson. "He was detailed by Captain Bird under General Sam Houston's orders to go ahead of the Army of the Republic and assist in removing the families in Texas out of the reach of the invading Mexicans in the neighborhood of Richmond. He remained in discharge of these duties until after the Battle of San Jacinto on the 21st of April, 1836." His company was then disbanded and "he joined Captain Hendershot's company under Colonel Thurston and this Command followed after the retreating Mexican Army by order of General Houston." He was discharged in May, 1836.

A razor belonging to G.W. Brooks, which was given to him by Colonel William B. Travis, is on display at the Alamo. The most likely time for these two men to have come into contact was at Velasco in 1831 or 1832.

For his various efforts on the part of Texas, G.W. Brooks received several headright certificates for land. One of these was for land in what is now DeWitt County on the Coleto Creek. He received a patent for land in the Gonzales District of DeWitt County by virtue of a headright certificate issued by the Board of Land Commissioners of Harrisburg County on July 17, 1854. It is believed that the family did not move to DeWitt County until about 1854.

G.W. and Eliza Brooks had twelve children: Mary Catherine (born 1833), Frances Ann (born 1836), Beverly Baker (born 1840), Andrew Jackson (born 1841), James Madison and Sarah (twins, born 1843), G.W. Jr. (born 1844), Josephus (born 1845), Antheria (born 1847), Alpha Omega (born 1850), Old Texas (born 1852), and Charlotte (born 1857). All of these children except Charlotte were born in Montgomery County. Charlotte was born in DeWitt County. The family moved to DeWitt County after selling the land received from the Mexican land grant. Antheria remembered the move which was made in a covered wagon.

Eliza Brooks died about 1860. G.W. Brooks then married Rachel Ann Roach, a woman whose husband died as a Confederate soldier. From this union there were three children: James Pinckney, Charles, and Colette Minerva. G.W. and Rachel lived in Lavaca County and in Harwood. His youngest children by his first marriage, Charlotte and Alpha Omega, lived with them.

In 1870 G.W. deeded his land in Montgomery, Tyler, and DeWitt counties to his children by Eliza Clayton. G.W. Brooks died on February 1, 1887, and is buried at Harwood, Texas.

Two of G.W. Brooks's daughters, Antheria and Charlotte, married two brothers who were sons of John Spinks, a DeWitt County resident. Charlotte and James Joseph Spinks lived in DeWitt County a short time, but Antheria (Annie) and Cyrus Spinks remained in DeWitt County for the remainder of their lives.

by Dianna Bartosh

BROWN, JOHN RAY FOSTER

F112

John Ray Foster Brown was born March 23, 1854 in DeWitt County, Texas. His father was Palestine T. Brown who was born in ca. 1810 in Tennessee. Palestine died in Gillespie County, Texas in 1887. Palestine was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in 1861 as a private in the Texas Cavalry, Wood's Regiment, Company "G", Josiah Taylor, Captain. He returned home in 1865. Palestine had two known brothers, Jim Brown and Henderson Brown. John R.F. Brown's mother was Miriam (Canady) Brown who was born in Tennessee and died in the Fall of 1877 at Palestine's home in DeWitt County. They named John Ray Foster Brown after a sheriff of DeWitt County, that was a friend of the family. John R. Foster was sheriff from 1853 to 1859.

John R.F. Brown had five brothers: Jesse K. Brown, Basil James Brown, Joe DeWitt Brown, Reuben Brown, and Allen Walker Brown. All of the brothers lived out of DeWitt County except Reuben who was killed in 1875 by Bill Taylor. He had been the Marshal at Clinton, Texas. He is buried in the family cemetery.

John R.F. Brown married Hepzebeth Taylor on October 18, 1876 at the home of his brother, B.J. Brown. They were married by a Presbyterian minister against the wishes of Hepzebeth's mother, Emily Henrietta (Porter) Taylor. Hepzebeth Taylor was born in DeWitt County, in July 1854. She was the daughter of Josiah Taylor, II and Emily P. Taylor. Josiah Taylor was born October 1, 1821 and died March 23, 1864 after returning home from the Civil War. Josiah was first married to Jane York who died in childbirth of their only child, J.O. Taylor who later became sheriff of Bee County. Josiah then married Emily Porter and their children were: Hepzebeth, Annie who married Basil James Brown, Alice, Creed, and Emily J. who married Robert Peril. After Josiah died, Emily then married D.C. Hardy and had three more children: Nettie, Lulu, and Cullen Hardy.

John Ray Foster Brown and Hepzebeth Taylor Brown had three children: 1) Cora Deline Brown was born in DeWitt County on December 18, 1879 and married John Henry Giles. They had two children, John Porter Giles and Robert Brown Giles. 2) Francis Ray (Brown) Moore. 3) Annie Miriam Brown.

John R.F. Brown died in San Antonio on April 18, 1945. Hepzebeth Taylor Brown died in Gillespie County in October of 1888.

by Robert Brown Giles

BROWN, OSCAR SPOTSWOOD

F113

Oscar Spotswood Brown was born in Brownscove, Va. August 17, 1826. On December 19, 1854, he married Mary Francis Lloyd, who was born in England. Mary's father was a Doctor of General Medicine. Oscar Spotswood fought in the Civil War in Missouri. After the Civil War, he moved to Texas and settled between Austin and Georgetown. He and Mary had ten children. After the death of his wife, Mary, Oscar Spotswood moved to Clinton, Texas, which was the County Seat of DeWitt County. Oscar Spotswood spent the rest of his life on the Clinton homestead. He died November 17, 1902 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Lula Cecile (Vollers) Brown

Albert Erastus Brown, Sr.

Albert Brown, Oscar Spotswood's youngest son, born June 22, 1871, remained on the home place farming and ranching. He married Lula Cecile Vollers in 1894. Her family had emigrated to Indianola from Nuremburg, Germany. Lula was born November 28, 1870 in Indianola to Louis and Wilhelmina Vollers. After the great Indianola storm, Lula's family moved to Cuero, where she taught in a private school on Newman Street. Lula and Albert (Bert) had seven children; 1) Newton Albert, 2) Finley Oscar, 3) Eugene Arthur, 4) Cameron Charles, 5) Beatrice Louise, 6) Bert Edwin and 7) Annie Lee. They were all born in Clinton, Texas.

After attending a meeting of DeWitt County at Cuero, Mrs. A.E. Brown (Lula), Chairman, organized the Clinton Auxiliary Chapter. They were known as the "Willing Workers" and were very active in all campaigns and drives, for the Red Cross. It was organized June 13, 1918. Bert and Lula Brown were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero. Bert died November 16, 1936 and Lula died July 30, 1938. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Newton, their firstborn, arrived August 8,

1896. He attended Texas A&M and Suwanee University in Tennessee. Newton served in the Army in World War I. While awaiting his return home from Europe after the War, he was a member of the team that won the world championship in football. He met and married Beatrice Marie in Cuero in 1920. They had three children; 1) Lunell A., 2) Newton Jr. and 3) Mary Jeanine. All were born in Cuero. Newton moved his family to San Antonio in the summer of 1938, after his daughter Lunell graduated from Cuero High School. Beatrice died in 1973 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery. Newton died in 1978 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Oscar Brown was born April 2, 1900. He moved to Schulenburg and married Annie Ruhmann and had one son, Tommy. Oscar owned the cotton compress and was Mayor of Schulenburg for many years. He died December 28, 1960 and was buried in Schulenburg.

Eugene Arthur was born January 8, 1903. He married Eugenia Shaw (Jeannie) in Cuero in 1925. They moved to Mercedes where their son Gene was born. He owned Brown Motor Company in Mercedes. The family returned to Cuero in 1945 and at that time purchased the Brown land and home in Clinton from the rest of the heirs. Gene and some of his family still reside there. The youngest members of the family living there at the present time represent the sixth generation on this land that has been owned and lived on by some of the Brown family for over one hundred years. "Big" Gene died September 11, 1968 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Cameron Charles was born June 16, 1905. He spent most of his life ranching. October 6, 1928 he married Grace Johnston and they built a home on his land. On August 21, 1932 their daughter Fay Lou came into their lives. Cameron was planning to enlist in the service of his country when he became very ill, and it was discovered he had cancer. He died April 13, 1941 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Beatrice Louise was the first daughter born to Bert and Lula. She was born January 20, 1908. Bee married Lias Fletcher Steen of Cheapside on December 25, 1929 at the home of her parents. Bee and Lias had three children, 1) Charles Arlen, 1929, 2) Marjorie Ann and 3) Lias Brown. Lias passed away on May 13, 1979 and is buried at Hillside Cemetery.

Bert Edwin, the fifth and last son of Bert and Lula was born May 16, 1910. At an early age, he moved to Mercedes to join his brother Eugene in business. There he met and married Mary Frances Haynes. To this union were born 1) Sara Patricia, 2) Bert Edwin, Jr., 3) Merry Frances, 4) Nancy Kay, and 5) James Eugene (Buster). At a later date, Bert married Billie Powell and they were blessed with a son, Mark.

Annie Lee, born January 19, 1913, was the youngest of the family. She was married in the home of her parents September 9, 1933 to John Fletcher Elder of Cheapside, Texas. They had four children, 1) John Fletcher III, 2) Peggy Jo, 3) Donald H. and 4) Patrick Brown.

by Lunell Brennan and Annie Lee Elder

Drs. Burns, Gillett & von Roeder

Physicians and Surgeons

Special attention to the diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. Office over Booton & Kunitz drug store. Office and residence telephones. Cuero, Texas.

BROWN, WILLIAM FAMILY

F114

At Cabeza 1891-1991

In 1991, the William Brown homestead at Cabeza, DeWitt County, Texas will have been in this family 100 years. The 160 acres were bought from a Mr. V. Weldon of the Indianola Railroad Co. Survey on January 2, 1891. The property is now owned by a grandson, Wilmer Duderstadt of San Antonio, Texas.

Billy (as he was known) and Jane Wofford Brown were married in DeWitt County August 11, 1881. They moved to Cabeza in 1891 and lived there until Billy's death of typhoid fever December of 1919.

They raised a family of seven children. Their two sons were Thurman and Andy. Their five daughters were Viola, Julia, Annie, Myrtle and Mary.

Billy Brown ran a sugar cane mill for making molasses and it was believed that many of the neighbors also brought their cane there to be ground. In addition to raising sugar cane, he raised cotton, corn, and watermelons. They raised turkeys for a cash crop and hogs for keeping their smokehouse filled with food. Myrtle, a daughter, was said to have been given some of the turkey money in the fall of 1913 to buy her wedding dress when she married Louis Duderstadt of Nordheim, Nov. 10, 1913, at her Cabeza home. Later, another daughter Annie used the bodice of this wedding dress to complete her wedding dress when she married Ed Storms who was a barber in Nordheim. They married Dec. 7, 1913 at Cabeza. Other marriages in the family were: Thurman Brown married Sophia Theresa Manz Sept. 6, 1905; Andy Oliver Brown married Viola Julia Burt Oct. 27, 1908; Viola Libby Brown married Paul Natho Aug. 3, 1910; Julia May Brown married William Ernest Farris Oct. 1, 1910; Mary Jane Brown married Fred Burt and after his death married Reagan E. Moore.

Billy Brown's daughter Viola recorded some of her memories of growing up at Cabeza before she died. She vividly remembered her mother Jane's parents, Daniel and Nancy Wofford who lived near Yorktown on a ranch near Clear Creek. It was said of them that they were so kind, generous and helpful to all their neighbors and that Grandma Wofford would get up any time of the night to go and help with the sick.

Viola also recalled her father's mother, Carolyn Woods Brown, who lived at Burnet, Texas. She would come to visit them at Cabeza and stay at least a month per visit. Viola remembered the many trips to Burnet in a wagon in which her father and the whole family would travel in the summertime to visit his mother Carolyn Brown.

Two cedar trees were brought from Burnet (probably on one of these visits) and planted in the front yard of their Cabeza home. Today, these two very old cedars still grace the front yard with their beauty and shade.

Annie Lee Brown Storms' daughter, Shirley Massey, has fond memories of living at Cabeza as a child. She remembers when her Grandfather Billy decided to redo the house in 1917. As was the custom at that time, the kitchen was detached from the house. Her grandfather could make it in one jump from the house to the kitchen. Shirley's desire was to be able to do the same, as she felt doing so would certainly mean that she was grown. Not being able to achieve this feat it was with sad heart that she saw the porch and kitchen joined.

In the back yard was a large smokehouse with wide shelves up against the walls. During the renovation of the house, the Grandparents decided to sleep in the smokehouse with Shirley and her brother Clifton. This would allow Shirley's mother (who was expecting a child) and father to have the only room in the house not being redone. What a great delight to Shirley and Clifton to get to sleep in the smokehouse with their grandparents sleeping on a bottom shelf and the children sleeping on the top shelf.

After Billy Brown's death in 1919, his wife Jane continued to live with daughter Annie and Ed Storms until they moved to Brownsville. After that Jane took turns living one month with each of her children until her death September 22, 1937 in Beeville, Texas.

by Mary Duderstadt Deason and Shirley Massey

BRUCE, BAYLIS

F115

Descendants

In 1808 Baylis Bruce was born in South Carolina. His parents and siblings are unknown at this time. His wife was Elizabeth Asher, daughter of John and Nancy Asher. They appear in the 1830 census of St. Clair County, Alabama with the following children: 1) Pinkney Bruce, born 1831; 2) Samuel M. Bruce, born 1833; 3) Sarah Bruce, born 1836; 4) Obediah Bruce, born 1838; 5) Margaret Bruce, born 1843; 6) Baylis Bruce, Jr., born 1845; 7) Zachary Taylor Bruce, born 1848; 8) Emma Araminta Bruce, born 1851; and 9) Nancy Bruce, born 1854. In 1840 Baylis was in Franklin County, Alabama and in 1850 he was in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

In the 1860's, Samuel the second son, is in Lavaca County, Texas, in the household of the widow Serena E. Abercrombie, widow of an early settler, William E. Abercrombie, son of Wiley A. Abercrombie, hero of "The Massacre of Goliad in 1836". Also, in this household are Nancy Van Dyke, born in Atascosa County, Texas in 1857 and Eliza or Elizabeth S. Abercrombie, born in DeWitt County in 1860. In 1870, Samuel and Elizabeth are on the McMullen County, Texas, census and he is pioneering there as a stockraiser and they have two children: Samuel Marion Bruce, born 1867 and Serena Bruce, born in 1869. By 1880 there are three more sons listed in the census: Isaac Bruce, born in 1874; Thomas Bruce, born in 1876; and James Murphy Bruce, born in 1879.

In the 1900 census of Wilson County, Texas, we find that Lee R. Bruce, born in 1880, Blanche E. Bruce, born in 1883, and Alice M. Bruce, born in 1889, are in the home of their brother, Isaac Bruce. Isaac Bruce had married Ora Agnes Witten daughter of Benjamin Franklin Witten and Melinda Elizabeth Baker. She was born in 1878. Isaac and Ora Agnes have two children: Jessie Leon Bruce, born in 1898 and Cora Mae Bruce, born in 1899.

Samuel M. Bruce, Jr. married Myrtle Laura

Franklin, born in 1875, in Tilden, McMullen County, Texas, on August 8, 1892. They were living in Uvalde County, Texas in 1900 with their children: Clara Sidney Bruce, born in 1894 and Alonzo Elbert Bruce, born in 1897.

Alonzo Elbert Bruce married Lina Lorene Bryan, born in 1901, daughter of William Howell Bryan and Matilda Ramdohr.

by Mrs. Louise Stone

BRUNKENHOEFER, FREDERICK FAMILY

F116

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brunkenhoefer ca. 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brunkenhoefer, Sr. ca. 1924

Of Nordheim

Frederick Brunkenhoefer Jr. established his residence in the town of Nordheim in 1909, succeeding O.G. Eckhardt in the ownership of the village drug store which he maintained at an excellent standard in both equipment and service until his death in 1942. He was a skilled pharmacist and enterprising business man, a public-spirited citizen who took deep interest in furthering education, music, and other civic affairs in the thriving town. Prior to his removal to Nordheim he was a pharmacist in Bastrop for eight years, and to that city he had removed from Weimar, Colorado County, where he was reared and educated. He was a child of three years when his parents established their home in Texas, thousands of miles, and a world away from the German Empire.

Mr. Brunkenhoefer was born in the village of Zweiburg in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, on the 21st of July, 1876, the third son of Friedrich Brunkenhoefer Sr. (1851-1927) and Margarethe Oltmann Brunkenhoefer (1848-1914). In 1879 his parents, his older brothers, Henry and John, and he emigrated from the port of Bremen, crossed the Atlantic and landed in Hoboken, New Jersey, whence they sailed by steamer to Galveston. They arrived by train in Weimar on October 18, 1879. Here his sister, Helene, and his younger brothers, William, Emil, and Erich were born on the tract of land that his parents had developed into a productive farm. Young Frederick was in association with his father on the farm until his seventeenth year when he obtained employment in a Weimar drug store. Here he applied himself diligently to practical work and also to study that would advance him in knowledge of pharmacy. His knowledge and experience were extended and amplified after his removal to Bastrop in 1901. In 1907 he passed the state board of Pharmacy; in 1909 he and his family settled in Nordheim.

At the inception of the Spanish American War in 1898 Fred was the first man in Weimar to enlist, becoming a member of Troop II, First Texas Cavalry, and was made trumpeter of his troop. Its members were mustered out in October, 1898.

In Alleyton, Colorado County, on the 5th of December, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Frederick and Miss Mary Peikert who was born in Alleyton on the 11th of May, 1883, the sixth of seven children of Josef Peikert (1832-1909) and Francesca Schiller Peikert (1846-1937), both having emigrated from Sudetenland in Austria in 1861 and 1867, respectively. Mr. Peikert was a veteran of the army of the Confederate States of ica.

To Fred and Mary Brunkenhoefer were born two children, Lunes Lee and Roy Franklin. In 1919 they took Alberta Peikert, motherless niece of Mrs. Brunkenhoefer, as their own child.

Lunes Brunkenhoefer was born in Weimar on the 1st of April, 1901, growing to lovely young womanhood in Nordheim where she graduated as valedictorian of her class at Nordheim High School in 1918. On the 8th of June, 1921, in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Nordheim was celebrated her marriage to Mr. Benno R. Holchak of Shiner, Texas. He was an agent for the railroad in Runge, Nordheim, and in Shiner, where the couple made their home for the remainder of their lives. He died on the 20th of April, 1967, leaving a legion of grieving relatives and friends. Lunes survived him until the 11th of August, 1972, when she welcomed death to reunite her with her beloved Benno. No children blessed this marriage.

Alberta, born on the 1st of December, 1916, was the seventh and youngest child of Mary Brunkenhoefer's brother Joseph. Her mother having perished in November, 1918, during the far-flung influenza epidemic, Alberta was taken by the Brunkenhoefers to rear as their own daughter. This beautiful girl graduated from Nordheim High School in 1933 and had a successful business career in Houston where she married realtor Monroe Smith. An infant son, born in the summer of 1949, died shortly after his birth. Being bereft of her child was a blow from which she never fully recovered. Alberta passed away on the 30th of January, 1968, and was laid to rest in Shiner where her sister Lunes would join her four years thereafter.

Roy F. Brunkenhoefer (S.) was born in Bastrop in Bastrop County on the last day of July, 1902, grew to manhood in Nordheim, and graduated from its high school in 1920. On the 16th of December, 1922, he was wed in Cuero to Miss Ruth Elizabeth Brown of Yorktown, a teacher in the Nordheim School. This beautiful and accomplished young woman was the daughter of Horace E. Brown (1866-1934) and Mary Ellen Givens Brown (1870-1955), of pioneer Ohio and Virginia Stock. Roy was a loyal member of the Nordheim Brass Band from 1914 until it passed into history in the 1950's. As was his father, he was a Master Mason and a registered pharmacist, having passed his exams for the state board in June, 1926. He operated Roy's Drug Store in Runge from May, 1931 to June, 1942, at which time he consolidated the stock with that of the Nordheim Drug Company after his father's death on the 19th of January, 1942. His mother, Mrs. Mary Brunkenhoefer, died on the 15th of October, 1953. The Nordheim store closed forever in 1953 and until his retirement in 1965 Roy worked in drug stores in Wharton, Refugio, and Goliad. His residence was in Nordheim until he went to California in March, 1975, to remain with his only child, Roy Jr. He passed away on the 25th of June, 1979, in Sonoma, California, and was laid to rest beside his parents in Nordheim. As was his father, Roy Sr. was a student of politics and history, an amiable and personable man who was kind and generous to people all ages, conditions, and stations in life and who possessed an inimitable wit.

Roy F. Brunkenhoefer, born on the 9th of January, 1926, the only child of Roy Sr. and Ruth Brown Brunkenhoefer, attended the University of San Francisco and is a graduate of St. Mary's University. He taught in high schools of Refugio County for six years and retired in June, 1985, after having taught in Marin County, California in the same school for 25 years, thus completing 31 years in the classroom. Roy Jr. is unmarried and upon his death this branch of the Brunkenhoefer family, as a living entity, will cease to exist.

by Roy F. Brunkenhoefer, Jr.

BUCHEL FAMILY

F117

The Buchels came from Guntersblum, near Mayene or Mainz, in the province of Hesse, Germany. This part of Germany was given to Fance in 1801, after having been occupied by Sweden and France in the Thirty Years War. Carl August was born in 1805 and his brother August C. on Oct. 8, 1813. The boys parents were Carl Friedrich Buchel, avocation collector, and Christine Philippine Laun. The Buchels had a family of six, but just two of them came to Texas. Some thought another, Christian, came and went on to California, but no one ever heard from him.

While still living in Germany, Carl August married Juliane Philippine Eglinger of Guntersblum. From their marriage records we learn that both fathers were present to give their approval, but the mothers of both bride and groom did not appear because of timidity. Carl August and his wife had seven children in Germany, but only Friedrich Wilhelm, Ernst August, Emilie Rosalie, and Carl August came to Texas with them. The other children may have died or were old enough to stay in Germany. Another son, Otto, was born in Texas.

In the meantime the brother, Augustus C. was interested in the military. After passing the entrance examination at the age of 14, although he was two years underage, he was admitted to the Military Academy at Darmsstadt. At eighteen he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Volunteers in the First Infantry Regiment of Hess-Darmstadt. In 1835 he had his next training at L'Ecole Militaire in Paris. He served in the French Foreign Legion and later in the Carlist War in Spain. For his conduct in this war Queen Maria Christina decorated and knighted him.

After this Buchel served the Ali Pasha in Turkey for three years attaining the rank of Colonel. This was the highest rank the Christian "infidel" could obtain without becoming a member of the Moslem religion. He refused this.

Buchel then returned to Germany and is reputed to have killed a man in a duel. As the surviving duelist he was required by law to leave Germany as the penalty for participation. So in 1845 Augustus C. and Carl August and his family sailed for Texas from Antwerp, Belgium under the auspices of the German Emigration Co. and arrived late in that year at Carlshafen (later known as Indianola). It was here in 1849 that another son, Otto, was born to Carl August and his wife. Augustus C. made his residence here, but Carl August and his family settled on a farm in DeWitt County. While he was felling logs, he cut an artery in his leg and died. In the spring of 1860 the Buchel family joined a small colony of farmers, mostly from DeWitt County, taking passage to Tampico, Mexico and then into the interior. They settled on the Rio Calabaso with the intention of opening up a coffee plantation. Sickness and death caused the pioneers to abandon all the property. In the summer of 1866 they returned to Indianola where they began a mercantile business. Around 1873 they moved to Cuero.

At this time the family name was spelled Buchell and Buechel in the old German manner, but now it was Anglicized to Buchel.

During this time Augustus participated in the Mexican War as an Aide-de-camp to General Zachary Taylor. Taylor, as President, planned to appoint him Minister Plenipotentiary to Brazil but Taylor's untimely death prevented this act of recognition from becoming a reality. President Franklin Pierce then appointed him Collector of Customs at Port Lavaca, a position he held for many years. In addition to his government responsibility in Port Lavaca, Buchel engaged in a lumber and building material business in Corpus Christi in partnership with M.T. Huck.

In the war between the states, he was made Lieutenant Colonel of the Third Texas Infantry Regiment in 1861 and he served mainly in South Texas. Seen the threat of an invasion of Texas by Union forces caused the transfer of his regiment to Louisiana, where his cavalrymen helped stem the tide of battle in favor of the Confederacy. On April 9, 1864 at Pleasant Hill La., he dismounted his cavalrymen and attacked the enemy attempting an ambush on a strategic hill. There he received a mortal wound and died several days later at Mansfield.

It wasn't long after the death of Carl August that his wife, Juliane, also died. The young men all began businesses in Cuero. Friedrich William married Mary Davis. He, with his brothers, began and operated the Buchel Gin. They had no children, but adopted her niece's son, Floyd McGowan.

Emilie Rosalie married August Westhoff of Cuero and then they moved to Edna where he was interested in ranching, banking, and building.

Theodore Otto was a community-minded individual. He organized and operated a bank, a grocery store, and the cotton gin. He and his brother, August, built and operated the Buchel dam of the Guadalupe River. He married Olga Vahlieck, who was also a very civic minded person. To them were born five children; just three of them lived to be adults. The oldest was Erna, who married Fritz Koehler; Freda, who married Dr. Harold Kirkham; and Theodore, who married Carrie Mae Smith.

Ernst August married Julia ?. He operated the Buchel Furniture Store.

Carl August married Pamela Davis (the sister of Mary, the wife of Fred). He and his brother built and operated the dam of the Guadalupe. It was begun on December 1, 1896 and completed March 3, 1898. The dam supplied electricity for Cuero and later for Central Power and Light. August also operated one of the first green gardens. He dug deep ditches to irrigate with water from the Guadalupe. They raised all vegetables. One of the crops which was tried was rice. On June 30, 1898 he accidentally fell into a turbine and was killed. He also had a large farm where he raised corn, cotton and had cattle. After his death, his wife sold her part of the dam to her brother-in-law, Otto; but, she continued to operate her own farm. She was a good business woman and held her family together and did a good job of farming.

Their children were Carl August, Wilhemina, Walter, Otto, Fred, Pamela, Rosa Mae, and Leona. Two babies were born dead.

Carl August married Mame Reynolds. He worked for his Uncle Otto in the bank and operated the farm at the dam. Their children were August, Carl, Grace, and Joseph.

Wilhemina married Harvey Swift. Their children were Frank and Harvey.

Otto married Urania Junker and their children were Kathryn and Mae. He was a successful farmer.

Rosa Mae married Duncan Sutherland of Victoria. They had one son, Duncan.

Leona married Altus Herring, who managed a textile mill in Talledega, Alabama. Their children were Virginia, Welton, Mary, Margaret, and Marjorie.

Fred William was born Sept. 2, 1891 and was educated in Cuero, receiving his high school training at Mr. Nash's Academy. Mr. Nash was a strong influence in his life. Mr. Nash always expected the best of his students, and Fred was very much the same way with his children. He then graduated from The Texas Dental School in Houston. After practicing dentistry in San Antonio, he moved his practice to Cuero and had his office above The Buchel Bank. In 1912 he and Susie Taylor of Yeakum were married. She grew up in Concrete and also went to Mr. Nash's Academy. She then attended Baylor Female College in Belton, Texas. They lived out in the country near his old homeplace. Fred practiced dentistry, but also was a farmer. At first he grew lots of cotton, corn, and grain crops. Then when King Cotton left these parts, he began to have more livestock. He also began a dairy, which grew to be a large dairy before his death. At different times he grew tomatoes, watermelons, and many other vegetable crops. They became interested in turkey production and raised many of these during the 30's.

Fred and Susie had three daughters and one son. All of them graduated from Cuero High School. All three daughters, Demeris, Doris Pamela, and Lurlyn, attended and graduated from Mary-Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas. Demeris taught school in Port Arthur and married Leon Hanchey. Later they moved to Vidor and operated a lumber and building company. They have one son, Theodore. After their retirement they moved to Corona, California where their son is in the construction business. He and his wife, Betsy, have one daughter, Stephanie.

Doris Pamela, after graduating from Mary Hardin-Baylor, married A.C. Ater and lived in Temple, Texas. A.C. was advertising manager of the Temple Daily Telegram and later General Manager of the Sherman Democrat. After A.C. suffered a severe stroke, the family moved to Cuero. Pamela taught Homemaking in Cuero High School for 30 years. Their children were Pamela B., Jack Allen, and Fred. All three of them graduated from Cuero High School.

Pamela B. married Hugh Fritsch. She went on to graduate from Mary Hardin-Baylor and then to get her master's degree from Texas University. She now teaches special education in Wimberly, Texas. Their children are Pamela who is a coach in Lewisville, Texas; Susan, who is married to Richard Laster, teaches in Corpus Christi; and Gregory, who married Sandra Taylor, is in the construction business in Belton, Texas. Their daughter is Kaci.

Jack Ater entered the Air Force on graduation from high school and served four years in England. When he returned, he began working for Bell Helicopter in Ft. Worth. He has been a trouble shooter for Bell in many places. He was in Viet Nam twice to teach them how to work and care for the helicopters. He married Shirley Jones and they have three children; Scott, Julie, and Chris.

Fred Ater graduated from high school and Victoria Junior College. He finished college at Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas. He married Susan Taylor and then he served in the Air Force for four years in Ft. Worth. After serving in the Air Force, he received his master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Ft. Worth. He then served as education director in Denton, Richmond, and Jackson, Mississippi. He and Susan next went to Brasil to serve as foreign missionaries for Southern Baptists. He teaches religious education in a seminary and she does church-home work. They have two children; Alan and Andi.

Fred Buchel graduated from Cuero High and then attended Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. During his junior year, he enlisted in the Air Force and served in India. After returning, he worked with his father in the dairy and cattle industries, and continued after his father's death. He married Carmel McDonald of El Campo. They have two sons. Bill is a drug counselor in a drug rehabilitation hospital in Austin. He has two sons; Jason and Jeremy. The other son, Bruce, is still operating the dairy. He has one son, Shane.

Lurlyn Buchel completed Cuero High School and also Mary Hardin-Baylor. She taught homemaking in Wharton High School. She married Truett Crouch of Victoria. They had one son, Truett. She died of polio in 1951.

by Pamela Ater

BUCHEL, OTTO

F118

Otto Buchel.

Born in Indianola, Texas in 1849, he came with his father's household to DeWitt County when he was but two years old in 1851. His parents resided on a DeWitt county farm, and this was perhaps the first home he ever remembered.

His father died when he was quite small, and he was reared by his mother and elder brothers. In the spring of 1860, when his mother's family joined a band of colonists, mostly from DeWitt County, for a colonization project in old Mexico, young Otto Buchel accompanied them. Taking passage to Tampico and thence into the interior of Mexico. They settled upon the Rio Calabosa with the intent of opening a coffee plantation. Deprivation, sickness and death among these colonists frustrated the hopes of the survivors, who abandoned their property rights and scattered. The Buchel family resided at Maramoros from 1863 to 1866, with shorter residences at Bagdad and Clarksville at the mouth of the Rio Grande. In the summer of 1866, they returned to Indianola, where Otto Buchel accepted such work as he could find and finally as a mercantile clerk accepted a position with George Seeligson. It was back in the year 1873, when the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railway extended its line from Indianola to Cuero and made this point its terminus that ground was cleared upon which to locate the railway. There was begun the laying of foundations for successful business careers and the forming of happy homes, and Cuero came to be recognized as the logical county seat of DeWitt county. Among the businessmen quick to see the opportunities growing out of combined advantages of fertile lands, wide trade territory, new railroad and county seat, and the principal distributing point between San Antonio and Indianola were George Seelingson and Otto Buchel, who had worked for him as a clerk. Recognizing in Otto Buchel, then a young man of some twenty-four years, very promising business qualifications, Seeligson arranged a branch store in December of 1873 at Cuero, and Otto Buchel was made partner and manager thereof.

So successful did the Cuero Business prove that two years later, by mutual agreement, young Otto Buchel bought out the interests of George Seeligson in the mercantile establishment of Seeligson and Buchel and continued same under the name of Otto Buchel. A frame building on the northwest corner of Main and Esplanade street occupying probably seventy-five feet on Main Street and extending back to the alley on Esplanade street was the early home of the firm. It has been said that when the farmers and cattlemen came into town to do their business and shopping for supplies, they began to ask Mr. Buchel to keep their money for them, since he had one of the few "Safes" in town. He accommodated them, and as word got around, the business grew. So, as a consequence, a space in the extreme northwest corner of the Buchel frame building was set apart and equipped for banking purposes, and thus was laid the foundation for the present modernly housed and equipped Buchel National Bank. The rapid settlement and development of the country, as many farms were carved out of the woodlands, suggested the ownership of a gin; and in 1876, after sending for his two brothers, Frederick W. Buchel and C. August Buchel, then residents of Lavaca County, Otto and his brothers bought the first gin plant established in Cuero. In 1882, William Wagner, who had been for some years bookkeeper and handyman with the Otto Buchel interests, was taken in as a partner, and the name of the firm became "Otto Buchel and Company, Bankers, Wholesale and Retail Grocers and Commission Merchants." William Wagner was known as a very competent and efficient men, and it was because of the combined time and talents of these two men that the business grew. As the business continued to expand and prosper, it gradually became apparent that it was fast outgrowing its quarters and would need a new home. In 1889, the original frame building to Seeligson and Buchel was razed, and again to show his faith and confidence in Cuero's future, a new, and at the same time modern, two story brick building was erected on the Main-Esplanade street corner. It was in the year 1891, that the Buchel interests laid out the town of Karnes City on lands belonging to them. A general business branch house of the Cuero store, gin plant and bank were for a time operated by Otto Buchel and business associates, William Wagner and George J. Schleicher. These were later sold to various parties. The three Buchel brothers in 1892 acquired large land holdings north of Cuero, extending along a considerable water frontage of the Guadalupe River, and including the present dam site. With the increasing numbers of boll weevil, the power dam was built in 1898 with a view to supplying lights and power for Cuero, and also water for a rice irrigation project the brothers were interested in. The destructive flood waters of the Guadalupe River, adversities in connection with the rice farming, difficulties in connection with the management of the light plant, the shock from the accidental death of August Buchel, caught in a cog wheel and crushed to death; and a finally disastrous fire which destroyed the power house, caused Mr. Buchel to place the dam and kindred interests on the market. It was taken over in 1908 by a company headed by Wm. M. Ratcliffe and was known as the Cuero Light and Power Co. Ratcliffe rebuilt the burned power house and reconstructed the dam. Otto Buchel died at his home in Cuero on November 4, 1909.

On February 22, 1883, Otto Buchel was married to Miss Olga Vahldieck, popular young lady and member of one of the first Cuero pioneer families. To their union, five children were born. One died in infancy, another at age eleven. The others were Mrs. Erna Koehler, wife of Fritz Koehler, President of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and successful merchant of Cuero; Mrs. Frida Kirkham, wife of D.r H.L.D. Kirkham of Houston; and T.O. Buchel, director and active vice president of the Buchel National Bank and later Comptroller of the city of Cuero and manager of all utilities.

by Mrs. Charles A. Brokaw

BUDDE, LOUIS, SR.

F119

Louis Budde, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Budde, Jr.

Louis Budde was born in Cassal, Germany, February 11, 1839. He came to America at the age of fifteen years. The trip by sailboat required thirteen weeks and four days. They landed at Galveston and then went to Indianola. His first job was in the blacksmith shop with C. Schobert, but after a few weeks he accepted work with P. Hollefeld, who conducted a boarding house. A few months later he began his first job with the Runge firm cutting and baling prairie hay, together with Ernest Wittnebert.

Mr. Budde married Miss Theresa Simon. They had five children. Theresa was born in Indianola on February 17, 1849. One of the children born to Louis Budde and Theresa (Simon) Budde, was Louis J. Budde who was born in 1879 and died in 1945.

Louis Budde, Sr. died on September 23, 1924. He and his wife are both buried in Hillside Cemetery.

In the early 1990's Louis Budde, Sr. came to Cuero with H. Runge and Co. as a miller for the gin. He had to give up that position in 1919 due to poor health. Even though he could no longer work, he was still on the payroll in 1923. At that time he was the oldest living employee of H. Runge and Co.

While in the employ of this firm he weathered both the storms of '75 when 400 people were drowned, and '86 when wind, water, and fire destroyed most of the once famous seaport of Indianola.

On both occasions he remained on duty throughout the night at the H. Runge and Co. store and warehouse.

BUEHRIG, RALPH AND GEORGIA (RAAK)

F120

Ralph Fritz Buehrig was born in Meyersville on March 27, 1909 to Gus and Anita Loeble Buehrig. He attended Meyersville grade school and St. John's Lutheran Church and also Baldwin Business College in Yoakum. In 1933 Ralph served in the Tree Army (CCC). When Ralph was discharged he worked as an auto mechanic in Cuero.

Georgia Ann Pauline Raak was born February 23, 1910 to George August and Annie Pauline Raak. She attended grade school in Green DeWitt and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. She also attended Baldwin Business College. On June 10, 1936 Ralph and Georgia were married in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. They built their home in Cuero, and, together, they ranched on Georgia's portion of the Raak estate. Ralph went into business for himself as an auto mechanic. When their children were of school age Georgia worked at the junior high school cafeteria until retirement.

To this union three children were born. (1) Dianne Anita was born May 8, 1938 and is now a secretary. She married William Henry Mahan June 4, 1956 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He was born February 13, 1935. William and Dianne's first child was June Ann Mahan, born June 7, 1959. She is a lawyer and is married to Charles Timothy Mann. They were married in Houston December 17, 1982. He was born November 16, 1955. Their first child, Charles Brandon Mann, was born August 20, 1989. The second child of Dianne and William Mahan is Gary Wayne, born April 20, 1963. He is a computer operator. (2) The second child of Georgia and Ralph is Gwen Joyce Buehrig who was born January 2, 1941. She is employed in an office and is married to John Stanley Karcher. They were married in San Antonio May 24, 1965. He was born November 22, 1925. (3) The third child of Georgia and Ralph is Harvey Ralph Buehrig who was born May 4, 1944 and married Merelyn Kay Short on December 28, 1968. She was born September 15, 1947. He is a welder. Their children are Deana Kay Buehrig, born October 14, 1971 and Young Ralph Buehrig who was born July 2, 1975.

Ralph Buehrig died March 23, 1984 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Georgia continues to live in her home in Cuero on North Esplanade.

by Emilie Bethke

BUEHRIG, WILLIAM C. FAMILY

F121

William C. Buehrig was born in Meyersville, Texas on September 21, 1857. His parents were Andreas George Buehrig and Sophie R. (Diebel) Buehrig. On January 19, 1884, William married Caroline Dreier. She was the daughter of Ludwig Dreier and Augusta (Meisenhelder) Dreier. Caroline was born in Kilgore Community, Goliad County, Texas, on May 1, 1862.

William and Caroline had nine children: 1) Bertha Buehrig was born in Meyersville on April 22, 1887. On October 6, 1908 she married Fred Gerhold. Bertha died July 25, 1978. 2) William F. Buehrig was born February 1, 1889. He married Frieda Junker on May 8, 1910. He died February 24, 1967. 3) Henry Buehrig was born April 9, 1890. He was single and died on July 19, 1931. 4) Louis A. Buehrig was born December 8, 1891. He married Meta Schaefer on March 24, 1921. He died January 32, 1947. 5) Hugo Buehrig was born on July 19, 1893. He married Anna May Hiller on November 14, 1923. 6) Otto V. Buehrig was born February 14, 1895. He never married and on September 11, 1913 he died. 7) Alfred Buehrig was born on October 17, 1897. He remained single and on November 6, 1918 he died. 8) Elsie Buehrig was born on April 19, 1899. On October 27, 1919 she married Ed C. Buchhorn. 9) Erna Buehrig was born September 20, 1902. She married Frank Thieme on September 2, 1930. She died August 6, 1984.

by Ethel Buehrig Koenig

BUEHRIG, WILLIAM F. FAMILY

F122

William F. Buehrig was born February 1, 1889 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. His parents were William Christoff Buehrig and Caroline (Dreier) Buehrig. On May 8, 1910, William married Frieda Junker. She was born on June 30, 1890 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas. Her parents were John and Catherine Junker. William F. Buehrig died on February 24, 1967 and Frieda died April 6, 1983. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas.

William Christoff Buehrig.

William F. Buehrig and Frieda J. Junker, May, 1910.

William and Frieda had two children: 1) Ethel Buehrig was born May 1, 1912 in Arneckeville. On July 6, 1931 she married Jerome W. Koenig. Jerome was born July 8, 1911 and died May 15, 1968. In 1954 he was appointed County Auditor by Judge Howard P. Green. He remained in office until his death. Ethel and Jerome had three children: a) John William Koenig was born April 24, 1934. He married Marianne Gilliam on January 25, 1958. He later married Helen Gohlke and then Lucy K. Bock. b) Mary Katherine Koenig was born April 27, 1938. She married Milton Andrews on June 23, 1956. c) Robert Jerome

Koenig was born February 11, 1941. He died December 28, 1963. 2) John Elmo Buehrig was the second child of William and Frieda Buehrig. He married Loma Lamprecht from Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas, then later married Anna M. Steele. John Elmo and Anna had four children: a) Anna Steele Buehrig was born July 23, 1948. She married Christopher Matt in 1976. b) John Elmo Buehrig II was born July 14, 1950. He married Linda Moore Samuels. c) Patricia Louise Buehrig was born July 9, 1951. She married Larry Mankin on July 14, 1973. d) Kathleen Louise Buehrig was born November 24, 1954. She married Randall Satterwhite.

by Ethel Buehrig Koenig

BUEHRING, DR. THEO

F123

Physician and Surgeon
Calls Promptly Answered at all Hours, Day or Night
Office – Rabenalt Building
Nordheim, Texas

Dr. Theo Buehring

Dr. and Mrs. Buehring, Hugo and Elenor Buehring, ca 1900's.

Dr. Hugo Theodore Buehring, born 20 February 1874 at Braunschweig, Germany, died 4 November 1913, age 39 at Lockhart, Texas. He studied medicine at Goettingen, Berlin University, in Germany and New Orleans Polyclinic, Tulane University, Louisiana. He came to Texas from Germany in 1894 and at Galveston, Texas in 1896 he was married to Miss Elenor Wallicek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Wallicek of Austin County, Texas. Five children were born: 1) Hugo Buehring who married Effie Moran. 2) Elenor Buehring who married Edward Glass and then Oscar Schwab. 3) Irmagarde Buehring who married Lee Dagg. 4) Myrtle Hedwig Buehring who married Curtis Foester and then David Whitmire. 5) Wilhimena Buehring who married Charles Sansing.

Dr. Buehring practiced medicine at La Grange, and Ottine before settling in Nordheim. He was a member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, and Karnes County Medical Association. He organized the Woodmen of the World at Nordheim and was a Hermann Son Modern Praetorian. He helped organize the Nordheim Brass Band, was a member of the Nordheim Shooting Club, and a promoter of amateur theatricals. He was the Nordheim Postmaster, agent for North-German Lloyd Steamer Line, and pioneer druggist for his community.

by Mrs. Myrtle Buehring Whitmire

Ca. 1910 L-R: Irmagarde, Elenor, Myrtle and Hugo. Children of Dr. and Mrs. Theo Buehring.

BURDINE, F. BENTON FAMILY

F124

Ben and Kay (Koenig) Burdine, 1956.

F. Benton (Ben) Burdine was born in San Benito, Texas on June 24, 1930 to Eula Francis and Frances Willard Smith Burdine. He grew up in Freer, Duval County Texas — graduating from Freer High School in 1947. Ben attended Texas A&M University, receiving B.B.A. and M.B.A. degrees in 1958 and 1959, respectively. He received the Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. During the period 1959-64, he was an Economic Analyst for Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation in Houston; and since 1964 he has been a member of the Economics faculty at Victoria College (Victoria, Texas).

During the Korean War period and after, Ben Burdine was a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. Returning from Korea in 1954, he was stationed at Foster Air Force Base in Victoria. It was while stationed at

Foster Field that he met Kathryn (Kay) Koenig, a native of Cuero residing in Victoria. Kay and Ben were married December 29, 1956 in the Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville.

Kathryn Marie (Kay) Koenig was born in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas on September 16, 1932 to Felix C. and Annie Miller Koenig. Kay grew up on the family ranch, attending Green DeWitt School nearby. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1950 and then moved to Victoria to attend Victoria College where she graduated with an Associate in Arts Degree in 1952. That same year, Kay went to work for the Texas Employment Commission, and was with the Commission for nearly fifteen years in Victoria, Bryan, and Houston. While in the Houston office, she was a professional placement officer.

Kay and Ben Burdine have one son, Blake Hunter Burdine, who was born July 15, 1967 in Cuero. He grew up on the Koenig Ranch where the Burdines have resided since 1965. Blake attended Meyersville School, and was salutorian of his Cuero High School class of 1985. He received a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. Blake is a resident of Houston where he is with MCI Communications Corporation.

Kay, Ben and Blake are members of Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville.

by Mrs. F.B. Burdine

BURNS, ARTHUR

F125

(1853-1914)

Arthur Burns was born on the Arthur Burns, Sr., headright on January 2, 1853. His parents were Columbus Burns and Mary Ann DeMoss Burns. Arthur died August 27, 1914 at his home in Cuero.

Arthur Burns was educated at Concrete under the supervision and instruction of Professor John Covey. Arthur first became a farmer and later he became a cattle dealer and raiser. He took a herd "up the trail" every year from 1880 to 1886 and during this period he went to the state of Wyoming. His chief ranching interests were in Jackson County, Burns headright, Borden County, and Dawson County. He acquired twenty-nine sections of land in Dawson and Borden Counties.

On January 4, 1882 Arthur Burns married Mary Evie Cardwell. She was born December 23, 1855 and was the daughter of Crockett Cardwell and Ann Eliza White Cardwell. The Burns' had five children; John C., A. Clayton, Mary Evie, Anna Belle, (Mrs. J.W. Haak) and Douglas ("D" Burns).

After their marriage, the Burns' lived with the Cardwells who converted the Friar-Cardwell stage stand into a home. This home is where the five Burns' children were born. In 1894, the Burns' built a home in Cuero where the children could be education. Columbus Burns, Arthur's father, lived at this home until his death in 1899. Mrs. Cardwell made her home with them after the death of her husband until her death in 1914.

by Mrs. Carey James

BURNS, ARTHUR

F126

(1780-1856)

Arthur Burns was born in Pennsylvania in 1780. The family moved to Clarksville, Pike County, Missouri in 1800. Arthur Burns married three times. He and his first wife were married on November 28, 1805. From this marriage, Pamela Burns (Mrs. William Simpson), was born. Arthur and his second wife, Cynthia, were the parents of one son and three daughters. Their names were Squire, Cynthia, Emily, and Zilla. Arthur Burns and his third wife, Sarah Moore, were married in Pike County, Missouri on December 14, 1825. The Burns family joined Green DeWitt's group of colonists on a trek to Texas and were granted a league (4428 acres) and labor of land (177 acres). The land was located south of Irish Creek and east of the Guadalupe River in what is now known as DeWitt County.

Their home, a two story log structure, was the first built within the present boundaries of DeWitt County and was the only dwelling between Gonzales and Victoria. It was designated as a refuge during Indian raids and was visited by Sam Houston in 1836. Arthur Burns was a farmer-stockman and operated the county's first water-powered grist mill. He was active and influential in promoting the area which finally became DeWitt County.

Arthur and his third wife Sally were the parents of two children; Columbus Burns (1829-1899) and Ardelia Burns. Arthur Burns died on a trip to Iowa in 1856. Sarah Moore Burns died in 1861.

by Mrs. Carey James

BURNS, COLUMBUS

F127

(1829-1899)

Columbus Burns, son of Arthur and Sarah Burns, was born in Gonzales on December 11, 1829. He was the area's first Anglo-American child. Columbus married Mary Ann DeMoss, daughter of Lewis and Katherine Tumlinson DeMoss. Mary Ann was born on December 1, 1830 at Caney, Matagorda County, Texas. Columbus and Mary Ann married on June 20, 1850 and had ten children. The children were Lewis, Arthur, Martha, Ardelia, Mary Ann, Julia, James, Ella, John, and Wade.

Columbus was a stock farmer, soldier for the Confederate Army, traildriver and inspector of livestock. During the Civil War, Burns' assignment was scout duty under the command of Colonel Rip Ford.

The family moved from Burns Station to Concrete to enroll the children in school. Mary Ann DeMoss Burns died of the measles on February 5, 1871 and was buried at the cemetery at Concrete.

Columbus Burns married a widow, Mrs. Martha E. Harris on July 24, 1877. She was the mother of Will and Mattie Harris. Martha Harris Burns was born on October 28, 18834 and died May 26, 1880. Columbus Burns died in Cuero on November 5, 1899 at the home of his son, Arthur, and was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Mrs. Carey James

BURNS, JOHN W. FAMILY

F128

John W. Burns was born in the family two story log home at Burns Station on Irish Creek, September 16, 1866. He worked his way through school as a teacher and received an M.D. degree from Vanderbilt University Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee in 1891. He was a physician and surgeon in Cuero, Texas where he built the Burns Hospital in 1911, a four story brick building, as a memorial to his father, Columbus, the first Anglo American child born in the Green DeWitt Colony. In his early years of medical practice, he drove a horse and buggy or rode horseback to attend patients. Dr. Burns did post-graduate work in 1892, 1894, and 1897, specializing in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In 1899, 1902 and 1908 he studied surgery in European institutions, particularly in Vienna. From 1909 to 1939 he devoted his time to general practice and surgery in Cuero. Dr. Burns was president of the Texas Medical Association in 1930-1931, and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the Texas Surgical Society, and at the time of his death was on the Judicial Council of the American Medical Association. John W. Burns and Nettie Gillett, daughter of a Methodist minister, were married on October 25, 1893. The Burns home was the castle house at Broadway and McLeod. He died in 1939 and she in 1960. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. They had two sons and two daughters.

1) John Gillett Burns was born in Cuero on September 25, 1894. After graduation from Cuero High School in 1912, he enrolled as a pre-medical student at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1916. He received an M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1921 and was a Surgical Fellow at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, from 1922-1924, when he returned to Cuero to practice at the Burns Hospital where he was Chief Surgeon at the time of his death in 1959. Like his father, Dr. Burns was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Texas Surgical Society.

When the Burns Hospital was torn down in 1970, the Burns Medical Library was given to the University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio as a major gift. A second gift, the Burns Medical Collection, was presented to the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston in April 1973 in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Texas Surgical Society.

2) Arthur Burns was born October 25, 1896. He grew up in Cuero land graduated from Cuero High School in 1914. His pre-medical studies at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, were interrupted by two years of service in the U.S. Army Medical Corp during World War I in 1917 and 1918. Arthur received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas in 1920, then joined his brother Gillett at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his M.D.

degree in 1924 and spent the next three years as a Fellow of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, specializing in internal medicine and obstetrics. In 1927, Dr. Burns returned to Cuero and entered practice with his father and brother at the Burns Hospital. In 1936 Dr. Burns transferred to the Thompson Sanitarium in Kerrville, Texas, for health reasons. After two years he accepted a position with the State Health Department in Austin and brought the first mobile chest X-Ray unit to Texas. In 1940, Dr. Burns went back into private practice in Houston, Texas, where he lived at the time of his death in 1941.

Arthur Burns married Helen Reuss of Cuero, daughter of Dr. Joseph Henry Reuss and Meta Reiffert Reuss, in 1922 while a student at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore. They had three children, one daughter and two sons.

a) Mary Helen Burns was born on January 19, 1924, in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended Cuero High School and the University of Texas where she was a Phi Beta Kappa. She received a Master's Degree from Columbia University in New York City and was employed by the University of West Virginia in Morgantown and Florida State University in Tallahassee prior to her marriage in 1947 to Homer Hooks of Florida. They are the parents of three children: Hollis Hamilton Hoods, David Holland Hooks, and Dorothy Helen Hooks. Mary Helen was adopted by LeRoy Hamilton of Cuero, husband of Dorothy Burns Hamilton, in 1967. She lives in Lakeland, Florida.

b) John Arthur Burns was born in June 24, 1925 at St. Mary's Hospital Rochester, Minnesota. Following graduation from Cuero High School, he attended Texas A&M College prior to military service with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He graduated from Southwestern University and also attended the University of Texas. Prior to moving to Houston in 1955, he was employed by the Burns Hospital for several years. John Arthur married Blanche Sari Wofford, daughter of Ralph and Louise Wofford of Yorktown, Texas, in 1957. He has business interests in both Cuero and Houston. John Arthur and Blanche live in West University Place, Houston, Texas. They are the parents of two daughters and two sons. 1) Clare Louise Burns was born July 23, 1958, at the Burns Hospital in Cuero. She attended Lamar High School and received a B.Ed. from Baylor University and a M.Ed. from Texas Woman's University, Denton. She taught for eight years in the Plano I.S.D. until the time of her marriage in 1988 to Kenneth E. Broughton, a Dallas attorney. 2) Cynthia Kay Burns was born September 14, 1959. She graduated from Lamar High School and Southwestern University, Georgetown. She taught for three years in the Plano and Allen School Districts before accepting a position with EDS, Electronics Data Systems in Dallas. 3) John Gillett Burns was born January 26, 1962. A graduate of Lamar High School, Gillett received a B.B.A. in Accounting and Finance from Baylor University in December of 1984. In 1988, he became a C.P.A., married Molly Floy Leifeste of Houston, and moved to Del Rio, Texas, where he is employed in a border industry. 4) Douglas Wofford Burns is also a graduate of Mirabeau B. Lamar High School. In his senior year Douglas was selected as the first United States Presidential Scholar from Lamar and received a gold medallion from President Reagan at the White House. He served an additional three years as an advisor to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. Douglas attended Baylor University where he received a B.A. in Economics in 1989. A Phi Beta Kappa, he plans to attend graduate school in 1990.

c. Joseph Henry Burns was born March 4, 1927 at the Burns Hospital in Cuero, Texas. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1944 and attended Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas, prior to spending two years in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. After graduating from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, Joe worked in Houston for several years before returning to the U.S. Air Force for thirteen years. Since 1967 he has lived in Cuero.

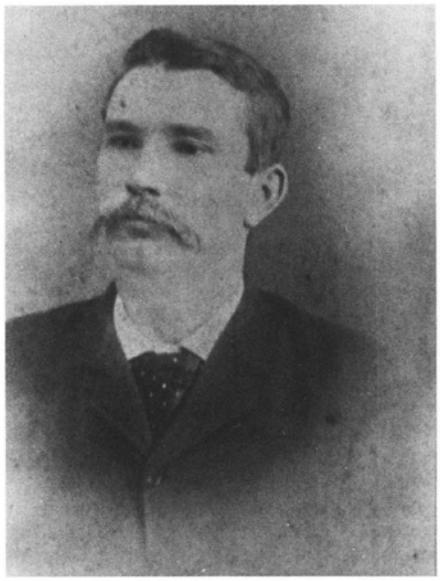
3) Dorothy Burns was born September 17, 1898. After graduating from Cuero High School, she attended Randolph Macon in Virginia where she majored in piano. A gifted musician, she was organist at the First Methodist Church in Cuero until her death in 1958. Dorothy married LeRoy Hamilton of Cuero.

4) Antoinette Burns was born April 8, 1903. After graduation from Cuero High School, she received a B. Fine Arts from the University of Texas and M. Fine Arts from Columbia University in New York City. She was a very talented artist. Antoinette married Tom Gaibraith of San Francisco, California, in 1939. She died in 1933.

by John Arthur Burns and Patton W. Burns

BURNS, LEWIS

F129



Lewis Burns

Lewis Burns was born May 25, 1851, and died February 25, 1928 at the old Burns Headright at Burns Station. He was the first of ten children born to Columbus Burns (December 11, 1829 – November 5, 1899) and Mary Ann De Moss Burns (December 1, 1830 – February 5, 1871). He spent his boyhood at that location. After the Civil War, the family moved to Concrete to be near the schools. After attending Concrete College, he became involved with livestock and had experience as a trail driver to Kansas and other northern markets.

On November 18, 1874, Lewis Burns and Annie Mary White (November 24, 1856 – November 4, 1888) were married. She was the daughter of Thomas Macalshander White and Sarah Jane Houston.

In 1875, Lewis Burns purchased land several miles north of Cuero where he and his wife moved. He was a successful farmer and rancher, and one of the first in DeWitt County to terrace farm land after Mr. A.R. Bentley, agricultural engineer at Texas A & M Extension Service, came to demonstrate the type of equipment that could be used.

Lewis Burns and Annie White Burns were the parents of four sons and twin daughters. A son and daughter were born in 1875, and died shortly after birth. The other children were: Lewis Thomas Burns (December 5, 1876 – August 11, 1963), James Columbus Burns (September 13, 1878 – July 28, 1907), Mary Ann (Mamie) Burns (June 8, 1880 – June 20, 1924), and Frank William Burns (April 8, 1883 – June 24, 1951).

Frank William Burns and Fannie Hardy (January 31, 1889 – March 2, 1945), were married on August 7, 1907. She was the daughter of Ida and Don Hardy. Two children were born from this marriage: Frank W. Burns, Jr. and Evelyn Burns.

Frank W. Burns, Jr. (October 21, 1908 – March 16, 1981), married Pauline Menger in San Antonio on January 18, 1943. She was the daughter of Will and Mary Ellen Lewis Menger. One son, Frank W. Burns III, was born October 18, 1945. He married Martha Finley from Victoria on July 14, 1972. She was the daughter of Clydie Davis and Haskell L. Finley. From this marriage two children were born: Andra F. Burns and Frank William Burns IV.

Evelyn Burns, born July 26, 1912, married O.G. Vogt (November 29, 1902 – December 1975), from Schulenburg on August 5, 1933. From this marriage one son, John Carroll Vogt was born. He married Virginia Warren from Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have two daughters: Lara and Lisa Vogt, and live in Dallas, Texas.

After the death of his first wife, Lewis Burns married Anna Wright (November 7, 1866 – April 5, 1956) of Thomaston on April 22, 1891. They were the parents of a daughter, Anna Ella (Nellie) Burns, and a son, Patton Wright Burns.

Anna Ella (Nellie) Burns (May 13, 1894 – September 7, 1976), married Henry Archer Lowrance of Yoakum on September 16, 1916. They later moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He died December 22, 1970. From this marriage four sons were born: Henry Archer Lowrance, Jr., Alfred Burns Lowrance, James Roger Lowrance and John Gordon Lowrance.

Patton Wright Burns was born October 16, 1901 and died November, 1988. He was a doctor of veterinary medicine and taught at Texas A & M University. He married Julia Evelyn Wilcox of Bryan, Texas on September 4, 1928. They had two sons: Curtis Marklyn Burns and Jack Patton Burns.

by Pauline Menger Burns

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Yoakum

BURRIS, AUDREY CLARENCE AND VIRGINIA FRANCES (FITZGERALD) HAY

F130

Werner and Lorene Ida (Semmler) Wolf, Virginia Francis (Hay) Fitzgerald Burris and A.C. Burris 1952

A.C. Burris was born September 27, 1914, to Clarence and Emily (Batey) Burris in Gonzales county. He had two sisters, Lucille (Burris) McMeans of Stockdale and Leona of Florida and a brother Bud Burris of San Antonio. Burris, as he is known by family and friends, served in Germany in World War II in the anti-aircraft medical corp. He married Virginia Frances (Hay) Fitzgerald on October 22, 1947. Virginia's parents were Frank Hay of Bandera and Della Gibbons Hay. Della was born in Fort Davis, Texas. Virginia's grandfather, George Hay, was a Texas Ranger and Confederate Officer. Virginia had eight children by previous marriage to Collier Fitzgerald; Ruth, Johnnie, Mildred, Lucille, Ray, Dorothy and Jack. Burris and Virginia moved to Cuero in 1952 and rented the Breeden home on Reuss Boulevard. They left Cuero and returned in 1982. Virginia died February 29, 1988, 2 weeks before her 89th birthday. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Burris still resides in Cuero. Virginia's son Jack Fitzgerald married Lorita Mae Wolf of Cuero on June 1, 1952.

by Audrey Clarence Burris

BUSBY, HARRIET FRANCES (FANNIE)

F131

Harriet Frances Busby was born May 1, 1841 in Harris County, Texas. She died January 25, 1925 in San Antonio, Texas. At the time of her death she was living at her residence at 1711 W. Commerce with her married daughter Katie Adams Tice and son-in-law John Tice. Fannie was on a widow's Confederate Pension. She was the widow of G.W. Adams at the time of her death. He was a Corporal with Company D, 33 Texas Cavalry, Duff's Regiment. He served from 1863 until the end of the Civil War.

Fannie's parents were William Solomon Busby and Harriet Perdum Brown who both died in DeWitt County, Texas. They came to DeWitt County in the early 1850's from Harris County. Mr. Busby had been a carpenter early in his life but he later moved into ranching on a small scale. William Busby had purchased 100 acres from John Pettus. It was located on Five Mile Creek and the family did business in Clinton.

Fannie married James C. Bell (Jim) November 4, 1858 in Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas. Witnesses at the marriage were Preston Pevehouse (Married to Jim's sister Cyrena Bell) and Abraham Sutz. James C. Bell was the youngest child of James H. and Wincy (Bird?) Bell. He was born in Austin County in 1834. Jim had already been living with his brother, William G. Bell and wife Martha Ann in Goliad County near Middletown. He was helping William G. and beginning his own herd of cattle and horses. After his marriage to Fannie, until early 1860's, the young couple lived with her mother and father. William S. Busby was very ill and Fannie's mother needed help. Fannie's first child Mary Ellen was born in the Busby home. After the death of William S. Busby in 1859, the Bells went to Goliad to ranch as planned. They lived near what is now Weesatche.

It is not known how Jim and Fannie met but it must have been through mutual friends or family. It could have been through the Taylors, Days, or Kellys. William B. Bell had purchased his 177 acres in Austin County from Samuel Heady. Heady's daughter was married to a Kelly.

Jim and Fannie had six children: Mary Ellen who was born in DeWitt County in 1859 and married Columbus W. Varner in 1878; Permelia Elizabeth, born April 9, 1861 in Goliad County and married Robert Emmett Casper from Mississippi, whose parents were Henry Casper and Virginia Miller, in January of 1877. She married a second time to William W. Ross on February 20, 1910 in San Antonio, Texas. Permilia died June 18, 1929 in Nacogdoches County, Texas. Wincy Jane was born in 1863 in Goliad County and married William Lauderback on July 1, 1882 in Goliad County: Emma May who was born August 23, 1865 in Goliad County and married Daniel Lee Shipp on November 17, 1886 in DeWitt County. Witnessed by Robert Busby, Mrs. A.J. Hodge and others. Emma died October 24, 1940 in Bee County and is buried in Live Oak County in the Shipp Cemetery. Emma May lived her married life in Live Oak County on the Shipp Ranch. The Shipp family is an old family in the Dinero area and early ones were friends with J. Frank Dobie's family and are mentioned in his last book "A Part of Myself"; Robert Ed Busby was born in 1867 in Goliad County; Harriet Ella was born November 12, 1869 in Weesatche, Texas and married Benjamin Franklin Gentry on November 17, 1886 in DeWitt County, Texas. Witnesses were Arr Talk and wife and others. Ella and her sister Emma married on the same day in Clinton, Texas. Ella lived her married life in Goliad, Texas. Some of the family still live there. One of her daughters, Cornelia married Fred Tumlinson of Goliad. Benjamin F. Gentry's parents were James W. Gentry and Sarah Galaspa from Georgia.

No CSA record has been found for James C. Bell. It is thought that he was in a Texas Home Guard who organized in Clinton, Texas and that he stayed close to Goliad County to run the ranch and that of his brother William G. Bell who did serve in the CSA. Someone had to raise beef for the Confederacy and protect the home front.

The years after the Civil War were dangerous to the inhabitants of DeWitt and Goliad Counties. Fanny was expecting their sixth child, Ella and it was in June, the month of round-up and branding on the range. She was very frightened and Jim came home at night to be with his family. According to family history, Fannie and Jim had a plan. If outlaws came to the front of the house, Jim would hold them off while Fannie took the children out the back. But, they never needed that plan. One day at dusk, a group of horsemen came to the house and asked for Jim. Fannie truthfully told them he was not there. In truth, he was on his way home from a day on the range with his herd. She never saw him alive again. The group calling themselves the "Vigilance Committee", killed Jim between the house and the herd. Family story is that he was shot in the temple. Another family story is that he had just sold cattle to a cattle drive for gold and buried the gold. Maybe the men were trying to find the gold. Maybe there was a connection to the feud. It was June, 1869. The Vigilance Committee is thought to be a group of outlaws who posed as lawmen. On 1860 mortality schedules for Goliad County, Texas, nine ranchers were listed as murdered by the Vigilance Committee. The Goliad Courthouse was burned in 1871 and all the James C. Bell estate records were destroyed. The courthouse may have been torched. This was a time of great fear. James C. Bell was struggling after the Civil War, as was everyone. We do know that he had sold 100 acres shortly before his death. The 100 acres were near Weesatche. His grave has not been found.

Family history also reported that the night Jim Bell was murdered, his gun and horse were taken. In 1940 some of the family in Goliad said they had identified his gun in a Goliad Museum. I have tried to trace this story but have found no information. Everyone is dead now who could have helped me. Supposedly Jim's initials were on the gun. I hope it is in a museum somewhere.

Fannie was a very courageous lady and remarried on January 31, 1874 to George Washington Adams in Victoria, Texas. George Adams was from a Goliad family and it appears that Fannie was his first wife. He served in the CSA and was the son of Matthew Adams and Priscilla Catherine Wolf. Fannie and George had several children: Oren and Sarah C. (Katie) who married John Tice in San Antonio, Texas.

Fannie's daughter Permelia Elizabeth was my Great-Grandmother. She was tall and slender with dark hair and blue eyes. Her daughter, Wincy May was my grandmother and she had a very big influence on my life. She loved to tell old stories. I wish I had listened more and asked more questions.

by Jeanette Probst Tabb

BUSBY, WILLIAM SOLOMON

F132

William S. Busby was born January 8, 1809 in Alabama. In 1820 he was in Washington Parish, Louisiana where his father, William Busby, had a land grant. William S. entered Texas at Nacogdoches in 1830 with his future in-laws, the Browns.

On December 25, 1833, William S. married Harriet Perdum Brown. Harriet was born October 21, 1817 in Mississippi. William and Harriet had six children: 1. John Rankin Busby who was born November 25, 1836 and married (1st) Elizabeth Budde in DeWitt County in 1856 and (2nd) Mary Jo Baker in Goliad County in 1888. John Rankin was a Private in Co. D, 8th Texas Infantry from 1862 until 1865. 2. Emily Busby was born in 1839 and in 1856 married Charles E. Brown in DeWitt County. She married James L. Gibson in 1865 in Goliad County as a second husband. 3. Harriet Frances (Fannie) Busby was born May 1, 1841 in Harris County, Texas. She married (1st) James C. Bell in 1858 in DeWitt County and (2nd) George Washington Adams in 1874, in Victoria, Texas. Fannie died in January of 1925 in San Antonio, Texas. 4. Cornelius Vandevere Busby was born September 14, 1843 in Harris County. He married Rachel Evaline Gibson in 1865 in Washington County, Texas. Cornelius V. served in the Confederate Army as a Private in Co. B, 1st Cavalry, Texas from 1862 until 1865. He died october 26, 1926 in Austin, Texas. 5. Robert Brown Busby was born in Harris County, in 1849. He married Margaret H. Gibson on December 28, 1870 in Goliad County. Robert died in 1918 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Goliad, Texas. 6. Julia Ann Busby was born in 1855 in DeWitt County. She died at the age of fourteen in March of 1869.

William S. Busby came to Texas to get cheap land and in his later years acquired one hundred acres from John Pettus on Five Mile Creek in DeWitt County and started buying cattle and horses. He died June 22, 1859 in DeWitt County, Texas. Harriet died October 6, 1864 in DeWitt County.

by Jeanette Probst Tabb

BUSCHICK, EDWARD FAMILY

F133

Edward Oliver Buschick was born on June 4, 1856 in the town of Clinton, in DeWitt County. He was the first of eight children born to Hugo Buschick (1828-1898) and Fredricka Toller Buschick (1832-1897). Hugo, a Prussian immigrant, came to the United States through New York City and settled in Texas. He married Fredricka on July 26, 1855 and became a citizen of the U.S. one year later. Hugo profited from the purchase and sale of numerous properties in several counties around Texas. In 1870, he purchased a parcel of land located about two miles east of Garfield, which would later be known as the old Buschick Place. He moved his family there from Cuero in 1882. This would be Hugo and Fredricka's last home. However, Edward was grown and on his own by that time.

Ottilia (Buschick) Wolfe, Laura Buschick, Edward Buschick, and seated: Ruth Buschick

During Edward's early manhood, he drove wagon trains from Indianola, Texas, until he bought his own property. The purchase was made from Sam Mechling in 1879. Edward's 160 acres bordered Sam's land and was located one mile west of the old Buschick Place. The two men herded sheep for a living and became life-long friends. On December 8, 1880 Edward married Laura Fredrick House. She was born on October 13, 1861 in Yorktown to Fred and Sarah Powell House. Fred was a German immigrant and Sarah was a native of Kentucky. Edward and Laura made their home in a large shed type room. They became the parents of three children: Albert E. (1881-1888), Ottilia Agnes (1884-1975), and Ruth Helen (1891-1979).

By 1902, Edward had enough money saved to build a new home for his family. The materials were purchased from Westhoff and Eckhardt Lumber Company in Yorktown. The total cost was less than $1000.00. Taxes on their property for that year was $17.35. This large, beautiful five room house became the lifetime home for Edward and Laura. Gardening and raising livestock provided food for the family, while farming now provided their income. Their children attended the one room Garfield School which was built in 1892. Ottilia was one of the first students and started at age 8. The first teacher was Sophia Riedesel. Later, Gretchen Zag'orski taught at the school, where she and Ottilia formed a friendship for life. Since dancing was the most popular form of entertainment, the school also served as a dance hall until one was built in later years. In 1911, Edward and Laura got their first phone from the Garfield Telephone Company. Their horse and buggy was replaced by a Ford touring car in the early 1920's.

Their first daughter, Ottilia married Henry Wolfe on July 20, 1914 in Cuero. They lived in a second home on the Buschick land. Henry helped his father-in-law with the farming. Ottilia and Henry had four children: Ulela Edwin (1915), Ethel who died in infancy, Thelma Maurine (1920), and Marvin Allison (1921). The three Wolfe children attended the same Garfield School as their Mother. By this time the school had grown large enough to have three teachers. The children also helped with the farming and livestock as part of their daily chores.

Despite the hard work, the Buschick home held many happy memories. In the summer, Grandpa Edward would sit on the porch and tell of the early days in Indianola and of fishing there at Powderhorn Lake. Grandma Laura would always have tea cakes for her grandchildren. Edward died in 1937 and Laura died in 1945. Their youngest daughter, Ruth had never married and remained in the family home after her parents' deaths. When she could no longer manage the property, it was finally sold. Ottilia Wolfe moved to San Antonio and Ruth moved to Granite Shoals, where they lived until their deaths. The old family home still stands today, but time, weather and a lack of care have reduced it to ruins. Nevertheless, it's memory is still bright in the minds of Edward's three grandchildren and their families.

The oldest grandchild, Ulela Wolfe married Mike Dworaczyk of Garfield in 1933. They had two daughters: Angeline Dorothy (1934) and Barbara Ann (1940). Ulela became a widow in 1949 and moved her family to San Antonio. In 1954, she married Barney Boswell. They are now retired at Granite Shoals, Tx. Her daughter, Angeline is married to Terrell Wilkinson of San Antonio since 1969. She has no children. Barbara married Scotty Roberds in 1962 and has two sons: Don Thomas (1963) and Jason McCall (1976). They also live in San Antonio.

Thelma Wolfe married Louis Pargmann of Runge in 1937 and are retired in San Antonio. They have three children. Glenn Ray (1941) married and had one son Robert John (1966)

Edward Buschick Family home built in 1902

and one daughter Shana Nichola (1978). He is now married to Doreen Surakus and has three stepchildren: Danny (1975), Jennifer (1981) and Courtney (1984). They all lived in Mesa, Arizona. Daughter Sherrie Beth (1952) is married to Steven Rose since 1975. They have two sons: Justin Nicholas (1981) and Brandon Thomas (1986). Their home is in San Antonio. Daughter Deborah Lynn (1958) is not married and lives in Dallas.

Marvin Wolfe married and had one son David Leon (1945). Marvin then married Rubye Stock in 1962. They are retired and living in Kingsland, Tx. David married Carole Aiello in 1969, and has three daughters: Mary Beth (1970), Marcia Ann (1971) and Marla Alison (1975). Their home is in Austin.

This story of the Edward Buschick Family was compiled from the memories of family members, with the help of documents handed down through the generations.

by Thelma Pargmann

BYARS, LAWRENCE W.
F134

(1825-1912)

For over thirty years "Old" Terryville in DeWitt County was the home of several members of the Byars family. Although my line eventually moved on, many remain, buried in scattered cemeteries throughout the area. Following is the story of one of these pioneers.

Lawrence W. Byars was born 3 January 1825, the first child of William Henry and Elizabeth Jane (Goode) Byars, in Jefferson County, Alabama. His young parents hailed from North Carolina by way of Kentucky, and like most everyone in the area were relative newcomers, the county having only recently been formed by the Territorial Legislature in 1819.

Lawrence spent his early boyhood years growing up on his family's frontier farm, and in time was joined by several brothers and sisters; James in 1826, John in 1828 (who died a year later), Adeline in 1829, Sarah in 1832, Margaret in 1834 (who also died as an infant), and Joseph in 1836.

That same year (1836) saw great excitement in the county as a result of hostile actions by Seminole and Creek Indians to the south. After numerous murders and outrages, war was declared and a company of volunteers formed locally under the command of James McAdory to help quell the insurrection.

This was also a time of mourning for young Lawrence and his family as his grandfather, Stripling Byars, after a long and eventful life, had passed away in the spring.

Sometime around 1838 Lawrence's father gathered the family and their belongings to set out for new farmland in Mississippi, and in company with Abram Byars (Lawrence's uncle) and others, made the trek to their new home in Chickasaw County. It was here that Lawrence would grow to manhood.

With time he was joined by more additions to the family; Susan in 1838, William H.H. in 1840, George in 1843 and Nancy in 1846.

Now a young man of twenty-one, Lawrence's thoughts began to turn towards a family of his own, and increasingly a young lady he had grown up with in Alabama, Susan Goyne,

Standing: William Eldridge and Emily (Moore) Byars. Sitting: Lawrence W. and Susan (Goyne) Byars.

began to catch his eye. Courtship led to marriage and they were wed on Christmas Eve 1846.

For the next few years the young couple lived with his parents, helping with the farming and endless chores necessary in making a living from the land.

In the spring of 1848 their first child, William Eldridge, was born. The following year Lawrence's parents had their last child, Robert Stripling, named for their parents, Robert Goode and Stripling Byars.

Increasingly, talk began to center on the rich farmland said to be available in the newly admitted state of Texas, and in 1852 Lawrence's brother James, also recently married and living in nearby Pontotoc County, decided to see for himself. That same year, on February 24th, saw the birth of Lawrence and Susan's second child, Andrew Lafayette.

Word from Texas must have been good as in 1856 Lawrence and his father gathered their families and moved to the area of "Old" Terryville in DeWitt County, a newly formed community, and began building their new homes on adjoining land.

Life on the frontier was rough, and death at a young age not uncommon. When Lawrence's sister Adeline passed away in 1856, he and his father took her children into their homes, and were joined by James and his children upon the death of his wife Savannah (Arvenia?) in 1859.

The following year Abraham Lincoln was elected President, much to the dismay of those in the South. Tensions ran high and on December 20, 1860, while the lame-duck President, Buchanan, was still in office, South Carolina called a state convention and repealed the act by which it had ratified the constitution seventy-two years earlier, thus returning the state to its former sovereign status. Within weeks Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas had followed suit, and upon a meeting of delegates in Montgomery, Alabama in February 1861 formed themselves into the Confederate States of America. After

declaring their territory inviolate they began seizing all forts, shipyards and arsenals belonging to the United States government, which led to the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor upon the refusal of the Federal Garrison there to surrender. This, combined with mob riots in Baltimore led the newly sworn President Lincoln to issue a call for 75,000 volunteers, whereupon Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina cast their lot with the Confederacy.

During June 1861, in response to a call to arms by Jefferson Davis, a company of cavalry was formed, in the Terryville area under the command of Capt. A.J. Scarborough, named the Davis Guards. Lawrence and his brothers, James and George, joined with their neighbors as part of this unit for an enlistment of three months. Due to his age and responsibility as oldest son to take care of the farm and his brothers' families, Lawrence did not renew his enlistment to join the unit when it set out in the fall to participate in Sibley's rigorous campaign in New Mexico.

Following the Battle of Galveston in January 1863, Lawrence enlisted once again in Company F, 24th Brigade, Texas State Troops at Camp Stonewall Jackson near Victoria for three months. As the federal troops, evicted from Texas soil by Gen. McGruder and his Confederates, never returned, the crisis subsided and Lawrence returned to the farm.

With the collapse of the Confederacy and cessation of hostilities in 1865, those that could returned to their homes and families. Among these were Lawrence's brothers James, Joseph and William H.H. Notably absent was his brother George who had died near Richmond, Virginia in May 1862. During the war all had not been death and destruction, as on 30 July 1863 Lawrence and Susan had twin boys: John, named for Lawrence's brother who had died as an infant, and George, in honor of his fallen brother.

By 1870 Lawrence had moved his family to nearby Lavaca County, or possibly the county line had been redrawn, and it was here his last son, Lawrence W. was born on January 16th of that year. By this time his oldest son, William Eldridge, had married (1867) and was living nearby. He later moved with his family to Blanco County.

In 1883 Lawrence's mother passed away, followed by Lawrence's son John in 1884, when a horse fell on him, leaving a widow and two infant children. With the passing of his father in 1887 Lawrence and Susan decided to move to Blanco to be near their son William Eldridge, who had moved there a few years previously.

The following years were good to the aging pioneer couple as they watched their grandchildren grow to maturity. On their 50th anniversary their grandson, William Lafayette, was married to Sibbie Massey, making the Christmas of 1896 a very special one for the whole family.

Doubtless the old couple pondered the changing times, the turn of the century, manned flight in 1903, the advent of motor cars; the world had come a long way since their childhood in Alabama.

On 15 April 1912, at the age of eighty-seven, Lawrence W. Byars passed away, followed by his wife Susan on 15 January 1916. Both were laid to rest in the Blanco Cemetery in Blanco, Texas. May they rest in peace.

by James K. Byars

BYRAM, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS HENRY AND HARRIET JANE AGNES HOUSE

F135

Gustavus Adolphus Henry Byram and Harriet Jane Agnes (House), 1880 Christmas.

Albert C. Byram

Elizabeth (McGuire) Byram

Gustavus Adolphus Henry Byram, the first born son of Albert C. and Elizabeth McGuire Byram, was born in Robertson County, Tennessee on 15 April 1845. Henry had an older sister, Martha Jane (born 1844), a younger brother, John C. (born 1848) and a baby sister, Sarah (born 1859).

Shortly before the Civil War, Albert C. moved his family to Little Rock, Pulaski Co., Arkansas where they had built a stately, classical, revival-style two story home in the city, in addition to their homeplace, which was further out in Pulaski Co., Ark. Among other business interests in Little Rock, Albert owned a livery stable.

On 1 March 1862, at Little Rock, Albert enlisted as a Confederate private in Co. F, 51 Regiment, Arkansas Militia, Provisional Army of Arkansas. (Later his son, John, joined this same unit.) Henry Byram, not yet seventeen years of age, quickly followed his father's example and joined the Confederate forces of Capt. Carroll's Company of Arkansas Volunteers as a drummer. However, he was given a twenty day leave for medical treatment in Little Rock because of a chronic enlargement of his spleen. Still, he was able to rejoin the Confederate forces on 19 July 1862 as the drummer in Capt. Townsend's Co., McRae's Regiment, 36 Arkansas Infantry. Later in 1863, Henry became the drummer for Glenn's Regiment, Ark Infantry. Henry was wounded in battle and never regained his health and full strength after the war's sad end. However, during the quiet times between battles Henry and Doctor Franklin "Dock" Couch, of Woodruff Co., Ark. (who later founded the Couch Community in Karnes Co., TX) both listened with great joy to the countless tales of Fred House's exploits in DeWitt Co., TX. Both "Dock" and Fred were instrumental in taking care of Henry during some of the bloodiest battles including Chickamauga where "Dock" was critically wounded. After the war, both "Dock" and Henry were convinced by Fred to test their fate in Texas. "Dock" Couch, wife, Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" Westmoreland

Couch, and daughter, Lena Mack Couch, settled first at Meansville, San Patricio, TX but Henry had accepted a generous offer from Fred to be his personal secretary and bookkeeper.

Henry's help with the correspondence and record keeping was vitally important as Fred had by this time the power of attorney for over seven hundred cattlemen whose herds they drove up (primarily) the Chisholm Trail to market during the 1870's to 1890's.

On 13 January 1876, Henry married Fred and Sarah Elizabeth Powell House's daughter, Harriet Jane Agnes House (born at the House ranch at Davy, DeWitt Co., TX on 12 February 1858), at the House ranch at Davy. They soon moved to their own land which Henry received as pre-exemption land grant (#52) of 160 acres situated on the headwaters of Mustang Creek about 11½ miles NW of Yorktown. Their first of two children, Albert F. "Allie" Byram was born at the Byram ranch house. It was here that Henry raised prized sheep and his land adjoined that of the Gorham Sheep Ranch. However, Henry's health began to rapidly deteriorate and matters in Little Rock, Ark. demanded his immediate attention, so Henry moved his pregnant wife, Jane and small son, "Allie" there late in the fall of 1880. Presley Randolph Byram was born on 18 January 1881 shortly after they arrived in Little Rock. The Byram family enjoyed the luxuries of living in a large city and in a beautiful home on the corner of 16 and State for four years before Henry died there of typhoid fever on 5 October 1885. Henry was buried the following day in Oakland Cemetery (plot #809, NW corner), Little Rock, Arkansas. (There is not a marker on his grave; however, Jane wisely wrote the information in the Byram family Bible which has been lovingly preserved by her granddaughter, Muriel Morrison Byram Hartman.) With a tearful farewell, Jane and her two small sons left Little Rock and returned home to the House ranch at Davy, Texas. Fred taught his two grandsons to be cattlemen and both made several cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail with their grandfather's herds.

On 12 January 1898, Jane married secondly, William Poetter. The following year, William Poetter was appointed postmaster of Davy by the US Postmaster General. Fred had given Jane a large tract of land near Davy and helped to build a ranch house there which was similar to his own but was far more ornately trimmed in the Victorian style of the time period.

Jane died of breast cancer on 2 July 1915 and was buried the following day in the House Cemetery at Davy, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Marianne Little

Presley Randolph Byram 1883

Lena Zenobia Morrison and Florence Curry, Davy, TX. 1898 ca.

L-R: Martha (House) Poetter, Mary Jane Reese Cox Morrison, Harriett Jane (Byram) Poetter, Lena Zenobia (Morrison) Byram. Girls: Beatrice Garner and Muriel Morrison Byram ca. 1908.

BYRAM, PRESLEY RANDOLPH AND LENA ZENOBIA MORRISON

F136

Presley Randolph Byram, the son of Gustavus Adolphus Henry Byram and his wife, Harriet Jane Agnes House Byram was born at the corner of 16th Avenue and State in Little Rock, Pulaski Co., Arkansas in the Byram two story classical revival style home. His older brother, Alfred F. "Allie" was born in DeWitt Co., TX in 1879 prior to Henry and Jane's move to Little Rock before Christmas, 1880. However the family's great happiness during this time of prosperity was short lived as Gustavus Adolphus Henry Byram died of typhoid fever at their home on 5 October 1885 and was buried the following day in Oakland Cemetery (Plot 809, NW corner), in Little Rock, Arkansas. Jane and her two small sons moved back home to her parents (Fred House and Sarah Elizabeth Powell House) and lived for sometime with them until Fred decided that she and the boys needed a home of their own and built a house on land nearby which he deeded to her.

On 29 May 1900 in Yorktown, Texas, Presley Randolph Byram married Lena Zenobia Morrison, the daughter of John Wingfield Morrison and his wife, Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox Morrison. Lena was born in San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX on 21 February 1881. Their only daughter, Muriel Morrison Byram, was born on 20 October 1902 at the Byram ranch at Davy, DeWitt Co., Texas. A son was born shortly after Muriel but either died at birth or shortly thereafter and was buried at House family cemetery at Davy.

Presley Randolph went on several trail drives up the Chisholm Trail with his grandfather, Fred House's cattle, and those of 700 other cattlemen for whom Fred had power of attorney to take their cattle to market. Both Presley Randolph and his brother, "Allie" were well trained by Fred House in the cattle and livestock industry and Presley Randolph opened a meat market at Davy, TX around the turn of the century. He was often gone as he bought livestock all over South Texas some of which were butchered for his meat market. Others were used as stock for the Byram ranch or shipped by rail to market. During World Wars I and II, Presley Randolph was a purveyor of livestock for the United States government.

Muriel Morrison Byram married August Blanton Hartman, son of William and Emma Ardelia Woods Hartmann, on 21 November 1923 at the Byram ranch in Davy, Texas. The first of the four Byram grandchildren, Vernon Blanton "Bob" Hartman was born at Davy on 29 November 1924. He married first on 19 Nov 1946, Mary Fuller (died 7 January 1947, buried at Karnes City, TX), and secondly, on 16 November 1952, Mickey Lorraine Blake (born 15 August 1919, died 19 August 1982, buried at Karnes City). Bob died in a tragic truck accident on 28 June 1974 and was buried in the Hartman family plot at Karnes City cemetery with his wives and father, August (died 10 November 1971). The second Byram grandchild, Jacquelyn Woods Hartman was born at Davy on 25 July 1926, married Sidney Ross Rhodes on 4 May 1946 and had two daughters: Suzanne (born 28 June 1956, Karnes City) and Jann (born 30 November 1959, Karnes City). The third Byram grandchild, Lavelle Hartman was born in Yorktown, Texas on 28 March 1928. She married Ray Slater Hall on 23 June 1946 and had three children: Marianne Elizabeth (born 20 August 1948, Houston, TX), Laurinda Rae (born in Karnes City, 18 February 1952), and William Allen "Bill" on 27 February 1960 in El Paso, Texas. The last of the Byram grandchildren, Alton Randolph Hartman was born at Yorktown, TX on 7 March 1934. With his second wife, Evelyn Henke he had three children: Presley Randolph Hartman (born 14 October 1967, Karnes City), Perry Blaine Hartman (born 17 November 1969 at Karnes City) and Sandra Kay Hartman (born 27 January 1972, Karnes City).

As Lena's health began to fail, Muriel and August Hartman moved their family to the

Byram Ranch at Davy where Muriel could better care for her mother. Lena died on 23 November 1943 at the Byram ranch at Davy and was buried the following day at Salt Creek cemetery, Davy, DeWitt Co., Texas.

Presley Randolph continued his ranching and meat market endeavors with the help of his son-in-law, August, until shortly before he had to be hospitalized in Kenedy, Karnes Co., TX. Presley Randolph Byram died in Kenedy Hospital on 24 May 1947 and was buried the following day at Salt Creek cemetery, Davy, DeWitt Co., Texas next to his beloved wife, Lena Zenobia Morrison Byram. Lena's mother, Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox Morrison is buried on Lena's right side and her grave remains unmarked at this time. Muriel Byram Hartman had beautiful stone memorials placed on her parents' graves and the entire plot covered with concrete.

by Marianne E.H. Little

CALHOUN, FAMILY

F137

Elizabeth Hungerford (Smith) Calhoun

Elizabeth Hungerford Smith Calhoun was the daughter of Sarah Jenkins and James Norman Smith. She was born in Maury County, Tennessee, August 9, 1814.

She was only six years old when her mother died, and her grieving father, unable to care for three small children, boarded her with the family of Rev. Thomas J. Hall, a Presbyterian minister with a daughter Elizabeth's age and two older girls. Here, Elizabeth was well cared for and educated. She moved home after her father's remarriage in 1825, and later attended school in Covington, Tennessee.

It was in Covington that she met and married, on September 11, 1832, Col. William S. Calhoun, the son of Jane Daniel and Adam Calhoun III, of Tipton County, Tennessee. Widowed in June, 1841, she had four children to raise: Samuel Daniel, born in 1834; William Turner, born in 1837; John Richard, born in 1839; and daughter Lizzie, born in 1841.

Elizabeth came to Texas in 1842, shortly after Mexican troops seized San Antonio. Settlers throughout the Guadalupe River Valley fled their homes, including the family of James Norman Smith. Moving to Mill Creek, he received word that his daughter and her children were in Houston.

Smith's son-in-law, Francis S. Latham, editor of the Memphis "Eagle," organized a group of Tennessee volunteers to help defend the young republic. Elizabeth and her family made the long, hard trip with this well-armed, rough and ready crew, which included her brother, James Brown Smith, a young businessman from New Orleans.

Teachers in Texas were scarce, and soon, Elizabeth joined her father, teaching in his school. In November, 1845, the Smith family returned to their land on the Guadalupe, and soon Elizabeth had a school of her own on Deer Creek.

When DeWitt County was officially created by the Legislature in 1846, James Norman Smith was elected county clerk and hired to survey its boundaries. Elizabeth's son, young Sam Calhoun helped his grandfather surveying by carrying chains, and by cutting and hauling clapboards to build the first county clerk's office.

Elizabeth soon opened the first school in Clinton. She built a large, frame building where she lived and taught. In 1848 she married John D. Barnhill, a widow with no children who farmed near Concrete. They had three daughters: Martha, Sallie and Lydia.

For the Calhouns, the years before the Civil War were spent working the family farm near Heard's bridge. In a letter to James Brown Smith, dated March 5, 1859, Sam Calhoun paints a clear picture of the DeWitt County agricultural scene and available real estate. Then, Elizabeth finished the last page of the letter with news of a more personal nature. She reported recent weddings in the county and marriage prospects for her two sons. It seems, that John was ready, but Sam was not.

In 1861, while visiting relatives in Tennessee, the war broke out and Texas seceded from the Union. Though separated by many miles, the Calhoun brothers corresponded by mail, and decided to enlist, rather than be drafted into the Confederacy. They formulated a plan of identification for themselves. Each wore a star on his cap made from a quarter, with the letters T-E-X-A-S on the points and his initials in the center.

John enlisted in Tennessee. Sam joined Terry's Texas Rangers and also wound up in Tennessee. Both Calhoun brothers fought at the Battle of Shiloh, and when General Albert Sydney Johnson was wounded, John helped take the dying commander off the field.

At the Battle of Murfreesboro, Sam Calhoun discovered a wounded friend from Victoria, fellow ranger, John M. Brownson. Sam carried him to safety, then returned to the Battlefield in search of his brother. He found John's hat with the Texas star, and soon learned that John had also been injured and was in a field hospital. Sam never found him. He was captured and held in a union prison in Indiana for seventeen months. John recovered and was reassigned as a courier at the Battle of Chickamauga under General's Polk and Bragg, and was wounded a second time.

When the war was over, Sam was released in a prisoner exchange. He walked all the way from Virginia to Hallettsville, where the tired soldier was given a horse for the final stretch of the journey. Cared for by people all along the way, he arrived in DeWitt County with the same three nickels that he had in his pocket when he left Richmond.

Upon reaching home, the Calhoun brothers learned of their mother's death in February, 1864. They went right to work improving the family farm. John, unable to settle in to farming, went "up the trail' with a herd of horses and mules under Captain Harvey Cunningham. Longtime friends and army pals John M. Brownson and Dave Dromgoole also made the drive. The owner of the stock, Judge David Murphree was killed by northern radicals on the trip. Awaiting instructions from the administrators of the estate, the animals were boarded at the stables of John C. Rennolds in Higsbee, Missouri. While there, John fell in love with the stable owner's daughter, Annie Quisenberry Rennolds. One year later, in July, 1867, John returned to Randolf County with the same three friends from home. In the yard of her parent's home they were married.

Annie came to Texas with John down the Mississippi and across the gulf. Honeymooning in New Orleans she contracted yellow fever and was quarantined at Indianola for several weeks. She was one of the lucky few who survived that outbreak of the dreaded disease.

John Richard and Annie Calhoun had ten children: 1) John William, 2) Samuel Norman,

John Richard Calhoun family and Samuel Daniel Calhoun family

3) Imogene Latham, 4) Alvin Burton, 5) Charles Rennolds, 6) George David, 7) James Lindsey, 8) Annie Elizabeth, 9) Joseph Henry, and 10) Ben Smith, who died in infancy.

On January 6, 1869, in the home where she was born on Deer Creek, Nancy Elizabeth (Bettie) Sumners, daughter of Mary Cox and Abraham Sumners, married Samuel Daniel Calhoun. Nine children were born to this union: 1) James Clayton, 2) William Richard, 3) Lemuel Smith, 4) Joseph Robert, who died at age three, 5) Samuel De Vilbiss, 6) Gertrude, who died in infancy, 7) Annie Eliza, 8) Charles White, and 9) Thomas Clarence.

The Calhoun brothers and their wives all passed away in Cuero, and are buried at Hillside Cemetery.

Cynthia Salm

CALLAWAY, WILLIAM T. FAMILY

F138

William T. Callaway, ca. 1870, Winfield, Kansas.

Returning from the Kansas railhead after a cattle drive from DeWitt County, young "Bill" Callaway stopped in southeast Kansas and had his photograph made in his "Sunday best" in 1870. One hundred and six years later this photo appeared on the cover of the Callaway Family Association *Journal*. "A real Texas Cowboy."

Bill was born 12 December 1848 in Houston County, Texas to James Wilson and Caroline Elizabeth Dillard Callaway. There were seven other children: David L., James D., Traluca Jane, John Arnold, Mary F., George D. — born in Houston County; Lou Emily born in Gonzales County and Clara A. born in DeWitt County.

James W. Callaway was born in Franklin County, Georgia 29 May 1816 to David and Judith Tillery Callaway. There was one other son and six girls. One of his girls married into the Willis family in south Georgia; their descendants still live there.

James', father — DAVID was born in North Carolina ca 1779 to Isaac and Elizabeth Arnold Callaway. Isaac was a grandson of the immigrant Peter Callaway who appears in Maryland Province in 1664 from Yorkshire, England. As a young man of 21, David joined his four uncles — all Revolutionary War veterans, in Wilkes County, Georgia. He married Judith Tillery, daughter of A Revolutionary War soldier, on Christmas Eve, 1800 in Oglethorpe County. David and Judy lived and owned property in twelve Georgia counties before the family moved to Madison County, Territory of Florida. Two of the girls married Townsend men — the same family that furnished five men at the Battle of San Jacinto. Beginning in 1839 the family started moving to Texas — with James leading the way in September 1839 with his sister Eliza and her husband, Stapleton Townsend. By the Summer of 1844 David and all of his children, except Charlotte Willis, had arrived in Colorado County, Texas. David arrived with seventeen slaves and bought 1000 acres to farm. David died August 31, 1844.

Jerusha Emily married H.H.H. Baldridge shortly after her father died. With her mother and sisters Bennetta and Susan, the Baldridge family moved to Gonzales and remained there the remainder of their lives. Eliza and her family remained in LaVaca County until they died. Elizabeth Ann married William Barry, and they settled in Rusk County until 1854 when they left for Missouri.

James was captured by invading Mexican forces in 1842 and apparently released in late 1843 or 1844. He had been awarded land in Rusk County in 1839 and in Harrison County in 1844. He moved to Houston County in 1845 and married Caroline Elizabeth Dillard in 1846. William Theodore was their eldest child. There were seven other children. James settled his deceased father's estate from 1860-1867; he moved to Gonzales County in 1862. He moved to DeWitt County in 1865. James died in 1874 and his wife Caroline moved back to Gonzales in 1878 with all of the children except her married son Bill. Bill married Mary Elizabeth Miller, eldest child of the late Jacob A. Miller and Amanda Jane Davis Miller on September 23, 1871.

The newlyweds were given two 100 acre farms — one from the Millers and one from the Callaway family. Bill Callaway was one of the early cattle drovers — cowboys, from DeWitt County. From 1866 to 1886, Bill made the trip "up the trail" each year. He became a "trail boss" in the early 1870's. When not driving cattle, he served as a deputy sheriff and farmed. Because of his superior knowledge of cabinet making, steam engines and wind mills, it has been assumed James was his teacher. Bill and "Molly" were members of the Presbyterian Church in Yorktown. In 1886 Bill moved his family to the Marcelina community in Wilson County and then completed his last trip "up the trail." Bill and Molly had 12 children — eight born in DeWitt and four in Wilson County. Children: Mary Lou 1871-1895 never married; Willie A. 1873-1877; Jacob W. 1875-1878; Cora I. 1876-1958 married John Chapman; Agnes B. 1878-1958 married A.S. West; Alice C. 1881-1932 never married; James H. 1883-1916 married Alice Peters; Willis T. 1886-1902; Amanda J. 1888-1954 married Charles Batchelor; John N. 1891-1931 married Connie Reese; Clara E. 1894-1969 married J.R. Newman; Ruth L. 1896-1987 married Jim McBee.

Bill and Molly Callaway purchased two farms in Wilson County in 1886. With cotton farming going "great guns" in Wilson County, Bill Callaway joined his son-in-law John Chapman in building and operating a cotton and grist mill on Bills' property in 1890 and became moderately "well to do." Bill sold his one farm and kept the one which in time was the location of "down-town" Marcelina. With infestation of the cotton crop with Boll Weevils in 1906, the Gin "played out" before 1910.

Although deprived of an education because of the Civil War, Bill Callaway took an active part in his local school. Mary Lou attended Texas Norman (now SWTSU). It was his initiative in 1887 that made the Marcelina School a model for other communities in Wilson County. Between 1888 and 1912, Bill Callaway was a member of the board of trustees of his school, for over twenty years.

When Bill and Molly Callaway came to Wilson County, they "transferred their letter" to the Marcelina Baptist Church. Both became pillars of the Marcelina Baptist community. Part of the church furniture still used in the church was made by Bill Callaway. The second church building of the little church was built under the supervision of Bill Callaway.

His ability as a house builder, carpenter, cabinet maker, and wind mill mechanic was known throughout Wilson County. With the advent of World War I, he was called from retirement and operated the Southerland Springs Cotton Gin for four years. For more than ten years he was active as chairman of the Wilson County Democratic Party. When Bill Callaway died on January 27, 1929, the county paper devoted a quarter page to his obituary. It ended by stating:

"The people of Wilson County will sorely miss this great and good man." Molly died May 20, 1938.

Miss Jill Elizabeth Newman, age 13, of the Strack Intermediate School, Spring Texas, certainly displayed some of the intelligence and courage of her great great grandfather when she placed second in the state-wide contest "Texas Future Problem Solving Program" in April, 1989. First prize went to a high school student from Bell County.

by Samuel W. Newman

CALLIHAM FAMILY

F139

Walter Beasley Calliham, son of David Beasley and Margaret Rankin Calliham (1847-1921), was born on April 18, 1870, in San Patricio County, Texas.

After his father's death, Walter, only a few months of age, and his mother moved to Burns Station in DeWitt County to live with her family, the Moses Rankin family. When Walter was about 7 or 8 years old, his mother married Mr. John P. Wright, a widower with three sons and four daughters. They lived in Thomaston, where Walter's half-sisters, Norma and Eula, were born.

Walter and Minnie Mae Eatman were married on January 25, 1904, in Cuero, by the Rev. C.C. Green, Baptist minister. Minnie was the daughter of Augustus Washington and Elizabeth Vann Williams (Pridgen) Eatman.

To this union were born five children. (1) John Edward, who died in infancy. (2) Maggie Mae (the late Mrs. Phillip Braden), housewife

Walter and Minnie Calliham

Calliham home built in 1928.

David Anthony Calliham, David Alan Calliham, and David A. Calliham, 1988.

and former teacher, five children: daughters Patricia (the late Mrs. Bobby McMahan) — son and daughter, Jeffery and Linda, each married with one child; Frances (Mrs. Dan Wilson) — three children; Cecelia Mae Logue — one son; and twin sons Jimmy (wife, Claudette) — a son and daughter; Jerry, married, no children. (3) Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles Murphree), housewife and teacher, one son, William Frederick (wife, "Jerrie" Mathis), one daughter, Sherry Elizabeth (Mrs. Steve Johnson). (4) Lucille (Mrs. Sidney Dedear), housewife and former store operator, four children, daughters Margaret Ruth (Mrs. Irvin Hotz), one son, Michael; Sidney Lou (Mrs. C.M. Duffield), children, Jayne (Mrs. Brian McGinley), Jeffrey (wife, Lisa Bluhm and daughter Heather), and Jennifer (Mrs. Eddie Kremling); Norma Elizabeth (Mrs. Jack Zielonka), sons Larry and Steve and daughters Dana and Elizabeth, with eleven grandchildren; and son, Walter Edward (wife, Rose Zuber) — sons, Jeremy and Jason, daughters, Rebecca and Suzanne. (5) David (wife, Rosina Dedear) store operator, postmaster and DuPont operator, two daughters Kathryn Scheffler, three daughters Karen (Mrs. Mark White), Kimberly (Mrs. Larry Crain), and Kristi Scheffler, and son Keith Scheffler; Linda (Mrs. Gary Kolar), a daughter Michelle and son Brian; and one son, David Anthony (wife, Jeanine Bishop), daughters, Stephanie and Amy and son, David Alan.

For a while Walter and Minnie with daughter Maggie Mae lived in Markham, Texas. After a severe hurricane they moved back to Thomaston, where they continued to live for the remainder of their lives.

Walter was a hard worker — a farmer and carpenter. He was noted for the huge bales of cotton which he took to the gin in his wagon. He raised watermelons and peanuts as well as other crops. For many years he served as a school trustee and was Justice of the Peace for a while.

Minnie was a homemaker — a good cook and seamstress. She was the telephone operator when a switchboard was installed in their home around 1912.

The family members were of the Methodist faith and attended the Thomaston Methodist Church; however, they also attended worship services in the Baptist and the Presbyterian Churches in the little town of Thomaston.

Margaret, Walter's mother, donated land to be used as a cemetery in Thomaston, as had the first Mrs. John P. Wright. Her descendants are active in the Cemetery Association and were instrumental in securing a Texas Historical Marker for the cemetery in 1987.

Minnie passed away on May 8, 1949, and Walter died on September 6, 1955. Their oldest daughter, Maggie Mae died on October 5, 1981. All are buried in the Thomaston Cemetery.

by David Calliham

CARBONARA – RYAN

F140

Richard Neal Carbonara married Rosemary Virginia Ryan on December 28, 1948 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Jackson Heights, L.I. New York. They worked for Trans World Airways, International Division in Wilmington, Delaware. Richard Neal was born October 10, 1919 in the Bronx, New York. His grandparents were Paul and Vincenza Carbonara. Paul was born in 1855 and Vincenza in 1865 in Potenza, Italy. They came to the United States in 1880. Paul died in New York in 1927. His wife died in 1912. Grandparents on his mother's side were Joseph Carbocho and Maria Marin born in Tangiers, Spanish Morroco, Africa. Maria immigrated to America in 1916 after Joseph died. Richard's father, Michail Paul, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on August 5, 1891. He died in Woodridge, N.J. in 1975. His mother, Aurelia, was born in Tangiers on March 26, 1889. She died in Farmingdale, L.I., New York, on February 15, 1972. There were four children born: Joseph Michael on March 26, 1914, Aurelia Marie on February 19, 1916, Richard Neal on October 10, 1919 and Norma Ellis on June 15, 1921. Joseph died July, 1986 in Florence, Alabama and Aurelia died April, 1987 in New York.

Neal and Rosemary had ten children. 1) Virginia Loese born October 25, 1947 in Wilmington, Delaware. She died March 28, 1948 and is buried in Wilmington. 2) Richard Neal born October 11, 1948 in Wilmington. He is married to Christene Repsher of Center Valley, Pa. They have one son William Richard. 3) Raymond Carbonara born July 15, 1950 in Rockville Center, L.I. New York. He is married to Lori Goetzin of Huntington, N.Y. L.I. They have five children, Rachel, Christene, Kathy, Brian and Joseph. They live in Floral Park, L.I., New York. 4) Russell Thomas born June 16, 1951 in Rockville Center, L.I., New York. He is married to Majorie Reynolds, has no children, and is currently living in Altamonte Springs, Florida. 5) Rosemary Ann born October 30, 1952 in Rockville Center, L.I., N.Y. She is married to Joseph Bitterly and has three children – Gregory, Julia, and Joseph. They live in Baytown, TX. 6) Roberta Marie born March 8, 1954 in Rockville Center, L.I., New York. She is married to Charles Blank and has five children – Danny, Diana, David, Donna, and Douglas. They live in Cuero, Tx. 7) Rheta Virginia born May 3, 1956 is married to Mike Williams and has two children – Robert Neal and Briana Christopher. They reside in Victoria, TX. 8) Regina Aurelia born April 14, 1959 is married to Stanley Koenig. They have four children – Kimberly, Michelle, Stephanie and Allison. They reside in Cuero also. 9) Rhonda Frances born May 22, 1960 is married to Raymond Jasso. They have one adopted daughter, Carmel Virginia, and they live in Houston, TX. 10) Ryan Patrick born March 15, 1962 is

Back Row: Joe Bitterly, Rosemary (Cabonara) Bitterly, Mike Williams, Neal Carbonara, Christene (Repsher) Carbonara, William Richard Carbonara, Brian Carbonara, Raymond Carbonara, Regina (Carbonara) Koenig, Stanley Koenig, Roberta (Carbonara) Blank, Charles Blank, David Blank, Ryan Carbonara. Front: Russell Carbonara, Marjorie (Reynolds) Carbonara, Gregory Carbonara, Rheta (Carbonara) Williams, Rosemary (Ryan) Carbonara, Virginia (Blakeslee) Ryan, Rhonda (Carbonara) Jasso, Christine Carbonara, Rachel Carbonara, Cathy Carbonara, Lori (Goetzin) Carbonara, Joey Carbonara, Diana Blank, Danny Blank.

unmarried and lives in Calvert, TX.

Neal and Rosemary lived in Huntington Station, L.I. New York. Neal semi-retired from Fairchild Industries after many years as their Corporate Manager of Data Processing. They resettled in Cuero, Texas (Rosemary's hometown) in December 1972. Neal is associated with Conrad and Tarkington Insurance Company and Rosemary is the owner of Ryan's Flower Shop which was purchased from Richard Ryan Sr. in 1973 (See Ryan's Flower Shop). They have twenty-one grandchildren.

by Neal and Rosemary Carbonara

CARDWELL, CROCKET

F141

(1812-1891)

Crockett Cardwell, born January 20, 1812 near McAfee in Mercer County, Kentucky; came to Texas in 1833 when he was 21 years of age and joined Green DeWitt's Colony. He married Ann Eliza White in Gonzales on April 16, 1846. They had two children; John William who died at eight years of age and Mary Evelyn who was born December 23, 1855 and later married Arthur Burns. Crockett's father, Major Jack Cardwell who was of English stock and a Kentucky pioneer. He fought the British under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in 1812.

On July 13, 1846 Crockett Cardwell was elected to serve as one of the first DeWitt County commissioners. Cardwell owned and operated several general merchandise stores and is known as one of the earliest merchants in Texas. The locations of these stores were old Indianola, Port Lavaca, Halletsville, and the home store which was four miles north of Cuero. Cardwell purchased the home store property from Captain Daniel Boone Friar on September 28, 1849. This location maintained the Cardwell home, store, the first post office for the territory, a tavern, and the stage coach stop between Indianola and San Antonio.

The ownership and operation of the store chain covered a long and interesting period in the life of Crockett Cardwell. He made regular trips to New York, Cincinnati and other eastern markets to buy goods. Cardwell saw a definite need for meat in the north and was fully aware of the abundance of cattle in South Texas. This supply/demand situation sparked a keen interest for Cardwell and he began his pursuit for a man who could help fulfill his entrepreneurial spirit. This man was Thornton Chisholm. On April 1, 1866, Chisholm and thirty men drove Cardwell's 1800 head of cattle north; thus the Chisholm Trail.

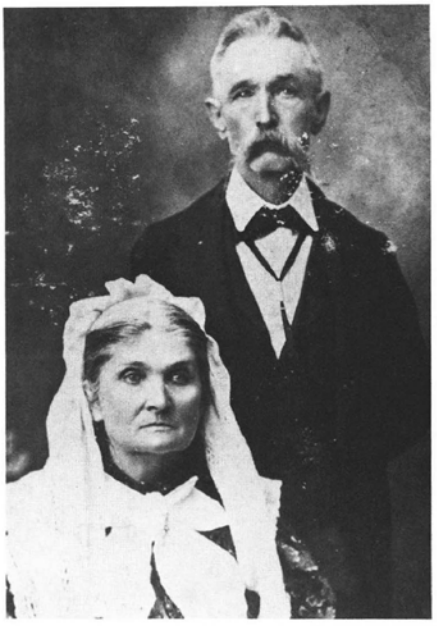
by Mrs. Carey James

CARROLL, WILLIAM PARKS

F142

William Parks Carroll was born in Coweta County G.A. on May 22, 1836 to James Carroll and Sara Ballard Carroll.

The family later moved to Jackson Parish La.



Nancy Ann (McDonald) Carroll and William Parks Carroll

On July 26, 1861 he married Nancy Ann McDonald. They were married at Nancy's home by her father Rev. Eli McDonald.

On April 26, 1862 William Parks Carroll enlisted in the Confederate Army as a Private Sergt. Company F. (Group) La Infantry and served until end of the war.

The family moved to DeWitt County Texas in 1867 and purchased land near old Terryville. There they remained until death. William died July 6, 1915 and Nancy died November 8, 1905. They are both buried at Hebron Cemetery off what is now FM 682.

Eight children were born to this union: 1) Mary E. born Oct. 10, 1862 in Jackson Parish La. She married John Byars Garrett on Oct. 1, 1879, they had ten children. 2) James Eli born June 27, 1866 in Jackson Parish La. He married Della Ann Carson. 3) Jenny Sophonie born in 1868 and married Henry Currington. 4) Doctor Redwine born in DeWitt County, Tx. December 9, 1870. He married Anna Woodman, they had five children. 5) William Madison born DeWitt County, March 16, 1873. He married Ann Williams, they had three children. 6) Martha Lamore born DeWitt County on Jan. 7, 1876. She married Luther Carson. 7) Ida Eleanor was born in DeWitt County on December 16, 1878. She married Will Hill. 8) Ursula Sara was born DeWitt County on Oct. 8, 1880. She married W.G. Goode.

by Helen Manning Foxell

CARTER – FAIRES FAMILY

F143

Joseph Carter was born Dec. 13, 1859 in LaGrange, Fayette Co. Texas, to Thomas and Mary (Arnold) Carter. Thomas came to Texas in 1852 from Hugglescote, Leicestershire, England, where he was born April 27, 1822 to Thomas and Jane (Jacques) Carter. Thomas located in Fayette Co. on a farm near LaGrange, and was a farmer and carpenter. He married Mary Arnold July 14, 1857. Mary was born in Great Crosby, Lancashire, England, January 12, 1838, and came to Texas in 1852, along with her parents, John and Elizabeth (Rothwell) Arnold. They settled in Fayette Co. Thomas bought 4,000 acres of land in Gonzales and DeWitt Counties in 1887. After the death of his wife, Mary, in 1889, he moved to Cheapside with his several children and became a farmer, stockraiser and money lender, until his death in 1902. The Carter homestead at Cheapside is presently owned and occupied by Edna Clark, a granddaughter.

Emily Ann (Faires) Carter was born Sept. 5, 1866 on a farm near Flattnia, Texas, to John Wesley and Hannah (Hattie Moore) Faires. Her grandparents, William Alexander Faires and Ada (McClure) Faires, born in South Carolina and Kentucky, respectively, came to Texas from Tennessee in 1834 with the settlers of Austin's colony. They settled in what is now Fayette Co. where William patented his league of land of 4,000 acres. He and Ada's brothers took an active part in fight for independence for Texas. The land for the townsite of Flatonia was purchased from Emma's grandfather, William, by the railroad in 1873. Emily Ann taught school in Yoakum a few years before she married. She married Joseph Carter in Yoakum Feb. 20, 1889. Joseph had attended Texas A&M in its early days, and he and his brother, Arthur Carter, operated a general merchandise store in Cheapside for about 14 years. Joseph and Emily Ann made their home first in Cheapside, where their six sons were born, (five of whom are in the picture above), namely, Joseph Guy, Seth Thomas, Arthur Lord, Charles Faires, and Roy Alton. A sixth son died at about 6 months of age.

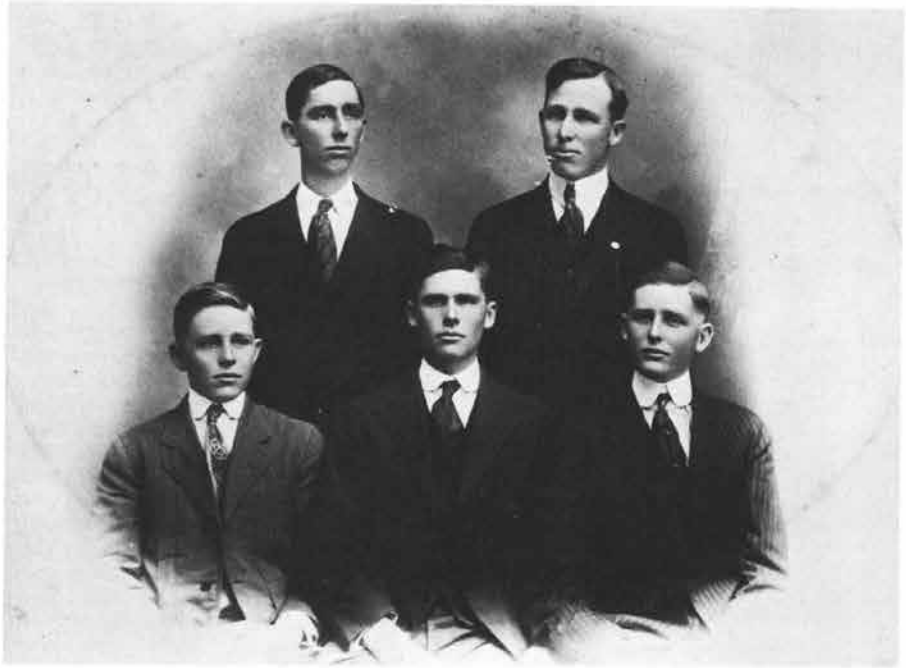
About 1904, Joseph moved his family to Westhoff where he had a mercantile business known as Carter Bros., along with brother Arthur, a druggist. They were members of the Baptist Church. Joseph died Oct. 25, 1923 in Westhoff, and Emily Ann died Sept. 23, 1950 in Cuero. Their sons, Joseph Guy and Charles Faires, were corporals in the 141st Infantry in France during WW I, and both served as sergeant. Guy joined the army July 30, 1917 in Gonzales, Texas, and was discharged July 4, 1919 at Camp Travis.

Joseph Guy (3 Feb. 1890) married Melinia Krueger (26 July 1898), the daughter of John M. and Ida (Franke) Krueger of Shiner, on Jan. 3, 1928 in Hallettsville. He was proprietor of Texaco Service Station, Yoakum, and raised cattle, until his death Feb. 18, 1961. Melinia (Milly) died June 30, 1977. They had 3 daughters: JoAnn, unmarried; Vivian Aldine married to Richard Brown Burt Sept. 5, 1963 in Cuero, with 2 sons, Richard Neal (19 Oct. 1964) and David Lee (18 March 1966); Pauline married Kenneth Earl Phillips of Orwigsburg, Penn., with three children, Sandra Lynn (20 Nov. 1960), Marvin Anthony (1 Jan. 1962), and Kendra Allison (27 July 1965).

Seth Thomas (29 Aug. 1892) never married. He died in Cuero Aug. 30, 1977.

Charles Faires (17 July 1894) married Alma Ruth Lord Sept., 1919, worked in shipyards in Orange, Texas during WW II and sold cemetery monuments. He had one daughter, Byrta Ruth who married Marion C. Weber July 20, 1940, with two sons, Garlan Faires of Yoakum, and Harold Hutton. Garlan married Jeanne Hermes Aug. 12, 1970 and has one son, Morgan Faires Weber.

Roy Alton (27 Oct. 1896) married Nickol Pearce May 1, 1918 and had a hatchery in



Sons of Joseph and Emily Ann (Faires), 1915 – Back: Joseph Guy Carter, and Seth Thomas Carter. Front: Arthur Lord Carter, Charles Faires Carter and Roy Alton Carter.

Westhoff, then moved to Nixon and operated feed and grain store. They had two daughters: Eileen, married to Claude A. Rix March 1, 1947, with one daughter and Deborah Eileen, who is married to Allen Coleman and has daughters, Stephanie and Jessica. Douglas married Leslie Brandes Aug. 10, 1946, and they have two sons, Richard Pearce and Russell Wade.

Arthur (7 Sept. 1899) married Elizabeth Cavitt of Gonzales in 1924; had 3 children, Arthur Lord, Jr., Joe Ed and Betty Lou; died Feb. 5, 1946.

by Mrs. Richard B. Burt

CHADDOCK, MILLARD F. AND JENNIE (NICHOLS)

F144

Jennie (Nichols) Chaddock, born: January 22, 1869.

Millard F. Chaddock was born in Port Lavaca in 1855 and his parents were, Noah and Elizabeth (Shaw) Chaddock. Noah was born near what is now Cannandaique, New York in 1809. His wife Elizabeth was born in 1830 in the state of Kentucky. Noah was a carpenter all his life and lived a number of years in Kentucky. He had a fairly large family from a previous marriage, who stayed in Kentucky. The boys were just the right age to serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, which they did. In 1854, he moved with his new wife, Elizabeth to Port Lavaca. In the 1870's they moved to Cuero. He built many houses in Cuero.

Millard F. Chaddock was a farmer in the Valley View area all his married life. He married Jennie Nichols on May 3, 1887 in Cuero. She was the daughter of Lazarus and Margaret Louisa (Means) Nichols. Jennie's dad was born in Mississippi in 1825, and her mother was born in Texas in 1833. Lazarus and his sister, Elizabeth, came to DeWitt County in the 1840's. Elizabeth married a Mr. Hardy and lived here all her life.

Lazarus and Margaret Louisa were married October 31, 1850 in Clinton. They had a large family and lived on their ranch on the north side of Cuero until his death in 1882. After he died, she moved into Cuero, where she lived until her death in 1908.

Millard and Jennie had seven children: 1) Robert N., 2) Thomas, 3) Horace, 4) Mabel, 5) William B., 6) Temple H., and 7) Fannie Bettie (Mrs. Alfred Kuchler). Thomas and Mabel died young.. Robert N. and William B. left Cuero, but the other three remained. Horace lived in and around Cuero all his life. He married Gladys Jecker. They had one daughter, Rosa Nell. Fannie Bettie married Alfred Kuchler and they had two children, Mary Margie and Shannon Carrol.

Millard Chaddock died in 1929 and his wife, Jennie died in 1939.

by Kyle A. Chaddock

CHADDOCK, T.K. FAMILY

F145

T.K. Chaddock.

Temple Kaye Chaddock "T.K.", the middle son of Mary Klokau and Temple Henry Chaddock, was born February 28, 1928. He was born at his Grandfather Klokau's house, just south of Cuero. This place extended from the city limits to the Guadalupe River. Dr. Charles Tubbs bought most of it from Mr. Klokau in later years.

The first eleven years of T.K.'s life, his family lived on another place of Mr. Klokau's across the river near Clinton. T.K. and his older sister, Evelyn and brother, Clarence, rode horseback to Clinton School. At this time, when you left Cuero to go to Clinton, the road was gravel all the way to Goliad. When you left Cuero, the road went between the big Lentz home and the river, across an old river bridge. On the hill on the left, Mr. Haak had a blacksmith shop and mill. People could take their plow points to be sharpened and leave their corn to be ground into cornmeal at the same time. Around the curve on the right, Mr. Tom Hensley had a store and down the road on the left, Bob Dubose had a syrup mill, the old kind where the mules go around in a circle to press the juice from the cane. He also had an outdoor cooker. The school was on the right and Mrs. Jessie Dodds was his first school teacher.

One thing he could never forget was when in 1934, in the depression, when the government came around and bought excess cattle. They took the old cows and old bulls and thin cattle and baby calves, put them in a pen, and men with rifles sat on the fence and shot them. Then they had them drug off and burned. The fat young cattle were driven into Cuero to the shipping pens and loaded on railroad cars and

sent to canning companies to be canned and given to people on relief.

In 1936, after the flood, that got all the crops and most of the family's livestock, Temple Chaddock told his father-in-law he was not living on the river any longer; so Mr. Klokau sold the place to Lawrence Keesling, and the Chaddocks moved to the Carl Schorre place at Five Mile. The next year, T.K., his younger brother, Kyle and his younger sister, Hazel, the White boys, Cecil, Odell and Billy, and Elywin Schorre, rode to school with Arlene Schorre (a teacher at Ratcliffe School). The following year Miss Schorre taught at Arneckeville School, so all this bunch transferred to Arneckeville. When T.K. got to high school he rode the Meyersville bus. After graduation in 1945, he worked at the Livestock Commission Company and for Cage and Hansen Feed Store and the Carnation Creamery. He attended the first livestock auction sale ever held in Cuero at the age of ten. Through his school days he worked cattle and doctored screw worm cases for people's cattle. He went in the Air Force in April of 1946 and was discharged in 1947. Then, at this time he worked at the Cuero Livestock Commission Company and for Elmer Krueger and Raleigh Blackwell at the sale in Hallettsville, Texas. He also traded cattle. While in FFA in school, he received a Lone Star Farmer Degree.

In 1950, T.K. Chaddock married Julia Lemore Martin from Comstock, Texas. She has three sisters, Ann, Mary and Barbara, one brother, Parma. T.K. and Julia have three children: 1) Rebecca Lynn, who married Roger Leick. He is an engineer for Exxon Corporation. He is a Sunday School teacher and Deacon in the Baptist Church. They have two sons, John Temple and Zachary Martin; 2) Raleigh Mark Chaddock married Myra Warner. They have one daughter, Amy Elizabeth. Mark is a cattle buyer; and 3) Ruth Anne Chaddock is a clown with Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

In the early 1950's the cattle market broke and the trading got bad, so T.K. went to work for Owen Packing Company in Brownsville, Texas, buying cattle, so the family moved to Brownsville. After about five years in Brownsville, Dick Owens, Raleigh Blackwell and T.K. leased the Three Rivers Livestock Commission Company in Three Rivers. The Chaddocks moved to Three Rivers and ran it for about two years, then they moved back to Brownsville. After about five more years, after Armour bought Owens Packing Company, they moved to Yoakum for about a year. Then they moved back to Cuero where T.K. is an order buyer and rancher. He is a Deacon in the Baptist Church and a Sunday School teacher. Julia is a school teacher in Cuero High School. She works with the youth in the Church and is also a Sunday School teacher.

by T.K. Chaddock

CHADDOCK, TEMPLE HENRY FAMILY

F146

Mr. and Mrs. Temple Henry Chaddock have lived in and around Cuero all their lives, except for a period from 1945 until 1962 when Mr. Chaddock was employed by Amerada Petroleum Corporation.

Mr. and Mrs. Temple Henry Chaddock.

Mr. Chaddock was born in Valley View on March 17, 1897 and went to school at Valley View School near Cheapside. He entered the Army on September 13, 1918 and served in Company A, 2nd Developing Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade at Camp Lee in Virginia.

Mrs. Chaddock, formally Mary Klokau, was born September 27, 1902 in Inez, Texas. She grew up and went to school in Clinton, Texas.

They were married on December 21, 1920 in Clinton and lived on a farm near Yorktown. During this time their two eldest children were born. After four years, they moved to the old Klokau farm. Eventually Mrs. Chaddock gave birth to two other children on this farm. Temple Kaye was the only child born away from the farm. He was born at the Klokau house on the outskirts of Cuero.

The five children of Temple Henry and Mary were: 1) Evelyn Grace, who married Kirksey Bennett of Cuero and now lives in Beeville. Their children are, Mary Temple, Suellen and Pamela Grace; 2) Clarence Alden, who married Willene Sutton of Aransas Pass and now lives in La Porte. Their children are, Sharon Amelia, Don Rodney, and Holly Ann; 3) Temple Kaye, who married Julia Martin of Comstock and lives in Cuero. They have three children: Rebecca Lynn, Raleigh Mark, and Ruth Anne; 4) Kyle Afton, who married Lillian Whitehurst of Beeville and lives in Richmond. They have three children: Michael Albert, Mary Margaret, and Mitzi Dawn; 5) Hazel Marie, who married Clarence Eugene Buck of Bay Minnette, Alabama and lives in Houston, Texas. They have three children: Clarence Eugene, Jr., David Wesley, and Kenneth Paul.

After the flood in 1936, the family, and livestock saved from the flood, began a new life near Ratcliff (Five Mile). They lived here until 1944 when Mr. Chaddock went to work with Amerada and Mrs. Chaddock moved to Cuero with the three younger children (Temple K., Kyle, and Hazel). In 1945 she began traveling with Mr. Chaddock and the two youngest children. After his retirement twenty years later, they moved back to Cuero where they live now.

by Kyle A. Chaddock

CHISHOLM, RICHARD H. AND FAMILY

F147

The two Chisholm brothers, Richard H. and Richard A., along with their sister Lourena, migrated from Scotland to Virginia and then to Green DeWitt's Colony in Texas in 1828.

Richard A. Chisholm never married according to descendants of his brother's family and no further record was kept on him.

Lourena Chisholm married James H. Hallmullen in DeWitt County on March 15, 1849. Lourena (Chisholm) Hallmullen mysteriously disappeared one day while going from the ranch to Goliad for supplies. Members of the family found her horse and rig by the Guadalupe River crossing, but they could find no trace of Lourena.

Richard H. Chisholm married Hardina Taylor. Hardina Taylor was the daughter of Josiah and Hepzibeth (Smith) Taylor. Hardina had one sister, Johanna, and six brothers – William Riley, Creed, Josiah, Pitkin, Rufus, and James. Richard H. Chisholm started "Chisholm's Ferry" across the Guadalupe River in 1838. The ferry was located near the point where Chisholm Creek met the Guadalupe River. Richard H. Chisholm donated 640 acres of land for the townsite of the county seat for DeWitt County. He was unsuccessful at first, but the county seat was eventually established at the townsite of Clinton, Texas, near Chisholm's Ferry.

Richard H. Chisholm and Hardina (Taylor) Chisholm had two sons – Bradford A. and Glenn Thornton Chisholm and a daughter – Mary Ann Chisholm. Richard H. Chisholm died April 8, 1855.

Bradford A. Chisholm married Harriett Courtney and they had four children – Ida, Olie, Emma, and Richard T. Chisholm. Richard T. "Dick" Chisholm and his second cousin, William P. "Buck" Taylor were shot and killed by Bill Sutton and his friends on Christmas Eve, 1868, in Clinton, Texas. There was a disagreement between the Taylor and Sutton factions about the reason for the killings, but there was no question about who did the killing. "Dick" Chisholm was about 20 years old when the shooting took place.

Glenn Thornton Chisholm married Jane P. Fore on May 27, 1852, in DeWitt County. They had six children – George Lankford, Jessie, Effie, Cora, Annie, and Daniel Fore Chisholm. Glenn Thornton Chisholm was the retail boss for Crockett Cardwell when he put his first herd of cattle together and drove them from DeWitt County, up the "Chisholm Trail" to St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1866. The Chisholms of DeWitt County claimed that the "Chisholm Trail" was named for Glenn Thornton Chisholm because he set the path on the first trail drive. Glenn Thornton Chisholm was accidentally killed by a freight wagon that rolled over him when a breast chain broke while he was going up a steep hill. He was buried by the wagon trail near Burnet, Texas, in March, 1868.

Mary Ann "Annie" Chisholm married John Roebuck Kelso in DeWitt County on August 14,

1856. John Roebuck Kelso was the son of James Kelso and Rhoda Roebuck, daughter of John Roebuck – American Revolutionary soldier. John Roebuck Kelso's father was a brother of Alfred Kelso, Sr., who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso and her husband, John, had seven children – Winchester, Frank Hubert, Hardina, Rhoda, Fannie, Jessie, and John Clyde Kelso. Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso died about 1878. There is a possibility that John Clyde Kelso was the son of John Roebuck Kelso's second wife, Jane P. "Jennie" (Fore) Chisholm Kelso, Glenn Thornton Chisholm's widow and John Roebuck Kelso's sister-in-law.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

CILFONE, CHARLES AND LOIS ALVARADO FAMILY

F148

Charles Jacob Cilfone, Maclovia (Uresti) Alvarado and Barbara Jean (Iverson) Cilfone, 1987.

Lois Josephine Alvarado Cilfone was born in Cuero, Texas on August 5, 1927. Her parents are Jacob Alvarado and Maclovia Uresti whose story is written separately. Lois attended St. Michael's School and later graduated with honors from Cuero High School in May 1945. She studied piano with Miss Julia Fey, the organist at St. Michael's Church, and played at recitals for several years. Lois graduated from Draughon's Business College in San Antonio, Texas on June 19, 1946. She also took night courses at St. Mary's University for four years.

Lois became a legal secretary to San Antonio's former district attorney, John R. Shook. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, she became a civil service stenographer at Fort Sam Houston and later a medical secretary. Lois married Lieutenant Charles Joseph Cilfone on August 28, 1954, at St. Mary's Church in San Antonio.

Charles and Lois went to his next assignment at Tokyo International Airport. He made captain in 1955. They lived at United Nations Command Headquarters, Far East in downtown Tokyo near Emperior Hirohito's Imperial Palace, and drove past this beautiful setting daily on their way to work. Charles was commander of the postal squadron handling all mail coming into and out of the Far East and Lois was secretary to the Staff Judge Advocate. After three years, he was transferred to Washington, D.C.

They lived in Scottsdale, Arizona where their son, Charles Jacob was born on August 4, 1958. They moved to San Antonio and Catherine Marie was born in September 15, 1959; Patricia Lucia on May 16, 1962; and Lois Annette on August 28, 1963. Charles was promoted to Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1962.

In the 1960s Lois worked at the Lackland Air Force Hospital, Kelly Air Force Base and was secretary to the president of Our Lady of the Lake College. In the 1970s Lois served as secretary and president of the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. On May 31, 1978, Lois was commissioned a Yellow Rose of Texas by Governor Dolph Briscoe.

Charles Joseph Cilfone was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 6, 1920. His parents are Nicole Cilfone of Campobasso and Lucia Savastio of San Marco la Catola, both mountain villages near the city of Foggia near the Adriatic coast of Italy. Charles graduated from McKinley High School in Chicago in May 1937. His three brothers and 4 sisters also graduated from this school. He attended Loyola University in Chicago, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and St. Sofia University in Tokyo.

Charles was drafted for World War II in 1942, became a cadet and later a navigator-/bombardier. While stationed near London, he participated in missions over Holland, France and Belgium. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, Presidential Citation, Purple Heart and several oak leaf clusters.

While in his 20s, Charlie travelled throughout the United States selling chemicals and cleaning compounds to the institutional trade. In 1958, he became a self-employed real estate broker and an official of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1964 until his retirement in January 1980. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law at the University of Texas at San Antonio, the year of its creation in 1969.

Their son, Charles Jacob graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in May 1981, is a petroleum engineer, a licensed private pilot and a May 1989 graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law. He is now an associate in the law firm of Adams and Graham in Harlingen. He married Barbara Jean Iverson of Fargo, North Dakota on May 2, 1987, at St. Mary's Church in San Antonio, Texas. "B.J." received her degree in Interior Design from the University of North Dakota and works for an oil and gas company.

Their daughter, Catherine Marie received her business degree in Finance and Marketing from St. Mary's University graduating Cum Laude in May 1983. She is now Director of Student Activities and Special Events at Incarnate College where her husband, Gerald Thomas McCarthy, is vice-president at the college. Gerald, of New York, received his bachelor and masters degrees from Michigan State University. They were married on October 1, 1983 at the St. Mary's University Chapel.

Patricia Lucia graduated Cum Laude from Texas Tech University in May 1985 with a degree in History. She is now a second year law student at the University of Texas in Austin on a full academic scholarship.

Lois Annette (Sita) graduated from the School of Business at the University of Texas in Austin also in May 1985. She manages a 200 unit apartment complex in Austin, Texas.

Charles and Lois Cilfone have travelled in the United States, Mexico, the Orient and Europe, and have lived at 134 Postwood Drive in northwest San Antonio, Texas for 30 years.

by Lois Alvarado Cilfone

CKODRE (DORECK) FAMILY

F149

Early County Settlers

Joseph Lawrence Ckodre and his wife Malinda Ann Tolbert Ckodre were representative of the hardy stock of people who populated DeWitt County. A look at them and their forebears can tell us why. Joseph was born February 5, 1877 most probably in Galveston. At a very early age he already had a reputation for working with horses. At the age of fourteen he was out looking for work to support himself. He travelled to the Butler Ranch in Karnes County to ask for work, whereupon the patriarch of that infamous family told him to get off his property, as he was only a child and not man enough to do ranch work. He went on to the Davy area of DeWitt County where he went to work for the Weldon Ranch. By about age twenty he was the foreman of the Weldon and Lackey ranches!

Joseph L. Ckodre's father was Charles L. Doreck, who emigrated from Germany after his first wife died. Doreck left behind one daughter who was a Catholic nun there, and brought with him the four sons, Lawrence, Frank, Emil, and Herbert Doreck. Not much is known of these children. However, Charles L. married Minnie Hoffman when she was eighteen years old. She too had come from a town in Germany with her aunt and uncle, the Gerdes family, coming into this country through Indianola. To their union here in Texas, seven children were born: Dr. Mary Wilson (a pediatrician), Ed Doreck, Joseph Doreck-Ckodre, Lottie Bowman (a teacher), Josephine, married to a Captain McKee, Annie Machlovsky (sp), and Gertrude LaVander. Some years after the last child was born in the Galveston area, Mrs. Doreck made the decision to leave her husband, probably for self-preservation. Giving the children their choice of parent and name to remain with, she had her name officially changed to Ckodre, a rearrangement of the letters in Doreck. It was said she had a lawyer do this in Matagorda County, but no actual court record is shown there. Perhaps it was done somehow in Galveston County. Two children also had their name changed — Joseph and little Gertrude. Minnie (now Minnie Hoffman Ckodre) had no intention of being found by Charles. She divorced and left the area. She eventually came to what is known as the Victoria Prairie to put more distance between herself and Charles. Later when her son

was working on the Weldon Ranch, she moved there and opened a little store.

This family was among the thousands hit by the terrible hurricane of 1900 at Galveston. The former Lottie Doreck (sister of J.L. Ckodre) and her child plus the two children of Dr. Mary Wilson and her husband were all drowned.

J.L. Ckodre began buying his own land in an area west of Yorktown and moved there in his early thirties, his mother coming with him and opening another store on this property. About a year later he married Malinda Tolbert at the Weldon Ranch. She was the daughter of Henry Steward Tolbert and Martha Ann Ryan Tolbert, being born in Fayette County on April 7, 1887. The children of Henry and Martha Tolbert in probable order were Eugene, J.T. "Tom" (a twin), Ida Doreck, E.V. "Ed," Lola Shows, Mary Jane Tolbert (unmarried), Malinda Ckodre, and Wesley plus three who died in infancy, including the other twin. Martha Ann was the daughter of Joe and Louise Ryan about whom nothing more is known at this time. Henry Steward Tolbert was the son of Levi Tolbert and wife who came from Tennessee. Levi and Henry were early freighters in Texas and later farmers. Henry was also a cattle drover on the Chisholm Trail. The family also had a cotton gin near Yoakum.

After this background, let's go back to the focal point of this bit of history — Joseph and Malinda Ckodre who married on January 18,1910 on the Weldon Ranch. Since the other child who received the Ckodre name was a girl and had no children, all the Ckodres in the world are descended from this couple. Joseph felt tremendous pressures from land purchases and illness in the family, becoming ill himself. After only ten years of marriage he died tragically. Malinda carried on in true pioneer fashion by herself through real hardships. Her mother-in-law, Minnie H. Ckodre, had already moved to Houston and opened yet another store. With the children, especially the oldest ones, working very hard too, the family managed to cling together and came through with fine character.

Joseph's and Malinda's children are Minnie (first married to Stayton Johnson and after his death to Emmitt Wishert), Joseph Edward "Ed" (married to Frances Pawlik), Emil (married to Mozelle "Pat" Clifton Patterson), Weldon "Doc" (married to Viola Sickenius), twins Ruth (married to Ben Dupnick) and Rubie (married to Emil Krauskopk). Ed settled very near the home place where some of his family still lives. He and Doc are deceased. Doc and his family lived in Karnes County. Emil and his wife still live on part of the original land. Minnie, widowed, lives in Runge; Ruby, also widowed lives in Beeville; and Ruth and Ben Dupnick and their family live in San Antonio. All the grandchildren and even most of the couple's great-grandchildren remain in Texas, so this is another one of those "only in Texas" stories. The grandchildren are Calvin Johnson and Travis Johnson (both deceased), David Wishert, Lawrence Ckodre, Kathleen Parks, Robert Ckodre, Gary Ckodre, Jo-An Weddle, Donald Ckodre, Joyce Ann Janssen, Erwin Ckodre, Ronnie Ckodre (deceased), Patricia Wood, Rebecca Turnage, and Marilyn League.

by Norlene Sucher Ckodre

CLAYTON, JOHN H. AND MARY ANN (CRAWFORD)

F150

John H. Clayton was born January 5, 1811, in Tennessee. His wife, Mary Ann "Polly" Crawford, was born July 19, 1817, in Lincoln County, Tennessee. They were married in 1835 and came to Texas from Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1847, with four children: Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie," Mary Jane, Margarete A., and Joseph M. They settled on Cuero Creek, 2½ miles from Edgar. Children born in Texas were Sarah Ann, Robert Daniel, John Henry, and Alice Mathilda.

John H. Clayton died August 9, 1884, aged 73, and was buried in the Clayton Cemetery between Concrete and Edgar. Mary Ann died June 1, 1891, aged 73, and was also buried in the Clayton Cemetery.

Mary Jane (1840-1864) married William P. Priestly August 15, 1861. William was the son of James and Eliza Ann (Ragsdale) Priestly. He served as a Private in the Confederate Forces, enlisting in DeWitt County. They had a daughter Mary Lee born June 9, 1862. Mary Jane died in 1864. On June 18, 1865, Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" Clayton (1836-1902) married her brother-in-law, William Priestly, after the death of her sister Mary Jane. She became "Ma" to Mary Lee. They lost two babies in infancy. On May 23, 1873, Bonnie Ada was born in Concrete. "Ma" Lizzie Priestly lost her husband, William, in 1873 before Bonnie Ada was born. She then raised the girls with the help of the Clayton family. Mary Lee married Thomas Jackson Kennedy. Their story is given separately. Bonnie Ada married Cyrus Warren Richmond. Their story is given separately. Lizzie Clayton Priestly died February 5, 1902, in Yoakum.

Margarete A. (1842-?) married Tom E. Bailey. Joseph M. (1843-1871) had one son Joe Ferrell Clayton who married Inez Woolsey. They both died in 1931. They had one daughter, Mildred, who married William Saye. They had no children. In 1873, Sarah Ann (1849-1929) married William "Billy" Pincham (1849-1933). They had no children. Robert Daniel (1850-1927) married May Gross. They had two sons Robert and Oscar. In 1880, John Henry (1853-1927) married Emma Hill. They had two children, Henry and Mary. Alice Mathilda (1855-?) married William M. Davis. They had two sons and one daughter. Olin D. "Bud" Davis was born in 1881 and died in 1971. Their daughter, Maude (1887-1975), married William Hatcher. They had no children.

The John H. Clayton family and later the sons Robert and John were farmer/ranchers in the Edgar area. Most of the family eventually moved into Yoakum.

Submitted by their great, great granddaughter.

Helen Elizabeth Chisum Snider

Baker Stable.

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CLAYTON, JOHN H. AND POLLY CRAWFORD

F151

John H. Clayton was living in Lincoln County, Tennessee near Fayetteville when he married Mary Jane (Polly) Crawford in 1835. John was born Jan. 5, 1811. He and Polly had nine children, the first five born in Tennessee and the last four in Texas after they moved to DeWitt County in 1847. Their children are: Nancy Elizabeth (Lizzie) b. June 1, 1836, d. February 5, 1902, m. William P. Priestly June 18, 1865; Mary Jane b. March 8, 1840, d. 1865, m. William P. Priestly August 15, 1861; Margarete A. b. February 28, 1842, m. Tom E. Bailey; Joseph M. b. November 11, 1843; Emily b. July 2, 1846, died young; Sarah Ann (Shug) b. March 7, 1849, d. November 21, 1929, m. Billy Pincham November 5, 1873; Robert W. b. May 24, 1850 d. December 6, 1927, m. May Gross; John Henry b. July 2, 1853 d. December 17, 1927, m. Emma Hill December 22, 1880; Alice Mathilda b. July 25, 1855, m. Will Davis.

John bought land tracts east of the Guadalupe River and on the Cuero Creek in 1848 and 1850. There he lived until his death August 9, 1884. Polly died June 1, 1891. They are buried in Clayton Cemetery near Concrete.

Polly was born July 19, 1817 in Lincoln County, Tennessee to Elizabeth Norris and John Crawford. Elizabeth was born June 9, 1788 in Lincoln County. He was a large land owner and one of the first to settle in that area. John Crawford was born in Augusta County, Virginia on March 27, 1775 to Rachel Sawyers and William Crawford. During the Revolutionary War, William manufactured and supplied arms to Continental soldiers. John married his first wife, Margaret Buchanan, August 9, 1798 in Davidson County Tennessee. They had nine children. Margaret died March 24, 1816 and is buried in Crawford Cemetery near Howell, Tennessee. John had moved to Lincoln County before 1814 and about six months after his wife died, he married Elizabeth Norris on October 10, 1816. To this union were born nine children as follows: Mary Ann (Polly) b. July 19, 1817, d. June 1, 1891, m. John H. Clayton 1835; John b. November 9, 1818, d. 1856, m. Sarah Blake August 6, 1846; Elizabeth b. June 3, 1820, d. March 4, 1890, m. John M. Buchanan; Margaret b. February 8, 1822, d. February 4, 1853, m. Dr. T.W. Stevenson April 11, 1844; Ezekiel Norris b. December 22, 1823, m. Elizabeth Smith April 17, 1867; Thomas Middleton b. October 15, 1825; Emily Euphemia b. December 19, 1828, d. April 16, 1889, m. Allen Parker February 19, 1850; Jane Columbus b. December 10, 1829, d. August 1, 1840; Martha Lucinda b. January 17, 1833, d. 1912, m. Elijah Parker August 23, 1851.

John Crawford died September 17, 1847 and is buried in Crawford Cemetery by his home on Clayton Road near Howell, Tennessee. His home is still standing and being used. After his death, Elizabeth went to Texas where some of her children had previously moved. She died August 15, 1862 in DeWitt County, Texas and is buried in Clayton Cemetery between Edgar and Concrete. There are still Crawfords living in DeWitt County and many more rest in the Hochheim Cemetery. All these Crawfords de-

scent from the William who raised his family in Augusta County, Virginia.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

COHN, JAKE FAMILY

F152

Mollie (Tudzin) and Jake Cohn

Jake Cohn was born in Racionz, Poland, near Warsaw, September 15, 1896. His parents were Mendel and Rebecca Kane. There were three sons, Solomon, Jake and Sam, and two daughters Mania Romianek and Bella Pshigoda.

During the early 1900's stories of the United States told of a land of freedom and opportunity; immigration was encouraged and Jake dreamed of owning his own business and land, something that could never happen in Poland. Jake and a friend, Max Newman, made plans to immigrate to the United States. For $50.00 they could secure passage to Galveston and then proceed to a town where a sponsor could be found. They came to the U.S. on the steamer Chemnitz, after 30 days at sea, entering through the port of Galveston in August 1913. In Galveston, Jake and his friend were separated and Jake was sent to San Antonio. He was a young man of 18, unable to speak English, with no family or friends in a new country. At the port of entry at Galveston, authorities translated his name as Jake Cohn – from Jacob Kane – and so it stayed.

In San Antonio he found a job working in a clothing store. He could speak Polish, German and Yiddish and learned Spanish early, but English was very difficult. He was aggressive, saved his money, and soon decided to go into business for himself. He bought his own horse and buggy and peddled fruits and vegetables, gradually adding more wares and expanding his territory.

In San Antonio Jake met Mollie Tudzin and they were married June 18, 1916 in San Antonio. To this union three daughters were born; Annie born March 17, 1917 in San Antonio; Sarah Feb. 29, 1920, and Bernice Sept. 14, 1930, both in Cuero, Texas.

Mollie Tudzin was born in Russia November 17, 1898. Her parents were Nisan and Esther Tudzin. They had three daughters, Nehama, Dora and Mollie and three sons, Leon, Max and Ben. Mollie came to the U.S. with her two brothers, Leon and Ben, coming through the Port of Galveston in 1914. They went to San Antonio because they had a sister and brother-in-law, Nehama and Ansel Sachnowitz, living there. Mollie kept house for her two brothers, worked as a seamstress by day and went to school at night. Education was very important to Mollie as it was not available to girls in Russia. Through the guidance, encouragement and tutoring of a wonderful teacher, Mollie learned quickly and finished eight grades of school in one year.

In 1918 Jake and Mollie and their infant daughter Annie moved to Cuero. Jake went into business with his brother-in-law Ben Tudzin; however, they dissolved their partnership and each went into business for himself. Jake opened a family clothing and shoe store on West Main Street in the Louis Gohment building. At that time the main San Antonio highway ran through West Main St. and the train station was nearby. Ben opened a dry goods store on East Main. Mollie worked in the store with her husband and the children grew along with the store. During the early years, store hours were very long, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and during cotton season, usually longer. In 1934 Jake moved his business "Uptown" to its present location at 101 W. Main and changed the name of the business to "The Fair". Maurice and Sarah Cohn Aronstein joined The Fair in Nov. 1946. They had two children, Marian born Oct. 5, 1946 in Houston, and Robert born Jan. 12, 1950 in Cuero. Harry and Annie Cohn Jacobs joined the business in Sept., 1951 with their daughter Josephine born May 12, 1942, in Houston. Bernice Cohn married Larry Mazer in San Antonio in 1952. They have three children, Suzanne, Jun 25, 1956, Marc L., Nov. 23, 1953 and Sally, Jan. 18, 1967. Bernice and Larry live in San Antonio.

In later yearss Cohn became interested in land and bought his first acreage in 1940. He also later built rent property. He raised cattle which he enjoyed more as a hobby than a business. He was deeply involved in the community. Cohn was selected Soil Conservation Businessman-Farmer of the year in 1960. He received various plaques from such organizations as The Future Farmers, 4-H Clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion. In 1977 he established the Jake Cohn Scholarship Fund at Cuero High School for Ag students who demonstrated an interest in farming. He was a member of the Cuero Masonic Lodge and Alzafar Shrine Temple of San Antonio.

Jake Cohn died September 6, 1981 in Cuero, Texas after a short and sudden illness. He is buried in Agudas Achim Cemetery in San Antonio. He was a kind and gentle man, well liked by his customers and friends. He was proud of his good name.

by Sarah Aronstein

. . DANCING . .

H. J. CASANOVA'S
SELECT DANCING SCHOOL

COKER, CHARLES AND PEGGY

F153

Back — Mickey Rauch, Charles Coker; Middle — Larry Coker, Sheryl (Coker) Rauch; Front — Kathlyn (Urbanczyk) Coker and Peggy (Dunn) Coker, 1984.

Matthew Rauch (Sept. 1988)

Husband: Tilden Charles Coker, Jr. born November 30, 1931, in Cuero, Texas to Tilden C. and Viola Rose (Mauer) Coker. Parents are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Wife: Frances Estell (Peggy) Dunn Coker born August 25, 1933, in Cuero, Texas to Jessie Elgan and Julia Elizabeth Matthew Dunn.

Education: Cuero High School 1950 and 1951 respectively. Both attended Victoria College.

Courtship: Double-dated twice (each with someone else) and had first date December 24,

1950. Married December 26, 1952, in the bride's parents' home. Elder W.J. Chambers, pastor of Pilgrims Rest Primitive Baptist Church, Stratton, Texas, officiated. Best man was Tilden C. Coker, Matron-of-Honor was Mildred Dunn Dubose, Flower Girl was Susan Gayle Dubose, and Kenneth Coker lit the candles.

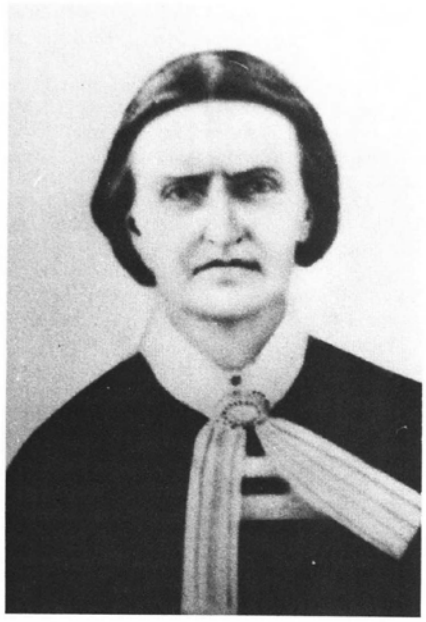
Occupations: Charles was employed by the City of Cuero Electric Department from January, 1955 to October, 1979 and has been Maintenance Supervisor for Cuero Independent School District since then. He served in the Air Force from January, 1951 until January, 1955, attaining the rank of Staff Sargeant. Peggy worked for Southern Bell Telephone Co., C&P Telephone Co. of Virginia, Hampton, Virginia, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, and has been employed by Buchel Bank & Trust Company since August, 1969.

Children: Larry Allen Coker born August 10, 1955, married to Kathleen Urbanczyk August 30, 1980. He is a Junior Mechanic for Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation at Thomaston. Sheryl Lyn (Coker) Rauch born October 17, 1961, married Mickey Joe Rauch March 17, 1984. She is safety secretary at Brentex Mills. Sheryl & Mickey have one son, Matthew Jeremy, born October 11, 1985.

by Mrs. Charles Coker

COLLINS, JAMES P.

F154



Eliza G. Ainsworth Collins

The family of James P. Collins and his first wife, Eliza G. Ainsworth Collins, arrived in De Witt County in 1851. As a resident of De Witt County, James P. Collins was a farmer, slave owner, Mason, sheriff and justice of the peace. The family remained in De Witt County about ten years.

Born in 1816 in Wayne County, Mississippi, James P. Collins was a son of Christopher Collins and Rachel Hendricks. About 1837 he married Eliza G. Ainsworth who was born 11 February 1809 in Mississippi Territory probably in the area which later became Washington County, Alabama. It is not known who her parents were.

On 24 October 1838 James P. Collins arrived in the Republic of Texas in the company of Asbury Sebastian Ainsworth and Jeptha Patterson Ainsworth who are believed to have been his brothers-in-law. The Collins and Ainsworth families settled in Liberty County where James P. Collins and the Ainsworths were each granted 640 acres on the west bank of the Trinity River. This area became a part of Polk County when it was established in 1846 and is presently located in San Jacinto County which was created from Polk County in 1870. The family resided in or near the town of Swartwout.

James P. Collins was elected justice of the peace in Polk County and was among the first group of men to hold office as such as his name appears on page one of the Polk County Commissioner's Court Records dated 7 September 1846. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cold Spring (now Coldspring, San Jacinto County). In 1851 Mr. Collins resigned his position of justice of the peace and moved his family to De Witt County.

The following year James P. Collins was elected to the position of Sheriff of De Witt County and held that office from 1852 to 1854. He later served as a justice of the peace in De Witt County. Collins owned lands on the Five Mile Coletto Creek, the Twelve Mile Coletto Creek and in the towns of Yorktown and Clinton. While a resident of De Witt County, James P. Collins was a member of the Coletto Masonic Lodge (No. 124) in Yorktown. The 1860 Slave Schedule of De Witt County indicates that he owned ten slaves.

The Asbury Sebastian Ainsworth and Jeptha Patterson Ainsworth families also migrated to De Witt County from Polk County, Texas. Asbury later moved to Ellis County, Texas. Asbury's wife was Rachel Collins, relation to James P. Collins not known. Jeptha's wife was Louisa Collins, relation to James P. Collins not known. Rachel and Louisa were probably cousins of James P. Collins.

In about 1861 the Collins family moved to Gonzales County and settled in the Leesburg (now Leesville) area. Eliza G. Ainsworth Collins, wife of James P. Collins, died on 3 June 1863. She was buried in Antioch Cemetery near Leesville.

On 1 October 1863 James P. Collins married his second wife, Mrs. Mary H. Talley Campbell in Gonzales County.

James P. Collins was a resident of Gonzales County for about eighteen years. He was elected justice of the peace in Gonzales County. James P. Collins died on 23 December 1879. The location of his grave is unknown. It is believed that he died in Goliad County while visiting his daughter, Carrie Eliza Collins Porter.

Five known children were born to James P. Collins by his first wife, Eliza G. Ainsworth. They were (1) Eli L. Collins born 31 December 1839 in Liberty County, Republic of Texas, married (1st) Anastatia (Annie) Brown in 1859 and (2nd) Elizabeth A. Brooks on 8 November 1885 in De Witt County, died 18 November 1915 in Garza County, Texas; (2) Asbury Sebastian Collins born circa 1840 in Liberty County, married Allene —, died 15 August 1908 in Mills County, Texas; (3) William Greenberry (or Greenhill) Collins born circa 1843 in Liberty County, married (1st) name not known (2nd) Emily Josephine Ables, died 4 September 1908 in Sweetwater, Nolan County, Texas; (4) John Franklin (Frank) Collins, born 11 December 1845 in Liberty County, married Marietta Burris on 30 October 1879 in Goliad County, Texas, died 28 June 1918 at Louise, Wharton County, Texas; (5) Carrie Eliza Collins, born 3 August 1849 in Polk County, Texas, married William S. Porter, son of Dr. Starks P. Porter and Martha A.R. Griffin, on 17 December 1874 in Gonzales County, Texas, died 28 March 1914 in San Antonio, Texas, buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Texas.

Known children of James P. Collins by his second wife, Mary H. Talley Campbell were (1) Dugall Collins born circa 1864 in Gonzales County, accidentally killed by his half brother William Campbell who was playing with a gun; (2) Lanny D. Collins born circa 1867 in Gonzales County, no further information; (3) Lucinda (Lou) D. Collins born August 1867 (probably a twin of Lanny D.), married John N. McCamey in 1883 in Gonzales County; (4) Clements (or Clemons) Eugene Collins, born 28 August 1870 in Gonzales County, married Nancy (Nannie) Teressa Wright 13 August 1891 in Gonzales County, died 8 December 1939 in Frio County, Texas, buried in Dilley Cemetery, Dilley, Texas; (5) Amza Mae Collins born circa 1876 in Gonzales County, married — McGuffin.

Mary H. Talley Campbell Collins, widow of James P. Collins married (3rd) Amos H. Maddox on 24 November 1886 in Gonzales County.

The Collins family exemplifies the pioneer American family of the nineteenth century. Migrating west to seek a better life, they found a rich land full of many opportunities, adventures, hardships and blessings. These people built a rich heritage that today provides us with a quality of life unexcelled in history.

by H. Martin Soward, III

COLLUMS, G. B., SR. FAMILY

F155

Martha Ann (Mattie) Ford was born March 30, 1886, in Houlka, Mississippi. Her parents were J.J. Ford and Martha Jane Wade Ford. She had three brothers and five sisters. As a young lady she taught school at Pitts, Mississippi, and it was there that she met the young man who was to become her husband and father of her eight children. He was Green Berry (G.B.) Collums, born October 16, 1882 at Pitts, Mississippi to Kurg Collums and Josie Knox Collums, their only son. He had three sisters. Their mother died when he was a small child and he and his sisters grew up in the homes of relatives. After teaching for one year, Mattie and Berry were married April 5, 1907. Their first child, Jocie Lee, was born at Pittsboro, Mississippi, March 20, 1908, and their first son, Jim Kurg (J.K.) was born August 9, 1909.

In 1910 Berry and Mattie bade farewell to their loved ones and with their two small children moved to Texas. They settled in Runge in Karnes County and lived and worked on the Leckie farm. Another girl, Ruth, was born January 30, 1911, soon after their arrival in Texas, and another son, Woodrow Wilson (Woodie) was born October 31, 1912. Another daughter, Martha Elizabeth, was born April 6, 1914.

In 1915 Berry and Mattie Collums, with their five small children, moved from Runge to the Cabeza Community in Dewitt County. They farmed rented land owned by the Weatherlys, and later moved to the farm owned by the Manz family, about one hundred acres. Here they planted and harvested cotton and grain and watermelons. They furnished their own stock and farm implements. They raised lots of turkeys which they sold at the market; raised chickens and hogs for their own use. At hog killing time they processed their own meat and kept the smokehouse well stocked with hams and sausage and the like. Vegetables from their garden were always in good supply when in season.

Another daughter, Lois, was born August 10, 1916, and another boy, G.B., Jr. was born April 4, 1919. After a brief illness he died on October 25, 1919 at age six months. Another son, Roy, was born November 28, 1920. He was to be the last child born to this union. As the children became of age they went to school at Cabeza, walking the distance of about two miles. Cabeza school only went through the eighth grade, and when they finished there Jocie Lee and Jim Kurg went by horse and buggy to Nordheim High School, accompanied by Joe Butler, the son of old time settlers in Cabeza, John C. and Mary Jane Butler. Theirs was the only home with a telephone for miles around. Years spent in the Cabeza Community were happy times. We had a windmill that pumped cool fresh water and a rainwater cistern, but no inside plumbing in our small five-room home with a front porch.

Berry Collums served as a trustee on the School Board and they took pride in getting good teachers for our school. Mattie and the other mothers organized and participated in the PTA and did their part to see that their children had good schooling. Our school participated in the annual County Meets and won honors in some of the events. We had basketball teams that competed with schools in adjoining counties. When the school bell rang we lined up in front of our three-room schoolhouse and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America before marching in to our respective schoolrooms. School plays and programs put on by the teachers and students were very special events.

Summer was a happy time too when school was out. After chopping cotton time was over and before the cotton was ready to be picked, we had our vacation. Community and family barbecues and picnics were favorite summer events, and so were homemade ice cream gatherings. Summer revivals were held at the two-story churchhouse and when it was over the converts were baptized in Butler Creek, a favorite swimming hole for the community.

We bought a brand new Ford automobile in 1918, one of the first in Cabeza, a thrilling experience never to be forgotten. But those happy times were soon ended when in the spring of 1924 Berry Collums was stricken and died of measles and pneumonia May 7, 1924, at age 41. He was buried beside his infant son, G.B., Jr., in the Runge cemetery. Eventually Mattie Collums and her children moved from the Cabeza community, going first to Runge where Jocie Lee and Jim Kurg graduated from high school. From there the family moved to Kenedy, and finally to San Antonio in 1928 where the rest of the children finished their schooling.

Jocie Lee became a school teacher and taught for several years. Later she married Clinton H. Baermann and they had three children, two girls and a boy. Jocie Lee died July 17, 1985. Jim Kurg served in the U.S. Army and had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel when he retired. He married Helen Billings of Arkansas City, Kansas, and they had one child, a daughter. Jim Kurg died November 16, 1981, after being stricken with Alzheimer disease, and his daughter preceded him in death. Ruth did secretarial work. She married Franklin Stewart but that marriage ended in divorce, and she later married Boyd C. Crocker who died March 28, 1980. They had no children. Woodrow whose main occupation was in the laundry business, married Glennie Meyer of Leming and they had three children, two girls and a boy. While returning from Houston in 1936 Woodrow lost his left arm when a truck sideswiped him on the highway near Edna. Martha Elizabeth did secretarial work. She married Edgar H. Trick but that marriage ended in divorce. She then married Johny Wherry, a serviceman in the U.S. Marines who was killed during the invasion of Iwo Jima in WW II. She later married Earl R. Andersen, a Marine Captain, and they had three children, two girls and a boy. Elizabeth died June 23, 1988, and her husband preceded her in death. Lois married James G. Walker, of Greenville and they had one son. Her husband died August 24, 1985, and was preceded in death by their son, Dr. Ken Walker of Dallas. Roy was stricken with encephalitis at an early age and he died October 13, 1951, at age 31.

On October 26, 1939, Mattie Collums married John C. Butler, a family friend of the Cabeza community, who had five grown living children, William, Irene, Nona Lee, Joe, and Sylvester. Mattie Butler died December 21, 1972. Her husband preceded her in death July 30, 1950, and none of his children are living at the time of this writing.

by Ruth C. Crocker

COMNAS FAMILY

F156

Sotirios Comnas was born in Spetsai, Greece, a truly beautiful island off the eastern coast of the Argolis penisular in the Peliponnese, in 1847. He emigrated to Pensacola, Florida, where he was engaged in fishing, in 1898. In 1908 Sotirios sent for his younger brother, Basilios Comnas, to join him. The two brothers worked as fishermen along the many fishing centers in the Gulf of Mexico from Biloxi, Mississippi, to Gulfport, New Orleans, Galveston, Port Lavaca, Seadrift, Palacious, Aransas Pass, and Rockport. They finally went inland to Cuero to start up two restaurants and a candy kitchen in 1911.

Sotirios, being the older brother, sent to Greece for a bride and Aspasia Matthews came over from Spetsai and the marriage was performed in Galveston, with a Greek Orthodox ceremony.

Sotirios and Aspasia Comnas had two children, George and Peter, both born in Cuero in 1913 and 1914 respectively.

They owned and operated the Cuero Restaurant and Candy Kitchen at 102 West Main Street, which was the busiest part of Cuero in those years. Breeden Bros, Sciba's Bakery, Bohne's Meat Market, Nami's General Store were all next door neighbors.

The ice cream and candies, all made from natural ingredients (before the advent of the large creameries into the food business and the subsequent artificializing of these delightful food items), were of such high quality that folks would drive their surreys from miles around to indulge in this European custom of great candies and soda fountain delicacies.

The younger brother, Basilios (nicknamed Billy), born in 1878, started a small restaurant near the packing house and cold storage plant close to the Southern Pacific Depot.

Constantine (Gus) Booth also came to Cuero from Sparta, Greece, and entered into a partnership with Sotirios and Basilios Comnas. His relative, Jo Ann Booth of Houston and Corpus, later married George Comnas.

Charalambos (Harry) Intgis and Speros Economides also came to Cuero in the 1920's and started the Elite Cafe on Esplanade street (later to be sold to the Burts and Ben Farmer and renamed the American Cafe).

Peter Stoilis and Harry Batmanis of Smyna, Anatole, Turkey also joined this group and prospered in Cuero. Peter raised a large family after marrying Anatasia Papapavlos Marians of Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Michael Papapavlos (shortened to Pappas) also came to Cuero in 1916 from Kiparissi, Malaous, Greece, a small and delightful village on the eastern Peloponnesian coast just above Monovasia.

Monovasia is a small walled city on an island which was never conquered by the Turks during the Ottoman occupation of Greece from 1453 to 1821. In fact, the walled village of Monovasia has some rather ancient ruins in prehistoric caves dating back 35,000 years.

Michael Papapavlos's sister, Aspasia, had married Demetrios Antoniou in 1911 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and gave birth to two boys, George and Peter, born in 1913 and 1914 respectively, in Vancouver, B.D.

During the catastrophic epidemic of viral influenza that swept the known world in 1918 with reportedly more than 50 million deaths, Demetrios Antoniou and his cousin, Speros Antoniou both succumbed to this flu and were buried within 48 hours of each other in Vancouver.

In January, 1922, the widow, Aspasia (Papapavlos) Antoniou and her two sons came to Eagle Pass and a marriage ceremony was performed, joining her to Basilios Comnas, brother of Sotirios, of Cuero, Texas.

The two young boys were advised after the marriage ceremony that their new name was to be Comnas and the next day they were taken to the John C. French grammar school on Broadway, in Cuero and enrolled.

Some of their early teachers, Mrs. Marion Bass, Miss Singler (later became Mrs. Ruess), Ms. Sutherland and that famous of all teachers and principals, Ms. Nora Fudge made an enormous impression on the young boys who came to Cuero with a decidedly English and Scottish accent acquired in the Canadian schools.

Shortly after the young Canadians came to Cuero, the family of Sotirios and Aspasia Comnas decided to return to Greece and they left in 1924. The natural result was that a large number of Cuero residents confused the two sets of Comnas boys, both named George and Peter, both born in 1913 and 1914, both of whom had mothers with the same Christian name of Aspasia, and regarded them as one and the same.

In the mid-1920's, after the major depression of agricultural and commercial economies, all of the Greek families left Cuero, Texas and

moved to Houston, to Victoria, and to Corpus Christi, with the exception of Basilios and Aspasia Comnas and their two boys, George and Peter.

George and Peter both graduated from the Cuero school systems and went to Texas A.&M. University, classes 1935 and 1939 respectively; George as a Chemical Engineer and Peter in Business Administration majoring in Accounting.

Both George and Peter Comnas worked for Humble Oil and Refining Co. in Baytown, Texas until the advent of World War II. George served with the ASPPA after a stint in Venezuela and Peter was in the Artillery attached to the 1st Cavalry in the Southwest Pacific Theater. After the war, he served in the Army of Occupation in Japan and in the Korean War, before being reassigned to the War College, and to Cornell University as Commandant.

George married Jo Ann Booth after World War II in Corpus Christi and moved to New York City, where he continued to be employed with the Standard Oil Co. (in J.J.), later known as Exxon Corp. until his retirement. They have three children, Basilios (Basil), Demetrie, and Aspasia — all married with four grandchildren.

Peter Comnas married Margaret Elkins of El Paso, Texas and remained in the regular Army after World War II until his untimely demise in 1964 from a protracted bout with Cancer.

Basilios and Aspasia Comnas passed on in 1961 and 1966 and are interred in Baytown, Texas.

by George D. Comnas

CONRAD, JAMES A. AND MARGARET S.

F157

Jim and Margaret Conrad moved to Cuero in April of 1961. They made their first home with Margaret's mother on River Road, then rented the Atkinson house at the end of Stockdale Street and in 1965 moved into their new home at 1204 Moss Lane where they presently live.

Jim and Margaret (Sager) Conrad

Craig, Richard and Pat Conrad

Susan, Zachary and Michael Conrad

Melissa, Ryan and John Greenfield

They joined St. Mark's Lutheran Church shortly after moving to Cuero and still attend services there.

James August Conrad was born in Houston, Texas, July 14, 1928, the third child of Frank and Minnie Prinzel Conrad. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Bryan, Texas. Both the Prinzel family and the Conrad family lived in the Bryan and Kurten area. Jim's early social development was influenced by a family with a great love for music, dancing, fun and laughter. Due to his father's death when Jim was only eleven, he spent a great deal of time with his cousins in the nearby community of Kurten. He attended public schools in Bryan and after graduating from high school he attended Allen Academy, served in the Merchant Marines and graduated from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, as it was known then. He held the usual after school and summertime jobs, including everything from service station attendant to ladies' shoe salesman. It was during this time he severed the fingers from his left hand while working for a lumber yard in San Angelo, Texas. Upon completion of college Jim went to work for American General Insurance Company in Houston, Texas, in the Production Department.

Margaret Estell Conrad was born at the family home in DeWitt County, Texas, the fifth child of John C. and Estella Hans Sager. Social activities for the Sagers included Saturday night get-togethers with friends, Sunday afternoons on the river and family dinners. Margaret attended grammar school at Green DeWitt School and completed Cuero High School in 1951. She then attended Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville for two semesters but elected to become self-supporting rather than complete her education. At that time she was employed by American General Insurance Company in Victoria, Texas in the Claim Department.

In 1953 Jim was transferred by American General to their Victoria office. Thus Jim and Margaret met, fell in love and were married on September 18, 1954, at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas. During their early marriage Margaret continued working, first for American General and then for Wells, Eppright Claim Service until the birth of their first child, James Craig, March 29, 1956. Their second child, Michael Keith, was born August 18, 1957. During this time Jim was active in the Victoria Jaycees, Victoria Rosebud Booster Club and refereed high school football and basketball. Margaret's time was filled with caring for their two young sons, Jaycee-Ettes, Primrose Garden Club and serving as "executive secretary" during Jim's Jaycee Presidency.

The Conrads remained in Victoria until the latter part of 1959 when Jim was transferred to Houston. Not being happy with city life and wanting to fulfill a dream, they began looking for an agency to purchase. In April of 1961 they became the proud but broke owners of the Woodworth & Dent Insurance Agency in Cuero. Along with a new business and a new community came a new child, Melissa Ann, born July 1, 1961.

A growing family and a growing business kept both of them busy; however, for Jim there was still time for Chamber of Commerce, Lion's Club, Little League and School Carnivals. Jim was instrumental in starting the tradition of Powder Puff Football in Cuero. Probably his biggest community effort was serving as co-chairman of the 1972 Cuero Centennial. Margaret spent her extra time with the Cub Scouts, Brownies, Garden Club and supporting the children's school activities. Being a flower arranger by avocation, Margaret has done flowers and decorations for many parties and weddings in Cuero.

All three children are now married. Craig married Patricia Hogue August 22, 1981, and they have one son, Richard Craig, born September 20, 1982. Michael married Susan Eberspacher August 23, 1986. They have one son, Zachary Cole, born September 19, 1988. Melissa married John Andre' Greenfield July 1, 1982 and they also have one son, Ryan Andre', born October 30, 1987.

Jim and Margaret share the hobby of fishing and spend as much time as possible at their Port O'Connor waterfront home. Jim's other hobbies include hunting, playing dominoes and watching all sports, while Margaret enjoys flowers, antiques and anything to do with Christmas.

It should be noted that although Jim's legal name is James, he is known to friends and business associates only as Jim. Margaret is known as Maggie to her childhood friends and

acquaintances — a name given to her when she was born by her two-year-old sister who could not pronounce Margaret.

by Margaret Conrad

COOK, JAMES BENJAMIN

F158

Mary Jane Park-Stell-Williams-Cook and James Benjamin Cook

James Benjamin Cook, born 13 July 1834 in Milledgeville, Georgia was the son of Caswell Cook, born 6 February 1810 in North Carolina and Mrs. Margaret E. Garrison, born 4 November 1812 in Georgia.

Caswell and Margaret were married 17 November 1831 in Crawford County, Georgia. Census records show they were in Georgia from 1831-1838; Alabama 1840-1850; Cherokee County, Texas 1850-1880, having come to DeWitt County, Texas before they died in 1888 and 1895. Caswell died 1 May 1888 and is buried in County Line cemetery. Margaret died 22 April 1895 and is buried in the Mineral Cemetery in Bee County. It is said she died while visiting in Bee County and was buried there.

Children of Caswell and Margaret Cook are: Elizabeth married Andrew Payne; James Benjamin married first to Nancy Catherine Park, and second to her sister, Mary Jane Park-Stell-Williams; John David, a Baptist preacher, married first to Sarah Matilda Park Goodson, second to Zilpha Jane Woodrome, and third to Elizabeth Frances Atkisson; Caswell W. married first to Rebecca Park, second to Martha E. Barrett Hamlin, and third to Alice Stroman; Joseph W. married first to Martha A. Walters, and second to Mary J. Tipton; Mary Emma married Thomas J. Tipton; Cornelia A.R. married Peter J. Hogan; Nancy C. married William F. Jeffries; George married Martha "Mattie" Abels.

James Benjamin Cook and his brother, Caswell W. Cook, bought the W.H. Hollan homeplace near Terryville 28 August 1869. Both of these Cook brothers first wives are buried in the Hollan Cemetery. These wives were sisters.

James Benjamin Cook donated one-half acre of land for the County Line Cemetery in 1877. His brother, Caswell W., donated the land for the County Line Baptist Church and school. The church was later moved.

James Benjamin Cook married Nancy Catherine Park 17 September 1857 in Cherokee County, Texas. Their children are: Joseph Samuel married Laura Goode; Jeffison Davis, no other information; Mary Cornelia married Cyrus Stell; Anna J., no other information; James Washington married Lula Kirksey; William Caswell married Ella Lawrence; Martha "Mattie" Viser married Samuel Leeton.

After Nancy Catherine Park Cook died 20 December 1873, James Benjamin Cook married her sister, Mary Jane Park-Stell-Williams. They had two children, Walter Thomas married Malissa Ann Manning and Margaret married Walter Barnes. These children lived and died at Mineral, Texas in Bee County.

Joseph Samuel Cook, oldest son of James Benjamin and Nancy Catherine Park Cook, married Laura Goode 10 December 1879 in DeWitt County, Texas. Their children are: James Horace married Suda Benbow; Laura Deida married William Henry Byars; Emmett Stanley married May Ellen Bailey; Ora Mae married E. Voss Williams; Nannie Evelyn married Samuel Alva Myers; Joseph G. married Grace Marshall; Willie Bell married John H. Dial; Jessie married Allie Dial; Sam Hollan married Gertrude Nichols; Sudie married Hugh David Shuck; Patti Airhart married Edward Lee Loos; Kirby Voss married Mary Virginia Garrett; and Baby Cook died as an infant. All of this family except one are buried in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Rosalie Myers

COOPER, CORNELIUS

F159

Cornelius Cooper born in 1854 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi, died July 1935 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the owner-manager of the Verhelle (Burns Station) Country Store. He was a Baptist, a farmer and enjoyed fishing. Cornelius married Elizabeth Tankersley and had one child, David. Later Cornelius married Lena King, born 1869 in DeWitt County, Texas and died in 1934 in DeWitt County. They had two children, Monroe and Thelma.

Cornelius Cooper's first child, David, was born July 12, 1876 in DeWitt County, Texas and died November 6, 1954 in Yoakum, DeWitt County, Texas. He was a farmer in DeWitt County.

Monroe Cornelius Cooper was born October 13, 1893 in DeWitt County, Texas, and died April 11, 1962 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was a farmer, carpenter, windmill builder, laundry mechanic, and his religion was Baptist. He married Emma Alzenna Scogin, born December 17, 1885 in Sulfur Springs, Texas and died May 26, 1979 in Cuero, Texas. They had two children, Monroe and Winston (Pete).

Monroe Cooper was born August 21, 1914 in Cuero, Texas and was an electrician by trade. From 1941 to 1945 he was a member of the Air Force as a radio mechanic and was in Australia, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Cuba, and had seven Bronze Stars and a Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He married Ellen Billings, born in Smiley, Texas, in June 17, 1900 and died January 14, 1956 in Calhoun County, Texas.

Winston (Pete) Cooper was born June 26, 1920 in Cuero, Texas. He was a senior oil field operator with Exxon Company in Falfurrias, Texas. He served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1945 and served at the Normandy Invasion, England, St. Lo, France, Siegfried Line, Germany and received the Good Conduct

Cooper Family: Cornelius, Lena, Thelma, David and Monroe, about 1905.

Medal, Purple Heart, 4 Battle Stars, and Expert Rifleman/bayonet. He is a member of the American Legion. He married Ethel Avants, born April 7, 1919 and they have five children: Louise, Glen, Raymond, Terry, and Gary.

Thelma Cooper was born in DeWitt County in 1899 and died in 1912 at the age of 13, in DeWitt County, Texas.

by Norman Cooper

COOPER, HELLEN

F160

Hellen Cooper was born October 11, 1859 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi, and died December 8, 1932 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. After arriving in Texas as a small child, Hellen lived the rest of her life at Hebron, DeWitt County, Texas. As a young lady, she won the Hebron beauty contest. She was a very meticulous housekeeper and she raised cattle, chickens, and made cotton crops with a hoe. Hellen took her children to Hebron Baptist Church every Sunday and to brush arbor revivals. She married Green Berry Hollan who was born December 31, 1855 and died July 22, 1880, DeWitt County, Texas. They had four children: Minnie, Henry (called Hack), William, and Green. Hellen's first husband was killed by lightning enroute to caring for a sick neighbor. Hellen later married Jimberry Granberry who was born January 11, 1869 in DeWitt County and died May 27, 1951 in Cuero, Texas. They had eight children: Leafy, Talton, John, Claudia, Lillie, Mamie, Truett and Dewey.

Minnie Hollan was born December 2, 18— in DeWitt County, Texas and died April 7, 1953 in Houston, Texas. She married Joe Leroy Hall who was born February 20, 1875 in Birmingham, Alabama and died November 15, 1956 in Houston, Texas. They had eight children: Effie, Lee, Owen, Norman, Elmer, Margaret, Eddie and J.L.

Henry Harrison (Hack) Hollan was born October 2, 1877 in DeWitt County and died May 26, 1938 in Houston, Texas. He married Sarah Ophelia Park who was born March 10, 1877 in DeWitt County and died July 18, 1958 in Houston, Texas. They had five children: Gertrude, Edgar, Marie, Mabel, and Minnie.

William Weisieger (Bill) Hollan was born June 19, 1879 in Cuero, Texas and died August 7, 1962 in Houston, Texas. He married Mary Agnes (Mamie) Parker who was born June 24, 1888 in Cuero, Texas and they had eight children: Leslie, Virgie, Jim, Clay, Mary, Leona, Claudia, and George.

Green Berry Hollan, Jr. was born March 30, 1881 in DeWitt County, Texas and died June 1, 1928 in DeWitt County. He married Sarah Adora Doolittle who was born January 26, 1882 in Victoria County, Texas and died March 14, 1970 in Texas City, Texas. They had ten children: Louis, Pearl, Claud, Gladys, Bernice, Lee Ora, Amy, Lee Roy, Beulah and Antha.

Leafy Pearl Granberry was born August 7, 1888 in DeWitt County and died November 16, 1962 in Cuero, Texas. She married Hiram West who was born March 29, 1879 in Houston, Texas and died July 28, 1967 in Corpus Christi, Texas. They had seven children: Elmer, Adora Iris, Ruby, Frankie, James, and Alene.

Talton G. Granberry was born January 15, 1889 in DeWitt County and died August 29, 1963 in DeWitt County, Texas. He married Annie Bell Carson who was born June 11, 1889 in DeWitt County and died July 10, 1980 in Cuero, Texas. They had six children: Ervin, Bessie, Madie, Lorene, Oleda and Annie.

John Granberry was born September 20, 1892 in Karnes County, Texas and died February 8, 1970 in Houston, Texas. He married Willie Garrett who was born September 14, 1891 in Yoakum, Texas and died January 11, 1939 in Houston. They had three children: Eddie, Wheeler and Freddie. John later married Fern (last name unknown).

Claudia Granberry was born September 22, 1893 in DeWitt County. She married John Henry Park who was born November 12, 1892 in DeWitt County and died December 30, 1954 in Houston, Texas. They had three children: Travis and twins, Pauline and Earline.

Lillie Granberry was born in DeWitt County February 22, 1896. She married James Melton Rice who was born January 22, 1894 in DeWitt County and died April 30, 1959 in Houston. They had two children: Virgil and Maudie.

Mamie Gertrude Granberry was born December 10, 1898 in DeWitt County and died June 5, 1952 in Houston. She married George Sylvester Atchley who was born February 14, 1882 in Los Angeles, California and died October 28, 1925 in Houston, Texas. They had four children: Alvin, Leona, George and Lois. Mamie later married Roy McCullom Harvey who was born May 6, 1876 in Bradford, Illinois and died March 29, 1942 in Houston, Texas. They had one child: Jane.

Truett Granberry died at age four years.

Dewey Granberry died at age four days.

by Norman Cooper

Hellen (Cooper) Granberry Family. Back: Talton, Leafy, John. Middle: Hellen, Lillie, Jimberry, Claudia. Front: Truett, Mamie. About 1902.

COOPER, MARSHALL

F161

Marshall Jerone Cooper was born August 23, 1872 in McDade, Bastrop County, Texas. He died July 1, 1961 in Houston, Texas. He was a farmer in DeWitt County and in Houston. He married Mary Adeline Rice who was born March 28, 1876 in Comanche County, Texas and died February 26, 1945 in Houston. They had nine children: Amy, Effie, Sylvester (Curley), Earl, Lee, Jewel, Newel, Harper and E.J.

Amy Gertrude Cooper was born November 18, 1900 in Cuero, Texas. She was baptized in 1913 with sister Effie in the Guadalupe River at Fortran, Texas. Amy married James Silas Elkins who was born March 30, 1901 in Austin, Texas and they had four children: William, Ervin, Bud, and Beryl.

Effie Pearl Cooper was born March 14, 1902 in DeWitt County, Texas and died September 7, 1958 in Houston, Texas. She married John P. Dodd who was born in October 27, 1871.

Sylvester Adelbert (Curley) Cooper was born November 29, 1903 in Cuero, Texas. He married Etta Elizabeth Odom who was born September 5, 1907 in Bastrop, Texas and they had three children: Larry, Lee and Pete.

William Earl Cooper was born February 8, 1906 in Victoria, Texas. He married Ida Bell Odom who was born February 11, 1908 and died in March of 1971. They had four children: Earl, Jr., Harvell, Eldridge and Gerald. William Earl later married Imojene Junek who was born September 12, 1919 in Cameron, Texas.

Lee Daniel Cooper was born February 13, 1908 in DeWitt County, Texas. He married May Jean Peterson who was born April 18, 1917 in Brazoria County, Texas and they had two children: Norman and Anita.

Jewel Lillie Cooper was born March 25, 1910 in Nursery, Texas. She is a teacher and former owner/manager of a day nursery and religious book store with her sister Effie in Houston.

Newel Willie Cooper was born March 25, 1910 in Nursery, Texas. He married Ludell Duncan who was born May 23, 1910 in DeWitt County, Texas. They had two children: Nelda and Wanda.

Walter Harper Cooper was born September 18, 1912 in Victoria, Texas. He married Ethel Goodson who was born in August 7, 1913, Huffsmith, Texas. They had one child: Patricia.

Edward Jerone Cooper was born January 12, 1915 in Fortran, Texas. He married Juanita Moody who was born November 16, 1920 in Orange, Texas and they had two children: Joetta and Pamela.

by Norman Cooper

COOPER, SYLVESTER AND HARRIET

F162

Sylvester Cooper, 1830-1883

Prior to the War Between the States, Sylvester Cooper and Amy Harriet Marshall married, had six children, and farmed cotton on their land in Chickasaw County, Mississippi.

On February 24, 1863, Sylvester Cooper enlisted in the Seventeenth Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers, Confederate States of America. In General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, the Seventeenth Mississippi was commended for valor in the midst of the most important battles of the Civil War. Sylvester fought with the Seventeenth in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Cedar Creek (Belle Grove). On October 19, 1864 at Cedar Creek, he was wounded and captured, probably the result of Union General George E. Custer's cavalry charge. Sylvester's right leg was then amputated on the battlefield. Hospitalized and imprisoned in Baltimore, Maryland, he was restored to health by a Spanish speaking nurse and released June 12, 1865.

Harriet (Marshall) Cooper, 1835-1934

Traveling mule back in the care of a black friend, Sylvester returned to his home and family in Mississippi. Overcoming the younger children's initial fear (they hid under the bed) of this peg-legged "stranger," Sylvester and Harriet restored the close family ties that remain today a strong tradition among their many descendants.

Soon thereafter (1865) Sylvester, Harriet, and their children, Molly, Cornelius, Billy, Hellen, Roxanne, and Texanne, loaded their ox-drawn wagon. Abandoning their land in war ravaged Mississippi, they set out for Texas. When they reached the Mississippi River, logs were tied alongside the wagon and the swimming oxen provided the river crossing power. Midway, one ox became entangled and was about to drown, when Cornelius dove into the river and used his knife to cut the ox free. Migrating with them were other families who stopped and settled at different points in Texas.

This Scots-Irish family settled in DeWitt County, Texas, where they homesteaded land and joined Hebron Baptist Church. Their seventh and last child, Marshall, was born in 1872. Sylvester supplemented their corn and cotton crop income by hauling farm products until his death in 1883. Over fifty years later, when Harriet died at age 98, she had had exactly 200 descendants: 7 children, 38 grandchildren, 109 great-grandchildren, and 46 great-great-grandchildren. Sylvester and Harriet are buried in Hebron Cemetery.

The ancestors of Sylvester and Harriet Cooper were of Scots-Irish origin. With only one exception, their parents were born in North Carolina. Sylvester and Harriet were born in Alabama, their children were born in Mississippi, and their grandchildren were born in Texas. This movement fits closely the historical agrarian migration across the South during

Cooper Family: Sylvester "Curley," Amy, Effie, Addie, Lee, Earl, Marshall, and Harriet, about 1910.

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Sylvester Cooper was born September 2, 1830, Jefferson County, Alabama and died May 15, 1883, DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Cader and Sarah Cooper. Cader Cooper died September 22, 1842 in the "forty sixth year of his life," and Sarah was born April 9, 1799 and died October 18, 1864.

Amy Harriet Marshall was born December 27, 1835 in Birmingham, Alabama and died November 1, 1934 at Houston, Texas. She was the daughter of William and Nancy Marshall. The 1850 United States Census for Chickasaw County, Mississippi shows Harriet (age 14), her parents: William (42) and Nancy (44), her siblings: John (19), Joseph F. (16), Elizabeth (12), Frances (8), and William S. (6). This census records North Carolina as the birthplace of Harriet, her parents and her older brothers and Alabama as the birthplace of her younger siblings. However, Harriet's birthplace is shown as Alabama in the 1880 census for DeWitt County and in her obituary. Molly Cooper was born November 1, 1853 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi and died February 27, 1870 in DeWitt County during childbirth. She was married to Josh Bishop.

Roxanne Cooper was born in 1861 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi and died January 4, 1870, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Norman Cooper

COOPER, TEXANNE

F163

Texanne Cooper was born April 30, 1861, in Chickasaw County, Mississippi, and died January 10, 1944 in Houston, Texas. Jovial and congenial, "Texie" was always busy working in her home and, in her later years, in the homes of several relatives, helping to raise the children and using her excellent cooking skills. This according to numerous relatives who warmly remember her as the "liveliest." She married Richard Wiley (Dick) Hollan. He was born November 27, 1848 in Cuero, Texas. He died June 5, 1915 in Houston, Texas. They had

Dick and Texie (Cooper) Hollan and Family, about 1908.

seven children: James, Charles, Barney, Lula, Roy, Jesse, and Esker.

James Harrison (Jim) Hollan was born June 11, 1884 in Cuero, Texas and died June 11, 1931 in Houston, Texas. He was a policeman in Houston and was formerly a streetcar conductor and dairyman. He married Ninnie Goode who was born July 31, 1887 in Yoakum, Texas and died March 12, 1963. They had two children: Hazel and James, Jr.

—, Esker Hollan, and Dick Hollan.

Charles William (Charlie) Hollan was born February 26, 1886 in DeWitt County Texas and died February 11, 1945 in Houston, Texas. He worked for Peterson-Fel Company in Houston. He married Allie Goode who was born April 16, 1885 and died January 7, 1949 in Houston, Texas. They had three children: Vernon, Cecil and Jewel.

Barney E. Hollan was born in Cuero, Texas on August 12, 1888 and died on August 26, 1941 in Houston, Texas. He married Laura Bourgeois who died in 1916 leaving two children: Esker and Vivian.

Lula Hollan was born April 24, 1891 in Cuero, Texas and died September 18, 1974 in Houston, Texas. She married John Ellington Ruley. He was born December 25, 1880 in Kentucky and died December 10, 1954 in Houston, Texas. They had eight children: Leatha, Edna, J.W., Sam, Harold, Thelma, Ruby and Leon.

Roy Hollan was born November 4, 1893 and died November 11, 1914 in Houston.

Jesse Wiley Hollan was born February 10, 1896 in Cuero, Texas and died October 8, 1953 in Houston, Texas. He was in the United States Army in World War I. He married Ruth Nannie Riles. She was born March 16, 1899 in Staples, Texas. They had two children: Jesse Vernon and Louise.

Esker Jerome Hollan was born in DeWitt County on August 3, 1898 and died September 6, 1931 in Houston, Texas. He married Alice Burlew who was born December 29, 1896 in Catahoula, Louisiana. They had one child: Eunice Ethel.

by Norman Cooper

COOPER, WILLIAM (BILLY)

F164

Texie Hollan, Alice Goode, Esker Hollan, Gertrude Goode, Willie Goode, 1906.

Billy and Hattie Cooper, Presley, Ed, Alonzo and Minnie, 1895.

William Cader (Billy) Cooper was born July 10, 1856 in Mississippi and died July 21, 1929 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the first in DeWitt County to have an automobile and the first to have a telephone. He raised cotton, corn, cattle and hogs on his 550 acre farm. He served on the DeWitt County School Board for many years and he was a member of Woodmen of the World. Billy was Methodist and his wife, Hattie, was Baptist. Their regular attendance alternated between Terryville Methodist and Hebron Baptist Churches. For a few years, while the children attended school, the family lived in Yoakum, Texas. Billy married Leura Goode, born February 29, 1861 in DeWitt County, Texas and died April 21, 1881 in DeWitt County, Texas. They had one child, John. Billy later married Leura's sister, Hattie Goode, born December 4, 1867 and died December 14, 1963, in DeWitt County, Texas. They had six children: Presley, Ed, Alonzo, Minnie, Arthur, and Nettie.

John Sylvester Cooper was born September 6, 1880 in DeWitt County, Texas and died May 1, 1956 in DeWitt County. He was a farmer and a Baptist. He married Fannie Goode, born March 12, 1883 in DeWitt County, and died January 2, 1973 in Yoakum, Texas. They had four children: Leura, Frank, Ruth, and Bea.

Charles Presley Cooper was born August 17, 1885 in Yoakum, Texas. He died May 25, 1943 in Angleton, Texas. He was a rice farmer and was elected to the County Commission in Angleton. He married Daisey Adrian Kirk who was born October 29, 1891 in Yoakum, Texas and died August 1, 1968 in Angleton, Texas. They had five children: Jewel, Viola, Bernice, Dorothy and Opal.

Edwin Lee Cooper was born August 7, 1888 in DeWitt County and died November 5, 1918 in DeWitt County. He was a farmer and a Baptist. He married Mary Agnes Berry who was born October 31, 1892 in DeWitt County, Texas and died January 5, 1977 in Houston, Texas. They had two children: Lovie and Zula Faye.

Victor Alonzo Cooper was born June 29, 1891 in Terryville, DeWitt County, Texas and died February 11, 1955 in Yoakum, Texas. He was a farmer, rancher, and grocery owner in DeWitt County. He played the guitar for socials at Bear Creek and Leander Communities. He led singing in Hebron Baptist Church. He married Sally Loos who was born June 12, 1895 in Hope, Texas. They had five children: Lucille, Laverna, Victor, Eldred, and Marilyn.

Arthur Green Cooper was born October 1, 1898 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was a farmer and rancher, raising cotton, peanuts, turkey, and cattle. He attended Bear Creek School near Hebron, Texas. He attended Hebron Baptist Church. He married Maudie Marie Day who was born October 7, 1907 in DeWitt County and died June 11, 1976 in Victoria, Texas. They had six children: Doris, Rayford, Kenneth, Cleo, Darlene, and Robert. Arthur later married Fannie (Garrett) Lambertson who was born February 11, 1901 in DeWitt County, Texas.

Nettie Cooper was born December 12, 1903 at Terryville, Texas and died August 22, 1980 in Houston, Texas. She was a member of Houston Heights Rebecca Lodge, Baptist Temple, and a graduate of nursing from Huth Hospital. She married Walter William Grant who was born November 26, 1906 in Ennis, Texas. They had one child: Walter Edwin Grant.

E. Minnie Cooper was born March 24, 1894 in DeWitt County, Texas. She was a homemaker for relatives and was a grocery and tannery worker. She belongs to the First Baptist Church in Yoakum, Texas.

by Norman Cooper

COPPEDGE, DR. OLIVER DEWITT

F165

Dr. Oliver DeWitt and Mary Stevens Coppedge

Dr. Oliver DeWitt Coppedge (1835-1906) was born in a rural community of North Carolina called Cedar Rock. It was near Raleigh. He was the eldest of six children born to William D. Coppedge (1805-1890), known locally as Squire Coppedge, and Henrietta Drake Coppedge (1812-1890).

The original American Coppedges came from southern England in colonial times. They dispersed very early throughout the southern states and, by now, are probably nationwide. The maternal grandfather, William Drake, was a Virginian and a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Dr. O.D. Coppedge was educated in Wake Forest College, and in 1854 began the study of medicine, being graduated two years later from the University of Pennsylvania. He returned to North Carolina and began his practice but after about six months, he decided to move to Texas. He settled in the community of Concrete, about ten miles from the present town of Cuero.

In 1859 he married Miss Mary Stevens (1842-1902), the daughter of Joseph Stevens (1810-1861) and Sarah Ann Steen Stevens (1820-1860), and the granddaughter of Elisha Stevens (1776-1851). All of them, in company with a number of Steen kin, had migrated from Rankin County, Miss. to DeWitt County in Texas in 1846.

In 1861 Dr. Coppedge went to Gonzales and joined Smith's Company, Wall's Legion, C.S.A. Before the force could leave the state, he was taken seriously ill and had to leave the service. He sent a substitute — a Negro — in his place. Upon his recovery about a year later, he joined the state troops, where he served as Lieutenant till the war was over.

After that, Dr. Coppedge practiced his profession very little. He tended minor wounds and pulled a few teeth. His few medical ministrations were usually for the needy.

He became very interested in farming and stock breeding. To quote from *The Record of the Southwest 1894*, "His estate comprised about one thousand acres of which 350 are under cultivation, and he has devoted much attention to raising a good grade stock, being one of the first to introduce graded Jersey cattle in this section and it has raised many fine animals."

In addition to crops and cattle, he was interested in fruits. He always had an orchard. His daughter, in a scrapbook, commented on his love of nature, especially trees. There is a family story that once he ordered a hillside of oak trees cleared, and, upon observing the erosion thereafter, he sent his Negroes, who worked on the place, with buckets of acorns to the hillside to replant it.

Oliver and Mary Stevens Coppedge bore four children: They were:

I. William Elisha Coppedge (1869-1946) m. Callie Nelms (1880-1952). Their children were: 1. Mitchie Earl Coppedge (1892-) 2. Daisy Coppedge (1899-1978) m. Joe Cunningham (1899-1965) 3. Olive J. Coppedge (1903-1984) m. Martin Bailey (1900-1930) m. Jack O'Neill (dec.) 4. Mary Will Coppedge (1907-) m. Claudie Lee Steen (dec.) 5. James Finley Coppedge (1908-) m. Ruby Lee Crawford (dec. 1963) 6. William Arthur Coppedge (1911 d. age one) 7. Woodrow W. Coppedge (1912-) m. Bessie Lanik (dec. 1952) 8. Joy Coppedge (1915-) m. Arthur Boothe Steen (1910-1969).

II. Mitchie Coppedge (1871-1951) m. Claude North Blackwell (1870-1905) Their children were: 1. Mary Will Blackwell (1891-1977) m. Arthur Charles Fischer (1887-1956) 2. John Luther Blackwell (1892-1982) 3. Claude North Blackwell, Jr. (1894-1931) 4. Oliver Coppedge Blackwell (Sept. – Dec. 1896) 5. Sally Blackwell (1898-1900) 6. Ettie Coppedge Blackwell (1900-) m. Mary Meurer (1906-1980) 8. Raleigh White Blackwell (1905-) m. Velma Norvell (1908-1948) m. Audrey Barfield Kleinecke (1913-1985).

III. Ettie Coppedge (1873-1968) m. Dr. Finley Blackwell (1874-1934). Their children were: 1. Merle Blackwell (1900-) m. Earl Davis (dec.) 2. Finley Blackwell (1914-) m. Courine Barnet (1914-1982) 3. Claude North Blackwell (1914-) m. Dorothy Frels (1917-).

IV. John Lawrence Coppedge (1882-1951) m. Myrtle Stubbs (1895-1980). Their children were: 1. Finley Lawrence Coppedge (1913-) m. Mary Lou Dromgoole (1910-1983) m. Angeline Ummelman Kleinecke (1915-). 2. Raleigh (Coot) Coppedge (1917-) m. Olive Cherry (1918-) 3. Ralph (Dick) Coppedge (1917-) m. Lillian Kennedy (1919-) 4. Mitchie Ann Coppedge (1919-) m. Stanley Wallace (1918-1981) 5. John Oliver Coppedge (1927-) m. May Lou Cobb (1929-).

by Merle D. Bramlette

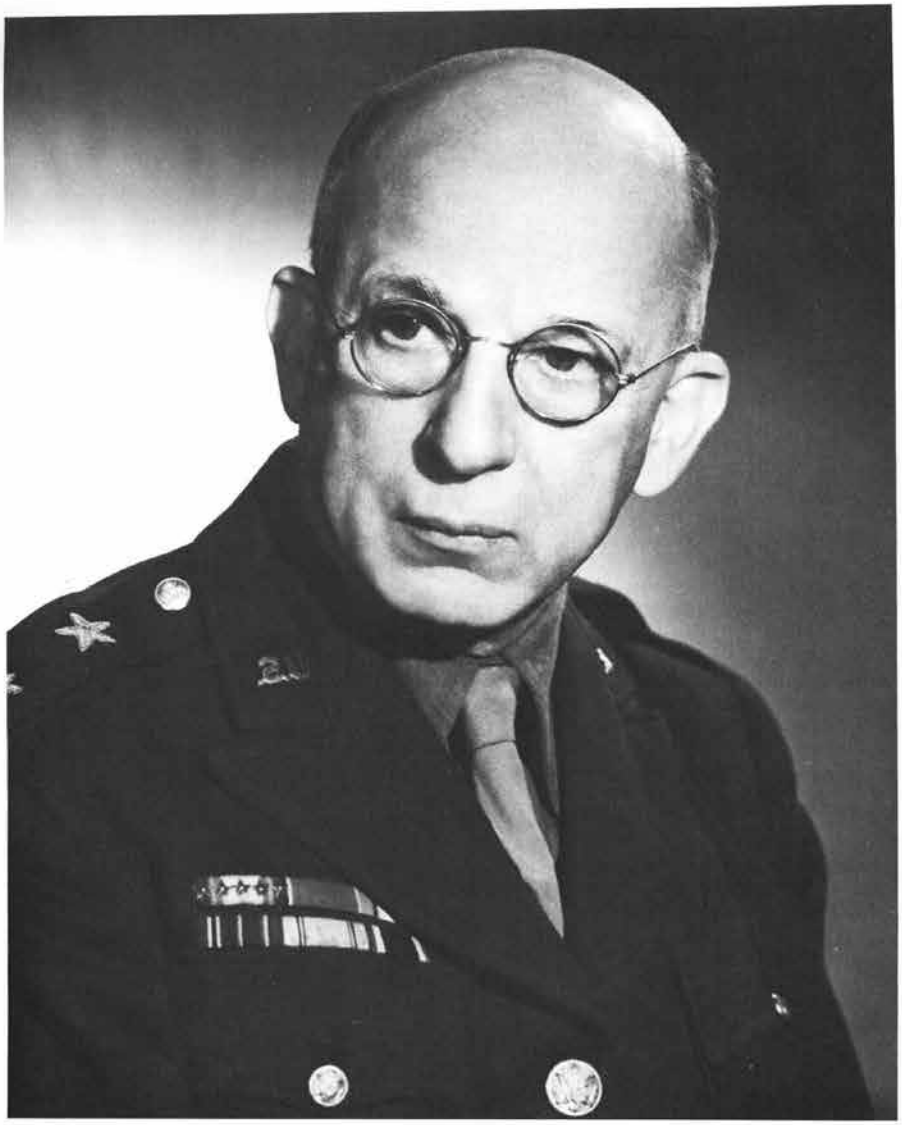
CRAIN, JAMES KERR

F166

Distinguished Texan

James Kerr Crain, son of William Henry and Angeline Genevieve Mitchell Crain, was born on a plantation near Hallettsville, Lavaca County, Texas, the second of fraternal twins, on August 28, 1879. He died on July 29, 1972. The almost 93 years between were filled with adventure, achievements and honors.

Childhood years were spent in Cuero, Texas and Washington, where his father was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He attended Professor Nash's School in Cuero and St. Edward's College in Austin. In February



Major General James Kerr Crain, ca. 1945.

1896 when he was sixteen years old his father died in Washington, and he graduated that June from St. Edward's as a Master of Accounts.

For the next three years he clerked in the law firm of Kleberg and Grimes, whose senior partner his father had been at the time of his death, and subsequently with the Proctor brothers in Victoria, until he received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy in 1900.

Upon graduating in 1904 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps; there followed tours of duty at Fort Moultrie, Fort Monroe, Corregidor Island in Manila Bay and Fort Monroe again in 1910. There he met Catharine Mary Nicholls, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Andrew B.C. Nicholls of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whom he married in 1912.

Shortly after he arrived at Fort Barrancas at the entrance to Pensacola Bay, he was ordered to flood relief west of the Mississippi, which in flood had broken the levee on its western side. His headquarters was a Louisiana State Fish and Game cabin cruiser, lent to the Army. He was fascinated by the insular life of the Cajuns whom he worked with and rescued, and found them likeable and admirable.

In 1914, he and his wife were at Fort Screven off the coast of Savannah, Georgia, where their daughter, Mary Genevieve was born on March 22. In June 1915 he graduated with honors from the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe and remained there until 1917, when he was assigned to the office of the Chief of Coast Artillery in Washington. There he ran into Douglas MacArthur, who was organizing the 42d Division, and not wishing to sit out the war in the States, he asked his old friend for help. MacArthur selected him to be Division Ordnance Officer. He sailed for France with the advance part in September. He took part in the great battles in 1918 that turned the tide for the Allies: the Second Battle of the Marne (Champagne-Marne Defensive), Aisne-Marne Offensive, St. Mihiel Offensive and Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was successively Chief Ordnance Officer of the First Army Corps and the Second Army during this period, necessarily improvising procedures for the supply and maintenance of arms for the troops. For this he was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal, cited for "exceptional ability" in a "work of great magnitude" showing "initiative, sound judgment, resourcefulness and devotion to duty."

After the Armistice he was named Ordnance Officer of the Third Army and proceeded to Coblenz on the Rhine River in May 1919; when the Third Army was demobilized he was named Ordnance Officer, American Forces in Germany. Here he was joined by his wife and daughter, and in 1921 they returned to the States, where a second daughter, Catharine Barry, was born on April 11, 1922.

For three years he was Chief of the Ammunition Division of the Ordnance Department and in 1925 entered the Army War College, graduating in 1926. He was appointed commanding officer of Picatinny Arsenal and rebuilt the plant, which had been almost totally destroyed shortly before his expected arrival by a massive explosion in the adjoining Navy depot.

In 1930 he went to the office of the Assistant Secretary of War to oversee the procurement practices of the War Department Bureaus and attempt to improve their efficiency. In 1934 he was ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as 8th Corps Area Ordnance Officer.

In 1939, with war clouds gathering in Europe, he was ordered back to Washington and became Chief of Field Service, Ordnance Department. He devoted his energies to planning and carrying out the structure for the supply and maintenance of arms in the light of his experiences in World War I. For this "material contribution . . . to the Army of the United States" he was awarded a Legion of Merit.

In 1942 he took command of the San Antonio Arsenal, planning to retire there at the end of war. This plan was aborted ten days after his arrival there by a request from General Brehon Somervell, Chief of Services of Supply of the Army, to accept assignment in London, as Assistant Military Attache and American Executive of the London Munitions Assignment Board, representing the Joint U.S. Chiefs of Staff. He remained there until the war was ending in 1945.

For his "meritorious and distinguished service in the discharge of great responsibilities" he was given a second Distinguished Service Medal by the American Government. The British conferred on him knighthood in the Order of Companion of the Bath, citing his "astuteness, judgment, personality and integrity" in rendering "outstanding services to the Allied Cause."

After retiring from the Army as a Major General in 1945, he was again called on to serve, in 1946 and 1947, as Acting Chairman of the Arms Policy Committee of the Department of State. The Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, remarked in this connection, "General Crain is a wise old bird."

His last years were spent in Montgomery County, Maryland, just outside Washington, with his wife and daughter, Mary Genevieve, a retired Foreign Service Officer and Consul. He studied the habits of wild birds, grew beautiful roses, and enjoyed the company of his daughter, Catharine Barry, her husband Colonel George Edward Glober, an Air Force bomber pilot, and their four wonderful children: George Edward, Jr., Catharine Barry, Mary Louise and James Kerr Crain Glober.

He is buried at the National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with his wife.

by Mary G. Crain

CRAIN, NEWTON MITCHELL AND BERYL RATHBONE

F167

Newton Mitchell Crain was born in Cuero, Texas, December 26, 1884, and died there December 30, 1977. He was one of the six children of Congressman William Henry Crain and Angeline Genevieve Mitchell Crain. He married Beryl Rathbone, one of the three children of Dr. William Robert Rathbone and Jessie Wofford Rathbone on July 9, 1913, in the Rathbone home which still stands (1989) at the corner of Reuss Boulevard and North Terrell Street in Cuero. Dr. Rathbone was a dentist that came to Cuero from Tennessee and practiced dentistry with Dr. Louis J. Kleinecke. Jessie Wofford Rathbone was the oldest of twelve children of John T. and Josephine Wofford, an old pioneer family of DeWitt County, Texas.

Beryl Rathbone Crain was born in Cuero August 20, 1893, and died there October 9, 1978. She attended The University of Texas. She had one sister, Lucy Rathbone, who never married but became an esteemed professor and head of the Home Economics School at The University of Texas. She co-authored "Fabrics and Dress", a textbook widely used in Texas high schools for many years. She had a brother, Wofford Robert Rathbone, who was in the insurance business and a Major in the United States Army in World War II. Beryl Rathbone Crain was active in many organizations in Cuero including the Music Lovers Club and garden clubs, and was co-chairman during World War II of the Red Cross organization that folded and shipped surgical dressings as a part of the county war effort.

To the marriage of Newton Mitchell Crain and Beryl Rathbone Crain were born three children, Newton Mitchell Crain, Jr., William Rathbone Crain and James Kerr Crain, II.

Newton Mitchell Crain, Jr. wed Rose Cyrene Paulus of Yoakum and they had four children, Newton Mitchell Crain, III, Paula Cyrene Crain, Henry Paulus Crain and Larry Wayne Crain. He practiced law in Houston for many years, dying January 23, 1983, at 69 years of age. He had eleven grandchildren, Newton Mitchell Crain, IV, and Katherine Crain, children of Newton, III; James Clark, III, Corey Clark, Andrew Clark, Kimberly Clark and Ashley Clark, children of Paula Cyrene Crain Clark; Austin Crain and Autumn Crain, children of Henry Paulus Crain; Lee Crain and Liz Crain, children of Larry Wayne Crain.

William Rathbone Crain wed Mary Louise Fischer, the daughter of Werner Fischer and Ettie Blackwell Fischer of Cuero. They had six children, William Rathbone Crain, Jr., Robert Mitchell Crain, David Crain, Marietta Crain Nicholas, Stephen Kerr Crain and Jonathan Blackwell Crain. He served as a bombadier in the United States Air Force during World War II and as a petroleum landman in Houston until his death October 16, 1983, at age of sixty years.

James Kerr Crain, II, married Shirley Ruth Stanchos of Yorktown. They had three children, James Kerr Crain, III, Patrick George Crain and Christopher Mitchell Crain. He was named for his uncle, Major General James Kerr Crain who has been named for Major James Kerr. Major Kerr was the great, great grandfather of James Kerry Crain, II, and the surveyor with the Green DeWitt colony that settled the DeWitt and Gonzales County areas in about 1825-30. Major Kerr laid out the plan for the original townsite of Gonzales. Kerr County and the City of Kerrville are named for him. James Kerr Crain, II, has practiced law in Cuero since 1953, originally in the firm of Crain and Crain with his father and later with Frank B. Sheppard in the firm of Crain and Sheppard.

Newton Mitchell Crain lived his early childhood in Washington, D.C., while his father served as Representative in Congress from the Southern District of Texas. At age of twelve years when his father died of pneumonia he returned to Cuero with his mother and younger sister Mary. Older brothers, Frank Harrington Crain, twins William Henry Crain, Jr. and James Kerr Crain, and sister Angeline Genevieve (Viva) Crain, though all not yet adults, had remained in Cuero in homes of friends and relatives during later years of Congressman Crain's terms in Washington due to the considerable expense of maintaining a family there on congressman's salary. Frank Harrington Crain was mayor of Cuero at about the age of 21 years and a lawyer for many years in Victoria. He was the father of District Judge Frank H. Crain, Jr. William Henry Crain, Jr. was a lawyer and rancher in Victoria, having married Margaret McFaddin. Angeline Genevieve Crain married Fletcher Schleicher, a lawyer in Cuero for many years.

Newton Mitchell Crain finished high school in Cuero and after teaching himself typing and shorthand became employed as a stenographer in the law office of Stockdale and Proctor in Cuero in order to earn enough money to go to college. He attended The University of Texas and studied law there. He practiced law in DeWitt County from about 1909 until his death. His office was in the building formerly known as the H. Runge and Company building at the corner of Main and Gonzales Streets in Cuero. Crain later became owner of this corner building in 1939, receiving it as a fee for having worked as attorney for about five years in settling the affairs of the H. Runge and Company Bank that was forced to close during the depression years of the 1930's. Crain served as president of Rotary Club, Grand Knight of the Cuero Council of Knights of Columbus during its first year of existence, County Attorney of DeWitt County during World War I, and in many other offices. For many years his law practice was in partnership with August C. Hartman, under the name of Crain and Hartman; later with son James K. Crain under name of Crain and Crain; then with Frank B. Sheppard under name of Crain, Crain and Sheppard.

by James K. Crain

CRAIN, NEWTON MITCHELL, JR.

F168

In Cuero, Texas on April 10, 1914, Newton was born to Beryl Rathbone Crain and Newton Mitchell Crain. He was their first born son. He spent a happy, normal childhood growing up on Courthouse Street with his parents and two younger brothers.

Newton graduated from Cuero High School at the young age of fifteen. Upon graduation, he entered Saint Edward's University in Austin, Texas. During his summers at home, he worked for Runge Company. This company was a cotton company. Before graduating on May 6, 1932, he met Rose Cyrene Paulus from Yoakum, Texas. After graduation from Saint Edward's, Newton entered the University of Texas Law School where he received his Bachelor of Law Degree. He worked in his father's law firm, Crain and Sheppard, in Cuero, Texas for one month.

On July 26, 1937, Newton moved to Houston, Texas. He had received an appointment to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas. At that time, he was the youngest man ever appointed to this office. For many years, he tried cases in Brownsville, Galveston, Laredo and Victoria, Texas. During his second year, he tried the first marijuana case ever tried in the United States.

After many years of courtship, Newton married Rose Cyrene Paulus on July 31, 1937 in Houston, Texas. On April 4, 1940, they were blessed with the birth of their firstborn child. He was a son whom they named Newton Mitchell Crain III. They were blessed again on November 17, 1942 with the birth of their only daughter whom they named Paula Cyrene Crain.

In July of 1943, with World War II going on, Newton applied for Officer's Candidate School in the United States Navy. He became an Ensign and was ordered to report on January 3, 1944 to Quonset Point, Rhode Island. During his training, he became a Naval Combat Intelligence Officer. After six months, he was ordered to Norfolk, Virginia to await further orders. His orders from Norfolk took him to the island of Bermuda where he was attached to an Air Combat Squadron. After nine months in Bermuda, he returned to Norfolk and worked with other squadrons. In June of 1945, Newton was ordered to San Diego, California. In San Diego, he taught at Air Combat Intelligence School. At the end of November, his orders came to report to Guam. These orders were then cancelled by the United States Government because they felt he was needed more in the United States Attorney's Office in Houston, Texas. The family of four arrived home in December for Christmas.

In 1949, Newton joined the law firm of Blades, Kennerly, Fisher and Whitworth. On March 27, 1950 this happy couple were blessed with the arrival of their second son, Henry Paulus Crain. On March 21, 1951 another blessed event came with the arrival of Larry Wayne Crain. They now had four fine children.

In 1957, the law firm became known as Blades, Crain, Slator and Winters. The firm became known as Crain and Winters in 1963 and later in 1976 became known as Crain, Caton, James and Womble.

In 1962, a farm was purchased by Rose Cyrene and Newton. It is located between Fayetteville, Texas and Warrenton, Texas. In 1971, they built a beautiful home overlooking their lake to replace the old farm house. Many happy weekends and wonderful times were spent there.

Newton Mitchell Crain III married Kendella Joe Baker on June 12, 1965. Their daughter, Katherine Kendella Crain, was born on April 6, 1969. Their son, Newton Mitchell Crain IV, was born on January 12, 1971.

Paula Cyrene Crain married James David Clark II on August 22, 1964. They have five children. James David Clark III, known as

Trey, was born on July 27, 1966. Andrew Mitchell Clark was born on April 16, 1968. They were blessed with the arrival of their third son, Corey Crain Clark, on July 23, 1971. On December 22, 1979, Kimberly Cyrene Clark arrived and Ashley Ann Clark arrived on October 22, 1981 much to the delight of this family.

Henry Paulus Crain married Jennifer Lee Cates on November 20, 1971. Their daughter, Autumn Michelle Crain, was born on August 28, 1976. Their son, Austin Paulus Crain, was born March 11, 1980.

Larry Wayne Crain married Vivien Lea Muckley on July 29, 1972. Larry Wayne Crain Jr., known as Lee, was born on September 29, 1979. Elizabeth Ann Crain was born on July 26, 1981.

At the end of 1980, Newton Mitchell Crain Jr. decided to retire after a very long and successful career. His law firm gave him a wonderful party and presented him with a very special plaque and a new truck to enjoy at the farm.

Newton was a member of the Houston Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Texas State Bar Association and the Texas Association of Defense Council.

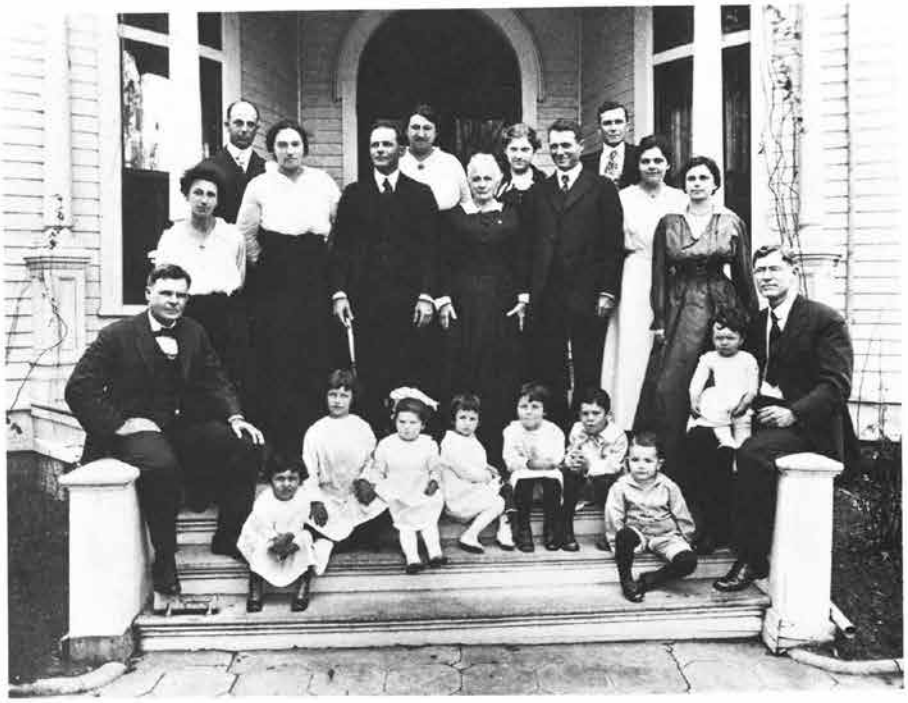
Newton Mitchell Crain Jr. died on January 23, 1983, of cancer. He was a well known, successful and admired attorney but even more so, he was beloved by all as a very special man. One of his most appreciated attributes that was treasured by all that knew him was his great dry humor and wit. He held honesty, integrity and courage as life's highest values and this was his greatest bequest to all whom he loved so dearly. This outstanding husband, father and friend will live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved him so very much.

by Mrs. Newton Crain Jr.

CRAIN, WILLIAM HENRY

F169

William Henry Crain, 1928



Back – Standing — Viva (Crain) Schleicher, James Kerr Crain, Catharine (Nichols) Crain, William Henry Crain, Margaret James (McFaddin) Crain, Mrs. W.H. Crain, Corinne (Staerker) Crain, Frank H. Crain, Newton M. Crain, Beryl (Rathbone) Crain, Mary (Crain) Dunn; Sitting: Fletcher Schleicher, Eileen Crain, Alada Crain, Anne E. Schleicher, Mary G. Crain, Margaret Virginia Crain, Frank Crain Schleicher, Newton M. Crain, Jr., John Dunn and Jack Dunn, 1919.

Margaret James (McFaddin) Crain, 1928

1879 – 1962

William Henry Crain, Jr., along with his fraternal twin brother, was born in Hallettsville, Lavaca County, Texas on August 28, 1879. His parents were William Henry and Angeline Mitchell Crain. William Henry and his twin brother had two brothers and sisters. Their father was the first native-born Texan to be elected to serve as the U.S. Representative of the Congressional District from 1884 to 1896.

William Henry Crain, Jr., attended the University of Texas and was admitted to the bar in 1903. He worked in several law firms and was a partner in Crain and Linebaugh. On November 23, 1909, L.T. Linebaugh introduced William Henry at the opening of the U.S. Court where he made a formal application to be admitted to practice in the District and Circuit Courts of the U.S. for the Southern District of Texas. William Henry was granted a license in both courts.

William Henry Crain married Margaret James McFaddin on November 12, 1907. They had five children; Alada, Margaret Virginia, Eileen, William Henry and Emily.

In 1910, William Henry was elected to the first Victoria County School Board and served as president. Crain Intermediate School was named in his honor and that of his brother, Frank H. Crain. He was a Four-Minute Man during the Liberty Bond drives for World War I.

William Henry retired from law in 1917 and went to work for his brother-in-law, A.M. McFaddin as the assistant manager of the J.A. McFaddin Estate business. He was on the board of directors of the Victoria National Bank, now the First Victoria National Bank, from 1917 through 1919. He also served on the board of directors of the McFaddin Mercantile Company. Al McFaddin retired in 1925, selling his cattle to William Henry and his nephew, Claude K. McCan. At this time, W.H. and C.K. became co-managers of the J.A. McFaddin Estate.

William Henry became a Texas native grass specialist. He strove to maintain natural grasses for the benefits of the land as well as the cattle. He and C.K. McCan helped to form the Calhoun-Victoria Soil Conservation District. William Henry also assisted C.K. McCan in starting the Victoria breed of cattle. He was the one to deal with oil and gas companies for leases on the ranch. His format for such leases were used by many other lawyers. It was through his efforts that Highway 77 was

mapped out and established.

William Henry was known affectionately as "Uncle Henry" by many in the family as well as outsiders. He gave money and gifts to anyone he knew needed them and never asked for anything in return or any money back. His wife preceded him in death on September 8, 1929. He died on November 1, 1962 in Victoria, Texas.

by Margaret J. Lowery

CRAIN, WILLIAM HENRY AND ANGELINE GENEVIEVE MITCHELL

F170

William Henry Crain

The first of the Craines to arrive in the American Colonies was Jasper Crane, one of the original settlers of the New Haven Colony, June 4, 1639. Jasper was a surveyor, a merchant, and a leader in the settlement. He was chosen and appointed a magistrate in 1658 and held the office until 1663. When the New Haven Colony was united with the Connecticut Colony, Jasper became dissatisfied and he, his sons and their families moved to Newark where he help responsible positions of public trust including the offices of magistrate and deputy or burgess for the General Assembly of New Jersey.

Nearly two hundred years later in 1834, Phebe Nicholson Crain, the widow of William Crain, and two of her children, Susan Moore Crain and William Davis Crain, immigrated to Texas and joined the Power and Hewitson Colony in Refugio. (William Crain had changed the spelling of his name from Crane because of a dispute with his father.) Phebe's reasons for joining the Power and Hewitson Colony have been lost but it is probable that she joined the colony in order to claim lands under the colonization law of the State of Coahuila and Texas and it is possible that she taught school in the colony. She was given a one acre lot in the town of Refugio on August 26, 1834, Susan was given a one acre lot on August 30, 1834, and Phebe, as the head of family, was granted a league of land on Aransas Creek on November 29, 1834. William Davis did not receive any land as he was only 15 years old. He was born on April 10, 1819 in Trenton, New Jersey.

Angeline Genevieve (Mitchell) Crain

William Davis Crain and Emily Matilda Blake were married in Matagorda on August 21, 1844. Emily Blake had also been brought to Texas by her widowed mother, Mary Ann Blake, in 1838 when she was 13 years old. She was born in New York City on January 10, 1825.

William Davis and Emily Crain moved to Galveston and their son William Henry Crain was born there on November 25, 1848. William Davis died in 1854 and was buried in Lot 38, Range 3, Ave. 4 Old City Cemetery in Galveston. William Henry was only six years old and his brother, Charles Davis, was two.

The following year William Henry was sent to New York to be reared by an uncle of his mother's, Peter Francis Harrington. He received his secondary education at the Christian Brothers school and was graduated valedictorian of his class at St. Francis Xavier's College. William Henry returned to Texas and after working on a cattle ranch for a short time he taught school and began reading law in the offices of Stockdale and Proctor in Indianola. He was admitted to the bar in 1871 and at the age of 26 years he was elected District Attorney of the Twenty-third Judicial District of Texas which then comprised the southern part of Texas. He held this office from 1872 to 1876.

It was in Indianola that he met Angeline Genevieve Mitchell, the daughter of Captain Isaac Newton Mitchell and Mary Margaret Kerr, and granddaughter of Major James Kerr. Angeline Mitchell was born at Oakland Plantation near Hallettsville on January 3rd, 1845. She was five years old when her Grandfather Kerr died December 23, 1850 and only eight years old when her father died March 19, 1853. Isaac Newton Mitchell was born in Abbeville District, SC February 11, 1809. He was only 44 years old when he died but he had been a successful planter and rancher since his arrival in Texas in 1838 and his children were tutored at home during their early year. Later Angeline was sent to a convent in Galveston and then to the Ursuline Convent in New Orleans where all of her studies were in French. She was in the convent in New Orleans when the Civil War broke out and was unable to return home. It was not until February 1864 that Archbishop John Mary Odin of New Orleans, who had been a frequent guest at the Mitchell home on Point Comfort when he was Bishop of Texas, was able to arrange safe transportation for her trip back to Texas.

William Henry Crain and Angeline Genevieve Mitchell were married in Indianola on July 9, 1873. It was in Indianola that their first son, Francis Harrington, was born on August 16, 1874. The first great hurricane which devastated Indianola on September 16, 1875 destroyed the Crains' home and the family escaped with only the clothes on their backs. They moved to Victoria and on September 15, 1786 their daughter, Angeline Genevieve, was born. Her father gave her the nickname "Viva" because she was such a lively child, a sobriquet which she used all her life.

In 1876 William Henry Crain was elected to the State Senate to represent the seventh district. Before his term had expired the family moved to Oakland Plantation near Hallettsville and since he no longer lived in the district from which he had been elected he resigned his seat. Oakland Plantation was the first property which Isaac Newton Mitchell had purchased when he came to Texas and Mrs. Crain had received this property as her share of her father's estate. It was here that the Crain's twins, William Henry and James Kerr, were born on August 28, 1879. Mr. Crain formed a partnership with Col. S.C. Patton in Hallettsville which lasted some four years until the family moved to their new home in Cuero in 1880.

In Cuero Mr. Crain formed a law partnership with Mr. Rudolph Kleberg which lasted until his death. It was in the family's home in Cuero that their fourth son, Newton Mitchell Crain, was born on December 26, 1883.

In 1884 Mr. Crain was elected to the House of Representatives of the National Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Texas and was reelected five times. He was the first native born Texan to occupy a seat in the Congress of the United States. His family lived in Washington, DC during the first two of his terms and it was here that their daughter, Mary Matilda, was born on January 19, 1887.

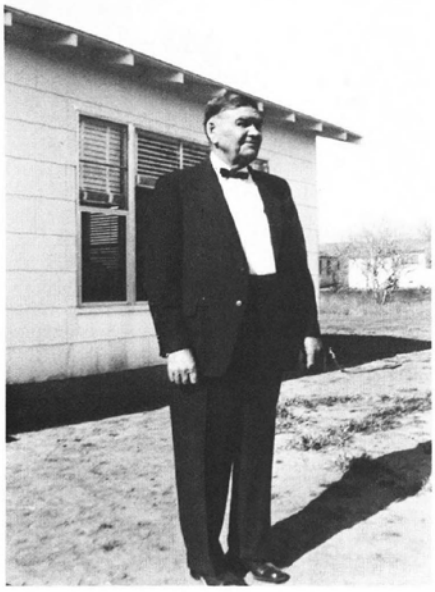
William Henry Crain died in Washington, DC on February 10, 1896, at forty seven years of age. The burial services in Cuero were presided over by Bishop Forrest of San Antonio. Mrs. Crain lived for more than twenty-eight years after her husband's death. She died in Victoria at the home of her eldest son, Frank, November 12, 1924 and was buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero beside her husband.

by Frank C. Schleicher

DEATS & MILLIGAN,
LIVERY * and * FEED * STABLE
Church Street, Cuero

CRAWFORD, CHARLES L. AND MARY M.

F171



Ca. 1951, Charles Crawford

Charles Lemuel Crawford and wife Mary M. "Mollie" Kuykendall, both were born and raised in DeWitt County though on different sides of the Guadalupe River. Charles, known as Charlie was born April 10, 1884 near Hochheim. He died November 5, 1968. Mollie was born August 30, 1886 near Hillside, and died November 8, 1937. They were married August 20, 1905 in Cuero. They had the following three children: 1) Ada N. Crawford Allert, born April 1, 1907 and died March 30, 1956. She was a school teacher and worked in Gonzales County school superintendent's office. 2) Henry Edward Crawford, who lives near Hochheim on part of the James A. Crawford estate and has four children: Henry Edward Jr., James Jacob, Elviria M. Crawford Shimek and Charles Lawrence, who died in an accident in 1972. 3) Loraine Crawford Wingo who lives in Abilene, Texas and has two children: Patricia R. Wingo Nail and Michael J. Wingo II.

Charlie was a farmer and rancher in DeWitt and Gonzales Counties until his death. Charlie was probably one of the first to raise paint horses in the area, having shipped in a black and white paint stallion with a carload of mules, when he owned a mule farm in Shiner in the 1920's.

Ada, Loraine and Henry Edward rode paint horses and carried the U.S.A. and Texas Flags in parades in the local area at various times when they were growing up. Charlie always kept good saddle horses. He loaned B. Neighbors, a boyhood friend, one of his saddle horses to ride when he was campaigning and elected Sheriff of Gonzales County. Charlie, served as constable in the southeastern part of Gonzales County, where he and Mollie lived for many years. There were not many fences in the area when he was growing up. He and his brother, Hodge Crawford, trapped and caught some of the last wild mustangs in the area and Charlie kept the mustang blood line as long as he raised horses. Charlie served as school trustee for Steen School for ten years when G.E. Bradley was Gonzales County school superintendent. He built the first Negro school in the area on his land. There all the elementary grades were taught to about fifteen pupils.

Mollie and Charlie were active members of the Hochheim Presbyterian Church, where Mollie taught Sunday School as long as her health permitted. They are both buried in the Hochheim Cemetery, land given by Charlie's grandmother, Rachel S. Crawford. Charlie attended school in Hochheim, in the same building now used by the Hochheim Masonic Lodge. He was the seventh child of Thomas Edward and Mary Jane Skaggs Crawford (see T.E. Crawford).

Mollie was the oldest child of Henry M. and Caroline "Callie" Davis Kuykendall and the gr. granddaughter of George W. and Caroline Pease Davis (see G.W. Davis). She was born and raised on her great, great grandfather, Daniel Davis's, sito or league of land, granted to him under the Colonization Law of Coahuila and Texas. She lived on the west side of the Guadalupe River near what was known as "fiddler's bend", where the Davis family had community gathering, camp revivals, fish fries and "fiddle playing". Her paternal grandfather, William M. Kuykendall, was killed in the War between the States in 1863.

Charlie and Mollie were devout Christians, hard working, good neighbors, loyal and respected citizens and kind and devoted parents.

by Loraine Crawford Wingo

CRAWFORD, JAMES A. AND RACHEL S.

F172

James A. and Rachel S. Crawford monument, Hochheim Cemetery.

James A. and Rachel S. Crawford were early pioneer settlers in DeWitt County, Texas. James A. born November 17, 1800, Augusta County, VA, fourth child of Alexander and Rachel Lessley Crawford; died October 17, 1861, Mount Petrea, DeWitt Co., TX. Rachel S. Crawford born April 18, 1806, Davidson County, Tenn., fifth child of John and Margaret Buchanan Crawford; died August 10, 1879, Hochheim, DeWitt Co., TX. They were married in Lincoln Co., Tenn. in 1827 and had the following ten children: 1. John Alexander (1829-1916) m. Eliza Permelia Lockhart; 2. Archabold W. (1831) m. Amanda A. Burrous; 3. William Hay (1832-prior 1916) m. Permelia A. Stayton; 4. James Leslie (1834-1912) m. Deliah T. Weeks, 2nd. Eliza. Elders; 5. Pleasant A. (1837-1921) m. Anna Singleton 2nd. Laura J. Granberry Carson; 6. Margaret M. (1839) m. John M.J. Helm; 7. Rachel Emma (1842-1931) m. John W. Moore 2nd. John Humphrey; 8. Isaac C. (1844-1918) m. Mrs. V. Volly Clayton; 9. Nancy J. (1846) m. Wm. A. Cook; 10. Thomas Edward (1849-1939) m. Mary Jane Skaggs 2nd. Annie Laurie Smith.

James A. was a devoted son, but being young and ambitious, in 1825, took his inheritance, which was according to his father, Alexander Crawford's will (proved in the May Court, 1830 of Augusta Co., VA) quote "To son, James, I have given property and money $3030.00 which is his full share. He has got slaves, Bob, Rachel, Scipio, Chapman, Grace and Sampson."

James A. went to Davidson-Lincoln County, Tenn. He bought land and prospered according to the 1830 and 1840 census records of that state. He married Rachel S. Crawford, a cousin, and they had a happy home and a devoted marriage in spite of the many hardships and separations during their early marriage.

James was well educated and adventurous. He came to Texas before 1832 as a surveyor for Stephen F. Austin's Coastal, No. 4, Colony, which was to establish a water route on the Colorado River to the Gulf of Mexico. He received his Coahuila-Texas Land Grant on November 13, 1832 in Williamson County, TX. He returned to Tenn. and did not bring his family to Texas to live until 1849. However, he made another trip to Texas in July, 1836 and served with Col. E. Burleson in the Ranging Corps for four months. He was issued a labor of land in the County of Bastrop, TX, January 24, 1838, signed by S.B. Patton and Josiah Wilbarger. James, Rachel and family spent some time in Arkansas enroute from Tenn. to Texas. However, they arrived at the Capitol in Austin, TX in the fall of 1849.

James purchased land from the Samuel McCoy's survey in DeWitt County, TX. James, Rachel and their ten children are listed in the DeWitt County, 1850 census records. Rachel and the younger children stayed in Gonzales and operated a rooming house until a house was built on their land, which is still lived in by a family descendant, Mrs. Ruth Howard Granberry.

James A. established a small town site or settlement on the Guadalupe River, which was named Mount Petrea (Sept. 1851-1868), where he and his sons owned and operated a saw mill, grist mill, molasses mill, etc. James bought more land and owned over sixteen hundred acres at the time of his death. The town of Hochheim founded August 17, 1870 and located between the Valentine Hoch "Stagecoach Relay" stop and the Mount Petrea town site.

The five oldest sons, John Alex., William H., Archabold W., James L. and Pleasant A. fought in various Regiments, Ranger's Corp and Cavalry Companies in the War Between the States (Civil War) 1861-1865. However, Rachel and the younger children with the help of their faithful negroes were able to keep the farm and their properties working successfully during the Civil War and all sons returned home.

Rachel S. was a devoted wife and mother, well educated and very knowledgeable for a woman of her time. She and her family were devout Cumberland Presbyterians and active and generous with their time and monies in the Hochheim Community. James A.'s untimely death on October 17, 1861 and burial in the

Concrete Cemetery was deeply mourned.

James was a good husband, father and provider. Each child inherited two hundred acres of land or monies equivalent of the land value. Four of the sons, John Alex., James Leslie, Pleasant A. and Thomas Edward lived and raised their families on their land in DeWitt County, near Hochheim. Rachel S. and John Alex. gave land for the Hochheim Cemetery and School. (See Hochheim Cem. & School) Henry Edward Crawford, great grandson of James and Rachel, lives on part of this land today.

by Loraine Crawford Wingo

CRAWFORD, THOMAS EDWARD

F173

Thomas Edward Crawford was born December 19, 1849, tenth child of James A. and Rachel S. Crawford. He was born in a small house in Austin, near the site of the present state Capitol building. His parents had come from Tenn. and James had stopped to make inquiries about the land grants he had received in Texas. James settled his family in DeWitt County, on the Guadalupe River. Thomas Edward lived on this land until his death, June 14, 1939. He is buried in the Hochheim Cemetery.

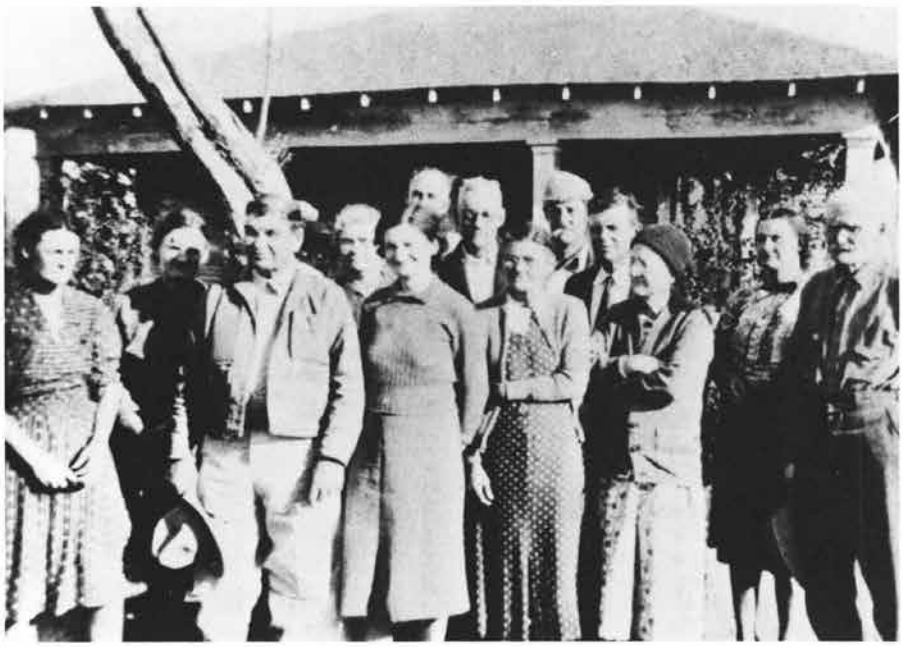
Thomas Edward married Mary Jane Skaggs, July 1, 1870 in Victoria Co., TX, born November 30, 1852, Victoria Co., died November 1, 1887, Hochheim. Mary Jane was the daughter of Newton Hodge Skaggs Sr. and Jane Chambers Skaggs. Thomas Ed. and Mary Jane had the following children: 1. William Newton b. Oct. 5, 1871, d. Dec. 9, 1929, m. Ida Marie Mims. 2. Mary Edward b. July 25, 1873, d. Dec. 2, 1941, m. Joseph Wm. King. 3. Henry b. 1875 d. 1892. 4. Addie Virginia b. Feb. 1, 1878, d. July 25, 1953, m. Albert Humphrey 2nd. William O. Smith. 5. Ida Siretha b. Sept. 6, 1879 d. Feb. 6, 1958, m. Claude B. Wiley. 6. Ethel Lee b. Feb. 15, 1881 d. Feb. 25, 1881. 7. Charles Lemuel b. Apr. 10, 1884 d. Nov. 5, 1968, m. Mary M. (Mollie) Kuykendall 2nd. Viola Smith. 8. Hodge Skaggs b. Sept. 10, 1885 d. Nov. 15, 1942, m. Mary Annie Green. 9. Ada Lee b. Dec. 14, 1886 d. Aug. 20, 1966, m. George B. Jacobs. He married his second wife Annie Laurie Smith October 31, 1894, b. December 17, 1874 d. March 9, 1953, daughter of George and Malinda Smith of Beeville, Texas. Thomas Ed. and Annie had the following children: 1. Lettie Mae b. July 2, 1897 d. Jan. 11, 1984, m. Theodore E. Leake. 2. Ura Bell b. Dec. 22, 1898 d. July 28, 1972, m. Carroll Holt Leake. 3. Laura E. b. Jan. 25, 1900 d. Dec. 29, 1968 m. Floyd Carroll. 4. Jessie Loraine b. Dec. 4, 1905 d. Jan. 8, 1987, m. Fabrien T. Rappold. 5. Finley Frazier b. Jan. 30, 1908 d. Nov. 17, 1969, m. Minnie Shimek. Twelve of his children lived to be adults, marry and raise a family. He had forty-three grandchildren, ninety-seven great grandchildren. He, both wives and eight children are buried in the Hochheim Cemetery, with his parents. (See James A. Crawford)

Thomas Edward, known by family and friends as Ed., grew up in the Mount Petrea settlement on the Guadalupe River with a great love and knowledge of cattle and horses. He received his education at Concrete Boys school, where he had room and board during the school term. However, after his father, James A.'s death in 1861 and his older brothers leaving for the War Between the States (Civil War), he returned home to help with the family chores. He and Sam (Sampson) a faithful Negro, would take a wagon load of cotton to the port of Indianola to sell. They would bore holes in the axle shaft of the wagon and hide the twenty dollar gold pieces there, as they had to travel through the Victoria Prairie (badland) where outlaws and renegades lived, who robbed and sometimes killed people passing through. Although Edward and Sam were stopped and searched several times, they were never harmed nor were their gold pieces found.

Edward made several cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas and the railroad. The last cattle drive he made, he got his leg broken when his horse stepped in a gopher hole, fell and broke his neck in a stampede. Ed. lay under his horse until the next morning when they found him. They set his broken leg using an apple crate for the splints. This trail drive was plagued by storms, flooded rivers and stampedes. When he finally got home, Mary Jane was not in the house but in the smokehouse curing meat. She did not recognize him with long hair, whiskers, thin and dirty, and almost shot him with the gun she carried, before he could convince her he was her husband. He always laughed and said that was the nearest he ever came to getting shot. Mary Jane was a courageous pioneer wife and mother.

Ed always had a good horse to ride and enjoyed checking his cattle and pecan trees on his land on the Guadalupe River. He raised a big garden, had fruit trees, cattle, horses, sheep, cotton and pecans on his farm. He read the Yoakum Herald newspaper and kept up with the news. He would sit on his front porch and watch the airplanes flying over and remark "very few men have lived to see all the changes in transportation and the progress I have witnessed in my lifetime." He was a kind, devoted husband, father and grandfather, a staunch and devout Presbyterian, early pioneer, a good neighbor and an honorable and law abiding citizen. I am a granddaughter who spent many happy hours visiting with him. Henry Edward Crawford, a grandson, lives on the homeplace north of Hochheim.

by Loraine Crawford Wingo



Reunion ca. 1937. Back Row, L-R: Lettie Crawford Leake, Addie Crawford Smith, Wm. C. Smith, W.O. Smith, Finley F. Crawford, Hodge S. Crawford. Front Row, L-R: Jessie Crawford Rappolo, Charles L. Crawford, Laura Crawford Carroll, Ida Crawford Wiley, Annie Smith Crawford, Ura Crawford Leake, Thomas Edward Crawford (age 87).

CREATH, SARAH McSHERRY – HIBBINS – STINNETT – HOWARD

F174

Sarah Creath, an oft-widowed pioneer woman, married her first husband, John McSherry, in Illinois in 1829. This beautiful young blond and her husband came to Texas, probably the following year. John built a log cabin facing Little Carlisle Creek, two hundred yards from a spring on Green DeWitt's League in southern DeWitt County. Miss Nellie Murphree locates their cabin on the west side of the Guadalupe and southeast of the Arthur Burns League.

Their son, James Lewis McSherry was born January 7, 1833. Later that year, John rose from the spring with a bucket of water, heard the Comanche yell, and was immediately killed and scalped. Inside the cabin, Sarah saw what happened, and barred the door and seized a gun, determined to save her son and herself, or die. The Indians finally left without attacking the cabin. That night, John McCrabb, stopped at the cabin to spend the night; but instead put Sarah and her baby on his horse and led them through by starlight upriver to the Andrew Lockhart's. Sarah lived with them until she married John Hibbins, an established colonist from the Concrete area. In 1835 she had another son, and late that year

she took her two sons to Illinois to visit.

In January, 1836, Sarah and sons, and her unmarried brother, George Creath, came back by boat from New Orleans to Columbia-on-the-Brazos, where John Hibbins met them with an ox-cart. They were within ten miles of home and at their last camp when thirteen Comanches killed the two men and captured the mother and her two sons. The attack took place in an isolated area, so then Indians proceeded at a leisurely pace through the Peach Creek wooded area. At their second camp the Hibbins baby began crying with pain, and one warrior seized him and dashed his head against a tree.

That night a cold Norther came up at their camp in the Austin area. When the Indians were asleep in their buffalo robes, and knowing another day would take her too far from the settlements for help, Sarah tucked the buffalo robe around her son and escaped alone on foot.

The Revolutionary government had just commissioned the first Ranger company, and they were gathering at Hornsby's Station about ten miles below present Austin; and when Sarah came in, tattered and bleeding, they immediately pursued, and rescued little Joseph McSherry and routed the Indians. With the Hornsbys, Sarah and James were in the Runaway Scrape after the fall of the Alamo; and on the return trip after the victory at San Jacinto, while in Washington County with another sympathetic family, Sarah met a former neighbor, Claiborne Stinnett, who was issued one of the first four land titles in the DeWitt Colony in 1831. They were married in June, 1836, and returned to the Gonzales area to live. In the summer of 1838, Stinnett went to Linnville for supplies; and returning with a laden packhorse and with $700 in his pocket, he took a short cut across the prairie above Victoria. That evening he saw a campfire, and thinking it was hunters, he approached. It was two runaway Negroes on their way to Mexico; and they killed him and took his belongings. No one knew for five years what had happened, until Col. Andrew Neill, a prisoner in Mexico, met one of the Negroes who described the place so accurately that Stinnett's remains were found in 1842.

In the meantime, after two years, Sarah married Col. Philip Howard, also from the Guadalupe. In 1840 they moved to San Juan Mission below San Antonio. Seven young neighbors accompanied them to help with and protect the stock: Byrd Lockhart, Jr., a McGary boy, Jonah Powers and his brother, a young Grimes boy, and two others. They reached the Mission about noon, hobbled their horses and left seven-year-old James McSherry to watch them. Shortly Indians charged in among the horses, captured some, and Joseph barely escaped back to camp. After helping a few days, the young men started back to Gonzales.

After a heavy shower that wet their firearms had passed, they cleaned their guns and fired some shots. A party of about seventy Comanches, saying they were friendly Tonkawas, encircled them. The six men were killed and scalped and the thirteen-year-old Powers boy was taken captive. Two nights later he was able to slip quietly off his horse and escape.

The Howards were living in lower Goliad County on the San Antonio River in the spring of 1842 when their neighbors, the Gillilands were murdered by marauding Indians who stole horses, killed stock, and carried off William and Rebecca Gilliland as captives. A volunteer rescue party was able to recapture the children.

Soon the Howards moved to the Hallettsville area, and Sarah's life at last became peaceful. In 1848 her husband was county judge there. In 1876 Sarah died in Bosque County; and there Philip continued to live until past the age of eighty.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

CROSSEN, GEORGE W.

F175

And Wife

About 1850 George W. Crossen came down the Arkansas River, the Mississippi River, and landed at Indianola. He came by oxcart to a settlement where members of the J.M. Alexander family made their home, on the Abednego Biddy Survey.

In the year 1858, George Crossen established a store which served the area until after the Civil War. The community was named for him, Crossenville. There was a log cabin school that was replaced about 1880 with a frame building. In 1925 the school was consolidated with the Stratton school.

He thought it was such a wonderful place he sent for his sister, Mrs. Mary Jeffery, a widow with two children, a daughter, Mary Clay Jeffery (Parker) and a son, Marion. They are all buried in Alexander Cemetery.

Mr. Crossen was a great uncle to Mary Ann Benbow.

by Mrs. Lee Benbow

DAHME FAMILY

F176

Of DeWitt County

At one time, there was a village in Germany called, Dahme. Although I've never been there, it is well recorded that the townspeople of Dahme were of pure, German stock. I assume some of my ancestors must have given the town its name, and it must have been quite small for there are few Dahmes, indeed. The book, "Indianola, The Mother of Western Texas", by B. Malsch, and the novel, "Texas", by Jas. Michener, document that the Dahmes who arrived in Texas via old Indianola are the parents of my father, August F. Dahme, and thus constitute the original and only Dahme Family of DeWitt County. I am proud of the name — the heritage of these stalwart forebearers and early Texans.

Fred Dahme

August, my father, was the son of Fred and Ida Dahme, who landed in Indianola when he was about 2 years old. They had two other children, Willie and Minnie, all now deceased. The 2nd and worst Indianola hurricane came in 1886, wiping out the Dahme business they had established after landing there. Thankful to be spared with their lives, Fred (my grandfather) and his family moved to Yorktown soon after that horrible storm and went into the lumber business with Willie Westhoff. My father was reared in Yorktown and graduated from high school in 1900. He then went to A&M College in College Station, Texas, where he received a degree in civil engineering in 1904. Afterwards, he took a position with the Illinois Central Railroad and moved to Chicago where he lived for some years in the Palmer House. As a chief civil engineer, he headed up a number of major projects for the ICRR, particularly the building of bridges, a number of which are still in use.

My mother, Freda Agnes (Nau) Dahme, was the granddaughter of August Burrow, who came from Germany to Yorktown via the East Coast. He purchased 2500 acres SE of Yorktown and settled down to ranching and raising a family of six daughters, one of whom was Agnes Frederica, my grandmother, and the oldest child of the family. She met one Moritz Nau, also of Yorktown, and they were married there. Later, they moved to Halletsville where my mother, Freda, and her brother, Oscar Car Bruno Nau, were born. (Through inheritance, I still own an interest in the old Burrow Ranch.)

Having a common origin, Germany, and being socially inclined, the Dahmes and the Naus were frequently together at community functions and gatherings. Obviously my father and mother met during some occasion when he came home from Chicago to be with his family and friends. Being 10 years older than Freda, tall, handsome and well known as a chief engineer for a leading railroad company, he was no doubt rather attractive to the young ladies in the community, but particularly to my young, beautiful mother, Fred Agnes Nau. The appeal was mutual and they were soon engaged, later married in Freda's home in Halletsville. Shortly thereafter, August left the railroad and moved with Freda to Yorktown, his old hometown, where he opened a Willys-Overland Automobile Agency. To this union, my sister and I were born, I on May 6, 1919, and Doris Lee on Feb. 6, 1921.

Things went well for my parents and the automobile business until the days of the Great Depression began, forcing August to close his agency. Due to his professional training, he was ideal for the job of DeWitt County Surveyor, a position he held throughout those lean and mean years. My father possessed a remarkable memory, almost photographic, and during his years as county surveyor, he seemed to almost memorize the metes and bounds de-

scription of every tract of land he surveyed or had reason to study. In time, such a blessed talent would serve him well. Soon after the depression, he opened an Oil & Gas Properties Brokerage company in town and set about buying and selling oil and gas leases, non-participating royalties and assembling large blocks of leases for major oil companies interested in exploring the oil prospects of DeWitt and adjoining counties.

By this time, my sister and I had graduated from Yorktown high school and were attending college — A&I in Kingsville. Although my father's business prospered, he was severely handicapped when he lost his vision due to a rare eye disease. He was about 50 then. My mother became my father's eyes, and I worked in their office after finishing college. It was then the the indelible memory of August Dahme paid off. Though totally blind, he was able to organize and supervise the assemblage of large blocks of leases and do "title work" for the oil companies' legal departments. He was recognized as a perfectionist and was inscrutably honest with all with whom he dealt. I considered him to be remarkable, as did many of his peers.

About that same time, something rather remarkable was happening in Yorktown. A young man from Cuero opened a self-serve food store and market near my father's office. His name was Tell J. McLarty. One of my routine duties was to go to the post office every morning and every afternoon, a route that took me right in front of McLarty's Grocery and its handsome proprietor. A nodding and speaking acquaintance soon turned into one with long chats and finally a date. Upon learning that Tell was commuting from Cuero each day, I urged him to take a room in the home of the Walter Dunns, my aunt and uncle, who lived on Fifth Avenue, directly in front of my parent's home! It was an extremely tactful maneuver on my part and officially made Tell a citizen of Yorktown, as well as my husband. We married on June 7, 1939, in the Lutheran Church in Yorktown. We took the first garage apartment built in Yorktown and moved in after our honeymoon in a new Ford convertible given to us as a wedding gift by Tell's parents. It had a rumble seat and cost $925.00! We couldn't have been happier. Tell showed unusual merchandising talent and his store became an instant hit, offering for the first time in Yorktown, dressed chickens, bottled milk, baby food and beer. His Saturday sales, featuring contests, music and dancing brought customers from far and near. I was quickly indoctrinated into the business, candling eggs and taking inventory, among other things. But the success of McLarty's Grocery was less interesting than the opportunity of being in the oil business with my father, who urged Tell to come with him. So, we sold the store to Alfred Kerlick in 1942 and joined forces with my mother and father. By this time, we had our first son, Tell Jefferies (Jeff) McLarty, Jr., born in 1940 at the Allen Hospital. Though qualified for deferment from service by being a father, Tell wanted to get into the Army Air Force and began preparations for entering World War II, then its third year. Shortly before he reported to Ft. Sam Houston to begin his basic training, my father died. He was then 62. The Dahme family was now reduced to one — my mother, Freda Dahme. My sister, Doris Lee, had married a Navy pilot whom she met while working in Corpus Christi; he was Jack Haskell from Akron, Ohio. After about two years in Guam, Tell came home an honorably discharged member of the 20th Air Force. Jack and Doris moved to Chicago where Jack became a lead singer with Doris Day for Les Brown and his Band of Renown. He later became a part of the Jack Parr show and moved to New York. Doris and Jack had one son, Tom Haskell. Doris died at the age of 57. Jack, Tom and wife Lisa and Tom's daughter Christina, all live in or near Darien, CT. We see them frequently and although far from DeWitt County, the Haskells still feel a part of the Dahmes of DeWitt County.

Tell, Jeff and I moved to Cuero about 1946 and purchased the Red & White Grocery store then owned by his father, W.T. We added to it, the Bak-O-Max, a quaint barbecue and bar. The Tucker automobile enticed us into the automobile business. We sold the grocery and bar to Charlie Koenig and opened McLarty Motor Company, which, after failure of the Tucker, became a Buick dealership, dualed with the Jeep. In Nov. 1946, our second son, James Patrick McLarty, was born at the Bohman Hospital, Cuero. We purchased the Tom Morman home on the old Yoakum Rd. about that same time. Although we paid only $5,000. for it and the 67 acres of land it sat on, it seemed like a lot of money at that time. I'm sure Don Stiles, whom we later sold it to, would value it considerably more than that at this writing.

My mother lived part time with us in Cuero and part time with the Haskells in Darien, CT. She died there in August 1972. The last of the Dahmes of DeWitt County were gone — but not their offsprings. Tell, our two sons and I remained in Cuero until 1954 when we sold the Buick agency to Bob Pratt; we invested all in a Rocky Mt. oil play. It was a rocky venture to say the least, although very exciting. The Overland Oil Co., our company, made a wildcat discovery well just at the city limits of Denver and near the Coors Brewery. But, alas, it went dry in about a year — and the ensuing three deep wells drilled after that were dry also.

The McLarty-Dahme blood is a rich blend, I think, and not one to trickly idly to a stop. We moved from Denver to Chicago and Tell took a marking position with a wire rope equipment company. He traveled the USA, Mexico and Canada for four years learning and finally, leading a new business to great success. In 1961, his opportunity came in California and we moved again, this time from the Windy City to Seal Beach, CA., where we live to this date.

On arriving in California, I acquired a real estate license and now, with over 28 years experience in that business, own with two other ladies, WestWays Realtors Inc. Los Alamitos, CA.

Tell and Patrick run our family owned business, Rhino, Inc. in the Los Angeles harbor. Patrick married Maura Elizabeth Cumming of CT. in 1981. They have two children who have a common birthdate. Meghan Elizabeth Grace McLarty was born Sept. 18, 1984. James Patrick (Jimmy) McLarty, Jr. was born Sept. 18, 1986. Their combined birthday parties make life a little easier for all concerned.

Jeff, now 49 and still unmarried, lives with us and has a ministry in his church, Crossroads, Westminister, CA.

We all live within a few blocks of one another and our lives are intertwined, as always. We still brag of our beginning in DeWitt County and try to return there as often as possible.

Our hearts are deep in the heart of Texas, in DeWitt County!

by Myrtle Grace Dahme

DARDEN FAMILY

F177

1705-1791

In Memory of Carrie Mae Darden Robinson

The Dardens came to America from England. George Darden, I, was born 1705-06 in Prince George Co., VA. He was the first true link to our lineage. A three hundred acre land grant in 1726 shows he settled in the northern part of Brunswick Co., VA, located on the northeast side and fronting on Wagua Creek. Across the creek lived John Burch. This is where George lived until he died sometime around 1748. He married Anne. Two children were listed in this family, George Darden, II, born 1734 in Brunswick Co., VA and David Darden born 1740 in St. Andrews Parish, Brunswick Co., VA.

George Darden, II, married Martha Burch April 25, 1759, daughter of John Burch and Elizabeth Lanier. George died 1806-07 in Livingston Co., KY. George II and Martha migrated to Halifax Co., VA. They next appeared in the records at Elberta Co., GA around 1771. (Elberta Co. is now Wilkes Co.) George II served in the Revolutionary War 1779-81, which took him through Georgia and South Carolina. Somehow there was time for twelve children to be added to this union.

1. George Darden, III, b. 21 Jan. 1762, Brunswick Co., VA, m. Elizabeth Stogier 20 July 1783, Elberta Co., GA. He died 20 May 1844 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

2. John Darden, b. 1764, Brunswick Co., VA, m. Elizabeth Harper, 1796, Elberta Co., VA. John died March 1811 in Greensboro, GA.

3. Elizabeth (Betsy) Darden, b. October 1765-6 in Halifax Co., VA. Married Stephen Heard. Elizabeth died June 5, 1848 in Elberta County, Georgia.

4. Mary Jane (Polly) Darden born January 6, 1769 Halifax County, Virginia, married first to John Williams and second to George Wynn. She died after 1827.

5. Samuel Darden born Halifax County, Virginia — no data available.

6. David Darden born 1770 Halifax County, VA, married first to Elenor Spain in Jefferson County, MS, and second to Elizabeth Truly in Jefferson County, MS. David died February 8, 1820, Jefferson County, MS.

7. Buckner Darden, born 1772, Elberta County, Georgia, married April 17, 1800 in Jefferson County, Mississippi. He died June 30, 1830, Jefferson County, Mississippi.

8. James Darden, born 1774, Elberta County, GA, married Susanah Heard around 1794 in Elberta County, GA. James died 1802, Elberta County, Georgia.

9. Richard Darden, born 1777, Elberta County, Georgia, unmarried. He died October, 1822 in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

10. Washington Lee Darden, born 1791 in Elberta County, Georgia, married Ann Sharkey October 10, 1805 Jefferson County, Mississippi. He died March 15, 1830 in Madison,

Mississippi.

11. Martha (Patsy) Darden, born October 22, 1784 in Elberta County, Georgia, married Hardin D. Runnels, Jefferson County, Mississippi. Martha died 1860 in Bowie County, Texas. Martha was the mother of Richard Runnels, Governor of Texas 1857-1859.

12. Ann Lanier (Nancy) Darden, born 1789 in Wilkes County, Georgia, married first to James Heard, second to Hiram Baldwin. She died June 2, 1844 in Lafayette County, Mississippi.

by Ellie M. Deason

DARDEN, WASHINGTON LEE AND GEORGE PATRICK

F178

Carrie Mae Darden

Washington Lee Darden, son of George Darden II and Martha Burch, was b. in Wilkes Co., GA in 1791, m. Ann Sharkey 10 Oct. 1805 in Jefferson Co., MS., died 15 March 1830, Madison Co., MS. He served as a Captain in the War of 1812. He settled in Jefferson Co., MS on a farm where he stayed until Jan. 1829. He then moved with his family to Madison Co., MS. By deeds of land, we know they acquired 1,840 acres for a plantation lying in Hinds and Madison Counties. He only enjoyed the plantation one year before his death, but he did leave a will for his heirs.

Ann Sharkey Darden was born 1 Sept. 1786, Augusta County, VA, the daughter of John (Shirkey) Sharkey, died 4 Feb. 1833. She also left a will. There were nine children born to this marriage.

1. Evelina B. b. 1806, Jefferson Co., MS, m. Caleb Reed 1823, d. 1830.

2. Parmelia H. b. 1808, Jefferson Co., MS, m. Dr. John Walton 1828, d. 1829.

3. Martha Ann, b. 1810, Jefferson Co., MS, m. Dr. Caleb Brown 1830, d. 1894.

4. Issyphena, b. 1814, Jefferson Co., MS, unmarried, d. 1825, Jefferson Co.

5. Stephen Heard, b. 19 Nov 1816, Jefferson Co., MS, d. 16 May 1902 Wharton Co., TX.

6. John Washington, b. 1818, Jefferson Co., MS, d. 1840.

7. Allen Sharkey, b. 1821, Jefferson Co., MS, m. Frances J. Hutchinson 1843, d. 1868.

8. George Patrick, b. 1823, Jefferson Co., MS, m. 1st, Mary E. Pawe 1845, m. 2nd Elizabeth Jane Dickinson, 1855, DeWitt Co., TX.

9. Elizabeth Mary Jane, b. 1827, Jefferson Co., m. George J. Hulmer 1843, d. 1849.

George Patrick Darden was the son of Washington Lee and Ann Sharkey Darden. He was born in Jefferson Co., MS. In 1855 he married Elizabeth Jane Dickinson of DeWitt Co. He died in 1879. George Patrick's father died when he was only five years old and his mother when he was nine. He was an heir to a large estate. Patrick Sharkey, Ann's brother was named as guardian. Between Patrick and an older brother, Steve Darden, George was assured a fair education. After he married Elizabeth he lived in Gonzales, TX. He was a farmer and a clergyman at Union Baptist Church of Gonzales, TX. They moved around 1870 to DeWitt Co., TX and bought a farm near Hope Community.

Elizabeth Jane Dickinson, b. 6 Sept 1841 in Austin Co., TX, d. 8 Jan 1906, DeWitt Co., TX. Buried in County Line Cemetery. Daughter of Dr. Samuel Burlin Dickinson, MD., and Caroline Elizabeth Kinnison. Elizabeth, when she married George Patrick became an instant mother to two step-children. Milton Caleb, born 1848 in MS and A. Walton born 1851 in TX to George Patrick and Mary Pawe. Eight children born of the union of Elizabeth and George Patrick. They were:

1. Adeline Edna, b. 20 Jan 1859, Gonzales, TX, m. John James Burwell, d. 8 Jan 1906, DeWitt Co., TX. Buried in County Line Cemetery.

2. Carrie Mae, b. 10 May 1861, Gonzales, TX, m. John Hugh Robinson 15 Nov. 1882, Gonzales, TX. Died 27 Nov. 1936, Tom Green Co., TX. (See: Robinson, John Hugh)

3. Cayloma Ann, b. 8 Sept. 1862, Gonzales, TX, m. Joseph Franklin Riggs 15 Dec. 1881, DeWitt Co., d. 17 May 1941, Lavaca, TX. Buried in Pilot Grove Cemetery.

4. George Washington, b. 10 Mar. 1865, Gonzales, TX. Unmarried. Died 22 Feb. 1929, DeWitt Co., and buried in County Line Cemetery.

5. Allen Stephen, b. 1869. Unmarried.

6. Samuel Heard, b. 7 Dec. 1872, DeWitt Co., and d. 24 Oct. 1933, buried in County Line Cemetery. Unmarried.

7. Mary E. b. 1875, DeWitt Co., TX. Married Rackley.

8. Josephine (Josie) Virginia, b. 1878, DeWitt Co., TX, d. 16 Feb. 1930, Upshur Co., TX Unmarried.

The men of this family did not marry. Therefore, the Darden name ended for this branch of Dardens. However, the blood line does go on.

by Ellie M. Deason

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DAULE, PROFESSOR EUGENE A.

F179

In the 1890's three fresh young men just graduated from the University of Baton Rouge, La. were looking for school work in Texas. They were G.W. James, C.H. Griggs, and E.A. Daule. C.H. Griggs was chosen to become the principal of the colored school located behind the Methodist Church on South Indianola Street in Cuero, Texas.

The next move was to Cuero Colored High School which had been erected on Toussiant L'Overture Street. Griggs was assisted by E.A. Daule. Later Professor Griggs departed for better school facilities. After his departure, Professor Daule became principal serving about forty-five years or more until his retirement in 1931.

Mrs. Katie Daule, wife of Professor Daule was a housewife, however, in her earlier years, she taught kindergarten in her home.

She and Professor Daule reared his niece, Mrs. Nora Lee Dupry who was a graduate of Cuero Colored High School. Mrs. Dupry returned to Cuero from her home in Louisiana when her uncle's health began failing, to care for him.

Professor Daule touched and inspired many students and today many of those persons owe the shaping of their lives to this great man. He was scholarly; a highly respected citizen and considered among the best and most learned educators of the Southwest. Many principals and teachers often came to him for advice and enlightenment on various subjects.

After Professor Daule's retirement in 1931, the P.T.A. in 1937 with the approval of the school board honored him by changing the name of the school from Cuero Colored High to Daule High School.

A timely program was rendered honoring this great educator with former students and many educators from over the state attending this grand affair.

Mrs. Daule preceded her husband in death with services being held from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero.

Professor Eugene A. Daule died July 15, 1943. His services were held from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero. The Daule's are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Beatrice Lyarel and Jesse C. Mathis

DAVIDSON, LT. GOVERNOR ASHBURY BASCOM

F180

A.B. Davidson was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, November 18, 1885. His parents were William and Catherine Davidson. He came to Texas with the family of his father in the year 1870 settling in Travis County but shortly afterwards moving to Williamson County which the family always considered as their old home and where the father of A.B. Davidson attained considerable prominence and wealth.

Davidson was educated in the schools in

Lt. Gov. Ashbury Bascom Davidson

Georgetown and when he had chosen the law as a profession he went to Gonzales and read law in his cousin W.L. Davidson's office. After passing the bar he became associated with the firm of Fly and Davidson, composed of W.L. Davidson and G.W.L. Fly who had attained statewide honor and reputation as an able and distinguished jurists.

About 1880, he moved to Cuero as a member of the law firm of Davidson and Jones. His partner married Miss Lillie Sutton of Cuero; later he moved to Waco where he died shortly afterward. Davidson's next associates were with the firm of Davidson, Pleasants, and George J. Schleicher, which was looked upon as one of the most able of South Texas. For twenty years he was associated with State Senator John H. Baily. The firm of Davidson and Baily ranked as among the foremost. The first public office held by Davidson was that of district attorney of the Twenty-fourth Judicial District, succeeding Judge Sterling F. Grimes. In those days it required moral and physical courage to enforce laws and prosecute organized crime. A.B. Davidson was fearless in the discharge of his duties and established a record during his tenure of office that had never been surpassed.

Later, in 1906, he was elected to the State Senate of the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Legislature where he again served with distinction. His record there led his friends to induce him to make the race for Lt. Governor. He was elected to the office. He served for six years in that capacity with the T.M. Campbell administration and four years with the O.B. Colquitt administration. At the expiration of his third term, Governor Davidson did not run for re-election; he retired from public life. He accepted the appointment by Governor Ferguson as a member of the Board of Regents of Texas A&M College at College Station.

Ashbury Bascom Davidson married Minnie McClanahan in Victoria in 1889. They lived at 306 Terrell St. in Cuero. Lt. Governor Davidson died February 4, 1920. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Gaynor Bank of Grace Episcopal Church and the Masonic Lodge.

(Taken from "Cuero Record" Feb. 4, 1920)

by Rosemary Kokernot

DAVIS, GEORGE WASHINGTON

F181

Dedication of the George Washington Davis Historical Marker. Descendants: Alta Cleveland and Lottie Thorn.

George Washington Davis described himself as he was in 1831 at the age of 33 when he arrived in Texas: "I was alone, unknown, and unfriended – unaccustomed and unfit for hard labor – knew nothing about it, had neither skill nor strength for it – was no hunter, incapable from nearsightedness of ever becoming one. I could, to be sure, make shoes and boots but what use for a boot maker among people who had no leather . . . and who were well content to wear moccasins."

On February 12, 1831, the Davis family landed at Cox's Point, across the bay from present day Port Lavaca. There was Davis, his wife Rebecca, stepdaughter, Sidna Gaston, stepson John Gaston, and his two-year-old son Eugene Davis. Davis was encouraged to remain on the coast and claim land between the Lavaca and Navidad Rivers, but he was determined to come to the Guadalupe. In Kentucky he had heard of "its rich soil, its fine climate, its beautiful scenery" but felt the hardships too great for the family. When Rebecca's enthusiasm had been excited "and her sense led her to see the great advantages that would most probably result from the enterprise," the family made the trip.

Davis met a man who was coming to Gonzales and wanted company. With his rifle on his shoulder, a half dollar, and a letter of recommendation, dated October 21, 1830 from the State of Kentucky, signed by Samuel Brink, att. at Law, Samuel G. Cook att. and Justice of Peace, Wm. B. Allen Att. and Justice of Peace, and James Allen, Justice of Peace, General of the Militia and Senator in the Kentucky State Legislator, in his pocket, he left his family in the camp he had built for them with poles and palmetto leaves, and set out on foot to find them a home. His son George Washington Jr. was born at that camp on March 12, 1831. In a letter dated March 12, Davis told his wife he had selected a league of land in the DeWitt Colony. He described the land as first rate, very rich, well timbered, good water, being healthy, and free from mosquitoes. He said it was the richest, most beautiful country he had ever beheld. He received title to the land September 6, 1831.

Descendants are uncertain if Davis lived immediately on the land he claimed on the Guadalupe. He was well-known and active in the life of Gonzales, some 25 miles from the land. He was known to have owned land in Gonzales, when the Mexicans demanded the return of the cannon given them for protection against Indian attacks, Davis was Secretary to the Committee for Safety of Gonzales. He wrote a letter on September 25, 1835, that was carried by runner to Nina and J.H. Moore on the Colorado River asking for help. The cannon was buried in Davis' peach orchard (on block 12 of the town of Gonzales). When reinforcement from nearby towns arrived, the cannon was dug up, a flag declaring "Come and Take It" was raised, and on October 2, 1835, the first shot for Texas' independence from Mexico was fired. The event is commemorated annually by Gonzales' Come and Take It Day celebration. In 1936, the school children of Gonzales erected a monument to that shot. Davis is one of the men whose likenesses are carved on the monument.

The war escalated, though he was not in the battle of the Alamo, his stepdaughter's husband, John Kellogg, and his stepson, John Gaston, both responded to William B. Travis' plea for reinforcements and lost their lives on March 6 when the Alamo fell. Davis's own sons were too young to serve in the Texas army.

Rebecca Davis died in 1846 and George in 1853. Davis' will, on file at the Cuero courthouse, provided for the erection of grave markers and a five foot stone wall around the burial site. The markers remain, but the wall has since fallen down.

The Watson family, fourth and fifth generation descendants, have built a pipe fence around the site to protect the graves from livestock. In 1962, the State of Texas placed a Texas Historical Marker at the grave site, and in 1986, descendants of Davis paid for the placement of a roadside Historical Marker, which stands seven miles north of Cuero on Highway 183 adjacent to the land on which the graves are located.

Fifth and sixth generation descendants presently living in DeWitt County include the Joe C. Watson family, the Tommy Watson family and the Tommy (Lynette Watson) Schlenker family. These events are part of the oral and written history passed down through the family, with parts substantiated by historical documents and history books. Lottie Thorn, great granddaughter who lives in Gonzales, has the original papers of Davis' appointments and the letter he wrote to Rebecca about the land he had claimed. Words in quotations were taken from "an account of your ancestors and relations or from whence you are" that Davis wrote to his sons.

There apparently was more than one George Washington Davis in Texas. This history is about the George who was born in 1797 near Philadelphia, Pa., son of Thomas and Ruth Burk Davis. He grew up near there and learned the shoemaking trade, and studied medicine at his father's insistence. Though he never

practiced, he later wrote that no time and money had been better spent for its value in treating his family and others.

In Cincinnati, he met and married Rebecca Warfield Gaston, a widow with three children. They moved to Kentucky and lived there ten years. He worked at shoemaking and studied law, as was always his choice to do. She, "with her natural untiring industry . . . spared no exertion to make money by enterprise and industry." Later they kept a tavern. By the time of the family's departure for Texas, the oldest stepdaughter had married, she remained in Kentucky and Eugene had been born.

by Mrs. Joe (Luella) Watson

DAVIS, GEORGE WASHINGTON

F182

Gravestone of George W. Davis

George Washington Davis, was the youngest child of Daniel and Elizabeth Davidson Davis. He was born August 1, 1817 in Bedford County, Tenn. on his father's farm, near the Duck River. Later, he moved with his family to Hardeman Co., Tenn., thence to Texas with his parents, brother Zachariah and sister, Elizabeth Davis Guthrie and their families. One brother John was already in Texas. Daniel and his family came through Mississippi enroute to Texas and are listed in the 1830 census of that state. They arrived in Gonzales, the townsite of Green DeWitt's Colony, on Feb. 20, 1831. Daniel received his sito or league of land, allotted by the Colonization Law of Coahuila and Texas, which is now located in DeWitt and in Gonzales Counties. George W., being about 14 years old, was too young to apply, but his two older brothers did. Zachariah's land grant dated July 19, 1831 and John's dated October 28, 1831, both are located in Lavaca County.

Daniel purchased four lots in Gonzales townsite and built a nice home for his family. Daniel was a horseman and brought with him from Tennessee many good saddle horses, probably what is known as a "Tennessee Walker" today. The blood line of these "Davis Horses" still existed in DeWitt and Gonzales Counties in the 1920's. George W. grew up helping his father with the horses and other livestock. The Indians, who loved good horses, always manage to steal some of Daniel's horses in their raids on Gonzales.

There were two George W. Davis, adult men, in Gonzales during Texas struggle for independence, which caused confusion and many history books write them up as one man. Later, with sons and nephews named George W. Davis, there were five or more in Gonzales.

George W. served in Capt. Albert Martin Company with Col. J.H. Moore's Regiment from Feb. 1835 to May 25, 1835 and participated in the Battle of Concepcion. George W. served under Capt. Albert Martin in the Gonzales skirmish, later known as the "Battle of Gonzales" on October 2, 1835, fought on the Ezekiel Williams farm on the Guadalupe River. (statement by P.C. McCoy.)

After the fall of the Alamo, George W. and Daniel helped set fire to the town of Gonzales. All the Davis family, except John, who history records as having died at the Alamo, were in the "Runaway Scrape"; George and Daniel participated in the Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836. They returned to Gonzales and rebuilt their home and helped rebuild the town. Daniel Davis died Oct. 25, 1849, buried in the Gonzales City Cemetery beside his wife, Elizabeth, who had preceded him in death. George was named executor of his father's will. George also acquired a large portion of Daniel's sito of land, where he moved his family to live.

George W. married Caroline (Kelly) Pease in Gonzales on May 27, 1840. She was the widow of Lyman Pease and had three children, as follows: 1. Mary Caroline m. William Harper, 2. Samuel Kelly m. Mary Ann Downs 2nd. Susan Laster, 3. Mary Ann m. Wm. R. Light 2nd. W.D.W. Peck. George and Caroline lived in Gonzales until the Indian raids had subsided before moving their family to the ranch land. They had the following children: 1. George W. Jr. b. 1841 d. ca. 1860, 2. Daniel b. 1843 d. 1878 m. Amanda Harper, 3. Zachariah b. 1845 d. 1925 was deaf and unmarried, 4. William b. 1846 d. 1901 m. Eliza Jane Gates, 5. Benjamin b. 1847 m. Susie Sparks, 6. Ann Eliza, b. 1848 d. 1881 m. William McCullough, 7. James Rhodes b. 1849 d. 1914 m. Mary Jane Vick. Caroline possibly died in Gonzales ca. 1850 and buried in the City Cemetery as no record of her death or grave has been found. George married 2nd. wife Elizabeth McCullough, Sept. 14, 1854, DeWitt Co., Texas. No children were born to this marriage, she already had two sons, William and David.

The Davis family and heirs had many Community gatherings, such as Brush Arbor Revivals, Camp Meetings, fish fries and "fiddle" playing, which sometimes lasted for a week, on this land in the bend of the Guadalupe River. My mother, Mary M. (Mollie) Kuykendall Crawford was a great granddaughter of George W. and Caroline Pease Davis.

The State of Texas erected a monument on his grave in the Davis Cemetery, with the State of Texas Seal and the following inscription: "G.W. Davis Aug. 1, 1817 – Nov. 15, 1880 – George W. Davis, Citizen soldier who served Texas in its struggle for independence 1835-1836 — erected by State of Texas 1962".

by Loraine Crawford Wingo

DAVIS, JOHN AND BETTYE

F183

John Crispen Davis was born January 22, 1928 in Beaumont, Texas to Lafayette Earle Davis and Merle (Blackwell) Davis. He attended Yoakum schools, graduating in 1945. That fall he entered the University of Texas in Austin. In the fall of 1946 he joined the Army and spent most of his service time in the occupation of Korea. After discharge in 1948, John re-entered the University and graduated in 1950. That year he entered The University of Texas Medical School in Galveston and graduated in 1954. After an internship at the Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio, he practiced in Yoakum with Dr. John E. Trott for three years. In 1958 John moved his family to Cuero to practice with Dr. Harold R. High.

John had a brother, Layfaette Earle Davis, Jr. who passed away on December 18, 1966. His grandfather was Dr. Finley Blackwell who practiced in Hochheim. His great-grandfather was Dr. O.D. Coppedge who practiced in Concrete

On June 12, 1953, John married Bettye Virginia Pickens in Eastland, Texas. She was born and raised in Eastland and graduated from high school in 1948. Bettye went to the University of Texas in Austin where she met John. After graduating from Texas Christian University, she worked in Eastland before getting married.

John and Bettye have four children: Susan, Steven, Charles, and Nancy.

Susan Elaine was born January 11, 1955 in San Antonio. After finishing high school in Cuero, she graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown. Susan is married to Barry Smith and they live in Dallas.

Steven Edward was born June 12, 1958 in Yoakum. He attended the Cuero schools and graduated from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. He is s State Trooper with the Department of Public Safety. Steven married Caron Hundley and they have two children, Tiffany Nicole and Crispen Ward-North. They live in Round Rock.

Charles Allen was born July 14, 1959 in Cuero. He attended the Cuero schools and graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Civil Engineering and works for Hunter Associates in Austin. Charlie married Joanie Korth of Cuero and they have two daughters, Brittany Megan and Chelsea Morgan. They live in Cedar Park, Texas.

Nancy Ann was born March 29, 1963 in Cuero. After attending schools in Cuero. She attended Sam Houston State University. Later she got her degree in elementary education from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado. Nancy is married to John Allan Langhoff of Yoakum and they have one son, Brian Allan. They live in Hobbs, New Mexico.

by Bettye Davis

DECEMBER, THEOPHIL THEO (THEODORE) HARRY AND (JULIA AGNES ELLA NATHO

F184

Theophil Harry December was born October 29, 1893 in the Biegel community near La Grange, Texas. He was a son of the late John Batiste December and his wife Katherine Sommer December.

Ella Natho December was born April 14, 1895, in Runge, Texas. She was one of thirteen children of August and Fredrika Schreiber

Julia Agnes "Ella" (Natho) and Theophil "Theodore" December.

Natho. She was baptized in the Lutheran faith in Runge and confirmed by Pastor J.K. Poch at Nordheim.

Theophil and Ella were united in marriage on March 15, 1925 by Pastor Poch at the home of her parents.

Theophil and Ella moved to New Braunfels in 1925. Here Theophil practiced his profession of pharmacy until 1933 when they moved back to Nordheim. In Nordheim, Theophil was a pharmacist at the Nordheim Drug Store and Charpentier Drug Store until 1947. At this time the couple moved to La Grange, where Theophil served the La Grange Drug Store and Schroeder Drug as pharmacist. Theophil died December 2, 1961 and was buried in the La Grange City Cemetery.

Before her marriage to Theophil, Ella was employed for many years as a saleslady at the former H.A. Stuermer Dry Goods Store at Nordheim. Ella died on August 7, 1967, in the Santa Rosa hospital in San Antonio. She was buried in the La Grange City Cemetery.

Theophil and Ella were faithful members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Nordheim, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, La Grange.

Two children were born to Theophil and Ella: 1. Carlyn; 2. Allan married to Laura Williams December.

by Carlyn December

DELONY, LEWIS HENRY

F185

Lewis Henry Delony was born in Sumpter County, Alabama on September 24, 1824. When he was about eighteen years old, he joined a company of volunteers to fight the Mexicans. They landed at Galveston, Texas and shipped their horses and accoutrements to Richmond. From Richmond, they rode horses back to San Antonio. They arrived too late to get into the first army of invasion which was at that time in camp at Brownsville. The Indians were on the warpath and had gone into camp above San Antonio about where Kerrville is now.

Lewis Delony joined Jack Hays' Texas Rangers and left San Antonio at once to fight the Indians. After scouting and chasing the Indians for several months, Lewis returned to San Antonio where Jack Hays was raising a company to join the United States Army to enter Mexico.

Lewis enlisted and afterward fought in every battle in that war. After the battle of Monterey, Mexico, he was transferred to General Scott's army at Vera Cruz and marched to the City of Mexico.

He was a member of Emmitt Lynch Camp, Cuero, Texas when he died on September 25, 1902 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. He had surveyed and helped to establish the county lines of DeWitt County and served for several years as county assessor of taxes. He was also a Mason and belonged to Live Oak Lodge, Cuero, Texas. He was an elder in the Southern Presbyterian Church for many years. He married Mrs. Sarah Ann Murphree, the widow of John Murphree on November 20, 1856. She was the daughter of James Norman Smith of DeWitt County.

by Patsy Goebel

DELONY, LEWIS S.

F186

Lewis S. Delony was born October 21, 1857 at Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas. His parents were Lewis Henry Delony and Sarah (Smith) Delony. Lewis S. went to school in Clinton to a Mr. Cocke, a son-in-law of Judge Henry Clay Pleasants, the district judge. After that he went to school at Major Carruths school.

In Dec. 24, 1868, Lewis and a friend, Tobe Kelley, were on their way to the school closing exercises at the courthouse in Clinton when they witnessed the shooting of Dick Chisholm and Buck Taylor.

In 1868, Lewis made his first trip to San Antonio with his father and his cousins, Sam D. and John R. Calhoun, who ran a wagon train from Indianola to San Antonio. After unloading the freight, they would load the wagons with cotton and hides for Indianola. Lewis drove a wagon with four horses on this trip to San Antonio. He had to curry the horses and harness them to the wagon every morning.

In January 1870, Lewis's mother died and his father broke up housekeeping and rented the family home to Judge Henry Clay Pleasants. Lewis stayed with his father and brother, William W. Delony, but his youngest brother, John M. Delony, went to live with Annie E. Murphree. Annie was actually a half-sister to Lewis but she was teaching and living in Victoria. Lewis' sister, Betty Delony was sent to Bloomington, Illinois to school and lived with one of her aunts, Mrs. Robert E. Williams. Lewis and William Delony stayed with their father and were taught by him. Lewis H., the father, was by then boarding with the Putnam family in Gonzales County and teaching school. The family then left Texas for a while.

In 1875, Lewis came back to Clinton, Texas and accepted a job with Sam Webb, who kept a general dry goods and grocery store in Clinton. One month later Lewis S. Delony was appointed a deputy sheriff of DeWitt County by Captain William Weisiger, sheriff of said county. He was involved in many of the "scrapes" of the lawlessness of the "Old West" times. He later (1937) wrote a story about his escapades. Lewis S. was also a Texas Ranger with Captain McNally, Lieutenant Lee Hall, Red Rudd, Spencer A. Adams and Kirk Lynch.

Lewis S. later went to work for Mr. Bill Hasson in Clinton in his carpenter shop. He helped to build houses in Burns Station, Meyersville and other places.

In 1879 Lewis S. made his last trip to Kansas with cattle. The cattle were owned by Tom Word of Goliad and Jim Summers was the foreman of the drive. When Lewis returned to DeWitt County, he went out to see his girl friend, Miss Jessie Wofford. While he was there, Mr. Wofford talked to him about moving the family Wofford home from Deer Creek to Cuero. The house was a large three-story house. Lewis S. Delony, Bill Hasson, Jim Hasson, John Calhoun and a Mr. Byres took the house down and hauled it to Cuero where they reconstructed the house.

Lewis S. Delony left DeWitt County and started a detective business in Austin. Texas. He remained in some phase of law enforcement until his death.

by Patsy Goebel

DeMOSS FAMILY

F187

Lewis DeMoss was born in Missouri in 1802 and died in DeWitt County in 1856. He is buried in the McCrabb cemetery near Cuero. Lewis was the son of Charles and Martha DeMoss who brought their nine children to Texas prior to April 20, 1824. Lewis married Catherine Tumlinson, the daughter of John Jackson Tumlinson and Elizabeth Plemmons. Catherine was born in 1809 and died in 1854. She is also buried in McCrabb Cemetery.

Lewis and Catherine had nine children: 1) Elizabeth was born February 5, 1829 and died November 20, 1849. She married June 1, 1844 Perry Davis. They had two daughters, Adaline and Laura. 2) Mary Ann was born December 1, 1830 and died February 5, 1871. She is buried in the Concrete Cemetery. She was married to Columbus Burns on June 20, 1850. 3) James DeMoss was born November 21, 1832 and died March 15, 1906. He married Mary E. White on July 20, 1857. Their children were: James C., Mary Elizabeth, Mabel Blanche, Annie Belle, John Henry, Jennie Turner, and Evelyn Cardwell. 4) Catherine DeMoss was born September 31, 1834 and married William Carmon Tumlinson on September 12, 1853. 4) Martha Olivia was born on March 2, 1837 and died January 24, 1838. 6) Laura Amanda was born December 12, 1838 and died July 10, 1927. She married Wyatt Hanks on February 25, 1857, and married two more times. 7) Eliza Jane was born May 10, 1846 and died August 6, 1927. She married James Chamberlin on April 12, 1864. She later married Mr. Frank M. Robinson. 8) Joseph DeMoss was born July 3, 1849 and died September 11, 1876. He married on November 18, 1874 to Alice E. Thomas. They had one child, Josie DeMoss (9) Isabella DeMoss was born January 4, 1853. She married Bluford Hunter on March 29, 1870.

After the death of their parents, Eliza, Joseph and Isabella lived with the Columbus Burns family.

Lewis DeMoss served at Goliad under Col. James W. Fannin, but was not captured. The DeMoss family lived in Matagorda County before coming to DeWitt County.

by Marjorie Hyatt

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DIDIER FAMILY

F188

Conrad and Catherine (Goly) Didierlaurent, c. 1890, Meyersville area.

In 1793, in Haut Rhin, France, an area of Alsace-Lorraine, Jean Didierlaurent, was born in the village of Ranspach, and Marie Anne Simon was born in the village of Mollau. They married, and in 1832, Conrad Didierlaurent was born in village of Mollau. His father was a textile factory weaver.

In 1829, in the village of Felleringen, Walbourg Bruetsch was born; her father was Jean Bruetsch, a carpenter, and her mother was Walbourg Brogli.

In 1856, Conrad and Walbourg were married in the Catholic Church at Felleringen. They were both fabric workers in the textile factory.

Twin boys, Joseph and Aloise, were born in 1856 at Felleringen, another son, Jean Baptiste, was born in 1858, and in February 1860 Charles was born. Conrad, his wife, Walbourg, and their four sons, left their home in the village of Felleringen for the port of Le Havre, near Paris. They boarded an American vessel, "Ship SS Pequot"; the Master's name was Davis. They sailed on Oct. 6, 1860 and landed in the port of New Orleans on Dec. 13, 1860. Most trips to the Gulf of Mexico took about 70 days. Most Alsatian emigrates took smaller ships to the Texas coastline of Galveston, Port Lavaca, and Indianola. From there, most traveled in oxen-drawn wagons. Conrad and his family came up along the Guadalupe River and settled in an area called "Twelve Mile Colletto," close to Meyersville. Now in this country Conrad was a farmer, who first rented and lived on the Powers Place. For Alsatians who had no slaves, times of Civil War were hard. Conrad served in the Home Guards of Coleto, under the command of Capt. John Jacob Schiwitz from 1861 to 1865.

During this time, Julius Ulysses was born in 1863, and a first daughter, Mary T. was born in 1866. Next Conrad rented the Weaver Place on 12 Mile Coleto, known as "Bitterly Home," there Rosa was born in 1867. Rosa was only 7 mos. old when her mother, Walbourg Bruetsch died. She was buried Oct. 1, 1867 in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville. Her grave was marked by a wooden cross and is one of the oldest in the cemetery. St. Peter & Paul, built in 1859, was first Catholic Church to be built in DeWitt County.

Without a wife and mother for his family, times became even more of a struggle, so in 1869, Conrad married a young girl of seventeen, Catherine Goly, who lived on the adjoining farm. Her father was Antoine Goly and her mother was Genevive Jacob Winkler. They were married by the priest, Rev. Kraus, at the Catholic Church in Meyersville. In 1871, after being in this country for 11 years, Conrad made his oath of declaration and filed his citizenship papers. The filing fee was $2.50.

The first few years were sad, for Conrad and Catherine's first children, Lazardus in 1869 and Edward in 1871, died at birth. Cecilia, their first daughter, was born in 1872; then Caroline, in 1874, who died when she was 6 months old. Edward, the next son was born in 1876. In 1876, two older brothers of the first family, Jean Baptiste and Charles were handling firearms, and Charles was accidentally killed. He is buried in Meyersville Cemetery beside his mother, Walbourg Bruetsch.

After their next child, Clara, was born in 1878, Conrad and Catherine moved to Mission Valley, where he purchased land west of the Guadalupe River and made this their new home. There, William was born in 1881, Robert in 1884, and Conrad in 1886. In 1887, the older son, Jean Baptiste died from typhoid fever and in 1888 another child, Catherine, was born and died at birth. Alfredus was born in 1890 and died a year later. In 1884 they sold part of their land and kept only 6 acres where their home was. During these years, Conrad had carried mail to the railroad at Thomaston, and returned bags to Mission Valley. He also hauled freight to Victoria for Col. Reeves, owner of General Mercantile Store in Mission Valley. In 1892, Frederich was born, and in 1894, Lorena, who is still living, completed their family.

In 1910 Conrad died and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery with his wife Walbourg Bruetsch and children. Catherine Goly continued living in Mission Valley until her death in 1929. She is buried in Mission Valley, where several of her children and families have been buried through the years.

by Jean Morrow

DIEBEL, HEINRICH CHRISTOPH ANDREAS AND KATERINE (SCHIWETZ)

F189

Heinrich Christoph Andreas Diebel (June 23, 1823 – July 8, 1892) known as Christoph and his brother Andreas Christian Friedrich (Oct. 6, 1831 – Sept. 10, 1905) known as Friedrich landed at Galveston on Nov. 30, 1850. They sailed from Bremen, Germany, on the vessel Solon with Captain Bulleer as master of the ship. The brothers came to Texas from Buehne, Prussia. Two generations of ancestors of Christoph and Friedrich have been traced to their grandfather, a Prussian carpenter also named Christoph, born in 1766. Records of

Ca. 1870 Christoph and Katerina Diebel

arrivals of passengers at Galveston list the brothers as Christoph aged twenty seven and Christian aged nineteen. These two brothers settled in DeWitt County where they married and founded large families. Sometime between 1860 and 1870 Freidrich moved to Victoria County where he is buried in Evergreen Cemetery with a Confederate memorial marker. Christoph stayed in DeWitt County, married Katerina Schiwetz (Aug. 11, 1838 – May 21, 1909) and settled on the Twelve-Mile Coleto Creek near Meyersville. Christoph and Friedrich bought a hundred acres of land from Katerina's father Christoph Schiwetz on April 3, 1854, for seven hundred and forty dollars. This land eventually became the Christoph Diebel family farm. A sister, Sophie Dorthea Lucie Diebel, who married George Heinrich Andreas Buehrig in Buehne, Prussia, also immigrated to Texas. The exact time of arrival of the Buehrigs is unknown but they also settled in DeWitt County and raised a large family. Efforts to visit Buehne have been futile because the village is now in the restricted border zone on the eastern side of the boundary between East and West Germany. Christoph and Katerina had twelve children, one of whom died in infancy. The others married and for the most part also raised large families. They married as follows: Friedrich Wilhelm married Pauline Bertha Haun and settled in the Golly area (See Wilhelm Diebel family); Jacob Friedrich married Elizabeth Wendel and settled in Meyersville (See Jacob Friedrich Diebel family); Carolina married Albert Duderstadt and settled in Meyersville; Edward married Emelia Dobsky and settled near Weesatche in Goliad County; Henry married Emma Pieper and settled in Berclair; August married Minna Pieper and settled in Ander; Friederika married George Reinhardt and settled in East Bernard; Catherine married Robert Gerhart and settled near Yorktown; Annie married Moritz Jacob and settled in Yorktown; Sophie married Mac Arnold and lived in Berclair; Bertha died as an infant; Albert married Eliza Post and settled in the Meyersville area. This was a substantial pioneer family of the new German settlement of Meyersville. Christoph was active in community affairs. He helped build St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church established in 1850, served on the church council, and signed the 1859 constitution of the church. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States on July 25, 1858. However, he swore allegiance to the Confederacy on June 30, 1862, and became a second lieutenant in the Confederate Home Guard during the Civil War. Christoph and Katerine and members of five generations of descendants are buried in the Meyersville Lutheran cemetery. The inscription on Christoph's tombstone reflects the faith which strengthened these early settlers: "Das stille Grab erschrect den Frommen nicht,

er hafft auf Gott und furchtet kein Gericht." i.e. "The silent grave does not scare the believer, he hoped in God and fears no judgement."

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

DIEBEL, JACOB FRIEDRICH AND ELIZABETH (WENDEL)

F190

Jacob Friedrich Diebel was born June 22, 1858, in Meyersville, Texas, to Christoph Andreas Diebel and Katherina Schiwetz. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Friedrich was baptized by Rev. John Jacob Schaeg and confirmed by Rev. M. Oehler in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville. Elizabeth Wendel was born May 5, 1859, in Altmarchen Amt. Spangelburg, Kreis-Malsunger Kurseen, Germany. At the age of six months she came to America with her parents John Wendel (1819-10/3/98) and Elizabeth Reimenschneider (1821-4/12/64); her three brothers Oswald; George (9/14/42-6/28/24); Henry; and one sister Maria (1850). They left Bremen, Germany, on Oct. 14, 1859, and seven weeks later on Dec. 26, 1859, arrived in Galveston, Texas. On Jan. 1, 1860, they reached Powderhorn (Indianola) and on Jan. 3 they came to Meyersville where they made their home. On April 12, 1864, Mother Elizabeth Wendel passed away. The five-year old Elizabeth began to spend much of her time with her sister Maria in Raisen. Maria had married Valentin Steadtler in 1866 at the age of 16. Elizabeth was baptized in St. John Evangelcial Lutheran Church and confirmed by Pastor Wm. Oehler March 24, 1872. Friedrich Diebel traveled by horseback from Meyersville to Raisen to court Elizabeth and on Dec. 9, 1880, they were married by Pastor Kropf. Fred and Elizabeth made their home on the Fifteen-Mile Coleto in Victoria County on what is now Noll Road off FM 237 between Meyersville and Mission Valley. This union was blessed with nine children, eight girls and one boy: Emma Friedericke Hildegarde (5/3/82-7/7/46), Mrs. George Junker: Marie Sophie (7/27/84-11/17/67), Mrs. Eugene Hausmann: Katherine Bertha (9/13/186-9/12/72), Mrs. Oscar Schaefer: Frieda Hulda Marie (7/31/89-12/22/40), Mrs. Edgar Hartman: Helene Auguste Elizabeth (11/6/91-1/5/83), Mrs. Edwin Hartman: Emilie Marie Caroline (1/12/94-6/28/14), died at the age of twenty of typhoid fever: Richard William Valentin (3/9/96-4/1/87), married Bertha Hartman: Linda Anne Emilie (1/21/98-12/23/87), Mrs. R.H. Gohmert: and Elizabeth Albertine Emilie (8/27/1900), Mrs. Henry Angerstein. Fred and Elizabeth made their living from the soil, growing mostly cotton and fruit trees and raising cattle and their own vegetables. They also made mustang grape wine. The girls sewed their own wardrobes. They were highly respected members of the community. Fred was a leader in St. John Lutheran Church. Fred also was one of the builders of the Noll School in 1893. The Diebel children attended this one-room school. In 1919 the building was removed from the site and in 1977 the Noll school site and the adjoining cemetery received an official Texas historical marker. It is located on FM 237 about 4.5 miles west of Mission Valley. There were many young men who came calling on the beautiful Diebel girls, squiring them to the local parties and dances which were held at the school, at Upper Meyersville Hall, and in their homes. The Diebel family was also known for their love of music. In 1930 "Opa" Fred and "Oma" Elizabeth moved to their new home in Meyersville and celebrated their 50th anniversary that same year. Their grandson Leroy Angerstein and his wife Lolly now live in the Diebel home. Oma passed away July 5, 1932, and Opa on Jan. 25, 1945. Opa's obituary reads: 'his childlike faith and christian life, like a thread of silver, was manifested throughout his entire earthly career — an ideal example to all who knew him — not primarily concerned about self, but about the youth of today and the church of tomorrow." —

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

Fred Deibel and Elizabeth Wendel family 1907 – Back Row L to R: Frieda, Richard, Helen, Emilie, Mid. Row Hilda, "Oma" Elizabeth, "Opa" Fred, Marie and Bertha. Seated Elizabeth and Linda

DIEBEL, WILLIAM FAMILY

F191

Friedrich Wilhelm Diebel (Oct. 14, 1855 – April 4, 1922) and Pauline Bertha Haun (Oct. 18, 1857 – Nov. 4, 1953), both of whom were first generation children of pioneer immigrants from Germany, were married on August 1, 1878. Wilhelm's father Christoph came to Texas from Buehne, Prussia. The place of origin of Bertha's father Adolph Haun is uncertain. Wilhelm and Bertha were married by Pastor Oehler in the Meyersville St. John's Lutheran Church. The two fathers, who served as witnesses to the marriage, had helped to found the church in 1850.

Wilhelm and Bertha began their married life on a farm in the Golly community of DeWitt County. Of the eleven children born to them, nine grew to adulthood. The family farm was near the one-room Golly school where the Diebel children obtained their education. This farm is still in the family, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Edmund Sager, resides there. The Diebel family attended church at St. John's in Meyersville where the children were baptized and confirmed and where most of them were married.

All of Wilhelm and Bertha's children settled in the area of DeWitt and Goliad Counties. The first son William Friedrich Adolph Diebel (Jan. 23, 1879 – Mar. 6, 1968) and his wife Alma F. Schorlemmer raised their family in Meyersville. Their son Erwin William Henry Diebel (Nov. 16, 1902 – Oct. 25, 1933) married Erna Marie Ideus; their daughter Melina Karolina Diebel (Nov. 15, 1903 – July 13, 1983) married Erna's brother Edmund John Ideus.

Next Bertha gave birth to twins. A girl Ida (Feb. 23, 1880) died as an infant; her brother Edward Friedrich Adolph Diebel (Feb. 23, 1880 – July 17, 1963) married Emelie Sauermilch and settled in the Weesache area. Their children were Meta (Sept. 13, 1909-) who married Norman Karnie; Gilbert Adolph Diebel (Jan. 10, 1911-) who married Hilda Fromme; and Roland Joseph Diebel (Feb. 3, 1918-) who married Adlen Ideus.

Another child, Wilhelm Otto Diebel (born July 2, 1882) died as an infant. Then Wilhelm and Bertha had another daughter. Emilie Martha Sophia Diebel (Oct. 2, 1883 – Mar. 30, 1957) married Herman Jutz. They established their home in the Golly area and had three daughters. Lily Jutz (May 24, 1902 – May 3, 1948) married Erwin Rath; Flora Jutz (Aug. 21, 1906-) married Chilton Purcell; Malinda Jutz (July 31, 1912-) married Elder Henry Jacob.

Next the Diebels welcomed Amalia Katherine Diebel (April 15, 1886 – May 3, 1973) to their growing family. She married Fred Herman Wendel and settled in the Meyersville area where their offspring consists of Halley William Wendel (May 18, 1910 – May 22, 1966) who married Ester Dreier; Victor George Wendel (Sept. 15, 1911 – Dec. 30, 1967) who married Regina Sophie Kornfuehrer; and Edwina Wendell (Aug. 26, 1914-) who married Elmo Hoff.

Another son Alfred Friedrich Diebel (April 12, 1887 – June 18, 1966) and his wife Hulda Behrens lived in Weesache and had two sons: Edgar Diebel (June 18, 1913-) married Eleanor Migura; Harold Diebel (June 19, 1920 – Mar. 16, 1958) married Dorothy Milton.

Nilhelm Diebel Family: Seated: Bertha and Wilhelm, Standing L-R: Alfred, Bertha, William, Martha, Edward, Amalia, Emelia, Adolph, O'Tillie

Wilhelm and Bertha had one more son Adolph C. Diebel (Oct. 8, 1890 – May 15, 1946) who married Melanie Behrens and resided in the Golly area. Their children were Dorothy Diebel (Oct. 4, 1919-) who did not marry; Delmar James Diebel (Oct. 19, 1921 – April 4, 1972) who married Dorothy Faye Bade.

The Wilhelm Diebel family was completed with the addition of three more daughters. O'Tillie Diebel (June 13, 1892 – Sept. 8, 1978) married Irven LeSage and lived in Cuero. Their children were Lois LeSage who was married to Garland Gus Schultz; Irven Louis LeSage, Jr. married to Ann Pieper; and Chester Rayburn LeSage (Sept. 3, 1918-) married to Evelyn Sager.

Bertha Diebel (May 2, 1895 – May 3, 1977) did not marry and lived in Cuero.

The last of the children of Wilhelm and Bertha was Martha Diebel (Mar. 28, 1899 – May 23, 1988) who with her husband Berthold Ludwig Dreier lived in the Golly area. Their children were Lorene Vernell Dreier (April 27, 1921-) married to Edmund G. Sager; and Robbie Nell Dreier (July 30, 1925 – July 1, 1968) married to Curtis E. Brown.

Martha was the last surviving child of Wilhelm and Bertha Diebel. After her husband's death at age thirty-four, she lived in Cuero for many years, but with her death the last source of first-hand information about the Wilhelm Diebel family was lost.

by Kenneth L. Diebel

DIEBEL, WILLIAM FRIEDRICH ADOLPH AND ALMA AMALIA FENNY (SCHORLEMMER)

F192

William Friedrich Adolph Diebel (known as Willie) was born 1/23/1879 in DeWitt County, in the Golly community, to Friedrich Wilhelm Diebel (10/15/1855 – 4/4/1922) and Pauline Bertha (Haun) Diebel (10/18/1857 – 11/4/1953), their first born. His grandfather, Heinrich Christoph Andreas Diebel arrived in this country 11/29/1850 from Buehne, Prussia in Germany. Willie grew up in a large family with 3 brothers and 5 sisters.

1901 wedding photo of William A. Diebel and Alma (Schorlemmer) Diebel

Alma Amalia Fenny (Schorlemmer) Diebel was born 5/13/1877 to Heinrich Carl Schorlemmer (12/24/1850 – 8/12/1939) and Emmalina (Franke) Schorlemmer (6/20/1846 – 12/28/1914) and grew up on the family farm situated on the DeWitt-Victoria County line, on what is now known as Dentler Road. The family lost 3 young sons, Rudolph, Heine and Gustav. Alma had one sister, Bertha, who married William Ruschhaupt and a brother, Oscar, who married Meta (Jacob). Alma's grandfather, Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer immigrated to the Five Mile Community of Texas from Darmstadt, Germany, in 1848.

Willie and Alma married in the old stone Church of Meyersville on 10/30/1901. The tin box that was put in the cornerstone of the Church was made by Alma's grandfather, Wilhelm Schorlemmer, who was a tinner.

In the 1890's Willie had purchased 99.75 acres, at a cost of $1,097.25, situated approximately 2 miles southeast of Upper Meyersville, from Herman and Johanna Duderstaadt and this is where he and his bride set up housekeeping. Side by side they strove to make a living from the land.

This union was blessed with 2 children, Erwin William Henry, born 11/16/1902 and Melina Karoline born 11/15/1903.

In 1906 Willie purchased 29 acres adjacent to his land, from his uncle and aunt, Albert and Elise Diebel, in 1912 he purchased 131 acres in the Mumford House League from Oscar Franke, Alma's uncle, and in 1919 an additional 135 acres, adjacent to his home place, from Katie Scheffler and her children. The fact the family could purchase a piece of land every few years attests to their hard work and frugal nature. German was the language spoken in the home.

On 11/18/1923 Melina married Edmund John Ideus and they moved into the old family home Edmund had purchased from Melina's family in September of 1923. Their story is elsewhere in this book.

On 11/28/1923 Erwin married Erna Marie (Ideus) and settled on what the family referred to as the Sheffler place. The two couples were very close as brother and sister had married sister and brother, married only 10 days apart, and lived side by side. In 1926 the first offspring of these two families were born only 34 days apart.

After selling the home place to Edmund and the Scheffler land to Erwin, on 10/1/1923 Willie and Alma purchased 40 acres on the 12 Mile Coletto Creek, across from St. John's Lutheran Church, from Emil and Martha Wendel. On 1/2/1941 they purchased an additional adjacent 27 acres from A.L. Semmler. This land is on the southwest side of the 12 Mile Coletto Creek.

With both children married, Willie and Alma started over on a smaller scale. They built a new home under the towering oaks, across the road from the Meyersville Public School, with William Fuchs being the carpenter who assisted. They worked a large garden and orchard, always having hundreds of strawberry plants. The grandchildren fondly remember wonderful strawberry pies and beautiful strawberry wine. During the holiday season the house would smell of fruit and anise, the original oak Christmas tree being covered with all shapes of highly decorated anise cookies,

apples, and chains of popcorn. On Christmas Eve, after Church, there would be an exchange of gifts and then good snacks of fruitcake, dried sausage, and a punch of hot wine and cinnamon. But first, Grandpa Schorlemmer, Alma's father, would read the Christmas story, in German, out of the Bible. The children very impatiently sat through this, as they could hardly wait for the gifts and food.

Willie and Alma's great sorrow was the tragic loss of their only son, Erwin, at the age of 30. They were a close knit family, taking great pride in their children and grandchildren whom they taught "To walk with the Lord". The Church played a major role in their lives and they were both active in its mission.

Alma died 5/28/1949 and Willie died 3/6/1968. Their graves can be found in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

by Virgie Gohmert

DIERINGER, ISADOR AND ANNA MARIE WILD

F193

Isador Dieringer was born in 1840 in Hechingen in the province of Hohenzollern, in the extreme Southwest corner of Germany. He was the son of Johan and Mary Anna Dieringer. It is not known if he had any brothers or sisters. He married Anna Marie Wild in 1862 and resided in several villages including Hechingen and Rannendingen where the Swiss Alps could be seen in the distance.

Anna Marie Wild was born in 1838 the daughter of Jacob and Anna Marie (Haug) Wild.

Isador was the village weaver in Hechengen. Every family in the village grew their own flax. It was cut and the bundles of stems put into a public tub where they were left to soften and rot away the softer parts of the stems. The stems were cleaned and dried and brought to the weaver for weaving. The loom in the Dieringer home was in the attic, "auf den beden". The children were taught to wind the bobbins and bring them up to their father at the loom.

The children went to school and played on schedule. Girls and boys had reading and writing, some music and arithmetic. Boys were taught some skill, as masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, and gardening. Girls had sewing, knitting, crocheting, and caring for children.

Isador died at a very young age in 1880, and is buried in Hechengen, Germany. Anna Marie sent the older children to America with the help of her family, the Wilds, who were already here. She brought the younger ones with her in 1885 and settled in Lavaca Co. near Hallettsville.

Isador and Anna Marie Wild Dieringer had seven children, 3 boys and 4 girls, all were born in Germany. Mary Anna Dieringer Herman (Jan. 16, 1864), Joseph Dieringer (Apr. 6, 1865), Francisca Dieringer Kahlich (Aug. 19, 1867), John Dieringer (1868), Anna Marie Dieringer Blaschke (Dec. 26, 1869), Katrina Dieringer Leister (Jan. 30, 1874), and Severin A. Dieringer (Feb. 28, 1876), and forty grandchildren.

Mother, Anna Marie died at the age of 50 in 1888 and is buried in Smothers Cemetery in Hallettsville. The younger children lived with relatives until they became of age. All married and most raised their families in the Lindenau and Nordheim areas.

by Gerald Zengerle

DIERINGER, SEVERIN A. AND EMILIA FUESSEL

F194

Severin A. Dieringer was born the youngest child of Isador and Anna Marie Wild Dieringer on February 28, 1876 in Hechengen, Germany. He left his homeland with his mother in about 1885 to come to America. His father, Isador had previously died and is buried in Germany. Severin married Emilia Fuessel on January 28, 1902 in Lindenau.

Dieringer, Severin A. and Emilia Fuessel

Emilia Fuessel was born on November 29, 1882 in Austria to Franz and Annie Blaschke Fuessel.

Severin and Emilia had five children while living in the Lindenau area; Meta Marie Dieringer Sturm (Oct. 28, 1902), Hugo John Dieringer (Mar. 17, 1906), a set of twins, Emil Henry Dieringer and Emilie Frances Dieringer Meyer (Nov. 18, 1908), and William Edmund Dieringer (May 30, 1911). In 1907 they moved to the Lost Creek area and in 1913 they purchased 450 acres in the Ratcliffe area on the Chisholm Creek. On the farm four more children were born; Edwin Joseph Dieringer (Feb. 20, 1914), Rosie Hermine Dieringer (Nov. 8, 1916), Melanie Johanna Dieringer Buenger (Feb. 8, 1918) and Roland Rudolph Dieringer (Mar. 4, 1921).

They cultivated the land and also raised hogs, turkeys, and chickens. Being sick for nearly 2 years, on October 28, 1922 Severin Dieringer passed away. With the help of the older children, Hugo in particular, Emilia managed to run the farm. She also let workers stay on the place to help tend the animals and help during harvest. Losing their father at such a young age was very difficult for the children, but they coped with the fact that they had to help their mother.

As the older children moved away, the younger ones would step in and accept their responsibility. With their help Emilia lived 52 years without her beloved husband. In the late 30's she began having vision trouble, and for the last 35 years of her life she was without sight. She died on September 10, 1974 in Cuero at the age of almost 92. She is buried next to her husband in Hillside Cemetery.

by Gerald Zengerle

Back Row: Anna Marie (Wild) and Isador Dieringer, Joseph, Mary Anna. Front: Francisca, John and Anna Marie.

DIETZE, EDWARD B. AND PAULINE KUNITZ

F195

Edward B. Dietze

Edward B. Dietze, May 24, 1878 – June 8, 1941, and Pauline Kunitz, September 2, 1877 – August 25, 1948, were married on December 25th close to the turn of the century. Shortly after their marriage, he began the operation of the Dietze Dairy. The dairy was located about a mile from the south edge of town, close to the Guadalupe River. There is very large acreage of pecan bottom land at this site. Edward and Pauline had five children: Verna, November 3, 1900 – June 24, 1970; Delka, June 14, 1904 – December 28, 1980; Norvin (Cutter), October 13, 1934 – November 23, 1970; Shelton who died at age two and whose birth date is unknown; Lawrence Edward (Tootie), September 12, 1910 – September 12, 1982.

by Shirley Dietze

DIETZE, ERROL JOHN AND SHIRLEY A. McKIBBEN

F196

Errol John Dietze is a native of DeWitt County and the eldest child of Lawrence (Tootie) and Violet Dietze whose history has been written separately. He was born February 29, 1940 and his sister, Majie (Mary Margaret) was born August 9, 1945. They were raised on the Dietze Dairy, located about a mile from the edge of town on F.M. 236.

Shirley Ann McKibben is the eldest daughter of Byron G. and Lillian E. McKibben. Shirley was born in Watertown, New York on January 25, 1943. There is a younger sister, Mary Jane, older half-sister, Virginia, and an older half-brother, Walter. Byron was born

Back Row L-R: Steve Takas, Sr. and Jr., Lou Takas, Violet, Errol and Tootie Dietze, Virginia and Allen Jones, Elenora Ruth, Lillian McKibben, Shirley Dietze. Middle: Johnny and Kim Dietze, Majie Takas, Tricia. Front Row: Steven, David and Jennifer Jones, Stephanie Takas, Dr. Byron G. McKibben.

August 12, 1905 in Des Moines, Iowa, the youngest child of Mable and Frank McKibben. He had a sister one year older, Meryle. The family owned and operated a small farm. Byron worked as a barber and a musician in order to earn enough money to begin his medical education. He entered the Army Medical Corp., served in World War II and continued with a twenty-five year career. In 1959 the family moved to Temple, Texas, and Byron took a position with Scott and White Clinic, in the ENT department. Lillan was born November 27, 1911, the only child of Francis and Mary Jane Sharlow, in Watertown, New York. She was a talented pianist and R.N. Anesthetist. She and Byron married July 8, 1941. She died in Temple, Texas, on November 10, 1982, and is buried at Bellwood Memorial Park. Byron married again on July 9, 1983 to Lillian Herbalin. They reside in Temple, Texas.

Errol John and Shirley were married on September 5, 1964. The following year, after she received her B.S.N. from Incarante Word College and he received his B.B.A. and L.L.B. from Saint Mary's University, they moved from San Antonio to Cuero, Texas. Errol John has been practicing law in Cuero since that time. He has been very active in many local, county and state organizations. He has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, DeWitt County Pecan Growers, Texas Pecan Growers and DeWitt County Bar Association. Shirley practiced nursing briefly at the Burns Hospital and the High Davis Clinic in 1965 and 1966. She retired from nursing shortly before their first child Kimberly Ann was born, June 18, 1966. Their second child Johnny (Errol John Dietze, Jr.) was born April 11, 1969. Shirley has been active on the board of directors and as an officer of Hospice of Victoria. Both children attended St. Michael's School. The family was a member of St. Michael's parish. Other interests and businesses include horseback riding, hunting, fishing, pecan culture, cattle and rental properties.

While in high school, Kim was active in Theaspians, Trotters and tennis. Johnny was active on the Gobbler football team, 4-H, F.F.A., N.H.S., and the student council. Both were listed in Who's Who.

Kimberly, a graduate of the University of Texas and South Texas School of Law, paralegal division, is currently residing in Houston. Johnny is a junior at Texas A&M University studying ag economics and considering post graduate work in law.

by Shirley Dietze

DIETZE, LAWRENCE EDWARD AND VIOLET ISABEL SEMMLER

F197

Lawrence Edward (Tootie) Dietze, September 12, 1910 – September 12, 1982, was the youngest child of Pauline Kunitz Dietze and Edward B. Dietze. He was raised on the Dietze

Mitzi Dietze, Violet Semmler and Lorita Wolf at Bridal Shower, for Violet. Girls dresses are pink crepe paper.

Lawrence Edward and Violet Isabel (Semmler) Dietze

Alfred Lewis Semmler and Marguerite "Maggie" (Schlein) Semmler 1910

Dairy located about a mile outside of the south edge of town, close to the Guadalupe River. He took part in all the daily chores, although, many times he missed milking because he would not miss football practice. When it came time for college, he decided to try Shiner Institute in Kerrville, but after a very short while, he realized college wasn't for him. All his needs and desires could and would be fulfilled right on the dairy. His mind was made up to follow in his father's footsteps.

Violet Isabel Semmler was the only child of Alfred Lewis Semmler and Marguerite (Maggie) Schlein Semmler. She was born on February 6, 1914 in Arneckeville, Texas. When she was three weeks old, Alfred and Maggie moved to Meyersville, Texas. Alfred bought the large two-story wood house there. It still remains today. Violet lived there with her parents until she was twenty-one. Alfred purchased the grocery store and later bought and enlarged the saloon. By the time Violet was seven, she was a big part of the business. It was her responsibility to keep everything swept and dusted. When the store and saloon were running smoothly, Alfred decided to get into ranching as well. In the 1960's oil and gas were discovered on his properties.

Violet and Tootie were married at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on April 29, 1936. In six weeks they moved into a new little house on the dairy. On February 29, 1940, they were blessed with a son, Errol John Dietze. In 1949, when his father became ill, Tootie took over the business and ran the dairy until 1967. After the dairy closed, Tootie continued in the ranching and pecan business. Their daughter, Majie (Mary Margaret) was born on August 9, 1945. Both children attended St. Michael's School and Cuero High School.

Tootie was active in civic affairs which he enjoyed a great deal. He was on the Cuero High School Board of Directors for seventeen years and a DeWitt County Coop director for twenty-one years. Errol John was active in Boy Scouts, Student Council and the Gobbler Football Team. Majie was active in Student Council, Future Homemakers of America, and Annual Staff. Both children had many other interests. Both children completed college, Majie at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and Errol John at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Majie married Stephen Peter Takas, Jr. on September 3, 1965 and Errol John married Shirley Ann McKibben on September 5, 1964.

Violet still resides in the old family home on the place. Errol and Shirley's story is written separately. Majie and Steve have two daughters, Tricia and Stephanie. The family has been in San Antonio for twenty-four years.

by Shirley Dietze

DIETZE, NORVAN GEORGE "BUZZY"

F198

Buzzy Dietze was born October 13, 1934 to Norvan Gillette "Cutter" and Charlice Dietze. He attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1953. Buzzy then attended Victoria Junior College where he played football. In 1955 he attended the University of Texas where he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity.

On January 28, 1956, Buzzy married Marilynn Mood. She was born in Austin on July 9, 1937. Marilynn came to Cuero in the Spring of 1947 with her parents, Francis Asbury "Penny" and Mary Lee "McCrabb" Mood. Marilyn graduated from Cuero High School in 1955. She attended the University of Texas in Austin. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

Buzzy and Marilynn lived in Cuero where he commuted to work at Dupont. Two children were born to the Dietzes. John Frederick (Jeff) Dietze was born on September 20, 1958. Jeff was named for his great uncle J.F. McCrabb. Jeff attended grades 1-8 in Cuero. His ninth year in school was spent in Carrizo Springs. His family then moved to Rockport where he attended Rockport-Fulton High School and graduated Valedictorian in 1977. He then attended the University of Texas where he was a member of the Longhorn football team for two years; member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and member of the Texas Cowboys. He graduated from college in 1981.

It was at the University of Texas that Jeff met Elizabeth Jane "Beth" Waggoner. They were married August 15, 1981 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the lake in Austin. They moved to San Antonio where Jeff attended St. Mary's Law School. Elizabeth Jane "Beth" Waggoner was born April 18, 1959 in Bryan, Texas. She is the daughter of James Mayo Waggoner and Shirley Jane Johnson Buvens. Most of her childhood years were spent in Tomball, Texas where she attended grades 1,4-12. She graduated from high school in 1977. She attended the University of Texas from 1977-1981 where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. Beth's paternal great, great, great, great, great grandfather, Johann Jacob Wagner, Jr. was born in 1754. This was about five years after his father Jacob, Sr., immigrated to America from Germany. Johann Jacob was a great friend of Daniel Boone who lived in Davidson County, North Carolina about 12 miles from Johann Jacobs home. Johann Jacobs home was three miles west of Lexington, North Carolina on Swearing Creek on a farm. Johann Jacob also served in the Revolutionary War.

Jeff and Beth moved to Cuero after Jeff completed law school. He worked for a while in Victoria, then decided to start his own practice in Cuero. In 1985 he completed the renovation of a building he purchased which houses his existing law practice.

Jeff and Beth have three children: John Frederick "Dos" who was born October 31, 1983; Weldon Waggoner who was born October 8, 1985 and Caroline ElizaBeth who was born July 13, 1985.

William Kyle Dietze, the second of the Buzzy Dietze children, was born September 20, 1962. He attended Cuero School from grades 1-4. He then moved to Carrizo Springs and then to Rockport where Kyle graduated from Rockport-Fulton High School in January 1981. He attended the University of Texas for two years and was a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.

Kyle married Claire Marie McCarter in Houston on February 15, 1986. They lived in Houston where Kyle was an insurance agent with John Hancock Financial Services and owned a small real estate company, Land Tech Realty. In June 1986, Kyle went to work for McCarter Energy doing all of their land leasing and purchasing. Claire worked as a land secretary for McCarter Energy. On August 5, 1988 their first child, Alexis Estelle was born. Then in January 1989, Kyle and Claire moved to Cuero where Kyle went to work for his brother doing paralegal work. In 1989 their second child was born on December 23. Her name is Christin Nicole Dietze.

Buzzy Dietze died of a heart attack in 1970 at the age of thirty six. Marilynn later married Linwood Lee Bland in 1973. In 1981 Linwood and Marilynn divorced and she moved to Austin and became a house mother for Beta Sigma Phi Fraternity. After a while Marilynn decided to sell real estate in Austin where she continued to live for the next several years.

Marilynn moved back to Cuero and is presently working for her son Jeff, in his law practice.

by John F. Dietze

DLUGOSCH, FILIP AND KONSTANTINA WARZECHA

F199

Filip (Philip) Dlugosch was born on May 1, 1844, in Upper Silesia, Poland, the son of Frank Dlugosch. The Frank Dlugosch family immigrated to America in 1855, when Filip was 11 years old. Filip's family settled in Meyersville, Texas.

Konstantina (Constance) Warzecha was born on May 20, 1856, in Panna Maria, Texas, the third child of Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka Warzecha. Her parents had immigrated by boat from Upper Silesia, Poland, only five months earlier in October to December, 1855, with two sons, Josef, age 5, and Julius, age 2 years. Her mother was pregnant with Konstantina when the family was traveling to America. During the long, hard trip, Konstantina's brother, Julius, died at sea. The family lived in Panna Maria first, where Konstantina and her siblings, August and Maria Warzecha, were born. Konstantina's father served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Then the family moved to Yorktown, Texas, where they settled permanently, and where brother, Stanick Warzecha, was born.

Filip Dlugosch and Konstantina Warzecha were married on November 19, 1872, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, Texas. The priest, Rev. Adolph Snigurski, presided at their wedding. At the time of her wedding, Konstantina was using the nickname, Tena, as shown on her marriage license.

Filip and Konstantina were farmers living on a 200 acre farm near Yorktown and near the Ratcliffe Community in the area known at that time as the Five Mile Community. They were neighbors with Tena's brother and his wife, Josef Warzecha and Mary Jendrzey Warzecha.

A large family of eleven children were born to Filip and Tena Dlugosch, including: Thomas, born December 29, 1873; Albina, born November 16, 1877; Bertha, born September 19, 1882, Josephine, born September 25, 1886; Lucy, born December 25, 1888; Caroline, born June 24, 1892; twins Peter and Nick, born September 8, 1894, and also August, Mary, and Julia Dlugosch. Sadness came often to this family. Mary and Julia Dlugosch died as infants, and August died at about age 10 or 12 years. Nick Dlugosch, a twin, died on January 12, 1914, at the age of 19 years, and Josephine Dlugosch, who remained single, died of kidney trouble on July 5, 1917, at the age of 30 years.

There were also happy times for Filip and Konstantina, as many of their children married and gave them grandchildren.

Albina Dlugosch married Pius John Muschalek on April 25, 1899, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, Texas. They settled in Yorktown, and were blessed with eight children: Sophie (Danysh), Lucy (Machost), Pete, Ben, John, and Nick Muschalek, and Annie (Migura), and Martha (Danysh).

Bertha Frances Dlugosch married Bob Spinks on December 4, 1908, at the Baptist Church in Harwood, Texas (near Gonzales). They made their home in Harwood, and had three sons: Earl, Leroy, and Bob Spinks.

Lucy Jane Dlugosch married Steve Drapalla on November 16, 1910, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, Texas. They made their home in the Lindenau Community, and raised five children: Alvina (Danysh), Frank, Carrie, Regina, and Stanley Drapalla.

Carolina (Carrie) Dlugosch married Peter Danysh, but they had no children.

Peter Paul Dlugosch married Vera Migura and lived in the Five Mile Community near Ratcliffe, Texas. They were blessed with three children: Ben, Constance (Mueller), and Phillip Dlugosch.

Thomas F. Dlugosch remained single.

The summer of 1913 was the time when both Filip and Konstantina contracted pneumonia, and were literally coughing themselves to death. Filip Dlugosch died on July 17, 1913, at age 69 years, and Konstantina Warzecha Dlugosch died only five weeks later on August 26, 1913, at age 57 years. They were buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

Note: In September, 1916, St. Mary's Catholic Church and Cemetery were renamed as Holy Cross Catholic Church and Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

DOBBS FAMILY

F200

It was in the early months of 1919 when the Dobbs family moved to Cuero and DeWitt County. The family consisted of James Cole Dobbs M.D., his wife, EBA Horton Dobbs and one young daughter, Elizabeth Horton. Dr. Dobbs had just been discharged from the Army Medical Corp after serving two years as a doctor for the U.S. Army during World War I. He was invited to come to Cuero to again begin practice by Dr. Joe Reuss. He and Dr. Reuss were associate doctors in the Reuss Hospital on Reuss Blvd. until Dr. Reuss's death. Several years after the Reuss Hospital was sold, Dr. Dobbs became an associate in the Burns Hospital specializing in pediatrics and obstetrics. He practiced medicine in Cuero and DeWitt County for thirty four years and his office for all that time was upstairs in the Buchel Building on the northwest corner of Main St. and Esplanade.

During the years that Dr. Dobbs lived in Cuero he was very active in civic affairs and contributed to the growth and prosperity of the community. He was a member of the American Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association through the DeWitt Medical Society and served as president of the latter. He was past president of the Cuero Rotary Club, the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, and the Cuero Independent School District. He was also an active member of the American Legion and the Masonic Lodge. He was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero and served as a Deacon of the church for many years. At the time of his death, on Aug. 8, 1952, he was acting in the capacity of City Health Officer.

EBA Horton Dobbs was an enthusiastic member of several civic organizations. She served as president of the Hawthorne Club and was an active member of the DeWitt County Federation of Women's Clubs, the Civic Club of Cuero, and the Garden Club of Cuero. She worked on committees for the beautification of the DeWitt County highways and of Cuero. She gave many hours of her time and work to the landscaping of the Cuero Park by planting trees and shrubbery and then taking care of them through the hot summers. The annual Flower Show was one of her special interests and she worked tirelessly for its success each year.

Mrs. Dobbs was a devout member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero. Her special interest was in the youth of the church. She taught Sunday School and was the leader of the Sunday afternoon youth group called the Christian Endeavor. She touched and inspired many young lives. She also worked with the Women's Auxiliary of the church and led several groups of Bible study. She was often called upon for some special church or community service and always accepted cheerfully. She was never too busy to visit the aged and the sick and usually took something to cheer them up. Mrs. Dobbs was chosen Cuero Woman of the Year and Good Neighbor of the Week in the 1940's.

Both Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Dobbs offered their time and energy willing and enthusiastically to the betterment and improvement of the community in which they lived.

EBA Horton Dobbs moved to Denver, Colorado in November of 1960 to live near her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. She died February 4, 1974 at the age of 89 and is buried next to her husband in the Edna, Texas Cemetery.

by Elizabeth Dobbs Zeorian

DOMANN, WILLIAM HENRY FAMILY

F201

William Henry and Helena (Janssen) Domann

William Henry Domann was born August 9, 1851 in Isingher, Kreis Peiretz (Pomerern) Germany. He came to America in 1885, coming into the Texas, Port of Indianola and settling near Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas in the Five Mile Community.

William Domann met and married Maria (Springer) Domann born October 19, 1857 in Salore Island, Texas. To this union three children were born, Henry, Bertha and Augusta.

Maria (Springer) Domann died May 7, 1894, and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

William Henry Domann and other German Lutherans of Cuero, Texas and surrounding neighborhoods with the help of visiting ministers organized on July 18, 1886 a new congregation calling it "Evangelical Lutheran St. Marks." William Henry Domann was a Charter Member of this new Lutheran Congregation.

William Henry Domann then met Helena Janssen. She was born in Oldenburg, Germany on May 15, 1862. She arrived at Lindenau, DeWitt County, Texas about 1893.

William Henry Domann and Helena Janssen were married on November 12, 1895. To this union were born six children: Louise Wilhelmina, Otto John, Anna Maria, Sophie Helena, Paul Dietrich and Emma Johanna Pauline. Their home was in the Five Mile Community where the family all worked together. They raised cotton and corn, did some truck gardening, and had some beef and milk cattle. One of the crops raised was onions which they sold for .03 cents a pound.

Helena (Janssen) Domann died March 11, 1917. Paul Dietrich was 11 and Emma Johnna Pauline was 9 years old. The eldest child, Louise Wilhelmina, now took charge of the Domann household until her marriage.

William Henry Domann died January 21, 1919. William and Helena (Janssen) Domann are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. William Grimner

DORNBLUTH FAMILY

F202

The Dornbluth family of DeWitt County trace their ancestry to the village of Tangermunde an der Elbe, Germany, where in 1707 one Friederich Dornbluth married Katherina Elizabeth Meyer. The vocation of Friederich is not known but a son, Friederich Christopher, born 1709, was a student of divinity in Halle in 1731. In 1739 he married Christina Elizabeth Richter, probably a widow since her maiden name was said to be Scholpin.

On the Dornbluth family tree Christian Ludwig Dornbluth, born 4 May 1753, is described as the ancestor of the Schnackenburg lineage. A trader and boatman, he married Anna Ilsabe Weise, widow of John Dietrich Fischer, in 1783. A son of this couple, August Wilhelm, also a trader, married Friederisle Charlotte Sophie Ilsabe Schulz in 1811. Their youngest son, Karl Ludwig Dornbluth, a trader of Schnackenburg, was the father of Paul Dornbluth of Cuero and DeWitt County. Karl Ludwig, born 8 April 1833, married Margarette Kathrinka Magdelene Friederisle Blumenthal in 1860. Carl Edward Paul was born 7 August 1864. He was their third child.

As a young man, Paul, as he was known, studied at Luneberg College in Germany. When he was eighteen he left Germany to come to Texas. He lived in Cuero in DeWitt County for the rest of his life. For some fifty years Mr. Dornbluth was associated with H. Runge & Company Bank. He also served as president and member of the Board of Director of Cuero Federal Savings and Loan. In 1933 he formed the Dornbluth Insurance Agency. He remained active in the business until his death in 1952.

In 1896 Paul Dornbluth married Elizabeth Reiffert, the eldest child of Henry and Theodore Blumenthal Reiffert. They had five children:

1. Dorothy Katherine, born 31 March 1897, married Charles Hackenjos, died in Cuero 2 February 1970. No children.

2. Carl Henry, born 29 December 1899, married Verna Coppert. Children: Verna Karen married Clyde Bargsley, 3 children; and Nella Carol, married Dr. Don Howe, 1 child. He died in 1987.

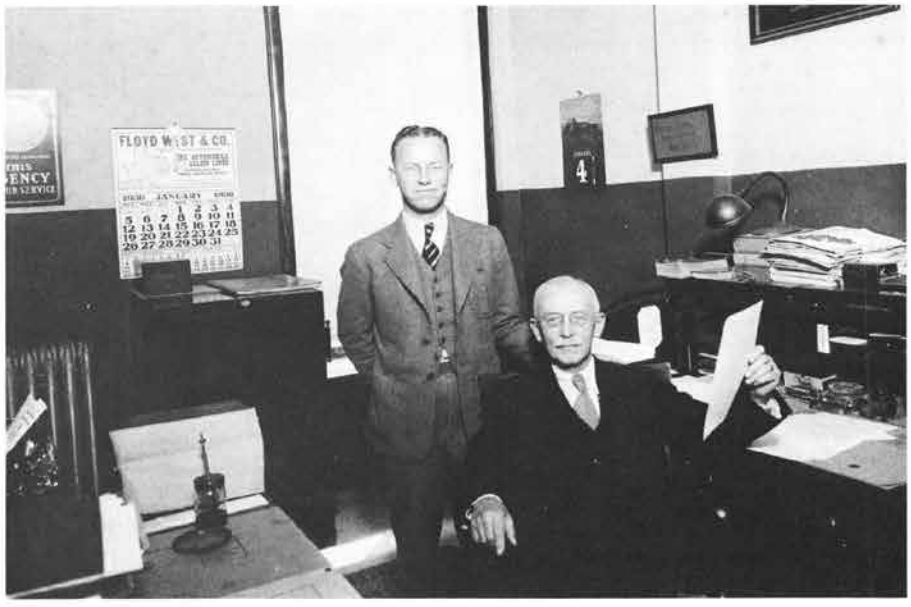
3. Herbert Julius, born 1 September 1902, married 1) Lorene Rhodes and 2) Laverne Bennet Beakley. No children.

4. Elizabeth Pauline (Lisa), born 5 October 1905, married James Milton McLean. Children: 1) James, born 20 August 1928, married Juanita Lee, 3 children; 2) William, born 2 December 1931, married Marilyn Preise, 4 children.

5. Paul, born 2 December 1910, married Florence Bishop, 2 child, Carole. He died in 1979.

Herbert Dornbluth, third child of Paul and Elizabeth, joined his father in the insurance agency when it was first organized. He continued to conduct the business after his father's death in 1952. Like his father, Herbert was a prominent business and community leader. He was a veteran of World War II and a long time member of the American Legion Post No. 3. A devout Episcopalian, he served on the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church for many years. He also was a member of the Cuero Rotary Club and served as president and was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Herbert Dornbluth died in 1976.

by Mrs. LaVerne Dornbluth



Herbert and Paul Dornbluth 1935 Insurance Office, Cuero.

DOWLEARN, JOSHUA MARTIN, SR.

F203

(See picture on page 838)

Joshua Martin Dowlearn, Sr. was born in approximately 1831 to Hepzibeth Looker Taylor Dowlearn and Patrick Dowlearn who were married on July 25, 1830. Josh had nine older half brothers and sisters whose surname was Taylor.

Joshua's mother died when he was about eight years old and his father married Nancy Harvey. They had one son, John, who was killed in Arkansas during the Civil War.

On October 20, 1850 Joshua married Jane Lowe and is listed in the census of that year as living in the same household as his step-mother who was now married to his brother-in-law, B.F. Lowe. Joshua and Jane became the parents of ten children her before her death in 1871.

They were, in order of birth, Mary E., Patrick H., Josephine, William, Rufus, Alfred, Jeff, Susan L., Dora, and Sophronia. Joshua then married Rebecca Harkins and fathered five children. They were Joshua Martin, Jr., Alice, Annie Hepzibeth, Walter Hollis, and Cyrus.

Joshua died in 1891 and is buried in Burn's Station Cemetery south of Cuero beside his first wife, Jane Lowe. Joshua served in the Civil War and was a Brand Inspector in DeWitt county at one time. He and his large family lived on Chicolete Prairie and it is said that he kept count of how many of the boys were home by counting the saddles hanging on the porch. At least one and perhaps other of his children were involved in the Sutton-Taylor Fued after the Civil War.

Next to Joshua and Jane at Burn's Station Cemetery is Rufus Dowlearn, Sr. who was this writer's great-grandfather. Rufus married Annie Meeks in 1881 and had one known child, Rufus Tony Dowlearn, Jr. Rufus, Sr. died of pneumonia in the fall of 1887 when his son was 4 months old.

Annie Meeks Dowlearn then married Ben F. Alexander and they had at least four children whose names were Ben, Buck, Si, and Nell.

Rufus Tony Dowlearn, Jr. married Rosa Hoffer in 1906 and they had seven children, four of whom lived to maturity. They were Anita, John and James, twins, and Joseph.

John was this writer's father. He married

Hazel Thomas on November 16, 1938 and they had five children, Dwayne, Thomas, Gary, Anthony and Star.

by Thomas A. Dawlearn

DOWLEARN, PATRICK
F204

In Texas (1824 — 1849)

The first mention of Patrick Dowlearn is in the document appointing the Baron De Bastrop to represent the colonists in the Colony on the Colorado and Brazos in 1824, in the convention for the state of Cohilla and Texas. Dowlearn was one the the signers of this document.

Patrick Dowlearn was registered on May 31, 1827, at "Old Town" in DeWitt's Colony. This was before people were forced by the Mexican government to abandon this site and move inland to their grants in DeWitt's Colony proper. This entry in the register stated that Patrick Dowlearn was born 1799, in Missouri and arrived in DeWitt's Colony from Louisiana.

The next mention of Dowlearn is in his application for 1/4 league of land from the Mexican government in DeWitt's Colony, June 24th, 1827, single, and swore allegiance to Mexico.

The Land Grant was officially finalized on July 25, 1831. This piece of land is located on the Guadalupe River near Cuero, Texas, next to the Josiah Taylor league.

The first few years of Dowlearn's time in Texas are hard to follow, but after 1830 everything found appears to be the same man, Patrick Dowlearn, who married Hepzibeth Luker Taylor, widow of Josiah Taylor, July 25, 1830. Josiah Taylor's league was awarded posthumously, to his widow, in July, 1831. Family stories say Patrick was a widower, but this has not been proven.

Patrick and Hepzibeth had one son, Joshua Dowlearn, who married Jane Lowe. Hepzibeth also had nine children from her marriage to Josiah Taylor.

Hepzibeth died, circa. 1840, and Patrick then married Nancy Harvey in October, 1841. This marriage produced one son, John who never married and was supposedly killed in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, during the Civil War.

In 1845 a series of land transactions were begun by Patrick involving himself, and other nearby settlers. These transactions involved a considerable amount of property and the reason for them occuring was finally determined to be Patrick's wish to free his estate from that of his step-children, the Taylor's, who were entitled to inherit the Josiah Taylor League. These transactions were concluded in 1846.

Patrick is known to have served in the Texas Army with William Riley Taylor after the war. While it is almost certain Patrick served during the revolution, no proof has been found to substantiate this.

In 1838, Patrick Dowlearn served on the fist jury to ever hang a man in the Republic of Texas. This occured in Victoria.

Patrick died in 1849 and a deed of trust was executed by his wife, Nancy Harvey Dowlearn shortly thereafter.

by Thomas A. Dawlearn

DREIER, ALFRED AND AMALIA (HARTMAN)
F205

Alfred and Amalia (Hartman) Dreier

1910 Amalia Dreier with Nora and Alfred with Esther Dreier

Alfred Dreier was born January 9, 1881, the son of William and Matilda (Boldt) Dreier. On August 9, 1905, he married Amalia Hartman who was born August 10, 1885, the daughter of Christian and Amalia (Schaefer) Hartman. In 1919 Alfred inherited the 200 acres that William acquired title to in 1877. Alfred and Amalia lived there and raised cattle and farm products all of their life.

Alfred donated the land for a one room school to the community and was a trustee for many years. The school was named New County Line School. Alfred also helped build a new church, St. John Lutheran Church of Meyersville, built in 1921.

Alfred and Amalia had six children: 1) Nora who died at an early age; 2) Esther married Halley Wendel; 3) Louis married Irene Kahlich; 4) Elvira married Bryant Sholars; 5) Margaret married Allen Wendel; and 6) Luella married Alfred Maurer.

Alfred Dreier died on June 4, 1965 and is buried at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. Amalia Dreier died on September 10, 1960 and is also buried at St. John Lutheran Cemetery.

by Louis and Irene Dreier

DREIER, LOUIS AND IRENE (KAHLICH)
See Story F580

DREIER, SIMON HEINRICH AND ANNA LUISE FRIEDERICKE BLOMBERG
F206

Simon Heinrich Dreier, before his immigration to Texas, was a weaver in Bosingfeld bei Extertal, Principality of Lippe, Germany. He was born in Bosingfeld on 22 September 1787. He was baptized in the Reformed Church at Bosingfeld on 28 September 1787 and given the baptismal name Simon Henrich. Baptismal sponsors were Simon Heinrich Sutmar, Herman Kruger, Theophilus Gronewald, and Christoph Schake. The parents of Simon Heinrich Dreier were Johann Henrich Drier/Dreyer (b. 9 May 1763 at Bosingfeld; d. 23 March 1818 Bosingfeld; m. 29 October 1786 Bosingfeld) and Sophie Dorothea Louise Dreier, nee Kruse (b. 1764 Stumpenhagen, Bega bei Dorentrup, Principality of Lippe; d. 30 December 1835 Bosingfeld). Simon Heinrich Dreier died on 24 July 1869 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas, and was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

On 9 August 1817 in Bosingfeld, Simon Heirich Dreier married Anna Luise Friedricke Blomberg, daughter of Hans Simon Henrich Blomberg (b. May, 1742 Lassbruch bei Extertal, Silixen Reformed Church Parish, Principality of Lippe; d. 25 January 1807 Steinige bei Extertal, Bosingfeld Reformed Church Parish; m. 8 May 1774 Bosingfeld) and Anna Catherina Elisabetha Blomberg, nee Schweppe (b. 20 August 1754 Hagendonop bei Extertal, Principality of Lippe; d. 25 February 1818 Linderhoffe bei Extertal, Bosingfeld Parish; m. #1: 27 September 1772 Bosingfeld to Berend Henrich Korf). Anna Luise Friedricke Dreier, nee Blomberg, was born on 24 January 1796 in Linderhoffe; she died on 13 March 1885 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

According to church records in Germany, the marriage of Simon Heinrich Dreier and Anna Luise Friedricke Dreier, nee Blomberg, produced ten children, all of whom were born in Bosingfeld: Simon Heinrich Christian Dreier (b. 9 April 1818; d. 25 April 1818 Bosingfeld); Heinrich Conrad Dreier (b. 11 March 1819; d. 10 May 1830 Bosingfeld); Sophie Louise Charlotte Dreier (b. 11 June 1821; d. 25 May 1822 Bosingfeld); Charlotte Dreier, baptized Dorothea Wilhelmine Charlotte (b. 2 April 1823; d. 10 September 1888 Texas; m. Friedrich "Fritz" Hausmann); Friedrich "Fred" Dreier, baptized Christian Friedrich Conrad (b. 8 February 1826; d. 25 October 1898 DeWitt County; bur.

St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. Louisa Siekert); Dorothea Louise Dreier (b. 2 February 1829; d. 21 June 1829 Bosingfeld), Dorothea Louise Wilhelmine Dreier (b. 30 June 1830); Justine Sophie Dreier, baptized Sophie Justine (b. 2 June 1833; d. 16 December 1916 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 1 July 1853 Meyersville to Christoph Adam Sager); Caroline F. Dreier, baptized Friederike Caroline (b. 4 August 1837; d. 18 April 1902 Texas; bur. Kilgore Community Cemetery, Goliad County, Texas; m. 1857 Meyersville to Heinrich W. Hausmann); Ludwig Hans Dreier, baptized Heinrich Ludwig (b. 25 March 1841; d. 27 October 1922 Goliad County; bur. Kilgore Community Cemetery, Goliad County; m. 21 October 1860 Meyersville to Auguste Meisenhelder).

The following can be found in Verdenhalven, Die Auswanderer Aus Dem Furstentum Lippe, Detmold (1980), p. 231 (translated): "Dreier from Bosingfeld #135, citizen of a country town, emigrated in July 1847, with his wife and . . . children." The Dreier family, consisting of Simon Heinrich, Anna Luise Friedricke, Friedrich, Justine Sophie, Caroline, and Ludwig, sailed from Bremen on 23 September 1847 aboard the Johann Dethardt and landed at Galveston on 2 January 1848. Also listed on the immigration list was a Dor. Dreier age 34, and a Louise Dreier, age 24; it is not clear exactly how these two women were related to the rest of the Dreier family. It is documented, however, that the Dreier family traveled on the same ship with the Gottlieb Hausmann family, also from Bosingfeld. Immigration records denoted that the Gottlieb Hausmann family consisted of Gottlieb Hausmann, age 50, Louise Hausmann, age 50, Gottlieb Hausmann, age 22, Caro. Hausmann, age 17, Heinrich Hausmann, age 14, Wilh. Hausmann, age 9.

The Dreier and Hausmann families evidently followed Friedrich "Fritz" Hausmann, son of Gottlieb Hausmann, and the former's wife, Charlotte Hausmann, nee Dreier, daughter of Simon Heinrich Dreier. The Friedrich Hausmanns were among 122 immigrants who sailed from Bremen on board the Creole on 13 November 1845 and who landed at Galveston on 23 April 1846. The Friedrich Hausmann family and the Adolf Meyer family were the first settlers in Meyersville.

After arriving in Galveston, the Simon Heinrich Dreier and Gottlieb Hausmann families succeeded in securing a wagon, on which their belongings were placed. The immigrants walked the distance from Galveston to Meyersville, where Simon Heinrich Dreier lived the rest of his days. After his death, his widow reportedly moved to Arneckeville.

Excerpts from the reminiscences of Judge William Dreier, grandson of Simon Heinrich Dreier, were printed in A History of DeWitt County by Nellie Murphree (1962). The following information is based on that account.

There was no wood to burn back in Lippe, and peat and turf were used as fuel; consequently, one of the serious handicaps which the German immigrants encountered was their inability to handle an axe. In their new land, the settlers had to learn to cut large trees, to split the logs to build houses, and to split rails for fencing the fields. After a house was built, in order to nail up the cracks with split weatherboards, a large axe was used to hew the logs somewhat straight on the inside.

Many earlier colonists in the northeastern states had traded glass beads for their land; however, the German immigrants to DeWitt County brought some money with them and paid for their land. From Mr. Pettus, Judge Dreier's father, Friedrich "Fred" Dreier, had bought one hundred acres on the 12-Mile Coleto for one dollar an acre, and he built his house on that land. Later Friedrich "Fred" Dreier and his brother-in-law, Fritz Hausmann, who lived together, fired some bricks and sold enough of them so that they could each buy fifty acres individually.

All the settlers built their houses a few yards from the Coleto Creek because they did not know how to dig a water well. The first farmers of the infant Meyersville community had to break the ground for planting with a spade and grubbing hoe. The next year, Simon Heinrich Dreier, who had brought along an ironshare or plow point from Germany, made himself a wooden plow. Ropes were made by hand from hair because there were no grass ropes for sale.

When provisions ran short, the early settlers went to Victoria to obtain needed supplies. The journey was made by foot, and the pioneers brought back only those provisions which they could carry. Later Friedrich "Fred" Dreier bought some teams and began a freight-hauling business from San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, which he continued until the war broke out. He then hauled cotton to Mexico.

Simon Heinrich Dreier braved unknown seas and unfamiliar lands and customs in order to forge a civilization from virgin soil; and in so doing, he provided his children and grandchildren greater opportunities for freedom, fulfillment, and prosperity. To this immigrant, whose father in Germany had been a peasant houseowner without real property, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

by Beverly Boehl

DREIER, WILLIAM AND MATILDA BOLDT

F207

William and Matilda (Boldt) Dreier

William Dreier was born in America. He was the son of Fredrick and a grandson of Henry Dreier, all born in Germany. Henry and family moved to Texas in 1847 and settled about a mile south of Meyersville, Texas. Henry bought a tract of land in 1848, which he later sold to his son Fredrick. During the Civil War, Fredrick went off to fight, leaving his family behind. In a letter written during the Depression William recalled life as it was then: "The people of today are complaining about hard times. If they had seen the times we experienced during the Civil War, they would not complain. We had no shoes and little clothing, and we couldn't buy any because we had no money. We had no coffee, sugar or flour. It couldn't be bought. Parched corn served as coffee, and corn meal was ground by hand. We had plenty of meat, plenty of sweet potatoes and turnips sliced and salted in a barrel instead of sour kraut. Our father, Fredrick, made trips to Brownsville and Mexico with cotton and brought provisions home. A trip would require 7 to 9 weeks and he had to take plenty of corn along to feed his horses because there was nothing to get along the road. Water was scarce and on some ranches he had to buy water for his team.

"When the war broke out my father, Fredrick, was pressed with his team to haul goods for the government without pay. In 1864 he had to go to the war as a soldier, and then the times got still harder. My mother and oldest sister had to spin wool and cotton day and night to make clothing and socks for the family and the lights we had were made by the tinner, (a little fat cup with a wick, the cup being filled with grease).

When my father returned, he brought with him a single shot pistol which has been handed down from generation to generation. Once again, he became a farmer. In 1876 he bought another tract of land, 100 acres four miles south of Meyersville, but this was sold off in 1919."

William Dreier acquired title to another 200 acres in 1877 on which he raised cotton, corn, hay, and cattle. He married Matilda Boldt and had four children: Alfred, Willie, Louise, and Natalie. In 1892, a tornado struck, destroying part of the Dreier home, and in 1898, another razed the entire structure. Luckily, no one was home at the time. The barn was not touched either time, so it was moved about 400 yards and a new home was built. The old barn is still standing (1989).

by Louise and Irene Dreier

DREYER, BASIEL AND EMILIE

F208

Basiel Dreyer and Emilie Zengerle were married in the Meyersville Catholic Church on Nov. 10, 1909.

Basiel was the middle son of Gideon and Josephine (Winkler) Dreyer. His brothers were Fred, Xavier, Saverin, Ben, Albert and Edward. His sisters were Mary Lau, Caroline Dreyer and Katie Dreyer.

Emilie was the only daughter of Eduard and Elizabeth (Weiss) Zengerle. Her brothers were Eddie, Albert, Berthold, Hugo, Oswald, Ben, Joseph and Herbert. Of interest is the fact that Emilie being the second child of this family was

Basiel and Emilie Dreyer

the last to die.

Basiel was a butcher with his brother Ben in the Arneckeville-Meyersville area. They would butcher cattle and peddle the meat on wagons to families in the area. Basiel would tell how they would butcher in the late evenings, let the meat cool and get up at mid-night to cut up the meat, load it on wagons between heavy sheets and start on delivery about 5 a.m. so that they could finish before the day got too hot. The meat was cut up in large chunks and the liver, heart, kidneys and tongue was given away.

When Basiel and Emilie married they lived in the Arneckeville area where their first child was born, Leonard, born on Aug. 3, 1912. In 1913 they moved to the Green-DeWitt area. In 1916 they bought the Weser Cotton gin and store with Albert Zengerle. The Post Office was in the store and Basiel became the postmaster. The cotton gin was also used to grind corn once a month.

In Weser the Dreyers became parents of three daughters, Helen born Jan. 4, 1918; Mildred, born Nov. 29, 1919, and Alice, born Sept. 20, 1922. The Dreyer's home was the gathering place for many young people and Emilie would cut the young girl's hair. Even today (1989(friends tell the family of the good times they enjoyed and the good bread Emilie would bake. Some of the teachers were boarders in their home.

In 1923 the store and cotton gin were sold and the family moved to the Ander community. In 1926 their 5th child, Victor was born on April 8, 1926. The family moved to the Cabeza community in DeWitt County about 1929.

The move to Cabeza was difficult because all the corn and feed had to be moved by wagon. Basiel would leave very early in the morning and arrive as the sun was setting the same day, a distance of about 35 miles. At the time of their move there was only one family living at Cabeza that the Dreyers knew; (Chas. and Martha Loest Schneider).

The Dreyer's were soon involved in the community and school. Basiel was a trustee for many years. He would tell about the teachers placing applications with the trustees always seemed to come on a day when he was plowing, really dirty from working in the fields. He told of one teacher approaching him while he was plowing and he being unaware of her presence, followed him to the end of long furrow. School was important to the Dreyers and the children were not allowed to miss school except for illness.

Soon after Basiel and Emilie moved to Cabeza they befriended a distant relative of Basiel's. Fridolin Sefferlin who had worked for the Osterloh-Neutzler bank as a handy man, delivery man; came to live with them and remained with them until his death on May 23, 1930.

The Dreyers sold their farm in 1945 after their son, Victor, had gone to the service and was serving in the Philippines during World War II. They moved into Nordheim and enjoyed their home and friends. Basiel died in 1955 at age 79. Emilie continued to live in Nordheim until her health failed at age 89. She then enjoyed her last years at the Yorktown Nursing Home and she died at age 91.

Basiel and Emilie's children are:

1) Leonard who married Carrie Kozielski and they have one daughter, Kathy, who married Peter P. Snoga and their grandchildren are Mark, Matthew and Michael. Leonard retired from the Staffels Feed Company after many years of service with them. His wife, Carrie worked for the J.C. Penney Company and they reside in San Antonio.

2) Helen Dreyer married Newfry Woytasczyk and they have one son, Garland Ray, who is married to the former Linda Foote. They have 2 grandchildren, Suzanne and Steven Woytasczyk. Helen was employed by the Handy Andy Food Stores and Newfry worked for The Lone Star Brewery. They also called San Antonio their home.

3) Mildred Dreyer married Claude Arnold, and they have 4 children. Doris Ann who is married to Clem Waskow. Clem and Doris have 3 daughters, Valerie, and twins, Grace and Gayle. Ray Arnold married Karen Bruns and their children are Kim and Todd. Claudia Arnold married Jerry Deborah and they have one son, Michael. Barbara Arnold married Douglas Audilet and their children are Cassie and Blaze. Mildred and Claude were in the ranching business and Mildred assisted with the many responsibilities that go with ranching. Mildred still lives in Meyersville, the place they called home all during their married life.

4) Alice Dreyer married Milton Onken and they have 2 children, Diana Onken is married to James Carpenter and their children are Jeffrey, Brian and James Christopher. David Onken married Judy Slayman and they have 2 sons, Price and Reed. Alice Dreyer worked for Dr. William Stanton until his death and then worked for Dr. Walter Walthall until her retirement. Milton Onken was with the Fire Department for the City of San Antonio, and they still reside in San Antonio.

5) Victor Dreyer is married to Mary Moy and they have 3 children. James Dreyer married Susan Nelson and they have a daughter Meagan and a son Eric. Caroline Dreyer married John White and they have a son Sean. Phyllis is married to Jerry Ward and their sons are Matthew and Kevin. Victor Dreyer was employed with the Mobil Oil Company for 40 years the later years was with the company in Dallas. His wife, Mary worked for the Plano School District, and Plano is where they call home.

The Dreyers are good and loving parents and grandparents. This article is submitted in loving memory of them by their sons and daughters.

by Alice Onken

DREYER, BENOIT

F209

Benoit Dreyer was born in Geishausen, Alsace, France in 1813. Geishause is half way up a mountain that overlooks the beautiful Thur Valley of Alsace. Benoit married Marie Anne Hans on June 5, 1837 in Kruth, Alsace. His occupation is listed as a weaver. Marie Anne was ten years his senior and is listed as a cultivator. They came to America in 1856, landing in New Orleans. They had three children with them. Egdieous (later changed to Gideon), born in 1838, Anna Marie born in 1841, and Joseph born in 1846. Their birth place is listed as Kruth and St. Amarin in the Thur Valley.

Anna Marie married Conrad Semmler and Joseph married Ursula Mueller.

Gideon Dreyer married Josephine Winkler. When they got their marriage license in Clinton in DeWitt on November 6, 1860, Josephine's uncle, Peter Bluntzer was a witness. Josephine's parents, Jacques and Genieveve Jacob Winkler had come with Castro's colonists from the Thur Valley and were on their way to Castroville. Josephine was two years old. Her mother, Genieveve, was a sister to Theresa Bluntzer. Jacques Winkler died before 1850. Josephine had a sister, Theresa, their mother. Geneiveve married Anton Golly in Clinton in 1850. They had a daughter Catherine, who married Conrad DeDear. Josephine's sister, Theresa, married Anton Arnold.

Gideon and Josephine settled in the area behind the Arneckeville School. They had the following children: Fred who married Laura Gisler; Seferine who married Matilda Meisenhelder; Annie who died in 1884; Xavier who married Lena Fetters; Caroline who never married; Mary Theresa who married William Lau; Basil who married Amelia Zengerle; Benjamin who married Elenora Bitterly; Albert who married Margaret McDonald, Katie who never married; and Eddie who married —.

Gideon Dreyer was on the Muster Roll of Capt. Robert Kleberg's Company of Coleto Guards, 24 Brigade, in June of 1861.

Gideon Dreyer is buried in Meyersville in St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery. Josephine moved to Cuero with her two unmarried daughters. When she died in 1936 the Guadalupe River was in the highest flood stage in its history and there were no roads open to Meyersville. It was decided to bury her in Hillside Cemetery because they would have had to wait at least 5 days before they could get to Meyersville.

by Virginia Fetters

DROMGOOLE – BURT FAMILY

F210

The Dromgoole family originally came from the Scandinavian countries. This family came to the U.S. and settled in Mississippi, then migrated to Texas in 1854 and settled in Gillett, Karnes County, Texas. Gus Drom-

1903 – Cuero – 4 generations – L to R – Henry Lee Burt, Frances Jane (Dromgoole) Burt, Sarah Ellen (Austin) Dromgoole and Ellen Forgey (Rogers) Austin

goole, born in Holly Springs, Miss. March 1, 1845, married Sarah Ellen Austin (30 July 1849) on Feb. 13, 1868, the daughter of Archibald and Ellen Forgey (Rogers) Austin. Archibald was a farmer in Karnes Co., Texas. Frances Jane was born Jan. 10, 1869 at Helena, Karnes Co., to Gus and Sarah Ellen. Gus was a farmer and rancher around Karnes Co. during earlier years, and around 1895 and later, operated the City Hotel in Cuero located on the corner of Railroad and Depot Streets. He died Sept. 19, 1913, and the hotel was run by a daughter, Lilly, and husband, Al Milstead, along with other family members from time to time. Sarah Ellen died Jan. 25, 1930.

William Jackson Burt (16 July 1856) was one of 10 children born to William Burt (1830-1912), farmer and rancher, and Lorena Minerva Silcriggs (or Silsreg), said Lorena being born June 15, 1835 at Indianola, Texas, to a couple who married on the boat which brought them to the U.S. as immigrants. Frances Jane Dromgoole married William Jackson Burt on July 17, 1889. They had seven children: Henry Lee, Mamie, Ellen, William Austin, Eugene, Laura and Agnes. Wm. Jackson Burt died 11 Oct. 1913; buried Davy Cemetery.

Henry Lee Burt (Aug. 31, 1890 – May 29, 1961) married Bernice Brown Portress May 10, 1919 in Brownsville, Tex. where he was stationed during WW I. She a Red Cross nurse, and he a sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps. Bernice (May 29, 1886 – Apr. 16, 1976) was the daughter of Jackson McFerrin Portress and Moriah Agnes (Tinnon) Portress of Pulaski, Giles Co., Tenn. They owned a plantation. She received training as a registered nurse from Methodist Hospital, Houston, Tex. while living with the family of an uncle who was a Methodist minister. Henry Lee was later in the restaurant business and worked for Bowen Motor Coaches. Henry Lee and Bernice had four children: namely, William Henry, Margaret Lee, Richard Brown and Grady.

William Henry attended the University of Texas; served as S/Sgt. of Ninth Air Forces at Maulden, Mo. and in the European Theater during WW II. He married Mary Lee Lyman of Gonzales, Tex. Dec. 31, 1946. They have five children: Robert Lee (6 Oct. 1948) who graduated from Southwest Texas State College with BBA, and University of Texas, San Antonio; served in U.S. Army; Patricia Ann (24 Dec. 1949) graduated from Southwest Texas State College with BS in Sociology; – married Robert P. Smith and has one son, Aaron; David Allen (11 March 1953) attended Lee College, Baytown, married Debie Jo Cloud; has three children, Lisa, Michael and David Allen, Jr., Ronald Wayne (19 April 1956) attended Sam Houston State College; married Elizabeth Fry, has two children, Ronald Warren and Kristen Lee; William Henry Burt, Jr. (16 Apri 1959) graduated from Lee College; married Kathy LaFrentz; has two children, Christopher Adam and Rachel Marie.

Richard Brown Burt (15 Oct. 1924) served as Fire Controlman 3/C in the U.S. Navy on Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Saratoga in the Pacific during WW II; received BBA from Texas A&I College, Kingsville, in 1951 and was employed by E.I. duPont until retirement Nov. 11, 1986; married Vivian Adline Carter (family listed separately herein) on Sept. 5, 1963. They have two sons: Richard Neal (19 Oct. 1964); graduated from Southwestern University, Georgetown, in May, 1986, with BS in Political Science, and from Texas Tech School of Law May 13, 1989 with Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. David Lee (18 March 1966) is attending Corpus Christi State University working toward BBA and accounting degree, and will graduate May, 1990. Neal and David were born in Lutcher, St. James Parish, Louisiana.

Margaret Lee served with Spars as SK 3/C, San Francisco, during WW II, and later worked at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio until retirement; unmarried.

Grady died at age 4 years of diphtheria. He is buried at Hillside Cemetery along with Henry Lee and Bernice.

by Mrs. Richard B. Burt

Eggs for Hatchings.

Rhode Island Red eggs for sale $1.00 for setting of 13.
Gus F. Dietze, Cuero.

DROMGOOLE, HUBERT ESTEL

F211

Neon sign designed by Hubert Dromgoole

The Charles William Dromgoole family moved to Cuero in 1918, having lived in Belton and Gillette. They brought their three sons, Hubert, Charles Lawson, P.G. and daughter, Mary Lou.

Hubert was 15 years of age and had already developed skills to help support the family. He worked at various jobs, including railroading and cotton mill work briefly. He went to work in the summer of 1918 at the Coca Cola Bottling Company, owned by Mr. W.E. Beaugarde.

Since most families did not have need of ice through winter months, and there were no electric refrigerators, the Coca Cola Bottling Company only operated about eight months of the year. In these off months Hubert would return to the cotton mill or wherever he could find work. In 1920, the Coca Cola plant was sold to Mr. Robert Randow of Yorktown. Hubert was placed in charge of the bottling operation in Cuero, since Mr. Randow already had the responsibility of his Yorktown bottling plant. In 1925, Mr. E.T. Summers, Sr. bought the Coca Cola plant from Mr. Randow. Hubert remained with Mr. Summers, helping take care of the bottling plant, making signs and painting Coca Cola signs on the walls of large buildings.

Hubert was married to Lera Holdridge of Houston in 1928. To this union were born two daughters, Lela Cathryn and Mary Odessa. After World War II, he made the decision to go into the sign business, doing business as Dromgoole Sign Company, Cuero, Texas, located at 308 West Courthouse. Through his initiative and his bent for sign designing, he learned to sketch, draft and produce lighted neon signs of metal and porcelain, to do the sheet-metal, electrical, painting and erecting of all kinds of signs, as well as bill board painting. At the time he installed the neon glass plant in his shop, he had the only such plant between San Antonio and Rosenburg. He erected the first neon sign to be installed in Victoria at a drive-in on Rio Grade operated by a Mr. Leisner.

One outstanding sign done in Victoria was for the Jet Drive-in Restaurant on the Houston Highway. A metal jet plane 20 ft. long was mounted about 12 ft. above the top of the building on a steel post, around which was neon moving in circles, up and down continuously. Neon outlined the plane which was animated to shoot "sparks" or "flashes" from the rear of the fuselage. The building was lighted externally with neon, plus detailed lettering. Enclosed in a black and white picture

of this work of art.

In addition to his own design and manufacture, Hubert did contract work for Swift and Company, Purina Feed Company, Borden's Ice Cream, Valley Gold Ice Cream, and the Flying Red Horse, revolving signs for Magnolia Oil Company. He also lettered the trucks for Gulf Coast Wood Products of Cuero.

The first neon sign he erected in Cuero was the O.K. Courts on West Broadway. As the years passed and plastic signs became popular it was necessary for him to learn that part of the sign trade.

Many of Hubert's signs are still in operation. The Fair Store is the oldest of these, still operating after 48 years. Other signs to be seen still in Cuero are The Doll House Restaurant, Buchel Bank, The Sands Motel, Kainer's Drive-in, the arches over the entrance to the cemetery and although not lighted currently, the Coca Cola sign standing in front of the down town Coca Cola building recently closed. He retired from his sign shop in 1983.

Hubert's wife, Lera, died in 1956, and in 1960, he married Carmen Braselton Markley, a teacher in the Corpus Christi schools. Carmen, along with her two sons, Philip Finley Markley,III, and Steve Judson Markley, moved to Cuero that year, where she continued teaching fourth grade at Hunt Elementary. Later she taught ten years in Junior High and spent the last six years of her tenure in Cuero schools in administration. The last four years of her career in education were spent as principal of John C. French, from which she retired in 1981.

The Dromgooles recently received a plaque designating their home at 308 West Courthouse as one of the historic buildings listed in the *National Register of Historical Places* i n the United States.

by Carmen Dromgoole

DUBOSE, DAVID

F212

David Dubose was born in 1856 and died in 1935. He was the son of James Laurence Dubose, who was born in 1818 in South Carolina, and Mary Ann Elizabeth Duke. David was one of six children.

In 1875, David Dubose married Annie Clemmons Fleming (1858-1947). She was the daughter of O.D. Fleming. David and Annie had four children: 1) Amos Laurence was born in 1876 and died in 1944. He married Johnnie Emma Fleming (1875-1971) and their children were Nancy Catherine, David J., George, Rena, and Amos Laurence, Jr. 2) Denton DuBose was born in 1879 and died in 1944. He married Isabell Hartmann (1883-1965) daughter of William and Sophia Woods Hartmann. 3) William Spencer DuBose was born in 1882 and died in 1948. He married Georgie Tarkington. Their family included Adele Katherine who married C.N. Larson and had one child, Katherine. Adele Katherine later married a second time to Charles Lucas; William and Georgie's second child was Jenebel DuBose who married Dr. C.J. McCullom and their children are Melanie, Melinda and Michael.

4)Joe Alfred DuBose was born in 1897 and married in 1915, Mary DuBose. Their children were Virginia Lee, Hayward, Alfred, Raymond Earl, and Wade DeBose.

by Marjorie Hyatt

DUBOSE, JOSEPH LAWRENCE

F213

Joseph Lawrence DuBose was born in DeWitt County, Texas on November 5, 1868, a son of Joseph Lawrence DuBose, Sr., of Gonzales County and Minerva (Hardy) DuBose. The DuBose family came to the United States from Bordeaux, France, in 1830 and settled in South Carolina and in 1840 John DuBose, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, emigrated to Texas and established a ranch ten miles south of Gonzales, Texas.

Joseph L. DuBose grew up in DeWitt County and at the age of twelve secured his first job, working for four dollars a month. He later worked on his uncle's cattle ranch and by the time he was twenty-one had saved sufficient money to purchase a small farm of his own on Deer Creek five miles from Cuero, where he and his wife continued to live for two years after they were married. He then began to extend his cattle activities and in 1899 leased the noted Francis Cochran Ranch near Nopal in DeWitt County and later bought the Kit Taylor Ranch on Sanders Creek, containing more than two thousand acres of land. By the time he died he had acquired seven thousand acres of land and many hundreds of head of fine cattle.

On November 24, 1897, Mr. DuBose was married in Gonzales to Miss Belle Planck, a daughter of Lewis H. and Nancy Walker (Stephens) Planck, former natives of Kentucky and Mississippi. Mrs. DuBose served as a member of the first Texas Centennial Commission and was a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mr. DuBose was a director of the First State Bank and Trust Company of Cuero and the First State Bank at Westhoff. He was also widely known for his Fourth of July barbecues, which he gave for former World War I Soldiers and Confederate Veterans, each year. This barbecue for many years was an outstanding event in this section of the state. Such notable figures in Texas political life as Senator Tom Connally and former governors, Dan Moody and Ross Sterling were among the personages who at various times accepted invitations to deliver addresses for the annual barbecue.

Joseph Lawrence DuBose died July 8, 1933.

DuBOSE, SAM AND DICY ANN (PARKER)

F214

Sam DuBose was born August 7, 1884 and died in 1918. He was the son of David and Annie Flemming DuBose. To this union nine children were born — Amos, Denton, Sam, William Joe, Johnnie, Rena, Cynthia and Wade.

Sam DuBose married Dicy Ann Parker in 1904 in Cuero, Texas. They lived at Five Mile Community, Nopal and then moved to Victoria. He was a farmer, and they moved to Bay City, Texas where he could raise rice.

Dicy Ann Jennings (age 96) and Mary Ann Benbow.

Sam C. DuBose

Farris DuBose, Suda DuBose, Dicy (Parker) DuBose Jennings, Edwin DuBose, Mary Ann DuBose.

To this union three children were born — Suda Belle, Farris and Mary Ann. During the flu epidemic in 1918, during World War I, Sam DuBose died. He is buried in Bay City, Texas.

A year later Dicy Ann DuBose married a Church of Christ minister, Almer Jennings. They had a son, Edwin Parker Jennings, who resides in Florida. Edwin married Annalisa

Erikson in 1944 while stationed in New York. To this union a daughter, Victoria Ann, and a son, Edwin Parker, Jr., were born. Annalisa died in 1959, and Edwin later married Lorraine. They lived in Florida. Both of his children are now deceased.

Dicy was a member of the Primitive Baptist church. She moved back to the Stratton community where she could look after her aged parents, W.J. and Mary Clay Parker. Dicy Jennings was born January 19, 1886 and died in 1955. She lacked four months and one day of reaching the age of 100 years. She is buried in the Alexander Cemetery.

Suda Belle DuBose married Bill Hollub. He died after they had been married only 13 months. She later married Alvin McJunkin, and to this union a daughter, Alva Sue, was born. Suda later married Alfred Farmer of Gonzales. He is also deceased. Alva Sue married Sam Bridge, and they have one son, John, who lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Suda Farmer, 1906-1981, is buried in Alexander cemetery at Stratton.

Farris DuBose was born November 3, 1908. He is in the Retama West Nursing Home.

Mary Ann DuBose married Lee Benbow. See Lee Benbow history.

Sam DuBose was a great outdoorsman; hunting and fishing, as the picture indicates, were his hobbies. The picture was taken of a two-night hunt.

by Mrs. Lee C. Benbow

DUCKWORTH, DR. GUILFORD MARVIN

F215

Dr. Duckworth was born October 8, 1877, in Brownsville, Tenn. He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. William Lafayette Duckworth. He obtained his preparatory education in Bellbuckle and Franklin, Tenn. and his premedical education at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, where he was associate editor of the school paper and a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Dr. Duckworth graduated in medicine at Vanderbilt in 1901. He was interested in eye, ear, nose, and throat and took postgraduate work in that field at Vanderbilt, the University of Berlin in Germany, a London hospital, the New York Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia and in Chicago. Later he was granted a degree in ophthalmology at the University of Colorado in Denver. First opening his practice in Pine Bluff, Ark., Dr. Duckworth in 1910 moved to San Antonio for his health. Since 1912 he had been in practice in Cuero, specializing in ophthalmology.

A member of the Texas and American Medical Associations through Bexar and later DeWitt Counties Medical Societies, Dr. Duckworth was president of the DeWitt Society in 1931 and 1945. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology. For many years he was a local specialist for the Southern Pacific Railroad. During World Wars I and II, he served on the Medical Advisory Board for DeWitt County. Dr. Duckworth was a member of the Methodist Church and had served the Cuero church in an official capacity throughout his residence there. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shriner and a former member of the Rotary Club.

He was married to the former Miss Brockie Sale of Covington, Tenn. whom he married December 1907. Dr. Duckworth died August 3, 1951 in Charlotte, N.C.

by Lola Ann Bade

DUDERESTADT, HERMAN FAMILY

F216

Herman Duderstadt, the fourth son of Friedrich and Friederike Brandes Duderstadt, was born December 16, 1855, their first child to be born in Texas. He was baptized April 21, 1862, and later also confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville. Like his brothers, he helped take care of his father's large farming enterprises including running the gin, grist mill and the sugar cane and caster bean presses. His help was needed especially when his father was away on a long teamster assignment.

On June 22, 1882, in the St. John Lutheran Church, Herman was united in marriage with Johanna Atzenhofer, born June 16, 1864, a daughter of the Antonio Atzenhofers. Eight sons were born to this union; seven of them grew up to be adults.

Several years after his father's death in 1883, Herman purchased a part of the estate and built a small home near the old family home. His mother, Friedrike, lived alone in her home until her death in 1892. Some years later, to accommodate his growing family, Herman built a large home. He used some of the rocks from the vacant old family home for the foundations of the new home, and for lining a dug water well on this place. Around 1908 the family moved to the former Burg place several miles west of Meyersville.

Herman was a farmer and raised the usual cattle, hogs, chickens and turkeys in addition to the corn, cotton and feed crops. In addition to doing her household chores, Johanna also worked in the fields with her husband and sons. The sons eventually became farmers and established their own families. Hard work and thrift were characteristics of the life of these pioneers.

Johanna died June 8, 1930 and Herman died June 22, 1934. They are buried in the Hillside Cemetery at Cuero, Texas. Their children were:

1) Herman Anton, born 31 July, 1883, died 11 October, 1940, married November, 1905 to Josephine Moy, born 22 December, 1885, died 20 February, 1957.

2) Arthur Frederick, born 21 January, 1885, died 19 August, 1970 married 20 November, 1911 to Rosie Lilly Luder, born 13 February, 1886; died 18 May, 1978.

3) Reinhold Otto, born 26 October, 1886, died 21 June, 1950, married 24 July, 1909 to Mary Moeller, born 2 December, 1891, died 26 August, 1979.

4) Hugo Ferdinand, born 29 January, 1889, died 4 February 1954, married 23 November, 1916 to Edna Mary Luder, born 12 May, 1896.

5) Edwin Erwin Anton, born 6 January, 1891, died 23 July, 1962, married 15 February, 1915 to Blanche Krueger, born 3 June, 1893; died 27 March, 1954.

6) Benjamin Wilhelm, born 22 October, 1892, died 5 October, 1968, married 1st 23 November, 1915 to Maggie Harter, married 2nd 6 September, 1955 to Tessie Jewel Yeamans, born 29 May, 1905.

7) Paul Johann, born 7 June, 1895, died 2 September, 1895.

8) Philip George, born 23 August, 1896, died 21 June, 1970, married 10 April, 1917 to Louise Harter, born 23 October, 1893, died 12 April 1960.

by Frances Hartmann

Herman Duderstadt Family: Ben, Edwin, Herman, Philip, Johanna, Herman Anton, Arthur, Reinhold, and Hugo.

DUDERSTADT, ALBERT FAMILY

F217

Albert Heinrich and Caroline (Diebel) Duderstadt

On February 8, 1857 at Meyersville, Texas, a fifth son, Albert Heinrich, was born to Friedrich and Friederika Brandes Duderstadt. He was baptized, confirmed and married in St. John Lutheran Church. On December 26, 1880 he married Caroline Diebel, born 27 March 1860, a daughter of Christoph and Katherine Schiwetz Diebel. Seven children were born to this union.

Albert and Caroline built a 2-room home near Upper Meyersville. As the family grew they added more rooms to the house so that it had seven rooms, a bath and three porches on the first floor and three bedrooms upstairs. In 1884, after his father's death, Albert purchased a part of the Friedrich Duderstadt land. In addition to raising sheep, cattle and the usual farm crops, Albert also raised horses, trained and sold them. For additional income, he did some butchering and maintained a sugar cane mill and press where molasses was cooked for his family and for selling to others.

Caroline, or Lena as she was called, busied herself equally as much as Albert with her "Kirche, Kinder und Kueche" (Church, children and Kitchen). With meals to prepare for her seven growing children and for many "farm hands" she had much cooking, canning and churning to do. Many an old red rooster found himself in a "stew" in her kitchen. Often she sat and rocked the cradle with one foot and at the same time, with her hands pumped the wooden ladle up and down in the wooden churn to get the butter made. With a baby in her arms, she often walked far into the pasture to bring the turkeys home.

Among the teachers influencing the Duderstadt children in the Meyersville School were Misses Carrie Kilgore, Sophie Schorlemmer, Sophie Riedesel, and Messrs. Zollinger, Konarksy and Adolph Schack. The children were confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church, and at different times, all sang in the church choir. Daughter, Mathilda, an accomplished music teacher, was organist at the church over 26 years, beginning on her 14th birthday. When Albert and Lena observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 26, 1930, there was the usual group singing with reed organ accompaniment.

In later years Lena enthralled her grandchildren by telling them about post-Civil War incidents that happened at the home of her parents. Once when the Union soldiers came to search her parents' home, Lena and the other children were scared and hid. After ransacking the place and thoroughly searching through the storage trunk, the plunderers left. The family was surprised and relieved to find that the soldiers had not found the money which Mother Diebel had carefully sewn into a pillow in the trunk! Once she saw the soldiers coming in the distance, and perceiving their plundering intentions, she quashed their plan by hiding her husband's new hat and other belongings in a large peach tree in the corn patch nearby. At another time the Diebel family dog barked at the mounted soldiers approaching the house. Without dismounting, one of the soldiers dispatched the dog with one blow of his long saber.

Albert died 8 December 1945 and Caroline died on 10 June 1947. Both are buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Their children were:

1) Gustav Henry, born 3 July, 1881; died 1 March 1910.

2) August Fred, born 23 January, 1883; died 18 September, 1980; married 1 January, 1906 to Frances Franke, born 7 November, 1880; died 23 February, 1961.

3) Mathilda Sophia Katherine, born 23 October, 1884; died 3 October, 1977; married 7 November, 1905 to Oscar Egg, born 15 August, 1880; died 17 May 1964.

4) Richard William Henry, born 9 October, 1886; died 2 January, 1943; married 28 December, 1920 to Frieda Hartman, born 8 January, 1899.

5) Frieda Helen Katherine, born 18 August, 1888; died 23 April, 1922; married 20 October, 1909 to William Schorlemer, born 13 February, 1888, died 15 August 1968.

6) Alois Emil Herman, born 16 June, 1890; died 26 August, 1965; married 17 September, 1911 to Emilie Wendel, born 31 December, 1891, died 3 September, 1972.

7) Alonzo William, born 8 April, 1892; died 20 December, 1914.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, ANDREAS FAMILY

F218

The paternal genealogy of Andreas Duderstadt goes back to his grandfather, Johann Heinrich Matthias Duderstadt, born May 1, 1741; and to his father, Herman Christian Andreas, born 5 July 1775, whose wife was Anna Sophia Mumbrauer all from Luettgenrode, Prussia. Andreas was born there on 21 June 1815, three years before his brother, Friedrich, who came to Meyersville in 1854.

On May 4, 1845 in the St. Stephani church in Luettgenrode, Andreas married Sophie Friederike Johanna Dickehuth, b 18 June 1819, a daughter of Andreas and Henriette Barner Dickehuth. By 1851 three children were born to them. When brother, Friedrich, immigrated to Texas in 1854, Andreas came too, on the Ammerland, and worked for George Tennille

Duderstadt Coat of Arms

near Nopal. Having found an ideal spot to rear his family here, Andreas returned to Germany in 1857 and brought Sophie and the children to Texas. Daughter, Johanna, age 12, and John, 9, and Fred, 6, later told stories about the stormy 14-week voyage to Indianola. There some friends, the Christopher Albrechts, and Andreas purchased oxen and a wagon to move to Nopal. After loading their belongings and families on the wagon, there was no room for Christopher and Andreas. They walked the entire trip.

A deed filed on February 27, 1858, shows that Andreas and Sophie purchased 326 acres of land from George Tennille for $407.50. Here, Andreas, a stone mason, built a rock home for his family, a few miles northeast of present Nopal. He also built rock houses and chimneys for others and charged two cows and two calves for the latter. He helped build the courthouses at Gonzales and New Braunfels.

Another son, was born in 1859 but died in 1861. Having left Prussia because of its militaristic and oppressive government, Andreas was eager to become a United States of America citizen. DeWitt County records show that he made his first Declaration of Intention in April 1857 and again in March 1859. It was granted in 1867. The Duderstadts were charter members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown. He is No. 67 in the list of signers of the church's first constitution adopted April 21, 1872.

Andreas made several trips into Mexico by ox wagon to bring back timbers and other building materials. On one of these trips he outwitted some bandits. While traveling through a desolate part of the country, he saw riders following him on a distant hillside. Thinking they were bandits, he realized that he must do something to hide his gold pieces. With his auger he bored holes into the thick wagon bed, placed the gold pieces in the holes and put pegs in to make it solid. To hide the spot he rubbed wagon grease across it and rubbed dirt into the greasy area. When the riders caught up with him the next day, they were, indeed, Mexican bandits and demanded his money. In his broken English and German he tried to tell them that he had no money and that they could search him and his wagon. They went through his clothes and ransacked the wagon. Finding nothing they rode away

and left him alone. Andreas' cleverness and quick thinking saved his money. He delighted in telling this adventure to his grandchildren. At another time, when Andreas and other freighters, returning from San Antonio, were camping in the brush, they were aroused by sounds of robbers or Indians approaching. He quickly grabbed his bag of money and flung it into the cold ashes of the campfire. Again his presence of mind saved the money and kept the men from harm.

When Sophie fell off a wagon loaded with logs and the wagon wheel went over her arm, the doctor insisted that he amputate the arm, but she would not give in. She said she would rather die with her arm than have it taken off. They brought her to Yorktown to an elderly couple through whose care the arm was saved. For retirement in 1871, the Duderstadts purchased 4 acres of land from A.P. Jordan on the east side of the East Fork of the Main Coleto Creek in Yorktown. Here Andreas built a 4-room rock home for them. Sophie died here 2 March 1900, and Andreas, 5 January 1901, at the home of his daughter. Their tombstone is inscribed: "Die Gerechten Seelen sind in Gottes Hand in des Friedens ewigen Vaterland." (The souls of the righteous are in God's hand in the eternal Fatherland of Peace.)

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, AUGUST FAMILY

F219

August and Frances (Franke) Duderstadt 1906

August Fred Duderstadt, born 23 January 1883, at Meyersville, was the second son of Albert and Carolina Diebel Duderstadt. He was baptized, confirmed, and married in the St. John Lutheran Church. As a child, with his brothers and sisters, he rode to the Meyersville School in a gig. His teachers are listed in the Albert Duderstadt story. He helped deliver meat to the neighborhood, selling choice roasts at 6-8¢ per pound.

On January 1, 1906, August married Frances Franke, born 7 November 1880, a daughter of Emil and Henrietta Bluhm Franke. Before her marriage she worked as a housekeeper and seamstress for the Dr. Wilhelm Scheimer family and others at Meyersville. Three days after the wedding, with the help of relatives, the young couple moved by wagon and buggy, a full day's journey, to their new three-room home at Radford in Karnes County. Crops in this virgin soil were very good, but after five years, the couple wished to be nearer the folks back home. In 1911 they moved to the former John Arnold place in the Weser community. Here their children, A.J., Frances, Alonso, and a stillborn son were born.

In 1912 August participated in the first Cuero Turkey Trot by helping drive 8,115 turkeys from Meyersville to the Guadalupe River where other handlers met them. Another outstanding event was the purchasing of the first family car, a 1915 Model T coupe with a brass radiator and brass rim on the lights. It came from the Cook and Day Motor Co. in Cuero and cost about $600.

A.J. and little Frances (Frankie) attended the Weser, one-room, one-teacher school, three miles from their home. First they rode together on a shetland pony and later A.J. rode a sorrel horse, Sikes. Their teachers were Marguerite Coats, Leona Wagner and Hilda Jablonski. A.J. became very adept at handling his shetland pony and when he was barely big enough to reach the stirrups of his child's saddle, he helped Papa drive cattle to dipping vats, deliver them to a buyer, or take them to a different pasture.

One day Alonso, age 4 or 5, gathered eggs and put them in a small flour sack which he tied to the handlebar of his tricycle. When Mama saw him come riding, she asked if he wasn't afraid of breaking the eggs. He replied, "No, the eggs are in a soft sack!" Once Mr. A. Dahme from Yorktown wanted to find Papa who was working in a field. When he asked Frankie how to get there, she opened the gate for him and said, "Take that road there by the 'Poodah coop'." He gave her a nickel and took the road as directed, by the turkey coop!

having purchased the Fritz Gruetzmacher place in Yorktown, the family moved there on December 28, 1928. Here the children were confirmed in St. Paul Lutheran Church and all graduated from high school. A.J. acquired business expertise at Draughon's Business College in San Antonio and served in the USAF as a Staff Sgt. from 1942-1946 in the European area. After working for businesses in Seguin and Beeville, he established his present Dudes Feed and Seed Store in Raymondville in 1946. On April 9, 1950, A.J., born 12 November 1915, married Dorothy Jean Bilby, born 2 April 1927, a daughter of Cornelius John and Viola Hill Bilby. She retired in 1989 from having been the school nurse at the Raymondville Public Schools for 39 years.

Alonso, born 12 January 1922, attended Texas Lutheran College, served as a Tech. Sgt. in the USA Signal Corps from 1943-1946 in the New Guinea area, and earned an Electrical Engineering degree from U.T. He worked for several oil companies and is now an independent oil operator living in Boling, Texas.

Daughter, Frances' sketch is found elsewhere in the Kurt Hartmann story.

With many relatives and friends in attendance, August and Frances observed their silver wedding anniversary in 1931, but the golden anniversary in 1956 was a quiet tour with A.J. and Dorothy to the old Radford home. Frances died 23 February 1961 and August died 18 September 1980. They are buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery at Yorktown, Texas.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, EMIL FAMILY

F220

A sixth son, Emilius (Emil) was born to Friedrich and Friederike Brandes Duderstadt at Meyersville on January 23, 1859. He was baptized and confirmed in the St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville and later married by the Lutheran pastor, G. Stricker. Alvina Bluntzer, born April 23, 1866, the daughter of Urban S. and Amalia Gerhardt Bluntzer, became Emil's bride on December 29, 1885. The couple built a small frame home on 393 acres of land which Emil purchased in 1884 from his father's estate. It was situated bordering the southeast side of his brother, Albert's property. Presently it is the Liebert Schulze place.

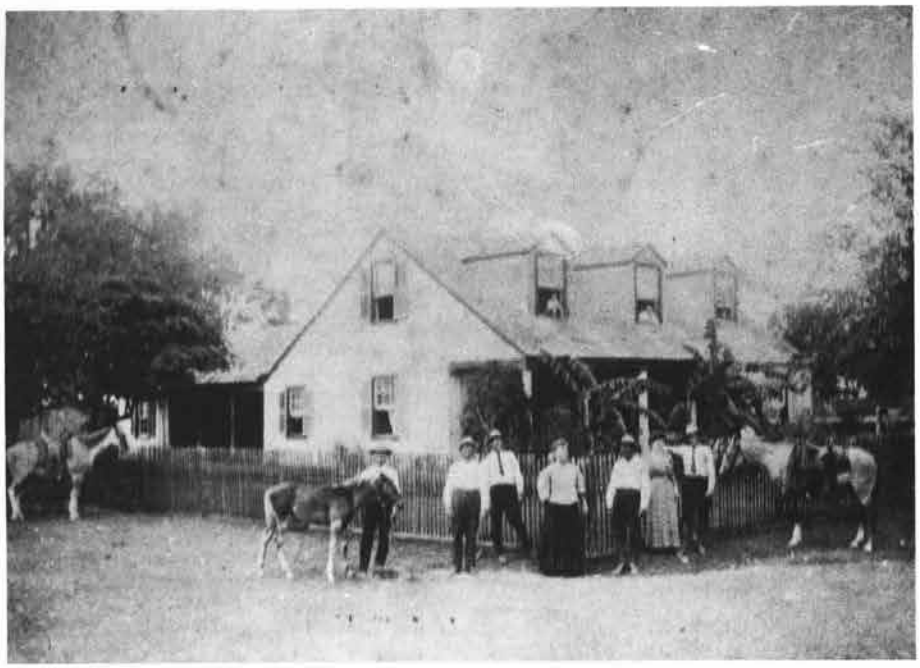
Emil was a farmer and rancher. He also raised many hogs which thrived on the abundant acorns that grew on his land. One day Emil and his brother, Albert, on horseback, were herding some hogs. While chasing after a few strays, Emil's horse galloped so close to a tree that the rider was thrown against the tree and seriously injured. Albert hurriedly summoned a neighbor, Mr. Eibe Adickes, who brought Emil to Albert's house in his spring wagon. A doctor also ministered to Emil, but he died that same day, November 25, 1866. He was buried in Meyersville. Five days after Emil's death, Alvina gave birth to a daughter, Emilie Mary.

The relatives were all very helpful in assisting Alvina through several lonely years. Eventually, she remarried. She and her second husband, Richard Gregorcyk, residing on the Emil Duderstadt place, reared a large family. Alvina died September 4, 1922 at the age of 56 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery at Gussitville in Live Oak County.

Since Emilie was only six years old when her grandmother, Friederike Duderstadt died in July 1892 and left an estate to be divided, Albert Duderstadt became her guardian. Emilie spent a considerable part of her teenage years with the Albert Duderstadt family. When she became twenty-one she received $230 which was her share of the inheritance. Emilie found employment in Dallas where she met and on May 20, 1913 married Joseph Frank Hirscy who was born May 21, 1885 in Jennersdorf, Austria, a son of Andrew and Theresia Deutsch Hirscy. Joseph died 22 February 1944 and Emilie on 5 March 1955, both at Muenster. Their descendants include:

Josephine Emilie Hirscy b 18 May 1916 Dallas; m 11 January 1947, Dallas, to Joseph Francis Gehring (son of Louis and Josephine M. Lindemann Gehring), b 17 June 1914 Modesto, California. Their son is Louis Joseph Gehring b 7 October 1948, Dallas.

Theresa Alvina Hirscy b 10 April 1919, Wichita Falls; m 27 August 1946, Muenster to Gilbert Irving Lehnertz (son of Joe and Agnes Fette Lehnertz) b 11 June 1916 Muenster. Their children: Terry Jane Lehnertz b 18 February 1948 Muenster; Cheryl Ann Lehnertz b 1 September 1949, Muenster; Jimmy



Standing: Albert Duderstadt Family – Richard, Gustav, Alois, Caroline, Albert, Frieda and Alonzo, ca. 1909

Joe Lehnertz b 12 May 1952 Muenster.

Mary Cecilia Hirscy b 18 December 1922; d 1974; m May 1943 to Richard Gregorcyk (son of Frank and Cynthia Gregorcyk). Their children: Richard, Emilie, Joseph, Michael, Mary, Nicholas and John Gregorcyk.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, FERDINAND FAMILY

F221

Ferdinand and Elizabeth (Atzenhofer) Duderstadt

The first child of Friedrich and Friederike Brandes Duderstadt, Andreas Christoph Ferdinand, was born 5 August 1848 at Luettgenrode, Germany. With his parents and younger brother, Fritz, he came to Meyersville, Texas in 1854. Being the oldest of ten children, he learned to shoulder adult responsibilities at an early age. He learned the art of freighting by accompanying his father on trips to Laredo and other places during the Civil War. Later he was a teamster on a route between San Antonio and Indianola. This round trip often took several months to complete. To avoid Indian attacks the teamsters took turns standing guard around their teams and wagons. In an letter to relatives in Germany, Ferdinand said that Texas could be called the "Promised Land" if the rains came regularly!

On March 23, 1880, at Meyersville, Ferdinand married Elizabeth Atzenhofer, born September 28, 1859, at Meyersville, a daughter of the Antonio Atzenhofers who also had come from Germany. The Duderstadts established their home southeast of Meyersville near the Victoria County line. The land later belonged to Gus Kornfuehrer. Here Ferdinand did extensive farming and ranching. In 20 years, 11 children joined the family at Meyersville and one, the youngest, at Skidmore.

Ferdinand maintained a molasses press for preparing molasses for his own family and for others. The customers brought their cane to the mill. Some of the older boys fed the cut stalks of cane into the press by dashing to the press with their handful of cane just as the horse pulling the tongue of the press had passed a given point. The rotating perpendicular wooden rollers extracted the juice which flowed through vats where it was cooked and skimmed. Customers brought their own barrels or buckets to cart the molasses home.

Around 1900 the family moved to Skidmore and later to Woodsboro. Here, son, Berthold, a soldier in WW I, became ill and died. Early in the 20's, seeking a more healthful climate, Ferdinand and Elizabeth moved to Knippa and engaged in limited farming and ranching. Ferdinand died here 7 February, 1928. Elizabeth sold the ranch at Knippa and moved to George West and later lived with her son, Johnny, and family at Woodsboro where she died 25 December, 1943. She and Ferdinand are buried in Woodsboro. Their children were:

1) Robert, born 26 January, 1881, Meyersville, died 17 July, 1881.

2) Charlie (Karl) Otto, born 2 May 1882; died 25 July, 1962, married 2 Nov., 1908 to Sophia Caroline Spiekermann, born 17 April, 1884.

3) Anna Bertha, born 9 Aug., 1883; married 17 Dec., 1907 to John Henry Spiekermann, born 9 July, 1882.

4) Unnamed twin sister to Anna Bertha, died at birth 9 Aug., 1883.

5) Elizabeth Marie Johanna, born 20 Oct., 1885; died early age (no record)

6) Mary Johanna Auguste, born 31 Dec., 1887; married 13 Aug., 1911 to Richard Buchanan, born 15 Dec., 1887.

7) Johanna Bertha Lina, no birth record available, died 1888.

8) Amalie Anna, born 15 Sept., 1889; died 31 Aug., 1957; 1st married 6 June, 1911 to Fritz Bues, born 8 Sept., 1880; died 9 June 1939, 2nd marriage 23 Dec., 1944 to Ben Pieper, born 12 Nov., 1881.

9) Berthold Friedrich, born 1 Aug., 1890; died 25 July, 1919 (World War I soldier).

10) Baby Boy Duderstadt (No record available).

11) Elsie Emilie Friedericke, born 17 Feb., 1894; 1st married 14 Nov., 1918 to Emil Kloesel, born 15 Jan., 1885; died 22 Feb. 1947, 2nd marriage 11 Oct, 1951 to Joe Seidenberger, born 27 Feb., 1890.

12) John, born 4 Dec., 1904; married 20 Nov., 1925 to Nola Buchanan, born 1 Sept., 1904.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, FRIEDRICH (FRITZ) FAMILY

F222

Millstone at the former Friedrich Duderstadt home

DUDERSTADT, FRIEDRICH FAMILY

F223

The second son of Friedrich and Friederike Brandes Duderstadt, Friedrich (Fritz) Andreas, was born 13 March 1850 at Luettgenrode, Germany. In 1854 at the age of four, he came with his parents to Meyersville, Texas. Growing up on the farm near Meyersville, he helped run the cotton gin, the caster bean oil press and the grain mill, and during the Civil War, helped his father haul cotton by wagon to Laredo and other places.

DeWitt County Marriage Records, signed by Amos Rooke, show that on 20 December 1873, Fritz married Catherina Badinger, b 19 December 1858, a daughter of the Johann Badingers. This family came to Texas from France in February 1854 and settled in the Arneckeville area. In the course of 20 years, nine children were born to Fritz and Katy (as Catherina was called). Katy's only sister, Elizabeth, married Charles Braun of Meyersville.

Fritz and Katy lived near Meyersville for a few years, moved to Middletown (Weesatche) in 1879, and out to Miguel in Frio County in 1889. Fritz was a successful farmer, rancher and well-driller. He had large flocks of sheep. When the family moved from Weesatche to Miguel, some 125 miles, Fritz, his sons, a Mr. Flowers and others drove the sheep alongside the covered wagon carrying the family and household goods. It took two weeks to reach their destination. When Fritz sold his ranch at Miguel, he moved his family to Lytle. Only occasionally would the family load the covered wagon with food, clothing, bedding, etc. and make the long trip to Meyersville to visit relatives and friends.

In choosing their vocations, Fritz's sons followed in their father's footsteps; Alfred was a well-driller; Fred worked on a ranch and helped drill wells while his wife, Med, taught school; Ervin was a farmer and rancher and Edward was a contractor specializing in building foundations for large structures.

Fritz died at Lytle December 29, 1923, at the age of 73. Catharina died April 15, 1934, at the age of 75. They are buried in the Lytle Masonic Cemetery.

The children of Fritz and Catharina Badinger Duderstadt were:

1) Alfred Ferdinand Herman, b 14 December 1875; d 8 November 1969; m 10 June 1898 to Minnieola Thurber, b 15 June 1881; d 17 November 1967.

2) Sophia Friedericke Elisabeth (Sophie), b 13 March 1877; d ca 1901.

3) Emma Amalie, b 22 October 1880; d 22 February 1927; m to James Wiley Patterson, b 3 August 1871; d 5 March 1953.

4) Edward Emil, b 8 October 1880; d 5 June 1955; m 28 November 1906 to Allie Myrtle Landrum; b 3 August 1893.

5) Fred Albert, b 29 September 1882; d 17 January 1917; m 1st 5 December 1905 to Emma Lee; d 24 November 1906; m 2nd 16 June 1909 to Meddie Lancaster; b 26 March 1882.

6) John Erwin Otto, b 24 September 1884; d 4 November 1962; m 1st 9 June 1905 to Rezzie May Landrum; b 27 December 1891; d September 1905; m 2nd, 6 May 1912 to Mary Annie Cowley, b 25 April 1893; d 10 September 1967.

7) Katherine Emilie, b 22 October 1886; d 1966; m to Will Trafton; d 1956.

8) Elina (Lena) Louise, b 31 July 1890; m Robert Garnand.

9) Mina (Minnie) Lula, b 9 February 1895; m Ernest Wanjura.

by Frances Hartmann

Christian Heinrich Friedrich Duderstadt, his wife, Friederike, and two small sons, came to Meyersville, Texas in 1854. Friedrich was the son of Herman Christian Andreas Duderstadt, (born July 5, 1775) and the grandson of Johann Heinrich Matthias Duderstadt (b. May 1, 1741) all from Luettgenrode, Prussia, Germany.

Friederike's father was Johann Konrad Jonas Brandes (b. 4 Oct. 1796); her paternal grandfather was Johann Christoph Brandes (b 1765); and her paternal great grandfather was Heinrich Andreas Brandes (b 24 Aug. 1730) all from Rhoden, only five miles from Luettgenrode. In the St. Viet Church in Rhoden on April 5, 1847, Friedrich Duderstadt, b July 19, 1818, married Friederike Magdalene Brandes, b 12 January 1827. Encouraged by letters from relatives in Texas to join them, and because of the unrest in Prussia, the Duderstadts, with their sons, Ferdinand, 6; Fritz, 4; and Carl 2, sailed on the Ammerland from Bremen, Germany, and reached Galveston after a stormy voyage. Since no records are available on Carl, it is believed that he died at sea. After landing at Galveston on Dec. 10 and at Indianola, TX on 20 Dec. 1854, the family, with others, loaded their belongings on a four-horse-drawn wagon for the 60-mile trek on foot to Meyersville. No fires were allowed lest the smoke alert Indians. The group was relieved to reach the homes of relatives at Meyersville.

On 10 January 1855, Friedrich purchased 258 acres of land for $500 from his maternal half-first cousins, Heinrich, Frederick and Augusta Mumbrauer. On this property, three miles south of Lower Meyersville, Friedrich, a stone mason, built a two-story, combination rock and wood home with a basement. Crumbled rocks showing the 24'x34' foundation and 18"-thick walls still exist at the site of the former home, now in the present Wm. Friedrich Estate.

By 1860 three more sons were born to Friedrich and Friederike. Aware of his responsibility to his growing family, he applied for citizenship in the Confederate States on 20 September 1859. This was granted in the 1861 April

Friedrich and Friederike Duderstadt grandchildren: Back – August and Gustav. Front – Alonzo, Alois, Mathilda, Frieda, and Richard, ca 1892

Term of the District Court of DeWitt County. On January 22, 1868, this same court granted him United States Citizenship status. After the outbreak of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, Friedrich joined Captain Robert Kleberg's Coleto Guards, Reserve Co., DeWitt Co., 24th Brigade, Texas Militia which was organized to repel invasion and had muskets, rifles and revolvers. In August 1861, Friedrich also enlisted in Captain John Jacob Schewitz's 65-member Home Guard, Goliad and DeWitt Counties, 29th Brig., TX Militia. To help with the construction of the St. John Lutheran Church, in 1866, he hauled eight sled loads of rock. While farming was Friedrich's chief occupation, he also built his own wagon for teamstering. Wagons carrying cotton bales were checked at various places by special agents to see that only the legal 10 bales were in each load. Friedrich also built a caster bean press, a grist mill and one of the first cotton gins and presses in the area. With four more children being born to the Duderstadts, Friederike was very busy with the growing household.

Friedrich died 5 February 1883 and Friederike on July 22, 1892. They are buried in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery at Meyersville.

The children of Friedrich and Friederike Brandes Duderstadt were:

Ferdinand, b 5 August 1848, Luettengenrode, Prussia; d 7 February 1928.

Friedrich (Fritz), b 13 March 1850, Luettg. Prussia, d 29 December 1923.

Carl, b 8 November, Luettgenrode, Prussia; d 1854 at sea.

Herman, b 16 December 1855, Meyersville, TX; d 22 June 1934.

Albert, b 8 February 1857, Meyersville, TX; d 8 December 1945.

Emilius (Emil), b 23 January 1859, Meyersville, TX; d 25 November 1886.

Wilhelm, b 21 November 1861, Meyersville,e TX; d 27 April 1864.

Otto, b 2 July 1863, Meyersville, TX; d 19 July 1941

Berta, b 20 August 1866, Meyersville, TX; d 12 November 1868.

Theodor, b 30 March 1869, Meyersville, TX; d 23 October 1880.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, JOHN FAMILY

F224

John Duderstadt, first son of Andreas and Sophie Dickehuth Duderstadt was born 6 February 1848 at Luettgenrode, Prussia. There at his baptism in St. Stephani Church, he was named Christian Christoph Johann (John). His parentage and voyage to Texas are recorded in the Andreas Duderstadt story. On June 16, 1869, John married Jane Davis at her parents' home at Rancho (Nixon), Texas. For a short time the couple lived there while Andreas finished building their rock home in the southeast corner of Gonzales County, near the Rocky Community, a mile from his own home.

House built for John and Jane (Davis) Duderstadt by Andreas Duderstadt in 1869. Near Nopal, TX

While John became a naturalized American citizen only two years before his marriage, the Davis family had come to America in the days of colonization. Jane was born 12 January 1854, near old Rancho, to George Washington and Amanda Jones Davis, born 12 May 1834 in Tennessee. George, born 14 February 1826, in Tennessee, was the son of Zachariah and Rosanna Chenault Davis, who came to Texas as members of the original DeWitt Colony in 1831. In 1836, Jane's father, at age 10, fled with his parents and other Gonzales County families before the Mexican Army in the "Run Away Scrape." Later he joined Col. Baker's Texas Troops at San Jacinto, registered as a baker, cook, or dishwasher, and fought with the company.

John Duderstadt raised and traded cattle, became a herd boss at 24, and made several trips up the Old Chisholm Trail to get his cattle to better markets in Kansas before Jane persuaded him to quit the trail drives. One night while John was away at court in Gonzales, some robbers, knowing he had cattle trail money in his home, tried to scare Jane out of the house. When she and her two small children heard weird sounds from outside, the children were so frightened that they hid under the feather bed and covered themselves with pillows. Jane took a pistol, which she handled well at age 20, went into the yard and shot to either side of the smokehouse, shouting, "I'd hit you if I could see you!" The sounds stopped, but when she returned to the house, the shrieks started again. To keep the money safe, she put the gold and silver coins into a bucket, got a small shovel, carried this heavy load out of the house through a door opposite the smokehouse to a patch of tall weeds where she buried the bucket. Her consoling thought was that even if she didn't live to tell where it was, the area would be plowed some day and the money found. The noises continued until early morning, but the money remained safe until John returned and shared it with the others who had earned it.

John loved the land, and in his lifetime acquired enough acreage to be able to give a farm or ranch to each of his adult children. After his death on 24 May 1910, Jane had another rock home built for herself in Yorktown where she died 11 December 1940. John and Jane are buried in the Billings Cemetery in Gonzales County. Although their children were born at Rocky, Gonzales County, many of their descendants now live in DeWitt County. Their children were:

Amanda Mathilda, 1870-1933, married 1893 Thomas Alexander Polan

Henry, 1872-1933, m 1st 1893 Lulie Amanda Sample; 2nd 1907 Bessie Wallace

Rosanna, 1875-1944, m 1893 Samuel Lane Sample

Johanna, 1875-1875 (twin to Rosanna)

George Washington, 1876-1962, m Maggie Caroline Billings

Nannie, 1878-1963, m 1905 Alexander Newton Nichols

Jennie, 1880-1880

John, 1881-1958, m 1906 Mary Olivia Nuinez

Andrew, 1883-1902

Lillie, 1886-1934, m William Carol Billings

Frank Cochran, 1888-1960, m 1908 Eunice Cobb

Mattie Jane, 1888-1967 (twin to Frank), m 1889 Dr. Jeremiah Ward, Jr.

Lemuel Claude, 1891-1967, m 1913 Ida Lee Nuinez

Ima, 1894—, m 1912 Willis Barfield

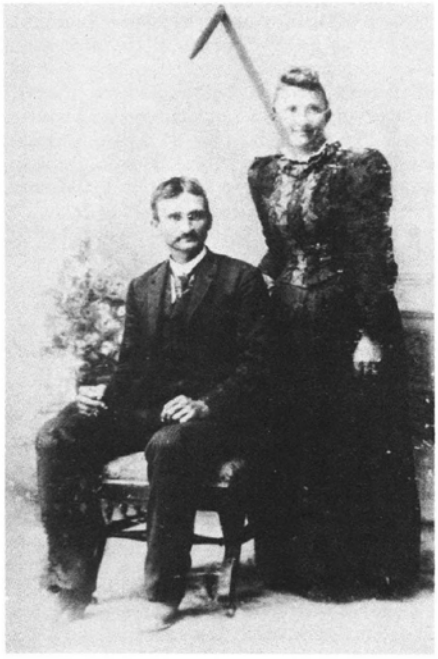
Ura, 1896—, m 1918 Sidney Crain Lord

The Duderstadts belonged to the Presbyterian Church and John was active in the Masonic Lodge at Yorktown, Texas.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, OTTO FAMILY

F225



Otto and Cresencia (Preiss) Duderstadt

On July 2, 1863 an eighth son, Otto Andreas, was born to Friedrich and Friedericke Duderstadt at Meyersville, Texas. Otto was baptized in St. John Lutheran Church on 12 March, 1865 and later confirmed in the same church by Rev. G. Stricker. Being a member of a large family, Otto learned to help with the farm work at an early age and later worked for others as a "farm hand". On 13 December 1884, Otto paid $750 for a part of his deceased father's land, a part of the Patrick Quinn grant.

Otto married Cresencia Preiss on 12 November, 1885. She was born in Victoria, Texas, February 16, 1864, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Preiss. She, too, had been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church at Meyersville. The young couple settled near Germantown (Schroeder, Victoria County) and by 1891 they were able to build their own home there. All of their eight children were born at Schroeder.

Otto Duderstadt home Nordheim, TX.

Otto liked to farm and was adept at handling and judging horses and cattle. He purchased more land so that his ranch consisted of some 1300 acres. The Duderstadts were charter members of the Lutheran Church at Schroeder and helped build the new St. Lukes Church which was dedicated in May, 1905. Otto used to help receive the offering in church by passing the "klingelbeutel," a black velvet bag (with a little bell and tassel on the bottom) attached to a long handle.

For recreation, Cresencia busied herself with her garden and flowers while Otto, a lover of music, enjoyed the young folks' "play parties". With their oldest daughter, Minnie, playing the family organ, the rest of the family often joined in singing hymns and folk songs for hours at a time.

In 1910 the family moved to Nordheim and in 1914 purchased a two-story home there. Otto continued his farming and owned several businesses in Nordheim. His son, Louis, was overseer for the farm in the Eckhardt Community between Nordheim and Runge, which was struck by a tornado on May 6, 1930. Louis' home there was only slightly damaged, but his three daughters, Mina 15, Hazel, 13 and Marian, 5, at home alone at the time, were thoroughly frightened. The large L-shaped rent house some 100 yards away was completely demolished and nine of the ten members of the Zaragosa Garcia family living there, were killed. A 2x4 beam was found wedged through the 30" trunk of a live oak tree with a few feet of the beam protruding on each side of the trunk.

Otto and Cresencia observed their golden wedding anniversary on 11 November, 1935, having in attendance their seven children and their families including 15 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. Otto remained active in the church, the Gruenauer Lodge, ODHS of Nordheim for many years . . . always contributing time and talent to the good of the community. He died on July 19, 1941 and Cresencia died 6 February, 1948. They are buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Nordheim.

The children of Otto and Cresencia Preiss Duderstadt were:

1) Minnie Friederike born 23 Oct., 1886; married 26 Dec., 1907 to Robert Riedel born 24 Aug., 1886; died 4 October, 1968.

2) Clara Caroline Therese born 1 Sept., 1888; died 29 June, 1963; married 30 Oct., 1907 to Emanuel Victor Krause born 21 Oct., 1886; died 5 Feb., 1966.

3) Wilhelm Ferdinand born 15 Sept., 1890; died 7 March, 1910.

4) Louis G. born 25 Dec., 1892; died 14 April, 1982; married 10 Nov., 1913 to Myrtle Brown born 23 Feb., 1894; died 25 August, 1978.

5) Rosie born 23 March, 1896; died 12 Dec., 1976; married 7 Jan., 1913 to Fred Riedel born 12 May, 1887; died 16 March 1932.

6) Elsie born 16 Sept., 1898; died 31 July, 1957.

7) Lilly born 16 Aug., 1901; died 26 April, 1976; married 20 Dec., 1920 to Max Paul Schorre born 17 Nov., 1895; died 9 Feb., 1972.

8) Thelma born 13 Jan., 1904; died 8 June, 1971; married 20 Sept., 1928 to Robert Foster Estill born 3 Aug., 1897.

by Frances Hartmann

DUDERSTADT, RICHARD FAMILY

F226

1923 Frieda, Ruth and Richard Duderstadt

Richard William Duderstadt, third son of Albert and Caroline Diebel Duderstadt, was born October 9, 1886 at Upper Meyersville on the family farm. As a boy he helped with farming and cattle roundups. Richard worked for Isaac Egg & Sons store for approximately eight years prior to 1914. He helped drive over 8,000 turkeys on foot to Cuero for their first Turkey Trot in 1912. In 1915, he became the owner of his first Model T car. During WW I, from June 1918 through May 1919, he was in the Armed Forces of our country. First he was stationed at Fort Sam Houston; then in the Motor Transport Corps at Fort Ringgold on the Rio Grande, a country of cactus, donkeys and rattlesnakes.

On December 28, 1920 Richard married Frieda Justine Sophie Hartman in St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. She was born in Meyersville January 8, 1899, eldest daughter of Friederich Heinrich Hartman and Justine Louise Barbara Hartman, nee Sager. Richard, with the help of a carpenter, Anton Albrecht, built a frame four room bungalow with bath, a front porch and a beautiful large L-shaped porch on the southwest side. This house is near the Albert Duderstadt residence. Richard "Dick" and Frieda attended the Meyersville Public School and are lifelong members of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville.

On December 31, 1923 their marriage was blessed with a daughter, Ruth Justine. She helped with the chores at home, enjoying horseback riding, cattle roundups, playing volleyball, taking music lessons and listening to grandma Duderstadt's stories of her childhood days. Ruth's history appears elsewhere.

Diversified farming and ranching, consisted of raising chickens, turkeys, hogs and cattle. Horses and mules were kept to work the fields of corn, cotton, hegari, and sorghum hay, and to round up the cattle. Their 6D cattle brand has been used by the family for over 100 years.

Their land was in the James Duff League along the 12 Mile Coleto Creek. A garden supplied vegetables, peaches and pecans. Extra milk, cream, cheese and eggs were sold to supplement the family income. For good tasting homemade cottage cheese, they would let milk turn into clabber, pour the clabber into a flour sack and hang it up until all the water dripped out. Cream added to the residue enhanced the flavor. If this cheese was left a few more days, it was sufficiently fermented to make the basis for "Koch Kaese". This went well with homemade bread or corn bread and sausage. In the winter hogs were butchered to fill the smokehouse with sausage, ham and bacon.

During the 30's Richard operated a barber shop next to the Christian Hartman Dry Goods Store in Meyersville. The shop was open on Friday and Saturday at which time Frieda and Ruth made homemade ice cream which was sold under the big live oak trees for 5 cents per cup. For winter income Richard hunted raccoons and opossums and shaped, seasoned and cured their pelts which were sold.

In 1939 the REA supplied the area with electricity. The use of electrical appliances revolutionized country living.

Richard and Frieda participated in church activities, including Luther League and Choir. Frieda played the organ for approximately 25 years, taught Sunday School for 25 years and was active in The Women of the Church, Ladies Aid, Sermon Tape Ministry, and visiting the sick and shutins. These activities brought great joy into her life. She also enjoyed canning, sewing, quilting, baking coffee cake, pies and homemade bread.

For relaxation and fun, the family, relatives and friends enjoyed singing and playing instruments. Richard played the violin and bass violin, his sister, Mathilda Egg, the organ, and Ruth the guitar. Volley ball, baseball, dominoes and pitching horseshoes and silver dollars were entertainment for them. Richard enjoyed fishing at Magnolia Beach and Old Indianola where the family enjoyed yearly one week vacations.

Richard died on January 2, 1943. Frieda is presently 90 years old and in fair health. She enjoys visiting, having company, going to church, and spending time with her grandchild-

ren and great grandchildren. The Lord has been the family guide and protection.

by Ruth D. Bettge

DUNN, MR. AND MRS. J. E.

F227

J.E. Dunn and Julia E. (Matthew) Dunn, 1969

Husband: Jessie Elgan Dunn born June 4, 1902, in Wilson County near Stockdale, son of Greenberry Bailey and Mary (Mollie) Adeline Foster Dunn both of whom are buried in San Jose Cemetery, San Antonio.

Wife: Julia Elizabeth Matthew born February 8, 1905, in the Stratton Community, DeWitt County, Texas, to Walter King and Martha Frances Newman Matthew. Both parents buried in Alexander Cemetery, Stratton, Texas.

Education: Attended school in Stockdale and Stratton respectively.

Courtship: Met at a baseball game in Edgar, Texas, in which Elgan was playing. He remained active in the sport for many years playing or managing.

Marriage: April 21, 1923, at the Methodist parsonage in Cuero with Johnny and Annie Wofford, Dick and Artie Mae Peason, and Elton and Beatrice Southern as attendants. Rev. Hill officiated.

Occupations: Husband, Textile Superintendent, and wife, Dunn's Mobil Home Park.

Children: Mildred Evelyn (Dunn) Dubose born July 7, 1925, married Warren Lee Dubose, Jr., lives in Gonzales, Texas, and teaches English in Gonzales High School. Their children are: Susan Gayle (Dubose) Glasgow married David Clark Glasgow, Naperville, Illinois; Warren Lee (Buddy) Dubose III married Sandra Baron Dubose, Gonzales, Texas; and Keith Dunn Dubose, Austin, Texas. Teddy Elgan Dunn born May 24, 1929, married Jeannette Koliba Dunn, lives in Port Lavaca, Texas, is retired from Alcoa. Their children are Phyllis Ann Dunn, Victoria, Texas; Duane David, Port Lavaca, Texas; and Denise (Dunn) Fetterman, Houston, Texas. Frances Estell (Peggy) (Dunn) Coker born August 25, 1933, married Tilden Charles Coker, Jr., lives in Cuero, Texas, and is an officer of Buchel Bank & Trust Company. Their children are Larry Allen Coker and Sheryl Lyn (Coker) Rauch.

Great Grandchildren: Trista Lee Dubose, Kevin Baron Dubose, Eric Duane Dunn, Kristina Marie Kelley, Jack Alton (Jay) Kelley, Jr., Bryan Jeffrey Fetterman, and Matthew Jeremy Rauch.

Julia Dunn has been a member of Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Church at Stratton, Texas, for sixty-four years.

by Mrs. Julia Dunn

DUNN, MARY KATHERINE RIEBSCHLAEGER

F228

Kaye Riebschlaeger representing Cuero in Corpus Christi celebration.

Mary Katherine "Kaye" Riebschlaeger was born in Cuero on September 28, 1939 and lived with her mother and father, Evelyn and Charles "Rip" Riebschlaeger and her older sister, Bette Jo, at the home at 609 East Broadway until the purchase of the home of Dr. Robert Wagner at 402 Second Street, which is still the family home. In 1945, Kaye began school at St. Michael's parochial school taught by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from Victoria. Just as her sister had done, Kay began the study of piano under Mrs. Ruth Eberhart. At age 6, she was Junior Representative for Cuero at the Yoakum Tom Tom celebration.

In high school, she played flute and piccolo in the marching and stage bands, and the string bass in the stage band. She was also a majorette and Drum Major of the marching and concert bands from 1955 to 1957. At gradua-

Dunn Family. Back: Mary Elizabeth, Robert Kevin, William Robert, Christopher Charles and Anne Marie. Front: Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, Evelyn Riebschlaeger and Kaye Dunn.

Kaye Riebschlaeger as drum major.

tion, she received the Drama Award for her role in the one-act play *The Glass Menagerie* i n which she played Amanda. She also received the American Legion Citizenship Award and the John Philip Sousa Award as Outstanding Band Student.

In the fall of 1957, Kaye enrolled at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, rooming with her good friend, Jo Ann Barth (MacDonald). There she majored in Music Education and played flute and piccolo in the Javelina Band, serving as Drum Major from 1957 to 1960. She also played flute for the Madrigal Group, and in that capacity would have traveled the next year to Russia on tour, had she not decided to marry Bob Dunn of Freeport. While at Texas A&I, Kaye was listed in the *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities* (1958), elected "Miss Marine" by the U.S. Marines and the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi (1959), was a Lantana Lady in the Lantana Court, represented Cuero in the Buccaneer Days in Corpus Christi, and was selected "Aggie Sweetheart" by the agricultural students (1959).

On January 30, 1960, Kaye married William Robert (Bob) Dunn in St. Michael's Church in Cuero before Reverend William Jansen, Pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn made their home initially in Austin, Texas, and on November 10 of 1960, welcomed their first daughter, Mary Elizabeth. While living in Austin, Kaye attended the University of Texas, changing her major to Elementary Education. She and Bob soon had three other children: Robert Kevin, Anne Marie, and Christopher Charles.

The young family moved to the Caribbean, where Bob was employed with Litwin International, an international industrial construction company, working on construction of oil refinery and storage projects throughout the area. For about six months, they live in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where the girls attended the Liceo Ponce for girls and the boys the American School. Soon, they moved to the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands, where Bob was appointed construction supervisor for all the insulation work on the construction of the Hess Oil Refinery there. It would become one of the largest oil refineries in the world, being built to process Venezuelan crude oil, primarily.

While living in St. Croix, Kaye and Bob and their children had the opportunity to associate with persons from an international community of workers, including Englishmen and exiled Cuban professionals, as well as persons from Holland and fourth-generation Danish descendants living on the island. They also worked with several of these families to develop Good Hope School, a private school of excellent academic rating and with a highly respected swim team, the Good Hope Dolphins, of which all their children were members. In this capacity, the children, often accompanied by their parents, had the opportunity to participate in many swim meets throughout Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Islands, including Havana, Cuba. The Pan American Games were a regular meet in which they frequently swam.

While based in St. Croix, Kaye attended Texas A&I University in the summer, completing her degree in Elementary Education, after which she taught Language Arts on the junior high level in Good Hope. Their four children all graduated from Good Hope High School. Kaye also played flute and piccolo with the Island Symphony. Among their concerts was an annual benefit event for which the pianist-comedian Victor Borge, who makes his home on St. Croix, played as soloist. On St. Croix, the Dunns were members of St. Ann's Catholic Church and often participated in regional conferences with Catholics from other Caribbean islands, such as Trinidad and Grenada.

Upon their return to the states, the Dunns settled in Austin, where Kaye now teaches at Deepwood Elementary School in the Round Rock Independent School District. Their four children continue with their adult lives: Mary Elizabeth graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Environmental Sciences and from Texas University in Austin with a degree in Civil Engineering. She now lives in Austin and is employed by a civil engineering firm there. As a member of that firm stationed in San Antonio, she helped to design the renovation of the streets, etc., around the area of the Alamo.

Robert Kevin now lives in Austin and is employed as manager of two apartment complexes and also attends Austin Community College, studying advanced computer drafting. Anne Marie graduated with honors from Incarnate World College in San Antonio, where she was recipient of the Amy Freeman Lee award for outstanding leadership, and of the Future Teacher's Award. She also served as Chief Resident Assistant while at Incarnate Word during her senior year. She is teaching at John Jay High School in San Antonio. Christopher Charles continues his education full time at Austin Community College and also works in Austin. At the time of this writing, Kaye and Bob have just purchased a new home outside Austin, near Dripping Springs.

by Mrs. Evelyn Riebschlaeger

ELITE
Barber .' Shop
Durr & Dolejsi,
PROPRIETORS
OPPOSITE KELLER'S, CUERO

DUNN, STEVE AND ANNIE ALEXANDER

F229

Blake, Pat, Myrtie, Steve Dunn and Buck (Dog) 1948

Annie Dunn Murphree and William Thomas Murphree

And Descendants

Annie Margaret Alexander, one of nine children of George Monroe "Tip" and Susan Missouri Marshall Alexander, was born in Cuero, Texas February 29, 1884. She lived in the home of her birth all of her life with the exception of

Back Row: Steve, Miles, Summer and Blake Dunn. Mid. Row: Carmen Amezaga, Karen Dunn, Laurie and Kathy Dunn. Front: Kartina Amin and Wesley Dunn

George M. and Susan M. Alexander, Steve and Annie (Alexander) Dunn and James Dunn (in front)

Pat and Myrtie Dunn

the two years following her marriage to Steve Dunn in 1910. In 1912 the Dunns returned to Cuero where they resided until their deaths.

Stephen James Dunn, Jr. (1884 – Nov. 1926) was born in Yoakum, Texas to Stephen and Annie Heffernan Dunn. Stephen Dunn, Sr., one of the three sons of John Stephen and Elizabeth May Dunn, was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents, the John Mays. John Stephen Dunn, an Irish immigrant to Texas, settled as a large land owner in the Refugio area. Following his untimely death, his widow and three small sons moved to the May homestead in Yoakum, Texas. The John May Family gave much of the land for the Yoakum townsite.

Steve Dunn, Jr., a stockman, began a small dairy business with his wife. Following his death in November, 1926, Annie expanded the dairy and began delivery service twice daily. The dairy prospered until World War II when Pat, Annie's and Steve's son, enlisted in the Coast Guard.

Annie Dunn was a member of the First United Methodist Church for many years.

Annie and Steve Dunn were the parents of two sons: James Alexander and Pat. James, born November 24, 1914, married Virgie Faye Crocker of Cuero. James, an automobile accident victim, died in May, 1959. His widow remarried to John Ballard of Menard, Texas. Virgie, born March 23, 1919, died in Menard, September 9, 1967. Virgie left no issue.

Pat Dunn, born June 12, 1917, married Myrtie Joyce Jackson, daughter of Jesse W. and Adele Lloyd Jackson, June 15, 1942. To this marriage three sons and a daughter were born. Their eldest son (1) Stephen Lloyd, was born April 29, 1944, and resides in Bacliff, Texas. There he and his wife, Carmen Amezaga, are IMB programmers at Houston's Johnson Space Center. Carmen has one daughter, Kartina Jane Amin. (2) Benjamin Blake, born March 1, 1947, married Kathryn Ann Egg, daughter of Ralph and Helen Mae Hartman Egg, September 19, 1970. Blake, Kathy, and daughter, Summer Kathryn, reside in Meyersville, Texas. Blake owns and operates "Dunn Services" and Kathy works as supervisor for Texas Department of Human Resources. (3) Patrick Miles, born January 12, 1959, married Karen Ann Grunder, daughter of Louis and Elorine Schlinke Grunder, June 27, 1981. To this union were born Wesley Myles, born August 29, 1984, and Amanda Kristen, born May 4, 1988. Miles, who resides in Victoria, Texas, works for Victoria C.P.L. (4) Laurie Ann, born January 22, 1960, married John Jeffery Allen on September 22, 1989. They reside in Minneapolis, Minnesota where each is a doctoral candidate of psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Pat became a surveyor after World War II and continued in this business until retirement in 1982. Myrtie was an elementary school teacher in Cuero Independent School District for twenty-six years, until her retirement in 1988.

Pat and Myrtie are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero.

Annie Alexander Dunn married William Thomas Murphree November 9, 1938. Tom's two children by a previous marriage were Eunice Murphree Reiffert, wife of Ralph Reiffert, and Joe Murphree. Eunice and Ralph Reiffert were the parents of Sandra Lynn Reiffert Smythe, who now resides in San Antonio. Joe and his wife, Sally Hill, were parents of Donnie Dale Murphree Good. Following Joe's death, Sallie now lives with her daughter's family in Oklahoma.

William Thomas Murphree, a dedicated member of the Presbyterian Church, died September 3, 1959.

On June 27, 1972 Annie Margaret Alexander Dunn Murphree died and was laid to rest in Cuero's Hillside Cemetery.

by Myrtie Dunn

EATMAN, A.W. AND ELIZABETH VANN WILLIAMS (PRIDGEN)

F230

Augustus Washington Eatman, son of Henry and Maurine Pridgen Eatman, was born on September 18, 1852, in Eutau Springs, Alabama. In 1873 he and his mother came to live in the Thomaston area.

In 1874 Gus, as he was called, married Elizabeth Vann Williams Pridgen, widow of Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr. Wiley and Gus were cousins. Elizabeth "Betty" Williams (1842-1916) was the daughter of Oscar Fitzg-

House built in 1849 by Mrs. Mary Pridgen. Made from Florida lumber brought from Indianola by ox-drawn. L-R: Minnie Eatman, John T. Pridgen, A.W. Eatman, Mrs. A.W. (Betty) Eatman, Walter W. Eatman, and Maggie Lee Eatman.

erald Williams and Harriet Williams, who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1844. Gus helped his wife operate the farm and ranch and to take care of her children, Wiley Winburne (1865-1914), Mary "Mamie" (1867-1895), and John Taylor (1869-1934). Two daughters and two sons were born to the Eatmans: (1) Minnie Mae (Mrs. Walter B. Calliham) (1875-1949), housewife, whose story is included in the Walter Calliham History; (2) Maggie Lee (1878-1920) and her husband, Dr. John A. "Ben" Maness had four daughters. Esther Lee (the late Mrs. Oscar Baker), Laura Eunice "Billie" (Mrs. Ben Caldwell), and Ruth Elizabeth "Bessie" (the late Mrs. Bill Cudd), whose children are John A. Cudd, Leatrice (Mrs. Barkley Yarborough – three sons), and Willie Ben (Mrs. Jack Newman – daughter Melody), and Willie Ben Maness (deceased). (3) William Walter (1881-1936) and wife, Joanna Farrar (1878-1977) had two sons, Joseph Walter and Arthur William – wife Genevieve – son Arthur Lynn. W.W. was the editor of newspapers at Thomaston and at Westhoff and worked for a time on the Cuero Star. Later he and his family moved to San Antonio and then to Austin where he and his wife were in the real estate business. (4) Thomas Ochiltree, who died of diphtheria at the age of six months.

Maggie Eatman Maness, with her two youngest daughters, Eunice and Willie Ben, came to live with her parents during her mother's last illness. After Betty's death in 1916, Maggie and her daughters lived with her father and her half-brother, John, until she married John Beard in 1917.

In 1924 Minnie and Walter Calliham and their four children moved from the townsite of Thomaston to the farm. Walter farmed and helped take care of the place. In the early 1930's Gus moved to Austin, where he lived with his son and family until his death in 1935.

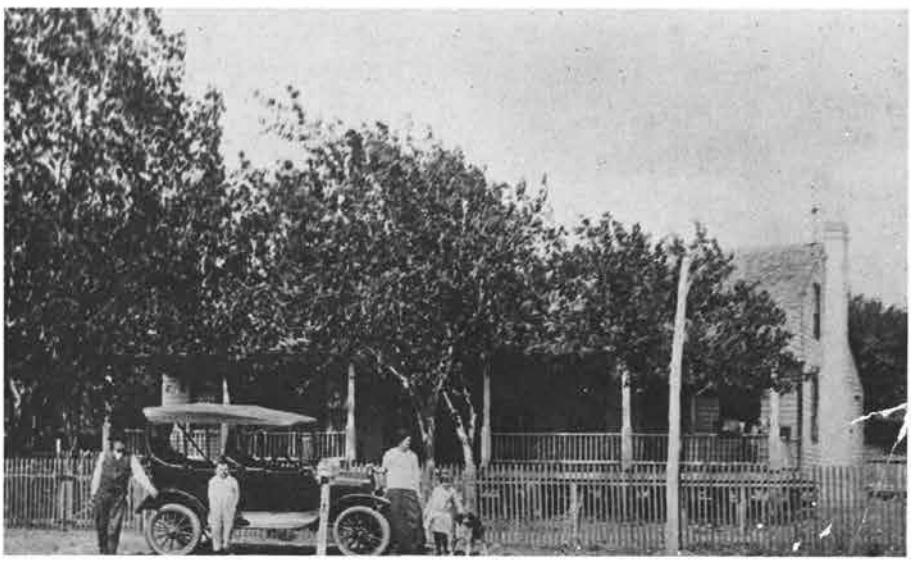
The Eatman home was built by Wiley Washington Pridgen, Sr., and Mary Baker Pridgen in 1849. It stood about one mile north of where Thomaston is now located. The house, built of Florida lumber, was east of present (1989) Highway 87 and faced west. The land was separated into three parts by the highway and by the Southern Pacific Railroad after the 1870's. The home was completely destroyed by fire on a windy Easter Sunday, April 5, 1928. Another house was built on the same spot. Mr. Eatman, John Pridgen, and the Calliham family moved into the new home in the summer of 1928.

Before his death Mr. Eatman divided his land into three parts, deeding a part to each of his children or their survivors. The home place, the center area, was deeded to his daughter, Minnie. Her grandson, David Anthony Calliham, with his wife, Jeanine, and their two daughters and one son, live in the home (1989). They have remodeled the house adding more rooms, and making many other changes. The land across the highway and across the railroad, is owned by Leroy Gloor (1989). The northern section was deeded to Maggie's survivors. Eunice and Ben Caldwell lived there for a time and did ranching. The place has been sold and is now (1989) owned by J.C. Martin, Jr. The southern section was deeded to W.W. Eatman. His widow built a home there where she and her son, Joe, lived for the remainder of their lives. At present (1989) her son, Arthur "Willie" and his wife, Genevieve, live there part time and part time in Austin.

Gus Eatman, a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Woodmen of the World for many years, served as a DeWitt County Commissioner, Precinct 1, from 1896 to 1908. He was an intelligent man, well-read, though he had little formal education. While commissioner he used the monies wisely as he did his personal finances.

An article in the Illustrated Edition of the *Cuero Star*, 1906, stated as follows: "Mr. Eatman was quick to respond to all of the improvements needed in the county roads by the commercial interests of Cuero and by his constituents in general. Whenever the means were available, repairs and betterments were promptly and thoroughly made. He introduced in this precinct a distinct road gang, equipped with a number of teams of fine mules, wagons, plows, scrapers, road grader and roller, in addition to his part of the time of the regular county-convict gang, which is similarly equipped."

by Elizabeth Murphree



L-R: A.W. Eatman, J.T. Pridgen, Maggie Lee Maness and Willie Ben Maness

EATMAN, MOURNING (PRIDGEN)

F231

Mourning (Pridgen) Eatman was born in North Carolina (1812-1897) and was the decendant of Hardy Pridgen. Mourning was the widow of Henry Eatman (1809-1859), a decendant of John Eatman. She has 12 children, but only 3 survived to adulthood.

While still in Eutaw, Greene County, Alabama, Mourning's youngest son, Thomas Henry Eatman (1858-1927) organized a group of families to travel together to Texas. This group

Jessie Hatchet (Phillips) and Thomas Henry Eatman with Mary Thelma Eatman ca. 1901

included Joseph and Martha Phillips and their children.

The families travelled by train to New Orleans and then boarded a steamship (Morgan Boat Lines) which landed at Indianola, Texas. From there the Eatman and Phillips families then moved to Cuero and Thomaston in Dewitt County. In Thomaston Mourning and Thomas were reunited with Mourning's older son Augustus Washington Eatman.

Mourning was listed as a planteress in the 1860 Census Records for Greene County, Alabama, and she and Thomas continued to farm in their new life in Dewitt County, Texas.

Thomas Eatman married Jessie Hatchet Phillips, daughter of Joseph and Martha (see Phillips history) in 1889 in Cuero and eventually moved to Smith Creek Gonzales, Texas.

Mourning lived with Thomas and Jessie until her death on May 18, 1897 (obituary in *Cuero Star*). Thomas and Jessie then moved to Liberty Hill, Burnet County, Texas, where they raised on daughter, Mary Thelma Eatman.

by Barbara Lewis and Lee Hamilton

EBERHARDT, CHARLES THEOPHILUS

F232

Charles T. Eberhardt was born in the Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany on November 27, 1827. This information was in a handwritten, partly burned document dated July 28, 1856, in which he renounced allegiance to "reigning" Duke Ludwig III and made his declarations of intent to become a United States citizen. The town of his birth was not given.

He probably crossed the Atlantic on a sailing ship and debarked in June 1848 at Indianola, Texas, a port later obliterated by hurricanes. Records of his departure from Germany and arrival in the United States of North America have not been found.

We know he owned a large farm near Hochheim, Texas. He definitely owned land by 1849. The farm was near the Guadalupe River. A stockman and farmer, he lived on the main road between Victoria and Gonzales.

He married Carolina Reinhardt on July 31, 1851, a union that produced a son, Theophilus Charles, on May 3, 1852. They also had a daughter, Mary. Carolina lived until 1873.

On January 6, 1875, Charles T. married Cora Allen. Their two daughters were Meta and Sedonia. The marriage ended in six years with the death of Charles T. in 1881. His will shared all his property between Theophilus Charles and Mary, naming T. Charles as guardian of the estate and Mary, if Mary was still a minor.

In 1887, T. Charles partitioned 257 ¾ acres of the land to Mary's husband, Charles Schwab. That year, he also sold 259 acres to Jacob Loeble for $817.

Although Meta and Sedonia's properties were not part of the estate, DeWitt County courthouse records show that Meta sold 106 acres in 1899 to Mary Norton. Two other records show that Sedonia conveyed her interest in 41 ½ acres to Price Allen in 1899, and gave a deed for 80 acres to Eilert Schumacher in 1902.

Grave sites for Charles T., his two wives and three daughters, are unknown. His son, T. Charles, is buried at Fort Valley, Georgia.

T. Charles continued the Eberhardt lineage through his marriage to F. Elizabeth Hartmann. Their marriage produced eleven children. Mary married Charles Schwab, Meta never married and Sedonia married the Reverend Jacob Summers Kennison. Mary had six children and Sedonia had two children.

by Edward L. Eberhardt

EBERHARDT, THEOPHILUS CHARLES

F233

Theophilus Charles Eberhardt, "T.C." was born on May 3, 1852 at Concrete, Texas. He attended Concrete College and taught school for a while in his early years. He was County Clerk of DeWitt County for a number of years; then editor of a Cuero newspaper.

In May of 1874, T.C. married Elizabeth Hartman, at the Meyersville Lutheran Church, by the Rev. John Schaeg. In about 1894, they moved to Anniston, Alabama, then to Prattville. In Anniston he was a stockholder in the Barbour Machine Works. He invented and patented a cotton gin press; also a cotton gin feeder and condenser, which was manufactured and sold by the Continental Gin Co., Prattville, Alabama.

Elizabeth Hartman was the daughter of Christian and Marie (Schroeder) Hartman. She was born on the 26 February 1853 and was a twin to Ferdinand Hartman. Elizabeth and Theophilus Charles had the following children: 1) Carolina "Lena" Elinora Eberhardt, born June 13, 1875 at Clinton, TX. Married Samuel Francis Weatherly in 1902 and died November 11, 1948. 2) Charles Theophilus Eberhardt, born February 2, 1877 at Clinton, married Sudie Burt Jones in 1926, and died June 16, 1960. 3) Emma Dora Eberhardt was born March 20, 1879 in Blanconia, Bee county, married William H. Gisler in 1905, and died June 19, 1960. 4) Elizabeth Fred. Eberhardt, born December 3, 1881 in Cuero, married Bee Booth in 1902 and died September 27, 1965. 5) Mollie Johanna Eberhardt was born January 19, 1884 in Cuero, married W.F. Sutton in 1931 and died February 18, 1953. 6) Marie Sedonia Eberhardt was born March 12, 1887 in Cuero, married Charles Wright in 1910. 7) Natalie Bertha Eberhardt was born May 12, 1889 in Cuero, married Frank Harrison in 1907 and died in 1966. 8). Amelia Josephine Eberhardt was born September 29, 1891, married Gus Cloer in 1922 and died on August 26, 1951. 9) Julius Ferdinand Eberhardt was born June 9, 1893 in Cuero, married Lillian McQueen in 1914 and died on June 27, 1959. 10) William Frederick Eberhardt was born December 4, 1895 in Anniston, Ala. 11) Edward Henry Eberhardt was born October 17, 1897 in Prattville, Ala., married Anna Margaret Duncan in 1921 and died August 1, 1966.

T.C. died at Ft. Valley, Georgia on December 10, 1914. Elizabeth (Hartman) Eberhardt died June 3, 1912 in Ft. Valley, Georgia.

by Christine E. Sessions

ECKHARDT FAMILY

F234

William Eckhardt

In 1843 Charles Eckhardt was in business in Indianola, Texas. Later Charles Eckhardt and Capt. John York were the founders of Yorktown, Texas. In May 1848, Charles Eckhardt contracted with Peter Metz and John Frank to build the first house in Yorktown. This was a log house, twelve by twenty feet, with back room and chimney, and was afterwards occupied by Caesar Eckhardt, a brother to Charles. Charles was a Mexican War veteran and in 1852 he went to Central America and died on his return trip and was buried in New Orleans.

In December, 1849, Caesar Eckhardt, settled in Yorktown with his family. They brought with them a number of German families who have since settled in Yorktown. Caesar was

born on August 5, 1806, in Laasphe, Germany. He received a liberal education, was a Lieutenant of artillery in the Prussian army for three years, and afterwards entered the civil service of the government and occupied a position as magistrate when he emigrated to Texas. He married Miss Louise Fisher, in 1833, in Laasphe, Germany. They had eight children: 1) Robert, 2) William, 3) Louise, 4) Emilie, 5) Johanna, 6) Marie, 7) Herman, and 8) Mathilde who was the only one born in Texas.

Caesar died on the 28th of February, 1868 after devoting his life to community service and helping his fellow man. He started the business of C. Eckhardt & Sons in Yorktown.

After his death his widow, Mrs. Louise Eckhardt, continued the mercantile business in partnership with her sons, Robert and William. She died at the age of eighty-four years.

Robert C. Eckhardt was the oldest child of Caesar and Louise Eckhardt and was born March 17, 1836. At the age of twenty-four he married Miss Caroline Kleberg, daughter of Judge Robert Kelberg. He joined Wood's regiment of Texas Cavalry and served with distinction. He was the first Mayor of Yorktown. He was the father of eleven children. He died on February 28, 1887.

William Eckhardt, son of Caesar and Louise Eckhardt, was born January 24, 1838. He developed an early talent for mechanics and applied it in many useful ways on his father's farm and at the store, by stocking plows, making all kinds of furniture, building houses and constructing many other useful contrivances. William joined the first company of volunteers raised in DeWitt County for Confederate service, a company commanded by Capt. W.R. Friend, of Clinton. He was captured and held prisoner at Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois where he remained for three months. He was exchanged at City Point, Virginia in May, 1863. He returned to military duty and was finally discharged from service at Cedar Town, Georgia as an invalid and it was three or four years after the war before he regained his health.

William Eckhardt became the sole owner of the C. Eckhardt & Sons, store after the death of his parents and brother. He has been very successful in all his business undertakings.

In 1865 he married Miss Mary Gohmert who has bore him eight children.

ECKHARDT, MARCELLUS G.

F235

Marcellus G. Eckhardt was born in Yorktown, Texas on June 14, 1873. His parents were Robert C. Eckhardt, a native of Westphalia, Germany, and Caroline (Kleberg) Eckhardt, a native Texan. Marcellus was educated in the local schools and also attended Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas and Sewanee University in Tennessee. He was married on the sixth of June 1900, to Miss Agnes Gohmert, a daughter of F.G. Gohmert, a pioneer resident and one of the first post masters of Yorktown.

Marcellus and Agnes Eckhardt have two sons, Marcellus,Jr. and Kleberg Eckhardt. Marcellus, Jr. graduated from Vanderbilt and was an attorney in Corpus Christi. Dr. Kleberg Eckhardt graduated from the Texas University Medical School at Galveston and is practicing medicine in Corpus Christi.

Marcellus G. Eckhardt was a farmer and rancher. He raised Hereford cattle and feeder cattle. He also was a breeder of fine horses and raised Poland China hogs, sheep, goats and a large number of turkeys. Cotton was the principal cash crop grown on his farms with feed for the livestock making up the remainder of his agricultural activities.

Marcellus was a director of the First National Bank of Yorktown and the Yorktown Cotton Oil and Manufacturing Company. He was active in civic affairs and was a member of the Masonic Order and an elder in the Yorktown Presbyterian Church.

Marcellus G. Eckhardt died April 15, 1942 and Agnes G. Eckhardt died January 21, 1974. They are both buried in the Kleberg-Eckhardt Cemetery near Yorktown, Texas.

EDGAR, JAMES

F236

James Edgar was born September 10, 1790. He married Selah Witherington and they had nine sons and one daughter. The children were all born in Tennessee. Their first born was Joseph Smith Edgar, who was the first of the family to come to Texas at the age of nineteen. He was in the Battle of San Jacinto but died before he had located his colonization land grant of a third of a league of land. He died in 1836. James and Selah's second son, John Edgar who was born in 1920, came to Texas about 1850 to clear his brothers grant, which was located in northeastern DeWitt County. John was married three times. His first wife was Molly Brown, second was the widow Knox, and the third was the widow Ellen DeLooch. The widow Knox was a Culpepper by birth. She had a son, Thad, that John Edgar raised. John Edgar died on September 12, 1906 and is buried in the Edgar family cemetery. His first wife, Molly, is also buried in the family cemetery.

3) Henry B. Edgar was born in December of 1821. He married Alice Morton and they had two daughters, Jane and Bammy. Henry B., then married the widow Jane (Brown) Davis. Their children were: Henry B., Eliza, Sarah, Kate, Kitty and John L. Edgar. Henry B. Edgar died July 22, 1908 and is buried in HIllside Cemetery in Cuero.

4) Hyman Edgar was a veteran of the Civil War having served with Captain M.G. Jacobs in the Concrete Home Guard. He married Amanda Thorpe and they had six children: Paul, Perry, Thalia, Annretta, Kate, and Bertie Edgar.

5) Arthur "Art" Edgar was the fifth child of James and Selah Edgar. He married Harriett Brown and their children were Perry and Lee Edgar.

6) William Edgar was born 1824 and died in 1882. He had one son, William E. Edgar. William Edgar is buried in the Edgar family cemetery.

7) James D. Edgar was born in 1826 and died in 1912. He married Martha Jane Hadley who was born in 1834 and died in 1910. They had two sons, Joseph Smith Edgar and Christopher "Kit" Edgar. James and Martha are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

8) Benjamin Franklin W. Edgar was born in 1835 and died in 1909. He had one child, B.F.W. Edgar II, who was born in 1901. Benjamin Franklin W. Edgar was a member of Company H., Texas State Troops, during the Civil War.

9) Joshua Edgar married Martha Washington Woodward and they had two children: Joshua and Caledonia. Joshua and Martha are buried in the Edgar family cemetery but have no dates on their tombstones.

Palina, the only daughter of James and Selah Edgar married Robert P. Carr, Civil War veteran under Captain M.G. Jacobs of the Concrete Home Guard. Palina and Robert had a son named Wesley Carr, and another son and daughter.

James Edgar died April 29, 1869 and Selah Edgar died April 23, 1873. They are both buried in the Edgar family cemetery on property that is still in the Edgar family in 1990. There was also, a small community between Cuero and Yoakum, Texas which was named Edgar for the family.

by Patsy Goebel

EDWARDS – DuBOSE – HOEFLING FAMILY

F237

Edward Morgan Edwards was born in Pontypridd, Wales in 1821. He married Elizabeth Hael in Pontypridd, the exact date is not known. Edward and Elizabeth left Wales in the middle 1800's. The reason for their leaving Wales is not known nor how they decided to settle in this area. Perhaps, like so many other immigrants, they received land grants and they wanted to come to the land of opportunity. Thomas Hael (named changed to Hall in the United States), a relative of Elizabeth Hael, settled in New York City. Thomas died in 1867. He had received a land grant from the Dutch government which was 62 acres in lower Manhattan in the heart of New York City. Since 1950 the Edwards' families have been trying to obtain their inheritance from Thomas' estate. This property is part of Wall Street. It has been a long battle and to date has not been resolved and probably never will.

Edward and Elizabeth had six children: Edward, Walter, Mary (DuBose), Rachel (McFarland), Alice (DuBose), and Margaret. Edward died in 1867 and Elizabeth in 1884. Edward, Elizabeth, Edward Jr., Rachel McFarland, and Walter are all buried in the Edwards' Cemetery which is located on property now owned by Mrs. Werner Sinast in Yorktown. Family history has it that Edward Sr. and one of his sons died on a cattle drive on the Bell place which was a ranch next to the Edwards' ranch. It is believed that one of the Bell's son-in-law was a descendant of Captain York who was the founder of Yorktown.

Mary Edwards was born near Yorktown on June 17, 1861. She often told stories of her horseback rides to and from school. She married Amos DuBose (born June 30, 1858 at Clear Creek, Texas) on June 30, 1877. Mary, Amos and Mary's sister Alice, who also married a DuBose, decided to move to Mason County. Seven children were born to Mary and Amos: Lester, Harmon, Mae (Garrett), Gertrude (Schlein), Harriet (Malone), Violet (Neely), and Emma (Hoefling).

Emma DuBose was born February 20, 1889 in Mason County. She was very proud of her

heritage. She often spoke of her grandparents being from Wales. She told many stories of her family traveling in a covered wagon. On one such occasion, on a trip to Arizona, one of her brothers died and was buried along the way. Emma claimed French, English, German, and Welsh descent. Emma's parents, Mary and Amos, eventually came back to this area, first to Charco and then to the Weesatche area. Mary died in 1927 and Amos in 1938.

Emma DuBose married Charlie M. Hoefling on December 16, 1915 in DeWitt County. They were married at the City Hall in Yorktown by a Mr. Hausmann. Charlie was born August 19, 1886. Charlie's family came from Germany originally. His mother died when Charlie and his two brothers were quite young. There were also three sisters who left and went to Houston and never returned. Charlie's father, Charlie Henry, allowed the three boys to be reared by other families. Charlie was reared by the Bud Murray family around Meyersville. Felix was reared by the Ferdinand Boldt family and Andrew was reared by the John Gruenwald family. Felix had two children, David and Elma (DuBose). Ambrose had two children, Anita (Glisner) and George.

Emma and Charlie lived in the Yorktown-/Meyersville area all of their married life. They had five children: Carl, born September 25, 1916 (near Meyersville); Mattie, born March 14, 1919 (near Yorktown); Delbert, born July 18, 1921; and Dalton and Dorothy, born May 15, 1924. The last three children were born in Yorktown. Charlie was a farmer and rancher most of his life. He did work as a night watchman for the oil mill in his later years. The children all attended school in Yorktown. They remember teachers Hubert Menn and Bertha Gras. These same teachers taught Carl, Mattie, and Dalton's children. They are still residing in Yorktown.

Carl Hoefling married Otha Bingham on February 18, 1939. They had seven children: Roy, Carlyn, Norman (deceased), Linda, Carlton, Jo Ann, and Phillip. Roy married Marian Wehe. They have two children, Bryan and Sheila. Carlyn married Leo Semper. They have two children, Christie and Paul. Christie is married to Ken Kahlich and they have one daughter, Loren. Paul is married to the former Lisa Adams. Linda is married to Ray Tampke. They have three children: Deborah (who is married to John Ruschhaupt), Cynthia, and Glen. Carlton married the former Sydney Calk. They have three children: Brent, Shawna, and Heath. Brent and his wife Susan have four children: Jeffrey, Blaine, A.J., and Steven. Shawna is married to Joey Hranicky and they have one son, Kyle. Jo Ann is married to Talbert Wendel. She has one daughter, Lisa Bruns and Talbert has three children: Gordon, Jason, and Molly. Phillip is married to the former Mary Ohrt. They have three sons: Shane, Ashley, and Casey.

Mattie Hoefling married Newton Borgfeld on October 12, 1941. Their home is in Yorktown. They have four children: Carolyn (married to Walter Bare, has one son, Greg), Wanda (married to Douglas Franke and has three children: Darren, Cynthia, and Denise, married to Perry Hiebner, has one son, Matthew), Peggy (married to Paul Pugh, has one son, Cody), and Edwin (deceased).

Delbert Hoefling married Jody Hoffman from Palestine. They have two sons, Jerry and Gary. Jerry and his wife Linda have three children: Nickie, Chris, and Cory. Gary and his wife Norma have two children, Devin and Justin.

Dalton Hoefling married Lucille Howard on September 5, 1948. They reside in Yorktown. They have two children, Joan and Kenneth. Joan is married to James Urban and has two sons, Justin and Jared. Kenneth is married to the former Suelyn Crisp and they have four children: Chris, Wendy, Dane, and Kendall.

Dorothy Hoefling married Ernst Dueser on December 26, 1944. They live in Norman, Arkansas. They have two daughters, Myrtle and Diane. Myrtle is married to Walter Farmer and they have two children, Joey and Tammy. Diane is married to Shane Stovall.

Emma and Charlie's home was full of love and their sixteen grandchildren grew up spending a lot of time at their Granny and Gompy's home. Gompy taught the boys to whittle and Granny taught the girls to cook and sew. Granny's sugar cookies were everyone's favorite. Emma (Granny) wrote this poem:

"Thee I love and will forever,
You may change, but I will never,
If separation be our lot,
Dearest ones, forget me not."

by Carlyn Semper

EGG, EDWIN, JR. AND CORA GEORGIA (WENDEL)

F238

Edwin Egg was born July 18, 1899 at Meyersville, Texas to Edwin Egg, Sr. and Bertha (Schaefer). Edwin, Jr. started working at the Isaac Egg Store in Meyersville when he was thirteen years old. He hauled cotton bales, turkeys and freight to Cuero and San Antonio. Edwin, Jr. was in on the first turkey drive to Cuero for the Turkey Trot in 1912. The drive from Meyersville to Cuero took a day and a half. When he was sixteen, he attended Peacock Academy in San Antonio. His Grandfather and Mrs. Peacock were brother and sister. When he returned to Meyersville he again went to work at the Isaac Egg Store. He worked from four in the morning until ten at night.

In 1919 on Christmas Day, Edwin Egg, Jr. married Cora Georgia Wendel. In 1918 Edwin had bought ¼ interest in the Isaac Egg store in Meyersville and in Arneckeville. In 1922 Edwin and Cora moved to Arneckeville to run the store.

Cora Georgia Wendel was born April 14, 1900. She was the daughter of Emil and Martha (Ruschhaupt) Wendel. She was born in Rasin, Texas and very soon after her birth the family moved to Meyersville.

Edwin and Cora bought 107 acres of land for fifty dollars an acre in 1924 from Otto Junker at Golly Hollow. They planted corn and cotton but the land had been farmed poorly for so long that the crops were poor. The Eggs started their dairy in 1924 with five cows. In 1925 Edwin had a mail route and a cream route. When the creamery opened in July 1926, they started milking ten cows and later built their herd up to seventeen or eighteen cows. They got their first electric milking machine in 1939. Electricity came to Golly Hollow in 1939. They then milked thirty cows until about 1955, when they quit the business. Later they raised hogs and sold as many as one thousand hogs a year. In 1975 they sold the hogs and retired because of Edwin's poor health.

Edwin Egg, Jr. and Cora Egg had six children: 1) Ruth Martha who married William Burton Poage and after divorcing him, married Charles Ott Moore. 2) Ralph Edwin who married Helen Mae Hartman. 3) Mary Ellen who died of spinal meningitis on Christmas Day in 1932. 4) Joan Vernell who married Charles F. Gohmert. 5) James Arthur who married Dorothy Lee Noack, then married two more times. 6) Alice Jane who married John Tony Moring.

Edwin Otto Egg died in 1988 and Cora (Wendel) Egg died in 1990.

by Joan Gohmert

EGG, ISAAC AND HELENE ELSTNER

F239

Isaac Egg was born on December 17, 1834 in Flaach, Canton Zurich, Switzerland. That was also the birthplace of his parents, Jacob and Anna Giesler Egg, and of their eight children: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Johanna, Gideon, Ernestine, Emilie and Selma Egg. They lived on a farm in a bend of the Rhine River, within hearing distance of the famous Rhine Falls. The Eggs had a brick factory, a vineyard, and they operated a ferry across the Rhine. Because of frequent flooding of their farm, and other economic conditions, they left their homeland for America, as so many of their fellow citizens did at this time. In 1854, they and 8000 other Swiss emigrated to this "Land of Opportunity". It was a serious decision, and Isaac did not favor the move. A ten week voyage brought them, by way of Basel, Strassburg and Paris, then across the ocean in the sailship "Cosburg". They went via New Orleans and Galveston to Indianola, then inland. They had planned to join a Swiss colony in Dallas, but after a short stay with Jacob Schwetz, they settled in Goliad, where some of Mrs. Egg's family lived. However, Isaac and his brother, Abraham, went up the Mississippi to Indiana, Illinois and Iowa working there. When the Civil War broke out, Abraham joined the army, but Isaac chose to "Free-haul" freight for the Confederate Army.

Helene Elstner was born in Neustadt, Bohemia on August 18, 1844. Her father was Joseph Elstner, a master mason and a farmer. Her mother, Helene Buckhart Elstner died when Helene was four years old. Her father married again, and in 1853, came to America with his family on the ship "Friedrich der Grosse (the Great)". Since they were not permitted to land in Galveston because of yellow fever, they landed at Harrisburg, TX and went inland by ox-cart, settling in Lavaca Co. Later Helene met Isaac Egg there in Halletsville, where he worked at hauling freight.

On January 27, 1864, Isaac Egg and Helene Elstner were married in Halletsville, TX. They lived there six months, then went to Goliad. On October 31, 1868, they moved to Meyersville, TX, where Isaac established his business. This story is given separately. They lived in a frame house near his business. Seven children blessed this home: Nellie (died at the age of twelve), Ottilie (Egg) Kiel, Edwin, Alfred, Rudolph, Oscar and Erna (Egg). Ottilie and Erna are buried in Virginia, and Nellie and her four brothers all are buried in the Lutheran Ceme-

Isaac and Helene Egg.

tery in Meyersville, TX.

Besides his business, Isaac was also active in community affairs. He was postmaster in Meyersville from 1879 to 1909. He was Justice of the Peace many years, and served as secretary and treasurer of the school board for many years. He was a staunch supporter of the school. Although he spoke only German when he came to Texas, he soon spoke English fluently, and also was able to communicate in Spanish with his many Mexican customers. He conversed easily with all persons and was respected as a leader in the community. He was generous, and, in his business dealings, accurate and fair. As a child, he was taught the doctrines of Zwingli, the leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland. He was open-minded in his religious views and believed in freedom and equality for all.

Helene Egg was brought up in the Catholic faith. She died in her home on February 18, 1907. A kind and loving lady, she was all that a good and faithful wife and mother should be. Many friends mourned her passing. She is buried in the Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery. Isaac Egg suffered ill health the last ten or more years of his life, yet he operated his business until shortly before his death on July 20, 1909. He, too, is buried in Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery.

by Ruth Egg

EGG, ISAAC EDWIN
F240

Isaac Edwin Egg and his twin brother, Henry Edwin Egg, were born in Meyersville, TX on June 24, 1905 in the home of their parents, Rudolph and Melanie (Jacob) Egg. They were baptized and confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. After finishing grade school in Meyersville, they attended and graduated from Baldwin Business College in Yoakum, TX. As often is the case with identical twins, their interests and activities during their childhood and adolescent years were very much the same. This was also evident throughout their entire lives.

As soon as they were old enough to help, Isaac and Henry worked in the store, Isaac Egg's Sons, which, at this time, was owned and operated by sons of the founder of the business, Isaac Egg. Isaac worked mostly as a clerk and postal assistant, as the post office was located in the store and his father, Rudolph, was the postmaster. Henry was a tinner, working in the tin shop, which was also a part of the store. In the 1920's, Isaac and Henry bought the other family members' shares of the business, and from that time until their deaths, they owned and operated the business as partners. Their relationship was always very close. Isaac died on June 1, 1985, and Henry died on November 10, 1986.

When Rudolph Egg died in 1934, Isaac succeeded his father as postmaster, a position which he held for 41 years until his retirement in 1975. On February 13, 1942, Isaac Egg was inducted into the U.S. Army. He received his training in El Paso, TX and in California, after which he was stationed in New Guinea, working as a postal clerk in his unit. After 19 months of action in the jungles, he returned to the States in December, 1944. While he was on furlough, he married Ruth Sager in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, TX. After this Isaac was stationed for a short while in Missouri, where he received his honorable discharge from the Army on July 13, 1945. He returned to Meyersville to establish his home and to resume his duties as hardware merchant and postmaster. During his time in the army, Isaac's brother, Henry, served as postmaster.

Ruth Sager was born in Arneckeville, TX on March 23, 1915 in the home of her parents, C.A.H. and Mary (Schorlemmer) Sager. She was baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. She attended school in Arneckeville, and received her high school diploma from Texas Lutheran Academy, forerunner of Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas. In 1935, she began her teaching career, and in 1942 she received her degree from S.W.T.S.U. in San Marcos, TX, after seven years of teaching and attending summer classes.

After Isaac's return to civilian life he and Ruth lived with his mother in the house in which he was born. In 1965, they moved into their new home, which they had built next to that of his mother. Four sons were born to Isaac and Ruth Egg: Isaac Henry Egg, Richard Paul Egg, Robert Charles Egg and Daniel Louis Egg.

Isaac Henry Egg, born on May 31, 1946, graduated from Meyersville Elementary School and Cuero High School, then attended Victoria Junior College. He served in the U.S. Army two years, one of them in Korea. After his return from the army, he has worked as a farm hand. He lives in the Rudolph Egg home, where he grew up.

Richard Paul Egg, born on March 15, 1948, graduated from Meyersville Elementary School and Cuero High School, then went on to graduate from Texas A&M University. On January 24, 1970 he married Lou Bramlette of Cuero, born January 26, 1948. Richard served several years in the U.S. Navy and graduated

1984, Lillian (Egg) Doehrman, Henry Edwin Egg, Isaac Edwin Egg, and Walter Oscar Egg.

from the Naval Academy and then was stationed in Puerto Rico from 1973 until June, 1976, when he received his honorable discharge. He returned to Texas A&M University to earn his Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering. He is now employed by the University as a Research Engineer. Richard and Lou Egg have two daughters: Mary Elizabeth Egg, born in Cuero, TX on October 1, 1972, and Laura Mitchell Egg, born in Ceiba, Puerto Rico on January 31, 1974. They live in College Station, TX.

Robert Charles Egg, born on February 14, 1951, graduated from Meyersville Elementary School and Cuero High School. He earned his degree in engineering, after which he went to Alaska where he was employed as a construction engineer on the Alaskan Pipeline. After the completion of the pipeline, he spent a year in Antarctica with an international team on a scientific research expedition. He returned to Alaska, where he was employed as a camp manager at an oil field in Prudhoe Bay. At the present time, he is employed by the Williams Brothers Engineering Co. in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Daniel Louis Egg, born on January 23, 1956, graduated from Meyersville Elementary School and from Cuero High School. In 1976, he received his degree in Engineering from Texas A&M University. On September 6, 1975, he married Karen Wells of Cuero, born on August 24, 1956. After his graduation he was employed as a Petroleum Services Engineer by Haliburton Company. He worked for them in College Station, Palestine, Jacksboro, and now in Dallas, TX. Daniel and Karen have two children: Stacy Le Anne Egg, born on April 15, 1981, and Jordan Isaac Egg, born on July 8, 1983.

Isaac Edwin Egg retired from the office of Postmaster on June 30, 1975, however, he continued in the hardware business until shortly before his death. Ruth Egg also retired in 1975. Isaac died in Victoria, TX on June 1, 1985. He was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville, TX. Ruth Egg lives in their home in Meyersville.

by Ruth S. Egg

EGG, RALPH EDWIN AND HELEN MAE (HARTMAN)

F241

Ralph Edwin Egg was born on August 21, 1924 to Edwin and Cora Wendel Egg in the Golly Community in DeWitt County 4 miles east of Meyersville. He has one brother Jimmy, and three sisters Ruth, Joan, and Alice Jane. They made their living from a dairy. Ralph was baptized by Rev. H.C. Poehlman and confirmed by Rev. M. Heinrich in St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. Ralph went to Golly School for 6 years and graduated from Cuero High School in 1941. In May 1944 he was drafted into the Navy where he served in Japan, Okinawa, Philippine Islands and Iwo Jima, during World War II.

Helen Mae Hartman Egg was born on November 1, 1927 to Edwin and Helen (Diebel) Hartman (their story is in this book) in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. Helen Mae was baptized by Rev. H.C. Poehlman and confirmed by Rev. E.L. Arhelger. She has one sister Edrie and three brothers Hilmer, Fred Ray (deceased) and Harold. They were farmers and ranchers. Helen Mae went to school in Meyersville and graduated from Cuero High School in 1944. When her three brothers served in World War II, she helped her father on the farm.

L-R: Joel Egg, Kathy (Egg) Dunn, Helen Mae (Hartman) Egg and Ralph Egg. Front: Laurie (Egg) Pokluda.

Ralph and Helen Mae were married on June 30, 1946 by Rev. E.L. Arhelger in St. John Ev. Lutheran Church. They made their home on three of their aunts' and uncles' farms for seven years. In 1953 they purchased 100 acres of land from Helen Mae's parents (one mile from Meyersville) and moved into the same home where she was born. Ralph always loved cattle and dreamed of owning lots of land and cattle. He would buy one or two cows at the Cuero Auction on Friday where they both were employed. They cleared their land and planted grazing for the cattle. In 1954 they built a dairy which they still operate. This land received the Family Land Heritage Award in 1975 for having been in the Hartman family 100 years.

Ralph and Helen Mae were blessed with three children. Laurie Kay was born October 21, 1949 and married John G. Pokluda on May 31, 1975. There are four children. Elizabeth (Lisa) Marie Pokluda (June 17, 1969) and David Scott Pokluda (Jan. 12, 1972) by John's previous marriage to Kay Floyd. Amy Rebecca Stiles (March 2, 1973) by Laurie's previous marriage to Clint Stiles and Jonathon Bob Pokluda born on Nov. 9, 1980. John is a certified land surveyor in Cuero and Laurie teaches fifth grade at St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero. They also rent John's parents farm land and raise cattle. They live near Cuero.

Kathryn Ann was born March 3, 1951 and married B. Blake Dunn on Sept. 19, 1970. They have one daughter Summer Kathryn born July 29, 1974. Blake has an oil field services company in Meyersville and also raises cattle. Kathryn is employed by the Dept. of Human Services as a supervisor for Children's Protective Services in Cuero. They live in the former Edgar and Freida (Diebel) Hartman home, ¼ mile from her parents.

Joel Ray was born Nov. 28, 1955 and married Cynthia Jane Fischer on Jan. 3, 1976. They have two daughters. Tara Lorna was born Dec. 30, 1981 and Dana Paige on Sept. 25, 1985. Joel is in partnership with his father. He is especially interested in the Registered Beefmaster cattle and keeps all the records on them. Cynthia taught school in Cuero but now enjoys being at home with the family. They live in the house that Helen Mae's grandparents, Fred and Justine Hartman lived in which is located across the road from Joel's parents.

Ralph and Helen Mae are blessed that they and the children all attend the same Lutheran Church in Meyersville. Many Sundays find all fifteen gathered together for a Sunday noon meal at their home.

by Mrs. Ralph Egg

EGG, RUDOLPH FAMILY

F242

Rudolph Egg was born in Meyersville, TX on Dec. 25, 1977, the fifth of seven children. His parents were Isaac and Helene Elstner Egg. Their story is given separately. Rudolph grew up in his parents' home, near his father's business, Isaac Egg & Sons, mercantile and tinshop. The story is given separately. He started working in the store at an early age and learned the trade from his father. He dedicated his life to the business, which he and his brother, Edwin, operated after their father's death in 1909. After Edwin's death in 1912, Rudolph managed the business and the office of postmaster, which his father and then his brother had held. Rudolph was postmaster at Meyersville until his death. He also taught all of his children the trade. Most of their early years were spent in the store when they were not in school.

Rudolph Egg married Melanie Jacob in 1901. She was born in Ander, TX on Sept. 12, 1879. Her parents were Henry and Carolina Schiffe Jacob. Henry Jacob came to Texas from Alsace Lorraine at the age of 17 in 1861 to avoid serving in the Prussian Army. Carolina Schiffe came from Germany when she was one

Rudolph and Melanie (Jacob) Egg

year old. She learned to walk on board ship. Soon after they landed, her father died. Her mother married Moritz Riedel, owner of the first drug store in Yorktown. Henry and Carolina Jacob are both buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. Melanie had eleven brothers and sisters. All worked hard on their cattle and goat ranch in Goliad County. Melanie remembered going to the creek with a bucket to carry water to the house, and also taking their clothes to wash in the water of the creek. It also provided them with fish to eat.

Rudolph and Melanie established their home in Meyersville just in back of the store. Large live oaks, which still stand today, shaded their yard. Melanie loved growing things, and she always had a garden full of fresh vegetables in season, as well as lovely flowers blooming in her yard, especially roses, which were her favorite. A grandson lives in the home now.

Four children were born to Rudolph and Melanie Egg: Lillian Helen Egg, born Sept. 10, 1902; twin sons, Henry Edwin Egg and Isaac Edwin Egg, born June 24, 1905; and Walter Oscar Egg, born Dec. 19, 1912. All were born in Meyersville.

Lillian Egg married Berthold C. Doehrman in 1922. They worked in the store and later moved to a farm where they owned and operated a dairy until Berthold's death in 1974. Lillian still lives on the farm. They had one daughter, Joyce Ann Doehrmann (married Lawrence Schrade), two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren. Berthold Doehrman is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville, TX.

Henry Edwin Egg married Margaret Bluntzer. They lived in Meyersville, and he helped manage the store and was assistant postmaster his father's death. Margaret died in March, 1979, and Henry died Nov. 10, 1986. Both are buried in the Meyersville Catholic Cemetery.

Isaac Edwin Egg married Ruth Sager in 1945. They lived in Meyersville in the Rudolph Egg home until 1965, when they built a home nearby. With his twin brother, Isaac operated the family business and served as postmaster from 1934 until 1975. Isaac and Ruth had four sons: Isaac Henry Egg, Richard Paul Egg (married Lou Bramlette), Robert Charles Egg, and Daniel Louis Egg (married Karen Wells), and four grandchildren. Isaac Edwin Egg died June 1, 1985. He is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

Walter Oscar Egg married Elvie Schrade in 1935. They live in Meyersville, where Walter worked as a mechanic, a truck driver and since 1985, he has served as postmaster in Meyersville. They have four children: Jeanette Egg (married Charles Paudue, he died in 1986), Barbara Elaine Egg (married Arlen Mueller), Rubert Lloyd Egg (married Billie Fay Bauer), Arlen Charles Egg (married Susan Morriss), fourteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Rudolph Egg died Feb. 4, 1934. His wife Melanie Jacob Egg died October 21, 1968. Both are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville, TX.

by Ruth Egg

EGG, VANCE FAMILY

F243

Vance Egg family: Kayla, Cindy, Vance and Jordan.

Vance and Cindy Egg live in Meyersville, Texas. They have two children, Jordan was born September 16, 1983, and Kayla was born September 13, 1986.

Vance is Field Supervisor for a construction company in Cuero, and Cindy is the City of Cuero Public Librarian.

Vance was born December 14, 1959. He was raised in Meyersville, the second of three children born to Rubert and Billie Bauer Egg. His great-great grandparents Isaac and Helene Elnstner Egg homesteaded in Meyersville, Texas around 1865 coming from Flaach, Switzerland. They established a business which grew into one of the largest and best rural stores of hardware and groceries. Isaac's son, Rudolph Egg, one of seven children, also helped establish the store. He was married to Melanie Jacob, March 26, 1901. Also he became postmaster when his father died in 1901.

Cindy, born March 30, 1961, at Burns Hospital in Cuero, is the middle of three children. Her ancestors homesteaded in Meyersville, Texas, and are now mostly in the same general vicinity. Her parents are Marvin Hausman of Victoria, and Lornett Hausman of Cuero. She has had training courses in San Antonio, Texas and Corpus Christi, Texas dealing with Library Science and hopes to pursue her career further.

Here is a story below that Vance and Cindy would like to share written by E.A. Lichtenstein, son of Selina Egg Lichtenstein, who was a sister to Isaac Egg, son of Jacob Egg who came to America from Switzerland in 1854. (Which might be more legend than authentic history.) "In olden times the Egg family originated in Italy, where they were known as the Counts of Eggio.

"Now the Counts of Eggio were bold and enterprising men, and it was their custom to patrol the roads in their vicinity, and to relieve the travelers of their burdens. And they grew quite wealthy at this kind of business, until one day they saw coming down the road in their direction, a large armed party. Not knowing the intentions of the armed party, they departed from that locality followed by the armed party at increasing speed. But the Counts of Eggio continued on their way at ever increasing speed, remaining well in advance of the large armed party, until they arrived at the borderline between Italy and Switzerland, when they crossed over the border and settled down among the Swiss.

"Now the Swiss were an independent and an outspoken people, and they refused to recognize the title of nobility of our ancestors. The Swiss said that they were not counts, in fact they told them that they were "nocounts." And so the Counts of Eggio had to drop their titles of nobility and became plain "Egg."

by Cindy L. Egg

EGG, WALTER OSCAR

F244

Walter and Elvie Egg

Walter Oscar Egg was born on December 19, 1912, the fourth child born to Rudolph Egg and Melanie Jacob Egg in Meyersville, Texas. His father was a son of Isaac Egg who established the Isaac Eggs Sons general store.

Walter had an older sister and twin brothers. He went to school to the seventh grade at the Meyersville School. He then attended Cuero High School's business courses until 1932. He was employed by Isaac Eggs Sons serving as a trucker hauling turkeys and cotton, and doing other jobs as well.

On February 12, 1935 Walter married Elvie

Otillia Schrade, daughter of Berthold F. Schrade and Meta Goebel Schrade. They lived in the house behind the store until they moved to Yorktown in the early part of 1937, when Walter got a job with Cudahy Packing Company. But due to bad business and layoffs, Walter and his family moved back to Meyersville and lived with his widowed mother until Feb. 6, 1939. They then moved to their current residence in Meyersville. During this time, Walter worked whenever he could. He also ground feed for farmers in the area. Around 1941, Walter and Elvie bought an independent milk route from Edwin Egg, and he trucked until 1968. He also worked at the Crescent Valley Creamery in Victoria when he finished his route. In Oct. 1968, Walter became very ill and was required to quit his job trucking and at the creamery. After regaining his health, he then started working for Reuben and Lewis Wendel on their dairy milking cows in the early 1970's. In 1974 he started working for the US Postal Service at the Meyersville Post Office and still works there today.

Walter had also worked as a mechanic with Reuben Wendel in the Schaefer Garage Building in Meyersville. He played the saxophone in a band and was a catcher for the Meyersville baseball team. He was nicknamed "Colonel."

Walter and Elvie were blessed with four children: Jeanette Lucille Egg Pardue, Barbara Elaine Egg Mueller, Rubert Lloyd Egg and Arlen Charles Egg. There are currently 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren in their family.

by Melissa Moore

Front, L to R: Paula, W.J. Eichholz, Louise Eichholz, Hertha. Back, L to R: Matilda, Hugo, Arthur, Ferdinand and Melanie. Picture ca. 1894.

EICHHOLZ, WILLIAM T. AND LOUISE (DREIER)

F245

William Theodore Eichholz was born October 1, 1841, in Waldenburg, Schlesian, Prussia. He came to America in October 1860, landing at Galveston, Texas. Just one year later he enlisted in the Confederate Army field artillery under Capt. Herman Wilke. He served as company clerk and remained in the service until the close of the war in 1865.

In Meyersville, on April 18, 1868, he married Freidericka Louise Dreier, born November 23, 1848. She was the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dreier, longtime citizens of that community. The Dreiers were active members of the Meyersville Lutheran Church, and Louise was the first child christened near the site of the original church building. This ceremony was performed under one of the large oak trees which are still standing. To this union nine children were born. Two died in infancy. The other seven were three sons, Arthur, Hugo and Ferdinand; four daughters, Melanie, Matilda, Hertha and Paula, all of whom lived full and productive lives.

In September of 1865, William began his career as a teacher in DeWitt County at Yorktown. Over the period of the next ten years, he was school principal at Clinton, Victoria, Indianola and Colettoville. In 1878, he returned to Yorktown and taught there for ten years. In 1888, he established the German-English Independent School at Meyersville, and conducted that school until 1891. As a teacher he was among the earliest to encourage a taste for good music. He played the violin in his classes in order to further their interest. So much emphasis was placed on penmanship that in after years his students could be recognized by their handwriting. He was very influential in having the German language taught in state institutions of learning.

In 1891 when the home on Courthouse Street was completed, he moved his family to Cuero. On July 3, 1891, he founded the Duetsche Rundschau (German Newspaper). He edited and published this paper for twenty years, retiring in September 1913 due to ill health.

William T. Eichholz, affectionately known as Professor Eichholz, was liberal with his time and resources. He supported and contributed to the first brick school building in Cuero. He was a clear and forceful writer, and was firm as to his position on any question he chose to discuss. Nothing pleased him more than being invited to address the public on practically any subject. He gave freely of his time toward securing insurance coverage for members of the newspaper profession.

Professor Eichholz died February 13, 1916, and his wife, Louise, died April 21, 1931. Memorial services were held for each at their home on Courthouse Street, Cuero, Texas. They are interred in the Hillside Cemetery.

by Hertha Helen McCoy

William Spinks

ELLARD, MARY ABBIGAIL (ABBY)

F246

Abby Ellard's parents were John Andrew Ellard and Rosetta Woodhall. Born February 2, 1898 in Lehrton Sunflower County, Mississippi. Died November 10, 1974 in Corpus Christi, Texas Nueces County. Buried in Aransas Pass, San Patricio County, TX. She married March 12, 1916 in Runge, Karnes County, TX (Cabeza), by Rev. Lynn, Methodist minister, to Grover Cleveland Spinks. He was born September 25, 1884 on the Little Colete Creek on the Rooks Place, later known as the George Joneschkies, Sr. land out near Ratcliff. He died March 15, 1936 in Ratcliff Community at home. He was buried in Clinton Cemetery at Clinton, DeWitt County, TX. There were seven

children of this union: Marguriete Louise, James Fletcher, Raymond Floyd, William Henry, Prentice Cleveland, Robert Edward (Jack), and Alice Marie.

Two of the boys Raymond and William served their country in the European conflict. Raymond was a Sergeant and William was a Bosnmate 2nd Class in more than one battle. Prentice served for awhile on Okinawa before they sent him home with nervous stomach and a medical discharge. He lived one year longer and died at the age of 19 years. Fletcher was classed as 4F because of his heart. This made him feel bad. He was merchant seaman and traveled to other countries. He held a fireman's ticket. So he signed up in a New Jersey port to take fuel across to our boys in conflict. As so many of our ships were being blown up by the enemy, his future wife stopped him. So he did not do what he wanted to do. There was a fight on the ship and he ended up in a hospital with a bad knee. Robert (Jack) was also a merchant seaman and travelled to other countries and later became a shrimper and bought a home in Port Isabell. He is divorced and now lives alone in a trailer park. He helps out at the park and helps haul mail three times a week. He has also had several heart attacks. Alice Marie is married to Floyd Helwig. She is a housewife and lives at Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi, TX.

by Mrs. Adolph Stehle

EMANUEL FAMILY

F247

Ben Emanuel opened his dry goods and clothing store in Nordheim on September 1, 1913. Mr. Emanuel at the time was 49 years old, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and he had been engaged in merchandising since he graduated from commercial college at the age of 16. Mr. Emanuel's ancestors came from Worms on the Rhine in the 1850s.

The store opened under the name of Bennett's with Mr. Emanuel the managing partner. On January 1, 1918, he bought out Gus Grosse and became the sole proprietor of Emanuel's.

He thought to handle a wider variety of merchandise than his competitors including women's millinery and coats and men's ready-made suits. He also sold his merchandise at the lowest marginal profit. In 1918 when the price of cotton goods rose because of the war, a competitor suggested that the three remaining dry goods stores increase the price of overalls from $1.50 to $2.00. Mr. Emanuel replied, "Willie, you run your store and I run mine."

He was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Sons of Hermann and the Royal Woodmen and an enthusiastic skat and domino player. For several years he was a trustee on the Nordheim schoolboard. He organized the Nordheim orchestra and for several years was leader and played the first violin.

From birth he had been a member of the Hebrew faith, and even if the high holidays of Rosh-ha-shonah and Yom Kippur fell on Saturdays during the busy fall season he closed his doors. Since there was no Hebrew temple in DeWitt County, he would take his family to San Antonio for services.

His wife, Tillie, helped him in the store. They had two children, Evalyn who was six when the family moved to Nordheim and Victor who was seven. Mrs. Emanuel was better educated and had a wider English vocabulary than most Nordheim women, so her services were widely sought for club work. As long as their children were in school she was president of the Home and School Club. She also was president of the "Royal Neighbors" and treasurer of the Sisters of Hermann. She also was renowned for her angel food cakes. Mrs. Emanuel was born Mathilde Schwarzkopf in Gishuebel, which was then in Austria but is now Czechoslovakia. She came to the United States with her mother in 1889 and married Mr. Emanuel in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1905.

Victor graduated from the 10th grade high school May 17, 1919, one day after he had turned 13, with a record of straight 100s. He attended the University of Texas, was Sports Editor of the Galveston News and the Houston Post and News Director of Houston radio station KXYZ. After 26 ½ years as one of Harris County Clerk Anita Rodeheaver's supervisors, he retired on May 31, 1989.

Victor married Marian Williams in 1937. They have two children, Marilyn Starr and Victor Lloyd Emanuel. Marilyn Starr has three children, Steve Myers of Austin, Texas, Sherry Holmes of Corvallis, Oregon, and Kathrine Starr of Houston, Texas, as well as three grandchildren, Helen Holmes, Kelton Victor Holmes and Brookman Holmes. Victor Lloyd Emanuel founded Victor Emanuel Nature Tours in Austin, Texas, and offers birding and nature tours of the highest quality. In 15 years his operation has expanded to include tours to most parts of the world. Steve Myers conducts a swimming club.

Evalyn graduated in 1923, one year ahead of her class. She attended Southwest Teachers College and graduated with honors in the top ten of her class. She taught school in Orangefield, Robstown and San Antonio, specializing in Spanish. She is Mrs. Paul Pond, is retired and lives in San Antonio, Texas. Evalyn has two children, Benton Ginsburg and Esther Eden. Benton married Barbara Roe of San Antonio and lives in San Diego, California. They have two sons, Brian Ginsburg and Bradley Ginsburg. Brian attends UCLA and Bradley attends El Cayon High School. Esther majored in Art at University of Houston and now lives in Los Angeles, California, with her husband.

After Mr. Emanuel's death in 1934, Mrs. Emanuel continued the store until 1937 at which time she closed it and moved to San Antonio. She died in 1947.

by Victor Emanuel

EVERT, MATTHIAS BOEHL AND MARIA FAMILY

F248

Matthias Boehl, who was a tenant farmer before his emigration to Texas, was born on 13 April 1818 in Gross Gottschau bei Rosenhagen, Potsdam Administrative District, Westprignitz District, now Perleberg District, Province of Brandenburg, Prussian-German Federal States, Germany. His parents, who married on 12 November 1817 in Gross Gottschau, were Joachim Bohl, a farmer and a resident of Wittmoor bei Rosenhagen, Potsdam Administrative District, and Anna Maria Bohl, nee Reimer(s), who was born on 27 November 1778 in Gross Gottschau. According to oral history, the Matthias Boehl family sailed from Bremerhafen (the port of Bremen, Germany) with Christian Wolfe and his wife, Sophie Wolfe, nee Lange. These families landed at Galveston on or about 15 November 1873 and journeyed to DeWitt County, Texas. Although it cannot be determined exactly when the Boehl family joined Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, it is documented that Matthias Boehl became a member prior to 1875. Matthias Boehl died on 30 October 1878 in DeWitt County, Texas, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 7 May 1850 in Viesecke bei Kletzke, Potsdam Administrative District, Matthias Boehl married Maria Evert, daughter of a tenant farmer (smallholder), Joachim Evert (b. 19 September 1795 Viesecke; d. 15 July 1856 Viesecke; m. 9 November 1821 Viesecke) and Maria Elisabeth Evert, nee Meier-Meyer (b. 20 February 1799 Viesecke). Maria Boehl, nee Evert, was born on 18 April 1828 in Viesecke; she died on 20 June 1893 in DeWitt County and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Matthias Boehl and Maria Boehl begat seven children, all of whom were born in Viesecke; Joachim Boehl (b. 17 October 1853; d. 27 October 1853 Viesecke); Friedrick "Fritz" Boehl (b. 2 October 1854; d. 3 August 1911 Texas; bur. St. Andrews Lutheran Cemetery, Weesatche, Goliad County, Texas, m. 24 February 1881 Weser, Texas, to Karoline "Lena" Albrecht); Anna Dorothea "Dora" Boehl (b. 16 October 1858; d. 2 August 1899 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. John Poehler); girl, born dead on 7 August 1861; Johann "John" August Boehl (b. 31 August 1861; m. 5 October 1884 Arneckeville to Martha Thieme); boy, born dead on 12 October 1866; William Frederick Boehl, baptized Joachim Friedrich Wilhelm (b. 12 April 1869; d. 4 March 1933 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 19 November 1891 Arneckeville to Johanna Rath).

To leave all that was familiar — family, friends, possessions — and to begin a new life in a new land required faith and courage beyond what most of us can imagine or conceive. We offer our gratitude for the lives and accomplishments of our ancestors. To Matthias and Maria Boehl we say, "Thank you for having been." (Emily Dickinson)

by Beverly Boehl

FARNSWORTH, FESTUS

F249

Festus Farnsworth lived in Cuero in the 1890's. He was a train conductor for over fifty years. He served on the train between Cuero and Indianola.

Festus was born in 1850 and died in 1924. He was married in 1877 to Ella Moselle Smith (1855-1922). They had eleven children: 1) James Ross Farnsworth (1878-1900); 2) Festus Farnsworth, Jr. (1880-19–); 3) Leslie Joe Farnsworth (1882-1915); 4) Alex Murphree Farnsworth (1885-1902); 5) Ben Smith Farnsworth (1887-1909); 6) Owen Murphree Farnsworth (1890-1915); 7) William Delony Farnsworth

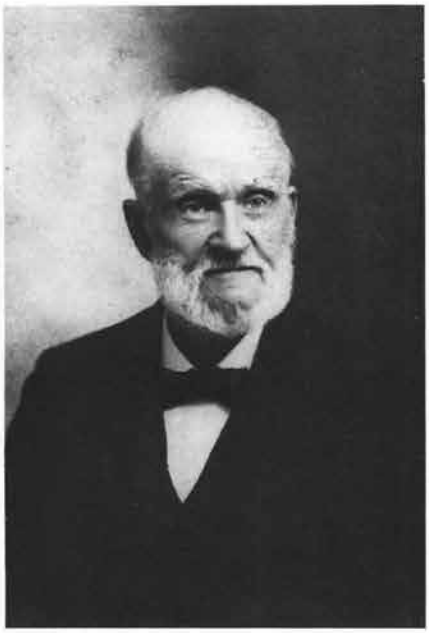
Festus Farnsworth, ca. 1895.

(1890-1918); and 8) David Farnsworth (1894-1960). Three other children died in infancy.

The family were all Presbyterian. Festus is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

FASSETT, FRANKLIN

F250



Franklin Fassett

Franklin Fassett was born at Granville, Licking County, Ohio, November 29, 1821, the son of Joseph and Mercy Boardman Fassett. He was a grandson of Captain John Fassett, Jr., who served in Warner's campaign against Montreal in the fall and winter of 1775, and a great grandson of Captain John Fassett, Sr., one of the original settlers who founded the town of Bennington, Vermont, in 1761. Franklin Fassett married Jane McConnell (born Madison County, New York, April 16, 1829), the daughter of James and Sarah Smith McConnell, at Springfield, Illinois, on October 7, 1852. They had three children: Sarah Eliza (born at Springfield, November 20, 1853, married Charles Terrell, 1874, died at Cuero, December 3, 1905); Franklin, Jr. (born at Springfield, March 13, 1858, died at Springfield April, 1864, aged 6 years); and Jane, born Springfield, April 15, 1869.

In 1877 Fassett moved to Texas with his wife and young daughter, Jane. In a series of land purchases he acquired the Fassett Ranch near Nopal and Davy in the western part of DeWitt County. He drove large flocks of sheep overland from Illinois to western DeWitt County but later converted to a cattle operation. Because of his wife's ill health, he made his family home at the Muti Hotel cottages in Cuero, where Mrs. Fassett died in 1883. After her death Fassett moved with his daughter Jane to the ranch where she kept house for him until her marriage in 1892 to Captain J.L. Sheppard. Fassett moved with his daughter and son-in-law to Cuero, where he made his home with them until his death on April 24, 1901.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

FAWCETT FAMILY

F251

Erasmus Rigney Fawcett's father was Joseph, his grandfather was Benjamine, his great-grandfather came to America from England before the American Revolution.

Erasmus, like his father was a tanner by trade. He left his home as a young man going from Harrisonburg, Virginia to Alabama. From there he went to the Scott plantation near DeCalb, Kemper County, Mississippi. Here he was a cobbler and married into the Scott family. His wife, Ann Pride, being a daughter of a doctor by the name of Hill. His wife's mother being of the Scott family. After the Civil War he moved his family to Texas. He located about twenty miles north of Yorktown and the family at this time consisted of Erasmus and his wife and the following children: Francis Scott, about 17 years old, Bransonia, Joseph Curtis, Robert McMahan, and Keyes, a small child. They had not been there long when Erasmus and Ann Pride became sick and both died. The children stayed together until Francis at the age of twenty seven, married Emma Elder and settled on their new farm and ranch near Cheapside. About this time Bransonia married John Carson and settled on their place near Cheapside. Robert married and moved away from the area. Keyes at the age of about eighteen took his sheep overland to the Devils River and lived there until his death about 1940. He left large ranch holdings and a wife and children in this area. Bransonia and John Carson lived on their place until they died leaving a large family of children. Francis and Emma Fawcett lived at Cheapside for nearly fifty years and sold their home moving to Johnson City where they died. Francis, Bransonia and Curtis each died in their eighty third year and are buried at Cheapside. Curtis never married.

Francis and Emma Fawcett had a large family of children. Six died and are buried at Cheapside. Their children that lived were: Willis W., of Kerrville; Oscar Y., of Johnson City; Carl C., Wylie, Leslie and Ralph, Delta Grisham of Johnson City, Elizabeth and Ethel both of San Antonio, Pearl of Kerrville. Elizabeth and Ethel married brothers named Duderstadt. Pearl married Truitt Moore of Schreiner Institute in Kerrville.

by Andra R. Fawcett

FAWCETT – READER

F252

Lee and Nettie (Reader) Fawcett

John Fawcett and Mary Slater Fawcett came to America from London, England in 1818. They landed at Baltimore, Maryland and later went to Wheeling, West Virginia where John built a flat boat and with his family floated down the Ohio River. They arrived at Cincinnati, Ohio on December 25, 1818. Their children Thomas, John, Mary and Sarah were born in London, England. A fifth child, William, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1822. John followed the trade of cabinet maker until his death in 1833. His wife, Mary, lived until 1860.

Two of their sons, John and William, came to Texas. John came in 1836. After he acquired a large plantation on the Colorado River in Bastrop County, he sent for his younger brother William. William arrived in 1850 to become his overseer.

William was already married to his bride from Cincinnati. She was Elizabeth Morgan, the daughter of a music teacher.

This Yankee ancestress of ours hated Texas and frontier life. As the Civil War started, William tried to take her back to Ohio. Due to lack of roads, they were delayed and on August 12, 1867, my grandfather Lee was born in Kaufman County. It was then they turned around and returned to Bastrop County. William became a medic for the Confederacy.

William and Elizabeth later had three other children: Ida, Sadie and Mary Theresia.

My grandmother, Jeanette (Nettie) Reader was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Reader and Nancy Jane Lee. Thomas served in the Confederacy at the age of fourteen. After the war he returned to Audalusia, Alabama where he married his childhood sweetheart. The pressures of the reconstruction period were so great, that they turned westward to Texas and Bastrop County. They had nine children: Ida (Kelley), Nettie (Fawcett), Tempie (Mahler), Zilpha (Barth), Florence (Duncan), Pearl (Merritt), Robert E. Lee (who later became a

state representative), William and Arthur.

Both the Fawcett and Reader families helped to settle Bastrop County. It was in a large country school, Pea Ridge, near what is now Smithville, that Lee Fawcett met and fell in love with the beautiful Nettie Reader. Nettie and lee married in 1892. They had ten children. Five of these children were born in Bastrop County. They were Howard, John, Nettie, William and Milton, who died in infancy.

The family moved to DeWitt County at about the turn of the century. They rented a riverland farm from Mr. Koerth, who owned a drug store on Grand Avenue in Yoakum.

Their first child born in DeWitt was James Lee (1903). Dick was born in 1905, Myrtle in 1908, Conrad in 1912 and Lewis Burns in 1913. Lewis died at the age of seventeen months.

Lee and Nettie lived on the riverland farm for several years before buying their own farm several miles outside Yoakum.

Their child William died in a hunting accident at the age of twelve. Their second son, John, died of spinal meningitis off the coast of France during World War I. He was the first soldier from DeWitt County to be brought home for burial.

Most of the Fawcett children married and had families of their own. Howard married Hattie Day. They had three children: Hattie Mae, John and Lester, Nettie married Ira Mayfield and had two children: Fawcett and Lucille. James Lee married Olga Kaspar and had one child, Judith Elaine. Dick married Edith Morgan and had three children: Jeanette, Robert and Carolyn. Myrtle married Jim Bentley and had one child, Nancy. Conrad married Theresia Filipp. They had no children. related to Judy Fawcett Soehnge by her aunt, Myrtle Fawcett Bentley.

by Judy Fawcett Soehnge

FAWCETT, J. LEE AND JEANETTE "NETTIE" (READER)

F253

James Lee Fawcett was born in DeWitt County, Texas on January 14, 1903. His parents were Lee and Jeanette (Nettie) Reader Fawcett. They were farmers in the Yoakum area. They had nine other children.

My father started working for Woodring Meyer Lumber Company when he was twelve. At first he just swept and picked up glass in the driveway. His older brother John worked there also. When John died during World War I, my dad took over his job. He was a salesman, accountant and draftsman. Since his formal schooling stopped in the seventh grade, much of his knowledge came from common sense and correspondence courses.

My mother, Olga Kaspar Fawcett, was born July 20, 1906 in Shiner, Texas. Her parents were Emma Stindt and August Kaspar. Her father was the founder of Kaspar Wire Works in Shiner. This began as a small business in his back yard. He decided it was wasteful to discard the slick wire that was taken up when barbed wire fences were put in. He fashioned this slick wire into horse muzzles and corn shuck baskets. My grandfather Kaspar was an inventor. Since he was left-handed, he fashioned a wire crimping tool for left-handed people. He also connected my grandmother's manual washing machine to his wire cutting machine, thus she had a gas powered washer. Of course, there was a catch, she could only wash when he was cutting wire.

Olga (Kasper) and J. Lee Fawcett

My mother and father met at a dance in Shiner. They married on May 6, 1927 in Shiner, Texas. When they first married, they lived in an apartment in downtown Yoakum. Due to Yoakum being in two counties, their kitchen was in DeWitt county and the living room was in Lavaca County.

My parents had only one child, Judith Elaine. I was born in Yoakum on December 14, 1938. My father became a successful businessman in Yoakum. He began his own lumber company, J. Lee Fawcett Lumber Co., in 1947. Many of the homes in the Yoakum area were designed by him.

My father died in Yoakum on February 5, 1968. My mother still lives in Yoakum.

by Judith Fawcett Soehnge

FECHNER, HENRY AND MARIE FREDERICKE (DAHNE)

F254

Heinrich Ludwig Wilhelm (H.W.) Fechner was born 28 February 1798 in Kmastkrag, Germany. He died in Yorktown 1 December 1881 and is buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. He married Marie Fredericke Dahne about 1825 in Germany, and they had eleven children. She evidently did not come to Texas. Mr. Fechner and several children came to Yorktown, from Coburg, Germany, around 1852 or 1853. According to a Passenger List, a Wilhelm Fechner and six people came to America aboard the ship, JUNO. Since his family did not all come to Texas at the same time, this could be he. All but one child did come to Texas and most of the family settled in the Yorktown area. The 1870 DeWitt County Census, Precinct 3, Clinton, shows Edward Fechner, 32, a blacksmith, living with his father, Henry Fechner, 73, and sisters, Alvina, 22, and Anna, 20. Henry and Marie Fechner's children were Frederika, Wilhelm, Hermann, Albert, Auguste, Emilie, Edward, Louise, Alvina, Anna, and Marie.

1) Friederika Fechner was born 9 March 1826 in Germany. She was married to Christian Thuem in Germany in 1853. With their family they came to Yorktown in December 1871. Mrs. Thuem died in Ottine, Gonzales County, Texas, 24 March 1916, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Berthold Zedler. She was 90 years and fifteen days of age. She and her husband are buried in Westside Cemetery. Their children are William, Gustav, Mary, Louis, Henry and Emma.

2) Hermann Fischer was born in Germany about 1828. He first married Lena Mertz Schultz, widow of Dr. Bernard Schultz. Their children were Heinrich, Wilhelm, Lena, Minna and Lonnie. Lena Mertz Fechner died in 1898 and Herman Fechner married Alvina Zedler Lenz, the widow of August Ludwig (Louis) Lenz.

3) William Fechner was born about 1830. The 1860 DeWitt County Census shows a W. Fechner, 30, Marie, 29, Emma 3 and Auguste, 9 months.

4) Albert Fechner was born 25 January 1832 and died 24 May 1920. He married Marie Dietrich. They lived in Missouri for a time but moved to Goliad where they are buried. Their children were Wilhelm, Albert H., Julius, Amanda and Alvina.

5) Auguste Fechner was born 28 October 1834 and died in Yorktown 13 July 1918. She came to Texas from Coburg, Germany in 1852 or 1853. She married Henry Bremer in Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. They lived in various places in Texas and then lived in Kansas and Missouri before returning to Yorktown around 1902. After Mr. Bremer's death in 1912, she lived with her sister, Alvina Mollenhauer until her death 13 July 1918.

6) Emilie Fechner remained in Germany. She married Frederick Wilhelm Mueller in 1861. He came to Yorktown and died there in 1912. She died in Magdeburg, Germany in 1916. They had 11 children – four died in infancy. Three of their children came to Texas – Frederick W., Jr., Emma and Annie. Frederick married Fredericka Wuensch, Emma married Charles Lenz and Annie married Hermann Fritch.

7) Edward Fechner was born 13 January 1838. He immigrated in 1857 and gave his occupation as blacksmith. He first went to New Braunfels and then spent three years in Mexico. He went to Yorktown in 1866. On 6 June 1867 he married Jane Caroline Eckhardt, daughter of Caesar and Louise Fischer Eckhardt. They had one child, Caesar William. Mrs. Eckhardt died 28 March 1868. Edward married Hermine Wagenschein 29 July 1871. She was the daughter of Carl and Caroline Gottschalt Wagenschein. She died in Yorktown 9 May 1945 and her husband died 23 May 1932. They are buried in Westside Cemetery. They had four children: Robert, Johanna, Hermine and Richard.

8) Louise Fechner was born in 1840 and died 24 October 1939 in Luling, Caldwell County,

Texas. She married Frederick C. Zedler 22 Feb. 1863 in Yorktown. He was the son of Gustav and Marie Pauline Kluge Zedler. He died 15 Sept. 1932 in Luling. They first lived in Mexico where their first two children were born. Ida was born and died there. Berthold was also born there. The couple moved to Yorktown where Marie, Helen and Louise were born. Herman, Charles, Paul and Pauline were born in Zedler's Mill, Gonzales County, and Frances was born in Luling.

9) Alvina Fechner was born 12 June 1846. She came to Yorktown in 1869 and married Henry Mollenhauer 29 July 1871 in Yorktown. She died 7 July 1945, the last surviving of the 11 children of Henry and Marie Fechner. See separate story.

10) Anna Fechner was born 20 June 1850 and also came to Yorktown in 1869. She married Otto Gips 11 August 1872, and they lived in Yorktown. (See separate story.)

11) Marie Fechner was born in Germany and died in Cuero, Texas 26 February 1923. She married Gustav Heinrich, and they had three sons – Max, Albert and Gus. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

FERGUSON – PIERCE

F255

Augusta and William Ferguson, Sr. 1924

William Lynk (his mother's maiden name) Ferguson was an only child. His father, one of five children, was the only one to survive the influenza epidemic in the late 1860's. Of Scotch descent, he married Augusta Moeller of Rock Island, Illinois, whose family migrated from Germany in the mid 19th century. After their marriage in 1907, they moved to Victoria, Texas, where he opened up "the finest racket store in Texas." (according to the May 18, 1907 *Victoria Advocate).* Their only child, a son, was born in Victoria in 1912. Deciding to try their fortunes in North Carolina, they moved there, were disappointed, and soon returned to Texas – to Cuero this time. Bill grew up and graduated from Cuero High School, and a few years later, received a BBA degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He returned to Cuero to enter business with his father. While at the University, he met Carolyn Pierce, direct descendant of Thomas Pierce who arrived in Massachusetts in 1607, of Marked Tree, Arkansas. They were married in Marked Tress in April, 1937. Emily Ann was born in 1942 and Carolyn Elizabeth (Betty), in 1947. Betty Ferguson, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin taught physical education for two years then climaxed a long time interest in golf by qualifying for the Ladies Professional Golf Tour and spent two years traveling with that group. In time she returned to San Antonio, Texas, where she entrepreneured her own business, "Athletes Only." After this venture she went to work as Business Manager of Ancira Leasing Co. and has recently has been manager of the accounting department of the Ancira-Winton Motor Co.

Betty Ferguson, Carolyn (Pierce) Ferguson, William L. Ferguson, Jr., Emily Ann Ferguson 1951

In 1960 Emily Ann married Jack Curtis Calk, direct descendant of Obediah Stevens who arrived, with his wife and five children, at Old Indianola in 1845, and to this union was born Elizabeth Ann, February 2, 1961; Mary Katherine (Kaye), June 6, 1962; William Craig, January 31, 1965; and John Curtis, September 3, 1966. After living in Houston for several years, the Calks moved back to Cuero in 1967, and Emily Ann began to work on her college degree. She acquired her BS degree from Southwest Texas University at San Marcos in 1971, and a Masters degree in 1976 from the University of Houston at Victoria. She teaches 9th grade English and Speech at Cuero High School.

Elizabeth Ann Calk married Mel Hilbrich of Westhoff on September 22, 1979. On January 6, 1984, Justin Pierce Hilbrich was born to this union. Tragedy struck this family when the young couple on September 22, 1985, on their way home from a wedding, were run off the road by a drunken driver – both were killed. Justin is being raised by his uncle Kent Hilbrich and his wife Cindy Gawlik Hilbrich with their son, Brandon Edward. They live in Westhoff, Texas.

Another tragedy it the family in August, 1988, When Craig Calk fell through and from an 8th floor window of a Dallas Hotel and died shortly thereafter. Craig had been an outstanding track athlete at A&M university, setting a Southwest Conference record in the 400 meter intermediate hurdles in 1987. Two weeks before his death, he had been a participant at the Olympic Trials in Indianapolis, Indiana. He received his BA degree from Texas A&M University, posthumously, in August, 1988.

Mary Katherine Calk married Joe Juarez in Grace Episcopal Church in August, 1988. Joe has a stained glass business in San Antonio, and Kaye teaches second grade in the Antonio Independent School District.

Curtis is presently completing his Junior year at Texas A&M University. He is a business major.

William Lynk Ferguson, Jr. went into renal failure in mid-1972, and it became necessary to go on the dialysis machine to stay alive. He was able to continued his brokerage business until his death on December 26, 1974.

Carolyn Ferguson continues to live at 208 W. Sarah in Cuero, which has been her home for 50 years.

by Mrs. W.L. Ferguson, Jr.

FERTSCH FAMILY

F256

of Nordheim

Herman Charles and Hedwig (Hattie) Eva (nee Wolle) Fertsch called Nordheim, Texas, their home from 1930 to 1973. They moved to Nordheim from Runge, Texas, after their oldest child, Alice, married Johnnie Neumann and the younger couple settled in Nordheim near Johnnie's family. Herman and Hattie Fertsch were married in 1909 in Hallettsville, Texas, and lived on the old Fertsch homestead in Old Kinkler until 1922 when they moved to Runge.

Born in 1888 in Old Kinkler, Lavaca County, Texas, Herman Fertsch was the youngest child of Otto and Sophie (nee Boenicke) Fertsch. Otto Fertsch, born in 1848 in New Ulm, Texas, was the son of Ferdinand Friedrich and Johanna (Anna) (nee Frels) Fertsch. Ferdinand Fertsch emigrated from Frankfurt, Germany, in the early to mid-1840's and settled in the Industry area, buying and selling several pieces of land before dying in 1853, leaving his wife with three small sons: Otto, Charles, and Theodore. Johanna (nee Frels) Fertsch, born in the Oldenburg, Germany, area, was related to Captain William Frels who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. She married Ferdinand Fertsch in 1847 in Austin County, Texas, and after his death, married Christian Schroeder by whom she had several more children. Johanna Frels Fertsch Schroeder is buried in the Pilgrim's Rest Cemetery in Industry, Texas.

Herman Fertsch's mother, Sophie (nee Boenicke) Fertsch, was the daughter of Gottfried and Johanna (nee Lindemann) Boenicke. Sophie Fertsch was born around 1850 in Germany. Gottfried Boenicke, born in 1807 in Germany, died in 1883 in New Ulm, Texas. Johanna (nee Lindemann) Boenicke was born in 1821 in Koslitz, Germany, and died in 1908 in Hallettsville, Texas.

Hattie Fertsch was one of four daughters born to Carl and Catherine (nee Heller) Wolle. Hattie was born in 1887 in Breslau, Texas. Her father, Carl Wolle, was born in the Biegel Settlement, Fayette County, Texas, in 1859. He died in 1897 in Lavaca County, Texas, leaving his wife, Catherine (nee Heller) Wolle with four young daughters, Hattie being the second oldest. Catherine (nee Heller) Wolle then married Otto Spies and had several more children with him. She died in 1941 in Lavaca County, Texas. Carl Wolle's father, Carl W. Wolle, was born in 1823 in Wolkenstein, Sachsen, Germany, and died in 1870 in Texas. Carl W. Wolle was married to Christiana Bertha (Agnes) Plietzsch in 1846. She was born in 1827 in Wolkenstein, Sachsen, Germany, and died in Texas in 1906.

Hattie (nee Wolle) Fertsch's mother, Catherine (nee Heller) Wolle, was the daughter of Placide (Plaza) and Eva (nee Braden) Heller.

Placide Heller was born in Marmoutier, Alsace, France, in 1840 and came to the U.S. as a young boy with his parents, Placide and Marie Madelaine (nee Cromer) Heller. The Heller family lived in the Biegel Settlement in Fayette County. Eva (nee Braden) Heller, born in 1841 in Budesheim, Germany was the daughter of Andreas and Catherine (nee Schmitt) Braden who emigrated from Budesheim in 1848 and settled in Colorado County, Texas.

Upon coming to Nordheim in 1930, Herman and Hattie Fertsch rented the John Pace place east of Nordheim on the road to Yorktown. There they farmed, growing cotton and corn, and had a small dairy with six to eight cows. The house was a big one set up on blocks high off the ground, allowing their youngest daughter, Pearl, to have a playhouse under the house. In the mid-1940's, the wind from a hurricane blew the house off its blocks, and the Fertsches moved to another rented place, the Richter place (between the roads leading to the cemetery), for a couple of years. When Hattie received her inheritance from her mother and stepfather, Hattie and Herman Fertsch purchased a home in Nordheim a few blocks to the east of downtown. There they had about one-half of a city block and raised chickens, pigeons, and often a cow or a few sheep. Hattie had a beautiful flower garden in the front and side yards with a vegetable and berry patch in the far back of the property.

Herman Fertsch, through the years, had a variety of jobs in the area. He worked on a roustabout gang at the oil field east of Nordheim called Tick City. He was also at one time the night watchman at the oil plant on the Gips Ranch east of Nordheim. When the oil plant closed, he became the night watchman for the downtown area of Nordheim until the mid to late-1950's.

Hattie Fertsch worked at the school cafeteria at one time, and for a brief period, was the cook at the Amos and Andy Cafe in Nordheim. She also often sewed clothing for people in the area. The role outside of the home that she enjoyed the most, however, was her work helping to deliver babies in the area. Over the years, she assisted in the births of ninety-nine babies, often accompanying Dr. Bohman for the births. She then frequently stayed at the home for up to two weeks to help with the child care, house work, and food preparation. She sometimes traveled as far as San Antonio and Houston to assist families who had moved away from Nordheim. In her later years, she would often see a name mentioned in the Dewitt County View and note that the person was one of "her" babies.

Herman Fertsch was a longtime member of the ODHS Hermanson's Lodge, having begun his membership in Lavaca County around the time of his marriage in 1909. He also belonged to the Nordheim Shooting Club. Hattie Fertsch belonged to the Garden Club, the Lutheran Ladies' Aid Society and the Royal Neighbor Lodge. They were members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by family and friends in 1959 in the Recreation Hall in Nordheim.

Herman and Hattie's oldest daughter, Alice, farmed in Nordheim with her husband, Johnnie Neumann, and their four children from 1930 until they moved to Victoria, Texas, during a drought in 1956. Alice and Johnnie Neumann still live in Victoria.

Herman and Hattie's only son that lived beyond infancy is Wolles Herbert Fertsch. He was born in 1918 in Old Kinkler, Texas, and married Mildred Madeline Bode (whose family was a neighbor at the old Pace place) in 1941. He worked for the Heldt Brothers trucking firm for many years. Wolles and Mildred Fertsch have three children. Both Wolles and Mildred live in Alice, Texas.

Herman and Hattie's youngest child, Pearl Katherine, graduated from Nordheim High School in 1941 and went to San Antonio for nurse's training. After she became a registered nurse, she married Paul Ellis Watson in San Antonio in 1946. They have two daughters and still live in San Antonio.

Herman Fertsch died in 1972 and Hattie Fertsch died in 1973. They are both buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. The Fertsch family reunion is held annually on the first Sunday in April at the Nordheim Park Lounge.

by Patsy Kuentz

FETTERS, MARVIN

F257

Marvin and Virginia Fetters have deep roots in DeWitt County. Their ancestors began arriving as early as 1840. His parents were Ervin Fetters and Lillie Wendel. The Fetters were from the Austria-Hungary area. The Wendel's were from the area around Kassel Germany. Marvin was born in Victoria County, December 27, 1927. He married Virginia Dreyer on October 2, 1947.

Virginia was born in the Burns Hospital in Cuero on September 6, 1929. Dr. John Bruns was the attendant. Her parents were Dave Dreyer and Irene Bluntzer. Her ancestors were from the Thur Valley in Alsace, France.

Marvin went to school in Lindenau and New County Line, and Cuero in DeWitt County. He joined the Merchant Marines during World War II because he was too young for the armed forces. Virginia went to school at Meyersville and Green DeWitt before she graduated from Cuero High.

Marvin followed in his fathers footsteps and became a carpenter. His first job was with Nathan Post, an independent contractor, in Cuero. He also worked for A.& A. Construction Co. This company had contracts for the Cuero Community Hospital, Cuero Jr. High School, Band Hall, Cuero Jail and Reuss Shopping Center. Virginia's first job was at J.C. Penney Co. in Cuero.

The Fetters had 8 children. They all attended St. Michael's School and graduated from Cuero High School. Veronica Diane, the oldest married Richard Zimmerman, the son of Willie Zimmerman and Elenora Arndt. Evelyn Ruth married James Hahn, the son of Herman Hahn and Idell Mueller. Rock Richard married Debbie Mueller, the daughter of Charles and Margaret Mueller. Kurt Karl married Robbie Paris, the daughter of Bob Paris and Jeanie Lowrie. Mary Silvia Fetters Lapp has one daughter, Natalie. Her father is Kieth Lapp, the son of Harold Lapp and Phyllis Rogge. Franklin James and Christopher Michael Fetters are not married. The youngest child Amy Theresa, married Tim Rubac, the son of Joe Rubac and Georgia Janka. The Fetters have 9 grandchildren and one great-grand child.

Marvin's parents moved to Cuero in 1936 and Virginia's in 1940. Marvin and Virginia have been at home in Clinton since 1952 when they bought some land on the Guadalupe River. Their home is in the townsite of Clinton. They are always willing to talk about the history of this ghost town.

Marvin had four brothers: Allen, Marion, Virgil, and Jimmy. Jimmy died from diphtheria when he was 9 years old. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery next to his parents. Marvin's two sisters were Lillian, who married Hans Fitting, and Myrtle who married Jack Whiteaker. Virginia had one brother Harold Dreyer.

Marvin and Virginia have complete histories on their families. Virginia has visited in Germany, Austria, and France. The Hausmann family, Marvin's great-grandmother, was from Wurtemburg. Virginia's great-great-grandfather Adam Meisenhelder, was also from Wurtemberg. Virginia spent a week in Alsace visiting relatives. A special service was held in the church that the Bluntzers; Luttenbachers, Fuchs, Halletts and other relatives attended before they came to Texas from Alsace.

by Virginia Fetters

FEY, JULIA

F258

Miss Julia Fey

Julia Fey, third child and first daughter welcomed by brothers Walter, Edwin, and Alfred, was born February 4, 1882 to Pius and Ottilie Schrade Fey at Cuero, Texas. In the *Centennial History, 1875-1975 of St. Michael's Catholic Church*, "Miss" Julia was honored for serving as organist from 1905 until 1942. She received her musical training from the Sisters of St. Michael's School and from Pastor Utesch of the Lutheran Church in Cuero. Miss Julia had no car and therefore walked from her residence on Terrell Street to the Church for choir practices and church services. Upon her retirement, the church presented her with a complete silver service. She died February 26, 1957 and is buried along side her parents in

Back Row, from left to right: Edwin Fey; Alfred Fey; Julia Fey; and Walter Fey. Front row, from left to right: Ottilie Schrade Fey; Pius Fey

Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

But these statistics of birth and death, do not capture the ambience surrounding the Feys. As a child, along with my mother, Lena, and many times with my mother, her sisters, and cousins, I visited with my Fey cousins. Their narrow, story-and-a-half green-shuttered white clapboard house surrounded by a wooden picket fence was replete with charm. A board walk beginning at the front gate, followed the shape of the house to the side screened porch almost jungle-thick with Boston ferns anchored on wooden pedestals with their fronds swaying in the southeast breeze. From the porch door, the walk continued on the sand-packed ground, always swept smooth with an old straw broom, to a primitive dug-out greenhouse filled with Cousin Julia's fragile angelwing begonias, maiden hair ferns, and dainty purple violets.

Cousin Julia's kitchen smelled of prunes stewing, apricots boiling, sweet spices, and aromatic herbs. When we would sit down for a lunch — not noon, but mid-afternoon at the tea hour — it would be at a large round oak dining table crowded with two glassed-in china cabinets with antiques from "Germany." For me, as a child, it was awe-inspiring but also dreaded with my mother's warning, "Ada, don't stumble into the antiques" ringing in my ears as I sidled around the table to sit down. While the grown-ups talked after lunch, I could run up the short low steps to the garrett attic bedroom with a bed always made up with a white cotton bedspread and large white ruffled pillowcases ironed stiff with starch and smelling of homemade lye soap. I often pitied Cousin Alfred, who slept up here, because I knew he could never, ever sleep on one of those crush-me-not pillows. Coming down stairs, tiptoeing past Cousin Julia's bedroom, if it were my lucky day the parlor door, never opened except for giving piano lessons or having company as "Cousin Edna' from Tivoli, would be ajar and I could slip in. I never minded that it was hot and stuffy. Sun light, which would fade the crimson-flowered rug barely filtered in and only a little moisture-laden breeze, which could harm the piano, blew in. Three stiff-backed varnished oak rockers circled a round table covered with an ecru crocheted cloth. A music cabinet stood near the upright piano polished to a shine and tuned to a perfect pitch.

Cousin Julia, within the environs of her house and yard, was a memorable character and when she stepped out to walk to town or church, she was unforgettable. The hems of her dresses almost touched the edges of her laced-up narrow black leather high-top shoes. She always carried an umbrella — in the winter as a wind brace and rain protection and in the summer as a parasol for the hot sun. Whether winter or summer, she wore large wide-brimmed hats. Her hair, brown as her eyes, was long, luxuriant and put up in knots and figure eights with long hairpins and unusual tortoise-shell combs. Not in the least ostentatious manner, she wore an embossed filigree gold brooch at her throat, a lavaliere of amethysts and seed pearls, a cameo ring on her little finger and opal and ruby rings on her other thin, long bony fingers because they were from "Mama", or Aunt Sophie, or Aunt Lena Mernitz, or Cousin Althea. Before she died, she entrusted her cameo, opal and ruby rings to her "dear" Cousin Lena, my mother. My mother, in turn, entrusted them to me — gems of little tangible value, but, in that they emanate the aura of Cousin Julia to me, they are priceless.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

FEY, PIUS FAMILY

F259

Pius Fey, founder of Fey's Studio, was the pioneer photographer of this area. Little could he have dreamed that his photographs would be in mint condition nearly one hundred years later — with no distortions or fading — exemplifying his superb craftsmanship. In the *Centennial History, 1875-1975, of St. Michael's*

Pius and Ottilie Schrade Fey

Three generations: Pius Fey, his son Walter Fey, and Walter's son William Fey

The William Fey Family: (from left to right) Charles Edward, Jo Ann and William Fey, and Melissa.

Catholic Church of Cuero honorable mention was given to the first six families who began a movement to establish a Catholic Church. The name, Pius Fey, was included. Pius Fey was born in Fuldus, Germany January 27, 1854, and came to this country with his brothers. He moved to Cuero in the early days as a roving photographer. It has been stated that there were only four houses in the town when he arrived. He was associated with H.J. Braunig, Halletsville, and later opened Fey Studio on Main Street. In the *Historical Record Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of Cuero, 1872-1972,* Pius Fey is honored on page 29. He is pictured on the porch of his photography studio on West Main and on another picture of a "Fey & Braunig Photography Tent" which is captioned: "Photographers Fey and Braunig pitched this tent several times a year in order to take photographs." Pius married Ottilie Schrade and they had four children — Walter, Edwin, Alfred, and Julia.

Walter attended Cuero schools; graduated from Tyler Commercial College; and moved to Seguin where he became a very successful banker. He began work at the First National Bank on March 17, 1909 as a bookkeeper. He retired on March 17, 1977 after fifty eight years of service as Executive Vice President. He was, also, an outstanding citizen of Seguin where he was Past President of the Rotary Club and American Red Cross. He was also active in the Chamber of Commerce and served on the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe Valley Hospital. He married Ada Steinmeyer April 12, 1916. Ada was very active in the Delphian Club (Past President and Founder) and in the Ladies Golf Association. She was also one of the Founders of Friends of the Library. After many years of waiting, a son, William, was born to Walter and Ada on March 3, 1934. Walter died November 2, 1975 at the age of 85. Ada was an avid bridge player and continued to play bridge after Walter's death until a year before her death August 31, 1987 at the age of 95.

William attended Seguin schools, graduating from high school in 1952. On January 30, 1957, he received a Degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas. After a six-months' stay in the army, and two years working at the Dallas Mercantile National Bank, he moved to Houston to pursue a career in the insurance business. He has been eminently successful — a self-employed agent representing several major companies. In addition, he has been a civic leader serving in the Lions and Toastmasters Clubs; Houston Association of Life Underwriters, Texas Leaders Round Table, and as YMCA Sports Coach. He and his family belong to St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church where he has served for several years on the parish council. William and his two children are the only living descendants of Pius Fey. A contemporary of Pius Fey was Joseph Flick a member of a prominent Cuero family. Joseph Flick's granddaughter, Jo Ann Studdert, met Pius Fey's grandson, William Fey, and on December 28, 1963 they were married. Both were, of course, amazed at the coincidence of having roots in the same town — Cuero.

Jo Ann received a Degree in Physical Education from the University of Texas. She has taught at Corpus Christi, Houston, and currently is serving as Office Clerk at T.H. Rogers Middle School in Houston — unusual in that the students are both deaf and high achievers. She has been on the Selection Committee for the Superintendent of the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas. She also has been very active in Beta Theta Pi Sorority (President and Girl of the Year), and for many years was president of an organization called H.A.P.H.I. (Houston Area Parents of Hearing Impaired).

On December 5, 1964, a son, Charles Edward, was born. As a result of the German Measles epidemic in 1964, Charles was born deaf. Despite this handicap, Charles achieved much. He attended the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin and graduated from high school there in 1984. While there, he was a member of the football and track teams; served as class and Student Council officers; and became active in the National Association of the Deaf. He then attended Rochester Institute of Technology at Rochester, New York. While there, he was active in Phi Kappa Theta, Intramural Sports, and many organizations for the deaf. He finished in June 1958 with an Associate Degree in Optical Finishing Technology. Currently, he works at Duffens Optical Company in the Houston Laboratory making eye glasses, and in his spare time plays football.

On October 15, 1971, a daughter, Melissa Ann, was born. Currently, she is a senior and honor student at Sharpstown High School, being active in Student Council, National Honor Society, Key and Anchor Clubs, listed in *Who's Who in High School Students,* and serving as Teenage Representative on the St. Francis De Sales Parish Council.

Pius Fey, whose name and works will live on as long as people turn to old family photographs, would be proud to have his name and fame, but in different fields from his, carried on in his son, grandson, and great grandchildren.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

FISCHER, AGNES JUENGER

F260

Agnes T. Juenger was born in Schulenburg, Texas March 22, 1890 the second child of Charles E. and Theresa Buchhorn Juenger. As a young child the Juengers moved to Lindenau, Texas and later to Cuero. Agnes attended Cuero Schools to the 8th grade and then attended business school in Tyler, Texas returning to Cuero to accept a job as a clerk for Koehler Dry Goods Co. Later she became deputy County Clerk and then worked for W.R. Garrett Abstract Co.

On February 6, 1916 she married J.J. Fischer Sr. in Comfort, Texas. They made Cuero their home. There were four children, J.J. Jr., Dorothy, Charles, and Agnes. In addition to being a homemaker and mother she assisted her husband in all business operations as office manager and bookkeeper. She was active in numerous civic and church organizations. Upon the death of Mr. Fischer she assumed management of the family insurance and real estate business and later sold the business, about June of 1963, to the eldest son J.J. Fischer, Jr.

Upon her death February 23, 1972 she was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

by J.J. Fischer Jr.

FISCHER, ARTHUR CHARLES

F261

Arthur Fischer (1887-1956) was born in Cuero, Texas and went to school here. He was the first son and second child of Charles and Matilda Gohmert Fischer.

Even as a boy, he went to work at Buchel Milling Company in which his father was a co-owner and manager. It is not known what his job comprised then but, under his father's tutelage and through experience, he had become a master machinist by the time he reached maturity. He worked for many years there in the machine shop.

He was frequently called upon to do difficult and dangerous work outside the shop. He was working on a boiler at Crescent Valley Creamery when the explosion occurred that killed Floyd Felix. He himself was burned on the face and hands, but not seriously. On another occasion he was called on to repair the old stand-pipe that used to stand in the downtown city park.

During the war years, his skill as a machinist earned him a job teaching machine work to young people in a National Youth Administration program to train workers for war plants. The shop was set up in the large N.Y.A. Building at the Municipal Park where the city now stores its vehicles. The smaller building next to it housed the office, dormitory, and mess hall.

Arthur Fischer was an artisan in other ways. He worked with wood and made beautiful bows (some of them tipped with horn) and arrows with cedar footings spliced in. He feathered the arrows. He plaited the strings for the bows. Some of his arrows had steel arrowheads for hunting.

He was a great hobbyist and liked to work with his hands. In his spare time he often worked with metal and made different objects. He tied cord for round throw-nets for fishing. He raised pheasants for a while and released them with the hope of establishing them in the wild. He loved hunting and fishing. He was an expert marksman.

In the 30's he became city secretary (salary $25.00) and served in that position for many years.

He was a member of the Fire Department and enjoyed its fellowship long past his ability to be an active member. He was a devoted member of the Masonic Lodge and past Grand Master.

In 1909 he was married to Mary Will Blackwell (1891-1977). They lived most of their married lives at 608 Clinton St. The house that stood there was purchased by Mrs. Claude North Blackwell from Cora McCrabb. Arthur and Mary Will were living there with her in 1913 when the house burned. Mrs. Blackwell and Mary Will had gone to town. Bob, the oldest child, was playing across the street at the Edgars. Fay, the baby, was in the house as were two of Mrs. Blackwell's sons. One of the brothers got the other one, who was ill, out safely and Mrs. Joe Edgar carried Fay out.

Mrs. Blackwell rebuilt the house with much the same plan. Later she sold it to Arthur and Mary Will. All of their children except the oldest were born there. It is the present home of the Glen Portis family.

The children of Arthur and Mary Will Fischer are:

I. Arthur Charles (Bob) Fischer, Jr. (1911-)

married Esther Hahn (1918-). Esther was born in Cuero. Her father, Andrew Hahn (1892-1967) was pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church at the time. Her mother was Wilhelmina Reinhard. Both of her parents were from central Illinois. Andrew Hahn was called back to St. Mark's in 1938 and served as its pastor for fifteen years. It was during this time that the present church was built. Bob and Esther Hahn Fischer had four sons: 1) David Fischer (1941-) married Kathleen Gandolfo (1945-). Their children are Sarah Esther Fischer (1972-) and Arthur David Fischer (1975-). Residence: New Orleans, La. 2) Arthur Charles Fischer III (1942-) married Penelope Boggs (1947-). Their children are Abigail Carlyn (1971-) and Nancy Hahn Fischer (1975-). Present residence: France. 3) Daniel Hahn Fischer (1946-) married Kathryn Kauffman (1948-). Their children are Emily Corinne (1974-) and Melissa Ann Fischer (1976-). Their residence: Bellevue, Wa. 4) James Andrew Fischer (1948-) married Leslie Hulett (1952-). Their children are Kate Eileen (1979-) and Andrew Scott Fischer (1981-). Their residence: Sacramento, Calif.

Bob and Esther Fischer lived first at Concrete, then on the Keseling place, and at present reside on the Cheapside road where the Wayne Dairy once was and which Bob had managed. They reared their family here. Esther worked in the office of Mr. W.F. Hancock, the County Superintendent of Schools for almost two years.

II. Faye Fischer (1913-) married Clifton Weber (1904-). (See "Clifton and Agatha Weber" entry.)

III. Merle Rose Fischer (1916-) married J.D. Bramlette, Jr. (1916-1979). (See "J.D. Bramlette, Jr." entry.)

IV. John Blackwell Fischer (1922-1988) married Barbara Bangs (1919-1988). John was in the clothing business of Hutchins Bros. in San Antonio and Austin. After that he worked in the hotel business and was manager or sales representative of various hotels in McAllen. For a while he worked for the McAllen Chamber of Commerce. Barbara Fischer was a commercial artist and was still working in that capacity at Jones and Jones in McAllen when illness forced her to retire. John and Barbara moved back to Cuero in 1987. Their residence was at 208 W. Clayton. She died in August of 1988 and John died in December of the same year. They had one daughter, Meredith Fischer (1954-). She lives in Norwalk, Conn.

by Merle Bramlette

FISCHER, CHARLES

F262

Charles Fischer (1859-1924) was born in Victoria, Texas and had his schooling there. The first mention of him in DeWitt County that his family knows of was made by the late Mr. Elisha Stevens of Cuero, who said that the first time he saw Charles Fischer, he was with an older man and they were selling lightning rods. He was probably sixteen at the time. His mother had died in his sixteenth year. His father had been killed by lightning the previous year.

According to the Cuero Star of 1895, he came to Cuero in 1875. He obtained employment as a day laborer in the mill of the Buchel brothers. After a time he became foreman of the mill and then in 1886 he became a managing partner in the business which was called Buchel Milling Company.

On the thirty-first of August 1887, the entire plant was destroyed by fire but was quickly rebuilt on a larger scale and fitted with new and improved machinery. The complex included a large cotton gin, the biggest corn mill in the city, an office and scales, seed house, a platform for the baled cotton and machine shop. It was located in the second block of west South Railroad Street where Allied Feeds, Inc. now stands.

In 1885 Charles Fischer was married to Matilda Gohmert. She was the daughter of Julius Gohmert (1828-1914) who is believed to have come with two brothers, Gus and William, from Gurkow, Germany. Matilda Gohmert's mother was Louisa Hinze (1844-1896). The Gohmerts lived in Clinton, Texas. Matilda later told the children and grandchildren of a log house they lived in. She also recalled the years of the Sutton-Taylor Feud and how, when the Suttons and Taylors were in town, they blew out all the candles. Later when Cuero grew and was made the county seat, Julius Gohmert moved to Cuero. He owned considerable property on Main Street. Many old pictures of Cuero show the Gohmert building on the northwest corner of Main and Gonzales Streets. This building housed the Gohmert Saloon. After his wife, Louisa (Hinze) Gohmert, died and Julius Gohmert himself became elderly, he came to live with his daughter and her husband, Charles Fischer.

Little is known of Charles Fischer's community life except that he was widely respected. He was affiliated with the American Legion of Honor for many years. There used to be an old picture of a young mustached Charles Fischer posing with a band, all holding their instrument.

In later years he served as a member of the school board but did not wish his sons to know it for fear they would see it as an advantage and misbehave. This was told by his youngest daughter years later.

Charles Fischer was a good business man and prosperous. He was an early owner of an automobile. At some time he acquired the property in the 700 block of Terrell Street on the west side and all the property behind the block to the railroad track. Their residence was on Terrell Street. In 1911, Charles and Matilda Fischer built a two-storied house on the corner of the 700 block. After Matilda Fischer's death in 1946, the house was sold to Dr. A.J. Bohman and his wife, Bernice. It is still her home today.

Charles and Matilda Fischer had six children who were: 1) Louise Ida Fischer (1885-1955). She married Frank Topliffe (1887-1959); 2) Arthur Charles Fischer (1887-1956). He married Mary Will Blackwell (1891-1977). 3) Edward Fischer (1890-1897). 4) Werner H. Fischer (1895-1968). He married Ettie Blackwell (1900-). They live in Cuero and had two daughters: a) Mary Louise Fischer (1922-) married William Rathbone Crain (1923-1983). They had five sons and one daughter: aa) William R. Crain, Jr. (1944-), married Suzy Terrell (1945-), divorced, two children, William Caleb, 1960 and Abigail Lilly, 1971, residence – Massachusetts. bb) Robert Mitchell Crain (1948) married Jo Ann Snapp (1947-) and have three children, Kelly Elizabeth, 1973, Courtney Erin, 1977, and Mary Josephine, 1986, residence – Houston. cc) David Fischer Crain (1952) residence – Austin. dd) Marietta Crain (1953) married Nich D. Nicholas, divorced, two children: David Michael, 1980 and Sarah Allyson (1983, residence – Houston. ee) Steven Kerr Crain (1958) residence – Houston. ff) Jonathan Blackwell Crain, 1961, residence – Austin.

b) Carol Ann Fischer (1931-) married Harold Curtis (1931-). They live in Greenville, Texas and have two daughters: Sara Allyson (1955-1966) and Leah Ann Curtis (1961), residence San Antonio, Texas.

5) Carlyn Fischer (1898-deceased) married Emil Fuess (deceased) and they lived in Dallas, Texas. They had one son, Raymond Lee Feuss who lives in California and has two daughters.

6) Norman Fischer (1903-deceased) married Bertha Dunlap (deceased) and lived in Houston. They had no children.

Charles and Matilda Gohmert Fischer have twelve descendants still living in DeWitt County in 1990.

by Merle Bramlette

FISCHER, FRANK S. AND RUTH (GOHMERT)

F263

L-R, Back: Frank S. Fischer and Ruth (Gohmert) Fischer. L-R, Front: Linda Clare Fischer and Jerry Lee Fischer 1954

Frank Seay Fischer was born Nov. 26, 1919 in Staples, Texas. He was the youngest of four children born to Robert and Clara Seiler Fischer.

Ruth Myrtle Gohmert was born Aug. 11, 1922, in Victoria County, Texas, about 7 miles from Meyersville. She was the oldest of four children born to Reinhold H. and Linda Diebel Gohmert.

Frank joined the U.S. Air Force on March 1941 and was serving his country in World War II at Foster Field in Victoria, Texas. There he met Ruth Gohmert, who was employed at the Sub-Dept Supply at Foster Field. They were married on Nov. 8, 1942 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas. During the time that Frank was in the Air

Force, two children were born: Jerry Lee, born Feb. 25, 1944, and Linda Clare, born June 20, 1945.

After Frank was discharged from the Air Force on Oct. 8, 1945, he and Ruth and their two children moved to San Antonio where they lived on Theo St. for two years. Then in 1947 they returned to Cuero and purchased 18 acres with a four room house in the Buchel Community. Frank worked at several different jobs and then he started working for The DeWitt County Electric Cooperative. For several years Ruth remained at home to raise their children and then in 1952 she was employed at Cuero City Hall.

On FEb. 5, 1959, at the age of 39 years, Frank S. Fischer died of a heart attack at their home. He is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. Ruth and her children remained at their homestead until 1961 when she purchased a home on Reuss Blvd. in Cuero where they lived until 1966 when she married Elroy H. Peters (Story is given separately)

Jerry Lee Fischer graduated from Cuero High School in 1964 and went to Victoria Junior College from which he graduated in 1966. He served his country during the Vietnam Conflict from Aug. 1966 to April 1970 in the United States Navy. He saw 1½ yrs. of action in Vietnam. After his discharge from the Navy he returned to Rockport for some time. Then he entered A&M College in Sept. 1970 and graduated in May, 1973. He is now employed by the San Antonio Zoo where he works with reptiles.

Linda Clare graduated from Cuero High School in 1966. She lived in Rockport and later married James Baros. They have two sons: James Weldon Baros, Jr. born July 29, 1971 and Charles Frank Baros born Aug. 6, 1972.

by Mrs. Elroy Peters

FISCHER, J.J., JR.

F264

J.J. Fischer Sr. was born March 27, 1882 on a farm in Twin Sisters, Comal County, near New Braunfels, Texas son of Fritz and Caroline Klinger Fischer. After grade school he entered high school in Blanco, Texas but never finished. After attending Alamo Business College in San Antonio, he took a job as a grocery clerk in New Braunfels. He was not satisfied and moved to Cuero in 1906 and opened a livery business, eventually owning 3 livery stables and employing about 20 people. Business went well and when the automobile showed up he purchased 2 rental cars from Flick Motor Co. Rough roads and repair costs soon ended that and then back to the horses.

On February 6, 1916 he married Miss Agnes T. Juenger in Comfort, Texas. There were four children, J.J. Jr., Dorothy, Charles and Agnes. Some time around 1920 he was a distributor for Aneuser-Busch products. He then became wholesale commission agent for Magnolia Petroleum Co. building the 1st drive-in filling station in Cuero located at the corner of Esplanade and E. Courthouse Street. At this time his younger brother, Albert, joined him. About the year 1926 he sold the Magnolia Agency to Edu Muegge. After leaving Magnolias he opened an insurance and real estate office in the Buchel Building and remained in this business for the rest of his life. He was responsible for developing several subdivisions including Northfields, Fairview Park and Southern Young in addition to several others. During this time he was one of the original founders of the Cuero Building and Loan and later Cuero Federal Savings & Loan Association, serving as a director and vice-president.

During World War II he was in charge of the 7th War Loan Drive, which according to reports was over subscribed.

He served as Mayor of Cuero from 1947 to 1949 and prior to that served as City Councilman for nine years. He was a member of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Pythias, Sons of Hermann and Cuero Fire Department. He was also a member of the Cuero Turkey Trot Band under the direction of Albert Lienhard Sr. Upon his death November 27, 1962 he was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

by J.J. Fischer, Jr.

FITZGERALD, JACK COLLIER AND LORITA MAE WOLF

F265

Jack Collier, born July 4, 1932 in Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio, is the 8th child of Stanford Collier and Virginia Frances Hay Fitzgerald. The other children were Ruth, Johnnie, Ray Eugene, Mildred, Lucille, Dorothy, and another boy who died as a baby. Stanford Collier's father was William Henry Fitzgerald (1854-1937) who was a graduate of Concrete College in DeWitt County. his mother was Mary America Cobb (1856-1926). Virginia Frances' father was Frank Hay of Bandera and her mother was Della Gibbons born in Fort Davis, Texas. Jack was raised in the San Antonio area, but spent four summers with Uncle Walter and Aunt Mattie Fitzgerald Boothe on their ranch near Sweetwater where he was known as "Sonny" and "Horsefly". He moved to Cuero during his senior year of high school to help his sister Ruth and her husband Oscar Mathias with a dairy on the Ed Thigpen property. While living there, he met Lorita Mae Wolf at a domino party being held at her parents house (Werner and Lorene Semmler Wolf). After graduating from Cuero High School, Jack moved to Fort Davis, Texas where his older brother Johnnie lived. He became foreman of the 64 section Powell ranch owned by Mr. Joe Espy. He returned to Cuero and married Lorita Mae Wolf, June 1, 1952 at Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville. They moved to Heights Section of Houston where he was employed as a switchman for Southern Pacific Railroad. Then came the letter calling him to serve his country in January, 1953. They returned to Cuero so Rita could live with her parents while he went into basic training at Fort Bliss in El Paso. He then was sent to Fort Ord, California where Rita joined him. They lived in Templeton, California while Jack's company closed Camp Roberts. From there, they moved to King City, as Jack was stationed at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation at Jolon, California. Then they moved to Paso Robles where Jack enrolled in San Luis Obispo Jr. College with his major in accounting. Three months later he completed his tour of duty and they moved to Los Angeles so Jack could enroll in U.C.L.A. night school. He went to work for UPS and after six months he was put in charge of designing and overseeing the construction of the new office building built on Olympic Boulevard. While in charge of this construction job, Jack had to deal with Jimmy Hoffa and Clarence Beck, notorious union leaders. When the job was completed Jack was promoted to executive vice president. However, during this time Patricia Karen was born (July 7, 1958) and both parents wanted to raise her in the country or in a small town, so they moved to Victoria, Texas in June of 1961. Jack was hired by Bumgardner, Morrison and Company. After Mr. Bumgardner retired in 1975, Jack became managing partner and still maintains that position today. The 2nd daughter, Jacquelyn Kay, was born May 15, 1946 in Victoria. In

Morgan Elizabeth Rath, Marshall Ty McLain and Forrest Alan McLain grandchildren of Jack and Lorita Fitzgerald

Christian G. Hartman and Hilda Hartman (seated) Leslie Flessner and Genell Flessner

Weldon Blaschke, Chris Blaschke, Jeanne Blaschke, Melissa Blaschke, and Cori Blaschke

immigrated to the U.S. from Germany with his parents at the age of seven years; having landed at Indianola.

The Henry Flessners moved to DeWitt County when Leslie was three years of age. He attended school at Garfield, Buesing, Yorktown and Southwest Texas State University. He taught school in Goliad County eight years and DeWitt County 29 years. He retired from teaching in 1977. He also served in the Yorktown City Government as Council member eight years and as mayor for two years.

Genell was born July 7, 1923 to Christian and Hilda Urban Hartman at Meyersville. She attended school there and graduated from Cuero High School in 1941.

Christian G. Hartman was a son of pioneers Fred and Bertha Dreier Hartman of Meyersville. Hilda too was born in that area being the daughter of Philip and Mary Gerhardt Urban. Her mother was born near Yorktown in a log cabin.

Christian G. Hartman, a veteran of World War I, spent months in France defending our country. He was a charter member of the American Legion in Cuero; later transferring to Yorktown.

They owned a Dry Goods Store in Meyersville from 1924-1937. They purchased a farm where they lived for five years. They moved to Yorktown in 1943.

Leslie and Genell Flessner have made Yorktown their home since 1952. Their daughter, Jeanne, was born Dec. 10, 1945 while they lived in Weesatche, Texas. She graduated from Yorktown High School in 1964. She attended Southwest Texas State University. Jeanne Flessner and Weldon G. Blaschke were married June 27, 1965 in St. Paul's Lutheran church in Yorktown. They have three children, Chris, Melissa and Cori. They all live in Yorktown.

by Leslie Flessner

FLOWERS, FAMILY

F269

Wilson H. Flowers was married to Sarah Ann Peacock in Smith County Mississippi sometime prior to September 1846. Sarah was born in Louisiana. Wilson and Sarah had two children in Mississippi: 1) Emily Flowers who was born circa. 1846 and 2) Amelia Flowers who was born circa 1848. The family came to Texas about 1854.

On February 26, 1859 Massie Wilkerson conveyed to Wilson Flowers 1,342 1/2 acres located in the E. Moss survey of DeWitt County, Texas. Wilson Flowers obviously did not live very long thereafter because the 1860 Mortality Schedule includes the following in the list of persons who died in the year ending in June, 1860, DeWitt County: "Willis Flowers, 35, free white male-married-born Mississippi-farmer. Shot by a mob in March." The family story passed down through the years says that Wilson was killed by vigilantes.

In the 1860 Census the Flowers family is shown living in Meyersville, Texas. Members include: Sarah Flowers, age 30; Emily Flowers, age 16; Galton Flowers, age 5; and Richard Flowers, age 3.

On January 29, 1861 Sarah Ann Flowers married Joseph Howard. On June 24, 1864 Emily Flowers married Jordan Howard. This mother and daughter lived next door to each other when the 1870 Census was taken in the county seat of Clinton. Shown in house 63, family 63: Joseph Howard, age 35; Sarah Howard, age 33 (she misstated her age!); Galton Flowers, age 13; Richard Flowers, age 11; and Susannah Howard, no age given. In house 62, family 62: Jordan Howard, age 33 and Emily Howard, age 24.

In the 1880 Census, Richard Flowers was listd as a cattle driver. The family story is told that Richard drove cattle on the Chisholm Trail. Also, Jordan and Emily Howard had six children by the 1880 Census.

On November 23, 1887 Sarah Ann and Emily A. Howard conveyed to Richard w. Flowers 228 1/2 acres out of the E. Moss Survey as part of his father's estate.

Richard W. Flowers was married in 1884 to Eliza Flowers and on January 18, 1888 they sold this land to Joseph Zielonka.

In the 1900 Census we find the following information: Living in Yoakum, Lavaca County, Texas on June 11, 1900: Richard Wilson Flowers-carpenter-age 41; Eliza Flowers, age 41; Galatin, age 15, Erwin, age 13, Irine, age 12; Beryl, age 10; and Richard, age 10 months. Living in DeWitt County, Precinct 1: Emily Howard, age 53; Clairborne, age 35; Annie, age 29; Wilson, age 27; Sarah Ann, age 25; Maud, age 22; Albert G., age 19; Edwin, age 16 and a grandson, Early J., age 3.

On August 21, 1903, when she was 75 years old, Sarah Ann Flowers wrote her will. Her estate was composed of 230 acres in the E. Moss League, Lot 1, Block 27 in Berclair, Goliad County and cattle and horses. She bequeathed the cattle and the Berclair property to her grandson A.G. Flowers and the balance of her property to her granddaughter Sarah Ann Howard.

On June 7, 1905 Sarah Ann Flowers died about four miles north of Cuero. On November 14, 1905 Sarah Ann Flowers, deceased, acting through W.H. Graham, Executor, conveyed to Sarah Ann Howard, a legatee, 228 acres of land adjacent to Emily A. Howard's 228 acres. This was a part of the tract on the west side of the Guadalupe River conveyed to W.H. Flowers by Massey Wilkerson.

It is believed that Sarah Ann Flowers is buried on her land in DeWitt County.

by Elliott Flowers

FLY, W. LAMAR AND MELBA M.

F270

William Lamar, Melba (Morgan) Fly, Walter Lamar Fly and Susan D'Ette (Fly) Cowan, 1988.

Walter Lamar Fly, son of Frank Merriman Fly and Stella Miller Fly, was born in Gonzales, Texas, on September 1, 1913. He graduated from Gonzales High School in 1930 and from North Texas State University in 1933. For the next three years he taught at Gonzales High School and Seguin High School.

In 1936 he was employed by the Frost National Bank in San Antonio and two years later, in 1938, was appointed to the National Bank Examiners Force of the U.S. Treasury Department.

Melba Morgan Fly was born on the Morgan Ranch in DeWitt County on January 1, 1918, the second daughter of Kos Morgan and Inez Preston Morgan. She attended the Valley View School and graduated from Cuero High School in 1934. After two years of study at Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, she taught from 1936 to 1938 in the Valley View School and attended one summer at the University of California in Los Angeles.

On July 16, 1938, Melba and Lamar were married in the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero. Upon the arrival of their first child, William Lamar, in 1941, they left the transient life of a bank examiner to establish their first home in Paris, Texas, where Lamar was an officer in the First National Bank. In 1943 he was one of the organizers of the Heights State Bank in Houston, where their second child, Susan D'Ette, was born in the same year. In 1945 the family moved to College Station,

Christian G. Hartman and Hilda Hartman (seated) Leslie Flessner and Genell Flessner

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Texas, where Lamar was one of the organizers of another new bank, the College Station State Bank.

In 1948 they built a rock house on the Morgan Ranch, where they lived until the great drought of the 1950's caused them to return to teaching. Melba again taught in the Valley View School in 1948, and in 1954 she was a fifth-grade teacher in the Cuero school system while Lamar was a teacher and Assistant Principal at Cuero High School. In 1957 Melba received the Bachelor of Science degree from Southwest Texas State University. In 1958 they moved to Victoria, where Melba taught in the Shields and Crain schools while Lamar occupied the position of Director of Student Activities at the Victoria College.

In 1960 Lamar received a Kellogg Foundation Fellowship for additional graduate study and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Texas in 1962. In that year he became the founding president of Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas, serving until 1967, when he accepted the founding presidency of another public community college, Kishwaukee College located in DeKalb County, Illinois. He retired in 1979 and moved back to Cuero, where he and Melba presently reside.

Both Melba and Lamar are ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church. Melba is a past president of the Women of the Church, and Lamar is a past treasurer of the church. Melba is also past president of the Rochelle (Illinois) Woman's Club and a current member of the Cuero Hawthorne Club, the P.E.O. sisterhood, and the DeWitt County Farm Bureau.

Lamar has served as president of the Chambers of Commerce of College Station and Cuero and is a past president of three Rotary Clubs, in Hillsboro, Texas; Rochelle, Illinois; and Cuero. He is a past chairman of Curriculum and Instruction of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents and past chairman of the Illinois Community College Administrators. He is a current member of Phi Delta Kappa, Delta Pi Epsilon, the Masonic Blue Lodge and Shrine, the DeWitt County Historical Commission, and the University of Houston-Victoria's President's Advisory Council. In 1986 he was chairman of Cuero's Sesquicentennial Committee.

The Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania presented awards for his public addresses in 1959, 1973, and 1986, and the Hillsboro Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized him for Distinguished Service in 1963. In 1964 he was named Hill County Man of the Year and was inducted into the Hill College Hall of Fame in 1970. In 1965 he was presented a Distinguished Service Award from the Civil War Commission of Texas. In 1971 he was named Outstanding Newsmaker for the DeKalb (Illinois) *Daily Chronicle*, and in 1978 received the Humanitarian Award for Service to Higher Education from the Northern Illinois University Foundation.

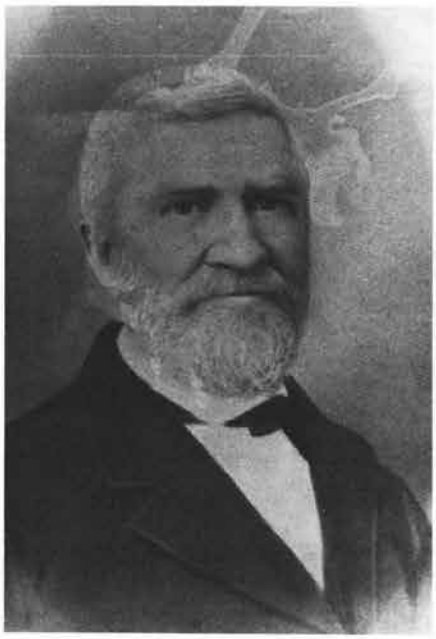
His published articles include "Vigorous Victoria" in the *Texas Parade* in 1959; "Selling Victoria, a series of ten feature articles in the *Victoria Advocate* in 1960, and various short stories and other newspaper articles.

by W. Lamar Fly

FORBES – BLACKWELL FAMILY

F271

Mary Reid Forbes



Robert Mitchell Forbes

Robert Mitchell Forbes, son of William and Fanny Mitchell Forbes daughter of Priscilla Carter and Robert Mitchell. He was born in Kinsale, Virginia September 22, 1809. He attended The University of Virginia and lived in Pensacola, Florida in 1828. Robert Mitchell Forbes was elected to the legislature in 1832 and on February 18, 1836 he arrived in Texas at the mouth of the Brazos River and settled in Columbia, where he became a merchant of high standing. He married Mary Reid, daughter of Pamela Jane Ewing and Dr. Reid. In 1841 he was in the Texas Congress, serving in the Called Session at Houston June of 1845. Robert Mitchell Forbes and his wife Mary Reid had eleven children. Their third daughter Jeannette Forbes married William Albert Blackwell July 18, 1877. Their son, William Albert Blackwell, Jr. married Alma Reiffert 1906. Their son, Reiffert Forbes Blackwell married Dorothy Breeden 1935. Their children, Patricia Ann Blackwell married Dr. Pat Garner Hedgcoxe, Dorothy Breeden Blackwell married Walter Christian Sager, William Albert IV. married Nancy Nash Porter.

References: The Handbook of Texas, The Texas State Historical Association, and The Encyclopedia of the New West. I (1881)

by Dorothy Breeden Blackwell

FOXELL, HELEN MANNING AND W.A.

F272

Helen (Manning) Foxell and W.A. Foxell

I was born in Brownwood, Texas on November 15, 1926, to James Brown and Myrtle Helen Richardson Manning. After the death of my mother in September, 1929, I lived in Houston, Texas, with my father, brother and sister. Then in 1931 we moved to Terryville, Texas, DeWitt County.

I attended Tonqua school and Yoakum High School. I went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in April 1946. I am now retired.

I married W.A. Foxell on September 11, 1948. W.A. was born in DeWitt County on November 27, 1922, to Will and Mary Geneva Garrett Foxell. W.A. was a welder in the ship yards at the beginning of WWII. He enlisted in the army in Jan. 1943. He took his basic training at Fort Knox, KY. He then went overseas and served in North Africa, Italy and France. He was wounded on his birthday in 1944. He was then sent to the veterans hospital in Longview, Texas. He remained there until his discharge in July, 1945. He then returned to Yoakum and worked in road construction until he retired.

I am a member of the First Baptist Church in Yoakum, and a member of the Lydia Sunday School Class. I have seven brothers and three sisters.

My great grandfather was James Brown,

one of the first Tax Collector/Assessor of DeWitt County.

by Helen Manning Foxell

FOXELL, WILL FAMILY

F273

Will Foxell and Mary G. (Garrett) Foxell

Will Foxell was born in Hope, Lavaca County, Texas on October 27, 1890 to George and Mary Preuss Foxell. There he grew up and attended school. He served overseas in World War I. After he returned from the war he married Mary Geneva Garrett on February 21, 1919 in Yoakum, Texas.

Mary Geneva Garrett was born on January 27, 1898 to John Byers and Mary Josephine Carroll Garrett in DeWitt County, Texas. There she grew up and attended school.

Two children were born to this union. A baby was born and died on August 11, 1921. Will Albert Jr. was born on November 27, 1922. W.A. married Helen Manning on September 11, 1948.

Will and Geneva purchased land on what is now Hwy 111, where they lived until their deaths. Will passed away on February 26, 1969 (just five days after their 50th wedding anniversary) and Mary Geneva passed away on February 6, 1973. They are buried in Hebron Cemetery located off F.M. 682 in DeWitt County, Texas.

by W.A. Foxell (Son)

The Oak Dale Jersey farm people are the folks you want to see when you are out after the best there is to be had in milk, butter and other dairy products.
JOHN FRIAR, Prop.

FRANKE, EMIL AND HENRIETTA BLUHM FAMILY

F274

Emil and Henrietta (Bluhm) Franke

Emil Franke, second son of Ludwig and Maria Moeller Franke, was born Wednesday, April 3, 1844, in Rudolstadt, Saxony, Germany. The family came to Meyersville, Texas, via Indianport (Indianola) in the winter of 1846. Emil and his sister, Emalina, were confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday in 1859.

On March 20, 1870, Emil married Henrietta Bluhm, daughter of Wilhelm Bluhm, Sr., and his wife, nee Rosina Groschel. Henrietta was born Sunday, December 24, 1843, in Gurkow, Friedeberg (Prussia), Germany. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Germany in 1857. One of her daily duties as a maid to families in Stettin and Berlin, was to go to the poultry yard and gather the goose feathers to be made into featherbeds. Some families were so poor that often the only food for a day was boiled potatoes and clabber.

In 1869, with her sister, Augusta, and brother, Robert, and another sister, Henrietta came to America and lived with relatives in the Meyersville area. Because of stormy seas, the voyage is said to have taken three months. Robert's citizenship papers show that he came to Galveston on Dec. 4, 1869.

After Emil and Henrietta married, they settled in a small four-room home east of Meyersville where they engaged in farming and butchering. In the almost 13 years of their married life, 11 children were born to them, five of whom died in infancy. To help support his growing family, Emil became a teamster. On December 31, 1882, he was returning home from Yorktown with a load of lumber in extremely cold weather when he encountered a flooded crossing on the Fifteen Mile Creek near Dobskyville. He waited for the water to recede. The next day he was found there, sitting against a tree trunk almost frozen to death. He died of exposure a few hours later. That same day Henrietta gave birth to her eleventh child, Emelie, who died in infancy.

With the help of relatives and neighbors, Henrietta managed the farm and reared her six children in a Christian manner. They all rode in a buggy to attend school and church at Meyersville and sang in the church choir. Eventually they established their own homes. After Robert married in July of 1911, Henrietta sold her home to a Mr. Berger and moved into a small one-room house at the home of her daughter, Hedwig Hoff, in the Ander community. Traveling in her buggy, Henrietta enjoyed visiting her children. She sewed, knitted, and quilted and even crocheted a lovely bedspread for each of her nine granddaughters! She died in her home on January 5, 1929, and was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in a service conducted by Pastor H.C. Poehlmann. The children of Emil and Henrietta Bluhm Franke follow:

1) Alma Maria Hilda, born March 19, 1871, died 1871.

2) Aurel Julius Otto Franke, born March 6, 1872, died 1874.

3) Maria Augusta Helene Franke, born May 28, 1873; died Jan. 27, 1932, married Otto Rabke.

4) Emilius Franke, born Aug. 24, 1874; died 1874.

5) Emilie Louise Franke, born Sept. 15, 1875; died 1875.

6) Hugo Franke, born Feb. 11, 1877; died Sept. 12, 1956; married Mary Rabke.

7) Linar Hedwig Marie Franke, born July 30, 1878; died Dec. 17, 1946, married Gottlieb Hoff.

8) Emil Robert Franke, born Sept. 8, 1879; died June 13, 1941; married Ida Jacob Dreier.

9) Martha Wilhelmina Franciska Franke, born Nov. 7, 1880, died Feb. 23, 1961; married August Duderstadt.

10) Sophie Elizabeth Marie, born Dec. 9, 1881; died June 16, 1907; married Alonzo Hoff.

11) Emilie Franke, born Jan. 1, 1883; died in infancy.

The Frankes all learned this prayer hymn and carried it to their graves: "Christi Blut und Gerechtigkeit das ist mein Schmuck und Ehrenkleid, Damit will ich vor Gott bestehn wenn ich in Himmel wered eingehn."

(Jesus, they Blood and Righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.)

by Frances M. Hartmann

FRANKE, EMIL CHRISTIAN AUGUST ANAD HENRIETTA (BLUHM) FAMILY

F275

On 20 Mar. 1870 Christian Emil August Franke (b) 3 Apr. 1844 in Rudolstadt Saxony Germany; (d) 1 Jan. 1883, (bur) Meyersville Lutheran Cem.; married Henrietta Bluhm eldest daughter of Wilhelm and Catherine (Machost) Bluhm Sr. (b) 24 Dec. 1843 in Gurkow Friedeburg Prussia; (d) 5 Jan. 1929, (bur) Meyersville Lutheran Cem.

They settled in a small four room house east of Meyersville and began farming and raising a family. To help support his growing family, Emil became a teamster. On 31 Dec. 1882, he was returning home from Yorktown in extremely cold weather with a load of lumber when he encountered a flooded crossing on the Fifteen Mile Coletto Creek, near Dobskyville. Since it was too dangerous to cross, he decided to wait until the waters had receded. He was found the next day, sitting against a tree trunk, nearly frozen to death. He died of exposure a few hours later. That same day, Henrietta gave birth to their eleventh child, Emilie, who died

in infancy.

Being a widow with six small children was no easy life, but with faith in God, courage, determination and the help of neighbors and relatives, Henrietta managed the farm and reared her children in a Christian manner. All the children attended school and church at Meyersville and sang in the church Choir.

Their children were:

1) Alma Marie Hilda (b) 19 Mar. 1871, (d) 6 May 1871; 2) Aurel Julius Otto Franke (b) 6 Mar. 1872; (d) 5 Nov. 1874; 3) Maria Augusta Helene (b) 28 May 1873, (d) 27 Jan. 1932, (m) 29 Oct. 1891 to Otto Carl Rabke; 4) Emilius Franke (b) 24 Aug. 1874; (d) 31 Aug. 1874; 5) Emilie Louise (b) 15 Sept. 1875, (d) 15 Sept. 1875; 6) Hugo A.H. (b) 11 Feb. 1877, (d)12 Sept. 1956, (m) 22 Nov. 1900 to Mary A. Rabke; 7) Linar Hedwig Marie (b) 30 July 1878, (d) 17 Dec. 1946, (m) 27 Jan. 1904 to Gottlieb Hoff; 8) Emil Robert Franke (b) 8 Sept. 1879 (d) 13 June 1941, (m) 22 July 1911 to Mrs. Ida Jacob Dreier (wid.); 9) Martha Wilhelimna Franciska (b) 7 Nov. 1880 (d) 23 Feb. 1961, (m) 1 Jan. 1906 to August Duderstadt; 10) Sophie Elizabeth Marie (b) 9 Dec. 1881, (d) 16 June 1907, (m) 28 Nov. 1906 to Alonzo John Hoff; 11) Emilie (b) 1 Jan. 1883, (d) 5 Mar. 1883

by Linda Rabke

FRANKE, JOHANS LUDWIG AND MARIA (MOELLER) FAMILY

F276

Johans Ludwig and Maria (Moeller) Franke came from Rudolstadt, Saxony, Germany with three small children, Julius, Christian Emil August, and Emeline (Lena). They left Bremen on August 21, 1846, arrived in Galveston on October 21 and came to Meyersville in December. After settling in the Meyersville area, four more children were born; Aurel, Augusta Bertha, Gustav Bernhard and John August.

Ludwig Franke was born 27 Feb. 1817 at Schwarzburg, Rudolstadt Saxony Germany. His wife, Maria (Moeller) Franke was born in that same area on 20 June 1818. Ludwig died 15 July 1886 and Maria died 2 Apr. 1884. Both are buried in the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

Julius Franke died on the Mexican border during the Civil War. Date and place unknown.

Emeline Franke married Heinrich Schrolemer in 1870 in the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Emil Franke 1844-1883 married 20 Mar. 1870 to Henrietta Bluhm in Meyersville. They had eleven children.

Aurel Franke 1849-1920 married Wilhelmina Dreier 1850-1912. They had fifteen children.

Augusta Bertha Franke married Karl Martin in 1871 in Meyersville.

Gustav Bernard Franke 1854-1924 is buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

John August Franke – No further information.

by Linda Rabke

FINCK & FUESS, E. A. FINCK. CHAS. FUESS.
Contractors & Builders.

FRANKE, LUDWIG FAMILY

F277

Ludwig Franke, his wife, nee Maria Moeller, their sons, Julius and Emil and daughter, Emmalina, came to Meyersville, Texas, in December 1846. The sailboat, Margaretha, on which they emigrated, left Bremen, Germany, on August 21, 1846 and arrived at Galveston, Texas, on October 21, 1846.

In his application for citizenship, dated November 6, 1854 and signed by clerk W.A. Blair, "Johnson (Johann) Ludwig Franke declared under oath that he was born the 27th day of February 1817 in the Principality of Schwartsburg (Schwarzburg) Rudolstadt, Germany and arrived in Texas Nov. 5, 1846." That was probably at Indianola. A month later the family came to Meyersville and settled on a farm about 5 miles east of the town.

The Chronicles of the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville indicate that the Frankes worshipped there. Beginning twice-weekly catechetical instructions in January 1856, Pastor J. Schaeg confirmed Julius and ten others on Whitsunday of that year. In 1857 Ludwig was elected to the church council. He donated wood to build a backroom to the parsonage and helped haul 600 rails to fence a garden for the pastor. Ludwig and Friedrich Dreier also dug an 18½ ft. water well for the church at $1 per foot and lined it with stones for a total cost of $28.15 for materials and labor.

In 1859 Ludwig was back on the council and later was chairman of the congregation. With his newly-confirmed son, Emil, he signed the congregation's 1859 constitution. Although Emmalina was only 113, she was confirmed with her brother, Emil, on Palm Sunday 1859. Aurel Franke, third son, and first Texas-born

Ludwig and Maria Franke Grandchildren, Standing: Robert, Hedwig, Hugo, Helene. Seated: Frances and Mary ca 1884

child of Ludwig and Maria, was confirmed in 1863 and his Texas-born sister, Augusta Bertha, was confirmed May 8, 1864. The Frankes' other two Texas-born sons, Gustav and Oscar, were accepted as adult members of the congregation on January 2, 1887 and on April 4, 1880, respectively.

After the congregation voted on June 3, 1866 to build a new church, Ludwig was on the building committee, gave $100, and hauled 16 loads of stones. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined Capt. Robert Kleberg's Coleto Guards, Reserve Co., DeWitt Co., 24th Brig. TX Militia, organized 17 June 1861.

A land deed dated February 19, 1870, signed by Willis Fawcett, clerk, (CC of DWC) shows that "Leudwick" (sp) Franke paid $200 for 100 acres of land purchased from John Y., James K., Sarah J., and Julia A. Bell. This property was part of the Thomas H. Bell League and Labor and bordered on land owned by Emil Franke, Ludwig's son. Another Warranty Deed dated November 23, 1887, shows that Ludwig Franke sold this same tract to his son-in-law, Henry Schorlemmer for $400.

Nothing is known of Ludwig Franke's parents. Maria Moeller, his wife, was born in the Rudolstadt area, June 20, 1818. She died April 2, 1884 and he died July 15, 1886. They are buried in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery at Meyersville. Their children were:

Julius Franke born ca 1840 in Germany; died near the Texas-Mexican border in the Civil War; date of death and burial place unknown.

Emil (Emilius) Franke b 3 April 1844, Rudolstadt, Germany; d 1 January 1883; m 20 March 1870 to Henrietta Bluhm, b 24 December 1843, Gurkow, Friedeberg, Prussia; d 5 January 1929.

Emmalina (Lena) Franke b 20 June 1846, Rudolstadt, Germany; d 28 December 1914; m 1870 to Henry (Heinrich) Schorlemmer b 24 December 1850, DeWitt County; d 12 August 1939.

Aurel Franke b 17 September 1849; d 26 April 1920; m 10 December 1872 to Wilhelmine Dreier, b 24 September 1850; d 24 December 1912.

Augusta Bertha Franke b 21 June 1851; d 20 May 1872; m 1871 to Carl Martin b 2 July 1848; 7 November 1928.

Gustav Bernhard Franke b 12 March 1854; d 7 August 1924; m 18 August 1914 to Martha Dreier b 11 June 1860; d 30 June 1939.

John August Oscar Franke b 13 October 1855; d 15 January 1927.

by Frances Hartmann

FRAZIER, JOHN NEWTON AND ISABELLA WOODS

F278

John Newton Frazier and his twin, Andrew Jackson Frazier, were born Nov. 4, 1836. Their parents, Martin Gaines Frazier and Martha Mayfield Frazier, lived on a small 123 acre farm in Washington County, Tennessee. John and Andrew also had two older brothers, Thomas and William, and a sister, Naomi Elizabeth.

Shortly after the twins were born, Martin moved his family west as far as Sabine County, Texas where Martha soon became ill and died. His wife gone, Martin grew restive. He heard about a new frontier out west where prosperity and a better life waited for pioneers who would go there and stake a claim.

Doctor and Mrs. McGuire were close friends of the Fraziers and agreed to keep the twins for Martin while he went to California to prepare the way for them. One morning, John noticed his father and brother, William, leaving on horseback and ran after them, crying. Martin carried him back to the house then turned and rode off. John, at the age of four, saw his father ride away for the last time on that day, for he never returned.

In time, the McGuire family, with the twins, moved to DeWitt County where John met Isabella Woods. Born December 3, 1842, she was the daughter of Montraville Woods and Isabella Gonzales Woods. John and young Isabella were married July 7, 1860 in Victoria with Isabella's uncle, Gonzolva Woods, standing as witness. The newlyweds initially made their home in DeWitt County.

There came a call for volunteers to defend the country against invaders. John enlisted and served in the Confederate Army under Captain H.G. Woods, Company K, 24th Regular Texas Cavalry and attained the rank of corporal. At Yorktown in October, 1862, he contracted a serious case of measles and was incapacitated for some time. John's company continued on without him and was later captured. After eventually recovering from his illness, John returned home for a short time. Then he went to Fort Clark and joined the Texas Rangers.

Years later, in 1884, John bought land in Llano County near Flag Creek, Baby Head, Texas where he built a house, moved his family, and lived for the next thirty years. John and Isabella had fourteen children, six of whom did not live beyond the age of three. The surviving eight are as follows: 1) John Napoleon who married Bethany Green; 2) Montraville who left home at sixteen; 3) Andrew Jackson, who married Fannie Rutherford; 4) Sylvaneous (Vene), who married Eddie McCoy; 5) Thomas who married Doll McCoy; 6) Bernettie (Nettie), who married John Caviness; 7) Sidney, who married Bell Kuykendoll; and 8) Virgil Amos, who married Linnie Estep.

Around 1914, John and Isabella sold the farm at Baby Head and moved to Wilbarger County. July 15, 1918, Isabella died of a long illness at the age of 76. In 1924, John went back to Llano County to visit family and friends. He then moved to Parker County to live with his son, Jack, until his death, July 20, 1926, at the age of 89.

by Elnora F. Woolsey

FREY, CARL AND HENRIETTE HEISSIG

F279

Carl Johann Frey was born on June 20, 1810, in Prussia. His first wife, Albertine Oberlander Frey, died on September 8, 1836, shortly after the birth of their first child on August 26, 1836. To help with the care of the young son, Carl Frey married Henriette Heissig on December 9, 1836 in her home at Landsberg an der Warthe. Henriette's birth date was May 22, 1813, so she was sufficiently mature to care for a young baby. Unfortunately, medical

Ca. 1850, Henriette (Heissig) Frey

care in those times was not the best, and the baby died on December 30, 1836.

The following year in November the young couple welcomed another son into their lives, but their joy was shortlived as the baby died two years later. Heinrich Frey was born on May 28, 1841 and unfortunately died less than a year later on May 24, 1842. Henriette and Carl recorded the birth of their third child together, Albert, on August 29, 1842, in the family *Gesangbuch* with heartfelt thanks to God for his protection for this only surviving son.

When Albert was eight years old, the three Frey family members had their portraits painted. Albert was depicted with his precious tin drum — a charming child's portrait. Carl's portrait was the stereotyped unsmiling father image, but Henriette was painted in a dark dress with an ecru lace collar, colorful blue ribbon at the throat, and a lace cap covering her dark hair. Her profile shows the strength of her character and her unswerving belief in the justice of God's will.

In 1851 the Carl Frey family joined many of their friends and relatives who had already fled Prussia on a lengthy journey aboard ship to America. They landed expectantly at Indianola with trunks filled with household goods. Freighters hauled the baggage the hundred miles inland to Yorktown, but the emigrants walked. They subsisted on cold meals for the six days of their journey because the proximity of Indians made the building of fires too dangerous.

When they finally reached their destination, no houses had been built to welcome them. They lived in tents for months while the men, professional people unaccustomed to farm labor or construction tasks, learned how to use axes, fell trees, and build houses. When their house was finally complete, Henriette hung the three portraits on the wall and placed her *Gesangbuch* carefully on the table built by Carl. Life seemed filled with promise in the new land, and the family participated in reading groups, little theater, music groups, and the formation of a school. Albert grew to manhood. In 1862 he enlisted in the Union Army, believing as so many families at that time did, that their destinies lay with the United States

of America to whom they had pledged their allegiance. Several letters from Albert to his parents during the war describe the various camps at which he was stationed and the long marches they made as well as his abiding love and concern for the parents he had left behind. Near the end of the war, he was taken prisoner and was interned at Andersonville, Georgia, where he died. Henriette poignantly notes his passing on June 24, 1864, with a plea: "Ruhe sanft, mein einziges tiefliebender Sohn."

The residue of the terrible hurricane which almost decimated Indianola in 1866 hit inland at Yorktown. High winds tore the three Frey portraits from the walls, depositing them in the rain and mud outside. When the storm subsided, Henriette retrieved the portraits, wiped them off, and hung them in their accustomed spots on the wall.

Carl Frey passed away on November 3, 1897 and is interred at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. Henriette continued to reside in Yorktown near her niece, Anna Meyer Stark, until August 16, 1908, when she died at the age of 95. Her final request was that all three portraits be buried with her, but Anna Stark begged to keep the portrait of her beloved aunt. Thus, this one tangible reminder of frontier courage and endurance has always found a loving home with one of Henriette's descendants. Ruhe sanft, Tante Frey!

by Dorothy C. Strieber

FRIAR, ALFRED AND ANNA NAGEL

F280

Children of Sidney J. and Annie (Williams) Friar, L-R Libbie, Bessie, Alfred, c. 1899.

Alfred Friar and Anna (Nagel) Friar were born, lived and died in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. Alfred was born November 2, 1891 and died December 30, 1973. He was the son of Sidney Johnston Friar and Annie (Williams) Friar. Anna was born February 1, 1889 and died November 15, 1986. She was the daughter of Herman J. Nagel and Louise (Loebel) Nagel.

Children of Herman J. and Louise (Loebel) Nagel, L-R Eleanore, Jacob, Anna (Nagel) Friar.

Alfred Friar and Anna (Nagel) Friar, 1970.

Five generations 1984: L-R Anna (Nagel) Friar, Anne (Friar) Thomas, Margaret Ann Thomas, Debra (Voelkel) Benge, Candice Lee Benge.

Alfred and Anna married August 23, 1912, and lived many years on the Friar Ranch, which in 1980 received the distinction of being "A Texas Century Ranch."

Alfred spent his entire life ranching. He loved the land and the cattle he owned. He worked hard, was successful and added acreage to the ranch he inherited from his father. Ranching was his business and his pleasure. For a brief period he served as Director for First State Bank.

Anna attended Toby's Business College in Waco, Texas. As a young woman she worked as secretary for Nagel Hardware. She was a real lover of flowers — growing them and arranging them. For years she arranged the flowers at the Presbyterian church every Sunday. She had a kind generous heart and extended a helping hand to many a person.

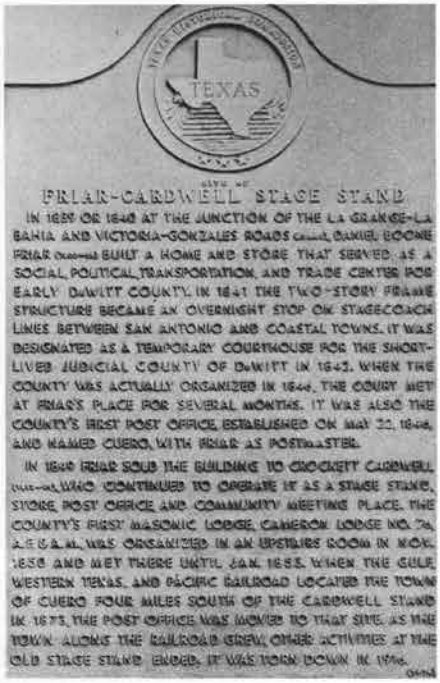
Alfred and Anna Friar were Presbyterians. They had one daughter, Anne, who married J. Carter Thomas.

For a period of time there were five generations of the Friar family living. The oldest was Anna (Nagel) Friar. Next was Anne (Friar) Thomas, then Margaret (Thomas) Sturges and Debra (Voelkel) Benge. The youngest were Candice Lee Benge and Kathleen Paige Benge. From April 25, 1984 when Candice Benge was born until November 15, 1986 when Anna Friar died there were five generations. Now in 1990 there are four generations.

by Anne Friar Thomas and Margaret Thomas Sturges

FRIAR, DANIEL BOONE

F281



Texas Historical Marker, Friar-Cardwell Stage Stand.

and Descendants

Daniel Boone Friar, often called Captain D.B. Friar, was born April 4, 1800. He came to Texas from Carolina with Robertson's Colony, Stephen F. Austin's second colony. Friar was a Mason and a Democrat of Protestant faith. He was an educated man, a real leader of men and played a prominent part in the military history of Texas in 1835-36. D.B. Friar was in command of Rangers between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers in 1835; he was a Scout at the Battle of San Jacinto and was also Captain of one of the volunteer companies. He was active in defending against Indians. In March of 1840 Dan Friar fought in the last battle of the Great

Rev. William S. and Elizabeth Friar, 1880's.

Sidney J. and Annie (Williams) Friar children, L-R Alfred, Bessie and Libbie Friar, c. 1898.

Sidney J. and Annie (Williams) Friar grandchildren, L-R Bessie Shults, Annie Friar, Sidney Daniel, c. 1917.

Indian Wars, the Battle of Plum Creek, near Lockhart, Texas. He was also a member of the historic Mier Expedition which was formed to retaliate against the capture of Texans during the Santa Fe Expedition. Friar was probably saved from death because he followed Sam Houston's order to turn back at the banks of the Rio Grande River.

After military duties were over, Friar managed a mercantile establishment in Washington County under the name of Daniel B. Friar and Company. His business thrived during the years 1837-8. On September 21, 1839 Friar bought 1261 acres of land of the Sam Lockhart Survey, then Gonzales County, later DeWitt County, for $2500. On the La Grange-La Bahia Road which crossed his land, Friar erected a two-story house. For more than a quarter century it was used as a home, store, stage-stop, post office, public hall, tavern and general community center. May 22, 1846 DeWitt County's first U.S. Post Office was established there and he served as the first Postmaster. When the county's first railroad came through Cuero, four miles south of the Friar Stage-stop, the post office was moved to Cuero.

The John Friar home, Cuero, TX.

Friar had a helpful part in the early organization and progress of the area. He taught school on Cuero Creek for two years (1840-42). In 1842-46 he was appointed Commissioner to select a site for the county seat of DeWitt County. He tried to give one hundred acres from the Sam Lockhart Survey for town site lots. It was not accepted after much bickering. In 1850 the county seat was moved to Clinton, west of the Guadalupe River.

Business developed in Concrete and Clinton, causing a decline at Friar's store. In September 1849 he sold 661 acres to Crockett Cardwell. Dan'l remained active as a stockman in this area. Some time later he moved to Yorktown, Texas, continued ranching and established another stage-stop.

Daniel Boone Friar's wife was Anne Friar. There are conflicting facts as to her name, birth date and place. One appears on her obituary. It follows: "A Texas Pioneer Dead, Born: March 19, 1802 at Milledgeville, Baldwin Co., Georgia. Died: March 21, 1899 at Cuero, Texas. Mrs. Ann Friar died in this city yesterday at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Aaron White, at the advanced age of 87 years. Mrs. Friar was truly an old Texan, having been a resident of the state for 71 years. She, along with her husband, Daniel B. Friar, were among the first families who came as colonists with Stephen F. Austin. She was well acquainted with all the great men of Texas of early days. Generals Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston were frequent guests at her house while they were in Texas, and it is said that General Lee was there when the news of Virginia's secession first reached him . . . Hers was, indeed, a life full of honor, and whose character might well be emulated by all."

Another theory concerning their marriage is in their Marriage Bond: "I, Bridget Lamb, widow of Bernard McGairy, deceased, do hereby give my free consent to my daughter Anne McGairy to marry with Daniel B. Friar of this parish (St Landry, Louisiana). In witness whereof I have hereunto signed at Opelousas the 8th day of October in the year 1826. Dan'l B. Friar, son of Dan'l Friar and Elizabeth Garrot, native of Columbia, South Carolina."

Still another place of birth comes from DeWitt County Census of 1850 — "Dan, birth place-Georgia Anne, birth place-South Carolina."

Conclusion: one wife bearing all names, or two wives, each named Anne.

Anne enjoyed reading Shakespeare. She was a whiz with a rifle.

In January 1858 Dan'l was ambushed and killed for his coins and gold. He was returning home to Yorktown from San Antonio where he had sold cattle. Dan B. and Anne are buried in Yorktown, Texas.

The Friars became parents of the following children: Sarahann, who married William Miskell, reared a family and passed the greater part of her life in DeWitt County. Alfred L., who was a soldier in General Sam Houston's army, later took part in the Mexican and Civil Wars, and passed the rest of his life as a farmer and stockman in DeWitt County. Stephen, who died unmarried. Fannie, who was the widow of Dr. Aaron C. White. Susan, who was the wife of William Weisiger, sheriff of DeWitt County as long as he could be induced to hold that office.

Mary, who married George Williams and spent her life in Victoria. William S., who was the father of Sidney Johnston. Friar. Jack, who spent his career as a cattleman in DeWitt County and left a family by his marriage to Dordelia Peace. Ella, who was born and died in Yorktown and married John Rutledge, one of the most prominent Texas cattleman, who died in Kenedy. Edward B. who died a minor serving on the Somervell Campaign for the Republic of Texas.

Rev. William Steal Friar, born November 19, 1837, was educated in the frontier schools of DeWitt County and began his independent career as a cattleman, a vocation which he followed before and after the Civil War. During the early '70's he drove cattle over the old Chisholm Trail. He was converted at the age of forty-six, and was ordained a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He brought about the building of the Presbyterian Church at Karnes City, Texas. He continued his ministerial labors with great zeal until his death at Dale, Texas in August, 1902.

The army service of Rev. William S. Friar began with the opening of the war between the states. He and Captain Cupples organized Company K of the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry at Yorktown, commanded by Col. Wilkes. Early in 1862 the regiment went to the front. They were captured at Arkansas Post January 11, 1862. In April prisoners were exchanged and they finally joined Gen. Bragg's army in Tennessee. Wm. Friar saw hard service, but never was wounded. He participated in the battles of Chickamaugua, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and the Atlanta Campaign. After the war he and his brother Alf had a long, difficult journey home on foot.

Rev. William S. Friar married Ann Elizabeth Smith, who was the daughter of Morris D. Smith, granddaughter of Rev. James M. Smith and great-granddaughter of Gen. James Lingan of Revolutionary fame. Morris D. Smith brought his family to Texas some years before the Civil War. Mrs. Friar was born in Illinois and died at Karnes City, Texas in 1907. Their children were: Sidney Johnston; Alice, who died as Mrs. Stone at San Antonio; Anna, who married Rev. Hodgson and died in New Mexico; Evelyn (Evie), Mrs. Neal Stribling with four children: Stone, Inez, Annie Belle and Neal; John, who married Mattie Williams and died at Cuero leaving two sons: Oscar and Guenther; William S. Jr. of El Paso had one son; Mary Ethel, who married Sam Harper of Louisiana; Rev. Herbert H., a Baptist evangelist of Texas had three children: Herbert Jr., Charlotte and Mildred; Early, who died at Lockhart without family.

Sidney Johnston Friar was born at Yorktown April 6, 1862 — the day the Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was killed at Shiloh, hence the name. He grew up in DeWitt County, where he secured a rural education and remained with his father until three months after attaining his majority, at which time he hired out as a cowboy. He was thus employed for four years, this time being chiefly spent with his uncle Alf Friar in DeWitt County, and at the end of that period he embarked in business on his own account in a modest way with a limited amount of stock. When he moved across the Guadalupe River he purchased thirty seven head of cattle, a horse and saddle; this equipment representing the accumulation of his wages of the years before. All the country was then open range, but the day after the Indianola storm of 1886 he bought his first tract of land, 320 acres, from William Thomas at $2.00 an acre. At that time he did not care to have his land fenced, but erected a headquarters cabin, 14 feet x 16 feet with a stick and dirt chimney, and there "batched" for a time. To this cabin he subsequently brought his bride. On November 5, 1887 S.J. Friar was married to Miss Annie Williams who was born January 31, 1870. She was the daughter of Oscar Fitzgerald and Phidora Bonner Williams. Sid continued to engage in cattle business until September 1913 when he sold his brand, "O on each hip," and leased his ranch. He had built a comfortable home three miles east of Cuero. Sidney was a Democrat. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Maccabees and the Praetorians. At fifty-three years joined the Presbyterian Church and served as a Deacon.

Mr. and Mrs. Friar had the following children: Bessie, who died at the age of twenty-two years as the wife of Robert T. Daniel and left a son Sidney, who has a son, Robert Sidney (Bob), who has a daughter Robin and a son, Curtis. Alfred, who was a farmer and cattleman of DeWitt County, married Anna Nagel and had one daughter, Annie Louise (Anne) who married J. Carter Thomas. They had one daughter, Margaret Anne. She has two daughters: Debra Anne Voelkel and Dinah Rae Voelkel. Debra married Michael R. Benge. They have three daughters: Candice Lee, Kathleen Paige and Rachel Anne. Margaret is currently married to Jeremy Sturges. Their third child was Libbie who married William Thomas Shults of Cuero and had four children: Bessie Mildred, Thomas Neal, Alice Ruth (Tudi) and Robert Stuart (Bo). Bess Shults Hodge had one son, Brick Roger, who has two sons: Nicholas Blayne and Clayton Randall and two daughters: Sarah Ann and Leslie Elizabeth. Thomas (Tommy) married Jessie Goree Thomas and they have three sons: Sidney Neal who has two sons: Steven Lee and Bryan Jeffrey; Robert Goree, who has a daughter, Yvonne Patricia and a son Bradley Thomas; and William Thomas, who has three children: Mitchell Thomas, Kenneth Stuart, Alicia Denise. Alice Ruth (Tudi) married Joe Miller and has four sons: Michael who has one son Joseph Michael Jr.; Christopher; John Mark who has two sons: John Mark R. and Adam Todd; and Dayton Thomas who has one son Dayton Thomas Jr. and one daughter Nancy. Robert Stuart (Bo) Shults married Nada Green and has one son John Tyler and one daughter Anne Elizabeth.

John Friar, younger brother of Sidney was born April 26, 1872 and married Mattie Williams born March 26, 1872 was a sister to Sidney's wife Annie. The Friars owned and operated a dairy on the Guadalupe River near Cuero. The Friars had two sons Oscar William, named for his grandfather Oscar Fitzgerald Williams, and Guenther. Oscar married Rena Mae Haile in 1927 and they had one daughter Jean Ann who married Henry Fassett Sheppard Jr. Guenther married Myrtle Meyer in 1926, had no children.

John died on April 23, 1912 leaving a widow with two young sons. His wife Mattie continued with their ranching and dairy interest. Mattie died on March 28, 1961 and her sons ranched until their deaths. Guenther died September 27, 1971 and Oscar died September 2, 1981. Jean Ann and Henry continue to ranch the Oscar Friar property. They have three children: Laurie Ann Sheppard Post, Henry III and Holly Jean Sheppard Hickey. The Sheppards have seven grandchildren: John Henry Post, Elizabeth Sheppard and Stephen Friar Post (twins), Henry Justin Sheppard, Willis Breeden Sheppard, William Fassett Hickey and Fielding Harris Hickey.

Thus we see that during the 1830's Daniel Boone Friar was helpful in Austin's Colony. Then from 1840 until his death he had an important part in the defense, organization, development and progress of the DeWitt County area. Also, that, throughout the years his descendants have been and are continuing to be useful and progressive citizens of DeWitt County and other sections.

by Anne Friar Thomas, Margaret A. Thomas, and Jean Ann Friar Sheppard

FRIAR, OSCAR WILLIAM AND RENA MAE HAILE

F282

John Randolph and Mattie (Williams) Friar. Guenther and Oscar William Friar.

Oscar William Friar, second son of John Randolph and Mattie Williams Friar, daughter of Oscar Fitzgerald Jr. and Dora Bonner Williams, was born in Cuero, Texas, December 14, 1891 and died in Cuero, September 2, 1981. He married Rena Mae Haile, April 1, 1927 in Breckenridge, Texas. Rena Mae was the daughter of Evlis LaFayette "Fate" Haile and Laura Ann Kirk Haile of Gorman, Texas. She died November 29, 1969. Both Oscar and Rena Mae are buried in Hillside Cemetery. Laura Ann's parents were Jasper Newton Kirk and Drucilla Ann Thompson Kirk. Evlis was one of seven children born to Tom and Amanda Haile of Tennessee. Oscar Williams grandparents were William S. Friar, born 1839 and Ann Elizabeth Smith Friar (Clinton, Texas) granddaughter of James Norman Smith. William S. operated a stagestop at Yorktown. He was a veteran of the Civil War and was a prisoner of the United

Oscar William Friar

Rena Mae (Haile) Friar

States. He was also an ordained Presbyterian preacher who helped build the Presbyterian Church at Karnes City, Texas.

William S. was the son of Daniel Boone and Ann McGairy Friar who came with Stephen F. Austin's Little Colony (Robertson's Colony).

Oscar William and Rena Mae had one child Jean Ann who married Henry Fassett Sheppard Jr. in Cuero on January 20, 1951.

Oscar William attended the University of Arizona and the University of Texas. Rena Mae graduated from C.I.A. later known as Texas Women's University and taught school for several years in Big Springs, Texas. She also taught school in the Cuero Independent School District during World War II.

Oscar William was a life long DeWitt County rancher and cotton buyer. Oscar William had an older brother who died in infancy and a younger brother Lou Guenther. Guenther was born September 20, 1900 and died on September 23, 1971. His wife Myrtle Meyer was born April 13, 1898 in Victoria, Texas and died March 23, 1979. Guenther and Oscar operated a cotton company, Friar Brothers, in partnership for a number of years.

Oscar and Rena Mae were active members of the First United Methodist Church in Cuero, Texas.

In the May 11, 1897 issue of the Cuero Record an interesting article appeared which pertained to Mattie and J.R. Friar. The article follows:

"One of the best registered Jersey bulls in Texas has just been received by J.R. Friar & Co., of the Oakdale Jersey Farm.

This animal is sired by Dan Darling, the best bred bull in the South, whose sire was Prince of Melrose and dam Princess Corrine; test, 19 pounds and 1 ounce of butter seven days. His dam was first prize cow in Dallas in 1893, Fairy Gleneir; test, 14 pounds and 3 ounces of butter in seven days. A well-posted Jersey man describes this animal as follows: 'In my opinion he will make one of the best bulls in the country, and I believe will make a great show bull. He will be gray in color, has very short legs, tremendous vim and bred like he should be, fit to head any herd in America."

by Jean Ann Sheppard

FRIEDRICHS, ALBERT AND VERA JUNKER

F283

Dec. 30, 1924, Vera (Junker) Friedrichs and Albert Friedrichs.

Albert was born Feb. 4, 1887, son of Fred and Caroline Weiss Friedrichs. On Dec. 30, 1924 he married Vera Junker, born Sept. 12, 1903, daughter of George and Hildegard Diebel Junker.

Albert bought 100 acres of land of the James Quinn Survey March 31, 1923. This is where they made their home after they were married. Albert raised cattle, hay crops, cotton and corn.

Vera (Junker) Friedrichs and Albert Friedrichs

He always had fruit trees — plum, peach, pear, and persimmons. The opossums would come at night and eat the green persimmons and get a good stomachache. We would get up early to see the sick opossums sitting under the trees. They were too sick to move. It taught us not to eat green persimmons. Albert also planted a lot of pecan trees. Wherever a pecan tree comes up to this day. Vera lets it grow and has someone come to bud it with a good variety of pecans. Vera is 85 years old now.

Albert raised cabbage while living with his parents. He was one of the Arneckeville Truckers who took cabbage to Cuero to sell to Moore and Sames Shippers in 1920. The cabbage was loaded on a railroad box car to be shipped to San Antonio. Albert and Vera also had a large truck garden and would sell produce to the Cuero grocery stores. With side boards on the pickup we would load it with cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, carrots, beets and turnips and take it to Yorktown on Saturday to sell from the truck at the city square.

Albert went to the Arneckeville school and went through the 4th grade. Vera's parents moved from farm to farm so she attended three schools and went through the 6th grade. Their parents needed their help at home for field and garden work so they couldn't finish school. They also had to help with smaller brothers and sisters. They managed their time, talent and money well and taught their children to do likewise.

Albert and Vera had three children: 1. Elorine, Nov. 8, 1925, married James Hartman (see history under James and Elorine Hartman). 2. Georgie Lee, March 6, 1926, married Harold Heyer. 3. Dalton, June 10, 1928, married Eunice Nagel.

Albert died Feb. 19, 1963 and is buried on Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville. Vera is still living on the home place.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

FRIEDRICHS, BRYAN KEITH

F284

Bryan Keith Friedrichs was born Oct. 18, 1961 in the Bohman Hospital in Cuero, Texas. He is the son of Dalton and Eunice Ann Nagel Friedrichs. He attended grades 1 thru 8 in Meyerville, Texas and grades 9 thru 12 in Cuero, Texas, graduating in 1980. He attended Victoria Jr. College and University of Houston-Victoria graduating with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a concentra-

Bryan Keith Friedrichs and Jamie Dawn (Jank) Friedrichs.

tion in Computer Science in 1984.

He married Jamie Dawn Jank, daughter of Allen and Ruby Bottschalt Jank of Ander, Texas, in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas, June 20, 1987. He is a Manager of Operations for Star Tel of Victoria, a locally owned and operated Telecommunications Company.

They are affiliated with Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas. They live on his parents home place on Hwy. 236 in Arneckeville, Texas, Rt. 4, Box 44A, Cuero, Texas 77954.

by Mrs. Dalton Friedrichs

FRIEDRICHS, DALTON ARTHUR AND EUNICE ANN NAGEL

F285

Dalton Arthur Friedrichs, the son of Albert and Vera Junker Friedrichs, was born June 10, 1928 at his parents home in Arneckeville, Texas. He attended grades 1 thru 8 in Arneckeville and grades 9 thru 12 in Cuero, Texas graduating from High School in 1946.

He married Eunice Ann Nagel, daughter of Rudolph "Dick" and Mary Laura Garrett Nagel, on Aug. 6, 1950 in the small Methodist Church in Cordele, Jackson Co., Texas. They live on his home place about 100 yards from where he was born, living in the house they built together. Dalton has never lived anywhere else.

He started out being a farmer; raising corn, peanuts, turkeys and laying hens; selling the eggs. After he could not make a living he branched out doing custom corn-pulling and later bought a hay-window cutting machine and did custom hay cutting. His sister, Elorine's husband, James Hartman did the baling. He started doing carpenter work with Ed Brandt from Meyersville and with Fred "Fritz" Thamm teaching him. He has done electrical

Dalton Arthur Friedrichs and Eunice Ann (Nagel) Friedrichs.

work, welding and just about anything to make a living. No wonder his CB "Handle" was handyman.

Dalton and Eunice Ann had 2 sons, Dalton Bruce and Bryan Keith. They are affiliated with the Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas and reside on Hwy. 236, Rt. 4, Box 44A, Cuero, Texas 77954.

by Mrs. Dalton Friedrichs

FRIEDRICHS, DALTON BRUCE

F286

Dalton Bruce Friedrichs and Janie (Kirschner) Friedrichs.

Dalton Bruce Friedrichs, the son of Dalton and Eunice Ann Nagel Friedrichs, was born Sept. 23, 1952 in the Bohman Hospital, Cuero, Texas. He attended grades 1 thru 4 in the Arneckeville School and grades 5 thru 8 in Meyersville School and grades 9 thru 12 in Cuero High School graduating in 1971. He attended TSTI in Waco, Texas for a short time and worked for Alcon Laboratories and Fire Boss in Ft. Worth, Texas.

He married Janie Kirschner Putnam in First English Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas Dec. 30, 1983. Janie had 5 children by a former marriage, Russel "Dusty" Putnam, Jr., Travis Putnam, Randall Putnam, Jacob Putnam and Sarah Elizabeth Putnam. Wendee Sharee Friedrichs was born Sept. 30, 1984.

D. Bruce is now in 1989 a contractor and carpenter in the Cuero area. They live on the Dalton Friedrichs homestead on the Golly Road, Rt. 4, Box 45K, Cuero, Texas 77954. They are affiliated with the Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas.

by Mrs. Dalton Friedrichs

FRIEDRICHS, FRED AND CAROLINE (WEISS)

F287

Fred Friedrichs, Jr. was born October 15, 1846 in Aurick, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. He was the son of Fred Friedrichs, Sr. and wife, name unknown. Fred Friedrichs, Sr., with his wife and five children, landed in Indianola, Texas about May 14, 1852. The story was told that when they landed and unloaded the boat, a wheel of their wagon was missing so they waited for other boats to arrive to see if the wheel had been loaded on another boat. While waiting in Indianola they contacted a disease that may have been yellow fever, since this disease took the lives of many of the early settlers. Both parents died there. No graves have been found. The children had guardians but they abandoned the children. It is said that Pastor Christof Adam Sager sent word to bring the orphaned Freidrichs to Meyersville and families would be found to care for them. Fred Friedrichs, Jr. was listed in the 1860 DeWitt County Census roll living with Wilhelm Wilms in Meyersville. While living with the Wilms family, Fred, Jr. was bitten by a rattlesnake when he was a small boy working on the farm. The family butchered a chicken and put his hand in the warm chicken. When the chicken turned black they had a fresh chicken to put his hand in. They kept changing chickens until the chicken didn't get black anymore. He survived. Fred, Jr. had a brother, Herman (Aug. 25, 1836-April 19, 1914) and three sisters: Elisa, probably born in 1835, married Wilhelm Meyer; Meta (May 10, 1837-Feb. 1, 1896) married Adolph Meyer, founder of Meyersville; Anna (1844-Oct. 21, 1873) married John B. Olfers who was a charter member of Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville.

Fred Friedrichs bought 175 acres of land in the James Quinn Survey near Arneckeville in June of 1872. On January 1, 1873 he married Caroline Weiss and they made their home on the land he had bought. They had 11 children: 1. Emma (Oct. 24, 1873-Dec. 30, 1961) never married. 2. Caroline (Nov. 24, 1874-Dec. 28, 1958) married Theodor Behrns. 3. Rudolph (Nov. 2, 1876-June 8, 1903) married Bertha Schley Nov. 6, 1902 but died six months later. 4. Elisa (Aug. 16, 1877-Sept. 26, 1877). 5. Robert (Dec. 9, 1878-June 26, 1947) never married. He owned the swimming pool on the Old Yoakum Highway right out of Cuero. 6. Mathilde (April 11, 1880-Nov. 13, 1962) married Willie Schley. 7. Meta (May 28, 1881-1936) married Adolph Sapp. 8. Oscar (June 19, 1882-Aug. 6, 1906) never married. 9. Albert (Feb. 4, 1887-Feb. 19, 1963) married Vera

Ca. 1914, L-R: Albert Friedrichs, Clara Friedrichs, Meta Friedrichs, Caroline (Wiess) Friedrichs and Fred Friedrichs.

Junker. 10. Edward (Dec. 12, 1888-Jan. 1, 1893). 11. Clara (June 21, 1893-Sept. 5, 1971) married George Friedrichs.

Fred farmed, raised cattle and had a large vegetable garden. Fred died June 29, 1932 and Caroline died January 5, 1926. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Elorine Hartman

FRIEDRICHS, HERMAN AND CATHERINE KOEHLER

F288

Herman Friedrichs was born Aug. 25, 1836 in Aurick, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. He was a son of Fred Friedrichs, Sr. and wife (name unknown). Herman came to America, landing at Indianola, Texas, about May 14, 1852 with his parents, brother and sisters. Both parents died about 3 weeks after they landed. Pastor Adam Sager, who was at Meyersville, probably sent word to Indianola to bring the orphaned Friedrichs children to Meyersville and families would be found to care for them. Herman, who was about 15 years old, probably was a farm hand and stayed with any one who needed him. He had a brother Fred, born Oct. 15, 1846; sisters Eliesa, probably born in 1835, who married Wilhelm Meyer; Meta, born May 10, 1837, who married Adolph Meyer; and Anne, born in 1844, who married John Olfers.

On Feb. 19, 1866 Herman married Catherine Koehler. Their daughter, Bertha was born Dec. 24, 1866. However in 1868 the wife, Catherine, died leaving Herman with a baby daughter to raise. Catherine is buried at St. John's Lutheran Church cemetery in Meyersville. Bertha was then taken in and raised by her Aunt Eliesa and Wilhelm Meyer until 1874 when Eliesa died. Bertha then lived with her grandparents, the Valentine Koehlers, in Arneckeville. Zion Lutheran church records show

Herman Friedrichs

Bertha was confirmed on March 21, 1880. On April 27, 1886 she married Louis Hausman.

According to Alice Sacherer Englehardt of Lavernia, Texas, a granddaughter from Herman's second marriage, Herman carried bags of money from Cuero to San Antonio on horseback. She did not know why. He would stop over at "Twenty Mile House" so-called because it was twenty miles from San Antonio. Herman would hide the money under his saddle and use the saddle for his pillow to protect the money. The 'Twenty Mile House' was owned by a family named Bauer. This is where Herman met and married his second wife, Minnie Bauer, in about 1871. Herman stayed in Lavernia and raised their 8 children. He and Minnie are buried in the Friedrichs Cemetery on his original land.

Louis and Bertha (Friedrichs) Hausman

Louis and Bertha Hausman had 10 children. 1) Mathilda, married Charles Roessler, 2) Nathalie Hausman, died at age 11 years old, 3) Emilie married Fred Kann, 4) Willie Hausman, died after WWI, 5) Lena married Arthur Junker, 6) Gustave Hausman, an invalid, died at age 19, 7) Louise married Phillip Kozelski, 8) Edmund married Alvina Priess, 9) Alvin married Alma Frers, 10) Lonnie married 1) Valesta Bade (deceased), 2) Leona Meeting.

Alton Junker, a grandchild of Bertha and Louis Hausman now lives on part of his grandparents', Louis and Bertha Hausman, original land (1889).

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

FROSBESE, WILLIAM SR.

F289

William Frobese, Sr. was born February 17, 1838 in Alfelt, Hanover, Germany. He attended a German grade school and University in his youth. He landed at the Port of Galveston, Texas from Bremen in 1859 at the age of twenty one. He then took a boat to Indianola, Texas and took his first job with H. Iken. In 1861 william accepted a job with the Runge firm, then under the name of Runge and Dove.

His service was for only a few months, however, for in the latter part of the year, together with his fellow employees, Emil Reiffert and Louis Budde, he answered the call of the Confederacy in the War Between the States. His military service continued until the end of the war in 1865. Mr. Frosbese, Mr. Reiffert and Mr. Budde were all members of the Company Captained by Dr. W.M. Reuss. At the close of hostilities Mr. Frobese returned to the Runge firm's employ until the time of his death.

A few years after William came to America, his brother, Alexander came over but unfortunately died of yellow fever soon after his ar-

William Frobese, Sr.

rival. His brother, Ferdinand also came over and farmed in the vicinity of Clinton DeWitt County, Texas. He was drowned in the Guadalupe River in 1883 leaving six children. There were three sisters of William's that stayed in Germany. Alma married Julius Rolff; Annie married Hermann Lange; and Marie who remained single.

Mr. Frosbese was married at Indianola to Miss Charlotte Rolle on October 14, 1868. She was born on March 29, 1840 in HIldesheim, Germany. She died May 3, 1882 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas. After her death, William Frosbese married Miss Alfreda Reuss, daughter of Dr. J. M. Reuss. She was born October 12, 1854.

William and Charlotte had five children: 1) Alma Frobese; 2) William Frobese, Jr.,; 3) Charles Frobese, a stockman of DeWitt County; 4) Herman Frobese who died unmarried at Cuero; and 5) Henry Frobese who was with the banking firm of H. Runge and Co.

William Frobese and his second wife, Alfreda had five children: 1) Dr. Joseph Frobese of Cuero; 2) Bertha who married F.N. Schmidt of Eagle Pass, Texas; 3) Marion Frobese; 4) Alfred Frobese, a stockman of DeWitt county; and 5) Annie Frobese.

When the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railway was constructed to connect the port with Victoria, Mr. Frobese moved to that city to manage a branch of the business in 1871. After a few years in this capacity the Victoria business was consolidated with the branch at Cuero and Mr. Frobese joined Mr. Mugge in the management of the business in Cuero.

Mr. Frobese died August 9, 1911 and Alfreda Frobese died November 22, 1931. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Patsy K. Goebel

FREUND & LEHMANN.

West Main street Meat Market. Choicest in Beef Mutton, Sausage and pork in season. Full weight and prompt delivery. Try us a month.

GAEDKE, LEONA (PETERS)

F290

Leona Peters was born on January 27, 1901 in the Garfield Community near Yorktown, daughter of George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters. She was baptized and confirmed in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown. Leona spent her early childhood in the Garfield and Yorktown Communities, and attended the Yorktown Schools. In 1913 she moved with her family to Nordheim, where she continued her education in the Nordheim Schools.

Leona married Willie Gaedke on January 18, 1923 at the Nordheim St. Paul Lutheran Church. They made their home on the Gaedke place south of Nordheim, where Willie was engaged in farming and ranching. Leona always had a great love for music; especially, she loved playing the piano and organ. Over the years she gave piano lessons to her nieces and nephews, as well as other youths interested in playing the piano. For many years Leona played the organ for the St. Paul Lutheran Church at Nordheim, and at times led singing at Sunday School. She was very active in the Lutheran Ladies Aid and other church functions. Not having children of their own, Leona and Willie loved being around their friends' and relatives' children. Leona was an immaculate housekeeper, a devout Christian lady, a loyal friend, and a devoted wife.

Leona suffered from diabetes for many years. She passed away on June 7, 1978 in the Cuero Hospital. Preceding her in death were her parents, George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters; one brother, Waldin Peters; and one sister, Frieda Peters. Surviving her were her husband, Willie; two sisters, Malinda Peters and Mrs. Edwin C. (Caroline) Klaevemann; and several nephews and nieces.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

GAREY, SEYMOUR

F291

Stephen Garey, born in England about 1650, was an early inhabitant of Charlestown, Massachusetts. Stephen's second wife was Patience and they had one son, Stephen Jr. He was born February 1691/92, one month after the death of his father. When Stephen was grown he moved to Taunton, Massachusetts and married Mary Gilbert, daughter of Eleazer and Elizabeth (Crane) Gilbert, November 9, 1711.

Ebenezer, the sixth child of Stephen and Mary, moved to Lebanon, New London County, Connecticut, at an early age. In 1754, he married Lucy Collins, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Collins, who was born February 5, 1736 in Lebanon.

Ambrose, the sixth child of Ebenezer and Lucy, was born May 30, 1768. He married Mary Woodruff or Woodworth, in 1788. Their third child, Seymour, was born March 16, 1792. About 1805, Ambrose left Lebanon and moved his family to Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. The part of Wyoming County, where they lived, was changed to Luzerne County in 1842. Ambrose died March 25, 1826 and is buried in Upper Fassett Cemetery, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.

Seymour married Sally Carney, daughter of William and Prudence (Comstock) Carney, July 21, 1814. They had four children. Sally died April 6, 1825 and is buried in Upper Fassett Cemetery. About 1827, Seymour married Anna Kingsbury, believed to be the daughter of Samuel Kingsbury. They had four children before migrating to Texas in the late 1830s. On September 19, 1839 they purchased their first Texas home. It was on the Brazos River in the town of San Felipe de Austin. On December 28, 1839, Seymour was granted a conditional headright certificate to 640 acres of land by the Republic of Texas. The land he received was in Gonzales County but incorporated into DeWitt County in 1846. They sold their Austin County property and were in their new home by the end of 1840.

Seymour and Sally's children, all born in Wyoming County, were: (1) Amanda, born ca 1816, married Truman Courtney. (2) Savanna born ca 1818, died April 27, 1821 and is buried in Upper Fassett Cemetery. (3) Elijah, born ca 1819 in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania was killed in the Dawson Massacre at Salada Creek, Bexar County, Texas on September 18, 1842. His bones are interred in a common grave, with the other men who were killed during the Dawson Massacre, at Monument Hill near LaGrange, Texas. (4) William Carney, born October 24, 1823 in Windham Twp, Wyoming Co., came to Texas with his family but went back to Pennsylvania when he was grown. He was married three times and had four children by each wife. He returned to Texas with his third wife and twelve children in the early 1880s. He ranched in Gonzales County until the late 1880s. He moved to Chemung County, New York, from Gonzales County where he lived until his death January 10, 1910.

Seymour and Anna's children were: (1) Harriet B., born ca 1829, married John Tumlinson, March 21, 1844 in Gonzales County. Harriet married her second husband, Isaac Read, on January 15, 1848. Her third was William Terry, whom she wed on March 8, 1855. Her last two marriages were in DeWitt County. (2) Benjamin W., born August 21, 1831, married Mary E. Criswell, March 15, 1860 in Fayette County. He served in the CSA cavalry during the Civil War. He died in 1903. (3) Amanda Susan Seymour, born July 15, 1835 in Wyoming Co. Pennsylvania, married Henry F.W. Hill on June 20, 1852. (4) Lafayette, died young. (5) Royal, born August 8, 1846, married Sicilia P. Neal, March 10, 1870 in DeWitt County. He married Sarah Tanksley, September 15, 1881 in Lavaca County. He lived in the Stratton area and played a fiddle for many dances in the area. He passed away August 9, 1905.

Anna died between 1850 and 1860. Her resting place is unknown. Seymour went to Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to visit relatives and died there ca 1874. His grave, in Upper Fassett Cemetery, is marked by a rock with S.G. carved on it.

by Veltmon Goodman White

DR. CONRAD FREY

(Associated with Dr. J. H. Reuss)

Office Buchel Bldg.

Residence Salome Hospital

Phone 181 Phone 78

Cuero, Texas.

GARRETT – GILL FAMILY

F292

Adelaide and Arthur Gill

My mother, Adelaide Garrett Gill, was born in rural DeWitt County in 1902, and her family moved to Karnes County in 1906. There were five children when their mother died in early 1912 and they spent much time with their Garrett grandparents in DeWitt County, near Thomaston, when their father, Ice Garrett could not get any one to stay with them.

Mother said her Grandmother Garrett was never too busy to teach her to knit, to quilt, or other new skills. She said "Never mind long stitches. This quilt is not for showing off, but it will keep us warm." She also told Mother many stories of things she did in the old days; making all their own clothes (cutting out left-handed with right-hand scissors), from cloth she had woven, and sewing every stitch by hand until her husband bought her the first sewing machine ever seen in that country.

Mother told me that her mother taught her to read and write, and her father helped her learn the multiplication table. When she finally started to school she was ten, and began in the fourth grade, riding five miles to school on an aged pony with her brother Isham.

When Mother was ready for high school, she went to live with her Grandmother Kyle in Cuero. She said from the house you could see the courthouse a couple of blocks east, and Cuero High was three blocks northwest.

When Mother started to high school, Great-grandmother Kyle asked the principal to set up a schedule for graduation in three years instead of the usual four, eighth through eleventh grades. She was seventy three in 1915, and thought she might not live to see Mother through school. Mother told me that during her first two high school years her grandmother's encouragement and companionship were a great help to her in her studies. She treated her as a contemporary and made her see the school subjects as interesting and fun.

When Mother described her Grandmother Kyle to me, I said "How you must have loved her!" She was a fragile little person, less than five feet tall, and she died the summer of 1917. Her oldest daughter, retired teacher Miss Lizzie Kyle, told Mother the last thing she said was "Please give Adelaide her last year of high school." So Mother had her third year, but she felt her Grandmother's death deeply and missed her encouragement.

My grandfather "Ice" Garrett remarried in the fall of 1917, after Mother went to Cuero for her senior year, so she had time to get used to the idea of having a stepmother.

The fall of 1918 a school was offered to "Miss Adelaide" if she could pass the exams, at Karnes City, for a certificate. Mother was hired to teach at Harmony School near Gillett in Karnes County. This was a tiny one teacher country school with only fifteen students. The superintendent offered her better pay for the next year in a two-teacher school ($65 per month!) provided she attended summer school in Corpus Christi. The superintendent kept his word and the next fall Mother taught at Live Oak School.

My father, Arthur Gill, returned from World War One in the summer of 1919 and he just happened to meet the train Mother was riding as she returned home from her teacher-training course at Corpus Christi. There my Father stood young, tall, good-looking, and my little red headed Mother got off the train. It was love at first sight and their courtship started shortly after that.

Mother resented it that her father would not allow her to date unless Uncle Isham went along. Mother and Dad rode in a buggy, and Uncle Isham, who was sixteen, rode on horseback close enough to hear every word they said, and missed no chance to embarrass her. Coming home from the 1920 New Year party, Aunt Rose rode with Uncle Isham, and she dropped her hair ribbon, making him go a long way back for it, so Dad was able to propose without witnesses.

That spring a severe Easter frost killed Dad's money crop of corn, so he worked for Grandpa Gill until he got a September job in the cotton gin, and her and Mother were married. Later my parents answered an ad for a teacher in Milam County, near Rockdale, and Dad rented a farm there. They bought a team of horses and a wagon, that Dad rigged as a covered wagon, in which they moved back to Karnes County in the fall.

They farmed for several years and during these farming years my older siblings, Arthur Jr., Elizabeth, and David were born. Then they moved to San Antonio, and Dad worked in the Southern Pacific railroad shop till he developed heart trouble and was sent to the S.P. Hospital in Houston. After nearly a year, the doctors sent him home to die, giving him about three months to live, and he was only thirty five. However, a specialist advised a high, dry climate, and my parents moved to Kerrville, where I was born. We were a close and happy family, and Dad lived to be ninety.

by Virginia (Gill) Manly

GARRETT, EBB

F293

Ebb Garrett was born March 1, 1889, in DeWitt County near Bear Creek to Joseph K. and Martha Ann (Collins) Garrett. In 1910, Ebb Garrett purchased his first tract of land where he farmed and did some ranching. A barn was built first, then in 1914, he built a house for his bride-to-be. The lumber for the house came from Louisiana by boat to old Indianola, then to Victoria where he purchased it from Anckor Lumber Company.

In November 1915, he married Louise Ida Morgenroth in Victoria. She was born March 23, 1894 in Victoria County near Blue Mott to Charles O. and Mary Marie (Michalek) Morgenroth. She was an immaculate housekeeper, a good cook and loved to piece quilts and work in her flower and vegetable gardens.

1915 — Ebb Garrett and Louise (Morgenroth) Garrett

Ebb and Louise Garrett's honeymoon was a trip to their new home in the Fordtran community where they would raise their seven children. Life was not always easy but they made the best of everything. Louise canned vegetables and dried peas and beans from their garden. During winter, they butchered hogs for sausage and bacon and rendered the fat for lard. In the summer, they belonged to a butcher club. They raised chickens and turkeys. They always had a small herd of cattle and Ebb farmed. In the early years, he raised spanish goats to eat the underbrush so more grass could grow. They raised geese for their feathers. Twice a year they picked the down for feather beds and pillows. When the children got married each was given a feather bed and a set of feather pillows.

A kerosene lamp was used for light. Louise made lye soap and heated water in a black kettle to do the laundry which she washed on a rub-board. A wood cook stove was used to cook all the meals and to heat the bath water. During winter the family sat around the wood burning heater that warmed the house. It was a treat when there was popcorn to pop.

All the children went to Lander Country School. It was three miles away but they walked, come rain or shine. Sears Roebuck catalogs were used to order their back-to-school clothing, household items, and in December, things for the holiday season. In the summer, the favorite time of day was when all the chores were done and they could sit on the front porch and tell stories. On Sunday, aunts, uncles, and cousins would come to visit.

They hosted many country parties for the young people; everyone would come for miles. They would move all the furniture out of the room so they could square dance. A favorite place on the farm was under a bunch of liveoak and elm trees that grew on the banks of the Chicolete Creek where there were many family picnics and bar-b-ques.

They rode by horseback to Fordtran, which was five miles away, to pick up their mail. In the 1940's they finally got rural delivery of the mail.

Ebb Garrett died July 23, 1976, in a rest home in Victoria, Texas. He is buried in Hebron Cemetery along with his wife Louise who died July 22, 1956.

Ebb and Louise had seven children: 1) Lena was born October 1, 1916 and married Henry Matocha in 1946. 2) Frankie was born August 9, 1918. 3) Eva was born September 9, 1920 and married Lonnie Bullis in 1947. 4) Ruby was born December 28, 1922 and married Lester Jaroszewski in 1946. 5) James was born August 6, 1926 and married Carrie Dykes. 6) Eddie was born November 1, 1929 and married Ruby Frankhouser in 1954. 7) Arthur was born August 17, 1934.

by Ruby M. (Garrett) Jaroszewski

GARRETT, GROVER AND ALLIE

F294

Grover Barnwell Garrett and Frances Allie (Squyres) 1911

Grover Barnwell Garrett was born in DeWitt County on the 18th day of February 1891. He was the son of William Elbridge Garrett and Theodocia Frances Stephenson. Grover Garrett and Frances Allie Squyres were married on October 11, 1911. Allie was the oldest daughter of William Allen Squyres and Frances Jane Granberry. She was born in DeWitt County August 20, 1893.

Grover and Allie were married at the home of her parents by J.T. Carson, Minister of the Gospel. The marriage license states that they were married in front of the bride's parents and many others.

Grover and Allie Garrett had eleven children: (1) Ruby Cordelia Garrett, born September 28, 1912 in DeWitt County. Ruby married Juriah Conner September 12, 1932 in Houston County. They had four children . . . Arlene, Mavis, Leo and Grover Steve. (2) Frances Lucille Garrett, born March 21, 1914, Dewitt County. Lucille married Jasper L. Brock in Houston County February 14, 1933. They had two children . . . Len and Joyce. Lucille died in 1988. (3) Myrtle Irene Garrett, born March 5, 1916, in Refugio County. She married J.D. Brock May 24, 1934 in Trinity County. They had two children . . . Jerry and Jimmy. Myrtle (Margo) died in 1964. (4) Vera Mildred Garrett, born June 15, 1918, in Brazoria County. Mildred married J. Goree Enos December 28, 1938. They had one child, Jon. Mildred later married Dan Lynch and then Wilson Squyres of DeWitt County. She died in October of 1988. (5) Grover Barnwell Garrett, Jr. was born in Brazoria County, May 18, 1920. He married Lucy Jurek on May 18, 1947 in Brazoria County. They had six children . . . Barbara, Carolyn, Kenneth, Margaret, Larry, and Rodney. Grover Garrett, Jr. died in 1973. (6) John Henry Garrett was born February 14, 1923 in Live Oak County. He married Mary Louise Bonneau on March 30, 1946 in Brazoria County. They had four children . . . John Jr., Linda, Lianne, and Bonnie. John died December 28, 1985 in San Paolo, Brazil. (7) Margie Vondell Garrett was born January 8, 1925 in Live Oak County. She married Walter Hewitt on August 18, 1945. They had two children . . . Ann and Jan. (8) Bennie Glyn Garrett was born July 31, 1927 in Live Oak County. He married Gertrude Jurek. They had five children . . . Danny, David, Ramona, Michael, and Pamela. Bennie died in 1970. (9) Ava Geraldine Garrett was born December 15, 1929 in Houston County. Geraldine died in 1987. (10) Miriam Louise Garrett was born April 29, 1932 in Houston County. She married James H. Simmons July 29, 1950 in Liberty County. They had two children . . . Debbie and Jamie. (11) Clyde B. Garrett, born July 10, 1933 in Houston County. Clyde died December 26, 1934.

Grover B. Garrett, Jr., Bennie Glyn Garrett, John Henry Garrett

Frances Allie Squyres Garrett died July 8, 1968. Grover Barnwell Garrett died November 2, 1968. They are buried in Dayton, Liberty County, Texas.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

GARRETT, HARRY

F295

Violet Adeline (Wood) Garrett and Harry Garrett

Harry Garrett was born December 26, 1884 at Terryville. He was the first son of Joseph K. and Martha Ann (Collins) Garrett.

He married Violettie Adeline (Wood) Sept. 21, 1908 at Wharton. Violettie had been living with her sister at Louise. It had been raining so when they went to get married they ask the justice of the peace to come out to their buggy to do the ceremony so Violettie would not get muddy. Their first home was at Blue Mott, where five of their children were born.

Julia A. born Aug. 26, 1909, married Curtis Smith in 1937, she died 1984

William J. born Feb. 10, 1911, married Selma Brownson in 1937

Rosa I. born Jan. 4, 1913, married (1) Edward Sloan, (2) Jesse Payne

Joseph M. (Joe) born Nov. 13, 1914, married Amy Hoffman in 1947

Ellen Melvina (Mel) born Dec. 20, 1916 married Alfonse Pippert

The family then moved to Fordtran, where the next six children were born. Almack born Nov. 16, 1918, died in World War II, March 3, 1945

Thomas B. born Nov. 13, 1920, married (1) Louise Burns, (2) – (3) Erma Shows

Clara Mae (Lady) born July 24, 1922, married William Kennemer in 1946

Rutha Bernice born March 1, 1924, married Carl Brugmann in 1947

Mildred Lucilla (Pud) born April 3, 1926, married Edward Hauschild 1947

Infant son born Dec. 26, 1928, died Dec. 26, 1928, buried at Hebron Cemetery

Harry was a rancher, raising cattle, horses, and mules. He died in Yoakum Hospital and was buried in Hebron Cemetery. He died Jan. 8, 1965.

Violettie Adeline Wood was born March 8, 1890 at Stratton where she also was raised. Her parents were Amanda Elizabeth (Rice) and James Madison Wood. She had blue eyes and reddish hair which she kept long until 1950's. She loved to quilt and garden. She died Feb. 8, 1970 at the Yoakum Hospital. She was buried in Hebron Cemetery.

by Geneva M. Garrett

J. A. GRAVES & SONS

L-R: Wilbey, Ivy Nazy, Ola Smith, Hillary, Polly Stinberg, Bill, Ebb, Jack, Harry and Kelly – all Garretts. 1960 Reunion

GARRETT, ISHAM B.

F296

Isham B. Garrett and Frances Margaret (Kyle) Garrett

My grandparents, William Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann (Byers) Garrett, bought the ranch on the DeWitt-Victoria County-Line Road in September 1895, and in 1896, gave one acre for a school. This was built by local families with donated lumber and labor, finished in 1899, and called Blue Mott School.

The first teacher was "Miss Fanny" — Frances Margaret Kyle of Cuero, who had previously taught in Shiner. She boarded with the Garretts in their large ranch house, and inspired the neighbors to organize the Blue Mott Sunday School.

The oldest Garrett son living at home, Isham, called Ice, courted Miss Fanny so successfully that they were married in July 1900. His parents built them a little house on 25 acres; two rooms with a dogtrot hall between and an east porch facing the road. In March of 1902, I was born in the little house, attended by the local midwife, Granny Fudge, as I discovered when I needed a birth certificate. My brother Isham had a birth certificate, and Dad explained that he was born on a cold, dark, rainy night in March 1904, and "I couldn't ask a lady to come out in such weather, so I went to town and got Dr. Pridgen."

Then, in January 1906, Dad was plowing when Mama blew the cowhorn that hung on the porch, used mostly to signal noon, to come in for dinner. This time, he took the horses loose, ran with them to the house, hitched up to the wagon, and went racing for Grandma. I was a little short of four years old, but I still have this vivid picture of Dad standing up in the wagon, whipping the horses, and fairly flying low across the prairie. They arrived very soon, but my sister Rose was already there.

At that time, Grandpa carried the mail on horseback in leather saddlebags, on a Star Route from Thomaston to Fordtran, down the country road in front of our house. Later, as he got older, he took the mail in a buggy, as he still did in 1909, at age 78.

In the early 1900's Grandma said when a traveling preacher came through, he always preached at Blue Mott schoolhouse. When a Mormon missionary came to ask permission to use the school, the other trustees gave a thunderous No! but Grandpa said, "Any man can preach here! If you don't want to hear him, you don't have to go. If you go, you don't have to believe him. But you do have to let him preach. If you don't, I'll come down and tear off all the lumber I put on that schoolhouse and take it home!" "And they knew he would," said Grandma.

In the fall of 1906, we left DeWitt County because Aunt Connie had died leaving Dad's brother Jim with two small boys, Jim-Mac and Boyd, living in Karnes County, near Runge. Uncle Jim asked my parents to live with him so Mama could keep house for both families. We were there for a year, until Uncle Jim remarried.

by Adelaide (Garrett) Gill

GARRETT, JACK

F297

Jack and Mattie Garrett

This is the story of Jack and Mattie Garrett and their 57 years of loving marriage.

Jack Garrett was born December 3, 1886, the son of Martha Ann Collins Garrett and Joseph Kelly Garrett, in Terryville, DeWitt County, Texas. He died on May 18, 1969, at the age of 82 and is buried at County Line Cemetery in DeWitt County. He was a Lutheran.

Mattie Garrett was born February 20, 1891, the daughter of Mary Rosa Hollan Vick and Jeff Davis Vick, in Hope, DeWitt County, Texas. Mattie's great, great grandfather, Wade Hampton Hollan, organized the Hebron Baptist Church in 1855, where Mattie was a member during her lifetime. She died March 1, 1989, at the age of 98 and is buried at County Line Cemetery in DeWitt County.

Jack and Mattie Garrett were joined in holy matrimony on August 21, 1912, in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. They traveled from the Terryville area by wagon over to the Justice of the Peace in Cuero to be married.

They made their home in DeWitt County. Jack was a farmer and rancher.

In 1920, Jack, Mattie and their four children moved to Kerrville, traveling by passenger train. Jack rode in the freight car with his livestock. Arriving in Kerr County, the family purchased approximately two hundred acres of land and settled in Camp Verde. Jack was a farmer, raising oats, and a rancher, raising cattle and sheep. He also cut and sold cedar posts.

In 1923, the family, now including five children, returned to DeWitt County, again traveling by train. Jack purchased the "home place" in the Fordtran community from his father, Joseph Kelly Garrett, where he farmed and ranched for the rest of his life.

From the late twenties through the forties, the family milked some fifty cows each day, separated the milk and sold the cream to earn

money to pay for the land. In later years the whole milk was sold. Jack also did some truck farming to help pay the bills.

Jack and Mattie Garrett had seven sons — Charles Edward (deceased); J.D. (deceased); James Edd of San Marcos; Earl Vaden, Jake, Sylvan and A.G. of Yoakum. They had five daughters — Mary Inez Nobles of Yoakum; Bessie Lee Hart and Margaret Lucille Malina of Victoria; Martha Rose Brandenburg (deceased); and Minnie Mae Haney of Corpus Christi. As this history is written, their descendants include 35 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

by Anna Wacker Rippamonti and Wanda Lee Wacker Ulrey

GARRETT, JOSEPH KELLY

F298

Joseph Kelly Garrett and Martha Ann (Collins) Garrett wedding picture 1883

Joseph Kelly (J.K.) Garrett was born April 3, 1860 in Karnes Co. Tx. He was the second of ten children born to Margaret Ann (Byars) and William Mansfield Garrett. His parents brought his brother John Byars and him to Lavaca Co. so Margaret and the boys could live with her family while William was in the Civil War. After the war was over the Garretts bought land near Terryville and raised their family. J.K. spent most of his life in DeWitt or surrounding counties.

Joseph married Christina Harriet Frazer on May 23, 1881 in DeWitt Co. They had one son Christina Kelly (Kell) who married Julie Nickles. Christina Harriet died April 19, 1882, and was buried in Hebron Cemetery.

In 1883 Joseph married Martha Ann Collins. They had twelve children. Harry born 1884, married Violettie Wood, he died 1965. Jack born 1886, married Mattie Vick, he died 1969. Ebb born 1889, married Louise Morgenroth, he died 1976. Hillary born 1894, married Nora E. Smith, died 1975. William born 1896, married Edna Morgenroth. Almack born 1897, married Letha Munson, he died 1945. Polly born 1899, married Hilbert Stinberg. Viola (Ola) born 1901, married Pridy Smith. Ivy born 1905, married Barney Ply. Wilbie born 1908 married Gladys ?, he died 1987.

Joseph Kelly was blonde, blue-gray eyed, about 5'8" large frame, and he had a moustache. He was a farmer and rancher. He also worked for the McFaddin Ranch. He would ride the fence and catch maverics. He got either 50¢ per head of cattle or 50¢ a day. His older grandchildren remember when he came to visit them he always had beef jerky and he would shave off a piece for them to chew on. Joseph died Oct. 16, 1928 in the hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He was buried at Hebron Cemetery.

Martha was born Dec. 25, 1865 in Tyler Co. Her father was M.C. Collins. Martha was a small woman with brown hair who always wore an apron and she loved to piece quilts. She died Sept. 13, 1946 in the Yoakum Hospital. She was buried at Hebron Cemetery.

Geneva McCown Garrett

GARRETT, W. M.

F299

Stories My Grandpa Told Me

My family moved from DeWitt County in 1906 and my brother Irven Garrett was born in my widowed Uncle Jim's house in August 1907. After the crop was in, Uncle Jim married Mae Dubose, and we moved to the adjoining Porter ranch in Karnes County near the San Antonio River, where the mosquitoes were worse than we had ever seen, and we all had malaria from early spring to the first frost.

In November 1908 my brother Ward was born, a sickly baby, weighing no more at six months than at birth, and he could not tolerate cow's milk, or any formula they tried. My parents had one last hope, that Doctor Pridgen of Thomaston could save him, so Dad took us to the home of his father, William M. Garrett, near Thomaston. Dad returned home to work the crop, taking my oldest brother Isham for company. Doctor Pridgen tried a powdered formula, and Ward survived.

During the weeks we stayed at Grandpa's I remember moonlight nights on the front porch when he rocked a lap full of grandbabies, singing "Streets of Laredo" and "Mr. Frog went a-courting" until the babies were all asleep. The older children (Uncle Bob's and ours) sat on the steps listening till bedtime.

That was a long wonderful porch, with two rocking chairs where he and Grandma sat at the end of a day, looking out across the prairie. There were still a couple of saddles hanging on the wall — Grandpa said at one time there were five, before his younger sons were married.

After we went home there was a good crop, and my parents had a good picture taken of the children. Mama made school clothes for me, but Dad said I must wait for Isham to be seven, as a little girl could not ride five miles to school alone.

Mama had so much work, and she never was very strong. Then in February 1912, we had "hog killing weather" and she worked outside all day. Next morning she was not able to raise her head, but the doctor said she had "Spanish Influenza" with pneumonia. In a few days she died, and all the children had flu. Good doctors barely saved Isham, who had pneumonia.

Mama's mother, Grandma Kyle, came from Cuero to help us; when she went home to recuperate, Grandma Garrett replaced her, and they alternated for some time. We stayed at the home on the prairie until Isham and I had to go to school. Dad had a married cousin and her family came to stay with us for awhile, and then Grandma Garrett came back. By 1915 Dad found a place with two houses, a big one and a small one, on it, and got his brother Bob and Aunt Velma to farm with him.

Meanwhile, I was staying with Grandma Kyle, going to Cuero High School, and when I came home for Christmas I broke out with measles. That was the week Grandpa Garrett died and all of the relatives gathered. I gave the measles to fifteen other children.

Aunt Molly, Dad's sister, took Grandma Garrett to her home in El Campo after Grandpa's funeral and nursed her till she died, about a year later.

Over the years we spent much time with our Garrett grandparents who told us so much about the early days in DeWitt County; how in about 1851 Grandpa came from Tennessee to be a cowboy on a big ranch. Once Indians chased him to steal his horse; the horse threw him into a clump of mesquite brush. His partner drove it back to the ranch house while Grandpa lay hidden till dark and limped in on foot.

When Grandma was nine Grandpa rode up to the porch of her grandmother's house where she was playing dolls. After a long talk he told her they would be married when she grew up, and so they were in 1857 when she was thirteen and he was twice her age.

Grandpa was a Texas Ranger just before the Civil War, and again, once or twice, at later periods. Once he bought Grandma a sewing machine with twenty dollars in gold from his pay. Grandma trusted no amateurs with her machine, but would sew cutout garments all day while the lady she was sewing for did Grandma's housework. She also had a loom, so she seldom spun, for people would bring her thread dyed with roots, bark, etc., which she wove for half the yardage of cloth.

Grandpa said he was a "high private" in the Civil War. When I asked him what it meant, he said "One that had his own blankets and shootin' irons instead of being furnished by the army." While Grandpa was at war Grandma stayed with a relative whose husband had also gone. She said that there were no Indians then, but the danger was from renegades. When they lit a candle they hung quilts over the windows to avoid men shooting at the lights "just for meanness."

After the war, in the seventies, Grandpa again worked for the Texas Rangers, and he rode with McNelly who was trying to stop the murders and cattle rustling from across the border. Grandpa admired McNelly above all authority of the time for getting the job done in his own straightforward style, legal or not, with only his thirty full-time Rangers and part-time volunteers he could depend on, like Grandpa.

In the summer of 1909 when we stayed with Grandpa his eyes were aging. He would have me read the newspaper, following the battles of Pancho Villa. I think Grandpa admired that great bandit as a rebel against oppression.

by Adelaide (Garrett) Gill

THE TIN SHOP . . .
ALL KINDS OF TINWARE MADE TO ORDER.
ROOFING A SPECIALTY.
FRANK GOHMERT, Prop.
West Main St., Cuero, Texas.

GARRETT, WILLIAM EBB AND THEODOCIA
F300

1895 Parents: Ebb Garrett and Docia (Stephenson) Garrett Children: Grover Garrett, William Garrett and Winnie Lee Garrett

William Ebb Garrett was born July 14, 1866 in DeWitt County, the son of William Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann Byars Garrett.

W.E. Garrett and D.F. Stephenson were married the 19th day of September 1888 by J.D. Cook in DeWitt County, Texas. D.F. Stephenson, my great-grandmother, was Theodocia Frances Stephenson, born April the 13th, 1870 in DeWitt County, the daughter of Hugh John Stephenson and his wife, Martha Ann Elizabeth Hollan Stephenson.

William Ebb and Docia had seven children. 1) Annie May Garrett was born July 19, 1889 and died on May 7, 1890. She is buried in the Hollan family cemetery. 2) Grover Barnwell Garrett was born February 18, 1891. He was married October 11, 1911 to Frances Allie Squyres. He died in Liberty County November 2, 1968. 3) William Hugh Garrett was born April 30, 1893. He married Bessie Eldridge on December 29, 1916. He died March 2, 1978 in DeWitt County, Texas. 4) Winnie Lee Garrett was born August the 22nd, 1895 in Lavaca County, Texas. She was married to Claud Allen Chadwick November 24, 1914 in DeWitt County. 5) Martha Viola Garrett was born October 23, 1898 in Lavaca County. She married Herbert Magee on January 19, 1918. 6) Fannie Eulalie Garrett was born February 11, 1901 in DeWitt County, Texas. She was married to Joe Lamberson on December 23, 1923. 7) Thelma Matilda Garrett was born September 21, 1905. She married Walter Ewell O'Neill on October 3, 1923. Thelma Garrett O'Neill died May 1, 1987 in DeWitt County, Texas.

William Ebb and Docia Garrett lived their lives in DeWitt County. Docia Garrett died June 20, 1929. William Ebb Garrett died on September 3, 1932. Both are buried at County Line Cemetery near to the graves of William Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann Byars.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

GARRETT, WILLIAM J.
F301

William S. Garrett and Selma (Brownson) Garrett

William Jackson Garrett was born Feb. 10, 1911 at Blue Mott, on the edge of Victoria Co. and DeWitt Co. but was raised at Fordtran. He was the second of eleven children born to Harry and Violettie (Wood) Garrett.

In 1937 William was living in Colorado Co. when he met Selma Annie Brownson. They were married May 17, of that year in Harris Co. They moved to Victoria Co. about 1946 and their only child was born one year later. William Dean Garrett was born Dec. 9, 1947. They lived near Victoria for thirty years. William was a commercial fisherman, trapper, and raised cattle. Selma was a homemaker who loved to garden and sew for her family.

In 1976 William, Selma, their son, William D., his wife, Geneva, and their two daughters, Charlotte and Cynthis moved to Santa Anna, a small town in West Texas. They have continued to farm and ranch. William has since retired. Selma died Jan. 29, 1985 and was buried in the Santa Anna Cemetery.

by Geneva McCown Garrett

R. C. FLICK,
Saddlery, Harness, Whips, &c
BUGGIES and SURREYS.
ESPLANADE STREET.

GARRETT, WILLIAM MANSFIELD AND MARGARET ANN (BYARS)
F302

Wm. Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann (Byars) Garrett

William Mansfield Garrett, my grandfather, was born May 12, 1831 in Christian Co. Ky., but grew up in Smith Co. Tenn. He was the son of William and Anna (Hailey) Garrett, who were married Oct. 23, 1815 in Fauquier Co. Va. (Bondsman, David Hailey, Father). Both were born in Va. and died in Smith Co. Tenn., near the town of New Middleton, ca. 1870-1880. Information about the brothers and sisters of William Mansfield Garrett is sketchy. He had a brother Henry C., who was killed in the Civil War, and possibly others. We know of sisters: Melville (md. Massey), Hulda Ann (md. Garrett), Sidney Ann (md. Wm. House), Lucritia Ann (md. K.F. Kelly), Louzetta Ann (md. Wilson Vantrease), and Lieutitia Ann (md. Elias B. Dowell).

Our family understanding has always been that Grandpa Garrett left his home in Tenn. after a serious misunderstanding with his parents, and he never went back or contacted any of his family again. He made his way to Miss. and, always having been a horse-lover, found work with a Mr. Wm. Green Kelly, breeder of fine horses. When the Kelly family came to Texas, Grandpa came too. He was entrusted with the job of bringing one of Mr. Kelly's Tenn. Walking Horse stallions to Texas by boat (or barge), traveling down the Mississippi River, then along the Texas coast to Indianola, and then overland to Karnes Co. where the Kelly family settled. It was in Karnes Co. that he met Margaret Ann Byars.

Margaret Ann had one brother, Joseph Jeremiah Byars. They were born in Chickasaw Co., Miss. to John Byars and Melissa (Middlebrook) Byars. John Byars was the son of Stripling Byars, who died in Jeff. Co. Ala. Feb./Apr. 1836. The family left Ala. and moved to Chickasaw Co. Miss., where they remained until they came to Texas. Melissa Middlebrook was the daughter of Ibzan and Jane (Crawford) Middlebrook. (Jane's parents were Jesse and Hannah Crawford.) Margaret Ann, or Grandma Garrett as I knew her, told us that she came to Texas when she was quite small. Her parents died when she and her brother were very young, and they were raised by their Middlebrook grandparents, Ibzan and Jane, who had settled in Nacogdoches Co. Texas. Ibzan died about 1848 when Grandma was four years old,

and Jane moved her family to Karnes Co. after 1850. (She later married George Ross Galloway there.) Grandma and Grandpa were married in Karnes Co. in 1857 when he was 26 and she was 13!

They lived in Karnes Co. after they married, and their first two children, John Byars and Joseph Kelly Garrett, were born there. With the coming of the Civil War, Grandpa left Grandma and the two little boys with her relatives, Isham and Aliena (Byars) Autry, in Lavaca Co. and enlisted March 6, 1862 at Hallettsville, Tex. when he was 31 years old. He was a private in Co. A, Young's Regiment, 12th Texas Infantry. An old back injury caused such disability, however, that he was discharged Nov. 21, 1862, at Camp Nelson, Ark. on Surgeon's Certificate of Disability, and returned to Hallettsville. A daughter, "Lue," my mother, was born Nov. 17, 1863 near Antioch, in Lavaca Co. After the Civil War they moved to Terryville, Tex. He bought up small tracts of land, and after the village of Terryville moved in 1881, he bought up the site of Old Terryville. They lived at Old Terryville until 1895, and the rest of their children were born there: William Elbridge, Harriett Elizabeth, James Terry and Patterson Smith (twins), Isham Beason, Mary Emma "Mollie," and Robert Thompson.

In 1895 their son John Byars Garrett bought their place at Old Terryville, and they bought 160 acres from him. This land was located south of Terryville, on the DeWitt/Victoria Co. line near Fordtran. Grandpa wanted to move there because he felt it was a better place for raising horses! They lived there the rest of their lives. In 1896 Grandpa and Grandma donated an acre of land to the DeWitt County judges to be used for a public school. As far as we know, this land was for the Blue Mott School.

Grandma's brother, Joseph Jeremiah Byars, married Georgia Melvina Sirmon in DeWitt Co. and lived at Terryville for a time. Their first child, daughter Melissa, was born there. They later moved and settled near Dripping Springs, Tex. (They are buried in the Middlebrook family cemetery on the old Seyborn Sims Middlebrook ranch. S.S. Middlebrook was a brother to Ibzan, grandfather of Grandma and Joseph Jeremiah.) An interesting story I remember is about a trip made by covered wagon in summer of 1902 when Grandma Garrett went to Dripping Springs to visit her brother and his family. Two covered wagons made the round-trip from Terryville; in one wagon were Grandma, her son Isham, his wife Fannie and little daughter Adelaide; in the other were my mother Lue Goode, my oldest brother Bill, and sisters Mattie and Eula, and myself. Since I was only five years old at the time, many details of the trip are hazy in my memory, but I remember that we took lots of watermelons with us. We camped along the way and cooked our meals over campfires. We always tried to camp at a church or school, as these buildings were not locked in those days and we could sleep inside. We stopped at farmhouses along the way to get fresh milk for the children. It was a great occasion when we arrived at Uncle Joe's, and all of his family came to visit while we were there. I am not sure how long we stayed, but I do remember that when we were packing and getting ready to leave, we found that a bird had built a nest and laid eggs in one of the wagons. I also remember that on the way home we camped and spent the night inside of Turner Hall, west of Yoakum. As far as I know, that was the last time that Grandma and her brother ever saw each other.

In later years we grandchildren liked to go out to our grandparents' house near Fordtran and stay with them. Grandpa was the mail carrier, and we enjoyed going with him in his buggy to meet the train at Thomaston to pick up the mail for the Fordtran post office.

Grandpa died Dec. 23, 1916, and Grandma died June 26, 1918. Both are buried in County Line Cemetery.

by Eva Goode Hollan

GARRETT, WILLIAM MANSFIELD AND MARGARET ANN (BYARS) FAMILY

F303

William Garrett and Margaret Ann (Byars)

The first members of the Garrett family to settle in DeWitt County were William Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann (Byars) Garrett. He was born in Christian County Kentucky, and she was born in Chickasaw County Mississippi. For more information about William Mansfield and Margaret Ann and their parents, see story "Garrett, William Mansfield and Margaret Ann (Byars).

William Mansfield and Margaret Ann Garrett had ten children. They are listed below in order of age, with a summary of information about the marriages and children of each:

#1 – John Byars Garrett – b. 19 July 1858 in Karnes County, Texas d. 7 July 1941. Married Mary Josephine Carroll 24 September 1879. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Nine children: (1) Weyman (2) Maggie (3) Walter (4) Thomas (5) Minnie (6) Willie (7) John (8) Geneva (9) Erwin.

#2 – Joseph Kelly Garrett – b. 3 April 1860 in Karnes County, Texas d. 16 October 1928. Married (1) Christina Frazier; one child, son Kell. Married (2) Martha Ann Collins. Children: (1) Harry (2) Jack (3) Ebb (4) Hillary (5) William "Bill" (6) Al Mack (7) Polly (8) Viola (9) Ivy (10) Wilby.

#3 – Alucia Ann "Lue" Garrett – b. 17 November 1863 at Antioch, Lavaca County, Texas, d. 11 November 1961 in DeWitt County. Married William A. "Buddy" Goode 22 October 1879. Both are buried in Hebron Cemetery. Children: (1) William (2) Fannie (3) Annie (4) Minnie (5) Mattie (6) Henry (7) Geneva "Eva" (8) Eula (9) Guy. For more information about this family, see story "Goode, William Arthur and Lue (Garrett)."

#4 – William Elbridge Garrett – b. 14 July 1866 in DeWitt County d. 3 November 1932. Married Theodocia Stephenson. Both are buried in County Line Cemetery. Children: (1) Annie Mae (2) Grover Barnwell (3) William Hugh (4) Winnie Lee (5) Viola Mae (6) Fannie (7) Thelma.

#5 – Harriett Elizabeth Garrett – b. 18 November 1869 in DeWitt County, d. 19 January 1955. Married Preston Brown. Both are buried in Hebron Cemetery. Children: (1) Lola (2) Robert (3) Barnes (4) Oscar (5) Connie (6) Katie (7) Neal (8) Boyd (9) James "Jim" (10) Frank (11) Susie Edith.

#6 – James Terry Garrett – b. 26 January 1874 in DeWitt County, d. 17 June 1946. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Married (1) Connie Williams; children: (1) Jim Mack (2) Tommy Wesley (3) Alexander Boyd (4) Infant. Married (2) Elizabeth Dubose; children: (1) Connie Mae (2) Edwin Terry (3) Richard L. (4) Samuel W. (5) Amos W.

#7 – Patterson Smith Garrett – b. 26 January 1874, d. 26 January 1874. He was a twin of James Terry Garrett. Patterson Smith died at birth and was buried in the Old Terryville Cemetery.

#8 – Isham Beason Garrett – b. 27 February 1876 in DeWitt County, d. 8 September 1967. Married Frances "Fannie" Kyle. Both are buried in the Runge city cemetery. Children: (1) Adelaide (2) Rose (3) Isham, Jr. (4) Irvin (5) Ward.

#9 – Mary Emma "Mollie" Garrett – b. 24 January 1880 in DeWitt County, d. 25 April 1964. Married James Badgett. Both are buried in El Campo, Texas. Children: (1) James Lee (2) Infant (3) Infant (4) Annie Eula (5) Walter Eugene (6) Samuel Paul (7) Lillian "Lady" (8) Effie (9) Jessie William.

#10 – Robert Thompson Garrett – b. 21 October 1881 in DeWitt County, d. 11 September 1964. Married Velma Pierce. Both are buried in County Line Cemetery. Children: (1) Pierce (2) Gladys (3) Kelly (4) Tom (5) Jim (6) Bill (7) Dudley (8) Fred (9) Margaret (10) Herbert.

by Sibyl Hollan Northcutt

GELSSUS, GEORGE AND MARIA (KIRLICKS) FAMILY

F304

Beverly (Kerlick) Bruns, Patsy Hand, and Liz Jank also provided research for this article, with valuable assistance from Ella Fehlis, Myrtle Schlichtin, and George Stoepler.

Maria Kirlicks, (1 Apr. 1833 – 12 Sep. 1908) was the younger daughter of Catherine Kirlicks, whose story is given separately. Little is known about George Gelssus, save that he was Maria's first husband, and father of their three daughters: Anna, Maria, and Louise. Probate records in DeWitt County show that he died 24 March 1859, leaving an estate of 260 Prussian Thalers, equivalent to $169. The persistent family story is that he had sent his wife and two daughters to America in 1857, along with her brothers, and planned to follow as soon as he could sell the property. They had bad weather, which delayed them so much that the youngest child was born on the ship (all records located so far show that she was born in Texas, but the story may still very well be true).

Eighteen months later, so the story goes, he finally sold the property, but was murdered before leaving his homeland. Nothing we have found so far gives us reason to doubt the story. As with the other immigrant Lithuanians, the spelling of the name varies — Gelssus, Gelschus, Gelszus, and Geldzus are the more popular versions; others are Gelschuss, Gelzus, Gildzus, and Geldous.

Maria's first daughter, Anna, was born 7 July 1854 in Lithuania, and died 17 June 1937 in Texas. During the period 1879-82, she lived in Houston and worked for the C.H. Bering Lumber Company. Her mother's brother, William, who died tragically in 1869 (see "Kerlick Tragedy") had married Mr. Bering's sister, Wilhelmine, shortly before his death; in 1872, the widow Kirlicks married Joseph Turner, a pressman for the Houston Post.

On 19 Feb. 1886, Anna married Henry Carl Meyer (2 Nov. 1857 – 20 Mar. 1941) at St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. They soon moved to Freiheit, Comal County (near New Braunfels), where their five children were born: Rose (married Loehmann), Agnes (died at age six months), Albert F., Auguste Bertha Caroline (married Loehmann), and Ella Luise (married Fehlis). The two Loehmanns were brothers. Albert's only child still lives in the original Meyer home at Freihert. Even though they left the county long ago (or perhaps, *because* they left), this is the family that has preserved letters written by Maria's brothers and sister back in the 1860's, that we hope will give us new insight to DeWitt County life, as soon as we can get them translated from Lithuanian and German.

The second daughter, Maria (17 Dec. 1855 – 9 July 1888), was born in Minneiken, Lithuania, almost adjacent to her mother's birthplace of Kirlicken. She was confirmed at St. John's in 1872, and on 29 Apr. 1877, she married John Lewis Goehring (15 Dec. 1844 – 10 Nov. 1931), a native of Gurkow, Prussia. They lived near Meyersville, but their three children were all baptized at St. Paul's in Yorktown. The first child, Maria Martha Heneriette, was born 22 Feb. 1878 and lived at least until the 1880 census, but we have found no later records of her. Bertha Emilie Alwine was born 8 May 1879, and married Robert A. Boldt on 8 Dec. 1898. Their first three children — Ludwig, Arthur, and Edmund — were baptized at St. Paul's; they later moved to Karnes County and had at least two more children. Maria's only son, John Frederick, was born 1 Sept. 1881, and married Mattie P. Caruthers on 2 Dec. 1903. Their children were Leslie, Ewing, and Ila. Maria Goehring died quite young and is buried at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. Shortly after 1900, her husband and son followed the Stoepler family to Concho County.

The third daughter, Louise Elise (15 Oct. 1857 – 24 Sep. 1913), is said to have been born on the ship coming over, and was baptized six months later at St. John's. (The baptism record shows her birthdate as 18 Oct., but the family remembers 15 Oct., as on her headstone.) On 13 Aug. 1876, she married John Stoepler (6 Aug. 1853 – 30 Oct. 1934), a native of Lauterbach, Oberhessen (now Germany). They had ten children (eight of whom survived infancy), all baptized at St. Paul's in Yorktown; (1) John William (married Mary Dodzuweit in Goliad Co.); (2) Johanna Caroline (married Frenzel and moved to N. Dakota); (3) Maria Heneriette (married George W. Sickenius, moved to Karnes Co., and had eight children, all baptized at St. Paul's); (4) Henry Louis (moved to Concho Co., died of typhoid at 33, leaving his wife Myrtle and son Fritz); (5t) Albert Richard (moved to Concho Co.); (6) Berthold Louis; (7) Bertha Louise; (8) George August (died at 17, buried in Concho Co.); (9) (name unknown); and (10) Rudolf Emil. After more than a year of being alone, John Stoepler married Mrs. Augusta Schmutzler in San Antonio, on 2 Jan. 1915.

On 1 Jan. 1862, the widow Maria Gelssus married John Jonischkies at St. John's Meyersville. The story of their six children is given separately.

by Bernice N. Mistrot

GERBERT, WILHELM AND CHARLOTTE (NEE LEMM)

F305

Wilhelm Gerbert and Charlotte (nee Lemm) Gerbert were married in Germany and emigrated from Eselbach Altenburg, Germany on the Margaretha to the United States in 1846. They settled in Goliad County, Tex. and were farmers.

Wilhelm Gerbert was born Nov. 13, 1811 in Germany and died Feb. 13, 1880 at Dobskyville, Tex. Charlotte (nee Lemm) Gerbert was born in Germany and died Mar. 1882 at Dobskyville. They are buried on the Gerbert-Schulze family cemetery on the Gerbert-Schulze farm at Dobskyville.

In 1856, Charlotte Gerbert bought 196.33 acres of land from Joshua H. Davis, Goliad County at Dobskyville. Wilhelm and Charlotte settled on this land. They had a son Albert Gerbert.

Albert Gerbert married Johanna Gebbert, a daughter of Henry Gebbert and Sophie (Grothe) Gebbert. Henry Gebbert was born April 1819 in Germany and died May 1, 1904, Germantown (Schroeder, Tex.). Sophie Gebbert was born in Germany and died Jan. 11, 1925, Schroeder. They had 3 children: Johanna Gebbert Gerbert, Sophia Gebbert Kruger, and Henry William Gebbert (April 11, 1869-Jan. 24, 1942, Goliad Co.).

Johanna Gerbert died when their son, Albert Gerbert, Jr., was born, Aug. 12, 1872. Albert Gerbert, Jr. was reared by his grandparents, the Henry Gibbert family at Kilgore, Goliad Co. He married Katherine Sophie Reiland, a daughter of August Reiland and Anna Schaefer Reiland. August and Anna Reiland were married Oct. 18, 1881, Victoria Co. Katherine was born July 23, 1886 and died Aug. 3, 1859. Albert Gerber, Jr. died Oct. 8, 1930. They are buried on the Evergreen Cemetery, Victoria, Tex. Albert Gerbert, Jr. was a carpenter, worked for the railroad, and was a policeman. He changed the spelling of his last name to Gerber.

Albert Gerber, Jr. and Katherine had 2 children: Ethel Mae and Alroy Gerber. Ethel Mae was born Dec. 28, 1910, Victoria, worked for Woolworth as bookkeeper and manager. She did not marry and resides in Victoria, Tex. Alroy Gerber was born June 25, 1913, Victoria. He married Erna Margaret Berger, Oct. 5, 1935, Runge, Tex. They had no children. Second marriage, Alroy married Lona Bailey from Votaw, Tex. and had no children. Alroy worked for a funeral home and with auto parts. He died Feb. 8, 1983 in Houston, Tex. Lona Gerber is a nurse and lives in Houston, Tex.

Second marriage, Albert Gerbert, Sr. married Mary Hartman Feb. 19, 1875 in Clinton, DeWitt Co. Mary Hartman Gerbert was born Mar. 12, 1850, in Germany, a daughter of Carl Hartman. Carl Hartman was born Nov. 14, 1820 in Germany, died Feb. 7, 1895 at Yorktown, and was buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown.

In 1877, Albert Gerbert, Sr. bought 154.6 acres of land from Wm Bluhm, Goliad, Co. Albert and Mary settled on this land and farmed it. They had 4 children: Helene Gerbert Wieland, Bertha Gerbert Wieland, Richard Gerbert and Otto Gerbert.

Helene Gerbert was born Dec. 25, 1875 at Dobskyville, died Aug. 26, 1904, and was buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown. She married Herman Wieland Nov. 15, 1894 at Yorktown. Herman was born July 22, 1873 at Yorktown and died Jan. 15, 1942 at Lockney, Tex. Helene and Herman had 3 daughters: Ella Wieland (1895-1895), Agnes Wieland Gips (1896-1986), and Thelma Wieland Pump (1898-1989). Second marriage, Herman Wieland married Mary Atzenhofer June 20, 1905 in Victoria and they settled at Lockney, Tex. Herman was a farmer.

Bertha Gerbert was born Feb. 22, 1877 at Dobskyville and died Sept. 1, 1940 at Yorktown. Bertha married Emil Fiedrick Wieland Nov. 12, 1896 at Yorktown. Their family story is given separately.

Richard Gerbert was born Sept. 12, 1878 at Dobskyville and died Dec. 28, 1963, Yorktown. He married Annie Siever Dec. 27, 1899, Yorktown. Annie was born Oct. 21, 1879 and died Oct. 18, 1943, Yorktown. They are buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown. Richard and Annie had 3 children: Edmund Gerbert (1901-1984), Frieda Gerbert Dentler (1904-1968), and Emma Lena Gerbert (1907-1950). Richard was a cattle buyer and a farmer.

Otto Gerbert was born Mar. 10, 1880 at Dobskyville and died May 26, 1939, Yorktown. He married Marie Sievers Nov. 9, 1905, DeWitt Co. Marie was born May 27, 1881 and died Sept. 3, 1957. They are buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown. Otto and Marie had 4 children: Ceaser Gerbert (1906-1973), Ella Gerbert Metting (1910-), Alfred Gerbert (1914-1959), and Reinhold Gerbert (1922-1979). Otto was a farmer.

Albert Gerbert, Sr. died about 1880 and was buried on the Gerbert-Schultz Cemetery. Mary Hartman Gerbert married Albert Schultz, Sr. June 19, 1882, Clinton, DeWitt Co.

by Alberta M. Wieland

GERHARDT, JOHANNES

F306

Johannes Gerhardt and his wife Marie Heinrich Gerhardt, along with seven of their twelve children came to America on January 10, 1854. They came to America from Heiligenborn, Kreis, Wittgenstein, Germany. Their twelve children were as follows:

1. Marie Elizabeth Gerhardt who married Heinrich Miller. They remained in Germany.

2. Louise Gerhardt who married Johann Peter Metz. They came to America on March

Lora (Gerhardt) Strieber, Hubert Gerhardt, Lillie (Gerhardt) Davis

29, 1846 with other family members and friends. Their story is given separately.

3. Katherine Gerhardt who married Konrad Weiss. They remained in Germany.

4. Sophie Gerhardt who married Karl Wagner. They also remained in Germany.

5. Theresa Gerhardt who died as a young girl in Germany.

6. Peter Gerhardt (1829-1902) who married Marie Wiesemann (1835-1915). They were the parents of: Emily Gerhardt Gohlke, Marie Gerhardt Urban, Robert Gerhardt, Katherine Gerhardt Grosskopf, Theresa Gerhardt Heinze, and Reinhold Gerhardt, all of whom lived in the Yorktown area.

7. Carl J. Gerhardt (1831-1900) who married Elisabeth Hardt (1834-1913). They were the parents of: Caroline Gerhardt Sauermilch, Charles F. Gerhardt (mayor of Yorktown for three terms, being first elected in 1889), Wilhelm Gerhardt, Louise Gerhardt Biard, Emil V. Gerhardt, Adolph Gerhardt, Reinhold Gerhardt, Alwine Gerhardt, Marie Gerhardt, Johanna Gerhardt, and Herman Gerhardt.

8. Elisa Gerhardt (1833-1920) who married Anton Metz (1822-1894). They were the parents of: Adolph Metz, Wilhelm Metz, Gustav Metz, Reinhardt Metz, Ottomer Metz, Emily Metz Thueme, Caroline Metz Thueme, Nettie Metz, and Ida Metz.

9. Wilhelm Gerhardt (1837-1898) (He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.) He first married Florentina Schostag (1850-1872) who bore him one child, Emil Gerhardt, who was 18 months old when his mother died. Wilhelm then married Henrietta Schostag, a sister to his first wife. They were the parents of: Adolph Gerhardt, Reinhardt Gerhardt, Louise Gerhardt Michna, Albert Gerhardt, Theresa Gerhardt Little, Ida Gerhardt Poth, Lillie Gerhardt Davis, Hubert Gerhardt, Lora Gerhardt Strieber, and a son who died in infancy. (This family has a large number of descendants still living in the Yorktown area.)

10. Christian Gerhardt (1840-1875) who married Minna Gohlke (1854-1931). (Christian was killed by a Mexican as he rode horseback near Yorktown.) He and Minna were the parents of: Rudolph Gerhardt and Christina Gerhardt Holzapfel.

11. Amelia Gerhardt (1842-1882) who married Urban Bluntzer (1831-1899). (He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.) They were the parents of: John Bluntzer, Alvina Bluntzer Lutenbacker, Louis Bluntzer, Christian Bluntzer, Emilia Bluntzer Gregorczyk, Emma Bluntzer, Gus Bluntzer, and Alfred Bluntzer.

12. Caroline Gerhardt (1848-1930) who married Friedrich Sinast (1845-1913). They were the parents of: Emil Sinast, Alvina Sinast Peters, Marie Sinast Heinze, Theresa Sinast Gips, Max Sinast, and Louise Sinast Gerhardt.

by Kenny Gerhardt

GERHARDT, KENNY
F307

Kenny Gerhardt who presently resides in Locust Grove, Arkansas is the son of Kenneth and Shirley (Churchwell) Gerhardt. He is the grandson of Daniel and Irene (Hoffmann) Gerhardt, and the great grandson of Adolph R. and Johanna A. (Kaufman) Gerhardt. Kenny was born on Feb. 27, 1964 in Kenedy, Texas. He lived there until 1980 when he moved to Decatur, Texas and in 1983, he moved to his present location, Locust Grove, Arkansas. He is a descendant of some of the earliest families of DeWitt County.

by Kenny D. Gerhardt

GERHOLD – REINHARDT FAMILY
F308

Fred R. Gerhold was the son of Rev. Johann George Gerhold and Elise Vogal. He was born in Germany (Prussia) December 3, 1857, the oldest of four children. He came to Texas with his parents and younger sister, Sophie, when he was two and a half years old, landing in Galveston, Texas on June 26, 1860. He was confirmed at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arneckeville, Texas on August 19, 1872. He married Johana Emma Reinhardt in the old log City Courthouse at Clinton, Tx. on December 24, 1876. Unto them were born fourteen children as follows: Alma b. October 30, 1877, d. December 18, 1882; George b. March 12, 1879, d. July 17, 1904, m. Ellie Wendel; Matilda (Tillie) b. March 17, 1880, d. 1963, m. Fritz Semmler October 13, 1898; Fred G. b. April 4, 1881, d. December 18, 1926, m. Bertha Buehrig December 12, 1908; Louis Adolph b. October 16, 1882, d. June 1962, m. Mamie Luhrsen February 16, 1910; Amilia b. April 24, 1884, d. April 30, 1959, m. Otto Junker October 15, 1903; Otto b. July 16, 1885, d. April 1, 1956, m. Etwina Thamm October 28, 1909; Lilly b. November 1, 1886, d. June 27, 1972, m. Henry Schlein June 10, 1907; Lena b. May 6, 1888, d. March 9, 1943, m. Edward Dreyer October 28, 1909; Albert b. October 30, 1889, m. Lillian Wagner June 15, 1916; Walter Emil b. September 30, 1891, d. June 1, 1971, m. Rose Emma Shubeck April 3, 1915; Herman William b. March 11, 1893, d. December 31, 1949, m. Sudie Lorena Kennedy May 24, 1918; Nora b. July 30, 1896, d. October 9, 1961, m. Arthur Crockett Thigpen December 24, 1913; Flora (twin to Nora, died at birth).

Fritz, as he was called even though his name was Fred, was a peace officer of Arneckeville for thirteen years. He was short and stocky built, but he certainly knew how to handle his prisoners when they got rough. When a fight would occur at a dance, he would walk in a holler "Hya-up" and everything quieted down. He lived in Arneckeville at the old homestead until his death April 26, 1907. His wife died July 22, 1925. Emma was born in the "Five Mile Community" on April 30, 1860. Emma moved into town in her later years and lived on Morgan Ave. across the street from her son, Walter. Fred and Emma are buried in the cemetery beside the Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

Arneckeville, Tx. cir. 1897 Fred Gerhold Family. Back Row: Albert (by dog), Fred, Lillie, Tillie, Fred, Sr., Dolly, Emma, Lena, George, Louis and Otto. Front Row: Herman, Walter, Nora.

GERHOLD, HERMAN WILLIAM

F309

1941 photo of Sudie Lorena Kennedy and Herman William Gerhold wedding picture.

Herman William Gerhold was born March 11, 1893 to Emma Reinhardt and Fred Gerhold in DeWitt Co., Tx. He was next to youngest of fourteen children and they lived on a farm in Arneckeville. Herman attended school in the old schoolhouse that is still standing in Arneckeville and lived near enough to walk. His parents were members of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church where Herman was confirmed April 12, 1908. His first job after receiving his pharmacy license on January 16, 1917 from Pharmaceutical College in Galveston was at Reuss Drug Store. He also worked at Booten-Kunitz Pharmacy. Rev. J.L. Green, a Presbyterian minister, performed the wedding vows for Herman and Sudie Lorena Kennedy (related article) in Cuero on May 24, 1918. He left shortly after for World War I. When he returned home after the war, they moved to Kenedy, where he worked for his uncle, Louis J. Reinhardt, in his drug store. Their first child, Geraldine Lucille, was born there April 29, 1920. They later moved back to Cuero. In 1924 they moved to San Antonio where on November 19, 1926, Dorothy Fay was born. The girls attended the Alamo Heights School District where they both graduated. Geraldine (Jerry) married Clarence L. Halliday February 10, 1939. Rev. Green, who married her parents, also married them. They had one daughter, Cynthia Ann, born August 12, 1942. On June 6, 1957 Jerry married Elie J. Messarra. Cynthia married Edwin F. Harris August 20, 1971. The Messarras and Harrises both live in Houston.

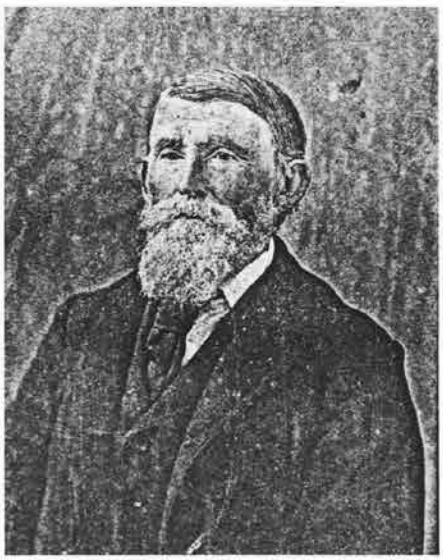
After graduating in 1944 Dorothy Fay (Dottie) worked at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, and when W.W. II ended, she attended Southwest Texas State University. There she met Robert Donnell Adams III and they were married July 19, 1947 by Rev.Gibbons at Alamo Heights Methodist Church where they are still members. When he finished college, they moved to San Antonio where they still reside. They have two children, Robert Donnell IV (Keith) born July 2, 1950 and Karon Lee born February 5, 1953. Keith married March 12, 1988 to Lynda Sue McCutcheon and they are expecting their first child in October, 1989. Lynda was born September 26, 1950 and her son, Justin A. McCutcheon was born August 27, 1975. Both Keith and Karon attended Northeast Independent School District. Keith attended San Antonio College and Karon graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1975. She married Douglas Edward Dooley January 17, 1981. They have two children, Stephanie Diane born December 3, 1983 and Stephen Douglas born April 3, 1986. Both Keith and Karon live in San Antonio.

After moving to San Antonio in 1924, Herman and Sudie spent the rest of their lives there. Herman was pharmacist at Broadway Pharmacy during those years until his death December 31, 1949. Sudie died May 14, 1981. They are buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

GERHOLD, JOHANN GEORGE

F310



Johann George Gerhold

Johann George Gerhold was born in Kurfurstenthum, Hessia, Germany on January 15, 1828. He was about two years old when his parents died. A Lutheran preacher and his wife raised and educated him. He did not like this preacher as he was very stern and mean to him. They sent him through a Lutheran College where he graduated and became a Lutheran preacher. He preached in Germany where he met and married Elise Vogal. Elise was born June 24, 1822 to Sophie Leunig and Fred Vogal in Weende, W. Germany. After the preacher who raised Johann died, he stopped preaching and became a carpenter. He was paid 50 cents as a carpenter in Germany and from that he saved to bring his family to America. Two children were born in Germany, a son, Fred (Fritz) b. December 3, 1857, d. April 26, 1907 and Sophia b. circa 1860, d. February 12, 1925. On June 26, 1860 they landed in Galveston via Indianola. Two more children were born in America, Mary b. March 3, 1862, d. October 3, 1919 and Louis b. January 18, 1864, d. January 3, 1940. Johann bought land eleven miles south of Cuero in Arneckeville. Since he didn't like preaching, he never preached in America, but he did help build the first Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. His occupation was cabinet making. Elise died September 30, 1873 and is buried in the cemetery beside the Zion Lutheran Church along with some of her children and grandchildren. Johann died May 27, 1903 and is buried there also. After his death, his son, Fred, moved on the homestead and farmed the land. When Fred died his son, Otto, and wife, Etwina, lived on the family land and in a home rebuilt from the same lumber of the original home which burned. Family members still reside on the land.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

GIPS, CLIFTON E. AND GRACE LEGGETT

F311

Clifton Elwood Gips was born October 23, 1917 in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Tx. His parents were Paul F. Gips and Antoinette Mollenhauer Gips. (See Paul F. Gips Story) Clifton married Grace L. Leggett, March 2, 1941 in Yorkton, Tx. Grace Lufborough Leggett was born July 1, 1919 in Mossy Grove, Lavaca County, Tx. Her parents were Ottis F. and Mary Jane Shaw Leggett.

Clif attended school in Yorktown and graduated from Yorktown High School in 1935. He was a member of the Yorktown High School Band for 4 years, playing a clarinet. He also played football his junior and senior years. He was and is an avid golfer and he and his brothers often go to the Yorktown Country Club at dawn and spend the day, sometimes playing 56 holes of golf. As a junior in High School he started working part-time for the U.S. Postal Service and continued after graduation on a full-time basis.

At the beginning of World War II the Gips moved to San Antonio, Tx. and Clif started working as an aircraft engine instructor at Kelly Air Force Base. He worked there for 3 years and was drafted into the Military Service at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tx. After basic training in Mineral Wells, Tx. he was sent to Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, Calif. He was in the Personnel Division of the Army where they processed military returnees who were being discharged from the service. The Gips oldest son, Clifton Ray, was born in San Antonio in 1942 and when Clif was stationed in Calif. the family joined him in San Pedro. He was discharged from the service in April of 1946. When they came back to Cuero, Clif and Ray Leggett, Grace's brother, started a business, Gips & Leggett Radio Rep. Shop (See Gips T.V. story). Clif's enthusiasm for golf has not diminished and weather is no obstacle, rain, sleet or what have you, he's always ready. The three sons have followed in their father's footsteps; all three had golf scholarships to college and continue to play in many tournaments in this area.

Grace Leggett Gips attended school in Goliad and graduated from Goliad High School in

1937. Grace was active in sports but her first love was tennis. She started playing in the 5th grade and continued through her senior year when she was runner-up in the UIL State Finals. She went to Victoria College and graduated with an Associate in Arts degree in 1939. She worked a year as a secretary for Dr. G.W. Allen and Allen Hospital in Yorktown and in Mar. of 1941, she married Clifton Gips. After marrying into the Gips family, she discovered there was another game, equally as important as tennis, golf. So, after moving to San Antonio in 1942,. the lessons began and she has become as dedicated to the game as the rest of the family. At the end of World War II in 1946 the family moved to Cuero and Clif went into business. Three other children were born to the couple and Grace was busy with Little League, PTA, Boy Scouts and other activities in which the children were involved. In 1958, she went to work as the school secretary at Cuero High School. After a few years there she had an opportunity to work as a Social Worker for the Department of Public Welfare and went to work in the Children's Services Program. In 1972, Clif and Grace took over Gips TV and Grace went to work at the store on a part-time basis and also did some substitute teaching. In 1982, their son, Don, took over the business. Clif still goes down to help out and work on small airplanes.

After the hectic war years, Clif and Grace were happy to be in Cuero. They built a home in 1950 and through the years have remodeled and enlarged it to take care of the growing family. While their children were in school they were very supportive of all the activities in which they participated. They love football and have followed the Gobbler football team for many years. They are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and both still sing in the church choir. Their four children (3 sons and a daughter) are married. Two live in San Marcos and two in Cuero.

Clifton Ray was born in San Antonio, Tx., Dec. 13, 1942. The family moved to Cuero in 1946 and he attended the Cuero schools and graduated from Cuero High School in 1961. He played football and golf in High School and was on the golf team for 3 years. He went to Victoria College on a golf scholarship, after finishing there (2 years) he went to Lamar Univ. and South West Texas in San Marcos. He graduated from SWTC in 1967. While attending SWTC he worked parttime at the First Natl. Bank of San Marcos and after graduating he went to work on a fulltime basis and continues to work there. He is married to Charlotte Forsage and has a daughter, Sondra, and a step-son, Charles Mudd.

Donald Ross was born in Cuero, Tx., July 8, 1946. He attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1964. He was a member of the Cuero High golf team for 3 years. He attended Victoria College on a golf scholarship and after two years there he enlisted in the Navy. After being in the Navy for 4 years he was discharged and he went to SWTC to finish his degree. After graduating from SWTC he went to Corpus Christi Univ. for two years of T.V. electrical training. (See Gips T.V. Story)

James Ottis was born in Cuero, Tx. Nov. 22, 1950. He attended school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1968. He played football and golf while in High School and was on the golf team for 3 years. As a senior he qualified for State finals and was 3rd medalist. He went to Lee College on a golf scholarship for 2 years. After finishing at Lee he went to Lamar Univ. for a year. and then to Texas Univ. While attending the Univ. of Texas. he worked part-time at Tracor and after graduating he went to work there full-time. He married Lanette Mueller in 1975 and they have two sons, Jamison and Matthew. They are now living in San Marcos, Tx.

Elisabeth Ann (Beth) was born in Cuero, Tx., June 10, 1956. She went to school in Cuero and graduated from Cuero High School in 1974. She was in the band in Jr. High School and was also a cheerleader. In High School she played tennis and was active in the Future Teachers organization, in her senior year she held the State office of Recording Secretary. She was also a Cheerleader all four years in High School and Head Cheerleader her senior year. She is an ardent football fan and continues to follow the Gobbler football team. She went to SWTC in San Marcos for 2 years and then to Texas Univ. and graduated from there in 1978. She married Aubrey Feril in 1979 and they have a son, Hunter. They live in Cuero and she is employed in the Cuero Ind. School system as a 5th grade teacher.

by Grace L. Gips

GIPS, F. GOTTLIEB AND FREDERICKE (STUERMER)

F312

According to the 1870 DeWitt County, Texas Census, Precinct 2, P.O. Clinton, Fredericke Stuermer Gips, 47, was living with her brother, Christian Stuermer, 50, his wife, Dorethea, 49, and their daughter, Fredericke, 15. Also living with them was their father, Johann Christian Stuermer, 81. He was born in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Germany in September 1790 and died in Yorktown 7 December 1871. Also living in this household were the children of Fredericke Gips – Franz, 26, Charles, 24, Herman, 23, Otto, 20, Fredericke, 17, and Mary, 8. The census report shows that all were born in Prussia.

We could find no record of F. Gottlieb Gips, husband of Fredericke Stuermer Gips, ever coming to America or to Texas. The obituary of one of their children states that she was a widow when she came to Yorktown in 1869. Fredericke Stuermer Gips was born in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Prussia 28 March 1824. She died in Yorktown 3 April 1892 and is buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

The 1870 DeWitt County Census shows that Christian Stuermer was a wagoner, Franz and Charles Gips were trainsters, and Herman and Otto Gips were wagon makers.

The children of F. Gottlieb and Fredericke Stuermer Gips were as follows:

1) Franz Gips was born 17 December 1843 in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Prussia, and he died 8 March 1926 in Yorktown. He was a trainster and a farmer. On 14 July 1872 he married Anna Bauer, the daughter of Fred C. and Matilda Ehrenburg Bauer. She, with her parents and sister, Bertha, immigrated to Yorktown in 1853. Franz and Anna Bauer Gips had the following children: Bertha, Otto Frank, Paul Frederick, Frank, Louis, Mathilda and Ella. See separate story – Gips, Franz and Anna (Bauer).

2) Carl Fredrich (Charles) Gips was also a trainster. He was born 16 Sept. 1845 in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Prussia and died 28 Jan. 1874. He married Auguste ?. She was born 20 Feb. 1844 in Reuden and died 3 Feb. 1874 in Yorktown. Their daughter, Maria Fredericke Augusta, was born 16 September 1869 and died 24 February 1874. Their son, Charles, was born 8 Dec. 1872. After the death of his parents, Charles, when he was 18 months, was adopted by Otto and Anna Fechner Gips. He married Louise Zedler and they lived in Luling, Caldwell County, Texas. He died 13 March 1939.

3) Herman Gips was born 17 October 1847 in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Germany and died 13 March 1918 in Yorktown. He married Friederike Stuermer 28 March 1882. She was born 20 August 1855 in Germany and was the daughter of Christian and Dorethea Stuermer. She died 15 Feb. 1928 in Yorktown. They are buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown. They had the following children: Matilda (Tillie) (31 March 1883 – 6 Dec. 1924) married Reinhold Gerhardt 2 Feb. 1904; Herman C., Jr. (6 Jan. 1886 – 29 July 1964) married Theresa Sinast 11 Feb. 1908; Oscar G. (20 April 1889 – 29 June 1967) did not marry; Edwin W. (30 May 1897 – 6 May 1952) married Agnes Wieland 18 February 1919.

4) Otto Gips was born 2 March 1850 in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Germany and died 24 July 1906 in Yorktown. He married Anna Fechner 11 August 1872. Anna Fechner was born in Eichenquast, near Schweinitz, Germany 20 June 1850 to Henry and Fredericke Dehne Fechner. She died 29 July 1930 in Yorktown. Otto and Anna Fechner Gips are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown. They had the following children: Charles, adopted nephew, (25 April 1872 – 13 March 1939) married Louise Zedler 3 Aug. 1897 in Luling, Caldwell County, Texas. Anna Louise (15 May 1873 – 26 Dec. 1957) married Edmund L. Tietz 20 Oct. 1902. Fredericke Marie Emma (30 June 1875 – 5 Nov. 1917) married Herman Zedler 12 Jan. 1897. Alvina Anna (17 Jan. 1878 – 15 Nov. 1967) married Edward Mollenhauer 12 Jan. 1897. Hedwig Maria (15 Sept. 1879 – 11 Sept. 1966) married Carl Andrew Strieber 28 Dec. 1905. Mary Henriette (23 Feb. 1882 – 16 July 1965) married Louis Ludwig Carl Zedler 12 Jan. 1904. Ella (25 Feb. 1887 – 13 March 1973) married Edward F. Viereck 21 July 1909. Johanna Bertha (Jane) (10 Jan. 1890 – 18 July 1967) married Berthold E. Thuem 6 Sept. 1910. Hilda (30 May 1894 – 3 Nov. 1983) married Lou Sloma 17 Jan. 1914. All the children, except Charles and his wife, Louise, are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

5) Fredericke Gips was born 4 October 1852 in Reuden. She married Franz Henze 7 Oct. 1871 and died 26 June 1872. Their son, Franz, was born 26 June 1872 and died 17 July 1873.

6) Mary Gips was born 17 Dec. 1862 in Felgentreu, Anhalt Dessau, Germany and died 19 Jan. 1937 in Yorktown. She first married Louis Schneider 28 Oct. 1881 and they had Charles. She next married Willie Schneider 15 Oct. 1891 and they had Willie and Hedwig. Mary's obituary states that two children died in infancy. She next married William Kirchner 22 June 1910.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

GIPS, FRANZ AND ANNA (BAUER)

F313

Franz Gips came to Yorktown, Texas from Germany 11 April 1869. In 1870 the DeWitt County Census, Precinct 2, P.O. Clinton, shows him living with his mother, Fredericke Stuermer Gips, and brothers and sisters. They were all living with his uncle, Christian Stuermer, his wife, Dorothea, and their daughter, Fredericke. Also living in the household was Johann Christian Stuermer, the father of Christian and Fredericke. Franz's father, F. Gottlieb Gips, evidently did not come to America or Texas.

Franz Gips was born 17 Dec. 1843 in Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Prussia, and he died 3 March 1926 in Yorktown, Texas. He was a trainster and a farmer. On 14 July 1872 he married Anna Bauer, the daughter of Fred C. and Matilda Ehrenberg Bauer. (See separate story.) In the 1880 DeWitt County Census, Franz and Anna Gips were living in DeWitt County, Precinct 3, on the 15 Mile Coletto Creek. According to his obituary, Franz Gips took an active part in the organization of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown. His first occupation in this country was in connection with the transportation of freight from Indianola to San Antonio. After his marriage he was engaged in farming; however, for a number of years he carried U.S. mail to such points as Rancho, Helena, and Oakville, in addition to his farming. According to his obituary, he was a man who suffered great affliction, especially in his declining years when he had great physical difficulties. He retired from active work in 1906. He died at the age of 82 years, two months and 14 days. According to her obituary, Anna Bauer Gips died of pneumonia at the age of 70 years and four months. She and her husband are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. They had the following children, all born in Yorktown.

Franz Gips Family. Back: Louis, Paul, Frank, Otto. Mid.: Ella, Bertha, Matilda. Front: Mr. and Mrs. Franz Gips.

1) Bertha Gips was born 13 August 1873 and died 11 Nov. 1945. She married Fritz Schultz 26 July 1898 in Yorktown. He died 11 Dec. 1921. They are buried in Westside Cemetery. They had one daughter, Frances. She married George W. Heiman.

2) Otto Frank Gips was born 19 Dec. 1875 and died 22 Aug. 1953. He married Margarethe (Gretchen) Zedler in Yorktown 2 March 1899. She was born 18 Feb. 1876 to Gustave and Pauline Kluge Zedler and died 27 April 1949. They had four children. Estella Gips was born 21 Oct. 1900. She married Fred Tomek. Manfred Gips was born 6 Aug. 1902 and died 5 Feb. 1935. He married Velma Franklin. Pauline Gips was born 12 Jan. 1906. She married Roland L. Harkey 28 June 1931. Florence Gips was born 16 July 1909. She married Erwin W. Thurk.

3) Paul Frederick Gips was born 6 July 1877 and died in Yorktown 24 Nov. 1955. He married Antonette "Nettie" Mollenhauer 30 July 1902. She was born 29 June 1880 at Zelder's Mill in Gonzales County, Texas to Henry and Alvina Fechner Mollenhauer and died in Cuero 3 September 1950. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. They had five sons, all born in Yorktown. Alvin Rudolph Gips was born 13 November 1907. Milton Gips was born 5 January 1914 and married Virginia Harris 27 May 1955. Ray Gips was born 5 August 1916. He married Elvera "Sis" Janssen 25 February 1941. Clifton Gips was born 22 October 1917. He married Grace Leggett 2 March 1941. Paul Gips was born 18 April 1921, and he married Jewell Sockwell 24 Feb. 1950. After Jewell's death Paul married Peggy Polk.

4) Frank Gottlieb Gips was born 10 September 1879. He died in Nordheim 14 Nov. 1949. On 15 April 1908 he married Annie Menn who was born 20 Oct. 1887 to Friedrich and Johanna Meyer Menn. She died 6 Feb. 1948. They are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. They had four sons, three grew to adulthood. Frank Gips, Jr. was born 2 Aug. 1909 and died 16 Nov. 1952. He married Hedwig Mueller 6 Jan. 1931. Aaron Gips was born 15 Nov. 1911. He married Ellie Theilengerdes. Harry Gips was born 7 Sept. 1915. He married Olivia Schroller 15 September 1935.

5) Louis Herman Gips was born 15 December 1881 and died 10 January 1969. He married Ella Wied 25 July 1906. She was born 19 May 1887 in Wied, Texas and died in Yorktown 3 July 1985. They are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. They had three children. Thelma, born 8 April 1908, married Winston Metz. Alton Floyd Gips, born 28 July 1914, married Sybil Fortner 10 Dec. 1936. Pearl Ellen Gips, born 21 Jan. 1920, first married Emil Joe Janicek and then Johnnie Mitchell.

6) Mathilda E. Gips was born 12 February 1884 and died 22 Nov. 1960. She married Ernest H. Becker in Yorktown 1 April 1906. He was born 9 Sept. 1880 in Breslau, Texas and died in Port Arthur, 13 Dec. 1918. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. They had four children. Ruby Becker, born 7 Nov. 1907, married V.E. Darilek. Rufus Becker, born 22 June 1909, married Daisy Belle Speed. Annie Ruth Becker, born 28 Aug. 1912,

married Arthur Stolleis. Roland "Pete" Becker married Gertrude Dvorak.

7) Ella F. Gips was born 4 Nov. 1886 and died 19 Nov. 1963. She first married Allie Kendrick on 16 Jan. 1907. He died 14 June 1932. She married Arthur T. Ray 14 March 1936.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

GIPS, PAUL AND NETTIE (MOLLENHAUER)

F314

The Paul Gips Family, ca. 1946. Back: Ray, Clif, Paul, Milton. Front: Paul, Nettie and Al.

Paul Frederick Gips was born in Yorktown, Texas 6 July 1877, the son of Franz and Anna Bauer Gips. He was christened 23 May 1886 in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown. He attended the Yorktown public schools and on 30 July 1902 was married to Antonette "Nettie" Mollenhauer. She was born 29 June 1880 at Zedler's Mill, Gonzales County, Texas to Henry and Alvina Fechner Mollenhauer. She died in the Burns Hospital in Cuero 3 September 1950. Paul died in the Yorktown Hospital 24 November 1955. They are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. The couple lived in Yorktown. Until the advent of cars, Mr. Gips was in the saddle business, making saddles and also selling buggies. Later he sold real estate, and he also served as County Commissioner. Five sons were born to the couple.

1) Alvin Rudolph Gips was born 13 November 1907. He attended school in Yorktown and Texas A. & M. University. He served in the army during World War II. He worked for the MKT Railroad for over 40 years. After his retirement, he moved to Austin where he is now living.

2) Milton Roy Gips was born 5 January 1914. He served in the European theater during World War II. On 27 May 1955 he married Virginia Harris in Corpus Christi, Texas. She was born 23 April 1914 to Jim Robert and Edith Lovett Harris in San Angelo, Texas. Virginia taught school in several places and accompanied her husband on many jobs out of the United States. He is an accountant. They left for Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands on 14 July 1959, returning to the United States to live in Oakland, California in April 1962. They left for Afghanistan on 5 July 1972. They left there in January 1976, and after continuing on an around the world trip, returned to the United States six weeks later. They left for Vredenburg, South Africa in July 1977 and from there went to Tehran, Iran in October 1978. They returned home 5 January 1979, moving into their home at Hilltop Lakes, Texas 4 April 1979.

3) Ray Harold Gips was born 5 August 1916. He married Elvera "Sis" Janssen in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim, on 25 February 1941. She was born near Nordheim 13 Nov. 1920 to Willie and Elvia Reichert Janssen. The couple moved to Cuero where they made their home. They have two children. Julie Rae was born 11 September 1945 and William Paul was born 16 October 1948. (See: Gips, Ray and Sis.)

4) Clifton Elwood Gips was born 22 October 1917. He married Grace Lufborough Leggett 2 March 1941 in Yorktown. She was born 1 July 1919 in Hallettsville, Lavaca County to Otis L. and Mary Jane Shaw Leggett. They live in Cuero. The couple has four children — Clifton Ray, Donald Ross, James Otis, and Beth Gips Feril.

5) Paul Edward Gips was born 18 April 1921. He attended Yorktown schools, Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Southwestern University in Georgetown, earning a Master's degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He married Jewell M. Sockwell of Moulton, Texas. She was born 10 October 1925 to Prentice and Essie Pogue Sockwell. She died 14 April 1986 in League City, Texas. They both taught school in Yorktown and then moved to Victoria and then Refugio. Paul served as coach and Jewell, as a teacher. They next moved to El Campo and then to League City where Paul was Athletic Director for the Clear Creek and Clear Lake School Districts until his retirement. The couple adopted two children. James Paul (Jim) was born 7 July 1957 and Ann Marie was born 23 December 1958. Jim earned his degree at Southwest Texas State University and a Master's degree from the University of Houston. He is employed at NASA. Ann married Bradley Stewart 2 November 1985, and they have one daughter, Jenna Marie, born 12 November 1987 in Houston. After Jewell's death, Paul married Peggy Polk 30 May 1987. They live in Seabrook, Texas.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

GIPS, RAY AND SIS (JANSSEN)

F315

Ray Harold Gips was born in Yorktown, Texas 5 August 1916 to Paul F. and Antonette "Nettie" Mollenhauer Gips. (See separate story.) He attended Yorktown schools, graduating in 1935. He then attended Draughons Business College in San Antonio. After working for a tax attorney in San Antonio, he

The Ray Gips Family: Sis, Ray, Julie and Will.

accepted a job as Deputy County Clerk in Cuero, to start work on 1 March 1941. On 25 February 1941 he married Elvera "Sis" Janssen in Nordheim. They moved to Cuero where they continue to live. Their two children, Julie Rae and William Paul, were born there. Ray and three other candidates ran for the office of County Clerk in 1954. Ray won in the runoff and was unopposed in the general election in November. He began serving his first elective term 1 January 1955 and never had an opponent after the 1954 elections. He continued in this capacity until his retirement on 31 December 1981, after serving as County Clerk for 26 years and serving the county a total of 40 years and eight months. He was presented a Citation of Merit in recognition of Outstanding Public Service by the Cuero Post 3972 of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on February 25, 1977.

Elvera "Sis" Janssen was born near Nordheim 13 November 1920 to Willie and Elvia Reichert Janssen. (See, Janssen, Willie and Elvia.) She grew up in the Nordheim area, graduating from Nordheim High School in 1938. She attended Texas State College for Women in Denton, Texas for two years before her marriage in 1941. She was employed at the Sears Catalog Store and then at Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation during the time her husband campaigned for the office of County Clerk. After the election, she worked for the Garrett Abstract Company as a typist. In 1967 Sis became a library aide to Mrs. Frances Wood, the high school librarian. After much thought, she returned to college, graduating with honors from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. She then returned to the college in Denton and earned library certification. She was employed as a history teacher at the Cuero High School in September 1970. The next year she was employed as Junior High School librarian. She held this position until her retirement in May, 1986. During this time, she attended the University of Houston Victoria Center and earned her Master's degree, also teaching at the University at night for several semesters. She is a life member of Texas State Teachers Association and a former

member of American Library Association and a former member of American Library Association and Texas and Cuero Classroom Teachers.

Ray and Sis Gips are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero where Ray served on the church council for three terms. During the 1960's they sponsored the Intermediate Luther League and Sis taught in the Sunday School. At present, Ray and Sis are enjoying retirement. They have been taking bus tours around the United States and into Canada. Ray has been golfing and "piddling" in his workshop. Sis crochets afghans and is involved with genealogy and spends much of her free time at the computer, entering family histories. Together, they travel to many Texas town to visit the cemeteries, to research courthouse records and library resources, and to visit with relatives, if found. They also enjoy fishing and staying at their "shack" near Port O'Connor. Having their granddaughters near is an added pleasure.

Julie Rae Gips was born 11 September 1945. She was baptized and confirmed in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Julie graduated from Cuero High School and attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. In 1965, she accompanied a niece to her home in Hawaii and stayed to attend the University of Hawaii, continuing her major in music and working for Kelly Girls, part time. After a year, she returned to Texas and to Texas Lutheran College. However, she now had "wanderlust" and spent a year in Houston working at Baylor College of Medicine and then a year in Killeen working for the government. From Killeen she went to California and worked for two years at Harbor General Hospital for a doctor, who, in April 1970, moved to Galveston as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Julie went to Galveston in July, 1970 and became the department's Technical Editor/Research Secretary. In 1972, Julie and her roommate took a 3-month walking tour of Europe. Her roommate returned, but Julie stayed another seven months and worked for an import company in Stockholm, Sweden. She then returned to her job in Galveston. She was married a short time in 1979. She continued to work in Galveston until November 1987 when she returned to Cuero to work at the Cuero Community Hospital as a medical transcriptionist. After her return to Cuero, she bought the Probst house in Cuero and had it moved to her acreage southwest of Cuero. After many hours of work restoring the house, it burned to the ground 7 February 1989. Also burned were the many pieces of antique furniture she had collected and many of the family heirlooms. At the present time she is in the process of moving into a home in Cuero.

William Paul Gips was born 16 October 1948. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Will graduated from Cuero High School and attended Victoria College while working for Anders Auto Supplies. On 2 June 1973 he married Lucille Fay Chumchal in Shiner, Texas. Lucille was born near Shiner 21 October 1949 to Louis and Filomena Polasek Chumchal. The couple lives near Cuero where Will has his business — Gips Machine and Welding. Twin daughters, Amber Michelle and April Meredith, were born to them 22 November 1975. They attended St. Michael's School through the sixth grade and are now in public school. Both girls are in the PEP classes, play in the junior high band, and are active in sports, especially tennis. (See: Gips, Will and Lucille.)

by Mrs. Ray Gips

GIPS, WILL AND LUCILLE

F316

William Paul Gips was born 16 October 1948 to Ray and Elvera (Sis) Janssen Gips in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. He was baptized and later confirmed in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. He graduated from Cuero High School and attended Victoria College, working for Anders Auto Supplies in Cuero and later at Bull Auto Parts in Austin, Texas. On June 2, 1973 he married Lucille Fay Chumchal in Shiner, Texas at St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. Lucille was born in Shiner 21 October 1949 to Louis and Filomena Polasek Chumchal. She is a graduate of Shiner High School and attended Victoria Commercial Business College completing an executive secretarial course and several business courses at Victoria College. At the time of their marriage she was employed at Central Power & Light Company as district clerk in the Engineering Department. The couple lived in Cuero. On 22 November 1975 twin daughters were born to them, Amber Michelle and April Meredith. They built their first home in 1979 one (1) mile south of Cuero on the Victoria Highway. Will opened his own business, Gips Machine & Welding, in 1982 in a shop he built in their back yard. The business grew, so in 1986 Will moved from the back yard to a newer, larger building he built closer to the Victoria Highway. April and Amber attended St. Michael's School through the sixth grade and are now in Cuero Junior High. Both girls are in the gifted classes, play in the school band and are active in sports. Lucille is presently employed by the Permian Corporation in Cuero.

by Will and Lucille Gips

GLASS, WILLIAM J. FAMILY

F317

William J. Glass, b. 7 Feb. 1818 in Salt Creek Twp., Wayne Co., Ohio (Census Records list PA.), d. 5 Nov. 1905 in Hochheim, DeWitt Co., TX. His gr-parents, John and Ann (Johnston) Glass arrived in Maryland ca 1776 or 1777 from Ireland. John was of Irish descent and Ann was of English descent. They settled in Cecil Co., MD. per Oath of Fidelity signed 1778 by John Glass (Oath on file in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.). It is known that there was a brother, George Glass, who became a physician and located somewhere in the South.

John and his wife, Ann, were thought to have had 11 chn., five of whom were: John Andrew b. ca. 1776 or 1777, m. (1) Ann, (2) Mary; Hannah m. Thomas Strain, resided near Parkersburg, W. Va.; Nancy m. Thomas Hamilton, an Irishman and popular landlord in Steubenville, OH. where he died, no heirs; Rebecca m. (1) Blair, (2) Major Alexander Parker, in whose honor Parkersburg, VA. was named; and Esther m. Mr. Smith, no children.

In the 1790's, the John Glass family from Ireland moved from MD to the Virginia area below Pittsburgh, PA. (now known as Brooke Co., W. VA.). The Will of John Glass in Brooke County, W. VA. was probated in 1812 and lists his wife, Esther, as an heir and some of the children named above. NOTE: A very difficult research project because of so many men named John Glass with wives named Ann.

For instance: An interesting Indian story was located involving the wife of John Glass and her son, a Negro woman and her two chn. being kidnapped. The next day they were rescued by John Glass and 10 men. A footnote on the article stated that after John Glass died, Mrs. Glass married John Brown. Their marriage was recorded in Brooke Co. on 12 Sept. 1797. Her Will indicates that before her marriage to Mr. Brown, she was Mrs. Samuel Glass (Ann Glass). At this time, the relationship has not been determined.

Son, John Andrew Glass, b. ca 1776 or 1777 (shortly after the arrival of the John Glass family in America) was a boatman on the Ohio River, running from Pittsburgh, PA. to Memphis, TN. John A. moved to Beaver Co., PA. in 1790 and married Ann Johnston in 1795. They were members of the New Salem Presbyterian Church. The lot on which the present church building stands in Ohioville Twp., Beaver Co., PA, was donated by George Foulkes and later, John Glass donated additional ground to the church, which included the Spring.

John A. and Ann were the parents of 10 chn.: (1) James W. b. 1802, d. 14 Mr. 1909, Wells Co., Ossian, IN.; m. Rebecca ?; (2) Mary Ann b. 1806, m. Andrew McGaffick of Beaver Co., PA., had 3 daus. Maggie m. Samuel Smith, Rebecca m. James Laughlin, and Mary J. m. John McMillan, gr-son of Major John McMillan, one of the first settlers of the State of PA.; (3) Sarah b. 1809, m. John Johnston, had 4 daus. Mary A. m. William Slantz; Louisa m. Thornton B. Hunter, of Jefferson Twp., Wells Co., IN., Nancy J. unmarried in 1887, and Melissa m. Silas Gailey; (4) Esther b. 1810, m. Joseph Gorrell, Esq. and moved to Wells Co., IN. and she d. 6 May 1888, bur. Ossian, IN.; (5) Rebecca b. ca. 1813 m. John Mulvanon who d. in 1860; (6) Nancy b. 1814 m. Joseph Lawrence, moved ca 1809 to Wayne Co. OH., had 2 daus: Louisa m. Scott Groscrose and Martha m. Wilson McMillan; (7) John T. b. 16 Feb. 1815, m. Margaret Hatfield 24 Dec. 1846. He and his brother, James, each purchased a half section of land in 1840 in Wells Co., IN, and settled there in 1845.

The 8 chn. of John T. and Margaret Glass were: John A. m. Isa D. Todd; James m. Ida Ryan, Andrew J. m. Florence Roberts, Maggie J. m. Nathaniel Weaver; George W. m. Capitola Gorrell; and three chn.: Martha A., Milton and William Wilson d. in infancy. (8) William J. b. 1818, d. 1905 in Hochheim, TX. (See next paragraph); (9) Lucinda b. 1823, m. James Barclay, lived in Ossian, IN and was living Buchanan Co., IN. in 1887 (now known as Buchanan, Iowa) and (10) Andrew S. b. 1824 m. Pheba Jane —. He d. 11 Oct. 1862 intestate, per documents in Beaver Co., PA. Note: All chn. were born in Beaver Co., PA., except 4 who were born in Salt Creek Twp., Wayne Co., OH: namely: John T., William J., Andrew and Lucinda. John preempted land in Ohio ca 1809, moved there, then returned to Beaver Co. in 1824. His wife, d. shortly after their return. The Will of John A. Glass of Beaver Co. PA. listed the above chn. He d. in 1855 at the age of

78. His Will named a wife, Mary ?. Ref: Biographical and Historical Record of Adams and Wells (Counties, IN.) printed in 1887 – Article written by John T. Glass of Ossian, IN.

William J. Glass of Hochheim, TX. graduated in the Class of 1846 from Washington College (now known as Washington/Jefferson College), Washington Co., PA. He was a descendant of John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States. He left home against the wishes of his father, who had educated him to become a Presbyterian Minister. He wanted law as his profession; thus his decision to leave home. He began his life teaching school in PA but decided to come to Texas, landing at "Old Indianola". His name appears on the 1850 Indianola, TX. Census. On 10 July 1850, he married Fidelia Bertha Stevens, b. 3 Oct. 1826 in Moore's Hill, Dearborn Co., Indiana (dau. of Obediah Stevens of PA. and Mary C. Carbaugh of KY) in Indianola. (See book "The Stevens Tree" by Joe M. Clark, Jr., copyrighted in 1982). In 1850, William J. became President of the College of Seguin, a position he filled with distinguished ability for 6 years, winning golden opinions as an educator and disciplinarian. He also taught in the College of Concrete, DeWitt Co. He was a prominent citizen of DeWitt Co., TX. His large estate consisted of 1400 acres, 300 of which was in cultivation. His farm was one of the most productive (crops of corn and cotton) and best kept in the community of Hochheim. The rest of the land was used to raise good grade of cattle and sheep. His estate was located 4 miles East of Hochheim, TX. He was a member of the A.F.&A.M. Lodge (a Mason).

William J. and Fidelia were parents of 9 chn: (1) Glendorah C. b. 25 Dec. 1850, d. 8 Nov. 1932, m. John Milford Hankins, both bur. Kerrville, TX.; (2) John Andrew b. 16 Jun. 1852, d. 23 Feb. 1925, m. Mary Bell Driskill 12 Dec. 1880, both bur. Zephyr, TX.; (3) William J. Glass, Jr. b. 1855, d. in OK prior to 1905, m. Sallie Wallis 1 Jan. 1881; (4) Mary F. 'Mollie' b. 1857, d. (unknown) m. Dr. W.A. Davis 27 Feb. 1878, lived in San Antonio, TX.; (5) Melville Hodge, b. 28 Feb. 1859, a Methodist Episcopal Minister, d. 26 Aug. 1930, m. Millie Kathryn "Kitty" Stevens 23 Feb. 1883, lived in McLennan Co., TX.; (6) Kathryn Clover "Kate" b. 8 Feb. 1862, d. 1 Aug. 1949, m. James Baker North 7 Dec. 1881, both bur. Yoakum, TX.; (7) Barney J. b. 1861, d. in 1890. In 1885, Barney graduated from Jefferson College, Medical Dept., Philadelphia, PA., was a successful practitioner of Cuero, TX., m. Nanny K. Sutton 9 June 1885. (Place of burial unknown); (8) Edward Thomas b. 28 Jan. 1866, d. 16 May 1903 near Childress, TX., bur. Gonzales, TX., m. Virginia Alberta "Berta" Steen; (9) Margaret Ann "Maggie" b. 12 Sept. 1871, d. 19 Dec. 1943, m. Thomas Murphree North 30 Oct. 1894.

William J. Glass d. 5 Nov. 1905 at the age of 87 years at his home in Hochheim, TX. due to ill health. His wife, Fidelia Bertha Stevens, d. 10 Oct. 1908 at the age of 82 years, both buried in Hochheim Cemetery.

Some of the habits, sayings and characteristics of William J. Glass were:

Never admit defeat until you are defeated, then take it like a man. He who can't stand defeat is not worthy of the honor he seeks.

Never make a statement unless you have grounds on which to back it up; otherwise, it is best left unsaid.

Tell the truth, the whole truth, no matter how hard it hurts.

A good listener often accomplishes more than a fluent talker.

Think twice before you speak, then there will be no regrets.

There is a time for work, a time for play, a time for prayer. Be sure you do all of these things at the right time.

NOTE: Three descendants of William J. Glass are researching the Glass genealogy. Each has furnished accumulated data to compile this article, namely: James B. North, (gr-son of Kathryn "Kate" Glass North of Santa Barbara, CA., Mrs. Lola Hankins Cloninger, (gr-dau. of Glendorah Glass Hankins), of Phoenix, AZ., and Pauline Glass Hochhalter (gr-dau. of John Andrew Glass), of Zephyr, TX. Two other known gr-daus. who furnished data: Jean Glass Neitsch (gr-dau Edward Thomas Glass) of Gonzales, TX. and Sibyl Glass Brame (gr-dau of William J. Glass, Jr.) of Raymond, WA. and Atty, Robert G. Schleier (gr-son of Melville Hodge Glass) of Kilgore, TX. 75662. Additional data and inquiries welcomed.

Compiled and typed by Pauline Glass Hochhalter. Submitted June 5, 1989

by Pauline G. Hochhalter

GLIMP, THOMAS SOWELL

F318

Thomas Sowell Glimp was born April 8, 1826, in Tennessee. When he was about twenty, so the story goes, he went rabbit hunting one day and never went home. Instead, he went to Texas, and as far as we know, he walked all the way. He found his way to La Grange where he met Ardelia Woods, eldest daughter of Jane Boyd Wells and Norman Woods, who were early settlers of Austin's Colony. Tom and Ardelia were married in La Grange in 1852. Soon after their marriage they came to DeWitt County where Ardelia's mother and stepfather, Gonzalvo Woods, had settled on a sizable tract of land, part of which was one League and Labor in the James Kimberling Survey which Norman Woods had obtained before he was wounded and taken prisoner in the battle at Salado. (Norman and Gonzalvo's father, Zadock Woods was killed in this battle, but Gonzalvo was able to escape. Norman was imprisoned in the Perote Castle in Mexico, recovered from his wounds, but died of influenza December 16, 1843. In his letters from prison Norman asked his brother to take care of Jane and the children. After Norman's death Gonzalvo married Jane and made true his promise.)

In 1854 Tom Glimp was granted preemption rights to a 160 acre tract in DeWitt County in the Clear Creek area. During the following years he added another 2200 acres to his holdings, but in these post Civil War days he felt that DeWitt County was too rough a place to raise a family, so he sold his land and moved his wife and children to Burnet County.

Tom's great grandfather was Johan Abraham Glymphh (Glimp) born in Germany, and came to the Port of Philadelphia on the Neptune, December 13, 1754. Johan fought in the American Revolution, serving in the infantry in the Continental Army, beginning his service in 1872.

Tom's grandfather was George, first son of Johan. His father, Henry, who was the second son of George, served with Jackson at New Orleans.

Tom and Aredelia had thirteen children. Sarah Jones Caroline Glimp was their third child and third daughter. She married Ernst Christian Spellmann, Sr., in Burnet County, June 30, 1878, and they immediately moved to DeWitt County on Clear Creek where they lived until 1896. Needing more land with none available adjoining them, they moved to Gonzales County where they spent the rest of their lives.

Thomas Glimp died November 14, 1907, and is buried in Bethel Cemetery near Burnet, Texas. Ardelia Woods Glimp died near Lometa, Texas, March 10, 1920, and is buried next to her husband.

by Tommie Spellmann Nuinez

GOEBEL, ALTON FAMILY

F319

Alton and Doris Goebel

Alton August Goebel, son of William (Bill) and Luella Hans Goebel, was born February 15, 1929. He was baptized in Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville, on May 26, 1929. His first year of school was at New County Line and "Miss Kitty" (Mrs. Bill Ruschhaupt) was his first, and most loved, teacher. His family moved to the Green DeWitt Community in 1936 and he attended that school and then Cuero High School.

Alton's first job was with Carnation Milk Company. On May 9, 1948, he married Doris Nell Wolf, daughter of Werner and Lorene Semmler Wolf. Not being able to leave the milk business, in September of '48 the Wolf & Goebel Dairy came into being. This truly was a "family" business as they lived with Doris' parents for two years until they bought, and moved, the Albert and Mary Koenig home from one mile up the road. They remodeled the house taking the top story off (at which time it rained and rained and rained!).

Alton and Doris had two children, Clifford Dean and Faye Alon (Mrs. Odell White, Jr.).

After 40 years, in 1988, the Goebel Dairy, Inc. was formed with Clifford and his wife, Ella Angerstein Goebel. The dairy is located on the Guadalupe River about 8 miles southeast of Cuero on South River Road (Rt. 4, Box 23, Cuero).

by Mrs. Alton Goebel

GOEBEL, CLIFFORD D. FAMILY

F320

Clifford Dean Goebel, born October 19, 1952, and baptized on December 7, 1952, at Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. He is the son of Alton and Doris Wolf Goebel.

He attended Arneckeville School for four years, then Meyersville School, and Cuero High School where he graduated in 1971. He also attended Victoria College after which he came back to the farm to work with his grandfather and father in the dairy business.

He married Ella Frances Angerstein, daughter of LeRoy and Lollie Angerstein, on November 25, 1972, in St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. They have one son, Casey Dean, born June 10, 1979. They live in the house that was Clifford's grandparents, Werner and Lorene Wolf, which is located next to his parents' home in the Green DeWitt Community.

by Mrs. Alton Goebel

GOEBEL, HAROLD W. FAMILY

F321

Harold William Goebel was born July 10, 1931 to William and Luella Hans Goebel. Harold is the youngest of three sons of William and Luella. LeRoy and Alton are older brothers. Harold's mother became ill in 1938 and was hospitalized in San Antonio for some time. Later she was able to return home for several years, but as her health worsened, she went to stay with her mother, Mary Hans, in Cuero. She passed away on February 13, 1945.

During these years, Harold started school in Green DeWitt. He finished grade school there and continued in high school in Cuero, graduating May 30, 1949. On April 20, 1948 Harold's father married Emelie Arnecke and moved to her home in Arneckeville.

On October 15, 1950 Harold married Katherine Marie Koenig, after a five year courtship. They were married at St. Michael's rectory with Father William Jansen officiating. Their wedding reception was held at the home of Katherine's parents, Walter and Mary Koenig, on S. River Road.

Katherine was born August 10, 1929 and raised in the Green DeWitt Community. She attended Green DeWitt School riding horseback most of the time, graduating from Cuero High School in 1947. While she and Harold were dating, he was elected Chapter Sweetheart for the Home Economics Club, which resulted in much teasing of Katherine.

After Harold and Katherine were married, she moved down the road, one mile, to his home which belonged to William Goebel. There they rented for a number of years. About 2 weeks after their marriage, they had just sat down to a supper, complete with hot biscuits, when suddenly car horns, cow bells, and other noises were heard. All their neighbors were outside! This was called a "chivaree." It was a cool night, so everyone had to spend the evening indoors. When electric heaters were put on to keep warm, all the lights went out! The heaters had to be left off, and people sat on chairs, an ironing board, and anything else that could be found. The company ate the biscuits, but Harold and Katherine never finished their meal. Friends brought cakes, pies, sandwiches, etc. and coffee and hot cocoa, and we had lots of memories from that enjoyable evening!

Harold was the Assistant Manager of Cudahy Feed Store at the time of his marriage. Katherine continued to help her mother manage a poultry farm and hatchery. Later they operated a dairy, starting with 12 cows, and eventually milked up to 90 cows daily. After 22 years, they sold the dairy business and began raising beef cattle.

On July 10, 1951 John Arthur Goebel was born in Cuero Hospital, on his father's birthday. John Arthur married Susan Coppedge on June 26, 1971. Kerry Wayne was born on July 10, 1975, on his Dad's, his grandfather's, and his Aunt Karen's birthday! Needless to say, there is always a big birthday party each year!

On May 7, 1954 Ruth Ann Goebel was born. She married Jerry Carr in San Antonio on March 23, 1973. They have two children, Kathleen Marie Carr, born October 10, 1977 in Houston, and Heather Clarice Carr, born September 16, 1980 in Rosenberg.

Paul Harold Goebel was born June 4, 1955 but lived only 12 hours. He is buried on the Louis Koenig lot in Hillside Cemetery.

After eleven years, Rebecca Lou Goebel was born November 3, 1966 in Cuero. She married James Doyle Koranek in St. Michael's Catholic Church on June 1, 1985 in Cuero.

On April 25, 1969 Shirley Marie Goebel was born in Cuero. The day she was baptized, Shirley started suffering with colic which lasted for a year! At this time, she is a student majoring in Business at the University of Texas in Austin.

by Katherine Koenig Goebel

Becky and James Koranek wedding, 1985. Back Row: Ruth Ann (Goebel) Carr, Jerry Carr, Susan (Coppedge) Goebel, Johnny Goebel, Harold Goebel, Katherine (Koenig) Goebel. Front: Kathleen Carr, Shirley Goebel, Heather Carr, James Koranek, Rebecca (Goebel) Koranek, and Kerry Goebel.

GOEBEL, ILO JOHANN VIKTOR AND MARY JOSEPHINE (KOENIG)

F322

Ilo and Josephine (Koenig) Goebel

Ilo Goebel was born in Fayetteville, Texas, April 5, 1884. His parents were William Goebel and Emma (Braeuer). Ilo started life in a log cabin in Fayetteville. Later he moved with his family to Gonzales County in the Cheapside area where he attended Gates Well School and Ruppert School until 1901.

In December of 1909 Ilo married Mary Josephine Koenig. Her parents were Louis Koenig

Back Row: Margurite Goebel, Victor Goebel and Mary Goebel. Front: Ilo Goebel and Josephine (Koenig) Goebel. Silver Wedding Anniversary.

and Mary Agatha (Golly). Josephine was born April 17, 1882 in the Green DeWitt Community. Ilo and Josephine's first home was the Ernest Hartman land near the Cuero City Limits on the Victoria Highway. They moved to Lindenau where they started their children in school and then they built their home in the Green DeWitt Community where they lived the rest of their lives.

Ilo and Josephine had three children: 1) Victor Louis Goebel, b. Mar. 27, 1911; 2) Mary Louise Goebel, b. June 23, 1913; and 3) Margurite Goebel, b. Oct. 18, 1917. All of the children attended school in the Cuero area.

Ilo was a farmer, carpenter, and served one year as a County Commissioner. He died June 10, 1960 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero, Texas. Josephine died December 30, 1952 and is also buried at Hillside.

Mary Louise, their second child, graduated from Cuero High School and continued her education in dental hygiene. She became a dental assistant for Dr. Miller and later for Dr. John Wheeler. She retired in 1986 and keeps busy with Pilot Club, church activities, card clubs and family and friends.

by Patsy Goebel

GOEBEL, ROBERT DALE AND PATSY KAY (KRUEGER)

F323

Robert D. Goebel was born September 9, 1940 to Victor and Earlien Goebel. He attended Green DeWitt School, Cuero High School and Victoria College. He also, took guitar lessons from Mrs. Oscar Egg and became a very accomplished musician. Bobby played for school functions, 4-H gatherings and in the early 1960's, played for the Moods band.

In 1960, Bobby married Patsy Kay Krueger in Cuero, Texas. She is the daughter of Elmer and Thelma Krueger of Cuero. She attended Cuero Public Schools and Stephens College in Missouri.

Bobby and Patsy have three children: 1) Karen who was born May 5, 1961 in Victoria, Texas. She is married to Bruce Gohmert and they live in Meyersville, Texas. Karen works for Gohmert Air Conditioning, her husbands business. 2) Kevin was born May 27, 1962. He has a B.A. degree from Southwest Texas State University and works for a bank in Victoria. He is married to Laura Hunnam and they have

Patsy (Krueger) and Robert D. Goebel

one child, Kensey; 3) Keith was born June 11, 1963. He attended Bee County College and was a member of the Babe Ruth team from this area that went to the Babe Ruth World Series in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. He is working for Robert D. Goebel – Contractor as a job supervisor.

Bobby and Patsy enjoy hunting, fishing, music, traveling, history and archaeology together. They are members of the Southern Texas Archaeology Association, the Texas Archaeology Association, the DeWitt County Museum, and the Witte Museum. Bobby is also a member of the Cuero Gobbler Booster Club, the Young Farmers, and the American Builders and Contractors. He currently owns his own business as an Installation Contractor and a Millwork Contractor. Patsy is a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission and is serving as its chairman for 1989-1990. She is also, a member of the Caldwell County Genealogy and Historical Association. The Victoria Genealogy Association, the German-Texan Heritage Association and the Guadalupe County Genealogy Society and the Cuero Chamber of Commerce.

by Patsy K. Goebel

Bob Goebel Family: Bruce Gohmert, Karen (Goebel) Gohmert, Keith, Kevin, Patsy (Krueger) Goebel, and Bob. Seated: Laura (Hunnam) Goebel with Kensey Goebel. 1989

GOEBEL, VICTOR LOUIS AND EARLIEN (RABKE)

F324

Victor and Earlien Goebel

Victor L. Goebel was born March 27, 1911 in DeWitt County to Ilo Johann Viktor Goebel and Mary Josephine (Koenig) Goebel. Victor attended school in Lindenau until he was nine years old. His family then moved to the Green DeWitt area and he continued his education at the Green DeWitt School.

In 1937, Victor married Earlien Helen Rabke in Yorktown, Texas. She is the daughter of Adolph Rabke III and Martha (Niemeier) Rabke. Victor and Earlien have five children: 1) Robert Dale who was born September 9, 1940. He married Patsy K. Krueger and they have three children: a) Karen b) Kevin and c) Keith; 2) Victor Arlen who was born September 14, 1942 and married Sally Respondek. They have three children: a) Bart, b) Brad, and Benson; 3) James Carlton who was born November 14, 1945 and married Karen Flowers. They have two children: a) Scott and b) Shelly; 4) Janice who was born December 1, 1947 and married Mike Harper. She teaches school in Cuero; 5) Richard Allen was born December 20, 1953 and married Rhonda Doehrman. They have two children: a) Russell and b) Reanne.

Victor and Earlien live in the Green DeWitt Community and have made their home on the Ilo Goebel land. This land will be eligible for the Land Heritage Award in 1992. Victor has farmed, ranched, and raised turkeys on this land. Earlien has been active in the Home Demonstration Program, 4-H and church organizations. They attend church in Cuero at St. Michaels Catholic Church.

by Patsy K. Goebel

GOEBEL, WILLIAM AND EMMA (BRAEUER)

F325

William Goebel was born January 31, 1860 in Washington County, Texas to Johan Peter Goebel and Elisa (Wied) Goebel. Johann came to the United States in 1848 on the vessel *Antoinette* which arrived from Bremen in Galveston. He settled in Austin County where he purchased land. In the fall of 1852, Johann registered his cattle brand. He also married Elisa (Eliza) Wied who was born February 22, 1837 in Feudingen, Germany. She was the daughter of Marie Elise Wied Wunderlich and the step-daughter of Johann Wunderlich. Johann Goebel, Johann Wunderlich, Elise Wunderlich and Elise Wied all came over on the same ship. It is believed that Johann Goebel probably worked for Johann Wunderlich to earn money to buy land. These people all remained in the Shelby, Texas area and are buried in the Shelby Cemetery.

"50th Wedding Anniversary" of William and Emma Goebel 1932. Back Row: Lydia Heider, Edwin Goebel, Meta Schrade, Rudolph Goebel, Emma Abel, William Goebel, Adelia Wolf, Charles Goebel, Elsie Dreier. Front: Ilo Goebel, William Goebel, Emma Goebel, Ida Schlinke.

Johann used John on a lot of his documents after he attained citizenship. He and Elisa (Wied) Goebel had six children: 1) Adolph (1853-1929); 2) Emilie (1855-1934); 3) Henrietta (1856 – unknown); 4) Gustav (1858-1938); 5) William (1860-1935); and 6) Emma (1862-1863). After Elise died, John married Catharina E. Trossman in 1865. They had three children: 1) Bertha (1866-); 2) Lina (1867-); and 3) Maria (1868-).

William Goebel married Emma Josephine Braeuer in 1882. Emma spoke very little English so they attended the German Lutheran Church. In 1888, William purchased land in Gonzales County in the community of Ruppert. (Between Hochheim and Cheapside). This property was in the vicinity of property conveyed in 1888 by R.A. Houston to Henry Kruse, August Fehner, and William Sommers, who along with William Goebel and several other neighbors established the Ruppert Cemetery and Ruppert School, by purchasing property from, W.A. Ruppert in 1892. Later the family moved to the Green DeWitt area on South River Road in DeWitt County.

William was a farmer and farmed until his death in April of 1935. He kept bees and pigeon along with all his other farm work. He built a fine home which is still in the Goebel family.

William and Emma had twelve children: 1) Ilo Johann Viktor Goebel (1884-1960) 2) Ida Minnie Theodora Goebel (1886-1960) 3) Emma Anna Rosalinda Goebel (1888-1971); 4) Edwin Adolph Reinhold Goebel (1890-1957); 5) Adele Henriette Friderike Goebel (1891-1981); 6) Carl Wilhelm Johann Goebel (1893-1932); 7) Lydia Emilie Dorathea Goebel (1895-1973); 8) Meta Bertha Amalia Catharine Goebel (1896-1977); 9) Wilhelm Heinrich Friedrich Goebel (1899-1974); 10) Elsa Matilda Josephine Goebel (1901-1970); Rudolph Robert George Goebel (1904-1970); and 12) Perry Goebel (1907-1908).

The Goebel family held their twenty fifth Goebel Reunion on the William Goebel land in 1989.

by Patsy K. Goebel

GOEBEL, WILLIAM H. FAMILY

F326

Wilhelm Heinrich Friedrich (William) (Bill) (Red) Goebel, born on Jan. 27, 1899, was the ninth child of William M. Goebel and Emma Josephine Braeuer Goebel of Gonzales County, near Ruppert Cemetery. AFter 14 years in this area, William and Emma Goebel sold their 186 acres of land for $3,355.20 and moved to the Green DeWitt area of DeWitt County.

On August 8, 1924, William H. married Sophie Marie Luella Hans who lived in Meyersville. They were married in Arneckeville Lutheran Church. Luella and Estella were twin sisters born November 30, 1898 to August and Mary Junker Hans. They were the 2nd and 3rd of seven children in the family.

William and Luella lived in different places around the Meyersville and Arneckeville areas. Around 1936, they and their three sons,

LeRoy, Alton, and Harold, moved in with his mother, Emma, after his father's death and farmed the land. After Emma died, Feb. 3, 1938, the farm was divided between the eleven brothers and sisters. William inherited the small home east of the family home and moved his family there. He purchased additional acreage from the other heirs.

LeRoy was born August 4, 1925 and married Viola Rektorik on July 6, 1947. They have one daughter, Gail Marie Goebel Stevens, born on November 19, 1954, and three grandchildren.

Alton was born February 15, 1929 and married Doris Wolf on May 9, 1948. They had two children, Clifford Dean, born October 19, 1952, and Faye Alon, born January 7, 1954, and four grandchildren.

Harold was born July 10, 1931 and married Katherine Marie Koenig on October 15, 1950. They had 5 children, John Arthur, born July 10, 1951, Ruth Ann, born May 7, 1954, Paul Harold, born and died June 4, 1955, Rebecca Lou, born November 3, 1966, and Shirley Marie, born on April 25, 1969. They have three grandchildren.

Around 1938, Luella contracted tuberculosis and was in a San Antonio Hospital for some time, but was able to return home. After several years, illness forced her to leave the family home and live with her mother in Cuero until her death February 15, 1945. She is buried in the Arneckeville Lutheran Cemetery.

On April 20, 1949 William (Bill) married Emelie Arnecke in the Arneckeville Lutheran Church. They became mail-carriers for the Cuero A&M Route for many years. The route took them south from Cuero to Arneckeville, Meyersville, Ratcliffe, and back to Cuero. They continued the mail route until Bill passed away March 12, 1974 from heart failure. Emelie continued living in the home where she had been born in Arneckeville until her death March 3, 1988. The home and land were then sold.

by Katherine Koenig Goebel

GOEHRING, FRIEDERICK (FRITZ)
F327

Friederick (Fritz) Goehring immigrated to the United States in 1856, landed at Galveston, Tex., and went to Indianola, where he hauled freight to San Antonio, Tex. He came to DeWitt County, Tex. and bought land for his parents, Martin and Johanna Goehring.

Friederick (Fritz) Goehring (1835-1913) was born in Garkow, Prussia, the oldest son of Martin Goehring (b: 1802) and Johanna Louise Ann Kroschel Goehring (1809-1894). In Jan. 1858, Martin Goehring, Johanna Goehring, and seven of their children immigrated to the United States on the Vessel Weser from Bremen, Germany. At Ellis Island they took the Vessel Wilhelm to Indianola, Tex. Their married daughter, Caroline Goehring Priesmuth (1833-1919), her husband, Fritz Priesmuth (1829-1907) (butcher), and daughter, Bertha (4 mos.) came over on same ship and settled in Victoria, Tex.

Martin Goehring and family settled on the land that Fritz bought for them in the Shiloh Community, western DeWitt County, four miles east of Yorktown, Tex.

Fritz Goehring married Augusta Hoffman on Dec. 26, 1859 in Meyersville, Tex. Augusta (1841-1860) was born in Prussia, the oldest daughter of Ernest and Ernestine Hoffman who came to the United States on the ship Fortuna in 1859 from Prussia and settled near Yorktown. Three daughters came with them, Augusta Hoffman, Ernestine Hoffman, and Mina Hoffman.

Friederick (Fritz) and Ernestine Goehring 1891 Silver Anniversary.

Fritz and Augusta had one son, Fred Martin Goehring (1860-1944) born in Cuero, Tex. Fred Martin Goehring married Lusettie Champion (1864-1938), left DeWitt Co. and settled in Picacho, New Mexico area. They had eleven children. Fred Martin was a farm worker.

On Feb. 8, 1863, Fritz Goehring enlisted in Captain Wood's and Cupple's Co. K. 24, Tex. Cav. C.S.A. at Yorktown, Tex. for three years. During the time Fritz was in the service and due to the death of his wife, Augusta, (1860), Ernestine Hoffman took care of his son, Fred Martin.

On Aug. 3, 1866, Fritz Goehring married Ernestine Hoffman (1849-1911), sister to Augusta Goehring, at Meyersville, Tex. They lived in Clinton and later settled near Westhoff, Tex. Fritz was a wagoner, hauling freight from Indianola to San Antonio, and a farmer. Fritz and Ernestine moved to Victoria during the early 1900. Ernestine died on June 25, 1911 in Victoria. After her death Fritz went to live with his son Paul Goehring and family near Westhoff, Tex. Fritz died there July 23, 1913. He and Ernestine are buried on the Evergreen Cemetery, Victoria. Fritz and Ernestine had 13 children, two died in infancy.

Lena Goehring (1869-1902) married Fritz Mauzel and had no children.

Augusta Goehring (1870-1944) married John Gustav Leubert (1867-1955) and had 8 children: John E. Leubert, Jr., Anna Leubert Stolleis, Helen Leubert, William Leubert, Ernest Leubert, Meta Leubert Treybig, Esther Leubert, and Bertha Leubert Boethel.

Marie Goehring (1872-1951) married Carl Dietrich Bolting (1865-1947) and had 9 children: 4 died in infancy, Erna Bolting Mueller, Theodore Bolting, Carl Bolting, Otto F. Bolting, and Martha Bolting.

Berthold Goehring (1874-1942) married Justine Krueger (1889-1957) and had 4 children: John A. Goehring, Alfred F. Goehring, Rosalle Goehring Elswick, and Alleen Goehring Tibbs.

Sophie Goehring (1876-1952) married Emil J. Stolleis (1872-1942). They had 4 children: Lillian Stolleis, Arthur Stolleis, Alfred J. Stolleis and Emil Stolleis.

Paul Goehring (1878-1952) married Agnes Krueger (1890-1968) and had 7 children: Ella Goehring Oehlke, Claudia Goehring Oehlke, Iva Goehring Junker, Stacy Goehring, Aggie Mae Goehring Weise, Gladys Goehring Dieringer, and Raymond Goehring.

Lillie Goehring (1879-1963) married Gerhardt Mueller (1874-1911). They had 3 children: Laura Mueller Janssen, Erna Mueller Fechner, and Alvin G. Mueller.

Agnes E. Goehring (1881-1967) married Charles H. Thieme (1883-1936) and had 3 children: Margaret Thieme DeSalme, Walter H. Thieme, and Leonard R. Thieme.

Otto F. Goehring (1883-1963) married Alice Schmidt (1890-1968). They had 2 daughters: Leona Goehring Boysen and Dora Mae Goehring Koehler.

Alma Goehring (1885-1976) married Henry G. Buesing and had 4 children: Emil Buesing, Alfred Buesing, Iva Buesing Fromme, and Lucille Buesing Tips.

Olga Goehring (1885-1972) married Alfred D. Meyer and had 2 daughters: Dorothy Meyer Reinhard and Lucille Meyer Gordon.

by Alberta M. Wieland and Alfreda Huck

GOHLKE, JOHANN AND CHARLOTTE
F328

Johann (4 July 1802) and Charlotte (13 August 1802) Gohlke left Garkau, Germany on board the Texas in 1853 with the destination to be Victoria County. There were six persons in the company. The 1860 census finds Johann and his family living in DeWitt County near the Ratcliff Community.

This couple had four children: August Ferdinand (22 October 1834) married Anna Marie Schloz; Augusta (no information) married — Karnei; Julia (1844) married C.W. Hennig; L. (no information) married — Boldt.

The oldest child of Johann and Charlotte, August "Ferdinand" was born in Gockon, (Goschen) Brandeburg Province, Germany. He married Anna Marie Scholz (8 May 1838) of Baltsmanweler, Wurtemburg, Germany in 1858. He became a citizen of the United States and enlisted in the Hulan (Cav.) Reserve Co., DeWitt Co. 24th Brig. under the Commanding Officer, Captain Caesar Eckhardt on June 10, 1861 and served until Dec. 1864. To August "Ferdinand" and Anna Marie Schloz Gohlke were born eleven children: August "Henry", Ferdinand, Adolph, Emil, Emma, Lena, Bertha, Marie Caroline, Marie Hermine, Gustav Adolph, and Anna Louisa.

August "Henry" (6 April 1860) married Emilia Gerhardt (16 April 1865) on the 18th of November 1882. She was the daughter of Peter Gerhardt (7 April 1829) and Marie Weismann (4 Mar. 1835). They had eleven children: Heinrich "Robert", Theresa Louise (15 Aug. 1885), Peter "Ben" Bernhard (9 July 1887), Lillie "Bertha" (25 June 1889), Caesar Ferdinand (29 April 1891), Natallie Katherine (17 February 1893), Frieda Marie (26 Sept. 1894), Marcellus Frank (14 Oct. 1897), Roland Albert (4 January 1899), Norman Werner (2 Nov. 1905), and Malinda Emilie (21 Sept. 1909).

The second child, Theresa Louise married Fred (Friedrich Wilhelm Edward Menn (25 Dec. 1873) on October 11, 1908 in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas. They made their home on the homestead of Johannis Menn (1807) and Mary Alice Menn, his grandparents. This couple had two daughters: Evangeline (12 Nov. 1911) and EllaLee Stacy (29 Nov. 1917). Evangeline married Lewis Menn on July 18, 1934 and EllaLee married Herman C. Kerlick on April 9, 1944. Both daughters and their husbands continue to have ranching interest on the property of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

by Beverly Kerlick Bruns

GOHLKE, WILLIAM CARL AND JOHANNA RABKE

F329

Legacy

William Carl Gohlke was born in Germany on July 12, 1852. He came to the United States when he was 8 years old with his mother Agusta Gohlke (born in 1836, died in 1922) and his daddy Frederich (Fritz) Gohlke (born in 1827, died in 1908). The family landed at Indianola in 1860. They made their way to Clinton, Meyersville, and settled some where between Meyersville and Yorktown, Texas, in DeWitt County. William Carl Gohlke died November 15, 1932.

William Carl Gohlke married Johanna Agnes Rabke in 1880 in DeWitt County with the Reverend A. Schurich officiating. They settled where Rabke is now.

The couple had seven children: (1) Max Michael Gohlke married Ottelia Amelia Schorlemar. They had five children — Wilburn W. Gohlke (deceased), Lloyd Leslie Gohlke, Maxine Norma Delia Gohlke Smith, Irma De Nell Gohlke Schaller, and William Carlton Gohlke; (2) Willie Wesley Gohlke married Annie Burt. They had five children — Milton Max Gohlke (deceased), Ola Gohlke Speers, Willie Lee Gohlke Mullins (deceased), Gertrude Gohlke Gregg, and Doris Gohlke Hamff; (3) Calvin C. Gohlke married Martha Rabenault. They had four children — Elwood Gohlke (deceased), Margaret Gohlke Hunt, Calvin Cornelieus Gohlke, and Nelson Nathane Gohlke; (4) Johanna Agnes Gohlke married J. Herman Thormalen. They had three children — Ceasar Thornmalen, Gladys Thornmalen, and Alton (Bobbie) Thornmalen; (5) Delia Gohlke married Max H. Mueller. They had two children — Delton Mueller and Joe William Mueller. Delia Gohlke is still living; (6) Ella Gohlke and (7) Julia Gohlke died in infancy.

The old home place is still in Rabke. Grandpa or "fatter" Gohlke as we called him owned 168¾ acres; part of this land was given by him to build the little Methodist Rabke Church which is known as the "little church in the wildwood." This land was later sold to David Murray who still owns it.

I can remember grandpa's house. It had two rooms separated from the rest of the house. These were used as a kitchen and a dining room. The house had a long porch that ran all across the front. We called it a dog run. The other part of the house was bedrooms. The family had a well from which they had to draw water for drinking and other purposes.

They raised their own vegetables, fruit, and meat. Grandpa's favorite fruit was watermelon. His specialty was the Black Diamond, and he raised very large ones.

by Maxine Smith

GOHMERT, CHARLES AND JOAN VERNELL (EGG)

F330

Charles Gohmert was born September 13, 1926 to Reinhold Henrich Gohmert and Linda Anna (Diebel). He grew up in the Meyersville, Texas area where he attended St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Meyersville School. He finished the tenth grade at the age of fifteen. On November 28, 1942, at the age of 16, Charles went to work at Foster Field in Victoria for $124.00 a month. He was a messenger and rode a bicycle all over the base. He stayed with Gus Stolze in Victoria and came home by bus or with the LeRoy Angersteins.

In 1945 Charles went into the Army. He took his basic training at Fort Hood near Temple. Then he was stationed at Fort Howse on the Oklahoma border until he was transferred to Camp Meade in Maryland. Later he rode a train to the West Coast to Washington. It took seven days to cross the United States by train. From Washington he went by boat to Hawaii where he was stationed on the island of Oahu at Camp Scholfield Barracks. Charles was discharged at Fort Sam Houston in Texas in August of 1946.

On October 9, 1948 Charles married Joan V. Egg, daughter of Edwin Otto Egg and Cora Georgia (Wendel). She was born October 12, 1929 in the Meyersville area. Joan grew up on a dairy farm at Golly Hollow and attended the area schools until she went to Cuero High School. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1946.

Charles and Joan have five children (two children died at birth): 1) Karen Gohmert, b. October 13, 1951, married Gary Wayne Dueser and has two children, Cary Wayne and Wade Henry; 2) Thomas Charles was born Nov. 11, 1952, married Sandra Marie Grafe and has two children, Jennifer Ann and Stacey; 3) Susan Marie was born July 30, 1954, married Finley Charles Frels and has two children, Kimberly Ann and Kristy Nicole; 4) John Lloyd was born October 31, 1955, married first Cheryl Causey and later married Brenda Jansen. They have one child, Johnna; 5) Bruce Wayne was born Sept. 3, 1958 and married Karen Dee Goebel.

When Charles Gohmert came out of the service he worked cattle with his daddy for awhile. He worked a short time at McClarty's Feed Store in Cuero and then in 1948 he went to work for the DeWitt County Electric Co-op until his retirement in 1988. When he started at the Co-op he was making sixty cents an hour.

Joan (Egg) Gohmert worked on the dairy farm until she was twenty-one. She worked at several jobs until 1973 when she went to work for Duckett Motor Co. She continued to work for the company after it was purchased by Bob Farris.

by Joan (Egg) Gohmert

Charles Gohmert Family. Standing: Gary Dueser, Wade Dueser, Thomas Gohmert, Sandra (Grafe) Gohmert, Finley Frels. Seated, Middle Row: Cary Dueser, Karen (Gohmert) Dueser, John Lloyd Gohmert, Joan (Egg) Gohmert, Charles Gohmert holding Stacey Gohmert, Bruce Gohmert, Kristy Frels, Susan (Gohmert) Frels and Kim Frels. Seated in Front: Brenda (Jansen) Gohmert, Johnna Gohmert, Jennifer Gohmert and Karen (Goebel) Gohmert.

GOHMERT, FRANZ ALBERT AND MARIE MARTHA (HELBIG)

F331

Franz Albert Gohmert was born April 3, 1854, in Gurkow, Kreis-Freideberg, Germany, the child of Daniel Leo Gohmert (9/26/24-7/5/70) and Hanne Christine Juliane Sasse (2/11/25-2/15/09). Daniel and Hanne both were born and died in Germany. Franz's brothers and sisters were Emile Marie (1852), Julius Wilhelm (1858), Karl Daniel Louis (1859-1931), August Wilhelm (1862), Franz Gustav (1866), and Anne Emilie (1868). Karl Daniel Louis was the only brothers known to have emigrated besides Franz Albert. He located in Cuero. Franz was a butcher by trade.

Franz Gohmert home in Ratcliff ca. 1900's.

Daniel Leo Gohmert and Julia (Sasse) children, ca. 1912 in Germany. Back L-R: Franz Gustav (b. 1866), August Wilhelm (b. 1862), Karl Daniel (b. 1859), Julius Wilhelm (b. 1858). Front L-R: Annie Emilie (b. 1868), Franz Albert (b. 1854), and Emilie Marie (b. 1852).

Franz Gohmert Family. L-R Back: Leo, George, Oscar, Max, Bertha, and Albertina. Front: "Fahta" Franz, "Mutti" Marie, Marie, Erna, Reinhold and Werner, ca. 1914.

Marie Martha Helbig was born October 20, 1862, to Christian Helbig and Bertha Dossow in Germany where both parents were born and died. Marie was a seamstress. Franz Albert Gohmert and Marie Martha Helbig were married on August 19, 1881, in the Lutheran Church at Gralow Kreis-Landsburg in the province of Brandenberg, Germany. On or about the first day of September 1883, Franz and Marie and their young son Max Albert (9/21/81-9/17/72) set sail on the vessel Weser for America. They had lost one child Elisie (6/2/83-6/28/83). Max celebrated his second birthday during the crossing and on or about the first of October 1883 they arrived in Galveston. They began their new life on a farm on the Sandies Creek near Westhoff. They suffered many hardships during the following years while they tried to earn a living from the land. Their family continued to grow. The following six children were born on the Sandies: Agnes (6/21/84-10/18/84), Bertha Amalie (7/15/85-1/19/71), George Willie (8/4/87-7/2/64), Leo Daniel (3/7/89-1972), twins Albert and Marie (1/21/93-6/3&5/93). The family then began a series of moves to different farms in Dewitt County near Cuero. The first was the Smith place where two more children were born: Oscar Waldemer (3/18/94-4/8/82) and Herman Julius (2/4/96-4/15/96). The next child Julia (3/30/97-6/2/97) was born on the Neger place. Their next place of residence was the Boldt place where three children were born: Albertine Hertha (4/3/98-10/1973), Reinhold Henry (6/7/1900-3/8/85), and Werner Carlos (6/15/02-3/63). Franz and Marie finally settled on the Holzapfal place in Ratcliff. There two children were born: Erna Johanna (7/24/03-1/6/72) and Marie Martha (4/7/05-5/6/44).

Franz returned to Germany in the spring of 1912 to visit his family. The passengers on board the ship heard the SOS from the sinking Titanic. It was during this visit this photo was taken. His return ticket reveals that he sailed from Bremen, Germany, on the ship Barbarossa of the North Duetcher Lloyd Shipline on September 4, 1912, third class for $180.00. On Jan. 18, 1913, at the age of 59 Franz became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

Max married Elaine Villababous and settled in Yorktown. George married Augusta Rabke and settled in Cuero. They had five children: Captola, Alice, Newton, Preston and Joyce. Leo married Nora Boldt and settled in San Antonio. Their children were Milton, Lillard and Norris (dec'd). Oscar married Lilly Koenig and settled in San Antonio also. Their children are Eileen, J.C. (dec'd) and Mary Ann. Albertine married A.L. Butler and had one son Allen Lee. After her divorce she married Walter Giesick. Reinhold married Linda Diebel. They had four children: Ruth, Reuben, Charles, and Elizabeth and settled in Meyersville. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Werner Carlos married Alfrieda Ruschhaupt and settled in Yorktown. Their children are Harold, Julius (dec'd), Daniel and Judith.

After "Fahta" Franz died Feb. 12, 1936, Erna and Bertha remained on the farm. They raised turkeys, chickens, sold eggs, watermelons, strawberries, hogs, flowers and took homemade butter to market. One of the turkeys raised on the farm was named Grand Champion of the dressed turkey division of the 1956 Cuero Turkey Trot. "Mutti" Marie died Jan. 14,

1946. Erna and Bertha continued to run the farm. They delighted in playing six-handed 42 and cards and setting a groaning table loaded with homemade and homegrown goodies. The Gohmert home place in Ratcliff is now owned and farmed by Franz and Marie's grandson (Albertine's son) Allen Lee Butler.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

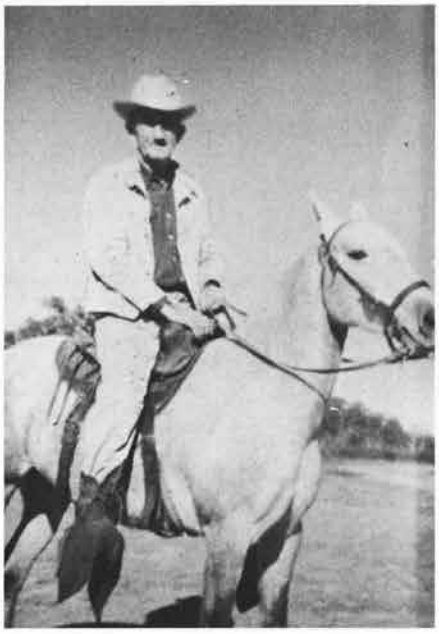
GOHMERT, REINHOLD HENRY AND LINDA ANNE EMELIE (DIEBEL)

F332

R.H. Gohmert Family L-R Back: Charles Reuben and Ruth. Front: R.H., Elizabeth and Linda.

R.H. Gohmert home – Meyersville

Reinhold Henry Gohmert married Linda Anne Emelie Diebel Sept. 28, 1921. They were married by Pastor B. Goglin, the first couple wed in the new St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas. It was also one of the first times the Delco lights were used in the church. R.H. had traveled by horse and buggy from his home in Ratcliff to count Linda in Victory County near Mission Valley. R.H. was born June 7, 1900, to Franz Albert Gohmert (4/3/1854 – 2/12/36) and Marie Martha



R.H. Gohmert

Helbig (10/20/63 – 1/14/46). See the Franz Gohmert story. R.H. was baptized April 14, 1912, in the Lutheran church in Cuero by Pastor Wilhelm Tuesck and was confirmed April 5, 1914, in St. John in Meyersville. He attended school in Ratcliff. Linda was born Jan. 21, 1898, to Jacob Friedrich Diebel (6/22/58 – 1/25/45) and Elizabeth Wendel (5/5/59 – 7/5/32) in Victoria County. See the Friedrich Diebel story. Linda was baptized June 12, 1898, in St. John in Meyersville by Pastor Wilhelm Westerhoff and was confirmed March 16, 1913, by Pastor Fr. Goertsmann. She attended the Noll School built in 1893 with the help of her father Friedrich Diebel. The school site and cemetery received a historical marker in 1977. R.H. and Linda's first home was on 83 acres in Victoria County bought from Friedrich Diebel for $1400.00. Ruth Myrtle was born there August 11, 1922. In Nov. 1923 they sold this place and bought the Gohmert homeplace in Ratcliff. Reuben Lee was born there June 26, 1924. They sold the Gohmert place and moved back to live with the Friedrich Diebels. Charles Friedrich was born there Sept. 13, 1926. In 1930 R.H. and Linda bought the Sprencil place near the twelve-mile Coleto Creek at Upper Meyersville and there Elizabeth Marie was born Nov. 6, 1935. In the winter of 1936 they sold the Sprencil place and bought the Gerhold place (built for Andreas Buehrig and his wife Sophie (Diebel) by a Mr. Rabke in 1850). Sophie was a sister of Christoph and Friedrich Diebel. See Christoph Diebel story. R.H. and Linda spent the rest of their lives here about three miles from Meyersville.

R.H. was a cowboy and a farmer. He worked at the Cuero Auction Ring on Thursday evenings and all day Friday from 1936 to 1977; the Victoria Auction Ring on Wednesdays from about 1950 to 1975; and the Gonzales Auction Ring on Saturdays for about 12 years. He also worked cattle for other people and bought and sold cattle. His favorite sport was 'coon hunting and favorite pastime was playing straight dominoes. Linda bought and sold furniture which she refinished; made quilts, sewed much of the family's clothes, and spent much of her time helping those in need. R.H. served on the church council at St. John and Linda sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and participated in the Ladies' Aid. In the early days of their marriage they butchered their own hogs and smoked their own sausages, made their own soap and raised poultry and vegetables. Ruth married Frank Fischer and they had two children: Jerry Lee and Linda Clare. After Frank's death Ruth married Elroy Peters. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Reuben married Virgie Reed Ideus and they had three children, Aletha Rae, Jo Beth, and Gordon Lee. They live in Meyersville. Charles married Joan Vernell Egg and settled in Meyersville also. They had five children: Karen Elgine, Thomas Charles, Susan Marie, John Lloyd, and Bruce Wayne. Elizabeth married John William Haun and they had three children, Terry Ray, Jeffery Dale and Lee Charles. They settled in Meyersville. After John's death Elizabeth married William Alfred Wendel. Their story is elsewhere in this book, "Pa" Reinhold and "Nanny" Linda lived their twilight years enjoying their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends. They loved to sit on the porch in the evenings and entertain. When the family got together they always gathered around the piano to sing. Birthdays and holidays were always big family celebrations. For many years the entire family would gather at Nanny and Pa's house on Christmas Eve after the church program. Before the gifts were opened, the grandchildren had to stand up before everyone and recite their "parts" from the Church's Christian Day Program. We would all sing Christmas carols and snack from the many different foods Nanny would prepare. R.H. passed away March 8, 1984, and Linda Dec. 23, 1987. Gohmert Road passes by the old homestead and three new ones: Ruth and Elroy Peters, Thomas and Sandy (Grafe) Gohmert, and Bruce and Karen (Goebel) Gohmert.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendell

GOHMERT, REUBEN LEE AND VIRGIE REED (IDEUS) GOHMERT

F333

Reuben Lee Gohmert was born 6/26/1924 in the Five Mile community, the second child of the union of Reinhold H. Gohmert (6/7/1900 – 3/8/1984) and Linda (Diebel) Gohmert (1/21/1898 – 12/23/1987), during the time they were living on the old Franz Gohmert home-

1979. L-R: "Joie" Gohmert, Aletha Gohmert, Virgie (Ideus) Gohmert, Reuben Gohmert and Gordon Gohmert.

place. Reinhold had returned home, with his young family, to help his folks out during some hard times. After things improved, the family moved back to Victoria County, near the DeWitt-Victoria County line, and Reuben received his first year of schooling in the New County Line School. Then the family purchased land near Upper Meyersville and he attended Meyersville Public School. When Reuben was 12, his folks purchased the Gerhold place, situated between what is know known as Gohmert Road and U.S. Highway No. 183, approximately 3 miles from Meyersville. This is where he spent his teenage years, with 2 sisters, Ruth and Elizabeth, and one brother, Charles. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1941 at the age of 16. He spent 1 year learning to weld through the NYA program in Cuero and another year at a welding school in Houston. At the age of 18 he was welding in the Houston Ship Yards. He served in the Navy during WWII from 5/13/1943 to 12/5/1945 aboard the U.S.S. Bushnell, a submarine tender. He spent the majority of his time anchored off of the Marshall Islands and Midway, welding and repairing damaged submarines.

Virgie Reed (Ideus) Gohmert, born 1/10/1926, was the first born child of Edmund Jean Ideus (1/10/1895 – 5/18/1987) and Melina (Diebel) Ideus (11/15/1903 – 7/13/1983), making her entrance into the world on the father's 31st birthday. She was born in the same house her mother was born in, the home in which Willie A. Diebel and Alma (Schorlememer) Diebel, Virgie's grandparents, had started their life together in 1901. This land is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Upper Meyersville. Virgie attended Meyersville Public School and graduated from Cuero High School in 1943. After attending Business College, she worked in Houston and San Antonio.

Reuben and Virgie were married 10/21/1945 in St. John's Lutheran Church of Meyersville by Pastor E.L. Arhelger while Reuben was still in the Navy. They drove to San Diego, California where he received his discharge. Upon returning they bought a home in Cuero, on Terrell Street. Virgie worked for the R.E.A. and Reuben was employed by Jack's Welding Works.

They both longed to get back to the country, so in 1947 they purchased an acre in Meyersville from Jack Schaefer, and built a new home there, within easy walking distance of their Church, the School and the Meyersville Store. This union was blessed with 3 children, Aletha Rae, born 4/6/1948, JoBeth "Joie" born 8/8/1951 and Gordon Lee born 10/31/1956.

In 1948 Reuben purchased a milk route and after picking up the milk at the dairies in the area, he delivered it to a Crescent Valley Creamery in Cuero and Victoria, and to a Creamery in LaGrange. Virgie stayed busy with her church work and her children, spending many hours trying to rehabilitate the muscles of Joie who had polio when she was 7 months old. After selling the milk route in 1957, Reuben joined Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 790 and began welding again. During the following 23 years he worked at most of the major industrial plants within driving distance of Meyersville, as well as farmed and ranched approximately 1000 acres. In 1963 Reuben and Virgie started a herd of purebred Beefmaster cattle. In 1978 they purchased a tract of land from Emmie Pflug in the Five Mile area. After a severe heart attack in 1980, Reuben quit welding and concentrated on ranching, taking great pride in his Beefmaster stock, which had grown to a herd of 130 mother cows by then.

On 6/4/1967 Aletha married Robert "Bob" L. Blain (2/14/1948). They have 3 children, Tammy Lee born 3/11/1967, Brandon Reed born 1/12/1972 and Britton Bob born 4/7/1977. Bob is Divisional Director for TLC Marketing Company and Aletha assists him with the office work.

On 2/16/1979 Joie married Harvey Lee Stiles (8/23/1948). Their children are Angela Lee born 12/5/1971, Kimberly Ann born 3/3/1975 and JoLeah born 11/25/1986. Harvey serves as the buyer for Stiles Cattle Company and Joie teaches at Cuero Junior High.

Gordon is not married and works in Dallas as a computer programmer for a financial services organization.

After the children were all gone from home, Virgie went back to work as Secretary/Bookkeeper for John G. Pokluda, Surveyor, in Cuero.

Christmas Eve is very special time in the Gohmert home. After the Sunday School program, the house is filled with family and friends gathered to celebrate the Savior's birth in song. After traditional Christmas snacks, the group gathers around the Christmas tree, Harvey takes out his guitar, and joyous song swells the air in Meyersville.

The Lord has been good to Reuben and Virgie and they've been richly blessed with a caring family. Their greatest joy is having all the children and grandchildren around them.

by Virgie Gohmert

GOHMERT, RICHARD AND ELAINE

F334

Richard and Alan Gohmert and Mildred Elaine Morrow were married in Cuero, Texas on March 25, 1975 at the home of her parents, Sterling and Jean Morrow. Rev. Bob Hairston performed the ceremony.

L-R: Elaine, Clayt, Richard, and Brandy Gohmert, 1984.

Richard was born August 18, 1952 in Cuero, Texas, one of six children born to Newton George Gohmert and Verna Lee Till (only child of Joe Till and Selma Boehm). He was delivered by Dr. Landry at the Burns Memorial Hospital. He attended St. Michael's Catholic School through the sixth grade and then went on to graduate from Cuero High School in 1970.

Elaine was born August 15, 1953 in Gonzales County, the eldest of three children born to Sterling Boothe Morrow and Norma Jean Koenig. She was delivered by Dr. Walter A. Sievers at the Holmes Memorial Hospital. She attended W.W. White Elementary, Otto Pfeiffer Elementary, and Jeff Davis Jr. High in San Antonio. The family moved to Houston in 1968 and she graduated from Spring Woods High School in 1971.

Elaine stayed in Houston and worked before moving to Cuero in 1974. Richard worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad for several years before settling to farming, ranching, and bulldozing operations. Elaine owned and operated Merle Norman Cosmetics from 1978 to 1988 and was active in the Decor Shoppe with her mother.

Their first child, Brandy Lynn Gohmert, was born September 15, 1976. She was delivered by Dr. John C. Davis at Cuero Community Hospital. She attended the Sunshine House Day Care before entering John C. French and Hunt Elementary. She is presently in the seventh grade at Cuero Jr. High School and is a member of the 7th Grade Cheerleading Squad, Post Oak 4-H Club, and Cuero Hermann Sons Dance Class, and Cuero Jr. High School Band.

On September 14, 1983, a son, given the name Clayt Richard Gohmert, was born in DeTar Hospital in Victoria. He was delivered by Dr. Michael Burditt. Clayt started kindergarten at John C. French this year.

At present time Elaine is attending nursing school and will graduate a Registered Nurse in May 1990. They are now living in a home towards Lindenau on acreage down Wofford Lane in Precinct 1 of DeWitt County.

by Jean Morrow

GOLDMAN FAMILY

F335

James Ithamar Goldman was the son of Ogden and Elizabeth Bowen Goldman, who came to Texas from Mississippi. He was born in Goliad County in 1859. In 1893 he married Rosalie Steele and moved to the Westhoff Community in 1894. He farmed just north of Westhoff until he moved into town in the early 1920's.

James Ogden (Ott) Goldman, their son, and his wife, Maude, lived in Westhoff until they moved to Cuero, during the 1940's, where they lived until their deaths. Their daughter, Stella Ruddock, still resides in Cuero. For many years, Ott Goldman delivered ice to homes in Westhoff. Later he sold ice and distributed the San Antonio papers.

James and Rosalie Goldman also had two daughters, Katie and Emma. They married brothers, George and Ernest Weston, and made their homes in Westhoff most of their lives. Information about their families is included in the Weston Family biography.

by Joyce W. Kayser

GOLLY, ANTOINE AND CATHERINE HAUER

F336

Antoine Golly, the first child of Thiebaud Golly and Catherine Lutenbacher, was born December 20, 1798 in the small village of Fellering, which lies a little to the south of the larger town of Oderen in the Thur River Valley in Upper Alsace France. Easily traceable as far back as the mid 1600s, the Golly or Goli name appears in the Catholic Church records of St. Blaise and in civil records of Oderen, France more and more often in the following two hundred years. During the Thirty Years War the population of the Thur Valley in France was greatly reduced by casualties of war, starvation, poverty and disease, creating a large reduction in manpower needed to operate the small farms, vineyards, mines and weaving mills. A campaign was begun to recruit families from neighboring areas who could fill the vacant jobs, single men to marry the widows of the Thur Valley and people with new talents to introduce to the area. It was during this time that families emigrated from Switzerland and settled in the Oderen-Fellering area of the Thur Valley, among them being the families of Goli, Pitterli, Haller, Jacob and others.

Antoine Golly had six brothers and sisters, one of them being Marie Anne, born in 1808. In 1816 Antoine Golly's mother died and his father, Thiebaud Golly married again. Soon there were at least three more siblings added to the family, the last being Joseph Golly, whom it is thought may have also immigrated to Texas. Antoine Golly, who gave his occupation as a weaver and at other times a farmer, was 33 years old when he married Catherine Hauer (Auer) March 2, 1831 in Oderen, France. Antoine and Catherine had at least four children, two of them living until adulthood. Antoine Golly Jr., the only son, was born November 1, 1835 and a daughter, Marie Agathe, was born April 28, 1838.

The close knit little family lived on the small farm near Fellering, surviving, but always apprehensive about the future and economy of their village, and consequently, their own well-being. Antoine would supplement the family income by making charcoal. This was an age-old process whereby trees were cut on the mountainsides, the logs then burned in a special manner to make charcoal which was easily hauled down the mountainside to the villages below. The forest could not last forever, the textile mills were becoming more mechanized and there was hardly enough farm land to support the growing population of the Thur Valley.

The Henri Castro Colonization project in Texas was an instant newsmaker in Alsace. Word spread quickly up the Thur River Valley from Mulhouse into the small villages of Fellering, Kruth, Oderen and others. Perhaps this promise of abundant land and prosperity was the answer that many in the Thur Valley had been seeking.

In spite of the warnings of the adverse conditions, disease and Indian problems in Texas, Antoine Golly and his brother in law, Jean Haller, Marie Anne Golly's husband, made the painful, yet exciting, decision to leave their homes in the beautiful Thur River Valley of Alsace France to immigrate to an uncivilized land called Texas.

Antoine's sister, Marie Anne, her husband Jean Haller and their five children left France November 22, 1843, sailing on the Ship Heinrich bound for Galveston, Texas. Antoine Golly, his wife Catherine, and their two children, Antoine Jr., age 5 and Marie Agathe, age 3, followed shortly afterwards, leaving Antwerp on May 12, 1844, also bound for Galveston. By mid-August 1844 they reached San Antonio where they joined many other Castro Colonists, some their relatives and some former neighbors, who had been in San Antonio for months waiting to proceed to the land which they had been promised. Many had become disillusioned and had joined the Solms-Braunfels Colony, and some obtained work in San Antonio and were assimilated into the growing population of that city. Antoine Golly was not discouraged by this discontent. He was determined to fulfill his part of the contract he had signed with Henri Castro and was determined that Castro would fulfill his obligation to give his colonists the land he had promised them.

By September 1, 1844, Antoine Golly was among the men Henri Castro had recruited to go with him to make ready a suitable place to settle his colonists; a place now known as Castroville. As an added enticement, Castro promised an extra 40 acres of land and a town lot to the men who would accompany him on this treacherous 30 mile journey west of San Antonio, across the Medina River. By being among the men who went with Henri Castro that day in September 1844, Antoine Golly received Lot 3, Blk. 1, Range 10. On September 12, 1844, twenty-seven men ascribed their names to a document declaring that the town they had founded be called Castroville, in honor of the man who had brought them to that place on the Medina River in Bexar County, the Republic of Texas. The name Antoine Golly was among the signatures on the document signed that day.

Tragedy was to strike Antoine Golly and his children more than once in the next few years. Some time between 1844 and 1847, Antoine's wife, Catherine died. Harsh conditions in Texas were hard for a man with two young children to endure alone, and even harder for a woman, especially with children. On October 10, 1847 records at St. Louis Catholic Church in Castroville show that Father Claud DuBuis "ratified and blessed the marriage already contracted before a civil magistrate, of Anthony Golly and Anna Mary Kieny." In December of that same year Anna Mary Kieny died. On March 12, 1848, Antoine Golly married Rosina Britch at Castroville. Rosina, a widow with a son named Gottlieb, had lost her husband and two children the two previous years. In 1848, Rosina Britch died, and Antoine Golly was once again left a widower with his two small children and a stepson, Gottlieb Britch to care for. Gottlieb Britch and Antoine Golly Jr. were both 13 years old and soon would be able to care for themselves, but Marie Agathe Golly was only 10 and could hardly care for herself, much less the household. Antoine's sister, Marie Anne (Mrs. Jean Haller), helped all she could but she too had her hands full with her own family. Antoine Golly received word that an old neighbor, Joseph Winckler, from Ranspach France, had died in DeWitt County, leaving his widow, Genevieve Jacob and their two little girls to run a small farm alone. Antoine Golly and Genevieve Jacob Winckler, a sister of Mrs. Peter Bluntzer, were married on March 29, 1850 in DeWitt County. Gottlieb Britch was now 15 years old and soon would be taking over the land in Medina Co. that his parents had received as a Castro Colonists. For the next few years he made his home with a Dr. John Hofmann and his family in the Castroville area. Years later Gottlieb married Katerina Nieterhoefer and they had eight children.

Antoine Golly had fulfilled his contract with Henri Castro, had received his 40 acres of land and the town lot in Castroville and had received his Third Class Headright Certificate entitling him to locate 640 acres of land in the Castro Colony. In 1850-1854, Antoine sold his rights to the 640 acres of land to which he was entitled and began buying land in DeWitt County on the 12 Mile Coleto.

Antoine and Genevieve had a daughter on June 12, 1851 whom they named Catherine. They lived with their combined family of five children on the 12 mile Coleto until death. Records show that Antoine and Genevieve were instrumental in aiding many other families, who were to follow them from Alsace, to settle in the Meyersville-Mission Valley area, among them being Genevieve's brother, Henri Jacob and family, the Richard Haller family, the Joseph Bitterly family, and the large Joseph Grunewald family.

Antoine Golly Jr. married Rosalie Haller on the 7th of August, 1859. They had 13 children and continued to live nearby on the Haller place. Marie Agathe Golly married Pantaleon Luder, a native of Oderen France, on March 4, 1856 and had 3 children. After the death of Pentaleon Luder, Marie Agathe Golly married James Lindsay on May 25, 1875 and had two more children. Catherine Golly married Conrad Didier-Laurent, a widower with several children, on the 13th of March 1869. Josephine Winckler married Eigidius Dreyer and they had ten children. Theresa Winckler first married Andre Munsch. After his death, Theresa married Antoine Arnold and they had seven children.

On September 12, 1869, twenty five years after arriving in Texas, typhoid fever claimed the life of Antoine Golly. He is buried in the cemetery at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Jeane Bitterly

GOLLY, ANTONE JR. AND ROSALIE HALLER

F337

Antone Golly Jr. was born in Oderen, Alsace, France, on November 1, 1835, to Antoine Golly and Catherine Hauer. When he was about 8 years old he immigrated to Texas with his parents and his sister, Marie Agathe, who was 5 at the time. The Golly family had joined Henri Castro and his colonization project on land in Bexar County, Texas, now Medina County, joining many friends and relatives on a long and wary voyage from LeHavre to Galveston, Texas in 1844.

Antone learned to live with many adversities in his young life, perhaps preparing him for events to come later. Antone's mother died not long after reaching Texas, if in fact she ever reached the Castroville destination. Antone was to have three stepmothers in his lifetime. The first two died within two years of one another from either typhoid or cholera which took the lives of many in the Castro Colony. The Gollys moved to DeWitt County when

Antone Golly, Jr.

Rosalie (Haller) Golly

Antone Golly Sr. married Genevieve Jacob, the widow of Joseph Winckler, who had also come to Texas from Oderen, France. Genevieve and her two small daughters, Josephine and Theresa, lived on land purchased by Joseph Winckler on the Twelve Mile Coleto in Dewitt County. Antone's father purchased more land bordering the Winckler land and this was home to Antone Golly Jr. for the next ten years, along with his sister, his two step sisters, and a half-sister, Catherine, who was born in 1851. The five children evidently got along very well as they continued to live within a short distance of one another all their lives.

In 1857, Richard Haller, his wife Agathe Wilhelm and their only child, Rosalie, emigrated from Alsace, France and settled on the Five Mile Coleto. Rosalie was 14 years old and it probably did not take Antone Golly Jr. long to discover the neighbor girl who had just moved to Texas. On August 7, 1859, Antone Golly Jr. and Rosalie Haller were married. by the priest from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria when he made his routine visits to the Coleto Creek and Meyersville areas of DeWitt County. Rosalie had just turned 16 years old and Antone would soon be 24.

Antone and Rosalie continued to live with her parents on the 200 acres Richard Haller purchased in 1858. Antone soon began purchasing land nearby, eventually acquiring a sizeable estate.

The first child, Elise, was born to Antone Golly and Rosalie Haller on December 24, 1860, followed by twelve more children in the following twenty years.

Richard Haller died in 1863 and Rosalie and Antone continued to live on the Haller property with her mother. Eventually the Richard Haller homestead was called the Golly-Haller place and today the area is known as the Golly Community and marked on most Texas maps as "Golly".

The many Golly children, as well as the neighbor children, needed to attend school so a building was erected on the Golly-Haller property for this purpose. Not many particulars are known about the actual beginnings of this school, but it is known that Antone Golly served as one of the trustees. In 1884 the Golly School Building was moved to it's present location; the first location being in a low lying area west of the present site. Golly School became part of the Public School system about 1893 and classes were held there until 1946. In 1952, the former schoolhouse became a Community Center and is still in use today.

At the beginning of the Civil War Antone Golly enlisted in The Coleto Guards, 24th Brigade under Captain Robert Kleberg. Very little is known about Antone's activities in this unit or if, in fact, he ever played any major part. Tiny bits of information that have not been documented suggest that he did.

In 1869, Antone Golly's father died from typhoid fever, followed shortly by the death of Rosalie, a child of one year. Antone's wife, Rosalie Haller Golly, died on January 29, 1882. One week later, on Feb. 8, 1882, another one year old daughter, Emma Matilda, died. Antone, Golly, who had seen death come to most of his relatives and many of his friends, died June 12, 1884 when he was 51 years old. One month later, Elise Golly, Antone and Rosalie's first child, who was married to Benjamin Arnold, died. The unmarried Golly children continued to live at home with their grandmother, Agathe Wilhelm Haller until she could not care for them. The vast estate of Antone Golly Jr. and Rosalie Haller was divided or sold. The youngest children were separated by the court and sent to live with two older sisters, Mary Golly Koenig and Leone Golly Bitterly, and the once prominent Golly family was no more.

Elise Golly (1860-1884) married Benjamin Arnold. Maria Golly, (1862-1909) married Louis Koenig. Pauline Golly (1864-?) married William Eismann. Leone Golly (1865-1931) married William Bitterly. Eugenie Golly (1866-1945) married John Bitterly. Marie Sophie Golly (1868-1914) married — Myrick. Rosalie Golly (1869-1875) died young. Wilhelmine Golly (1871-1962) married William Harralson. Louis Albert Golly (1873-1926) married Theresa Rehm. Amelia Antonet Golly (1875-?) married #1 John Short, #2 a Mr. Baker. Anna Bertha Golly, (1876-1912) married Charles A. Thamm. Josephine Golly (1878-?) married #1 Davis, #2 Scott. Emma M. Golly, (1881-1882) died in infancy. Most of the Golly children lived and died in DeWitt County except Wilhelmina, who lived in San Antonio, and Antonet and Josephine, who both lived and died in Bisbee, Arizona.

by Jeane Bitterly

J.B. HARRIS'

Price List

YOAKUM, TEXAS.

35 lb sack very best corn meal	50c
48 lb sack Tidal Wave Flour for	1 25
19lbs white granulated sugar for	1 00
20 lbs best YC sugar for	1 00
7lbs best Peaberry coffee for	1 00
8 lbs best green coffee for	1 00
New Scotch oatmeal 3 packages for	25c
1 lb package Jumbo tobacco for	20c
White corn syrup per gallon	35c
Best White Wine Vinegar per gallon	20c
200 lb sack of salt, coarse or fine	85c
20 cans best Mendelson's lye	1 00
Best Cream Cheese per pound	15c
Short plug Toothpick tobacco per lb	45c
1lb bucket Fashion smoking tobacco	45c
Arm & Hammer soda per pound	5c
Black Pepper the best, per lb	20c
Turf tobacco per lb	40c
Razor tobacco per lb	40c
6 oz bottle Levi Garrett snuff for	20c
15 bars good soap for	25c
Ribbon cane syrup per gallon	40c
6 boxes good axle grease for	25c
20lbs lump starch for	1 00
5 gallons Eupion oil for	70c
8 quart galvanized iron bucket	15c
3 cans Good Luck baking powder	25c
Nice country bacon per lb	10c
Lemons per doz	15c
2 cans Oatmeal for	25c
20 lbs black eyed peas	$1
20 lbs white beans for	$1
20 lbs read beans for	$1

Whip-Poor-Will peas at market price.

GONZALES, ALFONSO L. FAMILY

F338

Alfonso Gonzales Family. Back Row: Gerard and Carmen (Linda). Front: Alfonso, Yvonne and Carmen.

Alfonso, son of Elvira Liendo and Manuel Gonzales, was the second of four children, born November 24, 1918 in Inez, Texas, Victoria County. He attended school in Cuero and began working at the Cuero Packing House in 1932. In October 1934 he began working at the Cuero Record (newspaper) and remained there until June, 1942. At that time he left to serve in the Army during World War II with the 442nd AAA Battalion in North Africa and with the 4.2 Mortar Battalion in Sicily and Italy under the 5th Army. He returned from the service July, 1945 as a Tech Sergeant with four battle stars and Presidential Citation and returned to work at the Cuero Record in November 1945. On February 2, 1946 he married Carmen Alcala De La Fuente, eldest of twelve children born to Emma De La Fuente and Damaso Alcala of San Miguel De Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. To the union of Alfonso and Carmen three children were born: Carmen (Linda) born November 15, 1948; Gerard born May 17, 1954; and Yvonne born January 27, 1956. Alfonso and Carmen still reside in Cuero today. Alfonso left the Cuero Record in March of 1986 and now works with his son Gerard and daughter-in-law Debra Gonzales (owners of Standard Printing Company). Carmen worked as an LVN for 14 years and since 1972 has worked at the DeWitt County Tax Assessor's office as Deputy Tax Assessor-Collector.

by Gerard Gonzales

F. M. GOEHRING.
The Gentlemens' resort.
The very .best of everything in wet goods..
Restaurant in connection.

GONZALES, GERARD A.

F339

Gerard, son of Carmen Alcala and Alfonso

Gerard, Debra and Michael Gonzales

Gonzales, was the second of three children. He was born May 17, 1954 in Cuero, Texas. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1972, attended Texas State Technical Institute in Waco in 1973 and graduated in 1975 from San Jacinto College, Pasedena, Texas with a degree in commercial art and advertising. On May 11, 1975 he married Debra Ann Barrera of Yoakum, Texas. She was the first of three children born of Carlos and Rachel Barrera of Yoakum. Gerard and Debbie moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where he worked for Commercial Computer Typography. They returned to Yoakum, Texas where he worked for Tex Tan Western Leather – Advertising Department for nine years. In 1984 he went to work for Standard Printing Company in Cuero and in 1985 he and his wife, Debbie, purchased the company from Glendol Snodgrass. Debra Gonzales graduated from Victoria College in 1985 and is bookkeeper and sales clerk at Standard Printing Company while Gerard is production manager. They have one son, Michael Gerard Gonzales, born November 28, 1984 and they now reside in Cuero, Texas.

by Gerard Gonzales

GONZALES, JESUS AND MARGARET ELIZA WOODS

F340

Jesus Gonzales was born in 1851, in Cadreyta, Republic of Mexico, and emigrated to Texas by 7 October 1870.

Margaret Eliza Woods the daughter of Montraville (son of Zadock Woods and Minerva Cottle Woods) and Isabella (Hidalgo) Valdes Gonzales , was born at Woods Fort, Fayette Co., Texas on 21 January 1849. In 1856, Montraville and his brother, Henry Gonzalvo Woods, moved their families to the Shiloh community of DeWitt Co., Texas. Unfortunately, Montraville Woods died on 15 July 1857 and Isabella donated the land designated as Woods Cemetery, Shiloh (Yorktown) DeWitt Co., Texas as his final resting place. Isabella Woods continued to care for her land with the help of her children. Later Joe Escalera and Jesus Gonzales worked for her both before and after their marriages to the Woods sisters, Ann and Margaret Eliza.

On 20 December 1883, Jesus Gonzales married Margaret Eliza Woods in Yorktown, Texas, with Justice of the Peace J.T. Kilgore officiating and witnessed by Eliza's only brother, Montraville Zadock Woods, who gave the bride's hand in marriage. Jesus Gonzales was awarded American citizenship on 19 November 1894 in Cuero, Texas. Both Margaret Eliza and Jesus Gonzales are buried in Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, DeWitt Co., Texas.

The union of Jesus and Margaret Eliza Woods Gonzales was blessed with four daughters, born at Shiloh: Lenora, born 23 October 1884; Lena Rose, born 17 November 1886; Susie Ann, born 30 April 1888 and finally Emma Ardelia, born 11 November 1890 (named for Eliza's sister, Emma Ardelia Woods Hartman).

Lenora married Felix W. Hoefling on 19 December 1908 in Cuero and their first son, Felix William, was born and died on 8 December 1909 in Yorktown. Elma Lucille was born 24 November 1911, followed by a son, Felix Wilbur, on 10 November 1915; however, he ate poisonous berries and died at age four. Their final child, David Allen, was born on 26 April 1921. Lenora died on 9 April 1939, after massive stroke, at age 53.

Lena Rose married Raymond Hanna on 26 February 1922 in Cuero and to this union were born two daughters: Gladys Madeline, born 17 February 1923 and Margarete Hermina, born and died on 25 April 1925. Lena died 30 December 1977 at her home and is buried at Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

Susie Ann was married to William Eugene Caruthers on 22 December 1913 in Yorktown, DeWitt Co., Texas. They had a large family of eight children, all born at Yorktown: Stanley, stillborn August 1914; Jewel Lenora, born 28 October 1915, Kenneth Vinton, born 4 October 1917; Arvon Ewing, born 22 December 1919;

L-R: Margaret Eliza (Woods) Gonzales, Emma Gonzales, Lenora Gonzales, Isabella (Hidalgo) Gonzales Woods, Lena Rose Gonzales, Jesus Gonzales, Susie Gonzales

Luther Lamont, born 4 December 1921; William "Billie" Eugene, born 14 June 1924; Dorothy Nell, born 6 October 1927 and finally, Jane Allen, born 13 October 1930. Susie passed away on 20 November 1987, at age 99 years, 6 months and 20 days, in Yorktown Rest Home, with her children, Jewel, Jane, Arvon and Bill by her side.

Emma Ardelia never married. She lived with her mother after her father, Jesus Gonzales, died in the spring of 1922 in Yorktown until her mother, Margaret Eliza, died in her home in Yorktown on 5 December 1936 at the age of 87 years, 10 months and 14 days. Emma then lived with her sister, Lena, until Emma died on 6 July 1957.

by Marianne Little

GONZALES, RAFAEL AND MARTINA DeLEON M.

F341

Rafael and Martina (DeLeon-Morales) Gonzales May 24, 1922

A descendant of Don Martin DeLeon, the founder of Victoria, Texas, Martina DeLeon Morales, made her entrance into the world in 1901. Born in China Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Martina was the daughter of Rafael Morales and Zeferina DeLeon.

Her family moved to Mission, Texas when she was three years old and it was there she attended school, learning to read and write in Spanish until the third grade.

When she was nine, Martina's mother died of unknown causes. Aided by friends and constant reading of the newspaper, Martina learned English the hard way.

Another move of the family in 1919 brought them to a farm near Westhoff, Texas where they farmed and picked cotton. Martina married Rafael Cavazos Gonzales, the son of Joaquin Garza Gonzales and Belen Valdez Cavazos, in 1922. The couple lived on the Wallis Ranch near Westhoff, where they farmed and ranched. They grew cotton and hay and raised cattle, horses, hogs, chickens and turkeys.

Ten of their children were born on the Wallis Ranch and the first eight of the children attended Wallis Ranch School.

Continuing ranching and farming, the Gonzales family moved to Mustang Mott near Lindenau in 1939. The children attended Williford School and the Lindenau School for one year. Due to confrontations with the teachers and other students, the children were sent back to Wallis Ranch School. A teacher, Mrs. Houston, picked up the children and took them to school each day. Two more children, Candy and Manuel were born during this time.

In 1941, the family moved to Clinton where the children attended Clinton School except for the two oldest sons who attended Cuero High School. In 1943, the two oldest boys enlisted in the Army. The family again moved to the Crain farm with another new daughter, Margaret.

Martina and Rafael always emphasized the value of education to their children. Since there were racial problems at the time, the younger children were unable to attend John C. French School but were enrolled in St. Michaels School. The children generally walked the three and one-half miles from school. They helped with the work at home and on the farm. They helped pick cotton and bale hay.

On July 26, 1944, the Gonzales family received word that their son, Ralph had been seriously wounded while serving in France. Two days later Annie, their fourteenth child, was born. In September 1944, Louis enlisted in the Army and later was on active duty stationed in Korea. Soon after that the family moved to Cuero and resided at 519 Terry St.

Mary, their fifteenth child, was born in 1946, the same year that Tim and Ralph received their honorable discharge from the Army. Another son, Alfred, joined the Air Force in April 1946.

The Gonzales family stressed participation in school, church, and community activities. Both Martina and Rafael were P.T.A. members. Martina became famous for her tamales which she generally donated to many functions. Rafael served as Truant Officer for the school from the 1950's through the 1970's. He was also a Reserve Deputy with the DeWitt County Sheriff's Department.

Martina and Rafael are proud of their family and their accomplishments. Eleven of their children graduated from Cuero High School. The four older sons received their diplomas and college degrees after their service days. They all entered different professions. Six daughters, Belen, Martha, Frances, Rose, Annie and Mary became nurses. Candy and Margaret became beauticians. The three younger sons were members of the Texas National Guard.

Martina and Rafael celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on May 24, 1989. They have fifteen children, forty one grandchildren, and twenty nine great grandchildren.

by Martha Gonzales

Distributed by
F. M GOEHRING.

Rafael Gonzales Family – L-R, standing: Manuel, Tom, Val, Alfred, Louis, Ralph, Tim, Belen (Gonzales) Sims, Martha, Frances (Gonzales) Cuellar, Rose (Gonzales) Olivarez, Candy (Gonzales) Mitten, Margaret (Gonzales) Longoria, Annie (Gonzales) Morrison, Mary (Gonzales) Carlow. Seated: Rafael and Martina Gonzales

GOODE, GEORGE B. AND MARTHA EMILINE (GOODSON)

F342

The first member of the Goode family who came to DeWitt County was George B. Goode (1831-1862), son of Hezekiah Goode and Elizabeth Lee Goode. He married Martha Emiline Goodson (1834-1904), daughter of Arthur Goodson and Jane (Kelly) Goodson, in DeWitt County Texas July 21, 1857. She is buried in the Hebron Cemetery. He was killed about 1862 while hauling freight to Brownsville, Texas and was buried somewhere north of there, but the exact location of his grave is not known. They had two children, William Arthur and George Charles.

(1) William Arthur "Buddy" Goode was born August 28, 1858 in the Hebron Community near Terryville, Texas. He married Alieuan "Lue" Garrett in DeWitt County October 23, 1879. She was born at Antioch, Texas in Lavaca County November 17, 1863, the daughter of William Mansfield Garrett and Margaret Ann (Byars) Garrett. "Buddy" and "Lue" Goode bought the John Hargrove place near Hebron Church in 1880 and lived there all their lives. Buddy Goode died August 27, 1930. Lue Goode died November 11, 1961. They are buried in Hebron Cemetery. They had nine children:

#1 – William George Goode – b. August 20, 1880 d. April 1, 1945. Married Sallie Carroll October 25, 1905. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Two children: Lester and Cody.

#2 – Fannie Goode – b. March 12, 1883, d. January 2, 1973. Married John S. Cooper September 11, 1901. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Four children: Leura, Frank, Ruth and Beatrice.

#3 – Annie Goode – b. September 22, 1885 d. December 2, 1968. Married Willis E. Vick May 5, 1909. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. No children.

#4 – Minnie Mae Goode – b. August 8, 1888 d. December 5, 1970. Married Ben F. New November 24, 1907. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. One child (adopted): Billy Frank.

#5 – Mattie Goode – b. May 24, 1891 d. October 22, 1960. Married (1) Wright Pease November 27, 1913; four children: Jessie Lois, Marguerite, Earl and Charles Ray. Married (2) Ocie Marshall January 12, 1927; two children: Jeff and Jack. Buried in Hebron Cemetery.

#6 – Henry Fordtran Goode – b. March 12, 1894 d. October 1, 1918. Killed in France in World War I. Never married. Buried in Hebron Cemetery.

#7 – Geneva "Eva" Goode – b. April 7, 1897. Married James Hart Hollan (1896-1932) in DeWitt County, Texas September 29, 1915. Eight children: Ruby, Mildred, Letha Mae, Sibyl, Lillian, Fay, Joyce and Wayne.

#8 – Eula Goode – b. August 29, 1899 d. July 11, 1970. Married Sam M. Hollan December 31, 1921. One child: Mary Lou. Buried in Hebron Cemetery.

#9 – Guy Goode – b. September 20, 1903 d. January 21, 1971. Married Dorothy Castellaw May 19, 1934. Two children: Peggy and Glenn. Buried in Hebron Cemetery.

(2) George Charles Goode was born December 23, 1860 in DeWitt County. He married Alice Toda Goode, daughter of John Hawkins Goode and Nancy Elizabeth (Goodson) Goode, in DeWitt County September 28, 1881. They moved to Goosecreek, Texas soon after their marriage, and are buried in Houston, Texas. They had three children: George, Allie and Ninnie.

by Mary Hollan Inman

GOODE, JOHN HAWKINS

F343

John Hawkins Goode was born 8 Feb 1838 in Ala., son of Joseph H. Goode and Deida Goode. When he was a few months old, members of the Goode, Byars, Cooper, and Autry families moved to Chickasaw County, Miss.

After the father Joseph H. Goode died in 1854, John Hawkins Goode loaded his widowed mother Deida, his four little brothers, James Robert, Thomas Jefferson, William Obediah, Henry Harrison Horace and a baby sister Joanna in an ox-wagon and came to Osage, Texas to join other members of the Goode family. They later lived at Columbus and Bellville, Texas.

John Hawkins Goode and his cousin George B. Goode came to Terryville, Texas in DeWitt Co. to visit their Byars relatives. They met the Goodson sisters Emiline and Nancy, daughters of Arthur Goodson and Jane (Kelly) Goodson. John Hawkins Goode and Nancy E. Goodson were married 10 Aug 1860 in DeWitt Co. Texas. Twin girls Leura and Laura were born 29 Dec 1861 while their father was gone to the Civil War.

After the Civil War John H. and Nancy E. Goode built a home on the north side of Bear Creek, in the Hebron Church Community, near Terryville, Texas. They raised a large family and lived on this home place in southeastern DeWitt County for the rest of their lives.

Children born to this couple were: (1) Leura 1861-1881 md. William C. Cooper. (2) Laura 1861-1944 md. Joseph Cook. (3) Alice T. 1865-1940 md. George Charles Goode. (4) Hattie 1867-1963 md. William G. Cooper. (5) Joseph Hawkins 1869-1938 md. Mattie Benbow. (6) Amanda Jane 1872-1948 md. Thomas Cudd. (7) David Jackson 1875-1880. (8) James Vollentine 1876-1948 md. Isabella. (9) William Henry 1878-1890. (10) Lillie Deida 1880-1964 md. John Stukes.

John Hawkins Goode, his wife Nancy E. (Goodson) Goode, seven of their children and many descendants are buried in the Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery in southeastern DeWitt County.

John H. and Nancy Goode were always known as Pappy and Mammy Goode. John Hawkins Goode was born 8 Feb 1838 in Ala., died 1 Feb 1915 in DeWitt Co. Nancy E. Goode was born 10 Mar 1840 in Miss., died 13 Jan 1920 in DeWitt Co.

John Hawkins Goode's mother Deida Goode Manor, her sons William Obediah, Henry Harrison "Horace" and daughter Joanna (Goode) Thatcher are buried in the Flatonia Cemetery.

by Sibyle Northcutt

GOODE, WILLIAM ARTHUR "BUDDY" AND LUE (GARRETT)

F344

William Arthur "Buddy" Goode and Alievan "Lue" (Garrett) Goode

My father was "Buddy" Goode, son of George B. and Emiline (Goodson) Goode. My mother was Lue (Garrett) Goode, daughter of William Mansfield and Margaret Ann (Byars) Garrett. (See other stories for more details about these families.)

Papa and Mama were married in DeWitt County October 23, 1879 when he was 21 and she was almost 16. They bought what was called the John Hargrove place near Hebron Church, and lived there all the rest of their lives. At first they lived in a little log house which was on the place when they bought it, but within a short time they built another house. The new house was built with four rooms downstairs and two large rooms upstairs, a detached kitchen, and a long porch all across the front. The log house has been long gone, but the newer house still stands on our home place, most of which still belongs to members of the family. All of us children were born and grew up there. There were nine of us: Bill, Fannie, Annie, Minnie, Mattie, Henry, myself, Eula and Guy.

We all attended Bear Creek school. All grades were in one room. We walked to school and carried our lunches in little syrup buckets. Two of our favorite teachers were Miss Katie Hunter and Miss Ruby Tracy. The things we liked best about school were recess and lunch time, and our favorite games were baseball, marbles, jump rope and dare base. Sometimes the boys would get back from recess 30 minutes late because they ran so far down the creek playing dare base! When the school was moved to a new location in 1911, Mama bought one of the old school benches for 50 cents. It still sits on the front porch of our house.

Papa always planted a large variety of crops. We bought coffee, sugar, tea and flour, but most of the rest of our food was grown at home. We had a large fruit orchard between our house and the creek. We always planted ribbon cane, and Papa had a syrup mill under two large live oaks down in front of the house. Lots of people in the community brought their cane to Papa's mill to be crushed and made into syrup. He planted lots of corn for family use, for the livestock, and to be ground into cornmeal. We also raised sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, all kinds of beans and peas, watermelons and tomatoes. Mama had a "kitchen garden" near the house where she grew all kinds of greens, cabbage, beets, onions, asparagus, etc. in season. We had cattle, horses, hogs, chickens and turkeys all the time. A big winter project was butchering and curing all the family's meat. We had a big smokehouse in the back yard which was used during all of our growing-up years. Our "money crop" was cotton, and the women usually raised turkeys to sell.

We attended Hebron Baptist Church. Since we lived so close, usually a large group of young people would congregate at our house on Sunday afternoons, and we'd all go to church together Sunday night. Most times my sisters and I baked several cakes on Saturday, and everybody had cake and milk before going to church. Papa and Mama donated land for enlarging Hebron Cemetery and churchyard. Many of our friends and most of our family are buried in the cemetery.

One of the big events we looked forward to each year was Decoration Day at Hebron. It is held on the first Sunday of May. In older times we took wagon sheets, spread them out under the big live oaks in the churchyard, and truly had "dinner on the ground." Nowadays the Cemetery Committee has wooden tables which are put up each year for Decoration Day, but we still enjoy this opportunity to get together, visit, honor and remember our loved ones and days past.

by Eva Goode Hollan

GOODSON, ARTHUR AND JANE (KELLY)

F345

The earliest Goodson family member who came to DeWitt County was Arthur Goodson and wife Jane Kelly Goodson. Arthur Goodson was born in 1811 in South Carolina, the son of William and Elizabeth Goodson. Jane Kelly was born 10 June 1815 in South Carolina, daughter of James and — Kelly. Both of these families moved to Mississippi, living in Copiah, Carroll and Hinds Counties. Jane Kelly was a sister of Emily Kelly who married Wade Hampton Hollan. (For more information on the Kelly family, see story Hollan, Wade Hampton and Emily (Kelly).)

Arthur Goodson and Jane Kelly were married in August 1833. They lived in Mississippi until 1846, in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana until 1853, and then came on to DeWitt County. They bought land near Old Terryville and lived there for the remainder of their lives. They were successful farmers/ranchers, and were particularly well known for breeding and raising fine horses.

Arthur Goodson died in 1862. Jane Goodson died 11 May 1893. They are buried in a small cemetery that is in a pasture south of Stratton, but it has been lost, and the exact location is not known.

Arthur and Jane Goodson had twelve children. They are listed below in order by age, with a summary of information about the marriages and children of each, as much as is known:

1. Martha Emiline Goodson – b. 15 Sept. 1834 in Miss. d. 11 Feb. 1904 in DeWitt County Texas. She is buried in Hebron Cemetery. She married George G. Goode (1831-1862) in DeWitt County 21 July 1857. Children: (1) William Arthur "Buddy" Goode (1858-1930) and (2) George Charles Goode (1860-1938).

2. Elizabeth Goodson – b. ca 1836 in Miss. No other information.

3. Susan Dizar "Dicy" Goodson – b. ca 1839 in Miss. d. 19 Sept. 1904 in Bay City, Texas. She married David Cudd in DeWitt County 19 Aug. 1853. Fourteen children: (1) A.P. (2) Josephine (3) Tom (4) Sudie (5) Amanda (6) Fannie (7) Elizabeth (8) Willie and others.

4. Nancy Elen Goodson – b. 10 March 1840 in Miss. d. 13 Jan. 1920 in DeWitt County. Married John Hawkins Goode (1838-1915) in DeWitt County 10 Aug. 1860. They are buried in Hebron Cemetery. Children: (1) Leura (2) Laura (3) Alice Toda (4) Hattie (5) Joseph Hawkins (6) Amanda Jane (7) David Jackson (8) James Vollentine (9) William Henry (10) Lillie Deida. It is believed that a little girl, Josie, buried at Hebron and possibly a little boy buried in Austin County belong to this family.

5. Emily Jane "Emma" Goodson – b. 31 Dec. 1843 in Miss. d. 10 March 1920. Married James Vollentine (1835-1922) 31 Dec. 1863 in DeWitt County. They are buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas. Children: (1) Mary Alice (2) Arthur Henry (3) Willie Eveline (4) Geneva (5) Henry Arthur (6) Francis (7) Susie Lucile (8) James Alexander (9) Joseph E. (10) Una Mae.

6. Andrew Jackson Goodson – b. 10 Feb. 1844 in Miss. d. 12 Dec. 1914 at Stockdale, Texas. Married Susie Middlebrooks (1848-1888) in DeWitt County 19 Jan. 1865. They are buried in Pilot Grove Cemetery. No other information.

7. Eliza Frances "Fanny" Goodson – b. ca 1845 in Miss. Married (1) Strother Smith in DeWitt County 25 Dec. 1865. Children: (1) Frank b. 1865 (2) Arthur Byrd b. 1867 (3) William Isham b. 1869. Married (2) Clem Hodges. Children: (1) Elmo (2) Morris (3) Emma (4) Nina. Fanny (Goodson) Smith Hodges is buried at Smithville, Texas.

8. Amanda Goodson – b. 11 Oct. 1846 in La. d. 10 Feb. 1869. Married W. Jack Hodges (1839-1913) in DeWitt County 22 Feb. 1866. They are buried in the Terryville Cemetery next to their son who died 8 Feb. 1869. Children: (1) Mollie Walker (2) infant son.

9. Benjamin Franklin Goodson – b. ca 1849 in La. Married Josephine Stell in DeWitt County 10 Jan. 1871. Children: (1) Thomas F. b. 1871 (2) Arthur J. b. 1873 (3) John H. b. 1874 (4) William W. b. 1879 (5) Lou b. 1881 (6) Lovie b. 1883 (7) Ben b. 1886 (8) Eva Pearl b. 1888.

10. Alafair Goodson – b. 2 Aug. 1850 in La. d. 12 Feb. 1930. Married Joseph Francis Moffett (1843-1941) in DeWitt County 18 Jan. 1871. They are buried at Luling, Texas. Children: (1) Minnie (2) Arthur (3) Charles (4) Lou "Louie."

11. James Elbert Goodson – b. ca 1853 in Louisiana. Married Anna S. McGown 25 Nov 1873. Children: (1) Walter Leroy (2) Samuel Arthur (3) Maud and others.

12. Louiza "Lou" Goodson – b. ca 1857 in Texas. Married Thomas Priddy in DeWitt County 18 Sept. 1873. Later married Mr. Heaton.

by Sibyl Hollan Northcutt

GOODSON, JAMES ELBERT FAMILY

F346

James Elbert Goodson was born in Louisiana on April 5, 1853. He was the eleventh child and youngest son of Arthur Goodson and Jane Kelly Goodson.

On November 27, 1873 in Hope, Texas, James married Annie S. McGown and Nancy Lucinda Black McGown. Annie was born in or near Navasota, Texas, on February 14, 1858.

James Elbert was a farmer, livery stable owner and inventor.

James and Annie lived for some years in Terryville, Texas near his parents. Due to the Sutton-Taylor feud, James and Annie moved their family in several stages, to Brady, Texas over a period of years where most of their children grew up.

They had nine children:

1) Walter Jackson Goodson, born December 19, 1875. He married Willie Manning. They had two sons, Elbert Manning and Walter Jackson. They lived in Oklahoma City where Walter was a cattle buyer. He died in 1930.

2) Roy L. Goodson, born June 23, 1878. Married Althea Ballard of Eden, Texas. They had four children, Albert Roy, Annie Maud, Autry and James Ballard. Roy was a land broker and painter. They lived in Texas and Long Beach, California.

3) Mamie Maud Goodson, born August 8, 1881, married Paul Sheridan of Brady, Texas. They had two children, John and Nell. Maud was a housewife who was very musical. They lived in Burnet, Texas.

4) James Robert Goodson, born February 8, 1884, married Minerva Dickinson of New Orleans, Louisiana. They were the parents of eleven children: Minerva Elizabeth, James Robert, Jr., Charles, Alfred, David, Francis, Richard C., Mary Edith, Susan, John (Jack), and Jane. James Robert was a druggist and manufactured washing machines. They lived in Texas City, where James Robert was also the Mayor and in Houston.

5) Samuel Arthur Goodson, born November 13, 1886, married Augusta Garrard Buckingham of Alto Pass, Illinois. They were the parents of one child, Margaret Elizabeth. Arthur was an oil refiner and president of the Allegheny Oil Co. in Detroit, Michigan. They lived in Detroit, Michigan and Corpus Christi, Texas.

6) Clem Hodges Goodson was born April 28, 1890. He died the same year.

7) William Lee Goodson was born August 9, 1891. He married Lucile Bookman from Madisonville, Texas. They had six children; Lee Bookman, Walter Cass, Thomas Bryan, Ruby Faith, Lilly Petricia and Baker Eugene. Lee was an owner and worker in oil refineries. They lived in Alice, Texas.

8) Iva Connie Goodson was born October 25, 1894. She married Harold Wiley Wroten. They had four children: James, Harold Wiley, Jr., Dorothy and Jean. Iva worked for the city of Abilene.

9) Boyd Fowler Goodson was born December 25, 1898. He married (1) ? (2) Audrey Saunders of Houston, Texas. They had two children; Boyd Fowler, Jr., and Bobby Lee. Boyd was a veteran of World War I. He worked for a meat distributing company in Houston.

by Margaret Goodson

GRAHAM, WILLIAM HENRY

F347

(1844 – 1933)

William Henry Graham was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania on Oct. 16, 1844, the parents being James Graham, an Irish immigrant and his mother, a native of New York State. William Henry Graham had eleven brothers and sisters. At the age of six, his parents sent him to live with a Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Lee who had homesteaded a farm in Iowa. Mr. Graham grew up on this farm, where he worked very hard under severe conditions. He was not treated very kindly by the Lees.

In 1861, at the age of 17, Wm. Henry Graham volunteered into the Fifth Regiment Iowa Infantry of the Union Army. He remained in the army for the entire Civil War period (four years). His company engaged in numerous battles, skirmishes and seiges, including the Battle of Iuka, where half of his company were either killed or wounded; also the Seige of Vicksburg and the Battle of Missionary Ridge. At Missionary Ridge he was taken prisoner. He and 85 others were sent to Andersonville prison. Of the 85 in this group only 15 came out

William Henry Graham, Sr.

alive, because of the inhumane conditions in this prison. At Davenport, Iowa in July of 1865, Mr. Graham was mustered out of the army.

After the war, Graham traveled to Philadelphia where he enlisted in the Fourth U.S. Cavalry, which sent him to San Antonio, Texas. After three years of service, he was discharged. In San Antonio, he secured a job with the Overland Stage Company, who sent him to Cuero, Texas in 1873 to open a local office. Mr. Graham was also in charge of routing the mail in the Cuero area.

In 1880, Mr. Graham was elected County Tax Collector, where he served for 26 years. When he retired from office, his co-workers presented him with an engraved gold headed cane.

For several more years Mr. Graham was actively engaged in the real estate business in the Cuero area. He was also an early stockholder and director of the Buchel National Bank.

In 1875, Mr. Graham married Marie-Louise Demonet, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Demonet, who were in the lumber business in Indianola, Texas. They were married in Indianola. Mr. & Mrs. Louis Demonet are buried at the old Indianola Cemetery. Mrs. Graham resided in Cuero her entire married life, except for a period of time spent in Mexico for health reasons.

The Grahams raised three children. The oldest was Mary Agnes Graham, who married Thornton Hamilton of Cuero. The Hamiltons raised three children, Graham Hamilton, Ann (Hamilton) Cusack, Mary Agnes (Hamilton) Carruthers. The second Graham child was James Michael Graham, who was one of the early graduates of St. Louis College of San Antonio (now St. Mary's University). James lived for many years in the Phillipine Islands. He eventually returned to Los Angeles, California, where he lived out the remainder of his life. The Graham's third child was William Henry Graham, Jr. who attended Georgtown University in Washington, D.C. where he was Captain of the Crew (a rowing team). He graduated from the University of St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri and was ordained a Jesuit priest. Father Graham taught history, religion and philosophy at Holy Cross and Fordham Universities. He is buried at Fordham University.

Mr. Graham was one of the founding families of St. Michael's Parish. In 1877 he was admitted to an association known then in the Catholic Church as Bon Mors by Father V.L. Manci, who was the first pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Mr. Graham's home was located across the street from the church. Mr. Graham attended church on almost a daily basis. Years later, upon a suggestion by William Leroy Cusack, Sr., to his mother and aunt, who had acquired the property through inheritance, it was suggested this property be donated to the church, since Mr. Graham was always such a close part of the Parish. This property was acquired by St. Michael's and is now the location of the Parish Hall.

Mr. Graham lived to be 89 years of age. He died in 1933 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

by William Leroy Cusack, Sr.

GRANBERRY, AMOS AND ELIZABETH

F348

Amos Granberry was born April 15, 1798 in Warren County, Georgia. He was the son of Moses Granberry and his second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Powell. Moses had served in the Militia for Newbern District, North Carolina as a Sergeant during the American Revolution.

Amso married Elizabeth Rogers about 1818. She was born December 27, 1794 in Georgia.

Amos Granberry was taxed in 1817 as a minor on 235 acres in Warren County, Georgia, on Rocky Comfort Creek. After 1817, he moved to Marion County, Mississippi. He is listed on the 1820 and 1830 census of Marion County. by the 1840 census, he is listed in Perry County, Mississippi.

Some time during the 1840's, the Granberrys left Perry County, Mississippi and moved to Jackson Parish, Louisiana. They were listed in Jackson Parish on the 1850 census. Listed next to Amos Granberry was his married son, Jasper, with wife, Rebecca, and son Amos. Listed next to Jasper Granberry was Adam Shows, wife, Nancy Granberry Shows, and daughter Edna.

Amos Granberry and family left Jackson Parish, Louisiana and moved to DeWitt County, Texas before 1855. He bought 800 acres of land in DeWitt County from Thomas Stern in 1857. He and his family were among the first settlers at Hebron, a church and school community. Amos Granberry and John Hargrove granted a 2-acre plot of land in 1869 on which the Hebron Baptist Church was located and on which it stands today. Near the Church is the Hebron Cemetery, with many graves. The first of these recorded is that of Amos Granberry's daughter, Nancy Granberry Shows, who died in 1867.

The children of Amos Granberry and Elizabeth Rogers were: (1) Lucretia Granberry, born about 1820. (2) Jasper Granberry, born about 1821 in Marion County, Mississippi. Jasper married first Rebecca, second Frances Jane Pierce, and third Barzilla Bissett. (3) Ransome Granberry, born about 1823. (4) Steven Granberry, born about 1825. (5) Elizabeth Granberry, born about 1827. (6) Nancy Granberry, born about 1829. (7) Amos Granberry,

Jr. born about 1831. (8) Jane Granberry, born about 1833. and (9) Martha Granberry, born about 1837.

There is no record as to exactly when Amos and Elizabeth Granberry died . . . probably sometime in the 1860's when things were in a turmoil because of the war and its aftereffects. It is known that they were laid to rest in now – unmarked graves in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

GRANBERRY, JASPER AND BARZILLA

F349

Barzilla (Bissett) Granberry

Jasper Granberry was born in Mississippi in 1822. He was the son of Amos Granberry and his wife Elizabeth Rogers Granberry. Few records can be found of his early life and marriage because of burned courthouses in Mississippi. There is a deed in Perry County, Mississippi in 1848 that names Rebecca as wife to Jasper. Jasper's son Amos was born of this marriage.

The Granberry family moved from Mississippi to Louisiana. Jasper's son Martin William was born there about 1852. Daughter Anamelia Josephine Granberry was born in Louisiana about 1856. By census time 1860 the Granberry family was in DeWitt County, Texas. Jasper was then married to Frances Jane Pearce and they had a son John P. Granberry, born in Texas in late 1859.

Jasper was widowed again and he married Barzilla Bissett, daughter of Lodowick and Mourning Williams Bissett. The marriage took place in Jackson County, Texas July 25, 1865. Jasper and Barzilla had two children, born in DeWitt County. Frances Jane Granberry was born December 20, 1866. She married William Allen Squyres on July 7, 1881. Jim Berry Granberry was born about 1869.

During the Civil War Jasper Granberry was a private in Company A, Mann's Regiment of the Texas Cavalry. He was listed among the prisoners of war surrendered and paroled at Victoria, Texas, prior to August 8, 1865.

In 1869 Jasper was thrown by a horse and killed. He is listed in the 1870 Mortality Census of Texas. Jasper was buried at the Hebron Cemetery which was land which had been donated to the community by his father, Amos Granberry, Sr. The 1870 census listed Barzilla Granberry and children Frances Jane, age 3, and Jim Berry, age 1, either in the household of Amos Granberry, Sr., age 73, or as their immediate neighbor.

Barzilla Bissett Granberry applied for and received a Confederate Widow's Pension from the State of Texas in 1899. She received this pension until 1921. Upon her death, W.A. Squyres, her son-in-law, applied to the state for a Mortuary Warrant which paid $50 for her casket, $10 for a hearse, and $8 for the gravesite. She was buried in Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood, Texas in January of 1921.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

GRIFFIN, LEE ROY, JR. FAMILY

F350

Lee Roy and Josephine Ann (Jo Ann) Griffin, Jr. have lived in Yorktown all their married life. They married on Sunday, June 24, 1956, at 4:00 p.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero, Texas, with Rev. William Jansen, pastor, officiating. From the day they were married they have lived at 741 N. Riedel St. in Yorktown, Texas.

Lee Roy is the son of Mrs. Meta Hengst Griffin of Yorktown and the late Lee Roy Griffin, Sr. who died on July 4, 1979. He has one sister, Carol Griffin Schroller of Yorktown. He was born in Texas City, Texas, on December 24, 1936, and moved to Yorktown with his family when he was five years old. Lee Roy was baptized on July 30, 1939 in a Lutheran church in La Marque. He was confirmed in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown on March 18, 1951 by the later Rev. C.G. Hankammer.

Lee Roy attended the Yorktown schools and graduated in May, 1955 and also attended Victoria College for a short time. He was a member of the Yorktown Wildcat Band for six years. He went to work for the Yorktown News in October 1955 and worked there all the time except for ten months in 1965 when he worked for a job shop, Regal Printers, in Victoria. He returned to the Yorktown News and purchased the business from Freddie Pieper and became its editor and publisher on April 15, 1966. The News office is located at 117 S. Church St., Yorktown.

He served as an assistant Scout leader, helped with Little League Baseball, served as an officer in the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce for six years, 1967-70, 1976-79, was a charter member and first president of the Yorktown Jaycees, receiving a plaque in 1974, and served on the City Council for 17 years, 1970-87, and as mayor pro tem for six of those years. He served on the Holy Cross Church Council, and held offices on the Yorktown Community Hall Board for ten years. He was a member of the Yorktown Lions Club and the Yorktown Country Club and served as an officer for a few years in each club. He is currently a member of the Knights of Columbus, Yorktown Fire Dept., Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, Yorktown Hermann Sons and Texas Associated Press. He served as an officer of the Catholic Life Ins. Branch 91 for a number of years.

Lee Roy was an avid musician. He played with the Burghard Morisse Orchestra and the Tee Tiemann Orchestra beginning at the age of 13 years and played until 1967, when he retired from playing to devote his time to family and business. He played the clarinet and alto and tenor saxophone.

Josephine Ann (Jo Ann) is the daughter of Peter Paul Warzecha of San Antonio, formerly of Cuero, and Bernice Rose Zuber Ummelmann of Victoria, formerly of Cuero. She was born on August 20, 1937, in Cuero. She has one sister, Florence Warzecha Kahlich of San Antonio; three brothers, William Peter Warzecha of Point Comfort, Alfred Bernard Warzecha of Inez and Daniel Michael Warzecha of Victoria. She was reared on a farm at Mustang Mott. She was baptized by Rev. William Jansen in St. Michael's Catholic Church on Aug. 22, 1937, and confirmed by Archbishop Lucey of San Antonio in May of 1949 in St. Michael's in Cuero.

Jo Ann attended Lindenau School from 1944 to 1950 when the school was consolidated. She then attended Cuero Junior High and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1956. She was very active in school organizations being a member of a Good Citizenship Club in Lindenau in the 4-5-6th grades and served as president, secretary and treasurer. In Cuero Junior High she served as student council president in the 8th grade. In high school she served as a class officer her freshman, sophomore and junior years and was class favorite her freshman and sophomore years. Her senior year she served as student council recording secretary and head cheerleader. She was also a cheerleader in her sophomore and junior years. She was a member of the Junior High Choir and Cuero High School Choir while in the 9th & 10th grades. She placed third in a solo at UIL contest. She participated in shorthand in UIL competition as a senior.

Lee Roy and Jo Ann were blessed with nine wonderful children, Stephen Wayne Griffin of Victoria born 2-26-1957; Dianne Griffin Rangnow of Ratcliff born 1-30-1959; Marine Cpl. Allen Ray Griffin presently stationed in Vallejo, Calif., 11-9-1960; Linda Ann Griffin Vasquez of Austin, 11-3-1961; Susan Elaine Griffin Rodriguez of Yorktown, 1-22-1963; twins — Mary Ann Griffin Metting of Austin, 9-28-1967; Marilyn Griffin of Austin, 9-28-1967; Anthony Jacob Griffin of Yorktown, 9-16-1975; and Crystal Lee Griffin of Yorktown, 8-25-1982. They also have ten grandchildren thus far.

Besides being a very busy housewife the first ten years of marriage, Jo Ann was active as a member of the Holy Cross Catholic School's Mothers Club in which she held offices for six

years; and worked as a Brownie Girl Scout assistant leader for a couple of years. She served on the Holy Cross Church Council for five years and served as its secretary. She served on the Yorktown I.S.D. School Board from 1978 to 1980 as a trustee and its secretary. She was a member of the PTA organization and served as an officer. She served as an officer when the Friends of Yorktown Public Library was formed. When Lee Roy and Jo Ann bought the Yorktown News, she went to work there along side her husband. They had five children at the time and a year later their twin daughters were born. Jo Ann serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and a CCD teacher in Holy Cross parish. She is a member of the Catholic Daughters and Altar Society of Holy Cross, Yorktown Hermann Sons Lodge and Catholic Life Ins. Branch 91.

Lee Roy and Jo Ann work long hours each week putting out the hometown newspaper, *The Yorktown News* which was established in 1895. The two of them alone have been putting together the pages of *The News* for over twenty years.

To date they have two children left at home, Andy who is 14 years of age and in the 8th grade and Crystal who is 7 and in the 2nd grade.

On August 1, 1979, Lee Roy and Jo Ann bought Griffin's Tiny Market from his mother after the death of his father. They ran the business with the help of his mother and his aunt Brunhilde Leick until August of 1985 when they decided to close the business due to the demands of their other business, *The Yorktown News.*

by Lee Roy Griffin, Jr.

GRIGGS, C.H.

F351

The efficient principal of the Cuero Colored schools, was born in Louisiana in 1863. He was brought to Texas when a baby, and lived in Helena, Karnes County, until five years of age, when his father bought a farm located three miles west of Hallettsville. His father was a successful farmer and gave his children liberal educations. The subject of this sketch attended the local schools for several years, after which he entered the Leland University of New Orleans, remaining one year. He then attended Bishop College at Marshall, Texas, from which he graduated in the literary course with distinction in 1885. He returned home and had charge of the Hallettsville colored schools for one year. He came to Cuero in 1886 and was in charge of the colored schools of this city. Professor Griggs was an enthusiastic educator and and untiring worker. He took advantage of his excellent opportunities for acquiring a fine education and kept up with the latest modern methods. He was a man of excellent intellectual and social qualities.

RICHARD GRIGSBY,
* CITY DRAYMAN *
COURTEOUS ATTENTION.
YOUR HAULING SOLICITED

GRIMNER, WILLIAM T., JR. AND ANNIE LEE (HOEHNE)

F352

William T. and Annie Lee (Hoehne) Grimner

William T. Grimner Jr. was born in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 11, 1921. During WW II he was a student cadet in the Air Force, stationed at Brayton Field in DeWitt County near Cuero, Texas. Here William T. Grimner Jr. met Annie Lee Hoehne on a blind date. Annie Lee Hoehne was born on January 1, 1928 in DeWitt County in the Valley View Community.

William T. Grimner Jr. and Annie Lee Hoehne were married on September 1, 1950 at St. Marks Lutheran Church. The officiating minister was the Reverend A.A. Hahn the same minister who had officiated at the marriage of Annie Lee Hoehne's father and mother, Henry and Louise (Domann) Hoehne on October 18, 1917.

William T. Grimner Jr. and Annie Lee (Hoehne) Grimner went to live near Cherry Valley, Illinois in Boone County. William was employed by Central Illinois Electric and Gas Co. in Rockford, Illinois in Winnebago County. William and Annie Lee were blessed with two children, Annette Marie and Charles William.

William and Annie Lee Grimner had a home built in Boone County near Belvidere, Illinois. Their children were educated in the Belvidere, Illinois public school system.

William remained with Central Illinois Electric and Gas Company which later merged with Commonwealth Edison. Annie Lee was a mother, homemaker, and gardener, raising and preserving food for the family.

After thirty one years of employment William retired from the Commonwealth Edison Company in December of 1980.

William and Annie Lee Grimner purchased the farm of Henry and Louise Hoehne a few years before William's retirement. William and Annie Lee Grimner moved back to the Valley View Community in DeWitt County along the Sandies Creek, near Cuero, Texas. Here they now reside.

by Mrs. William Grimner

GRUN, JOHN J. AND ANNIE CAROLINE (HOUSE)

F353

John Grun and Annie Caroline (House) Grun

John J. Grun was born in the vicinity of DeWitt and Karnes County, Texas on July 18, 1859. He was one of three sons of Johann Grunn who immigrated to Texas in the 1840s from Germany. Very little is known of Johann Grun.

John J. Grun farmed and ranched in DeWitt and Karnes Counties of Texas in the 1880s and 1890s. There he met and married Annie Caroline (House) who was the third child of Fred and Sarah House, whose story is given separately in this publication.

John and Annie were married in December 1888 in DeWitt County. They had six children: Herman B., born 1889; Sarah Willimena, born 1891; Lola Agnes, born 1893; Russell, born 1897; Walter Randolph, born 1899; and Eura Jonnie, born 1901. All are believed to have been born in Karnes County, as John's farm was located outside Runge, Texas.

Annie Caroline died June 17, 1908 at the age of 48 years and 8 months. She is buried at the "House Cemetery" in Davy, Texas. After Annie's death, John bought land in San Saba County in central Texas where he farmed and ranched for eight or nine years, leaving the three younger children: Russell, Walter and Eura in the custody of their aunt Martha (House) Poetter.

John's health deteriorated rapidly in 1917, whereupon he returned to Karnes County. He died on September 17, 1917 and is buried beside his wife Annie. John and Annie were survived by their six children.

Herman B. married Lizzie Tredway and had five children: Elvy, Lois, Herman A., Johnny

D., and Walter R.

Sarah married Elijah W. Little. They had six children who survived infancy: Margaret, Nora, Irvin, J.B., Ella V., and Marcus Earl.

Lola married Joe Little (a brother to Elijah) and born to them were twelve children: Annie May, Bessie Mary, Alma Lena, Edna Luetta, Wesley Bryant, Joe Jr., Dorothy Marie, Maurine Eura (Linn), A.C., Lola Faye, Dora Joy, and Alton Thomas.

Russell (House) Grun married Edna Baker, and had a large family of ten children: Ralph, Lloyd, Imogene, Elsie, Almeda J., Edward, Myrtle, Rusell M., Frederick, and Richard.

Walter R. married Alma Miller. They had two children: Oliff W. and Sue.

Eura Jonnie married Robert A. Miller (brother to Alma). They had two sons: Robert Gerald and Jonnie.

Due to space limitations, the lineage for all of John and Annie C. Grun's children cannot be offered for this entry. However a further breakdown for Lola Agnes (Grun) and Joe Little is submitted.

Annie May married Lonnie Parker and children born to them: Wanda Ruth, Doris Alene, Anna Lou, and Geraldine.

Bessie Mary married Rex A. Homeyer and had: Frances, Lorraine, Rex Jr., Patricia, and twins, Roy and Ray.

Alma Lena married O.M. Stevens and had: Doris C., Eva Sue, Betty J., Margie E., Jack W., and Joy L.

Edna married C.E. Smith and had six children: Milton, James W., Annette J., Kenneth ., Nancy L., and Brenda S.

Wesley Bryant married Clara L. Pochman and had three children: Carole Camille, Janet Gail and Wesley B. Jr.

Joe Jr. married F. Anita Newman and had two daughters: Jo Ann and Peggy Loyce.

Dorothy Marie married Albert G.W. McComas and had three children. She later married Aubrey Batton and had eight children. The McComas children are: Ronald, Bonnie, and Donald. The Batton children are: Betty J., Audrey W., Aubrey H., Frederick H., Dorothy E., Johnny H., Teddy L., and Bruce E.

Maurine married Daniel L. Perkins and had: Daniel Jr., Charlotte, and Larry T.

A.C. married Eleanora M. Pelech and had one daughter: Lori Lynn.

Lola Faye married Clyde W. Sheren and had Penny Carole and Mickey Faye. Lola F. is now married to Richard (Dick) Stine.

Dora J. is married to James Batton (brother to Aubrey) and had eight children: Mary E., James H., Margaret A., Joyce F., Hollis V., (twins) Dale W. and Danny J., and Gary W.

Alton Thomas married Clara Virginia Evans and had Debora L., Alton Timothy, and Cheryl L.

To bring this lineage up to date would entail at least two more generations of descendants for John and Annie Grun.

by A.C. Little

GRUNDER, VICTOR J.

F354

A native of France, Victor Grunder was born at Alsace on the twentieth of January, 1863 and spent his early life in that country, coming to the United States at the age of ten in 1873. Mr. Grunder was educated in the schools of France and continued his studies at St. Louis

Victor J. Grunder

where he lived during the first few years of his residence in the United States. Mr. Grunder is the son of F. Grunder, former well known mechanical engineer, who died in 1892, and Elizabeth (Hildebrant) Grunder, also a native of France, who died in 1929.

On the fourth of May, 1937, Mr. Grunder celebrated his Golden Wedding anniversary. On that date in 1887 he was married to Miss Augusta Keller of Cuero. Their three children are Charles L. Grunder, Gertrude, who married Mr. John J. Bell of Cuero, and Geneva, who married Mr. John H. Berning.

Mr. Grunder was a well known business man and civic leader of Cuero. He came to South Texas in 1890. He was president of the Cuero Compress and Warehouse Company and was engaged in the Compress business as early as 1910. Mr. Grunder also had an interest in the Victoria Compress Company and the Shiner Compress Company. For about twenty years prior to 1910, Mr. Grunder was engaged in the hardware and house furnishing business as a member of the firm of Kellar and Company. This enterprise was disposed of in 1910.

Mr. Grunder took an active part in numerous civic activities and community enterprises at Cuero and was the founder and first president of the Cuero Rotary Club, which was formed in 1921. He served three terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce and for several years was general manager of the far-famed Cuero Turkey Trot. He was one of the organizers of the Cuero Building and Loan Company. He also, was one of the organizers of the Knights of Columbus in 1910. He was a member of St. Michaels Catholic Church.

GUILMINOT, CLAUDE FAMILY

F355

Simon Guilminot and Eliza A. Hall came to America from Bordeaux,, France. Simon was a merchant traveling between New Orleans, Louisiana and Vicksburg, Mississippi, calling on freight companies and shop keepers. They purchased a plantation at Natchez, Mississippi and it was here that their son, Claude, was born. It is not known when the family came to Texas, but Simon was buried at Corpus Christi – the exact location unknown. Eliza married her second husband, Thomas Gay, September 19, 1861 in Nueces County, Texas, and, according to family legend, he promptly fleeced her out of her money, forty slaves and the plantation in Mississippi. Eliza died about 1883 or 1884 and is buried at Clinton.

Simon Guilminot, born in Bordeaux France

Claude Guilminot, born in Natchez, Miss.

Claude H. Guilminot (1855-1917) married Pauline King (1861-1923), the daughter of Martin King (1835-1876) and Margarite Lowrance (1837-1879). Claude and Pauline were the parents of seven children: Ella Medora (1879-1948) married Fred W. Wilke; Fannie Maude (1881-1948) married Louis Frank Reese; Anna Gertrude (1883-1968) married Wess Riggs; Bonnie Mae (1892-1984) married Charles H. Arnecke (see related story); Claude, Jr. (1893-1970) married Myrtle Palmer; King

(1897-1899); and Tena Burch (1901-1980) never married.

by Mrs. Hazel Arnecke Laster

HAERTIG, ERNST FREDERICH AND MARTHA FLORA

F356

The Ernst F. and Martha Leonhardt Haertig family spent 17 productive years in the Gruenau community north of Yorktown, Texas from 1890 to 1907, before moving westward again to begin a new life on the frontier. This was typical "frontier hopping" procedure for the immigrants of the 1800's since, when the family outgrew their landholdings, they moved westward to new development areas.

Ernst F. Haertig, the eighth child for Johann and Johanna Goethe Haertig, was born 6 January 1856 in Hartmansdorf, Germany. There he was baptized in the Lutheran faith when an infant. He married Martha Flora Leonhardt, born 2 December 1858 in Lunzenau, Germany, the first child of Ottomar and Emily Abend Leonhardt on 8 May 1877 in Hartmansdorf, Germany. To this long and happy marriage were born sixteen children, five of whom died in infancy. Four children were born in Germany, namely: Marie – 2 April 1878, Arthur – 1 February 1879, Martha 3 July 1880, and Elsa – 3 July 1881.

In Hartmansdorf, Ernst was in the dye business and learned about cotton being imported from Texas. When his business failed, his dream to raise cotton caused the family to migrate to Texas in 1883. The family's first experience at growing cotton was near Schulenburg in Fayette County from 1883 to 1886. Here son, Ernst Ottomar, was born on 1 December 1885. The family next farmed in Lavaca County near Shiner, Texas from 1886 to 1890 where daughters Lydia – 3 May 1887, Annie – 25 May 1888, and Helen – 1 March 1890, were born.

About 1890 the Haertig family moved to the Gruenau Community north of Yorktown in DeWitt County where they owned their own farm for the first time. Here they lived for 17 years, establishing many family ties and friendships. born here were Willie – 7 April 1891, Bertha – 29 August 1892 and Frieda – 19 May 1895. Ernst was one of the first pioneers to break up the Gruenau prairies, and where highways are now, men like Ernst Haertig cut the first roads with the tracks made by wagon wheels. The well-known Gruenau May and Harvest Feasts were begun by thee pioneers. For these first feasts the Ernst Haertig family butchered the animals and made the sausage at their home for as long as they resided in Gruenau. The family was a talented musical family and all the children were taught to sing and play musical instruments, especially the zither. The family was "immer lustig" and visitors were duly entertained and coaxed into joining the fun. Ernst was an excellent wine maker and his first hospitable act when visitors arrived was to serve them a small glass of wine. Ernst directed a men's choral club, encouraged drama and took part in community plays as well as his whole family. Physical fitness was practiced in the Turner Clubs where the men and boys performed on "horses," the trapeze and mats. The Haertigs believed in the water cure and herb teas to cure most of their illnesses. A special tea was made in the spring from "Tousend Gulden Kraut" flowers and plants which were harvested from the wild and dried. This wild flower is today known as the Texas Star or Rose Pink. This writer drank the tea many times during her childhood years as a tonic. Brass bands and Rifle Clubs were established in Gruenau like in every other German community. Much of the Haertig's participation also extended into the Yorktown community. Several of the children married young people from surrounding areas. Martha Haertig married Fritz Sasse of Yorktown, Marie was wed to Ben Zuch of Yorktown, Elsa married John Pundt of Nordheim, Ernst Jr. married Louise Sauermilch of Yorktown, Arthur married Flora Steinbach of Nordheim, Lydia was wed to Adam Kasten of Nordheim, Annie married Edward Nuinez of Yorktown and Helen wed George Morisse of Nordheim.

Ernst Haertig received his naturalization papers on December 19, 1898.

After Ernst and Martha heard that the huge Woods Ranch of Bonnie View Ranch in South Refugio County was being sub-divided into farm tracts, their pioneer spirit again prevailed. They acquired a section of virgin land, believing that the level plains of rich loam would yield greater crops. The Haertigs were by now efficient cotton farmers and loved to talk about their early misconception in Germany that the "tree-wool" was the moss that hung from the large trees in the coastal area. Indeed, they were right about the abundant harvests for they often spoke of only one crop failure due to a drouth. The Haertigs made their move to Bonnie View in 1907, traveling for two days in a covered wagon. In 1908 their large home was completed and they lived in this spacious home until their death. Martha became well known as a mid-wife in the areas where she lived and she was always ready to help anyone in need. She became affectionately known in the community as "Mutter" Haertig. All the grandchildren called them Mutter and Vater and had to speak to them in the German language.

Even though this writer grew up in Nordheim, she has many nostalgic memories of Vater and Mutter, who were her grandparents. The writer's parents were Adam and Lydia Haertig Kasten and one or two visits were made every year to Woodsboro and then to Bonnie View. First was the long trip by train and later by automobile over the prairie from Goliad to Refugio. It was fun to open the many swing gates on the ranches, but there was always the dread of getting stuck in the sand or the Overland Touring car refusing to run any further. But, somehow, to everyone's relief, you always made it. Bonnie View was located halfway between Woodsboro unforgettable. So were the visits with the many cousins, the children of Ernst and Willie, sons of Vater and Mutter Haertig who farmed on either side of their parents.

A number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren still reside in or have close ties to DeWitt County. The grandchildren are Lula B. Kasten Kolodziejczyk at Nordheim and Roberta Nuinez Parker and Joe Nuinez and their children at Yorktown.

Martha Haertig died on October 3, 1934 and Ernst died on January 21, 1941. Due to their lasting close ties to Gruenau and Yorktown, it was their wish to be buried in Westside Cemetery at Yorktown, Texas.

by Mrs. Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

(Daughter) Frieda Haertig, Ernst and Martha Haertig, and Ernst's brother Heinrich Haertig. 1914 visit to Hartmansdorf, Germany.

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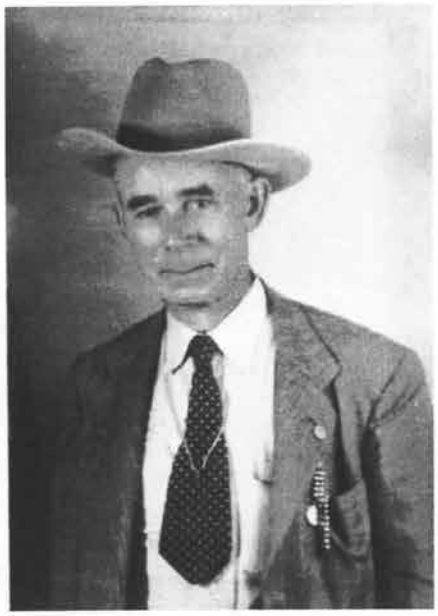
HALL, EMORY CALVIN AND ANNE ELIZABETH SLATER HILDERBRANDT

F357

Emory Calvin Hall San Antonio 1900.

Anita Elizabeth "Annie" Slater San Antonio 1909.

Emory Calvin Hall, the first born son of Emory Horton Hall (son of Captain E K Hall) and his wife, Martha Jane Smith (daughter of John Lewis Smith, III and his wife, America Mack Tennell Smith of DeWitt Co, Texas), was born at the Hall ranch at Helena, Karnes Co, Texas on 13 September 1879. Emory Horton Hall made eleven trips primarily up the Chisholm Trail taking cattle and horses to market beginning in 1869 and continuing until shortly



Emery Calvin Hall.

Anne Elizabeth (Slater) Hall Hildebrandt holding Marianne Elizabeth Hall 1951.

before his death on 17 July 1903. Calvin was only allowed to go with his father on one or two of the last trail drives as he was greatly needed at home to help his mother care for the mercantile, the ranch, and the younger children.

Anne Elizabeth Slater, the daughter of William Henry Richard "Dick" Slater (son of Richard Slater) and Lena Mack Couch (daughter of Doctor Franklin "Dock" Couch and Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" Westmoreland Couch), was born 24 November 1893 at Couch, Karnes County, Texas. Annie had three brothers: William Franklin, Jesse Richard, and Henry Clay Slater. When "Dick" Slater was killed in a mining accident in Mexico on 21 May 1900, his men smuggled his body across the border and home to Texas in a wooden tool box. He was buried in Choate Cemetery, Choate, Karnes Co, Texas. Lena formed a partnership with her father after Dick's death combining the Slater and Couch ranches and moved to Dock Couch's home at the Couch community (which Dock helped pioneer: it was named for him).

On 3 February 1915 at the Hall ranch in Helena, Calvin married Annie Slater. Dock Couch bestowed the family's blessings on this union and gave the bride's hand in marriage. Wedding receptions were held for family and friends both at the Hall ranch in Helena and at Dock's beautiful home in Couch.

Annie was most talented in art work (such as oil painting, china painting and other mediums) and piano. She taught painting and bontany in Kerrville and Houston for many years. Calvin's interests included family history, and a large collections of guns, knives, sabers and other military weapons. Calvin was a Master Mason in the Alamita Masonic Lodge of Helena for 40 years. Annie earned a lifetime membership of Helena Chapter, Order of Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron.

At one time Emory Horton Hall owned the court house and jail at Helena as well as the E H Hall Mercantile, a saloon, the Hall Ranch (which was on the road from Helena to Runge) and other business interests. However after his father's death and burial in Helena Cemetery, Calvin was left with the responsibilities of their business affairs and family.

After the railroad bypassed Helena, Calvin opened Hall Brothers Mercantile in Karnes City and moved his mother, Mattie, and sister, Edna, to a house in Karnes City that he bought for them from his dear friend, John Tobin. Calvin and Annie lived nearby where their first child, Nell was born on 29 January 1917. Ray Slater Hall was also born in the Calvin Hall home at Karnes City on 8 February 1924.

Nell Hall graduated from Victoria College in Victoria, Texas in 1936 and had a singing career before her marriage to M L Shaw in 1943. The Shaw family moved to Houston shortly after the birth of Ronnie Lee on 15 April 1944 and Lana Rae Lee in November, 1944. Their last child, Debbie Ann was born in Houston on Columbus Day, 1954.

Calvin Hall served as a special Texas Ranger, a Constable and Deputy Sheriff for Karnes County for most of his adult life. He also served as an assistant Tax Assessor, Official Government Weather Observer and as Agricultural Extension Officer for Karnes County, Texas. Calvin died suddenly while attending to his duties in the Karnes County Agricultural Building (next to the Courthouse) in Karnes City, Texas at 3 P M on Monday 17 September 1945. The funeral services were held in Karnes City Presbyterian Church on Thursday 21 September at 4 P M with Dr. W P Dickey officiating. Burial was at Helena Cemetery (next to his mother, Mattie) with the Masonic Lodge in charge of the graveside services.

Shortly after Ray Slater returned from serving as a Sgt in the Marine Corps and being wounded in the Pacific during World War II, he married Lavelle Hartman (daughter of August Blanton Hartman and Muriel Morrison Byram Hartman of Davy, DeWitt Co, Texas) on 23 June 1946. Also in June, 1946, Annie Slater Hall married Leon Bernard "Hilde" Hildebrandt and moved to Houston. Ray Slater and Lavelle moved to Houston and lived with Annie and Hilde in their home at 46 Frail Lane while Ray Slater attended University of Houston and worked for a refrigeration company. Lavelle worked in the Harris County Clerk's office and took a leave of absence to have their first child, Marianne Elizabeth on 20 August 1948 at Wright Hospital in Houston. Annie cared for Marianne after Lavelle returned to work until Ray Slater enlisted in the Army and was sent to Alaska where Lavelle and Marianne joined him. Lavelle returned to her parent's home at Davy with Marianne shortly before Laurinda Rae "Lori" was born on 18 February 1952 in Karnes City, Texas. Their only son, William Allen "Bill" was born in El

Paso, Texas on 27 February 1960.

Annie stayed in Houston after Hilde died in 1964 but moved back to Kenedy in 1976 and lived in Ray Slater and Lavelle Hall's home there until she could no longer live alone, as Ray Slater and family lived in Friendswood, Texas. Annie then moved back to her farm at Creek, Houston County, Texas and lived with her daughter, Nell and her granddaughter, Lana and her family. Annie passed away in her sleep early in the morning of 13 July 1981 and was buried the following day at Creek Cemetery with graveside services being performed by the order of Eastern Star, Crockett Chapter.

by Marianne E H Little

HALL, HARMON

F358

Harmon Hall, daughters Lola and Mabel

Harmon Hall was born in Gonzales County near the Hamon Community in 1867. His father, Charles Hall (b. 6-20-1804 d. 6-12-1868), a soldier in the Texas Revolutionary Army, was born in Tennessee. Charles first came to Fayette County in Texas. Here he joined Capt. Hayes' Company, April 20, 1836. He was awarded land in Fayette, Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties for his service to the Republic of Texas. Charles' first wife was Elizabeth or Betsy (b. 4-1806 d. 12-1865). Charles and Elizabeth Hall are buried at Ebenezer Cemetery near Cheapside. Charles and Elizabeth had a daughter Elvira Louisa Hall (b. 1-20-1837 d. 12-15-1869). Elvira first married William Steen August 31, 1854 and later married Louis Henry Plank of Gonzales.

Harmon Hall's mother, the second wife of Charles Hall, was Margaret Ann McCaskell (b. 10-24-1848 d. 6-4-1896). She was one of twelve children of John Chisholm McCaskell (b. 2-1819 d. 1-1-1893) and Eleanor (Crawley) (b. 8-6-1824 d. 6-26-1892). John C. McCaskell was born in Kershaw County, Scotland and Eleanor was born in Macon (or Montgomery) County, Alabama. John and Eleanor C. McCaskell were married in Alabama, December 6, 1842, before coming to Texas. He and his wife landed at Indianola and settled in Clinton, the DeWitt County seat in 1860. John C. McCaskell was a Deacon and Ruling Elder in the Live Oak Presbyterian Church at Clinton. Margaret Ann, the fourth child of the McCaskells, married Charles Hall April 9, 1866. She was eighteen; Charles Hall was sixty two. Harmon Hall was the only child born of this union.

When Charles Hall married Margaret Ann his daughter by his first marriage Elvira Louisa (Hall) Steen sued her father for her share of her mother's estate. Records indicate that Elvira Louisa received one Negro slave girl and $1000 cash. Charles Hall testified in 1866 that he gave Elvira seventeen bales of cotton netting ten cents a pound and $450 in cash. In April 1869, Elvira signed a statement that she had received land from her father Charles Hall October 1, 1867, eight horses, one-half of the stock of cattle, four bee gums, one feather bed and one safe.

Charles Hall died June 13, 1868. Margaret Ann Hall married Judge George Whitfield Key July 1, 1869 and nine children were born to the Keys. Margaret Ann (McCaskell) Hall Key is buried in Stockdale, Texas with Judge Key.

Harmon Hall was a sculptor. He carved monuments in Hillside Cemetery. He, however, met and married Rose Adalaide King (b. 7-8-1875 d. 2-6-1899) March 24, 1891 in Cuero. Rose Adelaide, born in London, was the third child of Rev. George King and Catherine Harvey King. She had sailed to Galveston on October 3, 1880, from London's East India Dock with her family. The voyage took three weeks.

After the marriage of Rose Adelaide and Harmon Hall, they lived in Cuero. Two little girls were born to the Halls. They were Lola Rosebud (b. 8-11-1892 d. 7-1-1958) and Mabel Claire (b. 8-6-1895 d. 6-6-1974). The Halls moved to Sulphur, Louisiana and opened a general merchantile store. Rose died February 6, 1899 of a fever. The Rev. George K. King went to Louisiana on the train and returned with the two little Hall girls to be reared by him and their Grandmother King.

Harmon Hall married a second wife, Juanita Florence Milam, in 1901. Mr. Hall came to Cuero and took his two little girls Lola and Mable back to Louisiana to live with him and his new wife. But alsas — Harmon Hall died June 21, 1901, six months before his third daughter, Harmon Hall II, (b. 1-8-1902 d.) was born and again the Rev. King went to Louisiana on the train and returned with Lola and Mabel. Cuero was their home. Harmon and Rose Adelaide are buried in Farquhar Cemetery, Sulphur, Louisiana.

Lola Rosebud Hall married Wellington Duette Landry (b. 5-6-1885) November 11, 1911 in Cuero. Two sons were born to the Landrys, Wellington Duette Landry II (b. 6-2-1914 d.) and Harold Hall Landry (b. 12-21-1917 d. 12-15-87).

Mabel Claire Hall married Charles Goodwin Breeden (b. 1-27-1860 d. 12-30-1925) in San Antonio, December 15, 1915. Mabel Claire (Breeden) Bell (b. 11-22-1916 d. 2-18-1983) and Rosemary Kibbe (Breeden) Kokernot (b. 8-1-1919 d.) were the children of this marriage. After the death of her first husband, Mable (Hall) Breeden married Edward Mugge (b. 12-8-1903 d. 6-22-1972) on June 6, 1929.

by Rosemary Kokernot

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HALL, RAY SLATER ANND LAVELLE HARTMAN

F359

Standing: Marianne E. Hall. Seated: Ray Slater Hall, Laurinda Rae Hall, and LaVelle (Hartman) Hall.

Ray Slater Hall, the son of Emory Calvin Hall (son of Emory Horton Hall and Martha Jane Smith Hall of Helena, Karnes Co., Texas) and Anne Elizabeth Slater Hall Hildebrandt (daughter of William Henry Richard "Dick" Slater and Lena Mack Couch Slater Bell Davis of Couch, Karnes Co., Texas), was born at the Calvin Hall home in Karnes City, Texas on 8 Feb. 1924. Calvin Hall owned and operated Hall Brothers Mercantile and the Traveler's Hotel in Karnes City which Annie managed beginning in July, 1935. Calvin served as a special Texas Ranger, a Constable and Deputy Sheriff, Assistant Tax Collector, official Government Weather Observer and Agricultural Extension officer for Karnes Co., Texas until his death on 17 Sept. 1945. Ray Slater Hall had one sister, Nell (born 29 Jan. 1917, married M.L. Shaw in 1943). Both Nell and Ray Slater were graduates of Karnes City High School. On 2 Dec. 1942, Ray Slater joined the Marine Corps. and proudly served as a Sgt in the WWII Pacific conflict, where he was wounded. He was honorably discharged on 27 Nov. 1945.

LaVelle Hartman, the daughter of August Blanton Hartman (son of William Hartman and Emma Ardelia Woods) and Muriel Morrison Byram, of Davy, DeWitt Co., Texas (daughter of Presley Randolph Byram and Lena Zenobia Morrison), was born 29 March 1928 in Yorktown, DeWitt Co., Texas. She had two brothers, Vernon Blanton "Bob" and Alton Randolph and has one sister, Jacquelyn. "Jackie" Woods married (S. Ross Rhodes). All four of the Hartman children graduated from Karnes City High School. LaVelle worked in the Karnes Co. Clerk's office prior to her marriage to Ray Slater Hall on 23 June 1948 in the Karnes City Presbyterian Church. Also in

June, 1946, Annie Slater Hall married L.B. "Hilde" Hildebrandt and moved to Houston. Ray Slater and LaVelle moved to Houston and lived with Annie and Hilde while Ray Slater attended the University of Houston and worked for Arctic Refrigeration. LaVelle worked in the Harris Co. Clerk's office until the birth of their first child, Marianne Elizabeth, on 20 Aug. 1948. Annie cared for Marianne after LaVelle returned to work at Harris Co. District Clerk's office until Ray Slater enlisted in the army in 1950 and was sent to Alaska where LaVelle and Marianne joined him. LaVelle returned to her parents' ranch at Davy shortly before Laurinda Rae "Lori" was born in Karnes City on 18 Feb. 1951.

The Halls moved to Ft. Riley, Kansas where Marianne attended first grade, then to Aschaffenburg, Germany where they lived for three years. After and eventful passage across the Atlantic Ocean by ship (Lori had a severe case of measles and both girls were dreadfully seasick), they lived in Columbus, Georgia until Ray Slater was transferred to Ft. Bliss, in El Paso, Texas where the family established a permanent home. LaVelle was employed by the City of El Paso and then the District Clerk's office before the birth of their only son, William Allen "Bill" on 27 Feb. 1960. Later, she was a legal administrative secretary in El Paso for Fleming, Cotton & Calhoun and Owen Ellington & Hugh McGovern while Ray Slater was assigned to Korea and, later, to Panama. LaVelle also was a Veterinarian's Assistant at Angel Animal Hospital in Pasadena, Texas from 1973-1983.

Marianne graduated from Bel Air High School in May, 1966 in El Paso and married Ronald James Mauldin on 25 July 1966 at the August B. Hartman home in Karnes City, with Judge B.A. "Pete" Hartman officiating. Their children were Michelle Marie, born 13 Aug. 1967 in Brawley, California; Kelly LaVelle Anne, born 14 April 1970 in Corpus Christi, Texas; and Scott, born 3 March 1972 in Ijmuiden, Velsen, The Netherlands. Marianne married second on 10 March, 1979 in Houston, Texas, Robert Forsyth Little, IV. Michelle Mauldin married Glenn Roy Earl Klusendorf on 7 Oct. 1983 in Friendswood, Texas and had: Karee Anne Elizabeth, born 9 March 1985 in Friendswood,Texas; Chase Forsyth Glenn, born 9 Sept. 1986 in Houston, Texas and Joshua Alexander Glenn, born 15 April 1989 in LaMesa, California.

Lori married Robert John Thomas in El Paso, Texas on 18 May 1968 and had: Amy Cheryl, born 3 Sept. 1969, LaMarque, Texas; Robert John II, born 10 Dec. 1972, Rota, Spain; and Ashley Suzanne, born 6 Jan. 1974, Rota, Spain. On 25 Dec. 1987, Lori married second, Navy Capt. Richard Elgin in Washington, D.C. and moved to Naples, Italy after completing a nursing degree from San Jacinto College, Houston, Texas.

Marianne received an Associate degree from San Jacinto College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Resource Management and History, Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Human Resource Management and Psychology from University of Houston at Clear Lake City, Texas.

Bill graduated from Friendswood High School in May, 1978 and attended San Jacinto College. He currently is employed by Apple Tree Food Store, Friendswood, Texas.

After Ray Slater retired from the Army in July, 1968, they moved to Friendswood, Texas and he joined Lockheed at NASA, Houston, where he worked on the design, manufacturing and flight of NASA's large format camera until he retired in December 1986. Upon retirement, Ray Slater and LaVelle Hartman Hall moved to Kenedy, Karnes Co., Texas.

by Mrs. Marianne E.H. Little

HALLER, RICHARD AND MARIE AGATHE WILHELM

F360

Francois Richard Haller and Marie Agathe Wilhelm were the progenitors of hundreds of decendants now living in Texas and throughout the United States, yet hardly one of them has ever heard of Richard Haller or his wife, Agathe.

Francois Richard Haller was born in Fellering, Alsace, France on Feb. 6, 1815 to Joseph Haller and Anne Marie Haller (No relation). Marie Agathe Wilhelm was born in the village of Oderen, up the Thur Valley from Fellering a mile or so, on March 26, 1817, to Bartholome Wilhelm and Marie Agathe Schmitt. Richard Haller and Marie Agathe Wilhelm were married in Oderen in 1842 and on July 4, 1843, their daughter Rosalie was born. As well as can be determined, Rosalie was their only child.

Since the Thur Valley in Alsace had many Haller families living there, at times the trail of Richard Haller grows a little dim. One thing is certain and that is that Richard Haller, age 29, his wife Marie Agathe, age 27, and daughter Rosalie, age 1 years and 3 months were on the Henri Castro Ship, *Probus*, that left Antwerp on October 6, 1844, bound for New Orleans. The Castro Colonists on that ship were to then board another vessel that would take them to Galveston, Texas. Ship records show that Richard Haller and family did arrive at New Orleans and this is where the mystery begins. Did Richard Haller and family ever get to Castroville, their destination, or did they stay in New Orleans only long enough to board the next ship back to France? Back to Alsace they did go. For what reason we may never know, but there is a story told by a great grandson of Richard and Agathe Haller that "someone in the family, I don't remember just who it was, came over here but didn't like it so he went back home". Could this "someone" be Richard Haller and family?

In November 1857, Richard Haller, now 42 years of age, once again applied for permission to leave Alsace and immigrate to Texas. His wife, Marie Agathe Wilhelm was now 40 and the daughter, Rosalie, was 14. Richard Haller and family once again entered the United States through the port of New Orleans and from there, not wasting any time, came straight to the Meyersville area of DeWitt County. Within a very short time he purchased 200 acres of land in what is now called the Golly Community, and as soon as he could, applied for citizenship. This time he was not going back!

Many of their friends from Alsace lived in the Meyersville-Arneckeville area and Richard, who was a carpenter, or actually a cabinet maker, had no trouble keeping busy as his skill was always in demand by many who needed furniture and the like.

The family had not lived in Texas too long before the neighbor boy living near the 12 Mile Coleto came to visit the Haller family near the 5 Mile Coleto. The neighbor boy was Anthony Golly Jr. When Rosalie Haller turned 16 years old, she and Anthony Golly Jr. were married on August 7, 1859 by the Priest from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria, who was making his routine visits to the Coleto and Meyersville area of DeWitt County.

Richard and Agathe could perhaps rest a little easier now that their daughter was married to a young man who was already becoming established in the community, but Richard and Agathe probably never rested again. On Christmas Eve, 1860, Richard and Agathe welcomed their first grandchild into their household. The first child, who was named Elise, was followed by 12 more children. In all, 12 girls and 1 boy. Anthony Golly and Rosalie continued to make their home with her parents and after the Gollys outnumbered the Hallers, people began referring to the Haller place as the "Golly-Haller" place.

Richard Haller lived for six short years in Texas. He died in 1863 and is buried in the Catholic Church Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas. Marie Agathe had her hands full helping her daughter Rosalie care for the ever growing household. A distant relative of Marie Agathe, a man named Michael Schneider, who was also from Oderen, France, came to live in the Golly-Haller house. Michael Schneider, whose wife was apparently dead by 1865, had emigrated from Alsace with his wife and children about the same time as some of the other Meyersville citizens.

On January 29, 1882, Rosalie Haller Golly died, leaving 10 little children for her husband, Anthony Golly Jr. to care for. With the help of the Grandmother, Agathe, and her cousin, Michael Schneider, the task of raising the children was eased somewhat. Several weeks after the death of Rosalie, another grandchild who was just one year old died. She was Emma Matilda. Two years later the death of Anthony Golly Jr. was a final blow. The Grandmother Haller was left with 7 grandchildren to raise, ranging in age from 5 to 16 years. Agathe Haller was 67 years old at the time, but took care of the little ones as long as she could. Later some of the Golly girls went to live with two of their older sisters; Mary, who had married Louis Koenig, and Leone, who had married William Bitterly.

Marie Agathe Wilhelm Haller died at 79 years of age on June 9, 1896 and is buried in the Cemetery at St. Peter and Pauls Catholic Church in Meyersville, Texas, beside her husband, Richard Haller and her pride and joy, her only child, Rosalie.

by Jeane Bitterly

HAMILITON, THORNTON

F361

(1878 – 1962)

Thornton Hamilton was born in Cuero, Texas, December 19, 1878, in a small frame house on Morgan Avenue. Thornton's grandfather, John Hamilton (1790-1867) had settled in the DeWitt County area around 1850. Thornton's father, Alexander Hamilton (1846-1906) was

Thornton Hamilton

Mary Agnes (Graham) Hamilton

married to Annie Thornton (1855-1913) daughter of William Thornton, an early Victoria, Texas, doctor. Alexander owned a general mercantile store in Clinton, Texas, but when the railroad by-passed Clinton, it necessitated a move to the new town of Cuero in 1872. In Cuero, Alex went on to build a fine brick building on North Esplanade for his mercantile store. Also, Alex owned a ferry boat to cross the Guadalupe River near the present Hell's Gate Bridge. Alex was an early cattleman in DeWitt county with a spread of land in the Cheapside area of DeWitt County. He owned another tract of land in Live Oak County where the present town of Three Rivers is located. Many years ago a man named Tommy Tips struck a deal with the Hamiltons to subdivide their land in Live Oak County; hence came the new town of Hamiltonville, Texas. Because there was another town in Texas called Hamiltonville, the postal department requested the name be changed. The new name was Three Rivers, Texas. Alexander was also president and general manager of the Cuero Cotton Oil Mfg. Co. (Est. 1890). He was also one of the organizers and President of the First National Bank in Cuero, located just across the street from his building on Esplanade Blvd. Needless to say Alex was a dynamic businessman; however, his health began to fail at what we no consider an early age. His eldest son, Thornton, a very able energetic young man, was there to carry on. Here is an article from a copy of the *Cuero Star* (an early Cuero newspaper) in 1905 about Thornton: "Thornton Hamilton is a native of Cuero in his 27th year. Was graduated from Bingham's Military School (New York) and in his third year attained the rank of lieutenant and adjutant ——. He took a business course at Eastman's Commercial College, Pougkeepsie, New York. For some years he has held the position of assistant cashier and director in the First National Bank and director in the Cuero Cotton Oil & Mfg. Co.; which envinces the confidence reposed in his business capacity and fidelity by the shareholders of those strong and important institutions. From his other duties, Mr. Hamilton finds opportunity to breed registered Hereford cattle, and has made deals in these splendid animals in various parts of Texas and in Mexico for his father and himself. He is a partner in the insurance business of Woodworth & Hamilton; manages the extensive private interests of his father, Mr. Alexander Hamilton, owing to his illness. Alexander Hamilton was president of First National Bank, and Thornton, his eldest son, is most active as assistant cashier."

Alexander Hamilton died the following year 1906. A group in the First National Bank led by Edgar Joseph, a first cousin of Thornton's, (Edgar Joseph was reared by Mr. & Mrs. Alex Hamilton, having lost his own father at an early age and Alex Hamilton gave him his job in the First National Bank) wanted to squeeze the Hamiltons out of the bank. Thornton saw this coming so he cut a deal with Mr. Otto Buchel, who owned a private bank, to form a partnership. After the sale of the Hamilton stock was finalized, Thornton stood up and informed the stockholders that he had gone into partnership with Mr. Otto Buchel. This harmonious relationship lasted for over 50 years until the bank was sold. Thornton's younger brother, LeRoy Hamilton, was President of the Buchel Bank for most of these 50 some odd years.

Thornton took over as President and general manager of the Cuero Cotton Oil & Mfg. Co., a position he held until ill health forced his retirement in 1955. During this 50-year period Thornton also owned cottonseed oil mills in Yorktown and Kenedy, Texas, and for a period of time owned seven cotton gins. Thornton was also a major stockholder in the First National Bank of Yorktown, Texas.

Thornton's first love was the cattle business and the land. Whenever he wanted to relax he would go to the country to tend to his cattle operation. He was constantly expanding his cattle business by buying tracts of land and stocking it with good Hereford cattle. In later years when the Hereford cattle began having eye problems, he was one of the first ranchers to cross his Herefords with registered Brahman bulls from the Hudgins and Koontz breeders. Thornton was elected a Life Member in the South Texas Hereford Association.

Thornton had a good friend who was an early president and director of the Texas Company (now Texaco, Inc.). Because it was a well-run company, he began to acquire stock in Texaco in the 1920s & 30s and went on to become one of the largest individual stockholders.

In 1898 Thornton married Mary Agnes Graham, daughter of Civil War Veteran, William Henry Graham and Marie Louise Demonet Graham (the Demonets lived in Indianola, Texas). The Hamiltons raised three children, Graham Hamilton, Annie Louise Hamilton and Mary Agnes Hamilton. My mother Ann (Annie Louise) Hamilton married Charles E. Cusack, Sr. of Chicago, Illinois, who was the son of Thomas Cusack, one of the originators of outdoor advertising and whose company had offices in nearly every major city in the United States. The Cusacks had three children, Charles E. Cusack, Jr., Michael F. Cusack and William Leroy Cusack, Sr. (the author of this piece). My mother, Ann Hamilton Cusack was an early liberated woman. She worked as a secretary at Foster Field in Victoria and Brayton Flying Field in Cuero during World War II. After the war she began working at the Cuero Cotton Oil & Mfg. Co. where she remained for twenty-six years until she retired to take over the business management and to care for her father, Thornton, and her mother, Mary Agnes.

by William Leroy Cusack, Sr.

HAMILTON, ALEXANDER

F362

1846-1906

William Hamilton was born in Londonderry, Ireland and married Mary Entrican in York County, Pennsylvania in 1734. Daniel Hamil-

Alexander Hamilton, 1846-1906.

Annie Thornton Hamilton, 1855-1913.

ton, son of William, was born in 1755 and married Mary Scott, daughter of John Scott of Scotland, in 1788. John Hamilton, son of Daniel Hamilton, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1790 and died in 1867. He married first, Kitty Rule in 1815 and second, Lucy Campbell. Alexander Hamilton was the son of John and Lucy Campbell and was born in Carlisle, Kentucky, on July 29, 1846 and died in Cuero, Texas in 1906.

John Hamilton and his first wife, Kitty Rule, had thirteen children, one being Caroline (born in 1837) who married Rufus Smith (educated in New York and Connecticut) in February of 1856. Caroline and Rufus had several grandchildren living in DeWitt County in the 1980's, among them: Mrs. T.O. Buchel, Mr. Edgar Smith, Miss Eleanor Smith, Mrs. Vachel Weldon and Mrs. Scott Snodgrass.

John Hamilton (so the story goes) took his son, Alexander, by his second wife, Lucy Campbell, from his home in Kentucky when he was about four years old and brought him to Texas in about 1850.

Alexander Hamilton (1846-1906) married Ann Eppes Thornton (1855-1913) on Feb. 28, 1878. Their children were:

1) Thornton Hamilton, who married Agnes Graham, and was born on December 19, 1878 and died December 9, 1962.

2) Alexander Frank Hamilton who was born May 29, 1880, married Clare Wofford on November 4, 1904 and died January 15, 1952.

3) Charles Ruppert Hamilton who was born June 19, 1885 and died October 31, 1888.

4) Le Roy Hamilton who was born April 2, 1889, married Dorothy Burns, and died November, 1977.

Alexander Frank Hamilton, second son born to Alex and Annie Thornton Hamilton, married Clare Wofford in Cuero on November 4, 1904 at the First Baptist Church. Children born to them were:

1) Alexander Frank Hamilton, Jr., born August 25, 1905 and died February 22, 1941.

2) Frances (Eppes) Anne Hamilton born August 15, 1913, married Gale Oliver, Jr. on November 6, 1937. He was born July 13, 1907 and died October 11, 1981. Frances and Gale had four sons. They are:

1) Gale Oliver, III, born February 13, 1939 in Victoria, Texas. He married Gay Chandler on January 28, 1961. They have two children: Kathryn Kay born October 18, 1961 and Gale Hamilton Oliver born January 6, 1964.

2) William Thornton Oliver was born May 17, 1941 in Refugio, Texas. He married Coylene Mahan on August 20, 1966. They have three children: William Thornton Oliver, Jr. born May 7, 1968, Kristen Coylene Oliver born February 13, 1970, and Greyson Coyle Oliver born October 1, 1976.

3) Alexander Hamilton Oliver was born April 28, 1945 in Refugio, Texas. He married Nance Gene Anderson on October 12, 1974. They have two children: Nance Clare Oliver born August 14, 1975 and Amory Elizabeth Oliver born December 20, 1977.

4) Robert Leon Oliver was born August 8, 1949 in Refugio, Texas.

Alexander Hamilton, 1846-1906, only son of John and Lucy Campbell Hamilton, came to DeWitt County as a very young boy. He grew up on the DeWitt County ranch (Deer Creek) of his father, John Hamilton. He began his business career as a merchant in Clinton and moved to Cuero "among the first" around 1872.

Before this, however, when quite young, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and served until the close of the war in 1865. In fact, he took part in the last battle of the Civil War which was fought near Brownsville some three weeks after General Lee's surrender – before it was known in that part of Texas that the war was over. He was a member of Company C, Fifth Texas Regiment.

After starting his career in Clinton, and before he moved his business into Cuero, he sold his part of his land inherited from his father, John Hamilton, to his sister and brother-in-law, Caroline (Hamilton) and Rufus Smith.

He followed merchandising until his growing interest in other lines necessitated his retiring from the mercantile field.

He organized the First National Bank of Cuero and was its first and only president. It was said that he was among the first to construct a brick building in DeWitt County. He was president of the Cuero Telephone Company, and president, manager and largest stockholder of the Cuero Cotton Oil and Manufacturing Company. (That remained in the Hamilton family until it was sold in 1965.) He built the first cattle dipping vat and was among the first to import registered Hereford cattle into the county, which, it was said, he imported from Missouri in the 1890's. He had bought land out towards, and in, the Cheapside area in the early 1880's. He was a member, at the time of his death in May of 1906, of the Jewel Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

I should mention that his first venture at stock raising was with horses, which he drove to market in Louisiana over the unfenced lands of Texas and through the marshes of Louisiana.

When they reached the Mississippi River, Hamilton made arrangements for his horses to be ferried across to New Orleans. Confusion and the noise of fog horns and boat whistles stampeded the horses and they scattered over the bottom lands. After several days of hard riding, the horses were rounded up and were successfully ferried across to New Orleans, where they were sold for a good price. The drivers with their saddle horses returned by boat to Indianola and then rode to their DeWitt County homes.

The enterprising young Hamilton, as I've written, moved his "Dry Goods and Clothing Store" from Clinton into Cuero after the county seat was moved. After a few years he sold his store to Frank Taylor, husband of Kitty Hamilton, Alex's half-sister.

In June of 1876 the ownership of "Hell's Gate Ferry" was transferred from Richard B. Hudson and sold to Alexander Hamilton for around "eight hundred dollars in American coin." The County Judge at that time was O.L. Threlkeld. It is not known how long Mr. Hamilton operated the ferry.

Alexander Hamilton met his bride-to-be, Ann Eppes Thornton, of Victoria, while she was visiting her dear friend Mrs. David Heaton (Ellen Hill, formerly from Victoria) in Cuero. At one time she had to postpone her visit on account of a fresh outbreak of the Taylor-Sutton Feud.

Ann Thornton was the oldest daughter of William Greene Thornton and Mary Walton Edmunds of Virginia, Galveston, and Victoria. Dr. Wm. Thornton was a pioneer physician in Victoria, having gone there in February of 1854. He had received a degree from the University of Louisville, Kentucky in 1847 and his degree in medicine from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1849.

Alexander Hamilton and Annie Thornton married at the First Presbyterian Church in Victoria, Texas on February 28, 1878, the same wedding date as her mother's and father's in 1854 in Galveston.

During Ann's youth, she received the advantage of an early and thorough education, both by attending Nazareth Academy in Victoria and by her travels with her aunt, Mrs. Alice Judith Edmunds Clark (widow). They often went by boat to Galveston, New Orleans, Virginia and New York. The travels continued after her marriage, with her husband and children, often to Chautauqua, New York where they enjoyed the climate, and the lectures and concerts.

Annie T. Hamilton was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero, Texas and also of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society. She was its first treasurer about 1880.

She was as devoted as she was to her church, to the Hawthorne Club. She went as its delegate, as its president, to the Federation of Womens' Clubs which met in Corpus just two weeks prior to her death in November of 1913.

Alexander Frank Hamilton, born in May of 1880, was the second son of Annie T. and Alexander Hamilton. He received a good, sound education from attending schools in Cuero, then in 1895 and 1896 at Cluster Springs in Black Walnut, Virginia and at Pantops Academy near Charlottsville, Virginia. Later he attended Phillips Exeter prep school at Exeter, New Hampshire.

On November 4, 1904, Hamilton and Miss Clare Wofford, daughter of John and Josephine Stevens Wofford, pioneer planters and ranchers in DeWitt County, were united in marriage at the First Baptist Church of Cuero, Texas. Two children were born to them: Alexander Hamilton, Jr. on August 25, 1905 and Frances Anne Eppes Hamilton on August 15, 1913.

Clare W. Hamilton, following in the tradition of two of her sisters and her mother-in-law, Annie T. Hamilton, was quite active in the early chartered (1895) Hawthorne Club, serving as its ninth president. At the time of her membership, the club met each week on Tuesday. When the club was first organized, the

members studied the classics – much of Shakespeare. In later years the programs were more concerned with current events.

Young couples in Clare Hamilton's day enjoyed bowling and the dances held in the Mohawk Club. They were gala affairs. Clare used to recall the gay times the young folks had at informal parties held in each others homes.

Curfew for the young ladies was 10:00 p.m., however young swains would sometimes serenade them beneath their windows as late as 11:00 p.m.! "The young Romeos" would accompany the Felipe Band, "the swinging boys" at that time, to the girls homes. The Felipe Band was composed of three or four Mexicans who were quite good at "plunking" guitars and other string instruments.

Alex F. Hamilton, Jr. received his early education in Cuero Schools before attending and graduating from Phillips Exeter in New Hampshire in 1925. He entered the University of Texas at Austin that fall, where he was an honor student every semester, graduating with highest honors in 1929.

For a short period he worked in the bank in what was Goose Creek, near Houston. Then he moved to Cheapside and lived on his father's ranch until his health began to fail. Alex was an invalid for almost ten years, dying in June of 1941.

Mr. Alex F. Hamilton, Sr. was actively engaged in the ranching and cattle business up until his illness in the 1940's and he was widely known as one of the best posted livestock men of South Texas. For two years prior to the death of his father in 1906, he managed his father's ranches, which were in Live Oak, Calhoun, and DeWitt Counties. After this he continued the management for his mother and later for his brothers until the division of the land in the early 1920's. He continued to raise exceptionally fine Hereford beef cattle, which with other feeder stock, were sold largely on the Fort Worth markets. He also raised a few blooded horses for use on the ranch. He topped the market in Fort Worth frequently with the fat calves that he shipped.

His brands, which are still being used by Mrs. Gale Oliver, Jr. and her sons, are: 80-1880, being the year of his birth and 746, the 46 being the year (1846) of the birth of Alexander Hamilton, his father. This was the original Hamilton ranch brand.

He was interested in a number of other businesses – was formerly a director of the Buchel National Bank, a stock holder and director of the Cuero Cotton Oil Manufacturing Company. He was active during World War I as chairman of the Defense Council of DeWitt County.

In January of 1952, Mr. Hamilton died. His widow, Clare W. Hamilton, managed the ranch until 1966 when she became ill. She moved to Refugio, Texas to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Gale Oliver, Jr., where she resided until her death in February, 1973 when she was ninety-three years old.

Gale Oliver, Jr. took over the management of the ranch in 1966 and continued until his death on October 11, 1981. He had retired from his position as Field Office Manager, after forty years with Hewit and Dougherty Oil and Gas Company in 1973, and he and his wife Frances, had moved to Cuero where they resided in the Alex Hamilton home.

Since 1981, the ranch has been managed for the Oliver sons and their mother by Dr. William T. Oliver of Gonzales, a great grandson of the original Alexander Hamilton.

Frances H. Oliver received her early education in the Cuero public schools, graduating in 1931. That fall she entered the University of Texas in Austin, from which she graduated in 1935. She married Gale Oliver, Jr. November 6, 1937 in Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. Gale Oliver, Jr.

HAMILTON, GRAVES GRAHAM (BUZZY)

F363

Graves Graham (Buzzy) Hamilton

Graves Graham Hamilton (Buzzy) was born in Cuero November 6, 1927, second child and only son of Thornton Graham Hamilton of Cuero, and Mary Sue Graves of Houston. Buzzy's great-grandfather, Alexander Hamilton, was an early entrepreneur of DeWitt County. Alexander had three sons who grew to manhood in Cuero: Thornton (1878-1962), Alexander (1880-1952), and LeRoy (1889-1977), and all were active in the further development of Cuero. Thornton, the oldest son, had three children; and Buzzy's father Thornton Graham, called Graham, was his only son. Graham was born in Cuero March 2, 1900 and died in Cuero November 5, 1977. Graham was a high school athlete in Cuero, where he broke the world's record in the javelin throw. At the University of Texas, he lettered in track all four years and was captain of the track team in 1922. He was one of the founders of the Cowboys, a service organization at the University. He served in World War I; and in World War II he was head of Civil Defense for South Texas. He and Mary Sue were married in Houston, December 22, 1922. They lived in Block 48 – the Hamilton Block – on the corner of Terrell and Reuss in a Spanish-style home. Graham worked at the Cuero Cotton Seed Oil and Manufacturing Company, a Hamilton enterprise, all of his life; and after the illness of his father in 1955 he managed the business.

Buzzy's mother, Mary Sue Graves, was born in Waco. Her father, George W. Graves, was born on the Pedernales River, and served as judge of the Third Court of Civil Appeals for forty-two years. His wife, Katherine (Kate) Davidson, was also from a prominent family as her father, William L. Davidson, was for many years presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Mary Sue and Graham have two children: Buzzy of this article and Susan Hamilton Wallis.

Like his father, Graham, Buzzy was a Cuero high school athlete, lettering in football, basketball, golf, track and tennis. He left the University of Texas at seventeen to enlist in World War II and was a crewman on a plane attached to the aircraft carrier, Saratoga. After the war, he re-entered the University of Texas for a time, and then went to work for the Steck Company in Austin for a year. The following year, 1951, he quit to work at the family's Cotton Seed Oil and Manufacturing Company in Kennedy. In 1952 he went back to work for the Steck Company in Austin; and in 1953 was sent to Houston to establish a branch office there for Steck.

While in Houston, in 1954, Buzzy joined four other men as stockholders in San Jacinto Engraving Company and spent the next thirty years as its treasurer, building it to a very successful company. While in Houston, he was active in the Chamber of Commerce, was a director of the Printing Industry Association, and was a director of the Independence Bank. He sold his business in Houston in 1983 and moved back to Cuero to engage in the cattle business on his part of the old Hamilton Ranch, called the Valley View Ranch. Buzzy is a dedicated sportsman, a crack shot with a rifle or shotgun, and has hunted and fished from Africa to Alaska.

In 1950 Buzzy married Jackie Powell in Cuero, and they had four sons: Thornton Graves Hamilton, born in Cuero February 28, 1952; Lloyd Michael Hamilton, born in Cuero June 27, 1953; Robert Deryl Hamilton, born in Houston April 28, 1955; and Thomas Duval Hamilton, born in Houston September 9, 1959. He and Jackie are divorced.

On August 5, 1978, Buzzy married Mary Ellen (Hoeflich) Belisch of Houston, daughter of a husband-and-wife team of doctors. She has two Houston-born children: Sigmund Bertrand Belisch, Jr., born July 26, 1962; and Werner Ben Belisch, born October 4, 1963.

Mary Ellen and Buzzy both participate in area clay target shooting contests. Buzzy is active as an officer and director of the Cuero Gun Club. Both of these Hamiltons travel to participate in shooting contests, and Mary Ellen shares Buzzy's interest in hunting, conservation of wildlife, cattle, and grasses for wildlife and cattle.

by Mrs. G.G. Hamilton

HANDER, MARGARET ELLA FARRAR SHOWS

F364

Margaret Ella Farrar Shows Hander was born February 10, 1868 in Lavaca County, Texas. Maggie, as she was known, eventually met a tragic death at the hands of unknown assailants. She was the daughter of Candace Case Bailey and Elias Sweet Farrar, who came to Texas from Indiana with three children and other relatives about 1847. They settled first in

The John R. Shows Family – L-R: Margaret "Maggie" Farrar Shows, Olive, Mattie Ella, John R. Maudie Stella and Terry (in front) 1893

Victoria County and later moved near Hope in Lavaca County. They were listed in the 1850 Victoria County Census. They had nine more children in Texas. From December 1849 to February 1868 five of their twelve children died. Two boys, Lorenzo and Orange, died of measles during the Civil War. Margaret Ella, "Maggie," was their twelfth child.

Candace Case Bailey was born August 21, 1824 at Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. She married Elias Sweet Farrar April 6, 1841 at Madison. Candace died January 21, 1869 in Lavaca County leaving five young daughters and two grown children. One, Celestine, died about three months later. It is not known where Candace and her family are buried, possibly in the Bailey Cemetery, Lavaca County.

Elias Sweet Farrar was born November 17, 1816 in Ontario County, N.Y., the son of William Farrar and a Sweet. His parents moved to Dearborn County, Indiana before 1820, when he was a small child. He and Candace had three children in Jefferson County before moving to Texas where he purchased several hundred acres of land near the Lavaca and Victoria County line. He ran a gristmill. He died at the age of 52 on September 5, 1868. "Maggie" was a little over six months old when her father died. Then on January 21, 1869 her mother died when she was a little less than a year old. An older sister, Celestine Farrar Stephenson, then took care of Maggie for about 2½ months and then she died.

Celestine was born September 17, 1843 in Jefferson County, Indiana. She married Silas Green Stephenson about 1865 in Lavaca County. He died August 15, 1868 when Celestine's young sister Maggie was only about 6 months old and about 4 months before a young son was born to Celestine. Celestine died on April 15, 1869, leaving her young sisters and two very young boys of her own. The three young sisters, Maggie aged 1, Amelia aged 7, and Minnie aged 12, were each placed in a different foster home.

A young married couple, James D. Terry and his wife Kate, who had no children, took Maggie to raise when Celestine died in 1869. Apparently the Terrys were acquainted with the Farrar family and also the Shows family as J.D. Terry, Farrar, and Shows were on the Muster Roll of Scarbrough's Davis Guard, a volunteer cavalry company from Terryville during the Civil War. In 1852 the town of Terryville had been named for James D. Terry. The 1870 Census of Victoria County lists Maggie Farrar as an orphan residing with the Terrys. Kate Terry, herself, had been reared in a foster home. Three daughters were born to the Terrys in Terryville. They were Martha Maria, born September 7, 1870; Alberta Maude born on August 25, 1875; and Kate Pearl on June 25, 1877.

On June 1, 1882, when she was fourteen years of age, Maggie ran away from the Terrys and married John Ryan Shows in DeWitt County. John Shows was born January 30, 1858 in Jackson Parish, La., the son of Adam Shows and Nancy Granberry Shows. Maggie and John Shows had five children: (1) Olive Lucretia, born June 14, 1884; (2) Mattie Ella born October 13, 1886; (3) Terry Adam on July 20, 1888; (4) Maudie Stella on February 14, 1892; and (5) Beulah Minnie in June, 1893. Three of these children, Mattie, Terry, and Maudie, were named for members of the Terry family.

John Ryan Shows, a farmer, died of cancer at the age of 44 on May 29, 1901, and was buried in the Hebron Cemetery in northeastern DeWitt County. Nancy Shows, his mother, is the first recorded person to be buried in the Hebron Cemetery. She died at age 38 on April 29, 1867. The funeral was by oxcart. She was the daughter of Amos Granberry, Sr. and Elizabeth Rogers. Nancy Shows was the wife of Adam Shows, a carpenter, who built the Hebron Baptist Church. She was the mother of eight children. John Ryan Shows was her 6th child. With the death of her husband, John Shows, Maggie, at the age of 32, was left with five children ages 8-17.

Some months after John Shows died Maggie left the two older children with relatives, but took the three younger ones, Maudie, Terry, and Beulah, with her to Austin. It is not known just when she met and married a man named Hander. It is reported that he was the foster brother of Bethal Yearwood, who was married to Olive Lucretia, Maggie's first child. She later returned to Morales and brought the younger children with her because young Terry and Hander did not get along. She stayed for awhile in Morales with another daughter, Mattie Laughter, but then returned to Austin. Maggie and Hander separated. She rented a small two-room house at 1610 East Third Street, where she lived by herself, although she is said to have been popular and never lacked for company. In early fall of 1909 Maggie had seen a lawyer, Henry Faulk, about filing for divorce. She told Faulk that she was engaged to A.G. Magnum and would marry him as soon as the divorce was final.

On October 19, 1909, it was reported in the Austin Daily Statesman that the body of a woman had been discovered the afternoon before in the Wheeless pasture about twenty paces from Manor Road, between Pecan Springs and Walnut Creek, about five miles

from the city of Austin. Judging from its condition, the body had apparently been lying there for several weeks. Much of the skin was gone from the lower extremities, and the skin of the face was sunken and shriveled. There were three deep indentations on the head, one on the forehead, and one on the jaw, and one which had broken her cheek bone, giving an indication of murder. The body was well dressed. She wore a red jersey sweater, low quarter shoes lay a short distance to one side. She had long black hair which had been torn from the scalp and was lying nearby. She was of medium height, and ear rings of curious design were in her ears.

The following day, on October 20, 1909, the Austin Daily Statesman reported that the body had been identified as that of Mrs. Maggie Hander. Identification was made by a Mrs. Annie Scrivener and a Miss Pearl Scrivener. A Mrs. Frank, who lived next door and who rented the house on East Third to Mrs. Hander, said she had seen the woman leave in a buggy with an unidentified man early in the evening on September 27, but only thought she had left town, and did not report her missing. Jewelry found on the body consisted of two old-fashioned ear rings, a stick pin apparently made from a dime with the letters "M.R." scratched on it and 1884 stamped across the face of the dime. There was a locket with the same initials engraved on it. Since the police did not know her maiden name of Maggie Farrar, the initial could easily have been mistaken for an "R" instead of an "F". The date 1884 on the dime was the year of the birth of her first child, Olive Lucretia.

The body was buried by the county on October 19 from Pattersons Funeral Home in the pauper's section of the Austin City Cemetery (Oakwood), Austin. No lot number was given and no death certificate issued. Dr. James Loving, a physician in attendance, gave cause of death as a fractured skull.

Two defendants, John I. Grubbs and Jesse Smith, alias Jesse Pemberton, were charged with the murder. A Grand Jury was called, and October 29, the Grand Jury called for the release of these two men in connection with the murder of Mrs. Maggie Hander for lack of evidence, although John I. Grubbs was detained on forgery charges. A letter of January 18, 1910 from Justice of the Peace J.D. Moore of Precinct #3 in Austin to Mrs. Mattie Laughter states:

"The identification was principally arrived at from the ear rings, the scarf pin — the shawl and clothes on the body, all of which tallied with a picture of your mother obtained from her trunk . . ."

It is likely that the picture above and the one described by Justice of the Peace J.D. Moore are the same. The picture was taken in Cuero in 1893.

There are numerous descendants of Mrs. Maggie Hander living in South Texas. Three grandchildren, Ocie Fae McGinty, Ray Terry Laughter, and Willie Dee Sweeney, live in the Houston area.

by Dorothy Hausman Peach

HANSEN, FREDERICK LOUIS

F365

Frederick Louis Hansen was born June 14, 1909, in McFarland, Kansas. His father, August F. Hansen, was Danish, and his mother, Caroline Kratzer Hansen, was German.

His mother died when he was twelve years old, and Fred was sent to a Lutheran Preparatory School in Concordia, Missouri. Later, he lived with his brother in Temple, Texas, and graduated from Temple High School. After working a year for the Fred Harvey Dairy in Temple, he attended Texas A.&M. College, graduating in 1934. After his graduation he was employed to teach Vocational Agriculture in the high school at Buda, Texas. In 1935 he came to Cuero, where he established a Vocational Agriculture Department in the high school while working part-time as an agricultural counsellor for the Cuero Chamber of Commerce. In 1941 he received the Master's degree in Agricultural Education from Texas A.&M.

On August 7, 1937, Fred married Ellyce Morgan, a teacher, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He continued to teach at Cuero High School until the entry of the United States in World War II, when he was employed by the State of Texas to organize canning centers in several South Texas communities. At the close of the war, he opened a feed store and began raising turkeys and cattle.

Fred Louis Hansen was a member of Cuero's Chamber of Commerce until his retirement, a charter member of the Cuero Lions Club of which he was president in 1940-41, the first president of the Cuero Men of the Church which was organized in 1958, an elder in the Cuero Presbyterian Church, and president of the Texas Turkey Federation.

The Hansens had three children. Fred Morgan Hansen was born December 29, 1940. He practices dentistry in Houston and is the father of two children: William Schuyler (b. 1968) and Katrina Elise (b. 1972). Frank Louis Hansen was born October 4, 1944. He was an orthodontist in Houston until 1980, when he died in a plane crash while on a hunting trip in the Yukon Territory, Canada. Lisa Caroline Hansen was born October 9, 1952. She graduated from Southern Methodist University and later received a degree as a Dental Hygienist from the Texas Dental School in Houston. She married Walter Grant Braly, a Houston orthopedist, in 1978. Their three children are Frank Hansen (b. 1982), Houston Lee (1984), and Morgan Fain (b. 1987).

by Mrs. Fred Hansen

HANYS, MAURICE ANTON AND MOLLIE (KUNETKA)

F366

Maurice Anton Hanys, the youngest of four children, was born in Zvole, Czechoslovakia, March 26, 1882, the son of Maurice and Anna (Strouhal) Hanys. He was born four months after his father's death.

In January of 1889 Mrs. Hanys and her four children — Anna, Rudolph, Fred, and Maurice — and her two younger brothers, Anthony and John, departed their home in Moravia, Austria, to travel by train for Hamburg, Germany, enroute to America. After a three-day wait in Hamburg, their ship sailed for the United States.

They arrived in New York on February 24, 1889. The next day the sister, Anna, became ill, and the mother remained with her at the American Immigrant Hospital. Maurice, his two brothers, and his two uncles continued their journey by train to Shiner, Texas, where the mother and sister joined them a few weeks later. Their first home in Texas was on the Kokernot Ranch, between Shiner and Gonzales, whee the family farmed for two years. In

The Fred L. Hansen Family. Ellyce, Lisa, Fred M., Frank L., and Fred L.

Mollie (Kunetka) and Maurice Anton Hanys

L-R: Dori (Hohl) Hanys, Jerry M. Hanys, Daniel J. Hanys, Tennie (Valigura) Hanys and Jerry Michael Hanys.

the fall of 1891 they moved to a farm near Skidmore.

In 1892 the mother Anna died at the age of 40 and was buried on the Olmos Ranch near Skidmore. Shortly thereafter Maurice and his sister moved to Yoakum in DeWitt County, Texas.

Mr. Hanys started his career in cotton ginning in 1900 at the Dolejski Gin in Shiner. In 1908 he enlisted in the United States navy and served until 1912, when he was honorably discharged.

On December 15, 1915, Maurice married Mollie Kunetka in Yoakum. Mollie, a sister of Frank W. Kunetka (q.v.), was born on December 19, 1884, at Sweet Home in Lavaca County. She was one of seven children born to Frank J. Kunetka and Annie (Krizan) Kunetka. The couple made their first home in Sweet Home, where he was manager of the cotton gin. In 1921 they moved to Yoakum, and in 1929 they located in Midfield while Maurice managed cotton gins in both places.

In 1937 they moved to Cuero, where Maurice had contracted with the Green and Steen Insurance Company to remodel the Cuero Gin, located in the 500 block of West Main Street. The relationship resulted in the same year in his purchase of the gin, which he operated until 1959, when the government's agricultural policy discouraged cotton farming and the gin was closed. However, he continued in the adjoining feed business which he had initiated in 1938, until 1963, when failing health forced his retirement and the sale of his business interest to his son, Jerry.

On January 6, 1968, Mr. Hanys retired to the Trinity Lutheran Home in Shiner, where he died 38 days later, on February 13. His funeral service was held at the Freund Funeral Home in Cuero on February 16. Mrs. Hanys took residence at the same retirement center on May 30, 1968, and died at the Wagner Memorial Hospital in Shiner on August 16 of the same year. Her funeral service was held August 17 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Rev. H.A. Hanson, pastor of St. Mark's, officiated at both services. They were both interred in Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum.

As a Cuero businessman, Maurice was active in his support of every community and civic program and contributed liberally of his time and resources. He was an ardent sports fan and a regular attendant at all semipro and high school athletic contests. During his career he constructed gins in three different South Texas counties — Lavaca, Matagorda, and Calhoun.

Maurice and Mollie Hanys had three children: Edwin, a son who died in 1925 at the age of six months; a daughter, Leona, who died in 1926 at the age of ten years; and Jerry Maurice, born August 27, 1920. Jerry M. Hanys married Tennie Valiguara in 1946 and lives in Cuero. Their son, Jerry Michael Hanys, born July 20, 1947, married Dori Hohl in June, 1987, and is the father of Daniel Jerome Hanys, born May 4, 1988.

by Jerry M. Hanys

HARDT, HENRY CHRISTIAN

F367

Heinrich Christian Hardt was born May 2, 1827, in Ernsthausen, Nassau, Germany. He was the first of ten children born to Johann Wilhelm and Justine Katharine Haibach Hardt. When he was eighteen years old, he came to the Republic of Texas with his father as a Fisher-Miller colonist for the German Emigration Company. They arrived in Galveston from Antwerp on the ship *Strabo* on November 20, 1845. With his name now anglicized to Henry, he and his father walked to Indianola where they worked until the beginning of the Mexican war.

In May 1846, Henry enlisted as a teamster in the 6th Division under General Winfield Scott and immediately was sent to the Mexican border. Their unit first went to Vera Cruz and from there they followed the militia to Mexico City hauling freight. After hostilities ceased, the troops lay in Mexico City for six weeks. At the close of the war, he was sent to New Orleans, Louisiana, and there he was given an honorable discharge. He joined his father again in Victoria. Here they worked together for a short time and became acquainted with Peter Metz and John Franke and their wives, who had bought a piece of land from John York, located 12 miles from Clinton, and 45 miles from Victoria. This group became some of the founding fathers of what is now known as Yorktown, Texas. On September 20, 1849, Henry and Maria (Marie Anne) Haller, the daughter of Jean and Marie Anne Haller of Castroville, Texas, were married in DeWitt County. He was 22 and she was 15. Maria and her brothers and sisters, Paul, Regina, Christianne, Josephine, and Augustin, had immigrated to Texas as Castro Colonists from Oderin, Alsace, France. They had arrived at Galveston from Strasbourg on November 22, 1843, on Castro's sixth ship *Henrich*. Maria's father, Jean Haller, and her mother's brother, Antoine Golly, were among the founders of Castroville.

It was about the time of Henry's marriage that he and his father spent several years building some of the pioneer homes throughout central Texas in San Antonio, Fredericksburg, and Fort Worth. Henry even became proficient as a furniture maker since some of his furniture still remains today.

Henry and Maria were the parents of thirteen children. They were: Frederick William, Elizabeth Mary, Valentine Charles, Ratchel Eliza, Anna Mary Josephine, William Paul, Henry George, Mary Matilda, Willie August, Henriette Josephine, John August, Gustave Andrus and Annie Maria. All, except Anna Mary Josephine and William Paul who died of diphtheria in childhood, lived to maturity, married, and had large families. During the War Between the States, Henry enlisted and served first in the artillery and then in Bena-

Seated: Elizabeth (Hardt) Bohmfalk, Henry Christian Hardt, Maria (Haller) Hardt, Valentine Hardt. Middle Row: Annie (Hardt) Muennink, Josephine (Hardt) Woerner, Gus Hardt, John Hardt, Regina (Hardt) Saathoff, Mary (Hardt) Schweers. Back: William Hardt, Henry George Hardt, Frederick Hardt.

vides' Texas Cavalry Regiment. At the end of the war, it was disbanded on the Rio Grande.

After living in the Yorktown area for some time where all their children were born, Henry and Maria decided to move to Mason, Texas. According to the records in the General Land Office in Austin, Texas, and the Menard County Clerk's office, Henry's land Grant from the German Emigration Company was located in Menard County not far from Mason. However, we do not believe that he ever occupied his grant.

Later, since several of their children had married and were living in Medina County, they purchased land near New Fountain, Texas, and spent the remaining years of their lives near their families. Henry Christian died on June 20, 1909, and Maria died on September 14, 1911, in Yancey, Texas. Both are buried in the New Fountain United Methodist Church Cemetery in New Fountain where they had lived for approximately the last twenty-five years of their lives.

by Ruth Hardt Koehler

HARDT, JOHN WILLIAM

F368

Johann Wilhelm Hardt was born on March 15, 1798, in Ernsthausen, Nassau, Germany, the son of Philipp Thomas Hardt and his wife Elisabetha Margaretha, nee Mueller, who were married on September 7, 1778, in Ernsthausen. Ernsthausen is located about fifty miles northwest of Frankfurt. On December 26, 1825, Johann Wilhelm married Justine Katharine Haibach, the daughter of Johann Wilhelm Haibach and Anna Margaretha Haibach of Ernsthausen. Ten children were born to this couple in Germany although only six lived to maturity. At one time, Johann Wilhelm was considered a prosperous businessman. However, Europe was hit by an economic depression and little by little he lost his property, consisting of a farm, grocery store and blacksmith shop, until he went bankrupt. At this same time, the new Republic of Texas was luring colonists to help populate the southern and western portions of the state; so he looked toward the new nation to begin a new life.

Records in the General Land Office in Austin, Texas, show that on September 11, 1845, Wilhelm Hardt signed his contract with the German Emigration Company as a Fisher-Miller Colonist. Leaving his wife and younger children with his wife's sister, he took with him his eldest son, Heinrich Christian, a carpenter by trade, and immigrated to the new nation of Texas. They arrived at the port of Galveston from Antwerp on the ship *Strabo* on November 20, 1845. Johann Wilhelm, now anglicized to William, was 47 and his son Henry, was 18.

From Galveston, family tradition has it that they walked to Indianola where they worked until the beginning of the Mexican War when Henry enlisted. It is said that they built the first block house in Indianola, and when a young Dr. Reuss arrived with his bride, they let him have it and built themselves a tent.

After Henry returned from the Mexican War, he again joined his father in Victoria. Here they worked together for a short time and became acquainted with Peter Metz and John Franke and their wives, who had bought a piece of land from John York, located 12 miles from Clinton, and 45 miles from Victoria. This group became some of the founding fathers of what is now Yorktown, Texas. It was about this time that there was a demand for carpenters; so William and his son, Henry, spent several years building some of the pioneer homes throughout central Texas in San Antonio, Fredericksburg, and Fort Worth.

William had not anticipated that the Mexican War and all the other hardships they encountered in the wilderness of Texas would prevent him from sending for his family left in Germany. It was a long seven years before he had saved enough money to have them join him. Through some merchants, Fromme and Co., who did some trading with Germany, his family was brought over. A notice in the *New Braunfels Zeitung* shows that the "wife and children of William Hardt" left Bremen for Indianola on October 9, 1852, on the Brig *Herman Theodor.* These children were Karoline Elisabethe Wilhelmina, Friedrich Wilhelm, Wilhelm August, Henrietta Johnetta and Wilhelm Valentin Hardt. All of these children were married in Texas and reared families in and around the Yorktown area; including such towns, as Goliad, Weesatche, Meyersville, Cuero, and Yoakum. And all four Hardt brothers served for the Confederacy in the War Between the States.

On May 7, 1855, William Hardt was granted citizenship to the United States of America by the District Court in DeWitt County, Texas.

According to the records in the General Land Office and the Menard County Clerk's office, William's land grant from the German Emigration Company was located in Menard County which at that time was still in Indian country. We have no information that indicates he ever occupied his grant.

Both William and his wife, Justine, lived and died in the Yorktown area.

by Ruth Hardt Koehler

HARGROVE, HENRY JUDSON

F369

Henry Judson Hargrove, born in 1841 in Georgia, son of John Green Hargrove and Rachael Lipscomb, served in Co. B, Fourth Regiment, Texas Cavalry, Confederate States Army.

In 1865 he returned to farming and married Miss Virginia (Jenny) Nelson, the first teacher at the one-room log County Line School. She was the daughter of E.H. and Ann Nelson, who operated the Nelson Academy at Petersburg and the Alma Male and Female Institute in Hallettsville.

Both Henry Judson and Virginia Hargrove died of tuberculosis before any of their children married. Both are buried in Hebron Cemetery.

The Hargrove children were: Frances Holmes (married Sydney Sparkman), Lou (married Branch Archer), Jane (married Jess Billingsly), Samuel Martin (married Maude Norris 1901), Hardy (married Catherine McSparren), and Eugene (married Wanda Boutelle).

Samuel Martin later moved to the Rio Grande Valley, where he became the first mayor of Mission, Texas in 1910.

by Betsy Ingle

HARGROVE, JOHN GREEN

F370

John Green Hargrove, a man of strong missionary spirit and a prosperous planter, was born in Georgia in 1812, the son of Hiram Hardy Hargrove and Winnifred Simms.

He came to DeWitt County after living more than ten years in Jackson Parish, Louisiana where he helped his father establish Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1850.

His wife, Rachael Lipscomb, also of Georgia, died shortly before he appeared on the 1860 DeWitt County census with children Mary Elizabeth (married James Thomas Smith), Henry Judson (married Virginia Nelson 1865), Francis L. (married Preston Dickinson 1868), fraternal twins E.W. and H.B., Mariah, John L. (married Margaret McManus 1878 and had a general store in Terryville), Nancy A. (married Jim Barnes), and Rachel J. (married R.W. Brown). Daughters Sarah Jane (married Amos Granberry, Jr.) and Eudocia had already left home.

That same year, 1860, John Green Hargrove married Margaret McManus of Clinton, Texas.

In 1867 he was one of the donors of land for the Hebron Baptist Church and Cemetery, where he is buried. At that time, the Hargrove homeplace was adjoining Hebron to the south.

His earliest ancestor in America was Richard Hargrove, who arrived in Virginia on January 2, 1634. Over the centuries, the family gradually migrated south through the Carolinas, Georgia and Louisiana.

by Betsy Ingle

HARMON, LEONARD ROY

F371

Leonard R. Harmon was born in Cuero, Texas, DeWitt County, on January 21, 1917 to Cornelius and Naunita Mabry (White) Harmon. He attended Daule School, a black school in Cuero. Leonard was a good student. He worked for Mrs. Marion Frobese Leonhardt during the depression.

On June 10, 1939, Leonard Roy Harmon enlisted in the United States Navy in Houston, Texas. After training at Norfolk Virginia, he reported to the USS San Francisco for duty on October 28, 1939. The USS San Francisco was a cruiser under the command of Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan. Harmon advanced to Mess Attendant First Class.

The naval battle of Guadalcanal began November 12, 1942 with a Japanese aerial assault on American warships which were protecting transports unloading reinforcements for the beleagured Marines on the island. The San Francisco suffered its first losses November 12 when a crippled Japanese plane deliberately crashed in to the cruiser's radar and fire control station, killing and injuring 50 men. One of the injured was Commander Mark H. Crouter,

the vessel's executive officer. Though injured, Crouter insisted on remaining aboard and the next day lost his life. On November 13, the two naval forces locked in battle. During the fighting, the San Francisco was raked by enemy gunfire which killed Admiral Callaghan and nearly every officer on the bridge, including Commander Crouter.

Harmon, disregarding his own safety, rushed to the aid of the wounded and helped evacuate them to a dressing station. He was killed while shielding a wounded shipmate from gunfire with his own body. For his valor, he was awarded the Navy Cross.

On May 21, 1943, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announced that a war ship would be named in Harmon's honor. The U.S.S. Harmon, a destroyer escort, was launched on July 25, 1943, at Quincy, Mass. Mrs. Juanita Harmon Carroll, Harmon's mother, christened the ship, the first to bear the name of a Negro.

Harmon received three battle stars for World War II service. Many honors have been bestowed posthumously on this WWII Naval hero. One such was the naming and dedication of Harmon Hall, Bachelor enlisted quarters, July 29, 1975 at the U.S. Naval Air Station, North Island, California.

During the 1976 BiCentennial year of the American Revolution, the DeWitt County Historical Commission decided that one of their projects should be an official Texas Historical Marker honoring this native of Cuero. He was the only known DeWitt County man ever to have a ship named after him. He was honored with the marker in recognition of his valor and to keep his memory alive in DeWitt County.

HARRIS, WILL F. FAMILY

F372

William Follisbee Harris and Eliza Matilda Hunter were married Nov. 27, 1895, in Cuero. Will was born in Hempstead, Washington County, Feb. 19, 1864, and came to DeWitt Co.

Will and Matilda Harris

at the age of thirteen. He was the son of Will Tucker Harris, a Methodist minister, and Martha Elizabeth Shepard. Will had a sister who died as a chikld. His other sister, Mattie Harris Starboard, was widowed at a young age and made her home with her brother's family until her death in 1944. After Will's father died his mother married Columbus Burns, and the Harris children grew up with the Burns children at Verhelle or Burns Station. Will received his early education at Nash Academy in Cuero. He taught school for a few years then obtained a law degree from the University of Texas. He practiced law in Cuero, and was the city attorney at the time of his death, March 27, 1930.

The parents of Matilda, David Hunter and Louiza Jane Lockhart, had twelve children. Matilda was born in Yorktown, DeWitt Co., May 7, 1871 and died Dec. 27, 1943.

Will and Matilda had five children. William Sherrod Harris married Beryl Dubose, and had two sons, Walter Sherrod and David Hunter. He died in Arlington Oct. 6, 1972.

Jane Matilda Harris married Fielding Breeden and they were lifelong residents of Cuero. Jane died in 1974, and Fielding died in 1971. Their children are Fielding Breeden Jr., and Blanche Wofford "Bebe" Breeden Benson.

Hunter Harris died in 1934 at the age of 34. Elizabeth Harris married George H. "Jack" Neill from Sonora. They had two daughters, Jane Neill Cooper and Nancy Neill Law.

Bertha Harris lived with her family and taught in the Cuero schools. For a short period she lived in Bay City and worked for the Welfare Dept. She returned home to help her mother when her aunt became ill, and resumed teaching in Cuero. She lived in the family home and taught school until her death Nov. 17, 1968.

by Jane Neill Cooper

HARSDORF, FREDRICK AND CAROLINE FAMILY

F373

On April 5, 1901, the estate of Fredrick and Caroline Harsdorf in Mason County was settled. They were the parents of Louisa Harsdorf Albrecht. This land was granted in the name of Christian Hartmann, survey numbers 21 and 22, consisting of 320 acres each, Gustavus Schleicher as assignee on June 27, 1860.

The property was totally owned by Fredrick and Caroline Harsdorf. At this time, it is not known how they came into possession of the land. It is possible they received it as an emigrant family. Fredrick died without a will and Caroline died in 1854, so the property was left one-seventh to each child. The children were: 1) Louisa who married Fredrich Albrecht; 2) Frederick who died in 1870; 3) Christopher "Chris"; 4) Caroline who married Conrad Schlein; 5) William; 6) Henrietta who married Gustav Dietze; 7) Wilhelmina who married a Mr. Davis.

On February 21, 1879, Fredrich and Louisa Albrecht purchased Christophe's interest for $50; on June 3, 1884, they purchased Caroline's interest for $150; and on June 9, 1884, they purchased Henrietta and William's interests for $247.30. There is no record of a deed when they purchased Frederick's interest. Fredrich and Louisa Albrecht now owned six-sevenths of the estate. The Wilhelmina Davis family who owned the other one-seventh could not be located.

As previously stated, there were seven children in the Harsdorf family who emigrated to Texas. Frederick married Theresa Bluntzer, who after his death, married J.R. Hubersburger; Caroline married Conrad Schlein: Henrietta married Gustaf Dietze. The Schleins and Dietzes of Victoria and DeWitt County are decendents of these marriages. Wilhelmina married a Mr. Davis; William married Mary Fuchs; Christoph married or lived with Sally "Skull," who was a two-gun packing mule trader, a cotton freighter to Mexico during th war. She was a rough and rowdy woman of the wild west. He had two previous marriages.

by the Albrecht Family

HARTMAN, ALFRED AND MATHILDE GROLL

F374

Alfred and Mathilde Hartman, "butchering day" 1931.

Alfred was born Oct. 21, 1887 in Kilgore (near Goliad), Texas, son of Christian Aran and Amalia Schaefer Hartman. He was baptized and confirmed in the Kilgore Lutheran Church. Mathilde was born Aug. 22, 1882 in Germantown (now Schroeder), Texas, daughter of John and Mathilde Scheel Groll. She was baptized and confirmed in the Schroeder Lutheran Church. On Jan. 5, 1911 they were married in the Schroeder Lutheran Church by Pastor Lettermann. It was a very cold day.

L-R: Victor Hartman, Alfred Hartman, Lucille Hartman, Mathilde Hartman and James Hartman.

They lived in Schroeder only three years on a farm which is now the site of Central Power & Light Company's coal generating plant at Fannin. Their house stood where the ash heap pile is now. They raised mostly sweet potatoes, corn, cotton and had a garden. It wasn't easy to gather the crops because they had to cross a deep creek. Each year Alfred hauled sweet potatoes to Goliad and sold them off the wagon.

Their first child, Lucille, was born Nov. 2, 1913 in Schroeder. Their two sons, Victor (March 20, 1917) and James (Dec. 21, 1919) were born in Arneckeville, Texas.

In 1913 Alfred and Mathilde were looking for a permanent home with better land than what they were living on. Because a lot of the Hartman relatives lived in DeWitt County they scouted for land here. On Dec. 9, 1913 they moved on the land they had purchased from L.F. Schorlemmer in the James Quinn Survey near Arneckeville and lived there until their deaths. For their move to Arneckeville friends and relatives loaded wagons to make the trip which took a whole day. One buggy made the trip which carried their six week old daughter, Lucille. They raised about the same crops as they did in Schroeder, namely anything that would generate income and food to support their growing family.

Alfred and Mathilde were very active in their church, Zion Lutheran, and all community affairs.

Alfred died Feb. 1, 1976 and Mathilde, July 17, 1968. Both are buried on Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Arneckeville, Texas.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

HARTMAN, AUGUST CHRISTIAN, JR. AND ELSIE (LENZ)

F375

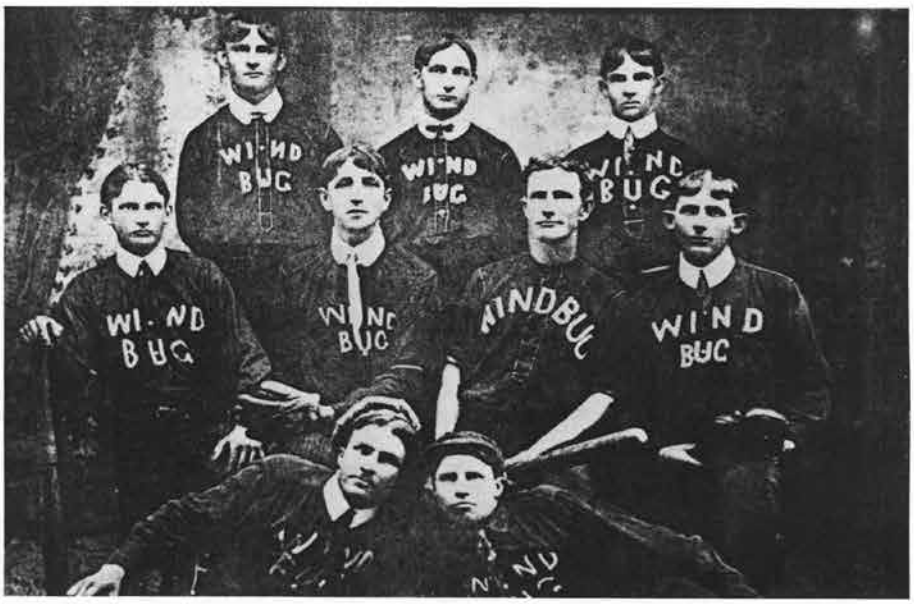
August Christian Hartman, Jr., was the fourth child of August Christian Hartmann, Sr. (1848-1917) and Josephine (Hans) Hartmann (1856-1930). He was the grandson of Christian Hartmann II (1819-1876) and Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906). Their stories are given separately.

August Christian Hartman, Jr., better known to his friends as Augie Hartman, was born at the home of his parents near Arneckeville, Texas, on June 23, 1882. Their home was located on a 158 acre tract of land that Augie's grandfather, Christian Hartmann II, purchased from Richard and Elizabeth Owens on July 16, 1872, for "$393.32 cash." This tract had ultimately been inherited by Augie's father, August Christian Hartmann, Sr. Augie attended public school in Arneckeville. When he was a young man still living at home with his parents he became "famous" as a baseball player. He and a group of his friends from the Arneckeville community organized a baseball team which they called the "Wind Bugs." Augie was their pitcher. On Sunday afternoons during the summer months the "Wind Bugs" played other similar teams organized in other communities of the county. The stakes were high. The losers had to buy a keg of beer for the winners! The "Wind Bugs" built up an enviable

August Christian Hartman, Jr.

record of wins because at the time Augie was the only pitcher in the "league" who could throw a curve ball.

Later Augie enrolled in a business school in San Antonio where he studied and became proficient in stenographics. He secured employment as a stenographer in the law offices of Davidson and Bailey in Cuero and thereafter became Court Reporter for the 24th Judicial District of Texas. He served in this capacity for three years during which time he "read law" in the office of his boyhood friend, Richard Waldeck. His study in that office qualified him to take and pass the Texas Bar Examination where he made the highest grade in his class. He was admitted to the bar and licensed to practice law in the State of Texas in 1910.



Fritz Thamm, left field; Bill Thamm, center field; Willie Waldeck, right field. Middle Row: Otto Gerhold, 3rd base; Emil Afflerbach, 1st base; Mr. Morgan (teacher), 2nd base; August G. Fuchs, catcher. Front Row: August Hartman, pitcher, and Hugo Schrade, shortstop.

Elsie (Lenz) Hartman

During his distinguished career, he served as City Attorney of Cuero; he served several terms in the Texas Legislature as State Representative from De Witt County and he served as District Attorney of the 24th Judicial District. Thereafter he formed a partnership for the practice of law in Cuero with Newton M. Crain under the firm name of Crain and Hartman. This firm became well known and highly respected throughout this section of the state. Augie remained with this firm until he retired in 1952.

In addition to the practice of law, Augie carried on his family's tradition of farming and cattle ranching on several tracts of land in De Witt and Refugio Counties which he had either purchased or inherited. One of the tracts on which he ranched was the same 158 acre tract on which he was born. On July 19, 1922, after his father's death, he purchased this tract from the other members of his family. The consideration he paid in 1922 was the sum of $7,900.00, whereas the consideration paid by his grandfather, Christian Hartman II, for the same tract in 1872 was the sum of $393.32! His cattle brand which evolved from the brands of his grandfather and father was the 2H with a quarter circle over both the 2 and the H. He was active in civic affairs and was a lifetime member and past president of Rotary Club International, Cuero Chapter.

On June 29, 1915, Augie married Elsie Lenz in Cuero, Texas. She was the daughter of Charles Ludwig Lenz (1856-1935) and Johanna Maria Adelheit Emma (Muller) Lenz (1864-1950). Their stories are given separately.

Two children were born of this marriage. Hazel Ruth Hartman was born in Cuero, Texas, on May 21, 1916. She married Oscar Talbot McAlister, Jr., on October 17, 1934. They had three sons, Dr. Wayne Hartman McAlister, Oscar Talbot McAlister, III and Richard Eric McAlister. Oscar Talbot McAlister, Jr., died on February 6, 1981. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Hazel Ruth (Hartman) McAlister, Oscar Talbot McAlister III and Richard Eric McAlister now reside in Victoria, Texas. Dr. Wayne Hartman McAlister resides on the family ranch in De Witt County. Their stories are given separately.

Wayne Louis Hartman, the second child of the marriage, was born in Cuero, Texas, on July 4, 1918. He married Susan Emalee (Wells) Hartman on March 9, 1941. They had two daughters. Letitia Lewis Hartman married Dr. David George Lloyd, lives in San Antonio, Texas, and has two sons, David George Lloyd, Jr., and Christian Hartman Lloyd. Susan Wells Hartman married Michael Lloyd Pope, lives in Lake Jackson, Texas, and has two sons, Wayne Lloyd Pope and Lewis Wells Pope. Their stories are given separately.

Elsie (Lenz) Hartman died in San Antonio, Texas, on February 19, 1941. August Christian Hartman, Jr., died in Cuero, Texas, on August 31, 1956. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Hazel (Hartman) McAlister and Wayne L. Hartman

HARTMAN, CHRISTIAN ARAN AND AMALIA SCHAEFER

F376

Christian Aran was born March 26, 1858, son of Christian and Marie Schroeder Hartman, in Meyersville, Tex. He lived there with his family until he met and married Amalia Schaefer born Feb. 13, 1861, daughter of Carl and Amalia Wurtz Schaefer, also born and raised in Meyersville. On Feb. 3, 1881 they were married by Pastor G. Stricker.

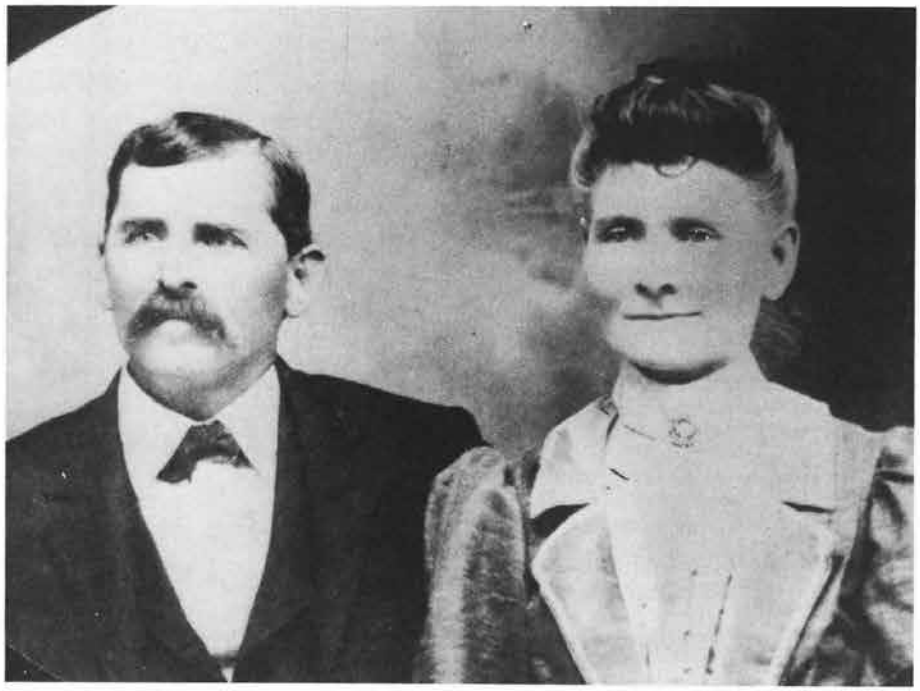
After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hartman chose the rich farming section at Germantown (now Schroeder) where they resided on a farm for about forty years. During his farming career he was also the first Goliad County Extension Agent and one of the first in the state. He served that South Texas county for three years beginning in 1911. One of his most enduring accomplishments was forming a "Boys Corn Club," forerunner of today's state-wide 4-H organizations.

In 1920 he retired from active work to rest and enjoy the fruits of a thrifty and well directed career. He chose a home site in Cuero. As during his life in Germantown he proved himself a congenial neighbor, good friend, and useful citizen. He did the same in Cuero.

The family was active in the Kilgore Lutheran church. While serving as a delegate from the St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Cuero at the Texas Synod at Shiner, he became suddenly and critically ill and was rushed home to one of the Cuero hospitals, where an operation was performed in an effort to save his life. He died May 15, 1925.

Mary Shimer Koenig said that people would seek advice from Christian because he had such good judgment and common sense.

To the union of Christian and Amalia Hartman eleven children were born: 1. Mathilda (March 20, 1882-Nov. 14, 1963) married Edwin Jacob. 2. Hugo (Jan. 18, 1884-Dec. 27, 1966) married Emma Groll. 3. Amalia (Aug. 10, 1885-Sept. 10, 1960) married Alfred Dreier. 4. Alfred (Oct. 21, 1887-Feb. 1, 1976) married Mathilde Groll. 5. Louise (Oct. 31, 1889-Nov. 28, 1944) married Arthur Groll. 6. William (Nov. 3, 1890-April 18, 1918) married Mary Medlen. 7. Edwina (Nov. 22, 1894-July 16, 1981) married Willie Krueger. 8. Christian (Dick) (April 18, 1898-July 22, 1977) married Valeska Junker. Second marriage Ollie Blazek (deceased). Third marriage Bea Caughon. 9. Arthur (Nov. 11, 1899) married Lenora Angerstein. Second marriage Mary Garcia. 10. Erwin (April 4, 1901-Oct. 26, 1967) married Lillie Schlinder (deceased). Second marriage Billie Watson. 11. Leona (Oct. 4, 1904) married Herbert Junker (deceased). Second marriage Willey Millsap.



Christian Aran Hartman and Amalia (Schaefer) Hartman

Amalia Hartman lived in Cuero until her death April 6, 1956 at the age of 95. Christian and Amalia Hartman are buried on the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas.

by Elorine Hartman

HARTMAN, DOUGLAS AND BEVERLY ALBRECHT

F377

Back, L-R: Douglas E. Hartman, Corey D. Hartman, Heather D. Hartman. Front: Beverly K. (Albrecht) Hartman.

Douglas Eugene Hartman was born June 17, 1949 in Houston, Texas, son of James and Elorine Friedrichs Hartman. In 1959, with his mother, father, and brothers he moved to Arneckeville, Texas, DeWitt County. He went to elementary school at Arneckeville and Meyersville. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1968. In 1970 he went to Delmar College in Corpus taking a diesel mechanic course. He worked in Corpus and Victoria. In 1972 he moved his mobile home to Arneckeville on land that Douglas' great-grandfather, Fred Friedrichs, bought in 1902. In 1978 Douglas and Beverly built their present home.

On June 16, 1973 Douglas married Beverly Kay Albrecht, born Feb. 4, 1950 daughter of Homer and Roselee Brandt Albrecht from Ander, Texas. She attended school in Goliad, Texas and graduated from Goliad High School. She then attended Victoria College and SWTSU at San Marcos. After graduating from SWTSU she taught school at Hunt Elementary in Cuero and now teaches at Meyersville school.

They have two children: Corey Dean, born Feb. 9, 1976 and Heather Deanne, born Nov. 5, 1980.

Douglas now has his own business, Southwest Diesel Service.

They are members of Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville. Beverly teaches Sunday School and works with Vacation Bible School.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

HARTMAN, EDWIN FERDINAND AND HELEN AUGUSTA ELIZABETH (DIEBEL)

F378

Edwin Hartman (Jan. 15, 1890-June 22, 1971) was reared in DeWitt County in Meyersville, Texas. His parents are Fred and Bertha Dreier Hartman. (Their story is in this book.) Edwin was the second of four sons of this union. His father was a rancher and owned 1200 acres of land. Each of the sons bought some of the land except Gus who put his money in education. Edwin bought 100 acres – the present Ralph Egg place.

Edwin married Helen Diebel on Dec. 26, 1912 in St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville, the Rev. F. Gerstmann officiating.

Helen Diebel was born to Jacob Freidrich and Elizabeth (Wendel) Diebel on Nov. 6, 1891, the fifth daughter of this union. She had 7 sisters and one brother. (Their story is in this book.) Helen went to the Noel School. She was very interested in music and took lessons from Ella Cooley. She was organist for the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville for many years. Her other favorite thing was to make scrapbooks of good religious articles.

Edwin and Helen were blessed with five children. Hilmer Fred (Dec. 31, 1913) married Isabel Warzecha and lives in Corpus Christi, Texas. They have one daughter and one granddaughter. Edrie Emilie (Aug. 12, 1915) married Oscar Sager and lives in Arneckeville. They have three children and five grandchildren. Fred Ray (Oct. 4, 1917-Sept. 14, 1978) married Gertrude Wendel. They have one son. Harold Floyd (Aug. 10, 1925) married Vernell Gerbert and lives in Nursery, Texas. They have five children and seven grandchildren. Helen Mae (Nov. 1, 1927 married Ralph Egg and lives on the home place in Meyersville. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Edwin and Helen made their living farming and ranching. They raised chickens for eggs and fryers to eat, milked a cow for milk and butter, and bought meat once a week from the butcher, Alvin Doehrman who delivered to homes in Meyersville. Edwin bought and shipped cattle by train to Fort Worth and Houston. His partners were Charlie Schaefer and Willie Buehrig. Edwin's brother-in-law Reinold Gohmert also helped handle the cattle. They bought one or two carloads of cattle a week. In 1953 they sold their farm to their daughter and husband and moved 12 miles south of Cuero on Highway 183 to a small house where they enjoyed a garden and pretty flowers.

Edwin and Helen were very active in their church, attending regularly. Helen was very strict about taking time for devotions with her family. They are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery.

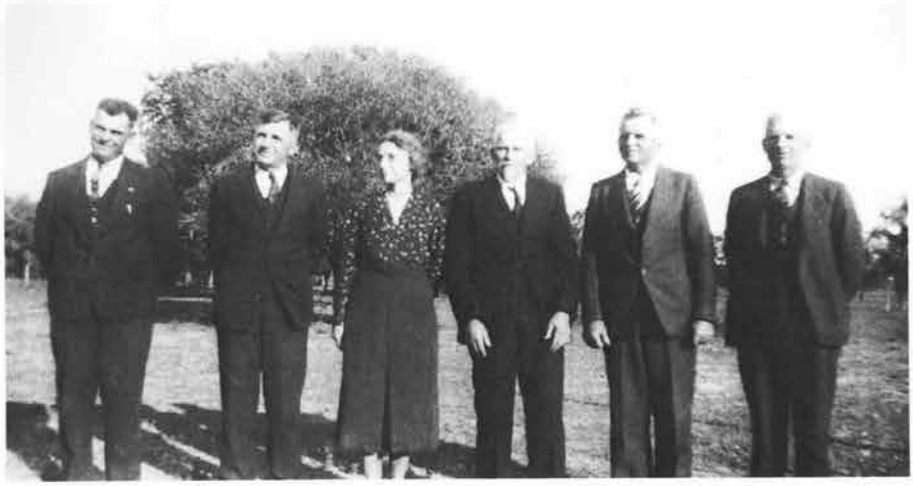
by Mrs. Ralph Egg

HARTMAN, FERDINAND C. AND MATHILDE SCHRADE FAMILY

F379

Ferdinand Christian Hartman, a twin, was born on 26 February 1853 at Meyersville, son of early German immigrant Christian and Marie Schroeder Hartman (story elsewhere). He was baptized at St. John's Lutheran

Back Row: Helen Mae (Hartman) Egg, Hilmar Hartman, Harold Hartman, Fred Ray Hartman and Edrie (Hartman) Sager. Sitting: Helen (Diebel) and Edwin Hartman.



Walter, Rudolph, Frieda, Ferdinand (father), Ernest, and Albert, Hartman Family.

Church, Meyersville. There were 12 children in the family, all of whom helped out with farming, ranching and the family cotton gin. He had a few years of formal education at the Lutheran Church School at St. John's.

In February of 1884, Ferdinand purchased his first tracts of land (360 ac.) in the Green DeWitt Community near Arneckeville. Later that month, on 22 February 1884, he married Mathilde Schrade, born 27 November 1862, of Arneckeville. As time went by, he acquired more land and became one of the more prominent ranchers in the state according to a two-volume historical edition of the Texas Encyclopedia.

He was an avid cowman and to his very last years mounted his horse daily to survey his pastures and cattle, carrying corn nubbins to feed them. He also raised corn, cotton, hay and grain. His family and friends were often treated to the good Mustang grape wines he made.

This marriage produced six children: Frieda M. (1885-1976), Albert C. (1885-1965), Rudolph A. (1887-1979), Ernest F. (1889-1975), Carl F. (1893-1895) and Walter F. (1896-1984). The mother, Mathilde, died 13 September 1909, leaving Ferdinand with a young growing family. The only daughter, Frieda, became caretaker of the household and family. Probably due to these responsibilities, she never married; was affectionately known as Miss Frieda and spent most of her life keeping house for Ferdinand who lived to be 96 years of age. He died 5 May 1949 and is buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

by Virginia Stoldt

HARTMAN, FRED HEINRICH AND BERTHA (DREIER)

F380

Fred Heinrich Hartman was born June 26, 1861 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas to Christian Hartman II (Feb. 20, 1819-Sept. 10, 1876) and Marie Schroeder Hartman (March 6, 1823-Sept. 16, 1906). His grandfather, Christian Hartman I, lived in Braunzweig, Germany (his story is given separately). Fred was raised on a farm in the midst of a large family of 12 children, one of which was his twin sister Sophie. Fred was 15 years old when his father died and as a younger member of the family his duties and responsibilities increased for many of the older children had established their own homes by this time.

Bertha (Dreier) Hartman was born August 9, 1867 to Ludwig Dreier (March 25, 1841-Oct. 28, 1922) and Augusta (Meisenhelder) Dreier (June 5, 1844-March 28, 1913) in Kilgore, Goliad County, Texas. Bertha had three brothers and five sisters. Her father was eight years old when he and his family left Lippe Delmont, Germany. Their occupation in Germany was raising flax and processing it into the finished linen. They were also engaged in making grass roofs. The linen industry consisted of much hard labor. The flax had to be dried after harvest and then beaten into pulp for thread. This product was dark in color and had to be bleached by the use of certain ashes which were secured from a distant mill. The ashes were carried by the family members to the farm. The linen was then woven and another bleaching process followed. The cloth was spread out on patches of grass and had to be sprinkled repeatedly with water until fully bleached by the sun. It was then put into packs which the father and sons strapped on their back and carried the finished product to market.

America was beckoning and they left Germany on a small sailing vessel on Sept. 23, 1847. After an eventful journey of over three months they dropped anchor in Galveston on Jan. 1, 1848. Further transportation was not immediately available. After a lengthy wait one large freight wagon was secured with its destination Victoria, Texas. The final leg of the trip from Victoria to Meyersville of 25 miles was made in cold, rainy weather. They became prominent pioneers adding their stature to help shape the newly adopted country.

Fred and Bertha married in the old stone church of Meyersville on Nov. 30, 1887. They established their home in Meyersville in the Hartman family home with Fred's widowed mother Marie Hartman. They had four sons — Louis William (Oct. 22, 1888-May 9, 1949), Edwin Ferdinand (June 5, 1890-June 22, 1971), Gus August (Sept. 23, 1891-Sept. 16, 1919), and Christian Gus (Jan. 26, 1895-Dec. 11, 1957).

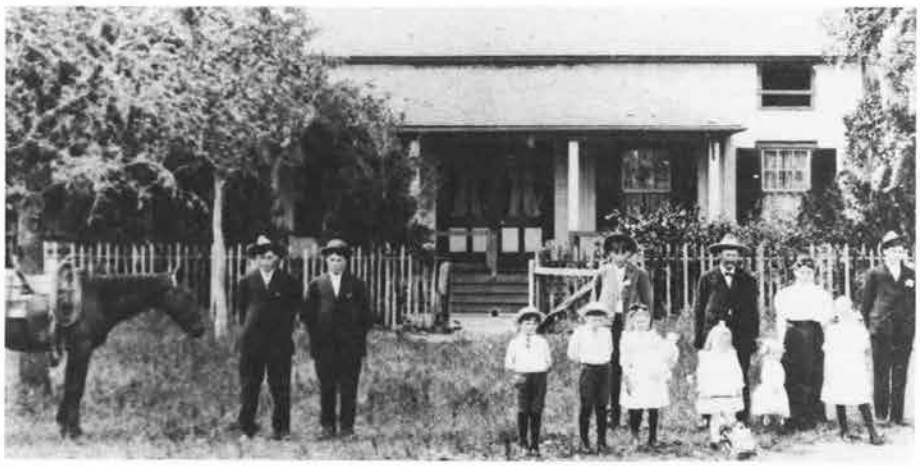
They were members of the Lutheran Church and were respected citizens of the community. Fred was trustee of both the church and school. Tragedy struck when Bertha fell ill with typhoid fever and died on June 27, 1895 at the age of 28.

Louis married Louise Heller on Nov. 4, 1914. Edwin married Helen Augusta Elizabeth Diebel on Dec. 26, 1912. Gus married Edna Mernitz on Dec. 24, 1918. Christian married Hilda Urban on Dec. 21, 1919.

On Nov. 25, 1897 Fred married Bertha's first cousin, Justine Sager. They built a new home on a farm ¾ mile west of Meyersville. In 1906 Fred acquired the title of 334 acres of land. He raised sheep, cattle, corn and cotton.

Justine Sager was born Oct. 30, 1866 to Pastor Christoph A. and Justine (Dreier) Sager in Arneckeville. She had four sisters and four brothers. Heinrich was her twin. Her father passed away when she was only three years old and her life was filled with hard work as she helped with the sustaining of the family.

Fred and Justine were blessed with seven children — Freida Justine (Jan. 8, 1899), twin sons, Werner and Otto (Aug. 5, 1900), Bertha Marie (March 12, 1902), Lena Christiana (April 2, 1904-May 24, 1974), Lillie Emilie



Back Row: Edwin, Louis, Gus, Fred, Justine and Christian. Front: Otto, Werner, Bertha, Lena, Otheal and Frieda. Fred Hartman Family.

(May 1, 1905-Sept. 19, 1905) and Ottilie Emilie (July 5, 1907-May 5, 1986).

by Mrs. Ralph Egg

HARTMAN, JAMES AND ELORINE

F381

April 22, 1983, James Hartman and Elorine (Friedrichs) Hartman

James was born Dec. 21, 1919 in Arneckeville, Texas to Alfred and Mathilde Groll Hartman. He was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville. He grew up on the farm that his parents bought in 1913. He went to school at Arneckeville and Cuero High School. After he graduated from high school he worked for Carl Arnecke and drove the car for Dr. Arnecke to make house calls. He then went to work for Central Power & Light Company in Cuero until he volunteered to serve his country on Jan. 18, 1942. He served in Africa, Sicily, Corsica, France and Italy in World War II. He fought in battles and campaigns of Southern France, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Rhineland, Northern Apennines, Tunisia and Sicily. He received the Good Conduct Medal, EAME Campaign Medal with 7 Bronze Stars, American Theater Campaign Medal. He was discharged in Sept. of 1945.

Boys had their way of creating their own entertainment in the country. Hunting rabbits was always exciting and provided food for the table before electricity came to the country for refrigeration. James and a few boys took a stripped Model T and drove in the pasture to hunt. In order to keep up with the darting rabbit, the driver could not watch for holes and dips in the land. While following a rabbit a dip was hit and the gun went off hitting the radiator cap. Needless to say the rabbit got away and the boys had to come home to repair the radiator.

Another time things were getting too dull so James and brother, Victor, tied a Roman candle to their dog's back. Never having tried this before there was no way they could predict how the dog would act. After lighting the candle it went off and the dog ran under the corn crib. Now what they thought would be fun certainly became more serious. The boys knew that if the Roman candle would start a fire under the crib and the corn burned Mama and Papa would punish them, but good. As quick as possible the boys got under the crib to get the dog out. The crib did not burn and the boys never tried that again.

On Nov. 25, 1945 James married Elorine Friedrichs, born Nov. 8, 1925, daughter of Albert and Vera Junker Friedrichs. We lived in Austin, Texas for six months and moved to Houston. In Houston James was employed by automobile dealers as service salesman, was in new car sales and service manager. Our three sons, Jimmy Randolph, Douglas Eugene, and Jeffrey Lynn were born in Houston. We lived in Houston for 14 years and then moved to Arneckeville, Texas in 1959. We built our home on land that James' father, Alfred, bought in 1923.

James ranched and farmed the land that he grew up on. He also did custom hay baling for about 9 years. He retired in 1975. I stayed home to be a homemaker and took care of the children.

We were active in Trinity and Mt. Olive Lutheran churches in Houston. We joined Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville in 1959. James served in different offices and was a delegate to local church conventions. I taught Sunday School and am still active doing church work.

James helped organize the VFW post 3972 in Cuero and was a life member. He was a director for the DeWitt County Electric Coop for nine years. He also served as a director for the DeWitt County Taxpayers League. James died May 1, 1986 and is buried on Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

HARTMAN, JEFFREY LYNN AND PATRICIA HLAVATY

F382

Jeffrey Lynn was born March 2, 1953 in Houston, Texas, son of James Rudolph and Elorine Friedrichs Hartman. In 1959, with his mother, father and brothers he moved to Arneckeville, Texas, DeWitt County. He went to elementary school at Arneckeville and Meyersville. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1971. After graduation he served 6 years in the Texas National Guard.

On February 15, 1986 he married Patricia Jean Hlavaty, born Sept. 5, 1952, daughter of Jerome and Henriette Hlavaty of Lolita, Texas. She went to elementary school in LaWard, junior high school in Lolita and graduated from Industrial High School in Vanderbilt, Texas in 1971. She attended Victoria College and worked for 10 years in Victoria and was production clerk for BDK, then BD Production Company.

In December of 1988 they built and moved into their new home on land in DeWitt County that Jeffrey's Grandfather Hartman bought in 1923.

Jeffrey has been employed with Mid-Coast Diesel Company in Victoria since July 1975

Jeffrey and Patricia (Hlavaty) Hartman, 1986.

where he is now shop foreman in the Allision & Detroit transmission department.

They are members of St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

HARTMAN, JIMMY RANDOLPH AND JANET SCHROEDER

F383

1980, Back L-R: Jimmy R. Hartman, Janet M. (Schroeder) Hartman and Mitchel R. Hartman. Front: Jennifer R. Hartman.

Jimmy Randolph was born Jan. 17, 1947 in Houston, Texas, son of James and Elorine Friedrichs Hartman. In 1959 with his family he moved to Arneckeville, Texas, DeWitt County. He went to elementary school at Arneckeville and high school in Cuero, graduating in 1967. In 1970 he went to Delmar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, taking a diesel mechanic course.

On Oct. 30, 1971 he married Janet Marie Schroeder, born April 15, 1952, daughter of Anton and Lena Schroeder from Volet, Texas. Janet attended St. John's Catholic elementary and high school in Robstown, Texas. She graduated in 1970. After graduating she worked for Nueces County Electric Coop. in Robstown.

In 1973 they moved their mobile home to Arneckeville and in 1978 they built their present home on land that Jimmy's great-grandfather, Fred Friedrichs, bought in 1884.

They have two children — Mitchell Randolph, born July 12, 1976 and Jennifer Renee born Nov. 28, 1978.

Jimmy is employed with Permian Oil Company in Cuero as a Grade 3 mechanic. Janet had been employed with Buchel Bank and is now employed with DeWitt County Electric Coop as cashier-data processing.

Jimmy is a member at Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. Janet, Mitchell and Jennifer are members at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Meyersville.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

HARTMAN, LEE R. JR. AND MARJORIE M. HARTMAN

F384

2nd Lt. Lee R. Hartman, Jr. and Marjorie (Adickes) Hartman

Lee Robert Hartman, Jr. was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 15, 1929 to Lee Robert and Alice Jane (Hector) Hartman. He was the oldest of eight brothers and sisters, Joyce, Louis, Mary, Harvey, Vernon, Patricia, and Bernard. The family lived in Yorktown, Texas in the early 1950's. It was during this time that Lee met Marjorie Mae Adickes while he was home on vacation from Texas A&I College at Kingsville, Texas. Time passed and it was almost two years before they met again.

Marjorie Mae Adickes was born on August 19, 1934 in the Adickes home on Gonzales Street in Cuero, Texas. She was the first child born to Caesar and Emma (Konrad) Adickes. As a child, Marjorie had much love and attention since her grandparents William A. and Bertha (Post) Adickes lived next door. Her grandfather took her for walks when she was little, and taught her to play dominoes when she was older. Grandmother talked with her often and provided many delicious after school treats.

L-R: Barbara, Annette, Michael, Marjorie and Lee Hartman. Front L-R: Carol, Teresa, Patricia, and Donna Hartman

Marjorie attended John C. French primary school, Cuero Junior and Senior High Schools where she graduated in 1952. She was a member of the Choral Club, the Band, the Future Homemakers of America. Music was most important in her life. Under the voice teaching of Mrs. Chester Buenning and piano lessons from Mrs. Charles Ott, she received training she would use all her life. She sange in St. Mark's Lutheran Church Choir and learned from the directions of Mr. Alfred Marquis. Years later, Marjorie played the organ for chapel services at Oxnard Air Force Base; sang with the Taipei International Catholic Choir and the Choir of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Houston, Texas.

After graduation, Marjorie went to work full time in the Adickes Building Supply Company office. This job didn't last long since she had met and fallen in love with a young Air Force pilot.

Second Lieutenant Lee R. Hartman, Jr. graduated from the United States Air Force Jet Pilot Training School at Bryan, Texas on September 1, 1953. Four days later, he married Marjorie in a beautiful ceremony in St. Mark's

Lutheran Church in Cuero.

After a brief honeymoon, Lee and Marjorie moved to Panama City, Florida where Lee attended the Jet Fighter Interceptor School at Tyndall Air Force Base and graduated in December 1953. He received his first assignment to perform all weather intercept missions for the Air Defense Command. He and Marjorie moved to Iowa where Lee became a part of the 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Sioux City Air Base.

The couple led a changing, challenging life as Lee was assigned to duty around the world. They next traveled to England with the entire squadron on the ship USS General Alexander Patch in December 1954. After landing in Southhampton, they were bused to their new base, Bentwaters Royal Air Force Base near Woodbridge, Suffolk. During their three years here, Lee had temporary duty twice to Wheelus Air Force Base, Tripoli, Libya and survival school in the wilds of Scotland. He also flew to France, Italy, and Denmark. Together, he and Marjorie traveled to Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Ireland.

Upon their return to the United States, Lee was assigned to Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois to attend the school for Aircraft Maintenance Officers. Their next move was to Oxnard Air Force Base, California where they lived for five years. Four months of this time was spent at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama where Lee attended Squadron Officers School.

On the next assignment, the family remained in Oxnard, California while Lee attended the Military Assistance Institute in Washington, D.C. and the Counter Insurgency Institute at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. With this training, came an assignment to the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Republic of China, as an advisor to the Chinese Air Force. The flight to Taipei, Taiwan took the family via Honolulu, Hawaii, Wake Island, and the Philippine Islands.

During this most interesting tour of duty, Lee was promoted to the rank of Major. He also was presented with Wings #291 of the Chinese Air Force. As they prepared to return home, they were honored with a gift of royal blue satin embroidered slippers sent to their home by the Commander of the Chinese Air Force, General Hsu.

The Hartman family arrived back in San Francisco in June of 1966 and traveled to Hurlbert Field, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Lee was assigned to the Special Air Warfare Group. It wasn't long before he was sent to Pleiku, South Vietnam to fly with the Special Operations Section during the war. The family purchased a home in Houston, Texas and Marjorie and the children remained there. One year later, Lee returned safely and the family moved back to Florida where Lee served with the Air Research and Development Command at Eglin Air Force Base. In October 1969, Lee retired from the Air Force and the family returned to their home in Houston, Texas.

Lee and Marjorie were blessed with seven children:

Barbara Gail, was born at St. Joseph Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa on June 1, 1954. She was married to Jerry W. Thompson on June 28, 1975 and they have two daughters, Angela Dawn and Jennifer Ann. Barbara graduated in October of 1973 from Massey Business College with an Executive Secretary Degree and is currently employed with the Spring Independent School District in Spring, Texas helping children who have learning problems.

Annette Marie, was born on August 14, 1955 at Wimpole Park Hospital in Cambridgeshire, England. She received an Associate Degree in Interior Design from San Jacinto Jr. College. She is currently employed as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Transco Energy Company in Houston, Texas.

Carol Ann, was born on January 25, 1957 at Wimpole Park Hospital in Cambridgeshire, England. She is currently employed as the Secretary to the Vice President of Sales for Hollywood Marine, Incorporated in Houston, Texas.

Donna Kay, was born on October 10, 1958 at Chanute Air Force Base Hospital near Rantoul, Illinois. She was married to Kenneth W. Kimich on May 17, 1980 and they have two children, Matthew Lee and Christine Marie. Donna is presently self-employed as a Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics, Incorporated.

Teresa Lynn, was born on November 16, 1960 at St. John's Hospital in Oxnard, California. She was married to Michael D. McDonald on May 28, 1983 and they have two daughters, Jessica Lynn and Clarissa Ann. Teresa is currently employed as a Senior Office Assistant with Tenneco Gas in Houston, Texas.

Patricia Jean, was born on July 31, 1963 at St. John's Hospital in Oxnard, California. She was married to Glenn A. Robinson on April 15, 1989. She graduated in 1985 from Texas A&M University, with a Bachelors Degree in Business Finance. She presently works as a Trading Assistant with Government Securities Corporation of Texas.

Michael Lee, was born on August 25, 1966 at Eglin Air Force Base Hospital in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. He graduated in 1988 from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. He currently works with a law firm in Houston, Texas.

Major presently works with Breen's Florist of Houston as a floral designer specializing in contemporary and exotic fresh flower designs and wedding bouquets. Her love of flowers was inspired at an early age by the flower gardens of her mother and grandmother. In her early teens, she spent many hours watching and learning at the Hawk Flower Shop near her home in Cuero. Her natural talent was enhanced by formal training which came from the Houston School of Floral Design and the Contemporary Design Class at Texas A&M University. She has also attended learning seminars given by several well known designers from both America and Europe.

Lee presently enjoys his retirement and is pursuing various hobbies. His current project is doing genealogical research of our family's history. Lee and Marjorie still reside in Houston, Texas.

by Marjorie M. Hartman

HARTMAN, VERNON BLANTON

F385

Vernon Blanton "Bob" Hartman, son of August Blanton and Muriel Morrison Byram Hartman, was born 29 November 1924, at Davy, Texas. Bob attended school in Karnes City where he graduated from high school in

Vernon Blanton "Bob" and Mary (Fuller) Hartman 1946

"Bob" Hartman and Mickey C. "Buttercup" Hartman 1950's.

1942. Shortly after graduation, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served in the war efforts in the Pacific. After an honorable discharge, Bob married first, Edna; however, this marriage quickly ended in divorce. Bob married secondly on 19 November, 1946 in Bay City, Texas; Mary Fuller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Fuller. However, their happiness was very short as Mary caught typhoid fever. She died in The Kenedy hospital on 7 January 1947, and was buried in Karnes City cemetery on 10 January 1947, with Rev. W.C. Craig of Karnes City Baptist church officiating.

Bob's first niece, Marianne Elizabeth Hall, was named for Mary Fuller Hartman and for Ray Slater Hall's mother, Anne Elizabeth Slater Hall.

Vernon Blanton "Bob" Hartman married third, Mickey Lorraine Blake, on 16 November, 1952, in Karnes City, Texas.

Mickey Hartman (born 15 August 1919) was

a registered nurse as well as a musician. She and Bob Hartman had a musical act called "Bob Hartman and Buttercup". Buttercup played the tub and Bob played the piano and fiddle. Sometimes Peewee played guitar with them. They became well known all over south Texas, especially in Port Aransas, where they lived for many years.

After Bob's father, August Blanton Hartman, died on 10 November 1971, Bob and Mickey moved to Karnes City and Bob worked for Buzzini Drillin Company. Bob was tragically killed in a Buzzini truck accident near Franklin, Texas on 28 June 1974. He was buried on 1 July 1974 in the August Hartman family plot next to his second wife, Mary Fuller Hartman and near his father, August Blanton Hartman.

Mickey Lorraine Blake Hartman lived with her mother-in-law, Muriel Morrison Byram Hartman, until Mickey had to be hospitalized shortly before her death on 19 August 1982. She was buried next to her husband, Vernan Blanton "Bob" Hartman in Karnes City cemetery, Karnes County, Texas.

There were no children by any of the three marriages.

by Marianne Little

HARTMAN, WALTER F. AND LUCILLE BOEHL

F386

Walter F. and Lucille (Boehl) Hartman, 1927.

Walter Ferdinand Hartman, 6th and youngest child of Ferdinand C. and Mathilde Schrade Hartman (story elsewhere) was born 12 September 1896 at home in the Green DeWitt Community near Arneckeville. He was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville where he was a lifetime member and was active in church life all his years until disability kept him from attending. He attended the Green DeWitt school through 6th grade. The greatest interests of his life were baseball and music. He played on local baseball teams well into his adult years, and played his flute and "fiddle" in many bands in the area. Though he aspired to be a train engineer, he never left the farmlands of his birth except for a brief tour in the U.S. Army during WW I.

Being the last of the sons, he stayed on the home place to help his aging father run the farm and ranch. Range lands produced cattle while the fields produced corn, cotton, grain and hay. Depression years brought hard times and made it necessary to diversify into truck farming and raising chickens, turkeys and hogs.

Lucille, baptized Marie Emma Lucile Boehl, entered this life on 15 December 1897, also in the Green DeWitt Community. She was the daughter of William F. and Johanna Rath Boehl (story elsewhere). Her baptism and confirmation are recorded at Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville where she, too, was a lifelong active member. She also attended Green DeWitt School through the sixth grade, and as a young girl enjoyed music, teaching herself how to play the piano and organ.

Walter and Lucille were married 22 February 1927 at Zion Lutheran. They built their home on the F.C. Hartman place. Running water and Delco electricity were luxuries in their new home from the beginning. The farm and ranch had many demands. Farm work days were very long with all the plowing, harrowing, planting and hauling done with "mule powered" implements. Corn was pulled by hand and fodder cut and tied by hand. Cotton, too, was chopped and picked by hand involving the whole family. Fences had to be mended, cows milked, wood cut for wood stoves to cook, bake and warm the home, hogs butchered for meat, and on and on as all early families had to do.

Lucille was a good cook and seamstress; did the gardening and canning as well as helping with farm chores. Laundry was done by heating water in the big black pot and scrubbing on the rub board. Soap was also made in the big black pot. The work was hard and never ending, but both still found time to enjoy making music together. Lucille was church organist many years and together with Walter on the violin, they played special music for weddings and other occasions. Both also sang in the church choir. Activity in the American Legion, agricultural and community organizations were also interests.

Their marriage produced two children: Virginia Ruth (Stoldt, story elsewhere) and Dr. Walter F. Hartman, Jr., also known locally as "Bubba."

Walter died 17 August 1984 at home after several years of failing health. Lucille died 1 August 1986, also at home and following years of declining health and complete deafness. They both rest in peace in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, amidst the graves of their ancestors.

by Virginia Stoldt

HARTMAN, WAYNE LOUIS AND SUSAN EMALEE (WELLS)

F387

Wayne Louis Hartman was the only son of August Christian Hartman, Jr., (1882-1956) and Elsie (Lenz) Hartman (1893-1941). He was the grandson of August Christian Hartmann, Sr., (1848-1917) and Josephine (Hans) Hartmann (1856-1930). His great grandparents were the first of the Hartmann family to emigrate to Texas from Germany in 1845. They were Christian Hartmann II (1819-1976) and Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906).

Front L-R — Christian Lloyd, Letty Lew Lloyd, Emalee Hartman, Susan Pope, Lewis Pope. Back L-R — David Lloyd, Jr., David Lloyd, Sr., Wayne Hartman, Lloyd Pope, Michael Pope. (1988)

Wayne was born in Cuero, Texas, July 4, 1918. He attended Cuero Public Schools, A. and M. College at College Station, Texas and the University of Texas Law School at Austin. He was admitted to the State Bar of Texas on April 29, 1940. While attending the University of Texas Law School, Wayne met Susan Emalee Wells whom he later married in Brownsville, Texas, at All Saints Episcopal Church on March 9, 1941. They began their married life in Cuero. In 1955 they moved to Victoria, Texas, where they lived until they returned to Cuero in December of 1983. They now reside at 110 East Reuss Boulevard, Cuero, Texas.

In 1940, after Wayne was admitted to the Bar, his father, August C. Hartman, Jr., who was also an attorney, retired and Wayne practiced law for a time with Newton M. Crain, his father's former partner. In 1942 Wayne ran for and was elected County Attorney for De Witt County. He served in that office until 1943 when he volunteered for service in the United States Army during World War II. He received his basic training at Fort Custer, Michigan, and served with the Military Police as an investigator in the Provost Marshall's Office at Camp Plauche, Louisiana.

He had resigned from the Office of County Attorney when he entered the Army. At that time his father, August C. Hartman, Jr., was appointed by the De Witt County Commissioners' Court to hold his office for him until he returned. He was discharged from the Army in April of 1946, his father resigned and the Commissioners' Court appointed him to resume his office as County Attorney. Once again his father, August C. Hartman, Jr., retired. Wayne served in the capacity of County Attorney until September 1, 1951, when Governor Allan Shivers appointed him District Attorney of the 24th Judicial District of Texas. At that time the district was composed of the counties of De Witt, Goliad, Refugio, Calhoun, Jackson and Victoria. He held that office until January 1, 1956, when he resigned to go into private practice in Victoria, Texas. On July 9, 1959, the Commissioners' Court of Victoria County appointed him County Judge of Victoria County. He remained in the office of County Judge until January 1, 1970. On that date he formed a partnership for the practice of law in Victoria with Arthur L. Lapham under the firm name of Hartman and Lapham. He is still active in this firm which is now Hartman, Lapham, Smith and Scott. Their offices are located at 201 South Main Street, Victoria, Texas.

In addition to the practice of law Wayne carries on his family's tradition of farming and

cattle ranching on several tracts of land in De Witt and Refugio Counties. One of the tracts on which he ranches is a 158 acre tract which was purchased in the Arneckeville area of De Witt County by his great grandfather, Christian Hartmann II (1819-1876). Christian Hartmann II purchased the tract from Richard and Elizabeth Owens by deed dated July 16, 1872. The consideration paid was "$393.32 cash", a goodly amount at the time! Wayne has two cattle brands, the 2H, registered in De Witt County on April 23, 1958, and the 2H with a bar over the H, registered in De Witt County on September 8, 1981. Both of these brands evolved from the H with a quarter circle over the H which was the brand of Christian Hartmann II, registered in De Witt County on October 5, 1852.

Susan Emalee Wells, Wayne Hartman's wife, was born in Bay City, Texas, October 28, 1919. Her father, Edgar B. Wells, was born in McKinney, Collin County, Texas, June 28, 1885, the oldest child of Charles Moorehead Wells and Susan (Kimbro) Wells. He is living today in Victoria, Texas at the age of 104 years! Emalee's mother, Letitia Preston (Lewis) Wells, was born in Sherman, Texas, November 25, 1890, the younger daughter of John Floyd Lewis and Emma Lee (Hawthorne) Lewis. "E.B." and "Letty" as they were called, were married in Bay City, Texas, September 12, 1916. They later moved to Brownsville. Letty Wells died in Bay City, December 28, 1960, and is buried in the Lewis family plot in the Bay City cemetery.

Emalee attended the public schools in San Benito, Texas and Brownsville, Texas. She also attended Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio, Texas, and Incarnate Word College, also in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1940.

Emalee met Rosemary Kibbe Breeden (now Mrs. Fred D. Kokernot) of Cuero while a high school sophomore at Our Lady of the Lake. They became room-mates. At the time Emalee was fourteen years old. Emalee visited her room-mate, Rosemary, in Cuero often. The two roomed together their freshman year at Incarnate Word College and later at the University of Texas. There they were joined by Beulah Margaret Bennet (now Mrs. Fain McDougal), also a native of Cuero. This relationship brought Wayne and Emalee together. In 1938, when Beulah Margaret was the Sultana of the Cuero Turkey Trot, Emalee was Dutchess from Brownsville and Wayne was her escort. The girl room-mates have remained close friends throughout the years. Today they all live in Cuero. In 1967 Rosemary and Emalee formed a partnership in the travel business under the name of "Fly Away Tours". They have planned and conducted foreign and domestic trips for over twenty years. As a result, they have traveled all over the world and together they have flown almost two million miles.

Emalee is a member and past president of the Junior League of Victoria, Texas. She is also a member of the Colonial Dames of America, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Court of Six Flags at Victoria. Wayne is a member of the Cuero Masonic Lodge No. 409, the St. John Commandry No. 101 of Victoria, the Al Amin Shrine Temple of Corpus Christi and the Knights of Phythias and Hermann Sons Lodges of Cuero. He is licensed to practice law in all of the courts of Texas, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, and in the United States Fifteenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Both Wayne and Emalee are members of Grace Episcopal Church of Cuero. Two daughters were born of their marriage. Letitia Lewis Hartman was born in Cuero, Texas, on January 25, 1942. She married Dr. David George Lloyd on October 21, 1967. They have two sons, David George Lloyd, Jr., and Christian Hartman Lloyd. Their stories are given separately. Susan Wells Hartman was born in Brownsville, Texas, on June 23, 1944. She married Michael Lloyd Pope on February 11, 1967. They have two sons, Wayne Lloyd Pope and Lewis Wells Pope. Their stories are given separately.

by Wayne L. Hartman

HARTMANN, AUGUST CHRISTIAN, SR. AND JOSEPHINE (HANS)

F388

August Christian Hartmann, Sr., was born in the Meyersville area of De Witt County on January 24, 1848. He was the oldest of ten children born to Christian Hartmann II (1819-1876) and Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906). His parents were the original members of the Hartmann family to emigrate from Germany to Texas in 1845 and to De Witt County in 1847. August Christian, Sr., grew to manhood on property owned by his father. Christian Hartmann II farmed and ranched extensively. His cattle brand, the H with a quarter circle over the H, was recorded in De Witt County on October 5, 1852. An inventory of his land holdings dated May 23, 1877, showed that he owned in excess of 1,713 acres. One tract of land he purchased by deed dated July 16, 1872, contained 158 acres in the Arneckeville community. He bought this tract from Richard and Elizabeth Owens for "$393.32 cash." In addition to his farming and ranching interests, he owned and operated the first cotton gin in De Witt County.

Christian Hartmann II (1819-1876)

August Christian, Sr., married Josephine Hans, born December 18, 1856, in Alsace-Lorraine. They bought land in the Arneckeville area, but they built their home on the 158 acre tract mentioned above which he inherited from his father, Christian II. August Christian, Sr.'s cattle brand was the 2H with a quarter circle over the H. It was registered in De Witt County on June 2, 1876. He farmed and ranched on his land in the Arneckeville community for the remainder of his life. He died on May 1, 1917. His wife, Josephine, died near Tivoli, Texas, on December 15, 1930. They are both buried in Mount Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, Texas.

Six children were born of this union, Otto Ferdinand, Lenora Mary, Henry Charles, Au-

The Christian Hartmann II Family. Back Row: August C., Sr., Charles, Ferdinand, Christian, and William. Front Row: Mary Spies, Lena Schorlemmer, Lizzy Eberhardt, Sophie Schrade and Fred.

Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906)

gust Christian, Jr., Edward William and Herbert Adolph. Two children died in infancy and are buried on the family homestead. It will be noted that Christian Hartmann II who originally emigrated from Germany spelled his name with a double "n," i.e., "Hartmann." His children followed his example and continued that spelling. It was the third generation which, either for convenience or to prove their loyalty to the United States during the first World War, dropped the last "n" from their surnames. The story of August Christian Hartman, Jr., appears separately.

by Wayne L. Hartman

HARTMANN, C.G. FAMILY

F389

In 1845, at the age of 26, George Ludwig Gottlieb Clemens Hartman arrived in Texas through the port at Indianola. He had left his home in Hanover, Germany for a new life. He was a surveyor by profession.

In the war between the United States and Mexico (1846), Hartmann was in the company of Captain Augustus Buchel. He served as a private.

He was the surveyor of the division of Indian Point for the German Immigration Company in 1848.

By 1850, Clemens (C.G.) Hartmann was married to Sophia, daughter of Louiza and Thomas Andreas Strieber (born 1801), also from Hanover, Germany. (Thomas) Andreas Strieber and C.G. Hartmann became citizens of the United States in the Fall of 1852.

The children of Sophia and C.G. Hartmann are August, Johanna (who first married John Henry Parker in 1868 and after his death married Ben W. Lucas), Clementine (who married E.F. Leack in 1874), and William (who married Emma Woods in 1881).

C.G. Hartmann was a private in the 2nd Texas Infantry, Company C, during the Civil War. This is stated on his tombstone.

In 1868 four identical brands and marks were issued to August, Johanna, Clementine, and William Hartmann, all "of C.G.H." Hartmann, as DeWitt County Surveyor, surveyed the land of his son-in-law, John Henry Parker and Parker's mother, Dicey Preval in 1871.

At the age of 79, C.G. Hartmann died in DeWitt County in 1899. He, along with his wife, Sophia, who died at the age of 63, in 1892 and his son, William and William's wife, Emma are buried at Woods Cemetery, off of Highway 72 between Cuero and Yorktown.

by Geraldine Phillips

HARTMANN, CHRISTIAN AND MARIE (SCHROEDER)

F390

Christian Hartman II

Marie (Schroeder) Hartman

Christian Hartman was born Feb. 20, 1819 in Braunzweig, Germany and died Sept. 10, 1876. Marie Schroeder, born March 6, 1823 in Braunzweig, Germany and died Sept. 16, 1906. Both are buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville, Texas. They came to America in 1845 on the same boat through the Port of Indianola, Texas. They were married in Austin County, Texas by a Justice of the Peace April 18, 1847 then came to Meyersville, Texas to make their permanent home. They had thirteen children: 1. August was born Jan. 24, 1848 and died May 1, 1917. He was married to Josephine Hans and they had eight children: Otto, Lenora, Henry, August, Jr., Edward, Julius, Friedrich, and Herbert. August and Josephine are buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Arnecksville, Texas. 2. Marie was born Oct. 6, 1849 and died March 25, 1918. She married. 3. Caroline was born Feb. 18, 1851 and died June 3, 1935. She married Carl Schorlemmer and they had nine children: Richard, Christian, Carl, Louis, Mary, Otto, Emilie, Henry, and Anna. Caroline and Carl are buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. 4. Ferdinand (twin) was born Feb. 26, 1853 and died May 5, 1949. He was married to Mathilda Schrade and they had six children: Frieda, Albert, Rudolph, Ernst, Carl, Walter. Ferdinand and Mathilda are buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery. 5. Elizabeth (twin) was born Feb. 26, 1853 and died June 3, 1912. She was married to Theophilus Eberhardt and they had eleven children: Lena, Charles, Emma, Elizabeth, Mollie, Marie, Natalie, Amelia, Julius, William and Edward. Elizabeth and Theo are buried at Fort Valley, Georgia. 6. Carl was born Jan. 9, 1855 and died March 21, 1920. He was married to Adophine Meyer and they had six children: Nora, Ida, Mamie, Albert, Lillie and Annie. Carl and Adophine are buried in Llano, Texas. 7. Heinrich was born Oct. 3, 1856 and died Aug. 27, 1859. He is buried at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. 8. Christian was born March 26, 1858 and died May 15, 1925. He was married to Amalia Schaefer and they had eleven children: Mathilde, Hugo, Amalia, Alfred, Louise, William, Edwina, Christian (Dick), Arthur, Erwin, and Leona. Christian and Amalia are buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. 9. William was born Oct. 12, 1859 and died May 11, 1918. He married Sophie Shaefer and they had seven children: Ottilie, Julius, Edgar, Charles, twin boys who were born prematurely and died, and William. William, Sr. and Sophie are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. 10. Fred (twin) was born June 26, 1861 and died Oct. 22, 1916. He was married to Bertha Dreier and they had four children: Louis, Edwin, Gus, and Christian. Fred's second marriage was to Justine Sager and they had seven children: Frieda, Werner and Otto (twins), Bertha, Lena, Lillie and Ottilie. 11. Sophie (twin) was born June 26, 1861 and died March 6, 1915. She was married to Gustav Schrade and they had seven children: Hugo, Emilie, Ottilie, Bertha, Ida, Berthold and Lena. Sophie and Gustave are buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. 12. Louis was born July 7, 1863 and died July 26, 1882. He is buried at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. 13. Emilie was born March 20, 1868 and married Ferdinand Hennig on Nov. 28, 1889. She died at the birth of her first child.

The Hartmanns became established as farmers and ranchers and later owned a cotton gin in Meyersville. The ginning process was by revolving a gear which was horse-drawn, the

team drove in circles. The whole family had to help. The records of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville, reveal the Christian Hartmann families took an active part in the church. Christian was a charter member of the congregation. In 1857 he helped haul 600 logs for a fence for the pastor's garden. In 1866 the congregation decided to build a stone church. Christian was on the building committee. The church still stands today, marked with a medallion and historical plaque. Christian died at age 57 in 1876 as a result of becoming overheated while working in the gin. After his death his widow, Marie, lived with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schorlemmer, in Arnecksville, Texas.

The following information was gathered by Mrs. Ottilie Hartman Zorn. The above mentioned Christian Hartmans' father (also Christian) died at an early age. His mother then married a brother of her first husband. From her second marriage she had a son (who she named Christian) and a daughter (name unknown), was born. It is unknown why the two half-brothers were given the same name – circumstances may have been such that they did not grow up in the same household. It is known that their paths in life separated and that the elder brother who settled in Texas was unaware that his half-brother and half-sister had come to America and were living in Aurora, near Chicago, Illinois. Through chance circumstances this fact became known and family relations were re-established between the two branches of the family. Besides corresponding together through the years visits were also exchanged at various times. The Hartmans of the Chicago area were a large, influential and wealthy family. Many owned large fertile farms, corn was a main crop. A community of Hartmanville named for them existed. The well known Hartman Luggage Company of Chicago was established by a family member.

by Elorine F. Hartman

HARTMANN, KURT FAMILY

F391

After their marriage in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas, on August 26, 1940, it took Kurt and Frances Hartmann 37 years to move back to Yorktown. She was born March 11, 1917 at Weser, Goliad Co., the only daughter of August and Frances Franke Duderstadt. She has two brothers, A.J. and Alonso. Frances graduated from Yorktown High School in 1935 and from Texas Lutheran College at Seguin, Texas in 1938. She used these original lines at the close of her valedictories at each graduation: "Now, dear Yorktown High (TLC), we leave you into this world to go; We promise ne'er to grieve you because we love you so. Although we're far away out on life's great sea, dear old Yorktown High (TLC) you'll stay forever in our memory." Before her marriage, she taught school for two years at the Melrose School near Weestache.

Kurt Carl Hartmann, born February 20, 1911 at Hilda, Mason Co., TX, was the oldest of the nine children of Conrad and Rosa Eckert Hartmann. He attended public schools in Mason and Fredericksburg before graduating from Texas Lutheran College in 1931. He

Pastor Kurt C. Hartmann and Frances (Duderstadt) Hartmann

attended Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, from 1931 to 1934 and was ordained at Mason, Texas, into the Lutheran ministry on August 26, 1934. During his 50-year ministry he served the following congregations in Texas: Waller, College Station (both Campus Ministry and American Lutheran Congregation which he organized), Wiedeville (near Brenham), Pflugerville, Elm Creek and La Vernia, and in Hispanic mission work in Edinburg and San Antonio. Here he also edited the monthly Spanish newspaper, *El Mensajero,* and at La Vernia he edited the Southern District's monthly newspaper, *The Southern Lutheran,* circulation over 40,000. For his 22-year editorship, his friends called him, "Mr. Southern Lutheran."

In La Vernia Kurt was a leader in the Lions Club, the City Planning Commission, Boy Scout Fund Drives, the PTA and announced the La Vernia Bears football games over ten years. Frances became an aide in Special Education and Librarian at the La Vernia School. Her happiest experience: teaching English to two 3rd and 4th grade girls from Germany! Her greatest frustration: trying to teach a 15-year-old illiterate whose stated aim in life was "to go to jail where my uncle is!" Once, to fill a La Vernia faculty vacancy, Kurt taught Spanish I and II and Frances English III and IV, "substituting" a whole year. The Senior Class honored them by dedicating the annual to them.

The four Hartmann children, who added six grandchildren to the family, all graduated from La Vernia High School and from Texas Lutheran College, on whose Board of Regents, Kurt served 34 years. Daughters: Carolyn Spears is the judge of Bexar County's 224th District Court; Ruth Brady is a Mastiff dog fancier in Houston; Emily Harborth teaches at St. Paul Lutheran Day School in New Braunfels. Son: Kurt, Jr., teaches chemistry at Churchill High School in San Antonio. His wife, Ethel, and Dennis Harborth complete the family.

On August 17, 1977, Kurt and Frances left La Vernia and moved to 310 N. Church St. in Yorktown to retire. Kurt again became active in the Lions Club, Scouting drives, Historical Society, Golden Crescent Area Agency for the Aging, the City "Think Clean" improvement project and the Sesquicentennial Celebration. He was named "Citizen of the Year" in 1985. At St. Paul Church in Yorktown he was on the council, directed children's and adult choirs, taught Sunday School and led the singing in church. In 1985-86 he served as interim pastor at Hallettsville and Arneckeville. When asked, "How's retirement?" He quipped, "It's working!"

During Frances' 1978-88 tenure as librarian at the Yorktown Public Library, a 5,000 sq. ft. brick library was constructed and furnished. Frances is active in St. Paul's church work, the Hospital Guild, Sr. Citizens, Historical Society, and Friends of the Yorktown Public Library and the Library Board.

Back to the wedding day: All through the 46 years of their married life, Kurt and Frances were mindful of their wedding text explained to them by Pastor C.G. Hankammer: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. After Kurt's death on October 8, 1986, now Frances and her family also remember and find comfort and guidance in the wedding day hymn, "Jesus still lead on, till our rest is won; And although the way is cheerless, we will follow calm and fearless; Guide us by thy hand to our Father's land."

by Frances Hartmann

HARTMANN, WILLIAM AND EMMA ARDELIA WOODS

F392

William Hartmann was born in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas on 9 June 1854, the son of Clemens Georg Ludwig Gottlieb Hartmann and his wife, Sophia Struber-Strieber Hart-

L-R: August Blanton Hartmann, Monty Hartmann and Edward Franklin Hartmann – Yorktown, 1901.

Back Row: L-R: Isabel Carline (Bell), Cora Lee, Henry Clemens, Montraville Albert (Monty), Willie Solma and Sophie Amelia. Seated: L-R: William Hartmann, August Blanton, Edward Franklin, and Emma (Woods) Hartmann, Yorktown, TX ca. 1899.

Emma Ardella (Woods) Hartmann, Yorktown ca. 1881 – Wedding portrait

mann. Clemens Hartmann had come to Texas as part of the Fischer-Miller-Verein German immigrants to south Texas in 1845 and the Andreas Struber/Strieber family had come to Texas in 1846. Clemens met and married Sophia Struber/Strieber in Indianola, Calhoun Co., Texas on 2 July 1847 and they resided in Yorktown, DeWitt Co. Texas by 1848. William was educated in Yorktown and served as an apprentice and chain bearer for his father in his survey work in DeWitt Co, and other areas in Texas. William also bought land in DeWitt County and began farming and ranching.

Emma Ardelia Woods was born on 27 December 1851 at Woods Fort, Fayette Co, Texas to Montraville Woods, son of old three hundred pioneer, Zadock Woods, and Montraville's wife, Isabella (Hidalgo) Gonzales, daughter of Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales and his wife, Procopia (Hidalgo) Valdes. Montraville and Isabella Woods moved their family from Fayette County to DeWitt County in 1856. Montraville's brother, Henry Gonzalvo Woods had married their brother Norman's widow, Jane, and moved their combined family to DeWitt County, as well. Henry Gonzalvo Woods had

William Hartmann, Yorktown, TX ca. 1881 – Wedding portrait

escaped Dawson's Massacre in which Zadock died and Norman was taken prisoner and later died in Perote Prison, Mexico City. When Montraville died on 15 July 1857, Isabella donated the land which became Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, Yorktown, DeWitt Co, and had Montraville buried there under the stately oak trees.

On 27 January 1881, Emma Ardelia Woods married William Hartmann in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas with Justice of the Peace L. Beryel Wright officiating the ceremony. Isabella Woods and Clemens Georg Hartmann and his wife, Sophia attended their wedding. Emma's favorite sister, Madeline, and her husband, Sylvanus Brown witnessed the marriage as did William's brother August, who was his best man. Emma's brother, Montraville Zadock Woods bestowed the family's blessings and gave the bride's hand in marriage to William.

William and Emma Ardelia Woods Hartmann had eight children who were all born in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas and were as follows: Henry Clemens, born 13 July 1882, married Shely Odem on 6 January 1903 and died on 2 January 1952; Isabella Carline (Bell), born 22 September 1883, married Denton Dubose on 17 December 1902 and died on 1 September 1965; Willie Solma, born 26 April 1885, married Eph Caffall on 28 November 1906 and died 16 August 1950; Sophia Amelia, born on 4 January 1887, married Joe Passmore on 28 October 1908 and died on 11 November 1958; Cora Lee, born on 1 November 1888, married William Asher and died 25 December 1958; Montraville Albert (Monty), born 28 April 1891, married Annie Griffin on 14 Feb 1918 and died 23 June 1978; Edward Franklin, born 7 November 1893, married Lula Cobb on 12 February 1914 and died 21 June 1970; August Blanton, born 7 March 1897, married Muriel Morrison Byram on 21 November 1923 and died on 10 November 1971 and was buried in the August Hartmann family plot in Karnes City Cemetery in Karnes Co, Texas. Each of the Hartmann children were baptized in Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. After the children were older, Emma joined the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown and enjoyed an active role as a Women's League volunteer

for many years.

William was very active with the Woodsmen of the World organization in DeWitt County and when he died on 14 January 1916, Emma buried him in Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, Yorktown, DeWitt Co, Texas with a Woodsmen of the World Memorial to mark his grave.

Emma did not like the prospect of living alone and when Monty married Annie Griffin, they moved into the old family homeplace at Mound Creek with her. She was said to have been a beautiful woman and aged gracefully under the care of her beloved sons and daughters. She remained with Monty and Annie until she died of a heart attack on 20 November 1939. Her final resting place is under the old oaks at Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas next to her husband, William Hartmann and near both her parents and William's parents.

by Marianne Little

HAUN, ADOLPH BERTHOLD AND BERTHA MARIE (IDEUS)

F393

Adolph Berthold Haun was born July 14, 1897 in Meyersville, son of William Haun (9/3/66-3/1/59) and Mary Doerhmann (6/3/71-5/20/54). Their story is elsewhere in this book. The Haun and Ideus homesteads were located about ½ mile apart on the twelve-mile Coleto Creek in Upper Meyersville. Adolph Berthold and Bertha Marie were united in marriage on Oct. 2, 1921, in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor P. Gogolin. The young couple made their home on the fifteen mile Coleto about 6 miles from Meyersville. They were blessed with four children: Corine Faye , Ellis James (8/6/24-5/10/45), Norvan Gene, and John William.

In the early 1930's the family began selling milk as a dairy. Corine went to work in Houston where she met and married Marvin Froehlich. They had three children: Rodney James, Randall Lee, and Donna Kay. They live in Houston and Meyersville. Ellis James gave his life for his country on Okinawa in World War II. Norvan married Georgia Uhyrek and they had one son Bryan. They live in Meyersville. John married Elizabeth Gohmert and remained on the family farm. Their story is elsewhere in this book. In 1976 the Haun Dairy Farm qualified for the Texas Land Heritage Program as having seen continuous productive operation at the hands of one family for 100 years or more with Cristoph Doerhmann being named as founder. Adolph and Bertha were faithful workers in St. John Church and raised their children to be Christians. They raised a large garden and chickens and hogs, slaughtering their own hogs and smoking sausages. Adolph made wine from the Mustang grapes that are plentiful in that area. Adolph passed away on August 24, 1978 and Bertha on July 6, 1984. The Haun Dairy Farm is now owned and operated by their grandsons, Terry and Lee Haun. Their story is elsewhere in this book.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

HAUN, JOHANN GEORG FREIDRICH ADOLPH AND MISS (THIEME)

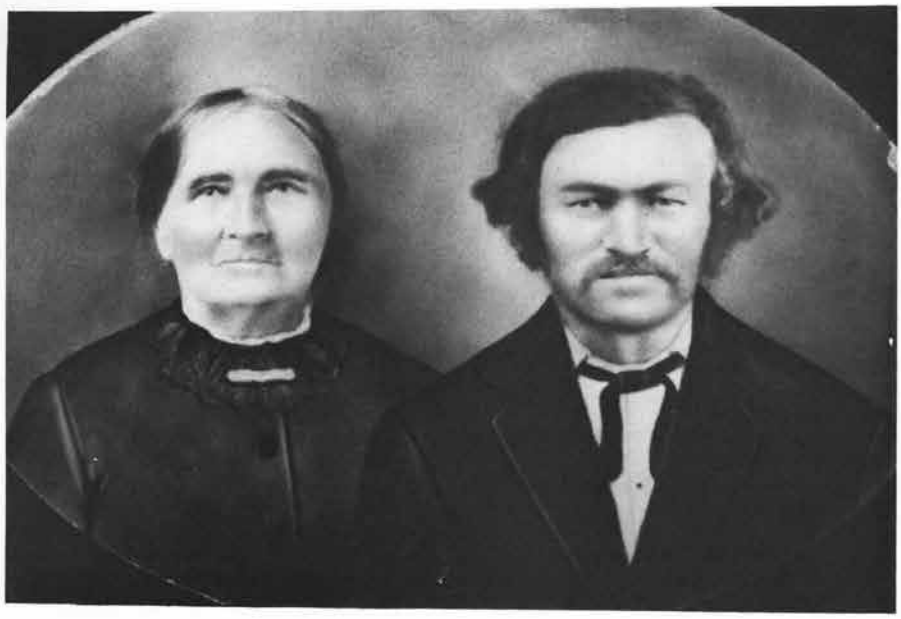
F394

Johann Georg Friedrich Adolph Haun, known as Adolph, was born April 8, 1825, son of Johann Friedrich Haun and Johanne Magdalene Haun nee Ruhland. He was born in Rudelstadt in the province of Schwartzburg in Germany and was baptized July 14, 1825, in the church of Teichweiden. His sponsors were Mrs. Elisabethe Margerethe Ruhland and Johann Friedrich Ruhland; Master Johann Georg Bernhard; Johann Georg Heinse and Johann Christoph Heinse. There were seven children besides Adolph, but it is believed that they stayed in the Old Country. On August 12, 1846, Adolph left the port of Bremen for America. He was traveling under the auspices of the Mainzer Adelsverein (The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas). His passport reveals that he was twenty-one years old, of medium height, with red hair full eyebrows, green eyes, oval face and healthy face color. Adolph arrived in Indian Point (Indianola), Texas, on November 6, 1846. There he met Mr. Friedrich Hausmann who was in Indian Point to get supplies from the Mainzer Adelsverein for the small group of settlers at Meyersville in DeWitt County. After greeting each other with great friendliness, Mr. Hausmann told Adolph, Ludwig Franke, and W. Soerbert that he lived on Coleto Creek and that land there was cheap. So Adolph and his fellow immigrants went to the Coleto Creek settlement with Mr. Hausmann. Adolph settled on the Twelve-Mile Coleto, becoming one of the earliest settlers of this small German community. The book "The Church on the Coleto" describes the hardships these early settlers endured. Adolph was married three times and had seven children. His first wife was a Miss Thieme. They had two children: Auguste Antonio (2/14/50) who married Johan Michal Hiller on Oct. 10, 1867; and Albrecht (10/10/51) who married Bertha Jones in Llano and later settled in San Antonio. Auguste and Johan Hiller had three children: Kate who married Rudolph Nagel; Adolph who died when he was small; and a third child who was stillborn. (Auguste died from this childbirth).

Adolph Haun and 2nd wife Fredricka Fisher

Albrecht and Bertha Haun had four children: Albrecht; Bertha who married Edwin Vanderbilt; Pauline who married Adolph Jonas; and an adopted child named Oscar Hombach. Adolph was married the second time to Friedericka Fisher on February 20, 1853. They had one child Fred (Fritz) who married Sophie Gerhold and settled in Arneckeville. Fritz and Sopie had seven children: Henry; Marichen; Otto who married Elena Thieme and settled in Arneckeville; Amalia; Albert; Louis; and Fritz. Adolph married the third time on May 18, 1856, to Katherine Schmidt (8/5/33 – 6/16/13). Katherine had sailed from Germany with her sister to land in Texas. The trip was very stormy with a food and water shortage. Rain came, providing fresh water. Four children were born to Adolph and Katherina; Bertha Pauline (10/18/57 – 11/4/53) who married William Diebel on Aug. 1, 1878, and settled in the Golly community in DeWitt County. (See William Diebel story.); Adolph who married Mary Reinhardt on Jan. 27, 1881, and settled in Fredericksburg; William (9/3/66 – 3/1/59) who married Mary Doehrmann on Dec. 21, 1893,

1941, Back Row, L-R: Norvan Haun, Corine Haun, and Ellis Haun. Front Row, L-R: Adolph Haun, Bertha Haun and John William Haun.



Adolph Haun and 3rd wife Kathrina Schmidt

and settled in Meyersville. (See William Haun story); and a girl who died at birth. There is a log building on the Haun property that was either a barn or possibly the original Adolph Haun home. It consists of two rooms connected by a dog run. A much larger wood frame home was built later. Adolph's name appears on the roll of Josiah Taylor's Mounted Company of DeWitt Guerillas, 24th Brigade, Texas Militia (1862-1865). An original document dated 1863 states that Adolph was declared unfit for military duty because he was subject to fits of epilepsy. Church records of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church reveal that Adolph hauled twelve loads of stone for the stone church that was built in 1866. Adolph also registered the cattle brand H in 1854, one of the earliest brands recorded in DeWitt County. After Adolph's death on Jan. 10, 1892, and Katherina's death on June 16, 1913, William and Mary Haun became the owners of the Haun farm. It was passed to their son Herbert and his wife Martha Morgenroth Haun. Herbert's son Clifford and his wife Bette Jo Rohan now own and operate the Haun farm.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

HAUN, JOHN WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH MARIE (GOHMERT HAUN)

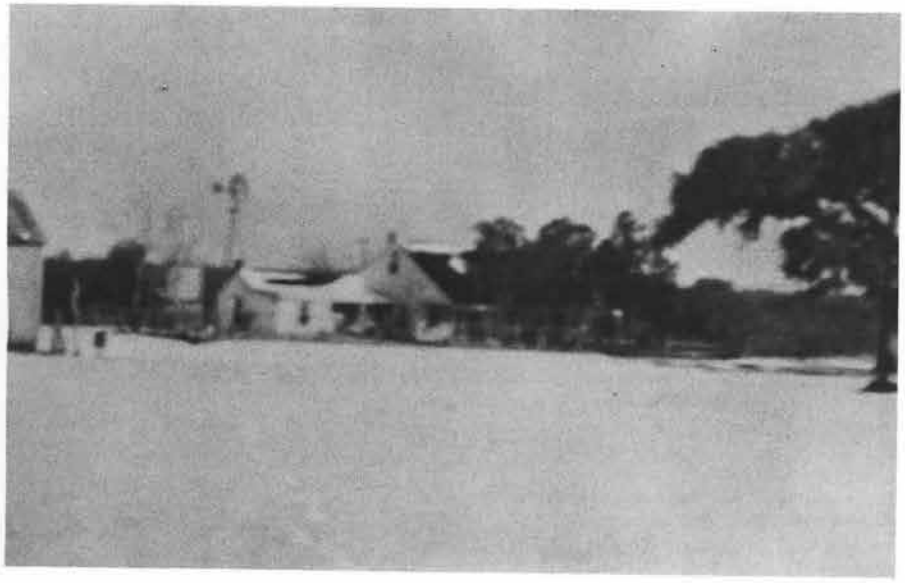
F395

John William Haun and Elizabeth Marie Gohmert were married July 7, 1956, in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor E.L. Arhelger in Meyersville, Texas. John was born November 10, 1938, to Adolph Berthold Haun and Bertha Marie Ideus. Their story is elsewhere in this book. John was the youngest of four children and stayed on the farm to help his parents. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1956. Elizabeth Marie was born November 6, 1935, to Reinhold Henry Gohmert and Linda Anne Emilie Diebel. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Elizabeth graduated from Cuero High School in 1954. After their marriage John and Elizabeth made their home on the Haun Dairy Farm located on the Fifteen mile Coleto Creek about 6 miles from Meyersville. Their union was blessed with three children: Terry Ray (9/23/57), Jeffery Dale (6/5/59-7/28/80), and Lee Charles (8/21/65).

Johnny was a charter member of the Cuero Chapter of Young Farmers. In 1959 he was selected as Outstanding Young Farmer in Texas in Area X. He also served on the board of directors of the Dewitt County Producer's Ass'n and as trustee of the Meyersville Independent School District. In 1976 the Haun Dairy Farm qualified for the Texas Family Land Heritage Program as having seen continuous productive operation at the hands of one family for 100 years or more with Cristoph Doerhmann being named as founder.

Johnny and Elizabeth were active members of St. John where Elizabeth sang in the choir, served as an officer of the Women of the Church, and on the church council. Terry Ray married Pamela Sue Stubbs. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Jeffery graduated from Cuero High School in 1979. He passed away after a lifelong battle with cancer when he was 21. Six months later John William passed away on Jan. 10, 1981. Elizabeth married William Alfred Wendel. Their story is elsewhere in this book. Lee Charles graduated from Cuero High School in 1983. Terry and Pam and Lee are now owners of Haun Dairy Farm.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel



Adolph Haun home place in Meyersville

Glasses Correctly Fitted and Guaranteed Satisfactory.

W. A. BICKFORD
Jeweler and Optician

1966, Back: Elizabeth and John Haun. Front: Lee Charles Haun, Jeffery Dale Haun, and Terry Ray Haun.

HAUN, TERRY RAY AND PAMELA SUE (STUBBS)

F396

1989, Back, L-R: Terry Haun, Pamela (Stubbs) Haun, and Nicole Haun. Front, L-R: Brooke Haun and Kelsie Haun.

Terry Ray Haun married Pamela Sue Stubbs on January 22, 1977, in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas. Terry was born September 23, 1957, to John William Haun and Elizabeth Marie Gohmert. Their story is told elsewhere in this book. Terry graduated from Cuero High School in 1976. Pamela Sue Stubbs was born October 9, 1956, to Bryan Stubbs and Ann Stevens in Cuero. Pam graduated from Cuero High School in 1975. The young couple settled in Meyersville where Terry worked with his family on the Haun Dairy Farm. They had three children: Nicole Denice (1/23/79), Kelsie Elizabeth (11/11/81), and Laura Brooke (1/30/86). After John Haun's death in 1981, Terry and his brother Lee became owners of the Haun Dairy Farm. They recently updated the dairy building with new equipment. Terry serves on the Dewitt County Dairy Advisory Committee and is vice-president of the Meyersville Fire Department. Pam teaches Sunday School and Summer Vacation Bible School and participates in various events at St. John. Pam is also on the board of directors of the Meyersville Country Club and is vice-president of the Parents Club at Meyersville Independent School District. Lee and Terry play on a local softball team, the Tex-Blends. Haun Dairy Farm is proud to be carrying on the tradition of having seen continuous productive operation at the hands of one family for over 100 years. They qualified for the Texas Family Land Heritage Program in 1976.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

HAUN, WILLIAM AND MARY (DOEHRMANN)

F397

William Haun was born September 3, 1866, in Meyersville, Texas, son of Adolph and Katherine (Schmidt) Haun. (See Adolph Haun story). Mary Doehrmann was born November 3, 1871, to Christoff and Louisa (Homrickhausen) Doehrmann. William Haun married Mary Doehrmann on December 27, 1893, in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville. They were married by Pastor W. Westerhoff. William and Mary made their home on the Adolph Haun property on the Twelve-Mile Coleto Creek near Meyersville. After Katherina's death in 1913, William and Mary became the owners of the Haun property and continued to farm the land. This union was blessed with seven children: Alfred (12/31/1894-?) who married Georgia Irene Ingraham and settled in Oklahoma; Adolph (7/14/1897 – 8/24/78) who married Bertha Marie Ideus (10/2/1896 – 7/6/84) and settled in Meyersville; (See A.B. Haun story). Frieda (4/15/1900 – 9/12/87) who married Alonzo Seiler (10/26/96 – 5/19/68) and settled in Meyersville; Edwin J. (Shorty) (1/03/02 – 1/15/73); Rudolph (1/15/04 – 5/17/76) who married Lucille Horny and settled in the Weesatche area; Lena (10/9/06 – 1/3/85) who died when she was two; and Herbert Frank Louis (10/9/11 – 1/3/85) who married Martha Helen Morganroth (12/29/15 – 12/9/87) and settled on the Haun farm in Meyersville. Adolph and Bertha Haun had four children: Corine Faye who married Marvin Froehlich and lives in Houston and Meyersville; Ellis James who gave his life for his country in WWII; Norvan Gene who married Georgia Uheryk and lives in Meyersville; and John William (dec'd) who married Elizabeth Gohmert and lived in Meyersville. Frieda and Alonzo Seiler had three children: Leroy who married Mildred Click (dec'd) and settled in Floresville; Florine who married Edgar Dohmann and settled in Meyersville; and Newton who married LaRose Ideus and settled in Weesatche. Herbert and Martha Haun had one son Clifford. Herbert and Martha remained on the home farm and took care of William and Mary until their deaths (William on March 1, 1959, and Mary on May 20, 1954) when they became the owners of the farm. They continued to operate the farm until their deaths when their son Clifford and his wife Bette Jo Rohan Haun became the owners. Clifford (12/15/39) married Bette Jo Rohan (5/5/41) on June 21, 1959, and settled on the Haun property. They had four children: Julie Helen (3/16/60), who married Delvin Arndt and lives in Meyersville; Lesley Kathryn (11/13/64) who married David Bruns and lives in Goliad; Brad Thomas (6/5/66), and Clay Wade (5/27/69). Clifford and Bette Jo continue to operate the land. Their son Brad now lives in the Haun home.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

William and Mary Haun

DR. W. C. MOORE,
Physician and Surgeon.
Meyrsville Texas

HAUSMANN, BERTHOLD L. AND MARTHA M. TERRY

F398

Berthold L. Hausmann was born in Clinton, Texas (then the county seat of DeWitt County) on November 4, 1867 the son of William Hausmann (born December 11, 1837 and died May 12, 1914) and Magdaline Schiwetz Hausmann (born April 20, 1850 and died July 10, 1923). Berthold had three sisters. William Hausmann and his family moved to Yorktown where he was editor of The Yorktown News. William and Magdaline are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

Martha Maria Terry (affectionately called Mattie) was born December 7, 1870. She was one of three daughters born to James D. Terry (born November 1, 1835 and died August 5, 1891) and Kate Ferber Terry, who came to this country from Germany as a child (born May 28, 1842 and died April 5, 1928). James came to Texas from Tennessee and at one time was the county judge of DeWitt County. Both James and Kate are buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero and their story may be found in this book.

Berthold Hausmann and Martha Terry were married in Cuero on March 25, 1891 and lived there for several years. The Berthold Hausmann family moved to Yorktown around 1900 and lived there the rest of their lives. Berthold, like his father, was editor of The Yorktown News but then sold the paper to G.R. Beckham. He also ran a variety store and worked in the J.W. Hoff store. He was best known for being the Justice of the Peace in Yorktown for many years and was called "Judge" by most people. They had eight children. Their sons William and Olin died in infancy. Their other children were: 1) Genevieve (born October 2, 1893 and died April 1984); 2) James Terry (born February 12, 1892 and died June 28, 1963); 3) Albert William (born March 29, 1897 and died in the early 1960's); 4) Edgar (born in 1898 and died on August 21, 1934); 5) Katie Pearl (born December 19, 1901); and 6) Mattie Lee (born February 22, 1904 and died in the early 1980's). All of Berthold and Mattie's children except Albert and Katie, settled in Fort Worth. Genevieve (known as Dady) married Gilbert Zane Nelson and they had two sons Marquis Edward and Zane. (Gilbert Nelson's mother claimed a blood relationship with the noted author, Zane Gray.) Terry married Helen Smith. Edgar married but had no children. Mattie, who later went by Martha (and was known to her family as Mootsie), never married. Albert served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He remained single, stayed in California after the war and never returned to Texas until he came to visit a few years before his death. Katie stayed in Yorktown and married Albert J. Turek and their story is in this book.

Berthold died on July 31, 1943. Mattie had preceded him in death on August 15, 1939. Both of them are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Patty T. Swenson

HEARD, HUMPHREY AND LOUISA ELLEN (FOSTER)

F399

Humphrey Heard (1811-1896), planter and rancher in DeWitt County, was a native of Georgia who came to Texas from Alabama. He was born near Milledgeville, Georgia on 9 December 1811, the son of Joel Heard (1788-1860) and his first wife, Nancy Gilmore (1785-1843). Joel was the son of John Heard, a Revolutionary soldier, and Mary (Meador) Heard who migrated to Greene County, Georgia from Virginia in 1782. Joel and his brothers obtained land in Baldwin County, Georgia in the Lottery of 1803, and it was at Milledgeville that he married Nancy Gilmore (1785-1843), the daughter of Humphrey and Catherine (Wylie) Gilmore.

In 1811, the Creek Indians allowed the U.S. Government to cut a Federal road from the Chattahoochie River (Georgia's western border) to Mimms' ferry on the Alabama River, which gave easy access across Creek lands to American settlements in Washington County, Alabama, then a part of Mississippi Territory. A few months after Humphrey Heard's birth, his parents followed the Federal road to the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, bought some former Choctaw Indian land in that area, and began to farm. When Congress declared war on England in June, 1812, the great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, an ally of the British, visited Alabama and stirred up a band of Red Stick Creek Indians who began raids against the settlers. The militia was called out, and when Joel left on duty with the cavalry, his wife and baby Humphrey went to Fort Mimms for safety.

On the morning of 29 August 1813, Nancy took the baby with her into the woods to hunt berries, and while they were away, the Red Stick Creeks attacked the stockade. The result was the famous Fort Mimms Massacre in which hundreds of white settlers died. Nancy and baby Humphrey hid in the woods until the Indians departed, and so they were saved.

The American retaliated at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March, 1814, in which Joel Heard participated. Led by Gen. Andrew Jackson, the militiamen were victorious, and the few surviving Red Sticks fled into Spanish Florida. Mississippi settlements were free of raids thereafter.

After Alabama became a state and Sumter County was formed from the Choctaw Session in 1832, Joel Heard acquired land in that county and established a plantation near the Tombigbee River. On 30 January 1840, Humphrey Heard, then aged 29, married Louisa Ellen Foster (1825-1903), daughter of Benjamin C. and Elizabeth (Henderson) Foster of adjacent Clarke County, Alabama.

In 1849, Joel Heard, accompanied by his younger sons, Allen and Thomas, moved to Texas and settled at Victoria. The sons became prominent ranchers and elected officials in Refugio County. Humphrey and his family followed in 1851, bringing their slaves with them, and settled at Mission Valley. In 1867, at age 56, Humphrey was licensed by the Methodists to preach, and he did so at Clinton, Thomaston and Middletown (Weesatche). They moved to Middletown in 1869, where he owned a large ranch, and then to Thomaston in 1872. The Methodist Church of Thomaston was organized in their home, and services were held there until a schoolhouse was erected. Later, the Heards returned to Middletown where he died on 23 October 1896 at age 85. She died on 29 March 1903 at the home of a daughter in Thomaston, but was buried beside her husband in the Middletown Cemetery. According to her obituary, she left 29 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

The Heards had nine children. Joel B. married Lucretia Ballou; Mary Ann married Murdoch W. McRae of Lamar; Jasper N. married Sarah Newcomer; Hannah married James D. McMaster; Carrie married George W. Ferguson; Allen C. married Lou Newcomer; Ellen married Benjamin Daughtery; Lee Foster married first Leila Franks, and second Lucy Nichols; and Addie married Eugene McMaster.

by Ernest Bennet Meynard

HEARD, JOEL B. AND LUCRETIA (BALLOU)

F400

Joel B. Heard

Joel Benjamin Heard (1841-1920), the eldest son of Humphrey and Louisa Ellen (Foster) Heard, was born on 1 December 1841 in Sumter County, Alabama and was ten years old when he came to Mission Valley, Texas, with his parents. In 1859, at age 18, he went to Refugio County and engaged in stock raising on his own. He enlisted in Tom Rabb's Company of Texas Rangers in 1861 and served on the Rio Grande, then, in 1862, he joined Capt. R.M. Edgar's Company for Confederate service.

When Joel B. returned to Refugio after the war, he found no trace of his stock, and so went back to his father's old homestead at Mission Valley. In 1864, he married Lucretia Ballou, the daughter of Seth and Elizabeth (Armour) Ballou of Lamar, Aransas County.

Seth Ballou, who had been a seafaring man, and Elizabeth Armour were married in 1838 in

East Texas where he operated a ferry. They moved to Aransas County in 1839 and were among the earliest settlers at Lamar on Lookout Peninsula. He established the first steam ferry in Aransas-Refugio counties and operated it between the Peninsula and Aransas City across the bay. The Ballous lived and died at Lamar.

In 1876, Joel B. Heard purchased 700 acres across Heard's Bridge on the Guadalupe in DeWitt County, three miles from Cuero, and made his home there. In 1880, he bought a 4,000-acre ranch in Goliad County and became one of the most prosperous stockraisers in DeWitt County. He had 1,000 head of cattle on his Goliad ranch and 100 more on his DeWitt place, besides horses and other stock, according to a newspaper clipping of the time. He died in 1920 and was buried near his parents in the Weesatche Cemetery.

Joel B. and Lucretia (Ballou) Heard had three children, Alice Heard, who married Dr. Randall Mahon; William C. Heard, who married Gena Schaefer; and Miss Mamie Heard who, after her father's death, took over management of the DeWitt County ranch. At her death in 1948, she left a legacy to the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero in memory of her parents. The fund was used on the remodeling of the church in 1952.

The Heard ranch in DeWitt County passed to Miss Mamie's niece, Eleanor, and her husband, Ed Thigpen.

by Ernest Bennet Meynard

HEARN FAMILY

F401

Ebenezer Hearn and William David Hearn were brothers who came to DeWitt County, Texas, about 1856. According to family stories, they left their father's home in Florida after a disagreement over how they handled their father's young children by his second wife. The youngsters were scolded for playing in the saw mill which the older boys helped run. The father and step-mother did not appreciate the way it was handled, so the older boys left home. They reportedly came into Texas at Galveston, where they worked as ship builders, then came to Cuero. Ebenezer was a carpenter and wheelright. William was a farmer.

William was a year or two older than Ebenezer. William was born about 1824, and Ebenezer about 1826.

Ebenezer was married first in DeWitt County to Miss Julian Cheeler on July 3, 1856. William married Bethany Meadows on 23 of April 1857.

William David and Bethany (or Bethena) Meadows Hearn had at least five children. George Thomas was born early in 1858. Dilla was born about 1864. Nancy was born about 1869. Jackson Madison was born in 1871. Joseph John Hearn was born in 1876 and died November 6, 1941, at the age of 65 years, 9 mos. and 6 days.

William and Bethany Hearn died about 1879. They died the same night of pneumonia and are said to have been buried in the Clinton Cemetery but their graves have no markers. When they died, the family was split up.

Thomas went out on his own. In June of 1880 he was single, a laborer living in the home of John Andrews. On May 31, 1882, Thomas Hearn married Delia Stewart.

Dilla Hearn worked for Lazarus Nichols in June of 1880 as a cook and launderer. It is not known whether she ever married.

Nancy Hearn was living with the Miles Bennet family in June of 1880, a hired servant in a household which included five children and three other boarders who were cowboys. She probably did a lot of cooking and washing in return for her room and board. She was remembered as blind in one eye. Her brother Joe did correspond with her for a time.

The two youngest boys were cared for by William P. Houston who was appointed their guardian by the court after their parents' death.

Jackson Madison Hearn was born January 21, 1871 and died February 6, 1945. He married Leatha Jane Faught on July 16, 1893. She was born July 9, 1876 and died July 21, 1967. They are buried at the Waelder City Cemetery. Their children were Joseph Sylvester (May 1894), Melinda Elizabeth (Feb. 1896), Johnny David (July 1898), and Willie Mae. Their son, Johnny David, (July 21, 1898 – October 3, 1966) married Naomi Sherry August 8, 1931. Children of Johnny and Naomi were Ruby Faye (February 2, 1932), Jack David (July 22, 1934), Elroy Brooks (February 4, 1936), Letha Mae (April 20, 1938), Johnny Sylvester (December 23, 1939), Lois Marie, James Allen, Judith Elaine, and Jewel Norean. Their son Jack David Hearn, born July 22, 1934, married Jo Ann Elam on August 17, 1957. Willie Mae married Dewey Taylor and had a son named Jack.

Joseph John Hearn was born in 1876 and died November 6, 1941, at the age of 65 years, 9 months and 6 days. Wm. P. Houston was appointed his legal guardian in May 1880. At some point he left the Houston household and lived with a family named Neal (or Neill?). He was married in August of 1897 to Mattie E. Shannon. Mattie died and he married Clara Johnson on July 12, 1903. They lived at Moulton and are buried near Yoakum. Joe Hearn had only one child, a daughter named Dessie Lodesker. She was born July 29, 1904. She married first a Perkins, by which she had a son, Curtis Perkins. She married second Earnest Kleim or Kliem. She was living in Corpus Christi in 1984.

Ebenezer Hearn was born about 1826. He and Julia Ann Cheeler married in DeWitt County on July 3, 1856. Nothing is known of her family. They had three children: John Lisha, Jesse Lee, and Josephine Hearn. Ebenezer died after June 1870. By some time in 1871, Julia married Charlie Bruce, by whom she had three children: Emma, Eddie and Arthur. On August 12, 1879, she married William Hughes, the father of Katie who married Bud Adams.

John Lisha Hearn was born November 2, 1857 and died September 10, 1932. He was married on June 21, 1893 to Lina Francis Henry (January i7, 1877 – November 7, 1933). Their children were Julius Owen (May 9, 1894 – 1977) who married Addie Newman, Stella Lee (September 19, 1896 – October 29, 1915) married Herman Tanneberger, Irene Gertrude (January 8, 1899 – July 7, 1900), James Frederick (November 17, 1901 – August 20, 1983) married Alma Rogers, Thelma Adell (July 10, 1904-) married Elwood A. Newman, John Franklin (August 30, 1908 – July 24, 1970) married Marie Howard.

John Lisha Hearn was raised in Clinton and moved to Wilson County after he married. He hauled freight from Indianola to Abilene, and railroad ties from San Antonio to Pearsall when the railroad was built. He was a carpenter on the railroad depots on the SAP line from Abilene to the coast. He built the Catholic Church at Laire, Wilson County, designing the Gothic type windows himself. He said in later life that he raised three families: his stepbrothers and sisters, his wife's siblings when Wm. P. Henry died, and then his own children. He was almost twenty years older than his wife having danced at her parents' wedding as a young man. He may have thought he had taken on too many responsibilities, but was remembered by his family as a patient, even tempered, soft spoken man. For a time, he ran a store in Fairview. He also ran a gin at one time. He was afflicted with what was called "granulated sore eyes".

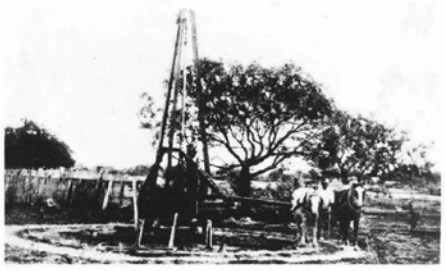
Jesse Lee Hearn was born February 14, 1865 and died October 20, 1944. He was married on October 17, 1889 to Mary Frances Chambles (January 26, 1871 – February 19, 1961). Their children were Lee Roy (January 15, 1891), Eulen Doyel (January 8, 1892) John Elzy (May 1893), and L. Grace (April 1898), and Hazel.

Josephine Hearn was born January 26, 1868 and died August 24, 1940. She married first Jess Burris and second Ely Conway. She was buried at Runge.

by Tory Crook

HEER, FRANZ

F402



Franz Heer (on rig) and Ishmel Perryman (behind horses) digging water well near Nordheim 1917.

Franz Heer was one of the German immigrants who contributed to the development of West DeWitt County.

In about 1900, Franz was working in Bavaria as a Master Brewers Apprentice. He longed for the opportunity to own land and be his own boss, so, he headed out on his own for Texas, leaving his family and friends.

While on the ship to America, he met Emilie Riesch. Despitee the hardships of ocean travel at that time, they fell in love, and promised to marry as soon as possible. They were bound for different destinations. She had a sponsor in New York with an obligation to work there two years. He was bound and determined to go to Texas. He landed in Galveston and walked inland, working along the way to sustain himself. At Nordheim, Franz met other folks from Southern Germany. Mr. Neubert gave Franz a job on his farm and trained him to survive in Texas. In about two years, Franz managed to save enough money to send for Emilie. They were married in Nordheim on April 13, 1903. They moved on the George Treude farm and Nordheim was to be their home for the next

sixteen years. Their children: Clara (Heer) Lane, Antoinette (Heer) Steves, Gus R. Heer and Frances (Heer) Laliberte were born there.

It was during these years that Franz became known as a water well driller. He dug most of his wells from 1909 to 1928. His rig was primitive, bulky and slow; but, many of those wells are still producing precious water, an item we all need to live. These wells are about one hundred feet deep.

A lot of small family farms were being settled out of ranch land around Nordheim at that time. Water was needed on these places for survival of people and livestock. If a location was too far from his home Franz, and his helper Ishmel Perryman and in some cases his son Gus Heer, would camp out at the well site for several days. They traveled to the site on a wagon pulled by two horses. The same animals were used to "power" the rig as they walked around the hole raising and dropping the bit.

The method of digging those wells was not by the rotary drill we know today. As the heavy pipe (sharpened as a bit) was dropped in the hole it would fill with dirt and was frequently pulled up to be emptied.

In some cases new farm owners did not have enough money to pay him upon completion. Often, he was paid in kind with animals or part of the crop.

The family moved from Nordheim to a farm on the banks of the San Antonio River on November 17, 1919.

In Bavaria, he had lived near a river, vineyards and large trees. He felt more at home watching the water flow by their place high on a bluff overlooking the river. The Heers never forgot their friends in Nordheim. They had a large pecan bottom where Nordheim families flocked each fall to picnic and pick-up pecans on shares. Many of their pecans were harvested in this manner and old acquaintances met, to perhaps, share a glass of homemade mustang grape wine while speaking some German. This type of outing was one of the few recreational activities that rural families could enjoy at that time. As a youth, I remember looking forward to picnics at the Heer place once or twice a year. It was an opportunity to fish, swim and romp with cousins under the cool trees after a blistering summer of picking cotton.

The Heers traveled many miles to Nordheim where they "traded" the rest of their lives. Franz could be found enjoying a lively game of Scat, banging the trump card on the table with a thunderous blow, denoting he had won the play. Mrs. Heer visited with friends in town. It was customary at that time for ladies to visit for several hours on Saturday afternoons. This usually occurred in a dry goods store, as women did not enter places where alcoholic beverages were sold.

Everyone knew Mr. Heer as the "Water Well Man". He could quote the depth and peculiarities of all wells he dug, even though formal records were not kept. Farmers asked his advice on wells until the time of his death in 1956. Mrs. Heer passed away in 1966. Their daughters died in 1938, 1979 and 1985.

Gus and Helen (Roeben) Heer lived on a farm close to the San Antonio River most of their married life. He is a retired carpenter who ranches and enjoys visiting Nordheim friends. Both are devout members of the Lutheran Church and cherish a host of friends in Runge and West DeWitt County.

by Clifford W. Braune

HEISSIG, CARL HEINRICH AND HENRIETTE SPERLING

F403

Carl Heinrich Heissig was born in Landsberg on the Warte river in what was then Prussia, Germany on June 15, 1822 to Johann Gottlieb Heissig and Marie Charlotte Zedler. At the end of World War II, the town became part of Poland and is now known as Garzow.

Henriette Sperling Heissig was born on April 7, 1831 in Frankfurt on the Oder river, which is now on the border between East Germany and Poland. This area is not far from Landsberg, where Carl and Henriette were married in 1852 prior to their journey to America on The Oldenburg brig *"Texas."* Two of Carl Heissig's sisters, Henriette, Mrs. Carl Frey, and Wilhemine, Mrs. Johann Meyer immigrated to Texas about the same time, also settling in the Yorktown community.

The Heissig's arrived at Indianola, Texas on June 12, 1853 and moved inland to Yorktown a short time after their arrival. Carl Heissig purchased a small tract of land, from Moritz Riedel Sr., which was located in the W.W. Gant survey north of Yorktown in what was then known as Upper Town. At this location he built a stone building which served as their home and from which Carl operated a freight stop over point, with restaurant, bar and dance hall. The Heissig's business served freighters and immigrants enroute from Indianola to San Antonio and New Braunfels, as well as a point for local social functions.

During the Civil War, Carl Heissig was a member of the "Hulan Reserve Company" which was organized by the citizens of Yorktown under the command of Captain Caesar Eckhardt.

From the time immediately after the Civil War until the early 1870's, Upper Town was the main center of business for the Yorktown community and Carl Heissig's business prospered, as noted in the September 25, 1876 *Victoria Advocate:* "Yorktown is divided into the upper and lower town, and having said much as to Yorktown proper, I cannot fail to mention Mr. C.H. Heissig at the upper town as a restaurant and hotel man."

On the night of September 19, 1876, Carl Heissig, unwittingly became a witness to the brutal murder of Dr. Phillip Brassell and his son George, whose home was located only a short distance from the Heissig's establishment. Even though exonerated twice, as to having any part in this murder, he apparently appeared as a witness in the first trial, where the four principals were convicted and sentenced to hang. Just as in the judicial system today, the verdict was overturned on a clerical technicality, and the four principals were again indicted. Just one month before the second trial was to commence, Carl Heissig was brutally gunned down on the evening of May 15, 1880 in front of his home and business establishment. The assailant was never apprehended.

After the murder of her husband, Henriette faced the monumental task of rearing her young unmarried daughters who were still living at home. As related by her daughter, Henriette, many years later, they had a very difficult time and had to make due with only the bare necessities. Carl Heissig was the victim of a lawless era in DeWitt County. He and his family were the victims of the frontier justice that ruled there at the time. It was not until Capt. Lee Hall rode into DeWitt County with his Texas Rangers that law and order was finally established.

Carl and Henriette Heissig became the ancestors of some of the prominent families of DeWitt County. Pauline became the wife of H.P. Eckhardt; Malvina became the wife of Fritz Kraege; Jane became the second wife of widower H.P. Eckhardt; Lena, became the wife of Paul Stark; Ida became the wife of August Riedel; Henriette became the wife of Otto Riedel; and Louisa became the wife of Gus Willenberg. Two children Mathilda and Otto are buried in Friar cemetery, across the road from where Carl Heissig's home and business once stood. This cemetery is not well maintained today, but little foot stones, still mark the graves of Otto and Mathilda. Carl, Henriette and daughter Fransiska are buried at Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, TX.

by David E.Luddeke

HENGST, ALVIN FAMILY

F404

Alvin Hengst, fourth of six children born to Carl August Hengst and his wife Christine Wiegelt Hengst, was born on Jun 1, 1875 and was baptized in the Lutheran faith in Reifland, Germany. At the age of 3 years he came to America and settled near Shiner in Lavaca County, Texas. In 1897 the family moved to the Lindenau community in DeWitt County, Texas. On Nov 2, 1899 he was united in matrimony with Mary Wild, third of seven children born to Daniel Wild and his wife Aloise Grohmann Wild. She was born on Sept 8, 1878 at Black Spring, Fayette County, Texas. She was baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church to which she remained faithful all her life. Mary had two older brothers, Ferdinard and Adolph Wild, one younger brother, William Wild and three younger sisters, Anna (Mrs. Herman J. Buchhorn); Therese (Mrs. Otto Turk) and Frances (Mrs. Herman Wolter). Alvin and Mary lived at Lindenau with there parents for about two years, later moving to the Metting Community near Yorktown and then lived on the Conrad Schueneemann farm north of Yorktown, near Gruenau. Around 1905 they moved to the Riedesel farm at Garfield in the western part of DeWitt County. Eight children were born to this union; Emil born Jun 17, 1900 (died Aug 9, 1985) married Elfreda Lippke; Herman born Oct 3, 1901 married Milda Jaeger. His second marriage was to Evelyn Simcek Marecka; Lillie Anna, whose story appears elsewhere; Erna born Feb. 22, 1904 (died Feb 27, 1987) married Herman Wulf, born Oct 2, 1901 (died Jan 4, 1986); Edwin F. born Oct 1, 1905 (died Apr 25, 1982) married Lydia Jaeger, born Mar. 18 1904; Benhardt born Nov 10, 1910 married Olga Jaeger born Mar 17, 1906 (died Apr 23, 1975). Bennie's second marriage was to Ottillia Metting Danyah born Aug 16, 1920 (died Dec 8, 1984); Wilma born Feb 20, 1913 married Ernst Waskow; Elenora born July 10, 1915 married Walter Podsim born Aug 3, 1916. About 1918 the family purchased a farm across from the Gaebler Ranch built a new home. Alvin was

Alvin Hengst Family, 1935 Garfield homeplace. Back: Erna (Hengst) Wulf, Edwin F. Hengst, Lillie Anna (Hengst) Koopmann, Emil Hengst, Elenora (Hengst) Podsin, Bennie Hengst, Wilma (Hengst) Waskow, Herman Hengst. Seated: Mary (Wild) Hengst and Alvin Hengst.

active in community affairs and being an expert marksman was on several occasions the "Schuetzen Koenig' of the Garfield Gun Club. Being in ill health for about a year and steadily getting worse, Mary submitted to surgery on Nov 30, 1935. It was found that she had stomach cancer and she passed away that night at 8:30 P.M. at the age of 57 years. Funeral services were held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown with Rev. P.A. Voitanis and Rev. Dicks of the Meyersville Church officiating. The family had a difficult time finding a priest who knew the German language. After the death of his wife, Alvin let the farm go to the Harms family for the debt that remained on the property. He then made his home with his children, but always found it difficult to stay very long at any one place. He eventually ended up living alone on a farm about 2 miles from Nordheim. He walked to town frequently to talk to old friends. He was last seen on Friday, Dec 23, 1949, when he stopped by a neighbor to borrow kerosene for his stove. Since he had told friends he had planned to visit his children for the Holidays, no one suspected that anything had gone wrong. When he was finally missed, his sons, Edwin and Bennie found his body in a field about a quarter mile from his home. The bottle of kerosene and his pipe and cap were nearby. It is believed that he suffered a heart attack shortly after leaving the neighbor's home. Alvin and Mary are buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorkton, Texas.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

HENGST, CARL AUGUST FAMILY

F405

Carl August Hengst was born in Germany on Dec 19, 1837. He married Christine Wiegelt who was born May 20, 1841 in Germany. While in Germany the family lived in Reifland. In the year 1878 they came to America and settled near Shiner, Lavaca Co, Texas. One brother and his family also came to America and also settled at Shiner. If other members of their families came to the United States it is not known. Some members of this brother's family later moved to Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co, Texas. C.H. Hengst of Port Lavaca, a son of this family corresponded for years with his second cousin, Lillie A. Koopmann, of Yorktown, Texas. In the year 1897, Carl and Christine Hengst moved their family to the Lindenau Community in DeWitt County. Six children were born to them: 1) Hulda E. born Aug 30, 1863 (died Mar 10, 1908) married Louis E. Seifert born Mar 6, 1855 (died Jul 27, 1933); They are buried in Sandy Gate Cemetery, Nopal,, Texas; 2) August married Johanna Dittmar. They are buried in the Herman Sons Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas; 3) Moritz born Mar 4, 1872 (died Dec 28, 1922). He never married and always walked with a stoop due to a back injury as an infant. He had red hair, which he inherited from his mother, and made his home with his younger sister and family; 4) Alvin, whose story appears elsewhere; 5) Helen, born Aug 30, 1878 (died Apr 22, 1946) married Henry Remmers, born May 22, 1877 (died Sept 8, 1972). They are buried at Nordheim, Texas; 6) Otto, born Jan 11, 1883 (died Jun 30, 1970) married, on Feb 28, 1901 to Emma Schroeder, born Mar 11, 1881 (died Aug 10, 1968). They are buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

While their oldest son, August and his wife Johanna, made a trip to Germany in 1907, Carl and Christine stayed with their grandchildren, Alma, Hertha and Eddie Hengst. During this period, Christine, while cleaning house, caught a cold and came down with pneumonia and passed away on Jun 7, 1907 at the age of 66 years. She was buried at Westside Cemetery before her son and daughter-in-law returned from Germany. After the death of his wife, Carl, stayed for a time with each of his children's families. His favorite chore was cutting and splitting firewood, which in those days was used extensively for cooking and heating the homes in winter. Whenever he had enough put in one place, he would move on to the next, earning his keep. He continued this routine until his death on Jan. 5, 1922 at the age of 85 years. He is buried beside his wife and his son Moritz in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

HENNEKE, FREDRICH AND FREDERICKE

F406

Fredrich Henneke was born 29 May 1857 in Thiede by Wolfenbuth, Braunschweig, Germany. He came to America, landing at New Orleans on 5 Sep 1870 at the age of 13, with his Aunt and Uncle Luder and their son.

He worked in the Meyersville area before settling in Arneckeville where he purchased a tract of land.

On 8 Jan 1882 Fredrich married Fredericke Arnecke at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. Fredericke was born in Arneckeville on 12 Dec 1862, the second child of Andreas Christoph Heinrich Arnecke and Ursula Barbara Sager Arnecke.

They had the following children, all born in Arneckeville: "Alfred" Henry Henneke (b 14 Jan 1883; d 23 Nov 1948); Carl Fredrich "Charlie" Henneke (b 27 Apr 1885; d 26 Nov 1946); Nicolaus Michael "Herman" Henneke (b 6 Mar 1887; d 28 June 1979); Fredrich Henry "Fred" Henneke (b 5 Mar 1889; d 22 Nov 1964); "Henry" Theodore Henneke (b 10 Apr 1892; d 12 Jan 1985); "Lena" Wilhelmine Amalie Henneke (b 31 Jul 1894; d 23 May 1962); Amalie "Mollie" Fredericke Justine Henneke (b 21 May 1897); "Frieda" Christiana Hulda Henneke (b 19 Feb 1899; d 6 Oct 1950).

Fredrich "Fritz" Henneke became a citizen of the United States of America on 17 Nov 1891.

In the late 1890's the whole family traveled in a 2-seater horse-drawn hack to Hallettsville to try to establish relationship with the Hennekes there; however, none could be found.

Fredrich was active in Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville where he was a trustee, a church council member, and delegate to conventions. He had a strong singing voice. He was also known for his loud whistle which could be heard for a great distance.

The children rode on horseback to the Arneckeville school. Later, when the Green DeWitt School was built on adjoining property, they could easily walk there. The boys enjoyed games such as baseball, marbles, and "Dog and the Rabbit" which was played in the nearby brush.

"Ricka" made all the clothes (including shirts and pants) for the family. The Henneke family had an early washing machine — a type of gear was activated by a handle which a child turned — moving the agitator in the machine tub.

The Henneke family always had ready-made shoes (wide tongue with one or two buckles) which were made from hides usually not cured very well. (Cuero had no tannery.) If the shoes became wet, they became very hard — "you could kick something and not even feel it!" The shoes did not leak since the family rubbed them with neatsfoot oil which they made by cooking lower legs of cattle or sheep when they were butchered.

All the Hennekes wore grey socks with a white band around the top which were handwoven on a small loom in Cuero by Mr. and Mrs. Weigend and their son who lived on

Fredrich Henneke Family. Back Row: Alfred, Charlie, and Herman. Front Row: "Fritz," Fred, Lena, Henry and "Ricka."

Newman St.

Fritz made leather barrels for planting the cotton seed. These were pulled by the horse and the seeds dropped out of the holes in the barrel as it rotated. When the worms were bad, Fritz would fasten a bag containing Parish green, a poison, on both ends of a long pole which he tied to the horse. As the horse trotted between the rows, the dust would shake out onto the plants. As in many families, Ricka worked in the cotton field while supervising the children, who also worked. The then large stalks of cotton had to be gone over many times in a season in order to pick only the ripe bolls.

Fritz also raised cattle. His brand was "54." Since there were no fences in early years, he also notched the ears in 5 places. In 1902 he sold two steers over one-year-old for a total of $15.

On 26 Jan 1906 Fredrich and Fredericka Henneke were divorced in DeWitt Co. Fredericka moved with the youngest four children and operated a small place on her own. Her cattle brand was "L4." She later moved to Cuero. She died 29 Jan 1930 in Cuero and is buried at Hillside Cemetery.

Fredrich bought and sold various properties in DeWitt Co. and Cuero. He moved to Comfort, Texas, for a while and then returned to Cuero. He died on 5 May 1934. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

by Harry and Dee Henneke

HENNEKE, HARRY L. NADINE "DEE"

F407

Harry Lee Henneke was born 18 Aug. 1931 in Cuero, Texas, the son of Rosa Karow and Henry T. Henneke (story elsewhere). He was baptized at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero on 27 Sept. 1931. At Cuero High School he played the trumpet in the band and was the

Harry L. and Nadine "Dee" Henneke, June 10, 1955.

first and only male drum major. He also played the lead in the three-act senior play. He graduated with honors in May, 1948. He worked at Webb's Confectionary when it opened and continued there when it later was purchased by Joe Keesler and became known as Keesler's. He also worked at Klecka's Coze Nook Confectionary. He played the trumpet and was vocalist in dance bands led by Bennie Prause, Freddie Peiper, and Adolph Migi. He also worked as a TV repairman in Cuero and Victoria.

Harry joined the U.S. Navy on 7 Dec. 1948. He saw action in the Korean Conflict and then commissioned a mine sweeper out of moth balls. He obtained the rank of Petty Officer First Class and was honorably discharged in 1952. He attended the University of Texas at Austin where he was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honorary Fraternity. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with a physics major in 1956. In 1957 he received his Master of Arts degree.

On 10 June 1955 Harry married Nadine "Dee" Vernell Rosenberg in San Antonio. Nadine was born 28 Aug. 1936 in San Antonio, the only child of Wilfred Fred and Minnie Weidner Rosenberg. Nadine was baptized at Christ Lutheran Church in San Antonio on 2 Dec. 1945. She attended Alamo Heights Schools in San Antonio. In high school she was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. She graduated in 1954 as a valedictorian of her graduating class. She attended the University of Texas at Austin where she met Harry at the Lutheran Student Center on campus. They have three children: 1) Elizabeth Marie Henneke (born 17 May 1956 in Austin); 2) Mark Vincent Henneke (born 10 Aug. 1957 in Dallas); and 3) Teresa Elaine Henneke (born 26 Feb. 1960 in San Antonio).

1) Elizabeth Henneke married Buford Barry Wilson on 14 Mar. 1976 in San Antonio. She graduated from the University of Houston in Houston with a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude in elementary education. They have one son, Miles Travis Wilson (born 8 Sept. 1982 in Houston).

2) Mark Henneke graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Parks Administration in 1979. He is employed as a Reservoir Ranger at Coletto Creek Reservoir near Victoria.

3) Teresa "Terri" Henneke graduated from Cuero High School with honors in 1978. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance in 1983 from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1988. She is the organist/choir master at a church in San Antonio and gives private lessons.

When Harry graduated from the University of Texas, he accepted a position at Texas Instruments Central Research Laboratory in Dallas as a member of the Technical Staff. While employed at TI, Harry developed several new types of transistors receiving patents from the U.S. Patent Office for his discoveries. He published and personally presented technical papers before national and international conferences and was honored by being listed in "Who's Who" for his accomplishments. In 1964 he accepted a position as Senior Research Physicist at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. He continued to publish specialized papers in his field of microelectronics. He advanced to the position of Director of Microelectronics Research before leaving the research physics field.

Harry returned to college to receive certification for teaching from the University of Texas at Austin. He has also attended classes at Victoria College, University of Houston in Victoria, University of Michigan, St. Mary's University, and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In 1976 Harry and Dee came to Cuero. Harry began teaching at Cuero High School where he has initiated numerous new classes including physics, pre-calculus, and various different types of computer classes.

Shortly after Harry and Dee moved to Cuero, they began stocking the family ranches with Registered Simmental cattle. They now main-

tain a herd of over 150. They are members of the American Simmental Association and have received numerous awards for their cattle which are marketed throughout the United States and Mexico.

In 1988 Dee and Harry opened up a furniture refinishing shop, Superior Refinishing, where primarily antiques are repaired and restored.

Harry and Dee have been active members of the Lutheran Church wherever they have lived.

by Harry and Dee Henneke

HENNEKE, HENRY T. AND ROSA

F408

Rosa (Karow) and Henry T. Henneke, Golden Wedding Anniversary, June 10, 1964.

Henry Theodore Henneke was born 10 April 1892 in the Green DeWitt Community. Henry was the fifth son and fifth child of the eight children of Friedrich "Fritz" Henneke and Fredericke "Ricka" Arnecke Henneke. (Story elsewhere.)

When the new Green DeWitt School was completed in 1898, next door to the Henneke home, Henry was allowed to attend the school although he was only six years of age. The usual age for beginning school was eight.

The Friedrich Henneke family tended a large garden. Excess produce was taken to Cuero in a wagon. Henry was usually the one who sold the produce and watermelons door to door.

After his parents separated in 1906, Henry lived with his mother and sisters in a house near the Arneckeville School. He was allowed to attend confirmation classes at an early age at Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville.

As a member of the Arneckeville Brass Band, at first he played the big drum, but later switched to the tuba. He marched with the band in the first Turkey Trot parade in 1907 as well as in the parades of 1908 and 1909.

In 1908 at the age of 16, he left his home in Arneckeville and came to Cuero. He became a blacksmith in partnership with his brother Charles in a shop located at 107 S. Rail Road.

Henry married Rosa Hulda Elizabeth Karow (born 22 Aug 1894 in Cuero) on 10 June 1914 in the home of her mother, Flora Schlinke Gauhl Karow (1854-1898). Rosa's father, John Gotlieb Karow, had passed away when she was only three years old. Rosa had worked at a dry goods and a jewelry story before their marriage.

In 1915 when automobiles were in their infancy, Henry, realizing the possibilities in the automotive field, decided to leave Cuero to attend an automotive school in Chicago. On the way Henry and Rosa stopped at New Braunfels, where Henry was offered a job as auto mechanic at the Stahl garage. When World War I broke out, Henry and Rosa returned to Cuero, moving their possessions by railroad. In Cuero Henry was offered a position as shop foreman for Cuero Buick Co., for whom he worked seven years.

Florine Elizabeth Henneke was born in Cuero on 26 Sept 1918.

In 1924 Henry and his brother Fred formed a partnership and opened an auto repair shop and filling station under the name of "Henneke Brothers." It was at their location at 202 S. Esplanade that they sponsored the original "Amos and Andy" for a promotional show. In 1931 they opened a second station at 302 S. Esplanade which became known as "Henneke Bros. #2." In 1933 a third location was opened on North Esplanade as "Henneke Bros. #3."

Harry Lee Henneke was born 18 Aug. 1931.

Two years later Henry sold his interests, dissolved the partnership, and opened, as sole owner, the "Hy. T. Henneke Auto Supply Station" at 302 N. Esplanade in the Pythian Lodge Building. In 1944 a second business was opened as 'Hy. T. Henneke Home and Auto Supplies" at 118 N. Esplanade. Rosa managed this store for 4 years until it was sold. Henry retired in 1957 after 50 years of being in active business in Cuero.

Henry and Rosa owned many automobiles through the years: a 4-cylinder Jackson, the small Monroe, a Dodge, a Star, a Chrysler, a Ford bought in Detroit, a 1957 Chevrolet plus several pickup trucks and tow trucks.

Henry and Rosa were active members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Henry was an active member of the Lutheran Brotherhood. Rosa was a charter member of the women of St. Mark's Lutheran, President of the Light Brigade (Junior Missionary Organization), and superintendent of the primary department of the Sunday School for many years. She was also a past president of the Woodmen Grove and a member of the Pythian sisters.

Henry was an active volunteer fireman. In his younger years, he participated in numerous competitions (manning the nozzle end) and helped fight the Buchel block fire where "even the water was so hot it burned your ankles through the boots."

In the early 1940's Henry purchased several ranches and raised crossbred and registered Hereford cattle. He worked to improve the quality of pasture land as well as the promotion of the pecan industry. He won numerous ribbons for his excellent pecans. He grafted many trees himself — climbing into high trees even when he was well past 70 years of age. He continued to work daily at the ranches until he was 85 years old.

Florine Henneke married Roscoe Robert Chaddock on 7 Sept 1935. They had one son, Michael Henry Chaddock, born on 30 July 1955, in Freer, Texas.

Harry Lee Henneke married Nadine Vernell "Dee" Rosenberg on 10 June 1955 in San Antonio. They have three children: Elizabeth Marie Henneke Wilson (born 17 May 1956), Mark Vincent Henneke (born 10 Aug 1957), and Teresa Elaine Henneke (born 26 Feb 1960).

Rosa Karow Henneke died in Cuero on 28 Dec 1973. Henry T. Henneke died in Cuero 12 Jan 1985. Both are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Harry and Dee Henneke

HERDER FAMILY

F409

First and Second Generation: Founder of the Herder farm in DeWitt County, Ida Ottilie (Arnim) Herder, seated at right; her son, Fritz William Herder, standing in back; Fritz's wife, Dora Edna (Pettit) Herder, seated at left. Picture was taken on south side of Fritz Herder home in June 1943.

First and Second Generations

In midsummer of 1884, Fritz Reinhardt Herder and Ida Ottilie Arnim left their home in High Hill, Texas (a community just a few miles northwest of Schulenburg) for new opportunities in DeWitt County. Fritz had moved to High Hill with his family in 1858 at the age of 11, and he and Ida had continued to make High Hill their home since their marriage on March 24, 1870. They had managed to make a good living through farming and were parents of six children: Emil August, Annie, Emma, Ida, Alma, and Frieda. However due to harsh living conditions, Ida and Alma succumbed to disease very early in life. On July 31, 1884, less than 10 months after Alma's death, Fritz and Ida purchased from J.P. Morris 428 acres of DeWitt County land along the waters of Big Brushy Creek. They built their home on a hill about 2 miles west of what would later become Yoakum, Texas. Fritz fenced off the land and began production of corn, small grains, and livestock. About half the land was used for cattle, which they branded with a V-bar, V. Approximately 1 year after the move, Ida gave birth to their seventh child, Fritz William. Seven months later, Fritz Reinhardt died of typhoid fever, leaving Ida Herder with five children ranging in age from 14 years to 7 months. She struggled virtually alone for many years trying to continue as best as she could the farm and ranch operations, while

raising and educating the five children. She was forced to sell most of the acreage to make ends meet, leaving 118 acres by 1912. Fritz William began working the farm with his mother in 1902, and took over complete operation a few years later. Ida continued to live on the farm for most of her remaining years. The Herder Family Tree begun by Fritz and Ida is shown below:

Fritz Reinhardt Herder b. 27 Jul 1847 d. 07 Mar 1886 (m. Ida Ottilie Arnim, 24 Mar 1870)

I. Emil August Herder b. 17 Jul 1871 d. 10 Apr 1933 (m. Louisa Vollintine, 1893)

II. Annie Herder b. 1872 d. 23 Jun 1955 (m. William Leist)

III. Ida Herder b. 19 Jun 1875 d. 04 Aug 1876

IV. Emma Herder b. Jun 1877 d. 17 Dec 1926 (m. William Quast, 1896)

V. Alma Herder b. 07 Oct 1880 d. 04 Oct 1883

VI. Frieda Herder b. 02 Jun 1883 d. 11 Jun 1974 (m. Adolph Jilek) (m. Ottiee Boenigk)

VII. Fritz William Herder b. 12 Aug 1885 d. 24 Jun 1955 (m. Dora Edna Pettit, 25 Oct 1985)

Children of Fritz Reinhardt Herder and Ida Ottilie Arnim

Emil August, the oldest, began his early career as a farmer, but later chose the life of a merchant. He and his wife, Louisa Vollintine, built a house on the western edge of the city of Yoakum. He was active in many business and civic organizations. Among his activities, he was manager of the R.C. Flick Mercantile, board member of the Yoakum Commercial Club, and director of the Retail Merchants Association. He also served as chairman of the finance committee for the 1913 South Texas Fair, and co-president of the 1914 Fair. Emil and Lou had no children.

Annie married William Leist, who purchased the southernmost 113 acres of the original 428-acre ranch on which to build their home. To this marriage came seven children: Lillie, Oscar, William, Fritz L., Ida, Annie, and Emmett. Annie and William made their livelihood from farming and ranching.

Emma married William Quast, and lived in Yoakum and Houston. They had five children: Olga, Emma, Hulda, William, and Eddie.

Frieda lived most of her life in Houston. She married Adolph Jilek, and had two sons: Arnim and Lloyd.

Fritz William Herder, the youngest of the children, attended Morris School near Yoakum and later Guadalupe Academy in Cuero, Texas. He had ambitions of studying to become a doctor. However, he chose to return to the farm in 1902, when his widowed mother needed help to work the land. He was the only child to remain with the homestead, buying out the other heirs in 1905 and 1912 to obtain the remaining 118 acres ranched by his mother. (In 1912 and 1929, a total of 1.5 acres was sold to DeWitt County for purposes of building a county road. This road was officially named "Herder Road" in 1986.) In 1905, Fritz married Dora Edna Pettit. She was the daughter of Frank Marian Pettit Sr., a cattle drover who made five cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail into the Kansas and Nebraska areas. Fritz and Dora managed a farm and ranch operation that produced cotton, corn, peanuts, feed grains, and Hereford cattle. They adopted the cattle brand F1-D, for "Fritz Herder and Dora". Although Fritz was a lifetime farmer and rancher, he also took an interest in various business and civic activities in and about the city of Yoakum. He joined his brother Emil in certain real estate investments, served as an election judge for Yoakum precinct 18 for 47 years, was a member of the board of directors for one of the Yoakum banks, and played a fiddle with a local group of musicians until the mid 1920's. He and Dora also actively supported the Yoakum Methodist Church. He was a good carpenter as well as a farmer, taking the lead in constructing most of the farm buildings including their 2-story home which still stands today. He was a very innovative person, preferring to try out new technologies as soon as they were available. For example, he was one of the first farmers in the area to use a Delco electric home lighting system in the 1920's, and he bought the first available new Ford tractor in DeWitt County after World War II.

Fritz and Dora had five children: Hazel Irene, Gertrude Evelyn, Ralph Fritz, Ruth Allyne, and Elliott Wayne. These children and their descendants constitute the continuance of the Herder family in DeWitt County. After Fritz's death in 1955, Dora remained on the farm only a few years before moving to the city of Yoakum, leaving operation of the farm to her oldest son, Ralph.

by Richard W. Herder

HERDER FAMILY

F410

Third Generation

The five children of Fritz William and Dora Edna Herder, as shown below constitute the third generation of Herders in DeWitt County.

VII. Fritz William Herder b. 12 Aug 1885 d. 24 June 1955 (m. Dora Edna Pettit, 25 Oct 1985)

A. Hazel Irene Herder b. 21 Dec 1906 d. (m. Walter Fred Becker, 03 Jul 1927) (m. William Walter Pettit, 04 Jun 1968) (m. George Harris, 14 Aug 1967)

B. Gertrude Evelyn Herder b. 04 Aug 1910 d. (m. R.K. Shafer, 04 May 1938)

C. Ralph Fritz Herder b. 02 Dec 1912 d. 19 Oct. 1986 (m. Waldine Sporrer Pettit, 06 Sep 1941)

D. Ruth Allyne Herder b. 01 Jul 1916 d. (m. Willie H.B. Staehr, 05 May 1937)

E. Elliott Wayne Herder b. 16 Jun 1923 d. (m. Shirley Erickson, 02 Jul 1946)

Children of Fritz William Herder and Dora Edna Pettit

Hazel Herder, the eldest, was educated in the Yoakum schools, graduating from Yoakum High School in 1924. She attended Southwest Texas State Teacher's College at San Marcos for two years, receiving a Permanent Teacher's Certificate. She taught school at South Mustang, Center, Hagan, and East Side Elementary schools in Yoakum. In 1927, she married Walter Becker, distributor for the Gulf Oil Co. Near the end of World War II, they moved to Galena Park, where she currently resides. To further her education, she attended the University of Houston, receiving a BS in Education in 1953, and a Master's in Education in 1956. She is a member of the Galena Park United Methodist Church, where she has been church librarian since 1953, Member of the Year for 1989, member of the United Methodist Women, and Sunday school teacher. Hazel was librarian in the Galena Park School District for 20 years, retiring in 1972. She continues to be very active in organizations including Daughters of the Republic of Texas, American Association of University Women, Church Women United, Kappa Delta Pi, and Order of the Eastern Star. Hazel and Walter Becker had two children: Kenneth and Dorene.

Gertrude graduated from Yoakum High School in 1927. She followed in her older sister's footsteps, attending Southwest Texas State Teacher's College at San Marcos for two years and receiving her Permanent Teacher's Certificate in 1929. She taught for 2 years at Center School near Yoakum. (During the 1929-

Children of Fritz William and Dora Edna Herder and their spouses, taken during Herder reunion at old Morris School in April 1983. Left to Right: George Harris, Hazel (Herder) Harris, Ruth (Herder) Staehr, Willie Staehr, Shirley (Erickson) Herder, Elliott Herder, Ralph Herder, Waldine (Pettit) Herder, R.K. Shafer, and Gertrude (Herder) Shafer.

1930 school year, she and her sister Hazel were both teachers at Center School.) Gertrude married R.K. Shafer in 1930, and soon afterwards moved to McQueeney, Texas, where she taught for 11 years. They later taught school in Geronimo for 5 years before moving to San Antonio. Although she only taught for 1 year in San Antonio, she stayed active raising a family and supporting various organizations such as the PTA, United Methodist Women, Band Boosters, Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and Delphian Club. When R.K. retired in the early 1970's, they moved back to McQueeney. Gertrude and R.K. had two children: Doris Ann and Katherine.

Ralph Fritz Herder was the only child of Fritz and Dora to remain in DeWitt County. After graduating from Yoakum High School in 1930, he attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos. Since the depression was in full swing, he was forced to work his way through school waiting tables during the school year, and working on his Dad's farm, at the Yoakum Gin, and at the tomato shed during the summers. Sometime during this period, he managed to find time for one of his favorite sports: baseball. He played ball at the Yoakum field near the SA&AP Railroad roundhouse with such notables as Dizzy Dean. After receiving a BS degree in 1936, he taught school in Denhawken, Texas and in Yoakum before entering the Army Air Corps flying school at Randolph Field, Texas. After graduating from the advanced flying school at Kelly Field, Texas in 1938, he was assigned to the 13th Attack Squadron at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. He went to Washington, D.C. in 1940 and served in the War Department General Staff, Military Intelligence Division G-2.

Ralph married Waldine Sporrer Pettit in Washington, D.C. on September 6, 1941. Waldine grew up in Karnes City, Texas, graduating from Karnes City High School in 1936. Prior to their marriage, she had completed studies at Santa Rosa School of Nursing in San Antonio, graduating as a Registered Nurse in 1939, followed by private duty and hospital nursing. They returned to Yoakum in 1945 at the end of World War II, building a house on the west side of town in 1946. In Yoakum, Ralph worked at the Post Office as a clerk, city carrier, and finally as rural carrier until he retired in 1975. Waldine worked as a lab technician at Richter Clinic from April 1963 until September 1979 when she retired. Ralph continued to enjoy baseball and other sports. Around 1950, he helped establish the South Central Texas Semi-Pro Baseball League. (For his sports, he was inducted into the league's Hall of Fame on March 16, 1980.) He also actively participated in local baseball and football games as an umpire or official during the years 1946 to 1966. In addition to these activities, he raised cattle for his mother and himself on the family ranch and on other land he had leased. Since his mother continued to use the FHD brand, Ralph adopted his grandfather's brand, the V. In 1966, Ralph and Waldine realized a long-lived dream and purchased his brother's and sisters' shares of the 118-acre ranch. They continued to raise grass crops and cattle until 1985, when failing health forced him to retire from active ranching. In 1984, Ralph and Waldine accepted the Texas Family Land Heritage Certificate from Commissioner Jim Hightower at the Capitol in Austin, Texas. The program honors properties which have maintained continuous agricultural production for 100 years or more by one family. Waldine continues to make her home in the house they built in 1946. Ralph and Waldine had two children: Mary Jean and Richard William.

Ruth graduated from Yoakum High School in 1933. She attended Baldwin's Business College in Yoakum, receiving a Secretarial and Accounting Certificate in 1935. She then worked for the Swift Packing Co. in Yoakum until 1937, when she married Willie H.B. (Herman Ben) Staehr. Willie worked at the Piggly Wiggly store for a brief time and then took a job with Morrow Hardware, where he learned to work with sheet metal. In 1941, Willie used his sheet metal experience to find work in San Antonio at what was then called Duncan Field. In 1942, Willie and Ruth chose to move to Tinker Field, which had just opened in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Willie started as a sheet metal supervisor, then moved to quality control. Ruth worked as a secretary for the Hoover Co. for 24 years. Ruth continues to live in Oklahoma City, while also enjoying a winter home in Zapata, Texas. Ruth and Willie had two children: LaNell and Doralyn.

Elliott Wayne, the youngest, graduated from Yoakum High School in 1941. Shortly thereafter he joined the Army Air Corps as an aircraft mechanic. Stationed in San Antonio during the war years, there came to be a demand for his services. For a period of time, he worked on aircraft during the day for the Air Corps and on motorcycles during a second shift for the Navy. After the war, he met and married Shirley Erickson. He and Shirley chose to make San Antonio their permanent home. They had four children: Wayne Robert, Bonnie Gail, Barbara Ann, and Frank William.

by Richard W. Herder

HERDER FAMILY

F411

Present owners of the 118-acre Herder ranch are Richard Herder, left, and Mary Jean (Herder) Martin, right, with their mother Waldine (Pettit) Herder in the center. Picture was taken in front of Mary Jean's home on Easter Sunday, 1989.

Fourth Generation and Beyond

All descendants of Fritz William and Dora Edna Herder are shown below:

VII. Fritz William Herder b. 12 Aug 1885 d. 24 Jun 1955 (m. Dora Edna Pettit, 25 Oct 1905)

A. Hazel Irene Herder b. 21 Dec 1906 d. (m. Walter Fred Becker, 03 Jul 1927) (m. William Walter Pettit, 04 Jun 1960) (m. George Harris, 14 Aug 1967). 1. Kenneth Robert Becker b. 30 Dec 1934 d. (m. Mariella Mooney, Jan 1957). a. Kenneth Ted Becker b. 10 Jan 1958 d. (m. Carolyn Daspit,) (1). Teddy Becker b. 26 Mar 1981 d. b. Walter Charles Becker b. 03 Nov 1959 d. (m. Cindy Lea Hill, 08 Jun 1989) c. Marilee Becker b. 09 Apr 1962 d. 2. Dorene Becker b. 06 Nov 1945 d. (m. Larry Wright Burns, 23 Dec 1965) a. Stacy Michelle Burns b. 04 Apr 1970 d. b. Shelly Christine Burns b. 01 Feb 1974 d. c. Travis Wright Burns b. 18 Nov 1980 d.

B. Gertrude Evelyn Herder b. 04 Aug 1910 d. (m. R.K. Shafer, 04 May 1930) 1. Doris Ann Shafer b. 09 Jan 1939 d. (m. Scott Harris, a. Gregory Harris b. 21 Jun 1963 d. (m. Jill Cleaver,) 2. Katherine Kyle Shafer b. 19 Jan 1948 d. (m. Richard Poling,) a. Matthew Poling b. 04 Jun 1968 d. b. David Poling b. 14 Sep 1970 d.

C. Ralph Fritz Herder b. 02 Dec 1912 d. 19 Oct 1986 (m. Waldine Sporrer Pettit, 06 Sep 1941) 1. Mary Jean Herder b. 09 Nov 1942 d. (m. Jerry Lynn Baldwin, 20 Apr 1963) (m. Gene Lesley Martin, 02 Nov 1968) a. William Bret Baldwin b. 12 Nov 1963 d. b. Gene Lesley Martin II b. 29 Nov 1970 d. c. Denise Michelle Martin b. 02 Aug 1974 d. 2. Richard William Herder b. 11 Oct 1948 d. (m. Rebecca Annaline Golden, 21 May 1971) a. Kirsta Leigh Herder b. 21 Oct 1977 d. b. Karen Claire Herder b. 23 Jul 1985 d. c. Liann Alise Herder b. 23 May 1987 d.

D. Ruth Allyne Herder b. 01 Jul 1916 d. (m. Willie H.B. Staehr, 05 May 1937) 1. LaNell Staehr b. 19 Feb 1938 d. (m. Russell Fredrick Osmond, 18 Nov 1961) a. Timothy William Osmond b. 12 Oct 1964 d. 2. Doralyn Annette Staehr b. 26 Jan 1941 d. (m. Phil Good, 04 Dec 1964) (m. Wilbur Warren Wheatley, 28 Jun 1969) a. Kimberly Ann Good b. 08 Jul 1965 d. (m. Bradley Wright Young, 07 Jun 1986)

E. Elliott Wayne Herder b. 16 Jun 1923 d. (m. Shirley Erickson, 02 Jul 1946) 1. Wayne Robert Herder b. 21 Jun 1951 d. (m. Carrie Craig,) 2. Bonnie Gail Herder b. 15 Mar 1953 d. (m. Patrick Caisse,)a. Lissa Caisse b. 20 Sep 1979 d. b. Sarah Lynn Caisse b. 22 Jan 1981 d. c. Scott Louise Caisse b. 07 May 1985 d. d. Paul Elliott Caisse b. 23 Oct 1987 d. 3. Barbara Ann Herder b. 21 Dec 1955 d. 4. Frank William Herder b. 17 Oct 1957 d.

Descendants of Fritz William Herder and Dora Edna Pettit

As noted in the *Herder Family History, Third Generation,* all but one of Fritz's and Dora's children eventually moved away from DeWitt County. As a result, most of their grandchildren were raised in other Texas counties and even out of state. This segment of the Herder Family History will include informa-

Grandchildren of Ralph and Waldine Herder; back row, left to right: Denise Martin, Waldine Herder, Bret Baldwin, and Gene L. Martin II; front row, left to right: Karen Herder, Kirsta Herder, and Liann Herder. Picture was taken in front of Martin home on Easter Sunday, 1989.

tion on only those descendants who lived some portion of their lives in DeWitt County.

Kenneth Becker was born in Yoakum and attended elementary school there. He graduated from Galena Park High School in 1953. In 1957, he received a BS Degree from the University of Oklahoma, and his Wings as Second Lieutenant from the Air Force ROTC. During his 20 years of service in the Air Force, his overseas duties were: 3 years in Vietnam, 2 years in Iran, and 1 year in Saudia Arabia. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1978. Kenneth married Mariella Mooney in 1957 in Oklahoma City. They had three children: Kenneth Ted, Walter Charles, and Marilee.

LaNell Staehr was born in Yoakum, but attended schools in Oklahoma City. She graduated from Central High School in 1956 and attended the University of Oklahoma for a brief time before entering the insurance field. She is a member of the Insurance Women Club of Oklahoma City, serving twice as president. She married Russell Osmond in 1961 and has one child: Timothy.

Doralyn Staehr was born in Yoakum just before Ruth and Willie moved to San Antonio. She attended schools in Oklahoma City, graduating from Northwest Chassen High School in 1959. She received a BS in Education from Central State University in 1963. She taught in Longmont, Colorado for 2 years, then 4 years in Pawnee, Oklahoma. She married Wilbur Wheatly in 1969 and moved to Augusta Kansas where she currently teaches. Doralyn has one child: Kimberly.

Mary Jean Herder was born in Washington, D.C. on November 9, 1942. She attended Yoakum schools, graduating from Yoakum High School in 1960. She received a BS degree in Education from Southwest Texas State College in 1963, and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Houston Victoria Center in 1979. Mary Jean is married to Gene Lesley Martin and resides in Victoria, Texas, where she is currently teaching fourth grade at Shields Elementary School. Gene, who is from Troup, Texas, is a teacher at Victoria High School and a part-time real estate broker. He is a former Victoria County Commissioner. They have three children: Bret, Gene II, and Denise.

Richard Herder was born in Yoakum, on October 11, 1948. He attended Yoakum schools, graduating from Yoakum High School in 1967. He received a BS Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971. Richard married Rebecca Annaline Golden in May 1971. Becky was also born and raised in Yoakum, attended Yoakum schools, and graduated from Yoakum High School in 1970. They reside in League City, Texas, where Richard works for Computer Sciences Corporation on a contract with Johnson Space Center. Richard and Becky have three children: Kirsta, Karen, and Liann.

The remaining 118-acres of the original 428 acres purchased by Fritz Reinhardt and Ida Herder are now jointly owned by Richard and Mary Jean. Under lease to a local rancher, this land continues to be a highly productive enterprise in DeWitt County.

by Richard W. Herder

CITY BLACKSMITH SHOP.
HENNEKE BROS., Props.
The best in our line. We ask your patronage on merit. Horseshoeing our specialty.

HESSE, E.C. FAMILY

F412

Edgar Cleveland Hesse, credited with taking the leading role in the pioneering of an organized turkey market in Cuero, was born in Galveston, Texas, on November 22, 1878, son of Fannie Richie and John Edgar Hesse, a longtime employee of the Mallory Steamship Line. He was educated at the Rosenberg School and Ball High School in Galveston, and the Daniel Baker College of Brownwood, Texas, which he attended on a scholarship. He was married on December 17, 1901 to Margaret Spence of Galveston, daughter of Mary Ann Topliffe and Nathaniel Ashton Spence, who operated a successful produce business in Galveston. E.C. and Margaret Hesse had two children, Algerita Alvarez Hesse, born in Brownwood on December 15, 1902, and Ashton Cleveland Hesse, born in Houston on June 10, 1906.

After leaving school and working with the Mallory Lines in Galveston, Hesse joined Edson Brothers, a cold storage business established in Houston in 1903. The Edson Brothers firm sent Hesse to Cuero in 1906 to establish an organized turkey market, as the district was one of the greatest turkey raising sections in the state.

For five years Hesse's efforts were directed toward building an Eastern and Northern market for DeWitt County and South Texas turkeys. He succeeded in making Cuero one of the greatest markets in the state. In 1910 the Cuero Packing Company was created and Hesse was elected Manager. At that time it was the only plant in Texas packing turkeys. The success of the Cuero operation led to the establishment of other plants in Yorktown, Brownwood and Lampasas, all incorporated under the name of Northern Produce Company.

At the height of its existence, the Cuero Packing Company annually shipped out as many as one-hundred-twenty-eight railroad cars of live turkeys to Eastern markets. In addition to turkeys, the packing plant also exported eggs to Cuba and Mexico.

In 1933, the plant was sold to Cudahy Packing Company of Chicago. Hesse resigned to go into business for himself, and opened a new plant, the Cuero Turkey Dressing Company. The pioneering efforts of E.C. Hesse established Cuero as the turkey marketing center of Texas.

When but a young man of twenty-two, E.C. Hesse narrowly escaped death in the hurricane of 1900, which devastated Galveston Island. His sister was visiting friends on the opposite end of the island and Hesse's father, sensing the severity of the impending storm, sent him by wagon to bring her home. When Hesse got there, his sister refused to leave because he had not come in the surry, and she was later found drowned. Hesse started back, but unable to reach home due to the rising water and high winds, he sought refuge in a church. When the church collapsed, he was literally washed out into the rapidly rising storm surge. He managed to grab hold of the Rosenberg Monument, a well known Galveston landmark, and clung there until the fury of the hurricane subsided early the next morning.

Galveston continued to play a pivotal role in the Hesse family history. Strangely enough, the next major hurricane to strike Galveston Island nearly caused Hesse to lose his wife and children. After having moved to Cuero with her husband, Margaret Spence Hesse returned to Galveston in 1915 with her two children to attend the wedding of her brother, Ramey Spence. Remaining in Cuero on business, E.C. Hesse heard radio reports of the impending Galveston storm and telephoned his wife, instructing her to leave the island immediately. Mrs. Hesse's father attempted to book them passage on the Inter-Urban, the only railroad link between Galveston and of the mainland, but all seats were taken, leaving the Hesse family with no escape.

As fate would have it, the train trestle collapsed in the storm that day and the inter-urban plunged into the bay with everyone on board. Margaret, Algerita and Ashton Hesse rode out the hurricane in 1915 in the Spence home in Galveston, and were finally rescued from the island by boat, all other access to the mainland having been destroyed.

The Hesse's daughter, Algerita A. Hesse, married Charles Eugene Davidson of Atlanta, Georgia, on December 26, 1923. They had one daughter, Sara Margaret, born October 10, 1924 in Victoria, Texas. On December 24, 1945, Sara Margaret married Paul Hamilton Breeden III who was born in Cuero on September 29, 1924. Their marriage produced three children, Paul Hamilton Breeden IV, born August 2, 1950 in San Antonio, Texas; Susan Margaret Breeden born October 31, 1953, and Charles Randal Breeden born August 18, 1960, both in Cuero.

On April 23, 1940, in Victoria, Texas. Ashton Hesse married Marjorie Jane Breeden of Cuero, who was born on October 14, 1915. Their four children, all born and reared in Cuero, are Nancy Ann Hesse, born July 13, 1942; Robert Cleveland Hesse, born February 24, 1946; Margaret Lynn Hesse, born September 2, 1948 and Sarah Jane Hesse, born March 5, 1950.

by Bob Hesse

HEYER, GEORGE AND KATHRYN ROSE (DIETZEL)

F413

George Heyer was born August 25, 1831 at 51 Untegasse St. in Kirchheim by Marburg, Hessen-Kassel, Germany. His parents were Johann Heinrich Heyer and Margaretha Prediger.

As a young man he came to this side and resided for a time in West Texas and Indianola, settling in Austin in 1852. In Austin his health was not good and he came to Victoria, Texas. While there he employed his profession of gunsmith and locksmith in which he was familiar with before leaving the old country.

On June 5, 1856, Indianola, Texas he took as his wife, Kathryn Rose Dietzel. Kathryn was born March 1, 1836 in Sachium Weimer, Germany. There is doubt with this writer as to the actual surname of Kathryn. It has been suggested that perhaps her mother was married twice. On Kathryn's marriage to George Heyer she is listed as Kathryn Dietzel but in the newspaper obituary upon her death, she was named as Kathryn Rose Heyer. The ship records say Kathryn came to Texas in 1845, age 9, with her parents, John Dietzel and Anna nee Seifert Dietzel.

George Heyer served in the Civil War under Captain Reuss, as a Private in Company B, 8th Regiment, Texas Infantry. George was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, both in Indinaola and Cuero, Texas.

Ten children were born to George and Kathryn but I have only found information on eight of these children.

1. Fannie Margrete (Feb. 20, 1858-July 28, 1909) married George Wasserman Feb. 17, 1880. George was born April 6, 1855 and died June 23, 1934. They had four children. Both are buried in Port Lavaca, Texas.

2. Georgie E. was born in 1863 and died May 11, 1936. She married first, Emil Westhoff, October 17, 1884. Her second marriage was to J.L. Boicourt. She is buried in Ft. Worth, Texas.

3. Henry Lewis was born September 13, 1865 and died August 7, 1921. In 1897 he married Sophie Louise Helena Gohmert (February 5, 1872-March 30, 1925). They had four children. They are both buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

4. Elizabeth (Betty) Marie was born March 4, 1868. She married Henry Kingsbury Hill (Aug. 21, 1857-Oct. 25, 1919) on August 19, 1888 in DeWitt County. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

5. Robert Fred was born October 30, 1871 and died June 7, 1935. He married Elnora "Nora" Margaret Nitsche (July 7, 1875-June 12, 1965). on December 28, 1896. They had seven children. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

6. Josephine was born October 11, 1873 and died February 20, 1929. She married Joseph Sheridan (August 10, 1871-January 26, 1955) on December 25, 1894. They had no issue but raised the daughter of her sister Katherine and Richard Gauhl after the death of Katherine. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

7. George B. was born November 28, 1876 and died on November 25, 1933. He never married. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

8. Katherine was born May 7, 1882 and died July 17, 1904. On November 18, 1902 she married Richard E. Gauhl who was born February 23, 1879. they had one daughter. Katherine is buried mext to her parents in Hillside Cemetery. Richard E. Gauhl is also buried in Hillside Cemetery next to his second wife, Alma Junker.

George Heyer died February 18, 1914 and Kathryn Rose Dietzel Heyer died March 11, 1904 in Cuero. They are buried in HIllside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Katherine J. Huntsman

HEYER, HAROLD DALE

F414

Harold D. Heyer was born December 28, 1922 in Cuero, Texas. He graduated from Cuero High School, also attended Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas and Texas A&I in Kingsville, Texas. While in Cuero High School he was a member of the first golf team in 1940, and in 1941, of the team that won State Championship. He served in the European Theater in World War II. He was employed with Conoco Oil Company and Texas Eastern Transmission Company for many years.

Following in the footsteps of the Heyer family through history, he has been active in government and civic functions of the community; serving on the original Hospital Planning Commission for the new hospital in 1969, serving on the Cuero City Council (1974-1977), serving as Commissioner for DeWitt County in Precinct No. 1 from 1977 until he retired on 12/31/1988. He was on the Board of Directors and Vice President of The Golden Crescent Planning Commission, a member of the Criminal Justice Planning Committee, a member of the Human Service Planning Committee and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Cuero Community Hospital (1989). He is also a member of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, a "Life" member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the American Legion, and of the Economic Development Committee. In 1989 he was awarded the "Business and Professional Award" by the DeWitt Conservation District.

His hobbies are photography, video and golf.

Harold married Georgie Lee Friedrichs, July 26, 1946 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas with Rev. A.A. Hahn officiating. To this union two children were born; Robert Dale Heyer born 9/20/1949 and Gary Wayne Heyer born 5/22/1954.

Robert, better known as "Bobby" married Dorothy Jane Jackson from Vega, Texas. They have one child, Chanin Dawn Heyer, who was born on January 11, 1971. Robert is currently manager of Brentex Mills located in Cuero, Texas and Dorothy is part of the office force at the Cuero Community Hospital.

Gary lives in Houston, Texas and is a conductor for Southern Pacific Railroad.

by Harold D. Heyer

Harold Heyer, Bert Cook, Rusche, Ted Reuss

HEYER, HENRY LEWIS

F415

Henry Lewis Heyer, born in 1865, was one of the eight children of George Heyer, Sr. and Kathrine Ross (or Russ), mentioned elsewhere in this book. He held a number of jobs in the community, but considered himself primarily a blacksmith. In 1895, he became the first fire chief of Cuero, and served in that capacity until 1910.

Henry Lewis Heyer

In 1897, Henry L. married Sophie Louisa Helena Gohmert, daughter of Wilhelm F. Gohmert and Sophie Galle Gohmert. Sophie L. was said to have been the first child brought to the new town of Cuero from Yorktown.

Henry and Sophie had three children: William Henry, who died at age sixteen months, Hildegarde Heyer, 1904, and Henry Thompson Heyer, 1908. Hildegarde taught school in Yorktown from 1927-1930, for a starting salary of $810.00 per year. She continued her teaching career in Halletsville from 1930-1958. Henry Thompson, named for a Dr. Thompson who delivered him, was a clerk/bookkeeper for several businesses in Cuero, including Cuero Ind. Schools until his death in 1967. He played trombone in the City Band that performed at the band stand near the fire station where his father had been chief.

Henry T. married Mary Eunice Sherrod in 1934, after a seven year courtship. Eunice served as secretary to the Superintendent of Schools for many years. They had two children: Sherrod Ann (Sherry) Heyer and Henry T. (Tom) Heyer, Jr. Sherry married Glenn C. Portis of Baytown, TX., on May 27, 1961, which was the 27th wedding anniversary of Henry

and Eunice. Sherry and Glenn are both teachers in the Cuero Ind. Schools. They have two sons: Stanley Wayne and Clifford Allen Portis.

Henry T. Heyer, Jr. (Tom) married Eileen Jay Marchant of Mercedes, TX. on April 30, 1966. After serving as a helicopter pilot in Viet Nam, he returned to Cuero to work at Gulf Coast Wood Products. They now live in Victoria and have three children: Laura Lee, Rhea Ann and Henry T. Heyer, III.

There have been five Henrys in this Heyer family: Henry Lewis (Heinrich) 1865-1921; William Henry (Schatze) 1902-1903; Henry Thompson (Heine) 1908-1967; Henry Thompson, Jr. (Tom) 1942-; Henry Thompson, III (Trey) 1975-.

by Sherry Portis

HEYER, ROBERT FRED JR.

F416

Robert F. Heyer, Jr.

Robert Fred Heyer, Jr. was born in Cuero, Texas, October 30, 1897, the first of seven children born to Robert Fred Sr. and Elnora (Nora) Nitsche Heyer. He was married August 18, 1918 to Hulda Karoline Markowsky, youngest daughter of Gustav A. and Louisa Rosener Markowsky. To this union two children were born; Harold Dale Heyer (12/28/1922 – —) and Evelyn Claire (Mrs. Ernest Meier) 10/4/1924 – —).

Robert, who was better known as "Bob", was employed by Freund Funeral Home in 1924 as funeral director and mortician. He later became manager of the business, for Mrs. Josie Freund, until his early death from tuberculosis, June 13, 1944. He was a member of the Catholic church and was very active in community affairs, serving as assistant Fire Chief, president of the Rotary Club, chairman of the City Park Board, member of the City Band and, despite the demanding duties as funeral director and time devoted to civic affairs, he made a great contribution to DeWitt County as chairman of the DeWitt County Red Cross drives, which were highly successful.

Robert's wife was born January 8, 1898 in Cuero, Texas and baptized Hulda Johanna Karoline Markowsky February 25, 1910, having been named for her sponsors, Karoline Fuhrmann, and Johanna Pieper. She was the youngest of five children born to Gustav A. and Louisa Rosener Markowsky. She grew up and attended school in Cuero and was a lifelong member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where she was baptized and confirmed.

Like all the young ladies of the early 1900's, Hulda learned to cook and sew and do embroidery and fine needle work of all kinds. She became a good seamstress and helped her friend, Mrs. Ethel Green, who was a seamstress, in her dressmaking business until her children were born.

Hulda was married to Robert F. Heyer, Jr., August 18, 1918 in the Catholic parsonage by Rev. Hendericks. Their attendants were Lawrence Taylor and Marguerite Heyer, sister of the groom. Two children were born to this union; Harold Dale Heyer (1922) and Evelyn Claire (Mrs. Ernest Meier) (1924).

In 1928 they moved into their new home at 408 Terry St., Cuero, Texas, where the family lived for 36 years. After Mr. Heyer's death in 1944, Hulda's daughter, Evelyn Meier, and husband moved into the house, living there until 1964. When Mr. Meier was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas, by his employer, the house was sold and Mrs. Heyer moved into an apartment. At this time she was employed by the Rialto Theatre, where she worked for about 20 years.

Hulda Markowsky Heyer died December 6, 1976 and was buried in Hillside cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Evelyn C. Meier

HEYER, ROBERT FRED, SR.

F417

Robert F. Heyer, Sr.

Robert Fred Heyer, Sr., was born in Indianola, Texas, December 28, 1871, the fifth child of George and Katherine Rose Heyer. He moved to Cuero, Texas with his family after the 1886 storm at Indianola. Mr. Heyer was known as "Chief" Heyer since he had been in the Cuero Volunteer Fire Service and was head of the Cuero Fire Dept. for 33 years, and president of the State Firemen's Association in 1924. He was instrumental in securing the convention to be held in Cuero in 1919. He served as City secretary for 25 years and for 35 years was associated with Runge & Co. as a plumber.

Robert and Elenora (Nora) Nitsche were married 12/28/1896. To this union seven children were born: Robert F. Jr. (10/30/1897 – 6/13/1944) married Hulda K. Karkowsky (1/8/1898 – 12/6/1976) on 8/18/1918, Joseph Nitsche Heyer (8/21/1898 – 9/18/1950) married Verna York in 1919, Marguerite Heyer (7/25/1901 – 10/13/1972) married Edwin ("Ed") Mueller in 1918, Annie (Dolly) Heyer (1/28/1905) married Seldon S. Eggleston on 4/2/1923, Lawrence W. Heyer (3/12/1909 – 3/6/1953) married Bernice Dreyer on 10/4/1937, Walter J. ("Buddy") Heyer (5/21/1912 – 1986), and Charles Heyer (9/1916 – 1969) married June Strain.

"Chief" Heyer died on June 7, 1935. His casket was taken to Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas on a fire truck with Rev. Felger of Victoria, Texas, Chaplain of the State Firemen's Association, and Rev. John Kern (Lutheran minister) officiating the services.

Elnora (Nora) Nitsche (7/7/1875 – 7/12/1965), wife of Robert Fred Heyer, Sr., was born in Cuero, Texas, the first of six children of Herman and Annie Sitterlie Nitsche. Her father was born in Rounsbach, Rhine Germany in 1843 and came to Cuero in 1873. He served in the Civil War. He was a barber by trade. He died 10/10/1889 and was buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas. Her mother was born in Victoria, Texas in 1854 and died on 1/28/1905. She was buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

Nora went to the Nazereth Academy in Victoria, Texas, boarding with the Nuns. She was a life-long member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and for many years a member of the church choir. She was also an accomplished musician. She married Robert Fred Heyer, Sr., December 28, 1896.

Elnora Nitsche Heyer died June 12, 1965, just 24 days before her 90th birthday.

by Evelyn Meier

HIGH, HAROLD R., M.D.

F418

Harold Rutledge High, M.D. was born in Canton, Texas, on May 20, 1924. His father Bonnie Dillard High, and mother Lilla Quinlen High are both buried in the Haven of Memories Cemetery in Canton, TX, Van Zandt County. Harold had no brothers or sisters. Even as a small child he was interested in medicine and decided at an early age that he wanted to become a doctor. Paula Jane Grubb was born in Mesquite, TX, Dallas County. Her father was Stanley Grubb who is buried in Houston, Texas, in the Forest Park Cemetery on Westheimer. Her mother was Eunice Vineyard Grubb who is buried in the Haven of Memories Cemetery in Canton, TX.

Harold High attended public schools in Can-

L-R: Ace High, Karen (Cantley) High, Elizabeth High, Dr. Harold High, Paula (Grubb) High and Karon High, 1984.

Rutledge High, 1989.

ton, TX. He attended North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington). His education there was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II, and he entered the service early in 1943. He served in the United States Army Air Force as a pilot — flying B-17s and B-29s — and was honorably discharged after the war in 1945. After his tenure in the Air Force, he entered Baylor University in Waco, TX. and later received his bachelor of science degree. In 1950 he entered the University of Texas Medical Branch, and received his Doctor of Medicine degree in June of 1954. While attending medical school Harold was a member of Phi Rho Sigma Fraternity, and served as rush captain and president of the fraternity.

Paula Grubbs High attended Mesquite schools and was an honor graduate of the class of 1941. She then attended the University of Texas in Austin, and received her bachelor of business administration from the university in 1945. She is a member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority.

Harold and Paula met in Canton when she was "the girl next door" while they were both attending college. They dated for some five years, and after the war ended and they had both graduated from their respective college, they were married in Canton, TX. on December 7, 1947 in the First Baptist Church. After their marriage, Harold and Paula moved to Houston, Texas, where Harold worked as a research chemist for Shell Oil Company. Paula went to work as secretary to the corporate secretary, W. Duke Walser at Tennessee Gas Transmission Company (now Tenneco). She later was executive secretary to H. Gardiner Symonds, president and founder of the company. She was elected an assistant secretary of Tennessee Gas Transmission Company, and thereby was the first female officer of the company.

In 1950 Harold and Paula moved to Galveston, TX, where Harold attended medical school. Paula continued working for Tennessee Gas in Houston during the following four years, and commuted daily from Galveston to Houston — quite a task in those days! After graduation from medical school, the Highs moved to Fort Worth, TX, where Dr. High served his internship at the City County Hospital (now John Peter Smith Hospital). His salary there was $25.00 per month. During his year of internship Harold and Paul were faced with the decision of where they wanted to begin the medical career. Since they both had been reared in a small town and since Dr. High was very interested in family practice, they hoped to be able to bring up their family in a small town — the decision was finally made and the place was to be Cuero, TX. During the last month of his residency in Fort Worth, Dr. High was stricken with the dread disease polio and the future of the family became very questionable for the young couple who had adopted a baby girl, Karon High, born February 13, 1955. By the grace of God, Dr. High survived his bout with polio, and had no lasting effects from the disease. Nonetheless, their arrival date in Cuero was delayed by about three months, but in October of 1955 they moved to Cuero to begin his practice. His first office was established in a white frame house, owned by Marion Leonardt, where the Wineinger Optical Clinic now stands. He practiced there for about two and a half years, and built his own clinic in 1957 at 615 North Esplanade, and the clinic has had three additions since that time. (See business history)

Daughter Karon was graduated from Cuero High School in 1973 — she was in the National Honor Society, and had many honors in the high school choir, and was the Cuero band drum major. She then went to Baylor University, where she received her bachelor of fine arts degree. She is now employed by American Airlines in Dallas.

In 1959 the High family added another member, with the adoption of a son, Harold Rutledge High II, born June 29, 1959. He was promptly dubbed "Ace" by sister Karon who stated that that was the highest card in a deck! Ace was graduated from Cuero High School in 1977, an all district member of the Gobbler football team, and had honors in the high school choir. He attended SWST in San Marcos, and attended and was graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio in 1984, and was honored as the 10,000th graduate of that institution. He received a bachelor of business administration in finance. In May, 1982 Ace married Karen Cantley High and they have two children: Elizabeth Renice High was born in the Cuero Community Hospital on October 16, 1983; the attending physician was her grandfather, Dr. Harold High. Dr. High also delivered his grandson, Harold Rutledge High, III in the Cuero Community Hospital. Rutledge was born on October 22, 1986. Ace is employed as an assistant vice president of the Farmers State Bank and Trust Company in Cuero, and wife Karen teaches third grade at Hunt Elementary School. Dr. and Mrs. High built their home at 1012 North Hunt St. in Cuero, and Ace and Karen are in the final stages of completing their home as of this writing.

Dr. High and Paula have both taken active roles in the medical profession and in their community. Dr. High is an active member of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians and past president of that organization, and also served as program chairman and treasurer. He

is a lifetime member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and is a charter diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice, which was recognized in February, 1969 as the 20th primary medical specialty. This medical specialty requires recertification every seven years, and Dr. High has just been recertified as of this writing. Dr. High served as a Texas delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians, and is now serving on the Texas delegation to the American Medical Association; he is a member of the board of trustees of the Texas Medical Association and is a member of the executive committee of that board. In the community he has held offices and been active with the Camp Fire Girls organization, Gulf Bend Center for Mental Health, co-president of the Parent-Teachers Association in the school, medical examiner for the Selective Service, officer in the Cuero Industrial Foundation, director of Buchel Bank and Trust Company, trustee for 15 years with the Cuero Independent School District, City Health Officer, County Health Officer, director of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Sunday school teacher with First Baptist Church. In 1967 Dr. High was named the sultan of the Cuero Turkey Trot which is a single honor. He is a recipient of the Rotary Club 4-Way Award, and in 1983 received the community service award from the Cuero Chamber of Commerce.

Paula has been active with the Camp Fire Girls organization, as a director and president, co-president of the Parent-Teachers Association in the elementary school, president of the Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary, also served on the landscape committee, member of the Hawthorne Club, University Club, co-chairman of the business office for the 1972 Turkey Trot (Centennial), co-chairman of the 1967 Turkey Trot Junior Coronation, board of directors of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and agriculture, social chairman and on board of directors of the Cuero Country Club, board member of the Gulf Bend Center for Mental Health. In 1981 Paula organized the auxiliary for the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, and was elected to two consecutive terms as president.

by Mrs. Harold High

HILL, AMOS ADAMS AND ALICE AMANDA (WHITE)

F419

Amos Adams Hill was a direct descendant of Peter Hill who arrived in America about 1632, aboard the ship Huntress, that sailed from Plymouth, England.

Amos Adams Hill was born in Conway, Carroll County, New Hampshire on June 27, 1802. His parents were Henry Hill and Anna Harriman.

Amos Adams went to sea when quite young. While in Canada in about 1826/1827, he married Alice Amanda White. Alice Amanda was born November 26, 1808 in Canada.

To this union were born five children, three of whom reached adulthood. Amanda Melissa, the first born, was born in Canada on February 8, 1828. She married a Mr. Rice and died sometime after 1897 in San Francisco, California.

Henry Felix White Hill was the second child of Amos and Alice. He was born in Canada, November 30, 1829. He married Susan Seamour Garey in DeWitt County, Texas. Susan came to Texas with her parents in 1839. (See Hill, Henry Felix White and Susan Seamour Garey).

In the early 1830's, Amos and Alice were residing in Massachusetts. Their third child, George Nelson was born December 20, 1832 in Massachusetts. He died there on August 16, 1833. The fourth child was also born and died in Massachusetts. He was John Prentiss, born December 26, 1835 and died October 12, 1839.

While still in Massachusetts, their fifth child was born. She was named Maria Delano, born June 27, 1841.

Amos and Alice arrived in DeWitt County about 1845. On June 27, 1861 Marian Delano married William Cherry. Maria Delano Hill Cherry died January 19, 1866. Her daughter, Alice Clementine, lived with her grandmother, Alice Hill, after her mother's death. It is not known at this time, what happened thereafter to William Cherry, or his daughter, Alice Clementine.

Amos Adams Hill was a saddler by trade. After his arrival in Texas, he had his first Saddle Shop in the vicinity of Cameron, DeWitt County, Texas. He also served as a J.P. in this county.

Amos Adams was also a very active member of the Hebron Baptist Church and served as a Deacon.

Amos Adams Hill died May 10, 1868 and Alice died January 11, 1872. They are both buried in unmarked graves in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Katherine J. Huntsman

HILL, HENRY FELIX WHITE AND SUSAN SEAMOUR (GAREY)

F420

Henry Felix White Hill was born November 30, 1829 in Canada. He was the second child of Amos Adams Hill and Alice Amanda White. He was a seaman and traveled to many distant ports before settling in DeWitt County with his parents in about 1847.

On June 20, 1852 in Clinton, Texas he married Susan Seamour Garey, born July 15, 1835 in Ohio. Her parents were Seamour Garey and Anna Kingsbury. Henry Felix White Hill was elected Mayor of Cuero in April of 1882 and held that office by constant re-election until 1894. In 1889 he was elected J.P. and continued to hold that office until his death. Henry was a saddler by trade before becoming Mayor of Cuero. He owned two farms on Brushy Creek before moving into Cuero. Henry Felix White Hill died July 29, 1895 at 8:00 p.m. at his home in Cuero. His funeral was held at 5 p.m. on July 30, 1895. The Reverend A.H.P. McCurdy conducted the funeral services and the Fire Department served as escorts. He was buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Susan Seamour (Garey) Hill died February 29, 1908. She was buried March 1, 1908 beside Henry in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. In 1839 Seamour Garey, father of Susan Hill, was granted 640 acres near Clinton, Texas.

Henry and Susan Hill were the parents of seven children: Annie Amanda was born July 27, 1853. She married George Leander Alexander on October 28, 1868. They had 15 children. Annie died February 2, 1930 and George died February 26, 1911. They are buried in the Alexander Cemetery at Stratton, Texas.

The second child was Amos Prentiss, born December 21, 1854. He married Mrs. Martha Jane (Lee) Carr on August 28, 1875. Martha was born October 25, 1852 in Mississippi. Amos and Martha had three children. They are buried in the Hebron Cemetery located by the Hebron Baptist Church. Amos died October 19, 1939 and Martha died June 20, 1937.

The third child born to Henry and Susan Hill was Henry Kingsbury. Henry was born August 21, 1857 in DeWitt County. (See Hill, Henry Kingsbury and Elizabeth Marie Heyer History).

The fourth child was Rosaline who was born on January 6, 1859. She married Joaquin Casal on September 21, 1879. Joaquin was born in Spain November 11, 1839. Rosaline and Joaquin had eight children. Rosaline died June 6, 1939 and Joaquin died April 28, 1913. They are buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

The fifth child was Susan Delano, born March 26, 1861 and died September 25, 1866. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Cuero area.

The sixth child of Henry and Susan Hill was Emma Francis, born August 26, 1864. She married John Henry Clayton on December 22, 1880. Emma Francis died November 26, 1955 in Kerrville, Texas and is buried there. John Henry died December 17, 1927. They had 2 children.

The seventh child was Harriet Nellie, born March 9, 1869. She married, on August 9, 1885, Samuel Marie, born October 30, 1864. They had nine children. Harriet Nellie died May 17, 1932 and Samuel died February 13, 1933. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Katherine J. Huntsman

HILL, HENRY KINGSBURY AND ELIZABETH MARIE (HEYER)

F421

Henry Kingsbury was the third child of Henry Felix White Hill and Susan Seamour Garey. He was born August 21, 1857 in DeWitt County, Texas. On August 19, 1888 he took for his bride, Elizabeth Marie Heyer. They were married in DeWitt County.

Elizabeth Marie Heyer was born on March 4, 1868 in Indianola, Calhoun County, Texas. She was the daughter of George Heyer and Kathryn Rose, who were both born in Germany. George Heyer moved his family to DeWitt County after the 1886 storm in Indianola. A newspaper clipping states, "Mrs. E. Westhoff and child, Mrs. Heyer and daughters, Misses Bettie and Josephine, Katie and Master George Heyer, and Miss Annie Westhoff were carried across the bayou clinging to pieces of debris. The infant child of Mrs. Westhoff was

pulled under the waters three times but each time was saved from drowning by her mother."

Henry and Elizabeth had five children. The first child was Florence Elizabeth, born June 10, 1889 in Yoakum, Texas. She married first, Elmo Dunn Green, on June 10, 1906. He was born January 13, 1882 in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas. To this union four children were born. Florence and Elmo Green divorced and she married Oscar Fredrick Swanson on June 20, 1927. There were no children born to this union. Florence Elizabeth died June 27, 1952 and Oscar died June 9, 1936. They are buried in Victoria, Texas.

The second child was Claude Henry. He was born in Rockport, Texas on January 23, 1892. On December 24, 1916 in Waxahachie, Texas he married Mittie Juanita Ralston, born July 12, 1899. They had seven children. Claude Henry died on November 19, 1953 and Mittie Juanita died July 29, 1978. Both are buried in Victoria, Texas.

The third child was Katherine Susan. She was born February 14, 1900 on the property of the CPL Dam just outside Cuero. (See Hill, Katherine Susan and Hubert Adam Pasley).

The fourth child was Elizabeth May or "Dimples" as she was affectionately called. "Dimples" was born September 9, 1904. On September 5, 1928 she married Alvin Thomas Hill (no relation). There were no children born to this union. Elizabeth died August 25, 1979 and Alvin died April 25, 1966. They are buried in Memory Gardens in Victoria, Texas.

The fifth child of Henry and Elizabeth was Fannie Josephine, born July 16, 1909 in Vanderbilt, Texas. She married Walter Henry McMullin in Victoria, Texas. To this union two children were born. Walter Henry McMullin was born April 16, 1912. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria, Texas.

Henry Kingsbury helped in the construction of the CPL Dam, owned by Otto Buchel, in DeWitt County and also worked for the railroad. He died in Waxahachie, Texas on October 25, 1919 and was brought back to Cuero for burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Before Elizabeth Heyer married Henry Kingsbury Hill, she and one of her brothers had a dancing school in Indianola, Texas. Elizabeth Marie Heyer Hill died in Victoria, Texas and is buried in Hillside Cemetery beside Henry Kingsbury. She died June 4, 1947 in Victoria, Texas.

by Katherine J. Huntsman

HILL, KATHERINE SUSAN AND HUBERT ADAM PASLEY

F422

Katherine Susan was the third child of Henry Kingsbury Hill and Elizabeth Marie Heyer. She was born February 14, 1900 on the property of the CPL Dam just outside of Cuero. While living in Waxahachie, Texas with her parents, she married Hubert Adam Pasley on June 2, 1918. To this union two daughters were born.

The first born to Hubert and Katherine in Waxahachie, was LaVerne A., b. 23 Nov 1918 who married first, Carlos Bartlett Bell on June 23, 1941 in Cuero, Texas, the son of John Y. Bell and Gertrude Grunder. To this union was born Katherine Joan, December 8, 1942 in DeWitt County. She married Michael John Gerdis on May 16, 1962. At this writing, they are presently residing in Cypress, California with their four children: Rebecca, John, Paul & Elizabeth.

Carlos Bartlett Bell died in May 1943. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero. On March 29, 1946, LaVerne married Albert Crockett Barnes, the son of R.L. Barnes and Katie Thigpen of Cheapside, Texas. To this union was born a son, Albert Crockett Barnes, Jr. on June 25, 1951. "Bub" now resides in Cheapside with his wife, Janice Kay Lord, born November 26, 1959. They married August 30, 1986 and have a daughter, Amanda Katie, born October 1, 1988. Albert Crockett Barnes, Sr. died April 16, 1989 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery. LaVerne A. Pasley Barnes resides in Cuero.

The second daughter of Katherine and Hubert was born July 18, 1923 in Waxahachie, Texas. She was named Annie Marie. Marie married first, Thomas Jefferson Jones on May 1, 1943 in Victoria, Texas. To this union were born five children. The first, Katherine Margaret, was born January 31, 1944 in Victoria, Texas. She married Raymond Leland Huntsman on February 27, 1965 in Knox City, Knox County, Texas. They have 2 adopted children and reside in Houston, Texas.

The second child of Marie and Tommy was Thomas Michael who was born and died August 26, 1946 in Victoria, Texas.

The third child of Tommy and Marie was Patricia, born September 16, 1947 in Victoria, Texas. Pat is divorced and lives in Houston, Texas with her son. The fourth child born to Marie and Tommy was Charles Michael, born September 10, 1949. He is married and lives in Kemah, Texas with his wife and three children. The fifth child born was Richard Paul, born February 8, 1951 in Victoria, Texas. He is married and lives with his wife and two children in Dayton, Texas.

Marie and Tommy were divorced in 1971 and Tommy now resides in Dayton, Texas. Marie married second, Harold Lloyd "Tiny" Miller on February 13, 1971. Tiny died July 23, 1987. Marie resides in Houston, Texas.

Katherine Susan divorced Hubert Adam Pasley in 1931. She married second, Fred D. Patterson on December 12, 1934. To this union were born two children. The first was Fredalene Lee, b. Victoria, April 26, 1936. Fredalene had three children from her first marriage. Her second marriage to Barney Lloyd Fuller, Jr. took place May 3, 1975. From previous marriages they have a total of eight children. They reside in New Johnsonville, Tennessee.

The second child of Katherine and Fred was James Henry, born August 23, 1937 in same house where his mother was born in 1900. He married Marge Roberts and they reside in Maitland, Florida with their four children.

Katherine Susan and Fred Patterson were residing in Cuero, in the same house where Susan was born, at the CPL Dam property outside Cuero, at the time of her death, March 22, 1940. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery next to her parents.

by Katherine J. Huntsman

H. J. HUCK & CO.

HILLER, FELIX

F423

Felix and Bertha Hiller 1923

Felix Hiller, second child and oldest son of Fritz and Pauline Hiller and grandson of Friedrich and Anna Martha Hiller (see histories) was born July 3, 1899 in DeWitt County. He was baptized Felix George Friedrich at St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church at Meyersville. He attended school at Green DeWitt.

In 1915 Felix went to Automobile Mechanics School in Kansas City, MO. After completing school, he returned to Cuero and worked with an electrician before opening a mechanic shop with the Rath Brothers. In early 1923 Felix moved to Graham, Texas as Ford mechanic shop foreman for LeSage Ford Agency.

On April 24, 1923 Felix married Bertha Elenora Koenig, eleventh child and sixth daughter of Louis and Mary Golly Koenig (see history) in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero. Bertha was born Sept. 24, 1898 in DeWitt County; died April 7, 1981; is buried at Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. Felix and Bertha had four children: Pauline Marie, Kathleen Agnes, Anna Lea and Francis Kenneth "Bubba."

In 1928 after the birth of their third daughter in Graham, Felix moved his family back to Cuero to take over his father's land and cattle interests. At that time he began working for Gulf Oil Company, first operating a Service Station on East Main and then on South Railroad and Esplanade. He retired from Gulf Oil in 1965. During the 30's until 1942, Felix also sold Plymouth and DeSoto cars. Felix continued ranching on the Guadalupe river land purchased by his grandfather Friedrich in 1898. Today this river land is recognized by the Texas Land Heritage Registry for 100 years of continuous family ownership and operation.

Felix and Bertha Hiller were lifelong members of St. Michael's Catholic Church, active in church organizations and particularly supportive of St. Michael's School. Bertha attended high school at St. Michael's, and the daughters of Felix and Bertha as well as their grandchildren and great grandchildren who lived in the Cuero vicinity all attended St. Michael's School.

Felix and Bertha Hiller had great pride in their families and their German heritages, and a unique closeness to their parents, brothers and sisters. Their special care for the welfare and future of their son, Bubba, born with cerebral palsy, reflects their love and dedication to family. Their legacy is one of traditional

German customs passed down, values learned, strong faith with cherished memories and a strong family commitment.

The children of Felix and Bertha Hiller with each of their families are:

1) Pauline Marie, born March 26, 1924, married Eugene Francis Kacir Nov. 22, 1945: children:

a) Eugene Francis, Jr., born Sept. 21, 1946, married Marjorie Watson Sept. 2, 1970: children: Joseph Eugene, born Oct. 10, 1976; Daniel Felix, born Jan. 14, 1981; Lucinda Margaret, born Jan. 17, 1985.

b) Michael Edward, born Feb. 3, 1948, married Helga Karl July 3, 1976.

c) Kenneth Alan, born Jan. 10, 1951, married Helga Kecht Jan. 27, 1985.

d) Gary David, born March 4, 1952; children: Courtney Lynne, born July 4, 1975; Kathleen Anne, born June 21, 1979.

e) Thomas Paul, born Oct. 30, 1954, married Jane Carlton Nov. 22, 1979.

f) Karen Sue, born July 20, 1959.

2) Kathleen Agnes, born July 6, 1925, married Cletus Philip Ernster June 15, 1944: children:

a) Cletus Philip, Jr., born Aug. 12, 1946, married Sherre Cantwell June 24, 1967: Children: Cletus Philip III, born 20, 1968; Sharleen Lynn, born April 12, 1970.

b) Timothy Wayne, born Oct. 16, 1948.

d) Sharon Marie, born April 20, 1950.

3) Anna Lea, born Aug. 12, 1927, married Walter Ray Tinney Feb. 19, 1950: children:

a) Deborah Jean, born Jan. 30, 1951, married Ray Critis Aug. 24, 1981: children: Abigail Tinney, born Sept. 19, 1984; Sarah Tinney, born April 18, 1989.

b) Paula Louise, born Nov. 11, 1952, married Michael Soukup Nov. 8, 1975: children: Nadia Anastasia, born Feb. 12, 1980; Ian Michael, born Jan. 16, 1982; Nathan Paul, born May 2, 1988.

c) Lea Ann, born July 19, 1958.

4) Francis Kenneth (Bubba), born Feb. 4, 1933.

Felix Hiller died Sept. 24, 1982; is buried at Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

by Pauline Kacir

HILLER, FRIEDRICH

F424

A pioneer settler of DeWitt County, Friedrich Hiller came to America in 1852 from Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany. He arrived at Indianola on June 2nd with his stepfather Johann Martin Rath, his half-brothers Johann Peter Rath and Johann Hermann, his half-sister Heinrike Rath, and his brother Johann Michael Hiller.

Friedrich was born in Dettingen/Erms on April 21, 1836, son of Johann Adam Hiller and Rosina Catherina Linder Hermann. He was baptized Georg Friedrich in the Lutheran Church of Dettingen/Erms where records of his ancestry are located.

On Nov. 25, 1857 Friedrich purchased his first land in DeWitt County, 240 acres on the southwest side of the 12-mile Coleto Creek, adding 75.5 acres in 1884. There on this virgin land, he built a one-room log cabin with grass roof and dirt floor as his home, and hand dug a well to supplement water from the creek. He cleared enough of the land to plant crops,

C. 1904, Sophie (Hiller) Junker, Friedrich Hiller and Fritz Junker.

particularly onions and potatoes, which he took by wagon to San Antonio to sell; the trip, according to family history, taking two weeks. On Feb. 6, 1860 Friedrich registered his first cattle brand. He raised cattle and horses on this land with its tall grasses and abundant oak trees.

Freidrich was a very religious man and became one of the first parishioners of St. John's Evangelical Church at Meyersville. On June 13, 1859 he signed the revised constitution of the first church. On Feb. 19, 1860 Friedrich married Anna Martha Heckmann in St. John's. Anna Martha had come to America in 1859 from Heina, Hessen, Kassel, Germany with her sisters Dorothea and Annie Elizabeth. Anna Martha died Nov. 27, 1884. She is buried at St. John's Cemetery.

Friedrich joined the Coleto Creek Guards on Feb. 15, 1858. This was a Texas Militia unit with headquarters at Meyersville organized by Robert Kleberg to repel invasion by the Karankawa and Tonkawa Indians who frequented the land.

On July 12, 1862 Friedrich enlisted at Indianola in the Confederate Army. He served with Co. B, 8 Regiment Texas Infantry stationed at Battery Green, Defenses of Galveston until the regiment was ordered discharged May 22, 1865.

Friedrich and Anna Martha had six children: Anna Margarethe Kathrine, born March 16, 1861, died Feb. 9, 1863; Dorothea Heinricke, born July 10, 1862, died July 8, 1869; Friedericka Sophie, born Jan. 25, 1868, married Fritz Junker Feb. 6, 1894, died May 1, 1939; Johann Adam Friedrich (Fritz), born April 17, 1870 (see Fritz Hiller history), married Maria Paulina Semmler Jan. 21, 1897, died May 26, 1930; Michael Heinrich Julius, born July 24, 1872, married Amelia Arnecke May 30, 1895, died March 4, 1939; Amalie Elizabeth Kathrine, born May 8, 1874, married Otto Schultz Jan. 30, 1901, died July 27, 1952.

On Jan. 7, 1889 Friedrich purchased 214 acres of land, and 10 acres adjoining in 1891, on the southwest bank of the Guadalupe River, some 25 miles northeast of the 315.5 acres he owned on the Coleto. He built a home and barns on this river land and moved there with his children. He farmed and raised cattle with his family. In the winter they drove their cattle by horseback the 25 miles from the Coleto land to winter on the river bottom land. In 1989 the Friedrich Hiller descendants operating this Guadalupe River land were recognized by the Texas Land Heritage Registry for more than 100 years of continuous family ownership and operation.

Friedrich Hiller became an American citizen on July 11, 1891.

Friedrich Hiller instilled in his children the customs and traditions of his native Germany as well as their close family relationships. His special love of the land has been passed down through the generations. His strong faith was evident all his life as he remained a devoted member of St. John's. All his children were baptized and confirmed at St. John's. After Friedrich moved to the river land, he drove every Sunday by buggy from his home there to St. John's to attend services and visit with longtime friends. They are remembered gathering early on the benches outside the church to socialize and speak together in their native German.

Friedrich Hiller died Jan. 8, 1915. He is buried at St. John's, Meyersville.

by Pauline Kacir

HILLER, GEORGE FRIEDRICH AND WILHEMINE HENRIETTA SCHORLEMER

F425

George Friedrich Hiller was born December 21, 1846 and died May 15, 1923. He married Wilhemine Henrietta Schorlemer. She was born January 14, 1849 and died February 26, 1935. Their children are listed as follows:

Henry, born April 28, 1876 – died March 2, 1961. Bachelor

Alfred, married Caroline Arnecke. They had four children. Milton, Estella (Mrs. Edgar Atzenhoffer), Nina, Fred.

Natalia, born April 6, 1893 died August 12, 1972. Spinster

Sophie, born September 10, 1874 died November 30, 1912. Spinster

Philippine, born March 30, 1878 baptized June 9, 1878, confirmed April 30, 1892. She married Otto C. Wolf December 30, 1902. They had one child Werner F. Wolf. She died June 30, 1953.

Alfreda, married Alfred Poehler. They had two daughters. Wilhelmine Poehler Hutchinson and Evelyn Poehler Crawford.

Julia, married Charles Hennecke. Four children were born. William, Althea (Mrs. Ted Borgfield), Helen (Mrs. Hillmer Bartling) and Esther.

Carolina A.

Mina, Spinster

Ernst, married Emma Ideus (second wife), nephew, Werner Wolf, was witness. Author of

this article apologies for not having more pertinent information on family.

by Ritz Fitzgerald

HILLER, J.A.F. (FRITZ)
F426

Johann Adam Friedrich (Fritz) Hiller, oldest son of Friedrich and Anna Martha Hiller was born at Meyersville April 17, 1870 (see Friedrich Hiller history). In 1889, at the age of 18, he moved with his father, sisters and brother from the Meyersville area land on the Coleto Creek that his father had purchased in 1852 to the acreage on the Guadalupe River, four miles southeast of Cuero purchased by his father at that time. There he assisted his father in raising cattle on the Coleto land and farming the river land.

In 1896 Fritz built a house about 50 yards from the family home. On Jan. 21, 1897 Fritz married Maria Paulina Semmler in St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church at Meyersville. Maria Paulina Semmler was born June 19, 1868 in Meyersville, daughter of Konrad Semmler and Maria Dreyer. (Conrad Semmler immigrated to America as a young man from Germany. Maria Dreyer came to America from Ceishaus, Alsace in 1856.)

Fritz and Pauline Hiller had six children: Edwina Elferia, born Sept. 28, 1897, married Paul Hausmann Jan. 4, 1933, died Feb. 6, 1989; Felix George Friedrich (see Felix Hiller history), born July 3, 1899, married Bertha Elenora Koenig April 24, 1923, died Sept. 24, 1982; Anna Mary (known as Anna May), born Jan. 6, 1902, married Hugo Buehrig Nov. 14, 1923, died July 25, 1987; Ervin John, born Aug. 24, 1903, married Dolly Ashley in 1935, died Sept. 16, 1977; Annie, born April 6, 1909, died same day; Margaret Lillian, born May 17, 1914, died Feb. 8, 1936.

On March 24, 1898 Fritz Hiller registered his cattle brand, the FP Bar, which brand has been used continuously since that time by the family on the Guadalupe River land.

In 1901 after the marriage of Fritz's youngest sister, Fritz moved his family into the family home on the river land with his father. In 1905 Fritz purchased the 224 acres of land on the Guadalupe River from his father. He farmed the land, raising vegetables, corn and cotton. He sold vegetables in town, particularly watermelons. He raised cattle, horses, chickens, turkeys and pigs. In the fall he harvested pecans from the pecan orchard in the river bottom. He continued the cattle operation on the Coleto Creek land with his father.

In 1910 Fritz purchased 100 acres of land in the Charles Amsler League. This land was farmed for many years by his sister, and later by his daughter Anna May and her husband Hugo Buehrig. Today the farm operation continues by the family.

The oldest children of Fritz and Pauline Hiller were educated at Green DeWitt. The oldest son, Felix, later went to automobile mechanic school in MO, and the youngest son, Ervin, went to business school in Tyler. Their youngest daughter, Lillian, attended St. Michael's, Cuero High School, and Southwest Texas at San Marcos. She was teaching at Terryville at the time of her death. Edwina, the oldest daughter, worked in Cuero until a few years before her death. Anna May farmed and operated a dairy with her husband.

After the death of Fritz's father Friedrich in 1915, Fritz purchased the land interests of his sisters and brother in the 315.5 acres on the 12-mile Coleto. In 1916 Fritz purchased 134.5 acres adjoining this Coleto land. Together with his wife and children, Fritz raised cattle on the Coleto Creek land and farmed the Guadalupe River land where he lived.

Fritz and Pauline were devout Christians. Fritz remained a member of St. John's at Meyersville until after the death of his father; then attended services at Cuero. Pauline was a member of St. Peter's and Paul's at Meyersville until 1900 when she joined St. Michael's at Cuero. She, along with her children, were active in the work of the parish and the organizations. In 1978 the children of Fritz and Pauline donated a stained glass window "The Ascension of our Lord" in the main auditorium of St. Michael's in their memory.

Fritz Hiller died May 26, 1930. Pauline Hiller died Nov. 20, 1941. They are buried at Hillside Cemetery.

by Pauline Kacir

Fritz Hiller Family ca. 1920 – Back: Ervin, Felix, Edwina, and Anna Mag. Front: Lillian, Fritz and Pauline

HOCH, HERBERT R. FAMILY
F427

Herbert R. Hoch and Loula Gates Hoch lived their entire married life in DeWitt County and Gonzales County. Herbert was born in Hochheim (DeWitt County) on September 25, 1890 and was the great-grandson of Volentine Hoch who arrived from the southern part of Germany in 1846 and constructed a home made of rock mined from the Guadalupe River valley. The rock home still stands and served as a stopping off place for other immigrants arriving in Indianola and making their way to Austin and other parts of the United States. Volentine Hoch was the father of August Hoch, the father of Emil F. Hoch, the father of Herbert R. Hoch.

Loula Gates Hoch was born in LaSalle County on July 23, 1888 and was a direct

Herbert R. Hoch and Loula (Gates) Hoch

descendant of Samuel Hardin Gates who came to Texas in the early 1800s and was in the Texas War for Independence, Battle of Gonzales and assisted in transferring families to safety before the Battle of San Jacinto. Loula grew up in San Antonio and became a nurse. While attending a patient in Cheapside she met and married Herbert R. Hoch in 1911.

Herbert and Loula made their living farming and ranching in DeWitt County and Gonzales County. They were the parents of two sons Herbert Emil Hoch, Jr. (1916-1966) and C.W. Hoch a retired construction executive and banker who lives in San Antonio. Herbert Emil Hoch, Jr. married DeWitt County resident Mabel Glover, now deceased. They were the parents of Mrs. Betty Hoch Brunasso (Houston) and Mrs. Barbara Hoch Lenk (Mesquite).

Herbert R. Hoch died in 1967 and Loula Hoch died in 1981. They are buried in the Hochheim Cemetery.

by C.W. Hoch

HOCH, VALENTINE

F428

"Between 1844 and 1847 some 60 ships brought more than 7,000 Germans to Texas. Arriving at Galveston, they were transferred to smaller crafts and taken to Karlshafen. From there they had to go North to New Braunfels. Because of the shortage of funds and lack of wagons for transportation, most of these immigrants made the trip by foot. It is estimated that more than 300 died and were buried along the way". These people came to Texas under the auspices of an organized emigration company, for short, The Adelsverein. The Verein promised 360 acres of land to a married man and 180 acres to single men. The promise of land and surely prosperity interested the residents of Obershonau, Germany, one of them being Valentine Hoch and his wife Elisabeth Pabst.

On September 27, 1845, Valentine Hoch, his wife, and children, August, Martha, Aminda, and Fredericka, and possibly a baby supposedly born in August 1845, sailed from the port of Bremen on the Ship *Everhard*, bound for Galveston, Texas. Hopefully they would reach their destination on land Prince Karl Solms-Braunfels had chosen for them to settle by the New Year. The ship, with 287 Verein emigrants landed at Galveston in December 1845. The Hoch family then boarded a smaller vessel to the port of Carlshafen (Indianola) The rigors of the trip from Bremen to Indianola were too much for Elisabeth Pabst Hoch and she died upon reaching port. Valentine buried his wife in a wooden box in a graveyard outside Indianola. Family indicates that the small Hoch baby had died at sea.

Valentine Hoch

Valentine Hoch and his remaining family proceeded inland towards their destination. Events of the next few years are not known and probably never will be, but in any event, Valentine Hoch did receive the Certificate which entitled him to locate his promised 360 acres of land. According to records at the Land Office in Austin, Texas, 640 acres of land was located in Commanche County by virtue of the Hoch Certificate. Many land recipients in the Fisher-Miller Grant were not able to settle on their land for a good while, due to the Indian Tribes who occupied the land and the constant Indian raids upon the would-be settlers. When Valentine Hoch actually chose DeWitt County to be his home in immaterial, but is known that he purchased 45 acres of land in the area of what is today Hochheim in 1848. According to 1850 Census, Hoch and his children wee established at Hochheim.

Unlike many families who built temporary dwellings, Hoch, who was a stone mason, decided to build a substantial house. The building consists of two and one-half stories with a small cellar underneath the kitchen area. Before he could even begin building, he spent several years in preparation. Lime and sand needed to make mortar was made by stacking a layer of wood beneath a layer of sandstone and burning it, then separating the lime from the waste by sifting the ashes. Stones were quarried by hand from the nearby Guadalupe River and hauled to the site on a sled. Over the front door is the inscription "V. Hoch 1857", which is assumed to be the completion date. The sturdy two-story rock house that Hoch built was near the regular stage line between Indianola and Austin. Although Hoch did not build his house for a stage stop, it soon became known that one could partake of a good meal and if need be, spend a night. August Hoch, Valentine's son, was learning to repair harness and make saddles, a service always needed by the horse-drawn freighters that passed by the Hoch place. A short distance to the South of the large house, Valentine Hoch built a one room house, also of native sandstone, which was used as a saddle shop by August Hoch and his stepbrother, Julius Flemming.

In 1854, before the rock house was complete, Valentine Hoch received word, obviously brought by someone on one of the numerous freight wagons passing by, that there was a certain Mrs. Flemming, a widow with two children, living at Indianola. She was eligible, and she was available. Valentine Hoch and Johanna Flemming were married in Calhoun County on August 18, 1854. Johanna's two children were Julius and Ann. The combined family of eight lived in temporary quarters while Hoch continued to build the rock house. Work had to proceed a little faster now that Johanna was expecting their first child. Matilda Hoch, the first child, was born Feb. 24, 1857. Emma, the next child was born in 1859, followed by Theodore in 1861 and Molly in 1863.

Valentine Hoch was born October 15, 1808 in Obershonau, Germany to Franz Hoch and Margaretha Elisabetha Hafner according to Evangalische Church Records of Steinbach-Hallenberg, Germany. He died in Texas July 7, 1890 and Johanna Flemming Hoch died in 1896.

Valentine Hoch's heritage continues. The house he built still stands. It remained in the Hoch family until long after the children were grown and married. After the death of Hoch's wife, Johanna, the site was sold to an adjoining neighbor, Val. Bennet. In 1953, Lucille Bennett Boothe had the house carefully restored to its original condition. The home was awarded a medallion by the Texas Historical Society.

The children of Valentine Hoch (actually baptized Johann Valtin) and Elisabeth Pabst were: Frederich (1832) died in Germany; August (1834) married Caroline Hornburg; Martha Maria (1838) married James Schwab; Aminda (1840) married Jacob Weber and Martin Otten; Frederike Wilhelmina (1840) married Christoph Fell; Frederich Theodore (1845) died at sea. The children of Valentine Hoch and Johanna Flemming were: Mathilda (1857) married Otto Riebe; Emma (1859) married William Allen; Theodore Hoch (1861) married Mollie Schwab; Mollie (1865) married Charles Clark. Julius Flemming (1850) married Hilda Otten and Ann Flemming married in Gonzales, Texas.

Valentine Hoch and his wife, Johanna, are buried in the James Schwab Cemetery at Hochheim, Texas.

by Elmo Schwab

HODGE, BAMA T.

F429

My great grandmother's name was Sally Jones Jackson. She had two daughters, Jane and Ann Jackson. My grandmother was Ann Jackson. Her daughter Barbra was my mother.

Barbra married Prince Brown, Sr. in Gonzales, Texas. Prince Brown, Jr. was born in Sladen, Texas. Father Brown did not want to move to DeWitt County with my mother but she moved in with grandmother Ann.

Three children were born in DeWitt County.

Dakota, Marcellus, and Bama Thomson. We all attended Schleicherville School, Deer Creek School and later the boys attended Daule School in Cuero. Before we moved to town, we had to walk nine miles to school every day.

After the death of grandfather Jackson, Grandmother Jackson married Ben Wingate in Cuero. He was a farmer.

I, Bama, was baptized in the Guadalupe River near the Old Clinton Bridge. I am a member of the Little Zion Baptist Church.

by Bama Hodge

HODGES, JAMES PINKNEY

F430

James Pinkney Hodges, 1867-1932.

James Pinkney Hodges was born June 3, 1867 in Weesatche, Goliad County, Texas to Daniel and Francis Caroline (Wofford) Hodges. James lived with his family in Weesatche until leaving home at an early age to work for the Taylors. The Taylors considered him too young to go on the roundups or cattle drives as it took rugged men to be cowboys in those early days of Texas.

On December 13, 1889 James married Talitha Nora Rice, daughter of Thomas Richard and Martha (Alexander) Rice in Stratton, DeWitt County. It is not known how they met but James could have been visiting his half-sister Alice who married Oren Rice and lived near Stratton. James and Talitha ranched near Stratton and in Morales, Jackson County. To this union seven children were born Daniel, Lola Ann, Charles Allison, Bonnie Blanche, Alpha Belle, Jessie Lea and Thelma Elaine.

1904 brought a drastic change in this young and happy family. Mother Talitha died January 9, 1904, after giving birth to Thelma Elaine in December. The baby died in May. Then Daniel, the oldest son, died age eleven on October 4. Grandfather Daniel Wofford then died in December. Times were hard for this young father so Talitha's grave, in the Alexander plot of the Alexander Cemetery, has only a

Talitha Nora (Rice) Hodges

rock with TNH carved into it. The children's graves are unmarked.

The children were separated and put with aunts and uncles for a year while James went into the Indian Territory of Oklahoma with a herd of cattle to fatten for the eastern market. On his return he decided that he and the children must make a new start. The children and a few possessions were loaded into a covered wagon for the trip west to Mills County whee Uncle Ben Alexander lived with his two sons. James farmed for a year then decided to move further west to Schleicher County, where his brother-in-law Charles Rice lived. James got a job running a ranch known as the Evans and Doty ranch which he eventually bought. The ranch was about seventeen miles from Eldorado. The children attended a one room school, then had to board in Eldorado to attend high school. These children had a unique life having to take care of themselves while learning to do all required to keep a house. Lola at twelve was in charge so naturally there were many disasters.

James ranched in Schleicher County for years and finally moved into Eldorado where he served as a deputy sheriff. After Jessie married and left home James married Pearl O'Harrow. They had one child Omega.

James died March 12, 1932 in Junction, Texas where he was living with his daughter Bonnie Bannowsky.

Lola Ann married Louis Shugart. They had five children Alton, Sladen, Talitha, Calvin and Edward. They lived in Phoenix, Arizona.

Bonnie Blanche married Clarence Bannowsky. Their children are Clarence, Jr., Alfred, and Bernese. They lived at San Leandro, California.

Alpha Belle married Alfred Bay. They raised their family in Chico, California.

Jessie Lea (1901-1977) married Walter McFall in Schleicher County. They ranched in San Saba and Mills County. They had two daughters Jessie Irene and Earline. Jessie Irene married first Carter Garland and had Carlene and Royce Rex. Then she married Delman Sawyer and had Leman Pat (Buzz). Earline married Lloyd Rumsey in Tom Green County in 1946 and had two children, Jan Ellen and Ronald Louis. Jan married Roy Wimmer and has one son Lance. Louis married Anne O'Keefe and has two children Kathryn and Stephen Louis.

by Earline Rumsey

HOEHEN, CHRISTIAN AND DORTHEA (GRUETZMACHER)

F431

Henry F.R. Hoehne and Louise W. (Domann) Hoehne

Dorthea (Gruetzmacher) and Christian Hoehne

Christian Hoehne was born in Deaben Anhalt Dessau Germany, January 27, 1835. Christian Hoehne's family came into the Texas Port of Indianola. Some of Christian's family were on another ship and came to America through the Port of New York, they were never able to find one another.

Christian Hoehne was married to Dorthea (Gruetzmacher) Hoehne in Germany. Dorthea (Gruetzmacher) Hoehne was born in Burow Anhalt Dessau Germany, December 14, 1839.

Friedrich Hoehne family: L-R – Bertha (Boldt) Hoehne, Friedrich, Joseph Lily and Henry Hoehne.

The Hoehnes came from Germany with three young sons. Carl, Friedrich and Frank. They settled on a farm near Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas.

Christian Hoehne died December 8, 1922 and Dorthea (Gruetzmacher) Hoehne died January 10, 1923. They are buried in the Yorktown Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

Friedrich Hoehne was the second child of Christian and Dorthea (Gruetzmacher) Hoehne. Friedrich was born in Dessau Germany, July 13, 1865 and came to Texas as a child. Friedrich met and married Bertha Boldt, Bertha (Boldt) Hoehne was born in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas August 19, 1871. The couple settled in the Clinton Community, DeWitt County, Texas. Bertha Hoehne's father was Liebrecht Boldt. Friedrich and Bertha raised four children, Erna, Lillie, Henry and Joseph. Friedrich was a farmer and rancher for over 50 years. Friedrich Hoehne died August 17, 1945 and Bertha (Boldt) Hoehne died March 1, 1950. Both are buried in the Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

Henry Hoehne was the third child of Friedrich Hoehne and Bertha (Boldt) Hoehne. Henry Robert Frank Hoehne was born in the Clinton Community, DeWitt County, Texas October 16, 1893. Henry Hoehne met Louise Wilhelmina Domann while attending confirmation class at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Cuero, Texas. Louise Wilhelmina Domann was born in the Five Mile Community, Dewitt County, Texas.

Henry Hoehne and Louise Domann were married October 18, 1917. Henry and Louise (Domann) Hoehne acquired property in the Valley View Community, DeWitt County along the Sandies Creek. Henry was a farmer, raising grains, cotton, sheep, cattle, hogs, chickens, turkeys and vegetables. Louise Hoehne helped with everything on the farm and sold vegetables to local grocers.

Henry and Louise Hoehne were the parents of three children, Arnold the oldest was born August 4, 1922 and died May 1926. Herbert and Annie Lee are still living.

Henry and Louise Hoehne farmed for over 60 years. Henry Hoehne died on November 5, 1984 and Louise (Domann) Hoehne died June 21, 1989. Both are buried in Hill Side Cemetery Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. William Grimmer

HOEHNE, CARL

F432

Carl Hoehne, son of Christian and Dorthea Gruetzmacher Hoehne, landed at Indianola with his parents from Germany in 1879. On the same ship was Carl's future wife, Martha Schroedter, daughter of Otto and Marie Riben Schroedter also from Germany.

Both families settled in the Buchel community where Carl and Martha lived and farmed their entire lives.

Carl and Martha had five (5) children:

1. Mrs. Alfred (Ida) Smith.
2. Oscar Hoehne.
3. William Hoehne.
4. Edwin Hoehne.
5. Mrs. August (Evelyn) Boysen.

by Mrs. Lamar Hoehne, Sr.

HOEHNE, CARL FAMILY

F433

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by Pauline Kuecker

HOERIG, ALFRED O.

F434

"Hoerig's in Cuero"

It was in June of 1988 that the Search Committee of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero contacted Alfred O. Hoerig. In the discussions and meetings to follow it was determined that St. Mark's would call Pastor Hoerig to serve this congregation. He answered the call affirmatively and brought his family to Cuero in August of 1988. He began work in the congregation in September.

During the time the Search Committee was meeting with Pastor, his wife, Patricia, was initiating plans to secure a teaching position in the Cuero Independent School District. Their daughter, Krista, was making plans for her Senior year at Trinity University, San Antonio and their son, Karl, was participating by "long distance." He was spending his second year as a staff member of Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base, Cimarron, New Mexico. He was also preparing himself for his first year at The University of Texas at Austin. Pastor Al, Patty, Krista and Karl were all finally settled in the parsonage at 406 N. Esplanade, the last days of August, 1988.

Karl had to be at school a little earlier than Krista. But, by Labor Day, the parsonage had only Pastor and Patty on a daily basis. There was no small amount of excitement though. As plans were being finalized for the official Installation of the Pastor, a hurricane was brewing off the coast. If the hurricane were to make land-fall anywhere between Corpus Christi and Houston, Cuero would have severe weather. Plans were made for the installation to take place on Sunday afternoon, September 18, in spite of the prediction for stormy weather on the Friday or Saturday before. The storm did not materialize and the installation did. The Rev. Arnold P. Moede, formerly a missionary to Libera, Africa, representing the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, officiated at the afternoon installation.

Patty taught fourth grade at Hunt Elementary School in 1988-89. Karl went to The University, excited about being in the Plan II Honors Program. Krista graduated Cum Laude from Trinity University in May 1989 and married Daniel Calvin Bell in June. One year after their move to Cuero, Patty is again teaching fourth grade at Hunt. Karl is back at The University after his third year on the staff at Philmont. Krista and Dan live in Elgin, Texas. Dan works for United Parcel Service and Krista teaches first grade in Bastrop. Pastor Al has become active in the Lions Club, Ministerial Alliance and is an adult leader of Boy Scouts of America. This in addition to the regular duties of the pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

by Alfred O. Hoerig

HOFF, MISS CAROL

F435

Yorktown's internationally known author and educator, Miss Carol Hoff.

Yorktown's illustrious educator and author was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoff, Sr. She obtained a law degree from the University of Texas and a Master of Library Science from Texas Arizona. She was a librarian at the old Victoria Bronte Public Library and also a long-time teacher and librarian at Victoria College and Yorktown High School.

Miss Hoff is well known for her children's books. Her best-known work, *Johnny Texas,* written in 1950, won the coveted first Charles W. Follett Award for children's literature, the Texas Institute of Letters Cokesbury Award, and the Junior Book Award Certificate of the Boy's Clubs of America. The book has had more than 17 printings and was republished in 1977. At that time it won international acclaim when it was translated into German at Stuttgart, Germany. The story is about an immigrant family on the Texas frontier prior to the Texas Revolution.

Other books published by Miss Hoff include *Wilderness Pioneer, Johnny Texas on the San Antonio Road, The Four Friends,* and *Chris.*

Miss Hoff, 79, died in July 1979 and is buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Frances Hartmann

HOFF, ELMO AND EDWINA (WENDEL)

F436

50 year anniversary – Edwina (Wendel) Hoff and Elmo Hoff

Elmo Hoff and Edwina Wendel were married in the St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas by Rev. Heinrich. Elmo, son of Alois and Bertha Schrade Hoff was born in Shroeder, Goliad Co. March 25, 1914. Edwina was born in Meyersville Aug. 26, 1914 to Fred and Amalia (Diebel) Wendel whose story is given separately.

Elmo and Edwina lived in Goliad Co. for a few months before moving to the Five-Mile community near Cuero where they rented a

Standing, L-R: Sonya Sue, Larry Volkmer, Rae Jean and seated: Sandra Kay (Hoff) Volkmer

large house with indoor plumbing and a hundred acres of land for ten dollars a month from Mrs. William Holzapfel. These were depression days but happy days. They raised corn, cotton, chickens, hogs, sheep and many turkeys. They made many friends in the Five-Mile Community.

After five years on the Holzapfel place they bought 110 acres of land in Shroeder, near Elmo's parents. With the help of their parents and family they built a small three room house, adding more rooms as the years went by.

They joined St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Schroeder. Elmo served as treasurer and councilman for many years. Edwina also took an active part in church and community activities.

In 1945, together with five other couples they organized a bridge club. Everybody took their children to these parties. How they could play bridge and watch nine children at the same time is a real mystery. At one party the weather was freezing. The water was drained out of the car radiators to keep them from freezing and breaking. After the party was over, ice was broken on the water trough to get water to fill the radiators again so that everybody could go back home again. This bridge club is still active after forty-four years.

After seven years of marriage the Hoffs were blessed with a baby girl, Sandra Kay, born Nov. 14, 1942. She married Larry Volkmer, son of Lawrence and Enola Groll Volkmer, on Aug. 26, 1962. Larry was born July 15, 1941. They have two daughters, Sonya Sue, born Aug. 29, 1963 and Rae Jean, born June 2, 1965. Larry served in the armed forces for two years and is employed by the fire department for the city of Victoria. Sandra is office manager for Dr. Richard Sawyers. Sonya Sue graduated from Victoria College and is employed by Pratt Insurance. Rae Jean graduated from Victoria High School, attended Victoria College and is employed by Thomas Petroleum.

by Edwina Hoff

HOFFMAN, JULIUS FAMILY

F437

Julius Hoffman was b. 25 Nov. 1861 in Eiselben, Saxony Province, Germany. His parents were Julius Hoffmann and Heinriette Bergmann. He married Bertha Rabenaldt on 2 Sept. 1883 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Voigtstedt, Germany. (Bertha Rabenaldt was the first child of Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt to make the voyage to America).

Julius and his bride of only a few months, arrived at the port of Galveston on 30 Oct., 1883. Julius Hoffmann's occupation was that of a farmer.

First, they moved to Lavaca County, then to Goliad County in the Weesatche community. They remained there the rest of their lives. Julius died 20 Feb., 1944 and Bertha died 24 Oct., 1943. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

There were sixteen children born to this union: 1) Bertha born 5 May, 1884 married Gustav Oehlke; 2) Clara born 9 Oct., 1886 died 2 Aug., 1981 married Gustav Kirchner; 3) Julius Jr. born March, 1888 married Beulah A. Griffin; twins, 4) Otto and 5) Albert born 28 Oct., 1889, Otto married Rosie Kirchner, Albert, never married; 6) Elsie born July, 1892 married Albert Kirchner; 7) Paul born Sept., 1893 married Lucy Jalufka; 8) Robert born 27 Oct., 1895 – died 20 July, 1978, never married; 9) Richard born 27 Oct., 1896 – died 17 Sept., 1984, never married; 10) Charlie born 1897 married Nollie Esch; 11) Fritz born 10 Jan., 1898 – died 6 April, 1972; 12) Anna born 16 July, 1899 – died 23 Jan., 1986 married Heinrich Borgfield; 13) Walter born 22 Jan. 1901 – died Aug., 1971, never married; 14) Oswald born 8 Sept., 1902 – died 15 Aug., 1940 married Mabel Brown; 15) Frieda born 2 Oct., 1904 still living, married Walter Hornstein; 16) and Herman who died in infancy.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

HOFFMANN, WILLIE, JR. AND ANN (PIEHL)

F438

Hoffman Bar 4 H
(A Texas Land Heritage Ranch)

Faced with dismal financial and social prospects in their native Germany, the families of Peter Rath and Hulda Thieme decided to immigrate to Texas sometime around 1847. In their searches for new homes, they settled permanently in the Arneckeville area of DeWitt County. Peter Rath and Hulda Thieme married. They grazed cattle and raised corn and cotton, along with their eight children: Fred; twins, Kate and Johanna; Mary; Albert; Emma; Annie; and John. They were active in settling the area and were members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Texas. On January 26, 1887, they purchased 280 acres from Michael Sager, who had bought the land a year earlier from Samuel Lane. This acreage was in the Green DeWitt Survey on the Guadalupe River.

In 1895, Fred Rath purchased 140 acres of

Hoffmann, Willie and Ann Elizabeth

the 280 acres previously purchased by his parents in 1887. Fred married Pauline Nagel. They had one daughter named Lydia. Lydia died at an early age. Pauline died shortly thereafter. Fred then married Annie Mary Bade. Fred and Annie expanded the livestock operation to include milk-cows and hogs. They raised cotton and corn and had a truck garden. Fred was a skilled carpenter who helped build some homes in the area as well as the present Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. He and Annie had four children: Dorathea Hulda, Emelia Mary, Edward Arthur, and Cornelius Peter. All of the children except Dorathea eventually moved away from the ranch. Dorathea stayed at home to care for her parents and looked after the land and livestock.

The other daughter, Emelia, married Willie Hoffmann, Sr., the son of August and Sophie Knaak Hoffmann who also lived in the area. Emelia and Willie had one son, Willie Hoffmann, Jr.

Upon the death of Fred in 1947, and later the death of Annie in 1956, the land was divided between their children. Emelia and her husband, Willie, and Dorathea continued with the ranch operation. In 1957, Willie, Jr. and his wife, Ann Piehl Hoffmann, began to acquire the acreage. They operated the ranch with his parents. By 1978, Willie and Ann had acquired all of the original 140 acres. Willie was employed by a major oil company as an administrator. This necessitated living away from the area; but they always lived near enough to travel back and forth to care for the ranch with the help of their three sons. Their sons were Frederick Willie, Harold Keith, and Robert Wayne. Fred Willie, who is now married to Paula Kay McGee, had two sons by his first marriage to Rebecca Louise Thompson. Their sons were Brett Alexander and Geoffrey Lane. Fred is an electronic engineer and works for a Texas based television broadcast company. Harold Keith lives in Texas and is a senior management technologist for a major oil and gas production company. Robert Wayne married Beverly Ann Hoppe and they had one daughter named Robbie Ann. Robert is a manufacturing engineer and owns and operates a machine and tool company in Texas.

Willie and Ann had always planned to move to the ranch upon their retirement. On May 3, 1982, their dream came true when they moved into their new home on the ranch. At this time, they continue to raise cattle and improve the land with the help of their children and their grandchildren. Willie and Ann are members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, the church which his grandfather helped build.

In Austin, Texas on November 5, 1987 the ranch was recognized as a Texas Land Heritage Ranch. The ranch has been in continuous agricultural production by one family for 100 years or more. It is listed in the 1987 Texas Family Heritage Registry.

by Willie Hoffmann, Jr.

HOHN, ARNOLD JOSEPH AND ANNA "ISABELLA" (STURM)

F439

Isabella Hohn

Arnold Joseph Hohn was born in Buir, Germany, on January 18, 1859, a child of Johan Hohn and Elisabetha Wirtz Hohn. He had a sister, Anna "Isabella" Hohn, born November 10, 1854, a brother, Mathias Joseph Hohn, and perhaps other siblings. In Germany, the family grew in stature and love in the town of Buir, where they practiced the Catholic Religion. The father, Johan Hohn, was a cobbler (shoemaker) and the mother, Elisabetha Wirtz Hohn, was a seamstress. The grandparents were Leonard Hohn and Gertrude Pick Hohn. Some of the family's close friends in Buir were Wilhelm Rey, a baker, Heinrich Kuhnen, a miller (flour grinder), Mathias Joseph Rey, Joseph Wirtz, and Michael Schumacher.

Arnold Hohn remained single, an eligible bachelor in Buir. His sister, Isabella, married Ernst Sturm of Braubach, Germany, who was born December 5, 1854. The fruits of their marriage were four children: John Michael Sturm born September 28, 1878, Emma Sturm born January 9, 1880, Katherine Elise (Elizabeth) Sturm born October 27, 1881, and another daughter. All of the children were born in Braubach, Germany.

In January of 1884, Ernst Sturm was very ill and dying. He was 29 years old, and it was extremely difficult for him to leave a loving wife and four children unprovided by his early death. He died on January 27, 1884, leaving Isabella Hohn Sturm a young widow. His daughter followed him in death shortly thereafter.

At the age of 31, Arnold Joseph Hohn immigrated to America, arriving by boat in New York City on July 31, 1890. From New York, Arnold continued by boat to Indianola, and from there settled in Yorktown, Texas, in DeWitt County. After establishing a home in Yorktown, Arnold sent for his sister. In June, 1892, Isabella, age 37, and her three remaining children, ages 13, 12, and 10, also came to America on a boat to New York City and to Indianola, then came to Yorktown. Since a woman could not travel to America if unprovided by a spouse, and since Isabella would be provided in America by her brother, Arnold, it is thought that Isabella traveled to America as the "wife" of Arnold Hohn. The Hohn-Sturm family of five settled in Yorktown to be near their first cousin, Louis A. Hohn and his wife, Johanna Behringer Hohn, and their nine children, who lived on a 160 acre farm two miles west of Yorktown (½ mile from West Side Cemetery). Arnold Joseph Hohn was naturalized as a U.S. citizen on May 25, 1896.

Arnold and Isabella lived in a frame house on the west edge of Yorktown off Highway 119. Their original garage still stands in 1989. They had a large garden and kept one or two cows. Here they raised the three children, John Michael, Emma, and Elizabeth. Arnold worked as a cobbler and as a caretaker for the West Side Cemetery in Yorktown, about one mile from his home. Isabella was a wonderful seamstress, making beautiful wedding dresses, gowns, and other clothing. Isabella was also a midwife, delivering many of the babies in Yorktown between 1890 and 1915. Isabella and Arnold were a good mother and uncle to the three growing children.

As a cobbler, or shoe manufacturer, Arnold perpetuated the trade learned from his father. Arnold had all the equipment to manufacture shoes from a piece of leather, including forms made from wood (called a last) for each size of foot. He would accurately cut the leather uppers, insoles, soles and heels from patterns, then sew the leather uppers and insoles together on the wooden forms or lasts, and finally sew on soles and nail on heels to manufacture a pair of shoes. Arnold also did shoe repair work. The family sometimes wore the same pair of shoes for five years or more because Arnold kept the shoes in excellent repair.

Emma Sturm married Herman Gustav Gips on July 25, 1900, and settled in Yorktown. They had six children: Leona, Frances, Isabella, William, Bruno, and Regina Gips.

John Michael Sturm married Elizabeth Demmer on November 5, 1901, and settled near Yorktown at Cabeza. They had ten children: Ernest, Philomena, Herman, Hedwig, Arnold, Mary, Joseph, Johnny, Clara, and Leo Sturm.

Elizabeth Sturm married Julius Joseph Demmer on January 14, 1903, and settled near Nixon. They had six children: Joseph, Rosa, Albert, Herman, Mary, and Isabel Demmer.

Anna "Isabella" Hohn Sturm died August 9, 1915, at age 60 years. Arnold Joseph Hohn died October 21, 1939, at age 80 years. They are

buried at West Side Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

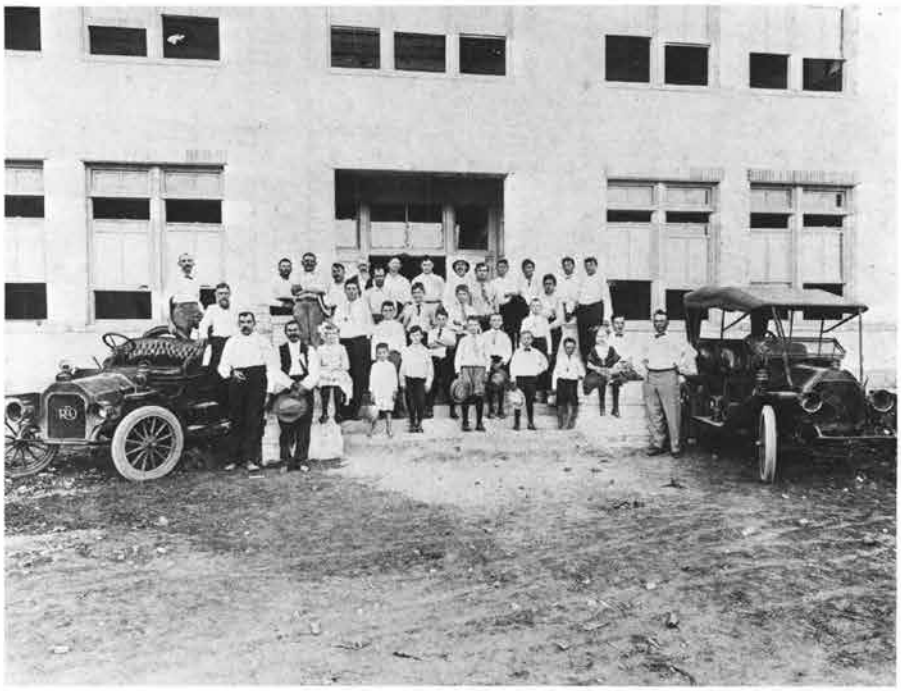
by Janet Marie Sturm

HOHN, LOUIS ALEXANDER AND JOHANNA A.H. (BEHRINGER)

F440

Louis Alexander Hohn was born October 23, 1853 in Salzbronn, Dept. Moselle, France. He emigrated to America from Paris in 1870 and to Yorktown in 1876, from New York City. Louis married Johanna Anna Henriette Behringer on May 24, 1874 in Lower Manhattan. Johanna died October 11, 1912 at Yorktown. Louis died May 7, 1924 at Yorktown. Both are buried at Westside Cemetery at Yorktown.

Louis was educated in a Catholic school at Sarralbe. He apprenticed to an uncle in Paris (William Wuensch) to learn cabinetry. He avoided the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 by sailing to America. Louis learned English in New York. He worked building row housing there. Louis spoke French, German, Spanish. He was a skilled carpenter and built circular staircases and furniture. He also, installed windmills throughout DeWitt and other counties. Louis built his own house. He worked for C. Eckhardt and Sons business in Yorktown from 1876 until his retirement. He was a farmer (on a small scale – 60 plus acres) and owned land and cattle.



Known as the primary school, built by Wm. Eckhardt and Louis Hohn for Y.I.S.D. Trustees: Louis A. Hohn, Otto Riedel, B. Zuch, J.O. Huff, C.J. Eckhardt, G.R. Shultz and William Thuem.

The Louis Hohn family ca 1892-1893. L-R: Elizabeth "Lizzie", Theodore Louis, Louis Pius Friedrich, Johanna, John, Emil and Henry. Seated on floor Paul Robert Sylvester and Caesar.

Louis was instrumental in establishing and working with Yorktown's educational system, first with the Schulverein (1884) and in 1902, with the creation of the Yorktown Independent School District as a member of its Board of Directors. He served as President of the board from May 30, 1902 until May 25, 1914, when he retired from the board.

Louis was a member of the Cameron Lodge No. 76 A.F.&A.M., Yorktown. Worshipful Master of the Lodge from 1907 until 1908. He was followed in this Masonic organization by several sons, grandsons and a great-grandson, Howard O. Weise, who was Worshipful Master July 1978. Cameron Lodge conducted burial services at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, honoring Mr. Hohn.

While working with William Eckhardt, they built the new brick school for Yorktown ISD in 1910. The school cost $2500, $200 less than anticipated and opened September 1 of that year. It was equipped with the most modern furniture and conveniences.

Louis was a Catholic, while a child and young man in France. He joined the Presbyterian Church after the death of his wife in 1912 and his son John, in 1915.

Johannah was born the day after her parents landed in New York, November 16, 1851. She grew up in Lower Manhattan and New Orleans. Louis and Johannah had ten children. The first son was born in New York. He was Louis Pius Friedrich Hohn and was born on February 20, 1875. He died at Nordheim in 1948. All of their other children were born in Yorktown. 2) Theodore Charles Hohn was born October 19, 1876 and went to New Orleans to live when he was grown. He died there in 1944.

3) Emil Hohn was born September 4, 1878. He fought under Teddy Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War. He was a Bugler, an Engineer and a Lieutenant in World War I. After the Spanish-American War he stayed in New York and became an engineer and taught mathematics in Brooklyn school system. He died there in 1941. 4) Henry Hohn was born September 1, 1881 and lived and died in Yorktown. He died in 1961. 5) Elizabeth Hohn was born June 6, 1883. She married John Leroy Webb in Weesatche, Texas. They lived in Weesatche and then in San Antonio, Texas. She died in 1960. 6) Paul R.S. Hohn was born December 31, 1885. He died in Yorktown in 1937. 7) Caesar "Dutch" Hohn was born November 22, 1887. He died in Brenham in 1970. 8) Oscar Hohn was born January 6, 1891. He died September 3, 1891. 9) John Hohn was born December 24, 1891 and died in Beeville in 1915. He is buried in Yorktown. 10) Alexander Hohn was born July 22, 1896 and died in 1966 in Liberty County, Texas.

Louis fulfilled all his expectations in his adopted State and Country. By nature he was stern and moral, an independent thinker, skilled in his carpentry and other work. When he died, he had earned the respect of the community. Relatives in DeWitt County were brothers of his mother, Karl T. Wuensch, William Wuensch. Cousins on his father's side of the family were Arnold Hohn and his sister, Anna Isabella Hohn (Mrs. Ernst Sturm).

1) Louis P.F. and Dorothea Louise (Schwartz) were married November 19, 1896 in Yorktown. Their children were: 1) Emma Elizabeth Hohn who was born August 19, 1897 in Nordheim and married Victor Pecenka in 1918. She died May 25, 1972. They had one son Louis Edward Pecenka who was born December 20, 1923 in Yorktown and married Alice Savage in 1944. 2) Franziska Hohn was born January 7, 1899 in Nordheim and married Fritz W. Gunther in 1921. She died March 20, 1975. They had two children. Fritz Walter Gunther who was born May 10, 1924 in San Antonio and married Mineola Graham, in 1951; Ruthabel Frances Gunther was born December 1, 1927 in San Antonio and married M.E. Posey, Jr. in 1949. 3) Walter Louis Hohn was born October 2, 1900 and married Charlotte Gras in 1933. He died March 29, 1960. Their children were Lottilyn Hohn who was born April 25, 1935 in Yorktown and married Dalton Janssen in 1953; John Young Hohn who was born September 17, 1937 in Nordheim and married Sarah Deakins in 1968. 4) Anselm Charles Hohn was born July 3, 1902 in Nordheim and married Grace Hekimian in 1967. He died October 21, 1971. Their only child was Jeffrey Anselm Hohn born July 20, 1971 in Atlanta, Georgia.

2) Theodore Charles and Edith Isabel (Barnes) Hohn were married July 15, 1902 in New Orleans. Their children were: Edith Barnes Hohn who was born July 13, 1903 and married Julius A. Shanklin in 1930; they had Edith Conyers Shanklin who was born September 8, 1931 and married Rev. R.L. Woodruff in 1954; and their second child was Julius A. Shanklin III who was born January 1, 1937 and married Mary Lou Wood in 1965. T.C. and Edith's second child was Lilian Virginia Hohn who was born in June 19, 1906 and married John Henry Phillips, Jr. in 1932. She had one son, John Henry Phillips, III who was born April 13, 1943 and married Coralee Logan in 1970. C.T. and Edith's third child was Louis Theodore Hohn was was born June 16, 1908 and married Ruth Dallmann in 1942. They had one daughter, Ruth Ann Hohn who was born November 27, 1943 and married Ernest Yates and later Lee Hollowell.

3) Emil and Beulah (Brown) Hohn were married June 1, 1907 in New York City. They had one child, Beatrice Estella Hohn who was born June 30, 1908 and married Ralph Raulerson in 1939. They had two children: Diane Raulerson who was born February 18, 1945 and married Harwell Phillips in 1988 and Stephen Raulerson who was born January 3, 1941.

4) Henry and Marie (Hennig) Hohn were married November 19, 1902 in Yorktown. They had three children: Antoinette Hohn born February 16, 19— and died several days later. Dorothy Kathleen Hohn was born March 28, 1905 and married Mayne E. Laster and later Arvel Williams. She had two children: Billie Bee Laster and Mayne DeWitt Laster. Beatrice Evelyn Hohn was born April 23, 1907 and married Walter Wm. Wofford in 1926. They had two children: Walter Charles Wofford who was born February 26, 1931 and married Claudine Reynolds in 1953. And Travis Hohn Wofford who was born January 13, 1934 and married Lois Lee Foster in 1956.

Henry Hohn and Elenora (Kolodzey) married February 11, 1933 in Yorktown. They had one child: Henry Joseph Hohn who was born June 12, 1934 and married Lola Fay Kruse in 1955. They had eight children: Deborah Hohn who was born April 24, 1956 and married Karl Willman in 1982; Daniel Hohn who was born September 29, 1957 and married Joyce Ellen Tolles in 1988; Diane Hohn who was born March 3, 1959 and married Rod Zimmerman in 1976 and later married Steve Edge in 1988; Delores Hohn who was born May 15, 1961 and married Carl Marius Hansen in 1987; Donna Hohn who was born May 13, 1963 and married Randy Gover in 1986; Doris Hohn born April 25, 1966 and married Randal Reiley in 1989; Donald Hohn who was born January 7, 1968; and Dena Hohn who was born June 26, 1969.

5) Elizabeth Hohn and John Leroy Webb were married November 20, 1901 in Yorktown. They had three children: Annie Lorraine Webb was born September 15, 1902 and married George W. Cross in 1919. They had three children: George W. Cross who was born February 28, 1922; Gene Leroy Cross who was born September 16, 1926 and married Gloria Jean Woodall in 1947; Ann Cross was born October 30, 1929 and married Dr. Tracy Irving Wallace in 1952. Hazel Marguerite Webb was born July 19, 1908 and married Walter C. Doughty and later Bob S. Hinds. Pearl Adelle Webb was born December 7, 1918 and married 2nd Lt. Clarence B. Hammerle, Jr. in 1941. Their children were: George Bernard Hammerle who was born May 15, 1944 and married Vivian Parsons in 1967. Their second child was Holly Ann Hammerle who was born December 22, 1945.

6) Paul Robert Sylvester Hohn and Emilie (Menn) were married October 20, 1909 in Yorktown. They had four children: Felton Nic Hohn who was born November 24, 1910 and died in a drowning accident when he was 12 years old; Jane Emily Hohn was born December 1, 1912 and married Albert A. Weise in 1938; They had four children: Ralph Weise born July 2, 1939 and married Betty Newkirk; Howard O. Weise born October 19, 1942 and married Sharon Newman; Carolyn Ann Weise born September 11, 1944 and married Roger Wayne Frank in 1966; Jo Beth Weise born August 27, 1946 and married Frank J. Knezek. Alice Elizabeth Hohn was born November 25, 1916 and married Herman B. Witte in 1956. Jesse Paul Hohn was born July 3, 1920 and died of blood poisoning when he was 7 years old.

7) Caesar "Dutch" Hohn and Eleanor (McDonald) were married May 24, 1916 in Houston. They had two children: Kathryn Hohn who was born February 16, 1919 and married William R. Howell in 1938 and later married Marvin Hodde in 1957. She and her first husband had two children: Dr. William R. Howell and Dr. Johanna Howell who married a Mr. Bullard.

8) Oscar Hohn was born January 6, 1891 and died September 3, 1891.

9) John Hohn and Alma (Bond) married June 29, 1915 in Beeville. John died in November 1915.

10) Alexander Hohn and Julia Thelma (Dean) married September 19, 1915 in Bryan, Texas. They had six children: Julius Caesar Hohn born June 22, 1916 who married Geneieve L. Storey in 1937. They had three children: Marilyn Ann Hohn was born September 25, 1938 and married Roger Vaglia in 1960; Dorothy Jean Hohn was born August 29, 1941 and married Elton Hawthorne in 1971; Frances Louise Hohn was born July 9, 1946 and married Michel Alain in 1983. Bessie Aline Hohn was born December 5, 1917 and married Julius Hollie Lockett in 1940 in Baytown. They had three children: Larry Paul Lockett was born November 30, 1941 and married Karen F. Gieger in 1967; Ruth Virginia Lockett was born June 13, 1946 and married Jimmie Leon Stripling in 1963; James Clay Lockett was born September 5, 1949 and married Treva Nell Carpenter in 1971. Edwin Francis Hohn was born March 6, 1920 and married Imogene Showalter in 1944. They had 6 children: Robert Rory Hohn was born January 25, 1941 and married Kandy Shaver in 1977; Theodore Emil Hohn was born December 19, 1944 and married Brenda Collums in 1964; Anita Marie Hohn was born May 8, 1949 and married James Albert Pierce in 1969; John Paul Hohn was born January 9, 1951 and married Elizabeth Kay Wisniewski in 1971; and Rebecca Sue Hohn was born January 6, 1953 and married Jacky Helms in 1950. Imogene's son by a first marriage was adopted by Edwin. Anna Pauline Hohn was born September 6, 1921 and married Eldridge Rhea Hudnall in 1946. They had two children: Nanya Francee Hudnall was born April 20, 1948 and married Melvin Nichols in 1983. Anna Pauline Hohn Hudnall then married Edgar Bevers, Jr. in 1956. They had two children: Samie Edgar Bevers, III born April 2, 1957 and married Karen Dee Mills in 1987. Terry Alexander Bevers was born April 18, 1958. Louis Alexander Hohn was born July 29, 1927 and married Anastazie Vyrol in 1949. Their children were: Louis Alexander Hohn, Jr. born April 14, 1951 and married Brenda Joyce Dunham in 1970; William Frederick Hohn born January 22, 1953 and married Joyce Watson in 1977; David Julius Hohn born April 12, 1955 and married Becky Johnston in 1979; Sherri Ann Hohn was born April 20, 1959 and married Harlan Colvin in 1982; and Lynda Marie Hohn was born May 10, 1960.

All of Louis and Johannah's children and many of their grandchildren, are gone. Left behind, however, is a flourishing generation of great-grandchildren and in many of the families, great-great-grandchildren have begun to

carry on the Hohn traditions. Nearly all of Louis' descendants have married and remarried in Texas; still, some have left Texas and are scattered across America, returning when it is possible to visit.

A more complete narrative of the founding lines of this union, reaching back into the 1750's in Europe, is in preparation and will be published in the next year or two.

by Pearl Webb Hammerle

HOLLAN, JAMES BERRY AND ALAFAIR (WEST)

F441

William Wade Hollan, Alafair Hollan, James Berry Hollan

James Berry Hollan was born Sept. 25, 1827 in Mississippi, the oldest son of Wade Hampton and Emily (Kelly) Hollan. About 1841 he married Alafair West, who was born in 1824 in Mississippi. No record of the marriage has been found, however, and nothing is known about her family.

They had four children: #1 – William Wade Hollan (1843-1919) married Emily Tanksley Nov. 12, 1863. Children: Elizabeth b. 1864, Jimberry b. 1866, Greenberry b. 1866, and Mary Rosa b. 1868. He married (2) Mary Tanksley. They are all buried in Hebron Cemetery.

#2 – Martha E. – listed on the 1850 census in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. No other information.

#3 – Samuel Morgan Hollan (1847-1900) married (1) Frances Mavis "Fannie" Baker Oct. 13, 1865. Children: James Terry b. 1866, Lillie Ann b. 1869, Mary Alafair "Allie" b. 1872, and Roy b. 1874. He married (2) Lillie Pearl "Dan" Osburn Oct. 9, 1892. Children: Hugh Stephenson b. 1893, James Hart b. 1896, and Cora Ann b. 1898. For more information on the family of Samuel Morgan Hollan, see story "Hollan, Samuel Morgan and Frances Mavis (Baker) Hollan and Lillie Pearl (Osborn) Hollan."

#4 – Frances Rosa Hollan (1853-1924) married Richard Wood Dodd March 12, 1868. Children: Ruth Ella b. 1869, James Berry b. 1872, Walter b. 1875, Claudia b. 1878, Maude b. 1882, Richard W., Jr. b. 1883, Mabel Claud b. 1886, Leslie Boyd b. 1888, Mabel Ruth b. 1891, and Patti Rosa b. 1894.

About 1846 the James Berry Hollan family moved to Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, and in 1853 they moved to Texas, living first in Gonzales County for a time, and then moving to DeWitt County where they bought land at Terryville, Texas.

On June 22, 1861 James Berry Hollan, his father Wade Hampton Hollan, and three of his brothers, Henry Harrison, Robert A., and John M. were among those who volunteered for A.J. Scarborough's Davis Guard at Terryville, Texas. This unit was mustered into Confederate service in San Antonio as Company B, 4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers on Aug. 27, 1861. The regiment was attached to Gen. Henry H. Sibley's Brigade in the New Mexico Campaign. The three Hollan brothers remained with Company B during this campaign — James Berry, Robert A., and John M. They took part in the battles of Valverde and Glorieta. Company records note that 1st Lt. James Berry Hollan, age 34, commanded Company B during the battle of Glorieta, as Capt. Scarborough was too ill to command. John M. and Robert A. Hollan were taken prisoner at Albuquerque on April 15 and were exchanged. John M. Hollan's military record notes that he was later hospitalized three times. No further information. Robert A. Hollan returned to DeWitt County, and married Miss E.P. Harper on Aug. 29, 1863. No further information.

James Berry Hollan returned to Texas with Sibley's men and subsequently enlisted at Camp Stonewall Jackson in Victoria County and in September 1863 was enlisted in Co. D, 24th Bat., 24th Militia Brigade at Camp Terry.

After the war James Berry Hollan returned to his home at Terryville where he lived for the remainder of his life. Land deeds regarding his property can be found in the DeWitt County Courthouse. He died March 30, 1903 in DeWitt County, and his wife Alafair died Dec. 31, 1904. Both are buried in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Sibyl Hollan Northcutt

HOLLAN, ROY AND LILLIE ANN (PARK)

F442

Roy Hollan was the youngest son of Samuel Morgan and Frances Mavis "Fannie" (Baker) Hollan. He was born in DeWitt County November 24, 1874. He was a rancher and farmer in DeWitt County all of his life. Following in his father's footsteps, he was a loyal and active member of the Hebron Baptist Church.

On October 20, 1896 Roy married Lillie Ann Park, with his father, Samuel Morgan Hollan, officiating. Lillie Ann "Lil" was the daughter of King Cyrus Alexander Park, Jr. and Mary Alcesta (Darst) Park.

Roy and "Lil" had a large family of six boys and two girls. The children, in order of age, are:

(1) James Berry Hollan – b. August 1, 1897 d. January 22, 1965, married Maurine Jowers; four children: Dorothy Maurine, James Taylor "Buddy," Julia Dawn, and Kenneth Joe.

(2) Baby boy, Franklin Hollan – died in infancy.

Roy Hollan, Lillie Ann (Park) Hollan, Sam Hollan (baby), and Jimberry Hollan

(3) Samuel Morgan Hollan – named for Roy's father – b. September 9, 1900 d. November 9, 1985, married (1) Eula Goode, one child, Mary Lou; (2) Dorothy Castellaw Goode.

(4) Earl Benbow Hollan – b. January 2, 1903, married Margaret Parks; one child, Joe Earl.

(5) Frank Thrift Hollan – b. September 4, 1904, married (1) Alta Benbow, four children: Wanda Joyce, Anita Ruth (died in infancy), Shirley, Carolyn (adopted). Married (2) Frances Johnson, no children.

(6) Mae Hollan – b. January 17, 1907, married (1) Charles Kibbe, one child, Murry; married (2) Hardie S. Nance, adopted Murry.

(7) Frederick Boyd Hollan – b. December 27, 1908 d. December 8, 1975, married Pauline Fochet; three children: Paul, Paulette, Donna.

(8) Lucille Grace Hollan – b. January 4, 1914 d. May 31, 1930, never married.

The five Hollan brothers and two sisters grew up on the farm in the early 1900's. The family raised most of their own food. The boys' prized possessions were their horses and saddles. Their favorite pastimes were riding, hunting, and fishing. Most of their education was at the Bear Creek country school near Hebron Church. Social life centered around the church and school, with occasional box suppers and "play parties" in neighbors' homes.

Lillie Ann Hollan died March 24, 1925, and Roy died October 23, 1936. Both of them and several of their children are buried in the Hebron Cemetery. Four generations of the Hollan family rest in adjoining plots at Hebron.

by Mary Hollan Inman

. . Dr. ALEX IRVIN, . .

Physician and Surgeon

— OFFICE: —

Over HEATON BROS'. DRUG STORE, CUERO, TEXAS.

HOLLAN, SAMUEL MORGAN AND (1) FRANCES MAVIS BAKER AND (2) LILLIE PEARL OSBORN

F443

Samuel Morgan Hollan and Lillie Pearl (Osborn)

Samuel Morgan Hollan was born March 25, 1847 in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. His parents were James Berry and Alafair (West) Hollan. He came with them to Texas in 1853, living for a short time in Gonzales County and then settling in DeWitt County at Terryville. He had one brother and two sisters: William Wade, Martha E., and Frances Rosa.

Sam Hollan raised cattle and ranched during his early life. He served a short time in the Confederate army during the Civil War, enlisting in 1864 at age 17.

On Oct. 12, 1865 he married Frances Mavis "Fannie" Baker in Guadalupe County. She was born Dec. 23, 1848 in Alabama. Her parents were William B. Baker and Vashti (White) Baker who are buried in the Old Highsmith Cemetery in Guadalupe County. The marriage ceremony of Sam Hollan and Fannie Baker was performed by her brother, James M. Baker, who was pastor of the San Marcos Primitive Baptist Church, Guadalupe Co., from 1862 until his death in 1910.

In 1870 Sam Hollan began driving cattle from DeWitt County to Kansas. He made three or four of these drives in the ensuing years. By his own account, he was a wild, rough fellow, quite at home with other ranchers and cowboys of the times, and numbered Wes Hardin and Bill Hickok among his acquaintances. As time passed, however, his conscience began troubling him, and in Aug. 1877 he had a deeply-moving religious experience. He was converted, a born-again Christian, and became a Baptist preacher and missionary for the remainder of his life.

Sam and Fannie Hollan had four children: #1 James Terry b. Oct. 21, 1866 married Amanda Rosita Hampil Sept. 3, 1892. Buried at Nixon, Texas. Children: Leslie, Guy, Willis, Harley, Gertrude, Carruth, Clarence, Julius and Silas.

#2 – Lillie Ann b. Nov. 9, 1868 married Richard B. Thrift Aug. 31, 1885. Buried at Nixon, Texas. Children: Frank, Fannie, William Terry, Ruth, Myrtle and Ima.

#3 – Mary Alafair "Allie" b. Sept. 25, 1872 married James Daniel Benbow Feb. 14, 1893. Buried in Alexander Cemetery at Stratton, Texas. Children: Sidney, Sam, Mae, Jack, Hugh, Frances and Brown.

#4 – Roy b. Nov. 24, 1874 married Lillie Ann Park Oct. 20, 1896. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Children: Jimberry, Franklin, Sam, Earl, Frank, Mae, Fred and Lucille. (For more information on this family, see story, "Hollan, Roy and Lillie Ann (Park).)

Fannie Hollan died rather young on Sept. 26, 1891.

Sam Hollan was married again on Oct. 9, 1892 to Lillie Pearl "Dan" Osborn. She was born in Texas Dec. 5, 1871. Her parents were Hillard M. and Mary Jane Osborn, both of whom are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum. Sam and Dan Hollan had three children:

#1 Hugh Stephenson b. Nov. 1893, d. Oct. 14, 1975. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Married Mary Katherine King in DeWitt Co. Nov. 25, 1918. Children: Hubert Samuel b. 1919, Otho Frances b. 1921, Catherine Clarice b. 1923, Neill Hart b. 1925, and Royce King b. 1927.

#2 – James Hart b. Aug. 18, 1896, d. Feb. 1, 1932. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Married Geneva Goode Sept. 29, 1915. She was born April 7, 1897. Children: Ruby b. 1916, Mildred b. 1918, Letha Mae b. 1919, Sibyl b. 1921, Lillian b. 1924, Fay b. 1926, Joyce b. 1928 and Wayne b. 1930.

#3 – Cora Ann b. Dec. 29, 1898, d. Dec. 31, 1967. Buried in Hebron Cemetery. Married Wesley Bryan Fitzhenry Aug. 20, 1919. Children: Ina LaRue b. 1920, Edith Estelle b. 1924, and Nellie Irene b. 1927.

Dan Hollan died Dec. 9, 1919, outliving Sam by more than 19 years.

During his life as a preacher and missionary, Sam rode thousands of miles on horseback in all kinds of weather. It was once reported that he arrived at his destination frozen to the saddle. He preached at Baptist churches throughout the area, established new churches including those at Mission Valley and Louise, and served as a Missionary preacher for the Colorado Baptist Association which included Gonzales, Weimer, Columbus, Hallettsville, Hope, Yoakum, Navidad, Louise, Edna, Salem, Seclusion, Midway, County Line, etc. He was pastor of Hebron Baptist Church 1885-1889, 1891-1895, and 1897-1900. When he died Sept. 23, 1900, his death was noted in the Proceedings of the Fifty-Second Annual Session of the Baptist General Convention of Texas held Nov. 9-12, 1900 at the First Baptist Church of Waco. The following obituary was part of the Proceedings: "During the year we have been called to mourn the departure of several of our faithful workers. Elder S.M. Hollan, the earnest missionary in the Colorado Association has been called from labor to refreshment in the present of the King. He was a man of sterling character, courageous, devoted, liberal and strong. He fell on the field of battle, in the prime of life, greatly mourned by those who knew him."

He and both of his wives are buried in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Sibyl Hollan Northcutt

ABSTRACTS
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W. R. GARRETT
Cuero, Texas.

HOLLAN, WADE HAMPTON AND EMILY (KELLY) FAMILY

F444

The first members of the Hollan family to settle in DeWitt County were Wade Hampton Hollan and Emily (Kelly) Hollan. Both of them were born in South Carolina and lived in Mississippi and Louisiana before coming to DeWitt County.

Wade Hampton and Emily Hollan had ten children. They are listed below in order of age, with a summary of information about the marriages and children of each:

#1 – James Berry Hollan – b. 25 Sept. 1827 in Miss. d. 30 Mar. 1903 in DeWitt County, married Alafair West. Buried in the Hebron Cemetery, DeWitt County Texas. They had four children: William Wade, Martha E., Samuel Morgan, and Frances Rosa. (For more information on this family, see stories "Hollan, James Berry and Alafair (West)" and "Hollan, Samuel Morgan and (1) Frances Mavis (Baker) and (2) Lillie Pearl (Osburn).")

#2 – Henry Harrison "Hack" Hollan – b. 24 Mar. 1834 in Miss. d. 27 Nov. 1895 in DeWitt County. Married Eliza Jane Hall 14 July 1853 in DeWitt County. Both are buried in the Hollan Cemetery. They had four children: Napoleon Bonaparte "Pole," James Wade "Buck," John Green, Samuel Tilden "Little Sam."

#3 – Mary Ann Hollan – b. ca. 1836 in Miss. Married Thomas Augustus Potts 1 Aug. 1854 in DeWitt Co. She was listed as a teacher on the DeWitt Co. Census 1860. No other information.

#4 – Robert A. Hollan – b. ca. 1839 in Miss. Married Miss Elizabeth P. Harper 29 Aug. 1863 in DeWitt Co. He was listed on the DeWitt Co. Civil War Muster Roll, and was named as heir of his mother, Emily, in 1877. No further information.

#5 – Martha Ann Elizabeth Hollan – b. Feb. 1841 in Miss. Married Hugh J. Stephenson 3 Aug. 1857 in DeWitt Co. d. 9 Apr. 1882. Both are buried in the Hollan Cemetery. They had eight children: Leona Florilla, John Pierce, Theodocia F. "Docia," Martha V., William W., Culperny, Cordelia, Barnwell P.

#6 – Delila A. Hollan – b. ca. 1843 in Miss. Married Elbert Franklin Matthew 1 May 1862 in DeWitt Co. She died before her father, Wade H. Hollan, made his will in Sept. 1869, but the date of her death is not known. She is buried in the Hollan Cemetery in an unmarked grave. They had two children: Walter King and Eula.

#7 – John M. Hollan – b. ca. 1844 in Miss. d. before 1869. He was listed on DeWitt Co. Civil War Muster Roll. No further information.

#8 – Louisiana "Lucy" V. Hollan – b. 15 Mar. 1847 in Caldwell Parish, La. d. 21 July 1915. Buried at Gonzales, Texas. Married Joseph Autry 3 Nov. 1865 in DeWitt Co. They had eight children: Sarah E., John H., Moroni H., Itha Dora, Samuel J., Susan Berta, Julia Green, Luther King.

#9 – Richard Wiley "Dick" Hollan – b. 27 Nov. 1848 in Louisiana d. 5 June 1915. Buried in Houston, Texas. Was married twice. M. (1) Elizabeth Stell 2 Sept. 1868 in DeWitt Co. No children. M. (2) Texanne Cooper 12 Sept. 1877. They had seven children: James Harrison, Charles William, Barney, Mattie Lula, Roy, Jesse Wiley, Esker Jerome.

#10 – Louis Green Berry Hollan – b. 31 Dec. 1857 in DeWitt Co. d. 22 July 1880 when struck by lightning. Buried in the Hollan Cemetery. Married Hellen Cooper 31 Dec. 1874. They had four children: Minnie V., Henry Harrison "Hack," William Weisieger "Bill," and Green Berry, Jr., who was born after his father died.

by Sibyl Hollan Northcutt

HOLLOWAY, H. B. FAMILY

F445

H.B. Holloway, Kay (Holloway) Reese and (seated) Eva Holloway.

Harwell Beron Holloway was born June 27, 1907, in Stephenville, Texas. His parents were Ruben Holloway and Effie Ida Holloway. He had two sisters, Gertrude Holloway and Bess Holloway. At the age of twelve, the Holloway family moved to Kingsville, Texas, and when Harwell was eighteen he entered Texas A&I College.

Eva Docia West was born May 2, 1908, in Mangum, Oklahoma, to Willie and Docia West. One of twelve children, she moved with her family to Bishop in 1914 to live on a farm which had been bought by her father. Eva moved to Kingsville when she was eighteen and entered Texas A&I College.

Eva and Harwell met at Texas A&I in 1926. Eva secured a job at the County Clerk's office in Corpus Christi, and Harwell began delivering ice for Central Power and Light in Corpus Christi. They married August 10, 1929. Cherie Kay Holloway was born to Eva and Harwell on May 3, 1935, and Virginia Ann Holloway was born on September 2, 1944. At that time, Harwell was ice supervisor for Central Power and Light.

In 1944, CP&L began to sell the eighty icehouses which they owned. Harwell bought the Cuero, Goliad, and Yorktown icehouses as well as the Nordheim substation. Thus, in 1944, the Holloway family moved to Cuero. When Mr. Holloway first came to Cuero, he lived at the Muti Hotel while waiting for his family to move from Corpus Christi following the birth of Virginia Ann. The entire family moved to Cuero on July 7, 1944. Ann died in January of 1945.

Mr. Holloway continued to operate the Cuero Icehouse until 1959. He also became a Gulf Oil consignee in 1948. The Cuero Icehouse was sold to Southland Ice in 1959, and he gave up the Gulf consignee business in 1962. He then managed the Cuero Bowl from 1965 until 1968. Beginning in 1971, Mr. Holloway managed the J&H Farm outside of Cuero until he was forced to retire due to health reasons in 1984. He died on September 24, 1986, of emphysema.

Mrs. Eva Holloway, along with her daughter, Cherie Kay Reese, grandson, Raymond Holloway Reese, and great granddaughter, Jordan Elizabeth Reese, still resides in Cuero. Cherie Kay finished high school in Cuero, and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Texas in Austin while majoring in Elementary Education. She married Raymond R. Reese in 1956. After his graduation from medical school, they had two children, Rebecca Ann Reese and Raymond Holloway Reese. Rebecca Ann received a Doctorate in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois in May of 1990 in order to pursue a career of teaching at the university level. Raymond Holloway received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Baylor University School of Law in 1987. He is licensed as an attorney as well as a certified public accountant and is practicing in Cuero. Raymond H. Reese is married to the former Helen Elizabeth Pearson of Rockport, Texas who is a registered nurse. They have one daughter, Jordan Elizabeth Reese, born October 25, 1988. Thus, four generations of Holloways currently reside in Cuero.

by Kay Reese

HOLZAPFEL FAMILY

F446

Gustav Wilhelm Gottlieb Holzapfel, my grandfather (who died on November 4, 1896 before I was born on December 29, 1912), was born on November 23, 1818 in Paderboon, Germany. He came to Texas with his brother Herman and two friends on December 5, 1849, landing at Galveston. They came to Goliad where they lived with Albert Schlueter and Hy. Hildebrand. The four young men had a picture taken in Bremen, Germany just before sailing for America.

Back Row: Emilie Holzapfel, Herman Holzapfel, Mathilde Holzapfel, Illie Holzapfel, Fred Holsapfel. Front: Auguste (Grothaus) Holzapfel, Gus Holzapfel, William Holzapfel and Charlotte (Bingen) Grothaus.

They had heard of opportunities in Texas from Frederick Ernst (founder of Industry, Texas), and from Robert Kleberg who had bought land and settled in the George W. Brooks Survey near the Five Mile Creek. These four men also bought land in the George W. Brooks Survey and Gus built a log cabin. Their old homesteads are today, for the most part, still owned by descendants. Walter Pieper, my husband, and I inherited part of this homestead that has been in our family for 133 years.

Gustav married Aguste Charlotte Grothaus, who was born October 3, 1835 in Barmen, Germany. This marriage on June 4, 1855 was in New Braunfels, Texas. (On December 2, 1934 Walter Pieper and I also married in New Braunfels, Texas.) To the union of Gus and Aguste Holzapfel, six children were born: Mathilde, Emilie, Herman, Otillie (Illie), Fritz, and my father, William (Gustav was age 59 when William was born).

Walter and I have five children: John William (J.W.), Charles Allen, Marilyn Marguerite, Beverly Jean and D'Ette Jo. William (my father) was the youngest of his generation. I am the youngest of my generation. D'Ette, who was born December 20, 1958 just 9 days before I was 46 years old, is the youngest of her generation, so her daughter, Laurel Marguerite Ray (age 5 now in 1989) is the youngest of her generation, and the last page in our Holzapfel family tree!

Walter and I moved to this homestead in 1944 shortly before Marilyn was born, because we had cattle on the place, and Walter was due to be drafted into service during World War II. His number did not come up for another year because he was past age 30. That gave us time to repair fences, barns and improve the house with little or no expense. He was called in 1945 and served in the Navy on the USS Prince William in the Pacific until V.J. Day.

After the war years we remodeled the house (for the fourth time) to be more comfortable. In 1960 we built a large new barn, moved our bedroom furniture in there and our kitchen and dining room into the smokehouse. Neighbors and relatives helped take down the old house, and every good board was used in building a modern brick home. In 1980 this house was improved and repaired, and now in 1990 we intend to do whatever is needed, because we are proud of our home and our heritage.

by Mrs. Walter (Ida Helen Holzapfel) Pieper

HOUSE, FREDERICK

F447

Fredericke Wilhelm House was born 26 February 1833 in the Kingdom of Hannover. It is thought that his father was Christian Hundhausen from Rosbach, Hannover. His mother passed away before the family moved to Texas on the Colchis in 1846 and his father remarried shortly after they arrived in Indianola, Texas. It is thought that Fred had more than the one

Frederick House seated on left. Convention in Yorktown, TX

Frederick House ca 1900, Yorktown, TX

Frederick William House and Sarah Elizabeth (Powell) House ca 1880, Yorktown, TX

Frederick House's Ranch House ca 1900. Rearview. Davy, TX. Fred is in center of gate

brother, Christopher who died in battle during the Civil War, and probably one sister who married a Mr. Weber in Gillespie Co, Texas where they and Hundhausen settled. Fred made his way from Indianola to San Antonio riding behind "Old Mr. Campbell" on Campbell's mule. He was 13 years old when he came to Yorktown which was comprised of the Striber family, C.G. Hartmann family, the Hoppes, the Hardts and Peter Metz. John King lived near the settlement and Fred hired out to him for two years. For these services Fred was given ten acres of land, five cows and a horse. His next employer was Elijah Ray near Kenedy and in 1854 went into Old Mexico with Mr. Newman, taking cattle down and bringing horses back to Texas. Fred's first house was in Upper Yorktown, near where Henry Menn's place was and near to Fred's butcher shop which was under the oak trees there, Fred continued the butcher shop for about three years before he moved out on Salt Creek and

began ranching shortly after he married Sarah Elizabeth Powell, daughter of Samuel S. and Agnes (Stone) Powell of Madison County, Kentucky, in Jan. 1855.

Sarah Elizabeth Powell had been born in Henry County, Kentucky on 30 December 1838 and her parents had a plantation that adjoined that of Samuel's father, LittleBerry Powell near Richmond, Madison Co., Kentucky. LittleBerry was the son of William Powell, Sr. and had married Samuel's mother, Sarah Sally Kerr (daughter of Samuel Kerr) on 16 December 1807 in Madison Co. KY. Sarah Elizabeth Powell married Fred House soon after the Powell family moved to DeWitt County.

Fred and Sarah's children were John R. born 12 Oct 1855, Harriet Jane Agnes born 12 February 1857, Annie born 6 Oct 1859, Laura born 13 Oct 1861, Martha born 21 Aug 1865, Christopher born 10 Oct 1867, Mary born 27 Sept. 1870, Elizabeth born 22 Aug 1872, Henry born 21 Nov 1874, Robert born 9 Jan 1877 and Ola May born 31 October 1880.

The House ranch prospered and Fred began furnishing cattle for the Kansas drive and was an agent, under power of attorney, for 700 brands, over territory extending from the mountains to the Rio Grande for over ten years. He accumulated many thousand acres before he moved back to Yorktown in 1910 after buying the Danysch residence.

After Sarah Elizabeth Powell House died in January, 1895, Fred later married Mrs. Ada (Tully) Coleman, daughter of A.J. Tulley and widow of Mr. Coleman, on 23 December 1899. There was a son by this second marriage, William Frederick House.

Fred began his service to the Confederate government in 1861 when he drove 1,220 head of cattle to New Iberia, Louisiana. Fred enlisted in Capt. Henry Gonzalvo Woods' Company, 2 Regiment Carter's Brigade, Texas Mounted Volunteers at Camp Carter, Hempstead, Texas on 21 April 1862 after having joined on 3 Feb at Yorktown with Capt. Cupples holding the rank of sergeant at the age of 27. This company became Co K, 24 Regiment Texas Cavalry. Fred, his brother Christopher, and other members of this regiment were taken prisoner of war by the Union soldiers on 11 January 1863 at Arkansas Post, Arkansas. His name appears as "F. Hund" on the prisoner of war rolls and Chris' name is "Hause." They were held prisoner at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois until April, 1863 when they were exchanged at City Point, VA. The regiment was retained for a time at Richmond, and was then sent to join Gen. Bragg's army where they fought in the Battles of Chickamangua, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mt. and at this latter engagement, he pulled the first battery up the mountain. He was later in the Atlanta campaign, where they fought every day down to the battles of Ringold and Dalton. His youngest brother was killed in action at Resaca. (This may or may not have been Chris).

There is an excellent article on Fred House in *A History of Texas and Texans*, Vol 3, issued by the American Historical Society, pages 1521-1524. There is also mention of Fred in *The Trail Drivers of Texas* and *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray 1861-1865.*

In his obituary which appeared in the Yorktown newspaper on 21 May 1921, it stated that Fred "was a man who united sound sense with strong convictions, and candid, outspoken temper, eminently fitted to mould the rude elements of pioneer society into form and consistency, and aid in raising a high standard of citizenship in our young and growing state." Fred died at his home in Yorktown on Saturday morning at 6 o'clock 21 May 1921 at the age of 88 years, 2 months, and 25 days and was buried at his family cemetery, House cemetery, at Davy with the Rev. A.T. Cocke of Davy Cemetery Church officiating. He is buried next to his first wife, Sarah Elizabeth (Powell) House.

by Marianne Little and Betty J. Bireley

HOUSE, JOHN RANDOLPH AND GUSTINE SCHNIEDER

F448

John Randolph House, the eldest of ten children born to Frederick and Sarah Powell House, was born October 12, 1855 on the House Ranch at Salt Creek near Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas.

He had two brothers, Christopher and Henry and a half brother, William; seven sisters, Jane, Martha, Mary, Annie, Lizzie, Laura and Ola. The half brother, William Frederick was born to Fred House and his second wife, Ada Coleman.

John lived at home with his parents, working on the ranch, until he married.

On December 30, 1876, John was united in marriage to Gustine Schneider, daughter of William R. Schneider and Mary Gips, thus uniting two South Texas pioneer families.

John and Gustine continued to live near Davy for a few years, then moved to a farm near Runge, Karnes County, Texas. Their family was blessed with eleven children.

1. Jane, their eldest daughter, born September 2, 1877, died November 20, 1939, buried in Runge, married Clarence Outler. Their family of nine included Ellis, born August 2, 1896, died July 6, 1948, never married, worked for the railroad; Lillie, born November 3, 1897, never married; Robert, born November 11, 1898 married Rhoda —, no children; Oletha, a teacher, born October 6, 1900, died August 14, 1988, married Frank Murphy and a second marriage to Burney Smith. One daughter, Betty Jane was born to first marriage. Louis, was born October 6, 1902 and died April 8, 1903; Maggie Lee born January 20, 1904 married a Mr. Talley, divorced; Dorothea, a teacher was born January 3, 1913 and died February 21, 1944, never married; twins Irene and a baby boy who died at birth, were born August 5, 1917. Irene died July 28, 1988, never married.

2. Lillie, the second daughter of John Randolph House and his wife Gustine Schneider, was born in 1881, married John Wesley Hardin, III, both are buried in Runge Cemetery. Their son, Wesley, born October 26, 1898, died 1940, married Ora Davis, a teacher. There were no children. Lillie's daughter, Belva Hardin, first married to Hewitt Vossburg, divorced, Belva then married B.W. Wullschlager. Mr. Wullschlager was born January 21, 1904, died March 31, 1968 in Corpus Christi. He was a Commander, U.S. Navy, WW II. They had no children. A third child of Lillie's was Tommie J., born July 20, 1900, died in Goliad, November 22, 1907.

3. Mary, born November 4, 1879 married Dave Lyons, both are buried in Runge. They had two daughters, one who died at birth, and Hazel, a teacher, married D. Edwards, in the Oil Field business. Hazel died February 22, 1968 and is buried in Austin, Texas. They had one daughter, Chloe.

4. Alfred Randolph, born December 30, 1886, died October 20, 1961, married Estella Pearce, who was born January 28, 1879, died June 16, 1971, both died in San Antonio, Texas and are buried in Runge. They had two daughters, Alfred Estelle, born and died December 20, 1907; Willie Lucille, born March 6, 1909 in San Angelo, Texas, married July 8, 1926 to Harry H. Meyer who was born July 12, 1907 in Nordheim. They had one son, Harry Alfred, born May 2, 1927.

5. Chris Fred, born July 18, 1889, died August 3, 1950 in Ft. Sam Houston Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. He served in WW I. He married Maude Sykes of Nixon. They had three children: Bonita, Joy Albert and LaVerne.

6. Ella, born September 7, 1891, died May 9, 1969, married Alvo Yeary. They had two daughters, Mavis and Margaurite. When the girls were young, they lived in Runge. In 1925 they moved to Holtville, California. Both Ella and Alvo Yeary are buried in Runge, Texas.

7. Lonice, born in 1893, died March 31, 1973, buried in Runge. She married Leon Sykes, brother of Maude Sykes. They had no children.

8. Oscar, born February 24, 1896, died May 14, 1957, a WW II Veteran, 36th Division, married Helen Alex. They divorced.

9. Ruby Pearl, born 1898, married G. Moore of Nixon, Texas. They had nine children. She is buried in Runge and he is buried in Nixon.

10. Bernice, born April 4, 1900, married E. Stevens. They had five daughters. They lived in Runge until they joined her sister, Ella and her family in the move to California. They first settled at El Centro, later moving to Imperial, California.

11. One son, Robert, died at birth.

John Randolph House and his family lived in Nixon about 1911 to 1913 and then moved back to Runge where they lived until their demise. John died April 9, 1922 and Gustine died November 25, 1933 in Runge. They had thirty-one grandchildren and twenty-seven great grandchildren at the time of their passing.

Gustine had several brothers and sisters, among them were Mrs. Max (Mary) Schorre of Runge and William Schneider. Having lived their life in Southwest Texas, they were a well known and respected family.

by Mrs. Willie Lucille Meyer

HOWARD, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND TENNESSEE M.

F449

Stephen Howard brought his family from DeSoto County, Mississippi to settle on the Goliad County side of the Guadalupe in the early 1850's. A widower, Stephen's family consisted of sons Joseph, Jordan, and Thomas Jefferson, and daughters Martha, Ann, and Emily.

On June 22, 1861, a little more than two months after the beginning of the Civil War, Thomas Jefferson and Jordan enlisted in Scar-

borough's Davis Guards Mounted Volunteers stationed at Concrete. In his report for the month of June, 1861, Captain Scarborough noted, "This company is willing to go anywhere, if it is to New York, to get a fight."

November 7, 1861, Thomas J. married Tennessee Marshall, daughter of Isham and Sarah Marshall, from the DeWitt County side of the river. When he was assigned to frontier duty, he took her back to her mother's place to stay until his return. Thomas J. was stationed at Camp Dix and Camp Nueces, both in Uvalde County, for most of his service, and was promoted to sergeant by 1863.

In a 1940 interview, Tennessee described the times: "They (Thomas' company) had lots of duties and many hard rides to make. He never got home until 1865 when the war was over. We had got along the best we could. We sold butter and eggs and made our own cloth for our clothes. My mother had give my sister Susan and me a farm each with some pasture land and I still have the place she gave me. It is close to Cuero."

Following the war, Thomas Jefferson farmed the place Tennessee's mother had given her just north of Cuero and carried the mail to Yorktown.

Tennessee relates, "The Sutton-Taylor Feud was raging in those days — ever little while a Sutton would kill a Taylor or vise-versa — and once in a while they fell out among themselves. Two men in the Sutton gang had trouble once and one of them killed the other. The dead man was named Demoss. My husband and daughter sat up with the corpse that night and they said there was about one-hundred fifty Sutton men outside. My husband came home and got his pistol —."

Six of the Howard's nine children were born in DeWitt County: Leona born in 1862, married B.B. Watson; William B. was born in 1866; Cora Claire born in 1870, married James Sterling Yancy; Susan F. born in 1873, married Walter Yancey; Vaughn J. born in 1881, married Cora Yancy; and Jennie born in 1881, married Jim Davis.

Thomas Jefferson could not forget the broad vistas and clean water of the area where he served while on frontier duty, and in 1882, moved his family west to Kinney and Uvalde Counties. However, they did not sever all ties with DeWitt County; Tennessee retained property there until her death in 1940.

by Norma Brown Caffall

HUCK, CHRISTIAN FAMILY

F450

Christian Huck was born at Goldschwarten, Grossherz Ogthrem, Oldenburg, Germany, Dec. 5, 1836. In 1857 he married Miss Bernhardine Wulf, who was born Sept. 10, 1823 in Germany. In 1882 Christian and Bernhardine came to America. Their only two sons, Diedrich and John Huck, had come to America in 1881. The family settled at Schulenburg, Texas. After two years they moved to Shiner, Texas and in 1892 the Huck family moved to a farm at Garfield, near Yorktown. Bernhardine Huck died May 14, 1902. Christian Huck made his home with his son and family until his death June 12, 1911. He and his wife are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Christian and Bernhardine (Wulf) Huck

In 1890 Diedrich Huck was married to Johanna Geradine Mueller, who was born in Germany. In 1906 the Huck family moved to their farm south of Nordheim. To this union three sons and three daughters were born – Emil, Harry, Alvin, Emma, Erna, and Ida. Emma Huck married George Ellis and they had no children. She died June 20, 1958 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. Erna Huck married Otto Fuhrken and they had no children. Erna Huck Fuhrken was killed in a storm May 6, 1930 in Nordheim and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. Ida Huck married Monroe Charpentier, and they had one son, Norvelle. She died Dec. 15, 1981 and is buried in Nordheim. Alvin Huck married Miss Tildie Steinert Feb. 9, 1919, and they have two sons, Alvin Stuart, Jr., and Dalton Martin. Harry Huck was born Jan. 10, 1908 and died Feb. 28, 1908. Emil Huck married Meta Meyer. Two boys and three girls were born to them: Nelton, Raymond, Lucille, Lorene and Mildred. Nelton Huck married Anita Riebschlaeger. They had two boys and two girls: Harlen Huck who died June 2, 1957, Roger Huck, Billie Joyce Huck and Charlene Huck. Raymond Huck married Alfreda (Fay) Mueller. She was born Nov. 22, 1915. Raymond was born August 25, 1914 and he died September 23, 1989. To this union three children were born: June Nell, Dolores Ann and Dickie Ray. Lucille Huck died Sept. 6, 1922. Lorene Huck married Stanley Reiman and they had three daughters and one son. Sandra Mueller married Wm. Franek. They have one daughter and one son. Gary Lee Mueller married Nancy Wilson and they have one son. Lerna Kay Mueller married David Hansel and two sons were born to them. Sharon Mueller married Rev. Jeffery A. Thompson and they have one daughter and one son. She has two sons from her first marriage, Brent and Brian Allen Nickell.

In 1923 Mr. Huck retired from active farming and moved to their home in Nordheim. Diedrich Huck died Feb. 20, 1948 and Mrs. Johanna Huck died July 17, 1961. They are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

John Huck, the other son of Christian and Bernhardine Huck, was married to Helen Bues in Shiner, Texas in 1885. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bues, who came to America in 1883. She was born June 1, 1861 in Oldenburg, Germany. John Huck died in 1897, from a heat stroke or heart attack. To this union eight children were born. Henry, who died at age 16, Emma, Agnes, Arthur, Frieda, Ida, Elmo and another son who died in infancy. Mrs. John (Helen) Huck married Osmar Neubert in 1902. To this union two children were born – Eugene and Louis Neubert. In 1918 the family moved to New York. Mr. Neubert died in August 1930 and Mrs. Neubert died June 25, 1949. They are both buried in Brooklyn.

by Mrs. Raymond Huck

HUDGEONS, JOHN BERRY FAMILY

F451

John Berry Hudgeons

John Berry Hudgeons was born in Lavaca County, Texas 23 Feb 1913. His parents were Berry Reddin and Laura English House Hudgeons. His Grandfather William Rufus Hudgeons was a veteran of CSA Army. His Great-grandfather William H. Hudgeons was a Texas Ranger who served in the spring of 1842 at the battle of Vasquez under Capt. Hayes of Gen. Burleson's Command. He was given a 640 acre land grant by the Republic of Texas.

John Berry married Frances Otelia Julia Korth at St. Marks parsonage, 21 Aug 1932. Frances was born near Yorktown 23 Dec 1911 and was the daughter of Julius Bernard and Frances A.S. Boldt Korth. At the age of 17 John B. joined the 36th Division of the Texas National Guard. He attained the rank of Buck/Sgt and served about three years. They first moved to DeWitt Co. in late 1934 on a farm near Yorktown. Their first son, John Travis, was born there, 19 Dec 1935. By late 1938 they were farming near Weser, Texas, in Goliad Co.

where their next two sons were born. Gary Arlon arrived 21 Jan 1939 and Kurt Dwane, 2 Nov 1940.

When WWII began John B. was farming, as he had all his life, but was drafted into the US Army, 28 April 1944, at the age of 31. After induction at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, he was sent to Camp Robinson, Ark., for Combat Infantry Training. By Nov. 1944 John B. was on a ship to England and the ETO in France and Germany. During the severe winter of 1944 his feet were frozen and he was hospitalized in England for treatment. When he again returned to Europe he was transferred from the 80th Division to the 1139th Engineers with whom he served until 28 Nov 1945 when he returned to Texas. He again took up farming in Goliad Co. and their 4th son, Mark Douglas, was born 31 Mar 1950. The family move to Cuero, 1 Sept. 1950. He was employed as a tractor mechanic at Gay Implement Co., until 1966 when he became a full-time City of Cuero Fireman. He retired in 1978.

Their 4 sons attended school in Cuero. The first three sons live in DeWitt Co. and the youngest lives in Goliad Co.

John Travis married Jeanne Ann Conner 17 Sept 1959 in Cuero. She was born in Hannibal Mo., to Richard and Sophia Conner. John T. and Jeanne had 2 sons, John Richard and James Travis, and a daughter Julie Ann. Their children were all born at Brooke General Army Hospital, Ft. Sam Houston, while John T. was stationed at Randolph AFB. They attended schools in Germany, New Jersey, and Cuero. John T. is retired from the United States Air Force.

Gary Arlon married Martha Lorene Buch, 7 June 1959 in Cuero. She was born near Edgar to William and Lorene Buch. They had a daughter, Lettie Anne. Gary was employed as an auto mechanic for many years and is the owner of Hudgeons Auto Service. Lettie Anne attended Cuero Schools.

Kurt Dwane married Martha Ann Young, 23 Dec 1963 in Cuero. She was born in Nixon, Texas, to Lee and Annie Young. Kurt and Martha had 2 daughters, Eva Marie and Sherryl Lynn, and a son Aaron Kurt. They attended Cuero schools. Kurt was employed as a auto-body repairman for many years, and he and Martha are the owners of Hudgeons Paint and Body Shop.

Mark Douglas married Carol Lynn Marr, 10 Nov 1974, in Mission Valley. She was born in Goliad Co. to Lawrence and Aldeen Marr. Mark and Carol had a daughter Stephanie Marr and a son Michael Lawrence. They reside in Goliad Co. Mark is a Senior Technician for Lone Star Gas.

John Berry and Frances have 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren as of 1 Oct 1989.

by Jeanne Conner Hudgeons

HUNTER, DAVID AND LOUIZA JANE LOCKHART

F452

David Hunter (1835-1892) married Louiza Jane Lockhart (1838-1921) March 26, 1857, in Gonzales Co. Louiza Jane was the daughter of Charles Lockhart who was one of the pioneers of Caldwell Co. and after whom the town of Lockhart was named. David was born in Alabama and came to Texas with his parents, William Hunter and Mary Waters, at the age of nineteen. They were some of the first settlers of Gonzales Co.

David Hunter served three years in the Confederate Army. After the war he was engaged in the ranching business. He moved his family to Clear Creek, DeWitt Co. in 1968, and in 1884 they moved to Cuero so their children could attend school.

Twelve children were born to David and Jane Hunter; ten grew up and had families. The children are: William Charles Hunter (1858-1919), married Jennie Hodge; Willis Hunter (1860-1924), married Ninnie Irene Guthrie; Mary Catherine Hunter (1862-1913), married Joseph Shely; Martha Ann Hunter (1866-1867); Sidney Johnson Hunter (1868-1871) and his twin Margaret Elizabeth Hunter (1868-), married John Van Hoogenhuyze; Eliza Matilda Hunter (1871-1943), married William Follesbee Harris; Franklin Hunter (1873-1943), married Mabel Leona Goodrich; Lilly Jane Hunter (1875-1955), married Tom Gullette; Thomas Jackson Hunter (1877-1925), married Donnia Woods; Bertha Hunter (1880-1936), married Edwin O'Neal; and Louiza Barton Hunter (1883-), married M.M. Wolf.

by Jane Neill Cooper

HUTCHINS, BILL AND JOHN

F453

William Henry Hutchins, Jr. and his family moved to Nordheim, Texas, in 1945. "Bill" was the son of William Henry "Will" Hutchins, Sr. and Mary Magdalene "Maggie" Matthews. "Will" Hutchins was the grandson of Henry Barlow Hutchins. Henry Barlow Hutchins was born in Orange County, North Carolina, on June 1, 1799. Henry married Jane Powell and they were living in Wake County, North Carolina, in 1830. About 1835, Henry Barlow Hutchins and his cousin, Merritt Hutchins, moved to Texas. Both Henry and Merritt were granted 640 acres each of land by the Republic of Texas in 1838. Henry moved to Upshur County and Merritt moved to Colorado County, where he was elected County Sheriff.

Henry Barlow Hutchins married the young Julia Ann Belland they had eight children – John Emsley, James Carroll, Samantha E., Nancy C., Henry Moses, Mary E., and George Bell Hutchins. They moved from Upshur County to Dallas County in 1857. John Emsley and James Carroll Hutchins moved Palo Pinto County about 1876. James Carroll Hutchins married Bettie M. Hill and they had three children – William Henry "Will", Walter James, and Lela M. Hutchins. William Henry "Will" Hutchins, Sr. and Mary Magdalene "Maggie" (Matthews) Hutchins moved to Erath County, Texas, in 1898. They had seven children – Leona Deleane, Hallie Emma, Velma Pearl, James Carroll, Leura Mahota, John Emsley, and William Henry "Bill" Hutchins, Jr.

John Emsley Hutchins married Hazel Chandler and they had two daughters – Johnnie Sue, who died in infancy, and Jo Nell Hutchins. John, Hazel, and Jo Nell Hutchins moved to Nordheim, Texas, in 1945. Jo Nell Hutchins attended the school in Nordheim and graduated from Nordheim High School in 1953.

William Henry "Bill" Hutchins, Jr. married Ruby Whynama Pendleton in Erath County on December 20, 1932. Ruby Whynama Pendleton was the great-great-granddaughter of John Pendleton, a Methodist preacher, who moved to Texas from Virginia in 1857. John and his son, Allison Osborne Pendleton, moved their families to Texas by wagon train and their journey took fourteen weeks.

"Bill" and Whynama (Pendleton) Hutchins had two children – Billie Juanell, born February 28, 1934, and Joe Hugh Hutchins, born May 4, 1936. Billie Juanell and Joe Hugh Hutchins attended the school in Nordheim. "Bill" worked for a pipeline company, but he always operated a personal business in his "spare" time at Nordheim. "Bill" bought and sold vegetables from the old Market in San Antonio; he bought and sold eggs from the Smiley, Texas, area; he bought and sold used cars from San Antonio; and at one time, he and his family operated the "Amos and Andy" Cafe.

Billie Juanell Hutchins graduated from Nordheim High School in 1952. She attended Texas Lutheran College, Victoria College, and Texas A & I University. Billie Juanell Hutchins married Stephen Edwin Schroeder of Yorktown, Texas. Billie and Stephen had three children – Stephen Michael, Susan Michelle, and Sondra Meliss Schroeder. Billie Juanell Hutchins later married Daniel D. Durnan, from Ossion, Iowa, and they live in Bayside, Texas.

"Bill" Hutchins moved his family from Nordheim to Pettus, Texas, in the summer of 1952. Joe Hugh Hutchins graduated from Pettus High School in 1954. Joe attended the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for a year and a half before joining the U.S. Army. When Joe returned to Texas from the Army, "Bill" Hutchins, his father, was living in Victoria, Texas. They started Air Equipment Rental Company in 1959, an oilfield service company that is still in operation today.

Joe Hugh Hutchins married Bobbie Denise Kelso, great-great-granddaughter of Alfred Kelso, Sr. who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and was a resident of DeWitt County in the 1840s. Joe graduated from Texas A & M University with a degree in mechanical Engineering. Joe and Bobbie have one son, Christopher Kyle Hutchins born May 6, 1975. Joe, Bobbie and Kyle live in Victoria, Texas.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

IDEUS, EDMUND JOHN AND MELINA KAROLINE (DIEBEL)

F454

Edmund John Ideus (1/10/1895 – 5/18/1987) was the fourth child born of the union of John Ideus (1/26/1866 – 1/1/1941) and Marie (Wohlert) Ideus (9/18/1871 – 6/3/1970). His grandfather, Siebend Ideus, having immigrated to south Texas in 1857 from Aurich in northern Germany.

He was known to family and friends as "Ed" and grew up on the family farm situated on the 12 Mile Coletto Creek near Upper Meyersville with his 9 brothers and sisters. One brother, Berthold, died at age 8 when Ed was only 6. He

Back: Merton Ideus and Virgie Ideus. Front: Melina (Diebel) Ideus and Edmund Ideus

remembers, however, how his Papa and he got the casket from Upper Meyersville with a horse drawn sled and after his Mama had prepared the body for burial, drove it to the cemetery. Ed and his brothers and sisters walked to school and when the creek had a rise, they enjoyed a holiday from classes. Even though he only completed 7 grades, he was very proficient in math, read a lot, and was mentally alert for all of his 92 years (winning second place in a domino tournament, partnered with his son Merton, a few months before his death).

As a teenager of 17 Ed helped to herd 12,000 turkeys from Meyersville to Cuero, on foot, for the first Turkey Trot held in 1912. The group left Sunday morning at sunrise and arrived in Cuero around noon Tuesday. Ed received 75¢ a day for his work. He made many of these journeys as a young man.

During World War I Ed served his country in Co. "D" of the 85th Infantry Division. After the Armistice, Ludwig Bitterly, Alonzo Seiler and Ed walked home from Yorktown (where they had gotten off a bus) to Upper Meyersville, arriving home during the night. The family recalled how Ed's dog started barking as he was walking down the road, and his Mama saying, "Ed is coming home".

Melina Karoline Diebel (11/15/1903 – 7/13/1983) was the daughter of William A. Diebel (1/23/1879 – 3/6/1968) and Alma F. (Schorlemmer) Diebel (5/13/1877 – 5/28/1949) and grew up on the family farm located approximately 2 miles southeast of Upper Meyersville. She also was of German heritage, her great grandfather, Christoph Andreas Diebel came to America from Germany in 1850. She was an obedient, helpful daughter to her parents, was an excellent cook and seamstress and was very close to her only brother, Erwin, who was one day less than a year older than she. They did everything together and she deeply mourned his early death at age 30.

Ed and Melina were married in St. John's Lutheran Church of Meyersville on 11/18/1923 by Pastor H.C. Poehlmann. They lived on the farm Ed purchased from Melina's parents in September of 1923. Therefore, Melina lived and raised her family in the same house in which she was born and raised. This union was blessed with two children, Virgie Reed born 1/10/1926 on Ed's 31st birthday and Merton Lloyd born 4/21/1931.

They always worked a large garden providing fresh vegetables for the family, had numerous fruit trees, and raised and processed some of their own meat (pork, beef, mutton, turkeys and chickens). For years Ed assisted Alvin Doehrman (a neighbor) in his butcher shop every Friday, his remuneration being fresh meat for the family for several meals. To supplement the meager farm income, Ed did carpenter work when there was some available in the vicinity.

The children helped with the farming and ranching chores, attended Meyersville Public School and graduated from Cuero High School in 1943 and 1948, respectively. Virgie went to Business College and Merton served in the Army during the Korean Conflict from 8/19/1952 to 7/28/1954, stationed in Japan.

On 10/21/1945 Virgie married Reuben Lee Gohmert and they had three children, Aletha, JoBeth and Gordon. Their story is given separately.

Merton married Marjorie Helen Thamm on 10/29/1950 and they had five children, Sherryl born 7/6/1953, Patrica born 4/4/1956 and Jonathan born 5/26/1962 and two sons lost in infancy, one in September of 1957 and another in November of 1959.

Ed and Melina spent their lifetime on the farm, enjoying games of domino and bridge with friends and neighbors whenever possible. They loved their Lord and their Church and both are buried on St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. Both of their children and five of their six grandchildren live in the Meyersville area and are active in the Church their father and grandfather helped to construct in 1920-1921.

by Virgie Gohmert

IDEUS, JOHN FAMILY

F455

John William Ideus (Jan. 26, 1866 – Jan. 1, 1941) and Anna Marie Wohlert (Sept. 18, 1871 – June 3, 1970) were married in the Meyersville Lutheran Church on Oct. 31, 1889. It is fitting that the story of Grossmama and Grosspapa Ideus, as they were fondly known, be recorded in the centenary year of their marriage.

John Ideus' father, Simon (Siebend) Ideus was a German immigrant who came to Texas in 1857 with brothers Fokke H. and Johann and a sister named Anna. Family tradition states that the Ideus immigrants originated in Aurich in Friesland in Northern Germany near the North Sea. Visits to Aurich proved fruitful in locating several Ideus families with naming patterns similar to those of the Texas branch of the family. Exact relationships have not been established, but repetition of unusual given names such as Fokke and Siebend indicates a close tie. The countryside of the Aurich area is a flat and sparsely-wooded coastal plain of the North Sea near the border of Holland. The area is prosperous and substantial in appearance with topography and vegetation that remind one of the Texas coastal plain between Meyersville and the Gulf of Mexico. In Aurich the flat area is called moorland. Although physical characteristics are similar to those of South Texas, the climate is completely different. Winters are severe.

The Ideus men in the Aurich area are farmers and skilled laborers not too different from those of Texas; women are mostly housewives. Present day economy gives no clue to reasons for leaving this attractive place during the middle of the nineteenth century. At the time much of Europe was suffering from poverty, political turmoil and threat of military conscription, and this probably, in part, caused the abandonment of the homeland with the subsequent move to Texas. However, family tradition also states that the reason Simon Ideus came to Texas was to avoid family persecution after having married his first cousin named Anna Ideus. Simon and Anna Ideus Ideus produced one son named Herman who with his family is depicted in the Goliad County history book. Anna died shortly after arriving in Texas, but the exact date of her death and location of her burial site are unknown. After Anna died Simon married Marie Rebecca Adickes (Mar. 28, 1842 – Aug. 4, 1868). It was to this union that John William Ideus was born.

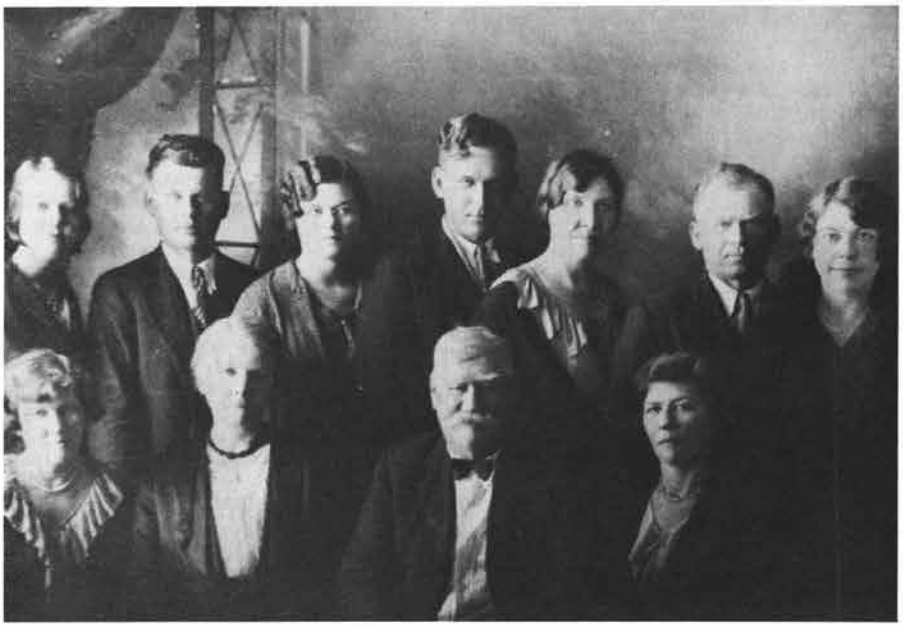
When John was a small child his father, mother and an infant brother died of yellow fever. Simon had been working as a wagoneer hauling freight from the port of Indianola after the Civil War. On one of his trips to the coast he was thought to have contracted the fever which caused the death of all the family except young John. John at the age of two years was taken into the home of Ahrend Adickes, his grandfather, where he was cherished and raised.

John Ideus grew to manhood and married Marie Wohlert who was a second cousin and a granddaughter of Simon's brother Fokke. This marriage resulted in the birth of ten children, nine of whom grew to adulthood. The family lived on a farm on Coleto Creek in a house that had belonged to Ahrend Adickes and supported themselves by farming cotton and feed crops and raising turkeys and cattle. There was always a large peach orchard and a big garden. German was the language commonly spoken in the community and by the family. In fact, although Marie was born in Texas and lived to the age of ninety-eight years, she could speak very little English.

The first child born to John and Marie Ideus was a daughter, Emma Johanna (May 19, 1890 – Aug. 8, 1964), who married Ernst Hiller and had no children. The second child was Albert Henry Louis (July 13, 1891 – July 8, 1949), who married Johanna Hedwig Seiler and had four children: Lucile Margarett, Preston Albert, Warren Louis and Reuben Frank John. These three sons served with distinction in military service during World War II. Preston earned a Silver Star decoration for valor, earned a battlefield commission, and received a Purple Heart in the Battle of the Bulge. Warren was in the Army Air Corps and rose to the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel. Reuben was a sergeant in the Marine Corps and received a Purple Heart Commendation.

The third child of John and Marie was Berthold (Jan. 9, 1893 – April 14, 1901) who died at age eight from measles. Before he died Berthold accidentally broke a window on the front porch of the family home. Grossmama would never permit the half-broken pane to be replaced and to this day the window stands with the pane broken.

Edmund John (Jan. 10, 1895 – May 18, 1987) married Melina Karolina Diebel and they had two children, Virgie Reed and Merton Lloyd. Bertha Marie (Betty) (Oct. 1, 1896 – July 6, 1984) married Adolph Berthold Haun and gave



John Ideus Family – L-R, Back: Mary, Edmund, Elsie, Werner, Erna, Albert, and Meta. Seated: Betty, Grossmama, Grosspapa and Emma.

birth to four children: Corine Faye, Ellis James, Norvan Gene and John William. Ellis was killed in an infantry campaign on Okinawa during the second World War. Erna Marie (July 31, 1901 – Sept. 19, 1976) married Erwin William Diebel who tragically died at the age of thirty, leaving two sons, Kenneth Lou, aged seven, and Burton Erwin, aged six weeks. Erna, who was unschooled and impoverished, somehow managed to raise her children. She took in sewing and under her direction and inspiration both sons acquired university degrees. Kenneth studied geology and eventually became vice president and director of an affiliate of a major oil company. Burt became an optometrist practicing in Alice, Texas.

Meta Lenore (Sept. 2, 1903-) became a nurse and practiced in Cuero, New Orleans, Chicago and Gonzales; she did not marry. Elsie Frieda Ottilie (Aug. 6, 1905 – Sept. 4, 1947), also a nurse, married Curtis Baker; they had no children. Werner Gustav (Jan. 17, 1909 – Jan. 23, 1974) never married and to the time of his death was a farmer on the family farm. Mary Sophia Elfrieda (Oct. 26, 1911-) became a nurse and married Dr. Charles D. Peavy; they had no children.

Most of the offspring of these Ideus children learned to speak German as a first language and spoke German to Grossmama and Grosspapa during frequent Sunday visits. These visits always involved a grand Sunday dinner, at which the children felt mistreated. The reason was that in typical German-disciplinary fashion, the men ate first, then the women and lastly the children. As the dining room was small, occasionally there would be two settings of men and then two servings for the ladies before the first grandchild could eat. Invariably by this time some of the "good stuff" like wine rice would be "all gone." It was an impressive occasion when a grandchild was deemed big enough to eat with the grown-ups. This usually occurred in their mid-teens. Evidently the children did not suffer, as most of the grandsons grew to healthy manhood weighing two hundred or more pounds.

Descendants of this pioneer couple number eighty with sixty-six surviving. Approximately half of this number live within twenty miles of the homestead.

by Kenneth L. Diebel

JACKSON, J.W. AND ADELE LLOYD

F456

Jesse Wilburn Jackson was born March 1, 1885 in Kosse, Texas. He married Hattie Adele Lloyd, born October 1, 1889 in Somerville, Tennessee. They were married January 1, 1918 in Pecos, Texas by her father, The Reverend John Frierson Lloyd, a Presbyterian minister. Rev. J.F. Lloyd was born July 25, 1853 in Columbia, South Carolina. Adele's mother was Myrtie A. Rudisill, who was born September 21, 1867 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

J.W. Jackson's father, Perry, was born May 22, 1854 in Jones County, Georgia, and his mother, Ella Mae Joyce, was born March 23, 1867 in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana.

J.W. Jackson, a graduate of Texas A&M University, was DeWitt County Agricultural Agent for twelve years. Adele, a teacher before her marriage, devoted herself to home and family.

The family moved to 305 E. Sarah Street in November, 1938. When they arrived, accompanied by a moving van, they found their "new" driveway blocked because Friday night football game was in progress. The van had to wait until the end of the game, and the road cleared, in order to unload. That year the Cuero Gobblers won Regional title, so all felt the wait was worthwhile. As four of the five Jackson children were teenagers, they found this very exciting.

The Jackson children were: (1) Wilburn Hoyt, born in Pecos, Texas, September 7, 1920. He married Kathleen Howard, a native of Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1943. To this union were born Norma Kay Jackson Bowers and James Nathan. Wilburn died September 24, 1980 in Victoria, Texas. (2) Myrtie Joyce was born October 18, 1922 in Ralls, Texas. She married Pat Dunn of Cuero on June 15, 1942. Their children are Stephen Lloyd, Benjamin Blake, Patrick Miles, and Laurie Ann Dunn Allen. (3) Mary Louise, born December 22, 1923 in Glen Rose, Texas, married Howard Walter Kleinecke of Cuero February 6, 1943. To this union were born Mary Adele Kleinecke Blackwell, Bonnie Ryn Kleinecke Wheeler, Howard Jackson (Jack), Rebecca Joyce Kleinecke Richter, David Scott, and Gaye Alison Kleinecke Avery. (4) Perry Lloyd was born September 11, 1925 in Glen Rose, Texas. He and Myrtle A. Wachtendorf were married in Cuero on September 4, 1946. To this union were born Philip Randall, Allen Charles, Linda Ruth Jackson Boyer, and Janet Marie Jackson Goodson. (5) Katherine Jeannettia, born November 12, 1931 in Weatherford, Texas, married Jim Hollensbe in February, 1950. To this marriage were born Letitia Lea Hollesbe Duncan and John Warren Hollensbe. Katherine married Robert Milton Gohlke of Cuero in January, 1955. To this union was born Robert Marshall Gohlke.

The J.W. Jackson descendants number nineteen grandchildren, thirty-two great grandchildren, and one great, great, granddaughter.

The Jacksons were very active in the affairs of the First Presbyterian Church. Adele served as a Sunday School teacher, Bible leader, and in many phases of the Women's Organization. J.W. taught the men's Sunday class, was superintendent of Sunday School, and served as Deacon, Elder, Trustee, and Clerk of Session. He was a delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1951.

Mr. Jackson served at agricultural substations in Angleton, Beaumont, Troupe, and Pecos Counties and as County Agent in Crosby, Somervill, Parler, Brooks, and DeWitt Counties, until his retirement in Cuero in 1950. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1945 for his work in the extension service. Following his retirement from the Texas Extension Service, he became service agent for the DeWitt County Farm Bureau. Ill health forced his retirement in 1955.

J.W. served as commanding officer of the Cuero State Guard during World War II years and was captain in that organization's reserve force at the time of his death.

Both he and Adele were active in the Order of the Eastern Star, she having been a Worthy Matron in the Order. Mr. Jackson was a 32nd. degree Mason and a past Worshipful Master. Both were active in civic and community affairs.

Jesse Wilburn Jackson died September 5, 1956 and Adele Lloyd Jackson died October 16, 1979. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

They did their bit in making DeWitt County a better place in which to live, and will long be remembered with love and respect.

by Mary Kleinecke and Myrtie Dunn

Kleberg & Kleberg,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Will practice in All Courts in the State
Real Estate business solicited.
Yorktown, Texas

Back: Perry Jackson, Myrtle (Wachtendorf) Jackson, Myrtie (Jackson) Dunn, Pat Dunn, Howard Kleinecke. Middle – Wilburn Jackson, Mary (Jackson) Kleinecke, Jesse Wilburn Jackson, Adele (Lloyd) Jackson, Kathleen (Howard) Jackson, Katherine Jackson. Front – Kay Jackson, Stephen Dunn, Mary Adele Kleinecke.

JACOB, LYDIA, HAROLD, ROBERT, LORENA, AND WILSON

F457

L-R: Lydia (Jacob) Runck, Elsa (Jacob) Smith, Lorena (Jacob) Park, Olivia (Jacob) Fritsche, Agatha (Jacob) Gohlke, Hulda (Jacob) Parks 1930

This story continues the history of Reinhold Jacob's offspring which was begun in another story.

Lydia Pauline Jacob went to Hill's Business College in Waco and got a Teacher's Certificate. She then taught at the Metting School near Yorktown. Lydia, known as "Sis", then worked as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Yorktown from Sept. 18, 1918 to June 15, 1929. Sis was the first woman to work at the National Bank. She married John Runck on Feb. 2, 1930. John was born on Feb. 5, 1874 in Indiana and was reared in Sheldon, Ill. He was in real estate, selling a lot of water-front property in Corpus Christi and Bayside, Texas. John died on Jan. 13, 1960, and Lydia died on Dec. 9, 1977. They had no children.

Harold Reinhold Jacob graduated from Texas Lutheran College in 1915. He played on the first football team the school ever had. Harold then worked as a jitney driver in San Antonio, Texas. A jitney was a small bus that ran a regular route around the city. Harold married Virginia Williams on June 23, 1919 in Atascosa County. She was born on April 7, 1897. In later years, Harold was a cab driver in San Antonio.

The couple later returned to Yorktown and Harold helped run Smith Hotel until it closed. Virginia died on Dec. 10, 1964, and Harold died on Feb. 7, 1979. They had no children.

Robert Berthold Jacob went to Hills' Business College in Waco in 1917. He graduated and then took correspondence courses. He married Jewell Clydelle Lantrip on May 22, 1929 in Yorktown. They recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. More details are given of their lives in a separate story.

Lorena May Jacob married Joseph Arch Park on Nov. 2, 1929 in Yorktown. They had one son, Joseph Arch Park, Jr. born on June 14, 1937 in Yorktown. Joe Arch, Jr. married Sheila Ann Lindblom on May 1, 1982 in Bandera, Texas. Lorena died on Jan. 17, 1977.

Wilson Gregory Jacob attended Texas A&I in 1930, but was forced to drop out during the depression. He earned his room and board by playing trumpet in a hotel which closed because of the Depression. Wilson was a very good musician and made his living playing in dance bands which traveled all around the area. Wilson did not marry. He still lives in Yorktown.

by Arlene Schroeder

NOTICE.

After this date we will make a regular charge of 10 per cent of the value of goods loaned out, besides breakage.

LOUIS KELLER.

JACOB, OLIVIA, ELSA, AGATHA, AND HULDA

F458

Smith Hotel in Yorktown, Tex. built by H. Robert Gohlke. Bridge built by Reinhold Jacob

This account continues the history of the offspring of Reinhold Jacob. The earlier story recounted their childhood. This one follows them into adulthood.

Olivia Emma Jacob worked as a clerk at Nau Bros. Dry Goods from 1903 till Feb. 14, 1914. She married Emil Ernest Fritsche on Feb. 16, 1914 in Yorktown. Emil was born on Jan. 23, 1887 in Giddings, Texas. They had one son, Raymond Robert Fristche, born Nov. 24, 1915 in Yorktown. Raymond married Louise Elizabeth Bullock on Jan. 5, 1935 in Cuero, Tex. They have one daughter, Rayma Jean Fritsche, born Aug. 7, 1937 in Sinton. She married Victor Weldon Hesseltine, Jr. on March 15, 1956. Olivia died on April 16, 1959, and Emil died on Dec. 17, 1963.

The Hesseltines have three children. Vicki Jean was born Jan. 19, 1957; Ricki Dwayne was born May 9, 1958; and Terry Lee was born Feb. 1, 1960. Vicki married Mark Gardner McCoy on May 12, 1979 in Sinton. They have two sons: Dustin Matthew, born May 7, 1981 and Travis Marshall, born Feb. 23, 1983. Ricki married Elizabeth Claire Owens on June 13, 1981 in Sinton. They have two daughters; Holly Ann, born Jan. 10, 1984, and Julie D'Lynn, born Dec. 27, 1985. Terry married Debra Lynn Atzenhoffer on July 2, 1983. They have two daughters; Jessica Lynn, born July 15, 1986, and Lauren Kate, born June 7, 1988.

Elsa Marie Jacob married L. Frank Smith on Sept. 24, 1907 in Cuero. Frank was born on Dec. 7, 1883 in Runge. He held a variety of jobs. Before his marriage, he bought a barber shop from E.T. Clark, Sr. Frank and his brothers Clarence and Jim ran Smith Barber Shop until he sold it to his brother-in-law B.L. Parks, Tommy Danysh, and another man. This barber shop has changed ownership many times, but is still in business in Yorktown as Best Barber Shop. Frank also worked for a laundry by riding around Yorktown on a bicycle picking up men's collars for cleaning. At that time collars were not attached permanently to men's shirts but were buttoned on for easier cleaning.

Then in October of 1922, Frank and Elsa opened the Smith Hotel on the banks of Coleto Creek next to the bridge Elsa's father Reinhold had built. Smith Hotel was the first hotel in the area to have running water. Each room had a lavatory, and there were community showers and toilets on every hall. At one time the famous western singer Tex Ritter stayed at the

hotel.

The hotel gradually became the center of the family's life. As the children grew older and lost their spouses, they moved back to live together in the hotel. It closed in the 1960's, but the brothers and sisters continued to live there. Finally, when only Robert and Wilson remained alive, the hotel was sold.

Frank Smith died on Feb. 15, 1932. Elsa then married Rev. James Cowen Shive on June 23, 1940 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a retired Presbyterian minister when Elsa married him. Rev. Shive died on Nov. 1, 1956 and Elsa died on Dec. 25, 1965. Elsa had no children.

Agatha "Gardie" Jacob went to the University of Texas and got a one-year Teacher's Certificate. She then taught at the Heinzeville School near Yorktown from 1906 till 1909. Gardie married H. Robert Gohlke on Sept. 8, 1909 in Yorktown. Robert was born on Dec. 22, 1883 in Yorktown. Robert was a carpenter who was the contractor for many buildings still in use in Yorktown. He built the current High School building, the Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church and Manse. Robert also built the Smith Hotel for Elsa and Frank Smith. Robert died on Feb. 3, 1969, and Gardie on June 28, 1974. They had no children.

Hulda Esther Jacob went to Hill's Business College in Waco. She then worked as a clerk at Goodfriend's Dry Goods Store. She married Bert Lee (B.L.) Parks in Cuero on Jan. 25, 1923. B.L. was born on Aug. 19, 1894 somewhere up North. He held a variety of jobs, including Barber Shop Inspector for the state of Texas. He also ran a poultry farm at one time. B.L. bought Smith's Barber Shop from his brother-in-law Frank Smith. B.L. died on Jan. 13, 1968, and Hulda died on Dec. 1, 1977. They had no children.

The other Jacobs' histories are told in separate stories.

by Arlene Schroeder

JACOB, REINHOLD

F459

Jacob's Children

The lives of the ten children born to Reinhold and Bertha Afflerbach Jacob between the years of 1885 and 1910 give a good overview of life in DeWitt County at the turn of the century and on. Reinhold and Bertha's history is told in a separate story.

The children in order of their births were Olivia Emma, Elsa Marie, Agatha, Lydia Pauline, Hulda Esther, Harold Reinhold, Melinda, Robert Berthold, Lorena May, and Wilson Gregory. All of the children went to school in a five-room school house near the center of town, which was two blocks from their house. All, except the two eldest girls and Melinda, finished high school, which consisted of ten grades at that time.

Life was busy in their house at the turn of the century. The house was warmed by a wood heater. Cooking was done on a wood stove. Thus chopping wood was a chore that kept the boys very busy. They also tended the pigs, horses, chickens, and other animals. The girls helped with the cooking and sewing, although the family bought most of their clothes ready-made. Another piece of "women's work" was the cleaning and filling of the coal-oil lamps which lit the house.

The children's great-uncle Moritz Riedel owned the Riedel Drug Store in Yorktown, which made its own drugs. The post office was in the back of this store. In 1906, mail came once a day, general delivery. The children would pick it up on their way home from school. Prior to 1906, mail delivery had been several times a day, whenever the trains came through. Yorktown had four passenger trains and several freight trains come through in a day.

Serious illness was a fact of life. Melinda died of intestinal trouble the year after she was born. Robert and Hulda both contracted typhoid fever. Agatha became ill with diphtheria. Tuberculosis also killed other members and friends of the family.

But there was entertainment as well — of the homemade variety. The family sang church songs, played checkers and tiddly-winks, and played sandlot baseball. They went swimming in Coleto Creek, two blocks from their house. The boys went fishing and hunted rabbits and squirrels. Starting in 1910, the family went to see silent movies which consisted of slides accompanied in later years by piano music.

Sundays were often spent on the Afflerbach family farm, owned by the children's grandparents. Johann Heinrich and Marie Aschmann Afflerbach, whose stories are told separately. The Jacobs traveled by wagon or on foot to the farm and spent the whole afternoon there. They picnicked on homemade breads and cakes and drank wine which was also homemade.

The children also had many pets — cats, dogs, rabbits, pigeons, a goat, and even a steer which the children hitched to a two-wheeled cart. One day Robert took the steer and cart for a ride down the main street in Yorktown. The sheriff chased him down and told him to take the cart home because he was scaring all the horses!

The Jacob children's lives as adults are told in separate stories.

by Arlene Schroeder

JACOB, REINHOLD AND BERTHA

F460

Heinrich Jacob, known as Henry in English, was born in Alsace Lorraine, France, on May 15, 1813. He married Agatha Sifferlin who was born in Alsace Lorraine on Aug. 17, 1814. They had a large family, most of whom were born while they still lived in Europe. Rosalia was

Back Row L-R: L. Frank Smith, Joseph Arch Park, Sr., Wilson Gregory Jacob. Next row, L-R: H. Robert Gohlke, Elsa (Jacob) Smith, Lorena (Jacob) Park, Robert Berthold, and Harold Reinhold Jacob. 3rd. row, L-R: Agatha (Jacob) Gohlke, Hulda (Jacob) Parks, Clydelle (Lantrip) Jacob, and John Runck. Front row, L-R: Olivia (Jacob) Fritsche, Bertha (Afflerbach) Jacob, Reinhold Jacob and Lydia (Jacob) Runck. 1930's – Yorktown, Tx.

Bertha (Afflerbach) Jacob and Reinhold Jacob, Nov. 15, 1934 – Golden Wedding – Yorktown, TX

born on Oct. 8, 1837; Louis on Sept. 29, 1839; Michael on Sept. 29, 1841; Anna Marie on April 26, 1843; Henry Jr. on Nov. 26, 1844; Louise Josefin on Nov. 29, 1846; Christina on July 24, 1849; Sigfrit on April 2, 1852; and Panthaleon on June 13, 1855.

In 1854, Heinrich came to Yorktown, Texas. When he made enough money, he sent for his family to join him, which they did in 1856. Their last two children were born in DeWitt County — Reinhold on Feb. 18, 1859, and Pauline on Nov. 21, 1861. Somewhere around 1915, Panthaleon built what is believed to be the first house in what became Alamo Heights in San Antonio.

Agatha died in 1867 and was the first person to be buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville. Her husband Heinrich died in 1897. Rosalia Jacob Dobsky died in 1919; Louis Jacob in 1918; Michael Jacob in 1904; Anna Marie Jacob Shier in 1920; Henry Jacob, Jr. in 1922; Louise Josefin Jacob Riedel in 1930; Christina Jacob Gisler in 1929; Sigfrit Jacob in 1883; Panthaleon Jacob in 1938; Reinhold Jacob in 1940; and Pauline Jacob Metz in 1954.

Reinhold Jacob married Bertha Afflerbach, whose parents' history is told in a separate story, on Nov. 15, 1884, in Yorktown. After their marriage the Jacobs bought a half-block of land in Yorktown and built a house on one corner of it. Five children, all girls, were born to them in this house. Olivia Emma was born on Nov. 15, 1885; Elsa Marie on Dec. 2, 1886; Agatha on June 8, 1888; Lydia Pauline on Oct. 21, 1889; and Hulda Esther on Aug. 7, 1892.

Reinhold was a custom bootmaker, a bridge builder, and a house mover. In 1904 he built the bridge over Coleto Creek in Yorktown, driving the support beams by hand. When this bridge was torn down in 1929 and the present concrete bridge was built, it was found to be impossible to remove these beams. Some remain to this day. As Reinhold was away from home a good deal because of his work, he bought his wife a small pistol for protection which the family still has today. Reinhold owned the 39th car sold in DeWitt County, a 1909 Model Reo. forerunner of the Oldsmobile.

In 1894, the Jacobs built a new house in the middle of the same block. Their first son, Harold Reinhold Jacob, was born there on March 8, 1897. Melinda was born on May 30, 1898, but died on June 25, 1899 of intestinal trouble. Robert Berthold was born on Nov. 12, 1899; Lorena May on May 19, 1906; and Wilson Gregory on Sept. 5, 1910.

Of Reinhold and Bertha's ten children, two, Robert and Wilson, are still alive. Both live in Yorktown. In fact, Robert still sleeps in the room in which he was born.

Robert tells a story of how the family dog, Queenie, saved his father's life. One day the cow knocked Reinhold down and pinned him by kneeling on him. When Reinhold hollered for help, Queenie responded by biting the cow on its back heels. The cow got up to chase Queenie, and Reinhold escaped.

At first the family stored its meat and milk in a cooler built by Reinhold. This consisted of a pan of water at the top, with cloths running down the sides of the shelves. The whole thing was housed in a wooden frame. In 1922, the Jacobs got their first ice-box. Ice was delivered to their door every day by the ice wagon, at a cost of a nickel for a 20-lb. block.

Vegetables were stored in a pit in the ground which was covered by a teepee made of corn stalks. The whole thing was then covered by a layer of dirt which kept the vegetables from freezing. Water came from a windmill and cistern in the back yard. There was a windmill on every block in Yorktown. The toilets, of course, were outside, although the kitchen had cold running water. When the children were young, they bathed outside with homemade soap in water which had been heated by the sun. Later, Reinhold built an indoor tub, for which water was heated on the stove.

Reinhold died on Aug. 14, 1940, and Bertha died on June 1, 1936. Their children's histories are told separately.

by Arlene Schroeder

JACOB, ROBERT AND CLYDELLE FAMILY

F461

Robert and Clydelle Jabob's 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration left to right: Norma Schroeder Schendel, Robert Edward Schendel, Robert Berthold Jacob, Clydelle Lantrip Jacob, Stuart Lee Schroeder, Clydell Jacob Schroeder, Mary Retzloff Schroeder, Arlene Schroeder. Picture taken May 21, 1989 in Presbyterian Fellowship Hall in Yorktown.

Robert Berthold Jacob was born on Nov. 12 1899, in Yorktown, Texas to Reinhold and Bertha Afflerbach Jacob, whose histories are told in a separate story. Robert married Jewell Clydelle Lantrip on May 22, 1929 in Yorktown.

Clydelle attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College but was forced to drop out in 1927 a few hours short of graduation, because of a lack of funds. She took a teaching job in Yorktown, planning to finish college in the summer. However, she met and married Robert in the meantime. He assured her that he could take care of her and that she did not need to finish school. After her marriage, Clydelle was forced to quit teaching, because married women were not allowed to teach in Yorktown. The reasoning was that the jobs were needed by men who had families to support during the Depression.

Robert did work hard to support his family. At age 18 he worked for fifty cents a day in a grocery store. Then he worked in a bottling plant in Yorktown. On Sept. 2, 1917, he started work at the Cotton Oil Company in Yorktown. He made $25.00 the first month. Later he became a stockholder, a member of the board of directors, and eventually, the vice-president of this company. He stayed with the company for 41 years until it was sold in 1958. Robert then became business manager and tax-assessor collector for the Yorktown Independent School District. He held this job until he retired in 1970.

Upon their marriage, Robert and Clydelle moved into a house about six blocks from the house he grew up in. The new home had one of the first electric refrigerators in Yorktown. It also had natural gas and a gas stove.

Their only child, Clydelle, was born on March 21, 1930, in Yorktown Allen Hospital. Approximately five years after this, the Jacob family moved back into his parents' home to take care of Robert's sick mother. She died in 1936, and his father died in 1940.

Thus, baby Clydelle grew up in the same house, built by her grandfather, where her father was raised. She graduated from Yorktown High School as Valedictorian of her class in 1948. She received four scholarship offers but turned them all down to attend Rice University. After one year she dropped out because she missed her high school sweetheart, Arlon Clifford Schroeder, known as "Shrimp."

In 1949 to 1952, Clydelle taught a kindergarten class in the mornings and worked at the oil mill with her father in the afternoons. In 1953 her fiance, "Shrimp", opened a hamburger place in Yorktown called the Dairy Bar. Clydelle began working there and still owns and operates the place today.

"Shrimp" was born in Yorktown on June 27, 1931 to Adolph Jr. and Anna Kimmel Schroeder. He graduated from Yorktown High School in 1949, and worked for his father's tractor company while driving dump trucks on the side. "Shrimp" was also in the Air Force for a few months before being honorably discharged for medical reasons. Then he opened the Dairy Bar, which became a mainstay among Yorktown's eating establishments.

"Shrimp" and Clydelle were married on Dec. 26, 1954. They were married in the chapel of Grace Lutheran Hospital in San Antonio, because Clydelle's mother was confined there with tuberculosis. The elder Clydelle spent nearly a year and a half in that hospital before she was cured.

"Shrimp" and Clydelle had three children. Their son, Stuart Lee, was born on Nov. 2, 1956. Arlene was born on Sept. 29 1959, and Norma, on Aug. 16, 1961. "Shrimp" and Clydelle built a house behind the Dairy Bar in 1961. Clydelle and Arlene still live there. "Shrimp" died on June 12, 1982.

Norma married Robert Edward Schendel, a native of Yorktown, on March 2, 1985 in Yorktown. The couple is expecting their first child in October, 1989. They live on a dairy farm owned by Robert and his brothers at Garfield, near Yorktown.

Stuart married Mary Jean Retzloff, who was born on Sept. 10, 1961 in San Antonio. The marriage took place June 6, 1987 in San Antonio. The couple live in Houston, where Stuart works for Southern Pacific Railroad and Mary is a Certified Public Accountant.

by Arlene Schroeder

JACOBS, BILL AND NELLIE (SCHINDLER)

F462

Bill Jacobs was one of four children born to Ludwig G. Jacobs (Sept. 4, 1869 – July 23, 1954) and Emma Wilhelmina Dreier Jacobs (April 18, 1875 – Sept. 24, 1948). This couple farmed and raised cattle in Kilgore

Children were:

Olga Schaefer, William Jacobs, Linda Sch?? and Wesley Jacobs. Billie and Ken Liesman are owners of some of the land near Ander that has been in the Jacobs family for several generations.

Ludwig Jacobs' parents were Louis Jacob (1839-1918) and Caroline Willeke Jacob. Louis and Caroline had seven children. Their sons were known as "the Jacob men with the red beards". (This trait followed down the line; Billie had auburn hair, her son, Bruce, has red hair, and Bruce's daughter, Tessa, has auburn hair). Louis owned land north and south of Hanover (later Ander) in Goliad County and also had a blacksmith shop in Hanover for years. Louis and Caroline are buried in the Ander Church cemetery.

Louis' father, Henry Jacob, came to Goliad County from Alsace, France before 1860. His family followed later and lived in a cabin on a springfed creek that flowed into the 15 mile Coleto in Hanover. Henry Jacob (1813-1896) and Agatha Sifferlen (1814-1867) had eleven children, some of whom moved to DeWitt, Victoria, and Refugio Counties.

Emma Dreier Jacobs' parents were Ludwig Dreier and Augusta Meisenhelder Dreier who were married October 20, 1860, and moved to the Kilgore community in Goliad County. They had nine children and farmed, raised cattle and sheep, and hauled freight. She would ride miles sidesaddle, a bucket of eggs in one hand, a child on her lap, to trade the eggs for salt and pepper.

Ludwig Dreiers' parents were Heinrich Dreier (9/22/1788 – 7/25/1869) and Friedericke Louise Blumberg Dreier (1/26/1796 – 3/31/1885) who were born in Lippe Detmolt, Germany. They had five children. In Germany, the couple raised flax and from that produced linen. A spinning wheel in Billie and Kenneth Liesman's home is believed to have been brought to Texas by this family.

Billie Liesman's mother, Nellie Jacobs, was the fourth child of eight children born to Frank Schindler and Theresa Preiss Schindler. Their home was in the Turkey Creek Community in Goliad C ounty. Theresa's parents were Joseph Preiss and Anna Marie Dittmeyer Preiss who are buried in Dentler Cemetery, east of Upper Meyersville. It is believed that Frank Schindler came to Texas from Germany when a boy of seven about 1875. Frank and Theresa had eight children: Alfred, Emelie, Clarence, Cornelia (Nellie), Leona, Victor, Lily and Irene. Frank and Theresa are buried in the Coletoville Lutheran Church Cemetery in Victoria County.

by Ken and Billie Liesman

JANK, PAUL HERMAN AND RUTH (HICKEY)

F463

A descendant of German immigrants, Paul Jank was of the first generation of his line to be born in America. His father, Traugott, came to Texas from Liegnitz, Schlesien, Germany on the ship *Kronprinz Friedrich Wilhelm* in 1881 at the age of 15. Traugott went to Paige, Bastrop Co., Texas, to live with an uncle and aunt, Hans and Anna (Jank) Gahno. He remained there for five years. Traugott's parents, Georg and Anna (Berger) Jank arrived

Paul and Ruth Jank, Yoakum, TX

with their other seven children: Johann (m. Christine Crautschik), Marie (m. Heinrich Rehling), Anna (m. Henry Preiss), August (m. Dorathea Rehling), Magdalena "Lena" (m. Robert Albrecht), Carl "Charles" (m. Lucy Baker) and Pauline (m. William Hasdorff).

Traugott rejoined his family in Victoria County and remained there until 1891 when he married Caroline Jonischkies in Yorktown, DeWitt Co., Texas. Paul Herman was the only son born to this couple on a farm near Meyersville on May 6, 1894. He had one older sister, Lena Pauline (m. Avery Von Blon) and three younger sisters: Metha Maria, who died of typhoid fever at age 17, Bertha Ann (m. Peter Klitch) and Erna Mathilde (m. Curtis Tate).

When Paul was about eleven years old, the family moved from the farm to the city of Yoakum. Here he continued to grow and the desire to travel grew within him. By 1911, at the age of 17, Paul Herman had gone to work for the railroad. By age 22, records show that he was working as a brakeman for the railroad in Pennsylvania. This career was interrupted by the declaration of war! He joined the Navy, serving during World War I. He entered as a Seaman at Great Lakes, Illinois in 1917 and received an Honorable Discharge as Yeoman at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1919. He was back with the railroad in Pennsylvania after his discharge.

A call from his father to help him with his business in Yoakum, Texas . . . Jank Bottling Works . . . brought him back to DeWitt County. Here he met Margaret Ruth Hickey, daughter of James Ambrose and Elizabeth (May) Hickey, and they were married on September 11, 1923.

Ruth came from a family of seven children. Besides herself, there were: Viola May (m. George David Wright), James Ray (m. Alice Gallagher), Elizabeth (m. William Wright), Edith Agnes (m. Leon Josephus Toudouze), Perry Xavier (m. Agnes Estelle Valenta) and Virginia (m. Lloyd A. Jilek). They are descendants of some of the first citizens of Yoakum and are justly proud of the contributions their ancestors made to the area. Ruth's grandfather, James Hickey was a member of the first trail drive that began in DeWitt County on April 1, 1866. The route began in Bovine (near Brushy Creek) and ended in St. Joseph's, Missouri, and became known as the Chisholm Trail. Her father, Jimmy Hickey, accompanied his father on the ride as a young boy and continued to make four of the long rides up "The Trail".

Paul Herman and Margaret Ruth Jank raised three sons in Yoakum . . . Paul Weldon (b. 1926), David Leon (b. 1934) and Donald Ray (b. 1937). All three graduated from St. Joseph's School there.

Railroading was the good life for Paul Herman because he loved to travel. It took him to Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Arizona and Southern Texas for various railroad companies including Canada-Atlantic; Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad; Union Pacific Railroad and for the Wells Fargo Company as Railroad and Express Agent. In 1960, after forty-two years of service, he retired from the Southern Pacific Railroad. He then pursued another love . . fishing!

Since the mid-1930's, the Paul Jank residence was listed as 406 Hubbard, Yoakum, Texas. Ruth and Paul Herman celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 11, 1973 with a family celebration.

Two years later, Paul Herman Jank was killed in a two-car accident at the intersection of the Yoakum Business Loop and Highway 77-A . . . August 20, 1975. He was driving to one of his favorite fishing spots when the accident occurred.

Ruth Jank is presently residing with her son, Don, in Victoria, Texas and Paul Weldon and David Jank are both residing in San Antonio, Texas with their families.

by Mrs. Paul W. (Liz) Jank

JANSSEN, CARROLL JAMES AND OLIVIA MARIE RIEDESEL

F464

Carroll James Janssen was born in Nordheim, Texas on 16 September 1921, to Emil Dietrich Janssen and Laura Jane Mueller. Carroll attended Nordheim Schools and graduated in 1939 as honor boy. In the fall of the same year he attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin for two semesters and in 1940 moved to San Antonio to work. Carroll was a Property Supply Clerk in the Civil Service, working at Duncan Field (now Kelly) when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in June of 1942. After schooling as a radio operator in Kansas City, Missouri, Carroll was promoted to Sergeant and sent to Washington D.C. for work in the Pentagon. After about a year, Carroll was shipped overseas to the Pacific Theater, his job assignment being in General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters in Brisbane, Australia. From there he went to New Guinea, then to the Philippines. On 7 December 1945, Carroll was given an honorable discharge and he returned to Nordheim. On 10 July 1946 Carroll married Olivia Marie Riedesel, born 27 April 1925, daughter of Herman E. and Marie Schmidt Riedesel, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas. Carroll operated the Janssen's Tractor and Implement Agency from 1946 until his retirement this year, 1989, selling the International Harvester, New Holland and Bush Hog products. Also, during these years, he served on the City Council and

Mayor of Yorktown. Carroll and Olivia have four sons.

James Carroll was born 24 March 1950 in Cuero, Texas. He married Sheryl McCormick, born 29 January 1953, on 30 May 1971, in Yorktown, Texas. They have two children, Christopher Evan born 2 January 1974, and Earl James, born 8 June 1976. James graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in pharmacy. After working about 5 years in pharmacy he decided to go to college again, and after 2 years James received a degree as a C.P.A., the work he is now doing in Montvale, New Jersey.

Michael Lynn was born 1 September 1951 in Cuero, Texas. He married Beverly Jean Bruton, born 9 May 1953, on 12 June 1971, in Yorktown, Texas. They have two children, Michele Lynn born 27 December 1977 in San Antonio and Michael Lynn, Jr. born 9 January 1979 in San Antonio, Texas. Michael and Beverly are no longer married. Michael graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree as a C.P.A. He is living in San Antonio.

Don Alan was born 29 May 1953 in Cuero, Texas. He married Debbie Styra, born 14 November 1961, in Victoria, Texas, on 1 December 1984. They have two children. Ryan James was born 10 October 1985 in Victoria and Reagon David born 29 June 1988 in Victoria, Texas. Two sons, Jeffrey Duane, born 19 March 1977 and Russ Alan, born 11 August 1979, were born to Don in previous marriages. Don graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in pharmacy. He is now working for DuPont in Victoria in the research lab and is living in Yorktown.

David Lee was born 27 July 1955 in Cuero, Texas. He married Rebecca Reynolds, born 2 February 1956, in Yorktown, Texas, on 27 August 1977. They have three children. Bryan Lee was born 6 May 1979 in Galveston. Katie Leann was born 8 June 1982 in Houston. Molly Catherine was born 9 July 1986 in Houston. David graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and the Medical School at Galveston as a radiation encologist. David is living in Houston.

Carroll and Olivia are living in Yorktown, Texas, where they have lived for the past 24 years.

by Carroll J. Janssen

JANSSEN, DIEDRICH AND JOHANNA (LAUW)

F465

Diedrich and Johanna Lauw Janssen and two small children came to America, to Texas, in 1886. One daughter, Lena, was born and died in Germany. Diedrich August George Janssen was born in Barghorn, Grossenmeer, Germany in the Duchy of Oldenburg on 17 August 1856. Copies of records from the Lutheran Church in Grossenmeer give this information, also showing that he was baptized there 12 October 1856. His parents were Anton Georg and Marie Margrethe Hillmer Janssen. Johanna Katharine Lauw was born in Iffens, Grossenmeer, Germany in the Duchy of Oldenburg 26 January 1856 to Johann Reinhard and Christine Ulbrand Lauw. She was baptized 17 February 1856. A copy of marriage records from the Lutheran Church in Stollhamm

The Diedrich Janssen Family, ca. 1902. Back L-R: Lillie, Mary, George, Bertha. Mid Row: Willie, Louise, Otto. Front: Diedrich, Annie, Emil, Johanna.

shows that they were married there 11 October 1882. (Note: It was always stated that the maiden name of Johanna Janssen was Lauw; these records show that it could have been Laun.) These records also show that Diedrich Janssen was one of ten children. One brother, Henry, and two sisters, Helene Elise and Helena Gesine, also came to Texas. Henry married Meta Pargmann and settled in the Runge, Karnes County area. Helene Elsie and her husband, Burghard Morisse married in Germany and came to Texas with their family in 1891, settling north of Nordheim, DeWitt County, Texas. Helena Gesine Janssen married Heinrich Domann in Cuero, and they lived in the Cuero area.

Mr. and Mrs. Diedrich Janssen first settled at Breslau, Lavaca County, Texas. In 1890 they moved to Gruenau, DeWitt County and in 1897 they moved to Nordheim where they made their home. They lived on a farm north of Nordheim for many years, but Mrs. Janssen built a house in town and moved there about 1914. Twelve children were born to the couple; three died in infancy.

1) George Janssen was born 12 January 1883 in Germany. He died 29 June 1962 in a Kenedy hospital. He married Frances Morines in 1912, and they had seven children — George, William Henry, Rudolph, John, Lillie, and another son and another daughter.

2) Bertha Marie Janssen was born 28 February 1885 in Germany and died 7 November 1971 in Yorktown. She married Christian Mueller 19 November 1907. They had three daughters, Johanna Fredericka, Viola Caroline and June Nell.

3) Lena Janssen was born in Germany and died there.

4) Lillie Johanna Janssen was born 18 June 1888 in Breslau, Lavaca County, Texas and died 19 August 1970 in Yorktown. She married Herman Carl Heinze, and they had three children — Wilmer, Hayden and Lillian Jane.

5) Mary Janssen, born 17 August 1889 in Breslau, Lavaca County, died 26 August 1926 in Gruenau. She married Charles John Mueller. They had two children — Elenora and Carlton.

6) Otto John Janssen was born 28 October 1890 in Shiner, Lavaca County. He died in Nordheim 10 September 1969. He married Erna A. Wendt, and they had one son — Otto John, Jr.

7) Louise Caroline Janssen was born 25 December 1892 in Gruenau, DeWitt County, Texas and died 1 December 1975 in San Antonio. She married Walter Stuermer and they had two children — Adolph Diedrich and Inez Lee.

8) Willie Henry Janssen was born 4 May 1895 in Gruenau and died 21 June 1968 in Cuero. He married Elvia Reichert and they had two children — Wilton Theodor and Elvera (Sis).

9) Emil Dietrich Janssen was born 28 May 1897 in Gruenau and died 29 December 1969. He married Laura Jane Mueller. They had two children — Carroll James and Joanna.

10) Anna Janssen was born 12 December 1898 in Nordheim and died there 15 December 1898.

11) Minnie Janssen was born 4 July 1900 in Nordheim and died there 13 February 1902.

12) Annie Janssen was born in Nordheim 4 July 1900. She married Max Sauermilch, and they had one daughter, Merle Raye. She later married Joe Wischkaemper on 24 July 1971.

According to his obituary Diedrich Janssen served in the German army for three years,

receiving an honorable discharge. Also, according to his obituary, he was a successful farmer in the Nordheim area. He died in a Cuero hospital 4 January 1906. Mrs. Janssen was left with a large family of children. She successfully reared her family, managed her farms and found time to be active in church work. She died in the Burns Hospital in Cuero 10 June 1925. She and her husband are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. Most of their children are also buried there.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

JANSSEN, EMIL DIETRICH AND LAURA JANE MUELLER

F466

Emil D. Janssen and Laura (Mueller) Janssen

Emil Dietrich Janssen was born in the Gruenau community on 28 May, 1897, the youngest son of twelve children born to Diedrich August Georg Janssen and his wife, nee Johanna Katharin Lauw. The family moved to Nordheim in 1897. He attended public school there and as a young man attended a business college in San Antonio. Emil also served in the U.S. Navy during World War I and was honorably discharged March 1919.

Laura Jane Mueller was born 21 July, 1898 in Yorktown, daughter of Gerhardt H. and Louise Goehring Mueller, the oldest of three children. She completed the high school course in Nordheim and later finished her education at San Antonio Main Avenue High School. In 1917, she entered the College of Industrial Arts in Denton majoring in music. Laura and "Checkers", as Emil became known, married 20 November, 1919 in San Antonio. They returned to Nordheim to live.

In July 1919, Checkers had bought a half interest in W.C. Stuermer's saddlery and harness business. E. Wagenschein joined them in the hardware business. This partnership was dissolved and Checkers went into the International Harvester dealership in Nordheim, and some years later he opened another in Yorktown. In July, 1942, Laura and he opened Janssen's Dry Goods. He retired from the farm implement business in 1954 and Janssen's Dry Goods in 1968. He was elected mayor of Nordheim in the early 1940s and served a number of terms. As mayor, at midnight of 12 May, 1949, Checkers was privileged to make the first dial telephone call in Nordheim when the new system was put into service. His pride was his farm he bought from Berthold Lemke in June, 1942. He enjoyed raising registered Herefords and was given DeWitt County's Come Back Farmer of the Year Award one year.

Laura was an accomplished musician, teaching piano to many of the area's children. Several times she took refresher courses in music at Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio. She began to teach guitar, accordian, and other instruments. She also served as church organist when needed and taught Sunday School at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim for many years. Flower gardening was high on Laura's list of things to do. Her yard always had flowers blooming and for some years after her death, friends still remarked that Laura's flowers were blooming again.

Checkers and Laura celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1969. A surprise celebration was planned at their home by their children. Checkers died in Cuero 28 December, 1969. Laura continued with her music teaching, club and church work. She and a friend, Margaret Weldon of Yorktown, loved to entertain by singing and playing guitar duets. She died in Yorktown 5 August, 1975.

They had two children. Carroll James was born 16 September, 1921 and married Olivia Marie Riedesel of the Gruenau community in Yorktown 10 July, 1946; and they have four sons. Joanna Louise was born 17 January, 1929 and married Claude B. Moore III of Cuero in Nordheim 1 October, 1949. They have three daughters and a son. Both children's stories are given separately.

by Joanna Moore

JANSSEN, OTTO JOHN AND ERNA WENDT

F467

Otto John Janssen, Sr. was born October 26, 1890 to Diedrich August and Johanna Laun Janssen in Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas

Otto, Sr. and Erna (Wendt) Janssen wedding picture 1917.

(story appears elsewhere).

In 1890 the Janssen family moved to the Gruenau Community in DeWitt County, and in 1897 they moved to a farm north of Nordheim. Otto attended school in Cabeza and went to Draughans Business College in San Antonio.

On May 31, 1917 Otto married Erna Alvina Augusta Wendt in Nordheim. Erna was born near Weimar in Colorado County to John and Mary Laging Wendt on April 8, 1899. The Wendt family moved to Nordheim in 1907. Erna attended schools in Nordheim.

Otto was inducted into the United States Army in 1918. He was stationed in San Antonio.

Otto and Erna lived on a farm north of Nordheim which was a part of his parent's farm that he hd purchased from his mother.

On August 22, 1922 a son Otto John Janssen, Jr. was born to Otto and Erna.

In 1929 they built a home in Nordheim and moved from the farm to town. They continued to operate the farm. Later Otto became a house painter. Otto died on September 10, 1969 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Otto Jr. attended school in Nordheim and Draughans Business College in San Antonio. He worked in San Antonio until November 1942 when he enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Air Force for three years.

On June 10, 1948 Otto Jr. married Myrtle Schmidt in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown. Myrtle was the daughter of George and Mayme Meyer Schmidt (story appears elsewhere).

Otto Jr. and Myrtle still live on the farm he was born on north of Nordheim. He farmed and later was a truck driver.

Two daughters were born to Otto and Myrtle. Bonnie Dell was born on February 21, 1950. She attended school in Nordheim and Texas Lutheran College in Sequin where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education. She married Dennis Linhart of Runge on December 26, 1971. They have three children. They are Neal Patrick, John Vincent and Erin Elizabeth. In February 1983 she married Frank Carter, formerly of Victoria. They live in Laredo where Bonnie and Frank are both employed by the United School System where the children also attend school. Bonnis ie a librarian and Frank is Athletic Director.

Penny Lou was born on October 17, 1952. Penny attended Nordheim School and Bee County College where she received an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene in May 1973. In August 1973 she married Arlan Dale Sievers of Yorktown. Arlan is the son of L.C. and Minnie Sucher Sievers. They live with their two sons Jeffrey Dale and Joshua David near Yorktown. Arlan works at the DuPont plant near Bloomington and Penny works part time for Dr. Larry Dornburg of Victoria. Jeffrey and Joshua attend the Yorktown schools.

by Myrtle Janssen

John Eberhardt & Co., CHOICEST .. BEEF .. MIDDLE MARKET ..... CUERO, TEXAS

L-R Penny Janssen, Myrtle (Schmidt) Janssen, Otto Janssen, Sr. and Bonnie Janssen 1961.

JANSSEN, WILLIE AND ELVIA (REICHERT)

F468

Willie Henry Janssen was born in Gruenau, DeWitt County, Texas 4 May 1895 to Diedrich and Johanna Katherine Lauw Janssen. (See separate story.) The family moved to a farm north of Nordheim when he was about two years old. He grew up in the Nordheim area and attended school there. He also attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. On 30 July 1912, he and his brothers and sisters were baptized and confirmed in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim. On 6 October 1916 he was married to Elvia Reichert in Cuero by Rev. William Utesch, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The couple first lived in the Janssen homestead on the farm north of Nordheim. Here their two children were born. About 1925, they built a new home on their farm in this area. In 1942 they sold their farm and moved to their home in town. They bought 40 acres of land near town. Except for about five years when he was an employee at Kelly Field in San Antonio, during World War II, Mr. Janssen continued to farm until his death. He died in the Cuero Foundation Hospital 21 June 1968, reaching the age of 73 years, two months and 17 days. He is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Oct. 6, 1916, Willie and Elvia (Reichert) Janssen.

Elvia Reichert Janssen was born 27 May 1894 near Weimar, Colorado County, Texas, to Theodor and Anna Koehn Reichert (see separate story). She was baptized in the Lutheran Church 14 October 1894 in Content, Colorado County and confirmed 12 April 1909 in Breslau, Lavaca County. The family moved to Old Kinkler in Lavaca County when she was six years of age. Her father taught school there for five years and then they moved to Witting where he taught another five years. They lived on their farm there until 1910 when they moved to Nordheim. Elvia accompanied the household goods and cattle and came by railroad. The family came by wagon. She worked as a career clerk in the Nordheim Post Office from September 1931 until her retirement in 1958. She continued to live in the Nordheim area after her husband's death until 1974 when she moved to Cuero to be near her daughter, Mrs. Ray (Sis) Gips. She spent much of her time doing beautiful crochet work. She died in the Cuero Community Hospital 27 July 1978 at the age of 84 years and two months. She is also buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

The first child of Willie and Elvia Reichert Janssen, Wilton Theodor Janssen, was born 23 November 1917. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Nordheim and graduated from high school there in 1935. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served on the USS Pensacola until World War II. He then served on a landing craft during the war, serving in all parts of the world, but mostly in the Pacific area. On 1 August 1949 he was married to Lois Brownell at Holly Springs, Mississippi. She was serving as a WAVE in the U.S. Navy. Lois was born in Shelburn Falls, Massachusetts 3 September 1917 to William H. and Jessie Belle Taylor Brownell. They had one son, Wilton Theodor II (Teddy). He was born 15 November 1950 in Memphis, Tennessee. He died 27 June 1963 in San Francisco and is buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery near San Francisco, California. He attained the age of 12 years, seven months and 13 days.

Wilton was honorably discharged from the Navy as a Chief Warrant Officer after 20 years of service. The couple then made their home in Walnut Creek, California where Wilton worked as an office manager for a copper company. He died at his home 5 October 1970 and is buried beside his son. He reached the age of 52 years ten months and 18 days. Lois continued to live in Walnut Creek.

The second child of Willie and Elvia Janssen, Elvera Annie Dora (Sis) Janssen, was born 13 November 1920. She, too, was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Nordheim and attended school there, graduating in 1938. She attended Texas State College for Women in Denton, Texas for two years, majoring in Library Science. On 25 February 1941 she married Ray Gips of Yorktown, Texas, and they moved to Cuero, Texas where their two children, Julie Rae and William Paul, were born. They continue to live in Cuero. (See separate story.)

by Mrs. Ray Gips

JENDRZEY, VALENTINE AND CATHERINE PANICZ

F469

Valentine Jendrzej and Catherine Panicz were born and grew up in village in Upper Silesia, Poland. They were married about 1845 in Poland, and were blessed with three children in Poland: Thomas Jacob Jendrzej, born about 1846, Marian Jendrzej, born August 31, 1849, and Joseph Jendrzej, born February 22, 1852.

The people in Upper Silesia, Poland, were being overtaken and ruled by the Germans, so many Polish people left German oppression and fled to America, the land offering personal freedom to everyone. After the harvest was taken in for the year, the Polish immigrants would travel to America by ship during the months of October, November, and December. It took two months or longer to make the trip from Poland to Indianola, Texas. The first group of Polish settlers arrived in Panna Maria, Texas, on Christmas Eve, 1854, led by Father Leopold Moczygemba. It was in Winter of 1854 or 1855 that Valentine Jendrzej and Catherine Panicz Jendrzej and their three children immigrated to Panna Maria, Texas.

Also coming to America were Valentine Jendrzej's sister, Josephine Jendrzej Kniejski, and her husband, Albert Kniejski. Albert Kniejski is remembered with Frank Biela as the Architects, or Designers, who built the first stone Catholic Church building in Panna Maria. In Panna Maria, Albert and Josepha Kniejski had three children: Frank Kniejski (January 18, 1857), Theodore Kniejski (November 8, 1859), and Jozefa Kniejski (October 28, 1861). (Information on Albert and Josepha Kniejski is incomplete.)

Valentine Jendrzej and Catherine Panicz Jendrzej also had more children after coming to America. On November 28, 1857, they had a son, Frank Jendrzej, born under the big oak tree which still stands by St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panna Maria, Texas.

Valentine and Catherine Jendrzej moved to Yorktown, Texas, and bought a farm across the road from St. Mary's Catholic Church. They had another son, Peter Jendrzej, who was born on June 27, 1864, on the family farm in Yorktown, Texas.

Thomas Jacob Jendrzej served in the military during the Civil War. Tom Jendrzej joined Captain Wash Brown's Company of Cavalry when it was formed at Helena in 1864. From 1864 until the war ended, Tom served in the vicinity of San Diego, in South Texas. After the Confederate surrender, when the soldiers were permitted to return home, Tom Jendrzej happened to be ill. He was cared for by Joseph Gawlik for three weeks until he was well enough to return home to Yorktown. Jacob later settled in Inez, Texas.

After the Jendrzej Family came to America, the spelling of their name was changed. It was spelled Jendrzyi in the old country, then became Jendrzej, and finally became Jendrzey to give it more of an American spelling rather than the Polish spelling.

Maria (Mary) Jendrzey married Josef Warzecha on February 18, 1873, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown. They bought a 200 acre farm in the Five Mile Community near Ratcliffe, Texas, and they were blessed with seven children: Adam, John, Julia (Respondek), Karolina, Rosie (Pokluda), Tekla, and Nicholas Warzecha.

Joseph Jendrzey took Anna Moy as his wife, and they settled in Yorktown. The eight children of Joseph and Anna Jendrzey were: Frances (Wostal), Katie (Kolodziejczyk), Tekla (Yanta), Frank Jendrzey, Joseph Jendrzey Jr., Caroline (Jarzombek), Regina (Stepanski), and Victoria (Muschalek).

Frank Jendrzey married Florentine Respondek, and they made their home in Yorktown. They had 11 or 12 children, including: Leon, Caesar, John, Magdalen (Machost), Elizabeth (Plasczyk), Gertrude (Mainka), Frank Jr., Jerome, Steve, and Bernard Jendrzey.

Peter Jendrzey married Julia (maiden name unknown). They also settled in Yorktown, and had four children: John Jendrzey, Ignatz Jendrzyi, Lucy (Koenig), and Rosie (Roesler).

Because they were devout Catholics, and because of their special location across from St. Mary's Catholic Church, Valentine and Catherine Jendrzey donated part of their land to establish St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, which is now Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Catherine Panicz Jendrzey is buried on the grounds of Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. When Valentine Jendrzey died, he wished to be buried on his own land, so he is buried on his farm across the road from Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery.

Their farm is still owned and farmed by the Jendrzey family, and has been honored by the State of Texas as an estate which has stayed in one family for over 100 years.

by Janet Marie Sturm

JOHN, PAUL ALBERT AND ELENORA BOCK

F470

Paul Albert John was born on March 3, 1921 at Yorktown, Texas to Peter and Martha Kozielski. He was the youngest of six children.

He attended country school at Buesing until the fifth grade at which time he had to quit school to help his family on the farm. With the call for men during World War II, Paul served his country in the U.S. Army for 3 yrs. and 9 mos. Upon his discharge on the last day of the year of 1945, he returned home to the family farm at "Cotton Patch" just out of Yorktown. He continued on the farm, taking it over and buying it from his parents. Then in 1957 he moved his wife and children to Cuero. For ten years he worked at the Cuero Cotton Mill as a weaver and "fixer" or machine repairman. In 1967, he went to work for Gulf Coast Wood Products as a carpenter and cabinet maker. He remained there for twenty-two years until his retirement in 1989.

Paul and Elenora John

Paul has always been a hard working man and does not take it "easy" in retirement. Even at this present time you can almost always find him with a hammer and nails in his hand building something or the other. He does not remain idle.

Elenora Agnes Bock was born on February 22, 1927 in Yorktown to Sylvester (S.P.) Bock and Annie Marie Broll Bock. Elenora went to school in the Yorktown area until the age of ten, but had to quit school to care for her father and brother, Gene, as her mother became ill and Elenora was needed at home.

Paul and Elenora were married on October 21, 1946 at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. They made their home in Yorktown, until 1957 when they moved to Cuero and made that their home. They have four children: James Paul, Helen Marie, Dennis Ray "Dino", and Philip Lee.

James Paul was born on February 18, 1949 in Cuero. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1967 and is presently employed at Timco Industries of Cuero. James married Mary Janysek from Karnes City in 1970 and they have one son, James Cody John (2-20-81).

Helen Marie was born on April 6, 1953 in Yorktown. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1971. She was employed in the office of Cuero Community Hospital from 1972 to 1981. She married David Buenger in 1969 and they divorced in 1974. One son, Shelton Buenger was born to this union. On January 9, 1982 Helen married Craig M. Seekamp of Yoakum. They have two sons: Craig Morgan, II (3-30-83) and Trevor John (2-17-87). Helen is presently a housewife and the co-helper of her husband's business, Trax Heavy Equip. They made their home in the beautiful country community of Stratton.

Dennis Ray or "Dino" as he is known to all his friends was born August 3, 1957 in Yorktown. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1975. He is a ranch hand for Graham Land and Cattle Co. in Gonzales, and is a true "cowboy" in every sense of the word. He is married to Kathy Martignoni of Victoria. They are blessed with one son — Jeremiah Jason John, (1-31-88).

Philip Lee was born on May 14, 1963 in Cuero. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1981. He attended Victoria College and is presently employed at Reuss Pharmacy in Cuero. He is totally responsible for the Radio Shack and Kiss Photo Departments. He makes his home in Cuero and is married to the former Melissa Wanjura of Cuero.

by Helen M. Seekamp

JOHNSON, ALFRED S. AND MARGUERITE E. (GOEBEL)

F471

Alfred Johnson and Marguerite (Goebel) Johnson

Alfred Johnson was born January 9, 1907 near the Cheapside Community in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of John and Ella (Boysen) Johnson, pioneers of the area.

After attending pharmacy school in Austin, Alfred worked in a drugstore for his uncle in Galveston. On April 6, 1942 he was drafted into military service. He served until ill health caused his early release from the Army and he returned to Cuero. He then assumed the operation of the cafe known as "Pops Place." In June of 1943, Alfred purchased the cafe and surrounding property from the St. Marks Lutheran Church.

Alfred Johnson and Marguerite Goebel were married June 5, 1944. She was the daughter of Ilo J. and Josephine (Koenig) Goebel who were lifelong residents of the Green DeWitt Community.

Together, Alfred and Marguerite operated the "Pops Cafe." She worked in the cafe and also baked the very popular fresh pies for the cafe. In July of 1957, Alfred built a ten unit motel behind the cafe which he ran until his retirement in 1980.

Marguerite was a Catholic and a member of the Altar Society. She received their highest recognition, a cross and chain, for being the outstanding member for the year. Alfred and Marguerite were members of the Green DeWitt Social Club and both enjoyed family gatherings.

Alfred Johnson died March 14, 1981 and Marguerite died August 1, 1975. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Mary Louise Goebel

JONISCHKIES, JOHN AND MARIA (KIRLICKS) FAMILY

F472

On 1 Jan. 1862, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville, the widow Maria (Kirlicks) Gelssus, native of Kirlicken, Lithuania, married John Jonischkies, a native of nearby Rupkalwen, Lithuania. It was the start of a long and happy marriage, which produced six children, all of whom eventually married. The stories of Maria's mother, Catherine Kirlicks, and her first husband, George Gelssus, are given separately. Unlike her sister and brothers, Maria was unable to keep giving her children the same Christian names (two for girls and five for boys), as she had eight daughters, but only one son.

John Jonischkies (19 June 1829-27 Mar. 1911) came to DeWitt County in 1857, following his brother George. Both were well known in the Lithuanian community here. John always considered himself a farmer (at least according to the 1870-1910 censuses), but family members have reported that he was also in the freight business. We know that during the 1860's he wrote long letters to his wife (in almost perfect handwriting) from places in Mexico or near the border, but the contents have not yet been translated. His father, Michael, lived with him for awhile. Michael died 2 Nov. 1882.

The first of John's five daughters was Auguste Emilie (17 Oct. 1862-30 Dec. 1923). On 26 Sep. 1883, Emilie married George Voelkel (27 Apr. 1860-14 Dec. 1905). George was the brother of Wilhelmine (Voelkel) Lundschen (see "George and Anna Lundschen Family"). Their three children were Louis, George William, and Lillie (married Joseph C. Boldt). George and Emilie are buried in the Jonischkies family cemetery, as are their two sons.

The second daughter was Ottilie Friedericke (12 Oct. 1864-22 Nov. 1926). On 20 Oct. 1887, she married Bernhard Post (20 Aug. 1859-2 Feb. 1928), a blacksmith who later owned a hardware store. She is the only one of John Jonischkies' children not married at St. Paul's in Yorktown. They made their home in Meyersville, and had no children.

The next daughter, Wilhelmine Emma (21 Aug. 1865-24 Sep. 1938) married Bernhard's brother, Otto Post (1 May 1861-30 Jan. 1902), also a blacksmith. The parents of the Post brothers were Henry Post and Christine M. Hettig, a native of Saxony. Otto and Emma made their home in Schroeder (then called Germantown) in Goliad Co., and belonged to St. Luke's Lutheran Church. When Otto died of typhoid, he left his wife and four small children — Albert John, Edwin Heinrich Franz, Emilie Magdalena Augusta Maria (married George Reuter), and Helene Emma, whose first husband is said to be the serviceman George Schroeder for whom the town was named. On 21 Aug. 1904, Emma married Charles Debrodt and became a stepmother to his son Charles.

The fourth daughter was Caroline Mathilde (1 May 1868-20 Jan. 1941), or Caroline, contrary to the German tradition of using the last of one's given names. She married Traugott Jank (6 June 1866-26 May 1952) on 14 Dec. 1891, and had five children — Pauline "Lena" (married Avery Von Blon), Paul Herman, Martha Marie "Meta" (died at age 17, buried beside her parents in Yoakum), Bertha Anna (married Peter Klitsch and Bernard Hopkins), and Erna Michele (married Curtis Tate). (Also see related stories on Paul Herman Jank, and Jank Bottling Works.)

The only son was Johann Friedrich Wilhelm "William" (5 May 1872-17 May 1932). On 16 Mar. 1899, he married Louise Kaufmann (26 Mar. 1880-14 Nov. 1918), daughter of Emil Kaufmann and Amelia P. Metz. They had four children — Werner Raymond, Ena Elmira (married Otto Mayer), Esther Leona (married Benjamin Lemke), and Ira Wanda (married Otto Rabke). Otto and Ira Rabke celebrated their golden anniversary in 1984, and still live in Yorktown.

The youngest daughter was Magdalena Bertha "Lena" (8 July 1876-21 Feb. 1946). She married John Calvin McMillan (19 Aug. 1867-2Dec. 1928) on 3 Feb. 1898. Their four children were Willie Paul, Hugo Hermann, Ella Ida (married William Ideus), and Meta Maria (married Louis Hoff, Jr.). The Ideus family still owns the property containing the Jonischkies family cemetery, where members of the Kerlick, Lundschen, Jonischkies, Schork, Ragozsus, and other Lithuanian families are buried.

Beverly (Kerlick) Bruns, Patsy Hand, and Liz Jank also provided research for this article.

by Bernice N. Mistrot

JUNKER, GEORGE V. AND HILDEGARD DIEBEL

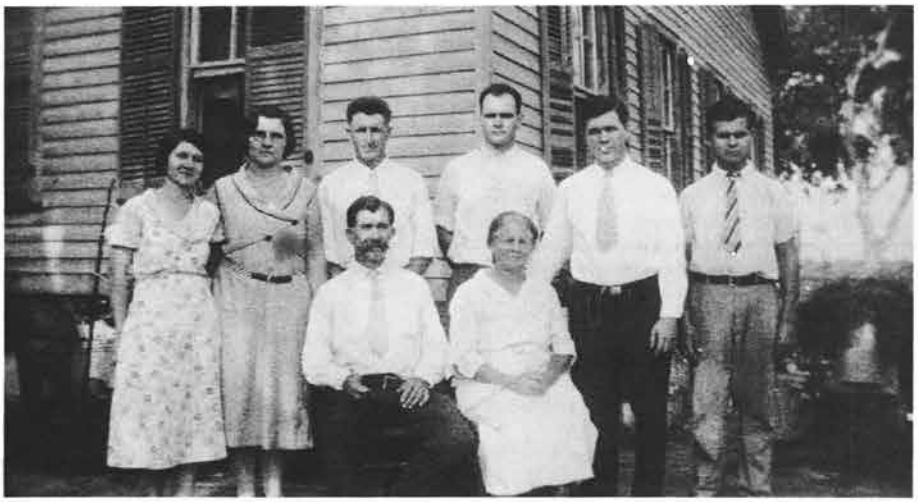
F473

George Valentine Junker was born Aug. 22, 1876, son of John and Katherine Haberkorn Junker. He grew up in the Arneckeville community.

On Nov. 29, 1900 he married Hildegard Diebel, daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Wendel Diebel of Meyersville, Texas. They had seven children: Arthur, May 15, 1900, married Lena Hausmann; Vera, Sept. 12, 1903, married Albert Friedrichs (see Albert Friedrichs history); Fred, July 19, 1906-May 11, 1987, married Ella Roessler; John, Oct. 29, 1909-Jan. 26, 1986, married Minnie Demmer; Edwin, July 18, 1912, married Iva Goehring; Melinda, April 25, 1915-Dec. 4, 1945, married Berner Bade; Richard, Jan. 23, 1918-May 4, 1977, married Alice Gruetzmacher.

While George and Hilda were living on a farm near Weesatche, Vera recalls a carnival being in town. A Mr. Edward Meyer was at one of the trinket booths and in the booth was a certain item he wanted. He would play and play the machine getting a lot of prizes but not the one he wanted. Finally he got the item he wanted. Vera, with all the other children who had no money to play the machine, were hoping that Ed Meyer would give them the items he did not want. However, Ed gave all the items back to the carnival.

Also while in Weesatche, Arthur and Vera, ages about 10 and 12, were sent to a neighbor to borrow a block and tackle. They took a little red wagon to bring back the block and tackle. About half way home the neighbor's billy goat came running after them. Arthur grabbed the goat around the neck and the goat dragged him for a while. When Arthur turned loose of the goat Arthur and Vera ran into the house and



Back Row, L-R: Melinda Junker, Vera Junker Friedrich, Arthur Junker, John Junker, Fred Junker, Richard Junker. Seated: George V. and Hildegard Junker.

crawled under the bed to get away from the goat. The wagon with the block and tackle stayed in the pasture.

Vera went to the Hienzeville School near Weesatche. I, Elorine, daughter of Vera Junker Friedrichs, started doing genealogy and was told to go see Dora Brauer, as she could help me. I took Mother along and for a while we talked family. Then Vera asked Dora what happened to a girl at the school. The girl's name was Dora Kerlick. Of course, Dora answered fast "Here she is." I don't know who was surprised the most. From then on no more family history was discussed. They had a good time reliving school days.

When John Junker died in May 1915, George and family moved to the home place to take care of his mother, Katherine. George was a farmer all of his life. Like all early families he worked the land with horses and walked behind the plows, planters and cultivators. Later they got riding implements that were pulled with horse teams. A son, Edwin, now owns and lives on the home place.

George and Hilda were members of Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. Hilda died July 7, 1947; George died Jan. 26, 1953. Both are buried on Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, Texas.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

JUNKER, JOHN AND KATHERINE HABERKORN

F474

John was born in Richenbach, Hessen, Germany, Oct. 21, 1851, son of John George and Fredricka Schneider Junker. They had two children, John and Katherine Junker. Fredricka Junker died and is buried in Germany. John George then married Margareta Zimmerman in Germany. They came to America in 1859 with John and Katherine, on the ship "Iris" landing at Indianola, Texas. After John George and Margareta came to America they had four children — Anna, who married Albert Waldeck; Sophie, who married Ed Hans; Mary, who married August Hans; and Fritz, who married Sophie Hiller. Katherine married George Afflerbach. John married Katherine Haberkorn, born April 16, 1853 in Leusel, Germany to Conrad and Elizabeth Koehler Haberkorn. She came to America in 1853 with a sister, Elizabeth, and brother, Valentine. They stayed with the Koehlers at Arneckeville. Later in 1883 the parents, Conrad and Elizabeth Haberkorn with a son Louis followed them to Texas. A brother, Fred Haberkorn stayed in Germany and has not been heard from since 1940. Fred lived in Darmstadt, Germany and it is believed that he and his family died during the air raids of World War II.

John and Katherine Haberkorn Junker established their home in the Arneckeville community, now the Edwin Junker place, and lived there all their life. They hauled water from the Five Mile Creek. They had nine children who all grew to adulthood. 1. Fredericka, July 5, 1875-Feb. 18, 1962, married Henry Becker. 2. George, Aug. 22, 1876-Jan. 26, 1953, married Hildagard Diebel. 3. Otto, Sept. 21, 1878-May 16, 1941, married Emily Gerhold. 4. Rudolph, Nov. 15, 1880-April 14, 1944, married Emelie Jutz. 5. Hugo, Nov. 13, 1883-April 5, 1955, married Frances Thuem. 6. Alma, Dec. 5, 1885-Jan. 1, 1983, married Dick Gauhl. 7. Emma, April 26, 1888-Dec. 26, 1986, married Fred Thamm. 8. Frieda, June 30, 1890-April 8, 1983, married William Buehrig. 9. Urania, Nov. 26, 1892-Jan. 18, 1964, married Otto Buchel.

John Junker was a farmer until 1892 when he became commissioner of Precinct 8, now Precinct 4. He was commissioner for 16 years. He was also Justice of the Peace of Precinct 8. As a member of the court many important questions pressed for settlement during his incumbency, such as the building of a new courthouse, two large river bridges and direct road taxation. All were installed in satisfactory manner to the public interest. Judge Kleberg, a good friend of John Junker, remarked that he was one of the county's most useful and valued citizens.

John died May 30, 1915. Katherine lived on the home place with son, George and Hilda Junker until her death May 31, 1938. Both are buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

by Elorine Hartman

JUTZ, FERDINAND AND MARGARETHA (LANGHEIT) (MOSTEIT)

F475

Ferdinand Jutz was born 26 Feb 1832 in Prussia, where he was a fisherman. Not much is known about his first two wives. His third wife was Mrs. Margaretha (Langheit) Mosteit,

John and Katherine (Haberkorn) Junker

Margaretha Jutz, ca. 1900.

born 31 Oct 1841 in Memel, Germany (now Lithuania). Her first husband died during a war with Russia.

Ferdinand and Margaretha Jutz landed at Galveston in September 1874. They were accompanied by Margaretha's two children from her first marriage, August Mosteit and Johanna (Mrs. Annie Boldt) Mosteit, and their son, Ferdinand. Ferdinand left daughter Caroline and one of his twin daughters, Bertha, in Prussia. The other twin, Hertha, died at sea during the trip.

Ferdinand Jutz became a farmer after arriving in DeWitt County and lived near Meyersville. He and Margaretha had six children and were members of St. John's Lutheran Church, where their other five children were all baptized on the same day in 1886. Ferdinand died 25 Mar 1890 and Margaretha died 23 Mar 1922. They are both buried in the Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery.

Their oldest child, Ferdinand Gustav Wilhelm Jutz was born in 1872 in Memel also. He married Anna Johanna Katharina Afflerbach. Their story is given separately.

Maria Martha (Mary) Jutz married John Brans and lived in Dallas most of her life. They had two daughters, Myrtle, who married A.L. Leger and Ethel, who married Walter Egner.

Hermann Albert Jutz married Emilie Sophie Mlani Diebel and had three daughters: 1) Lillie married Erwin Rath; 2) Flora married Chilton S. Purcell and had a daughter, Shirley Ann; 3) Malinda married Elder Henry Jacob and had two children, Earlan Lloyd and Patricia.

Helene Friedericke Jutz married Henry C. Rangnow. Their two children were Irene and Margerite.

Emilia Margaretha Jutz married Rudolph F.M. Junker, and they had three children: 1) Valeska Marie Junker, who married Christian V. Hartmann, had two daughters Hazel and Joyce. Valeska was later married to J.V. Lamb and they had two children, Vernon and Sylvia Ann. 2) Herbert F. Junker married Leona Hartmann. 3) Arline Margaret Junker, who has four sons, Frank and Albert Murray and James and Douglas Anderson, and is presently married to Wayne Popp and lives in California.

Lydia Ottilie Jutz married Walter Karnes, had one child, Adelaide, and like her sister Mary, lived most of her life in Dallas.

by Sharon Delaney Shafer

JUTZ, FERDINAND GOTTFRIED WILHELM AND ANNA (AFFLERBACH)

F476

Ferdinand G. and Anna (Afflerbach) Jutz, Nov. 30, 1897

Ferdinand Gottfried Wilhelm Jutz was born 18 Mar 1872 in Memel, Prussia (which is now Klaipeda, Lithuania). He immigrated to Texas with his parents and step-brother, August Mosteit, and step-sister, Johanna (Annie) Mosteit, landing in Galveston about 15 September 1874. the family settled near Meyersville and attended St. John's Lutheran Church.

On 30 Nov 1897, he and Anna Johanna Katherina Afflerbach were married in Meyersville. Anna was born 22 Feb 1878 in Yorktown to George Afflerbach and Katherina Junker. Anna's grandparents were Johan Heinrich Afflerbach and Marie Elise Friedrich, who immigrated to Yorktown from Westfalia, Germany and Johan George Junker and Frederica Schneider of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany.

During the time they were married, Ferdinand worked as a blacksmith in Arneckeville and as a carpenter in Cuero. On 3 Dec 1918, he died of pneumonia. Anna, through her strong faith in God and hard work, took care of their six children, ranging in age from 20 to 1 year. She was an expert seamstress and enjoyed making quilts and crocheting for her children and grandchildren. In her later years, she lived with her brother, Louis Afflerbach, on Morgan Avenue. Anna died at the age of 95 on 1 Jan 1973. She and Ferdinand are both buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Their first child, Natalia (Tallie) Katherina Johanna, born in 1898, married Gustav Adolph Denecamp. They lived in San Antonio where they raised two sons, G.A., Jr. and Louis. G.A. Jr. of San Antonio also has two sons, Danny and Gussie. Louis and his wife, Belin, have a son, Louis Jr. and live in Stockdale.

Edmund Emil, second child born 1900, was married to Gussie Dalhman of Nordheim. They had three children: Homer Sylvan, father of Gary and Jerilyn; Mae Antoinette and husband, Howard Reininger of San Antonio, parents of Susan, Patty, and twins, Russell and Randall; and Edmund F. Jutz.

Elsa (Elsie) Amelia Augusta, born 1902, married Alfred J. (Mac) Seffel, son of Frank Seffel and Lavonia Perkins. They had one son, Glenn Warren (Billy) and lived in San Antonio.

Irena (Irene) Margaretha Fredericka, born in 1905 was married to Robert H. Barnes, Jr. They later moved to San Antonio where they raised six children: 1) Robert III who with Dotty live in San Antonio; 2) Ann Larue, deceased, who married Eugene Benferand adopted two boys, Kevin and Robert; 3) Doreen Faye of New Braunfels; 4) James Marion of Elmendorf who has two sons, James, Jr. and David; and twins 5) Terry Charles of Austin and 6) Jerry Neland of Bulverde. Terry and wife, Carolyn Moore, have two daughters, Terrice and Karen. Jerry has a daughter, Lori Ann, and he and wife, Bonnie Gelwicks have two children, Tammie and Frank. Irene still lives in San Antonio with her husband, Leon Eilert.

Julia Anna Hertha, born 1907, married William E. Delaney of Goliad. They had one daughter, Sharon of Willis, who has three children: Clay, Kyle and Allison.

Alvin Neland, born in 1917, served in World War II and the Korean War. He had two children, Raymond and Steven.

by Sharon Delaney Shafer

KAISER, LESLIE FAMILY

F477

Leslie Charles Kaiser was born February 3, 1920, the second and smallest of twin sons, who were the first children of Ludwig William John Emil and Roma Auguste Thiele Kaiser. Big and Little, as the twins got to be known, were born in their parents home at 2400 Nelson Street in Yoakum, Texas. Except for the four years Leslie was in the U.S. Army, he lived in this home until he married.

He attended West Side School in Yoakum and old Yoakum High School, being in the last class to graduate in the old Barn auditorium in 1937. The Barn was located where the present Primary Annex is now. Leslie worked on on his father's farms, dairy, and trucking and ranching business until 1934. In 1934 and 1936, while attending high school, he worked for his uncle, K.M. Thiele, at the City Meat Market. From 1936 until 1939, he worked for his grandfather Harry Thiele in the Thiele Meat Market, located across from the Gonzales Street railroad crossing. Leslie attended Baldwin Business College and graduated in 1939. He worked in Edinburg, Texas in 1940 and 1941, manifesting in the citrus fruit industry at Polis and Hagan packing shed. In March of 1942 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served active and inactive duty, until 1953, in the Field Artillery and Infantry; was honorable discharged in 1953 as a 1st Lieutenant. While

Family of Leslie and Vera Kaiser July 4, 1974 – Paul Ross, Leslye Pauline, Patricia Annette, Leslie Charles, Vera Pauline, Diana Marie, Charlotte Kay, and Roma Josephine.

in the service he attended and graduated from the Infantry School in Ft. Bennington, Ga. He served in the South Pacific in the Philippine Islands. After the War he returned to Yoakum and again went to work for his father in the farming business for about one year. In 1947, he went to work for his twin brother "Big" Kaiser, at the City Meat Market. On September 15, 1947, Leslie married Vera Pauline Ross, and in February, 1948, he purchased the City Meat Market with a partner, and remained co-owner and manager until 1983 when he became sole owner until his retirement in January, 1989.

Vera Pauline Ross Kaiser was born March 17, 1927, at 121 Arnold Street in Yoakum, Texas, about one-half mile from the L.W. Kaiser residence. She was the first child of John Paul and Vera Josephine Porche Ross. Veraline, as she was called by her family, had two brothers. In the spring of 1933, the Ross's moved to a farm about three miles northwest of Yoakum and that fall Vera started school at Hagan School where she completed two grades. She started third grade at St. Joseph School in Yoakum, as her family moved back to town in fall of 1934, when her father went to work for Southwest Natural Gas Company. Vera graduated from St. Joseph School in 1944 and attended Baldwin's Business College. While attending high school, Vera worked at Shropshire Drug Store in the fountain, J.C. Penney Co. as a clerk and at Edgerton Flying Service as a secretary. After graduating from Baldwin's, she worked for two years at Ford Motor Company as a bookkeeper. After she married, Vera was a homemaker and about 1953 began doing the bookkeeping for their market. In 1962 they leased the building adjoining the market on the north side, and opened a BBQ restaurant and enlarged the market. In 1972 they leased the adjoining building on the south and moved the restaurant and retail meat counter there and put in a line of groceries. Vera had been doing the business accounting at home and about 1970 she began working at the store, a little more each year, so it grew into a full time job. Leslie served for years as director of the Yoakum Chamber of Commerce, and the 1968 and 1969 terms as president. He is a charter member of the Yoakum Industrial Foundation and a member of the Project Show committee and very often offers the market facilities to help community service affairs. Vera was very active in St. Joseph's PTC as long as their children were in the school, a member of Catholic Daughters of America, a charter member of DeWitt County Genealogical Society, and a charter member and director of the Yoakum Heritage Museum.

Leslie and Vera are the parents of seven children, all but one of which were born in Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Texas.

Roma Josephine was born July 3, 1948, was married to Jimmy Ray Delvige in 1970, has two children Brian Kevin and Cheryl Helene and they live on Blue Bonnet Lane in Yoakum.

Leslie Charles, Jr. was born July 1, 1950, in Rockport, Texas and died the same day. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, Yoakum, Texas.

Leslye Pauline, born January 20, 1952, married Charles Anthony Fikac in 1972, has three children, Kara Lynn, Steven Paul and Carl Michael, and they live on Bootleggers Lane 6 miles west of Yoakum.

Diana Marie born February 13, 1955, married Thomas Edward Cliff in 1974, and divorced in 1976. Diana was killed in 1977 in Wharton County, Texas, and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Patricia Annette, born April 29, 1957, married Robert Wayne Williams in 1988, has one son Cody Robert, and lives on the Victoria Prairie.

Charlotte Kay, born June 30, 1959, married Albert J. Edwards in 1984, has 1 daughter, Katherine Diana and they live in Cibolo, Texas.

Paul Ross was born May 6, 1961, was married to Carol Jean Hrncir of Yoakum on December 28, 1985 now owns and manages Kaiser's City Meat Market in Yoakum. Paul and Carol have one daughter, Carline Terese and live in Yoakum.

Leslie and Vera live on Blue Bonnet Lane about two miles west of Yoakum, and have been living there since 1951.

by Vera Pauline Ross Kaiser

KAISER, LUDWIG WILLIAM JOHN EMIL FAMILY

F478

The son of Charles Friederich Kaiser and Elise Frerichs, Ludwig W. Kaiser was born in Moulton, Texas on May 1, 1890. He married Florence Hoover but she passed away in 1916. In July, 1919. L.W. "Lovie" Kaiser married Roma Augusta Thiele (born October 1, 1901 at New Braunfels, Texas). Shortly thereafter they bought a track of land at the west end of Nelson Street where they lived in a frame house with two bedrooms and one bathroom. Of this marriage, eleven sons and three daughters were born: 1) Lester H. and Leslie C., b. February 3, 1920; 2) Edith Huebner, b. September 15, 1921; 3) Ludwig W., Jr., b. July 2, 1923; 4) Emil H., b. September 2, 1925; 5) Doris Dornak, b. December 3, 1927; 6) Elmo A., b. November 4, 1929; 7) Walter E., b. August 15, 1931; 8) Robert Lee, b. November 8, 1933; 9) Edwin F., b. August 30, 1935; 10) Vernon O., b. August 30, 1937; 11) Marjorie Cook, b. July 24, 1939; 12) Weldon L., b. September 24, 1941; 13) Clifton R., b. February 23, 1944.

As was the custom, the first eight children were born at home while the last six were born in Huth Memorial Hospital.

After serving in the U.S. Army in World War I, Louie Kaiser returned home to work in the H. Thiele Meat Market in Yoakum. Later he bought the City Meat Market which is today owned and operated by a son, Leslie. In addition to farming, ranching and cattle trading, Louie Kaiser operated three dairies. (On the home place alone, he had around 100 milk cows.) Products of year-around feedlots of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats were usually processed through Thiele slaughter house, supplying local markets and generous family consumption.

For years the family picked up day-old bread and cakes from the Mobley Bakery for the hog feedlot, with many items fresh enough for family and neighborhood children. Neighborhood youngsters usually assisted in the daily work, with the only pay being joining the family mealtimes with hearty appetites. Another fringe benefit could be horseback riding, many times with half-broken horses or mules. Milk was delivered all over Yoakum each day at five cents per quart. All these operations were carried on by the family with little hired help.

The family remembers that there was plenty of food and hard work for all, but little money. In the 1930's, the family was also doing custom farm work with horse and mule drawn equipment. Later tractors were used to pull row binders, combines and other types of farm machinery. All cash money went into a container on top of the old refrigerator for buying groceries.

After most of the older children left home or were in military duty, the dairy was sold in 1943. Dairy operations on the home place continued on a limited basis until 1957, "Keeping the kids busy and out of trouble".

Mrs. Ludwig Kaiser and her children

The home place itself was sold to Hochheim Prairie Insurance Company in 1979. The proceeds of that sale were divided into 14 portions and distributed to the family with no arguments or hard feelings. Since Leslie lived the closest to the old home place, he moved the house to his land on Blue Bonnet Land and his daughter and son-in-law, Roma Jo and Jim Delvige rebuilt the old house into their home.

The whole Kaiser family which includes 40 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren meets on the first Sunday of October for a reunion. Mrs. Louie Kaiser's birthday was on October 1 and Mr. Kaiser always had a family gathering on that first Sunday.

by Ludwig (Louie) Kaiser, Jr.

KAROW, FLORENTINE SCHLINKE GAUHL

F479

Florentine "Flora" Emelie Schlinke (born 5 Apr. 1858) came from Posen, Prussia, with her parents, John and Caroline Schlinke, in 1869 on the ship "Weser" which landed in Indianola. She was the third of seven children.

Flora married Oscar Gauhl (1845-1882), a tinner, on 29 Mar. 1878 in DeWitt Co. Flora and Oscar had three children: 1) Richard Ernst Gauhl (born 23 Feb. 1879; died 23 May 1937); 2) Alma E. Gauhl (1880-1882); and 3) Oscar J. Gauhl (born 4 May 1883; died 15 Feb. 1963).

Ludwig and Roma Kaiser

John and Flora (Schlinke) Gauhl Karow, 1878.

John Gotlieg "George" Karow, Cuero, bartender at saloon on corner of Main and Gonzales St.

1) Richard "Dick" Gauhl married Katherine Heyer on 18 Nov. 1902. "Katie" died 17 July 1904 leaving a daughter, Katie, who was reared by her maternal aunt and uncle, Josephine and Joseph Sheridan. Richard Gauhl married Alma Junker Comeaux on 28 Apr. 1913. Richard Gauhl worked at Heatons Drug Store (Buttery's) and later became a funeral director.

2) Alma Gauhl married Henry J. Meyer, a school teacher, on 18 July 1904. They had three children: (2a) Daniel Meyer, (2b) Ella Meyer, and (2c) Charles Meyer. (2a) Daniel Meyer married Dora Conrads from Martindale, TX. They had two children: Daniel W. Meyer and Franklin Meyer. (2b) Ella Meyer married Raymond Moeller and Erwin Meckel. (2c) Charles Meyer died at about 1 year of age. They lived in the New Braunfels, Texas, area.

3) Oscar Gauhl married Gertrude Annie Miller on 24 Aug. 1905. They had one daughter, Marguerite Lottie Louise Gauhl (born 18 May 1906; died 3 Dec. 1982) who married Gerald A. Wilden on 14 Nov. 1925. No children. Oscar Gauhl worked at Koehler's Dry Goods, farmed, and delivered packages.

After the death of Oscar Gauhl, Flora Schlinke Gauhl married John Gotlieb "George" Karow (1854-1898, a bartender, on 14 Nov. 1885. They had five children: 4) Carl Karow (1886-1886); 5) Fred Carl Karow (born 22 Oct. 1887; died 29 Mar. 1944); 6) Rudolph Karow; 7) Rosa Hulda Elizabeth Karow (born 22 Aug. 1894; died 28 Dec. 1973); and 8) Elizabeth

Karow (1896-1896).

5) Fred Karow married Rosalee Gertrude Casal on 27 Jan. 1913. Fred was a shoe salesman at Graves Dry Goods and a poultry raiser. Fred Karow, Jr. was born on 12 Jan. 1917. Fred and Rosalee were divorced on 17 Jan. 1919 in DeWitt Co. The second marriage of Fred was to a widow from Edna, Texas.

6) Rudolph Karow worked at Koehlers Dry Goods, served in World War I, died in San Antonio. He is buried at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery in San Antonio. He never married.

8) Rosa Karow married Henry T. Henneke (story elsewhere) on 10 June 1955. They had two children (8a) Florine Elizabeth Henneke (born 26 Sept. 1918) and (8b) Harry Lee Henneke (born 18 Aug. 1931). (8a) Florine Henneke married Roscoe Robert Chaddock on 7 Sept. 1935. They had one son, Michael Henry Chaddock (born 20 July 1955) who married Barbara Meinardus on 12 Jan. 1980 in Austin, Tx. Michael and Barbara Chaddock have two children: Steven Michael Chaddock (born 15 July 1980) and Kristi Dawn Chaddock (born 23 Sept. 1983). (8b) Harry Henneke married Nadine "Dee" Vernell Rosenberg on 10 June 1955 (story elsewhere). They had three children: (8b1) Elizabeth Marie Henneke (born 17 May 1956); (8b2) Mary Vincent Henneke (born 10 Aug. 1957); and (8b3) Teresa Elaine Henneke (born 26 Feb. 1960). (8b1) Elizabeth Henneke married Buford Barry Wilson on 4 Mar. 1976 in San Antonio. They have one son, Miles Travis Wilson (born 8 Sept. 1983).

Flora Gauhl Karow lost her two husbands young in life (at 24 and 40 years of age) and reared her surviving six children by selling vegetables from her garden.

She watched over her daughters carefully and had strict rules at her house. To keep their complexions smooth, she encouraged the girls to wash their faces each night with cold water — no matter how cold the weather was.

Flora Gauhl Karow died of complications from diabetes on 14 Nov. 1925. She and her two husbands are buried at Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

by Harry and Dee Henneke

KASTEN, ADAM FAMILY

F480

In 1895 when Adam Marcus Kasten was 11 years of age, he traveled with his father, August Kasten, from Appelts Hill near Hallettsville to investigate the possibility of settling in or near the newly platted town-site of Weldon Switch, changed to Nordheim officially in 1897. In later years Adam Kasten often spoke of the journey on horseback over ranch lands – the swing gates and the native grass often so tall a cow could get lost in it, a land devoid of underbrush with only stately oaks and hackberry trees scattered here and there.

Adam Kasten was born at Hackberry, Texas near Hallettsville in Lavaca County on January 29, 1886 to August and Gerhardina Heinsohn Kasten. He was baptized at the Ev. Lutheran Church at Frelsburg, Texas on May 24, 1886 and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Nordheim on April 8, 1901 by Pastor J.K. Poch. His schooling was begun at Pleasant Grove school near Hallettsville and concluded at Nordheim. The boys spent much free time

Adam and Lydia (Haertig) Kasten wedding on November 23, 1908

Adam Kasten and daughter, Lula Belle. 1913

knocking one another's spin tops out of a circle. Young Adam Kasten carved a top 3" in diameter and 4" long from a tree limb, inserted a sharpened bolt for a point and became the scourge of the top spinners, splitting many of the boys tops into pieces. He also had an insatiable interest in U.S. History and politics. This writer was often amazed at his wide knowledge and keen insight into U.S. History and later discovered he owned and treasured a number of U.S. history books written in the German language.

Adam Kasten grew to manhood, along with the growth of Nordheim, on his parent's farm south of Northeim. He farmed with his father, worked in several mercantile stores, but when he married he chose farming for a livelihood, purchasing a farm seven miles south of Runge, Texas in Karnes County. In 1908 he was the champion marksman at the "King Shoot" tryouts. He reigned as king during the May Fest that year – all of the festivities taking place on Pilot Knob. He and the chosen queen led the Grand March at the Grand Ball at night. The inscribed medal he received for being king is on display in the Nordheim Museum. Later that year, on November 23, 1908 Adam Kasten and Lydia Haertig were married in Woodsboro, Texas. They were the first couple to be married in the new but growing town of Woodsboro. The Ernst Haertig family had moved from the Gruenau Community near Yorktown to the Bonnie View Community south of Woodsboro in 1907.

After their marriage in 1908, Adam and Lydia Kasten lived on their newly purchased farm south of Runge where they prospered, but their family and social ties were firmly attached to Nordheim. The writer remembers the many buggy trips to Nordheim and back. These were simple but unhurried adventures every time you could go somewhere in a buggy.

Mrs. Adam (Lydia Haertig) Kasten and daughter, Lula Belle 1913

1944 Adam Kasten family – Back: August. Middle: Adam and Lydia. Front: Judith (Kasten) Frantz and Lula Belle (Kasten) Kolodziejczyk.

There was a bonding experience between parents and children in a buggy or surrey that can never happen in a car. Of course, it was also exciting when my father brought home our first automobile, a big Overland touring car! The cars were always getting stuck in the mud whereas a buggy didn't get stuck. Two children were born to the Adam Kasten's in Karnes County. The first child, the writer, was born on December 10, 1912 named Lula Belle and the second was a son born May 26, 1920 named August after the grandfather.

In 1921 the family moved to a farm on the northwest edge of Nordheim, bordering the Runge Ranch. Adam Kasten invested in a starter herd of Holstein cattle which he planned to breed and sell. However, the tick fever scourge wiped out the expensive bull and most of the cows, so he turned to building for a trade. The wife, Lydia, was an excellent seamstress and sewed for many residents during her lifetime. Two more children were born at Nordheim; namely, Leon Roland, born January 7, 1922 who died a week later, and Judith Miriam, born February 24, 1925.

Lydia Haertig Kasten was born near Shiner, Texas to Ernst and Martha Leonhardt Haertig on March 5, 1887 where she was baptized in the Lutheran faith. She moved to Gruenau near Yorktown with her family in 1890 where she attended school and grew to womanhood along with eleven surviving brothers and sisters. The story was told that the couple met after Lydia Haertig, while visiting her sister Mrs. John Pundt in Nordheim, had written her name and address on some eggs which were sold to the Willie Kasten store. Adam Kasten clerked at the store and discovered her name on an egg. At the time it was a romantic custom for young people to write their names on eggs in order to make new acquaintances.

The Kasten family was active in St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church at Nordheim. Both parents and children were confirmed there and Lydia Kasten was a lifetime member of the Missionary Society while daughter, Lula Belle, taught Sunday School for 17 years and was active with the Luther League.

Special interests for Adam Kasten were the Nordheim Shooting Club and the early baseball teams which Nordheim always fielded. He usually played catcher and always participated in the annual Fats and Leans baseball game. He was especially interested in education and served on the school board of the Nordheim public school during the 1930's. Both parents encouraged their three children to attend college at great sacrifice. The writer, Lula Belle, attended Texas Lutheran College and the University of Texas at Austin earning a Bachelors and Masters degree in Education. She taught school for 45 years, thirty-five of which were in the Nordheim Schools, where she worked in the Social Studies field as well as Girls Physical Education, coaching successful basketball and volleyball teams for many years. In 1948 she married Everest Kolodziejczyk of Nordheim, who died in 1983 after operating the Nordheim Barber Shop for 54 years. A daughter, Mrs. Manfred (Venice) Scheurich, is a Professor of Mathematics at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. At this writing Lula B. Kolodziejczyk resides in Nordheim and is still active with the Nordheim Museum. Lula Belle made letters for her father's car during a political campaign which read: "Dan's the Man — Lynch is a Cinch — But me for Ma (Ferguson)"

A son of Adam and Lydia Kasten, August Kasten, attended A&I University and the University of Texas. He married Annabel Engelking in 1947. He lives in Victoria, Texas and is retired, after having worked in the DuPont Laboratories for many years. One son, Donald Kasten, resides in Victoria with his family while another son, Thomas Kasten, is presently employed in Gonzales, Texas.

The youngest daughter, Judith, acquired a degree in Sociology from the University of Texas. She married Warren Frantz in 1947 and he served as an accountant with Alcoa until his death in 1982. They lived an interesting life, moving to many different places including eleven years in South America. Judith Kasten Frantz now resides in Pittsburgh, PA which was their last assignment.

Adam and Lydia Kasten are both deceased. Lydia preceded him in death on January 6, 1957 while Adam died on November 8, 1966, both having made their contribution to the development of Nordheim from pioneer times.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

KASTEN, AUGUST HEINRICH FAMILY

F481

August Kasten and a young son, Adam, first appeared in the Nordheim area in 1895. They had traveled from Appelts Hill near Hallettsville to investigate the possibility of buying land and settling in the Nordheim area.

On April 15, 1849, August Kasten was born to Friedrich and Wilhelmine Eidmann Kasten at Langenhagen, Pommern, Germany. Here he was christened in the Lutheran faith when two weeks old. The Friedrich Kasten family embarked to the United States in 1854, and almost immediately tragedy befell them, for on a stopover at Liverpool, England, the mother died and was buried there. The father continued to America with three young sons, Herman (8), Ferdinand (7), and August (5) plus an infant daughter, Marie, who died on the voyage. They entered Texas at Galveston and settled in Austin County where the father made a living breaking horses for the settlers. Three years later the father was fatally injured, leaving three young orphan boys. The Weishuhn family took in the three boys and during the Civil War young August served as a messenger boy. As a young man Ferdinand moved to Wisconsin while Herman drifted to Arizona and spent his life prospecting for gold. His story is told in another article.

The early adult life of August Kasten was spent in Austin and Colorado Counties. In 1871 he was married to Gerhardina Heinsohn at Frelsberg, Colorado County. She was born on June 13, 1852 at Frelsburg to Wilhelm and Meta Harfst Heinsohn and lived there until she married. The August Kasten family farmed at New Ulm, Frelsburg and Appelts Hill near Hallettsville. With seven living children the family outgrew the Hallettsville farm and in 1895 purchased a section of land beginning at the southern base of Pilot Knob and extending southward for about three miles from Nordheim. Part of the family lived on the new land in a dirt-floor building while the virgin land was prepared for farming. In 1900 the entire family moved into a newly erected eleven room two-story home and the temporary building became a buggy house. At this writing the home and the buggy house are still in place on the farm.

In 1895 August Kasten bought the first residence lot in the newly platted town then called Weldon Switch but officially changed to Nordheim in 1897. He built Nordheim's first cotton gin in 1895 which was operated by Ernst Westphal, a son-in-law, and Paul Ullrich. August Kasten also erected a gin at Cabeza which was operated by his son, Otto Kasten. These gins were very important to the development of the area for cotton was to be the main money crop. In 1902 he financially aided a son, William Kasten, and Edward Wied in establishing a joint mercantile store and gin operation. The Cabeza gin was moved into Nordheim at this time to become a part of the new business venture.

The Kasten family was also involved in the spiritual, social and educational development of the community. William Kasten was elected treasurer at the first recorded Lutheran congregational meeting in 1901 while August Kasten and William Kasten were listed as heads of families in the first congregational list of 1901. Otto Kasten was a signer of the first charter issued to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nordheim by the State of Texas in 1909. Meta Kasten Riedesel was elected secretary when the first Frauen Verein or Ladies Aid was organized in 1913 and held the position until the organization changed its conduction of business from German to English in 1950.

August Kasten was interested in developing a public school system and he chaired the first public organizational meeting. He served on the board of trustees soon after 1900 while a son, Adam Kasten, served as a truste during the 1930's. One daughter, Leona Kasten, became a teacher and doctor while three grandchildren, Arthur Westphal, Anita Riedesel, Lula Bell Kasten entered the teaching profession.

The male members of the family were very active as members of the Nordheim Shooting Club. Adam Kasten was the best marksman in 1908 and thus reigned as King of the May Feast that year. The mother, Gerhardina Kasten and daughters, Meta and Theresa, were very active in the women's clubs such as the Frauen Verein and Haekel Krenschen.

By the time the August Kasten family moved

August Kasten home. L-R: Mrs. William Kasten, Roland Westphal (child), Mrs. (Theresa Kasten) Westphal, Ella Kasten, Ernst Westphal, William Kasten, Otto Kasten, Mrs. August (Gerhardina Heinsohn) Kasten, Adam Kasten, Leona Kasten, August Kasten, Meta (Kasten) Riedesel and Arno Kasten

August and Gerhardine Kasten

to Nordheim in 1900 the family had been completed. Nine children were born to August and Gerhardina Heinsohn Kasten but only six lived to adulthood. Battis and Eva died as infants while Ella died at the age of 17. Those born at Frelsburg were Theresa – 1872, William – 1875, Battis – 1877, and Otto – 1879 while Meta – 1883, Adam – 1886, Eva – 1888, Ella – 1889 and Leona – 1892 were born near Hallettsville.

Theresa Kasten married Ernst Westphal in 1898 nd two sons, Roland and Arthur, were born to them. Roland Westphal is deceased but Arthur Westphal and wife, Lorette, reside in San Antonio. William (Willie) Kasten married Louise Westphal and their son, Arno, was the first boy and second child born in Nordheim in 1897. A daughter, Myrtle, was born in 1905 and the family moved to Woodsboro in 1908. There both father and daughter died in 1918. Arno Kasten and mother are also deceased. Otto Kasten married Ida Mueller and they adopted one daughter, Monette Kasten Besch. All the family are deceased except seven grandchildren. Meta Kasten married Frank Riedesel and they lived most of their lives in Nordheim. One daughter, Anita Riedesel Cook, resides in New Braunfels among some of her children and grandchildren. Adam Kasten was married to Lydia Haertig of Woodsboro and they were the first couple to be married in Woodsboro in 1908. They resided most of their lives in Nordheim. Their son, August Kasten, and wife, Annabel, live in Victoria while two daughters survive; namely, Mrs. Lula Belle (Everest) Kolodziejczyk of Nordheim and Mrs. Judith (Warren) Frantz of Pittsburgh, PA. Leona Kasten attended medical school and had the distinction of being the first woman doctor from DeWitt County. She married Buford Walker and both are deceased.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

KASTEN, HERMAN M.

F482

Gold Prospector

Very few Nordheim area citizens are aware that a man, who spent his entire adult life prospecting for gold in the Arizona area, is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. The miner was Hearman M. Kasten, an older brother of pioneer August Kasten of Nordheim.

Herman M. Kasten was born at Langenhagen, Pommern, Germany on February 2, 1845 to Friedrich and Wilhelmina Eidmann Kasten. In 1854 he began the journey to the United States with his parents, two younger brothers, Friedrich Ferdinand and August Heinrich, and a one-year old sister named Marie Alvine. There was much sadness in store for the family for the mother and sister died on the journey. The father and the boys arrived at Galveston, first settled in Austin County and later near Frelsburg. The father made a living breaking in horses for the settlers and in 1857 was fatally injured. The boys were left homeless, for their father's new wife refused to be responsible for them. The Weishuhn family in the Frelsburg area took the boys into their home. A German language Baptismal Certificate shows that Herman Kasten was baptized in the Evangelisah-Lutherisahen Kirche (Lutheran congregation) in Frelsburg in 1862 at the age of 17 by Pastor C. Roehm.

This was the Gold Rush Era in U.S. History and the fever engulfed young Herman Kasten along with many others. He obtained a miners claim certificate to dig for precious metals in Arizona. His entire life was spent in the western area of the U.S. but the big find to make him rich eluded him. He lived the typical miners life one read about or saw in the movies. Enough gold dust and nuggets were found to enable him to go to town to replenish supplies and live it up for a few weeks or months. Then he would head back to his claim and the whole process would be repeated. He did take time off from digging and panning to work on the construction of the Elephant-Butte Dam Project where he suffered a broken leg. However, he did return to his claim for more prospecting.

When Herman Kasten's age and crippled leg made it impossible to withstand the rigors of a miner's life in Arizona, he came back to Nordheim to stay with his brother, August Kasten, until his death. He died November 1, 1920 at the age of 75 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

He brought back with him some of the tools of his trade including a copy of his claim and a small balancing scale. For his brother and nieces and nephews he brought back gold nuggets and vials of gold dust. This writer inherited her father's (Adam Kasten) gold nugget which he had mounted onto a tie pin. It is unfortunate that some of the tales he could have told were not sought out or written down for posterity. This writer was eight years old when the mysterious old man was with the family and the other surviving cousins were about the same age, but we were too much in awe or fear of him to make close contacts much to our regret today.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

KASTEN, DR. LEONA

F483

For a few individual women the movement for equal rights began much earlier than for most. Such a young woman was Leona Kasten of Nordheim. She has the distinction of being the first woman from DeWitt County to graduate from a Medical school and practice medicine.

Leona Kasten was born on May 28, 1892 to August and Gerhardina Heinsohn Kasten at Appelts Hill near Hallettsville in Lavaca County. In 1900 she moved to Nordheim with her family and grew to young womanhood there. Her pioneer environment probably prepared her for her pioneering efforts to become a woman doctor. After graduation from the Nordheim School, she attended Southwest Texas State Normal School at San Marcos, Texas. Upon graduation from the State Normal, she was granted a State Permanent Certificate in 1913 authorizing her to teach in any public school in Texas.

Leona Kasten as a young teacher in the Bonnie View School, ca. 1913

She taught school a number of years in the Haertig and Bonnie View Schools about eight miles south of Woodsboro in Refugio County. She stayed in the Ernst Haertig home and this was an enjoyable time for her. The young Haertig men and women were a joyful, musical family full of fun and dance. Strong friendships were formed but young Leona Kasten had her sights set much higher. She was determined to save her money, go to medical school and become a doctor. The obstacles to such an ambition were tremendous from society in general and from her parents and older brothers and sisters. Why couldn't she be content with more acceptable careers for women such as teaching and being a housewife. But Leona thought that would be like settling into oblivion and was not for this independent young woman.

Leona Kasten of Nordheim

Leona Kasten managed to secure a grant from the Breckenridge Foundation in San Antonio and off she went to the University of Texas in Austin and then to the University Medical School in Galveston. During these years of study she encountered much discrimination for being female and ridicule because of her German heritage. However, she often said most of the male students were surprisingly sympathetic and supportive. Most of her family did offer their support by providing some food, money, clothing and other necessities. She spent most of her summer vacations with her brother, Adam Kasten and wife, Lydia Haertig Kasten, near Runge, Texas. Lydia Kasten was an excellent seamstress so they would put Leona's wardrobe together for the next school year. This writer vaguely remembers her Aunt Leona staying with them for Adam and Lydia Kasten were her parents.

After graduation from Galveston Medical School in 1923, Leona Kasten served a years internship at a hospital in Oakland, CA. In 1924 she began her medical practice in San Antonio, Texas where she specialized in women's ailments and obstetrics. However, while home in Nordheim, before going to San Antonio, she encountered an unnerving experience. A young child was ill with diphtheria and the local doctor had given up so the family called Dr. Leona Kasten, but it was too late and the child died. This was her first patient and she was deeply shaken by the experience.

During the 1930's Dr. Kasten took post-graduate work in a medical college in Pennsylvania. She then spent a year in a clinic in Vienna, Austria. In Ireland she interned for a year in a hospital and also studied in France and Germany. She engaged in medical practice in San Antonio for 28 years and was recognized as an outstanding member of the medical profession. Dr. Leona Kasten was the only Protestant doctor on the staff at Santa Rosa Hospital.

She was married to Buford Walker of San Antonio and they both enjoyed searching for and acquiring antiques with which they decorated their home. Dr. Kasten died an untimely death of leukemia at the age of 59 on February 18, 1952.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

KAUFMAN, NICHOLAS
F484

Nicholas Kaufman and his wife, Augusta Frey Kaufman, came to America from Mullheim, Baden, Germany, between 1845 and 1846, landing at the Port of Indianola, Texas.

This couple had 3 children in Germany, 2 daughters and 1 son. (The son died in infancy in Germany.) The 2 daughters were Wilhelmina Kaufman who at age 4 left Germany with her parents; and Marie Kaufman age 6 remained in Germany to complete her education. (She later came to America.) Another child was born to the Kaufmans after they arrived in Texas, Emil Kaufman.

Emil and Amelia Kaufman

Nicholas Kaufman was born in Germany on Nov. 21, 1811 and died on Dec. 26, 1896 in Yorktown, Texas. His wife Augusta Frey Kaufman was born on July 7, 1809 in Germany and died March 19, 1898 in Yorktown, Texas. They are buried in the West Side Cemetery.

The Kaufmans were members of the famous Castro immigration band who landed at Indianola and went by ox cart to Castroville. In 1848 Nicholas Kaufman became interested in the Gold Rush and started toward California, but in Uvalde, Texas his wagon became disabled and he was forced to remain behind. This proved most fortunate, for those who went on all met death in the tragic Mountain Meadow Massacre. The Kaufmans then returned to Castroville to live for a short time. Later they moved to what is now the Yorktown area.

On March 17, 1867 Wilhelmina Kaufman married Capt. Henry Dahl. They moved to Goliad, Texas and it was there that they had their first child George. That was in 1868. He married Agnes Arnold. George and Agnes Dahl had 6 children. They were Arthur, Arnold, Dora, Raymond, Forrest, and Winnie Dahl. The ten other children of Wilhelmina and Henry were as follows: Walter who died in infancy; Augusta who also died in infancy; Henry Jr. who also died in infancy; Mary Dahl (1875-1905) who married Ed Bartlett; Mattie who also died in infancy; John Dahl (1879-1954) who married Nellie Maye, they had 2 children, Freeman and Wayman; Nusom Dahl died at age one year; Margaret Dahl (1886-1988) married Warren B. Moore. (Margaret Moore was a newspaper correspondent for the Beeville Texas paper for more than 80 years.) She had four children, Inez, Garnett, Shirley, and Kathryn Moore. Two other Dahl children died in infancy before they were named. The Dahl family moved to Bee Co. in 1882. Wilhel-

mina Kaufman Dahl died Aug. 17, 1934 and is buried in the Dahl Family Cemetery in Bee Co.

Marie Kaufman, the daughter who remained in Germany, later came to Texas at the age of 16 and came to settle in Gonzales, Texas. She graduated from the old Gonzales College in 1862. She then took up the profession of teaching. In 1883 she married Capt. A.T. Bass, one time county surveyor, tax collector, and sheriff of Gonzales. Marie Kaufman Bass died in Gonzales on May 26, 1926.

Emil Kaufman, third child of Nicholas and Augusta, was born Sept. 13, 1846 in Texas. He married Amelia P. Metz on May 28, 1868. They had nine daughters; they were as follows: Marie Kaufman (1869-1936), never married; Mathilde Kaufman (1871-1964), married Emil V. Gerhardt, and had nine children, Eugene, Edna, Amelia, Josephine, Edwin, Wilfred, Georgia, Nicholas, and Bernyce Gerhardt; Amelia Kaufman (1873-1968 never married; Johanna Kaufman (1875-1958) married Adolph R. Gerhardt, and had seven children, Alice, Jesse, John, Ora, Lorena, Erna, and Daniel Gerhardt; Helen Kaufman (1877-1965) never married; Louisa Kaufman (1880-1918) married William Jonischkie and had four children, Verner, Ena, Esther, and Ira Jonischkie; Emily Kaufman (1882-1967) married Cosby Puckett and had two children, Hazel and Cosbie Puckett; Erna Kaufman (1883-1962) married Albert Jacobs, had no children; Nora Kaufman (1886-1963) married John Theis, and had one daughter, Dorothy Theis.

Emil Kaufman died May 15, 1941 in San Antonio, Texas. He was the last surviving member of Albert Sidney Johnston Camp No. 144 United Confederate Veterans. He served as Texas Ranger in 1860 and 1861. In March 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate Army in Capt. Tom Rabb's Company D, 33rd Texas Cavalry, Duff Regiment, and was released in 1865. He was a member of the Traildrivers Association, United Indian War Veterans Camp No. 14 and a member of the First Church of Scientist. (The Emil Kaufman family lived in Yorktown until 1910, when they moved to San Antonio, Texas.)

by Kenny D. Gerhardt

KELSO, ALFRED, JR. AND FAMILY

F485

Alfred Kelso, Jr. was born about 1828 in Mississippi. He was the son of Alfred Kelso, Sr. and Martha Martin of Fayetteville, Tennessee. Alfred, Jr.'s father and mother left him with his father's older brother, James Kelso, while they went to Texas in 1829. Alfred, Jr. was raised by his uncle James Kelso. He married Catherine (last name unknown) and they had two children – Leroy and William that were born in Mississippi. Alfred, Jr., Catherine, and their two sons moved to Texas with his uncle James Kelso and his family about 1850. Alfred, Jr. and Catherine stopped in Gonzales County first and then moved to DeWitt County. There a girl, Jane, was born about 1852. Alfred Kelso, Jr. and his wife, Catherine bought some lots in Clinton, Texas, and some land on Sandies Creek.

Alfred Kelso, Jr. married his second wife, Sarah Elizabeth Grier, in DeWitt County on January 17, 1856. They had two sons – Samuel born about 1858 and Felix born about 1860. Both of their sons were born in DeWitt County.

Alfred Kelso, Jr. married his third wife, Susan Ann Cunningham, in DeWitt County on March 15, 1865. They had two sons and a daughter – Robert E. Lee Kelso born on March 10, 1869, in DeWitt County, John born about 1872 in Travis County, and Ninta born about 1875 in Travis County. Alfred, Jr., Susan Ann and their family moved to Travis County in 1870 and later bought some land in Austin, on the west bank of the Colorado River, next to that of his father, Alfred Kelso, Sr.

Alfred Kelso, Jr.'s teenage son, Robert E. Lee Kelso, drove a mule team and wagon to haul pink granite for construction of the State Capitol Building in Austin, Texas, in the late 1880s.

Robert E. Lee Kelso was the last of this branch of the Kelso Family to be born in DeWitt County. He married Amanda Simpson, daughter of Andrew J. Simpson, in Gonzales County on December 15, 1891. Robert E. Lee and Amanda (Simpson) Kelso had eight children: William R. "Billy" Kelso born November 9, 1892, married Lillie Mae (surname unknown); Ida Kelso born July 13, 1894, married Louis Seitz; Jarrett Stricklin Kelso born October 27, 1895, married Lela Lorena Sherry; Bessie Kelso born April 26, 1899, married Edward Seitz; Ben Kelso born April 19, 1902, married Mattie Blundell; Bertha Lee Kelso born February 21, 1904, married Jesse Robert Sherry; Alfred Leon Kelso born July 6, 1909, married Bertha Vida Sherry; Frank Pierce Kelso born July 6, 1909, married Helen Louniета Ragan. The last two children born to Robert E. Lee and Amanda were twins. The parents did not have names chosen for twins, so the attending physician marked the birth certificate "Tom and Jerry" Kelso. The official names of Alfred Leon and Frank Pierce Kelso were assigned later, but the parents did not get the birth certificate corrected. This oversight was finally, officially corrected in 1974.

Frank Pierce Kelso married Helen Louineta Ragan, daughter of Robert Samuel "Bob S." Ragan and Mattie Helen (Williams) Ragan. Frank and Helen (Ragan) Kelso had one child, a daughter, Bobbie Denise Kelso born January 1, 1941, in Lockhart, Texas. Bobbie Denise Kelso married Joe Hugh Hutchins (a former resident of Nordheim, DeWitt County from 1945 to 1952) on January 12, 1963. Bobbie and Joe have a son, Christopher Kyle Hutchins born May 6, 1975, in Victoria, Texas.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

KELSO, ALFRED, SR. AND FAMILY

F486

Alfred Kelso, Sr. was born April 21, 1808, in Tennessee. He was the son of Henry Kelso, Sr. and Jane (Wells) Kelso. Henry Kelso, Sr. is credited with founding the town of Fayetteville in Lincoln County, Tennessee. Alfred, Sr. had six sisters – Mary, Nancy, Elizabeth, Jane, Mandana, and Amytis and four brothers – John, James, Jefferson and Henry, Jr.

Alfred Kelso, Sr. married Martha Martin of Fayetteville, Tennessee. Alfred, Sr. and his older brother, James, moved to Mississippi, where Alfred, Jr. was born about 1828. Alfred, Sr. moved to Texas in February, 1829, leaving his infant son with his brother, James, in Mississippi. The children born to Alfred, Sr. and Martha (Martin) Kelso in Texas died in infancy.

Alfred Kelso, Sr. was a First Corporal in Captain William J. Heard's Company "F" of the Army of the Republic of Texas. On April 21, 1836, Alfred, Sr.'s twenty eighth birthday, he fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, for which he was awarded a league and a labor of land. At the time of the Texas Revolution, he owned 6000 acres of land on the River in Colorado County and some town lots in Columbus, Texas. Alfred, Sr. wrote a letter to his brother-in-law, John H. Martin, nine days after the Battle of San Jacinto that tells about the Battle and the conditions in the Republic of Texas during that time. A copy of the letter is included in *The Papers of the Texas Revolution 1835-1836.*

Alfred Kelso, Sr. was the Sheriff of Gonzales County, which included part of what is now DeWitt County, during 1837, 1840, and 1841. One of the people that he arrested was Ben McCullough (sometimes called McCulloch) for fighting a duel. Later, Ben McCullough became famous as a Captain in the Texas Rangers and a Federal Marshall.

Alfred Kelso, Sr. married Louisa Jane Barton on August 26, 1840. Louisa Jane was the daughter of Kimber W. Barton and Margaret (Lockhart) Barton and was born October 15, 1821. Margaret (Lockhart) Barton was an aunt of the girl, Matilda Lockhart, who was stolen by Comanche Indians in DeWitt County in 1838. Margaret was a sister to Byrd, Andrew, Sam, Charles, and Druscilla Lockhart.

In 1847, Alfred, Sr. and Louisa (Barton) Kelso were living in DeWitt County and Alfred, Sr. was acting as agent for all of the heirs of Byrd Lockhart. The land transactions were so numerous that by 1850, Alfred, Sr. and Louisa had moved to Lockhart, Caldwell County, where the major portion of the Byrd Lockhart estate was located. Alfred, Sr. and Louisa Jane had other business interests in Lockhart. They owned part interest in the grist mill tract and its water rights, the market house on the public square, and a retail store for dry goods, groceries, and hardware.

Alfred, Sr. and Louisa Jane (Barton) Kelso moved to Travis County about 1870 and they bought some land in Austin on the west side of the Colorado River in 1874. Eleven months later, his son, Alfred Kelso, Jr., moved from DeWitt County and bought some land beside them on the west bank of the Colorado. Alfred, Jr. died in Travis County sometime after 1880.

About 1880, Alfred, Sr. and Louisa Jane (Barton) Kelso moved to Atascosa County, where his grandson Leroy Kelso was living. Leroy Kelso was the oldest son of Alfred Kelso, Jr. Alfred, Sr. and Louisa Jane were said to have been living with Leroy's family when they died. Louisa Jane (Barton) Kelso died on May 5, 1898, and Alfred Kelso, Sr. died on May 12, 1898.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

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KELSO, JOHN ROEBUCK AND FAMILY

F487

John Roebuck Kelso was the son of James Kelso and Rhoda Roebuck, daughter of John Roebuck, American Revolutionary Soldier. James Kelso and his nephew, Alfred Kelso, Jr. brought their families from Mississippi to DeWitt County, Texas about 1850. James' younger brother Alfred, Sr. had moved to Texas in 1829 and had fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. James had seven children – William, Sarah, John Roebuck, Parolee, Calvin, Algre, and Jefferson. James had a second wife, Mary Ann (last name unknown), and there is a possibility that they were married in Mississippi and that she was the mother of the last two children.

John Roebuck Kelso married Mary Ann Chisholm in DeWitt County on August 14, 1856. Mary Ann Chisholm was the daughter of Richard H. Chisholm and Hardina Taylor of DeWitt County, Texas. John Roebuck and Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso lived near Mary Ann's brother, Glenn Thornton Chisholm. There were always a few Kelso and Chisholm relatives living with John Roebuck Kelso's family. John and Mary Ann had six children – Winchester, Frank Hubert, Hardina, Rhoda, Fannie, and Jessie Kelso.

John Roebuck Kelso served in the Civil War as a Second Lieutenant in Captain Josiah Taylor's DeWitt Guerillas. He was a farmer and a stockman before and after the war. John Roebuck and his wife, Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso owned several town lots in Clinton, Texas, and had extensive land holdings throughout DeWitt County.

Mary Ann "Annie" (Chisholm) Kelso died about 1878. John Roebuck Kelso married his widowed sister-in-law, Jane P. "Jennie" (Fore) Chisholm about 1879. "Jennie" was the widow of Glenn Thornton Chisholm, who was the trail boss for Cockett Cardwell's first cattle drive from DeWitt County to St. Joseph, Missouri. The Chisholms of DeWitt County claimed that the "Chisholm Trail" was named for Glenn Thornton Chisholm, who led the first cattle drive to St. Joseph, Missouri.

John Roebuck Kelso and Jane P. "Jennie" (Fore) Chisholm Kelso had one son named John Clyde Kelso. Their combined families were still living together in DeWitt County, Texas, during the 1880s.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

KENNEDY, T. J. FAMILY

F488

Sudie Lorena Kennedy was born in Cuero, Tx. on May 19, 1898, to Thomas Jackson and Mary Lee (Priestly) Kennedy. She married Herman William Gerhold (related article) May 24, 1918. To this union were born Geraldine Lucille, b. April 29, 1920 and Dorothy Fay, b. November 19, 1926. Sudie and Herman moved to San Antonio in 1924 and spent the rest of their lives there. Herman died December 31, 1949 and is buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Later Sudie married Henry Ran Stovall. He died in 1972 and Sudie died May 14, 1981. Both are buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Thomas Jackson Kennedy and Mary Lee (Priestly)

Sudie's father, Thomas Jackson Kennedy II, was born January 28, 1857 in Summerfield, Dallas Co., Al. to William W. and Eliza Jane (Pounds) Kennedy. He came to Nacogdoches, Tx. with his parents around 1860 and stayed five years. He and his parents then moved to Pleasantville, La. where other Kennedy family members lived. Texas still called them and in 1870 he and his family moved to Concrete where T.J. was enrolled in Covey College. It was there that he met Mary Lee Priestly (related article) whom he married December 22, 1879 and their happy union extended three years past their "Golden Anniversary." They had six children — William Woodlief b. 8-17-1881 m. Ida Schubeck, Lillie Mae b. 1-6-1883 m. John Pearce, Eliza Jane (Jennie) b. 8-20-1885 m. John Werner, Ada Lee b. 6-6-1887 m. Eris DuBose, Thomas Jackson III b. 8-5-1895 m. Sara Borden and Sudie Lorena.

T.J. II farmed for 16 years with the exception of 2 years in Wilson Co. in the mercantile business and 1 year in Yoakum where he conducted a hotel. He went on old Chisholm Trail drives to Kansas with John Frank White and Tom Stell who married his sisters. In 1896 he accepted a position as Deputy Sheriff under Tom Stell and held that position until November 1904 when he was elected District Clerk of DeWitt Co. He held that office over 26 years and was never opposed. He was a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Woodmen of the World. He was an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church. He always gave the best he had and was never satisfied with half successes. He died June 8, 1933 and buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. Mary Lee died Oct. 13, 1950 and is buried beside him.

William W. Kennedy was born in Summerfield, Al., Oct. 2, 1823 to Hugh and Elizabeth (Simpson) Kennedy. He married Eliza Jane Pounds circa 1853 and they had five children: Thomas Jackson (preceding paragraph), Eliza Jane b. 8-26-1858 m. Frank White, Susan Ann Amanda b. 11-28-1862 m. Thomas M. Stell, William Pounds b. 9-24-1865 m. Addie Lucas, and John Robert never married. During the Civil War William W. served in the 3rd Brigade, Texas State Troops enlisted in Nacogdoches. In 1870 he moved to Concrete, bought 114 acres of land, built his home and raised his family there. He died Nov. 11, 1893, his wife died Sept. 1, 1888 and both are buried in the Clayton Cemetery.

Hugh E. Kennedy was born May 17, 1786 in South Carolina to Rev. John B. and Jane (McAfee) Kennedy. He married Elizabeth Harvey Simpson Oct. 5, 1809. Elizabeth was born July, 1784 on a sailing vessel coming to America from Belfast, Ireland. In 1814 Hugh was living in Dallas Co., Al. He owned a plantation, several farms, a grist mill, saw mill and one of the first Eli Whitney cotton gins. He had eight children as follows: Nancy Simpson b. 2-19-1811 m. John Kerr Callen; Elizabeth Harvey b. 10-1-1812 m. Ellis C. Callen; Mary Ann b. 8-23-1814 m. F.E. Walker; Jane Minerva b. 1-18-1816 m. Robert McGough Armstrong; Thomas Jackson b. 4-17-1818; John b. 10-4-1819 m. Nancy Varner; Hugh Simpson b. 2-17-1822 m. Agnes McWhorton Armstrong and William W. (preceding paragraph). Hugh died 10-25-1843 and Elizabeth died 1-25-1840 and both buried at Lebanon Cemetery, Summerfield, Dallas Co., Al.

Rev. John B. Kennedy was born in Bucks Co., Pa. circa 1737. He married Jane McAfee June 5, 1765 and they had 7 children: Dr. William Everett b. 6-10-1767; Joshua Stubbs b. 5-3-1770; Jane McAfee b. 1776 m. John Combest; Charles Breckenridge b. 8-7-1778; Alice Hamilton b. 8-7-1778; Clinton Harvey b. 10-4-1783 m. Ellen McRaymond; and Hugh (preceding paragraph). In 1776 Rev. John was sent to S. Carolina as a missionary. He moved to Al. and buried in Lebanon Cemetery. Rev. John's father was Jonathan Kennedy who came to America in 1736 with his brothers, Hugh, Ailsa, James and John on ship Paoli from Belfast, Ireland and landing in New Castle, Delaware. Jonathan was elected Associate

Justice of Northampton Co., Pa. in 10-4-1755 and later settled in Bethlehem, Pa.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

KERLICK FAMILY

F489

Five Days Late – A Kerlick Family Tragedy

A tragedy took place on October 18, 1869. The lack of patience, modern-day investigative procedures, and today's communications probably all contributed to the cause. There are at least thirteen family stories told. This is the fourteenth, based on newspaper accounts found in Houston, Texas.

On September 24, 1869, Thomas Lockhart of Houston was fatally stabbed after attending the traveling Mexican Circus. The accused was either Christopher or John Kirlicks (which one is still not quite clear). On October 13, 1869, Kirlicks was arrested in Fort Bend County and promptly transported to the county jail in Houston. He admitted to the stabbing. However, in the meantime, his name had already gone throughout Texas as being "Wanted". Members of his family had been settlers since 1857 on the Smith Creek, four miles south of Yorktown. They had immigrated from Kirlicken, Lithuania, then a part of Koenigreich Preussen (Prussia). Other spellings of the family name include Kerlick, Kirliks, Kirlick, Kerlicks, Kerlix, Kirlinche, Kerlichs, Kirlik and Kellix.

On the fateful day, the DeWitt County Deputy Sheriff, Edward Faust, Captain Henry G. Woods, and four other men went to the homestead of Catherine Kirlicks. They asked for her grandson, the one accused of the stabbing. The Kerlick family, not knowing that he was already in jail, simply told the posse that he was not there (and probably also that they didn't know where he was). Before all was said and done, guns were fired and four men died. Two of the victims were Catherine's sons, Christopher (father of the wanted man) and William F.; the other two were Deputy Sheriff Faust and Captain Woods. One account states that Mrs. Kirlicks [probably Christopher's wife, Maria, but could possibly be Catherine] was wounded, probably fatally. In fact, however, there is no record of any woman's death as a result of the shootings (Maria died in 1874).

The real tragedy is that the *Daily Houston Telegraph*, on Saturday, October 23, 1869 (five days after the killings) reported: "The Grand Jury, we learn, did not find a bill against Kirliks for the killing of Thomas Lockhart some time since, and the Sheriff was ordered to discharge the accused."

William F. no longer lived at the settlement; he was only there on business. He had married in August 1869, and was selling his part of the family business in order to make his home in Houston with his bride, Wilhelmine Bering.

The other son, Christopher (Chr. Kellix on his military records) had served as a private in Company D, Regmt. T.S.T. of 1861 under the command of Captain J.T. Kilgore. He was survived by his wife, Maria Thrump-Drump, and five sons, all with the same names as his brothers: John, Christopher, George, William, and Michael.

The first, John, who had joined the Union Forces in New Orleans during the Civil War, felt much remorse. He moved his wife Librada Mason and son Johann William (daughter Mary was born later) to Ruby, Arizona, where they changed their family name to McNally. Father and son both died tragically, in separate mining accidents.

The second son, Christopher, married Meta Meyer. They made their home in Weesatche, Texas and had five children, four of whom lived to maturity.

The third son, George Edward, was a blacksmith. He married Johanna Steffens in Galveston, and moved to Tazewell County, Illinois. After his wife's death, he remarried, and had two more children (total of five). He died in St. Louis, Missouri after 1931.

The fourth son, William F., married Mary Stanchos and settled in Ecleto, Texas, where they reared their nine children. Three babies of this couple are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

The fifth son, Michael, married Mary Kroschel, and remained on the original homestead, where they also reared nine children (and buried one very young).

All the descendants of Catherine Kirlicks, including those of Christopher's brothers and sisters, number over 1000. Those who still live nearby meet in Yorktown one Sunday every summer to talk over old times, as they have been doing for the last ten years.

by Beverly Kirlick Bruns

KEY, DR. GILBERT LAFAYETTE

F490

Dr. Gilbert LaFayette Key, son of Tandy Watts Key and Nancy Johnson Beatty, was born in McDonough Georgia, March 27, 1834. He graduated at the Atlanta Medical College August 2, 1855, and went to Tampa, Florida to practice medicine. He served several years in the army as army surgeon, Physician I Co. Cavalry – Confederate States Army, serving under P.G.T. Beauregard. He lived in Florida until 1882 when he came to Texas.

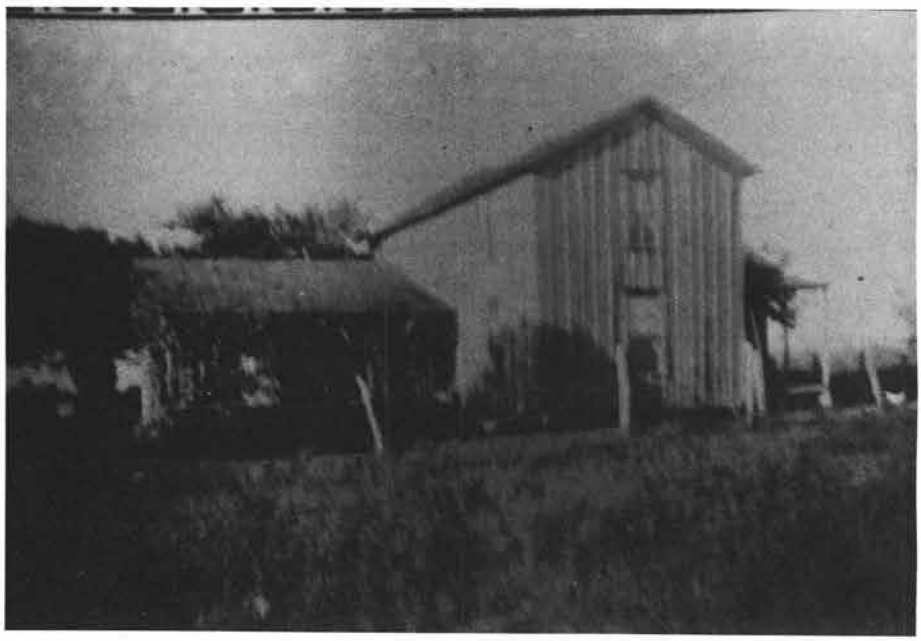
Dr. Gilbert LaFayette Key married first in 1856, to Rachel Brooker, born July 28, 1837, in Georgia and died July 24, 1874.

They had eight children. Frances Oliver was born in Fort Mead, Hillsborough Co., Florida. He never married and was killed in a waterfront brawl in Florida at age 23 years. Mary Olive was born in Manatee Co., Florida, and married T.C. Boggess. Mertis Cuthbert was born in Hillsborough County, Florida. Ann Margaret was born in Polk Co., Florida, and married R.J. Hogan in Lavaca County Texas. She is buried in the Salem Cemetery in Lavaca County, Texas. Julia Isabella married T.M. Hogan in Lavaca County and is buried in the Salem Cemetery. Gilbert LaFayette, Jr. married first Mary Miller in Lavaca County and second Lucy Alice Strown in DeWitt County. James William married Ora Lee Meeks. Rachel Mira married Newton Squyres.

Dr. Gilbert LaFayette Key married the second time on March 15, 1877, to Celia Ann Garner, born May 13, 1851, in Carroll County, Mississippi, daughter of Andrew Whitley Garner and Louisa Bryan. They came to Texas in 1882 and settled in the Chicolette area near Thomaston. He died in Waco, Texas, April 8, 1898, and she died May 18, 1933 in DeWitt County. They are buried in the Burns Station Cemetery.

They had eight children. John Tandy, born in Manatee County, Florida, married Susie Miller. Otto Zibe, born in Manatee County, Florida, married Elma Milligan. Caleb Watts, born in DeWitt County, married Rebecca Dowlearn. Beauregard Cleveland (named for P.G.T. Beauregard), born in DeWitt County, married Amelia Macha. Marion Henry "Mack", born in DeWitt County, married Jenta French. Tallulah Falls, the only girl, died young. Fielding Breeden, born in DeWitt County, married Ura Lampley. William Woods "Bill", born in DeWitt County, married Aleen Sterling.

Aleen Sterling was born in Calhoun County,



Old Key Home

Texas. She came to the Chicolete area to teach school. There, she met and married William Woods (Bill" Key in 1918. Bill served in World War I.

Aleen was born October 31, 1896 and Bill was born September 17, 1896. Aleen died in 1978, and Bill died in 1987. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Bill and Aleen had one daughter, Edna Jean (Jeanie) born in Dewitt County, August 30, 1934. Bill did ranch work, but moved his family to Yoakum so that Jeanie could attend grade school and high school. Bill continued to go out to the ranch and did some farming while Jeanie was in school.

Jeanie married Bruce S. Card, Jr. and they had three children. Pamela Jean, born September 20, 1962, who married Michael D. Sanfilippo in 1984. Pam and Mike live in Bastrop and have a daughter, Gina Lynn, born September 30, 1987. Stacy Lynn was born April 29, 1964. She married Kenneth Edward Kvinta, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Charles J. Kvinta of Yoakum, June 10, 1989. Jeffery Sterling was born June 22, 1969, and is a student at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Jeanie married Dale H. Farnsworth from Sheldon, Iowa, February 27, 1983. Jeanie and Dale are members of First United Methodist Church and make their home in Yoakum.

by Jeanie Kay Farnsworth

KIBBE FAMILY

F491

Edward Kibbe II tombstone, Wakefield, Mass.

The first appearance of the Kibbe family in America was in the person of Edward Kibbe II, who arrived in Boston in 1640 with his wife, Mary Partridge Kibbe. Edward was born in Exeter, England, on May 11, 1611, the son of Edward Kibbe I and Debora Kibbe, both of whom were born and died in Exeter.

Records indicate that Edward II was an active participant in the affairs of the Boston area. In 1662 he was appointed Clerk of Market, a position apparently created to give the Muddy River area representation in the Boston markets. From 1666 to 1683 and his wife were listed as contributors to a fund to erect the second meeting house in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Mary Partridge Kibbe affiliated with the church in Boston in September, 1645. The records of her registrations of the ten births, baptisms, and deaths of children born to the couple are held in Roxbury and in Boston.

Edward II was interred in the Old Burying Ground located at the Congregational Church in Wakefield, Massachusetts, on November 1, 1694.

Elisha Kibbe, the third child of Edward II and Mary Partridge Kibbe, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, circa November 20, 1644, and was baptized on September 30, 1645, in Boston. At the age of nineteen he moved to Salem, Massachusetts, where he was married to Rachel Cooke (1645-1740), daughter of Henry and Judith Birdsall Cooke of that city on October 12, 1667. In 1680/1682 he moved his family to Enfield, where they were among the early settlers. He was active in civic affairs, holding the offices of Selectman and Constable among others. He died in Enfield on April 3, 1735, and was followed in death by his wife, Rachel, on September 10, 1740.

Mary E. Kibbe Breeden

Isaac I, the seventh of Elisha's and Rachel's eight children, was born in Enfield on March 21, 1683, the first male child to be born in that city. He married Dorothy Smith, daughter of Ebenezer Smith of Suffield, Connecticut, on July 7, 1720, a union which produced seven children. Isaac died in Enfield on June 6, 1766, at the age of 83, and was followed in death by his widow, Dorothy, on June 29, 1781, at the age of 85.

Isaac Kibbe II was born in Enfield on February 14, 1731. He was married there on February 20, 1755, to Margaret Terry (b. 1735), daughter of Isaac and Margaret Downing Terry of Enfield. Thirteen children were born of that marriage. Isaac II compiled an illustrious career of community service, including aid of money and supplies to the cause of the American Revolution and serving as an ensign in its Navy, and was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He died on February 11, 1779.

Gaius Kibbe, sixth child of Isaac II and Margaret, was born in Enfield on either August 10 or August 17, 1765. He was first married in 1785 to Mary (Polly) Pease (1767-1802) at Enfield, who bore nine children. The census of 1790 lists the Gaius Kibbe family as residents of Enfield, Connecticut, and *The History of Coos County, New Hampshire,* indicates that the family moved to Columbia in that county in 1797. At some later time they moved to Bloomfield, Vermont, where Polly Pease Kibbe died on May 11, 1802.

Mary Kibbe was the third child of Gaius and Polly Kibbe. She was born June 1, 1794, in Colebrook, New Hampshire. On October 7, 1817, she became the wife of Valentine Bennet (1795-1843) at Buffalo, New York. Valentine and Mary Kibbe Bennet are the ancestors of the DeWitt County Bennets. Their children were Miles Squier Bennett (b. December 14, 1818, at Buffalo) and twin daughters, Mary Jane (b. July 27, 1820, d. 1822 at Attakapas, Louisiana) and Sarah Jane (b. July 27, 1820, d. 1883 at Gonzales, Texas). Sarah Jane was married to Thomas J. Pilgrim.

On March 17, 1803, at Chesterfield, Massachusetts, Gaius took a second wife, Nancy Kidd (b. December 15, 1777), daughter of Charles and Frances (Hamilton) Kidd, and in 1814 the family moved to Buffalo, New York.

Having secured a grant of land in Attakapas, Louisiana, Gaius induced his large family of sons and daughters to accompany him there. Rafts of lumber were prepared, and materials for the erection of houses were secured. Loading their household effects and a cow or two on the rafts, they embarked from Oleans Point and traveled down the Ohio River, stopping to spend the first winter of their voyage at Cincinnati. In the spring they resumed their journey down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, finally arriving at the Bayou Teche region of Saint Mary Parish in Louisiana. Unfortunately, several members of the family succumbed to the acclimating fever of the region, including Valentine Bennet's wife, Mary Kibbe Bennet, and Mary Jane, one of the twin daughters.

Gaius Kibbe died in Louisiana on July 21, 1821, and is second wife, Nancy Kidd Kibbe, followed him in death in 1840. Three children were born of Gaius' and Nancy's union, the oldest being Charles (b. August 30, 1804, at Minehead, Vermont). Charles accompanied his parents on the 1814 move to Buffalo and from there to the Louisiana homestead.

On February 4, 1830, Charles married Joanna H. Booth in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. Joanna (b. August 20, 1809, in Georgia) was the daughter of Ruben and Mary Moss Booth. Charles Kibbe was a planter and merchant.

In 1850 Charles decided to move west into Texas. The journey, directed to Tyler County, involved swimming his horses and wagons across the Sabine River, and as a result of his exposure to the winter cold, Charles was stricken with pneumonia. His grandson, Walter Kibbe Breeden, relates that Charles, realizing he was dying, sent a faithful slave named Isaac to his brother-in-law, Valentine Bennet, in DeWitt County, asking that he come to the aid of Charles' family. In response, Valentine dispatched his young son, Miles Squier Bennet, to rescue the family, and the widow and children were relocated in Victoria, Texas. Charles Kibbe died in Tyler County on November 20, 1850, at the home of a Mrs. Green. Joanna Booth Kibbe died on February 10, 1864, and was interred at Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria. The eldest of their five children was Mary Elvina (b. March 16, 1833 in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana). In Victoria, Texas, on October 22, 1857, Mary Elvina Kibbe was married to Paul Hamilton Breeden (b. 1830 in Hinds County, Mississippi), son of Hezekiah and Mary Breeden. A captain in the Army of the Confederacy, Paul H. Breeden died in Victoria on November 10, 1874, as the result of a lung disease contracted in a Union prison camp.

Mary Elvina Kibbe and Paul Hamilton Breeden had six children:

(1) Walter Kibbe Breeden, born August 5, 1858, in Victoria. Married Margaret Pleasants in 1882. Died in San Antonio February 15, 1931, and interred in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

(2) Charles Goodwin Breeden, born January

27, 1860. Married Mabel Claire Hall on December 15, 1915, in San Antonio. Died in Cuero December 30, 1925, and interred in Hillside Cemetery.

(3) Mary E. Breeden, born January 27, 1861, in Beeville, Texas.

(4) Paul Fielding Breeden, born January 28, 1862, in Victoria. Married Willie Stayton on December 28, 1881. Died in Cuero January 29, 1892, and interred in Hillside Cemetery.

(5) Mary Blanch Breeden, born September 17, 1865, in Victoria. Married Robert Henry Wofford on October 20, 1886, in Cuero. Died in Cuero October 20, 1899, and interred in Hillside Cemetery.

(6) Robert Perry Breeden, born September 9, 1869, in Victoria. Married Allah Blanche Wofford on August 6, 1893, in Cuero. Died March 8, 1926, in Cuero, and interred in Hillside Cemetery.

This is the background and the beginning of the Breeden family.

by Rosemary Breeden Kokernot

KIMMELL, ERNST FAMILY

F492

Friedrich Ernst Kimmell (Kuemmell) was b. 15 Jan. 1854 in Elsterwerde, Posen, Germany. His parents were Gottffried Kuemmel and Johanna Christiana Schneider. He married Therese Wilhelmine Rabenaldt on 31 May 1879 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Voigtstedt, Germany.

Their children were all born in Germany before their immigration to the United States with Therese's parents, Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt. (See "Karl Rabenaldt Family.")

For a few years after their immigration, they lived in Lavaca Co. Texas. In the late 1890's they moved to DeWitt County and settled in the Gruneau community where they engaged in farming. Ernst Kimmell died 7 Jan. 1942 and Therese died 10 Jan. 1924. They are buried in the family plot in Sandy Gate Cemetery.

Only the names of their two sons are known. Karl Otto was born 3 Oct. 1876, Saxony Province, Germany d. 20 Apr. 1896, never married. He is buried in the family plot in the Sandy Gate Cemetery near Nopal.

Paul was born 26 Jan. 1882, Saxony, Germany. He was only three years old when his parents immigrated to America. He married Olga Ladewig in DeWitt County. They also lived in the Gruneau community. Paul Kimmell died 11 Aug. 1917 and Olga died 14 Apr. 1914. They are buried in the Sandy Gate Cemetery. Their untimely deaths left their seven children to be cared for by the grandparents, Ernst and Therese Kimmell.

The children were: Ida married Hugo Piske; Alfred married Mary Maureschat; Anna married Adolph Schroeder; Stella Therese married A.L. Simecek; Frieda married a Diebel; Ella married a Griffin; and Edwin married Ernestine Gras.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

KING FAMILY

F493

In Cuero

The Reverend George K. King, lifelong supply pastor of Cuero's First Methodist Church, came to Texas with his wife Catherine (nee Harvey) in 1880, debarking from a sailing ship in Galveston. They had seven children, and an eighth was born to them in December of that year. They first settled on a farm, near Lissie, in Fayette County, but after a crop failure (caused by a prairie fire) they moved to Cuero, where he was called to his pastorship, in which he served until his death in 1909. (He was born in London, in 1831.)

George King had lived in London, by profession a locomotive engineer — in England called an engine driver. He had been the driver of the Royal Engine, a special locomotive used to draw Queen Victoria's train to Scotland or wherever she wished to go. He was active at Chapel ("Church" meant the Church of England), and he was of course a Methodist) and by reading and teaching prepared himself for what was to be his life work in Texas. His wife's people the Harveys were a sailing family in Weymouth, where Catherine was born, though she later lived and was married in London. Her younger brother Roderick, who in retirement kept a fleet of rowboats on the beach at Weymouth, was of the opinion that steam was not here to stay.

The George King Family

The Kings built a house at 701 East Main Street. It was plain but sturdy, and had two stories, to accommodate the family. During a turn-of-the-century hurrican a number of the neighbors, fearing that their own slighter houses might blow away, took refuge in the King place. It was said that their weight helped hold the house down in the wind. It stood until the 1950's.

The children were Alice Kate (1870-1949), Emily Maude (1872-?), Rose Adelaide (1873-1899), Annie Amelia (1875-1906), Herbert George (1876-1945), Frederick William (1878-1961), John Edwin (1879-1924), and Margaret Harriet (1880-1980). It was rare in that day and time to be able to raise all your children to adulthood. Catherine King (1842-1943) lived to b 101, and her youngest daughter to nearly 100.

The Reverend King was a kind but firm father, as one had to be in that time and place, but he had a fund of humor that his children used to quote long after he was gone. He would point out to his daughters' callers, at ten o'clock, that it was ten o'clock, and no one ever questioned his watch. He wrote out his sermons carefully, but explained that he had never been able to save any souls after forty minutes of any of them. When they were over and he came out of the church door, his buggy horse would always see him and whinny.

His favorite book (besides the Bible) was Josephus' history of the Hebrews, which he said was the only non-Christian contemporary work that told of Jesus. It was of course required that a Methodist pastor be a teetotaler, but as he told the story, like any Englishman he liked a glass of beer now and then. Then one day he and a friend, who was overfond of the bottle, were attending a temperance rally, and the friend said, "Come on, George, let's take the Pledge." For his friend's sake he went along and took it, and he never broke it.

Catherine King was a model preacher's wife, and that, with her eight children, gave her two full-time jobs. She was of course a very practical person — she had to be — and she had a keen insight into human nature. Personally devout and deeply dependent on her Faith, she nevertheless knew that people were full of the Old Adam — not to speak of the Old Eve, and she took this into account. (She was my grandmother, and I wish everyone could have one so sweet and fine.) Though more than half her life was in Queen Victoria's time, she was not truly a "Victorian" but rather a pre-Victorian. In her life she had to be mother to many children besides her own, notably Lola and Mabel Hall, daughters of her daughter Rose, who married Harmon Hall. When they were left orphans their home was their grandparents' house, and Mabel in particular was her grandfather's favorite.

The King children of course all went to school in Cuero. The boys all became locomotive engineers, following their father's first calling. (Though he never went back to it full time after he came to Texas, he was often in demand by the engineers and mechanics of the shops of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio railroad.) The girls all married men who live in other cities — Victoria, San Antonio, Austin. Margaret, the youngest, was valedictorian of her high school class. She married Arnold Romberg, who became professor of physics at the University of Austin, and co-inventor of the LaCoste-Romberg gravity meter, used by scientists world-wide. It was at their home Catherine lived in her old age. The Kings are buried in Cuero.

Granddaughter Mabel Hall was the only one of the King descendants who finally settled in Cuero. She married Charles Breeden, a business and civic leader. They had two children, Mabel Claire and Rosemary. Mabel, long after Charles was gone, married Eduard Mugge.

by Frederick E. Romberg

KINLAY, SAMUEL EDWARD AND ROSELIA (NUGENT)

F494

Samuel Edward Kinlay was born 1830 in England. A house painter by trade, he came to Indianola, Texas seeking employment. There he married Roselia Nugent, April 9, 1853.

Roselia was born October 1837 in Ireland. She and part of her family came to New Orleans before 1850. Her sister, Catherine Nugent married twice. First to William Benjamin Johnson and after his death, to William Henry Smith at Indianola, November 19, 1856. Catherine was the mother of seven children: William Benjamin Johnson, Jr. who wed Lettie Seaman; Mary Ann Smith who wed John Dunn; Catherine Smith who wed Adolph Anderson; Theresa who died young; John Robert Smith who wed Eliza Jane Cook; Thomas and Adam Smith.

Roselia's sister, Elizabeth Nugent wed James King at Indianola, August 25, 1862. They had one child, Sarah Ellen King, born January 6, 1864. Roselia also had a brother, John and a sister, Mary Jane Nugent, who came to Texas.

When the Civil War broke out, Samuel Edward Kinlay, William Henry Smith and James King (brothers-in-law) all joined the 8th Texas Infantry at Refugio.

The Kinlay family moved to Cuero in 1884, where they lived on Whitney Avenue until their deaths. Samuel and Roselia Kinlay are buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero, where six of their children are also buried.

This couple had eleven children born at Indianola and baptized in the Catholic Church.

(1) Aphilia Kinlay born September 8, 1854, died as an infant.

(2) Martha J.O. Kinlay born September 8, 1855 died September 12, 1921, married John Joseph Ryan, October 17, 1878. John was born March 1, 1845, died December 20, 1890 at Cuero. He was a civil engineer and lost a foot in an accident, January 1880. They had one child, Louis Francis Ryan, born September 10, 1879.

(3) Baby Kinlay born dead in 1857.

(4) Lewis John Kinlay born July 1860, was also a painter.

(5) Ellen C. Kinlay born April 1863, died 1956, married William M. Budge, May 30, 1884 at Indianola. William was a railroad switchman at Cuero. They had three children: William J. Budge, born July 1885, died 1924; the next child was born dead in 1888 and Roselia Budge, the third child born September 1890, died 1962, never married.

(6) Baby Kinlay born dead 1865.

(7) Alfreda Emily Kinlay born March 1867 never married and became a music teacher at Cuero.

(8) Joseph Kinlay born August 12, 1868 died shortly after his first birthday.

(9) Nellie D. Kinlay born January 14, 1871, died February 21, 1894, married Timothy J. Fitzgerald, December 14, 1892 at Cuero. He was a railroad conductor. They had one child, Roselia born November 1893.

(10) May Elizabeth Kinlay born June 1874, never married.

(11) Joseph Henry Kinlay born January 19, 1877, was also a painter.

by Kathleen Tatum

KIRK, BERT AMBERS

F495

Bert Ambers Kirk, Jr.

In the mountains of West Virginia on july 25, 1916, a son, Bert Ambers Kirk, Jr., richly endowed with innate intellect and ambition that would lead to immense accomplishment,

Wedding Picture. Bert Ambers and Ada Koenig Kirk, March 15, 1944

Bert Ambers Kirk, Jr.'s parents — B.A. Kirk, Sr. and Ethel McCallister Kirk in front of home Hinton, West Virginia about 1968

was born to B.A. and Ethel McCallister Kirk. Independent and intellectually curious from an early age on, Bert sold newspapers, worked in a confectionery during the school months; and soaked up the lore of the mountains and rivers camping out in the summers. He graduated from Hinton High School in 1934, and went on to become a "Mountaineer" at West Virginia University from which he earned his B.A. degree in 1938 and his LL.B degree in 1940. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity. Admitted to the West Virginia Bar in 1940, he returned to Hinton to practice law and, following in the tradition of his grandfather and father, work for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

He was drafted; sent to Randolph Field, Texas; enrolled in Officers Training School in Miami, Florida; and thereafter served in the Air Force Military Intelligence Force until he was discharged as a captain in 1946.

Bert was assigned to be Intelligence Officer at Brayton Flying Field at Cuero in 1943 and his life took on a whole new dimension. He married Ada Koenig, daughter of Charles and Lena Schrade Koenig, March 15, 1944. Then, December 6, 1945, Martha — a daughter to grace his life — was born. The mountains of West Virginia were still in his bones, but as he said, "Ada, I've sunk my boots in the sands of Texas and here I am going to stay." Forthwith, he prepared for the Texas Bar Examination.

He was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1946 and opened his law office in Cuero. His bar affiliations included the DeWitt County Bar Associations, State Bar of Texas, Texas Trial Lawyers Association and American Judicature Society. He was also a member of the Texas Association of Municipal Judges. He served as Corporation Court Judge from 1964-1971.

He served for many years as DeWitt County Veterans Service Officer. He served as Commander of American Legion Post Dinter No. 3; President of the Chamber of Commerce; President of South Texas Livestock Show (and as a director for many years); member of the Board of Directors of South Texas Children's Home at Beeville; member of the South Texas Chamber of Commerce; member of the District Grievance Committee of the Texas Bar Association; one of the organizers of the Gulf Bend Center for Children and Youth; and listed in *Who's Who of Texas*. But, more important than that honor, was the "who's who" coming into Bert's life — the son, Robert, born March 11, 1954. Heretofore, Bert had been involved with Martha's dance recitals, ballet, and art and now he became involved with Robert's scouting and sports. He served as committeeman of Boy Scouts Troop 243 and coached a Little League baseball team for five years. He considered travel to be one of the ultimate educational opportunities for children and there were the yearly trips by different routes to West Virginia. In addition, he maneuvered trips from California to New York and from Washington, D.C. to the Olympics in Mexico City.

Branching out from his own law practice, Bert was real estate counsel for Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association and vice-president of the Farmers State Bank and Trust Company. One of his favorite avocations was raising Black Angus and range Herefords. Another avocation was giving of his time, talent, and money. Christmas and Easter were the occasions for his lavish and joyous giving. However, any other holiday could be pretext for celebration and gifts. Expansive as his beloved adopted state of Texas, Bert spread himself far and wide from the lowly to the rich. Through his charisma and charity for all, he left his impressions in the sands of Texas with his death March 1, 1971.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KIRK, SISTER MARTHA ANN, CCVI

F496

In Cuero, Texas on December 6, 1945, a daughter, Martha Sue Kirk, richly endowed with keen intellectual powers, creativity, and self-discipline that would lead her to a religious commitment, was born to Bert Ambers and Ada Koenig Kirk. As she waxed in grace and wisdom she displayed all the characteristics of a gifted and talented child but with an added dimension — spirituality. She was drawn as if by a magnet — John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you . . ." — to the professed religious life. Hence, September 1, 1962, she entered Incarnate Word Convent in

Sister Martha Ann Kirk CCVI presenting a dramatic monologue "Ashes Could Not Stop Her" on Mother St. Pierre, one of the founders of the Incarnate Word Sisters in San Antonio in 1869.

Sister Martha Ann Kirk CCVI Retreat Leader, Storyteller, Liturgist, Dancer, Mime

Sister Martha Ann Kirk CCVI and silhouette in interpretative ballet

San Antonio, Texas. From this day on, Martha Sue Kirk would be known as Sister Martha Ann Kirk.

She evidenced her intellectual gifts as she advanced her education — B.A. cum laude in Secondary Education with concentrations in Speech, Drama, and Art, Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, 1968, M.A. in Art Education with a minor in Art History, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, 1973; M.A. in Religion and Religious Education, Fordham University, Bronx, New York, 1977; Th.D. in Theology and the Arts, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, 1986.

As her creativity burst forth in many directions, she had the self-discipline to channel it into publication. In 1983 *Dancing with Creation: Mexican and Native American Dance in Christian Worship and Education* was published. Cassettes and study guide *God of Our Mothers' Seven Biblical Women Tell Their Stories* were published in 1985. A one-hour video cassette of mime, story, and dance *Daughters Who Image God* was published in 1987. In 1986 her doctoral dissertation *The Prophetess Led Them in Praise: Women's Stories in Ritual* was done on Microfilm. In 1987 *Celebrations of Biblical Women's Stories; Tears, Milk and Honey* was published. In addition she has written over 30 articles published in *Modern Liturge, National Catholic Reporter, The Living Light, Concern, Texas Journal of Ideas History and Culture,* and *St. Anthony Messenger* among others.

Sister Martha Ann has been in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, International Who's Who in Women in Education, Outstanding Young Women of America,* and *International Registry of Women-Religious-Artists.*

She is a member of American Academy of Religion, American Academy of Homeletics, Catholic Theological Society of America, Women's Ordination Conference, National Assembly of Religious Women, Sacred Dance Guild, and International Registry of Religious Women Artists.

She has taught a wide range of courses — Meditation and Non-violence; Women, Justice, and Faith; Christianity Through Art; Lay Leadership of Prayer; Arts in Worship; and Twentieth Century Art History — at the Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley; Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley; Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio; and Incarnate Word College, San Antonio. She is now an Associate Professor, Director of Liturgical Outreach Program, and Director of Peace and Justice Studies at Incarnate Word College.

Sound scriptural background and academic training has been the wellspring for her flow of creativity. She, as a Retreat Leader, Storyteller, Luturgist, Dancer, and Mime, has given more than two hundred presentations, workshops, and retreats to thousands of people all over the United States. In addition she has won honors with batiks, tie dye pieces, and creative stitchery. A one-woman exhibit of fiber arts and soft sculpture with texts on feminine symbols of God "Reflections on God Our Mother and the Hidden History of Our Foremothers" was shown at art galleries across the nation. Ideas and issues raised by this exhibit led to dozens of interviews culminating with her appearance on the 700 Club Christian Broadcasting Network. For Sister Martha Ann Kirk, John 15:16 has been a self-fulfilling prophecy "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit . . ."

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KIRK, ROBERT AND CYNTHIA ARNDT FAMILY

F497

The two-story part of the Louis Keonig house (ca. 1900) separated from the one-story part and being pulled out of the yard.

March 11, 1954 was a day of great import for Bert Ambers and Ada Koenig Kirk — the birth of their son, Robert J. Kirk. His sister, Martha, considered him her own special child, and he became closely attached to her for the next eight years until she entered the convent in 1962. This left a void in his life which his father filled with fishing, hunting, horses, baseball, and traveling — West Virginia, New York, Washington, D.C. and the Olympics in Mexico City. March 1, 1971 Rob's father died, and another void was left in his life.

The house dangerously listing on its journey across the flat because of innumerable gopher holes in the sandy soil.

May 11, 1956 was a day of great import for Clyde and Dorothy Morgenroth Arndt — the birth of their daughter, Cynthia Ann Arndt.

The house, intact, after its bout with gopher holes and just a fence line away from its new destination.

The fourth generation — Rob, Cindy, and daughters, Meredith and Morgen, standing in front of the restored Louis Koenig house.

Her brother, Charles, considered her quite special and they grew up very attached to each other. Cindy, with her brown eyes, bright blonde hair, and wide warm smile, became a most popular student, cheerleader, and class favorite. From the eighth grade on, Rob had his eye on Cindy; they were high school sweethearts; and their courtship continued until Cindy graduated from Texas A&M University and Rob from the University of Houston at Victoria. They were married June 24, 1978.

During their high school years, they "watched over" and loved Rob's grandparents, Charles L. and Lena Koenig, who lived on the home place in the big house (ca. 1900) built by Rob's great grandfather. Rob matured under the guidance of his grandfather after his own father's death and the spell of the land — from fence fixing to hay hauling — cast its hold on him. Many times Cindy helped Rob's grandmother in the house polishing the wood wainscoting; dusting the worn-smooth stairs; and wishing she could live in this house someday. Eventually, Rob and Cindy voiced their dream — to live in the Koenig house — which was "impossible" because Charles L. Koenig, Jr. was to inherit the home place. Rob's grandfather, in his wisdom, offered a plan: "Charles doesn't want the two-story part, so Ada, you could move it right across the flat and over the fence to your acres. This old house could surely hold another generation." His plan was mutually agreed upon by Charles and Ada before his death December 9, 1980.

In January 1981 Carlos Cortez Housemovers from Kenedy, Texas apprised the feasibility of separating the two-story part of the house and moving it. February 10 they moved in equipment; February 23 they began jacking up the house; February 24 a fissure appeared; February 25 the crack widened; March 2 two-huge trucks with house-moving apparatus pulled the two-story part free; and headed across the open flat. They sailed along like a prairie schooner but abruptly forced to a snail's pace by a myriad of gopher holes. The house listed but never capsized.

Finally, they crossed the fence line and on March 3, 1981 set the house down amidst large liveoaks. In the restoration, a one-story kitchen area, a new roof, porch banisters, and replicas of the original gingerbread were added. Rob and Cindy moved in August 1981 feeling a continuity with the past — the link even extended to cattle branding. The evolution of Rob's cattle branding began with the Louis Koenig January 16, 1878 registry of Bar over K right hip to Charles L. Koenig, Sr. October 27, 1929, to Bert Ambers Kirk February 14, 1947, Bar over K left hip and finally to Rob Kirk June 8, 1981.

Rob and Cindy have added two farm ponds and one windmill for watering livestock; have improved pastures by planting hybrid range grasses; and have started a program of brush control.

Rob was the first male teacher and later principal ever employed at St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero. At present he works for the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission in Victoria. Cindy also taught school; then served as secretary at Garrett Abstract Company; and later as office assistant at the Soil and Water Conservation District. At present she is teaching Physical Education and Coaching in the Cuero Schools. But the most significant events in their lives were the births of their daughters — Meredith Ambers Kirk born October 26, 1983 and Morgen Ann Kirk born May 29, 1986 — the new generation for the old house.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KIRLICKS, CATHERINE FAMILY

F498

Catherine Kirlicks was the matriarch of the Kerlick clan in DeWitt County, though little is known about her. During the period 1856-58, she and her seven adult children — Michael, Georg Hans, Christopher, Anna, John Anskies, Maria, and William F. — left their homes in Lithuania and came to Texas. Five of the seven children married and four had children. Interestingly, all four gave the same seven Christian names to their children, at least as much as the distribution of boys and girls in each family would permit. Separate articles have been written about the three children with families who remained in DeWitt County; Christopher Kerlick, Anna Lundschen, and Maria Gelssus Jonischkies.

It seems clear that they did not all emigrate together, but most of the immigration records for that period have been lost. This was during a period when Lithuania was under Prussian domination, therefore the people spoke German as well as their native Lithuanian. They were educated people — long letters (in Lithuanian) still exist that were written to Maria by her second husband, her sister, and most of her brothers. Of course, they also learned English, so it is common to find their names written in all three languages, for example, Jurgis/Georg/George and Kristops/Christoph/Christopher.

The family home in Lithuania was in the small town of Kirlicken, *Kreis* (County) Heydekrug, *Regierungsbezirk* (District) Gumbinnen. This is about halfway between Memel (now Klaipeda) and Tilsit (now Sovetsk). The children who were married at the time they left the old country lived in the nearby towns of Minneiken and Pagrienen; the two daughters later married men from nearby Ackminiszken and Rupkalwen.

Of the seven children, all but the oldest and youngest lived out their lives in DeWitt County. The eldest, Michael (ca. 1816 – ca. 1898) settled in Galveston, moving to Houston about 1867. He and his wife Annie (27 Nov. 1813 – 2 June 1883) had five children, all born in Lithuania: Mary, William, John Anskies, Michael, and Annie. Michael Sr. is the only one of Catherine's seven children who is not buried in the family cemetery on the old home place in DeWitt County; he returned to the old country after his wife's death.

The rest of the family made their homes on a 269-acre parcel of land on Smith Creek about three miles from Yorktown, purchased by Anskis Kirliks in April 1859, with his youngest brother, William, as a witness. Part of the land, including the family cemetery, is still in the family. The family belonged to St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville at first, then moved to St. Paul's in Yorktown when it was built in 1872. Early records spell the family name Kirliks (the Lithuanian spelling), but most use the German Kirlicks, gradually giving way to Kerlicks and finally to Kerlick prior to 1900. (Michael's descendants — the Houston branch of the family — still use the original German spelling Kirlicks.)

William first registered a cattle brand in DeWitt County in January 1857. Ten years later, he moved to Houston, probably living with his brother Michael for a time before he purchased his own place in November 1867. On 26 Aug. 1869, William married Wilhelmine Bering, of the Bering lumber and hardware store family. Shortly after his wedding, he went back to DeWitt County to dispose of his stock and other property there. On 18 Oct. 1869, as he was visiting with his family and just about to return home to his bride, he and his brother Christopher became the innocent victims of an overzealous posse in search of a man already in jail in Houston. (See "Kerlick Tragedy" for more details.)

Not much is known about John Anskies and George Hans Kirlicks, except that they both registered cattle brands in DeWitt County in 1859. Additionally, Anskies owned the land, and became a U.S. citizen. Neither is believed to have been married — at least, no records of marriage have been found, and neither is recorded in the death records at St. John's. Dates from their headstones are: Georg Hans: 16 Apr. 1820 – 7 Oct. 1864, and John Anskies: 23 Dec. 1829 – 31 Aug. 1865.

Catherine Kirlicks remains an enigma. She is estimated to have been born ca. 1795, (based on ages of her children). No birth, marriage, immigration, census, or death records have been found. Deed records show that she was a "widow . . . of DeWitt County" in Sept. 1866. In June 1867, she was living in Houston, as shown by a power of attorney given to her son William. She is believed to have died and been buried in Houston (exact location unknown), possibly a victim of the great yellow fever epidemic of 1867, but in any case, probably before William's death in October 1869.

by Bernice N. Mistrot

KLAEVEMAN, HERMAN A. AND LILLIE (SCHLOSSER)

F499

Herman A. and Lillie (Schlosser) Klaeveman

Herman Adolph Klaeveman was born June 9, 1886 at Freyburg, Texas, a son of Christoph and Meta (Yost) Klaeveman. On July 4, 1913 he was baptized by Rev. Witt of the Methodist Church. He grew up in Freyburg and on Oct. 9, 1909 married Miss Minnie Jochen of Freyburg. They made their home in Freyburg and in 1922 moved to Schulenburg, Tex. In 1924 they moved to San Antonio, Texas. Three children were born to this union — Sylvie, Lester H., and Ivie M. Herman's first wife died Nov. 5, 1925. In 1926 he moved to Nordheim with his family and on Dec. 1, 1927 married Miss Lillie Schlosser of Nordheim. Lillie, the daughter of Henry and Hermine Meyer Schlosser, was born May 12, 1897 in Nordheim. She was the first girl born in Nordheim, Texas.

Herman Klaeveman was secretary to the Germania Fire & Storm Insurance Association, served as secretary of the Nordheim Farmer's Gin, and assisted in the E. Wagenschein Store for many years.

He was a member of the Nordheim Shooting Club, The Nordheim Lodge O.D.H.S., and the Nordheim Fire Company. He was especially interested in baseball and encouraged his sons to play.

Herman Klaeveman died Jan. 30, 1961 and Lillie died Dec. 26, 1980. Both are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Sylvie, Lester, and Ivie attended and graduated from Nordheim High School. Sylvie received an RN degree from Medical and Surgical Nursing School in San Antonio, Texas. She lives in San Antonio. Lester received a BBA degree in Accounting from the University of Texas in Austin. Later he received a Doctor of Jurisprudence and practiced law in Austin. He married Polly Hayden of Ferris, Texas Aug. 3, 1941. They had 2 children — Hayden Klaeven and George Ann (Lynn) Klaeveman both of San Francisco, California. He later married Betty Youngberg of Austin, Texas. He died Jan. 17, 1983 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. Ivie Klaeveman's story is given separately.

by Mrs. Ivie M. Klaeveman

KLAEVEMAN, IVIE M. AND INEZ (STUERMER)

F500

Ivie M. Klaeveman, youngest child of Herman A. Klaeveman and his wife, nee Minnie Jochen, was born Sept. 23, 1917 at Freyburg, Tex. In 1922 he moved with his parents to Schulenburg and in 1924 to San Antonio, Tex. After his mother's death, his father moved the family to Nordheim. Here Ivie attended school and graduated from Nordheim High School in 1935. He was interested in baseball and encouraged by his father to play. He and his brother both played with the Nordheim Tiger's Baseball Club. Ivie also played with the Yorktown Indians and will be remembered as a star shortstop. He also participated in many Firemen's Races popular in the 1930's.

Back, L-R: Jane Colette Klaeveman and Ivie James Klaeveman, Front L-R: Inez (Stuermer) Klaeveman and Ivie M. Klaeveman

In June 1941 Ivie received a BBA degree in accounting from the University of Texas in Austin. He was married to Inez Lee Stuermer of Nordheim on Dec. 12, 1941 in Yorktown by Rev. C.G. Hannekammer. The couple moved to San Antonio where he was employed, and in July he was called to serve in the United States Army Medical Corp during World War II. He was stationed in Abilene and El Paso, Tex. and then in New Guinea and the Philippines until the end of the war in 1945. Upon his return, he and his wife and baby son moved to San Antonio. He was employed by Slavik & Slavik, CPA's, attended St. Mary's University, and on Jan. 23, 1950 passed the state exam to become a CPA. He was employed in numerous accounting positions, retiring in 1982. He is a member of Texas Society of CPA's. He and his wife are members of Shepherd King Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Tex.

Inez Lee Stuermer, daughter of Walter C. and Louise Stuermer was born Nov. 17, 1919. She graduated from Nordheim High School in 1937 and in June 1941 graduated with honors from Texas Women's University at Denton, receiving a B.S. degree in Education. She was employed as a 1st Grade teacher in Nordheim until her marriage in Dec. 1941. She moved to San Antonio and was employed as secretary to the Supt. of the Harlandale Indpt. School District. When her husband was called into service during World War II, she returned to Nordheim and was employed as a high school English teacher with Nordheim Public School until Jan. 1946. She and Ivie moved back to San Antonio where she taught school in the San Antonio Independent School District 14 years and in the NorthEast Independent School District 10 years, retiring in 1980. She is a member of Texas Retired Teacher's Association, a former member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Iota Beta Chapter, and a member of Shepherd King Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Two children were born to the couple.

(1) Ivie James (Jim) Klaeveman, b. Dec. 23, 1942 at Victoria, Tex. He graduated from Jefferson High School, San Antonio in 1961 and received a Bachelor's degree in English from University of Texas at Austin in 1965 and a Master's degree in English from St. Mary's University, San Antonio in 1968. He is presently a professor of English at St. Philip's College, San Antonio. He married Melody L. Teller of San Antonio on April 5, 1968. She is employed in real estate. They have 3 daughters – Melody Sky Hubbard (his stepdaughter), Ivy Klaeveman, and Carlie Klaeveman. One daughter, Leslie, died soon after birth Jan. 21, 1983.

(2) Jane Collette Klaeveman, b. Nov. 23, 1946 in San Antonio. She graduated from Jefferson High School, San Antonio in 1964 and received a Bachelor's degree in Education from University of Texas at Austin in 1968. She received a Library Science Certificate from Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio in May 1973. She taught school for several years in the San Antonio Independent School District. She married Ron Beneke of San Antonio May 20, 1972. They live in Dallas where Ron formerly practiced law. He is now President of Property Company of America, Real Estate Developers. They have 3 sons — Brian and twins, Alex and Mark.

by Mrs. Ivie M. (Inez) Klaeveman

KLAEVEMANN, BENNIE

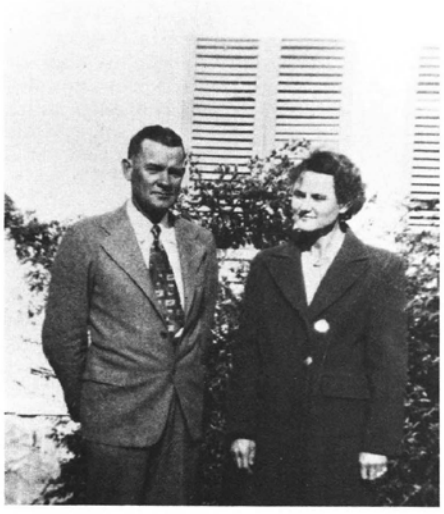
F501

Bennie Klaevemann was born in Nordheim on September 11, 1908 to Willie and Alwine Jochen Klaevemann. He died on November 25, 1979. Bennie attended school at Eckhardt school. He helped on the family farm as a young boy. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After his release from the Army, he and "Honey Boy" Wolf were co-owners of the Broadway Bar in Nordheim. Bennie later became sole owner but sold the business when his health began to fail. He was also a long-time member of the Nordheim Brass Band. He played the snare and bass drums. He is buried at the Nordheim cemetery.

by Mrs. Morris Webb

KLAEVEMANN, EDWIN AND CAROLINE (PETERS)

F502



Edwin and Caroline Klaevemann, 1948.

Edwin Carlos and Caroline Louise (Peters) Klaevemann spent their childhood and adult years in Nordheim, DeWitt Co., Texas. After a long courtship, Edwin and Caroline Peters were married on September 7, 1933 at the Nordheim St. Paul Lutheran Church, with Rev. T.J. Roth officiating. Only the immediate families and a few intimate friends witnessed the simple ceremony. The couple made a wedding trip to various Eastern Texas points. They

made their first home on the north side of Nordheim (December home). After a couple of years they moved to the George Peters' farm (Caroline's parents) located two miles north of Nordheim. The couple had four children: Carlos, born on June 3, 1935; Lloyd Neil, born on January 21, 1940; William George, born on November 3, 1942; and Kay Carol, born on April 7, 1949.

Edwin was born in the Cabeza Community near Nordheim, Texas on June 26, 1905, the son of Willie and Alvine (Jochen) Klaevemann. He was baptized on February 17, 1937 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Nordheim, Texas. Edwin was the oldest of eight children. He spent his childhood and adulthood in Nordheim, and attended the Eckhart Schools. Being the oldest child in the family, he had to quit school while in the Eckhart Schools to help with working in the fields of the family farm. In the late 1920s Edwin bought a cleaning and pressing business from Clarence Riedel, known as the City Tailor Shop. Later the shop was renamed and called Herbert's Tailor Shop. After running the business for a few years, he sold the business back to Clarence Riedel, (1935) and moved his family to the George Peters farm, where Edwin assumed the duties of farming and ranching. In the 1940s he took a job with the City Cleaners in Runge, Texas. Then, in the 1950s he worked for the Braun Tailor Shop in Yorktown. Finally, in the 1960's he took a job with the Karnes County Newspaper as a typesetter.

Edwin had a great love for music. He, along with two of his brothers (Herbert and Bennie) and a cousin (Eddie Stoever) formed a band known as the Majestic Four in the early 1920s. He played the trumpet, and at times played the concertina, along with drawing a fiddle bow every now and then. Having an excellent ear for music, many times Edwin would write the music for the members of the band. Later they had other persons join the band and were then known as the Majestic Orchestra. They played throughout South/South Central Texas in the 1930s and 1940s. Edwin also played for the Nordheim Brass Band and an orchestra called Ceasar and His Oldtimers. In addition to his music, Edwin was an active member of the Nordheim Hermann Sons Lodge, and was a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim.

Caroline was born in the Garfield Community near Yorktown, Texas on September 2, 1908, the youngest of five children of George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters. She was baptized on December 6, 1908 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown, Texas. In 1913 Caroline moved with her family from Garfield Community to Nordheim. She attended Nordheim High School, skipping two grades along the way, and graduating with honors in 1923. Known as "lean and lanky Pete," Caroline was a valuable player on the school basketball team. She also participated in the high school plays, as well as musical programs. After graduating from Nordheim High School, she continued her education at Yorktown High School. Yorktown had eleven grades whereas Nordheim had only ten grades. She graduated from Yorktown High School with the 1924 class.

Caroline was active in the St. Paul Lutheran Church activities, ladies aid, and evening circles, as well as community functions. She was an active member of the Nordheim Hermann Sons Sister Lodge and also the Nordheim Historical Museum. Caroline, along with Edwin, also had a love for music. She was recalled as one of the sweetest singers of the community, and no local musical program was complete without a number or two by Caroline. Besides singing solos, she also was remembered as singing duets with Miss Minnie Wendell, also of the Nordheim area. On occasions, she sang and played the piano with the Majestic Orchestra.

Caroline always had aspirations of going to college, however, financially, she was never able to continue her education in college. In the early 1950's, times were getting hard for the family, so Caroline took a correspondence course enabling her to obtain a diploma as a Licensed Nurse. She worked for the Laster Nursing Home in Yorktown for several years, and after getting a job at the Nordheim High School Cafeteria in 1956, she continued working during the summer months at the nursing home. Caroline became employed at the Nordheim High School Cafeteria and remained there until her retirement in 1974.

The last two years of Caroline's life, she suffered with a series of strokes, which eventually took her life on September 22, 1980. She died at her home in Nordheim. Caroline was a loving mother, a kind and generous person, and the pillar of strength in the family, never giving up her faith, even through the family's hardest times. She worked very hard throughout her life providing for her family, and always put her children's needs first, even when it meant doing without her own needs. One of her main goals was to keep her family together "as a family." Edwin became very depressed after Caroline's death, and two months later he became ill with bleeding ulcers and his health quickly declined. He died in the Victoria Citizens Hospital on January 24, 1981. Edwin and Caroline were buried in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Nordheim.

Caroline was preceded in death by her parents, George and Alwine Peters; one brother, Waldin Peters; and two sisters, Frieda Peters and Leona Gaedke. Those surviving at the time of her death were her husband, Edwin; four children, Carlos, Lloyd, Bill and Kay; eight grandchildren; and one sister, Malinda Peters.

Edwin was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Alvine Klaevemann; wife, Caroline; and three brothers, Lee, Bennie, and Raymond. Those surviving at the time of his death were four children, Carlos, Lloyd, Bill and Kay; eight grandchildren; two brothers, Herbert and Edgar; and one sister, Alice Warnken.

Carlos Klaevemann married Mary Nolen of Cuero on April 29, 1961. They have two children: Charles Wayne and Dawn Marie. Charles married Karla Kahlich of Cuero on April 22, 1983, and they have one daughter, Kelly Lynn. Dawn married Dennis Jemelka of Yoakum on August 18, 1984, and they have one son Brent James. Lloyd Klaevemann married Judy Cole of Corpus Christi on November 23, 1960. They have three sons: Douglas Neil, Chris Ray, and Troy Lynn. Chris married Lori Mutschler of Taft on August 27, 1988. Douglas and Troy are single. William Klaevemann married Marjorie Gips of Nordheim on September 4, 1965. They have three children: Andrea Gail, Amy Kay, and Aaron William. They live at home and are attending school. Kay Carol Klaevemann married and later divorced. Then she married Victor Krejci of Austin on January 24, 1987. They have no children.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

KLAEVEMANN, HERBERT FAMILY

F503

Herbert "Shorty" Klaevemann was born on January 15, 1907 in Schulenburg, Texas to Willie and Alwina (Jochen) Klaevemann. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Runge, Texas.

The family moved to Nordheim when Herbert was a young boy. He attended school and helped on the family farm. On December 16, 1931 he was married to Johanna Fredricka Mueller, daughter of Christian and Bertha Marie (Janssen) Mueller in Nordheim by Rev. T.J. Roth at the Lutheran church. Johanna was born August 24, 1908. She was baptized on October 18, 1908 and confirmed in 1924 by Rev. A. Kluge. She attended school in Cabeza and Nordheim and later worked at the Nordheim Post Office.

Before their marriage Herbert operated a trailor shop in Nordheim, later selling the business to his brother, Edwin. They moved to a farm north of Runge in 1934. Herbert opened a tailor shop in Runge which he operated until 1950 when he sold the business to Clarence Riedel. Herbert worked in the oil field for a short while and then the family returned to his father's farm near Nordheim where Herbert farmed. Two children were born to this union. Joan Idell was born September 6, 1932 in Nordheim. Virgie Beth was born October 6, 1935 when the couple lived in Runge.

Johanna died on October 7, 1957 and is buried at the Nordheim cemetery.

Herbert married Elenora Mueller Stratmann on January 20, 1962 in Nordheim. They lived on the farm north of Nordheim. Herbert passed away January 23, 1985 and is buried at the Nordheim cemetery.

Herbert and his brothers, Edwin, Bennie and Raymond; a cousin, Eddie Stoever, and Paul Dittfurth and Max Schorre formed the Majestic orchestra which played throughout South Texas in the 30's and 40's. They also entertained radio audiences on KVIC in Victoria on a weekly program sponsored by Spoetzel Brewery of Shiner, Texas. They named their orchestra after the brand name of the concertina played by Herbert.

Their daughter, Joan, graduated from Runge High School in 1950. She attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin one year and worked in San Antonio. She married Gordon Hugh Smith of Bryson, Texas on June 13, 1953 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim. Four children were born to them. Marcia Carol (b. 4-14-54) married Mark Jonathan Probst (b. 9-30-54) in Baytown, Texas on August 7, 1976. They graduated from Texas A&M and live in Katy, Texas. Sharon Lynn Smith (b. 8-26-55) is a Texas A&M graduate and lives in San Antonio. Thomas Marshall Smith (b. 11-22-58) married Cheryl Lynn Vermillion (b. 4-24-56) December 10, 1983 in Baytown. They are graduates of Texas A&M and live in Baytown. They have one son, Cameron Taylor (b. 8-14-86) in Baytown. Allison Kay Smith (b. 6-5-67) born in Baytown. She graduated from Texas A&M and resides in Houston.

Their daughter, Virgie, attended school in Runge and Nordheim and graduated from Nordheim High School in 1954. She attended Draughon's Business College and worked in San Antonio. She married Roland Morris Webb of Plainview, Texas on April 9, 1960 in Nor-

dheim. They reside in Tulia, Texas. Their three children are Russell Dean (b. 1-20-61). He graduated from Texas A&M and lives in Plano. Johanna Joy (b. 10-3-63) lives in Tulia, and David Kyle (b. 10-9-67) is a student at Abilene Christian University.

by Mrs. Morris Webb

KLAEVEMANN, WILLIE FAMILY

F504

Willie Klaevemann was born 11-27-1880 at Freyburg, Texas near Schulenburg, Texas. He married Alwine Jochen on December 3, 1903. Alwine was born on November 15, 1883 at Flatonia. They lived in Schulenburg area later moving to a farm southwest of Nordheim in the early 1900's. Six sons and one daughter were born to them. Edwin (b. 6-26-05) married Caroline Peters on September 7, 1933 in Nordheim. Herbert (b. 1-15-07) married Johanna Mueller on December 16, 1931; Bennie (b. 9-11-08) lived in Nordheim and died in 1979; Lee B. 9-23-10 – d. 6-2-22); Alice (b. 6-19-17) and married Wallace Warnken in 1954. Edgar (b. 1-8-20) married Gladys Habernal in Yorktown, Texas on 6-20-46. They also had nine grandchildren. Willie and Alwine lived on the farm until the early 1940's when they moved into Nordheim. Their home was across the street from the Nordheim Shooting Club Hall. Willie had retired from farming and became caretaker of the Shooting Club hall and grounds. He died September 24, 1961 and is buried at the Nordheim cemetery. Alwine died on 3-20-61 and is also buried at the Nordheim cemetery.

Three generations of the Willie Klaevemann family all played in the Nordheim Brass Band.

by Mrs. Morris Webb

KLEBERG, ROBERT JUSTUS

F505

Robert Justus Kleberg was born on the 10th day of September, 1803 in Herstelle, Westphalia, in the former Kingdom of Prussia. His parents were Lucas Kleberg, a prominent and successful merchant, and Veronica (Meier) Kleberg. Robert had four siblings; Ernest, Louis, Joseph and Banise. The family were very affluent and gave their children good educations until the untimely death of the parents.

Robert chose the law as his profession and attended the University of Goettingen, and in two years and a half received his diploma as doctor juris. In 1834 when he was about ready to enter upon a distinguished judician career, he concluded to emigrate to the United States.

On September 4th, 1834, Robert Justus married Miss Rosalia von Roeder, daughter of Lieut. Ludwig Anton Siegmund von Roeder. The party emigrating to Texas consisted of: Three von Roeder brothers, all unmarried, Louis, Albrecht and Joachim, and their sister Valesca, and a servant by the name of Pollhart. This group went ahead for the purpose of selecting a point where they could all meet and start a settlement. Six months after their departure, the rest of the group departed on September 31, 1834 in the ship *Congress* with Capt. J. Adams. The second group consisted of: Robert Kleberg and wife, Lieut. L.A. S. von Roeder and wife, his daughters, Louise and Caroline, his sons, Rudolph, Otto and William von Roeder, Louis Kelberg, Mrs. Otto von Roeder, nee Pauline von Donop and Miss Antoinette von Donop. After a voyage of sixty days they landed in New Orleans. When Robert finally reached Brazoria, Texas he was informed that Louis and Albert von Roeder had located about fourteen miles from San Felipe on a league and labor of land, but that Joachim and Valesca von Roeder had died.

After many hardships and fighting for the Independence of Texas, the settlers first made their homes at Cat Springs, Texas and then came to DeWitt County in 1847.

At Cat Spring were born the following of Robert and Rosalie's children: 1) Clara Seigesmunde, November 28, 1835; 2) Johanna Caroline, November 29, 1838; 3) Caroline Louise, January 15, 1840; 4) Otto Joseph October 27, 1841; and 5) Rudolph, June 26, 1847. In DeWitt County the following children were born: 6) Marcellus Eugene, February 7, 1849; 7) Robert Justus, December 5, 1853; and 8) Louise Rosalie, September 2, 1855.

Being well acquainted with the prominent citizens such as Sam Houston, Burnet, J.S. Hill, J.P. Borden, Judge Waller, and many other distinguished citizens of that day, Mr. Kelberg's services in the War for Independence and his ability were soon recognized by the young Republic and as early as 1837 he was appointed by President Sam Houston as Associate Commissioner of the Board of Land Commissioners. In 1838 he was appointed President of said commissioners by J.P. Borden, Commissioner of the General Land Office. In 1841, he was commissioned by Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic, Justice of the Peace, which was then an important office as there were few lawyers, and few law books, and important and perplexing suits to be decided in these courts. In 1846 he was elected Chief Justice in Austin County, and commissioned by Sam Houston, Governor. In 1848 he was elected County Commissioner of DeWitt County, and commissioned by Governor G.S. Wood.

In 1853 he was elected Chief Justice of DeWitt County, and commissioned by Governor Bell. He was re-elected as Chief Justice of DeWitt County in 1854.

When they reached DeWitt County, there were few settlers and no schools or churches in the area that they settled. Judge Kleberg together with Messrs. Albrecht von Roeder, John Pettus, the Bellsand Yorks, erected with their own hands, a log cabin on the Cojetto Creek, near the old York and Bell farm, which was used for a school.

Robert Justus Kleberg died at Yorktown, DeWitt County, October 23, 1888, in his eighty-sixth year, surrounded by his family, and was buried with Masonic honors. His wife, Mrs. Rosa Kleberg, and the following children survived him: Mrs. Clara Hillebrand, Mrs. Caroline Eckhardt, Miss Lulu Keleberg, Hon. Rudolph Kleberg, Marcellus E. Kleberg, and Robert J. Kelberg. His eldest son, Otto Kleberg, who served with distinction in the Confederate army, preceded him in death in 1880.

KLECKA, LOUIS J. AND ALBINA SPACEK/STELLA VASICEK

F506

F.J. Spacek, Jr. and Julia (Gloeckner) Spacek

Louis J. Klecka and Albina (Spacek) Klecka

Evelyn Klecka, Lois Klecka and Doris Klecka

Major Theodore Klecka, M.D., 1941-1945

Stella (Vasicek) Klecka

Spacek home in Bordovice, 1987.

The first member of the Riebschlaeger household to arrive in Cuero was Evelyn Marie Klecka, oldest child of Louis J. Klecka and Albina Spacek. Other children born of that marriage were Theodore Arthur and Lois Marie Klecka. After the death of Albina at 28 during the 1918 flu epidemic, Louis Klecka married again. His second wife, Stella Vasicek of El Campo, bore him a fourth child, Doris Marie. A few years later, Louis accepted the invitation of his brother-in-law, Dr. Ferdinand Miller, a dentist practicing in Cuero, to open a drugstore there. In 1927 he moved his family from Granger, where he had a drug business, to Cuero and opened what was to become Cuero Pharmacy and later Klecka Drug Company on West Main. Later, the business was relocated to the corner of Main and Esplanade streets, which proved to be a prime location for a small business.

The roots of the Klecka-Spacek/Vasicek household lay in Moravia, Czechoslovakia, and Neustadt, Germany. Frantisek Jan Spacek, Jr., arrived in Fayetteville from the small village of Bordovice in Moravia in 1866, having emigrated with a group of Czechs through the Port of Galveston at age 13. The inspiration for his decision came when a Mr. Josef Walla, then a Czech immigrant from Texas, returned to his native land and visited several villages with stories of beauty and unlimited opportunities for those who would return with him. Young Frantisek (F.J. as he would become known) eventually convinced his parents that he would be able to brave the journey to the New World and succeed. He promised to send money back for them to join him later. In 1920, the Spacek family reunion was held in Fayetteville, and members brought their individual stories, in written form, of their memories of the village of their Moravian homes, families, Beskedy Mountains, their journey to Texas, and their enterprises since. This was published in the form of a bound family history, and some grandchildren and great-grandchildren still possess these books, complete with a picture of the original homestead in Bordovice, built in 1800, and still occupied today. In 1987, Evelyn Klecka Riebschlaeger and her two daughters, Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger and Mrs. Kaye Riebschlaeger Dunn returned to find the homestead and visit with its present occupants, the family of Mr. Jaroslav Kubena of Bordovice. A picture of the homestead taken in 1987, taken by Sr. Elizabeth, accompanies this story.

Young Frantisek did, indeed, succeed in the New World. In 1870, after the death of his wife, Rozyna, in Moravia, Frantisek, Sr., and his four other children came to Texas to join his oldest son, Frantisek, Jr., in the New World, settling in Fayetteville. Rozyna Spacek is buried in the church cemetery in Lichnov, near Bordovice, in the Frenstat area in Novy Jicin County. The descendants of Frantisek and Rozyna have contributed much to the development of their state and country since their arrival in Texas. Frantisek, Jr., did much to assist others from Moravia, Czechoslovakia, in the immigration and resettlement process. The Spacek home in Fayetteville is marked with an historical marker and stands, facing the courthouse there. His granddaughter, Minna Mae Spacek Kubena still lives in a home once owned by the family, next to the old red schoolhouse, now a museum. Among his descendants are teachers, a physician, engineers, successful businessmen, at least one of whom served as City Manager for several years in Gonzales, Texas, successful rice farmers, and two grandchildren who have built successful acting careers: Elmore "Rip" Torn, nominated for Best Supporting Actor in the movie "Cross Creek" and Mary Elizabeth "Sissy" Spacek, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress in "Carrie" and recipient of the Academy Award for Best Actress in the movie "Coal Miner's Daughter." His own son, Rudolph Benjamin, served in the Texas State Legislature with a perfect attendance record.

On November 17, 1887, Frantisek, Jr., married Julia Kirsch-Gloeckner. Julia had accompanied her parents and her maternal grandparents to Fayetteville from Neustadt. All are buried in the cemetery in Fayetteville, Texas, in the Spacek family plot. With them are three sets of Spacek twins, all of whom died in birth.

Louis J. Klecka, founder of Klecka Drug Co., was descended from Aloys Klecka, born in Petrwald, northern Moravia (near the Polish border). After his immigration to Texas, he married Ana Vasicek, born in Troyanovice, near Frenstat in Moravia. Four of their five sons eventually entered the pharmacy profession, one of whom was Louis, father of Evelyn Klecka Riebschlaeger. Aloys died of cancer at the age of 45, and is buried in the church cemetery in Ammansville, Texas. His wife, Ana, married again after his death, and is buried in the cemetery in Granger, next to her second husband, in the Klecka family plot.

The children of Louis J. Klecka, Evelyn Marie, Theodore Arthur, Lois Marie, and Doris Marie, all graduated from Cuero High School. Evelyn and Lois both attended Incarnate Word College and became teachers. Evelyn taught in Hillje (near Louise), Texas, prior to her marriage to Charles Joseph Riebschlaeger, Jr., in Cuero. Among her professors at the University of Texas for summer courses was Dr. J. Frank Dobie. Lois Marie received her degree in Art Education from Mary Harden Baylor College in Belton and was Director of Art Education in the Temple Independent School District at the time of her death. She was married to Burton Bishop of Temple, manager of radio station KTEM and later Advertising Sales Manager for the television station KTEM-TV. They had two daughters, Nancy Benet and Angela.

"Theo" or "Ted" or "TAK," as he is called, attended the University of Texas School of Medicine, and immediately upon graduation, served as a U.S. Army physician in the Pacific theater with the MacArthur forces until World War II's end. During the war, he spent time in Australia, New Guinea, and landed with MacArthur's forces in his famous return to the Philippines, eventually locating in Manila. After the war, Theo set up practice in orthopedic medicine in San Antonio in the New Moore Building on Houston Street. Later, he and several partners founded the Medical Professional Building on McCullough Street, still in use, directly across from Metropolitan, or Humana, Hospital in San Antonio. Recently retired, he and his wife, Lura Hastings of Denison, Texas, have six children and six grandchildren.

Doris Marie attended the St. Joseph School of Nursing in Houston and served as a nurse with the U.S. Armed Forces stateside during World War II. She married First Lieutenant Robert F. Fromhart at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, and after his retirement as a career Army officer in the Fourth Army, at the rank of full Colonel, they retired in Tacoma and Long Beach, Washington. Doris served there as a supervisor of nurses at Stillekoom Hospital. They have six children and five grandchildren.

by Mrs. Evelyn Riebschlaeger

KLEINECKE FAMILY

F507

Texas Origins and Successions

The branch of the Kleinecke family of my ancestors came from Germany in the Hanover area and settled in Indianola, Texas in late 1845. The family consisted of father: August Kleinecke, two daughters: Augusta and Henrietta, and two sons: Henry August Louis Kleinecke and Charles Fritz Kleinecke. Daughters Augusta married William Salge and Henrietta married Stephen Konrad Dincans, while sons H.A. Louis Kleinecke married Mary Rose Gruehner and Charles Fritz Kleinecke first married Henrietta Winkel who with their children died during a yellow fever epidemic. His second marriage was to Mary Henrietta Hoenis and six children were born to this marriage: Charles Emil Kleinecke 1870-1959, George Edward Kleinecke 1871-1942, Cecelia Louise Kleinecke 1873-1967, Bertha Heniretta Kleinecke 1875-1910, Oscar William Kleinecke 1881-1964, Walter Frank Kleinecke 1884-1930. August Kleinecke died before he attained his seven year residence required for naturalization but both sons applied for and received their naturalization papers in the 1857 Calhoun County Court.

Karl "Charles" Fritz Kleinecke, 1834-1889. Photo ca. 1870.

Charles Fritz Kleinecke, my great-grandfather, was a successful business partner with William Westhoff in the lumber business in Indianola. When the business expanded to include a branch in Cuero, Charles Fritz Kleinecke moved his family, and his house by ox cart, in March 1875 — just prior to the first devastating Indianola hurricane in August of that year. The Kleinecke home was relocated on the corner of Main and McLeod Streets, across from the Cuero Post Office now, but earlier was across the street from the old Turner Hall. This home had, on a side yard, one of the first tennis courts in this part of the country. Later my great-grandfather became a business partner with Mr. H. Kuester in the grocery business. Grandfather Charles Emil Kleinecke was born in Indianola in 1870, but went to school, grew up, worked and married in Cuero. After my father Charles Way Kleinecke was born in 1902 in the James Doss Terry home, my grandfather moved his family to Fort Worth in 1907 and was in the cattle business there. Other surnames related to this family by marriage are Ferber, Lewis, Fuchs, Rittner, Small, Ischey, Galle, Schorre, Brady, and Holmes.

by Charles Way Kleinecke, Jr.

KLEINECKE, HOWARD FAMILY

F508

Howard Kleinecke was born December 4, 1919 in Cuero, Texas to Robert Thomas and Helena Miller Kleinecke.

Helena Miller was born December 24, 1878 in Indianola and died September 25, 1962. Her parents were Bertha Wasserman (May 26, 1859 – Jan. 25, 1948) and William A. Miller (Sept. 15, 1850 – July 10, 1913). Bertha and William Miller were both born in Indianola and died in Cuero. Helena's maternal grandparents were Anna Rosina Rose (Sept, 25, 1826 – Jan. 13, 1894) and J. George Wasserman, (Feb. 17, 1818 – July 30, 1897). They were born in Saxony, Germany and probably came to Indianola around 1846-1850. I think her paternal grandparents were (Helena) Christian Knapp and Joseph (Eugene?) Miller. Helena C. was the daughter of I. David Knapp and Mary Christian Knapp. They came to Texas from Nassau, Germany before the 1850 census. Joseph E. and Helena died before the 1860 census and their sons, August and William, lived with their grandparents, the Knapps. The Millers and Wassermans seem to have stayed in Indianola until after the 1886 storm.

Robert Kleinecke's parents were Mary Rosina Gruhner (June 30, 1839 – February 13, 1933) and Henry August Louis Kleinecke, born June 5, 1836 and died December 12, 1889. Mary Rosina's parents were Mary Rosina Kilian and John Gottlieb Gruhner (also spelled Gruner and Gruehner). In December, 1852 the family landed at Indian Point, coming from Schlesingen (Baumgarten) Germany. The following year there was a terrible yellow fever epidemic and Mr. Gruhner was stricken and was carried to the pest house. When Mrs. Gruhner and their three daughters came to see Mr. Gruhner the next day, they discovered, to their horror, that he was dead and buried.

Robert's paternal grandparents were Carl August and Johanna Munn Kleinecke, who came from Grund am Harz, Hanover, Germany on Sept. 24, 1846 on the ship *Flavins*. The ship's captain was Isaak C. Davis. The Kleineckes were parents of nine children. All of the family moved to Cuero after the 1875 storm, with the exception of Howard's uncle Dr. Louis Kleinecke, who remained in Indianola with his Aunt Caroline Fuhrman.

Howard was the youngest of Helena's and Robert's five children. These children were (1) Lucille (Jan. 19, 1905 – May 28, 1951) (2) Willard Leroy (July 25, 1906 – July 24, 1981). Willard married Bernice Lehman (Aug. 10, 1905 – March 4, 1986). To this union were born Gerald Allen, January 11, 1936 who lived one day, and Helen Jean Kleinecke Kuecker, (Oct. 15, 1938). (3) Robert Shelton was born Jan. 25, 1909 and died Jan. 20, 1973. He married Jeanette Sitterly of Victoria and there were no children born to this union. (4) Julius William Henry, born Oct. 8, 1914, married Audrey Barfield. Their children were Marsha Lynn who married Joel Meadow, and Robert Bruce who married Frances Dietze Atkinson. William later married Irene Thigpen Patton and is

presently married to Olivia Dentler.

Howard's family were all active members of the Lutheran Church and Howard still remains a member. His mother, Helena, worked as a clerk at Graves Department Store, before her marriage, and Howard's father was a city mail carrier. Howard recalls many happy days riding with his father as he delivered the mail. Howard began working at the Rialto Theatre when fourteen years of age. He was employed by Buchel National Bank before enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. After the war, he returned to the bank for a number of years, before accepting the position of office manager for Newman's of Cuero. Howard started his career with Cuero Federal Savings and Loan in July, 1953 and continued in this career until he retired as president in January, 1988. He remains at Cuero Federal and Loan as a consultant and board member. Howard has been very active in civic affairs and received Cuero's Service Award for outstanding community service in 1975.

He married Mary Louise Jackson of Cuero in Charleston, South Carolina on Feb. 6, 1943. They are the parents of six children, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Their children are: (1) Mary Adele, born Oct 29, 1944 who married Claude North (Buddy) Blackwell (Sept. 20, 1942) on Oct. 20, 1962. Buddy is a partner in the livestock auction business, and Mary Adele is a piano teacher and organist of First Presbyterian Church. Their children are Kimberly Lynn who was born June 22, 1963, and Finley North, born March 4, 1967. Kim is married to Rick Powers who was born May 2, 1958. They are the parents of Paige Adele (Sept. 16, 1988). Rick works for a communication installation company and Kim teaches school in Victoria. Finley works in the family business. (2) Bonnie Ryn, born Oct. 26, 1948, married Richard Harrison Wheeler, (born Nov. 4, 1946) on Aug. 29, 1970. Ricky is a State Farm Agent and Bonnie teaches school in Cuero. Their three children are Eron Leigh, born Nov. 14, 1973, Lesley Ann, born March 27, 1975, and Richard Harrison, born July 31, 1979. (3) Howard Jackson, born July 8, 1953, married Sharon Elizabeth Bernhard, (born Jan. 24, 1955) on April 12, 1980. Jack is a broker in the Brokage Department of the Victoria Bank and Trust, and Sharon is in the monogram business. Their daughters are Mary Brooke, born Oct. 28, 1980, and Natalie Elizabeth, born May 16, 1985. (4) Rebecca Joyce, born Feb. 22, 1957, married Leslie Arthur Richter, (born July 8, 1953) on August 20, 1977. Rebecca teaches school and Les is self-employed with Les-Marc Communication Company of Victoria, Texas. Their sons are Christopher Joseph (Oct. 23, 1983) and Aaron Michael, born June 28, 1988. (5) David Scott, born Nov. 15, 1959, married Mary Anne Nichols, (born Oct. 22, 1960) on August 30, 1980. Mary Anne is a legal secretary in San Marcos and David is vice-president at Kyle State Bank. Their children are David Scott, Jr. (Jan. 26, 1981) and Sara Elizabeth, born July 7, 1986. (6) Gaye Alison, born May 20, 1964, married Paul Michael Avery (Oct. 12, 1964) on Sept. 20, 1986. Paul is a landscape architect in San Antonio and Gaye is employed by General Furniture Leasing Company.

Mrs. Kleinecke and the children are all active members of the Presbyterian Church, as well as being very active in civic affairs.

by Mary Kleinecke

KLOKAU, ALBERT AND EMMA (THUEM)

F509

Emma Thuem and Albert Klokau Yorktown, Tx. April 3, 1894.

Albert Klokau was born in Germany in 1862. He landed in Baltimore, Maryland in 1883 and came directly to Texas. He worked on the Runge Ranch near Runge for a while, then moved to Yorktown, Texas. He married Emma Thuem on April 3, 1894.

Emma Thuem was born in Germany in 1866. She arrived from Germany in December of 1871 as a five year old with her parents, Christian and Frederike (Fechner) Thuem, along with her four brothers and one sister. They came into Galveston on a Clipper ship and from there came on into Indianola on a different type ship. They came to Yorktown where her dad was a farmer until he died in 1899. Frederike died in Ottine in 1916, where she lived her last years with her daughter, Sophie Marie Zeddler.

There were five children besides Emma. These were, Edward Christian Wilhelm, Louis Heinrich, Christian Wilhelm Gustav, Sophie Marie, and Friedrich August (who died in his teens). Most of them lived and died around Yorktown. Sophie Marie married Berthold Zeddler and spent her married life in Ottine.

Albert and Emma moved to Inez around 1900, and around 1903 moved to their farm near Clinton. In 1925 they moved to a house just out of the city limits of Cuero, on the Goliad Road. He continued farming for some years. Mrs. Klokau died in 1946 and Mr. Klokau lived in the house until his death in 1953.

Albert and Emma Klokau had six children: 1) Mary (Mrs. Temple Henry Chaddock); 2) Albert Klokau, Jr.; 3) Waldemar Klokau; 4) Ewald Klokau; 5) Beno Klokau; 6) and Olga Klokau (Mrs. Cecil Newman). Albert, Jr. died unmarried at the age of thirty. Olga married Cecil Newman of Cuero and they had four children, Cecil, Jr., Deryl, Bob and Jack.

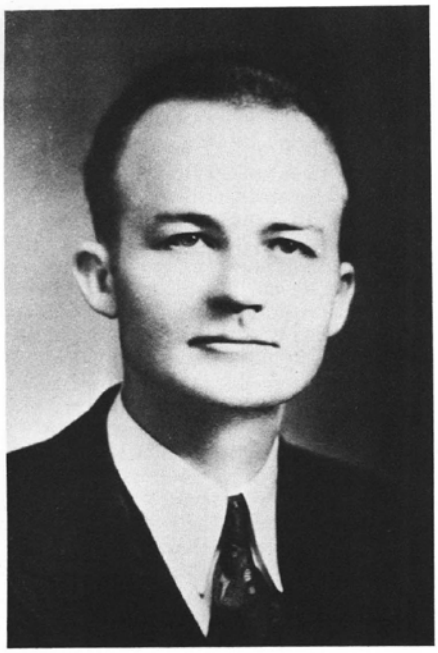
by Kyle A. Chaddock

KOEHLER, ALVIN HEINRICH

F510

Alvin Heinrich Koehler, a pioneer in the

Ca. 1912, Albert Klokau Family: L-R: Mary, Albert, Ewald, Olga, Albert, Jr., and Emma.



Alvin Heinrich Koehler

field of missionary activity among the Latin Americans in the Rio Grande Valley, was the son of Frederick Christian Koehler (b. 19 March 1879 DeWitt County, Texas; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. #1: 29 June 1904 DeWitt County; m. #2: 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Friedericka Sager) and Caroline Koehler, nee Sager (b. 29 September 1875 Arneckeville; d. 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Alvin Koehler was born in Arneckeville on 13 April 1907. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 26 May 1907. His baptismal sponsors were Heinrich Koehler, Heinrich Sager, Mrs. H. Sager, and Justine Koehler. Alvin Koehler was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on Palm Sunday, April 19, 1922. On 20 January 1933 in Pflugerville, Travis County, Texas, he wed Edna Bohls. The marriage of Alvin and Edna Koehler produced three children: Lois Elaine Koehler (b. 19 December 1936 McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas; m. 2 May 1959 Pflugerville to John Luedtke); Doris Faye Koehler (b. 13 February 1941 McAllen; m. 9 June 1963 Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, to William Ermel); and Ruth Elisabeth Koehler (b. 25 June 1945 Weslaco, Hidalgo County; m. #1: 6 February 1969 Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, to Donald Hormuth; m. #2: 1 November 1986 Las Vegas to John Foster). Alvin Koehler died in San Juan, Hidalgo County, on 22 November 1954 and was buried at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Pflugerville.

Following his graduation from high school, Alvin Koehler worked one year on the family farm in DeWitt County before entering Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, where he began his preparation for the ministry. After leaving Texas Lutheran College, he attended Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and graduated in 1932. He attended Pan American College in Edinburg for a short period of time in order to become more fluent in the Spanish language. He was ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville in December of 1932. He then began his work as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in San Juan.

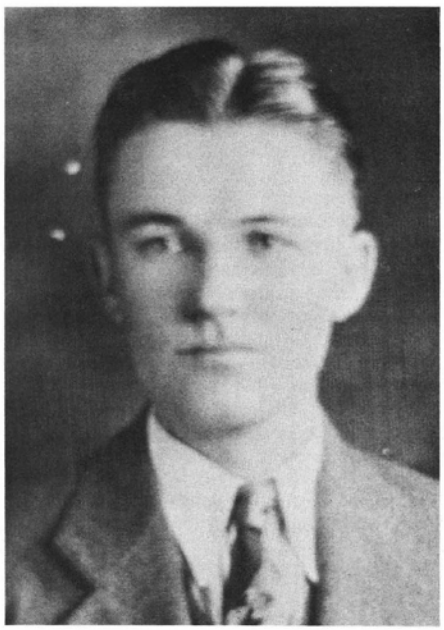
In 1938 the Board of Mexican Missions appointed Rev. Koehler field supervisor of the Rio Grande sector of the Mexican mission field. In 1948 the American Lutheran Church launched an expansion program, and, as a result, the Bible school was erected. Rev. Koehler was promoted to the office of superintendent of Mexican missions and also to the offices of director and dean of the Bible school. The expanding work of establishing various additional congregations and missions came under his supervision, and his long years of experience were called into service during July of 1954, at which time he participated in a survey of Lutheran World Federation interests, an endeavor which took him throughout South America.

Alvin Koehler was a man whose short life exemplified fearless efforts and tenacious perseverance as he sought to bring the word of Jesus Christ, his Lord, to those who might not otherwise have known of the love and forgiveness of the eternal Father. Rev. Koehler's relationship with God produced in him a strong, intrinsic faith which became characteristic of the effectiveness of his missionary work.

by Beverly Boehl and Judith Koehler Ludvigsen

KOEHLER, ARTHUR HENRY

F511



Arthur Koehler

No man in DeWitt County is more respected than Arthur Koehler. He is a man who, without complaint, meets his familiar responsibilities above and beyond the call of duty, a man who sets an example without dictating to others, a man who is concerned and supportive, but who does not meddle, a man who lives his religion without being self-righteous, a man who looks beyond the rough exterior to appreciate the inner person, a man who has overcome personal tragedies to become a stronger individual, and a man who, when family finances did not permit him to attain the higher education which he so clearly desired and deserved, took his books to the field and read them while plowing the crops. It was said of Hubert Humphrey that he taught us how to die, but we can say of Arthur Koehler that he has taught us how to live.

Arthur Henry Koehler was born in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas, on 11 September 1909. He was a triplet; his sisters, both born on the same day, were Olga Karoline Rath, nee Koehler, and Flora Friedericke Boehl, nee Koehler. The triplets were baptized on 17 October 1909 at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville; sponsors for Arthur Koehler were Mary Sager and Heinrich Koehler. The parents of the triplets were Frederick "Fritz" Christian Koehler (b. 19 March 1879 DeWitt County; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 29 June 1904 DeWitt County; m. #2: 4 November 1915 DeWitt County to Friedericke Sager and Caroline Koehler, nee Sager (b. 29 September 1875 Arneckeville; d. 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville).

On 23 September 1937 in Arneckeville, Arthur Koehler married Wilma Anna Marie Meier, daughter of Eugene Albert Meier (b. 8 June 1888 Schofflisdorf, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland; d. 28 September 1952 New Wehdum, Washington County, Texas; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County; m. 24 November 1912 Brenham, Texas) and Barbara Juliana "Julia" Meier, nee Trimpler (b. 5 October 1885 Troy Grove, LaSalle County, Illinois; d. 9 February 1974 Cuero; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero). Wilma Koehler, nee Meier, was born on 16 December 1913 in Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas. On Palm Sunday 1928, she was confirmed in Arneckeville at Zion Lutheran Church, where her father was pastor from 1925 until 1946. She passed away on 23 January 1958 in Cuero and was buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

On 7 February 1960 in Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, Arthur Koehler then married Ruth Zitelman, nee Evers, daughter of Harry Paul Charles Evers (b. 13 September 1884 Castel, Llano County, Texas; d. 29 October 1980 Cuero; bur. Liveoak Cemetery, Brady, McCulloch County, Texas; m. 10 August 1910 Brady) and Rosa Evers, nee Baze (b. 2 April 1886 Camp San Saba, McCulloch County; d. 17 September 1967 Brady; bur. Liveoak Cemetery, Brady). Ruth Koehler was born on 29 August 1911 in Brady. In 1955 she was graduated with a B.S. degree from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. She has taught school in Seguin, Brady, Stanton, Crystal City, and Cuero. She is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the University Club, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, where she sings in the choir.

The second marriage of Arthur Koehler produced no issue; however, two girls were born to his first marriage: Judith Grace Koehler (b. 5 November 1942 Cuero; m. 13 July 1963 Cuero to Fred Alan Ludvigsen) and Linda Marie Koehler (b. 6 January 1947 Cuero; m. 2 July 1966 Cuero to Robert Lee Meitzen.)

Records indicate that Arthur, Olga, and Flora Koehler were the only triplets ever born in DeWitt County. And what a surprise they were! According to oral history, Dr. Arnecke, of Arneckeville, arrived at the Frederick Koehler

home for the delivery. He requested that Justine Koehler, a nurse, assist him because he was aware of the possibility of Caroline Koehler might deliver twins. One little girl was born; then came another little girl, identical to the first. Dr. Arnecke was ready to tidy up when, low and behold, another baby was born, this one a boy. Indeed Caroline Koehler had delivered triplets, each weighing approximately four pounds. The neighbors all came to help, and the Koehler triplets became a community project.

The triplets were always on exhibit. Everyone coming through Arneckeville just had to see the triplets; cattle buyers coming through town, visitors to church and school, all and sundry wanted to see the triplets. Arthur Koehler recalls that he was often embarrassed by this attention and that he hated to be called in from baseball game to be placed on display.

Caroline Koehler died when her triplets were three years old, and the entire family moved in with her parents, Michael Sager and Heinricke Sager, nee Rath. Three years after the death of his first wife, Frederick Koehler married Friedericke Sage, his first wife's sister. She was the only mother the triplets ever knew, and they all loved her as they continued to live in the large Sager home.

The triplets started to school at the one-room school house in Arneckeville. There was one teacher to approximately forty pupils. The parents were responsible for purchasing the primers. At first, the triplets shared two primers because the store ran out of these books.

Arthur Koehler left the farm in 1930, at which time he attended Tyler Commercial College in Tyler, Texas, where he was enrolled in a course in business and another in radio telegraphy. In his younger years, he was employed at KNOW radio station in Austin and at filling stations owned by the Rath brothers and Felix Hiller in Cuero. After passing the postal examination, he was appointed city carrier for the Cuero Post Office on 1 February 1936, and he retained that position until 4 August 1962, at which time he was promoted to the position of assistant postmaster. He retired on 30 June 1972.

For all of his long and productive life, Arthur Koehler has been an active member of his community and church. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Zion on Palm Sunday 1924. He was accepted as a member of Zion at the congregational meeting of 30 December 1934. He became Secretary of the Sunday School teachers at Zion when they officially organized in 1932. On 1 January 1938 he was elected trustee. About 1945, he moved his membership to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, where he continued to give of himself and his time as a dedicated Christian. For example, he has served on the church council, on the building committee, on the stewardship committee, and in the Lutheran Brotherhood, sung in the choir, taught the Adult Bible Class, and served as a delegate to various synods all over the United States. In addition, Arthur Koehler has been active in civic affairs. He is a member of the Cuero Lions Club and is chairman of the Municipal Library Board.

Arthur Henry Koehler, the patriarch of the Koehler family, has faithfully and tirelessly served his God, his family, his church, and his community. He is the personification of what a human being should be.

by Beverly Boehl

KOEHLER, ELISABETHA KATHARINA, NEE SCHLITT

F512

Anna (Koehler) Menn

Elisabetha Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt, was born on 14 May 1811 in Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Ducy of Hessen, Germany. She was baptized in Leusel on 17 May 1811; baptismal sponsors were Johann Heinrich Decher, from Liederbach bei Alsfeld, and the grandmother, Elisabetha Katharina Decher. The father of Elisabetha Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt, was a farmer, Johannes Schlitt (b. 28 January 1777 Leusel; d. 6 April 1836 Leusel; m. 8 August 1805 Leusel), and her mother was Anna Catharina Schlitt, nee Decher (b. 3 April 1788 Liederbach bei Alsfeld, d. 6 October 1842 Leusel). Elisabetha Koehler sailed from Bremen with her second husband, Johann Valentin Koehler, her children, and her brother, Johann Friedrich Schlitt, on the Anton Gunther. They disembarked at Galveston on 2 January 1860. Elisabeth Katharina Koehler, died in DeWitt County, Texas, on 24 July 1894 and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville, DeWitt County.

Elisabetha Katharina Koehler was married twice. Her first marriage to a farmer, Johannes Kohler (b. 6 March 1815 Leusel; d. 3 January 1853 Leusel) took place in Leusel on 5 June 1842. Johannes Kohler was the son of a farmer, Johann Conrad Kohler (b. 4 May 1788 Leusel; d. 7 July 1864 Leusel; m. 29 April 1813 Leusel) and Barbara Catarine Kohler, nee Hofmann (b. 27 October 1796 Zell bei Romrod, Alsfeld District; d. 15 January 1873 Leusel). Elisabetha Katharina Koehler married for the second time on 3 June 1855 in Leusel); her second husband was Johann Valentin Koehler, the brother of her deceased first husband. Johann Valentin Koehler was born in Leusel on 23 December 1826. He died on 3 April 1906 in DeWitt County and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville. After the death of Elisabetha, Johann Valentin Koehler married Sophie E Schorlemmer in 1895 in DeWitt County.

Elisabetha Koehler, nee Schlitt, begat five children, all of whom were born in Leusel: Elisabetha Schlitt (b. 20 August 1836; d. 7 September 1836 Leusel); Heinrich Koehler (b. 6 April 1842; d. 12 November 1923 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1872 DeWitt County to Friedericke Justine Christiana Sager); Katharina Koehler (b. 6 May 1843; d. 1868 DeWitt County; m. 19 February 1866 in Texas to Herman Friedrichs); Anna Katharina Koehler (b. 24 April 1845; d. 23 March 1912 Yorktown, DeWitt County; m. 14 April 1867 in Texas to Heinrich Menn); Elisabetha Koehler (b. 22 May 1854; m. 1876 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, to Wilhelm Treude).

Before emigrating, the Koehler and Schlitt families had to settle various legal matters, such as deeds and debts, to the satisfaction of the Hessian courts. For example, the court in Alsfeld assumed the following matter and clarified it through a public notice in the Alsfeld weekly newspaper in June of 1859. Johannes Schlitt, father of Elisabetha Koehler, had apparently given his daughter an acre of land as a dowry upon her marriage to Johannes Kohler; however, Johannes Schlitt had apparently never entered this title transfer to the land register at Leusel. In 1638, in the course of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), Leusel was completely burned; apparently only sporadic records concerning legal positions and property titles were made thereafter. Johannes and Elisabetha Kohler sold the land — without registration. It is possible that Johannes Kohler had been planning to emigrate and that the sale of this land was in preparation for this endeavor. However, Johannes Kohler died, and his widow then married his brother, Johann Valentin Koehler, and with the pending emigration of Johann Valentin Koehler, settlement of the titles became a necessity.

by Beverly Boehl

KOEHLER, FREDERICK BUCHEL (FRITZ)

F513

Frederick Buchel Koehler, popularly known as Fritz, was born December 19, 1916 in Cuero, Texas. He was the fourth child of Fritz and Erna Buchel Koehler and the grandson of Otto and Olga Buchel, whose stories are given separately. He grew up in Cuero, graduated from Cuero High School and attended Texas A&M University. He returned to Cuero in 1940 upon the death of his father to help manage the family business, Koehler Dry Goods Co. In December 1941, immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Fritz enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corps. and was a fighter pilot during World War II. He was a flying instructor for a year and a half, then joined a fighter group preparing to go overseas when the war ended.

After the war, Fritz brought his love of flying

Fritz Koehler

home with him. He was the dealer for the Swift airplane in south Texas for a number of years. He made several emergency trips in his plane to Houston and Dallas to pick up medicines and serums for the local hospital.

On October 24, 1942, he married Anne Ruth Burns of Yoakum and they had two sons. Fritz, born in 1949 lives in Houston and Terry Burns Koehler, born in 1952 lives in San Antonio.

After Fritz finished his military service, he returned to Cuero to operate Koehler Dry Goods store until 1963 when he became cashier of the Buchel National Bank. Two years later, in 1965, he sold the store.

Fritz was a sportsman, enjoying fishing, hunting and golf. He helped organize the Cuero Sportsman Club which eventually grew into the Cuero Country Club.

F.B. Koehler died on October 19, 1979 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Anne Burns Koehler

KOEHLER, FREDERICK CHRISTIAN AND CAROLINE SAGER

F514

Triplets: Olga Koehler, Arthur Koehler, and Flora Koehler (Born 1909)

Frederick Christian Koehler (1879-1955)

Caroline (Sager) Koehler (1875-1912)

Frederick "Fritz" Christian Koehler was born on 19 March 1879 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, on 23 April 1879 and given the baptismal name Johann Christian Friedrich. His baptismal sponsors were Christian Sager, Ricke Arnecke, Christian Wolf, Elizabeth Koehler, and Friedrich Weiss. The parents of Frederick Christian Koehler were an immigrant farmer, Henrich Koehler (b. 6 April 1842 Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany; d. 12 November 1923 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1872 DeWitt County) and Friedericke "Ricke" Justine Christiana Koehler, nee Sager (b. 3 May 1854 Meyersville, DeWitt County; d. 24 June 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Frederick Christian Koehler died in DeWitt County on 21 May 1955 and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 29 June 1904 in DeWitt County, Frederick Christian Koehler married Caroline Sager, daughter of Michael Sager (b. 13 June 1843 Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany; d. 2 April 1915 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1866 Meyersville) and Heinricke Sager, nee Rath (b. 21 April 1842 Dettingen; d. 25 February 1928 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville). Caroline Koehler, nee Sager, was born on 29 September 1875 in Arneckeville. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 14 November 1875 and given the baptismal name Dorethea Augusta Amilie Karoline. Her baptismal sponsors were John Offers, Fr. Krueger, Friedrich Sager, Heinrich Arnecke, A. Hiller, and Dorothea Bade. Caroline Koehler was confirmed at Zion Lutheran on Palm Sunday, 14 April 1889. She was an active member of her church and probably played the organ at church services. It is documented that, in 1900, she sang in the choir led by Pastor John Herzig, who was pastor at Zion from 1900 until 1904. In Arneckeville on 16 October 1912, Carolyn Koehler died at the age of thirty-one of what was reportedly a tubal pregnancy. She was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville. After Carolina's death, Frederick Christian Koehler married her sister, Friedericke "Ricke" Sager on 4 November 1915 in Arneckeville. Friedericke Koehler, nee Sager, was born on 29 December 1868 in Arneckeville. She was baptized on 7 March 1869 and given the baptismal name Justine Hulda Friedericke. She was confirmed at Zion on 25 March 1882. She died on 17 May 1958 in DeWitt County and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

The second marriage of Frederick Christian Koehler was without issue; however, his first marriage produced five children, all born at Arneckeville: Ella Justine Friedericke Koehler (b. 19 April 1905; d. 28 August 1981 Victoria, Victoria County, Texas; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 25 November 1926 Arneckeville to Eugene Ruschhaupt); Alvin Heinrich Koehler (b. 13 April 1907; d. 22 November 1954 San Juan, Texas; bur. Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Pflugerville, Travis County, Texas; m. 20 January 1933 Pflugerville to Edna Bohls); Olga Karoline Koehler, triplet (b. 11 September 1909; d. 5 December 1981 Pasadena, Harris County, Texas; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero; m. 22 May 1930 Arneckeville to Edward Arthur Rath); Flora Friedericke Koehler, triplet (b. 11 September 1909; m. 11 November 1932 Arneckeville to Elmo William Boehl); Arthur Henry Koehler, triplet (b. 11 September 1909; m. #1: 23 September 1937 Arneckeville to Wilma Anna Marie Meier; m. #2: 7 February 1960 Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas to Ruth Zitleman, nee Evers).

Little did Fred and Caroline Koehler know, when they married in 1904, that within five years they would become the talk of the county. Records indicated that Caroline Koehler gave birth to the only set of triplets ever born in DeWitt County. How miraculous it was that she and the triplets survived without benefit of intensive care specialists or incubators or special noe-natal care units! And yet how sad it was that this young mother died three years later and that the never enjoyed the pleasure of seeing her children grow up to become

respected and productive adults.

When his first wife died, Frederick Koehler was unable to manage with five children, three of whom were triplets. He moved the family in with his wife's parents, Michael Sager and Heinricke Sager, nee Rath. When the triplets were six years old, Frederick Koehler married Friedericke Sager, his first wife's sister, and the family continued to live in the sprawling Sager house. It was their step-mother, Friedericke, who actually raised the children, and they loved her as they would have loved their own mother. According to Arthur Koehler, Friedericke never showed any partiality to any one of the children, and on their birthday, each triplet had a small individual cake.

Frederick Christian Koehler was an active member of the Lutheran faith. He was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on Palm Sunday, 26 March 1893 and was accepted as a member of the congregational meeting of 18 December 1904. He was elected trustee on 31 December 1905, on 28 December 1913, ca. 1929-1930, and again on 27 December 1931. Under the direction of Pastor John Herzig, who served Zion as pastor from 1900 until 1904, a band was formed. Pastor Herzig taught each band member to play an instrument. Frederick Christian Koehler was in the brass band of 1904, and he also sang in the choir.

Frederick Koehler's life was at times filled with tribulation, loss, and distress, but he called upon his reservoir of inner strength and faith to rise above the swirling waters and soar like a bird into the arms of his God in Heaven. A respected leader in his community, a father and husband devoted to his family, a man always serving his Lord, Frederick Christian Koehler was a man whose place in the history of DeWitt County will not soon be forgotten.

by Beverly Boehl

Erna Louise (Buchel) Koehler 1930

KOEHLER, FRITZ AND ERNA BUCHEL

F515

Fritz Koehler was born in Goliad, Texas on June 8, 1866, the youngest child of the William Koehler family. William had come to America from Germany in the 1850's, a young man with the intention of going to California. He missed the wagon train and wound up in southern Texas, presumably decided that California could wait. Establishing a mercantile business and a family, he lived several years in Goliad, then moved to San Antonio.

Fritz, the son, was educated in a German-English school where his musical talents were recognized and developed, in piano and voice, singing in church choirs.

The family then moved their business and home to Cuero, Texas where it became Koehler Dry Goods Store.

Soon after moving to Cuero, Fritz met Erna Louise Buchel who also had been educated in San Antonio at a German-English school, then finishing at Miss Mulholland's School for Young Ladies. Piano and organ were her particular choice of musical instruments. After returning to Cuero, Erna accompanied Fritz by piano or organ for his bass voice recitals. At that time she became the volunteer organist at Grace Episcopal Church, a post she held for fifty years. Later they developed and gave due piano recitals.

Their marriage was solemnized at Grace Church on November 21, 1906 – at what must have been a huge wedding – guests came from the town, the area, and cities. The small church overflowed as did the area around it, where people could stand. Upon leaving the church the crowd formed an impromptu procession to the Buchel home a few blocks away. Led by the bride and groom and escorted by the crowd, they walked to the wedding reception, under flower-laden arches which they had brought with them. Later, the couple departed by train for New Orleans, as was the mode of the day — while the crowd waved!

In 1911 a disastrous fire occurred in Cuero, which wiped out a block on the main street. Including the main business houses, it took Koehler Dry Goods with it. Rebuilding was immediate, a larger brick building that housed not only Koehler's but a bank, upstairs offices and a large grocery story, which stand today.

There were five children from this marriage: Helen, Louise, Frances, Fritz, and Dorothy. Doris Buchel Kirkham joined the family at age 12, after the death of her mother Freida Buchel Kirkham. Harold, her brother, remained with his father Dr. H.L.D. Kirkham and attended Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee.

The varied household, of many interests and talents and fun, was held together even more by music and the love of music. The children will always remember the musical evenings at Grandmother Buchel's home – just a block

Fritz Koehler 1930

Aug. 31, 1946. Seated L-R: Doris Kirkham Brokaw, Walter Hill Bywaters, Helen (Koehler) Bywaters, Erna (Buchel) Koehler, Olga (Vahldieck) Buchel, Frances (Koehler) Witcher, Baby Stephen T. Witcher, Anne (Burns) Koehler, Dorothy Anne Koehler. Second row, L-R: Theodore Waggoner Bywaters, Jr., Louise (Koehler) Giesecke, Arthur Giesecke.

down the street! In the large Music Room containing two large pianos, children rolled and tumbled on the floor. Laughing and shrieking as they tried to catch the musicians flying feet.

Fritz Koehler died in January 1941, followed by Erna Buchel Koehler in January, 1977. Five children survive.

Helen lives in Dallas, Texas – married Dr. T.W. Bywaters in 1930 – two sons – Ted and Walter

Louise lived in Ballinger, Texas – married Arthur Giesecke in 1933. No children. Deceased: Louise – 1988; Arthur – 1989

Frances lives in Canon City, Colorado. Married John Stump Witeler in 1939. One son – Steve.

Fredrick (Fritz) Koehler lived in Cuero, Texas. Married Anne Burns in 1942. Two sons – Fritz and Terry. Deceased: Fritz in 1979.

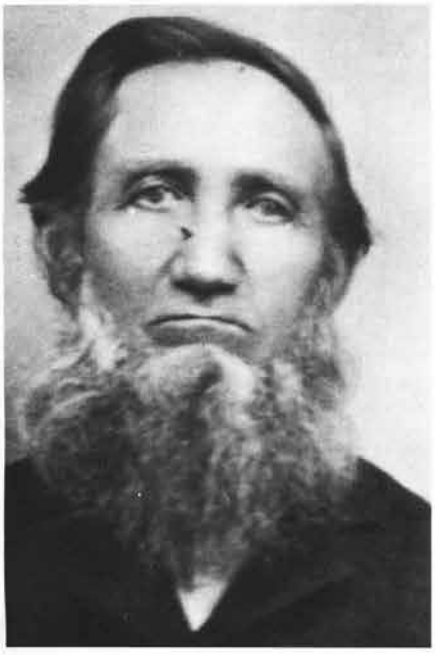
Dorothy Ann lives in Dallas, Texas. Married Taylor Lander. Two sons: Winn and Chris.

Doris Kirkham lives in Houston, Texas. Married Charles Brokaw in 1937. No children.

by Helen Koehler Bywaters

KOEHLER, HEINRICH AND FRIEDERICKE JUSTINE CHRISTIANA SAGER

F516



Heinrich Koehler (1842-1923)

Heinrich "Henry" Koehler was a prosperous farmer near Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas, and an upstanding and respected citizen in his community. He was born on 6 April 1842 in Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany. He was baptized in Leusel on 5 May 1842. His baptismal sponsor was Heinrich Decher, unmarried second son of Johannes D ecker, a citizen and

Friedericke (Sager) Koehler (1854-1935)

farmer in Liederbach bei Alsfeld. Heinrich Koehler was the son of a farmer, Johannes Kohler (b. 6 March 1815 Leusel; d. 3 January 1853 Leusel; m. 5 June 1842 Leusel) and Elisabetha Katharina Kohler, nee Schlitt (b. 14 May 1811 Leusel; d. 24 July 1894 DeWitt County; m. #2: 3 June 1855 Leusel to Johann Valentin Koehler, brother of Johannes Kohler). Heinrich Koehler was confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Leusel on 11 May 1856. Along with other members of his family, he sailed from Bremen to America on board the *Anton Gunther* and disembarked in Galveston on 2 January 1860. Having stated that he "doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Emperor of German," he became a naturalized American citizen on 4 January 1892 in DeWitt County. Heinrich Koehler died on 12 November 1923 in the Burns Hospital in Cuero, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 7 January 1872, in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, Heinrich Koehler married Friedericke "Ricke" Justine Christiana Sager, daughter of the minister, farmer, and cabinet maker, Christoph Adam Sager (b. 3 April 1836 Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany; d. 27 August 1869 Arneckeville; m. 1 July 1853 Meyersville, DeWitt County) and Justine Sophie Sager, nee Dreier (b. 2 June 1833 Bosingfeld bei Extertal, Principality of Lippe, Germany; d. 16 December 1916 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Friedericke Koehler was born in Meyersville on 3 May 1854. Records indicated that in 1900 she was a member of the Zion Lutheran Choir, led by Pastor John Herzig, who served Zion as pastor from 1900 until 1904. Friedericke Koehler died of angina pectoris on 24 June 1935 in Arneckeville. She was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Arneckeville.

Heinrich and Friedericke Koehler begat six children, all of whom were born in DeWitt County; Justine Koehler, baptized Fredericke Valentina Justine (b. 1 March 1873; d. 23 May 1952 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Anna Koehler, baptized Anna Bertha Caroline (b. 23 November 1874; d. 26 May 1911 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 23 October 1901 DeWitt County to Carl Theophil Schorlemmer); John Koehler, baptized Johann Heinrich Friedrich (b. 9 February 1877; d. 3 December 1956 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 28 August 1901 DeWitt County to Ottillie Meyer; m. #2: 9 February 1953 DeWitt County to Lena Sager); Frederick "Fritz" Christian Koehler, baptized Johann Christiana Friederich (b. 19 March 1879; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 29 June 1904 DeWitt County to Caroline Sager; m. #2: 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Friedericke Sager, sister of Caroline; Henry Michael Koehler, baptized Heinrich Ludwig Michael (b. 11 May 1881; d. 31 July 1951 Houston, Harris County, Texas; bur. Woodlawn Garden of Memories, Houston; m. 29 March 1904 DeWitt County to Sophie Meyer); Caroline "Lena" Koehler, baptized Caroline Justine Elizabeth (b. 15 May 1883; d. 16 September 1946 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas; bur. Tivoli, Refugio County, Texas; m. 1 June 1904 Arneckeville to Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer).

Although Texas joined the Lost Cause and became part of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, many German Texans were opposed to secession. They were tired of the strife and war and disunity which they had experienced in their motherland; in addition, many were completely devoted to the Union and were also adversely opposed to the concept of slavery and the continuation of human bondage. (As an aside, it should be noted that because German immigrants did not engage in the practice of owning slaves, the Germans worked their own cotton. In fact, because of the special care of its handling, cotton cultivated by the Germans was more valuable on the open market than was cotton grown by slaves.)

In New Orleans, on 27 October 1862, Heinrich Koehler enlisted in the Union forces for a period of three years. He served as a private in Company A (formerly Capt. Noyes' Company) of the First Regiment Texas Cavalry. Koehler was listed as present on the muster rolls from November 1862 until January 1864. In January 1864 he was on a scouting mission, and he was on another scouting mission in March of that year by order of Col. Haynes. During this time period, Koehler owed the United States $1.44 for ordinance. He was present in his own company from May to August. In September or October 1864 he was again on scouting duty. During the period he owed the United States $2.55 for camp and garrison. The muster rolls of November/December 1864 showed that he was on detached service at West Pascaguela, Mississippi, and the rolls from January to April of 1865 denoted that he had been detached as a provost guard for General E.J. Davis since 17 October 1864. In April 1865 he served as a provost guard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Koehler was listed as present from May until August 1865. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of service and mustered out in San Antonio on 31 October 1865. His detachment muster-out roll stated that $28.65 was due to the soldier. This same roll also denoted the following: "Bounty paid $25.00; due $75.00." It was remarked that he was "to be

stopped for ordinance lost . . . viz: 1 Lariat. To be stopped or detained under general orders No. 101 A.G.O. $15.20 ½ viz: 1 Spencer Carbine and accoutrements, 1 Sabre and Belt – 63 bull cartridges for Spencer Carbine."

Under the Act of June 27, 1890, Heinrich Koehler applied for a disability Union pension. As claimant, he made the statement on 22 July 1801 that he suffered "more or less all the time with chronic rheumatism, especially in his right knee joint incident upon injury received in army service by falling off his horse near Mobile, Alabama, deafness of both ears from catarah for a period of 10 or 11 years." On that same date, J.C. Cook, M.D., examining surgeon, stated that "upon examination, I discovered the complainant's right knee joint is stiffened and limited in motion to the extent of limping, with slight atrophy of the muscles and tendons of said knee . . . He has severe deafness of both ears . . . Inability to hear loud conversation beyond 3 feet . . . I discover evidence of otitis . . . I am satisfied that his disabilities are not the result of vicious habits. The sum of his disabilities is equivalent to loss of thumb and index finger . . . 12/18, so far as manual labor is concerned."

Heinrich Koehler thus qualified for his pension (certificate #944,899) and began receiving the sum of $12.00 per month, effective 19 January 1891. Under the Act of February 6, 1907, he made another declaration for pension on 15 December 1907. According to this declaration, Koehler gave the following description of himself at the time of his enlistment: height, 6 feet; complexion, fair; color of eyes, blue; color of hair, light; occupation, farmer. Over the years, the amount which Koehler received from his pension increased; for example, he was receiving $24.00 per month in 1908, $25.00 per month in 1912, $30.00 per month in 1917, $40.00 per month in 1918, and $50.00 per month in 1923. Upon his death, Friedericke Koehler drew a pension as the widow of a Yankee veteran.

Heinrich Koehler was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville; in fact, he was a charter member of this church. He was elected trustee at the congregational meeting of 1 January 1877 and treasurer at the congregational meeting of 20 December 1885. At the meeting of 26 April 1886, he was elected delegate to the Evangelical Lutheran Texas Synod at Yorktown, DeWitt County, and at the meeting of 11 March 1894, he was elected delegate to the First Evangelical German Lutheran Synod of Texas, held in Quihi, Medina County, Texas. Again, on 22 September 1895, he was elected delegate to the Third Delegate Conference of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Texas, held at Meyersville; and on 17 April 1898, he was elected delegate to the Old German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas, held in Swiss Alps, Fayette County, Texas.

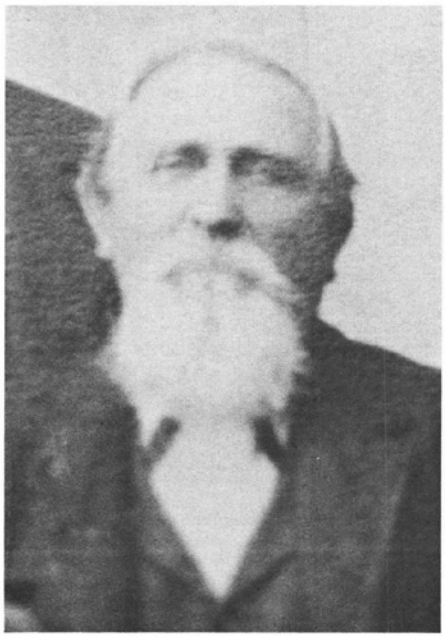
Heinrich Koehler was a man who forged a new life in a new land and who fought for his beliefs in the face of danger and hostility. In so doing, he has left a diverse legacy for his descendants.

by Beverly Boehl

Hotz Racket - Store
Glassware and Chinaware
Cuero, Texas

KOEHLER, JOHANN VALENTIN

F517



Johann Valentine Koehler (1826-1906)

Johann Valentin Koehler was born on 23 December 1826 in Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany, and was baptized there on 26 December 1826. He was the son of a farmer, Johann Conrad Kohler (b. 4 May 1788 Leusel; d. 7 July 1864 Leusel; m. 29 April 1813 Leusel) and Barbara Catarine Kohler, nee Hoffman (b. 27 October 1796 Zell bei Romrod, Alsfeld District; d. 15 January 1873 Leusel). Little documentation has been found regarding Valentin Koehler's church membership; however, notes of a congregational meeting of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas, reveal that he was one of nineteen members present on 30 December 1900. Johann Valentin Koehler died in DeWitt County on 3 April 1906 and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Johann Valentin Koehler was married twice. His first wife was Elisabetha Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt, widow of his deceased brother Johannes Kohler (b. 6 March 1815 Leusel; d. 3 January 1853 Leusel; m. 5 June 1842 Leusel). Elisabeth Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt, (b. 14 May 1811 Leusel; d. 24 July 1894 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville) was the daughter of a farmer, Johannes Schlitt (b. 28 January 1777 Leusel; d. 6 April 1836 Leusel; m. 8 August 1805 Leusel) and Anna Catharina Schlitt, nee Decher (b. 3 April 1788 Liederbach bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District; d. 6 October 1842 Leusel). After the death of his first wife, Elisabetha, Johann Valentin was married in DeWitt County in 1895 to Sophia Schorlemmer (b. 20 October 1857 Meyersville, DeWitt County; d. 21 August 1922 Victoria, Victoria County, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #2: 20 October 1907 DeWitt County to Carl A. Leuschner). Sophia Koehler, nee Schorlemmer, was the daughter of Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer (b. 8 April 1812 Darmstadt, Darmstadt District, Province of Starkenburg, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany; d. 23 August 1898 Meyersville; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. #1: 6 October 1844 Darmstadt to Elisabeth Friederike Sperb; m. #2: 6 December 1846 Darmstadt) and Eva Sophie Schorlemmer, nee Reinhardt (b. 11 September 1827 Darmstadt; d. 4 October 1900 Meyersville).

Johann Valentin Koehler and Elisabetha Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt; begat one child, a daughter: Elisabetha Koehler (b. 22 May 1854 Leusel; m. 1876 Meyersville to Wilhelm Treude). The second marriage of Johann Valentin Koehler was without issue.

Back in Leusel, in order to allow satisfaction to creditors, each prospective emigrant was required to publish his intentions in both the official gazette and in the newspaper which would be read in his village and district. Johann Valentin Koehler had already published his intention to emigrate and asked for release from the subject bond in 1857. Although, for some reason or other, this original request was denied, on 7 May 1859 he again announced his intention in the official gazette and in the Alsfeld weekly newspaper; and his application was finally granted and his passport issued on 18 October 1859.

On 5 October 1859 Johann Valentin Koehler published an auction notice in the Alsfeld weekly newspaper. In effect, on 17 October 1859 he put up for auction his entire household goods, which included the following: three oak wardrobes, a chest of drawers, six bedsteads, a kitchen cupboard, a wall clock with cabinet, several pillows and cushions, household linen goods, tables, chairs, and other household utensils of every kind.

Over and over again, the members of the Koehler and Schlitt families demonstrated rare astuteness in financial matters. Under the pressure of time, most emigrants sold their houses and real estate in order to obtain ready cash. As a rule, they, therefore, sold their property cheaply or at loss. However, notices in the Alsfeld weekly newspaper suggested that the Koehlers did not make this mistake. Johann Valentin Koehler sold his household goods and crops without constraint. However, he allowed the Jewish merchant Gutkind Rothschild, from Angenrod, a neighboring village, to sell the Koehler house and real estate and moreover allowed Rothschild until Christmas to make the payment on the debt. According to Helmuth Riffer of Alsfeld (January, 1989), this was an unusually skillful and intelligent manipulation in that Rothschild and Koehler had gained time and were thus able to obtain an optimum price for the real estate; the money for the net proceeds was then transferred to America.

Johann Valentin Koehler, with his wife, his brother-in-law, Johann Friedrich Schlitt, his daughter, and his step-children (i.e., his nephew and nieces), sailed from Bremen aboard the *Anton Gunther* and landed in Galveston on 2 January 1860. The DeWitt County federal census enumerated on 10 August 1860 indicated that Valentin Koehler was living in the household headed by his wife's brother, Johann Friedrich Schlitt. The occupation of each was listed as farmer. The value of real estate was listed as $4000, not an inconsiderable sum for the times.

In pursuance of the state law providing for the recruiting of local military units for ultimate state service, DeWitt County citizens

organized a number of infantry and cavalry companies. Many prominent pioneer names appeared as officers, non-commissioned officers, and men on the rolls of these volunteer units; and records indicated that Johann Valentin Koehler was a member of Captain Robert Kleberg's Coleto Guards, headquartered at Meyersville (17 June 1861).

Mention was made in the records of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville that, on the night of 25 March 1865, a terrible storm tore away the banks of the Coleto and that the "house of Mr. Koehler" was torn loose from its foundation. Johann Valentin Koehler survived this and many other hardships and was listed as the head of the household on the DeWitt County federal census enumerated in June of 1870.

Johann Valentin Koehler filed his Declaration of Intent to become a United States citizen in DeWitt County on 23 January 1871. He was granted citizenship in that same county on 22 December 1879 on the oath of two citizens that he "has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States of America."

by Beverly Boehl

KOEHLER, JUSTINE, R.N.

F518

Justine Koehler, R.N.

Justine Koehler was born on 1 March 1873 in DeWitt County, Texas. She was the daughter of Heinrich Koehler (b. 6 April 1842 Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany; d. 12 November 1923 Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. 7 January 1872 Arneckeville) and Friedericke Justine Christiana Koehler, nee Sager (b. 3 May 1854 Meyersville, DeWitt County; d. 24 June 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). On 27 April 1873 at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville, Justine Koehler was baptized and given the baptismal name Fredericke Valentina Justine. Her baptismal sponsors were Frau Sager, Justine Sager, and Valentin Koehler. On Palm Sunday, 3 April 1887, Justine Koehler was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, where she continued to serve as an active member until her death. For example, in 1900 she was pictured as a member of the choir led by Pastor John Herzig, and she was a charter member of the Women's Missionary Society, which was officially organized on 15 November 1949. She died, at the age of 79 years, 2 months, and 22 days, on 23 May 1952 in DeWitt County and was buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

According to *A History of DeWitt County* b y Nellie Murphree (1962), Salome Hospital, which was built by the Cuero Hospital Association, received a state charter in February of 1893. Its first chief of staff was Joe H. Reuss, M.D. Associated with him were Joe M. Reuss, M.D., Daniel B. Blake, M.D., and Joe Lackey, M.D. It was at this institution that Miss Justine Koehler received her nurse's training, and graduated from the Nurses' Training School which was conducted there. She worked for a number of years at Burns Hospital in Cuero and was later employed in private nursing endeavors.

Having dedicated her life to serving the sick and infirm, Justine Koehler became one of the most efficient and respected nurses in the DeWitt County area. From the earliest times, the art of nursing has been practiced with skill and much self-sacrifice and devotion. The life of Miss Justine Koehler exemplified these traits and was a credit to the nursing profession in its finest hour.

by Beverly Boehl and Judith Koehler Ludrigson

KOEHLER, WILLIAM

F519

William Koehler (1823-1914) was born in Germany where his father was head forester for one of the princes. William became a prize-winning shot as a young man. In 1842, at age 19, William left Germany and arrived in New Orleans. Six years later in 1849, he decided to join the gold rush to California. The wagon train had gone ahead so he set out to catch up, taking his wares for a general store with him. He lost his way and ended up in Goliad, Texas. He liked the spot and decided "this was good enough for him." So he set up his little store.

William Koehler

One of the best family stories occurred at this time. The people of Goliad warned the young man that there was a gang that came that way and they would shoot up any store they found open. He declared that he would not close his store and they would not shoot it up. Of course the word got around! Soon the news came that the gang was coming. The businesses duly closed up, but William, all five feet four inches of him, stood in his doorway with his rifle by the door. When the gang came, they rode up to the door and demanded that he stand aside, they were going to ride through, and the leader's horse put one foot on the little boardwalk in front. William quickly picked up his rifle and leveled it at the leader. Looking at the man with his steady blue eyes he said "If your horse puts his other foot on that walk, you're a dead man." The leader looked at him a moment and reined in his horse, exclaiming "I believe the damn Dutchman will shoot!" They they all started laughing and rode off. William never closed his store and they never bothered him.

In the 1850's William went to New Orleans and there married Helena Wilde (1836-1903). We know little of her except that she was born in Alsace Lorraine and that her trousseau was made by slaves in or near New Orleans. William gave her diamond earrings in 1857 for her wedding gift. They are still in the family. The couple went back to Goliad. The first two children died of diphtheria within one week of each other. Perhaps because of this, early in the 1860's they moved to Germany. They lived there about two years. One child, William K. Koehler, (1864-1915) was born there.

Germany didn't seem so wonderful after all, so back they came to Texas. Five more children were born to the couple. Fritz in 1866 in Goliad, Carl, Ernst, Fanny and August probably in San Antonio. The family had moved there and had a home on the San Antonio River. Fritz as a boy helped to care for the horses. He used to swim them across the river and back to wash them. He and the others were educated in the German-English School. Fritz studied music and developed a fine bass voice. He sang in the Catholic choir for many years.

In 1890 the Koehler family moved to Cuero, Texas. William and his two sons, Willie and Fritz opened Koehler Dry Goods Co. in the Buchel building. The building burned in 1911 but was rebuilt in 1912 and there they remained.

Fritz was immediately popular and in demand as a singer. Erna Buchel (1884-1977) first accompanied him at the age of eight.

On November 22, 1906 they were married. They had five children: Helen Koehler Bywaters, Louise Koehler Giesecke, Frances Koehler Witcher, Dorothy Koehler Lander, and Frederick Buchele Koehler (Fritz). Fritz was married to Ann Burns of Yoakum, Texas. Doris Kirkham Brokaw, a niece, lived with the family from the time she was twelve.

by Frances K. Witcher

KOENIG, ALBERT AND MARY RATH

F520

Albert Koenig was born November 24, 1873, the son of Judge and Mrs. Edward Koenig (Nee Agatha Luder). He married Mary Rath, born December 6, 1872, sister of Johann (John) F. Rath, Albert, Johanna (Boehl) Fritz, Emma and Mrs. Ed Koenig. They had one child, Friedrich Royal born May 5, 1905. Author of this article spent many evenings playing "moon" with dad (Werner Wolf) and great uncle Albert. Albert died November 19, 1949. Mary moved to Cuero and passed away November 28, 1951. They are buried in Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville. Their old home was sold to Doris (Wolf) and Alton Goebel. The house was moved and remodeled by the young couple. They own the house today and raised two children there, Clifford and Faye Goebel. Cliff married Ella Francis Angerstein of Meyersville and Faye is now Mrs. Odell White, Jr.

by Rita Fitzgerald

KOENIG, CHARLES LOUIS, JR.

F521

Charles Louis Koenig, Jr.

Koenig's Drive-In East Broadway Cuero

Soil Conservation Feature — Charles Koenig on his land amid improved grass

Richard O. Koenig younger son of Charles L. Koenig, Jr. serving in combat duty in Vietnam War

May 27, 1917, Charles Louis Koenig, Jr. was born to Charles and Lena Schrade Koenig at their home in the Green DeWitt Community, only a short distance from his grandfather, Louis' big house with aunts and uncles and cousins galore. Charles was a curly-headed, brown-eyed lively child — as his mother said, ". . . quick as lightning." With his quickness he was a great help to his father and grandfather because by now Charlie and Lena, Charles and his baby sister, Ada, were living on the home place. He went to Green DeWitt School in his grandfather's front pasture built on an acre of land which Louis had donated. On a blustery winter day in 1929, the school building caught fire. At many family Sunday dinners, everyone would beg Charles to tell his anecdote about the fire. He would smile and begin,

"I can remember it just like it was yesterday. We smelled the smoke and heard the crackling of the flames. The teacher screamed 'out, out' and everybody ran out. But then, Ruben Sauer and I who sat together at a double desk, dashed back in, grabbed that desk on both ends, dragged it out all the way to the public road. We turned it around facing the school and sat down in it and watched the whole building burn to the ground." He never admitted, though, whether it was with sadness or satisfaction.

As he grew up, following in his grandfather's and father's footsteps, he became accustomed to hard work. When he went to Cuero High School, he worked before school by delivering cream to the Crescent Valley Creamery and bunches of vegetables tied with Spanish dagger strings to grocery stores, and after school by working for McLarty's grocery store. He attended Texas A&M for a year; completed Draughn's Business College in Houston and worked there for Oefinger Livestock Commission Company; returned to Cuero and purchased a small grocery store on East Broadway which he operated until he joined the U.S. Navy.

On August 15, 1943 in Detroit, Charles and Mary Alice Tullos of Houston were married. Later, when he went to the South Pacific, his wife came to Cuero where Charles Tullos Koenig was born June 16, 1944. After four years of service, Charles came home and in 1946 purchased McLarty's Red and White Grocery changing the name to Koenig's Super Market. On August 18, 1947, a daughter, Judith Lynette was born but died on the same day. On October 20, 1949, a second son, Richard Ormond was born.

Charles successfully operated Koenig's Super Market, down town on Main Street, which had been the location for a grocery store since the founding of Cuero in 1873. However, sensing the winds of change, Charles closed the store in September 1961. He then opened Koenig's Drive-In on East Broadway in May 1962 and it was an instant and continuous success, but not without shrewd management and hard work from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. seven days a week. The profits from the Drive-In enabled him to extend his cattle business. In addition to raising cattle on the home place, he leased the adjoining Boehl pasture and "Cousin Ed Koenig's" place. He was considered one of the best businessmen in Cuero and one of the largest cattlemen in the county. On February 1, 1964, his son, Charles, married Patricia Stell and had two daughters, Sherry and Marianne. In August, 1966, his son, Richard, entered the U.S. Armed Services serving in Korea and Germany, but distinguishing himself by three tours of duty in Viet Nam. He was awarded the bronze Army Commendation Medal in Viet Nam and the Air Medal when he served with the 210th Combat Aviation Battalion in Viet Nam. Richard's children were Eric and Amy.

In his later years, Charles suffered crushing blows — near-fatal meningitis, a bleeding ulcer, a debilitating stroke, and yet another crippling stroke. Even though his will to work was strong, his body was too weak. He finally decided, after being in the grocery business 40 years, to sell the Drive-In. Thereafter, he sold his cattle and his life, so to speak. He died June 11, 1987. On June 18, 1987 several of his old customers were at the Drive-In reminiscing about Charles, when one said, "There will never be another like him — he was a legend."

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KOENIG, CHARLES LOUIS, SR.

F522

On July 14, 1892, Charles Louis Koenig, fourth son and eighth child was born to Louis and Mary Golly Koenig. Louis was born June 8, 1856 in Alsace and died December 4, 1939. Mary was born in Alsace in November 27, 1862 and died September 19, 1906. The seven older children — Adolph, Josie, Sophie, Emelia, Alfred, Alma, and Henry — cared for Charlie and in turn Charlie helped care for the next four younger children — Lilly, Walter, Bertha, and Frank. It was well that the children took care of each other because Mary died from complications of the "milk leg" at only 44 years of age. Louis lived for 33 years more admirably acting as both father and mother instilling in his children the traditions of industry, perseverance, frugality, and hard work.

Family Picture. Charles Louis and Lena Schrade Koenig. Children: Charles L. Koenig, Jr. and Ada Koenig Kirk

Courting Days. Charles Louis Koenig and Lena Nora Mary Schrade about 1915

Charles L. Koenig, Sr. was presented this Certificate of Honor November 16, 1977 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas

Charlie cut his teeth on hard work. At a very early age, he cut cabbages for shipping with icicles hanging on his shirt tail; cut sugar cane and fed it to the molasses press; helped with butchering hogs; tended the sheep; and milked the cows. As he grew older, he plowed, cultivated, and harrowed the fields with mule-drawn teams.

Charlie was regarded as one of the hardest workers and one of the best farmers in DeWitt County. It was also purported that he had the best looking shiny black buggy and sleekest horse in the county. He was looked upon by many mothers as a "good catch" for marriage-age daughters. But Charlie had his sights set on Lena Mary Nora Schrade — the slim, tiny waisted, chestnut haired, brown eyed, semi-deaf daughter of Gustav and Sophie Hartman Schrade of Arneckeville. Her semi-deafness did not deter him, and he became her ardent suitor. He, himself, built the sturdy, two-bedroom wood house in the Green DeWitt Community for his beautiful bride. In 1989 seventy-three years after this house was built, it is still strong, sturdy and lived in.

May 27, 1917 their son, Charles Louis Koenig, Jr. was born and March 9, 1922 their daughter Ada Koenig Kirk was born — both in this house. However, they were soon to leave this first home. Louis Koenig, now living alone since the last one of his twelve children had married, asked them to come to live in the big house with him. This move was fortunate, for Charlie, carrying on in the traditions of his father, made the 677.49 acres productive. He plowed, planted, and harvested, often single-handedly, corn, cotton, hegari, hay, and peanuts. In addition, he grew vegetables for sale, raised cattle, sheep, hogs, and sold cream to the local creamery. With the help of his wife, Lena, he raised chickens and turkeys, selling eggs from both, and supplying turkeys "on foot" for the famous Cuero Turkey Trots. The wintertimes centered around butchering hogs for selling homemade sausage, home-cured bacon, and ham. Starting with no assets, he and his wife, through hard work and frugality, accumulated enough money to purchase the home place originally founded by Louis Koenig. Since this farm was continuously owned and operated by the Koenig family, it qualified for the Texas Department of Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program. Therefore, on November 16, 1977 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Charles Louis Koenig, Sr. was presented a Certificate of Honor for the Koenig Place founded in 1877 for a century or more of continuous ownership and operation as a family agricultural enterprise. Charlie, like his father, became a role-model. Charlie also became a mentor and source of security for his four grandchildren. His granddaughter, Sister Martha Ann Kirk with four degrees in higher education, observed about her grandfather with only a few years of formal education, "You know, Mama, Pamp is the wisest of men because he knows about the elemental things — earth, fire, and water and that for everything there is a season." He even displayed his wisdom in his last season — his time to die at 87. Because the doctor ordered him to come to the hospital for removing an obstruction from his colon, I went out to get him. I packed his suitcase and we walked out the door when suddenly he said, "Ada, wait, I have to go back in and say good-bye to this house — "I know I won't be back." In his wisdom, he knew aright.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KOENIG, CHARLES TULLOS FAMILY

F523

Charles Tullos Koenig, fourth generation on the Koenig Place, standing in front of primitive log house dating back to Louis Koenig.

Charles Tullos Koenig son of Charles Louis Koenig, Jr. and Mary Alice Tullos Koenig was born in Cuero, June 16, 1944. His great grandfather was Anton Koenig born in Alsace January 19, 1814, and his grandfather was Louis Koenig born in Alsace June 8, 1856. Just as Charles Koenig, Jr. stepped in the footsteps of his grandfather, Louis, and father, Charles, Sr. on the home place, so, too, would Charles T. follow along behind his father, Charles Jr., and grandfather, Charles, Sr. From them, he learned about live for the land and hard work. As he grew up, he worked in his father's grocery store, Koenig's Super Market. But the best and most satisfying work — no matter how hard — was whatever work he died with his grandfather in the country. After high school, he attended Texas A&I Kingsville for a year and then Victoria Collee where he met Patricia Ann Stell who was to be his wife.

Patricia Ann Stell daughter of Travis E. Stell and Geraldine Ward Stell was born in Bay City, Texas, November 6, 1944. When her father returned from duty in South Pacific in World War II, by his own hands, he built a brick home in Edna where Patricia grew up. The family moved to Victoria and Patricia attended Victoria College where she met Charles T. They were married in her family's home in Victoria February 1, 1964. Then they moved to Corpus Christi where Charles T. attended Del Mar College; graduated; and went to work. Patricia attended college for a short while and then worked as a secretary in the school system.

The next move was to Houston where Charles T. worked for the Richardson Chevrolet Company and Patricia, one of the first recipients of the Rockefeller Nursing Scholarships, attended Houston Baptist College of Nursing. On February 9, 1967, their first daughter, Sherry Ann was born. There was great rejoicing over this first granddaughter and great granddaughter. Later, her grandfather dubbed his large irrigation reservoir, Sherry Lake. Sherry, a very bright, curly-headed child, matured into a lovely young lady gifted with a beautiful singing voice — being chosen for all Regional High School Choir. As a member of the Victoria College Choir, she performed at the World's Fair in Canada. Sherry has also been active with her church group going on missionary trips to work with the Indian children in Wyoming. At this point

From left to right: Charles Tullos Koenig and wife Patricia Stell Koenig; Bar K cattle brand registered to Louis Koenig, January 16, 1878 and used at the present time; daughters, Sherry Ann Koenig and Marianne Stell Koenig.

in time, she is continuing her education in the field of business.

Their second daughter, Marianne Stell Koenig, was born in Houston January 18, 1971 with the grave birth condition — Spina Bifida Meningo-myelocele. At this time, specialists had been treating this condition for only five years. It was fortunate that Marianne was born in a large metropolitan hospital for within three hours after her birth, she underwent surgery. Thereafter, until she was three and one-half years old, she had eleven more operations. Her father, mother, and sister, Sherry, with courage and love, never faltered in support of her. All of them shared Marianne's triumph in the summer of 1989. Marianne attended Super Summer at Baylor University for five days of intensive Bible study and worship. During the closing worship service, Marianne, one of twelve out of 2,000 students, was presented the Unsung Hero Award for active participation in the Texas Olympics XI even though she had a physical birth defect.

In 1973 the family moved to Victoria where Patricia achieved her dream of becoming a nurse. She graduated from college with an R.N. Degree in Nursing. She was immediately employed by De Tar Hospital specializing in obstetrics and neo-natal intensive-care nursing. During the ensuing years, Charles worked as Parts Manager for automobile agencies and, in addition, served his community as a Reserve Deputy.

In 1987 coming into his inheritance from his father, Charles could only marvel that he was home again — drinking water from the well that his great grandfather had dug by hand; peering in the dark old log cabin of his great grandfather's; and poking around in the big barn. Soon, he and Patricia were raising improved Hereford cattle; up-grading the pastures with new grasses; adding a tank; and replacing the second story of the house. Charles had come full circle — back to his roots, the Koenig home place.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KOENIG, EDWARD, JR.

F524

Edward and Katharine (Rath) Koenig

1868 - 1945

Edward Koenig, Jr. was born at Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas on October 3, 1868. He was the son of Judge Edward Koenig, Sr. and Agatha Luder Koenig. Like his father, Edward Jr. was interested in cattle and farming. While he did raise cotton and corn, he was more interested in cattle raising and trading. Over time, he accumulated substantial land holdings.

Edward, Jr. married Katharine Rath of Meyersville on October 23, 1890. She was the daughter of Johann Peter and Hulda Thieme Rath. Five children were born to Edward, Jr. and Katharine Rath Koenig before her untimely death in 1906 at age thirty-five: Berthold, Friedrich (Fritz), Edwin, Felix, and Ella (Mrs. E.G. Brown). After the death of Katharine, Edward, Jr. continued to raise his five children in the large two-story home on South River Road.

Edward Koenig, Jr. was well-known as a gracious host at many a gathering at that place on South River Road. On numerous occasions, this generous, gregarious man entertained scores of relatives and friends with barbequed beef and all the trimmings. He maintained his good sense of humor throughout his life, interspersing his colorful language with occasional words of "Elsess." His death on October 4, 1945 was widely mourned.

by Mrs. F.B. Burdine

KOENIG, JUDGE EDWARD, SR.

F525

1844 - 1932

Edward Koenig, Sr. was the son of Anton and Rosina Golli Koenig. He was born in the town of Wesserling in the Thur Valley of Alsace, France on February 2, 1844. Edward emigrated to the United States in 1858 with his parents and two brothers (Alphonse and Louis). Arriving at Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas by way of New Orleans and Indianola, the family engaged in agriculture. Four years after arriving in this country, Edward, at age 17, enlisted in Company G of the Thirty-second Texas Cavalry with which he fought against the Union forces throughout the War Between the States. Mustered out of the service in Houston in 1865, Edward established a grocery business in Victoria, Texas. While residing in Victoria, Edward and Miss Agatha Luder were married on July 10, 1866.

Edward and Agatha Koenig returned to DeWitt County in 1868 where Edward again engaged in agriculture. In 1882 he was elected DeWitt County Commissioner, beginning what was to be a long and distinguished career of public service. After ten years as commissioner, Edward was elected County Judge, serving in that capacity from 1892 until 1896. He was Justice of the Peace for thirteen years and County Treasurer from 1910 until 1915.

To the union of Edward and Agatha Luder Koenig were born sixteen children: Marie and Rosa (twins), Edward, Anna (Mrs. Charles Semmler), Louis, Albert, Emma (Mrs. Louis Semmler), Bertha (Mrs. Albert Rath), Ida (Mrs. Louis Bluntzer), Alphonse, Otto, Apolina (Mrs. Ben Hagel), Elenore (Mrs. Ed Fuess), William, John, and Edwin.

Judge Edward Koenig, Sr. died in Cuero on March 23, 1932. He was preceded in death by his wife Agatha Luder Koenig, who passed away on February 9, 1927.

by Mrs. F.B. Burdine

Dr. B. B. Ogg. veterinari
Fischer's Stable, Cuero. dw)

Front Row — Judge Edward Koenig, Sr. and Agatha (Luder) Koenig. Back Row – L-R: Edward, Jr. Emma (Koenig) Semmler, Albert, Bertha (Koenig) Rath, John, Ida (Koenig) Bluntzer, and Alphonse.

Henry Joseph Koenig, Sr. 1950's Cuero, Texas

KOENIG, FELIX C.

F526

Felix and Annie (Miller) Koenig, 1926.

1897 – 1987

Carl Friedrich Felix Koenig was born at Cuero, Texas on December 23, 1897 to Edward, Jr. and Katharine Rath Koenig. He grew up on the Edward Koenig, Jr. home place on the South River Road, working very hard learning to be a "cow man" and how to butcher beeves and hogs for the family meat supply.

On November 30, 1926, Felix married Annie Miller of Inez, Victoria County, Texas. Annie was the daughter of Charles and Helen Luhrsen Miller. Felix and Annie had met while Annie visited on numerous occasions on River Road. Felix and Annie Koenig had two children: Felix, Jr. who died at birth, and Kathryn Marie (Mrs. Ben Burdine).

Felix was a good cattleman all of his life. During the early years of their marriage, Annie, one of the few good horsewomen in DeWitt County, rode by his side working cattle and causing quite a stir in the community. They were also well-known for their superb home-cured sausage, bacon, and ham. They had steady customers year after year for their famous products, the processing of which always took place under that huge, centuries-old live oak tree in the back yard of their Koenig Road home.

Felix Koenig passed away on April 23, 1987 in Victoria, Texas. He was a lifelong member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Arneckeville. He will always be remembered for his kind and gentle ways.

by Mrs. F.B. Burdine

Erna Carolyn (Juenger) Koenig 1940's Cuero, Texas

KOENIG, HENRY JOSEPH

F527

Henry Joseph Koenig, seventh of twelve children of Alsatian immigrant Louis Koenig and Mary Agatha Golly, was born July 11, 1890 in DeWitt County. He was raised on his father's successful farm and ranch. He attended Green DeWitt School, Nash Academy, and Tyler School of Business. Henry served in the United States Marine Corps in World War I in France and Germany. After military service, he worked for the H. Runge and Co. Bank in Cuero until it closed in 1932. Henry was then employed as secretary for the Cuero Building and Loan Association. In 1934 he was elected county clerk of DeWitt County, assumed office January 1, 1935, and served in that position until January 1, 1955. Henry was a strong supporter and an active member of the business community, both county and city. He was highly respected in the community as an astute businessman. Many remember his impeccable, dignified dress and good manners as he went about his business in Cuero and DeWitt County. He always had a pleasant hello for everyone and a tip of his hat for the ladies. He loved people and mingled easily at county and community gatherings. He served on the board of directors of the Cuero Building and Loan Association along with his father-in-law Charles Juenger, and his brother-in-law John J. Fischer, Sr. He served in this capacity for many years, and at one time served as president of the board. During his service, the board was instrumental in changing the Cuero Building and Loan Association to a federal institution. After that the institution's name changed to Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association. It is still an important financial institution in DeWitt County. Henry was involved in many other organizations such as the American Red Cross in World War II, the St. Michael's Catholic Church, St. Michael's Parish Board, the Knights of Columbus, the Sons of

Henry Joseph Koenig, Sr. 1900's Cuero, Texas

WWI. US Marine Corps 1900's Henry Joseph Koenig, Sr.

Hermann, the American Legion, Woodmen of the World, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Henry was married to Meta Arnold in 1919. She died in 1934. In 1937, he married Erna Carolyn Juenger in Cuero. Erna, the youngest of seven children of Austrian immigrant Charles Juenger and Theresa Buchhorn, was born July 12, 1906 in Cuero. She attended Cuero schools and St. Joseph School of Nursing in Houston. She received her nursing degree in 1931 and practiced with a fine reputation until her marriage to Henry in 1937. Henry and Erna had two children. Ramah Carolyn Koenig

Wedding picture Leo Dennis O'Gorman and Ramah Carolyn (Koenig) O'Gorman. March 3, 1962, Cuero, Texas

25th Wedding Anniversary Leo Dennis O'Gorman and Ramah C. O'Gorman 1987

was born December 12, 1938 in Cuero and Henry Joseph Koenig, Jr. was born February 12, 1941 in Cuero. In 1962 Ramah married Dr. Leo Dennis O'Gorman in Cuero. They have three children: Sean Dennis O'Gorman born May 3, 1963; Kevin Michael O'Gorman born December 20, 1967; and Maeve Eileen O'Gorman born September 25, 1972. Henry Joseph, Jr. married Janis Pisano in 1968. They have three children: Mary Lynn Koenig born January 22, 1970; Mary Kaye Koenig born July 21, 1971; and Henry Joseph Koenig, III born July 13, 1977.

In his private life, Henry Koenig was a kind, affectionate, and fun-loving person. He was particularly fond of children and young people. He took pride in his many nieces and nephews and developed an affectionate relationship with them. He was a devoted husband and father. His family was always a source of pride and pleasure to him.

He maintained a special relationship with his brothers and sisters and their families. He was looked upon as a special family advisor, especially after the death of his father Louis Koenig in 1939.

Henry loved good food, family parties, and especially family reunions. He had an engaging sense of humor which contributed much to the lively family gatherings. He was an avid domino player.

His avocation was gardening and he lovingly cared for the grounds of his beautiful home on 409 Second Street. During World War II he turned his "show case" flower beds into a productive vegetable garden. He also enjoyed river and gulf fishing. His vacations were always spent in Rockport relaxing with his family and fishing with his lifelong friend and brother-in-law John J. Fischer, Sr.

Erna Juenger Koenig was a devoted wife and mother and also gave her time in community service. She was an active member of many organizations such as St. Michael's Catholic Church, St. Michael's Church Choir, St. Michael's Altar Society, St. Michael's School PTO, The Catholic Daughters of America, the American Legion Auxillary, and is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxillary. She helped establish a church organization for the girl youths of her church, the Junior Catholic Daughters, and she served as a sponsor for many years. In later years, Erna continued her faithful church service as a Eucharistic Minister visiting the elderly in local nursing homes and taking them Holy Communion. For relaxation she played bridge regularly with her many friends.

After a lifetime of family and community service in the county in which he was born, Henry Joseph Koenig died on May 11, 1955 at the age of 64. Erna Juenger Koenig still resides in their home on 409 Second Street, Cuero.

by Ramah Koenig O'Gorman

S. F. Grimes F. S. Schleicher Rudolph Kleberg jr
Grimes, Schleicher & Kleberg
Attorneys-at-Law
~~Abstract of Land Titles~~
NOTARIES PUBLIC -:- CUERO, TEX

O'Gorman Family: Maeve Eileen O'Gorman, Kevin Michael O'Gorman, Ramah Carolyn (Koenig) O'Gorman, Leo Dennis O'Gorman, Sean Dennis O'Gorman. 1987

1989 Janis P. Koenig, Mary Kay Koenig, Henry J. Koenig, III, Mary Lynn Koenig, Henry J. Koenig, Jr.

KOENIG, LENA MARY NORA SCHRADE

F528

On October 10, 1895, the seventh and last child, Lena Mary Nora was born to Sophie Hartmann and Gustav Schrade at Arneckeville. Sophie was born June 26, 1861 and died March 6, 1915. She married Gustav May 1, 1883. Gustav was born October 27, 1854 and died April 29, 1899. Both are buried in Arneckeville's Zion Lutheran Cemetery. The six older children, Hugo, Emelia, Ottilie, Bertha, Ida, and Berthold, babied and doted on Lena. But tragedy was soon to strike this happy family. Gustav was a prosperous stockman, but lost everything in the catastrophic cattle depression. Shortly thereafter he developed a malignant facial cancer and died when Lena was only three years old.

50th Wedding Anniversary Picture. Charles Louis Koenig, Sr. and wife Lena Mary Nora Schrade Koenig

Lena Mary Nora Schrade about sixteen years of age

Charles Louis Koenig husband-to-be of Lena as a young man

Lena attended the German-English school and was a quick, bright, eager student. By the time she was fifteen years old, with her heavy, long flowing chestnut hair, dark brown eyes, and trim figure, she was the beauty of the community. Then another disaster struck. Their home burned! In spite of this loss, Sophie still managed to hold the family together. In the cold winter following, when Lena was sixteen years sold, she suffered a telling personal tragedy. She caught a virulent cold which lingered and developed into a catarrh in her ears and she was left with irreversible semi-deafness. Her hopes of continuing her education were gone as well as her dreams of being "on-stage" as her grandmother had been in Germany. Her disappointment and depression brought on a marked withdrawal from the social life of the community, but gradually she ventured out. And then Charles Louis Koenig came into her life. Her semi-deafness did not deter him from becoming her ardent suiter. In March 1916 he brought his beautiful bride to the home he had built in the Green DeWitt community. In this house, Charles Louis Koenig, Jr. was born May 27, 1917 and Ada Koenig Kirk was born March 9, 1922.

The next momentous event in their lives was

a move. Louis Koenig, Charlie's father was now living alone since the last one of his twelve children had married. He asked Charlie to move into the "big" house on the home place. Thereafter, with Lena as hostess for her father-in-law and husband, the big house (ca. 1900) became a gathering place for the large Koenig family and many friends in the Green DeWitt Community. Lena was known for raising beautiful flowers and pot plants — and many are the people to whom she gave a seed, a cutting, or a root. She also raised hundreds of chickens and turkeys. In the wintertime, she helped with the butchering of hogs and the sausage making. The ensuing years sped by, the children married, and the four grandchildren romped, played, and stayed in the big house. Lena had accomplished much in her heart-breaking world of semi-silence. More and more frequently, she would tell her children in a pensive mood, "I've found the answer — I've learned to pray." This final acceptance led her to thank the Lord, and, yes, even to praise the Lord for His will — her deafness! A miracle was soon to follow. In 1963, she underwent an ear operation — a stapedectomy — and the "ears of the deaf were opened." After this operation for the first time since she was sixteen years old, Lena shed her burden of deafness. After her return home, she said in joy and wonder, "I can hear the mockingbird mocking the cats; the locusts singing in the pecan tree; the cows mooing; the lambs bleating; and the hens cackling."

In her newly-opened world of sound, Lena whirled into activities of service. But probably her most rewarding contributions were to her church. With her advancing years, she could no longer raise real flowers, so she started making tissue-paper flowers to adorn the handmade Easter baskets sold by St. Michael's Altar Society. Her living room floor would be covered with hundreds of red, blue, yellow, pink, and purple perfectly-shaped roses and carnations. Easter after Easter, her flowers decorated the Easter baskets until her fingers, stiffened with arthritis, could no longer twist the delicate shapes. In her life many things worked together — and she firmly believed for good as Paul worte in Romans 8:28 "All things work together for good to them that love God."

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KOENIG, LOUIS FAMILY

F529

Antoine and Rosina Koenig — parents of Louis Koenig

Louis and Mary Golly Koenig

Anton and Rosalie Haller Golly — Parents of Mary Golly Koenig

Louis Koenig, born in Alsace Lorraine, emigrated to the United States arriving at the Port of New Orleans when he was about three years of age. On November 25, 1881 Louis applied for his naturalization papers and on January 12, 1882 it was ordered by the court that the said Louis Koenig be, and is admitted to be a citizen of the United States of America.

His father, Anton, was born in Alsace, January 19, 1814 and died in DeWitt County at the age of 86 years on October 18, 1900. Anton married Rosina Golli in Alsace in 1843. Rosina was born in Alsace, April 6, 1817 and died in DeWitt County at the age of 80 on April 5, 1897. Anton and Rosina are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas. Three sons were born to Anton and Rosina Koenig in Alsace — Edward, Alfonse, and Louis.

Louis Koenig was born in Alsace Lorraine June 7, 1855 and died in DeWitt County on December 4, 1939. He was united in marriage to Mary Agatha Golly by Father Anthony Heinkle at the Meyersville Catholic Church in 1877. Mary was born in Alsace, November 27, 1862 and died in DeWitt County at the age of 44 years on September 19, 1906. Mary's father was Anton Golly who died at the age of 47 years on June 11, 1884. Mary's mother was Rosalie Haller who died at the age of 39 years on January 26, 1882. Anton and Rosalie Golly are buried in the Meyersville Catholic Cemetery. Louis and Mary Koenig are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

From the original grant of the Empresario Green DeWitt, Louis Koenig bought his first 100 acres of land April 2, 1877 from William Hasson. From 1877 to 1977 — one hundred years — this homestead with later additions of 693.29 acres was continuously owned and operated by the Koenig family. Therefore, the Koenig Place was accepted into the Texas Family Land Heritage Program for 1977. On November 16, 1977 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Charles Louis Koenig, Sr. was presented a Certificate of Honor to the Koenig Place founded 1877 for a century or more of continuous ownership and operation as a family agricultural enterprise.

Twelve children were born to Louis and Mary Koenig and remarkably all twelve reached maturity. The first-born, Henry Adolph October 15, 1880 was the only one who suffered an untimely death — in 1904 only twenty-four years of age — from a ruptured appendix. The second-born, Mary Josephine Koenig Goebel April 17, 1882 died December 30, 1952. The third-born, Sophie Eugenia Koenig Jacob September 30, 1883 died October 25, 1973. The fourth-born, Emelie Louise Koenig Arnold March 12, 1885 died November 4, 1964. The fifth-born, Alfred Anton Koenig December 3, 1886 died December 29, 1966. The sixth-born, Alma Clara Koenig Rabel September 26, 1888 died June 26, 1955. The seventh-born, Henry Joseph Koenig July 11, 1890 died May 11, 1955. The eighth-born, Charles Louis Koenig July 14, 1892 died December 9, 1980. The ninth-born, Lilly Cecelia Koenig Gohmert September 2, 1894 died August 22, 1976. The tenth-born, Walter Charles Koenig December 5, 1896 died April 13, 1979. The eleventh-born, Bertha Elenora Koenig Hiller September 24, 1898 died April 17, 1981. The twelfth-born Frank Wilhelm Koenig December 14, 1900 died December 11, 1948.

Louis engaged in farming and livestock raising and was one of the first in the region to grow large crops of sugar cane. He had a molasses press and cooked many gallons for home use and to sell. He was also a pioneer in raising cabbage which was shipped out by railcar loads. In addition, he was a pioneer member and builder of St. Michael's Catholic in Cuero. To accommodate his twelve children, he deeded one acre of his "front pasture" for the Green DeWitt School which was used until the 1950's. His home was a gathering place in the community and one of the most common social activities was the "Sunday dinner' with rich and varied foods — meats, fresh vegetables, noodles, homemade breads, cakes, and pies, and mounds and mounds of whipped-cream desserts. Since these Sunday dinners always included several generations, the strict custom dictated that the older generation ate first; aunts and uncles ate second; older cousins ate third; and finally the famished children ate! As

Louis Koenig and nine of his twelve children — left-right: Louis Keonig, Emelie, Walter, Alma, Josie, Henry, Lilly, Charles, front row l-r: Bertha, Frank

one of Louis Koenig's youngest granddaughters, I fondly remember the long, mouth-watering wait.

by Ada Koenig Kirk

KOENIG, LOUIS JOHN

F530

Louis John Koenig, son of Walter Charles Koenig and Mary (Shimer) Koenig, was born at his maternal grandmother's home in Meyersville on October 6, 1924. (Grandmother was Johanna Schaeffer Shimer, wife of the first doctor in Meyersville, Dr. William Shimer.)

Louis received his elementary education at Green DeWitt School which he attended for seven years without missing one day. In fact the first time he was absent from school was in the ninth grade when his paternal grandfather, Louis Koenig, died. Also interesting was the fact that he had the same teacher for those seven years, Mrs. Opal Dromgoole.

After graduating in 1942 from Cuero High School, Louis served in the Navy from July, 1943 to April, 1946. On the Aircraft Carrier Uss Hornet he saw action in battles at Saipan, Iwo Jima, the Philippines, and off the coast of Japan.

When the war was over and he was discharged, Louis entered Texas A and I College in Kingsville. There he met his future wife, Beryl Christine Collin from Rockport, Texas. Louis graduated from A and I in May, 1949 with a BS degree in Agriculture and he and Beryl were married May 29, 1949.

Louis was employed by Quaker Oats and located in Austin, Tx. until May, 1950. At that time Louis left Austin to locate in Corpus Christi, Tx. where he taught sixth grade and coached at Sam Houston Elementary School while earning his Certificate in Education. During the 5 years they were in Corpus Christi four children were born: Larry Edward Koenig Sept 15, 1950; Cynthia Gail Koenig (Kastick) Dec. 11, 1951; Marilyn Patricia Koenig (Bourque) Oct. 9, 1953; Steven Louis Koenig April 16, 1955.

In July, 1955 Louis moved his family to Pasadena so he could earn his Masters Degree in Education Administration at the University of Houston. At the same time he taught at South Shaver Elementary School in Pasadena. He received his Masters Degree in 1957. He taught in South Shaver School for ten years (1955-1965) and was Principal at Gardens Elementary, Pasadena for 21 years (1965-1986). He retired in June 1986.

In Pasadena, Texas four more children were born to the family: James Fredrick Koenig March 28, 1957; Frances Joanne Koenig (Rowan) Jan. 25, 1962; David Paul Koenig Aug. 5, 1963; Jennifer Janice Koenig Jan. 13, 1970 The seven oldest have all graduated from college.

Larry lives in Austin, Tx. He received a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Management from Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches and earned a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of Texas. Cynthia graduated from the University of Houston with an Education Degree and teaches in the Seguin, Tx. High School. Marilyn received her Degree in Biology from Sam Houston University and teaches Junior High students in Pasadena. Steven earned a DVM Degree from Texas A&M and is a practicing Veterinarian in Houston. James received a degree in Urban Forestry from A&M and works in San Antonio. Frances is a Kindergarten teacher in the Pasadena District having received her degree at Sam Houston University. David graduated from Southwest Texas State in San Marcos with a Business Degree, then he graduated from Officers Training in Pensacola, Florida and received his wings as a Navy Pilot in Pensacola. He is currently stationed in San Diego, Ca.

Jennifer is attending Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches.

by Louis J. Koenig

KOENIG, WALTER C. FAMILY

F531

Walter Koenig home

Walter Charles Koenig was born December 5, 1896 to Louis Koenig and Mary Agatha Golly Koenig of the Green DeWitt Community. Both parents are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. After attending grade school in Green DeWitt, Walter worked on the farm with his father until his marriage to Mary Katherine Shimer of Meyersville on November 24, 1920. Mary was the daughter of Dr. William H. Shimer and Johanna (Jennie) Schaefer Shimer, who are both buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

Walter and Mary moved into their almost completed home built on the original 142 acres that Walter bought from Louis Koenig Through later additions from Boehl, Semmler, and Charles Koenig families, this was increased to 375 acres.

The first hard years saw the clearing of many acres of timber and selling it for firewood, the breaking of fields, and planting of corn, cotton, hegari, and hay. In the early 1920's Walter Koenig was the first farmer in DeWitt County to terrace his fields and to contour furrow. He was so successful that the County Agent used his farm for demonstration purposes. With the purchase of a 32 volt Delco power generator and a DeLaval milking machine, he began milking 16 Jersey cows twice daily.

On February 11, 1929, the Green DeWitt grade school burned down. Until a new school could be built, classes were held on their land in a vacant farm-worker house near Mary and Walter's home.

Mary began a new career in hatching poultry — both turkeys and chickens. They normally raised about 250-450 turkeys to maturity each year. Mary was a poultry demonstrator for Texas A&M for five years. In 1939 Walter and Mary's turkey tom entry in the Turkey Trot poultry show won Grand Champion. That turkey was taken by the well known Cuero "hitch-hiker", Keys Carson, to Washington, D.C. and presented to President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his Thanksgiving dinner.

Mary continued to upgrade and expand in the White Leghorn poultry field with pedigreed high-egg production male stock imported from California and by keeping meticulous egg production records on her own flocks. The quality of her birds became so well known that for many seasons she was hatching and selling 10,000 baby chicks per month from her little hatchery to customers from all over south Texas.

There were four children born to Walter and

Sept. 4, 1943 L-R: Walter Koenig, Louis Koenig, Billie Koenig, Katherine Koenig and Mary (Shimer) Koenig.

Mary. William Louis was born September 16, 1923, but died on the day of his birth and is buried in Hillside Cemetery on the Louis Koenig plot. Louis John was born October 6, 1924, Katherine Marie (Goebel) was born August 10, 1929, and Billie Waldyn (Southern) was born November 27, 1937.

Walter was a lifetime member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He died April 13, 1979 and is buried in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Cuero.

Mary Koenig is a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She recently celebrated her 91st birthday, and although physically frail, she enjoys excellent mental faculties. She still keeps up an active interest in world events and in her 22 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

by Louis J. Koenig

KOKERNOT, FREDERICK (FRED) DAVID AND ROSEMARY (BREEDEN)

F532

Frederick David (Fred) Kokernot was born August 25, 1917 in Gonzales at the home of his parents Frederick D. Kokernot Sr. (b. 1-12-1882 d. 2-26-1976 Gonzales) and Ruth (Spooner) Kokernot (b. 3-31-1893 d. 9-22-1980 Gonzales). He was the second of three children and the only son. Fred's mother was the daughter of Judge Thomas Harrison Spooner (b. 8-18-1849 Mississippi d. 10-3-1921 Gonzales) and Mollie Elizabeth Allen.

The Kokernot family was one of the early families in Texas. Fred's great-grandfather David L. Kokernot came to Texas in 1825 plying his shipping trade along the Gulf Coast. David L. Kokernot (b. 12-28-1805 Holland d. 12-10-1892 Kokernot, Gonzales Co.) arrived in New Orleans with his father in 1815. His interest in the shipping trade and a ship wreck eventually led him to Anahuac, Texas. It was in Anahuac that he first met Sam Houston. Later D.L. Kokernot brought his wife Caroline Josephine Dittmar (b. 1815 Hesse Cassel, Germany d. 1898 Kokernot, Gonzales, Co.) and infant daughter Elizabeth to live here in Texas. He was a farmer and traded along the coast using his small boats. He participated in the Anahuac Disturbance which was the first skirmish leading to the Texas Revolution. Several Texans were rescued among them was William B. Travis. It was here on Galveston Bay that David L. Kokernot helped to form the first Texas Navy with three tiny five ton schooners — the Stephen F. Austin, the Water Witch, and the Red Rover of which he was captain. Mr. Kokernot came to Gonzales the first time in October of 1835. He joined in the Siege of Bexar, the Battle of Concepcion and the Grass Fight. On November 29, 1835 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Texas Revolutionary Army. In April 1836, he was sent by his good friend General Sam Houston to warn President Burnet of the approaching Mexican troops and to evacuate the women and children. He possibly reached the Battle of San Jacinto after the victory.

D.L. Kokernot moved his family to Gonzales County in 1853 with their eldest son L.M. Kokernot (b. 6-6-1836 New Orleans d. 6-4-1914 Kokernot, Gonzales Co.). L.M. Kokernot served with honor in Terry's Texas Rangers during the War Between the States. Following the war, L.M. Kokernot gathered cattle and herded them up the trail to Kansas. It was during this time that L.M. Kokernot put together the LK Ranch in Kansas. By 1880 this enterprise had grown into the vast 101 Ranch in Oklahoma. He enlarged the acreage at the Big Hill Ranch in Gonzales County to be one of the largest in the area. L.M. Kokernot and his brother John Kokernot put together the 06 Ranch in Jeff Davis, Pecos and Brewster Counties. In 1897 L.M. withdrew from the 06 Ranch in favor of his eldest son.

L.M. Kokernot's first wife, whom he married in 1866, was Sarah E. Littlefield. They had five children. Sarah Kokernot died in 1874 at the birth of the fifth child. In 1876 L.M. Kokernot married Hulda Jane Carnes, daughter of William J. and Jemima Cole Carnes. They had three children: Leonara, who married Coke Emory Dilworth; Alma, who married Robert L.

Back Row: Gay (Kokernot) Ratliff, Shannon Ratliff, II, Claire Ratliff, Shannon Ratliff I, Joy Kokernot, Rosemary Ratliff. Seated: Rosemary (Breeden) Kokernot, Fred Kokernot and Sarah Kokernot (kneeling), 1989.

Brothers; and Frederick David, who married Ruth Spooner. The interest in ranching has carried on in the Kokernot family. Fred Kokernot, Sr. (b. 1-12-1882 d. 2-26-1976) was engaged in ranching until his death. Fred and his father Fred Kokernot, Sr. had a working partnership in Gonzales County.

Fred Kokernot and Rosemary Breeden were married April 1, 1938 in Round Rock, Texas. Buelah Margaret (Bennet) McDougal and Emalee (Wells) Hartman were their attendants. Rosemary Kibbe Breeden was born August 1, 1919 at the home of her parents Mabel Claire (Hall) (b. 1895 d. 1974) and Charles Goodwin Breeden (b. 1860 d. 1925). Dr. John Burns, a close friend of Mr. Breeden and Miss Minnie Ferguson, the nurse of great renown, were in attendance. Rosemary was named for her two grandmothers Rose (King) Hall and Mary (Kibbe) Breeden. An older sister Mabel Claire (b. 11-22-1916 d. 2-18-1983) was on hand for the event.

Rosemary's early years were uneventful. She was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church, Cuero, on November 4, 1919 by the Rev. A.J. Gaynor Banks. Her sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kibbe Breeden and Mrs. Ralph Wofford. Since there were no kindergartens in Cuero, Rosemary went to the Catholic School along with Jimmy (Dr. James) Pridgen and David Benjamin, her early childhood friends. In Vacation Bible School she met Buelah Margaret Bennet who has remained a lifelong dear friend. In the fall of 1925 Rosemary started to school at the old John C. French Elementary; Miss Dora Leonard was her teacher. It was the same fall that her father, Charles Goodwin Breeden, developed the "grippe" and on November the 22, 1925, he was taken to the Burns Hospital with pneumonia. Great effort by many was made to save his life. On Wednesday December 9th one of the first air planes to land in DeWitt County brought a specialist from San Antonio, Dr. Rice. (The trip had taken fifty five minutes.) Despite all efforts Charles Breeden died December 30, 1925. This was a very sad time. In January of 1926 the family of three moved into the house at 310 Terrell that C.G. Breeden had bought and remodeled for his wife Mabel.

Some years later Rosemary's mother, Mabel Breeden, married Edward Mugge in San Antonio at St. Mark's Church. The Right Reverend Everett H. Jones officiated. Rosemary and her sister Mabel Claire were their mother's attendants.

The summers were filled with swimming at Mr. Friedrichs pool, riding her mother's gaited horses and sunrise breakfasts with friends. Rosemary and her sister Mabel Claire were sent to Camp Kiva on Medina Lake and Camp Waldemar in Hunt, Texas. Later they spent a summer at Westmoorland in San Antonio. In 1934 in her junior year, Rosemary went to Our Lady of the Lake Academy in San Antonio. She roomed with Emalee (Wells) Hartman who was to remain one of her dearest friends. Rosemary graduated from high school at Incarnate Word Academy in 1936. She spent her freshman year in college there before going to the University of Texas at Austin. In 1937, Rosemary was invited by the San Antonio Order of the Alamo to be her sister Mabel Claire's Lady-in-Waiting in the Fiesta Court of Imperial Russia. Her escort was her future husband Frederick David Kokernot, Jr. They married in April of 1938. Later Rosemary went back to the University of Texas; she holds both a Bachelors and Masters degree.

After their marriage the Kokernots lived on the Kokernot Ranch in Gonzales County during this time their two daughters were born. Martha Gay was born in Cuero on November 2, 1941 and Mabel Joy in Gonzales on March 1, 1943. Fred engaged in ranching and stock farming. When World War II came Fred served in the United States Air Force.

Mrs. Kokernot has taught in the Cuero Public School System, Victoria Junior College and the Victoria and Gonzales Public School Systems. Both Gay and Joy Kokernot graduated from Victoria High School and went to the University of Texas in Austin. Both pledged Kappa Alpha Theta social sorority. Gay has a Bachelors degree from the University of Texas, Joy has a Bachelors and Masters degree from the University of Houston in Houston.

Martha Kay Kokernot married Shannon Harrison Ratliff I (b. 9-18-38) on June 6, 1964 at Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero, the Rt. Rev. Everett H. Jones officiated. Shannon is the son of John Thomas Ratliff and Bess Roak Ratliff. Following their marriage, Gay and Shannon moved to Washington DC where he was the clerk for Justice Tom Clark, a Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. The next year they returned to Texas and Shannon became a partner in the law firm of McGinnis, Lockridge, and Kilgore in Austin. Shannon Ratliff I is a member of Board of Regents for the University of Texas. The Ratliffs have three children: Shannon Harrison II (b. 12-26-67), Rosemary Kokernot Ratliff (b. 9-15-71), and Claire Elizabeth Kokernot Ratliff (b. 10-2-72). Each of the Ratliffs graduated from their school in 1990; Shannon graduated from Haverford College, Haverford, Penn., Rosemary from St. Stephens High School, Austin and Claire from Hyde Park High School, Austin. Gay Ratliff has been active in the Theta Alumni, the Junior League of Austin, the Austin Lyric Opera and the Austin Lyric Opera Antique Show. Gay studied in Paris in 1979 at the Museum of Decorative Arts under Parsons School of Design. She has her own successful decorating studio "Gay Ratliff Interiors."

Joy worked for Delta Air Lines for eighteen years before going to Lexington, Kentucky as a psychologist with a firm counseling youth. She still lives in Lexington and is a realtor. Her daughter Sarah Katherine Elizabeth was born May 3, 1982. Joy and Sarah are very active members of their church. Sarah is a student at the Montesori School; Joy serves as president of the school board.

The Kokernots live in Cuero in the restored home of Rosemary's parents — The Heaton-Breeden House. Fred Kokernot has farming interest in San Patricio County and is interested in the breeding of quarter horses. Rosemary is interested in the continuance of the Main Street Project and the restoration of the nineteenth century buildings in Cuero, and Grace Episcopal Church. She has continued as a sustaining member of the Victoria Junior League, a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Texas Historical Foundation.

by Rosemary Kokernot

THE CITY HOTEL

GUS BROMGOOLE, Proprietor.

Popular Rates. CUERO,
Best Accommodations. TEXAS.

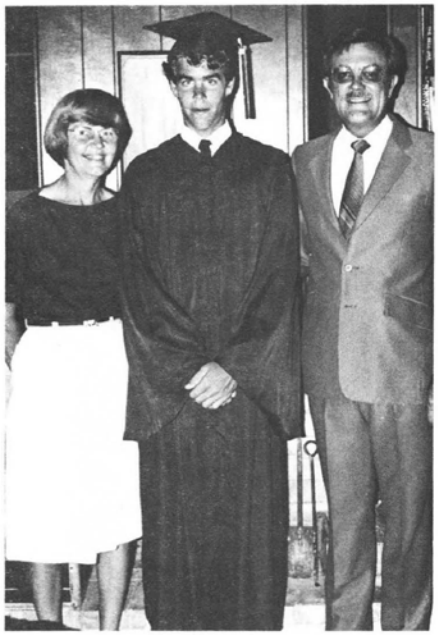
KOLODZIEJCZYK, EVEREST AND LULA B. (KASTEN)

F533

Everest Kolodziejczyk in his Nordheim barber shop. Antique back-bar is as old as Nordheim. Customer is Vernon Osterloh.

Lula B. (Kasten) Kolodziejczyk during the 1950's while teaching at Nordheim school. She was called "Mrs. K" by her students.

Everest Kolodziejczyk became a resident of Nordheim in DeWitt County when he purchased and began operating the Nordheim Barber Shop in January 1926. Upon his death in 1983 he had operated the barber shop for 57 years and his had been the oldest continuous business for quite some time. Lula B. Kasten Kolodziejczyk moved to Nordheim with her parents when she was seven years old. Her ancestry is told in the August Kasten and Adam Kasten Family Histories elsewhere in this book.



Venice (Kolodziejczyk) Scheurich, Hal Scheurich and Manfred Scheurich

His ancestry dates back to that group of about 150 Polish farmers from the region of Upper Silesia in Poland, who established the first Polish settlement in America at Panna Maria, Texas in Karnes County. Among these farmers was Simon (Szymon) Kolodziejczyk and a son who disembarked from the sailing ship, *Weser,* at the old wooden Merchant's Wharf at the port of Galveston on December 3, 1854. They went by ship to Indianola and then made their way up to Karnes County. They arrived there on December 24, 1854 and their settlement came to be known as Panna Maria. Simon Kolodziejczyk was born in Poland in 1794, the son of John and Martina Kolodziejczyk. In Panna Maria he parried Maria Bryczk Prukop on January 23, 1859. Rafael Kolodziejczyk was born to this union on October 22, 1859, the oldest of five children. During the later 1860's the family moved to Meyersville, Texas where Simon died in 1889. Rafael grew to manhood in the Meyersville Area. He worked as a rider on the Chisholm Trail cattle drives to Kansas which originated in the Victoria-Cuero area. He also made his living as a teamster, hauling freight from Indianola to Cuero, Helena, Panna Moria and San Antonio. Rafael Kolodziejczyk married Magdalena (Maggie) Olejnick of Meyersville in 1887. She was born July 14, 1862 to Tom and Margaret Olejnik of Meyersville and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith there. The couple bought a farm at Dobskyville in Goliad County and there were born six sons and one daughter. The sons were Peter, Gilbert, Tom, Conrad, Everest and Chris and the daughter was named Mary. In 1909 the family moved to a farm at Cabeza, a thriving town north of Nordheim. Rafael Kolodziejczyk died at Cabeza on March 13, 1936 and his wife died on May 4, 1939 at home in Cabeza.

Everest Kolodziejczyk was born in Goliad County October 26, 1900 and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. He attended the "Sister School" in Yorktown until the family moved to Cabeza where he continued his schooling. He grew to manhood on the farm and spoke often of the boys' good times hunting and riding horses. The horses were well trained for, after taking a wagon load of cotton to the gin at Nordheim, Everest would tie the reins to the wagon, lie down to sleep and let the horses take the wagon home. But this young man chose not to be kept down on the farm. Neither did he decide to become a priest to the disappointment of his mother who had hoped to dedicate one of her sons to the church.

During the 1920's Everest Kolodziejczyk decided to become a barber. He attended San Antonio Barber College and in January, 1926 he purchased the Nordheim Barber Shop. It might be interesting to note that this was the time of 25 cent haircuts and 10 cent shaves and neck clips. A sign on the street read *Ladies Hair Bobbed Here.* In a back room of the shop was a bath tub with hot and cold water where the young men, especially from the country, could bathe after work on Saturday nights before going to a dance or on a date. Everest Kolodziejczyk left the farm for good and moved into some upstairs office rooms at Nordheim with two other young men from the Country. For entertainment the "boys" played pranks on one another and on other citizens of the town, but these pranks were not fit to perpetuate in writing.

On May 16, 1932 Everest Kolodziejczyk was married to Viola Grametbauer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Grametbauer of Runge. She graduated from Runge High School in 1925, attended San Marcos State Teachers College and taught in the Cabeza school for seven years. On September 4, 1937 their only child, Venice Ann, was born. Viola was active in civic affairs, being a member of the Home and School Club, Altar Society and the Garden Club. After a lengthy illness she died on July 5, 1944 and was buried in the Runge Catholic Cemetery.

On October 16, 1948 Everest Kolodziejczyk and Lula Belle Kasten were united in marriage at the Runge Catholic Rectory. She was born on December 10, 1912 in Karness County to Adam and Lydia Kasten and moved with them to Nordheim in 1921. Lula Belle was baptized in the Lutheran Church by Rev. J.K. Poch and confirmed by Rev. Kluge in Nordheim. She received her education in the Nordheim Public School plus two years in the Yorktown High School, Graduating in 1930. The freshman year of her college education was spent at Texas Lutheran College while her B.S. was earned at The University of Texas at Austin. A Masters Degree was received at San Marcos State University in 1957.

Lula B. Kolodziejczyk began her teaching career in the Porter School in Karnes County, teaching there for six years, then at Cabeza School for six years and finally at the Nordheim Public School for 33 years. She retired in 1976 after a long career of 45 years in the teaching profession. Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary teachers society, inducted her as a member in 1963. The writer feels a major accomplishment was probably in girls physical education, where she demanded equality with the boys program and achieved it even though sports and physical education for girls were not well accepted. Lula B. Kolodziejczyk fielded many winning teams in volleyball, basketball and softball during her tenure at Cabeza and Nordheim.

The daughter, Venice Ann Kolodziejczyk, was very active in the above mentioned sports while in elementary and high school. Her goal was always excellence which she achieved in academics as well as sports. She has earned a B.S. and Masters Degree in mathematics and is presently a Professor of Mathematics at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. On November 24, 1955 Venice Ann Kolodziejczyk and Manfred Scheurich of Yorktown exchanged marriage vows and on November 21, 1966 a son, Hal Scheurich, was born. They reside in Corpus Christi and Manfred Scheurich is employed as an Internal Auditor with CP&L. Hal is the only grandson of everest and Lula B. Kolodziejczyk and is working as a news photographer with WKRG-5 in Mobile, Alabama.

Everest and Lula B. were both involved in numerous community activities. He was very active in the Volunteer Fire Department, St. Ann's Catholic Church and he and Editor Jim Blanton were the first male members of the Home and School Club. Everest's special interest was the town baseball team and in 1929 he was elected manager of the Nordheim Tigers baseball team. Lula B., or Mrs. "K" as she is called ini the community, has been active in the DeWitt County Historical Commission and was instrumental in getting the community to finance and sponsor historical markers on Pilot Knob and for the Pavillion in Jubilee Park. She served as chairman of the local Texas Sesquicentennial Committee and guided the Nordheim area citizens through their various year-long unique and interesting activities. One group, The Friends of Nordheim Community, has emerged as a continuing organization, working for the improvement of the town and sponsoring interesting events during the year. The Nordheim Museum, dedicated in 1986, is one of Mrs. K's main interests.

Everest Kolodziejczyk died on April 23, 1983 at the age of 83 and his wife, Lula Belle, resides in Nordheim at present.

by Lula B. Kolodziejczyk

KOLODZIEJCZYK, FRANK SIMON AND MARIA WARZECHA

F534

Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk was born on November 19, 1860, in Panna Maria, Texas, the son of Simon Kolodziejczyk and Maria Bryczk Prukop Kolodziejczyk. This writer's early history of Simon Kilodziejczyk and Maria Bryczk Prukop is sketchy, but will be recorded here for the sake of their future progeny. Simon Kolodziejczyk (1794 to 1889), son of John and Martina Kolodziejczyk, served in the military under Napoleon Bonaparte. In Upper Silesia, Poland, he married Catherine Nowak and they had children: Joe (1843), Herbert (1845), and Andrew (1854) Kolodziejczyk. The family immigrated to America about 1855. On August 30, 1856, Simon and Catherine had a daughter Maria Kolodziejczyk, in Panna Maria, Texas. Shortly after, Simon's wife, Catherine Nowak, died. Maria Bryczk Prukop, her husband, Mr. Prukop, and their son, John Prukop (1853), also immigrated to America in 1855, but Maria's husband died on the ship and was buried at sea. In Panna Maria, Maria gave birth to his son, Adam Prukop, in 1856. The widower, Simon Kolodziejczyk, and the widow, Maria Bryczk Prukop, were married on January 23, 1859, in Panna Maria. Simon adopted Maria's two sons, John and Adam Prukop, and Maria adopted Simon's children, Joe, Herbert,

Andrew, and Maria Kolodziejczyk. Then together, Simon and Maria Kolodziejczyk had six children: Raphael (October 22, 1859), Frank Simon (November 19, 1860), Martha (1861), Frances (October 5, 1862), Mary (1866), and Pauline Kolodziejczyk. It is from this family of twelve children that Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk emerged. The family lived in Panna Maria, Texas, for several years after 1860, then settled in Meyersville, Texas, before 1880.

Maria (Mary) Warzecha was born on July 18, 1862, in Panna Maria, Texas, the fifth child of Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka Warzecha. Her parents immigrated by ship from Upper Silesia, Poland, to Panna Maria, Texas, in October to December, 1855, with two sons, Josef, age 5, and Julius, age 2 years. The trip was long and harsh, and little brother, Julius, died at sea. The family first lived in Panna Maria, Texas, where Konstantina, August, and Maria Warzecha were born. Maria's father served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Then the family settled in Yorktown, Texas, where brother, Stanick Warzecha, was born.

Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk and Mary Warzecha were married on January 9, 1883, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, Texas. Rev. Joseph Fabian presided at their wedding.

Frank and Mary Kolodziejczyk made their home in Yorktown, where they had eleven children: Gertrude (November 9, 1883), Dennis (December 8, 1885), Cecelia (November 19, 1887), Frank Jr. (December 3, 1889), Clara (August 9, 1892), Bena (October 27, 1893), Alois (June 1, 1896), Josephine (September 22, 1898), twins Joseph and Mary (May 31, 1901), and Mathilda (January 22, 1905). Clara died as an infant six days old.

Gertrude Kolodziejczyk married Peter Vincent Wollny on October 29, 1912, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, where they settled and had six children: Josie (Wunderlich), Helen (Danysh), Bertha (Rabenaldt), Mary (Metting), Thomas Wollny, and Louise (Rabenaldt).

Dennis Stanley Kolodziejczyk married Agatha Anna Respondek on November 10, 1913, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown. They had seven children: Joseph, Valeria (Verkamp), Engleberth, Raymond, Emrick (Kolly), Edward, and Ernest Kolodziejczyk. In December, 1922, Dennis and Aggie moved to Wilson, Texas, where they bought a farm and raised their children.

Bena Ann Kolodziejczyk married Theodore Joseph Dlugosch on January 30, 1917, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. They bought a farm near Dobskyville in 1928, where they raised three children: James Dlugosch, Gladys (Morris), and Mary Ann (Dickinson).

Alois Paul Kolodziejczyk married Mathilda Julia Sprenzel on November 11, 1924, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Falls City, Texas. They lived on a farm in Yorktown, and had seven children: Victor, Alvin, Alta (Woytasczyk), Alois Jr., Evelyn (Feller), Mary (Kendall), and Lee Gus Kolodziejczyk.

Mary Kolodziejczyk married John Nick Kolodziejczyk on September 19, 1925, at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville, Texas. They settled on a farm in Yorktown, and had two children: Daniel Kolodziejczyk and Joyce (Rau).

Mathilda (Tillie) Kolodziejczyk married Albert Stanush on November 22, 1932, at Holy Cross Church in Yorktown. They lived in Yorktown and St. Hedwig, then San Antonio since 1941. They had five children: Tillie (Antes), Albert Jr., Frank, John, and Albert Stanush.

Cecelia T. Kolodziejczyk, Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk Jr., Joseph A. Kolodziejczyk, and Joseph V. Kolodziejczyk all remained single. They all lived in Yorktown, Texas.

Mary Warzecha Kolodziejczyk died on February 4, 1933, at age 70 years. Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk died on January 10, 1944, at age 83 years. They are buried at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

KOOPMANN, ANTON

F535

Karl Anton Koopmann on one of his trips back to Abbehausen, Oldenberg, Germany in June of 1900

Karl Anton Koopmann, second of six children born to Heinrich Koopmann and his wife Elise Wiegmann Koopmann, was born in Abbehausen, Oldenburg, Germany on Nov 29, 1867. He was baptized in the Lutheran faith on Jan. 26, 1868 in Seefeld, Germany. He was also confirmed in the Lutheran faith on Apr 2, 1882 in Germany. He came to America on May 6, 1882 with his parents, brothers and sisters, landing in Galveston. The family first settled in Fayette Co. near Flatonia. Later he lived on a farm near Witting, Lavaca Co., Texas. On Nov. 1, 1890 he bought 150 acres out of Section #21, Indianola RR Co. Survey, from V. and Sophia D. Weldon. This tract joined his brother Heinrich's farm. Being open prairie, fences had to be built, a water well had to be drilled, later a two-room house and a large barn was erected. After these improvements were in place, the Weise family lived on the farm. In 1893 Anton came from Lavaca Co. to make his home in Gruenau. As more people moved into the area Sunday afternoon shooting matches and other social activities were held on a hay meadow at the entrance of his farm. It was here that the Gruenau Turn & Schuetzen Verein was organized on May 1, 1898. Being an organizer and a conservationist, Uncle Anton was instrumental in organizing the Hermann Sons Lodges, farm organizations, Yorktown Union Gin Co, Yorktown Warehouse Co. First State Bank of Yorktown, of which he was a long time Director and The DeWitt County Land & Cattle Co. He was among the first in the area to put in a terracing system, using his own expertise with the transet-level and mule drawn grader. He also loved to grow trees, both shade and fruit, and was known to order nursery stock from all parts of the United States. He made trips back to his native Germany on two occasions, supposedly to visit his Aunt Graetchen, although it is believed by many, it was really to see a childhood sweetheart. He also attended the World's Fair in St. Louis, Mo.

Throughout his long career, he contributed generously to many other worthwhile causes in the community and through thrift, industry and wise judgment he amassed extensive property in both DeWitt Co. and Jim Wells Co. and other investments. Uncle Anton never married and lived alone since the death of his parents. On Thursday, December 18, 1941, around 1:30 P.M., at the age of 74 years, he was found on the floor beside his chair in the kitchen of his home by his farm tennant, the victim of a heart ailment with which he had been afflicted for several years. He is buried beside his parents in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

KOOPMANN, HEINRICH, JR.

F536

Henry Koopmann and Minna (Stindt) Koopmann 1894

Heinrich Anton Koopmann, oldest of six children born to Heinrich Koopmann and his wife Elise Wiegmann Koopmann was born in Abbehausen, Oldenburg, Germany on Aug. 26, 1865. He came to America May 6, 1882 with his parents and family landing in Galveston. The family first settled in Fayette Co. near Flatonia. Later he lived on a farm near Witting in

Lavaca Co. On Nov. 1, 1890 he bought 150 acres (21.71 ac of Sec. #19 and 128.79 ac of Sec #21, Indianola RR Survey) for $1837.50 from V. and Sophia D. Weldon of DeWitt Co. In 1893 he and his brother Anton moved to their farms on the Gruenau prairie. On Jan. 2, 1894 he married Minna Elise Antonie Stindt, born Mar. 19, 1873 in Oldenburg, Ger., at Zion Lutheran Church, Charlottenburg (Lavaca Co) Texas with A. Koopmann, E. Stindt, H. Stindt and A. Schuemacher as witnesses. On Nov 13, 1899 he and Minna sold their farm to his brother Anton for $3000. They then bought a farm near Lawton, Okla. where he lived for approximately 13 years. While living in Oklahoma, Heinrich and Minna were divorced. They had no children. Minna later married again She and her second husband reared a family near Seguin, Guadalupe Co, Texas. Heinrich moved back to Texas, living a brief time at Llano and Shiner, eventually returning to Yorktown in 1916. For a time he lived at the Two Sisters Hotel. When he became destitute, his brothers Anton and Willie built a small house for him the backyard of the old homestead in Gruenau where Willie and his wife Anna cared for him until his death, at the age of 67 years, on Friday, November 25, 1932. He is buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown beside his parents.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

KOOPMANN, HEINRICH, SR. FAMILY

F537

Heinrich Koopmann and Ahlke Margarita (Gron) Koopmann

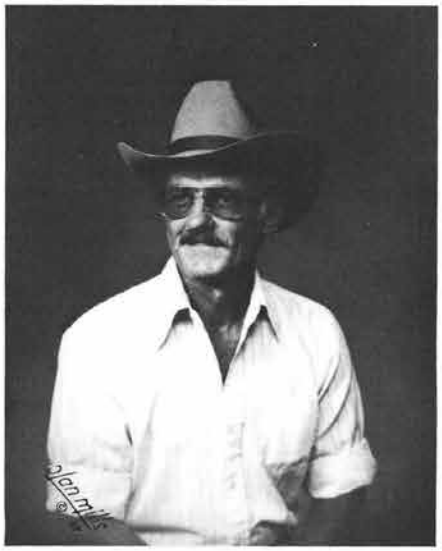
Eilert Heinrich Christopher Koopmann, youngest of three children born to Heinrich Koopmann and his wife Ahlke Margaritha Gron Koopmann, was born in Seefeld, Oldenburg, Germany on May 28, 1837. His parents were married on May 27, 1830 in Augusthausen (Later called Sweilburg) Oldenburg, Germany. They had two other children, Margaretha Helena Christina, born Oct 2, 1833 and another child born Jan. 16, 1936 and died Feb 3, 1836. Margaretha whom they called Graetchen, never married and remained in Germany all her life. Eilert Heinrich's grandparents were Heinrich Koopmann and Meta Hulstede Koopmann who lived in Reitlande (the village later named Seefeld) Oldenburg, Germany. They had three other children beside his father, Ahlke Margaretha Koopmann born Aug 6, 1801, Johnn Koopmann born Jun 10, 1805, and another child born Sept 16, 1810 who died as an infant. His great-grandfather was also named Heinrich Koopmann. Eilert Heinrich was baptized in the Lutheran Church in Seefeld on Jun 17, 1837. His sponsors were Eilert Bremer, John Christopher Mohrfeld, and Anna Elizabeth Gallenstede. He married Agatha Elise Wiegmann in Oldenburg, Germany. She was born Jan 27, 1839. Six children were born to them, Heinrich Anton on Aug 26, 1865, Karl Anton on Nov 29, 1867 and Elise on July 28, 1871 while they were living at Abbehausen, Oldenburg, Ger. and Bertha Johanna Augusta on Jun 18, 1874, Johnn Heinrich on Feb 15, 1876 and William Heinrich on Jun 17, 1880 while living at Esensham, Oldenburg, Germany. On May 6, 1882 the family came to America landing at Galveston. The family first settled in Fayette County. On Jun 2, 1883, Heinrich and Elise bought 100 acres of land in the Wiley A. Abercrombie Survey about 12 miles west of Halletsville near Witting, Lavaca Co, Texas from Charles F. Woods for $333.33 and ¢ down and six annual payments of $111.11 and ¢ at 10% interest. This farm was adjacent to the 115 acres belonging to D.A. Stindt. On Jun 27, 1883, they bought anoth 7½ acres from C.F. Wood for $112.50. While living there the younger children attended Oak Grove School. Elise was confirmed on Apr 3, 1887 at Baursville. Johanna was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Baursville on Mar 25, 1888 and Willie, the youngest, was confirmed on Mar 18, 1894 at Zion Lutheran Church at Charlottesburg. Heinrich Jr. and Anton moved to their farms in DeWitt County in 1893. Elise, after her marriage to Herman Wulf Sr on Dec 12, 1893, moved to the Garfield Community in west DeWitt County. Johanna married Heinrich Schonvogel of Lavaca Co. Some years later, she, her husband and children, Herman, Erna and Ida, moved to a farm near Orange Grove, Texas. On Nov 21, 1896 Heinrich and Elise purchased 250 acres out of the Northwest corner of Section 22, Ind RR Co Survey across the road from their sons farms in the Gruenau Community from Mrs. Jennie W. Stayton, a widow, for $5625.00. They sold the farm in Lavaca Co. and with their two youngest sons John and Willie moved to Gruenau in DeWitt Co. On Nov 29, 1898 they bought 111.7 acres (Section 36, Ind RR Co Surv.) from Henry and Augusta Remmers for $1.00, the amount of the revenue stamp. This evidently was a foreclosure. After the youngest son Willie married Anna Straube on Dec 1, 1904, Heinrich and Elise moved in with their older son Anton. Willie took charge of the homestead. Heinrich suffered a stroke while shucking corn for the horses and mules in the barn and on Nov 25, 1911 passed away. Elise stayed living with her son Anton until she suffered a stroke some years later. Since she was paralyzed and needed constant care, her sons, Anton, John and Willie and her grandson Otto put her on the back of a "spring wagon" covered her with blankets, since it was in the winter and drove her across the road to the old homestead, where her daughter-in-law Anne cared for her until her death on Jan 7, 1915. Heinrich and Elise are buried on Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. Throughout their lives, the Koopmann family spoke almost exclusively their native Oldenburg "Platte deutsch".

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

L. J. Hogan D. V. M.
VETERINARY SURGEON
Leave Calls at
BUTTERY'S DRUG STORE
Phone No. 32

KOOPMANN, HILMER E.

F538



Hilmer, E. Koopman

Hilmer Elwood Koopmann is the sixth of seven children born to Wilhelm Otto Koopmann and his wife Lillie Anna Hengst Koopmann. I was born on Jul. 6, 1937, in the Gruenau Community, DeWitt County, Texas, while my family was living on the Willie Koopmann farm. I can vividly remember the night of the 1942 Hurricane when I was 5 years old. Hail broke the East windows of our house and Mama and Papa and my older brothers nailed quilts over the windows to keep out the wind and rain. During the height of the storm, the canned goods in the pantry started falling off the shelves, so they had to move everything into the kitchen. I can also remember when we first got electricity, how fascinated we were about the bright light after being used to kerosene lamps for light at night. After we moved to the place north of the Gruenau Hall, I started the first grade at Weldon School in the fall of 1945. This was a two room schoolhouse, with only one teacher. At midterm a second teacher was hired. Since it was 3 miles to school, my two sisters and I rode in a horse drawn buggy. Later we walked most of the time. I attended Yorktown Elementary School for the 7th and 8th grades, as this was when the country schools were being annexed to Yorktown Ind. School District. I attended Yorktown High School graduating in May of 1955. After completing high school, I started farming with my father until Aug. 15, 1961 when I was drafted into the U.S. Army under the Selective Service Administration program which was still in effect at that time. I was stationed first at Fort Jackson South Carolina for 8 weeks of basic training and the rest of my tour was at Fort Benning, Georgia. Highlights of this period were the Berlin Crisis; the Cuban conflict; the Civil Rights demonstrations in Mississippi and Alabama; and the beginning of the Vietnam action. I was released from active duty on Aug. 16, 1963 and returned to the farm in the Gruenau Community. I spent four more year in the Army Reserve getting my discharge with the rank of Sgt E-5.

As our father's health steadily deteriorated over the years my younger brother and I took over the family operation which is located mostly on the land that our ancestors settled on in the 1890's. I served three, three year terms as committeeman on the DeWitt County ASCS Committee. I am also a member of the Gruenau Herman Sons Lodge #117, the Gruenau Turn & Schuetzen Verein, DeWitt County Farm Bureau, Yorktown American Legion Post #272 and a cooperator with the DeWitt County Soil and Water Conservation District. My hobbies include family history, dancing, travel and most social activities.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

KOOPMANN, JOHN H. FAMILY

F539

John H. Koopmann Family – 1920 – Seated – Dora (Lamprecht) Koopmann and John H. Koopmann. Standing – Adolph D., Martha Elise, Wilhelm Otto, George William, Elsa A., and Erna Johanna 1920

John H. Koopmann and Ella Adams Kuehnel Koopmann (second wife) 1927

John Heinrich Koopmann, fifth of six children born to Heinrich Koopmann and his wife Elise Wiegmann Koopmann was born in Esensham, Oldenburg, Germany on Feb 15, 1876. He was baptized in the Lutheran faith at Seefeld, Germany. He came to America on May 6, 1882, with his parents, brothers and sisters, landing at Galveston. The family first settled in Fayette Co. later moving to a farm near Witting Lavaca Co. Texas. He and his younger brother Willie attended Oak Grove School. He was confirmed on May 7, 1891 at Zion Lutheran Congregation at Witting, Texas by Rev. W. Westernoff of Bauersville. He moved to the Gruenau Community in DeWitt Co. with his parents and brother in the fall of 1896. On Nov 29, 1899 he was married to Augusta Maria Dora Lamprecht, eldest of eight children and only daughter, born to Wilhelm Lamprecht and his wife Dorathea Schoop, who was born at Sweethome, Lavaca Co., Texas on Jun 3, 1881. She was baptized on Jun 25, 1882 in Immanuels Lutheran Church, Bauersville, Lavaca Co. Texas. She was confirmed on Mar 29, 1896 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Texas by Rev. J.K. Poch. In order to receive confirmation instruction, Dora rode a buggie across the open prairie from her parents home West of Nopal in Gonzales Co. to Yorktown alone at the age of 15. She wasn't afraid of firearms and on occasions was known to use them to protect her family. Some years later she also drove cars, the first being a 1912 Model Buick with oversized wooden spoke wheels and the gear shift on the outside, which had to be operated with the left hand. On Dec 1, 1900 John and Dora bought the 150 acre farm, which was originally owned by his brother Heinrich, from his brother Anton for $3000.00. They lived on this farm until 1907. On Nov 25, 1907 they bought the adjoining 125 acres (122½ ac of Sect 19 and 2½ ac of Sect 21 Ind RR Surv.) from Ernst and Martha Haertig for $8125.00 when the Haertig family moved to the Bonnieview Community near Woodsboro Refugio Co., Texas. In the fall of 1907 John and Dora moved to the Haertig farm and remained there until their deaths. Six children were born to this union. 1) Wilhelm Otto married Lillie Hengst whose story appears separately; 2) Martha Elise born May 9, 1902, Died Jun 30, 1984 married August B. Hahn born Nov 19, 1886, died Dec 25, 1974; 3) Elsa A. born Nov 21, 1903 died Nov 1, 1981 married Gustav J. Buchhorn, born Sept 3, 1901 died Mar 23, 1966; 4) George William (Bill) born Sept 6, 1905 married Hedwig Hengst born Apr 23, 1909; 5) Erna Johanna born May 30, 1907 died Jun 24, 1980 married Archie L. Thieme born Mar 27, 1907; 6) Adolph Dietrich Fritz born Nov 13, 1909, died Sept 14, 1984 married Sophie Kenne born Dec 12, 1911; Around 1910, John bought a 125 acre tract out of Sect. #20, Ind RR Co Surv. for $12,500 and another tract near the Gohlke School. Through his investment in the DeWitt County Land & Cattle Co., he also had 240 acres near Springfield, in Jim Wells County, Texas.

After surgery in 1916, Dora began having epileptic attacks. As her health deteriorated she stayed with her parents in Yorktown to be nearer to a doctor. It was here that she passed away on the morning of Aug 30, 1923 at the age of 42 years. She was buried the same day at Westside Cemetery with Rev. H.C. Wehemeyer of St. Martins Cong, Nopal and Rev. J.K. Poch of St. John's of Bellville officiating. On Jun 21, 1927, John Koopmann married Ella Adams Kuehnel, one of five children (3 boys and 2 girls) born to Mienke Adams and his wife Gretje Debuhr Adams Mohlman. Ella was born on Oct 12, 1969 in Gillespie, Illinois. She also had three half-brothers from her mothers second marriage to Thees Mohlmann. Ella had two children from her first marriage, a son and a daughter Julie (Mrs. Carl Grip); and two children from her second marriage, a son Albert Kuehnel, and a daughter, Gertie (Mrs. Leo Mark). All her children lived in Platte County, Nebr. After her third marriage, to John Koopmann she made her home in Gruenau. During this time, the Koopmann home was remodeled and rooms were added to the second floor of the house. Ella Koopmann died on Jun 16, 1936 at the age of 66 years and is buried on Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas. On Monday Aug 24, 1936, after attending an all-day meeting at the Grue-Hall, John suffered an injury in a fall at the Little Chicago Store. The following day he underwent surgery for internal injuries. He died at 3:20 A.M. Friday Aug 28, 1936 in Allen Hospital at the age of 60 years. He is also buried at Westside Cemetery, Yorktown.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

KOOPMANN, OTTO FAMILY

F540

Wilhelm Otto Koopmann, oldest of six children born to John Koopmann and his wife Dora Lamprecht Koopmann was born on Oct 24, 1900 in Gruenau, DeWitt County, Texas. He was baptized in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Texas on Dec 2, 1900 and confirmed at St. Martins Lutheran Congregation, Nopal, Texas on Apr 23, 1916 by Pastor J.K. Poch. On Dec 7, 1922, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, he married Lillie Anna Hengst, third of eight children born to Alvin Hengst and his wife Mary Wild Hengst, who was born on Nov 13, 1902. Pastor E.A. Sagebiel performed the ceremony with Martha Koopmann, Emil Hengst, Erna Hengst and Herman Wulf as witnesses. Lillie was baptized in Holy Cross Catholic Church, Yorktown, Texas as an infant. Their first year together, they lived on the Elise Wulf farm in Gruenau. During this time Lille went to adult Confirmation instruction and was confirmed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, on Apr 13, 1924. After Christmas of 1923, they moved to the Wm. K. Koopmann farm near the Gohlke School. She often said it was a cold, wet winter and the Gruenau roads were still just black clay. As Papa and the neighbors who were helping move, went on ahead with the horses and loaded wagons, she followed with her horse, "Filly", and buggy. She had a chicken cluck with chicks in a box on the floor of the buggy and her dog, "Snowball" laying on her feet to keep warm. They lived on this farm for 19 years. Six of their seven children were born on this farm. In November of 1942, after the hurricane had flattened most of the Community, the family moved to the old Anton Koopmann farm, then owned by Erna Bruns and her sister Ida Schonvogel of Orange Grove, Texas. On this farm their youngest son was born. On Mar 21, 1955 the family moved into their new home which they built on the 180 acre property Otto and Lillie purchased Dec 14, 1940 from his brother Bill and sisters Martha and Erna to settle their father's estate. In December of 1945 they bought an adjoining 50.4 acres from Stella Simecek. In 1946 they purchased 50.7 acres from Ad. Schroeder Jr. which was part of the old Ernst Kimmel farm. In 1970 they bought 80 acres from Mrs. Ruby Orosz. Otto was always active in Church and civic affairs, serving as President of the Yorktown Union Gin Co., director of the First State Bank of Yorktown, director of Yorktown Warehouse Co., President of Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein; served as secretary of the Gruenau Herman Sons Lodge #254 for 41 years; director of Federal Land Bank Asso. of Karnes City and served on the boards of Gohlke Common School District; Weldon Common School District and Yorktown Ind. School District. He played the bass drum in the Gruen-

50th Wedding Anniversary of Otto Koopmanns Dec 3, 1972 (L-R) Gilbert, Elvera, Melvin, Wilhelm, Lillie, Hilmer, Earlen, William, Doris.

au Brass Band for a short time during his teens, was an active member in the Turn Verein "Jahn", and was active both in the German theater and chorus of the Gruenau T&S Verein and at St. Paul's Lutheran Church during the 1930's. Otto suffered a major stroke on the night of January 22, 1964, while watching television, which paralyzed his right side. He fought his way back to health and continued farming with his two youngest sons until another stroke took his life on Dec 15, 1977 at the Yorktown Memorial Hospital at the age of 77 years. He was survived by his widow, Lillie, and their seven children; 1) son Gilbert Alvin, born Jul 30, 1925; 2) son Melvin John, born Jun 3, 1927, 3) daughter Elvera Dora, (Mrs. W.E. Butler) born Apr 11, 1929, 4) daughter Earlen Mary (Mrs. Alton Ray Jalufke) born Aug 18, 1933; 5) daughter Doris Ann (Mrs. Milam R. von Roeder) born Jun 14, 1935; 6) son Hilmer Elwood born July 6, 1937; 7) son William Otto born Aug 12, 1943. Otto is buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas. Lillie continued farming with her two youngest sons until her mental capacity diminished to the point where she needed constant care and supervision. On Apr 16, 1988 she went to live at Yorktown Manor Nursing Home. Otto and Lillie were life-long members of St. Martins Lutheran Congregation of Nopal and later of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Yorktown. They both loved the German language and spoke it fluently with their family and friends all their life.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

KORTH, HERMAN

F541

Christian Annanias Herman Korth was born December 16, 1839 in Neu Karbe, Province of Brandenburg. He was educated in the German schools and in 1860 he came to America with his older sister, Ernestine, and her husband Charles Hoff and their three children. They landed in Indianola and settled in Yorktown. He was 20.

The Hoffs owned and operated a grits mill one-half mile outside of Yorktown on a creek near the Westside Cemetery. Herman worked for the Hoffs hauling the cornmeal and grits into Matamoras and Piedras Negras, Mexico and cotton from Indianola to Mexico. Besides being a freighter, he worked as a stagecoach driver. During the Civil War, he served as a Corporal in Captain Taylor's Company of the 33rd Texas Cavalry under Colonel Woods in the Army of the Confederacy. After the war, he became a freighter to the Rio Grande. On October 2, 1865 he married Louise Menn. He abandoned the hazardous business of freighter except to haul his own farm products to San Antonio. He bought land one mile north of Yorktown near the Hoffs and next to his brother Julius Korth (Julius and Bertha Korth came to Yorktown in 1867. They will be mentioned in another section). They paid 50 cents an acre for their land. Herman and Louise built a log cabin, but as their family grew they built a larger house (see photo). The San Antonio Road passed behind their house. A saloon and stagecoach stop were near. After the war, this area suffered as did the rest of Texas. There were feuds as the one between the Suttons and the Taylors which tore South Texas apart. Desperados and formidable gunmen such as John Wesley Hardin harassed the peaceful citizens of Yorktown. The family was in constant fear when Herman was on a trip to sell his farm products in San Antonio. When the desperados were in town, Louise would hang quilts in front of the windows to keep the light from showing. Eventually normal conditions returned. Herman and Louise lived and prospered there for years. He died June 2, 1924.

Louise Menn Korth was born on June 16, 1845 in Erntebrueck, Westphalia (Germany). Her parents were Johann Heinrich and Marie Elise Roth Menn. In 1849 they settled in Yorktown, one year after its founding. She was 4 years old. Her family lived in a log cabin located across from what is now the City Park. At 19 she married Herman Korth. He was 25. The Menn family will be found in another section. Louise died June 11, 1924.

Herman and Louise had eight children. They were: Fritz, Ida, Augusta Helen, Robert P., Louisa, Matilda, Herman, and Emma.

Fritz married Eleanor Stark from one of the first families to settle in Yorktown. Fritz was a grocer, rancher, banker. He sold and traded real estate. They had two boys. Romeo was a rancher, banker, President of the R.E.A. for thirty years and Secretary/Treasurer of the Garfield Mutual Insurance Association for

L-R Back Row: Korth Home — Herman Korth, Bruddy, Louise, Bobby von Roeder, and Emma Randow. Child is Carlyn Randow.

KORTH, JULIUS B. FAMILY

F542

Back: Herman H. "Bruddy", Fritz, Robert, Matilda. Middle: Ida, Louise, Louisa "Baby", Herman, Emma. Front: Augusta.

Julius Bernard Korth, Sr. and his home built in 1867.

fifty years. Frederick, is a lawyer, was a banker, and was Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Secretary of the Navy during the Kennedy-Johnson Administration.

Ida married Herman von Roeder. He was also from a very early pioneer family of Yorktown. He was a respected farmer and stockman. He and Ida's children were Robert and Frances. Robert, "Bobby", married Edith Spain. He was a World War I Veteran. The von Roeder family has ranched from early times and even now, Frances resides on their ranch just outside of Yorktown.

Augusta Helen married Caesar William Fechner. He also was from a pioneer family of Yorktown. They lived on a farm and for some years they operated a dairy. Mr. Fechner also operated a meat market for awhile, but they resumed their farming operation. They had five children. John served in World War I. He died young. Thelma, was first married to Frank Hale, then Arno Schultz. She worked as a clerk in several stores and was very well liked. Louis, operated the Fechner Brake and Motor Service Station in El Paso. He was married to E. Mueller. Cecelia, wife of L.O. Williams had three children. She is very devoted to her family. She still lives in Yorktown. Caesar Jr., "Red", married Billie Kirkland. He was a long time Lone Star Beer distributor and avid baseball enthusiast. He was active in many civic organizations.

Robert Paul, married Homer Harper. He served in the Spanish American War. He was President of the First National Bank of Yorktown, was also a prominent rancher and member of the Yorktown City Council. Their children were Melvyl, Robert Jr. and Clementine. Melvyl was devoted to her family. She had a "heart of gold". Robert Jr. was also a prominent rancher and rodeo performer. He married Ione Poindexter of Kenedy. Clementine, "Tennie", married William Knandel. She lives in Austin. She has two girls and is a loving mother.

Louise, "Baby", married William Westhoff. He also was from an early pioneer Indianola family. He owned the W. Westhoff Lumber Yard established by his father. He was a banker, and was Mayor of Yorktown for many years. They had extensive business and farm property. They had one daughter, Rosa Lou. She married Otis Skinner. He was a dairy farmer, rancher, and banker.

Matilda, "Tilda", married Fritz Schwab. He was a druggist. He owned the Yorktown Drug Co. from 1895-1909. He sold it and moved to Yoakum where he owned and operated the Palace Drug Store until his death. They had one son, Elliot, who also became a pharmacist. He was a drug salesman for Sharp and Dome. His wife was Kathleen.

Herman, "Bruddy", was a salesman, and manager of a milling company. He owned a grocery store. He was a member of a baseball team and could hit a ball "a country mile". He was nicknamed "the Flying Dutchman". He married Mary Wilson of Woodstock, Alabama. They had three girls. Phyllis married Victor Taylor. She was a gifted artist, teacher and counselor. Grace Louise married Rasem Rushdi, from Lebanon. She met him when she was stationed in Tripoli working for the Foreign Service. He was a writer and editor for the *Voice of America*. Mary Ann married Arthur Leask. He is retired after 20 years in the Army. His rank is Major. He was one of the original "Green Barrets". They live in Yorktown.

Emma, "Emmie", married Charles Ramdow. He owned a saloon and later sold real estate in Yorktown. They had two daughters. Mildred, who married E.E. Zuch. She worked as a cashier at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio for many years. She loves flowers and her yard. Carlyn married J.B. Fowler. She was in the Navy. He was in the Army. They are both buried at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Many thanks to Frances von Roeder who has carefully kept the history of the Korth family. Much of this information is from her. Many thanks also to Rosa Lou Skinner who is also very knowledgeable and helpful. Thanks also to Mary Ann and her husband Arthur Leask. I couldn't have done this without them.

by Ellen Ann Korth Vickers

Julius Bernard Korth, Sr. was born 8 Jan 1843 in Neu Aarbe, Brandenburg Germany. He was a brother of Herman and Ernestine (Hoff). He served in the German Army shortly before coming to Texas in 1867, settling on a farm near Yorktown with his first wife Matilda Bertha Brues. She died about 1870 and Julius (Sr.) then married Minna Gohkle Gerhardt in 1873 (est). Children of Julius 1st marriage were Lena Korth Spies and Agnes Elizabeth Korth Mumme. Minna's children of her 1st marriage were Cristiane Maria Gerhardt Holzapfel and Rudolph (not married). Children of Julius 2nd marriage were Julius Bernard Korth Jr., Bertha Korth Holzapfel, Erna Korth Coleman, Alfred, who married Janie Albrecht, Minnie Korth Nunn, Eddie married a woman named Ollie (last name unknown) and Hugo (not known).

Julius Bernard Korth Jr. was born 20 Aug 1883 near Yorktown. He married Frances Anna Sophie Boldt on 5 Nov 1905. Julius Jr. died 25 Mar 1942, Frances was born 23 Dec 1886 and died 28 Feb 1964. They are buried in Westside Cemetery. Some of the Westside Cemetery was donated by Julius (Sr.). The children of Julius (Jr.) and Frances Boldt were Lillian Edna Jacobs, Josephine Lee Bertha Brown, Viola Anna Minna Machost, Frances Otelia Julia Hudgeons, Julius Bernard III (died 3 months of age), Gladys Gertrude Laake, Ora Lee Wanjura, and James Benjamin who married Marilyn Heldt. Frances and James are the only children still living.

Lillian and A.C. Jacobs had 1 son Malcolm. Josephine and Mercy Brown had 3 children, Joy, Douglas, and Gaylon. Viola and William Machost had 1 child, Clydell. Frances and John B. Hudgeons had 4 sons, John T., Gary, Kurt, and Mark. Gladys and Waco Laake had 3 sons, William, Patrick, and Jimmy. Ora Lee and Lesie Wanjura had 2 children, Kay Frances and Gerald. James and Marilyn Heldt had twin sons, and 5 daughters. Sons names were

James and Robert. Daughters names were Judith, Jeanie, Janie, Joan and Jill.

Deceased children are Gaylon Brown, James and Robert Korth. There are two more generations living as of 29 Sept 1989.

by Jeanne Hudgeons

KORTZ, ANTONE AND IMOGENE (BETHKE)
F543

Imogene Grace Bethke was born March 18, 1944 in the Bohman Hospital in Cuero, the daughter of George W. and Emilie Raak Bethke of the Green DeWitt Community. Imogene attended Oak View and Arneckeville grade schools and Cuero High School. She attended Zion's Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and later transferred to St. Mark's in Cuero. Imogene met Antone Kortz through his brother who was dating Imogene's girl friend. Their friendship continued by correspondence and they were married September 17, 1961 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. When their children were of school age Imogene worked at Kleinecke Flower Shop and Howard Parlor Furniture Upholstery. When this business closed, she went to work at Wal Mart and is Department Head of fabrics.

Antone Kortz was born January 15, 1943 in Karnes County, son of Leo F. and Julia May Moy Kortz at Panna Maria. Antone worked on a dairy near San Antonio before he went into the Air Force. He served at Griffin A.F.B. in New York from 1961 to 1964. Then he was transferred to Bossier City Louisiana Barksdale A.F.B. During the Viet Nam War he served in Guam and Thailand, respectively. When he returned to the United States he was stationed at Carswell A.F.B. at Ft. Worth. Then in 1969 after his discharge he worked at L.T.V. Aerospace in Grand Prairie, Texas. In 1974 Antone and Imogene moved to Cuero on the family property, given to her by her mother. Antone worked in the oil fields, Gulf Coast Wood Products and now as a carpenter, locally.

To this union three children were born. Michaelle Antonette Kortz was born December 5, 1962 and is a legal secretary. On June 23, 1984 she married Michael Peters, Department Manager at HEB. He was born February 1, 1962. They married in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Jeffrey Martin Kortz was born February 4, 1964 and works as stock personnel at HEB. He married Linda Lou Cortez, a pharmacy clerk, September 17, 1983 in the Guadalupe Catholic Church. She was born June 2, 1963. Their son is Jason Matthew Kortz, born April 7, 1985. The third child of Imogene and Antone is Rodney Bruce Kortz, born January 21, 1964. He works at Hilex Poly in Victoria. Rodney married Connie Lynn Koenig, a secretary, September 6, 1987 in Trinity Lutheran Church in Victoria. She was born June 21, 1964. Their child is Justin Clark Kortz, born March 30, 1989.

by Emilie Bethke

KOZIELSKI BROTHERS
F544

Anton and Lucy Kozielski

Kozielski Home c. 1862

Interior of Kozielski home c. 1862

Four Kozielski brothers and their wives observed marriages of over sixty years in 1988. Frank P. Kozielski and his wife Anita were married sixty-three years; A.L. "Doc" Kozielski and his wife Helen were married sixty years; Willie A. Kozielski and his wife Olga were married sixty-five years; and Joe D. and wife Elsie were married sixty-five years.

These four brothers are members of the John J. Kozielski family who came from Poland. Frank was 84 in 1988; Doc was 86; Willie was 91; and Joe was 95. They all live within ten miles of each other in the Yorktown area. They contribute their longevity to relaxation. As kids they grew up under their mom's wing and helped each other. They have never had a dispute or misunderstanding between them. They are all members of the Holy Cross Catholic Church.

The property on which Holy Cross Catholic Church and the cemetery grounds was donated by the late Anton Kozielski family.

The family once had the Kozielski band which played at weddings and house dances years ago. The four brothers, Frank, Doc, Willie and Joe were all members of that band.

The Anton Kozielski family came to Texas

Seated L-R: Frank Kozielski, Doc Kozielski, Willie Kozielski, and Joe Kozielski. Standing L-R: Anita Kozielski, Helen Kozielski, Olga Kozielski and Elsie Kozielski.

from Germany in 1856, searching for a better way of life. They landed at Indianola, Texas and came inland to Yorktown. The Kozielski's were Polish Catholics and very strong in their faith. They wanted to settle near a Catholic Church. Though there was no Catholic Church in Yorktown, in 1856, there was a Catholic Church about nine miles away the family could attend.

Anton bought a tract of land one mile east of Yorktown, part of the James Kimberling League in about 1861. He and his family immediately began the task of clearing the land for planting. The family consisted of Anton, his wife Lucy and twelve children, most of whom had been born in Germany. They grew corn, sugar cane, Irish and sweet potatoes and other vegetables.

Anton used the large timbers he had cleared from the land to build a log house for the family in about 1862. The kitchen and dining area was separate from the main house and stands that way today. The log walls were later covered with plaster inside and outside with 1x12 planks. The old home was occupied by some member of the Kozielski family from the time it was built until 1979. Today it stands vacant, a wonderful reminder of a pioneer family.

Other Polish Catholic families settled near and around Yorktown. Anton and his family, always active and interested in the Catholic Church, donated four acres of land to build a Polish Catholic Church and provide cemetery grounds. This is the site of the present Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Anton and his wife Lucy's twelve children were: Anton, Paul, John, Frank, Isadore, Annie, Pauline, Barbara, Frances, Constance, Mary and Carrie. This is not in the order in which they were born.

John J. Kozielski married Flora Gola and to them were born ten children. Two of the children died in infancy. The other children are: Annie, Frances, May, Joe, Willie, Matilda, August and Frank. These all lived to a ripe old age. Though the girls have all passed away.

by A.L.Kozielski

KRAEGE, FRITZ

F545

Fritz Kraege

Fritz Kraege was born in Friedenberg, Germany, September 16, 1855. He landed at Indianola and came directly to Yorktown, with his parents in 1856. He secured his early education in Yorktown and completed it in Germany. His parents returned to Germany in 1867. In 1871, Fritz returned to Yorktown where he was employed by F.B. Gohmert for several years. In 1877 he accepted a position with the firm of C. Eckhardt and Sons and continued in their employ for three years, when he embarked in business for himself.

In October of 1877, Fritz married Miss Malvina Heissig. They had three boys and three girls. Malvina was born June 21, 1855.

Fritz Kraege was a chief election officer of his precinct and a member of the city council. He built up his own business to become one of the best in the city. He was highly respected and owns a beautiful home in the city as well as a valuable farm property.

Fritz Kraege passed away on March 25, 1940 and Malvina Kraege passed away on November 17, 1926. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery at Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Patsy Goebel

KRUEGER, ALVIN HENRY

F546

Louise (Sager) Krueger and Alvin Krueger 1931

Alvin H. Krueger was the first child of Christian Henry and Emilie Schorlemmer Krueger. He was raised in the Lutheran Faith, attended school and grew to manhood in the Arnecksville Community. On December 30, 1931 at the age of twenty-five, he married Louise Heinricke Sager, the daughter of Heinrich Christoph Sager and Alma Stahl Sager. She was born in Arnecksville on September 18, 1905. Alvin and Louise had no children but, enjoyed their many nieces and nephews.

Alvin was an employee of Weber Motor Company and a volunteer fireman. He attended many conventions and schools for the fire department. He was also a member of the National Guard during World War II.

Alvin's untimely death occurred on January 18, 1947 in Cuero. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery. His wife, Louise, still lives in Cuero as of this date of 1989. She had worked for Snapp Paint and Wallpaper Company and Adickes Building Supply until her health failed. Louise was also an active member of St. Marks Lutheran Church.

by Patsy K. Goebel

KRUEGER, CHRISTIAN HENRY AND EMILIE ELISA (SCHORLEMMER)

F547

Christian H. Krueger and Emilie Elisa (Schorlemmer), January 17, 1906.

Christian Henry Krueger was born in Arneckeville, Texas to Friedrich C. Kruger and Caroline (Sager) on August 31, 1877. After the death of Caroline on September 14, 1877, Christian was raised by his stepmother. He was so unhappy with his stepmother that his grandmother, Justine (Dreier) Sager, took him in and raised him to manhood. He attended Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville all of his life. On January 17, 1906, "Chris," as he was known, married Emilie Elisa Schorlemmer, the daughter of Carl Johann Schorlemmer and Caroline (Hartman). Emilie was born May 2, 1884 in Arneckeville. Chris and Emilie built their home on the Krueger land adjoining the Sager family land.

The Chris Kruegers had five children: Alvin Henry, born November 3, 1906; Edna Caroline, born October 7, 1907; Frieda Heinricke, born July 24, 1910; Elmer Carl, born July 18, 1912; and Werner Christian, born September 15, 1916.

Chris Krueger was a farmer and rancher. His wife died when their youngest child was

Ca. 1940. Back Row, L-R: Werner Krueger, Elmer Krueger, Alvin Krueger. Front, L-R: Frieda Krueger, "Papa" Christian Krueger, Edna Krueger Nagel.

only four years old, so Chris had to raise his children alone with the help of the older children.

German was sometime spoken by Chris, Emilie and the older children in the home and community. As the family grew, their house became a large two-storied structure. Many social events were held in this house.

Christian Henry Krueger died December 3, 1948, twenty eight years after his wife, Emilie, who died on March 16, 1920. They are buried side by side in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Some of the things that were passed down from Chris Krueger to his grandchildren were stories of early life in the country. When cars first came out, they were only used on special occasions, such as going to church or Sunday visiting. The rest of the week the car would be jacked up in the shed so as not to damage the tires. The car was not large enough to take to town for supplies such as, a large sack of sugar, a large sack of flour, and feed for the animals on the farm. A wagon always was used for going to town for supplies.

When coming to town over Heard Bridge, the driver would shout, whistle or honk the horn before crossing. The bridge was high in the middle and you could not see oncoming traffic, so some noise was made to warn the other side that traffic was coming. Then the driver would make a wild dash across before anyone else came up to the other side. Christian would always shout, "Hold on to your hats," in German, before he dashed across the bridge.

In the later years of Christian Krueger's life, he was known as "Papa" to his children who said it with love and respect.

by Patsy K. Goebel

L-R: Emilie and Christian Krueger, Elmer, Frieda, Edna and Alvin, spring 1916.

Back: Alvin Krueger. Front, L-R: Elmer Krueger, Frieda Krueger, and Edna Krueger, 1915.

KRUEGER, ELMER CARL AND THELMA JANE (THOMPSON)

F548

Elmer Carl Krueger was born July 18, 1912 to Christian Henry Krueger and Emilie (Schorlemmer) Krueger. He was baptized in the Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville, September 8, 1912. His sponsors were Emilie Sager, Otto Wolf and Carl Schorlemmer. He was confirmed in the same church on Palm Sunday in 1927. Elmer attended school at Arneckeville and Cuero High School.

Elmer met Thelma Jane Thompson in Cuero when she came to work in Cuero soon after she graduated from Kingsbury High School in Guadalupe County, Texas. She graduated as valedictorian of her class and was offered several scholarships to attend college. She decided to leave home and work to make a living for herself. Thelma's parents were George Wilson Thompson and Etta Leona (Wright) Thompson of Guadalupe County. When she came to Cuero she lived with the Ben Farmers and later roomed with Fern (Schmidt) Hartman.

On November 2, 1939, Elmer and Thelma eloped to Pearsal, Texas to be married. He borrowed a car from his friend, Fritz Koehler, so he could leave town unnoticed.

Elmer had always made a living working with cattle. He first hauled cattle in trucks for local ranchers. Then he bought his own cattle

Thelma Jane (Thompson) and Elmer Carl Krueger, Sr. 1980

Gail (Eckhardt) Krueger, Cassie Krueger and Elmer Carl Krueger, Jr. 1986

and began leasing pastures. He kept the same pastures for forty years and still was raising cattle when he died in 1980. He was a very trusting man and his word was his contract and his handshake was his bond. He always helped anyone who came to him in need.

Elmer and Thelma had four children: 1) Patsy Kay, b. September 11, 1941; 2) Annette Emilie, b. July 10, 1947; 3) Susan Etta, b. July 10, 1947; and 4) Elmer Carl, Jr., b. December 21, 1956.

Elmer and Thelma lived in DeWitt County most of their married life. They lived in Lavaca County for several years when Elmer was co-owner of the Hallettsville Commission Company. They attended the Baptist Church in Cuero and then the Methodist Church in later years.

After the death of Elmer, Thelma's sister, Mrs. Leota Landers came to live with Thelma. They enjoy fishing, gardening, quilting and visiting friends and relatives.

Thelma has always provided a loving home for her children. She now (1990) has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Patsy Kay (Krueger) Goebel lives in Cuero with her husband, Bob Goebel. (See story elsewhere).

Annette (Krueger) married Robert Carlos Watson August 9, 1968. They have two children: Robin Suzanne Watson who was born August 30, 1972 in Austin, Texas. Robert Carlos Watson, Jr. was born September 6, 1973 in Austin, Texas. Robert, Sr. is in the ranch service business. He contracts to build fences, barns or anything that needs built or repaired on a ranch. For several years the family lived in Nicaragua and managed a large ranch and started an auction for livestock for the countries government. Ann taught school at the American school in Nicaragua. They fled the country when the government began to crumble. They now live in Dale, Texas and Ann teaches in Lockhart. Robert has his ranch service in the Lockhart area.

Susan (Krueger) married Ronald Wayne Mueller in April 15, 1966. They have two children: Ronald Troy Mueller who was born September 9, 1970 in Victoria; and Tracey Sue Mueller who was born September 8, 1972 in Victoria, Texas. Ron and Sue divorced in 1989. They all live in Sulfur, Louisiana where Sue is a nurse for a private clinic and Ron works for Pittsburgh Plate Glass as an electrician.

Elmer Carl Krueger, Jr. married Gail Eckhart August 3, 1984 and they have one child: Cassie Colleen Krueger born May 31, 1986. They live in Cuero and Carl works for Robert D. Goebel – Contractor as a Construction Supervisor. He also ranches. Gail works for Reuss Pharmacy in Cuero.

by Patsy Goebel

Breeden Bros.
GROCERS
Cuero, Texas

Troy Mueller, Sue (Krueger) Mueller and Tracey Mueller. 1989

Robin Watson, Robert Watson, Ann (Krueger) Watson and Bob Watson. 1989

KRUGER, CHRISTIAN AND FRIEDRICH

F549

Charitian Kruger was born in Tangendorf, Brandenberg, Germany on March 28, 1821. He was the son of Johann Joachim Kruger. He was christened Johann Christian Friedrich Kruger. On the tenth of November, 1848, Christian married Marie Wilhelmine Charlotte Bethke in Kletzke, Brandenberg, Germany. She was born May 20, 1822 in Wendenmark, Germany to Joachim Bethke. Christian and Marie had four children: Marie, no information at this time; Friedrich C., born March 24, 1850; Christian, born November 11, 1857; and Wilhelm, born February 25, 1863. Christian's first wife died on May 26, 1871 in Germany. Several years afterwards, Christian came to America, landing in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 15, 1874. Christian came to DeWitt County where his son Friedrich was already living. He married Elizabeth Lange (1828-1905) and they moved to Kilgore Community in Goliad County. Christian was a highly respected farmer and rancher in the Kilgore Community until his death, March 1, 1880. Elizabeth then moved into the home of the Frederich M. Sager family to help care for their children. Christian and Elizabeth are buried in the Kilgore Community Cemetery in Goliad County.

Friederich C. Kruger was known as "Fritz" in the Arneckeville Community. He married Caroline Sophie Sager on November 12, 1875 at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. She was the daughter of Christoph Adam Sager and Justine Sophie Dreier. She was born March 29, 1856. Fritz and Caroline started their married life on land adjoining the Sager family land. The first log church of Zion Lutheran Church was moved to their land and made into their first home. Their new life together came to an end when Caroline died on September 14, 1877 from complications of childbirth. Their son, Christian Henry Kruger, was born on August 31, 1877. Fritz then married Sophie Gebbert (1857-1948) on January 27, 1878 and they had four children: Fritz, Regina, Frieda and Blanch. Fritz and Sophie lived in Kilgore Community, Goliad County until Fritz passed away on September 23, 1903. Fritz and Sophie are buried in the Kilgore Community Cemetery. Caroline Sager Kruger is buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery in Arneckeville, Texas.

by Patsy K. Goebel

Friedrich C. Kruger and Caroline Sager ca. 1875

KRUSE, GEORGE AND ANTONIA (RAAZ)

F550

Antonia Raaz Kruse and her husband George Kruse lived in DeWitt County only a few months while Antonia was dying of cancer. They came to DeWitt County so two of their daughters could help take care of their mother. Antonia was born March 1878 and died June 11, 1938 at age 60 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery. She was born in Lavaca County. George came from Oldenburg, Germany when he was fifteen years old. Antonia's family came from Vienna, Austria. George and Antonia married Dec. 29, 1896. They had nine children — Frieda, Alex, Edmund, Elsie, Willie, Isabella, George, Edgar and Leon.

Christmas of 1937 Antonia came home to stay with her daughter Isabella and her husband A.W. Schaffner as she was too ill to stay in her home. Soon she was too ill to stay alone while Isabella taught and A.W. worked away from home. So she and George went to live with daughter Elsie Wehman and her husband Edgar at Westhoff. After Antonia died George returned to his home until he retired and went to live in Yoakum, DeWitt County, with his daughter, Freida, where he died January 22, 1954 at age 82. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery. All together George later lived in Yoakum, DeWitt County 8 or 10 years after he retired. While their mother was ill, Edgar and Leon came to live with Isabella and her husband and Leon went to Cuero Schools.

Antonia and George had lived in the Dixon and Green School area. The family history has a picture of Green School taken in 1911-1912. The teacher was Professor Martin Ruppel and the older children of the family are in the

picture. This was in Lavaca County near Shiner, Texas. George and Antonia built a lovely country home about three miles north of Shiner. After they sold it to the Arthur Ummelmann family they bought a home about four miles north of Yoakum in the Midway Community. Here the children attended Beasley School. This home had much acreage and beside the homestead had two rent houses. Later the family moved between Hochheim and Cheapside. Most of the family was now grown and the younger children went to Ruppert School and then Cheapside School. Ruppert was in Gonzales County and the Ruppert Community was called a German Community. Cheapside operated under DeWitt County. At this time H.B. Montgomery was the DeWitt County Superintendent. Cheapside was thought of as the English Community.

George Kruse farmed and his wife did the farm work that women did then, including picking cotton and making corn tops, milking cows, etc., raising chickens and turkeys.

George's birthdate was December 27, 1871. To earn money to pay his way to America he drove a buggy for a doctor in Oldenburg, Germany. He said the German Government did not want him to emigrate to America and the American in charge of immigration encouraged him to do so. When he docked in New York he had never seen or eaten bananas. He saw people put down a nickel, pick up a banana and go away eating it. He decided he wanted two so he put down a dime. After a while he thought he needed to remind the lady to give him two bananas when she pushed two bags of bananas to him and everyone laughed. There he was on the docks of New York with two bags of bananas.

George and Antonia had an interesting life. Most of their children married. Frieda married Louis Huber and had six children, Selma, Erma, Weldon, Lester, Reuben and Victor. Alex married Gertrude Huber and had seven children but Franklin died as an infant. Others were Raymond, Ernest, Bernice, Viola, Roger, and Bob. Edmund married Lillian Timble and they adopted a son, Michael. Willie had two wives. The first was Annie Schwartz and they had one daughter, Ellen. His second wife was Peggy Noble and they had William, Jr., Terry, and Linda. Isabella married Alvin Wilford Schaffner and they had no children. George, Jr. married Sophie Wascick and they had a daughter, Jeanette. Edgar and Leon did not marry. At this time 1989 only three children survive, Isabella, George, Jr. and Edgar. Leon died of cancer at age 49 in 1971. Edgar and Leon lived with Isabella and Al for 20 years until they bought a home in Cuero in 1963.

When Antonia and George died they left no great estate. All they made was used up. They cared for their children. Whatever was needed they provided, good nourishing food on the farms, both medical, dental care including operations when needed. They never stinted on their children's needs. The estate they did leave was the finest in the world, American Citizenship, the greatest heritage there is!

by Isabella Schaffner

RICHARD HARRIS.
THE CABMAN,
Solicits your favors in his line.
full line of days a tile disposal of the public.
CALL HIM UP.

KUCK, J. J. FAMILY

F551

J.J. and Helene Kuck

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Kuck were life long residents of DeWitt County and the Yoakum area since their marriage in 1892. Mr. Kuck emigrated from Rastede, near Oldenburg, Germany with his parents, Christian Kuck and wife, Helene Kloppenburg. The mother applied to emigrate three times because their oldest son was of military age, but was not approved until the third application. They left Bremerhaven in the fall of 1886 by steamship and landed in Galveston with their six children, John Juergen, Anna, Eilert, Christian Jr., Henry and Helene. They brought personal needs, some furniture since Papa was a cabinet maker, and $89.00 in cash. They traveled by train to the home of a friend, Henry Santhmann, in Flatonia. Their first crop of cotton was a failure until they learned the difference between cotton plants and cockleburs. The elder Kucks bought a 200 acre farm near Shiner and lived there until their death in 1902 and 1904.

J.J. Kuck married Helene Gerdes on November 9, 1892 near old Sweet Home, in the home of her parents, Eilert Gerdes and wife, Helene Knutzen who had emigrated from Rothenkirchen, Germany, in 1883. J.J. was born on January 18, 1867 and his wife was born on December 19, 1870. They bought a farm near Dreyer in 1893. Their first five children were born on this farm. They were Martha, November 18, 1893 (Mrs. Ed. Dahse of Dreyer); Ella, September 9, 1895 (Mrs. Oscar Ortmann of Orange Grove); Lenora, October 8, 1898 (Mrs. Edmund Langhoff of Hochheim Prairie); Otto, January 17, 1902, of Hochheim Prairie; and John, July 5, 1904 (died January 20, 1907). The family purchased additional land and moved to the Hochheim Prairie in the fall of 1904, now the home of Mrs. Otto Kuck. The last child, Elvera, was born here on August 5, 1910. She was lovingly called "Ditty" until her death on May 10, 1912.

There are many happy memories of Papa and Mama providing for our care. After long, hot summer days of work in the fields, we would all gather on the front porch in the evenings to share happenings of the past and present. Before long, Papa would say "now comes the sea breeze" and Mama would answer, "yes, the mill just turned into the wind." Some time later, we could see the train light coming in through Edgar from Cuero. This was before the brush blotted out much of the Prairie as I remember it from about 1910. We walked to the Hochheim Prairie School to learn the three R's and German for those who wanted to learn to read in two languages.

A never forgotten moment came in May of 1910. Papa called us, past midnight, out of a sound sleep, "to come see the beautiful large comet in the southern sky," which was high in a very clear sky. It had a very bright star and a very long, broad tail near its end, just almost touching earth it seemed. We were told it

J.J. Kuck and family. L-R: J.J., Lenore (Kuck) Langhoff, Martha (Kuck) Dahse, Otto Kuck, Helene (Gerdes) Kuck, Ella (Kuck) Ortmann, 1914.

would not be visible again for 75 years. I thought, "should I be blessed to live that long, then I will really be old." Of course, I am referring to Halley's comet. People of that time worried about the comet, thinking it might put the earth on fire or cause the end of the world. A few years later, I can recall seeing the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights all over the sky during the summer of 1918 or 1919. We were attending a dance at Turner Hall that night.

Our farm on the Hochheim Prairie grew corn, sorghum for hay and grain, and cotton, which was our main cash crop. The cotton was hauled to Yoakum by wagon and team of mules. This cotton was snow white because it was hand picked. Yoakum had several cotton gins at that time.

J.J. Kuck was a prominent citizen of DeWitt County and the state. He served as Grand President of the Hochheim Prairie Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association from 1912 until his death on June 30, 1939, a total of 25 years. He also served on the Grand Finance Committee of the Order of the Sons of Hermann. Our mother, Helene, loved flowers, gardening, family and home. She had a real talent for crocheting bed spreads, which occupied many hours of her time in later years. Mama died on June 5, 1959.

J.J.'s first car was a Model T Ford, 1911. Please see the picture attached which shows five Model T's being delivered at the State Bank in Yoakum in 1911. The first auto connected us with friends at a speed of 20 miles per hour which sure put the old horse to shame. We could attend church at Holy Cross Lutheran on Hochheim and Schwab Street, which was seven miles from home, much easier and faster now.

Descendants of J.J. Kuck now living in the Yoakum area are Lenore Kuck Langhoff 91, John C. Langhoff 57, John Allan Langhoff 29, David Charles Langhoff 28, and Laurie Ann Langhoff 26.

by Lenore Kuck Langhoff

KUECKER, WILLIAM AUGUST

F552

William Kuecker moved to Washington County, Texas from Brandenburg, Germany in 1873 with his parents, Wilhelm and Maria Woolf Kuecker.

After marrying Dorothea Anna Wensel in Brenham, the couple farmed there for a while before settling in DeWitt County.

The couple had four sons: Otto, Rudolph and Robert (who lived in DeWitt County their entire lives), and Henry. Of the seven girls, two of their daughters, Mrs. John (Mary) Leubert and Mrs. Albert (Matilde) Osterloh, also lived in DeWitt County all of their lives. Their other daughters were: Mrs. Richard (Emma) Bernshausen, Mrs. George (Augusta) Franke, Mrs. Floyd (Sally) Parker, Mrs. Jim (Emily) Cooper, and Mrs. Bill (Minnie) Schmidt.

by Mrs. Lamar Hoehne, Sr. and Mrs. Fran, Kuecker

KUNETKA, FRANK W. AND CARRIE M.

F553

Carrie (Morgan) and Frank W. Kunetka

Frank Walter Kunetka was born in Weimar, Colorado County, Texas, on April 25, 1876. He was one of ten children and the second son born to Frank J. Kunetka and Annie Krizan Kunetka, who emigrated from Austria-Hungary in 1873 and landed in Galveston. His parents travelled to Colorado County and settled in Weimar, where the railroad ended. The family moved to Yoakum in DeWitt County, Texas, in 1888.

F.W. Kunetka enlisted in the First Regiment of Texas Cavalry, U.S. Volunteers, in 1898 and served for two years during the Spanish-American War. He was a member of the Army Cavalry Band, playing the trumpet and trombone, and his discharge papers list his occupation as "Musician."

In 1902 he married Carrie Morgan in Yoakum, where he and his brother-in-law, Kos Morgan, operated a general mercantile store for several years. In 1908 they sold the store and bought their first land on the Guadalupe River in DeWitt County from H.E. Lancaster. Operating as a partnership, they engaged in farming and ranching.

In 1916 he moved from the ranch to Cuero and bought the Breeden house at 404 Indianola Street. He was elected DeWitt County Tax Assessor in 1917, a position which he occupied until 1934. In 1935 the Assessor and Collector offices were combined, and he served as a deputy in the new office for approximately 25 years.

He was a fifty-year veteran of the Knights of Pythias and a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where he was a Sunday School teacher for several years. He could speak five languages: Czech, English, German, Polish, and Spanish.

Caroline (Carrie) Morgan Kunetka was born in Lagarto, Texas, on January 10, 1880. She was the second child of Charles and Nannie Quirl Morgan. Her father died at the age of 38 while the family was living in San Diego, Texas. Her mother and five children moved to Yoakum, Texas, in 1900.

Mrs. Kunetka was very active in civic, church, and fraternal organizations. She served as Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star and as advisor to the Rainbow Girls. For more than 25 years she was Secretary of the Red Cross chapter in Cuero, including the period of World War I, and for many years served as election judge. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church and taught the Mattie McLeod Sunday School class for many years.

In 1965 Frank and Carrie retired to the Trinity Lutheran Home in Shiner, Texas, where she died in 1965 at the age of 85 and he followed in death in 1973 at the age of 96. There were no children. Frank and Carrie Kunetka were buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum.

by Jerry Hanys

KUNITZ – WASSERMAN FAMILY

F554

Otto Kunitz (1870), father of Ida (Kunitz) Wasserman.

Otto and Pauline (Straube) Kunitz and Gus and Ida (Kunitz) Wasserman, Jr.

Ida Kunitz Wasserman was born July 27, 1872 in Indianola and was a resident in that small community during the 1875 storm. Shortly after this storm she moved with her parents Otto Kunitz, born April 6, 1844 and Pauline Straube Kunitz, born January 7, 1849, to Cuero. Otto Kunitz, her father, was a Daguerrian Artist born in Prussia. Pauline Straube was born in Schoenau, province of Habel Scherdt, Germany and came with her

Pauline Straube Kunitz (1870), mother of Ida (Kunitz) Wasserman.

parents, Anton and Theresa Straube to Indianola in 1851 at the age of three. Anton Straube, Ida Kunitz's grandfather, was a carpenter from Prussia. He was born January 13, 1814 and died in Cuero, May 3, 1889. Anton's wife Terrice (Theresa) Straube was born April 22, 1812 and died December 26, 1881.

After the Civil War, Pauline Straube Kunitz moved to Springfield Illinois and then came to Cuero with Otto Kunitz, her husband, in March 1876. Otto and Pauline Straube Kunitz were married in 1868 in Indianola and they were the parents of eight children, one son dying in infancy. The children were Edward Kunitz, drugstore owner in Cuero (husband of Mary Strieber of Yorktown), Oscar Kunitz (husband of Mamie Kunitz, Brownwood), Richard Kunitz (retail store owner in Sinton, husband of Cecelia Kunitz), Albert Kunitz (married, Kenedy), Ida Kunitz (wife of Gus Wasserman, Jr., owner of Wasserman Sign Company, Cuero), Annie Kunitz (wife of Frank Bentley, Louisiana), and Pauline Kunitz (wife of Ed Dietze, owner of farm and dairy, Cuero).

Otto Kunitz died September 30, 1886 and Pauline Straube Kunitz died June 25, 1905 at the age of 56 years. Pauline Kunitz was an ardent Baptist. She died of heart trouble. Otto and Pauline Kunitz and Anton and Theresa Straube are buried on the same lot in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Ida Kunitz, daughter of Otto and Pauline Kunitz, married Gus Wasserman, Jr. September 23, 1896. To their union three children were born, one daughter and two sons. Ten years prior to her marriage, and birth of her children, she had visited Indianola during the storm of 1886 which completely demolished the town and she told stories of homes being caught in trees and of saving people from being swept out to sea. She told about people who had to go into their attics to stay away from the high water to save themselves. She told one story about a family saved on a floating mattress which landed in some trees. She remembered the storm vividly. During this storm, her father's home in Cuero was also demolished. Ida Kunitz also told stories about the gangs of cowboys who would come to town on Saturday night. They would ride into the town of Cuero shooting their guns at random. Her mother and father would blow out the lamps so the cowboys wouldn't shoot them out and the children would all lie down on the floor. She remembered the sound of bullets hitting the side of the house as these cowboy gangs came into Cuero and passed their house.

Ida related stories of the balls and parties in the elegant era of the late 1890s. Many masquerade balls were held. The Leap Year Ball given by the young ladies of the Orange Blossom Club in 1896 was a memorable event. The young men of the city reciprocated with another complimentary ball at Turner Hall on January 22, 1896. The German Club was another social club and often held balls at Turner Hall at which the Flick orchestra played. In the newspaper of that day, the ladies who attended were listed and each gown was described including every lace, jewel, and feather they wore. The men's attire was also described, particularly if it was a masquerade ball. Chaperones were always in attendance (at least twenty) and usually about 40 couples were invited. There were grand marches and the ladies had a happy time filling out dance programs for each dance. These affairs usually started about 9:00 p.m., and as dance followed dance, ended about 3:00 a.m. Carriages were the means of transportation.

Ida Kunitz was a beautiful painter, a talent she had inherited from her father who was a talented artist. She particularly liked to paint animals. She painted several lovely large pictures of deer running through the woods. In the possession of her descendants are some lovely cat pictures. She was a devout Lutheran and loved her church. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, as were the members of her family.

Ida Kunitz Wasserman and Gus Wasserman, Jr. were a devoted couple and had three children. They were Edward Raymond Wasserman, Norman Wasserman, and Gladys Pauline Wasserman Voelkel. All of these children married and lived in Cuero.

Ida Wasserman loved to garden and took great pleasure in giving her grandchildren the carnations and sweetpeas she grew so they could take them to school to their teachers.

Ida Kunitz Wasserman died in 1942, at the age of 72 from a heart attack suffered at her home on 707 Newman Street. At this time she lived with Edward and Annie Dohman Wasserman.

Ida Kunitz Wasserman and Gus Wasserman, Jr. are buried in Hillside Cemetery as are their two children, Edward and Gladys. Norman is buried in Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

by Mrs. Shirley Sprigg

KYLE, SAMUEL LEE

F555

Samuel Lee Kyle was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1832. His father, David Kyle, an Irish born merchant, removed to Norfolk in the 1830's and Lee and his older brother Robert were educated at the Norfolk Academy. In the early 1850's both Robert and Lee came to Victoria County, Texas, where they ranched until the Civil War. Both brothers were in the

Samuel Lee Kyle

Texas Confederate Army. Lee served in Waller's Texas Cavalry, Terrell's Brigade, and Bagby's Command, where he was Ordnance Officer and a major.

After the war Robert Kyle returned to Virginia to assist his parents. Lee Kyle stayed in Texas and married Martha Holmes Taylor, a maternal cousin. Before 1870 the Kyles moved to Halletsville, and during the succeeding years Lee was licensed as a pharmacist and as a lawyer. Before 1880 he became owner-editor of the Halletsville Herald and Planter. In 1885, according to memos in his notebook, he sold the Herald and Planter to "Lehman and LaCrosse" and bought the Flatonia Star.

In 1889 he moved to Cuero, bringing with him his wife, three daughters, his mother-in-law Hester Lee Taylor, and an uncle, Ralph Lee. He published and edited the Cuero Bulletin until his death in 1894. After that, his daughters Lizzie and Fanny ran the paper until it was sold to Jack Howerton and was absorbed by the Cuero Record.

After his death, Lee Kyle's widow Martha built a house at 715 Gonzales Street, which she ran as a gemutlich boarding house. Among her boarders were Judge Bouquet and Judge Thomas.

Lizzie, the eldest daughter, taught school in Halletsville, then Shiner, and finally, for several years, in the Victoria High School, though she continued to live in Cuero. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church and also of the Hawthorn Society.

The second daughter, Hester, married Irven A. Cottingham, the engineer who built the "impossible" high railroad bridge over the Pecos for the Southern Pacific. The Cottinghams lived in Houston. Their children were Lee, Margaret, Mary Mac-Gregor Weaver, Elizabeth Edghill, Hester Pennington, and Martha Smith.

My grandmother was Fanny, the youngest daughter. She taught school at Shiner and at Blue Mott School in DeWitt County before her marriage to Isham B. Garrett. Isham and Fanny Garrett lived in DeWitt County for some years, but later moved to Karnes County. Fanny died young and left five young children. The eldest was my mother, Adelaide Garrett

Gill. The other children were Isham, Rose Weaver, Irven, and Ward.

by Elizabeth Gill Shelfer

LACKEY, DR. J. M. LACKEY

F556

Dr. Joseph M. Lackey.

According to the October 1895 *Cuero Star*, J. M. Lackey, M.D., was born in Clinton, Texas January 10, 1869 and is a twin brother to Frank Lackey. They are the sons of Samuel C. Lackey (1-23-1833 to 7-11-1888), a prominent attorney, and Nannie M. Lackey (2-20-1836 to 12-1-1917).

Joseph M. Lackey attended the Cuero Institute and secured the rudiments of a literary education, which he finished at the State University in Austin, Texas, and the Kentucky Military Institute of Frankfort. He studied medicine in the office of Dr. Hodge, of Cuero, for two years, after which he graduated from the celebrated University of Louisville. He also took a general course in the eminent Post Graduate Medical School and Hospital of New York City. He entered the practice in partnership with Dr. J.M. Thompson, of Meyersville, and after three and one-half years of success, returned to Cuero to live.

Joseph M. Lackey died February 21, 1935 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery. Dr. Lackey never married.

by Patsy Goebel

LACKEY, SAMUEL C. II

F557

Mr. Samuel Lackey II, was born in DeWitt County in 1866. His father, Sam C. Lackey, was for thirty years a leading attorney of South Texas. Samuel C. Lackey II, entered the Frankfort (Ky.) Military Institute when eighteen

Samuel C. Lackey, II.

years of age from which he was graduated in 1887. He then attended the law department of the State University of Texas for two years where he received the degree of LL.B., after which he was admitted to practice by the supreme court in 1889. The same year he opened an office and engaged in the practice at Cuero. He was elected county attorney in 1890 and re-elected in 1892 and 1894.

Samuel C. Lackey II was married in November 1891 to Miss Jennie Weldon, daughter of the Hon. V. Weldon of Cuero. She was born in 1869 and died in 1934. Samuel died December 7, 1951. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Samuel and Jennie had three sons: Vachel Weldon Lackey, Frank Joe Lackey who was born in 1900 and died in 1974, Samuel C. Lackey, III who was born in 1894 and died in 1959.

by Patsy Goebel

LAGING, H.W. FAMILY

F558

Civil War Veteran

H.W. Laging was known in all of the Nordheim area as Papa Laging. He was born in Wehdem, Kreisz, Luebeck, Germany, on February 18, 1841. He came to America by the way of Breman, Germany, on the ship Weser in 1860 settling first near Brenham, Texas. He was just getting familiar with the new world when the "Civil War" broke out. He served under General Kirby Edmund Smith as a soldier of the Confederacy, mainly in Arkansas and Louisiana. He was in the Battle of Bull Run under General Sherman. His tour was three years and ten months. He faced its dangers, endured its hardships and Privations and shared in the awesome reconstruction. They spent weeks and months in camps near streams doing drills. They had no tents but slept on blankets when they had some. A wagon brought them food when they could. Nine men ate from one

William Laging and Marie (Dahse) Laging

loaf of bread and a certain amount of meat a day. When they had to cook their own food they hunted game with sling shots of sticks as they were not allowed to use ammunition. The roads were pulverized by the wagons, horses, and men and the dust got into their food, teeth, throat, and noses. In winter they had greater discomfort from the coal and wet. But in spite of all they could sing and laugh. When they stopped they dropped and slept for nine minutes of rest. When they needed clothes they were removed from their fallen comrades. He was mustered out in Little Rock, Arkansas. A Historical marker was placed on his gravesite.

He married Miss Marie Dahse on March 3, 1867 at Welcome, Texas. She was born on Oct. 4, 1850 in Brandenbury, Germany, and came to Texas with her parents in the fall of 1858, also settling near Brenham. In 1875 they moved to Weimar and in 1913 to Nordheim. Seven children were born to them. They were: one daughter who died in infancy.

Henry J. married Henrietta Poppe in Weimar. They had no children but raised a young woman – Emilie Koehn. She married Rudolph Kraatz. Henry owned the first auto repair shop and garage in Nordheim in 1918. He also was the Justice of Peace of Nordheim for years.

Marie married John Wendt. They moved to Nordheim in 1907. Their children were Lydia, who married Hugo Schlosser, and they had one daughter, Vernice, now Mrs. Berthold Oehlke; and Erna who married Otto Janssen, Sr., and they had one son Otto Jr. He married Myrtle Schmidt and they have two daughters Bonnie (Carter) and Penny (Sievers).

Willie married Blanche Long from Brandyville, Penn. She was the daughter of Samuel Long and wife Angelina Buchanan, Will served in Spanish American War in the Medical Corp in Cuba. He became a pharmacist and lived in the Philadelphia area until they moved to Nordheim in 1942. He later became a relief druggist in Cuero during World War II. They had no children. They are both buried in Pennsylvania.

Carl married Emma Stech. They lived on a farm out of Yorktown until after the death of Emma when he moved to Laging home in Nordheim. They had three children: Werner who married Bernice Mueller, Hilda married

William Laging Family: Standing: Walter, Alvina, Charlie, Willie, Mary, and Henry. Seated: William and Marie Laging

Jerry Pivonka; and Elna married Theodore Ammermann. Carl later married Hermine Schuenemann. Carl, Emma, and Hermine are all buried in Yorktown.

Alvina married Henry Boeer. They had one son, Erwin. They are buried in San Antonio.

Walter, born April 30, 1888, married Elsie, daughter of Henry and Minna Natho Meyer, on June 1, 1909. Although they had no children they helped raise their niece, Mildred Lee Huck Mueller. They first lived in Weimar but soon moved to Nordheim, where he became a partner with his brother in the garage later buying it from him. He became a very successful business man and rancher. He was Mayor of Nordheim for many years. He was a member of numerous organizations. Walter and Elsie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1, 1959. She died on Jan. 19, 1974 and he died on April 29, 1980. They are both buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Two young nieces, Mrs. John Stech and Mrs. Caroline Havermann lived with the H.W. Lagings until they were married.

Papa Laging being a practical, industrious, courageous man who went about the task of making a living. He always had a cheery greeting and word of encouragement for the school children as they passed the Laging home on their way to and from school. He was the last veteran of the confederacy in the Nordheim community when he passed away on Dec. 5, 1935 at 93 years and 10 months. Grandma Laging as Marie was affectionately known, passed away on January 14, 1943, also at the age of 93 years, 3 months. They were married 67 years. They are both buried in the Nordheim Cemetery, Nordheim, Texas.

It has been noted in the "New Homes Die Bremervervandscraft in Deutschland and in Texas book" there was a Charlotte Laging, born June 5, 1824 and died Dec. 22, 1909, who married B.G. Rosenbaum. She came from Wehdem, Germany, the same section as Papa Laging. There may be some relationship. She is buried in the Salem Cemetery near Brenham.

by Mildred Lee Huck Mueller

LAMPRECHT, WILHELM FAMILY

F559

Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Lamprecht, second of six children born to Heinrich Lamprecht and his wife whose last name was Mennrich, was born on Dec 28, 1848 at Garza, near Luneburg, Hanover, Germany. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. As a young man he served in the German Army. On Aug 22, 1880 he was married to Dorathea Catherine Margaretha Schoop only daughter of Friedrich Schoop and his wife Anna Magdelene Schoop. She was born on Aug 19, 1858 at Moor, near Bleckede, Hanover, Germany and was baptized in the Lutheran faith on Oct 3, 1858. After receiving her education and religious instruction, she was confirmed by her Pastor Behnecke on Apr 6, 1873. Ten days after their wedding they began the trip to America, arriving at Galveston on Oct 2, 1880. At first they settled in Washington County. Later they moved to Sweethome Lavaca Co. and then to Yoakum where on Mar 27, 1884 they bought 127 acres from Martha May. On Aug 31, 1887 they sold 6 acres to the San Antonio and Aransas Pass RR Co. for right of way. The railroad built a roundhouse on part of this tract. On Mar 8, 1888 the sold 4 acres to C. Grichard and on Apr 13, 1888, one acre to Thos. Carroll. On Jun 25, 1888 they sold 95 acres to J.P. Nelson. On Jun 16, 1887 Wm. became a U.S. Citizen. Wm.'s oldest brother Heinrich born in Feb. 1844 inherited the Lamprecht Home near Luneburg, Ger. and remained there as did his sisters, Dorothy and Minne. Heinrich's grandson Heinrich Lamprecht III still lives in the home in Garza which was built in 1839. Wilhelm's two younger brothers came to America. Dietrich and his wife Doris first settled at Nopal but later moved to Victoria County. Ernst and his family settled at Muscatine, Iowa. Dorothea's mother died on Oct 12, 1858 when she was 2 months old. Her father married again and there were some half-sisters from this second marriage. On June 30, 1890 Wm. and Dorathea bought 598 acres for $7774.00. 521 acres were in Gonzales Co and 77 acres in DeWitt Co. West of Nopal. The family moved to this farm in 1891. On Dec 6, 1890 they sold 100 acres of this farm to his brother Dietrich. On Oct 7, 1897 Dietrich sold the 100 acres back to Wm. when he moved his family to Victoria. Wm. was instrumental in organizing St. Martin's Lutheran Cong. of Nopal and in the early years played the Church organ. He was a carpenter by trade but also farmed until 1913 when he and his wife moved to Yorktown, first living on Riedel St. and later in the home across from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Besides the farm at Nopal they also owned a farm at Woodsboro. He was the original owner of the Park Garage on N. Riedel St. across from the City Park. The business was later sold to the Migura Bros. but the building remained in the family until the Estate was settled. After they moved to Yorktown, he gardened and did carpenter work, sometimes building coffins for the local mortuary. He passed away on Mar 27, 1934 at the age of 85

1913 – Wilhelm Lamprecht Family: Back: Willie Edward, Herman, Ernst J., Dietrich C., Charles, Otto Ludwig Christian. Seated:; Dorothea (Schoop) Lamprecht, Dora (Lamprecht) Koopmann, Wilhelm.

years. Dorathea lived alone in her home until feebleness took its toll. Her last years were spent with Ms. Frances Wagner as her constant companion. She passed away on Sunday, Dec 30, 1945 at 6:25 A.M. at her home. They are buried at Westside Cemetery, Yorktown. Eight children were born to them: 1) Dora, whose story appears elsewhere; 2) Willie Edward born Jul 11, 1883 (died Oct 23, 1952) married Cora Metting. They are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown; 3) Herman married Mary Neuman. They lived first in Victoria and then in Woodsboro. While living there, he left his family and was never heard from again. Mary moved back to Yorktown and is buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery; 4) Ernst J. born Oct 30, 1887 married Anna Heimlich, born Jun 19, 1886, on Jan 14, 1912. He died Aug 6, 1933 and she died in 1974. They are buried in Catholic Cemetery #2 in Victoria; 5) Baby boy passed away at the age of 3 months and is buried at Yoakum; 6) Dietrich C. born Jan 30, 1891 married Emma Seifert, born Jan 30, 1891, on Dec 9, 1912. They first lived at Nopal and then at Stockdale. He later left his family and lived at Port Isabelle and later at Odem. He died on Oct 19, 1972 and is buried beside his father. She stayed living in Stockdale until she died on May 7, 1984 and is buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown; 7) Charles born Mar 17, 1893 (died Dec 11, 1974) married Edna Hargrove, born Aug 19, 1897, on Jun 20, 1915. She died Jun 28, 1980. They are buried at Westside Cemetery; 8) Otto Ludwig Christian born Jul 1, 1895 (died Nov 29, 1970) married Bertha Jane Peters, born Feb 8, 1898 on Apr 17, 1919. He is buried in the Woodsboro Cemetery in Refugio Co.

by Hilmer E. Koopmann

LANE, ARTHUR DUTTON AND BENNIE RAE LOWRANCE

F560

Samuel Wintson (Tad) Lane III and Nannie Lee (Baby Lee) Williams Lane had five children. The fifth child was Arthur Dutton lane who was born in the Boothe Hospital in Cuero on October 24, 1925. The family had moved into town only a few months before Dutton was born. He was named for a colonial ancestor, Dutton Lane, and for Mrs. Lane's brother, Arthur Williams. Dutton attended school in Cuero. After high school, he served in World War II. He was drafted in February of 1944 and went into combat with the 36th Division in November of that year. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Bravery in Action.

After the war he attended the University of Texas and A&I University; then went into ranching with his father. He married Bennie Rae Lowrance, daughter of S.A. Lowrance and Alice Humphrey Lowrance in Yoakum on August 4, 1951. Bennie Rae was born in DeWitt County, on the home place of Alfred Lowrance, her grandfather, on November 27, 1930. She and Dutton have three children. Their first child is Robert Dutton Lane, born October 9, 1954 in Yoakum. Robert Dutton attended school in Cuero and graduated from A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Economics. He married Denise Barker of Alice on September 20, 1980, and they have three children: Travis Shay, a son from an earlier marriage of Denise; Amber Lee, born May 24, 1982; and Dutton Trevor, born February 2, 1985. Robert Dutton and his family live in Alice, and he ranches in the Cuero, Laredo and Alice areas.

Candyce Lane was the second child. She was born on July 31, 1956 in Cuero. Candyce attended school in Cuero and graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1979 with a degree in Music Education. She lives in Florida and teaches music in the elementary grades.

The third child was Sherri Lane. She was born on November 7, 1962 in Cuero. She attended school in Cuero and after graduating from high school went to A&M University. She completed three years of college and went into the food management business. She is currently with Professional Food Services of Dallas and lives in Fort Worth.

by Mrs. Bennie Rae Lane

Dutton and Bennie Rae Lane

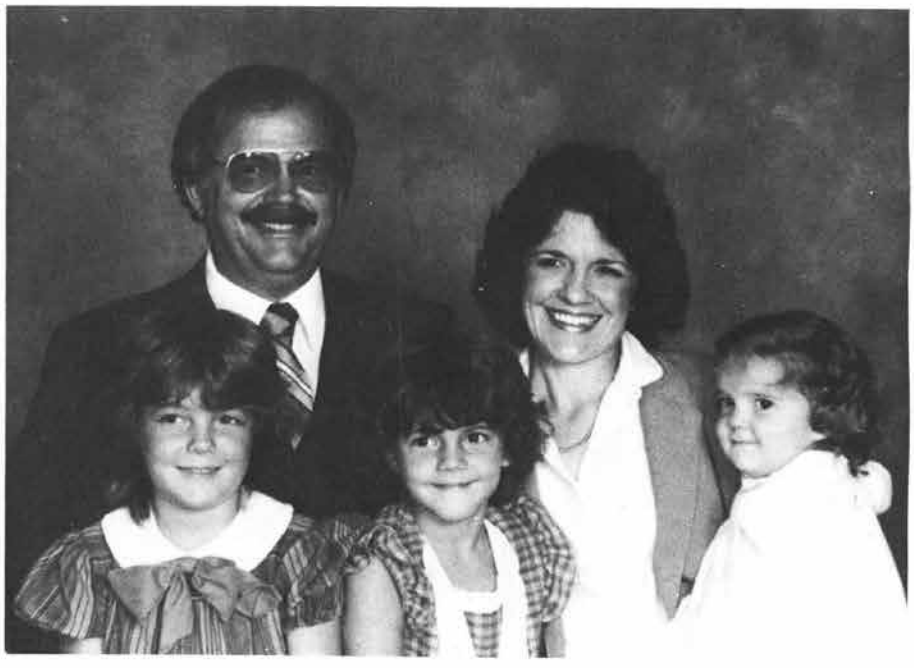
LANE, DANIEL TAD (BOBBY)

F561

Daniel Tad "Bobby" Lane, the second child and only son of Harold N. "Fritz" Lane and his wife Marion, was born in Cuero, July 28, 1947. He attended school in Westhoff, Bloomington, Tivoli, Duncanville and Cuero in Texas as well as in Alaska two years. In Alaska he attended sixth grade in 1959 to 1960 at Afognak (the town of Afognak was destroyed by the devastating earthquake and tidal wave of 1962 and the community was rebuilt on the Island of Kodiak by Lions Clubs, and renamed Port Lions) and seventh grade in Anchorage. On Afognak Island, he was able to go on a bear hunt and do much mountain hiking and exploring with his father as well as participating in an English-speaking culture with unique Russian-Aleut customs. Bobby graduated from high school in Cuero, and attended Victoria College a short time before enlisting in the Navy for four years.

In the Navy, Bobby became a radarman on a destroyer. In the fall of '68, he was able to get a leave to drive the family to the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. While in the Navy, he experienced a Mid-East patrol around the coast of Africa to Bahrain, and a NATO cruise in Europe. Upon his return from the Navy, he married Fern Jeanette Palmer, a Cuero girl born in Gonzales, October 6, 1951, to C.C. Palmer, Jr. and wife Marie. Fern was a member of the honor society in high school and also at Victoria College, where she received her Associate of Arts degree. She and Bobby were married in Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero, December 4, 1971.

Bobby received his degree in Business Administration from Southwest Texas in 1974.



Bobby Lane Family — 1985. Back: Daniel Tad "Bobby" and Fern. Front: Jennifer, Melissa, Amanda.

He and Fern have three daughters, all born in Cuero Community Hospital: Jennifer Marie was born December 4, 1975; Melissa Ruth was born August 16, 1978; and Amanda Lee was born February 22, 1983. Jennifer and Melissa attend Cuero Junior High and Amanda Lee is in the first grade at John C. French.

Bobby and Fern are owners and operators of Lane Insurance Agency in Cuero. Bobby was elected to the Cuero City Council in May, 1989. They are both active in Grace Episcopal Church where they have each served on the vestry.

by Mrs. Fern Lane

LANE, HAROLD NICHOLS "FRITZ"

F562

Harold N. "Fritz" Lane and Marion Lane, 1981 Ambergris Caye in the Caribbean.

Harold Nichols "Fritz" Lane, the fourth child of S.W. Lane III "Tad", was born on the ranch near Lindenau, September 7, 1919. His mother, Baby Lee, chose the name "Nichols", as her mother-in-law, Eliza, wanted him named "Lazarus" for her father, Lazarus Nichols. However, when her father-in-law looked down at the new blond baby, he commented, "He looks just like a little Fritz" — a German neighbor — and "Fritz" he became. Fritz attended first grade at Lindenau, riding horseback with his sister Siddy; but then the family moved into Cuero so Sam IV could continue his education. After Tad bought the old Buchel house on Indianola and Broadway, near the home of his Aunt Lou Lane Schleicher on Terrell and West Live Oak, Fritz was tutored and read to from her extensive library of classics. (His great-aunt was a natural teacher, and before her marriage to George Schleicher in Gonzales, had tutored in the home of Judge Graves there — Mary Sue Graves Hamilton's mother was one of her students).

When the Depression hit the farm and ranch community of Cuero, the Tad Lane family moved back to the ranch; but Lou and George became house parents for Fritz, so he spent weekends and vacations on the ranch, learning to love the out-of-doors with his brother, Sam, and his father. Fritz graduated in Cuero at sixteen and attended A&M; but after his third bout with pneumonia there in two years, the college advised his mother to send him to a drier climate. While at Sul Ross at Alpine, Fritz first learned to fly. In May, 1941, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and spent the next four and one-half years being sent to each new school the Air Corps had, as an observer-reporter. He was an instructor in mental and physical reconditioning for men returning from combat in the Pacific to the Santa Maria, California, Hospital.

Sam, his Marine brother, was killed on Guam in 1944; and on April 9, 1945, Fritz married Marion Ruth Eichenlaub, a high school teacher from St. Paul, Minnesota, whose brother had also been killed by the Japanese in 1944. She was born in St. Paul September 16, 1917, and after high school worked as a copy reader for West Publishing company and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch*, earning her B.A. degree from Macalester College in 1941. She has taught school wherever she and Fritz have lived; and when Fritz returned to Sul Ross to get his degree, Marion attended also and earned her M.A.

At Sul Ross, with two young children, Fritz was an honor student; and when Dan (Hoss) Blocker starred in "Green Pastures", he urged Fritz to accept a part, which he did. After graduating, Fritz and Marion moved to Austin, Fritz working on his M.A. and Marion beginning a doctorate. Fritz was applying for part-time work when he met a superintendent from Raymondville, needing a teacher desperately, so he accepted and moved his family to the Valley. When they were in Cuero for Thanksgiving, their fourth child was born. Fritz liked new challenges, so in addition to teaching, he has owned and operated dairies, raised turkeys, owned and operated shrimp boats and a live-bait business on the Texas Coast, and was one of the forty or so men who started up the Carbide plant at Long Mott near Seadrift, and he operated the Cuero office of the Texas Department of Public Welfare. It was while he was in this last sedentary work in 1968, that he had his first serious health problems, having carotid artery and lung surgery that same year. While still recuperating, he took his family to the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, with his Navy son, Bobby, driving.

Fritz and Marion's four children were all born at the Bohman Hospital. Marion Ruth "Tinker" born October 4, 1946, graduated from high school in Cuero, married Jimmy Carl Whitley, and they were attending college in Denton when Kimberly Lane Whitley was born. Kim is now working on her doctorate in psychology at Commerce, Texas, and has two children. Tinker earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees at Southwest Texas in Special Education and teaches in Cuero. She is married to Charles Stanley Cox from Alabama, and their daughter, Misti Dawn, is in kindergarten in Cuero. Charlie is an instrumentation specialist with H.B. Zachery.

Daniel Tad "Bobby", their second child, is listed separately.

Their third child, Barbara Lee, born October 7, 1950, was a cheerleader and UIL drama participant through high school and got her degree in Drama Education from the University of Texas. She was married at the First Presbyterian Church in Cuero September 8, 1973, to Robert Edward Glodt, Jr., of San Angelo, an A&M graduate and an independent entomologist at Plainview. Barbara is in the D.A.R. and is teaching there; and they have two sons: Tyler Edward and Travis Blair.

Cynthia Ann, their fourth child, was born November 24, 1951, during Thanksgiving vacation. After graduation from Cuero High School, she attended Victoria College a short time, then married Emil Mayenzet of New York, and they have one child Ingra Lee, born in Port Lavaca. Cynthia later married Jeffrey Dean of Louisiana, and they have two daughters: Dallas Marie and Leigh Ann. Cynthia and Jeff live in Louisiana, and she teaches restaurant management.

The Lane family went to Alaska the year it changed from a territory to a state, 1959. They lived there for two years; the first year both parents taught school on Afognak Island which was culturally Russian-Aleut; and the second year the family lived in Anchorage so Tinker could continue her schooling. Marion taught there and Fritz flew their Cessna 175 for Williams Brothers, who were laying a pipeline from the Kenai to Anchorage. After they returned to Texas, Fritz returned seasonally to Alaska as a big game guide for the southern region. He was preparing a Kodiak bear hunt for Roy Rogers and his party when the Good Friday earthquake and tidal wave occurred. He had recently read about the speed of a tidal wave, and knowing the epicenter of the earthquake from his marine short wave, he was able to prepare so his boat and crew survived, and they were able to go to the assistance of another remote settlement. This 8.4 quake on the Richter scale was so strong that water in the Guadalupe sloshed at the old Cuero dam and in swimming pools in Houston.

Later Fritz ranched on an extensive scale on leases in DeWitt County, always having laborers with him due to his limited lung capacity — "You don't grow a new lung". After thirty-three years of teaching (nineteen in Cuero) Marion retired in 1978, and was able to accompany Fritz and his crew taking a boat around the Yucatan to Central America, where Fritz established a transportation business on a Caribbean Island, flying back to Cuero frequently in their Cessna 210. After four years, Fritz retired, and they lived in the state of Vera Cruz in Mexico two years, when Fritz had to have carotid artery repair and by-pass surgery. Their son, Bobby and family live in the house Fritz and Marion built — the first house built in Brayton Park after it became city property — and Fritz and Marion live in a house across the street, both houses on the corner of Thomas and Terrell.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

LANE, SAMUEL WINSTON, I, AND ANN MARY CATHERINE PUCKETT

F563

Samuel Winston Lane, the first of that name in DeWitt County, was from a line of Lanes who embarked from England on "Ye Expectation" for the Colonies in 1635. He was born March 31, 1823 in Florence, Alabama, where his mother must have been visiting her parents, as the family was living in Tennessee. His father was Col. Tidence Lane, born in Tennessee, and a veteran of the War of 1812; and his mother was Abigail Hughes (Hewes) Thomas, born in North Carolina. His father helped lay out the town of Athens in McMinn County, Tennessee, but removed his family to Brandon, Rankin County, Mississippi, probably in the 30's to raise cotton. When Tidence was having

financial difficulty in the 40's, Samuel told his father to keep his brother Nathaniel in college as he was a gifted Latin Scholar, and Samuel would make his own way. (Brother Nat was struck on the head by a sentry while in military service, was missing several days, and was found at the home of an uncle, babbling in Latin. He never recovered and never married).

It was probably before the Mexican War that Samuel came to Texas as a "drummer" selling sewing machines. In the Mexican War he was a corporal in Company E, First Regiment, Mississippi Volunteer Infantry; and this unit under Col. Jefferson Davis passed through Texas to fight in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista. For this service he received a military bounty land warrant for 160 acres in Wisconsin, which he sold in January, 1848. On the 1850 Rankin County census, he was listed as a twenty-six-year-old farmer of 1,100 acres of land, with his nineteen year old wife. (He was married at Brandon October 9, 1849, to Ann Mary Catherine Puckett, born at Brandon January 16, 1832, to Dr. Samuel Murrell Puckett, a physician, and his wife, Mary Jane Matthews).

On the 1850 census enumeration, Pucketts were 237 and Samuel was 247 – the proximity of the two households bearing out the family story that Ann Mary's mother disapproved of her headstrong oldest child's marriage at sixteen and would not allow her or her husband in her home, though she could see her daughter's house on the hill from her porch. (Ann Mary's will states that she was the oldest child, so the twenty-three-year-old Puckett on this census must have been a nephew).

Then one of Ann Mary's four younger children, revelling in a parade, was being deliberately jostled by another boy. When the harrassment continued, the Puckett boy stabbed the tormenter with his knife. Sam Lane was able to get his young brother-in-law out of Mississippi and into Mexico. The boy wrote to his mother from Mexico that she should accept Sam as a son, for he had saved his life.

In the summer of 1851, after the birth of their first child, Sam and Ann Mary emigrated to DeWitt County and settled on a farm on Sandies Creek on the Tobias Wentworth League. There he built a log cabin with a stick and branch arbor in front, and became a stock raiser and a buyer and seller of land. In 1865 he became very ill with the painful complications of typhoid and died at their home in Clinton September 27 at the age of forty-two, leaving his widow with five children – the oldest fourteen. The following year the youngest child, James, died at the age of eighteen months and was buried beside his father at the Clinton Cemetery. Ann Mary remained at Clinton, selling land as needed to educate her children.

The two oldest daughters were married in Clinton: Mary Jane, the second oldest, was married January 17, 1870 to William Mayo Atkinson of Virginia, and they made their home in Gonzales where he bought the college property and built a home; and Cora Wharton Lane, the oldest child, married Sterling Fontaine Grimes of Kentucky December 12, 1871. Sterling had fought for the Confederacy and was held prisoner at Camp Douglas, Chicago, for more than a year, along with most of his regiment under General John H. Morgan. After the war he returned to Kentucky; and he came to DeWitt County in 1867 and read law, passing the bar in 1871. He was county attorney for three years, district attorney of the twenty-fourth judicial district for ten years, and was district judge from 1892-1896. About 1890 Cora took their son and daughter to Kentucky to visit, and all three died of a fever and were buried there. Sterling died in Cuero at the age of seventy-five, but was always Ann Mary's attorney and advisor.

The third daughter LouLou, was born during the Civil War. She attended Stanford Female College in Kentucky and was valedictorian of her class. She was married at the home of her sister, Mary Jane, in Gonzales September 1, 1896, to George Johnston Schleicher, son of Congressman and Colonel Gustave Schleicher, who was one of the founders of Cuero and was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Cuero.

Congressman Schleicher died in Washington during his third term in office when George the oldest child, was only fifteen. (George's father was so large that the Congress had to have a special chair built for him). After his father died, the family came to Cuero, and George went to work for the Buchel interests, deferring college til later. He finally studied law at Columbia University in New York, graduating with honors just before his marriage. He practiced law in Cuero; his office was in the first block of west Main, next to the Buchel Bank, and he and Lou built a large two-story home on the northwest corner of Terrell and West Liveoak. Lou was actively interested in literature and current affairs. Lou and George had no children, but were house parents during school to Ann Mary and Sam's grandson, Harold Nichols (Fritz) Lane. Both Lou and George died (after Fritz was at A&M) in the thirties, and are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Ann Mary Puckett Lane died in Cuero January 16, 1912, and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in the Lane plot. Her infant son, James, was reinterred beside his mother as her will requested. (Her husband's grave at Clinton Cemetery has been called Cuero's oldest surface burial vault).

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

LANE, SAMUEL WINSTON, II AND ELIZA NICHOLS

F564

Samuel Winston Lane, II, the fourth child born to Samuel Winston Lane, I, and his wife, Ann Mary Catherine Puckett, was born in Clinton, August 1, 1862. His father died when he was only three, leaving his thirty-three-year-old mother with considerable property and five children, between the ages of fourteen and four months. A little more than a year later, his little brother, James, died at the age of eighteen months.

Samuel Winston Lane, II, grew up fatherless in the tumultuous times of the feuding seventies, when those who owned land and raised cattle were defending their investment from those who rustled cattle and sometimes allies with carpet-bag government. After the marriages of his two oldest sisters in their home in Clinton, his mother built a home in the budding town of Cuero (laid out in 1872) so Sam II could attend school at the Nash Academy there. His sister Loulou may have also attended the Nash Academy; but she went to Stanford Female College in Kentucky and graduated as valedictorian of her class. At fifteen Sam quit the Academy and went on a cattle drive "up the Trail" to Kansas.

Eliza Nichols, Sam's future wife, was born on Fulchears Creek in Gonzales County August 23, 1863 to Lazarus Nichols of Mississippi and his wife Margaret Louisa Means, a born Texan. He moved his family to Cheapside in DeWitt County and later bought land on the Elihu Moss League. When Eliza and her twin brother Elisha were fourteen, they entered the Nash Academy in Cuero. To enter them on his roll, Mr. Nash first asked Elisha how old he was. When he asked the same question of Miss Eliza, who was more mature, and received the same answer, the older children in the school laughed, so Eliza immediately stood up and announced, "Mr. Nash, we are twins!"

While a student at the Academy, Eliza boarded with Mr. Nash. He warned her against her friendship with her classmate, Sam Lane, saying, "He is a scamp and has the devil in him." Eliza's preparation under Mr. Nash was thorough that in 1881, when she entered the University of Texas as a charter member of the first Freshman Class, she was excused from two major Freshman courses. When it was time to return for her Sophomore year, her father was quite ill, so she did not attend further; and he died at their home in Clinton December 28, 1882. Like Mrs. Lane, the widowed Mrs. Nichols later built a home in the rising town of Cuero. (Her grandson, Ted Lane, located her home "back of the old Brown Hotel and across the street from Diebel's").

In about 1885, Sam Lane sent word to Eliza in Clinton that he would like to call on her at her mother's home. They were married in Clinton at her mother's September 30, 1886, by J.T. Gillett, an ordained minister, with witnesses Annie R. Blackwell and J.J. Pleasants. Samuel took his bride to his place on the Prairie that he had inherited from his father. She looked around for the cook he had promised her. Sam whipped out a cup-towel, tied it around his waist, and grinned, "I'm the cook." This left Eliza with a responsibility she disliked, and most of the stories of their sometimes stormy marriage concern food.

Sam Lane used a lot of salt on his food, but Eliza often forgot to put salt on the table. At one meal he stormed away from the table and came back with a shoe, a hammer, and a nail, nailed the shoe to the ranch table, filled it full of salt and said, "Now I guess we'll have salt!" Another food contention arose because he liked soda biscuits and she liked cornbread. If Sam went to town, he came back with meal; if Eliza went to town, she came back without flour. On one occasion, they both went to town, then quarreled over which bread would be prepared for the next meal. Sam cut a hole in the sack of cornmeal and walked around the outside of the house shaking meal on the ground; they met at the front gallery as Eliza was shaking his flour on the ground.

Sam also had a feisty mother-in-law, diminutive Margaret Louisa Means Nichols. She was born in what became Sabine County, as her grandmother, Rachel Means from Georgia, received a headright in her own name for land on the Pedernales, now a part of the LBJ Ranch. Her father William Means with his wife Frances, accompanied his mother to Texas in 1832, having one child in Louisiana enroute. William was a colonel at the battle of San Jacinto, Sabine County sheriff, its tax collector, and represented the County in the Eighth

and Ninth Congresses, 1843-45, so Margaret Louisa born in Texas November 16, 1833, was truly a Texas Pioneer. Late one evening Sam was visiting Mrs. Nichols when the sky grew dark from an impending storm. She asked Sam if he was going home to Eliza and young "Tad" who were alone in the country; and since the storm of 1886, Eliza was frightened of storms. Sam said he wasn't going home, so Mrs. Nichols said, "Then I'm going. Ovie, hitch up the buckboard." As they neared the cemetery, with the sky darkening, a moaning white figure rose up and down several times among the graves. As the horse became nervous, Ovie said, "Miss Louisa, I cain't go no fu'ther. A ghost's in that cemetery." Mrs. Nichols took her hands out from under the half apron she always wore, and now holding a pistol said loudly, "Ovie, drive up to that gate. I've never seen a ghost, and I'll sure fill this one full of lead." Throwing off the sheet, Sam Lane stood up shouting, "Don't shoot."

Sam and Eliza were proud of their only child, "Tad", and they took great pleasure from his children, four of whom were born before Sam died. Once Sam asked his youngest grandson, four-year-old "Fritz", what he would like from town, and Fritz wanted a corncob pipe. When he awoke from his nap, the corncob pipe was in his mouth. Sam died in the Boothe Hospital in Cuero, October 29, 1923, at the age of sixty, and was buried as he wished beside Sandies Creek on his ranch, the grave surrounded with a chain-link fence. About 1940 Eliza moved into town and lived in the vacant house of her deceased sister-in-law, Lou Lane Schleicher. Eliza had her mother's spunk and lived to the age of ninety-one. She died in Cuero July 13, 1955, and is buried in the Lane lot at Hillside Cemetery.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

LANE, SAMUEL WINSTON, III (TAD) AND NANNIE LEE WILLIAMS (BABY LEE)

F565

Samuel Winston Lane, III, called "Tad," was born on his father's ranch on the prairie land he had inherited from his father. Tad was born August 20, 1887, and soon after that his father sold the Prairie land and they moved to the Elihu Moss League on land his mother, Eliza Nichols, had inherited from her father. Tad attended the Nash school in Cuero, which his parents had also attended. Tad's father raised cattle, and Tad was a country boy who loved to fish and hunt. As a small boy, one of his pastimes was to fashion a wire into a miniature branding iron and brand corncobs. As a married man with a family, he and his rural neighbors had frequent outings on the Sandies Creek or Guadalupe River, or held parties at each other's homes. As an older man he delighted in seeing his wife, children and grandchildren spend time at Indianola in the summer, swimming, fishing, crabbing – just as they had done in the Twenties when his wife had packed a trunk or two and taken their children there.

As a young man, Tad had a horse, Rondo, that he rode when he was courting Baby Lee Williams at Westhoff. Baby Lee was born at

S.W. "Tad" Lane

Blanconia in Bee County, December 1, 1893, to Timothy Clinton Williams, of Colonial Welsh stock, and his wife, Thrula Kimball of Louisiana. She was christened Nannie Lee, but as the twelfth of thirteen children, "Baby Lee" was always her name. Her mother died when Baby Lee was two and her baby brother, Thrula, was two weeks old. The motherless baby was reared by a sister of his mother's; but Baby Lee was kept with the family as her sister Ada Mae kept house even when they moved to El Campo (Wharton County Census, 1900). When Ada Mae married William J. LeBauve in 1901, she took Baby Lee with her, and in 1902 enrolled her in Holy Child Jesus Convent School in New Orleans. There she made several good friends whom she visited after her son, Sam, was killed on Guam. When she was about seventeen, she returned to Texas, where her two railroad brothers, who lived in Victoria, Arthur and Timothy Williams, sent her to the Nazareth Academy there. Her free time was spent in Westhoff with her sister Lena, whose husband, David Winn, was station master. It was here that she met Tad Lane, who courted this spirited young beauty who rode a horse down the streets of Westhoff with her hair flying behind her in the wind. Tad came courting with old Rondo and a buggy; and often with Tad asleep on the way home, Rondo would cross Sandies Creek at the Hamilton Place and take him safely home. Tad and Baby Lee were married in the Westhoff Baptist Church, January 2, 1912 by Pastor J.S. Bowles; and the reception was held at the Wallis Ranch, home of Jack Wallis' parents.

Though Tad was married and had a family, was an only son, and was engaged in the production of food, he was drafted into the Army in World War I; but when these things were noted in San Antonio, he was sent back to ranching.

The story of the first child of Tad and Baby Lee, Samuel Winston, IV, is the next entry.

Their second child was Thrula Mae, named for Baby Lee's mother and for the sister Mae who took her to New Orleans with her. Thrula Mae, called "Siddy," was born February 16, 1914, on the Lane Ranch. She rode horseback to school in Lindenau with her brother, Sam, until the family moved into Cuero in 1925, as Sam had completed the eight grades taught at Lindenau. Siddy married Walter Christian Sager of Arneckeville, and they had one child, Walter, Jr., called "Bucky." Siddy and Walter were divorced, and during World War II, Siddy married a Brayton Field pilot from Wisconsin, Frederick Otto Zentner; and they had one child, Frederick Lane Zentner. Fred was killed flying an unarmed reconnaissance plane in Korea, and is buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Siddy later married Emil Penner, a California rancher and cattle buyer, and she and her sons lived there for a time. She and Emil came to Cuero and built a beautiful home on North Terrell, that was sold after her death February 11, 1969. Siddy is buried in the Lane lot in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

For the story of the third child, Ann Mary, see "Ann Mary Lane Wofford."

The fourth child, Harold Nichols Lane, called "Fritz" is an earlier "Lane" entry.

Their fifth child, Arthur Dutton Lane, is also a separate entry above.

Baby Lee was devastated when her firstborn, Sam IV, was killed on Guam. She suffered from severe hypertension, and was in the Bohman Hospital, too sick to be told when in 1952 Sam's body was returned from Guam to Ft. Sam Houston for military burial. She died in a coma shortly thereafter, November 11, 1952, at the age of fifty-nine. Tad continued to run the ranch with the help of Dutton and Fritz. He died in the Cuero Bohman Hospital after a two-year illness, December 11, 1966, at the age of seventy-nine, and is buried beside Baby Lee at Hillside Cemetery in the Lane lot in Cuero.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

LANE, SAMUEL WINSTON, IV AND RUTH JENNINGS

F566

Samuel Winston Lane IV. 1940 Senior Texas A&M

Samuel Winston Lane IV was born October 14, 1912, son of Samuel Winston Lane III and Nannie Lee Williams Lane. His parents lived in Cuero, Texas, but he was born at the P.&S. Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

He attended school in DeWitt County and Cuero. In 1932 he went to school in Kentucky at Stuart Robinson School. It was there that he met Ruth Eugenia Jennings, daughter of Dr. Thomas Jennings and Ruth Stokes Jennings of Whitesburg, Kentucky.

They were married October 7, 1933 at Bowling Green, Kentucky. They returned to Cuero, Texas, where they lived on the Lane Ranch.

One child was born to this union, Samuel Winston Lane V, July 19, 1934. This child suffered a severe illness in 1935, which left him profoundly deaf. This deafness of Samuel Winston Lane V changed the course of the lives of this small family.

In 1936 Samuel Winston Lane IV entered Texas A&M University. He graduated in 1940. He was in the first class to graduate at A&M in Wild Life Management. He was employed by Texas Wild Life Commission as a Fresh Water Biologist until 1942, when he enlisted in the Marine Corp.

He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 1943. He was on active duty with the Fifth Marine Division in the Pacific War area until his death on July 21, 1944 in the retaking of Guam. He received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Asian Pacific medals.

Samuel Winston Lane IV is buried in Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

The deafness of Samuel Winston Lane V took him and his brother to Austin, Texas, for his education at the Texas School for the Deaf. He graduated in 1954. He attended Gaulludet College in Washington D.C. He was later employed at the Texas School for the Deaf.

He married Dewanna J. Clark, daughter of Tracy and Opal Clark, of Hope, Arkansas, on January 26, 1958. They had four children: Samuel Winston Lane, VI, born November 18, 1958; Julie Ann Lane, born September 16, 1960; David Timothy Lane, born December 19, 1961; and William Clark Lane, born July 1, 1964.

Samuel Winston Lane, V, died September 28, 1974. He is buried at Forest Lake Cemetery in Oak Hill, Texas.

There is one granddaughter, Michelle Erin Lane-Pace, daughter of Julia Ann Lane.

All of the children of Samuel Winston Lane, V, live in the Austin, Texas, area and are connected with the Texas School for the Deaf in the education field. Their grandmother, Ruth Jennings Lane Billingsley, also lives in the Austin area.

by Mrs. Ruth J. Billingsley

LANGHOFF, EDMUND AND JOHN C.

F567

Edmund Langhoff was born November 28, 1899, the son of Charles, who emigrated from Spandau, West Berlin, and Anna Stratmann Langhoff. Lenore Kuck was born October 8, 1898, the daughter of J.J. and Helene Gerdes Kuck. Edmund Langhoff and Lenore Kuck were married October 19, 1927 in Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Yoakum, Texas by Pastor Ilgen.

Edmund A. and Lenore K. Langhoff, 1974.

Standing: John Allen and David. Seated: Laurie, Kathryn, and John C. Langhoff, 1984.

Edmund and Lenore lived in the same house on Hochheim Prairie, where they engaged in farming and ranching, since their marriage 62 years ago.

Their son, John Carlton, was born January 29, 1932, during the great depression.

In the 1930's, we had to diversify farming because cotton didn't have much value any more. We began to milk cows and sell milk and cream. Elton Zander and later Albert Dedear picked up our cans of milk for delivery to the Swift Co. in Yoakum. (This is now the Tex Tan Western Building next to H.E.B. in Yoakum.)

During these early married years before 1940, we had no electricity. We had a carbide gas lighting system with pipes from the generator to each room. Due to no electricity or refrigerators, the community families formed a meat club. Every Saturday someone in the meat club would butcher a calf and take it to Hochheim Prairie School where Mr. Dieringer would cut it into large portions. All members would bring a sack of fresh meat home for Saturday dinner.

During the war years, cotton was again in demand and we were able to raise a bale per acre annually which was an excellent crop at that time.

Edmund was a prosperous farmer who was able to add to his land holdings by acquiring part of the Schumacher estate in 1940. John C. Langhoff now lives on this property. He also bought 217 acres of land from the Moore Estate in Gonzales County near Dreyer in 1948.

Edmund served as an appraiser for Hochheim Prairie Trunk Society Insurance for 20 years and later as president. He was president of Hochheim Prairie Hermann Sons Lodge #90 for two years and served on the church council of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Edmund passed away on June 26, 1976 and is buried at the Hermann Sons Cemetery on the Hochheim Prairie.

John C. Langhoff graduated from Yoakum High School in the Class of 1949. This class published the first edition of our school annual, The Bow Wow. During those years we rode bicycles, walked or rode buses to school. To have a motorbike or a car at school was unusual. There was no parking problem at YHS.

During 1949-51, John attended Texas Lutheran College, later transferring to Texas A&I to earn a B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1953.

John was employed by the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA in Brenham, Texas, in 1953. The S.C.S. office was in the Washington County Courthouse where John met Kathryn Roese, from Washington, Texas. They were married October 9, 1955, at Friedens Evangelical and Reformed Church at Washington, Texas. Kathryn is the daughter of Reinhardt and Frieda Holle Roese of Washington, Texas.

John was Executive Officer of the National Guard, Company B, 386th Engineers of the 49th Armored Division, when the division was mobilized October 15, 1961. Getting combat ready for the Berlin Crisis proved to be long days of hard work. We were combat ready in four months. Thank God we were not needed.

While living in Brenham, the Langhoff family was increased December 12, 1959, when John Allan arrived. David Charles was born December 12, 1960 and Laurie Ann, October 29, 1962.

John and Kathryn moved to Yoakum in June of 1973 and moved into their home on the Hochheim Prairie June 21, 1974.

John has been employed by Parke, Davis & Co. as a pharmaceutical salesman since April 14, 1958. He is owner and operator of the Windy Hill Brangus Farm raising bulls and heifers for seed stock.

John serves as Republican Party County Chairman since 1984. Under his leadership the Republican primary election has grown to 16 or our 17 election precincts.

John Allan has a M.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M University and married Nancy Ann Davis of Cuero on August 4, 1984. They were blessed with the birth of Brian Allan Langhoff on Sept. 12, 1987 in Rangely Colorado.

David Charles is a 1983 graduate of the University of Texas with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. David purchased Zatopek Phar-

macy, 121 Main St. in Weimar, Texas in July of 1987. He is engaged to be married to Peggy Guenther of Weimar.

Laurie Ann is a 1985 graduate of the University of Texas with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. Laurie is employed as a staff pharmacist at Citizens Medical Center at Victoria.

by John C. Langhoff

LEGGETT, OTTIS F. AND MARY J. SHAW

F568

Ottis F. Leggett was born in Williamsburg, Lavaca County, Tx. on February 25, 1892. His parents were James Newton and Ida Sarah Wilson Leggett. He married Mary Jane Shaw, March 29, 1914 in Hallettsville, Tx. Their first home was at Mossy Grove, a small settlement about 8 miles from Hallettsville. Her parents were Wm. and Elizabeth Percival Cave Shaw.

The Leggetts came to America from England in 1753 about the time that General Braddock's forces came over. The tradition is that the family migrated to England from France about the time of the Norman Invasion. There were three brothers, lawyers, in England who were called Legates — from this the name came to be Leggett.

Our part of the family settled in West Virginia and Tennessee. John Leggett, a great, great grandfather of Ottis F. was born in North Carolina, probably about 1775. He married Nancy Jackson in 1803. She was a first cousin to Andrew Jackson. Some of the family moved to Miss. and then to Tenn. and from there they came to Texas in 1842. They settled in Williamsburg, Lavaca County, Tx. and were farmers, raised cattle and turkeys, hauled lumber, raised their own grain and had large gardens. Their friends and neighbors were like family and they helped one another when the need arose.

James Newton Leggett, the father of Ottis F., and his family moved to Goliad, Tx. in 1915 and Ottis F. and family moved in 1919. In 1936, Ottis and his family moved to Yorktown, DeWitt County and in 1941 they moved to Cuero.

Mary Jane Percival Cave Shaw was born in Williamsburg, Lavaca County, Tx. on July 22, 1891. Her parents, Wm. and Elizabeth Shaw, came from Middlesborough, England in 1884 and settled in Williamsburg, Lavaca County Tx. Elizabeth's maiden name was Percival and William's family name was Cave when he lived in England but when they moved to America, they changed their name to Shaw. No one seems to know why, but all of the children born in America had Percival Cave on their birth certificates.

William Shaw taught school for a while but also engaged in farming and ranching. Elizabeth took care of the children and was always ready to help out as a nurse when anyone in the neighborhood was sick. They had eleven children — one was born in Middlesborough, Eng. and one was born on board the ship on the way to America — the other children were born in and around the Williamsburg area. They were very active in their little community and in the church and on Sundays they would take their lunch and spend the day there.

Ottis and Mary Jane lived a similar life — farming and ranching, raising their own livestock, hogs, turkeys, chickens, etc. They had large vegetable gardens, summer, spring and fall. Mary Jane did all the canning of the vegetables, caring for the children, sewing for the family and for others who needed help. She loved to quilt and crochet and always had three or four projects going at the same time. With both sides having large families, they never lacked for company and, of course, that meant preparing meals. I still marvel at the way she could prepare a meal for 20 or 30. It was always a feast — she never worried about cholesterol!

Ottis loved to hunt and fish and always had five or six hunting dogs ready to go when anyone called. There was a group that he played dominoes and cards with and I know that was his favorite pastime.

Ottis and Mary Jane had eight children but on Jan. 1, 1946, there was a terrible tragedy: a train wreck at Burns Crossing, two hundred yards in front of their house, killed three of their daughters, a granddaughter and a sister-in-law. Two of the daughters had gone into town to pick up the other sister and aunt and on the way back home the accident happened. There were two small grandsons who survived the crash. How this happened has never been determined. It was an ordeal that few people could have lived through, but with their faith and the support of their other children, relatives and friends, they carried on.

In a few years they bought a home, with acreage on the Yoakum Highway, a few miles from Cuero. They continued to do some farming, mostly grain for their cattle and a large vegetable garden, and raised their own chickens and turkeys. They lived there until Ottis's death in July of 1965. Mary Jane lived there a year after his death but sold the farm and moved to town in 1966. She loved her home in town and made many new friends, young and old. She was very active and her home was always open to the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who kept her busy. I believe that one of the most treasured memories that we all share is that on Christmas Eve, we would all be at Grandma's house. She passed away July 27, 1987 at age 96.

The Leggett children were: Dorothy Faye, born Jan. 10, 1915, Mossy Grove, Lavaca County, Tx. Attended school in Goliad, Tx. Married B.W. Kirkwood in 1933 in Goliad. Had 3 children, Beverly, Roger, and Butler. Dorothy and her daughter were both killed in the train accident. Roger lives in Ennis Tx. and Butler lives at Lolita, has 2 daughters.

Blanche S., born July 4, 1917, Mossy Grove. Attended school in Goliad Tx. While in high school she worked in a beauty salon and when she finished school she moved to Victoria and opened her own business. She married Lyn. Goldsum in Victoria, Tx., Nov. 4, 1934. They had one daughter, Jolynne. Blanche was killed in the train accident and her daughter was raised by her grandmother, Mrs. Goldsum in San Antonio. Jolynne is married to Bob Mowery and they have two sons, Doug and Rick.

Grace Lufborough, born in Mossy Grove, Lavaca County. (See C.E. Gips Story)

William Raymond, born in Goliad, Tx., Feb. 9, 1921. Attended school in Goliad and Yorktown, graduated from Yorktown High School and worked a year for Groce Wearden Wholesale Co. World War II had just begun and he enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. He served in the 5th Air Force, Squadron 240, as an electronics operator. After his basic training his squadron was sent to the South Pacific, New Guinea. While there he became ill with jungle fever (a type of malaria) and was sent back to the states to recuperate. When the war was over he returned to Cuero, where his parents lived, and married a girl he had met while in the service in Washington, Shirley Niblack. He and his brother-in-law, Clif Gips, went into the radio and T.V. business in 1946. (See Gips T.V.) Ray and Shirley had two daughters, Janey and Raychel. Janey is now married and lives in Alaska. Raychel is also married and lives in Calif. Shirley had moved back to Washington where she passed away in 1987.

Ralph Douglas, born in Goliad,Tex., July 13, 1923. Attended school in Goliad and Yorktown. Graduated from Yorktown High School and worked at Dow Chemical in Freeport, Tx. for about a year. Enlisted in the Air Force and after basic training was sent to the European theater. After the war was over he returned to Texas and entered A&I College in Kingsville. After graduating from college in 1950, he went to work for Geo. and Herman Brown in the ranching business in Bracketville. He married Christine Craft in 1950. They have four children, Douglas, Jessie D., D'Ann, and Dawn. Jessie D. is married and has 4 children, D'Ann is married and has 2 daughters. Ralph and Christine lived in Bracketville for a few years and then moved to Anahuac, Tx. He continued to work for the Browns until they passed away. He then went into the ranching business in Bracketville and still lives there.

Lorna Jerene, born in Goliad, Tx. Nov. 16, 1925. Attended school in Goliad and Yorktown. Graduated from Yorktown High School and soon after went to work at Foster Field Air Base in Victoria. She married Charles Reese, an Air Force pilot, in Calif. in 1944. She and Charles had one son, Charles Jr. Lorna was killed in the train accident and her husband and son moved to Morgan, Tx.

Lois Evelyn, born in Goliad, Tx., Dec. 14, 1927. Attended school in Goliad, Yorktown and Cuero. Graduated from Cuero High School and worked in Victoria for a year. Married Charles Fischer in 1947. They have six children, Charles Jr., Mark, Mary, Barbara Lou, Daniel, and Cindy. They now live at Colleta Creek near Victoria.

Billie Jo, born in Goliad, Tx., Sept. 10, 1933. Attended school in Yorktown and Cuero. Graduated from Cuero High School and worked a year at the ASC office in Cuero. Married Bob Wagner of Cuero in 1950. They have three children. Reed and his wife live in Cuero and have 2 children. Richard, is a lawyer and lives in San Antonio, Tx. Sandra Faye is married to Ward McCampbell, they have a daughter and live in Corpus Christi, Tx.

by Grace L. Gips

LEMPA, VINCENT FAMILY

F56

Vincent Lempa, son of Frank Lempa an Agnes Jancyk, was born in Schlesien, Ger many on June 6, 1869. He and his wife Mary daughter Sophie and son Ludwig arrived fron Germany at the port of New York on the vesse Aragonia about June 30, 1897.

Vincent and Mary Lempa and their tw small children came to the United States wit Mary's parents, John and Rosalia Arlt Hada mek. The families arrived in Galveston an came by wagon to Meyersville, DeWitt Count

Lempa Family: Elizabeth, Nick, Julia, Joe, Sophie, Gertrude, Mary. Front: Frank, Anne, Vincent, Frances (baby), Mary and Hedwig.

Frances M. and Vincent Lempa, Frances Lempa

ernard and Lucy Lempa

Texas.

Their possessions were packed in a huge black trunk with a rounded top. The trunk still remains in the family. DeWitt Co. Court records show that in 1911 Vincent and Mary Lempa renounced their allegiance to Wm. II, Emperor of Germany, and became citizens of the U.S. of A. This citizenship also, included 11 of their children.

The Lempa family settled on the William Buehrig Sr. estate and were tenant farmers for ten years. They later bought a few hundred acres from Louis and Henry Reinhardt in the Five Mile Community. This property is still the Lempa estate. They raised cotton, corn, hay, and cane. Each year they sent a hundred turkeys to market. The family prided itself on a garden and orchard. They raised cattle, hogs, and chickens for food, and for sale.

While residing in Meyersville there were a number of children born to Vincent and Mary Lempa. All attended the St. Joseph's Catholic Church. When St. Joseph's Church was dismantled and moved to Yorktown, parishioners either took their membership to Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, or Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville. The Lempa family became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero about 1920.

The older Lempa children attended school in Meyersville, then later they attended Five Mile School which was located on the Wm. Holzapfel estate. When that was moved the younger children attended school in Clinton. Later they were transferred to Ratcliffe as in this new district the ninth grade was taught.

Sophie Lempa (1895-1974) the oldest child, was twenty-two years of age when Mother Mary Lempa died in 1917. She helped her father rear the smaller brothers and sisters. The youngest was Frances, age three. In 1923 Sophie married Joe Plasczyk of Meyersville. They farmed in the Ratcliffe Community before moving into Yorktown. They are survived by two sons and two daughters.

Ludwig Lempa (1896-1911) the oldest son, was accidentally shot by a neighbor's son while the boys were squirrel hunting. He and his mother are buried in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

Joe Lempa (1897-1985) was drafted in WWI but the Armistice was signed and he was returned home. He married Adela Wisniewski of Lockhart. They were farmers and ranchers. They are survived by three sons and six daughters:

1) (1898-1900) Martha Lempa died from what was then simply known as convulsions from high fever; 2) (1900-1980) Julia Lempa married William Pullen of Cuero in 1920. They had five daughters. William and one daughter preceded Julia in death. Julia is buried in Austin; 3) (1901-1978) Nick Lempa was married to Catherine Garvel of Yorktown in 1926. They had no children. They farmed near Yorktown. Both are deceased; 4) (1902-) Elizabeth Lempa married Charles Martin in San Antonio in 1928. They separated while their son and two daughters were small. She and her children live in or near San Antonio; 5) (1904-63) Mary Lempa was church organist at St. Joseph's Catholic Church for several years. She married Ben Danysch of Yorktown in 1924. They moved to Karnes Co. and farmed. Two daughters died; but two sons and three daughters survive; 6) (1905-86) Frank Lempa and Susie Woytasczyk were married in Yorktown in 1933. He is survived by his wife and three daughters. He and an infant son are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Yorktown; 7) (1906-) Agnes Lempa married Daniel Foy in San Antonio in 1930. They later separated. Agnes and her only son, Dan Foy Jr., reside in San Antonio; 8) (1908-) Gertrude Lempa was married to Aubrey Melvin in 1933. Melvin was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston. They have two sons and a daughter; 9) (1910-1986) Anne Lempa served in the WAC during WWII. After her military stint she worked for the Bell Telephone Co. for 27 years in Los Angeles; 10) (1911-) Hedwig Gladys Lempa married Sgt. Harry L. Grubb. He also served in WWII. He is buried in Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery. Hedwig and her three daughters and four sons reside in or near San Antonio; 11) (1914-), I, Frances Lempa, was born in the Five Mile Community. I married James J. Peyton Jr. Our story follows separately.

Mother had been dead for seven years when my father remarried in 1924. His second wife was Miss Frances Mary Dudlefski, of Yorktown, daughter of John and Marcianna Kalenowski Dudlefski. Two children were born to this union.

(1925-) Lucy Emma Lempa married Joseph Warwas of Cuero. He worked for Conoco until his death in 1979. Lucy was a homemaker and has two daughters and five sons.

(1927-) Bernard John Lempa was born in Five Mile and resides on the Lempa Estate with his wife, the former Helen Warwas whom he married in 1946 while serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII. They have a daughter and four sons. He has worked for Harkins Co. for 30 years.

My father, Vincent Lempa, passed away Feb. 22, 1953 at age 83. Mama Lempa, as I referred to my step-mother, died August 31, 1985 at age 94. They are buried in Cuero's Hillside Cemetery.

by Frances L. Peyton

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F570

Charles Ludwig Lenz and Emma (Mueller) Lenz

August Ludwig Lenz

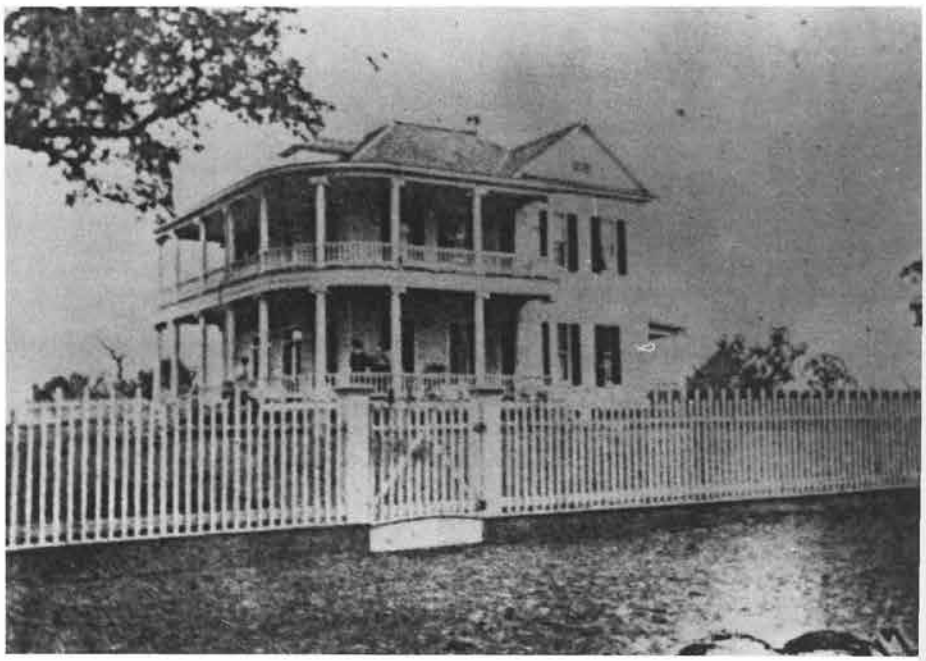
Charles Ludwig Lenz (1856-1935) was born in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas, on June 16, 1856. He was the son of August Ludwig Lenz (1828-1903) and Alwiena Augusta (Zedler) Lenz (1838-1898). His father immigrated to Texas from Landsburg, Germany, in 1854 and originally settled in New Braunfels. There he spent his funds in seeing the new country and, when forced to seek employment, went to Yorktown where he engaged in various occupations including well digging and rail splitting. He was married to Alwiena Augusta Zedler, the daughter of a German farmer in the community. For a time thereafter he worked at hauling freight from San Antonio to Indianola and in 1860 he opened a hotel, a bakery and a liquor store in Yorktown. During the Civil War he served with the Yorktown Hulan Reserve Company of Lancers as a sergeant. He served at Saluria, Texas, and participated in the battle at Indianola under Captain J.M. Reuss. When discharged, he returned to Yorktown to resume his businesses. He was the father of seven children: Charles, the subject of this story, Louis, Gus, Mary, Agnes, Matilda and Julia. He died in Yorktown in 1903.

Alwiena Augusta (Zedler) Lenz

When Charles was twelve years old, his mother, Alwiena Augusta (Zedler) Lenz, fell in love with a Dr. Frederick Bernard Schultz who also lived in Yorktown. He returned her love and one dark and stormy night the two ran away together and disappeared. She took her two daughters, Mary and Agnes, with her, but left her two sons, Charles and his younger brother, Louis, with their father. Dr. Schultz left behind a wife and three children. Charles was devastated by the loss of his mother and vowed to find her some day. His father ultimately remarried and had a second family and when Charles was sixteen years old, he left home and set out to fulfill his vow.

His first stop was New Orleans, but an epidemic of yellow fever caused him to leave abruptly and go to Cairo, Illinois. There his funds were exhausted and he was forced to secure employment as a section hand on the Illinois Central Railroad. When he received his first pay check he resumed his search and went to St. Louis where he worked for a time as a boot-black and as a clerk at the Tivoli Hotel. He soon left again and in succession went to Cincinnati, Ohio, through Kentucky, to Niagara Falls and to and through many other cities and towns on the way. At each stop he stayed only long enough to search the area and to secure the funds necessary to resume his journey. He eventually came to New York City where he worked for a paper company and a bakery until he had enough to travel to Europe. There he searched the old family haunts in and around the City of Landsberg, Province of Brandenburg, Prussia, from where his mother had come. He was in Europe three months, after which he returned to Galveston from the City of Bremen, Germany. In spite of all his efforts, he never did find his mother and, after eleven years of futile search, he gave up and returned to Yorktown.

Shortly after his return he met Johanna Maria Adelheit Emma Muller who, because of her many first names, was better known as Emma Muller. They were married in Yorktown on October 31, 1884. She was born in Madge-



Charles Lenz Country Home 1910

burg, Germany, on October 31, 1864. She was a daughter of Fredrick William Muller and Emelie Fechner Muller of that city. Her father, Frederick William Muller, was a music teacher and was very temperamental. When Emma was seventeen years of age, he was trying to teach his son, William Muller, to play the violin when, in a rage, he broke the violin over William's head. Emma, who was present at the time, criticized her father severely for his actions. In response he pointed to the door and ordered her to leave his house. She did and soon thereafter she came to America with an aunt and uncle and settled with them in Yorktown. Later they were joined by her mother's father, Heinrich W. Fechner, who, family legend has it, was forced to leave Germany because of an incident which occurred while he was serving in the German army. His company was camped on the banks of a river and nightly for some time their sleep was disturbed by the appearance of a "ghost" on the river bank who made strange noises and rattled heavy chains draped around his body. Everyone was thoroughly frightened except Heinrich W. He did not believe in ghosts and when his patience with the "ghost" was finally exhausted one night, he grabbed him and threw him into the river. The "ghost" drowned and, unfortunately, turned out to be one of the company's officers, who was obviously a great practical joker. Heinrich W. was forced to flee the company and the country and ended his days in Yorktown where he is now buried.

Charles and Emma Lenz moved from Yorktown to Cuero where they owned and operated a hotel and restaurant and a bakery and where he was for many years the consignee for the Anhauser Busch Beer Company. In addition to these businesses, Charles served for seventeen years as an alderman for the City of Cuero, resigning only when he moved from the city. He also served several terms as commissioner of Precinct One of DeWitt County. On one occasion Buffalo Bill Cody brought his wild west show to Cuero and stayed at the Lenz Hotel. He and Charles became friends. Charles called him "Buffalo Bill" and he called Charles "Biffalo Bull" because Charles was a great talker and loved to "shoot the bull".

In the year 1909, when Charles was fifty-three years old, he and his wife, Emma, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary and an article about the celebration appeared in the Yorktown newspaper. Shortly thereafter he received a letter from his two long lost sisters, Mary and Agnes, who had been taken away by their mother forty-one years before. They had subscribed to the Yorktown newspaper and had learned from the article that their brother, Charles, was living in Cuero. They lived in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where their mother and Dr. Schultz had settled. Charles did not wait to reply to the letter, but immediately boarded a train for Cape Girardeau. When he arrived he learned that both his mother and Dr. Schultz were deceased. At their request, his sisters had not endeavored to contact him until after their deaths. He learned, also, that in addition to his lost sisters, he had found seven half-brothers and sisters who were the children of his mother and Dr. Schultz, born during their lives together in Cape Girardeau. Although Charles was disappointed that he did not find his mother before she died, he always said that the story had a very happy ending because he not only found his long lost sisters, but he found seven half-brothers and sisters he did know he had. Ironically, while Charles was touring the country, looking for his mother, he once came within twenty-five miles of Cape Girardeau.

In August of 1910, Charles sold his businesses and retired to an eighty acre tract of land which he purchased on the Guadalupe River, approximately two miles west of Cuero. There he built the home in which he and Emma lived for the rest of their lives.

In 1911 Charles and Emma traveled to Magdeburg, Germany to help her parents celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Emma and her father had long since reconciled. Their son, Louis Lenz, had just graduated from A.&M. College and was permitted to accompany them as his graduation present.

Charles was an avid collector. He collected antique rifles, pistols, daggers and swords, and fossils and curiosities of all kinds. During his lifetime he amassed the largest and most complete privately owned collection of American Indian artifacts in the state of Texas. He received contributions from all over the United States to add to his collection which, as it grew, became better and better known throughout the country.

Charles died in Cuero on July 1, 1935. Emma Lenz survived him by fifteen years and died in Cuero on July 18, 1950. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Charles and Emma Lenz had five children: Louis, Charlotte, who married Hugo Boldt, Elsie, who married August C. Hartman, Jr., Estella and Margaret, who married Shellie G. Barnes.

Elsie (Lenz) Hartman (1893-1941) and August C. Hartman, Jr., (1882-1956) had two children, Hazel Ruth Hartman, who married Oscar Talbot McAlister, Jr., and Wayne Louis Hartman, who married Susan Emalee Wells. Their stories are given separately.

by Wayne L. Hartman

LIENHARD – FLICK

F571

The Lienhard-Flick story begins with the emigration to Cuero of our great-grandparents, John Wendell Lienhard from Bilten, Switzerland and his wife, Dorothea, from Oberelbert, Nassau, Germany and Frederick Flick and his wife, Anna, from Prussia.

The Flick and Lienhard families were united when Alvina Flick, daughter of Frederick and Anna Flick married Henry Joseph Lienhard, son of John W. and Dorothea Lienhard.

Children of this latter union were Dorothea Anna, Alvina (Lienhard) Ott, Wendell Frederick and Henry Joseph, Jr.

The Lienhard-Flick union produced many musical and teaching talents that were prominent in Cuero and surrounding communities subsequent to the year 1900. Alvina (Flick) Lienhard as a young girl of 16 was the first organist of St. Michael's Catholic Church, which her father helped found and she also gave piano lessons for many years. She had four sisters and six brothers. Her sister Carrier (Flick) Shield, Pauline (Flick) Matthews and Lydia (Flick) Collins were church organists at a later date – her sister, Bertha, was an accomplished vocalist. One brother, C. Roland Flick, moved from Cuero to Nashville, Tennessee where he composed music and was an accomplished pianist and violinist. Two other brothers, Raymond and Hubert, played in the Cuero municipal band directed by Henry J. Lienhard Sr. who was an accountant, music teacher and leader of the Cuero City Band, organized in 1882. His youngest brother, Albert, followed him in the directorship of the Band for a period of about 35 years. Two other brothers of Henry J. were William and Peter, lifetime ranchers in the Cuero area.

Between 1900 and 1935 the H.J. Lienhard family taught music to innumerable children in Cuero and the surrounding area. Alvina (Lienhard) Ott was a piano teacher for many years and also an organist at the Grace Episcopal Church. Henry J. Jr. played clarinet in the municipal band, a grandson, Charles Ott, played trombone in the band as well as did Wendell Frederick who went on to make music his career. He taught music, directed high school orchestras, composed and wrote musical scores for the students in his orchestras in Yorktown, Nordheim, Runge, Kenedy, Karnes City, Poth, Floresville, Stockdale and La Vernia. Also, in the 1920's he directed a 7 piece jazz orchestra playing for dances in the Yorktown area. In 1935, he retired from teaching and did complete piano rebuilding in the Gulf coast region until he was 80 years of age in 1970. His eldest sister, Dorothea, was known as "Miss Dora" to her Cuero school pupils for over four decades and she also was a choir member at Grace Episcopal Church for fifty years.

Most importantly to the writers of this historical excerpt is that on March 1, 1915 Wendell F. Lienhard married Miss Natalie Stark, daughter of Paul C. and Caroline Stark, pioneer settlers in Yorktown Texas. The couple were married in Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero. These two dear people were our devoted parents. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

by Gladys Lienhard Quinland and Wendell F. Lienhard, M.D.

LIESMAN, KENNETH GUY AND BILLIE NELL (JACOBS)

F572

Kenneth Guy Liesman and Billie Nell Jacobs Liesman have resided in Cuero since September, 1951, except for 2 1/2 years in Victoria in the late 1950s. Kenneth was born on March 1, 1927 in San Antonio, the second child and oldest boy of eight children born to Benno and Thusnelda Nolte Liesman. Upon graduation from Alice High School, Kenneth served in the U.S. Navy for three years at the end of World War II. He then attended Texas A&I College, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Education.

Billie was born and reared in San Antonio, the only child of William (Bill) Jacobs and Cornelia (Nellie) Marie Schindler Jacobs. After graduating from Jefferson High School and attending A&I College, Billie became certified as a Medical Technologist. Her father was an electrical contractor, eventually being half owner of Menger Electric Company in San Antonio. Due to his poor health, the Jacobs retired and moved to Cuero in 1953.

Having met at college, Kenneth and Billie married on September 2, 1950 in San Antonio at Zion Lutheran Church. After Ken's last year at A&I, they moved to Cuero in September

1951 and Ken went to work for Gay Implement Company, selling farm equipment and teaching veterans at night. In 1952, he went to work at DuPont Chemical Plant in Victoria where he worked until 1969 when he began teaching school in Cuero.

Today he is a school counselor with the DeWitt-Lavaca Co-Op program.

Kenneth and Billie are the parents of two sons, Randy Keith Liesman and Bruce David Liesman. Randy was born May 31, 1952 at the old Bohman Hospital. After graduating from Cuero High School, Randy earned a degree in business at U.T. at Austin where he continued on completing graduate courses in Business Administration. Today, he is a Senior Vice President of First City Bank in San Antonio. On October 19, 1980, Randy married Deborah Lynn Grafe of Cuero. They have one son, William Gage Liesman, born July 20, 1987.

Bruce was born on January 2, 1956, also at the Bohman Hospital. After graduating from Cuero High School, Bruce earned a B.A. in Drama and then a Doctor of Jurisprudence from U.T. at Austin. Presently, he is an attorney with Alamo Title in San Antonio. At college, Bruce met Anna Gangal and married her in Cuero on September 15, 1984. They have a daughter, Tessa Nathalia Liesman, born November 14, 1986.

Kenneth Liesman's family roots are in Comal, Blanco and Kendall Counties. Kenneth's parents were Beno William Liesman (12/30/1901 – 3/3/1985) and Thusnelda (Tess) Nolte Liesman (1/16/1905 – 5/25/1981). Beno William Liesman's parents were Edward Liesman and Emilie Kaderli Liesmann (4/30/1868 – 3/18/1953) who were married on July 1, 1886. Beno was the eleventh child of fourteen born to this couple. Emilie was born in St. Galien, Switzerland to Bennedict Kaderli and Anetta Zuend Kaderli.

Edward Liesman's parents were Heinrich (Henry) Liesmann (4/17/1833 – 6/2/1924) and Nathalia Schmidt Liesmann (1/26/1843 – 2/18/1928) who were married May 11, 1862 in Boerne, Kendall County, Texas. Henry was born in Hanover, Germany, and immigrated to Texas by ship through Indianola in November, 1845 with his father, Georg Heinrich Luesemann (5/10/1809 – 4/25/1871). Henry was an early member of the Texas Rangers involved in numerous campaigns in West Texas fighting Indians and outlaw Mexicans. Nathalia was born in Coblenz am Rhein, Germany and was orphaned on the ship to Texas when her parents died three days apart of yellow fever in August, 1846. Henry and Nathalia had ten children which they raised on the family homestead ranch, a land grant from the Republic of Texas to his father in Twin Sisters, Blanco County, Texas. The couple is buried in a family plot on the ranch. George Henrich married three times moving to Comfort, Texas in 1855 as one of the founding families and is buried in the Comfort cemetery.

Kenneth's mother, Tess Nolte Liesman's parents were Alonzo Nolte and Bessie Elizabeth Soachting Nolte.

by Ken and Billie Liesman

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LINCKE, CHARLES F. AND EMMA (LUEDECKE)

F573

Charles F. and Emma (Luedecke) Lincke Sept. 16, 1886 Wedding Day

Everything was finally ready. Charles had rented a farm where his parents and siblings could live. He had received word that his family had departed Bremen on Oct. 10 and were expected to arrive in New Orleans as scheduled. After four long years, they would soon all be together again. Charles Ferdinand Lincke was prepared to introduce his family to their new home: Texas.

C.F. Lincke was the oldest child of Carl August Lincke (5/30/1834 – 2/19/1899) and Christiane (Pietschner) Lincke (5/12/1833 – 10/21/1900). Charles was born on September 13, 1858 in Reuss Schleiz Germany. He was baptized Lutheran.

In 1873, at the age of 15, Charles emigrated to Texas with a relative, C.W. Laas. He arrived in Galveston Oct. 20, 1873 on the vessel Camania bound from Hamburg. Charles lived with the Laas family until 1877 when he rented the Henniger farm between Shelby and the Schoenau Community in Austin Co. Tx. for his family. Charles' parents, brother Herman and sisters Louise, Alma, Pauline, Bertha and Emma arrived at the port of New Orleans in Nov. of 1877. They traveled across Texas where they were soon reunited with Charles.

Over the next few years, Charles lived with his family during which his musical career took hold and began to flourish. As a child in Germany, Charles had learned to play the violin and had listened to his father, Carl, play many German tunes on his own violin. In Texas, Charles made his own violin and by the age of 19, was playing in a band. He traveled around the area playing for dances and other community gatherings. It was at one of these dances, near Industry, Tx. that he met his future wife, Emma Luedecke.

Emma, the daughter of John Luedecke and Wilhelmine (Dudensing) Luedecke, was born Dec. 5, 1868 in Austin Co. Tx. She, her parents, brothers Otto and William and sister Anna lived in the Austin and Lavaca Co. areas of Texas. On September 16, 1886, 28 year old Charles F. Lincke and 17 year old Emma Luedecke were united in marriage by Max Chritzen (Kristen) justice of the peace in Fayette Co. Tx.

The Lincke's first child, Hertha Louisa Wilhelmina Lincke (Wolters) was born July 31, 1887 near Shelby in Austin Co. Tx. On Dec. 13, 1888, their second child Harry Wilhelm was born in Colorado Co. near Columbus Tx. A second son, Leland Otto, joined the family on Jan. 12, 1890 in Breslau, Lavaca Co. Tx.

In 1891, Charles moved his family to the Gruenau area of DeWitt Co. Tx. Charles relocated his family to escape various epidemics that were prevalent in the areas where they had lived. On Feb. 12, 1891, Charles purchased 100 acres from V. Weldon in the Gruenau area and remained a DeWitt Co. resident the rest of his life.

As his farming and ranching interests grew, so did his family. Hertha, Harry and Leland were joined by Ella Lena (Lemke) April 29, 1892, Frieda Johanna (Long) Aug. 17, 1893, Richard Carl Heinrich March 26, 1899, Alfred Ernst Heinrich Feb. 6, 1902 and Emilie Therese Elsa (Voelkel) on Aug. 24, 1907.

Charles' musical career grew as well. Charles was a member of different bands in DeWitt Co. and when his sons learned to play, they joined forces with their father to form the Lincke Band. The band members changed over the years, but Charles remained always the leader. Charles also taught music lessons to several budding area musicians.

Over the years, Charles bought and sold additional land in DeWitt Co. for agricultural purposes, but in 1910, Charles purchased some real estate with personal dreams in mind. On Oct. 19, 1910, Charles bought 5 years in Westhoff (Bello) and before the disastrous fire that struck Westhoff in 1913, Charles had built a two story home and a dance hall he named the Lincke Hall on that five acres. These two structures escaped damage and the dance hall remained in operation until the 1930s staging dances, trade days and masked balls. The hall was torn down after being moved off its foundation by a hurricane.

Emma Luedecke Lincke died Oct. 10, 1931 in Nixon Tx. The funeral was held Oct. 11 and Emma was laid to rest in the Westhoff Cemetery. Charles lived with his son Richard and daughter-in-law Leona in Nixon after his wife's death. Charles Ferdinand Lincke died July 20, 1932 in Nixon. The funeral was held July 21 and Charles was buried next to his wife in the Westhoff Cemetery.

by Brenda Lincke Fisseler

LINCKE, LELAND AND ANNA (STORCH)

F574

He was like many men of his time. He worked his land as his neighbors did with mule and horse drawn equipment. The cotton and corn, cows and chickens he raised put food on

Leland and Anna (Storch) Lincke, December 3, 1913

his family's table. He hunted and fished with his sons and visited his family and friends on Sunday afternoons. His life was simple out of necessity, but there were things about him that were unique. He was a storekeeper and beekeeper; he brewed home brew for special occasions and he played the violin as his father and grandfather before him. This was the life and personality of Leland Otto Lincke.

Leland Otto Lincke was born Jan. 12, 1890 in Breslau, Lavaca Co. Tx., the third child of Charles Ferdinand Lincke (9/13/1858 – 7/20/1932) and Emma Luedecke (12/5/1868 – 10/10/1931). Leland, his parents and older brother and sister moved to DeWitt Co. in 1891 and Leland lived in DeWitt Co. for the remainder of his life. On March 24, 1907, Leland was confirmed at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Tx.

While Leland was living at home, he learned the farming trade from his father who also encouraged the musical abilities Leland and his brothers possessed. Leland, who played violin, his father and brothers played at local dances as the Lincke Band. It was at one of these dances that Leland first met his future wife, Anna Storch.

Elizabeth Frederike Anna Storch was born March 15, 1895 in Lavaca Co. Tx. Anna's parents, Henry William Storch and Hilda Margarete (Froeling) Storch were residing in Gonzales Co. when Anna and Leland met. Leland and Anna were married on Dec. 3, 1913 by J.F. Christensen in the Evan. Lutheran Church in Westhoff, Tx.

In their early married life, Leland and Anna lived on several farms in the Davy and Gruenau area before settling down on an acre of land Leland received from his parents in 1929. Leland and Anna were blessed with six children during their marriage. Their first child Willie Karl Heinrich was born Sept. 22, 1914. A second son, Edvin John Richard Harry Wilhelm was born Aug. 4, 1917. When Edvin was two months short of his third birthday, he fell ill with summer sickness and died on Jun 17, 1920. The grieving parents buried their little son in the Sandy Gate Cemetery near their home.

On Dec. 12, 1921, the couple's sadness was tempered by the birth of their third son, Herbert Alfred Emil. Slightly over 3 years later, the two boys were joined by a little sister named Selma on April 1, 1925.

However, Selma's time with the Lincke's was cut short. She fell ill soon after birth and only lived until April 18. She was laid to rest next to her brother Edvin.

When Willie was 13 and Herbert 6, the Lincke family was completed with the birth of twin boys Raymond Charles and Roland Willie, on Aug. 27, 1928.

For his entire life, Leland remained a farmer. The family did not buy their first tractor until 1945. Until then, the entire family worked in the fields with mule and horse drawn implements. Leland and Anna both worked in the fields and their entire family picked cotton. The Lincke's raised chickens, cows, turkeys and hogs, along with cotton and corn, while Leland kept bees and sold the honey.

In the early 1930's, Leland and Anna ran a grocery store out of the back of their residence complete with filling station, drygoods, candy counter and one armed bandit.

For entertainment, the family would visit with family and friends such as the Linckes, Storchs, Jaegrs, Afflebachs and Bruns. The men hunted and everyone enjoyed playing dominoes and cards or fishing and picnicing at nearby Pilgrim Lake. The family would attend dances and trade days at the Lincke Hall in Westhoff where Leland would sell dance tickets and Anna would fry hamburgers for the hungry dancers. Leland also was a member of the Gruenau Shooting Club.

Leland and Anna celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a party at their home in 1938. The couple's four sons hosted a 50th wedding anniversary celebration at the Gruenau Hall on Dec. 3, 1963.

Leland and Anna remained in their home at Gruenau until advanced age precipitated a moved to the Siesta La Casa Nursing Home in Yorktown. Leland passed away on Oct. 17, 1972 followed by Anna on Aug. 13, 1973. They were laid to rest in the family plot in Sandy Gate Cemetery in Nopal.

by Brenda Lincke Fisseler

LITTLE, ROBERT FORSYTH, IV AND MARIANNE ELIZABETH HALL

F575

Robert Forsyth Little, IV, son of Robert Forsyth Little III and Jane Lee Giblin Little Burbank, was born 3 August 1952 in New York City. After attending private schools, Rob joined the U.S. Coast Guard on 5 June 1971 and was trained by the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman, Physician's Associate and battlefield surgeon during the Viet Nam War. He was honorably discharged on 6 June 1975 in New Orleans, Louisiana and moved to Pasadena, Texas to attend college. By a prior marriage, Rob had three children: Aaron, born and died 12 Jan. 1974, in New York City; Christopher Lee, born 4 Jan. 1975 in New Orleans; and Sarah Jane, born 28 Feb. 1978 in Pasadena, Texas.

Marianne Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Ray Slater Hall and Lavelle Hartman Hall, was born at Wright Hospital in Houston, Texas on 20 Aug. 1948. The Halls lived with Ray Slater's mother, Anne Elizabeth Slater Hall Hildebrant, and his stepfather, Leon Bernard "Hilde" Hildebrandt, while Ray Slater attended University of Houston and LaVelle worked for the Harris Co. clerk's office. The Halls also lived in Alaska; at Marianne's maternal grandparents' (August Blanton & Muriel Morrison Byram Hartman) ranch in Davy, DeWitt Co., Texas; in Ft. Riley, Kansas, Aschaffenburg, Germany; Columbus, Georgia and El Paso, Texas. Marianne graduated from Bel Air High School, El Paso, in May 1966, shortly before she married R.J. Mauldin on 25 July 1966 at the home of her Hartman grandparents in Karnes City, Texas, with Judge B.A. "Pete" Hartman officiating. Marianne gave birth to four children: Michelle Marie, born 13 Aug. 1967, Brawley, California; Kristianne Elizabeth, stillborn May 1969 in Kingsville, Texas; Kelley LaVelle Anne, born 14 April 1970 in Corpus Christi, Texas; and Scott, born 3 March 1972 in IJmuiden, Velsen, Holland, The Netherlands.

After living in Europe for many years, Marianne moved first to Victoria, Texas, where she attended Victoria College, then to Houston, Texas, where she attended San Jacinto College. She was chosen to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and received an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology with honors in May, 1979.

Robert married Marianne at their home at 11423 Sagewhite Drive, Houston, Texas on 10 March 1979, with Rev. Dr. Maurice Cadwalder officiating. They attended University of Houston-Clear Lake together and took many of the same classes. Marianne was accepted for membership in Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and received a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Human Resource Management and History in Dec. 1981. Rob received a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Science in Dec. 1982. Marianne was accepted as a graduate student at University of Houston-Clear Lake in Jan. 1982 and began classes in Psychology, Business, Management and Human Resource Management. Heavily influenced by Prof. Al Hyde, Marianne concentrated on the Human Resource Management program and Rob audited many of Dr. Hyde's classes, as well. Marianne received a Masters of Arts in Human Resource Management with honors on 3 Aug. 1985.

Michelle Marie married Glenn Roy Earl Klusendorf in Friendswood, Texas on 7 October 1983, with Rev. Jerry McIntyre officiating. They have three children: Karee Ann Elizabeth, born 9 March 1985 in Friendswood, Texas; Chase Forsyth Glenn born 9 September 1986 in Houston, Texas; and Joshua Alexander Glenn on 15 April 1989 in La Mesa, California.

Rob worked for Brown & Root, Houston for many years as a Medic and Safety Engineer. As his interest in Risk Management grew, he was employed by Wassau Insurance Co. and later by Crawford & Company, where his is currently the Houston Branch Manager of Risk Control.

With prior work experience in Human Resource Management and Public Relations, af-

Front: Sarah Jane Little and Christopher Lee Little. Back Row: Kelly Lavelle Mauldin, Bobbie Wells, Marianne (Hall) Little, Michell (Mauldin) Klusendorf, Glenn R. Klusendorf, Judy Klusendorf, Robert F. Little, IV, Kevin Klusendorf and Scott Little.

ter she received her Masters degree, Marianne joined Mortgage & Trust as an Account Executive. However, she accepted a more challenging position in Jan. 1988 as Grant Counselor at San Jacinto College North, as part of the federal grant to retrain displaced workers from the steel, oil & gas and construction industries.

Following a normal work routine on the morning of 5 May 1988, Marianne was asked to attend the Offshore Technology Conference that afternoon; however, she was involved in a near-fatal car accident and had to be rushed by Life Flight helicopter to Hermann Hospital, where she was treated for massive head injuries, multiple facial fractures, a blown-out right eye, skull fractures, broken ribs and damage to her neck, spine, back & hips. During the many long months of hospitalization and surgeries, Rob, the children and grandchildren, family and friends gave constant encouragement and continue to be a great source of strength for her as she begins the rehabilitation process at home. Despite being disabled, Marianne has continued her life-long interests and research into her family's history, and is currently writing articles for several historical societies and for the *DeWitt County View* newspaper in Yorktown, Texas.

by Marianne E.H. Little

LLOYD, DR. DAVID GEORGE AND LETITIA LEWIS (HARTMAN)

F576

Letitia Lewis (Hartman) Lloyd, also known as "Letty Lew Lloyd", was born in Cuero, Texas, January 25, 1942. She is the older of two daughters of Wayne Louis (1918-) and Emalee (Wells) (1919-) Hartman. She is the granddaughter of August Christian Hartman, Jr. (1882-1956) and Elsie (Lenz) Hartman (1893-1941). She is the great granddaughter of August Christian Hartmann, Sr. (1848-1917) and Josephine (Hans) Hartmann (1856-1930). Her great, great grandparents were Christian Hartman II (1819-1876) and Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906). The latter two were the first of the Hartmann family to emigrate from Germany to Texas. They came to Texas in 1845 and to the Meyersville area of De Witt county in 1847.

Back: Christian Lloyd and David Lloyd, Jr. Front: Letty Lew and Dr. David Lloyd, 1988.

Letty Lew attended public schools in Cuero and Victoria. In 1947 she was a princess in the junior coronation of the Cuero Turkey Trot. In 1960 she was dutchess from the University of Texas to the Sultana of the Cuero Turkey Trot. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1963. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma social sorority. She met her future husband, Dr. David George Lloyd, while attending the University and on October 21, 1967, they were married at Trinity Episcopal Church in Victoria, Texas. He was serving as a captain in the United States Air Force at the time. They now live at 215 Cardinal in San Antonio, Texas.

David George Lloyd was born January 11, 1939, in Tyler, Texas. He was the only son of George and Elsie (Honeycutt) Lloyd. He attended Rice University, Houston, Texas, the University of Texas at Austin and, in 1964 he graduated from the University of Texas Dental College at Houston with a D.D.S. degree. In 1966 he received a M.S.D. degree with a residency in Orthodontics. He was a member of Omicron Kappa Epsilon and Xi Psi Phi honorary fraternities and Sigma Chi social fraternity. He is engaged in the practice of Orthodontics in San Antonio and carries on the family tradition of cattle ranching on a ranch he and Letty Lew own in Uvalde County.

Letty Lew owns and operates her own design business under the name "Letty Lew Lloyd Interiors". She is a sustaining member of the Junior League of San Antonio.

Two sons were born of this marriage, both in San Antonio. David George Lloyd, Jr., was born April 13, 1970. He is presently enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin as a sophomore. He is an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity. Christian Hartman Lloyd was born February 16, 1975. He is a freshman at Alamo Heights High School. The Lloyd family are members of, and active in, the Methodist Church.

by Wayne L. Hartman

LOCKHART FAMILY

F577

Byrd Lockhart was born 1782 in Virginia, arrived in DeWitts Colony 20 March 1826, and was soon appointed Deputy Surveyor by James Kerr. Most of his brothers and sisters arrived in DeWitts Colony by 1829. Mexican Land Grants of Andrew, Samuel and Charles Lockhart, and that of Kimber W. Barton, who married Margaret Lockhart, were located in the present DeWitt County. The Grant of George Blair, who married Sarah Lockhart, was on Plum Creek, remained in Gonzales County, but the Blair family lived on Cuero Creek, near the Guadaloupe River until after the 1850 census (see George Blair sketch). All of these men of the Lockhart related families, except Kimber W. Barton, died early. Andrew Lockhart left a will, showing that only two daughters, of his large family, survived him.

Later research of this Lockhart family has added information. Byrd Lockhart had died early (account in Telegraph and Texas Register) and his probate shows that he had lost his wife and children, as his heirs were his brothers and sisters. Two sisters, Mary Briggs and Nancy McKinney, were living in Montgomery County, Illinois. Marriages listed in Illinois: Byrd Lockhart to Eliza Barton, Charles Lockhart to Catherine Barton, Samuel Lockhart to Winny Walker, Nancy Lockhart to James McKinney, and Sarah Lockhart Fulton to George Blair, Margaret Lockhart married Kimber W. Barton in 1821, in Cooper County, Missouri. Drusilla Lockhart married Eben Haven in Gonzales County, Texas. No marriage record was found in Illinois for Andrew and Mary Lockhart.

Briggs family records in Washington County, Ohio, show that Andrew Lockhart married Esther Briggs and Mary Lockhart married Robert Briggs. Both families appear on the 1810 Washington County, Ohio census. A Wood County Virginia deed, dated 1804, is signed by Bird Lockhart and Sarah Lockhart, then living in Washington County, Ohio. A Washington County Ohio history related that in the winter of 1793/94, Bird Lockhart, a celebrated hunter, then living in a garrison established by Isaac Williams on the Virginia

side of the Ohio River had an exciting adventure with two Indians, while hunting deer. Bird Lockhart was not listed on the Ohio or the Virginia census of 1810, but a Bird Lockhart was listed on the 1810 Kanawha County, Virginia tax roll, and listed as gone on the 1811 tax roll.

Illinois records indicate that Bird Lockhart Sr. took his family to Illinois before 1812. From March 9 to June 9, 1813, William Lockhart, Andrew Lockhart and Byrd Lockhart Sr., were listed on War of 1812 Muster Rolls, and from August to October 1814, Bird Lockhart was listed on the War of 1812 Muster Rolls for Illinois, and he signed a voucher as Byrd Lockhart, Jr.

A sketch on Robert Briggs Jr. in a Bond and Montgomery County, Illinois History, mentions that his maternal grandfather died from loss of blood from bleeding from the nose, at Fort Russell in Madison County, Illinois, after rescuing a daughter from the savages. Briggs family records indicate that Bird Lockhart Sr. died the last part of 1813 or the first part of 1814. The Illinois Territorial census taken to see if Illinois qualified for Statehood, in 1818, lists Andrew Lockhart, Samuel Lockhart, and Sarah Lockhart. The 1820 Illinois census lists only the Andrew Lockhart and George Blair families.

Members of Charles and Catherine Barton Lockhart's family lived in the Thomaston area for many years. Andrew Lockhart's daughters, Elvira Gilbert, and Malinda Patterson-Templeton must have lived on Andrew Lockhart's land.

Sue Briggs Eyerly of Provo, Utah, compiled a "Lockhart Migration Trail", from Virginia to Texas. A well documented manuscript with sources listed, which has been presented to the Gonzales County Historical Commission, along with copies of other documents and records.

by Mrs. T.H. Corley

LOCKHART, CHARLES

F578

Colonist, Soldier, Surveyor, and Patriot

My great great grandfather was born December 3, 1790, in Virginia. He was the son of James and Rachel Totten Lockhart.

The National Archives, Washington, D.C. war records of 1812 list his residence upon induction into the service as Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. He and his brothers Byrd, Andrew and Sam were all veterans of the Texas (Texas-Mexican) War.

During 1814-1815, Charles and Byrd were appointed surveyors for Madison County, Illinois and while in Illinois, he married Catherine Wise Barton on September 20, 1817 in Kaskaskia, Randolph County, Illinois. Evidently the Barton and Lockharts admired each other because Byrd married Catherin's sister, Mary, and their sister Margaret Lockhart married Catherine and Mary's brother, Kimber W. Barton.

Byrd, who had come to Texas in 1825 with Green DeWitt, made several trips back to encourage all his family to come to the new frontier. Only Mary (Polly) and her husband, Robert Briggs and Nancy and James McKinney couldn't persuaded to join DeWitt's colony.

The Charles Lockhart family came to Texas March 2, 1829 to join their brother and Green DeWitt's colony. Their other brothers and sisters, Andrew, Sam, Nancy, Sarah Ann, Margaret and Drusilla also joined the colony by the year 1831.

Charles and Catherine settled at their homestead, Pecan Grove, Texas which was located approximately ten miles south of Gonzales, Texas. The family cemetery is here but it is in poor condition.

Charles and Catherine, along with five of their children, are listed in "Citizens of the Republic of Texas," published by the Texas State Genealogical Society and on file in the Alamo D.R.T. Library. Charles and Catherine are also listed in "Founders and Patriots of The Republic of Texas."

Published facts say that Green DeWitt screened his citizens very carefully and was very particular about their backgrounds.

Charles was a surveyor for the Green DeWitt colony and assisted his brother, Byrd, who performed all the colony's surveys after 1826. Byrd was appointed Surveyor General on April, 1831 by Jose Antonio Navarro.

Surveying was one of the most widespread professions of the frontier. The surveyor was an indispensable functionary within the empressario system. The task performed by the frontier surveyor has, until the past twenty or thirty years, been overlooked by historians. Several letters written by Catherine Lockhart to her mother, Elizabeth Barton, in Franklin Furnace, Ohio, mention some of the hardships. One letter written in 1838 is on file in the Alamo D.R.T. Library and a copy is being submitted to the Gonzales County Historical Association.

The surveyor's world was not always one of mathematics and geometry. On many occasions they were the first white men in the area and encountered native Indian tribes which were often hostile. The land survey itself was one of the final steps in processing a clear and valid title.

In 1828, 1829, and 1830, Byrd Lockhart assisted by Charles cleared timber and laid out a road via Gonzales from Bexar to Austin, 195 miles and a little later on, one from Gonzales to Matagorda. The Bexar to Austin road was used as a guide for the present day paved highway.

Under the directions of Colonel John H. Moore, Charles laid out the town of La Grange. He was elected Second Rigidor of the colony in 1832, and became First Rigidor in 1833. These were a few of his accomplishments.

The Lockharts, as well as all citizens, encountered many hardships, one being their many encounters with the Indian tribes. Much Texas history is based around his niece, Matilda Lockhart. She and the Putnam children, while playing together, were kidnapped by the Comanche Indians on December 9, 1838. She was recovered from the Indians at Council House in San Antonio on April 1840. She was in poor condition and had been tortured terribly. She only lived three more years.

Charles and Catherine died in the year 1844 and were buried in the family cemetery. The oldest child, William B., assumed responsibility for the surviving children, Charles Louis, Kimber, Elizabeth Drusilla, Louisa Jane and Mary Melvina. Elizabeth Drusilla married James H. Wilson, Mary Melvina became Mrs. John Patton Wright and Louisa Jane married Dave Hunter.

Catherine and Charles never lived on one of their leagues of land granted him in 1831 for services to the Republic by Jose Antonio Navarro. It was located south of Cuero. The area was Prices Creek and later became Thomaston, Texas. Two of the daughters, Mary Melvina (Mrs. John Patton Wright) and Elizabeth Drusilla (Mrs. James H. Wilson) settled on their portions of the estate.

Two of Charles Lockhart's grandchildren, Margaret Lucinda Wilson (Mrs. John Bowden Pridgen) and John Robert Wright were living there as late as 1936 and 1952. They are both buried in the Thomaston cemetery which was given to the town by Mary Melvin Lockhart Wright.

The Wrights and Pridgens were very generous and Mary Melvina gave the town site and also much land from her share of the Lockhart survey for the Gulfwestern, Texas & Pacific Railway right of way. This resulted into Thomaston being the first railroad station in DeWitt County.

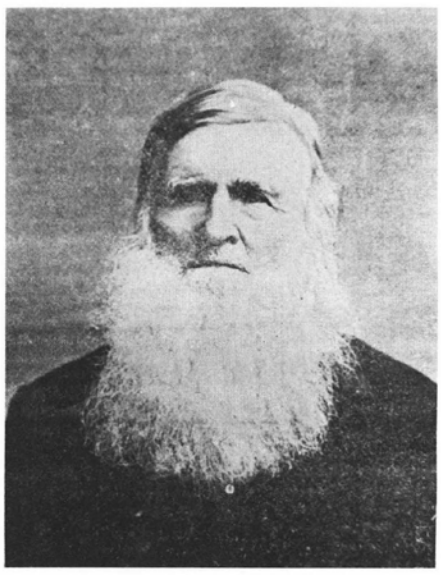
Some of the Pridgen and Wright heirs still own small portions of the Lockhart estate. The John B. Pridgen heirs were Wilson B. Pridgen, Dr. John Leslie, Dr. Ross Edwin, Floyd, Ethel Pridgen Brooks, Pearl Pridgen Conwell and Mary Pridgen Brasher. The John Robert Wright children were William, Welton and Genevieve (Mrs. Joseph Mack Young).

The Thomaston Community, which boasted of having two mercantile stores, a drug store and druggist, a resident physician, three schools, three churches, a cotton gin, a saw mill, a butcher shop, the Thomaston News, Julia Pens, which sent out thousands of head of cattle, a railroad and Western Union Station, is no more. Only the ruins of one store and a small post office still stand, but even so many former citizens want to come back to the peaceful cemetery to be buried.

by Floyd D. Pridgen

LORD, GEORGE AND KATE MEYERS

F579



George Lord

George Lord, son of Fetsled and Anna Siggs Lord, was born in Essex County, England on 21 April 1816. His father, Fetsled, was a bricklayer and died trying to repair a hot oven when George was a baby. His mother, Anna, remarried and later died in London at age 82.

Mr. Lord completed his education in England prior to his passage to Canada in June, 1834. He lived there for two years. Next, he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana and worked on Mississippi steamboats. In December, 1836, Mr. Lord joined Capt. Lyons and a company of 75 men when they came to aid Texas in the war for Independence from Mexico. They landed in Galveston in February, 1837. He mustered into service in Capt. John Holliday's Second Regimental Volunteers at Camp Independence on the Lavaca River. This unit escaped Fannin's massacre with Col. Wigginton. George Lord was honorably discharged in 1838 and joined a group of settlers who avenged an Indian attack on Col. Patton's ranch on the Cibolo River. He then joined Col. Burleson and participated in the battle with Cordova near Seguin on the Guadalupe River. Mr. Lord joined Col. Nicholas Dawson's Company in San Antonio to remove Cordova from Texas.

Joining Gen. Canalas on 1 Sept. 1839, George Lord went into Mexico to fight and defend the Mexican Constitution of 1824. He aided in the capture of Guerro, Mexico and participated in the battles of Alcantra, Matamoros and Monterey, helped capture Laredo and fought in the battle of Saltillo. Finally deciding to quit warfare, he settled in Victoria Co., Texas and it was there that he joined the company of Capt. Ewing Cameron in the Mier expedition in the fall of 1842. George Lord was among the Texas prisoners who were cruelly forced by the Mexican soldiers to draw beans to determine which ones would be shot because of an escape attempt. Drawing a white bean meant one lived, while a black bean equalled death. There were 9 white beans to each black, and Mr. Lord was among those who drew white beans and were taken to Perote prison near Mexico City. Many of his Texas friends (besides those in the Mier Expedition) were held in this prison, including Norman B. Woods (who was captured after Dawson's massacre and died in Perote prison) and John Lewis Smith III (who was captured with 52 other Texans by Mexican Gen. Woll's soldiers when they invaded San Antonio on 11 September 1842.

Finally released from Perote prison in 1844, Mr. Lord went first to New Orleans and then on to California's Gold Rush, where he mined $7,000 worth of gold.

Miss Kate Meyers (born 15 October 1832 in New Orleans), married George Lord on 30 December 1849 in New Orleans shortly before they moved to Texas to homestead his land grant of 1280 acres in DeWitt Co. for his service to the Republic of Texas. They established their ranch at Cheapside, DeWitt Co., Texas.

During the Civil War, Mr. Lord served in the home guards for two years, despite the fact that he was exempt due to prior service and his age. After the Civil War, he returned to his ranch at Cheapside where his eleven children were born. Nine of the children lived to adulthood. These children born to George Lord and Kate Meyers Lord were: Cynthelia Anna (married John Johnson); George T.; Robert F.; Emily Agnes (married H.N. Smith); William P.; Minnie Mae; Sidney Johnston; Henry Lee; Kate A. (married L.A. Carter); James E. and Pomona B. Lord.

George Lord died on 23 February 1895 at his home in Cheapside, DeWitt Co., Texas and was buried at the Lord family cemetery on his ranch. When Mrs. Kate Meyers Lord died on 15 January 1905, she was buried by his side.

There is an excellent article on George Lord written by Mrs. C.T. Traylor of Cuero which appeared in J. Marvin Hunter's *Frontier Times*, volume 15, number 12 in September 1938. Many of the details of this sketch were extracted from Mrs. Traylor's article.

by Marianne Little

LOUIS AND IRENE DREIER

F580

Louis Dreier, son of Alfred and Amalia Dreier, was born at Meyersville, Texas. He married Irene Kahlich, daughter of Anton and Stephaia Kahlich from the Lindenau Community.

In 1940, Louis and Irene purchased 100 acres next to his fathers' farm. In 1962 they acquired the title to the 200 acres that Louis' grandfather bought in 1877. Louis and dIrene live on their original acreage and raise cattle on all of the land. Louis has been a County Committeeman for the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He also, has given his time as a 4-H leader for 20 years.

Louis Dreir

Louis Drier

In 1987, Louis and Irene were fortunate to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Louis was always interested in old cars and about 20 years ago he purchased a model T and repaired it to running condition. He takes it and drives it in parades. He has always been interested in racoon hunting, too.

Irene is a housewife and mother. Louis says she is a good cook. They have two children: 1) Randolph of Victoria who has two children, Cheryl and Ronald Dreier; and 2) Faye Kennish of Colorado who has two children, William and Kendra Kennish.

by Louis and Irene Dreier

LOWE FAMILY

F581

The 1840 Census of The Republic of Texas shows Alfred D. Lowe in Gonzales County. Marriage records of DeWitt County show A.D.

Faye (Dreier) Kennish, Louis Dreier, Irene (Kahlich) Dreier and Randolph Dreier

Lowe was Justice of Peace at Cameron, Texas in 1847. It is believed he is the Alfred Lowe who married Frances Harrison December 11, 1819 in Rockingham County, North Carolina, and is the son of John Lowe of Rockingham County, North Carolina as shown in the will of John Lowe.

No proof has been found but records indicate Alfred Lowe and Frances Harrison Lowe had the following children:

(1) Benjamin F. Lowe, born in North Carolina, married Nancy Ann Harvey Dowlearn, widow of Patrick Dowlearn, June 6, 1850 in DeWitt County, Texas. Their children were Ellen who married James H. Cobb;' Frances A. who married William B. Cobb; Mary A. who married Oscar Fitzgerald Pridgeon; Alfred Scott who married Mrs. Sarah Margaret Cobb Jones; Martin Franklin; and Rena Davis. M.F. Lowe is mentioned on land records of B.F. and Nancy Lowe but there is no other information on daughter Rena Davis listed age 9 on 1880 census. B.F. and Nancy Lowe died in 1902 and are buried in Gonzales City Cemetery.

(2) Elizabeth Lowe, born in North Carolina, married Rufus Taylor July 21, 1842. Their children were Martin, Alfred, Maryann H., Victoria, James, Marcia, and Rufus (Scrap) Taylor. Rufus Taylor, Sr. died October 13, 1854 and Elizabeth married Rilla Pratt October 4, 1855 in DeWitt County. She was listed as Elizabeth Pratt, widow, on 1860 DeWitt County census.

(3) Jackson Lowe, born in North Carolina, married Margaret Petty February 13, 1853. Their known children were Sarah A., Henry, and John. Jackson Lowe then married Mathilda Rose April 21, 1867 in Lavaca County, Texas. They had a daughter, Delilah, who married Gidden Nolen. Further research is needed on this family.

(4) Jane Lowe, born in Alabama, married Joshua Dowlearn October 20, 1850 in DeWitt County. Their children were Mary Elizabeth who married Houston Myers; Patrick Hayes "Bud" who married Mary Catherine Goodson; Josephine who married William Park; William T. who married Mary Harkins; Rufus who married Annie Meeks; Alfred Clark who married Georgia Blair; Jeff who married Mary Simpson; Susan Lenora who married Joe Bennett; Dora who never married; Sephrona who married Wyatt Hanks. Jane died June 23, 1871 and Joshua Dowlearn married Rebecca Harkins. Their children were Joshua Martin, Jr. who married Eloise Neel; Allie who married Ed Bell; Cyrus who married Willie Trace Gray; Annie Hepzibeth who married Charley Taylor; and Walter Hollis who married Effie Yeater. Joshua and Jane are buried in Burns Station Cemetery. Rebecca is buried in Floresville, Texas.

(5) Frances Ann Lowe, born in Alabama, married John Day February 5, 1854 in Lavaca County, Texas. Their known children were Alfred, Jackson, Susan, Short, Martin, Henry, John, and Phillip. Frances Ann died April 6, 1883 and John Day died February 1872. They are buried in Burns Station Cemetery.

by Rosalie Myers

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LUDDEKE, HENRY EDWARD JR., AND MINNIE (ANDERSON)

F582

Henry Luddeke was born in Cuero, Texas February 21, 1918. He was the son of Henry Edward Luddeke, Sr. and Carrie Elizabeth Newman Luddeke. Henry graduated from Cuero High School in 1939. He served in the Air Force in World War II and spent time in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He is a brick mason. Henry married Minnie Belle Anderson of Gonzales, Texas in Cuero January 13, 1946. They are Baptist. To this union three children were born – Henry Edward Luddeke III, John Andrew (Andy) Luddeke, and Tonya Lynn Luddeke McGraw.

Henry Edward Luddeke III was born in Cuero on November 16, 1946. He graduated from Cuero High school in 1965 and graduated from A&M University in 1969. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Army and served one year in the States and one year in Korea. He married Kathleen House of Three Rivers on June 7, 1969. They have two children – Lacey Michelle, born February 22, 1973 in San Antonio and Lindsay Darrah, born September 17, 1980 in San Antonio. They now live in Covington, Louisiana. They are members of the Baptist Church.

John Andrew (Andy) Luddeke was born September 23, 1950 in Cuero. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1969 and graduated from A&I University in 1973. He played golf for the University. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Army and served two years. He married Belinda Aranda September 10, 1982 in Corpus Christi, Texas. They have a son, John Andrew Henry Luddeke, born in Corpus Christi on June 5, 1984. They live in Corpus Christi. The family are Baptist.

Tonya Lynn Luddeke McGraw was born May 30, 1960 in Cuero. She graduated from Cuero High school in 1978 and from Sam Houston State University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. On August 9, 1986 she married Bill McGraw of Coldspring, Texas. They have a daughter, Sara Elizabeth McGraw, born May 6, 1989 in Conroe, Texas. They belong to the Baptist church.

Henry Edward Luddeke, Jr. has two brothers, John Warren (Jack) Luddeke, deceased and Christian Edwin Sitterle. He has one sister, Talu Ann Sitterle Carlton.

by Mrs. Henry Luddeke

Herman and Wilhelmine Luddeke with William.

LUDDEKE, HERMAN AUGUST ANDREAS

F583

Herman August Andreas Luddeke was born February 12, 1864 in Grossdenkte, Braunsweig, Germany. He emigrated at age 4 with his parents, Johann and Elisabeth Luddecke, an older half-sister Anna Elisabeth Schulze, and his brother, Albert, age 1. The family arrived at the Port of Galveston in June of 1868. After a brief residence in New Braunfels, the family moved to Weesatche. In Germany Johann had been a handworker and tradingman. He began hauling freight up the La Bahia Road, auctioning the goods at the Coleto Creek settlements, and north as far as Cibolo. Johann was killed by a tree he was cutting and was buried there along the Coleto Creek.

Mrs. Luddecke married Wilheim Thurke September 16, 1871. Wilheim Thurke was a stone mason, farmer, and trader of land in both Goliad and DeWitt Counties. They came to reside in the Nopal area.

Herman Luddeke recalled sheep herding in the New Braunfels area as a boy of 12. In May of 1884 at age 20, he recorded his brand 7CL in DeWitt County. On October 18, 1886, Herman married Wilhelmine Rappmund. They farmed and raised their family in DeWitt County, first in the Nopal area and later at the Lost Creek area.

When Herman and Wilhelmine retired about 1915 or 1916, they purchased a home on North Gonzales Street in Cuero, Texas, where they lived until their deaths in 1940 and 1943.

Children born to Herman and Minnie Luddeke are: 1) William Edward August (m. Erna Mueller) Cuero; 2) Minnie Annie (m. Fred Kahlich) Slayton; 3) Henry Edward, Sr. (m. Carrie Newman, Louise Boldt Barth) Cuero; 4) Adela Louise (m. Louis Joseph Schaefer) Victoria; and 5) Friedrich (m. Hertha Hengst) San Antonio.

by Janis Ford

LUDER, PANTALEON AND MARIE AGATHE GOLLY

F584

Pantaleon Luder was born March 22, 1828, in Oderen, Upper Alsace, France, to Antoine Etienne Luder and wife, Richarde Grunewald. Pantaleon was a cousin to Theresa Jacob Bluntzer and Genevieve Jacob Winckler (Golly) who had emigrated from Oderen to Texas about 1843 and 1846. It is believed that the return visit to Upper Alsace by Peter Bluntzer in 1854 may have had something to do with why Panta-

leon Luder immigrated to Texas at all. It is obvious that Bluntzer's wife, Theresa, and her sister, Genevieve Jacob Winckler, were determined to help as many of their relatives and friends leave Alsace for Texas as they possibly could. Peter Bluntzer had accumulated enough land to settle several families, there was still much land that could be purchased, and there was plenty of open range. It was after this 1854 trip by Bluntzer back to Alsace that more than a few applications were made by families to leave the Thur Valley, and their destination was Texas. Some familiar names were those of Joseph Bitterly, Pantaleon Luder, Henri Jacob, Bluntzer's brother-in-law, and others making a total of about 10 families and 10 single people. Another factor that may have influenced Pantaleon Luder to leave his home in Oderen and immigrate to this new land called Texas was that the Thur Valley area of Alsace was severely depressed, and means of earning a living were practically nil. It did not take much coaxing to get Pantaleon to make the decision to join his kin in Texas. He left the port of LeHavre and arrived in New Orleans on December 29, 1854, reaching his destination, Meyersville, in January 1855.

Pantaleon Luder had been in Texas only a short time before he purchased land in the Bell Survey in DeWitt County, applied for citizenship and married Marie Agathe Golly, daughter of Antoine Golly and Catherine Hauer. Marie Agathe Golly was born in Fellering, France, April 28, 1838 and her brother, Antoine, was born 1835. The Golly family had been with the Henri Castro Colonization project and had immigrated to Texas in 1844. They lived in Castroville from 1844 to 1850. Marie Agathe's mother died in about 1846 or 1847 and her father, Antoine Golly Sr. was married twice more, to widows from Castroville. Both wives died within a year of one another from cholera, the disease rampant in the early years of the Castroville Settlement. Marie Agathe was 12 years old when her father was married for the last time on March 29, 1850 to Genevieve Jacob Winckler, the widow of Joseph Winckler. Genevieve had two little girls, Josephine, born in Ranspach, France in 1844 and Theresa, who was born in Texas in 1848. Marie Agathe Golly soon had a half-sister, Catherine, who was born to Antoine Golly and Genevieve Jacob in June of 1851. Marie Agathe was the sponsor at baptism for this child.

Pantaleon Luder and Marie Agathe Golly (at times written Marguerite or Margaret) were married March 4, 1856, according to records in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas, when Marie Agathe was not quite 18 years old. Their first child, Mary Emiliana, was born Jan. 19, 1857. In 1875 Emiliana married John Hotz, son of Antone and Elizabeth Hotz, and had at least four children. Emiliana died in 1939 and is buried in Hallside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. The second child was Alphose Luder, born in 1858. Alphonse married Alvina Schaefer in 1884. He died in 1936 and is buried beside his wife in Clinton Cemetery, DeWitt County, Texas. On December 9, 1869, Edward Luder was born, but he died at age 7 and is buried in the Catholic Church Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas.

The death of Edward was tragic, but tragedy was not new to Marie Agathe as she had witnessed death and sickness many times in her young life. The death of her father, Antoine Golly Sr. in 1869 was followed by the death of her husband, Pantaleon Luder, on December 18, 1873. His death is recorded in Catholic Church Records in Victoria, Texas, but it is not known what caused his death or where he is buried.

Marie Agathe remained a widow for 18 months and on May 25, 1875 she married James Lindsay, a man who stated he was born in Scotland in 1845. James Lindsay and Marie Agathe Golly had a daughter named Susie, who was born Nov. 20, 1876. Susie married William Bergman in 1893. She died in 1957 and is buried beside her husband in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. A son, Robert Lindsay, was born in 1879 to James and Marie Agathe, but not much is known about Robert Lindsay other than that he was living in Yorktown in 1900.

It is not known when Marie Agathe Golly Luder Lindsay died, but her death must have occurred about 1887 as it is shortly after that date that Susie and Robert Lindsay were declared Minors by the DeWitt County Probate Court and John Hotz, the husband of their half-sister, Emiliana, was appointed their Guardian. He remained in this capacity until about 1900, when Robert Lindsey became 21 years of age.

by Jeane Bitterly

LUDVIGSEN, JUDITH GRACE (KOEHLER)

F585

Judith "Judy" Grace Ludvigsen, nee Koehler, was born on 5 November 1942 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. She was the daughter of Arthur Henry Koehler (b. 11 September 1909 Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. #1: 23 September 1937 Arneckeville; m. #2: 7 February 1960 Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, to Ruth Zitelman, nee Evers) and Wilma Anna Marie Koehler, nee Meier (b. 16 December 1913 Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas; d. 23 January 1958 Cuero; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero). In Cuero on 13 July 1963, Judy Ludvigsen, nee Koehler, married Fred Alan Ludvigsen (b. 6 January 1938 Gorman, Eastland County, Texas). One daughter was born to this marriage: Janet Christine Ludvigsen (b. 4 April 1964 Irving, Dallas County, Texas; m. 1 October 1988 Nassau Bay, Harris County, Texas, to Mark Andrew Lauritsen).

Judy Ludvigsen, nee Koehler, is one of those special people whose lives intertwine with ours only in rare instances. We remember her here today for her intelligence, for her acceptance, for her diligence, for her sense of commitment, for her self-sacrifice, and for her patience. No person is more deserving of our respect and love than Judith Grace Ludvigsen.

by Beverly Boehl

LUKAS – NOVOSAD FAMILY

F586

Josef Lukas born in 1832, Roustky, near Vsetin, Czechslovakia, was a son of Jan Lukas and Rozina Mikolas. He married Rozina Novosad (1837-1876) from Jablunka. They had several friends and relatives living in Texas. These people wrote them about the wonderful new land called Texas. Rozina's sister, Katherine, who had married Jan Hruska came to Texas in 1855. Her sister, Anna who had married Josef Mikolas came to Texas in 1882. Rozina's mother, Anna Martinete Novosad, her brothers, Jan. Josef, Stephan, and her youngest sister Marie, came to Ellinger, Texas in 1873.

In 1872, Josef and Rozina Novosad Lukas and their two sons, John and Joseph, bid their friends and kin farewell and started their long journey to Texas.

They came to Galveston. From Galveston they came by train to Columbus, Texas. Jan Hruska from Ross Prairie, a small Czech settlement near Ellinger in Fayette County, met the Lukas family and took them in a wagon to their little log cabin.

Josef and Rozina lived in Ross Prairie on a farm rented from John Hruska for several years. Then they moved to a farm of their own near Heckberry.

In 1870, a daughter, Katherine, was born and in 1873, a son Louis was born to them.

Then in 1876 Rozina died. She was buried in Ross Prairie Brethren Cemetery. A small tombstone marks her grave.

In 1884 Josef bought a farm near Shiner, Texas where he and his second wife, Anna Nedbalek, lived until his death on November 26, 1902. He is buried in Unity of Brethren Church Cemetery near Shiner, in the neighborhood of the old Michone School.

John Lukas, son of Josef and Rozina Novosad Lukas born 1867, married Mary Hrncicek. Their union was blessed with seven daughters and one son. The son died at the age of six.

Their oldest daughter, Alice, married Milosh Grossman. Alice died in 1935 leaving her husband and three children. The children are Henry, Jerry, and Sydonia.

Henry married and has a boy named Jimmy and a girl named Alice.

Vlasta, the second daughter of John married Edward Vinsek of Shiner. Their only son, Ernest married Emily Joks. They and their sons, Daniel, James, and Ernest Jr., lived in Bryan, Texas.

Henrietta married John Hanus. She is a widow and lives at San Antonio. Her son, John, is a dentist. He married Miss Landheck. His daughters are Michele and Tracy. Henrietta's daughter, Mildred, married Paul Crep. Her children are Gregory and Paulie. Her daughter, Martha Ann, married Jimmie Dorman.

Miss Albina Lukas, the fourth daughter of John lived in Austin. She died in 1953.

Emily Lukas married August Janota. Their sons, Harvey, August, and Larry have finished college and are teaching school.

Lydia Lukas married J.J. Templett. Their daughter Pegg Ann married Billie Golden. They have two girls, Janice and Sandra Kay. They all live in Houston.

Sydonia, the seventh daughter married Floyd Moede. They do not have any children and live in Missouri.

Joseph Lukas, born in 1869, is the second son of Jan and Rozina Novosad. He married Rozina Hurta in 1893. This union was blessed with four children. They lived on their farm in Shiner for many years. In 1908, they bought a farm near Westhoff and moved there.

Amalie, the oldest daughter of Joseph and Rozina Hurta, married Frank Baros in 1912. She and her family lived on the Baros farm for many years. Then in 1943, they bought the old

Lucas farm and moved there. Her husband, Frank, died in 1967.

by Edwin Baros

LUNDSCHEN, GEORGE
F587

Two George Lundschens

On 1 January 1854, at the bustling port of Indianola, two men stepped ashore in search of a better life. They both had the same name, George (Jurgis) Lundschen. Just what the relationship was between these two is not known. Their stay at Indianola was a brief one, as records show that in August, 1854 they had both registered their cattle brands in DeWitt County and on the 7 May, 1854 they declared their intention to become citizens of the United States at the District Clerk's office at Clinton, DeWitt County.

The older of the two Georges (born 16 Sept., 1815 in Prussia) was accompanied to America by his wife, Anna, (born about 1814 in Prussia) and four children. One land deed recorded in DeWitt County describes his residence "below Yorktown on the North side of the 18 Mile Coleto".

George Lundschen and his family seemed to move back and forth between DeWitt Co. and Lewis Co. Missouri. He kept his land in Texas but also had a farm near Tolona, Dickerson Twp., Lewis Co. Missouri. (Tolona no longer exists). George and Anna did return to DeWitt Co. as Anna died 26 Jan., 1899 and is buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery in WEESATCHE, Texas. George lived a few years with his granddaughter, Maggie and her husband, Frank Krause. George died 29 Nov., 1901 and is buried beside Anna.

The four older children who were born in Prussia were:

Mary Ann (born about 1843/44 – died about 1882 in Lewis Co. Mo.), married (1) William S. Perkins on 20 March, 1860 in DeWitt County, (No further information concerning Wm. S. Perkins). Mary Ann's second marriage occurred about 1866/67 in Lewis Co. Mo. to John Schork (born 1844 – died Nov., 1934 in California). There were 7 children born to this union.

The next daughter, Margaret (born 18 Feb. 1844) married Lewis Menn in DeWitt Co. about 1870. Margaret and Lewis had no children of their own but the raised the two motherless sons of Edward Lundschen, brother to Margaret. Margaret died 14 Nov., 1930 and Lewis died 16 July, 1924. They are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

The third child, Doretta "Dora" (b. 23 Nov. 1847) married Theodore Schork on 31 Mar., 1867 in Lewis Co. Mo. They established a farm in Dickerson Twp. Lewis Co. Mo. There were six children born to this marriage. Dora died 26 Jan., 1878. A few years later, Theodore married Dora's younger sister, Emelia "Emma".

The fourth child, Edward (born 22 May, 1851) married Maggie Schork (a sister to John and Theodore) in Lewis Co. Mo. about 1875/76. Not long after their marriage, they moved back to DeWitt County. Evidence on a tombstone in the Jonischkies Cemetery near Yorktown, reads "Maggie (Schork) Lundschen born 14 Jan., 1856 – died 12 Aug., 1878." Edward was left alone with two small sons, Theodore Henry and Leroy L. These boys were taken in by Edward's sister, Margaret Menn.

Edward Lundschen married a second time to Frances Fell in Goliad Co. on 26 Apr., 1881. They had 9 children. Edward died 23 March, 1903 and is buried in the Glendale Cemetery in Goliad, Texas. His widow, Frances, later, married Arthur C. Welch. Frances died 1925/26 and is also buried in Glendale Cemetery.

A fifth child, Emelia "Emma" was born to George and Anna Lundschen on 21 Jan., 1858. When Dora, Emma's sister died in Lewis Co. Mo., Emma assumed the care of the motherless children. A few years later, on 16 Feb., 11882, Emma married Theodore Schork, her brother-in-law. There were four children born to this union. Emma died 11 May, 1929 and Theodore died 22 Apr., 1916 in Lewis Co. Mo.

Very little is known about the last child born to George and Anna Lundschen. Her name was Louise and on the 1860 DeWitt Co. Texas census, she was three years old, born in Missouri. On the Lewis Co. Mo. 1870 census, she is living with her parents, age 12. Nothing more is known of her.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

LUNDSCHEN, GEORGE AND ANNA (KIRLICKS) FAMILY
F588

George Lundschen was born in Ackminiszken, Lithuania. When he was born is not so certain — his headstone says 2 Feb. 1829; his naturalization record shows 20 Mar. 1829; church records give 22 Mar. 1827; and the 1900 census says Feb. 1822. He died 24 Aug. 1903, and was buried in the Jonischkies family cemetery on Smith Creek (Schmidt Kreek).

He married his third wife, Anna Kirlicks, on 25 Mar. 1858 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. She was born 14 Sept. 1826 in Kirlicken, Lithuania, quite close to Ackminiszken, and died 17 Mar. 1911 in Yorktown. She is buried beside her husband. Her mother was Catherine Kirlicks, whose story is given separately. Nothing is known of Anna's father — presumably he had died before Anna and her family immigrated to the U.S.

They had four children — William, Mary, Annie, and George — all born in Yorktown and presumed baptized at St. John's (the early records are not available). All four were confirmed at St. Paul's in Yorktown, and the three oldest were also married at St. Paul's (the youngest never married). Only the oldest child, Friedrich Wilhelm, has descendants still living today. As they are quite numerous, his family will be discussed last.

The second child was Anna Marie "Mary." She was born 26 Feb. 1860, and married Christian Neese (9 Feb. 1862-29 Jan. 1939) on 21 Feb. 1894. She was nearly 34 at her marriage, continued a family tradition of marrying late (her mother was 31, her younger sister nearly 38). The Neeses had three children: Anna Elenora Ottillie "Tillie" (26 Dec. 1895-10 Dec. 1982), her stillborn twin brother (buried 27 Dec. 1895 at St. John's), and Otto Robert Alfred (6 Jan. 1899-29 Mar. 1976). Tillie and Otto were both baptized at St. John's, but neither ever married. Between 1900 and 1910, the Neese family moved to Goliad County and remained there. Mary died 16 July 1938, and Christian followed her just six months later, on 30 Jan. 1939.

Anna Lundschen's third child was Wilhelmine Anna "Annie." She was born 31 Jan. 1867, and married Charles E. (Carl) Baacke (21 Dec. 1874-18 July 1948) on 11 Jan. 1905. They had no children. Charles Baacke was born in Yorktown, the son of August Baacke (1841-1927) and his wife Sophie Kalkofen (1835-1912). Annie died in San Antonio on 21 May 1940, and was buried at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

The fourth child was George Ewald, called Ewald. He was born 28 July 1870 in Yorktown, and died 5 June 1929 in San Antonio. He is buried in San Antonio.

Friedrich Wilhelm Lundschen (William F. as an adult) was born 9 Jan. 1859 and married Wilhelmine Justine Voelkel (16 Sep. 1865-3 Mar. 1924) on 14 Sep. 1887. Her parents were George Voelkel (1830-1883) and Justine Strohmann (ca. 1832-ca. 1868). They had nine children (one died in infancy), all born in or near Yorktown: (1) Edwin George (6 July 1888-25 Feb. 1955), (2) Olga Justine (15 Jan. 1890-29 Oct. 1950), (3) Alfred William (30 Aug. 1891-1 Feb. 1937), (4) Lillie Emilie (22 Mar. 1895-7 Mar. 1988), (5) Helene Wilhelmine (2 May 1897), (6) William Ewald (12 Feb. 1899-13 May 1961), (7) George Robert (22 Jan. 1901-29 Dec. 1956), and (8) Berthold Frederick (1 Jan. 1903-8 Aug. 1968).

Edwin married Mary F. Vogt (4 Nov. 1894-4 Aug. 1984) on 10 Nov. 1924 in Victoria. Her parents were Emil F. Vogt and Louise Seiler. Their children are Friedrich Berthold (born 1 Jan. 1926; married 19 June 1956 to Lois Ray Semper at St. Paul's); Mary Evelyn Louise (born 11 July 1930, married 23 Nov. 1947 to Wilbert A. Lemke at St. Paul's); and Delores Frieda (11 July 1934-21 July 1934). Olga Lundschen never married.

Alfred married Ida Hackfeld on 30 Oct. 1919 at St. Paul's. She is believed to have been born 13 Mar. 1900 in Breslau, Lavaca County, the daughter of Fred Hackfeld and Mina Lehmann. The Lundschen children were Elvie Martha (born 17 Aug. 1920, married Otis Walter Smith in San Antonio ca. 1945); Leroy Alfred (born 19 Feb. 1923, died 8 Oct. 1945 in an airplane crash in Laredo while serving in the military, unmarried); and Idell Ruth (born 10 Sep. 1927, married James L. Findley in San Antonio ca. 1949).

Lillie married Louis Mehnert on 24 Oct. 1922 at St. Paul's. Their children are Edwin Louis (28 July 1923-24 Feb. 1924); Gladys (married LeMaster Warneke); Evelyn (married Burnie Falor); and Verline (married Werner Dentler).

Helene married Edgar Doerr (born 29 July 1898) on 5 Nov. 1919 at St. Andrew's in Weesatche (Goliad Co.). Their children are Wilbert Edgar (born 9 Jan. 1927), now a Lutheran pastor, and James Everett Doerr. William married Dorothy Meyer on 22 Dec. 1920 at St. Paul's. Their son is Floyd Wilfred (born 9 Jan. 1927).

The two youngest sons, George and Berthold, both lived in Seguin, both remarried after their wives died young, and neither had children.

(Beverly (Kerlick) Bruns and Patsy Hand also contributed information to this article.)

by Bernice N. Mistrot

LUNDSCHEN, "YOUNG" GEORGE

F589

L-R: Hedwig Lundschen, Robert Lundschen, Emma (Schuenemann) Lundschen, and Agnes Lundschen.

L-R: Agnes and Hedwig Lundschen

The other George Lundschen, "the younger one" (born 2 Feb., 1829 according to his tombstone) was born Ackminiszken, Kreis Heydekrug, Lithuania. Family members state that he may have been married when he arrived in 1854 at the port of Indianola or did so very soon after his arrival. The story goes on to say that her maiden name may have been Koch and she died just a few months later. (there was a yellow fever epidemic at Indianola in 1854). She may have left a daughter, for on the 1860 Census there is an older child named Anna, age 6 living in George Lundschen's household.

According to the marriage record of 24 Apr., 1855 of DeWitt Co., Tx., George Lundschen takes Mary Mertine as his second wife. Their son, George Robert was born 17 Aug., 1856 and no further information is known about Mary. It would appear that George was, again, left with another motherless child.

On 25 March, 1858, George once again married. His bride's name was Anna Kerlick (see "George and Anna Lundschen family"). On 26 Apr., 1859, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville, both George Robert, who was almost three years old and Frederick Wilhelm, infant son of George and Anna (Kerlick) were baptized together. (in later years, the family would move their church membership to St. Paul's in Yorktown.)

In the spring of 1862, George Lundschen enlisted as a private in Co. I, 6th Reg't, Texas Infantry. He was mustered into service at Camp McCulloch in Victoria County. On 22 May, 1862, the 6th Tx. Infantry was ordered to march to Arkansas Post, Arkansas. On 11 Jan., 1863, the first fight of the regiment ended in capture at the Post.

Out of the 643 men in the regiment, only 100 men survived the war. The others were killed or died, principally from exposure. George Lundschen was imprisoned at Camp Butler near Springfield, Ill. In May 1863, Camp Butler was closed and the prisoners exchanged. George Lundschen did return to his family and home near Smith Creek in DeWitt County, but his duties and whereabouts till the end of the War are unknown at this time.

George Lundschen died 24 Aug., 1903 and Ann (Kerlick) Lundschen died 17 March, 1912. They are buried in the Jonischkies Cemetery near Yorktown.

There are numerous land deeds in the DeWitt County Clerk's office listed for "George Lundschen". Since there were two men of the same name, it is questionable which one bought land where. Most of the land was purchased in surveys under the names of J.H. Davis, E. Caples, P. Ragsdale, Wm. Starke, and Guadalupe College. These surveys are south of Yorktown near the Goliad County line.

George Robert Lundschen, the only child of George's second marriage had resided in the Weesatche vicinity practically all his life. He was confirmed 6 Apr. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Texas, where his parents were members. On 22 Nov., 1885, he married Emma Emelie Schuenemann, daughter of Karl Schuenemann and Hermine Kluge.

Robert and Emma began their life together on a farm in DeWitt County. They were also members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown. They had three daughters, the oldest, Anna Aline (born 10 Oct., 1886) died in infancy.

Their second daughter, Hedwig Matilda was born 17 Oct., 1888 in DeWitt County, Texas. She married William Thormalen (born 31 Oct., 1884) in DeWitt Co. on 29 Oct., 1907. They were the parents of three children. Hedwig died 29 Nov., 1986 and William died 23 Aug., 1963. They are buried in the Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Texas.

Agnes Wilhelmina, the third daughter, was born 10 Feb., 1890. She married Paul Marcus Rabenaldt on 22 Apr., 1908 in DeWitt Co. Tx., They were the parents of eight children, seven lived to adulthood. Agnes died 28 Aug., 1981 and Paul died 20 Aug., 1957. They are buried in the Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Texas.

Robert Lundschen died 28 Sept., 1914 and Emma Lundschen died 1 Oct., 1913. They are buried in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Weesatche, Texas.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

LUTTENBACHER, JOSEPH VINCENT

F590

Joseph Vincent Luttenbacher came to Texas with his parents Franz Joseph Luttenbacher, his mother Agnes Wilhelm, and his brother Ambrose and sister Josephine in 1853. They came from the Thur Valley in Alsace, France. They settled in DeWitt County close to the other Alsatian settlers. Joseph's younger brother, Charles, was born in Texas.

Josephine first married M.J. Ormond. Her second husband was J.F.C. Hille who was born in Prussia. He was a doctor and according to some letters dated 1873 and 1875 they lived in Galveston during one of the big storms. They are buried in Beaumont.

Joseph's brother, Ambrose, became Brother Joseph C.S.C. in the order of the Holy Cross. In 1872 the Brothers of the Holy Cross operated the St. Mary's School for boys in Galveston. According to the order's historians, he was the First Brother to take the habit in Texas. Brother Joseph wrote his parents in 1875 that he had 46 boys in his class. He was sent to New Orleans shortly after this. He died there on October 31, 1878 of yellow fever. His body was sent to Notre Dame, Indiana, the order's headquarters for burial.

Charles Luttenbacher was born in Texas in 1857. He married Mary Ann Bednorz. He was a well known carpenter in DeWitt County. He was the contractor for St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville in 1923.

Joseph Vincent Luttenbacher (1851-1932) married Maria Magdalena Fuchs on November 20, 1872. They settled in the Arneckeville area. Maria's parents were Edward Anton Fuchs (1805-1877) and Mary Amilin (1813-) from Kruth in the Thur Valley of Alsace France. They came to Texas in 1858.

Joseph Vincent and Maria M. had 8 children. Maria Adelaide and Edward Joseph died of diphtheria in 1876. Willemenna died at birth and Clara Josephine when she was 13 years old. Louis Luttenbacher (1876-) married Annie Hausenfleck. He worked in a bank in Goliad for 30 years. Cecelia (1878-1971) never married. Miss Celie was the lady who came to stay with new mothers and take care of the other children and the household until the mother was able to do so. Little children loved Miss Celie and cried when it was time for her to leave. Sophie (1888-1946) married Rudolph Fuchs.

Mary Helen (1879-1964) married Michael James Bluntzer. He was the son of Sixtus Bluntzer. In 1912 J.V. Luttenbacher went to live in Meyersville with his daughter Mary Bluntzer. His mode of transportation was a white horse and buggy. It is said he would visit the Semmler Saloon in Lower Meyersville and if he had too much beer they would just put him in his buggy and the white horse would bring him home to Upper Meyersville. His obituary states that his wife died in 1890 and left him with 5 small children, the youngest only one year old. It states he suffered many hardships during this time.

Joseph Vincent Luttenbacher is buried in St.

Peter and Paul Cemetery in Meyersville next to his mother and children.

by Virginia Fetters

MACHA, FLORIAN AND ROSALIE

F591

Florian Macha, born 18 November 1859 in Moravia in the Empire of Austria, was the son of Johan Macha and Johanna (Stefka) Stefkova. He married 21 October 1883 Rosalie Zbavitel, born 14 August 1862 in Moravia. Rosalie was the daughter of Joseph Zbavitel.

Florian and Rosalie Macha came to the United States on their wedding trip as stated in her obituary. Naturalization records in the District Clerk's office of Fayette County, Texas show they emigrated from the port of Bremen, Germany on or about the 23 day of November, 1883 and arrived at the port of Galveston, Texas on or about the 23 day of December, 1883. The naturalization record was signed and dated 26 July 1887.

They settled first in Dubina and Shiner and then moved to DeWitt County and settled in the community of Chicolete, where they remained the rest of their lives together. Shortly before her death, Rosalie moved to Cuero with her son Florian and his wife, Lillie.

The earliest land record in DeWitt County is dated 12 October 1893. By working hard and saving, they eventually accumulated over eleven hundred acres in Chicolete area.

There were nine children born of this union. Mary married Peter Michna; John married Antonio Wysatta; Joseph married Annie Kalich; Agnes married John Doubrava; Rosalie married Emil Wallek; Amelia married Beauregard C. Key; Louise married Reinhold Kalich; Florian married Lillie Kalich; Baby Florian died as a child, age 2 years, of pneumonia.

Florian died 22 December 1921, having been injured while riding horseback, and Rosalie died 15 April 1950. They are buried in the Yoakum Catholic Cemetery.

Amelia Macha married Beauregard Cleveland Key. They have four children, Gilbert Florian, William Edward, Celia Rosalie, and Aleen Estelle. B.C. died in 1974. Amelia is still living at the age of 94 years.

by Rosalie Myers

MANNING, BOB AND JOYCE (SOEHNGE)

F592

Both Bob and I are descendants of early settlers of DeWitt County. My ancestors came to DeWitt County from Germany in 1848. The Tax Collector/Assessor of DeWitt County in 1889 was Bob's great, great grandfather, James Brown.

Bob and Joyce Manning wedding picture.

L-R: Louise Kalich, Rosa Wallek, Mary Michna, Florian Macha, Rosalie Macha, John Macha, Amelia Key, Joe Macha and Agnes Doubrava

Bob was born in Yoakum on September 28, 1936. He is the son of James Brown and Effie Wilcox Monk Manning. Bob has six brothers and four sisters. They are Edward Monk, Mary Manning Adams, Marjorie Monk Wasserman, J.D. Manning, Neiland Monk, Helen Manning Foxell, Joyce Monk Benbow, Don Monk, Jimmy Manning, and Wayne Manning. Since his dad was a construction worker, the family lived in many Texas towns. Bob started school in Yoakum, then moved to Stephenville for the second grade. At mid-term of that year, his family moved back to Yoakum where Bob completed his schooling. He played football for Yoakum High School. After graduating in 1955, he attended college on a football scholarship at the University of Texas at Arlington and Southwest Texas University. There he received a B.S. of Education degree. He received his Master's degree along with a Mid-Level Management degree from Prairie View A&M University.

I was born in Cuero to Ernest Soehnge (a naturalized citizen from Germany) and Corrine Rabke Soehnge on August 29, 1936. I started school in Mathis, Texas, where my father had a welding business. When I was nine years old, my father was killed in a welding accident, so my mother, my brother Charles, and I moved back to my mother's hometown of Cuero. In 1952 my mother married S. Adelbert Parker of Yoakum and we moved there. I graduated from Yoakum High School in 1954. I then went to Baldwin's Business College in Yoakum where I took secretarial training. I have worked as an office clerk for an insurance company, an aircraft defense plant, an Army post and at school.

In the First Methodist Church of Yoakum, Bob and I were married on August 19, 1955. We have three children: Michael born in Austin in 1959, Kevin born in Yoakum in 1962, and Jan born in Victoria in 1966.

Upon completing college, Bob taught and coached in Yoakum from 1959 until 1963. From 1963 until 1964, he was the head coach and athletic director of Yorktown High School. We then moved to Victoria where Bob became a salesman for Athey's Sporting Goods Co., and he traveled to schools in the Central Texas area. At the opening of Victoria Stroman High School, Bob went back to his love, teaching and coaching. He stayed at Stroman from 1967 until 1973.

In 1973, we moved back to our hometown of Yoakum when Bob accepted the athletic director and head football coaching position. In football, the 1976 Bulldogs were State Quarter-Finalists, the 1977 Bulldogs were State Semi-Finalists, and the 1978 Bulldogs were Co-District Champs.

In 1978, Bob and I opened Manning's Sports Center, with me running the store and Bob coaching and teaching. We sold the store in 1984 and Bob became principal of Yoakum High School.

Like their parents, Mike, Kevin and Jan have all graduated from Yoakum High School. Mike married Kathy Bucek of Yoakum on March 13, 1982. He is a salesman for Acme Boot Company. They have two children: Jenna Lee born July 15, 1986 and Scott born February 1, 1989. They live in Victoria where Kathy is a physical therapist. Kevin graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in May of

1989. Jan lives in Corpus Christi with her husband, Gregory Wayne Sitka. Greg is from Yoakum where they married February 28, 1987.

by Joyce Manning

MANNING, JAMES BROWN FAMILY

F593

Jim and Effie Manning

I was born in Brownwood, Texas, on July 24, 1904, to John David and Sally Leah Spinks Manning. I came to DeWitt County at the age of one year to live with my foster parents, Uncle Lige and Aunt Mary Alice Manning of Terryville. I attended Terryville's Countyline School.

After I finished school I returned to Brownwood where on December 15, 1921 I married Myrtle Helen Richardson. Myrtle was born to Wesley and Mary Etta McKinney Richardson on July 31, 1903.

To this union four children were born. Mary Alice born November 8, 1922, James David born December 21, 1924, and Helen Viola born November 15, 1926 and Royal Ray born September 4, 1929. Myrtle passed away that day and was buried in Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood.

I later returned to Yoakum and on June 4, 1932 I married Effie Wilcox Monk of Yoakum. Effie was born in Yoakum on December 8, 1907, to John and Dora Castellow Wilcox of Sweet Home. She had five children, Edward Fredrick born August 25, 1923, Marjorie Mae born August 10, 1924, Neiland Hale born October 12, 1925, Elleen Joyce born September 8, 1927, and Donald Ray born April 8, 1931. Their father was Edward Thomas Monk. We had three boys, James Brown Jr. born July 6, 1933, Robert Earl born September 28, 1936 and Gorden Wayne born April 19, 1938.

All of the children have homes of their own now. Edward married Shirley Helen Powell of Holyoke, Colorado. Mary married Charles Fletcher Adams of Yoakum, Marjorie married Albert E. "Pete" Wasserman of Cuero (Pete died in February, 1985), J.D. married Elyne Jane Krause of Yoakum (Elyne died in January, 1974) and Joyce Moldenhauer of Stonewall, Neiland married Lillian "Ethel" Fitch of Korth, Helen married Will Albert Foxell Jr. of Yoakum, Joyce married George Morrow Benbow of Stratton, Don married Joyce Helen Fox of Corpus Christi, Jimmie married Sylvia Ann Welch of Yoakum, Bobby married Joyce Janet Soehnge of Yoakum, and Wayne married Bonnie Lou Evans of Yoakum. We have 38 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

I worked in the grocery business most of my life and am now retired. Effie retired after 28 years with Tex Tan, but her job as wife, mother and grandmother kept her busy.

After 53 years of marriage, Effie died May 20, 1985, and is buried in Countyline Cemetery. James B. died in October 1989.

by J.B. Manning, Sr.

MANNING, JOHN DAVID

F594

L-R: "Jimmie", Frances, John David, Zula Belle and "Buster" Manning.

John David Manning was born in Terryville, Texas on December 12, 1875 to William Henry and Frances Martha Ray Manning. He attended school in old Terryville. He married Sally Leah Spinks in 1899 in DeWitt County. Sally Leah was born in DeWitt County on August 12, 1883, to Henry and Eliza Brown Spinks.

Sally and John went to Brownwood, Texas, there John worked for the Santa Fe railroad until his retirement. Three children were born to this union, all in Brownwood. James Brown "Jimmie" was born in 1904. William Henry "Buster" was born in 1900, and Zula Belle was born in 1902.

This marriage ended in divorce in 1905 and John married Clara Cooper in Brownwood in 1914. They had two daughters, Frances born in 1916 and Nadine born in 1918.

Buster married Meale Cook, Billie Quida, and Kay Pratt. Zula Belle married Bill Spence, Homer Andrews and Bill Lambert. Jimmie married Myrtle Helen Richardson, and Effie Wilcox. Frances married W.H. Perkins. Nadine married George Bernard.

After the death of Clara, John lived with Buster in Angleton, Texas. But visited with his other children and grandchildren until his death on January 2, 1964. He is buried in Countyline Cemetery at Terryville.

by Helen Manning Foxell

MANNING, MARY MATILDA CLOVER

F595

Mary Matilda (Clover) Manning and Joe Manning

Mary Matilda Clover was born in Angelina County, Texas (5 Apr. 1846) to John Clover and Mary Massingale Clover. In those days people lived in log cabins and wore home spun clothing, wore brogan shoes and rode in ox carts. Their social life consisted of quilting, candy braking, log raising and camp meeting.

When Mary was fifteen years of age, her father enlisted in the Confederate Army and served four years on the Texas frontier. During that time Mary and her mother tended the farm and cattle. After her father returned from the war, Mary, her mother and father, along with several other families, moved to Hamilton, Texas.

At the age of twenty-one Mary Matilda Clover married Joe Manning. Their six children were: 1) Luticia Ann, b. Nov. 1, 1866 – d. Jan. 1, 1893; 2) Johnnie Louis b. Unknown – d. Dec. 10, 1867; 3) Thomas Martin b. Mar. 18, 1869 – d. young; 4) Ezekiel b. Feb. 1, 1871 – d. young; 5) Mary Alice b. Sept. 17, 1873 – d. July 24, 1963; 6) Joseph b. Mar. 26, 1875 – d. Unknown.

In those days Hamilton County was infested with Comanche Indians. They raided mostly at night by moonlight, murdering, stealing and otherwise terrorizing the settlers. Horses were absolutely necessary to cattle business, and were especially coveted by the Indians. In order to outwit the Indians, Mary and Joe would find a large thicket and clear the center and use the brush to make a corral for their horses. The Indians would not enter the thicket for fear of a trap.

One time the Indians raided the school house and killed the teacher and kidnapped a

pupil named Kuykendal, causing the other children to flee into the woods. The men of the community formed a chase, Joe Manning joined the chase. They were gone three days, but failed to catch the Indians. Eighteen months later the Indians brought the Kuykendal boy to trade for tobacco and supplies.

Joe Manning died in 1876 and several years later Mary married Varese Manning, her husband's third cousin.

In the course of years five more children were born: 1) Benjamin b. Oct. 31, 1878 – d. Nov. 3, 1928, m. Josephine Goodson. 2) Malissa Ann b. Jan. 2, 1880 – d. Jan. 10, 1979, m. Walter Cock. 3) Martin Hermit b. Dec. 19, 1883 – d. Apr. 18, 1958, m. Janie Ridgeway. 4) Henry Vetallis b. Feb. 13, 1886 d. Mar. 27, 1938, m. Minnie Clara Rush. 5) James Leroy b. Mar. 16, 1888 – d. Jan. 15, 1957, m. Susan Emily Woodrome.

In 1882 Mary and Varese Manning moved to DeWitt County, Texas, near Terryville. They purchased land and lived there until their deaths. Varese passed away Feb. 13, 1920 and Mary Matilda passed away Jan. 30, 1938. Both are buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas.

by Helen Manning Foxell

MANNING, WILLIAM ELIJAH AND MARY ALICE

F596

"Lige" Manning and Mary Alice (Manning) Manning

William Elijah "Lige" Manning was born in Butler County, Alabama, on March 10, 1870, to William and Martha Frances Ray Manning. At the age of five, the family moved to DeWitt County, Texas at Thomaston. There, they lived and ran a cotton gin. After a year, they purchased 340 acres of land at Terryville, Texas, where they farmed.

On October 7, 1900 William Elijah married Mary Alice Manning (no relation). They purchased 200 acres of land adjoining Lige's family. There, they farmed, milked cows, and sold butter for a living and to pay for their land.

Mary Alice was born in Hamilton, Texas on September 17, 1873 to Varice and Mary Clover Manning. The Mannings gave the land that the Hamilton township is built on. A street was named in their honor.

Although Mary Alice and Lige were never able to have children of their own, they raised several children in their home. Soon after their marriage Mary Alice's sister died at childbirth. They took the baby girl and raised her until she was eight years old. At that time, her father took her with him. In 1905, they took Lige's nephew, James Brown "Jimmy" Manning, to live with them. Later, after the death of Jimmy's wife, Lige and Mary Alice took Jimmy's small children, Mary, Helen and James David "J.D." to raise.

Lige was a member of the Baptist Church from an early age and was a faithful member until his death on November 30, 1944. He was a lifetime member of the Woodman of the World Lodge at Terryville.

Mary Alice was raised in a Catholic home, but in July 1906, she joined her husband's church and was an active member until her death on July 24, 1963. She was a hard working lady who was fondly called "Grannie" by all. Lige and Mary Alice are buried, along with other Manning family members, at Countyline Cemetery at Terryville.

by Helen Manning Foxell

MANNING, WILLIAM HENRY FAMILY

F597

William Henry Manning was born in Butler County, Alabama, on March 9, 1833, to William and Nancy Manning. He grew up in Butler county and in 1862, he enlisted in Army Co. C, 42nd Regiment, CSA, under Captain W.D. McNeil.

William Henry Manning

William returned from the Civil War in 1865. On April 5, 1865, he and Miss Frances Martha Ray were married. She was the daughter of Elisha and Mary Ray. (Elisha Ray was killed in the Civil War.) Frances Martha was born on October 13, 1846, in Wilcox County, Alabama.

William and Frances lived in Butler County. There three children were born. Samual born on March 20, 1866, Martha born July 30, 1868, William Elijah born March 10, 1870.

The Manning family and eleven other families (some of who were related to the Mannings) formed a wagon train and came to Thomaston, DeWitt County, Texas, on what is now Hwy 87, between Cuero and Victoria.

While at Thomaston, William ran a gin and in 1872, William and Martha Manning purchased 340 acres of land at Terryville in DeWitt County on what is now F.M. 682 out of Yoakum. There five more children were born. Margaret A. "Maggie" born on July 30, 1873, David John born December 13, 1875, Elizabeth born September 1, 1878, Warren born January 18, 1884 and Henry Arnold born February 18, 1889.

William and Martha lived and reared all of their children at Terryville. Martha passed away on July 31, 1892 and William passed away on August 31, 1909. They are buried at Countyline Cemetery in Terryville, Texas.

by Helen Manning Foxell

MARIE, SAMUEL

F598

Archie Marie and Sam Marie at S.A. Marie and Son Jewelry Store, 1918.

Samuel Marie was born on October 30, 1864 in Lavaca, Texas. His mother was Angelina Thibodaux who was born May 5, 1828 in Thibodaux, Louisiana. She was a devout Catholic. Her parents were sugar plantation owners. Sam's father was Pierre Marie who was born in 1803. He came from Corsica but we are not sure if this was his place of birth. He was a cargo boast captain. Pierre and Angelina were married in 1843 in Thibodaux. They had eleven children, all born in LaFouche Parish

except Samuel who was born in Lavaca. Pierre took hides and pecans and etc. from Texas and brought in coffee, sugar and other supplies. Family stories say he sunk his boat during the Civil War to keep it from being confiscated.

Pierre Marie died in 1866 and was buried in Pt. Lavaca but later, his body was moved to Cuero and buried at Hillside Cemetery. He and Angelina, who died in 1906, are both buried in Hillside.

Arcelie Muti was their second oldest child. Sam grew to young manhood in Cuero and learned watchmaking from John Welch. At the age of twenty one he married Harriet Nellie Hill, the daughter of Henry F.W. Hill who was the Mayor of Cuero. Sam and Nellie had nine children, one died in infancy. Eight grew up in Cuero. Their children were Maude, Walter, Archie, Hill, Beatrice (Mrs. Newton Brown), Arcelie, Violet and Samuel Arthur.

Beatrice married Newton Brown and they had three children, Lunell Brennan, who graduated from Cuero High, Newton, Jr., and Mary Jeanniene Bell. The Browns lived in Cuero until Newton's job took him to San Antonio in 1938. Cuero was always home to them tho and Newton and Bea are buried at Hillside.

Sam Marie owned and operated jewelry stores and did watch repairing in Smiley and Edna for a short time. He returned to Cuero where he and his son, Archie, had a store together. Archie was also a watchmaker. He taught his brother Arthur the trade. Archie was married in 1917 to Merle Murray of LaVernia, Texas. A short time later he was drafted into the Army. Sam, Nellie and Arthur then moved to Kenedy where Sam opened a store. He was in business there until his health failed and they moved back to Cuero about 1920.

Archie was only in the Army ninety days. He was given an honorable discharge due to his health and he returned to Cuero and began watch repairing again. Archie and Merle had five children: 1) Mary Genevia was born in 1918 and died in 1932; 2) Clairice was born in 1924 (Mrs. Bert Barnes); 3) Murray was born in 1926; 4) Melba was born in 1933 (Mrs. Charles McGlothlin); 5) and James Kinnion who was born in 1935. Archie and his sister, Bea saw to their parents needs until Nellie died in 1932 and Sam died in 1933. Archie owned and operated A. Marie Jewelry Store for over thirty years. He was widely known for his fine watch making and his kindness and honesty. There has been a Marie business on Main Street for many years. Kin Marie now owns, and with his wife Sandra (Leske), operates Running K. Western Wear and Shoe Repair Shop.

Archie died in 1944 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery on the lot with his Mother, Father and daughter, Mary Genevia.

by Clairice Marie Barnes

MARKOWSKY, GUSTAV ADOLPH

F599

Gustav Adolph Markowsky was born October 24, 1863 in Berlin, Germany. He came to this county in about 1879 in search of employment and to escape the unrest in Germany. He worked his way over on a tramp steamer, landing at Galveston, Texas. He made his first home in Meyersville, Texas. He married Louisa Rosener, Dec. 1, 1887 in the Meyersville Lutheran Church. This little church still stands and is nearly 140 years old.

Back Row: Alfred Markowsky and Emil Markowsky. Front: Lydia, Gustav, W.G. "Bill", Hulda, and Louisa (Rosener) Markowsky.

Gustav and Louisa later moved to Lindenau, Texas where they owned a General Merchandising store and Post Office. In 1897 Mr. Markowsky was appointed Street Commissioner of Cuero, Texas, and built a home on the corner of Broadway and Terry St. The house still stands as of 1989 with a few minor changes. He continued to work for the City and County, constructing roads and building bridges for 35 years. He was also a member of the County Drainage Commission.

Mr. Markowsky was one of the founders of the Cuero Municipal Band. Their regular Monday night practices were held at his home, where he would always serve refreshments of sandwiches and beer. The band had concerts in the City Park Band Stand every Friday night through the summer months. He, as well as his two sons, Emil and W.G. "Bill"and a son-in-law, R.F. Heyer, Jr., were members of the band.

Gus and Louisa celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Dec. 1, 1937 with an open house and a band concert hosted by their five children; Alfred H. Markowsky (Dec. 6, 1888 – Dec. 9, 1953), William G. "Bill" Markowsky (Nov. 16, 1892 – March 24, 1939), Emil B. Markowsky (August 19, 1890 – Aug. 6, 1944), Lydia Anna Markowsky (April 19, 1894 – Jan. 5, 1973) and Hulda Karoline Markowsky (Jan 8, 1898 – Dec. 6, 1976).

Alfred H. Markowsky, Sr. was born in Meyersville, Texas on Dec. 6, 1888. He attended school in Cuero, Texas and later married Leona Albrecht on Dec. 16, 1908. He was a mail clerk in the Cuero Post Office, starting by delivering mail on his bicycle. Later in 1925 he moved to Harlingen and served 2 years in the Harlingen Post Office and 19 years in charge of dispatching as assistant Postmaster in the San Benito Post Office. He retired in 1947. After retirement he was Justice of the Peace for that area until 1952, when he had to resign because of ill health. He died 12/9/1953. Alfred and Leona had nine children; Alfred H. Markowsky, Jr. ("Sonny"), Edward R., Leland D., Eugenia, Elgerine, Aline, Marjorie Clair, Mary Lou and Walter Leon, who died when he was three years old.

Emil Berthold Markowsky was born Aug. 19, 1890 and died Aug. 6, 1944. He was married to Claude B. Hunter. He served in World War I and served 2 terms as Cuero City Marshal (1923-1925). He then became first deputy and jailer for DeWitt County under Sheriff F.A. Lenz in 1926. He was appointed sheriff on June 6, 1934, was then elected to this position Nov. 6, 1934, and served from 1934 until Jan. 1, 1938. Two children were born to this union; Raymond Lee Markowsky (Dec. 9, 1917 – March 8, 1981) and Donald W. Markowsky Dec. 14, 1921 – Feb. 6, 1974). Donald was well known in Dewitt County for his talent as an artist. (See history for Raymond Lee ("Ray").

W.G. ("Bill") Markowsky was born in Meyersville, Texas Nov. 16, 1892. He came to Cuero as a boy and lived there practically all his life. He married Myrtle Worley on Feb. 1, 1915. They had two children; Edwin ("Obbie") Markowsky (Sept. 24, 1917 – —) and Mary Joe (Mrs. Jack Keilberg) (Oct. 7, 1921 – Oct. 4, 1981). For many years he was construction foreman for DeWitt County, Precinct #1, and for 15 years before his death he served as constable and deputy sheriff. He was a member of the Cuero Turkey Trot Band and a member of the Herman Sons Lodge. He died March 24, 1939.

Lydia Anna Markowsky (April 19, 1894 – Jan. 5, 1973) was born in Cuero, Texas and married William F. Casal of Cuero on Aug. 14, 1914. Two children were born to this union; Katherine (Mrs. Jimmy Reiffert) (June 18, 1915 – April 15, 1974) and Dorothy Jean (Mrs. Carlton Stubbs) (1/3/1923 – —).

Hulda Karoline Markowsky (Jan. 8, 1898 – Dec. 6, 1976) was born in Cuero, Texas and married Robert F. Heyer, Jr. (See history of Robert F. Heyer, Jr.)

by Evelyn Meier

MARKOWSKY, LOUISA ROSENER

Emil Markowsky

Ray Markowsky

Johanna Dorothea Louisa Karolina Rosener was born October 13, 1869 and was adopted by Heinrich Rosener and Louisa Hausmann Rosener. According to the records of St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas, she was an American orphan whom no one else wanted to adopt. She was baptized Oct. 12, 1873. Her sponsors were Johannes Bertram, Karolina Post and Dorothea Hausmann. She was also confirmed in the same church on March 18, 1883. Her birth date was entered as 1870. Her father's death was recorded as Johann Adam Rosener, born Aug. 10, 1813. He was killed in an accident somehow related to horses on July 5, 1886. (In the family bible, written in German script, his name was Johann Friedrich Wilhelm, born Aug. 10, 1834 and another date entered was February 16, 1848, which could possibly be a confirmation date). In the church records, Louisa's mother, Sophia Louise Rosener, was born Feb. 2, 1834 and died Nov. 9, 1886. All the early church records have been translated from German script to English and naturally there is a possibility of error in dates or names.

The first wife of Johann Heinrich Post, Lena Rosener Post, childbirth could have been Louisa's younger sister. She was also adopted by the Roseners after the real mother's death. The family of Louisa was told that her real name was Bell and that she was probably of the Catholic religion, since she had a rosary belonging to her real mother.

Louisa Rosener married Gustav Adolph Markowsky, Dec. 1, 1887 in the same little Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas, where she was baptized and confirmed. There were five children born: Alfred H. (1888-1953), Emil B. former sheriff of DeWitt County (1890-1944), William G. (1892-1939) Lydia A. Casal (1895-1973), and Hulda K. Heyer (1898-1976).

Louisa and Gustav celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Dec. 1, 1937. She suffered a stroke in 1944 and died August 15, 1944.

Raymond Lee Markowsky, better known as "Ray", was the son of Emil B. and Claude B. (Hunter) Markowsky. He was born in Dallas, Texas, December 9, 1917, but lived most of his life in Cuero, Texas. He was a veteran of World War II. He married Golda Faye Cameron Bean, who had one son, Carrol "Babe", who was later adopted by Ray.

Ray followed in his father's (Emil Markowsky) footsteps when he was elected sheriff of DeWitt County. He was elected sheriff on November 2, 1948, reelected in 1950, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1960 and served until August 31, 1964, when he resigned. He served a total of 15 years and 8 months, which is the longest time served as sheriff in the history of DeWitt County.

He was named Palacios Police Chief, January 10, 1967 and served in that capacity for 5½ years and then served as Matagorda County sheriff's deputy for the Palacios area for 4 years. He died March 8, 1981 in Matagorda County, Texas.

Carrol "Babe" Markowsky married Jo Ann Finchand they have two children; Vickie, born in 1957 and Mark.

by Evelyn Meier

MARSHALL, ISHAM AND SARAH

F601

Sarah Music Marshall

Isham Marshall and his wife Sarah came to DeWitt County from Nacogdoches prior to 1845.

Isham, descended from the Virginia Marshalls, was born in Tennessee sometime between 1800 and 1810. He lived for a time in Missouri and Arkansas, and was living in the Nacogdoches District of Texas in 1833. About 1840 he married Sarah Music.

Sarah was born in 1820 in what is now Hempstead County, Arkansas. Sarah's father, Robert B. Musick, ran a trading post in the no-man's land along the Red River from 1814 to 1819 and earned the disfavor of the authorities by selling whiskey to and "plundering" the Indians. Circa 1819, he married Martha and went into the slave trading business. He bought land in what is now Cherokee County, Texas, in 1829, and shortly thereafter died leaving Martha to raise five children. In 1838 Martha applied for and received a headright consisting of a league and a labor of land. In 1844, Martha married John H. Reagan who was later Senator from Texas, the first Texas Land Commissioner, and Postmaster General of the Confederacy.

Isham purchased one hundred thirty acres from J.J. Tumlinson, just north of Cuero in 1845, and by 1849, had purchased one thousand fifty-five acres from the J.J. Tumlinson survey and two-thirds of the John Adriance League.

Isham and Sarah had three children: Elizabeth, born in 1841 and who did not marry; Tennessee, born February 27, 1845, who married Thomas J. Howard; Susan Missouri, born February 4, 1847, who married G.M. Alexander.

Apparently Isham had some indication that his life was to be cut short, because in November of 1848, he deeded the first one hundred thirty acres he had purchased in DeWitt County, a Negro named Ellen, five horses, seventy head of cattle, his entire stock of hogs, a wagon and fodder to Sarah. Isham died intestate and Sarah petitioned to be named administratrix of his estate in May, 1850. He left an estate of one thousand fifty-five acres valued at $1.00 per acre; two thousand ninety-nine acres valued at twenty-five cents an acre; one hundred twenty-eight head of cattle, two yoke of oxen and one 'odd' ox; four horses; one lot hogs; and various household goods and implements.

On June 1, 1851, Sarah married Benjamin Stout and to this union, a son, Benjamin L. was born. Benjamin L. married Mary E. Park.

In 1857, Sarah married William Flepping, but by the 1870 census, she was a widow again.

The records of Sarah's life fade at this point and the final resting place for Sarah and Isham Marshall has not been found.

by Norma Caffall

MASSEY, J.M., SR.

F602

James M. Massey, Sr. was born August 1, 1856 and died December 4, 1932. He married Eunice Eudell Goodwin on November 14, 1903. She was born November 11, 1886 and died March 12, 1912. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas.

James and Eunice had three children: 1) Arta Ruby Massey was born January 21, 1905. She married Arthur Lee Means on May 9, 1926. His birthday was December 14, 1903. Their children are: a) Beatrice Rae Means who was born February 28, 1927. She married Cecil Newman Jones on December 25, 1950. Cecil was born August 4, 1921 and died September 15, 1951. Beatrice then married Floyd Evert Boone on November 24, 1955. Floyd was born August 13, 1920. Beatrice and Floyd have three children: aa) Barry Orland Boone who was born March 2, 1957 and married Yolanda Gonzales Trevino on December 4, 1976. They have four children: Jesus Orland, Billy Daniel, Linda Marie, and Marisal; bb) Christe Lou Boone was born February 25, 1959 and married Howard Edward Dunn on February 14, 1975. The divorced on December 17, 1988. They have three children: Shawn Noah, Jeremiah Edward, and April Heather; cc) Van Allen Boone was born October 14, 1962 and married

Karen Roznovsky. They have two children: Benjamin and Brandt Boone. b) Sybil Lee Means was born September 8, 1928 and married Luther Bynam Akins on August 29, 1949. He was born July 28, 1923. Their children are: aa) Barbara Lynn born December 14, 1951. She has been a missionary to Japan for a number of years; bb) Luther Lee Akins was born September 6, 1954. He married Susan Marie Wilson on July 12, 1975. Their children are: Lauren Marie Akins, Graham Wilson Akins, John David Akins and Carol Sue Akins. Carol Sue married Lester Matthew Lunce on May 28, 1986. Sybil and Luther Akins served with their family as Missionaries to Twain for 25 years and are now with the Baptist Missionary Boad in Ft. Worth, Texas. c) Arthur Lee Means, II was born December 10, 1931. In 1954 he married Sarah "Sally" Rodger. She was born November 7, 1933. Their children are: aa) Terri Lynn Means who was born January 13, 1955. She married William Raymon Braden on September 30, 1978. He was born February 27, 1952. They have two children: John William Braden and Willis Allen Braden. bb) Brenda Lee Means was born January 8, 1956. She married Rodney Allen Girondt on August 17, 1974. Rodney was born July 11, 1954. They have two children, Adren Down Girondt and Jarden Lee Girondt, cc) Arthur Lee Means, III was born December 10, 1960. He married Cindy Chandler on January 21, 1984. She was born January 1, 1962. They have one child, William Reed Means. d) John Andrew Means (a twin to Arthur, II) was born December 10, 1931. He married Elizabeth Hope Walker in September, 1958. She was born August 30, 1930. They have four children; aa) Mary Elizabeth Means was born April 27, 1960. She married James McGown on June 28, 1980. Their children are: Erin Elizabeth McGown, and Nathan James McGown. bb) Lydia Ann Means was born January 23, 1962. cc) Sarah Annett Means was born April 7, 1963 and married Russell Edward Willoughby on June 2, 1984. dd) David Lee Means was born January 19, 1965. Arthur and John served together in the 4th Weather Squadron of the 3rd weather group at Hamilton Beach, California.

2) Verna Hope Massey was born August 15, 1907. She married a Mr. Flynt. She died January 21, 1986. Their child, Barbara Allen Flynt, was born August 15, 1938. She married Doyal Bates. Their children are Mitchall Bates and Donna Lynn Bates.

3) James Monroe Massey, Jr. was born February 24, 1910. He served in the 36th Division in Romo-Arno, Naples-Foggie, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He received a good conduct medal, American Defense Service Medal, Eame Campaign Medal, and six Bronze Stars. On July 31, 1946, he married Shirley Storms Carter. She was born October 21, 1914. Their children are: a) Kereata Carter Massey who was born September 15, 1936. She married Herbert Whalen on May 30, 1959. He was born March 1, 1936. Their children are: aa) Rebecca Lee Whalen who was born December 10, 1959 and married Jeff Dolci. Rebecca and Jeff have one child, Teia Lee Dolci. bb) Melissa Ann Whalen was born June 14, 1963. b) Ed Walker Carter Massey was born August 31, 1939. He married Caroll Ann Ledbetter on June 3, 1962. She was born December 1, 1941. They have three children: aa) Cindy Grace Massey born August 24, 1963. bb) Cliff Massey born October 16, 1964, and cc) Darin Massey born Marach 18, 1966. Darin has been serving aboard the USS Eisenhower for the last three years and is a Corp. in the Marine Corp.

by Shirley Massey

MATTHEW, MARTHA FRANCES NEWMAN KIRKLAND

F603

The first setters of Austin's colony in Texas are known as the "Old Three Hundred". These are the families brought into Texas by Austin under his contract with the Mexican government. They were all, or nearly all, in Texas before the close of summer 1824.

Three hundred seven titles were issued. Nine families received two titles each, which leaves, not including Stephen F. Austin, two hundred ninety-seven as the actual number of families introduced under this contract. They can truly be called the "first families" of Texas.

According to the General Land Office archives in Austin, title to lands was granted to William Raab in Fayette County, July 19, 1824 and August 24, 1824. William and Mary (Smalley) Raab had an only daughter, Rachel, who married Joseph Newman. To their union was born a son, Joseph Austin Newman, October 2, 1824, one of the many succeeding generations of Newmans to bear the name "Austin" in tribute to their patron.

Joseph Austin Newman and Mary Elizabeth Baker were married by a Methodist minister in Clinton, Texas in 1854. He died in 1872 of complications following surgery in San Antonio, Texas, where he is buried.

Their children were Jim, Lee, Joseph Sylvester, John Austin, Dedie (Stovall), Ann (Means), Mollie (Woods), Rachel (Houston), and Martha Frances Newman (Kirkland) (Matthew).

John Austin became a deputy sheriff of DeWitt County, where many of his descendants still reside.

Joseph Sylvester Newman, according to his own writings, began riding horses and herding sheep at the age of seven years. In 1866 he was one of the cowboys who made that first grueling trip north up the Chisholm Trail. In 1886 he was ordained into the ministry by authority of the Primitive Baptist Church, a calling he was to follow until his death in November, 1935. He is buried in Alexander Cemetery, Stratton.

Martha Frances was born to Joseph Austin and Mary Elizabeth (Baker) Newman August 13, 1864 near San Marcos, Texas. She died in Cuero November 21, 1955 at the age of ninety-one. She is buried in Alexander Cemetery in Stratton, the community in which she had lived most of her life and reared her thirteen children. She was a charter member of Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church.

On Nov. 10, 1880 at the age of sixteen years, Martha Frances married William Vinson Kirkland, the son of Daniel Coates and Mary Ann (MacDonald) Kirkland. This union produced two sons, James Monroe (Sept. 21, 1881) and William Samuel (June 18, 1883). Their father, William Vinson, died July 1, 1883 two weeks after the birth of his second son.

On August 4, 1885 Martha Frances Newman Kirkland, a young widow with two small sons, married a DeWitt County farmer, Walter King Matthew, who was born in 1865, the son of Elbert Franklin and Delilah Hollan Matthew. They parented eleven more children. Walter King Matthew died December 1, 1917.

The Matthew children in the order of their birth were: (1) Lavinia Allifair (Al) b. Oct. 20, 1886, d. December 1946; (2) Joseph Jay (Jay) b. Oct. 1, 1888, d. May 24, 1955; (3) Columbus Terry (Terry) b. Feb. 19, 1891, d. August 1959;

1930 Matthew Family Reunion: Back Row – Ela, Bonner, Terry, Jay, Sam; Center – Rena, Mrs. Matthew; Seated – Julia, Zona, Pearl, Earlie, Jim, Al.

(4) Elbert Franklin (Ela) b. Dec. 27, 1882, d. February, 1957; (5) Delilah Irene (Rena) b. Feb. 26, 1895; (6) John Robert b. Oct. 31, 1896, d. Feb. 7, 1910; (7) Louis Bonner b. Jan. 6, 1899, d. ?; (8) Zona Gertrude b. Feb. 8, 1901; (9) Earlie King b. Mar. 18, 1903, d. Apr. 13, 1958; (10) Julia Elizabeth b. Feb. 8, 1905; (11) Fannie Pearl b. May 17, 1907, d. Dec. 3, 1965.

These children were born and reared in the Stratton community, DeWitt County, near Cuero, Texas.

James Monroe (Jim) Kirkland married Maude Melinda Sirmon, second daughter of G.W. and Minerva Sirmon. Six children were born into their family. Myrtle May and Cathyrene Leona died in childhood. William Vinson (Bill) was born Sept. 30, 1905. He died in McAllen Aug. 25, 1977. Joseph Sylvester was born Sept. 14, 1907, Lula Belle (Smith) Oct. 23, 1909, and Juanita Fern b. Aug. 18, 1917.

Jim and Maude lived most of their lives in Stratton where he was a farmer. He died Oct. 16, 1966. She died Sept. 11, 1970.

William Samuel (Sam) Kirkland married Minnie Smith June 18, 1905. They lived in Cuero where he was employed for many years with Alamo Lumber Co. Their eight children were (1) Artie Mae (Kuester), Beulah Belle (York), Johnnie Velma (Ermis), Willie Pearl (Fechner), Edward Moore, Emma Frances (Bauer), Alva Pauline (Hoff) (Mueller), and Samuel Sterling.

Lavinia Allifair (Allie) Matthew married Rufus Darst on Mar. 23, 1907. They moved to Houston where he worked for Wells Fargo Co. He was accidentally killed by a train in the Grand Central Railroad Station while pulling a baggage cart from one location to another.

Al and Rufus had two children – Weldon Wright (Mar. 1, 1908) and Mary Estella (Feb. 4, 1911), who died Aug. 30, 1934.

After Rufus' death, Al and her children returned to the Stratton community to be near her family. She met and married Ernest Roy Cook. They farmed in Stratton for a time, later moving to Yoakum where Roy worked for the railroad. They had four children: James Raymond, Laverna Gertrude, Edwin Guy, and Maudie Frances.

Joseph Jay (Jay) married Mollie Sirmon, sister of Maudie (Sirmon) Kirkland. They had one son, Hayden Walker Matthew.

Columbus Terry married Fannie Victoria Wysatta. Their five children were Henry Bertram, Lucille (Kuester) (Barsch), Robert Earl, Eleanoy Lafrance (Karl), and Calvin Terry Pete).

Elbert Franklin (Ela) married Roxie Bennett. To this union were born Virgie Pearl Koenig), Dorothy June (Newman) (Hopkins), and James (Jimmy). Ela's second marriage was to Ora Mae Hensarling. Their three children were Martha Janice, James Vernon, and Carolyn Sue.

Delilah Irene (Rena) married John Wesley Alexander. Their children are Roxie Leona Martin) (Cage), Julia Fay (Calhoun), Wesley Boyd, John Henry (Fritz), and Corinne (Tilley) Carroll).

James Robert Matthew died February 7, 910 at the age of fourteen years, the only child f Walter King and Martha Frances Matthew who did not reach adulthood.

The ninth Matthew child was Louis Bonner who married Elma Glaze. They had one daughter, Sybil Jean. Bonner later married Clara Lambkin of El Campo. They had one son, Langdon Wayne.

Zona Gertrude married Jimmie Hans. Their son was Charles Allen Hans. Zona was later married to Earlie Morrow. Their children are Earlie, Jr. and Fay (Morrow) Coldewey.

Earlie King Matthew married Eddie Merle Carroll. They lived near Terryville in the Bear Creek community, where Earlie ranched and operated a community grocery store. Their sons are Jerry Arlen Matthew and Dennis Van Matthew, both of Houston.

Julia Elizabeth married James Elgan Dunn. Their children are Mildred Evelyn (DuBose), Teddy Elgan, and Frances (Peggy) Coker.

The thirteenth and youngest child was Pearl (Matthew) Baker whose marriage to Calvin Cason Baker of Williamson County produced one daughter, Geraldine 'Jerry' (Baker) Mauer.

by Jerry Baker Mauer

MAUER, CHARLES FREDERICK AND SUSAN MOORE

F604

Charles Frederick Mauer was born April 2, 1891 in Corpus Christi, Texas to William Frederick and Minnie (Vollers) Mauer. The family later moved to Cuero where they built a home that remains standing on East Newman Street. The house is constructed on barrel-shaped piers formed when barrels of concrete were inundated by flood waters during the great Indianola storm. The contents dried in the shape of the containers, were brought to Cuero and used as a foundation.

Charles was skilled with his hands, as were his brothers, William Frederick (Willie) (9-26-1884), Eugene Richard (7-25-88), Frederick Othello (Fred) (7-10-93), Clifford Chester (12-13-98), Robert Roland (5-1-03), and Albert Bertram (Bert) (9-5-07). Except for Bert, who worked for many years before his retirement for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., they were all carpenters and home builders. They worked on many of the public buildings in Cuero and built private homes that are still in use in the city and throughout South Texas.

Their sisters were Myrtle Schultz Alphonso and Viola Rosamund (Lola) Coker. All of the brothers and sisters are now deceased.

On February 10, 1917 in Sinton, Charles married Susan Ophelia Moore, who was born June 10, 1899 in Helena, Karnes County, to Thomas Acy and Mary Susan (Forehand) Moore. Her brother and sisters were Thomas LaFayette Moore, Beulah Katherine (Dromgoole), Carrie Jane (Lowery), Caldonia Mae (Coffey), Josephine Rebecca (Senessen), William Gertrude (Garner), Grace Knox (Barnwell, and Homa Christine (McDaniel.

Ten children were born to Charles and Susan: Heywood Wilbur (10-7-17), Richard Edgar (12-14-19), Ray Frances (5-20-21), Charles Fredrick, Jr. (8-7-22), Helen Annette (7-5-24), Glenn Reginald (7-15-27), Marion Julius (8-10-30), Tommy Lee (1-28-33), Carl Wayne (5-15-35), and Marjorie Nell (8-22-38).

In May, 1939 Heywood married Floy Eldred Stewart, daughter of Elmer and Marny (Baker) Stewart of Cuero. Their two sons are Gerald Ray (4-23-40) and Gilbert Eugene (5-24-43). Floy died Feb. 5, 1978 in Houston and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. Heywood, who followed in his father's footsteps as a builder and electrical contractor, returned to Cuero where he lives with his present wife, the former Esther Waldrep Martin, and serves as building inspector for the City of Cuero.

Richard Edgar (Jackie) was married October 20, 1940 to Mary Helen Poetter, daughter of Fritz and Annie (Caffall) Poetter. Their children are Richard Edgar, Jr. (11-9-43) and Marilyn Ann (Courtney) (9-28-47). They live in Port Lavaca where Jackie has retired from Alcoa Aluminum Co. and Mary Helen from school administration.

Ray Francis and Geraldine (Jerry) Baker were married June 1, 1941 in Yorktown at the home of her parents, Calvin Cason and Pearl

Back Row: Tom, Charles, Jr., Marion, Heywood, Carl and Richard. Front Row: Glenn, Annette, Mrs. Susan Mauer, Marjorie, Ray – Mrs. Mauer's 80th Birthday.

Matthew Baker. Their three children David Ray (6-15-42), Robert Michael (9-25-45) and Melinda Lou (8-3-51) were born while they lived in Cuero, where Ray worked at Brayton Field, and as administrative assistant to the Texas National Guard, and later at Foster Field in Victoria. In 1958 the family moved to San Antonio. Following his military and civil service retirements, Ray and Jerry moved to Lakehills on Median Lake, Bandera County. He is presently serving as Bandera County Judge, an office to which he was elected in 1986.

Charles Fredrick, Jr. married Mary Faye Stewart, younger sister of Floy Stewart Mauer, in Cuero on May 10, 1947. They have lived in Beaumont for a number of years where his company is a supplier of bottled gasses and she is employed by Beaumont Motors. Their son, Charles Frederick III, was born July 2, 1952.

Annette and Dalton Edward (Penny) Pennington were married in Houston March 2, 1942. Their daughters, Marjorie Anne (12-28-42) and Terrell Sue (10-17-44) were born in Cuero. The Pennington's have lived in Houston most of their married life. Penny is now retired from the Veteran's Administration.

On Aug. 2, 1950 Glenn married Am Floyd in her home town of Post, Texas. They lived in Odessa where both their sons, Michael Glenn (5-12-54) and Mark Stephene (12-6-55) were born. The family moved to Waco where Glenn is senior auditor with Cameron & Co. Divorced, Glenn later married Joy Elaine Baker of Waco.

Marion Julius and Wanda Louise Wilburg were married in Los Angeles April 9, 1952. Their home is in Norwalk, Ca. where Marion is an industrial engineer with Pacific Pumps, a division of Dresser Industries. Their children are Rhonda Louise (9-19-55), Marion Scott (2-26-58), and Kevin Timothy (2-10-66). Wanda died 12-3-83.

Tommy Lee married Loretta June Lamb in Shreveport, La. March 3, 1956. During Tom's career as a U.S. Navy pilot, they lived on various military bases in the U.S. and overseas including California, Hawaii, Okinawa and Texas. Their children Tommy Lee, Jr. (4-6-57) and Lynn-Anne (4-27-61) were born in San Diego, Ca. Tom retired as a Lt. Commander from the Navy at Beeville Naval Air Station where he had been a pilot training officer while the family resided in Sinton. He began a second career in school administration, serving as principal of Odem High. Tom and June presently live in San Marcos where he is high school principal and she is a middle school teacher.

Carl Wayne and Billie Jean (York) Fritz of Cuero were married April 23, 1955. Her daughter, Deborah Kay, was born 5-25-52 in Kingsville. Their son, Steve Wayne, was born 2-8-56 in Oahu, Hawaii where Carl was stationed with the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his military discharge, the family returned Stateside and have lived in Port Lavaca for a number of years. He works with Alcoa Aluminum Co.

The youngest of the Mauer children, Marjorie Nell, married Billie Jo Reid in La Pryor 12-20-56. Their four children are Sheryl Lynn (9-13-57), Vickie Jo (10-27-58), both born in Cuero, Denson Wayne (11-9-59) in Laredo, and Donna Leanne (4-22-61) in San Antonio. Bill and Marjorie now live near Pleasanton. His career has been primarily related to law enforcement.

Charles Frederick Mauer, Sr. died July 19, 1969 and is buried in Memory Gardens, Cuero. Susan Moore Mauer continues to reside in Cuero and will observe her 90th birthday in June 1989. All of their children were reared in Cuero and attended Cuero schools. Seven sons and one son-in-law served honorably in various branches of the military during World War II and the Korean conflict. Despite their years of travel and lives spent in other cities and areas, they all still call Cuero "home".

by Jerry Baker Mauer

MAYWALD, ROGER AND LONNIE

F605

Lonnie and Roger Maywald, August 7, 1988.

Roger and Lonnie Maywald are newlyweds and newcomers to DeWitt County. Roger moved here from Victoria after he completed building a home along the Guadalupe River about two miles from Cuero. He and Lonnie Kilgore Ficklen were married on 8-7-1988 at the First Baptist Church in Port Lavaca, Tx. Soon after Lonnie retired from her job at the Port Lavaca Clinic Associates and moved to DeWitt Co.

Roger has one daughter, Lea Ann, born 10-11-69 in Corpus Christi, Tx. On July 1, 1989 she married Gregory Scott Sutton in Victoria, Tx where they now reside.

Lonnie has three children, all born and raised in Port Lavaca, Tx. Their father is deceased. Her children are: Toni Darlene Ficklen Day (3-20-60) married to Randy Day of Castro Valley, California, where they now reside with their two sons, Matthew (3-29-84) and Austin (8-24-88). Richard Lindsey Ficklen (7-10-66) lives in Victoria, Tx. David Ryan Ficklen (3-19-69) is a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

The Maywaldt (Maywoldt) family first came to America in 1849 from Prussia and settled in Grimes County, Tx. The 1860 Census shows that August Maywoldt, age 60, was a blacksmith, son Christian, age 27, a miller, and son, George, age 25, a wheelwright, all born in Baden. Two sons, August, 14, and Henry, 12, were day laborers. F. Gustavus Maywoldt, age 36, was a retail dry goods merchant. He and his wife, Henrietta, age 30, were born in Baden also. Their children were all born in Texas. Henrietta must have died and F.G. remarried because the 1880 census lists his wife as A.W., age 24, born in Louisiana. The spelling of the name had changed to Maywald by this time. They had several children, the youngest son, Sercy Morris Maywald (1-24-1894, 4-6-1951) married Amy Linda Williamson in 1915. They lived their married lives in Pleasanton, Tx where they raised three children: Roger Morris Maywald, Sr. (3-21-17), Virginia Grace Maywald Henry and Robert Dee Maywald.

Roger Maywald, Sr. married Marietta Landrum (5-18-15, 9-1-72). They had one child, Roger Morris Maywald, Jr. born and raised in Pleasanton. Marietta was the daughter of Hull Hill Landrum and Sadie Horton Landrum, the granddaughter of John Horton and Harrisona Sherpie, and the granddaughter of Zadok and Amy Miller Sherpie. Marietta was born in Cotulla and died in Pleasanton. After her death Roger, Sr. married Alene Haverlan Degenhardt in 1973. He died 12-12-78 and is buried at Pleasanton next to Marietta and his parents.

Amy Linda Williamson Maywald was the daughter of W.C. Williamson and Stella Sherpie Williamson (1-26-1872 in W. Va., 8-26-1958 in Pleasanton, Tx). Stella's parents were Zadok and Amy Miller Sherpie (11-12-1837, 3-19-1917 in Pleasanton, Tx). Amy Miller Sherpie was the daughter of Samuel and Rachel Dawson Miller of Ohio. Zadok Sherpie was the son of Charles Henry Charpier (later changed to Sherpie) and Marianne Blanchard Charpier. They came to America from Switzerland, accompanied by Marianne's mother Lydia Jabas Blanchard.

This records five generations on the Maywalds, seven generations on Roger's paternal grandmother's family, and seven generations of Roger's maternal family.

Lonnie is a descendant of the Douglas family of Scotland, known as the Earls of Angus, from which Queen Victoria descended. About 1763 five of the gt gt grandsons of Lord Douglas Kilgore, together with a number of Scotch and Irish emigrants came to North America and settled in N. Carolina. The Kilgores were from the county of Fife, Scotland. All five of the Kilgore brothers were in the battle of King's Mountain, fought Oct. 7, 1780, which battle was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. One brother was killed and two others wounded. One of the wounded was Charles Kilgore, Sr. from whom Lonnie's father descended. His wife was Winnie Clayton Kilgore.

Roger and Lonnie have carried on the traditions of their families. Upon graduation from high school in Pleasanton, Tx and duty in the Texas Air National Guard, Roger went to work for the railroad, the same as his father, Roger, Sr., and his grandfather, Sercy Maywald. At one time they were the only three generations of one family to work as engineers for the same railroad and on the same tracks at Pleasanton. Roger's paternal great grandfather also worked as a boomer for the railroad. All of these have deceased, except Roger, Jr., and he still works for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Roger and Lonnie enjoy living in the country with their two cats and a dog and have a large garden. Roger is a member of the Masonic Lodge and Lonnie is a member and Past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. Lonnie has been active in church and community affairs for a number of years. She was the Calhoun County Chairman for the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1986, chairman of the LaSalle Three Hundred Year Celebration in 1985. She has been honored as the "Woman of the Year" in 1984 by the Beta Sigma Phi, and 1985 by the Port Lavaca-Calhoun Co. Chamber of Commerce, and "Outstanding Citizen" 1986 by the VFW, Distinguished Service Award, 1986 by the Commissioners Court of Calhoun County. She was also honored by the Texas Senate, sponsored

by John Sharp with a resolution honoring her as "Woman of the Year." She was selected "Notable Woman of Texas 1984-85. She has served on the Calhoun County Historical Commission, the Parents Advisory Board for the Calhoun County Independent School District and has been active in many youth activities. She is currently a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission, the DeWitt County Historical Museum Committee, and the Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary.

by R.M. Maywald

McALISTER FAMILY

F606

Oscar Talbot McAlister came to Cuero, Texas from Woodville, Texas in 1894, to serve as an apprentice stone mason in constructing the present DeWitt County Court House. He was born January 10, 1872, one of ten brothers and sisters raised by Mathew Luke and Araminta Van Vleck McAlister. Whiled he was working on the Court House a man was killed when a scaffold crashed to the ground. Mr. McAlister told his boss, who was his brother-in-law, that he did not relish a hazardous job and quit. He also told John McRell, his boss, that some one installed a small pillow above the west entrance upside down. Mr. McRell said no one will ever notice it and today it is still upside down. (There are about 12 of these pillows in a row.) Mr. McAlister loved to take people to the Court House and show them the upside down pillow.

Mr. McAlister eyed a pretty girl across from the west entrance and across the street, who was the first telephone operator in Cuero. Her name was Anna Stokes, born in Hernando, Mississippi September 11, 1874. She was the daughter of Judge A.W. Stokes and Henrietta Moore Stokes.

Mr. McAlister, being a man of strong purpose, stayed in Cuero so he could get acquainted with the auburn haired girl, which in time culminated in a marriage September 11, 1898.

Mr. McAlister went to work for Mr. Otto Buchel, a banker, mercantile operator, farmer and the originator of an electric power generation plant on the Guadalupe River. Mr. McAlister started in that plant and for the next 52 years served in many capacities for different owners of the electric company. Central Power and Light Company, for 25 years, hired him as manager here in Cuero.

Seven children were born and raised by Mr. and Mrs. McAlister. Norman D. McAlister 1899-1985; Thelma D. Teller 1901 – living in Cuero; Erica M. McAlister 1904-1984; John K. McAlister 1906-1989; Jay Burns McAlister 1909 – living in Cuero with his wife, Bert Marie (Broadway) McAlister – 1914. They were married October 27, 1935; Oscar Talbot McAlister 1912-1981; Francis F. McAlister 1915-1979.

Mr. O.T. McAlister, Sr. died March 21, 1958 and Mrs. O.T. McAlister died January 18, 1939.

by Mr. Jay Burns McAlister

McALISTER, OSCAR TALBOT

F607

Oscar Talbot McAlister was born on January 10, 1872 to Matthew Luke McAlister (1837) and Araminta E. Van Vleck (1842) in Woodville, Texas. At birth, he weighed only four pounds and was named for the Woodville doctor who saved his life. He grew to be over six feet tall and lived to be eighty-six years old.

He moved to Cuero in 1894 where he worked on the construction of the DeWitt County Courthouse with his brother-in-law, John McRell (1865-1940). While working on one of the upstairs porches, he saw a beautiful red-haired young woman walk past. He told his brother-in-law, "That's the girl I'm going to marry."

The red-haired girl was Anna Augusta Stokes (1874-1939), daughter of Henrietta Barnett (1854-1936) and Allen Ware Stokes (1850-1912), longtime Justice of the Peace in Cuero.

After the usual polite preliminaries, they were married Sept. 11, 1898. If ever a marriage was made in Heaven, this was it.

Their children were Norman Douglas McAlister (1899-1984), Thelma Doris McAlister (1901-1989), Maggie Erica McAlister (1904-1984), John Kirby McAlister (1906-1989), J. Burns McAlister (1909), Oscar Talbot McAlister, Jr. (1912-1981) and Francis Fanning McAlister (1915-1979).

O.T. McAlister was manager of Central Power and Light Co. in Cuero from 1919 until 1951, when he retired.

by Hazel McAlister

McCRABB, JOHN

F608

John McCrabb was born about 1798 in Ireland, came to America in early life, and lived in Tennessee before coming to Texas with Green DeWitt's Colonists in 1828. As a single man, he received the usual grant of ¼ league of 1,107 acres of land from Empresario Green DeWitt in May, 1829. He lived a lonely bachelor's life on this land which was located on the west bank of the Guadalupe River not far from Mission Valley and across the river from the section that later became the Thomaston Community. This land has been owned continuously by descendants bearing the McCrabb name.

In the summer of 1829, John and Sarah Creath McSherry and their baby boy lived in a log cabin on land adjoining McCrabb's. Late one afternoon John McCrabb went over to see the McSherry's. He found the frightened mother and baby in the house with doors barred because she had seen several Indians rush upon her husband and kill him while he was getting a bucket of water from a nearby spring. The Indians made no attempt to come to the house, but disappeared at once. John McCrabb was fearful that the Indians might return during the night, so he put Sarah and baby John on his horse and he walked along beside them as they traveled on the way to Andrew Lockhart's home 10 miles up the river. The weary trio reached there sometime after midnight. The next morning McCrabb and Lockhart went to the McSherry place and found his body lying where it fell near the spring and buried it near the house. So far as is known, this John McSherry was the first white man ever murdered in the section that is now DeWitt County. John McCrabb, Andrew Lockhart, and Squire Burns, guided by a friendly Indian, followed the murderer's trail up to the "hide-out" of the Comanches beyond Gonzales but were unable to find the culprits or to ascertain any motive for the murder.

Before long, John McCrabb decided to return to Tennessee to see the sweetheart he had left there. Mary Miller consented to become his wife and to come to Texas with him. Mary was born April 6, 1811 in Holland, came to America as a child and lived in Tennessee. Sometime prior to 1836, John and Mary McCrabb came to Texas and it seems likely that they lived in a log house on the John McCrabb headright land west of the Guadalupe River. John McCrabb decided to join the Texas army. On April 1, 1836, he joined Houston's army and took part in the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21. Records of the General Land Office of the State of Texas at Austin show that, for his having served in the Texas Army from April 1st to July 23rd. 1836, he was granted Bounty Warrant 473 for 320 acres, which land was located in Gonzales County.

Evidently, after Texas became a Republic, John and Mary McCrabb took up their abode in Victoria. The records show that he served as District Clerk of Victoria County from 1838 to 1841 and that, when Victoria was incorporated in 1839, he was made the first city treasurer. On February 2, 1838, John McCrabb received an augmentation certificate for 3,498 acres of land. These lands were located in Jackson and DeWitt Counties. This was his fourth land grant; the first was his ¼ league headright; the second was the 640 acres for taking part in the Battle of San Jacinto; the third was the 320 acres for serving in the Texas Army under General Houston. He made use of some of these lands to carry on extensive farming and stock-raising interests.

After DeWitt County was organized, John McCrabb became the first tax assessor and collector and served faithfully until his health failed.

John Frederick (Buck) McCrabb was the youngest of the John and Mary Miller McCrabb children. He was born February 11, 1846 in the home where, about 2½ years later, his father passed away. "Buck" McCrabb received only a limited education in the early day schools. In 1863, at 17 years of age, he left school at Clinton to enter the Confederate Army in S.H. Hudson's Company of Independent Scouts and served in the Rio Grande Valley until the close of the war. Buck then returned to DeWitt County where he engaged in raising cattle and became one of the best stockmen of the locality – he owned 7,000 acres of land (4,000 acres in one tract near Thomaston). "He had 150 acres of good bottom land in cultivation and the other in pastures". (Quote is taken from the book, "The Lone Star State", printed in 1894.)

On March 21, 1883, J.F. McCrabb was married to Cora Augustine – daughter of Dave and Mary Augustine. Dave was a native Texan and was one of the earliest citizens to come to live in the Shiloh Community. Mary was born in Springfield, Missouri and came to Texas at an early age.

Cora Augustine was born April 26, 1865 at Shiloh, near present Cuero. She attended school at Clinton. The records show she joined the Presbyterian Church there on June 29,

1879. John Frederick (Buck) McCrabb came to his death accidentally. He was driving a team of young horses that ran away and overturned the wagon. After his death in 1909, the management of the large holdings of land and cattle fell to his wife who was assisted by their son, John Samuel McCrabb. J.F. McCrabb was also survived by his daughter, Mary E. (McCrabb) Atkinson and three grandchildren, Jessie E. McCrabb, J.F. McCrabb, and Mary Lee McCrabb.

by Beth Dietze and Mary Lee Smith

McCRABB, JOSEPH ALEXANDER

F609

Joseph Alexander McCrabb was born about 1835 to John and Mary Miller McCrabb. He was with his mother in Texana while his father served in the Texas Army. From 1837-1841 the family lived at Victoria. Sometime about 1845, the McCrabb family moved to a home on the east bank of the Guadalupe River on land they secured from Joseph Tumlinson.

There were few, if any, schools in this section in those early days. It would seem most probable that Joe and his sisters were taught by their father in the home when they were small, and that later they went to the school taught by Rev. J.M. Connelly at Clinton.

About 1867, Joseph Alexander McCrabb was married to Sarah Jane McDonald, the daughter of William J. and Lucy Ann McDonald. Sarah was born in October 1849 in Alabama. In 1852, she and her older sister, Lucy Charlotte, came with their father and his parents and three brothers to Texas to live in the Prices Creek section of DeWitt County. The mother Lucy Ann McDonald died about 1851 in Alabama. William married a second time in 1856. Lucy and Sarah supposedly lived with their father and stepmother at Blue Mott and later, on the old Borland Ranch on the Guadalupe River in Victoria County. It is not known where Lucy and Sarah went to school.

For a time after Joe and Sarah were married they lived in the home with his mother. For a number of years they lived in their home about a mile from Cuero and not far from his mother. On April 19, 1877 Joseph A. McCrabb sold to Thomas Bates a place on Irish Creek, southeast of Cuero. On January 24, 1881, Joseph bought from Richard C. and Eliza Bates Warn, 1125 acres of the Amadore survey and all improvements for $5,000. The two-story house on this place then became the home of Joe and Sarah McCrabb and their two daughters and two sons.

Prior to his marriage, Joe McCrabb served as a Confederate soldier. Upon his return to civilian life, Joe became a very successful farmer and stockman and continued this work the remainder of his life. He was also, a 32nd degree Mason in the lodge at Cuero.

In December, 1883, Lucy McCrabb passed away only one day old. Mother Sarah remained ill for months. She died on March 8, 1884 in her home near Thomaston. Sarah was thirty four years old.

Joe's younger brother, John Frederick (Buck) and his wife Cora, and their daughter, Mary, were living with his mother in the old home near Cuero. Joe arranged with them to come live in his home near Thomaston and let him and his motherless children go to live with his mother.

Joe and several others were taking turns sitting up with Jim Cottingham who was seriously ill in his home near Burns Station. On a freezing cold December night, Joe rode horseback to fulfill his vigil with the sick. He soon took a very severe cold and developed double pneumonia. He died on December 20, 1885.

Joe and Sarah's children were: Mary Jane (Mollie) was born August 13, 1868. John William McCrabb was born about 1870. Annie was born in 1873, and Joseph (Jodie) McCrabb was born about 1875.

Also, three children died as infants: Jimmie McCrabb was born after 1875 but only lived seven months. Mandy McCrabb was born and died at eighteen months of age. Lucy McCrabb only lived one day in 1883.

McCURDY, JAMES SUMNERS FAMILY

F610

Jim McCurdy was born in Lockhart, Texas, Nov. 2, 1907, son of William David and Carrie Brown McCurdy. The family returned to Cuero, Mrs. McCurdy's home, in 1909. They established their home in the Valley View vicinity, on land inherited from her uncle James J. Sumners. This land is still owned by the children and heirs and is well known as the McCurdy Ranch.

Jim had four sisters: 1) Mary Beth, who married Dick Poth of Cheapside. 2) Evelyn, who married Tom Cates of Monahans. 3) Ann, who married Don Formby of Tucson, Arizona, and 4) Dorothy, who married Allen Briley of Houston. Dorothy still lives in Houston. The others now live in Cuero.

Jim graduated from Cuero High School in 1925 and attended Schreiner Institute one year before going to the University of Texas. He received a BBA degree in Accounting in 1930. Because of the Depression he decided to return to Cuero to farm and ranch with his father.

While at the University he was very active on campus, in the University Presbyterian Church, and as a Cowboy. It was there that he met his future wife, Virginia Rich, a resident of Austin and also a student at Texas University. She received a BS degree in 1929 and taught in several Texas high schools until their marriage in 1938.

In 1939 Jim and Virginia bought land on the Gonzales Highway from Ritchie Taylor, a long time friend, and built the home where Virginia continues to live. Jim was first engaged in dairy farming. In late 40's or early 50's he sold the dairy and devoted his time to turkeys and cattle ranching. Eventually the turkeys were sold and cattle became his chief occupation, changing from Hereford cattle to Black Angus cattle. When his health grew worse he sold his cattle to his son, Bob.

During his life time Jim became one of the founders of the DeWitt County Producers Association and remained a director throughout his life. He helped to organize a Turkey Foundation to help better marketing for the industry. He served on both the Cuero School Board and the DeWitt County School Board. As long as it existed, he was active in Dr. McLeod's Men's Fellowship Club, an ecumenical organization of Cuero Churchmen. He also served as Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church. Last, but not least, he was convinced that the Cuero Dam was a detriment to Cuero's growth and worked tirelessly to defeat its construction for every year after the 40's, when it was first proposed. Jim died Oct. 28, 1978.

Virginia was born in Memphis, Texas on March 24, 1908, the eldest of five children of Thomas J. and Alice Dahlman Rich. Tom was county attorney of Hall County, having received his L.L.B. degree from the University of Texas in 1906, and Alice was a school teacher with a teaching certificate from the San Marcos Normal. They married on May 9, 1907. In 1915 they moved to Austin and remained there until 1967 when they moved to Cuero to be nearer their children. Tom died in 1968 and Alice died in 1974.

Virginia had three brothers and one sister. All are deceased except the youngest brother, George L. Rich, who is a retired chemical engineer, and now lives in New Braunfels.

Jim and Virginia McCurdy had two sons in the family, both a joy and a blessing. John Richard was born Mar. 20, 1946 in Fort Worth and adopted in April 1946. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1964 and went one year to Texas A.&M. before joining the U.S. Air Force and serving four years in the war in Vietnam. In 1966, John married Corinne Hutchison daughter of Jerry and Madeline Hutchison of Cuero. They have three children: 1) John Colin, 2) Allison Kristin, and 3) Carrie Elizabeth.

John's interest in flying was lifelong, and after the war he and Corinne made their home in Fort Worth where they continue to live. His work has always been in the aviation world. He presently is chief of maintenance for the Sid Richardson-Bass Aviation Corporation.

Robert (Bob) Walter McCurdy, the second son of Jim and Virginia was born in Kansas City, Missouri, January 20, 1950. He was adopted April 1950. Bob graduated from Cuero High School in 1968 and attended Southwestern University in San Marcos for about two years. He worked in and around San Marcos until Jan. 6, 1973, when he and Mary Frances Peyton married. She is the daughter of Jim and Frances Peyton, also of Cuero. Bob and Mary moved to Seguin after she graduated from Southwestern University with her B.S. degree in 1973. She taught there for two years. In 1975 they returned to Cuero to make their home on the McCurdy Ranch. Mary has taught in Cuero since 1975, in Hunt Elementary School and Bob has his own cattle and manages the McCurdy Ranch. They have two children: 1) Matthew Pierce, born Sept. 15, 1977, and 2) Mary Katherine, born Oct. 3, 1980.

by Virginia McCurdy

McDONALD, JAMES A. AND ANN

F611

James Albert McDonald was born 29 October 1830, the 3rd son of John S. and Charlotte Collins McDonald. He grew up on a plantation near Brandon in Rankin County, Mississippi. Little else is known of his early years. He came to Texas in 1852 with his parents and brothers, settling in DeWitt County near Price's Creek Settlement. Just two years after coming to

Texas James' father died. When the estate was settled James bought the shares of the other heirs. He now owned a log house and the surrounding land.

After the fall harvest, James returned to Brandon Mississippi to marry his sweetheart, Judith Ann John Ferguson, 7 Dec 1858, the daughter of James F. Ferguson and his wife, Mary Ellen Wilkinson. Ann was born 21 October 1837 in Pittsylvania County Virginia. They returned to DeWitt County to make their home. When the Civil War started, James rode away 14 May, 1862 on his mother's buggy horse to join the Confederate Army. He was in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Franklin Fordoch and Yellow Bayou. He remained in the army until General Lee surrendered at Appomattox 9 April 1865, returning home riding on the same horse he was riding when he enlisted three years earlier.

James and Ann were interested in community activities and their church. He built a small school house on his property for the education of his children and the other children in the area. 7 December, 1908 James and Ann celebrated their Golden Anniversary with the help of family and friends. James wore his wedding suit and Ann was wearing her wedding dress of white dotted swiss. Ann died 25 March 1912 in Thomaston and James died 29 December, 1920 in San Antonio. Both are buried in Thomaston Cemetery. They were the parents of eight children who were:

Mary Ellen "Mollie", born 3 March 1860, married Dr. John Paul Williamson. They lived for a time in Thomaston, then moved to San Antonio. John died 12 October, 1917. Mollie lived until 1956. Their children were: Daisy Augusta, Pauline Ellen, Sarah Baily, Ann B., Rowena Ora and John.

James Albert, Jr. "Jimmy", born 28 April;, 1862, married Celia LeGalley(z) 20 November, 1884. Both died following an automobile accident September 1938. They were the parents of William Albert, Myrtle Jane, Lou Ella, Ruth, Laura Mae, Bessie, Gladys Elizabeth and James Albert, III.

Sarah Ann, born 15 May, 1866, married 20 November, 1884 William E. Collins in a double wedding with Sarah's brother James and his bride Celia LeGalley. There were eleven children: Julia, Robert, Sarah, Corrine, Ellen, Frances, Donald Grant, William, Mary and Jack.

John William, born 10 January, 1868, died 29 September, 1951 in Edna. He was married to Nina Watkins 6 Dec., 1893. They had: Leonard, John William, Jr., Agnes Parmelia, Dorothy, and Harrell.

George E. born 1 October, 1870, died 8 March, 1871.

Charles F., born 5 June, 1872, died 1932. He was married to Lizzie King. Their children were: Joe, Frank and Arthur.

Henry F., born 22 October, 1874 died 1945. He married 24 November, 1896, Martha Alice Pridgen. They had Rupert and Butler who died as infants.

Joseph Benjamin, born 4 February, 1883, died 16 March, 1941. He married Theresa Marie Jecker on 31 October 1905 in Edna, Texas. Their children were: Louise Antoinette, James Dessia, Katherine Nell, Marie Theresa, Marjorie Joyce, Ann John, Louis Francis, and Leslie Charles.

by Elaine Baxter

McDONALD, JAMES A., JR. AND CELIA

F612

James Albert McDonald, Jr. was born 28 April 1862 at Prices Creek Settlement, the oldest son of James A. and Judith Ann John Ferguson McDonald. Jimmy was born just a few short days before his father rode away to become a Confederate soldier in Company A Waller's Battalion of Texas Cavalry. He was three when he saw his father for the first time. He attended school not far from home, taught there first by Sallie Sangster and later by Sam J. Baggett. In his late teens he became a trail driver, riding on several drives that ended in Ft. Worth.

On the 20 November, 1884, Rev. John Gillett married Jimmy McDonald and Celia LeGalley(z), daughter of William Peter and Jane Ann Bates LeGalley(z). Celia was born 19 April 1866 on Guernsey Island of the English Channel Islands. They made their first home at Thomaston where Jimmy farmed and raised livestock. To support his growing family he also built windmills, some of the first in DeWitt County, worked as a land appraiser and a Notary.

Friday, 2 September 1938, Jimmy and Celia left Cuero for a reunion in Houston with some of their children. Their trip ended just a few miles from home when they collided with another car on a bridge near Nursery. Celia died 4 September 1938 and Jimmy died the next day, 5 September. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

They were the parents of eight children, who were:

William Albert, born 26 September 1885. He attended schools at Thomaston and Cuero, graduating from John C. French High School, where he was the only boy in the class. He studied engineering at A. & M. and was the captain of the football team. After graduation he went to work for Houston Lighting Power Company. At San Antonio on 10 June 1914 Albert married Jean Lockwood. Jean died 3 August 1959. He married, 2nd, Mrs. Thelma Goodman. Albert died 4 December 1971.

Myrtle Jane, born 8 February 1888. She attended local schools and then went to a teachers normal to receive her teachers certificate. On 14 November 1909 Myrtle married Lyle Thomas Phillips and went to live in Eagle Lake, later in Garwood, Donna, San Antonio, and Austin. Myrtle and Lyle were the parents of Lyle Thomas, Jr. and Ross Elton. Myrtle died at Eagle Lake 11 February, 1971 and Lyle died 11 May, 1971 at Pasadena.

Lou Ella, born 10 June 1890 at Thomaston. Worked for a teachers certificate, then taught school 12 years before her marriage 29 December 1920 to Allen Osborn Laster. Allen was killed in an accident 21 October 1934. Lou died 15 March 1971. They were the parents of Allen Osborn, Jr., Marjorie Lou, William Henry, Albert Wayne and Arthur Gene.

Ruth was born 28 October, 1892 in the log home of her McDonald grandparents near Thomaston. She went to school in Cuero, then completed courses at Draughan's Business College in San Antonio. On 29 June 1921, in Cuero she married William Oscar Thigpen, born 20 April, 1896 at Hope, son of William Henry and Minnie Elizabeth Davis Thigpen. In 1929 Oscar and Ruth moved to Houston where Oscar was employed by Houston Lighting and Power Co. After retirement they moved to Navasota, Texas to raise horses and cattle. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1971. Oscar died 7 December, 1974. Ruth is still living and will soon be 97 years old. They had three children, William Oscar, Jr. who died shortly after birth, Ruth Elaine and James Lloyd.

Laura Mae, born 13 January, 1897 attended school in Cuero, then a teachers normal. She taught school several years before her marriage to Leroy Morgan Williams 8 October, 1932. Morgan was an attorney and County Attorney for Atascosa County. He died 2 December, 1943. Laura returned to the classroom to support herself and adopted son James Morgan. She died in Wisconsin 1979.

Bessie was born 28 June, 1900 and died 9 November, 1904.

Gladys Elizabeth was born 14 May, 1905. She was married 28 May, 1928 to E. Brown Yeary. They lived in Houston where Brown was employed as Recorder of Arabia Temple Shrine. They had two daughters, Celia Elizabeth and Mary Sue. Brown died 24 June, 1981. Gladys is still living in the family home.

James Albert, III, named for his father and grandfather was born 13 April, 1907 at Cuero. He attended public school and A&M College receiving a degree in engineering. At Charles Street Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, La. James married Helen Jane Ross on 28 May, 1938. They continued living in New Orleans until James retired. They moved back to Texas, living in San Antonio. After the marriage of their only child, Clarice Jane, they moved to Richardson to be near her. James died 9 September, 1985.

by Elaine Baxter

McDONALD, JAMES ALBERT

F613

John McDonald was born March 01, 1793 in Georgetown, South Carolina; died December 24, 1854 and is buried at Burns Station, DeWitt County, Texas. As a youth, he moved to Brandon, Mississippi, and in December 1852, he moved to Thomaston (Prices Creek), DeWitt County, Texas. John and his wife, Charlotte Collins McDonald (1830-1920) made the trip to Texas in mule-drawn wagons. Their one daughter, Sarah Ann, remained in Brandon, but their four sons, William, John, James Albert "Jim", and Charles came with them.

John and Charlotte paid Buckner Harris $4000 in cash for 1040 acres – including a log house – located in the Prices creek area of the Guadalupe River Valley of the Amadore Survey. The house consisted of two 18' square rooms with an open hall 12' wide running north and south between them. The two back shed rooms were of lumber and were 12'X18'. The hall extended between these rooms, making its full length 30'; and the north end was used as a dining room. Rock chimneys were located on the east and west ends of the house. A log barn and three well-built log cabins served as quarters for the negro slaves.

James Albert "Jim" McDonald (1830-1920) lived with his father and mother in the log house and farmed the land. At the age of twelve, he suffered a serious illness. His father had a coffin made for the impending death of

his son, but Jim recovered and the coffin was used to inter a friend of Jim's.

When Jim's father died in 1854, his mother and brothers sold their interests in the land and home to him. In December 1858, Jim returned to Brandon to marry his sweetheart, Judith Ann John Ferguson (1837-1912) and brought her back to his home in Thomaston.

Jim and Ann endured the hardships of their time. While he served in the Confederate Cavalry (1862-1865), Ann superintended the farm work. Jim left home on "Old Buck" and used the horse as a cavalry mount during service in the Mississippi valley. He returned home on May 05, 1865.

Jim and Ann had eight children: Mary Ellen, James Albert, Jr., Sarah Ann, John William, Charles, George, Henry Ferguson, and Joseph Benjamin.

James Albert, Jr. (April 29, 1862 – September 05, 1938) married Celia Le Galley (April 19, 1866 – September 04, 1938) in 1883. Celia was the daughter of William Peter Le Galley and Jane Ann Bates. William was born on the Isle of Guernesey August 29, 1831, grew up there and kept a livery stable. He died November 04, 1897. Jane was born March 20, 1831 in Calstock, England; died August 17, 1918. William and Jane lived in the Thomaston area and are both buried at Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

James Albert, Jr. and Celia were the parents of eight children: William Albert (1855) married Jean Lockwood; Myrtle (1888) married Lyle T. Phillips; Lou Ella (1890) married Allen Osborn Laster; Ruth (1892) married William Oscar Thigpen; Laura (1897) married Le Roy Morgan Williams; Bessie (1900-1904); Gladys Elizabeth (1905) married E. Brown Yeary; and James Albert, III (1908) married Helen Ross.

James Albert, Jr. had a dairy farm, three miles south of Cuero on the Guadalupe River, on 150 acres of land. He also installed and repaired windmills for a living.

On September 03, 1938, James, Jr. and Celia were in an automobile accident. She died on September 04th and he on the 5th. They're buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Lou Ella McDonald (1890-1972) married Allen Osborn Laster (1892-1934) on December 29, 1920 and had five children: Allen, Jr. (1921); Marjorie Lou (1923); William Henry (1926); Albert Wayne (1928-1982); and Arthur Gene (1931). Lou Ella taught school for 27 years, and her husband, Allen, was a produce trucker. He died as the result of a truck accident in October 1934.

by Mrs. Hazel Arnecke Laster

McDONALD, JOHN S. AND CHARLOTTE

F614

John S. McDonald was born 1 March, 1793 in Georgetown County, South Carolina. As a young man he moved to Wayne County, Mississippi, arriving there fore Mississippi became a state. Before 1820 he married Charlotte Collins, born 22 June, 1801 in South Carolina, the daughter of Jacob Collins and his wife Lucy Hendrick. John became a member of Gaelic speaking Philadelphus Presbyterian Church in Winchester and Charlotte joined Zion Baptist church at Buckatuna. Following the signing of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty, Indian lands were opened for settlement. About 1828 the McDonalds moved to Rankin County near Brandon. John became a County Commissioner and a delegate to the Democratic States Rights Convention in 1839. Many families began moving from the area to Texas, including several of Charlotte's married sisters. 1852 found the McDonalds preparing for a move to Texas, too. Late in the summer they began the long trip by mule drawn wagons, bringing with them their four sons and families, slaves and household goods. December, 1852, John McDonald paid $4000 to Buckner Harris for 1040 acres of land located in Prices Creek section of DeWitt County. They moved into a log house already on the property, Christmas Day, 1852. John did not live long following the trip, dying 25 December, 1854. He was buried in Burns Station Cemetery. Charlotte lived until 6 August, 1874, dying in Benton County, Mississippi at the home of her daughter. John and Charlotte were the parents of seven known children. Two little girls born before 1820 and who died before 1830 and five children who lived to maturity.

William J. born 1822-23 in Wayne County, Mississippi married 1st Lucy Ann Donogan in Rankin County on 10 January, 1843. It is believed Lucy had died before the family came to Texas. They had two daughters: Lucy Charlotte and Sarah Jane. William married 2nd Mrs. Cynthia Elizabeth Shultz Sutton 4 December, 1856 in Karnes County. Cynthia had two small sons, James and Bill Sutton. William was in the Confederate Army and was captured by the Yankees. He was taken to New Orleans and imprisoned for several months. William and Cynthia had one daughter, Mary Ann. William disappeared in Mississippi in the spring of 1870 and was not heard of again. It is believed he may have been killed for the money he was carrying.

Sarah Ann was born 15 December, 1824 in Wayne County. She married Caswell Tate, Jr. 1 March, 1843 in Rankin County. They did not come to Texas with the rest of the family instead moved to Tippah County, now Benton County. Sarah Ann died in 1878. There were ten Tate children: Thomas J. who died during the Civil War, John C., R. Washington, James Polk, Franklin Pierce, Addison Swift, Charles Edward, William Irving, Elizabeth and Mary Charlotte.

John William was born about 1826 in Wayne Co. He married Leah Kirsh, November, 1851 in Rankin County. John died 16 December, 1859 and Leah died shortly thereafter. They left one small daughter, Laura Endora who was raised in the home of William J. and Cynthia McDonald. Laura married William "Bill" Sutton son of her Aunt Cynthia. Bill died in Indianola ending the Taylor-Sutton Feud.

James Albert born 29 October, 1830 in Rankin County, married Judith Ann John Ferguson 7 December, 1858. James served in Company A Battalion Texas Cavalry. He was taken prisoner but escaped to return to his Company. James and Ann had 8 children. See James A. and Ann McDonald story.

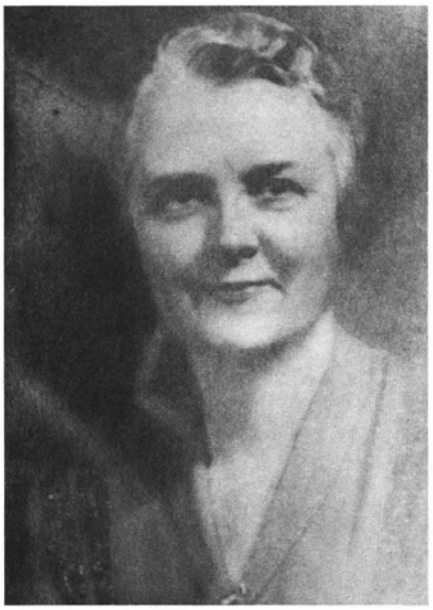
Charles Edward born 22 April, 1833, died 19 January, 1891 in San Antonio. He married Hannah Lampley 4 June, 1861. They lived at Clinton for several years and then moved to Pearsall. Charles served in the Confederate Army, belonging to General Waul's legion of Artillery. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Vicksburg. Charles and Hannah had seven children: John, Floy, May, Bettie, Lee, Eddie and Charles.

by Elaine Baxter

McDOUGAL, FAIN AND BEULAH MARGARET (BENNET) FAMILY

F615

Front Row L-R: Constance (Gilliam), Mary Bennet, Beulah (Bennet), Margaret Esther, Miles Grant, Esther Jane (Grant). Back Row: Dudley Bennet, Fain, Fain, Jr.



Estelle (McDougal) Massey Cook

Fain and Beulah McDougal call 208 N. Hunt St., Cuero, "the home we love." They have lived there forty-five of their forty-nine plus years since they married July 4, 1940, in Greenville, Mississippi. Beulah has called the beloved house "home" for sixty-five years since it was built by her father, Miles Dudley Bennet and mother, Beulah Bell (Blackwell), both natives of DeWitt County, in 1924. (The M.D. Bennet and John Harland Blackwell's family stories are given separately.) Fain and Beulah are members and elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero.

Fain was named manager of DeWitt County Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Cuero November 15, 1945, and served as manager thirty-five plus years retiring January 1, 1981. He helped pioneer extension of electric and telephone

1912, Standing: Ellen Crockett Fain, Annie Fain Clark McDougal, Sammie Clark. Seated: Waman Clark, Marshall McDougal, Jr., Rev. S.L. Fain, Fain McDougal, M.S. McDougal.

service to every farm and ranch in the seven county area. He served in many elective offices of the Texas and National Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (The Coop story is given separately.) Beulah taught seventh grade Texas History for twenty-six years in Cuero Junior High School retiring May 31, 1980.

Fain was born September 25, 1909, in Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County (founded 1817), Tennessee, near the location of Davy Crockett State Park. He was the youngest of three children born to Marshall Simeon (5-18-1853) and Annie Fain (9-21-1874) McDougal both natives of Tennessee. His father owned and operated the McDougal Dry Goods Store in Lawrenceburg and died September 27, 1916, 63 years old. His mother died four months later January 31, 1917, 42 years old. His paternal grandfather, James, was born August 1, 1800, in North Carolina, son of James and Nancy Kennedy McDougal. His paternal grandmother, Elizabeth McSwain, was born in Georgia. Nine children were born to this union with Marshall Simeon the youngest, being born when his father was fifty-three years old and with Fain being born when his father was fifty-six years old. Needless to say, Fain did not know his McDougal grandparents.

Fain's maternal grandfather, Samuel Lafayette Fain, was born in Marshall County, Tennessee (12-19-1845), died June 20, 1924, in San Antonio while visiting his grandsons. He was the son of John and Crowder Fain and married Annie Jackson, daughter of Nathan Jackson in Rutherford County, Tennessee October 26, 1873. She died at birth of daughter, Annie Fain, September 21, 1874. Annie Fain was raised in her maternal grandmother's home. S.L. Fain was a Confederate veteran. He was a circuit riding Methodist minister in Tennessee before being petitioned to become the first full time minister (1899-1900) of the First Methodist Church of Lawrenceburg, which was organized in 1824. Fain's mother, Annie Fain, first married Lee Clark who died before birth of their second child, a daughter, Sammie Clark, November 20, 1898. She moved in 1899 to Lawrenceburg with her two children (son Waman Clark born 6-23-1897 and daughter Sammie) to be near her father and stepmother, Ellen Douglas Crockett whom her father had married May 4, 1892. There Annie Fain met and married M.S. McDougal. They are buried in the Mimosa Cemetery in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Following the death of his parents, Fain and his four year older brother, Marshall, Jr. (2-18-05 to 3-3-59) came by rail to San Antonio to live with, and be adopted by, their thirty-two year old half sister, Estelle (6-25-1885 to 1-1-64) on father's side and husband, William Lee Massey. They did not change their McDougal name. Enroute to San Antonio the boys were accompanied to New Orleans, LA by Sammie, their seventeen year old half sister on their mother's side. They were to meet their other thirty-two year old half sister halfway. Fain's full sister, Annie Elizabeth, born 10-5-02, died 1-11-05. Indirectly, her death caused premature birth of brother, Marshall born 2-18-05, weighing approximately two pounds. He survived to graduate from Texas A&M College, class of 1926, with a B.S. degree in architecture and to be commissioned a Lt. Colonel in World War II. He married Vivian Williams in San Antonio September, 1926. Fain's half sister, Estelle McDougal's, mother also died from childbirth June 25, 1885. Estelle's father did not remarry until he met Annie Fain Clark fifteen years later. Her father had also remained a widower eighteen years before remarrying a second time. Both fathers were devoted to their daughters and provided them the best education possible.

Fain completed first grade in Lawrenceburg in May, 1917, and came to San Antonio where he attended grade and high school and continued studies at John Tarleton Agricultural College, San Antonio College, University of Tennessee, University of Houston and short courses in electrification and irrigation at Texas A&M and Texas Tech. He is a life member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. When asked what was his work classification, Fain generally replied, "I always had a good interesting job helping Texas grow." I worked for Western Union, The Gunter Hotel, MGM News, City Public Service, Civil Engineers, General Contractors, American General Insurance Company, on construction of Mansfield Dam, as safety engineer and insurance representative, building pipelines, irrigation, water, gas and electric distribution systems while farming cotton and raising cattle which I still do. I was deferred in WW II to construct the Big Inch and war emergency pipelines.

Beulah, born in Cuero, May 31, 1918, attended Cuero schools, Gulf Park College, Gulf Port, Mississippi, and received a B.A. degree from the University of Texas, Austin, in June, 1939. She is a member of Delta Delta Delta Society.

Fain and Beulah have two sons, both graduates of Cuero High School. Fain, Jr. born 11-6-42, has a B.S. degree from the University of Texas, Austin, and is a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. He served in the Viet Nam War as a naval officer. Dudley Bennet, born 8-7-44, has a B.S. degree from Trinity University and served in Viet Nam as a signal corps officer. He earned two bronze stars with oak leaf clusters and other special commendation medals. Fain, Jr. married 1-2-71, Esther Jane (Janie) Grant, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Grant, of Bryan, Texas. She is a graduate of University of Texas and a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. They have two children, son, Miles Grant, born 1-6-76, and daughter, Margaret Esther (Margo) born 4-22-79. Fain, Jr. and family live in Bryan. He is Vice President of First American Bank. He was formerly with Trammel Crow and Turney Collie & Braden Engineers in Houston. Dudley married 3-9-74, Constance Faye (Connie) Gilliam, daughter of Drs. R.B. (Rocky) and Patty Dodson Gilliam both MD's of Victoria. She is a graduate of the University of Texas and a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Society. They have one daughter, Mary Bennet, born 1-29-82. Dudley and family live in Victoria where he owns Radio Station KNAL.

Fain and Beulah were active in all club, church and civil programs prior to retirement. Then they became world travelers and cruise enthusiasts. Now they are thankful for each day they have together in "the home we love."

by Fain McDougal

McFARLAND, JAMES

F616

(1879-1852)

James McFarland was born in Ireland. His family immigrated to South Carolina when he was an infant. He married Margaret Dial in Newberry County South Carolina on May 25, 1809. She was the daughter of John and Mary Montgomery Dial and the granddaughter of Jeremiah and Margaret Dial and David and Jane Beard Montgomery. The Dials, Montgomerys and the Beards arrived in South Carolina aboard the "Dunluce" with the Rev. William Martin and his five shiploads of settlers in 1772.

The McFarlands left South Carolina prior to 1820 and lived in Alabama until the 1830's when they moved to Mississippi. By 1840 they were in Montgomery County, Texas and lived there until they moved to DeWitt County,

Texas about 1848. They settled in the Shiloh Community. By 1850 all of their children were grown and their grandson, John David Brantley, was living with them.

The births of eleven children, recorded in their family Bible, are as follows: Mary Ann (1810-1820) b. S.C.; James P. (1812) b. S.C.; John Dial (1814) b. S.C.; Samuel J. (1816-1860) b. S.C.; Nancy Jane (1818-1903) b. S.C. married 1) Thomas R. Brantley, 2) Wyett Anderson; Mary Ann (Polly) (1820-1892) b. AL, married 1) Francis Calloway, 2) Henry Gonzalvo Woods; Judy H. (1823-1847) married Walter Anderson; David Montgomery (1824) b. AL, married Sarah Calaham b. LA; Thomas Alexander (1826) b. AL; Jeremiah Dial (1823-1865) b. AL, married Melvina; George W. (1830-1863) b. AL.

James McFarland died July 10, 1852 and is buried in Clinton Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Margaret Dial McFarland died January 1, 1868 and is buried in Shannon Cemetery which is located near Yorktown in the Benjamin Harrell Survey.

by Jean B. Tidwell

McLAIN, ALAN AND PATRICIA KAREN FITZGERALD

F617

Marshall Ty and Forest Alan McLain

Alan Michael was born October 14, 1954 in Corona, California. He is the second born of William F. and Joan C. (Erney) McLain of Brandon, Florida. His siblings include an older sister, Peggy, a younger brother, John, and a younger sister, Joni. William was born in Bay Minnett, Alabama, son of Millie Jane (Weekely) and Benjamin F. McLain both of whom were born in Bay Minnett, Alabama. Joan is the daughter of Ida Mae (Fehr) and Howard R. Erney, both of whom were born in Bay Minnett, Alabama. Alan grew up in Miami and Brandon, Florida. Since his father is an avid duck and bass fisherman, Alan spent many a day enjoying the opportunities that Florida offers. Alan graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Geology. He attended a geology field camp at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas where he met Karen Fitzgerald. In the spring of 1979 Alan moved to DeWitt County and started working as a survey in Victoria. On August 18, 1979 he married Patricia Karen Fitzgerald (born July 7, 1958) in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arneckeville.

Karen is the daughter of Jack Collier Fitzgerald (born July 4, 1932 in San Antonio) and Lorita Mae Wolf (born September 20, 1932 in Cuero). The Fitzgeralds moved to DeWitt County near the Green DeWitt Community in 1969. They had a place large enough to run a few cows and to keep some horses. Karen and her sister Jacquelyn Kay (born May 15, 1964) attended Meyersville school through the 8th grade. They both graduated from Cuero High School, Karen in 1976 and Jacquelyn in 1982. Some of the memories from the home place include riding shetlands and horses with friends such as Carol Hartman, Rip Gibson, and Marilyn Cheatham. Sometimes the riding was not just for fun, since there were calves that needed doctoring or cattle that needed working. Jack and Rita spent many long hours on the road, and many longer ones at rodeos and horseshows across the country, so the girls could complete. Other memories include the Labor Day picnics that grandparents Werner and Lorene Wolf held at their river bottom each year. Lots of friends and relatives gathered each year to pitch horseshoes, toss washers, play tether ball, gossip and eat Bar-B-Que. Karen attended Sul Ross State University and finished her degree at the University of Houston-Victoria with a bachelors degree in accounting. While at Sul Ross Karen often worked as a whitewater rafting guide on the Rio Grande. Karen and Allen have two boys Marshall Ty (born September 17, 1981) and Forrest Alan (born November 5, 1985). Forrest was born on the same day as his first cousin Morgan Elizabeth Rath (see story on Jacquelyn Fitzgerald). Marshall and Forrest are up and coming cowboys with their horses, Rio Bravo and Dipstick, respectively.

by Karen Fitzgerald McLain

McLARTY FAMILY

F618

Of DeWitt County, Texas

The McLartys, as documented in a book, "The McLarty Family of Kintyre Scotland" (Crabtree Press, Charlotte, N.C.) migrated to Cushendall, Ireland in the 17th century. A large McLarty cemetery still stands in Cushendall and a number of that clan still live in the area. In 1928, William Tell McLarty, a direct descendant of that proud Irish family, moved with his wife, Doy Alice (Martin) and two children, Tell (age 11) and Alice Gene (age 1), from Yoakum to Cuero, thus beginning the McLarty Family of DeWitt County, Texas. He was more commonly known as W.T. McLarty, for he found the name William Tell often necessitate an explanation that he had no part of the apple incident associated with that name. He was born in Dime Box, Texas, in 1898, the 2nd son of Dr. Claude M. McLarty and Ella (Monroe) McLarty, who had a family of 5 sons and 4 daughters. Dr. McLarty was an old fashioned country doctor, calling on his patients in a horse and buggy, often driven by his son, W.T. His mother, Ella, a descendant of Pres. James Monroe, died after the family had moved to Lexington, Lee County, Texas, in the early 1900s.

W.T. McLarty had been a grocerman in Yoakum when he accepted a job as manager of a new Piggly Wiggly Groc. opening in the Trautwein Blvd. in Cuero. It was a proud promotion for him, a career grocer who believed that the customer was always right and that next to honesty, service was his chief responsibility. We first lived in the old Schwab home at the corner of Broadway and Esplanade, when we came to Cuero. We had been there only a short time when a law was passed taxing cigarettes. I well recall when my father, mother and I stayed up all night attaching tax stamps to over 10,000 packages of cigarettes.

W.T. later opened his own supermarket on Main St., in the old H. Runge Co. building and called it McLarty's Grocery. It boasted a meat market, feed and fertilizer dept., cotton buying dept., fully occupying the block long building. He also opened a branch in Meyersville, Texas, which he operated several years. As a young boy, I helped my father in the business when not attending school at John C. French and later Cuero High School, from which I graduated in the class of '35. My family later purchased the Traylor home on Prairie St., where my sister and I were reared under the loving eye of my mother, Doy. My father always wanted me to be a grocer, like he. Although I learned the business quite well, I was never certain that it was my first choice. After graduating from high school, I went to the University of Texas at Austin, and there earned by keep by working off hours in a grocery store, Slaughter's on Lavaca Ave.

When I finished my schooling, my father urged me to open a store in Yorktown, Texas, which I did in 1938. Another McLarty's Grocery, right next to the National Bank and ½ block from Smith Creek. Being the first self-serve store in town, it caused quite a furor, offering such unusual items as baby food, "bottled milk", beer, and "dressed chickens". In addition to that, we provided an occasional extravaganza on Saturdays, jig-dancing by Flunk Sims, and prizes for the fattest or skinniest customer, the "most pregnant" lady, the man who could spit the furtherest or yell the loudest. Our store was a howling success. Among those it attracted was a beautiful young lady named Myrtle Grace Dahme, whose father operated an oil, gas and minerals brokerage firm two door down from McLarty's. Enroute to the post office, she passed in front of my store at least once each day, and often twice. Until then, I had been commuting from Cuero each day to Yorktown, but the idea of having a room in town now seemed quite logical, if not imperative. Myrtle was kind enough to recommend the home of the Walter Dunn's to me. Within hours, the deal was made and I had a lovely room and to my surprise, the following day, directly across the street from the home of August and Freda Dahme where Myrtle lived! Such convenience resulted in the inevitable: Tell and Myrtle were married in the Lutheran Church, June 7, 1939. Tell's parents gave them a 1939 Ford Convertible as a wedding gift. The price: $925.00, loaded, which included a "rumble seat", the last year model such luxury was offered.

Tell and Myrtle occupied the first "garage apartment" ever built in Yorktown, built by the Jim Parkers on Riedel St. Their first son, Tell Jefferies (Jeff) McLarty, Jr. was born at the Allen Hospital 8/24/40. Although their grocery store in Yorktown prospered, Tell and Myrtle decided to sell it so that Tell could help August Dahme who by this time had lost his vision.

Alfred Kerlick purchased McLarty's Grocery in the latter part of 1941. Although handicapped by his vision loss, August Dahme, who had formerly been the County Surveyor of DeWitt County, had a remarkable photographic memory and virtually knew the metes and bounds description of every tract of land he had ever surveyed. Such a talent aided them greatly in their business of buying oil and gas leases and doing title work for numerous major oil companies in DeWitt and adjoining counties. Of course Myrtle and her mother, Freda Dahme, worked in the business as well the home, as was typical of both the McLarty and Dahme families. By this time, World War II was well under way and Tell wanted to get into the service even though being a father may have well deferred him from it. Shortly before he enlisted, August Dahma died at the age of 61. Tell entered the service of the Army Air Force at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio and spent two years as S/Sgt. in a B-29 outfit in the Western Air Offensive, Japan, based in Guam, the Marianas Islands. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Meanwhile, back in Cuero, Alice Gene had grown up, graduated from high school and attended Mary Hardin Baylor College in Temple and Texas Womens University, Denton. She later served on the Board of Trustees of that University. Having studied music and voice extensively, she became one of the best known singers in the area and was offered an opportunity to tour USO facilities with Bob Hope and other celebrities. She oped, however, to stay home and marry R.W. (Bob) Butler of Bryan, Texas, son of the R.B. Butler family who owned and operated a large construction and contracting firm. They were married at the First Baptist Church in Cuero in 1946. Probably the greatest voice to ever come out of Cuero or DeWitt County, Alice Gene and Bob still live in Bryan and have reared 2 sons and one daughter. Doy Ellen is married to Dr. Nolan Shipman M.D. She has two young daughters, Anne and Katherine. Billy, the Butler's older son, has two young daughters, Sarah and Jessica. Byron Tell Butler, their younger son, is married to Susan Steelman and they have four young sons, John Tell, Andrew, Matthew and Luke. Bryan based, deeply religious and multi-talented, this contingent of the McLarty Family of DeWitt County is 100% Aggie!

Returning home from the war and having to start anew, Tell and Myrtle with son Jeff, moved back to Cuero and purchased W.T.'s grocery store, then called McLarty's Red & White, but still in the same location on Main St. About this time, the Tucker automobile made its appearance on the scene and due to the scarcity of automobiles, Tell and Myrtle negotiated for a Tucker Dealership. Although they never received a Tucker, the facility, McLarty Motor Co., enabled them to acquire a Buick Dealership combined with Willys-Overland (Jeep) and Reo Truck. Soon thereafter, they sold the grocery business, including the quaint Bak-O-Max, a barbecue emporium with rocking chairs only for seating, to Charlie Koenig. They also purchased the Tom Morman home and ranch on the old Yoakum Hiway near what was then called the Goldfish Bowl, a restaurant adjacent to the once famous Friedrich's swimming pool. The stone house and 67 acres went for $5,000. During their tenure in this home, their second son, James Patrick (Pat) McLarty was born, Nov. 26, 1946, at the Bohman Hospital, Cuero. The McLarty's continued to operate their automobile dealership and other enterprises, including cotton farming, broiler raising and small interests in the oil and gas industry. By this time, the W.T. McLartys had moved to Bryan, Texas, where W.T. took a job with the Butler Enterprises managing some of their warehousing and distribution divisions. He also operated a small farm near his old home, Lexington.

In 1954, an intriguing oil prospect in the Denver-Julesburg Basin near Denver developed through friends Tell had in the oil industry. Fortified with geophysical exploration data provided by the finest research company in the U.S.A. Tell prevailed on his wife to liquidate their Texas holding and enter into the Overland Oil Co. venture operating out of Denver, Colo. Selling their home to Don Stiles ($12,000.00) and their Buick Dealership to Robt. Pratt, the McLarty's bade good-bye to Cuero and DeWitt County and took up residence in Denver near the Cherry Creek Country Club. After discovering what was then termed, "Denver's Backyard Oil Well", the ensuing deep wildcats proved dry and Overland Oil was put to rest. But rest was a word the, as now, unknown to the McLartys and they quickly transferred to Chicago, Ill. where Tell became Vice-President of National Swage Tool & Die, a wire rope specialty manufacturing firm. Traveling the entire North American continent for National Swage, Tell created a new niche for himself and in 1961 moved to California as the exclusive manufacturer of wire rope specialty products (slings) for the John Roebling Sons Wire Rope Mfg. Co., headquartered in Trenton, N.J. This and his continuing marketing efforts on the West Coast, eventually led to the establishment of Rhino, Inc., a McLarty owned corporation still operating in the city of Los Angeles, CA. Myrtle, simultaneously with Tell's move, entered real estate business and is now an owner-director in West Ways Realtors, Inc. of Los Alamitos, CA. She has two partners and 28 years of real estate experience to her credit.

Jeff McLarty, is associated with Crossroads Community Church in Westminster, CA. He has never married and lives with Tell and Myrtle in Seal Beach, CA.

Pat McLarty is President of Rhino, Inc. and associated with Tell in the management and expansion of that company, presently into ocean cargo containers. In 1981, Pat married Maura Elizabeth Cummings of Connecticut. They had two children, Meghan Elizabeth Grace, born Sept. 18, 1984, and James Patrick (Jimmy), born Sept. 18, 1986. They live in Garden Grove, CA., a few blocks from the T.J. McLartys.

The McLartys, though no longer residents of DeWitt County, are still property owners there, having a part of the old Burrow Ranch near Yorktown. They frequently visit family members in Texas and their many friends in DeWitt County.

W.T. McLarty died at the age of 90 in Bryan, Texas and is buried there. Doy Alice, his wife, now 93, lives near Alice Gene in Bryan.

Our hearts are Deep in the Heart of Texas — in DeWitt County!

by Tell J. McLarty

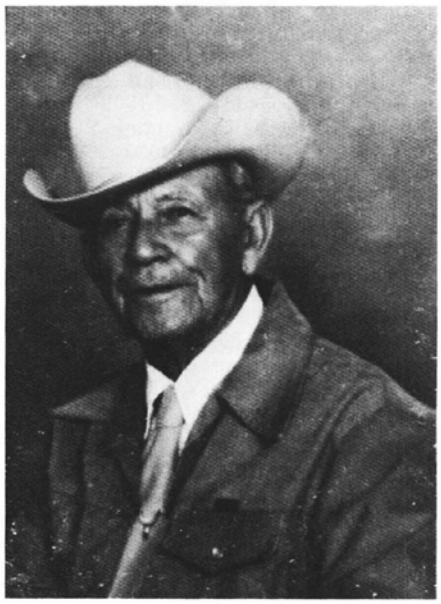
M. C. KLEUSER

Architect **Cuero Texas.**

Phone 328 ***Buchel Bldg***

McMAHAN, CHARLIE

F619



C.L. "Charlie" McMahan

A Half-Century in the Saddle

Charlie LeRoy McMahan was born December 11, 1907 in Denison, Texas to Jeff and Emma McMahan. He has one brother, Russell McMahan. Charlie's grandparents, John and Josephine King, brought him, an infant, to Cuero where they raised him.

October 5, 1926 Charlie McMahan married Alice Harryman in Gonzales, Texas, but they always lived in Cuero where they had five sons: Charlie (died an infant), Kenneth (Sheriff of Goliad County), Bobby (Sheriff of DeWitt County), Jimmy (employed by BASF, Freeport, Texas) and Wayne (employed by Tenneco Gas and Oil, Victoria, Texas).

The rest of C.L. McMahan's life story is told very well by Greg Bowen as follows, except Charlie (Uncle Charlie, as he is often lovingly called) wants everybody to know two things about him: One: "Nobody ever got me out of jail to go to work for my boss." Two: "My boss never asked me 'What became of that cow's calf?'"

So that's our Uncle Charlie in 1989 after fifty-six years working on the Friar Ranch!

Charlie, 76, began his long ride on the cattle ranch back in 1933, when he traded a day's work to ranch owner Alfred Friar for the use of Friar's pipe-threading machine, which Charlie needed to repair an old water well.

Charlie and Friar worked together that first day, on horseback, and when the ranch owner saw how well Charlie could handle a horse and a rope, the rancher hired him.

Forty years later, Alfred Friar died and Friar's daughter Anne and her husband J. Carter Thomas took over the cattle ranch.

"I wanted to quit after the old man died, 'cause I'd been bunged up. I told Carter and Anne that it wouldn't hurt my feelin's none if they hired a young man to run the ranch and let me go," Charlie said.

Instead, the new owners made Charlie foreman of the 1,200-plus acre ranch with its more than 900 head of Brahmans and Brahman-

Jersey crossbreeds.

"And Mrs. Friar told me to take care of the ranch just like Alfred Friar did, and that's what I've been trying to do."

As ranch foreman, Charlie sees that the work gets done; sees that the fences are mended and the cattle are fed, vaccinated and wormed; sees that the hay gets cut and the calves nurse and the wells pump. And since Friar Ranch has acreage in DeWitt, Goliad, Victoria, Karnes and Gonzales counties, it's not unusual for Charlie's rounds to take him to all 5 counties in one day.

I got my brains knocked out workin' cattle one day. My horse run under a limb with me. I saw the limb and throwed my arm up in front of my face, but the limb got me right in the forehead. Two of my boys found me and took me to the hospital. Sometime that night I came to.

Charlie's seen a lot of changes in his 50 years on the ranch. The pastures are clearer now, he said, because of the chemicals they've been using to control brush. After being almost wiped out by "outlaws and roadhunters," the wild turkeys are increasing their numbers again. The deer are fewer, but bigger and healthier.

"Now we use the truck more than the horse, but when we gather cattle to ship or sell, we still use the horses."

Up until several years ago, Charlie said, cows didn't come too bad or too fast or too wild for his tastes. "I liked 'em like that."

"I roped a good many bulls and used to really enjoy doin' it. But I don't want it no more. You can get hurt too easy."

"I roped a cow in a brush pasture back in the days when we didn't know what a mohair girth was. The girths we had would cut the horses stomachs, so we'd put an inner tube there so it wouldn't rub 'em. It rained in that inner tube and that girth rotted and I roped a dog-gone cow and when that horse set down that rotten girth busted and over his head I went and he kicked me in the head with his hoof when he tried to jump me. I laid there a little while before I got over it. Then I found the cow and my saddle and rope all hung up together in a bush."

Charlie's taking things easier now, says he can't do the heavy work anymore and doesn't try to. But he's not planning on retirement "until they pull my boots off me."

Charlie's a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church, the father of DeWitt County Sheriff Bobby McMahan and Goliad County Sheriff Kenneth McMahan,, and two other sons. He's got nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

His wife passed away two years ago. "She was a sweet, understanding woman. *The Record* came out and took pictures of her several years ago. She was a collector of pitchers, must have had 500 of 'em. I still got 'em out at the house."

I had two mares and a paint horse that I rode I guess a million miles. I'd change off, ride one one day and another the next. If there were things I had to do on Sunday, I'd do 'em on horseback. When the old man was alive I didn't do nothing but ride and take care of the cattle. I've had horses bog down with me and fall on top of me. Broke a good many ribs on both sides. I don't ride much now unless I have to. It sort of hurts me to ride."

by Anne Friar Thomas

MEIER, ERNEST LOUIS

F620

Ernest Louis Meier, third child of Rev. Eugene A. Meier and Julia Trimpler Meier, was born August 9, 1918 in Winters, Runnels County, Texas. At the time of his birth, during World War I, there was much strife in Winters, Texas due to the German services in the Lutheran Church. This resulted in the moving of his family to Phillipsburg, a small community near Brenham, Texas when he was just a few months old.

In 1925 the Meier family moved to the Arneckeville community, where Rev. Meier was pastor of Zion's Lutheran Church. Ernest attended the Arneckeville school, Cuero High School where he graduated in 1936, and Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas. He taught in the rural schools of Meyersville and Clinton prior to his enlistment into the military service, December 1941.

Ernest and Evelyn C. Heyer, daughter of Robert Heyer, Jr. and Hulda Markowsky Heyer, were married on January 8, 1943 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero, Texas. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, Pastor Eugene Meier. To this union two children were born: Barbara Kathryn (Mrs. Thomas Baur) July 12, 1946 and Michael Paul, December 29, 1950.

After four years of military service, Ernest and Evelyn made their home in Cuero, Texas from 1945 until 1964. During this time Ernest was employed by Continental Oil Company in Yorktown and El Campo. In 1963 he was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas, where the family made their home for 18 years. After 35 years with Continental Oil Company, he retired in 1981 and moved back to Cuero, Texas.

Evelyn Claire Heyer, daughter of Robert F. Heyer and Hulda Markowsky Heyer was born October 4, 1924 in Cuero, Texas, DeWitt County and was baptized in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Cuero, Texas. She attended school at St. Michael's through the sixth grade and graduated from Cuero High School in 1942. She was employed by Bell Telephone Company in Cuero for a short time. After her marriage in 1943, she moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, where her husband, Ernest Meier was stationed at that time during World War II. After Ernest's discharge from the military, they made their home in Cuero, Texas, living in Evelyn's family home for about 20 years. After Ernest's transfer to Corpus Christi, Texas, Evelyn was employed by the Nueces County Clerk's office in Corpus Christi, Texas for about eight years. After Ernest's retirement from Continental Oil Company, they moved back to Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Evelyn Meier

• Grain and Hay

Feed and wagon yard connected.

Money saved to you because my prices are below the : :

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Prompt and Courteous Treatment.

H. J. LIENHARDT

Esplanade St., Opposite City Hotel.

MEIER, EUGENE ALBERT AND BARBARA JULIANA TRIMPLER

F621

Eugene Albert Meier

Eugene Albert Meier served his Lord and his God in the Lutheran ministry for forty years, twenty of those years in DeWitt County. Today there are many persons in DeWitt County who were either baptized, confirmed, or married by Pastor Meier. Indeed it was Pastor Meier's hope that those who received his instructions would remain faithful to their promise.

Eugene Albert Meier was born on 8 June 1888 in Schofflisdorf, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland; he was baptized there on 8 July 1888 and given the baptismal name Eugene Albert. He was the son of Jakob Albert Meier (b. 6 June 1864 Schofflisdorf; d. 18 May 1938 Hye, Blanco County, Texas; bur. Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Albert, Gillespie County; m. 1888 Schofflisdorf) and Anna Meier, nee Merki (b. 29 August 1854 Schofflisdorf; d. 22 July 1942 Hye; bur. Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Albert). Eugene Meier was confirmed in Schofflisdorf on Palm Sunday, 16 April 1905. In February of 1906 he emigrated from Switzerland with his parents and their other children; the family settled on a farm in Hye, Blanco County, Texas. Having received and acknowledged God's call to minister to his fellow man, Eugene Meier attended the Evangelical Lutheran Proseminary in Brenham, Washington County, Texas, from 1907 until 1909. He then attended Wartburg Lutheran Seminary in Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa, from September of 1909 until June of 1912; he passed the ministerial exam on 19 June 1912. Eugene Meier was ordained in the Lutheran ministry on 30 June 1912 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Albert. In the regular term of the District Court of Austin County, Texas, held at Bellville on 10 January 1925, he was granted United States citizenship.

Eugene Albert Meier died on 28 September 1952 in New Wehdem, Washington County, Texas, as he was walking from his home toward the church building to prepare for Sunday School, which was scheduled to commence shortly. Accompanied by his wife, he had taken only about ten steps from his front porch when he suffered a heart attack. Funeral services were held at his New Wehdem Lutheran Church with three of his fellow ministers officiating and with six other Lutheran ministers serving as pallbears. Additional services were held at Freund Funeral Home in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas; Pastor Meier was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

On 24 November 1912 Eugene Meier married Barbara Juliana "Julia" Trimpler, whom he had met while he was attending Wartburg Lutheran Seminary in Dubuque. The ceremony was performed in Brenham by the bride's brother-in-law, Rev. E.A. Sagebiel. Barbara Juliana Trimpler was the daughter of Johann Wilhelm "William" Trimpler (b. 2 August 1856 Troy Grove, LaSalle County, Illinois; d. 28 August 1892 Troy Grove; bur. Troy Grove; m. 6 September 1881 Troy Grove) and Anna Maria Trimpler, nee Mason (b. 23 March 1867 Stuttgart, Germany; d. 22 November 1929 Dubuque; bur. St. John's Cemetery, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Dubuque). Barbara Juliana Meier, nee Trimpler, was born on 5 October 1885 in Troy Grove and was baptized there on 13 June 1886. Her mother, Anna Maria Trimpler, nee Maser, had immigrated to the United States in 1873. After the death of her husband, Anna Maria Trimpler moved with her children from Troy Grove to Dubuque, where Barbara Juliana Meier, was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on 9 April 1899. Barbara Juliana Meier died in Cuero on 9 February 1974 and was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Four children were born to the marriage of Eugene Albert Meier and Barbara Juliana Meier, nee Trimpler: Wilma Anna Marie Meier (b. 16 December 1913 Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas; d. 23 January 1958 Cuero; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero; m. 23 September 1937 Arneckeville, DeWitt County, to Arthur Henry Koehler); Eugene Albert William Meier (b. 6 July 1916 Winters, Runnels County, Texas; m. 20 October 1940 Arneckeville to Corine Kornfuehrer); Ernest Louis Meier (b. 9 August 1918 Winters; m. 8 January 1943 Cuero to Evelyn Claire Heyer); Edwin William Henry Meier (b. 23 January 1924 Phillipsburg, Washington County, Texas; m. 14 January 1949 Knippa, Uvalde County, Texas, to Elvira Vilma Schroeder).

Eugene Albert Meier's first ministerial assignment was with a Lutheran mission in West Texas; serving eight congregations, he made his home in Stamford, Jones County, Texas. He later served at Sagerton in 1913. He accepted a call on 13 January 1914 from St. Johns Lutheran Church in Winters at a salary of $275 per year, and on 26 March 1914 he accepted another call from the Lutheran Church in Miles, Runnels County, at an additional salary of $75 per year. He was called to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg on 6 November 1918 at a salary of $700 per annum.

Pastor Eugene Meier served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville from 20 September 1925 until early 1946; his beginning salary was $900 per year. From 13 September 1925 until 1938, he also ministered to Zion Lutheran Church in Mission Valley, Texas, for an additional $300 per year. His pastoral duties in Mission Valley consisted of two complete services and Sunday School twice each month on Sunday afternoon. On 20 May 1940 he accepted a call from St. John Lutheran in Lindenau, Texas, at an additional salary of $400 per year; at Lindenau, he delivered a sermon every other Sunday prior to the regular service in Arneckeville. The servicing of more than one church resulted in extensive driving in open touring cars on muddy roads. On one occasion, as Pastor Meier was rushing back from Lindenau, the steering rod fell off his car, and he ran through a barbed wire fence. Luckily someone came along and, with barbed wire, tied the rod back onto the steering; he arrived slightly late to his second service.

Pastor Meier was an accomplished musician, and he played the organ and the piano. He loved to sing and soon formed a large choir and a men's chorus at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. In his early years in Arneckeville, he conducted many contatas for Christmas and Easter. He was also very active in the community and directed a number of three act plays, which were presented on the school stages in Arneckeville and in Mission Valley. These plays were well attended and were considered special events in the community.

In 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, Pastor Meier voluntarily reduced his salary at Zion in Arneckeville to $70 per month plus fire wood and the use of the parsonage. Also during his tenure at Zion, a new pump organ was purchased, the present church was constructed in 1938, and, perhaps most importantly to him, three young men from his church entered the ministry.

During World War II, Pastor Meier wrote a letter once each month to each of Zion's twenty-four men in the armed services. Letters which he received from them were, in most cases, shared with the congregation in the parish paper, "Zion's Messenger," which Pastor Meier had originated in 1936. Financial reports, news items, and problems of that day and time were presented and discussed in this paper. In the final issue, dated Palm Sunday, 14 April 1946, Pastor Meier wrote, "Zion's Lutheran Congregation, I have given you the best years of my life. Soon the years will come . . . when we are no longer that which we were, when evening shadows became longer." This was Pastor Meier's farewell message, after twenty years of service, to the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville.

Upon leaving Arneckeville, Pastor Meier ministered to two more congregations before his untimely death at the age of sixty-four. He accepted a call on 12 January 1946 to Immanual Lutheran Church in Knippa and on 26 February 1950, he accepted a call to St. James Lutheran Church in New Wehdem.

by Ernest Meier

MEISENHELDER, J. ADAM

F622

According to the 1880 DeWitt County Census Adam Meisenhelder came from Prussia. His tombstone in the Kilgore Cemetery in Victoria County says he came from Bonfeld, Wurttemberg. He was born July 19, 1819 and died May 2, 1895. We know he was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville in 1856. He was elected a Councilman there in 1872. We don't know what happened to his first wife and the mother of his children. He married Mrs. Charlotte Shuh on April 22, 1864 in Meyersville. She had been married to Edward G. Schorre in 1854.

Adam Meisenhelder had 3 children. Jacob, Christene and Augusta. Christene was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville on Palm Sunday of 1857. Jacob was confirmed at this same church on Palm Sunday 1859. Augusta was confirmed in 1856.

Augusta married Ludwig Dreier in 1860. They lived in Goliad County. Christene married Theadore Stahl on December 31, 1867 in Meyersville. Pastor Adam Sager married them. He was Augusta's brother-in-law. Their wittnesses were Jacob Meisenhelder and Justine Sager, the pastors wife. Christene died in 1877. According to the 1880 DeWitt County Census, Theadore and the children, Louisa, Alma, Otto, Fred, and William Stahl lived with Adam and Charlotte.

Jacob Meisenhelder married Mary Stanteen, the daughter of Fred and Henrietta Stanteen, who came to America in 1852, landing at New Orleans. Jacob and Mary had 8 children: Matilda Charlotte who married Seferine Dreyer, Albert who married Helena Jacob, Emma, Bertha, and Willie who never married, John who married Elenora Jacob, (after her death he married Emily Boldt), Mary Meisenhelder who married John Boldt, Annie who first married Charles Luttenbacher. He died young, She then married someone named Strain and was Mrs. Cody Grose when she died.

Jacob married a second time to Mrs. Minnie Alex. He died in 1923. He is buried in a cemetery in Yorktown.

J. Adam Meisenhelder was on the Muster Roll of Capt. Robert Kleberg's Company of Coleto Guards, 24 brigade in June of 1861. Mrs. John (Maggie) Diebel, Mrs. Ed (Jewel) Hennig, and Mrs. Marvin (Virginia) Fetters are three of the many descendants of J. Adam Meisenhelder who live in DeWitt County.

by Virginia Fetters

MEITZEN, LINDA MARIE AND ROBERT LEE FAMILY

F623

Linda Marie Meitzen, nee Koehler, was born on 6 January 1947 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. She was the daughter of Arthur Henry Koehler (b. 11 September 1909 Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. #1: 23 September 1937 Arneckeville; m. #2: 7 February 1960 Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, to Ruth Zitelman, nee Evers) and Wilma Anna Marie Koehler, nee Meier (b. 16 December 1913 Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas; d. 23 January 1958 Cuero; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero). In Cuero on 2 July 1966, Linda Koehler married Robert "Bobby" Lee Meitzen (b. 29 September 1946 Cuero). Three daughters were born to this marriage: Terri Lynn Meitzen (b. 25 September 1969 Victoria, Victoria County, Texas); Tammi Lea Meitzen (b. 3 September 1971 Victoria); Robbi Kay Meitzen (b. 1 May 1987 Victoria).

Love between Linda and Bobby Meitzen bloomed in the season of their youthful innocence, at a time when all dreams were possible and when the future was devoid of thorns and bramble bushes. In a day when many marriages crumble under the pressures of ordinary living, the love between Linda and Bobby Meitzen has survived periods of illness, adversity, and pain and has continued to grow and blossom like the young baytree planted by the river of waters.

by Beverly Boehl

MENN, JOHANN H. AND MARIE E. ROTH

F624

The seaport of Indianola, Texas was the end of the ocean voyage for Johann Heinrich and Marie Elizabeth Roth Menn and their four children. Erntebruck, Westphalia, Prussia had been home of the Johann H. Menn family. Their children who accompanied them to this new land were: Fredrick, age 13; Heinrich, age 10; Justine, age 6; and Louise, age 4.

Johann was born June 21, 1810 and Marie Elizabeth was born June 24, 1810 in their native Germany. After arriving at the port of Indianola, the family traveled across the open prairie to low rolling hills near Yorktown, Texas where they arrived in November 1849, one year after the town was founded.

On March 4, 1856, Johann Heinrich Menn died and was the first person buried in the Westside Cemetery of Yorktown.

On November 7, 1856 Marie Elizabeth Menn married Gottlieb Schultz and they continued to live in the Yorktown area. Fredrick Menn later married Johanna Meyer, Heinrich Menn married Elilie Stark, Justine Menn married Rudolph Gohmert, and Louise Menn married Herman Korth.

Henry (Heinrich) Menn was born on December 21, 1839 in Erntebruck, Westphalia, Prussia. He was sixteen years old when his father died. His stepfather, Gottlieb Schultz encouraged the young Henry to work hard and save his money in order to get well established in this their new land and home. Henry assumed the responsibility of paying his late father's doctor bills, by driving the Doctor on house calls. His work was varied. At one time, he worked at the construction of saddles. He drove a freight wagon. After one very eventful trip up the cattle trail, he turned his interests toward farming and ranching.

Ca. 1888 Back Row – Willie Menn, Herman Menn, Ida Menn. Front Row – Emily Menn, Henry Menn, Sr., Emilie Menn and Paul R. Menn (on lap)

On June 28, 1870, Henry married Emilie Stark, daughter of William and Henrietta Groth Stark (whose story will be found elsewhere in this book). The following eight children were born to Henry and Emilie Menn: Herman, Ida, Willie, Henry, Jr., Marie, John, Emily, and Paul. During their 62 years of marriage, Henry and Emilie worked hard to provide for their family. In that time they acquired over two thousand acres of land, which they passed on to their children a number of years before they died so that they could enjoy seeing their children using their inheritance.

Henry Menn's land stretched from just east of Coleto Creek to the west past a point known as "Two-mile Timber". That landmark (a mott of live oak trees located two miles from Yorktown) was a gathering point for riders and waggoners of the early days. They stopped there and made repairs in the shade of the trees and watered their horses. "Two-Mile Timber" is still in the Menn family, the home of two of Henry Menns' great grandsons (Paul H. Menn and William G. Menn) and their families.

The Menn family home was located just west of Coleto Creek on the old San Antonio trail northwest of the present town of Yorktown. For many years the Menn family lived there and it was home in the truest sense of the word. Henry remained active until his late eighties even riding horseback at age 89.

On January 20, 1932 Emilie Menn died. The next day, January 21, 1932, Henry Menn died. These two, who had lived together for 62 years, died one day apart and were buried in a double grave in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

Herman married Marie Schwartz, Emily married Paul Hohn, Paul married Willie May Kohler, Willie and Henry Jr. never married, Ida died at the age of 17 years, and John and Marie both died in infancy.

On June 28, 1916, Paul R. Menn married Willie May Kohler, the daughter of Silas William Kohler and Lillie Hilliard Kohler in the First Baptist Church in Cuero.

Willie May Kohler grew up in Cuero, being raised by her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. William Milligan. She attended San Marcos Normal and the University of Chicago. She was teaching in Yorktown when she met Paul R. Menn.

Paul grew up in Yorktown and attended Tyler Commercial College. He worked as a bookkeeper in several places . . . the last place being the First National Bank. For health reasons he was forced to retire from the desk job and he went into full-time ranching. He continued ranching for most of the rest of his life. Willie May died on June 17, 1971 and Paul died on January 25, 1981. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

Paul and Willie May Menn had two sons, William Paul, born July 15, 1917 and Walter Hilliard, born September 16, 1922. He died of whooping cough September 1, 1923.

William Paul Menn received a D.D.S. degree from Baylor Dental School and served three years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps at Fort Hood, Texas and in the Philippines during World War II. On December 16, 1944 he married Robbie Neta Haines, daughter of Frank G. and Vida Haines of Coryell County, Texas at the Post Chapel at North Fort Hood. Will and Robbie have two sons. Paul Haines was born December 10, 1945 and William

Gardner was born December 29, 1947.

For 12 years Will, Robbie, and sons lived in Yorktown, where Will practiced Dentistry. In September of 1959, the family moved to Austin where Will entered Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and obtained a B.D. degree. Together the W.P. Menn family served Presbyterian Churches in Pleasanton, Donna, Victoria, and Karnes City. The family retired in 1978 and returned to Yorktown to live.

Paul Haines Menn married Paulette Broom of Pleasanton, the daughter of Paul and Lillian Broom, on July 18, 1970 in the First Methodist Church in Pleasanton. They have three daughters, Julie Renee, born March 11, 1974, Amy Leigh was born August 27, 1976 and Rebecca Lynn was born October 30, 1981. Paul and Paulette both obtained degrees from Southwest Texas University in San Marcos and use their degrees in their professions.

William Gardner Menn married Marilyn Kay von Roeder, daughter of Bobby James and Billie von Roeder on April 30, 1977 in the First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown. They have one son James Paul born September 4, 1979. Both William G. and Marilyn have degrees from Southwest Texas University and also use their degrees in their professions. William G. Menn served 6 years in the U.S. Navy during the Viet Nam conflict.

The three Menn families, along with some other decendents of Henry and Emily Menn continue to live on part of the land which Henry and Emily acquired. There are 5th., 6th., and 7th. generations of the decendents of Johann H. and Marie Elizabeth Roth Menn still residing in Yorktown, Texas.

by Dr. W.P. Menn

MENN, JOHANNIS AND MARY ALICE

F625

Johannis Menn was born 1807 in Erndtebrucke, Prussia. He married Mary Alice (maiden name unknown) born 1810. Very little is known of her. Her place of birth and their marriage date and place is also unknown.

They immigrated to Texas prior to the 1860 census. He purchased land on February 5, 1856 from Peter Ragsdale. They settled on the Smith Creek approximately four mile south of Yorktown on highway 119. Their home of hewn logs still stands today on the property of Lewis and Evangeline Menn, a great-granddaughter. Johannis died in the year 1865. On June 25, 1866 his will was probated.

The oldest son of this couple was Henrich (Henry). Henry stated in his naturalization papers that he was born 10 Jun 1839. Other documentation lists his birth as 16 September 1839. He further stated that he immigrated to the United States in November of 1849. Henry Menn at the age of 22 served as a private in Captain Josiah Taylor's Company Texas Mounted Riflemen . . . Civil War April 3, 1862 until 1864. He married Anna Koehler (22 April 1845 – 23 March 1912).

Johannis Menn and Mary Alice Menn had four other children: Louis (1841) married Maggie Lundschein, William 1849) married Justine Buergner, and a daughter Justine (birth date unknown) married Carl Riedel. One daughter married and remained in Germany.

The descendants of Henry, Louis, William, Justine, and the unknown daughter in Germany have not been adequately researched to give further information for this article.

by Beverly Bruns

MENNING, LEE ROY CHRISTIAN AND MARY ANN PLOEGER

F626

Yoakum Huth Memorial Hospital came alive on February 17, 1943 with the birth of Lee Roy Christian Menning. Lee Roy William and Agnes Christina (Schaefer) Menning were the proud parents of a very active son. Little League, boy scouting, camping, and neighborhood games were all a part of everyday life. A telegraph system was rigged up from his pal's house next door. Lee Roy always enjoyed working with his dad in their workshop. They built a small cabin cruiser in the 50's that still survives today.

Lee Roy's grandfather, Edward Frederick Schaefer, taught him to drive at an early age in a 1933 Chevrolet coupe. Ever since then he has been fascinated with cars. He is an avid antique car enthusiast and collector. He is very active in many antique car clubs: The Antique Automobile Club of America, Classic Car Club, and Horseless Carriage Club.

He graduated from Yoakum High School in 1961 and was All District in football and track. In 1965, he received a BBA Degree from Southwest Texas State University. He worked in San Antonio and Houston for the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1967 and 1968 he taught at Camp Gary Job Corps in San Marcos.

In 1968, Lee Roy married his high school sweetheart. Mary Ann (Ploeger) Menning was born on May 10, 1943 in Yoakum to Leslie and Dorothy (Borchers) Ploeger. She was the first born of six children: Mary Ann, Leslie Jr., Patti, Dorothy Lee, Sally and Mark.

Mary Ann's first twelve years of school were completed in Yoakum. Band, twirler, National Honor society, and class officer were part of her activities. After graduation in 1961, she attended Texas Tech University and then transferred to Southwest Texas State University where she was student body treasurer and a member of the Strutters. She holds a B.S. in Education Degree with a major in business and a Masters Degree in Education. Teaching was done in Big Spring and South Houston High School before moving back to Yoakum.

Lee Roy Christian and Mary Ann were married at the First Methodist Church in San Marcos on July 3, 1968. A year later Lee Roy was called to active duty for the US Army Reserves. While he was gone, Mary Ann moved from San Marcos back to Yoakum and taught the third grade. After a year, she changed back to secondary level to teach business subjects. After Lee Roy was discharged, he taught as a Distributive Education teacher for seven years in the Yoakum Independent School District.

January 21, 1974 Lee Roy and his father Lee Roy W., entered in a partnership business by buying Yoakum Auto Parts which was located at 315 W. Grand Avenue. In 1975, they opened another store, Shiner Auto Parts. In 1979, Leon Schacherl purchased Yoakum Auto Parts and in 1984 Shiner Auto Parts was sold.

The biggest event of all happened on January 23, 1974 with the birth of Christina Ann at Yoakum Huth Memorial Hospital. Things really began to pick up at a fast pace. Christina has been very active since the beginning: swimming, dancing lessons, gymnastics, piano, Campfire, band, golf, tennis, University Interscholastic League storytelling, and oral reading. In 1981, she won the Yoakum Little Miss title. In 1987, she was crowned Junior Miss. She spent two years riding floats representing Yoakum. She was runnerup in the Little Miss South Texas Pageant and winner of Little Miss Photogenic. Presently, she is on the high school tennis team, student council and active in the Anchor Club.

In 1983 and 1984, Lee Roy raced across the United States in a 1934 Bentley Open Tourer in the Great American Race. His collection of antique cars varies from a 1911 Maxwell to a 1959 Rolls Royce. He is continuously buying and selling cars to keep the collection interesting. The number of cars ranges from fifteen to thirty.

The Mennings are active in the First United Methodist Church. Lee Roy has served as a trustee, member of the choir and UMY sponsor. Mary Ann has served as chairman of the administrative board, Sunday School teacher, and UMY sponsor.

In 1985, Mary Ann was elected to Yoakum City Commission. She served on the Library-Museum Board, City Recreation Board, American Cancer Society Board, and as a Campfire leader. She is a graduate of the Texas Tech Advanced School of Banking. In 1989 she graduated from the American Bankers School of Banking at the University of Delaware.

Lee Roy is involved in real estate and investments. Mary Ann serves as Chairman of the Board and President of Buchel Bank & Trust Company and on the Cuero Industrial Foundation Board. She is active in the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, City Industrial Development Committee, and Main Street Advisory Board. She is an area representative on the Victoria Regional Medical Center Board and Treasurer for the Tennis Booster Club.

They are proud of their heritage and to be a part of DeWitt County. All parents and grandparents have roots in DeWitt County.

by Mary Ann Menning

MENNING, LEE ROY W. AND CHRISTINA

F627

Cris Menning (1893-1949) came from Vienna, Austria and settled in America at the age of five. When he was a young man he settled in DeWitt County. He owned blacksmith shops in Lindenau and Breslau. He was extremely talented and in addition to shoeing horses, he started repairing some of the first automobiles in DeWitt and Lavaca Counties.

Cris married Augusta Hehmke (1896-1972) from Hallettsville. They had six children: Lee Roy W., Melvin Christian, Jesse, Pearl, Geneva, and Leola. Several languages were spoken in the home – German, Czech, and English.

In 1921, the Mennings moved to Breslau in Lavaca County. Cris was a man of many abilities; Shoeing horses, repairing autos and farm equipment, wood craftsman (some of his work survives today) and selling. He sold cars in Moulton and Shiner, was a buttermaker for

Trautwein Creamery, and served as brewmaster and salesman for Spoetzl Brewery.

Lee Roy William was born November 9, 1914 in Lindenau. His schooling was done in Moulton and Shiner. He was strong academically and able to bypass several grades. He also starred on the State Basketball Team. Engines and mechanics always fascinated him.

Lee Roy W. and Agnes Christina Schaefer were married in Yoakum on October 29, 1938 at four o'clock in a house on Montgomery Street. Lee Roy was an assistant brewmaster at Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner from 1934 until 1941. In 1941, he went to work for the railroad on steam trains. He served as an engineer until February 1, 1975 when he retired with 33½ years of service.

Christina was born in Yoakum to Edward Fredick Schaefer (1885-1955) and Lula Wallace (1878-1947). They had eight children: Gertrude, Edna, Lena Bell, Lillie Mozell, Woodrow Wilson, Agness Christina, Louis Edward (Huck), and Lee Marek.

Lula Wallace was of Indian descent. Edward Fredick Schaefer was a lovable, friendly, jovial person who was loved by his fellow workers and family. Being outdoors walking and telling stories were some of his favorite past times. He was a machinist in the railroad shops until they closed. He worked for Southwestern Gas Transmission until his retirement.

Christina Schaefer Menning was born and raised in Yoakum. In 1935, after graduation from Yoakum High School, she enrolled in Baldwin Business College. After completion of a year course of study, she went to work for Southwestern Bell as a telephone operator for seven years.

On February 17, 1943 Lee Roy Christian was born at Huth Memorial Hospital. Their only other child, Barbara Jean, was also born in Yoakum on January 2, 1945.

In 1950, Christina helped organize and start boy scouting in Yoakum. She served as a den mother for about four years. Also, they formed the Yoakum Little League Baseball with the help of Jody Jacobs, Adolph Ullman and others.

Both Lee Roy C. and Barbara graduated from Yoakum High School. Lee Roy graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1965 and Barbara graduated from Mary Hardin Baylor in 1967. Lee Roy C. lives in Victoria with his wife, Mary Ann Ploeger, and daughter Christina Ann. Barbara lives in Taylor with her husband, Ivan Leschber, and son Matthew Wayne. She also has a married daughter, Christi Davidson, who lives in Austin.

In 1961, Christina went to work for First State Bank. After twenty years, she retired and entered ranching. Meme, as her grandchildren fondly call her, is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, Wesley Fellowship Class and Philomathic Club.

Lee Roy W. and Lee Roy C. entered into a partnership business by buying Yoakum Auto Parts which was located at 315 W. Grand Avenue on January 21, 1974. They ran the business until 1979 when Leon Schacherl from Gonzales purchased it. They opened another store in Shiner in 1975 and sold Shiner Auto Parts in 1984.

Lee Roy W. is a member of the Masonic Lodge #662 and the Alzafar Shrine Temple in San Antonio. While with the railroad he served as Regional Legislative Representative and attended national meetings. Being raised around his father's blacksmith shops and woodwork plus being mechanically inclined, Papa spends much of his retired time fixing family and friends' small mechanical devices. He is considered by most to be a mechanical genius who can fix anything.

by Mary Ann Menning

METZ, JOHANN

F628

Emil Sinast, Reinhardt Gerhardt, Frank Henize, Adolph Gerhardt.

Johann Peter Metz was born in Catzenelenbogen, Nassau, Germany, on March 9, 1816. At the age of 29, he, his wife, and three children left Antwerp on the ship Andacia, Dec. 5, 1845 with one hundred eighty-eight other immigrants. During an epidemic, Metz's wife and children died on board ship and were buried at sea.

Louise Gerhardt, who was coming over with a neighbor couple, also became ill during the epidemic. Metz, being very good at nursing the sick, cared for her during her illness. They arrived at Galveston, Texas, March 29, 1846. There they left the large vessel to board a smaller one for Indianola, Texas, their place of debarkation. When they reached Indianola, J.P. Metz and Louise Gerhardt married.

It was at Indianola that their first child was born, a boy named Peter. He died in infancy.

In October 1848, Metz and seventeen other settlers established what became Yorktown, Texas. Metz built the first house in Yorktown.

Johann Peter Metz and Louise Gerhardt Metz were the parents of six other children; they were as follows:

1) Louise Metz (1848-1924) (The first child born in Yorktown.) She married Carl Galle. They had nine children, Helen Galle, Alex, Agnes Galle Friedricks, August Galle, Emil Galle, Sophie Galle Wittstock, Charlie Galle, Hedwig Galle Bruchmiller, Lena Galle Sasse, and Louise Galle Gohlke.

2) Amelia Philippine Metz (1850-1888) who married Emil Kaufman. They had nine children, Marie Kaufman, Mathilde Kaufman Gerhardt, Amelia Kaufman, Johanna Kaufman Gerhardt, Helen Kaufman, Louisa Kaufman Jonischkie, Emily Kaufman Puckett, Erna Kaufman Jacobs, and Nora Kaufman Theis.

3) Theresa Metz (1853-1918) who married William Galle. They had ten children, Minna Galle Wanier, Ida Galle Kleincke, Ella Galle Calhoun, Emily Galle Thurk, Marie Galle Menn, Valaska Galle Strahan, Viola Galle Strahan, Irene Galle Stell, Lula Galle Hagy, and Theresa Galle.

4) Reinhardt Henry Matz, Sr. (1855-1938) who married Pauline Jacobs. They had seven children, Alfred Metz, Mary Louise Metz, Reinhardt Henry Metz, Jr., Pauline Emily Metz Parks, Herman Peter Metz, Josephine Metz, and Rowena Metz Schreier.

5) Caroline Metz (1859-1924) who married August Wagenschein. They had four children, Carl F. Wagenschein, Emil Wagenschein, Eleanor Wagenschein Sanford, and Irene Wagenschein Mahaffey.

6) Marie Metz (1862-1945) who married Richard Wagenschein. They had three children, Louise Wagenschein Jacobs, Hertha Wagenschein Spencer, and Erwin Wagenschein.

Johann Peter Metz died on Aug. 20, 1885. His wife, Louise Gerhardt Metz, died on Jan. 26, 1903. They are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Kenny D. Gerhardt

MEYER, GEORGE CARL AND EMMA VOGT

F629

George Carl Meyer was born in Neyersville on September 30, 1865 to Adolph and Meta Friedricks Meyer. Adolph Meyer was a founder of Meyersville and operated a wind-driven grist mill and also built the first cotton gin in Meyersville. Meyersville was named for Adolph Meyer who also operated the first Post Office there.

The Adolph Meyer family moved to Weesatche in Goliad County in the early 1880s. George Carl was a mail rider carrying mail from Weser to Weesatche three times a week. He also hauled cotton to Cuero and freight to San Antonio. He told stories of these trips and of sometimes being waylaid by bandits.

On January 8, 1896 George was married to Emma Vogt in Trinity Lutheran Church in Victoria by Rev. Karl Weis. Emma was born August 4, 1870 to Christian and Maria Schellentraeger Vogt in Victoria.

George and Emma made their home on a farm near Weesatche where they also operated a General Merchandise Store. Five children were born to them. In 1920 they moved to a farm they purchased about three miles south of Yorktown. Three of the five children made their home in DeWitt County.

William Herman was born April 19, 1902. He attended schools in Weesatche. He was a trucker, hauling cattle to San Antonio and sometimes bringing cedar posts back from the Hill County. He suffered a stroke in December 1943 that left him partially paralyzed and unable to talk. He still maintained a large garden and raised champion sized watermelons on the home place south of Yorktown for many years. He died March 30, 1979.

Mary Meta (Mayme) was born June 2, 1904 and attended schools at Weesatche and York-

town. She married George Schmidt. (Story appears elsewhere).

George Ember Christian Meyer was born June 3, 1914 at Weesatche. He attended schools in Yorktown. He served in the Signal Corp of the United States Army during World War II for 3 ½ years. He received the European-African and the Middle Eastern service ribbons with two bronze stars. After his discharge he operated a radio and television sales and service shop in Yorktown. George E.C. Meyer died November 6, 1972.

Mother Emma died June 4, 1946 at the age of 76 years. Father George Carl died August 6, 1951 at the age of 86 years. They, along with sons William and George, are buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Myrtle Jansen

MEYER, GORDON EDWARD

F630

Gordon E. and Dorothy E. Meyer, 50th wedding anniversary.

In the *Handbook of Texas* an entry appears on Meyersville, Texas stating that the town was settled in 1845 by Adolph Meyer who built a log cabin on the La Bahia Road where it crossed the Coleto Creek. This Adolph Meyer was Johann Henrich Adolph Meyer born April 13, 1813 in Friedrichahagen, Kurhessen, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany.

Adolph Meyer came to America with a land grant from the Fisher-Miller group, sponsored by the Verein Zum Schutgedeutscher Ein Wander in Texas. His ship landed in Galveston Dec. 4, 1845. He then made his way to Indianola, and to what would become Meyersville, Texas.

Adolph married Meta Friedrich August 17, 1854, in San Antonio. Adolph and Meta had thirteen children. One died in infancy, six boys and six girls survived until adult age.

Gordon Edward Levin Meyer is the son of the tenth child, Wilhelm Gustav Meyer, born August 12, 1870 in Meyersville. Gutsav married Levine Fromme in 1907. Levine was the daughter of Levin and Dora Ruprecht. Dora had come to United States with Wilhelm,

Adolph and Meta (Friederich) Meyer

Adolph's brother, his father Johann Meyer, and a sister Carol on the ship Canapus in 1848.

After the marriage of Gustav and Levine, they lived in Yorktown where they had a clothing store, Meyer Brothers, in partnership with Henry Koehler, a brother-in-law. Levine had a millinery department in the store. From this marriage two sons were born: Gordon Edward born November 17, 1908, and Welbyn Gustav born Aug. 17, 1912. Both were born in Yorktown. Gustave and Levine died in San Antonio and are buried at San Jose Cemetery.

Gordon married Dorothy Elizabeth Doss October 7, 1933 in San Antonio. Gordon was employed by Central Power & Light Company in the Engineering Department of the Home Office. Dorothy was a school librarian in Corpus and Flour Bluff schools. Both retired and moved to Victoria in 1976 and are living at Crescent Valley on a farm which had been the home of Levin and Dora Fromme. They have two children, Marilyn Elizabeth born September 21, 1937 and a son Gordon Edward Jr. born February 14, 1942, both in Corpus Christi.

Marilyn attended Del Mar College and is married to Asa Elsworth Logan. They have four children: Marilyn Kay born Feb. 6, 1958 in Corpus Christi; Karen Elizabeth born July 15, 1960 in San Benito; Asa Scott born September 30, 1962 in San Benito; and William Bryan born April 9, 1965 in Laredo. Marilyn is employed by Alcoa at Point Comfort, and Asa is employed by Central Power & Light Company in Victoria. Their residence is Victoria.

Marilyn Kay married Bradley Stevenson and has one daughter, Stacey Brianne Stephenson. Kay later married Zane McElroy, and is now married to Steve Nelson. They reside in Victoria.

Karen Elizabeth Logan married Terry Lee Fleeman April 30, 1979 in Victoria. They reside in Bloomington, Texas. Terry is employed by Union Carbide at Seadrift. Karen and Terry have three daughters: Tiffany Elizabeth, September 6, 1980; Meagan Kay, August 30, 1983; and Taryn Lee, March 17, 1986. All were born in Victoria.

Asa Scott married Wanda Gayle Heller August 13, 1982 in Victoria. They have two sons: Asa John born December 4, 1984 and Kyle Scott born June 18, 1987. They reside in Bloomington, Texas.

William Bryan was born April 9, 1965 in Laredo. He is unmarried and is a senior engineering student at A&I College in Kingsville.

Gordon Edward Meyer Jr. was born February 14, 1942 in Corpus Christi. Edward and Dorothy Stratmann married February 16, 1961. They have 3 children: Sherry Lynn born April 15, 1963; Norma Jean born November 10, 1961; and Gordon William born June 26, 1964. All were born in Corpus Christi. Dorothy and Edward divorced in 1972 and he married Toni Winkfine Melton November 10, 1976. Edward is owner of GEM Enterprises. Ronald Melton, Toni's son by a former marriage was adopted by the couple.

Norma Jean married Jeff Frazier April 26, 1980 and they have two sons: Edward Tyrell born December 2, 1982 and Jakob Mikal born July 9, 1984. Both were born in Corpus Christi. Norma and Jeff adopted her half-brother Bradford Wayne. After a divorce, Norma married William Allan Worthington November 21, 1988.

Sherry Lynn married Randall Lee Schwirtlich July 23, 1983. They have one daughter Jessica Lynn born May 18, 1984 in Corpus Christi. Randy works for the City of Corpus Christi as a Computer Programer, and Sherry teaches pre-school. They reside in Robstown, Texas.

Bill married Jodi (Johanna Lynn Corbin) July 26, 1986. Bill and Jodi have one son Justin William born November 17, 1987 in Dallas. They adopted Jody's daughter, Stephanie, by a former marriage. They reside in Garland, Texas.

by Gordon E. Meyer

MEYER, JOHANN GEORG AND META FRIEDRICHS

F631

Johann Heinrich Adolph Meyer (1813-1899) and Meta (Friedrichs) Meyer (1837-1896)

Johann Georg Meyer (1778-1864)

Adolph Meyer

Johann Heinrich Adolph Meyer was born ca. 13 April 1813 reportedly in Hanover, Germany. He was the son of Johann Georg Meyer (b. ca. 28 September 1778 reportedly in Hanover; d. ca. February, 1864 Texas) and Juliane Meyer, nee Peters (b. ca. 1779; d. in Germany, spring, 1848, at the age of 68½ years). Adolph Meyer died of cancer in Weesatche on 14 October 1899. An obituary in the Cuero (Texas) Record of 16 October 1899 stated the following: "Mr. Meyer was one of the oldest citizens of Weesatche and will be greatly missed in that community. Mr. Meyer was the first settler in Meyersville, after whom it was named. His remains were laid to rest in Middletown Cemetery."

Adolph Meyer married Meta Friederichs, daughter of Friederich Friederichs ca. 1855. Meta Meyer, nee Friederichs, was born ca. 10 May 1837 reportedly in Aurich, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. She died on 1 February 1896 in Weesatche and was buried in the Weesatche Lutheran Cemetery.

Meta Meyer, along with her parents, and her fellow siblings arrived at Indianola, Texas, ca. 14 May 1852. According to oral history, both her parents died there ca. 11 June 1852. The story was told that, upon landing at Indianola, a wheel from their wagon was missing on their boat; the family therefore waited for other ships to see if the wheel could possibly be located. While they were waiting, the parents became ill and died. Meta and most of her brothers and sisters were taken into the home of Frederich Hamm; the guardianship papers are located in the Probate Journal (Book A, page 127, 1852) of Calhoun County, Texas. According to oral history, the guardianship of Frederich Hamm was not advantageous to the children. According to Dorothy Meyers, those Friederichs children who had not married by 1860 had evidently been taken in by other families in DeWitt County.

It has been reported that the brothers and sisters of Meta Meyer, nee Friederichs, were as follows: Eliesa Friederichs (b. ca. 1834/35; m. Wilhelm Meyer; brother of Adolph Meyer); Herman Friederichs (b. ca. 1836; m. #1: Katharina Koehler, daughter of Heinrich Koehler and Friedericke Justine Christiana Koehler; nee Sager; m. #2: Minnie Bauer); Anna Friederichs (b. ca. 1845; m. John Olfers); Friederich Friederichs (b. 15 October 1846; d. 29 June 1932, bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas; m. Carolyn Wiess).

Twelve children were born to Adolph Meyer and his wife Meta Meyer, nee Friederichs: George Edward Adolph (b. 1 March 1856); Eliesa Mariane Adolphine (b. 15 February 1858); George Adolph Edward (b. 12 October 1859); Sophie Wilamina Annalier Meta (b. 22 May 1861); William Herman Julius (b. 10 March 1863); Henry Carl George (b. 30 September 1865); Johanna Christiana Caroline (b. 28 January 1868); William Henry Gustave (b. 12 August 1870); Louis Friedrich Albert Robert (b. 9 October 1872); Johanna Maria Georgine Ottilde (b. 26 December 1874); Carl (b. 9 April 1878; d. 6 May 1878); Sophie (b. 16 July 1881).

Johann Heinrich Adolph Meyer, along with his sisters, Mariana and Juliana, left the port of Bremen, Germany, aboard the brig Hercules on 25 August 1845, and they arrived at Galveston on 23 November 1845. Their names are found among the "List of Emigrants who arrived here . . . Hercules . . . from Bremen for the German Emigration Company and who are hereby entered at the State Department of Texas, . . . on the grant ceded to Messr. Henry F. Fisher and Burch. Miller under date Washington October 4, 1843, transferred to said Company as per Contract of 24th June 1844 and extended as per . . . Resolution of the 9th Congress of 29 January 1845."

After disembarking at Galveston, the Meyer family went to Indianola, where Juliana died, reportedly in May of 1846. Adolph and Mariana moved to DeWitt County; they arrived at Coleto Creek on or about 28 May 1846. They were the first settlers of a community located thirteen miles southwest of present-day Cuero. This community later became known as Meyersville, named in honor of Adolph Meyer, in whose home the first post office was established on 22 December 1851. Adolph Meyer was thus appointed postmaster on that date. His successor was his sister, Mariana Meyer (b. ca. 6 February 1811; d. ca. 21 May 1872), who served as postmistress from 18 October 1866 until 27 June 1872.

According to Albert Meyer (A History of DeWitt County by Nellie Murphree, 1961), the first house was built of post oak trees split in half; the ends were dove-tailed so that they could be fitted and fastened with pegs. A mixture of moss, clay, and ashes was used to fill the open spaces between the logs. The roof was made of long grass; ashes, adobe, and water were mixed together to make a solid floor.

In August of 1845 at Bremen, before sailing to Texas, Johann Heinrich Adolph Meyer had signed an immigration contract with the Association for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas (Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas). This agreement stated the following: "The Association . . . grants to Mr. Johann Heinrich Adolph Meyer, from Friedrichshagen, who accepts same for himself, his family, his heirs and assigns, . . . three hundred twenty acres of land, to be taken from its lands situated in the present county of San Antonio, Republic of Texas." On 25 June 1850 Meyer was consequently issued Certificate #490 for one half section of land No. 242 in Howard's District No. 1 under " 'an act to secure to the German Immigration Company and their colonists, the lands to which they are entitled, and to adjust the liabilities of said company,' approved January 21, 1850." Commissioner Joseph P. Portis certified "that Johann Meyer appeared before me, and upon oath declared that he . . . was introduced into Texas by virtue of the colonization contract of H.F. Fisher and Burchard Miller with the President of the late Republic of Texas, before the first day of September A.D. 1847." On 5 June 1851, Meyer was issued a similar certificate (#104) by Commissioner Granville H. Sherwood for a half section of land No. 156 and 153 in Erskin's District. He sold the land in Howard's District for one hundred dollars on 3 July 1851, and he sold the land in Erskin's District for twenty-five dollars on 2 June 1854.

The records of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville illustrate that Adolph Meyer was an active member and that he signed the 1859 constitution. Among other things, Meyer donated wood in 1857 for an addition to the parsonage and hauled rails to fence a garden for the pastor; on 28 October 1864 he donated five dollars toward the purchase of a residence for the pastor. In addition, Adolph Meyer was an accomplished musician; in fact, Meyer had brought his piano over from Germany (although it was later lost in a fire that burned his home to the ground while the family was reportedly gathering pecans down by the creek). It is reported that at any time when the regular church organist failed to appear, Meyer took over and played for the church service, even after he had reached the age of eighty.

The story has been told that Adolph Meyer's father, Johann Georg Meyer, was a professor in Germany for forty years and that he received a lifetime pension of forty dollars per month as a result of this service. According to oral history, the father came to America in 1848. With him came another son, Wilhelm "William" Meyer, who settled in DeWitt County and married Eliesa Friederichs, and another daughter, Caroline Meyer, who married Carl Wenzel and moved to Sisterdale, Texas.

by Beverly Boehl

MEYER, JOHANN JULIUS

F632

On January 20, 1816, Johann Julius Meyer was born in Woldenburg, District of Frankorthin, Kingdom of Prussia. Early in his life he became proficient in music, playing many instruments. He was a member of the band of and special guard of Kaiser Frederick the Great. Members of the guard were required to be six feet tall, so Johann Julius was tall and had a fair complexion and blue eyes. He was reared in the Lutheran faith.

On November 5, 1840 Johann Meyer took as his bride Wilhelmina Heissig in Landsberg an der Warte, East Brandenburg, Prussia. Wilhelmina's birth to Johann Gottlieb Heissig and Marie Charlotte Zedler is recorded on May 23, 1820. She is described as being of medium stature with a light complexion, black hair and blue eyes. She enjoyed her health and also belong to the Lutheran church.

Julius and Wilhelmina Meyer landed in

Johann Julius Meyer

Wilhelmine Heissig Meyer

Texas on July 9, 1854 according to his naturalization papers which were granted September 25, 1858. Several of his children died in infancy, but five achieved maturity: Adolph, Anna Justine, Albert, Marie, and Johanna. The last four all married into local Yorktown families. Both Adolph and Albert died in their forties.

By 1855 Julius Meyer was providing music for balls and parties being held in Strieber's private hall. Mr. Meyer was the first musician in Yorktown, and long before the Civil War he organized the first orchestra which laid the foundation for the Old Band organized about 1869 by Messrs. Riedel and Gips. Julius gave music lessons to various ranchers' children, often travelling there by buckboard.

Albert Meyer, son of Julius, recorded in a letter that his father built his first houses of post oak trees split in half with the ends dovetailed in order to be fitted and fastened with pegs. Open places between the logs were filled with a mixture of moss, clay, and ashes. This soft plastic excluded the cold. The roof was made of long grasses which were found in abundance nearby. The floors were made of ashes and adobe ground together to make a solid film. This first house burned and had to be rebuilt.

They made rail fences which were zigzag with a rider on top. The first fence was created of post oak trees which Julius split and used to fence in a field in Meyersville.

Soap was made out of hog grease and lye. Lye was made by filling a barrel with ashes and water, taking the drippings of ashes water over and over until it was strong enough to carry a hen egg. In the first years food was plain — wild game and corn bread were basics. Flour was saved for special Sunday treats.

The first taxes on ninety acres of land were appraised at ninety cents. In order to tame the wild mustang horses, Julius learned to crease their necks by barely shooting them with the fine cap and bolt rifle he had brought with him from Germany.

The 1860 census records Johann Julius Meyer living in dwelling 561 in DeWitt County, aged 43, male, born in Prussia. With the imminence of the Civil War, Julius Meyer enlisted in the Yorktown Hulan Reserve Company composed of sixty officers and men. After the war was over, the parents of Wilhelmina Meyer, Johann Gottlieb and Marie Hessig made the long journey from Germany to visit their three children, Wilhelmina, Henriette and Carl. Both parents died in Germany — Johann in 1867 and Marie in 1869.

Johann Julius Meyer died in Yorktown on March 27, 1878 and is buried in Westside Cemetery. Wilhelmina wrote a letter to her daughter, Anna Stark, three months later which detailed a terrible storm which had hit Yorktown with hail as large as small eggs. Fences were blown down, corn was broken off, chicken and turkeys were killed, cotton was broken off, and rain blew all through the house.

The DeWitt County census lists Wilhelmina Meyer, aged 60, birthplace Prussia. An inventory of the assets of Johann Julius Meyer recorded under probate listed $2491.62, consisting chiefly of barroom materials and supplies of various kinds of liquor. On August 5, 1900, Wilhelmina Heissig Meyer died in Yorktown and is buried at Westside cemetery. Both she and Julius were pioneers who had come from a very different type of background than that of Texas. Yet both adjusted to the difficult tasks of settling a new land and added much to the enjoyment of their fellow settlers.

by Dorothy Strieber

MEYER, WILHELM AND HENRY FAMILIES

F633

Wilhelm (Meier) Meyer was born on July 5, 1838 in Luechow, Hanover, Germany, and his wife, Margaretha nee Sasse, born on Nov. 4, 1832 in Salzhonsen, Hanover, Germany, came to America in 1873 via New Orleans. With them came Katharina Dorothea, nee Vogelsang Sasse, mother of Margaretha, their children – Henry, George, Wilhelm, and Alvina. They settled in Sasseville near Nopal. Wilhelm Jr. died at eighteen. Henry was born in Hamburg, Germany, on June 25, 1865 and came to America at the age of eight.

Henry and Minna (Natho) Meyer

On January 28, 1887, Henry married Minna, nee Natho, daughter of Christine and Wilhelmine, nee Puhlman, Natho. Minna was born on July 23, 1865 in Caswig, Anhalt-Dessau, Germany and was four years old when she came to America in 1869 with her parents.

In June 1887 Wilhelm bought a farm north of Nordheim when it was known as Weldon Switch and only a railroad switch. In October Henry and Minna moved to Nordheim and became one of the first settlers in this area, eventually buying the farm from his parents. They lived with their son and wife when in 1889 Wilhelm became helpless from chronic rheumatism and became an invalid. His wife gave him constant care. They being devout Christians of the Lutheran faith, he accepted his physical infirmity as a manifestation of the Divine Will. On Nov. 25, 1905 Margaretha passed and a week later, on Dec. 1, 1905 Wilhelm died. Both are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas. Wilhelm became a citizen of the U.S.A. on Nov. 7, 1874 and Henry on Dec. 18, 1893.

When the Meyers came to this area it was raw land. They built their home in a grove of giant oak trees in the middle of a prairie. They had to go to a nearby ranch of several miles to get water and to Yorktown for supplies. Many of the great oaks are still standing together with cedar trees which were planted in front of the home. Henry was known as the Truck Farming King for numerous years in the early 1900's. Beside truck farming they raised sheep and cattle. He was instrumental in building up the town of Nordheim by building a number of store buildings such as grocery, dry goods, barber shop, tin shop, post office, and many homes. He was a prominent farmer-stockman and through thrift and perseverance accumulated extensive land holdings, some of which are still in the family.

Six children were born to Henry and Minna; Annie married Richard Schroller and their children were Kermit, Evelyn, Henry, Jack, Lillian, Mildred and Noel Dean. Annie died in Sept. 1973. Elsie married Walter T. Laging and had no children, but took their niece Mildred Lee Huck into their home. Elsie died on Jan. 19, 1924. Caesar married Lyida Weigang and had one son Caesar, Jr. who has six children. Caesar died in Sept. 1979. Viola died in infancy at the age of ten months. Harry married Willie House and have one son Harry Alfred (Bussy) Jr. Meta married Emil C. Huck and had five children; Lucille died at the age of ten from a heart ailment resulting from diphtheria. They survived a terrible tornado which took their home on May 6, 1930. However, Emil died the following Feb. 9, 1931, of a heart attack.

Son Raymond married Alfreda Mueller on Oct. 15, 1936 and have three children. June Nell married Wilfred Buchhorn and have one

son David. Delores married James Denman and have three children, Dianna, Janet, and Mark. Son Dickie Ray married Marji LeSturgeon and have three children, Shane, Rodney, and Dayne.

Son Nelton married Anita Riebschlaeger on Oct. 20, 1940 and had four children. Harlan drowned June 2, 1957 at the age of 11 years. Billy Joyce married Gordon Reynolds and their oldest daughter died at birth. Their other children are Bradley, Kristin, and Jeffrey. Another son Roger who has a daughter Rachil Waine. Daughter Charlene married Gary Butler and has a son Ross. Nelton died on May 29, 1978.

Daughter Lorene married Stanley Reiman and had four children. Joe married Shirley Schmidt and have three children; Joe, Michelle, and Chris. Stanley, Jr. married Francis Merritt and have four children. Emil married Carrie Dlugosh and have three children – Johnny, Rhonda, and Eric. Marylyn married Charles Merritt and have two daughters. Lorene died on March 1, 1985.

Daughter Mildred married Edmund E. Mueller and have four children. Son GARY married Nancy Wilson and have a son Jason Lee. Daughter Sandra Lea married William J. Fronek and have a son Wilbur and daughter Janet. Daughter Sharon Ann married Rev. Jeffrey Thompson and have a daughter Jennifer and son Christopher. She has two sons, Brian and Brent Nickell and two stepchildren Barbara (Rath) and Bruce Nickell. Daughter Lerna Kay married David Hansel and have two sons Matthew William and Joshua Edmund.

Henry and Minna also took in a young man to stay with them by the name of Rudolph Kraatz. After the death of Minna on July 4, 1936 Meta went to live with her father Henry on the home place. Henry died on Sept. 12, 1940. On Aug. 3, 1943 Meta married Emil Onken. She died on jan. 6, 1981 at the age of 88 years and six months.

The original land that is still in the family is now owned by Edmund and Mildred Mueller.

by Mildred Lee Huck Mueller

MEYNARD, ERNEST B. AND NELLE (BENNET)

F634

Ernest Barnaba Meynard was born on 17 January 1890 in Charenton, La., the son of Etienne Meynard, Jr. and his wife, Noemi Robin. His great-grandfather, Jean Baptiste Menard (the spelling at that time), was born in 1804 at Blaye, near Bordeaux, France. He came as a youth to New Orleans where he married Justine Chevale on 19 March 1828. In 1836, he purchased a sugar plantation with slaves on the Bayou Teche at Charenton, St. Mary's Parish, La. His son, Etienne Meynard (1831-1898), married Rosalie Ellinor Gigleux, served with Confederate forces during the Civil War, and afterwards established a sugar mill on the family plantation. The management of the mill passed to his son, Etienne Meynard, Jr. (1856-1898), who died at age 42, leaving his wife with eight children under age thirteen and another on the way.

Ernest, the fourth child, was educated at Charenton and came to Cuero in 1911 at age 21 as Clerk and Cashier for the Southern Pacific

Ernest Barnaba Meynard (1890-1978, agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad for 42 years, is shown in Cuero depot office.

Railroad. H.B. Sheppard was the Agent at that time. There were no typewriters or adding machines then, and all waybills and reports were made out in longhand. On 7 July 1917, Ernest married Nelle B. Bennet and purchased the home of her mother, who continued to reside with them.

Nelle Bathsheba Meynard was born on 23 September 1892, the daughter of Samuel D. and Josephine (McRae) Bennet of Oakhill Ranch, DeWitt County. Their story appears separately. Nelle was educated in her early years by a governess at the ranch, attended the country school later, and entered Nash's Academy when her parents moved into Cuero in 1904. She was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero and served for many years as Chairman of its Special Services Committee.

In 1920, Ernest Meynard was made the Agent for Southern Pacific at Cuero, a position he held for 38 years until his retirement in 1958. During his tenure as Agent he saw the rise and decline of the railroad industry, through the height of shipping cattle to the end of passenger service at Cuero.

In the beginning, Mr. Meynard had three employees and Dick Harris with his buggy and wagon at the passenger depot. When special excursion trains were run to Port Lavaca and the coast, Rose Livery Stable was called on to help transport people and their baggage back to their homes on their return. By the 1930s, there were 37 employees, 12 daily trains (eight freight and four passenger ones) with "Polly" Olson and his taxi at the passenger depot. During the years when Cuero had a cotton compress, much cotton was shipped out and cotton season kept the freight office busy. However, the peak loads were during the war years, 1942-1945, when gasoline and tires were rationed and the public was dependent on the railroad for transporting products and people. There also were troop trains headed for secret destinations which passed through the Cuero station and were given priority.

By 1945, with beef in great demand and cattle prices high, ranchers shipped out 96 carloads of cattle each month. The cattle were brought to town in trucks and were penned two or three days until Mr. Meynard could obtain enough rail cars to ship them to market. They were loaded only on Friday nights, and on one occasion, 54 cars were shipped out at one time by the Cuero Livestock Commission Company. It was the heyday of both the rancher and the railroad, but by the 1960s trucks had replaced cattle cars and people made trips in their own automobiles. The passenger trains were discontinued in November, 1949, and eventually the freight cars also.

Mr. Meynard retired in 1958, took up oil painting as a hobby, and at age 70 was awarded several prizes for his works. In 1976, Mr. and Mrs. Meynard moved to Columbia, S.C. to reside with their son and daughter-in-law. There they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary the next year. He died there on 17 April 1978, and she died in Columbia on 24 January 1986. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero.

They were the parents of one son, Ernest Bennet Meynard (1919), who married Virginia Gurley of Waco. A graduate of Cuero High School and Texas A. and M. College, he was associated with Buckeye Tool Corporation and Rockwell International in Dayton, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Columbia, S.C. before his retirement in 1985. They are the parents of a son and two daughters, Jennifer Nell Meynard of Los Angeles, Calif., Ernest Bennet Meynard, Jr. of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Loulie Gurley Meynard of Ann Arbor, Mich.

by Ernest Bennet Meynard

MILLER FAMILY

F635

Mary Elizabeth Miller Callaway's father was Jacob A. Miller of Victoria and DeWitt Counties. His grandfather came from Germany to Philadelphia and he and his son, also Jacob A., served in the Revolution in the Pennsylvania Militia. Jacob II migrated to Tennessee – Carter County, where his son, also Jacob A., was born in 1810. Young Jake Miller came to Texas in September, 1839 and took a land grant in Guadalupe County but never resided on it. Some descendants believe that as he still spoke German as he had intended to settle among the German-speaking Texans. But apparently he began to buy up land claims – mostly good, but some forgeries. In 1842 he joined the Mounted Ranger Company of Captain John T. Price of the Republic of Texas Army, to go to the Rio Grande area in response to the Mexican invasions of 1842. He returned to Victoria without injury. When the Mexican War came along he enlisted in Captain Price's mounted Ranger unit he had been with in 1842. He saw action until DeWitt County was formed in 1846 when he returned.

Jake Miller helped secure the new County seat for DeWitt County. When Richard Chisholm set aside 640 acres of his land for the future County Seat, Jacob A. Miller was one of four men appointed as Trustees of the land which became Clinton – the first County Seat. Jake Miller married the first couple in DeWitt County, at Clinton, as a Justice of the Peace. He served twice as Sheriff of DeWitt County and once as Tax Assessor-Collector. With the advent of the Civil War he enlisted as a Private in one of the Texas State Troop mounted units

in DeWitt County. When the Civil War ended, he was appointed Sheriff. Jake Miller apparently was a Sam Houston Unionist.

Jacob A. Miller married twice. On October 3, 1847, on DeWitt County Marriage License Number 5, he and JoAnne Cook, born in Germany, were married. In January, 1849 JoAnne is listed on the 1850 Mortality Schedule as having died as did her daughter also Joanne. However, for obscure reasons, Jake Miller was not enumerated on the 1850 U.S. Census for DeWitt County. On October 2, 1851 Jacob A. Miller married Amanda Jane David, recently arrived from Warren County, Mississippi. Jake's first act was to give his new wife 2,000 acres of land in her own right. Family tradition has it that Amanda Jane was the niece of President Jefferson Davis and the daughter of his youngest sister, Mary, who had married a man with the family name of David. Children of Jake and Mandy Miller: 1. Mary Elizabeth b. 26 Jan. 1852, m. William T. Callaway; 2. John F. Miller, b. Feb. 24, 1853, m. Jane Anderson, d. Shannon Cemetery, Yorkton; 3. Amanda Jane b. ?, m. John Ferguson, died Wilson County; 4. Norris Miller b. 1858, m. Cordelia Callaway d?; 5. Jacob A. Jr. b. 1860 d. 1895. b. Yorkton; 6. Joseph A. Miller, b. 1852, m. Nellie Smith; 7. James, left Texas and was never heard from after that.

When he died in 1868, Jacob A. Miller left his wife and children 12,000 acres of land. His wife Amanda Jane Davis Miller, used the income from this to raise her children. Jacob A. Miller was buried in DeWitt County and his Masonic Lodge so noted it in their "minutes." His grave has not been found but was believed to have been in the "old" Clinton Cemetery. Amanda Jane Davis, his wife lived on to 1913 and is buried in the Stockdale Cemetery, Wilson County, Texas.

Samuel W. Newman, 5413 Lake Lindenwood Drive, Waco, Texas 76710 [grandson of Mary Elizabeth Miller Callaway].

by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Newman

MITCHELL, ISAAC NEWTON

F636

(1809-1853)

Isaac Newton Mitchell came to Texas from South Carolina over 150 years ago and settled in what is now Lavaca County, near the present site of Hallettsville. He then moved to Mitchell's Point in Calhoun County. He was married to Mary Margaret Kerr (1822-1884) in 1872. He had two sons I.N. Michell, II, and Daniel by his wife Mary Margaret.

After his accidental death, his two sons took over and soon purchased 400 acres of land on Carancahua Bay. I.N. then bought out his brother and built a large house there. This is where he brought his bride, Callista A. Stapp (1853-1942) in 1872. Callista is a descendant of Elija Stapp, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Callista's Grandmother was a Rice. (Founder of Rice University in Houston).

All of the above have had a residence either in Calhoun County or on Carancahua Bay.

I.N. and Callista had four children, I.N. Mitchell, III, C.S., H.C., and A.C.

Isaac Newton Mitchell, III

Ruby Mae Walling Mixon (1902-1973)

I.N. Mitchell, III was born 1-1-1873 and died Sept. 16, 1935, married to Mary Fromme, now deceased. They had three sons, I.N. Mitchell, IV, Hugh C. Mitchell and Alfred Mitchell.

I.N. Mitchell IV married Zatella Fields and had 2 children, Mary Katherine and I.N. Mitchell, V. Their daughter Mary Katherine still lives on Mitchell property. I.N., V. lives in New Braunfels. Mary Katherine has four children, one of which still lives with her on the ranch. I.N., V. has two sons.

Hugh C. Mitchell married Ethel Parnell and has one son, Michael who has two sons, Michael V. and Stephen Hugh. Ethel still lives on the Mitchell Ranch. Also A.C. Mitchell married Mildred Sterling. They had no children.

So you see, the Mitchell heirs are still ranching and farming. Times have changed but the love of cattle and nature are too strong to keep us away. The way of ranching has changed, cattle have changed, but the Mitchell's have not.

by Mrs. Hugh Mitchell and Son

MIXON, MORRIS AND WALLING

F637

John Mixon Ist came from England in 1650 and landed in Gloucester County, Virginia. This information appears in the Mixon-Mixson Family Vol. I by John Leslie Mixson and published by American Reference Publishers, Inc. Fort Worth, Texas.

Alfred Morris migrated to the Sabine District of Texas with his wife the former Sarah Ann Taylor and one son from Franklin County, Georgia in 1833. He crossed into Texas with a Spanish Land Grant (from the files of the General Land Office in Austin, Box 89, Folder 69).

Joel Adam Walling came to Clinton from South Carolina. He was a veteran of the Civil War. He fought under Col. Sellers Battalion where he was captured and held a prisoner of war by the Union Army. Joel Adam came to Texas with his wife Adela Rooke and three daughters. His wife was from Georgia and was the daughter of the Rev. Amos Rooke.

On Sept. 23, 1898 the ninth great grandson of John Mixon Ist, James Irvin Mixon married Johnny Morris in DeWitt County. She was the daughter of John M. Morris and Mary Jane Little and the granddaughter of Alfred W. Morris and Sarah Ann Taylor.

Between 1850 and 1900 the Morris family were located on acreages in the adjacent counties of Karnes, Gonzales and DeWitt. While they were living near the old town of Cabeza, a tragedy occured to the eldest son "Brack", which after almost ninety years continues to be recounted and publicized.

While serving his third term as sheriff of Karnes County, W.T. "Brack" Morris was shot and killed on June 12, 1901, by the notorious Gregorio Cortez. It is reported in the June 20, 1901 issue of the *Karnes County News*, Runge, Texas that over two thousand mourners attended the funeral at the Runge cemetery.

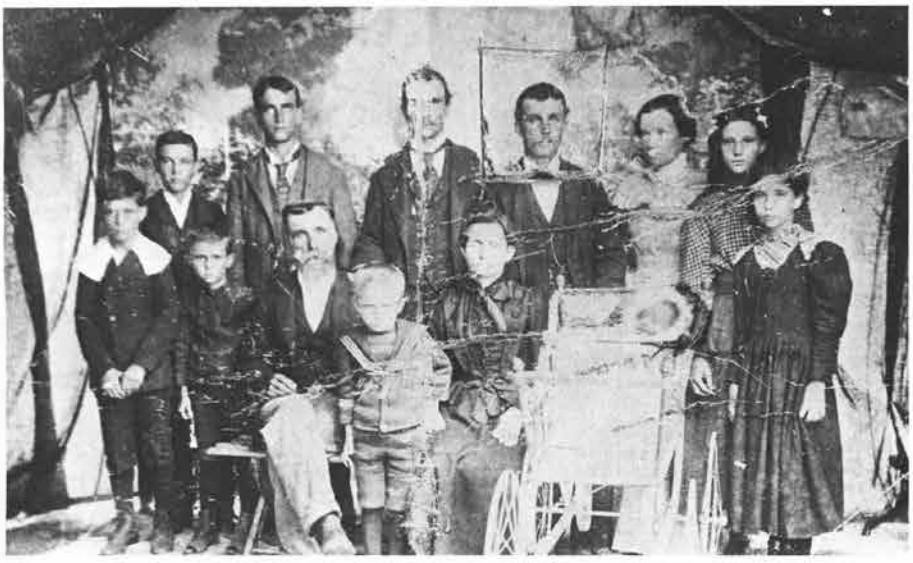
Cortez fled to Gonzales where he killed another sheriff. However, for ten days he skillfully eluded organized posses of lawmen before he was captured near the Mexican border. Ironically, Cortez became a folk hero, and his legendary flight has been the source of a Mexican border called "El Corrido de Gregorio Cortez," a book *"With His Pistol in His Hand"* (1958) by Americo Paredes, and a subsequent movie by the same name.

Accounts vary. The sentiments reflected in the ballad do not coincide with those of the Morris family. Joel Morris Mixon of Rockport, Texas a great-nephew of "Brack", retained original newspaper clippings of the incident. But, of more importance, the contributions of "Brack", a lawman, remain chronicled in Texas Ranger history.

James and Johnnie Morris Mixon owned and operated (until their death) the general store in Cabeza, Texas. Both James and Johnnie died in their early twenties, leaving two small children who were raised by their grandfather Jeff Mixon of Kenedy, Texas. Their son Pat Mixon later in life served as president of the Community State Bank in Runge, Texas.

Joel Amos was the son of J.A. Walling and Adela Rooke Walling who were farmers and land owners in Clinton in 1870, 1880 and the

John M. Morris Family — Back Row: Dixie, Annie and Abbie. Front: John Morris, Nixon Morris, Johnny Mae Morris, Jim Morris and Sloma Morris.



Jeff Mixon Family — Back Row: Jeff, Joel, James Irvin, Johnny Mae (Morris) Mixon and Corene. Front: John, Foster, Jeff, Perry, Sarah L. (Richman) Mixon, Dewey (daughter of James and Johnny Morris Mixon), and Cora.

1890. He was born Sept. 18, 1876 in Clinton and helped his father farm and operate the ferry boat on the Guadalupe River. His favorite story was one about carrying members of the Sutton Taylor family back and forth across the river.

Joel Amos married Josie Haywood of Blanco, Texas. They had three children, Joel Morris Mixon of Rockport, Justyne Mixon Cox of Rockport and Yorktown, Texas, and Ed Pat Mixon who with his family lived for many years in Cuero where he served as president of the Farmers State Bank. Ed now lives in Victoria.

Four great, great grandsons of J.A. and Adela Walling and great great grandsons of John M. Morris and Mary Jane Little farm in the Garfield area of Yorktown, Texas. They are Richard Earl, Robert Edward, Pat Justin and William Joel Schendel. They own and operate the Schendel Bros. Dairy Farm. They are the sons of Justyne Mixon Cox of Rockport, Texas and Clarence Schendel of Goliad, Texas.

J.A. Walling and his wife Adela Rooke Walling are laid to rest in the Cottonwood Cemetery in Athens, Texas.

Alfred Morris and wife are laid to rest in the Sandie Chapel Cemetery, Dewville, Texas (near Mixon), the site of an historical marker.

Other ancestors of Jeff Mixon, Alfred Morris and J.A. Walling who came to Texas as strangers are laid to rest as a family in the Runge Cemetery in Runge, Texas. They are W.T. "Brack" Morris, James Irvin and Johnny Morris Mixon, John M. Morris and Mary Jane Little Morris, Joel Amos and Josie Haywood Walling and Pat and Ruby Mae Walling Mixon.

The old grave stones stand guard around the smallest of the stones, that which marks the grave of their granddaughter Mae Gail Schendel.

by Justyne Mixon Cox

MOLLENHAUER, HENRY AND ALVINA (FECHNER)

F638

Theodor Leopold Henrich (Henry) Mollenhauer was born in Liebenau, Germany 22 May 1843. He left Germany at the age of 19 years and went to South America. He traveled through various countries there, coming to Texas and to Yorktown in 1870. On 29 July 1871 he married Alvina Fechner. They first lived in the Yorktown area, then moved to Zedler's Mill in Gonzales County, and then settled in San Antonio where they lived for 13 years. They returned to Yorktown and Mr. Mollenhauer went into business. At the time of his death, he was the owner of a large hardware and furniture store. A son, Herman, worked with him. Henry died in Yorktown 23 February 1915 and is buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

Alvina Fechner was born in Eichenquast, near Schweinitz in Magdeburg, Germany 12 June 1846. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church of her home community in Germany. She came to Yorktown from Germany in 1869. She was one of eleven children of Henry and Marie Fredericke Dahme Fechner. After the death of her husband, she continued to live in their home in Yorktown, and her sister, Augusta Bremer, came to live

The Henry Mollenhaur Family, ca. 1890. Back: Herman, Helen (Lena), Edward. Front: Henry, Nettie and Alvina.

with her after her husband died. Alvina died in Yorktown 7 July 1945 at the age of 99 years and 25 days and she is buried beside her husband. For the last ten years or so of her life, she took turns, living with each child for four months. For more on this family, see Fechner, Henry and Marie.

Henry and Alvina Mollenhauer had five children; one, Ida, died in infancy. Those growing to adulthood were:

1) Edward Mollenhauer was born in Yorktown 3 May 1872. He lived in Yorktown all his life. On 12 January 1897 he married Annie Gips, daughter of Otto and Anna Fechner Gips. She was born 17 January 1878, in Yorktown, and died there 15 November 1967. They had three children, but only one, Alfrieda, grew to adulthood. Alfrieda was born in 1900 and died in 1938. She married Dr. Sidney Bohls, and they lived in Austin, Texas. She is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown. Edward Mollenhauer had a general merchandise store and owned the Mollenhauer Funeral Home in Yorktown. He died 15 October 1962.

2) Helen (Lena) Mollenhauer was born 26 December 1875 and died in Cuero 16 December 1952. She married Thomas (Tom) Mayne 15 March 1898 in Yorktown, but the couple lived in Cuero. He was born 19 October 1875 and died 25 July 1961. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. They had two sons, Henry Thomas and Lewis Harden. Henry was born 24 December 1898. He married Irene Newman of Cuero 21 June 1919 and they had two children, Carlyn and Lewis Elwood. Henry later married Joyce Richards of Cuero. He died 19 December 1966. Lewis was born 2 April 1902 and died 21 July 1933. He married Beatrice Garner 2 July 1925. He is buried in the House Cemetery near Yorktown.

3) Herman Mollenhauer was born in June 1879. He died while on a visit to his son, Warren, in Virginia, 3 July 1946. On 15 January 1904 he married Minna Marie Dahme in Yorktown. She was born in Indianola and grew up in Yorktown. She was the daughter of Fred Dahme, pioneer lumberman. She died 5 August 1949. She and her husband are buried in San Antonio. For many years the couple lived in Yorktown where he was engaged in business and was active in civic affairs. They moved to Beeville where he was in business for about a year and then moved to San Antonio where they continued to live. He was a plumber. Mr. and Mrs. Mollenhauer had three children, all born in Yorktown. Warren was born 27 November 1907 and died in 1986. He married Margie Hotchkiss. He was a Civil Service employee. Hazel Lorraine was born 27 July 1910 and died in San Antonio. She married George Stage and they adopted two daughters, Joy and Judy. Hilton Mollenhauer was born 31 August 1924. He does research with A&M University at College Station, Texas. He married Barbara Felsing and they have three sons.

4) Antonette (Nettie) Mollenhauer was born in Zedler's Mill, Gonzales County, Texas 29 June 1880. She grew up in San Antonio and Yorktown. She married Paul Gips 30 July 1902, and the couple lived in Yorktown. Five sons were born to them. (See separate story.)

by Mrs. Ray Gips

MOORE, CLAUDE BENTLEY, I AND HARRIET ELOISE PHILPOTT

F639

Claude Bentley Moore I

Claude Bentley Moore I was born 15 July 1868 in Jackson County, Missouri, the son of Cornelius Moore, a farmer, and Mary Josephine Moore, nee Oldham. The 1880 Census shows Claude had two sisters, Annie and Mary, and three brothers, William, James, and Gregory. Another sister, Ladora Mae, was born 1882. Claude and James came to Laredo, TX from Lee's Summit, MO to open a banana importing business. They did well and, together with another partner, set up a wholesale produce operation in Cuero in the early 1890s named Moore and Sames. Claude was to run this branch. He was a super salesman traveling the territory by the train, known as the "Dinky". He acquired a host of friends and became a legendary traveling man. Claude was a gourmet cook. He died 27 Feb 1934.

Harriet Eloise (Philpott) Moore

Harriet Eloise Philpott was born 2 Feb 1870 in Bryan, TX to Horatio V. Philpott of Alabama and Henrietta Clay Bledsoe of Kentucky. Horatio had become a Methodist minister and moved to Texas by 1860. He lived in Huntsville and was a friend of General Sam Houston. By 1870, Dr. Philpott had moved to Bryan. A Philpott tradition holds that Sam Houston's sword was kept at Bryan for many years. Later it was returned to Sam Houston II since it was given to him in his father's will. In 1875, Horatio wrote an article in the *Dallas Herald* scolding the *Austin Statesman* for running saloon ads. Eloise had three brothers, William B., Horatio, and David H., and five sisters, Sarah A., Nannie E.M., Mary, Lillie and Bess. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Horatio, living with his 17 year old daughter, Lillie, in a hotel run by John Farris on Gonzales St., Cuero.

Eloise was a beautiful lady with the poise and grace of a southern belle. She married Claude Bentley Moore I 28 Dec 1893 in Cuero. They had four children, Ruth, Claude, James, and Harry. Elois died 2 Jan 1947.

Ruth was born 18 Oct 1894. She married Harold C. Hatfield who was a 2nd Lieut. in the 220 Aero Squad during World War I. He contracted T.B. while in Europe and spent most of his life in the Legion Hospital in Kerrville where he died 4 Apr 1953. They had a daughter, Eloise, born 15 July 1925; died 29 July 1929. Ruth died 20 Nov 1980.

James married Helen Houston of Cuero. They had a daughter, Faye Ruth, born in 1924. Jim operated the Humble Service Station at Esplanade and Broadway and was tragically killed while trying to start a car. He died 23 Mar 1935.

Harry Nicholson was born 5 Feb 1910. He married Josephine Wofford of Cuero. They had three children, Judy, Mary Jo, and Harry Jr. Harry died 27 Apr 1981.

The story of Claude is told separately.

by Joanna Moore

MOORE, CLAUDE BENTLEY, II AND ANABEL SMITH

F640

Claude Bentley Moore II was born in Cuero 19 Feb 1900, son of Claude Bentley Moore I and Harriet Eloise Moore, nee Philpott. Claude had a twin brother, James P., an older sister Ruth, and a younger brother, Harry Nicholson. Claude graduated from Cuero High School and attended A&M University in College Station and Sewanee University in Tennessee. He and his twin brother enjoyed many sports while in school.

Anabel (Smith) Moore and Claude B. Moore II 1978 Cuero

Anabel Smith Moore was born in Cuero 8 Sept 1899. She was the daughter of Charles G. Smith and Eliza Edgar Smith, owners of the Smith Ranch. Anabel was the 2nd oldest of eight children, Carry May, Anabel, Marie, Charles Edgar, Margaret Evelyn, Rufus Henry, Alexander Hamilton, and Mary Eleanor. Anabel and her siblings were taught at home while at the ranch. Later the family moved to town and the children attended Cuero Public Schools. Upon graduation, Anabel went to college at Ward-Belmont in Nashville, Tennessee.

Claude and Anabel were married 29 oct 1923 in the First United Methodist Church, Cuero, TX. He was working in the wholesale produce business, Moore and Sames, with his father, inheriting a compulsion to meet everyone in the world. He traveled throughout South Texas selling and during the last part of his life, he was successful selling lumber and supplies to county commissioners. In 1929, Claude was initiated into the Cuero Masonic Lodge #409 and became a 32 degree Mason. Anabel received recognition in 1940 for working with the National Red Cross for the War Relief. She began working for the Federal Selective Service System in the 1950s, and received a pin 7 Feb 1965 for completing 20 years of service from the Local Board #34. The most outstanding thing about Anabel was her abiding faith and her tolerance for others. On 21 Mar 1976, Anabel and Claude received Certificates of Recognition for the longest memberships in the First United Methodist Church, Claude for 69 years and Anabel for 66 years. In 1973, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Austin home of their son, Buddy and his wife, Joanna. Anabel died 10 Apr 1980 and Claude died the following year, 9 Jan 1981. They had two children, Jane and Buddy.

Jane Marie was born 7 Aug 1924 in Cuero. Jane was a very popular honor student at Cuero High School winning its highest award upon graduation, the Dentler Post Award. Cuero had a very formidable high school debating team at that time composed of Jane Moore, Ada Koenig, Frank Sheppard, and John Fisher. Jane was working at Brayton Flying Service, planning for college, when she died suddenly 29 Sept 1942.

Claude Bentley (Buddy) III was born 16 July 1926. He married Joanna Louise Janssen 1 Oct 1949 in Nordheim. His story is given separately.

by Joanna Moore

MOORE, CLAUDE BENTLEY, III AND JOANNA LOUISE JANSSEN

F641

Claude Bentley Moore III was born in Cuero 16 July 1926 to Claude Bentley Moore Jr. and Anabel Smith Moore. He had an older sister, Jane Marie, born 7 Aug 1924; died 29 Sept 1942. Buddy graduated from Cuero High School in 1943. In summer, during his high school days, he was a life guard at Cuero Municipal Park. After graduation, Buddy went to Schriener Institute in Kerrville for a year, and later to the University of Texas/Austin where he received a degree in Industrial Engineering.

Joanna Louise Janssen was born 17 Jan 1929 to Emil Dietrich Janssen and Laura Jane Mueller Janssen in Nordheim. Her older brother, Carroll James was born 16 Sept 1921. Joanna was baptised and confirmed in St. Paul Lutheran Church. She attended the Nordheim public schools, graduating in 1946 as valedictorian of her class. Growing up with a large group of aunts, uncles, and cousins made Nordheim a very comfortable and safe place. Her friends and she loved to go to the large country dances, meeting young people from all over the

Back Row — Jeff and Sandra Ransom, Kenton, Steve Krol, Doug Bachman, C.B. Moore IV. Middle Row — Sue Bachman, Joanna, Buddy, Karen Moore with Bethany, Laura Krol with Kari. Front Row — Trey and Page Bachman, Megan Moore, Kelsey Krol, Ian Paul.

Claude B. Moore, III and Joanna (Janssen) Moore, 1987

surroundings counties. It was at one of these dances that Buddy and Joanna met. In the fall of 1946, she entered the University of Texas/Austin.

Buddy and Joanna married 1 Oct 1949 in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim. They lived in Shiner for a few months, then returned to Nordheim where he was employed by Janssen's IH dealership (farm equipment). After Checkers Janssen retired in 1954, Buddy and Carroll Janssen were partners in Nordheim and Yorktown. In 1962, Carroll bought the implement business; Buddy and his family moved to Seguin, then to Austin. Since 1963, he began to work in the field of chemical addiction, becoming a certified drug and alcohol counselor. His most noteworthy accomplishment is the acclaim he is receiving in the relatively new science of intervention and aftercare of chemically addicted people. Joanna has worked for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in Austin from 1973-1981. For relaxation they began camping on the beach at Goose Island State Park on the Texas coast when the children were young. Their spare time is still spent fishing and relaxing on the beach. They have four children; all born in DeWitt County. Sandra Jane was born 28 Aug 1950. She graduated from Travis High School in Austin and attended the University of Texas/Austin, majoring in Nursing. Sandra married Sam Ray Paul on 21 Aug 1971. Their son, Ian Christian, was born 21 June 1980 in Austin. She married Jefferson Koger Ransom 25 May 1985. Jeff is a carpenter and Sandra is a nursing supervisor for the Austin/Travis County Health Department.

Sue Ann was born 27 Sept 1952. She graduated from Crockett High School in Austin and attended the University of Texas/Austin and is a licensed physical therapist. She married Douglas Thurman Bachman on 30 Aug 1975 in Austin. He is associated with Goodwin-Bachman Homes and Sue is employed as a physical therapist with the Austin ISD. They have two children, Page Joanna, born 23 Jan 1979 and Trey Douglas, born 19 Aug 1982.

C.B. Moore IV was born 13 Dec 1954. He graduated from Crockett High School in Austin and attended the University of Texas/Austin majoring in Finance. He married Karen Beth Cone in Rockdale, TX on 21 May 1977. They have two daughters, Megan Lyn, born 24 Jan 1980 in Austin and Bethany Nicole, born 22 Dec 1987 in Fort Worth. Karen is employed by Texas American Bridge Bank in Fort Worth and C.B. works for First City Bank in Arlington. They live in White Settlement.

Laura Jo was born 3 Sept 1956. She graduated from Crockett High School in Austin and attended the University of Texas/Austin, receiving her license as a physical therapist. On 11 Apr 1981, Steven Paul Krol and Laura were married in Austin. Steve and Laura own their own clinic, Krol & Krol, Physical Therapists, in Corpus Christi where they are living. They have three children, all born in Corpus. Kelsey Eileen was born 7 Apr 1984, Kari Ann was born 1 Apr 1986, and Kenton Thomas was born 13 May 1988.

by Joanna Moore

MORGAN – SEEKAMP FAMILY

F642

Nannie Quirl Morgan (Mrs. Charles William Morgan 7-22-1854) was the granddaughter of "Texas' Betsy Ross 1836", Sarah Bradley Dodson (1-8-1812), who designed the Lone Star Flag in September, 1835. Lt. Archelaus Dodson, her husband, carried the flag which she had made of solid, red, white, and blue calico with a lone star (the exact design of the Texas flag of today, except that the rectangles were placed vertically). This flag was taken into battles by Lt. Dodson from October thru December 1835, during the siege of Bexar, where he was wounded. It is believed that the Dodson flag flew over the building at Washington-on-the-Brazos when the Declaration of Independence was signed March 2, 1836. it was also flown in the Battle of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846.

In 1936, Texas's Centennial Year, a monument was erected, by the State of Texas in memory of Sarah Bradley Dodson at Bedias, Texas.

Nannie Quirl, orphaned in infancy, was raised by her grandmother. She married Charles William Morgan, whose father had a shipping line. He was known to have shipped the first camels to Indianola, Texas.

Mrs. Morgan moved to Yoakum in 1902. She operated a rooming and boarding house called the "Morgan House';' on the corner or West Gonzales and Front St. Her daughter, Nell (2-4-1889), graduated from Yoakum High School in 1907. Nell met Herman "Sooky" Seekamp at the "Morgan House" when he came to Yoakum in 1907. A veteran of the Spanish-American War, he was a brakeman on the S.A.A.P. Railroad. They married in the year of 1907. "Sooky" was a farmer, rancher, horse and mule trader, a Mason, a Shriner, a Knight Templar, and a De Witt County Commissioner of Precinct #2 for twenty four years. He was instrumental in building Highway 111 from Edna to Hochheim via Yoakum and also the underpass here in Yoakum connecting the two sections. He also influenced the location of the District #13 Highway Department in Yoakum.

"Sooky" and Nell were blessed with a son, Charles Seekamp (10-21-10). He was a Yoakum High Graduate of 1927, a member of the De Molay and Fireman Band. He also played in the Bennie Prause Orchestra. He graduated as a petroleum engineer from the University of Texas in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was an engineer for the Railroad Commission, State Land Office and Stanolind Oil and Gas Co. He was a 25 year Mason, a Shriner, a Boy Scout Master, owner and operator of Seekamp Construction in Yoakum and a franchise dealer of "Alicia" Bermuda Grass.

Charles married Joyce Kopecky of Moulton. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Kopecky. Mr. Kopecky was a pharmacist and the owner of Kopecky Drug Store until 1937. Charles and Joyce were blessed with four sons: Charles Herman, John Frank, Joe Ray, and Craig Morgan. Charles Herman resides in Yoakum, John Frank in South Carolina, Joe Ray in San Antonio and Craig Morgan in the Stratton Community. Their families are listed in the Seekamp history.

by Helen M. Seekamp

MORGAN, KOS

F643

Kos Morgan.

Kosciusko (Kos) Morgan was born July 25, 1884, in Lagarto, Live Oak County, Texas. He was the fourth child of Charles William Palmer Morgan and Nannie Harriet Quirl Morgan. He was named Kosciusko after his paternal grandfather, who was named after the Polish national hero and military leader in the American Revolutionary Army.

His father passed away when Kos was only eight years old, and his mother was hard-pressed to support the family of five children, four of whom were girls. For several years she operated a hotel in Yoakum. The other children were Charles Marion (Mamie) Morgan Chandler (1877-1973), Caroline M. (Carrie) Morgan Kunetka (1880-1965), Zella May (Dot) Morgan Simpson (1882-1978), and Nellie Craig (Nell) Morgan Seekamp (1889-1982). A sixth child, Charles, was born in 1887 but survived for only a few days.

In his early twenties Kos Morgan moved to DeWitt County and settled in Yoakum, where he and his brother-in-law, Frank W. Kunetka, operated a grocery store. In 1908 the two men bought their first land from H.E. Lancaster. It is located ten miles north of Cuero on the Guadalupe River. Here they engaged in ranching and farming.

Kos Morgan married Inez Preston on the Preston Ranch near Cheapside on April 24, 1912. They both lived on the Morgan Ranch for the rest of their lives, and all three of their daughters were born there. They are Ellyce Morgan Hansen (b. 1914), Melba Morgan Fly (b. 1918), and Doris Morgan Steele (b. 1920).

Kos Morgan died on November 26, 1955, and Inez Preston Morgan died on September 11, 1986. Both were buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

Ellyce Morgan married Frederick Louis Hansen in 1937. They had three children. Their older son, Fred Morgan Hansen, (b. 1940) a dentist, married Marian Bryant Cole in 1965. Their two children are William Schuyler Hansen (b. 1968) and Katrine Elise Hansen (b. 1972). Subsequently, in 1988, Fred Morgan married Melinda Lacy. Frank Louis Hansen was born in 1944. He was an orthodontist and practiced in Houston until his death in 1980, resulting from an airplane accident on a hunting trip in the Yukon Territory, Canada. Frank Louis was born in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Lisa Caroline Hansen (b. 1952) married Walter Grant Braly, a surgeon, in 1978. Their children are Frank Hansen Braly (b. 1982), Houston Lee Braly II (b. 1984), and Morgan Fain Braly (b. 1987).

Melba Morgan married Walter Lamar Fly in 1938. Their son, William Lamar Fly, an attorney, was born in 1941, and their daughter, Susan D'Ette Fly, an educator, was born in 1943. William Lamar married Paula Cole in 1971. Their daughters are Susan Inez Fly (b. 1974) and Kelly Elizabeth Fly (b. 1979). Susan E'Ette married Robert Kyle Cowan, a banker, in 1964. Their three sons are Robert Kyle Cowan (b. 1964), Claiborne Lamar Cowan (b. 1968), and Benjamin Miller Cowan (b. 1977).

Doris Morgan married Richard Andre Steele, a military officer, in 1944. Their oldest daughter, Katherine Ann Steele (b. 1946), married Mamiliano James Rodriguez, a dentist, in 1970. Their children are Nicole Katherine (b. 1977) and Mamiliano Joshua (b. 1979). Their oldest son, Richard Andre Steele II (b. 1950), a sales manager, married Lois Faye Luedeker in 1974. There were no children by that marriage. Their second daughter, Mary Eileen Steele (b. 1951), married Gary Forrest Cox, a physician, in 1976. Their children are Justin Forrest (b. 1980) and Lauren Morgan (b. 1983).

Doris and Richard Steele's second son, Robert Michael Steele (b. 1954), an administrative technician, has not married. The third daughter, Nancy Gayle Steele (b. 1959), and Robert Hugh Bowman, a sales manager, were married in 1983. Their daughter, Jacqueline Marie, was born in 1985, and their son, John Christopher, was born in 1986.

by Melba M. Fly

Drs. KLEINECKE & MUELLER

...DENTISTS....

Office upstairs over old Postoffice

Office hours, 8:30 to 12 & 1 to 5

MORRISON, JOHN H. AND MARY ANN OVERSTREET

F644

Mary Ann Overstreet Morrison ca. 1850

John H. Morrison ca. 1850

John H. Morrison, born 18 Jan. 1798, either in Kentucky or at Rocky River settlement, N. Carolina, was a descendant of the Scottish houses of Stewart and Stuart and of Sir Robert Morrison. The Morrisons were millers by trade as well as farmers. John H. married first in 1818, to Elizabeth Baker (born 23 Feb. 1802) and had the following children: Wesley R. (5 June 1820), William C. (8 Aug. 1822), James M. (8 Aug. 1827), Sherman H. (2 Feb. 1829) and a baby (born 10 July 1831 and died 25 Sept. 1831). Elizabeth never recovered from the birth and death of the baby and she died 28 Feb. 1832.

John Wingfield Morrison, Elizabeth Morrison Wyatt and Wellington Wingfield Morrison

James Edward Morrison, Maude Morrison, Lucy Ann Elizabeth (Cox) Morrison and Annie Lee Morrison.

John H. married a second time, on 18 Dec. 1833, to Mary Ann Overstreet (born 28 Feb. 1815). Born to this union were Louisa J. (22 Sept. 1834), Elizabeth F. (18 March 1836), John Wingfield (14 Jan. 1838), Mary Ann (13 Dec. 1839), Margaret E. (18 Feb. 1842), Robert H. (4 Nov. 1843), Matison B. Chelton (30 Dec. 1844), Martha DeMay (7 July 1845), Susan P. (8 July 1850) and Wellington Wingfield (8 Aug. 1852).

By 1840, John H. Morrison appears on the Holmes Co., MS census as head of a family consisting of 1 male under 5, 2 males 10-15, 1 male 15-20, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 40-50, 3 females under 5, 2 females 5-10, 1 female 10-15, 1 female 15-20, 1 female 20-30, 1 female 30-40 and 1 female 50-60 years old.

The Holmes Co., MS census for 1850 found John H. and Mary Ann Overstreet Morrison and family living in Lexington Police Beat as follows: John H. (52, farmer), Mary Ann (35), James (22, student), Sherman (24, farmer), John (12), Robert (6), Matison (3), Louisa J. (16), Elizabeth (14), Mary Ann (10), Margaret (8) and Martha (4).

In the 1850's, John Morrison moved his family to DeWitt Co., TX, where they settled on Irish Creek. However, the family had moved their mill to Seguin, in Guadalupe Co., TX. before Mary Ann Overstreet Morrison died on 18 Feb. 1859. The 1860 Guadalupe Co., TX census found John H. (62) still at Seguin with real estate and personal estate valued at $10,335 and $3,740. John Wingfield (22, farmer), Margaret (18), Robert (17, student), Martha (14), Matison (12) and Wellington (8) were still living with their father.

William C. Morrison married Josephine Friley on 28 Aug. 1849. Elizabeth F. Morrison married Luther H. Wyatt 10 Feb. 1853 and had John W., Molly (married Burnett), Reed and Lee Wyatt. Robert Goode and Louisa J. Morrison were married at 8 p.m. 12 Feb. 1857, by Rev. Dr. Castles and had 1 son, Edward Goode. Mary Ann Morrison and Burnnett G. Henderson were married by Rev. Wm. H. Crutcher 14 Sept. 1859 and had Burnnett, Jr. and Mary Henderson. On 12 Feb. 1861, John Wingfield Morrison and Mary I. Alexander were married by Rev. A. Herron. Robert H. Morrison and Maggie I.A. Burnsides were married 9 Dec. 1862 by Rev. Wm. Hamilton. Margaret E. Morrison and A.P. Bowles were married in 1864 and had twin sons, John and Oscar, and Pinkie Bowles. Rev. Nelson Ayres and Martha DeMay Morrison were married at St. Andrews church, Bryan, TX on 2 June 1873, by Rt. Rev. Alex Gregg, and had Morrison, Nelson, Beatrice and George Ayres. Matison B. Chelton Morrison married Mary Ann on 18 Nov. 1869 and had John Wingfield, William Chelton, Nora B., Dora, Ocie J.W. and Matison B. Chelton Morrison, Jr. Wellington Wingfield Morrison married on 9 Dec. 1876 to Lucy Anne Elizabeth Cox (daughter of John R. and Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox) and had James Edward, Annie Lee (married Applegate), Maude (married Robie), Robert Wellington and Lula Viola (married Rainbolt). Mary Ann Morrison Henderson married secondly to a Mr. Cotton and had 1 son, Clarence Cotton. John Wingfield Morrison married secondly on 11 June 1869, at Helena, Karnes Co., TX. to Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox Rhymes (daughter of George Monroe and Lucy H. Reese and mother of Lucy Anne Elizabeth Cox, wife of W.W. Morrison). From this union came Wellington Walter, Martha Viola (married Powell), Mary Lula, Stella Francis (married Smalley) and Lena Zenobia Morrison (married A.A.G. Henry Byram).

John H. (82) appears on the 1880 Guadalupe Co., Tx census with the John Wingfield and Mary Ann Morrison family. However, some time in 1881, the Morrison mill blew up and shortly thereafter, the family moved to near San Antonio, where John H. Morrison died on 20 Dec. 1884.

by Mrs. Marianne E.H. Little

MORRISON, JOHN WINGFIELD AND MARY JANE VICTORIA REESE COX RHYMES

F645

John Wingfield Morrison

Mary Jane Reese Cox Rhymes Morrison – Yorktown, Tx. ca. 1880

John W. Morrison was born 14 Jan. 1838, probably at Rocky River Settlement, N. Carolina, to John H. Morrison and his second wife, Mary Ann Overstreet Morrison. The Morrisons were millers by trade as well as farmers. By 1840, John H. and Mary Ann Morrison had moved to Holmes Co., MS. The 1850 Holmes Co., MS census found the family living in Lexington Police Beat. During the 1850's, John H. moved his family to DeWitt Co., TX, where they settled on Irish Creek; however, they had moved again, to Seguin, Guadalupe Co., TX before Mary Ann Overstreet Morrison died on 18 Feb. 1859.

Mary I. Alexander and John Wingfield Morrison were married by Rev. A. Herron on 12 Feb. 1861, but she died soon thereafter.

John Wingfield married secondly at Helena, Karnes Co., TX on 11 June 1869, to Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox Rhymes (daughter of George Monroe and Lucy H. Reese and mother of Lucy Ann Elizabeth Cox, who married W.W. Morrison). Wellington Walter Morrison was born 4 June 1872, Martha Viola was born 11 Feb. 1874, Mary Lula was born 16 March 1876, Stella Francis was born 20 Dec. 1878 and Lena Zenobia Morrison was born 21 Feb. 1881, in San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX.

The 1870 and 1880 Guadalupe Co., TX census found John W. and Mary Jane Morrison and family at Seguin, where John W. operated a mill and farmed with his father, John H. Morrison. His father-in-law, George Monroe Reese, Jr. and mother-in-law, Lucy H. Reese, had a farm next to them.

Late in 1880, or in Jan. 1881, the Morrison's mill blew up and John W. moved his family, his father and the George Reese family to San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX., where his youngest daughter, Lena Zenobia Morrison, was born 21 Feb. 1881. The family settled near San Antonio where John H. Morrison died on 20 Dec. 1884. John Wingfield Morrison died on 14 Oct. 1893.

Wellington Walter Morrison had no descendants, nor did his sister, Mary Lula. Martha DeMay "Mattie" Morrison married a Mr. Powell and had Reginald, Wilber Ray (Tom), Loyse and Lucille Powell. Stella Francis Morrison married Maurice Ervin Smalley and had Maurice, Muriel, Louise, Marshall and Esther. Lena Zenobia Morrison married Presley Randolph Byram, son of A.A. Henry and Jane Harriet Agnes House Byram, on 28 May 1900, at Davy, DeWitt Co., TX. They had one son who died as an infant and Muriel Morrison Byram, born 20 Oct. 1902, Davy, DeWitt Co., TX. Muriel Morrison Byram married August Blanton Hartmann 21 Nov. 1923 at Davy, DeWitt Co., TX.

Mary Jane Victoria Reese Cox Rhymes Morrison lived with Presley Randolph and Lena Zenobia Morrison Byram at Davy, DeWitt Co., TX until her death on 4 June 1917. Her grave remains unmarked (but covered with concrete) and is next to the graves of her daughter, Lena Z.M. Byram (died 23 Nov. 1943), and her son-in-law, Presley Randolph Byram (died 24 May 1947), in Salt Creek Cemetery, Davy, DeWitt Co., TX. The Byram graves have markers; however, their infant son's grave is not marked. All four graves are in a row and the entire surface of the four plots is covered with concrete.

by Marianne Little

MORROW, STERLING AND JEAN

F646

Morrows are descended from James Morrow (born 1812 North Carolina), settled in Missouri and came to Grayson County, Texas where he farmed in the 1860's. His son Thomas Jefferson (b. 1843 Douglas Co. Mo.), who served in the Civil War, came to DeWitt County in 1867 and settled in the Sandy Fork area. He married Margaret Jane Webb (b. 1844, Ill.) in Greenville, Texas. Their son, Marcus Morrow (b. 8-22-1869 DeWitt Co.) in 1890, married Mary Emma "Molly" Parker (b. 1869) daughter of

Gerhardt H. Mueller was born 19 November, 1874 in Jarde, Oldenburg, Germany to Meine Mueller and Sophie Kathering Hoepken. Five children were born — M.G., Dick, Benhardt, Eilert and Gerhardt. Sophie died and Meine married Helen Wilhelmine Brand. Three children were born — John, Martha, and Marie. All the boys came to America, but Martha and Marie stayed in Oldenburg. Gerhardt came to America in 1890 and first engaged in farming near Shiner.

Louise, known as Lillie, was born 23 August, 1879 near Westhoff, a daughter of a prominent pioneer family of DeWitt County, Frederick Goehring and wife, nee Ernestine Hoffman. She was the seventh child, having six sisters and four brothers — Lena Mozal, Augusta Leubert, Marie Bolting, Berthold, Sophia Stolleis, Paul, Agnes Thieme, Otto, Alma Buesing, and Olga Meyer.

On 12 October, 1897, Gerhardt and Lillie married in Cuero and lived in the farming communities of Garfield, Westhoff, and Nordheim. In July, 1905, because of ill health, he sold the farm they were living on, to his brother, M.G. Mueller and bought the home of Paul Jacob in Nordheim. He took charge of a beer agency and moved to town. In 1909, Richard Schroller and he bought a soda water bottling company in Runge. Lillie and Gerhardt moved to a new home they had built in Nordheim where he died 29 December 1911. Lillie and her family moved to San Antonio in 1919, and she lived there for forty-four years. She died in Yorktown 5 September, 1963. Gerhardt and Lillie had three children.

Laura Jane was born 21 July, 1898 in Yorktown and married Emil Dietrich Janssen 20 November, 1919 in San Antonio. They had two children — Carroll James and Joanna Louise Janssen Moore. Their stories are given separately.

Alvin Gerhardt Mueller was born 16 May, 1900 in Westhoff and moved to Nordheim in 1902. As a young man he worked in the oil fields in Tampico, Mexico until they were nationalized by the Mexican government. He returned to San Antonio to work and married Martha Mary Habenicht 7 August, 1943 in Boerne. She was born 1 October, 1906 in Bandera. They moved to Bogota, Columbia, where Alvin again worked in the oil fields. He retired in 1953 returning to San Antonio where he operated a lock and key business from their home. Al and Martha enjoyed traveling and loved to visit their customers throughout the state. Alvin died 10 September 1966.

Edna Louise was born in Nordheim 5 March, 1906. She was married 8 August, 1923 to Louis Herman (Tige) Fechner in Corpus Christi. He was born in Yorktown 10 September, 1902 to Mr. & Mrs. Caesar W. Fechner. They had two daughters while living in Yorktown. Helen Louise, born 1 August, 1924 and Gloria Ann, born 1 December, 1925, died 4 May, 1963 in Bishop. The family moved to El Paso where Louis operated the Fechner Brake & Motor Garage. There he died 13 December, 1939. Edna moved her family back to San Antonio where they lived with her mother. She became a hairdresser. Edna later married Ross L. Davis on 15 November 1941, and they celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1966. Ross was a mechanic and operated various service stations in that city. They loved to bowl and were active in many leagues until her death 26 April, 1967.

by Joanna Moore

MUELLER, JOHANN FRIEDRICH AND JOHANNA CAROLINE FLORENTINE (NEE HEINRICH)

F649

Johann Friedrich Mueller was born May 1, 1827 in Eichwerder, Prussia. He entered the 8th Infantry Regiment, Oct. 8, 1844; was discharged to the reserve Oct. 1, 1846; served as reservist in the 8th Infantry Regiment to Oct. 25, 1848; transferred to 1st Contingent Nov. 1, 1849, and was discharged Oct. 1, 1856. He died and was buried in Germany about 1870.

Johann Friedrich Mueller married Johanna Caroline Florentine Heinrich in Prussia. Florentine was born Nov. 20, 1823 in Eichwerder, Prussia, daughter of Ludwig and Sophie (Riebler) Heinrich. Johann and Florentine had 8 children: Wilhelmine Mueller, Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Mueller, Wilhelmine Henriette Mueller, Johann Ludwig Herman Mueller, Carl Ludwig Berthold Mueller, Johanna Hulda Berthaon Mueller, Johann Friedrich Ferdinand Mueller, and Johann Friedrich Mueller.

In 1872, Florentine Mueller and 7 of her children left Hamburg, Germany and immigrated to the United States. They settled in the Meyersville area, where she bought 198 acres of land in DeWitt Co. on the Five Mile Colette Creek part of the John F. Pettus survey. In 1897, after her children were grown and left home, she sold this land to Fred Sievers, Sr. She had a small house built on her daughter's, Hulda Mueller Post, farm. After several years, Florentine had this house moved (using two wagons drawn by 4 mules) near her son William Mueller's home at Arneckeville where she and her daughter, Wilhelmine Henriette Mueller lived until she died, Nov. 22, 1905. She was buried on the Arneckeville Cemetery, Arneckeville, Tex.

Florentine's oldest child, Wilhelmine Mueller came to the U.S. in 1871. She was born Aug. 12, 1848 and died Aug. 11, 1932, Cuero, Tex. and was buried on Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. She married William Trautwein Aug. 3, 1871 in DeWitt Co. William was born Feb. 22, 1839 in Vaihingen Wuertenberg, Germany, died April 1, 1915, Cuero, and was buried on Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1854. He had a son, Louis Trautwein and a daughter, Sophie Trautwein Walters, by a previous marriage. Wilhelmine and William had two children: Albert Trautwein (1877-1960) and Louise Trautwein Knocke (1878-1944).

Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Mueller (William) was born Oct. 5, 1847 and died July 11, 1927, Arneckeville. He married Fredericke M. Klopf on Feb. 21, 1882 at Arneckeville. Friedericke was born Aug. 20, 1859 and died April 4, 1942 at Arneckeville. William and Friedericke had 15 children: Fred (Fritz) Mueller, John F. Mueller, Leopold Mueller, Henry John Mueller, Willie Mueller, Julius F. Mueller, August Leonard Mueller, Katherine Marie Lena Mueller Hoffman, Louis Mueller, Josephine Mueller Sievers, Emil Robert Mueller, Clarence Mueller, Mary Mueller Schulze, Emelie Mueller Eichhorn, and Bertha Mueller Atzenhoefer. William Mueller hauled freight from Indianola to San Antonio, Tex. and was a farmer.

Wilhelmine Henriette Mueller was born Jan. 16, 1852 and died Sept. 7, 1905 at Arneckeville, Tex. She did not marry.

Johann Ludwig Mueller was born May 29, 1854. He settled in Wilson County, Tex., married, and had no children.

Carl Ludwig Berthold Mueller was born May 1, 1857 and died Sept. 28, 1920 at Runge, Tex. He married Caroline Klopf Oct. 14, 1883. Caroline was born Aug. 18, 1862 and died Oct. 9, 1949 at Runge, Tex. Carl and Caroline had 9 children: Marie Cornelia Mueller, Alice Mueller Gerdes, Charles Mueller, Ludwig Mueller (Lewis E.), Bert Mueller, Albert Bonham Mueller, Alfred Mueller, Theodore Mueller, and Frances Mueller Kokes. Carl owned and operated a grist mill, a planning mill, and waterwork plant at Runge, Tex., and was a farmer.

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by Alberta M. Wieland and Alfreda Huck

MUELLER, JOHN D.W. FAMILY

F650

John D.W. Mueller was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on April 8, 1878, to Diedrich B. and Marie Martins Mueller. He came to America at the age of 8 years with his parents and one brother Henry and a sister Katie in 1887 landing first in Baltimore and directly to Galveston, Texas. They first stopped at Sweet Home and later at Shiner and Dryer. During that time John had two more brothers, Diedrich and Kart, and a sister Mathilda. Diedrich died in 1918 and Marie in 1935, and are buried in the Shiner Cemetery.

On December 20, 1900 John married Johanna Thielengerdes, daughter of Gerhardt Thielengerdes. She came to America from Grand Dulcy, Oldenberg, Germany in 1889 with her father and two brothers, Fritz and Alfred. She was born on January 27, 1879 and was ten

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On December 20, 1900 John married Johanna Thielengerdes, daughter of Gerhardt Thielengerdes. She came to America from Grand Dulcy, Oldenberg, Germany in 1889 with her father and two brothers, Fritz and Alfred. She was born on January 27, 1879 and was ten

John D.W. and Johanna (Thielen Gerdes) Mueller

years old at that time. She was confirmed in New Bieleau Lutheran Church near Weimar in 1893. They farmed in the Shiner and Moulton area until 1912 when they moved to a farm south of Nordheim. A daughter Alma was born to them on May 19, 1902. She married Eddie Stoever who was a member of the Nordheim Brass Band as well as numerous dance bands. They farmed first and then did carpenter work. They had two daughters – Georgia Mae who married Lindberg Voelkel. They have a son Glenn and a daughter Joy Lynn who married David Garcia. Daughter Lois married Reinhold Eichhorn. They have a daughter Pamela Sue who married Vic Kocian and a son Ronald who married Tina Bonersbach. Eddie died in 1982 and Alma in 1985.

Son Alfred was born Aug. 2, 1905. He married Elsa Harbers. They first farmed in Shiner and later moved to Nordheim also. They had a son Leroy who married Lillian Berger. They have one son Larry. Daughter Joyce married Phillip Fritz and they have a son and daughter.

Son Rudolph was born in 1908 and married Lillian Scharfe. He was custodian and bus driver for the Nordheim School District for 35 years without an accident. They had two children, Kenneth who married Laura Crowell and they have two daughters, Lorene and Nichole. Daughter Gloria Jean married Telvy Robbins and have five children, Leslie Lynn, Chris, Jim Bob, Lori, and Corilee. Rudolph died Nov. 14, 1977.

Son Louis was born on Augusts 23, 1910 and married Mary Habrnal. Louis worked and was manager of the Farmers Co-Op of Nordheim for 35 years. They had no children. Mary died Nov. 25, 1979 and Louis on Feb. 2, 1988.

Son Walter was born and died in 195?.

Son Edmund was born on Dec. 20, 1918. When he was 3 days old, on Dec. 23, his mother died of pneumonia complicated by childbirth. Helpful neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. William Leister, stepped in and took the infant Edmund home with them until the family could overcome their great loss. More about Edmund later.

Several years later John married Mary Berger. She had two daughters, Selma and Agnes from a previous marriage. She and John had another daughter Lorraine. Selma married Edgar Kerlick and they had three children – Carol, Bobby and Cindi. Agnes married Harry Huber and they had three children – Charles, Harriet, and Patricia. Lorraine married Norman Fenner and they have one daughter Janice Kay who married H.S. Colvin and have a son, Nathan. Mary died in 1928.

Again John remarried. This time to Martha Scharfe. She had a son Emil and a daughter Lillian who married Rudolph. Martha died in 1956.

Edmund now grew up in Nordheim going to school the. As a young man he joined the CCC and was stationed in Arizona. In 1940 he joined the army where he was a cook in the 9th RGT. 2nd Infantry. On Nov. 10, 1941 he married Mildred Lee Huck. On Dec. 6, 1941 he was transferred to the Airforce at Kelly Field and was sent from there on Christmas eve to Harlingen Air Base where he cooked in the officers Mess Hall until 1945. A son Gary was born on Aug. 24, 1942. In April 1945, Edmund was sent to Lowry Field, Colorado, for Aircraft Turret Gunnery Training. He was spared from going overseas by Japan's surrender. He was discharged from the Army in Nov. 1945 as a Staff Sergeant, returning to Nordheim where his wife Mildred and son Gary were. Son Gary also served in the Army-Air Force in the 1960's stationed in Ethiopia for three years. He married Nancy Wilson on June 28, 1969 and they have one son, Jason, born on Jan. 15, 1978. Daughter Sandra Lea born May 20, 1947, married William J. Fronek on March 15, 1967 and they have one son Wilbur and daughter Janet. Daughter Sharon was born on Oct. 13, 1948 and is married to Jeffrey Thompson on Dec. 26, 1979. They have a daughter Jennifer Marie and a son Christopher Paul. Sharon has two sons, Brian and Brent by a previous marriage. The third daughter, Lerna Kay, was born on Oct. 27, 1952 and married David Hansel on May 1, 1983. They have two sons, Matthew William and Joshua Edmund.

Edmund first farmed for a few years after returning home but then went in carpenter work and worked for the Blaschke Lumber Co. for 18 years before his retirement. He still enjoys his wood crafts as a hobby as did his father. John died on June 27, 1958.

by Mildred Lee Mueller

MUELLER, WALTER ANTON

F651

(1893-1977)

Walter Anton Mueller was born on October 11, 1893, the sixth child in the family of nine children born to German immigrants Heinrich "Henry" August Mueller and Catherine Struabe Mueller, in Little Chicago, near the Gruenau community in northwest DeWitt County, Texas. His father was a farmer and all the children were expected to help in the fields when possible. They farmed with mules, making exact straight rows. Cotton and corn were the main crops. When not working on the farm, Walter went to school in a one-room schoolhouse about one-quarter of a mile from the

Lizzie and Walter A. Mueller, wedding picture 1919.

Mueller home. He completed the fourth grade with Mr. Langley as his school teacher.

When Walter was eleven years old, his father died. Five years later, his mother died. The older children took care of the younger children with the help of their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Stanchos.

During World War I, Walter served in the US Cavalry, however, his regiment never left San Antonio Texas due to a quarantine. He returned home after the war and married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ann Seidel on December 3, 1919. She was the daughter of Paul Seidel, Sr. and Meta Bargman Seidel.

Selling his inherited land in Little Chicago to his brother, Walter and Lizzie then purchased 180 acres for $125.00/acre near Nopal, Texas in 1920. Helping in the financing of the land was Paula Roewe. They began building their home in 1920, the home they lived in all their lives. The builders were the Roewe Brothers, Robert and Bill. They sawed all the wood by hand and numbered the boards before starting to build the 1800-plus sq. ft. structure.

He farmed and ranched here raising cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens and turkeys. The Depression hit hard causing the Muellers to lose all of their money in the bank. However, they later acquired more acreage in the area.

The first automobile the Mueller's owned was a Ford Model T, taking excellent care of it and only driving it to church on Sundays. During the week, it was jacked up to save the tires.

On February 13, 1921, their first child, Elden Walter Mueller, was born. During World War II, Elden served as a flight officer with the US Air Force. On February 22, 1945 he was killed in a glider accident in Torres, France.

On September 15, 1932, their second child, Arlen Paul Mueller, was born. Arlen married Barbara Egg on June 9, 1956 and on May 11, 1958 Walter and Lizzie became grandparents at the ages of 54 and 53 years. Four more grandchildren followed. Walter delighted in taking care of his grandchildren and was a proud Grandpa. He taught them how to hunt, fish, drive a truck and to love the country.

Walter was also a lifelong member of the Gruenau Schuetzen Verein and a member of the St. John Lutheran Church in Westhoff.

As a young child, Walter was taught the German card game of Skat. This game was played only by the men at family gatherings such as birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. This game was also passed down to his three grandsons.

Walter Mueller passed away on July 27, 1977 and his wife, Lizzie, died on June 26, 1980. They are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas. Their home place, and other pastures they owned, are now owned by their son Arlen and wife Barbara Mueller of Meyersville.

by Melissa Moore

MUGGE, EDWARD "EDU" AND MABEL

F652

Mabel (Hall) Breeden Mugge, Turkey Trot Sultana 1922.

Edu and Mabel Mugge were a very devoted couple and they enjoyed doing many things together.

Mr. Mugge was born in Cuero December 8, 1903, the second child of Henry August Mugge (1871-1918) and Mary "Mayne" (Wooford) Mugge (1877-1958). Both were from early pioneer families of Indianola and DeWitt County. Edu Mugge married Mrs. Charles Goodwin Breeden, the former Mabel Claire Hall, June 6, 1929 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio. The Right Reverend Everett Holland Jones officiated at the marriage ceremony. Bishop Jones was the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero at the time.

Mr. Mugge was educated in the Cuero Public Schools and at the University of Texas in Austin. He was affiliated with the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. Mr. Mugge was associated with Mobil Oil Company for forty-one years which he operated along with Mobil Motors, an Oldsmobile company. Edu died June 22, 1972 in Cuero. He had been very active in Grace Episcopal Church serving as lay-leader and on the vestry.

Edward Mugge

Mabel (Hall) Breeden Mugge

Mrs. Mugge, Mabel Claire Hall, was born in Cuero August 6, 1895, from an early Texas family. Her father was Harmon Hall (b. 1867 d. 6-21-1901), son of Charles Hall (b. 1804 d. 1868) and a very English mother, Rose Adelaide (King) Hall (b. 7-8-1873 d. 2-6-1899). Mrs. Mugge's parents both died in Sulphur, Louisiana when she and her sister Lola were very young. They were reared by their maternal grandparents, the Rev. & Mrs. George K. King in Cuero. Mabel often quoted the antedotes of her grandparents such as "haste makes waste" or "too many cooks spoil the broth". Her love of cats reached back to her childhood. She let her cat in the second story window when he climbed the big oak tree and meowed. Her grandfather could not understand why Mabel's cat was in the house every morning.

Mabel went to school at John C. French before going to San Antonio Female Institute and on to Cornell Institute in San Marcos. She married Charles G. Breeden December 15, 1915 in San Antonio. The couple trained to New Orleans where they sailed on the *S.S. Excelsior* to Havanna, Cuba for their wedding trip. In 1922, Mabel was the fourth Sultana to the Cuero Turkey Trot. The Sultan was Friench Tarkington. Mabel Mugge died June 4, 1974. She too was a member of Grace Episcopal Church. Mrs. Mugge's daughters were Mabel Clair Breeden (b. 11-22-1916 d. 2-1981) wife of John Junior Bell (b. 5-15-1910 d. 1-24-1963) and Rosemary Kibbe Breeden (b. 8-1-1919 d.) wife of Frederick David Kokernot (b. 8-25-1916 d.). The grandchildren were claimed by both Edu and Mabel. They are Martha Gay Kokernot (b. 11-2-1941) wife of Shannon Ratliff I (b. 9-15-39) and Mabel Joy Kokernot (b. 3-1-1943).

Mabel Mugge was born with a great zest for life. Both Mabel and Edu enjoyed their family and friends. Many will remember their warm hospitality.

by Rosemary Kokernot

MUGGE, EDWARD FAMILY

F653

Edward Mugge

Edward Mugge was one of the three men prominently associated with the business house of H.R. Runge and Company along with Emil Reiffert and William Frobese. He was born November 7, 1839 in Germany and was a member of one of the early pioneer families in Texas. He came to Texas to join his brother Julius who had become a Texan several years before and who after spending some years in DeWitt County, finally moved to San Antonio. Later Edward was joined by a younger brother, Carl Mugge, who became a DeWitt County farmer and died unmarried. In 1874 Edward moved to Cuero from Indianola and extended

the Runge Company's business in merchandising and stock ranching. He died May 16, 1897, at the age of 57 years.

He was married to Pauline Blumenthal in New York June 17, 1867. She was born in Schnackenburg, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, November 14, 1840 and died in Cuero, September 2, 1920. Their children were: 1. Edward, Jr. who died in 1908. He was married to Mildred Hutchenson of Houston and had a daughter, Pauline, who lived in New York City. 2. Lillie who was born July 4, 1870 and died May 17, 1900. She married Oscar Reuss who was born March 7, 1861 and died March 24, 1908. Their children were Theodore, Joe, Pauline, John (Hans), and Bertha. 3. Henry A. Mugge was born Oct. 8, 1871 in Indianola and died in 1918. He was at one time Mayor of Cuero. He married Mayme Wofford April 17, 1900 and their five children were Margaret, Edward, Katherine, Henry and John Wofford Mugge. 4. Anna who was born August 9, 1875 and died Dec. 24, 1933. She married Walter Reiffert, Sr. Feb. 20, 1901 and they had four children: Walter, Jr., James, Ralph and Mildred Alma. 5. Oscar J. Mugge who was born Oct. 1, 1876 and died Oct. 12, 1918. He was a doctor. 6. Fred Theodore Mugge who was born Aug. 1, 1880 and died May 4, 1960. He married Hilda Reiffert who was born Aug. 17, 1885 in Indianola and died June 1, 1980 in Cuero. Their son was Fred Mugge, born May 16, 1916 and died Nov. 30, 1983. He was unmarried.

To the grandchildren, Edward and Pauline were known as "Opa" and "Oma".

The Edward Mugge house was built in the 1870's. The home was originally built with seven rooms. Three of these rooms were milled in Saint Louis and assembled here in Cuero. Over the years, Mr. Mugge made additions as surprise gifts to his wife, Pauline. The house grew to fifteen rooms, five halls and three porches. On the grounds were a summerhouse, greenhouse, wash house, smokehouse and a huge underground cistern (still existent). Also, on the grounds were a carriage house and stables which later became a garage for some of the first automobiles in Cuero. It still has a three foot iron fence on two sides of the property. The Mugge house can be seen on the 200 block of South Terrell Street and illustrates the history of its builder and its period.

by James M. Reiffert

MURPHREE, DAVID AND MARGARETTA (PATTON)

F654

Judge David Murphree, son of Stephen and Rebecca Brooks Murphree, was born in Tennessee in 1811. He moved to Texas in 1834 and was a volunteer under Ben Milam at Bexar in 1835. The Alamo fell while Murphree carried out orders to scout Fannin's whereabouts. At the Battle of San Jacinto Lt. Murphree earned recognition and a 640 acre land certificate.

In 1837 he served as clerk to Gail Borden, collector of customs at Galveston. In 1838 he was president of the Board of Land Commissioners for Bexar County. In 1839 David Murphree's parents traveled by flat boat to New Orleans and by Gulf Steamer to Linnville. They made their home in Victoria for a number of years.

Judge David Murphree

From 1840, for several years, Judge Murphree was chief justice of Victoria County. While serving as justice, he assisted in the pursuit of the Commanche Band which burned Linnville. Later he served in the Vasquez Campaign of 1842 (as a Major) and in the Somerville Expedition. His last military experience was on the Indianola Coast during the War Between the States.

David married Margaretta Patton, who was born in Kentucky in 1824. Her parents moved to Texas before the Revolution and settled at Columbia.

"Point Evergreen," Judge Murphree's home on Price's Creek was completed in 1848. There with the help of his negro slaves he raised fine, thoroughbred horses, mules, and some cattle.

Three sons were born to the judge and his wife. Alex, born in 1845, was killed while on guard duty at the Battle of Pleasant Hill in 1864; James Owen (1847-1923); and John Charles (1858-1944).

In 1866 Judge Murphree sent 250 horses and mules to Missouri under the supervision of Captain Harvey Cunningham. The judge traveled by boat. He was killed on the outskirts of Osceola, Missouri, simply because he was a Texan and happened to arrive during a post war sectional quarrel. His body was buried in Missouri.

James Owen Murphree, stockman and farmer (1847-1923), married Lulu Smith (1853-1938), daughter of David's sister, Virginia F. Murphree Smith. Seven children grew up in the home that Jim built in 1881 on his share of the Judge Murphree Estate; five died in infancy. The children who survived were:

(1) David Murphree and his wife, the former Ella Coleman (1878-1943), had one son, David Douglas. David died in 1901. Douglas and his wife, Leona Nagel, had a son, D.D. Murphree, Jr., who married Rosemary and they had a daughter; and twin daughters, Mary (Mrs. Charles) Taylor (had four children) and Martha (Mrs. Ed Fitch) (had three children).

(2) Tom Murphree (1880-1959) first married Abbie Edgar. She died in 1905. He and his second wife, Ollie Neal, had a son and a daughter, Joseph Owen and Eunice. Joseph Owen and his wife, Sally, had one daughter, Bonnie. Eunice and her husband, Ralph Reiffert, had one daughter, Sandra Smythe, whose three daughters are Tracy, Cendi (Mrs. Buddy Wilson), and Samantha Smythe. Tom later married Annie Alexander Dunn.

(3) Nell "Nellie" Murphree (1882-1982)

(4) John Owen Murphree (1885-1986) and his wife, Jessie Tarter (1888-1972) had two sons, Hugh Owen and John Charles, and a daughter, Nell. Hugh and his wife, Erma, had three sons – Charles, Mace, and Barney. John and his wife, Bess Davenport, had two sons, John and Gary, and a daughter, Pat. The children of John and wife, Judy Blackaller, and a son, Brice, and a daughter, Cassie. Gary's children are a son, Lee, whose son is Colton, and a daughter, Terry. Pat and her husband, Lance Benbow, had two daughters, Kelly and McKey. Nell and her husband, Howard Holzheizer, had a daughter, Marjorie Lynne (Mrs. Willie Macon) with one son, Tommy Vincent Macon (1973-1981).

(5) Ben Murphree (1889-1960) married Mildred Burditt and they had one daughter, Louise.

(6) Robert Lee "Bob" Murphree (1891-1975).

(7) Ann Murphree (1896-1971).

John Charles Murphree (1858-1944), a farmer, sold his land to Mrs. Dorah Clegg after 1879. In 1885 he journeyed up the trail under A. Field as trail boss. Field was supervising the driving of 3400 beeves to the Wichita River. He and Ella Coleman Murphree (1878-1943), widow of his nephew, David, were married in 1905. They lived in Thomaston where their three children, Charles Patton (1907-1968), James Alex (1913-1984) and Margaraetta Coleman Murphree (1915-1983) were born. Charles Patton and his wife, the former Elizabeth Calliham, had one son, William Frederick "Bill". Bill and his wife, the former Sherry Jurline "Jerrie" Mathis had one daughter, Sherry Elizabeth (Mrs. Steven Wayne Johnson). James Alex "Jim" and his wife, Catherine, had no children. Margaretta "Gretta" and her husband, Jerome M. Stokes, had two sons, James Milton (wife, Sally), had four children, and William "Bill" (wife, Linda), had two children.

by Elizabeth C. Murphree

MUTI, JOHN

F655

John Muti was born on the Isle of Elba, Italy on July 17, 1835 and died September 25, 1910. He is buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. As a boy he worked on a boat and came to the United States. He landed in New Orleans, Louisiana. He married Arcelie D. Marie who was born on March 19, 1844 at Thibodaux, Louisiana. They married at Indianola, Texas on February 7, 1867. She died September 30, 1933.

Family stories tell of this couple starting in business with boarding houses, the first one on a dirt floor. When John was able financially, he brought his sister Maxia Muti Paoli and a brother, Ratli and others of his kin to America. Maxia is buried on the Muti lot at Hillside Cemetery. John and Arcelie, who was called "Lee", had no children. Being second oldest in the family of twelve, Lee Muti was generous and helped her family and her church when ever possible. She and John were devout Catholics and were instrumental in starting the Catholic Church in Cuero. John's fondest wish was to own a grand hotel, which he did.

The Muti Hotel in Cuero, was a very popular place and credit to our town. It was built in 1897 by McKnight Brothers of Hallettsville. The architects for the hotel were McAdoo and Wolley of San Antonio, Texas. The building was three stories with a basement. The dining hall said to be one of the prettiest in Texas was described by one writer as "a palatial feast hall". The lobby featured an octagon shaped rotunda with a beautifully tiled floor and stained woods of cherry and mahogany. More than half the forty guest rooms were provided with private baths and the entire building had steam heat. John Muti was praised for his enterprise and the Muti Hotel acquired the reputation of one of the finest hotels in South Texas. When John Muti died, the hotel was sold but continued to carry his name for many years.

by Clairice Marie Barnes

MYERS, SAMUEL AND MARY "POLLY" RANKIN

F656

Samuel Myers, born 6 September 1818 in Rankin County, Mississippi was the son of Isaac Myers and Gracie Leah Butler. He married 15 April 1838 in Rankin County, Miss. to Mary "Polly" Rankin, born 16 July 1819 in Washington County, Alabama. "Polly" Rankin was the daughter of John Keith and Elizabeth Butler Rankin.

A Samuel Myers arrived in Texas August 1840, received a class 3 land grant of 640 acres in Jasper County and was called into service in the War with Mexico June 9, 1846 by Governor J. Pinckney Henderson. He was listed in Captain James Gillaspie's Company, First Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers, Colonel J.C. Hayes, Commander.

Census records show Samuel and Polly in Polk County, Texas in 1850 and land records show them in 1854 on Sandies Creek in DeWitt County, and Burns Station from 1857 to 1875 on the Arthur Burns survey. He is listed as one of the postmasters of Burns Station between 1873 and 1877. He died 13 December 1877 and Polly died 20 September 1896. They are buried in the Burns Station Cemetery.

Children of Samuel and Polly Myers are: Houston married Mary Elizabeth Dowlearn; Virginia never married; Vienna, no further information; Laura married Aaron L. Neel; Marianne married John G. Mills; Alonzo first married Mary Clay and second Jane Clay Neel; Marshall married Olivia LeGalley; Albert married Lydia Finck; Sarah, no further information; LaFayette married Eliza LeGalley; Thomas F. married Leona Cameron.

Houston Myers, oldest child of Samuel and Polly Myers, was born 28 November 1840 in Rankin County, Mississippi. He served in the Confederate army in the Company of Captain Clay Davis, Colonel Benavides Regiment. He served as a scout from Rancho Davis on the Rio Grande to Brownsville and from there to Eagle Pass. He was stationed there and worked up and down the river until the close of the war in 1865.

Houston married 20 July 1870 at Clinton, DeWitt County to Mary Elizabeth Dowlearn, born 28 July 1851 in DeWitt County, daughter of Joshua Martin and Jane Lowe Dowlearn. Houston and Mary Elizabeth lived at Burns Station, Nursery, and Chicolete. Their children are: Charles Martin first married Ettie Moore Laughter and second Isa Dozier; Lenora Jane first married Samuel Wiley Callaway and second J.W. Guinn; Ida May married James Axley Callaway; Samuel Alva married Nan Cook; Henry never married; Addie Laura married "Black" Bennett; Alexander married Willie N. Terry; Sterling Pierce married Emma Meeks; Jesse M. died as an infant; Joseph P. married Sally Cavaeness; Mattie Lucille married Arthur B. "Pete" Williams; Ruth Amelia married Doyle Coston Carpenter.

Houston Myers died 16 May 1908 and Mary Elizabeth died 27 September 1935. They are buried in the Burns Station Cemetery.

Samuel Alva Myers, fourth child of Houston and Mary Elizabeth Myers, married Nan Cook, daughter of Joseph Samuel and Laura Goode Cook, on 16 August 1908. They lived at Stratton and had six children. Two, Bernice and Walker, died young. The other four: 1. Grace married Albert Alkek first and Sam Kruse second. She had two children, Albert Billy Alkek and Sam Ray Kruse. 2. Clarence Alva married Rosalie Key. They have two children, Samuel Alva who married Judith Massey and has one daughter, Jessica and Nan who married William R. "Rick" Thomey. 3. Brian married Loraine Long. They have three children, Wayne, Clay, and Douglas. 4. Charles E. "Buck" married Ethel Wenzel. They have six children, Joey, Marc, Gloria, Tommy, Anthony, and Hugh. Grace, Clarence, Brian, and "Buck" attended school at Stratton. "Buck" and Ethel, and Loraine still live there. Clarence and Rosalie live in Beeville. Grace died in 1961 and Brian died in 1973. They are buried in the Hebron Cemetery.

by Rosalie Myers

Old Meeks Place 1906. L-R: Houston Myers, Mary Elizabeth Dowlearn Myers and Sterling Myers.

NAGEL, ALBERT HENRY

F657

Albert Henry Angel and Emelia Agatha (Braun) Nagel.

Albert Henry Nagel was born Feb. 16, 1865 and died June 9, 1937. He was raised on what is known in 1989 as the Erwin Rath place on the Cailisle Creek in the Green DeWitt Community. He was the 4th child of 7 born to Gottlieb and Ottilie Emilie Hoffman Nagel.

Albert Henry married Henrietta Wolf on Dec. 22, 1888. They had 2 children who lived to adulthood. Henry Albert who married Olga Sager and Anna Sophie who married Otto Sager. After Henrietta's death on March 6, 1897, he married Emelia Agatha Braun on Sept. 25, 1897. They were married by John Junker in Cuero, Texas. Their marriage li-

cense is # 56 recorded in Vol. G, Page 28 in the DeWitt Co. Courthouse, Cuero, Texas. (In 1950 Albert Henry's Grand-daughter Eunice Ann Nagel married John Junker's Great-Grandson, Dalton Friedrichs).

Emelia Agatha was born June 11, 1871 in Clinton, Texas and died on March 16, 1958 in Cordele, Texas. She was the daughter of Charles Alfred Braun and Elizabeth Badinger Braun.

After Albert Henry and Emelia's marriage they moved to Cordele, Jackson Co., Texas where they owned and operated a General Store and U.S. Post Office. They are both buried in the Edna Cemetery, Edna, Texas.

They had 4 children:

1. Sophia Mary, born July 4, 1898, who married E.C. Goppert. They lived in Edna and El Campo, Texas.

2. Twin, Louis Herman, born Jan. 3, 1900, died March 17, 1972. They lived in Edna and El Campo, Texas.

3. Twin, Rudolph Christian "Dick", born Jan. 3, 1900, died June 8, 1966. He married Mary Laura Garrett Aug. 19, 1925 in Edna, Texas. She died Nov. 24, 1937. They are both buried in the Edna Cemetery.

4. Johanna "Jody" Emelia, born June 25, 1902. She married Fred Goppert March 14, 1927. They lived in Cordele, Jackson Co., Texas.

by Mrs. Dalton Friedrichs

NAGEL, EDWIN HENRY AND EDNA CAROLINE KRUEGER FAMILY

F658

Edwin Henry Nagel was born January 26, 1906 in Waco, Texas. He is the son of Henry W. Nagel and the grandson of J.R. Nagel – the founder and proprietor of the first business established in the city of Cuero, – Nagel Hardware. (The J.R. Nagel story is given elsewhere.) He married Edna Caroline Krueger on December 10, 1936. She is the daughter of Christian Krueger and Emilie Schorlemer and the granddaughter of Frederich Krueger and Caroline Sager. Caroline's father, Reverend Christoph Adam Sager, established the Lutheran congregation in Arneckeville, Texas.

Edwin H. and Edna C. (Krueger) Nagel, 1936.

Edwin and Edna reside on the original Frederich Krueger property in DeWitt County which was purchased in 1875. Frederich and Caroline bought the original Arneckeville log church (built in 1868 by Caroline's preacher father) for $100, moved it to the original tract of land and converted it into a home. It was later used as a barn and corn crib by Christian Krueger.

Edwin established the Nagel Dairy and had a retail milk route in Cuero in the early 1920's. Milk sold then for 52 cents a gallon. He also helped in the beginning operations of the Cresent Valley Creamery which was established in Cuero in 1927. Edwin moved his dairy operation to its present location on the original property in 1949. As a young man, Edwin was called on by Cuero businessmen to custom mow their land with his mower and fine team of horses. Later, he helped to keep the four highways leading out of Cuero mowed with his team and equipment.

Edwin and Edna have three children — Edna Kathleen Nagel Benfield (deceased), Charles Edwin Nagel, and Sandra Jean Nagel Machen. They also have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In 1977, ownership of the original founder's land and operation of the Nagel Dairy passed on to the present owner, Edwin's son, Charles Edwin Nagel.

Charles Edwin Nagel and Jean Marie Fuchs were married on July 26, 1959. They have three children — Jeffery Keith Nagel, Gregory Charles Nagel, and Ann Marie Nagel Pratt. They also have three grandchildren — William Bell Nagel and Molly Beth and Jenny Ann Nagel, twins.

All male family members have been active in agricultural related businesses and associations. In addition, Edwin served on the Arneckeville School Board for many years. Also, Edwin was one of the earliest 4-H members involved in 4-H Club work. All of the Nagel family members have been active in 4-H Club work.

by Jean Nagel

NAGEL, EDWIN HENRY AND PEARL WHITE (SCHAEFER)

F659

Edwin Henry Nagel was the oldest son of Henry Albert and Olga Christine Sager Nagel. Henry Albert was born 2 December 1892 and died 25 April 1974. Olga Christine Sager was born 6 November 1894 and died 24 December 1977. They were married 25 November 1914 in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and both are buried in that cemetery. They lived in the Arneckeville community. They had the following children: (1) Elenora Alma, born 25 December 1915, died 25 March 1939. (2) Edwin Henry Nagel, born 21 January 1917, married Pearl White Schaefer 6 October 1940, died 4 August 1975. (3) Hilbert Albert Nagel, born 22 July 1918 married Bernice Jaschke 5 October 1940, died 28 February 1968. (4) Leon Gus Nagel, born 10 August 1921, married Ruth Wendel 21 December 1941. (5) Albert Harlan Nagel, born 29 November 1929, married Edieth Zengerle 11 December 1949.

Pearl White, Carol Ann, Edwin Henry, and Donald Charles Nagel

Edwin's paternal grandparents were Albert Henry Nagel, who was born 16 February 1864 and died 9 June 1937. He is buried in an Edna cemetery. He married Henrietta or Henritha Wolf, who was born 4 March 1869 and died 6 March 1897. She is buried in the Arneckeville cemetery. They married 22 December 1885. Edwin's paternal great-grandparents were Gottlieb Rudolph Nagel, who was born 20 August 1823 in Prussia/Germany. He died 7 November 1870. He married O. Emilie Hoffman who was born 17 December 1838 in Prussia and died 21 October 1888. The couple married 17 November 1858. They are buried in Clinton cemetery. The parents of Henritha Wolf were Christian Wolf, who was born 1 February 1831 in Viesecke, Brandenburg, Prussia and died 11 August 1911. He came to America in 1873. He married Sophie Lange who was born 9 January 1836 in Prussia and died 23 June 1880. Christian and Sophie are buried in Arneckeville Lutheran cemetery.

Edwin's maternal grandparents were Heinrich Christoph Sager, who was born 30 October 1866 and died 18 June 1953. He married Alma Stahl 12 August 1890. She was born 4 December 1869 and died 10 November 1963. They are buried in Arneckeville cemetery. His maternal great-grandparents were Pastor Christoph Adam Sager who was born 3 April 1826 in Dettigen, Wuertemburg, Prussia and died 27 August 1869. He came to Galveston in the fall of 1850. He married Justine Sophie Dreier 1 July 1853. She was born 2 June 1833 in Lippe Detmold(t), Prussia and died 16 December 1916. She came to Galveston in 1848. They are both buried in the Arneckeville Lutheran cemetery. The parents of Alma Stahl, who married Heinrich Christoph Sager, were Theodor Stahl who was born 23 October 1829 in Prussia/Germany and died 21 March 1902. He married Christine Meisenhelder, who was born 4 August 1844 and died 4 February 1877. They are also buried in Arneckeville Lutheran cemetery. Pastor Sager's parents were Adam(?) Sager and Friedericke Elizabeth Rath. She was born 19 April 1801 and died 29 May 1887. Both were from Dettingen, Wuertemburg, Prussia. He is buried in the unmarked section of Meyersville Lutheran cemetery and she is buried in the Arneckeville Lutheran cemetery. The parents of Justine Sophie Dreier Sager were Heinrich Dreier and Friedericke Louise Blomberg. He was born 22 September 1788 in Lippe Detmold, Prussia and died 24 July 1869. She was born 25 January 1796 in a village near Lippe Detmold and died 31 March 1885. Heinrich and Friedericke Dreier and four children

landed in Galveston in 1848.

Edwin Nagel was born and raised in the Arneckeville community. He was baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. He married Pearl White Schaefer 6 October 1940 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville. She was born 1 September 1917 to Edwin C. and Olga Jacobs Schaefer. Edwin and Pearl White Nagel had two children – Carol Ann, born 14 December 1942 and Donald Charles, born 10 December 1946. Both were born in a Cuero Hospital and completed eight grades in Meyersville School. Both graduated from Cuero High School.

Carol Ann went to Texas Lutheran College, Seguin and graduated with a B.S. after training at Hermann Hospital, Houston to become a registered Medical Technologist. She married Obert Adolph Sagebiel on 24 May 1969 in St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Meyersville. He was born 14 October 1941 in Fredericksburg. They have two children – Clark Allen Sagebiel, born 1 July 1971 in Fredericksburg and Diane Paulette born 26 September 1974 in Fredericksburg. They live on the Shaefer homestead in Meyersville.

Donald Charles joined the Navy, trained in Connecticut and was stationed in Viet Nam. He graduated in mechanics from Del Mar College, Corpus Christi. He married Brenda Lee Morris 14 September 1968 in Zion Lutheran Church, Mission Valley. Brenda was born 28 July 1949. They have three sons, Dustin Charles, born 7 February 1972 in Corpus Christi; Colby Linn, born 13 August 1973 in Victoria, and Wade Allan, born 3 February 1977 in Victoria. They live near Mission Valley.

Edwin and Pearl White lived and worked on the Schaefer homestead in Meyersville. He worked on terracing, planting improved grasses, weed killing, and cattle raising on the ranch. He was in the Navy, trained in California, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1945 and 1946. He and Pearl White loved their God, their family, and their country. They were active members of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church in Meyersville. He was also a member of such community groups as the Farm Bureau, Meyersville School Board, and was an early member of the Cuero Gun Club. His hobbies were bay fishing and hunting.

by Mrs. Carol Ann Nagel Sagebiel

NAGEL, GOTTLEIB RUDOLPH AND OTTILIE EMILIE (HOFFMAN)

F660

Gottlieb Rudolph Nagel was born in Rawiscz (Rawitsch), Prussia Aug. 20, 1823 and died Nov. 1870. He is buried in the Clinton Cemetery, DeWitt County, Texas.

Rudolph, 31 years of age, and his brother, Juluis Reinhold Nagel, 26 years of age, sailed on the ship, FALCON, from Breen, Germany on April 3, 1855. They arrived in Indianola, Texas on July 20, 1855. Their occupation was listed on the ship records as a Tischler (Cabinetmaker), but the 1860 census records show Rudolph as being a gunsmith. Rudolph and Juluis Reinhold walked together from Indianola to Clinton, Texas.

According to naturalization records, Rudolph filed his oath and Declaration of Intention with the District Court of DeWitt Co. on Oct. 29, 1855 and became a citizen on June 25, 1860. (Recorded in Vol. D, Page 409 DeWitt Co. Courthouse.)

Rudolph married Ottilie Emilie Hoffman Nov. 18, 1858. Their license is # 301, Vol. C, page 29 in the DeWitt Co. Courthouse. Emilie was born Dec. 21, 1838 in Prussia and died Oct. 21, 1888. Emilie is buried in the Clinton Cemetery, DeWitt Co., Texas.

Rudolph and Emilie had 7 children:

1. Emma, born 1860. No record of marriage.
2. Emiline "Emelia", born 1861. Married Frederick Huebner Oct. 4, 1888. 2nd marriage, August Brandes. They lived in Weimer, Texas.
3. Rudolph Christian, born 1863. Married Susan ?. Died in 1949. They lived in Runge, Texas.
4. Albert Henry, born Feb. 16, 1865, died June 9, 1937. He married Henrietta Wolf Dec. 26, 1888. After her death married Emelia Agatha Braun Sept. 25, 1897. They lived in Cordele, Texas.
5. Sophia, born 1867, married Heinrich Braun Oct. 26, 1886.
6. Matilda, born 1869, died before the 1880 census.
7. Johanna Pauline, born Dec. 11, 1871, died Aug. 23, 1893. She married Frederick Rath March 8, 1891.

by Mrs. Dalton Friedrichs

NAGEL, HARLAN

F661

Harlan and Edith Nagel

Harlan Nagel was born November 29, 1929 at Arneckeville in DeWitt County, Texas. His parents were Henry A. Nagel and Olga Sager Nagel, whose story is found elsewhere.

He was baptized in Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville on January 19, 1930. His sponsors were Albert Sauermilch and Alma Sager. He attended Sunday church school also at Zion Lutheran Church. He was instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran faith by Pastor E. Meier on Pslam Sunday, April 2, 1944. His classmates were Virginia Hartman Stoldt and Nell Rose Afflerbach Knebel.

He attended public school in both Arneckeville and Meyersville. He rode horseback to school for a time and also rode with the teachers who happened to be close neighbors. His first grade teacher was Ruth Sager. Incidentally she was also the first grade teacher to his youngest son many years later. After completing classes in Meyersville, he was needed at home to help with the farming so he had no further schooling. This was during the war and his three older brothers were all inducted into the service.

In December of 1949, he married Edieth Zengerle at Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville. She is the daughter of the late Herbert Zengerle and Esther Roessler Zengerle. She was baptized in the Yorktown Lutheran Church but later attended Sunday Church School at Arneckeville. Her birth date is December 19, 1928 and her birthplace is Arneckeville, DeWitt County. She attended public school at Arneckeville and later graduated from Cuero High School in 1946. Edieth attended confirmation instruction under Rev. E. Meier and was confirmed on Psalm Sunday, April 18, 1943. Her classmates were: Marjorie Schorlemmer (Wasserman), Dorothy Faye Bade (Diebel), Alton Goebel, Dalton Friedrichs, and Roland Henneke.

When Harlan and Edieth were married they had as attendants Eunice Nagel (Friedrichs), Marjorie Zengerle (Shellenbarger), Dalton Friedrichs and Weldon Goebel. For a honeymoon trip they went to Galveston and Houston spending a night with Harlan's older brother, Leon and family in Houston. Upon returning, they lived with Harlan's parents and continued to until they (his parents) died. Four children blessed their marriage; Mary Louise was born on September 12, 1951. She was valedictorian of her graduating classes both at Meyersville and Cuero High School. She attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. She met and married Steven Leida of Tulsa, Okla. in Stillwater, Okla. They moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where their son, Hans, was born. At present they live in Sioux City, Iowa where she teaches biology courses at Morningside College.

Robert Harlan was born February 21, 1953. He attended public school in Meyersville, Cuero High School and Texas A. & M. University at Bryan, Texas. He earned a degree in Ag. Education. He returned home to work in cooperation with his father, farming and ranching. He specializes in hogs. He met his wife at Texas A. & M. University. She is Julie Ann Bullard and they have a son, Nathan Jeremy. Ann teaches first grade at Meyersville School.

Judith Aileen was born on February 14, 1954. She also attended public school at Meyersville, Cuero High School and Texas Lutheran College. She worked as a secretary while attending Texas Lutheran College which led to her occupation as budget director for Houston Achievement Place in Houston, Texas. She met her future husband, Bob Hohne of Baltimore, Md. while attending the wedding of a close friend.

Patrick James was born March 6, 1961. He attended Meyersville public school, Cuero High School and then chose to attend Victoria Junior College to pursue a career in welding. He worked a number of years for Safety Railway of Victoria before leaving to return to work

in partnership with his father and older brother on the family farm.

Harlan and Edieth are engaged in farming and ranching. They raise registered Beefmaster cattle as well as commercial cattle. They live in the Henry Nagel home. They both have served as officers in the Lutheran Congregation of Arneckeville. Harlan was for years on the board of directors for DeWitt County Producers Association and Edieth worked as an assistant bookkeeper for the firm for about ten years. Harlan was sec. on the school board at Meyersville for many years. He resigned to make way for the hiring of his daughter-in-law.

by Edieth Nagel

NAGEL, HENRY A.

F662

The Henry A. Nagel Family, 1937. L-R: Elenora, Edwin, Henry, Leon, Olga, and Hilbert; Harlan in foreground.

Henry Albert Nagel was born December 2, 1892 in DeWitt County near Arneckeville, Texas. His parents were Albert Henry Nagel and Henrietta Wolf. He was the first of three sons to survive, the first two dying within a week of birth. After his mother died, when Henry was very young and his father remarried, he lived for a time in Jackson County, near the community of Cordele. He recalled to his children and grandchildren many times of his years on the flat prairie land and the work that he did for his father at a very young age. He delivered, on horseback, meat that his father had processed and he hauled lumber with freight wagons pulled with a number of yoke of oxen. He returned to DeWitt County when he was about 17 or 18 years of age to attend confirmation instruction at the Lutheran Church where he had been baptized on December 9, 1892. His sponsors were Christian Wolf, Dora Sager and Katherine Nagel. Dora Sager was an aunt and Otto Wolf was an uncle, so when he returned to DeWitt County, he lived and worked for the two families and continued to do so until he was married. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on Psalm Sunday of 1911. Church records show that his classmates were: Emelie Arnecke, Agnes Sager, Amalia Henneke, Elena Haun, Lucile Boehl, Katie Boehl, Willie Thieme, and Friedrich Haun. On October, 1914 he married Olga Sager, a daughter of Heinrich Sager and Alma Stahl. The officiating minister was Pastor J.M. Bergner, the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville at that time. Felix Wolf and Agnes Sager were witnesses at the wedding. Henry and Olga set up housekeeping on the "Wolf" place. They also lived on the Henry Koehler place and still later built their own home on their land. Times were hard and money was scarce. Olga suffered a serious bout with malaria. She told of the winter when their youngest son was born. It turned very cold. As the house was not insulated and their only heat was a wood burning stove, they took the young baby to bed with them to keep him warm. During the night they changed his diaper and by morning it was frozen at the foot of the bed. Henry once mentioned that he spent his last ten dollars for the doctor when another son had a bad earache, but he was not complaining. He said "The Lord took care of us and provided for all our needs." Children born of their marriage were: Elenora Alma, born Dec. 25, 1915; Edwin Henry, born Jan. 21, 1917; Hilbert Albert, born July 22, 1918; Leon Gus, born Aug. 10, 1921; and Albert Harlan, born Nov. 29, 1929. Elenora lived until March 25, 1939 when she died of pneumonia. The loss of their only daughter was a heavy blow to the family. Edwin was married in 1940 to Pearl White Schaefer and they had a son, Donald and a daughter, Carol Ann. Edwin passed away in 1975 of cancer. Hilbert was married in 1940 to Bernice Jaschke and they had one daughter, Beatrice, and two sons, Kenneth and Hilbert, Jr. Hilbert died of cancer Feb. of 1968. Leon married Ruth Wendel in 1941 and they had three sons, Glen, Rodney, and Dennis. Leon lives in Meyersville. Harlan was married in 1949 to Edieth Zengerle and they had two sons, Robert and Patrick and two daughters, Mary Louise and Judith. They live in the Arneckeville area. Henry and Olga celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1964 with a dinner and reception held at the Arneckeville Community Center where their attendants, Felix Wolf and Agnes Sager Sauermilch, both were present. Also attending, along with many friends and relatives, were their four sons and families, eight grandsons and four granddaughters. Olga sewed her own dress for the momentous occasion. Henry served as treasurer of Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville for 20 years, from 1937 to 1957. He kept very accurate records, accounting for every penny taken in or spent. He kept copies of these records as long as he lived. He was the treasurer when the present church and parsonage were built. He gave many hours of unpaid voluntary time to the construction of these buildings. He was always ready to work when anything was needed at the church and he was ever-ready to share of his food with the pastor's family and others. His occupation was farming but he was also a fine carpenter. He worked his fields with mules and a walking plow in early years and told of how the mules ran away from him several times when he would be leaving the fields to come home. They would get tangled up and ruin his implements and he would have to spend many days repairing them. He raised cattle, hogs, turkeys, chickens and milk cows. He butchered and sold meat throughout the community. He took great pride in doing whatever he did to the best of his ability. He said "Anything worth doing, is worth doing right." He died of a heart attack very suddenly while leaving the Sager homestead on April 25, 1974, at the age of 82. He was buried in the Arneckeville Cemetery. After his death, Olga, who had grown quite confused as she had suffered from hardening of the arteries for many years, lived in a Cuero nursing home until her death on Dec. 24, 1977. She was laid to rest by the side of her beloved Henry and their only daughter, Elenora.

by Edieth Nagel

NAGEL, HENRY W.

F663

Henry W. Nagel was born in a log cabin near Clinton in 1871 and came to Cuero with his parents at the age of two. His parents were J.R. and Auguste E. Nagel. He entered the public schools of Cuero and attended them until he was sixteen when he started to work as delivery boy for C.F. Gerhardt, grocery dealer. He worked in this capacity for eight months and then went to work for his father in the hardware business.

In August, 1888, his father opened a branch store at Yoakum and Henry went there to assist Albert Schrade in the management of that store. It was while in Yoakum that Henry married Miss Annie Thomas of that city; that happy event occurring in 1895.

In 1896 the Yoakum branch was sold and Henry went to Waco to accept a position in the firm of Eikel, Breustedt Co., wholesale and retail hardware dealers, with whom he remained for seven years, resigning to accept a much better position with the McLendon Hardware Co. of the same city. He remained with that company until the incorporation of the Nagel Hardware Co. here, when he came here to accept the presidency of that firm and to assume the management of the Hardware Department.

Henry and Annie are the parents of six children, two boys and four girls. The children were: Albert, Edwin, Annie, Lillian, Melba and Lu Elsie.

by Mrs. J.C. Thomas

NAGEL, JULIUS REINHARD FAMILY

F664

Julius Reinhard Nagel, a pioneer citizen of DeWitt County came to Texas in 1854 with his

Bertha Nagel, J.R. Nagel, Herman J., c. 1874.

J.R. and Auguste Nagel Family, standing L-R Augusta (Nagel) Probst, Herman J., Bertha (Nagel) Schrade; seated Rubolph, Oscar, Henry, Reinhold Nagel, c. 1915.

Nagel family and home c. 1910 in yard Anna and Eleanore Nagel; porch L-R Jacob, Herman and wife Louise (Loebel) Nagel.

brother, Gottleib. They landed in Indianola, a leading port town about seventy miles southeast of Cuero. Together they walked to Clinton and started a gunsmith business. Later J.R. Nagel became a teamster, carrying merchandise from Indianola, Eagle Pass and Matamoras. At the outbreak of the Civil War J.R. drove a team for the Confederate government. He also delivered mail.

On September 6, 1861 J.R. Nagel married Auguste Kirchner in Yorktown, Texas. That night they rode to Cuero on one horse. Both came from Germany. Reinhard was born on March 25, 1829 in Rawicz, Providence Posen, Prussia (Germany). He came to the United States as a carpenter or furniture apprentice. He was of short stature, only five feet, his hair and eyes were brown, his eyelashes were blonde. J.R. was lovingly called "Opa" by his family. Auguste was born December 11, 1833 in Esslingen, Germany. She was called "Oma." The boys would teasingly call "Oh, Maw"; she disliked being called Maw, so the nickname "Oma" was derived. Sometimes "Oma" would hitch up the team for "Opa" and would sing happily while doing so. She had a beautiful voice and a loud voice which carried far. J.R. Nagel died September 13, 1897. Auguste Nagel died June 22, 1907. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery. Reinhard bought 98 acres on Chisholm Creek about two miles from Clinton. He farmed here for a few years. It was here that two girls and five sons were born. The youngest son was born in the living quarters above the hardware store in Cuero.

In 1871 in Clinton J.R. Nagel started a tin shop in a corn crib owned by Wm. Hausman. The next year he prepared to build a business house but learned the railroad was coming to Cuero, so he moved. In January 1873 he bought a 29 feet x 70 feet lot and built a two-story house on Main Street, Cuero. The family lived upstairs and he operated J.R. Nagel Hardware downstairs. This has the distinction of being the oldest business house in Cuero. A kitchen and dining room for the family were built in the rear. One of the interesting incidents in the Nagel family is that during the Sutton-Taylor feud days of Cuero, a bullet was fired on the street in front of the store and passed through the dining room in the rear and shattered the knob on the kitchen door. Also, during the feud one day a man rode through the store on his horse.

In 1879 J.R. Nagel bought a little over one acre on J.A.V.Y. Gonzales original survey from Hugo and Fredrike Buschick for three hundred dollars. It was known as the old Brewery place, on the NE corner of the old Schleicher Mill. Lumber was hauled from Indianola and stacked for two years to age. By November 1882 the residence, a stable, outhouses, fences and a warehouse for the Nagel Hardware were built. The warehouse was moved and still stands and is used by a great granddaughter, Hermine Hartman Henry.

Family members lived in the house until April 1981 when it was donated to the DeWitt County Historical Museum. They partially restored it for a Museum House. Much of the original furniture and the straw matting covering on the parlor floor remained. Newspaper lay beneath the matting to cushion and protect against winter breezes. The house was closed and sold in December 1983. Most of the remaining furniture is displayed in The Nagel Room of the DeWitt County Museum. Kitchen and dining room furnishings have been added to the museum kitchen.

Eight children were born to Reinhard and Auguste Nagel:

Bertha (1862-1947) married Albert Schrade (1859-1889); one daughter Althea (1889-1980) married Alfred Marquis (1893-1976), two children: Paul and Bertha Antoinette (Toni).

Augusta (1864-1940) married Alphons Probst (1862-1899), two children: Adeline (1896-1986) and Oscar George (1898-1979).

Herman Julius (1865-1947) married Louise Loebel (1866-1918), three children: Anna Augusta (1889-1986) married Alfred Friar (1891-1973), Eleanore (1890-1979) married Ernest F. Hartman (1889-1975), Jacob Reinhold (1895-1979) unmarried.

Adolph died an infant, buried in Clinton Cemetery.

Reinhold (1869-1937) married Bettie — (1874-1916), three children: Ernst (1898-1953), Carl (1906-1965) both unmarried, Floyd Walter died an infant.

Heinrich (Henry W.) (1871-1953) married Annie M. Thomas (1876-1958), eight children: LuElsie married Clair L. Jones, Albert married Fay Laster, Edwin married Edna Krueger, Annie Louise married Finley Benton, Melba married Blair Neill, Lillian married Charles George, Edward Bertram and Leon died as infants.

Oscar P. married and had one son and one daughter.

Rudolph (1876-1961) married Bertha Moeller (1878-1961), five children: August (1897-1972) married Lucille Harvey, Leona (1902-1981) married D.D. Murphree, Elnita (Nene) (1905) married R.J. Janecek (1901-1973), Les-

lie (1908-1975) married Cornelia Matthews, Meta Alvina died infant.

by Mrs. J. Carter Thomas

NAGEL, LEON G. AND RUTH WENDEL

F665

Ruth (Wendel) and Leon Gus Nagel

Leon and Ruth Wendel Nagel live in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas. Leon was born 10 August 1921 to Henry A. and Olga Sager Nagel in the Green DeWitt Community. He had one sister and three brothers: Elenora, Edwin, Hilbert and Harlan. They moved to Arneckeville when Leon was 4 years old. Leon attended school in Arneckeville, Meyersville and graduated from Yorktown High School in 1939. He then attended Draughon's Business College in Houston and was employed by Chas. Martin & Co., Petroleum Inspectors.

Leon married Ruth Wendel on 21 December 1941 in Meyersville. He was drafted into the Army on 9 July 1942 and served with the 163rd Signal Photo Company. He went overseas in January 1943 and served in Africa, Italy, France and Germany, returning to the United States in October 1945. He and Ruth then lived in Houston for about four and one-half years, where Leon worked for his former employer.

In 1950 Ruth's father became ill and he asked Leon and Ruth to come to Meyersville to work on the farm. They moved and worked here for about three years. Leon then worked for the Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, USDA, in Cuero for 27 years, retiring on 12 June 1981. Leon and Ruth have three sons: Glen, Rodney and Dennis.

Ruth Wendel was born 26 October 1920 in Meyersville to Paul and Elfie Wendel. She has three brothers: Allen, Alonzo and Cleo. One sister, Ruby Lee, died in infancy. She attended Meyersville School and helped her parents with household duties and was active in church work. After Ruth and Leon were married her primary job was being a housewife and mother. After their children were grown, Ruth worked in the Meyersville School Cafeteria, retiring in 1978.

Leon and Ruth are active members of St. John Lutheran School of Meyersville, both having taught Sunday School. Leon has served on the Church Council as financial secretary, treasurer, president, elder and is now assistant cemetery custodian. Ruth has served as Chairman of Stewardship and Education in the ALCW, taught Bible School and is now librarian for the church library, treasurer of the Ladies Aid and serves on the Altar Guild. She also sews quilt tops and helps quilt them for Lutheran World Relief. The ladies of the church send an average of 100 quilts a year for this cause.

Leon and Ruth are enjoying their retirement. They have gone on many of the Happy Excursion Tours, traveling to all parts of the United States and into Canada. Leon enjoys working in his garden and with his cattle. Ruth enjoys crocheting, playing bridge and dominoes. Both enjoy visiting with their children and grandchildren.

Glen, the oldest son, was born 1 October 1942 in the Cuero Hospital. He graduated from Cuero High School and attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas, for 2 years. He married Glenda Hanks on 22 May 1970 in the First Assembly of God Church in Victoria, Texas. They live in Victoria where both of their children were born. Angela was born 22 September 1971, and Michael was born 5 June 1973. Both children attend Victoria High School. Glen works at DuPont and Glenda works with BeautiControl. The entire family is active in their church.

The second son, Rodney, was born 4 February 1947 in a Houston hospital. He graduated from Cuero High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Her served as a Seabee for a year in Vietnam, then on Midway Island, and at Port Hueneme, California where he met and married Norma Blevins. They moved to Meyersville after the completion of his service duty and then moved to Victoria. They have 3 children, all born in Victoria, Texas. Kelly was born on 17 November 1970, Shelley was born on 21 January 1972 and Jeffrey was born on 3 August 1973. The children all attend Victoria schools. Rodney is employed by Alcoa in Point Comfort, Texas and Norma is employed by Victoria Bank and Trust. They are members of the Catholic Church.

Dennis, the youngest son of Leon and Ruth, was born on 23 June 1951, in the Cuero Hospital. He graduated from Cuero High School and then attended Victoria College for a year. He joined the Texas National Guard and served in Texas and Louisiana. On 16 June 1973 he married Vickie Clark in Cuero. He was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad and is now with Elder Oil Tools, Yorktown, Texas.

by Mrs. Ruth Nagel

Nagel Family – Standing, L to R: Norma, Shelley, Jeffrey, Kelly, Angela, Michael and Glenda. Sitting: Rodney, Dennis and Glen

NAGEL, RUDOLPH A.

F666

Rudolph A. Nagel was born April 25, 1876 in Cuero in the old house that was the early home of both the Nagel Company and the Nagel family. The family lived upstairs over the hardware store. He was the son of J.R. and Auguste Nagel.

Rudolph attended the public schools of Cuero until he was sixteen years of age, when he went to work for his brother, who was then operating a hardware business in Yoakum. He returned here and entered his father's store. In 1914, he took charge of the then almost untried automobile business that had been established

as one of the departments of the Nagel Company.

In 1897 he married Miss Bertha Moeller of Cuero and they had four children, two boys and two girls.

Mr. Nagel was a Rotarian, a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and a charter member of H.P.H. Fire Company No. 2. He was City Treasurer and a member of the City Council.

Rudolph A. Nagel died December 29, 1961 and Bertha died June 29,1 951. She was twenty two years of age. They are both buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Mrs. J.C. Thomas

NATHO, AUGUST AND FREDERIKE SCHREIBER

F667

August and Frederick E. (Schreiber) Natho.

(Based on material compiled by Mrs. Annie Pundt Natho and Mrs. Fay Huck.)

August Natho was born January 28, 1853 at Coswig, Anhalt Dessau, Germany. Frederike Schreiber Natho was also born at Coswig on September 18, 1860. They were married April 22, 1878, in Coswig Anhalt Dessau, Germany.

In 1882, August and Frederike came to the United States, settling at Black Jack, Fayette County. Later, they lived in Gonzales County near Shiner. After a brief residence at Weesatche, they lived in Runge for twenty-five (25) years. They moved to Nordheim in 1911.

August was a stone mason by profession and did masonry work in the South Texas area.

On April 22, 1928, August and Frederike celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

August died on April 23, 1930, and Frederike died on August 13, 1943. Both are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Thirteen children were born to August and Frederike. One child died in infancy. The twelve surviving children are as follows:

1. Louise married Wm. Brieger. Children: a. Selma Brieger Jackson; b. Elvera Brieger Russell; c. Wilbert.
2. Mary married Emil Hinze. Children: a. Herbert; b. Alma Hinze Gibson; c. Olga; d. Hilda; e. Walter.
3. Paul married Viola Brown. Children: a. Pauline Natho Wernli; b. Willie; c. August; d. Irene Pace; e. Florence Goldsum; f. Julia Kaiser.
4. Emma married Herman Brieger. Children: a. Ida Schmidt; b. Ruby Daniels; c. Hermana Noe; d. Monroe; e. Dora; f. Stella McMillan; g. Alfrieda Gardner; h. Pearl Boyles; i. Emmett.
5. Richard married Norma Schlbach. Children: a. Eliot; b. Ozella Schrade; c. Melvin.
6. Otto married Lydia Boerm. Children: a. Edgar; b. Adela DeReese; c. Bernice Boehm Smith; d. Gertrude Boehm; e. Edna Kraatz.
7. Herman married Lydia Kusel. Child: Kermit.
8. Robert married Annie Pundt. Child: Robert, Jr.
9. Frieda married Edmund Mueller. Children: a. Woodrow; b. Adela Baker; c. Gilbert; d. Roy; e. Maurine Brown.
10. Ella (Julia Agnes Ella) married Theophil. (Theodore) December. Children: a. Carlyn; b. Allan.
11. Selma married Austin Tweedle. Child: Jack.
12. Henry married Edna Menck. Children: a. Leslie; b. La Verne Ridder.

by Carlyn December

NATHO, CHRISTIAN FAMILY

F668

Wilhelmina and Christian Natho, Rudolph Kraatz

Christian Natho was born in Zerbst, Anhalt, Prussia on December 3, 1831. His wife Wilhelmina, Nee Puhlman, was born in Grimme, Anhalt, Prussia on December 25, 1836. They were married in Prussia and came to America in 1869, settling near Yorktown, Texas. Christian became a citizen of the United States of America on Dec. 28, 1889.

One daughter Minna, was born at Caswig, Anhalt-Dessau, Germany on July 24, 1856. She came to America with her parents at the age of four years. When she grew up to young womanhood she married Henry Meyer, son of Wilhelm Meyer and wife, Margareta, nee Sasse Meyer on January 27, 1887. (More about them in a separate story.)

After coming to America, a son, Frank was born on Nov. 17, 1869. He married Marie Heine of Runge, Texas, on Nov. 15, 1895. They lived first at Yorktown, Texas and later moving tc Lamesa, Texas. They had one son Oscar. Frank Natho died on May 8, 1942, and Marie on Aug. 7, 1959.

Another son Otto was born on December 30, 1871 at Yorktown, Texas. He married Emma Dittfurth on January 31, 1895 living first in Yorktown and later moving to the Weesatche community. They had six children; Elsie (Mrs. Louis Landgrebe), Antonette (Mrs. August Goehring first – then Mrs. Orin Caruthers), Roland, Nathalia (Mrs. Nathaniel Borth), Eugene, and Hugo.

The fourth child was Marie who was born on December 11, 1875. She married Fritz Striedel and moved to Skidmore, Texas. They had four daughters – Elizabeth, Louise, Alvina, and Marie. Marie Striedel died on July 31, 1959.

Christian Natho died on Dec. 9, 1898, attaining the age of 67 years and 5 days. Wilhelmina on November 6, 1900 reaching the age of 64 years and 11 months. They are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Alfreda Huck

NEAL, ANDREW JACKSON AND MARY T. (ALEXANDER)

F669

Mussetta Neal

Andrew Jackson "Dock" Neal, born 24 June 1849, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, moved to DeWitt Co., Texas in 1855. His parents, Samuel M. and Eliza W. (Hollan) Neal, were engaged in stock farming on Little Brushy Creek, Terryville Community, DeWitt Co., Texas.

Mary Talitha Alexander, born 7 October 1849, Yalobusha Co., Mississippi, moved to the Stratton Community, DeWitt Co., Texas about 1850 with her parents, James Sidney and Anna S. (Allison) Alexander. They were from Cabarrus Co., N.C., and had lived in Yalobusha County Mississippi about three years.

During the Civil War, Andrew Jackson Neal

Lillie Pearl Neal age 16

Nixon Prairie and engaged in raising livestock, also in buying and selling land and stock. This was home until 1908 when they leased out and sold their stock.

"I stopped in Boerne about 18 months; lived in a rented house for the first time in life, then left there and stopped in Kimble County on the Llano River, 5 miles below Junction, where I think I shall stay the remainder of my time. I think I have a fine place here. Our oats this year was very good. At one time I thought we would make from one to 1-½ bales. Corn is good, 53 bushels to the acre and its large heavy corn. The Pecan crop turned out eight thousand pounds, so I am well pleased with my place." [Quotes from a letter by A.J. Neal, 25 Nov. 1913.]

Andrew Jackson and Mary Talitha Neal were parents of ten children. Their first born, triplets, died at birth. The other children were: Richard Alexander "Tuck" Neal, Musetta Ann (Neal) Swartz, Ben Frazier Neal, Lillie Pearl "Lil" (Neal) Squyres, Harrison August "Harry" Neal, James Conley "Con" Neal, and Andrew Jackson "Dock" Neal, Jr.

In 1908, when the family moved to Kimble County, Edgar Neal Swartz, their grandson,

L-R: Edgar Swartz, "Uncle Dock" A.J. Neal, Jr., "Grandma Dock" A.J. Neal, Sr. and "Grandmother" Mary (Alexander) Neal

was neighborhood "Mill" boy. He usually drove to a mill on the Lavaca River. "My outfit was a yoke of oxen and cart that would carry 16 or 20 bushels of corn at a time." After the war, he was engaged in stockfarming and also on trail drives to Kansas. "The first herd that I went with was bought for eight dollars in DeWitt and Victoria Counties and sold in Dickinson County, Kansas, for thirty-two dollars per head."

Andrew Jackson Neal (first) married in 1864, to Nancy Marinda Byars (1846-ca 1869). They had a son, William Samuel Neal, born 1867, died 1881. Nancy (Byars) Neal and William Samuel Neal are buried in "Old" Terryville Cemetery, DeWitt Co., Texas.

Andrew Jackson Neal and Mary Talitha Alexander married 1 March 1871, DeWitt County, Texas. He worked the open range and made a few more trips to Kansas. When the open range was fenced, he fenced his place on

came with them. His mother, Musetta Ann (Neal) Swartz, died in 1903 when Edgar was one month old.

Mary Talitha (Alexander) Neal died 6 April 1915 and Andrew Jackson Neal on 19 May 1917. They are buried in the Gentry Cemetery, Kimble County, Texas.

Richard Alexander "Tuck" Neal, born 25 Oct 1874, DeWitt Co., died 20 Nov 1952, San Antonio, Bexar Co., buried Junction Cem., Kimble Co., Texas; married 3 Jan 1900, DeWitt Co., to Amma Clara Irwin (1877-1946), and were parents of Janie Neal; James Irwin Neal; Bessie Neal, married Jessie T. "Chip" Dorton; Hattie Neal; and Conley Neal. "Tuck" and Amma Neal were engaged in stockfarming in Kimble Co., Texas.

Musetta Ann Neal, born 22 May 1877, DeWitt Co., died 16 Feb. 1903, Fordtran, Victoria Co., buried "Old" Terryville Cem., DeWitt Co., Texas; married 11 Jan 1899, DeWitt Co., Texas, to William Andrew Swartz (1877-1967). Their children: Viola Pearl Swartz (1899-1985?), married Elmer Cecil Barnett (1885-1972); and Edgar Neal Swartz (1903-1960), married Dovie Lee Sellers (1904-1984).

Ben Frazier Neal, born 13 April 1881, DeWitt Co., died 5 Sept 1949, Weatherford, Parker Co., buried Junction Cem., Kimble Co.; married 1 June 1918, Mason, Mason Co., Texas, to Bertha Katherine Loeffler (1885-1968). Their children were Robert Max "Bob" Neal (1919-1981), married Clara Maye Dunlap; Ruby Katherine Neal, married Robert Wade "Bob" Sorrels; and Elza Mae Neal, married William Lester Fair. Ben Neal attended the Guadalupe (Nash) Academy, Cuero, DeWitt Co., Texas, finishing in 1903. Ben and Bertha were engaged in ranching in Kimble Co., Texas.

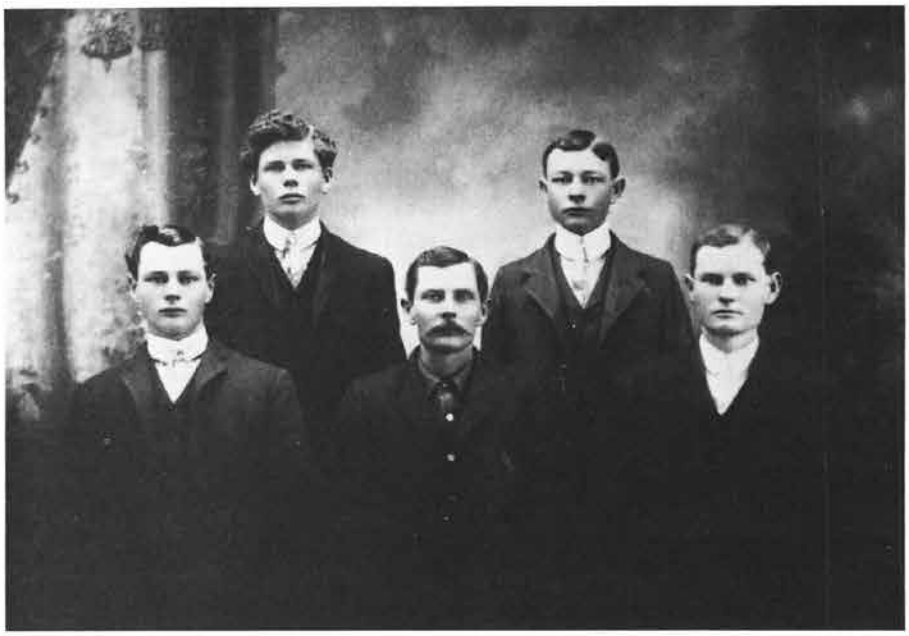
Lillie Pearl "Lil" Neal, born 30 April 1883, DeWitt Co., died 21 Dec 1954, Alvin, Brazoria Co., buried at Yoakum, DeWitt Co.; married 7 Nov 1902, DeWitt Co., Texas, to John T. Squyres (18??-1934). Their children were Oscar Louis Squyres, married Ruby Dickinson; John Bennett Squyres, married Noma Woods; Pearl Squyres, married J.C. Miller; Marie Squyres, married Farris McMillan; Edwin Neal Squyres, married Lucile Wilson; Terry Hollan Squyres, married Maudie Byars; Myrtle Squyres, married A. Don Tilley; James Conley "J.C." (1920-1925); and Emma Mae Squyres, married Otis Outlaw, Jr.

Harrison August "Harry" Neal, born 4 Feb 1885, DeWitt Co., died 31 March 1956, Houston, Harris Co., buried Yoakum, DeWitt Co., Texas; married 17 Nov 1907, DeWitt Co., to Josa Virginia Atkisson (1888-1970). Their children were Edward Moore "Ed" Neal, married Flossie Davis; Floyd Andrew Neal (1915-1976), married Geraldine "Jerry" Blanchard; and Virginia Joe Neal (1920-1945); unmarried. Harry and Josa were engaged in dairy, stock, and truck farming in the Stratton Community, DeWitt Co., Texas.

James Conley "Con" Neal, born 8 Aug 1887, DeWitt Co., died 21 Feb 1967, Boerne, Kendall Co., buried Boerne Cem., Kendall Co., Tex.; married (ca 1910) to Bennie Woods (1890-1967). They were parents of Connie Mae (1911-1919), and "Jack" Neal (1913-1976), married Shirley. "Con" and Bennie resided in San Antonio, Bexar Co. He was a civil service employee of the U.S. Post Office.

Andrew Jackson "Dock" Neal, Jr., born 20 Nov 1889, DeWitt Co., Tex., died 29 Nov 1950, Bayard, Grants Co., N. Mex., buried Memory Lane Cem., Silver City, Grants Co., N.M.; married 21 June 1912, Junction, Kimble Co., Tex., to Appie McLendon (1895-1930). Their children were Charles Weldon Neal (1916-198?), married Lois M. Bookout; Joseph Maurice "Joe" Neal, married Patricia "Pat" Pittman; Andrew Jackson "Jack" Neal, married Consetta "Connie" Zuccarello; and Delbert Neal (1925-198?), married Audrey Lee Skinner. "Dock" and Appie were engaged in farming and after her death he moved to New Mexico and worked for Kenecott as a plant supervisor.

by Mrs. Robert W. Sorrels and Mrs. Lester Fair



Back: J.C. "Con" Neal, A.J. "Dock" Neal, Jr. Front: H.A. "Harry" Neal, R.A. "Tuck" Neal and B.F. "Ben" Neal.

Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Neal, Sr.

NEAL, HARRY FAMILY
F670

Harry A. Neal and Josa (Atkisson) Neal

Harry A. Neal and Josa Virginia (Atkisson) Nov. 17, 1907

Stratton Community

Harry A. Neal (Feb. 4, 1885 – Mar. 31, 1956) married Josa Virginia Atkisson (Oct. 3, 1888 – Aug. 19, 1970) on November 17, 1907, in San Antonio at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore in Laurel Heights.

Mother was the youngest of three girls of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Atkisson, Jackson County, Texas. She had four older half sisters. Her mother died when she was nine and her father when she was eleven years old.

The three girls were raised by anyone that would take them in. Uncle Will and Aunt Betty Moore, no relation, were one of these thoughtful families. This is where I got my middle name "Moore". Uncle Will never knew of his namesake as mother was afraid he would think it was for a monetary reason. Will Moore owned a large ranch on Turkey Creek at Cline, Texas, near Uvalde.

Mother and Dad married at sun-up in order to catch the early train back to Yoakum. In the wedding party were Uncle Bennie Neal, Cousin George Morrow and, I believe, Cousin George Alexander. While waiting for the train, Daddy and Cousin George Morrow went to a cafe across the street. Uncle Bennie Neal was left in charge of the bride. The train's whistle blew and Dad said, "George we'd better go." Cousin George said, "Harry I have just got to have another glass of water." The waitress was not very prompt and the train left without them. Uncle Bennie tried to get mother to get on the train and assured her the boys could run and catch the caboose. Mother would have none of that. To my personal knowledge for the rest of their lives, Dad would say, "George, would you like another glass of water?"

The following spring of 1908 Dad started buying cattle for his livestock operation. The records show his father A.J. Neal, loaned him one thousand dollars on March 21, 1908. Beginning on that date and for the next week, checks were written for yearling cattle. Purchases were made from J.E. Werner, O. Teller, H.L. Wade, Gus Teller, W.C. Cooper, S.C. Parker, E.S. Cook, and J.T. Hollan.

Harry Neal had a great desire to move to West Texas and go into the sheep business. Mother, however, was opposed and mentioned the isolation, poor roads, great distance to towns, schools, doctors and churches. This opposition resulted in the decision to remain in DeWitt County.

On January 1, 1909, they leased the old Neal home place at Stratton, consisting of 812 acres for five years at fifty cents an acre. Then on October 5, 1912, they bought the place for eight dollars an acre. This created a debt of sixty five hundred dollars. Mother was opposed to the pressure of this huge debt so they sold five hundred acres in 1914 to a Mr. Dooley and kept the three hundred twelve acres near Stratton.

The following children were born to Harry and Josa Neal: Edward Moore Neal, May 7, 1912; Floyd Andrew Neal, January 19, 1915, died January 4, 1975; and Virginia Joe Neal, September 13, 1920, died November 27, 1945 in a hunting accident.

Our family life was typical for the times: lots of work with little money, but satisfaction and happiness. We tried most everything to make the farm operation profitable. In 1928 Dad sold the beef cows and switched to dairy cows. We sold sweet cream to the Valley Gold Creamery in Cuero. There was a cream route truck that picked the cream up daily. We raised sheep, Angora goats, hogs, turkeys and White Leghorn hens. The farm produced cotton, corn, Hegari, peanuts and commercial tomatoes. All of this was accomplished by hand labor and with little profit. There was not much time for boys to get into serious trouble.

We were not sent to the field to work; we followed mother and could hardly keep up with her pruning or picking tomatoes. She would go to the house at eleven o'clock, have a good hot dinner ready by noon and be ready to return to the field with us at one o'clock.

In our family honesty, dependability, and especially punctuality were emphasized almost to a fault. Dad had more credit at the bank than he would use.

We were taught country manners. They

called it "raising". We were never to wear our hats or spurs indoors or our spurs in town. Another rule was to never lope your horse by a home: pull up to a saddle gait, and then, if time was precious, resume the lpe fifty to one hundred yards past the residence. We were to act respectful towards all adults.

We had our fun too. We boys owned good horses. We were permitted to rope the goats but not the sheep or calves. We did, however, slip the rope on a calf ever now and then. We hunted both day and night with dogs and sling shots, fished, swam in the stock tanks, and fought wasp and bumble bees. None of this recreation cost money, but it was fun.

On numerous occasions Dad would barbecue a mutton sheep and let us invite area boy friends in to rope goats, play baseball or whatever.

I remember a couple of amusing stories Dad used to tell. One day on returning from town the hired man (this was before we got big enough to work) told Dad a visitor stopped by while he was gone. Dad asked who it was. The man said, "I do not remember his name but he had a lot of money." Dad asked how he knew. He stated "he was carrying a checkbook." This same hired genius was told to go into the pasture and get the work mules. He was also told to take an ear of corn and catch the old buggy mare to ride. Dad looked and he was chasing Old Slipper all over the place. When he returned he was asked why he had not taken an ear of corn as told. The reply, "I thought you said the old mare could be caught in 'air corner'."

Mother was a small woman, weighing about one hundred ten pounds, or less, with lots of energy and spunk. One day as a small lad I went with her horseback to gather the turkey eggs. I rode behind the side saddle. Mother carried, on the crook of one arm, a bucket with a flour sack in the bottom for a cushion. On arriving at a turkey nest in the brush, a big chicken snake was in the process of swallowing the egg. Without hesitation, mother jumped off the horse. The snake spit out the egg and started up a tree. Mother caught it by the tail and slammed it against the tree until it was dead. That has to be e classed as pioneer spunk.

The Neal family took an active part in community leadership. My grandfather, A.J. Neal, donated the land for the Old Stratton one room school. The playground was in the Neal pasture. The front door opened on the public road and the back door into the pasture.

My father once found a bunch of his goats out in the public road. He was driving them home and when they got to the school house the whole bunch went in the front door and out the back door while school was in session. This caused a slight interruption in concentration in teaching and studying.

We had an old pet mother goat named "Nanny" that would show up at school every noon hour and take biscuit and jelly sandwiches away from the little girls. They would run and scream, but old Nanny would gently reach up and take the sandwiches out of their hands.

The girls had an "out-house" but the boys went to the brush. Someone did remove the barbs from the wire fence to protect our clothes.

The old school was also used by the Primitive Baptist Church (known as Hard Shell Baptist) for their monthly services.

Harry Neal was on the school board which consisted of three members. One year in order to keep a top teacher, Miss Annie Lee Williams, we boarded her free-of-charge. As is always the case, the school district was short of tax income. She taught grades one through the eighth and got the mission accomplished. I remember her as "the best".

The community school usually had a picnic at the end of the seven month school year. Once Mrs. Fred House, who had organized a band in Yoakum, came out and the band played at the picnic. That was something extra special for Stratton. Another year at the school picnic Dad found there was enough money to pay Miss Annie Lee for one more month of teaching. It was announced that classes would be extended for an extra month. I don't think the students ever completely forgave the school board for this decision.

Harry Neal took the lead in consolidating the Stratton and Crossenville school districts. An election was held on August 9, 1924, approving the consolidation. There were seventeen votes cast, all for consolidation.

At new two room, two teacher, school was built and was ready for use in 1925. The community was coming up in the world, girls and boys both had "out-houses". We regret to report the boys refused to use theirs and still went to the brush.

After the new school was completed Dad organized and taught a non-denominational Sunday School class for the young people around stratton for several years.

There were no school buses or car pools. Transportation to school consisted mostly of walking or riding horseback. The Ben Benbow kids, Johnny, Bill, and Tom, all rode the same cropped eared donkey. The donkey was as hard to get started to and from school as a T-model Ford on a cold morning. Everyone had a certain tree to tie or "park" their transportation.

One year there were two little girls that lived out on Irish Creek about five miles from school. Dad arranged to borrow an old gentle mare and a saddle and then he furnished the feed for the horse. They came to school every day in style.

Does this sound like a depressed area? It wasn't, families were providing for one another. We had a disciplined, happy youth. We learned to work and to do without things we could not afford. Our parents taught us the only way for an easier life was to get a college education. They used the cash value in an insurance policy to send me to Texas A&M College my first year. They were never able to repay the loan and consequently lost the life insurance. Financing the last three years of college was my responsibility. I worked at manual labor for twenty five cents an hour. Jobs included ditch digging, mowing lawn, janitor work and one summer milking fifteen cows three times a day by hand. The summer the cows were milked I also had janitor responsibilities for the third floor of the old Administration building. Regulation required students to be enrolled in at least two courses to hold student labor employment. Registration was made for two courses but only one was attended. There was time for only four hours sleep each night. My weight went from 145 pounds to 120 pounds in three months. When the failing grade appeared I was called to the dean's office. Naturally Mr. C.N. Shepardson asked, "What is the problem?" The explanation was simple. I needed $150 for registration for the coming fall term and due to my work schedule I could attend but one class. Mr. Shepardson looked at me about one minute and said, "Get the hell out of here." Summer employment was completed and registration was possible in the fall of 1933. Loans were also secured for other years. Two hundred dollars was borrowed from Mr. J.K. Elkins of Yoakum and one hundred fifty dollars from the A&M Ex-Students Association. The great sacrifice my parents made to give me a start at A&M made me feel so obligated that I had no choice but to somehow complete the last three years and earn my degree.

After finishing Texas A&M College and working several years my father suggested it might be time for me to think about marriage. He said, "I never knew an old bachelor that ever amounted to too much." I told him as a matter-of-fact I had met a real pretty school teacher down at Beeville that I was considering bringing home for an introduction. This young lady was Flossie Mae Davis, and we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 11, 1989. From the very beginning, and to this day, she has been an excellent partner. She continued to teach school to help pay my school debts, and for her engagement and wedding rings, and ranch notes.

My good honest, hard-working parents and the family "togetherness" down on the Stratton farm were great growing up and maturing experiences: there are few regrets.

by Edward Moore Neal

NEAL, SAM

F671

As far as we know, there has never been any contact or family information prior to Samuel M. Neal (1808-1868). We do not have accurate information but, apparently, Sam Neal was the son of a fairly well-to-do family for that day and time in Tennessee. Sam was sent away to school but lost the money given him by gambling. Rather than face his father, he moved west as a lot of the young men did in the early days when they got their foot "over the trace."

Sam Neal married Eliza Hollan Fatheree, a widow with five children, in Jackson Parish, Louisiana. Sam and Eliza had three children: Alafair Neal Hanks (1847-1901), A.J. Neal (1897-1917), and Sicillia Jane Neal Garey (1852-1879). The Neals moved to Texas around 1855.

Samuel M. Neal and Eliza Hollan Fatheree Neal (1811-1863) are buried in the old Terryville Cemetery near the old Bear Creek School in DeWitt County, Texas. This old cemetery was recently fenced and cleaned up. A Texas Historical Marker was dedicated nearby on F.M. Road 682, 10.5 miles south of Yoakum on May 4, 1986.

A.J. (Dock) Neal was born in Bienville, Parish, Louisiana. A.J. Neal married Nancy M. Byars January 20, 1866. A son was born, Sam Neal II, November 8, 1867 – May 27, 1880. Nancy died in 1869.

A.J. Neal's second marriage was to Mary T. Alexander (1849-1915) March 1, 1871. To this marriage seven children were born, two girls and five boys. They arrived in this order: R.A. (Tuck) Neal, October 25, 1874-1947; Musetta Neal Swartz, May 22, 1879-1903; B.J. (Bennie) Neal, April 13, 1881-1949; Lillie Neal Squyres, April 30, 1883-1954; H.A. (Harry) Neal, February 4, 1885-1956; C.J. (Con) Neal, August 8, 1887-1967; and A.J. (Dock) Neal, Jr., November 20, 1889-1950.

Sometime around 1908 A.J. Neal, my grandfather, Uncle Bennie and my father, H.A. Neal, made a trip to West Texas, in a horse-drawn wagon, to buy Dad a ranch. My father, Harry was the one most interested in stock raising of the Neal boys. Grandpa was a great believer in sheep. He said that the men who moved to West Texas and ran sheep stayed, and those that depended on cattle went broke. On this trip Dad was impressed with the Lampasas country. I believe he said it could have been bought for fifty cents to a dollar per acre. Dad said he has never figured out exactly how it happened, but on the way back home Grandpa and Uncle Bennie bought a ranch on the Llano river near Junction and Dad bargained for the old home place in DeWitt County near Stratton.

Dock Neal used the livestock fire brand called Heart Vee. The records show it was registered in DeWitt County in 1874. The brand was probably used before it was officially registered. Information handed down stated that the brand was registered in all counties south to the coast.

On the open range cattle drifted away from the cold north winds in the winter. Each spring they were driven back to their home range. My father, Harry Neal, used the Heart Vee brand during his life time (1885-1956). I, Edward M. Neal, used the brand from 1951 to 1982 and have it registered in DeWitt, Bee, and Live Oak Counties. My daughter Sara Jane and her husband, Allen L. Dunn, are now using the brand. We have two grandsons, Brett Edward Dunn (1968) and Neal H. Dunn (1972) that we hope will keep the brand tradition alive. They are both good brush cowboys.

A.J. Neal was given a Power of Attorney by J.R. (Uncle Jim) Benbow dated May 11, 1874, to drive and sell cattle with certain brands and ear marks in Kansas. Uncle Jim was no relation, however, it was the custom to call older people "Uncle and Aunt".

Mr. Madison Granberry, who was distantly related in some way by marriage told me a story a number of years ago about one of these trail drivers. Apparently Dock Neal often played pranks on the other trail drivers. One day during a noon stop on a river, four men decided they would even up the jokes. Grandfather was taking a nap. They picked him up, one man on each arm and leg and proceeded to the river. He offered no resistance whatsoever until they got to the river bank. A big kick took care of the two leg men and he got up and threw the other two men in the river. It was a good story for a young grand-son who was all ears. Another trail drive story of interest regards his returning home alone from Kansas with the money in gold coins carried on a pack horse along with his bedroll. One night in camp he was aroused by his horses stirring around. Grandfather said to his horses, "Hey what are you doing there?" — A voice answered, "Just trying to see who you are."

Another story that indicates A.J. (Dock) Neal's personality or character was about a stray shoat (pig) that showed up at the Neal place. In trying to run it off, Grandfather cut its tail off as it ran under the lot fence. A neighbor who was not known for truthfulness came over to check on the stray pig. "Yes Dock, that is my hog all right, I cut its tail off before it got out of its mother's bed." Grandfather said "Well this is not your shoat then, as I cut off its tail. Grandfather said he was convinced the hog belonged to the man, but he never gave up possession of the shoat.

My father, Harry Neal, said that Grandfather also took a very active part in breaking up the so called mavericking of cattle, or more correctly, wholesale stealing on the open range.

It is interesting to note that Grandfather started buying land during his trail driving time. It must have been a method of creating capital. Land purchases were made as follows by A.J. Neal:

110 A 1/12/74 for a total $330 coin dollars from Estate of I.G. Belcher, Brenham, Texas; 80.5 A 11/23/1880 total $201.25 from Mrs. Barsheba Belcher; 79 A 1/12/83 total $135 from Royal Garey (brother-in-law); 390 & 116 A 6/13/83 total $1,381 from Estate Eugene Wallace; 33.3 A 4/6/86 total $350 from C.B. Williams; 3.9 A 10/26/88 total $39.00 from Royal Garey (brother-in-law). Records show money was borrowed from numerous individuals at 10%-12% interest rates.

Edward M. Neal, (1912) present owner, married Flossie Davis (1917) in 1939. To this union were born: Judy Neal Stubbs (1943), Sara Jane (Neal) Dunn (1947) and Diana Neal Loving (1953).

It must have been rugged, hard, and exciting times for the old timer's but they built a great country. It is amazing how they accomplished all this without someone to tell them when to tighten their saddle girth or buckle their seat belt.

by Edward M. Neal

NEWMAN, JOHN LESLIE (PETE)

F672

John Leslie (Pete) Newman was born on November 2, 1903 in the vicinity of Stratton in DeWitt County. He was the fourth child of John A. and Julia Ann (Terry) Newman, whose story is given separately.

Pete grew up in and around Cuero and always considered it home. He was well known as a brick mason and many of the masonry homes and buildings in the area were built by him.

During the 1940s and 1950s he traveled to other states to ply his trade. Pete made many friends in his travels. After several years he returned to Cuero to work in the area. Pete was a member of Cuero Masonic Lodge, A.F. & A.M.

Pete's first wife was Jerlie Dunn. Jerlie was born in Stockdale, Texas on June 11, 1905 and died October 2, 1968 in San Antonio, Texas. Her parents were G.B. Dunn and Mildred Adeline (Molly Foster) Dunn of San Antonio. Mr. Dunn was a grocer for many years in San Antonio.

Pete and Jerlie had two daughters: Florence Anita and Mary Loyce. Anita was born September 24, 1923 in San Antonio. She married Joe Little Jr. on May 4, 1940. Joe's family is listed under House-Grun. Joe and Anita have two daughters: Jo Ann, born November 26, 1941 and Peggy Loyce, born September 17, 1943, both born in San Antonio. Jody married Jim C. Mollenkopf of San Antonio on February 20, 1965. Jody and Jim have three children. Their daughter, Tanya Denise, was born the 25th of January 1969. Sons, Kelly Charles was born December 30, 1970 and Jimmie Charles Jr. was born on June 12, 1973. They live in the Adkins, Texas area, east of San Antonio. Peggy married Charles B. (Shorty) Thompson on September 17, 1965 and they live in San Antonio.

Mary Loyce (Honey) was born October 1, 1925 in Cuero, Texas. She first married Clinton McDougal and they had one daughter, Jerry Lea, born November 7, 1942. Honey's second marriage was to Maurice Cote. They had two daughters: Janice Yvette born June 7, 1948 and Darlene Janet born July 11, 1952. Jerry married Robert T. Armstrong of San Antonio on March 19, 1971. Janice is married to Thomas E. Dupree Jr. Janice has three children by previous marriages. Yvette Michelle Bierre born December 20, 1965, Sean Dale Maughan born August 21, 1967 and Elizabeth Ann Moore born June 30, 1970. Darlene was first married to Cordell Kirby in November 1967. They have one son, Kevin Wayne, born November 15, 1970. Her second husband is Gregory J. Weiss. They married October 5, 1979. All of Honey's family live in Tennessee. Honey died October 22, 1973 and is buried in San Antonio.

Pete married for the second time in 1929 to Ethel Wright. Ethel was born July 18, 1911 and died April 11, 1974. Pete died July 28, 1966. They are both buried in the Cuero Cemetery.

by Anita Newman Little

NEWMAN, JOSEPH TERRY

F673

Joseph Terry Newman

The first Newmans in Texas were Joseph Austin Newman (b. York County, South Carolina 1780) and his wife, Rachel Rabb (b. Fayette Co., Pa. 1790), who came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin's "Old 300" in 1822. Joseph died in Egypt, Texas, in 1831; his widow survived until 1872. Their son, Joseph Austin Newman, Jr., was born in Wharton County in 1824. He married Mary Rice. One of their children, John Austin Newman, was born in DeWitt County in 1871. He married Julia Ann Terry, the daughter of John and Julia A. Middlebrooks Terry. John Austin died in 1940 and his widow

in 1950. They had eight children, the third generation of Newmans in Texas: Joseph Terry, b. 1894, d. 1981; Carrie, b. 1897, d. 1964; Cecil, b. 1899, d. 1957; Irene, b. 1901, d. 1984; John "Pete", b. 1903, d. 1966; Walter, b. 1906, d. 1951; Ann, b. 1910, d. 1983; and Jesse, b. 1915, d. 1988.

The first son, Joseph Terry Newman, was born at Stratton and grew up in that rural community of DeWitt County. He attended Baldwin Business College in Yoakum and had just started in business when World War I broke out. Newman served as a Sergeant in the United States Army and was engaged in combat in France for a number of months during which time he was wounded in action. He returned to DeWitt County in 1919 and settled in Cuero. In 1920 he was elected to his first of two terms as DeWitt County Clerk. He did not seek reelection in 1924 but went to work for Alamo Lumber Company as manager of its local branch.

Reentering politics in the depths of the depression, he was elected to his first term as Mayor of Cuero in 1934. He was to serve a total of twenty-four years as the city's chief executive. Newman reorganized the administration of the City, then a General Law city, by eliminating several elected posts and substituting appointive offices. Fighting the effects of the Great Depression he was instrumental in obtaining many public works programs to give employment to the people of the community. Against strenuous opposition he pushed through the purchase and construction of the Cuero Municipal park consisting of a club house, golf course, swimming pool, baseball diamond, picnic units, and other facilities. Completed in 1936 the Park has been the recreational and amusement center of the City for more than 50 years.

Convinced that the future of the City depended on an inexpensive supply of electric power, Newman pushed for a municipal electric distribution system. In the first election, the issuance of municipal revenue bonds was defeated. Refusing to give up the Mayor called for a new election as soon as possible and this time the bonds carried. The election resulted in litigation which went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court. The City was represented by the late H.W. Wallace. The City won all the court battles and in 1938 and City purchased the Central Power & Light Company's distribution facilities and entered into a long term contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority to supply electric power. Interestingly, the Mayor argued in support of the bond issue that a City-owned electric utility might contribute as much as $20,000.00 per year in profits to the City operations. That prediction was considered wildly optimistic by the opponents of municipal ownership. In the event the electric system has contributed millions of dollars to the City coffers. While working for the acquisition of the City electric distribution system Newman was also influential in the foundation of the DeWitt County Electric Cooperative and the realization of Rural Electrification for the first time in DeWitt County.

Neweman was instrumental in bringing the National Youth Administration division headquarters to Cuero and the NYA building with men's and women's dormitories and meeting and dining facilities were erected in the Municipal Park.

As war clouds gathered over Europe and the Pacific and the nation entered a period of frantic rearmament, Newman worked to insure that Cuero would share in the war effort. He persuaded the voters to purchase 500 acres just north of the City from the late Kos Morgan and entered into a contract with Clyde Brayton for the operation of Brayton Field, a civilian contract primary training field which brought thousands of young Army Air Crops cadets, officers, and training personnel to Cuero and pumped millions of dollars into the local economy during World War II.

After the War Newman suffered his first political defeat in 1945. It was believed that his support for the then controversial proposal to charge for City water on a metered basis was a factor in his defeat. Newman returned to office in 1949 and served until 1955 when he voluntarily retired. He returned in 1959 and served two more terms. During his various administrations he initiated the first storm sewer system in the City, paved and curbed many blocks of the city streets, created the sanitation department, obtained a new city sewer plant, developed Cuero's first Airport, saw the erection of the National Guard Armory on Municipal Park property, proposed and secured the adoption of Cuero's first City Charter, initiated the City Manager system and participated in the selection of the City's first Manager.

At the same time, he was developing new subdivisions, building new homes, and directing the business of Newman's of Cuero which included construction, lumber, hardware, and furniture. Newman was honored as Grand Marshal of the Turkey Trot Parade in 1960 and in 1964 he was awarded the first Cuero Chamber of Commerce community service award.

In 1964 at the age of 70 Newman announced his candidacy for State Representative. He was elected three times, serving in the 59th, 60th, and 61st Legislatures. He served as vice-chairman of the State Penitentiaries Committee and as a member of the Livestock, Parks, & Wildlife, Urban Affairs, and State Water Committees.

Newman was married to Ruth A. Westerburg (b. 1896 in Pennsylvania, d. at Cuero, 1944), by whom he had three children: Joseph Terry Newman, Jr., David Crosby Newman, and Marjorie R. Newman. Joseph Terry Newman, Jr., married Dorothy J. Matthews. He was in business with his father before the Second World War. He went into service and was killed in action in 1945. He left one child, Terri Dale Newman. David C. Newman married Billye M. Menn. They have four children: David C., Jr., Joe Terry, and twins Marva Lee Meitzen and Martha Ruth Harwood. David was also in business with his father and is now engaged as a contractor under the firm name of Newman's of Cuero. Marjorie R. Newman is the mother of three children: John N. Warren, Barbara A. Warren, and Candace R. Collins.

After the death of his first wife, Mayor Newman married Sophie Rolland (born 1912) in 1947. Newman died at Cuero on April 12, 1981, at the age of 87 years. At the time of his death he had been a member of the American Legion for more than 62 years and a Master Mason for more than 50 years. His widow, Sophie R. Newman, died at Cuero in 1984.

by David C. Newman

Miss Odelia Marie,
DEALER IN
FINE FRUITS, NUTS, CANDIES and TOBACCO
There are my {El AROMA REAL, La PLUMA. { Finest 5c cigars.
Next door to Breeden Bros., Main St.

NICHOLS, LAZARUS AND MARGARET LOUISA MEANS

F674

Lazarus Nichols was born in Simpson County, Mississippi, March 17, 1825. The only thing known of his parents is that Lazarus said his father landed at New Orleans, from Ireland, during the battle there. (After the death of Lazarus, $139 was added to his estate as listed in the DeWitt County courthouse from A.A. Nichols, administrator of the estate of William Nichols of Scott County, Mississippi).

Lazarus first came to Texas as a frontier "drummer" (salesman) of butter churns. Lazarus Nichols' first purchase of land in DeWitt County was 200 acres from John and Elizabeth McCoy on McCoy Creek in the McCoy League, January 12, 1850. On October 31, 1850 he took out a marriage license at the county-seat, Clinton, and was married the same evening to Margaret Louisa Means by H. McBride Pridgen, J.P., DeWitt County.

Margaret Louisa Means was born November 16, 1833 in Sabine County, to William and Frances Means, who came from Georgia with his mother, Rachel Means, a widow who received a settler's Land Grant in her own name to land on the Pedernales (now part of the LBJ ranch). On the 1846 DeWitt County tax roll, her father owned 1100 acres of the George W. Davis Survey; and on the 1850 Census, he and his wife and five children were listed as DeWitt County residents on this land. Margaret Louisa was the second child and her age was nineteen. (The household inventoried next after William Means on the census was "E." Nichols a twenty-four year old householder from Mississippi). Margaret Louisa's father was a colonel at the Battle of San Jacinto, assigned to guard the baggage and wounded at the camp opposite Harrisburg by Sam Houston – a task that had to be "assigned" as everyone there wanted to fight. In 1836 he was sheriff of Sabine County, he represented Sabine County in the Eighth and Ninth Congresses, 1843-45, and had also been a tax collector for Sabine County.

Margaret Louisa was a small, fiery woman. At one time, while Lazarus was on a lading trip with supplies on the wagon train from Indianola, a notorious cattle thief stole cattle from him and from his neighbors. Margaret Louisa confronted the rustlers, but they just laughed. When her husband returned, she handed him his gun. Lazarus went to his neighbors and told them: "If you want to get your cattle back without a shot fired, come follow me."

When they neared the cattle, Lazarus told his neighbors to remain hidden in a live-oak mott until he raised his hand above his head. He rode up alone and shouted: "Who's the leader of this outfit?" When the leader wheeled his horse in front of Lazarus, he drew his gun and told the rustler, "Tell your men to throw down their guns and ride yonder way. They may kill me, but I *know* I'll kill you." Then he raised his hand above his head, and told his neighbors to cut out their cattle and his, and "head them yonder way." Later the rustlers sent word that they were coming to get him, and Lazarus sent word back: "Tell them to come any time, but be sure the foremost man has religion, for he's mine."

Once Sarah Jane Newman (Sally Scull), a

pants-riding, gun-toting cowgirl of the Texas frontier came through and spent the night at the Nichols' Ranch. Lazarus asked her, the next time she came, to bring him a horse a lady could ride. She brought him a wild horse, and when Lazarus objected, she got on and rode it. Lazarus bought the horse.

Tom Stell recounts how, during the feud in Cuero's young days in the seventies, both factions were in town on opposite sides of the street. Lazarus, a very tall man, went into the street, unarmed, and persuaded them to take their quarrel out of town.

Lazarus wanted a strong legal system, and when he saw a rising, honest young attorney, Henry Clay Pleasants, he asked him to run for county judge. The young man said he didn't have the where-with-all to campaign, and that if he lost, his family would suffer while he was re-establishing his practice. Lazarus gave him one hundred dollars saying he knew he could win, and that if he didn't win, Lazarus would pay him the judge's salary for a year. "Now can you run?" The answer, "Yes, Mr. Nichols, I believe I can."

Lazarus and Margaret Louisa had the following children: Morgan Oliver, who married Fanny Hardy; Lenora Jane, who married Nathan A. McFaddin; Elizabeth Ann (Betty), who married R.P. Orrell; the twins – Eliza, who married Samuel Winston Lane II, and Elisha, who died in his twenties and never married; Jennie, who married Millard Chaddock; Della, who married Otis Drake; and Margaret Letishia (Tishie), who married George Austin Clegg. Each of his children received a large tract of land, stocked with cattle, after his death; land which most of the girls sold. He became ill in the late summer of 1882, and died at their home in Clinton, December 30, 1882, and was buried in the Nichols' Lost Creek Cemetery. Margaret Louisa built a home in Cuero, and died there May 5, 1908, and is buried in the petite, curbed grave beside her husband.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

Frank Nickel and Annie (Holub) Nickel

NICKEL FAMILY

F675

My mother was Anice Lucille Brown, daughter of James Edgar Brown and Brunetta Gates. James Edgar Brown was the son of Joseph P. Brown and Tennessee Alabama ("Bamie") Edgar. Joseph P. Brown was born in Marshall County, Mississippi November 10, 1847. He died in Yoakum December 1936 and is buried at Thomaston. "Bamie" Edgar was born in Murray County, Tennessee February 10, 1849. Her father was Henry Edgar. She is also buried at the Thomaston cemetery. Joseph S. Edgar had been to Texas and fought in Texas Revolution from Mexico. His name is inscribed on the San Jacinto Monument. He received a grant of land from the new Republic for this service and thus began the Edgar immigration to the Republic of Texas. Joseph P. Brown served in the Confederate army and he received a pension for this in his later years.

We have documented proof in my mothers maternal family that the Gates' were of the Essex family in England. The ship the family came to the new colonies in was the "Tempest" which sunk off the coast of the Bermuda Islands. Eventually they made their way to America. Sir Thomas Gates was one of the first defenders of Virginia and fought in the Revolution of the colonies from England. The family multiplied and began to spread out in the new country. William and Catherine Gates brought their family to Texas. They came with Stephen F. Austin and the first three hundred families. Austin had received permission from the Mexican government to settle their families in Texas. A son, Amos Gates built a ferry for the settlers to cross the Brazos River to site of Austin's colony. Catherine Gates was the first white woman to cross the Brazos River and the Gates family was on the first crossing. Thus, the Gates family feel they should be known as the First Family of Texas. Members of the family fought in our revolution from Mexico and the war between the states. Joseph Dillard Gates, my great grandfather was born at Washington on the Brazos. He married Adeline Duren and had twelve children. Joseph D. Gates and his brother Sam were members of the Waul's Legion and J.D. Gates was made 1st Lieutenant by Governor Edmund J. Davis. Joseph Dillard Gates was the first man to answer the call of the Confederacy in 1861. One of the Gates brothers came home after the war. He had walked all of the way and his health had deteriorated so badly that he died within a few days.

Joseph and Adeline moved the Sam Gates place in Gonzales County in 1879. Joseph was a road commissioner for many years. I believe that part of his precincts were probably DeWitt County at that time and the county lines were changed later.

My paternal grandparents were Annie Holub and Frank Nickel. Both were Czechoslovakians from the province of Bohemia, whose families emigrated to the United States. I believe the spelling of the Nickel name has been Americanized. I have visited cemeteries in Moravia and Praha and find the name spelled Nykl, Nikl and other but I feel this is the same family.

Frank Nickel had a very colorful life. He went on many cattle drives to Missouri and Kansas. They probably went on the Chisholm Trail because that was the one people from this area opened and used. We believe he may have been a trail boss or another important position because, he said he was the one that always cut the cattle out of the herd to give to the Indians

Tom W. Nickel 1930's

Brunetta (Gates) Brown, Anice L. Nickel and Annie Marie (Nickel) Vaughn

for passage through their land. Often, at the end of a drive he would get on his horse and go exploring. I believe he visited most of the western states in his travels. He talked much of his adventure when he was older but, his own children didn't pay much attention. My mother found him very interesting but, sometimes he would lapse into speaking Bohemian from English.

My grandparents were married and lived at Praha before moving to Fordtran, on the Victoria prairie. Frank Nickel bought land in DeWitt and Victoria Counties. The DeWitt County land was bought for a wood pasture for there was no wood on the prairie land in Victoria County where they built their home. The family eventually had 12 living children. Some of the family stayed on in Praha and some of the older boys went on to Fordtran in order to put in a crop at both places the first years. Henry Wolf, a local historian, wrote that when the first settlers arrived in Fordtran, the Nickel family was already there. My father, one of the youngest sons, was born at Fordtran and attended school there through the sixth grade. That's probably as high as the school went then. Fordtran became a rich farming community. At one time it has as many as three cotton gins and my aunts and uncles tell of many negroes picking cotton in the fields and singing as they worked.

James E. Brown, son of Tennessee Alabama Edgar and Joseph Brown, met and married Brunetta Gates, (daughter of Joseph Dillard Gates and Adeline Duren) while teaching school in Cheapside community. They were both very handsome people. My mother, Anice Lucille, was born in the building that had been the old Concrete College, October 6, 1898 and then was being used as a residence. She was delivered by Dr. Finley Blackwell. The James E. Browns lived in many places in DeWitt and Gonzales Counties. Anice graduated from Yoakum High School in the tenth grade. She then took an entrance examination at Southwest Texas Normal College in San Marcos and was entered as a sophomore. She was chosen to a S.W.T.C. beauty of her class that year. She attended only one year. Anice then took another examination and got her teachers certificate. She taught at Center, Cheapside and later Salem, in Victoria County. Anice met Tom W. Nickel in Yoakum, while visiting her parents. They were soon married. Tom had one of the first taxi cabs in Yoakum. Tom worked at various things and all along he was doing some

Cato and Julia Jackson, cow hand for Tom Nickel 1930's and 40's.

Brunetta (Gates) Brown, Anice L. Nickel and Wayne "Boss" Vaughn

cattle trading. In 1925 they bought land near his family at Fordtran. There was a terrible drought in Cuero and the area around there at this time. The land my parents bought had not been grazed for several years. They made their first payments on the land by pasturing cattle from DeWitt County ranchers that had no grass. My mother had stayed in Yoakum until I was born July 29, 1925. Tom then bought an abandoned house about five miles away from our ranch. He and his father, Frank Nickel, moved this house with mules and a stump puller to its present location. The house has been added on to and remodeled several times. The original building is still the best and strongest part of the house. Tom traveled all over the country roads buying cattle. There were no auction sales. He would buy large or small herds of any kind of cattle. He had regular customers that would write to him when they had stock for sale. Others would just wait until he came. He bought from small farmers and ranchers as big as Irma Keeran in Inez, Texas. Tom would set up delivery points and dates. The sellers would drive their stock to the point of delivery. There, we met them with our cowboys and took over. On the way back we would pick up the other herds he had bought. I often got to ride on these drives and enjoyed every minute of it. We watered the cattle, our horses and drank ourselves when we crossed creeks and small rivers. Mother usually met us at noon with a good lunch she had cooked at home. At the home ranch Tom would class his cattle. Some he had standing orders for. He sold to people like Mira Gonzales and "Bud' Murphy of Nursery. Will Blackwell and sons of Cuero and others. Some of our cattle were kept and shipped to the wheat fields of Kansas and Oklahoma to be fattened for market and sold there. We shipped these cattle by rail from the nearest railroad shipping pens. We most often used Julia pens at Thomaston by the McCrabb ranch. We drove the cattle there. I got to go on some of these drives too.

My mother and I stayed in Cuero with her parents for me to start school. I went to John C. French and my first teacher was a lovely lady, Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery. I went to the 2nd and 3rd grades in Fordtran. I rode my horse "Sugar" the five miles to and from school most of the time. If the weather was very bad my folks usually managed to take me in our car.

Tom and Anice Nickel separated in 1935. Mother and I moved to Cuero. I was ten years and started to Junior High. These were the early Roosevelt years and times were still hard. My mother did various things. About 1936, she taught night school at the First Baptist Church for people who could not read and write and had very little education. This was one of the New Deal programs sponsored by the government to help our country on its feet and going after the depression. In 1937 she got a job teaching the Roseville School just out of Cuero. For a while we lived in that community with the Wesely Weber family, with whom we became good friends. I still attended Cuero schools. After this Anice took a beauty course in San Antonio and became a beautician. She returned to Cuero and bought the Vanity Fair Beauty Shop on Main Street. She successfully operated her shop there until 1945. The business was sold and she then opened a shop at her home on 509 Clayton. She was in business there until she retired, well past the age of 70. Anice Nickel will be 91 years old october 1989. She has been living at Retama Manor West these later years. Her mind and memory are still very good.

During the Roosevelt years Tom Nickel remained at our Fordtran ranch and became a very successful rancher and business man. He was one of the outstanding cattlemen of his time. He bought ranches in DeWitt, Jackson, Lavaca, Karnes and Victoria Counties and leased thousands of acres. He built and operated the only modern, government regulation slaughter house that Cuero has ever had. The slaughter house was built on land he bought from Mr. Tully near the Cuero Livestock Commission Co. Tom Nickel successfully operated a custom slaughter and feed lot business there until his untimely death, at the age of 42. To Tom Nickel this had only began phase one of his plans for a large packing plant to be located in Cuero. He was also, a consultant to the Victoria Bank & Trust Co. in all matters pertaining to livestock and land.

I graduated from Cuero High School in 1942. We did not have all the usual festivities graduates usually have because our country was now engaged in World War II. In December 1941, I was on a hunting trip with my father and friends at our Morales Ranch in Jackson County. We camped out and stayed several days. Sunday December 7, we took my girl friend, Doris Lee Schultz, back to her home in Edna and stopped at a drive-in for a hamburger. The drive-in had a P.A. system hooked up and President Roosevelt was declaring war against Japan. I felt as if I had been gone for a much longer time, so much had changed that weekend. I went to Victoria Junior College in 1943. I did not go back to school in 1944. My father offered to put me in the cattle business and I took him up on his offer. I spent most of my time with him until his death. I was in the cattle business and more important was the chance to learn about business.

I married Wayne "Buss" Vaughn in 1946. He was descended from the Wayne Smith's of Bastrop County, another large family of early settlers. Wayne Smith told me he had also gone "up the trail". He was very young and had wrangled the horse herd, a job reserved for younger, greener cowboys. Wayne's uncle R.G. Smith took part in the building of the original causeway into Corpus Christi. This man was also instrumental in building the first road through the King Ranch into the Rio Grande Valley. R.G. moved to the Rio Grande Valley and was farming in a big way. He soon sent for his father to come and help him. Pancho Villa and his men were often raiding into Texas for horses and mules. Eventually most of the Smith family moved to the Valley, including Otis and Dixie Vaughn, my husband's parents. Otis was a veteran of World War I. Wayne returned there after serving in World War II in the Air Corps. Wayne was in the African invasion and was the recipient of a purple heart. He served until the war ended.

Wayne and I moved to Fordtran to our home ranch and lived there for ten years. When our daughter, Ann Mary, was six, we moved back to Cuero because we were very far from schools. We have lived here continuously and operated our ranches from here. Ann Mary attended all Cuero schools and graduated in 1971. She finished her education at Victoria College.

My husband's health has deteriorated but, I am still operating my ranches. We live at 1016 Main St. My daughter Ann Mary Vaughn was married briefly. She and her daughter Marianne Anice are living with us. Marianne Anice Vaughn started kindergarten at John C. French August 30, 1989. She is the third generation of our family to go to that school. I am looking forward to them to carry on the family business and traditions. I hope this helps them to always remember they have a proud heritage.

by Mrs. Annie Marie Nickel Vaughn

NIEMEIER, EDGAR LEE AND ROSE BLOCK

F676

Edgar Lee and Rose (Block) Niemeier

Edgar Lee Niemeier, the third of five sons of Henry and Bertha Schaper Niemeier, was born on September 29, 1914 outside of Runge, in Karnes County, Texas. He attended schools at Cabaza and Ratcliff.

Rose Elizabeth Block was born on August 1, 1916, the oldest of two children of Arthur and Susie Brantley Block, at Garfield, Texas. She attended school at Yorktown and San Marcos and graduated from Yorktown High School in 1934.

Edgar Lee and Rose were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown on November 25, 1936. Their first home was on a farm south of Nordheim. Here they farmed with Edgar's parents. While they lived on this farm, their two oldest daughter's were born. Virginia was born April 11, 1938, and Doris, October 1, 1939.

In November of 1939, Edgar Lee and Rose moved to the farm at Garfield that they had purchased. Here they farmed and Edgar also broke horses and mules for $5.00 each. Edgar also participated in rodeos where he rode bulls and broncs. It was during this time that Edgar lost the sight in one eye due to an accident while roping a horse.

Due to the health of both Edgar Lee and his daughter, Doris, the Niemeier family moved to the Texas Hill Country outside of Boerne in 1945. Here they lived for three years while

Edgar was the ranch foreman of a large ranch. Rose drove over nine miles of hills and river crossings everyday to transport her two daughters to the nearest school. On July 31, 1948 their third and last daughter was born and they named her Beth. In October of that same year, they had an opportunity to work on a ranch south of Runge in Karnes County. The desire to be nearer their parents, and the improved health of the family, made this move possible.

In 1969 Rose and Edgar Lee bought the land that they had lived on since 1948. They built a new home across the road from the old home in 1973. Here they continue to live and ranch.

Rose is active in the Yorktown First Presbyterian Church where she has held several offices in the Women's Circle. She is also a member of the Yorktown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and held several offices in that group. Rose is a member of the Victoria Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and a Charter member of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" State Organization. Also included in her many activities is being a life member of the Runge PTA and one of the first women to become a member of the Nordheim Shooting Club Hall.

Edgar Lee is active in the Yorktown First Presbyterian Church and has been an Elder in the Church. He is a Director of the Nordheim Shooting Club Hall and a life member of the Runge Fire Department. He has been active on the Tax Review Board of Karnes County, served on the Karnes County ASCS, a member of the Nordheim Fire Department, and been a school trustee for both the Garfield and Runge Schools, and was a Director for the Nordheim Co-OP Gin.

Rose and Edgar Lee Niemeier were fortunate to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 25, 1986 at the Nordheim Shooting Club Hall with over six hundred relatives and friends in attendance.

They are blessed with three daughters, three son-in-laws, six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, two grandchildren by marriage and two great-grandchildren.

by Rose Lee Niemeier

Back Row – L-R Birdie (Niemeier) Schultz, Charlie Niemeier, Alma (Niemeier) Haynes, Henry Niemeier, Emma (Niemeier) Rabke. Front – Martha (Niemeier) Rabke, Henrich Niemeier, Fredricka (Schroeder) Niemeier, Frieda (Niemeier) Haynes

NIEMEIER, HENRICH

F677

Henrich (Henry) Niemeier was born on February 15, 1841 in Putlitz, Province Brandenburg in Perlesburg, Germany. Fredricka (nee Frieda Schroeder) Niemeier was born on February 1, 1843 in Putlitz, Province Brandenburg in Perlesburg, Germany. She was baptized and confirmed in 1857.

Henry and Frieda, as they were called, were married on March 15, 1867 in the Elizabeth Church in Berlin, Germany. They lived in Berlin for eleven years until they came to America in 1878. They had nine children, of which two died young. The three oldest children came to America with their parents and four more children were born here. There is no record of when the two infants were born or died, but presumably it happened while Henry and Frieda were still in Germany.

It is known that Henry was employed as the horse trainer for the Kaiser when he lived in Germany. Hence the interest in horses through the generations of the Niemeiers.

When it came time for the Niemeiers to board the ship to come to America, Henry was desperately trying to sell his horses and buggy before the ship sailed. He almost missed the boat. Frieda, who was expecting a child at the time, and her three children were already on the ship. It was surely a frightening experience for them since they didn't speak a word of English. It has never been learned how Henry got on the ship.

After Henry and Frieda landed at Indianola, they located to Lavaca County and the other four children were born at Breslaw. In 1885 when their youngest child was one year old, they moved to Concrete. Later they moved to a ranch located about two miles from Clinton, which is outside of Cuero in DeWitt County.

To this union were born nine children, of whom only records of seven are available. They are: Alma Niemeier Haynes born April 23, 1868; Bertha Niemeier Schultz born January 17, 1873; Frieda Niemeier Haynes born September 7, 1877; Charlie Niemeier born July 19, 1878; Emma Niemeier Rabke born November 17, 1880; Martha Niemeier Rabke born November 6, 1882 and Henry Niemeier Jr. born November 16, 1884.

An interesting story is told about the time that Henry and Frieda's oldest child, Alma, was eloping with Doc Hayes. Supposedly Alma's father, Henry, pulled a gun on Doc so that he couldn't take Alma. At the same time, Doc's brother pulled a gun on Henry. In the end Alma went with Doc and they were married.

On April 15, 1903, Henrich Niemeier died suddenly at his ranch home near Clinton. He was buried on the ranch. His remains were later moved to the Yorktown Lutheran Cemetery by his son-in-law, Doc Haynes.

Frieda lived for about twenty more years, living with each of her children at one time or another. She died on June 4, 1923 and was buried beside her husband in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Rose Lee Niemeier

NIEMEIER, HENRY AND BERTHA SCHAPER

F678

Henry Niemeier, the son of Heinrich and Frieda Niemeier, was the youngest of nine children and was born November 16, 1884 at Breslaw. He was raised on a ranch two miles from Clinton, which is located near Cuero in DeWitt County.

Bertha Schaper, daughter of August and Ida Gohlke Schaper, was born near Rabke on March 10, 1887. Bertha's father, August Scha-

Henry and Bertha (Schaefer) Niemeier

per, was the son of John A. Schaper, the famous Methodist Circuit Rider preacher, who founded the Hondo, New Fountain, and Elm Church German Methodist Churches. At the time August and Ida met and married, John Schaper was serving the Rabke Methodist Church.

Henry and Bertha married at the Rabke Methodist Church on August 8, 1906. They moved to the Niemeier Ranch at Clinton and ranched for several years. They moved several more times and farmed all their lives. Eventually they moved to Nordheim, where Henry served as Constable for many years.

Henry always owned and raced horses and for many years had the locally famous race horse "Old Rock". Henry was a member of the Nordheim Shooting Hall Club, where he and his wife, Bertha had the pleasure of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1956.

Bertha lost her mother when Bertha was only eight years old. Her Aunt Mary Rabke raised her and there always was closeness between the families. Bertha was raised as a Methodist but in her later years joined the Lutheran Church in Nordheim. She was also a member of the Garden Club, the Home Demonstration Club, and actively helped those who were in need or sick. She was a loving friend and neighbor.

Henry and Bertha had five sons. They are: Arthur Adolph born June 6, 1907; Henry Jr. born April 9, 1910; Edgar Lee born September 29, 1914; Joe Clifton born December 21, 1921; and Clarence William born October 1, 1924.

Their son, Arthur, died in a automobile wreck on July 28, 1945. Their son, Henry Jr. died while they lived in Runge and is buried there. He died on November 5, 1915 of diphtheria. Bertha died July 16, 1969 and Henry died December 27, 1975. Both are buried in the Runge City Cemetery in Runge, Texas.

by Rose Lee Neimeier

NORTH, ISHAM REESE

F679

Isham Reese North, b. 9 October 1816 at Franklin, Tennessee in Rutherford County to Elisha B. North and Rhoda Reese, the youngest of thirteen children.

This submission centers around Isham Reese North, and his kin, who settled on a farm on the Upper Cuero Creek in 1840. It would take a very long book to write about his kinfolk.

Isham's paternal grandfather of Dinwiddie Co., VA, was John North, Sr. His known children were John, Jr., b. about 1760; Abraham B., b. Jan. 1763, d. 7 Feb 1856; Elisha B., Isham's father, b. 1 Feb 1769, d. 19 Sep 1837.

Isham's mother was Rhoda Reese, b. 1771 in Dinwiddie Co, VA, d. 1 May 1833 at Franklin, TN. Rhoda's father was Isham Reese, b. 30 Sep 1731, d. —. Rhoda's mother was Rhoda Thomas, b. —, a daughter of William Thomas, all of Virginia.

Elisha and Rhoda moved from Virginia to Tennessee in 1809. They owned slaves and farmed. In 1833 Rhoda died.

On 13 Sep 1835, Isham married Martha Jane Baker, oldest daughter of James McCullough Baker and Martha Jane Smith, of Maury Co, TN. Isham's father died 19 Oct 1837. Isham inherited his father's clock, watch, gun, house, some acreage and a negro boy, named Robin. He also purchased from his father's estate a negro boy named Isaac for $800, a girl, Aggy, for $860, and a baby, Patty, for $60.

The Bakers had moved to Sharron, Mississippi, about 1836. Isham and Martha were with them there on 24 Jan 1840, when Martha gave birth to a daughter, also named Martha Jane. The young mother died. That same year Isham and the Bakers moved to Texas, where Isham bought 1200 A. on the Upper Cuero Creek, four miles from Cuero, and with his slaves built a two-story log house and cleared land.

On 30 Oct 1841, Isham married his second wife, Mary Barrow. Their children were: 1) Ophelia Clementine, b. 23 Sep 1842; 2) William Elisha, b. 26 Dec 1844; 3) Valerie Marie, b. 8 April 1848; 4) Samuel Isham, b. 14 May 1849. Mary left Isham after a "fight" and got a divorce.

On 7 Aug 1851 Isham married his first wife's younger sister, Mary Clementine Baker Foster, b. 31 Aug 1826. (She was a widow of the Rev. Foster.) They were married by William Rice. The marriage license was issued at Clinton, the county seat before Cuero. Children of Isham and Mary Clementine were: 1) Viola, b. 14 June 1852; 2) Bolin Reese, b. 7 July 1854; 3) James Baker, b. 14 Jan 1858; 4) Gertrude May, b. 31 Jan 1859; 5) John Alynthus, b. 1 Feb 1861; 6) Robert Henry, b. 15 May 1863; 7) Thomas Murphree, b. 25 Nov 1865; 8) Paul, b. 7 Dec 1869.

Isham fought in the Battle of Salado on 23 Sep 1843. All the main body of Texans were killed. Isham was with Dawson and Sorrel Simons. None with Dawson were killed. It was related that Sorrel was hit in the stomach by a Mexican ball. He was sick at the time from eating too much spoiled beef. If it hadn't been for the bullet the beef would have killed him; if it hadn't been for the beef the bullet would have killed him.

Isham rode a mule at the time of the battle, not wishing to endanger his horses. Isham loved horses and possessed some of the finest horses, from Tennessee, in the area. It is reported he wagered heavily on horse races.

My grandfather told me that when he was a small child the cotton Isham raised was much taller than it is now. By 1860 Isham owned a total of 3700 A. and paid taxes on 64 slaves.

In 1861 when the Civil War broke out, his daughter, Ophelia, was going to school in Tennessee. Isham hurried to bring her home. They came down the Mississippi by steamboat. On reaching Galveston, they found Union gunboats blockading the harbor. The boat slipped through the blockade and Isham brought her home in a buggy pulled by a mule.

In 1864 Isham bought a house and lot in Conrete from W.B. Briscoe and Thomas Simms of New Orleans for three hundred dollars. After the Civil War, about 1867, Isham moved his family to Concrete where he kept a hotel and stage stand.

In 1869 Isham wrote his will; he was generous with his wife, children, and friends.

The story goes that Isham took his wife, Clementine, and young son, Tom, to New York City. One day Clementine went on a shopping tour. During this time a storm blew in. When she failed to return Isham set out in a foot of snow to find her. Meantime, Clementine returned to the hotel. Some hours later Isham returned soaked and chilled to the bone. When he found his wife safe and sound he was so relieved that as people will in times of stress, he became quite agitated and refused to take off his wet boots, resulting in his becoming ill. Shortly after that he died of what was called "galloping consumption." He died 1 Oct 1873 and was buried in the old cemetery at Concrete.

by James B. North III

NORTH, JAMES BAKER JR.

F680

James Baker North, Jr., my father, was born on a farm two miles north of Concrete, Texas, 6 April 1894. He had four sisters and three brothers who survived childhood.

He went to school in Concrete. One of his teachers was his Grandfather Glass. He went to college in Del Rio, Texas, and farmed for a while. Once he ran away from home and ended up in North-east Texas. It cost his father $45 to get him and his horse back home. He went into the Navy during WWI, was stationed in New York City for awhile, and made many friends. After the war, he attended a Bible College to train as a missionary and met my mother, Anna Mildred Bartholomew. She was known as Mildred. She was also in training to become a missionary. They were married 22 April 1921, at Mildred's home in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The local paper reported that she had married James Binkendorf, the local baker. They honeymooned in Concrete, Texas. The Norths impressed her by serving each a half watermelon and kidded her saying they knew the dishes were clean because they had been washed by seven waters. Later she learned that the old hound dog was named Seven Waters.

Mildred and Jim were not called to their mission post until about October of 1924. Jim worked, in the meantime, for his father, James Baker North, Sr. People soon found out Mildred was a talented and dedicated nurse. She

helped Dr. Blackwell deliver many babies; at least two were named Mildred. Once, when a man came knocking at our door saying that his wife had a bad stomach ache, Mildred accompanied him to his home and delivered his wife of a healthy full term baby.

Shortly after my sister Marian Melrose was born, 11 Aug 1924, we left for Kenya. Dad taught the natives to plow and farm. They set up a mission farm and coffee plantation. Mother was much in demand night and day delivering babies, patching people up. There were lots of sick people. Once I stood outside the hospital looking for my mother. A lady came out and told me to go home or I would get a horrid disease. I didn't know what that was, but the way she put it, I knew I didn't want any.

While in Africa, my father was well received, especially by the Kenyan natives. He took off in a buggy pulled by a mule into a vast and wild unexplored area peopled by tribes who had seen very few white people. They called him Bwana Pua Mckubwa (Mr. Big Nose). Once Dad loaded the family in the buggy for a camping trip. One day we came upon a small village of the Masai tribe. They were in turmoil, upset, and afraid. A lion had killed one of their cows. They had an old gun with no stock and they had wounded the lion. A wounded lion who can't catch game will kill and eat people. Dad had with him an old double-barrel 10-gauge shotgun. One barrel wouldn't shoot. He said if one of them would go with him, he would go and see if the lion was dead. They tracked the lion to some thick brush. As they approached, the lion jumped up fifteen feet away. Dad shot the lion in the throat. He was so close that the blast knocked the lion backward. All the people came and they had a celebration. The men who were with Dad commenced to chant and reenact the whole episode. Dad was a big hero to them. In about a year, the story had been told far and wide.

Unfortunately, Dad got a bad case of malaria which would not yield to treatment and we returned to The States.

From 1930 to 1942 Dad farmed in Texas and Pennsylvania. In 1942, on the strength of his Navy discharge, he enlisted in the Merchant Marine, serving during 1942 and 1943.

Dad, James Baker North, Jr., retired to Santa Barbara, California, about 1950. During a visit to New York State in 1971 he was killed in an automobile accident.

I, James Baker North III, was born 28 Dec 1922. My mother, Mildred Bartholomew and my father, James Baker North, Jr. met in New York City, where I was born, while attending a Bible College, studying to become missionaries. On 11 Aug 1924, my sister, Marian Melrose, was born on the De Witt County, Texas, farm then belonging to my grandfather, James Baker North, Sr. Some three months later, my parents received their long awaited call to a mission station in Kenya, British East Africa. Our family returned in 1929, just in time for the "Great Depression". We lived for a time in Concrete, Texas. I started school there. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Pittman.

We then moved to Cuero. Mother was a registered nurse and worked for Dr. Burns in the local hospital. Dad had a few milk cows and pastured them on public land where the Country Club and golf course is now. There was a nine-hole course farther out. Dad got the job of keeping up the course. On 11 April 1931, our sister Jean Ellen was born.

In about 1934-35 we moved to Pennsylvania to live with my mother's parents, William and Lillian Bartholomew. I attended schools in Bucks County.

In March of 1942, I went into the Merchant Marine. I shipped on oil tankers along the Atlantic coast and saw many of our convoy sunk by German U-boats. I shipped, also on freighters, in the North Atlantic, where *MOST* of our convoy was destroyed. In 1942 we went to Archangel, Russia, and home again. I stayed in the Merchant Marine until August, 1945. I was in Okinawa when our first child was born.

During a furlough, I bought a farm in Morrilton, Arkansas, where I met a beautiful girl, Laurine Bostian. We were married 2 May 1944. This year we celebrated 45 years of marriage. We have lived in Santa Barbara, California, since August, 1946. We have five lovely daughters and ten grandchildren. We are soon to be great grandparents. Our children are: Genetta Estella b. 30 June 1945; Patricia Ann b. 30 May 1947; Audrey Marie b. 13 Dec 1949; Marian Mildred b. 12 Nov 1954; Gloria Jane b. 17 Dec 1959.

by James B. North III

NORTH, JAMES BAKER, SR.

F681

Jim was born Jan. 14, 1858, on his father's farm on the Upper Cuero Creek about 4 miles from Cuero, Texas.

He always said that when he was small he was gored by an ox. When he was very old he had his appendix removed. It was found that indeed his liver had been damaged.

Once while telling about his childhood, he related that one day he was playing up in a chinaberry tree near their home. Some Indians came on the warpath. He and his older half-sister, Ophelia, were the only ones at home. He stayed hidden and the Indians carried off Ophelia. His father, Isham, and some friends were out looking for the Indians at the time. When they returned Jim was able to put them on the track of the Indians. Isham and his friends were able to catch up with the Indians and rescue Ophelia, but not before an Indian shot her in the chest with an arrow. Luckily she had on a whalebone corset that deflected the arrow.

Jim went to school at Tehuacane in Limestone County, also Concrete College.

He was one of the last trail drivers. He ran away and went up the trail as far as Oklahoma. Somewhere along the trail he broke his arm. It wasn't set right and mended at a noticeable offset.

When his father, Isham, passed away he inherited some oxen, cows, horses, over $1,000 money, a one-sixth interest in a store in Concrete and over 600 A. about two miles west of Concrete. He built his home there. He said the lumber came by wagon from the coast and cost eight dollars and fifty cents per one thousand board feet.

Sometime before 1877 he married Dana Steen. They had a daughter, Dana May, born Dec. 28, 1878. Dana died before 1880. Dana May was living with her grandmother, Mary Clementine, on June 3, 1880.

Jim married Katherine Clover Glass of Hochheim on Dec. 5, 1881. Kate was born Feb. 1, 1862, at Hochheim. When he asked her father, William Johnston Glass for her hand, her father said he hated to lose her as she was his best corn planter. This may have been a joke as there was an old story about her that as a child she put all the corn in one hill so she could go play.

Jim and Kate had four girls and four boys: 1) Gertrude May, b. Sept. 25, 1882; 2) William Glass, b. Feb. 1884; 3) Thomas Murphree, b. March 19, 1885; 4) Mary Clementine, b. Dec. 12, 1888; 5) Margaret, b. Feb. 17, 1887; 6) James Baker, Jr., b. April 6, 1894; 7) John Edward, b. Feb. 23, 1896; 8) Fidelia Bertha, b. Jan. 1, 1898.

Their home burned to the ground about 1948. Kate died Aug. 1, 1949, and earlier the same year Jim passed away Jan. 27, 1949. Several hours before he died he said to his son, Edward, "Turn the radio off. I'm not going to need it any more."

by James B. North

NUINEZ, JOE EDWARD, SR.

F682

Joe Nuinez was born August 10, 1921, at Clear Creek in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the sixth child and only son of Edward Joe and Annie Haertig Nuinez. At age three Joe's family moved to Yorktown from their farm. Joe graduated from Yorktown High School, attended Schreiner Institute at Kerrville and Texas A&I College at Kingsville. He married Tommie Spellmann, who lived in Gonzales County, on April 24, 1942, and volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy on January 13, 1943. He was honorably discharged on December 5, 1945 as Chief Petty Officer. Most of his service was at Sampson, N.Y., training recruits.

After the war Joe and Tommie lived in Yorktown for a few months and then moved to Gonzales County on the old Spellmann place where he was engaged in farming and raising poultry. In 1955 he went into the feed business in Yorktown where he owned and operated The Yorktown Produce Company for twenty eight years.

Joe and Tommie had three children. Joe Nuinez, Jr. was born March 10, 1943, graduated from Texas A&M University, and married Carol Krenek from Nada, Texas. They have two children, Glen Edward, born May 14, 1974, and Laura Ann, born May 5, 1977. They live in Dallas. Chris Spellmann Nuinez, second son of Joe and Tommie, was born January 24, 1946, and was a candidate for graduation from Texas A&I University when a car accident took his life on March 28, 1968. He is buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. Elizabeth Ann, third child and only daughter of Joe and Tommie was born May 15, 1954, graduated from Texas A&I University and married Alfred Harvey. They have two sons, Keller Christian, born May 14, 1979, and Alfred Casey, born August 24, 1984. They live in Corpus Christi.

Edward Joe Nuinez, Joe's father, was born August 20, 1885, in DeWitt County, Texas, the only son of five children born to Joe Aladin Nuinez, Jr. and Mary Jane Hearn. He died March 29, 1942, and is buried in the Westside Cemetery at Yorktown.

Joe Aladin Nuinez, Jr., grandfather of Joe Edward, was born January 15, 1866, in Louisiana. Records show that he was baptized at the Church of St. Magdalen, Abbeville, Parish of

Vermilion, State of Louisiana, the son of Joseph Aladin Nuinez, Sr. and Remise Suir.

Remise Suir, also known as Mary, was born in 1849 in Louisiana, died January 12, 1883, and is buried in the Woods Cemetery near Yorktown, Texas.

Joseph Aladin, Sr., married his second wife, Mary Patterson, in June, 1883. After selling her land in Gonzales County they went back to Louisiana. He died in 1906 and is buried in Creole, Louisiana.

Celestin Nunez, father of Joe Aladin, Sr., was born in Louisiana in 1806 and married Marie Carmelite Broussard. He was the son of Joseph Nunez, born in Galizza, Spain, who came to Louisiana with two brothers, one named Adrian, the other unknown.

Louisiana records show the spelling of the name as Nunez. The earliest record we found with the present spelling, Nuinez, was in the deed records in Gonzales County, 1887.

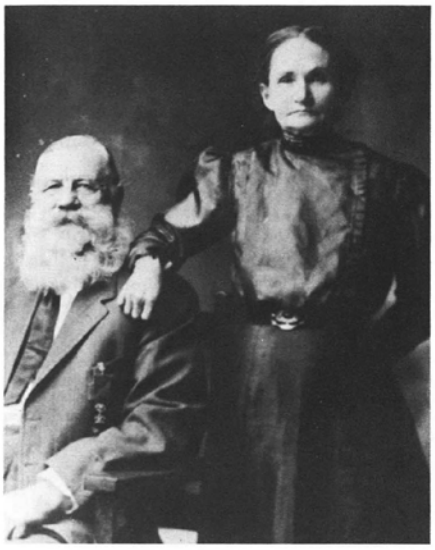
by Tommie Spellmann Nuinez

OLFERS, JOHANN BERNHARD

F683

John and Anna (Friedrich) Olfers

John Bernhard Olfers came to the United States from Hannover, Germany. Sailing from the Port of Bremen on the ship Louisiana, he landed in New York on the 5th day of December 1857. He was around 20 years of age having been born on April 7, 1837 at Provinz, Hannover, Germany.



John and Louise (Reinhardt) Olfers

He served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865 in Refugio Co., Tx. He was with Co. A, 8th, Hobby's Tex. Inf. formerly Co. A. Shea's 4th Batt. Tex. Art., also called Shea's Battery Van Dorn Guards. He served most of his time at Galveston, Texas.

He was a farmer and waggoner. He married Anna Friedrich at Meyersville, Texas, May 19, 1866. Anna Friedrich came to the United States from Aurich, Hannover, Germany with her parents, two brothers, Herman and Fredrich and two sisters, Meta and Eliesa, arriving in Indianola, Texas about May 14, 1852. The parents died about 3 weeks after arrival. Both died in Indianola the same day, June 11, 1852. The disease they contracted may have been yellow fever, since this deadly disease took the lives of many early settlers.

John and Anna settled in what was then known as Five Mile Coletto, some eight miles south of Cuero, Texas. John Olfers was one of the charter members of the Zion Lutheran Church. He helped build the first church for this congregation. It was dedicated on November 1, 1868. It is now known as Zion Lutheran Church of Arnecksville, Texas.

John B. Olfers applied for his citizenship in Clinton, Texas and was granted his citizenship on the 9th day of October 1871. (DeWitt Co.)

John and wife Anna had three children, Dora, Heinrich, and Bernhard. Anna passed away October 21, 1873, leaving a husband and 3 children. She is buried on the Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, Texas next to the Zion Lutheran Church.

John married Louise Reinhardt January 31, 1875 at the Zion Lutheran Church. Her parents were Louis Reinhardt, from Hesse, Germany, and Johanna Thieme from Swarthsburgh, Germany. They married in DeWitt Co. on January 28, 1854. John and Louise had 2 children while still living in this area. John, his wife, Louise, and their 5 children moved to Gillespie Co. in the latter part of 1879 or early 1880, to a community known as North Grape Creek, later known as Cave Creek, Texas. John Olfers also helped to organize a Lutheran congregation and build a church in this community. It was first named Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Church but was later changed to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

John proved to be a fine and upstanding citizen of this country and his community. He was the father of 15 children. John moved his family to San Antonio, Texas around 1909, where he lived the remainder of his life. John B. Olfers died February 22, 1920 at the age of 82. His wife Louise, died April 21, 1943. Both are buried on the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, in San Antonio, Texas. Their children are as follows:

1) Dora Olfers married William Ottmers. They had 1 child; 2) Henry Olfers married Clara Gold. They had 10 children; 3) Bernhard Olfers married Emma M. Quindel. They had 8 children; 4) Anna Olfers married Albert Ottmers. They had 7 children; 5) Mathilda Olfers married Felix Schoenfeld. They had 5 children; 6) Ida Olfers married Frederick Gold. They had 10 children; 7) Mary Olfers married Alfred Ottmers. They had 6 children; 8) Adolph Olfers married Ella Gold. They had 8 children; 9) Ernest Olfers never married; 10) Rudolph Olfers married Edna Marie Hitzfeld. They had 9 children; 11) Emilie Olfers married John Flowers. They had 1 child; 12) George Olfers married Margaret Kroll. They had no children; 13) Otto Olfers married Dora Bertha Sangerhausan. They had 2 children; 14) Hulda Olfers married Jesse White. They had 1 child; 15) John Erich Olfers married Gertrude L. They had no children.

by Doris Gilpatrick

OLIVER, JOHN CAREY AND DIANA (HINCKLEY)

F684

John Carey Oliver & Diana Gale (Hinckley Oliver moved to DeWitt County in September 1976. They purchased the old Floyd Ladner place near Westside Cemetery outside of Yorktown. John was born July 17, 1942 in Robstown, Tx. to Leamon & Libby Ruth (Drye) Oliver. They lived around the Corpus Christi, Tx. area and moved to San Antonio, Tx. where John went to Harlandale High School. Diana was born June 14, 1945 in St. Louis, Mo. to Elijah Gardner & Lucille (Lambert Hinckley. They moved back to San Antonio, Tx. in 1946 and she attended Alamo Heights High School.

They met and married in San Antonio & have one son Randall Carey Oliver, born July 8, 1962 in San Antonio. The family moved from San Antonio to Victoria in 1964 & stayed in that area until they moved to Yorktown. They laugh and say they are moving into smaller and smaller communities, but they love the feeling of everyone being a neighbor and friend.

John's family, as far as has been traced, comes from Shelby & Polk Counties in East Texas. Last year they went to their first Oliver Family Reunion and met many, many cousins for the first time. It seems the Olivers came from Georgia to Texas, and at that time Oliver was a very common name in Georgia and there needs to be more research done. There are even rumors that there is Indian back in the family tree, but at this point only rumors.

Diana's family has been well traced on several lines, and as most ancestors who came to America, they landed on the East coast, coming on ship from England and Wales. Then from generation to generation they slowly moved across the Southern States to Texas. Both John & Diana had ancestors who were here during the forming of the Republic of Texas, which shows real pioneer spirit. Diana also has ancestors who came to America on the *Mayflower*, and is a direct descendant of Pocahontas; but she doesn't brag too loudly on the horse thieves and scoundrels along the way.

John presently owns York Welding located at 535 E. Main St., Yorktown, and enjoys being a part of the business community. They are active members of Rocky Creek Baptist Church, members of various organizations in the community; The Masonic Lodge, The Eastern Star, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, The Daughters of the American Revolution and The Volunteer EMS Service.

There son now lives in Bastrop, Tx. He married Lurah Scott and they have two grandchildren Brandon Carey Oliver & Lurah Kathleen Oliver.

While looking back is fun and interesting it's

the present and future that count, and John & Diana, both, praise God for all things.

by Diana Oliver

OLSEN, MAGDALENA WEIGELT AND JOSEPH J.

F685

Magdalena Weigelt, the third child of John Weigelt and Margaret Wendel was born Oct. 4, 1872, in Colorado County, Texas. She moved with her parents to Victoria County, Texas in 1875. Magdalena attended Nazareth Academy in Victoria before moving to land purchased in DeWitt County in 1892. Magadalena was 20 years old at the time of the relocation to the land near Hochheim and it was not long before she attracted the eye of a young man who lived on a neighboring farm. He was Joseph J. Olsen, who was born in Chicago July 4, 1872, and moved with his parents, Henry F. Olsen, a native of Kiel, Germany and Ellen Coffey, from Toronto, Canada, to land located between Gonzales and Hochheim in what was said to have been the Denton Creek area.

In 1895 Magdalena Weigelt and Joseph J. Olsen were married and continued to live on her parents land near Hochheim. In 1910 Magdalena and J.J. Olsen moved to the Yoakum area. J.J. had farming at heart and acquired land near Yoakum where he farmed and raised cattle. He was a State Representative from Lavaca County when he died in March, 1939.

J.J. Olsen and Magdalena Weigelt had three children. The first child was Henry (1898-1965). He married Martha Ann Mergenthal, who preceded him in death in 1965. They had no children. John Olsen, the second child (1900-197 —) married Florence Dahlgren and they had two sons, John Paul and Robert, both of whom were killed during World War II. Ellen Olsen, the only daughter, married A.J. Chaloupka, who was from the Sweet Home area. Ellen and A.J. had three children: A.J. Jr., who was born in 1923 and married Dorothy Jaroszewski, and had two children, Dorothy and Alan; Betty Jo, the second child, who married Morgan Millican and had four children; Michael, Jo Ellen, Martha Jean and Morgan. And third child, Bonnie Lou, who married Jerry Slavinsky. And had two children.

A.J. Chaloupka Sr. died in 1932, followed a few months later by his wife, Ellen Olsen. The three children who were mere babies, went to live with their grandparents, Magdalena Weigelt and J.J. Olsen. The Olsen home was very near the Catholic Church in Yoakum, Texas.

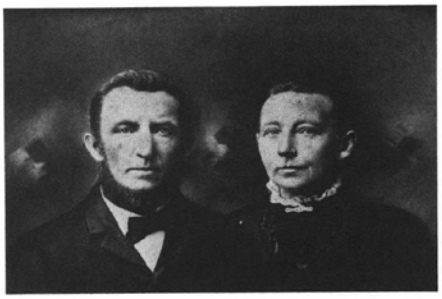
J.J. Olsen died in 1939 and his wife, Magdalena Weigelt Olsen died in 1945. They are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas.

by Jeane Bitterly

HEATON BROS.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
Druggists and Booksellers,
CUERO AND VICTORIA, TEXAS.

ONKEN, DIETRICH AND JOHANNA

F686



Dietrich and Johanna Onken

In the early 1880's, the state of Oldenburg, Germany was under Prussian rule. "The Prussian orders", all young men at age 16, must enter two years of military training.

Dietrich and Johanna Onken, having 3 young sons decided they did not want their sons in the military. Permission to immigrate to America was applied for and granted. A sponsor, Mr. Fredrich Bruns, in America (Texas) was arranged for, and so they sailed from Hamburg to New York, then on to Texas by train. Five Onkens, Dietrich, Johanna, their sons, Carl, age 8, Fritz, age 6 and Emil, age 5, settled near Shiner, Texas. Three more sons were born, Henry, Adolph and Hugo. The family moved to Nordheim in 1900, there they farmed and the boys grew up.

Carl, married Minna Reuel, they had 3 children, Irma, and twins, Irene and Linda. Carl farmed and during the cotton season he was the engineer at the Nordheim Farmers gin. He served many years as an election official. Irma married Willie Harms, Irene married Gus Hillje and Linda married Edward Boerm, Jr.

Fritz married Louise Kram of Shiner. They had 2 children, Erwin and Elsie. Fritz farmed in the Nordheim area and during the thirties he owned and operated the Magnolia gasoline station in Nordheim, and for many years was the engineer at Weid's Cotton Gin. Erwin married Agatha Styra, Elsie married Frank Styra.

Emil Onken married Lena Reuel. They farmed in the Orange Grove, Texas area. Emil enjoyed wood working and in later years created many interesting things. Emil and Lena had 5 children, Arnold, Laura, Ozella, Harry and Ollie. Arnold married Waldine Friedrichs, Laura married O.K. Rankhorn, Ozella married Ed. Kronke, Harry married Lydia Koehn of Halletsville and Ollie married Elton Kronke. Emil's wife died at an early age and in later years he married Meta Huck. They lived in Nordheim in gross mutter Onken's home.

Henry married Frieda Koening. They lived in Alice, Texas and had one son, Arthur. Henry farmed and for many years was county surveyor in Jim Wells County. Henry was a humorist and was a friend to every one. Arthur married Ila Bell Dean of Nordheim.

Adolph married Henney Reuel of Nordheim. They farmed in the Orange Grove area and in later years Adolph worked in transportation in Corpus Christi. Adolph and Henney had 2 children, Lorena and Elvera. Lorena married Walter Koehn of Halletsville and Elvera married Leroy Dylla of Lytle.

Hugo Onken married Frieda Meischen of Nordheim. They farmed in the Nordheim area near Braunsweig Hill. They had 4 children, Harold, Lester and twins, Milda and Milton. After Frieda died Hugo lived in Arizona. Haraold died at an early age. Lester married Elizabeth Lieck of Lindenau, Milda married James Ebner of Agua Dulce and Milton was caught by Alice Dreyer of Nordheim.

In 1925 the Onken family received new arrivals from Germany into their family. Richard and Dora Janssen and their son Heino. They farmed in the Nordheim area and purchased the John Mueller farm. A daughter Edith was born in Nordheim. Richard also worked at the Farmers Gin when cotton was in season. Richard, Dora, Heino and family, Edith and family, you will always belong to the Onken family.

Submitted by Milton Onken, Elsie Styra and Irma Harms in memory of their pioneer grandparents.

by Milton C. Onken

THE OROZCO FAMILY

F687

Primitivo and Aurora E. Orozco settled in Cuero in 1951. Primitivo was born in 1914 to Felix Orozco and Teresa Vega in Atoloniquillo near Guadalajara, Mexico where they raised alfalfa on a small farm. He was the third of 3 children and took up bootmaking when he moved to Guadalajara. Aurora Estrada was born in 1918 in Cerralvo, Nuevo Leon near Monterrey to Gertrudis Toscano Gonzalez and Lorenzo Estrada. She was the fifth of 8 children. Her father was a U.S. company foreman in Mexico and in Texas. In 1924 the Estrada family settled in Mercedes where they still reside.

In Mercedes, Aurora attended segregated schools but eventually graduated from Mercedes High School in 1938. She was working at Lee Ann's Dress Shop when she met and married Primitivo who had immigrated to the United States in the early 50s.

Before settling in Cuero in 1951, the Orozcos lived in Kennedy and Halletsville. Primitivo found employment at Bohne's Boot Shop on Main Street. Because of racial discrimination, they were initially refused a home loan by Buchel Bank but then settled in at 311 South Gonzales St. where they still reside. The Orozcos have six children: Maria Teresa (1953); Sylvia (1955); Irma Estella (1956); Edmundo (1957); Cynthia Ann (1958); and Robert Alexander (1959). All graduated from Cuero High School.

Primitivo worked at Bohne's Boot Shop for 20 years and was recognized locally for his fine craftmanship in bootery. He made shoes and also crafted belts, wallets, and other leather work. In his younger days he enjoyed bicycle riding. Primitivo loves Mexican culture, music, food, and soccer. Likewise, Aurora worked as a salesperson at Lieberman's Department Store for twenty years until she retired in 1985 when the store closed.

Aurora has been active in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, especially as president of the Guadalupanas Catholic Society (1971-1981), a member of the parish of council (1971-1983), and as a lector since 1978. She played a key role in fund raising through bingo and in

organizing the church's annual Jamaica. She has been involved in a number of Mexican American organizations including Texans for the Educational Advancement of Mexican Americans (president 1968-70), Familias Unidas (secretary (1977-78), LULAC (secretary 1975), and is now a member of the Cuero Voter Registration and Education Organization. In 1970 she helped organize the first Mexican-American graduation class dance in Cuero. Aurora was honored in 1984 by the National Association for Chicano Studies in Austin for her work as a mother, writer, and community activist. She has written an autobiography, short stories, essays, and poetry, all in her native Spanish language.

Aurora has also been active in the concerns of the broader community. She was a member of the Parent Teacher Association (1958-1973), the Cuero City Advisory Board (1985-1988) for which she received a certificate of appreciation, has served on jury duty, attended school board meetings, and has been a diligent voter. She fought racial discrimination in Cuero schools so that her children could graduate and be prepared for college.

All six of the Orozco children graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree. When *Life* magazine featured Cuero as an All-American city in 1969, Maria was selected to represent Cuero. She was then a member of the Honor Society. Maria served as parish secretary at Our Lady and graduated from Victoria College, Texas A&I, and the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. She also attended Columbia University in New York and worked with Immigration and Naturalization Service Director Lionel Castillo in Washington, D.C. She has worked in Los Angeles and Dallas and is now employed by the University of Houston.

Sylvia was active in Future Teachers of America in high school and graduated from UT in Fine Arts. In 1977 she founded Familias Unidas in Cuero and helped organize Diez y Seis that year. A recipient of the National Council of Science and Technology scholarship, she attended the School of Fine Arts at UNAM (Universitaria Nacional Autonomous de Mexico) in Mexico City where she worked on a master's degree. There she founded the Center for Art Research and Information with her husband Pio Pulido of Mexico City. They have been commissioned by St. Joseph's Multicultural Arts in Houston, the University of Texas, and the City of Austin Public Arts Program to paint murals. She is currently co-founder and co-director of Mexic-Arts Museum with Pio.

Irma worked as a reporter for the *Cuero Record* and served as co-editor of *Turkey Talk* in 1973-74. She graduated in her class' top ten. At UT, she majored in journalism and broadcast news. She worked at several television stations in Austin and served as producer of "Saludos," a program on local Mexican American issues. She helped found *Para La Gente,* a bilingual newspaper in Austin with statewide circulation. She received a scholarship and attended the College of Philosophy and letters in UNAM in Mexico City where she worked on a masters degree in Latin American literature. She has taught Spanish and English classes at UNAM in San Antonio. She is currently in charge of Public Relations for City Public Service in San Antonio. Married to Claudio Lopez of Mexico City who works at UNAM, they have one daughter Citlalli.

Eddie was active in Boy Scouts, attended Boys State in 1974, and also graduated from UT in government. He has worked for a number of businesses including Albertson's in Austin, Joske's in San Antonio and Dallas, Dillard's in San Antonio, and Goldwater's in Scottsdale, Arizona. As a buyer, he traveled regularly to New York and Los Angeles. He is currently employed as assistant manager at Foley's in Northwest Houston, one of Foley's largest stores. He has traveled to Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Cynthia served as president of student council in 1975-1976, but after she gave her graduation speech, high school principal Dwayne Scott illegally fired her from her school job. A UT graduate, she is currently working on a Ph.D. in history at UCLA. She has participated in the Cuero Voter Registration and Education Organization and worked as Research Associate for Hispanic Studies at the Texas State Historical Association where she worked on the *Handbook of Texas.* She recently received one of ten $18,000 scholarships awarded by the Ford Foundation in Washington, D.C. to complete her study of LULAC.

Robert served as president of the 1976-77 Cuero Senior class and has attended five colleges including Rice University, the University of Texas, and San Antonio Community College. His B.A. is in engineering. He advises Cuero residents interested in his accomplishments to review the 1977 school annual but does admit he was a bright student. He likes Cuero because it allows for close knit friendships to develop over 60 or 70 years and he has enjoyed partying on West Main, especially at Arthur's. He also enjoyed being part of a happy family, living in a large house, and "zero-crime." Robert also loves Cuero's location because it is a launching point to San Antonio, Houston, and Austin. He is now an instructor in the Department of Microcomputer Technology at Palo Alto Community College in San Antonio.

by Aurora E. Orozco

PARGMANN, GERHARD AND REBECKA

F688

Johann Gerhard Pargmann was born in Oldenburg Schweiburg, Germany to Johann Martin Pargmann and Gesche Margarete Meinen on November 13, 1851. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and attended school in Oldenburg. He had five brothers and some sisters. We do know that one brother named Friedrich came to America sometime before 1897 and settled around Yoakum, Texas.

Sometime in 1871 Gerhard married his first wife Lina Johanne Antionette Duhm. He was married only a year when he had a son, Martin born December 24, 1872. His wife died at childbirth so Martin was raised by his grandparents though no one really knows which grandparents.

On November 9, 1880 Gerhard, age 29, married Rebecka Christine Friederike Pargmann, age 16, who was a cousin to Gerhard and also a niece to his first wife. Rebecka was born in Oldenburg Schweiburg, Germany to Hinrich Pargmann and Anna Katarina Duhm on July 4, 1864. She was also baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and attended school in Oldenburg. From my research it has been learned the church in which both

Gerhard and Rebecka Pargmann, 60th Wedding Anniversary at their home in Nordheim, TX on November 9, 1940.

Gerhard and Rebecka were baptized and confirmed still stands and services are still held in it today. Rebecka came from a family of eight children. One brother Diedrich came to America sometime before 1897 and settled somewhere in Texas.

Gerhard and Rebecka's home in Germany was a two story house with a thatched roof. Farming was their chief occupation, raising rye and oats. They raised their own vegetables and fruits. The food was preserved and stored and lasted the entire year. Rebecka made soap and did her washing under their home. They also had some livestock and chickens. Gerhard did his butchering under their house and cured it in another room. He owned his own blacksmith shop not too far away. Their fields had no fences only drainage ditches which separated their property from their neighbors.

Twelve children were born to Gerhard and Rebecka. Their first was a daughter Anna Margarete Katarina (Meta) born February 17, 1881. Others were: Gesine Katarina (Gesina) born June 7, 1882, Johann Gerhard born May 19, 1884, Johanna Gerhardine born November 13, 1885, Dora Wilhelmine born March 23, 1887, Friedrich Hinrich (Fritz) born December 11, 1888, Hinrich Gerhard (Henry) born January 8, 1890, Sophie Friederike born April 11, 1891, Emil Gerhard born November 2, 1892, Berta Gerhardine born December 15, 1893, Elizabeth Hermina (Lizzie) born February 14, 1895, and Emma Elisa born August 6, 1896.

In August of 1897 Gerhard, age 45, and Rebecka, age 33, and their eleven children left Oldenburg Schweiburg, Germany for their new home in America. One daughter Berta Gerhardine had died March 23, 1897. Gerhard's son Martin from his first marriage stayed in Germany. He was already married at that time. They sailed on the *Crefeld* owned by the North German Lloyd Steamship Company. The *Crefeld* carried 162 passengers, of which thirteen were Pargmanns. They were referred to as the German couple with the large group of children. The children ranged from 16 years to 1 year and the mother Rebecka was in a very delicate condition. The father Gerhard was a handsome looking man and had the sum of $400. The first ten days out of Bremen were the

worst of the passage, strong winds prevailed. After that the passengers were all well and the passage was a fair one. They were at sea two weeks. Besides passengers, the *Crefeld* carried 800 tons of freight. On September 9, 1897 they landed in Galveston with eleven children. The history says there was another child born that same day, but did not survive. No one knows if the baby was given a name, most likely not, since there is no record of it to be found anywhere. On September 23, 1897 only fourteen days after they landed, a daughter Emma Elisa died. She was only 1 year and 7 days old. She is buried in the Hocheim cemetery. Maybe the trip was too much for her, or she came down with some sickness.

On September 10, 1897 Gerhard first took his family to Yoakum, Texas. His brother Friedrich was already living in Yoakum. We believe he had a place for Gerhard and Rebecka. They lived there for one year, then in 1899 they moved to Shiner, Texas. Their chief occupation in America was farming. While in Shiner another son, Willie, was born, September 23, 1899. After Willie there were four more children born, but they died in their infancy. In all, seventeen children were born to Gerhard and Rebecka, eleven lived and six died. While in Shiner, three daughters were married. Meta married Henry Janssen on January 6, 1899 in Cuero, Texas. Gasena married Joe Schaefer on December 29, 1901 in Shiner. Johanna married John Pieper on January 19, 1904 in Shiner.

In 1907 Gerhard and Rebecka and their other eight children moved near Nordheim on a farm south of town where Emil Schaefer now lives. They lived here for twelve years. On December 17, 1907 Gerhard, Jr. married Martha Witting. Dora married Willie Buesing January 4, 1908. This was the first wedding of the family to take place in Nordheim. Henry married Agnes Huck on December 13, 1911. Sophie married Henry Steinert January 17, 1912.

In 1919 Gerhard and Rebecka and the three remaining children moved into the town of Nordheim where they lived until their deaths. The three remaining children married here. Elizabeth married Emil Boehl November 22, 1919. Willie married Mary Leister November 16, 1920. Emil married Minnie Koehler November 16, 1921. Emil was their only child to marry twice. His first wife, Minnie, passed away August 17, 1953. In 1956 he married Etta Hansman Rahe. Emil also was the only son to have to go to the service. He served in World War I. He was sent to France. He only served one year when he was discharged because the war had ended.

There were three special events which took place in the lives of Gerhard and Rebecka. On November 9, 1905 they celebrated their 25th anniversary with all their children present. On November 9, 1930, they celebrated their Golden Anniversary, and their 60th anniversary on November 9, 1940.

Gerhard died on March 12, 1944 at the age of 92. He is buried in the Nordheim cemetery. Three years later Rebecka died on April 3, 1947 at the age of 82. She is buried beside her husband in the Nordheim cemetery.

Through my research I have found that Gerhard's son Martin who stayed in Germany married Anna Marie Kruse May 1, 1896. They had five children, 2 daughters and three sons. A son and daughter are still alive today. Martin himself died July 28, 1944. Martin's grandson lives in the ancestrial home (Rebecka's birthplace). Only Pargmanns have ever occupied this home.

Of the eleven children of Gerhard and Rebecka, four preceded them in death. Meta died July 12, 1926, age 45. Henry died February 26, 1932, age 42. Johann Gerhard, Jr. died November 7, 1936, age 52. Willie died November 7, 1945, age 46.

After Gerhard and Rebecka passed away, the remaining seven children died in this order. Gesina died December 1, 1959, age 77; Elizabeth died March 22, 1960, age 65; Johanna died March 27, 1960, age 75; Fritz died October 8, 1963, age 75; Dora died January 3, 1970, age 83; Sophie died October 7, 1979, age 88. My own father, Emil, was the last child of the family to die. He died on February 2, 1985, age 92, reaching an older age than any of the other children. In fact, he reached the same age as his father. He died at the home of his two daughters Hilda Pargmann Dickey and Lillian Pargmann Rosenthal, son-in-law Nathan Dickey and granddaughter Rebecca Rosenthal in New Braunfels, Texas. He is buried in the Comal cemetery, New Braunfels, Texas beside his first wife Minnie. My father Emil was the last of his generation and as we said good-bye to him, we also said good-bye to his generation.

The history of my grandparents has been so meaningful to me. They were so very special to me and I spent so much of my time with them. In 1946, age 13, my family and I moved to New Braunfels, Texas. Grandfather had died. A year after I left Nordheim, grandmother died, too. I feel so blessed to have had so many good years with them.

by Lillian Pargmann Rosenthal

PARGMANN, JOHANN DIETRICH

F689

Dick and Mary Pargmann

Johann Dietrich Pargmann was born in Schweiburg Oldenburg, Germany on May 11, 1874 to Hinrich Gerhard Pargmann and Anna Catarina Duhm. He was baptized in the Lutheran Church. He came to America when he was 17 years old and landed October 28, 1891.

According to Matildae Westphal's Bible, Dietrich's father was born October 28, 1824 in Johnisborg and died February 28, 1897. Dietrich's mother was born in Ronnalmoor in September of 1832 and died April 19, 1912.

On January 16, 1900, Dietrich married Miss "Geta" Mary Theresa Koehler, daughter of Koehler of Yoakum, Texas. She was born June 9, 1877 and died June 17, 1953.

After farming a year in the Lindenau Community, they moved near Nordheim, Texas. Later they moved to a nice farm in Karnes County, near Runge. He was a successful farmer and liked to trade – especially land. It has been said that if he had not died so early in life that he probably would have acquired many more acres of farmland.

Dietrich died in the Boothe Hospital on Tuesday, November 25, 1930 at 11:08 a.m. following an illness which placed him there in June. His son, Alfred, remembers driving the dirt roads every day to Cuero to visit with him.

Diedrich "Dick" Pargmann had four brothers and three sisters and was the youngest of the eight children. His sister, Rebecka, who was the fifth eldest and ten years older than Dick, married her cousin Gerhart, and came to America after Dick. She and her husband had eleven children.

The names of the Hinrich and Anna Pargmann children are: Johann Gerd, Johann Henrich, Anna Margarita, Anna Helen Margarita, Rebecka, Johann Martin, Johann Henrich Wildhilm, and Johann Diedrich.

When Dick died his obituary stated that he was survived by two brothers, Etrich and Johann Pargmann in Germany, one sister Mrs. Gerhardine Seegebebade also of Germany and another sister Mrs. Gerhard Pargmann, Sr. of Nordheim, Texas.

Dick and Mary were blessed with five children: Ellie, Lillie, Matildea, Gustav, and Alfred.

1) Ellie Pargmann born November 7, 1900 in Nordheim, Texas, married Henry Bues on November 20, 1920 at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Nordheim, Texas. Henry was born February 20, 1889 and died December 14, 1932. Ellie and Henry had one son, Elton Lee. After Henry died Ellie married William John Remmers on January 1, 1935. William was born March 23, 1882 and died October 10, 1951. He was the constable of Nordheim for several years. Ellie and William had one daughter, Gilda Mae.

Elton Lee Bues was born November 3, 1926 and married Inez Hengst, daughter of Edwin and Lydia Hengst of Yorktown, Texas on November 10, 1951. Elton and Inez had three children: Terry Wayne, born August 3, 1954; Allen Dale, born June 30, 1957; and Pamela Sue, born July 7, 1966.

Gilda Mae Remmers was born February 15, 1937 and married Arlin Hugh Rogge on March 18, 1956 in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nordheim. She is the daughter of Fritz and Mildred Rogge and was born February 15, 1935. Gilda and Arlin have four children: Wanda Gayle born December 6, 1956 in Cuero; Craig Ardel born December 1, 1957; Shari Lynn born September 1962; and William Wade born June 26, 1971.

2) Lillie Pargmann never married but was the aunt that everyone loved and respected. She was born February 16, 1904 and died February 1989.

3) Matildae Pargmann Westphal was born March 14, 1902 and died September 28, 1970. She married Roland Westphal on January 18, 1927. Roland died January 2, 1953. They had two children: Gaylord was born November 23, 1931 and Marilyn was born February 22, 1935.

Gaylord Westphal married Melodine ?. They have three sons: Michael who was born August 31, 1953; Patrick who was born February 7, 1965; and Timothy who was born March 19, 1959. Gaylord later married Gwen.

Marilyn Westphal Bean was born February 22, 1935 and married C.A. Bean on February 22, 1958. They had two children: Cindy and Sunni.

4) Gustav Pargmann was born July 13, 1905

and died February 23, 1977. He married Regina Kruise on November 30, 1926. Regina was born September 7, 1905 and died June 23, 1969. They had four girls and one son: Norbert was born September 6, 1931 and died June 2, 1938; Helen Marie was born March 5, 1934; Estelle was born September 29, 1939; Zelda was born November 10, 1940; and Ada was born September 26, 1943. Gustav later married Frieda Mueller Schorre.

Helen Marie Pargmann Wielder married Raymond Wielder on August 25, 1956. They have one son, and one daughter: Daren was born September 21, 1957 and Karen was born December 17, 1959.

Estelle Pargmann Clapp married Don Clapp on August 22, 1964. He was born May 23, 1929 and died September 25, 1987. they had three children: Panela who was born December 8, 1966; Norman who was born June 2, 1967; and Darrel who was born October 13, 1970.

Zelda Pargmann Oelrich was married to Fredrich Oelrich on October 8, 1966. He was born June 15, 1938. They have three children: Michael was born November 10, 1968; Regina was born October 10, 1970 and Suanne was born October 3, 1975.

Ada Pargmann DeWalt was married to Steven DeWalt on January 6, 1968. He was born December 3, 1939. They have two sons: Scott who was born July 25, 1968 and Steen who was born July 28, 1971.

5) Alfred Pargmann was born October 28, 1909 and married Frances M. Sucher on November 22, 1933. She was the daughter of Robert Sucher and Louise Bues Sucher. Frances was born March 7, 19? Alfred and Frances have six children: Gilbert was born October 22, 1934; Alfreda was born January 14, 1939; Robert was born April 19, 1941; Gerald was born January 12, 1943; Wilma was born April 1, 1944 and Margie was born March 6, 1949.

Gilbert Pargmann married Mary Louise Pfeifer who was born July 26, 1934. Gilbert is presently County Commissioner of Precinct 3 in DeWitt County. They have two sons and three daughters: Royce, Roberta, Ronda, Roger, and Rita.a

Alfreda Pargmann Gisler married Richard Gisler on June 27, 1964. Richard was born July 10, 1936. They have six children: Brenda Lee was born January 5, 1958; Carolyn Jean was born March 4, 1959; Anice Louise was born August 21, 1966; Loretta Lynn was born October 18, 1968; Richard Oscar, Jr. was born July 1, 1970; and Kelley Marie was born October 26, 1973.

Robert Dick Pargmann married Virginia Hruska on June 23, 1962. She was born January 14, 1942. They have two sons: Darrel who was born March 16, 1963 and Allen who was born December 1, 1965.

Gerald Delvin Pargmann was married to Lee Johnson on June 14, 1969. They have three children: Kristi who was born July 24, 1971; Amber was born October 10, 1976 and Clint was born October 19, 1981.

Wilma Jean Pargmann Cagle married George Riley Cagle on October 23, 1965. He was born January 2, 1925. They have two children: Wade Price was born July 16, 1970 and Frances Melita was born July 13, 1974.

Margie Ann Pargmann Dominquez married Darryl Dominquez on June 6, 1970. He was born June 27, 1948. They have three children: Darren was born February 2, 1976; Jennifer was born April 17, 1979; and Darcy was born February 9, 1985.

by Riley Cagle

PARK, KING CYRUS ALEXANDER AND MAHALA

F690

Earliest known members of the Park family are King Cyrus Alexander Park, born about 1800 in Tennessee, and his wife, Mahala, born about 1808 in North Carolina.

From census and tax records, it is known that they lived in Crawford and Scott Counties, Arkansas about 1823-1840; it is believed that they came to Texas about 1841. They were listed on the Cherokee County, Texas census in 1850 and 1860. Sometime between 1860 and 1870 they moved to DeWitt County and were listed there on the 1870 census. King Cyrus A. Park (widowed) was listed in DeWitt County in 1880. Both King Cyrus and Mahala Park are buried in the Hebron Cemetery near Yoakum.

From census, marriage, and land records, the following is a listing of their children, in order by age:

(1) Samuel L. Park – born in Arkansas, never married.

(2) William J. Park – born in Arkansas. Married (1) Rebecca Donaho; ten children: Isaac I., King Cyrus, William W., Mahala, Samuel Louis, Hiram, Sarah F., Mary E., Jeff Davis, and James. This family was listed on the Karnes County census of 1860 and the DeWitt County census of 1870. William J. Park married (2) Martha J. Evetts in DeWitt County; four children: Robert E. Lee, John J.R., Annie C., and Nancy E.

(3) Joanna Park – Married Edmund Arrington in Nacogdoches County, Texas.

(4) Elizabeth Ann Park – Married Isaac Donaho in Nacogdoches County, Texas.

(5) a son – name is not known.

No further information has been found about these children, #3, 4 and 5.

(6) Mary Jane Park – born in Arkansas. Married (1) John Stell; five children: Cyrus, Josephine "Josie," Sara Ann, Elizabeth M. "Betty," and John. Mary Jane Park married (2) Richard Alexander Williams; one child, Theodocia "Docie." Mary Jane Park married (3) James Benjamin Cook, widowed husband of her sister, Nancy Catherine; two children: Walter T., and Margaret "Maggie."

(7) Sarah Matilda Park – born in Arkansas. Married (1) A. Hilary Goodson; three children: Mary Catherine, Martha, and William A. Sarah Matilda Park married (2) John David "Jack" Cook, Sr.; two children: Margaret and Caswell Young.

(8) George W. Park – born in Arkansas. No further information.

(9) Nancy Catherine Park – born in Texas. Married James Benjamin Cook; seven children: Joseph Samuel, Jefferson Davis, Mary Cornelia, Anna J., James Washington "Doc," William Caswell "Bill," Martha Viser "Mattie." Nancy Catherine Park Cook died. Her husband, James Benjamin Cook, later married her sister, Mary Jane Park Stell-Williams, in DeWitt County.

(10) Alcy C. Park – born in Texas. No other information.

(11) Rebecca Park – born in Texas. Married Caswell W. Cook; eight children: John D., Hazzelton, Martha Elizabeth, Nancy Catherine, Josie, James, King Thomas, and Eliza Saphrona.

(12) King Cyrus Alexander Park, Jr. – born in Texas. Married Mary Alcesta Darst; ten children: Idena "Ide," Lillie Ann, Mary Estelle "Tellie," Marion Joanna "Manie," Sarah Ophelia "Feedie," Weyman A., Cyrus Elmer, Margaret Mahala "Maude," Samuel Lewis, and John Henry. For details on this family, see story on Park, King Cyrus Alexander, Jr., and Mary Alcesta (Darst).

There are two unusual items about this family which may make it difficult for anyone trying to trace the family history: (1) There were at least four people named Cyrus Park: Cyrus, Sr. (K.C.A.), married Mahala; Cyrus, Jr. (K.C.A.), married Mary Alcesta Darst; Cyrus (K.C.), William J.'s son; and Cyrus Elmer (K.C.A., Jr.'s son). There may have been more in later generations. (2) There were at least three people named Samuel L. Park: K.C.A. Park, Sr. had a son, Samuel L. born about 1824 in Arkansas; William J. Park had a son, Samuel L., born about 1856 in Texas; and K.C.A. Park, Jr. had a son Samuel Lewis, born 1889 in Texas.

by Mary Hollan Inman

PARK, KING CYRUS ALEXANDER, JR. AND MARY ALCESTA (DARST)

F691

1910 – Five Generations. Standing: Estelle (Kirk) Blackburn, Neva Blackburn, Mary Estelle (Park) Kirk. Seated: Mary Alcesta (Darst) Park, Margaret E. (Hodges) Blair.

Son of King Cyrus Alexander Park, Sr.

King Cyrus Alexander Park, Jr. was born in Cherokee County, Texas May 24, 1850, the youngest child of K.C.A. and Mahala Park. His brothers and sisters were: Samuel L., William, Joanna, Elizabeth Ann, a brother whose name is not known, Mary Jane, Sarah Matilda, George M., Nancy Catherine, Alcy C., and Rebecca. Sometime between 1860 and 1870 the family moved to DeWitt County.

In 1869 K.C.A. Park, Jr. married Mary Alcesta Darst, when he was nineteen, and she was fourteen years old. The officiating minister was Wade Hampton Hollan. Mary A. Darst was born in Gonzales County, Texas January 17, 1855, the daughter of Richard Brownfield Darst and Margaret Elizabeth (Hodges). Mary A. had one sister, Susan Ann, who married George Doolittle. Richard B. Darst had come to Texas in 1829 with his parents, Abraham and Gemima (Brownfield) Darst, with Stephen F. Austin's second colony, and settled at Damon's Mound. Richard served with Capt. William H. Patton's Columbia Volunteers at the Battle of San Jacinto. After he died, in Gonzales County, his widow married George W. Blair, and the family moved to DeWitt County. Mary A. Darst had two half-sisters, Georgia Blair, who married Alfred Dowlearn, and Sarah "Sallie" Blair, who married James Hester. Their mother, Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Darst Blair, lived to be 100 years old. In later life she moved to Lamesa to live with her daughter, Sallie. She is buried there, near members of the Hester family.

K.C.A., Jr. and Mary A. Park had ten children; they are listed below in order of age:

(1) Idena Park "Ide" – b. September 10, 1870 d. June 14, 1910. Married John Ridgway; six children: Tom, Ida, John, Rhoda, Shirley, Mary.

(2) Lillie Ann Park – b. January 3, 1872 d. March 26, 1925. Married Roy Hollan; eight children: James Berry, Franklin (died in infancy), Samuel Morgan, Earl Benbow, Frank Thrift, Mae, Frederick Boyd, Lucille Grace. (For more information on this family, see story on Hollan, Roy and Lillie Ann (Park).)

(3) Mary Estella Park "Tellie" – b. July 24, 1874 d. July 2, 1951. Married three times: #1 William Hennisee Kirk; four children: Estelle, Daisy, William H., Al. #2 "Cad" Blackburn; one child: Mildred. #3 Joe Shiver; one child called "Little Joe."

(4) Marion Joanna Park "Manie" – b. August 16, 1875 d. May 19, 1955. Married William Rector Williams; eleven children: Ezra, Eustace "Kid," O'Banion, Rosalie, Grace, Ruth, Edward Walsh, Emmett, Covey LeGrande, Lorain, and Marion.

(5) Sarah Ophelia Park "Feedie" – b. March 10, 1877 d. July 17, 1958. Married Henry Harrison "Hack" Hollan (cousin to Roy); five children: Edgar, Marie, Gertrude, Mabel, Minnie Belle.

(6) Weyman A. Park – b. April 8, 1882 (or 1883) d. March 31, 1929 (or February, 1929). Never married.

(7) Cyrus Elmer Park – b. March 30, 1885 d. December 16, 1901. Never married.

(8) Margaret Mahala Park "Maude" – b. February 22, 1887 d. August 16, 1964. Married twice: #1 James Thomas Benbow; three children: Ruby, Thomas Walker, and Woodrow Wilson who died in infancy. #2 Dallas Hayes; four children: Russell Bell, Dallas Finley, Maudie Merle, Andrew U.

(9) Samuel Lewis Park – b. June 3, 1889 d. February 14, 1907. Never married.

(10) John Henry Park – b. November 12, 1892 d. December 31, 1954. Married Claudia Granberry; three children: King Travis, and twin girls, Pauline Louise and Earline Lois.

K.C.A., Jr. and Mary A. Park owned land and farmed and ranched near the Hebron Community. He died December 12, 1892. She continued to live on their home place with her unmarried sons until her death September 13, 1913. Both of them and several of their children are buried in Hebron Cemetery.

by Mary Hollan Inman

PARKER, JOHN HENRY
F692

1901 Woodward O. Taylor and Almira C. (Parker) Taylor with Will Dee Taylor (child)

John Henry Parker and his twin brother, William Joseph Parker, were born in No. Carolina in 1849.

The Rev. J.T. Gillett of Clinton officiated at the marriage of (John) Henry Parker and Johanna Hartmann in 1868. Johanna was the daughter of Sophia (Strieber) and Clemens (C.G.) Hartmann, the surveyor for DeWitt County. A mark and brand were recorded in De Witt County in 1870 for John Henry Parker.

Both Parker and his mother, Dicey Ann Preval obtained land in 1871 under the Act to Regulate Public Land. Their lots were on Irish Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River, northeast of Clinton.

The 1880 Texas Federal Census shows that the brothers were living next to each other. In the household of William Joseph were his wife, Mary and their children, James E. and Anna E. In the household of John Henry was his wife, Johanna, his children Mary, Sophia Ann, John H. (his first son by the name of John Henry had died in 1877 at the age of four), William E., and his mother, Dicey Ann Preval. By 1884 his two youngest children were born, Almira Cornellia (Mide) and Clem.

Almira Cornellia (Mide) Parker married Woodward O. Taylor of Helena, Karnes County in 1899. This family moved to the Kingsville, Texas area in 1904.

Their descendants are still in that area.

John Henry Parker died at the age of 38 in 1888. He lies next to his young son, John Henry in a cemetery at Burns Station, De Witt County. His widow married Ben W. Lucas. She died in 1933 at the age of 82, Stratton Rt., Cuero. She is buried at Alexander Cemetery in De Witt County, Texas.

by Geraldine Phillips

PARKER, S.A. DELBERT AND CORRINE (RABKE)
F693

Delbert and Corrine Parker

Delbert was born December 30, 1908 in Stratton, Texas. His father was Stephen Clemance "Clem" Parker and his mother was Lillie Ann (Rice) Parker. Delbert lived his childhood on the family homeplace about one mile south of Stratton Community. At a very early age, he began working at the John Neil Lumber Company in Yoakum, leaving school after the sixth grade. When the lumberyard closed, Delbert began working as a carpenter. Later, he became a general contractor. He was associated with Fawcett Lumber Company for many years.

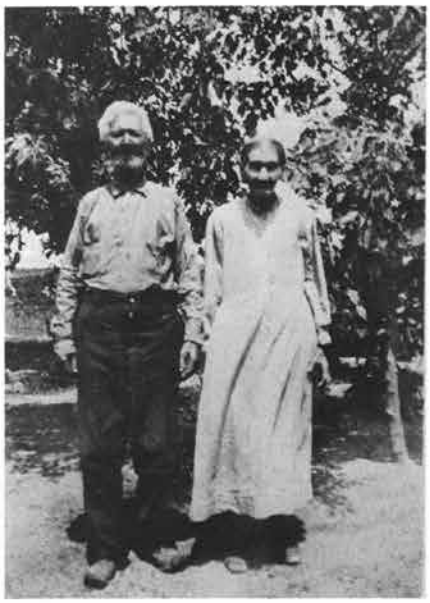
Because of a disability he could not serve in the military during World War II, so he left Yoakum and went to Houston to work in the shipyards. After the war, he returned to his hometown where he lived until his death on November 25, 1978.

Delbert married Corrine Marie (Rabke) Soehnge of Cuero, on August 21, 1952. She was the daughter of Fritz and Charlotte (Schorlemmer) Rabke. Corrine was born on a farm near Arneckeville on January 13, 1913. She attended school at Ratcliffe School in Rabke, Texas and then the Cuero Schools. She married Ernest Charles Soehnge of Mathis, Texas on June 12, 1935. They made their home in Mathis. He was the son of Adolph and Henriette Soehnge. Ernest and Corrine had two children, Joyce and Charles Soehnge. Ernest died on May 17, 1946 and two years after his death, Corrine and their children moved back to Cuero. She was employed at Koehlers Dept. Store. Corrine died October 1, 1964.

by Joyce Manning

PARKER, WILLIAM JAMES AND MARY CLAY (JEFFERY)

F694



Bill and Molly Parker

William James (Bill) Parker was born November 7, 1849, in Macon, Georgia. He died in 1933. He came to Texas with his mother, Dicy Parker, sister Sara, and twin brother, Henry. They owned a plantation and slaves. After the Civil War, they decided to leave Georgia, as their slaves were freed and their possessions destroyed. They left everything and came to Texas.

They came to Texas for Bill's health. He had studied medicine to become a doctor, but due to his health he never finished his studies. He went on the Chisholm trail cattle drive to Kansas.

Mary Clay Jeffery (1852-1938) came to Texas with her mother, Mary Jeffery and brother, Marion. They lived in Searsey, Arkansas. She was also in the Civil War. The Yankees took over their house and made her cook for them. When they left they took their barrels of flour and molasses and cut open their feather beds and let the feathers fly.

Bill Parker and Mary Clay Jeffery were married in November 1876. To this union seven children were born — Edward, Champion, Harriet, Anna, Dicy, Mary Agnes and a baby. Anna and the baby are buried at Burns Station; the others are buried at Alexander Cemetery, except Mary Agnes, who is buried in Houston.

After Bill and Mary were married they settled a homestead in the Chicolete community. They built a log cabin with a fireplace, where they cooked. Having no furniture they made beds with saplings, laced with rope. They had shuck and feather mattresses. They farmed, had cattle, raised a garden and always had plenty to eat.

They were members of the Primitive Baptist at Stratton and are buried in the Alexander Cemetery.

by Mrs. Lee Benbow

PAULUS, HENRY SWANN FAMILY

F695

Then and Now

Henry S. Paulus, the son of Senator David A. Paulus and Annie Cyrene Wilson Paulus, was born in Bellville, Texas on May 24, 1888. He attended Hallettsville schools and also studied under Dr. Nash of Cuero. Upon completion of high school, he entered Sam Houston State Teacher's College. He received his Bachelor's Degree on his eighteenth birthday. After teaching at Warm Springs for one year, he studied law at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon passing his bar exams, he entered the practice of law with his father and Mr. Jim Ragsdale in Hallettsville. At the end of his first year of practicing law he moved to Yoakum. For the next sixty years he practiced law from the County Court of Lavaca and DeWitt Counties to the Supreme Court of the United States.

On June 9, 1912, Henry S. Paulus married Lillian Alice Ward in the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in Yoakum. Mrs. Paulus, born April 2, 1890 in Alice, Texas, was the daughter of P.O. and Rose Ann Ward. At the age of ten, both of her parents died and she moved to San Antonio where she was raised and educated at St. Mary's Hall and Our Lady of the Lake College. She majored in voice and music and after finishing school she moved to Yoakum. She was teaching music in Yoakum when she met Henry Paulus. The two were in a play together in which he played her brother and died in her arms. Thus began a beautiful union that was to last more than sixty-four years until Mrs. Paulus' death in September, 1976. Mr. Paulus passed away five months later in February, 1977.

Mr. Paulus served his state and community in many capacities during his lifetime. He served as Chairman of the Board of Regents for the Texas State Teacher's Colleges (now renamed State Universities), District Attorney, as a member of (and legal counsel for) the Texas Prison Board, to which he was appointed by Governors Jester and Shivers. He was a charter member of the Yoakum Rotary Club and served as its president. He was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as Senior Warden of the Episcopal Church for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Paulus entertained seven governors and numerous dignitaries in their home at 503 Coke Street. For many years their friends and neighbors enjoyed the open house on Christmas day hosted by the Paulus family. Other happy celebrations in their home included their fiftieth and sixtieth wedding anniversaries.

Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Paulus. Rose Cyrene was born on December 30, 1915 and Dawn was born on July 8, 1919. Both daughters graduated from Yoakum High School. Rose Cyrene attended Ward Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee and The University of Texas. Dawn attended and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1939. Both girls served as Queen of the Yoakum Tom-Tom, Rose Cyrene in 1933 and Dawn in 1935.

On July 31, 1937, Rose Cyrene married Newton Crain, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Crain of Cuero. Newton, Jr. practiced law in Houston for over forty years and was senior partner of his firm at the time of his retirement. The Crain, Jr.'s. are the parents of four children: Newton Crain, III, who married Kendella Baker and who have two children, Katherine and Michael; Paula, who married James D. Clark, II and who have five children, James D. Clark, III, Andrew, Corey, Kimberly and Ashley; Henry Paulus Crain, who married Jennifer Cates and who have two children, Autumn and Austin; Larry Wayne Crain, who married Vivien Muckley and who have two children, Lee and Elizabeth. Newton, Crain, Jr. died on January 23, 1983 and Rose Cyrene lives in their home between Warrington and Round Top.

Dawn married Roger H. Hoffman, an accountant and rancher, son of Mr. and Mrs. N.A. Hoffman of San Diego, Texas. Roger and Dawn have two sons: Roger Hoffman, Jr., who married Elizabeth Darden and who have two children, Ellen and Ward; Bruce Paulus Hoffman, who married Gail Ann Moore and who have two children, Kelly Allison and Brent Paulus. Dawn and Roger live in Alice.

The Paulus family has been very blessed and they shall always be grateful for their many wonderful friends from Yoakum and the surrounding area.

by Dawn Hoffman

PEARCE, MOSES SANDERS AND MARY EMMA ALFORD

F696

Moses Sanders Pearce and Mary Emma (Alford) Pearce

Moses Sanders Pearce, son of Sanders Tilden Pearce and Mary Ann Windham (Woodrum) Carter, was born near Jackson, Mississippi on February 23, 1844. Moses had two brothers, "Bug" and "Sug," and four sisters: Molly, Sally, Heneretta and Phoebe.

Molly married Peyton McNeil. The other girls were in a convent in Corpus Christi, Texas. Two of the girls took seriously ill and died in the convent from exposure and overwork.

In 1854, Sanders Tilden Pearce moved his family to Texas, settling in Gonzales. Two years later they moved to McMullen County, then a frontier of Texas. Later they moved to Live Oak County. Sanders Tilden was a teacher. After the Civil War, he returned to his profession and also, with his son Moses Sanders, established a mercantile store.

On January 28, 1862 Sanders Tilden Pearce and his three sons volunteered as Confederate privates in the cavalry in San Antonio, Texas.

Moses Sanders Pearce served under Capt. George S. Deats in Co. "C," 32nd Texas Cavalry Volunteers, then under Capt. J.K. Stevens of the 7th Texas Cavalry, Wood's Regiment and later requested transfer to the 36th Regiment of Texas Cavalry. After the recapture of Galveston, he transferred to Moody Co. "K" where he served in Steele's Regiment.

Moses Sanders Pearce, his father and two brothers were discharged in Gonzales (Houston) in the spring of 1865. The captain told them to go home, the war was over. At that time it was discovered that Moses had been too young when he volunteered and his father too old to have been accepted.

Moses Sanders and his father returned home, but "Bug" went toward Mexico and "Sug" toward Goliad. They both received DeWitt Land Grants. Moses, along with the partnership with his father in the mercantile business, became the Cattle Inspector. Bringing in supplies for their store was tedious and difficult. Some of the supplies came by boat to Galveston, while some came overland by wagon.

Indian raids were prevalent during that time and Moses saw service in fighting the Indians in the spring of 1870 under Capt. I.B. Ammons. They operated in Live Oak, Frio, McMullen and other counties in that section of Texas. The county seat and courthouse was in an old barn belonging to Moses.

While the men were in the Confederate Army, Sanders Tilden Pearce's wife, Mary Ann, established a hotel and stagecoach business in Oakville. The stagecoach line ran from Oakville to San Antonio. She continued to operate this business long after her husband was deceased and until she became too aged to continue.

Oakville, at that time, was wild country and it became necessary for her to be brave and to defend herself and her property from desperate characters with revolvers and rifles.

In Tilden, Texas, Moses Sanders Pearce, met and married his dream girl, Mary Emma Alford on August 26, 1868. She remained his dream girl until the day he died. He would often say to those who visited with them, "Children, isn't Mother the sweetest and prettiest girl!" He was so devoted to her.

Mary Emma Alford was the daughter of L.B. Alford and Mary Alexander. She was educated in San Antonio schools. Mary Emma had one brother, Len (Lyn) Alford, who first married a Miss Young. They had two daughters, Ethel and Iva, and one son. After the death of his first wife he married Lida Hildebrand.

Mary Emma had one sister, Ada, who married a Mr. Snowden. To them, two sons and three daughters were born.

Moses moved his family to Clinton, DeWitt Co., Texas where he was engaged in farming and ranching. Moses and Mary Emma had four daughters and two sons. The two sons, Albert Sedley, born March 3, 1874 and William Tilden, born October 9, 1876, were shot and killed January 19, 1897 in Cuero. Sedley was seated in the barber chair and William was standing in the back doorway. The killer walked in and shot both the boys. There were several witnesses, but the witnesses were afraid to testify on behalf of the boys. The killer was known, but the Peace family was unable to have him convicted. However, when he was dying, in June of 1920 or 1921, it was told to the Pearce family that it took four men to hold him down in bed. He kept repeating "Mr. Pearce was going to kill me." What price justice! What price cowardice! The two boys were buried in Clinton Cemetery.

The daughters of Moses and Mary Emma Pearce were:

1. Phoebie Elizabeth, born November 11, 1869, died December 28, 1911. She married Charles Lytton on July 2, 1891. Their children were Leves Mardellus, born May 16, 1892; Ethel Estella, born October 24, 1895; Lemuel L. born September 25, 1897; Alfred and Gaynell, twins, born April 6, 1901; Pauline born August 27, 1910 and Alvin, born March 12, 1908.

2. Adelia Mydora, born November 28, 1871, died November 10, 1933, married to Fred C. Schrade on January 26, 1898. To their union were born Carrie, who married E.E. Shirar; Albert who married Gladys Gallaway; and Edgar.

3. Estella, born January 28, 1879, died July 16, 1971, married Alfred Randolph House on June 17, 1906. Their children were Alfred Estella, who died at birth, and Willie Lucille, who married Harry H. Meyer.

4. Mary Zulma born January 24, 1881, died May 22, 1974. She married A.F. (Allie) Byram on November 28, 1906. Their children were Jack Pearce, who married Annabelle Johnson; Temple Earle, who married Helen Alex; and Zella Mae, who married Felton C. Warnken.

Later the Pearce family moved to Yorktown and resided there until Moses Pearce died, January 12, 1929. He is buried in Westside Cemetery.

During their life in Yorktown, Moses and his wife reared the children of their daughter, Phoebie and her husband Charles Lytton.

In December of 1912, "Dad" Pearce, as he was affectionately called, became a night watchman and served until March of 1921 when he retired. Each morning he would take his milk cows down to the Yorktown Creek and bring them home in the evening. The gentle people of Yorktown, who lived along his route, watched for him each morning and evening, to be sure he was able to make it home. When he died, he still had his membership in the Emmet Lynch Camp No. 242 of Cuero.

His wife, Mary Emma, died June 3, 1943 and was buried beside her husband in Westside Cemetery. She was a much loved wife, mother and grandmother.

by Mrs. Willie Lucille Meyer

PEAVY, DANIEL BRINKLEY

F697

Daniel Brinkley Peavy

Charles Drury Peavy

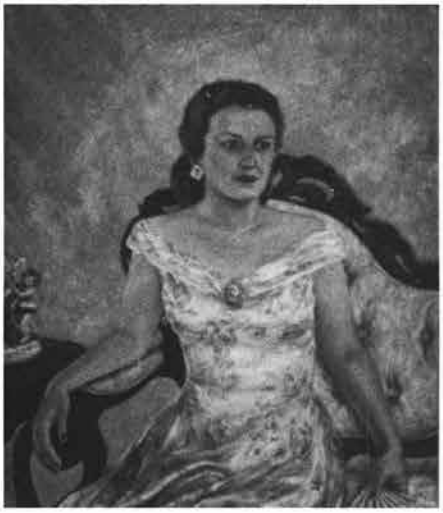
1822-1897

From the Cuero Record, January 13, 1897: Surrounded by his children and friends, D.B. Peavy gave up the ghost last night at 7:30 o'clock. Today Cuero is bemourning the loss of her oldest and most respected citizen. D.B. Peavy passed over the river and entered upon the shores of the way-beyond. His death occurred at 7:30 last night, and it has cast a gloom over the entire community. Coming to Texas in his early manhood, he has lived nigh

Cornelia (Shults) Peavy

Charles Drury Peavy, Jr., M.D.

Daniel C. Peavy, D.D.S.



Margaret (Peavy) Heisig

on to half a century in this, his adopted place, where he has raised a family of children, all of whom are now grown-up citizens, and where he has accumulated an independent fortune.

D.B. Peavy was a native Alabamian. He was born in Butler County in that state, March 10, 1822, and therefore was in his seventy-fifth year. Reared to manhood in Alabama, he married Mary Wallace of that state, to whom one child was born before coming to Texas. The fever to come to Texas overcame the young couple in 1850 and the young man, with his wife and one child, Abbie, came to Texas to seek their fortune. Their first year they lived in Goliad County, but in 1851 they located in DeWitt County near Clinton. A family of six children blessed this union, when the wife died, Mr. Peavy, afterwards in 1871, married Maggie Brooks (Margaret) to whom one child was born. This marriage was on September 1871 in his 49th year. A few years later our subject was again a widower, in which state he has since remained. His chosen vocation was that of stock raising which proved lucrative to him as is shown by his estate which today amounts to something over a hundred thousand dollars. His first cattle brand was registered in 1853: 3P. For years he served as County Commissioner and has been identified with the county's interest for years since taking up his citizenship here, and was loved and respected by all who knew him. Five children survive him to whom the sympathy of the community goes out. The funeral services will be from the home of his son, W.W. Peavy, at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Daniel Brinkley Peavy, age 39 years, enlisted August 18, 1863 in DeWitt County for six months in Captain Stapleton's Company A Cavalry, 24th Brigade, Texas State Troops, transferred to the Confederate States Army. He furnished his own horse, value $225.00; equipment, value $60.00; arms, value $25.00. Two muster rolls are on file at the Texas State Archives. (Mrs.) B. Brandt, Ass't Archivist.

After the war was over, he walked back to hi home and family. The horrors of the war were never allowed to be discussed.

Later members of D.B. Peavy's first wife, Mary, came on to Texas to live near them: her father, Dr. Elias Alexander Wallace, and a brother, Dr. William Reese Wallace. After the Civil War, the brother returned to practice medicine with Dr. Fechner in Yorktown. A sister, Mrs. D. Brooks and her daughter, Margaret (Maggie), came after she was widowed by the Civil War. Now a widower, D.B. Peavy on September 13, 1871, in his 49th year, married Margaret (Maggie). A brand was registered for cattle for her in 1873: X4.

On August 7, 1876, a baby boy was born and named Charles Drury Peavy. The family lived on a ranch some distance from Clinton. The frail young mother was unable to breast-feed the baby but on the ranch was a loyal black family, the Harmons, who had stayed during and after the war. "Aunt" Nannie Harmon became the baby's wet nurse and kept him in good health. "Aunt" Nannie lived to be in her late nineties and to know that her grandson, Leonard Leroy Harmon, received the highest honor of the U.S. Naval Service when a destroyer was christened U.S.S. Harmon for his gallant service on board the U.S.S. San Francisco in World War II; the first time that such an honor had been given a black man. A visit with her shortly before her death was an emotional one for both of us.

Charles Drury Peavy was still very small when his mother died. His father registered a brand in his name when he was six years old: PV, that he used until his death in 1939. As time passed the father knew he must move into Cuero for schooling for Charles. He bought land on the corner of McLeod and Courthouse Streets, across from the First Presbyterian Church, to build a house for a widowed daughter, Ms. Abbie York, and a young child, Lou, to make a home for all of them. Charles was sent to Texas A&M and Southwestern in Georgetown, Texas. The house sold several times and was finally bought by the Presbyterian Church and a brick manse built.

On the 23rd of March, 1900, Charles Drury Peavy and Cornelia Shults (1829-1972) were married in Cuero, Texas. He followed the buying and selling of cattle throughout his lifetime. For some thirty years he operated the Peavy Gravel Pit where now the lake is in the Cuero City Park. The last several years of his life he was a DeWitt County Commissioner. He died in a hospital in Austin, Texas in 1939.

Charles and Cornelia had three children: Charles, Jr. born in 1901; Daniel Cornelius, born in 1903; and Margaret (Doll), born in 1905. Charles was graduated from Tulane School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana and married a Sophie Newcomb, college student from Monroe, Louisiana. They moved to Cuero, Texas where Charles practiced medicine until he moved to Austin, Texas to be Administrator and Chief Surgeon of Brackenridge Hospital. They had one child, Charles Drury Peavy, III, who was sixth generation on his grandmother Peavy's line to live in Cuero. Later Charles married Mary Ideus and there were no heirs. Charles III was graduated from L.S.U., Baton Rouge, Louisiana and was called to serve his stint in the U.S. Army. Before leaving for his station in Germany, Charles married Elysee Hamlett, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Hamlett of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On their return from Germany, they both entered Tulane University in New Orleans,

La., where Charles received a PhD in English literature and Elysee, a Masters in the same subject. Charles was invited to be a Professor in English Literature at the University of Houston, and Elysee received a PhD from Rice and is now Chairman of the English Department of the Houston Baptist College. After thirty years at the University of Houston, Charles retired and is now a certified Appraiser of Fine Art.

They have two children, Valerie and Pamela. Valerie is married to Bill Meek and they have one child, Alexander Buckley. Pamela received a Phi Beta Award from pre-law school at S.M.U. in Dallas, Texas. In 1988 she was graduated from law school at S.M.U. and is now with a law firm in Dallas.

Daniel Cornelius Peavy went to Texas A&M, and from there went to dental school at Tulane. From there he went to Baylor University College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas where he was graduated Summa Cum Laude. He practiced general dentistry in Cuero, Texas before leaving for the International School of Orthodontics in San Antonio, Texas where he practiced orthodontia until his untimely death in 1962. He married Mary Terrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Terrell of San Antonio, Texas and had two children, Daniel Jr. and Robert Marshall. Daniel, Jr. was graduated from Baylor University College of Dentistry in Orthodontia and practices in San Antonio. He married Harriet Williams, daughter of Daniel W. and Caroline Carpenter Williams of Dallas, Texas. They left for Dan to serve his "stint" in the U.S. Army Dental Corps on a base in Japan. After two years they returned to San Antonio to open his orthodontia office where he still practices.

They have two teenage Eagle Scouts, Daniel and Gardner.

Robert Marshall was graduated from Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas where he was affiliated with Sigma Chi fraternity. He owns and operates Engraved Stationers, Ltd., in San Antonio, Texas. Robert married Anna Rainey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rainey, San Antonio. Anna is an interior decorator on a limited time basis because their two pre-teenage daughters, Mary Stephanie and Margaret Anna, absorb most of her time.

Margaret (Doll) Peavy married Paul A. Heisig, Jr. in Alamagordo, New Mexico on October 15, 1941. Paul was originally from Beaumont, Texas but lived in El Paso, Texas since he retired from the U.S. Cavalry at Fort Bliss, going there from the University of Virginia where he was a Sigma Chi. Margaret (always known as Doll) continued to live on in El Paso after Paul's death in 1957. Her mother, Cornelia Peavy, then made her home in El Paso with her. She was very happy and active there until her death in 1972 at 93 years of age.

Paul Heisig had two daughters, Shirley and Barbara. Shirley married W.R. Weaver who designed and made the Weaver Gun Scopes, and the U.S. bomber sights during World War II. He is now deceased. Barbara married Ferd Baltz and had one child, Alice Lee.

Last Will and Testament of Squire Reid. Deceased. Probated May 10, 1865.

The last will and testament of Mr. Squire Reid of the County of DeWitt, State of Texas.

1st; I direct that all my just debts be paid as early a time as practicable.

2nd; I will and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, and her bodily heirs, the Negro woman Rachel, aged about fifteen years and her child, Jim, aged about six weeks. Also fifty acres of land including the dwelling and other improvements. This bequeath is made as an entailment and I further Will and Order that in the event my said daughter, Elizabeth, died without issue all the above mentioned property I Will and bequeath to my two sons Samuel and Henry Reid III. I Will and bequeath to my two sons, Samuel and Henry Reid, all the balance of my real and personal Estate that I now own or may be possessed of at my death; including Negroes, Lands, Tenements, stocks, money notes or anything else of any value. I desire now to State my reasons for bequeathing to my three youngest children all the property I possess. When I came to Texas, I was with no property but through the aid and assistance of my three youngest children I have been able to accumulate the little I now possess, and besides my two older children are well able to take care of themselves. Signed in presence of the two subscribing witnesses this the 9th of January, 1861. Signed: J.K. White and W.H. Kirkland.

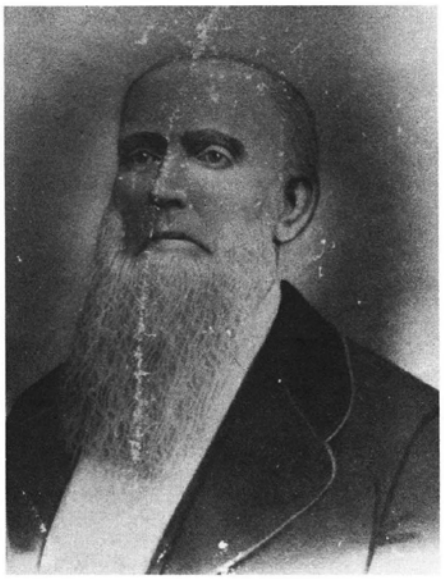
Squire Reid, widowed, came out to Texas with daughter, Elizabeth and several sons. They followed daughter, Mary, and her husband, Mr. Allen, and their slaves. They had no children, and chose to settle in DeWitt County on the Guadalupe River bottom land some three miles from what is now Cuero. Mr. Allen died and Mary married William Thomas on February 15, 1856. William (1828-1905) was a very hard worker and, with the land Mary already had, they accumulated considerable acreage, some of which is now in the Dudley Bennet Estate, and Ed De Leon Estate. William and Mary gave Cornelius Shults and Alice Thomas (1857-1911) Shults, their daughter, when they married on October 28, 1879, 300 acres of land for a homestead. The land was three miles from Cuero on what is now Victoria Highway and joining the Sid Friar home place. This tract of land was kept in the family until the twenties when it was sold to Ed DeLeon. Cornelius and Alice had five children: Cornelia, Jessie, Ivy, Robert and Thomas. Cornelius died young and Alice reared the children alone. Cornelia born 1879, married Charles Drury Peavy on March 23, 1900; Jessie married Elias Nichols and had no children; Ivy married J.N. Beasley of Amarillo, Texas and they had one daughter, Mary, who married Lang Reid and they had two children; Robert married Ollie Stell, and they had one child, Robert Stell Shults, who married and had no children; Thomas married Libby Friar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Friar. Thomas and Libby had four children: Thomas Shults, Robert Stuart, Bess and Alice Ruth. Cornelia and Charles Peavy had three children: Charles Jr., Daniel Cornelius and Margaret (Doll). These three children are listed under Daniel Brinkley Peavy data.

Mary Thomas, wife of William, died and he married several times after being widowed. His last wife was Mrs. Hubby. He bought property in town that was undeveloped. It was bounded by Reuss Blvd. at Esplanade; on Esplanade to Bailey, to Clinton, and back to Reuss Blvd. corner. They built their home on the corner of Reuss Blvd. and Clinton St. at 210 E. Reuss Blvd. It is now in 1989 the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Tarkington. The house has sold several times and numerous changes were made. In 1911 William sold the land bounded by First Street, N. Esplanade, Bailey and Gonzales to Dr. John Burns for the very modern three story brick, Burns Hospital. The life of this hospital has been recorded elsewhere by members of the Burns family.

by Margaret Peavy Heisig

PEEBLES FAMILY

F698



Dr. Robert Peebles

Dr. Robert Peebles came to Texas in 1828. Born in South Carolina in 1798, he was the grandson of Lewis Peebles of Cheraw District, S.C., who furnished supplies to the Continental troops during the American Revolution. These Peebles were descended from Captain David Peebles, who came to Virginia from Scotland in 1649, which was the year in which the Parliamentary forces beheaded King Charles I of England. As an officer in the King's Royal Army, which had been defeated, David sought a safer climate in the New World.

In Texas Dr. Peebles was associated with Stephen F. Austin's colony and received a grant of land in Ft. Bend Co. In 1831 he served on the first Board of Health in San Felipe. In 1835 he was one of the witnesses to a codicil to Austin's Will.

In 1849 Robert Peebles and his wife, Mary Trigg Peebles, bought land from Churchill Fulcher in DeWitt Co., and built a home on this land across the Guadalupe River from Concrete. It was under the large old live oak trees near their house that friends and neighbors gathered on July 8, 1849, and organized the first Presbyterian church in the county.

Having served in 1842 as Representative from Ft. Bend Co. to the Seventh Congress of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Robert was elected in 1851 to serve as Representative to the State Legislature from DeWitt and Gonzales Counties.

Mary Peebles died in July of 1853, and in 1856 Dr. Peebles married Lucy Ann Trigg, a niece of Mary's. Born in Jackson, Tenn., Lucy was a daughter of William and Elisa Rawlings Trigg, both of whom were deceased, so Lucy was living in New Orleans, La., with her sister and brother-in-law, Rachel and John O. McGehee. Lucy and Robert had two children, John O. McGehee Peebles (born Jan. 21, 1859 in New

Orleans) and Katherine Earl (Kate or Katie).

Dr. Robert Peebles died "of apoplexy" at his home on July 12, 1871, and was buried on his property beside Mary. He had lived through trying and exciting times, and was even accused, in 1832, of "land grabbing" 400 leagues. Later he and his partner, F.W. Johnson, surrendered that land. Nevertheless, he still owned vast properties, buying thousands of acres from the Mexican government. Most of this land was sold for taxes by his widow.

The Peebles' son, Johnny, was sent back to Jackson, Tenn., for his education. Slight of build, he suffered with asthma and was never very strong. In 1885 he married Miss Marion Blake, who was from South Carolina. (See Blake Family.) They first lived in rented rooms in Concrete, but Johnny built a house on his land across the river, and in the fall of 1886 they were living there when their son, Robert, was born. Marion did not long survive, John Peebles was in need of help in raising his infant son, and Marion's mother, Fanny Bigelow Blake (Mrs. Joshua Blake), being then a widow and all her children except the youngest being grown and gone from home, came from South Carolina to care for the baby. With her came her daughter, Warrenetta.

In 1888, John and Warrenetta were married. To them were born four sons, John O. McGehee, Jr., William Trigg, Clarence (called Tom), and David Earl (Pat), and one daughter, Fannie. When Pat, the youngest, was but four years old and "Warnie" only thirty-five, Johnny died on August 27, 1904. Mrs. Blake continued to make her home on the ranch, and she and Warnie raised the Peebles children.

Robert married Ione Clark and lived in Lufkin, raising a family of four, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Blake, Jr., Lois, and Lucille. John McGehee lived in Bryan and had a son, John Siddell. Trigg, who farmed in DeWitt County, married Ona Nichols and had twins, Dorothy and Donald. Tom lived in Nixon, no children; and Pat married Dora Alexander of Jackson Co. and lived on a ranch in that area. They had a baby girl who died soon after her birth.

Fannie married Blake Alexander who was from Cuero and whom Warnie had hired to manage the ranch for her. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Blake Alexander.

Of Warrenetta's children, only Tom is alive today (1989). Of her grandchildren: Donald Peebles lives in Victoria; John is deceased (two daughters in Houston); Dorothy Peebles Allen lives in Cuero, as does her son, Tony, who is Cuero's Chief of Police. Elizabeth Alexander Muir (now Taylor) lives on a part of the old ranch.

by Elizabeth M. Taylor

PENNER, EMIL E.

F699

Emil and Bernice Penner called Cuero their home though neither were born or raised in DeWitt County.

Emil was born in Newton, Kansas Jan. 2, 1911, and he died as a resident of Cuero, July 10, 1998. His father, Peter Penner was born in 1870 in Russia, and immigrated to America in his youth from Germany in 1887. Anna Epp, born April 14, 1877 married Peter Penner in Newton on March 25, 1897. In the 1920's they moved to Wasco, Kern County, California

Anna (Epp) and Peter Penner married in Newton Kansas Mar. 25, 1897.

Bernice Ellen (Permenter) And Emil E. Penner, Arvin, California, July 30, 1939.

where they bought farm land, built a frame house, and raised eight children. Anna died Sept. 19, 1933, and Peter died Aug. 4, 1957. After attending school in that area, Emil was keen on flying, using his instructor's Biplane, however his prime interest was to farm. Therefore, he and his brother, Otto, entered into a partnership and they successfully developed irrigated farm crops. Emil was instrumental in organizing a youth softball league while a member of the Wasco 20/30 Club, serving as president in 1939. He had a lifelong interest in sports and helping young people to play them. He was a member of the Wasco Masonic Lodge No. 583 AF&AM.

Emil and Bernice Ellen Permenter married July 30, 1939 in the Union Congregational Church in Arvin, California. They resided in a cottage on his Wasco farm the early years of their marriage. During football season, they drove 100 miles over the Ridge to the Coliseum in Los Angeles for college games. They had one daughter, Jacqueline, born July 17, 1940 in Bakersfield. That year they moved to Arvin where he began his development of the farming region south of Arvin. Good times were had even with all the hard work, like the trip that he and Bernice took on the Lurline with Corinee and Arnold Cattani to Hawaii in 1951, or the salmon fishing tips to Alaska, and the hunting trips in Nevada.

He was regarded as one of the finest growers in Arvin, a distinction made more meaningful by the fact that he started farming potatoes long before the vast knowledge and technology we now take for granted were even available. He had the courage to learn it by doing it, and then wisely learning from his mistakes. Then he shared his hard-won knowledge generously with others.

In 1941 they built their manor house, a California ranch architecture of wood and brick construction with heavy shake roof, located in the foothills of Bear Mountain near Comanche Point. There was a family orchard and gardens. They enjoyed horseback riding in the cool of the evening on their pair of matched black Morgans and early morning bird hunting in the foothills, or around the perimeter of the grain fields. On special occasions children were entertained with home movies, reels of film projected on a large screen. The Penner's were involved in civic duties, church, school, and community activities.

In 1941-42 Emil built and organized his Gold Ribbon Potato Packing and Shipping Warehouse. In December 1942 the Dept of Agriculture negotiated a contract with Emil and Bernice and the United States of America to lease certain acreage for the production of guayule shrubs or plants, known as the Guayule Emergency Rubber Project, a World War II effort. Over the ensuing years he invested in fertile farm land, growing diversified crops, and expanding his farming operations to include the Flying Lazy E Ranch, a cattle-growing, feeding, and marketing operation.

The 1952 Earthquake ravaged home and land in mid-summer, everything literally ceased. Electric power down, water wells damaged, and in the fields land shifted making straight rows of crop rows irregular. Emergency power crews from other counties came in, service was restored within two weeks, water wells were reworked as possible.

In the house everything was turned upside down, all cupboards emptied, windows broken, hugh cracks in the swimming pool. Clean- up crews shovelled debris, windows were boarded, and house movers were brought in to relevel the buildings. It was a devastating experience with the house totally vacated for several months; the damage was overwhelming.

In those years professional entertainers made appearances at the Harvey Auditorium in Bakersfield. Bernice recalls some of those they particularly enjoyed were Opera stars, Lily Pons, Liberace, Singer, Nat King Cole, and the great jazz singer, Louis Armstrong. Big name Bands travelled through the land, and they danced to Harry James, Phil Harris, and Les Brown, to name a few. Later these became Big name entertainers in Las Vegas, on Broadway, and Hollywood.

Emil served on the board of directors of the Montecito School for Girls in Santa Barbara, was a member of the Al Malaikah Shrine in Los Angeles, and he and Bernice were charter members of the Bakersfield Country Club, he was an avid golfer.

Bernice Ellen was born April 18, 1919 in Bakersfield, the eldest of six children. She

Millard Finis Permenter and Millie Elizabeth (Jenkins) married in Bakersfield California on June 23, 1918.

graduated from Kern County Union High School in 1937, has a business degree from Lufkin's Business College and attended the University of California in Los Angeles.

Her parents, Millard Finis "Buck" Permenter, born Jan. 12, 1897 in Floydada, Floyd County, Texas and Millie Elizabeth Jenkins, born in Santa Maria, California, March 1, 1895, married June 23, 1918 in Bakersfield. Their ancestors were early American settlers from England: John J. Holloway, born 1806, Morgan County, Illinois, and Nancy Kemp Foster, born 1809 in North Carolina, Married Oct. 28, 1830, issue Millie Ann Holloway, born Feb. 22, 1834, Benton County, Missouri and Calloway Green Heath, born Feb. 23, 1831 in Cabell County, West Virginia, married Nov. 15, 1852 Bear River, California. Issue Nancy Melvina Heath born July 26, 1867 in Benton County, and Joseph Edward Jenkins born 1861 in West Virginia, married 1886 in Benton County, issue Millie Elizabeth. Her father moved his family to Kern County where he established a prosperous dairy farm in Rosedale, and later Standard Oil Co. leased and developed oil production on his land.

The Permenter's were listed in England 1500-1600, Issue 271, July 1914 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. The Permenter's came from Normandy, (Vikings), the Northern coast of France to England through William the Conqueror. Later the lure of the West brought them to America in search of prosperity and a new life. They probably landed in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia about 1610. Here they learned to cope with difficult work, strange languages, and foreign culture, as the New Americans came from all over the world. From Virginia they went through South Carolina to Edgecome and Anson counties in North Carolina. Here the early settlers were called Caviliers and Pioneers. The West still lured and the Permenter's moved to Mississippi and later to Texas, New Mexico, and California. They were all land owners, having started in North Carolina. As they moved west they bought and sold land in Mississippi and in Texas.

Issue from James Permenter III, Needham Bryant Permenter, born June 1806, North Carolina, and Nancy Adcock, born Nov. 20, 1812 North Carolina, married 1833. Issue, Millard Fillmore Permenter born 1857 Mississippi, and Sarah Elvira Barefoot born Feb. 1861 Center Point, Arkansas, married Feb. 7 1881 in Coryell County, Texas. Issue Millard Finis. He was a prominent farmer and business man in Arvin, and pioneered Arizona desert land in Hyder, between Yuma and Gila Bend. During World War II they were also involved in the Guayule Emergency Rubber Project with the Agriculture Dept. of the United States of America. During World War I, Millard was leaving Bakersfield on the train "going to war", enroute to camp, nevertheless. The train had travelled a very short distance, near the old brick yards, when news was received that the war was over, the train backed into Southern Pacific Station before the tears were dried and the crowd had returned home. Millie was a staunch supporter of the family, church, and the community. Both parents have died and are buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Bakersfield, Millard, July 26, 1966, and Millie, Jan. 19, 1985. Their country home has been maintained by their granddaughter, Millie P. Blackburn Cadmus and family.

Emil and Bernice have two grandsons, Jacqueline married Jack Garner Smith, January 18, 1957 in Yuma, Arizona. Issue, Scott Edward Garner Smith, born Oct. 9, 1957 in Bakersfield. Jacqueline's second marriage to Ronald Beaton in Nov. 1960 in Santa Barbara. Issue, Craig P. Beaton, born Oct. 10, 1961. Jacqueline married Lt. Paul Elliott from Middletown, Kentucky in the Chapel at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, October 30, 1964.

In the 1960's Emil moved to Cuero with a second family, having married a Cuero native, Thrula Mae Lane. She had two sons, Walter C. Sager and Frederick L. Zentner. Emil established Penner Cattle Co., a cattle order buying business for his California and Arizona customers. Order buyers, Dutton Lane, Gene Finney, Elmer Krueger and Emil attended separate cattle auctions in south Texas on regularly scheduled sale days each week. During the '70's fuel prices soared, and freight costs as well, causing that business to eventually close its doors. Emil built a contemporary white brick house in town in a beautiful setting surrounded by spreading live oaks.

Thrula Mae died Feb. 11, 1969.

Having attended the Lumbleau School of Real Estate in Los Angeles, Bernice became active in that field in Kern County, serving as a director of the Bakersfield Board of Realtors, a Representative on the California State Board of Realtors, and President of the Women's Division in 1963-64. She married William H. Williamson of Cody, Wyoming April 5, 1963. He was Vice- President and Manager of Security Title and Trust in Bakersfield, and they were partners in the real estate firm known as Charles B. Webster of that City. William died July 26, 1969.

Emil and Bernice were reunited July 30, 1970 in the country home of her parents. They brought grandson, Scott with them to Cuero, where he had visited many times. With the consent of Jacqueline, Emil was granted legal custody and changed his name to Scott Emil Penner on Oct. 26, 1970. The following year they sold the Terrell Street house to Charles and Adelle DeBose Lucas, and built another white brick ranch style house on acreage located about two miles east of Cuero on the Victoria highway. Emil became active with the Boys Scouts of America and received the distinctive Order of the Arrow award for his years of participation and service in the 1970's. He was a member of the Lions Club, and served as deacon, Class of '77, and elder, Class of '82 of the First Presbyterian Church. Emil's generosity, which is still so well remembered, was but one of the ways he gave of himself. Bernice was active in the Community Hospital Auxiliary and served as President 1975-76. She was a deacon, Class of '81, and an elder, Class of '87 of the First Presbyterian Church. She maintains membership in the Native Daughters of the Golden West of Bakersfield. Wasco Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, life member of the Federated Women's Club of Arvin, and DeWitt County Republican Women.

Lynne Ann Dlouhy, born July 15, 1959 in Shiner, Texas and Scott Penner were married May 26, 1979, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moulton. Their daughter, Natalie Ellen, was born March 22, 1988 in Victoria. They live in Coltoville near Victoria, Texas. Joel Spencer, born May 6, 1966 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Craig Beaton were married in the Mormon Temple, Salt Lake City on April 12, 1985. They have two daughters, Allegra, born January 17, 1987 in Salt Lake City, and Mariah, born September 27, 1989 in Santa Barbara California, they reside in Carpinteria.

Entertainment for the family has changed from projector shown home films, and movies at the cinema to video tape shown on the television screen. Jacqueline P. Elliott completed the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, 1987 CCSU, Corpus Christi, Texas and will complete the Master of Fine Arts Degree in 1991 at the Braniff Graduate School of the University of Dallas. In recent years, having completed their Real Estate Licensing requirements Emil became associated with Bob G. Caskey in real estate, and also a partner with his grandson in the DeWitt County Paint and Surface Co. Scott who was with Emil in his last years, remembers that even while coping with his lengthy battle with emphysema, he always had time and concern for others. Bernice, meantime spent seven and one-half years as Office Man-

ager for the Cuero Medical Clinic.

In 1987 Emil received the 50 years award from the Grand Lodge AF&AM of the State of California. The presentation was made in Cuero by W.H. McGill, district deputy grand master of the 34th Masonic District of Grand Lodge of Texas.

To sum up our story, at the Memorial Service and Masonic rites conducted for Emil in Bakersfield on July 14, 1988 the family clergy, John Martin of Arvin, had this to say about his life: "I would imagine that just about everyone here has a favorite Emil Penner story, and I would be willing to bet that each story would touch on his generosity or his intelligence, his competence as a farmer, rancher, business man, or his ability to have a good time, some of those times being more appropriately remembered in contexts different from this one. You put them together and you have the portrait of a complex man who lived life very fully, who gave a lot more than he got, where character never lost its integrity through good times or bad, and who, win, lose, or draw, lived life on his own terms. It has been 50 years since Bernice and Emil first met in 1938. They were married in 1939, and as the next 49 years verified, they were destined for one another." On July 29, 1988 another Memorial service for Emil was conducted by Harvey Friedel, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Cuero.

Following early family tradition Bernice is a landowner in California and Texas, and in April 1989 she became associated with Margaret A. Thomas in the real estate business in Cuero, known as Eling Corporation.

by Bernice P. Penner

PETERS, ELROY AND RUTH GOHMERT (FISCHER)

F700

Elroy and Ruth (Gohmert) Peters 1985

Linda Peters Hiller, Sandra, Kenneth Peters, Nancy Ann Peters Kramer

Linda Fischer Baros and Jerry Fischer

Elroy H. Peters was born Jan. 13, 1925. He was raised on a farm in Westoff, Texas, the middle child of three born to Friedrich (Fritz) and Leona Schroeder Peters. His father was born in Hoppenburg, Germany on Apr. 9, 1900 and arrived at Galveston on June 10, 1907, on the vessel *Schemmitz*. Elroy, at the age of 19, served his country during World War II in the United States Army and was sent overseas on the Queen Mary to Germany where he was injured and received the Purple Heart Medal.

Elroy was married to Helen D. Kahlich on July 22, 1945. Helen died at the age of 34 years on April 18, 1961. Elroy and Helen had four children, Lynda Gail (born Sept. 1, 1946) Nancy Ann (born Oct. 3, 1948), Sandra Elaine (born Apr. 16, 1951) and Kenneth Ray (born Sept. 19, 1954).

Ruth Gohmert Fischer was born Aug. 11, 1922 in Victoria County, about 7 miles from Meyersville. She is the eldest of 4 children born to Reinhold and Linda Diebel Gohmert. Their story is given separately.

Ruth was married to Frank S. Fischer on Nov. 8, 1942. Frank died at the age of 39 years of a heart attack on Feb. 5, 1959. Ruth and Frank had two children, Jerry Lee (born Feb. 25, 1944) and Linda Clare (born June 20, 1945). Their story is given separately.

Elroy and Ruth were married on July 2, 1966, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas, and lived in Cuero only a few weeks before moving to Rockport, Texas. Ruth's two Children, Jerry and Linda Fischer and two of Elroy's children, Sandra and Kenneth moved to Rockport with us. Lynda Peters was attending college in Houston and Nancy Peters completed her senior year at Cuero High School and then she attended Southwest Texas College in San Marcos. In August of 1966 Jerry Fischer entered the United States Navy and he served 1½ years in Vietnam during the Vietnam Conflict.

Elroy was employed by IMCO Services, a Division of Halliburton which dealt in the oil fields and Ruth was employed by Central Power and Light Co. in Aransas Pass, Texas, about 11 miles from Rockport. Elroy retired on Feb. 29, 1984 after 27½ years with IMCO and Ruth retired on Oct. 1, 1984 after 18 yrs. with CP&L.

In 1983 Elroy and Ruth had their retirement home built on the land Ruth inherited from her parents in Meyersville located on the Gohmert Road. In Dec. 1988, they sold their home in Rockport and moved into their home in Meyersville. In 1987, Ruth's two grandsons, Jimmy, 16 yrs. old and Charles 15 years old (James & Linda Fischer Paros' sons) came to live with them so Elroy added on another bedroom and bath for them to our home.

Elroy's children Lynda is married to Leroy Hiller and they have two children (twins) Stacy Lynn Hiller (7-29-78) and Scott Lee Hiller (7-29-78). Leroy's daughter Lorrie Hiller is living with them in Rockdale, Texas. Nancy Ann is married to Jerry Kramer and they live in Victoria, Texas. Sandra Elaine lives in Missouri City (near Houston). Kenneth Ray is married to Lorna King and they live in Rockport, Texas. Lorna's daughter Daphne Cooling lives with them.

Elroy and Ruth are enjoying their retirement years with their grandchildren and with the travels they take each year. They are both very much involved with the American Legion and its Auxiliary and their church. Elroy is also interested in woodworking such as making "Texas" clocks. He is very good at such things. They enjoy the country life and wide open space.

by Mrs. Elroy Peters

PETERS, FRIEDA

F701

Frieda Caroline Sophie Peters was born on March 19, 1899 in the Garfield Community near Yorktown, one of five children and the oldest daughter of George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters. She was baptized and confirmed in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown. Frieda received her early schooling in the Yorktown Schools. In 1913 she moved with her family to Nordheim, where she continued her education in the Nordheim Schools. She lived on the farm of her parents her entire life.

For a few years she was employed at Janssen's Dry Goods Store in Nordheim, and later she worked as a saleslady at Nau's Dry Goods Store in Yorktown, where she remained until her retirement. She also maintained her farming and ranching interests. She was a true and loyal member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Nordheim. Throughout her whole life she gave her time and devotion to her loved ones. Frieda was a devout Christian who practiced her religious beliefs every day of her life. She never thought of herself. Frieda always helped out her loved ones and was always a very

generous, cheerful and loving person. Frieda believed in educating the youth, always showing an interest in her niece's and nephews' education, and assisted her nephew in acquiring a college education. She was truly a good woman to be long remembered by all.

Frieda suffered from diabetes, and the last couple of months of her life she suffered a series of strokes, which soon took her life on November 30, 1964. She died in the Cuero Hospital. Preceding her in death were her parents, George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters, and a brother, Waldin Carl Peters. Surviving her were three sisters: Mrs. Willie (Leona) Gaedke, Malinda Peters, and Mrs. Edwin MC. (Caroline) Klaevemann; and a niece and four nephews.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

PETERS, GEORGE AND ALWINE (SINAST)

F702

George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters

George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters spent their childhood and the first 17 years of their married life in the Yorktown and Garfield communities (DeWitt County), and thereafter their life was spent in the Nordheim community (DeWitt County).

George Peters and Alwine Sinast were married on December 15, 1896 in Yorktown, Texas in the Evangl. St. Paul Lutheran Church by Pastor J.K. Poch. They were both members of leading families of the Yorktown area. After their marriage, George and Alwine Peters moved to a farm in the Garfield Community and bought 200 acres in December 1905. Five children were born to George and Alwine Peters: Waldin Carl, on December 18, 1897; Frieda Caroline Sophia, on March 19, 1899; Leona, on January 27, 1901; Malinda, on April 23, 1903; and Caroline Louise, on September 2, 1908. In September, 1913, the George Peters family moved to their new home of 160 acres two miles north from Nordheim, Texas.

George Peters was born on October 26, 1870, one of four children of Charles (Karl) and Sophie (Kirgeleis) Peters in the Province of Hannover, Germany. In May 1872, the family came to America settling first in the Ander Community (Goliad County) where they lived for four years, and later moved to the Yorktown Community. George received his schooling in Yorktown, was confirmed in the Evangl. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas on March 29, 1885, and grew to young manhood in Yorktown. He received his U.S. Certificate of Naturalization on November 2, 1891, in DeWitt Co., Texas. On December 15, 1896 George married Alwine Sinast in the Evangl. Lutheran St. Paul Church in Yorktown, Texas. Throughout George's life he was known as a very hard working and prosperous man who always provided well for his family. He walked tall, had a strong firm hand, yet he had a gentle style, and was well respected by all who knew him. He was a splendid type of citizen, a thrifty and successful farmer, prudent and considerate as a landlord to his farm workers, obliging and generous as a neighbor, loyal and true as a friend, and a model husband and father. He lived a devout and consistent Christian life and was a pillar of strength in the local Lutheran Church. Religion with George was an everyday affair, and not for Sunday display only. Besides being active in the church, he was very active in all community affairs. In the relatively short life of 53 years, George acquired approximately 1,200 acres of property in the DeWitt County area.

Alwine (Sinast) Peters (born as Caroline Amalia Alwine Sinast), one of six children of Frederich and Caroline (Gerhardt) Sinast, was born on September 15, 1876 in Yorktown, Texas. Alwine was baptized on May 21, 1877 and was confirmed on March 22, 1891 in the Evangl. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas. She grew to young womanhood in the Yorktown community. Alwine was a devout Christian who practiced her Christian religion in everyday life, and was a very devoted mother and charitable friend and neighbor. She was an active member of the Lutheran Ladies Aid, as well as being active in all community functions.

On December 15, 1921, George and Alwine observed their silver wedding anniversary, which was one of the largest celebrations witnessed in the Nordheim community at that time. It was celebrated at their pleasant country home. Everybody in the area was welcomed to the celebration, and it was estimated conservatively that at least 800 people were present. A good many people journeyed to the celebration in buggies and even on horseback and on foot. The celebration began mid-afternoon. There was plenty of food to eat and to spare for all who attended. A diversification of food was served including barbecued meat, turkey, pork, sausage, all sorts of vegetables, fruits, etc., which were furnished right from the Peters farm. And, at midnight, coffee cake and sandwiches were served to the same crowd — no one had gone home.

A large open-air dance platform had been erected especially for the occasion and it was filled with merry dancers for many hours. Music was provided by Alfred and Ben Zedler, Gus Grosse and Fred Brunkenhoefer. In this connection it may be stated that Gus Grosse and his father had played at the original Peters-Sinast wedding celebration 25 years before. In fact there were numbers of people present who attended the original wedding 25 years ago. Old-time squares were danced — the celebration was a delightful one — and one that was enjoyed and long remembered by all who attended.

While working on a windmill on the farm, George suddenly was stricken with a heart attack, which abruptly took his life on February 10, 1924. His death was quite a shock to the Nordheim community. Only that morning, George had been in town taking out some parts for the repair of his windmill. His son, Waldin, was helping him repair the mill. Though of robust appearance, George had occasional heart attacks for some time, and had suffered an unusually severe one only about two weeks before. George was buried at the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Nordheim on February 12, 1924. George was preceded in death by his parents, Charles (Karl) and Sophie Peters; and one brother, Frederick (Fritz) Peters. Those surviving him at the time of his death were his wife, Alwine; five children: Waldin, Frieda, Leona, Malinda and Caroline; a brother, Heinrich (Henry) Peters; and a sister, Mrs. Friedrich H. (Sophie) Heldt.

Alwine took over the task of running the farm after George's death. She was in delicate health for many years with diabetes. About 10 weeks before her death while returning from a visit to her physician, she suffered a broken leg in an automobile accident. This together with other injuries, her long suffering and her weakened condition was too much for her. She died on August 30, 1947 at a Cuero hospital. Throughout her illness, she always maintained a cheerful outlook and never gave up hope that she might soon be able to be up and about again.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frederich and Caroline Sinast; husband, George; and a brother, Emil Sinast. Surviving her at the time of her death were her five children: Waldin Peters, Miss Frieda Peters, Mrs. Willie (Leona) Gaedke, Miss Malinda Peters, and Mrs. Edwin (Caroline) Klaevemann; four grandchildren; one brother, Max Sinast; and three sisters, Mrs. Gus (Mary) Henze, Mrs. Herman (Theresa) Gips, and Miss Louise Sinast.

Waldin Peters married Ruth Harper of San Antonio on May 2, 1933. They had two children: Robert Carl, and a daughter died in infancy. Leona Peters married Willie Gaedke of Nordheim on January 18, 1923. They had no children. Frieda and Malinda Peters never married. Caroline Peters married Edwin C. Klaevemann of Nordheim on September 7, 1933. They had four children: Carlos, Lloyd Neil, William George, and Kay Carol.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

PETERS, MALINDA

F703

Malinda Peters was born on April 23, 1903, one of five children of George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters, in the Garfield Community near Yorktown. She was baptized and confirmed in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown. Malinda received her early education in the Yorktown Schools. In 1913 she moved with her family to a farm in Nordheim, where she continued her education in the Nordheim Schools.

Malinda spent her adult life in Nordheim.

She worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Nordheim as a telephone operator for many years. She purchased a home in the city of Nordheim, was engaged in farming and ranching, and had acquired property in the Nordheim and Garfield areas. Malinda was always a fun loving person. She was a jovial person who enjoyed her life to the fullest. Often times her home served as a gathering place for her niece and nephews, and their friends. Malinda enjoyed company as much as people enjoyed being at her home. Her niece remembers that at family gatherings, Aunt Malinda always had candy in her pockets to give the children, and it was a great delight to her to give it to the children. She was active in community functions and was a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Nordheim.

Malinda was stricken by Parkinsons disease early in mid-life. The last couple of years of her life she lived at the Yorktown Nursing Home. Miss Malinda died on October 26, 1982 in the Yorktown Hospital. Malinda was preceded in death by her parents, George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters; a brother, Waldin; and three sisters; Frieda Peters, Mrs. Willie (Leona) Gaedke, and Mrs. Edwin C. (Caroline) Klaevemann. Survivors were a niece and four nephews.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

PETERS, WALDIN CARL

F704

Waldin Carl Peters was born on December 18, 1897 in the Garfield Community near Yorktown, Texas, the son of George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters. Waldin was the oldest of five children and the only son. He was baptized and confirmed in the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown. He spent his childhood in the Garfield Community and received his early schooling at Yorktown. In 1913 the family moved to Nordheim where he lived until 1929 when he moved to San Antonio, after attending Texas Lutheran College for some time.

On May 2, 1933 he was united in marriage with Ruth Harper. Two children were born to the union: a son, Robert Carl and a daughter who died in infancy. Waldin and his wife were active members of the Highland Park Lutheran Church of San Antonio, and were active in community functions. Waldin and his family traveled extensively throughout their married lives. Each vacation was spent in a different part of the country and they traveled to nearly every state in the U.S.

Waldin suffered a heart attack about six years before his death, but was able to continue his vocation as shipping clerk for a few years until about a year before his death, when he suffered another heart attack. Two months before his death he suffered another heart attack from which he never recovered. He passed away at his home in San Antonio on April 11, 1958. Preceding him in death were his parents, George and Alwine (Sinast) Peters, and an infant daughter. Surviving him were his wife, Ruth; a son, Robert Carl; and four sisters, Miss Frieda Peters, Mrs. Willie (Leona) Gaedke, Miss Malinda Peters, and Mrs. Edwin C. (Caroline) Klaevemann; and several nephews and nieces.

by Kay Klaevemann Krejci

PETERSON, PAULINE SEILER

F705

Lonnie "Pee Wee" Peterson and Pauline (Seiler) Peterson.

Pauline Seiler Peterson lived with her parents, Willie and Mathilda Seiler after they moved to Yorktown, Texas in 1939, and worked in various cafes. Pauline was born October 19, 1917 in Goliad County. Pauline married Lonnie "Pee Wee" Peterson on February 15, 1945. They lived in Yorktown for a short time after their marriage. Pauline's husband worked in the oil fields. Pauline died on August 28, 1955 in Rockport, Texas and is buried at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas. Lonnie continued living at Rockport after the death of his wife, Pauline. Lonnie was born on December 18, 1900. He was in the South Park Manor Rest Home in Corpus Christi, Texas a few years before his death on August 1, 1985. He is buried at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Mrs. William P. Seiler

PEYTON, JAMES J., JR. FAMILY

F706

James J. Peyton Jr. (Jim), son of the late Capt. J.J. Peyton and Hannah O'Connor Peyton, was born in Ft. Riley, Kansas in 1917. When his second sister was born, his mother died in childbirth. The three children were adopted and reared by a maternal aunt and her husband, Katherine O'Connor and Harrison F. Pierce of Garden City, Long Island, N.Y.

Back: James J. Peyton, III, Vincent H. Peyton. Front: May Frances Peyton, James Peyton, Jr., Patrick Peyton and Frances (Lempa) Peyton.

After graduating from high school, Jim enrolled in Columbia University in New York City. He was active in sports, particularly boxing. In 1936 he received the New York Daily News Golden Gloves Award.

On one visit to Texas to see his father, he met his wife-to-be, Frances Ruth Lempa. She was teaching at Medina Lake. Captain Peyton lived in Mico (Medina Irrigation Co.) and commuted daily to Ft. Sam Houston.

Frances was the daughter of Vincent Lempa and the late Mary Hadamek Lempa. Born in the Five Mile Community in DeWitt Co., she attended school in Clinton, Ratcliffe, and graduated from Cuero High in 1931. She enrolled at South West Texas Teacher's College (known then as SWTTC) in San Marcos. A scholarship from the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs financed her through the freshman year. She taught in the Maverick School in Medina County for a number of years before returning to Cuero and accepting a position at Clinton — the school that she attended her first year of school. She began her second year at Clinton but resigned in November to marry. Ninety applied for her job.

James J. Peyton Jr. and Frances Ruth Lempa were married in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero by Rev. Wm. Jansen on Nov. 23, 1939. The newlyweds returned to New York where Jim was employed with the Garden City Village Water Department. One highlight of the trip was a stopover in Niagara Falls, N.Y. with a visit across the border into Canada.

At the beginning of WW II, Jim went to work at Grumman's Aircraft Corp. in Farmingdale, N.Y. until he was drafted in 1945. Frances and their small sons headed for Texas to live in Cuero with her father and stepmother.

After Jim's return from service in Germany, the Peytons decided to sell their home in N.Y. and move to Texas. Their young sons, James J. III and Vincent H. were very happy with life in the country. Both boys enrolled at the Ratcliffe School where their mother resumed her teaching career. In 1951, son, Patrick joined the Peyton family. His mom again taught and

1951-52 was the last year Ratcliffe school was in session because the Gilmer-Aiken Bill required an ADA of 15 and the school came up with only 14.6 students present each day. In 1952-53 the Ratcliffe students began attending the Cuero Schools.

For the next four years or so, Frances was a mother and homemaker. A daughter, Mary Frances, arrived in 1953. The Peytons finally had a daughter! All four children had been born prematurely. Jimmy, the oldest, had to spend 42 days in the incubator. Patrick stayed only two weeks and Vince and Mary F. weighed five pounds at birth so they could come home with Mom.

When Patrick and Mary F. became of school age, Frances again began teaching. She taught in the Meyersville School at Meyersville in the elementary grades. During those years she worked toward her college degree and received a BS in 1963 and an ME in 1967 from Southwest Texas Teachers College in San Marcos.

James III (or Jimmy) graduated from high school at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio. Later he attended Victoria College until he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He is a consultant in the Navy's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program. Jimmy and his wife, the former Beatrice Midkiff of W. Virginia, are stationed in Bermuda, Br. Is. where the U.S. maintains a Naval Air Base. Their two children, James J. IV, and Jeanette, reside in Texas and Florida respectively.

Second son, Vince, attended St. Michael's School, (beside the year at Ratcliffe) St. John's Seminary, and graduated from Cuero High in 1960. He attended Victoria College, U of T, and received his degree from St. Thomas U. in Houston after his service in Vietnam. He is employed by a major construction company in Houston that builds petrochemical plants and is assigned jobs (as cost analyst) anywhere on the globe. His latest assignment was in West Australia that lasted three years. He, his wife, the former Mae Michalic of Moulton, and daughters, Ann and Laura, reside in Stafford, Texas.

Patrick (Paddy) graduated from Cuero High School. He was a member and officer of the F.F.A., and band president during his senior year. He also attended STSU in San Marcos. He married Linda Machost from Yorktown where the couple resides with their two children, Tracy Ann and Travis. Patrick is employed by Marine Drilling Co.

Mary graduated from Cuero High in 1970 and from the South Texas State University in 1973. She was one of a group of ten students who graduated from the South Texas State University with highest honor. There were over three hundred graduates. That same year she became the bride of Robert W. (Bob) McCurdy. The McCurdys have a son Mathew Pierce and daughter Mary Katherine. Mary is a teacher in the Cuero ISD.

When the Peyton family moved from New York to Cuero, Jim began working at Dewitt Co. Producers Assn. He was manager for the feed co-op for thirteen years before a job was available at the Cuero Post Office. He had worked at the Garden City, N.Y. office after returning from service in WW II. He retired from Cuero Post Office in 1979. Frances retired from teaching in 1980 after eleven years in Cuero ISD.

The Peytons had purchased a tract of land from her father's neighbor, Fritz Rabke. They built a home and moved in just a week prior to Patrick's arrival. The home is located on Highway 183 South, seven miles from Cuero.

by James J. Peyton

PHILLIPS, JOSEPH L.

F707

Joseph L. Phillips (1846-1898) was born in Alabama and was a decendant of John Phillips of Ireland (1678) and Ann "Edwards" Phillips of Wales. Joseph married Martha "Mattie" Reynolds (1846-1887), a decendant of Gideon Reynold (1776) of Virginia and Mary Rogers Reynolds (1778).

Joseph and Martha had five children while living in Alabama — Clement Reymonds (1866-1958), Jessie Hatchet (1872-1959), Mary Alma (1875) William Newton (1872-1959), and Lida Jane (1869-1880). After the death of their daughter Lida Jane, Joseph and Martha decided to move to Texas with their remaining children.

Joseph, Martha and their children moved from Eutaw, Greene County, Alabama to Texas with several other families in 1881. The trip had been organized by Thomas Henry Eatman who eventually married Jessie Hatchet Phillips in 1889 (See Eatman history).

The families first traveled by train to New Orleans where they then boarded a steamship (Morgan Boat Line) which landed in Indianola, Texas. The Eatman and Phillips families settled near Cuero, Dewitt County, Texas.

Joseph and Martha were farmers in Texas just as they had been in Alabama.

They had two more children — Sarah Emma (1884) and Hattie Covey (1887).

Martha died March 24, 1887, only four days after Hattie Covey was born. Hattie died a week later. Both are buried on private property in Nursery, Texas.

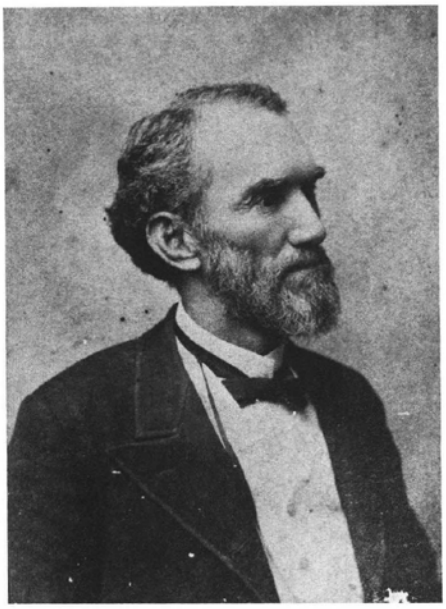
After Martha's death, the family remained in Cuero for a while but eventually went their separate ways to other parts of Texas.

by Barbara Lewis and Lee Hamilton

PHILPOTT, REVEREND HORATIO V.

F708

Horatio V. Philpott was born in Huntsville, Alabama, April 1, 1827 "and enjoyed excellent educational advantages and came to Texas as a boy of seventeen and helped to clear the country of Indians. He was a member of the advance guard of Rangers which preceded the United States Army into Mexico and served through the Mexican War. Afterwards he returned to Alabama, engaging in the practice of law and entering politics. He served as Major General of the Alabama State Militia and subsequently returned to Texas. His work in the ministry was begun as pastor of the Methodist Church at San Antonio (1856). During the Civil War he was Chaplain to General Margruder, commanding the Division of Texas. The best years of his life were given to the church and he served as pastor at Galveston, Austin, Bryan and other points. He was for fifteen years a presiding elder and served the Texas Conference twenty-four years consecutively as secretary, thereafter declining further tenure of office. He retired from the active work of the ministry three or four years ago, but had retained remarkable vigor of mind and body, until overtaken by his last illness. Dr. Philpott was married to Miss Henrietta Clay Bledsoe at Brenham in 1863. The remaining members are Professor W.B. Philpott of College Station, Mrs. C.B. Moore and Miss Bessie Philpott of Cuero. Misses Nannie and Lillie Philpott of Laredo. Dr. Philpott was a good man and lived out more than the full measure of years allotted to humanity, and the impression of his active and useful life will long remain upon the state in which most of it was spent."



Horatio V. Philpott

Dr. Philpott was a visiting pastor of the First Methodist Church, Cuero, Texas, where his two daughters, Eloise Philpott (Mrs. Claude Bentley Moore) and Henrietta Bess Philpott (Mrs. Paul Hamilton Breeden) lived. Dr. and Mrs. Philpott had nine children, Henrietta Bess Philpott being the youngest of the five surviving. Mrs. Philpott had died in Austin, Texas in her early forties when Bess was four years old and Dr. Philpott died November 9, 1900, at the home of his son and both are buried at Bryan, Texas.

by Bess Breeden

PLEASANTS, HENRY CLAY

F709

Henry Clay Pleasants was born in Richmond, Virginia, March 23, 1828. He was educated at the University of Virginia and admitted to the Bar in that state in 1852. He practiced law in Richmond with "Peachy" Gratten and John W. Gay, foremost lawyers of that time.

He moved to Texas in 1854 settling in DeWitt County at Clinton, the county seat. He practiced law in Clinton until he was chosen a member of the state bench. He moved to Cuero when it became the county seat of DeWitt

Judge Henry Clay Pleasants

Ann Elizabeth (Atkinson) Pleasants

County in 1872. He was elected Justice of the First Supreme Court in Galveston in 1892.

Henry Clay Pleasants married Eliza Ann Atkinson in 1858. She was the daughter of Colonel Robert Atkinson and was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, September 2, 1837. The Atkinsons came to Texas in 1856. They owned a cotton plantation in Gonzales near the town of Mansfield. Four children were born to the Pleasants in Clinton, Texas: Mary Pleasants who married J.J. Cocke of Brownsville, Robert Atkinson Pleasants who was born in 1860 and married Julia White of Cuero, Harriet Margaret Pleasants, June 2, 1863, who married Walter Kibbe Breeden of Cuero and John Pleasants, 1866, who never married.

The J.J. Cockes had four children, all born in Brownsville: Anita, Bessie, Virginia and Joe. (No other information available.)

Harriet Margaret Pleasants and Walter Kibbe Breeden were married in Cuero on March 2, 1882, in Grace Episcopal Church with a reception in the home of her parents. Four children were born to the Breedens: 1) Ann Atkinson Breeden, September 8, 1883; 2) Paul Hamilton Breeden, October 25, 1886; 3) Mary Jane Breeden, December 27, 1893; and 4) Margaret "Marjorie" Pleasants Breeden, December 17, 1895.

Ann "Annie" Atkinson Breeden married Ewing Keasler in Cuero in 1907. Two children were born to the Keaslers: Walter Ewing Keasler, November 8, 1908 and a daughter who died at birth. Mrs. Keasler died in San Antonio in 1948 and is buried in Mission Cemetery.

Paul Hamilton Breeden married Henrietta Bess Philpott in Cuero in the Methodist Church on September 15, 1909. There was a reception for the young couple in the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Eloise Philpott Moore and Claude Bentley Moore. Four children were born in Cuero, to Paul and Bess Breeden: 1) Bess Eloise Breeden, September 10, 1910; 2) Dorothy Ann Breeden, August 5, 1913; 3) Marjorie Jane Breeden, October 14, 1915; and 4) Paul Hamilton Breeden, Jr., September 29, 1924. Paul Hamilton Breeden died in Cuero on February 22, 1967 and Bess Philpott Breeden died in Cuero on March 5, 1976. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Mary Jane Breeden married Arthur Carver Jones in 1923 in the home of her parents, the Walter Kibbe Breedens. The Joneses had two children: Jane Breeden Jones, June 11, 1924 and Arthur Hamilton Jones, November 25, 1926. Preceded in death by her husband, she died on May 4, 1987. She is buried in Houston where she had lived for many years.

Margaret Pleasants (or Marjorie) Breeden was married to Hugh Prescott Mabe in Cuero on September 13, 1915. The Mabes had two children: Hugh Prescott Mabe, December 4, 1916 and Walter Breeden Mabe, July 10, 1919. Marjorie Mabe died in Cuero of leukemia on January 11, 1934. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Mrs. Walter Kibbe Breeden died on February 22, 1936, the result of a terrible automobile accident in San Antonio. Walter Kibbe Breeden died in San Antonio in the home of his daughter, Marjorie Mabe on February 15, 1931. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

John Pleasants, the youngest child of the Henry Clay Pleasants died in Galveston in 1933. He had been a clerk in the Court of Civil Appeals and he is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Henry Clay Pleasants began his career at a time when his characteristics of courage and integrity suited him for his task. The Congress of 1876 had passed a document formally marking the end of the Carpet Bag Regime in Texas and the close of the Reconstruction Era. Often the courts and the strong arm of the law were the only bulwarks of the people of DeWitt County. It was at this time that Henry Clay Pleasants was elected Judge of the 23rd District. Those who were familiar with his service, credited him with above the ordinary judicial performance. He served during the period of the Sutton-Taylor Feud. He appealed for the help of the Texas Rangers under Captain Lee Hall when he insisted on bringing criminals to trial in the Brassel murder case. Although his life was threatened many times, he promised to bring peace and order to DeWitt County and to make it "as law abiding as any in the State of the Union." He often held court with a shotgun across his knees.

He was a friendly man — his greeting was kindly and attractive — he knew everyone. Most of the time he wore immaculate white linen suits and always carried a golden headed, monogrammed, ebony walking stick. He was a tall, handsome man, strong and fearless. His wife, Eliza Ann, a petite, gentle lady, could stand under her husband's outstretched arm. She was beloved by all and known as "Danny" to the children.

Judge Pleasants was identified with the life and work of the Episcopal Church and taught a class in Sunday School for over twenty-five years. A stained glass window was given Grace Episcopal Church in his memory by his Sunday School class. He was a charter member of the church and the first Senior Warden in which capacity he served many years.

Judge Pleasants died unexpectedly in his office in Galveston on November 17, 1899. Out of respect to him the whole town of Cuero closed for his funeral which was one of the largest ever. He was buried in Hillside Cemetery. Mrs. Pleasants moved into her daughter's home and lived with the Walter Kibbe Breedens until her death on September 17, 1918. She was buried beside her husband in Hillside Cemetery.

by Bess Breeden and Dorothy Blackwell

PLEASANTS, ROBERT ATKINSON

F710

Judge R.A. Pleasants

*Associate Justice R.A. Pleasants was born at Clinton, the former county seat of DeWitt County, in 1860. Was educated in the local schools, afterwards taking a two years' course in Greek and Latin under Prof. D.W. Nash of this city. For some years he taught school in DeWitt county and afterwards attended the State University in Austin, from which he graduated in 1885 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He at once on entering upon the practice of his profession took rank with the strong and resourceful members of the bar and

his professional career was ever pitched upon a high ethical plane. He is the eldest son of the late Judge H. Clay Pleasants, one of the most courageous and valuable men who ever occupied public position in Texas. These qualities of courage and fidelity were markedly transferred to the son. Upon the demise of his lamented father, Judge Robert Pleasants was promptly selected from all of the great legal minds of South Texas by Governor Sayers as his most fitting successor, and the several years of his encumbency have met every expectation of the governor and the most ardent hopes of his friends. He is naturally of a judicial bent and he is never so thoroughly engrossed as when searching out and unraveling some abstruse question of law. Judge Pleasants affiliates with the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the exalted rank of Knight Templar. He may be said to be just fairly entering upon a career of conspicuous ability and the highest usefulness. In December, 1886, he was married to Miss Mary White, the accomplished daughter of Dr. Aaron White of Clinton and Cuero, one of the most successful and highly respected physicians of the county. Since his appointment he has been several times elected to the office which he holds without opposition."

The Robert Atkinsons had five children. Three of the children died in infancy of diphtheria. The two surviving were: Aaron White Pleasants, October 9, 1887. He married Margaret Hamifen in 1918 in California where he was stationed after serving in World War I. The Aaron Pleasants had two children: Margaret and Mary Ann Pleasants. Aaron died July 17, 1974. Julia Atkinson Pleasants, the sister of Aaron, was born September 13, 1901. For many years she lived and taught school in Houston, Texas. She is now living in Cuero, her birth place.

In 1889 Robert Atkinson was elected Chief Justice of the Court of Civil Appeals where he served with distinction for thirty-nine years until his death in Houston, in 1948, Mrs. Julia White Pleasants died in 1959. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

"From: 1906 Cuero Star, "Special Edition"

by Bess Breeden and Dorothy Blackwell

PLOEGER, LESLIE AND DOROTHY

F711

Leslie Frank Ploeger was born in Cuero in 1916. His parents, Leslie Frank and Stella (Bennett) Ploeger moved to Yoakum in 1924. His father worked for the S.A. & A.P. Railroad and owned a dairy. Leslie Frank Ploeger Sr. died in 1943. Stella (Bennett) Ploeger married Charles O. Vibrock in 1952 and they resided in Yoakum at 1301 West Grand Avenue.

Leslie Ploeger went to Yoakum High School and as a youngster, worked in the tomato sheds (1930). Leslie remembers the tremendous effect the tomato industry had on the local economy once it got started. This was also about the time when the leather industry started organizing in Yoakum.

After high school, Leslie was a mail carrier and eventually went into the dairy and ranching business. In 1942, he married Dorothy Dell Borchers. Dorothy, the daughter of Otto Richard and Eulalie (Harper) Borchers, was born and raised on the Borchers Ranch in Lavaca County. As a youngster, she attended Hope School where her mother was the principal.

Dorothy Borchers graduated from Yoakum High School and attended Texas Wesleyan College where she was the highest ranking freshman. She also attended the University of Texas at Austin.

Leslie and Dorothy Ploeger lived and ranched in Yoakum for many years. Their family had grown to include Mary Ann, Leslie, Patti, Dorothy Lee, and Sally with Mark yet to come. In 1960, the decision was made to move to Gonzales to pursue ranching interests there. Dorothy and Leslie are still involved with ranching, however, they are both active in various other business interests in the area. Aside from ranching, Leslie Ploeger has various real estate investments. Dorothy Ploeger is currently involved in banking, ranching, poultry farming, and many community service jobs. Dorothy and Leslie both own ranch land around the DeWitt, Lavaca and Gonzales County areas. Dorothy's ranch in Lavaca County has been in her family since 1907.

Of the Ploeger's six children, one daughter, Mary Ann, returned to Yoakum after graduation from college. She married Lee Roy C. Menning and they have one daughter, Christina Ann. Mary Ann taught school in Yoakum for several years. She now works in Cuero at Buchel Bank & Trust as President and Chairman of the Board. Leslie married Bernadine Thoms and they have a daughter, Lacey. The Leslie Ploegers, Jr. live in Hochheim where he ranches. He also works in Gonzales as President of Gonzales Bank and as a director of Buchel Bank & Trust in Cuero. Patti is a social worker in Washington. She has two children, Lara and Jim.

Dorothy Lee sold insurance and was a housewife for eleven years in Yoakum. She has two children: Hollis and Thomas Marshall. She owns and manages The Toggery in Gonzales and is in charge of data processing for Buchel Bank and Gonzales Bank. Sally owns and manages various real estate ventures and other investments. She lives in San Marcos. Last, but not least, Mark has his own ranching interests in Gonzales. He is a full-time rancher and investor. He resides in Gonzales with his wife Devona and daughter Danielle.

by Mary Ann Menning

POETTER, FRITZ AND ANNIE CAFFALL

F712

Fritz Poetter was born April 10, 1874, in Yorktown, Texas. His parents were Gottlieb and Augusta Stubbs Poetter, both of whom were born in Germany. He had four brothers, William, Albert, Charles, and Henry and three sisters, Mary Poetter, Augusta Grun, and Ida Hennig.

Annie Caffall was born June 7, 1878, in Mound Creek, Karnes County, Texas. Her parents were Thomas Caffall and Louisa Asher Caffall. Thomas was born in England and came with his father to the United States as a small boy. When his father was killed in a wagon accident in Missouri, he moved to Texas and settled in Karnes County, where he married Louisa Asher September 8, 1867. Her parents were early settlers from Tennessee. Annie had two sisters, Emma Evans and Nancy Cobb and three brothers, Frank, Thomas, and Ephraim.

Fritz Poetter and Annie Caffall were married on December 30, 1902, and resided in Davy, Texas, where he and his brother William operated the post office and general store and he served as a county commissioner. They had three daughters while living in Davy: Nettie Lucille (born February 25, 1905), Annie Lee (born September 21, 1907), and Lillian Nancy (born September 14, 1911).

In 1913 the Fritz Poetter family moved to Cuero, where he was appointed deputy tax collector under Thomas Stell, who served as Tax Collector and Sheriff. When the tax collector office was separated from the sheriff's office, Fritz Poetter was elected County Tax Collector, a post he filled for twenty-eight years.

In 1920 the Poetter family built a new home at 602 E. Prairie Street in Cuero and a fourth daughter, Mary Helen, was born September 19, 1920. Annie Lee Poetter died following a long illness in 1930. This house continued to be their home until Annie Poetter died February 3, 1967, nearly twenty-five years after Fritz Poetter died September 11, 1942.

Nettie Poetter married Paul Carlson in 1935 and they had one son, David. They resided in Beeville until their deaths and David and his family still reside there. He married the former Carol Ann Bozman and they have six children: Mary, Joan, Bobby, Zion, Brian and She'L Lee Lucille. Nettie Carlson died May 17, 1988.

Lillian Poetter married Tarlton Jones on July 17, 1939 and they have resided in Houston for many years. They have a son, Carlton, and a daughter, Ileta Katherine. Carlton married the former Jacqueline Duncan and they have two sons, Christopher and Grant. They reside in Houston. Ileta Katherine married Art Spitzer and they have a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, Tarl. They reside in Orlando, Florida.

Mary Helen Poetter married Richard Edgar Mauer on October 20, 1940. They had one son, Richard, Jr. and a daughter, Marilyn Ann, while residing in Cuero. In 1949 they moved to Port Lavaca where they all still reside. Richard, Jr. married the former Mary Ellen Kemper and had two sons, David and Jeremy, and a daughter, Tiana Michelle, who is married to Glen Kurtz and they have a small son, Patrick. Richard, Jr. is now married to the former Judy Garbe Kyle which increased their family to five children with the addition of Elizabeth and Bobby Kyle. Marilyn Ann married Ronald Eugene Courtney and they have two daughters, Karen and Kathryn.

602 East Prairie Street, now owned by the Maxey family, was home not only to the Poetter family, but also to Nancy Cobb, who lived with her sister, Annie Poetter, for more than twenty years when they both became widows in 1942.

by Mrs. Richard Mauer

POLZIN, LEON A. AND MARY (HOBSON)

F713

Leon August Polzin, a native of DeWitt County, was born to Katie Mae Pettit and Edmund John Polzin, October 16, 1922 at Hochheim. He has an older brother, Weldon Edmund, a resident of San Marcos. Grand-

E.S. Polzin Family: back row: Don, Mary, Leon, Penny, Mary V. Welson. front: Ray, Mary Kathryn, Edmund, Katie Mae, Wayne and Russell – 1967

Mary and Leon Polzin – 1944

parents were August and Mathilda Hagans Polzin, who came from Germany in the 1860's. Frank and Edith Bulwer Pettit were the other grandparents. Leon is a decendent of the Von Hugo family that settled in the Hochheim Prairie area in the 1860's.

Leon attended Hochheim Prairie School and Yoakum High School. He attended college while in the Army Air Corp during World War II. While being stationed at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, he met Mary Greene Hobson. She was the daughter of the late Dophia Gertrude "Dolly" Clary and William Elijah Hobson, Jr. Mary's sister, Stella Wood Wallace, lives in Cuero, moving here in 1977 from Huntsville, Alabama.

Leon and Mary were wed in 1944 in the old First United Methodist Church in Victoria, Texas. Leon served overseas during the year of 1945 in the South Pacific.

In February 1946, the Polzins moved to Cuero to make their home. They are the parents of four children: 1) Raymon Eliot was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama April 24, 1945. 2) Donald Leon was born September 30, 1947. 3) Wayne Hobson was born March 19, 1954. 4) and Mary Kathryn was born September 10, 1958.

During the first two years in Cuero, Leon worked for Adickes Building Supply and Nathan Post Mill where he made windows and cabinets for custom built homes. In March 1948, he began his own business, Polzin Glass Co.

Leon's hobby of fishing took up many hours along the coast from Port O'Connor to Rockport. His love for the sport gave him an awareness of innovative needs of the fisherman. His patented invention of the Rod-n-Pole Caddy became a reality in 1974. This device is a molded plastic rod holder that fits a belt and frees your hands for removing a fish from a hook.

Another of Leon's hobbies has been leaded glass. He draws original designs and creates hangings as well as fixed windows. Many Cuero homes have his creations in them.

Leon has been active over the years in Community activities. He is past president of the Lions Club with thirty years perfect attendance, and a twenty year member of the Cuero Volunteer Fire department.

Along with the duties of mother, wife and business partner, Mary has been involved in the community. She is a charter member of the Pilot Club of Cuero, served as president for one term. Since their oldest son, Ray was born with developmental disabilities, she has been interested in advocating on his behalf as well for others who needed special care. Mary was instrumental in getting the first Special Education Class begun in Cuero. She represented DeWitt County in a study of the area for the needs for learning disabled children. In 1965, Gulf Bend Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center for seven counties was established. Mary served on the Board of Trustees for fourteen years.

Raymon "Ray" is a resident of Port Lavaca where he is living independently in an apartment with a roommate. He works in a Work Activity Center. His accomplishments have been many, overcoming a wheelchair life and being a severe cripple. His goals have been high and nothing else has been expected but to accomplish them.

Donald Leon attended local schools and is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. He married Debra Kay Wishert, daughter of Leon and Gladys Wishert, on August 17, 1971. They have three children; 1) Kyle Matthew born January 16, 1974; b) Brian Patrick born February 22, 1978; c) and Kari Elizabeth born Decem-

Leon Polzin Family: back row: Wayne, Don and Leon. front: Kyle, Brian, Debbie, Mary (holding John D. Cunningham), Ray, Mary Katheryn and Elliot Cunningham

ber 19, 1983. Don and Debbie lived in Cuero where he was employed with the City Manager's Office until 1974. They moved to Victoria where he worked in the City's administrative office until 1979. He became the assistant executive director of Gulf Bend Center in 1979 where he is still employed.

Wayne Hobson Polzin graduated from local schools and attended Victoria College. He was in business with his father for ten years. He attended Texas State Technical Institute, receiving his associate degree in Laser Optic Technology. He lives in Mountain View, California. At the present time he is employed as a technical representive for Quantel International, a laser manufacturer in Santa Clara, California. He is single.

Mary Katheryn Polzin attended local schools and is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University. In June 1982, she married John Elliott Cunningham, the son of Nita Edmiston and the late John Franklin Cunningham, II of San Antonio, Texas. They live in San Antonio and are the parents of one son, John David, born July 18, 1988.

After being in business for forty years, in March 1988, Leon sold his glass business. Leon and Mary are retired, living in their home at 608 Lavaca Street. Leon is persuing his hobby of leaded glass and Mary enjoys piecing and quilting wall hangings and quilts. They live to travel and their goal is to see as much of America's beauty as possible. They have been active members of the First United Methodist Church since 1946.

by Mary Polzin

POPE, MICHAEL LLOYD AND SUSAN WELLS (HARTMAN)

F714

Back: Lloyd and Lewis Pope. Front: Susan (Hartman) and Michael Pope

Susan Wells Hartman was born June 23, 1944, in Brownsville, Texas. Her mother, Emalee (Wells) Hartman (1919-), was staying with her parents while her father, Wayne Louis Hartman (1918-), was serving in the United States Army during World War II. She is the granddaughter of August Christian Hartman, Jr. (1882-1956) and Elsie (Lenz) Hartman (1893-1941). She is the great granddaughter of August Christian Hartmann, Sr. (1848-1917) and Josephine (Hans) Hartmann (1856-1930). Her great, great grandparents were Christian Hartmann II (1819-1876) and Marie (Schroeder) Hartmann (1823-1906). The latter two were the first of the Hartmann family to emigrate from Germany to Texas. They came to Texas in 1845 and settled near Meyersville in 1847.

Susan attended public schools in Cuero and Victoria. In 1947 she served as a Page to the Sultana of the Cuero Turkey Trot. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1966. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma social sorority. After her graduation she toured Europe. She visited a cousin in Germany who introduced her to her future husband, First Lieutenant Michael Lloyd Pope. He was stationed in Heilbronn, Germany, with the 23rd Ordinance Company, United States Army. After a whirlwind romance, they returned to the United States to be married at Trinity Episcopal Church in Victoria, on February 11, 1967. They then went back to Germany where they lived until his discharge in the fall of 1968. They now live at 308 Live Oak Lane, Lake Jackson, Texas.

Michael Lloyd Pope, also called "Mike Pope", was the only son of Lloyd and Anita (Odom) Pope. He was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, March 23, 1942. He attended public school in Charlotte. He graduated from North Carolina State University at Raleigh in 1964 with a degree in chemical engineering. He is now employed in that capacity with Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, Texas. He is a member of the United States Army Reserves where he served as a Lieutenant Colonel. He also serves on the Charter Review for Lake Jackson. He is a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity.

Susan (Hartman) Pope owns and operates her own manufacturing company in which she makes hand-crafted terra cotta products under the brand name of "Terra Wells". She is a charter member and past president of the Lake Jackson Junior Service League.

Two sons were born of this marriage, both born in Lake Jackson. Wayne Lloyd Pope was born May 11, 1971. He is presently enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin as a freshman. He is a pledge of Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity. Lewis Wells Pope was born January 17, 1974. He is a sophomore at Brazoswood High School in Lake Jackson. The Pope family are members of, and active in, the Methodist Church.

by Wayne L. Hartman

POST, NATHAN FAMILY

F715

Nathan Wilber Post was born on July 1, 1910 in the Ander Community of Goliad County, just south of Meyersville. On December 2, 1935, he married Hedwig (Hattie) Theresa Kleiber, in Victoria, Texas. Hattie was born on December 3, 1916, in Victoria, Texas, the child of Joseph Kleiber and Mary Schoener Kleiber. She died on February 17, 1986.

Nathan Wilber Post was the child of Henry Post, born November 10, 1881, and who died April 29, 1960, and Olga Hoff Post, born August 13, 1889, and who died January 25, 1966. Nathan worked as a carpenter in the Cuero area for a number of years and opened his own contracting business in 1947 on East Morgan Street in Cuero. In 1963 he opened a lumber yard on North Esplanade Street in Cuero and moved his contracting business there. He was active in the business until July, 1982, when he sold the business to his son, John. Nathan served on the Cuero Hospital Foundation Board of Directors for about 15 years and was active in the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce.

Nathan and Hattie Post had four (4) children born to their marriage: Nathan Charles Post, Robert Wiley Post, JoAnn Post and John Allen Post.

Nathan Charles Post was born on January 27, 1937, in Cuero, Texas. He married Suzanne Senac on December 30, 1961, in Houston, Texas. She was born on August 28, 1942, in New Orleans, La., the child of Jules M. Senac and Juanita Senac. Three (3) children were born to their marriage, Paula Jude Post, Pamela Ann Post and Paige Lynn Post. Paula Jude Post was born on January 2, 1964, in Houston, Texas. On February 25, 1989, she married Steve Winter, who was born July 10, 1962, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Pamela Ann Post was born on August 5, 1965, in Houston, Texas. Paige Lynn Post was born on November 8, 1973, in Houston, Texas. Nathan has worked as a general manager for companies in Houston and Cuero. Suzie is a housewife. Nathan was quite active in the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Cuero Industrial Foundation and the Cuero Economic Development Council.

Robert Wiley Post was born on March 4, 1942, in Cuero, Texas. He married Sara Ann Armstrong on September 2, 1967, in Austin, Texas. She was born on November 24, 1946, in Dallas, Texas, the child of Charles Gordon Armstrong and Evelyn Tompkins Armstrong. To their marriage two (2) children were born, Kelly Christine Post and Nathan Matthew Post. Kelly Christine Post was born on January 12, 1971, in Cuero, Texas. Nathan Matthew Post was born on May 7, 1975, in Cuero, Texas. Robert served as DeWitt County Attorney from July 1, 1970, to present and Sara teaches high school social studies at Cuero High School. Robert was active in various civic organizations and served as President of the Lions Club, DeWitt-Lavaca-Gonzales Counties Texas Exes Club, Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and was a Little League Coach and Youth Conference Advisor. Sara was active in the Chamber of Commerce, served as President of the Pilot Club and was the Charter President of the Cuero Community Hospital Auxiliary. Both taught CCD classes at St. Michael's Church and served as Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Lectors.

JoAnn Post was born on October 15, 1944, in Cuero, Texas. On August 13, 1965, she married Gorman Walton Jr., in Cuero, Texas. He was the child of Gorman Walton and Patsy Houser Walton. To that marriage two (2) children were born, Andrea Elsa Walton and Gorman "Trey" Walton III. Andrea Elsa Walton was born on December 30, 1966, in Cuero, Texas. Gorman "Trey" Walton III was born on November 12, 1969, in Cuero, Texas. JoAnn later married Willis L. "Buzz" Edge on August 15, 1981, in Cuero, Texas. He was the child of Willis L. Edge, Sr., and Nana Williams Edge. JoAnn and Buzz both are employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., in management in San Antonio, Texas.

John Allen Post was born on August 18, 1948, in Cuero, Texas. On July 31, 1971, he married Laurie Ann Sheppard. She was born on December 6, 1951, the child of Henry F. Sheppard and Jean Ann Friar Sheppard. To their marriage were born three (3) children, John Henry Post, Stephen Friar Post and Elizabeth Sheppard Post. John Henry Post

was born on April 13, 1977, in Cuero, Texas. Stephen Friar Post and his twin sister, Elizabeth Sheppard Post were born on November 27, 1984, in Cuero, Texas. John served on the Cuero City Council from April 2, 1974, to present and as Mayor of Cuero from January 6, 1987, to present. Laurie Ann teaches in the elementary schools of Cuero and John owns a lumber yard. He was active in the Lions Club and was a highly successful Little League Coach.

Nathan Wilber Post was the child of Henry Post and Olga Hoff Post. Henry and Olga also had three (3) other children, Sidney Post, who died as an infant, Leonell C. Post born January 19, 1916, and Esther Post, born July 27, 1918. Leonell C. Post married Edna Mae Metting on October 12, 1941. To their marriage two (2) children were born, Carol Post and Doris Mae Post. Carol Post was born on October 23, 1948, and married Bob Williams on October 4, 1970. Bob is a career U.S. Army Officer and Carol has worked as a school teacher. To their marriage two (2) children were born, Janice Elaine Williams, born October 20, 1972, and John Wesley Williams, born on April 17, 1975. Doris Mae Post married Paul "Buddy" Breeden IV on December 29, 1973. Doris is employed with Victoria Bank and Trust Company and Buddy works at DuPont in Victoria. To their marriage two (2) children were born, Margaret Kristen Breeden, born on February 6, 1978, and Paul Breeden V, born on November 26, 1980. Esther Post married Roland Siemer on July 27, 1941. No children were born of that marriage. After his death she later married Raymond Striedel on September 22, 1974.

The grandfather of Nathan Wilber Post was John Henry Post, born February 21, 1854, in Yorktown, Texas. He died on December 10, 1932. John Henry Post married Hulda Mueller, who was born on September 16, 1859, in Germany. She died on January 7, 1925. John Henry Post was a blacksmith and often repaired guns for the Taylor family. The children of John Henry Post and Hulda Mueller Post were Henry, Ben, Ferdinand, Alfred, Herbert, Otto, Bertha Post Adickes and Elizabeth Post Diebel.

The great grandfather of Nathan Wilber Post was H.G. Post who was born in Konige, Prussia, October 18, 1829. He died on October 3, 1894. He opened the first blacksmith shop in the lower part of Yorktown in 1852. He was recognized as one of the 18 pioneers that completed the establishment of the town site of Yorktown in 1852.

by Robert Post

POWELL, SAMUEL S. AND AGNES STONE

F716

The Powell family were pioneers in each generation, beginning with their leaving Wales and settling at Jamestown, Virginia (and later other places in VA). Leven Powell was at Boonesborough, Kentucky with Daniel Boone as they blazed the trails for other settlers into the wilderness of Kentucky. Among one of the earliest settlers, William Powell, Sr. was granted land in what is now Madison Co., Kentucky and he settled there before 1789. Before his death in 1821, William Powell, Sr. had amassed vast acreage in the blue grass

Samuel S. Powell and Agnes (Stone) Powell, ca. 1870's.

hills of Kentucky which was divided amongst his seven children: Edmund, William, Jr., Littleberry, Jeremiah, Mary (Polly), Obadiah and Joel Pace Powell. Littleberry Powell continued his forefather's planter traditions and built an extensive plantation near Richmond, Madison Co., Kentucky which was known for its hospitality. On 16 December 1807, Littleberry Powell married Sarah "Sally" Kerr, daughter of Samuel Kerr (a planter in Madison Co., KY) near Richmond, Madison Co., KY. Their children: Mary (Polly), Joel P., Samuel S., Benjamin R., Permelia, William, Jr., and Clarissa Ann were all born at the Powell plantation house (which was classical revival styled) and most of them married and died in Madison Co., KY. Samuel S. Powell was the exception as he died in DeWitt Co., Texas.

After completion of his formal education in the classics, Samuel S. Powell married Agnes Stone at White Hall, Madison Co., KY and their marriage bond was signed by Agnes' guardian, Benjamin Howard. Despite the lures of raising a family in the traditional planter's manner in Madison Co., KY (where the Powell, Stone and Kerr families had lived for over 150 years), Samuel S. Powell dreamed of the unspoiled wilderness. Encouraged by the reports from his Uncle James Kerr (early surveyor for Green DeWitt), Samuel and Agnes moved their family to DeWitt Co., TX but retained some of their property and business interests in KY, as well. This liaison between the Powell ranch venture in DeWitt Co., TX and the interests in Madison Co., KY continued well after Littleberry Powell's death in 1864. Some of the Powell children were taken back to Kentucky to be educated on one of the many trips to bring the highly prized Kentucky raised horses and other goods back to Texas.

It is thought that the Powell family stayed at the ranch in DeWitt Co., TX when Samuel S. returned to KY where he enlisted in the Confederate Army of Kentucky Volunteers and later fought in the Battle of Richmond, KY.

Samuel S. and Agnes Stone Powell raised a large family of twelve children: Sarah Elizabeth (born 30 December 1838, Henry Co., KY), married Fred House in Texas (probably in DeWitt Co., TX) in January, 1855, and died 10 January 1897, House Ranch, Davy, buried at House Cemetery, Davy, DeWitt Co., TX; Harriet (born 1839 near Richmond, Madison Co., KY); Mary (born 1840); Agnes (born 1841) Delila (born 1841); Houston Babbitt (born 1844-5), married Serena Elizabeth Burt, had Robert (born 1889), Mary (born 1891), Jim, and Henry Houston (born 19 March 1886, DeWitt Co., TX), married Evie Lena Cowey (8 children), died 23 March 1962, DeWitt Co., TX; William (born 1847); Benjamin (born August, 1850); Offa P. "Orphie" (born November 1852); Frances "Fannie" (born January, 1855); James A. (born 1859); and Elvira "Elveree" (born 1863). Offa P. "Orphie," Frances "Fannie" and Elvira "Elveree" never married and later inherited the Powell ranch after the death of their parents.

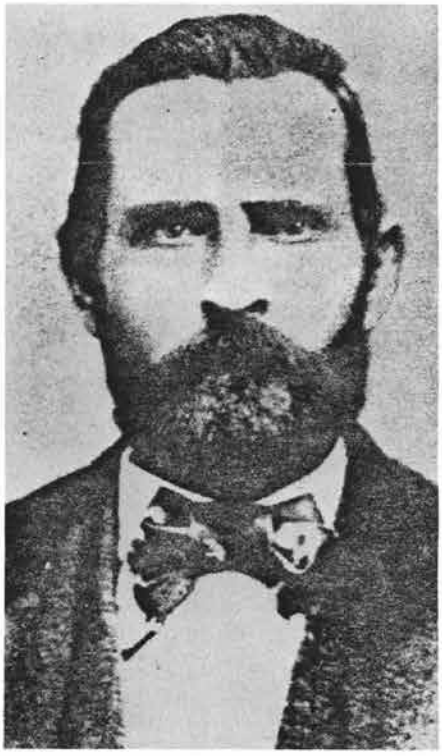
Samuel S. Powell died at the Powell ranch on 7 December 1890 and was buried at Salt Creek Cemetery, Davy, DeWitt County, Texas.

Agnes Stone Powell died on 17 December 1903 at the Powell ranch in DeWitt County, Texas and was buried beside her husband in Salt Creek Cemetery, Davy, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Marianne Little

PRIDGEN, BOLIVAR JACKSON

F717



Senator Bolivar J. Pridgen

1829-1903

Bolivar Jackson Pridgen 1829-1903 born in North Carolina moved with his parents Wiley Washington and Mary Baker Pridgen to Texas in 1839. They settled in the Prices Creek Thomaston area in 1849. He was a farmer, and was a senator 1869-1872. Bolivar married

Martha Ann Williams in 1850. Her parents were Oscar Fitzgerald and Harriet Williams. Bolivar and Martha had seven children: Oscar Fitzgerald 1852-1941; William Edgar 1857-1921; George McDuffy 1859-1941; David Crockett Pridgen 1861-1913; Fanny 1865-1915; Bettie 1867-1943; Everett "Governor" 1872. Bolivar became postmaster at Eagle Pass and was later collector of customs.

by Alfred Vander Stucken

PRIDGEN, DAVID CROCKETT

F718

David Crockett Pridgen 1861-1913 of Thomaston, Texas was born the fourth son of Bolivar J. and Martha Ann Williams Pridgen. He was the grandson of Wiley Washington Pridgen Sr. and Mary Baker Pridgen. Crockett was a farmer and postmaster. In 1894 he married Jennie Pridgen, a distant relative. She and twin infants died in 1895. On November 1, 1899, David Crockett Pridgen married Ruby Farrar. They were joined by C.C. Green, Baptist minister in the presence of J.H. Moore and J.E. Pridgen. Ruby the daughter of Henry and Sarah Sewell Farrar, who migrated to Texas in 1853 from Georgia. Crockett and Ruby lived in the home built by Bolivar J. Pridgen in 1852 north of Thomaston, east of the railroad intersection with the Cuero-Victoria Highway. They raised two children, William McKinley and Margaret. McKinley earned to degrees from the University of Texas and became a teacher and principal. He married Velma Hill, a University of Texas graduate and teacher. They raised two children William and Sarah. They all live in San Antonio, Texas. Margaret Pridgen attended St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio and in October, 1930, at Christ Episcopal Church married Edgar Vander Stucken and had one son, Alfred. Edgar, a career dairyman, attended Texas A&M and was field representative for American Milk Producers Association at his death in 1969. Their son, Alfred grew up on the livestock and dairy farm west of San Antonio, graduated from Jefferson High School and earned his degree from Texas A&M College in 1953. he was an officer in the Air Force during the Korean conflict, and has been employed by the United States Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service for over 35 years. Alfred is currently area conservationist supervising activities in the Gulf Coast area between Galveston, Corpus Christi and San Antonio. In 1955 at Bryan, Texas, Alfred married Frances Marian Gaddis. They have three children, Alisa, Frances and Edgar Matthew. Alisa married Mark L. Bird in Victoria – 1979 – and they had two children Stacey and Christopher. Mark, a Texas A&M graduate and Air Force pilot was killed in 1985 while a crew member of an Eastern Airline plane in Bolivia. Alisa married Richard Hahn in 1988. Frances married Steven K. Speis in 1980 at Victoria and they have one daughter, Erin. Alfred and Marian's third child, Edgar M. has been active in sports, 4-H, cattle raising and is attending Texas A&M University at Galveston. Alfred, the great, great grandson of Wiley Washington Pridgen: Great grandson of Bolivar J. Pridgen: grandson of David Crockett Pridgen and son of Edgar and Margaret Pridgen Vander Stucken actively manages the Pridgen land raising purebred Beefmaster cattle. Alfred and family tend livestock daily on the land purchased by and operated by ancestors since August 20, 1849.

by Alfred Vander Stucken

PRIDGEN, RUBY L. FARRAR

F719

Ruby (Farrar) Pridgen

Ruby L. Farrar Pridgen was born to Henry Harrison Farrar and Sarah Sewell Farrar. Henry migrated to Texas from Georgia in 1853. He was a planter-farmer near Morales on the Navidad River and in the real estate business in Rockport, Texas. Ruby's grandparents were Samuel Sewell and Mary Ann Hogue Sewell of Meriwether, Georgia, and also Col. Thomas Farrar of Farrar's Island in Henrico County, Virginia where ancestors were charter members and office holders of the Jamestown Virginia Company organized in London, England. Ruby grew up in the Rockport area and on November 1, 1899 married David Crockett Pridgen a farmer and postmaster at Thomaston, Texas. Crockett and Ruby raised two children, William McKinley and Margaret in their home just north of Thomaston and east of the intersection of the railway and the Cuero-Victoria Highway. Ruby wrote articles on Texas history and maintained residency at the family residence. Ruby's younger sister Joana Farrar married William Walter Eatman in 1903.

by Alfred Vander Stucken

Dr. Ernest Lay

Dentist

Office Upstairs in Runge Building.
(Telephone 214)

PRIDGEN, WILEY WASHINGTON, SR.

F720

Wiley Washington Pridgen Sr. 1795-1854 married Mary Baker. He was a sheriff in North Carolina. On August 20, 1849, Wiley Washington Pridgen purchased 1024 acres in the Thomaston area from Orlando S. Jones. His children were Bolivar Jackson 1835-1913 – Benjamin Franklin: Redding Smith: Henderson McBride: Wiley Washington Jr.: James Polk. Later Wiley and his second wife Ann E. Pridgen lived in Gonzales, Texas while Mary Baker Pridgen lived in the Price Creek Thomaston area.

by Alfred Vander Stucken

PRIESTLY JAMES FAMILY

F721

James Priestly of Scotch-Irish descent was born April 10, 1817 in York District, South Carolina. Not much is known of his childhood, but Sept. 25, 1838, he married Elizabeth (Eliza) Ann Ragsdale in Rutherford Co., Tn. Their first child was born there. In 1840 they moved to Sabine Co., near Milam, Tx., where James and Eliza's kin had preceded them. They were there during the troublesome times with the Regulators and Moderators. James joined the militia to suppress the Regulators. Three more children were born there. Being of adventurous nature, he and other families moved by ox-wagons to DeWitt Co., Tx. in 1845. Their journey was attended with many hardships, but there was an abundance of wild game. They ground their corn at night on a steel mill to supply themselves with bread the next day. After reaching their destination, they camped on the Guadalupe River. Indians were making frequent raids, stealing horses and murdering settlers. The nearest trading point was Port Lavaca. James thought this country was a paradise in the spring when the prairies were covered with buffalo clover (Blue Bonnets). He bought 115 acres of land and added to it through the years. He had a ranch where he raised four to five hundred head of cattle and horses. His cattle were marked with a split in the left ear and a small "3" on the hip. Seven more children were born here which gave them eleven. They are: John Nimrod b. 11-7-1839; William Phylandes b. 27-2-1841, d. 1873, m. Mary Jane Clayton 15-8-1861; Edwin Leonidus b. 26-1-1843, d. 1861; James Polk b. 1-12-1844, d. 13-6-1926, m. Catherine Davis 5-2-1874; Samuel Baxter b. 11-9-1848, m. Molly Goodson 23-12-1869; Ann Isabella b. 11-11-1848, m. Jim Goodson 20-12-1869; Mary Eliza b. 10-2-1852 m. Hardie White 1874; Martha Elizabeth b. 10-1-1854 m. Jim Scurlock 8-3-1874; Harriet Chappell b. 2-2-1856 d. 1875, m. Dave Winters 1874; Francis Montgomery b. 17-5-1858 m. Julie Cole; Louisa Josephine b. 25-4-1860 m. Sandy Matkin 1875. James was Justice of Peace for several years. He and Eliza were charter members of the Concrete Church organized Sept. 16, 1855. Eliza died June 4, 1860 of a fever just one and a half months after her last child was born.

James and four of his sons served under the

Confederate flag during the Civil War. His eldest son was unable to serve due to a fall from his high chair into the fireplace. He was severely hurt and though he lived into his 30's, he needed constant care. A younger son enlisted late in the war because of his young age, but served six months. James enlisted in Co. I, 2nd Regiment, Tx. Infantry on Oct. 8, 1862 in Gonzales Co., Tx. He fought along the Yazoo River and was captured at Vicksburg July 4, 1863 and paroled July 7th, according to the terms of capitulation entered into by the Commanding Gen. of the U.S. and Confederate forces. He had to sign an oath of allegiance saying he would not take up arms against the U.S. again, but in a month he was back in the Confederate Army. He was transferred to Quarter Master Service as wagon and forage master because he was shot in the eye during the Vicksburg siege and unfit for field service. He was promoted to Q.M. Sgt. in 1864. On Dec. 15, 1864 he was again captured near Nashville, Tn. and was sent to military prison, Louisville, Ky. From there he was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio and discharged on Jan. 4, 1865. One son, Leonidus, lost his life with Gen. Sibley's Brigade in that ill-fated expedition into New Mexico and Arizona. He was 18 years old. The older daughters had cared for the younger children and kept the family together during the war years.

When the war closed James moved his family to Cherokee Co. near Jacksonville, Tx. There he met Sarah Ann Jones, a school teacher. They were married Jan. 3, 1867 and to this union were born five children: Austin b. 1868, m. Olivia Dial 1901; Laurah B. b. 1870, m. Thomas W. Cole 17-7-1887; David A. b. 1873 m. Bonnie; Finis C. b. 1876 m. Virginia Pearl Campbell; Irene Belle b. 1879, m. Elijah Bib Whitner 1897. James died April 30, 1884 and is buried in Meador Cemetery near his home. His descendants are still living on his land.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

PRIESTLY, WILLIAM PHYLANDES

F722

William (Bill) Phylandes Priestly was born Feb. 27, 1841 to James and Eliza Ann (Ragsdale) Priestly in Sabine Co., near Milam, Tx. He moved with his family to DeWitt Co. in 1845, then a frontier region. He helped his father on their ranch. Rev. J. Connelly married him and Mary Jane Clayton Aug. 15, 1861 in Clinton, Tx. During the Civil War he enlisted in Co. H. Rangers under Col. J.M. Norris on Mar. 8, 1862 in DeWitt Co. He was discharged at Camp Dix on Feb. 14, 1863 at expiration of term of service. During this time his first child, Mary Lee, was born June 9, 1862. His wife died in 1865 and he married her sister, Nancy Elizabeth (Lizzie) Clayton on June 18, 1865. Rev. Connelly performed these marriage rites also. To make a new start he moved his family to Cherokee Co., Tx. where his father had moved earlier. In Mar. of 1873 while in Jacksonville to make purchases, a Mr. Dobson tried to pick a fight with William and when he wouldn't fight, the man picked up a burning stick and set fire to his mustache. A fight pursued and William thought he killed the man. He rode to his father's place and was given a fresh horse, saddle, boots and money. He rode to his home,

William Phylandes Priestly

told his wife goodbye and pulled his little girl, Mary Lee, up on his saddle and said "Daddy has to leave, I don't know when I'll see you again." He kissed her and rode away and she never saw him again. His brother rode with him to the Nueces River, then bid him farewell. The family received a letter from Rev. Connelly saying he talked with William in Corpus Christi and he was heading for Tuxpan, Mexico. William's brother went to Tuxpan, but never found him. No one knows what happened, but his 2nd wife, Lizzie, has his death listed in her bible as Aug. 30, 1873. No one knows how she got that date. When William didn't return home, Lizzie moved to Concrete to live with her parents John and Mary Ann (Crawford) Clayton. Two months after William left, Lizzie gave birth to Bonnie Ada born May 23, 1873. Lizzie later moved to Yoakum to live with her daughter, where she spent the rest of her life. Both daughters married DeWitt Co. men. Mary Lee married Thomas Jackson Kennedy and Bonnie Ada married Cyrus W. Richmond.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

RAAK, ANDREAS AND REGINA MARIE (MOELLER)

F723

Andreas Raak came to America in 1856. Andreas was born February 12, 1827 in Dessau, Prussia and died May 27, 1916. Andreas was 29 years when he landed in Indianola. He made his way to Yorktown and hauled freight by wagon and mules to San Antonio. Andreas saved enough money to buy a farm in Meyersville. There he met and married Regina Marie Moeller. Regina landed at the Port of Galveston December 15, 1869. She was born in Alsace Lorraine, France on August 1, 1842. Regina's family of two sisters and one brother also came and they were: Marie who married Karl Meissner, Ursula who married Gideon Dreyer, and George who married Molly Deckert and later he married Ruth Arnold. Andreas and Regina

George A. and Annie P. (Meissner) Raak on their wedding day.

farmed and ranched in Meyersville until December 1884. Andreas and Regina's children were all born in Meyersville. To this union eight children were born. Andreas, Jr. was born October 10, 1861, never married and is buried in La Grange; Marianne was born December 12, 1863 and married Henry Schneider; Caroline was born September 12, 1866, died October 14, 1962 and married Ferdinand Mueller – both buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero; Elizabeth was born May 11, 1869, died March 1, 1946, married Frederick Mueller – both buried in Mission Valley Cemetery; Louisa was born September 11, 1872, died November 26, 1901, married Frederick Bergmann – she is buried in Hillside Cemetery and he, in Houston; Josephine was born April 7, 1874, died July 9, 1935, married Paul Grifno – both buried in Houston; George August was born July 18, 1876, died November 24, 1916, married Annie Pauline Meissner October 19, 1904 – George buried in Raak Cemetery on South River Road and Annie, in Memory Gardens, Cuero; Ferdinand Henry was born January 27, 1878, died April 10, 1932, never married – buried in Raak Cemetery. Andreas and Regina decided to sell their place in Meyersville and move to the Green DeWitt community. Regina died February 9, 1885 and is buried in the Raak family cemetery beside her husband and two sons, George and Ferdinand. Regina's death left Andreas with the eight children to bring up by himself. Most of the children married and left home, but George, Ferdinand and Josephine remained. Then Josephine married Paul Grifno and moved to Houston and George married Annie Pauline Meissner. She was born November 30, 1882 and died February 23, 1957. She was from Victoria County and George brought her home to live.

George and Annie had the following children: Emilie Karoline born November 7, 1905; Walter Karl born February 3, 1907 and died November 2, 1975; Georgia Ann Pauline born February 23, 1910; and Erna Regina born September 7, 1914. The family lived peacefully but tragedy struck after nine years. George became ill and was referred to a doctor in

Houston. Due to bad weather conditions in Houston, George contracted pneumonia. Josephine called by telephone to report his serious condition. Annie and Ferdinand left immediately for Houston and arrived in time to see George. George asked Ferdinand if he did not recover would he take care of his wife and children; Ferdinand said he would. George died at his sister Josephine's home on November 24, 1916. Ferdinand came home on the first train to make funeral arrangements and receive the body. Annie came home on the train with the body to Cuero. Ferdinand and Walter met Annie in Cuero in a spring wagon and Ferdinand Mueller brought the body home in a wagon drawn by a team of horses. The body lay in state at home until the next day, to be buried by Pastor William Utesch of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He was buried in the Raak family cemetery.

Ferdinand now had the responsibility of caring for George's family, which he did until his death in 1932. Ferdinand was loved by his nieces and nephews as he was an important part of their lives.

Emilie, Walter, Georgia and Erna all attended Green DeWitt school. Emilie and Walter started school and they could only speak German, but their teacher spoke both English and German and translated for them. They soon learned to speak English. The children's spiritual life was met by attending Zion Evangelical Church in Arneckeville. Later they transferred to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Recreation for the Raak children was reading books, the Rialto picture show, home dances and swimming in the Guadalupe River. Walter, February 3, 1907 – November 2, 1975, never married and lived at the Raak home until his mother, Annie, died February 23, 1957. Walter worked his portion of the estate by farming and ranching and moved to his own land, dug a well, built a house, garage and cattle pens. He was a very kind, good neighbor who helped people in the community and fed many families in need. He died November 2, 1975. He is buried in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Cuero.

by Emilie Bethke

RABENALDT FAMILY

F724

Karl and Amelia Auguste (Schmidt) Rabenaldt who raised their children in the Province of Saxony, near the town of Eisleben, Germany probably never dreamed that six of their children would leave their native land and go to the United States.

Four of the children (Therese, Bertha, Anna and Hugo) had married in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the small town of Voigtstedt before they emigrated. Two other sons, Wilhelm and Edmund married in the United States.

Karl, age 59, occupation, laborer, and Amelia, age 56, left the port of Hamburg on the ship, California, and landed at the port of New York on 16 Nov. 1885. They were accompanied by their youngest son, Edmund and their daughter, Therese and her husband, Ernst Kimmell and their two children, Otto and Paul. Their destination was Schulenberg, Texas.

Karl and Amelia's place of residence is unknown but they probably came to DeWitt County in the late 1890's with their children. Family members have reported that Karl died about 1900 and is buried in the Kimmell family plot in Sandy Gate Cemetery near Nopal in DeWitt County. Amelia returned to Germany to join another son, Karl.

Their six children established homes in DeWitt County and many of their descendants still live in the area.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

RABENALDT, EDMUND FAMILY

F725

Edmund Rabenaldt Family: Standing – Hulda, Fritz, Edmund. Front: Auguste (Rappmund) Rabenaldt with Minnie, Rudolph, Susanna and Edmund.

Edmund Rabenaldt b. 22 Dec. 1871 in the Province of Saxony was the youngest child of Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt. He immigrated to America with his parents. (see "Karl Rabenaldt Family")

Since he was only a lad of 13 at the time of their immigration, he probably lived with his family until his marriage to Mrs. Auguste (Rappmund) Beutnagel in DeWitt County on 12 Nov. 1892.

Mrs. Beutnagel's children from her first marriage were: Elise b. March 1881; Anna b. Aug. 1883; August b. June 1890 and Nellie b. May 1892. Little is known of these children. August Beutnagel died of disease somewhere in France in September 1917.

Edmund and Auguste made their home in the Nopal/Davy community of DeWitt County. Their children were Edmund b. Dec. 1893 m. Sophie Holberdier; Hulda b. 22 Nov. 1895 m. Harry Lincke; Fritz b. 10 Jan. 1898 m. Elenora Koepke; Rudolph b. 14 Dec. 1899 m. Lydia Juergens; Susanna (Susie) b. 1 Jan. 1902 m. Edwin Koepke; Minnie b. 26 July 1905 m. Willie Paul Audilet and Martin b. 27 Nov. 1908 m. Effie Poklunda.

Edmund Rabenaldt died 25 July 1913 and is buried in the Sandy Gate Cemetery near Nopal-/Davy community in DeWitt County.

Auguste Rabenaldt, widow, married Hugo Rabenaldt, (her brother-in-law) on 23 Feb. 1915 in DeWitt County. This marriage was not a happy one for in the June 1920 term of the DeWitt County District Court, a divorce was granted, ending this marriage.

Auguste Rabenaldt died 26 May 1932 and is also buried in Sandy Gate Cemetery.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

RABENALDT, HUGO FAMILY

F726

Hugo and Margarethe Rabenaldt's 25th Wedding Anniversary. Back Row: Herman, Martha and Otto. Seated: Hugo, William and Margarethe.

Hugo Rabenaldt (the fifth child of Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt to come to the United States) was born 31 May 1861 in the village of Monchpfiffel, Saxony, Germany. He trained as an apprentice to learn the trade of white and black bread baking. His bakers diploma was registered in Frankenhausen, Germany on 2 Feb. 1878.

He married Margarethe Goldmann on 17 Feb. 1884 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the village of Voigtstedt, Saxony Province, Germany. Margarethe was born 21 Aug. 1863

Hugo Rabenaldt and his business in Nordheim 1909

in Kullstedt, Thuringia Province, Germany. Her parents were Johannes Goldmann and Therese Vogt.

Hugo and Margarethe were the parents of two boys and a girl before they left their native homeland to begin a new life in the United States. They landed at the port of New York on or about 10 Nov. 1888. On the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, their young daughter died and was buried at sea. A son, Otto, just a few months old, was so frail his parents feared he would not live either. Otto did make the voyage as did an older brother, Hugo Jr.

After residing a few years in Lavaca County Texas, they moved to Nordheim, Texas where Hugo did some farming and also established a very enterprising retail business in the town. His inventory consisted of furniture, hardware, and undertaker supplies. He also had a saloon and restaurant. He installed the first water protection system for his business building and small out buildings, as well as his residence. By 1911 he had taken some of his sons into his business.

Two of his young sons met untimely deaths. Hugo Jr., who was engaged to marry a young lady named Frieda Tiewes, died on 19 May 1908. Family stories relate that Frieda, his fiancee, was so grieved by his death that she remained ummarried. Herman Charles died 10 March 1912. Both sons are buried in the family plot in St. Paul's Cemetery near Nordheim, Texas.

Hugo Rabenaldt and his family were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Nordheim. Hugo was also a member of The Order of Hermann Sons, and a member of the Nordheim Brass Band.

Additional children of Hugo and Margarethe Rabenaldt were: Otto b. 18 April 1888 d. 1 May 1948 married Alwine Heinze; Paul Marcos b. 21 Aug. 1890 d. 21 Aug. 1957 married Agnes Lundschen; Martha Agnes b. 7 Aug. 1894 d. 2 July 1966 married Calvin C. Gohlke; William 18 Nov. 1897 d. 25 Dec. 1965 married Marian Sullivan.

After the death of Margarethe, Hugo married three more times . . . Mrs. Auguste Rabenaldt, Mrs. Kathrina Jacobson and Mrs. Anna Lemke.

In his retirement years, Hugo Rabenaldt resided at the Home for the Aged at Comfort, Texas. Hugo died 2 March 1942 and Margarethe died 24 Oct. 1914. They are buried in the family plot in St. Paul's Cemetery near Nordheim, Texas.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

RABENALDT, WILHELM FAMILY

F727

Wilhelm Rabenaldt, born 4 Nov. 1865 in the village of Monchpfiffel, Saxony, Germany was the second child of Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt to come to the United States. He left Bremen, Germany on the ship SS Salier and landed at the port of Baltimore, Maryland on 15 May 1884.

He carried a letter of reference from his former employer in Artern, Saxony Province, Germany, stating that he had apprenticed as a bookkeeper and secretary in the business of grains and fertilizer. The letter further stated that he was honest, hard working and very ambitious.

His place of residence fc~ the next five years is unknown. He probably came to Lavaca County where his sister, Bertha and husband Julius Hoffmann were living. He must have worked very hard to establish himself in this country for on 24 Feb. 1891 he married Amelia Dicke (b. 6 Jan. 1871) in Sweet Home, Texas.

In the early years of their marriage, they lived in Lavaca, Austin and Gonzales Counties. They moved to the Runge area, Karnes County where Wilhelm farmed and also was engaged in the saloon business. They moved to DeWitt County in the early 1920s where they lived the remainder of their lives. They were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown.

Wilhelm died 26 April 1932 and Amelia died 17 April 1933. They are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

Twelve children blessed this union, but only seven lived to adulthood. They were Lydia (9 Mar. 1892-?) m. a Cavins; Edwin (30 Oct. 1894-3 June 1932) m. Nathalia Pheiffer; Erna G. (15 Nov. 1895-8 Feb. 1988) m. Richard Kolelski; Oscar A. (16 Aug. 1899-31 Aug. 1935) no info; Lillie (22 Jan. 1901-?) m. a Striedel; Ada (24 July 1903) m. Archie Sirmon, (Ada lives in Yorktown, Texas); and William H. (28 June 1905-24 July 1989) m. Zona Douglas.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

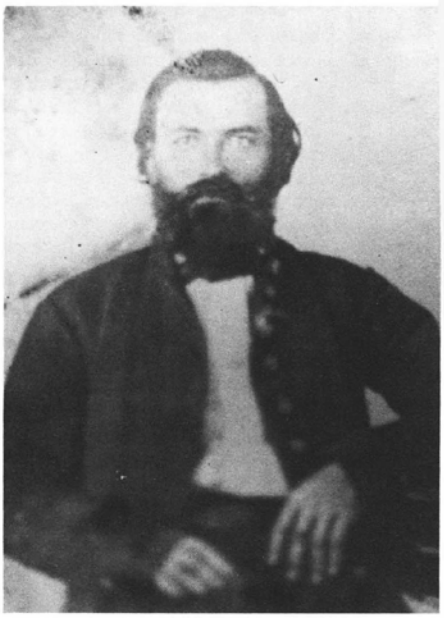
RABKE, ADOLPH AND DOROTHEA BAKER

F728

Adolph and Dorothea Rabke

Adolph Rabke was born sometime in 1832 in Hohenson, Hanover, Germany. Dorothea Baker was born in 1833. Probably soon after their marriage, they left for Texas. We cannot find immigration records, but it is believed their arrival was sometime in early 1856.

In 1845, Adolph's brother, August, came to Texas and settled in DeWitt County. He and his wife settled along the Coletto, near Meyersville. Through the years, he undoubtedly corresponded with his family in Germany and stirred the "wunderlust" in the younger brother, Adolph.



Adolph Rabke in Civil War uniform.

After Adolph and Dorothea's arrival in Texas, they joined August and his family, and on December 7, 1856, Adolph Jr. was born.

It is not known where they lived until 1858. In 1858, Adolph bought 98 acres of land on the north side of the Five Mile Coletto Creek in the G.W. Brooks Survey. His land joined land owned by Louis Reinhardt and Wilhelm Schorlemmer. Adolph and Dorothea lived on these acres for the next 25 years. All of their children were born here before they moved. On September 14, 1848, a son, Henry Gustav was born, but he died as a small boy and is buried near the homestead.

Adolph, approximately 29 years of age, and his brother August both served under Capt. Robert Kleberg in the Coletto Guards Reserve Company during the Civil War. Adolph went to Indianola with the group and later to Sabine Pass. Adolph, Jr., who was only 5 years at the time later related to his children that those were very hard years. He remembered there was little food. Women were left with only crude implements to work and plant gardens.

After the war, the community was filled with robbers or carpetbaggers. The story is told that a gang stopped in August Rabke's peach orchard to eat some peaches, and when he went out to ask them to go, they shot him. His widow, Henrietta Theime Rabke, later married J.P. (Peter) Imhoff of Gillespie County. She and her children moved to the Luckenbach with Mr. Imhoff.

Other children born to Adolph and Dorothea were: Bertha on January 28, 1860; on September 12, 1862, Johanna was born; Dorothea was born on January 19, 1866; Julia was born April 1, 1867; Henry on October 29, 1869; Otto on February 15, 1871; Edward on November 23, 1872; and Lydia, their last child, was born on November 26, 1878.

A month before their last child was born, Adolph and Dorothea's first child, Adolph, Jr. was married. He married Marie Gohlke on October 17 1878. Ten months later, sister, Bertha, married Charles Sasse. Johanna married William C. Gohlke (no relation to

Marie) on December 20, 1880.

Adolph Rabke Sr. purchased 300 acres of land on November 9, 1883. This was in the Y. Carruthers Survey along the Twelve Mile Coletto. Four days later he sold the 98 acre homestead.

The purchase of this land was the beginning of the Rabke Community as we know it today. It is not known how soon the Rabkes moved there but their house was built under oak trees near the location of the Rabke Cemetery.

Dorothea was the first to marry after they moved to the new location. She married Wilhelm Bluhm on May 15, 1884, and on November 20, 1886, Julia married Herman Dornberg.

Sadness struck when Adolph Sr. died on August 23, 1889. He had lived only seven years in his new home. Since we have no dates other than on his tombstone (Born 1832 – Died 1889), his approximate age was 57 years. He had always said he wanted to be buried under the large oak tree near his home. His wish was granted. Later, an acre of land was donated for a cemetery. The oak tree still stands in the middle of the Rabke Cemetery.

Daughter Bertha Sasse was left a widow in 1889. She was left with five children: Ben, Ottilie, Henry, Eddie and Louis. She remarried on June 11, 1891 to Richard Schurich.

Otto Rabke married Helen Franke on October 29, 1891, and Henry married Meta Pieper on October 26, 1893. This now left Dorothea home with Edward and Lydia.

It was about this time that the trustees of the Cuero and Coletto Charge South (Methodist) were making plans for construction of a church. Rev. Fredrich Vordenbaum was brought to the community. He served as architect for the church building. On March 27, 1894, William C. and Johanna Rabke Gohlke donated the land for the Rabke German Methodist Church. It was completed in 1894.

On August 2, 1894, Dorothea Rabke married Rev. Vordenbaum (a widower). She sold the home place to her son, Edward, and in 1896, he erected the Rabke General Store and Post Office across the road from the church.

When Rev. Vordenbaum died in 1898 at the age of 74, he was buried in Cibalo next to his first wife. In later years after being confined to a wheel chair, Dorothea lived with her son, Edward. She helped at times in the store. Fritz Rabke, a grandson, recalled that in later years anytime a grandchild came into the store she would give them candy.

Lydia married David H. Murray on December 19, 1900. Dorothea continued to live with her unmarried son, Edward. It may have been around this time that they built a better house and used the old log cabin for a smoke house.

The Rabke Post Office was discontinued in 1908, then sometime in 1912, Dorothea was laid to rest beside her first husband, Adolph.

On April 24, 1913, Edward married Nannie Murray, sister of David Murray.

In 1916, the Rabke General Store was torn down. Today, all that remains of Rabke, Texas is the little white church under the stately oak trees.

This story was written from the *Rabke History*, written by Lornette Rabke Dukes.

by Joyce Manning

RABKE, ADOLPH AND MARIE GOHLKE

F729

Adolph and Marie Rabke

Adolph Rabke was born on December 7, 1856 to Adolph and Dorothea Baker Rabke. It is not known where as Adolph and Dorothea did not buy land until May 28, 1858 on Five Mile Coletto Creek in DeWitt County. Adolph and Dorothea arrived sometime in early 1856. They came from Germany.

At the age of 21 years, Adolph married Marie Gohlke, daughter of Johann F.R. and Augusta Sasse Gohlke. They were married on October 17, 1878.

Marie's parents came to Texas in 1855. He was from Gottshimbrush, Prussia and she was from Gurkow, Prussia. They came over on the same ship, and married in Yorktown on November 4, 1855.

Adolph and his new bride moved to Goliad County near Weser and Dobskyville. Here, their first child, August, was born on September 13, 1879. Helen was born June 5, 1881 and Mary was born on November 4, 1882. Adolph and Marie had another son on December 11, 1884, Adolph Jr. Then, on March 15, 1887, Gustav was born, and Fritz William was born on December 4, 1889. Dorothea (Dora) was born September 27, 1892.

Adolph went to the Rabke community in DeWitt County in 1894 to help build the Rabke German Methodist Church. On December 29, 1894, he bought 200 acres of land in the G.W. Brooks Survey near the Rabke community. Soon after purchasing this land, Adolph and Marie moved from Goliad County with August, Helen, Mary, Adolph, Gustav, Fritz and Dora. They were happy to be near family, a new church, and friends.

Augusta was the first to be born in DeWitt County. She was born on October 2, 1895. In 1896, Marie's sister, Ida, died. Adolph and Marie took her daughter, Bertha Schaper, to live with them. On November 20, 1896, Adolph and Marie had another daughter, Frieda. She died two months later on January 18, 1897. Another son, Erwin, was born December 4, 1897. It was his brother Fritz's eighth birthday. The last child born to Adolph and Marie was Hulda, born on January 4, 1900.

Adolph continued farming and carpentry. Gradually, the children began to marry and leave home. August married Emma Niemeir on October 15, 1902; Helen married Henry C. Reinhardt on October 11, 1903; Mary married Hugo Franke on November 22, 1900; Adolph F. married Martha Niemeir on October 15, 1905; Gustav married Natalie Wagner on November 28, 1909; Fritz W. married Charlotte "Lottie" Schorlemmer on November 9, 1910; Dorothea (Dora) married Otto Wagner on October 23, 1910; Augusta married George Gohmert on February 20, 1913; Erwin married Lena Hardt on September 27, 1917 and Hulda Rabke married M.A.H. Mueller on Sept. 26, 1922.

Adolph (called Vater by all of the children and grandchildren) died on August 27, 1916. Marie "Mutter" lived her later years with her daughter, Hulda, and her husband. She died on February 5, 1945.

This history was taken from the *Rabke History*, written by Lornette Rabke Dukes.

by Joyce Manning

RABKE, FRITZ WILLIAM AND CHARLOTTE "LOTTIE"

F730

Fritz and Lottie Rabke on 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Fritz William Otto, son of Adolph and Marie Gohlke Rabke, was born on December 4, 1889 in Goliad County. The home was near the 15 Mile Colette and Weser-Dobskyville community. He was the sixth child.

At the age of five years, the family moved to DeWitt County. Fritz attended Five Mile School. They were members of the Rabke German Methodist Church.

When Fritz and his brothers August, Adolph, and Gus were teenagers, they organized a band and played for dances held in homes and barns. The band continued to play until shortly after the marriage of Fritz. Fritz never took music lessons, but could play any instrument.

Charlotte Bertha Sophia was born on November 9, 1890 to William Carl and Auguste

Schaefer Schorlemer in DeWitt County. She was their third child.

Lottie attended the Five Mile School, and was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville.

On November 9, 1910, Fritz and his childhood sweetheart, Lottie Schorlemer, were married at St. John's Lutheran Church.

After their marriage, Lottie and Fritz lived on the Valentine Koehler place near Arneckeville. Lottie had a cow and horse, and Fritz a horse and ten dollars. With this, they started their fifty-one and a half years of a happy, prosperous marriage.

The Rabke's lived on the Koehler place for five years. This is where their first child was born. Their daughter, Corrine Marie Augusta, was born on January 13, 1913.

Sometime during 1915 or 1916, they started building their home on land purchased from Lottie's father. Part of their land had been obtained in the 1850's by Lottie's great grandmother and grandparents.

A second child, Marvin Felix, was born on March 26, 1918.

Fritz, besides being a farmer/rancher also made molasses. He had purchased the press and cooking vats from his father-in-law. He was known all over the county for his good molasses. Sometimes they would cook day and night. Fritz had to hire extra men to help. Lanterns were hung all under the shed where the pans were. There was a circle of posts all around the press and people came with wagons full of cane and stacked the cane between the posts like wood. Each person's name was put on their cane. Most people brought their own barrels and buckets. Some paid on shares, they kept half and Fritz kept half. The part Fritz kept was sold to people who didn't have cane.

Lornette Faye, the youngest child, was born on September 30, 1930.

Corrine and Marvin first attended school at Ratcliffe County School at Rabke and then school in Cuero. Lornette attended Clinton County School and then Cuero High School.

Corrine married Ernest Charles Soehnge of Mathis, Texas, on June 12, 1935. Ernest was killed in a welding accident on May 17, 1946. She married S.A. Delbert Parker of Yoakum on August 21, 1952. Marvin married Bernice Thamm on February 5, 1937, and Lornette married John Dukes on March 2, 1956.

Fritz and Lottie lived on the farm until he retired. Lottie had many years of poor health. Her wish was to have a large celebration for their 50th anniversary. She lived to have her party, but died on April 7, 1962 and is buried in Cuero at Hillside Cemetery.

Fritz remained active until his death on August 1, 1968. He is buried beside Lottie.

This history was taken from the *Rabke History* written by Lornette Rabke Dukes.

by Joyce Manning

Lone Star Blacksmith Shop

I take pleasure in notifying the public that the LONE STAR SHOP is the place to get all kinds of work done cheap and on very short notice.

A. V. MARTINDALE, PROP.

RABKE, OTTO CARL AND MARIA AUGUSTA HELENE (FRANKE) FAMILY

F731

Otto Rabke and Helen (Franke) Rabke

Helena Franke was born in Meyersville on 28 May 1873, the second daughter of Emil and Henrietta (Bluhm) Franke. In the old St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville, on 29 October, 1891, she was married to Otto Carl Rabke. He was born in Rabke, Tex. on 16 Feb. 1871, the son of Adolph and Dorothea (Boeker) Rabke.

Otto and Helene spent their first years in Weser. Here were born their first five children: 1) Berthold (b) 12 Oct. 1893, (d) 20 June 1894; 2) Lillie (b) 4 Aug. 1895, (d) 14 Aug. 1975, (m) 2 Apr. 1930 to C.R.F. Randow (wid); 3) Lenore (b) 11 Feb. 1897, (d) 29 Nov. 1908; 4) Valeska (b) 20 Oct. 1898, (m) 3 Feb. 1921 to August Wittstock; and 5) Raymond (b) 26 Aug. 1900, (d) 8 June 1958 (m) 17 Nov. 1931 to Christina Heil.

In 1901, the family moved to a 148-acre farm between Yorktown and Meyersville. Later 25 acres more were added to the farm. Otto built a barn first and then the house. It consisted of two 14X14 rooms. On October 17, 1903, 6) Erna was born (m) 27 Feb. 1926 to Walter Woods; 7) Helen (b) 12 Oct. 1907, (d) 23 Apr. 1976, (m) 22 Nov. 1928 to Henry Weid; 8) Wesley (b) 19 Oct. 1909, (m) 27 Jan. 1932 to Olivia Arnecke; 9) and Otto Adolph (b) 6 Nov. 1912 (m) 16 June 1934 to Ira Jonischkies completed the family.

The chief crops from the fields were cotton and corn. Later there were plum and peach orchards and sugar cane. People from the area brought their sugar cane to the Rabkes to be made into home-made molasses, as they had a mill to do the job. Bees were also kept for honey.

All the members of the Rabke family belonged to St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. The children attended the Oakdale and Meyersdale schools of which Otto was a trustee and later attended Yorktown High School. Eventually all the children married. The sons became farmers and the daughters, gifted seamstresses and homemakers. Lillie sewed from age 17 to 75, and Helen made many of the elaborate dresses for the San Antonio Fiesta celebrations.

Helene passed away on her way to Wesley's wedding on 27 Jan. 1932. She was laid to rest in the Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery.

On 16 June 1934, Otto married again to Mrs. Lavie Bradley Goehring (b) 28 Nov. 1898 (d) 19 Aug. 1981. They had one son, Jesse James (b) 10 Jan. 1941, (d) 21 Jan. 1941.

Otto sold the old homestead to Mr. Thad Brysch and moved to Yorktown in the fall of 1959. He died on 23 June 1961 at the age of 90. He is buried in Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery.

by Linda Rabke

RABKE, RAYMOND EMIL ADOLPH AND CHRISTINA ANNA (HEIL) FAMILY

F732

Raymond Emil Adolph Rabke was born 26 Aug. 1900 in Weser, where his family had a small farm that they had bought shortly after they had married in Meyersville. He was the fourth child and second son of Otto Carl and Maria Augusta Helena (Franke) Rabke.

Around 1901, the family moved to a 148-acre farm between Yorktown and Meyersville. As a young man, Raymond worked on the farm with his father. The Otto Rabke family was well-known in the area for making home-made molasses and had many customers.

On November 17, 1931, in the Weesatche Lutheran Church, he took as a bride, Christina Anna Heil (b) 7 June 1911, eldest daughter of Anton and Caroline (Lude) Heil. The young couple lived in Yorktown where he worked for a creamery.

In 1935, they bought a small farm seven miles south of town and proceeded to build themselves a house. Adding adjoining parcels of land as they became available, they ended up with a comfortable homestead, where they engaged in farming and stock-raising.

Four children were born to them: 1) Dolores Christine (b) 9 Feb. 1934, (m) William J. Dworaczyk, (children) Patrick, Diana, Cheryl, Harold and Marvin (m) 2nd Donald Wishert; 2) O'Dell Ray (b) 18 Aug. 1936, (m) Linda Joe Ziese (children) Carol, Robert, Melody, O'Dell Jr., Sandra, and Raymond; 3) Ralph Edward (b) 2 Sept. 1945, (m) Linda Lou Oehlke, (children) Andra and Russell; 4) Thomas Jean (b) 13 Dec. 1947, (m) Donna Lynn Harms, (children) Tammy and Trevor.

Raymond Rabke passed away 8 June 1958 and is buried in the Yorktown Westside Cemetery.

On December 27, 1970, Mrs. Christina Rabke married Wilfred Hugo Jacob (wid).

by Linda Rabke

RANKIN, JOHN KIETH
F733

Richard Robert Rankin, father of John Kieth Rankin, was born in Virginia in 1753, son of William R. Rankin and Margaret (Peggy) Marshall Rankin, also of Virginia. Robert Rankin grew up in the region famous in American History, for its native sons; the Washingtons, Jeffersons, Nurrocs, Madisons, Marshalls, Ishiams, Kieths, Rankins, and Randolphs. Out of these came our ancestors.

Robert Rankin, at the age of seventeen, began to learn surveying under his kinsmen, Thomas Marshall and George Washington. Tradition says he accompanied Marshall and Washington on surveying trips. At the age of twenty-three he enlisted in the Revolution Army on July 25, 1776, and served as a private and ensign in the 11th Virginia Troop. He was commissioned an officer on September 14, 1778. He took part in the battle of Brandywine, Germantown, Stony Point and the Seige of Charleston, where he and his Uncle Thomas Marshall were taken prisoners, but were soon exchanged.

Robert was married on October 1, 1781 to Margaret Berry of Fredrick County, Virginia. Margaret was the daughter of Captain and Mrs. Frances Kendell Berry. The silver buckles worn by Margaret on this occasion are now in the possession of their son John Kieth Rankin's, decendents in Texas. At the close of the war, on October 6, 1783, he with a large group of Virginia Line Officers met with General George Washington and formed The Society of Cincinnati in the state of Virginia. This society was formed to perpetuate the friendship of officers of the Continental Army and aid the wounded and widows of fellow officers. Robert Rankin gave one month military salary to become an original member of the Society of Cincinnati, signing his name as few did. George Washington was made the first President-General of the Society after this gathering.

Robert and Margaret immigrated to Kentucky with many relatives, all settling on land granted to them by the Government in 1784. From Kentucky he moved his family to Alabama, then to Texas.

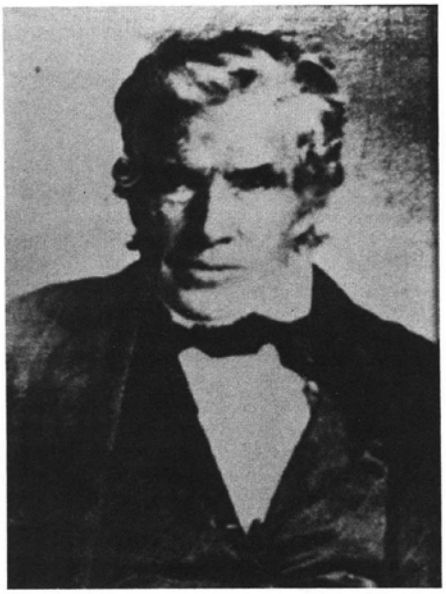
Robert Rankin had been a "pioneer" all of his life. He had carved out of forests, homes for his family. He was too old to join the Texas Army in 1835, under the direction of General Sam Houston, but his home was near "Council Hill" where Sam Houston met with men of mature minds and vast experience. Two of his sons served in the Texas Army, and David Rankin's name is inscribed on the San Jacinto Monument as being in Sam Houston's Army. Sam Houston helped Peggy Rankin get a widows pension after Robert's death. Robert Rankin died at Cold Springs, Texas at the age of 84 in 1837. The State erected a monument at his grave in the year of the Texas Centennial 1936. Robert Rankin was the only officer of the Continental Army who is buried in the State burial ground in Austin, Texas. He held the rank of lieutenant in the Continental Army but was generally known in Texas as Colonel Rankin.

Robert Rankin's grave had been at Cold Springs cemetery, San Jacinto County, until his body was re-interned at Austin, with his descendents participating, with direct descendents acting as pall bearers. Descendents now live all over the United States.

Above information from the papers of Mary Myers Callaway and Rosalie Myers.

by Herbert C. Rankin

RANKIN, JOHN KIETH
F734



John Keith Rankin.

John Kieth Rankin, son of the Colonial Soldier, Richard Robert Rankin, was an early settle in DeWitt County, and was known by the "Old Timers" as Uncle Jack Rankin.

John Kieth Rankin as born to Richard Robert Rankin and Margaret Berry, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Frances Kendell Berry, on January 5, 1791, on the Ohio River in the State of Kentucky. From this place the family immigrated to Tombrigby River in Alabama. When war was declared in 1812, John Kieth volunteered and served during the war, for which he was drawing a pension when he died. In the year of 1816 he married Elizabeth Butler, and moved to Wayne County, Mississippi, then in 1825 to that position of Hines County, which later, became Rankin County. After 25 years residence in Rankin County, immigrated to Texas, resided for a time in Polk County and finally in DeWitt County in 1850. In the 34 years he lived in DeWitt County his life was one of peace and good will to man. He never had a serious problem with anyone.

John Kieth and Elizabeth Butler Rankin had four sons and four daughters. Moses Berry married Christian Metcalf. Mary "Polly" married Sam Myers. James married Lucinda Callihan and was a Civil War veteran. Mesina married Gibb Neil. Mariana married Alvin Myers. Robert married Irene Ann Rhode. Sam married Eveline Cox, died in a Federal prison camp during the Civil War. Melinda married Valentine Cook.

Elizabeth Butler Rankin died May 1, 1867. John Keith later married Mrs. Martha Hamilton, who died November 1, 1878. John Kieth died November 17, 1884, at the age of 93 years, 10 months, and 12 days.

In his advance age he maintained his bodily powers to a remarkable degree. So perfect was the power of his mind and body that he continued the management of his house to the very last.

All three are buried in the Burns Station Cemetery, DeWitt County, Texas.

Many Rankin descendents still reside in the DeWitt and surrounding counties.

Information for the Rankins' is from the papers of Mary Myers Callaway and Rosalie Myers.

by Herbert C. Rankin

RANKIN, MOSES AND CHRISTINA (METCALF)
F735

Moses Berry Rankin was born in Washington County, Alabama in November 1817. He was the son of John Keith Rankin and Elizabeth Butler Rankin. His grandfather, Colonel Robert Rankin, served directly under General George Washington and was with General Washington at the surrender at Yorktown.

Moses Rankin was married to Christina Metcalf on November 22, 1843. Christina was the daughter of Colonel (War of 1812) Anthony M. Metcalf (born in Tennessee in 1782, died in Mississippi in 1854). Her mother was Matilda Brag Beasley (1798-1882).

In 1847 Moses and Christina moved with his father and family to San Jacinto County, Texas. They moved to DeWitt County in 1850 where he lived until his death in 1895 at the home of one of his daughters, Mrs. W.J. Simpson, in Terryville, Texas. He was buried in the Burns' Station Cemetery, which is located on Irish Creek, just off Highway 87.

Moses and Christina had four children: Louis Rankin, Minerva Rankin Rhodes, Margaret Rankin Calliham Wright, and Benjamin Rankin. After the death of his first wife, Moses married her sister, Sarah Metcalf, in 1856. To this union three children were born: Christina "Kitty" Rankin Killough, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rankin Simpson, and Anthony Metcalf Rankin.

Moses Rankin operated a grist mill at Burns' Station (Verhelle) where he lived with his family. The mill was run by water power from the Guadalupe River. It was washed away in the flood of 1869. One report states that Moses donated the land for the Burns' Station Cemetery.

John Keith Rankin, the father of Moses, organized the first worshiping band west of the Guadalupe River. Moses and his family were faithful members of the Methodist Church. He was converted and joined the church at about fourteen years of age. In the 1870's he was one of the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Cuero, Texas and was elected president of the trustees in 1876.

In an article written by the Reverend W.H. Killough and published in the *Texas Christian Advocate*, he had this to say about Moses Rankin: "Few men have bestowed so much direct personal care and attention and labor on so many individuals to help them on the way that leads to God and Heaven. I never saw a man more devoted to the church and serve it more faithfully and efficiently. Mr. Rankin was a profound theologian; any preacher could profit by talking to him. He was a scientific, though not a polished, mechanic. He is gone

from the walks of mortal men; his walk was good; his end was peaceful; his eternal home in Heaven. We will try to follow him, in that he followed God."

Many of the descendants of Moses Rankin are gone, have moved away from DeWitt County or have died. Some of the descendants of his daughter, Margaret Calliham Wright, are living here at the present time (1989).

by Elizabeth Murphree

RATH, EDWARD ARTHUR AND OLGA KOEHLER FAMILY

F736

Olga (Koehler) Rath and Edward Arthur Rath

Edward Arthur Rath was born on 10 June 1901 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Friedrich Henry Rath (b. 5 December 1868 Meyersville, DeWitt County; d. 23 September 1947 DeWitt County; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County; m. #1: 8 March 1891 Arneckeville, DeWitt County, to Pauline Nagel; m. #2: 13 October 1896 Arneckeville) and Anna Rath, nee Bade (b. 26 December 1870 Cuero; d. 4 February 1957 DeWitt County; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero). On 1 December 1901 Edward Arthur Rath was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. His baptismal sponsors were Ch. Schley and Katherine Koenig. He was confirmed at Zion Lutheran on Palm Sunday, 24 March 1918. At the time of his marriage, Arthur Rath owned a service station in Cuero. During World War II, he worked at the ship yards in Orange, Orange County, Texas. He died on 25 April 1974 in Pasadena, Harris County, Texas, and was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

On 22 June 1930 in Arneckeville, Edward Arthur Rath married Olga Koehler, daughter of Frederick Christian Koehler (b. 19 March 1879 DeWitt County; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 29 June 1904 DeWitt County; m. #2: 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Friedericke Sager) and Caroline Koehler, nee Sager (b. 29 September 1875 Arneckeville; 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Olga Rath, nee Koehler, was baptized at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on 17 October 1909 and given the baptismal name Olga Karoline. Her baptismal sponsors were Karoline Schorlemmer and John Sager. She was confirmed at Zion Lutheran on Palm Sunday, 1924. Olga Rath was gifted in working with children, and she taught two-year-olds at Trinity Lutheran Church in Orange for twenty-five years. Having dedicated her life to her God, her family, and her church, Olga Rath died on 5 December 1981 in Pasadena and was buried at Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

Four children were born to the marriage of Edward Arthur Rath and Olga Rath: Fred Arthur Rath, twin (b. 30 October 1935 Cuero; m. #1: 5 November 1958 Orange to Carolyn Lawhon; m. #2: 8 October 1964 Pasadena, Harris County, to Wildred Welch, nee Winklemann); Carolyn Ann Rath, twin (b. 30 October 1935 Cuero; m. 28 August 1954 Orange to Carl Franklin Mohon; John Alvin Rath (b. 5 February 1942 Cuero; m. 17 August 1968 Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, to Bertha Sue Amacker); Norma Jean Rath (b. 13 July 1951 Orange; m. #1: 17 October 1970 Dallas to Murray Urbach; m. #2: 13 November 1982 Garland, Dallas County, to Terry Keith VanLandingham).

Not only did Olga Rath give birth to twins, but she herself was a triplet. Born on the same day as Olga Rath were her brother, Arthur Henry Koehler, and her sister, Flora Friedericke Boehl, nee Koehler. Triplets are an extremely rare occurrence and, in fact, records indicate that these were the only triplets ever born in DeWitt County.

by Beverly Boehl

RATH, JOHANN (JOHN) FRIEDRICH AND ELNORA (ALLIE) SEMMLER

F737

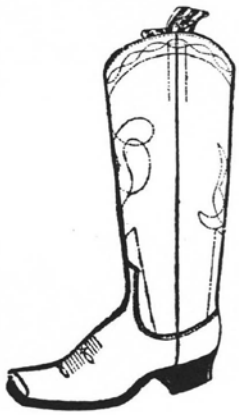
Johann (John) was born March 10, 1895 and baptized May 26, 1895 in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arneckeville. The sponsors were F. Hiller, F. Hartman and E. Shorlemer. His parents were Johann Peter and Hulda Charlotte (Thieme) Rath. They were married October 10, 1867. John was one of several children including Emma, Albert, Fritz, Johanna (Boehi), Mary (Koenig) and others.

John was quite talented as he built child size furniture and very complex pin ball machines. He married Elnora (Allie) Semmler on October 30, 1922. Allie was born September 26, 1896 to Charles and Annie (Koenig) Semmler. Her sisters and brothers were Alfred, married Maggie Schlein, William married Elma Adcock, Bertha passed away at age 9, Lillian who married Carl Schorre and Lorene who married Werner F. Christian Wolf. Allie was a life long member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Allie and John spent many summers fishing and camping on the Guadalupe river which bordered sister and brother-in-law's (Lorene and Werner Wolf's) farm. John provided cases of soda pop for nieces at each visit to river. Allie made many beautiful easter baskets, during her life, for the church. Nieces and nephews were always first recipients. Her living room glowed with color.

John owned an auto repair shop before becoming the Pearl Beer Distributor for many years. He died August 30, 1954. Allie was employed by The Fair Store (Mr. Jake Cohen) during 40's. Later she became known for her culinary expertise. She was particularly well known for her prune cake. Allie sewed nearly all the dresses for nieces Doris and Lorita Wolf. When John and Allie went to San Antonio on business with Pearl Beer, she always bought 2 pieces of fabric for girls. At one time the mother (Lorene Wolf) of the girls counted 50 dresses in their closet. Allied died in April 27, 1986. There were no children but John and Allie or "Attie" were second parents to nieces and nephews. Both are buried in Memory Gardens on the Gonzales Highway.

by Ritz Fitzgerald

THE STOCKMAN'S PRIDE



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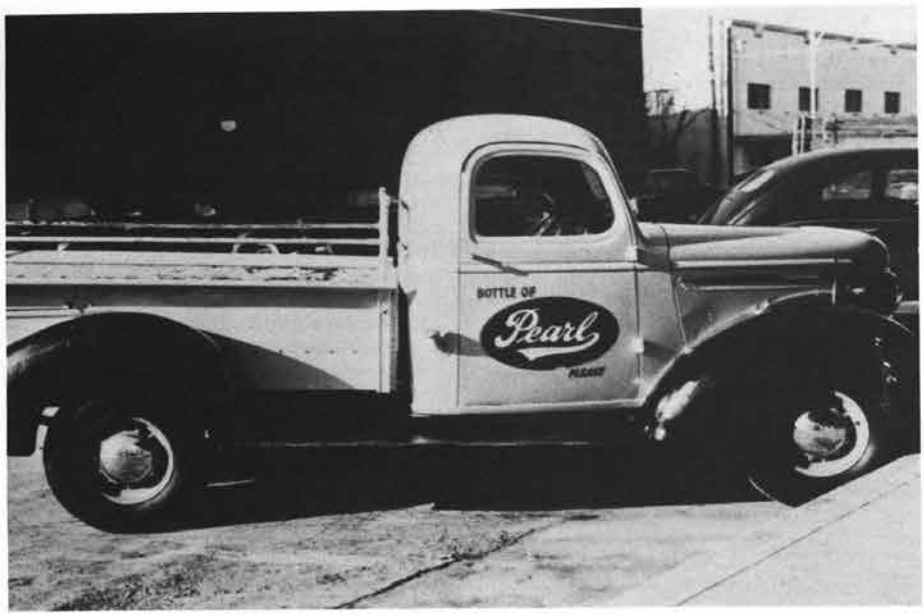

Pearl truck owned by John Rath, beer distributor for many years

RATH, JOHANN MARTIN FAMILY

F738

Johann Martin Rath was born on 16 April 1810 in Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, where he was a weaver prior to his immigration to Texas. He was baptized in Dettingen on 18 April 1810. His baptismal sponsors were Christoph Rath, citizen and farmer from Dettingen, Maria Agnes Hiller, wife of Michael Hiller, and Helena Catharina Schurr, an unmarried woman from Kappishausern, Black Forest District.

Johann Martin Rath was the son of a vine dresser and farmer, Johann Peter Rath (b. 11 May 1782 Dettingen; d. 4 December 1850 Dettingen; m. 26 November 1805 Dettingen) and (Anna) Maria Magdalena Rath, nee Schurr (b. 26 September 1782 Glems bei Metzingen, Black Forest District; d. 18 March 1830 Dettingen). Johann Martin Rath and his family emigrated from Germany and landed at Indianola, Texas, on 2 June 1852. The Rath family, according to oral history, first settled in the Meyersville area of DeWitt County, Texas, before they relocated in Arneckeville in 1873. It is documented that in 1857 Johann Martin Rath purchased 134 acres of land on the 12-mile Coleto Creek. Notes of a congregational meeting on 5 June 1860 denoted that Martin Rath was elected to the council of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. Johann Martin Rath died on 5 January 1896 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

In Dettingen on 19 January 1841, Johann Martin Rath married Rosina Catharina Linder, daughter of a weaver, Johannes Linder (b. 17 May 1779 probably in Trohweiler, Black Forest District; d. 14 February 1842 Dettingen; m. #1: unknown; m. #2: 30 April 1806 (Dettingen) and Heinricka Linder, nee Dieterle (b. 28 February 1777 Dettingen; d. 16 January 1847 Dettingen). Rosina Catharine Rath, nee Linder, was born in Dettingen on 6 October 1810. Records which would establish the death date of Rosina Catharina Rath have not been located. It has been ascertained, however, that she was widowed twice prior to her marriage to Johann Martin Rath. Her first marriage (2 February 1832 Dettingen) was to Joh. Jacob Hermann, and her second marriage (12 May 1835 Dettingen) was to Johann Adam Hiller (b. 1 April 1795 Dettingen); d. 30 March 1839 Dettingen). Two children were born to the marriage of Johann Adam Hiller and Rosina Catharina Linder: George Friederich Hiller (b. 21 April 1836 Dettingen) and Joh. Michael Hiller (b. 18 April 1838 Dettingen).

Johann Martin Rath and Rosina Catharine Rath begat four children, all of whom were born in Dettingen: Heinricke Rath (b. 21 April 1842; d. 25 February 1928 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1866 DeWitt County to Michael Sager); Christina Magdalena Rath (b. 10 September 1843); Johann Peter Rath (b. 18 January 1847; d. 10 April 1899 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 10 October 1867 Meyersville to Hulda Charlotte Thieme); Samuel Rath (b. 21 October 1848; d. 30 June 1849 Dettingen).

The DeWitt County federal census taken on 28 July 1860 enumerated the following persons in the Rath household; Johann Rath, farmer, age 50, value of real estate $1250, value of personal property $900; Johann Hermann, age 26, blind; Michael Hiller, age 22; Heinricke Rath, age 18; Johann P. Rath, age 13. While the records did not indicate the relationship of these persons to each other, it can be assumed that Johann Hermann was related to the first husband of Rosina Catharina Rath and Michael Hiller was the son of Rosina Catharina Rath and her second husband, Johann Adam Hiller. Heinricke and Johann P. Rath were children of the head of the household, Johann Martin Rath.

A man of the highest ideals of personal character, a respected leader of his church and community, a devoted family man, Johann Martin Rath braved the ocean, the elements, and the scorching Texas sun in order to begin a new life for himself and his family. We honor him for his faith, his devotion, and his perseverance.

by Beverly Boehl

RATH, JOHANN PETER AND HULDA CHARLOTTE THIEME FAMILY

F739

Johann Peter Rath was born on 18 January 1847 in Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany. He was the son of Johann Martin Rath (b. 16 April 1810 Dettingen; d. 5 January 1896 Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 19 January 1841 Dettingen) and Rosina Catharina Rath, nee Linder (b. 6 October 1810 Dettingen; m. #1: 2 February 1832 Dettingen to Joh. Jacob Hermann; m. #2: 12 May 1835 Dettingen to Johann Adam Hiller). The Rath family emigrated from Germany; and, according to Johann Peter Rath's Declaration of Intent to become a naturalized United States citizen (dated 23 October 1874), they landed at Indianola, Texas, on 2 June 1852. Johann Peter Rath was granted citizenship in DeWitt County on 3 February 1880. He died on 10 April 1899 in DeWitt County and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 10 October 1867, in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Johann Peter Rath married (Johanna) Hulda Charlotte Thieme, daughter of a farmer, Johann Christoph Thieme (b. 4 April 1811 Teichroda, Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Germany; d. 12 April 1890 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 4 September 1834 Teichroda) and Elisabeth Margarethe (Johanna) Thieme, nee Langhammer (b. 27 January 1805 Teichweiden, Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt; d. 8 April 1888 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Hulda Charlotte Rath, nee Thieme, was born in Arneckeville on 6 October 1849. She was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville in 1862. She died in Arneckeville on 14 April 1931 of bronchial asthma, palpitations of the heart, and heart failure and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Eight children were born to Johann Peter Rath and Hulda Charlotte Rath: Friedrich "Fred" Henry Rath (b. 5 December 1868 Meyersville; d. 23 September 1947 DeWitt County; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County; m. #1: 8 March 1891 Arneckeville to Pauline Nagel; m. #2: 13 October 1896 Arneckeville to Annie Bade); Johanna Rath, twin, baptized Maria Augusta Johanna (b. 24 January 1871 Meyersville; d. 24 March 1955 Cuero; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 19 November 1891 Arneckeville, DeWitt County to William Frederick Boehl); Katharine Rath, twin (b. 24 January 1871 Meyersville; d. 20 May 1906 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 23 October 1890 Arneckeville to Edward Koenig); Mary Rath (b. 6 December 1872 Meyersville; d. 28 November 1951 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 30 December 1896 Arneckeville to Albert Koenig); Albert Rath, baptized Johann Albert (b. 12 January 1875 Arneckeville; d. 19 June 1951 Cuero; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. Bertha Koenig); Emma Rath, baptized Martha Sophie Emma (b. 28 September 1881 Arneckeville; d. 18 May 1969 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Annie Rath,

baptized Anna Friedricke Pauline (b. 30 November 1888 Arneckeville; d. 11 June 1927 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 26 October 1910 to Alfred Koenig); John Rath, baptized Johann Friedrich Ferdinand (b. 10 March 1895 Arneckeville; d. 30 August 1954 Arneckeville; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero; m. Elnora "Allie" Semmler).

Johann Peter Rath was an active Lutheran. He was confirmed in that faith at St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville in 1862. Oral history has informed us that the Rath family lived in Meyersville from the time of their immigration until 1873, at which time they moved to Arneckeville. While it cannot be determined exactly when the Rath family joined Zion Lutheran Church at Arneckeville, records do indicate that Johann Peter Rath was a member prior to 1875. He was elected trustee on 28 December 1879, and he was elected delegate to the Third District Conference at Yorktown, DeWitt County, on 14 August 1875. At the congregational meeting of 25 December 1893 he was elected treasurer, but the Chronicles reflect that he would not accept this position at that time.

It has been said that history is the recorded pilgrimage of the soul of man, as expressed by his words and deeds. The story of Johann Peter Rath revealed such a pilgrimage, across the deep and tumultuous waves of the Atlantic Ocean and into the unsettled, maiden lands of Texas, where he forged a new life by wresting a living from the soil while raising his family and serving his God.

by Beverly Boehl

RATHBONE, DR. W. R.

F740

According to the illustrated edition of the *Cuero Star* from October of 1895, Dr. Rathbone came to Cuero in 1877. He had chosen dentistry as his profession. He came to Cuero from college and his successful career in this city had fully demonstrated his natural affinity and careful preparation for his profession. He excelled in crown work and bridge work.

Dr. W.R. Rathbone 1895.

Dr. Rathbone was also, president of the district board of dental examiners, to which position he was elected in 1890 and re-elected in 1893. He was secretary and manager of the Cuero Telephone Company and had other interests in the city.

Dr. William R. Rathbone was born September 12, 1867 in Tennessee. In 1891 he married Miss Jessie Wofford of this city. She is the daughter of Mr. John T. Wofford. Jessie was born September 27, 1866 and died September 15, 1956. By 1895 they had two children.

Dr. Rathbone died November 29, 1905 and is buried with his wife in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Patsy Goebel

RAU FAMILY

F741

Henry Rau, age 19, and Carl Rau, age 16, brothers, left Prussia and during the 4th quarter of 1868, they sailed into Galveston, Texas. They are listed as bricklayers on the ship's immigration records. Their parents were Carl and Wilhelmine (Appelt) Rau. Wilhelmine is also known as "Minnie". Carl and Wilhelmine also came to Texas in 1869 with their younger son Gustan Rau, age 5.

Henry (Heinrich) Rau was born in Prussia in January 3, 1849, and died in Westoff, Texas on December 1, 1916, and is buried at Lindenau, Texas. Henry married Marie (Gegne Heider) Rau who was born in Germany on November 25, 1858, and died on February 22, 1930. She is also buried in Lindenau, Texas. Marie Rau's parents were Fritz and Friedericka Heider (Heida) who were both in Germany. Friedericka was born on January 4, 1827, and died of a broken neck from an accident on January 16, 1920, in DeWitt County, Texas. Henry and Marie Rau were engaged in farming in the Westoff area. Their large home still remains standing in the edge of Westoff on Highway 87. By 1890 Henry Rau had purchased 305 acres in DeWitt County, on Deer Creek. Henry and Marie Rau had seven children who were born in the Westoff area. Charlie, Emma (Thielengerdes), Metta (Goehring), Minnie (Hildebrandt), Walter, Otto, and Hugo.

Walter Rau was born on October 10, 1882. He was a farmer in the Westoff area. He died on December 11, 1916, from neck injuries received in an automobile accident. He left a minor son named Alfred Rau. Walter Rau's brother, Hugo Rau, acted as guardian of Alfred for a time, and helped pay off the mortgage on Walter's farm for Alfred.

Otto Rau married Mary Metting, and had two children, Oscar and Arnold Rau. Oscar married Lillie (Kelch) of Cuero, and they had six children, Alton, Franklin, Ora Marie, Elva, Joy and Margie. Arnold Rau married Roberta (Boldt) of Cuero, Texas and they had one son named Harvey.

Hugo Fritz Rau was born on January 31, 1880 in DeWitt County, and passed away in Alice, Texas, in 1955. Hugo Rau was married on November 20, 1904 to Ida (Metting). Ida Rau was born July 25, 1882, at the home of her parents in Yorktown, Texas. Ida was one of ten children born to Gottfried and Marie (Enke) Metting, who were Yorktown pioneers. (Otto and Hugo Rau married sisters, Mary and Ida Metting). Hugo and Ida lived in the Westoff area for many years where they farmed and owned a saloon. (See Business History). They had two daughters, Elsie and Erna. Ida (Metting) Rau passed away on November 27, 1969 in Alice, Texas.

Elsie Rau married Albert Esch in Alice, Texas and had a daughter named Dora Mae. After Albert passed away, Elsie married Howard Goode of Alice, Texas, who also had a daughter named Janet Goode. Elsie (Rau) Goode was born in 1906 in Lindenau and presently resides in Alice, Texas. Dora Mae (Esch) Ewers married Otto Ewers and presently lives in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dora and Otto have three children, Michael (age 22), Brenda (19) and Kevin (9).

Erna Rau was born in Lindenau, Texas on Oct. 4, 1907 and on Nov. 12, 1941 was married to Max William Turk from Cuero. She died on Feb. 24, 1976 (age 68) in Fredericksburg, Texas. Max Turk presently resides in Boerne, Texas and 89 years old. They had three children, twin daughters, Annie Marie and Ida Lee and a son, Hugo Allen Turk.

Ida Lee presently lives in Boerne, Texas and is married to Don Busby. They have two children, Jeffrey (age 26) and Dawn Rene' (age 18). Jeff is married to Cheryl (Kohler) and has a son, David (age 4).

Allen Turk presently lives in Calallen, Texas and is married to Carol (Rackley). They have three children, Casey, Sara, and Johanna.

Annie Marie married Malcom L. Johnson and presently live two miles South of Fredericksburg, Texas on their farm. Their son Christopher (age 25) was born in Colorado Springs, Colo. and their daughter, Katherine, (age 17) was born and raised in Fredericksburg. Malcom presently operates a gift shop in Kerrville and Ann has a bookkeeping and tax service in the First Nat'l Bank of Kerrville, Texas.

by Annie Marie Turk Johnson

REESE FAMILY

F742

L.R. Reese is the ancestor of the DeWitt County Reeses. He was born in Tennessee in 1841 and came to Texas after the Civil War. He migrated from Tenn. to Mississippi, Arkansas, the Smithville-LaGrange area and finally to Clinton where he owned land in the R.H. Chishom Survey and was engaged in farming in the 1900-1908 years.

Mr. Reese was married twice and had children by each wife. He died in 1908 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

The present day Cuero Reese ancestor was Clarence Randolph Reese, Sr. who married Florence Mae Moses, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Moses who were originally from Georgia. They were married in Cuero on July 4, 1906 and are the parents of:

1. Estelle Lee who married Homer Davis. Their children are: Homer, Jr., James Randolph and Billie Mae who married Ralph Billings.

2. Lola Mae married August Dolesji, no children.

3. Clarence Randolph, Jr. who married Alta Johnson. They are the parents of Raymond Randolph who married Kay Holloway. Their children are Rebecca and Raymond Holloway Reese. Jordan Elizabeth is the daughter of

Helen and Raymond (Ray) Reese.

4. Floyd M. Reese married Catherine Senf. Their children are: Jeffrey Lynn who married Linda Chandler and their children are Christi and Kimberley. They reside in Texas City. Kenneth married Barbara Gray and they are the parents of one son, Curtis Craig (C.C.). Gary married Linda Greshim and they are the parents of Amanda and Misty.

5. Drew married Gertrude Stubbs and their children are Deborah who married Arthur Neale Potts, Jr. They have two children, Lynsey Reese and Luke Neale. Mary Jocelyn married Mark Organek of New Jersey.

6. Kenneth (Speck) married Willie Belle Mackrell (deceased) and their son is Ken of Nova Scotia.

7. Sarah Frances married Cid Rork and they are the parents of: Sydney, Valerie, Mark and Sally. After Rork's death Sarah married Ray Harnden.

by Gertrude Reese

Bud Wyatt and Lena (Reese) Wyatt ca. 1880

George M. Reese

REESE, GEORGE MONROE, JR. AND LUCY H.

F743

Mary Jane (Reese) Cox Morrison and Rachel Victoria Reese

George Monroe Reese, Jr., the first son of George Monroe Reese, Sr. and his wife, was born in Tennessee in 1811. The Reese family is thought to have been in Mississippi by 1837, when George Jr. married Lucy H. (born 1816, in Georgia). Their first child, Mary Jane Victoria, was born 9 February, 1838, probably in Natchez, Mississippi, as both George Sr. and George Jr. prepared to move their families to the newly independent Republic of Texas. General Land Office records indicate that they arrived in Texas by 24 October, 1838. The next child, Lucy C., was born in Polk County, Texas in 1843, followed by Thomas J.C. in 1844, George Monroe in 1845, Mary J. Nancy in 1848, Rachael Victoria in 1850, John J. in May, 1860 and, finally, Lena in 1863.

On 1 August, 1839, George received a 640 acre land grant in Liberty County, Texas. When the first Texas Legislature created Polk County from Liberty County in March, 1845, George served as County Collector. Both George Sr. and George Jr. appear on the Polk County Republic of Texas Poll lists for 1846. Later in October, 1846, George M. Reese (probably Jr.), received a land grant on Turkey Creek, Milam District, Williamson County, Texas. Only George Sr. appears on the 1850 Census for Polk County, Texas.

The 1850's found George and family at Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas, where George served as a special judge. Mary Jane Victoria Reese married John R. Cox in 1857 and Lucy Anne Elizabeth was born 8 September, 1858. John Cox died shortly thereafter.

By 1860, George had moved his family to Helena, in Karnes County, Texas, and it seems that Mr. John R. Cox had died by July, as he does not appear on the census with George. However, Mary J.V. and Lucy appear on the Karnes County census with the Reese family. After Cox's death, George M. became Lucy's guardian. He also served as Chief Justice for Karnes County, Texas until after the end of the Civil War. While the family still lived at Helena, Mary J.V. Cox married second husband,

Dr. Raymond R. Reese Family: Ray, Raymond, Rebecca and Kay (Holloway) Reese.

George Rhymes and her brother, Thomas J.C., married Elizabeth in 1868. On 11 June, 1869, at Helena, Mary J.V. married her third husband John Wingfield Morrison (son of John H., Sr. and Mary Overstreet Morrison). Lena Reese married John Wyatt "Bud" in Yorktown, Texas and had their wedding portrait taken in Yorktown, as well. Nancy Reese married Hugh McGuffin in 1864.

By the new decade of 1870, John Wingfield and his father, John H. Morrison, had built a mill on the Guadalupe River near Seguin, in Guadalupe County, Texas and moved there with their families and that of George and Lucy Reese. The Guadalupe County census in July 1870 indicates that Rachel (19), Lena (7), Hugh and Nancy Reese McGuffin and their three sons, Monroe (5), Thomas (3) and William (2 months), lived with George and Lucy Reese. Thomas J.C. Reese lived with his wife Elizabeth and Louisa (2) on one side of George and Lucy and John W. Morrison lived on the other side with his wife, Mary J.V., Lucy (12) and Clara (9).

Rachel V. (28) was still residing at home in Guadalupe County with her aging parents, George M. (69) and Lucy (65) in July 1880. John W. and Mary J.V. Morrison still lived on one side of George and Lucy with their growing family: Wellington Wingfield (8), Mattie V. (6), Mary L. (4), Stella F. (1) and John H. Morrison Sr. (82). Thomas and Elizabeth Reese's family had grown to include five children: Louisa (11), Caroline (10), George (8), Maggie (4) and Mary (1).

Sometime late in the year 1880, the Morrison mill blew up and they moved near San Antonio, where Lena Zenobia Morrison was born 21 February, 1881. It is thought that George M. and Lucy Reese went with them on their final move.

by Marianne Little

REESE, DR. RAYMOND R. FAMILY

F744

Raymond Randolph Reese was born November 19, 1934, to Clarence Randolph Reese and Alta Mae Johnson Reese. Raymond is a physician practicing as general practitioner in Cuero. He is also licensed as a registered pharmacist.

Cherie Kay Holloway Reese was born May 3, 1935, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to H.B. and Eva Docia Holloway. Her family moved to Cuero in 1944, when she was nine years old. Shortly after her moving to Cuero, a childhood romance between Raymond and Kay began. Kay's first Valentine from a boy was a card from Raymond while both were in the fourth grade, and they were sophomores in high school when they had their first date. They dated all through high school and college and were married on September 1, 1956. They then moved to Galveston for four years, while Raymond attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. While in Galveston, Kay taught school. Upon completing his internship at Scott and White in Temple, they returned to Cuero to practice medicine in 1962.

Dr. Reese has been very active in the Cuero community. He has served on the Cuero School Board for thirteen years and has also been a Director of Farmer's State Bank and Trust Co. He is also a trustee of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton and past president of the parent teacher's association in Cuero. He is also a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and past music director of the First Baptist Church in Cuero. Kay has also been very active in the First Baptist Church in Cuero as well as other charitable activities in the community.

Standing: Dr. Raymond R. Reese, Kay (Holloway) Reese, Ray Reese and Rebecca Reese. Seated: C.R. Reese, Alta (Johnson) Reese, Eva (Docia) Holloway and H.B. Holloway.

Kay and Raymond have two children, Rebecca Ann Reese and Raymond Holloway Reese. Rebecca Ann was born on August 6, 1958, in Cuero, and Raymond Holloway was born May 25, 1962, in Temple. Both children graduated from Cuero High School and received their diplomas from their father during his tenure on the Cuero School Board. Rebecca graduated from Baylor University with undergraduate degrees in voice and choral conducting. She received a Masters in Choral Conducting from West Texas State University and a Doctorate in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois. Raymond Holloway received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Baylor University and also a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the Baylor University School of Law. He is currently licensed as an attorney as well as a certified public accountant.

Raymond Holloway married Helen Elizabeth Pearson of Rockport, Texas, on May 26, 1984. Helen Elizabeth, a registered nurse, graduated from the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. Raymond Holloway and Helen, along with their daughter, Jordan Elizabeth returned to Cuero in 1989. Thus, five generations

L-R Dr. Raymond R. Reese, Alta Reese, Kay (Holloway) Reese, Helen (Pearson) Reese, Jordan Elizabeth Reese, Eva Holloway, Ray Reese and Rebecca Reese.

of Reeses have lived and raised their families in Cuero.

by Kay Reese

REICHERT, CHARLES AND MARY (KIELER)
F745

1918, 5 Generations. Back: Theodor Reichert, Mrs. Dora (Conrad) Kieler. Front: Elvira (Reichert) Janssen, Mrs. Mary (Charles) Reichert, and Wilton Janssen (infant).

The story of the Reicherts in America in our family seems to start with Carl Gottlieb Reichert. According to his Declaration of Intention to become a naturalized citizen, dated fall, 1859, he was a native of Jagerndorf, Prussia; he was 48 years of age. He emigrated from the Port of Bremen in Germany on or about the first day of November, 1854, and arrived at the Port of Galveston in the United States on or about the 1st day of January, 1855. This was sworn to and subscribed on the 28 Nov. 1859 in District Court in Fayette County, Texas. (Vol. G-1, page 420). One son, Adolph, seems to have come to America with Carl. One daughter, Auguste, came from Gommern in Germany on the "Adolphine" in 1859. Her name appears in *New Homes in a New Land* by Ethel H. Geue. Carl, 50, Auguste, 22, and Adolph, 18, are shown together in the 1860 Texas Census as living in Rutersville, Fayette County.

Carl was born 2 March 1808 to Daniel and Marie Elisabeth Gabel Reichert. The story passed down to us states that he served in an unsuccessful revolution and that a price was put on his head. He could not go home. He was hidden in a load of hay and crossed the border into another German province. At the time of his marriage he was a Master Brewer, working at Kregschau, near Gommern, in Magdeburg, Germany. He continued in this work in Gommern after his marriage. He married Catherine Sophie Schroeder 22 October 1837 in Barby (Elbe), Magdeburg, Germany. Her parents were Johann Valentin Gottlob and Wilhelmine Sophie Franke Schroeder. Her father was a shepherd for the King of Prussia near Barby, Germany. Her grandparents were Andreas Stephan and Anna Dorothea Kleberg Schroeder. Catherine Sophie Schroeder was born in Barby (Elbe), Germany 4 February 1816. She died in La Grange, Fayette County, Texas 26 May 1888. Carl and Sophie Schroeder Reichert lived in Gommern and here their ten children were born. Two sons died in Germany. The surviving children all came to Texas. Their children were: Auguste (6 Aug. 1838-1876) married Henry Ruland; Charles (2 March 1840-29 Oct. 1915) married Mary Dorothea Kieler; Adolph (9 Sept. 1841-13 June 1909) married Anna Friemal; Rudolph (30 April 1843-?) married Clara Emma Huettel; Minna (7 June 1846-7 Aug. 1930) married August Gerstenberger and then John Koehn; Emma (21 Jan. 1848-31 Aug. 1928) married Edward Gerstenberger; Ida Louise (23 July 1849-20 June 1920) married Henry Harigel; Frank (1 April 1853-22 May 1934) married Bianca Willenberg and then Elenora Forsberg.

The story about Carl Reichert continues, stating that he left for South or Central America, probably Honduras, around 1860 to raise coffee. He was never heard from again. However, his wife and children all came to America. Charles came to Texas in 1856, Rudolph, in 1876. Sophie Reichert, Minna, Emma, Ida Louise, and Frank came to Galveston on 30 Sept. 1866 on the "Fortuna."

The oldest son, Charles Friedrich, served in the 5th U.S. Cavalry in the Civil War, from 8 October 1860 to 3 October 1865 when he was honorably discharged. He married Mary Dorothea Kieler at Miller's Creek, near Weimar, Texas 29 May 1871. She was born 18 July 1853 near Fayetteville, Fayette County, to Conrad and Mary Dorothea Kohleffel Kieler. She died in Nordheim 22 April 1939. Her mother was born in Germany to Carl Friedrich and Sophie Kohleffel. They came to Texas in 1852. She died in Nordheim 3 September 1920. Her father, Conrad Kieler, came to Texas from Varel, Oldenburg, in 1847. He was born there 13 Oct. 1818 to Hinrich Diedrich and Metje Margarthe Kieler. He died in the Weimar area 30 August 1888. Charles and Mary Kieler Reichert had the following children: Theodor, John, Charles (died young), Anna, Ottilie (died young), Gottlieb, Martha, and Conrad. See separate story for Theodor and Anna Koehn Reichert.

Mary Kieler Reichert came to Nordheim to live around 1914. Her mother, a brother, Carl Kieler, and two sisters, Augusta Kieler Helmers and Emilie Kieler Helmers, also lived in the Nordheim area. Children of another sister, Caroline Kieler Buelter Thormahlen, lived in the Yorktown area. Also, Mrs. Reichert's son, Theodor, lived in Nordheim and later her son, John, also lived there. Many of the descendants of these people — Reicherts, Helmers, Buelters, and Thormahlens — live in DeWitt County today.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

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REICHERT, THEODOR AND ANNA (KOEHN)
F746

Theodor and Anna Koehn Reichert and their family came to Nordheim in 1910. He was the oldest child of Charles and Mary Kieler Reichert. (See separate story.) He was born 3 March 1872 near Weimar, Texas. He married Anna Koehn, daughter of Friedrich Christian (F.C.) and Dorothea Maves Koehn 17 October 1893. F.C. and Dorothea Koehn came to Texas from Germany in 1883 and settled in the Weimar area. Two of their daughters lived in Nordheim — Anna, who married Theodor Reichert and Alma, who married Joseph F. Blaschke. Their third daughter, Louise, married Willie Teltschik and lived in the Weimar area. Five sons were born to them in Germany and died before they came to America. Also, Mr. Koehn's sister, Sophie (Mrs. Wilhelm) Pevestorff, lived in Nordheim. Anna Koehn was born in Hamburg, Germany 15 November 1871 and died in Nordheim 4 November 1952. Theodor Reichert died 23 April 1956. They are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Theodor Reichert farmed near Weimar for a time and then taught school in Witting and Old Kinkler in Lavaca County for about ten years. In 1910 he and his family moved to Nordheim. Household goods and cattle came by railway with their oldest daughter; the family came by wagon. Mr. Reichert operated his own gin for several years, and then he operated the Farmers Co-Operative Gin. He served as Postmaster of Nordheim from 1914 to 1937, when he retired. He served as Sunday School superintendent of St. Paul Lutheran Church for 18 years. Mr. Reichert continued his farming interests after his retirement. According to his obituary, he was affectionately known as "The Sage of Nordheim." The title was given him by the *San Antonio Express* for the many interests he had through his life and his widespread knowledge of politics, horticulture and other subjects. He was known as a man of many hobbies, including genealogy and photography. He also wrote many articles on politics and early days in Texas.

Theodor and Anna Koehn Reichert had eight children. Two sons and one daughter died in infancy. Their five daughters attended Nordheim schools and grew up in the community.

1) Elvia Alma Marie Reichert was born 27 May 1894 near Weimar. She died in the Cuero Community Hospital 27 July 1978. On 6 October 1916 she married Willie H. Janssen in Cuero. He was the son of Diedrich and Johanna Lauw Janssen and was born in Gruenau, DeWitt County, Texas 4 May 1895. He died 20 June 1968 in Cuero. The couple lived in Nordheim and had two children, Wilton Theodor and Elvera "Sis." (See separate story.)

2) Dora Henrietta Reichert was born 7 March 1897 near Weimar. She died in Pearland, Texas 23 May 1983. She married Robert I. Thompson 18 Feb. 1926. They served as missionaries in South Africa for many years. Robert I. Thompson was born 17 June 1898 in Glasgow, Scotland. He grew up in South Africa. After returning to Texas, they lived in Nordheim, South San Antonio, and then settled in South Houston. They had three children — Robert, Ruth, and Alfred James.

3) Lillie Anna Reichert was born 6 July 1903 in Witting, Texas. She first married Fred

The Theodor Reichert Family. Back: Elvia, Dora, Lillie, Gertrude. Front: Theodor, Anet, Anna.

Sonneborn, son of William and Dora Heine Sonneborn of Nordheim, 30 November 1922. They had one daughter, Doris Ann. Fred Sonneborn died 15 February 1924. Lillie then married George Wendel 14 October 1928. He was born to Edward and Mathilda Schiwetz Wendel in Meyersville, Texas 28 October 1904. He died in Houston 23 January 1986. They had four sons — George David, Edward Theodor (died young), Thomas Eugene, and James Franklin.

4) Gertrude Augusta Emma Reichert was born 16 November 1909 in Old Kinkler, Lavaca County, Texas. She married Gottlieb Els of the Melrose Community 18 September 1936. They live in Houston where she taught school for many years. They have three children — Stanley Nathan, Priscilla Joyce and Ray Allen.

5) Anet Emma Reichert was born in Nordheim 5 March 1914 and died in San Antonio 29 February 1988. She married H.J. Engel of San Marcos 29 November 1934. He died 17 May 1967. They first lived in Nordheim but settled in San Antonio. They had one son, Verne Dale, born 14 April 1945.

by Mrs. Ray Gips

Emil Reiffert

REIFFERT, EMIL

F747

Emil Reiffert was the first of the family to come to Texas from Germany as a young boy of fifteen years. He was born at Hersfeld, Hesse, Germany Jan. 27, 1839 and died Jan. 10, 1910. He landed from an immigrant boat in Galveston and was befriended by Henry Runge and grew up under his tutelage. Emil was active in Mr. Runge's business in Indianola. He was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War and served under Capt. Joseph Reuss' company. After the war he came back to the Runge establishment. Mr. Runge sold his interests to his young partners, Emil Reiffert and William Frobese. In 1874 they took in Edward Mugge and established the Cuero branch of H.R. Runge & Company at the time of founding of the town. Mr. Reiffert looked after their interests in Indianola through and after the great storm of 1875 until 1886 when the firms interests were concentrated in Cuero. He was President of H.R. Runge & Company, known as the first real bank in Texas and was active in cotton manufacturing, ranching and the building of the towns of Runge and Nordheim. He was an important factor in affecting the construction of the San Antonio & Arkansas Pass Railroad Company in Cuero.

The Reiffert home in Indianola was built in 1868, anchored to seven foot pillars and during the 1886 hurricane housed 100 refugees upstairs. With windows and doors open, the house withstood the second hurricane. In 1886 it was dismantled, its plants numbered, and moved to Cuero. It was rebuilt in 1887. It had a front storm door, a hand-carved staircase and parquet floor. It is located at the corner of Prairie and Indianola Streets.

Emil Reiffert was married at New Braunfels, Feb. 20, 1869 to Helena Tips who died Sept. 22, 1930. Their children were Emil Reiffert, Jr. born Nov. 19, 1869 and died April 18, 1940; Walter born Jan. 17, 1874, died Dec. 18 1941; Meta (Mrs. Dr. J.H. Reuss of Cuero) Alma (Mrs. W.A. Blackwell, Jr.) and Hilda (Mrs. Fred Mugge.)

Emil Reiffert, Sr. was an outstanding citizen in the development of Cuero.

by Walter Reiffert

REIFFERT, JAMES M.

F748

James Marion Reiffert

This is the story and history of Jimmie Reiffert, as that is what everyone knows me by. I was born in Cuero, Texas on June 18, 1914 at 5 a.m. My parents were Walter and Anna Reiffert. I am the youngest of the four Walter Reiffert children. My life in Cuero has been a good one. From my childhood days I can remember going to Grossmama Reiffert's home for Christmas. She would give her grandchildren each ten silver dollars in a little box. There were all kinds of good things to eat and plenty of wine for the grownups. My dad and I would go see Grossmama Reiffert every Sunday morning. We also had a summer home at Magnolia Beach where we would spend a whole month and where I would fish, swim, and play in the sand. It was nothing to catch twenty trout in a day and my dad liked to have company. His friends from Cuero would come to fish. He always had a saying, FHB (family hold back) or MIK (more in the kitchen). This was at meal time, of course, and the family knew what it meant.

I married Kathryn Casal in Cuero, on Oct. 15, 1938 and we were blessed with two children: 1. James Marion Reiffert, Jr., born Jan. 30, 1944. Jim lives in San Antonio with his wife Evelyn Joyce Reiffert. They married in San Antonio on July 19, 1980. They have two children: Kathryn Lea Reiffert born May 23, 1984 and Robert James Reiffert born January 8, 1988. 2. My daughter, Ann Lynn Reiffert Fenner who lives in Houston, Texas with her husband Eddie Fenner. They were married in

Cuero on April 1, 1972. Ann Lynn was born in Cuero on January 4, 1950. Ann and Eddie do not have any children. My wife, Kathryn Reiffert died in Victoria, Texas on April 15, 1974. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero and served as president of the Women of the Church one year.

Other things that have happened in my life: I served in World War II for four years in the Air Corp. After the service I went into business with Ashton Hesse operating an Humble Service Station. Later, I went into business for myself operating a Phillips 66 Service Station for seventeen years until the Company closed it in 1974. Since then I have been employed by Freund Funeral Home on a part time basis. I am a member of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and at one time was the Vice-President. I served on the Cuero City Council for eight years, also was a board member of the old Cuero Hospital Foundation for eleven years. I have served on the Vestry of the Grace Episcopal Church of which I am a member and also worked with the American Cancer Society, (Memorial Chairman). I am currently the treasurer of the DeWitt County Republican Party and serve on the Board of Directors of the DeWitt County Historical Museum. I enjoy working with and for people. My hobby is traveling and I have traveled in Europe extensively as well as in the United States. I also enjoy working in my own yard and don't mind keeping house, as I live alone. As I have said previously, I enjoy living in Cuero and it has been mighty good to me.

by James Marion Reiffert

REIFFERT, WALTER FAMILY

F749

Ralph Frank Reiffert was born in Cuero, Texas on July 11, 1908 at 11:30 P.M. His parents were Walter and Anna Reiffert. He attended Cuero schools, Shriner Institute and Texas A&M University. Ralph worked at H. Runge & Co. Bank until it closed its doors in 1932 and then went to work at Breeden & Runge Wholesale Grocery. He married Eunice Murphree in Cuero, Texas on July 17, 1935. They had one daughter, Sandra Lynn Reiffert who was born on July 26, 1939. Sandra married Leonard Germer on November 29, 1959 in Cuero, Texas. They later divorced. Sandra and Leonard had one daughter, Tracy Lynn Germer, born September 1, 1960. Sandra later married Jefferson Smythe on March 22, 1961. Sandra and Jeff had two daughters, Cendi Louise Smythe born June 4, 1962 and Samantha Rene Smythe born October 6, 1966. Sandra and her daughters all reside in San Antonio, Texas.

Walter Reiffert, Ralph Reiffert, Mildred Reiffert

Both Ralph and Eunice were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero where Ralph served as Church Treasurer for over twenty years as well as holding the offices of Deacon and Elder. Ralph worked at the Farmers State Bank and Trust Company for a number of years until he retired in 1973. Eunice died in Cuero, Texas on August 10, 1983 and Ralph followed her in death only eight months later on April 13, 1984.

by Ralph Frank Reiffert

REIFFERT, WALTER FAMILY

F750

Mildred Reiffert McClanahan was born in Cuero, Texas on October 14, 1903 at 11:30 P.M. in Cuero. Her parents were Walter and Anna Mugge Reiffert. She attended all Cuero Schools and also Ward Belmont College in Kentucky. She married Edwin D. McClanahan in Cuero, Texas on May 9, 1930. Two sons were born to this union. Edwin D. McClanahan Jr. was born in Cuero, Texas on March 31, 1931 and he lives with his wife Joyce in Richland, Washington. They have three children: Kathleen Louise, Tina Marie and Walter D. McClanahan. The other son of Ed and Mildred is Walter Reiffert McClanahan born in Cuero, Texas on April 13, 1932 and he lives with his wife Joan in Dallas, Texas. They have one daughter Carol. Mildred died in Houston, Texas on June 3, 1945 and Edwin died in San Antonio, Texas on March 1, 1980. They were both members of the Grace Episcopal Church while living in Cuero, Tex.

by Mildred Reiffert McClanahan

REIFFERT, WALTER, JR.

F751

One of the grandsons of the pioneer family of Emil and Helena Reiffert in Cuero was Walter Reiffert, Jr. Mr. Emil Reiffert was associated with H.R. Runge Company, a prominent business firm in Indianola. Due to the destructive hurricane in Indianola, the family moved to Cuero, transporting their home to the corner of Prairie and Indianola streets. Walter was born Jan. 2, 1902, the son of Walter Reiffert, Sr. and

Walter Reiffert, Jr. and Hilda Reiffert Mugge

Anna Mugge, daughter of Edward and Pauline Mugge. He had one sister Mildred who died in 1945 and one brother Ralph who died in 1984 and another brother James Marion (Jimmie) still living in Cuero. As a child in 1912, he presented a key of the City of Cuero to Texas Governor O.B. Colquit at the time of the first Turkey-Trot parade, dressed in an Uncle Sam suit. As children the family spent much of their time at their beach home at Magnolia Beach until it was destroyed in 1919. He remembers traveling in 1911 in a covered wagon and hack with his family, Uncle Henry Reiffert and Buck Schiwetz, his cousin. They drove to Kerrville sleeping and eating outdoors for good health advantages in hot August.

Walter went to A&M College in 1920 but because of contracting tuberculosis, left school and spent several years in sanitoriums in San Antonio and Kerrville. With a complete return of his health, he lived in Douglas, Arizona for a few years working for the Phelps – Dodge Mining and Smelting Company and then he returned to Kerrville and was in partnership in the dry cleaning and pressing business. Later he owned and operated a hardware and gift store in Kerrville. While living there, Walter became very active in civic, school and church affairs. He also visited his family in Cuero and especially enjoyed having a glass of wine with his Aunt Hilda Mugge in her parlor at the Reiffert home on Indianola Street. Walter was married to Nancy Autry who died in 1973 and later married Dorothy Ford July 6, 1974. After living in Kerrville for over fifty years and retiring in 1966, he moved back to Cuero in 1980 and became active in the Rotary Club. He received the first Paul Harris Fellow and was President 1983-1984. He is also active in Grace Episcopal Church, was on the Vestry and was Junior Warden. He is in the ranching business. His hobbies are fishing and hunting and he has several trophies.

by Walter Reiffert, Jr.

Julius Lobenstein

FIRST CLASS ROOFING AND GUTTERING

and his Galvanized Iron Cornice is one of the beauties of recent building in Cuero. If you want a fine cistern or tin repairs of any kind see him.

REIFFERT, WALTER, SR.

F752

Walter Reiffert, Sr. Mildred Reiffert, Walter Reiffert, Jr. and Anna (Mugge) Reiffert.

Walter Reiffert, Sr.

Walter Reiffert, Sr., son of Emil Reiffert and Helena Tips Reiffert, was born in old Indianola, Texas Jan. 17, 1874 and died Dec. 18, 1941. At age of eleven he was sent abroad to Germany spending five years in Real Gymnasium at Darmstadt. On his return to Texas, he attended State University and also completed a commercial course in St. Edwards College in Austin. In Cuero he was president of the bank and various H. Runge Company interests such as ranching and mercantile businesses; president of three townsite companies; director of oil and cotton mills, State Bank of Runge, Breeden Runge Wholesale Grocery Company of Cuero, Cuero Creamery, Chairman of Drainage Board of DeWitt District and active in and charter member of Rotary Club, on City Council and Mayor-protem.

At Cuero on Febr. 20, 1901 Walter married Anna Mugge, daughter of Edward Mugge, his old business partner, and Pauline Blumenthal Mugge. She was born Aug. 9, 1875 and died Dec. 24, 1933 and was active in Hawthorne Club. Their children were Walter, Jr., Mildred who died in 1945 and Ralph who died in 1984 and James Marion (Jimmie). Both Walter and Jimmie are living in Cuero. Walter, Sr. later married Avis Crozier Foster.

Walter Reiffert, Sr. was very influential in establishing and maintaining various interests in Cuero.

by Walter Reiffert

REINECKE, CHRISTIAN AND MARY THURMANN

F753

Marie (Mary) Thurmann was born June 23, 1851 in the Province of Bradenburg, Germany. She was baptized and confirmed in the evangelical Lutheran faith. Her father died when she was ten months old and her mother when she was seven years old.

In 1869, Mary and her brother came to America. They disembarked in Galveston and made their way to Brenham, later moving to Schulenberg.

In 1872, Mary was given in marriage to Christian Reinecke (born August 20, 1852). They moved to a farm in Mission Valley near Victoria in 1882. This was located about two miles up the Guadalupe River from where they would later spend their remaining days.

In 1877 they bought the property in Mission Valley which was to become their homestead. A rock and cement house, already located on the property, became their home and is believed to have been built by slave labor. Fragments of walls and foundation still remain on the property today marking the site.

Albert Fred Reinecke and his mother Mary Thurmann Reinecke

More than once, dark clouds of sickness and death were to visit the family. Of the twelve children that were to be born, three were to die as infants. Of the firstborn, Alvina and Emma, twins, only Alvina was to survive. The other named infant which died was Wilhelm Lorena. The surviving children were the following: Alvina (Gebhardt), 1874-1943; Otto Adolph, 1876-1929, Anna (Lassmann), 1878-1950, Pauline (Metze), 1881-1936; William Lawrence, 1883-1970; Adeline Wilhelmina Marie (Addicks), 1886-1956; Augusta Hulda (Dentler), 1888-1977 and Albert Friedrick, 1893-1982.

Tragedy struck this family once more on August 4, 1897 when Christian was killed by a stroke of lightening while on his way home from Cuero. He was in the company of his son-in-law, Earnest Gephardt, when they took cover under a large oak tree from a sudden thunderstorm near Captain Lloyds place. He died within minutes. Mary died January 15, 1936.

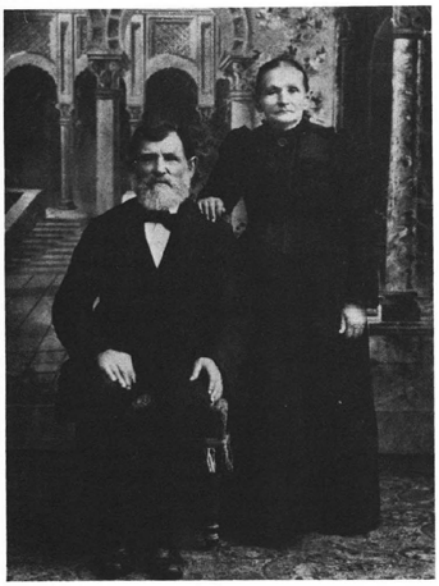
Our story now turns to the youngest of the Reinecke children, Albert Fred. Being the youngest, he remained in the family home to take care of his mother. He married Elsie Regina Angerstein on November 25, 1914 in Germantown (now Schroeder) Lutheran Church. Elsie was the daughter of Caroline and Albert C. Angerstein. They spent all their married life on the same farm raising cotton, corn, maize and cattle. Albert was a charter member of the Lutheran Church in Mission Valley and at the time of his death was the last charter member as well as the oldest member of the congregation. Elsie and Albert were blessed with four children: Ida Mary, Helen Selma, Elmer Christian and Albert William. Ida and Helen would marry brothers from the Green DeWitt Community. Ida was to marry Walter Richard Wolf on October 8, 1940. Helen would marry Armin Albert Wolf on April 10, 1940. Elmer Christian married Gladys Ester Johnson of Victoria on November 29, 1953. Albert remains on the family farm, the place of his birth. Ida preceded her parents in death on July 25, 1964.

by Mrs. Armin Wolf

HODGES DRY GOODS CO.

REINHARDT, LOUIS J. FAMILY

F754



Louis J. Reinhardt and Johana Dorodea (Thieme)

Louis J. Reinhardt arrived in America July 17, 1847, landing in Galveston. He sailed on the ship St. Pauli from Hamburg, Germany and was the youngest, age seventeen, of all the men in the company. He was to botanize in Texas. They were met by 24 ox-wagons and purchased supplies before starting their journey across Texas. In Indianola they were paid $10,000 in American gold for settling Fisher's grant near Fredericksburg. It was a real adventure for young Reinhardt. It took them four weeks to reach New Braunfels where he and one man fell sick with typhoid fever, another man broke his leg, so the company waited for them to recover. They continued their journey, staying several days in Fredericksburg before arriving at their tract of land on the LLano River. They built a structure 40' long by 22' wide and organized a communistic society that fell to pieces in less than a year. Louis J. headed south and settled in DeWitt Co. where he bought land in the Meyersville area. His home still stands in the Five Mile Community.

Louis J. was born in Hesson-Darmstadt, Germany on May 8, 1830 to Anna Margaretha Armheim and Karl Heinrich Reinhardt. He was given the name, George Ludwig and his twin was named, Karl Wilhelm. They were baptized on May 30, 1830 in an Evangelical Congregation. Louis J.'s father died in Germany; and in 1848 his mother and siblings, Jacob age 27, Henrietta age 20, and Marie age nine, sailed for America on the ship Louis. Another sister, Eva, was on the same ship with her husband, William Schorlemer and children: Carl age three, and Anna ten months. They all settled in DeWitt County.

Louis J. was married to Johanna Dorodea Thieme February 17, 1853 in Meyersville, by Rev. Sager of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her father had given an acre of land in 1850 to build this church. Johanna was born June 19, 1836 in Germany and came to America when she was ten years old, with her parents, E.M. Johanna Langhammer (b. April 27, 1805, d. April 3, 1888) and Johan Christoph Thieme (b. April 4, 1811, d. April 12, 1890). He was granted U.S. citizenship in 1854. They are buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Louis J. became a naturalized citizen November 9, 1853. He and Johanna had nineteen children including triplets. Their children follow: Johana Louise b. January 23, 1854, d. April 21, 1943, m. John Olfers January 31, 1875; George Louis b. April 6, 1857, d. March 24, 1868; Johana Emma b. April 30, 1858, d. July 22, 1925, m. Fred R. Gerhold December 24, 1876; Dorodea Lissette b. November 29, 1859, d. 1933, m. Valentin Haberkorn August 19, 1876; Anna Margareta b. February 11, 1861, d. 1938, m. A. Haun; Hulda Anna b. October 31, 1862 (plus two babies died at birth), d. June 21, 1934; Theo George b. August 21, 1865, d. February 10, 1947, m. Fredericka Diebel December 11, 1888; Friedrike Willhelm b. November 19, 1866, d. August 7, 1879; Henrietta Johannes b. April 8, 1868, d. April 1, 1903, m. W.F. Bade May 10, 1888; T. Louis (Louis J. Jr.) b. December 28, 1869, d. February 19, 1966, m. Annie Holsinger December 10, 1895; Lydia Lina b. April 1, 1871, d. December 18, 1956 m. Harman Koym, Hulda Emilie b. September 30, 1872, d. November 19, 1893, m. Louie Thieme; Albert b. February 22, 1874, d. February 24, 1874; Amalie b. September 1, 1875, d. March 28, 1945, m. Frank Schedler; V.F. Carls b. July 3, 1877 d. 1937, m. Annie Mummie January 17, 1900; Josephine b. January 30, 1879, d. July 21, 1889; Heinrich C. b. September 15, 1882, d. 1968, m. Helen Rabke October 11, 1903.

Louis J.'s name appeared on the militia roll of Captain Robert Kleberg's company of Coletto Guards June, 1861, during the Civil War. He was mostly a farmer, but also a German Methodist preacher. He preached at a little church in Cuero, on the corner of Morgan Avenue and Stockdale. His wife, Johanna, died September 17, 1909 and a year and a half later on January 2, 1911, he died. They are buried in a family cemetery on their land in the Five Mile Community along with seven of their children.

by Mrs. Robert D. Adams

REMMERS, HENRY E. AND HEDWIG L. V. (OTTO)

F755

Henry Remmers and M.G. Mueller operate platform trap door to drop caliche into dump truck below. Caliche was collected in fresnos drawn by mule teams, and moved over trap door.

Henry Remmers gives horses and mules a break under giant oaks near Cuero during move from Shiner to Nordheim.

Henry Ernst Remmers and his wife, Hedwig Louise Valeska (Otto), both children of German immigrants, purchased approximately 100 acres of land from the Osmar Neubert family, southwest of Nordheim and moved there from Shiner in January 1923. The move was to have been made in the fall of 1922 but heavy rains and poor roads made it impossible at that time. They followed his older brother Willie & family, and sister Emma (Mrs. Herman) Dahse who had also moved to Nordheim to live on land purchased earlier by their father Friedrich. Uncles August Remmers and Henry Remmers, Jr., as well as an aunt, Adelina (Mrs. Meinert G.) Mueller were also living at Nordheim. Cattle, and the mules and horses were moved prior to moving the family and the home furnishings. Fortunately, two Model T trucks were made available to Henry and Hedwig (better known as Hattye), for moving day, January 7th, which was also Hattye's birthday. The two sisters-in-law were on hand to help, and Hattye tried to convince them that house and furnishings did not have to be in perfect order the first day. But early in the evening, when neighbors began to arrive with surprise party food, to celebrate her birthday and welcome them, Hattye understood the need for hurrying all day. The tradition of birthday parties, and bunco and 42 parties, continued throughout the years. Farming was the chief endeavor. Cotton was the primary cash crop, but corn, hay and other grain products were raised to feed chickens and hogs, as well the cattle. Also each year, a large garden was planted, and Hattye spent countless hours canning fruits and vegetables which were stored in the cool "cistern house" for consumption throughout the year. In addition, every winter Henry & Hattye butchered five or more hogs. Bacon and ham were seasoned, and together with sausage was smoked, and placed in large stone crocks, immersed in melted lard, and covered, to be removed as needed throughout the following year. NEVER, even during the "Great Depression" was the family hungry. If there was an excess of pork products, it was sold to townspeople who inquired for it each year in advance of the season. One regular customer was Dr. Sam Osterloh, who on his trips home to visit his family, always came out to purchase country sausage before returning to California.

In the early years on the farm, Henry had a keen interest in the improvement of the public roads. He opened a caliche pit at one end of the farm and sold caliche to the county and state, much of it at five cents per cubic yard. Later he operated road-building equipment in Precinct 3, until he injured his back trying to crank a crawler-type tractor.

Henry and Hattye served the community in

numerous ways — Henry, as Director or board member of such organizations as Hochheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Assn., DeWitt County R.E.A., DeWitt County Tire Rationing Board (during World War II), Nordheim Farmers Co-op Whse. & Gin Co., Nordheim Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Nordheim School Board; and, as Council Member and Sunday School Superintendent of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Hattye, as an officer or member of DeWitt County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs; Nordheim Home Demonstration Club; Nordheim Home & School Club (now P.T.A.); Cemetery Association; Garden Club; and, St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society, and Sunday School Teacher. Today, at age 89, Hattye continues to live in the same home on the farm. Henry died August 6, 1971 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. Henry and Hattye had two children — Marian and Harold. Marian is married to Alton Enke and they live at Bulverde, Texas. They have two children — Jeaneane lives in San Antonio — Curtis and his wife, Kathy live in Bulverde and have two children, Allison and Mark. Harold and his wife Marjorie live in San Antonio. Harold has two step-daughters. Carla lives in Austin with her husband, Lawrence Doxsey. Connie is married to Steve Jones. They live in San Antonio and have two sons, Evan and Mitchell.

by Harold E. Remmers

REUSS, JOSEPH B. AND WANDA

F756

Among the most pleasant childhood memories of Joe Reuss are going to Aunt Bertha Reuss' big house. Her niece, Pauline Reuss (Richardson), was still living there then. Too, across the street were all the children coming and going at the Froebese home. Joe is the youngest son of Theo and Ruth Reuss. He was born in Cuero on February 10, 1928, attended Cuero public schools and graduated from high school in 1945.

Joe got into the usual teenage pranks with his chums. He fondly remembers Mr. "Zim" (O.A. Zimmerman) telling him he would "never mount to a hill of beans". In those days, Mr. "Zim" was not only principal of Cuero Hill School, but a teacher and coach as well. Despite these predictions, Joe went to Texas A&M College and in 1949 graduated in engineering. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He went to work for General Motors and in 1952 was called into service during the Korean conflict with the NATO forces in Europe.

It was during this time that he decided he would return to college and work toward a degree in pharmacy. He entered the University of Texas School of Pharmacy. This was a difficult decision for an Aggie but A&M did not offer this field of education. Football season was always interesting for Joe, not knowing whether to go to class on Monday after an A&M – TU game. He received his degree in pharmacy in 1957, graduating with high honors.

Joe returned to Cuero to become the fourth generation at Reuss Drug Store. Soon after Joe joined his father at the store, Theo had a severe heart attack. He was hospitalized for some time and although recovering fully, never returned to the drug store. It had been a wise decision Joe made when he changed the course of his career.

In January 1958, Wanda Proctor arrived in Cuero for a visit with her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and W.T. Smith. Wanda had been working for civil service at Hamilton AFB, California, and decided to return to Texas. While she was not planning on living in Cuero, Wanda worked at Foster Field in Victoria for awhile. The air force was deactivating the base and needed short-term employees with security clearances. Later she went to work for Wilcox-Trend in Cuero.

Gus Cage was the instigator of the meeting of Joe and Wanda and they were married on July 5, 1958, at the First Methodist Church. Wanda continued to work for Wilcox during the merger with Texas Eastern Transmission but later resigned to work in the drug store.

The youngest of three children, Wanda was born October 6, 1929, to Frank A. and Jewel Todd Proctor in Texon, Reagan County, Texas. On the way to the west coast on a vacation, Joe and Wanda decided to detour to Wanda's birthplace. It was strange to see what had once been a nice, small town with a hospital, theatre, schools, Olympic size pool and a large gas plant gone, with only a few buildings remaining. They had known this when they went there, but were curious. The land is owned by the University of Texas and this was a private town for employees of what is now Sohio Oil Company, located off the highway between Big Lake and McCamey in West Texas. After the oil decline in that area, the buildings were sold and moved off and all that remains are a few overseers of the working wells. Wanda lived in Texon until 1939 when the Proctor children moved to San Angelo with their mother. She graduated from high school in 1946 and entered San Angelo Jr. College. While working at Goodfellow Field, she and a friend decided to go to California and transferred to Hamilton AFB.

Joe and Wanda had been interested in family history, but very little had been known about the early years in Germany of Joe's great-grandfather, Dr. J.M. Reuss. In the spring of 1984, they traveled to Germany in pursuit of any information available. Among family papers was the death notice of Anna Reuss Sotier, the sister who had reared Dr. Reuss. The notice was from Bad Kissengen and that is where they began. They found the burial ground of Mrs. Sotier and her husband, Dr. George Anton Sotier. They learned Dr. Sotier had been personal physician to Kaiser Wilhelm. Looking for any information about Dr. Reuss' brother Simon, they went to the Post Office in Muennerstadt and were directed to a town nearby, Steinach. Arriving in Steinach, armed with only a small German dictionary, they located the Post Office and Gast Hous Reuss. Through an interpreter, they found George Reuss, a hotel keeper, and his father, Helmut, Postmaster. These are the descendants of Simon and virtually the whole town of Stinach are Reuss relations. They were very lucky and overwhelmed. Hopefully, they can return again and be just as lucky and surprised.

by Joe and Wanda Reuss

W. B. McCLUNG CASH STORE

REUSS, DR. JOSEPH MARTIN AND ANNA GESINE

F757

Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss

Joseph Martin Reuss, born in Wurzburg, Bavaria on November 12, 1822, was the son of a hotelkeeper. His mother, Mary Muller Reuss, died in 1824 when he was but one year old and his father, Stephen, died in 1831. He was reared by his older sister, Anna. There were three other known boys in the family and they were: Adam, a postmaster named George, and a hat-maker named Simon. Joseph received his education in Muennerstadt, Bavaria, and was liberally educated in both literature and science. He studied medicine at the University of Wurzburg and graduated in 1845. Dr. Joseph Reuss began his practice in Bavaria, but soon found himself out of sympathy with the political and social rules of his native Germany. Seeing a better opening in America, he emigrated with Prince Braunfels and landed in Galveston in November 1845. There he met Anna Gesine Stubbemann who had also emigrated from Germany earlier the same year. She was born in Delmenhorst, Oldenburg, Germany, February 17, 1826. They were married December 2, 1845 in Galveston and left to make their home in Indianola. He immediately opened his medical practice there in a tent. He also established a stock of drugs, not primarily for the purpose of engaging in the drug business, but in order to have medicines needed in his practice. To accommodate the public he began Reuss Drug Store which was the first such store in Indianola.

Dr. and Mrs. Reuss had eight children, born in Indianola, but three died in infancy. Their other children were August Joseph, Oscar Joseph, Alfreda, Bertha Charlette and Joseph Henry. August was a student at Tulane University School of Medicine. Following this, he entered the Prussian Army in the war against France and after the war studied for two years in Wurzburg and Vienna. He never married. Oscar became a pharmacist and married Lillie Mugge. Alfreda married William Frobese and Bertha never married. Joseph Henry studied at the University of Texas and graduated from

Columbia University in 1889. He was married to Meta Reiffert.

In the early days of Indianola there were many epidemics and Dr. Reuss helped in suppressing three of cholera and seven of yellow fever. He took an active part in the business and social life of the community. In July 1861, he was appointed a captain in the Indianola Artillery Guard and in that same year raised a company and served as a captain in the Confederate Army in Shea's Battalion. In addition to this service, J.M. Reuss had been appointed postmaster by the Confederate States of America, Post Office Department on November 11, 1864. Quote from the certificate "under authority of the second section of an act authorizing appointment of an agent of the Post Office Department, to carry on the postal service west of the Mississippi, approved February 10, 1864." Capt. Reuss participated in the engagement at Lavaca and was taken as a prisoner of war by the Union Army. He received his parole of honor in July 1865, to return as postmaster at Indianola and promised on honor not to bear arms against the Union Army. He returned to his practice in Indianola and was contract surgeon for the United States Custom House and also a contract surgeon for the Quartermaster Department. Dr. Reuss was a member of the Texas Medical Society and the State Pharmaceutical Society.

In 1872 he established a branch store in Cuero. This was operated by his son, Dr. A.J. Reuss and was located at 130 East Main. After the devastating storm of 1875, Dr. Reuss moved his family, home, medical practice and entire business to Cuero. The home is located at 315 Stockdale and is still a residence. August died in 1876 and after Oscar graduated from the St. Louis School of Pharmacy, he became associated with his father in the store and the name was changed to J.M. Reuss and Son. Dr. Reuss' son, Joseph H., opened practice with his father after graduation and they opened the first hospital in Cuero. The Salome Hospital opened in 1892 in the second story of the old St. Michael's Academy building. Recognizing the need for a larger institution, the civic leaders undertook to raise money for this project and a new hospital was erected on "Factory Hill." In 1895, Dr. Reuss celebrated fifty years in the medical profession and retired soon thereafter. On his 80th birthday in 1903, quite an impromptu party took place. Entertainment was provided by the Choral Club, Joe Frobese and Mrs. J.R. Whitaker, the Lienhard Band and other musicians. A quote from the newspaper stated "The happy feature of the evening was the ringing up of the nurses in quarantine at the Bennet Ranch and toasting them."

Dr. Reuss received his naturalization papers in 1854. He died in Dallas in March 1908, and was buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Mrs. Reuss preceded her husband in death on August 26, 1893, just after returning from Chicago World's Fair.

by Mrs. Joe Reuss

—THE NEW—

MEAT ⊕ MARKET

J. LARCADE, Proprietor.

Best Mutton, Pork, Veal and Beef

Near Cuero Steam Laundry, Esplanade St.

REUSS, OSCAR JOSEPH AND LILLY MUGGE

F758

Oscar and Lilly Reuss

Oscar Joseph Reuss was born in Indianola, Texas March 7, 1861 to Dr. and Mrs. J.M. Reuss. He attended school in Indianola and after the family moved to Cuero in 1875, he attended the Cheapside Academy of Dr. J.V.E. Covey. Afterwards, he went to St. Louis School of Pharmacy and graduated in 1883. He returned to Cuero and became associated with his father in the family business of J.M. Reuss and Son Drug Store. He was a member of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy Examiners, the Oddfellows, Woodman Maccabees and Herman Sons.

Lilly Mugge was born in Indianola on July 4, 1870. She was one of six children of Edward and Pauline Blumenthal Mugge. Mr. Mugge had emigrated from Freye, Germany, and Mrs. Mugge from Schnackenburg, Germany. Mr. Mugge was associated with H. Runge and Co. After schooling in Cuero, Lilly received her higher education in Germany.

Lilly and Oscar were married in Cuero on March 4, 1889, in Grace Church. They had six children. Edward, like his father a pharmacist, was born in 1889 and never married. Joseph M., born in 1891, married Elsie Teller. Theodore August, born 1892, married Ruth Sigler. John (Hans) was born in 1894. Pauline, born 1897, married A. Lea Richardson. Bertha, born 1899, married Albert Leuders. Theo was the last survivor of the children dying in 1980.

The Oscar Reuss family resided at 610 North Esplanade. This home is now owned by Karnack Cable Co. and is occupied by them. Oscar died in March 1908 and Lilly shortly after in 1909 after several years of illness. After Oscar's death, his sister Bertha took on the responsibility of raising this family, the youngest of whom was only 9 years old. She cared for these children in the home she had shared with her parents at 315 Stockdale. A much loved Aunt Bertha, whose passion was music and poetry, died November 16, 1937, at the age of 67.

by Mrs. Joe Reuss

REUSS, THEODORE AUGUST AND FRANCES RUTH SIGLER

F759

Ruth and Theo Reuss

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Theo became the third generation to be associated with Reuss Drug Store.

Theodore August Reuss was born to Oscar and Lilly Reuss on May 13, 1892. He was one of six surviving children. He went to school in Cuero and always said he cut his teeth at the drug store since he worked there as a child. Theo did not go to pharmacy school as it was not a requirement then. He became druggist-owner in 1912.

Frances Ruth Sigler was born in Sealy, Texas, on January 12, 1901, to Dr. Innis Burford Sigler and Pattie Marion Sullivan Sigler and was one of three children. After graduation from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, she moved to Cuero to become a grade school teacher.

Theo and Ruth were married in Bellville, Texas, September 20, 1922, and made their home in Cuero. In 1928, the home and property occupied by them was sold to the school board. This was the location of the soon-to-be built high school on Hunt and Depot Streets and located directly south of the high school that was converted to a junior high school. Theo purchased the home by bid from the board and it was relocated to the 500 block of East Sarah. They resided there until 1938 when they moved into their new two-story home at 502 East Reuss Blvd. The Reusses spent their lives working for the drug store and were closely associated with the Methodist Church.

During World War II, Mrs. Reuss was instrumental in establishing the USO for those stationed at Brayton Field. Their home was always open to the "boys" and, many times, their wives. More than one wedding and/or reception was held there. As long as either Theo or Ruth

lived, they were still receiving messages from those who had been stationed in Cuero.

The Reusses were parents of two boys, Theodore and Joseph. Even though he was T.A., Jr., only the initial "A" appeared on his birth certificate. Joe, referred to as Joe Burford, only had an initial "B" on his certificate. Ted attended Texas A&M University and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in WW II. After discharge, he returned to college and graduated from medical school in 1955. Ted had his practice in Cuero and Houston. He has four children and he and wife, Joan, are retired in Cuero and live in his parents home. Joe is a graduate of Texas A&M University and served in the army during the Korean Conflict. He graduated from University of Texas School of Pharmacy in 1957. He is now owner of Reuss Pharmacy and he and wife, Wanda, live in Cuero.

Ruth Reuss died in April 1970, having suffered a stroke several years earlier. Theo died in December 1980, at age 88.

by Mrs. Joe Reuss

RICE, OLIVER H.

F760

Oliver Hugh Rice was born Aug. 1, 1830 at Steubenville, Jefferson Co. Ohio. About 1840 Thomas McClure and Elizabeth (Wilson) Rice brought their family, James, William, Oliver and daughter Mary L. to Texas. They lived at Fort Bend for a couple of years then moved to DeWitt Co. where the last child Thomas, was born.

On March 23, 1854, Oliver married Adeline Prudence Courtney. They had four children.

William Henry born 1857 at Crossingville, married Mary E. Karl in 1883, died 1923.

Orien Adelbert born 1855 at Stratton, married Mary A. Hodges in 1875, died 1925.

Oliver Jr. born 1859 at Stratton, believed to have died young.

Amanda Elizabeth born 1861 at Stratton, married James M. Wood in 1877, died 1905.

Mary E. born 1866 at Stratton, married James M. Newman, died 1897.

In the 1860's Oliver and his son went to cut a tree down in the pasture. It fell the wrong way and he was killed. He was buried in either Alexander Cemetery or Hollan Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Adeline was born June 21, 1839 in Courtland Co. in New York. She was red headed, blue eyed and about 5'7". Her parents Truman and Amanda (Geary) Courtney brought their family to Texas about 1850. Truman died about 1851 and Amanda remarried John Rustin in 1853.

After Oliver died, Adeline married Abraham Bowen. Adeline died June 23, 1909 and was buried at Alexander Cemetery. The grave is unmarked.

by Geneva McCown Garrett

Hugo Hardt

—DEALER IN—

Groceries, Grain, Hay, Wood and Willow-ware.

Beer, Cigars and Tobacco.
Highest Price Paid for Country Produce.

Goods delivered to any part of the city.

RICE, THOMAS McCLURE

F761

Thomas McClure Rice was born 1801 in Poultney, Rutland County, Vermont. He was the only son of five children born to Nathan and Jemima (McClure) Rice. Nathaniel (Nathan) was a descendant of Edmund Rice who settled Sudbury, Massachusetts about 1639. Thomas moved with his parents to Washington County, Ohio in 1803 where they farmed in the Rainbow Settlement a few miles up the Muskingham River from Marietta.

Thomas married Elizabeth Wilson of Salem Township (now Lower Salem) in Washington County September 28, 1824. Elizabeth was born in Ireland ca 1805. Thomas and Elizabeth helped his father farm until after the birth of James in 1828. They then moved to Steubenville, Ohio where Mary was born 1829, Oliver 1830, and William Wilson in 1835.

Thomas probably read of the need for settlers in Texas and the promise of free land for he applied for land from the Republic of Texas in 1838. They were in Fort Bend County in 1840 as records show that they owned a saddle horse. Thomas moved his family to Clinton, which was a few miles south of the present Cuero, where his last son Thomas Richard was born February 11, 1842.

In February of that same year 1842, General Vasquez led 700 Mexican troops into Texas to attack San Antonio. They entered San Antonio on March 5, 1842 and then after looting the town they retreated March 7. Once again on September 10, 1842, Texian spies reported that a Mexican force under General Wall was approaching. By the 11th San Antonio was captured by 950 men. On September 14, 1842 the news reached La Grange where a group of fifteen men rallied. This group under the leadership of Nicholas Mosby Dawson rode toward San Antonio to aid another group under Mather Caldwell. On the way they were joined by others, including Thomas McClure Rice, until their number increased to 54.

Arriving to within two miles of Caldwell's position on Salado Creek near the present site of Fort Sam Houston on September 18, 1842, Dawson and his men were intercepted by 400 Mexican troops. Dawson's men realized that they were outnumbered and tried to surrender but the Mexican forces ignored their white flags. After an hour 36 Texians had been killed, 15 taken prisoners and three managed to escape. Thomas Rice was among the dead. The following morning Caldwell's men came to the battlefield and buried the bodies in shallow graves.

In 1848, the bones of the dead patriots were removed and taken to Fayette County. On September 18, 1848 the remains were given a military burial in a tomb on the bluff overlooking the Colorado River just outside the town of La Grange. Sam Houston and a large contingent were in attendance. The burial site has become a state park and is well tended.

On April 12, 1847 Elizabeth was granted an unconditional certificate for 640 acres of land in DeWitt County as she had satisfied the three year residency.

On November 18, 1854 Elizabeth was awarded $80.75 from the State of Texas for her husband's horse, saddle and three weeks of military service to the State of Texas.

Elizabeth died in 1859, as her will was read that year, and is probably buried in the cemetery in Clinton.

The children grew up in DeWitt County and records show that Mary had a son Asa then married Joseph Newman. Oliver married Adalino Courtney. William Wilson married Mary Ann —. Thomas Richard, my ancestor, married Martha Ann Alexander, the daughter of James Sidney Alexander and Anna S. Allison. Thomas Richard and Martha lived in the Stratton Community and are supposedly buried in the Alexander Cemetery but the sites have been lost.

by Earline Rumsey

RICHMOND, CYRUS W. AND BONNIE ADA (PRIESTLY)

F762

Top: Cyrus W. Richmond, Bonnie Ada (Priestly). Middle: Cyrus W. Richmond, Jr., and Bessie Rose Richmond. Bottom: Bonnie Ella Richmond, 1904 in Yoakum, TX.

Cyrus Warren Richmond was born in Chebanse, Illinois, February 14, 1869, the son of E.S. and Ella (Warren) Richmond. He had a brother Henry and a sister Lucy Rose. He came to Palestine, Texas, with his family in 1883. Cyrus came to Yoakum from San Antonio in 1894. He was foreman of the Coppersmith Shop in the Round House for the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad and the San Antonio, Uvalde, Galveston Railroad in Yoakum. Bonnie Ada Priestly was born in Concrete May 23, 1873, the daughter of Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Clayton) and William P. Priestly. William died before Bonnie Ada was born. She and her mother Lizzie moved into Yoakum in the early 1890's. They were involved in Presbyterian Church and related activities. Bonnie Ada was elected sponsor of the Yoakum Hook and Ladder Co. Cyrus was a very active member in the Christian Endeavor Association.

Cyrus and Bonnie Ada were married July 24, 1898, in Cuero at the home of her sister Mary Lee Priestly Kennedy. They lived in Yoakum, DeWitt County. In Yoakum Cyrus was a partner in Polka and Richmond Co. and also in Richmond and Armstrong. Both of these were sheet metal and plumbing contractors.

Their children, all born in Yoakum, were Bonnie Ella (1899-1981), Bessie Rose (1901-1984), Cyrus, Jr. (1904-1980), Nellie Theresa (1903-1984), Ada Lee (1908), and Will David (1909-1968). In 1916 Cyrus and Bonnie Ada moved to McAllen, Texas, where he was a plumbing and sheet metal contractor.

Cyrus died March 5, 1935, and Bonnie Ada

Will David Richmond and the Armstrong boy, sons of Richmond and Armstrong Union Plumbing Shop, 1914, 4th of July parade, Yoakum, TX.

died July 16, 1947, in McAllen. They are buried in Roselawn Cemetery in McAllen.

by Helen Elizabeth Chisum Snider

RIEBSCHLAEGER, CHARLES JOSEPH, JR. AND EVELYN KLECKA FAMILY

F763

Charles Joseph Riebschlaeger, Jr., was born the youngest of 11 children (8 of whom lived) in Lavaca County, near Moulton, Texas, in 1907. All of his older brothers and sisters were baptized in Moulton, according to church records. However, "Charley," as he was known to his brothers and sisters, was baptized in Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner, nearby. At an early age, the family moved to the Runge-Nordheim area. Carl Josef Riebschlaeger, Sr., had emigrated from Germany during a draft by the Kaiser prior to World War I. Although it was against the Kaiser's law for any unmarried man his age to leave his homeland, then preparing to strengthen their military forces, Carl and his sister chose to risk a move to the New World of opportunity by posing as man and wife. They succeeded in this plan, and as a result, he and his offspring would experience the horrors of World Wars I and II as observers on this side of the Atlantic, with grateful hearts.

C.J. Riebschlaeger, Sr. Family. Standing: Laura, Ella, August, Anton, John, Charles, Jr., Frank and Helen. Seated: C.J., Sr. and Selma (Rabe) Riebschlaeger, c. 1940.

After arriving in the United States, Carl, now known as Charles, began work as a sharecropper farmer, and married Selma Rabe, born in Blackjack in Fayette County. All children born to this marriage, with the exception of three, would become farmers, or marry farmers. Helen would marry a carpenter, Herman Garbe, and Herman would eventually work for Gulf Coast Industries in Cuero, although all of their married life, they lived in Nordheim. Charles, Jr., as a young man worked as an apprentice to Mr. John Mosel in his drugstore in Runge, then studied pharmacy at Danforth Pharmacy School in Ft. Worth, Texas.

In 1933, he accepted a position as pharmacist at Klecka Drug Co. with a salary of $80 per month. "Rip," as he became known to friends, worked hard to help make the business a success. He had already been acquainted with Louis Klecka's daughter, Evelyn, having met her at a summer dance at Kenedy. His job at her father's store gave them the opportunity to know one another well, and they were engaged to be married within a few months. On March 19, 1934, Louis Klecka underwent exploratory surgery in Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas. That evening, he died of internal hemorrhaging due to cancer of the liver. His death came as a shock to the family and dampened the mood of the pending wedding of Evelyn and Rip. Out of respect for Louis, they chose to be married in a quiet ceremony on May 22, 1934 at 6:00 a.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church, before Reverend Leo Goertz, Pastor. After a brief honeymoon at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, they returned to Cuero to manage Klecka Drug Company together for a total of 37 years. Rip and Evelyn had two daughters: Elizabeth Josephine (Bette Jo), born September 9, 1936 (at 9:09 a.m.), and Mary Katherine (Kaye), born September 28, 1939.

During their life together in Cuero, Rip and Evelyn were actively involved in the life and development of their church and civic communities. As members of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Rip served as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus several times and was made a Knight of St. Gregory, an honor bestowed by the Pope upon outstanding church leaders among the laity. This honor was bestowed on May 15, 1977. Just three days later, Rip died after suffering an abdominal aneurism on May 18, 1977, in Cuero Hospital. Celebrant of the funeral Mass was then Monsignor Charles Grahmann, Chaplain of the Knights of St. Gregory, now Bishop of Victoria in Texas.

At the same ceremony for Rip's investiture in Bloomington, Evelyn also received the Archbishop Francis J. Fuery Award for outstanding service of her own to the church. She had served as president of the Mother's Club of St. Michael's School, as Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court St. Michael, several times, and had worked several years as sponsor of the Junior Catholic Daughters troop at St. Michael's. At this time, she is a member of the Outreach Group of St. Michael's and visits hospital patients regularly.

Spiritual leader for Rip and Evelyn during their married years, especially as they raised

Charles J. Riebschlaeger Family. Standing: Anne Marie Dunn, Mary E. Dunn, Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, Kaye (Riebschlaeger) Dunn, Bob Dunn. Seated: Evelyn Riebschlaeger, Christopher Dunn, Charles Riebschlaeger, Jr., and Robert Dunn.

their family, was Fr. William Jansen, diocesan priest who was a native of Nijmigen, Holland, and who served as pastor in Cuero for over 25 years. Rip also served on the Parish Building Board and helped to negotiate the construction of the St. Michael's School building and the new rectory, still in use today.

Elizabeth Josephine (7) and Mary Katherine (4) Riebschlaeger.

Evelyn (Klecka) and Charles J. Riebschlaeger, Jr., May 15, 1977, investiture as a Knight of St. Gregory.

In the civic community, Rip was elected to the City Commission in 1950 and served three terms as Fire, Police, then Streets and Parks Commissioner positions. In 1960, he served as General Chairman of the traditional Turkey Trot. He was made an Honorary Member of the 4-H and FFA organizations, honors which he treasured particularly because they were awarded by youth organizations, whom he considered vitally important to the future of the community and the nation. He was also president of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture for several terms and co-founder of the Cuero Industrial Foundation, serving as its president from its incorporation in 1957 until his retirement in 1975. On April 13, 1973, the Board of Directors passed a resolution honoring Rip for his years of service stating that "during a period of some eighteen years, he furnished the initiative, leadership, and inspiration which caused the Foundation to develop from a mere aspiration into the vital and effective force for the assistance and development of industry which it is today, having a net worth of approximately $75,000 and a broad community membership," expressing appreciation "for the unselfish leadership and service which he has supplied the Foundation since its inception." It also noted that "although newly elected to an additional term on the Board of Directors, Mr. Riebschlaeger declined to be nominated for an additional term in the presidency of the Foundation." A plaque of appreciation was also presented to Rip at that time. During his term as Park Commissioner, the municipal park underwent several improvements, including the development of the municipal airport and the lake. During his term as Commissioner of Streets, an extensive paving program was accomplished. In 1970, he was named Citizen of the Year. "Rip" was also an avid hunter of deer, dove, quail and pheasant.

Evelyn was also a leader in her civic involvement. She served as president of the Cuero Gobbler Band Parents Club for two terms. She is a charter member of the Pilot Club of Cuero and served as vice president, declining succession to the office of president only when her husband, Rip, suffered his first heart attack in September of 1971. She is still a current member. She is also currently a member of the DeWitt County Republican Women's Organization and served as president for three years. Under her leadership, the organization received the PAT Award from the Texas Federation of Republican Women and she was named one of the Ten Outstanding Republican Women of Texas at their State Convention in Austin in 1977. She was also an invaluable partner to Rip in his role as Chairman of the Turkey Trot Parade in 1960. The event was "immortalized" in family history when their daughter Kaye presented them with their first grandchild, Mary Elizabeth, in Austin on the very day of the Coronation Ball on November 10.

On the Riebschlaeger mausoleum in the Cuero Hillside Cemetery, where Rip is buried is engraved the emblem of the Knights of St. Gregory. (After his name are the initials, K.S.G., which stand, of course, for "Knights of St. Gregory," contrary to information recently published which erroneously assumed the initials to mean that he was a Mason.) Above the emblem is inscribed in Latin the motto of the Knights, "Pro Deo et Patria" (For God and Country). This phrase sums up the dedicated love of Evelyn and Rip as they lived their lives in service of one another, of their family, and of their fellow members in the Cuero community. Their lives stand as an inspiration to their family members as they seek to be faithful to that faith, that hope, and that love. (See also the Business Section for more on the develop-

ment of Klecka Drug Co., the Cozy Nook, and Center Pharmacy.)

by Mrs. Evelyn Klecka Riebschlaeger

RIEBSCHLAEGER, SR. ELIZABETH, CCVI

F764

Bette Jo Riebschlaeger as "Miss Cuero."

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, Sister of Charity of Incarnate Word, 1958.

Bette Jo Riebschlaeger

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, born Elizabeth Josephine Riebschlaeger on September 9, 1936, in the Lutheran Hospital in Cuero, Texas, was the first child of Evelyn Marie Klecka Riebschlaeger and Charles Joseph (Rip) Riebschlaeger. The first years of her life

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, 1987.

were spent in the family home on East Broadway, directly across from the John C. French Elementary School. She began the study of piano at age 4, from Mrs. Ruth Eberhart, wife of the Lutheran minister at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The study of music would run as an unbroken thread throughout her life, and be the key to many hours of joy for herself, but also be the key to years of service to others in their search for the Lord and His people. Bette Jo was blessed with the company of a little sister on September 28, 1939, when Mary Katherine was born. (See Mary Katherine "Kaye" Riebschlaeger Dunn.) In 1941, the family purchased a home at 402 Second St.

Just a few days before her fifth birthday, Bette Jo was permitted to begin school at St. Michael's Catholic School on McLeod Street. She spent eight years there under instruction from the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. One of the highlights of these school years was the opportunity to play the lead in the operetta "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." In 1949, she graduated and entered Cuero High School, along with her friends from St. Michael's. She had begun study of the clarinet under the direction of "Pop" Krause while still attending St. Michael's, in hopes of joining the band in high school. (Her inspiration for this attempt was her acquaintance with band activities through her cousin, Ray Katzmark, who played the same instrument with the Breckenridge High School Band in San Antonio, and served as Drum Major there.) Her hopes were realized when the band director, Mr. George Bodenmiller, admitted her into the Senior High Band as a freshman.

She was a member for four years, and during her senior year was First Chair Clarinet. She was also a member of the stage band, playing alto saxophone and serving as vocalist. During the last three years of high school, the band director was Dr. William Wendland. During all four years, the band developed into a first-rate band, bringing home many First Division and Sweepstakes Awards for marching, concert, and sight-reading. Bette Jo was also a member of the Home Economics Club, and during her senior year, the choir, under the direction of Mr. Oscar Miles. She was elected "Gobbler Queen," and in her senior year, "Miss Cuero." As Miss Cuero, she represented the city in several civic functions in other towns and cities.

After graduation in June of 1953, plans were laid to attend Incarnate Word College in the fall. She majored in Music Education and was a member of the College Chorale and the smaller ensemble, the Cecilian Choristers. She was elected president of the Freshman Class and that same year was selected to play the lead role in the Genesius Players Drama Club production of Franz Werfl's "Bernadette of Lourdes." In her sophomore year she was elected secretary of the Student Council.

On September 11, 1955, Bette Jo entered the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word as a postulant at the Motherhouse on the campus of Incarnate Word College. On August 15, 1963, she pronounced her Final Vows and has taught in various parochial and Catholic high schools in San Antonio, Eagle Pass, San Angelo, and New Orleans, Louisiana. She also served as Instructor of Music in the Department of Music at Incarnate Word College for three years. She served as All-level Music Director for Sacred Heart Cathedral School in San Angelo for 4 years and Cathedral Choir Director for one year. In August of 1977, she received her Masters Degree in Religious Studies from the Pastoral Institute at Incarnate Word College. Since January of 1976, Sister Elizabeth, as she is known, has worked in pastoral and parish ministry positions, working primarily in adult religious education areas in Ft. Stockton, Corpus Christi, and El Campo, Texas. She also served for approximately two years as Director of the Music Ministry for the retreat program at the Pecos Benedictine Monastery in Pecos, New Mexico. In that capacity, she served as Assistant Director to Fr. Carey Landry in preparation for the annual Southwest Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference, and the following year as Director for the same conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sister has been a member of various organizations during her professional service: the National Music Educators Association, the National Catholic Music Educators Association, the Southwest Liturgical Conference (for which she served as a member of the Board representing the diocese of San Angelo), the National Liturgical Conference, and the National Association of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (in her capacity of the Secretary to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission in San Angelo, from 1970-1974). Sister has also been a member of the Ministerial Alliances in Ft. Stockton and also El Campo, Texas. In El Campo, she served as president of the Alliance for one year. She is currently a member of the Diocesan Sisters Council for the Diocese of Victoria, having served as vice-president of that organization for two years. She is currently a member of the Diocesan Vocation Council. She has also served in several civic capacities, including board member for the Ft. Stockton Housing Authority and of the Common Justice Committee, also of Ft. Stockton. She was co-founder and is current president of the Blessing Cup Storehouse, Inc., in El Campo, an ecumenical social service organization sponsored by the El Campo Ministerial Association. For the past year, Sister has also served as a member of the Design Team for a course in Rural Sociology being developed as a continuing education course for ministers and other

professionals by the Rural Sociology Department at Texas A&M University and has served as a facilitator for the first round of groups. At the time of publication of this book, she is currently Pastoral Associate at St. Robert's Catholic Church in El Campo.

Sister has also traveled extensively, having served as a counselor for the Foreign Study League Comparative Studies tour to Europe in 1970, and with her mother, Evelyn, on a tour to Fatima, Lourdes, and Rome with the Knights of St. Gregory, during which they attended Mass celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica, in thanksgiving for his recently completed missionary journey to the United States and Canada. More recently, Sister traveled with her mother to Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, for the opening of the Marian year in 1987, and then both joined her sister, Kaye Riebschlaeger Dunn, in Ireland, where they toured that country, Wales, and England, then traveled on to Czechoslovakia, where, with the assistance of Mr. Rudy Klecka, of Klub Kontinental Tours of East Bernard, they succeeded in locating the home of Evelyn's grandfather, Frantisek Jan Spacek, still in use in their native village of Bordovice in Moravia. Sister has since returned to Czechoslovakia as an assistant to Rudy and Henrietta Klecka, and in that capacity, was hosted by the Slusovice Cooperative Farm officials in southern Moravia and Prague. They also visited Hungary and Austria, and traveled extensively in Yugoslavia. In November of 1989, she will travel with the Klecka's tour to Rome for the canonization of Blessed Agnes of Bohemia, and dinner with the Cardinal Archbishop Tomasek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, who will journey to Rome for the occasion.

Sister's personal video-history of the family's travels to the homestead in Czechoslovakia was shared with Evelyn's cousin, Edwin Spacek, of Quitman, Texas, and with his daughter, Sissy Spacek, also a descendant of Frantisek Jan Spacek.

by Bette Jo Riebschlaeger

RIEDEL, ADOLPH FRIEDERICK ERNST

F765

Adolph Friederick Ernst Riedel was born in Kahla, Saxon, Germany on November 19, 1837, the fourth child of Moritz, Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel. At the age of 12 he journeyed to America with his family on the *"Hamburn-Knollen"* sailing ship, landing in Indianola, TX on December 15, 1849. The family moved on to Yorktown, where his father built DeWitt County's first grist and saw mill. As a young man it is very likely that he helped his father and brothers operate the grist mill and the farming operations that the family was conducting in the Yorktown community.

In August 1862, at the height of the Civil War, Adolph's father was ambushed and murdered by thieves, who stole his team of horses. He was enroute from Clinton to Yorktown with supplies. Family tradition has it that Adolph accompanied his father on this ill fated trip and was severely wounded in the mouth and left for dead. Adolph recovered, but was left with a speech impediment.

Adolph apparently believed that his father's murder and the theft of the team of horses, was connected with Confederate sympathizers, because after he had fully recovered from his facial wounds, he journeyed to Brownsville, TX where on January 20, 1864 he enlisted in the Union Army for a period of three years. With the Civil War ended, Adolph was mustered out of the army on October 31, 1865.

On July 6, 1871, Adolph was united in marriage to Miss Wilhelmina Goetz at the Lutheran Church in Meyersville, TX. Following their marriage, they farmed and raised hogs near Weesatche. To this union seven children were born: Julius, Louis, Ernst F., twins Adolph Joseph and Minnie, Fredrich, and Robert. Julius married Mary Alex and they had eight children: Julia (Brown), Rudolph, Lillie (Kampfhenkle), Edwin, Frieda (Milburn), Walter, Viola, and Elmer. This family lived and farmed in the Alice-Robstown, TX area. Louis married Minna Alex and also farmed near Alice. They had seven children: Louise (Marthiljohni), Elsa (Pastilla), Alfred, Willie, Herman, Louis, Jr., Alma (Worden). Ernst married Louise Alex Burrow. He was a watchmaker, then a bridge builder and later was a railroad engineer in Colorado. They had no children. Adolph Joseph married Theresa Esch and they operated a cafe and grocery store in Weesatche, TX. Their only child, Leslie (Buster), still lives in Weesatche. Minnie married Wilhelm Esch and they also farmed near Alice. Their children were: Wilhelm Esch, Jr., Albert Esch, and Nollie Esch (Hoffman). Fred married Rosie Duderstadt, and for a time owned a grocery store in Nordheim. They later owned and operated a grocery and mercantile store in Alice, TX. Five children were born to them: Una (Puckett), Clifford (died in infancy), Pricilla (Garner), Roxie (Smith), and Roleen "Billie" (Diamond). When Fred died, his family returned to Nordheim to live. Robert married Minnie Duderstadt and they farmed and ranched near Nordheim. They had two sons: Clarence, who lives in Runge, and Vincent, who died in infancy.

Adolph died March 13, 1913 and Wilhelmina died October 25, 1925, and they are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, AUGUST AND IDA

F766

August Riedel was born in Yorktown, TX on January 17, 1861, the third child of Moritz F. Fiedel, Jr. and Sophie Afflerbach Scheffee Riedel. He was educated in the Yorktown Public School System. As youth he helped his father in farming operations near Yorktown, and as a young man learned the trade of wheelwright. He operated a wheel-wright shop until about 1887 when he joined his father and brother Richard in the firm of M. Riedel and Sons. He continued to be active in the firm until his retirement in the mid 1920's, at which time he sold his interest to Wilfred H. Riedel, son of Otto H. Riedel.

On November 4, 1882 August Riedel was united in marriage with Ida M. Heissig, sister to Henriette Heissig, wife of Otto Riedel. To this union four children were born. Elsie and Hilda died in infancy. Alfred H. Riedel was born March 22, 1885 and was married to Tempest Kingston. They lived in Dallas, TX, where he was in the banking business until his death in 1933. Henrietta S. Riedel was born October 31, 1889, and was married to Fritz Adix. They made their home in Kansas until her death in 1918.

August Riedel was active in the civic affairs of Yorktown. He served many years as city tax assessor and collector for the city of Yorktown, as well as trustee of the school board, and was a very active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. After his retirement, August Riedel devoted his time to his home and church until his death on June 7, 1940. Ida Riedel died February 10, 1946. Their graves, and those of their four children, are side by side in the Lutheran cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

by D. E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, CARL EDWARD

F767

Carl Edward Wilhelm Riedel came to America from Kahla, Germany with his family when he was 15 years old. Carl was the second son of Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel. He was born April 28, 1834. On April 16, 1859 he was married to Justina Menn. He was raised around the grist mill and gin in Yorktown. After his marriage he moved his family to Karnes County where he built a dam on Ecleto creek and established that county's first grist mill, cotton gin and sawmill. Carl built much of the town that was named "Riddleville" (Gillett) in his honor. (A historical marker now stands where this dam and mill once stood.) Carl and Justine had nine children: Edward, Henry, Johanne, Carl, Emelia, Caroline, Bertha, Wilhelm & Gustav. Wilhelm died in infancy. Justine died following the birth of Gustav on January 1, 1878, and little Gustav died when he was 7 months old. Edward married Sophie Jacob, the daughter of his step cousin Caroline Scheffee Jacob. Ed also worked in gins and sawmills eventually ending up in Yorktown. They had 10 children: Natalie (Noster), Justina (Gottschald), Alvin, Henry, Edna (Stolz), (Edna Stolz is the grandmother of a set of triplets and a set of twins, children of her son Gus, Jr.), Marguerite, Caroline, Herbert & Wilmer. Henry married Angie Dromgoole. Their children were: Charles, Winnie (Radicke), Louis, Bessie (Wishert), & Budely. Johanne married Charles Davis. Their children were: Frank Brockman, Myrtle (Radicke) & John. Carl married Allie Dromgoole and their children were: Pauline (Brockman), Fritz, Lucile (Lorenz), Willie Oscar & Billie. Emelia married 1st John Fleck, their child was Henry L. Fleck; 2nd: Thomas J. Davis and their children were: George & Ollie Davis; 3rd: Sam McClanahan. Their children: Susie (Helton), William, John & Bertha (Worsley). Caroline married Charlie Geffert and their children were: Helmuth (Chief), Theresa (Mayer), Carl, Justine, Sophia, Elgin, Carlyn (Edgar), & Margaret. (Helmuth and his wife, Octavia Cravey, had three sets of twins.) Bertha married Abram Wood and they had two children: Beulah (Bromley) and Douglas.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, (CONSTANTINE THEODORE) FRIEDRICH "FRITZ"

F768

(Constantine Theodore) Friedrich "Fritz" Riedel was Moritz F., Sr., and Johanne Heinrich Riedel's sixth child. He was born in Kahla, Germany on March 8, 1841, and came to America with his family at the age of eight. The family landed at Indianola in December of 1849 and in early 1850 settled in the Yorktown area. "Fritz" was reared with his brothers and sister in the Yorktown community and worked with his father and brothers in the operation of the grist mill and farming operations.

Records of Confederate soldiers show an F. Riedel as a member of Co. I of the 6th Infantry Regt. along with Moritz and Ernst Riedel, but it is uncertain if this is Fritz or his younger brother Franz.

On October 7, 1866, Friedrich "Fritz" Riedel and Johanna D. Duderstadt were married and made their home in Yorktown. Fritz Riedel was the owner and operator of Yorktown's Opera House and an adjoining Saloon. He also owned Yorktown's first brewery, as well as a mortuary and furniture story. Fritz and Johanne had seven children: Berthold, Mathilda, Johanne (Grun), Fritz, Herman, Joseph and Francis. Berthold was a photographer with Fey & Braunig in Halletsville. He was not married. Mathilda and Francis were the owners of a flower shop which they operated next to the Riedel home, on Main Street in Yorktown. Johanne married Louis Grun, who was the depot agent in Yorktown. They were later owners of a rooming house in Beeville. Johanne had one son Fritz William Grun. Fritz (Jr.) died at age 19 from lockjaw (tetanus). Herman married Caroline Menn and was associated with his father in the mortuary and furniture business. Herman had one son Harlan. Joseph married Josephine Wanier Weid and was affiliated for a time with his father in the saloon and later owned a grocery and service station in Yorktown. Joseph had three children, Doreen (Hoff), Joseph M., who lives in Florida, and Luahna (Burnett, Gould) who lives in California.

Fritz and Johanne Riedel lived in Yorktown until their death, Fritz on April 3, 1915 and Johanne December 7, 1915. They are buried in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, (FRIEDERICH) ERNST

F769

(Friedrich) Ernst Riedel was born in Kahla, Germany on June 4, 1842, the seventh child of Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel. At the age of seven he imigrated to America with his family, landing at Indianola in December 1849, and settling in the Yorktown area. Ernst grew up farming with his father and brothers and running the family grist and saw mill south of Yorktown.

In 1862 he joined the Confederate forces during the Civil War and according to army records, was a member of Company I of the 6th Infantry. The 6th Confederate Infantry Regiment participated in the battle at Port Arkansas, AR in early 1863; it is presumed, but not certain, that Ernst took part in this battle.

Upon returning to Yorktown after the Civil War, he owned and operated a hotel in Yorktown. On May 6, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Louise Jacob and they continued to live in the Yorktown area, where he continued to operate the hotel, bar and later he also farmed in this area. Ernst and Louise were the parents of six daughters: Anna, Ida Mary, Otillia, twins Louisa and Alma, and Rosalia. Anna married Charles Grosse and they farmed near Runge, TX. Their two children were Ernst Grosse and Amanda Grosse. Ernst was married to Lillie Dahlman and farmed near Runge. Amanda owned and operated a cafe in Runge. Ida married Percy Goff and they owned and operated the Goff Hotel in Kenedy. Their children were: Walter Goff, Alfred Goff, twins William and Kaleb Goff (Kaleb died shortly after birth), Percy Goff, and Blossom Goff (Martin). Otillia married Caleb Burrus, a telegrapher in Yorktown, who was shot to death in an argument with Otto Eckhardt. Their children were: Caroline Burrus (Fitts), Ruth Burrus (Saunders) and Katherine Burrus (Crouch). After Caleb's death, Otillia moved with her daughters to Woodland Mills, TN, the home of Caleb Burrus. In Woodland Mills, Otillia met and married Oscar Kennedy, the owner and operator of a grocery store. He later became a building contractor. Otillia and Oscar had one daughter Mary Alma Kennedy (Blackburn). One of Otillia's grandsons, Dr. Wm. T. Fitts, Jr. was head of the Dept. of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania for many years. Louise married Albert Ladner and they resided in Yorktown, where Mr. Ladner was in the grocery business. Their two sons were: Floyd Ladner and Jerome Ladner. Alma married Leonard Orth and resided in Dallas. The Orth's had two children: Harry Orth and Rosalie Orth (Hulse). Rosalia married George Felter, who was killed in an accident, before the birth of their second child. Rosalia's children are John, an engineer and businessman in Austin, TX and Dr. Georgia Felter Leggett, an OB/GYN in Austin, TX.

In later years Ernst and Louise Riedel retired in Yorktown. Ernst died on January 1, 1911 and Louisa died on June 14, 1930. They are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by D.E. Luddeke

Friedrich and Johanna (Duderstadt) Riedel home built in ca. 1870 in Yorktown.

RIEDEL, FRANZ AUGUST JULIUS

F770

Franz August Julius Riedel was the fifth child of Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel. He was born September 3, 1839 in Kahla, Germany, and came to America with his family when he was ten years of age. Franz worked with his father and brothers in the grist and saw mill, farmed, and in the 1860 census is listed as a Teamster. It was in this connection that on July 13, 1865, while he and one of his brothers, possibly Fritz, were hauling a load of cotton to Mexico, they were ambushed by renegades and Franz was killed. The ambushers stole their cotton, wagon and horses.

Franz's body was returned to Yorktown and laid to rest, in what was later to become the

Lutheran cemetery, next to his father, who three years earlier had met a similar fate. Franz was never married.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, GUSTAV

F771

Gustav Meeckru Riedel was born in Victoria County, Texas on January 13, 1850, while his parents Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel (immigrants from Kahla, Germany) were enroute to their new home in Yorktown. He was their ninth child, and the only one born in America. Gustav grew up around Yorktown, and was in the ginning business with his brother Joseph until 1885. On December 24, 1870 he was united in marriage to Caroline Buergner. Gustav and Caroline lived in Karnes County and for a time he was in the cotton ginning business with his brother Carl in Riddleville (Gillett). Around 1891 Gus & Caroline built a stately mansion, which is still standing, southwest of Gillett. He farmed and ranched there for many years until his death August 6, 1926. Two children were born to Gus and Caroline: Walter and Valeska. Walter married Elizabeth Anderson and they had two children, LaNelle (Fleming) and Walter, Jr. who still lives near Ecleto. Walter, Sr. was a rancher and businessman in Ecleto & Karnes City. Walter Jr. is a rancher and is presently in the banking business in Falls City. Valeska married Charles Terry and they had four children: Eunyce (Johnson), Doris (Blakeney), Charles Terry Jr., and Bailey Terry. Caroline died April 28, 1926. Both Gus & Caroline are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Yorktown.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, JOHANNE CAROLINE ERNESTINE

F772

Johanne Caroline Ernestine Riedel (Braunig-Nau) was the third child, and only daughter, of Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel. She was born January 24, 1836 in Kahla, Germany. She was 13 years of age when her family brought her to America. The family landed at Indianola in December 1849 and in early 1850 settled in the Yorktown area. In her formative years she worked alongside her mother caring for her father and eight brothers. On August 10, 1858 she was united in marriage to Jacob Braunig and they farmed in the Meyersville community. Mr. Braunig was drawn into the Civil War and while serving with the Confederacy in Indianola, he contracted yellow fever and died. He is buried in Indianola. Caroline and Jacob had three children: Fritz, Henry and a daughter Lena, who was born after her father died.

On November 26, 1865 Caroline married Carl W. Nau. Early in their marriage they lived with Caroline's mother where Mr. Nau and Mr. Bauer operated a mercantile business on the lower floor of the Moritz Riedel, Sr. home. Caroline and Carl Nau had seven children: Ernst, Gustav, John, Charles, Moritz, Meta and Hedwig. Carl died August 6, 1882 leaving Caroline to raise her large family alone. The children of Caroline Riedel Braunig Nau were: Fritz Braunig who married Emma Kraege and he owned and operated Yorktown Lumber Company. They had ten children: Fred, Helen, Josephine and Elenora who all died as infants; August, Jane (Rother), Gustav, Alfreda (Wofford), Lina, and Emma (Mueller). Henry Braunig married Mary Lindenberg and was a photographer in Halletsville. They had five children: Lillie (Ahrens), Victor, Hubert, Carl and Elwyn. Lena Braunig never married. Ernst Nau was a dry goods merchant in Yorktown and was married to Lucy Ladner. Lucy and Ernst had four children: Elorine (Heye), Carl, Ladner and Hilton. Gustav Nau was in the dry goods business with Ernst and married Lena Hardt. Their sons were: Cornelius, Gus Valentine and Henry. Their daughters were: Anna, who died in infancy, and Ruth, who died when she was nine years old. John Nau married Annie Wittenbert and they had three children: Capitola, John and Forrest. Carl Nau became a pharmacist in St. Louis, MO. Carl and Anne Nau had one daughter, Dorothy Nau. Moritz Nau married Agnes Burrow and they had a son and daughter: Oscar and Frieda (Dahme). Meta Nau married August Kraege, a Yorktown merchant, and they had four children: Alfred, Viola (Braun), Roland and Hilmer. Hedwig Nau never married but dedicated her life to teaching, her church and her family.

Caroline Nau donated the land on which St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown stands. Caroline died June 6, 1918 and is buried beside Carl Nau in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, JOSEPH

F773

(Ernst) Joseph Riedel, the eighth child of Moritz F., Sr. and Johanne Heinrich Riedel was born in Kahla, Germany November 27, 1847. Joseph was two years old when the family arrived in Indianola, Texas in 1849. He grew to manhood working with his brothers in the grist mill and gin. Later he and his brother Gus owned and operated the mill until 1885. For a time he worked with his brother Carl at Riddleville. He and Marie Sinast were married on January 22, 1870. Joseph and Mary had no children of their own, but they raised Caroline "Lena" Riedel, the next to the youngest daughter of Carl & Justina Riedel. Lena Riedel married Charlie Geffert. Joseph was the first City Marshall of Yorktown. He died at the age of 42 and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery. Mary is buried beside him.

by D.E. Luddeke

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RIEDEL, MORITZ FERDINAND, JR. AND SOPHIE AFFLERBACH SCHEFFEE

F774

Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. came to America with his family on December 15, 1849, when he was 17 years of age. The family, of seven boys and one girl arrived at Indianola, TX on the sailing ship *"Hamburg-Knollen"*. Moritz, Jr. was the oldest son of Moritz F., Sr. & Johanne Heinrich Riedel. He was born in Kahla, Saxony, Germany on December 4, 1832.

In early 1850, Moritz Riedel, Jr. accompanied his parents, brothers and sister, to the Yorktown community, which was in the early stages of development. Moritz Riedel, Sr. and Jr's. names appear on the early documents and land transactions during the formative years of development of the Yorktown area. On July 30, 1854, an agreement was drawn up by 18 land owners authorizing Franz Hoppe to buy certain lands from the York estate, for the streets and public square of Yorktown. Moritz Riedel, Jr. as well as his father were signers of this document.

On April 15, 1854, Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. was united in marriage with Sophie (Afflerbach) Scheffee, a widow with one daughter, Caroline Scheffee, who had immigrated to Texas from Erntebruct, Westphalia, Germany. During the early years of his marriage, Moritz Jr. was engaged in farming and helping his father with his grist mill operations in the area around Yorktown. The 1860 DeWitt county census lists Moritz, Jr. with his wife, Sophie, his step daughter, Caroline, and his children, Emma, age five and Herman, age one. Moritz Jr.'s occupation is listed as farmer.

Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. was apparently a gifted musician, who in addition to his instrumental skills, was also a composer and band director. By virtue of these abilities, when the Civil War broke out, he entered the military service with the Confederate forces as a musician. He was a member of Co. I, 6th Inf. Regiment, CSA and when this unit participated in the battle of Port Arkansas, which occurred in January 1863 on the Arkansas River southeast of Pine Bluff, AR, Moritz, Jr. was taken prisoner. He spent the remainder of the war in Northern territory.

During this war time period, his father, Moritz Riedel, Sr. was brutally murdered on Aug. 29, 1862, leaving his widowed mother Johanna to look after the family land holdings. During this same period, his brother Adolph was wounded and his brother Franz was killed in a similar ambush.

In 1865, Carl W. Nau, the husband of Caroline Riedel Braunig Nau, and a Mr. Bauer operated a general merchandise business on the lower floor of the home of Johanna Riedel, widow of Moritz Riedel, Sr. A short time after returning from the Civil War, Moritz Riedel, Jr. bought out the interest of Mr. Bauer, joining his sister Caroline and Carl Nau in the business. In 1872, the business moved into new quarters, located in Yorktown where the present M. Riedel & Sons building presently stands. Mr. Nau was a chemist and pharmacist and it is assumed that it was from him that Moritz, Jr. learned the pharmacy business. Mr. Nau died in 1882 and for awhile Moritz Riedel, Jr. and his sister Caroline operated the busi-

ness together. In 1887, Caroline sold her interest to two of Moritz, Jr.'s sons, August and Richard and the pharmacy, M. Riedel and Sons was formed. Richard passed away in 1888 and the firm was joined by another son, Otto H. Riedel.

Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. was very active in the civic affairs of Yorktown. In 1869, he together with Mr. Gips organized one of the early brass bands; he served as Postmaster from 1883 until 1910 and as Mayor and Justice of the Peace. Mr. Riedel was an active churchman, and was one of the founders of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown.

Moritz F. Riedel, Jr., passed away on June 30, 1912 and as laid to rest near his father and mother in the Lutheran Cemetery on land given for this purpose by his family.

Caroline Scheffee married Henry A. Jacob, Jr. and had eleven children. (See Jacob.) The marriage of Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. & Sophie Scheffee Riedel was blessed with six children: Emma (married Louis Riedesel), lived in Nordheim. Their children were: Helen (Poetter), Frank, Henry, Richard, Oscar, Herbert, Leona (Weischwill), & Josephine (Pieper); Herman (married Auguste Mueller), was Corporate Secretary for Anhueser-Busch in St. Louis, MO. Their children were: Herman, Jr. & Lillian, who died as infants, Elorine (Kerwin), Lucile, & Theodore; August (married Ida Heissig), was part owner of M. Riedel & Sons. Their children were: Elsie & Hilda who died as infants, and Alfred and Hendie (Adix); Richard, who was a pharmacist, died at the age of 22: Bertha, a musician and church organist; and Otto (married Henrietta Heissig), was part owner of M. Riedel & Sons. Their children were: Wilfred and Lelia (Luddeke).

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, MORITZ FERDINAND, SR. AND JOHANNE CAROLINE AUGUSTE HENRICH

F775

Moritz F. Riedel, Sr. was born in Munchenbernsdorf, Saxony, Germany on August 29, 1809, the son of Johann Andreas Riedel and Christina Friederika Metzner. Moritz F. Riedel, Sr. and Johanne Caroline Auguste Heinrich were married at Kahla, Saxony, Germany about 1831. Moritz was a baker and after their marriage, he and Johanne lived in Kahla, where he applied his trade, just as his father did before him. There were eight children born to this union, while living in Kahla, seven sons and one daughter.

With a large family and limited opportunities for a baker in Germany, plus the threat of war being present at this time, Moritz and Johanne decided to seek new opportunities in America. In late 1849, with Johanne expecting their ninth child, the family boarded the *"Hamburg-Knollen"* and sailed for a new life in Texas. The vessel arrived at the port of Indianola, Texas on December 15, 1849. The family remained there for a short time to get outfitted for the trip inland. On January 13, 1850, Moritz and Johanne welcomed Gustav, their ninth and only child born in America.

The Riedel family journeyed inland to the new settlement of Yorkland (later Yorktown) which was being developed by the late Captain John York, who was killed by Indians in 1846, Charles Eckhardt, C.G. Hartmann and a few other families. Upon their arrival in Yorktown, it is believed that they rented a room from Andreas Strieber, Sr. until they could build their own home. In early 1850 the Riedels bought their first 127 acres of land in the center of what is now Yorktown. This location is approximately one mile south of what was then the center of Yorktown, called Upper Town. Soon after purchase of their first tract of land, the family built a single story house constructed of logs, stone and moss. Later a second story was added. Their home is believed to have been located where the present Methodist Church stands.

In August of 1855 Moritz Riedel Sr. purchased at public auction, part of the estate of Captain York, a tract of 1806 acres of land in the Headright League and Labor of Stephen Best. This tract is approximately one half of the Stephen Best Survey and is where much of Yorktown is located today.

Moritz Riedel and his sons built the first grist mill and saw mill in the county, on Coletto creek, in the H.C. Kitchen Sur. two miles south of Yorktown. This mill was intended to operate on water power, but due to the unreliable water supply was soon converted to steam power. This mill was later moved to Yorktown and operated by his sons, along with their substantial farming operations.

During the Civil War, on August 29, 1862, while hauling a load of supplies from Clinton to Yorktown, Moritz Riedel, Sr. was murdered, by hoodlums and his team of horses stolen. Some believed his murder was because he was supposedly outspoken in his opposition to slavery, or it may have been that his horses were stolen solely for sale to the Confederate army. This was a lawless area and time and incidents of this kind were common.

Moritz Riedel, Sr. and his family suffered much during the Civil War period, in addition to his death, his son Franz was similarly murdered while hauling cotton to Mexico. It is believed that his son Adolph was wounded at the time his father was murdered and after his recovery, Adolph joined the Union army, while his brothers Moritz, Jr. and Ernst were serving in the Confederate army.

Moritz F. Riedel, Sr. was laid to rest in a grove of Oak trees on a hill, located not farm south of his home. This land was later deeded to the Lutheran church of Yorktown and today is the location of the church cemetery. Moritz F. Riedel, Sr., his wife Johanne, who died April 15, 1874, and their son Franz, are buried together inside an iron fence overlooking the present city of Yorktown.

To the union of Moritz F. Riedel and his wife Johanne Caroline Auguste Heinrich, nine children were born: Moritz Ferdinand Riedel, Jr. born December 4, 1832. Carl Edward Riedel, born April 28, 1834. Johanne Caroline Ernestine Riedel, born January 24, 1836. Adolph Friederick Ernst Riedel, born November 19, 1837. Franz August Julius Riedel, born September 3, 1839. Constantine Theodore Friedrich "Fritz" Riedel, born March 8, 1841. Friedrich Ernst Riedel, born January 4, 1842. (Ernst) Joseph Riedel, born November 26, 1847. Gustav Meeckru Riedel, born January 13, 1850.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDEL, OTTO HERMAN AND HENRIETTE HEISSIG

F776

Otto H. Riedel was born in Yorktown, TX on August 11, 1871, the youngest child of Moritz F. Riedel, Jr. and his wife Sophie Afflerbach Scheffee Riedel. Otto attended school in Yorktown and was active in the Yorktown Brass Band directed by his father.

After the death of his older brother Richard in 1888, Otto joined his father and brother August in the operation of M. Riedel and Sons Drug Store, located just north of Main Street and facing the west on Riedel Street. He later became a partner in the business.

On August 11, 1893 Otto H. Riedel and Henriette Heissig (a sister to Ida Heissig Riedel) were united in marriage and made their home in Yorktown, where he continued to work in the family business as bookkeeper and business manager. He was active in civic affairs of Yorktown and served on the Yorktown School Board and other affairs about town. He served on the Church Council of St. Paul Lutheran Church for a number of years. Otto continued to be active in the business and civic life of Yorktown, until his death September 28, 1936.

To the union of Otto and Henriette Riedel, two children were born, Lelia who was born July 16, 1894 and Wilfred born March 7, 1898. Lelia attended school in Yorktown and later St. Mary Hall in San Antonio. She was also an accomplished pianist and studied at the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music. Later she taught piano and was organist for St. Paul Lutheran Church. On January 14, 1920, Lelia was married to Elmer A. Luddeke. They had one son David. David became a Professional Engineer and in 1959 he married Evelyn Brodersen Thornton, a widow with three children, whom David adopted: Kristie (Sprehe), Daniel and Dale. David & Evelyn have two sons, Timothy and Jeffery. Kristie and Paul Sprehe own and operate a building interiors firm in Colorado Springs, CO. Daniel, Dale and Timothy are all graduate engineers and are employed in the field of aeronautics. Dan in Ft. Worth, TX, Dale in Seattle, WA, and Tim in Cape Canaveral, FL. Jeffrey is a computer program analyst for AMOCO in Tulsa, OK. All have degrees from Oklahoma State University.

Wilfred H. Riedel attended school in Yorktown, and after graduation, studied Pharmacy at the University of Texas at Galveston. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I and at its conclusion, joined his father Otto and Uncle August in the M. Riedel and Sons Drug Store. He later bought the interests of August Riedel and became a partner in the firm. On March 28, 1921 he married Martha Ann Taylor. There were two sons born to this union, Wilfred Taylor Riedel and Dr. Larry O. Riedel. Wilfred Taylor was Superintendent of Schools in College Station, TX for many years, and is presently engaged in banking. He married Mary Jo Duderstadt and they had two sons: Mark and David. Mark lost his life in an auto accident shortly after becoming a physician. David is also a physician. Dr. Larry O. Riedel is an internist in Victoria, TX. He married Billie Duderstadt (Mary Jo's sister) and they had three children: Larry O. "Skippy" Riedel, Jr., who is studying Medicine, Cari Ann (Hel-

weg), who works in her father's office in Victoria; and James Riedel, who is employed in Rock Port, TX.

by D.E. Luddeke

RIEDESEL – KASTEN – COOK

F777

I, Anita Riedesel Cook, only daughter of Frank and Meta Riedesel, went to the public school in Nordheim graduating from the tenth grade. Needing to finish the prescribed eleven years, I attended Yorktown High School, graduating in 1925.

In the fall of 1925, I, Anita Riedesel Cook, went to CIA, now Texas Women's College, for a year. The next three years were spent at the University of Texas in Austin from which I graduated in 1929 with a BA degree.

In the fall of 1929 I accepted a position as a teacher in the Seguin High School, remaining for five years.

On September 12, 1934, I was married to Marion A. Cook from Frankton, Texas. He was employed with Dean Word Construction Company, building highways. This caused us to live in many different towns and places in our early years. Becoming a partner in the business, we settled in New Braunfels, Texas in 1943 to rear our children. To our union were born six children; Meta Beth, deceased, Marion Anita, James Frank, Thomas Dean and Gerry Ann (twins) and John Daniel.

My daughter, Marion, married Fred R. Clark. To their union were born six children; Mark Adrian, Suzanne Marion, Heather Leigh, John Shay, Thomas Page, and James Chandler.

August 25, 1985, Suzanne married John York Bell, III originally from Cuero. John's great-great-great-great grandfather was Captain John York Bell III, co-founder of Yorktown.

DeWitt County, especially Yorktown and Nordheim, holds many fond memories for me, Anita Riedesel Cook. My forefathers, the Riedels, Naus, Kastens and Riedesels were early pioneers of Yorktown and Nordheim.

My maternal grandfather, August Kasten, bought the first residential lot in Nordheim. His first grandson, Arno Kasten was the first male child born in Nordheim. August helped his oldest son, William Kasten and Eddie Wied, establish the first Merchantile Store in Nordheim.

Arno Kasten, grandson of August, although living in Woodsboro, Texas with his parents in later years, finished high school education in Yorktown. After graduating there he attended Texas Military Academy in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from that institution at the time World War I was declared. As a candidate for officers training, he was inducted into the Army, and was due to be sent overseas. This was also at the time of the influenza epidemic. Arno's father, William Kasten, stricken with the disease, was taken on a special train from Woodsboro to Yorktown for medical attention. He died, however, shortly after arriving in Yorktown. During the time of this epidemic in 1918 Arno was sent home to Woodsboro to run his father's business, The Kasten Merchantile Store.

All my grandparents were born in America except my grandfather, August Kasten. He was three years of age when he arrived in America with his father and two older brothers. His mother and a baby sister died enroute.

My fraternal grandfather, Ludwig Riedesel, was born in Yorktown, as was my father, Frank Albert Riedesel. Frank's mother, Emma Riedel was also born in Yorktown, the daughter of Moretz Riedel. She was married to Ludwig Riedesel in Yorktown, and to their union were born eight children: Henry, Helen, Frank, Richard, Herbert, Oscar, Leona and Josephine.

My grandmother Emma Riedesel's father was a chemist and pharmacist as were two of her brothers, August and Otto Riedel. They practiced this profession for many years in Yorktown.

My father's grandfather and father were saddle makers. Later his grandfather farmed.

My father, Frank Riedesel, farmed, but after a while went to Draughan's Business College in San Antonio. He also worked as a clerk in the early Osterloh and Neulzter Merchantile store in Nordheim. Here he met my mother, Meta Kasten, daughter of August Kasten. They were married on March 28, 1906, and made their home in Yorktown, as my father had a position with the Westhoff Lumber Company. On November 17, 1909 I, Anita, was born to their union.

In 1912 my family moved to Nordheim where my father took over the management of a branch of the Norris Lumber Company. My parents lived in Nordheim over forty years.

by Mrs. M.A. Cook

WENDEL, JOHANN AND ELIZABETH (RIEMENSCHNEIDER)

F778

The story of the Wendel family, as known today, seems to start in Heinebach, Circle of Cassel, Germany. According to research, Hans Heinrich Wendel was born in 1674 and died in 1741 at the age of 67 years. His son, Samuel, was born in October 1722 in Heinebach, Hessia, Germany and died there in March 1782 at the age of 60. Johann Heinrich Wendel, son of Samuel, was born there in February of 1749. He died in 1786 at the age of 27 years. His son, Oswald Wendel, was born in Heinebach on 23 January 1786 and died in 1863 at the age of 78 years. Oswald married Elizabeth Kroning, and one of their sons was Johann who was born in 1819.

The story of the Wendel Family in Meyersville seems to start with Johann and Elizabeth Riemenschneider Wendel. On 14 October 1859 they and their children – George, Oswald, Mary and Elizabeth – left Germany. They arrived at Old Indianola on 26 December and came to Meyersville on 3 January 1860. Another son, Henry, was born in Meyersville, Texas.

Johann Wendel was the son of Oswald and Elizabeth Kroning Wendel. They lived in Heinebach, Hessia, Germany. Johann, their seventh child, was born there in 1819 and died in Meyersville on 3 October 1898. He is buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. He married Elizabeth Riemenschneider, who was born on 27 February 1819 in Altmorschen, Hessia, Germany. Her parents were Justus Riemenschneider who was born on 20 February 1781 in Almorschen, Hessia, Germany, and was married on 14 February 1813 to Anna Catharina Schlagel who was born on 10 July 1785. Elizabeth died on 12 April 1864 at the age of 53 years. Her burial place is unknown.

Johann and Elizabeth Wendel had five children: Oswald, Marie, George, Elizabeth, and Henry. Oswald married Emilie Kaiser and they had two daughters. Marie married Valentine Staedtler and they had five children. George married Auguste Albertine Emilie Boldt, and they had 16 children. The 4th child

Auguste Albertine Emilie (Boldt) and George Wendel

of Johann and Elizabeth Wendel was Elizabeth, who married Frederick Diebel. They had nine children. The fifth child was Henry Wendel who died at an early age.

George Wendel, son of Johann and Elizabeth, was born on 14 September 1842 in Altmorschen, Amt Spangenberg, Kreis Melsungen, Kurhessen, Germany. He died on 28 June 1924. He married Auguste Albertine Emilie Boldt, daughter of Christian and Christian Wilhelmene Kannewischer Boldt. She was born on 14 August 1843 in Friedeberg, Alt Haferwiese, Brandenberg, Germany. Her family came to Texas in the 1850's. They remained at Clinton, DeWitt County, for a while and then moved to the Kalekann (Callihan ?) Settlement where they settled permanently and where she spent her younger years until she married.

George Wendel wrote the following: "In the year 1859 on October 14 we left our old home in which my parents lived, and emigrated when I was 17 years old. On the second day of Christmas we landed in Galveston and on New Years Eve we came to Powder Horn (Now Indianola). On January 3, 1860 we arrived in Meyersville where my parents were renters. I stayed with them until in June 1862 because the war (Civil War) started then when I was only 19 years old. I was put in the artillery Co. of Captain Reuss. I served in the Company for 3 years until June 18, 1865 when the war ended. Then I went back to Meyersville where I worked on a farm as a day laborer until I, on December 31, 1865, married Auguste Albertina Emielie Boldt. We were married by Pastor Adam Sager and were blessed with 16 children."

George was a farmer and a teamster, hauling freight using horse and wagon. The children of George and Albertine Boldt Wendel were: Gustav (married Marie Hausman), Bertha (married Fred Albrecht), Marie (married Fritz Dreier), Wilhelm (married Lulu Franke), Hulda (married Willie Schlein), Anna (died in infancy), Elizabeth (married Fred Ruschhaupt), Emil (married Martha Ruschhaupt), Henry (married Alma Dreier), Henry (died in infancy), Edward (married Mathilda Schwitz), Anna (married Richard Schaefer), Alfred (married Ida Mueller), Fred (married Amalie Diebel), Paul (married Elfie Diebel), and Emilie (married Alois Duderstadt).

(See separate story of Paul and Elfie Diebel Wendel.)

by Mrs. Ruth Nagel

ROBINSON, JAMES W. AND PAULINE ALMYRA TEAS

F779

1818-1906

My roots go deep into the soil of De Witt Co., although most of my relatives have moved to other parts of Texas except for distant cousins.

James W. Robinson, my great grandfather, was born in South Carolina on February 16, 1818. He died March 4, 1906 in Fishoe County, Texas. We do not know when or how he made the long journey from South Carolina to De Witt County. A land deed shows he purchased land from Sam W. and Annie M. Lane on June 16, 1858. The property line on one side of the land was the county line of Gonzales County.

He was united in marriage to Pauline Almyra Teas on August 11, 1859 in De Witt County. Perhaps he may have known her for some time, because she too was born in South Carolina. He brought his young bride to live in a two story house that was already on his property. I have often thought that if this old house could have talked, it could have told us the many joys and sorrows of the Robinson families it sheltered.

Franklin Robinson, their firstborn child, arrived in July of 1861. The Civil War started that same year. James W. had to go, as did all the other men. He must have been stationed close to home, and must have spent time with his young wife Pauline Almyra, because another son was added to this family, John Hugh Robinson, born January 9, 1863. For only twenty-four days, he knew the love of a mother. As he lay nestled against Almyra's breast the arms that had held him so tenderly went limp. Almyra was at peace.

James W. came home from war to give his wife proper burial. I suppose the only future James W. could see was war. He knew he was left in this big world with two small babies to raise. Franklin was left with some of his slaves. John Hugh being so tiny and helpless was given to a cousin, Mary A. Gilbert Carson and husband Robert Hartwell Carson of Gonzales to raise.

Franklin died when he was only a young man. The 1870 census shows that he, too, was living with the Carsons. I believe after the war was over and the slaves were freed, James W. found Franklin a bit much to raise alone. Perhaps someday all of the pieces of the puzzle will come together and we will know all the answers.

John Hugh and his son Patrick Hugh (my father) shared the same farm together in Walker County, Texas all of their working lives. My grandfather's house was only a short distance from our home. We four girls took turns cleaning grandfather's house. I remember times when he would be reminiscing and would turn back the years. He would pull out a long box he kept stored under his bed. These were his treasures. He would ask me if I would like to look at "Grandfather's Pretties?" Among these treasures there was one I will never forget — an old gold pocket watch case, the works having been removed, and curled in the circle of the case was a lock of beautiful black hair. Grandfather would not say anything, he didn't have to. He would sit and think, with that far away look in his eyes. Yes, it was the hair of his mother, Pauline Almyra Teas Robinson. John Hugh Robinson died July 14, 1950 in Harris County, Texas.

by Ellie M. Deason

ROBINSON, JOHN HUGH AND CARRIE MAE DARDEN

F780

John Hugh Robinson was the son of James W. Robinson and Pauline Almyra Teas. He was born 9 Jan. 1863, in De Witt Co., TX. He married a pretty young schoolteacher, Carrie Mae Darden of Gonzales Co., 15 Nov. 1882. Soon after their marriage James W. Robinson,

John Hugh Robinson

Carrie Mae (Darden) Robinson

his father, asked them to live with him on his farm in De Witt Co. After much thought, they decided this would give John Hugh an opportunity to spend some time with his father which he had been denied until now. (See Robinson, James W.) The house they would live in was two-storied and would be large enough for the family they planned to raise.

Grandfather James was not so enthusiastic about small feet running up and down the stairway. He soon built a small house nearby for his use.

Carrie Mae was the daughter of George Patrick Darden and Elizabeth Jane Dickinson. (See: Darden, Washington Lee and Darden, George Patrick.) There were five children born to John Hugh and Carrie Mae, all born in De

Witt Co., TX.

1. Patrick Hugh b. 12 Sept. 1885. Married Hattie Viola Arnold 21 Sept. 1913, Walker Co., TX. Died 9 April 1966, Harris Co., TX.

2. Mary Mae, born 23 Dec. 1886, m. Mack Amos Hollis 13 Jan. 1910, Tom Green Co., TX. Died 23 Nov. 1917, Coleman Co., Texas. Three children.

3. Ellie Almyra, b. 21 April 1889. Married Joseph Edward Smith, 1909, Tom Green Co., TX. Died 23 Jan. 1963 Tom Green Co., TX. Three children. They also raised Carl Lee, Mary Mae's oldest son.

4. Frank Marion, b. 31 July 1891. Married Daisy Jeffrey Todd 16 July 1942 in Houston, TX. Died 16 Jan 1987, Harris Co., TX. He served in World War I – Navy.

5. John Samuel, b. August 1892, d. 15 April 1974 in Tom Green Co., TX.

The John Hugh Robinson family lived in De Witt Co. over 22 years. All of his children spent their teenage years there.

Grandmother Carrie believed God and an education were the most important things in a child's life. When they were unable to attend a formal school, she taught them. She would gather them around her chair to hear God's Word, the Blue Back Speller, reading, writing and arithmetic. For her guidance I am so grateful. Grandfather thought honesty and love were enough. Take care of one another. Be there! Anytime you were needed. This carried down through the family. They were always close throughout their lives.

Grandfather John Hugh was 74 years old before he found out that to be a moral man was not enough, that one must know Christ, to help you through life.

Around the year 1906 or 07, it rained so much that the Guadalupe River got out of its banks. It caused all creeks and waterways to flood and the crops failed. Patrick Hugh, the eldest, and a cousin, Powell Burwell, went to West Texas to work on a ranch. When they arrived in Tom Green Co., they saw cotton higher than the head. The land was high, and would never flood. He wrote this news to his parents who had been dissatisfied for some time.

James W. was getting up in age, and did not stay at home much anymore. He visited around among relations. Carrie and John moved from De Witt Co. to Tom Green Co. around 1908. However, it took only a few years living there for them to see they had made a mistake. It was as dry as De Witt was wet, and the sandstorms were unbearable.

Once again they packed for travel. This time they left behind two daughters. In the few short years they had been there, Mary and Ellie had found husbands. This time they set out across Texas going east. They arrived in Walker Co. and settled around 1912, west of Huntsville. It was in this community that Patrick Hugh met and married our mother, Hattie Viola Arnold.

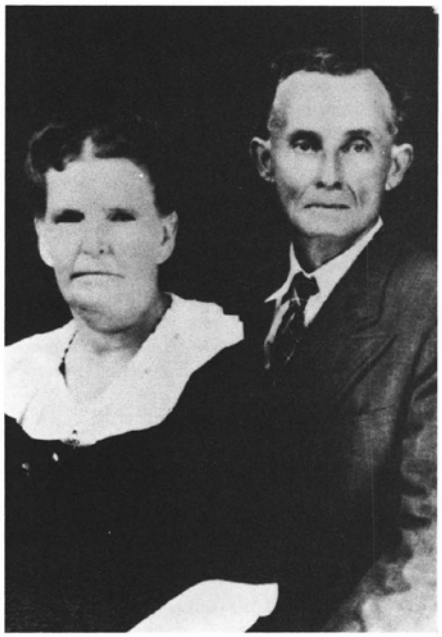
Patrick and his father bought a farm in 1916, three miles north of town. This is where they settled for life. During their entire lives they were never separated except for short periods of time. It was a union only God could have built and I am sure they are sharing it together now.

John Hugh was loved by all in Huntsville. He was not often addressed by his formal name, everyone called him 'Grandpa Robinson.' When he died an article in the local paper stated: "Grandpa Robinson died today. Huntsville has lost a grand old citizen."

by Ellie M. Deason

ROBINSON, PATRICK HUGH AND HATTIE VIOLA ARNOLD

F781



Hattie Viola (Arnold) and Patrick Hugh Robinson

Patrick Hugh Robinson was raised in De Witt Co., twelve miles from Cuero, TX. The oldest son of John Hugh and Carrie Mae Darden Robinson, he was born 12 September 1885. He married Hattie Viola Arnold, 21 September 1913, Huntsville, Texas. He died 9 April 1967, Harris Co., TX.

Hattie Viola Arnold was born 17 June 1891, Dade Co., FL and died 5 August 1956 Liberty Co., TX. Both Patrick Hugh and Hattie Viola are buried in Pine Prairie Cemetery. She was a daughter of George Edward Arnold of Georgia and Virginia Agnes Arnold of Florida.

My parents lived in Huntsville all of their lives, except for the later years of Daddy's life. These years were spent with his oldest daughter, Florence Williams, in Harris Co.

Our farm was one of the few farms in the county devoted to vegetable farming. We grew, packed and shipped to Harris Co. what we did not sell locally. We had orchards of peaches, pears, plums, blackberries and strawberries. Our livestock were cows, hogs and chickens.

Daddy's sister, Mary Mae, died 23 November 1917. Her husband, Mack Amos Hollis, died 20 January 1918, leaving three little tots as orphans. Grandpa took Mack Julius (M.J.) to raise. He grew up and was considered one of us, as they lived only a short distance away from our home, and took most of their meals with us. There was only one boy in our family of five and he made two.

Daddy was proud of our farm. The location was ideal for what he chose to grow. Three miles from Huntsville gave us quick access to good churches and schools. He had a dream that all of his children would get a degree at the local Sam Houston State College. He pushed us in education just as his mother had pushed him. We grew up in the depression years and we may have thought we had it hard but it taught us to love and share. My mother was a good provider. She stood for long hours over a wood stove canning fruit jelly and vegetables. I can almost hear her now, singing old gospel hymns, as she sat at a treadle sewing machine sewing dresses, shirts and underwear.

Our barns were well stocked with winter supplies. I guess I remember most the peanuts and a large red barrel filled with sugar cane syrup. We were allowed to eat all we wanted.

Cool winter Sunday afternoons were spent with our friends, brought home after church, making taffy. In the summer we had the best swimming hole in the community. We also made ice cream often when peaches and strawberries were in season. I don't remember visiting other friends much, but our house was always full.

Each night, after lessons were over, Daddy would gather us together around the large fireplace for a quiet time. He would read to us from the Bible. Each night we heard a different story. I am very grateful for this childhood.

To this family five children were added. All were born and raised in Walker Co.

1. Ruby Florence, b. 17 Sept. 1914, m. Ernest Vernon Williams, 25 Sept. 1931 in Lake Charles, LA. She is retired from the Galena Park Police Department, and he from the Ideal Cement Company. Ernest d. 31 Oct. 1980. She resides in Houston, TX, and their four children all live near.

2. Frank John Robinson, b. 22 Aug. 1916, m. Virginia Louise Langley 8 May 1940. He retired after 47 years with Gulf States Utility as District Superintendent and is presently Walker County Judge. Three children.

3. Oda Pearl, b. 27 May 1918, m. 1st Elmer Lee Sartin 20 April 1935, one adopted child; Elmer deceased; married 2nd Luther Hollis Sandlin 14 Jan. 1950. Luther retired from the Carnation Company, d. 15 Feb. 1980. Three adopted children.

4. Ellie Margaret, b. 18 Oct. 1920, m. Horace William Deason, 25 Dec. 1937, Montgomery Co. Horace served in the U.S. Air Force World War II (48 mo.) Asiatic Pacific Campaign.

5. Letha Mae, b. 17 July 1925, m. James Small 26 July 1945. James served U.S. Army, World War II, Atlantic Theater, Germany Campaign. He was gravely wounded and received the Purple Heart. James d. 10 August 1983. Two children.

6. Eatha Rae, twin, b. 17 July 1925. Stillborn.

7. Mack Julius Hollis (foster child) b. 18 November 1914, m. 1st Sammy Lee Smith, m. 2nd Norcell (?), d. February 1956, Harris Co., TX.

I suppose we were a small disappointment to Daddy. Frank was the only one to pursue a higher education. He received a degree in education. However we all had good husbands and families that our parents loved as their own. We do "follow in their footsteps."

by Ellie M. Deason

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ROEDER, J. von

F782

1836-1925

Joachim von Roeder was born in Cat Spring, Texas, Nov. 9, 1836, to Rudolph von Roeder and wife, Antonietta von Donop, both descendants of Prussian nobility, where the von Roeders were members of the celebrated and feared Teutonic Knights. It was in battle that Lt. Ludwig von Roeder won the title of Baron and became a member of nobility.

Von Roeders started immigrating to the U.S. in 1832 and settled at Cat Spring, near Bellville. Others came later. Albrecht and Louis fought with Sam Houston.

Young J. von Roeder was left an orphan as a baby, but his Aunt Rosalie had promised his father she would rear him. He moved to DeWitt County at 9 years of age, where he lived with his aunt and her husband, Robert Kleberg, working to raise food and fibre and attending to livestock. At maturity, he began stock farming north of Meyersville.

At the onset of the Civil War, J. von Roeder joined the Southern forces and fought in several campaigns in the South. He never liked a "Yankee," as a grandson feels today. J. von Roeder married Louise Eckhardt in 1858. He had moved to west of Yorktown and established his ranch on Salt Creek, some of which is still owned by his descendants. Their children were: 1. Antoinette, who married Herman Dahlman, and whose grandchildren, W.C. has a home in DeWitt Co. and also Beeville, and his sister, Joyce, wife of F.R. Feeney, Col. Ret., reside in DeWitt Co. Their father was Ludwig (Lud) Dahlman and his wife Alice Terell. 2. Jane von Roeder, never married, took care of her parents and was a motivation in her church, First Presbyterian with her cousin, Marcellus Eckhardt, a legend to many too. 3. Mary Caroline married F.K. (Kirk) Lynch, a Civil War veteran and later a druggist and postmaster at Westhoff. They had no children. 4. Herman von Roeder, a tall handsome friendly man who married Ida Korth and whose children, Robert H. von Roeder, a proud World War I veteran, was engaged in farming and ranching. He married Edith Laird, who as a nurse, administered to many and whose son, George, he adopted and who served gallantly under Gen. Patton in World War II. Frances von Roeder, never married, devoting her time and energies to her family. She lives today on her ranch and is a greatly loved and highly respected lady in Yorktown. 5. Mathilda (Aunt Tildie), married Robert Thorogood, a native of England and a self made man, who served in the Spanish American War. He was a merchant in Runge. Their only child, Anita, graduated from the University of Texas, married Thos. A. Graves, Attorney and County Judge of Cuero. Anita still resides in Cuero leading an active life. 6. William von Roeder (Bill), a rancher married Louise Menn and had 4 children. J.J. von Roeder spent his life in Yorktown, married Elmina Pacenka, who survives him in Yorktown. They had 2 sons, Bobby of Yorktown and Milam of Victoria. Louise married Claude Went and resides in Yorktown. 7. Ludwig von Roeder, Dr. of Medicine, lived in New York City, attended University of Texas, Cornell and a medical school in Austria. His children, Alice and Louise died in New Jersey, and son Robert survives, presumably in Bermuda. 8. Louise von Roeder, married Chas. Flato, who was active in business in Kingsville. Her children, Chas. III, Harry and Billy are all deceased. 9. Rudolph, better known as "King," was a highly respected rancher and Hereford cattle breeder in Yorktown. He married Augusta Heuermann of Yoakum, whose grandfather Wm. Heuermann, left trusts and these helped the young couple financially.

Back Row: Mary (von Roeder) Lynch, Dr. L.R. von Roeder, Mathilde (von Roeder) Thorogood. Middle Row: Antoinette (von Roeder) Dahlman, William von Roeder, Louise (von Roeder) Flato, Herman von Roeder, Jane von Roeder. Front Row: J. von Roeder, R.S. von Roeder, and Louise (Eckhardt) von Roeder.

Children included: 1. R.J. von Roeder (Rudy), Jr. graduated with high military and scholastic honors from Texas A&M. He was a member of many scholastic organizations, too numerous to mention, but gained international recognition. He married Willo Lipscomb Jackson of Luling, a granddaughter of W.W. Lipscomb, a Virginian, banker in Miss., Central Texas and San Antonio. Willo has been a perfect mate to help and promote and is known nationwide as a person of her own.

Their children, Richard (Jack) heads a successful investment firm in Houston, holding a Masters degree in finance, a Texas Aggie, as is his oldest daughter, Scarlett, also an Aggie graduate and manages a specialty jewelry store in Houston. Jack married Kay Chandler and their other children, Ron is manager of Luby's Cafeteria in Fayettville, Ark., Rick a talented metal workers specialist and Shannon, a student. Edward, son of Rudy and Willo, graduate of Texas Tech and SW Texas Univer-

sity, married Donna Fae Peters, a dynamic personable girl. Their children include Randy, Edie and Don, all active in 4H and FFA work and earning their college educations showing steers and heifers, with winnings at Dallas and Houston and smaller shows, such as San Antonio, Victoria, etc. Edward has done a terrific job holding land and livestock together during dry adverse years. A superb family, who have bought land and shown their livestock to many winnings.

2. Helen von Roeder, buried in Yorktown, married Dean Gano, an insurance executive and lived in Corpus Christi. She graduated from Texas A&I University, as did her daughter, Janet. Other children, James and Helen, who with their sister Janet, have inherited land from their grandparents.

3. Edward W. von Roeder, son of R.J. Sr. and wife, Augusta, a child and young man of pleasing personality and loved by all. Generous and kind, he lost his life in World War II in China.

J. von Roeder and his wife, Louise, knowing they had done a great and highly recognized job of living and contributing to the State of Texas. Their descendants had to have a high goal to reach their summit. On his demise, J. von Roeder, was regarded and reported to be the oldest living native Texan in South Texas and possibly the state.

May God Bless.

by R.J. Roeder, Jr.

RUSCHAUPT, WILHELM FAMILY

F783

(The information for this sketch was furnished by Minnie (Kitty) Kothmann Ruschaupt.) As already indicated in another sketch, Bertha Schorlemmer was a daughter of Henry and Emmalina Franke Shorlemmer b. 19 December 1873. Wilhelm Ruschaupt b. 23 Dec. 1869, married her 19 Nov. 1896. As they began their life together, they made their home five miles east of Meyersville, Texas on a farm adjoining that of her parents. Their first home had only two rooms and a hall downstairs with two rooms upstairs. The house grew with the family with rooms and porches being added as needed. The children now marvel at the fact that their parents reared 9 children on about 250 acres with most of it in pastureland. They raised cattle, hogs, poultry, corn, hay and cotton the main money crop. The whole family worked together to earn a livelihood. They also celebrated together when Willie hitched the horses to the wagon and took the first bale of cotton five miles to the Meyersville gin and returned with ice to make a big freezerful of ice cream! Sugarcane was grown and taken to nearby Uncle Oscar Schorlemmer who owned and operated a press to extract the juice and then boiled it in huge vats until it became molasses. From their big garden and fruit orchard, surplus vegetables and fruits were canned and cooked into jellies and jam. Baking and cooking were done on wood stoves and flatirons for ironing clothes were heated on these same stoves. The wood for fuel was sawed and cut in the pastures. The "scrub-board" was their washer.

Before the 1920's when the incubators became available, chickens and turkeys had to be hatched by the hens having to "set" on the eggs 3 or 4 weeks. Usually the older children were went into the pasture to find the well-hidden turkey nest with its eggs. In the wintertime, several hogs (and sometimes a cow or a calf) were butchered to provide sausage, ham and bacon.

By 1920, cars were owned by most families. A creamery was established in Cuero which furnished pick-up service to the farms each day. The Rushaupts had a hand-operated cream separator and sold cream for extra cash income.

The Ruschaupt children still recall their long 5-mile buggy rides to and from the Meyersville School. After the New County Line School was established, the children had only two miles to go. For entertainment before the age of radio, TV etc., many of the families ha organs around which they and their relative and friends would sing, especially on Sunda afternoons. There were also game parties weddings, birthday anniversaries and pro grams and plays at school. Willie entertained his family with his harmonica playing. The Ruschaupts were members of St. John Lutheran Church where Willie served on the council for many years and the children were active in Sunday School and Luther League. When their home burned in 1948, the family lost many cherished possessions. They bought a small house and had it moved to a site near their daughter, Elfrieda Goebel and her husband, Rudolph. They lived here until their deaths: Bertha died 26 August, 1949 and Willie 13 November, 1956.

The children of Willie and Bertha Schorlemmer Ruschaupt were:

1) Elsie born 28 Aug., 1897; died 3 June, 1956;; married 1925 to James Craig, born 1879 died 18 Nov., 1934.

2) Rosalie born 23 February, 1899; died 8 July, 1979.

3) Elfrieda born 26 June 1900; died 9 April, 1981; married 15 October to Rudulph Goebel; born November, 1904; died 27 Aug., 1970. Baby girl born and died 17 November 1901.

4) William born 8 Nov., 1903; married 19 April 1928 to Minnie (Kitty) Kothmann born 3 Mar., 1905.

5) Amanda born 10 June, 1905; married 15 March, 1925 to Alvin Schorlemmer born 18 July, 1902.

6) Werner born 6 August, 1907; died 28 June, 1908

7) Marcus born 19 March, 1910; died 14 Jan., 1969; married 22 July, 1931 to Florine Hasdorff; born 19 April, 1915.

8) Katie born 29 Nov., 1911; married 20 Nov., 1931 to Martin Mikosh born 3 Nov., 1902, died 16 Aug., 1976.

9) John born 19 October, 1914; died 15 June, 1979; married 26 November, 1942 to Lucille Seiler born 5 February, 1919.

10) Henry born 10 September, 1916; died 5 September, 1987; married 22 December, 1940 to Adel Berger born 21 December, 1923.

by Frances Hartmann

Standing: Alma (Schorlemmer) Diebel, Wilhelm and Bertha (Schorlemmer) Ruschaupt, Oscar Schorlemmer. Seated: Henry and Emmalina (Franke) Schorlemmer.

RUSCHHAUPT, EUGENE AND ELLA KOEHLER FAMILY

F784

Eugene Gus Ruschhaupt was born on 13 November 1903 in DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Fredrick Ruschhaupt (b. 21 February 1867 Illinois; d. 11 January 1946 Meyersville, DeWitt County; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 22 February 1893 Meyersville) and Elizabeth Ruschhaupt, nee Wendel (b. 1 September 1874 Meyersville; d. 21 March 1951 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville). Eugene Ruschhaupt was baptized by Pastor Westerhoff of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville on 10 January 1904 and was given the baptismal name Gustav Friedrich Eugene. His baptismal sponsors were George Wendel, Frieda Dreier, and Anna Reinhardt. Eugene Ruschhaupt was confirmed at St. John Lutheran on 28 March 1920. He died

Eugene and Ella (Koehler) Ruschhaupt

on 3 October 1971 in Victoria, Victoria County, Texas, and was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

On 25 November 1926 in Meyersville, Eugene Ruschhaupt married Ella Koehler, daughter of Frederick Christian Koehler (b. 19 March 1879 DeWitt County; d. 21 May 1955 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville, DeWitt County; m. #1: 29 June 1904 DeWitt County; m. #2: 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Friedericke Sager) and Caroline Koehler, nee Sager (b. 29 September 1875 Arneckeville; d. 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Ella Ruschhaupt, nee Koehler, was born in Arneckeville on 19 April 1905. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 21 May 1905 and given the baptismal name Ella Justine Friedericke. Her baptismal sponsors were Michael Sager, Justine Sager, and Friedr. Koehler. She was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on Palm Sunday, 28 March 1920. Ella Ruschhaupt died in Victoria on 28 August 1981 and was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. One child was born to the marriage of Ella and Eugene Ruschhaupt; Mildred Eugenia Ruschhaupt (b. 4 May 1930 DeWitt County; m. 25 June 1950 Meyersville to Allan Lee Butler).

Eugene and Ella Ruschhaupt farmed and raised cattle on the same land for the entirety of their married life. Eugene Ruschhaupt served on the council of St. John Lutheran Church for many years; and Ella Ruschhaupt taught Sunday School there. Throughout their lives, Eugene and Ella Ruschhaupt worked hard wresting a livelihood from the land, yet they remained steadfast in their faith in God and dedicated to each other, to their family, and to their church.

by Beverly Boehl and Judith Koehler Ludrigsen

RYAN, RICHARD THOMAS JR. AND ANN

F785

Richard Thomas Ryan, Jr. was born July 3, 1921 in Cuero. He is the first of five children of Richard Ryan and Virginia Blakeslee Ryan. He attended St. Michael's School, Gonzales High School for two years and graduated from Cuero High in 1940. After serving in the Navy during W.W. II, he attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio and received his B.B.A. Degree in Marketing in 1949.

Richard went to work at the DuPont plant in Victoria in 1950 and continued to live in Cuero. He and his mother also operated Ryan's Flower Shop and he had an interest in Richard's Shoes, Inc. (formerly Bass Shoe Store) which he, his brother Bernard, and his uncle, Francis Blakeslee purchased from Myron Bass. This store was sold in 1973.

On June 13, 1953 he married Anna Mae (Ann) Wagner who was also working at DuPont in the medical department. They were married in Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. Ann was born January 23, 1927 in Yorktown, daughter of Emil J. and Anna Rohan Wagner. She attended Gohlke School and graduated from Yorktown High in 1944 and from Santa Rosa School of Nursing in 1948. She is a registered Nurse and has held positions at Gonzales Warm Springs, DeTar Hospital in Victoria, DuPont, and Bohman Clinic.

Richard and Ann have five children: Virginia Ann, born February 16, 1957; Richard Thomas III, born April 5, 1958. Kevin Shawn, born October 8, 1964; Kathleen Marie, born June 18, 1969; and Gary Patrick born March 1, 1972.

Virginia graduated from St. Michael's School and from Cuero High in 1975. She married Wayne Sparck of Yorktown on June 14, 1975 in St. Michael's Church. She has an Associate Degree in Computer Programming from San Jacinto College in Houston. She has worked as a computer programmer/analyst. Her husband has a degree in Chemistry from Texas Lutheran College and is employed as a chemist in a chemical plant in Houston. Virginia and Wayne have one daughter, Erin Michelle, born December 12, 1988. They now reside in Missouri City, Texas.

Richard III graduated from St. Michael's and from Cuero High in 1976. In April of 1975 he was diagnosed as having cancer so his health did not allow him to go to college. He did take a correspondence course in small appliance repair and operated a small repair business out of his home for about two years. He entertained his younger brother by making little electronic gadgets with lights and weird sounds. He also helped the students at St. Michael's with their Halloween Carnivals and the lighting for their school plays.

After years of radiotherapy and chemotherapy, Richard succumbed to cancer at home on October 4, 1983. He is buried on the Ryan lot in Hillside Cemetery.

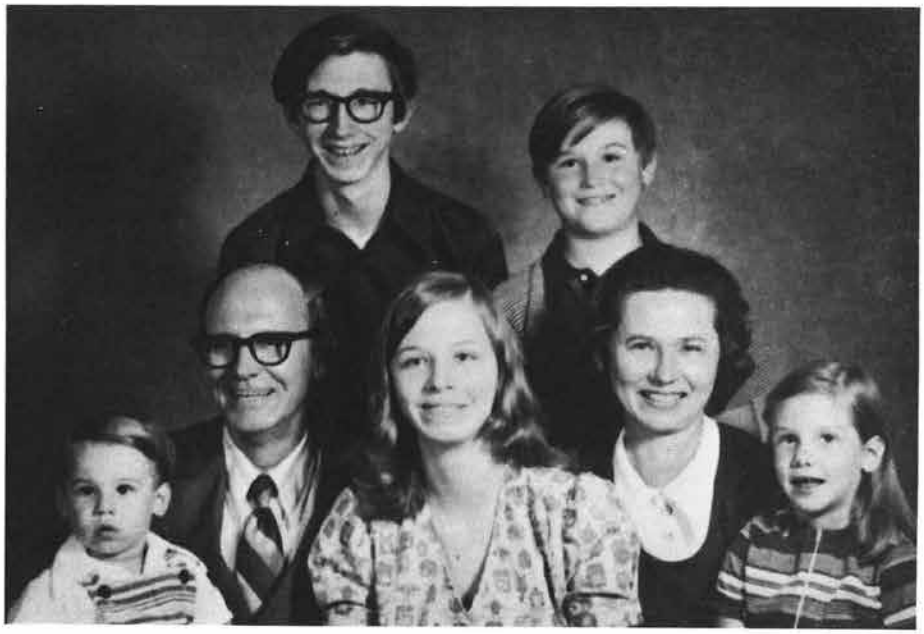
Kevin graduated from St. Michael's School and from Cuero High in 1983. He has been employed at Brentex Mills since he was a junior in high school. Kevin resides at 725 E. Newman Street.

Kathleen graduated from St. Michael's and from Cuero High in 1987. She is attending Southwest Texas State University and for the past several summers she has been employed as a life guard at the Cuero Municipal Park Swimming Pool.

Gary graduated from St. Michael's and is currently a senior at Cuero High School. He works part time at Clark's Corner.

Richard retired from DuPont in 1982. He and the family spend time developing a pecan orchard on 50 acres of land purchased in 1978 from the Dr. Miller estate. It is part of the old Clinton townsite on the Guadalupe River. 1215 McArthur Street in Cuero is home.

by Richard and Ann Ryan



Back: Richard, III and Kevin Ryan. Front: Gary, Richard, Jr., Virginia (Ryan) Sparck, Ann (Wagner) Ryan and Kathleen Ryan.

RYAN, RICHARD THOMAS, SR. AND VIRGINIA

F786

Richard T. Ryan, Sr. and Virginia (Blakeslee) Ryan

Birthday of Virginia age 88: Back – William Ryan, Richard Ryan, Bernard Ryan. Front: Frances (Ryan) McMahon, Virginia (Blakeslee) Ryan, and Rosemary (Ryan) Carbonara.

Richard Thomas Ryan Sr. was born December 4, 1881, the seventh of ten children of Patrick Ryan and Mary Doran Ryan. His parents were both natives of Ireland. Patrick came to America at age sixteen and soon after his arrival went to work in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. There he met Mary Doran who came to this country at age 18. They were married in 1869. Six children were born to them while they lived in Pennsylvania.

In 1877 they immigrated to Texas after Patrick developed lung fever from working in the mines. They settled on a farm near Ottine, in Gonzales County, and four more children were born there including Richard Thomas. Patrick died of flu complications in 1892. Mary stayed on the farm until the children were grown and then moved to the village of Ottine. Mary died in 1925 and is buried in the Ottine Cemetery. (See Patrick Ryan, Gonzales Co. History).

Richard worked in the oil fields of South Texas especially around Luling which was a hot bed of drilling activity. A great degree of credit goes to him for the formation of Warm Springs Foundation at Ottine. Richard was the driller in charge of bringing in an oil well on the site when the hot water strata was encountered. Backers of the well ordered the pipe pulled and the well sealed. Ryan talked his superiors into bringing in the well, and, as a result some 30 years later at this site, Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation for crippled children was built. It is now known as Gonzales Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital.

Richard met Mary Virginia Blakeslee, a Cuero native, while she was a teacher in the Ottine School District. They were married on September 20, 1920 in Cuero with Vera Blakeslee serving as maid of honor and Captain William Ryan of the Texas Rangers serving as best man. The reception was held at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. I. Blakeslee.

After their marriage they called Cuero home even though they moved around Texas as Richard continued following the oil play.

Five children were born to them: Richard Thomas Jr. born July 3, 1921 in Cuero (see Richard Ryan Jr.); Rosemary born November 17, 1922 in Cuero; Frances Aileen born in San Antonio January 17, 1927; Bernard Patrick born February 22, 1929 in Cuero; and Vincent William (Bill) born October 6, 1933 in Cuero.

Rosemary attended St. Michael's School and graduated from Cuero High in 1940. She went to work for Trans World Airlines in Kansas City, Missouri and was later transferred to New York. There she met Richard Neal Carbonara. They were married on December 28, 1946 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y. (See Neal Carbonara)

Frances Aileen attended St. Michael's School, Gonzales Grade School and Cuero High. She met Robert D. (Bob) McMahon who was a flight instructor at Brayton Flying School in Cuero. They were married at St. Michael's in Cuero on September 5, 1942. Bob had a degree in Pharmacy from U.T. so after the war they returned to Cleveland, Texas where he joined his father in the operation of Cleveland Pharmacy. They have five children and still reside in Cleveland.

Bernard (Pat) attended elementary school in Gonzales and graduated from Cuero High School where he was active in athletics. After graduation he began a career with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Bernard (Pat) married Shirley Scott on June 6, 1957 at St. Michael's in Cuero. They have three children and reside in Victoria. He retired from Southwestern Bell in 1988 after 40 years of service.

Vincent William (Bill) attended elementary school in Gonzales and graduated from Cuero High. He served in Korea with the U.S. Army. After his discharge he enrolled in Texas A&M and graduated with a degree in Agriculture. He married Barbara Powell at St. Michael's in Cuero in September '56. They have three children and now reside in The Woodlands, Texas.

Richard Sr. had worked hard all his life and developed problems with his heart. He retired to Cuero and died on November 4, 1949 at the age of 67. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

After her husband's death Virginia and her son Richard Jr. were looking for something for her to do to keep active and that she would enjoy. Mr. Julius Haak of Haak Florist was wanting to retire and the thought of working with flowers interested Virginia so the shop was purchased. The name was changed to Ryan's Flower Shop. Virginia proved to be a great florist who did beautiful work and was loved by her many customers. Her name was synonymous with flowers. She and Richard operated the shop until 1973 when it was sold to Rosemary, Virginia's daughter. (See Ryan's Flower Shop)

Virginia continued to work with Rosemary and her daughters to make a smooth transition of the business. She retired again in 1979 but kept in touch until a short time before her death on September 23, 1987, two days after her ninety-third birthday. Funeral services were from St. Michael's Church and she was laid to rest beside her husband in Hillside Cemetery.

Virginia was a loving and much loved person. She was very much involved with her family and with church work, especially St. Michael's Altar Society and the Catholic Daughters.

by Richard Ryan

SAGER, C. A. H.

F787

C.A.H. (Henry) Sager was born in Arneckeville, DeWitt Co. TX February 22, 1870. He was christened Christoph Adam Henry Sager, but was known as Henry. His parents were Michael and Heinricke Rath Sager, both immigrants from Germany. Henry grew up on his

C.A. H. "Henry" and Mary (Schorlemmer) Sager 1947.

Back Row L-R: Welma Sager, Edwin Sager, Lina (Sager) Koehler, Lenard Sager, Ellen Sager, Paul Sager, and Leona Sager. Front Row L-R. Oscar Sager, Mary (Schorlemmer) Sager, Frieda (Sager), Bade, C.A.H. "Henry" Sager and Ruth (Sager) Egg.

parents' farm, helping his father operate the farm, a cotton gin and a grist mill. He attended the church school at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, where the pastor was also the teacher. Henry loved music, and at the age of twelve he became the organist for the church, a duty that he performed for about twenty-two years. For many years he sang in the church choir, and when the pastor organized the church band, Henry played the fluegel-horn. He also played the violin, having taught himself to play on an instrument that he had made out of a cigar box. When he was about fourteen years old, and his parents saw that he had the desire and the talent to play the violin, they bought one for him. This violin is still in the family and is in good playing condition.

On February 4, 1903 Henry Sager married Mary Sophie Schorlemmer in Arneckeville, TX. She, too, was born in Arneckeville. Her parents were Carl and Caroline Hartman Schorlemmer. Carl came to America at the age of three. Caroline was born in DeWitt Co. TX. Mary was born August 1, 1880. She grew up in her parents' home and attended school at Zion Lutheran Church until the state (public) school was opened, and she finished her education there. She, too, loved music, and she played the organ and sang in the church choir.

When the couple married, they rented a small farm located near the Yorktown-Arneckeville Road, about three miles from Arneckeville. In November, 1906 they bought 163 acres of land for $3,000.00. At this time they had two sons, Edwin and Paul, and a third child was on the way. The next year, they built a new home with two bedrooms, a kitchen-dining room, a hall and a front porch. On May 3, 1907 their first daughter, Lina, was born.

Seven more children were born in the next eleven years: Leona, Lenard, Ellen, Welma, Ruth, Oscar and Frieda. All grew up to adulthood. Welma died in 1982, Edwin was killed in a farm accident in 1987, and Leona died in 1988. All lived in DeWitt Co. except Lenard, whose home is in Bellville, TX.

As the family grew, so did their house and the farm. By 1922 the farm acreage was about 400 acres, and to their home they had added a second story and a large back porch, which brought the house to its present size, except for a garage which was added in 1986. Their daughter Ellen still lives in the beautiful old home, where, each Christmas, the family, now numbering about eighty members, gathers for a reunion with lots of food, singing and visiting.

Everyone in the Sager family learned to work at an early age. Even the little ones had chores to do, such as helping gather eggs or carry kindling and wood into the house for the wood-burning stoves. But after work, there was also time for play. Games were played, and often all would gather round the organ for singing after supper. The parents' love for books and music was passed on to their children. Most of the family learned to play an instrument, and at one time the family orchestra consisted of a piano, three violins, a xylophone, a trumpet, a baritone and a bass horn. They played mostly for their own pleasure, but also played for picnics and programs at school and at church.

When the children were old enough to take care of most of the farm work, Henry used his skill in carpentry to supplement the farm income. Besides building a number of homes in DeWitt Co., he helped build the old Meyersville schoolhouse, which now serves as the Parish House of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. When the present church was built in Arneckeville in 1938, Henry Sager was a member of the Building Committee and one of the carpenters, too.

Mary Sager was kept busy caring for her large family, cooking, sewing, canning, gardening and doing all the other tasks that come with being a mother and farmer's wife. She was a talented seamstress, and she sewed most of the clothes for her family. She also taught her daughters her skills.

Religion was important in the life of the Sager family. Church attendance and daily devotions were practiced regularly. All were involved in the work of their church. Three of the grandsons of Henry and Mary are now pastors in the Lutheran Church.

Henry Sager died July 31, 1953, at the age of 83 years. He was a hard-working man, honest and dedicated to his convictions, a leader in his church and respected in his community. Mary, a loving and patient mother, died November 17, 1964, at the age of 84 years. Both were buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville, TX.

by Ruth S. Egg

SAGER, CHRISTOPH ADAM AND JUSTINE SOPHIE DREIER FAMILY

F788

Christoph Adam Sager was born on 3 April 1826 in Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany. His parents were Michael Sager (b. 6 September 1797 Dettingen; d. prior to 1860 Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. with no tombstone in Meyersville; m. Dettingen 3 May 1825) and Friderica Elisabetha Sager, nee Rath (b. 19 April 1801 Dettingen; d. 29 May 1887 Arneckeville, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville). Christoph Adam Sager was granted United States citizenship in DeWitt County on 25 October 1852. He died of typhoid fever on 27 August 1869 in Arneckeville and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 1 July 1853 in Meyersville, Christoph Adam Sager married Justine Sophie Dreier, daughter of Simon Heinrich Dreier (b. 22 September 1787 Bosingfeld bei Extertal, Principality of Lippe, Germany; d. 24 July 1869 Meyersville; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 9 August 1817 Bosingfeld) and Anna Luise Friedricke Dreier, ne Blomberg (b. 24 January 1796 Linderhoffe, Bosingfeld Parish; d. 13 March 1885 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville). Born on 2 June 1833 in Bosinfeld, Justine Sophie Sager was baptized on 16 June 1833 in the Reformed Church in Bosingfeld and given the baptismal name Sophie Justine. She died on 16 December 1916 in Arneckeville and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

Nine children were born to the marriage of Christoph Adam Sager and Justine Sophie Sager: 1) Friedericke "Ricke" Justine Christiana Sager (b. 3 May 1854 Meyersville; d. 24 June 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1872 Arneckeville to Heinrich Koehler). 2) Caroline Sophie Sager (b. 19 March 1856 DeWitt County; d. 14 September 1877 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 12 November 1875 Arneckeville to Friedrich "Fritz" Krueger); 3) Christoph Friederich "Fred" Marcus Sager (b. 25 April 1858 DeWitt County; d. 21 May 1947 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 8 February 1883 Arneckeville to Dorothea Wolf); 4) Carl Immanuel Sager (b. 12 October 1860 Victoria County, Texas; d. 17 October 1860 Victoria County; bur. Victoria County); 5) Emilie Barbara Sager (b. 24 November 1861 Victoria County; d. 28 March 1863 DeWitt County; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville); 6) Christian Johan Friedrich Sager (b.

Christoph Adam Sager

2 April 1864 DeWitt County; d. 22 April 1945 DeWitt County; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt County; m. 20 September 1888 Meyersville to Louise Stahl; 7) Heinrich "Henry" Christian Sager (b. 30 October 1866 DeWitt County; d. 18 June 1953 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 12 August 1890 Arneckeville to Alma Stahl), 8) Justine Louise Barbara Sager (b. 30 October 1866 DeWitt County; d. 30 September 1961 DeWitt County; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 25 November 1897 Arneckeville to Friedrich "Fred" Hartmann); 9) Heinricke Sophie Wilhelmina "Mina" Sager (b. 19 July 1869 DeWitt County; d. 20 June 1958 Orange Grove, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 25 November 1890 Arneckeville to Friedrich Christian Wolf).

Oral history indicated that young Christoph Adam Sager was a creative child and that he wanted to become an artist. He was apprenticed to a cabinet maker; however, at a mission festival service, he received the call to serve his Lord in the foreign mission field.

St. Chrischona Pilgrim Mission, which bore the name of the old and canonized Christiana, was founded in Basel, Switzerland, in they year 1840 by Christian Friedrich Spittler (1782-1867). The missionaries from St. Chrischona were sent to the far nations of the world only after thorough theological instruction. In order to distinguish them, Spittler expected his missionaries to exhibit highly trained skills, both in their personal examples and in their living testimonies. Indeed Spittler found among the pupils many who surrendered themselves to the call and lasting engagement of entering the "ominous sites of Christendom" and awakening the "lapsed faith in Jesus Christ among the people."

One man who submitted to this call was Christoph Adam Sager. He entered St. Chrischona on 10 June 1848 and withdrew on 18 March 1850. His original desire and ambition had been to serve the Indians of the New World; however, his ministry led him to another direction. In a letter written to his parents from Pfingstwaide on 14 April 1850, Christoph Adam Sager stated, "The Lord told Abraham, 'Set out for a land which I will show you.' And still today it is, in this manner, commanded of the devout followers of Jesus . . . Each person who is patient and faithful can reach his goal if only his heart obtains contentment through grace."

Christoph Adam Sager arrived at the port of Galveston, Texas, in November of 1805. He began his ministry in 1851 when he organized St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville, where he served as pastor until about 1854/55. At that time, he moved his family to Victoria, where he was employed as a cabinet maker and carpenter. The move was apparently necessitated by mounting familial expenses and a meager salary. For a number of years, he served as an itinerant pastor in the area near Victoria, Yorktown, and Goliad. He performed official ministerial duties in Victoria, and he also established two mission stations, one at Steiner Settlement and one at Spring Branch. Mention was made in the records of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville that 15 May 1859 was an especially festive day; in the evening, "Pastor Sager from Victoria . . brought his organ along and that helped to make the singing much better."

Christoph Adam Sager, his wife, his twin brothers, Michael and Peter Sager, and his mother were among the first settlers at Arneckeville, which was founded in 1859 by Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke and his wife, Ursula Barbara Arnecke, nee Sager, sister of Christoph Adam Sager. Christoph Adam Sager purchased 150 acres for $1.50 per acre at Arneckeville. The 1870 census showed that the real estate of his widow, Justine Sophie Sager, nee Dreier, was valued at $750; the value of her personal property was estimated at $300. At that time, her property was situated between that of her son, Michael Sager, and that of Christoph Thieme.

While making his livelihood as a farmer at Arneckeville, Christoph Adam Sager provided spiritual guidance for members of his community. He also provided the needed leadership in establishing Zion Lutheran Church, which he reportedly designed and for which he served as chief carpenter and pastor from 1868 until his death in August of 1869. Making the trip on horseback, he also continued to serve the two settlements near Victoria throughout his years in Arneckeville. After preaching his last sermon at Steiner Settlement, upon his return home, he became ill with a high fever and died nine days later.

In summary, we can say of Christoph Adam Sager that God had won over his heart and deemed him worthy to serve His kingdom on earth in many different ways in the course of his pilgrimage. Christoph Adam Sager had fulfilled the desire of Christian Friedrich Spittler "that the true gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected and now henceforth sitting at the right hand of God, be proclaimed on and on, in humility and simplicity, from the

L-R, Back Row: Wilhelmina (Sager) Wolf, Friederich M. Sager, Christian Sager, Heinrich Sager. Front: Friedericke (Sager) Koehler, Justine (Dreier) Sager, Justine (Sager) Hartman.

hearts of our pilgrim missionaries." When Christoph Adam Sager surrendered his life to Jesus Christ, he gained a source of strength which sustained him through all the times of difficulties, reverses, and assaults. He himself was prevented from continuing and expanding his work, but his untimely death at the age of forty-three did not prohibit the fruits of his labor from blooming and flourishing, even unto today.

by Beverly Boehl

SAGER, FRED MILFORD AND MARJORIE WYNN VORE

F789

Janet (Vore Sager) Dungan, Troy Dungan, Wyn-Erin Dungan, Leah Lynne Copenhaver and Dana Troy Davis. 1988

Fred M. Sager and Marjorie (Wynn Vore) Sager 1989

Fred Milford (Sonny) Sager, twin to Mildred Marie, was born January 3, 1923. The story of his parents, John Christoph Sager and Estella Hans Sager, is told elsewhere. In high school Fred was the 1940 Star Lone Star Farmer of the Kingsville Region. Schooling at Texas A&M was interrupted by three years in the military. He was discharged as a Second Lieutenant in 1946 and graduated from Texas Agricultural & Mechanical College in 1948. He resigned as a zone manager for International Harvester Company and returned to the family farm upon the death of his father in 1950.

Robby Price, Linda (Vore Sager) Price, Dawn Price and Robert Tyack

Linda (Hardesty) Sager with Christopher John, Fred M. Sager with Misty Lynn Sager. 1988

Amber Lynn Sager, Theresa (Robertson) Sager, Mark Sterling Sager with David Michael Sager 1988

In 1951 he married Marjorie Wynn Vore, widow of U.S. Air Force Captain Clarence O. (Bud) Vore, of Maurice, Iowa, killed near Grenoble, France, in 1946. Cpt. Vore is buried in San Angelo, Texas, Marjorie's hometown. The Vores had twins, Janet Lynn and Linda Jane, born July 25, 1944. The Wynn family is traced back through Texas and Georgia to Virginia, to a Revolutionary War soldier, Thomas Wynn, on back to Colonel Robert Wynne, who came to Virginia in 1651 from Canterbury, Kent, England. Further family records are found there.

Fred and Marjorie built their home south of Cuero. Fred M., Jr. was born July 30, 1954, and Mark Sterling on August 27, 1956. Fred went to work in the Cuero office of Texas Eastern Gas Transmission Company in 1955, and continued raising laying hens and cattle. In 1969, TETCO moved its district office from Cuero to Baytown. Fred and many other sick cowboys followed their jobs. The new manager noted the mass exodus to Cuero every weekend and remarked, "What are all these pilgrimages to Cuero? It must be the Holy Land!"

Resuming her education, Marjorie graduated from the University of Houston and is a

licensed Speech and Language Pathologist. She worked in the public schools for fourteen years. Fred suffered a heart attack in 1975, and had by-pass surgery in 1977. He has since maintained good health. He and Marjorie moved to Houston in 1977, where he worked at the downtown office as a pipeline design engineer. TETCO was recently sold and Fred took retirement after thirty-four years! The couple enjoys their Houston home, church, and nearby families and their camphouse in the "Holy Land".

All their children are married. Janet Lynne married Barry Copenhaver in 1962, and Leah Lynne was born April 23, 1963. After a divorce Janet later married Daniel Rowland Davis, Jr. in 1966, and Dana Troy was born May 22, 1967. After a second divorce she married Troy Dungan in 1972, and Wyn-Erin was born December 14, 1974. Residing in Dallas where Troy is the WFAA-TV weatherman, the family is active in church and various charities. Leah, a graduate of the University of North Texas, is at home there working for American Airlines. Wynn-Erin, an apprentice last year with the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet Company, begins high school this year. Dana, in the Air Force, is stationed in Denver, with orders for Korea in November, 1989.

Linda Jane, a University of Texas graduate, married Robert Tyack Price in 1969. Robby Bud was born March 10, 1972, and Anna Dawn on May 28, 1975. Linda works for an advertising agency and Bob had a computer software development and sales company. They were active in Campus Crusade for Christ many years. Both children compete in cross-country and track, as did Bob. The family resides in Irvine, California.

Fred M., Jr. married Linda Hardesty in 1983. Christopher John was born December 31, 1983, and loves to go to the country with his grandparents. Misty Lynn, born September 12, 1987, will soon accompany them. Fred M. works for a company that installs pneumatic controls, and Linda is a receptionist and computer programmer for a pipe fabricating company. The family resides in Pasadena and enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting.

Mark Sterling is a certified instrument technician and works for Exxon Chemical in Baytown. His wife, Theresa Robertson Sager, is a registered nurse and is a charge nurse at San Jacinto Hospital in Baytown. Their children are Amber Lynn, born July 22, 1977, and David Michael, born May 3, 1987. Amber is active in sports, and Mark has managed or coached her basketball and baseball teams. David is active, period! The family resides in Barbers Hill.

by Fred M. Sager

SAGER, JOHN CHRISTOPH AND ESTELLA ELNORA HANS

F790

John Christoph Sager was born November 30, 1893, in Arneckeville, Texas, the sixth child of Christoph Friederich (Fred) Marcus Sager and Dorothea Wolf Sager, documented separately. He grew up on the farm, and as a young man fought in the trenches in France during

John Christoph Sager, 1922

Estella Hans Sager, 1922

World War I. He married Estella Elnora Hans on February 16, 1922.

Estella's paternal grandparents, Ambrose Hans and Agatha Hans Hans, came from Alsace Lorraine. Her maternal grandparents, George and Margaret Zimmerman Junker, came from Germany. Their story is related separately. Estella's father, August Hans, b. August 28, 1868, d. Dec. 14, 1920, married Mary Junker, b. Oct. 24, 1868, d. June 5, 1959. Their children were Felix August, b. July 26, 1896, d. March 25, 1937; Sophie Elnora Estella, twin, b. Nov. 30, 1898, who married John C. Sager; her twin, Sophie Marie Luella, b. Nov. 30, 1898, d. Feb. 15, 1945, who married William H. Goebel; Herbert, b. July 24, 1902, d. Aug. 25, 1927; Oscar John, b. Oct. 18, 1903, d. March 5, 1959, who married Virginia Jo Belknap; Merryan, b. Sept. 11, 1906, who married Martin Gilmer Black; and Leonel F., b. Dec. 13, 1909, d. Nov. 10, 1945, who married Bernice Johnson. The family farm, in the Arneckeville community, adjoined that of August's sister, Mary Hans Weber. Their children and the Weber children, Agatha and Clifton, enjoyed a close relationship. August was Catholic, and is buried in the Meyersville Catholic Cemetery, but Mary brought up the children in the Lutheran Church. After August's death she moved to Cuero and was a staunch member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

John and Estella's first home, on the farm near Arneckeville, was destroyed by fire in 1928. Estella was at the barn with her young son, Fred, when she saw the flames. She entered the burning building, damping out sparks as they ignited her clothing, and rescued her sleeping five-year-old daughter, Mildred. The *Cuero Record* hailed her as a heroine. Friends and family from the community, church, and American Legion promptly constructed a temporary dwelling that the family used until the present home was built on the former site.

The family engaged in farming, gardening, ranching, and dairying. They raised turkeys and chickens, Estella being one of the first in the community to raise hens for egg production. Her cultivated native pecans won several awards in the early county pecan shows before the more recent growth of the industry. The family was very active in organizations and auxiliaries of the church, American Legion, and R.E.A.

John, certainly industrious and service-oriented, was equally fun-loving. He delighted in roping competitions astride his valued Pony, and was an avid baseball fan and domino player. The family had an active social life and contributed much of themselves and their goods to others, especially to children of family and friends bereft of parents. This compassion and generosity of spirit is still manifest in Estella today, residing contentedly in a nursing home in Houston. John's early death from a heart attack in 1950 was mourned by many whose lives he had enriched.

John and Estella had five children, and Estella insisted that they speak English in the home. Twins, born Jan. 3, 1923, were Fred Milford, whose story is related separately, and Mildred Marie. Mildred lives in San Antonio and is active in church, family, and community-service affairs. John Clifford was born Nov. 20, 1929, and the family was saddened by his death on April 14, 1931. Dorothy Joline, born Sept. 26, 1932, married Alfred Lee Adams, Jr., and lives in Richmond, Virginia. They have three grown children; Tara Lee, Sarah Nan, and John Wall. Margaret Estell, born March 18, 1935, married Jim Conrad and lives in Cuero. Their story is separate.

And so Estella enjoys correspondence, visits, and holiday celebrations from her four children, ten grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

by Margaret Conrad

John Eberhardt & Co., CHOICEST BEEF.
MIDDLE MARKET ..... CUERO, TEXAS

SAGER, MICHAEL AND FRIDERICA ELISABETHA RATH FAMILY

F791

Michael Sager, who, before his immigration to Texas, was a vine dresser in Dettingen-/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, was born in Dettingen on 6 September 1797. The village of Dettingen, where the land has surely, even up to the present time, been well utilized in viniculture, was first mentioned in a document dated 1092 and was one of the oldest sites of the Erms Valley (previously called the Swigger Valley). In fact, Dettingen was the principle site of this valley and served as the headquarters for the provincial counts of that period. On 21 May 1377, the citizens of Reutlingen, a neighboring town, attacked this stately village without warning and burned it. In the present unrest about 1500, a Dettingen citizen, "the Bantelhanns," exemplified distinguished leadership skills; his figure still adorns the town hall fountain. In addition, Dettingen suffered greatly during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1848). In the year 1635, as a result of war and plague, the total population declined from 2140 to 515 and only 108 out of 296 buildings remained standing. It took nearly two hundred years for the total population to again reach 2140.

The parents of Michael Sager were a shoemaker, Christoph Adam Sager (b. 28 December 1767 Dettingen; d. 15 December 1840 Dettingen; m. 9 February 1790 Dettingen) and Anna Maria Sager, nee Trost (b. 10 August 1768 Dettingen; d. 6 November 1816 Dettingen). Michael Sager died prior to 1860 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas, and was buried without a tombstone, in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

In Dettingen on 3 May 1825, Michael Sager married Friderica Elisabatha Rath, daughter of a cooper and farmer, Christoph Rath (b. 17 November 1758 Dettingen; d. 16 October 1811 Dettingen; m. 21 November 1780 Dettingen) and Christina Eberhardina Rath, nee Weber (b. 24 July 1763 Dettingen; d. 23 February 1833 Dettingen). Friderica Elisabetha Sager, nee Rath, was born in Dettingen on 19 April 1801; she died on 29 May 1887 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

Michael Sager and Friderica Elisabetha Sager begat twelve children, all of whom were born in Dettingen: Christoph Adam Sager (b. 3 April 1826; d. 27 August 1869 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville; m. 1 July 1853 Meyersville to Justine Sophie Dreier); Christoph Sager (b. 1 June 1827; d. 16 January 1832 Dettingen); Christiana Eberhardina Sager (b. 4 March 1829 Dettingen; m. possibly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to — Wuerster); Anna Maria Sager (b. 8 July 1830; d. 18 July 1830 Dettingen); Jacob Sager (b. 2 August 1831; d. 11 September 1831 Dettingen); Michael Sager (b. 30 May 1833; d. 7 August 1833 Dettingen); Christoph Fridrich Sager (b. 15 August 1834; d. 18 June 1838 Dettingen); Friderica Elisabetha Sager (b. 25 July 1836; d. 25 November 1862, Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois; bur. Illinois; m. 4 May 1856 Victoria County, Texas, to Jacob Wurster); Ursula Barbara Sager (b. 16 August 1839; d. 24 May 1914; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. DeWitt County to Heinrich Arnecke); Anna Maria Sager (b. 22 April 1841; d. 1842 Dettingen); Peter Sager, twin (b. 13 June 1843; d. ca. 1863 in U.S. Civil War); Michael Sager, twin (b. 13 June 1843; d. 2 April 1915 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1866 Meyersville to Heinricke Rath).

While the exact date of immigration for the Michael Sager family has not been ascertained, it most certainly was between 1850 and 1856 and was probably around 1852 or 1853. Friderica Elisabetha Sager, nee Rath, widow of Michael Sager, her sons Michael, Peter, and Christoph Adam Sager, and Justine Sophie Sager, nee Dreier, wife of Christoph Adam Sager, were among the first settlers at Arneckeville, which was founded in 1859 by Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke and his wife, Ursula Barbara Arnecke, nee Sager, daughter of Michael and Friderica Sager. The 1870 DeWitt County census revealed that Friderica Sager, nee Rath, was living with her son Michael; however, she evidently had separate property because the value of her own real estate ($250) and personal property ($350) was listed independently from that of her son's.

The descendants of Michael and Friderica Sager will forever be grateful that these early immigrants confronted, endured, and eventually conquered unknown seas and virgin lands so that their children and grandchildren could enjoy lives of freedom, fulfillment, and opportunity.

by Beverly Boehl

SAGER, MICHEAL AND HEINRICKE RATH

F792

Michael Sager, twin brother of Peter Sager, was born in Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany,

Michael Sager (1843-1915)

Heinricke (Rath) Sager (1842-1928)

on 13 June 1843. These twins were the sons of Michael Sager (b. 6 September 1797 Dettingen; d. prior to 1860 Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. with no tombstone in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 3 May 1825 Dettingen) and Friderica Elisabetha Sager, nee Rath (b. 19 April 1801 Dettingen; d. 29 May 1887 Arneckeville, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.) Michael Sager died on 2 April 1915 in Arneckeville and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 7 January 1866 in Meyersville, Michael Sager wed Heinricke Rath, daughter of Johann Martin Rath (b. 16 April 1819 Dettingen; d. 5 January 1896 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 19 January 1841 Dettingen) and Rosina Catharina Rath, nee Linder (b. 6 October 1810 Dettingen; m. #1: 2 February 1832 Dettingen to Joh. Jacob Hermann; m. #2: Dettingen to Johann Adam Hiller). Heinricke Sager, nee Rath, was born in Dettingen on 21 April 1842. According to church records in Dettingen, she immigrated to Texas with her family in 1852. She died of intestinal paralysis on 25 February 1928 in Arneckeville and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville.

Michael and Heinricke Sager begat six children, all of whom were born in Arneckeville: Friedrich Johann Peter Sager (b. 19 March 1867; d. 18 November 1874 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Friedericke "Ricke" Sager, baptized Justine Hulda Fredericke (b. 29 December 1868; d. 17 May 1958 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 4 November 1915 Arneckeville to Frederick Christian Koehler); Christoph Adam Henry Sager (b. 22 February 1870; d. 31 July 1953 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 4 February 1903 Arneckeville to Mary Sophia Schorlemmer); Carl Sager (b. 3 June 1872; d. 12 June 1872 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Catherine Sager, baptized Catherine Fredericke Caroline (b. 9 August 1873; d. 25 October 1882 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Caroline Sager, baptized Dorethea Augusta Amilie

Karoline (b. 29 September 1875; d. 16 October 1912 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 29 June 1904 DeWitt County to Frederick Christian Koehler).

While it has not been ascertained exactly when Michael Sager first came to Texas, the DeWitt County federal census on 22 June 1900 denoted that Michael Sager immigrated in 1852 and that he had been living in the United States for forty-seven years. Michael Sager, his twin brother, Peter Sager, his mother, Heinricke Sager, nee Rath, another brother, Christoph Adam Sager, and Justine Sophie Sager, nee Dreier, wife of Christoph Adam Sager, were among the first settlers at Arneckeville, which was founded in 1859 by Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke and his wife, Ursula Barbara Arnecke, nee Sager, sister of Michael Sager. Michael Sager became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 25 June 1866 in DeWitt County. The DeWitt County federal census revealed that, as of June 1870, the real estate of the Michael Sager family was valued at $600 and the personal property was valued at $380.

The early settlers of Arneckeville lived in houses made of logs. Heat for warmth and for cooking was provided by indoor fire places. The farmers worked the fields with oxen and used hand-made wooden tools. The fields were fenced with rails and brush; however, much of the pasture land was not enclosed, and the stock ran wild, as did the hogs, which fattened on acorns. The women spun cotton and wool thread and wove their own cloth. They utilized indigo weeds for blue dye and the fungus that formed on decayed blackjack for yellow dye.

Although the German immigrants of DeWitt County owned no slaves, Michael Sager decided nevertheless to support his adopted state in the Lost Cause. He enlisted in the army of the Confederate States of America at San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, on 9 July 1862. He served as a private in Company D of the 5th Regiment, Texas Cavalry. This regiment was organized with ten companies, A to K, which had been mustered in from 4 September to 16 October 1861. It was also known as the 2nd Regiment, Sibley's Brigade, Texas Volunteers, and as the 5th Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers.

Michael Sager was captured at Fort Butler in Donaldsville, Louisiana, on 28 June 1863. He was on the roll of prisoners of war on hand at New Orleans, Louisiana, on 31 December 1863, on the roll of POW's at New Orleans "dated Office of Commissary of Prisons, Dept. of the Gulf, New Orleans, La., 7 July 1864", and on the roll of POW's transferred from New Orleans and exchanged at Red River Landing on 22 July 1864. An undated prisoner of war roll indicated that he was paroled upon the recommendation of Dr. Alexander, Medical Director, Department of the Gulf.

Michael Sager was a devoted and loyal member of the Lutheran church. He was confirmed at St. John Lutheran in Meyersville on Whitsunday of 1856. He was a charter member of Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville. In fact, he donated the land on which Zion was first built in 1868; and on 29 August 1886 he increased his offer to make his gift a total of five acres. At that time he sold the congregation an additional five acres for $5.00 per acre. (At the congregational meeting of 20 December 1896, he asked that four acres of land from the east side be exchanged for similar acreage on the west or southwest side as he wished to use the east side for cultivation.)

Michael Sager was elected treasurer of the Zion congregation in 1871. On 18 May 1884, he was elected delegate to the synod in Victoria, and on 2 August 1885 he was elected delegate to the district conference to be held in Arneckeville on 23 August of that year. He was elected secretary on 19 December 1886, and on 14 September 1890 he was elected delegate to the third district conference. At the congregational meeting of 24 April 1892, Michael Sager was elected as alternate delegate to the first German Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Yorktown. On 19 March 1893 and again on 21 April 1895, he was elected delegate to the synod at Brenham. On 25 April 1897 he was elected delegate to the Old German Evangelical Synod of Texas in Yoakum, DeWitt County. Mention was made in the notes of the congregational meeting of 3 October 1897 that he was serving as treasurer at that time.

Michael Sager was a workman for his God, tirelessly and faithfully serving his church, his community, and his family. His faith in his Lord gave him strength when he was exhausted and hope when he was discouraged. Indeed Michael Sager lived by the tenant proposed by Paul Gerhart: "The sunshine is my master Jesus Christ smiling upon me."

by Beverly Boehl

SAGER, PETER

F793

Peter Sager, twin brother of Michael Sager, was born in Dettingen/Erms, Black Forest District, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, on 13 June 1843. Peter Sager was the son of Michael Sager (b. 6 September 1797 Dettingen; d. prior to 1860 Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. in an unmarked grave in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville; m. 3 May 1825 Dettingen) and Friderica Elisabetha Sager, nee Rath (b. 19 April 1801 Dettingen; d. 29 May 1887 Arneckeville, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Peter Sager was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville on Whitsunday of 1856.

It has not been determined exactly when Peter Sager came to DeWitt County, although it was certainly between 1850 and 1856; and it was probably around 1852 or 1853. Peter Sager, his mother, his brothers, Michael and Christoph Adam Sager, and Justine Sophie Sager, nee Dreier, wife of Christoph Adam Sager, were among the first settlers at Arneckeville, which was founded in 1859 by Heinrich "Henry" Arnecke and his wife, Ursula Barbara Arnecke, nee Sager, sister of Peter Sager.

Records denoted that Peter Sager was on the muster rolls of Captain William R. Friend's company of volunteers called the DeWitt Rifles (C.S.A.), which was organized at Clinton, DeWitt County, on 24 April 1861. This company was organized in obedience to the 24 April 1861 proclamation of the governor of the State of Texas. This company, made up mostly of single men, was appropriately uniformed, but possessed no arms except a few six-shooters.

Although the German immigrants of DeWitt County owned no slaves, as the political winds blew Texas into the whirlwind of the Confederate cause, Peter Sager decided to cast his lot with the South. He joined the army of the Confederate States of America in Victoria, Victoria County, Texas, on 22 August 1861 and was mustered in on 11 September 1861 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Upon enlistment, his horse was valued at $75.00 and his equipment at $20.00. A notation was found in the records that his horse was killed on 21 February 1862.

Peter Sager thus served as a private in Captain James Hampton's Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers. This company subsequently became Company C, 4th Regiment, Texas Cavalry, which was organized about October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. It was also known as the 1st Regiment, Sibley's Brigade, Texas Mounted Volunteers, and as the 4th Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers.

Peter Sager was listed as present on the muster-in rolls from 11 September 1861 to 30 April 1862 and for 30 June 1862 to 31 January 1863. There were no official records after that time; however, oral history indicated that Peter Sager died fighting for the Lost Cause. The exact date of his death and his final resting place are unknown.

Although his short life might otherwise be merely a footnote in most history books, we honor Peter Sager here today as a man who gave up his life for the honored glory of his adopted state and his new homeland. His death was sorely grieved by those he left behind, and we who follow will strive to keep alive in our hearts and souls the memory of his sacrifice.

by Beverly Boehl

SAGER, W.C. (BUCKY) FAMILY

F794

Dorothy Breeden Blackwell (Dee) and Walter Christian Sager (Buck) were married in Austin, Texas April 27, 1962. Both are descendants of pioneer DeWitt County families. Although they have lived in other states since their marriage they now call Cuero their home where they both were both. Dee was christened and confirmed in Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero. She graduated from Cuero High School and attended Trinity University, San Antonio. Bucky was christened in Arneckeville at Zion Lutheran Church and confirmed in Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero. He graduated from Cuero High School and attended Baylor University in Waco and A&I University in Kingsville.

They have two children, a daughter Stacey Lynn Sager Alvarez, who was born January 29, 1963 in Cuero. She was raised in the Episcopal Church in Cuero and graduated from Curero High School and attended Baylor University in Waco. She resides in San Antonio with her husband Robert O'Connell Alvarez who is engaged in the steel business and their son, Robert Forbes Alvarez, who was born December 28, 1988 in San Antonio. Dee and Bucky's son, Walter Steven Sager was raised in the Episcopal Church also and graduated from Cuero High School and attended the University of Texas. He also resides in San Antonio and is engaged in a marketing and financial management company.

Bucky was born February 17, 1936, the only child of Thrula Mae (Siddy) Lane of Cuero (February 16, 1913 – February 11, 1969) and Walter Christian Sager of Arneckeville (January 4, 1898 – December 16, 1983). He was engaged in the ranching business. Bucky's

grandparents on his mother's side were Nannie Lee Williams (Baby Lee), who was born in Bee County (December 1, 1892 – November 15, 1952) and Samuel Winston Lane (Tad), who was born in DeWitt County (August 20, 1887 – December 11, 1967). He was also engaged in the ranching business. His grandparents on his father's side were Frederick Marcus Sager, born in DeWitt County (April 25, 1858 – May 21, 1947) and Dorothea Wolf born in DeWitt County (November 3, 1860 – February 14, 1948). He was engaged in farming and ranching in the Arneckeville area. Frederich Marcus Sager's father was Pastor Christoph Adam Sager who came to Texas from Germany and founded the Lutheran Church in Meyersville in 1851 and also founded Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville. Bucky served two years in the United States Army in Germany, worked with the Southwest Animal Health Research Foundation, Circle Y Saddlery of Yoakum, Levi Strauss and Company as a salesman in California and Ohio, Texaco Consignee in DeWitt County and is presently engaged in the ranching business. He is a collector of western memorabilia, bits and spurs of which he has over a hundred pair in his collection. He has been a member of the Turkeyfest race team, is a member of the Cuero Gun Club, Rodeo Association, Young Farmers Group, usher in Grace Episcopal Church, and has worked with the Youth Rodeo as an announcer and arena director. He is also a charter member of The Bit and Spur Association of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dee was born August 18, 1941 in Cuero the second child of Reiffert Forbes Blackwell and Dorothy Ann Breeden. Her grandparents on her mother's side were Paul Hamilton Breeden, who was born in Cuero (October 25, 1886 – February 22, 1967) and Bess Philpott, who was born in Bryan, Texas (December 1, 1889 – March 5, 1976). Mr. Breeden was engaged in the banking business and was president of Farmers State Bank and Trust. He was also a cotton and wool buyer. On her father's side they were William Albert Blackwell, who was born in Cuero (February 29, 1880 – September 15, 1958). He was engaged in the ranching business in the Cuero area and was also well known for his abilities to hypnotize people – even over the telephone!! Her grandmother on her father's side was Alma Reiffert and she also was born in Cuero (July 13, 1881 – October 15, 1972). Dee is active in church and civic work. She has been directress of the Altar Guild at Grace Episcopal Church and is still a member of this organization. She is a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission and the DeWitt County Museum of which she has served as a director, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Victoria Chapter), past director of the Cuero Country Club and has served on both the social and house committees of the club, she is a member of the Republican Women and is presently office manager and secretary for Grace Episcopal Church and Day School.

by Mrs. W.c. (Bucky) Sager

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SALE, WALTER WYNNE, M.D.

F795

(1887-1967)

Born to George Brock and Lola (Wooten) Sale on December 15, 1887, in Mount Zion (present day Munford), Tennessee. After graduating from Bethel College in Russellville, Kentucky in 1908, he entered the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis. Upon earning his Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1912, he married Allen Pierson Conner of Russellville, Kentucky in 1912. Sale worked at a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee until World War I when he volunteered to serve in the United States Army. As a member of the 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division in France, Sale received a citation for bravery. Afterwards, at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, he specialized in the treatment of diseases related to the eye, ear, nose, and throat. In 1919, he moved to Cuero, Texas and entered the practice of medicine with his brother-in-law, Dr. Guilford Marvin Duckworth. His offices were on the second floor of the Buechel Bank Building for thirteen years. In 1925, he purchased a quarter block of land from Dr. Duckworth and built a house next to the Duckworths on the corner of Prairie and Gonzales which still stands today.

In 1930, the two doctors opened offices in Victoria and Dr. Sale went there several days a week to care for their patients in the Victoria area.

The practice grew and in 1932, he moved his wife and four daughters to Victoria.

He died in 1967 in Victoria at the age of eighty. Mrs. Sale died in 1974.

His daughters are Mrs. Sterling Boothe, Jr. (Allen Conner Sale), Mrs. Craig Bade (Lola Ann Sale), Mrs. David Lee Hill (Mazie Caroline Sale), and Pat Sale Kemper.

No biographical sketch on Dr. Sale is complete without adding he was a wise and witty gentleman with a personality imbued with old southern charm and courtesy.

by Lola Ann Bade

SANDERS, VAN DAVID FAMILY

F796

Van David Sanders was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 3, 1917. His father was Joseph Anderson Sanders who was born in Tennessee, April 6, 1884 and died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, February 11, 1933. His mother was Lollie Adeline Stutman who was born in Cook County, Texas, March 11, 1885 and died in Tulsa, December 31, 1973. Joseph A. Sanders' father was Thomas Calvin Sanders who was born in North Carolina, March 26, 1851 and died in Pawhuska, Oklahoma March 30, 1912. Joseph's mother was Mathilda Harden Sanders who was born in Arkansas, March 15, 1852 and died September 13, 1930 in Jenks, Oklahoma. Lollie A. Stutsman's father was Daniel Jefferson Stutsman who was born in Bonham, Texas, February 18, 1857 and died April 21, 1921 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lollie's mother was Frances Elzira Standlee Stutsman who was born in Benton County, Arkansas, October 16, 1863 and died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 21, 1958.

Van Sanders married Alma June Howerton in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 9, 1938. Alma was born February 23, 1921 in Gentry, Arkansas. Her father was Bert F. Howerton who was born September 10, 1896 in Benton County, Arkansas. Alma's mother was Bessie May Howerton who was born October 24, 1896 in Gentry, Arkansas, and died September 17, 1988 in Cuero, Texas. Bert F. Howertons father was Ernest Howerton who was born in Johnson County, Indiana, November 16, 1869 and died December 30, 1956 in Gentry, Arkansas. Bert F. Howerton's mother was Lottie May Willis who was born March 5, 1878 in Siloam Springs, Arkansas and died January 4, 1927 in Gentry, Arkansas. Bessie May Howerton's father was Benjamine Franklin Howerton who was born November 6, 1856 in Illinois, and died in Gentry, Arkansas, June 23, 1932. Bessie May Howerton's mother was Ann Temple Johnson, born May 31, 1862 in Sherman, Texas and died December 11, 1942 in Haviland, Kansas.

Van and Alma Sanders have two children and four grandchildren. Their son Joe David Sanders was born July 11, 1939 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1961 he married Laverne Gayle Ferguson who was born September 2, 1941 in Redmond, Oregon. Joe and Gayle Sanders have two children. Michelle Lynne Sanders was born October 6, 1962 in Lewistown, Montana and Michael David Sanders was born July 27, 1965 in Houston, Texas. Van and Alma's second son, Billy Bert Sanders was born April 20, 1943 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1964 he married Gloria Ann Middlebrook who was born August 8, 1944 in Lakota, North Dakota. Billy and Gloria have two children. William Scott Sanders was born July 29, 1969 in Butler, Alabama and Christopher David Sanders was born December 23, 1970 in Cuero, Texas.

Van and Alma Sanders and their children and grandchildren all reside in DeWitt County at this time (1989).

by Alma Sanders

SAUERMILCH, FRED AND CAROLINE

F797

Fred (Frederick) Sauermilch was born in Prussia on March 10, 1854, the son of Andreas and Sophie Sauermilch. Fred came to America as an infant with his parents, his 3-yr. old sister Maria, and two older half-brothers, Andreas and Christian. On October 6, 1856 Fred's father Andreas applied for citizenship at the DeWitt County Clerk's office. Two other children were born to Andreas and Sophie after their arrival in Yorktown. Willie was born in 1857 and Emma was born in 1864. In 1867 Andreas purchased a 276-acre tract of land outside of Yorktown on which he began farming cotton, corn, and grain; along with raising cattle, hogs, and chickens. Andreas was a skilled carpenter as well, and soon built a home for his family. He later was actively involved in the construction of the first Lutheran Church in Yorktown. Andreas was one of the charter members of St. Paul Lutheran Church when it was founded in 1872 and remained an active

Caroline (Gerhardt) and Fred Sauermilch on their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1928.

member all his life. Andreas died in 1891 and is buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery along with his wife Sophie. Their oldest son Andreas went to Mississippi sometime in the 1860's; Christian married Henrietta Sinast in 1871; Maria married Philip Grun in 1868; Willie never married; Emma married Frank Grutzmacher in 1884; and Fred (the subject of our story) married Caroline Gerhardt on August 11, 1878.

Louise Caroline Gerhardt was born in Yorktown on August 13, 1855 the oldest of 11 children born to Karl (Charles) and his wife Elizabeth Gerhardt. Karl Gerhardt came to America in November 1852 and applied for citizenship at the DeWitt County Clerk's office on August 17, 1854. Three months earlier on May 16, 1854, he married Elizabeth Hardt in Yorktown and they made their home there. Karl Gerhardt was also a charter member of St. Paul Lutheran and perhaps this is how these two families became acquainted, resulting in the marriage of Fred and Caroline.

For a few years after their marriage, Fred and Caroline shared a household with his parents and brother Willie. In the 1880's they moved to a large farm in northwest DeWitt County around Nopal. Here Fred continued with his interest in growing crops and raising animals that he had learned from his father. Nine children were born to this couple, two of whom died as small infants. Their 1st child Arthur (1879-1943) married Jane Heinman; Marie (1880-1962) married Henry Wehe, Sr.; Herman (1881-1962) married Louise Stephan and later married Georgie Blaine; Helen (1882-1968) married Fritz Schultz; Louise married Ernst Haertig and moved to Woodsboro; Emil married and moved to San Antonio; and Ewald (1892-1938) married Isabella Metz.

As the children married and left home, Fred sold his farm and he and Caroline moved into Yorktown. They lived right in front of the city's water tower. Once a month when the city overflowed the tower to keep the water in it fresh; Fred would divert the overflow into his yard and garden for irrigation purposes. Their yard and garden were always showplaces of color and greenery. Fred was very methodical and diligent in his use of dead plants for his compost heap; and it was said that he was able to raise 5 crops of corn off the same row in one year. Caroline was kept busy with the canning and preserving of their crops and also baking cookies for her grandchildren. They both remained active, involved members of the church all their lives.

Fred and Caroline were fortunate to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on August 11, 1928 with a supper for family and friends in the yard of their home in Yorktown. Fred died on August 14, 1935 at the age of 81½ years. Caroline died 8½ months later on April 29, 1936. They are both buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Joycelynn Onken

SCHAEFER, CARL LUDWIG

F798

Carl L. Schaefer

Carl Ludwig Schaefer was born in Muhlhausen, Principality of Waldeck on Sept. 30, 1833, to Johanna Waldeck and Freidrich Schaefer of Berndorf. At age eighteen, Carl arrived in Galveston on the Bremen brig *Wanderer*, on Nov. 8, 1851. While he was employed as a freighter from the Gulf ports to San Antonio, his route passed through DeWitt County. At the Schiwetz way-station, Carl met Amalia Christine Wurz, daughter of August and Elizabeth (Zwickel) Wurz, natives of the Grand Duchy of Baden. Amalia was born on Sept. 25, 1840 in Garnsbach and came to Texas in 1857. Their meeting led to marriage on Aug. 24, 1858, and becoming parents of fourteen children, eleven of whom lived to maturity.

Carl and Amalia owned several tracts of land on which there was farming and dairying. They attended the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Meyersville, although Amalia was raised a Catholic. During the Civil War, Carl joined the Colleto Home Guard. The highlight of their married life was the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1908, where they repeated their wedding vows before relatives and friends. This was followed by feasting and dancing. Carl retired in 1919, selling his lands to his oldest son, Charles, Jr., and moving to Cuero. Amalia died there on Christmas Day 1922. He then lived with his daughter, Mrs. Betty Egg in Meyersville until his death Sep. 14, 1924.

Amalia (Wurz) Schaefer

A local custom was for families to gather on Sunday afternoons for the men to play cards, the women to talk, and the children to play. Among the eligible set, courtships blossomed into marriages. These Schaefer desendents now number over 2,000. This space will cover only the 11 children and 52 grandchildren of Carl and Amalia, with cross references to other families. The children who died in infancy were Frederick, Emma, and George.

1) Johanna (1859-1928) known as Jennie, married Dr. William Henry Shimer and had three daughters: Annie (Mrs. Bill Schellpepper; Mary (Mrs. Walter Koenig, 4 children); and Johanna (Billy – Mrs. William Otto Dreier).

2) Amalia (1861-1956) married Christian Hartman and raised 11 children: Mathilde, Hugo, Amalia, Alfred, Louise, Willie, Edwina, C.V. (Dick), Arthur, Ervin and Leona.

3) Carl A. (Charlie) (1863-1929) married Annie Loeble, and produced 6 children: Henry, Joe, Fritz, Epp, Meta, and Herman.

4) Sophie (1865-1923) married William Hartman, brother of Christian, and had 4 surviving sons: Julius, Edgar, Charles, and William (Bill).

5) Auguste (1867-1959) married William C. Schorlemer and had 9 children: William L.; Ottilie (Mrs. Max Gohlke); Lottie (Mrs. Fritz Rabke); Ella (Mrs. Arthur Spies); Cora (Mrs. F.A. Brown); Walter; Felix; Alvin; and Norma (Mrs. Ray Barnes).

6) Louise (1869-1954) known as Lulu, married Louis Trautwein, and had 3 daughters: Hilda, Natalie and Carlyn.

7) Bertha (1972-1956) generally known as Betty, married Edwin Egg, and they had 8 children: Maime, Helen, Edwin, Willie, Werner, Arthur, Maud, and Stella.

8) Emile (1875-1967), Emmie as she was called, married Fritz Beyerstadt, and they had 2 children: Werner and Alvina.

9) Marie (1877-1961) (also Mamie/Mimi)

married Otto Lang and they had Helen (Mrs. George Prestson); and Robert.

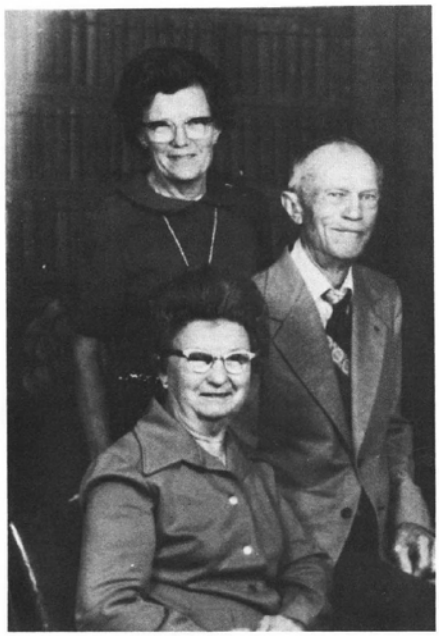
10) William A. (1880-1958), known as Willie, married Agnes Nitsche; had 2 children: Helen (Mrs. Val White) and Mary Agnes (Mrs. Gail A. Eaton).

11) Richard (1881-1942) married Annie Wendel and had 2 sons: George and Julius.

by Clarice Neal

SCHAEFER, EDWIN CHARLES AND OLGA (JACOBS)

F799



Standing: Pearl White (Schaefer) Nagel. Sitting: Olga (Jacobs) Schaefer and Edwin Charles Schaefer.

Edwin Charles Schaefer was born August 2, 1893 in Meyersville, Texas and died January 25, 1985 in Cuero, Texas. He married Olga Jacobs November 24, 1916. She was born in Kilgore, Goliad County, Texas December 7, 1895, the daughter of Ludwig and Emma Dreier Jacobs. She died in Cuero September 27, 1981. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, Texas.

E.C. or "Epp" Schaefer was the third son of Charles A. and Annie Loeble Schaefer. Charles A. Schaefer was born October 18, 1862 and died October 21, 1929 in Meyersville, Texas. He married Annie Loeble October 22, 1885. She was born November 24, 1863 and died March 11, 1934 in Cuero. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery. Charles A. Schaefer's parents were Carl Ludwig and Amalia Christine Wuerz Schaefer. Carl Ludwig was born September 30, 1833, in Fuerstentum, Arolsen, Province of Waldeck, in Germany. At the age of eighteen he came to America. For a time he made his home with his half brothers, Fritz and Julius Piper in San Antonio. He then started hauling freight from Indianola to San Antonio, using oxen. Amalia Christine Wuerz was born September 25, 1840 in Garnsbach, a province of Baden, in Germany. She came to America in 1857. While in the employ at the Schiwetz eating and drinking establishment near Meyersville, she met Carl Schaefer. On August 24, 1858, they were married. They established their first home on the Twelve Mile Creek. Here they built a house which was enlarged and improved from time to time. The greater part of this land is still in the possession of the E.C. Schaefer family.

The children of Charles A. and Annie Loeble Schaefer were: (1) Henry Schaefer was born October 18, 1886, married Dora Lang. He died July 17, 1971 in Dallas. (2) Louis (Joe) Schaefer was born January 23, 1889, married Adele Luddeke. He died June 17, 1972 in Victoria, Texas. (3) Fred C. Schaefer was born August 1, 1891, married Blanche Wagner. He died in Cuero February 14, 1975. (4) Edwin Charles "Epp" Schaefer. Information on him is given above. (5) Meta Schaefer was born May 22, 1895, married Louis Buehrig. She died January 14, 1970. (6) Herman Schaefer was born March 24, 1904, married Thelma Baker. They live in Cuero.

"Epp" and Olga Jacobs Schaefer had one child, Pearl White, born September 1, 1917 in Meyersville. She rode horseback two and a half miles to attend Meyersville school. She married Edwin H. Nagel October 6, 1940 in St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. They lived on the Schaefer homestead in Meyersville. They had two children, both born in Cuero Hospital. Carol Ann Nagel was born December 14, 1942 and Donald Charles Nagel was born December 10, 1946. Carol Ann married Obert Sagebiel May 24, 1969 in the Lutheran Church in Meyersville. They live on the Schaefer property in Meyersville and have two children: Clark Allen, born July 1, 1971 and Diane Paulette, born September 26, 1974. Donald Charles Nagel married Brenda Morris September 14, 1968. They live in Mission Valley and have three sons: Dustin Charles, born February 7, 1972, Colby Linn, born August 13, 1973 and Wade Allan, born February 3, 1977. Edwin H. Nagel died in a Cuero hospital August 4, 1975. Pearl White Schaefer Nagel now lives in Cuero.

"Epp" was born on the place his grandparents acquired some time around 1858, on the 12 Mile or Cotton Wood Creek. It is still occupied by Schaefer descendants. In 1975 it was awarded a place in the Family Heritage Registry, Volume 2. He was active in St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville and later in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero and also in the Cuero Lion's Club. He was a member of the Development Board of Texas Lutheran College and so is his daughter, Pearl White Nagel. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer had a life membership in the President's Associates of Texas Lutheran College and now their daughter is a life member of that organization.

"Epp" courted his wife, Olga Jacobs, on a motorcycle. During World War II, to conserve gas, he had a motorcycle with a side car in which he took his grandchildren for rides. He farmed, raised Mammouth Bronze turkeys, raised cattle, and other farm animals. He considered the earth a gift of God and continually tried to preserve and improve it in thanks to his Lord.

by Mrs.Pearl White Nagel

SCHAFFNER, ALVIN W. AND ISABELLA (KRUSE)

F800

Isabella (Kruse) and Alvin Wilford Schaffner

In 1934 Isabella Kruse began teaching in a two teacher school house in DeWitt County named Guilford. It was located about six miles or so from Westhoff. It is not there anymore. She lived with her sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Wehman, who had a farm in this community. Her salary was $75.00 a month for 8 months or $600.00. This was paid to her at $50.00 a month.

Soon after teaching at Guilford Isabella Kruse met Alvin Wilford Schaffner and a year later December 21, 1935 they married in the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church at Westhoff. He was the son of Gustav and Ross Mueller Schaffner, born Nov. 9, 1911 and at that time always lived at Westhoff and graduated from Westhoff 10th grade. Isabella Kruse was born near Shiner, Texas, Lavaca County, August 13, 1913, daughter of George and Antonia Raaz Kruse. Later her family moved four miles North of Yoakum. She went to Beasley School. Later her family moved half way between Hochheim and Cheapside in the Ruppert Community. She finished 7th grade at Ruppert in Gonzales County. Then she went to Cheapside school 8, 9, 10th grades and graduated from Yoakum High School in 1932.

Al and Isabella farmed a few years, at Westhoff. In the fall of 1937 they bought 43.5 acres in the Buchel Community on the highway five miles North of Cuero. Until World War II they raised chickens, broilers laying hens and sold eggs for hatcheries. Al went to work for a feed concern in Houston. After serving in the Marines during World War II, the firm gave him back his job. In 1942 and 43 Isabella and Al built a comfortable home on their land. They called their home Small Acorns because of the many beautiful oak trees.

While Al was in the service, Isabella sold all the chicken houses so others could use them, as during the War, this material was scarce. Al was in the feed business about 30 years. He, his brother Pete (P.G.) and Isabella's brother Leon T. Kruse went into the feed business. At first it was a feed store, and Al kept on working for the Houston firm. Then they ventured into their own feed and started a feed mill and Al had to quit his job to help Pete and Leon.

Isabella continued to teach. After Guilford she taught at Buchel, Cuero Junior School, Green DeWitt-Arneckeville, all in DeWitt County, the last 18 years at Aloe School in Victoria. She taught 41 years in all and Summer School, including Head Start.

After Farmbuilt Mills was sold, Al had a firm called Schaffners'. He worked for the State Health Department at the time of his death. In December 1976 he suffered a massive heart attack from which he did not recover. He died Dec. 31, 1976. They were married 41 years. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

May 1976 Isabella retired from teaching. In the Spring of 1977 she became curator of DeWitt County Historical Museum, "All work and No Pay!"

Her education consisted of two summers at the National University of Mexico, Mexico City, 1943, 49; Victoria Junior College 1932-34; BA University of Texas 1949; M.A. University of Texas 1952. In 1988 she sold Small Acorns and built a comfortable small home in Cuero behind her brother Edgar. She calls this home "Four Magnolias" because of the beautiful Magnolias.

Isabella Schaffner and A.W. received many awards – 4-H and Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1962 she received the Valley Forge Classroom Teachers Award from Freedoms Foundation – A Certificate and dogwood medal. In 1966-67-68-69 she was named to Who's Who of American Women. She has worked with 4-H over 50 years. Both have received the 4-H Alumni awards and Honorary 4-H Member. Some of the awards were District and Statewide. She was the first in DeWitt County to receive the Conservation Homemaker award presented by the Conservation Society. The Citizenship Club honored her with a plaque for her work with Youths. In 1974 the Cuero Chamber of Commerce honored her for Civic and Community Service. Her Eta Pi Chapter, sisters, Delta Kappa Gamma, named her their first member to receive the Chapter's Community Service Awards. She was a Junior Historian Sponsor for 26 years. In 1974 she was the teacher of the year for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Texas. She was given a scholarship to Freedoms Foundation. Texas Legislature honored her with a Citation. She was a Member of the Governor's Committee that served for the Texas Medal of Honor Grove – signed by Gov. Bill Clements. Her Masters Thesis "A History of the Turkey Industry in Texas" was published in book form in 1954 "Turkeys in Texas".

by Isabella K. Schaffner

SCHAFFNER, GUS

F801

Gus Schaffner, the son of Henry and Wileminia Fisher Schaffner was born at Muldoon, Texas, Fayette County, October 9, 1884. Later his family moved to Karnes County. There he grew up with four brothers and 3 sisters. At the age of 25 years, he left home to make his own life. In 1909, he bought 100 acres of raw land two miles south of Bello, known now as Westhoff. He built a three room house that year and began other improvements. As it was, he "batched". He loved to dance and went lady-friend searching. He met the girl of his dreams as Rosa Mueller.

Rosa was the daughter of Jacob and Annie Seibert Mueller. She was born December 22, 1894, in the Meyersville Community, DeWitt County.

Gus married Rosa on October 20, 1910, in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Pastor J.F. Polk officiating. They had no honeymoon, but set up housekeeping immediately on his farm. A year later a son was born, then a daughter and another son. Now they faced educational problems and adding three more rooms to the house. Gus took active part as a school trustee at Wallis Ranch School. There their two oldest children rode to school on a red Spanish mare named "Nellie", rain or shine, for seven years. Now the third child must go to school, so Gus transferred the children to Westhoff School and they could walk the two miles each day.

Later two more sons and a daughter were born. Six children, all grew up at Westhoff and finished high school in Yorktown and Cuero.

For 32 years Gus and Rosa sent children to school. Gus always looked into the future. He was interested in politics and land improvement. Gus was the first to terrace land in DeWitt County. Gus and Rosa always managed in spite of such trials and tribulations as World War I, the gale of 1919, the hailstorm of 1923, the drought of 1925, the gale of 1928, the stock market crash of 1929, the panic of 1933, and World War II.

Rosa became ill after her last childbirth, but by the grace of God and radium she regained her health.

Then Gus's health began to fail. World War II took his four sons away. Alton, a ball turret gunner, served on a B-17 in Europe and paid the supreme sacrifice. Alvin, Piermont and Leslie served in the Pacific. Leslie also served in the Korean War.

Years pass quickly, and one thing that makes growing old complete is grandchildren – 14 in all.

Gus and Rosa left Westhoff and their farm and built a home in Cuero, 206 E. Thomas in 1960. They celebrated their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries. Gus died on October 29, 1970.

Rosa still lives in Cuero, has sold her farm. She will soon be 95 years young. She enjoys company, her 14 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren as well as her four living children.

by Mrs. Gus Schaffner

SCHENDEL, HERMAN BRUNO AND AGNES AMANDA (REBECK)

F802

In 1891, Herman Bruno Schendel left Posen, Germany for a better life in America. He arrived in San Antonio, Texas and was employed by the Guenther Mill, as he was a miller by trade and knew a special technique in processing corn into flour. After finding a home, he sent for his wife and five children to join him. After several years, Herman was asked to come to work in Cuero in the Buchel Milling Company. With a promise of increase in pay, he made the decision to move his family. After a time, he bought a home on West Morgan Ave. near the Cuero Water Works. In Cuero they lived a very close knit family life. The father worked hard to support his family, own a home, a horse and buggy and a cow. Four more children were added to this family. They attended St. Mark's Lutheran Church, went for an occasional buggy ride, and Herman took the children fishing. The older children were expected to help at home even if it interfered with going to school. All the children became productive at an early age. The eldest was Gertrude Pauline (1885-) who became a nurse at Salome Hospital and married William Gustav Schorre; Irvin Herman (1887-1960) never married and worked in Flick's Saddle Shop; Elsie (1888-1970's) was a nurse at Burns Hospital and married William Hutchings; George (1890-1943) worked in Cuero Machine Shop and married Edna Austin; Marguerite (1891-1892) is buried in San Antonio City Cemetery; the first five children were born in Germany and the last four were born in America. Charles (1893-1934) never married and worked for Tully's Meat Market. He was also, a veteran of World War I; Hertha Wilhemina (1896-1976) was a nurse at the Burns Hospital and married Charles Keseling and later, William Ferguson, Sr.; Otto 1899-1969) was a veteran of World War I, attended Pratt College in New York, worked as a consulting engineer and married Lettie Rothner; Ruth (1902-1969) was a telephone operator and married Powell Copeland; Sylvia (1907-) was a telephone operator and married Ben Angerstein.

by Arlene Schorre Corner

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The Herman B. Schendel Family 1894 ca L-R: Irvin, Herman B., Gertrude, George, Elsie, Charles and Agnes A.

SCHIWETZ, BERTHOLD FAMILY

F803

Berthold Schiwetz, ca. 1898.

Seven generations ago in the year 1849, Jacob Schiwetz (Schiwitz) immigrated to Texas to join his son, Johann Jacob, who had arrived in 1846 with his wife, Elisabethe Ortlieb and son, Phillip Friedrich. German records state that Johann Jacob and Elisabethe departed Germany on November 1, 1845. It is believed that they sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, arrived at Galveston on March 15, 1846, and continued by ship to Indianola. They settled in Victoria for possibly three years and then located in a German settlement on the 12 mile Coleto Creek where they purchased a farm in the Meyersville area. The elder Jacob died in 1852 (DOB: October 18, 1792, Fuerfeld, Germany).

The German settlement was in an area known as lower Meyersville. In 1855, Jacob and Elisabethe wrote to family members in Germany, describing the settlement as a beautiful place with good water from the creek. They grew corn and potatoes and sold crops, butter, and eggs. Welshcorn sold for 75 cents a bushel. The main income was from stock; a cow cost $15 to $20. An acre of unimproved land sold for $2.00.

Philip Friedrich or Frederick Schiwetz, who would become the father of Berthold Schiwetz, was born July 19, 1843. Frederick was confirmed in 1857 in the original St. John Evangical Lutheran Church, Meyersville. His father, Jacob, was on a committee for the construction of a new church in 1866. Jacob died April 5, 1890; Elisabethe died April 9, 1895; burial was in Yorktown. Frederick married Wilhelmina Buergener, who was born in Waldeck, Germany in 1845. Her family immigrated in 1861 to Texas, where they settled on a farm near Yorktown. Frederick and Wilhelmina had twelve children, three of whom died in infancy. Frederick died December 2, 1897; Wilhelmina lived until January 11, 1928, and enjoyed visits from her grandchildren who happily recalled "Grandma Schiwetz' home in Upper Meyersville." The gravesites of Frederick and Wilhelmina are in the Meyersville cemetery adjacent to the historic St. John's church.

Berthold Schiwetz was born in Meyersville on August 28, 1868. On November 25, 1897, he married Anna Reiffert, born June 27, 1876 in Cuero. The Reifferts were early immigrants from Germany to Indianola. Anna's mother and father were Heinrich Christian and Dorothea Blumenthal Reiffert. Heinrich was born January 12, 1844, in Hersfeld, Germany. In Indianola he worked at Dr. J.M. Reuss' drug store and later for the H. Runge firm. He died in Cuero on June 23, 1900. "Thea" was born October 24, 1844, in Schackenburg, Germany and died May 29, 1896. Their gravesites are in the Cuero cemetery.

Anna and Berthold resided at 811 Terrell Street in Cuero and were blessed with five children. The home was Victorian style with a large porch and generous yard. It has been modernized and housed several families since Anna's death in 1952. The children were: Edward Muegge, born August 24, 1898; Elizabeth Reiffert, born November 16, 1899; David Proctor, born July 25, 1902; Theordore Frederick, born August 9, 1904; and Peter Berthold, born July 23, 1909.

Berthold was an active and civic minded member of the community as well as a devoted father and husband. He was a school board president, a grandmaster of his local Masonic lodge and a member of the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. He was an insurance man and banker with H. Runger & Co. Anna had artistic talent, but her main devotions were to her family and the development of incentive in her children to be self-sufficient and pursue their own talents. Berthold encouraged a good education for his children. Edward (Buck) and David received degrees from Texas A&M in 1921 and 1925, in architecture and engineering, respectively. Elizabeth attended Brennau College in Georgia and Southwestern State Teachers College. Theodore (Ted) became an accountant with a Houston advertising firm; Dave worked for York Refrigeration Corp. and lived in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Berthold (Pete) studied and produced art in Michigan, Sweden, and Italy. He was called to fight in World War II and was at the European front when the Germans surrendered. He was decorated with the Bronze Star. After the war he resumed his artwork and proceeded to leave a legacy of bronze sculptures and fountains in Europe and the USA. Buck became a renowned water color artist and pursued art full time after retirement from advertising in Houston. Ted produced beautiful ceramics; Dave became a skilled furniture craftsman.

Elizabeth taught school in Cuero. In 1928, she married O.A. Zimmerman. They had one son, John Arthur Zimmerman, who graduated from Cuero High School and Rice Institute. He played football for Cuero High School and was a state tennis champion. Sadly, Elizabeth died November, 1937, after a brief illness. Berthold died November 3, 1938. Pete died June, 1971, in Dexter, Michigan. He and Elizabeth and their parents are buried in the Cuero cemetery. "Zim" later married Cleo Moran. They had one daughter, Charlotte Busch, who lives in Corpus Christi with her husband, Paul, and two children. John Zimmerman married Joyce Towery of Cuero. John is employed as business manager of a Corpus Christi firm.

Ted married Lucy Holbert in Houston. They had a son, Theodore Frederick, Jr., who is an attorney in Kerrville. Ted died on January 1, 1984. Lucy later moved to Kerrville, where she continues as a talented china painter and stained glass artist. Buck married Ruby Lee Sanders, who was a recognized sculptor and fabric artist. Buck died February 4, 1984, in Cuero, Texas, where he spent time in partial retirement. Ruby Lee and Buck are buried in the state cemetery in Austin. They had one daughter, Patricia Ann, who married Frank Richard Nelson. Patricia recently retired from the San Antonio School District. David married Charlotte Diehl of York, Pennsylvania; she died in 1968. David now resides in Allentown, Pennsylvania and enjoys hobbies and world travel. He also makes at least an annual trek to Texas.

The current generations include the three daughters and three grandchildren of John

and Joyce Zimmerman. Frank and Patricia Nelson have one daughter, Pamela, who lives in New York City. Ted, Jr. has a twelve year old son, Andrew. The members of the Schiwetz and Zimmerman family continue a close association with Cuero through family and friendship ties and also maintain a strong allegiance to Texas and their German heritage.

by Patricia Nelson

SCHLEICHER, FLETCHER STOCKDALE AND ANGELINE GENEVIEVE "VIVA" CRAIN

F804

Fletcher Stockdale Schleicher

Fletcher Stockdale Schleicher was born in Cuero, Texas on the 10 of October, 1874. He was the ninth child, fifth son, of Gustav Schleicher and Elizabeth Tinsley Schleicher. He received his early education in the public schools of Cuero and after graduation from high school he was employed by a subsidiary of H. Runge and Company in a general mercantile store in Karnes City. In 1895 Fletcher entered Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. He was admitted to the law school at the University of Virginia in 1898 and after two years there he transferred to the law school of the University of Texas where he and was graduated with the class of 1901. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Fletcher return to Cuero to become a partner in the law firm of Kleberg, Grimes and Schleicher. The firms other members were former Congressman Rudolph Kleberg, who became County Judge (1908-1912) and later became a Judge of the State Crimal Court of Appeals, and Judge S.F. Grimes, former District Attorney and District Judge of the Twenty-fourth Judicial District.

Viva (Crain) Schleicher

Schleicher was elected Mayor of Cuero in the spring of 1904 and served until December of 1905 when he was appointed County Attorney by the Commissioners Court to fill the unexpired term of Henry Brown Edgar. He was elected to the office in 1906 and successively until he retired at the expiration of his term in November 1914 to devote more time to the practice of civil and criminal law. In March 1918 County Judge R.J. Waldeck joined him to form the law firm of Schleicher and Waldeck.

When the Buchel Bank became a national bank in 1907 Fletcher Schleicher was made a director and remained on the board until his death. He was a member of the Knight of Pythias and the Order of the Elks.

Fletcher Schleicher was married on October 9, 1909 to Viva Crain, daughter of the late Congressman William Henry Crain and Angeline Genevieve Mitchell. Viva was born in Victoria on September 15, 1876 and had received her education in the Nazareth Acadamy in Victoria and the public schools of Washington, DC and Cuero. She taught school in Cuero before her marriage. Viva was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and she and Miss Katie Owens of Victoria, later Mrs. James F. Welder were in charge of the Texas Historical Pavilion at the Louisiana Purchase Centenial Exposition held in St. Louis in 1904. They were credited with saving the Texas artifacts on display there when fire destroyed a large number of the exhibit halls. The famous Rose Window of the San Jose Mission in San Antonio was part of the Texas display and although it was not damaged during the fire the decision was made that it should never again be removed from the wall of the Mission.

The Schleichers had two children, Frank Crain born February 10, 1911 and Elizabeth Angeline "Anne" born February 4, 1914. The Schleichers resided in Cuero until 1915 when they moved to their farm located two miles southeast of town in order to be nearer to the operation of their dairy herd and stock farm. They returned to their home in Cuero in 1921 when it became time for Anne to enter school. Fletcher Schleicher died the following year on March 15.

Viva Crain Schleicher returned to her profession of teaching in the fall of 1922 and taught in the John C. French Elementary School. In the fall of 1924 she was appointed principal of the Juan Linn Elementary School in Victoria where she remained until her retirement in 1945. During her tenure in Victoria she received commendations both from the school board and several educational associations for her innovative teaching methods.

Viva Crain Schleicher moved to Houston in 1945 to be near her daughter's family and died there on October 21, 1960. Reverend Monsignor Anton J. Frank, Pastor of Annunciation Church of Houston celebrated mass for her at St. Ann's Church in Houston and conducted the graveside services at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero where she was buried beside her husband.

by Frank C. Schleicher

SCHLEICHER, FRANK CRAIN AND DORIS NICHOLLS FAMILY

F805

Frank Crain Schleicher was born in Cuero February 10, 1911, the only son of Fletcher Stockdale Schleicher and Viva Crain. He received his primary education at St. Michael's and John C. French school. He moved to Victoria in 1924 and was graduated from Patti Welder High School in 1928. After a year at Draughn's Business College in San Antonio he was employed by Humble Oil and Refg. Co. In 1932 he entered Texas A. & M. and was graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering in 1937. He spent the next four years in Venezuela in the construction of oilfield camps and facilities. He was called to active duty with the Corp of Engineers in 1942 and spent three years in India as Asst. Engineer of the CBI Engineer Division. He held the rank of Major when he was discharged in 1946 and returned to his job with Creole Petroleum Corp. in Venezuela. He spent the next 24 years in long range planning of oil field facilities and the development of open towns to replace the outmoded oil field camps. He is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Frank retired in 1970 with more than 35 years service with Exxon affiliates and moved to Austin. Since then he has devoted most of his time to volunteer work for church and civic organizations. He is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Serra Club of Austin, past District Governor of Serra and member of Serra International Foundation Development Council. He is a member of Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Military Order of Stars and Bars.

Frank was married on December 26, 1940 to Doris Nicholls, daughter of the late Benjamin Frank Nicholls and Doris Gage McMain of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Doris was born in Corinth, Mississippi on January 17, 1917. She received her primary education in St. Michael's and Carr Central Junior High in Vicksburg and was graduated from Carr Central High School in 1935. She attended All Saints College in Vicksburg in 1936-37 and was employed as secretary to the principal of Carr

Central High School before her marriage. Doris attended the Missouri School of Mines at Rollo, Missouri when Frank was stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood in 1942-43. Doris is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Schleichers have two sons, Frank Crain, II, born in Vicksburg, Mississippi on December 18, 1943, and Barry Michel, born in Maracaibo, Venezuela on September 21, 1949. Frank and Barry received their primary education in Bella Vista School in Maracaibo.

Frank received his secondary education at The Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He was graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in Civil Engineering in 1967. He was commissioned Ensign, U.S. Navy and after serving three years was discharged with rank of Lieutenant J.G. He entered the University of Texas in 1971 to study for a Masters in Business Administration. In 1973 he joined Fluor Corporation and spent the next two years on the construction of the Alaskan Pipeline. He was awarded his MBA in 1977 and shortly thereafter formed Schleicher & Associates, a computer consulting firm in Houston.

Frank was married on August 4, 1972 to Bridgette Rollo Durckel, daughter of Paul Henry Durckel and Meredythe Jane Gardiner of Pecos and Houston. Bridgette received her primary education in Pecos and attended Lamar High School in Houston where she was graduated in 1969. She attended Vanderbilt and the University of Texas and received a BS in Architectural Studies from the latter in 1973 and a Bachelor of Architecture in 1977. She has practiced her profession in Fairbanks, Alaska and Houston.

Frank and Bridgette have two sons, James Hay, born July 17, 1984 and Paul Frank, born June 27, 1988.

Barry Michel received his secondary education at The Webb School, Cornwall Academy, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and was graduated from Academy La Castellana in Caracas, Venezuela. He was graduated from St. Edwards University in Austin on December 17, 1971 with a BA in Business Administration. He has been employed by Continental Airlines for the past twelve years and is in charge of their food service warehouse at the Houston Inter-Continental Airport.

Barry was married on December 18, 1971 to Joan Elizabeth Plunkert, daughter of John Francis Plunkert and Barbara Lois Melville of Arlington, Virginia. Joan received her primary education at Holy Family School, Hillcrest, Maryland and secondary education at Lareine High School, Suitland, Maryland and Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. She was graduated from the latter in 1968 and attended Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington, DC for two years. She was graduated from St. Edwards University in Austin on December 17, 1971 with a BA in Business Administration. She is manager of an automobile insurance agency in Houston.

Barry and Joan have two sons, Barry John, born May 11, 1973 and Steven Crain, born January 9, 1975 and a daughter, Elizabeth Joan, born January 18, 1980. They live in Spring, Texas.

by Frank C. Schleicher

You can't buy anything except it be new and high class at this yard. Let us figure on your next building bill.

McMurry Lumber Co.

SCHLEICHER, GUSTAV AND ELIZABETH TINSLEY HOWARD

F806

Gustav Schleicher

Elizabeth Tinsley (Howard) Schleicher

Johan Gustav Ferdinand Schleicher was born in Darmstadt, Germany on November 19, 1823, the fourth child, only son of Georg Friedrich Schleicher, a cabinet maker, and his wife, Marie Elenore Losch. Gustav was graduated from the University of Giessen in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt and worked as a civil engineer in railroad construction in Germany. He and Dr. Ferdinand Herff were the leaders of a group of intellectuals, the Colony of Forty, who immigrated to Texas in 1847 and founded a commune named Bettina on the banks of the Llano River.

The settlement failed, and Gustav began helping German settlers to locate land and to acquire land himself. He moved to San Antonio in 1850 and he and others initiated such ventures as the Guadalupe Bridge Company to build a toll bridge across the Guadalupe between San Antonio and New Braunfels, as well as the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad. His father and two younger sisters, Marie Wilhelmine and Henriette Louise Auguste, joined him in San Antonio and he was co-owner with his sisters of a dining establishment in San Antonio. His sister, Marie, married Huge Frederick Oswald on 27 April 1852. Gustav became a naturalized American citizen on December 8, 1852. In 1853-1854 he served in the House of the fifth Texas Legislature. From 1854 to 1861 he was a Surveyor of the Bexar Land District, which included mosts of the central portion of Texas from San Antonio west to El Paso, and during his tenure he acquired title to large tracts of land. In 1858, Scleicher and Rudolph Dresel, who had married his sister, Auguste, began publishing the *Texas Staat-Zeitung* in San Antonio.

On May 11, 1856 Gustav Schleicher married Elizabeth Tinsley Howard, daughter of Taliferro S. Howard and Elizabeth Garnett Tinsley. The Howards were originally from Caroline County, Virginia and had migrated to Noxubee County, Mississippi where their daughter Elizabeth was born on May 6, 1836. She came to the Republic of Texas as a child when her parents moved to Washington County in 1840, and later to Galveston.

Gustav Schleicher was a co-incorporator of the San Antonio Water Company in 1858 and of Alamo College in 1860. From 1859 to 1861 he served in the Senate of the Eighth Texas Legislature.

When Texas seceded from the Union Gustav volunteered and was commissioned Captain, Corp of Engineers, Trans-Mississippi Department, CSA on April 24, 1861 and served until the company was surrendered by General E. Kirby Smith on August 4, 1865. After the war he opened an engineering and real estate office in San Antonio and in 1866 was one of the incorporators of the Columbus, San Antonio and Rio Grande Railroad.

In 1870 the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railway was foreclosed and sold to Charles W. Morgan who owned the Morgan Steamship Line which operated between New Orleans and Indianola. Morgan changed the name of the railroad to Gulf, West Texas and Pacific and Gustav Schleicher was named chief engineer to supervise construction of the line from Victoria to Cuero.

Work on the road was begun in 1871 and the following year Gustave Schleicher purchased a league of land which had originally been owned by Father Jose Antonio Valdez y Gonzales and together with Fletcher S. Stockdale, John C. French and Col. Charles M. Terrell as partners, he formed the Cuero Land and Immigration Co. Schleicher designed the streets and drainage pattern of the town of Cuero and supervised the surveying of the townsite. In 1873 he erected the first bridge in DeWitt County across the Guadalupe River. It was known as Schleicher Bridge until it was replaced by a concrete structure a few years ago. That same year he built a home at 801 Morgan Avenue, one of the first houses to be built in Cuero, and brought his family from San Antonio.

In 1874 Gustav Schleicher was elected from the Sixth District of Texas to the Forty-fourth United States Congress. He was reelected to the Forty-fifth and again to the Forty-sixth

Congress but died in Washington on January 10, 1879 before the Forty-sixth Congress convened. Funeral services were held in the Capital House Chambers in Washington. His remains were brought to San Antonio where services were held in St. Mark's Episcopal Church and he was buried in the National Cemetery on Paso Hondo Street.

Schleicher County on the Edwards Plateau of southwestern Texas was created in 1887 and named for Gustav Schleicher.

Elizabeth Tinsley Howard Schleicher lived in Cuero for more than 54 years after her husbands death. She died on February 5, 1933 and was buried in San Antonio beside her husband.

The Schleicher's had nine children, two of whom, Rudolph and Eleanor Herff I, died in infancy. All except their two youngest children were born in San Antonio.

Gustav H., born ca. 1857, was graduated from the University of Virginia and was at one time City Engineer and DeWitt County Surveyor. He married Gazzie Renee' Moore, daughter of Samuel Butler Moore and Lydia Crouch. They had four children, Samuel Moore, Lula Eleanor, Gustav Ferdinand, and Boon Franklin. Gustav H. died in Queretaro, Mexico 21 June, 1930.

Elizabeth Tinsley, born ca. 1859, married Fletcher Sommerfield Stockdale, and they had three children, Thomas, Nanette and Agnes Lee.

George Johnson, attorney, was born 16 Aug. 1863, married Lulu Lane, daughter of Sam W. Lane and Ann Mary Puckett, died Cuero, 27 Oct. 1936. They had no children. He was graduated from Columbia University and practiced law with Judge Robert A. Pleasants in Cuero for many years.

William Young, attorney, born 17 April 1867, was graduated from the University of Virginia, never married, died Cuero, 24 Nov. 1896 aged 29 years.

Eleanor Herff II (Lola), born 23 Jan. 1869, was graduated at Wellsley, taught school in Cuero for many years, died 15 Feb. 1958. She married and divorced Joel F. Edwards.

Mary Lee (Mamie), born Washington, DC 1872, died Cuero, 24 Nov. 1923.

Fletcher Stockdale, attorney, born 10 October 1874, married Angeline Genevive (viva) Crain, daughter of William Henry Crain and Angeline Genevieve Mitchell, died Cuero, 15 Mar. 1922. He had two children, Frank Crain, and Elizabeth Ann. (See separate article on this family.)

by Frank C. Schleicher

SCHLEICHER, LOU (LANE)

F807

Lou Lane was born May 22, 1860 to Samuel Winston Lane and Ann Mary Catherine Puckett. She was born in DeWitt County, Texas. She attended Stanford Female College in Kentucky and was valedictorian of her class. In 1896, she married George Johnston Schleicher, son of Gustave Schleicher.

Dr. W.A. McLeod, Presbyterian pastor wrote of Lou Lane Schleicher: "Mrs. Schleicher was a woman of unusual brilliancy of intellect. She attended school at Clinton in her childhood. Later she went to the Brooks school at Goliad and finally to college at Standford, Kentucky. Her record was always brilliant. Following this, she taught in a private school of her own here in Cuero for a time. Her financial position was such, however, that she did not need to work for a living, and yet we find her always doing private teaching. She had a passion to teach and was seldom or never without a list of private pupils. For this sort of work she never thought of making any charge.

Few of our citizens were as widely read as she. From childhood, she read everything she could lay hands on. Added to this, was the experience in travel. She and her husband travelled widely in Europe, particularly in Germany, homeland of his father and in England, homeland of hers."

Mrs. Schleicher was a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy and Colonial Dames. She died in Cuero at her residence at 402 Terrell St., on June 22, 1938. She is buried at Hillside Cemetery, in Cuero.

by Ann Mary Lane Wofford

SCHLENNSTEDT, CHRISTOPHER FAMILY

F808

Christopher G. Schlennstedt was born in Halle, Germany, county of Saugerhausan, Kneis Voigtstedt. He was born on January 25, 1842. He was a military man under "Kaiser Reign". He married Marie Fredricka Schultz, who was born at Voigtstedt, on September 16, 1848. Her mother's maiden name was Fisher.

Christopher and Marie were married in Halle, Germany June 1, 1864. They had three sons: 1) Karl Schlennstedt was born August 21, 1870 and died May 26, 1953. He is buried at the Westhoff Cemetery; 2) Herman Schlennstedt was born May 10, 1871 and died August 17, 1975 in Nordheim, Texas; Fritz Schlennstedt was born February 10, 1872 and died July 1937 in Nordheim.

Karl married Mimmie Helbig on May 18, 1890 in Germany. They had five children, three born in Germany and two born in Westhoff, Texas. Their children were: 1) Anna Marie, born on February 8, 1894 in Voigtstedt, Sangerhausen, Germany; 2) Hermana was born October 3, 1896 in Germany; 3) Fritz was born May 3, 1898 in Germany; 4) Otto was born June 6, 1903 and died June 6, 1903 at Westhoff, Texas. He is buried by the family home; 5) Charlie was born January 1, 1905 at Westhoff, Texas.

Christopher Schlennstedt and his wife came to the Westhoff, Grunau, and Little Chicago area of Texas. Christopher bought land in the Nordheim area and the Wallis Ranch area of DeWitt County. About 400 acres were bought from the Wallis Ranch, land to be used to raise sheep. The Wallis Ranch land was part of a grant from the Mexican Government to Captain Wallis after the Siege of the Alamo. There were, at one time, a total of 150,000 acres of land in the Wallis Ranch. This land was not to be sold, only handed down to heirs. After the Civil War, some of this land began to be sold by the heirs.

Christopher bought 426 acres at 90¢ per acre, from Turners and Robeson. He built his home on this land. Two creeks ran through the land, the big and little Copper Creeks.

Christopher had been a shepherd in Germany and wanted to raise sheep on his land but most land owners were farmers and ranchers in this area. They did not like the idea of sheep on good grazing land.

Christopher always came down with a mysterious illness of fever and rashes. It made life miserable for him. (It turned out to be poison ivy and poison oak). He wrote to his son in Germany to come to America as the soil was good and would raise many crops: corn, hay, sugar cane, cotton, which they knew nothing about, and milo and other grains. It was ideal for cattle and hogs and chickens and turkeys.

After Karl and his wife and three children arrived on the boat "Garret", at Galveston, Texas, (they could not land in Indianola because of a hurricane) on May 3, 1903, they came first to Mustang Mott and to the old house that was Mustang Mott Store. They had come by wagon and had seen many Indians along the way. They could not speak English but soon learned. They built a two-story house about 1 mile South of the Westhoff Cemetery. They all attended Clear Creek School at the two-story school by the bridge near Lillie Stollis' house and Ed Buchhorn's place. Lillie could speak German and English so she taught Anna to speak English and they stayed friends all of their lives.

Kark bought more land from the Veit family across the road from their home but when times got bad during the depression, he sold that land.

Fritz Schlennstedt and Herman Schlennstedt moved to Nordheim, Texas and married sisters. Fritz married Theresa Marchshot and Hermam married Emilie Marchshot.

Fritz and Theresa had one daughter born in Berlin, Germany. Her name was Marie and she married Hugo Bachle, a professor from Swertz, Texas. They had three children: 1) Nelda married Moffett; 2) Mildred married Stinson; 3) Wilfred married Dashle. Marie died in 1984 and Hugo died in March of 1976.

Herman and Emilie had three daughters and two sons: 1) Fred died in 1985; 2) Martha married a Stinnert; 3) Elsie married a Janasack; 4) Erna married a Janson; and 5) Otto died about the age of 18 years.

Karl Schlennstedt's daughter, Anna Marie married Fred H. Harvey who was born January 20, 1892 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. They married at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas on January 3, 1923. Fred was a military man having served with the English Army during World War I in France and Germany. After the War he came to the United States and served many years in the Navy and the Army. He was gassed in World War I and was in bad health for many years. However, he had several businesses, he was a cook, baker, butcher, restaurant owner. He bought the Stucco Hut from Berthold Zengerle in October 1942 and ran it until 1949. He and his wife also had the American Snack Bar at the American Legion Hall in Cuero where the Post Office is now. For a long time he worked for the Piggly Wiggly Store from 1937 to 1939. He also, helped in the Bohne Market, Ley Brothers Grocery, and McLarty's Grocery and Charley Koenig's Grocery.

While he was growing up, Fred wrestled in Canada and won many medals and titles. He wrestled under the name of "Freddie Welsh". He was a powerful man.

After Fred's retirement from the service, they moved to Westhoff and opened a bakery

and meat market. They had a son, Alfred Sidney Harvey who was born December 15, 1924, in Westhoff and a daughter, Ethel Louise Harvey who was born Decemb er 5, 1925 upstairs in the old E.T. Teller home and Dr. Fry home. They moved to Cuero in 1941 due to rations and supplies being in short supply. Fred and Anna bought a home at 604 E. Courthouse where they lived until Mrs. Harvey's death in 1984 at the age of 90. Fred died with a heart attack in 1956. They are buried at the Westhoff Cemetery.

Karl's second son, Herman Schlennstedt married Leona Leonhart at Westhoff Texas and they had two daughters: 1) Edna was born August 31, 1923. She married J.D. "Red" Bowen and they had one son J.D. Bowen, Jr.; 2) Annie Louise was born June 19, 1924. She married Charles Ludwig and they had three children: Kenneth Ludwig, Charles Ludwig, Jr., and Annette Ludwig.

Karl Schlennstedt's third child, Fritz was born May 3, 1898 and married Tonie Bock, daughter of Julius and Katherine Bock of Westhoff. Tonie was the first girl born in Westhoff on January 2, 1902 when it was still called Bello. Mr. Julius Bock ran a lumber yard where the American Legion Hall is today. Tonie had a sister named Anna Smith and a brother named Otto Bock. Fritz died on November 22, 1937 from a ruptured appendix. Fritz and Tonie had three daughters: 1) Georgie Mae; 2) Jo Nell; and 3) Christie. Tonie died in 1972.

Karl's fifth child, Charlie Schlennstedt married Selma Wehman. They have no children. They lived in the Karl Schlennstedt home all of their married life. Charlie died in September 18, 1981 and Selma died on her 75th birthday, April 26, 1980. They are both buried in the Westhoff Cemetery.

After the death of Charlie, the farm was sold to Bill Leske and his wife. Mrs. Leske was kin to the Wallis family that originally owned the land. It was in the Schlennstedt family from 1890 until 1982. The land holds many memories for all of the Schlennstedt family.

Anna and Fred Harvey's children were: 1) Alfred S. Harvey who made the army his career. He joined the Army in San Antonio in 1941 and served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He served 32 years and retired as a Major Sargent. He married Ann Else in 1942. She is from England. They retired to Marysville, California. Alfred and Ann have four children: a) Pamela; b) Katy Jo; c) Susan; and d) Bruce. 2) Ethel Louise Harvey married Cleo W. Marks, Jr. of Dixon, Kentucky. They met while he was training as a pilot at Brayton Flying Field in Cuero in 1942. Ethel Louise was working at the Doll House in Cuero at the time. They married September 6, 1942 at the Lutheran Church. Cleo Marks served at Foster Field, Matagorda Island, and overseas in Africa, and Italy. After his discharge in January of 1946, they moved to Dixon, Kentucky. They have eight children: a) Donna Ruth was born April 5, 1945 and married a Mr. Walker; b) Linda Marie was born March 2, 1947 and married a Mr. Worthington; c) Cleo W. Marks "Pinky" was born November 20, 1948; d) Karl Harvey Marks was born March 10, 1953; e) Mary Ann was born September 28, 1950 and married a Mr. Hancock; f) Johnny F. Marks was born August 17, 1956; g) Nancy Marks was born December 10, 1957 and married a Mr. Hiett; h) Frankie Gordon Marks was born July 31, 1959.

Cleo Marks died in March of 1976. After 28 years, Mrs. Marks came back to Cuero to live near her mother Mrs. Anna Harvey. Ethel Louise (Harvey) Marks married Ben Adams but divorced him in 1977.

Mrs. Marks has twelve grandchildren: a. Keith Walker; b) Loni Renee Worthington; c) Raina Lee; d) April Hankins; e) Mandy Marks; f) Kassie Marks; g) Janie Hancock; h) Michale Marks; i) Karl Allen Marks; j) Melissa Marks; k) Johnathon Marks; and l) Megan Mergel Marks.

At last count, there were 134 descendants of Christopher and Marie Schlennstedt. They are spread from California to England to Alaska to Texas and Ontario, Canada.

Christopher died in Germany in 1918 from the "terrible" flu. His wife Marie stayed in Germany until Karl, her son, went over in 1923 and brought her to Texas. She lived in the home of Karl until November 13, 1933 when she died. She was 87 years of age. She is buried in the Westhoff Cemetery.

by Mrs. Louise Adams

SCHLINKE, CHARLES A.

F809

Charles A. Schlinke was born in Germany on August 2, 1862, a son of John and Calina Schlinke who emigrated to the United States when Charles was four years old. The Schlinke first settled in Goliad County where elder Schlinke engaged in farming and accumulated considerable property during his lifetime and also operated extensively in the livestock business. Charles attended public schools and worked on a farm for his father until he was fourteen years of age and then started breaking wild horses and mules for ranchers of that area. He worked for various men until he was twenty-three when he was married to Miss Martha Clement at which time he started farming for himself, purchasing a tract of two hundred acres in DeWitt County. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schlinke, eight of whom survived: 1) Oscar, 2) Martha, 3) Alma, 4) August, 5) Olga, 6) Fritz, 7) Rosa and 8) Ernest Schlinke.

Mr. Schlinke was a member of the Lutheran Church. He died July 7, 1940 and she died June 3, 1931. They are buried at St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Lindenau, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Schlinke family

SCHLITT, JOHANN FRIEDRICH

F810

Johann Friedrich Schlitt was born on 19 November 1807 in Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany, and was baptized in Leusel on 22 November 1807. The baptismal sponsor was Johann Friedrich Schlitt, his grandfather. The parents of Johann Friedrich Schlitt were a farmer, Johannes Schlitt (b. 28 January 1777 Leusel; d. 6 April 1836 Leusel; m. 8 August 1805 Leusel), and Anna Catharina Schlitt, nee Decher (b. 3 April 1788 Liederbach bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District; d. 6 October 1842 Leusel). Johann Friedrich Schlitt never surrendered himself to the yokes of matrimony; he died in DeWitt County, Texas, on 20 September 1887 and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville, DeWitt County.

Johann Friedrich Schlitt sailed from Bremen, Germany, on board the *Anton Gunther* with his sister, Elisabetha Katharina Koehler, nee Schlitt, his brother-in-law, Johann Valentin Koehler, his nephew, Heinrich Koehler, and his nieces, Katharina Koehler, Anna Katharina Koehler, and Elisabeth Koehler. The family landed at Galveston on 2 January 1860 and further removed themselves to DeWitt County.

Of interest was the fact that Johann Friedrich Schlitt traveled to America under the surname of Schleid. Generally speaking, an emigrant did not receive approval for emigration from Hessen for one or more of the following reasons: if there were still a judgment proceeding in progress against the prospective emigrant, if punishment in a remand home or prison had not yet been served by the prospective emigrant, if the prospective emigrant had not yet completed his military service with the mustered-in youth, or if the prospective emigrant had not faithfully paid all his taxes and duties. Johann Friedrich Schlitt was not granted a release from the subject bond and consequently was not granted a passport and so he went to the United States under an assumed name. According to Helmuth Riffer, of Alsfeld (1989), Schlitt had probably entered into the transaction with the captain of the ship. However, he must have returned to Leusel at a later date because additional records in Germany revealed that a Friedrich Schlitt, as an American citizen, departed from Europe on 17 November 1869 aboard the *Frankfort* and landed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Johann Friedrich Schlitt made his home with Elisabetha and Johann Valintin Koehler, his sister and brother-in-law. In fact, on the 1860 DeWitt County census, Friedrich Schlitt was listed as the head of the family. This same documentation revealed that the family's real estate was valued at $4000, not an inconsiderable sum for the times, and the personal property was valued at $200.

by Beverly Boehl

SCHLOSSER, HENRY FAMILY

F811

According to the book, The History of the German Settlements in Texas, written by Rudolph Leopold Biesele, the Indians in 1855 to

Wilbert Schlosser

Henry Schlosser Family: Back: Ida, Henry and Olga. Middle: Sophie, Adela and Minnie. Front: Henry, Sr., with Leona, Hugo, Lillie and Hermina.

Henry and Hermine Schlosser. Taken in Yorktown, TX in 1910

1859 became very active and committed many acts against the settlers. A Committee of 5 citizens of New Braunfels sent to Gov. Pease a report of a public meeting held in New Braunfels. This meeting adopted measures to cooperate with the citizens in raising volunteer assistance to protect the frontier settlements against the marauding incursions of Indians. Great Grandfather Schlosser was serving in this Ranger Service in 1858 when he was killed by the Indians somewhere west of San Antonio. His friend escaped and returned to the Schlosser farm to rescue Great Grandmother Sophia (Whithoef) Schlosser and her six months old son.

The young son was Henry Schlosser born at Fort Clark in Kinney County, Texas, May 21, 1858. His parents were Mr. Schlosser (first name unknown) and Sophia Whithoef Schlosser.

As they rode on horseback to safety, Sophia looked back to see her home being burned by the Indians. She and little Henry took refuge in the Alamo.

Sophia and little Henry were moved to Seguin to a safer haven. Later, Sophia took a housekeeping job at the home of August Harborth, a widower with small children. Mr. Harborth, a merchant, transported his goods by ox cart from Indianola. In 1886, Sophia Schlosser and August Harborth were married. August and Sophia had five children and Henry's step-father was well known around Seguin. Mr. Harborth died in 1910.

As Henry grew older, he drove ox teams through DeWitt and Goliad Counties along the route of his step-father.

On April 10, 1881, Henry Schlosser married Hermine Meyer, daughter of Christoph and Louise (Grote) Meyer of New Braunfels where their first child was born. They moved to Weesatche where he farmed and had a General Store that contained the Post Office. Six children were born in Goliad County.

The cattle shipping point, Welden Switch, was renamed Nordheim in about 1895 and became a predominately Germany speaking community of cotton farmers; the year Schlosser's arrived. Their daughter, Lillie was recorded as being the first child born in the town of Nordheim.

Henry was instrumental in establishing the Post Office, and was the first Postmaster of Nordheim. He established the first business in town in the Gohmert Building, a General Store, that the family operated for several years. He was affectionately known to many as being "The Father of Nordheim."

In 1896, Nordheim's St. Paul Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. J.K. Poch of Yorktown. The first Lutheran services were held in the Schlosser home.

In 1902, when "Cotton was King" the lure of farming prompted the family to move onto a 400 acre farm 3 miles south of Nordheim. The family was already large and several more children were born while they lived on this farm. A large water supply was needed for them and the other farm help. It became known as "The Twin Cistern Place" in the area, since the cypress tanks could be seen for miles around. A smaller farm was owned and operated close to Nixon. Opa and Oma lived on the Nordheim farm until Opa's death in 1911, but Oma continued to live on the farm and be active until her death on June 30, 1933. Sophia Schlosser Harborth died in 1913 and was buried near Geronimo, outliving her son Henry by two years.

Schlosser children included: Ida (Thormahlen), Olga (Brieger), Henry, Jr., Minnie (Riedesel), Sophie (Braune), Adele (Reinhart), Hugo, Lillie (Klaevemann), Leona (Stirl), and Wilbert. All of the above are deceased except Lena Stirl of Victoria and Wilbert and Wilmeth (Brown) Schlosser of Corpus Christi. They maintain a second home in Nordheim.

Grandfather Henry suffered from heart trouble but died from apoplexy in 1911. The Schlosser's were a very close family that took great pride in religious training. Their children, as most of the German descendants in that area, were confirmed members of the Lutheran Church. At least six families, descendants of this union, remain in DeWitt Co.

Tragedy struck the Schlosser's on two occasions. The first being when the oldest known relative was killed by the Indians in about 1858, and the second when the youngest male member, Lon Schlosser, was murdered close to Fort Hood, Texas in 1969. Lon would have been the only Schlosser to have had the opportunity to carry on the name of this large pioneer family had he lived, married and had at least

one son.

When his remains were discovered after weeks of intense searching by his father, Wilbert, and post officials, he was buried in the Nordheim Cemetery with full military honors. It was a memorable occasion his relatives will never forget, was attended by many of his Army comrades, and marked the end of a local family name.

by Clifford W. Braune

SCHMIDT, GEORGE AND MAYME

F812

George and Mayme (Meyer) Schmidt wedding picture 1925.

George Schmidt April 6, 1988 on 100th birthday.

On April 6, 1888 in Oldenburg, Germany, twins George and Gesine were born to John and Gesine Bruns Schmidt (story appears elsewhere). The family came to America in 1890 and settled in Jackson, County. In 1906, when George was 18 years old, they moved to DeWitt county in the Friedland School Community. They moved their household goods by train but the cattle were moved across the land on hoof by George, his two older brothers and two friends, Gus and Henry Schaffner on horseback. They camped overnight near Nursery, crossing the Guadalupe River near there.

George lived on the farm with his father and later with brother Anton and his wife Sophie. On July 26, 1918 he was inducted in the United States Army. He served at Camp Travis and at Camp Mulberry in Virginia near Newport News where he received his honorable discharge in December 1918.

He was married to Mary Meta (Mayme) Meyer in St. Paul Lutheran Church by the Rev. E.A. Sagabiel on January 6, 1925. Mayme was born on June 2, 1904 to George Carl and Emma Vogt Meyer (story appears elsewhere) near Weesatche in Goliad County. In 1920 the family moved near Yorktown where Mayme attended school.

After their marriage George and Mayme lived on a part of the farm formerly owned by George'e father. Here two children were born to them.

George Frederick, Jr. was born on October 1, 1925. He attended school at Friedland through the eighth grade and graduated from Yorktown High School in May 1943. In December 1943 he was inducted into the United States Navy. He received his basic training at San Diego, California and served on a troop transport. He received his honorable discharge on May 4, 1946. He later worked in San Antonio and then in Victoria in construction. He never married and still lives in Victoria.

On May 27, 1930, Myrtle Lorraine was born to George and Mayme. She also attended schools at Friedland and graduated from Yorktown High School in 1947. She was married to Otto John Janssen, Jr. on June 10, 1948 in St. Paul Lutheran church by Rev. C.G. Hankammer. Otto Jr. is the son of Otto and Erna Wendt Janssen. (Story appears elsewhere).

In the fall of 1950 George and Mayme sold their farm and bought a home owned by Max and Lillie Schorre in Nordheim. Here they remained active with gardening and yard work until February 1982 when George entered the Yorktown Manor Nursing Home where on April 6, 1989 he observed his 101st birthday.

Mayme also entered the Yorktown Manor Nursing Home in December of 1982 and she died at the age of 79 years on March 9, 1984. Mamie is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

by Myrtle Janssen

SCHMIDT, JOHN AND GESINE

F813

John and Gesine Bruns Schmidt lived in Oldenburg, Germany with their three sons and four daughters in 1890 they came to America landing at Galveston. They were met at the boat by the John Mueller family, who also helped them start their new life in Jackson County on land owned by the Muellers. Later

John and Gesine (Bruns) Schmidt early 1900's.

Josefa and Johann Schnuriger with Adolph and Elenora in their bakery in Nordheim, TX 1917.

they moved near Ganado and to Edna.

In 1906 the family moved to a farm in DeWitt County in the Friedland School Community. They purchased this land from the Westhoff-Buchel Company for $3.00 per acre. Mother Gesine died at the age of fifty-two years in December 1906. John died in January 1920 at the age of sixty-eight.

John and Gesine had eight children who grew to adulthood.

Helene was born December 2, 1877 in Germany. She married Emil Brandt in November, 1897. The Brandts lived in Colorado County near Weimar. Nine children were born to Emil and Helene Brandt.

John Henry Schmidt, born February 26, 1880 in Germany, married Helene Marie Morisse on November 30, 1909 at Nordheim, Texas. Helene was born in Germany on July 9, 1881. John and Helene lived in the Buesing School community where their five children were born. They are Liesbeth, Gesine, Anna Marie, Jeanette and Joachim. John died January 15, 1973 at the age of 92 years.

Anton Gerhardt Schmidt, born in Germany on July 27, 1883. He married Sophie Katherine Morisse, a sister to John's wife Helene, on October 26, 1910. Sophie was born in Germany October 26, 1882. They lived in the Friedland School Community and had four children. They are Johnnie, Burgunde, Tony and Hella. Anton died February 15, 1976 at the age of 92 years.

Marie Pauline Schmidt was born on December 11, 1885 in Germany. She married Herman Riedesel on November 29, 1911 in Yorktown. They lived on a farm about four miles north of Yorktown. Their seven children are Pauline, John, Herman, Fritz, Olivia, Wilfred, and Roland.

Gesine and George Schmidt, twins were born April 6, 1888 in Germany. Gesine married Charles Riedesel, brother of Marie's husband, on October 3, 1911. They lived on a farm about four miles north of Yorktown. Twelve children were born to Gesine and Charles. They are Ewald, August, Valentine, Jane, Edna, George, Viola, Hugo, Edward, twins Lela Mae and Lee Roy, and Elton.

George Frederick Schmidt married Mary Meta (Mayme) Meyer on January 6, 1925. See George and Mayme Schmidt elsewhere.

Anna Elise Schmidt was born October 30, 1889 in Germany. She married Fritz Schriefer on November 21, 1912. They lived near Weimar in Colorado County where two daughters were born to them. After the death of Fritz Schriefer she married Paul Wornot in 1934 in Weimar. They later moved to Beasley in Fort Bend County.

Lydia Schmidt was born on February 2, 1894 in Jackson County. She married William Meinke on August 1, 1927. They had two daughters, Evelyn and Leona, and lived most of their married life in Cuero.

Little is known about the Schmidt's life in Germany but coming over in a ship with a baby, two year old twins and four older children must have been a hardship. Hope for a better life in a new land must have out-weighed these hardships, and we, as descendants, need to be ever grateful to these brave ancestors.

In John's obituary are found these words "He fought for his faith, held his belief in God." This faith and love is made evident by the close family ties held by his descendants.

Parents John and Gesine along with children Anton and wife Sophie Schmidt, Mary and Herman Riedesel, Gesine and Charles Riedesel, and Lydia and William Meinke are buried in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. John and Helene Schmidt and George's wife Mayme are buried in the Nordheim Cemetery. George is the only survivor of the eight children and their spouses. He is 101 years old.

by Myrtle Janssen

SCHNURIGER, JOHANN JOSEPH AND JOSEFA

F814

Johann Joseph Schnuriger (1869-1968) was born to Joseph Franz and Maria Sofia Schnuriger in Schwyz, Switzerland. Johann Joseph had five brothers, Alois, Josef Balthosar, Alexander Meinard Joseph, twins Adolf and Josef, and two sisters, Luisa Maria and Elisa. Johann emigrated to the United States from Havre, France on the ship Gosgonia working his way for passage as a baker assistant. He arrived in New York on 1 January 1888. Upon arriving he found a job in New Jersey working for a bakery thus expounding his interest in that trade. An interesting aspect of this job was delivering bread to Thomas A. Edison in Memio Park, N.J. At a later date he went to work in a bakery in San Francisco, California and witnessed the 1906 earthquake. Johann came to San Antonio, Texas in 1911 and found employment as a baker for Medina Dam Construction Company. He met his bride to be, Josefa Matschl, in San Antonio, Texas.

Josefa Matschl (1886-1984) daughter of Johann and Catharina Matschl was born in Pleschen, Fauenthal, Austria. There were two other children in the family, brother Alois and sister Theresa. After the death of her parents, Josefa left Pleschen and went to Bremerhaven, Germany. She obtained passage for America on the ship Breslau (North German Ship) on 4 December 1905. There were two other girls, Theresa Boehnke, her cousin Josefa Matschl, and Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht with son Frank and daughter Emilia from her village on the boat. The boat docked in Baltimore, Maryland on 21 December 1905 where some of the passengers left the boat. The rest of the passengers arrived in Galveston, Texas on 31 December 1905. Upon arrival, Josefa went to Moulton, Texas to work on the farm of Joe and Anna Darliek, a cousin. Leaving the farm 6 May 1907 she came to San Antonio, Texas to work for the Groos family at 335 King William Street. In 1913 Josefa and Johann were married in San Antonio, Texas in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. In 1916 they decided to move to Nordheim, Texas where they operated a bakery. They also operated a bakery in Cuero (about 1921) and Moulton, Texas (about 1925). Eventually moving to Cotulla, Texas where Josefa operated a bakery while Johann worked on the railroad as a baker. In 1929 Johann was injured and they moved to San Antonio, Texas. Johann and Josefa had five sons, Adolf (1915), twins John (1920) and Joseph (1920-1937), Francis (1923-1983), and Robert Lee (1925), and three daughters Elenora Murray (1913-1937), Louise Schoenert (1917), and Mary Ann Pintaric (1921).

by Mrs. Louise J. Schoenert

SCHORLEMER, WILLIAM CARL AND AUGUSTE SCHAEFER

F815

William Carl and Auguste Schorlemer's wedding picture.

Wilhelm Carl (later changed to William) was born on November 25, 1861. He was the son of Wilhelm and Eva Schorlemer. He was born on the family farm near Five Mile Coletto Creek in DeWitt County. Wilhelm went to school at the first public school built near the Five Mile Creek. As a young man, he was sent to Victoria to study carpentry under a Mr. Sirjacks.

On October 6, 1887, Wilhelm married Auguste Schaefer. They lived on land Wilhelm had bought across from his mother and father's farm.

Auguste was the daughter of Carl L. Schaefer and Amalia Wurtz Schaefer. They lived near Meyersville. Auguste was born on November 16, 1867.

On their farm they raised their children: William Louis born February 13, 1888; Ottilie born January 26, 1889; Charlotte "Lottie" born November 9, 1890; Ella born August 20, 1892; Cora born September 9, 1894; Walter born August 19, 1896; Felix born September 21, 1898; Alvin born July 21, 1900; Emma born and died on January 17, 1901; and Norma born October 22, 1904.

After the death of William's parents, he bought their homestead. He also owned a farm near Clinton on the river. They lived there for a few years. They eventually bought a home in Cuero on Hunt Street where they lived until their last years. They moved to Yorktown to be near their children.

Gradually, all of the children married and left the family home. William married Frieda Duderstadt on June 10, 1909. She died April 23, 1922 and William married Mamie Wendel Schorlemer, widow of Walter, in 1923. Ottilie married Max Gohlke; Lottie married Fritz Rabke on November 9, 1910; Ella married Arthur J. Spies on May 17, 1911; Cora married

Fred "Jimmy" Brown on April 19, 1917; Walter married Mamie Wendel on April 15, 1917; Felix married Leona Gerhard on December 1, 1920; Alvin married Amanda Ruschaupt on March 15, 1925; and Norma married C. Ray Barnes on May 4, 1932.

Mrs. W.G. Schorre recalled, that everytime William and Auguste had a daughter get married all the furniture had to be varnished and everything had to be spotless clean. Mr. Schorre (Gertrude's father-in-law) would always say "Poor Willie, bet Gusta has him scrubbing on his hands and knees and varnishing again."

William died in Yorktown on April 23, 1946, and Auguste died on January 10, 1959. They are buried at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

This story was taken from the *Schorlemer History*, written by Lornette Dukes.

by Joyce Manning

SCHORLEMMER, HENRY FAMILY

F816

The genealogy of Heinrich (Henry) Carl Schorlemmer of Meyersville, TX, has been traced to his paternal great grandfather, Franz Nikolaus, born 12 May 1725 in Rosenthal, Germany. He and his wife, Elizabeth, nee Franken, had a son, Johann Christian Friedrich August, born 7 March 1763. Johann's son was Wilhelm Heinrich, born 8 April 1812, who was the father of Henry and brought the family to Texas. On 6 October 1844 Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer married Elizabeth Friederike Sperb, born 13 October 1825, daughter of Johann and Maria Spengler Sperb. Johann Carl was born to them on November 11, 1845 in Darmstadt. Elizabeth died on May 28, 1846. On 6 December 1846 Wilhelm married Eva Sophie Reinhardt b. 11 September 1829 at Darmstadt, a daughter of Karl Heinrich and Anna M. Armheim Reinhardt.

Since Germany was in turmoil and tales from Texas sounded inviting, Eva's 17-year-old brother, Louis, sailed for Texas in 1847. Eva's first child, Anna Margarethe Caroline, was born on 21 October 1847 and died 4 July 1863. In 1848 Wilhelm and Eva also emigrated, accompanied by her mother, Anna Margarethe Reinhardt, Eva's brother, Jacob and two sisters, Henrietta and Marie. In September they boarded the ship, "Louis", at Antwerp, Belgium, and sailed for Galveston, Texas. They arrived there on November 20, transferred to smaller boats to go to Indianola where they spent Christmas and where Eva's second daughter, Wilhelmina, was born, February 2, 1849. The families settled in the Five Mile Community where Wilhelm, a tinner, had a little shop to make gopher traps, weather vanes, cookie cutters, etc. He also helped in getting Pastor C.A. Sager to establish a Lutheran Church at Meyersville. The following additional children were born to the Schorlemmers: Heinrich (Henry) Carl born 24 December 1850; Theophil Carl born 20 June 1854; Sophie born 20 October 1857; Caroline born 7 April 1859 (died 26 December 1867); Maria born 4 August 1865 (died 11 August 1866). Wilhelm died 23 August 1898 and Eva on 4 September 1900.

Henry attended a German school near home. In 1870 (date unknown) Henry married Emmalina Franke, born 20 June 1846, daughter of Ludwig and Maria Moeller Franke. In 1871 Henry purchased land one mile east of Meyersville, in 1884, 100 acres from Ludwig Franke and in 1899 100 acres from George Wendel. Some of Henry's grandchildren, Bill and Kitty Ruschaupt, now own and live in their modern home on the site of the Henry Schorlemmer homestead. She shares the following: The Schorlemmers raised livestock, hay and corn, but no cotton. He was a blacksmith and wheelwright. They maintained a large garden, grew many fruit trees and beautiful flowers including a green rose. Recently "volunteer" phlox, long dormant, bloomed so profusely that Kitty placed a phlox arrangement in church in memory of the Henry Schorlemmers. Henry brought his cattle home each evening to the crack of his large cattle whip. In later years when his grandchildren helped gather the Irish potatoes, he rewarded them with a swig of his homemade grape wine.

After Emmalina died on 28 December 1914, Henry had several young families live with him. In the mid-20's he went to live with his daughter, Alma, and her husband, Willie Diebel in Meyersville. Even in his 80's he remained an alert domino player and took long rides by horse and buggy to visit relatives and friends. In St. John Lutheran church Henry served on the new parsonage committee in 1884; was treasurer and elected an elder in 1895 while Emmalina, as vice-president of the Ladies Aid received a gift of silver from them for her silver wedding anniversary. Henry died 12 August 1939.

The children of Henry Carl and Emmalina Franke Schorlemmer were: Rudolph, born 21 January 1871; died 7 April 1873. Gustav, born 28 March 1872; died 20 May 1886. Bertha, born 19 December 1873; died 26 Aug. 1949; married 19 Nov. 1896 to Wilhelm Ruschaupt. Oscar, born 8 October 1875; died 9 Jan. 1953; married 26 Dec. 1906 to Meta Jacob. Alma, born 13 May 1877; died 29 May 1949; married 30 October 1901 to Wilhelm Diebel Heinrich, born 1 February 1879; died 1 February 1884.

(Many thanks for the use of the Lornette Rabke Dukes Research Papers on the Schorlemmers for most valuable family data. F.H.)

by Frances Hartman

Back Row: Wilhelmina (Schorlemmer) Hiller, Friedrick Hiller, Dorothea (Schuessler) and Theophil Carl Schorlemmer, Valentine and Sophie (Schorlemmer) Koehler, Heinrich Carl Schorlemmer and Auguste (Schaefer) and William Carl Schorlemmer. Front row: Caroline (Hartman) and Johann Carl "Charles" Schorlemmer, Mutter Eva (Reinhardt) and Vater Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer, Emmalina (Franke) Schorlemmer.

SCHORLEMMER, JOHANN CARL AND CAROLINE HARTMAN FAMILY

F817

Johann Carl "Charles" Schorlemmer was born on 11 November 1845 in Darmstadt, Darmstadt District, Province of Starkenburg, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany. He was the son of Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer (b. 8 April 1812 in Darmstadt; d. 23 August 1898 Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. #1: 6 October 1844 Darmstadt; m. #2: 6 December 1846 Darmstadt to Eva Sophie Reinhardt) and Elisabeth Friederike Schorlemmer, nee Sperb (b. 13 October 1825 Darmstadt; d. 28 May 1846 Darmstadt). Johann Carl Schorlemmer died of pleurisy and old age on 26 February 1935 Arneckeville, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

On 17 August 1871 in Meyersville, Johann Carl Schorlemmer married Caroline Hartmann, daughter of Christian Hartman (b. ca. 1819 Germany; d. 1876 DeWitt County; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville; m. 18 April 1847 Austin County, Texas) and Maria Elisabeth Hartmann, nee Schroeder (b. ca. 1820 Germany; d. 1906; bur. St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Meyersville). Caroline Schorlemmer, nee Hartmann, was born on 18 February 1851 in Meyersville. She died of cancer in

Johann Carl Schorlemmer (1845-1935)

Caroline (Hartman) Schorlemmer (1851-1935)

Arneckeville on 3 June 1935 and was buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

The marriage of Johann Carl Schorlemmer and Caroline Schorlemmer, nee Hartmann, produced the following children, all of whom were born in Arneckeville: 1) Richard Schorlemmer (b. 11 July 1872; d. 23 December 1874 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); 2) Christian Schorlemmer (b. 2 February 1874; d. 29 October 1887 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); 3) Carl Theophil Schorlemmer (b. 20 January 1877; d. 1 September 1961 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. #1: 23 October 1901 DeWitt County to Anna Bertha Caroline Koehler; m. #2: 12 November 1913 DeWitt County to Emilie Sager); 4) Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer (b. 20 November 1878; d. 5 November 1961 Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas; bur. Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Refugio County, Texas; m. 1 June 1904 Arneckeville to Caroline "Lena" Justine Elizabeth Koehler); 5) Mary Sophia Schorlemmer (b. 1 August 1880; d. 17 November 1964 Victoria, Victoria County, Texas; m. 4 February 1903 Arneckeville to Christoph Adam Henry Sager; 6) Otto Schorlemmer (b. 18 May 1882; d. 6 May 1921 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); 7) Emilie Elisa Schorlemmer (b. 2 May 1884; d. 16 March 1920 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 17 January 1906 Arneckeville to Christian Henry Krueger); 8) Henry Wilhelm Schorlemmer (b. 23 November 1886; d. 2 November 1918 El Paso, El Paso County, Texas; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville); Anna Schorlemmer (b. 25 December 1888; d. 19 December 1974 Cuero; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville).

Johann Carl Schorlemmer came to Texas as a young child. He sailed on the Louis from Antwerp to Galveston with his father, his stepmother, and his half-sister, Anna Margarethe Caroline Schorlemmer. The family landed at Galveston on 20 November 1848 and removed to DeWitt County.

In reference to Johann Carl Schorlemmer, his son and daughter-in-law, Louis and Caroline "Lena" Schorlemmer, penned the following to their children from Tivoli on 1 March 1935:

"Your grandfather Schorlemmer passed away Feb. 26, and was laid to rest the following day at 3 P.M. It certainly was a large funeral, estimate about 500 people at the cemetery. — He was born in Germany, came to America when he was three years old, settled in Texas. He was one of Texas' old teamsters, first hauling freight from Mexico to San Antonio. He enlisted in the 32nd Cavalry Company G at the age of 18 years, a confederate during the Civil War. After the war, before the railroad, he hauled freight from old Indianola to San Antonio . . . He became one of the largest stock farmers in DeWitt Co. . . . He would have been 90 years old on Nov. 11."

by Beverly Boehl

SCHORLEMMER, LOUIS CHARLES

F818

Louis Charles Schorlemmer was a man dedicated to his God, his family, his fellow man, and his church. He was born on 21 April 1910 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Louis F. Schorlemmer, baptized Ludwig Friedrich (b. 20 November 1878 Arneckeville; d. 5 November 1961 Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas; bur. Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Refugio County, Texas; m. 1 June 1904 Arneckeville) and Caroline "Lena" Justine Elizabeth Schorlemmer, nee Koehler (b. 15 May 1883 Arneckeville; d. 16 September 1946 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas; bur. Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli). Louis Charles Schorlemmer died on 22 February 1989 in Houston, Harris County, Texas, and was buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas.

On 12 June 1910 Louis Charles Schorlemmer was baptized in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and was given the baptismal name Ludwig Carl Heinrich. His baptismal sponsors were Ludwig Dreyer, Justin Koehler, and Heinrich Schorlemmer. Louis Charles Schorlemmer was confirmed at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tivoli.

Louis Schorlemmer grew up in Tivoli, where he loved to hunt and fish. Upon completing the ten grades of education offered in the Tivoli school system, he attended Cuero High School for one year and graduated from there. After high school, Louis Schorlemmer worked for various concerns, including Singer Sewing Machine Company in Refugio, Refugio County.

On 17 January 1937 in Edna, Jackson County, Texas, Louis Schorlemmer married Laverne Caroline Spree (b. 5 April 1912 Jackson County). After their marriage, Louis and Laverne Schorlemmer moved to Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, where they were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. They then moved to Corsicana, Texas, where their only child was born: Ronald Louis Schorlemmer (b. 11 September 1938; m. 11 September 1960 Alice, Texas, to Janet Estelle Richter). In 1940 the family moved to Refugio, where Louis Schorlemmer worked as chief clerk for the Selective Service Board from 1941 until he joined the United States Navy in May of 1944. Stationed in the Pacific Ocean, he served as quartermaster aboard the flagship *USS Mt. McKinley*. . While he was located in Yokahoma, Louis Schorlemmer purchased some white silk material from which his great-grandchildren's baptismal clothes will be fashioned. He was discharged from active duty on 12 December 1945.

Louis Schorlemmer was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Refugio, and he was also active in the Cub Scouts. He commenced employment for Humble Pipeline Company (now Exxon) in 1946 in Refugio and was transferred in 1950 to Alice, where he was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. In 1960 he transferred to Baytown, Texas, where he worked at the Enco Refinery. He retired in 1975 from Exxon, and in 1978 he and his wife moved to Eagle Lake and thereupon joined St. John's Lutheran Church of Wharton.

While residing in Baytown, Louis and Laverne Schorlemmer were members of Redeemer Lutheran church, where Louis helped found a scholarship fund for persons who wanted to serve in the Missouri Lutheran Church Synod. Also while in Baytown, the Schorlemmers were among several families who sponsored a Vietnamese family of six. The Vietnamese family members were so grateful for the help which they had received that they bought tombstones for the Schorlemmers' graves.

Today we honor Louis Charles Schorlemmer, a native son of DeWitt County, as a man who cared deeply for his fellow man, as a man who loyally served his church and his God, and as a man who was lovingly devoted to his wife, his son, and his grandchildren. We are profoundly grateful to Louis Charles Schorlemmer for having left his footprints on paths of our lives.

by Beverly Boehl

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SCHORLEMMER, LOUIS FRIEDRICH AND CAROLINE KOEHLER FAMILY

F819

Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer was born on 20 November 1878 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Johann Carl "Charles" Schorlemmer (b. 11 November 1845 Darmstadt, Darmstadt District, Province of Starkenburg, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany; d. 26 February 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 17 August 1871 Meyersville, DeWitt County) and Caroline Schorlemmer, nee Hartman (b. 18 February 1851 Meyersville; d. 3 June 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer was baptized on 2 March 1879 at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and was given the baptismal name Ludwig Friedrich. His baptismal sponsors were Ludwig Hartmann, Friedrich Hiller, and Josephine Hartman. Louis Schorlemmer was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on Palm Sunday, 18 March 1894. According to his obituaries, he moved to Tivoli approximately fifty years before his death. At one time he was employed by O'Conner Swift. He retired from the United States Postal Service; he was a postal clerk and had also served as acting postmaster. Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer died on 5 November 1961 in Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas, and was buried at Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Refugio County, Texas.

On 1 June 1904 in Arneckeville, Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer married Caroline "Lena" Koehler, daughter of Heinrich "Henry" Koehler (b. 6 April 1842 Leusel bei Alsfeld, Alsfeld District, Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany; d. 12 November 1923 Cuero, DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 7 January 1872 Arneckeville) and Freidericke "Ricke" Justine Christiana Sager (b. 3 May 1854 Meyersville; d. 24 June 1935 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). Caroline Schorlemmer, nee Koehler, was born in DeWitt County on 15 May 1883. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville on 22 July 1883 and was given the baptismal name Caroline Justine Elizabeth. Her baptismal sponsors were Barbara Arnecke, Justine Sager, and El. Haberkorn. Caroline Schorlemmer was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Arneckeville on 29 March 1896. She died in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, on 16 September 1946 and was buried in Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli. According to her obituary, Caroline Schorlemmer "made her mark on the community by a life devoted to her family and to her church. She was a very active member of the Lutheran Church, supported all its projects and held many offices, including the presidency of the Ladies Aid. Her friends found her to be gracious and charitable, a good Christian, and an example to those around her."

The marriage of Louis Friedrich Schorlemmer and Caroline Schorlemmer produced four children: Valtin Charles Schorlemmer, baptized Valentin Carl (b. 11 March 1905 Arneckeville; d. 3 June 1988 Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas; bur. Oakland Cemetery, Terrell; m. 28 June 1929 Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas, to Roma Elizabeth Dobson); Royal Schorlemmer, baptized Royal Karl Heinrich (b. 2 April 1906 Arneckeville; d. 21 March 1956 Port Neches, Texas; bur. Port Neches; m. 4 September 1933 Temple, Bell County, Texas, to Allynne Shafer); Louis Charles Schorlemmer, baptized Ludwig Carl Heinrich (b. 21 April 1910 Cuero; d. 22 February 1989 Houston, Harris County, Texas; bur. Lakeside Cemetery, Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas; m. 17 January 1937 Edna, Jackson County, Texas, to LaVerne Caroline Spree); Justine Schorlemmer, baptized Lina Justine (b. 16 August 1915; m. 16 April 1933 Rockport, Texas, to Clay b. Friday).

Five days before her death, Caroline Schorlemmer wrote the following to her beloved husband Louis:

If it should be God's will to take me to my heavenly home — remember it will only be a few years until you too will take this journey to be with your loved one.

You are a true and faithful companion. You have been so kind and sweet and good . . .Hold on to your loving God. Live in the companionship of God. Make your life a service to Him and your fellow man. You will then discover the secret.

The God of peace will be with you.
I love you.
Lena

by Beverly Boehl

SCHORLEMMER, VALTIN CHARLES, SR.

F820

Seldom in the course of human events does one find embodied in one many the qualities of dedication to God and Church, devotion to family, intellectual brilliance, and professional success and respect. Yet DeWitt County begat such a son in the person of Valtin Charles Schorlemmer.

Valtin Charles Schorlemmer was born on 11 March 1905 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas. He was the son of Louis F. Schorlemmer, baptized Ludwig Friedrich (b. 20 November 1878 Arneckeville; d. 5 November 1961 Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas; bur. Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Refugio County, Texas; m. 1 June 1904 Arneckeville) and Caroline "Lena" Justine Elizabeth Schorlemmer, nee Koehler (b. 15 May 1883 Arneckeville; d. 16 September 1946 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas; bur. Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli). Valtin Charles Schorlemmer died on 3 June 1988 in Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas, and was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Terrell.

On 7 May 1905 Valtin Charles Schorlemmer was baptized in Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and was given the baptismal name Valentin Carl. His baptismal sponsors were Friedrich Koehler, Valentin Koehler, and Carl Schorlemmer. At the time that the Schorlemmer family moved to Tivoli, there was no Lutheran Church there, and the family thus attended the Presbyterian Church. Valtin Charles Schorlemmer began attending the Christian Disciples churches with his wife, and he was baptized, by immersion, in the Christian Church in Long Beach, California, on 12 April 1942.

On 28 June 1929 in Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas, Valtin Charles Schorlemmer married Roma Elisabeth Dobson, daughter of Hugh H. Dobson and Bettie Pearl Dobson, nee Moore. Elisabeth Schorlemmer was born on 5 August 1907 in Waxahachie. One child was born to the marriage of Valtin Charles and Elisabeth Schorlemmer: Valtin Charles Schorlemmer, Jr. (b. 30 March 1932 Waxahachie; m. 2 May 1969 Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, to Pattye Sue Lawrence).

Valtin Charles Schorlemmer graduated from Cuero High School, Cuero, DeWitt County, in 1922. After his graduation from the University of Texas in 1926 with a B.B.A. in accounting, he worked first as a junior accountant and then as a senior accountant for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, a public accounting firm in Dallas, where he remained for about three years.

Valtin Charles Schorlemmer entered the aviation industry in 1929 when he joined Southern Air Transport, Inc., a company which operated flying schools and several airlines throughout Texas and the southwestern states. He first served this company in the position of assistant treasurer. Southern Air Transport was subsequently bought by American Airways (now American Airlines), then a subsidiary of Aviation Manufacturing Corporation. In 1934, when the air mail contracts were cancelled, he left American Airways to become assistant treasurer of Aviation Manufacturing Corporation and was later made treasurer of that organization.

From September 1938 until November 1939, Valtin Charles Schorlemmer was comptroller of Vultee Aircraft Division of Aviation Manufacturing Corporation. When the new Vultee Aircraft, Inc. was organized, he became vice-president in charge of finance. After the merger of Vultee and Consolidated in 1943, he became comptroller and director for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation from 1943 until December of 1945, at which time he was named vice-president in charge of finance. In 1946, when Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation acquired Hall-Scott Motor Car Company, he was also named vice president of Hall-Scott. He resigned from Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation in May of 1948 for health reasons, but remained with the company as a consultant until his appointment as assistant to the president. Valtin Charles Schorlemmer was elected secretary and treasurer of this company effective 1 August 1949, at which time he was assigned responsibility for coordination of corporation activities relating to contracts, as well as functional authority over the Fort Worth and San Diego contracts departments. In addition, the Washington office and the Dayton office reported to him. In 1950 he returned to work for a while in Fort Worth; he then farmed and made some renegotiations for the Air Force. In August of 1955 he was employed by American Bosch ARMA in Long Island, New York. He remained there as vice-president in charge of finance until 1964, at which time he retired. In retirement, he and his wife lived first in Denton, Denton County, Texas, and then in Terrell.

by Beverly Boehl

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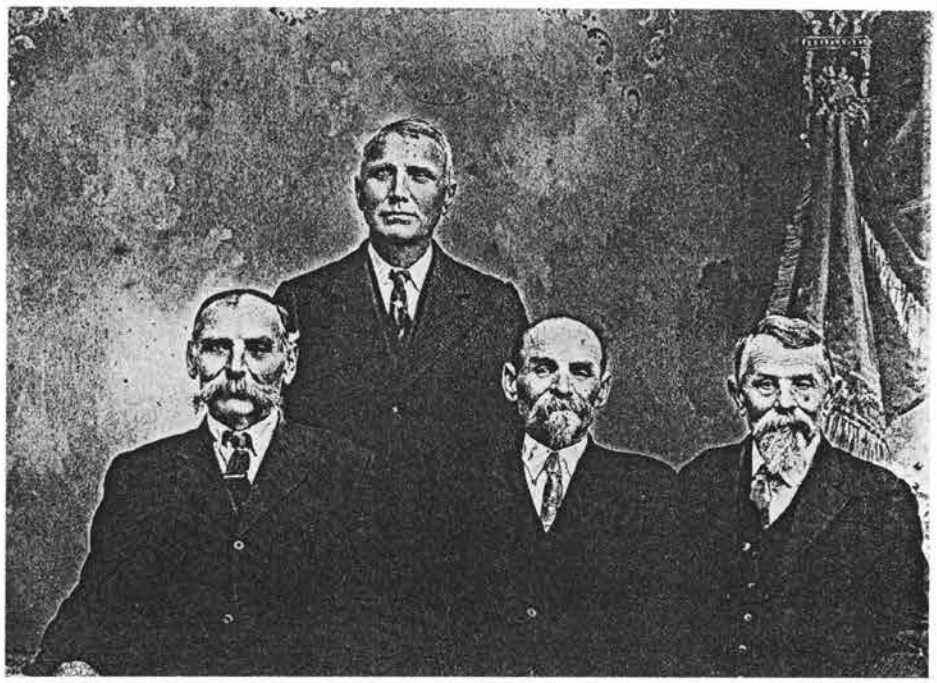
SCHORLEMMER, WILHELM HEINRICH
F821

Wilhelm Schorlemer

Eva Schorlemer

The Hessian carriers of the name Schorlemmer are traceable to the belt and buckle maker, Franz Nikolaus Schorlemmer (born ca. May 14, 1725; died April 14, 1874 at Rosenthal bei Peine in Niederschsen, Germany; married #1 June 3, 1762 in Rosenthal to Elisabeth Fran(c)ken; married second, July 3, 1766 in Rosenthal to Anna Elisabeth Ludgerdings). His only son, Johann Christian Friedrich August Schorlemmer came to Darmstadt, Darmstadt District, Province of Starkenburg, Grand Duchy of Hessen, Germany, in 1785 and there practiced his father's calling. From the latter's two marriages came thirteen children; the youngest son, Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer, established the Schorlemmer line in Texas.



Theophil, Wilhelm Carl, Heinrich Carl, and Johann Charles "Carl", Schorlemmer Brothers.

Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer was born on April 8, 1812 in Darmstadt. He was the son of Johann Christian Friedrich August Schorlemmer, (born March 7, 1763 in Rosenthal bei Peine; died March 31, 1825 in Darmstadt; married #1 March 11, 1790 in Darmstadt to Johannette Elisabethe Roth; married #2 August 25, 1799 in Darmstadt) and Anna Margarethe Elisabethe Schorlemmer, nee Roth (born March 19, 1772 in Darmstadt; died February 4, 1849 in Darmstadt). Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer died on August 23, 1898 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas and was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

On October 6, 1844, in Darmstadt, Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer married Elisabeth Friederike Sperb, daughter of the master locksmith, Johann Georg Sperb and Maria Margarethe Sperb, nee Spengler. Elisabeth Friederike Schorlemmer was born on October 13, 1825 in Darmstadt and died there on May 28, 1846. In Darmstadt, on December 6, 1846, Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer then married Eva Sophie Reinhardt (born September 11, 1827 in Darmstadt; died October 4, 1900 in Meyersville, Texas; buried at St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville) daughter of the master roofer, Karl Heinrich Reinhardt and Anna Margarethe Reinhardt, nee Armheim.

The marriage of Wilhelm and Elisabeth Schorlemmer produced one child; Johann Carl "Charles" Schorlemmer who was born November 11, 1845 in Darmstadt and died February 26, 1935 in Arneckeville, Texas. He is buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville. He married Caroline Hartmann on August 17, 1871 in Meyersville.

A few months after Wilhelm and Eva married, her brother, Louis Reinhardt, went to Texas in April of 1847. That same year on October 21, 1847, their first child was born, Anna Margarethe Caroline Schorlemmer.

The stories of Texas must have interested Wilhalm because in the summer of 1848, Wilhelm, Eva, Johann, Anna, Eva's mother, Anna Margarethe Reinhardt, Eva's brother Jacob and two sisters Henrietta and Marie left for Texas.

They landed in Galveston, from Antwerp, on the *Louis* on November 20, 1848. In Galveston they transferred to smaller boats for the trip to Indianola, Texas. Their daughter, Wilhelmina, was born in Indianola on January 14, 1849. In February, it is recorded that Margarethe Reinhardt purchased land. (All creeks from Clinton in DeWitt County, to Goliad were named by the distance they were from Clinton). Her land was along the Five Mile Coletto Creek. Wilhelm's land was to the east of it. This area is made up of the G.W. Brooks Survey. G.W. Brooks sold land to the first settlers of the area. Families who settled were: Gustav Schrade, Charles Lang, August Holzapfel, Louis Reinhardt, Adolph Rabke, Julius Schorre, Robert Kleberg, Margaret Reinhardt and Wilhelm Schorlemmer. The Community was first known as the Latin Settlement because these early settlers had studied Latin in their native country. Later, this area became the Five Mile Community.

Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer filed his Declaration of Intent to become a United States citizen in DeWitt County on October 25, 1852. He was later granted citizenship.

Wilhelm was a farmer and a tinner. He made such things as animal traps, weather vanes, cookie cutters and anything that could be made from tin.

On December 24, 1850, Heinrich Carl was born to the Schorlemmers. He married Emmalina Franke in Meyersville in 1870. Heinrich C. died August 12, 1939 in Meyersville. The Schorlemmer's fourth child was Theophil Carl who was born June 20, 1854 in Meyersville. In May 1883 he married Maria Caroline Dreier in Meyersville. Then he married a second time to Dorothea Augusta Schuessler in July 1895 in Mason, Texas. He died December 28, 1928 in Llano, Texas. The fifth Schorlemmer child was Sophia Schorlemmer who was born October 20, 1857 at Meyersville. She married first, Johann Valentin Koehler in DeWitt County in 1895. She married second October 20, 1907, Carl A. Leuschner in DeWitt County. Sophia died August 21, 1922 in Victoria, Texas. She is buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Arnecke-

ville, Texas. Child number six was Caroline Schorlemmer who was born April 7, 1859 in Meyersville and died December 26, 1867 in Meyersville. The seventh child of the Schorlemmers was Wilhelm Carl born November 25, 1861 in Meyersville and married Auguste Schaefer on October 6, 1887 also, in Meyersville. He died April 23, 1946 in Yorktown, Texas. The last child was Maria Schorlemmer born August 4, 1865 in Meyersville and died August 11, 1866.

Wilhelm was 49 years old when he joined the Coletto Guards Reserve Co. as a private. The Company was organized by Captain Robert Kleberg. Johann wanted to join the army but his parents said no, so eager to help, he started to haul freight from Mexico. Six months before the war ended, he joined the 32nd Cavalry, Co. G and served under Captain Blair.

Caroline and Anna Schorlemmer died before they reached adulthood and are buried with Maria in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

A family tradition was begun many years ago by Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer. The story goes that he gave a ring to his first wife when they married. His wish was that the ring be given to the first male child of each generation with a male heir so that the ring would stay with an heir having the name Schorlemmer. As a result, the ring went from Wilhelm Heinrich to his son, Johann Carl, to Louis F., to Valtin Charles, Sr., to Valtin Charles, Jr. It is now in the possession of Lester Charles Schorlemmer who was born December 7, 1970 in Dallas, Texas. He is a great-great-great-grandson of Wilhelm Heinrich Schorlemmer.

This story was combined from research done by Valtin Charles Schorlemmer and Lornette Dukes. Written by Beverly Boehl and Joyce Manning.

by Beverly Boehl and Joyce Manning

SCHORRE, ALBERT JULIUS

F822

Albert Schorre House built 1893

Albert Julius Schorre (1860-1900), son of Julius August Christian and Sophia Catherine Wilhemenia Baldewin Schorre stayed on the Five Mile Coleto farm after the death of his parents. He married Amelia Schrade (1864-1938) from the Arneckeville area. They had three children: William Gus Schorre (1887-1972) who married Gertrude Pauline Schendel (1885 – living at this time); Carl Albert Schorre (1897-1979) married Lillian Semmler; and Lulu Schorre (1884-1960) who married Edward Sasse.

Albert Julius was a very ambitious man who provided well for his family. He had beautiful orchards and kept his land and cattle in top condition. He built a two story house for his wife and three children.

Unfortunately, he fell off his horse and, with other complications, died at a young age of forty. Amelia was left with three young children and managed as best as she knew how for some years. Molly, as she was known by friends and relatives, was a stubborn and proud person, but her grandchildren remember her kindness.

by Arlene Schorre Corner

SCHORRE, JULIUS AUGUST CHRISTIAN

F823

Remains of Log Cabin built Julius August Schorre in 1886-87.

In 1846 Julius August Christian Schorre (1825-1880), son of August Christian Schorre of Dusseldorf left Kassel, Germany to board the ship *Fredich* at Bremen. He was a part of the "Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas" known to Germans in Europe and Texas by its shorter name "Verein." After arriving in Galveston, Texas, he proceeded to DeWitt County where he purchased land over a period of years from the John York estate, Ottovon Roeder survey, and the John Brook league. This land was located north of the Five Mile Coleto Creek.

In 1849, after building a log cabin and accumulating some hand made furniture, he returned to Germany to marry Sophia Catherine Wilhemenia Baldewin (1826-1892). Since Sophia came from a family of some means, it is suspected that her parents provided a great deal of the money for the land in Texas. When they returned to Texas, they were quite successful in farming and ranching. By 1872, they had accumulated 670 acres of land. They also had eight children: 1) Carolina Elenore (1852-1930's) married Fritz Grothaus; 2) Fritz August (1854-1927) married Emma Augusta Kleinecke; 3) Herman C. (1853-1870) died at 17 of a snake bite; 4) Otto and 5) William (twins) died as infants (1857-1857); 6) Albert Julius (1860-1900) married Amelia Schrade; 7) Julia Sophia (1862-1882) married William Wagner.

In June 1861, Julius enlisted in the Texas militia as a private in the Coleta Guards Reserve Company DeWitt County under the command of Captain Robert Kleberg.

Julius and Sophia are buried in the Schorre cemetery. Two more generations of Schorres lived on the land they developed.

by Arlene Schorre Corner

SCHORRE, WILLIAM GUSTAV

F824

Schorre, William and Gertrude (Schendel)

William Gustave (1887-1972), oldest son of Albert Julius and Amelia Schrade Schorre, was born and lived on the Five Mile Coleto farm most of his life. He attended the Five Mile School, Nash's Academy in Cuero, and one year at St. Edward's College in Austin. As his father died at an early age, he returned to the farm to help his mother. He was a kind hearted, cheerful man who had many friends. In 1908 he married Gertrude Pauline Schendel, (1885 – almost 104 at this date) who was born in Posen, Germany and came to America with her family in 1892. After living in San Antonio a short time, the family moved to Cuero. She graduated from the nursing school at Salome Hospital. After marriage to William Schorre, she came to live on a farm for her first time. They weathered some hard times during their 64 years of marriage. There were some crop failures, droughts and the 1930's depression years. They also reared six children: 1)Albert Wilford (1909-1985) married Mabel Flournoy; 2) Hilton Elmore (1911-1970) married Marion Price; 3) Fermor August (1913—) married Lois Caddeus; 4)Arlene Ruth (1916—) married John Herman Corner; 5) William Louis (1921—) married Thelma Swift; 6) Elywin Ferris (1926—) married Anne Pearson and Ann Stevens Stubbs.

In spite of set backs, this family enjoyed simple things in life at the W.O.W. Hall community get-togethers, such as picnics, parties and dances. The Ratcliffe School was also an activity center and not to be forgotten, the Saturdays when they drove to Cuero in the Mode T

to get a few needed supplies.

In 1970, William and Gertrude retired to live in Cuero. In 1971 they sold the farm, which ended 125 years of Schorres living on the Coleto Creek farm.

by Arlene Schorre Corner

SCHRADE, GUSTAV AND SOPHIE HARTMAN FAMILY

F825

Gustav and Sophie (Hartman) Schrade

Gustav Schrade was born October 27, 1854 and died April 29, 1899. Sophie Hartmann Schrade was born June 26, 1854 and died April 29, 1899. They were married May 1, 1883. Both are buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Arneckeville. Seven children were born to them.

Their first child was Hugo born October 16, 1884 died December 17, 1940. He married Alvina Jacob who was born September 15, 1874 died July 3, 1964. They had no children.

Their second child was Emilie Ottilie born September 11, 1886, died July 28, 1929. She married Arthur G. Lassmann who was born April 3, 1886. They had seven children — Elenoraa Lassmann Baecker, Gus Lassmann, Robert Lassmann, Carl O. Lassmann, George Lassmann, Edward E. Lassmann, Henry G. Lassmann, and Melvin H. Lassmann.

Their third child was Ottilie Amalie Schrade Koenig born September 24, 1888 died January 24, 1970. October 27, 1915 she married Fred Albert Koenig who was born June 3, 1893 died October 18, 1918. They had one child, Fred Albert Edward Koenig.

Their fourth child was Bertha Josephine Schrade Hoff born December 28, 1891 died October 20, 1958. December 25, 1910 she married Alois Hoff who was born July 31, 1886 died January 9, 1974. They had two children Lillian Hoff Baecker and Elmo Hoff.

Their fifth child was Ida Julie Schrade Goebel who was born March 3, 1890 died April 2, 1965. November 10, 1915 she married Charles William Goebel who was born May 21, 1893 died May 7, 1932. They had two children — Lucille Sophie Emma Goebel Ruschaupt and Randolph Charles William Goebel.

Their sixth child was Berthold F. Schrade born December 27, 1893 died June 14, 1966. March 9, 1916 he married Meta Goebel who was born November 13, 1896 died January 31, 1978. They had three children, Elva Frieda Ottilie Schrade Egg, Lawrence E. Schrade, and Melvin Rudolph Ben Schrade.

Their seventh child was Lena Mary Nora Schrade Koenig born October 10, 1895 died January 17, 1979. March 8, 1916 she married Charles Louis Koenig who was born July 14, 1892 died December 9, 1980. They had two children, Charles Louis Koenig, Jr. and Ada Koenig Kirk.

Of interest for the modern generation is an April 5, 1900 article in the Cuero Star describing the ceremony of unveiling the gray, granite in the *Cuero Star* describing the ceremony of unveiling the gray, granite monument erected to the memory of the late Sovereign Gustav Schrade. Sovereign Thomas M. Stell Woodmen of the World orator eulogized the unveiling in nearly 900 words. The following condensation is an attempt to capture the ambience of the solemn occasion.

"Today we pay the last sad tribute . . .The rearing of this marble shaft redeems the pledge made by us to this brother . . . From the earliest dawn of history . . . there is implanted in the breast of every human creature a desire to defend its offspring . . . History teems with battles fought in defense of home . . .On the roll of fame are the names of thousands of heroes who were bourne to death on the red tide of War . . . where ever the Woodmen's monument stands, it marks the spot where reposes one of life's heroes, one of those heroes sleeps here. He struggled with misfortunes and affliction and fought hard with the grim monster death for the sake of his wife and children . . . It has been the custom of all people, of all ages to memorialize their dead . . . by erecting monuments of stone, that material being more nearly indestructible . . . We know from history that immense mausoleums and stupendous monuments erected by the ancients, have disappeared from the earth forever. The location of the Tower of Babel . . . is marked only by tradition. Even the Pillar of Salt . . . is purely legendary. The pyramids of Egypt . . . so marred and scarred by wearing hands of time . . . will in the coming ages topple into the Black Sea of Oblivion. Oh, who should the spirit of mortals be proud? It is written all over this terrestrial ball . . . Passing away. And, the work of living and dying and writing epitaphs goes on "till man at last like his fathers gray writes in his own dust, passing away."

by Ada Koenig Kirk

SCHROEDER, ADOLPH AND ANNA FAMILY

F826

Adolph Carl Schroeder was born Feb. 16, 1898 in Wied, Texas, to Heinrich Friederich Adolph and Emma Wunderlich Schroeder. Adolph was one of nine children. The Schroeder family later moved to the Gruenau Community, near Yorktown, Texas. After he finished public school, Adolph attended a business college in San Antonio, Texas.

On Sept. 28, 1921, Adolph married Anna Ella Kimmel, known as Annie, in Yorktown. Annie was born to Paul and Olga Ladewig Kimmel on June 17, 1903 on a farm near Yorktown. Annie tells a family anecdote about a run-in her father had with John Wesley Hardin, the famous outlaw known as Wes to the folks in DeWitt County at that time. As the story goes, Paul Kimmel was in charge of closing the Gruenau Dance Hall at night. He customarily took the proceeds from the dance home with him in a wagon. Wes Hardin apparently knew this, and waited to ambush Paul on his usual route home. However, Paul took a different route home that night because it had rained recently, and the normal road was too muddy. When Wes realized his mistake, he hurried to the Kimmel's house. Paul arrived there first, however, and shouted to his wife Olga to bring the gun. Wes then left hurriedly without the hoped-for booty.

Adolph and Annie lived at Gruenau during the first year of their marriage. After that, they moved to Yorktown where they stayed for the rest of their lives. Adolph worked for many years as cashier of the First State Bank. He founded the Yorktown Tractor Company and was president of the Yorktown Warehouse Company.

Adolph was always active in community and civic affairs. In the 1950's he served as alderman, and later as mayor, of Yorktown. He was director, and later president, of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce. He contributed to the running of the Little World's Fair and was a long-time member of the Yorktown Fire Department. Adolph was also deeply interested in the welfare of rural areas, and was active with several farm organizations. He served for several years as the president of the local Hermann Sons Lodge. Adolph also served as a council member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Yorktown, where he and Annie were long-time members. For more than fifty years, Adolph was a member of the Gruenau T.&S. Verein, a German club devoted to shooting and other athletic and sporting events. He served as the club's secretary for many years. He was also a member of the Garfield Shooting Club.

One of Adolph's favorite pastimes was the playing of Skat, a German card game. He was also interested in inventions. In the 1930's he invented a concrete culvert, the construction of which he supervised. He donated the use of these culverts to the city of Yorktown, and several are still in use at various intersections around the town. Adolph died on July 1, 1976.

Adolph and Annie had three children, all sons. Adolph III was born on June 25, 1922, but died the following day. Annie herself almost died at this time from blood poisoning. She recovered, however, and on Jan. 7, 1926, James Elliot was born in Yorktown. Annie still lives in Yorktown.

Jimmy, as he is called, married Jo Ann Schlinke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Schlinke of Weesatche, on Jan. 25, 1958 in Yorktown. The couple later divorced, and Jimmy married Freddie Mann on June 27, 1968 in Richmond, Texas. Freddie was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Oct. 8, 1925. She had one son, Jay Mann, from a previous marriage. Jay was born July 15, 1959, and was subsequently adopted by Jimmy. The family lives in Houston, where Jimmy is employed as a service manager for an automobile dealership. Jay

Back Row: Freddie Mann Schroeder, James Elliot Schroeder, Stuart Lee Schroeder,Clydelle (Jacob) Schroeder, Arlon Clifford Schroeder. Front: Jay Mann Schroeder, Adolph Carl Schroeder, Anna Ella (Kimmel) Schroeder, Arlene Schroeder and Norma Schroeder. Adolph and Anna Schroeder's Golden Wedding Anniversary 1971 American Legion Hall, Yorktown

teaches music at the University of Houston while he works on his master's degree.

Adolph and Annie's last child, Arlon Clifford, called "Shrimp", was born on June 27, 1931, in Yorktown. He married Clydelle Jacob on Dec. 26, 1954 in San Antonio, Texas. Clydelle is the daughter of Robert and Clydelle Lantrip Jacob of Yorktown. Shrimp and Clydelle had three children — Stuart Lee, born Nov. 2, 1956; Arlene, born Sept. 29, 1959; and Norma, born Aug. 16, 1961. Shrimp died on June 12, 1982 in Yorktown. Further details of the Schroeder and Jacob family histories are told in separate stories.

by Arlene Schroeder

SCHROETER, CHRISTIAN

F827

In May 1858, a sailing vessel set forth from either Bremen or Hamburg, Germany, and on board was a family leaving the Deutschland, their home for generations. They were coming to America to make a new life for themselves. The family's name was Schroeter and consisted of the father and mother, Christian and Wilhelmine Henriette Mueller Schroeter, and the children: Johann Friederich, Friedrich Christian Aguste, Gottlieb, Wilhelmine, and Franz Albert. I have always understood there was a daughter Louisa, but I could not verify by records. All had been confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Germany.

In late May or early June of 1858, the vessel docked at Galveston, TX, and the immigrant family made their way to the Yorktown area where they established a home and engaged in farming. Within a few months the father died

Freidrich Christian Auguste Schroeter – son

and was buried in Yorktown Lutheran cemetery.

Coming over, there was a terrible storm and my grandfather Fred had been told that if one would lash himself to something on deck and ride out the storm he would not become seasick and that is what he did. At one time there was a period of calm weather with no wind blowing and the ship just sat on the sea during some very hot weather.

The family came to America to avoid compulsory military education that was in effect in Germany at the time. They left in May – Johann Friedrich would have been 21 on June

Wilhelmine Heinriette (Mueller) Schroeter — mother

13, and therefore ready for army training. The family sold their house and contents except their clothing and some bedding and walked out. They were living in or near Medewitz, Prussia, at this time. They traveled by night and stopped over at designated places during the day to avoid detection by the military forces as it was quite common for those eligible for military education to leave the country. Gottlieb had his 14th birthday on the ship.

When the Civil War began Fred and Gottlieb were drafted into the Confederate Army. They were captured by the Union and were freed. Gottlieb (later called John) became a member of the Union Army and was a Corporal in Co. D 16th IL Calvery and served from 1863-1865. After he was mustered out at Springfield, IL, he worked at a brewery at Jimtown (now Riverton), IL for awhile. He and Fred both worked in the Illiopolis, IL area. John later worked for a farmer named William Rae and later married the daughter, Malissa in 1872. They had eleven children, three dying in infancy.

John and Malissa lived in IL for awhile and then moved to Langdon, MO, where John died on Jan. 6, 1905. Later the rest of the family moved to Buffalo, Wyoming, and became ranchers. The spelling of Schroeter of this family was changed to Schrater. The other families kept the original spelling. Their children were: Fannie (1873-1967), Albert William (1874-1939), Mary (1876-1951), Francis (Frank) (1878-1968), Albert Rae (1880-1935), Baby Boy (1884-1884), Baby Girl (1885-1885), Fred (1880-1940). Malissa (1889-?), Johnnie (1892-1893), and another infant.

My grandfather Fred was married in Springfield, Illinois on September 14, 1865, to Mrs. Mary Dickerson Cooley, a widow with two children, James and Eliza Cooley. At the time of their marriage his mother Wilhelmine from Yorktown, Texas was in Springfield, and was a witness to the marriage. They came to Lewis County, Missouri where they bought land and established a home. Soon his mother came and lived with them for several years, but later returned to IL and lived with John and his family for about 16 years. She then returned to

Texas and lived with a half-sister until her death in 1889. She, too, was buried in the Yorktown Lutheran Cemetery by her husband.

Fred and Mary Schroeter's children: Minnie Ellen (1867-1934), Frank Albert (1868-1961), Mary Katherine (1872-1946), Frederick William (1874-1944), John David (1877-1886), Johanna Fredericke (1884-1975).

Of the remaining children of Christian Auguste and Wilhelmine Mueller Schroeter: Franz Albert was killed when still a lad when he fell from a wagon load of cotton; Friedrich Christian married in Texas to (1) Henriette Krushel and they had six children: Minnie, Henry, Louise, Louis, Otto, and Herman. Henriette died in 1882 and Friedrich Christian married (2) Alvina Machost and had: Christian, Jr., Paul, Herbert, Amanda, Lillie, Ernest, and Anton.

Wilhelmine married a Mr. Stephen and had 2 children: Fred and Mary. One of John Schrater's daughters told me that Louisa, a daughter of Christian and Wilhelmine died in 1884 in Texas.

Neither John nor Fred attended school in America but both spoke English quite well and John was an excellent penman. Fred remained a Lutheran but John joined the Christian Church in Illiopolis, IL. The family seemed to keep in touch as I know John was at his brother's in MO when he became naturalized on June 22, 1886. Fred became an American citizen on May 7, 1873. My grandfather Fred and wife Mary made one trip to TX to see the family and some of Fred's family visited their Uncle John at Langdon, MO. My father Fred and my mother Ethel and I made trips in 1936 and 1937 to visit his cousins in Wyoming, and his brother Frank in Texas.

Fred and Mary's son Frank Albert (third generation) with his wife Rose and son Paulus moved to Washburn, Texas, around 1908, where he became a rancher. Sometime later he moved to near Dumas, Texas, in Moore County and still continued ranching. His son Paulus became a well-known wheat farmer and had oil and gas interest there.

This information was obtained from Luthern Church records in Germany, from family Bible records, from family stories told over the years and some from the descendants of Christian Schroeter who still lived in Texas. I had some communication with the wife of Harlan Schroeter of Victoria, Texas, and a George Schroeter of Goliad, Texas.

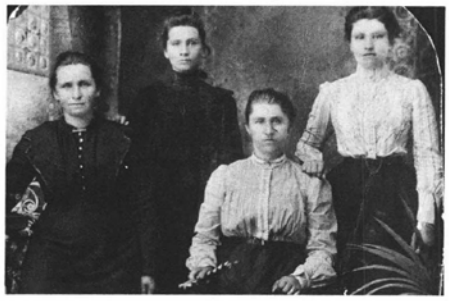
by Thelma Schroeter Ball

SCHUENEMANN, KARL FAMILY

F828

Karl Schuenemann was born 7 Feb. 1836 in the province of Pomerania, Germany. He married Hermine Kluge in Germany sometime before 1861. Karl had always had a great desire to travel, so in the year of 1883, he decided to leave his native land and bring his family to America. They left the port of Bremen on the ship Weser and arrived at Galveston on 29 Sept., 1883. Four daughters and two sons made the voyage with their parents.

The Schuenemann family's first home was established in Goliad County, Texas. In a storm that struck the area in August 1886, a portion of their home, separated by a "dog run"



Schuenemann sisters: Bertha, Martha, Emma, and Clara.

was completely destroyed. The mother, Hermine, with her small baby, and a relative were killed in the destruction. Family members relate that all three are buried in a common grave in Weesatche Cemetery in Weesatche, Texas. One of the daughters, Martha, who was about 11 at the time of the tragedy, told a story to her children, of the family butter churn flying through the air and the rest of the family laughing about it, not knowing of the destruction and loss of family on the other side of the house.

Children of Karl and Hermine Schuenemann were:

Emma Emalie was born 4 May, 1861 in Germany. She married Robert Lundschen in DeWitt County on 22 Nov., 1885. (see George Lundschen related story).

Bertha was born 4 Dec., 1867 in Zydowa, Posen, Germany. She married Andreas Koenig in DeWitt County on 23 Dec., 1888. They lived on a farm near Weesatche, Texas. Thirteen children were born to this union and 12 lived to maturity. Bertha died 31 Aug., 1951 and Andreas died 13 Apr., 1950. They are buried in the Weesatche Cemetery, Weesatche, Texas.

Ernest Gustav born 11 Aug., 1869 in Posen, Germany. He married Mrs. Effie Wason in Galveston, Texas on 12 Nov., 1918. This couple obtained a divorce on 5 Apr., 1920 in Galveston. Ernest died 18 Jan. 1924 and is buried at Mustang Lutheran Cemetery, Brazoria Co., Texas.

Herman Gustav born 18 Sept., 1871 in Posen, Germany. He married Bertha Louise Radiche in Yorktown, Texas on 12 Dec., 1897. They were the parents of five children. Herman died 16 Feb., 1946 and Bertha died 30 May, 1956. They are buried in the Alvin Confederate Cemetery, Alvin, Texas.

Martha Ida born 30 Sept., 1875 in (obit. says Dresden, Germany). She married Otto F. Schroeter on 30 Mar., 1890 in Yorktown, Texas. This union was blessed with five children. Martha died 10 Mar., 1849 and Otto died 6 Mar., 1947. They are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas.

Clara Hedwig born 21 Oct., 1878 in Gnessen, Posen, Germany. She married Gustav Borm in Yorktown, Texas on 10 June, 1902. They were the parents of five children. Clara died 13 May, 1955 and Gustav died 14 Feb., 1944. They are buried in the Mustang Confederate Cemetery, Alvin, Texas.

Family members relate that Karl Schuenemann wrote back to Germany and asked that Mrs. Wilhelmine (Latinsky) Waltersdorf (born 29 July, 1849) come to America and become his wife. She agreed to come and on 8 Dec., 1888 they were married at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Weesatche, Texas. They farmed for some years in the Yorktown area and then moved to the Weesatche community where Wilhelmine died in 1897. (Location of burial is not known)

Children of Karl and Wilhelmine Schuenemann:

Gustav Johannes born 25 Sept. 1890 in DeWitt Co., Texas. He married Addie Altman on 21 Nov., 1911, Goliad Co. Texas. Gustav died 25 Feb., 1936 and is buried in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Weesatche, Texas. His wife, Addie remarried a Becker. (no further info).

Otto Fredrich born 4 Jan., 1892 Goliad Co. Texas married Louise Luedicke in Goliad Co., Texas on 10 Aug., 1911. They had two children. Otto died about 1949 in Houston, Texas.

Wilhelm Alfred born 20 Jan., 1894 in Goliad Co. Texas. His first marriage was to Lula Mueller in 1919 in DeWitt Co. Texas. Two children were born to this union. Lula died 17 Sept., 1925 and on 19 Aug., 1926, Alfred married Elsie Lapp. Alfred Schuenemann died 19 Jan., 1964 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

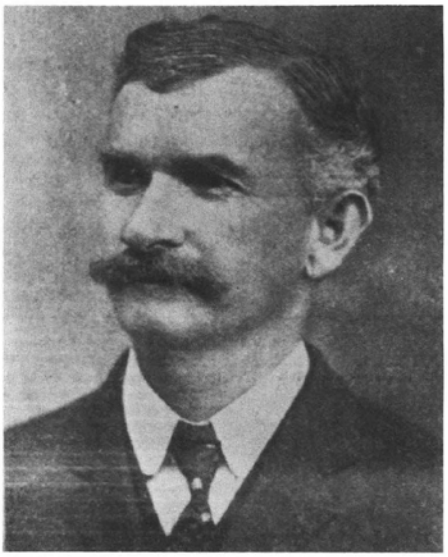
Karl Schuenemann's third marriage was to Ernestine Ida Guenther. They were married in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Weesatche, Texas. They were only married a short time. No children from this union.

Karl Schuenemann died of pneumonia in the home of his son, Otto, on Christmas Day, 1915. He is buried in the Weesatche Cemetery, Weesatche, Texas.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

SCHWAB, CHARLES T.

F829



Charles T. Schwab.

Assessor of DeWitt County, was a native of DeWitt County and a son of Mr. James H. Schwab, one of the county's old and most respected citizens. For some years Mr. Schwab was identified with mercantile and ginning pursuits in his native community of Hochheim and at Yoakum, being a prominent grocery man and cotton buyer of the latter point, when chosen by the people of this county to fill the position of Tax Assessor.

Mr. Schwab married Miss Mary Eberhardt,

a member of an old and honored family of DeWitt County, daughter of Charles Theophilus Eberhardt and Carolina Reinhardt. Charles Schwab and Mary (Eberhardt) Schwab had six children: 1) Irma Schwab, 2) Leon Schwab, 3) Gladys Schwab, 4) Meta Schwab, 5) Edwin Schwab, and 6) Charles Schwab.

Fraternally, Mr. Schwab was a Knight of Pythias, Hermann Sons and Woodmen of the World. Before the people of DeWitt County he was one of the most generally popular men to whom she has ever accorded public office.

Charles T. Schwab was born March 3, 1862 and died June 25, 1928. Mary (Eberhardt) Schwab was born February 9, 1864 and died January 27, 1938. They are both buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero.

by Patsy Goebel

SCHWAB, JAMES AND MARTHA HOCH

F830

James H. Schwab

Martha, the oldest daughter of Valentine Hoch and Elisabeth Pabst, was born March 3, 1838 in Obershonau, Germany. She had emigrated to Texas with her parents in 1845 and was eighteen years old when she met a young German immigrant wagonmaster who had come to Texas about five years earlier. James Hyacinthus Schwab was born in Marbach, near the town of Fulda, Kurhessen, August 17, 1833. He was reportedly enrolled in the Seminary studying for the priesthood when he decided to follow his older brother Eugene, to Texas. He arrived in Galveston in December 1851 and settled near Round Rock, Texas. Another brother, Theobald Schwab and several more family members emigrated to Texas a year or so later.

James Schwab was employed by a Stage and Freight line that ran between Indianola and Austin. One can only speculate that he met Martha Hoch on one of these regular trips. James Schwab, then 23 years old and 18 year old Martha Hoch were married in August, 1856. For a while, James and Martha lived in Round Rock, but soon moved to Dutchtown (Hochheim) where James operated a mill and cotton gin. Faint remnants of this gin can still be found in the small pasture in front of the James Schwab home. James also owned a general merchandise store which became a main stagecoach stop for stages between the port city of Indianola and Round Rock. Schwab was appointed postmaster of Hochheim in 1869 but had to postpone this duty several months until he obtained his citizenship. His younger brother, Theobald Schwab served as temporary postmaster. Catholic by birth, Schwab became a Mason and eventually a Knight Templar. He was an organizer of the Hochheim Prairie Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association and served as the first President.

James Schwab and Martha Hoch had twelve children. They were: John W. Schwab (1857) married Mollie Crawford; Martha (1859) married John Cunningham; Mary (1859) married E.W. Morris; James Schwab (1864) single; Joseph D. (1869) married Ida Jacobs; Edward H. (1871) married Haidee Eckhardt; Samuel V. (1873) married Vidalia McCullough; Emma (1874) married Brown; Cora (18?) married John Morgan; Lillie (1875) married Robert Steen and Henry Parks; Rosa (1866) married Oscar Bellamy; Charles, married Mary Eberhart. The first three children of James and Martha Schwab were born in the Valentine Hoch home. The last children were born in the fine home that Valentine Hoch, Martha's father, helped build for them.

The James Schwab home at Hochheim was begun in 1857 by Valentine Hoch and finished several years later. The large two story white house on a hill overlooking the Guadalupe River Valley from Hochheim, is now owned by a granddaughter of Emma Hoch and J.W. Boothe.

After the death of his wife, Martha Hoch Schwab, James married a second time to Mary Ann Jacobs, a widow who had six children. James eventually moved to Yoakum and died there in 1917. Martha Hoch Schwab died in 1884. They are buried in Yoakum, Texas.

by Elmo Schwab

SCHWAB, JAMES H.

F831

A prominent farmer of DeWitt County and one of the pioneers of Hochheim was born in Germany in 1833, and received a practical education there. He came to Texas and located in this county in 1849, and at once turned his attention to farming. He made his first purchase of land on the Guadalupe river in 1860. He continued the peaceful occupation of the agriculturist until 1862 when he enlisted in the Confederate cause, joining Waul's Legion and served in Mississippi. After the fall of Vicksburg he returned to Hochheim and in 1866 engaged in merchandising, being one of the founders of the village of Hochheim. In 1880 he purchased a cotton gin, which he operated successfully in Yoakum, but afterwards returned to Hochheim. Mr. Schwab was married to Miss Martha Hoch, who bore him twelve children. They were married in 1860. Martha died in 1883. Five years later he was married

James H. Schwab

a second time, his chosen helpmate being Mrs. Mary Ann Jacobs, an earnest and devoted member of the Baptist Church.

by Patsy Goebel

SCULL, SARAH JANE "SAL" NEE (NEWMAN),

F832

"Sarah Scull", called "Sal", was enumerated on the 1850 DeWitt County Census. She became a gun-toting, pants-wearing, horse-trading, swearing woman of the south Texas frontier. She was born in the North in 1817 to Rachel Rabb and Joseph Newman. Her grandfather, William Rabb, a miller, brought his children and grandchildren (and six-year-old Sal), to the present town of LaGrange in Austin's Colony, where he received the largest grant of land, on the promise to build a gristmill and sawmill on the Colorado. Two of the Rabb sons had come ahead of the family and built a large house for the group before their arrival in 1823. After the family came, they found that Indians prowled around at night and stole what they hadn't begged in the daytime.

In one early tale of the frontier, an enterprising Indian slipped his feet in the space under the Newman's cabin door, to lift it off its hinges; and Sal's smother chopped his toes off with an axe. The continued theft of corn and horses forced postponement of the building of the mill until the 1830's, as the family had to move further down on the Colorado to a more settled area. In the summer of 1824 Joseph Newman and two of the Rabb sons received titles to their grants at the Egypt settlement, upriver from Wharton.

Sal's father died when she was fourteen (1831). On September 25, 1833, she was living in DeWitt's Colony and registered her brand as her father's "JN", the brand on the cattle she had inherited; and she recorded it at Gonzales as "Sarah Newman, wife of Jesse Robinson' and signed "Sarah Newman, her X mark". They may have had a marriage bond to be

formalized later (performed and recorded in Colorado County in 1838); but at this time Sal and Jesse were living on his land grant on the San Marcos River above Gonzales.

Jesse could be called a professional soldier. He served in the early Ranger company for Austin's Colony in 1823, fought heroically at San Jacinto (killing the cannoneer in the center of Santa Anna's line, it is said), was in a spy company of volunteers in 1841, and was in the Woll campaign in 1842. He is buried in Live Oak County.

Sal and Jesse had two children. While Jesse was fighting at San Jacinto, Sal fled with little Nancy in the Runaway Scrape. Three years later they had a son, Alfred. In 1843 Jesse sued for divorce and Sal made a cross complaint. All property was divided equally, but no decision was made about child custody. Both parents were independent, and both wanted the children. It is said that Sal placed the children in a convent school in New Orleans, Jesse moved them to another school, Sal moved them back; but eventually both children were living near their mother in south Texas. Eleven days after her divorce from Jesse, Sal married George C. Scull, a gunsmith, and they lived on her land near Egypt. In 1844 they sold her inherited land and all of his tools. In 1849 Sal declared she was a "single woman, husband deceased" (but he put his mark on a legal document in northeast Texas in 1853). Though she had three other husbands, she was known as Sal Scull.

In 1852 Sal settled on a dependable source of water at Banquette, about twenty miles west of Corpus Christi, a mid-point watering place on the old Camino Real from Matamorus to Goliad and beyond. "Beyond" became Alleyton, near present Columbus, where during the Civil War, the hug-the-coast-road or "Cotton Road" met the railroad from Houston. During the fifties, Sal roamed the Texas frontier, travelling alone, with only her Mexican vaqueros, driving herds of horses. She acquired herds of as many as one hundred fifty horses as far south as Mexico, and traded them all along the Gulf coast to New Orleans. She was a crack shot with the two pistols she wore holstered in a wide leather belt.

Sal married John Doyle in 1852. (It is rumored she killed one of her husbands, either Scull or Doyle, as both disappear from records.) On the Nueces County tax roll of 1854 she is Sarah Doyle with thirty-three horses, fourteen cattle, four yoke of oxen, and a wagon. Her brand, recorded there the previous year, was the Flying J. When Sal bought horses, she paid for them in gold, carried in a nosebag hanging from her saddle horn.

Isaiah Wadkins, Sal's four husband, was found guilty of adultery as charged, so she was granted a divorce after 2 years of marriage. In December 1860, she had at least a common-law marriage with a young, indolent man in his twenties, Christoph Horsdorff.

During the Civil War, Sally was an important transporter of Southern cotton into Mexico on the "Cotton Road", so-called because of the strands of cotton lining the old highway. With Southern ports blockaded, cotton could be shipped to England's textile mills on Mexican ships. On the backhaul came government stores and military supplies from Europe up to the railroad junction at Alleyton, by wagon-train.

Sal is believed to be buried near El Paso, dead at age ninety-one.

by Mrs. Marion R. Lane

SEEKAMP, CRAIG MORGAN

F833

Craig Morgan Seekamp was born in Halletsville, Texas on October 12, 1953 to Charles and Joyce Seekamp of Yoakum. He attended Yoakum schools and graduated from Yoakum High School in 1971. He attended Victoria College. He performed in the Gaslight Theatre in Shiner playing dual parts in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and the lead male role in "Wait Until Dark". He is a fireman for the cuero Volunteer Fire Department, and he owns and operates Trax Heavy Equipment.

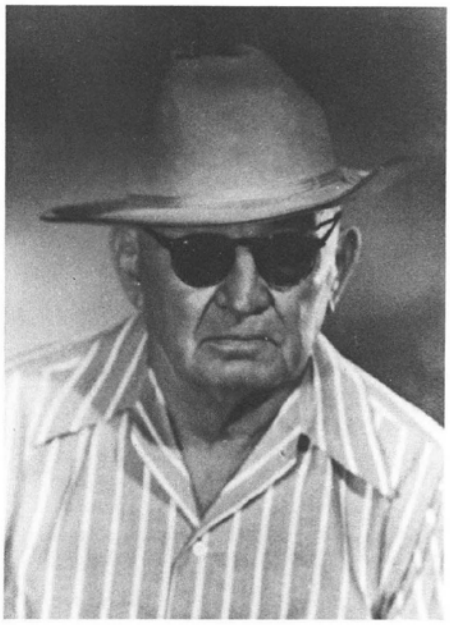
Craig married Helen John Buenger of Cuero on January 9, 1982. They are blessed with two sons: Craig Morgan Seekamp II (3-30-83) and Trevor John Seekamp (2-17-87). The family also includes a step-son, Shelton Buenger.

Craig's family was no stranger to early Texas history. His great-great grandmother was Sarah B. Dodson, the Betsy Ross of Texas. The first Constitutional Convention of Texas met at Washington on the Brazos, on March 1st, 1836. Two out of the three of the delegates were under 40 years old, and all had been elected for the express purpose of declaring the independence of Texas from Mexico and forming a government for the new republic. Mindful of the constant danger from the advancing Mexican army, no one knew when they all might have to leave to join the fight. On the opening day, a norther blew through and the temperature inside the meeting hall was thirty-three degrees. Historians record that the flag flying over the hall was designed and made by Sarah Dodson. Recognized as the first "Lone Star" flag, she had originally created it for husband, Archelaus, a member of the Robinson Company of Army Volunteers formed in September, 1835, at Harrisburg, Texas. After serving at Gonzales, this company marched under the Dodson flag to San Antonio to lay siege to the Alamo. Like practically all the Texas Volunteers, these men returned to their homes to prepare for the winter after San Antonio had been taken from the Mexicans, not realizing the strength of the Mexican reinforcements invading Texas. After the Mexicans crushed the remaining forces at the Alamo and massacred the Texans at Goliad, the Robinson Company was assigned to protect the retreating civilians. This exodus was known as the "Run-away Scrape". Plagued by measles, whooping cough and with practically no provisions, the Texans made their way through the swamps and marshes on foot and by ox cart. Nearly everything was soaked by the torrents of rain and flooded streams. On April 21st, the refugees could hear the cannon fire of the Battle of San Jacinto, and doubled their pace, fearing the worst. A courier on horseback from Sam Houston caught up with the convoy, and the families of Texans learned of the thrilling victory at San Jacinto.

by Helen M. Seekamp

SEEKAMP, HERMAN "SOOKY"

F834



Herman "Sooky" Seekamp

Born on April 26, 1877 and reared on a farm near Flatonia, Herman "Sooky" Seekamp (he acquired the nickname "Sooky" from his sisters because when he went to milk the cows he would call Soo-Cow) had a good comprehension of the needs of the farmer and the psychology of a townsman. He went up the trail as a young fellow and the ideas of the old trail drivers colored his early thinking.

A veteran of the Spanish-American War, Troop H 1st Calvary, U.S. Vol., he mustered in April 28, 1898 and mustered out November 14, 1898. He came to Yoakum in 1907 as a brakeman on the SAAP Railroad. He married Miss Nell Craig Morgan. Being a brakeman for seven years gave him an idea as to the necessity for good roads throughout the county. He saw the size of the country and received another slant on the needs for roads as communication between areas.

His fifteen years as a horse trader with his own big horse and mule barn made him known far and wide to townsmen and country people alike for his reliability. (Old timers say he was one "honest horse-trader".) Thus he laid the foundations for his political career. Running against two opponents, he won his first election well in the lead.

The precinct was $8,000 in debt. Roads and bridges were in deplorable condition. In fact, there were little more than trails in part of his domain. Farms were eroded and the rights-of-way were worse. There were "dips" for culverts and ancient wooden or rusty steel bridges. Equipment was practically nothing, consisting of an old grader, and a couple of trucks which were sheltered in the horse and mule barn until a new county warehouse could be constructed.

Soon after he took office, a road district was formed and $75,000 in bonds were deposited in the bank. Then the bank failed and the money was gone. The depression was on, but "Sooky"

stayed with the job.

Reading, studying, never hesitant to ask questions of others, always trying a better way of doing things, he pushed on at the problem of getting his county out of the mud.

Highway Division No. 13 Headquarters moved into his precinct. He had been somewhat influential in getting the move. Highway 77 crosses his precinct from North to South. Highway 111 (built through his influence) also cuts across his precinct. These and many other projects are the results of Seekamp's efforts. His precinct could boast of over 40 miles of hard-surfaced roads, with no wooden bridges. He and his crew devised a cattleguard that could have been patented, but he refused to do so preferring to see it popularly used rather than commercialized. They designed and built bridges using one row of central piers that avoided collection of debris at flood time and yet were strong. Many other innovations in construction, maintenance, and financing were introduced which others have copied. In the 24 years he served, he replaced old wooden bridges and culverts with concrete structures, rid the precinct of debt and left the office with a nice balance of $85,688.15 in the county treasury to the credit of his precinct. Also purchased and paid for was road building and other equipment valued at $19,500. This 24 year program was accomplished with only the aid of one small bond issue. This issue provided money for construction of 10 miles of paved road. All of it was paid off.

The new equipment consisted of a large tractor, a small tractor, two maintainers, 15 trucks and a complete "hot shot" outfit including a new warehouse.

Another accomplishment is the Yoakum underpass, which speeds traffic under the Southern Pacific tracks in Yoakum. The structure was formally designated the "Sooky" Seekamp Underpass in his honor. As De Witt County Road Commissioner, he was "the best county commissioner in Texas", who believes in the best roads and a balanced budget.

"Sooky" and Nell were blessed with a son, Charles Seekamp (10-21-10). Charles married Joyce Kopecky of Moulton. Charles was a contractor until his death. Their sons are: Charles Herman, John Frank, Joe Ray, and Craig Morgan.

by Helen M. Seekamp

SEEKAMP, JOHN H.

F835

John H. Seekamp, prominent Cuero businessman and civic leader, was also the operator of the Muti Hotel and familiar in hotel circles throughout the state. He was born in the little city of Flatonia on January 2, 1881, the son of Mr. & Mrs. A.N. Seekamp. He received his preliminary education in the schools of that city and later attended business college in San Antonio.

He was for some time connected with the Santa Fe Railroad and in 1917 became associated with H.C. Zingleman in the operation of the Muti Hotel of Cuero. After several years of residence here he moved to Houston where for four years he operated the Tennyson Hotel. Returning to Cuero, he was once more affiliated with the Muti Hotel before moving to Austin where for five years he operated the Alamo Hotel. After his bout in Austin, he returned again to Cuero to take over the affairs of the Muti Hotel and remained here until his passing away.

It was in 1913 that he was married in Little Rock, Ark. to Miss Birdie Viereck of Sealy, and her devotion as well as assistance in his business affairs was an outstanding inspiration in his life.

John Seekamp was a man who served his community well, although few of his contributions to the welfare of those around him were known. He chose to remain in the background.

He was a man of kindly heart, so vividly revealed in his devotion to little children and his love of the unprotected Texas wildlife. His contribution toward the conservation of wildlife was recognized some years ago with his election as honorary member of the Austin Wildlife Society.

He was a man willing to sacrifice his own time and interests for the betterment of his community and in that capacity he served well. Seekamp was President of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce for four years, chairman of the "Texas Centennial" Turkey Trot, one of the most successful Trots ever staged, and a leader in every movement for the upbuilding and betterment of Cuero. He was also a 32nd degree Mason.

John was a man who boasted many friends high in executive circles of the state, his influence had been felt in many public moves. For these many contributions he sought no credit. The services he rendered his community and those around him however, will stand as a monument to his memory.

by Helen M. Seekamp

SEELIGSON, LELIA (HOWERTON)

F836

Lelia Howerton was born at Old Indianola in 1859. She was the daughter of Charles Cabiness Howerton, and Theora (Petty) Howerton. She was a sister to James C. Howerton, founder and publisher of the *Cuero Record*. Her father, C. C. Howerton, was born in Haufax, Virginia in 1832 and he died in 1907.

Lelia came to Cuero in 1873 with her brother on the first train that traveled between Old Indianola and Cuero. She married Dowd Seeligson, one of the first real estate dealers in Cuero. He was born in 1859 and died in 1900. They had three children.

Lelia served as historian for the "Old Indianola Settlers Association," and was the author of a history of Old Indianola. She was a lifetime member of Grace Episcopal Church and attended the first Sunday School ever held in Cuero. She died in 1951 at the age of ninety four years of age. She and her husband and one son, Elliot, are buried in Hillside Cemetery, DeWitt County, Texas.

B. L. McCASKILL. J. W. JENNINGS.

McCASKILL & JENNINGS,

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Cuero Marble and Granite Works

Knights of Pythias place, Esplanade St.

Marble received in car lots and worked up by skilled mechanics. Orders solicited from everybody desiring the best work at equitable prices.

SEILER, CLARENCE A. FAMILY

F837

Rev. C.A. Seiler Family — L to R: Clarice, Jonathan Wayne, Sylvia and Clarence A.

Clarence A. Seiler was born August 8, 1920 in Goliad County where he was reared by his parents Willie J. and Mathilda (Moeller) Seiler along with his brother, William P., and his sister, Pauline. He graduated from Goliad High School in 1938. Then he moved to Beeville, Texas where his family had already moved to and gone into the blacksmith business.

In 1939 the family moved to Yorktown, Texas and opened a blacksmith shop. It was here where C.A. met and later married Sylvia Mae Brieger, daughter of Emil and Olga (Schlosser) Brieger. She is one of five children born in Runge, Texas, but reared in the Nordheim community. Sylvia graduated from Nordheim High School in 1940. C.A. and Sylvia married November 1, 1942. Except for a short span that he served in the U.S. Navy, C.A. worked with his dad in the blacksmith shop until about 1950 when he went into the insurance business.

It was during this time that their two children were born. Their daughter, Clarice was born November 13, 1944. Jonathan Wayne was born July 12, 1948.

The Seilers moved to Victoria in 1952 where they lived, (except for about four months in Karnes City), until January, 1956 when they moved to Nursery, Texas.

C.A. "Red", as he was better known to his friends, went to work at Union Carbide Chemicals Co. in Seadrift, Texas June, 1954. He became a unit foreman within nine months with the company. "Red" worked for Union Carbide until October, 1964. In the meantime, the family had purchased a farm in Shiner, Texas and moved there in 1961.

Upon leaving Union Carbide, "Red" once again purchased a blacksmith shop this time in Shiner where he ran the business for seven years.

In the meantime he served as a lay speaker in the United Methodist Church until he answered the call to become a full time Methodist minister in 1973. Selling the farm, shop and most of their possessions, the Seilers followed the Lord's work, serving churches in Flatonia, Waelder, Thompsonville, Industry, Austin, Monthalia, Belmont, Leesville, Center Point and Comfort. Upon his retirement from the ministry in June, 1987, he and Sylvia returned to DeWitt County where they lived in Nordheim for two years. They moved into their home in Yorktown in May, 1989.

Their daughter, Clarice, married Jimmy

Calaway of Victoria where they reside. Their daughter, Jamie Sue, married James Mueller, and they live in Inez. The Calaway's son, James, Jr. graduated from Victoria High School in 1989.

The Seiler's son, Jonathan Wayne lives with is wife Carole Ann (Miller) and his son, Kristian, in Orlando, Florida.

"Red" and Sylvia are still serving the Lord by answering the call of ministers who need someone to fill their pulpits while on vacation or continuing their education.

by Mr. & Mrs. Clarence A. Seiler

SEILER, WILLIAM P.

F838

Alice (Ressmann) and William P. Seiler.

William P. Seiler was born September 27, 1915 in Ander, Texas in Goliad County to Willie J. and Mathilda Moeller Seiler. William was the oldest of three children. William served in World War II in the 7th. Infantry Division for almost four years. After William's discharge from the service, he married Alice Ressmann on December 12, 1945. Alice worked three years at Kelly Field during World War II. Alice was born October 7, 1921 near Goliad in Goliad County, Texas to Joe A. and Edith Cravey Ressmann. William and Alice lived in Goliad after their marriage where William was in partnership with Martin Mikosh in a blacksmith shop. A son, Arden was born while they lived in Goliad. William sold his interest in the blacksmith shop in Goliad and moved to their farm six and one half miles west of Yorktown, Texas in April 1951. After a drought in 1956, William worked at Gulf Materials in Victoria as a welder. He then worked at Schroeder's Ford Tractor as a blacksmith, and later at Ahren's Machine Shop. In 1960, he worked with Newton Seiler as a carpenter for about five years. In 1965, William operated a blacksmith shop in Yorktown at Blaschke's Lumber Yard. In 1973, William suffered a heart attack, and had to retire. William died on November 27, 1982, and is buried at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas. His wife, Alice still lives on the farm.

by Mrs. William P. Seiler

Joseph Henry Reuss Joseph Reuss Frobese
Drs. Reuss & Frobese
Runge Bldg.

SEILER, WILLIE J.

F839

Louise Mathilda and Willie Seiler, Pauline Seiler in background.

Willie J. Seiler was born August 29, 1889 at Weser, Texas in Goliad County to Frank and Pauline Miller Seiler. Willie married Mathilda "Tillie" Moeller in Ander, Texas on August 2, 1912. Mathilda was born December 2, 1886. They owned a farm a few miles from Goliad, Texas. They had three children: William, Pauline and Clarence "Red". In the late 30's, they moved to Beeville, Texas and operated a blacksmith shop for several years. The shop was sold, so Willie and family moved to Yorktown, Texas in 1939. The shop was sold, so Willie and family moved to Yorktown, Texas in 1939. The shop was sold, so Willie and family moved to Yorktown, Texas in 1939. Willie operated a blacksmith shop next to the Park George, and was there until 1946. "Red" built a blacksmith shop next to the Horn Palace in 1946, and "Red" and his father operated the shop until 1950 when "Red" went into the insurance business. Willie then had a blacksmith shop at his home. He also made violins and continued working in the shop until his death on November 20, 1972. Mathilda died on March 26, 1942. Both are buried at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Mrs. William P. Seiler

SEMMLER, CHARLES AND ANNIE KOENIG

F840

Charles Semmler was born March 25, 1867. His parents were Conrad and Maria Dryer Semmler. Conrad was born in Europe and Maria was born in Ceisthaus, Alsace. She came to America in 1856. Conrad and Maria had several children including Charles, Louis and Pauline (Mrs. Hiller), mother of Felix, Erwin and Edwina (Mrs. Paul Hausman). He married Annie Koenig, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Edward Koenig (Nee Agatha Luder). Annie was born January 22, 1891. Charles and Annie raised their children in the home pictured with family. Children were as follows:

Bertha, who passed away at age 9.

Alfred L., born August 19, 1890, married Maggie Schlein. He died March 15, 1975. They had one daughter Violet (Mrs. Lawrence Dietze).

William G., born December 18, 1891, married Elma Adcock, died August 2, 1955. Elma died October 2, 1955. There were no children.

Lillian Pauline, born March 25, 1893, who married Carl Schorre. She died July 28, 1978. They had one son, Gilbert.

Elnora (Allie) born September 25, 1896. She married John Rath October 30, 1922. Allie died April, 1987.

Lorene Ida, born September 25, 1897, married Werner Wolf September 26, 1925, and died May 12, 1977. They had two daughters, Doris Nell (Mrs. Alton Goebel) and Lorita Mae (Mrs. Jack Fitzgerald).

The house still stands today behind Arneckeville Community Center (then the school). The property is now owned by Edward Koenig of San Antonio. The family bought property on Arneckeville Road (FM #236) and built a large two story house. Charles and Annie are buried in Hillside Cemetery. They were members of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero.

by Rita Fitzgerald

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See our specials on the 5c and 10c counters.

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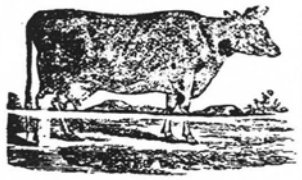
The Oakdale Jersey Farm



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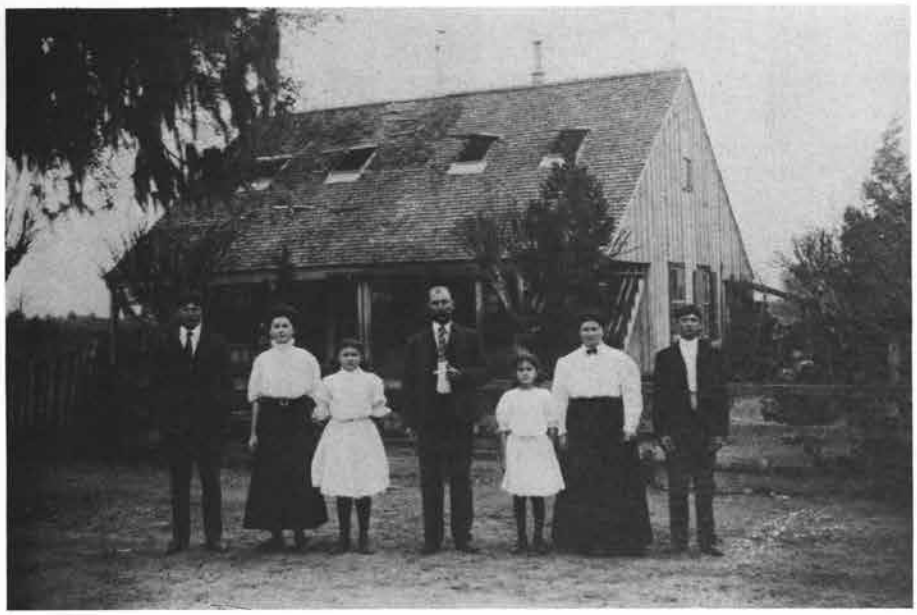
B. R. HARRIS, Manager.



1906 Charles Semmler Family – Alfred, Lillian, Elnora "Allie", Charles, Lorene, Annie, and William G.

SEMMLER, WILLIAM C. AND ELMA ADCOCK

F841

William was born December 18, 1891, to Charles and Annie (Koenig) Semmler of Arneckeville. He was raised in the country but moved to Cuero. He married Elma Adcock. There were no children. Bill owned Texaco Service Station on corner of Esplanade and Courthouse for many years. Elma owned a very tiny but popular cafe next to the service station. William died August 2, 1955, and Elma died in October, 1955. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery.

by Rita Fitzgerald

SEMPER, LUDWIG (LOUIS) FAMILY

F842

Ludwig and Matilda Semper, 1906.

Ludwig (Louis) Semper was born August 23, 1870 at Klein Schonau, Austria where he grew up, went to school, and learned his trade as a baker.

Louis' family lived in a little village in Austria called Klein Schonau. They were small farmers with one or two cows and had a few acres for planting potatoes, barley, etc. Also, they were weavers and did so to earn extra money.

Louis' father's name was Phillip and his mother's name was Thekla. They had three children: Ludwig (Louis), Ferdinand (Fred), and a daughter, Thekla. They all grew up and went to school in Klein Schonau. Louis and Fred each learned a trade. Louis was a baker and for Fred, a butcher. After their schooling, for their trades, it was required that they serve a three year apprenticeship. They then received a diploma which proved their trade.

Louis and Fred immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York in 1891. They both had aspirations for the opportunities in the United States. It seems that the Austrian government would not allow them to leave and if they stayed in Austria, they would surely have to serve in the military. The military in Austria was not as the military in the United States. So the two brothers, with the help of family, friends, and the underground, were smuggled out of the country. Louis told of the excitement and danger of their trip.

The two brothers settled in Chicago, Illinois. They had an uncle that was living in Spaulding, Nebraska who had broken his leg, so Fred decided he would go there to help him with his farm. Fred later married, opened a butcher shop, and spent the rest of his life there. As far as it is known the two brothers never saw each other again. Fred had four children, Cletus, Leo, Paul and Pauline.

Louis married Marie Schram in Chicago, Illinois. They had two children, Edwin born in 1898 and Adeline born in 1900. Marie developed a respiratory illness and was advised to move to a warmer climate. Shortly after 1900, Louis and Marie moved to Runge, Texas where Marie had relatives. They had to leave their children with friends in Chicago for a short period of time while they were getting settled. Marie died in 1904 and is buried in Runge.

Louis was married in 1906 to Mathilda Meyer. She was from the Weesatche area in Goliad County. They moved to Yorktown and had two children, Edna born in 1907 and Reall born in 1910. It might be mentioned at this time that Louis' four children and Fred's four children kept contact with their uncles. They also visited them several times which kept the family bond between the two brothers from Austria.

Louis set up a bakery shop called The Yorktown Bakery in 1906. The bakery was located near the railroad depot on the south side of Yorktown where most of the industries were established at that time. Louis built the oven for the bakery himself. It was made of fire brick and had to be made just right in order for it to draft properly. All of this was learned in Austria. Reall would talk about getting in from a dance at midnight and having to get up at 2:00 a.m. to start the fire in the oven. Louis operated the bakery until the early 1930's.

Louis and Mathilda's home was built at the same location as the bakery shop where they lived until their deaths. Louis died December 10, 1943 at the age of 73 and Mathilda died in 1968 at the age of 88.

Louis' four children all lived in Dewitt County. Adeline worked at the bakery in Yorktown until she retired. Edna graduated from Texas Lutheran College and received a B.A. degree in Elementary Education and taught school for about 45 years, most of which were in Nordheim. Adeline and Edna never married and they both lived at the family home until their deaths. Edna died in 1982 and Adeline died in 1985.

Edwin married Nona Osterloh whose family was from Nordheim. He owned and operated a service station in Nordheim until his death. Edwin died in 1955. His wife Nona is living in a rest home in Nixon. Edwin and Nona had one child, Travis, who lives in Portland, Texas. Travis married Ethel Cliffe who was from Warrington, England. They have two children, Jan and Cliffe. Jan is married to Jimmy Wagner and they have two children, Ashley and Kyle. Cliffe is married to the former Sherry Alex and they have one child, Aaron.

Reall married the former Robertha Gisler. Reall owned and operated a service station, cafe and package store. He operated the package store until his death. Reall died in 1972. Reall and Robertha have four children, Lois, Leo, Celina and Rayon (Ray). Lois (Lundschen) has three children. Joanna Lynn is married to John Lapidge; Leah is married to Jimmy Moy and they have two children, Jimmy and Angelica; Lloyd is married to the former Natalie Rayliey and they have three children, Wayne, Michael and Bryan. Leo is married to the former Carlyn Hoefling. They have two children, Christie and Paul. Christie is married to Ken Kahlich and they have one daughter, Loren; Paul is married to the former Lisa Adams. Celina is married to Oswald Kirchner. They have three children, Elizabeth (Beth), Donald and Mark. Beth is married to Kelly Tankersley and they have two children, Christopher and Amy; Donald is married to the former Sandy Sheffield and they have one son, Calvin; Mark is married to the former Donna Brents. Ray is married to the former Carol

Louis Semper with his bakery delivery wagon.

Rabke. They have four children, Ray, James, Wendy and Katy.

Robertha, Reall's wife, still resides at their home on Mehnert Street in Yorktown which is adjacent to the property where the three businesses once were located. The service station and cafe property was sold, but the package store building is now being leased and used as a barber shop.

Louis' business, The Yorktown Bakery, is still in existence today and is located on Main Street in Yorktown. Louis sold it in the early 1930's to Henry Schroeder. Mr. Schroeder operated the bakery until 1967 when he sold it to A.J. Mica. Mr. Mica owned the bakery until 1975 when it was purchased by Joseph Jendrzey. Mr. Jendrzey still owns the bakery which is a favorite daily stop for many of the Yorktown residents.

by Leo Semper

SHEPPARD, CAPTAIN HENRY

F843

Captain Henry Sheppard was born August 14, 1826. He went to sea early in life and was in command of a vessel plying between New York and Liverpool before he was twenty-one. He served for many years as a Captain of the Morgan Steamship Lines. He was in command of the S.S. Louisiana when it burned and sank off Galveston in 1857 with great loss of life. As a tribute to his conduct in that disaster, the Morgan Lines inscribed the following epitaph on his tombstone in Hillside Cemetery: "The last to leave his burning ship and in the sea gave up his supporting plank to save a drowning passenger." He had lost the S.S. Perseverance by fire in Matagorda Bay in 1856, while Mrs. Sheppard was entertaining a dinner party on board. That ship's bell now hangs in the belfry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Still in the employ of the Morgan Lines, Captain Sheppard settled at Indianola in 1857

Capt. Henry Sheppard, Morgan Steamship Lines.

where he served as wharf master of the Morgan wharves.

He was one of the spokesmen for the townspeople in negotiations with the invading Yankees in 1862. In 1872 the Morgan Lines extended their railroad (the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railway) to Cuero. The Cuero Land & Immigration Company gave 100 acres of land south of the railroad to the Morgan company as consideration for its bringing the railroad to Cuero and the company developed that land as "Morgantown, the Railway Addition to the City of Cuero." Captain Sheppard acted as Morgan's agent in many land transactions in Cuero and was serving as president of the Gulf Western Texas and Pacific Railway Company at the time of his death in 1879.

Elizabeth (McGrane) Sheppard

Henry D. Sheppard, survivor of Indianola storm of 1886.

Sheppard married Elizabeth McGrane (born in Virginia, August 1, 1834) at New Orleans in 1854. They had five children who survived infancy: Elizabeth, born at New Orleans, August 24, 1857, married Frank W. Bates at Indianola, January 23, 1880, died at Cuero January 24, 1904; Virginia (Jennie) Luther, born at Indianola, February 25, 1860, died at Cuero December 5, 1938; William, born Indianola July 14, 1862, died at Indianola October 11, 1884; Joseph Lawrence, born Indianola, October 21, 1867, died at Cuero, February 22, 1935; and Henry D., born at Indianola, August 5, 1870, died at Cuero, March 9, 1951.

In 1880 the recently widowed Mrs. Sheppard made an investment in the English-German School of Cuero, lending the Association $900.00 for 12 months at 8%. The loan was duly repaid. On August 19, 1886, she was living at Indianola with her youngest son, Henry; her daughter, Mrs. Jennie Luther, was visiting from Corpus Christi with her two infant boys. Mrs. Sheppard's older son, Joe, was away at school; her daughter, Elizabeth Bates, was living in Cuero. Mrs. Hodges of Cuero and Mrs. Crooker of Austin were also visitors in the

Sheppard home. The fatal hurricane of 1886 struck Indianola on the evening of August 19. The wharves which extended a mile into Matagorda Bay were torn from their moorings and the storm used the timbers as battering rams against the frame buildings of Indianola. Before morning the Sheppard house collapsed. Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. Luther's two boys, Mrs. Hodges, and Mrs. Crooker all lost their lives. Young Henry Sheppard clung to a piece of timber, and in the darkness, seized an inert body and supported it until they came to rest on the prairie the next morning. He then discovered that he had saved his sister, Jennie Luther. In October of that sad year F.W. Bates, J.L. Sheppard, and Henry Sheppard returned to Indianola, gathered up the remnants of the Sheppard home, loaded them on flat cars and shipped them to Cuero where they became the nucleus of the Bates-Sheppard house, now the DeWitt County Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Bates, Mrs. Luther, and Henry Sheppard made their home in this house for the remainder of their lives. Bates, born at Matagorda, December 11, 1854, to Thomas F. and Elmira Stewart Bates, graduated from Concrete College in 1871. He was employed by his uncle, R.C. Warn, in the Warn hardware store in Indianola and moved to Cuero in 1884 to work in the Warn Hardware Store here. After Warn's death the store was operated by Bates and Frank Hutchings under the firm name of Hutchings & Bates. After Hutchings' death the store was operated by Bates alone under the name of Bates Hardware. Mr. Bates served for many years as an Alderman of the City of Cuero, overseeing the Fire Department, and serving as interim Mayor in 1905 and 1906.

Henry D. Sheppard graduated from Soule College in New Orleans. He was for many years the agent of the Southern Pacific in Cuero. Later he went into business as a partner of Berthold Schiwetz in the local insurance agency of Schiwetz & Sheppard; and after Schiwetz' death he was sole proprietor of H.D. Sheppard Insurance.

Mrs. Jennie Luther maintained the home for her brother and brother-in-law. All three of the occupants, being without children of their own, devoted themselves to Captain J.L. Sheppard's children and grandchildren, who spent much of their childhood in the care of these three.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

Joe and Jane Sheppard (seated). Fassett and Lawrence Sheppard (standing).

Capt. Joseph L. Sheppard

Jane (Fassett) Sheppard

SHEPPARD, CAPTAIN J. L.

F844

Joseph Lawrence Sheppard was born in Indianola, October 21, 1867, the son of Captain Henry and Elizabeth McGrane Sheppard. He attended school at St. Mary's College, Galveston. While away at school his family home was destroyed, and his mother lost in the great hurricane of August 19-20, 1886. He was employed in Victoria at the store of Mr. D.H. Reagan. While in Victoria he served as Captain of the Victoria Rifles thereby acquiring the title which he carried the rest of his life. In 1889 he was awarded the gold medal as the state's best captain of militia at drills in Galveston, celebrating that city's semi-centennial. In 1892 he married Jane Fassett, the daughter of Franklin and Jane McConnell Fassett. They moved to Cuero and in 1895 he erected the Sheppard home at the corner of Reuss Boulevard and Hunt Street. They had two children: Henry Fassett, born at Cuero, October 24, 1893, and Joseph Lawrence, Jr., born at Cuero, September 15, 1898.

Captain Sheppard managed the Cuero Cotton Oil & Mfg. Company and later the H. Runge & Co. Grocery. He gave up active employment in 1917 to spend his full time as chairman of the DeWitt County Draft Board. He was an active cattleman all his adult life, operating his stock farm at Valley View and the Fassett Ranch near Nopal. In the early days he drove a buggy weekly to the Fassett Ranch, the round trip taking two days. In later years he made the trip every week in his Model T. He was active in local relief efforts during the great depression. He died at Cuero on February 22, 1935. Sheppard's wife, Jane Fassett, was born in Springfield, Illinois, April 15, 1869. She came to Texas with her parents in 1877, landing at Indianola and taking the train to Cuero. She lived with her father and mother at the hotel in Cuero until her mother's death in 1883, after which she moved to the ranch near Davy and kept house for her father. She attended the English-German School in Cuero. For 35 years she served as president of Hillside Cemetery Association.

Joseph Lawrence Sheppard, Jr., graduated from Cuero High School and attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Texas. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. A journalist, he was a reporter for the San Antonio Express and Sports Editor of the Port Arthur News. He died at Cuero, March 5, 1940.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

SHEPPARD, FRANK BATES AND ROSEMARY STEELE

F845

Frank Bates Sheppard was born at Cuero November 21, 1922, the second son and third child of Henry Fassett and Constance Breeden Sheppard. He graduated from Cuero High School, and from the University of Texas with B.A. and LL.B. degrees. He was a private in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during World War II. In 1947 he entered the practice of law in Cuero with the late Bert Kirk. He was appointed City Attorney in 1949 and served in that office until he was elected County Attorney in 1964. He joined the late Newton M. Crain, and James K. Crain, as a partner in the practice of law in 1970. He was again appointed City Attorney in the early 1970's and has served in that capacity since. He was Democratic County Chairman for a term. He was General Chairman of the Cuero Turkey Trot in 1956 and was chosen Sultan of Cuero's 1972 Centennial Turkey Trot. He has served on the board of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, the Cuero Industrial Foundation, DeWitt County Historical Museum, and St. Michael's Parish Council. He is a director of Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association, St. Michael's Parochial School Endowment Fund, and the DeWitt County Historical Commission. A former president of the Cuero Lions Club, he has been a member of that club since 1947. He received the Cuero Chamber of Commerce community service award in 1976. He married Rosemary Steele in 1953.

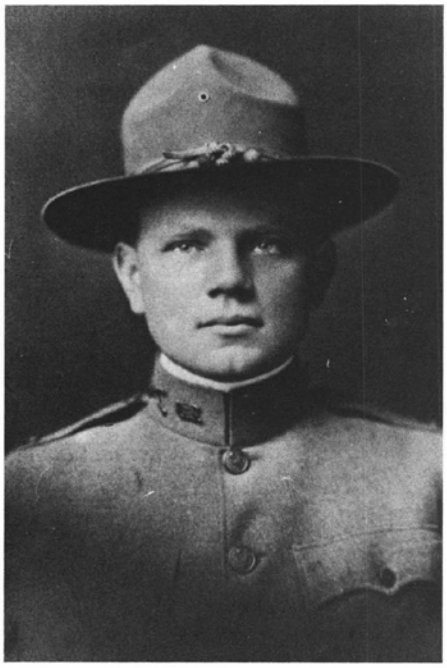
Rosemary Steele Sheppard, the daughter of Jules LaBarthe and Elfrieda Rasmussen Steele, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. As a small child she moved with her parents to St. Paul, Minnesota, where she graduated from St. Joseph's Academy and attended St. Catherine's College. In Cuero she has served on the boards of the Cuero Public Library, the Cuero Country Club, and DeWitt County Museum, and as Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court St. Michael. She was a charter member and first president of the Burns Hospital Auxiliary. Frank and Rosemary have three children: Constance Kirk, a practicing attorney in San Antonio, wife of Dr. William O. Kirk; Michael Avery, who practices law with Crain & Sheppard in Cuero and whose wife, Cynthia Truax, practices law in Victoria; and Jennifer, who is employed in public relations in San Antonio.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

SHEPPARD, HENRY FASSETT

F846

The son of Captain J.L. and Jane Fassett Sheppard, Henry Fassett Sheppard was born at Cuero, October 24, 1893. He graduated from Cuero High School and attended St. Edward's University and the University of Texas at Austin. On May 4, 1916, he married Constance Lackey Breeden, the daughter of Robert Perry and Blanche Wofford Breeden. Volunteering for service, he served in World War I as First



Henry Fassett Sheppard, c. 1917.

Lieutenant in the Cuero Machine Gun Company which trained at Fort Bowie in Fort Worth and with the 36th Division in France. After the war he was employed as credit manager of Breeden Runge Company. He was a trustee of the Cuero Independent School District from the mid-1920's until his death. In 1938 he served as general chairman of the Cuero Turkey Trot. An outspoken conservative and old-fashioned orator, he was engaged in many political campaigns in behalf of his chosen candidates or causes. He died at Cuero on February 22, 1941. His widow, Constance Breeden Sheppard, was educated in the Cuero schools and at St. Katherine's in Tennessee. She taught school at Charco before her marriage. Left a widow with three sons still in elementary and high school, she supported her family by renting rooms to Brayton Field personnel. Although she had never worked except for her brief teaching experience, she took a high school typing and bookkeeping course and went to work in the H.D. Sheppard Insurance agency. After the death of H.D. Sheppard she operated the agency on her own. Possessed of a clear and beautiful soprano voice, she was frequently called on to sing at weddings, funerals, and public events. She died at Cuero on August 18, 1965. Henry Fassett and Constance Breeden Sheppard had six children: Jane Fassett (Sorell), Robert Breeden, Frank Bates, Henry Fassett, Jr., Joseph Lawrence II, and John Gillett.

by Frank Bates Sheppard

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SHEPPARD, HENRY FASSETT, JR. AND JEAN ANN (FRIAR)

F847

Henry Fassett Sheppard, Jr., was born January 21, 1925, the fourth of six children and third son born to Henry Fassett Sheppard and Constance Breeden Sheppard. He married Jean Ann Friar, only child of Oscar William and Rena Mae Haile Friar, on January 20, 1951. Henry and Jean Ann Sheppard have three children:

Laurie Ann, born December 6, 1951, married John Allen Post on July 31, 1971. John is the son Nathan and Hattie Kleiber Post.

Henry Fassett III, born November 12, 1952, married Rachel Newsom on July 28, 1973. Rachel is the daughter of James and Donna Faye Barfield Newsom.

Holly Jean, born April 1, 1957, married Bill Ray Hickey on June 28, 1980. Bill is the son of Bill and Pat Allen Hickey.

Laurie Ann and John Post are the parents of John Henry, born April 13, 1977 and twins Elizabeth Sheppard and Stephen Friar born November 27, 1984. Laurie Ann attended Sam Houston State University where she was a member of Delta Zeta Sorority. She graduated from the University of Houston/Victoria and presently teaches fifth grade in Cuero.

Henry and Rachel Sheppard are the parents of Henry Justin born October 12, 1981 and Willis Breeden born November 6, 1984. Henry attended Southern Methodist University on a football scholarship. He graduated in 1976 and was drafted by the Cleveland Browns professional football team. After playing for seven years he retired from football and is presently in the real estate business in Victoria, Texas.

Holly and Bill Hickey are the parents of William Fassett born March 27, 1984 and Harris Fielding born May 1, 1987. Holly attended Sam Houston State University where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. She is presently employed by the Cuero Independent School District.

Henry Jr. served in the Army Air Force during World War II in the European African Middle East Theatre. After the war he attended Southwestern University on a football scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. While at Southwestern University he was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and was a member of *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.* He served as Postmaster in Cuero from 1962 until 1986. He received a Master of Arts from the University of Houston/Victoria in 1988, where he is presently an instructor of Advanced Writing and Research. Both Jean Ann and Henry attended Cambridge University in the summer of 1987.

Jean Ann attended Mary Hardin Baylor University and the University of Texas. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Houston/Victoria. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the DeWitt County Historical Commission. Henry and Jean Ann are members of Grace Episcopal Church in Cuero.

The Sheppards maintain the Friar-Sheppard Ranch located off Highway 87 that has been in operation for over one hundred years. They continue to use the Circle T brand,

Back, L-R: Elizabeth Post, John Post,John Henry Post, Jean Ann Sheppard, Henry F. Sheppard Jr., Holly S. Hickey, William F. Hickey and Bill Hickey. Front, L-R: Laurie A. Post, Stephen Post, Henry J. Sheppard, Rachel Sheppard, Henry Sheppard III, and Willis Sheppard.

L-R: Friar-Sheppard Wedding: Frank B. Sheppard, Blanche (Wofford) Breeden, Rosemary (Blackwell) Sheppard, Constance (Breeden) Sheppard, Jean Ann Friar, Henry F. Sheppard, Jr. Henry D. Sheppard, Father William Jansen, Rena Mae Friar, Joseph L. Sheppard, Oscar W. Friar, Mattie W. Friar and Flower Girl – Jeanette Sorrell.

a brand first utilized by D.B. Friar and the Lazy J, the brand used by John R. Friar.

by Jean Ann Sheppard

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Hats, Caps, Gents
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These goods I purchased in New York (the home of bargains) after personal examination, for

Spot Cash

In consequence I

Will Save You Money

Inviting you to call and inspect my line I am Yours Respectfully.

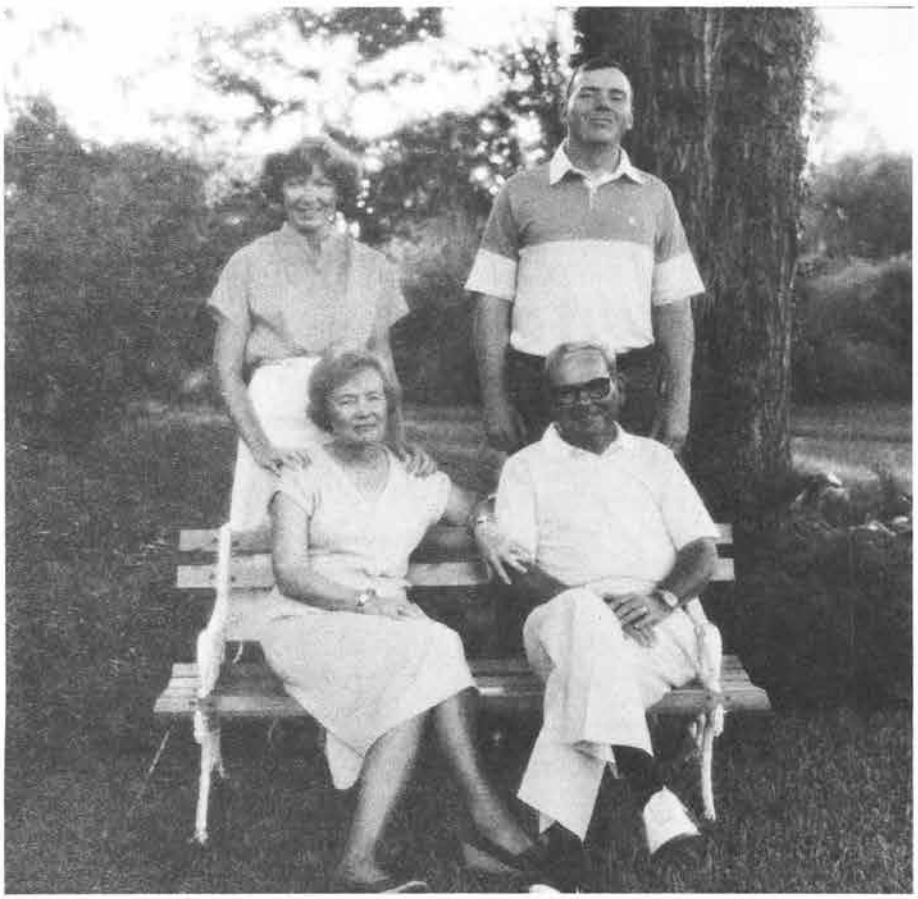
F. A. Taylor.

L-R: Fielding H. Hickey, John H. Post, Elizabeth S. Post (twin), William F. Hickey, Henry J. Sheppard, Stephen F. Post (twin), Willis B. Sheppard.

SHEPPARD, JOSEPH AND ROSEMARY (BLACKWELL)

F848

Joseph L. Sheppard was born in Cuero, Texas February 8, 1927, the fourth son and fifth child of Henry Fassett and Constance (Breeden) Sheppard. He graduated from Cuero High School and from the University of Texas with a B.A. degree.



L-R: Standing: Mary Sheppard, Joel Sheppard, Seated: Rosemary (Blackwell) Sheppard and Joe Sheppard

Joe spent several years in the seismograph industry before joining Texas Eastern Pipeline. He retired after 25 years as a Senior Measurement Technician and is now engaged in ranching and as a part time Gas Measurement consultant. Joe is a long time member and former president of the Cuero Booster Club. He is a member and served as president of St. Michael's Parish Council and is a member of the DeWitt County Historical Commission. He married Rosemary Blackwell, daughter of Finley D. (Dick) and Mary M. (Jane) Meurer Blackwell in 1953.

Rosemary graduated from Cuero High School and Mary Hardin Baylor College. She taught for a number of years in the Cuero Public Schools. She served as organist at the First Baptist Church for many years and is a member of DeWitt County Historical Commission, DAR, and D.R.T.

Joe and Rosemary have two children: Joseph Lawrence Sheppard III, graduate of the United States Naval Academy, commissioned 2nd Lt. in U.S.M.C., resigned his commission as Captain and is now a practicing attorney in Cleburne, Texas. His wife, the former Faye Dance, is a practicing attorney in Fort Worth. Mary Margaret Sheppard, born in Plentywood, Montana is a graduate of the University of Texas, B.B.A., University of Houston M.A., in Counseling. Mary is now a Junior High Counselor in Cuero I.S.D.

by Mrs. Joe Sheppard

SHEPPARD, ROBERT BREEDEN (BOB)

F849

Robert Breeden Sheppard was born in Cuero August 7, 1920, the second child and first son of Henry Fassett and Constance Breeden Sheppard. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1937 and attended Texas A&M and

Robert B. (Bob) Sheppard

the University of Texas. As a child and as a teen Robert accompanied his grandfather, Captain J.L. Sheppard, as he made his rounds of his cattle operations.

Prior to World War II, Robert worked for the United States Engineering Department (now the Corps of Engineers). As war neared, this work was directed to site preparation and runway construction on various airfields across south Texas which would become the training bases for World War II. On completion his work at Chase Naval Air Station in Beeville, Robert resigned from the Corps to enter military service, where he served in the Army Air Force with foreign duty in the Pacific theatre.

Following his honorable discharge in 1946, Robert worked for Phillips Petroleum Co., Magnet Cove Barium Corp. and the oilfield division of Alamo Lumber Co. in oil fields in Texas, New Mexico, and Mississippi. He then moved back to DeWitt County and engaged in the ranching business on a full time basis.

In 1974 he was elected DeWitt County Judge and served 3 terms (12 years) in that office, retiring on completion of his third term at the end of 1986 to devote his time to his cattle operation. Following his retirement, Robert was honored by the 70th Texas Legislature by a House Resolution commending him on his exemplary career of public service.

by Rosemary Sheppard

SHIMER, DR. WILLIAM H. FAMILY

F850

The first Shimer landed in Pennsylvania early in 1710, starting the long history of Shimers in the United States. Others followed as members of William Penn's colony in the 1750's, migrating from Austria via Germany and Belgium. Members of the family served under General George Washington during the American Revolution.

Dr. W.H. Shimer

Jennie (Schaeffer) Shimer

William Henry Shimer was born on May 8, 1861 in Shimerville, Pa., the son of James Oliver and Elmora Dubs Shimer. He was the youngest child with one older brother and three older sisters. Dr. Shimer graduated from medical school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and chose an Army career. Poor health altered his plans, forcing him to resign from the Army and search for a more favorable climate in the South. This move brought him to Victoria, Texas where he eventually met C.L. Schaefer, an early resident of the Meyersville community who was seeking medical assistance for his son, R.V. Schaefer. So successful was Dr. Shimer's treatment of the patient that Mr. Schaefer urged the young doctor to move to Meyersville where a doctor sore sorely needed.

When his health improved, Dr. Shimer began practicing in the Meyersville area while living in the Isaac Egg, Sr. home. He ate meals across the road at Hausman's. They served meals and provided rooms to traveling salesmen. He made many visits to the Schaefer home, eventually marrying their daughter, Johanna (Jennie), on May 12, 1891 in Meyersville.

Johanna, born October 11, 1859, was the oldest of 14 children of Charles L. and Amalia Wurtz Schaefer. Her brothers and sisters were Amalia (Hartman), C.A. (Charlie), Sophie (Hartman), Fritz, Augusta (Schorlemer), Louise (Lulu Trautwein), Emma, Bertha (Betty Egg), Emmie (Beyerstedt), George, Mamie (Lang), Willie, and Richard, the young boy that Dr. Shimer was asked to treat.

At the beginning of his practice, Dr. Shimer traveled to his patients on horseback. After acquiring a horse and buggy with a driver, Chester Franklin, he was able to sleep between calls, allowing some relief from his long hours, day and night. A room in his home served for operations.

In 1900 a serious epidemic of red measles struck the Meyersville community, and Dr. Shimer was forced to unending work. Because his own family had not had the red measles, he changed his clothes at the barn and soaked them in tubs of disinfectant solution. After the strain of the epidemic, he began losing his eyesight. Dr. Shimer returned East for medical treatment, but the best of medical care could not restore his vision. For seven years, he continued practicing medicine in total blindness, delivering scores of youngsters that he never saw, including his own youngest daughter, Johanna (nicknamed Billy). In 1908 failing health finally forced Dr. Shimer to retire. Touch was the only form of communication he had left by the time of his death, March 6, 1913.

After the misfortune of having three stillborn daughters, W.H. and Jennie had 3 daugh-

Dr. William H. Shimer home – L-R: Annie, Dr. Shimer, Jennie Shimer, Billy, Mary, and Chester Franklin

Billy, Annie and Mary Shimer

ters who lived to maturity. Annie, born Sept. 1, 1896, attended school and church in Meyersville and remained at home with her mother after her father's death. The family home burned to the ground in 1922. They lived in the replacement home until Jennie's death, April 8, 1928, and Annie continued to live in the home for many years. She married William Schellpeppe in 1936 and helped care for his two motherless children, Carl and Emily Ann. Annie spent her last 18 years in a Cuero nursing home and died January 14, 1988.

Mary Katherine Shimer, born June 30, 1898, was baptized and confirmed in the historic old stone St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. She attended schools in Meyersville and Cuero and studied education at Southwest Texas State Normal in San Marcos. By the age of 17, she was teaching school in Arneckeville and later in Cuero. After her marriage to Walter Charles Koenig on Nov. 24, 1920, Mary taught in the Green DeWitt school. They had four children, William Louis, who died at birth, September 16, 1923, Louis John, born October 6, 1924, Katherine Marie, born August 10, 1929, and Billie Waldyn, born November 27, 1937.

Johanna ("Billy Boy"), born October 27, 1900 spent the early years of her life as companion to her blind father, Dr. Shimer. She attended Meyersville and Cuero High School and the University of Texas in Austin. She taught school in Yorktown and Cuero before her marriage to William Otto Dreier on May 23, 1925, continuing to teach then at New County Line. Having no children of their own, Aunt "Bea" and Uncle Bill lavished their love and affection on their lucky nieces and nephews who enjoyed many memorable times with them.

Later Billy began teaching private piano and organ students and endeared herself to a generation of church organists, choral directors, composers, band directors, and professional musicians who began their early musical training under her loving tutelage. Although suffering with terminal cancer, she continued to teach and prepare her students for their year-end recital which was held, at her insistence, as she lay dying. Her courage and fortitude were an inspiration to all who knew and loved her. Billy Shimer Dreier died June 27, 1968 and was followed in death by her husband, Bill, on March 8, 1974. They are both buried in the Meyersville Lutheran Cemetery.

by Louis J. Koenig

SHOWS (SCHAUSS) FAMILY

F851

The Lutheran Church had many records in Germany, hence most of the early information regarding the Schauss family came. The Schauss, as far as we know, originated in the area of Albisheim, Germany, which is now part of Rhineland Palatinate. From 1974 to 1816 Albisheim belonged to France and from 1816 to 1946 it belonged to Bavaria.

Tobias and Elnor Shows

Adam Schauss was born in Albisheim in the year 1704 and died in Surry Co. North Carolina in 1770. He was the son of Johann Schauss and Anna Engle Conrad. Adam was a member of the Lutheran Church in Albisheim. His trade was a millwright, miller, and inn keeper. Adam arrived in Philadelphia in the year 1736, aboard the ship Harley, Ralph Harley master from Rotterdam. Adam married Maria Barbara Baum on Jan. 16, 1725. They had four children born in Albisheim. Maria Magdalena born 1726, Phillip born in 1728, Friedrich born 1727, Anna Maria born 1731. After arriving in America Conrad was born in 1740, Anna Margaret 1742, Heinrich in 1741, Benigna in 1742, Gottlieb in 1744, and Christian in 1748, all born in Pennsylvania. Adam moved from Pennsylvania to Rowan Co. North Carolina in the 1760's, and died at his son's house in 1770. He was buried in Easton Pa. At the time of death Adam was known as Adam Shouse, one of several ways the name Schauss was spelled. The others being Shous and Shows.

Johann Schauss was born in the Moselle River Valley of Germany. We have no proof of this, but Walter Shows in his book, The History of John Shows, says he was. We know in the year 1779 he was a private from Virginia in the Revolutionary War. John shows married Nancy Robertson in the year 1787 at Pocataligo S.C. John moved to Columbia Co. Georgia in 1790, and in 1808 moved to Twiggs Co. Georgia. John was given 287 acres of land as a result of the war. John and Nancy had eight children. Adam born 1788, John Jr. born 1791, Cornelius born 1795, Mary born 1798, Sarah born 1801, Hannah born 1803, Daniel born 1805. In 1818 John moved his entire family to Covington Co. Mississippi, changed later to Jones Co. Miss. He owned a total of 1000 acres of land in Jones Co. John was a farmer his entire life, and raised mostly cotton. He died in 1842 and is buried in Shows cemetery in Jones Co. Miss.

John Shows Jr. was born in Georgia and moved to Mississippi with his father in 1818. In the late 1850's he moved to Jackson Parish La. He died shortly after that. He was a farmer all his life. His children were William born 1818, Nancy born 1821, Adam born 1823, Elizabeth born 1828, Thomas born 1829, Vicki born 1832, Elenor born 1834, John born 1838, Vashita born 1841.

Adam Shows was born in Covington Co. Miss in 1823. He moved to Jackson Parish La. with his father John Shows Jr. He married Nancy Grandberry, daughter of Amos Grandbury. Children were Margret Edna, born 1849, Sarah born 1850, William Jackson born 1852, Nancy Malone born 1853, Adam Jasper born 1856, John Ryan born 1858, Amos Grandberry born 1861, Elizabeth born 1864. Adam's wife Nancy died in 1867 and is buried in Hebron Cemetery, DeWitt Co., Texas. She is said to be the first person buried there. There is a Texas Historical marker at the foot of her grave. In 1869 Adam married Christene Cleveland, in Clinton, Texas former DeWitt Co. seat. Children were T.T. Shows, born 1871, James Madison born 1873, Laura A. born 1875, Harriet M. born 1878. Adam lived in DeWitt Co. until his death in 1890. Adam settled on Hog Branch, now known as Bear Creek, amid oak trees. It is said that timber was available and grass was waist high. Adam was hired to build a church, and was called Hebron. It is the oldest Baptist

Church in DeWitt Co. Adam was a farmer and stock raiser his entire life and raised mostly cotton. He operated a cotton gin which he moved from Louisiana. He was an active member of the Baptist Church. His son Tobias was the only son who spent his life in this community. Others moved to Cuero, Edna and Beeville. Adam is buried in Hebron Cemetery beside his first wife Nancy. It is a honor to put flowers on his grave on Decoration Day, the first Sunday in May.

Many thanks to my brothers Floyd, Donald and Roger for their many hours of searching for information concerning the Shows (Schauss) family. My name is Boyd Shows and I live in DeWitt Co.

by Grady B. Shows

SHOWS, ADAM JASPER AND MARY ELLA FARRAR

F852

Mary Ella (Farrar) (1860-1930) and Adam Jasper Shows (1856-1939)

Adam Jasper Shows, son of Adam Shows and Nancy Granberry, was born Jan. 16, 1856 in Jackson Parish, Louisiana; died June 13, 1939; buried in Beeville, Texas. He came to DeWitt County about 1860 with his parents. His parents were both born in Mississippi and both were buried in Hebron Cemetery in east DeWitt County. Adam Jasper married 1st. Mary Ella Farrar June 21, 1877, in Lavaca Co., Texas. Mary Ella was born Nov. 8, 1860 in Lavaca County; died Jan. 17, 1930; buried in Beeville, Texas. She was the daughter of Elias Sweet Farrar and Candace Case Bailey who were married Apr. 6, 1841 in Jefferson County, Indiana.

After Mary Ella died, Adam Jasper Shows married 2nd. Irene Walker Gorman Oct. 20, 1932. Irene died about 1964. Irene was the mother of Adam Jasper's youngest son's wife.

Children of Adam Jasper Shows and Mary Ella Farrar were all born in Lavaca County, Texas:

1. Annie Adella (Della) Shows; born Sept. 1, 1880; died Aug. 1, 1951; buried in Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas. She married Joel Adolph Mixon Nov. 16, 1902. Joel was born Sept. 25, 1879, in Louisiana; died Nov. 13, 1956; and buried in Pawnee, Texas. They had six children, Pearl Mae, Iva Lucille (Mixon) Williams, Ruby Cora (Mixon) West, Freeman Adolph, Ruth Ella (Mixon) Sappington and Martin Mixon.

This family lived in Goliad and Bee County and probably lived in DeWitt County at one time.

2. William Elias (Eli) Shows; born May 27, 1883; died Nov. 8, 1961; buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, south of Elsa, Hidalgo Co., Texas. He married Margaret Cordelia (Delia) Dial March 20, 1904 in Texas. Margaret was born May 13, 1883, in Lavaca Co.; died Oct. 30, 1976; buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Hidalgo County, Texas. They had seven children: Jasper Ewell, Albert Marvin, Mary Effie (Shows) Rabe, Byron Franklin and Warren, (twins), Sarah Nettie (Shows) Harper. Nettie's husband Charles Edward Harper went to school at Cabeza, DeWitt County, and Della Vernell (Shows) Brown.

3. Margaret Louemma (called Margie Lou) Shows; born Feb. 6, 1886 in Hope, Lavaca County; died Oct. 17, 1971; buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Beeville, Texas. She married James Solly Thomas Apr. 21, 1907 in Berclair, Goliad County, Texas. James Solly was born Apr. 7, 1881 at Terryville, east DeWitt County; died Apr. 23, 1963; buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Beeville, Texas. He was the son of Ferdinand G. Thomas and Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett. They had seven children: Gladys Naomi (Thomas) Hatcher, Thelma Ozelle (Thomas) Fridge, Jewelle Geneva (Thomas) Brown, Mildred Mary (Thomas) Algea, Wayne Solly Thomas, Adele Lou (Thomas) Steapp and Virginia Ella (Thomas) Allen.

4. Albert Perry Shows; born Jan. 2, 1889; died July 10, 1901.

5. Amos Lafayette Shows; born Feb. 19, 1892; died Oct. 6, 1983; buried in Beeville, Texas. He married Alma Irene Arnold Feb. 25, 1917. Alma was born Oct. 22, 1890 in Travis Co., Texas; died May 2, 1973; buried in Beeville, Texas. They had two children: Lewis D. and Margie Irene Shows. This family lived in Goliad and Bee County; moved to Donna, Hidalgo Co., Texas about 1922; they moved back to Bee County about 1967.

6. Barney Ernest Shows, born Jan. 7, 1895; died Feb. 27, 1986; buried in Beeville, Texas. He married Martha Gorman May 14, 1916. Martha was born Aug. 24, 1897; died Jan. 6, 1989 in Bellville, Austin County, Texas; buried in Beeville, Texas. They had four children: Lela Delia Shows, Lucille Mae (Shows) Range, Ernest Jasper and Willye Fay (Shows) Hatch.

by Wayne Solly Thomas

SHOWS, ELLEN CHRISTIAN SMITH

F853

"A Mother of Ten"

Ellen Christina Smith was born to Edward Vincent Smith and Mary Frances Tucker on January 23, 1903 in Senate Community, Jack County, Texas. She had one sister, Roxey, and three brothers, William Claude, John Barney and Edward Vincent, named after his father. It is of interest to note that Ellen Christina's mother, brother William Claude, and brother John Barney all died within two years of each other. Her brother Edward Vincent died as a young child, her father died in 1940 and it is not known when her sister Roxey died.

The Smith and Tucker families from which Ellen Christina Smith descended were Catholic. It appears they were closeknit and resided through the years in the same parts of the country. They came to DeWitt County from Perry County, Missouri. Prior to this they had lived in Maryland and Kentucky. Both families were originally from Ireland and much is written about the history of these two families as well as many other DeWitt County families in *Maryland Catholics on the Frontier* by Timothy J. O'Rourke.

Edward Vincent Smith, Ellen Christina's father, was the son of William Smith and Mary Elizabeth Tucker, the grandson of John Smith and Ann Tucker, and the great-grandson of Bernard Smith and Ann Drury, all of whom were from Perry County, Missouri. Edward Vincent's father, William, fought in the Union Army during the Civil War although many of his relatives fought for the Confederacy.

Mary Frances Tucker, Ellen Christina's mother, was the daughter of Michael Tucker and Mary Elizabeth Anderson. Ellen Christina's maternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth, was Michael's first wife. She was the daughter of John Ransom Anderson, Sr. and Eleanor Shows. Eleanor Shows was the daughter of John Shows, Junior, also known as Jackson, and the granddaughter of John Shows, Senior of Jones County, Mississippi. She was the sister of Adam and John Shows of DeWitt County.

Eleanor's first husband was John Ransom Anderson, Sr. Their children were Mary Elizabeth and Sarah (both of whom married Michael Tucker), and John Ransom Anderson, Jr. who was born in 1861 and married Martha Ann Ryan, the daughter of Henry Ryan (Henry was the brother of Joseph Ryan of Lavaca County. Joseph was born in Ohio in 1823). John Ransom Anderson Jr. resided in Live Oak County, Texas and was the father of Archie Edward Anderson, Sr. and grandfather of Archie Edward Anderson, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas. John Ransom Anderson, Sr. died in the Civil War and after his death Eleanor married Joseph Ryan of Lavaca County.

Michael Tucker, Ellen Christina's maternal grandfather, was the son of John W. Tucker, and Christina Hagann, the grandson of William Tucker and Sarah Ann Hayden, and the great-grandson of Joseph Tucker and Frances Drury. One of his sisters, Sarah Agnes, married John Dunn of Yoakum, and another, Mary Ann, married Patrick May. The second wife of Michael Tucker was Sarah Anderson. His children were Ellen Christina, Mary Frances, Anthony, Lizzie, Boss, Jeff, Ollie, Agnes, and Ola. We are not sure which of these were Mary Frances' half brothers and sisters. Michael died on May 17, 1921 and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Yoakum, Tex.

At what age Ellen Christina Smith came to DeWitt County is not known. It is probable that she was very young when she came because she was married to Grady Don Shows, August 25, 1920 at the age of 16, by the Reverend Peter J. Kieffer, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Yoakum. She and Grady raised a family of ten children, all of whom were born in DeWitt County or Lavaca County near the DeWitt County line, with the exception of their youngest child, Lawrence Edward who was born in Galveston County. Their children included, in order of birth, the following: Mildred Marie, Helen Christina, Grady Boyd, Dorothy Louise, Alta Fay, Floyd Irving, Raymond Lloyd, Donald Eugene, Roger Wayne and Lawrence Edward. Of these ten children all are still living, and currently reside in the Victoria-Yoakum, and Galveston-

Houston areas.

Ellen Christina was a homemaker all the years of her life and Grady worked for the Railroad until the depression at which time he lost his job. He then worked at various jobs and farmed on the side until about 1943 when he went to Galveston to work as a pipefitter at Todd Shipyard. After getting established in Galveston he moved Ellen Christina and the children to Galveston where they remained until his retirement in 1964. They were in the process of moving back to Yoakum when she died of a heart attack, April 18, 1964. Grady completed the move and remained in Yoakum until his health necessitated his moving to Galveston again to live with his daughter Fay, and her husband E.M. Allison. He died of cancer in 1981. Both Ellen Christina and Grady Don are buried in Hebron Cemetery in DeWitt County.

In Honor of Our Loving Mother, on behalf of all her children.

by Floyd Irving Shows of Houston, Texas

SMITH, JAMES NORMAN

F854

In his handwritten, four-volume *Personal Memoirs,* written in 1860, James Norman Smith presents a vivid picture of his day. He wrote not only of his family, but also about the people he knew. All come to life as he traces the journey that led him to DeWitt County. His memories, beginning in early childhood, were still as sharp and clear as the day they happened.

The fascinating life of James Norman Smith began in Richmond County, North Carolina, in 1789. This story of his heritage goes back much further:

His father James Turner Smith volunteered at seventeen to fight in the Revolutionary War. He was critically wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina and lay neglected for hours with his thigh completely shattered. Finally he was moved to a log home near the battlefield, where doctors planned to cut the leg off. But Smith would not consent to the amputation.

As word of the bloody battle spread to Maryland, his grandmother Kerenhappuch Norman Turner, 90, rode all the way on horseback to be with him, where she nursed him and others back to health. She bored holes in large tubs mounted to the rafters above him. The tubs were kept full of cool water and allowed to drip, continuously cleansing his wound. Today there is a monument at Guilford Battleground to the memory of Kerenhappuch Turner's spirit and courage.

It was a year before he could be moved, but James Turner Smith recovered and married Constantia Ann Ford. Of their five children, only James Norman and his twin Charles Allison survived to adulthood.

James Norman's account of his childhood in North Carolina provides a graphic picture of everyday life — the work, the songs, the poems, the games, the pranks, and even the tragedies. As a teenager Smith accompanied his father on a horseback trip into Kentucky and Tennessee. Soon after, the family moved to "The Cumberland." On the Tennessee frontier Smith began his lifelong career: teaching. One of his first pupils — James K. Polk — would grow up to be President, and their association would last until Smith's death.

James Norman Smith

Smith met and married Sarah Jenkins of Maury County, Tennessee. Through his wife's example Smith became a devout Christian, and he settled into earning a living and raising three children. The death of Sarah in 1820 left Smith devastated. In 1825, he married his cousin Elizabeth Hungerford Moorehead, who remained his faithful companion until her death in 1857. Together they had eight children, five of whom lived long, productive lives.

When the recession of the late 1830's hit Tennessee, Smith made the same decision as many other residents of the area: They headed for Texas. After an eventful trip down the Mississippi and across the gulf, they arrived at Matagorda. Smith found work immediately, only to be caught in the Great Comanche Raid of 1840. At age 51, James Norman Smith fought in his first battle at Plum Creek.

Later Smith brought his family back to the Guadalupe River Valley. In 1846, when DeWitt County was created, he was elected the first county clerk. He surveyed the original DeWitt County lines, using "the old stock lock compass" his father had made for him when he was a boy. His memoirs include a detailed description of the instrument, how it was made, and how it worked.

In his narrative style Smith provides insightful view of the county's earliest politics, as its citizens debated where to locate the county seat and struggled to establish organized religion.

James Norman Smith, affectionately known as "Uncle Jimmy," was loved and respected in DeWitt County until his death in 1875. He is buried beside his wife Elizabeth in Clinton Cemetery.

by Cynthia Salm

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SMITH, JOHN LEWIS "BLACK JOHN" (III) AND AMERICA MACK TENNELL

F855

America McTennell

John Lewis Smith, Jr. was born 16 June 1796 in England and came to Virginia in 1802 with his parents and brothers and sisters. On 1 June 1820 in Wythe County, Virginia, John, Jr. married Hester Anne Warren (born 13 April 1796, Franklin Co., Virginia). Their first child, John Lewis Smith (III), was born on 28 July 1824 in Wythe Co., VA, shortly before the family moved to Tompkinsville, Monroe County, Kentucky. About 1835 John, Jr. moved his family to Dallas Co., Alabama and by December 1838, they had arrived at Mina, Bastrop Co., Republic of Texas.

On Sunday 11 September 1842, in a dense fog, General Woll and the Mexican Army invaded San Antonio, Bexar Co., and took 52 men as prisoners including John L. Smith (III). These men were cruelly marched away from their homes and loved ones to the greatly hated Perote Castle Prison near Mexico City and were joined there by the remaining Texan survivors of Dawson's Massacre and the Mier Expedition. John (III) and the other Bexar prisoners were finally released from Perote Prison and allowed to return to Texas on 23 March 1844 due to the efforts of General Waddy Thompson, US Minister to Mexico.

On 16 August 1844, John (III) received a single man's land grant of 320 acres and he transferred the unconditional certificate (Milam-3-184) to John Litten on 10 July 1845. Hostilities between the Republic of Texas and Mexico continued and on 1 October 1845, John (III) enlisted in Capt. David Cady's Company of Texas Mounted Rangers in Austin. He served two enlistments during the Mexican War and was mustered out on 4 July 1846 at San Antonio, Texas.

America Mack Tennell, daughter of Sampson Mack Tennell and his wife, Rebecca Ware (widow of Alton Ingram), was born in White Co., Illinois on 19 November 1826 and she came to Texas with her parents in March, 1833, when she was seven years old. Sampson settled his land grant of one league and one labor in Goliad Co. During the Texas struggle for independence from Mexico, Sampson MC Tennell proudly served in the Texas Army under the command of Col. Fannin. However he and a group of soldiers were on assignment to move the women and children of the area to safety as the Mexican Army approached Goliad from the south and therefore missed the battle and massacre in March, 1836. After the revolution, Sampson settled near Clinton, DeWitt Co. (and later moved to Leavenworth Co., Kansas). It was while the MC Tennell family lived at Clinton that America fell in love with the six foot tall, black haired, brown eyed, and handsome John Lewis "Black John" Smith (III). They were married in Bastrop Co., Texas by Rev. William Laramore on 20 March 1849. There were six children born to this union: Susanna America "Sadie" (1850), Charley Poger (1852), John Beverly (1855), Martha Jane "Mattie" (1857), Joanna "Sally" (1860), and Alexander Edward (1862).

An affidavit of settlement was filed by John (III) on 1 April 1853 and a preemption certificate (Milam-3-1205) was issued on 22 Oct. 1856 as John (III) and America had resided on the land in Bastrop Co. for three years. They transferred this 320 acres to James Davis on 23 Nov. 1856 and they moved to Goliad Co. where John (III) was a saddler, as well as a rancher and cattleman. In 1872, the family moved to Karnes Co. where John (III) had a saddle shop at Helena but moved to Bee Co. about a year later. John and America settled next at Lagarto, Live Oak Co., Texas. While at Lagarto, America patented an eye medication which she called "Old Texan Ointment" and several other medications which she used in her herbal medicine practice. Many women were forever blessed by her preparations to ease the pain of childbirth. She delivered babies of any woman regardless of race or color and treated each patient with dignity. Her "mad stone" was widely used to treat the bites of animals who possibly had rabies and its use was said to be 100% effective (at the time there was not a treatment to prevent the onset of rabies once someone was bitten by an animal with rabies).

After John Lewis Smith (III)'s death on 2 Jan. 1881 and burial at Lagarto, America continued to operate their hotel and other interests there for some time. She moved back to Bee Co. and then to Kenedy, Karnes Co. in the 1890's where she lived on a widow's pension from John's service during the Mexican War. She died on 4 Aug. 1911 in Kenedy and was buried the following day on the hill in Kenedy Cemetery, Karnes County, Texas. Her grandson, Warren W. Downing (whom she had raised after his mother, Sally, died) had a beautiful monument placed to mark her final resting place.

by Marianne E.H. Little

SOEHNGE FAMILY

F856

E. Charles Soehnge was born August 26, 1938 in Cuero, Texas. His parents were Ernest Karl Soehnge and Corrine Rabke Soehnge. Charles' father emigrated from Germany in 1910 at the age of five. The family settled in Mathis, Texas. Charles' mother was a descendant of the Rabkes and Schorlemmers, early DeWitt County settlers.

Charles lived in Mathis with his parents and older sister Joyce. Their father was a welder. He was killed in a welding accident in 1946.

Corrine Soehnge moved to Cuero with her family in 1948. They lived in Cuero until 1952 when Charles' mother married S.A. Parker of Yoakum.

Charles entered Yoakum High School as a freshman in 1952. He graduated in 1956 and went to college at Arlington State College and Southwest Texas State. He received his degree in business in 1959.

I was born December 14, 1938 in Yoakum, Texas to James Lee and Olga Kaspar Fawcett. My parents named me Judith Elaine. My father was a Yoakum native and my mother was from Shiner.

I attended school in Yoakum and graduated from Yoakum High School in 1956. After graduation I went to Texas Christian University for one year. I then attended Southwest Texas State. I received a degree in education in 1959.

Charles and I were married on August 23, 1958. We lived in San Marcos, Texas for one year. After graduation we moved to Yoakum where Charles worked with my father at J. Lee Fawcett Lumber Company.

Our first child, Charles Lee, was born November 15, 1959. In January of 1960, I went to work as a teacher in the Yoakum Public Schools. Charles Lee was joined by brother David on January 9, 1965 and sister Christie on February 16, 1970. After Christie's birth, I quit teaching to be a full-time mother.

Charles and I took over the ownership of J. Lee Fawcett Lumber Co. in 1968 after the death of my father. In the summer of 1985 we completed a remodeling project and renamed the store Soehnge Do-it Center.

Charles is a member and past president of the Yoakum Rotary Club. He has served as a Yoakum School Board member, a member of the museum board and the Texas Sesquicentennial Committee.

I am doing substitute teaching at the Yoakum schools and work part-time at our business. I also served on the Texas Sesquicentennial Committee and worked on the Yoakum History Book. I currently design and make hooked rugs and teach classes in primitive rug hooking.

We are members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Charles is a councilman and we both sing in the choir.

Our family was increased in 1982 when our oldest son Charles Lee married Karen Franz on August 14. On June 17, 1985 they welcomed their son Eric Lee into their home. Karli Ann Soehnge was born October 2, 1987. Charles Lee is currently working with his father at the lumber company and Karen is teaching in the Yoakum Independent Schools.

Our second son, David, received his degree from Southwest Texas State University in December 1987. He married Tomi Peck on June 19, 1988. They are expecting their first child in October 1989. David is also working in our business and Tomi in teaching in the Yoakum schools.

Our daughter Christie Lynn graduated from Yoakum High School in 1987. She is presently attending Southwest Texas State University as a sophomore.

Our family has been in the Yoakum area for many years. We feel fortunate that we have

been able to raise our family in such a great community.

by Judy Fawcett Soehnge

SOUTHERN, CDR. WILSON E.

F857

Wilson Edwin Southern was born on a dairy farm in San Patricio County, Texas on Sept. 30, 1934 to Woodrow Wilson (Pete) and Gladys McKinney Southern. He has one sister, JoNell Southern (Smylie) and one brother, Wilburn Lesley Southern. He attended school in Taft, moving to Cuero in 1944. He graduated with honors from Cuero High School in 1953, excelling in football and track. Awarded a Naval ROTC scholarship, he attended the University of Texas, Austin, graduating in 1957 with a B.S. in Chemistry, and was commissioned as Ensign, USN, on June 1, 1957. Ens. Southern reported for duty aboard *USS Carpenter* (DDE 825), home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. While attending a training school in San Francisco, he returned to Cuero to marry his high school sweetheart, Billie Waldyn Koenig, on Dec. 29, 1957 in St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Billie Waldyn Koenig (Southern), daughter of Walter C. and Mary Shimer Koenig, was born Nov. 27, 1937 in Cuero. She has one sister, Katherine Marie Koenig (Goebel) and one brother, Louis John Koenig. Billie attended Green DeWitt school, riding horseback through the pastures, then St. Michael's Catholic School, and graduated from Cuero High School as Salutatorian in 1954. She graduated with honors from the University of Texas, Austin, with a B.S. in Music Education, Voice. Stepping onto the plane for Hawaii in January, 1958, Billie embarked on a lifetime adventure of new experiences. While Ed spent many months at sea aboard ship, Billie began a career as church organist and choir director in Navy chapels throughout the United States.

Subsequent duty assignments took them to San Francisco Naval Shipyard, *USS Columbus* (CG 12) at Bremerton, Wash. and San Diego, two years at USN Postgraduate School in Monterey with a Mechanical Engineering degree for Ed, *USS Galveston* (CLG 3) at San Diego, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, then Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair, Long Beach, and across country to CINCLANTFLT staff, Norfolk, Virginia. CDR. Southern retired December 31, 1978 after 22 years of active service.

Wherever Ed and Billie lived, she managed to become involved in musical activities: as an accompanist, teaching private piano lessons, conducting church and school choirs, as a church organist, singing in choirs, and performing as soloist in churches, recitals, and concerts.

During those 22 years of Navy life, there were 10 children born, and life was quite an adventure, traveling around the United States with such a large family! The children are:

1) Catherine Mary (Burkhardt), born Sept. 26, 1958 in the Territory of Hawaii, attending Long Beach State University, married Oct. 13, 1987 to Thomas Burkhardt of Pforzheim, Germany.

2) Edward Paul, born Jan. 30, 1960 in the newly formed State of Hawaii, graduated from Texas A&M with B.A. in Chemistry, 1983, M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, in 1988, postdoctoral research at Yale University, married Karen Luzum on Dec. 29, 1989 in Benson, Minnesota.

3) Thomas Robert, born February 17, 1961 in San Francisco, A.A. degree, Saddleback College in California, married Patricia Lightfoot of Buenos Aires, Argentina on Dec. 17, 1983 in Long Beach, California.

4) Joseph Peter, born March 29, 1962 in San Francisco, attended University of California, Irvine, and Long Beach State University, married Evelyn Corral May 28, 1983 in Long Beach. They have two daughters, Elizabeth Celine, born October 28, 1983, and Kristina Marie, born November 8, 1988.

5) Susan Margaret (Cauley), born Sept. 14, 1963 in Bremerton, Washington, graduated with highest honors from Long Beach State University with B.S. in Dietetics and Food Administration, 1986, married David Cauley on July 12, 1986 in Long Beach, M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, in 1990.

6) Patricia Anne (Vierra), born June 1, 1965 in Monterey, California, graduated from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, in 1987 with B.S. in Early Childhood Development, married Kurt Vierra on January 27, 1990 in Long Beach, California.

7) William John, born November 18, 1966 in Chula Vista, California, attended Long Beach City College, enlisted in USAF in 1985, married Dawn Sasse of Long Beach, Calif. on May 31, 1989 in Mountain Home, Idaho.

8) David Matthew, born Sept. 4, 1968 in Long Beach, Calif., graduated with high honors from St. Anthony High School, 1986, California Interscholastic Federation All-City Track Award, Most Valuable Player, Team Captain Award, Most Inspirational Award, attended Loyola Marymount University and Long Beach State University majoring in Electrical Engineering, died in a tragic accident on Mother's Day, May 8, 1988, in Long Beach, and buried in All Souls Cemetery, Long Beach, California.

9) Timothy Charles, born November 16, 1970 in Long Beach, California, graduated from Wilson High School, Long Beach, in 1988.

10) Theresa Kathleen, born August 11, 1972 in Long Beach, California, attended St. Anthony High School, Long Beach, and graduated from Cuero High School in 1990.

Upon retirement from the Navy, the family returned from Virginia Beach, Va. to Long Beach, Calif. where Ed was employed by Todd Shipyards, Inc. in ship construction. In 1988, Ed, Billie, and Theresa moved to Cuero where Ed is active in ranching, building a herd of registered Red Brangus cattle. Billie remains involved in church music and performing in Texas and California.

by Billie K. Southern

W.E. Southern family: Back – Theresa, Edward, Catherine, Joseph, Patricia, Middle: Thomas, David, Billie, Ed. Front: William, Susan, Timothy.

SPELLMANN, FRANZ HEINRICH

F858

Franz Heinrich Spellmann was born in Backhorst, Westphalian Germany, on October 28, 1822. On September 15, 1850, he married Anna Margarethe Elizabeth Michel. A few weeks later they sailed from Bremerhaven, Germany, for Indianola, Texas. Their only luggage was a huge homemade chest, a trunk, and a feather bed. With other colonists they settled in New Braunfels, but after a year Anna's homesickness was unbearable and they started their journey back to the homeland. When they reached Victoria, however, Franz was seized with a sudden illness. By the time he was able to travel, Anna had found a new confidence, new friends, and a growing interest in her new life and surroundings. The journey home was postponed indefinitely.

By 1862 seven children had been born, but a tragic series of deaths took five of the children. Only Ernst Christian and Ernstine Christine

survived.

Franz was advised by his doctor to avoid heavy manual labor and to stay outdoors as much as possible, so he found employment as a shepherd with the Kleberg family at Meyersville in DeWitt County. Four more children were born there.

Outdoor life as a shepherd improved Franz's health, so in 1871, Franz decided to go out on his own. He filed on a homestead grant at the head of Clear Creek about ten miles north of Yorktown, and here he remained.

Franz always felt that he had been spared death in Victoria for a purpose. In his middle fifties, with the hard years behind him, his question was still, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?" In his search for an answer he made application to the American Tract Society for work as a colporteur and was accepted. So it was that he spent the remainder of his life using his knowledge of the bible, his sincerity, and his desire for the salvation of people, to place a bible or other religious literature in every "foreign" home in the Guadalupe Valley.

Franz Heinrich Spellmann died March 5, 1901, and his wife, Anna, died June 8, 1905. They are buried in the Spellman Cemetery near Noapal, Texas.

Ernst Christian Spellmann, third child and first son of Franz and Anna, married Sarah Jones Caroline Glimp who was born in DeWitt County but had moved to Burnet County. After the wedding in Burnet, June 30, 1878, they settled at Clear Creek, DeWitt County and moved to Gonzales County in 1896.

Ernest Christian Spellmann, Jr., third child and second son of Ernst and Caroline, was born January 9, 1883, in the Clear Creek community. He married Nora Lee Smith of Gonzales County October 9, 1909, and they made Gonzales County their permanent home.

Tommie Lee Spellmann, sixth child and fourth daughter of Ernest Christian Jr. and Nora, was born in Gonzales County, August 6, 1922, and married Joe Edward Nuinez on April 24, 1942.

The Nuinez family and the Spellmann family were neighbors on the headwaters of Clear Creek for many years before the turn of the century.

by Tommie Spellmann Nuinez

SPENCER, WILLIAM ADDISON AND CAROLINE HEPZIBETH TAYLOR

F859

He was tall, stately and calmly assertive – she, tiny, outspoken and spunky; they were William Addison Spencer and Caroline Hepzibeth Taylor.

Born in Tennessee September 7, 1840 W.A. Spencer moved to Texas with his parents and siblings around 1845 – the exact date of their arrival has not yet been determined nor has the name of his mother. His father's name was Elijah and the 1850 Texas census indicates W.A. Spencer as being nine years old and a younger brother, Theodore, age 5, born in Texas.

Elijah was already a land owner in 1852 when Lewis S. Owings and Judge Thomas

William Addison Spencer and Caroline Hepzibeth (Taylor) Spencer

Ruckman hired a land surveyor, Charley Russell, to lay out a new town site which would later be named Helena after Mrs. Helen (Swisher) Owings, Doc's wife. Mr. Charley Russell was employed by Elijah Spencer to survey an addition to his property on the northeast side. Miss Lucy Russell, sister of Charley Russell, said that they lived in a log cabin on the Elijah Spencer addition for a brief time. The Spencers home and farm was 1½ miles up the river from Helena.

Elijah's brother was named Carroll Spencer and upon Elijah's death in May, 1854, he was executor of his estate which was valued at $20,000, considered to be a large estate in those days and times. Carroll died shortly afterwards and Elijah's brother-in-law took over management and administration. His name was G.W. Brown; he was known as "Wash" Brown. He was County Clerk in 1858 and continued to hold the position until 1866 when W.A. Spencer assumed the office.

From all accounts, Helen was a rip-roaring town in it's heyday and when visiting it now, one can almost hear the hoofbeat of horses, the bustle of ladies long skirts and the rinckey dink of an old upright piano.

In 1866, W.A. married Caroline Hepzibeth Taylor, daughter of Creed Taylor and his first wife, Nancy Goodbread Taylor. These were perilous times in Texas and both told of Indian encounters.

W.A. Spencer, often called Will, volunteered for Frontier Ranger Service, joined the Federal Army and on February 10, 1861, enlisted in the Confederate Army. He participated in many battles and attained the rank of Major prior to his discharge on June 1, 1865. He is said to have achieved brilliant successes as a Confederate Soldier.

Caroline told of her fear, along with many Texans, of the Regulators and State Police activated following the Civil War. She always spoke lovingly of her brothers, Hays and Doboy, who died in the Civil War aftermath and the Taylor-Sutton Feud. My mother, Delvia Nell Spencer Tschirhart said that Grandma Spencer (as we lovingly referred to her) never spoke of her brother's deaths without tears in her eyes. Her father, Creed, later manifested his ongoing love and grief over the loss of his sons by naming a son from his second marriage after both of them – James Phillip Hays (Do-

James Josiah (Kince), Mineola (Northcutt) Spencer and Delvia Nell Spencer in buggy.

boy's real first name was Phillip). He would also request that a great grandson of Buck Taylor, his nephew killed in the feud, be named Doboy. Because of the fact that Creed had cared for Buck's wife and infant son after his death, his request was honored and the infant's legal name was Doboy . . . but was spelled Doeboy.

When Creed first brought the southern gentleman and Civil War comrade, Will, home to meet his pretty daughter, Caroline, she took him aside after dinner and said, "Daddy, that's the ugliest man I ever saw!". But love crept in and W.A. Spencer soon stepped into place as my great grandfather to be. They resided in the Taylor homestead on the Ecleto, which was deeded to them by Caroline's father following the death of her mother in 1867, when Creed moved to Kimble County, Noxville, Texas.

In 1878 they followed Creed to Kimble County and built a home on their ranch in Segovia. They later erected a home adjacent to the county courthouse in Junction, Texas.

W.A. Spencer was elected County Clerk in 1878 and served as same until 1884 when he became Sheriff. A new County jail was erected under his term as Sheriff and a Texas Historical Marker on the jail proudly attests to this fact. He was elected County Judge in 1890. His political service spanned almost thirty-five years in Kimble County in addition to his public service in Helena in Old Karnes County. He was a charter member of the Junction City Masonic Lodge and was very active in its functions. Known as one of the great peace officers of the era, he was widely respected for fair, but firm law application.

Caroline was loving and kind, always worrying over and wanting to help others. She called everyone "little darlin". Mother said she used to "scare everyone to death" during the night prowling around to be sure they were still breathing as they slept. Mother reflected that, like Creed she was fiesty and stubborn – all wrapped up in less than 100 pounds. She was said to have had the tiniest quilt stitch in the county.

Seven children were born to this marriage: Elfie, Minnie, Willie, Bessie, James Josiah (Kince), Bud who died as a young adult in a gun accident, and Lennie who died as a small child.

Retirement years found this special couple splitting their time between the homes of their son, James Josiah and his wife, Mineola Northcutt Spencer and their daughter, Bessie McDonough. Mother said she always knew the sound of their hack coming up that meant lots of hugs, late night talks of old times and some of Grandma Spencer's "Butter Rolls", a cobbler like dish.

Kimble County Historical Marker Commission is proceeding with my request that a Texas Historical Marker be placed in well-earned tribute to W.A. Spencer as one of the great peace officers. Robert I. Wilson said in the book, Landmarks of Kimble County, "He held almost every office in the county. He deserves an historical marker because he taught the pioneers how to administer a county government and his mark remains on us". It certainly does.

We are indebted to the "Caroline Hepzibeth Taylor Spencers" of the day who were inspirational apron-clad wives, mothers, and community assets during the most trying of times and circumstances.

Grandma Spencer was granted heavenly rest on October 14, 1920 and Grandpa Spencer on August 22, 1922. They are both buried in the Junction Cemetery. A monument for his service in the Confederate Army proudly graces his grave. He was buried with full Masonic honors.

by Dovie Dell Tschirhart Hall

SPIES, FAMILY

F860

Spies Family Crest

John C. Spies was born in Bermirshausen Kreis Willengenstein, Germany in 1804. He brought with him his wife, Elisa Spies. She was born in 1812 in Linden Kreis Willengenstein, Germany. The couple brought with them their two young sons, Theodore and Adolph. Theodore was 16 years of age and Adolph was 10 years old.

They came to the United States in 1855 and landed at Indianola, Texas. They settled in one of Yorktown's earliest homes. It was located on what is now Hoppe Street.

Theodore and Adolph attended school in Yorktown; and, at an early age dropped out of school to help their father with his teamstering business – hauling freight from Indianola to San Antonio.

After their mother's death in 1899, Theodore and Adolph bought their first land – "several thousand acres" in the Clear Creek area. Theodore and Adolph eventually settled in the Meyersville area where they had bought more land. They were among some of the largest land owners in DeWitt County. Thedore served in the Civil War. He was a part of the 32nd Regiment of the Texas Cavalry.

In 1868 Adolph married Mary Hartman who was born in Meyersville, Texas. To this union ten children were born. They were Hugo, Theodore, Elizabeth, Melanie, Lena, Adolph Jr., Sophie, Arthur, Mary and Caesar.

Theodore Spies married Lena Korth. Their children were Ekwald, Leona, and Olga.

Elizabeth Spies married Robert Brown, Sr. Their children were Robert Jr., Fred, Royal, Edwin, Elva, Ella Mae and Elizabeth.

Melanie Spies married Charles Cook. Their children were Raymond and Dorthy.

Lena Spies married Herman Soehnge. Their children were Herbert and Mary.

Adolph Spies married Pauline Soehnge. Their children were Velma, Walter, Ruth and Helen.

Sophie Spies married Edgar Wischkaemper, Sr. Their children were Eroline, Edgar Jr., Willis and Jewel.

Mary Spies married John Peterson. They had no children.

Hugo never married. Caesar died at the age of sixteen.

At the present time, we have a total of forty-seven who are in the seventh generation. However, we have only one young boy who can carry on the Spies name. He is thirteen year old Jason Spies who in the great grandson of the late Arthur Spies, grandson of the late Clifford Spies, and son of Gordon Spies.

by Mrs. Ruth Foegelle

SPINKS – BARTOSH

F861

Dianna (Spinks) Bartosh is the oldest living child of Herbert and Martha (Dees) Spinks. Her parents moved permanently to Cuero shortly before she was born on May 26, 1949, because they felt a small town was a better place to raise a family. She attended Park View School, John C. French, Oak View School, Cuero Elementary School (which has been torn down), Cuero Junior High School (the red brick building that had been a high school), and graduated from Cuero High School (the present campus) in May, 1967. She attended Victoria College for two years and then worked for Southwestern Bell for a short period before her marriage in 1969. After her marriage, she continued her education commuting from Cuero to Southwest Texas State University. She graduated from SWTSU in May, 1974. She then attended the University of Houston in Victoria, receiving her master's degree in May, 1978.

On December 13, 1969, Dianna married Michael Allan Bartosh from Victoria. They were married at Our Lady of Victory Church. Michael is the son of Allan J. Bartosh and Marie Stanzel Bartosh McAdoo of Victoria. He attended Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victory School, and graduated from Victoria High School in May, 1968. He attended Victoria College and later served in the Navy, being stationed on the *USS Detroit* for the longest period of time.

Michael (known now as Mike) and Dianna have one son, Michael Allan, Jr. who was born on September 18, 1977, in Cuero. Dianna teaches English for the Yoakum Independent Schools while Mike is a representative for Coca Cola of the Southwest. Dianna is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas.

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS – RUSCHHAUPT

F862

Linda Kay Spinks and Billy Ray Spinks, the middle children of Herbert Spinks and Martha Jane Dees Spinks, were born August 19, 1951 in Cuero, Texas. They attended Park View

School, John C. French, Cuero Elementary School, Cuero Junior High School and Cuero Senior High School where they graduated in 1969. Billy Ray died as the result of injuries received in an automobile accident July 25, 1969.

Linda Kay Spinks married Glenn Edward Ruschhaupt August 24, 1969 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas.

Glenn Edward Ruschhaupt was born the third child and only son of Edward William Ruschhaupt and Lucille Sofie Emma Goebel Ruschhaupt on May 26, 1946 in Cuero, Texas. The Ruschhaupts were, and are, residents of the Meyersville community. Glenn attended elementary school in Meyersville and graduated from Cuero Senior High School in 1964.

Glenn worked for Davis Plumbing Co. of Cuero from 1964 till December of 1967 when he went to work for Godbe Mechanical Contractors of Victoria, Texas. In 1968 Godbe sold to Anslinger-Gentry Mechanical Contractors of Corpus Christi, Texas and he continued to work for this firm as a plumbing foreman until May of 1970. From May of 1970 until August of 1971 Glenn worked as a pipefitter on industrial jobs in the Victoria and Houston area. He was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #790 in Victoria from 1968 till 1971. In August of 1971 he and Linda opened Ruschhaupt Plumbing Co. at 113 N. Esplanade where it is still located today.

Glenn and Linda have both been active in the community. Glenn served on the school board of Meyersville Independent School District (1980-86), has been a director of the Meyersville Country Club, is a member and past president of the Cuero Rotary Club, has been an active 4-H leader for eight years and vice president of the 4-H Boosters. He has been a member of Cuero Gun Club and DeWitt County Farm Bureau. He has served as deacon and Sunday school teacher at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Meyersville where he has been a member since birth. Linda has been a director of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce (1977-80), a director of the Cuero Turkeyfest Association (1977-88), and a member of the Pilot Club of Cuero, Inc. since 1973 where she has served as first vice-president, director and is presently recording secretary. She has been an active 4-H leader for seven years and currently serves as vice-president of district 14 Parent-Leaders Association. She and Glenn serve as co-organizational leaders of Meyersville 4-H. She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville.

Glenn and Linda have one child, a daughter, Candice LaRae Ruschhaupt born in Cuero, Texas on May 26, 1972. Candice attended school in Meyersville for grades one through eight where she was honor graduate in 1986. She attends Cuero High School where she is a senior and will graduate in 1990. Candice has been an active 4-Her. She presently serves as president of Meyersville 4-H, chairman of the DeWitt County 4-H council and parliamentarian of the District 14 4-H council. She was a member of the Cuero High School Band for two years, a member of Cuero FFA and a three year member of the Cuero National Honor Society. She is the founder and owner of Candyland Cattle Co., a small herd of registered Angus cattle. She plans to attend Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas. She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Glenn, Linda and Candice are also engaged in commercial farming and ranching in the Meyersville area where they have maintained a household for twenty years.

by Linda S. Ruschhaupt

SPINKS, CYRUS

F863

Cyrus Spinks was born on August 5, 1857, to John Spinks, who emigrated from Ireland, and his wife, Elizabeth. Cyrus's mother died when he was a young child, and he could remember being cared for by a former Negro slave known as "Uncle Aus." He could also remember that his father, at one time, raised sheep. The family settled in Clinton where John had a business.

On August 19, 1875, he married Annie (Antheria) Brooks, daughter of G.W. Brooks, in Clinton, Texas. Their wedding was witnessed by George J. Boston and Miss Susie Caruthers.

Cyrus and Annie were farmers and stock raisers. They lived in the Clinton area all of their lives, raising six children: Raphael Otho (born Sept. 18, 1879), Pearl (birthdate unknown), William (birthdate unknown), Earl (female, birthdate unknown), Grover (born Sept. 25, 1885), and Daisy Belmonte (born December 2, 1890).

Annie Spinks died on February 28, 1941. Cyrus lived a short time after. He died on August 28, 1941. Cyrus and Annie are both buried on the family plot at the Clinton Cemetery.

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS, HERBERT

F864

Herbert Spinks, the youngest son of Raphael and Mabel McMickens Spinks, was born on October 7, 1917, in Cuero, Texas. He spent his childhood in DeWitt County, attending schools in Clinton and in Cuero.

Times were hard during the Depression, and jobs were scarce. Herbert, along with his cousin Fletcher and Tommy Lucas, decided to get a job and see the world at the same time. On October 25, 1935, they joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (Tree Army). In anticipation of going to California, they journeyed to Schulenburg where they were inducted. They were promptly sent to a CCC camp at Kenedy, Texas, where they remained. At camp they terraced land and planted trees, but both Fletcher and Herbert preferred nightwatching duties. They traveled on alternate weekends to Cuero, either hitchhiking or riding on the Dinky, a railroad which ran between Cuero and Kenedy.

While at Kenedy, Herbert remembers having a case of the mumps. He was very ill and remained in the infirmary for thirteen days. He served under Barracks Leader J.W. Turnipseed, Lt. Frank Daughtery, and Capt. Simon. When Herbert was hired by Cage and Turner Construction Company (they were building a highway between Cuero and Concrete), he was discharged on April 6, 1936, to accept the employment.

On November 4, 1936, Herbert married Martha Jane Dees from Corpus Christi. They tried their hand at farming tomatoes, feed, and turkeys, but a late freeze in May, 1937, discouraged farming as a lifestyle. They moved to Corpus Christi where Herbert worked on a dairy, in Biel's Grocery Store, and finally as a painter.

On February 12, 1943, Herbert was inducted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Sam Houston. He received basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, and then was sent to North Carolina. From North Carolina he was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where he embarked for the European Theater of Operation on the *Empress of Russia.* He served at the 303rd Station Hospital in England for a time. After the invasion of Europe, he was attached to the 38th Field Hospital which moved through France and Belgium. He ended the war at the 91st General Hospital in Liege, Belgium. After the war in Europe was over, Herbert was sent to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, where he was discharged on February 19, 1945.

After World War II, Herbert and Martha lived in Cuero and in Corpus Christi, moving to Cuero permanently in early 1949. Their first child, Mary Lee, was born on December 17, 1947, but died the same day. On May 26, 1949, another child, Dianna Sue, was born. Twins, Linda Kay and Billy Ray, were born on August 19, 1951. Finally, Glenda Lou was born January 24, 1955. These children were all raised in Cuero. Mary Lee was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Billy was killed in an automobile accident on July 25, 1969. He is buried on the family plot at the Clinton Cemetery. Dianna (married Bartosh) and Linda (married Ruschhaupt) live in the Cuero area. Glenda (married Heinold) lives in Victoria.

Herbert worked as a painter and paint contractor in the DeWitt-Victoria County area. Now he is retired and lives a few miles south of Cuero with Martha. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in November, 1986, with many family members and friends attending a reception in their honor. Herbert and Martha attend St. John's Lutheran Church in Meyersville. Herbert enjoys raising a small herd of goats as a hobby while Martha spends her time doing handwork.

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS, JAMES JOSEPH

F865

James Joseph Spinks was born November 11, 1847, near Raleigh, Mississippi, where his father farmed land that had once been Indian land. He was the son of John Spinks, an Irish immigrant. As a child, he could remember being taught by a live-in teacher of Irish descent. It was said that James was a well-educated man for his time, and this could account for his schooling. As a child, he migrated to Texas with his family. They settled in DeWitt County.

James Joseph enlisted in the Confederate Army during the War Between the States. He served in the Thirty-fifth (Brown's) Cavalry. His son Bob said that at one time during his army service, he came home to help his father hunt for hogs for meat in the winter. While hunting the hogs, he accidentally shot himself through the leg. That was the only injury he suffered during the war. He received the Oath of Amnesty in Victoria, Texas, on August 14, 1865.

He married Charlotte (Lottie) Brooks, daughter of G.W. Brooks, on January 11, 1872, in DeWitt County. They lived in DeWitt County, Gonzales County, and in Caldwell County. Much of his life was spent around the town of Harwood. Charlotte and James had eight children: Ida, Lou, Rilla, Bonnie, Bob, Willie, Clarence, and Clara.

James's legacy includes several stories which relate to DeWitt County. His father ran a saloon in Clinton. He said that John Wesley Hardin, the outlaw, would ride his horse to the front of the saloon every so often and order a dozen eggs brought out to him. He would then throw the eggs into the air, one at a time, and proceed to shoot them with a forty-five caliber pistol. He also said that Hardin once had trouble with a black man, and the black man escaped him. Hardin traced the man to a lake. The black man was in the lake, but he would only stick his nose up to breathe. Hardin spent most of the day circling the lake trying to get a glimpse of the man. It is assumed that he did not catch him.

James Joseph Spinks also related that he made one trip up the Chisholm Trail from Cuero to Kansas City. They left with 1900 cows and arrived in Kansas City with more because they picked up more along the way. From time to time, they furnished a few beeves to Indians while going through Oklahoma Territory.

James Joseph died on November 14, 1905, at Harwood, Texas. (From records of Earl B. Spinks, grandson of James Joseph Spinks)

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS, JOHN

F866

John Spinks was born in County Cavan, Ireland, in 1803. The home where he lived as a child is located several miles southeast of Cavan City at Toher, Crosskeys. He had two brothers, Nugent and Tomas. As young men, John and Tomas came to America to live. They apparently became separated, and their descendants did not keep in touch with each other.

In 1830 John Spinks was living in Vicksburg (Warren County), Mississippi. A wife in the same age group (20 to 30 years) resided with him as did one slave, age twenty-four.

By 1840 John was living in Smith County, Mississippi. He owned land twelve miles north of Raleigh, the county seat. The land had been Choctaw Indian land, the last land being ceded to the U.S. by the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1832. Besides his wife, there were four children and three slaves, engaged in agriculture, living in the household.

By 1850 there were six children in the household. There was also an Irish school teacher and his wife residing with the family. The teacher had been engaged to teach the children because there were no schools near their settlement of Lorena in Smith County.

Around 1853 the Spinks family moved to DeWitt County, Texas. John Spinks' name appeared in the ledger of Crockett Cardwell about this time. William Alexander Spinks, his son, registered a brand in DeWitt County on November 6, 1854. Two more children were born to John and Elizabeth Spinks in DeWitt County. In 1860, besides the parents, there were Robert (age 21), John (age 17), James Joseph (age 13), Elizabeth (age 11), Angeline (age 9), Emeline (age 7), Cyrus (age 2, born in Texas), and Ray (age 4 months, also born in Texas). It is believed that Ray died as a young child. John's wife died before 1870. Cyrus, the youngest living child remembered a former slave named Uncle Aus who cared for him as a child.

John acquired several plots of land in and around DeWitt County. There are records that he sold 135 acres on the Sandies Creek to Silas McCabe on July 12, 1855 for $1200. Another plot of 640 acres near Clear Creek was apparently used as collateral for a loan from Brownson and Stanley (in Clinton) during the early years of the Civil War. The original debt of $383 with ten per cent per annum financing was incurred at Clinton on January 6, 1862. By 1866 the debt had grown to $546. Post Civil War times were hard in DeWitt County as they were in other areas of the South. The land was sold to pay this debt. On April 17, 1877, John purchased lots in Morgantown (Cuero). These lots were later traded for lots in Clinton. On the Clinton lots, John established a saloon. On February 10, 1877, John and his children, "heirs at law of Elizabeth Spinks, now deceased" sold 640 acres of land to R.B. Wofford.

Some of John's descendants remained in DeWitt County. Angeline, who married James R. Dubose, reared a family in the area. Robert, who married Eliza Brown, moved to Terryville where many of their descendants live today. Among those who remain in the Terryville-Yoakum area are Mary Alice Adams, Helen Foxell, and Robert Earl (Bobby) Manning. James, Eliza, and many of their descendants are buried at the Countyline Cemetery near Terryville. Cyrus Spinks's youngest child, Daisy Day, could remember not being allowed to go visit "Uncle Bob" at Terryville because she was too young to travel with her older siblings who visited more frequently with Robert Spinks's family.

Two of John Spinks's sons, Cyrus and James Joseph, married sisters who were daughters of George W. Brooks. Cyrus married Annie (Antheria) Brooks, and James Joseph married Charlotte Brooks. Cyrus and Annie Spinks lived their lives in DeWitt County.

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS, MARGURIETE LOUISE

F867

Mary Abigail Ellard and Grover Cleveland Spinks were parents of Marguriete who was born March 27, 1917 in Clinton on the John Speed place, DeWitt County, TX. She married Adolph Michael Stehle on Dec. 17, 1932 at the Assembly of God parsonage in Cuero DeWitt County, TX by Rev. Reuben Johnston, pastor of the church at that time. Adolph's parents were Michael Stehle and Marie Gaberene Hardt. Adolph was born in Dobskyville Community, Goliad County, TX on August 26, 1909. He became a farmer and later went into oil field work. He retired at age of 72 years.

There were seven children born to this union. Mary Jewel, who clerked at Joske's in San Antonio, where she met her husband Billie Sam Uhl. They live in Deer Park, TX. They have five children – Elanie, Melody, Melissa, Billie Don and Becky. They lost one child at birth Billie Samuel. Cleda Louise was a long distance operator for Southwestern Bell in San

Marguriete Louise Spinks

Antonio where she met her husband Norbert Vogel. They live in Seguin, TX. They have two children Douglas and Tammy. June Catherine was an operator for SW Bell in Cuero, TX. She married Laverne Meyer from Weesatche where they now reside. They have three children Judy, Jayne and Timothy. Adolph Cleveland Stehle after graduation from Yorktown High School turned to the oil field and is also a good carpenter. He married Carol Berhens and they had four boys Robert, Michael, Randy, and Larry. They divorced and he married Carolyn Hennesy and they had three girls, Tyree, Scharriee and Michelle. They divorced and he married Pamela Smith and they had one daughter, Tanya and one stepdaughter, Stephanie. Hazel Jean Stehle lived five and one half months and went to be with the Lord. The Apostle Paul said, "to be absent from the body is to present with the Lord." Karen Joyce Stehle became a cosmetologist and then married Warren E. Rogers from San Antonio. They have one son, Michael and live in Spring, TX. Mark Edward graduated from Yorktown High School and went to the Air Force where he was in telecommunication. After he came home from the Air Force he went to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX for four years and received a degree in Criminology and Law Enforcement. He also graduated from the DPS academy in Austin and was a state trooper for four years. He married Darlene Bun from Huntsville and they had one son, Brandon. They divorced and he married Dee Deanda and they have one son Aaron and he has one stepdaughter, Debbie. They reside in Houston and he is in sales.

by Mrs. Adolph Stehle

SPINKS, RAPHAEL

F868

Raphael Spinks was born September 18, 1879, and was the oldest child of Cyrus and Annie Spinks. Little is known of his childhood except that he lived in DeWitt County all his life.

Raphael married Mabel Sarah McMicken on

October 22, 1898, in Gonzales County. They raised a large family in Cuero. Their children included: Daisy (born December 1, 1899), Norman (born April 9, 1901), Henry (born March 16, 1903), Clyde (born December 30, 1905), Arthur (born June 8, 1907), Clayton (born March 1, 1908), Ralph (born January 23, 1910), Rosie Lee (born July 24, 1911), Linnie (born March 2, 1913), Buster (born August 24, 1915) and Herbert (born October 7, 1917).

Raphael worked in DeWitt County as a farmer, real estate salesman, and car salesman. He died on September 27, 1953. He is buried on the family plot at the Clinton Cemetery next to his wife who died July 28, 1948.

by Dianna Bartosh

SPINKS, ROBERT HENRY

F869

Robert Henry Spinks was born Jan. 27, 1840 in Mississippi, to John O'Spinks and Elizabeth Clayton Spinks. From Ireland, the family came to DeWitt County Texas in 1850.

On Jan. 8, 1871, Robert married Eliza Carline Brown. Eliza was the daughter of James Brown and Mildred Mayes Brown. She was born July 10, 1853, in DeWitt County, Texas.

In December 1863, Robert Spinks volunteered to serve in the Civil War. He served in Browns Regt. Texas Mtd. volunteers, Co H. 35 Texas Cav. He was given a medical discharge on Aug. 14, 1865.

There were eight children born to this union: 1. Mildred, born Aug. 24, 1872. 2. Katie, born Dec, 1873. 3. Thomas, born Oct. 9, 1881, died June 10, 1903, buried County Line Cemetery Terryville, Tx. 4. Sallie Leah, born Aug. 12, 1883, died Nov. 12, 1951 buried Kilgore, Texas. 5. Hattie, born Aug. 1885. 6. Maran, born May 1, 1887 died Aug. 1, 1908 buried County Line, DeWitt County, Texas. 7. Idele born Sept. 3, 1891 died Apr. 7, 1939 buried County Line, DeWitt County, Texas. 8. Effie born July 1894.

Robert Henry Spinks died Oct. 26, 1896 buried County Line, DeWitt County. Eliza Carline Spinks died Aug. 7, 1903 buried County Line DeWitt County.

by Helen Manning Foxell

SPRIGG, WILLIAM J. III AND SHIRLEY (VOELKEL) FAMILY

F870

William (Bill) J. Sprigg, III was born in Easterly, Texas to William J. Sprigg, II and Elsie Jane Baker. William J. Sprigg, II came from Hart, Michigan in the 1920s to seek his fortune in the Oklahoma oil fields. His relatives in Michigan were descendants from Scotland and Ireland. The parents of William Sprigg, II in Michigan were Eugene Sprigg and Metta Reed Sprigg. Metta, the mother, died when William Sprigg, II was a young boy and Eugene married Minnie Sprigg who raised William and his only sister Frances. The father of Eugene Sprigg was William John Sprigg, I who married Nancy Wigton. Nancy was the

William J. Sprigg, III, Shirley (Voelkel) Sprigg, Karen Lynn (Joslyn) Sprigg, W. John Sprigg, IV.

daughter of Mr. Wigton and Mahar Wigton. Frances Sprigg MacGregor, the only sister of William Sprigg, II who is deceased, had three children, one son and two daughters.

William J. Sprigg, II, father of William Sprigg, III served in World War I in France and died in 1945 at the age of 55 of an enlarged heart.

Elsie Jane Baker met William Sprigg, II in Oklahoma City in 1920 and they were married. She had originally come from Canadian, Texas and studied nursing. Her parents were J. Harve Baker and Mary Jane Baker. She had three sisters and three brothers.

William (Bill) J. Sprigg, III was born in east Texas, the only son and child of William Sprigg II, and Elsie Jane Baker. William Sprigg, III was nicknamed "Pete" by his father because he liked to carry his pistols around as a little boy. Bill was educated at and graduated from Palestine High School where he played 1st trumpet in the Palestine High School Band. After high school graduation in May, 1940, Bill attended the Arlington, Texas branch of A&M University for two years where he was a lieutenant Colonel in the ROTC. In May, 1943 he left Arlington for army officers school and transferred later into the Army Air Force where he served until March, 1946 as an aerial gunnery instructor. After an honorable discharge, Bill returned to the University of Texas in Austin where he received his B.B.A. in Accounting. He worked for a short time in Ft. Worth and then he moved to a computer position with Transco in Houston, Texas where he met and married Shirley (Voelkel) Sprigg. He was living with his mother, Elsie Jane, at this time. Shirley and Bill were married in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas on June 1, 1952.

Shirley (Voelkel) Sprigg was born at 204 Stockdale in Cuero, Texas on February 21, 1927 to Raymond Anton Voelkel and Gladys Pauline Wasserman. She attended John C. French School, Cuero Junior High and Cuero Senior High School where she practiced her talent of singing and dancing. At the age of three, she sang her first solo and danced on the stage for a program held by Miss Iris Coughlin's Dance School in the old Cuero City Auditorium where the new post office now stands. In the heyday of radio, Shirley Rae Voelkel had her own radio show at the age of ten which was broadcast from the "Muti Hotel" weekly. Her accompanist was her mother. Semmler's Texaco Station was one of the sponsors and Shirley received her pay from their snack shop in the very best way, "hamburgers with everything on them." From ten years of age to 15, Shirley sang for many Rotary, Lion, and other Cuero functions. She often sang for the Music Lovers Club in Mr. Otto Buchel's lovely home. During this time she was a dance student of Allen Connor Sale and Shirley and Jane Moore, another student, performed as a dance team. At 15, Shirley began to sing for weddings and functions in St. Mark's Lutheran Church of which she was a member. Shirley graduated from Cuero High School in 1944 as Valedictorian of her class and was awarded the coveted American Legion Award for community and school service. She attended Texas Women's University in Denton and graduated in 1948 Magna Cum Laude. She was awarded various scholarships all 4 years for scholastic ability in college and as a Junior and Senior was named to "Who's Who in American Universities & Colleges." She studied voice and music during her college years and graduated from TWU in 1948 with a B.S. degree in Foods and Nutrition. Shirley attended the Alameda Hospital County Course in Oakland and San Francisco, California as a dietetic intern for one year. After her internship, she was employed by the Corpus Christi Independent School District as Assistant School Lunch Room Dietitian and after two years moved to Houston where she was Chief Dietitian of the Southern Pacific Hospital for 8 years. While in Houston, Shirley sang with members of the Houston Symphony Orchestra in performances, and also studied voice. She had received good performance training during the World War II years in college by singing with a group called the "Singing Stars" on USO tours for our armed forces.

After marriage in 1952, Bill and Shirley lived in Houston at 2205 Birdwood, near Sharpstown. Bill was employed by Lumus Construction Co. (built oil refineries) in Houston. In 1958, William John Sprigg, IV the only son of Shirley and Bill Sprigg was born on April 21, San Jacinto Day, weighing 5 lbs., the smallest baby at Herman Hospital in Houston. Bill and Shirley lived in Houston for 8 years and then moved to Rockport-Fulton area where they owned and operated "Oak Shore Motel" for 11 years with Bill's mother. They were members of First Methodist Church of Rockport where Shirley directed the church choir and the Community Children's Choir for 11 years. This choir had a membership of 50 children of all denominations.

In 1973, the Bill Sprigg family with Bill's mother moved to Victoria and Bill became Chief Accountant for Victoria Iron & Metal Company and Shirley became Food Service Director and Registered Dietitian for Citizens Medical Center in Victoria. In October of 1982, they moved into their ranch home on Stratton FM Road 1447 with their son W. John Sprigg, IV. They built this home and accompanying buildings with their own ingenuity and labor in a country style and now call their place, "Sandy Fork Ranch." Here on 400 acres they raise cattle.

Bill Sprigg is now a retired rancher. He is active treasurer for the Cuero Rotary Club and is also treasurer for the newly organized Independent Cattlemen's Association of Cuero. Photography and building are his hobbies. Shirley is Clinical Dietitian, Registered and Licensed, for Citizens Medical Center where she teaches cardiac and diabetic patients. Shirley sings for various clubs, such as the Rotary Club and the Pilot Club, and for churches in the area. Shirley sings in the choir of First Methodist Church and plays in the bell choir. She directed musicals for two years in the summers for the Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian Co-op Sunday School. Shirley now writes her own music and words to the gospel songs she sings and arranges music and records her songs.

On June 6, 1987, William John Sprigg, IV, only son of Bill and Shirley Sprigg, married Karen Lynn Joslyn of Victoria. Karen is employed at CPL and John is employed at Anchor Lumber Company in Victoria. W. John Sprigg, IV attended Rockport-Fulton Schools and graduated from VISD in 1977. He attended Victoria College for two years and was active in St. Mark's Methodist Church, playing drums for their youth musical programs which went on tour each summer. He plays guitar and piano and is presently writing his own lyrics and music and making recordings. Karen Lynn Joslyn who was born October 7, 1963 graduated from VISD in 1982 and has an associate degree from Victoria College. She has one brother, Neal Joslyn, who is married and lives in Victoria.

John Sprigg and Karen Sprigg reside in a brick home at 702 Fern Street in Victoria.

by Mrs. Shirley Sprigg

SQUYRES, LEWIS AND HORATIO

F871

Lewis Leroy Squyres and his family came from Louisiana to DeWitt County about 1853. Lewis was the son of William P. Squyres and his wife Annie. William P. Squyres was born in Edgefield County South Carolina between 1755 and 1774. William and Annie settled in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana about 1810-1812. Lewis was born there in 1814.

On December 23, 1832 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, Lewis L. Squyres married Horatio Newman, the daughter of Samuel Newman and Mary Ann Lovett Newman. Horatio was born about 1814 in Georgia.

Lewis and Horatio lived in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana and then moved for a short time to Sabine County, Texas. Lewis obtained a Conditional Land Grant Certificate #54 showing that he settled in Sabine County November 1, 1838. He was issued 640 acres on September 5, 1839. Tax records show that Lewis Squyres paid tax in Sabine County in 1840. The Sabine County Courthouse burned so there is no other record of his early land transactions in Sabine County.

Lewis and Horatio were apparently back in Louisiana by 1841. By this time Lewis was a preacher as well as a farmer. He was listed, along with Jonathan Newman, in 1847, as a Representative to the Concord Association. The 1850 Census has the L.L. Squyres family listed in Union Parish, Louisiana.

Lewis and Horatio came to DeWitt County, Texas about 1853 along with other early pioneers such as the Hollans, Hargroves, Shows and Granberrys. These families settled in what is now the Hebron Section of DeWitt County.

Lewis L. Squyres preached for the next twelve or fourteen years. He held meetings and performed many marriages. Horatio died sometimes in the mid-1860's. There is no record as to where she is buried. Lewis married Mrs. Martha Ann Presnal Hobbs in 1867 in Lavaca County. He died sometime before 1880 in Lavaca County and is buried in the Salem Cemetery.

The children of Lewis and Horatio Squyres were (1) Sarah Squyres, born about 1834 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. (2) Russell Moody Squyres, born May 18, 1838 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. Russell married Catherine R. Thetford in DeWitt County, Texas May 13, 1858. (3) Amanda E. Squyres, born about 1840 in Louisiana. She married Tobias Thetford. (4) Lemuel Squyres, born about 1842 in Louisiana. (5) Sarah G. Squyres, born about 1850 in Union Parish, Louisiana. (5) Phinetta Squyres, born about 1852 in Union Parish, Louisiana.

Lewis Squyres and his second wife Martha had four children. They were Milton, Elizabeth, Newton and Lee.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

SQUYRES, RUSSELL AND CATHERINE

F872

Catherine R. (Thetford) Squyres

Russell Moody Squyres was born in Louisiana on May 28, 1838. He was the first son of Lewis Leroy Squyres and his wife Horatio Newman. Russell came to Dewitt County with his family in 1853. He married Catherine Thetford in DeWitt County May 12, 1858.

Catherine Thetford was the daughter of Matilda Flower Thetford Vannote of DeWitt County. In her later years she wrote the following:

Journal of Catherine R. Squyres Travels

William G. Thetford and Matilda Flower were married December 10, 1830 A.D. Catherine R. Thetford, their sixth heir was born May 9, 1842. Her Father departed this life, December 26th, 1841. Catherine was born in Mississippi, Warren County, but after her father's death, her Mother resolved to go to Arkansas. So when she was about 8 months old she moved to Arkansas with her Mother. She started from Mississippi December 27, 1842 and arrived at her Grandfather's in January of 1843, and lived with him until November 1846 when her Mother moved into a house to herself. And the 10th of June 1847 she was married to John Vannote and the 1st of November 1849 her Step Father and her Mother started the move from Arkansas and arrived at Alabama in February and stayed there until October of 1850. When they moved again to Mississippi and stayed there until February 1852 when they moved again to Clinton, Texas. And the 26th of October her Step Father departed this life. Then her mother moved across the river and the 27th of October 1854 her brother David died. Then the mother moved across the river again to the Coletto's the 2nd of September 1855 and stayed there until the 13th of May when Catherine was married to R.M. Squyres and moved with him to Brushy and stayed there until July 1860 when they moved to Chickolete."

The children of Russell and Catherine were: (1) William Allen Squyres born August 28, 1859, DeWitt County. William married Frances Jane Granberry July 7, 1881. (2) Lewis Leroy Squyres, born November 2, 1882. Lewis married Ida Conner November 26, 1891. (3) Walter Lee Squyres, born November 14, 1865. (4) Sarah Jane Squyres, born March 19, 1869. Sarah married Albert Lee October 17, 1892. (5) George Washington Squyres, born January 24, 1873. George married Matilda Bissett November 1894. His second marriage was to Lillie Mott. (6) Matilda Oratio Squyres, born October 31, 1876. Matilda married Charley Powers April 23, 1905. (7) John Tobias Squyres, born November 24, 1878. John married Lily Neal, November 1, 1902.

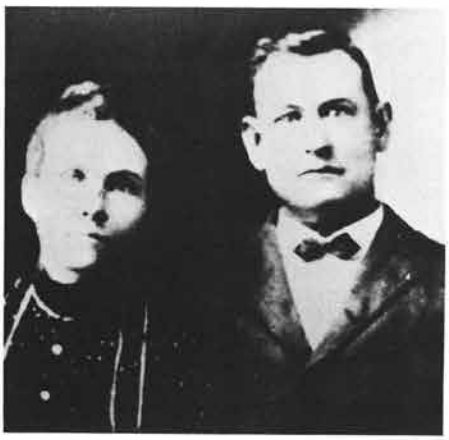
Russell died April 8, 1894 in Lavaca County. Catherine died November 25, 1926 in Yoakum, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

SQUYRES, WILLIAM ALLEN AND FRANCES JANE

F873

William Allen Squyres was born in DeWitt County, August 28, 1859. He was the first son of Russell Squyres and Catherine Thetford. He was married July 7, 1881 to Frances Jane Granberry. Frances Jane was born December 20, 1866. She was the daughter of Jasper



William Allen Squyres and Frances Jane (Granberry) Squyres

Granberry and Barzilla Bissett.

William Allen was a merchant and farmer. At one time he ran a general store out around Hope, or Terryville. He also had a Post Office Permit.

William Allen and Frances Jane Squyres raised twelve children. (1) Charles Wayman Squyres, born December 25, 1882. Charles married Lena Badgett. (2) William Albert Squyres, born April 13, 1884. Albert married Bertha L. Wiley. (3) Jasper Squyres, born August 11, 1886. (4) Henry Houston Squyres, born February 14, 1889. Henry married Myrtle Panchek Bell. (5) Samuel Sylvester Squyres, born January 23, 1891. Sam married Emma Bledsoe. (6) Frances Allie Squyres, born August 20, 1893. Allie married Grover Barnwell Garrett October 11, 1911. (7) Annie Amelia Squyres, born January 7, 1896. Annie married Noah Lee Utz. (8) Esker Louis Squyres, born January 10, 1878. (9) John Edward Squyres, born July 7, 1900. John married Jessamine Smith. (10) James Orbie Squyres, born August 29, 1902. (11) Virginia May Squyres, born January 27, 1906. Virginia married 1) Lester Hitchcock and 2) Stanley Groves. (12) Vera Opal Squyres, born March 3, 1909. Vera married 1) Jack Tucker and 2) Boyd Hopkins.

In their later years William Allen and Frances Jane Granberry moved away from DeWitt County to Brownwood, Brown County, Texas. William died July 17, 1929 in Brownwood, Texas. Frances Jane died November 22, 1949 in Brownwood, Texas.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

STALL, WILBURN AND BARBARA (BETHKE)

F874

Wilburn George Stall was born October 2, 1926 in Milam County, the son of George and Amanda Boettcher Stall. Wilburn joined the U.S. Army and served in the Philippines. He trained as an auto mechanic and worked for Taylor Bros. in Lexington. McLarty Motor Company asked him to come to Cuero and work for them, which he did. Here he met and married Barbara Ann Bethke October 26, 1952 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Barbara Ann Bethke was born August 17, 1931 to George W. and Emilie Raak Bethke. Barbara attended Albrecht and Hoff grade schools in Goliad County and Green DeWitt grade school. She graduated from Cuero High School and then trained and worked as an LVN at the Burns Hospital in Cuero. Barbara and Wilburn lived in Cuero, Lindenau and finally bought a home in Edgar. Wilburn and Barbara participated in the Folklife Festival in San Antonio for ten years. They are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. To this union nine children were born.

1) Judy Grace Stall was born July 3, 1953. She is a business teacher and accountant. She married William Dwight Jones, a plumber, December 21, 1973 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. He was born May 20, 1951.

2) Gladys Louise Stall was born December 17, 1954. She is a registered nurse. She married Robert Henry Zeinert, a postmaster, April 8, 1978 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He was born December 27, 1944. Their children are Patrick Stall Zeinert, born September 19, 1981 and Marianne Elizabeth Zeinert born January 26, 1983.

3) George William Stall was born November 9, 1956. He is a diesel mechanic. On August 20, 1977 he married Robbie Lynn Smith in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She was born January 20, 1957. She is a housewife and a beautician. They have two children. Travis George Stall was born August 27, 1979 and Lacie Rachelle Stall was born October 26, 1981.

4) Wilma Gay Stall was born January 20, 1958 and is a registered nurse. She married Richard Thomas Reedy, a construction worker, July 16, 1977 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He was born October 3, 1950. Their children are Thomas Lee Reedy, born December 21, 1981, Christopher Allen Reedy born January4, 1984, and Emilie Grace Reedy born April 17, 1986.

5) Annette Gaile Stall was born December 31, 1959 and is a government surveyor. She married Ramond Albert Meyer, a dairy owner, May 17, 1977 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He was born March 3, 1953. Their children are Ramond Albert (Trey) Meyer, Jr. born September 12, 1977 and Amanda Irene Meyer born July 3, 1980.

6) Henry Allen Stall was born May 10, 1963 and is a diesel mechanic. On March 3, 1984 he married Angela Marie Barta, a floral designer, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She was born January 20, 1965. Their children are Matthew Jacob Stall born December 21, 1987 and Benjamin Allen Stall born April 17, 1989.

7) Ruby Fay stall was born July 11, 1964 and is an accountant.

8) Alfred Gene Stall was born August 5, 1966 and is an Army Sergeant.

9) Nadine Marie Stall was born June 9, 1968 and is a college student, studying to be a registered nurse.

Barbara and Wilburn Stall live on South River Road on the family property.

by Emilie Bethke

STANCHOS, DAVID AND DORA

F875

The earliest written records indicate that David and Dora Stanchos (other spellings include Stancyus and Stanzaus) arrived in DeWitt County around 1860. Although very little is known about the original immigrants prior to their arrival in DeWitt County, bits and pieces of their early lives have been preserved through oral history within the family. The following information is based on those family stories and research conducted by one of their descendants, Caroline Wischkaemper Schorlemer.

David Stanchos was born on November 1, 1822 in Osznuggarren, Niederungs Kreis, Germany to David Stancyus and Euricke Girgyd. Family tradition relates that David was the only member of his large family to survive a terrible plague that swept Europe in the mid-1800's. Dora was born on February 28, 1824 in Laben Gembiennen, East Prussia, Germany. Her father's name was Carl Sohloze; her mother's name is unknown. It is likely she was an orphan since a family document states that she was a ward of Thomas Zimmerman. In 1852 David and Dora immigrated to America from Germany. They were Lutherans and brought with them a spinning wheel and other household goods. They apparently settled briefly in Louisiana where David worked as a fisherman. At some point during their early years together in Germany or perhaps in Louisiana, they had twins who died.

Eventually, David and Dora moved on to DeWitt County. Texas. David made a living hauling freight from Indianola. The 1860 census of DeWitt County shows that David and Dorothea Stanzaus were residents of Clinton (the county seat at that time). Their occupation was farming. Their real estate was valued at $300, and their personal property was valued at $200.

On August 2, 1860 Friedrich (Fred) August Rudolph Stanchos was born; he was baptized by a Methodist circuit rider minister on December 25, 1860. Mary Friedericke Stanchos was born on February 12, 1863 and was baptized on February 23 of the same year, probably by a circuit rider minister. St. Paul's Lutheran Church was founded in Yorktown in 1872 and, there, on March 29, 1874, Fred was confirmed.

The David Stanchos family was the first to settle on the Gruenau prairie in 1872. They owned 1720 acres of land. The original Stanchos home was built in 1877 and still stands today. The Stanchos farm and ranch was on the Indianola-El Paso Road and many wagon trains passed by the Stanchos home. The old well at which the wagon trains stopped is also still standing in the front yard. On one occasion when a wagon train stopped to water the mules at the Stanchos well, young Fred's pet sheep got away. The wagon train was on its way to Indianola to unload its goods onto ships and reload the wagons with supplies for inland settlers. When the caravan returned to Gruenau eight days later, the pet sheep was with the mules. The sheep had made a round trip of two hundred miles.

David Stanchos died on January 7, 1903 in Yorktown. Dora preceded him in death. She died on February 19, 1899 in Yorktown.

Fred married Emilie Karoline (Lena) Sasse on February 19, 1886. They had six sons and seven daughters. Mary Stanchos married William F. Kerlick on October 19, 1881. They had nine sons and three daughters. The descendants of David and Dora now number in the hundreds.

by Lynn Highly and Beverly Bruns

STARK, MICHAEL

F876

Michael Stark was the first white male child born in Yorktown, arriving on November 6, 1852. His parents, William Stark and Henriette Gluth Stark had arrived in Yorktown via Indianola earlier in 1852.

Michael and his two older sisters, Emily and Ida Luisa born in Germany, and the younger children Emma and Paul Carl all attended the Yorktown school which first opened its doors in 1855 with one teacher, Herr Fuchs.

According to one newspaper account, the leading young men of Yorktown in 1877 were Mike Stark, Fritz Kraege, Albert Meyer, Julius Hoff, and Robert Zuch. Four popular young ladies were the Misses Anna Meyer, Malvina Heissig, Emma Stark, and Agnes Range. Thus it seems only natural that on May 21, 1877, at three o'clock Michael Stark and Anna Justine Meyer were united in marriage at the home of

Seated: Michael Stark and Anna Stark. Standing: Eleanora Stark and William Stark

her parents. The handwritten invitations, signed by both Michael and Anna, were sent to family and friends.

Michael worked as a wheelwright and saddle maker in the early years of his marriage. The young couple moved from Yorktown to Helena to Pearsall and then returned to Yorktown.

Michael Stark and Anna Meyer Stark were parents of six children. Eleanora Marie was born on March 11, 1878. The following year on December 16 William Julius joined the family in Helena. Letter which flowed between Anna and her mother show how greatly Anna was missed. Edgar Adolph was born on July 18, 1883, but his brief life ended on October 24, 1884.

In a letter to Anna dated January 1884, Michael wrote that everything in Pearsall was sad. There were ten hotels, four stores, four saloons, and one other saddle shop. Houses with no water rented for $15 a month. Two years later in 1886 Michael had opened his new saddlery shop and was selling saddles for $15 each. Soon after his family joined him in Pearsall. At that time Eleanor remembered hearing a cry that wild boars were coming, so she and her younger brother William ran for the pens and escaped the javelinas.

The family stayed together in Pearsall for several years, but Anna became homesick for her family and friends in Yorktown. The four Starks returned to Yorktown where Michael worked with Fritz Kraege who sold dry goods, groceries, and hardware. The Starks set up housekeeping in a home Michael built just a block from Main Street and not far from the depot. A vegetable garden, fig trees, a grape arbor, and wild plum trees added much to the beauty of the home.

On March 15, 1893 Dorothy Cecilia was born to Michael and Anna Stark. By this time Michael had acquired several hundred acres of land near Davy. On weekends he travelled to Davy in the buggy to care for the land and cattle which he was accumulating. July 1, 1897 was an especially exciting day in the Stark household with the birth of twins Albert Adolph and Helen Virginia. A year later, the oldest daughter Eleanora was married from the family home.

German plays were frequently performed in Yorktown. Michael and his sister Emma were often performers, but Anna was never permitted to participate as an actress. Even in the early years of hard work and difficult times, Anna always took a nap in the early afternoon, usually lying on the floor. Then she had a bath, put on a freshly starched frock which she had somehow found time to launder, starch, and iron and went calling on her friends and neighbors. Sometimes she attended the Leseverein to increase her knowledge and to share her talents.

Each of the Stark children was given all the advantages available, including music and elocution lessons plus opportunities to study in New York or at the San Marcos Normal School. Both parents were active in community efforts from the laying out of public roads to presiding over the local Mothers' Club and serving on the Executive Board of the Civic Club.

In 1913 the second Stark daughter was married in the family home. Shortly thereafter Anna and the twins moved to San Antonio where the family resided until Michael passed away on July 2, 1933. His death was followed by that of Anna on February 28, 1941. Frequent trips to Yorktown and a continued interest in the land accumulated at Davy kept Yorktown ties alive though the Stark family no longer maintained a home in Yorktown.

Granddaughter Dorothy Strieber fondly remembers her grandmother Anna Stark as a completely bilingual individual. She spoke English and German with equal facility and instilled a love of Germany in her grandchildren, though she never had the opportunity to travel there. She encouraged the children and grandchildren to learn German by bribing them to learn ten new German words weekly. Not only were the words committed to memory, but they had to be correctly spelled and used in a sentence. Remuneration for this memory feat was ten cents. Though Anna's education was limited to the public school in Yorktown, she was completely familiar with the original German works of Goethe and Schiller. Dorothy remembers Michael Stark as a tall man with a beautiful shock of silver hair, wonderfully patient, kind and diligent. He often placed children and grandchildren in his Model T Ford touring car for the trip to the farm in Davy. This pioneer family added much to the history of early Yorktown.

by Dorothy Strieber

STARK, WILHELM EDWARD

F877

Wilhelm Stark was born on January 22, 1822 in East Brandenburg Province in Prussia. On November 10, 1843 at the church atSchokuhren in Lozelton in Gumbinnen, he was joined in marriage to Henriette Gluth, who was born on August 18, 1816 in Lozelton, Prussia.

The ensuing few years were spent in Germany, and the marriage was blessed with three children born there: Wilhelm Edward born August 3, 1844 in SPUKHAN; Emilie born October 10, 1847 in Spukhan; and Ida Luisa born February 6, 1850. The following two years saw great changes in their lives — they emigrated to Yorktown, Texas via Indianola.

The first child, Wilhelm Edward, died on March 21, 1852, probably in Germany since no grave for him exists in Yorktown. Their fourth child, Michael, was born on November 6, 1852 in Yorktown, the first white male child born there. Emma Henriette joined the family on September 11, 1855; and the last child, Paul Carl, was born January 7, 1861.

William Stark was one of the original seventeen signers of the contract engineered by Franz Hoppe by which they purchased the Yorktown tract of 1050 acres and several other tracts placed on auction at the court house in Clinton after a dispute with the York estate. Streets, public squares and a cemetery were included in the plans.

By 1855 the first school house had been constructed at a cost of $324 with O. Fuchs as the first teacher. The building had only two sides, being open at both ends. Children from a surrounding area of thirty miles attended. The Stark children surely were among this group.

William Stark was a freighter, transporting goods from Indianola to San Antonio, Austin, Houston or Matamoras. The journey round trip to San Antonio from Coleto required a full week and the same time to go Indianola. Freighters cooperated with each other for protection and companionship, camping at night near a convenient stream. During the night the horses were hobbled and turned loose to graze. Bells were attached to facilitate roundup. Rates for freighting services earned from $4 to $5 a hundred pounds. Goods consisted generally of dry goods, groceries, hardware, and whiskey. Bacon and potatoes were shipped from Coleto to San Antonio; cotton and cowhides went to Indianola.

Leaving for San Antonio with four to six horses to a heavy wagon, freighters would usually travel thirty miles to camp the first night at Ecleto Creek. The second night they camped at Cibolo Creek near Southerland Springs, and on the third night at the Salado within sight of San Antonio. On the fourth day they would drive into San Antonio on East Commerce Street and load the wagons for the return trip, starting back immediately. Three days later they were back in Yorktown preparing to go to Indianola.

On July 15, 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War records of the Yorktown Hulen Reserve Company, list W. Starke a member. During this same time period, Wilhelm also served as one of the early postmasters of Yorktown.

According to an account written by Anna Meyer Stark, Henriette Gluth Stark was "short, chubby, and had dark hair and brown eyes. Her education was good. Wilhelm Stark was six feet tall, had a good education, and was postmaster of Yorktown."

On May 24, 1862, William wrote his will, naming as his sole heir his wife Henriette Stark. The will was written and witnessed in Matamora, Republic of Mexico by two fellow Yorktown citizens. On January 24, 1864 William Stark succumbed to smallpox and is supposedly buried in Brownsville or Matamoras.

His wife Henriette with two children, Emily and Michael, travelled to Brownsville to retrieve what they could of his possessions. An inventory of his assets listed part of block #50 (2640 square varas) worth $125; 126 dry beef hides worth $100; and notes of money owed totalling $459.47, leaving his widow and five children a total of $600.82 after all his bills were paid.

When Michael and Paul were older, they built a home for their mother adjacent to her daughter's home in Yorktown where she lived until June 7, 1903. Henriette Gluth Stark is buried at Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Dorothy Strieber

STEHLE, ADOLPH MICHAEL

F878

Adolph Michael Stehle was born in Goliad Co. Dobskyville Community on August 26, 1909. He was the youngest child of Michael Stehle, Sr. and Marie Gaberene Hardt. His father was Hungarian and was born in Austria, Hungary. His mother was German and was born and raised in Dobskyville Community, Goliad County, TX. Michael Sr. immigrated from Germany in around early 1900 leaving a wife and children in Germany. He wanted her to come along or let him bring some of the children along but she would not come. His parents, two brothers and a sister came to America ahead of him. He married Marie Hardt on January 6, 1904. They had four children of their own Alfred, Otelia, Otto and Adolph. Otelia and Otto were twins. Otelia married Bill Howard. Alfred married Sophie Brandt. He also raised two stepdaughters, Frieda or Mrs. Oscar Kratz and Edna or Mrs. Louis Brandt. Both are deceased. Otto passed away at the age of ten with diphtheria.

Adolph and Marguriette (Spinks) Stehle

Adolph's parents divorced and some years later his mother married Henry Joneschkies of Rt. 2, Yorktown, TX or Ratcliffe Community on Dec. 16, 1931. They made their home in Ratcliffe Community. They farmed, raised cattle, and some turkeys and chickens until her death on May 7, 1938. Henry later remarried and lost his second wife to illness. He and both his wives are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown, DeWitt County, TX.

Adolph's father, Michael Sr., made his home with Adolph and family the last six years of his life. He died at the age of 92 years when his little house caught fire and he burned with it one night on March 31, 1944 in freezing weather. He is buried in old Epperson Cemetery, now called Joneschkies Cemetery in Ratcliff Community off Rm Rd 2718.

Adolph Michael Stehle died November 9, 1989.

by Mrs. Adolph Stehle

Back Row: Catherine Meyer, Louise Vogel, Cleveland Stehle, and Jewel Uhl. Front: Mark Stehle, Marguriete Stehle, Adolph Stehle and Karen Rogers.

STEINERT, MAX

F879

The "Max Steinert" family in Germany, New York, and Texas

The "Steinert" family line can be traced back to the late 1700's in a small village area in Chemitz, Saxony, now part of East Germany, Hermann "Max" Steinert's parents, lived in this southeasterly part of the Republic of Germany around the 1830's or 1840's. They were both born in Germany. Max's father was Carl F. Steinert and his mother was Theresa Boettner.

Carl and Theresa had at least one other child, a daughter, they name Bertha Steinert, born in December of 1868 in Burjersdorf, Saxony, Germany. They could have had other children, however, I do not know if they or any of their other children ever came to America.

Bertha married Herman Irmscher in December 1888, in Germany and they immigrated to New York in 1891. Early in their married life Bertha and her husband were employed in the textile industry, where they became specialized knitters. Later in Yorktown, Texas they farmed, and Mr. Irmacher was also a stone mason.

Max Steinert came to New York in 1887. There he married his long time sweetheart Hedwig A. Henschel. He was a 22 year old tradesman, having listed his occupation as that of a silk weaver and lace maker.

On February 29, 1888, their first child, Max "Henry" Steinert was born in New York City. (Henry married Sophie Pargmann on January 17, 1912. He passed away June 8, 1965 at their home in Ft. Worth, Texas.)

The second child of Max and Hedwig, Elsie Steinert, was born in January 1890, in New York City. (Elsie Steinert Buchanan died May 13, 1978 in Raytown, Missouri, and is buried there at Forest Hills Cemetery.)

Their third child, Amy Steinert was born November 26, 1894 in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas. (Amy married Hugo Voelkel, in August of 1914. Amy and Hugo raised nine children. She passed away February 19, 1988.)

Tildie Steinert was born in December 1898, in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas. (She married Alvin Huck. She currently resides in Tumwater, Washington.)

Max Steinert, Jr. was born February 28, 1901. (He married Henryetta Hauser in 1924. He died September 3, 1977, in Richmondville, New York.) In their younger years, they were musicians and performed in New York.

Another son, Alfred Hermann Steinert was born in Runge, Texas, August 22, 1904. (He married Martha Schlenstedt, April 12, 1926. He died November 13, 1967.)

Edna Diane Steinert, born March 22, 1906, married Albert P. Schirm. She lived in San Antonio, Texas for many years. (She died February 21, 1985 in Newark, Delaware.)

It's recorded that Hermann "Max" Steinert died on April 7th, 1909, having been drowned in Cabeza Creek, on the road leading from Nordheim, to his home.

Hedwig returned to Brooklyn in 1920 with her younger children. She returned to South Texas in June of 1935 in failing health. Hedwig Steinert died November 14, 1935, and is buried beside her husband in the Nordheim Ceme-

tery, in Nordheim, Texas. On the headstone is a German poem.

by Carolyn Jasper

STEINERT, MAX HENRY

F880

The "Henry Steinert" Family in New York and Texas

Max "Henry" Steinert was the oldest son of seven children born to German immigrants, Hermann "Max" Steinert and Hedwig A. Henschel. Henry's birthday was February 29th, 1888, a Leap year! He told a story about having to wait eight years once between birthdays, when in 1900 there was no leap year.

After living five years in the New York area, and after the birth of Henry's sister Elsie, on January 6, 1890, this young family moved to South Texas. There Henry's five other sisters and brothers were born. At first they lived in Yorktown and later they settled on their own farm just south of Nordheim.

When Henry got word of his father's fatal drowning accident, an article printed in the "Nordheim View", Nordheim, Texas, April 15, 1909, stated, "Henry Steinert arrived from Washington where he was employed in the government hospital."

Henry stayed on in Nordheim, Texas after his father's funeral, to help his mother with the family farm. There he met Sophie Pargmann. They were married in Yorktown, Texas on January 17, 1912. Six children were born to this couple.

Harry Gerhard Herman Steinert, was born in Runge, Tx, September 25, 1912. Harry married Dorothy Schwarzkopf, August 3, 1940 and had three daughters, Diane, Pam and Cathy. Harry and Dottie have lived, raised their children, and still reside, at their home on Wayside Drive in Ft. Worth, Texas. They hope to plan their Golden Anniversary celebration on the same date as the annual family reunion in late July 1990, at the Nordheim Shooting Club Recreation Hall.

Sadie Steinert, was born in Nordheim, Tx, August 2, 1917. She married Nathan Thomas Coffey, November 10, 1937. They had three daughters; Noretta, Barbara, and Carolyn. She is now married to Roy Lee Fielder, June 16, 1971 is their wedding anniversary. They live in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Leroy Steinert, was born in Burkburnett, Tx, November 29, 1920. Leroy married Neva Klinkerman, of Clara, Texas, April 4, 1943, and had a daughter, Frances Darlene, a son, Philip, and another daughter, Sheila. Leroy passed away January 19, 1987.

Billie Marie Steinert, was born in Burkburnett, Tx, July 8, 1925. Billie married Gerhard Nieman, December 17, 1949, and had a son, Max Carl, a daughter Krista Ruth, and another son, Kurt Arthur. Billie and Jerry live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Betty Leigh Steinert, was born in Burkburnett, Tx, September 22, 1928. Betty married Lynn Brandon, and had a son, Douglas. She is now married to Jack Morgan. They and their children live in Burleson, and Ft. Worth, Texas.

Joy Steinert, was born in Burkburnett, Tx, August 31, 1930. Joy married Bobby McLeod and had two children Gena Kay and Gary Wayne McLeod. They and their families live and work close by in Euless, Texas.

All together there are fifteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren of Sophie and Henry at this writing.

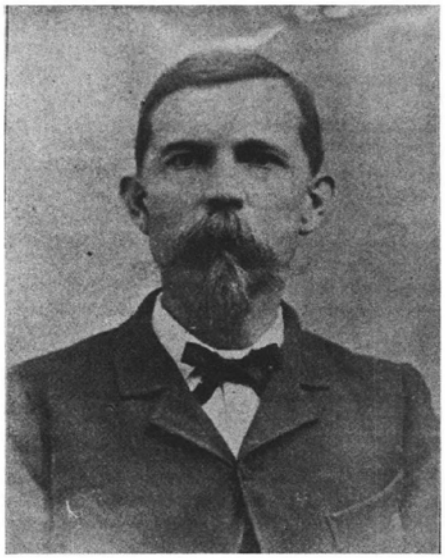
Henry and Sophie with their first two children had moved to Burkburnett, Texas by 1920. There they owned and operated a grocery across the street from the school. Their other four children were born there, and all six of them graduated from Burkburnett High School.

Henry and Sophie celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 17, 1962. Three years later, Henry passed away June 8, 1965, at the age of 77, at his home in Ft. Worth, Texas. Sophie followed, at the age of 88, on October 7, 1979. Henry and Sophie rest in peace at Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington, Texas.

by Carolyn Jasper

STELL, THOMAS M.

F881



Thomas M. Stell.

Thomas Stell was born in Mary Anna, Florida on the twenty third of April, 1856. He came to Texas with his parents during the year of his birth and has lived in DeWitt County almost continuously since. His parents were R.H. Stell, originally from Georgia and Melissa (Johnston) Stell, a native of Alabama. Mr. Stell was educated at Covey College, which during its day was one of the best schools in Texas. The college was operated by Dr. Covey and his wife, was constructed of stone and had a total of fourteen teachers.

After leaving school, Mr. Stell spent some years in the cattle business and made three drives with cattle along the old trail from Cuero to Dodge City before he was seventeen years old. He then went to Wyoming Territory where he worked as a cowboy on large ranches until October, 1881 when he returned to DeWitt County and engaged in business for himself, raising some livestock, dealing in horses and operating a farm for a few years until the commencement of his public service which began with his appointment to the office of sheriff in 1892. Mr. Stell spent more than sixteen years in the sheriff's office, eighteen years as tax collector and was treasurer of DeWitt County for a number of years.

Mr. Stell has been married twice. His first marriage was to Miss Suzan Ann Kennedy on the eight of September, 1882. To this union four children were born: Robert Randolph, Olivia Ray, Evina Norma and Sudie Eslie Stell. The first Mrs. Stell died in 1894 and on the twentieth of May, 1896, Mr. Stell married Miss Irene Galle, member of a pioneer DeWitt County family. One son was born of this marriage. Thomas M. Stell, Jr., was a well known artist in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Stell died July 3, 1939 in Cuero. Irene Stell died June 13, 1963. They are buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. There is a Historical Marker on the grave of Thomas Stell.

STEPHENSON, HUGH JOHN AND MARTHA FAMILY

F882

Tombstone in Hollan Family Cemetery, 1988.

Hugh John Stephenson was born July 27, 1829 at Turkey Creek, York District, South Carolina. In the 1850 Census of York District he was listed among the children of Hamilton Stephenson and his wife Mary (McCullough) Stephenson.

According to Hugh John's Confederate Pension Application he came to Texas in 1852. He was in DeWitt County by 1856. Hugh John and Martha Ann Elizabeth Hollan, daughter of Wade and Emily (Kelly) Hollan, were married in DeWitt County on August 3rd of 1857. The marriage was performed by L.L. Squyres. Witnesses at the marriage were Charles Bradley and Sam Neal.

Hugh John enlisted in the Army of the Confederacy in February of 1861. He was discharged in June of 1865 from Company F, McCord's Frontier Regiment of Texas Mounted Rangers.

Hugh John taught school in an old log school building in DeWitt County. He was also a farmer and a Justice of the Peace in Precinct 5.

Deed records for DeWitt County show that M.E. Stephenson (Martha Ann Elizabeth Stephenson) bought 140 acres of land on Tonquay Creek in 1868. Her father, Wade Hampton Hollan, was a witness on this deed. In 1903, this same land was conveyed by Hugh John to

his daughter, Theodocia Stephenson Garrett, for the consideration of one dollar.

Hugh John and Martha had nine children. (1) Pickens Stephenson was born June 14, 1861. He married Josephene Cleveland. (2) Leone Florida Stephenson was born September 11, 1865. She married Columbus Thompson. (3) John Sumpter Pierce Stephenson was born in 1867. He married Sidney Rice. (4) Theodocia Frances Stephenson was born April 13, 1870. She married William Ebb Garrett on September 19, 1888. (5) Martha E. Stephenson was born April 12, 1872. She married J.J. Dickinson. (6) William White Stephenson was born August 6, 1874. (7) Arcadian Calpherina Stephenson was born September 12, 1876. She married Marvin Dickinson. (8) Mary Cordelia Stephenson was born July 3, 1878. She married Ben Barnham. (9) Eulalia Elizabeth Stephenson was born November 7, 1880. She married Jack Archer.

Martha Ann Elizabeth Hollan Stephenson died April 9, 1882 and was buried in the Hollan Family Cemetery. This cemetery is located 8 ½ miles south of Yoakum on what was the Wade Hampton Hollan home place. Hugh John lived another twenty-seven years, living out the last years of his life in the household of his daughter, Theodica Frances Stephenson, wife of William Ebb Garrett. He died March 9, 1909 and was buried beside Martha in the Hollan Family Cemetery.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

STEVENS FAMILY

F883

The Steven's ancestors came from England to York County, VA. in the year 1695. Because they were mostly farmers, landowners, and surveyors they moved frequently. By 1732, Barnabus Stevens was living in Bladen County, NC. The census of 1750, Bertie County, NC shows William Stevens as a farmer. Eli Stevens was shown as a landowner in the 1790 census for Charleston, SC. Eli's son, Alexander G. was born in Robeson County, NC. in 1820. Alexander G. Stevens married Nancy Agnes Steen in Rankin County, MS. in 1846. Nancy's father, William Steen, died leaving Alexander to care for the estate in Texas and also guardian of Mary Steen. Alexander's father, Eli, died (1867) on his way to be with his son.

Alexander G. and Nancy Stevens had the following children: William Randy born 1847; Richard T. born 1849 – My Grandfather; Marybelle born 1853; James Alexander born 1855; Vandalia born 1856; Lucy born 1859; Catherine born 1862; Joseph born 18??.

Alexander G. Stevens was a Private in Company "D" of the TExas State Troops, of the Confederate States Army.

Richard T. Stevens married Elizabeth Denman Milligan widow of John Milligan in 1884. Elizabeth previously had 3 children: Samuel, Fate, and a girl child. By Richard, Elizabeth had: Joseph born 1885; William Eli born 1888; Frank born 1891; Alexander born 1894.

Richard and Elizabeth separated when the children were young. The children moved with Elizabeth to Houston. Unable to care for them she sent the children back to their father in Cuero, TX. They lived with their father for a short time. William left first to be on his own. Frank and Alex left to work for the circus. Frank left the circus and moved to Chicago and then to St. Louis working for Armours Meat Packing Co. Frank went into the Army and was sent to France, Belgium, and Germany during World War I. Upon his release from the Army, Frank traveled west to Washington, where he happened to meet William. William had met and married Eva Lillian Vibbert. Frank was smitten with Eva's middle child Vera and married her. Frank and Vera had 3 children: Frank Jr. born 1922; Marilee T. born 1924; and Virginia M. born 1930.

Frank Jr. had 3 children: Scott, Clifford and Diane. Marilee had 3 children: Pamela, Nanette and James. Virginia had 4 children: Gale, Lee, Ann and Tana.

Frank died February 9, 1980 and Vera died September 15, 1981.

Alexander Stevens has not been heard from and we (Pamela and I, Marilee) and still searching for him or his family.

by Marilee Dow

STEVENS, JOSEPH AND SARAH ANN STEEN

F884

Joseph Stevens (1810-1861) and Sarah Ann Steen Stevens (1820-1861) came to Texas in 1846. They came from a place called Steen's Creek in Rankin County, Mississippi.

William Steen (1783-1846) was the father of Sarah Ann Steen Stevens. Her mother was Mary R. Enochs Steen, who was born in 1792 and died August 19, 1846.

According to a book published in 1900 and entitled "The Steen Family," by Moses Steen: "After the death of his wife, William Steen and all his children then living, married and unmarried, nine in number, started October 30, 1846 to remove to DeWitt County, Texas. He was taken sick on the way and died soon after reaching Texas at the home of his brother-in-law, Levi Noble in Nacogdoches. He was buried in the old North Churchyard about four miles from Nacogdoches."

Two of William Steen's sons afterward returned to Mississippi but the rest of the party continued their journey. They had all their belongings and livestock with them. There were about 100 slaves in the party. Elisha Stevens (1776-1851), the father of Joseph, was with them. Joseph and Sarah Ann Stevens had their two children, Mary and Josephine Stevens, with them. There were three sisters and four brothers of Sarah Ann in the party. One of the brothers was John Rumley Steen, the ancestor of the Hochheim Steens.

When the party reached Gonzales and were staying on the Mitchell ranch, Sarah Ann Stevens gave birth to a third child, Margaret Mitchell.

Joseph and Sarah Ann Stevens came on to DeWitt County where they purchased land lying along the Guadalupe River from two of Green DeWitt's original colonists. The land was in the vicinity of the Concrete Community. Sometime circa 1850 they built a large two-storied house which stood till the 1930's when it burned. It was located about a mile from Concrete where the Horace Parks house now stands (1990).

The cemetery was located a short distance behind and to the right of the house. Family tradition has it that Joseph Stevens chose that location because he knew that it would never be cultivated. The cemetery was soon needed because burials began in the 1850's and continued until the latest in 1988.

Joseph and Sarah Ann Stevens had eleven children, only four of whom survived to adulthood and marriage. The four were:

I. Mary Stevens (1842-1902) married Dr. O.D. Coppedge (1835-1906). They had four children. (See Dr. O.D. Coppedge entry) There are many of their descendants living in the county.

II. Josephine Stevens (1844-1935) married John Tylor Wofford (1844-1910). They had eleven children. There are many of their descendants living in the county.

III. Margaret Mitchell Stevens (1846-1924) married Spearman Hudson (1836-1920). They had four children, two of whom survived to adulthood. None of their descendants live in the county.

IV. Elisha Stevens (1848-1943) married Blanche King (1853-1915). They had 8 children. Six of their descendants still live in DeWitt County.

by Merle Bramlette

STILES, DONALD MADDY, SR. FAMILY

F885

Standing: Don Stiles, Jr., Don Stiles, Sr., Clint Stiles, and Harvey Stiles. Seated: Mrs. Don Stiles, Sr. (Nita).

Standing: Paul A. (Hobbs) Stiles, Joie (Gohmert) Stiles, and Sue (Blackwell) Stiles. Seated: Don Stiles, Sr. and Nita Stiles.

Don and Nita call Cuero, Texas, their home even though they came from different areas in the state. Don, Sr., was born in Raymondville, Texas, October 29, 1925, to Roger Baines and Loreta Maddy Stiles. Juanita Gray Stiles, known as Nita, was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, August 27, 1924, to Clinton Eric and Pearl May Gray Wood.

They met in Poteet, Texas, during their senior year in high school and after graduation were married, December 14, 1942. Don, Sr., spent two years during World War II in the infantry in Germany. While he was away, Nita stayed with his grandmother in Cuero. After his discharge from the service he joined her there. They liked the town and decided to make it their home. All three of their sons were born in Cuero. Donald Maddy Stiles, Jr., May 12, 1946, Clinton Roger Stiles, January 1, 1949, and Harvey Lee Stiles, August 23, 1951.

Don, Jr., and his wife Paula have three daughters. Leigh Ann Stiles was born September 26, 1970, and is a freshman at Texas A&M University. Paula Susanne Stiles was born November 19, 1973, and Mary Elizabeth Stiles was born July 10, 1979. Paula was the former Paula Ann Hobbs, born November 9, 1947, in Athens, Texas, to Roy Curtis and Mary Lee Tidmore Hobbs.

Clint has two daughters from previous marriages. Amy Rebecca born March 2, 1973, and Jean Nicole born April 20, 1977. He is married to the former Sue Blackwell, daughter of Raleigh White and Audrey Mae Barfield Blackwell, born August 2, 1949. Sue has two sons from a previous marriage, Ty White Young born May 23, 1974, and Caleb Euin Young, born June 6, 1980.

Harvey has two daughters from a previous marriage, Angela Lee, born December 5, 1971, and Kimberly Ann, born March 3, 1975. He is married to the former Jo Beth Gohmert, born August 8, 1951, to Ruben Lee and Virgie Rae Ideus Gohmert. Harvey and Joie have a daughter, Jo Leah, born November 25, 1986.

After Don, Sr., returned from the military service, he started working at several area cattle auctions and shortly after decided to start his own business of raising, buying and selling cattle. In 1955, Stiles Cattle Company, Inc., came into being. As the three sons finished school and military service, each came back to be a part of the enterprise.

It takes 2000 acres of land of their own and many acres of leased land to carry on the varied operations. The Stiles Cattle Company, Inc., policy was and still is one of honesty and integrity, and their word is like an old fashioned hand shake.

Today Stiles Cattle Company, Inc., includes Don and Nita, their three sons and wives, and ten grandchildren, and is truly a family affair.

by Nita Stiles

Back Row: Caleb Young, Kim Stiles, Amy Stiles, Susanne Stiles, Angie Stiles, Leigh Ann Stiles, and Ty Young. Front: Jo Leah Stiles, Nicole Stiles and Mary Stiles.

STOLDT, FREDERICK W. AND VIRGINIA HARTMAN FAMILY

F886

Fred Stoldt, Michael Stoldt, Gina Stoldt, Richard Stoldt, Virginia Stoldt, Karen S. Cupples.

Frederick Warren Stoldt was born 15 September 1923 in Yale, OK. He is the son of Frederick Christian (1891-1964) and Mary Howse Hamilton Stoldt (1896-1989). Both are buried in Paola, KS. Two other siblings of the family are William T. Stoldt (1925-1989) and Elizabeth Stoldt Smith (1927). Fred spent early years living many places from Texas to the Great Lakes area with the family following the father's work on the pipeline during the Depression years. After settling down in Paola in 1933, the family became active in community and church activities. Fred was baptized at age twelve in the Baptist Church of Osawatomie, KS, a neighboring town. He graduated from Paola High School and in 1942 enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, attached to the 306th Airdrome Squadron and served overseas in the So. Pacific Theater. After the war, he was employed briefly in California, then came back to the midwest to work for Sinclair Pipeline in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Virginia Ruth, also known as "Gingy" or "Ginger," was born 13 February 1931 in Cuero, TX, daughter of Walter F. and Lucille Boehl Hartman (story elsewhere). The family home and farm was located in the Green DeWitt Community. Baptism and confirmation are recorded at Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. She attended the Green DeWitt School. After graduating from Cuero High School, she attended Texas Lutheran College where she graduated in 1951 with a BS in Elem. Ed. The first teaching assignment was 5th grade at Aloe School in Victoria.

Fred and Virginia were married 8 November 1952 at First English Lutheran Church, Victoria. Shortly after marriage, Fred was transferred to Midfield, TX and Virginia taught 5th grade at Palacios. A later transfer took the family to Hillsboro, TX. With the pipeline becoming more mechanized, Fred sought employment elsewhere and in 1956 was hired by

Dow Chemical Co., Freeport, TX. Within a few months, they purchased their first home in Lake Jackson. Virginia taught kindergarten in the Brazosport ISD for two years, but upon arrival of the fourth child and the demands of busy years of child rearing, career was abandoned. Later she started part-time work with H&R Block which developed into a different career for 14 years. Meanwhile, Fred progressed to Production Foreman at Dow Chemical Co.

They were members of Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Jackson, active in many phases of church work. Fred was also involved in Scout leadership and Little League. Virginia was active in League of Women Voters as well as numerous school and volunteer organizations.

Children of the marriage are: Karen Annette, born 18 March 1954 at El Campo, TX. She graduated from SWTSU with a BS in merchandising and is employed by Sears in Austin. She was married to James O. Cupples and has a son, James Walter Cupples, born 5 January 1987 in Austin, TX.

Michael Warren was born 11 August 1955 at Hillsboro, TX. He graduated from SWTSU with a BA in political science. Then served with the Peace Corps for two years in the Tonga Is. of the So. Pacific. After returning, he attended UT to earn his Masters degree in urban economics and development. He is employed with the City of Copperas Cove, TX as City Planner.

Richard Alan was born 24 October 1959 at Freeport, TX. He received his BS in chemistry from Texas A&M; was then accepted at UT Health and Science Center Medical School in Houston and earned his MD degree in 1987. He is doing family practice residency at Ft. Wayne, IN.

Gina Marie, born 22 January 1967 at Freeport, TX has attended Brazosport College and Texas Lutheran College. She continues her studies there part time while being employed with Pizza Hut as Asst. Manager.

In 1986 Fred retired from Dow Chemical with 30 years service. In 1987 Fred and Virginia left their home of many years in Lake Jackson to move back to the Hartman family ranch in the Green DeWitt Community where they built a home. Fred spends retirement tending to ranch duties, Lions Club and church activities and enjoys RV travel and camping. Virginia has opened an H&R Block franchise in Cuero; is involved with the cattle and ranching as well as enjoying gardening, church and community activities and traveling. They are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero.

by Virginia Stoldt

STRIEBER, CHARLES
F887

Charles Strieber was born July 21, 1843, in Hanover, Germany but was brought to America by his parents when a mere child. They landed at Indianola in 1846 then came to Yorktown, Texas two years later. His father was a contractor and builder and also owned a farm and raised cattle. Charles assisted his father on the ranch, taking care of the cattle from the time he was able to sit in a saddle until 1862, when he entered the Confederate service, enlisting in the Eighth Texas Infantry with which he served during the war. When he returned home he entered the employ of Louis Prager, working in his tin shop for one year. In 1867 he formed a company and built a mill and gin and also established a blacksmithing and wheelwright business. Two years later he removed the mill to Rancho, Gonzales County, where he lived for eighteen years. In 1887 he returned to Yorktown and purchased the Riedel mill and gin and conducted it successfully until October 20, 1893, when it was destroyed by fire. In the spring of 1893 Mr. Strieber erected a new gin. The main building is a two-story structure and there are also two seed houses, a hull house, grist mill, and a one-story office building.

Charles Strieber

On June 21, 1867, Charles Strieber married Miss Mary Zedler in Yorktown. They have seven children.

Charles Strieber died March of 1896. Mary Strieber died July of 1938.

by Patsy Goebel

STRIEBER, LOUIS
F888

Because Louis Strieber spent most of his life in Yorktown, this town became a much better place. Louis was born January 26, 1874 to Adolph Strieber and Marie Wagenschine Strieber, both members of pioneer families. When Louis was only ten, his father passed away, leaving Marie to care for his four children and his businesses.

On January 26, 1895 Louis celebrated his twenty-first birthday with a calico ball at Riedel's Hall. Girls wore calico dresses and boys wore calico shirts and danced without their coats. It was one of the most pleasurable and unusual events of the year.

Shortly after his twenty-ninth birthday, on February 7, 1903, he married Mamie Crawford in San Antonio. Mamie was born September 28, 1877 to John Crawford and Mary Esther Miles Crawford, daughter of one of the defenders of Texas at the battles of Anahuac and San Jacinto. When the Striebers returned to Yorktown, they were honored together with their friends Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Dunn with a large reception on March 1.

Louis Strieber

Mamie (Crawford) Strieber

In August 1904, Louis attended the World's Fair in St. Louis and also bought materials for the M. Strieber and Sons Dry Goods Store which had been opened in 1893.

On April 4, 1905, Louis and Mamie welcomed the first of their eight children, Mary Esther. Karleman followed on January 28, 1906, missing his father's thirty-second birthday by only two days. The growing family was joined by Louis Whitley on October 5, 1908 and by Gwendolyn Ursula on April 28, 1910. Edward Miles, named for his famous grandfather, was born on his father's thirty-eighth birthday — January 26, 1912. Three daughters completed the family: Madeleine born April 11, 1914; Mamie Erna born on December 30, 1918; and Margaret Loretta on January 21, 1922.

In October 1905, Marie Strieber returned to Yorktown to make her home in an apartment above the dry goods store that she and her sons owned. That same year blue ribbons from the Yorktown Street Fair and Carnival to Mamie Strieber for her pickles, tomato catsup, peaches and peach preserves.

Louis Strieber was truly an entrepreneur,

trying different means of helping his fellow Yorktowners. In 1907 he invested in a cement block building machine. He displayed the first products while he familiarized himself with the process so that he could provide the building materials for a store building which he erected for himself.

The ensuing years found Louis buying imported coach stallions, gently buggy horses, residences, acreage on Coleto Creek, and the materials which had been used in the old City Hall. Louis and Mamie Strieber erected a new building to house *The Yorktown News* in 1913. Together with two other men, Louis purchased an 8000 acre ranch near Alice. Though Louis saw several deer, he failed to bring a gun with him. The secretary of the newly organized DeWitt Land and Cattle Company was Louis Strieber. Oil wells were being drilled near Cost, and Louis and several other businessmen invested in land nearby and barely escaped injury when the car they were driving had three blowouts which were repaired by using "bottled air." Four gallons of gasoline at this time cost fifty cents. Locally, Louis Strieber served on the committee to investigate methods of placing gravel on the main streets of Yorktown.

A memorable night in the lives of the Strieber family was April 7, 1915 when Mamie, Louis, and five of their children remember being awakened late at night when the Catholic church was completely destroyed by fire. Miles recalls seeing the fire when he was three years old. Louis' World War I patriotic efforts included being appointed by Mr. McAdoo, U.S. Treasurer, as a government agent for the sale of war savings and thrift stamps. He also raised funds for the Red Cross drive. He and other businessmen agreed to use the English language exclusively in transacting business and in general conversation as far as possible, excluding the German language.

Oil continued to interest Louis through 1920, but his civic interests proliferated as well. He bought a fine Jersey toro in order to give owners of Jersey cows a chance to breed them. He served on the Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed to the Board of Equalization for the school district and served on the following city committees: finance; sanitation and health; electric light and telephone; ordinance; public parks, cemeteries, streets and bridges. He was also elected as an alderman for many years. He assisted in planning the Yorktown World's Fair.

Louis, ever ready to experiment, ordered goods for his dry goods store from Rice-Stex in St. Louis and A.B. Frank Company in San Antonio by a radiogram sent by his son, Louis Whitley, who had designed and built his own radio station. This was truly a step into the future. He called neighboring farmers together to interest them in producing onions, pledging to plant ten acres in yellow Bermudas himself. He was instrumental in the organization of the DeWitt County Taxpayers' League and gave freely of his time to present speeches in neighboring areas.

Louis Strieber was also involved in obtaining pavement along Main Street and around the traffic poles. With other interested people, he established a creamery in Yorktown. He was a representative to the Rural Resettlement Administration to seek aid for distressed farmers in DeWitt County. He also attended section-wide Democratic rallies and entertained prospective candidates for governor of Texas in his home and at the country club.

Mamie and Louis Strieber celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with a trip to San Antonio, Kerrivlle, and New Braunfels in February, 1928. Meanwhile the eight Strieber children were growing up and going away to college. During the thirties the University of Texas at Austin was home to almost all of the children. Louis Whitley and Miles both followed their interest in flying by joining the Air Force as well.

Whitley and Karl Strieber assisted their father with his store. To aid local people with their livelihood, Louis extended credit to them during times of poor cotton, corn, and other crops so that they could survive over a year or two until crops improved. The people repaid their debts during prosperous times. Miles also assisted in the operation of the store after obtaining his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and finding no job during the depression of the 1930's. The dry goods store proved to be such a success that it made the listings of Dunn and Bradstreet.

Mary Esther received her Master's Degree in teaching. After attending Washington and Lee, Karl received his law degree from the University of Texas and practiced law in many small towns and in San Antonio. Whitley went to Tulane in Louisiana. He was a radio operator on boats and traveled world wide before he obtained his commission in the Army Air Corps. Whitley is well-remembered in a poem written by Clifford Gessler, a fellow officer after Whitley lost his life in an airplane crash in Hawaii:

O wings against the sky! O flower of dawn!
And over the mountains flowing like waves to the sea
Wedges of wings and the rise and dip and the long curve of flight
Wings, and he not with them.
And he was happy always, but happiest there, circling across the meadows of the sky.
The flash of his eyes and the cadence of his laughter, they will go down with us in aeon years.
This is the death he would have chosen, he who loved life but loved better the roar of the motors, the plunge and soaring of wings, the rush of wind in the skyways
O flower of dawn! O wings against the sky!

Gwendolyn obtained her degree in journalism from the University of Texas. Madeline earned her degree in teaching at the University of Texas and taught school for several years. Mamie received a degree from the University of Texas, and Margaret Loretta (Peggy) completed her education at Our Lady of the Lake with a specialty in speech therapy.

In July 1940 Alderman Louis Strieber became the acting mayor of Yorktown after the death of William Westhoff. Louis was re-elected until he decided to retire in 1945.

by Miles and Dorothy Strieber

UP-TO-DATE LAUNDRY

R. B. Williams, Prop.

Best Work. Satisfaction guaranteed. We ask a trial.

STRUBER (STRIEBER), JOHANN JOSEPH ANDREAS AND JOHANNE HENRIETTA AMALIE LOUISA SCHRADER

F889

Johann Joseph Andreas Struber (Strieber) was born on 24 December 1801 in Gieboldshausen, Kingdom of Hanover, in what is now called West Germany. He was the son of Christoph Struber, a soapmaker in Gieboldshausen, and Catharine Nissel Struber. His parents moved to Zellerfeld, Kingdom of Hanover, where his father died on 29 April 1811 and his mother died on 12 October 1827. It was in Zellerfeld that Andreas completed his formal education and apprenticed as a cabinetmaker.

On 7 June 1831, Andreas married Johanne Henrietta Amalie Louisa Schrader at St. Salvatorius Catholic Church in Clausthal-Zellerfeld im Oberharz, Kingdom of Hanover.

Johanne Henrietta Amalie Louisa Schrader was born on 16 January 1801 in Clausthal, Kingdom of Hanover. Her father, Georg Christoph Schrader, was a master baker in Zellerfeld. Her mother, Johanne Ernestine Eleanore Thielen Schrader, died in Zellerfeld on 23 November 1823 and is buried in the cemetery at St. Salvatoriuskirche (Catholic Church) in Clausthal. Both of her parents had died by the time Amalie married Andreas on 7 June 1831 in St. Salvatoriuskirche in Clausthal-Zellerfeld. Andreas and Amalie became the proud parents of Georg Friedrich August on 19 November 1832. The next son, Carl Adolph was born 15 July 1839 and a daughter, Sophia Theresa was born on 22 November 1833. Two other daughters were born, Caroline and Louise, and a final son named Wilhelm. Each child was baptized in St. Salvatoriuskirche in Clausthal-Zellerfeld.

Part of the Verein immigrants to Texas, Andreas, Amalie, and their family departed Bremen on the *Friedrich* on 13 August 1846, and arrived in Galveston, Texas on 24 October 1846. While they were still living at Indianola, Calhoun County, Texas, their daughter, Sophia Theresa married Clemens Georg Ludwig Gottlieb Hartmann on 2 July 1847. Both Andreas Struber and his new son in law, C.G. Hartmann were among the first landed proprietors of the City of Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas. Andreas Struber signed the contract to buy the land for the City of Yorktown on 30 July 1854. (Volume 66, page 73, Deed Records, DeWitt County, Texas.) Andreas was granted land in DeWitt County as part of the Fisher-Miller Colony.

Amalie Louisa Schrader Struber (Strieber) passed away on 21 December 1881 and was buried in Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Texas. When Andreas died on 6 July 1885, they buried him next to his wife in their family plot in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Mrs. Marianne E.H. Little

STUBBS FAMILY

F890

The Stubbs family history is believed to have originated with John Stubbs of Cappahosic, Gloucester Co., Virginia, about 1652, who is believed to be the ancestor of all the southern Stubbs. The origin of the family is thought to be in the Forest of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, England.

The ancestor of the DeWitt County Stubbs was Green Berry Stubbs, b. in 1852 in Georgia and died in Gonzales County in 1906. He was the son of Roberson and Elizabeth Webb Stubbs. Roberson was the son of John and Nancy Adams Stubbs.

Green Berry's first wife was a Miss Nelms of Alabama and they were the parents of a son, John Robert (Jack) (b. 1874, d. 1958). John Robert married Annie Barth and they were the parents of a daughter, Annie Mae who married Wallace McCormick, their children John Barth, deceased and William Wallace. His second marriage was to Johanna Green and they had a son, John Raymond who married Thelma Parks. His second marriage was to Anne Brewer. John Robert's third wife was Maud Harris and they were the parents of a daughter, Maude Adele.

Green's second marriage was to Hattie Hester Kelly daughter of David Alexander and Mariah Brown Kelly. Hattie was born in Troy, Pike County, Alabama in 1861. The Kellys migrated from Alabama to Texas after the Civil War coming by boat to Galveston and overland by wagon. They eventually settled in Gonzales County where they were engaged in farming and ranching.

Green and Hattie were married Dec. 12, 1878 in Colorado County, later moving to De Witt County around 1889. There were eight children born to this union.

1. Aldora (b. 1880, d. 1963), married Edgar Jordan and they were the parents of Elmo, Chester, Eddie, Arthur, and Woodrow. Aldora married a Rev. Henderson later, in life after the death of Edgar Jordan.

2. Lannie (b. 1881, d. 1958) married John Q. Stevens and they were the parents of John Quitman, Eula Dell, Robbie Hendricks, Walter, David, and George West.

3. Vada (b. 1881, d. 1907) married Charlie Peters, no children.

4. David Robert (b. 1889, d. 1959) married Edna Weber. Their children are:

David Garland, deceased at an early age, Gertrude married Drew Reese and they are the parents of Debbie Reese Potts, and Mary Jocelyn Organek. Eula Dell married Ervin Reinhardt and they are the parents of twin boys, Michael, and Billy, and a daughter Sandra Rocker. Eddie Robert (Bob) married Peggy Farquhar and they are parents of Eddie R. Jr. Patricia Janssen, Ronald, Cecelia Matula, John and Joel.

5. Delmo (b. 1891, d. 1987) married Leo Rauh, their children are Minnie Marie Zimmerman, and Monette Dielman. Delmo's second marriage was to Walter Crouch.

6. Myrtle Mae (b. 1895, d. 1980) married John Lawrence Coppedge. Their children:

Finley Lawrence (Bud) married Mary Lou Droomgoole and they are parents of: Connie Holgraf, Peggy Koranek, Robbie Coppedge, Kathy Voekel, and Phil Coppedge. After Mrs. Coppedge's death, Bud married Angie Kleinecke.

Ralph (Dick) married Lillian Kennedy and they are parents of Jimmy, Lawrence Wayne, and Patricia Ann Stule.

Raleigh (Coot) married Olive Cherry and they are parents of Raleigh Earl and John Ronald.

Mitchie married Stanley Wallace and their children are: Charles, Cynthia Wallace Scheffler, Stanley Michael, and Melissa Wallace Simmons.

John Oliver married Mary Lou Cox and their children are: Susan Goebel, John Richard, Randy Keith, and Karen Beth Bade.

7. Culberson (b. 1897, d. 1981) married Willie Mae Timm and they were the parents of one son, Carlton who married Dorothy Jean Casal and are the parents of Finley Timm and Randy Carl.

8. Bryan (b. 1897, d. 1937) married Mary Skrehot and their children are Bryan, Jr. who married Ann Stevens and they are the parents of Janet Hahn Miller, Pamela Sue Haun, Valerie Ann Oliver and Michael David. Bryan Jr. second marriage was to Jo Bennett.

Walter Bert married Janine Huebel and their children are Suzanne Marie, Kevin Kelly and Walter Bryan.

by Gertrude Stubbs Reese

STUBBS, WALTER BERT AND JANINE

F891

DeWitt County has been a significant place for Bert and Janine's family. Bert, as his Cuero friends and family call him, was born and reared in DeWitt County. In later years after he graduated from highschool, he was stationed in San Antonio during the Korean conflict. His friends teasingly said he fought the Battle at the Alamo because he fortunately was able to spend his four years of military service in the area close to DeWitt County. Seldom did he miss the opportunity to come home at least weekly to Cuero to see his mother, Mary and brother Bryan and his Cuero buddies.

Bert's father, Bryan Stubbs Sr. was also born and reared in DeWitt County. Born in 1897, he died in 1937 when Bert and Bryan Jr. were still young boys. Bryan Stubbs' parents, Green Berry Stubbs and Harriet Kelley migrated to Texas from Georgia and Alabama in the second half of the 1800s.

Bert's mother, Mary (Skrehot) was born in 1898. She was also reared and educated in DeWitt County. As a young woman in her twenties, she studied nursing at the old Burns Hospital. Her studies were interrupted by marriage and raising her two sons. However, in the late 1950s, she returned to her nursing studies and later after being certified, she nursed again in the old Burns Hospital. Appropriately, she retired from medicine about the same time the old hospital did. Mary's parents were Clement and Rosina (Orsak) Skrehot, who also spent many years in DeWitt County.

DeWitt County has been home to Janine's original family in Yoakum for over forty years. In 1949, Janine's mother, Charlotte (Ellsworth) Huebel moved to Yoakum with daughters, Janine and Karen to live with Charlotte's parents, Robert and Nell Haynes. The Haynes owned and operated a flower shop in Yoakum after Bob Haynes had retired from the Internal Revenue. The Haynes other daughter, Betty Sue, was educated and married in Yoakum, to Robert Mann. If you go to Yoakum today you will more than likely see Charlotte, Betty Sue and their mother Nell at Haynes' Fabric Shop because Nell is still in the retail business six days a week and her daughters, who have been retired numerous years, occasionally help their mother, who has yet to retire and stays very busy. In 1951, Janine's mother Charlotte married Reuben H. Koether, who was city manager of Yoakum for over twenty-two years. They increased the DeWitt County population by two more when they gave birth to Laurel Lee in 1952, and Joseph Wayne in 1956.

Bert and Janine (Huebel) Stubbs were married in 1956. After living in Cuero for several months, they moved to Austin where Bert was graduated from the University of Texas. Bert was employed in several cities as their children were growing up. Suzanne was born in Austin in 1957. Kevin Kelly was born in Sinton in 1960. Walter Bryan, however, was fortunate to be born in DeWitt County, at the old Burns Hospital where Janine chose to return when Bert began a new job with Texaco in Houston. So it was during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 that Janine and her new baby, Walter Bryan, were tucked away safely on the top floor of Burns Hospital receiving much care and attention since they were the only patients for three days in the OB ward. They profited greatly, but the hospital did not.

In 1964, Bert and Janine bought forty-four acres, six miles from Cuero, off the Yoakum highway. While Bert and his family had to move to different cities as the children were growing up they always had their country cabin in DeWitt County to give their family a sense of security and roots. This is where the family has celebrated holidays, anniversaries, reunions, and weddings. The "Ponderosa", as the kids affectionately called it, has been also used to raise cattle, horses, train dogs for hunting, and to learn to drive cars, tractors, motor bikes and which consequently led to broken arms and legs.

Over the past few years, Bert and Janine have especially enjoyed their DeWitt County home as a get away from the city. Janine has retreated to the cabin to write her masters thesis while she attended the University of Texas. Bert loves to play golf with his friends in Cuero. Most of all the two of them have enjoyed getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new ones in DeWitt County.

Today Bert and Janine are employed in Austin. Janine teaches at St. Michael's Academy. Bert manages an independent oil company. However, they still rush back to the country in DeWitt County on weekends to relax and be with family and friends. Its a great privilege to have a home in DeWitt County thirty-three years after they first left it. Having roots and being near friends that date back to one's youth in today's mobile society gives the Stubbs family a warm comfortable feeling. Hopefully, Bert and Janine will retire in DeWitt County and it will be home again in the true sense.

by Walter Bert and Janine Stubbs

PLISKAL'S
HOME BAKERY
209 West Main St.

STUERMER, ADOLPH AND ELIZABETH (HABERKORN)

F892

Adolph Stuermer, born 27 Sept. 1852 at Reuden, Anhalt Dessau, Prussia, was the only son of Gottlieb Stuermer and his wife, nee Henrietta Hinze. Gottlieb Stuermer was born in Germany 16 March 1828 to Johann Christian Stuermer and his wife. He died in Yorktown 19 Nov. 1900. His father, brothers Christian and Wilhelm, and his sister, Fredericke Gips, all came to Yorktown. The book, *New Homes in a New Land*, by Ethel H. Geue lists a G. Stuermer as coming from Bremen, Germany to Galveston, Texas on a ship named "Lucie" on 7 Nov. 1854. Gottlieb was a Pvt. Co. 16-Regt. Texas Infantry in the Confederate States Army. The 1860 census records list Gottlieb Stuermer, a farmer and carpenter, wife Henrietta, and children – Adolph, 7, Marie, 6, Louise Hinze, 17, and Minna Hinze, 12 – living in DeWitt County. Adolph's sister Marie was born on April 22, 1854. She married Franz Henze of Yorktown. His half-sister, Louise Hinze married Julius Gohmert and half-sister, Minna Hinze, married Michael Striedel. Adolph Stuermer married Elizabeth Haberkorn 23 July 1876 in Yorktown by Rev. H.A. Letterman. He was baptized 10 April 1881 by Rev. Letterman. The couple settled on a farm at the Smith Creek near Yorktown. Adolph died 2 April 1902 and is buried in Westside cemetery in Yorktown.

Adolph Stuermer

Elizabeth (Haberkorn) Stuermer

Elizabeth Haberkorn was born 17 June 1855 near Leusel, Grand-Duchy of Hessendarmstadt, Germany and died in Yorktown 29 May 1947. She is buried in Westside cemetery. She was the third of nine children of Conrad and Elizabetha Koehler Haberkorn. She was baptized and confirmed in Germany by Rev. Karl Mueller of the Lutheran Church. Valentine Koehler, a brother to Elizabetha Koehler, came to America long before the others. He was wealthy and sent for Elizabeth, 19, and her older brother and sister, Valentine and Katherine Haberkorn. So on 7 Oct. 1874, Elizabeth, Valentine, and Katherine set sail for America. After a long voyage they finally reached Indianola on Christmas Day 1874. By way of Victoria and Arneckeville they came over the old trail to Yorktown. Elizabeth was received into the home of a cousin, Mrs. Henry Menn, where she worked until her marriage to Adolph Stuermer two years later. Because America suited the family so well her parents and younger brother, Louis, followed in the summer of 1883, leaving one brother, Frederick, behind in Germany. Conrad and Elizabeth stayed with John and Katharine Junker in Arneckeville. Louis Haberkorn never married and made his home with his nephew, H.A. Stuermer and wife, Emma, in Nordheim, Texas. Valentine Haberkorn married Lisette Reinhardt and lived in San Antonio, Texas.

Seven children were born to Adolph and Elizabeth Stuermer, six lived to adulthood.

(1) Adolph Stuermer, b. 1877 died soon after birth.

(2) Marie (Mary) Stuermer, b. 20 Feb. 1879 d. 19 Oct. 1970, married August Burow of Nordheim 19 Mar. 1901. They had one son, Herbert Adolph Burow who married Helen Evans of Bonham, Texas. They had one daughter, Betsy Ferrill. Mary and August are buried in Bonham.

(3) Herman Adolph Stuermer, b. 3 May 1880 d. 21 Feb. 1950, married Emma Strunk of Halletsville, Texas. They had 3 children; one son died at birth. Henry Stuermer married Camille Stanzel of San Antonio. They had one daughter, Cassandra, married to George Rousseau. Henry was killed in an automobile accident in 1937. Cassie Stuermer was born 29 Sept. 1913 and died 23 March 1988. Herman, Emma, Henry, and Cassie are buried in Westside Cemetery.

(4) Anna Stuermer, b. 13 Aug. 1882, d. 26 Feb. 1956, married Emil Sinast of Yorktown. They had 2 children. Werner Sinast, b. 12 May 1902, d. 21 Nov. 1986, married Alfreda Sauermilch. They had 5 children: Anna Louise, Melvin, Elaine, Katharine and Linda. Lorena Sinast. b. 15 Sept. 1905 d. 16 July 1980, married Edgar Gohlke. They had 1 son – Vance Gohlke. After her husband's death "Mutter" Stuermer made her home with Anna and Emil Sinast. Anna, Emil, Lorena, Edgar and Werner are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown.

(5) William Frederick Stuermer, b. 2 April

Back Row: L-R: Louise (Janssen) Stuermer, Anna (Stuermer) Sinast, Walter C. Stuermer, Leischen (Stuermer) Wied, Herman A. Stuermer, Emma (Strunk) Stuermer, Olga (Kraege) Stuermer, William F. Stuermer. Seated: Mrs. Elizabeth Stuermer.

1884, d. 20 Dec. 1964, married Olga Kraege of Yorktown. They had 2 children. Marian Stuermer b. 5 Aug. 1910 d. 18 Sept. 1984, married Rev. Gerhard Poehlmann. They had 3 children – Kurt, William, and Elizabeth. Carolyn Stuermer married Jimmie Hurst. They had 3 children – John Dale, Thomas, and Carlea. William, Olga and Marian are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown.

(6) Louise (Leischen) Stuermer, b. June 1886, married Louis Wied of Nordheim. They had one son, Romeo Adolph Wied, b. 30 Sept. 1909. Romeo married Inez Stroman of Hebbronville, Texas. They had 3 children – Kenneth, Cora Lee, and David. Leischen and Louis are buried at Hebbronville.

(7) Walter Conrad Gottlieb, b. 20 Feb. 1891, married Louise Caroline Janssen. (See separate story – Stuermer, W.C. and Louise).

by Mrs. Ivie Klaeveman

STUERMER, WALTER C.G. AND LOUISE (JANSSEN)

F893

Walter C. and Louise (Janssen) Stuermer

Walter Conrad Gottlieb Stuermer was born at (Smith Creek) Yorktown, Texas, Feb. 20, 1891, the youngest child of Adolph Stuermer and his wife, nee Elizabeth Haberkorn. He was baptized in the Lutheran faith by Rev. Falkenburg and confirmed by Rev. J.K. Poch.

Walter attended the Yorktown public schools. In 1911 he attended Draughn's Practical Business College in Shiner, Texas.

He met Louise Janssen when she was taking piano lessons from his sister-in-law, Emma Strunk Stuermer, in Nordheim. He often spoke of courting Louise in his buggy pulled by his fast race horse, "Lady". The couple were married Dec. 6, 1913 at the home of her parents by Rev. D.A. Jud. They made their home in Nordheim. Here they became active members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

From 1913 until 1916 Walter was employed in the general mercantile business of his brother H.A. Stuermer. Later he entered into the saddlery business and in 1919 was joined by his brother-in-law, E.D. Janssen. In 1923 the two formed a partnership with Erwin Wagenschein in the Nordheim Hardware Company. In 1929 Walter attended a short course in cotton grading at Texas A&A and was a cotton buyer in the Nordheim area for many years. In 1941 the partnership was dissolved with Mr. Stuermer retaining the hardware business.

Mr. Stuermer held many positions of trust and responsibility. He was president of Nordheim Chamber of Commerce for 6 years and elected alderman for 10 consecutive years. He was a charter member of the Nordheim Fire Dept. and served as secretary for the Water Dept. During World War II he was a member of the Gas Rationing Board of DeWitt County. For 20 years he served as city secretary. He assisted in obtaining a charter for the city of Nordheim in 1919. Walter died June 6, 1952 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Louise Caroline Janssen, daughter of Dietrich Janssen and wife, Johanna Lau, was born Dec. 25, 1892 at Gruenau, Texas where the family lived in a barn. In 1896, at the age of 4, she moved with her parents to a farm near Nordheim. She attended school in Cabeza and at Nordheim. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith on July 30, 1912 by Rev. J.K. Poch.

Mrs. Stuermer was an active member of the Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, served as treasurer of the Cemetery Association for 25 years, and was Pres. of the Home and School Club for 10 years. She was a charter member and the first Pres. of the Nordheim Garden Club, and served as Chairman of bandage folding group for the American Red Cross during World War II. After the death of her husband in 1952 she lived with her sister in Houston for a short time. In 1954 she returned to Nordheim and accepted employment as supervisor of the lunch room with the Nordheim Public School. She served in this position for 10 years, retiring in 1964. She was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed piecing quilts, quilting, and crocheting. She also won many blue ribbons for her flower arrangements. Louise died Dec. 1, 1975 and is buried in the Nordheim Cemetery.

Two children were born to the couple.

(1) Adolph D. Stuermer, b. Aug. 25, 1914. He graduated from Nordheim High School in 1932, and received a B.A. degree in Architecture from Rice Institute Houston, Tex. in 1936 and an M.A. degree in 1937. He married Annella Stites of Sonora, Tex. On Dec. 9, 1949 he married Crystal Wiley of Abilene, Tex. They live in San Angelo, Tex. where he is the owner of McRan Company.

(2) Inez Lee Stuermer, b. Nov. 17, 1919. She married Ivie M. Klaeveman Dec. 12, 1941.

by Mrs. Ivie Klaeveman

S. v SLONECKI,
Civil Engineer AND Architect
Buchel Building.

STURM, ERNEST JOSEPH AND META DIERINGER

F894

Ernest and Meta (Dieringer) Strum

On September 19, 1923 Ernest Sturm and Meta Dieringer began a romance that would span sixty-two years and produce 50 beloved children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Ernest Joseph Sturm was born on October 16, 1902 the oldest son of John and Elizabeth Demmer Sturm in the Cabeza Community near Yorktown. He grew-up knowing only hard work and speaking only the German language, a custom that his father believed to be very important. In order to attend Catholic school he had to live in Yorktown with his grandmother, Isabella Hohn Sturm. He was later forced to leave school and help on the farm. This setback did not dampen his insatiable desire to read and educated himself. He will always be remembered by his family and peers as a student, a disciplinarian, and a leader; and of course a storyteller.

On a warm September night in 1923 he met Meta Marie Dieringer at a dance at the old school building in Clinton. Out of respect for her father, it was her first dance since his death the year before. Meta was almost 21; she was quiet and she was the most beautiful thing Ernest had ever seen. Out of courtesy to the other girls he arrived with, he did not dance with Meta until the very end. During their courtship, Ernest couldn't always get to Ratcliffe to see his sweetheart, so she had her brother take her to Cuero and put her on the train bound for Yorktown. Their courtship lasted just over a year and on November 25, 1924 they were married in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero by Fr. Francis Palanche.

Meta Marie Dieringer was born in Lindenau on October 28, 1902 the oldest child of Severin A. Dieringer and Emilia Fuessel Dieringer. They moved to the Lost Creek area in 1907 where she attended her first school. In 1913

her family bought 450 acres in the Ratcliffe area on the Chisholm Creek.

After their marriage the moved into a house built by Meta's uncles on her family's farm. Ernest helped cultivate the land and tend the stock. It was in this home that their first four children were born. Ann Louise Sturm Neslony (Feb. 22, 1926), Emily Isabella Sturm Todd (Dec. 21, 1927), Norma Katherine Sturm Zengerle (Mar. 27, 1930), and William John Sturm (Nov. 13, 1931). In November of 1932 they moved to Nordheim where they had five more children. Mary Frances Sturm Kunschik (Mar. 5, 1933), Michael Joseph Sturm (May 29, 1934), James Alfred Sturm (Jan. 12, 1938), Eugene Paul Sturm (Feb. 21, 1941), and Marjorie Ruth Sturm Thedin (Jun. 23, 1943). During their time in the Nordheim area Ernest kept busy providing for his wife and family by farming, working as a supervisor in the WPA project for $1 per day, and later working at the Dewitt County courthouse on the Lot and Block Survey.

In November of 1943 they moved back to their original home on the family farm. On a cold and windy morning on January 29, 1945 their home caught fire and burned to the ground. With the help of family and friends they survived by living in the out buildings on the farm until their new home was completed in July. They bought a house from Hugo Zengerle in Meyersville, which they took down and rebuilt near the previous home site. Ernest and Meta also purchased 158 acres from Meta's mother and family in Oct. of 1943. Ernest farmed until the late 1950's and later raised cattle and hogs. He also began a successful painting business in the early 1960's. He became one of the most respected painting contractors in the Cuero area until 1976 when he was forced to retire after pacemaker surgery. He remained active on the farm until his death on September 16, 1985. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Past Grand Knight, and for many years served as their recording secretary. He and Meta were faithful members and contributors of St. Michael's Church in Cuero. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery next to his son James Alfred Sturm who preceded him in death in 1966. Meta has remained on the farm and enjoys seeing her children, 20 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

by Gerald Zengerle

Ernst Sturm

Isabella (Hohn) Sturm

STURM, ERNST AND ISABELLA HOHN

F895

Once a handsome young cabinetmaker named Ernst Sturm and a beautiful young fraulein named Isabella Hohn pledged their love to each other, perhaps on the banks of the beautiful Rhine River.

Ernst Sturm was born on December 5, 1854 in Braubach, Germany and died at a very young age on January 27, 1884. He is buried in Germany. He married Isabella Hohn in Germany in late 1877. Isabella was born on November 10, 1854 in Buir, in the Rhine Valley of Germany. Though their life together was short, their bond of love must have been strong for they implanted it firmly in their three children John Michael Sturm (Sept. 28, 1878), Emma Sturm Gips (Jan. 9, 1880), and Katherine Elise Sturm Demmer (Oct. 27, 1881) she was also known as Elizabeth.

After Ernst's death Isabella emigrated to the United States in June of 1892 with her three children and her brother, Arnold Hohn, posing as her husband. They settled in Yorktown and began their new life together. She raised them as any mother would, with love, a determination for improvement, and pride for their culture and heritage. She was also a midwife and an accomplished seamstress of wedding dresses. Isabella died in Yorktown on August 9, 1915 and is buried in Westside Cemetery.

The oldest child, John Sturm, married Elizabeth Dmmer on November 5, 1901. (Elizabeth Demmer Sturm is not to be confused with John's sister, Katherine Elizabeth Sturm Demmer who married Julius Demmer.) Elizabeth was born on March 10, 1883 in St. Hedwig, Texas, the daughter of Joseph Demmer and Louisa Schroeders Demmer and granddaughter of Polish pioneer and settler John Demmer. Demmer settled the St. Hedwig area with sixteen other families in the early 1850's.

John and Elizabeth were blessed with ten children, 6 boys and 4 girls. They were raised on the family farm in the Cabeza Comm. Ernest Joseph Sturm, Philomena Sturm, Herman Julius Sturm, Arnold August Sturm, Mary Magdalena Sturm Moy, Matthew Joseph Sturm, Johnny Hubert Sturm, Clara Catherine Sturm DeReese, Leo F. sturm, and Hedwig Sturm; 59 grandchildren and 118 great-grandchildren. John died July 30, 1936 in Yorktown, and Elizabeth died January 30, 1956. Both are buried in Westside Cemetery next to John's mother and uncle.

The second child, Emma Sturm Gips, born in Braubach, Germany, married Herman Gustav Gips in Yorktown on July 25, 1900. Herman was born on March 15, 1877. To their marriage six children were born; Leona Wilhelmina Gips Wild, Frances Gips Boldt, Isabella Gips Wagener, William H.F. Gips, Bruno Otto Gips, and Regina Marie Gips Sauermilch. All the children grew up in and around Yorktown. Emma died in Yorktown on January 16, 1932. Herman died in Yorktown on June 10, 1939. Both are buried in Westside Cemetery.

The third child, Katherine Elise Strum, born in Braubach, Germany married Julius Joseph Demmer (as mentioned earlier) on January 14, 1903 in Yorktown. To their marriage six children were born; Joseph Frank Demmer, Rosa Teresa Demmer, Albert August Demmer, Herman Claude Demmer, Mary Leona Demmer Jacobs, and Anna Isabel Demmer John. They lived in and around the Nixon, Texas area. Katherine Elise died on May 22, 1938.

by Gerald Zengerle

STURM, HERMAN J. AND ELEANORA WARZECHA

F896

Herman Julius Sturm was the third child of John Michael Sturm and Elizabeth Demmer Sturm. He was born July 31, 1906, on the family farm at Cabeza near Yorktown, Texas. Herman grew up in a family of ten children: Ernest, Philomena, Herman, Hedwig, Arnold, Mary, Joseph, Johnny, Clara, and Leo Sturm. His grandparents were Ernst Sturm, Isabella Hohn Sturm, Joseph Demmer, and Louisa Schroeders Demmer.

Eleanora Elizabeth Warzecha was the sixth child of John Warzecha and Mary Biela Warzecha. She was born February 21, 1918, on the family farm at Three Oaks Community near Falls City, Texas, in Wilson County. Eleanora grew up in a family of seven children: Ella, Julia, Joseph, Gertrude, Isadore, Eleanora, and Albert Warzecha. Her grandparents were Josef Warzecha, Mary Jendrzey Warzecha, Jesse Biela, and Katarina Olinick Biela.

Of similar backgrounds, both Herman Sturm and Eleanora Warzecha grew up in large, hardworking farm families, who were devoutly Catholic. On September 1, 1936, Herman and Eleanora pledged their vows of love and fidelity at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Falls City, Texas.

When Herman and Eleanora married, they had nothing. They knew it would be hard to

Herman Sturm family. Front: Linda, Janet, Eleanora, Herman and Sister Ellen. Boys: Herman, Jr., Albert, Raymond, Robert, Wilbert, Alvin, James and Marvin.

start married life, but they worked very hard, and put their faith in God. Though they were poor in money, Herman and Eleanora Sturm were richly blessed by God with the true wealth of life, a healthy, happy, loving family of eleven children: Herman, born June 18, 1937; Theresa, born April 6, 1939; Albert, born April 28, 1941; Raymond, born September 21, 1943; Robert, born November 16, 1945; Wilbert, born October 31, 1947; Alvin, born July 31, 1950; Janet, born June 6, 1952; James, born November 24, 1954; Linda, born May 28, 1957; and Marvin, born November 25, 1960. "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul!" With eleven children, the spirit of Herman and Eleanora Sturm will surely not be lost.

Herman and Eleanora lived on three different farms, moving to the present farm four miles east of Yorktown on December 12, 1945. They purchased the farm in August, 1946, and raised their eleven children and lived there since. Herman loved farming, especially when his boys grew older and helped with custom peanut thrashing and hay baling. Eleanora has always enjoyed her garden, her flowers, and her chickens.

Time passed quickly, and soon the children grew up and began families of their own.

Herman Joseph Sturm married Pauline Theresa Motal on November 7, 1964, at St. Mary's Church in Victoria, Texas. Herman works as a mechanic at Alcoa Aluminum in Point Comfort. They made their home in Victoria, and raised three sons: Kevin, Gerald, and Byron Sturm.

Theresa Frances Sturm became Sister Mary Ellen Sturm. She professed her vows in the Order of Felician Sisters on July 26, 1957. She has been a school teacher and principal, and now serves on the Administrative Council at the Motherhouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Albert Lawrence Sturm married Lorene Buendel on March 6, 1970, in Cuero, Texas. Albert owns Sturm Welding Works of Yorktown, Texas, where they live and have a son, Ricky Sturm.

Raymond Edward Sturm married Agnes Stepanski on October 17, 1964, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Baytown, Texas. Raymond owns Sturm General Carpentry in Hankamer, Texas, where they have their home. They had six children: Cynthia (Rust), Charlotte, Dwayne, Loretta, Randy, and Christina Sturm. Cynthia and Robert Rust have a daughter, Monica Rust.

Robert James Sturm married Deborah Smith on August 12, 1972, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen, Texas. Robert is a tool pusher for Harkins Drilling Company of Alice. They live in Yorktown, and have two children: Andrew Jason (A.J.) and Allyson Sturm.

Wilbert Leroy Sturm remained single. He is a tool pusher for Harkins Drilling Company of Alice, Texas. He has a home in Yorktown, but travels with his job.

Alvin Milton Sturm married Rachel Gail Syma on August 21, 1982, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. Alvin is operations manager of the Lube Additives Unit of Ethyl Corporation. They live in Pasadena, and have three children: Frank, Mariel, and Joseph Sturm.

Janet Marie Sturm was married and annulled. Janet is a writer of family history books and songs. She lives in Yorktown, and has two children: Robert Bilbrey and Julie Sturm.

James Edward Sturm remained single. He is a night foreman, welder, and machinist at Victoria Machine Works in Victoria, Texas, where he resides.

Linda Mae Sturm was married and divorced. Linda is part-owner of a tree cutting business in Edna, Texas, where she lives with her two sons: Philip Syzdek and Corbett King.

Marvin Daniel Sturm married Gretchen Ledwig on May 8, 1982, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. Marvin is a heavy equipment operator. They live in Victoria, Texas.

Herman and Eleanora celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on September 1, 1981, in Yorktown with a Mass and dinner with their relatives. Less than one year later, Herman passed away on August 4, 1982. He is buried at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown.

by Janet Marie Sturm

STURM, JOHN MICHAEL AND ELIZABETH DEMMER

F897

John Michael and Elizabeth (Demmer) Sturm

John Michael Sturm began his life in the village of Braubach, Germany, a peaceful town located on the banks of the Rhine River. He was born on Sept. 28, 1878, to the cabinetmaker Ernst Sturm, of Braubach, Germany, and his wife, a seamstress and future midwife, Isabella Hohn Sturm, from Buir, Germany. When John was five years old, his father died of illness at age 29 years, leaving his mother a young widow, and John the "man" of the family, and his sisters, Emma, age 4, Katherine Elise, age 2, and a third sister who died as a young child after her father's death. After Ernst's death on Jan. 27, 1884, Isabella and her three children moved back to Buir, Germany, to be with her family. Her parents were Johan Hohn and Elisabetha Wirtz Hohn, and two brothers were Arnold Hohn and Mathias Joseph Hohn.

In the summer of 1890, Isabella's brother, Arnold Hohn, left for America, the land of freedom, to be with their first cousin, Louis A. Hohn and his wife, Johanna Behringer Hohn. Arnold Hohn landed in New York City on July 31, 1890, and proceeded by boat to Indianola, Texas, then traveled to Yorktown and met his cousin, Louis Hohn. After getting a house in Yorktown and becoming established in his new home, Arnold sent for his sister. Isabella and her three children, John Michael, Emma, and Katherine Elise, immigrated by boat and arrived in Yorktown about June of 1892, when

John was 13, Emma was 12, and Elise was 10 years old.

Another family in Nixon, Texas, would soon become important in John Sturm's life. Elizabeth Demmer was born on March 10, 1883, the daughter of Joseph Demmer and Louisa Schroeders Demmer. Joseph Demmer was the son of John Demmer of Illverich, Germany, and Elizabeth Hasenbeck of Strump, Germany. His family immigrated to America in 1851, and his father, John Demmer, founded St. Hedwig, Texas, in 1855. Louisa Schroeders' family came from Alsace-Lorraine, France. Joseph and Louisa Demmer settled in Nixon, Texas, and had eleven children: Julius, August, Edward, Margaret, Elizabeth, Henry, Ferdinand Martin, Mary, Agnes, Nellie, and Otto Demmer.

John Michael Sturm took Elizabeth Demmer as his wife at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown on November 5, 1901. They bought a farm in the Cabeza area near Yorktown, with financial help from Arnold Hohn. John and Elizabeth were blessed with ten children: Ernest (10-16-1902), Philomena (08-11-1904), Herman (07-31-1906), Hedwig (09-19-1907), Arnold (07-31-1909), Mary Magdalen (02-19-1911), Mathias Joseph (09-14-1912), Johnny (11-12-1914), Clara (03-20-1919), and Leo (01-27-1921). Hedwig died when 10 months old on Aug. 11, 1908.

Soon after their last child was born, the oldest son found a wife and gave John and Elizabeth their first grandchildren. Ernest Strum married Meta Dieringer on Nov. 25, 1924, in Cuero, Texas. They settled on a farm near Cuero, and were blessed with nine children: Ann (Nesloney), Emily (Todd), Norma (Zengerle), William, Mary (Kunschik), Michael, James, and Eugene Sturm and Marjorie (Thedin).

Herman Julius Sturm married Eleanora Warzecha in Falls City, Texas, on Sept. 1, 1936. They bought a farm near Yorktown, and loved and raised 11 children: Herman, Theresa (Sister Ellen), Albert, Raymond, Robert, Wilbert, Alvin, Janet, James, Linda, and Marvin Sturm.

Arnold August Sturm married Mary Ann Kapitza on Nov. 27, 1934, in Falls City, where they lived and had 13 children: Arnold Jr., George, Leonard, Constance (Lyssy), Wilfred, Marian (Sister Marian), Louise (Reeh), Fabian, Joseph, David, Daniel, Timothy, and Baby Boy Sturm.

Mary Magdalen Sturm married John Moy. They settled in New Braunfels, and raised ten children: Mary (Neary), John Jr., Isabel (Meckel), Anthony, Francis, Joanna (Weaks), Mike, Leona (Barnett), Patricia (Clark), and Robert Moy.

Mathias "Joseph" Sturm married Gertrude Warzecha on Sept. 14, 1937, in Falls City. They made their home in Corpus Christi, where they raised eight daughters: Mary, Patricia (Ross), Jo Ann, Rose Marie (Metz), Loretta (Simon), Kathleen, Margo (Taylor), and Roberta Sturm.

Johnny Hubert Sturm married Vera Pokluda on February 24, 1941, in Yorktown. They live on the original John Sturm farm at Cabeza, and had one daughter: Helen Sturm (Machart).

Clara Catherine Sturm married George DeReese in New Braunfels on November 16, 1942. They made their home in Bay City, Texas, and raised four children: Timothy, Donna (Manthei), Kathleen (Schneider), and George Carl DeReese.

Leo F. Sturm married Lena Mae Dickinson on February 2, 1942, in Karnes City, Texas. They settled in Crystal City, Texas, and were blessed with three children: Paul and Patricia Sturm and Janet (Wooderson).

Philomena Sturm remained single. She worked as a housekeeper for several priests in Vanderbilt and Hondo, Texas.

After enjoying 34 years of marriage to Elizabeth, John Michael Sturm died on July 30, 1936, at age 57 years. Elizabeth Demmer Sturm died on January 30, 1956, at age 72 years. They are buried at West Side Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

STYRA, AUGUST FAMILY

F898

August and Katherine Styra

August Styra was born in Proskau, Silesia (Poland) on July 11, 1862. His mother's name was Josie but his father's name is unknown. He had a stepfather named "Grosz" or "Grusch" and also 3 half-brothers. August finished high school in Europe and in 1882 took a job as a telegraph operator, and held that job until he came to America. Before leaving his home in Europe, he married Katherine Respondek on November 4, 1884. August and Katherine and infant son Ferdinand, (born September 22, 1885), arrived in America on December 21, 1885 along with Katherine's parents and family. They soon settled in the area around Yorktown.

Katherine Respondek was born in Kielche, Silesia (Poland) on April 28, 1864, the daughter of William and Julia Cuzy Respondek. Her father William was born on April 7, 1826 and died November 26, 1894. Her mother Julia was born on December 30, 1838 and died February 4, 1923. They are both buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas. Other children who came to America included: a daughter Josie who married Joe Broll; and 4 sons: John, Joe, Adolph, and Constant.

Mr. and Mrs. August Styra and son Ferdinand soon settled into their new life in DeWitt County. Six other children — Peter, Victoria, Annie, Theodore, Frank, and John — were born to this couple. Frank and John died as infants. Ferdinand (1885-1977) married Rosie Dworaczyk and their children were named Matilda, Bonniface, Valeria, and William. Peter (1887-1966) married Lucy Danysh and their children included: Elizabeth, Agatha, Frank, and Peter Jr. Victoria (1888-1976) married Joe Dworaczyk and their children were Victoria, Sophie, August and Valeria. Annie (1893-1965) married Anton Fred Tam and their children were Lillian, Anton, Fred Jr. and Agnes. Theodore (1897-1970) married Helen Ledwig Tam and their children were August, Proxie, Marcellus, and Emerence.

by Joycelynn Onken

SUCHER FAMILY

F899

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sucher

Robert H. Sucher came to the Nordheim area in 1898. He had emigrated from near Berlin, Germany and came into the U.S. at Galveston. His father, Joseph, and brother, Gustav, has also come to America, with the father planning to be here temporarily. Robert's mother, Gertrude Schiffov (sp) Sucher, daughter of a Russian army officer stayed in Germany as did the only sister, Francesca Sucher Duerwald.

Robert married Louise Bues, daughter of Henry J. (Johann Heinrich) Bues and Sophia Koenig Bues of Fayette County. Louise was a member of the Bues family that traces its history through Germany and Holland back at least to the early 1500s. Robert had written a letter telling his beloved mother of his marriage to this lady, asking her to come here also, and saying that she would like Louise very much. When the letter finally arrived, Gertrude had just been buried.

Robert and Louise had eleven children. Walter and Ella died in infancy. The others are: Irma, married to William Pohl, Herbert, married to Doris Brieger, Frances, married to Alfred Pargmann, Hertha, married to John Buesing, and after his death to Joseph Forsyth, Emil, married to Mary Miller of California, Arthur (deceased), married to Irene Jordan, Gus, married to Lydia Jaeger, Minnie, married to L.C. Sievers, and Ellie, married to Earl Yeary, and after his death to Dick Schendel. Herbert Sucher and Minnie Sievers reside in DeWitt County. Several of the others live in adjacent counties.

Robert Sucher was trained and apprenticed in the building trades in Germany, and his skill is evident in structures in Nordheim and neigh-

boring towns. When he got to Yorktown his first job was taking over completion of a building that was begun with the foundation put together with wooden pegs. He finished the job with regular nails. Robert and Mr. Blanton decided to journey from Yorktown to Nordheim one day to investigate the new town. There were already five saloons there! Blanton returned to Yorktown to pick up his printing press and Robert's tools, etc., and returned the next day. While Blanton began printing *The View*, Sucher began building. He and an architect, Mr. Leutenbacher built the Osterloh-Neutzler store building in 1911. It still stands on Broadway. Robert had also built St. Paul Lutheran Church, which is still the main part of the church today. Another church he built was the Catholic church in Refugio, where he took a fall from the tall bell tower. About the worst thing that happened was that he broke his nose! He also had built the original shooting club hall (Schuetzen Verein Halle).

Robert and Louise remained in Nordheim until 1917 when they moved to the farm they had bought near Runge. The large lovely home of the period was just what the growing family needed. It even had indoor plumbing! Louise was an industrious homemaker and gardener. The yard had many lovely flowers and banana and magnolia trees. The place had several extremely deep in-ground silos. The family worked hard, but also had social gatherings, and would travel to San Antonio in their car to go to the opera house and other places of interest. They also motored to various places to visit relatives of Louise's, especially to the Orange Grove area.

Their oldest son, Herbert, also became a contractor in DeWitt and surrounding counties, having also worked more than once on the Shooting Club complex and the Lutheran Church. He also built other churches, business places, and many homes. Another son, Gus, also was in construction all his life, owning his own company. Arthur served in the Army, then travelled extensively in his job with General Services Administration. Emil served in the Navy and also later worked for GSA on the West Coast, being involved with electronics supplies and shipping. The girls of the family were homemakers, mothers, and several worked in business.

Most of the children married persons from the local area and neighboring towns. From these marriages came the following grandchildren: Phillip Pohl, Carol Pohl, Norlene Sucher Ckodre, Nolan Sucher, Karen Sucher Blaschke, Kathy Sucher Ozuna, Gilbert Pargmann, Alfreda Pargmann Gisler, Robert Pargmann, Gerald Pargmann, Wilma Pargmann Cagle, Margie Pargmann Dominguez, Wayne Buesing, Janice Buesing Stifflemeier Level, Kirby Buesing, Mark Sucher, Martha Sucher, Lisa Sucher Mosteller, Sheryl Sucher Mueller, Don Robert Sucher, Arlen Sievers and Steven Sievers. All the grandchildren live in Texas, except for the Pohl and Emil Sucher families who live in California.

by Norlene Sucher Ckodre

B. Schiwetz
Insurance Agency
Fire, Tornado, Marine, Accident, Employers' Liability, Steam Boiler, Plate Glass.

SUMMERS, E. T. JR.

F900

Loucretia (Morris) and Emmett Tobias Summers.

Emmett Tobias Summers, Jr. was born at Hotel Dieu in New Orleans, Louisiana to Albertine Wagner and Emmett Tobias Summers, Sr. He lived in Covington, Louisiana with his parents until moving to Texas where his father had purchased the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. They came by car, and the trip lasted four days in 1926. Soon after his arrival, he enrolled in St. Michael's School where he stayed for his pre-high school years, and was graduated from Cuero High School in 1935.

E.T. attended the University of Texas receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in Management in 1939. While there, he was an active member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and the Sigma Iota Epsilon, honorary business fraternity. On graduation, E.T. joined his father, E.T. Summers, Sr. as Sales Manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Cuero and Victoria. Actually, he had been active in all facets of bottling and selling Coca-Cola since childhood. As a young boy he did odd jobs such as sorting bottles, painting cases, and when older worked as a helper for the drivers, and then as a driver and salesperson himself. His Mother was fond of saying that E.T. had to be literally chased off from the plant when too young to help, but he loved the business so much he wanted to be there. He was with Coca-Cola for fifty-five years, serving as President of Cuero and Victoria for thirty-five years and for Gonzales for seven years. During that time he was very active in state and national bottling affairs, serving as a Director of the National Soft Drink Association in Washington, D.C. (all brands) for twelve years, as a member and President of the Texas Coca-Cola Bottlers Council, as a member and President of the Texas Soft Drink Association (all brands), as a member and President of the Main Stream Bottlers Council of Coca-Cola (national), and served on the Board of Governors for the Coca-Cola Bottlers Association in Atlanta, Georgia (national).

In addition, E.T. found time to serve Cuero as a member of the Cuero City Council, the Cuero Chamber of Commerce as member and President, the Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association as a director since 1951, and at present Vice-Chairman of the Board. He was selected "Citizen of the Year" by his fellow citizens in 1966, and was chosen as Sultan Yekrut XII of the Cuero Turkey Trot in 1960. He also received the 4-H Club Award in 1963, and the Rotary Club Business Award in 1972. E.T. served as director and past Chairman of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority for sev-

Back Row left to right: Edwin Allen Wagner, Emmett Tobias Summers, Jr., Emmett Tobias (Toby) Summers, Ill., Benjamin Wallace Summers, John Morris Summers holding Sarah Nelle Summers. Second Row: Mary Felice Cook, LouCretia Morris (Mrs. E.T., Jr.) Summers, Linda Lou Summers Wagner, Lana Jo Wallace Summers, Elizabeth Gae Summers, Nancy Gae Haight Summers, and Zachary Tobias Summers. Sitting on floor: Raymond Summers Wagner.

enteen years. He was honored as an outstanding alumnae of Cuero High School in 1989. He is currently President of the Cuero Industrial Foundation, and President of the Civic Center.

On July 8, 1941 Miss Lou Cretia Morris of Yoakum, Texas and E.T. Summers, Jr. were united in marriage in a garden ceremony at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Benjamin Morris. A full moon added to the beauty of the eight o'clock ceremony. They spent their honeymoon in Los Angeles and Hollywood, California.

Miss Morris was born in Yoakum, the only child of Ida Middlebrook and John Benjamin Morris. Her father could trace his lineage to Robert Morris, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Her grandfather, William Harrison Morris, served with distinction in the Spanish-American War. Her maternal grandmother, Cora Lee Howell Morris often told LouCretia the favorite story she remembered form her childhood. Her mother, who was Cora Lee before her marriage to Mr. Howell, said she remembered sitting on the knee of General Robert E. Lee when she lived in Virginia as a little child, and he came to visit her parents.

After graduating with honors from Yoakum High School, Lou Cretia attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in Education as well. She completed her work in three years. She was a member of the Beta Xi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, of the Kappa Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi National Scholarship Society, and Delta Delta Delta Sorority. In 1939 she was chosen Queen Ceres XII of the Yoakum Tom-Tom. As a teacher in Yoakum High School, LouCretia taught typing, shorthand, business correspondence, and bookkeeping; was sponsor of the Pep Squad; and sponsor of, and responsible for, publication of the "Bulldog", a weekly newspaper published by the commercial department. She was kept very busy with two classes meeting each period directly across the hall from each other.

Lou Cretia has been actively associated with the Cuero Public Library since coming to Cuero as a bride in 1941. On joining the University Club she was immediately asked to serve on the book selection committee for the Cuero Public Library which the University Club sponsored at that time. The library was located in the basement of the old city park bandstand, and heavy rains frequently flooded the basement. Many times University Club members had to assist the librarian in drying out the books and discarding those too wet to save. When the City of Cuero assumed active management of the library in 1968, she was appointed a member of the Library Board and has served continuously since then in all capacities; president, secretary, a continuous member of the book selection committee, and is currently the Vice-President of the Board for 1989-1990.

Lou Cretia is a member of the University Women's Club, having served in all their offices and is Trustee, the Hawthorne Club, the DeWitt County Historical Commission, and the Pilot Club.

She has been an active member of the Baptist Church since joining as a young girl in Yoakum, Texas. She was church pianist while in high school in Yoakum, and moved her membership to Cuero when marrying in 1941. In First Baptist of Cuero, she was Superintendent of the High School Department for twenty years, a member of the building committee for the present new church building, chairperson for the Christmas decoration committee for many years, and is currently serving on that committee, the budget committee, and is Trustee for the church.

The Summers have lived in Cuero all their married life except for an interval during World War II. E. T. volunteered for service in the United States Army and spent his early training at Camp Frances E. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming after which he was sent to Officers Candidate School at Camp Lee, Petersburg, Virginia where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. (Lou Cretia accompanied him during this time working at various jobs.) After being commissioned, he was sent to the Harvard Graduate School of Business in Cambridge, Massachusetts. On completion, he was assigned to the Staff of Major General Littlejohn, Chief Quartermaster of General Dwight Eisenhower for the Headquarters Theatre Service Forces, European Theatre. E.T. was stationed in London during the Baby Blitz and buzz bombs, and followed the invasion forces on the continent, eventually being stationed in Paris and Versailles. He served in this capacity until his discharge as a Captain from the Army several months after the end of World War II receiving the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the AmericanCampaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. By the time he arrived home, his oldest child, Linda Lou, was twenty-five months old on the day he first saw her. She and her Mother had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Morris in Yoakum, Texas while E.T. was overseas.

The Summerses have three children. Linda Lou Summers married Edwin Allen Wagner and lives in Port Lavaca where Edwin is a Vice-President of the First National Bank. Emmett Tobias Summers, III. (Toby) married Lana Jo Wallace and lives in San Antonio, Texas where he serves as President of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Southwest. John Morris Summers married Nancy Gae Haight and lives in Corpus Christi, Texas where he is Vice-President and Eastern Zone Sales Manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Southwest. Mary Felice Cook was reared as the Summerses daughter when coming to live with them as a very small child. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1981 and from Baylor University in Waco with a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Education. She is presently living in San Antonio, Texas where she teaches school.

Their grandchildren are Mary Felice Cook and Raymond Summers Wagner, children of Linda Lou and Edwin Wagner; Benjamin Wallace and Zachary Tobias Summers, children of E.T. Summers, III (Toby) and Lana Jo Summers; and Elizabeth Gae and Sarah Nelle Summers, children of John Morris and Nancy Gae Summers.

by Lou Cretia Morris Summer

JOHN M. TRIBLE, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon

Office Heaton's Drug Store

Phones 32 and 394.

SUMMERS, E.T., SR. FAMILY

F901

Emmett Tobias Summers Sr.

Albertine (Wagner) Summers

Emmett Tobias Summers was born on January 15, 1894 in Abita Springs, Louisiana to Tobias and Katie Strain Summers. He was second of four children: Otis, Victor, and Clara Nancy. Their father, Tobe as he was called, died when Mr. Summers was only seven. He was forced to quit school at the end of the sixth grade to help his mother with operating a hotel, and with the expenses of rearing a family.

When Emmett was in his late teens, he worked for a lumber company in Slidell, Louisiana about twenty-eight miles away. One night he was returning to work by rail, and stopped at the Covington, Louisiana station to change trains. A group of Covington young people

came to the station to catch a train to Abita Springs to attend a dance. He visited with some that he knew, and they introduced him to Albertine Wagner who would eventually become his wife. He was so taken with Albertine that he decided to return to Abita Springs with them and attend the dance. This was the beginning of a romance that would lead to the marriage of Albertine and Emmett on September 28, 1916 in Covington, Louisiana.

Albertine Mary Wagner (Teenie as her family called her) was born on October 30, 1891 to Jeanette Fontaine and Peter Wagner. She was one of two daughters born to this union, her sister dying at age twelve of acute appendicitis. Her father died when Albertine was only two and her mother later married Jean Marie Aoueille, a French immigrant to New Orleans, Louisiana from the Bordeaux area of France. They lived in New Orleans where Mr. Aoueille had a bakery, and later he moved his family and business to Covington. Six children were born to this union.

Emmett and Albertine lived in Slidell, Louisiana following their marriage where he was foreman and overseer for a lumber company. However, in 1921 he bought the Coca-Cola plant in Slidell, and in 1923, purchased Pineland Springs Coca-Cola of Covington, and moved to Covington. Three years later, Mr. Summers learned there were some plants for sale in Texas, and he decided to investigate. As a result, he purchased the Coca-Cola Bottling in Cuero, and moved his family to Texas in 1926. (See Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Cuero in Business Section).

The Summers had five children. Emmett Tobias, Jr., Fabian Marvin, Genevieve Mary, and Leon Paul were born in Louisiana, and Elmire Gertrude was born in Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Summers were members of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Mrs. Summers was a faithful supporter of St. Michael's Altar Society.

Mr. Summers served on the City Council of Cuero for many years, and was a dedicated worker for the city's growth. He also steered his business through the Great Depression, and World War II successfully, and lived to see a tremendous growth in added sales and franchises, growing from two counties to eight counties in size.

Mrs. Summers was a devoted wife and mother. She was a genteel, loving person both to family and friends.

Mr. Summers passed away June 25, 1961, and Mrs. Summers died on January 25, 1987. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Lou Cretia Morris Summers

SUTTON FAMILY

F902

James and William Sutton came to DeWitt County in 1856 when their mother, Cynthia Shults Sutton married William J. McDonald. Their father, "Jack" (John) Sutton died in Fayette County.

Cynthia was the daughter of Polly Martha and Christly W. Shults, a Fayette County farmer. C.W. Shults died in DeWitt County in 1888, and is buried at the Taylor-McCrabb Cemetery. Cynthia is buried at Thomaston, with this inscription on her marker:

"Mrs. C.E. McDonald, nee Shults,
born June 2, 1826, died April 6, 1903,

William and Laura Sutton

Willie and Laura Sutton

First husband Wesley Sutton, second husband C.E. McDonald"

There is no explanation for the inconsistency in information. There was a C.E. McDonald, but Cynthia was not married to him.

Cynthia Shults Sutton was a widow with two young sons. William J. McDonald was a widower with two small daughters. Then when W.J. McDonald's brother, John William, died, he took in his niece, Laura Eudora. Laura's mother, Leah Kirsh McDonald died in 1853, shortly after the family arrived in Texas, in mule-drawn wagons from Brandon, Missouri. Laura's father opened a store in Clinton, but died in the winter of 1859.

William Sutton married Laura McDonald in DeWitt County. A daughter, Laura Elizabeth, was born to the couple, but died in infancy. William Sutton was a DeWitt County deputy

James and William Sutton

John and Willie Calhoun

sheriff and rancher.

One night, before he was to leave the next day on a trail drive, Laura handed Bill a sack of gold coins that she had saved. He was to buy her a nice set of flatware. When he returned, after many months, he presented his wife with the beautiful sterling utensils. Later that night, as the story goes, he casually tossed the sack of gold goins that Laura had saved, back into her lap. He had bought the silver with his own money, earned on the drive. Laura used the flatware the rest of her life and it remains in the family today, and she tucked away that small bag of coins as a reminder of their live.

Laura was pregnant with their second child when William Sutton was murdered, on board the steamship, Clinton, at Indianola, March 11, 1874. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria.

His wife returned to DeWitt County, and on August 24, 1874, their daughter, Willie Slaughter Sutton was born. She grew up near Burns Station, and later attended the Nash Academy in Cuero. One classmate of Willie's was John Calhoun, the oldest son of Annie Rennolds and

John Richard Calhoun. Willie and John were married at the First Methodist Church in Cuero, November 5, 1895.

John went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad and the couple moved to Houston, first, and later to Sanderson, before moving back to home at Victoria. Willie died unexpectedly in March 1908, leaving John with their three children to raise. Laura Sutton, who had never remarried, raised her grandsons: Norman, Ralph, and Frank. Years afterward, John Calhoun married Willie's best friend, Beulah Nash, the daughter of Cuero educator, D.W. Nash.

Laura Sutton died in 1930 and is buried near her beloved husband and daughter in Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria.

by Cynthia Salm

SYMA FAMILY

F903

Pauline (Kozielski) and Louis Syma

About nine miles southeast of Yorktown, Texas, lies a 176 acre farm with an old frame home which has been in the Syma Family for over 125 years.

Frank Syma, Sr. and Frances (Danysh) Syma

Albert Syma and his wife, Maria Lipinski Syma, originated in Hamburg County, Prussia, where Albert Syma was a magistrate. Albert Syma and Maria Lipinski Syma immigrated to America and settled in DeWitt County, about nine miles southeast of Yorktown. They purchased a 176 acre farm in 1864, and built a frame house in 1872. The house is a two story structure with a steep roof. The boys slept upstairs, and the girls and parents slept downstairs.

Albert and Maria Syma had several children: Ludwig, Maria, Adam, and Tom Syma, Sophie (Syma) Biemer, who married Felix Biemer and settled in Runge, Texas, and Louis J. Syma, who married Pauline Kozielski and stayed on the Syma family farm in Yorktown, Texas.

Louis J. Syma (09-01-1865 to 05-14-1927) and Pauline A. (Kozielski) Syma (02-07-1869 to 05-25-1960) had four children: Lucille (Syma) Brantley (06-12-1895 to 12-25-1986), Agatha Syma, Susan "Cecelia" Syma Petras (09-08-1902 to 12-05-1984), and Frank Syma Sr. (01-29-1890 to 10-09-1978). Frank Syma married Frances Danysh and they also stayed on the Syma farm.

Frances Danysh (08-16-1892 to 01-31-1978) was the daughter of Louis Danysh and Mary Koronczok Danysh. She grew up in Yorktown in a family of eight children: Anastasia (Krawietz), Agnes (Kozielski), Louise (Biemer), Frances (Syma), Peter Danysh, Konagonda (Migura), Benedict Danysh, and Veronica (Perkins).

Frank Syma Sr. took Frances Danysh as his wife, and they made their home on the Syma family farm in Yorktown. On this farm, they loved their ten children: Irene (10-25-1913 to 07-15-1961), Bruno (12-18-1915 to 03-20-1931), Joseph (04-14-1918), Maurine (Thompson) (08-30-1920), Lucille (Pitre) (10-31-1922), Severen (01-05-1925 to 02-02-1925), Sebastian (01-09-1926), Frank Jr. (10-04-1928), Frances (Glisson) (03-13-1931), and Robert (10-27-1934) Syma. Severen died of pneumonia as an infant of 28 days old.

Bruno Syma was killed at age 15 years. On March 20, 1931, Bruno and his little brother, Frank Jr., age 3-½ years, were dragging logs from a field in a wagon. It was almost noon, and Mother called the boys home for lunch. When Bruno was leaving the field to go home, he started getting on the wagon, in his usual way, by stepping on the double tree, then on the wagon bed. On this morning, when he stepped on the doubletree, it caused the trace chain to hit the right mule in the flank. The mule began to run, causing Bruno to fall backwards off the moving wagon, and the fall broke his neck. He died a few minutes later that morning.

The children grew up, and knew the hard work and close family spirit of working together on the farm. But time passed quickly, and soon the children of Frank Sr. and Frances Danysh Syma began their own lives. On the farm, Frank and Frances enjoyed many grandchildren.

Irene Syma married Dennis Korzekwa from Poth, Texas. They married at St. Michaels's Catholic Church in San Antonio, and had a big reception on the Syma farm. They had no children.

Joe Syma married Sally John in San Antonio, Texas, where they made their home. They had five children: Robert Joseph, Barbara, Sandra, Jeannette (Newburg), and Mona (Syma) Moore.

Maurine Syma became the bride of Arnold Alvis (A.A.) Thomason from Arkansas. They married in San Antonio, then settled in Austin, Texas, and raised four children: Marjorie Ann (Hanshaw), Carol Ann (Winkley), Michael Alan, and Teresa Ann Thomason.

Lucille Syma married Francis "Errol" (Moose) Pitre in San Antonio. They made their home in Groves, Texas, near Port Arthur, and raised six children: Marcus, Lucille (Ayers), Raymond, Christopher, Kenneth, and Marion Pitre.

Sebastian (Sabie) Marcellus Syma took Hazel Hicks from Hillsborough, North Carolina, as his wife. They married in Hillsborough, then made their home in San Antonio. They have three children: Linda (Pederson), Mark, and Phillip Syma.

Frank Syma Jr. married Mary Louise Kotara from Cestohowa, Texas, in Cestohowa. They made their home in San Antonio, and were blessed with five children: Rachel, Russell, Rebecca, Reyne (Shaffer), and Rory Syma.

Frances Syma Glisson lived in Victoria. She had six children: Thomas, Deborah (Ballin), Mitchell, Rita (Shimek), and James Glisson, and Mary Ann (Hubbard).

Robert Syma married Chris Shrimpf from Ettlingen, Germany. Robert brought his bride to America, and settled in San Antonio, Texas. They have two sons: Frank Earl and Justin Syma.

After 65 years of marriage, Frances Danysh Syma died January 31, 1978. That same year, Frank Syma Sr. died October 9, 1978. They are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yorktown.

The Syma family farm is still owned by some of their children. The 115 year old home is still in use in 1989 for family gatherings and reunions, where every year, the Syma siblings and their children and grandchildren gather and remember the legacy of the Symas who lives, and who loved each other, and the old house, and the Syma Family Farm.

by Janet Marie Sturm

TARKINGTON, S.G., JR.

F904

S.G. Tarkington, Jr., was born in Lavaca County on the twenty-third of October, 1895. His parents were S.G. Tarkington, Sr., and Lelia (Lay) Tarkington. After completing his preliminary education in the public schools and high school at Hallettsville, Texas, Mr. Tarkington entered the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station.

During World War I, Mr. Tarkington served as a member of the army air corps, having enlisted as a cadet in December of 1917. He received his air training at Austin, Dallas and San Antonio and after receiving his commission was stationed at Kelly Field during the remainder of the war and mustered out there in 1919.

On the sixth of April, 1921, Mr. Tarkington was married at Cuero to Miss Sallie Graves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Graves.

Mr. Tarkington was engaged in the cotton business in Cuero in association with his father under the firm name of S.G. Tarkington and Sons. He then became postmaster of the Cuero Post Office.

Shelly Grant Tarkington, Jr. died in 1962. He was preceded in death by a son, Shelly Grant Tarkington, III who died at the age of two in 1926. Sallie Graves Tarkington died

STUBBS FAMILY

F890

The Stubbs family history is believed to have originated with John Stubbs of Cappahosic, Gloucester Co., Virginia, about 1652, who is believed to be the ancestor of all the southern Stubbs. The origin of the family is thought to be in the Forest of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, England.

The ancestor of the DeWitt County Stubbs was Green Berry Stubbs, b. in 1852 in Georgia and died in Gonzales County in 1906. He was the son of Roberson and Elizabeth Webb Stubbs. Roberson was the son of John and Nancy Adams Stubbs.

Green Berry's first wife was a Miss Nelms of Alabama and they were the parents of a son, John Robert (Jack) (b. 1874, d. 1958). John Robert married Annie Barth and they were the parents of a daughter, Annie Mae who married Wallace McCormick, their children John Barth, deceased and William Wallace. His second marriage was to Johanna Green and they had a son, John Raymond who married Thelma Parks. His second marriage was to Anne Brewer. John Robert's third wife was Maud Harris and they were the parents of a daughter, Maude Adele.

Green's second marriage was to Hattie Hester Kelly daughter of David Alexander and Mariah Brown Kelly. Hattie was born in Troy, Pike County, Alabama in 1861. The Kellys migrated from Alabama to Texas after the Civil War coming by boat to Galveston and overland by wagon. They eventually settled in Gonzales County where they were engaged in farming and ranching.

Green and Hattie were married Dec. 12, 1878 in Colorado County, later moving to De Witt County around 1889. There were eight children born to this union.

1. Aldora (b. 1880, d. 1963), married Edgar Jordan and they were the parents of Elmo, Chester, Eddie, Arthur, and Woodrow. Aldora married a Rev. Henderson later, in life after the death of Edgar Jordan.

2. Lannie (b. 1881, d. 1958) married John Q. Stevens and they were the parents of John Quitman, Eula Dell, Robbie Hendricks, Walter, David, and George West.

3. Vada (b. 1881, d. 1907) married Charlie Peters, no children.

4. David Robert (b. 1889, d. 1959) married Edna Weber. Their children are:

David Garland, deceased at an early age, Gertrude married Drew Reese and they are the parents of Debbie Reese Potts, and Mary Jocelyn Organek. Eula Dell married Ervin Reinhardt and they are the parents of twin boys, Michael, and Billy, and a daughter Sandra Rocker. Eddie Robert (Bob) married Peggy Farquhar and they are parents of Eddie R. Jr. Patricia Janssen, Ronald, Cecelia Matula, John and Joel.

5. Delmo (b. 1891, d. 1987) married Leo Rauh, their children are Minnie Marie Zimmerman, and Monette Dielman. Delmo's second marriage was to Walter Crouch.

6. Myrtle Mae (b. 1895, d. 1980) married John Lawrence Coppedge. Their children:

Finley Lawrence (Bud) married Mary Lou Droomgoole and they are parents of: Connie Holgraf, Peggy Koranek, Robbie Coppedge, Kathy Voekel, and Phil Coppedge. After Mrs. Coppedge's death, Bud married Angie Kleinecke.

Ralph (Dick) married Lillian Kennedy and they are parents of Jimmy, Lawrence Wayne, and Patricia Ann Stule.

Raleigh (Coot) married Olive Cherry and they are parents of Raleigh Earl and John Ronald.

Mitchie married Stanley Wallace and their children are: Charles, Cynthia Wallace Scheffler, Stanley Michael, and Melissa Wallace Simmons.

John Oliver married Mary Lou Cox and their children are: Susan Goebel, John Richard, Randy Keith, and Karen Beth Bade.

7. Culberson (b. 1897, d. 1981) married Willie Mae Timm and they were the parents of one son, Carlton who married Dorothy Jean Casal and are the parents of Finley Timm and Randy Carl.

8. Bryan (b. 1897, d. 1937) married Mary Skrehot and their children are Bryan, Jr. who married Ann Stevens and they are the parents of Janet Hahn Miller, Pamela Sue Haun, Valerie Ann Oliver and Michael David. Bryan Jr. second marriage was to Jo Bennett.

Walter Bert married Janine Huebel and their children are Suzanne Marie, Kevin Kelly and Walter Bryan.

by Gertrude Stubbs Reese

STUBBS, WALTER BERT AND JANINE

F891

DeWitt County has been a significant place for Bert and Janine's family. Bert, as his Cuero friends and family call him, was born and reared in DeWitt County. In later years after he graduated from highschool, he was stationed in San Antonio during the Korean conflict. His friends teasingly said he fought the Battle at the Alamo because he fortunately was able to spend his four years of military service in the area close to DeWitt County. Seldom did he miss the opportunity to come home at least weekly to Cuero to see his mother, Mary and brother Bryan and his Cuero buddies.

Bert's father, Bryan Stubbs Sr. was also born and reared in DeWitt County. Born in 1897, he died in 1937 when Bert and Bryan Jr. were still young boys. Bryan Stubbs' parents, Green Berry Stubbs and Harriet Kelley migrated to Texas from Georgia and Alabama in the second half of the 1800s.

Bert's mother, Mary (Skrehot) was born in 1898. She was also reared and educated in DeWitt County. As a young woman in her twenties, she studied nursing at the old Burns Hospital. Her studies were interrupted by marriage and raising her two sons. However, in the late 1950s, she returned to her nursing studies and later after being certified, she nursed again in the old Burns Hospital. Appropriately, she retired from medicine about the same time the old hospital did. Mary's parents were Clement and Rosina (Orsak) Skrehot, who also spent many years in DeWitt County.

DeWitt County has been home to Janine's original family in Yoakum for over forty years. In 1949, Janine's mother, Charlotte (Ellsworth) Huebel moved to Yoakum with daughters, Janine and Karen to live with Charlotte's parents, Robert and Nell Haynes. The Haynes owned and operated a flower shop in Yoakum after Bob Haynes had retired from the Internal Revenue. The Haynes other daughter, Betty Sue, was educated and married in Yoakum, to Robert Mann. If you go to Yoakum today you will more than likely see Charlotte, Betty Sue and their mother Nell at Haynes' Fabric Shop because Nell is still in the retail business six days a week and her daughters, who have been retired numerous years, occasionally help their mother, who has yet to retire and stays very busy. In 1951, Janine's mother Charlotte married Reuben H. Koether, who was city manager of Yoakum for over twenty-two years. They increased the DeWitt County population by two more when they gave birth to Laurel Lee in 1952, and Joseph Wayne in 1956.

Bert and Janine (Huebel) Stubbs were married in 1956. After living in Cuero for several months, they moved to Austin where Bert was graduated from the University of Texas. Bert was employed in several cities as their children were growing up. Suzanne was born in Austin in 1957. Kevin Kelly was born in Sinton in 1960. Walter Bryan, however, was fortunate to be born in DeWitt County, at the old Burns Hospital where Janine chose to return when Bert began a new job with Texaco in Houston. So it was during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 that Janine and her new baby, Walter Bryan, were tucked away safely on the top floor of Burns Hospital receiving much care and attention since they were the only patients for three days in the OB ward. They profited greatly, but the hospital did not.

In 1964, Bert and Janine bought forty-four acres, six miles from Cuero, off the Yoakum highway. While Bert and his family had to move to different cities as the children were growing up they always had their country cabin in DeWitt County to give their family a sense of security and roots. This is where the family has celebrated holidays, anniversaries, reunions, and weddings. The "Ponderosa", as the kids affectionately called it, has been also used to raise cattle, horses, train dogs for hunting, and to learn to drive cars, tractors, motor bikes and which consequently led to broken arms and legs.

Over the past few years, Bert and Janine have especially enjoyed their DeWitt County home as a get away from the city. Janine has retreated to the cabin to write her masters thesis while she attended the University of Texas. Bert loves to play golf with his friends in Cuero. Most of all the two of them have enjoyed getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new ones in DeWitt County.

Today Bert and Janine are employed in Austin. Janine teaches at St. Michael's Academy. Bert manages an independent oil company. However, they still rush back to the country in DeWitt County on weekends to relax and be with family and friends. Its a great privilege to have a home in DeWitt County thirty-three years after they first left it. Having roots and being near friends that date back to one's youth in today's mobile society gives the Stubbs family a warm comfortable feeling. Hopefully, Bert and Janine will retire in DeWitt County and it will be home again in the true sense.

by Walter Bert and Janine Stubbs

PLISKAL'S
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Creed joined Sam Houston and went through the Battle of San Jacinto. Creed said, "I was not afraid and thought only of fighting, I believe every man was ready for the fray."

Creed described his return home as, "the happiest day of my life." In early 1840 Creed said he "was struck by a love at first sight from which he never recovered." The young lady was Nancy Matilda Goodbread. Nancy, along with her father Phillip Goodbread and her sisters and brothers, came to Texas in 1834. Two of her brothers fought in Texas' struggle for Independence and her great grandfather's participation in the American Revolution has been verified.

One of Nancy's brothers, Joseph, was killed by Charley Jackson in Shelbyville in 1837, setting off what historians have labeled one of the greatest feuds in Texas history – The War of the Moderators and Regulators.

Creed and Nancy married April 25, 1840 in Grimes County; they built a log cabin on Ecleto Creek. A concrete storehouse owned by Creed was the first courthouse and was located in Sutherland Springs.

Creed said that six weeks after their marriage he "rode away to war" and for all practical purposes did not return for three years. Now we know that he made a few trips home because late in 1840, Nancy gave birth to their first son, John Hays, named after the famous Texas Ranger, John C. Jack Hays, under whom Creed fought. In 1842, Phillip Goodbread Taylor, called Doboy, was born and in 1844, Caroline Hepzibeth Taylor, named after Creed's mother arrived as a new Texan and ultimately my great grandmother. My mother, Delvia Nell Spencer Tschirhart received much family tradition from her.

August 12, 1840 found Creed in the Battle of Plum Creek and then on an Indian hunt with Robert Howard. He rejoined the Texas Rangers under Capt. Jack Hays and participated in the Battle of Bandera Pass and fought in the Battle of Salado. When the Mexican War broke out, Creed was off again and fought in nearly all battles from Palo Alto to Buena Vista. He also participated in the ill-fated Meir Expedition, obviously drawing a white bean; those who drew the black beans were killed.

And now to the regrettable Taylor-Sutton Feud. Creed said it had its beginnings when, following Texas becoming a Free Republic, an element of people rushed in having little or no regard for the law. They began harassing the old time community members, in some cases misappropriating their property, and land and threatening them with bodily harm.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, Creed, a Master Mason, suggested that members of each party gather at the Masonic Lodge and let the Masons act as mediators. The trouble did subside until after the Civil War.

Buck Taylor, Creed's nephew, was shot by William Sutton, his sons Hays and Doboy got into trouble with the Union Officers. Creed felt they did so in defending their honor against insult. Reconstruction was certainly not presented with much regard for the high spirited Texans and most historians agree that the tactics of the State Police and Regulators were in many cases questionable and in others, downright contrary to the law they had sworn to uphold.

In addition to losing his two sons, (a loss from which he never recovered), Creed lost his brother, Pitkin, his two sons-in-law, the Kelly Bosy, and his nephew, Buck Taylor. Many more relatives and friends were lost. Much loss of life and grief occurred with the Sutton faction as well and while it is hard for us to comprehend the feud in today's time frame, we should not now sit in judgement or question the motives of those who truly felt their actions to be well justified.

In 1866, Caroline married William Addison Spencer, then County Clerk of Old Karnes County; he worked out of the Helena Courthouse. When her mother, Nancy died in 1867, Creed deeded their home on the Ecleto to Caroline and W.A. Spencer. Creed relocated to Kimble County. Caroline and her husband would later follow Creed where W.A. Spencer figured prominently in Kimble County politics, serving as County Clerk, Sheriff and County Judge.

In 1873, Creed married Lavina Spencer (W.A. Spencer and Lavina Spencer's fathers were brothers). Life for Creed was happier then. They lived in what was known to most as "The Taylor Mansion" at the head of the James River in Noxville. Creed probably named the James River after his father's father, also named James. The home was constructed over a two year period of hand chiseled stone over a foot thick and had two full front porches suspended by nine porticos. Said to be one of the finest houses in the southwest, my grandmother, Mineola Northcutt Spencer (who married Creed's son, James Josiah, "Kince") said it was always open to "the young folks who could dance til daylight" as Creed watched with delight.

Creed and Lavinia (called Aunt Vennie by our family) had five children. Mary, who married Gip Hardin and later Mr. Waddle, Linnelle, who married Mr. Blount, Minnie who married Mr. Jay and James Phillip Hays (named after both sons Creed lost in the feud and his grandfather) who married Effie Whetstone, and Little Creed who died at about the age of eleven of lockjaw. Mother described Grandpa Creed Taylor as "fiesty, but kind and loving". She recalled that he often took her on his knee and told her stories about Indian fights and other battles; she was, no doubt, hearing Texas History first hand. She remembered the days just before and after his death vividly. They were at a tree trimming party at the Spencer School, located on her parents ranch at Segovia when they received word of his worsening condition. They left by horse and buggy immediately on that Christmas Eve and stayed at the Taylor Mansion until he died the day after Christmas, December 26, 1906. Mother said the huge home was filled with friends and relatives; she attended his funeral at Noxville Cemetery. It was the first time she had seen him travel in a wagon . . . he was always on horseback no matter how bad the weather.

Creed was a guest of honor at the Battle of Flowers Fiesta – then called a Carnival in 1904. He is expected to be honored in some way at the Fiesta Centennial in 1991.

When Creed died, our family lost a dear loved one – Texas lost one of the youngest and believed to be the last survivor of their struggle for independence.

by Dovie Bell Tschirhart Hall

UP-TO-DATE LAUNDRY

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TAYLOR, ELIZABETH SILCRIGGS

F908

Elizabeth Ann (Silcriggs) Taylor, wife of Joe Taylor.

John Milam Taylor, eighth son of Joe Taylor and Elizabeth (Silcriggs) Taylor.

Elizabeth Silcriggs Taylor was born November 28, 1838, in Washington-on-the-Brazos, the daughter of Henry David Silcriggs and Minerva Newman. At the time of her marriage to Joe Taylor in DeWitt County she was probably living with her grandmother, Rachel Rabb Newman, widow of Joseph Newman, an Austin colonist. Rachel Newman is buried in the Salt Creek Cemetery near Davy, Texas, near Elizabeth's older sister, Lorena Minerva Silcriggs and her husband, William Burt. Another sister, Serena, wife of Richard Foster, is buried in Glen Dale Cemetery in Goliad.

These three sisters were the only children of

Children of Joe and Elizabeth (Silcriggs) Taylor. Back: Serena (Taylor) Fly, Mattie (Taylor) Seeligson, Henry David Taylor, Arthur A. Taylor, Hayes W. Taylor. Front: Elizabeth (Taylor) Hord, Joseph Lee Taylor, Thomas Carney Taylor, William Riley Taylor, Charles Leslie Taylor.

David Silcriggs and Minerva Newman who were married about 1833, probably in Colorado County. David Silcriggs came into Texas in 1825 as an eighteen-year-old orphan who was born in Mississippi according to Austin's Register. He was the son of William Silkrig II and Catherine Scanlan who were married December 29, 1800, in the Natchez District of Mississippi, now Adams County. William Silkrig II came to the Natchez area with the Lyman Colony from Connecticut in 1774 where he settled on St. Catherine's Creek.

William Silkrig II was the son of William Silkrig I who came to Middletown, Connecticut about 1730 from Glasgow, Scotland, and there he married Judith Mallaree on December 10, 1733. He was a barber by trade and spoke only Gaelic. The births of all their children are recorded in Connecticut. William Silkrig's death on January 10, 1756, in Waterbury, Connecticut, was reported in a New Haven newspaper in this way: "he slipped on the ice, broke his skull, and died instantly."

by Bena Taylor Kirkscey

TAYLOR, HESTER LEE

F909

Hester Cunningham (Lee) Taylor

And Her Brothers

Hester Lee was born in Ireland in 1816, but she spent the last twenty years of her life in Cuero. She was one of the ten children of Samuel Lee, a well-to-do Londonderry merchant, and one of the seven who came to America. Hester came to Jackson, Tennessee, probably around 1834; and it was there that she married Irish-born William Taylor in 1836. Their two daughters, Frances and Martha, were born at Gallatin, Tennessee, and the family later moved to Selma, Alabama. William died nursing yellow fever victims at New Orleans in 1843. Hester was left a widow of 27.

About 1856 Hester came to Texas with her two little girls, two brothers, and an unmarried sister. She taught school at Mission Valley in Victoria County; and there in 1858 her sister, Margaret Lee, died.

Later Hester lived with her daughter Martha (Mattie) and son-in-law Samuel Lee Kyle. There was never any question about what Lee Kyle should call his mother-in-law — he called her Aunt, because she was his mother's sister.

Hester's older daughter Frances (Fanny) married Confederate General Arthur Bagby of Halletsville. They had seven children, one of whom was State Representative Will Bagby.

The older of Hester's two Irish-born brothers who came to Texas with her was Ralph (pronounced Rafe) Lee, a printer. In his old age Ralph lived with the Kyles in Cuero, and died there in 1892. The other brother was St. George Lee, a writer who was much published in the Galveston News. He died in Halletsville in 1870.

Long after the death of her husband Hester was seriously ill. She said — she had died. At the moment of death, she saw William, her young husband, and he said, "Hester, I have come for you, but you are not ready." So she lived on to prepare, so she would be ready. She read the Bible by the hour until, at length, her eyesight failed. Still she said, "There are two things I can do without my eyes — I can knit and I can read the Bible." From years of reading she knew long passages by heart and would recite them with her hands resting on her Bible. She also continued to knit, and made mittens for all of her great-grandchildren, including my mother, Adelaide Garrett (Gill).

My mother remembers her Irish great-grandmother saying, "Let me look at you," and touching her face and hair. Then she laid her hands on the child's head and blessed her.

Hester died in 1909, aged 93.

by Elizabeth Gill Shelfer

TAYLOR, JOE

F910

Joe Taylor, second son of William Riley Taylor and Elizabeth Tumlinson, was born June 6, 1833, in DeWitt's Colony. There he married Elizabeth Silcriggs, daughter of David Silcriggs and Minerva Newman, on January 31, 1856.

During the Civil War Joe Taylor served the confederacy when he enlisted on May 3, 1862, in the 36th Texas Cavalry, Company G, 32nd Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers. This company was first commanded by his uncle, Josiah Taylor II, and later commanded by Col. P.C. Woods. He served in Texas and Louisiana.

In the years that followed the Civil War, Joe Taylor continued his successful farming and stockraising operations in Goliad County. He bought the house northwest of Goliad built in 1840 by the Vivian family. Later he built a house in Goliad proper designed after the "old stone house".

Joe and Elizabeth Taylor were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom were sons: John Milam, 1858-1923, married Penelope Ann Cresap; Elizabeth, 1861-1916, married Sidney Hord; Joseph Lee, 1862-1919, married Elizabeth Webster; Thomas Carney, 1865-1923, married first Laura Evans, second Lillie Bridwell Wheeler; William Riley (Buck), 1867-1920, married Bettye Davis; Charles Leslie (Les), 1869-1921, married Minnie Alice Yeater; Serena, 1870-?, married Nathan D. Fly; Mattie, 1873-1955, married Jefferson D. Seeligson; Henry David, 1875-1926, married Vashti Baker; Arthur E., 1876-1940, married Ola Sandherr; and Hayes W., 1879-1922, married Mollie Baker.

In the late 1880's Joe Taylor began buying land in Kimble and Edwards Counties. One deed recorded the sale of eleven sections to Gus Schriener. At varying times for a period of some twenty years, his sons were sent to this area to oversee his holdings there. Allan Stovall, in his volume entitled *Nueces Headwater Country*, states that at one time the Taylor family ran 1000 horses and 2500 cows on the open range.

By the turn of the century all of the sons had returned to Goliad County except Les who remained in Edwards County, and Tom and Henry who continued to live in Kimble County. Tom also eventually returned to Goliad County where he remarried and lived out his life.

Several of the Taylor sons served as sheriffs and deputy sheriffs at various times during their lives. Tom Taylor served as deputy sheriff and sheriff in Kimble County. Les Taylor also served as deputy there. William Riley Taylor served as sheriff of Goliad County from 1900 until 1902 and again from 1904 until 1906. Arthur Taylor's son, Claude Taylor, was Goliad County sheriff from 1948 until his death in

1960. William Alonzo Taylor, son of William Riley Taylor, served as sheriff of Jim Hogg County from 1928 until 1950, a period of twenty-two years which is the longest tenure in the history of the county. He later served as a Texas Ranger.

Joe Taylor died in Goliad May 23, 1923, just a few days short of his ninetieth birthday. He is buried beside his wife Elizabeth in Oak Grove Cemetery in Goliad.

by Joe Taylor

TAYLOR, JOHN MILAM
F911

John Milam Taylor was born September 11, 1835 across the Guadalupe River from Clinton near present-day Cuero, Texas on the eve of the Texas Revolution. His father, William Riley Taylor, arrived in DeWitt's Colony in June, 1828 and received his headright grant in what is now Lavaca County. His grandfather Josiah Taylor first came to Texas in 1812 and commanded a company of Americans involved in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, the ill-fated attempt to wrest Mexico from Spanish rule in 1813. Josiah barely escaped Texas with his life after being seriously wounded at the Battle of the Medina. He returned with his family to DeWitt's Colony in 1829 and died in 1830. His wife, Hephzibeth, John Taylor's grandmother, received a headright grant in the Colony shortly thereafter.

John Milam's mother, Elizabeth Tumlinson Taylor, was born July 13, 1814 in Tennessee to John Jackson Tumlinson and Elizabeth Plemmons Tumlinson. John Tumlinson was killed by a band of Waco Indians in 1823 near present-day Seguin, Texas while crossing the Guadalupe River. His wife, Elizabeth, was the only woman to receive an Old Three Hundred Grant in Austin's Colony. John's mother died February 22, 1886 in Junction, Texas, where she is buried.

John Milam first settled on the land which would become his homestead (below Nordheim on the Manahuilla Creek) in the mid-1850's. Here he built the first of two log cabins which were later joined into a "dog-run" style house which still stands on this property. He married Mary Ann Couch on January 30, 1861. She and her twin 6-month old boys died from "fever" and are buried at the ranch cemetery. John enlisted during the Civil War in his uncle Josiah Taylor's Company G (P.C. Wood's Regiment, Texas Auxiliary Volunteers) in April, 1862. He was discharged two months later with a medical disability. He enlisted in his uncle Joseph Tumlinson's company of Mounted Militiamen for Home Defense in DeWitt County in 1863. Josephine L. Adams, from an early Colorado County family, became his second wife on May 11, 1864 near Columbus, Texas. They had three children: Josiah Preston, Nancy J. and Charles Milam. Josephine died May 24, 1884 and is buried at the ranch cemetery with her son Preston. John was married to his third wife, Virginia Harrington, on April 30, 1885. Virginia's parents traveled from Jackson, Mississippi to Texas in the early 1840's and settled at Manor in Travis County, where Virginia was born May 6, 1851. They married in Travis County and settled at John's ranch in DeWitt County where they had eight children, including Leona ("Lee"), Elizabeth, John Fletcher, Mae Agnes, Wm. E.C. ("Crain"), Myra Alice, Frances Rebecca ("Fannie"), and Martha Ann ("Annie"). Virginia died January 31, 1935 and is buried at Yorktown.

John Milam Taylor was a participant in the so-called "TAylor-Sutton Feud" of the post-Civil War era of DeWitt and surrounding counties. This bloody struggle reached its peak in the early 1870's and diminished only after Captains McNelly and Hall and their companies of Texas Rangers took up residence in Clinton to ensure that the courts functioned and that justice would be served. Although regarded as a "feud", the fighting which took place in this part of Texas during the decade following the Civil War was a result of the lack of willingness on the part of the Taylors, and other Southerners like them, to adjust to the tyrannical military rule of the Reconstruction government in Texas.

Many of the Taylors were considered "outlaws" and "desperadoes" who travelled in "gangs". They were dealt with accordingly by the federal troops and the "carpetbag" government in Austin. When the smoke cleared in the late 1870's, John's brother Buck and nearly a dozen uncles and cousins had been dispatched to early graves by enemy gunfire. John's uncle, Joe Tumlinson, had taken the "Sutton" side; the notorious gunfighter John Wesley Hardin had joined the Taylor faction and remained friends with John Milam until his death. John Milan somehow survived this fight with his land, cattle and horses intact. He accumulated nearly 20,000 acres at his ranch in DeWitt County, and during his life had ranched with his brother Joe over a wide area from Tilden in McMullen County to the Paint Rock area in Concho County. John Taylor was a respected and successful citizen of the community. He died on March 5, 1906 at his residence near Yorktown.

by Mike Taylor

TAYLOR, JOSIAH AND HEPHZIBETH LUKER
F912

From information on the program for the dedication of grave markers . . . supplied by the late Luther Hill, Sr.

Josiah Taylor was born in Virginia about 1781 in the James River area, probably below Richmond. There is no record of his early life in Virginia or his parentage. The first documented record is that of his marriage in Clarke County, Georgia, on October 1, 1807, to a girl born in South Carolina about 1790 with the distinctive name of Hephzibeth Luker. Their first two children were born in Georgia. William Riley Taylor was born in 1811, and his sister, Hardiena, was born in 1812.

Josiah then left to go to Texas and was gone a period of about four years. During this period he explored eastern Texas and became involved in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, an abortive attempt by a combination of Anglo-Americans and Mexicans to free Mexico from Spanish rule.

Josiah was one of the several captains commanding the Americans in the total force which included Indians as well as Mexican armies. Captain Josiah Taylor's men had been chosen with two important requirements in mind: they had to be well-mounted and proven marksmen with the rifle. In at least two of the four battles which were fought against the Spanish forces, Captain Taylor's company were in the center of the line and carried the brunt of the attack. The nucleus of the force assembled in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and moved on Nacogdoches which they took with only token resistance. Their next objective was La Bahia, on the coast. The Spanish governor at San Antonio moved to dislodge the invaders, but after several indecisive encounters, he retired to San Antonio followed several weeks later by Samuel Kemper who had commanded the forces at La Bahia. Kemper had succeeded to the command after the death of Lt. Augustus Magee. At the Battle of Rosalis, near the confluence of Salado Creek with the San Antonio River near San Antonio, the Spanish Royalists forces were defeated, and San Antonio was taken on April 1, 1813. In an effort to retake San Antonio, a Spanish force lay siege to San Antonio. At the Battle of Alazan on June 20, 1813, the Royalists were again defeated.

In August a new force lay in ambush on the Medina River and sent out forces to lure the expeditionary force toward the ambush. On August 18, the filibusters were defeated with great losses, and the survivors were sent flying toward Louisiana. Captain Josiah Taylor was one of some three hundred who survived the battle out of the total force of about fourteen hundred men originally engaged. His escape was possible because of the superb horse which he rode. But he did not escape unscathed; he received seven wounds in the battle and rode back to Louisiana with two rifle slugs in his body which were removed after the long ride back.

After he had recovered sufficiently to travel, he returned to Georgia to his wife and two children. Their third child, Joanna, was born there in 1817. Within two years he had moved his family to Tennessee. There Creed was born in 1820, and another son, Josiah, Jr., was born two years later. Then still another move was made, this time to Alabama. There two more sons were born, Pitkin in 1821/22, and Rufus about 1823. In 1824 he moved to Texas. James was born here about 1825. Their last child, Mary Jane, was born about 1828.

Josiah Taylor took his family into the Atascosita area in the most southeasterly part of Texas. The area was not opened for settlement until December, 1826. The family of Josiah Taylor was living in the area when the Atascosita Census of 1826 was taken. This document gives complete early information about the family as it came into Texas. However, the settlers of the Atascosita area were unable to get grants for the land on which they had settled, although petitions to the Mexican authorities were made and grants promised in due time. Some of the settlers lost hope of ever receiving grants, and when Green DeWitt received an empressario contract to settle four hundred families in his colony in April, 1825, Josiah Taylor moved to DeWitt's Colony, arriving January 16, 1829. His oldest son, William Riley Taylor, had preceded the family in moving to the colony. He arrived on June 28, 1828.

Josiah settled on the land not far from the present-day Taylor-Bennett Cemetery where he and Hephzibeth are buried. On February 1, 1829, he registered his marks and brands in the presence of John McCoy and witnessed by Green DeWitt. He also registered the brand and marks of Hephzibeth, "by her husband and next friend," and the marks and brands of Joanna, Creed, and Josiah Taylor, Jr. "who are minors, by Josiah Taylor, their father and next

friend." All are on record in Gonzales County and also witnessed by Green DeWitt.

Josiah also applied for the grant due him as a colonist with a family. Certificate No. 58 was issued to him on May 28, 1830, a few months after his death; but this certificate was the basis for the grant of one league of land which was requested for his widow, Hephzibeth, by Green DeWitt, saying in part, "the interested party is a respectable lady and the widow of the colonist, Mr. Josiah Taylor, who, in addition to having died in this colony after he had been admitted, had the special merit of being one of the patriots who with their arms defended the cause of National Independence at Bexar in the year 1813." The application was signed by "Hephzibeth Taylor, widow of Josiah Taylor." Hephzibeth received her grant dated July 26, 1831. A few months following the death of Josiah Taylor, she signed a marriage contact with Patrick Dowlearn who was an adjoining neighbor and a widower. This marriage contact is also in the marriages recorded in Gonzales County, and it is dated July 20, 1830. They had one son, Joshua. Hephzibeth died in 1840 or 1841.

Descendants of Josiah Taylor are numerous. William Riley Taylor married Elizabeth Tumlinson; Hardiena married Richard Chisholm; Joanna married Joseph Tumlinson; Creed married first Nancy Goodbread, second, Lavinia Spencer; Pitkin married Susan Cochran Day; Rufus married Elizabeth Loew; Josiah II married first Sarah Jane York, second, Emily Porter; Mary Jane married Achilles Stapp; and Joshua Dowlearn married Jane Lowe first, and Mrs. Rebecca Harkins second.

by Bena Taylor Kirkscey

TAYLOR, THOMAS CARNEY

F913

Thomas Carney Taylor was born July 23, 1865, in Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas, the son of Joe Taylor and Elizabeth Silcriggs. The marriage of Thomas Carney Taylor and Laura Evans is recorded in Menard County November 28, 1882, while they were residents of Kimble County. Laura was the daughter of Edward Evans and Sarah Odom. She was born in Gonzales County, Texas, June 1, 1865.

To this union were born eight children: Thomas Walter, 1883, married Elizabeth (Bessie) Rogers; Sarah Elizabeth, 1884, married Thomas Hodges; Charles Aquilla, 1886, married Ethel Turner; Serena M., 1888, married Johnnie Graham; Cloma, 1891; James Leslie, 1894, married Myrtle Bartley; Clarence Arthur, 1899, married Maudye Nunn; and Deana Lorena, 1903, married Albert Ray Taylor.

Laura Evans Taylor was divorced from Thomas Carney Taylor and died in Kimble County July 10, 1918. She is buried in the Junction Cemetery. Tom Taylor returned to Goliad and married Lillie Bridwell Wheeler. To them were born three children: William Riley, Henry Harold, and Esther Lee.

Thomas Carney Taylor died July 14, 1923, in Kerr County, Texas, and is buried in Glen Dale Cemetery in Goliad, Texas.

by Bena Taylor Kirkscey

TAYLOR, WILLIAM RILEY

F914

On January 12, 1850, William Riley Taylor died at his home in DeWitt's Colony and was buried in the McCrabb Cemetery near Cuero. In the years that followed, four of his children found their final resting places beside him. Thirty-six years later and two hundred miles away, his wife, Elizabeth Tumlinson, was laid to rest in the cemetery at Junction, Kimble County, Texas. Although it was her wish to be buried beside her husband, the year was 1886 and travel was slow.

William Riley Taylor was born February 16, 1811, in Clarke County, Georgia, the oldest child of Josiah Taylor and Hephzibeth Luker. They were married in Clarke County, Georgia, by Isaac Suttles, an itinerant Baptist minister. Josiah Taylor first came to Texas as a captain in the ill-fated Magee-Gutierrez Expedition about 1811. After he returned to Georgia, the family began a series of moves that would bring them to Texas.

William Riley Taylor received his land grant on August 8, 1831, having preceded the rest of the family to DeWitt's Colony, arriving June 28, 1828. He received his land grant for one league of land "on the main stream of the Lavaca, contiguous to the road which goes from this town to San Felipe de Austin and about twenty-five miles in that direction." This league is in present-day Lavaca County near the northwest corner, near the town of Moulton.

One of the earliest marriages by bond in Gonzales County on March 14, 1830, is that of William Riley Taylor and Elizabeth Tumlinson born July 13, 1814, in Tennessee. She was one of eleven children of John Jackson Tumlinson (1776 North Carolina/1823 Texas) and Elizabeth Plemmons (1778 North Carolina/1829 Texas) who were among Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists. Tumlinson was the first Alcalde of the Colorado District and was killed by Indians July 3, 1823, near Seguin, Texas.

At least seven generations of native-born Texans descend from William Riley and Elizabeth Taylor. They were the parents of nine children: Creed (1831/1855) married Eliza Ainsworth; Joseph (1833/1923) married Elizabeth Ann Silcriggs; John Milam (1835-1906) married (1) Mary Jane Couch, (2) Josephine Adams, (3) Virginia Harrington; William P. (Buck) (1837/1868) married Mary Anderson; Martha Ann (1840/1861) married Joseph McCartney; Elizabeth (Lizzie) (1843-1930) married Thomas J. Bailey; Eliza Jane (1846-1877) married Abednago Hyatt; Delaney Hephzibeth (1848/?) married Joseph McCartney; and Amanda (1850-1873) married Abednago Hyatt.

Although only thirty-nine years old at the time of his death, William Riley Taylor will be remembered as a courageous pioneer in the early days of Texas, serving a short term in the Army of the Republic of Texas for which he received a bounty land grant.

by Bena Taylor Kirkscey

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TENNELL/TERRELL, SAMPSON MACK

F915

Samson Mack Tennell/Terrell was born ca. 1805 in Kentucky. His father may have been George Tennell of Madison Co., KY who later settled in DeWitt Co., TX. Sampson's mother's maiden name was Susan Emmert. She is said to have married Sampson's father in Kentucky. Sampson was educated in Lexington, Kentucky, and had special interests in botany and medicine. He had a large library of medical and botanical textbooks which his eldest daughter later inherited and used in her herbal medicine practice. This daughter, America, later patented two medical preparations, one of which was an eye ointment.

Much of the information in this sketch comes from a little article that was dictated to W.W. Downing by his grandmother, America Mack Tennell Smith, ca. 1910. America was born either 19 November or August 1826 in White Co., IL and came to Texas with her parents when she was seven years old in March, 1833. Sampson was given a Mexican land grant of one league and one labor of land in what is now Goliad County, TX. Other children born to Sampson and wife were William, Lester, Jackson, Granville, Jane, Ann, and Milton. It is said that Milton became a union teamster during the Civil War and was killed in Arkansas.

W.W. Downing related the Tennell's move to Texas as follows: "When he (Sampson) decided to come to Texas to improve his land, he acquired some good horses, but in coming through Louisiana, the John A. Murril gang stole all of his horse stock except one old mare. Grandpa MC did not like this at all so he followed them and found his horses being watched by one man. Do not know just what happened only that the watchman was left dead and that he recovered his horses. He knew then he would have to go on to Texas, which he did in March, 1833. Sometime later the Murrel gang followed him and came to where they lived one Sunday afternoon. A great believer in dreams, (Sampson) had one the night before which alerted him. He cleaned his guns and had them ready for use. When the gang rode up to the house and stopped, the leader got off his horse and stepped over the fence. Grandpop pointed his rifle at him and he went to his knees and begged Grandpop not to shoot him. One of the other gang members tried to go around him, but when he got to the door Grandpop's wife picked up a pistol and pointed it at him, and pulled the trigger. It failed to fire which saved the young man's head from being blown off. After a pow wow, the gang agreed they would molest him no more. I don't know why the MC Tennel family moved to DeWitt Co., near the town of Clinton, nor how long they lived there. During this period Granville, who was about 16 or 17 years old did some work for a man who was a horse racer and gambler. The man did not pay him for the work and when Granville asked for his pay the man told him if he ever asked again that he would horse whip him. This did not set well with the boy and said "If my pistol don't fail to fire I'll have buzzard bait tomorrow." The old man said do not depend on a pistol (and to) use a rifle. The next day Granville and William rode into Clinton. When they stopped at the store or saloon, the man came out and walked up to

them and spoke. He caught William's rifle by the muzzle and said to Granville, "You dam puppy you have come to town for a row." That was the last words he was ever to speak. He died before he hit the ground. The dying man had such a grip on William's rifle that he pulled it from William's hands. The boys did not stop to pick up the gun, just rode away. This is what started the family to go north, as the gambler's friends got a crowd and followed them. They got close enough for a shooting match and Grandpa received a bullet through one hand. Joe Tomkinson followed to protect them and the family went on and settled in Leavenworth Co., Kansas."

America married John Lewis Smith, Jr. on 20 March 1849 in Bastrop Co., Texas. Her sister Ann married a German, John Grund who operated a beer brewery. The other sister, Jane, married William McKinley, a distant relation to President McKinley. It is not currently known which of Sampson's children made the move from Texas to Kansas except that America did not as she had already married John L. Smith, Jr. prior to the family's trek to Kansas. It is thought that they chose Kansas as either Sampson or his wife had Osage Indian lineage and therefore had land rights there. It is said that the MC Tennell sons took Osage Indian land but this has not been confirmed nor denied by the Osage records which are currently being held by the US Govt. in Pawhuska, Osage Co., Oklahoma.

by Marianne Little

TERRY, B.P. FAMILY

F916

The Terrys were pioneer people in DeWitt County, Texas. The family was introduced to this section in 1857 by Roland Terry who came with his family from DeKalb County, Tenn. and settled on Fulchers Creek, DeWitt County, Texas. Later the little village of Cheapside sprang up around them.

Roland Terry was born in 1784 and his wife, Mary, was born in 1800. To them were born seven children: William, Weldon Edward, James, Lucy Ann Serina, Martha Frances, Amanda Melvina and Caroline Safact. Roland spent his life as a farmer. He died one year after coming to the state of Texas, 1858. His wife died in 1874.

When the Terrys came to Texas, there were no roads, no bridges, no fences, and no public schools – only a private school here and there when a teacher could be obtained. Traveling was done by horseback or in wagons. Pioneers usually built their homes near a stream so they could have water.

The Terrys came by boat from Tenn., and wagons were sent by Shelby Rackley, a grandson-in-law of Rolands, to meet them at the port of Indianola, Texas. From there they came by wagons pulled by oxen to the little creek in DeWitt County, where they built a log cabin. Later they built a better house which became the home of five generations: Roland, Weldon Edward, Bailey Peyton, Sarah Terry Carson, and Keyes F. Carson, Jr., who lives there at the present time.

Weldon Edward Terry, second son of Roland and Mary, was born in 1826 in North Carolina. He grew up in De Kalb County, Tenn., and married Emily America Isbel. To them were born: Bailey Peyton Terry, born 1850 and died in 1917; Carolyn, born 1853 and married Jacob Gordon in 1889; Madison Monroe, born in 1854 and died in 1901; Mary Polly born 1857 and died in 1887; and Weldon Henry born 1870, died 1957.

Weldon Edward was a Democrat, a member of the Presbyterian Church and served in the Confederate Army in Josiah Taylor's Company and Col. Wood's regiment. After the war, he returned to his home in DeWitt County, where he had settled when he first came to Texas. He lived here until he died in 1904 at the age of 79. His wife preceded him in death in 1894. He was a farmer and stockman, and had a blacksmiths shop at his place. He sharpened tools, mended wagons and made yokes for oxen.

The State of Texas was only 12 years old when the Terrys came from Tenn. and land was free. All one had to do was select a place for his home and build a house. When Weldon Terry went for his deed, he was offered all the unclaimed land between the two creeks, Sandies and Fulchers, which was several thousand acres, but he said that was too much land for one man. He'd rather have some neighbors. He told them to give him a deed for 500 acres, which they did.

James Terry, third son of Roland, was born in 1828 and was accidentally killed somewhere in West Texas in 1857, soon after coming to Texas with his family.

Lucy Ann Serina Terry, eldest daughter of Roland was born in 1831 and married a Mr. Montgomery. She remained in Tenn. when the rest of the family came to Texas. She had no children.

Martha Francis Terry, second daughter of Roland was born in 1833 and married Shelby Rackley. They came to Texas several years before the rest of the family, and they settled in Gonzales County. Here they both lived until they died. To them were born the following children: John Rackley, Mary Rackley, Sallie, Tom, Walter and Edward Rackley.

Amanda Melvina Terry, third daughter of Roland was born in Tenn. in 1836 and came to Texas with her family in 1857. She was a member of the Baptist church and married R.T. Hester. To them were born the following children: Terry Hester, William Hester, Mattie Hester, Katie and Nettie Hester.

Caroline Safaet Terry, the youngest daughter of Roland was born in 1839, and died when she was 8 years old, ten years before the family came to Texas.

Bailey Peyton Terry, oldest son of Weldon Edward and Emily Isbel, was born March 4, 1850 in De Kalb Tenn. He came to Texas with his parents and grandparents when he was 7 years old. He was young, but remembered a lot about traveling down the Mississippi River and the storm on the Gulf of Mexico before they reached the port at old Indianola.

When only fourteen years old, while his father was away in the service of the Confederate Army, he, with the help of a negro man, drove an ox wagon drawn by twelve yolk of oxen to and from Brownsville, bringing supplies to DeWitt and Gonzales Counties. These supplies consisted principally of flour, salt, sugar and coffee. They were very scarce and sometimes unobtainable. The ox wagons usually made the trip in groups for safety purposes. At one time, they were bringing seed potatoes when one of Texas' "blue northers' met them. Being warned by the familiar blue bank of clouds in the north, Peyton, as he was called, drove hurriedly, not taking time to rest the oxen before reaching the Peach Creek bottom in Gonzales County. There they built a big log fire on the north side of the wagon and spent the night. They saved their potatoes from freezing, and these were the only seed potatoes in the two counties that year. In all the other wagons the seed potatoes froze.

On February 10, 1875, Peyton married Mary Elizabeth Placker, who was born in 1852. Her parents were John and Mary Alexander Plack-

L-R: Sarah, Grandpa, Ruth, Charlie, Johnie, Grandma. Mary E. Terry in window. House of B.P. Terry at Cheapside, built in 1890

er and her father came from Germany when just a young man. He settled in North Carolina and later moved to Arkansas. From there he came with his wife and seven children to DeWitt County, Texas when Mary Elizabeth was 14 years old.

Peyton bought land adjoining his father's estate, paying $2.50 an acre for it. This was $2.00 more than anyone else had ever paid for land off this league. This price seems very little now but when we realize that the price of a four year old steer was only ten dollars, and the only market was Abilene, Kansas where the cattle were driven on foot, then that was a high price for the land.

Peyton built his home just across the creek from his father's home. Here he and his wife lived until they died. She died in 1909, and he in 1917. To this couple were born 9 children. These children were all reared in the same place where their parents first made their home. Peyton, as he was called, was a Democrat, and took a great interest in politics. For many years he was a regular attendant at both county and state conventions. He helped nominate Governor Hogg in 1892, and was one of the strongest local supporters of that Texas statesman. He also helped Gov. Culberson, Gov. Lanham and Gov. Colquitt. He always helped hold the elections and long before the day of the telephone, he had a way of informing the county seat of the results of the election from his area by blasts from anvils. This was done by setting one anvil upon another with powder between them. When fired, the second was sometimes heard twenty miles away. Those interested listened eagerly for the report.

He was a farmer and stockman. He also sold plows and had a blacksmith's shop.

His and Mary Elizabeth's children were:

I. Bailey Peyton, Jr. oldest son, born in DeWitt County in December 24, 1876. He married Maggie Bransonia Carson on December 13, 1901 and died a few weeks later on January 17, 1902.

II. Belle Zalora Terry, oldest daughter of Bailey Peyton, born January 24, 1879. She married John Fletcher Elder, a neighbor ranchman on November 23, 1904. They made their home on the Elder Ranch within two miles of the place where the Terrys first settled. To this couple, seven children were born as follows:

1. Foster Elder, born September 5, 1905 and died September 20, 1905.

2. John Fletcher Elder, Jr. was born in 1908 and married Annie Lee Brown. They have lived on the Elder Ranch for over 50 years. They have four children as follows: John Fletcher Elder III, Peggy Jo, Donald Albert and Patrick Brown Elder.

3. Clifford Elaine Elder was born in 1910; married Walton E. White, and after his death, married Walter Graham, a rancher from Happy, Texas.

4. Joseph Bailey Elder was born in 1913. He married Nellie Manville Montague from Stevenville, Texas. They have two daughters, Patricia Joy and Sherri Elder.

5. Charles Henry Elder was born in 1914 and married Nelda Fern Randolph from Lamesa, Texas. To this couple were born 5 children as follows: Kay Ruth, Charles Roger, Nathan Mark, Nelda Suzanne and David Henry Elder.

6. Marjorie Belle Elder was born in Cheapside in 1916. She married William B. King III, in Seattle, Washington. They have one child, Marilyn Janice King.

7. Harold Terry Elder was born in 1919. He married Virginia Stephens of Garret, Kansas. To them were born two children, Harold Terry Elder, Jr. and Roxanne Elder.

III. Katie Clyde Terry was born in Cheapside, Texas, December 28, 1880. She married Dr. N.A. Elder of Nixon, Texas, brother to John Fletcher Elder, and to them were born three daughters: Florine Elder, Joyce Laverne Elder, and Dorothy Chrystel Elder.

IV. James Munroe Terry was born March 1, 1882, and married Etta Wood of Estancia, New Mexico. This couple has three children: Carly Bailey Terry, Fay Estelle Terry and Helen Marjorie Terry.

V. Ethel Terry was born October 1, 1884 and died in 1885.

VI. Sarah Elizabeth Terry was born in 1888. She married Keyes Fawcett Carson who was born and reared on an adjoining ranch. To them were born: Thelma Elizabeth, Byrta Bea, Kayes Fawcett, Jr. and Branconia McRue Carson.

VII. Charles Edward Terry was born in 1889, and married Valeska Riedel from Gillett, Texas. This couple had four children as follows: Eunyce Adele, Doris Carolyn, Charles Edward, Jr. and Bailey Gus Terry.

VIII. Johnie Florence Mae Terry, born in 1891, married William Patrick Riggs from Yoakum, Texas. They had two daughters: Lela Ruth Riggs and Janis Elaine Riggs.

IX. Mary Ruth Terry was born in 1893 and married William Belew Gist from Oklahoma. Their two daughters were Chloe Delle and La Vera B. Gist.

The last of the Baily Peyton Terry family to pass away was Johnie Terry Riggs who died in June 1988 at the age of 97 years.

There are three more generations other than those listed here, but they are too numerous to name. Each year we find more and more descendants of the Roland Terry family. All have been honest and hard working people and extremely proud of their Terry heritage.

by Janis Riggs Bergstrom

TERRY, JAMES DOSS AND KATE FERBER

F917

James Doss Terry was born in Smith County, Tennessee on November 1, 1835. He was the fourth child of Thomas Jefferson Terry and Maria (Doss) Terry. The three younger children of this marriage were Jonathon Alpheus, Nathaniel Willis, and Carrie. Maria Terry died in Tennessee in 1848 and Thomas Jefferson Terry married Eliza Oakley in 1850 in Tennessee. There were three children, David Spence, Thomas, and Mary Elizabeth, from this marriage. In 1853 Thomas Jefferson moved with his family to Grayson County, Texas. He purchased 80 acres of land at $5 an acre near Sherman, where he was a farmer until his death in 1858.

James Doss and Jonathon Alpheus came to Texas earlier than their father, probably some time in 1851. For in 1852 the two brothers selected a site among the huge, moss-laden trees in the Michael Devine Survey in DeWitt County, and established a mercantile store. This was when the village was given the name of "Terryville" for James Doss Terry.

On April 11, 1859 James D. Terry married Kate Ferber in Victoria. Kate Ferber was born

Judge James Doss Terry

Kate (Ferber) Terry

May 28, 1842 in Nassau, Germany, and was the daughter of John and Margareta (Edinger) Ferber, who came with their family of two boys and two girls to Texas in 1851. An older daughter, Else, stayed in Germany to be married. The father died shortly after their arrival in this country from an infected leg which had been crushed on board ship en route to their new home. Margareta Ferber was married again in 1853 to Fritz Wackerer. The new husband did not want the children from the first marriage around, so Kate and her sister, Rosena, were placed in a foster home.

On June 22, 1861 a volunteer cavalry company, Scarbrough's Davis Guard, was organized in Terryville. James D. Terry was among the first volunteers. He later was a sergeant in Waul's Legion, a spy company. He was captured by the Yankees during the Civil War, but he and three others escaped and were hidden by a family in the attic of their home until the proper time for them to get away. A girl in the family kept watch and when the Yankees were

not looking she told them to escape one night. James Terry served until the end of the war.

At the time of his marriage James Terry was operating a gin and a small store in Terryville. When he went to fight in the Civil War his wife managed the business, but moved to Victoria before his return from service. They returned to Terryville after the war.

In 1869 the Terrys took a year old girl to raise. Her name was Margaret Ella Farrar. Both of her parents had died and the Terrys had no children of their own. Maggie, as she was called, ran away from the Terrys in 1882 when she was fourteen and married John Ryan Shows in DeWitt County. They had five children. She had a tragic death, and her story may be found elsewhere in this book.

The Terrys had three daughters in Terryville: (1) Martha Maria was born September 7, 1870. She attended the Athenium College in Tennessee before her marriage in Cuero to B.L. Hausman on March 24, 1891. They had eight children. She died August 15, 1939. (2) Alberta Maude was born August 25, 1875. She married Charles Emil Kleinecke on Aug. 26, 1896. They had two sons. Alberta Maude died Nov. 17, 1945. (3) Kate Pearl was born June 25, 1877. She married Anton Keller April 19, 1900, and they had five children. Kate Keller died January 29, 1957.

There was a schoolhouse in Old Terryville from approximately 1850-1854. A post office was established February 15, 1869. James D. Terry served as postmaster from October 5, 1875 to September, 1880. John Ferber, Kate Terry's brother, served from September 5, 1874 until James D. took over. By 1884 most of the businesses had moved from Old Terryville to a new location near the Lavaca County line. The Terrys sold out in Terryville and moved to Cuero. He was County Judge in DeWitt County from 1883 until his death August 6, 1891.

Kate Terry continued to live in Cuero for a number of years after her husband's death, but then moved to Fort Worth where she stayed with her daughter and son-in-law, Alberta and Charles Kleinecke, until her death there April 5, 1928.

James Doss Terry and his wife, Kate Ferber Terry, are buried in Hillside Cemetery, Cuero.

A granddaughter, Mrs. Kate Turek, lives in Yorktown. She is the daughter of Martha (Terry) and B.L. Hausman.

by Dorothy Hausman Peach

THIELE, GUSTAV AND IDA (KAISER)

F918

Gustav Ferdinand Thiele was born 11 June 1883 in New Braunfels, the son of Heinrich Christian and Augusta Christine (Wolfshohl) Thiele. He was one of nine children: Carl, Marie, Heinrich, Harry, Walter, Alfred, Gustav, Alma, and Martin. His brother, Harry, was already residing in Yoakum when Gustav came. He worked in the Thiele Meat Market for his brother. After he was married, he spent some time working in the Damon area and by 1908 had his own business, Gus Thiele Market, on the southwest corner of Irwin Street and Grand Avenue in Yoakum. Each December, Gus's father would put several Christmas trees in a ducking sack and ship them by rail to his son and other relatives who lived in Yoakum. After Christmas, Gus would butcher a hog, put it in the sack and ship it by rail back to his parents in New Braunfels.

Ida Johanna Fredericka Wilhemina Kaiser was born 6 April 1888 in Baursville, Lavaca County, the daughter of Carl George Fredrich and Elise Augusta (Frerichs) Kaiser. She and her two brothers, Ludwig William John Emil "Louie" and Carl Bernard Lewis Heinrich "Sos", lived with their parents on Nelson Street in Yoakum. Her father at one time owned the Buckhorn Saloon and was a Justice of the Peace of Precinct #6 in Yoakum, DeWitt County.

Gustav and Ida were married on 21 November 1906 in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Yoakum by Rev. W.C. Wolfsdorf. They were the parents of seven children:

Infant daughter stillborn 11 January 1908.

Augusta Elise "Sis", born 10 December 1908, married Alfred Joseph Seitz(dec.) son of Joseph and Rosie (Shulak) Seitz, on 10 September 1934. They are the parents of Daniel Julius (dec.), Marvin Joe, and Alfred Gilbert.

Robert Ludwig "Pete" (dec.), born 27 November 1910, married Anita Emilie Mathilde Bressel daughter of Otto and "Ella" (Braeuer) Bressel on 30 June 1934. Dorothy Anita, Robert, Jr., and Gail are their children.

Ida Edith "Skeet", born 6 March 1913, married Louis August Petering (dec.) son of Henry and Marie (Leist) Petering, on 16 September 1936. They are the parents of Peggy Marie and Carl Louis.

Helen Roma, born 29 March 1915, married Carl Hagerman (dec.) on 31 April 1940 and are the parents of Arthur (dec.). On 15 August 1963 Helen married Clarence Leroy Erickson son of Clarence and Sarah (Ottler) Erickson.

Cora Alma, born 5 January 1918, married Arthur Sigismund Carl Leske (dec.) son of Rudolph and Katherine (Bangston) Leske on 9 September 1942. They are the parents of Arthur, Jr.

Gustav Henry, born 17 June 1920, married Peggy Lou Bledsoe daughter of Gaither Winston and Virgie Loise (Wrenn) Bledsoe, on 19 October 1944 in North Carolina. Gus was the first baby delivered by Dr. E.H. Marek after he came to Yoakum to practice medicine. Gus, Jr., Ida Lois, and Terri Tia are their children.

The family resided at several locations in Yoakum, finally settling on December 1920, on the home place west of Yoakum on the west bank of Oily Creek. The family belonged to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and all were baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

Gustav died 12 May 1931 in Seguin from injuries he received in an automobile accident in which he and Ida were involved in Guadalupe County, on their way to visit relatives in New Braunfels. Ida finished raising her family and then divided her time among her children, staying with each of them until her death on 9 January 1978. Buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

by Dorothy A. Johnson

THIELE, ROBERT AND ANITA (BRESSEL)

F919

Robert Ludwig "Pete" Thiele and Anita Emilie Mathilda Bressel were married 30 June 1934 in Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Yoakum, having postponed the wedding from the 26th because of the death of her grandmother.

Robert and Anita (Bressel) Thiele

"Pete," born 27 November 1910 in Yoakum, DeWitt County, was the son of Gustav Ferdinand and Ida Johanna Fredericka Wilhemina (Kaiser) Thiele. Like his father before him, he was a butcher, getting an early start at the age of 8 when it was his job to tie the ends of the wieners. After his father died in 1931, he took over the family's Gus Thiele Market and later bought and hauled cattle for packing houses in Yoakum. He lived his entire life in Yoakum, except for the 8 years spent farming in the Cheapside-Hochheim area. As a young man he was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and enjoyed bowling. On 21 February 1984 he died in a Houston hospital.

Anita was born 22 December 1913 in the Cheapside-Hochheim area, the only child of Otto and "Ella" (Braeuer) Bressel. Before her marriage she worked as a beautician in the Vrazel Beauty Shop in Yoakum. She was a homemaker until 1950 when she began working for Tex-Tan Leather Company, retiring in the spring of 1983.

Dorothy Anita, their oldest daughter was born 13 October 1938 in Yoakum, Lavaca County. She married David Leon Johnson, born 20 August 1936, the son of Howard and Pearl (Wimberly) Johnson, on 26 March 1955 in Victoria, Texas. Dorothy and Leon reside in Floresville, Texas.

Their son Robert L., Jr. was born 18 January 1941 in Yoakum, Lavaca County. He married Mary Rachel Treece, born 27 July 1941, the daughter of Charles Elmer (dec.) and Roberta (Neil) Treece, on 28 July 1962 in Yoakum. He was Salutatorian of the Class of 1959 at Yoakum High and an A&M civil engineering graduate. He was also a Junior and Senior King of the Yoakum TOM-TOM. Robert and wife reside in Katy, Texas.

Gail, their youngest daughter, was born 29 October 1946 at Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Lavaca County. She was married to David Arlen Kocian, born 20 May 1946, the son of Jerome and Alice (Henkhaus) Kocian of Hallettsville, on 27 January 1968 at College Station, Texas (div.). Gail and her family reside in Katy, Texas.

Pete's and Anita's grandchildren are: David L. Johnson, Jr. and Capt. Kent Lee Johnson USAF, Tracey Michelle Thiele and Colin Robert Thiele, and Jonathan David Kocian and Suzanne Renee Kocian.

The time spent living in the country during WW II was everything but easy. The black '39 Ford pickup seemed to consume fan belts and carburetors on the 15 mile trip from Yoakum to the farm. "Pete" finally had a tool box welded to the running board and kept an extra fan belt and carburetor in the truck.

Because of the rationing of gas during the war, the relatives from Yoakum came to visit

only on special occasions such as an all day birthday celebration. "Pete" would get up early to get the man to do the barbeque. If it was during the summer, after lunch everyone got in the back of the truck and went over to Weigelts to swim in the creek fed by the artesian well.

After returning from the farm to live in Yoakum, the Thieles resided near the Edna highway from 1948 to 1950 when they moved to 511 Culpepper where Anita still resides.

by Dorothy Johnson

THIEME, EDWIN AND LUCILLE HARTMAN

F920

Edwin and Lucille Thieme

Lucille, daughter of Alfred and Mathilde Groll Hartman, was born Nov. 2, 1913, Fannin, Texas, Goliad County on the Coleto Creek on the site of a coal plant generating electricity.

My parents bought 200 acres of farming land near Arneckeville. At five weeks of age, Dec. 9, 1913, my parents moved to Arneckeville in DeWitt County. There were nine wagons with household goods, corn, hay, chickens and turkeys, followed by cattle driven by 2 of my uncles. An aunt, my mother and I in the buggy, were the last to follow. We arrived late at some neighbors, driving through pastures off of the Thomaston Road. The road is still visible in 1989. In 1933, as a bride, my husband and I moved to the place where we now reside. It is some of the land that I crossed as a five week old baby.

My parents lived in a three room 1½ story house for 6 years. In 1919 3 rooms and 3 porches were added. In March of 1917 my brother, Victor, was born and, in Dec. 1919, my brother, James, was born.

I went to school in Cuero: John C. French for three years, Arneckeville school for six years and Cuero High. In 1964 I went into nurses' training and worked for 21½ years at the Cuero Hospital Foundation and Cuero Community hospitals in Cuero.

In 1933 I married Edwin Thieme of the Arneckeville community and moved to the farm mentioned above. On Dec. 1939, our son, Larry, was born. He went to college in San Antonio and graduated from the University of Houston in 1965 and worked in the Houston area. He now lives at Cypress, Texas. He married Barbara Ann Schrader of Houston in 1961 and they have two children, Michele, born 1963, married Dennis Taylor in 1983. Their daughter, Jennifer Marie was born in 1987. Jay, born 1970, is now a student at Texas A&M College.

Our daughter, Nita Jean, born 1943 graduated from beauty college in 1962 and works as a beautician. She owns her beauty shop. She married Garland Pakebusch and they have three children: Shelli, Scott and Stacie. Shelli was born in 1965 and is now a student at Texas A&M College. Scott was born in 1970 and graduated from Cuero High in 1989. Stacie, born in 1975 is a student at Cuero High School.

by Lucille Hartman Thieme

THIEME, JOHANN CHRISTOPH AND ELISABETH MARGARETHE (JOHANNE) LANGHAMMER FAMILY

F921

Johann Christoph Thieme was born on 4 April 1811 in Teichroda, Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Germany, where records indicated that he was a small farmer prior to his immigration to Texas. His father, also a small farmer, was Johann Nichol Thieme (b. 11 February 1764 Teichroda; d. 14 June 1834 Teichroda; m. 1796 Tannroda bei Teichroda), and his mother was Barbara Margaretha Thieme, nee Bober-Beber, from Dannrothe/-Tannroda bei Teichroda (b. ca. 7 March 1774; d. 4 February 1847 in Rudolstadt, Principality of Schwarzburg- Rudolstadt). Johann Christoph Thieme became a naturalized citizen on 7 November 1854 in DeWitt County, Texas. He died on 12 April 1890 in Arneckeville, DeWitt County, and was buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

While still in Teichroda, on 4 September 1834, Johann Christoph Thieme married Elisabeth Margarethe (Johanne) Langhammer (b. 27 January 1805 Teichweiden, Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt; d. 8 April 1888 Arneckeville; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville). She was the daughter of Joh. Christoph Langhammer, a herdsman from Teichweiden.

According to information gleaned from census and immigration records and from oral history, Johann Christoph Thieme and Elisabeth Margarethe (Johanne) Thieme, nee Langhammer, begat eight children: Antone August Thieme; Johanne Sophie (Henrietta) Thieme (b. ca. 1836); Johanne Dorethea Christiane Thieme (b. ca. 1836; Friedrich Theodore Thieme (b. ca. 1838); Ottomar Thieme (b. 2 November 1839; d. 29 June 1915 DeWitt County); Johann Heinrich Theodor Thieme (b. ca. 1843); Gustav Friedrich Louis Thieme (b. ca. 1845); and (Johanna) Hulda Charlotte Thieme (b. 6 October 1849; d. 14 April 1931 DeWitt County; bur. Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville; m. 10 October 1867 Meyersville, DeWitt County, to Johann Peter Rath). The first seven children were born in the Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt in Germany, and the youngest, Hulda Charlotte, was born in Arneckeville.

Texas became independent of Mexico in 1836. The new Republic of Texas was poor in money, but there was one major resource: land. The Congress of the Republic of Texas therefore passed a law which granted 640 acres of land to each married man and 320 acres of land to any single man who settled in Texas after 1837. The taxation on this land would aid in providing much needed money for the struggling new county.

In addition, contracts were drawn up with empresarios, who promised to bring in married men with families, as well as single men. Large grants were offered to those men who could settle a certain number of people in Texas. The Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas) was formed by a group of noblemen in 1842 at Biebrich am Rhine. It was easy to secure immigrants as the Verein promised much more than it could deliver. Among the promises were the following: free transportation from the port of disembarkation to the colony itself in wagons and tents; a dwelling house at about sixty florins; 320 acres of land free to each family and 160 acres to each single male over the age of seventeen; provisions for all utensils and materials for agriculture and livelihood at low prices; establishment of churches, schools, hospitals, etc. Agents of the Verein in Germany signed agreements with persons who wished to depart for Texas.

On 12 August 1846 at Bremen, Germany, Johann Christoph Thieme signed an immigration contract (#242) with the Verein. Fisher-Miller Colony Certificate #121, dated 6 June 1851, stated that Thieme was entitled to 640 acres of land. This certificate was transferred in DeWitt County on 9 June 1854 to Samuel A. Maverick. The 640 acres of land were located in Bexar County, in two surveys of 320 each, by Samuel A. Maverick, who received the patent or final title to the land in March of 1876.

The Johann Christoph Thieme family members were among ninety immigrants who sailed on 21 August 1846 from Bremen on board the *Margaretha*. Two months later, on 21 October 1846, they arrived in Galveston, Texas. After disembarkation, the Thieme family made the hazardous journey to DeWitt County, where the original German immigrants existed at first on fish from the creeks, prairie chicken eggs, and field rabbits.

As the early German settlers migrated inland from Galveston, they traveled through Karankawa Indian territory. Belongings were usually shipped in wagons, but the immigrants generally traversed the land on foot. The Karankawa Indians were considered uncivilized, and consequently the pioneers reportedly were not permitted to stop for rest or to prepare fires for cooking.

The Thieme family settled on Coleto Creek in December of 1846 and began to farm the land. According to the 1850 DeWitt County federal census, Johann Christoph Thieme's real estate was valued at two hundred dollars; in 1860, it was valued at six hundred dollars, and in 1870, at five hundred dollars. With the encouragement of Pastor Grote, a Methodist minister, Thieme donated an acre of land for

the erection of a church. Later the congregation bought five more acres from him; the price was one dollar per acre, and the congregation received a deed for this purchase. A church, built of logs, and soon thereafter a log-cabin parsonage were erected. The church fathers, however, could not agree to Pastor Grote's demand that the church and land be deeded to the Methodist Church at large, and their ties with the Methodists were thereupon severed. This congregation, which consequently evolved into St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, was reorganized under the leadership of Christoph Adam Sager, who was pastor of the church from ca. 1850/51 until ca. 1854/55.

Records also revealed that Johann Christoph Thieme was one of ten family heads listed as charter members of Zion Lutheran Church in Arneckeville, which was organized in 1868. Members of the Thieme family were probably among those who helped erect the original Zion Church building with their axes and saws and the sweat of their brows. Indeed it can be said of Johann Christoph Thieme that he conquered the wildwood, thereby providing his children and his children's children with the opportunity to climb to the top of Mt. Zion.

by Beverly Boehl

THIEME, JOHANN CRISTOF

F922

Johann Christof (Christopher) Thieme was born April 6, 1811 in Teichweiden Rudolphstadt, Germany. He married Elizabeth Margaretha Langhammer who was born January 27, 1805, in Teichweiden. They had eight children.

A son, Antone Auguste Thieme was born December 13, 1832 in Rodenstadt, Germany. A daughter, Johanne Sophie Henrietta was born April 2, 1835 in Rodenstadt. A daughter, Johanne Dorethea Christiane was born June 19, 1836. A son, Friederich Theodor Thieme was born May 25, 1838 in Rodenstadt. A son, Ottomar Thieme was born November 2, 1839, in Rodenstadt. A son, Johann Heinrich Theodor was born April 28, 1843. A son, Gustav Friedrich Louis was born March 5, 1845 in Rodenstadt. A daughter, Johanna Hulda Thieme was born October 6, 1849 in Texas. She was the only one born in America and married a Rath.

Johann Christof left Germany July 30, 1836 and arrived in America, October 8, 1846. He died in Arneckeville, Texas April 12, 1890. His wife, Elizabeth died April 3, 1888 in Arneckeville.

Johann and Elizabeth's fourth child, Friedrich Theodor, married Carolina Hotz, March 16, 1861. They had two children born in Arneckeville; Martha Thieme, born January 1, 1861 and Fred Thieme, born May 7, 1863. Martha married John Boehl October 5, 1884, and Fred married Bertha Arnecke October 30, 1887. Fred died May 7, 1924.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

THIEME, JOHN CHRISTIAN, SR.

F923

John Christian Thieme and Clara (Machost) Thieme October 22, 1908

John Christine Thieme was born June 7, 1876 to the late Ottomar and Caroline (Hotz) Thieme of Arneckeville, Texas. John married Clara (Machost) Thieme, October 22, 1908 in Yorktown, Texas in a ceremony conducted by Pastor Poth.

Clara is the daughter of the late Fred Machost and Maria (Natho) Machost who were both killed in the destructive tornado that hit between Karnes City and Runge when Clara was about six years old. John and Clara had two sons. Rudolf died at birth. He is buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. Johnny Christian Thieme, Jr. was born November 19, 1909 in Yorktown. His history is told separately.

John Thieme Sr. was musically inclined and wrote many songs. He purchased a used violin with "Stradivarius" stamped inside, at a second hand store on the corner of Main and Esplanade before Dipple and Dietze Store was there. This was before he married in 1908. He formed a small band, playing at house dances, etc. His favorite song was "Red Wing". The violin is still wrapped in the same red velvet cloth his Aunt made and is in a used case he purchased. The violin and songs he wrote are still in the family.

John Thieme Sr. passed away May 16, 1961. Clara (Machost) Thieme passed away March 24, 1982. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

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THIEME, JOHNNY CHRISTIAN JR. AND LYDIA (FLESSNER)

F924

Lydia (Flessner) Thieme and Johnny Christian, Jr. Wedding Sept. 24, 1929

Lydia (Flessner) Thieme and Johnny C. Thieme, Jr.

Johnny Christian Thieme, Jr. was born November 19, 1909, in Yorktown, Texas. He is the son of the late John Christian Thieme, Sr. and Clara (Machost) Thieme of Cuero. Johnny Thieme Jr. married Lydia Wilhelmine (Flessner) of Garfield, Texas, September 24, 1929, in Evangical Lutheran Church in Yorktown. Lydia was born September 13, 1911 in Shiner,

Cecil Albert White and Georgia Mae (Thieme) White Wedding – April 6, 1947

Texas. She is the daughter of the late Henry William Flessner and Emma (Cook) Flessner of Cuero, Texas.

Johnny was employed by CPL, worked in the Cuero Ice House, DeWitt Co., the REA and the City of Cuero as an electrician. He was employed by Gulf Coast Wood Products as a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker before his death, September 21, 1975. He is buried in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Cuero.

Lydia (Flessner) Thieme worked as a textile worker at the cotton mill in Cuero and later became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in July 1957, working at Burns Hospital and Retama Manor West Nursing Home in Cuero. She is presently employed by Wal-Mart in Cuero. Johnny and Lydia's favorite hobby was to go fishing at Port O'Connor. Johnny built two bay houses on an island at Port O'Connor for his family to enjoy.

Johnny and Lydia have two children, Georgia Mae, born December 20, 1930 in Garfield and Roland Rudolf, born August 9, 1934 in Yorktown. Roland married Patricia (Wendel) Thieme, September 18, 1955. They have six children and their histories appear in another part of this book.

Georgia Mae Thieme married Cecil Albert White April 6, 1947 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. Cecil is the son of the late Albert Payton White and Ethel Cleo (Holland) White of Ratcliffe, close to Cuero. Cecil was born April 29, 1927. Georgia Mae and Cecil have seven children: Linda, Glenn, Susan, Cynthia, Michael, Rebecca and Jane.

Linda Carol (White) was born February 9, 1948. She married Dennis Duane McPherson August 25, 1968, in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wharton, Texas. Dennis was born November 29, 1946. He is the son of Herold A. McPherson and Etola W. (Reeves) McPherson of Kerrville, Texas. Dennis and Linda have three children; Timothy Duane McPherson, born October 19, 1970, Shelley Christine McPherson, born December 19, 1972 and Jason White McPherson, born December 1, 1975. They reside in Wharton, Texas.

Glenn Cecil White was born March 28, 1949. He married Kathy Marie (Korenek) White June 20, 1971 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wharton. Kathy was born September 4, 1949 to the late Emil P. Korenek and Alma Marie (Patty) Korenek of Wharton. Glenn and Kathy have two children; Julie Marie White was born March 20, 1979 and Glenn Christian Payton White, born September 8, 1982. They reside in Wharton, Texas.

Susan Elaine (White) was born April 17, 1951. She married Henry Pete (Buddy) Holesovsky III, June 5, 1971 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wharton. Buddy was born July 7, 1945. He is the son of Henry Pete Holesovsky II and Metha Irene (Arnold) Holesovsky of Wharton. Susan and Buddy have three children; Melissa Lynn Holesovsky was born December 4, 1973, Brad Allan was born March 28, 1977 and Henry Pete Holesovsky IV was born February 13, 1979. They reside in Angleton, Texas.

Cynthia Ann (White) was born February 28, 1953. She married Robert Edward Osterloh Jr., October 12, 1974 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wharton. Robert (Bobby) was born January 6, 1950. He is the son of the late Robert Edward Osterloh Sr. and Justine Ann (Nesrsta) Osterloh of Cuero. Cynthia and Bobby have two sons; Robert Edward Osterloh III was born January 14, 1977 and Richard Albert Osterloh was born January 29, 1979. They reside in Glen Flora, Texas.

Michael Albert White was born January 23, 1955. He married Rebecca Ann (Wakefield) White, December 28, 1974, in First United Methodist Church in Wharton. Rebecca Ann was born February 9, 1955. She is the daughter of the late Neal Edward Wakefield, Jr. and Margie C. (Jones) Wakefield of Wharton. Michael and Rebecca have two children; Michael DeWayne White was born March 8, 1977 and Kristen Renee White was born May 5, 1980. They all reside in Wharton, Texas.

Rebecca Lynn (White) was born June 6, 1962. She married Mark Anthony Wick, September 20, 1986 in St. John's Catholic Church in Koerth, Texas. Mark was born February 15, 1958. He is the son of Henry Alfred Wick of Houston, Texas and Charlene Ann (Cmajdolka) Wick of Halletsville, Texas. Rebecca and Mark have a daughter, Amy Elizabeth Wick born September 19, 1987, in Victoria, Texas. They reside in Halletsville, Texas.

Jane Elizabeth White was born May 6, 1964, and resides in Victoria.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

THIEME, OTTOMAR T.

F925

Ottomar T. Thieme, born November 2, 1839, came to America when he was seven years old. He became a Pvt. in the 29th Brigade, Texas Militia, Confederate States Army. He married Caroline Hotz, Frederick Theodor Thieme's widow, November 30, 1865. Caroline was born March 6, 1842 in Alsaace Lorraine, France. She is the daughter of the late Franz Antonius Hotz and Elizabeth (Geiger). Ottomar and Caroline had seven children besides Martha and Fred from her first husband, Frederich.

Ottomar and Caroline's son, Otto Thieme was born August 26, 1873. He married Emma Hoffman, January 10, 1895. Otto died in 1939. William A. Thieme, Ottomar and Caroline's second son, was born August 30, 1866. He married Elizabeth Arnecke May 30, 1895. William died October 28, 1941. A third son, Louis Thieme, was born April 17, 1868. He married Louise Braun, November 30, 1891. Louis died November 1902.

Sons of Ottomar Thieme: Standing – John, Willie and Albert. Seated: Either Louis or Henry

A fourth son, John Thieme was born June 7, 1876. His history follows. A fifth son, Albert Thieme was born August 19, 1878. He married Johanna Rangnow May 15, 1902. Albert died March 25, 1946.

A sixth son, Henry Thieme was born October 12, 1881. He died March 18, 1904. A daughter, Johanna Elis. M. Thieme was born October 15, 1871, according to the Meyersville Lutheran Church Records.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

THIEME, PATRICIA ANN WENDEL

F926

Patricia (Patty) Wendel was born October 24, 1937, in Cuero, Texas. She is the daughter of the late Victor and Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel.

Patty attended school in Meyersville and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1955. She married Roland Rudolf Thieme September 18, 1955, in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Meyersville, Texas.

Roland was born August 9, 1934, in Yorktown, Texas. He is the son of the late Johnny C. Thieme, Jr. and Lydia W. (Flessner) Thieme of Cuero. He attended Yorktown School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1953.

Roland and Patty lived in Wharton, Texas until March 1956, when they moved to Chicago, Ill. Roland graduated from DeVry Technical Institute while there. During this time, Patty was employed by U.S. Steel Corporation.

Roland was drafted into the Army in March 1957. He took Basic Training at Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas and was then stationed at Ft. Monmouth, N.H., until November 1957. Patty lived with her parents during this time. Roland was transferred to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, after the death of their son, Wendell Ray. They resided there until Roland's discharge as Staff Sgt. in March 1959. They now reside in Victoria,

Roland R. Thieme Family: Back – Wayne Stevens, Denise (Thieme) Stevens, Kevin, Kenneth, Mike Spann. Front: Teresa, Mendy, Roland, Patricia (Wendel) Thieme, Monica Stevens, Donna (Thieme) Spann, Jason Spann. 1989

Texas. Roland has been employed by Union Carbide in Seadrift, Texas since March 1960 and Patty is a housewife. They also raise cattle using Victor and Regina's Brand on the left hip. This same brand belonged to Regina's father, Henry Kornfuehrer.

Six children were born to Roland and Patty; Wendell Ray, Kevin, Teresa, Kenneth, Denise and Donna. They also have three grandchildren.

Wendell Ray was born July 25, 1957, in Cuero, Texas. He died after an illness of two weeks, December 27, 1957, at the age of five months and two days. He is buried in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

Kevin James was born September 18, 1958 in Patagonia, Arizona. He graduated from Victoria High School in May 1977. He completed an 878 hour course in Electric Arc and Acetylene Welding at Victoria College, July 29, 1987.

Teresa Lynn was born February 27, 1960 in Victoria. She graduated from Victoria High School in May 1978. She is attending Victoria College.

Teresa married Michael Thomas Biehunko January 19, 1979 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Yoakum, Texas. They were divorced the same year.

Kenneth Wayne (Joe Baduba to his friends)

Kevin James Thieme, Teresa Lynn Thieme, Kenneth Wayne Thieme, Denise Marie Thieme, Donna Elaine Thieme.

Wendell Ray Thieme Dec. 10, 1957

was born April 24, 1961 in Victoria. He graduated from Victoria High School in May 1979. He is attending Victoria College.

Denise Marie was born July 27, 1962 in Victoria. She graduated from Victoria High School in May 1980. She married David Wayne Stevens December 4, 1983 in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Meyersville.

Wayne was born April 16, 1959 in Kentucky. He is the son of Mike Stevens, Jr. and Francis (Wendrock) Stevens of Victoria. He graduated from Victoria High School in May 1978. He attended Victoria College.

Wayne and Denise have two daughters, both born in Victoria. Mendy Ann was born February 21, 1986 and Monica Lynn was born September 18, 1987.

Donna Elaine was born February 21, 1964 in Victoria. She graduated from Victoria High School in May 1982. She married Michael Roy Spann, September 21, 1985 in Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria.

Mike was born February 4, 1960 in Victoria. His mother is the late Lydia (Polasek) Spann. His father is Raymond Spann, now married to Evelyn (Schoener) Spann of Victoria. He graduated from Stroman High School in May 1978.

Mike and Donna have a son Jason Michael Spann, born February 7, 1989 in Victoria, Texas.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

THIGPEN, SAMUEL CROCKETT

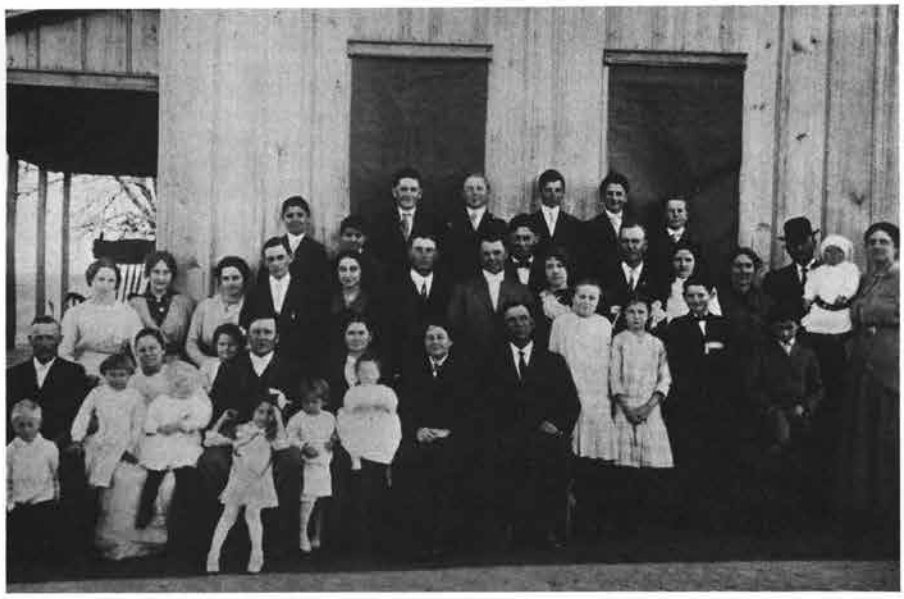
F927

1839-1925

Samuel Crockett Thigpen was born in Washington Parish, Louisiana, June 20, 1839. He was the son of William Walter James Norwood Thigpen and his first wife, Jane Ayres. This line of the Thigpen family is descended from James Phippen and his wife Elyn who immigra-

THIGPEN, SAMUEL EDWARD

F928



Some descendents of Samuel Crockett and Constantia W. Thigpen Back Row: Edwin Thigpen, Claude Thigpen, Tom T., Joe T., Floyd T., Fred T., Edward T. Second Row: Edna Lee (Smothers), Julia (Neely), Connie (Schorre), Ethel (Green), Willie T., Arthur T., —, Oscar T., Forrest & Lizzie (Barber) Thigpen, Lou Thigpen Morris, Rex & Mary Carmichal Thigpen Baby Charles. Third row: Samuel T., Edna Wilborne Thigpen, Myrtle Thigpen, Henry & Minnie Davis Thigpen, Mamie Davis-Crockett Thigpen, Louise T. (Brantley), Mable T. (Morrow), Ned T., Pat T. Front Row: Burton T., Bernice T. (Daniel), Gladys T. (Biggs), Rae T. (—), Ruby T. (Harrison), Davis T.

Samuel Edward and Edna Viola (Wilborne) Thigpen

S.C. and Catarina Thigpen

ted to North Carolina from Ireland in 1853. Confederate Army for four years. His full brothers John, Thomas and Henry were all killed in action during the Civil War. His father William married three times and had a total of twenty-six children over a period of 50 years.

After the war, Samuel Crockett married Constantia Almira Williams April 19, 1866. They settled in the Terryville area of DeWitt County. Connie was the daughter of Edward Walsh Williams and Eliza Berry Owen. Edward was born in New York City, and he served with the army in the Texas-Mexican War. An Edward Williams is listed as having served at San Jacinto on the Halletsville Memorial. The Williams family lived in the old Hope Community and at one time, their house was the only one between Halletsville and Victoria. The children of this Williams family were: Catharine b. 1840 m. Edward Smith, Constantia b. 1842 m. Samuel Crockett Thigpen, Henry Rector b. 1845 m. Susan R. —, Edward Walsh, Jr. b. 1848 m. Susan Ann Frazier, Ezra Owen b. 1850 m. Virginia E. —, James S. b. 1855 m. Mary Ellen Ridgeway, Emily b. 1857, and Collatinus B. birthdate unknown.

The children of Samuel Crockett and Constantia Thigpen were: Mary Louise (1867-1935) m. Nathaniel Morris, Samuel Edward (1869-1924) m. Edna V. Wilborne, William Henry (1873-1953) m. Minnie Davis, James Owen (1875-1963) m. Beth Snider, Jonathan Crockett (1877-1951) m. Mamie Davis, John Rector (1878-1943) m. Mary Carmichael, Bedford Forest (1881-1961) m. Elizabeth Barber, Virginia Jane (1885-1970) m. Ben Pearce, and Katherine Constancia (1888-1977) m. A.L. (Rufus) Barnes.

Samuel Crockett was a farmer in the Hope Community. He was also a Master Mason in the Sweet Home Lodge. He served as County Road Commissioner in Lavaca County, Texas and as a Trustee for Williams School at Hope. Samuel and Constantia lived to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their children and grandchildren in attendance. Samuel Crockett died February 11, 1925 and Constantia died October 5, 1921. They are buried in Hebron Cemetery.

by Jean B. Tidwell

(1869-1925)

Samuel Edward Thigpen was born February 22, 1869 and his birth is recorded in Lavaca County although the family home was in DeWitt County. He was the son of Samuel Crockett and Constantia Williams Thigpen. Their history is given in the biography of Samuel Crockett Thigpen. Samuel Edward married Edna Viola Wilborne in DeWitt County, Texas on April 19, 1891. She was the daughter of James G. Wilborne (b. 1849 – AL) and Texana E. Holliman (b. 1848 – TX). Edna was born in Jackson County January 4, 1871. Her mother died when she was a young child. Her father remarried and Edna was raised by her grandmother, Caroline V. Wilborne and lived some of her life with a Dr. Weyman in Yoakum, Texas. It is thought that Mrs. Weyman was Edna's aunt.

The Thigpens lived in the Hope Community for many years. Later they moved to Valley View where their children attended school. By 1910 they had moved to the Cuero area where they lived on the old river road. There were twelve children born to this couple: Constantia Virginia (1892-1972) m. Robert T. Schorre; Julia Catharine (1893-1984) m. William Neely; Edna Lee (1896-1982) m. Guy Smothers; James Lewis (1897-1904); Joseph Wheeler (1898-1980) m. 1) Sue Shanks, m. 2) Hazel Fletcher; Samuel Edward Jr. (1900-1974) m. Mattie Eldnar Mahon; Mary Louise (1902-) m. George David Brantley; Baby Boy (1905-1905), Burton Cornelius (1907-1938) m. Willie Mae Eschenfelder; Bernice Cornelia (1907-) m. Sidney Daniel; Gladys Viola (1910-) m. Raymond H. Biggs; Jessie Irene (1915-) m. Burson S. Patton.

Edna Thigpen died in Cuero, Texas on April

Descendants of Samuel Edward and Edna Wilborne Thigpen. Back Row: Edward Thigpen, Bill Yolland, Jack Tidwell, R.H. Biggs, William Kleinecke, Dave Brantley, Sidney Daniel, Joe Thigpen, Joe David Thigpen, Geary Biggs. Middle Row: Connie Schorre, Marjorie Yolland, Jean Tidwell, Gladys Biggs, Irene Patton, Louise Brantley, Bernice Daniel, Hazel Thigpen, Vittoria Thigpen, Janette Biggs. Children: Terran Tidwell, Beth Yolland, Bob Patton, Robert S. Daniel, Burson Patton, Mary Yolland, David Yolland.

8, 1925. Samuel Edward died a few months later on October 22, 1925. They are buried in Hebron Cemetery.

by Jean B. Tidwell

THOMAS, FERDINAND A. AND MARY JANE (MOLLIE J.) BISSETT

F929

Ferdinand G. Thomas was born Feb. 14, 1845 in Mobile County, Alabama. He was the youngest of seven sons of Nathaniel Thomas, who was born about 1800 in North Carolina, and Mary Caroline Ann Hodge, a Choctaw Indian, who was born about 1810 in Alabama. All seven sons were born in Mobile County, Alabama. This family was living in Jasper County, Mississippi in 1850. Further information is not available on the other five sons.

Ferdinand G. Thomas (1845 – after 1889)

Micajah Thomas, the eldest son, was born Oct. 9, 1828; died Jan. 1, 1903; buried in Beeville, Texas. He married Margaret Ann Minerva Myer Sept. 10, 1852 in Mississippi. He, his wife and one son, Micajah, Jr., came by horseback from Mississippi and settled at Old St. Marys, Refugio County, Texas about 1857. In 1861, Micajah Thomas and a Nathan Thomas enlisted in the Organized Reserve Co. PR No. 3, Goliad, Texas, 29th Brigade; H.P. Bee BG TM: Commanding Officer, Capt. Joseph Doughty.

Micajah Thomas and his family were living in Goliad County in 1880. At this time, Micajah's mother, Mary Caroline was living with them.

Ferdinand G. Thomas married Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett Aug. 7, 1873 in DeWitt Co., Texas. Mary Jane was born June 12, 1852 in Mississippi and died Nov. 12, 1923; buried in Kenedy, Karnes Co., Texas. She was the youngest of twelve children of Lodawick Bissett and Mourning Williams who were married in North Carolina and moved to Mississippi. In 1862 they moved to Jackson Co., Texas, and later moved to DeWitt County. Lodawick died June 17, 1883 and is buried in Hebron Cemetery, east DeWitt County. About 1889 Mourning moved to Blanconia, Bee Co., Texas. She died Sept. 29, 1905 and is buried in the Williams family cemetery on the Williams ranch, which is across Highway 202 from Blanconia.

According to the book entitled *Runge Centennial 1886-1986*, the First Baptist Church was organized July 15, 1889 and lists F. Thomas and Mollie J. Thomas, Rev. L.L. Bissett, A.L. Granberry and Emily Butler as charter members: (All related).

After grandpa Ferdinand Thomas died, grandma moved, taking three of her children, John Nathaniel (Thannon), Lelia Laurettye and Mary Mourning with her. My father, James Solly Thomas and Nettie Adella (Della) were reared by their uncle and aunt, Amos L. Granberry and Amanda May Bissett. Children of Ferdinand G. Thomas and Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett were all born in DeWitt County, Texas.

1. John Nathanial (Thannon) Thomas; born Dec. 26, 1874 at Terryville; died July 12, 1913. This family's story is given separately.

2. Lelia Laurettye Thomas; born Oct. 21, 1877 at Terryville; died oct. 27, 1957 in Houston, Texas. This family's story is given separately.

3. James Solly Thomas; born Apr. 7, 1881 at Terryville; died Apr. 23, 1963; buried in Beeville, Texas. He attended school at the two-story school at Cabeza. This family's story is given separately.

4. Nettie Adella (Della) Thomas; born Oct. 21, 1884 at Clinton, which was the former county seat of DeWitt County. She died June 29, 1969 in Beeville, Texas; buried in Goldthwaite, Mills Co., Texas. She married Edward Marshall. They had no children. They lived most of their married life in Rockport and Yoakum, Texas.

5. Mary Mourning Thomas; born March 1, 1887 at Cabeza; died Dec. 6, 1965; buried in Yoakum, Texas. She married George Addison Chandler. They had no children. They lived most of their married life in Yoakum.

by Wayne Solly Thomas

E.T. PETERS
QUEEN
A COMMUNITY ASSET
THEATRE

"Coolest Spot In Town"

THURSDAY

Antonio Merino

— In —

Three Sevens

and Comedy

FRIDAY

Luring Lips

"WHITE HORSEMAN"

Also

Larry Semon Comedy

L-R: daughters of Lodawick Bissett and Mourning Williams, Mary Jane, Aquilla, Lelia Arkigh, Amanda May, Emily, Barzilla.

THOMAS, J. CARTER FAMILY

F930

Ann Friar and J. Carter Thomas, 1984.

J. Carter Thomas was born June 19, 1913 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He was the second son of James Hiner and Margaret Carter Thomas, who were both born in Gratz, Kentucky. Hiner was a bank president in Forest City, North Carolina. He and two friends developed a large resort on Lake Lure near Chimney Rock, North Carolina.

Carter grew up in Forest City, sixty miles east of Asheville, went to school there, enjoyed the mountains, streams and fishing. He spent winters in Florida with his family. He attended Wake Forest University, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He was a premed student. Later he joined his brothers in Washington, D.C. He worked for the U.S. Treasury Department.

In 1938 Carter Thomas married Anne Friar of Cuero, Texas. Margaret Anne was born August 8, 1939 in Washington D.C., mid Nov. '39 they moved to Cuero to join Alfred Friar, Anne's father, in the dairy and commercial cattle business. The dairy operated until the 1950's when Carter began to concentrate on raising registered Brahman cattle. He selected thirty-seven top quality Brahman cows from Alfred Frair's herd to begin his herd of registered Brahman cattle.

Carter Thomas became a member of the American Brahman Breeders Association and was a director for twenty-eight years, serving on various committees. The Texas Brahman Association was organized and he was a lifelong member. Carter was a charter member of the South Texas Brahman Association, serving as president several times. He loved Brahman cattle and enjoyed helping or advising others, especially young people. Breeding and owning gentle cattle was particularly important to him.

DeWitt County Producers Cooperative was one of Carter's prime interests. He helped to organize it and served as a director for thirty-eight years. He was a true supporter. Carter also gave strength and balance to the Board of Directors of Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association. He was a director there for thirty-two years. He was involved in the stock market and gave strong support to his political party. He and his family in North Carolina were Methodist. He joined the Presbyterian Church when they moved to Cuero and was an officer, serving as Deacon.

Alfred Friar's death in 1973 brought new responsibilities to Carter and Anne, managing the Friar commercial cattle herd.

Anne Friar was born May 25, 1913 at her grandparents home (the Sidney J. Friar's) five miles east of Cuero. Alfred and Ann Nagel Friar were Anne's parents. Later they resided eleven miles east of Cuero on Friar Road. Anne attended Cuero schools where she excelled. She went to Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia and the University of Texas where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. Anne's career started as the Mercedes School Cafeteria Director and homemaking teacher. She served lunch for the school, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs and community banquets. In Washington D.C. she worked briefly for the Home Economics Department of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1939 it was "Back to Texas" for Anne. She brought with her a North Carolina husband and a Washington D.C. baby girl. They all became Texans! Anne enjoyed making a home and working with the ranch activities. She joined the Hawthorne Club (a study club) and was very active in church work as an officer, Sunday School teacher and a youth group leader; as a member of the Presbyterian Church. For years she helped with the education program of the Cancer Society. Projects in the DeWitt County Historical Commission and the DeWitt County Museum have been important for her. At the Museum she established a memorial room to her mother's family, the J.R. Nagels.

Always Anne was interested in Carter's business. She went with him and helped him with his responsibilities in his organizations: American Brahman Breeders Association, Texas Brahman Association and South Texas Brahman Association and she was secretary the years Carter served as president.

To honor all the members of the Friar family who have ranched in DeWitt County, Anne Friar Thomas and her family built the Friar Ag-Center in 1983. The building is a memorial to Daniel Boone Friar, Alfred L. Friar, William S. Friar, Sidney J. Friar and Alfred Friar for their contributions to agriculture. This facility is being enjoyed by 4-H and FFA groups and other agricultural activities.

Voelkel-Benge Wedding, 1982. L-R: Dinah Rae Voelkel, Anna Nagel Friar, Margaret A. Thomas (mother of bride), Debra Voelkel and Michael Ray Benge, Anne Friar and J. Carter Thomas.

Children of Michael and Debra Benge: Kathleen Paige, Candice Lee, Rachel Anne Benge.

Jeremy N. Sturges and Margaret Thomas Sturges, 1987.

November 13, 1986 brought Carter's death and new responsibilities of the management of the two ranches: the Friar Ranch commercial herd and the J. Carter Thomas registered Brahmans. The operations are beginning to work together.

Margaret attended school at Saint Mary's Hall in San Antonio and Cuero schools where she graduated. She studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and at the University of Houston. She mastered ballet, enjoyed Scouts and rode horseback at every opportunity. Her special hours were spent with "Gran," her grandfather, Alfred Friar.

Margaret married Ray A. Voelkel on September 9, 1958. Two daughters were born: Debra Anne on April 17, 1960 and Dinah Rae on August 17, 1961. The family lived in Houston.

Her activities revolved around their daughter's school functions: PTA, room mother, carnival chairman, piano and dancing lessons. She was involved with the church: an officer, woman's work, Sunday School teacher.

In 1963 Margaret joined Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters, a woman's study organization. She is still a member, winning perfect attendance awards. The city wide group of Delphians are very active in raising scholarship funds for young women who attend the University of Houston's Main campus. In 1971 she served as president of this philanthropic organization of seven hundred and fifty women.

Achievement Reward for College Scientists (ARCS) is another organization which Margaret helped raise scholarship funds. These scientific scholarships are for students in the five Houston area universities.

Currently Margaret is involved with Eling Corporation, a real estate brokerage firm, and Earthnut, Inc., a landscaping and interior design firm. She and her husband, Jeremy have joined her mother, Anne Friar Thomas in the operation and management of the Friar-Thomas Ranches.

Jeremy N. Sturges and Margaret were married January 1, 1987 in Cuero. He was born in New York City and grew up in Southport, Connecticut. St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island is where he graduated from high school. His education continued at the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He is a graduate of the Williams College School of Banking, New York Institute of Finance and the Special Development Program of Chase Manhattan Bank. Jeremy's business life has been involved with banking and investment banking institutions in Connecticut, New York and Florida. Currently, he is a commercial real estate broker.

Debra Anne Voelkel grew up in Houston, graduating from Memorial High School. She attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock and was a Zeta Tau Alpha sorority member. She earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Mathematics with Spanish and History minors. She also attained her Elementary Education Teacher's Certificate. These degrees were earned at Pacific Lutheran University at Tacoma, Washington.

Debra is active in her local home owner's association of Waldheim Recreational Association serving as their president and their secretary. She is treasurer of the Green River Community College Parent Co-Operative. Debra also tutors high school and college students in mathematics.

Debra married Michael Ray Benge on June 5, 1982. Mike was born in Hobbs, New Mexico and grew up in El Paso, Texas. He received his Civil Engineering degree from Texas Tech University of Lubbock. Mike is Vice-President of Western Coating, Incorporated of Aburn, Washington. His family are co-owners of this rebar coating business. Mike is on the Board of Directors of Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), Northwest. He has also been their president and secretary-treasurer.

Debra and Mike have three daughters: Candice Lee Benge, born April 25, 1984; Kathleen Paige Benge, born June 25, 1986; and Rachel Anne Benge, born February 1, 1988.

Dinah Rae Voelkel also graduated from Memorial High School in Houston. She graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a degree in Journalism and Psychology. She has been working for advertising agencies and doing free-lance work in media planning. She has also done television commercials and was the Volunteer Co-Ordinator for City Faire, a Dallas arts fair.

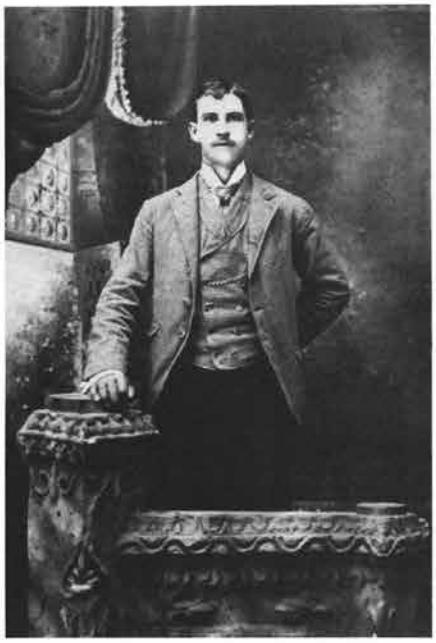
Dinah is currently associated with Prudential Equi-Source, a Dallas real estate firm. She is working in sales and advertising. She is currently unmarried.

The Friar-Thomas family continues its tradition of ranching and having daughters. The Friar name is no longer alive because there are no male children to carry the name, but their strength and conviction of strong business ethics, continues as they are involved in their respective communities. Whether it's raising cattle, plowing crops, building barns or fences, digging tanks, or working cattle — it keeps the cycle of life on the ranch ever changing . . . and that's what life's all about . . . change.

by Margaret Thomas Sturges

THOMAS, JAMES SOLLY AND MARGARET LOUEMMA (MARGIE LOU) SHOWS

F931



James Solly Thomas (1881-1963) Photo 1900

Margaret Louemma "Margie Lou" Shows (1886-1971) Photo 1906

L-R 1949 Virginia Ella Allen, Adele Lou Steapp, Wayne Solly Thomas, Margie Lou Thomas, Mildred Mary Algea, James Solly Thomas, Gladys Naomi Hatcher, Jewelle Geneva Brown and Thelma Ozelle Fridge

James Solly Thomas, son of Ferdinand G. Thomas and Mary Jane (Mollie J) Bissett, was born Apr. 7, 1881 at Terryville, east DeWitt Co., Texas; died Apr. 23, 1963; buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Beeville, Texas. He married Margaret Louemma (Margie Lou) Shows Apr. 21, 1907 in Berclair, Goliad Co., Texas. They were married in a buggy by a Justice of the Peace and it was pouring down rain. Margie Lou; born Feb. 6, 1886 at Hope, Lavaca Co., Texas; died Oct. 17, 1971; buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Beeville. She was the daughter of Adam Jasper Shows and Mary Ella Farrar.

Solly and Margie Lou lived at Cabeza, west DeWitt Co. for a while, and then in Goliad Co. from about 1910 to 1916. They moved to Bee Co. where they lived the rest of their lives. The year they were married they lived in a small house on the farm which belonged to Solly's Uncle Amos Granberry and Aunt Amanda May Bissett at Cabeza. They dug a water well by hand and it went dry, so they moved over a few feet and dug another one.

My mother and Mrs. Sophie (Manz) Brown, wife of Thurman Brown, washed their clothes under some of the beautiful Anaqua "knock-away" trees. They would help each other with their babies. My mother's baby was Gladys Naomi and Mrs. Brown's baby was Henry Norman Brown. Many years later, the Browns moved to Live Oak Co., Texas, near the Bee Co. line, and they were again neighbors. Henry Norman Brown married my sister Jewelle Geneva Thomas.

Uncle Amos and Aunt Amanda Granberry reared my father, James Solly Thomas and his sister, Nettie Adella (Della) Thomas, after their father died. Uncle Amos willed the farm at Cabeza to them.

Children of James Solly Thomas and Margie Lou Shows:

1. Gladys Naomi Thomas; born Sept. 21, 1908 in DeWitt Co.; died Oct. 28, 1977; buried in Beeville, Texas. She married Milton Elliot Hatcher May 8, 1927. Children: James Richard, Milton Raymond, Clarence Wayne and Gladys Alene (Hatcher) McDonald.

2. Thelma Ozelle Thomas; born Feb. 17, 1910 in Goliad Co.; died Sept. 16, 1973; buried in Beeville, Texas. She married John Thomas Fridge June 28, 1934 in Beeville. They had one daughter, Tommie Gay (Fridge) Dudley.

3. Jewelle Geneva Thomas; born Feb. 23, 1911 in Goliad Co.; died Apr. 10, 1980 in Temple, Texas; buried in Beeville, Texas. She married Henry Norman Brown Feb. 24, 1930 in Bee Co. Children: Joy Kathryn (Brown) Taylor and Robert Kenneth Brown.

4. Mildred Mary Thomas, born July 15, 1912 in Goliad Co. She married Adolph Bill Algea June 2, 1943 in Beeville, Texas. They had one daughter, Margie Ann (Algea) Awalt.

5. Wayne Solly Thomas; born Dec. 6, 1913 in Goliad Co., Texas. (The doctor's fee for delivering me was $12. The doctor, E.R. Young M.D., Charco, Texas. Phone: Office 17-2 rings, Residence 17-3 rings.) Wayne married Annie Lee Patton Dec. 18, 1948 in San Antonio, Texas. No children.

6. Adele Lou Thomas; born Oct. 10, 1915 in Goliad Co., Texas; married Clyde Steapp Apr. 27, 1940 in Dallas, Texas. Children: Clyde Thomas and Hugh Michael Steapp.

7. Virginia Ella Thomas; born Jan. 29, 1922 in Bee Co., Texas; died June 5, 1988 in Greeley, Colorado; buried in Beeville. She married 1st James Royce Barron July 6, 1942 in Beeville, Texas. They had one son James Thomas Barron. James Royce was killed in combat on Okinawa Apr. 4, 1945. Virginia married 2nd. Cornelius Hutchins Allen July 30, 1948 in Beeville. They had one son, Neil Hutchins Allen.

My parents were devoted Christians. We attended church services at a very small Baptist Church in Clareville, Texas. When meetings were held at night, we would have to stop working in the field early in order to get dressed for church.

When a meal was served and everyone was seated, Papa would return thanks. The whole family ate at the same time, never separately. One time I came to table and hadn't combed my hair. All Papa said was "Son, your hair is not combed." I went and combed my hair and when I returned, the whole family was waiting for me. When I was seated, Papa returned thanks. His method of correcting me was a lot more effective than a scolding or a spanking.

Papa farmed all his life and we all worked very hard, but we enjoyed life very much. When the cotton or broomcorn was sold, he would usually get very little money for it. That

didn't seem to worry him much as long as he had enough money to pay his debts. I have heard him say many times that he really didn't know there was a depression, because he had very little money before or during the depression, but he always had plenty of food and clean clothes for his family.

When we came in from school, the first thing we did was change to our work clothes and go to the kitchen where Mamma always had something for us to eat. Then we would all go to our assigned chores. I had to shuck about fourteen big ears of corn for each mule, and pull out enough hay from the stack so they would have plenty to eat during the night. Papa said he wanted the mules fed well, because he expected a lot of work from them.

Papa would get in from the field a little before dark. By then the chores were all finished and Mamma would have supper ready. After supper, Papa would read the Bible, magazines or farm papers by a kerosene lamp. Mamma would be sewing or patching some of our clothes. I think she made clothes for all of us except Papa's overalls and trousers. She made my overalls with short legs. I sure was glad when I got my first pair of store-bought overalls with long legs.

Papa was very honest and always said there was nothing any lower than a liar or thief. He always assured me that he would give me a whipping I would never forget if he caught be doing either.

He was a firm believer that it was the duty of every citizen to vote in all elections. Every year he bought a Poll Tax ($1.75) for himself and Mamma. He wanted all of us to get a good education. I would say "ain't got", and there was always a sister to inform me "that is improper English."

I don't remember the first time Papa took me fishing. We fished together every chance we had as long as he lived. Sometimes the whole family went fishing on Copano Bay and we would rent two or three boats (50¢ per day for each boat). We would row out a ways and fish with long bamboo poles and sometimes gather oysters.

Several neighbors would gather at one neighbor's house and bring their ice cream freezers and domino tables. This was called an ice cream and domino party. The children played many different games.

Most of the boys about my age had pretty good saddle horses and hound dogs. We would hunt coyotes, try to ride anything that would buck with us and help neighboring ranchers round up cattle out of the thick brush. Many times we would saddle up and go to the river for a few days, fish, swim and cut up like a bunch of wild Indians. The first thing we would do was to build fire and start cooking a big pot of frijoles and they would remain on the camp fire until we broke camp. We gathered moss to sleep on. Sometimes there were ticks in the moss.

Mamma took some eggs to the store to sell and the merchant offered her 3¢ per dozen. She refused to sell them and brought them home, boiled them and fed them to the baby chickens.

Regardless of what Mamma was doing, she was always humming a tune. She played the accordian and harmonica for us at night and told us stories.

Mamma always prepared good meals, nothing fancy, but it must have been good for us because we were all healthy and sick very little. She must have had quite a job keeping all of us in clean clothes. She used a cast iron pot to heat the water and scrubbed the clothes on a wash board. I guess the home made lye soap did the trick.

Home remedies: Every spring she would give us what she called a "through of calomel." Turpentine and sugar or honey for coughs and sore throats; Black Draught or Castor oil for a stomach ache; for a bleeding wound, soak it in kerosene; for a sore she used iodine or Cloverine salve; to draw a thorn out or to make a boil come to a head, she prepared a prickly pear poltice.

by Wayne Solly Thomas

THOMAS, JOHN NATHANIAL (THANNON) AND ADA ANNIE JONES

F932

John Nathanial (Thannon) Thomas, son of Ferdinand G. Thomas and Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett, was born Dec. 26, 1874 at Terryville, east DeWitt County; died July 12, 1913. He married Ada Annie Jones. She was born about 1867; died about 1960. It is not known just when this family lived in DeWitt County, but their younger son, Scott, attended school, at what he referred to as the new school, on the hill at Cabeza, west DeWitt County.

Children:

1. John Waitus Thomas; born about 1897. It is not known when or where he died. He served in the army during World War I and was badly gassed. He married Birdie ?. They had two sons; James and Grady.

2. Scott Thomas; born Nov. 12, 1898; died March 15, 1963 in San Antonio, Texas. He married Cora (Corinne) Pearl Delzell March 25, 1919. Cora was born Nov. 18, 1899, probably in Blanco County, Texas. They had four children; all were born in San Antonio, Texas. Scott Thomas, Jr., Alden Lurline (Thomas) Chaney, Raymond Edward Thomas and Melba Jean (Thomas) Lacey.

Scott Thomas, Sr. worked for Otis Elevator Company in San Antonio, Texas. They installed the escalator in Joske's Department Store which, I believe, was the first one in San Antonio.

Prior to the depression Scott, Sr. owned a nice home and drove a beautiful Auburn car. During the depression, I suppose he either lost or sold the house and the car. He took any kind of job, regardless of the wages. His wife also had a job.

Scott, Sr. served in the army during World War I and in the Navy during World War II. His two sons also served in the Navy in World War II. The three of them arranged for a leave for the same period of time and they met in Hawaii.

by Wayne Solly Thomas

Dr. J. M. THOMPSON,

Office over Heaton Bros.' Drug Store.

Residence Telephone 86.

Cuero Texas.

THOMAS, LELIA LAURETTYE AND JOSEPH PRESTON GENTRY

F933

Lelia Laurettye Thomas, daughter of Ferdinand G. Thomas and Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett, was born Oct. 21, 1877 at Terryville, east DeWitt County, died Oct. 27, 1957 in Houston, Texas. She married Joseph Preston Gentry Dec. 18, 1896 at Terryville. Preston was born July 26, 1873 in Rome, Georgia; died Dec. 25, 1933. They had one son and three daughters.

Children:

1. Ernest Ferdinand Gentry; born Nov. 6, 1897 at Weesatche, Goliad County, Texas; died May 17, 1940. It is not known whether or not he married.

2. Ruth Adella Gentry; born March 18, 1899 at Weesatche, Goliad County; died Apr. 18, 1982. She married Joseph Sterling Collins, Jr. Nov. 19, 1919 in Houston, Texas. Joseph was born July 24, 1897; died in Jan. 1967. They had five children: Joseph Sterling Collins, III, Ruby Lillian (Collins) Parmer, Ernest Charles Collins, Betty Ruth Collins and Doris Louella (Collins) Prince.

3. Ruby Mary Gentry; born Oct. 9, 1901 at Cabeza, west DeWitt County; died Oct. 27, 1982. She married Andrew Dixon Laird. They had no children.

4. Lillian Louella Gentry; born Oct 11, 1906 in Houston, Texas; died Sept. 16, 1980. She married 1st to a Needham, 2nd to a Harkrider. They had no children.

This family lived in DeWitt, Goliad and Harris Counties.

by Wayne Solly Thomas

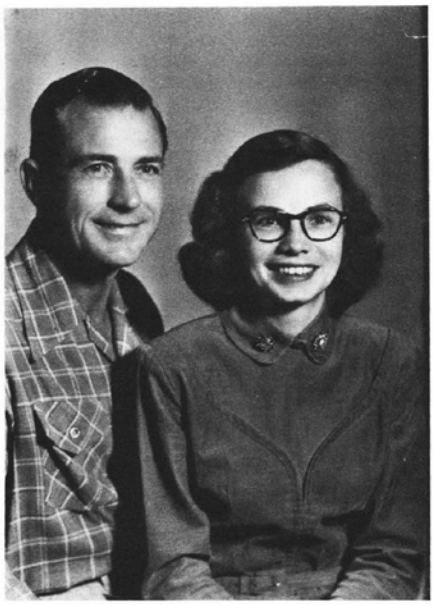
THOMAS, WAYNE SOLLY AND ANNIE LEE PATTON

F934

Wayne's story: I was born Dec. 6, 1913 in Goliad County, Texas. I have never lived in DeWitt Co., but in 1950 we bought the farm at Cabeza, DeWitt Co., which was willed to my father and Aunt Della by their Uncle and Aunt, Amos L. Granberry and Amanda May Bissett, is almost 30 years.

My ancestors who are listed in this paragraph have lived in DeWitt Co. My parents, James Solly Thomas (1881-1963) and Margie Lou Shows (1886-1971). My grandparents, *Ferdinand C. Thomas (1845-?) and Mary Jane (Mollie J.) Bissett (1852-1923). *Adam Jasper Shows (1856-1939) and Mary Ella Farrar (1860-1930). My great grandparents, *Lodawick Bissett (1807-1883) and Mourning Williams (1810-1905). *Adam Shows (1823-1890) and Nancy Granberry (1829-1867). My great-great grandparents, *Amos Granberry (1798-?) and Elizabeth Rogers (1794-?). *These families came from the same general area in Mississippi. Some were in Louisiana a while.

My great grandparents, Elias Sweet Farrar (1816-1868) and Candace Case Bailey (1824-



Wayne Solly Thomas and Annie Lee (Patton) Thomas 1953

1869) came from Indiana and settled in Victoria and Lavaca Counties in the late 1840s.

After completing a course in a business college, I took a job which required traveling Texas and bordering states. I quit when I was drafted.

I was drafted in the army for one year on June 14, 1941 at age 27. ($21 per month). I was assigned to the 8th Corps Area Hq. in the Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In Oct. 1942 we sailed from New York to England where we stayed for about three weeks before going to North Africa. Later, I served in Italy and at the end of the war, we were near the Austrian border.

Any time I had an opportunity to see some of the sights, I took it. In August 1945 I went on a seven day tour of Switzerland. we were allowed to exchange only $35 for spending money. The cost of the tour was $13. The tour consisted of first class travel on trains and lodging with meals in the best hotels. My buddy and I would stop in for a drink and a snack of that good cheese. When we were ready to pay for it, the cashier would tell us that someone in the house had paid for it, but did not wish to be recognized.

As we were about to enter the Capitol building in Berne, the guide stopped us and said, "I have something to tell you Americans before we enter, because if I tell you inside, you would surely blow the roof off. About two hours ago we received word that the Japanese had suspended." He meant *surrendered*. . The seventy five of us made quite a commotion, and he said: "See there, if you had been inside, the roof would have blown off."

I flew home on a B-17 in Oct. 1945. As we were leaving Naples, we looked down into the crater of Mt. Vesuvius. We spent two nights in Africa, two nights in South America and landed in Florida. We rode a troop train to Fort Sam Houston, which took about as long as the flight from Italy. I was discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

My sister, Virginia Barron, whose husband was killed in battle on Okinawa, and I opened an auto supply store in Pleasanton, Texas in 1946 and closed it in 1950. We enjoyed it very much, even though we worked hard. We met a lot of good people and are still friends with some of them.

I met Annie Lee Patton in Pleasanton, Texas, where her mother was living and where her family had lived since 1937. She was teaching music in a school in Mercedes, Texas. We were married Dec. 18, 1948 in San Antonio.

I went on active duty in the army in San Antonio, Texas in 1950 as a Master Sergeant; went to Korea in the spring of 1953; was assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas in 1954. After having served that many years in the army during war time, we decided I would stay a few more years and retire. I was transferred to Fort Sam Houston in 1959. Annie Lee and I were in Germany from 1962 to 1965. We saw a lot of Germany, made friends, and had wonderful trips in most of the countries in western Europe. I was assigned as an advisor in a reserve Armory in San Antonio from 1965 until I retired in 1966.

Annie Lee's story: I was not born in DeWitt County, but I might have been! My mother's family almost moved to the area about 1900. Her father, Henry Lee Lenoir, wanted to make the move, and he did have a half-brother in a neighboring county. However, the rest of the family did not want to leave east Tennessee where the family had lived for almost 100 years.

There were two Lenoir descendants, Ben and Henry McCulloch who came from Tennessee to become well known Texas Rangers.

My father's family began arriving in Texas early. My great-great grandparents, Alexander Thomson (1785-1863) and Elizabeth Dowsing (1790-1849) came from west Tennessee in 1830. He was the partner of Sterling C. Robertson in colonizing a large portion of central Texas.

My great grandfather, John M. Burton (1806-1877) was born in Georgia. He also came to Texas in 1830 and married Elizabeth Maury Thomson (1813-1871), daughter of Alexander Thomson, in 1832. The town of Burton in Washington County, Texas bears his name.

My grandfather, Robert Wilson Patton (1840-1916), came from Tennessee and married John M. Burton's youngest daughter, Emma Katherine Burton (1853-1888), in 1872.

My mother, Annie Lee Lenoir (1889-1981), came from Tennessee about 1919 to visit cousins, with whom she grew up, and who had settled in San Antonio and the Hill Country. She met and married the youngest son in the Patton family, Robert Moore Patton (1886-1939), in 1924.

By the time I was born (Oct. 15, 1926) we were living in the Hill Country and spent the next nine years on leased ranches, raising sheep and goats. Those depression years were bad times for parents. For my brother, Robert Frank Patton (1930), and me it seemed a happy time and place to grow up. We always had lambs, kids and puppies for playmates. When I was small I could drink only goat's milk. When we visited in San Antonio my goat rode along too!

When school time came for us, the huge kitchen table was the school desk and our mother was the teacher. She had taught school before she married. Learning proceeded while she was preparing meals for our family, an occasional ranch hand, and some members of a crew drilling a wildcat well across a dry creek from our house. The smell of fresh bread and cinnamon rolls always brings back memories of those days of our kitchen school.

Our family moved to Jourdanton in 1935 and to Pleasanton, Texas in 1937. Wayne Thomas came there almost a decade later. We met, we married and have had forty wonderful years together. The years have been filled with all the joys and sorrows that came to those who belong to a large, close-knit family.

Our DeWitt County years!

When we bought the old family farm at Cabeza, the only structure on the place was a Sears Windmill on an old wooden tower. The place has never looked right since we replaced that tower! We were lucky the old one didn't blow over in a storm like the Hackberry trees do. Those trees almost always fall on a fence.

Only a few years ago the only daily sounds from the outside world were the passing of the school bus and the Postman's car. Once in a while a pick-up with a cattle trailer would create a terrible commotion on a "wash-board" section of the road. The road is still unpaved, but it is a well used route.

Now there is traffic at night too. Until recent years about the only sounds in the night were howling coyotes, a hooting owl, or the sound of a mockingbird. There has always been at least one armadillo, (sounding like a herd), plowing through the dry leaves, providing three generations of our dogs with fun and frustration.

We rarely see a horned "toad". The jack rabbits and roadrunners that had regular routes around the place are rare visitors since the pasture next to us was cleared of brush. It's also been a few years since we had a blue heron that was a regular visitor at our stock tank.

Through the years, there has always been all the hard work required on a farm or cattle ranch. However, on a hot day, there is a way to rest. According to Wayne Thomas, you just relax and cool off underneath the "air-conditioned knock-away (Anaqua) trees." The grass may not always grow under these trees, but it's always cooler there.

The farm has been a place where we could enjoy peace and quiet we hadn't found since our childhood years in the country. Much of our pleasure has come from our cattle starting with a few crossbreds and growing into a small herd of very good registered Shorthorn cattle.

Wayne's parents came from Beeville many times to enjoy Cabeza again. My mother finally did get to DeWitt County, not to live, but to enjoy time with us at the farm. Many other family members and friends have also enjoyed mustang grape and prickly pear jelly, or wood for their fire places or barbecue grills.

With all the years of hard work, any number of "record" drought years, hail and wind storms, most of our memories of the farm at Cabeza will be of the happy times when it did rain and the wild flowers, grass and cattle were all growing and beautiful.

by Wayne Solly and Annie Lee (Patton) Thomas

TRAUTWEIN, WILLIAM

F935

(1838-1915)

William Trautwein was born Charles Wilhelm Trautwein in Vaihingen an der Enz, Wurttenburg, now a part of unified Germany, on February 22, 1838. At age 16, he, his brother, and half brother emigrated to the United States, landing first in new York and

William Trautwein and Wilhelmine (Mueller) with Sophie and Louise

then in New Orleans on December 4, 1854. Two weeks later they were in DeWitt County. William worked as a freighter driving ox carts between San Antonio and Indianola. By 1860 he had his American citizenship and was working for Judge Klegberg at $4 per week.

In April 1861, William answered the call to arms with the Cuero group, later known as Sibley's Brigade and later as the Green Brigade. The army crossed the Rio Grande River on January 1, 1862, hoping to win the western part of the United States for the Southern cause. However, many engagements later, William's horse was stolen by the Indians and he had to walk home defeated and practically starving from Albuquerque, N.M.

After he returned to Meyersville, he purchased what has come to be known as the Trautwein Home Place in 1865 and is owned by his great-grandson, Verlin Joseph Trautwein. He later purchased another ranch in 1885, which is still owned by another great-grandson, William Wolters Wendtland, Sr. Both are located near Meyersville.

A romance between Protest and William and Catholic Caroline Hug, daughter of Francois Joseph and Ann Marie (Welker) Hug, who was born in Kruth, Haut Rhin, France, was not looked on favorably by Caroline's parents, because of religious differences. On a Sunday afternoon, William saddled up two horses and went to the milking pen where Caroline was busy filling the pails. She abandoned the pails and eloped with William to Clinton where they were married on December 4, 1865. They soon became the parents of Louis and Sophie, but Caroline died shortly after, having lived from February 24, 1848 to October 9, 1868, and was buried on the St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

A second marriage of William was to Wilhelmine Muller, born in Eichewerder, Prussia, on August 12, 1848. They became parents of Albert F. and Louise. After William's brother, Charles Louis and his wife passed away, William and Wilhelmine became guardians of their children, Caroline, Louise, and John, from 1885 to 1899. William engaged in farming, stockraising, and various enterprises. At one time he was a DeWitt County commissioner. They moved to Cuero in 1913, where he died of cancer on April 1, 1915. Wilhelmine lived until August 11, 1932.

Louis Trautwein (1866-1961) oldest son of William, attended Five Mile Coleto School and Nash Institute in Cuero. He managed Hausemann's Gin until he became a partner in the Shiner Gin with Edmund F. Wolters in 1889. This was the year that he also married Louise (Lulu) Schaefer, daughter of Carl and Amalia (Wurz) Schaefer of Meyersville, and they lived in Shiner for 65 years. Their three daughters were Hilda, Natalie, and Carlyn.

Hilda married Howard Crosby and became parents of three daughters, Natalia, Lois, and Marjorie. Natalia married Elmer Blankenship, and had two children, Judy who is married to Joe Bryant with two children, Jennifer and James who married Barbara Bullard and are parents of Brandi. Lois married Glen Razak and they have one son, Glen Razak, Jr. Marjorie married Robert Burns and had one child, Cindy, who married Richard Albrechtand they are parents of two children, Cheryl and Brian.

Natalie married an engineer, John Hollman and lived abroad most of their lives, having only one child, Clarice. Clarice married Joe W. Neal and had four children, John Hollman, Tom Louis, Frank West, and Mary Joe. John married Linda Bebout and had six children, Julie, Sarah, Michael, Rachel, and Stephen, and Matthew. Tom married Candy Cowles and had three sons, Joel, Brian, and Kevin. Frank married Jane Lester and brought forth three sons, Daniel, Andrew, and Timothy. Mary Joe married Robert Beckman, and they have two children, Natalie and Richard.

Carlyn, third child of Louis and Lulu, married James Quicksall. They had no children.

Sophie Trautwein (1867-1963), second of William's children, met Edmund F. Wolters at her brother's marriage and married Edmund one year later. They too lived in Shiner and had two daughters, Lillie and Stella.

Lillie married William A. Wendtland and had one son, William Wolters Wendtland. William married Polly Ann Dietze, daughter of "Cutter" and Charlice Dietze of Cuero; they have three children, William, Jr., Stephen Gillette, and Lisa Lynn. William, Jr. married Karen Ann Sullivan and have three children, William, III, Katherine Ann, and Barrett (Buzzy) Wolters. Stephen married Gail Wessels and are parents of two children, Jennifer Lauren and Jacob Gillette. Lisa married Donald Barcak and has four sons, Eric Anthony, Evin Kyle, Elliott Arman, and Ethan Lane.

Stella married Willard L. Russeall and had no children. They left their considerable legacy to many charitable organizations.

Louise Trautwein (1878-1944), was the fourth child of William, and lived on the land her father left her. She married Charlie Knocke, and they had no issue.

Albert F. Trautwein (1877-1960), was William's third child. His education included Alamo College in San Antonio. He was a businessman in Cuero, where he held several pieces of rent property and a laundry at one time. He was also a rancher on the original tract of land purchased by William in 1865. He married Susie R. Weisiger (1864-1939). They had two children, William Rochester and Albert Joseph.

Albert Joseph (1906-1983), second son of Albert F., lived in Cuero all of his life, helping with the family business and also working as a fireman for many years. He never married.

William Rochester (1903-1979) helped his father with the ranch as well as operated a cafe (Bill's Cafe) and worked in the oilfield. He also attended Alamo College in San Antonio. In 1928, William married Annie B. Wolf (1902-present). She is from another prominent DeWitt County family from Nordheim. She still lives in Cuero. William and Annie had three sons, Verlin Joseph, William Ernst, and Robert Dale.

William Ernst (1935) is second son of William and Annie. He married Shirley J. Brice in 1953 and had three children, Joanie Jean (1954), William Edd (1956) and Lee Anne (1959). Joanie married Jim Bishop and has two daughters, Jennifer Lynn (1978) and Lauren

William Trautwein home near Cuero

Brice (1986). They live in Austin, Texas. William Edd (1956) who married Lola Sparks (1957) has one son, William Lane (1984), and lives in Victoria, Texas Lee Anne (1959) lives in Austin, Texas, and has no children.

Robert Dale (1938), third son of William and Annie, married in 1982 to Kerry Michel (1953), and lives in Bakersfield, California. They have no children.

Verlin Joseph (1929) is the eldest son of William and Annie Trautwein. He attended school in Meyersville and Cuero. In 1951, he married Colleen J. Luker (1932). They attended high school together. Born to Verlin and Colleen were four children, Velinda Jaynett, Barton Blaine, Jana Lynn, and Reba Jean. Velinda (1952) was born in Cuero. She married Mark Douglas Stevens in 1976, has one child, Hayley Jaynett (1980) and lives in Brownwood, Texas. Barton (1956) was born in Odessa, Texas. In 1980, he married Mary C. Cater. They have two children, Dustin Joseph (1981) and Caresa Lynn (1984). They live in Victoria, Texas. Jana (1958) was born in Odessa, Texas. She was a student at Southwest Texas University when she died in 1978, leaving no children. Reba (1960) was born in Odessa, Texas. She was married in 1983 to Robert P. Goodman, and has on son, Royce Wyatt (1986). They live in Colorado.

by Collen J. Trautwein

TRAYLOR, WILLIAM LEE

F936

Champion Travis Traylor Sr. was born February 6, 1770 in Virginia. When grown he moved to Georgia where he met and married Miss SarahJones about the year 1797. They moved to Alabama and had 12 children, one of whom was Josiah Claiborn. After Champion died in 1832, Josiah and a brother moved to Jasper County, Texas. Josiah married his first wife, Jemima Ann Harrison in 1845. They had five children, Charles Wesley, Richard Benjamin, Josiah Claiborn, Champion Travis and Sarah Jemima Ann. Jemima died in 1854. Josiah married his second wife, Mary Ann Keith in 1855. They had seven children, Robert Keith, Adeline Alabama, Mary Emma, Regina Beauregard, Olivia Azieh, Josephine, and John. Mary Ann died in 1869. During this marriage Josiah moved his family to Jackson County. Josiah then married his third wife Charlotte Sheppard in 1870. They had three children, William Lee, Laura May, and Charlotte Lillian.

In 1900, William Lee married Katherine Sells of Orange Texas. They had four children, Dixon Lee, Carroll Sheppard, Charlotte, and Gene Call. In 1914 the family moved to Cuero so the children could go to school. After all four children graduated from Cuero High, William Lee and wife moved back to their ranch in Jackson and Calhoun counties. Charlotte married John York Bell in 1926. They had three children, William Traylor, Elizabeth Ann and Charlotte Traylor.

by Katy Bell Nagel

TROWELL, GEORGE WADSWORTH

F937

George W. Trowell was born in Fort Pierce, Florida on May 24, 1902. He was the son of N.J. Trowell and Lucy Lee Trowell. He attended school at Ft. Pierce High School and the University of Florida. He married Dorothy Marie Richter on October 18, 1930. They have one daughter, Dorothy who lives in Europe.

Mr. Trowell was DeWitt County Judge from January 1, 1963 through December 31, 1974. He received the distinction of being one of three county judges in the United States to be selected to serve on the President's Advisory Committee. During his tenure as county judge he also was appointed by Governor Smith to serve on a Criminal Justice Study Commission. He was a member of the Governor's Conservation Committee to study ecology and zoning of the Golden Crescent portion of the Texas coast.

Judge Trowell served as President of Golden Council of Government in 1973, having served on the executive Committee for four years. In 1974 he was the recipient of the "Regional Man of the Year" award. The award is now named the George W. Trowell award and is given each year by the Council to an outstanding man. Trowell served as Vice-President of both the Bluebonnet Youth Ranch and the Gulf Bend Center.

Judge Trowell was a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Masonic Lodge, TPA and the Lower Indian River Early Settlers Association of Fort Pierce, Florida. In 1984 he received the Mr. Woodman Award.

He retired from the Gulf Oil Corporation after thirty two years of service. He died at the age of 85 in 1988.

by Patsy Goebel

TUBBS, DR. CHARLES RUSSELL

F938

Veterinarian

Dr. Tubbs established the first veterinary hospital in Cuero in July 1946. He was born in Stephenville, Texas August 31, 1918, the son of Dr. John F. and Effie Tubbs, the youngest of eight children. He was reared and educated in Ft. Worth where he graduated from Polytechnic High School in 1936 Cum Laude.

His college education began at John Tarleton in Stephenville, Texas, in 1938 during the midst of the depression of the thirties, simultaneously working at various part time jobs to enable him to remain in school. In 1939, he entered the School of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M. His father was killed in an automobile accident while returning home after driving him there for entrance. He earned his room, board, and tuition at A&M by working and living in the Veterinary Hospital as student assistant. He graduated in the upper ten percent of his class and member of the Scholarship Honor Society in 1943.

After three years of practice in Columbus, Texas, he moved to Cuero and established the "Cuero Veterinary Center" and built a modern veterinary hospital at 118 West Main Street in 1948, on a lot purchased from H.G. Keseling. At this time there were numerous small farms and dairies in addition to large cattle ranches in the Cuero Trade Area. Consequently his veterinary practice included cattle, horses, sheep, swine, turkeys and chickens as well as all types of small animals. A race track, the Turkeytrot Downs, was also in operation at this time. Dr. Tubbs was the only veterinarian in the entire county and his practice extended into Victoria, Lavaca, Gonzales, Karnes, and Goliad counties. In addition he was instructor in the Veterinary Vocational Agriculture School and a qualified inspector for the USDA Poultry Service, City Veterinarian of Cuero, and also fee basis Veterinarian with the State-Federal Government service.

In 1948, Dr. Tubbs married Ann Toland Jones of Yoakum, the second marriage of both. He had a daughter, Atha Maxine, by his first marriage; Mrs. Tubbs had a daughter, Roseann, by hers. They later adopted a son, Bruce Allen. Ann is the direct descendant of the May family who donated most of the land for the establishment of the city of Yoakum. Roseann married Charles Jacob of Cuero and they have a son, Jeff, and a daughter Patricia. Maxine married Bob Strauser, a lawyer and they have one son, Ben, and a daughter, Ann Kathleen.

Among his other activities, Dr. Tubbs was President of the South Central Texas VMA, President of the Cuero Rotary Club, President of the Cuero Country Club, President of the Board of Deacons of the Presbyterian Church, Director of the Lions Club, Director of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Texas VMA, member of the AVMA, Bexar County VMA, Golden Crescent VMA, American Hereford Breeders Association, Society for Study of Breeding Soundness of Bulls, Texas Pecan Growers Association, Cuero Booster Club, Chisholm Trail Riders, President of Cuero Fair & Turkeytrot Association, Inc., founder of the Cuero Turkeyfest, President of the Cuero Quality Meats, Inc., member of the DeWitt County Farm Bureau, Cuero Industrial Foundation, Cuero Community Hospital Foundation, Parent Teacher Association, Cuero Band Parents, DeWitt County Co-Op, T.P.A., Honorary member Cuero FFA Chapter and Chairman, Precinct 4 Better Roads Committee.

He is Past Master of Cuero Lodge 409 AF & AM and was instrumental in building a new temple on the brow of the hill on East Broadway, his name appearing on the cornerstone. He was also a member of Yoakum Chapter 209 R.A.M., Yoakum Council 146 R. & S.M. and Yoakum Commandery No. 66, K.T.

He was also a director of the Cuero Golf Association and is a Century Club member of the Former Students Association of Texas A&M; member of the DeWitt County Taxpayers League; Honorary member merit award of the DeWitt County 4-H Club.

by Dr. Charles Tubbs

OTTO SCHROEDER,
. CIGAR MANUFACTURER.
Fine Havana and Domestic Cigars.
Over Dickerson's Hardware store. Solicits patronage of merchants in and around Cuero.
West Main Street, - - - Cuero, Texas.

Sept. 12, 1962, cornerstone leveling Masonic Lodge, Dr. Charles R. Tubbs, W.M. and Robert L. Dillard, Jr., G.M.

TUDZIN, BEN FAMILY

F939

Ben Tudzin

Ben Tudzin was born March 10, 1896 in Russia. He came to the United States with his brother, Leon Tudzin and his sister, Mollie Tudzin. They arrived at the Port of Galveston, Texas in 1914. From Galveston, they went to San Antonio where they had a sister and brother-in-law who helped them get settled in a new country. When Ben came to Texas, he was only 17 years old. He worked with his brother Leon as a peddler in San Antonio. When he was 18 years old, he joined the army and served in World War I. He was sent to France as part of his tour-of-duty.

After the war, he returned to San Antonio and worked at several jobs in the clothing business. Ben saved his money so that he could go into business for himself. His sister, Mollie, had married Jake Cohn, and Ben and Jake looked for a place to go into business. They came to Cuero in 1918 and opened a dry goods store. After a short time, they dissolved the partnership and each went into business for himself. Ben's dry goods store was located on East Main Street.

On December 25, 1923, Ben married Sarah Eisenberg of San Antonio and they had four children: Pearl Tudzin Rubin Dec. 26, 1924, Henry Tudzin Dec. 2, 1926, Jeanette Tudzin Fisher Feb. 22, 1929 and Norman Tudzin Dec. 17, 1931. Ben and his family stayed in Cuero until 1932, then moved to Kenedy; left Kenedy in 1933 or 34 and moved to San Antonio. Ben finally settled in Gonzales, with his second wife and child, where he opened a family dry goods and furniture store. All of his children graduated from high school in Gonzales. After his children were grown, he moved to San Antonio to spend his retirement years with his children and grandchildren.

Ben Tudzin died May 10, 1979 and is buried in Agudas Achim Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

by Sarah Cohn Aronstein

TUDZIN, MAX FAMILY

F940

Max Tudzin came to the United States with his wife, Bessie, their infant son Nathan and his mother, Esther Tudzin, in the summer of 1923. They came to the United States from Russia through the Port of Boston, Mass. and from Boston came to San Antonio, Texas where they had relatives.

Max was born in Russia in 1890 and Bessie Tudzin was born in Russia in 1893. They had two sons, Nathan, born October 26, 1921 in Russia and Sam born August 12, 1928 in Cuero, Texas. Bessie had a brother Mayer Fayenburg who lived in New York City.

Bessie and Max Tudzin

Max was in the Czar's Russian Army for eight years and at the first opportunity left Russia with his family. In San Antonio, Max peddled fruits and vegetables for one and one half years and came to Cuero in 1925. In Cuero he opened a dry goods store on West Main Street, a few doors up from his sister Mollie and brother-in-law Jake Cohn. Later in 1933, the family moved to Kenedy where Max opened a general dry goods store and was in business until poor health forced him to retire in later years. Sam and Nathan both graduated from Kenedy High School. Both boys went to the University of Texas where Nathan graduated as an Electrical Engineer, and Sam as a business major.

Nathan was in the Army in WWII, stationed in the United States and in Honolulu, (Oahu) from 1942-1946. Sam was in the Korean War, spending a one year tour-of-duty in Korea, discharged in 1952.

When Sam returned from the army, he went into business with his father. However, he decided to pursue other interests and built a motel in Kenedy; later bought and sold two more. In 1972 he bought The Sands Motel in Cuero and Sam, his father and mother returned to Cuero to live. Nathan married Shirley Faden December 28, 1952 in Houston where they live with their two children, Adam and Amy.

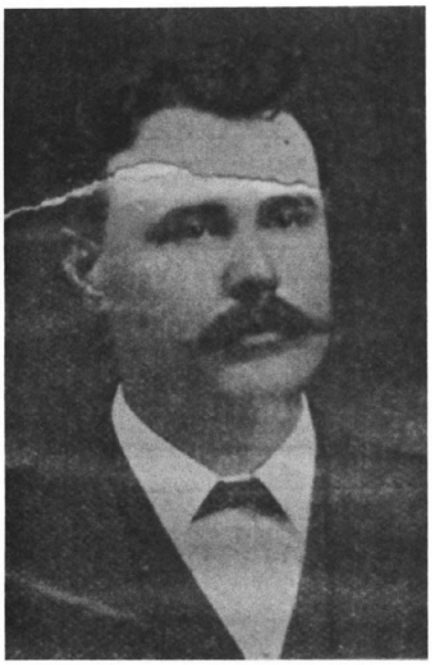
Max Tudzin died in Cuero May 23, 1973 and is buried in Agudas Achim Memorial Gardens in San Antonio. His widow and son Sam are still living in Cuero.

Esther Tudzin, mother of Max, Leon and Ben Tudzin and Mollie Cohn, Nehama Sachnowitz and Dora Reisfeld, died in Cuero in the spring of 1935 and is buried in San Antonio.

by Sarah Cohn Aronstein

TULLY, E. A. FAMILY

F941



E. A. Tully

Edward Andrew Tully, age five, came from Tennessee with his family and settled in the Concrete Community in 1875. He was married to Buena Guilford Wofford December 14, 1906. They lived in Cuero their entire married lives. He was a rancher and cattleman. The Tullys had four children: Edward, Bessie, Frances, and Jane.

Edward was born October 13, 1907. He practiced law in Cuero and Houston. He died on September 2, 1952.

Bess was born July 23, 1910. She married Dan Jernigan on June 22, 1932. They lived in Andalusia, and Montgomery, Alabama where Dan practiced law. Renvia Anne was born September 13, 1933. Dan died in a tuberculosis hospital in Asheville, North Carolina following a long illness. Bess and Renvia came to Cuero to live with the Tully family. Bess was an elementary teacher and principal in the Cuero Schools until 1962 when she retired.

Renvia married Frank McCollum on April 16, 1956. They had a daughter, Melissa. She married Chadwick Moss and lives in Houston.

Renvia is now married to Charles W. Lander and lives in Houston.

Frances Tully married William (Bill) D. Burgess on September 14, 1938. They lived in Monticello, Illinois. Bill was a farmer. He died on July 5, 1963. They had three boys: 1) Tully and wife have two sons and live in Pinehurst, North Carolina; 2) Louis has a daughter and a son and lives in Scottsdale, Arizona; 3) Jim and his wife have a son and a daughter and live in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jane Tully married John V. Singleton on April 18, 1953. John is a Federal Judge.

by Bess T. Jernigan

TUMLINSON FAMILY

F942

Two Tumlinson families came to Texas in 1821 with Stephen F. Austin. These two families left North Carolina in the late 1700's. After short stays in several places Texas became their permanent home. Several members of these two families became residents of DeWitt County. Andrew, David, James, John, Joseph and Littleton, all sons in the two families, received headrights in Green DeWitt's Colony. Andrew was killed by Indians and when county lines were drawn the land of David, James and Littleton became a part of Gonzales County leaving only John and Joseph of the original grantees in DeWitt County.

Six men of the Tumlinson families participated in the Texas Revolution and John, who was living in Mina (Bastrop) at the time was among the first to respond to the call for assistance which went out from Gonzales in September, 1835. While participating in the Siege of Bexar John was commissioned by the Provisional Government of Texas to form a company of rangers and take it to a location northwest of present day Austin with the objective of protecting Texians against Indian attacks. In carrying out this commission John may be credited with being the first Texas Ranger. Ranging companies had been used before to protect the settlers but this was the first time that the muster was at the direction of and under the authority of a Texas Governing body.

After the revolution John continued to reside in Bastrop (Mina) with his wife Laura Cottle and his son Joseph. He engaged in farming, land trades and in protecting the frontier against Indian and Mexican raids. After he lost Laura and Joseph he moved to the old town of Clinton where he engaged in trade. His DeWitt Colony headright was up-river from present day Cuero. At one time the County Seat of DeWitt County was located on John's land.

John remarried, first Delaney Aster and when he lost her he married her sister Mary Ann who also died. When John died in May 1853 he left only one heir, a daughter named Amanda L. Tumlinson. She was raised by John's brother Peter in Atascosa County and married Cullen W. Edwards. No record of John's burial site has been discovered.

John's brother Joseph located his DeWitt Colony headright immediately south of the boundary of Cuero on the banks of the Guadalupe River and joining the headright of Hephzibeth Taylor. This land was occupied by William Taylor who married Joseph's sister Elizabeth Tumlinson. Joseph married Johanna Taylor in April 1834. After her death in 1838 Joseph married Elizabeth Newman.

Joseph served the Texas Revolution in several capacities and after Texas Independence was won he settled first in Eagle Lake and afterwards in Yorktown. It was in Yorktown that he established a ranch and lived for the remaining years of his life. These included some of the most troubled times the citizens of this community ever faced.

Joseph's experience with hostile encounters began early in his life when he helped punish the Indian raiders who had killed his father. He continued throughout his life to protect his neighbors from intrusions by Indians and Mexican renegades and against lawlessness among the settlers of his community. He died on his ranch in November 1874. His descendants include a number of Texas lawmen not the least of which are the Wrights. Milam Wright, William L. Wright, Charles H. Wright and E.A. (Dogie) Wright all served Texas as rangers, sheriffs, custom agents and border patrol officers from 1898 to 1969. 'Dogie' still makes his home in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

A third Tumlinson settled in DeWitt County was Thomas Carney Tumlinson, a nephew of John and Joseph. Thomas' father was killed by renegades before he was born and he grew up not knowing his true identity. Upon reaching his majority his foster parent revealed his true family identity and Thomas came to Texas. Thomas took land on Cabeza Creek about five miles south of the site of Nordheim where he raised a family of nine children. In 1881 he moved to the neighborhood of Lampassas.

by S.H. Tumlinson

TUREK, ALBERT J. AND KATIE HAUSMANN

F943

Albert J. Turek was born in Shiner on April 6, 1899 to Albert B. and Emily Kosarek Turek. He was the oldest of nine children. Katie Hausmann Turek was born to Berthold and Mattie Terry Hausmann (whose story is given separately) on December 19, 1901 in Yorktown. She was the seventh of eight children (two of whom died in infancy).

Albert attended school in Shiner and at age 21 he moved to Yorktown to become a barber. In Yorktown he met Katie, who had lived in Yorktown all of her life. They were married on September 20, 1922. Katie and Albert had two daughters. On October 9, 1928 Patty Claire was born and on April 18, 1932 Shirley Lucille was born.

During the depression years it was difficult to make a living as a barber so Albert, who was affectionately called "Turk" by his friends, went to mortician's school in Fort Worth. He returned to Yorktown and worked for the Mollenhauer Funeral Home as well as barbering and selling cars for the Smith Motor Co. In order to make a reasonable living he also leased some land and went into the cattle business in a small way. He was active in civic affairs. He served as president of the Yorktown Country Club and on the Yorktown School Board. He was a member of the Lions Club and was an avid sports fan. He played on local baseball teams in his younger years and played golf frequently as he grew older. After the death of Ed Mollenhauer in July 1944, he and Berthold Ideus bought the funeral home and it became Ideus-Turek Funeral Home. He was a partner in this business when he died of a heart attack on September 2, 1946.

Katie did not work outside the home on a regular basis after her marriage. Since she had enjoyed working in the retail business at the B.A. Goodfriend's ready-to-wear store and at Nau's Dry Goods Store before her marriage she sometimes worked in these stores on Saturday's and during sales. Upon the death of her husband, Katie bought Vlasta's Dress Shop in December 1946. She renamed the shop Katie's Dress Shop at that time and it has continued in business up to the present. The dress shop's story is found elsewhere in this book.

Patty graduated from Yorktown High School in 1946. She enrolled at the University of Texas in September 1946 and graduated with a B.S. degree in home economics in May 1950. Upon graduation from college she went to work at Foley's in Houston. On December 22, 1951 she married Glen Thomas Swenson, whose home was Austin. They lived in Lockhart for two years after their marriage. Glen coached in the high school and Patty taught sixth grade and homemaking. The couple moved to Austin in 1954. Glen continued his coaching career at Austin High School, Reagon High School and the University of Texas. Patty continued her education and received her M. Ed. degree from Antioch College in 1978. She taught in the Austin Public Schools for 26 years. Glen was killed in an automobile accident on October 14, 1983. Patty retired from teaching in May 1988. Patty and Glen had two sons, Glen Thomas Swenson, Jr. (Tom) and William Patrick Swenson (Bill). They married Kayla Jean Goodrich of Midland and Sandra Lynn Sudduth of Houston, respectively in 1980 and 1981. Kayla and Tom have two sons, Clark Thomas (born March 2, 1985) and Blake Patrick (born May 24, 1988). They presently live in Denton. Sandy and Bill have a daughter, Katherine Kelly (Kate) who was born July 3, 1987 and a son William Glen (Will) who was born August 15, 1989. They live in Houston.

Shirley graduated from Yorktown High School in 1950. She attended the University of Texas and Southwest Texas State Teachers College where she graduated in 1955. She taught physical education and social studies in Round Rock, Vanderbilt, Fort Lavaca, and Boling. She received her M. Ed degree from Prairie View University in 1975 and currently lives in Wharton. She retired from teaching in May 1989. Since she did not marry and have a family of her own, she derives much pleasure from Patty's grandchildren.

Shirley and Patty bought Katie's Dress Shop from their mother in July 1961. Because of this, they have never lost their ties to Yorktown and return there on a regular basis.

Note: All the towns mentioned are in Texas.

by Patty T. Swenson

VOELKEL, ANTON AND ANNA THERESA (FUHRMAN) FAMILY

F944

Anton Voelkel was born in 1869 in Gnezen, Germany in the province of Posnan, which at one time was a part of Poland. Anton, his sister Maria, and his younger brother Herman were the only children born to their father and mother. Anton grew to manhood in Germany where conscription for service in the Kaiser's Army was mandatory for all young men. Since he decided that he did not want to be in the Army of Germany, Anton and one of his boyhood friends chose to come to the United States and become citizens. Anton was raised a devout Catholic and the last thing his mother told him as the boat departed from Germany was to never forget his church. He never did. He was a lifelong member of St. Michael's Church in Cuero. His mother also gave him a Bible which he cherished.

The two friends from Germany landed in Galveston about 1886 with Anton who was 17 years old coming to Cuero to settle. Here in Cuero, he became a saloon keeper and worked at the Bank Saloon on North Esplanade. Anton began to save money and buy land for the sum of $2.00 to $10.00 an acre until he had accumulated a ranch of approximately 400 acres on the Stratton Road (FM 1447) located about three miles from Cuero. He began to raise and sell cattle. Anton's father was very wealthy in Germany, and owned quite a bit of land and had a title "Von Voelkel" because of the amount of land he owned and his wealth, so Anton wanted to be a land owner in the United States, as his father had been in Germany. Anton's sister, Maria, in Gnezen, Germany married and had three daughters. She and her family came to America at a later date and settled in Michigan. She died in 1931, six months before Anton's death. Herman, his brother, moved to Breslau, Germany. Herman was a very well-known concert violinist in Germany and is believed to have died there.

Anton and Anna Theresa Fuhrman Voelkel (1890), father and mother of Ray A. Voelkel.

In Victoria, Anton met and married Anna Theresa Fuhrman, daughter of Christian Fuhrman and Anna Dohman. They made their home at their Stratton ranch, later moving into Cuero. They resided in a home at 204 Stockdale (later numbered 304). A portion of this home was a section of the old Gulf Hotel which had been located on the corner of Morgan Avenue and Stockdale. Their home was a two story house with picket fence and large pecan trees. This home burned down in December, 1982. Anton suffered from severe asthma attacks and liked to travel to the hill country where he received some relief for his breathing. These attacks weakened his heart and brought about his death in 1931 at the age of 62. Anton was never able to return to Germany but here in America he enjoyed his land, his grandchildren, and raising his cattle.

Anna Theresa Fuhrman was born to Christian and Anna Dohman Fuhrman in 1874 in Germany. As a young girl she became adept at taking care of, and tending, farm animals which she loved. She and her mother Anna Dohman Fuhrman came from the Pomerian area of Germany to the United States and her father followed sometime later. Theresa had one sister, Annie Fuhrman Mueller, and 4 half-brothers and two half-sisters from Christian Fuhrman's earlier marriage. They were Rudolph, Willie, Paul, Otto, Lizzie, and Martha Fuhrman. Theresa had two half-sisters and a half-brother by Anna Dohman's earlier marriages. They were Emma Dohman Maurer, Bertha Bittner Fischer, and Emil Bittner Fuhrman. Most of these relations resided in the Victoria, Sinton, Tivoli, and Alice area in Texas and many of their children still live in these towns. After the death of Anton Voelkel, Theresa lived with her son and daughter-in-law (Gladys Wasserman Voelkel) at 204 Stockdale in Cuero until her death at the age of 60. Theresa Fuhrman Voelkel operated the Stratton ranch with her son Ray (Dutch) Voelkel and enjoyed life and her grandchildren until she died of a ruptured appendix after falling down the steps of her home in 1934.

Anton Voelkel's parents died and were buried in Germany. Christian Fuhrman died in Victoria in 1926 and Anna Dohman Fuhrman lived with her daughter Annie Mueller until her death in 1938. They were buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria, Texas.

To the union of Anna Theresa Dohman Fuhrman and Anton Voelkel were born two children, Raymond Anton Voelkel and Bertha Alfreda Voelkel. Raymond (Dutch) Voelkel was born January 12, 1901 and died on October 2, 1982. His story is found in another section. His sister, Bertha Alfreda Voelkel, was born on February 1, 1896 in Cuero. She grew to young womanhood in Cuero and married a Mr. Ernst. After a short marriage, she divorced Mr. Ernst and married Oscar Louis Davis of Yoakum. Oscar Davis served an honorable term in the United States Navy during World War I where he was wounded, and spent a very cold night in the sea before being rescued. He always suffered from his injuries received on this night and had a slight limp. Oscar Davis was a Shriner and was employed until he retired as a conductor and brakeman for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He was born June, 1893 and died January 17, 1964 of emphysema. During Oscar Davis lifetime, Alfreda was a loving housewife and loved her flowers and gardening. She died June 16, 1984, a victim of a blood clot after hip surgery. She was 88 years old. Her niece and nephew called her "Auntie Fritzie" because Alfreda was hard to say. Oscar and Alfreda had no children. They had resided at 407 Hopkins Street in Yoakum, Texas for many years after moving from Waco sometime between 1930 and 1936.

Anna Dohman Voelkel and Anton Voelkel, Bertha Alfreda Voelkel Davis and Oscar L. Davis were all buried on the same lot with the tall cedar trees in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. Shirley Sprigg

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VOELKEL, RAY A. AND GLADYS (WASSERMAN) FAMILY

F945

Raymond Anton Voelkel was born to Anna Theresa and Anton Voelkel on January 12, 1901. He had one sister, Bertha Alfreda Voelkel. Ray acquired the nickname "Dutch" at an early age because of his German ancestry. He was a musician all of his life, and as a youngster, learned to play the trombone. In his early days as a young man, he played his trombone one summer with a circus band. Ray (Dutch) loved to build and race automobiles and his pride and joy was an old "strip ford" he built. During the early 1900's he worked as a projectionist at the old Dreamland Theatre on Cuero's Main Street, and was a fireman for the Cuero Fire Department. He belonged to Home Protection Hose Co. #2 which was organized in 1895 and had a station somewhere around Morgan Avenue. In young adulthood, he was employed as a mechanic for the R.A. Nagel Motor Co. on Esplanade in Cuero. Ray (Dutch) played his trombone in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Orchestra where he met and married Gladys Pauline Wasserman (Mickey) on August 31, 1924. They were married in St. Mark's Lutheran Parsonage by Rev. E.E. Eberhardt. After a happy and "muddy" road honeymoon trip to Houston and Galveston, they lived at 204 Stockdale Ave. with Mr. and Mrs. Anton Voelkel. With his wife's help, Ray went into business as a mechanic as "Ray's Automotive Shop" on Courthouse Street. He was an excellent mechanic and worked as a dealer and repairman for Johnson Outboard Motors. During this time he began to buy cattle and to operate the ranch he had inherited from his parents. Eventually he closed his automotive shop about 1940.

Ray (Dutch) loved music and he could play the trombone, the piano, the drums, sing, and arrange music as well. In his early years, he played trombone in the Cuero City Concert Band under the direction of Ben Prause, Sr. and marched in many "Turkey Trot" parades in bands and once had a float advertising his business. It was an old Model-T converted into two front ends of an automobile which loped down the street. It was his father's old car. He played in dance bands such as "The Turkey Trotters Orchestra," Bennie Prausie Orchestra, with the Marquis Brothers, Alfred and Charles, the Wasserman Brothers, Ed and Norman, the Boldt Brothers, and Edgar Davidson and his son, Junior Davidson. He played with the Sledge Wilson band of Yorktown, and until his death at 82, played drums with the "Hub City Dutchman" of Yoakum.

For approximately 22 years, Ray was a rural mailman and enjoyed nothing so much as to go fishing with his friends and relations at Copano Bay in Rockport. He enjoyed his second home at Fulton Beach near Rockport where he and his family loved to go. Ray (Dutch) Voelkel died on October 2, 1982 of emphysema. He led a full and interesting life with his much loved music, his family, and raising his cattle and grandchildren. He was a friend to many who needed his help during the years.

Gladys Pauline Wasserman was born Sunday, June 29, 1902 in Cuero, Texas. She was the only daughter born to the union of Ida Kunitz and Gus Wasserman, Jr. of Cuero. She had two older brothers, Edward and Norman Wasserman. At an early age she learned to play the piano and sing. The family would gather around their beautiful rosewood piano and sing with her accompaniment. Gladys graduated from Cuero High School with honors in 1920 and was one of the main soloists for the Cuero High School Glee Club. She began working for the Garrett Abstract Company, located across from the old post office in Cuero.

Gladys was nicknamed "Mickey" by her father because he said she was always so happy and cheerful she reminded him of an Irish "mick." Almost all of her friends and relations knew her as "Mickey" for the rest of her life. She became a voice student of Mr. David Griffin from San Antonio in her early years and appeared in many vocal performances in the area. One of the newspapers of Cuero wrote, "Miss Gladys Wasserman has a rich lyric soprano voice with great interpretive quality." On May 30, 1921 in Yoakum at the Methodist Church, and on April 28, 1921 in Cuero at the Presbyterian Church, Handel's Messiah was presented by Mr. Griffin's students and Gladys (Mickey) was one of the soloists. Three of his students performed at the home of Sam Lackey, Jr. (Gladys Wasserman, Anne Louise Hamilton, and Herbert Dornbluth). On May 30, 1922, Mr. Griffin's students gave a grand and light opera concert assisted by the Victoria and Cuero Choral Club at the Dreamland Theater in Cuero. One of the numbers was "Three Little Maids from School" performed by Miss Gladys Wasserman, Miss Delka Dietze, and Miss Minnie Lee Mangham. Mr. Griffin selected four of his most promising vocal students to appear with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra in San Antonio, Texas on June 6, 1922. They were Miss Gladys Wasserman, Miss Nell Putman, Mrs. Alfred Frobese, and Mr. Leroy Hamilton. One paper wrote that for a town of 10,000 or less that Mr. Griffin's students were second to none in musical artistry. At this concert Gladys sang "One Fine Day" by Puccini from Madame Butterfly.

Gladys (Mickey) married Ray Voelkel on August 31, 1924. She was accompanist for the Lions Club of Cuero and played in several dance bands including "The Turkey Trotters" Orchestra of which her husband and brothers were members. She sang in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Choir with her daughter and they often sang duets. When her daughter was about 10 years old, she was her accompanist on a weekly radio show.

Gladys (Mickey) worked for I.R. Wilkes at the Garret Abstract Company, for Mr. Tom Stell as Deputy Tax Collector at the Cuero Courthouse and for Mr. Poetter. For a great number of years she was Deputy Clerk under Mr. Henry Koenig, County Clerk. A great portion of her working years was at the DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero. She was an excellent worker and typist. Before she retired at 62, she worked several years for the Brentex Mills Office in Cuero.

Gladys (Mickey) loved to play bridge and she was a great craftswoman with her hands. She made some beautiful hand-crocheted bedspreads and other crocheted handwork that she left to her children and grandchildren.

Mickey played the piano for family singing and sang until her death July 22, 1975. Her greatest joy was to go fishing with her friends at Rockport and Fulton and to take care of her grandchildren.

To the union of Gladys Wasserman Voelkel and Ray Voelkel who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary August 31, 1974, two children were born. They were Shirley Voelkel Sprigg, now living with her husband on the Voelkel Ranch (Sandy Fork Ranch) in Cuero, and Ray Allen Voelkel, born December 16, 1933. Their son Ray followed in his father's and mother's musical footsteps by playing in various orchestras while in Cuero High School and he was Drum Major of the Cuero High School Band. He has a degree in Metallurgy from the University of Houston and presently lives in Houston and works for WKM as a metallurgist. Ray carries on in the music tradition and plays with a group of doctors and lawyers in a dance band in Houston. Ray Allen Voelkel has two daughters by marriage to Margaret Thomas of

Voelkel Family. Back Row: William Sprigg, III, Gladys Voelkel, Ray Voelkel, Sr., Shirley V. Sprigg. F. Row l-r: Debra Voelkel, John Sprigg, Jr., Dinah Voelkel, Ray Voelkel.

Cuero. They are Debra Voelkel Benge who lives in Kent, Washington and has three daughters and Dinah Voelkel Benge who resides in Dallas. He and his sister Shirley presently operate the Voelkel Ranch (Sandy Fork Ranch) raising cattle. Ray loves to play his drums in the orchestra but he started as his father did with the trombone. He likes to go fishing at Fulton where he has a second home.

by Mrs. Shirley Sprigg

VOLLENTINE, JAMES AND EMILY JANE (GOODSON)

F946

Emily "Emma" Jane Goodson, born 31 December 1843 Carroll County Mississippi, came to Texas with her parents Arthur and Jane (Kelley) Goodson. She was their 5th child. The family settled near Terryville in the early 1850's. There they raised their 12 children. Many of their descendants remain in De Witt County today.

On 31 December 1863 Emily Jane married James Vollentine, born 7 December 1836, the 1st child of Mary Ann (May) and Henry Vollentine.

James and Emily first lived on land belonging to his father before moving to Yoakum so their 10 children could more easily attend school.

My grandmother, Mary "Mamie" Alice, their 1st child was born 27 December 1864. In 1885 she married Stonewall Jackson Guthrie. They lived in the De Witt-Lavaca County area for about 20 ·ars before moving westward with his fath four brothers and their families. Broth .dgar A. Guthrie and his family returned to De Witt County in a few years and his father S.M. Guthrie died at Edgar's home in 1925.

Emily Jane Goodson Vollentine died 10 March 1920 and her husband James died 8 June 1922. They and several of their children are buried at Yoakum.

by Mrs. Travis McClinton

WAGNER, EMIL J. AND ANNA

F947

Emil J. Wagner (1886-1968), son of Frank and Petronella Jansa Wagner, and Anna Rohan (1888-1977), daughter of Frank and Anna Schmidt Rohan, were married November 24, 1908 in Holy Cross Catholic Church, Yorktown, the Rev. Thomas Moczygemba officiating. The couple were engaged in farming in the Clear Creek community, and later moved to the Gruenau area. In 1918, they moved to the Frank Wagner homestead in the Gohlke School community. They lived there until 1952, when they retired and moved to Yorktown, where they lived the rest of their lives. Two children died in infancy: Emma in 1911, and Eleonora in 1924.

They raised nine children: Olga married Warren Babin and lived in Houston (died 1985), Edwin married Bernice Meischen and lived in Nordheim (died 1986), Elizabeth married John Pokluda and lives in the Garfield area of DeWitt County, Leona married Walter Berckenhoff and lives in the Gruenau area of DeWitt County, Victor married Anette Mueller and lives in Victoria, Gilbert married Florine Willms (she died in 1960) and then married Helen Cobb and lives in Port Lavaca, Al married Myrlin Wild and lives in Yorktown, Anna married Richard Ryan and lives in Cuero, and Doris married Carl Boldt and lives in Yorktown.

In addition to the children named above, at this writing (September, 1989), their descendants (living and dead) number 31 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

by Doris Boldt

50th Wedding Anniversary of James and Emily (Goodson) Vollentine 1913 Yoakum, TX. L-R Standing: O.P. Talk, May (Vollentine) Talk, Tom Hinds, Fannie (Vollentine) Hinds, Arthur Vollentine, Mamie (Vollentine) Guthrie, Susie (Vollentine), Earl Vollentine. Seated L-R: Emily Jane (Goodson) Vollentine and James Vollentine (in chairs), James Vollentine, Jr., Eva (Vollentine) Hinds, Sylvester Hinds (on steps).

The CUERO STAR.

A. S. CRISP, Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at Cuero Postoffice as 2d-class Mail Matter

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1896

Local - News.

Bird seeds at Breeden Bros.

Some building is going on in our town.

Fresh shrimps at Breeden Bros.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Newsome and daughter Miss Maggie are in the city from Charco.

Get your Valentines from R. C. Warn, the Stationer.

The Presbyterian ladies will have a tea at Mrs. Alex Hamilton's Friday, February 14.

Seed Potatoes $2.50 per barrel at Otto Buchel & Co's.

Licensed to Wed: Pedro Tyerina and Mrs. Antonita Moro; Ed Scott and Odelia Blackwell.

Onion sets, fresh and fine, 10 cents a quart, at Heaton Bros.

Mrs. Thornton of Victoria is up on a visit to her daughters, Mesdames Hamilton and Joseph.

For Sale.
15 head of mules. Apply to
GEO. ECKERT.

We are glad to say that Mrs. R. H. Wofford is rapidly recovering from her recent serious spell of sickness.

Cost Sale! Cost Sale!
Everybody step this way.
THOMAS DUREN.

J. K. Cochran who is identified with the Aransas Pass deep water company is in the city this morning on business.

Registered Jersey cow for sale or trade. Gives four gallons of milk a day. J. BARFIELD,
Cheapside, Tex.

Emil J. Wagner family in 1958, Emil and Anna's 50th wedding anniversary. Back Row: Elizabeth, Anna Mae, Olga, Doris, Leona, Gilbert, Edwin, Alphonse, and Victor. Front: Emil and Anna (Rohan) Wagner.

WAGNER, FAMILY

F948

Julius Wagner and family were among the many who fled the coast area after the devastating storm in Indianola. One of his sons Richard Wagner married Blanche Petty and they chose Cuero for their home. Julius's law background in Germany encouraged his children to further their knowledge and it is believed that Richard spoke four languages. He was employed by several local firms before engaging in the freight business. Blanche was a devoted wife and mother and along with their father through sacrifice, encouragement and love were able to instill a desire for accomplishment. William, the eldest, married and moved to Texarkana and was employed in industry. Emily married Harry M. Berger of Wharton and they had one son Harry. Blanche married F.C. Schaefer, a local rural mail carrier. They had three children, Henry, Walter Carl, and Doris. Carl, in partnership with Walter operated a confectionary. Later he became owner of Wagners Jewelry Store. He married Agatha Weber. They had no children. Robert, the youngest child was a doctor. He married Ruth Harrison of Wharton and they had two children, Harrison and Virginia. He practiced in Cuero for a short time and then moved to Houston to continue his practice. Walter (Bully) became a prominent Cuero business man. Wagners Confectioneries No. One and No. Two were the meeting places for Cueroites day and night for delicious homemade ice cream and other confections. School buses also made a daily stop there and children lined up for an ice cream cone for the ride home. During this time, Bully found time to excel in semi-pro baseball which was sweeping the area. His ability as a shortstop was well known throughout South Texas and northern Mexico. In 1941, with the outbreak of World War II, he was approached by Brayton Flying Service to operate his confectionary at Brayton Field located north of Cuero, which was training military pilots. His warm, caring personality endeared him to many young men who came his way. Sunday was sure to find several of the young men enjoying Faye's delicious roast dinner and hot rolls. Faye was a commercial teacher at Cuero High School and many young women were given the incentive to go onto professional work with her encouragement. She is a dedicated member of the Methodist Church and taught the Womens Bible Class for approximately fifty years. In 1950, Bob married Billie Leggett. They had three children. Robert Reed, Walter Richard and Sandra Faye. Bob inherited his dads love for baseball and played on the local Trotter team. He was also active in local government and was a member of the city council for six years. Reed graduated from Sam Houston University with a degree in business. He married Beverly Vackar and they are now active in the management of Wagner Hardware. They have two children, Krista kFaye, 5 and Robert Clayton 3. Reed is a golfer and avid fisherman and the family can often be found at Port O'Connor. Richard excelled in Football at Cuero High School and was named to the All State Football Team in 1975. He graduated from A&M University and received his law degree from St. Marys University in 1984. He is employed in San Antonio. Sandra Faye graduated from A&M University with a degree in elementary education. She married Ward McCampbell also a graduate of A&M and a certified CPA. They have one daughter, Sara Courtney age 3. They make their home in Corpus Christi. Sandra is a first grade teacher and Ward is employed by an accounting firm. Both are active in civic clubs. Holidays come and family and friends gather — another chapter in the Wagner family history begins.

by Mrs. Bob Wagner

J. Henry Yentzen
ARCHITECT
P. O. Box 110 Yoakum, Texas

WAGNER, FRANK AND PETRONELLA (JANSA)

F949

A biography written by Miss Edna Wieland (as a school assignment) and published as part of Mr. Wagner's obituary, reads:

"Frank Wagner was born in Czechoslovakia on November 11, 1853. At the age of 13 he left his parents and went to Austria to seek employment. He obtained work with a German family and had many interesting experiences there, as he could speak no other language except Czech.

"After two years in Austria he moved to Vienna and took up his trade as a mason. From there he moved to Prague and lived there one year and returned to his parents and sailed with them to America.

"They settled in Fayette county. There he married (the former Petronella Jansa) and then moved to Lavaca county near the present town of Moulton. After nine years in Lavaca (county) they moved to Yorktown on the old Wagenschein place near Garfield. They farmed there two years and then bought a farm located about five miles north of Yorktown and moved there. Two years later they bought another adjoining the first, and immediately Mr. Wagner began to take an interest in his community. The distance to Yorktown had to be traveled through pastures, and so the need of a road was felt, to get to town, school and church. Mr. Wagner got up a petition and sent it to the Commissioners' Court. They ignored it, so again he got up another; it did not pass, but the farmers did not give up hope and sent a third. This was successful and a road was built from Yorktown to Davy.

"A few years later at a community gathering, the men discussed the need of a school. So again, Mr. Wagner became active and got up a petition and about fourteen land-owners in this vicinity built a school on the William Gohlke land and named it Gohlke School in his honor.

"Mr. Wagner is the father of seven children and is always interested in the welfare of his family, community, church and country. On account of his advanced age he is not very active in affairs outside of his home, but is always glad to hear and read of the progress made."

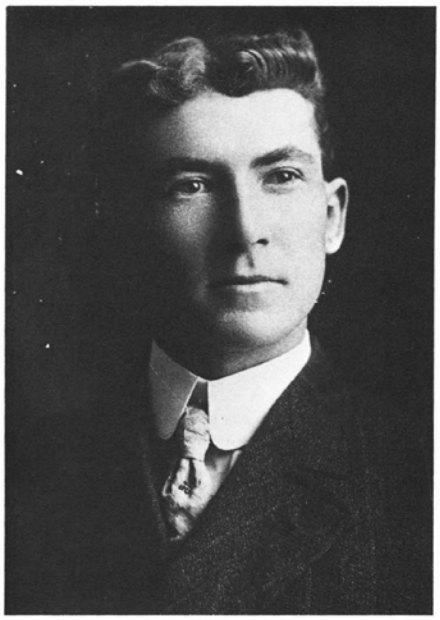
The children of the couple were: Emil J. (1886-1968) who married Anna Rohan; Peter F. (1889-1964), Valentin (1891-1920), and Frances (1893-1989) who never married; Annie (1882-1971) who married Joseph Chamrad; Emelie (1898-1966) who married Emil Hranicky, and Nell (1885-1970) who married John Petrasch.

by Doris Boldt

WALDECK, RICHARD J. AND PAULA (EICHHOLZ)

F950

Richard J. Waldeck, son of Albert and Annie Junker Waldeck, was born at Meyersville, August 4, 1882. His father died when he was seven years old, and soon after he assumed a



Richard J. Waldeck

father's responsibility. He had three brothers: Albert, William and Paul; three sisters: Annie, Mamie and Matilda. He helped to rear and educate the younger children.

After completing his education in the local schools, he went to a San Antonio business college. In 1904, he returned to Cuero and was employed as a law clerk in the firm of Davidson and Bailey. While a clerk he read and studied law, and was then admitted to the Bar on a very creditable examination. During his tenure as law clerk, he accompanied Davidson, then Lt. Governor, to Austin and served as his secretary.

In 1911, he formed a partnership with August Hartman under the firm name of Waldeck and Hartman. This partnership was a little more than a year old, when at the age of twenty-nine, he was elected County Judge of DeWitt County. He served as County Judge from 1912 until 1917. At the time of his election, he was one of the youngest judges in the state.

Judge Waldeck and F.S. Schliecher formed a partnership in 1917. This was brought to a conclusion by the untimely death of Mr. Schliecher in March 1922. Waldeck continued his law practice until 1941 when his health forced him to close his office. He was an outstanding attorney in South Texas, very active in all civic matters, and did much to promote the growth of Cuero and DeWitt County.

On May 20, 1914, he married Paula Eichholz, daughter of Professor and Mrs. W.T. Eichholz. The wedding took place at the home of her parents on Courthouse Street, Cuero, Texas. She was born March 1, 1894 in Yorktown. At the age of nine she moved to Cuero when her father founded the Duetche Rundshau (German Newspaper). She was well educated in both German and English as well as piano and voice. For several years before her marriage, she assisted her father in his newspaper work where she used her talent in writing.

During World War I, Judge Waldeck accepted the chairmanship for all five Liberty Loan Drives. Under his organization, the drives were very successful.

At the time of his death, he was recognized as one of South Texas outstanding Pythians, and was Chairman of the Grand Tribunal of Texas.

Judge and Mrs. Waldeck were members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

The Waldecks moved into their home on Valley Street when they were married. Since they did not have children and they both loved children, their home was the gathering place for nieces and nephews. Each summer the house was full of happy young people. While there, they were taught integrity, honesty and self worth, as well as how to enjoy a full and happy life. These were the attributes on which the Waldecks based their lives.

Judge Waldeck died June 25, 1942, and his wife, Paula, died February 9, 1974. They are interred in Hillside Cemetery. They were survived by an adopted daughter, Hertha Helen McCoy, and a grandson, John Robert McCoy, who, in his law practice, is following the fine example set for him by Judge Waldeck.

by Hertha Helen McCoy

WALLIS, JACK TRAYLOR AND MARY SUSAN (HAMILTON)

F951

Jack Traylor Wallis, present owner and operator of the Wallis Ranch, located fifteen miles northwest of Cuero, off the Westhoff Highway, was born in Del Rio, Texas, October 16, 1922. He was the only child of Samuel Jackson Wallis and Anna Brooks Rogers.

Jack's father, "S.J." as he was sometimes called, was born May 21, 1892, on the Wallis Ranch. He attended school on the Wallis Ranch and graduated from A&M in 1914 with a degree in Agriculture. He was in the Cavalry and later the Artillery in World War I; and before going overseas he married Anna, April 20, 1918, in Ft. Worth. After the War, they lived for a time in San Antonio. He went to Del Rio to manage a pecan orchard for an estate; and later owned a farm implement company in Gonzales. In 1938 S.J. came to DeWitt County to continue operation of the Wallis Ranch. The following year he and his son, Jack, began the Wallis Turkey Ranch on a part of the Ranch. This grew into a significant industry. S.J. died November 21, 1980, and is buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero.

Anna Brooks Rogers, Jack's mother, was born February 11, 1896, in Jacksonville, Florida, but her family had moved to Texas before she and Jack were married. She died March 10, 1975, and she is also buried at Hillside.

Jack Traylor Wallis attended school in Gonzales, in Westhoff for a short time, and graduated from Cuero High School in 1940. He was seventeen when he went into the Turkey business with his father. They developed the "Wallis Strain" of broad-breasted bronze turkeys, which won awards for quality and were known even in Mexico and Canada. In the sixties, Jack was one of the organizers of Tex-Best Turkeys, a co-operative turkey dressing plant in Marlin, Texas, and was a director of that co-op for ten years. In 1973, Jack and his father discontinued the turkey operation and returned the land to cattle and irrigated grasses.

Jack married Mary Susan Hamilton, of the industrial and ranching Hamilton family of DeWitt County on August 4, 1954. She was born in Cuero July 24, 1925, to (Thornton) Graham Hamilton and his wife, Mary Sue Graves. Graham managed his father's business, the Cuero Cotton Seed Oil and Manufacturing Company in Cuero, and was also a sportsman, rancher, and conservationist. Mary Sue, Susan's mother, came from a prominent Texas family of judges; her father, George W. Graves, was a judge of the Third Court of Civil Appeals in Galveston for forty-two years, and her maternal grandfather, William L. Davidson, was a presiding judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin for many years. Mary Sue was active in civic affairs, was president of the Hawthorne Study Club, and was president of the local Red Cross in World War II. Graham and Mary Sue have two children; Susan, of this article, and Graves Graham (Buzzy) listed separately.

Susan attended school in Cuero where she was a tennis athlete; and where she won the American Legion Citizenship award. She earned her B.S. degree from the University of Texas in 1946. She taught school in Austin four years and in Cuero three years, and was a professional tennis coach. Some of her tennis students won state championships. She was the first woman on the school board of the Cuero Independent School District, where she served for fifteen years. In the sixties she was listed in Who's Who of American Women for her civic work in the community. Susan and her mother are both members of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority and the Colonial Dames. Mary Sue, Susan and Jack are active in Grace Episcopal Church.

Susan and Jack have three children. All were born and graduated from high school in Cuero. Jack Wesley Wallis was born October 6, 1955. He earned his B.S. degree in Biology and his M.S. in Micro-biology from Southwest Texas; and he graduated from the University of Texas Medical School, San Antonio, in 1984. He is practicing in San Marcos, where he has his own clinic. Dr. Wallis is married to Deborah Lambert of Cuero, and they have three children: James Wesley, born in San Antonio, September 1, 1982; Jennifer Beth, born October 26, 1985, and Tiffany Amber, born May 8, 1987, both of the latter born in Corpus Christi.

Sheryl Katherine Wallis, born August 18, 1957, earned her B.A. degree from Sam Houston State in 1979. She did art work in Huntsville for several years and later did interior decorating for a large company. In 1983 she married Louis Theodore Winslow, an area supervisor with Evergreen Helicopter Corporation. They have one child, Katherine Elizabeth, born July 25, 1988, in League City.

Mary Susan Wallis, called Sue, was born March 22, 1960, and earned her B.A. degree in Criminal Justice from Southwest Texas in 1982. Sue worked for a time with abused children but is currently working for the Motorola Corporation in Austin.

Susan and Jack Wallis are now operating their respective ranches together as one business enterprise.

by Mrs. Jack Wallis

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WARMUTH, KARL FAMILY

F952

Karl Warmuth Family. Back Row: Richard, Ella, Fritz, Meta and Paul. Front: Karl, Otto, Martha, and Anna (Rabenaldt) Warmuth.

Karl Wilhelm Warmuth was born 1 May, 1851 in Volenjob, Thuringen Province, Germany. He married Anna Maria Rabenaldt in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Voigtstedt, Germany on 27 Dec., 1879. (Anna was the last child of Karl and Amelia Rabenaldt to immigrate to the United States)

They landed at the port of New York in Dec., 1893 with four children, three children had died previously and were buried in Germany.

They journeyed to DeWitt County where they lived on the William Lamprecht farm a few miles west of Sasseville (now called Nopal). In 1897 they moved to Gruneau and purchased their own farm.

Some years after Karl's death, some of their children moved to California and Anna divided her remaining years between her children in California and her children remaining in DeWitt County.

Karl died 5 Sept., 1915 in DeWitt County and Anna died 24 March, 1932 in California. They are buried in the family plot in Sandy Gate Cemetery near Nopal in DeWitt County, Texas.

Their children were: Richard born 12 Nov., 1881 – died 1 Aug., 1953 married Mrs. Katie Schiedemann; Fritz born 4 Feb., 1884 – died 29 Dec., 1962 married (1.) Frieda Thieme (2.) Betty Goodrich; Paul born 13 Dec., 1887 – died 15 Mar., 1951 married Frieda Schmidt; Meta born 11 July, 1892 – died 1 Oct., 1962 married Gerhardt Bueschelmann; Ella Anna born 25 Nov., 1895 – died 18 May, 1962 married Herman Peters; Otto Hugo Karl born 11 Jan., 1900 – died, married Leona Thieme; Martha Helene born 24 Dec., 1901 – d. 7 Oct., 1986 in Yorktown, married Caesar Metting.

by Glenn and Patsy Hand

WARZECHA, AUGUST AND KATRINA KAMINSKI

F953

August Warzecha was born on August 22, 1859, in Panna Maria, Texas, the fourth child of Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka Warzecha. His parents immigrated by boat from Upper Silesia, Poland, to Panna Maria, Texas, in October to December, 1855, with two sons, Josef, age five, and Julius, age two years. The trip was long and harsh, and Julius died at sea. The family first lived in Panna Maria, Texas, where Konstantina, August, and Maria Warzecha were born. August's father served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Then the family moved to Yorktown, Texas, where they settled permanently, and where brother, Stanick Warzecha, was born.

Katrina (Katie) Kaminski was born on November 9, 1862, in Upper Silesia, Poland, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kaminski. Katrina's family immigrated to America in 1876, when Katrina was 14 years old.

August Warzecha and Katrina Kaminski were both devout Catholics. They were married at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero, Texas, on May 3, 1887, by Reverend John Hagel.

This union of August and Katrina was blessed with seven sons: John (February 3, 1888), August (August 27, 1889), Benjamin (August 13, 1891), Frank (January 27, 1894), Joseph (March 17, 1896), Vincent (April 4, 1898), and Peter (April 19, 1906). The family lived and worked on a large farm on the Cheapside Route near Cuero, Texas. The large family of boys was a great asset when there was farm work to be done.

All too quickly, the farming days slowed down as the boys began their own lives.

John August Warzecha married Victoria Radzikowski from Bremond, Texas. They had no children. After her death, when he was 69 years old, John remarried to Ruth Marie Bernard on May 24, 1957, at St. Leo's Catholic Church in San Antonio. They had 20 years together.

August Steve Warzecha married Broncy Migura on January 21, 1913, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown. August and Broncy were farmers in Yorktown, Texas, where they raised three children: Katherine (Parks), August Warzecha, and Isabel (Hartman).

Frank John Warzecha married Elizabeth Ann Migura, sister to Broncy Migura, on May 4, 1921, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. They lived in Yorktown for 1 year and 9 months, then moved to San Antonio, Texas, where they raised their family of four children: Frank Warzecha, Eleanor (Pullin), Bernice (LeBow), and Dorothy Buckholdt).

Joseph (Joe) Theodore Warzecha married Helen Sally Skloss on February 4, 1923, in Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. They married in double wedding with Helen's brother, Conrad and Tina Skloss. They lived about 11 miles out of Cuero, then moved to Karnes City in December, 1923, where Joe farmed and raised cattle, a garden, and fruit trees. Joe and Helen raised six children: Lillian (Rodgers), Valeria (Kozielski), Clarence, James, Joseph Theodore (J.T.), and Charles Warzecha. In 1947, they moved to Yorktown, Texas.

Vincent William Warzecha married Susie Drzymala on August 26, 1924, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. They settled on a farm in the Mustang Mott Community, where they lived the rest of their lives, and where they celebrated 58 years of marriage. Vincent and Susie had seven children: Rose Marie (Tam), Vincent Joseph, Ladislaus, Anthony, Newton, Robert, and David Warzecha.

Peter Paul Warzecha married Pauline Zuber, but they were together only a few months when Pauline died. Peter remarried to Bernice Rose Zuber, sister of Pauline, and they had five children: Florence (Kahlich), William, Jo Ann (Griffin), Alfred, and Daniel Warzecha. Peter worked as a farmer and a carpenter. Peter and Bernice divorced, and Peter is now married to Ulida Warzecha.

Benjamin (Ben) L. Warzecha never married. He worked as a farmer, and lived on the Cheapside Route near Cuero. When Ben was 42 years old, he was in a car accident on the Yorktown-Gonzales Road. He was killed on June 23, 1934, when his car overturned, crushing his head and causing instant death.

Katrina Kaminski Warzecha died on November 18, 1937, at the age of 75 years. August Warzecha died on December 3, 1942, at the age of 83 years. They are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

WARZECHA, JAN AND MALGORZATA KUCZKA

F954

Jan (John) Warzecha was born January 23, 1826, and Malgorzata (Margaret) Kuczka was born July 13, 1824, in humble villages in Upper Silesia, Poland. They spoke the Upper Silesian dialect of Polish, and probably spoke German as well. Their Catholic Religion was a major force in their lives from childhood until death.

Jan and Malgorzata married in the Catholic Church in Upper Silesia, Poland, about 1849. In Poland, they had two sons, Josef Warzecha, born September 18, 1850, and Julius Warzecha, born about 1853.

During these years, Germany was trying to overtake Poland and force German ways on the Polish people. For several years beginning in 1854, many Upper Silesians escaped German control in their homeland by traveling to freedom in America. Many came to Panna Maria, Texas, a Polish village established by Father Leopold Moczygemba on Christmas Eve, 1854.

Jan and Malgorzata Warzecha and their two sons, ages 5 and 2, left Upper Silesia in early October, 1855, en route to Panna Maria, Texas, in America. The boat trip was long and harsh, and the youngest son, Julius, succumbed from the hardships. Julius was buried at sea, floated on the water in a little burial basket. The family watched the little floating basket until the boat was too far away for the basket to be seen. The trip and the loss of her son were especially hard for Malgorzata, as she was pregnant at the time with her third child.

The boat stopped in New York for provisions. Jan Warzecha's brother and his family, who were also coming to America, left the boat at New York and settled in Chicago, Illinois.

Jan, Malgorzata, and Josef continued the boat trip to Texas. They landed at Indianola during the middle of December, 1855. From

Indianola, they walked to Panna Maria, pulling a wooden cart carrying their meager belongings. Arriving about Christmas, 1855, they were met at Panna Maria by Josef Kuczka, the brother of Malgorzata, who came with the original group of Polish settlers who founded Panna Maria in December, 1854, one year earlier.

Five months later on May 20, 1856, a daughter, Konstantina Warzecha, was born to Jan and Malgorzata. A son, August Warzecha, was born on August 18, 1859. During this time, Jan Warzecha worked for the Butler family in Karnes County. The Polish people were treated well by the Butler family. During the drought of 1856, the Butler family gave grain and cattle to the Polish people so they would not starve. Jan learned the English language, and was interpreter for the Polish people.

The Civil War had begun on April 12, 1861. As Union or Confederate soldiers passed through towns, they commanded young men to join them as soldiers, thus conscripting them into the Army. On March 8, 1862, Jan Warzecha was naturalized as a citizen of the Confederate States of America. Thus about March of 1862, the newly immigrated Jan Warzecha was conscripted as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, and was forced to leave his pregnant wife and three little children. His daughter, Maria Warzecha, was born July 18, 1862. Jan Warzecha was a war hero by capturing the enemy Union flag during one battle.

After the war ended on April 9, 1865, it took many months for Jan to find his way back to his family. Happily, he did return. The family moved from Panna Maria to the fast growing town of Yorktown in DeWitt County, and settled on the east edge of town near the present day American Legion Hall. On February 26, 1868, a son, Stanick Warzecha, was born in Yorktown. Only 16 months later, on June 28, 1869, while digging a water well for the family, his lungs weak from pneumonia suffered earlier, possibly after hitting a shallow pocket of gas, Jan Warzecha died. He was 43 years, 5 months, and 5 days old. He was buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown (now Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery).

Malgorzata was left with her five children, ages 18 years to 16 months. On October 20, 1870, Malgorzata remarried to Leopold Zielonka, but they stayed together only a few months. Malgorzata remained single until her death on November 4, 1910. She was 86 years, 3 months, and 22 days old. Malgorzata was buried beside Jan at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Malgorzata was survived by her five children and their spouses: Josef Warzecha and Mary Jendrzey, Konstantina Warzecha and Filip Dlugosch, August Warzecha and Katrina Kaminski, Maria Warzecha and Frank Simon Kolodziejczyk, and Stanick Warzecha and Maria Placzyk. She was also survived by 36 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. The children all lived in DeWitt County.

On April 17, 1915, St. Mary's Catholic Church burned down. It was beautifully rebuilt by September, 1916, and named Holy Cross Catholic Church. The five children dedicated a stained glass window of John the Baptist, Jan's patron saint, at the baptism fountain of the new church as a lasting memory of their parents, Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka.

by Janet Marie Sturm

WARZECHA, JOSEF AND MARY JENDRZEY

F955

Josef Warzecha was born on September 18, 1850, in Upper Silesia, Poland, the oldest son of Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka Warzecha. In 1855, at the age of 5, he traveled with his parents and two-year-old brother, Julius Warzecha, on a boat to America. Julius died at sea. In America, Josef's family grew with added siblings: Konstantina, August, Maria, and Stanick Warzecha. His family first lived in Panna Maria, Texas. Josef's dad served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Then the family moved to Yorktown, Texas, where they settled permanently.

Maria (Mary) Jendrzey was also born in Upper Silesia, Poland, on August 31, 1849, to Valentine Jendrzey and Katherine Panicz Jendrzey. She was the only girl with four brothers: Jacob, Joseph, Frank, and Peter Jendrzey. The family traveled to America about 1855 and lived first in Panna Maria, Texas. Frank was born under the big oak tree by St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panna Maria on November 28, 1857. They soon moved to Yorktown, Texas, where they settled across the road from St. Mary's Catholic Church. The Valentine Jendrzey family donated the land for St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery (now Holy Cross Cemetery).

Josef Warzecha and Mary Jendrzey were married on February 18, 1873, at St. Mary's Church in Yorktown. The priest, Rev. Adolph Snigurski, presided at their wedding.

Josef and Mary Warzecha were farmers living on a 200 acre farm near Yorktown and near the Ratcliffe Community in the area known at that time as the Five Mile Community. They were neighbors with Josef's sister and her husband, Konstantina Warzecha and Filip Dlugosch.

The union of Josef and Mary Warzecha was blessed with seven children: Adam, born December 24, 1873; John, born May 14, 1876; Julia, born December 26, 1878; Karolina, born October 29, 1881; Rosie, born September 2, 1884; Tekla, born September 4, 1886, and Nicholas, born September 6, 1889. Just six days after Nicholas was born, their young daughter, Karolina Warzecha, only seven years old, died on September 12, 1889, while her parents were taking her to the doctor in a wagon. She was buried under the big oak tree near her grandfather, Jan Warzecha, at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown.

When the children were little, the house they lived in had a loft. At night, they would sleep in the loft and pull up the ladder for protection from Indians.

Also, when the children were little, they would pick cotton in summer, and in winter they would sit by the stove and pick the seeds out of the cotton lint so they would have cotton seeds for planting the next spring. They would sell picked cotton with the seed for $3.00 per hundred pounds.

Time passed quickly as the children grew up, and soon the happiness of weddings and grandchildren filled the lives of Josef Warzecha and Mary Jendrzey Warzecha.

Julia Warzecha married Joseph Respondek on November 9, 1898, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown. They made their home in Yorktown, and had 13 children: Jerome, Victoria (Nesloney), Ignatz, Mary (Ledwik), Helen (Tam), Rosie, Leon, Conrad, Katie, Annie, Felix, Walter, and Bonnie Respondek.

Adam Warzecha married Karolina Ibrom on November 22, 1898, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown. They lived in Yorktown until about 1908, then settled in Westhoff, Texas. Adam and Karolina Warzecha had nine children: Tekla (Lipinski), Raymond, Hedwig (Brysch), Mary (Kowalik), Edward, Conrad, and triplets Pius, Julius, and Ignatz Warzecha.

John Warzecha married Mary Biela if Czestochowa, Texas, on April 26, 1904, at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Czestochowa. They lived on a farm near Falls City, and were the parents of seven children: Ella, Julia (Kyrish), Joseph, Gertrude (Sturm), Isadore, Eleanora (Sturm), and Albert Warzecha.

Rosie Warzecha married Valentine Pokluda at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown on November 7, 1911. They lived near Yorktown, and had four children: Katie (Styra), Vera (Sturm), and twins Peter and Ursula Pokluda.

Nicholas Warzecha married Ursula Biemer at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown on January 28, 1913. They lived near Yorktown, and raised four Warzecha daughters: Elizabeth (Tam Kolodziej), Carrie (Broll), Rose (Syzdek), and Mary (Parchman).

Tekla Warzecha remained single. She lived at home and took care of her parents.

Mary Jendrzey Warzecha died on February 17, 1914, at age 64 years. Josef Warzecha died on October 17, 1933, at age 83 years. Both are buried at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

WARZECHA, STANICK AND MARY PLACZYK

F956

Stanick (Stanley) Warzecha was born on February 26, 1868, in Yorktown, Texas, the sixth child of Jan Warzecha and Malgorzata Kuczka Warzecha. His parents immigrated by boat from Upper Silesia, Poland, to Panna Maria, Texas, in October to December, 1855, with two sons, Josef, age five, and Julius, age two years, and the mother was pregnant during the trip. The trip was long and hard, and little brother, Julius, died at sea. The family first lived in Panna Maria, Texas, where siblings Konstantina, August, and Maria Warzecha were born. Stanick's father served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Then the family moved to Yorktown, Texas, where they settled permanently, and where Stanick Warzecha was born.

Mary Placzyk was the daughter of Joseph Placzyk and Josephine Kozuk Placzyk, who came from Kielce, Poland. Mary was born on January 13, 1867, in Kielce, Poland, and immigrated to America with her family as a young girl.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Yorktown, Texas, was the setting for the wedding of Stanick Warzecha and Mary Placzyk on May 20, 1889. The happy couple made their home on a farm near the Lindenau Community and Mustang Mott Community near Cuero, Texas. Stanick and Mary were neighbors to Stanick's brother and his wife, August Warzecha and Katrina Kaminski Warzecha. On the farm,

Stanick and Mary Warzecha loved and raised five children: Josephine (Ledwik), Victoria, Theodore, Pauline, and Anna Marie Warzecha.

Josephine Warzecha was born November 27, 1895, in Yorktown, Texas. She married John Ledwik on November 26, 1919, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. (John's birthday was May 14, 1889.) They resided in Westhoff, Texas, and were blessed with one daughter, Agnes Ledwik Srubar. John Ledwik died on August 2, 1962, and Josephine died on May 12, 1981. They are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

Theodore John Warzecha was born on April 20, 1902, in Lindenau. He married Mary Dworaczyk on November 19, 1934, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown. (Mary's birthday is March 25, 1913.) Theodore and Mary made their home in Westhoff, where they raised two sons: Stanley and Virgil Warzecha. Theodore John Warzecha died on December 19, 1968, and is buried at St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery in Westhoff. Mary still resides in Westhoff, Texas.

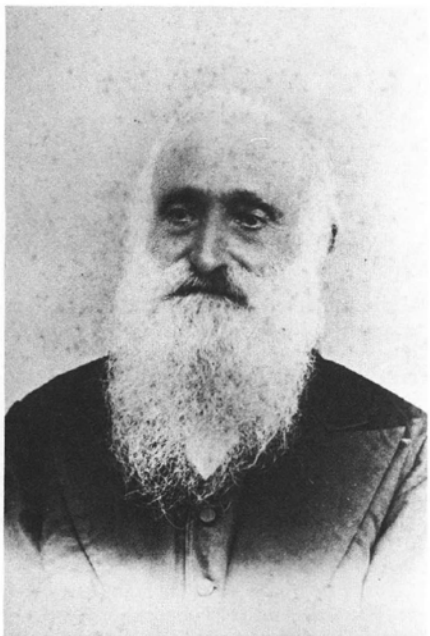
Victoria Warzecha was born on December 17, 1897, Pauline Warzecha was born on January 22, 1904, and Anna Marie Warzecha was born on July 16, 1905. All were born in Lindenau. The three sisters all remained single, and lived together on the farm where they took care of their parents, and were very capable with the farm work. Victoria and Anna Marie still live on the farm in the Lindenau area near Cuero, Texas.

The father, Stanick Warzecha, died on February 2, 1930, at age 61 years. The mother, Mary Placzyk Warzecha, died on February 26, 1942, at age 75 years. Pauline Warzecha died on May 17, 1978. They are buried at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Yorktown, Texas.

by Janet Marie Sturm

WASSERMAN FAMILY

F957



Gustaf Wasserman, Sr. (1910), father of Gus Wasserman, Jr.

Ida (Kunitz) Wasserman (1874).

Gus and Margaret (Rose) Wasserman, Sr. and Gus and Ida (Kunitz) Wasserman, Jr.

About 1854 George Wasserman brought his wife, Anna Rosina Wasserman, with his children Gustaf Wasserman, Emelia Wasserman, and Eliza Wasserman from Saxony, Germany to settle in Indianola, Texas. Two other children were born to this union, George Wasserman, Jr. and Bertha Wasserman. They were born in Texas. George Wasserman was born on February 17, 1818 and died in Cuero July 30, 1897. His wife, Anna, was born on September 25, 1821 and died in Cuero June 13, 1894. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery with daughter, Emelia Lewis. George Wasserman was a drayman as was his son, Gustaf. Gustaf Wasserman married Margaret Rose from Saxony, Germany. Emelia Wasserman married Davis Lewis, a grocer from Massachusetts. Eliza Wasserman married Philip Holtheuser, a seaman from Nassau. George Wasserman, Jr. who worked as clerk in a retail store married Fanny Wasserman. Bertha Wasserman married William Miller who owned and herded sheep.

George Wasserman, Sr. was the one who recovered the bell of the ship, S.S. Reliance, which had been given to the Lutheran Church in Indianola by the Morgan Steamship Company Line. This bell was removed from the belfry of this church during the Civil War and buried in the sand of Matagorda Beach when the Yankee soldiers came into Indianola to find all metal and melt it down for ammunition. George Wasserman, Sr. assisted in finding and retrieving this little bell from the Indianola sand in 1889, and bringing it to Cuero. It is installed in the steeple as a prayer bell of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Cuero (1989). It had been used from 1894 until 1913 by the Cuero Volunteer Fire Department and then reinstalled in the church's belfry. This little copper bell has a remarkable history.

Gustaf (Gus) Wasserman, Sr. was born on January 8, 1843 and Margaret Rose, his wife, was born September 6, 1842. Both were born in Saxony, Germany, and Margaret Rose had been brought by her parents to Indianola when she was three years old. Margaret Rose had a sister Katarina (Catherine) Rose who married Henry Heyer of Indianola. When Margaret Rose died she had a sister in Marlin, Texas. To the union of Gus and Margaret Wasserman were born seven children, five daughters and two sons. They were born in Indianola. The children were Annie Wasserman (wife of Raymond Flick, Cuero), Louisa Wasserman (wife of A.C. Dietze, Karnes City), Katie Wasserman (wife of Albert F. Lienhardt, Cuero), Emil Wasserman (husband of Erixie McRae, San Antonio), Gustaf (Gus) Wasserman, Jr. (husband of Ida Kunitz, Cuero), Georgina Wasserman (wife of Festus Able, Cuero), and Daisy Wasserman (wife of L.A. Bauer, Cuero). Gustaf Wasserman and his wife Margaret walked their family out of Indianola after the hurricane had demolished it for the second time. Some of the descendants of their children still reside in Cuero. Gustaf Wasserman and his wife, Margaret, lived in their home on Morgan Avenue until their deaths. Gustaf died March 14, 1912 and his wife, Margaret, died June 26, 1923. Gustaf had been an associate in the firm of Lucas & Wasserman painters. He loved music and played in the Lienhardt Brass Band with his son Gus, Jr. and his father George Wasserman, Sr. in the 1890s.

Gus Wasserman, Jr., son of Gustaf (Gus) Wasserman of Saxony, Germany was born in Indianola in 1875 and came in 1886 with his parents to Cuero where he grew to young manhood. Gus Wasserman learned to play the cornet and played with his father in Lienhardt Brass Band and in the Wasserman Orchestra which played for many social events in the 1890s. On September 23, 1896, he married Ida Kunitz and this same Lienhardt Brass Band serenaded them. Gus Wasserman, Jr. and Ida Wasserman resided in a new home at 707 Southline Street (Newman) in Cuero. Gus Wasserman, Jr. was senior member of the Wasserman Sign Company with his sons Edward and Norman Wasserman. He was Fire Marshall of Cuero for 12 years and established a splendid record. He loved his music and took pride in buying his family a beautiful rosewood piano for the family's music and pleasure. Gus Wasserman, Jr. was a devoted husband and father. He died on October 19, 1932, of a heart attack, at the age of 57. Gus Wasserman, Jr. is buried with his wife Ida Kunitz in Hillside Cemetery.

Three children were born to Gus Wasserman, Jr. and Ida Kunitz Wasserman. The first son was Edward Raymond Wasserman (born December 3, 1897-died December 6, 1947). He married Annie Dohman. The two children born to this union were June Wasserman Chase, a retired librarian living in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her mother, and Albert "Pete" Wasserman, a plant executive in Washington, D.C. and Virginia, who died February 12, 1985 at the age of 60. "Pete" Wasserman married Marjorie Monk of Yoakum who now lives in Arlington, Texas.

Norman Wasserman (born February 1, 1900-died December 25, 1968) married Sophie Dohman (deceased) who was Annie Dohman's sister. The three children born to them were Lamar Wasserman (San Antonio), Glen Wasserman (Amarillo), and Norman Lee Wasserman (Snookie) (deceased).

Gladys Pauline Wasserman, the only daughter, married Raymond Voelkel and has her story elsewhere.

Norman and Ed Wasserman worked with their father, Gus, Jr., in the Wasserman Sign Company located on North Main Street near the old passenger railroad station. After their father's death, they moved their shop to Esplanade Street. They were both lovers of music and played in orchestras, such as "The Turkey Trotters," and in the Cuero City Concert Bands for many years. Edward played the cornet and trumpet and Norman played the drums.

Albert "Pete" Wasserman (son of Edward Wasserman) had four children who were Barry, Carol Ann, Deborah Lynn, and Janie Marie Wasserman. Lamar Wasserman, Glen Wasserman, and Norvan Lee (Snookie) Wasserman (sons of Norman Wasserman) had four children each in their families. Lamar's children were Robert Anthony, David Lamar, Gary Edward, and Rebecca Ann. Glen's children were Linda Marie, Gene Richard, Victoria Ruth, and Carol Ann Wasserman. Norvan Lee's children were Marylyn Ruth, Jimmie Carl, Mark Anthony and Jon Lee Wasserman.

Most of the deceased members of the Wasserman and Kunitz families are buried in the Hillside or Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Cuero.

by Mrs. Shirley Sprigg

WATSON, WILLIAM

F958

Joe and Luella (Houston) Watson

The Watson family had its roots in Durham County, England. Aaron and Mary, residents of Durham County were the parents of William Watson. Aaron was a miner and a farmer. William (1834-1913) married Lois in 1856 and migrated to America in 1878 with their two daughters: Hannah (1852-1922) who was married to Thomas Urwin, and Elizabeth (1853-1878) who was married to Joe Peadon, she died one month after arriving in Luling; and their sons were George (1860-1913), Aaron (1863) and Thomas (1871-1943). Thomas is buried in Bellevue Cemetery near Cheapside, Texas. The Watsons lived near Luling until 1889 when they relocated to Gonzales County. In 1892, William and sons erected a public cotton gin, which later became known as Watson's Gin. Lois died in 1898 and William returned to England to visit a daughter, Maggie, who remained there. His health declined and he died in England May 7, 1913 and was buried in Shelton County.

Thomas married Margaret Ramage (1878-1958) of Scotch descent (who came with her family from England in 1879) on June 21, 1899, and lived at Watson Gin until 1903 when they moved to Caldwell to operate a cotton gin there. After cotton season he operated a street car in Galveston. In 1906 Tom returned to the family farm, but sold out in 1910 and bought land in Cheapside. Tom's children were: Bella, Bessie, Jessie Lois and Joseph "Joe."

Joe, son of Thomas and Margaret, was born December 4, 1911 in Cheapside and lives on the home place. He attended Cheapside school through the tenth grade, then finished high school in Gonzales with the class of 1930. He worked for a creamery in Gonzales and engaged in farming. In the fall, after the crops were gathered, he "graded" turkeys for Stahl Produce. In 1936 he drove a truck for Armor and Co., gathering poultry and eggs in Gonzales County and surrounding counties. On February 20, 1938, he and Luella Houston, of Gonzales, were married in Hochheim. They made their home on the Watson land near Cheapside. They raised chickens, turkeys, hogs and farmed. Besides farming Joe worked for Wagner Hardware in Cuero and Randal Hardware in Gonzales. Joe has served as election judge, school trustee, Rural Electric Association director and church elder.

In 1958 Joe and Luella bought the E.L. Freeman Grocery in Cheapside. Luella was Postmistress and helped with the store and meat processing. After 30 years they retired and closed the store on December 30, 1988.

Joe and Luella's children are: Joseph Charles (Nov. 23, 1939, married Barbara Bolt on Nov. 9, 1964), Thomas Howard (June 19, 1941, married Carol Ray on August 19, 1967 in Cuero), James William (Dec. 12, 1943, married Emily Staton of Combs, Dec. 26, 1970), Robert Carlos (August 31, 1945, married Annette Krueger in Cuero August 9, 1968), Marjorie (Dec. 3, 1946, married Gene Kacir in Waco September 4, 1970), Lynette (May 8, 1956 married Tommy Schlenker in Westhoff March 7, 1981).

Seventeen grandchildren, and three great grandchildren have been born into this family. They are: Frances McBride (who has two daughters, Candice and Misty Dawn), Holly Jo Shaffer (who has one daughter), Kayla Lynn, Cody Watson, Joseph Robert Watson, Staton Allen Watson, Thomas Howard Watson II, Trenton Ray Watson, Jennifer Carol Watson, James Staton Watson, Robin Watson, Robert Carlos Watson, Jr., Joseph Eugene Kacir, Daniel Felix Kacir, Lucinda Margaret Kacir, Christina Margaret Schlenker, Rebecca Sophie, Michael Henry Schlenker.

by Joe Watson

..Hair Cut..
25 CENTS.
Good Shave and an Artistic Hair Cut at a Cheap price. Next door to Mike Byrne, Esplanade Street.
LADIES SHEARS SHARPENED.
GEORGE POSEY.

WEBB, ALBERT AND MARY JANE McALLISTER

F959

Albert Webb, 1874 before he married.

Mary Jane McAllister, 1874 before she married.

Albert Webb came to DeWitt County Texas in about 1872 from Vienna (Dorchester Co.) Maryland where he was born (1845-1923). He joined a cousin Samuel James Webb and an aunt (Elizabeth Webb married to James N. Shearman) who were already in Clinton, Texas. Here, his marriage to Mary Jane McAllister was solemnized in the Live Oak Church on 22 January 1874 with the Rev. J.T. Gillett performing the ceremony. The wedding was reported in the 30 January 1874 issue of the Cuero Weekly Star.

Albert's parents were Thomas Henry Webb and Frances Ann (McNamara) Webb of Dorchester Co. He had a sister Sarah and a brother James Franklin. His grandfather was Col. Francis Webb who fought in the War of 1812. Thomas Henry was Francis' son of his second

marriage to Harriett Hicks, sister of Holiday Hicks, Governor of Maryland.

Mary Jane McAllister was born in Mississippi (1849-1925). Her father was Alexander McAllister of Cuero (DeWitt) Texas. Her sisters were Mattie and Sally.

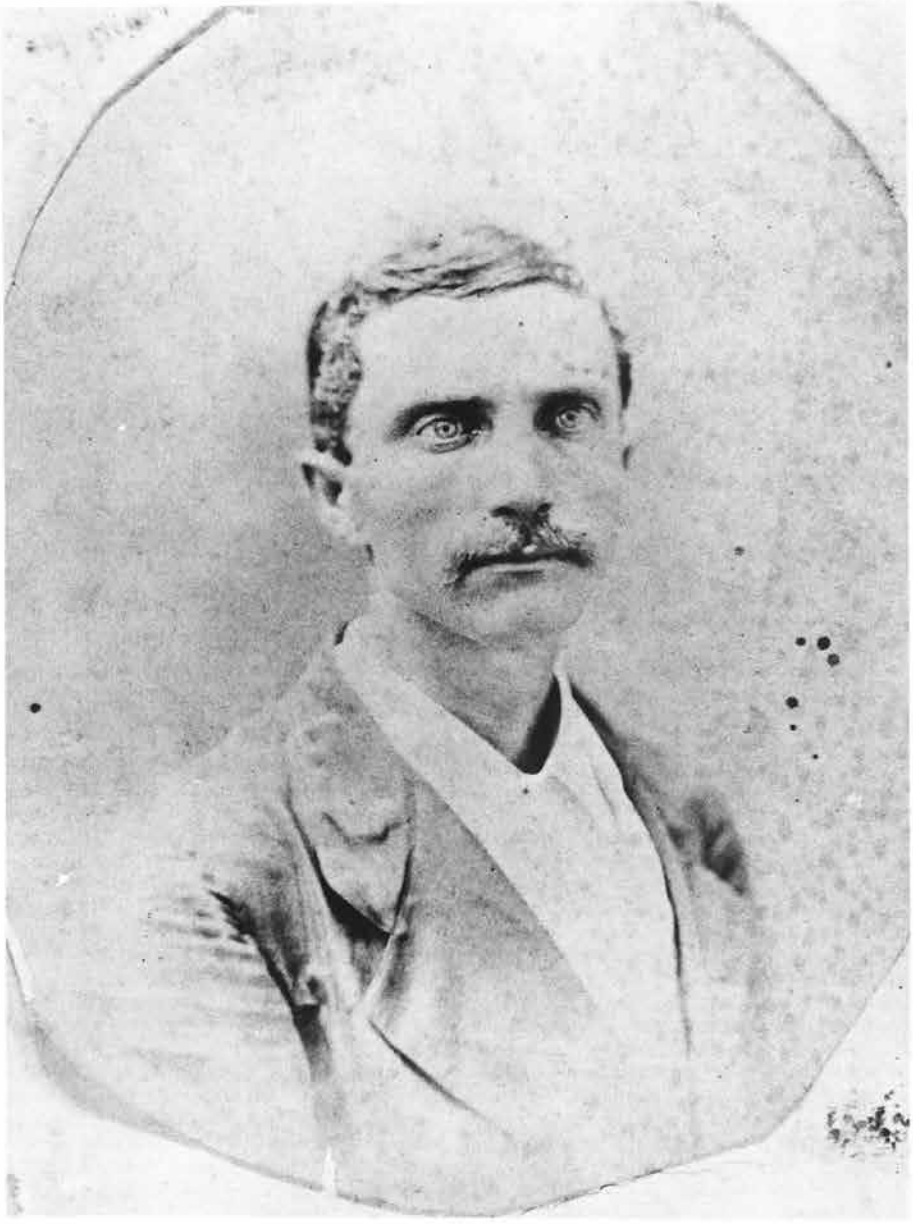
Albert was a merchandise clerk in his cousin's store, S.J. Webb & Company. He was appointed Postmaster in Clinton, serving from 7 July 1879 until James R. Wofford succeeded him in 1882. His cousin Samuel had been Postmaster from 18 May 1874 to 25 July 1876 succeeded by J.T. Kilgore who preceded Albert.

Albert and Mary Jane had seven children. The six older children were born in Clinton: Thomas Henry (1875-1955), Albert Walter (1876-?), Nancy Alberta (1878-1959), Archibald Sterling Grimes (dates unknown), George Clark (dates unknown), and Frances McNamara (1887-?). The seventh child, Clay McAllister (1888-1950) was born after the family moved back to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, urged by Albert's father, Capt. Thomas Webb to return to Vienna. This they did and prospered in farming, remaining there until both Albert and Mary Jane were laid to rest in that small community with his ancestors. Their daughters married and lived in Portsmouth, Va. Their sons had careers in law, medicine, engineering and business. Thomas Henry returned to Texas, Albert Walter and Archibald went to Oklahoma, and George Clark practiced medicine in Federalsburg, Maryland. Clay McAllister remained in Vienna to become a prominent Dorchester County farmer and canner, one of the leading and most highly respected citizens of the county.

It is interesting that Texas still beckons Albert's descendants. Of his 12 grandchildren, one is Margaret Ann Webb, daughter of Clay McAllister, now Mrs. Joseph Faries Denniston who resides at 12106 Shetland Chase in Austin, Texas. She has 2 brothers and a sister: Albert Walter (1916-1978), Clay McAllister, Jr. (1917-1956) and Marian (1924). Margaret Ann (1922) married Joseph Faries Denniston III (1923). They have three sons, one daughter and five grandchildren viz: Joseph F. IV (1949), children: Jodie Rebecca (1973) and Joseph F. V (1975); Ann Webster (1951-1982); Webb (1953), children: Christopher Clay (1972) and Jennifer June (1974); David Andrew (1960), son Daniel Andrew (1984).

There is no doubt that Joseph and Ann's move to Texas in 1957 was sweetened by the knowledge that her grandfather once lived here. Of Albert's many great-great grandchildren, their descendants may continue his line in Texas.

by Ann Webb Denniston



Samuel James Webb of Clinton

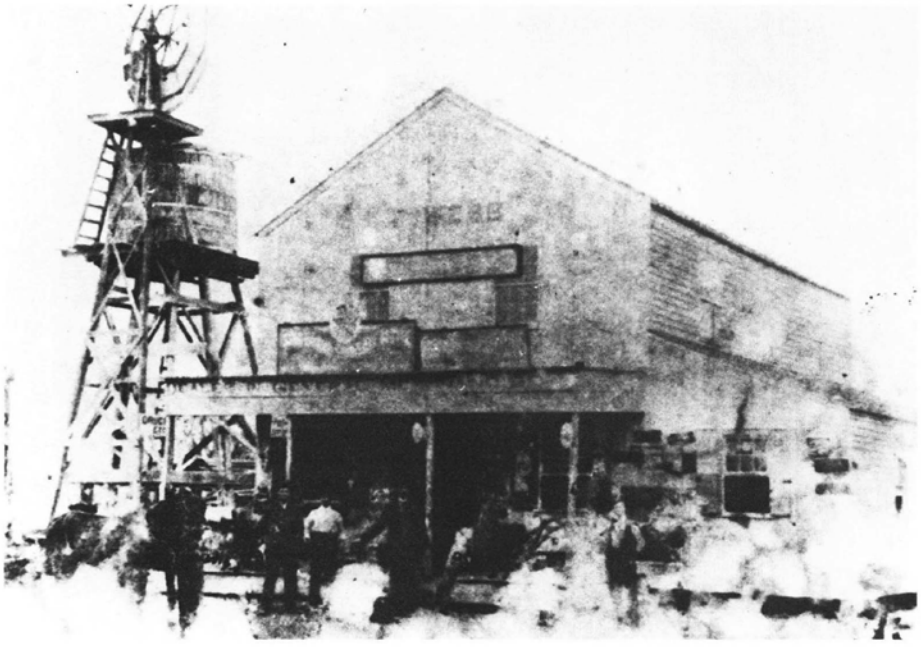
WEBB, JAMES WEBB, AND ELLEN ANN DELAMATER

F960

Samuel James Webb was born 28 January 1829 in Vienna (Dorchester) Maryland, on what is known as the Eastern Shore. He spent his early youth there. At some point in time before 1850 he emigrated to Texas, spending some time along the way possibly in Missouri. He may have traveled in company with the Reverend James N. Shearman's family, who was also from Vienna. Shearman's wife, Elizabeth Webb (daughter of Francis Webb II and Harriet Hicks), was also born in Vienna. Rev. Shearman was appointed guardian in 1843 of a James Webb; it is believed that this was Samuel James Webb. (Eliza would have been his aunt by relation to Samuel's father. Only the appointment of her husband as guardian is verified.) Only two male Webbs reported on the 1830 U.S. Federal Census in Vienna that they had male children under the age of five; Thomas and William, who were Eliza's brothers.

When the town of Clinton was created, the first town lots were sold at public auction 17 February 1852 by John R. Foster, appointed as Commissioner to handle the sale on behalf of the DeWitt County Commissioners, James M. Baker, Chief Justice, Daniel B. Friar, Jonah Taylor and C. Cardwell. Rollins B. Wofford and S.J. Webb were the highest bidder for "Half Lot Four Block Thirteen as laid down on the Map of said Town . . ." (County Clerk's Office, DeWitt County, Deeds Book F, pp. 71-72, No. 1116) The deed was not filed or recorded until July 1854. Again at auction by Foster, on 8 May 1855 Samuel purchased Lot 3, Block 13 for $59.50. The first general dry goods and grocery store owned by the firm of Webb & Wofford was built on Half Lot Four, Block 13.

From 1852 through 1873 Samuel bought and sold several parcels of land in Clinton and DeWitt County. By one recorded deed dated 10 March 1873 he sold his interest in the business he owned with R.B. Wofford and John Tyler Wofford: ". . . my entire interest and claim to the Store House and Lot . . . Lot No. 2 in Block No. 3 . . ." (Record of Deeds Book N, pp. 300-301) He received Six Hundred Dollars for this sale, which included another parcel of land from which he excluded a one-eighth acre of ground out of a tract of some two hundred sixty-two acres, ". . . on which three graves occupy the centre on above tract of land . . ." It is quite likely that the three graves referred to are the graves of Samuel's three daughters, Laura May, Fanny and Bobbie who died as young children in 1865 and 1866. This may also be the old cemetery in Clinton, since Samuel and his



Samuel James Webb store in Clinton, built in 1873, moved to Weesatche in 1879. Moved on log rollers. Tall man in suit is Leary F. Webb with sons Gene and Tom on his right and John on his left. The family lived in frame lean-to on right side of store.

wife's graves are with the children's, and have been recently identified.

Samuel married Ellen Ann Delamater 21 February 1856. She was fourteen. His descendants believe that she had immigrated to America from Alsace-Lorraine, France with her mother (who was a French Huguenot) and her brother. The mother died on board ship, so Ellen was taken by another family to be reared, and John by a different family. They did not meet again until John, by chance travelling through Clinton and stopping at the Webb store, happened to mention that his name was Delamater. Samuel called Ellen into the store to meet this man. Ellen remembered that her brother had had two toes on one foot that were joined together. John removed one shoe, revealing that *his* toes were so joined, and the brother and sister were reunited. Ellen was born 25 January 1842, and died 15 July 1876.

Ellen may have been in Texas as early as 1842. Who reared her, or when and how she arrived in Texas, is not known. It is believed that John grew up in Ohio, according to some of his descendants who now reside in San Antonio, but spell their name "Delemater." Samuel's grandchildren in the San Antonio area always called these Delamaters "Cousin."

Married in 1856, the U.S. Federal Census for 1860 shows the Webb family residing in Gonzales. Ellen's birthplace is erroneously stated as New York — which is where ships from Europe usually landed at that time. Samuel stated that he was from Maryland, a farmer, with a personal estate of $6,000 (a respectable sum of money!), and listed two small children, Larry (Leary) and Laura (newly born). He owned no slaves. No mention was made of a store in Clinton; why? one wonders. Was Clinton not yet ready for family life?

With the onset of the Civil War, Samuel enlisted in DeWitt County and was mustered into service for Texas and the South by J.A. Harral, being assigned as a private into Capt. B.J. Hogue's Company, Waul's Legion Texas Volunteers, for the duration of the War. He served with light artillery companies. Waul's Legion was among the troops under Lt. General John C. Pemberton, C.S.A., who were surrendered and paroled to Major General Ulysses S. Grant, Commanding the U.S. Dept. of the Tennessee, U.S. Forces, in the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4th, 1863. General Pemberton had hoped that by choosing July 4th (a day held in great esteem by the Union) to surrender Vicksburg, his troops might receive better terms. General Grant was adamant in dictating his own terms of surrender. Each man — officer or enlisted — would march out of the trenches at a specified time, lay down his gun, and sign an Oath of Allegiance to the United States. He would then be paroled rather than imprisoned, and could return to his home. All arms were to be surrendered, except that an officer could retain his horse and one gun. Because the Union was as desperate as was the Confederacy, parole rather than imprisonment benefited both Armies. It still was a long way from Mississippi to Texas, and winter was coming.

By December Samuel (still a private) appeared on roll with Company B, Light Artillery Battalion, Waul's Texas Legion. He managed to get home to Ellen in December 1863 briefly, and then again was back with troops at North Caney (a military encampment) with Timmons' Texas Regiment Infantry Co. G, from which in March 1864 he was transferred to McMahan's Battery, and may have participated in the Red River Campaign later that year.

This record of Samuel's service in the Civil War was recovered from The National Archives, Washington, D.C. His Oath of Allegiance, which he was required to sign by surrender terms that July Fourth was also found there. Still, as did so many Confederate soldiers, he continued his service and loyalty to the South almost an entire year after signing that repugnant document. His final date of service cannot be determined.

Ellen, meanwhile, did what other Confederate women were doing: she remained behind, caring for the home and tending her two small children, and sewing chevrons on to other soldiers' uniforms, for which she received silver coins and made them into teaspoons!

From another deed dated 20 January 1872 (Deeds Book Vol. M, pp 390-301), dissolution of the firm of Webb & Wofford can be placed in 1871. Perhaps Samuel and Rollins B. decided to go into separate businesses so that their grown sons could participate. For whatever reason, by the end of 1873, the Cuero STAR Newspaper reported in its Wednesday December 31st edition:

"The newly opened dry goods establishment of Mr. Webb's at Clinton is quite an ornament to the place. He has a large and well selected stock as can be found in Clinton and deserves the patronage of a liberal people."

The new store was built with a dwelling for his family attached, and with a stockroom in back, and a stable. By the end of '73, Ellen and Samuel had buried their first three daughters, and Ellen had borne three more children: Phinnie Floree in 1868, Joe Friend in 1870, and Daisy Ellen in April 1873. Samuel had his new store, Ellen had her new family to raise and care for. Leary Francis, now nearly seventeen, was available to learn the store trade from his father. Samuel James, Jr. was born 28 February 1876.

Samuel's "new" store appears in the book written by one Lewis S. Delony (who was born in Clinton 21 October 1857 to Lewis H. Delony and his wife) and privately published by him. The book was reprinted in the Winter of 1970 issue of the OLD WEST Magazine, copyrighted 1970 by Western Publications, Inc., Austin, Texas. Delony's book recounts his forty years as a peace officer, much of it occurring in DeWitt County. He clerked for a while for Samuel, also serving under him as Assistant Postmaster. Delony wrote of the Sutton-Taylor feud and the attempts one day of the Taylors to kill Judge Add Kilgore over some altercation. Delony hid Judge Kilgore in the Webb storeroom most of the day until the Taylors gave up the search and rode out of town.

Many other interesting anecdotes about Clinton and DeWitt County appear in the book. A copy of the magazine cited is in the possession of Mrs. Melvin J. Luker, Weesatche. Mrs. Luker is a great-great-granddaughter of Samuel; her grandfather was James Eugene "Gene" Webb, the first son of Leary Francis and Annie Elizabeth Williams Webb, born in Clinton. The story of Leary Francis' marriage to Miss Williams, and his role of executor and guardian of his younger siblings appears in a separate story in this history of DeWitt County. A biography of Leary, Annie and their descendants can also be found in the Goliad County History which was published in 1983.

Of the eight children born to Samuel and Ellen Ann, five lived to maturity. Three little girls died at an early age: Laura May (six years old) in 1865, Fannie (twenty-one months) in 1865, and Bobbie (one month) 1866. Of the five who reached adulthood, three were accident victims. Phinnie Floree Maddux, her husband Willie and three of their four children were killed by a tornado which hit Goliad May 18, 1902. Joe Friend Webb, who had become a Methodist Episcopal minister, was struck by a truck and killed instantly in 1928. Samuel James, Jr. was struck by lightning in a summer storm in Weesatche August 9, 1892, dying instantly. He was sixteen.

What else does the family know about Samuel and Ellen Ann? Very little; *too* little! Yet, from the meager records gathered by their descendants, a picture of a fine and honorable

man is drawn. Certainly an adventurer and a survivor, for he left a pleasant, well-established county in Maryland to find his fortune in unsettled lands in a new state. He was a man who built a prosperous mercantile and grocery business — twice; who bought and sold land often between 1852 and 1876. He served his community as a Postmaster (1871-1876); he was an Assistant Marshall for a time. When the need arose, he served the South and Texas without personal distinction, selflessly, leaving his wife and two small children in surroundings that could not have been other than simple. At twenty, Ellen was little more than a child, herself, but she proved equal to the task, as did many other DeWitt County wives. DeWitt County's pioneer wives deserve their own niche in the County history!

Samuel was a man who helped to build a new town from bare ground, and in the process found many friends, among them his business partners Rollins B. Wofford and John Tyler Wofford, also Webb Wofford; Judge Add Kilgore; his clerk Lewis Delony; Richard Chisholm of trail-driving fame. A pharmacist named W.T. Williams (from Tennessee), whose daughter Annie Elizabeth married Leary Francis Webb. Williams moved to Weesatche about the same time.

Samuel imbued his children with good religious beliefs, favoring the Methodist religion. He saw that his children attended school. He taught Leary the store business. When he died a year after Ellen, Sam left Leary as his executor and as guardian of his smaller sisters and brothers. Sam and Ellen are buried by their little girls in Clinton.

Samuel never returned to Maryland. A cousin, Albert Webb (1845-1923) came to DeWitt County and settled in Clinton, where he clerked in the store and pursued farming interests. He married Mary Jane McAllister (1849-1926), whose father was Alexander McAllister of Cuero. They have established a healthy line of their own, living in other states as well as Texas. His ties to Maryland endured, and he returned with Mary Jane before their 7th child, Clay McAllister Webb, was born in 1888, and are buried in Vienna.

The writer has added a listing of Samuel and Ellen's children and their spouses to this history. The children have joined their parents in death; in turn, they have been joined by their own children. Only great-grandchildren remain, and their progeny. Texans!

The children of Samuel James and Ellen Ann Webb were:

1) Leary Francis Webb who was born January 14, 1857, DeWitt County or Gonzales County, Texas and died March 27, 1921 in San Antonio, Texas. He married Annie Elizabeth Williams whose parents were W.T. and Dorcas White Williams. They married August 7, 1877 in Goliad, Texas. Annie E. was born June 20, 1862, probably in Missouri, and died July 8, 1942 in San Antonio, Texas. Both are buried in Mission Burial Park South in San Antonio, Texas. Samuel wrote this letter on July 6, 1877 from Clinton: "The County Clirk (sic) of Goliad County will pleas (sic) let my son Leary F. Webb have License to Marry Miss Annie E. Williams and oblige yours, Saml J. Webb".

2) Laura May Webb was born May 18, 1859 in DeWitt County or Gonzales County and died May 18, 1865 at Clinton, Texas. She is buried in the old Clinton Cemetery.

3) Fannie Webb was born August 31, 1864 at Clinton, Texas. She died May 16, 1865 at Clinton and is buried in the old Clinton Cemetery.

4) Bobbie Webb was born in September 1866 at Clinton and died October 26, 1866 and is buried in the old Clinton Cemetery.

5) Phinnie Floree Webb was born June 6, 1868 at Clinton, Texas and died May 18, 1902 in Goliad, Texas. She married William H. Maddux on November 14, 1888 at Weesatche, Texas. William was born in 1864 and died in May 1902 in Goliad. This couple died from injuries suffered in a tornado in Goliad, 18 May 1902, with three children. They are all buried in Goliad.

6) Joe Friend Webb was born November 23, 1870 at Clinton, Texas. He married Frances Keller "Fannie" August 27, 1891 at San Angelo, Texas. She was the daughter of William Thomas S. and Elizabeth Vance Keller. She was born October 8, 1871 in Marshall, Texas and died in May 1934 in Alpine, Texas. Joe was killed by a truck on August 21, 1928 in San Antonio, Texas. They are both buried in Seguin, TX.

7) Daisy Ellen Webb was born April 23, 1873 at Clinton, Texas. She married Joel Ferdinand Willbern on December 29, 1897 at Weesatche, TX. His parents were Alfred Reagan and Alice Virginia Stewart Willburn. He was born June 9, 1875 at Runge, Texas. Joel died in 1961 in Alice, Texas. Daisy died in Alice, Texas May 9, 1941. They are buried in Alice, Texas.

8) Samuel James Webb was born February 28, 1876 at Clinton, Texas and died August 9, 1892 at Weesatche, Texas. He was killed by lightning. He is buried at Weesatche, Texas.

by Pearl Webb Hammerle

WEBB, LEARY FRANCIS AND ANNIE ELIZA WILLIAMS

F961

Leary Francis Webb was born in Clinton (DeWitt) Texas January 14, 1857. He grew up in Clinton, going to school and helping his father in the general mercantile businesses Samuel built and owned from Clinton's beginning until he died in 1877. He lived in DeWitt County until 1878, moved his father's family and his new wife to Weesatche in Goliad County where he lived until 1912. He moved to San Antonio (Bexar) in 1912, working as a postal delivery agent until his death on 27 March 1921.1

Leary had fathered eight children, lived in three counties, and — like most citizens of that period — followed in his father's footsteps, continuing in the general mercantile store(s), trading land in DeWitt and Goliad Counties. Like his father Samuel, who served as Postmaster in Clinton 1871-1876, Leary was the Postmaster in Weesatche from 1881 to 1910, when his son John Leroy became Postmaster. (Leary earned for this service $64 per year; John was paid the handsomer sum of $320 per year!) Two of his sons, Gene and John, both owned general dry goods stores in Weesatche, learning the business from *their* father.

Some of his descendants did not have the privilege of knowing Leary, of course. The existing pictures of him show that he was a tall, gangly man (like Samuel) with blonde hair and blue eyes, easy-going but shrewd where finance mattered. They can at best surmise that he was a kind, responsible man with a knack for good business, who prospered in his different interests. He was generous with his children and his wife. He liked good houses and good fences around them, to set them off. Life set upon his and Ellen's broad shoulders responsibility not only for his own children, but for his younger brothers and sisters who were left in their care in 1877.

Leary was eighteen when Ellen died in 1876. A year later, near death, Samuel made Leary the sole executor of his estate, appointing him guardian of four younger siblings, one only a year old. The week before he died, Samuel wrote a letter to the County Clerk of Goliad County asking him to ". . . pleas (sic) let my son Leary F. Webb have License to Marry Miss Annie E. Williams . . ."This was surely a union of love as well as one hastened by necessity: there were small children to be cared for. The young couple are to be admired and honored, raising the children with their own offspring who now began to arrive. James Eugene, their eldest and firstborn, arrived June 9th, 1878, and was the only child born in Clinton, the others being born in Weesatche.

Clinton had lost its status as the county seat of DeWitt County; the railroad had selected Cuero as its terminal. By 1877, citizens were quick to react by moving their businesses and homes away to other centers of population. Land was purchased in Weesatche on the south side of the Coletto Creek by Leary (Goliad Co. Land Records, Book M, pp. 442-443), so the decision to move the family store was finalized. Can the modern reader visualize moving a very big wooden building on log rollers over dirt roads, successfully? Leary did it! But the first location proved unhandy for its customers, so in 1879 Leary purchased land on the northeast side of the creek, and moved the store again. Leary's cattle brand was "U7" (United Seven — L.F., Annie, 5 children), reg. Goliad 1879.

For his family, Leary built a fine two-story house near the new location. Here, with the help of a stern German nanny, Annie tended to the home. As his boys grew up, they learned the mercantile and grocery business. All the children went to school in Weesatche. The community quickly grew. The children took music lessons, Gene and John playing violin and guitar and horns, the girls learning piano. Fourth of July barbecues and church services and local dances provided social occasions. Close friendships were established, but the older friendships in DeWitt County were not forgotten or neglected.

After the small structure attached to the store was not used by L.F.'s family, W.T. Williams (Annie's father, a pharmacist) rented the space for a drug store. In 1912, Gene bought the store from Leary, with Alonzo Albrecht becoming his partner. Across the main street, John Leroy (the doctor or county clerk did not spell the name "Leary", as it had been intended) had opened his own general store in 1902. The building with his name and the year emblazoned on the top storefront, stand empty, unused. In 1901 John had married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hohn from Yorktown; they lived two doors down, next to Gene and ollie, across the street from the Busbys and Dr. C.L. O'Quinn, Weesatche's beloved doctor, who delivered Gene's daughter Gladys, and all three of John's children: Annie Lorraine (1902), Hazel Marguerite (1908), and the writer of this history, Pearl (1918). Gene and Ollie had already built a large brick and wood

John Leroy Webb and Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Hohn) 1901

home on property adjoining John's store. It is a handsome home, which was inherited by their daughter Gladys (Mrs. Alvin) Meyer when Ollie died 28 April 1971, Gladys died not long thereafter, passing the home to her daughter (and only child) Bobbie Jean (Mrs. Melvin J.) Luker. It is now owned and occupied by her second son, Russell Luker.

Bobbie and Melvin are Weesatche residents. Another son, Randy, lives in Goliad County. The family is engaged in ranching and cattle, and have an oil business in the county. Bobbie, Russell, Randy and his two children Ryan Webb and Courtney continue the Webb blood line in Goliad County.

Leary and Annie's children, and the siblings' families, gathered each major holiday at 130 E. Lewis Street in San Antonio. It was always a time of great happiness, and the cousins grew up in this tradition of reunion. The writer (Pearl) remembers progressing from her favorite place under the huge dining table to eat Christmas dinner . . . she was only three — to her *next* favorite stair landing on the oak staircase, reading while she ate.

In the Thirties, Annie remarried and was again widowed. She lived alone in the home. In 1941, it was the scene of Pearl's wedding reception, prepared by the aunts. Taking John's place (he died in 1938), Tom gave the bride away in a Randolph Field Chapel ceremony, to 2nd Lieut. Clarence B. Hammerle. It was the family's last big celebration. Annie Eliza(beth) Williams Webb died 8 July 1942, at home. She was eighty years old.

Leary Francis Webb and Annie Eliza Webb's children: 1) James Eugene "Gene" was born June 9, 1878 at Clinton, Texas and married Alvina Albrecht "Ollie" who was born September 25, 1885 in Goliad County. They were married January 18, 1904. Ollie's parents were William and Louise Dorbritz Albrecht. James died in Corpus Christi, August 10, 1927 and Ollie died April 28, 1971 in Yorktown, Texas. Both are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown. Some of James and Alvina's descendants are: a) Gladys Webb who married Alvin "Pope" Meyer. Their daughter was Bobbie Jean Meyer who married Melvin J. Luker of Cuero.

2) John Leroy Webb was born March 17, 1880 at Weesatche, Texas and married Elizabeth Hohn on November 20, 1901 at Yorktown, Texas. Her parents were Louis A. and Johanna Behringer Hohn. Elizabeth was born June 6, 1883 at Weesatche. John Leroy died February 20, 1938 at San Antonio, Texas and Elizabeth died April 4, 1960 at San Antonio, Texas. Some of their descendants were: a) Annie Lorraine Webb who married George Wm. Cross. Their children were; George W. Cross, Gene Leroy Cross, Ann Cross who married Dr. Tracy Irving Wallace, b) Hazel Marguerite Webb who married Walter C. Doughty and then, Bob S. Hinds. c) Pearl Adelle Webb who married Clarence Bernard Hammerlee, Jr. Their children are: George Bernard Hammerle and Holly Ann Hammerle.

3) Laura May Webb was born March 29, 1882 at Weesatche and died November 20, 1887 at Weesatche. She is buried there.

4) Marguerite Ellen "Maggie" Webb was born August 17, 1883 at Weesatche and married David Wm. Carroll "Fessor" on July 8, 1900 at Weesatche, Texas. David was born in 1871 and died October 6, 1937 in San Antonio. Maggie died August 6, 1961 in San Antonio, Texas. Both are buried at Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Texas. David and Maggie Webb's descendant was Thelma Lorraine Carroll.

5) Thomas Ketch Webb "Tom" was born October 25, 1886 in Weesatche and married Lenora A. Bilhartz on May 18, 1916 in San Antonio. Lenora was born October 25, 1896. She died September 4, 1972 in San Antonio and Tom died January 26, 1959 in San Antonio. They are buried at Mission Burial Park South.

6) Clara Bell Webb was born July 10, 1888 at Weesatche and married Fred Clyde Bruce on March 1, 1917 at San Antonio. Fred was born June 7, 1881 in Gadsden, Alabama. Clara died in Castroville, Texas on March 23, 1971 and Fred died July 1, 1972 in Lytle, Texas. They are both buried at Mission Park South in San Antonio, Texas. They had no children.

7) Albert Joe Webb was born July 30, 1891 at Weesatche. He married Mozelle Miller on August 7, 1915 in San Antonio. She probably remarried after Albert died because he is buried alone at Mission Burial Park South. He died September 15, 1919 in San Antonio, Texas. They had Mataley Mozelle Miller.

8) Leary Francis, Jr. was born January 12, 1905 at Weesatche and married Evelyn LA Fortune on June 6, 1927 in San Antonio. Leary Francis, Jr. is buried alone at Mission Burial Park South in San Antonio. They had three daughters: a) Evelyn Webb, b) Betty Jo Webb, and c) Patricia Ann Webb.

by Mrs. Pearl Webb Hammerle

HENRY SCHŒNFELD,
CONTRACTOR ∘ AND ∘ BUILDER
Now erecting Buchel building where he can be found.
CUERO, TEXAS.

Leary Francis Webb and Annie Eliza (Williams)

W.P. Webb 1916.

WEBB, WALTER PRESCOTT

F962

Walter Prescott Webb, son of Casner P. and Mary Elizabeth (Kyle) Webb, was born April 3, 1888, on a farm in Panola County, Texas. As the family moved about through Texas, he attended several schools, finally graduating from Ranger High School and receiving a teaching certificate.

After service in several one-teacher schools, he entered the University of Texas, receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1915. His first position after receiving the degree was that of Cuero High School at a salary of $1200 per year. His superintendent was A. S. Bush, and there were eight members of the teaching faculty.

Biographers Kenneth R. Phelps and Elliott West record Webb's impression of Cuero as "a splendid little town, with plenty of churches and saloons." In a more serious manner, he commented that "Cuero was clean and well kept, with many pretty houses and lawns — the best town he had seen south of San Antonio, except Corpus Christi!" Writing in *Reflections, Past and Present*, Stacey Fox reports that he roomed at the R.P. Breeden house at a rental of $10 per month and took his meals at the Baker boarding house at $20 per month, which he considered rather expensive.

Webb's responsibilities as principal included those of being chief disciplinarian, directing the senior play, paying school bills, attending teachers' meetings and the PTA, eating lunches prepared by home economics students, accompanying the various athletic teams on their out-of-town trips, coaching baseball, producing a minstrel show to raise money for the school yearbook, and recording all student grades in the school's permanent records. He was also charged with teaching six recitations in four different history courses.

Webb was obviously very popular with his Cuero students. The famous Texas artist, E.M. "Buck" Schiwetz, who was one of his proteges, described him as "very knowledgeable, patient, and knew how to communicate." Another of his sophomore history students, Mrs. Werner Fischer, remembers him with respect and affection. The school yearbook of 1915-16, of which Mrs. Fischer has a copy, included him affectionately with pictures and jokes.

Following his year in Cuero, Webb moved on to a more lucrative position at Main High School in San Antonio, and in 1918 he joined the faculty of the University of Texas, where he remained for the next forty-five years, interrupted by many visiting professorships at Stephen F. Austin State College, the University of North Carolina, the University of West Virginia, the University of Alaska, Rice University, the University of Houston, Harvard University, Queens College at Oxford University, and the University of London. During his stay at the University of Texas, he received the Master of Arts degree in 1920 and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1932. He also held honorary degrees from University of Chicago, Southern Methodist University, and Oxford University in England.

From 1936 to 1946 Dr. Webb was director of the Texas State Historical Commission, where he founded *The Handbook of Texas* and originated several of the Commission's outstanding projects. The recipient of two Guggenheim fellowships and many other distinguished awards, he was special advisor to Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson on water needs of the South and West. He is best known for his authorship, or editorship, of more than twenty books, including *The Great Plains* (1931), *The Texas Rangers* (1935), *Divided We Stand* (1937), and *The Great Frontier* (1952).

Dr. Webb was married in 1916 to Jane Elizabeth Oliphant, who died in 1960. They

had one daughter. In 1961 he was married to Mrs. Terrell (Dobbs) Maverick, widow of Maury Maverick of San Antonio. Dr. Webb was killed in an automobile accident near Austin on March 8, 1963, and was buried in the Texas State Cemetery by proclamation of Governor John Connally.

Cuero and its public school system can take pride in having been, even for a short time, the workplace of one of Texas' most distinguished historians and writers.

Note: For additional details on Dr. Webb's sojourn in Cuero, the Reader is directed to Stacey Fox's excellent article "Walter Prescott Webb" in Edition Number Four of *Reflections, Past and Present* produced by Cuero High School in the summer of 1987.)

by W. Lamar Fly

WEBER, DAVID W. AND FAMILY

F963

Dave and Eva Weber

Donald and Janet Weber Smith

David W. Weber was born January 13, 1906 in Edgar, Texas to Charles and Angie Hutton Weber. There were thirteen children born to this union. They were a farmer-rancher family in the Edgar, Mission Valley, and Roseville School communities. The Weber home place in the Roseville area, now the old Stratton Road, is still in the family and is owned by Janet and Don Smith.

David, Bea, David M., Jeffry, Julie Smith.

Dave married Eva Roessler on May 19, 1928. Eva was reared in the Nopal and Westhoff Communities.

Dave worked with his father on the farm until he was a young adult. Later he worked in the oil field and for the Department of Highways and Transportation for twenty years. After retiring from the State, he was elected Commissioner of Precinct No. 1 for DeWitt County. He held this position for twenty years. He was also an independent cattleman.

One daughter, Eva Janet Smith, married to Donald R. Smith of Dallas, on January 12, 1949. Janet and Don operate the Weber cattle interests. Don has worked for Union Carbide Chemical Company in Seadrift, Texas for thirty-five years. Janet Smith is Vice President at the Farmers State Bank and Trust Company, Cuero, Texas.

There is one grandson, David R. Smith, born June 13, 1957. David married Bea Bauer Hartman on October 1, 1982. The three great-grandchildren are Jeffry, Julie and David Smith.

Dave Weber died June 7, 1988 at the age of 81 years.

by Mrs. Don Smith

WEBER, MICHAEL CLIFTON AND AGATHA KATHERINE

F964

Michael Clifton Weber (1904-) and Agatha Katherine Weber (1906-) were born in Victoria to Valentine Weber (1871-1914) and Agatha Clara Hans Weber (1872-1909). Valentine Weber's parents were the immigrants, Michael Weber (1845-1913) and Katherine Fuhrman Weber (1847-1911). Michael Weber had come from Mannheim, Baden, Germany in 1866. He came to St. Louis, Mo. There he met and married Katherine. They came to Texas in 1870. Clara Hans Weber (the mother of Clifton and Agatha) was the daughter of immigrants, Ambrose Hans and Agatha Hans Hans (1838-1911), who came from Alsace-Lorraine in 1861. They settled on land between Arneckeville and Mission Valley.

When the children, Clifton and Agatha, were very small, Clara Hans Weber became ill. She took the children and moved in with her mother, Agatha Hans, in DeWitt County.

When the children were five and three respectively, Clara Hans Weber died. Valentine Weber left his home and farm and came to stay with his mother-in-law, Agatha Hans, and the children. His sister-in-law, Mary Hans, lived there also. The father, knowing he would be unable to care for the children sought a home for them among his brothers and sisters. He found a home for each of them but not both of them together. When he told Mary Hans this, she said she would take both the children. After staying with the children a few months, Valentine Weber went back to Victoria and sold his house and farm. He then bought land on the Garcitas Creek near Telferner in Victoria County where he was living when he died. The children continued to live with Mary Hans at their grandfather's house.

The aunt, Mary Hans had never married. When her mother, Agatha Hans died, Mary received a life interest in the house as long as she lived there with the children. If they moved, the house reverted to the estate. A guardianship was set up for the children when their father died.

The children attended grade school at Golly Hollow. When Clifton finished the seventh grade, he came to Cuero and entered high school, boarding first with a Mrs. Karo and then with Mrs. Frank Gohmert. Then in 1921 when Agatha had finished the seventh grade Mary Hans came to Cuero and rented a house and Agatha entered high school. Later Mary Hans purchased a house at 107 E. Sarah. Clifton and Agatha were graduated from Cuero High School in 1923 and 1925, respectively.

Clifton had begun his business career two years before graduation by taking a job with Davidson Electric Company. Shortly after graduation he went to work for the R.C. Flick Auto Company selling buggies, harness, wagons, and, secondarily at that time, Chevrolet automobiles. The store was located on the northwest corner of Esplanade and Church Streets where Means Furniture Company now conducts business in the same building.

After graduation, Agatha went to work as a secretary for Judge Waldeck. She worked there eight years.

In 1937 the Ford Franchise for Cuero was open. It was offered to Clifton. He and Agatha decided to take it together but Ford Motor Co. had a policy against women as dealers. They refused to let Agatha be a part of the deal. Upon hearing this, Clifton said that if his sister were not included, he himself was not interested. Ford capitulated and Agatha Weber became the only woman dealer in the Houston District.

Weber Motor Company under the two Webers was first located in the old Masonic building on the northeast corner of Church and Gonzales Streets where at present the Weber Insurance Agency office and sales lot are. Later they purchased the building across the street on the southeast corner from August Hartman. At one time that building had been a filling station and later a Buick agency. They moved there and Weber Motor Company has operated at that location ever since. During all the years Clifton Weber sold Fords, he also served seven

years, including one year as chairman, on the Houston District Ford Dealers Advertising Committee.

In 1969 Agatha Weber retired after thirty-two years in the business, and Clifton bought her out. In 1958, upon graduation from Texas University, Michael C. Weber, Jr. joined the firm. In 1977 Clifton Weber, himself, retired and sold the business to his son, Michael, the present owner. In 1980 still another Weber, Michael Clifton Weber III went to work at Weber Motor Co. as a salesman and later was named General Manager.

Aside from their business careers, Clifton and Agatha Weber participated actively in the life of the community. Agatha was a life-long Catholic. She was a member and past Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of St. Michael's Church in Cuero. She is particularly proud of having organized the Junior Catholic Daughters. In the thirties she was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club. Later she was selected by the Victoria Pilot Club, which was interested in staring a Pilot Club in Cuero, as organizational chairman of the committee whose business it was to determine the feasibility of a club here. When the Pilot Club was organized here, she became a charter member and served as its president one term. She has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 1937.

In 1953 Agatha married Carl Wagner (1901-1983), a jeweler. After a few years she and Carl moved to a ranch about eight miles out on the Yorktown Highway. Clifton and Agatha had purchased this ranch in 1934. It had formerly been part of the Reed Ranch. Agatha lived there until shortly after her husband's death when she moved to Cuero where she still lives.

Clifton Weber's community life was varied. He volunteered for the Fire Department in the early twenties and served under Chief Robert Heyer. In 1935 he became Fire Chief himself and served in that capacity for thirteen years. He was an early member of the Lion's Club. It was Weber who led the movement to restrain the behaviour of the Lions in their meetings. (The Lions were pretty riotous in the beginning!). He recruited ministers and eventually the Lions calmed down to the point where a minister felt he could stay in the club without compromising his dignity. Weber was active in the club for many years and served as its president, as has his son Mike and grandson Cliff.

With Weber's participation, first as an individual member and then as the owner of a business, he has served the Chamber of Commerce for many years and is a past president. In 1967 the Chamber gave him its Outstanding Citizen Award.

Clifton Weber was elected to the Board of Directors of Cuero Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1949. He was elected President in 1952 and Chairman of the Board in 1972 and is still serving in that capacity. He also was President of the Steering Committee that organized the Cuero Hospital District and served the Hospital District as its first Chairman.

For many years Weber served as parade chairman of the Turkey Trot. He prided himself on starting the parades precisely at eleven o'clock. In one of those Turkey Trots, Governor Beauford H. Jester was Parade Marshall, and as such, was supposed to lead the parade; however, when the town clock struck eleven, he was not there. Weber gave the order to roll and the parade started. A few minutes later a very excited Bert Kirk came up in a convertible with the Governor in it. Weber would not stop the parade. The Governor had to accept a lesser place where he could fall in. Kirk was distraught but the Governor thought it was fair enough.

In 1935 Clifton Weber married Kay Fischer (1913-), the daughter of Arthur Charles Fischer (1887-1956) and Mary Will Blackwell (1891-1977). Clifton and Fay have two children.

I. Michael Clifton Weber, Jr. (1935-) m. Merilyn Richards Weber (1938-). They had three children: (1) Katherine Elizabeth Weber (1955-) m. Dan Cox (1956-). Two children: Jonathan Cox (1980-) and Abigayle Cox (1983-). (2) Michael Clifton Weber III. (1957-) m. Sharon Thornton 1959-). Two children: Michael Clifton Weber IV (1984-) and Campbell Wilson Weber (1987-) (3) Richard Charles Weber (1964-) m. Lisa Breed (1967-).

II. Mary Gayle Weber (1941-) m. Dr. Paul Brindley. Their children: (1) Paul Claunch Brindley, Jr. (1965-,), (2) Mitchell Mace Brindley (1967-), and (3) Hans Bethea Brindley (1970-).

by Merilyn Weber

WEHE, HENRY FAMILY

F965

Henry and Leona (Metting) Wehe, 1989 Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Henry E. Wehe and his wife Leona Metting Wehe were both descendants of families who came to America in the 1850's and settled in the area around Yorktown. Henry's grandfather Louis Wehe arrived with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Wehe in 1851 when he was only 4 years old. Leona's grandfather Albert Metting Sr. came to America with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Metting I in 1859 when Albert was only 9 years old. Both families settled on tracts of land outside of Yorktown and became involved in farming and related agricultural trades.

Henry E. Wehe was born on November 30, 1917 in Yorktown, the youngest child of Henry Wehe Sr. and Marie Sauermilch Wehe. He had an older brother Marcus and two sisters Amanda and Elorine. Henry was educated in the Yorktown public schools and graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1936. Shortly thereafter, because of the illness and subsequent death of his brother, it became necessary for Henry to run the family farm with his widowed mother. On October 22, 1939 he married Leona Marie Metting at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown. They moved into the family homestead with Henry's mother and continued operating the family farm. This farm, which consists of 96 acres, was part of the original 800-acre tract that Henry's grandfather Louis had purchased in the late 1800's. It is located about 4 miles north of Yorktown on the Westoff Highway.

Leona Marie Metting was born on December 26, 1917 in Yorktown, the only daughter of Otto and Katie Stehle Metting. She had 4 brothers: Ernest, Ervin, Werner and Ottwald. Ottwald died at the age of 16 in 1940. Leona was educated at the Golhke Country School through the 8th grade, after which she continued living and working on the family farm until she married. Both Henry and Leona were baptized and confirmed members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown.

After their marriage, Henry and Leona continued living on the family farm. In the early 1950's they began operating a dairy and also a milk delivery route for the people and businesses of Yorktown. In 1961 they stopped delivering milk, but continued operating the dairy until 1967 when Henry took the job of City Secretary of Yorktown and they moved into town. In 1969 a move to Victoria was necessary as Henry began a career with the U.S. Postal Service. In 1975 they moved to Weesatche when Henry was appointed Postmaster in that community. They lived in Weesatche until 1979 when the opportunity became available for them to move back to the family farm in Yorktown. Henry continued with his job until his retirement in June 1988 after completing 20 years with the postal service. Presently, they remain active, involved members of their church and community as well as enjoying many other activities including gardening, playing dominoes, traveling, and visiting the children and grandchildren.

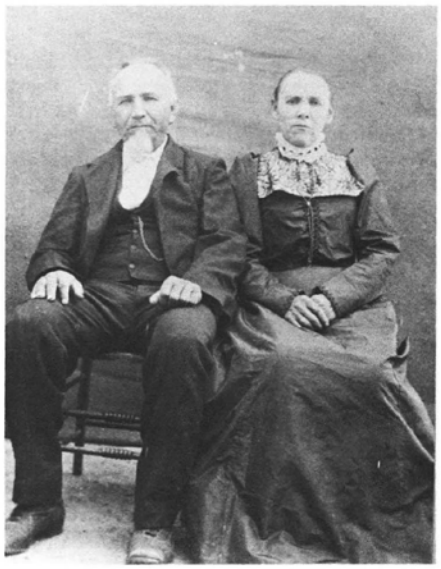
Henry and Leona Wehe had five children. Nathan (1940) is married to Donna Terry and has two sons Nolan and Rodney. Kathrine (1942) is married to G.R. "Buddy" Boldt and their children are Kandy, Ginger, Wesley, Clayton, and Travis. Joycelynn (1943) married Lawrence Onken and has two children Keith and Laura. Marian (1945) married Roy Hoefling and has two children Bryan and Sheila. Nellene (1950) married Jim Dlugosch and has two children Jason and Angela.

Henry and Leona are looking forward to celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in October, 1989 with all of their family and friends. The pioneer spirit that sustained their ancestors — hard work, honesty, caring about others, a love for family and the land, and a strong belief in God — has also been reflected in the life of this couple. They are a well-known and deeply respected couple of DeWitt County today.

by Joycelynn Onken

WEIGELT, JOHN AND MARGARET WENDEL

F966



John Weigelt and Margaret (Wendel) 1900

In the early days of Texas when immigration from Europe was becoming more commonplace, many families were lured to the new land by relatives or friends who had gone before them and had found a better life with many privileges they could never have had back in the old country.

In 1838, a man named John Weigelt, who had emigrated earlier to New York from Cassel, Bavaria, heard about the colonization taking place in Texas. The promise of plenty of land in Texas prompted him to leave New York and make his way to Colorado County, Texas, along with his wife and two stepsons. Soon John Weigelt began writing his brother, Anton Weigelt, who was still living in Cassel with his wife and four children, about the fine prospects in Texas. He even promised to give him some land to start with if he would only join him in Texas. Several years passed before Anton Weigelt and his wife, Barbara Schmitt finally decided to join John Weigelt in Colorado County, Texas. When nearly ready to emigrate, Anton became ill with typhoid fever and died. Barbara was devastated, not only by the loss of her husband, but by the grim future in Cassel for herself and the four Weigelt children. Finally, in 1854, Barbara Schmitt Weigelt, her four children, John, Gertrude, Eva and Mary and several of Barbara's brothers, left Cassel, Bavaria and joined John Weigelt Sr. in Texas.

Young John Weigelt was only eight years old when his father died, leaving him as literally, "head of the house". He took his father's request seriously, but this "head of the house" title did not last too long for young John Weigelt. As soon as the family reached Texas, Barbara Schmitt Weigelt married John Guenther, a man also from Cassel, Bavaria, in Colorado County, Texas in 1854. This situation left John Weigelt and his sisters with a stepfather of whom they were not particularly fond. Soon, two more children were added to the household, both, girls; one dying at age 3 and Magdalena, living to adulthood.

The Weigelt-Guenther home was near the Catholic Church at Mentz, Texas and church records show that the family did attend services there. The Weigelt children received very little education during their early years in Texas, but eventually the German community provided schools for the children to attend.

John Weigelt was born to Anton Weigelt and Barbara Schmitt on 24 June, 1844 in Cassel, Bavaria. On October 27, 1868 he married Margaret Wendel at St. Roch's Catholic Church at Mentz, Colorado County, Texas. Margaret Wendel was born in Bingen, Germany to Frank Wendel and Cecilia Mayer on August 27, 1848. Margaret emigrated with her family from Bingen, Germany to Texas in 1854. After their marriage, John and Margaret lived in Colorado County for several years and their first three children were born there; Barbara in 1869, who died an infant; Cecilia 1870 and Magdalena in 1872. John Weigelts' sister, Mary, who had married Otto Hanselmann and lived in Victoria, urged John Weigelt and his family to join them in Victoria County. John and Margaret purchased land in Victoria County in 1875 and moved there; a location which was in the Mission Valley area. Later John bought land nearer the town of Victoria and lived in that location until 1892.

In 1875 the first son, Phillip, was born and the last son, Frank was born in 1877. In 1891, John and Margaret Weigelt adopted an infant girl whose mother had died when the child was born. The child was Margaret Grueb and her parents were Sebastien Grueb and Otilia Beyer, who had emigrated from Volkshausen, Bavaria. This same year, Cecilia Weigelt married George Braden, a young man the family had known from Mentz, Texas. It was then that John Weigelt decided to purchase 600 acres of land in the Daniel Davis League in DeWitt County on the West side of the Guadalupe River between Hochheim and Cheapside. John had never been satisfied with the land in Victoria County as it was not the best for farming and it lacked the wood and water which were desirable at the time.

In 1892, John, his sons, Phillip and Frank, and daughter Cecilia and her husband, George Braden, camped in a tent on the newly purchased property while they built a house for the family. George Braden and Cecilia, who were expecting their first child soon, pushed the project as fast as possible so that the house would be ready in time for the first grandchild. John and Margaret lived in this house until death claimed John Weigelt in 1916 and Magdalena moved to Yoakum to live with their daughter, Magdalena, (Olsen).

Not long after the Weigelts moved to the Hochheim area, their son Frank died from typhoid fever. This beautiful land along the Guadalupe river was very fertile, producing cotton, corn and other crops in abundance. The bottomlands near the river had hundreds of native pecan trees which provided good harvests most of the time. However, this land which had all the wood and water John Weigelt desired, was plagued often with too much water when the Guadalupe River flooded, leaving many swampy areas that became infested with mosquitos. John and Margaret watch many times as a beautiful crop, ready for harvest, washed away with the flooded river. The good times evidently were more numerous than the bad times as the Weigelts did prosper on this land and most of the property that was purchased in 1892 is still owned by Weigelt decendants.

John and Margaret were devout Catholics but being so far away from a church, were not able to attend Mass very often. The problem was remedied when the priest from Cuero would ride out to the Weigelt home, say Mass for all the nearby Catholics, baptize any new babies and occasionally perform a wedding. John and Margaret were instrumental in organizing and helping to build St. Ann's Catholic Church on the Hochheim Prairie.

John and Margaret spoke German most of the time at home, as did their children and grandchildren, even though the adults spoke English fluently. When Julia and Phillip Braden started to school they could speak more German than English. The teacher admonished them all to speak English, which they did from then on. Eventually the German language became the second language and then was forgotten entirely.

John Weigelt was known to be extremely serious, stern and hard working, having little, or no, patience with people who idled away time. He practiced soil conservation long before there were governmental agencies to implement such practices and constantly scolded his children if they did not take care of the land. Margaret Weigelt, the opposite of her husband, was extremely kind, gentle and patients with everyone, especially her grandchildren. Needless to say, they were very fond of their grandmother, but behaved very properly when in the presence of their grandfather. John Weigelt hated automobiles, favoring his trusted team of horses to the new contraptions occupying the roads. No one in the family even considered purchasing an automobile until John Weigelt died, at which time his three grown and married children hastily bought their first cars, stored the buggy in the shed and saw life move at a faster pace. Phillip Weigelt bought a Dodge, Cecilia bought an Overland and Magdalena bought a Ford.

Cecilia Weigelt married George Braden and they had six children; Magdalena, who died at age 11 from typhoid, Julia, Phillip, Anne, John, Joseph and Sylvester. Magdalena Weigelt married Joseph J. Olsen and they had three children; Henry, John and Ellen. Phillip Weigelt married Anne Olsen (sister to J.J. Olsen) and they had four children; Frank, Ellen, Margaret and Lawrence. Margaret Grueb, the child that John and Margaret raised, married George Stock, from Colorado County, Texas, George being a relative of the Weigelts. Maggie, as she was called, and George Stock lived their last years in Alice, Texas. They both died and are buried there.

John Weigelt and Margaret Wendel are both buried in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas.

by Jeane Bitterly

WEIGELT, PHILLIP AND ANNE OLSEN

F967

Phillip Weigelt was the oldest son of John Weigelt and Margaret Wendel, early immigrants from Germany to Colorado County, Texas. Phillip was born March 9, 1875 in Victoria County, Texas, his parents having moved there shortly before he was born. Phillip attended school in Victoria and went to the Catholic Church, sometimes in Meyersville,

and sometimes in Victoria.

In 1892, Phillip's father purchased land in DeWitt County on the West side of the Guadalupe River near Hochheim in the Daniel Davis League. Phillip helped his father and brother-in-law, George Braden, build a house on this land. Phillip lived in this house until he married, at which time he and his wife lived on land near Cheapside. Phillip helped his father farm the fertile valley land, producing large crops of cotton and corn. The native pecans that grew in the bottomlands along the Guadalupe River yielded many good harvests. This pastoral setting was not a bed of roses, as the Weigelts soon found out. The river would often flood, leaving the lowlands with an army of mosquitos, snakes and other abominations. In 1893, Phillip's brother, Frank, died from typhoid fever and from then on, typhoid and malaria became watchwords for the Weigelts.

Phillip Weigelt married Anne Olsen, the daughter of Henry Francis Olsen and Ellen Coffey. The Olsen family had lived in many places before settling in Luling, and later the Denton Creek area of Gonzales County. Phillip and Anne purchased land near Cheapside so that they could live on high ground out of the infested bottom land. For some reason no one seems to remember, Phillip and Anne did not live at the Cheapside location very long and soon moved back to his father's farm and lived in a little house a short distance from the elder Weigelt.

In 1900, Phillip and Anne had their first child, Frank. Two years later, a daughter, Ellen, was born but lived only a few months. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas. The next child, Margaret, was born in 1905 and named for her grandmother, Margaret Wendel Weigelt. Lawrence, the last child, was born in 1915.

Phillip's sister, Cecilia and husband George Braden left the Weigelt farm and made the move to Hochheim in 1905 and Magdalena and husband, J.J. Olsen had moved to Yoakum about 1910. Phillips' father died in 1916 and his mother went to Yoakum to live with his sister, Magdalena. The time seemed right to make the move to Hochheim too; something he had been thinking about for a long time. Phillip Weigelt and his wife purchased a house in Hochheim with just enough land for a small garden and there they lived from 1916 until they both died. Margaret Weigelt and her brother, Lawrence, attended Hochheim School along with some of their cousins, the George Braden children, and attended St. Ann's Catholic Church on the Hochheim Prairie. Phillip and Anne enjoyed this "town" living, especially having neighbors close by. In his later years, Phillip would walk from his house to Braden's Store, which was not far, and there he would visit and play a few games of dominos with some of his old friends. Everyone called him "the Mayor" and he liked that.

Frank Weigelt married Irma Moczegemba and they had one daughter, Aileen. Aileen married William Manning of Yoakum and had two children, Carolyn and Ralph. Margaret Weigelt married John Arthur Kelley of Yoakum and they had three sons; Charles, Douglas and Clyde. Margaret, a widow, lives in Harlingen, Texas. Lawrence Weigelt married Frances Vinklarek and they had three children; Lanelle, Mary and Lawrence Jr. Lawrence Weigelt, a widower, lives in Corpus Christi, Texas. Lawrence Weigelt Jr., the son of Lawrence Weigelt and Frances Vinklarek, is the only living decendant of John Weigelt (1844-1916) to possibly perpetuate the Weigelt name.

Phillip Weigelt and his wife Anne Olsen Weigelt are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas.

by Jeane Bitterly

WEISS, JOSEPH, SR. AND ELIZABETH DONEMAN

F968

Joseph Weiss, Sr.

Carl Weiss, Hedwig Weiss and Joseph Weiss, Jr.

Joseph Weiss, Sr. was born July 7, 1923 in the kingdom of Bayern, Germany. The following story was told to us, however there are no documents to verify it. Joseph, Sr. with his wife and five children left Germany so the sons did not have to go to war. They moved to Austria. There with another family they owned a winery. The Weiss family did all the labor and the other man took care of the bookkeeping. However the bookkeeper mishandled the money and skipped the country. This left Joseph Weiss, Sr. with all the debt which he could not pay. Joseph, Sr. is supposed to have served time in jail. It is believed that the shame hastened the death of his wife, Elizabeth Doneman Weiss. She died and is buried in Germany. The Austrian government took over the winery and sent Weiss his share of the profit after he came to America. The Weiss family were sup-

Joseph Weiss, Jr. and Hedwig Weiss (bro. and sis.).

posed to be wealthy while in Germany. Esther Zengerle, daughter-in-law of Elizabeth Weiss Zengerle, recalls Elizabeth saying that this was such a change for her in America. In Germany they lived in a nice brick house and here they lived in a log cabin.

Joseph, Sr. came to America landing in New Orleans, La. Dec. 30, 1870. With his five children he came to Arneckeville and purchased land for their home. All of the children were born in Germany. 1) Caroline, Nov. 3, 1846-Jan. 5, 1926, married Fred Friedrichs. 2) Karl, July 7, 1853-March 23, 1929, never married. Karl was blind. One day Karl went to the corn crib to feed the cattle. The bull wanted corn faster than Karl could feed it and the bull horned him. After that Joseph, Sr. always had polled Herefords. 3) Hedwig, Nov. 10, 1856-Jan. 24, 1942, never married. 4) Elizabeth, Feb. 11, 1861-Feb. 25, 1943, married Edward Zengerle. 5) Joseph, Jr., July 4, 1862-June 16, 1941, never married.

When we visited with Joseph, Jr. and Hedwig (Georgie, Dalton and I, Elorine Friedrichs) we would always find pennies in the yard. Edieth Zengerle Nagel also remembers finding money. Great-uncle Joe would have sharp hoes for us to use to look for money. Dalton still things he threw money in the yard for us to hunt and would get his yard chopped as we were looking for pennies.

by Elorine Friedrichs Hartman

WENDEL VICTOR GEORGE

F969

Victor and Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel. Wedding Jan. 14, 1934

Victor George Wendel was born September 25, 1911 in Meyersville, Texas. He is the son of the late Fred and Amalia (Diebel) Wendel. He attended Meyersville School and was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

He married Regina Sophie (Kornfuehrer) Wendel, January 14, 1934 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas. She is the daughter of the late Henry and Annie (Arnold) Kornfuehrer. She attended New County Line School until the Fall of 1927, when she and her family moved to Victoria.

Victor and Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel Jan. 14, 1935

Fred Arlen Wendel, Patricia (Wendel) Thieme, Talbert Wendel Jan. 18, 1974

She graduated from Patti Welder High School in May 1931. They lived across the street from the High School at 1515 East North Street.

Victor and Regina built a small wood frame house close to Victor's parents. They farmed and raised cattle, turkeys and hogs. They had three children; Fred Arlen, Patricia (Patty), and Talbert. Their histories follow.

The Wendels operated a Grade B Dairy in the middle 1940's, after which a Grade A Dairy barn was built around 1946. They took much pride in the dairy, and their family holds many treasured memories of those days of working together.

Fred Arlen, Patty and Talbert's job was to keep the feed buckets filled for the next shift of cows to come into the barn. They sometimes got so interested in the *Lone Ranger* program on the radio in the feed room, that they wouldn't notice that a batch of cows was through being milked. Then the new batch came in to find empty troughs. There was confusion for a while as the cows milled around, and Victor gave "scoop" duty to the guilty parties. By then, the *The Lone Ranger* was over.

Regina made cottage cheese by letting the milk turn to clabber and then putting it in a thin cloth and hanging it up to drain and settle. Patty's job was to churn the cream into butter. She complained about this at times. to cure this, Regina bought some oleo margarine as it first came on the market. It was white and in a pound chunk that came with a yellow food color to be mixed into it. It was easy, quick, looked pretty, but tasted awful. Patty was glad to churn again and eat the real thing.

The fresh milk was put into cans and into large coolers that had cold water circulating around them. Harold Hartman and later Reuben Gohmert would load the cans, which were covered with insulated jackets, onto a truck and take them to the Crescent Valley Creamery in Cuero. The cans were outdated when dairies were required to have bulk tanks for holding milk. Victor and Regina went out of the diary business when this change was required. Victor then operated a maintainer, working on road construction, and raised cattle. Fred Arlen and Patty both milked cows for their own families' use.

Regina was a devoted wife and gentle mother who took pride in being a housewife. She was an excellent cook, baked bread, canned fruits and vegetables from her garden and butchered and dressed the chickens and turkeys. Patty cut into the gall, while removing it from the chicken liver, many times before she mastered the art of dressing a chicken. Fred Arlen and Talbert learned the art of butchering hogs and sheep as they helped Victor and Grandpa Fred.

The Twelve Mile Creek which runs just below Victor's house had many rises and deep fishing holes when Fred Arlen, Patty and Talbert were growing up. Grandpa Fred caught many good meals of perch on a cane pole there. At the time of this writing, the creekbed is dry and the fishing holes are gone. This same creek was crossed on horseback as Fred Arlen, Patty and Talbert rode their Shetland ponies, Billy and Spunky to Meyersville school. Spunky would often lie down in the creek letting the lunch boxes float downstream.

When Fred Arlen and Patty started school, Victor asked Merton Ideus to bridle and saddle Spunky for their trip home. Patty remembers her parents asked Merton because he was sensible and trustworthy. Fred Arlen soon took the job over and helped Talbert in his first years of school.

Arriving home meant hunting the turkeys in the pasture and driving them home, which was a slow process as they ate grasshoppers etc. along the way. Then, someone had to stand by until all the turkeys had flown to the roost for the night. Victor and Regina sold turkey eggs behind Eggs Store in Meyersville. This paid for the groceries during the years. Each egg had to be carefully stamped with a number to identify who brought them.

Victor loved to go coon hunting. He had good coon dogs and knew their voice no matter how many dogs were in the pack treeing a coon.

Victor and Regina loved to play dominoes, bridge, and checkers. Regina often made egg nog or hot chocolate and Victor brought out his choice homemade wine.

Fred Arlen and Talbert would go with Victor to help Grandpa Fred on jobs such as repairing windmills, or doctoring baby calves with screw worms which were a constant menace. Their work together was a bonding of generations, always with humor mixed in. Victor's sense of humor left many happy memories for the family. He would get Grandpa Fred to imitate Santa on the telephone as he let them all take turns talking to him. Just for fun, he built a harness for his German Shepherd to pull the wagon and children around, thus giving them a taste of horse ·d buggy days.

Regina with m. patience, taught Patty to

sew on an old treadle machine, making buttonholes by hand.

Victor and Regina had a deep respect for God, their parents, the elderly, their country and life in general.

Victor was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and Regina a member of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, both in Meyersville. Regina died of cancer at the age of 53, March 18, 1967. Victor died suddenly of a heart attack at the home of his parents at the age of 56, December 30, 1967. They are buried in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

To look back is to remember the peace and sense of deep caring and security, as Patty and her brothers saw their parents and grandparents take each day, one day at a time, knowing that God held them in the Palm of His Hand. To be part of their family is to be truly loved and blessed.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

1965 Christmas: Standing – Fred Wendel and Amalia (Diebel) Wendel, Steated: Elmo Hoff, Edwina (Wendel) Hoff, Rachel (Hudson) Wendel, Halley Wendel, Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel, Victor Wendel.

WENDEL, FRED AND AMALIA (DIEBEL)

F970

Many memories are vivid in the minds of Edwina, and Halley and Victor's children concerning the examples set in life by Fred and Amalia Wendel. Perhaps the greatest was to be thankful and appreciative for the simple things in life; also, for the heritage of land because of the hardships involved in acquiring it.

Grandma Amalia spoke of cutting her wedding dress up to make baby clothing when times were hard. She also told how she picked cotton the day Edwina was born, and of letting the small children sit on the cotton sack as they pulled it through the fields.

There is an old liveoak tree still standing where Fred and Amalia's first home was. She told how Halley, Victor and Edwina played under the tree while they worked in the fields nearby. It was all necessary to pay for the land – land that is now their grandchildren's heritage.

The land, "the good earth", provided a living, but only by the seat of their brow. It was a slow process when a team of mules pulled a one row plow and other equipment. Fred bought a one row Allis Chalmers Tractor in the early 1940's. Fred Arlen and Patty recall riding in the corn wagon while their mother, Regina, drove the tractor with Talbert, then a baby, beside her. Fred, Amalia and Victor pulled the corn by hand. Regina pulled corn later when Fred Arlen learned to drive the tractor at an early age. Patty and Talbert soon learned to drive, graduating Fred Arlen to the corn pulling task. Victor bought a double row Farmall B a few years later which helped speed the field work up.

Amalia (Diebel) Wendel and Fred H. Wendel ages 79 and 80

Fred H. Wendel Family: Back – Victor, Edwina (Wendel) Hoff, Halley. Front: Fred Wendel and Amalia (Diebel) Wendel. Late 50's or early 60's.

German was always spoken in the fields and at home enabling Victor's children to learn this second language. Patty recalls the time she drove the tractor while her grandparents pulled corn. A big thunderstorm came up and they stood on the back of the wagon as Patty headed for home across the terraces. Patty's German wasn't too good at that time, and the more Grandpa Fred waved his arms saying, "Slower, Slower," the faster she went. Patty thought he said, "Faster! Faster! They were a bit shaken, and needless to say, reviewed Patty's German on the words fast and slow.

Fred and Amalia belonged to a "Meat Club" about 1926. Alvin Doerhman would butcher a cow on a Friday. One could have his choice of

Amalia (Diebel) Wendel at 80 plus – preparing Thanksgiving Dinner.

meat by going to his house on butchering day. Edwina would sometimes drive there, because on butchering day, he would give away liver, soup bones and the heart. To wait until he delivered meat meant one had to take whatever cuts of meat were available. The meat was covered with cotton ducking to keep it cool, and to keep the flies off. Everyone in the club would donate a cow ever so often to pay for the meat they had bought.

In 1937 or 1938, Fred and Amalia's children helped turn Victor and Halley's room into a bathroom with a sheet metal bathtub. Victor was the main carpenter. Grandma Amalia being so thankful, wrote on the back of a board hiding the plumbing how thankful she was for this modern convenience, and how happy she was that her children and their families never had a real argument. Their grandson, Bill Wendel and his wife, Elizabeth Haun Wendel now live in this home. In 1989, they remodeled the bathroom and found the loving words, written by grandma, that had been hidden all those years. The Wendel's whole life was one of thankfulness, and they never ceased expressing it. Halley, Victor and Edwina shared in this quality.

Fred and Amalia had only a 4th or 5th grade education, but they could read and write English and German, add, subtract, etc. very accurately. They were very healthy, but with the small children and hard work, Grandma became overworked. She went to a doctor and he told her what she needed was more exercise. She enjoyed good health through the years and in July 1957, got her first shot because of a dizzy spell. Grandpa enjoyed good health also, but on one stay in the hospital, the doctor lifted the covers to listen to his heart and found a prayer book. The doctor stated he had often found things under the covers, but never a prayer book.

Elizabeth (Haun) Wendel found in St. John's Lutheran church records that Grandpa Fred was to be confirmed on March 31, 1901, but had to wait until April 21, 1901 because of having the measles.

Holidays and birthdays were memorable times at Grandma's house. Everyone knew she would have their favorite turkey, dressing, homemade noodles, wine rice etc. Anise cookies were an extra treat. From Grandma's humble kitchen, she prepared this favorite meal for the large family until she was in her 80's. Edwina lovingly filled the void in their lives after losing Halley, Esther, Victor and Regina in so short a time. After Grandma's death, Edwina and all the family still made Grandpa feel like head of the family in his home, always respecting his wishes. Otto Hartman graciously took care of Grandpa Fred from about 1974 until Grandpa died. He even baked a turkey etc. and with Edwina's help, we were still all able to come together out of love and respect for Grandpa and Grandma. Edwina now bakes the anise cookies and wine rice as a treat for family reunions.

Grandpa and Grandma never had to beg the family to come help them with anything. They would patiently wait for help, whether it was for replacing a light bulb in their 10 ft. ceilings, or repairing a water line etc. Never complaining, they always knew someone would come by very soon. Everyone considered it a precious privilege and the labor of love to be able to help them. In giving love, they received it back in double the amount.

To have Halley's children a few weeks in the summer was a special joy since Halley lived so far away, in Corpus. Grandma was so glad Edwina had a daughter, Sandra, because she knew the joy of having a daughter like Edwina.

It was their prayer and hope that with the heritage of the land, family harmony, love and respect would always follow each generation to come.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

WENDEL, FRED ARLEN
F971

Fred Arlen Wendel was born in Cuero, Texas, January 18, 1936. He is the son of the late Victor Wendel and Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1954. He graduated from Baldwin Business College in Yoakum in 1959.

Burma Lee and Fred Arlen Wendel Jan. 23, 1960

1983 Fred Arlen Wendel children: Back – Collin, Mark and Alan. Front: Karl and Sharon

Fred Arlen joined The Texas National Guard from April to August 1954. He then joined the Untied States Marine Corp August 3, 1954, taking his Basic Training at Marine Corp Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. He attended Telephone School and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. He served two and one half years stationed in the Far East including Korea, Japan, Okinawa and the Phillipines. He was discharged August 1, 1958 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He married Burma Lee Hazel (Buschermihle) January 23, 1960 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Halletsville, Texas. She was born March 26, 1940 in Halletsville and is the daughter of the late Frank John Buschermihle and Ida Era (Holly) Buschgermihle of Halletsville. Burma graduated in May 1958 from Halletsville High School and from Baldwin Business College in 1959.

Fred and Burma live in Meyersville and have five children; Mark, Sharon, Alan, Karl, and Collin who all live in Meyersville also. They have six grandchildren, four of whom are living.

Mark Edward Wendel was born in Victoria, Texas, August 24, 1961. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1979. He attended Victoria College completing a 976 hour course in Electric Arc and Acetylene Welding in 1980.

Mark married Michelle Ann (Tam of Cuero, August 18, 1984 in St. Michael's Catholic church in Cuero. Michelle was born January 21, 1966 and is the daughter of Edward James Tam and Genevieve (Kulik) Tam of Cuero. Michelle graduated from Cuero High School in May 1984.

Twin daughters, Heather Sue and Hope Marie were born to Mark and Michelle February 12, 1987 in Victoria, Texas. They died at birth and are buried in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville. Another daughter, Kelsey Nicole Wendel was born March 16, 1988 in Victoria.

Sharon Lynn Wendel was born November 14,1 962 in Victoria. She attended Meyersville Shcool and graduated from Cuero High School

in 1981. She belonged to the National Honor Society and was president of it in her senior year. She was also co-captain of the Trotters. She graduated from the Victoria College with an Associates in Arts Degree in 1984.

Sharon married Tracey Lamar Foerster, September 8, 1984 in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville. Tracey was born August 27, 1963 in Goliad, Texas. He is the son of Creston Lamar Foerster and Mildred Janet (Heibel) Foerster of Weesatche, Texas. Tracey graduated from Goliad High School in 1981.

Sharon and Tracey have two sons. Wendel Lamar Foerster was born June 15, 1986 in Victoria, and Corey Blaine was born September 20, 1989 in Victoria also.

Alan Ray Wendel, Sr. was born November 11, 1963 in Victoria. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in 1982. He graduated from Victoria College in 1985 with an Associates In Applied Science Degree.

Alan married Cynthia (Cindy) Ann (Brosch) on March 2, 1985 in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas. Cindy was born October 8, 1963 in Shiner, Texas. She is the daughter of Edwin J. and Margie Ann (Faltysek) Brosch of Victoria. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Victoria High School in May 1982. They have one son, Alan Ray Wendel, Jr., born March 24, 1987 in Victoria.

Karl Anthony Wendel was born September 30, 1966 in Victoria. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1985. He graduated from Victoria College in 1988 with An Associates In Arts Degree.

Karl married Amanda Jeanne (Schoener) on April 8, 1989 in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria. Amanda was born August 18, 1969 in Victoria. She is the daughter of Alvin Ray Schoener and Claudia Carol (Wuest) Schoener of Victoria. She attended Nazareth Academy in Victoria and graduated from St. Joseph High School in May 1988. She also graduated from USA Hair Academy in Victoria in 1989.

Collin Fred Wendel was born January 25, 1972 in Victoria. He attended Meyersville School and will graduate from Cuero High School in May 1990. He is in the National Honor Society.

Fred Arlen has been employed by Union Carbide in Seadrift, Texas since December 1959 and Burma is a housewife. They also raise cattle, using the F branding iron that was handed down to Fred Arlen by his Grandpa Fred H. Wendel.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme

WENDEL, FRED H. AND AMALIA (DIEBEL)

F972

Fred Herman Wendel, one of sixteen children, was born in Meyersville, Texas Jan. 8, 1887, son of George and Albertina Boldt Wendel. He married Amalia Diebel, born April 15, 1886, daughter of William and Bertha Haun Diebel, one of nine children. She was born in the Golly community. They were united in marriage Oct. 28, 1909 at the Meyersville Lutheran Church.

The young couple rented a farm from Fred's father and raised cotton, corn, chickens and turkeys. Their greatest pleasure was working with their cattle. "F" was the brand they used to identify their cattle. In later years the branding iron was handed down to Fred Arlen Wendel, a grandson and namesake.

Fred and Amalia (Diebel) Wendel 1909.

They were devoted christians, and life-long members of St. John's Lutheran church in Meyersville. Sunday was the day the family went to church. Fred helped with the building of the present church and served as councilman and elder of the church. They are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville.

Hard work and thrift were the characteristics of the lives of this couple. They were good providers and good managers. Well filled barns, a smoke house well-supplied with meats and a barrel of mustang wine were the rule.

They bought only the bare necessities in order to buy their own land and build their own home. The home they built is now home to their grandson, Bill Wendel and his wife Elizabeth Gohmert Haun Wendel.

Fred was six foot, one inch tall and was known as "Grandpa Fred" to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Amalia was five foot three inches, and was known as "Grandma Molly".

The children inherited their parents keen wit and delightful sense of humor. Their home was the scene of many family gatherings. Cards and dominoes were favorite pastimes of the Wendel family.

Fred and Amalia enjoyed 62 years of married life. They were a close-knit family. Amalia passed away May 3, 1973, at the age of eighty-seven years. Two years later, March 9, 1975, Fred passed away at his home, at the age of eighty-eight years.

They were blessed with three children:

Halley Wendel, born May 18, 1910, died May 22, 1966. 1) Married Esther Dreier Dec. 27, 1931; Born Jan. 11, 1910, died Oct. 1, 1950. 2) Married Rachel Hudson Aug. 2, 1953; born May 15, 1915.

Victor Wendel, born Sept. 25, 1911, died Dec. 30, 1967; Married Regina Kornfuehrer Jan. 14, 1934; born July 9, 1913, died Mar. 18, 1967.

Edwina Wendel, born Aug. 26, 1914; Married Elmo Hoff, June 14, 1935; born Mar. 25, 1914.

Fred was the last surviving child of George and Albertina Wendel.

by Edwina Hoff

WENDEL, HALLEY WILLIAM AND ESTHER NATALIE (DREIER)

F973

Esther and Halley Wendel 1949

Halley William Wendel, son of Fred Herman Wendel and Amalia K. Diebel Wendel, was born on May 18, 1910, in Meyersville, Texas. He was named after Halley's Comet and was the eldest of three children: Victor (9/25/12 – 12/30/67) who married Regina Kornfuehrer and settled in Meyersville; and Edwina Marie (8/26/14) who married Elmo Hoff and settled in Schroeder.

Esther Natalia Wilhemina Mathilde (names after her godparents) Dreier was also born in Meyersville on January 11, 1910, to Alfred G. Dreier and Amalia Hartman Dreier. She was second to the eldest of six children: Elenora Mathilda Amalia (7/6/07 – 10/11/10) who died at the age of three; Louis Alfred Henry (2/7/12), who married Irene Kahlich and settled in Meyersville; Elvira (1/27/15 – 8/15/66) who married Bryant Sholars and settled in Corpus Christi; Margaret Louise Mathilde (2/22/17) who married Allen Wendel and settled in Weser; and Louella Ruth (11/3/22) who married Alfred (Pete) R. Mauer and settled in Victoria. Esther and Halley "met" while their mothers sat outside the old stone church at Meyersville trying to entertain their fretful infants. It was said that Esther made the first move by biting Halley. They grew up near each other on farms along the Twelve-Mile Coleto Creek in this small German community. They went to the many country dances, often taking younger brothers and sisters along. Halley went to school in Meyersville and Esther studied at the County Line School which was built

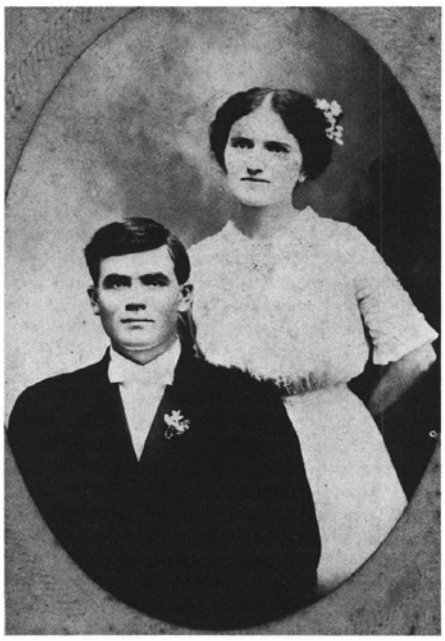
on land donated by the Alfred G. Dreiers. They also boarded the teachers as did some of the other close neighbors. Halley and Esther were married Dec. 27, 1931, by Pastor H.C. Wehmeyer in Meyersville's St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. After their marriage they moved to Cuero where Mona Fay (10/14/32) and Halley Boyd (1/12/35) were born. William Alfred (Bill) was born in Alice Feb. 17, 1938, and Mitchell Wayne arrived in Corpus Christi Dec. 9, 1949. Halley was first employed clerk in Boyd and "Deet" Crains grocery store in Cuero. The children remember Mr. Crain or Uncle Boyd (Halley Boyd was named after Boyd) bringing brown and white striped peanut butter logs to them while they waited for their Daddy to get off work. They later followed the Crains to Alice, working for them until they closed the store. Halley then began working for the HEB grocery chain. He was transferred to the Corpus Christi Agnes St. HEB in 1938. Halley and Esther opened Wendel's Food Market in 1946 or 1947 at the corner of Morgan and Baldwin in Corpus Christi. The boys helped in the store after school and on weekends. This was also considered the "Coon Hunter's Headquarters" of Corpus Christi. Halley gained a great deal of publicity Thanksgiving Day 1932 when he shot an 85 pound seven-foot mountain lion with a .22 rifle while hunting with a new pair of hounds on the Buehrig ranch in the Five-Mile Community. He was also an avid domino player who could tell what you had in your hand after only a few plays. He came by this naturally from his parents, Fred and Malie. He was also known for his baseball prowess. Esther was a talented painter in oils. Her paintings grace the walls of many homes today. She loved music and played the organ, led the Junior Choir and sang in the choir at First Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi. She died of leukemia Oct. 1, 1950, at the age of 40. Two years after Esther's death, Halley married Rachel Adeline Paulson Hudson on August 2, 1952, in Corpus Christi. She had three children by a previous marriage: Weldon (10/26/36), Sylvia (11/24/45) and Ronald (10/24/43). The couple continued to operate the grocery store until Halley's death on May 21, 1966. Mona Fay married Elwood Alfred Knetig (5/2/29), a Nueces County farmer from Robstown on April 25, 1952. They have three children: Robert William (7/12/53) married Christine Lockman from Orange Grove on August 26, 1978. They have two children: born in Corpus Christi; Tiffeny Elizabeth (6/29/80) and Kyle William (8/6/82); Esther Anne (named after her grandmothers) married Mark Edwards from Houston on May 14, 1988, in Austin; and Stephen Wayne (11/16/56) who resides in Austin. Halley Boyd married Jane Lee Bryant (8/7/40) on June 5, 1959, and lives in Portland and Coleto Creek near Schroeder. They have two children: Randall Lee (5/25/60) who lives in Corpus Christi; and Elizabeth Dawn (1/22/62) married to David Lindsey (4/17/62) on Sept. 1, 1984, and lives in Springfield, Virginia. William Alfred (Bill) married Naomi King on Mar. 11, 1960, in Las Vegas, Nev. They had one child, Beverly Lynn (11/15/60). Naomi had two children by a previous marriage — Craig David (3/30/58) and Debra Lee (6/18/55). After Bill's divorce he married Elizabeth Gohmert Haun on April 30, 1988. They live in the Fred Wendel home in Meyersville. Elizabeth and John Haun (11/10/38 – 1/10/81) had three children: Terry Ray (9/23/57), Jeffery Dale (6/5/59 – 7/28/80); and Lee Charles (8/21/65). Mitchell married Claudia McElveen on Oct. 2, 1971, in Corpus Christi. They had two sons: William Howard (Bill) 12/2/73) and Matthew James (8/20/75). After their divorce, Mitchell married Pat Barber Heasley on July 24, 1981. Pat has two children by a previous marriage; Kimberly (6/29/68) married Johnny Whitworth on Aug. 19, 1988, and has one son Johnathan (2/1/89); and David (8/22/70). They live in Corpus Christi.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

WENDEL, JOHANN AND ELIZABETH (RIEMENSCHNEIDER)
See Story F778

WENDEL, PAUL AND ELFIE DIEBEL DOHMAN

F974



Paul and Elfie (Diebel) Wendel Sept. 15, 1912

Paul Albert Wendell was born on 13 May 1889 in Meyersville, DeWitt County, Texas to Johann George and Auguste Albertina Boldt Wendel. (See separate story.) He was the second youngest of 16 children. Paul married Elfie Diebel Dohman on 15 September 1912 in the Lutheran Church in Weesatche, Texas. Paul died on 30 December 1958 and is buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. He and Elfie lived on the old Wendel homestead which now has a One Hundred Year Heritage Plaque.

They farmed, growing cotton, corn and cane. Paul also bought and sold cattle, raised turkeys, sheep, hogs, chickens, and milked cows and sold butter and cream. For Sunday dinner their home was the gathering place for most of the Wendel clan. Reuben Wendel, his nephew, relates many tales of the times he stayed with them and said he had many friends.

Elfie Diebel was the oldest of 11 children born to Edward and Emilie Dobsky Diebel of Weesatche. Edward Diebel was born on 7 February 1862 in Meyersville, Texas, to Christoph and Katherine Schewitz Diebel. He was married on 31 August 1886 to Emilie Dobsky who was born on 4 June 1866 at Hoosierville Creek, Goliad County, Texas. Her parents were Adolph and Rosalie Dobsky who lived in Dobskyville, Texas. Edward died on 26 August 1910 and is buried in the Weesatche Lutheran Cemetery. Emilie died on 5 March 1960 and is buried in the Crescent Valley Cemetery south of Victoria near Bloomington, Texas. Elfie was born on 22 January 1888. At the age of 12 she started playing the organ in the Ander Lutheran Church. She married Oscar Dohman on 13 November 1906. They lived on a farm near Weesatche. He died of a ruptured appendix on 30 June 1908. After her husband's death, she sold their home and farm and stayed in people's homes and sewed for them. On 15 September 1912 she married Paul Wendel. After Paul's death in 1958, she lived alone on the Wendel property until her death when she was 100 years and 10 months of age. She sewed beautiful quilts and quilted them, giving many to family members and making some for friends.

On 24 January 1988 Elfie's children honored her with a birthday party for her 100th birthday. The party was held at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church parish hall in Meyersville. Elfie and her sister, Linda Henke, entertained the many friends and relatives with their singing. Also on the program were songs by children and grandchildren. Mrs. Frances Hartman read a poem she had composed on thimbles, and Pastor William Laubenberg sang The Lord's Prayer and gave a short service about her life.

Paul and Elfie Wendel were members of St. John Lutheran Church in Meyersville. She continued to be active in church activities and was regular in church attendance until her death on 24 November 1988. She is buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville. She belonged to the Ladies Aid and sang in the choir.

Paul and Elfie had five children: Allen, Alonzo, Ruth, Cleo and Ruby Lee. Ruby Lee died in infancy and was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Allen Wendel married Marguerite Dreier on 1 November 1936 and they now live on the Wendel homestead. They have 5 children. Alonzo (Punch) Wendel married Gladys Preiss on 13 July 1941 and they had 3 children. One son, Warren, died in a car accident in 1981. They live in the Schroeder Community. Ruth Wendel married Leon Nagel on 21 December 1941 and they live in Meyersville. They have three sons. Cleo Wendel married Josephine Vrazel on 9 June 1956 and they have two children. Josephine died on 14 May 1987, and she is buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville, Texas. Cleo lives in Cuero, Texas.

by Mrs. Ruth Nagel

Theo. Simon & Son
Try the new shop for all kinds of first class
Blacksmith and Wheelwright Work
Buggies neatly painted
Horse shoeing a specialty. Guarantee with second shoeing to prevent "striking." Shop south of track Stockdale ave, opposite S. P. depot yards.

WENDEL, TALBERT HENRY

F975

Talbert Henry Wendel was born September 22, 1941 in Cuero, Texas. He is the son of the late Victor Wendel and Regina (Kornfuehrer) Wendel.

Talbert attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1960. He joined The Texas National Guard in October 1959 and took Basic Training at Fort Ord, California. He was in the National Guard Reserve for six years.

He married Karen Kay Obsta September 15, 1962 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas. "Katie" was born March 27, 1943 in Victoria, Texas. She is the daughter of Francis B. Obsta and Lillian Margaret (Schlein) Obsta of Mission Valley, Texas. She attended Nazareth Academy School in Victoria, Mission Valley School and graduated from Victoria High School in May 1961. She attended Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

They have three children, Gordon, Jason and Molly Wendel.

Gordon John was born July 17, 1963 in Victoria. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1981.

Jason Thomas was born May 10, 1967 in Victoria. He attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1985. He attended Victoria College.

Molly Regina was born May 18, 1970 in Victoria. She attended Meyersville School and graduated from Cuero High School in May 1988. She is attending Bauder Fashion School in Arlington, Texas.

Karen was killed instantly in an automobile accident August 21, 1978. She is buried in Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville, Texas.

Talbert's home in Meyersville was destroyed by fire in January 1983.

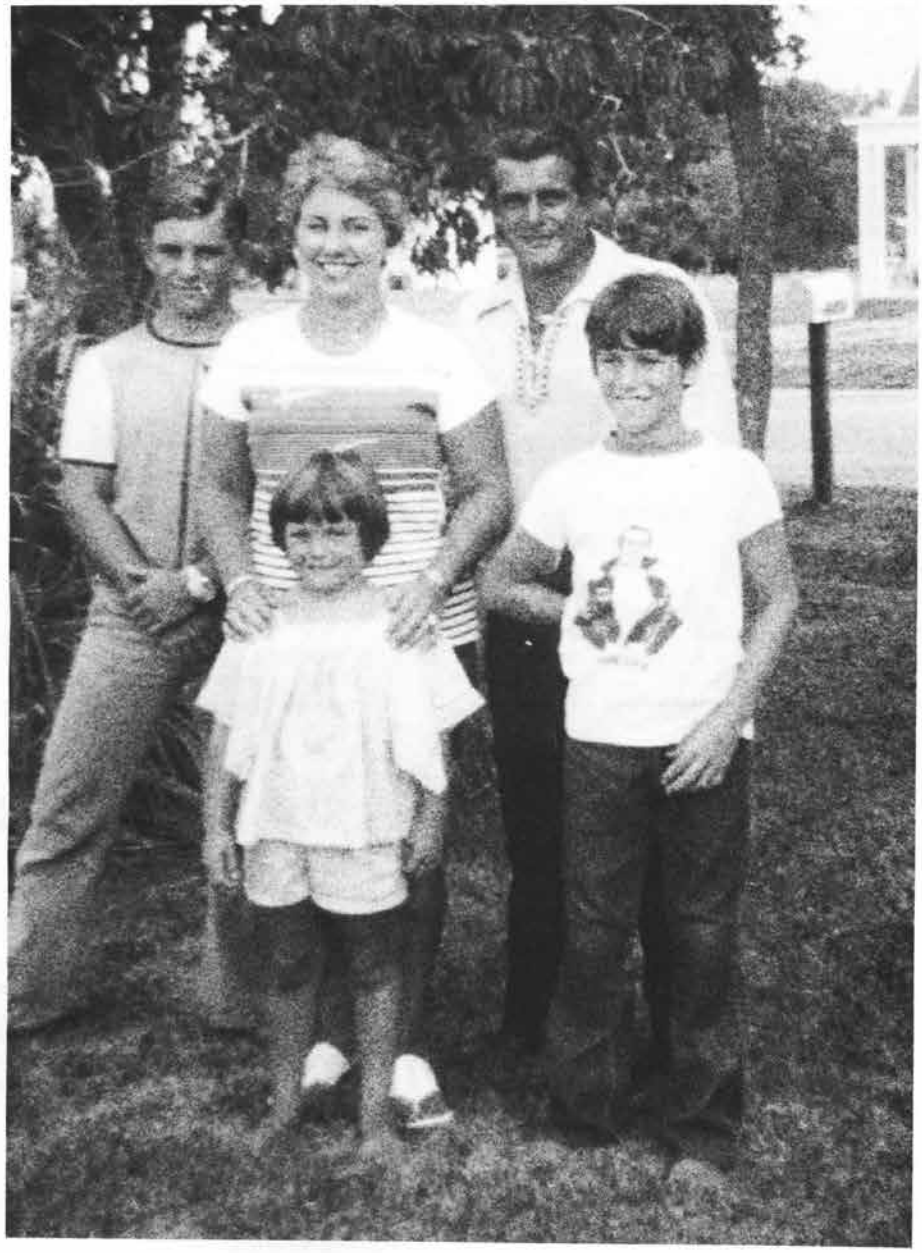
Talbert married Jo Ann Hoefling Bruns June 6, 1987 in Cuero, Texas. Jo Ann was born November 12, 1948 in Yorktown, Texas. She is the daughter of Carl and Otha (Bingham) Hoefling of Yorktown. Jo Ann graduated from Yorktown High School in May 1967.

Jo Ann has one daughter, Lisa LaNae Bruns of Cuero who was born November 6, 1968. Lisa graduated from Cuero High School in May 1987. She attended Victoria College and is now attending The University of Houston in Victoria, Texas.

Talbert raised cattle using the brand on the right hip. This was his parents' brand handed to them by Regina's father, Henry Kornfuehrer. Talbert's son Jason now uses it also.

Talbert is employed by Union Carbide Corporation in Seadrift, Texas since May 1961. He also owns Wendel Sandblasting and Painting Shop in Meyersville where Jo Ann also works.

by Patricia Wendel Thieme



Talbert H. Wendel family: Back: Gordon, Karen (Obsta) Wendel, Talbert, Molly, Jason. 1977

DEWITT COUNTY BRANDS
PLACED IN THE ANIMAL
SCIENCE BUILDING AT
TEXAS A & M COLLEGE

T	Raetch Wagner
(B)	Sylvester Butler
/o	Haun Family
-W-	Dr.Corrine Westphal
V	Rudy Roeder
P-	Patty Muir
⌒	Alfred Friar
UZ	J.L.Sheppard
~	Reiffert Blackwell
B	Buelah Bennet McDougal

JOHN WELCH, • • •
• • JEWELER.
Diamonds, Watches and Art Goods.
Fine line of Cut Glass Goods.
MAIN ST., CUERO, TEX.

June 6, 1987 – Back: Molly Wendel, Lisa Bruns, Jo Ann (Hoefling) Wendel, Talbert Wendel, Jason Wendel, Gordon Wendel. Front: Glen Tampke.

WENDEL, WILLIAM ALFRED AND ELIZABETH MARIE (GOHMERT HAUN)

F976

William Alfred Wendel and Elizabeth Marie Gohmert Haun were married April 30, 1988, in the old stone church of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Meyersville, Texas. Bill and Elizabeth were following in the footsteps of their ancestors who founded this beautiful historical church in 1850. Two of the men who signed the church constitution of 1859 Christoph Diebel and George Wendel were their forefathers.

Mr. and Mrs. (Bill and Elizabeth) W.A. Wendel, 1987.

William Alfred was born February 17, 1938, in Alice, to Halley William Wendel (5/18/10-5/21/66) and Esther Nathalie Wilhelmine Mathilde Dreier (1/11/10-10/1/50). Their story is elsewhere in this book. Bill was raised in Corpus Christi where his family operated the Wendel Food Market. Bill's brothers and sister are Mona Faye (10/14/32), Halley Boys (1/12/35), Mitchell Wayne (12/9/49). Bill graduated from W.B. Ray High School in 1956. He joined the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Lake Mead Base in Nevada. There he met Naomi King and married her on March 11, 1960. They had one daughter Beverly Lynn, born on November 15, 1960. Naomi had two children, Craig David King (3/30/57) and Debra Lee (6/18/55). After serving three years in the Marines, Bill worked as a security guard at the Nevada Test Site for 25 years. Following his divorce Bill retired and moved to Meyersville.

Elizabeth Marie was born November 6, 1935, to Reinhold Henry Gohmert and Linda Anne Emilie Diebel in Meyersville, the youngest of four children: Ruth Myrtle (8/11/22), Reuben Lee (6/26/24), and Charles Friedrich (9/13/26). Elizabeth graduated from Cuero High School in 1954. She married John William Haun (11/10/38-1/10/81) on July 7, 1956. They had three children: Terry Ray (9/23/57), Jeffery Dale (6/5/59-7/28/80), and Lee Charles (8/21/65). Their story is elsewhere in this book. Bill and Elizabeth are members of St. John where Elizabeth serves as secretary-treasurer of the Old Church Restoration Committee. They are living in Bill's grandparents house, the old Fred Wendel place.

by Mrs. W.A. Wendel

New tapioca at Breeden Bros.

Seed Potatoes $2.50 per barrel at Otto Buchel & Co's.

WESTHOFF, WILLIAM, JR.

F977

William Westhoff was born at Indianola in Calhoun County on the seventeenth of May, 1872 and went through the disastrous storm that practically destroyed the town in 1875. He is the son of W. Westhoff, native of Germany who came to the United States at the age of thirteen, landing in New York and later going to St. Joseph, Missouri, then to Meyersville, Texas, then to Indianola. Last, he moved to Cuero where he died in 1911. William Westhoff's mother, also a native of Germany, was formerly Rosa Buchel, who passed away in DeWitt County in 1923.

On the sixteenth of November, 1897, Mr. Westhoff was married to Miss Louise Korth, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Korth, pioneer residents of DeWitt County. They have one daughter, Rosa Lou Westhoff.

William was the Mayor of Yorktown for a number of years. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and affiliated fraternally with the Sons of Hermann.

With the coming of the railroad to Yorktown, The Westhoff Eckhardt Lumber Company opened in Yorktown. The firm was composed of Mr. William Westhoff of Cuero and Mr. William Eckhardt of Yorktown with William Westhoff, Jr. as manager.

William Westhoff, Jr. died July 20, 1940. Louise (Korth) Westhoff died October 15, 1944. They are buried in Westside Cemetery in Yorktown.

WESTON FAMILY

F978

The Westons have lived in DeWitt County since the early 1900's. Mack Weston was married to Lorena Wofford. There were nine children in this family: George, Ella, Ernest, Mary, Leonard, Florence, Henry, Janie and Olan. They lived on a farm about three miles south of Westhoff, just off the Cuero Highway. Mr. and Mrs. Weston later moved into Westhoff where they resided at the times of their respective deaths.

George Weston married Katie Lee Goldman. There were five children in their family: Claude, James, Orline, Bessie Lea and Ray. Orline, now Mrs. George Iley of Gonzales, taught school at Concrete in the early 1940's. At the time of his death in October of 1927, George Weston was the Constable in Westhoff.

Ernest Weston married Emma J. Goldman, sister of Katie, and there were six children: Clifton, Carlton (Monk), Charles, Joyce, Kenneth and Royce. The children of both of these families attended schools in Westhoff and Cuero. During World War II, Clifton and Carlton Weston served in the Army and saw action in North Africa and Europe. Charles served in the Navy and saw action in the South Pacific. During the 1950's Kenneth served in the Navy. For many years Ernest and Clifton Weston ran the Circle Dot Cafe in Westhoff. Ernest Weston was the Deputy Sheriff in the Westhoff Community for many years.

Florence Weston married W.B. (Jake) Smith whose family ran the cotton gin in Westhoff for many years. Their son Leroy Smith is still a

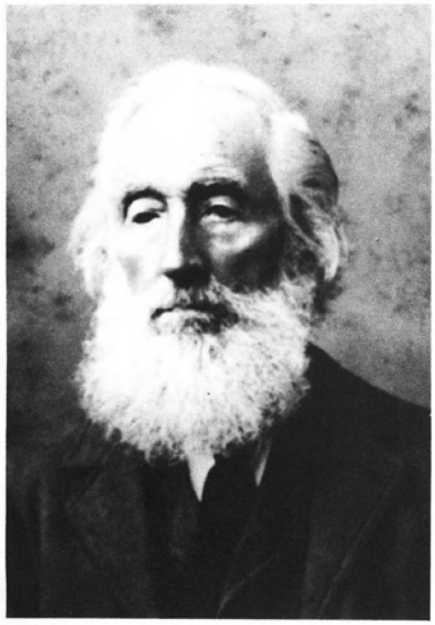
resident there.

The other children of Mack and Lorena Weston scattered to various locations in Texas. All of their nine children are now deceased, but the third and fourth generations of the Weston family reserve the fourth Sunday of April, Decoration Day at the Westhoff Cemetery, to come to Westhoff for a Reunion. They meet to keep in touch with each other and to renew fond memories of visits with grandparents and aunts and uncles who were early settlers in DeWitt County.

by Joyce W. Kayser

WESTPHAL, JOHANN AND MARGARETHA FAMILY

F979



Johann August Westphal

Johann August Westphal was born in Germany on June 20, 1827. He came to Texas at the age of 24 and married Margaretha Aschmann on Aug. 18, 1854, in Clinton, Texas. Margaretha was born in Gumberinen, East Prussia, on Sept. 6, 1829. The couple settled on a farm a couple of miles from Yorktown. They had eight children, but only four survived past infancy. Rudolph was born on March 20, 1855; Minna on April 9, 1859; Robert on Oct. 17, 1870; and Hugo on Sept. 8, 1872.

According to family legend, Johann was opposed to slavery and took his family North, possibly to Indiana, during the Civil War. Part of the journey was made by stern-wheel paddle boat up the Mississippi River. As the story goes, one child fell overboard and was drowned during the trip. After the war, the family returned to Texas.

Johann caught bronchial pneumonia while rounding up cattle on horseback, in the rain. He died on Aug. 2, 1905. His wife Margaretha died on Jan. 19, 1902. Their son Randolph preceded them in death on Feb. 4, 1884. Daughter Minna married a man named Klokau. She also died young, on June 19, 1892. Hugo Westphal died on March 10, 1897.

Robert Westphal graduated from Starling Medical College in Ohio in 1902. Starling College later became part of the Ohio State Medical School. While he was in Ohio, Robert met and married Sadie Laylander, a school teacher, in 1901. After his graduation, Dr. and Mrs. Westphal moved back to Yorktown.

The couple had three children. Margaret Claire was born on Dec. 11, 1903, but died on June 4, 1904 of the "summer complaint," a fever which caused diarrhea and dehydration, and which killed many young children in those days. Robert and Sadie then had a son, Darwin, born on April 8, 1905. Darwin became a medical doctor like his father. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee in 1930. Darwin married Dr. Mary Morgan on April 8, 1959, in Houston, Texas. They had one daughter, Elizabeth Ann, called Betsy, who was born on Aug. 15, 1962, in Florida.

Dr. Mary Westphal died a few years ago in Bellview, Washington. Dr. Darwin Westphal and his daughter Betsy live in Philadelphia, where Betsy works for a real estate company.

The last of Robert and Sadie Westphal's children is Corrine, born on Nov. 21, 1907, in Yorktown. She graduated from Yorktown High School, then attended Southwestern University, majoring in English while planning to be a teacher. She received her B.A. at the age of 19. While in college, Corrine was inspired by her brother Darwin to become a doctor, despite the obstacles presented to women entering the medical profession in those days.

Corrine received her M.A. with a major in history and a minor in English. She majored in pre-med at Vanderbilt, then graduated from medical school at Washington University in St. Louis in 1934 as a doctor of medicine specializing in ophthalmology. The fledgling doctor experienced discrimination upon trying to receive an internship. She applied to six different hospitals and was refused by five of them on the grounds that they had no place to house her. Corrine was forced to lose a year of internship by taking a teaching job at the University of Iowa. She finally got a residency in Iowa the following year. She later left for a better internship in Kansas City, but lost a year of residency when lack of funds caused her to take a teaching job at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Ray K. Dailey finally used influence with Jefferson Davis City Hospital in Houston to start an ophthalmology department in which Corrine became the first resident. The program was very disorganized and lasted only a year, but it gave Corrine her start and taught her a great deal. She then worked with Columbus Eye Associates in Columbus, Texas, from 1959 to 1968. From 1968 until her retirement in 1976 she worked in Burns Hospital at Cuero, Texas, and operated her own office in Cuero as well.

Dr. Corrine Westphal still lives in Yorktown, the place where she was born. One of her prized family heirlooms is a saddle belonging to her grandfather, Johann August Westphal.

by Arlene Schroeder

John J. Pleasants is here from Austin. He has resigned his position as secretary of the state democratic executive committee, but still retains his position in the comptroller's department.

WHEELER, DR. JOHN FLETCHER

F980

John Fletcher Wheeler was born in Flatonia, Texas, October 31st, 1919, died June 27th, 1986. Parents: Dr. Leslie Arnim Wheeler, Sr., Jewel Sullivan Wheeler. Both parents born in Flatonia and buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Flatonia, Texas.

John graduated valedictorian of his class at Flatonia High School, attended Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas where he was battallion commander. Attended the University of Texas Dental School, Houston, Texas receiving the Omicron Kappa Upsilon key.

John married Lois Hall, daughter of Joe Hall and Eunice McMahan Hall. John and Lois met in Sugar Land, Texas when she was a junior in high school and he was a junior in dental school. After graduation they waited for John's call to the Navy and a couple of pay checks so they could be married. John left for the Naval Training Station in San Diego, California in January, 1943. In March, Lois joined him and they were married March 12, 1943.

John served as Dental Officer at the Naval Station for six months, then was transferred to the Marine Air Group at Camp Miramar, California. He served the group in the Solomon, Munda, and Grun Islands and was awarded A.P. two Battle Stars American Defense ribbons.

Returning stateside, he was stationed with the U.S. Navy V-12 Unit University of Texas, Austin, Texas as Dental Officer. He practiced at historic "B" Hall on the University campus.

Discharged in 1946, the Wheelers moved to Nixon, Texas where "money and office space" were immediately available. John served as Mayor of Nixon for four years; both were active in church and community activities.

In the Fall of 1951, Dr. W.F. Miller came to seek John's help in keeping the Miller Dental Office open in Cuero. Dr. Miller and John's father had gone to dental school in Atlanta, Georgia together. On the basis of their friendship, John came to Cuero for three months, three days a week.

Mary Goebel was working at the Miller Dental Office at that time. Thirty-five years later Mary and Dr. Wheeler were still "practicing dentistry in Cuero." Mary's devotion to this team was deeply appreciated.

Dr. Wheeler practiced dentistry for 44 years. He was a member of the Cuero Independent School District Board of Education for 16 years, past President of the Cuero Lions Club, Director of Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Director of Farmers State Bank and Trust Co., Officer of the Guadalupe Valley Dental Association, recipient of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Community Service Award.

Dr. John was an ardent gardener and very interested in good food. He and Lois bought the Trautwein place on South Esplanade in 1979, refurbished the old Trautwein house which was a Cuero landmark, and Dr. John's Restaurant & Nursery was born. They operated "Dr. John's Restaurant and Nursery" for five years.

Grace Episcopal Church was a very important part of the Wheelers' life — John serving as Lay Reader, Sr. & Jr. Warden, Sunday School teacher; Lois teaching Sunday School, Altar Chairman, President of the Women of the Church, Dorcean Altar Chairman, Prayer

Back Row: John and Pennye (Wheeler) Dyer, Bonnie (Kleinecke) and Ricky Wheeler, Darleen (Rouquette) and John Wheeler. Middle Row: Edyth Dyer, Lois (Hall) Wheeler, Richard Wheeler, Dr. John F. Wheeler, Mendy Wheeler. Front Row: Eron Wheeler; Jennifer Johnson, Fletcher Wheeler and Lesley Wheeler

Book Revision, and Church Planning Committee.

The Wheelers had three children — Pennye, John Fletcher, and Richard Harrison.

Pennye was born in Sugar Land, Texas, March 7, 1944. She is a graduate of Cuero High School and Texas A & I University, Kingsville, Texas, where she was a member of the Footlights Club, head cheerleader, president Chi Omega, Lantana Lady, Cadet Lady and Aggie Sweetheart. She is married to John Brent Dyer of Hampden, Maine, and has three children, Ashley Ann, Jennifer Wheeler, and Edythe Lois.

John Wheeler, II was born in Austin, Texas at St. David's Hospital on Sept. 21, 1945.

John graduated from Cuero High School in 1963. He was President of the Senior Class and active in all sports. He was acolyte in Grace Episcopal Church.

John attended the University of Texas and Texas A & I, Kingsville. In 1966 he joined the U.S. Navy, was stationed in Groton, Connecticut, served aboard the *U.S.S. Montrail* and the *U.S.S. Venture.*

Finishing his education at Texas A & I, he moved to Houston, Texas as a stockbroker for Rauscher Pierce for six years. His last year of law school he went to work for Franks Casing Crew. After graduating from law school John was made president of Franks International and in 1980 moved to Singapore.

John and Darlene Rouquette were married in Houston, Texas. They have three children, Mendy Ann, John Fletcher, III, and Katie Rouquette.

John and Darlene are active in St. Georges Anglican Church. Both are lay readers, teach Sunday School, and lead a prayer group. Both coach all sports in the Singapore American School.

Richard Harrison Wheeler (Ricky) wa born in Nixon, Texas November 4, 1946. Moved to Cuero, Texas when he was in the second grade. Graduated from Cuero High School in 1964. Ricky was active in all sports in Jr. and Sr. high school. His senior year he was captain of the football team, president of the student council, and Gobbler King.

Ricky attended the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A & I in Kingsville. He married Bonnie Kleinecke, who was also a graduate of Cuero High School and Texas A & I. They were married in Cuero Presbyterian Church in August, 1970. Bonnie and Ricky taught school in Portland, Texas for two years, then moved to Ocala, Florida, where Ricky worked for Grolier Properties. In 1974 they "returned home". Ricky became a State Farm Insurance Agent and Bonnie returned to teaching.

Both Bonnie and Ricky are active in civic and church work. Ricky has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the City Council, Elder in the Presbyterian Church, Board of Directors of Cuero Lions Club.

Richard and Bonnie have three children — Eron, Lesley Ann, and Richard Harrison, II.

by Lois Wheeler

WHITE – GOEBEL

F981

Faye Alon (Goebel) White, was born January 7, 1954, and baptized on February 28, 1954, at Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville. She attended school in Arneckeville, Meyersville and graduated from Cuero High School in 1972. She attended Victoria Jr. College and the University of Houston-Victoria graduating in 1977 with a degree in Elementary Education with a Kindergarten Endorsement.

On July 21, 1973, she married Odell White, Jr., son of Odell and Doris White, Sr., at the Arneckeville Lutheran Church. Their children are: Alondra Faye, born May 16, 1976; Odell "Trey" White, III, born October 31, 1978, died March 13, 1983; Sarah Beth, born April 29, 1985; and Caleb, Christian, born May 17, 1987.

Faye has been teaching at Hunt Elementary in Cuero since 1977 and Odell is affiliated with the oil business, selling chemicals. Their home is in Friar Cliff Estates about six miles south of Cuero off of Hwy. 77A (Rt 1, Box 428D, Cuero).

by Mrs. Alton Goebel

WHITE, ANN (MRS. JAMES TUMLINSON)

F982

Dianah (Ann) Noyes Wilkerson and Thomas White were married September 9, 1819. They started to Texas from Elizabethtown, N.C. in 1829 with their five children. Thomas White died in Alabama on June 30, 1829. His death did not alter the plans of his sturdy widow and she pushed through the vast unsettled area and arrived in the region around Columbia, Texas which is located on the Brazos River. Mrs. Ann White is registered in Austin's "Register of Families" as of April 1830. Mrs. White arrived and is registered in the colony as being 30 years of age, a widow, and had 4 male children and 1 female child. Her children were Kerr Bigham (July 20, 1820), John A. (April 26, 1822), Ann Eliza (October 23, 1824), Thomas M. (July 17, 1826), Franklin (January 19, 1828).

Ann White married James Tumlinson on July 13, 1831. A short time later they moved to Gonzales. Mr. Tumlinson had eleven children. A son, George, fought and died at the Alamo. Another son John, fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. Ann and James Tumlinson had one son, Samuel, who was born May 12, 1832 and died December 19, 1846.

Ann White Tumlinson's daughter, Ann Eliza, married Crockett Cardwell in Gonzales on April 1846 and moved to DeWitt County the same year. They had one daughter, Mary Evie (Mrs. Arthur Burns). Her four sons also moved to DeWitt Co. in 1846. Kerr Bigham became one of DeWitt County's early sheriffs. John A. later went to California and became a ranger. Thomas M. married Sarah Houston. Their children were John F. and Ann Mary (Mrs. Lewis Burns). Franklin White married Laura Davis who was the daughter of Perry Davis and Elizabeth (DeMoss). Perry Davis fought at the Battle of Goliad (1836) and was one of the few survivors. The Arthur Burns, Lewis Burns and Franklin White families were double cousins.

Mr. S.M. Le Sesne of the Galveston News interviewed Ann Eliza Cardwell about the days of the fall of the Alamo and of early incidents of Texas history. She said that their trading points were at Columbia and Nacogdoches and an armed escort would have to accompany the trading parties to resist Indian attacks. Her family was close friends of Stephen F. Austin, "Three-Legged Willie" and other distinguished statesmen of that era. At her home in Gonzales, her family received Mrs. Emily Dickinson who was the only Anglo survivor at the Alamo. While trying to escape from the Mexican army, which was crossing through the country, members of her family could see both the Texas and Mexican armies near San Jacinto.

There are quite a few descendants of the White, Burns, and DeMoss families in DeWitt County. These include the Frank Burns family, the Blair James family, and Mrs. Stephen Fuller (Gail James-Fuller) of Austin.

by Mrs. Carey James

WHITE, CAPTAIN JAMES KNOX FAMILY

F983

James Knox White was born near Union Village in Union District, South Carolina on August 24, 1833. He was the oldest son of Daniel Jefferson White, a farmer, and Elizabeth (McCullough) White who was a strict Presbyterian born in Belfast, Ireland. The other children were Araminta Caroline (m. Harvey Andrews), Josephine, William Thomas, Mary Elizabeth (m. James DeMoss), Henry Junius (m. Mattie Brown), Joseph Priestly "Doc" (took part in the Taylor-Sutton feud), and Daniel Jefferson (m. (1) Zeluka Blair, (2) Rachel Walling).

Daniel J. White moved his family to Noxubee County, Mississippi about 1849. Although the family stayed only a year or two, young James remained until joining the family at Clinton, DeWitt County in 1858.

After the War Between the States broke out, James K. White was mustered as first lieutenant of the "DeWitt Rifles" in May 1861. He enlisted as a private in Company E of the Eighth Texas Cavalry ("Terry's Texas Rangers") on September 12, 1861 at Houston. James was elected first lieutenant on January 9, 1862 and promoted to Captain on November 18, 1862. Captain White took part in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River, and several others. After taking part in the Battle of Chickamauga, he was captured on a reconnaissance mission near McMinnville, Tennessee on October 4, 1863. Captain White was sent to the officer's military prison on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie and spent about eighteen months there. He was paroled after the war at Victoria, Texas on August 8, 1865, and he listed DeWitt County as his residence.

Little is known of Captain White's existence over the next four years. However, it is known that he married Elizabeth E. (Sheppard) Powell in Matagorda County on April 6, 1869. She passed away in 1873. Captain White courted Laura Frances Bowie for almost a year before they were married on November 15, 1875 in Matagorda County.

James and Laura lived on a plantation on Caney Creek near present day Cedar Lane. There, his four children were born. The children were Sophia (b. Sep. 6, 1876) and Mary Alma (b. June 18, 1878) who both died young; also, James Bowie (b. Feb. 17, 1880) and Vasser H. (b. Mar. 16, 1882).

Captain James Knox White was very active in Matagorda County community life. He conducted business with the famous cattle baron, A.H. "Shanghai" Pierce, and was sworn in as a county commissioner on April 18, 1876. In 1885 Captain White was selected to represent the Sixty-Sixth District in the Texas Legislature. This district included Wharton, Brazoria, Matagorda, and Galveston Counties. Because of his wife's illness, he moved his family to Abilene, Texas in 1887 and did not run for re-election.

After Laura Frances White passed away on September 11, 1891, James sent Vasser to live with her maternal grandmother, Frances Sophia Bowie, in Matagorda County. Captain White and Bowie settled in Austin County where Vasser joined them after her grandmother's death in 1899. In Austin County, Bowie married Mary Cochran and Vasser married Norris Gault Pier (Mary's first cousin).

Captain White suffered from rheumatism and lived with Vasser and her family in Brookshire. After being bedridden for more than five years, James Knox White departed this life on March 30, 1915, at the age of eighty-one. His obituary said, "Sometime during the night this gallant old soldier received his summons and quietly went to join his comrades who had 'crossed over the river, to rest in the shade of the trees'." He was buried in the Bowie Family Cemetery at Cedar Lane.

Captain White was a farmer, soldier, statesman, and family man whose legacy lives on in his descendants who have since spread all over the world. His grandchildren living today include Mrs. C.E. Lee (nee Nantie Pier), Bay City, Texas; Mrs. Mary (White) Peticolas, El Paso, Texas; and Harris Francis "Bob" White of Wakefield, Massachusetts.

by Nantie P. Lee (Mrs. C.E.)

WHITFIELD, MATILDA FLOWER THETFORD VANNOTE

F984

Matilda Flower was born May 19, 1811 in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Her parents were Elisha Flower and Margaret White. In December of 1830 Matilda married William G. Thetford in Copiah County, Mississippi. Bondsman was David Flower, Matilda's brother.

William and Matilda had six children. David was born in 1831, Mary in 1833, Tobias in 1836, Samuel in 1839, Sarah in 1840 and Catherine in 1842. Samuel died in 1839, Sarah died in 1841, and Mary died in January 1842. William G. Thetford died in December of 1841. His daughter Catherine was born four months after his death.

After the death of William G. Thetford and three of her six children, Matilda Flower Thetford decided to move the family to Arkansas. Matilda's brother David Flower had already moved his family there as had John Thetford, her father-in-law. Matilda and the three children reached the grandfather's home in January of 1843 and remained with him until 1846.

On June 10, 1847 Matilda married John Vannote. On the first of November 1849 John and Matilda Vannote started the move to Alabama. They arrived there in February and stayed till October of that year. They then moved to Mississippi and stayed there until February of 1852 at which time they moved to Clinton, DeWitt County, Texas. During one of the separations the family endured, John Vannote wrote a letter to his stepchildren. Rilla Squyres, of Tyler, has this letter as well as Matilda's Bible in which she very carefully recorded all the births, deaths, and marriages of the Flower-Thetford-Vannote-Whitfield family. This letter was written prior to 1849 as no mention was made of John and Matilda's son, John William Vannote, Jr. The letter was directed to David Thetford, Esq., to Tobias Thetford, and to Catherine Thetford. It reads as follows:

"My Children. Hear the words and heed the advice of your stepfather. Be careful of your mother. Obey and be directed by her. Catharine, make your mother your model. My children, remember that I have used every effort to instill into your minds virtue. And boys, you know me to be an affectionate and careful Father. My advice is to love one another, and, if you love me, prove that you have not forgotten it, for with you and your dear mother is all the desire that I have to live in this world. Remember your creator in the days of your youth. Nothing more. So good bye children. God being willing, I shall see you all in a few days."

John and Matilda Vannote had a son John William Vannote, Jr. born December 29, 1849. In October of 1852, John Vannote died in Clinton, Texas. David Thetford died in October of 1854. Daughter Catharine married Russell Moody Squyres in 1858. A few months later, Tobias Thetford married Amanda Squyres, sister of Russell.

On March 12, 1868 Matilda Flower Thetford Vannote married Wm. B. Whitfield of DeWitt County. Wm. Whitfield died in 1881. Matilda Whitfield died September 1, 1899.

by Lianne Garrett Beel

WHITLEY – FLEMING

F985

Joseph Whitley (1842-1868) married Martha "Mattie" Fleming (1848-1905) on 17 Jan. 1867 in DeWitt Co., Texas. Their daughter Elizabeth "Lizzie" was born in 1868. Joseph was born in St. Clair Co., Mo., a son of Randolph Whitley (1798-1858) and Judy Duncan (1798-1845). Randolph was one of ten children of the Isle of Wight Co., Va., family of John Saunders Whitley (1770-1838) and Barsheba Bateman. This family, moving through North Carolina and Tennessee, settled in Illinois along the Kaskaskia River ca 1810 where several members, including Randolph, fought the British in 1812.

While two of Randolph's brothers, Mills Whitley (1791-1864) and Sharp Whitley (1802-1857) in 1835, and a sister, Elizabeth (Whitley) (Mrs. Sam'l) Lindley (1795-1838) in 1833, came to Montgomery Co., Tex.; Randolph — along with two brothers John Jr., Joseph, William and a sister, Clarenda (Mrs. William) Price — moved to Rives Co., Mo., in 1836.

Mills' son John Thomas Whitley and Elizabeth (Whitley) Lindley's son Jonathan Lindley (1st cousins to Joseph Whitley) fought in the Siege of Bexar in December 1835. Jonathan, by Feb. 1st, 1836, was a member of the Alamo garrison where he died in brave sacrifice at the Battle of the Alamo.

Joseph Whitley was listed at age 8 in the 1850 census of St. Clair Co., Mo., in his father's household. Two of Joseph's brothers, John R. and Jefferson Whitley, came to Texas in 1854 settling first in Lavaca County where Jefferson married Sarah Amanda Day (1843-1930) in 1857. About 1858, Jefferson moved to the tri-county area of Bexar, Medina and Atascosa where he was a stockraiser until his death in 1904. John R. Whitley moved to Wise Co. ca 1858 where his family, including Joseph at age 17, was listed in the census of 1860. Another of Joseph's brothers, James Wilson Whitley, settled in Collin Co., Tex., after the Civil War.

At age 19, Joseph enlisted on 18 Feb. 1862 at Dallas, Tex., in Capt. George Pickett's Company, Texas Cavalry, 2nd Regiment, Johnson's Brigade, CSA. At the close of the Civil War, Joseph was drawn to DeWitt County by the presence of his brother John R. Whitley who

left Wise Co. during the war and had married his second wife, Mrs. Emily McFarland, on 3 Apr. 1864 in DeWitt County. Here, Joseph met and married Martha Fleming, believed to be a daughter of Monroe Fleming. Joseph was listed in the DeWitt Co. tax roll of 1868 with two horses assessed at $40, and miscellaneous property at $25.

Joseph died ca. 1869, the circumstances of his death unknown, and Martha married her second husband, William M. "Zeke" Sanders (1843-1927), on 28 Dec. 1860 in DeWitt Co. William, b. in Ala., Martha, b. in Texas, and Elizabeth Whitley, at age 2, were listed in the 1870 census of DeWitt Co. By 1880, William had moved his family to Grimes Co. where Elizabeth, at age 13, was enumerated with the Sanders household in the 1880 census. By that year, Martha had four more children: Josephine D., b. 1870, Samuel G., b. 1873, Matthew Lee, b. 1877, and Ellen, b. 1879. Two others, Ludie and Thompson, were born after 1880.

Mrs. M.L. Sanders, Jr., of Grimes Co., recorded Martha Fleming's married name (and Elizabeth's maiden name) as "Monroe" rather than "Whitley" in a Sanders family article in *The History of Grimes County*, (1982). Elizabeth Whitley married widower Marshall Henderson on 23 Apr. 1893 in Grimes Co. The 1910 census of Prairie Plains, Grimes Co., listed Marshall at age 65 (b. 1845 in Louisiana), Lizzie at age 42, and five children: Jeff, b. 1895, Minnie M., b. 1897, Daniel, b. 1901, Birdie, b. 1903, and Lena, 1908.

By 1869, Joseph Whitley's brother John R. had departed DeWitt Co., but not before two children were born there too him and Emily: Jefferson, b. 1865, and Fanny, b. 1868, all listed in the 1870 census of Goliad Co., including Emily's children Celeste McFarland, b. 1854, Louisa McFarland, b. 1856, John McFarland, b. 1856, and Jonathan McFarland, b. 1858. John R. Whitley was last known to have lived in Atascosa Co. in 1875, but no further record of him or Emily, or their children, has been located.

The contributor of this article is a great2 grandson of Joseph Whitley's brother Jefferson Whitley (1835-1904).

by Kenneth R. Whitley

WIELAND, EMIL FRIEDRICK AND BERTHA GERBERT FAMILY

F986

Emil Friedrick Wieland was born Sept. 28, 1875 in Yorktown, Tex. He was the fourth child of Friedrick Wieland (11) and Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland, whose story is given separately.

On Nov. 12, 1896, Emil Friedrick Wieland and Bertha Gerbert were married at Yorktown. Bertha was born Feb. 22, 1877 at Dobskyville, Tex., the second child of Albert Gerbert and Mary Hartman Gerbert.

Albert and Mary Gerbert had 3 other children: Helene Marie Gerbert Wieland (1875-1904), Richard Gerbert (1878-1963), and Otto A.H. Gerbert (1880-1938). They were all born at Dobskyville, Tex. Albert Gerbert died about 1880. On June 19, 1881, Mary Hartman Gerbert married Albert Schulze. They had 4 children: Mary Schulze Thurk (1882-1971), Albert Schulze (1883-1960), Fred Schulze (1887-1946), and Emelia Schulze (1896-1960).

Standing L-R: Wilhelmina (Wieland) Wilems, Emil Wieland, Alfred Wieland, and Frieda (Wieland) Bevil. Front Row: Emil F. Wieland, Raymond Wieland, Gilbert Wieland, Bertha (Gerbert) Wieland and Edna (Wieland) Jansky. Photo taken about 1922.

Dec. 1896, Emil and Bertha Wieland bought 154 acres of land, the Albert Gerbert farm, in Goliad County, Tex. They settled here and farmed this land until the fall of 1902, when they moved to the Wieland homeplace at Yorktown to live with his mother, Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland, after the death of his father, Friedrick Wieland (11), Aug. 23, 1902.

Emil was a farmer and rancher. Bertha was a housewife and helped on the farm. They had 8 children.

Willie Wieland was born Oct. 25, 1897, died May 28, 1899, and was buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown, Tex.

Emil E. Wieland (1900-1987) married Gretrude Boldt (1905-1982) on Feb. 20, 1924 at Yorktown. They had 3 children: Clara Mae Wieland Thomas (1924-1974), Elvera Wieland Barnett, and Denton R. Wieland. Emil was a mechanic and Gretrude was a housewife. They are buried on the Westside Cemetery, Yorktown.

Alfred Wieland (1902) married Olga Roth (1907) on Oct. 12, 1926 at Yorktown. They had one daughter, Sandra Wieland Bolting. Alfred is a farmer and rancher and Olga is a housewife. They reside at Yorktown.

Wilhelmina Wieland (1906-1985) married Edwin Wilems (1902-1975) on Nov. 30, 1926 at Yorktown. They had 2 children: Evelyn Wilems Gallington (1927-1985) and Melvin Wilems. Wilhelmina and Edwin were engaged in farming and ranching at Yorktown. They are buried on the Westside Cemetery, Yorktown.

Frieda Wieland (1912) married Herbert Wilems (1906-1968) on Nov. 8, 1931 at Yorktown. (div.) They had no children. Second marriage, Frieda married John H. Bevil (1907-1963) on Sept. 5, 1952 at Victoria, Tex. Frieda was a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell. John H. worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. They had no children. Frieda resides in Corpus Christi, Tex.

Raymond Wieland (1916) married Helen E. Kornfuehrer (1919) on Aug. 29, 1940 at Meyersville, Tex. They had 3 children: Don Ray Wieland, Troy D. Wieland, and Bruce E. Wieland. Raymond is a farmer and rancher. Helen is a housewife. They live at Yorktown.

Edna B. Wieland (1919) married Charles A. Jansky (1916) on Dec. 20, 1938 at Yorktown. They had 5 children: Charles Ray Jansky (B & D 1940), Shirley Jansky Ibrom, Patricia Jansky Ibrom, Margie Jansky Culpepper, and Donald Jansky. Edna is a housewife and Charles is a farmer and rancher. They reside at Yorktown.

Emil Friedrick Wieland died on Mar. 19, 1942 at Yorktown. Bertha Gerbert Wieland died on Sept. 1, 1940 at Yorktown. They are buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown.

by Alberta M. Wieland

WIELAND, FRIEDRICK AND WILHELMINE (SINAST) FAMILY

F987

Friedrick Wieland (11) was the son of Friedrick Wieland (1) and Anna (nee Richter) Wieland, who lived, died, and are buried in Germany. They had four sons. Two sons died in infancy and the third, Henry Wieland married Louise Hein and remained in Germany. The fourth son, Friedrick Wieland (11) married Wilhelmine Sinast in Germany in 1865.

Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland was the fourth child of Friedrick Carl Sinast and Christane (nee Grauruck) Sinast. Friedrick Carl Sinast died and was buried in Germany. Christane Sinast (1816-1871) emigrated to the United States with the Sinast family. She was buried on the Westside Cemetery, Yorktown, Tex.

In 1870, Friedrick Wieland (11), Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland, and daughter, Mary, left Magdebury, Dashau County, Germany and emigrated to the United States. After landing in Indianola, Tex., they traveled up the Indianola trail leading to New Braunfels and San Anto-

Back: Herman Wieland and Friedrick Wieland. Front: Mary (Wieland) Luddeke, Ida (Wieland) Metting, Wilhelmine (Sinast) Wieland holding Fritz Wieland, and Emil Wieland, ca. 1881.

nio, Tex. Settling in Yorktown, Friedrick and Wilhelmine established a home on Second Street. In 1881, they moved to their farm about three miles north of Yorktown on which is now the farm to market road to Westhoff, Tex.

Friedrick was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker. He built the homes for his daughter, Mary (Mrs. Albert Luddeke) and his daughter, Ida (Mrs. Frank Metting). He was, also, a farmer. Wilhelmine was a housewife.

Friedrick Wieland (11) (1843-1902) and Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland (1843-1933) are buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown, Tex. They had seven children: Wilhelmine, Mary, Friedrick, Jr., Herman, Emil, Ida, and Fritz.

Wilhelmine died as a small child and was buried in Germany.

Mary Wieland (1869-1935) married Albert Luddeke (1867-1908). They had one son, Elmer A. Luddeke (1892-1981). Elmer married Lelia B. Riedel (1894-1927), and had one son, David Elmer Luddeke.

Friedrick Wieland, Jr. (1870-1872) died as a small child and was buried on the Lutheran Cemetery, Yorktown, Tex.

Herman Wieland (1873-1942) married Helene Marie Gerbert (1875-1904). They had three girls: Ella died as a baby. Agnes Wieland (1896-1986) married Edwin Gips (1897-1952) and had two children: Edwin Gips, Jr. and Helen Gips. Thelma Wieland (1898-1989) married Willie Pump (1893-1959) and had a son, William Edward Pump.

Herman Wieland married his second wife, Mary B. Atzenhoefer (1883-1975). They had eight children: Herman F. Wieland, Mary Ellen Wieland Wilson, Margarite Wieland Hill, Willie May (died in infancy), Milton L. Wieland, Annie Belle Wieland Tumlinson, Gladys Wieland Carter, and Dorothy Nell Wieland Cummings.

Emil Friedrick Wieland (1875-1942) married Bertha Gerbert (1877-1940). They had a family of eight children: Willie Wieland, Emil Wieland, Jr., Alfred Wieland, Wilhelmina Wieland Wilems, Frieda Wieland Bevil, Gilbert Wieland, Raymond Wieland, and Edna Wieland Jansky. (A story given separately.)

Ida Wieland (1878-1961) married Frank Metting (1874-1949). They had seven sons. Ceaser Metting (1898-1985) married Martha Warmuth (1901-1986) and had three children: Edwin Metting, Leona Metting Brieger, and Roland Metting. Emil Metting (1900-1966) married Olga Grutsmacher and had four children: Wilton H. Metting, Emil F. Metting, Norris Lee Metting, and Darlene Metting Williams. Herbert Metting married Ella Remmers (1905-1975) and had no children. Erwin Metting married Ella Gerbert and had one son, James D. Metting. Werner Metting (1909-1962) married Alfrieda Henze. They had three children: Dalton Metting, Joan Dell Metting Wendel, and Sherry Kay Metting. August Willie Metting married Pauline Riedesel and had three children: Everett J. Metting, Iona Metting Buchhorn, and Fay Nell Metting Walters. Ewald Metting married Erna Alex and had one son, Elroyce Metting.

Fritz Wieland (1880-1957) married Augusta Alex (1879-1963). They had three children: Henry Wieland married Cleo Roth and had no children. Fritz Wieland, Jr. married Lottie Roth. They had one daughter, Beatrice Wieland Hoegemeyer. Mary Wieland (1918-1950) did not marry.

In 1907, Wilhelmine Sinast Wieland married William Thurke (1841-1913).

by Alberta M. Wieland

WIELAND, GILBERT A. AND ALBERTA MUELLER

F988

1989 Standing: Alberta (Mueller) Wieland and Gilbert A. Wieland. Sitting: Wendy Celeste Abel, Barbara Ann (Wieland) Abel and Ralph Bruce Abel.

Gilbert A. Wieland was born Mar. 25, 1914, Yorktown, Tex., the son of Emil Friedrick Wieland and Bertha Gerbert Wieland, whose story is given separately. He attended the Gohlke and Yorktown public schools and the San Antonio Business College, San Antonio, Tex. He worked as station produce buyer for Swift & Co. for 4 years (1933-1937) and for Cudahy Packing Company as bookkeeper, salesman, and assistant manager for approximately 13 years (1937-1949). On Mar. 8, 1950, Gilbert opened his own business, Wieland Poultry & Egg Company, the story is given separately. After he closed his business Jan. 10, 1966, Gilbert worked for Gibson's Discount Center in Victoria, Tex. and served as deputy tax assessor-collector for DeWitt County, Sept. 1969 – May 1972. He was a candidate for the office of DeWitt County Tax Assessor-Collector in 1972 and was defeated. He returned to employment of Gibson's Discount Center, Victoria.

Gilbert retired from public work Jan. 1976 and is devoting his time to his hobby repairing furniture and caneing seats and backs of chairs and rockers.

During 1964-1965, he was the chairman of the Cuero Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business.

On Nov. 12, 1939, Gilbert married Alberta M. Mueller at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Tex. Alberta was born Sept. 27, 1917, Runge, Tex., a daughter of Albert Bonham Mueller (1890-1941) and Erna Bolting Mueller (1895-). She graduated from Nordheim High School, Nordheim, Tex., 1935, and attended Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Tex. and Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos, Tex. She received a B.S. Degree in Ed in 1960 and Med Degree 1963 from Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos. Alberta taught one year in Yates Creek District, Karnes Co., Tex. (1936-1937), 4 years at New County Line, DeWitt Co. (1937-1941), 4 years Yorktown Elem., Yorktown (1960-1964), and 18 years at Crain Intermediate, Victoria (1964-1982). She retired in 1982.

Gilbert and Alberta are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero, Tex. Gilbert served on the church council, was affiliated with the Lutheran Brotherhood, and was an assistant scout master. He is a past President of the Cuero Sons of Hermann Lodge No. 17 and a member of the Travelers Protective Association. Alberta taught Sunday school and worked with summer Vacation Bible School for approximately 16 years, and is a member of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Sons of Herman Lodge No. 82. Gilbert and Alberta are active members of the Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department, Thomaston, Tex. and AARP Cuero-DeWitt Chapter #3168.

Gilbert and Alberta have one daughter, Barbara Ann Wieland Abel who was born Oct. 1, 1942 in Victoria, Tex. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1960 and from Victoria College, Victoria, Tex. with an Associate of Arts Degree in 1962. She was a member of the Victoria College Saberette Drill Team. Barbara graduated from Southwest Texas State College with a B.S. Degree in Ed in 1964 and MEd in 1967. She is a teacher in Corpus Christi Independent School District, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Barbara Ann Wieland married Ralph Bruce Abel June 5, 1965 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero, Tex. Bruce was born Jan. 23, 1940, Cuero, Tex., a son of Ross Abel and Dorothy Rabke Abel. He graduated from Cuero High School in 1958 and served in U.S. Navy, attained rank of Petty Officer Second Class, July 2, 1958 to July 1, 1962. In May, 1964, Bruce was an honor graduate from Victoria College with an Associate in Arts Degree and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa (National Junior College Honorary Scholastic Society). In May 1966, he graduated from Texas A&M University, College Station, Tex. receiving a Bachelors of Business Administration with honors. He was awarded the Haskins & Sells Foundation Award for the highest GPA for an accounting major in his graduation class. Upon graduation, Bruce joined the national accounting firm Peat, Marwick & Mitchell as a staff accountant, and in 1968 became a Certified Public Accountant. In 1970, Bruce joined Li-

chtenstein's Inc., a Corpus Christi based company, and progressed rapidly to the position of Controller. On June 2, 1975, he joined Whataburger Inc., Corpus Christi, Tex. as Controller & Vice-President.

Barbara Ann and Bruce have one daughter, Wendy Celeste Abel. Wendy was born Sept. 27, 1968, Corpus Christi, Tex. She was a 1987 Honor Graduate of Mary Carroll High School, Corpus Christi, Tex. and is a student at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

by Alberta M. Wieland

WILD, DANIEL FAMILY

F989

Daniel Wild Family. This picture was taken at the Wild home in Lindenau around 1920. Seated is Daniel Wild; Standing left is Aloise Grohmann Wild, wife of Daniel Wild. Standing on bench is granddaughter, Antonia Wild (Mrs. Anton H. Koopmann), daughter of Adolph and Adeline Wild.

Daniel Wild was born to Jacob Wild and wife Anna Marie Haug Wild on Nov 25 1841 in Rangendingen, Hohenzollern, Germany. He married Aloise Grohmann, who was born on Mar 23 1856 in Neudeck, Destereich, Germany. After coming to America, they first settled at Black Spring in Fayette Co. Texas. While living there, their three oldest children were born. Later they lived near Schulenburg in Fayette Co. where their four younger children were born. On Oct 21 1893 they purchased 200 acres of land out of the DA Gardner Survey in the Lindenau Community in DeWitt Co. from WC Hunter and his wife Jennie Hunter for $3700.00. Later that year the family moved to this farm. They were accompanied to DeWitt Co. by Daniel's brother Charles and family. They were among the first settlers of the Lindenau Community. Charles had two sons, Chas. and Arthur, who farmed in North Texas near Wilson in Lynn County. After a dispute between the brothers, Charles sold all his property in DeWitt Co. and with his wife and two daughters moved to Austin in Travis Co. One daughter married a professor of agronomy at A&M College, the other was married to a Dr. Winkler, Professor of Astrology at the University of Texas. Daniel also had a sister named Anna Marie who was married to Isador Dieringer. Aloise had one brother, Joseph Grohmann of Fayette County and two sisters, one being Ludmillia (Mrs Joseph Kahlich) of DeWitt Co. After retiring, Daniel and Aloise built a home on 1 and acre (Andrew Lockhart Sur.) in the townsite of Lindenau across the road from the Lindenau Rifle Club. Daniel suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair for most of the last 14 years of his life. He died on May 19, 1924 and is buried in Lindenau Cemetery. Aloise continued living alone in her home. At the urging of some of her children Aloise wrote a new will on May 2, 1936 when she was 80 years old. After her death on Jan 12 1938, this action caused a rift among some of the family members. She was buried in the Lindenau Cemetery. Daniel and Aloise were faithful members of St Michael's Catholic Church of Cuero. Their seven children were: 1. Ferdinand (born Nov 24 1873) married Mathilda Goehring (born May 18 1879). She died May 20 1941. They had four children: Edwin, Olga (Mrs Henry Hingst), Arthur and Elenora (Mrs Lee Pargmann). Ferdnand's second wife's name was Mary. He died on Sept 21, 1948 and is buried beside his first wife in Lindenau Cemetery. 2. Adolph (born Jul 22 1875) married Adeline Goehring (born Oct 17 1882). She died Nov 7 1924. He died on Sept 28 1959. They are buried in Lindenau Cemetery. They had five children: Meta (Mrs Robert Hingst), Lottie (Mrs Chas Knocke), Alfrieda (Mrs Henry L Koopmann), Raymond and Antonia (Mrs Anton H Koopmann). 3. Mary (born Sept 8 1878) married Alvin Hengst (born Jun 1 1875). Their story appears elsewhere in this book. 4. Anna (born Dec 19 1880) married Herman J Buchhorn (born Oct 14 1875). He died on June 5 1947. She died Jan 4 1971. They are buried in St Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Yorktown. They had eight children: Gustav, Ben, Arnold, Hermina (Mrs Richard Geyer), Alvina (Mrs. Alfred Alex), Louis, Agnes (Mrs. Edwin Sinast) and Martha (Mrs Emil Meyer). Martha's first marriage was to Alvin Pfeifer. 5. Theresa (born Nov 26 1882) married Otto F Turk (born Apr 5 1872). He died on Aug 19 1943. She died on Jun 8 1963. They are buried at Winters in Runnels County, Texas. Otto had three children from his first marriage to Minna Schroeder. She is buried in Ruppert's Cemetery near Cheapside in DeWitt Co, Texas. They are Alma Bock, Hilda Braedemeyer and Ott F Turk Jr. With Theresa, he had eight children: William F, Hertha Bates, Hedwig Minzenmeyer, Leona Biel, Carl, Raymond D and Elfrieda Muston. A son, Robert, died in infancy. 6. Frances (born in 1887) married Herman Wolter (born in 1885). He died in 1963 and she died in 1967. They are buried in San Geronimo Cemetery at Seguin, Guadalupe Co, Texas. They had six daughters: Mathilda (Mrs Oscar Blaschke), Frieda (Mrs Otto Kuck), Clara (Mrs Reinhold Mueller), Dora (Mrs. Edwin Theilengerdes), Frances and Erna (Mrs Wm. E Stolleis). 7. William (born Mar 6 1889) married Dora Kuester (born Oct 17 1889), daughter of Fritz and Rosalia Grossmann Kuester. He died Sept 17 1975. She died Apr 25 1980. They are buried in Lindenau Cemetery. They had one son, Emil, and one daughter, Gertrude (Mrs Fred Wolter).

by Hilmer E Koopmann

WILLIAMS, BAMA T. FAMILY

F990

My great-grandmother was Sally Jones. It is not known where or when she was born or when she died but family tradition has it that she was buried about a mile from Concrete. Family tradition also has it that she was a slave belonging to a Stephens family. The place where the Joseph Stevens family buried its slaves is about a mile from Concrete but it is no longer a cemetery. There are no markers.

Sally Jones married Andrew Jackson. They had a daughter, Ann Jackson, who married Ben Wingate. He was a farmer. Ann and Ben Wingate had two daughters: I) Sarah Wingate who married Boston Mike, and II) Barbara Wingate who married Prince Brown, Sr. in Gonzales, Texas.

Prince Brown, Jr. was born in Sladen, Texas. The mother, Barbara Wingate Brown, wanted to live in Cuero with her mother, Ann Jackson Wingate, but the father, Prince Brown, Sr., did not move here with her. After the mother moved back here, three more children were born. They were: Dakota Brown, Macellus Brown, and a daughter, Bama Thompson (1900), who later married Sylvester Williams, who was with the Cuero police force.

We – my three brothers and I – attended the Scheicherville school. Later we attended the Deer Creek School. Before we moved to town, we walked nine miles to school from Schlinke Park on the Yorktown highway. After we moved to town, my brothers attended Daule school.

We belonged to the Little Mt. Zion Church. We were baptized in the Guadalupe River near the old Clinton bridge.

All of my people, except my great-grandparents, are buried in the Schleicherville Cemetery.

by Bama T. Williams

WILLIAMS, OSCAR FITZGERALD AND HARRIET AND DESCENDANTS

F991

Harriet and Oscar Fitzgerald Williams came to Texas from Tennessee in 1844. They lived for several years in Marshall, Texas. They later settled in the Upper Cuero Creek area (1852). They were the parents of two girls, Martha Ann and Elizabeth Vann and one son Oscar Fitzgerald Williams, Jr. who married Phidora Bonner about 1866. The couple had six children: Salome, who married George Thomas (two children); Anne who married Sidney Johnston Friar. They had three children, Bessie who married Robert T. Daniel, Alfred who married Anna Nagel, and Elizabeth (Libbie) who married Tom Shults. (See D.B. Friar history). Mattie Williams was born March 26, 1872 and died March 28, 1961. She married John Randolph Friar, born April 26, 1872 and died April 23, 1912, and they had two sons, Oscar William and Lou Guenther; Mary Williams who married Wheeler Marvin of Edna,

Oscar Fitzgerald Williams Jr.

Phidora (Bonner) Williams

Texas (three children); George who died in boyhood; and Agnes, who married Henry Allison. The Allisons have one daughter, Lorene Boehl, who lives in Cuero.

George Williams, brother of Oscar Fitzgerald Williams, married Mary Friar in 1866. They had one son, John, and three daughters, Hattie Mary (1867-1934) wife of George Ratchford Cottingham; Georgia, who married a Mr. Evans and Julia who married a Mr. Southerland.

Oscar Fitzgerald Jr. fought for the Confederate States during the Civil War. He served with Wallers Battalion, Green's Brigade, January's Company in the army of the Trans-Mississippi with General Bagby. He was buried in the Burns Station Cemetery at Burns Station near Thomaston, Texas. His wife, Phidora Bonner Williams was buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, Texas, next to her eldest daughter, Salome Thomas. Her birth and death are recorded on her tombstone. (Born November 9, 1850 – Died August 19, 1929)

The Williams daughter, Mattie Williams Friar, was widowed at a young age, however, she was able to continue her husband John's ranching and dairy businesses. Her ranch is still operated by her granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Jean Ann and Henry Sheppard Jr. Her son Oscar William Friar ranched the property until his death in 1981.

Mattie Williams Friar was not only an able business woman, but also a very active member of the First Baptist Church where she taught the Adult Sunday School Class for sixty years. After Mattie was widowed she built a home on Prairie Street in Cuero and moved her family from their dairy on the Guadalupe River to this home.

by Jean Ann Friar Sheppard

WIMBISH FAMILY

F992

Callie and Oscar Wimbish, Sr. with Oscar, Jr. Mattie Goodson in the background.

Oscar Wimbish, Sr., Callie Wimbish and David Earl Wimbish. Oscar and Callie's 25th wedding anniversary.

Stephen and Hannah Wimbish came to Texas from Mississippi. Aunt Tasa says they came from Virginia. Hannah was born June 20, 1832. They settled in the community of Pleasantville. They had nine children. They were: Paul, Steve, John (Johnie), Clem, Alice Silvia, Susan, Fannie and Annie. Aunt Tasa says they lived on the old Taylor place which is about eight miles north of Cuero. They lived and raised their family there. Hannah was a housewife and Steve a farmer. They were both members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Hannah died July 12, 1910. She and Steve were both buried in Lockhart Cemetery.

Johnie Wimbish was born to Stephen and Hannah Wimbish, June 28, 1874. He was born in DeWitt County, in the community of Edgar. Johnie married Ella Myers, December 20, 1893. She was the daughter of Trusty and Jame Myers. She was born in Thomaston in 1870.

Ella and Johnie were married December 20, 1893, by Rev. H.C. Johnson. Johnie was a farmer and member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Johnie and Ella had six children. They were Ernest, Oscar, Cornelius, I.G., Alvin and Tasa. Johnie and Ella lived on the old Taylor place in the community of Pleasantville. Ella died at the age of 66. Johnie died March 19, 1936.

Oscar Wimbish, Sr. was the son of Johnie and Ella Wimbish. He was born June 20, 1896. He married Callie Battles. She was born October 13, 1902. They were married on December 29, 1925, by Rev. Henderson. They had two sons, Oscar and David.

Oscar Sr. enlisted in the army in August 1918 and was a military private. He and Callie were both teachers. They both received degrees from Prairie View. According to Jessie Mae Robinson, Mother Dear (as she was referred to) taught at the Terryville School first. Callie taught school in Nixon until retirement. Callie and Oscar were both members of Macedonia Baptist Church. She was a Sunday school teacher and a member of the missionary society.

Oscar preceded her in death December 2, 1957. Callie died October 16, 1977. Both are buried in Lockhart cemetery.

by Wanda Carter

WITTE, MR. AND MRS. JAMES RAY

F993

On September 2, 1933, James Ray Witte was born to Marguerite and Gerhardt Witte in Yoakum. He is the only male decendant from his grandfather, Herman Phillip Witte. James, known as Jimmy or Jim, has only one older sister, Lillian Louise.

Jim graduated from Yoakum High School in 1951. He attended Texas A & M and after graduating in 1955, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army and served two years in Korea.

Jim started his working career in Sweetwater, Texas, with U.S. Gypsum. Later he was employed by General Dynamics in Fort Worth. He later returned to U.S. Gypsum and was transferred to Houston. In 1966, he moved back to Yoakum to accept a position at Tex Tan Western Leather Co. as Personnel Manager. During his 18 years at Tex Tan, he served in various positions. In 1984 he "retired" as Vice President of Production so he could pursue his lifelong dream of being a full-time rancher.

Jim has one son, Scott Montgomery, who was born in 1965 and one daughter, Natalie Gay Witte Tise, born in 1967. Scott is a 1984 graduate of Yoakum High School and has attended Austin Community College and Victoria College. He is employed by Kennedy Distributing Co. in Yoakum. Natalie is a 1985 graduate of Yoakum High School and a 1989 graduate of Texas A & M University. She resides in Houston with her husband, Carey, and 3 year-

old son, Ryan Neal. Natalie is the director of a local day care center, but plans to attend the University of Houston law School in the Fall of 1990.

On July 27, 1985, Jim married the former Thelma Louise Wessels. Louise has a daughter, Teri Lane Mozisek, and a son, Franklin Jason Mozisek.

Teri is a 1987 graduate of Yoakum High School and is a Junior at Texas A & M University, majoring in Accounting. She is the 1989-90 Dorm President of Keathley Hall at A&M. Jason is a Sophomore at Yoakum High School.

Louise was born and reared in San Antonio. Her parents, Rudolph and Naomi Wessels, moved to Houston in 1962. Louise graduated in 1966 from Cy-Fair High School. She attended Massey Business College and was employed by R.W. Smith & Co., a customshouse broker, and Cameron Iron Works. In 1976, she was employed by Tex Tan Western Leather Co. as Secretary to the President. In 1986 she was promoted to Assistant Controlleer and remained in that position until she resigned in 1987.

Jim and Louise are both very active in community projects and organizations. Jim joined the Rotary Club 25 years ago and has served his local club as President and in all avenues of service. In 1990-91 he will serve as District Governor for District 587. He is also President of the Hospital Tax District Board and Chairman of the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church. Jim is also the Master of Ceremonies of the Country Music U.S.A. show that has been in exsistance since 1977. Jim was a perfect attendance record for the past 12 years.

Louise is the 1989-90 President of Alpha Epsilon Xi, Yoakum City Council President, President of the DeWitt-Lavaca A&M Mother's Club, Treasurer of the American Cancer Society, and is a member of the local Pilot Club.

Jim and Louise plan to remain in Yoakum as they believe there isn't a better, friendlier town than Yoakum. Like the old saying goes, "There's no better place that Yoakum" according to the Wittes.

by Jim and Louise Witte

WOFFORD, ANN MARY LANE

F994

Ann Mary Lane, the third child of Samuel Winston (Tad) Lane and Nannie Lee (Baby Lee) Williams Lane was born December 15, 1917, on the Lane ranch near Lindenau. She attended school through the third grade at the Lindenau school, riding horseback the four miles to and from school with her brothers and sister. She began school in Cuero in the fourth grade, as her family moved into town, living first in the Mugge rent house on West Reuss, then in the old Buchel home her father bought on Indianola and Broadway, so that her brother, Sam, could continue his schooling.

Ann Mary finished high school in Cuero in 1934. She attended Victoria Junior College, Southwest Texas State Teachers' College, and the University of Texas, where she received her degree in 1950.

Ann Mary married Francis William Wilson of Luling, a student at Baylor School of Medicine in Dallas, in 1936. They had two children:

Ann Mary (Lane) Wofford

Francis William Wilson, II, born November 19, 1940, and Ann Mary Wilson, born July 29, 1943.

In 1946, Ann Mary and James Monroe Howard were married. Their two children were Susan Lee Howard, born October 31, 1951, and James Monroe Howard,Jr., born April 12, 1955. James, "Jimbo", died in 1961 of leukemia at the age of six. During these years Ann Mary taught school in Houston, Waco, Mesquite, and Cuero. Her teaching specialties included degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. After twenty-eight years, the marriage of James Monroe Howard and Ann Mary was dissolved.

On December 28, 1974, Ann Mary and John Tyler Wofford, II, were married. They had been sweethearts in high school in the 1930's. John, the second son of Chancey Sheppard Wofford and Sarah Lander Wofford, was born April 1, 1916. He attended school in Cuero, received his degree in gas engineering from A&I in Kingsville, and bought the Keseling Metal Works in Cuero in 1960. He has one son, John Tyler Wofford, III, who has been a partner in the business. John has also been a rancher and is an avid golfer.

Ann Mary's first child, Francis William Wilson, II, called "Billy" by his family, but known also as "Smokey", was married to Linda Breton in 1963. They had one child, Francis William Wilson, III, who received his degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, December 19, 1987, just one month after diagnosed as having leukemia. Billy attended Southwest Texas State University in the 60's, and is presently employed by the Texas Animal Health Commission. Earlier, while in the Navy, he learned to play the drums, guitar and harmonica. He became known as Smokey, while travelling throughout the United States as an entertainer. His music is still enjoyed by many.

Ann Mary Wilson, Ann Mary's second child, received her degree from Southwest Texas State University, and in June 1969, and married Tom Arch Allen, II. She and Tom has three children: Stephanie Lynn, a college freshman; Thomas Arch, III, who is in high school; and Samuel Gates, who is in elementary school. They live in Lavernia, where Ann Mary Allen teaches school.

Susan Lee Howard, Ann Mary's third child was married June 7, 1975, in the First Methodist Church in Cuero to Thomas Jefferson Haynie. They both attended Sam Houston State University, where Susan received her degrees. Tom later went to Texas A&M and received his degree. They have two children: Lee Ann and Thomas Jefferson Haynie, III, called "T.J." Susan Lee is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha National Sorority. Their family lives in Navasota, where Susan teaches dancing.

Ann Mary Lane Wofford and her two daughters, Ann Mary Allen and Susan Lee Haynie, belong to the Guadalupe chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, from their ancestor, Aquilla Lane, who was named for a star in the Northern Constellation.

Because the Lane ranch has been in the Lane family and owned and operated continuously by a member of the family for over one hundred years, it has the distinction of being a Land Heritage Ranch.

by Mrs. John Tyler Wofford, Sr.

WOFFORD, JOHN T.

F995

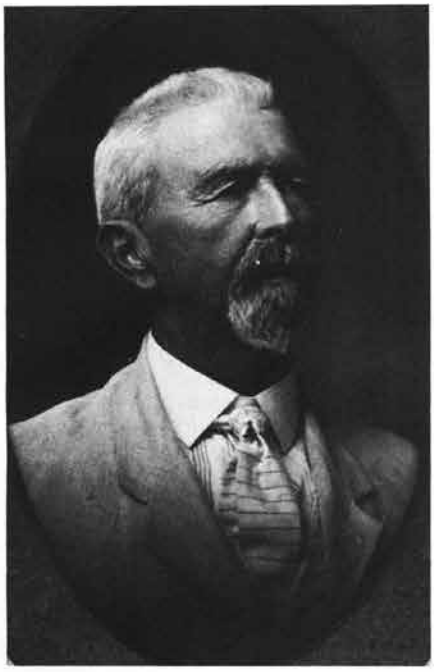
Josephine (Stevens) Wofford

The John Tyler Wofford line can be traced to William Wofford born about 1620 in England (possibly Scotland) who married Mary about 1647 in St. Mary's Co., Md. William (1) died about 1655 leaving one son, William (2) born about 1648 in St. Mary's Co., Md. who married Elizabeth about 1673 and died about 1680. The third William (3) was born about 1674, married a Mary about 1696 and died about 1746 in Prince George Co., Md. William's (3) son was Absolum Wofford, born about 1703 in Prince George County, Md.; he married Sarah Hosey about 1727. Absolum and Sarah bore five sons; one of whom was John Wofford born 1730 in

WOFFORD, ROLLINS BOB

F996

Kneeling in back: Jesse Wofford; L-R, sitting on top step: Chancey, Josephine, Blanche, Clare, Josephine (Stevens) and Rollins Bob Wofford. Next step dow L-R: John Tyler Wofford holding John Tyler, Jr., Mayne, and Frances Wofford. Sitting on bottom step, L-R: Lucy and Mitchele Wofford.



John Tyler Wofford

1808-1890
The John Tyler Wofford Family

Rollins Bob Wofford, son of Daniel Wofford – born November, 1774, married Elizabeth Webb – born, February, 1797.

Rollins Bob Wofford – born December 15, 1808 – died in 1890. Married Frances Jane Davis (1815-1872) in 1840.

Their children were: 1. Mary Ann Elizabeth Wofford – born July 11, 1841; 2. John Tyler Wofford – born November 7, 1844; 3. Ann Eliza Wofford – born February 3, 1848; 4. James R. Wofford – born July 4, 1851; 5. Charles Walter Wofford – born September 18, 1856; 6. Robert Henry Wofford – born September 1, 1859.

John Tyler Wofford – born November 7, 1844 on Caney Creek, Wharton County, Wharton, Texas and died in Cuero, Texas on November 24, 1910; married Josephine Stevens who was born in Rankin County, Mississippi on October 31, 1844 and died in Cuero, Texas on August 15, 1935.

Their children were:

1. Jessie Wofford, 1866-1956 B. in Concrete, married Dr. W.R. Rathbone and their children were: 1. Wofford Rathbone – married Helen DeFour; 2. Beryl Rathbone – married Newton Crain; 3. Lucy Rathbone.

2. Lucy Wofford – born in 1868 in Clinton, died in 1933 – married Fred C. Proctor and their children were: 1. D.C. Junior – married Hildegard Haggarty; 2. Lucy P. Kenyon – Terrance Kenyon; 3. Josephine (Pat) Chad Nelms married Walter Weber.

3. Frances Anne ("Fannie") Wofford born 1870 in Clinton, died in 1920, married Joseph F. Vandenberg and their children were: 1. Mary Vandenberg married George A. Hill, Jr.; 2. Joseph V. Vandenberg, Jr.

4. R. Bob Wofford – born in 1872 in Clinton, married Hallie Jones, married O.K. Ish and their children were: 1. Jones Wofford; 2. Nathaniel (Nat) Wofford.

5. Mitchell "Ditt" Wofford – born in 1873 in Clinton, died in 1958, married Dr. A.H. Easterling and their children were: 1. Margaret (died in childbirth) married R.E. Biggs. They had one daughter. 2. James M. Easterling married Judith Cargile.

6. Blanche "Dant" Wofford – born 1875 in Clinton, died in 1953, married Robert P. Breeden and their children were: 1. Constance Breeden married Fassett Sheppard; 2. Fielding Breeden married Jane Harris; 3. Blanche Breeden married Julius Metz, died in childbirth; 4. Jessie Breeden married Morris Tonroy.

7. Mary Jane ("Mayne") Wofford – born 1877 in Clinton, died in 1958, married Henry A. Mugge and their children were: 1. Margaret Clare – married Julius Hoff; 2. Edward (Edu) – married Mabel Breeden; 3. Mary Katherine Little (Kay) – married Edgar Smith; 4. Henry A. Mugge, Jr.; 5. John Mugge – married Joy Parker.

8. Clare Wofford was born in Fairview Ranch on September 13, 1879 and died in February, 1973. In November, 1904 married Alexander F. Hamilton who was born May 29, 1880 and died January 15, 1952 and their children were: 1. Alexander F. Hamilton, Jr. born on ranch on

Rockland, Maryland, married Eleanor Bushrod, also of Maryland, in 1760.

John Wofford served in the Revolutionary War in the 6th S.C. Regiment, enlisted June 1, 1778 to September 11, 1788 in W. Henderson and Capt. John Buchanan's Company. John Wofford died in 1812 in Shartarburg, S.C. He was the father of fifteen children, the fifth of whom was Daniel Wofford, born November 22, 1774, and married Elizabeth Webb February 6, 1797.

Daniel Wofford was the father of nine children, the fourth of whom was Rollins Bob.

Rollins Bob Wofford married Mary Fore, in Brandon, Rankin Co., Mississippi, she died as a young bride and they had no children. He later married Frances Jane Davis May 4, 1840.

Rollins Bob and Frances came to the Republic of Texas in late 1840. They first settled in Wharton Co., as their eldest son, John Tyler Wofford, was born at Caney Creek, Wharton Co. on Nov. 7, 1844. Rollins Bob Wofford was elected Chief Justice of DeWitt County in 1848. He was a highly respected planter and business man in Clinton, the first county seat. He and his wife were parents of six children, Mary Ann Elizabeth, John Tyler, Ann Eliza, James R., Charles Walter, and Robert Henry Wofford.

John Tyler Wofford was educated at Rutersville Academy at LaGrange (later T.M.I.). He volunteered at an early age, sixteen, to serve in the Fourth Mounted Volunteers under the command of Col. James Reilly. He had a splendid record as a soldier and served until the end of the war between the states. After the close of the War, on Nov. 7, 1865, he married Josephine Stevens of Concrete, Texas. He entered the mercantile business in Clinton with his father and continued until he moved his family to the Wofford ranch (Fair Haven) in the country. He owned and ranched around 30,000 acres in DeWitt County and was a pioneer in the stock industry.

The Wofford Ranch was on the original Chisholm trail, and around 1870 "River Junction" was a location on the ranch where stock pens were built and cattle were collected preparatory for the up-trail drive.

The John Tyler Wofford home was built around 1877 at the Ranch close to Lindenau but was later taken down, each board numbered, and rebuilt in Cuero about 1883.

John Tyler and Josephine Stevens Wofford were the parents of eleven children, eight daughters and three sons. Many of these Wofford descendants remain in DeWitt County today, and many have moved throughout the state and throughout the country as well. The following is as close an accounting of the descendants as our information allows: refer to Descendants of John Tyler and Josephine Stevens Wofford.

by Mrs. C.W. Wofford, Jr.

1904, L-R, Back: Josephine (Wofford) Howard, Clare (Wofford) Hamilton, "Mayne" (Wofford) Mugge, Blanche (Wofford) Breeden, Mitchell (Wofford) Easterling, Lucy (Wofford) Proctor. Seated: Frances (Wofford) Vandenberg, Josephine (Stevens) Wofford, John T. Wofford, Jessie (Wofford) Rathbone.

August 31, 1905 and died June 22, 1941. 2. Frances Ann Hamilton born in Cheapside on August 15, 1913 and married Gale Oliver, Jr. on November 6, 1937.

9. Josephine ("Jodie") Wofford born in Fairview Ranch in 1881 and died in 1935. She was married to Phil C. Howard and their child was: 1. Josephine Blanche Howard.

10. John F. Wofford, Jr. was born in Fairview Ranch in 1883 and died in 1966, married Lou Allie Holcombe and their children were: 1. Beatrice Clare – married George Ryan; 2. Josephine – married Harry Moore, after his death married Grady Speed; 3. Rollins B. – single; 4. James Holcombe – married Frances Pye.

11. Chancey S. Wofford born in Cuero in 1885 and died in 1947. He married Sarah Lander after her death, and he married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Vanham. The children were: 1. Chancey S., Jr. married Mary Newton; 2. John T. II married Shelby Caton and Ann Mary Lane Howard; 3. Lander married Golda Markowsky; 4. Raymond Dixon married Maureen Riske – Bobbie Jo Walter.

Rollins Bob Wofford, son of Daniel Wofford (1774) and Elizabeth Webb, 1798, was born in Tennessee on December 15, 1808. He married Frances Jane Davis (born 1815) of Petersburg, Virginia on May 7, 1840. They came to Texas soon afterwards where most of their children were born.

He was the first Chief Justice of DeWitt County and lived at Clinton before the town of Cuero was established. As soon as the county had settled the location of the county seat as Clinton, Judge Wofford donated five acres to the City of Clinton for a graveyard. In Clinton he had a general store and he also had very extensive land holdings in the Lindenau area, west of the Guadalupe River.

In about 1860 he received a beautiful silver cup and "five gallons of fine brandy for the earliest bale of new cotton sent to New York". The cotton brought Rollins B. Wofford 15 cents per pound.

In 1865, November 14, Rollins Bob received a proclamation, signed by Andrew Johnson, who was then President of the United States of America, giving him "Executive Clemency" – "a full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows:

"1st. – This pardon to be of no effect until the said R.B. Wofford shall take the oath prescribed in the Proclamation of the President, dated May 29, 1865."

"2nd. – To be void and of no effect if the said R.B. Wofford shall hereafter, at any time, acquire any property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor.

On November 7, of 1844, John Tyler Wofford was born in Wharton County on Caney Creek (where Wharton now stands) to Rollins Bob and Frances Jane Davis Wofford. He was their oldest son. His grandfather, Daniel Wofford was a soldier in the Revolution. His father, Rollins Bob Wofford was, as written earlier, the first Chief Justice of DeWitt County (August, 1848) and had extensive holdings in plantations and slaves. At the age of 2 years, John Tyler moved with his parents, Judge and Mrs. R.B. Wofford, to Clinton, then the County seat of DeWitt County.

Wofford's early education was obtained from rural schools, and later he attended the Texas Military Institute, at Rutersville, near La-Grange, Texas when he was in his "teen" years.

When his country's call for the Confederacy volunteers in the Civil War was sounded, although but sixteen at the time, he enlisted as a private in the "Fourth Mounted Volunteers" under the command of James Reilley. This regiment saw active service in New Mexico and Arizona. In the spring of 1863, he accompanied his regiment to Louisiana, and there participated in the operations under Richard Taylor and Tom Green, making a splendid record as a soldier. He was serving on the staff of General W.R. Scurry when that gallant officer was killed, and continued in the service of his country until mustered out at the close of the war. He was also serving in Hood's Brigades.

On November 7, 1865, John Tyler Wofford, at the age of 21, was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Stevens of Concrete, Texas, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Ann Steen Stevens (See Joseph Stevens). Mr. J.V.E. Covey was the minister. J.T. Wofford immediately entered the mercantile business in Clinton, in partnership with his father and he continued that and ranching after he acquired some 30,000 acres of his own ranch lands.

He was a pioneer in the stock raising industry of DeWitt County, and sent herds of cattle annually from 1873 to 1885 by way of "The Trail" (Chisholm) in Kansas and Nebraska. On one of these trips, seeing the need of a better grade of cattle, he purchased several Black Polled Angus bulls, from which he got a start of graded cattle, although at that time it was a very expensive and hazardous enterprise, owing to the lack of knowledge necessary in warding off the fatal disease known as "tick fever".

After several years, his first herd of cattle was driven to market in Kansas in 1869, going by route of Hochheim, Gonzales, Lockhart, Austin, Waco, Hillsboro, Cleburne, Ft. Worth, Denton, St. Arbuckle, Abilene and Wichita, Kansas. Wofford and his brother-in-law, John Y. Bell, did not make the drive, but took the stage coach to Galveston where they boarded a train for the trip to Kansas. The last herd, belonging jointly to Wofford and Bell, was driven to Kansas in 1882, and was made up of 7,000 head of cattle. The trail bosses were Arthur Burns, Louis Burns, and Jim Sumners, prominent pioneer residents. After reaching Kansas and learning of the drop in the prices being paid for cattle, Bell decided to sell his interest in the cattle to Wofford who leased land to be able to hold the stock until spring. The cattle were wintered on range in Indian territory in Nebraska on the North Platte River. Bell hoped to catch a rising market, but due to the extreme cold of the winter of 1882, all but 600 of the original 7,000 cattle were lost. The unacclimated cattle succumbed to the "biting blast" of the bitter cold. It was necessary for the trail h ands to chop ice from water troughs each day in order for the cattle to have water to drink.

J.T. Wofford had large stock pens located not far from the confluence of Sandies Creek and the Guadalupe River. This area was one of the "gathering places" for stockmen preparing for "cattle drives up trail". His ranch brand was XT; his up-trail brand was lazy F. In no wise daunted or crushed by the disastrous blow, he continued to raise cattle for market and farmed on a large scale, although he never sent cattle up "The Trail" again.

He moved to Cuero, from the ranch, in 1884, to take advantage of the school facilities for his large family of children, and personally conducted his farming and cattle interests until the time of his death, Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1910. The large home, now on Reuss Boulevard, was dismantled and each board numbered. It was then ferried across the Guadalupe River to its present location, where it was rebuilt in 1883 and 1884.

He was a charter member of the Jewel Lodge No. 103, Knights of Pythias of Cuero, Texas, organized in 1898, and filled all offices in that Lodge successively until elected at Beaumont, Texas, April, 1910 to Grand Chancellor of the Grand Domain of Texas, the highest position in the order, and which position he held at the time of his death.

Some time earlier he identified himself with

the Baptist Church of Cuero, and was a leader and worker in that organization, as in every other cause he espoused. "He was a man of indomitable courage and integrity of purpose, tranquil temperment and unfaltering faith, that "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world"."

Josephine Stevens Wofford received her early education in Concrete, at the Concrete Academy, a co-educational school organized and run by Mr. J.V.E. Covey.

Later she attended Baylor College, which was then at Independence, Texas. A sister of Sam Houston attended at the same time.

One of Josephine Stevens closest friends was Mrs. H.A. Wroe of Austin, the former Mrs. Carey MacNelly, whose husband, Capt. MacNelly was of the Texas Rangers force in DeWitt County in its early days. The two ladies were close friends at "Old Baylor University" at Independence, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wofford, having received good, sound early educations themselves believed in the same for their children. The ones who were not taught by Mr. J.V.E. Covey attended Professor Nash's Academy in Cuero later. The ones who did not marry at a very early age went on to college.

Jesse and Lucy Wofford went to Hollins in Virginia, Mary, Clare and Josephine went to Baylor College in Belton, Texas and John and Chancey attended Baylor University at Waco, Texas.

Clare Wofford, the eighth child of John T. and Josephine Stevens Wofford, after completing her education in Texas, went on to Nashville, Tenn. There she spent a year with Dr. and Mrs. Dan Blake while studying voice. The Blake's had been early residents of Cuero, but had moved to Nashville so they could educate their sons at Vanderbilt University.

On November 4, 1904, she was united in marriage to Alexander Frank Hamilton, son of Alexander and Annie Thornton Hamilton. Two children were born to this union: 1. Alexander F. Hamilton, Jr., born on the ranch on August 31, 1905 and died on February 22, 1941. 2. Frances Ann Hamilton, born on the Cheapside Ranch on August 15, 1913.

I would be quite remiss if I did not mention the deep and abiding Christian faith of Josephine Stevens Wofford. She was a life long member of the Baptist Church and was an active worker until the "twilight years of her life."

by Mrs. Gale Oliver, Jr.

WOLF – GOEBEL

F997

Doris Nell Wolf (Goebel), born June 17, 1928, to Werner and Lorene Semmler Wolf. She was baptized September 22, 1928, in Zion Lutheran Church, Arneckeville, and confirmed there on March 29, 1942. She attended Green DeWitt School and graduated from Cuero High School in 1948. After obtaining her teachers certificate she taught school for two years at the Green DeWitt School.

On May 9, 1948, she married Alton August Goebel in the same church where she was baptized and confirmed. After making a remodeled house her own home she became a mother, October 19, 1952, of a son they named Clifford Dean. Fourteen months later, January 7, 1954, a daughter, Faye Alon, was born.

The next 35 years have been spent busily raising a family, being an active partner in the dairy business, participating in church activities, women's clubs and several crafts and sewing groups.

by Mrs. Alton Goebel

WOLF, ALBERT C. AND JULIA (RAPP)

F998

Two months after Friedrich Wolf married Wilhelmina Sager on 11/20/1890, he bought 140 acres of land in the Green DeWitt League from his father, Christian Wolf. Christian had bought it in 1887 from Samuel C. Lackey. It has been in the Wolf family ever since. After a home was built, Friedrich and Mina moved onto the place. There, two sons were born: Albert Christian on 12/11/1891 and Felix Christoph on 9/22/1893. Tragedy struck the family on 5/02/1894 when Friedrich died of typhoid fever. He had drunk water out of the Guadalupe River while chopping cotton in the field next to the river.

The young family moved in with Christian Wolf for about six months and then moved to Arneckeville to live with Mina's mother, Mrs. Christoph Adam Sager. The boys attended school in Arneckeville until 1906. During the summer of 1906, Mina, for health reasons, moved to Comfort, Texas with her two sons. Albert began working (at 50 cents per day) doing odd jobs including helping to build a store.

Around Christmas of 1908, Mina and sons moved back to Arneckeville, temporarily living in the vacant parsonage, and then in 1909, onto her 140 acres. The boys were then old enough to work the farm. While Mina was absent from the place, she had leased it to a neighbor, Albert Koenig, who share-cropped it.

On 10/27/1914, Albert married his school sweetheart, Julia Rapp, in Moulton. She was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Gottlob Rapp who had served the Lutheran church in Arneckeville from 1904 to 1908. In 1915, Albert and Julia moved into a new home which Albert built on the same 140 acres. To their union seven children were born: Eugene, 9/29/1915-4/3/1936; Armin, 10/13/17-2/26/89 (married Helen Reinecke); Walter, 6/27/19 (married Ida Reinecke, dec'd., then Dorothy Gibson); Harold, 8/2/22 (married Elsie Kanak); Adeline, 12/18/25 (married Fred O. Thamm); Ralph, 3/7/28; and Ida Marie, 1/23/34 (married Ivan D. Schultz).

As the family grew, it became necessary to replace the buggy with the first automobile, a 1919 Chevrolet. Albert and Julia were active in the church, community and school. When the Green DeWitt school burned in 1929, Albert helped to build another by raising funds and then using his carpentry skills to build it.

Albert was an election judge at Arneckeville for many years. He served for 25 years as secretary of the local branch of Hochheim Prairie Farm Manual Insurance Association.

In 1938, Albert was one of the main carpenters who helped to build the present church building of Zion Lutheran, Arneckeville. Albert and all his family had a deep and abiding love for their church. He served in various church offices including President of the congregation. He was a grandson of its first pastor, Rev. C.A. Sager.

Albert farmed and ranched all his life. He died 11/26/1967 from a heart attack. Julia lived to be 93, dying 8/31/1985. They are buried at Zion Lutheran cemetery, Arneckeville. Both were first generation Texans who contributed to the growth of their community. Son, Walter, served as DeWitt County Treasurer for 15 years from 1974 to 1989.

The grandchildren of Albert and Julia Wolf are as follows: Armin and Helen; Wayne and Melvin, Walter and Ida; Byron and Lynn Douglas, Harold and Elsie; Donna Owens and Gary, Adeline and Fred; Marilyn Powell, Robert and

Golden Wedding 1964 of Albert Wolf's. L-R Walter Wolf, Ralph Wolf, Ida Marie (Wolf) Schults, Julia (Rapp) Wolf, Albert C. Wolf, Adeline (Wolf) Thamm, Armin Wolf, and Harold Wolf.

Stephen Thamm; Ida Marie and Ivan D.; Julie Newton and Chris Schultz.

by I.D. Schultz

WOLF, CHRISTIAN AND SOPHIE (LANGE)

F999

Christian Wolf was born 2/2/1831 in Viesecke, Perleburg, Brandenburg which is now in East Germany. His parents were Johann Joachim Ernst Wolf, a farmer, and Elisabeth Giesecke, his second wife.

When Christian was married 5/29/1859 in Viesecke to Sophie Lange of Legde, he was a laborer. Sophie was the daughter of Johann Lange, also a laborer in Legde. Seven children were born to Christian and Sophie of whom three died in childhood. In the Fall of 1873 (the year Cuero was founded), the entire family immigrated to Texas on the Vandalia which landed at Indianola. Their children were: Sophie Dorothea, born 11/3/1860; Freidrich Christian, born 3/17/1864; Marie Louise, born 9/20/1866 and Henriette Marie, born 3/4/1869.

When they arrived at Arneckeville, they lived in a log house on the farm of Mrs. Justine Dreier Sager, widow of Rev. Christoph Adam Sager. She took in many immigrants from Germany until they could be settled. Christian became a freighter, hauling lumber from Indianola to San Antonio. On 1/13/1876, Freidrich Karl Otto was born (the only child born in Texas). On 11/24/1877, Christian bought 21 acres in the Green DeWitt League through which the spring-fed Carlisle Creek flowed and onto which they moved. This became their homestead. Christian began farming. Adjoining land was acquired in 1878 and 1881. Christian filed his declaration of intent to become a citizen on 11/4/1878, but it wasn't until 7/6/1891 that he and son, Friedrich, became citizens.

Sophie died on 6/23/1880. She was buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Arneckeville. The family had become active members at Zion. The older children helped raise Otto. Louise never married so she remained at home to care for the family as the older children married. She died 7/16/1959 .

A story is told about the Wolfs. A John Groll came from Germany and eventually worked his way to Arneckeville. He worked with them as a freighter until he saved enough money to buy his own team and wagon. He married Mathilde Scheel and lived near the Wolfs. When John was hauling freight he often came home late at night. One night, while Mathilde was walking to the Wolfs home to stay with them, a snake bit her. The Wolfs got a chicken off the roost, butchered it and put the warm chicken on the bite to draw out the venom. She survived.

Daughter, Dorothea, married Fred Sager, son of Rev. C.A. Sager in 1883. Henriette married Albert Nagel in 1888 and died 3/6/1897. On 11/20/1890, Friedrich married Wilhelmina (Mina) Sager, youngest child of Rev. Sager. Two months later, Christian sold Friedrich 140 acres of land on the Guadalupe River which he had purchased in 1887 from Samuel C. Lackey. This land became Friedrich and Mina's home. The tract has been in the Wolf family ever since. Tragedy struck on 5/02/1894 when Friedrich died of typhoid fever. He left his widow and two small children: Albert Christian, born 12/11/1891 and Felix Christoph, born 9/22/1893. They moved in with Christian Wold for six months and then to Arneckeville to live with Mina's mother. The 140 acres were leased to Albert Koenig who share-cropped it. About 1909, Mina, Albert and Felix moved back onto the land. The boys were old enough now to work the land.

1908 Christian Wolf with his grandchildren. Back Row L-R Albert Christian Sager, Albert Christian Wolf, John Christoph Sager, and Felix Christoph Wolf. Next Row, Emilie Justine (Sage) Schorlemmer, and Lina Wilhelmina Sager. Next Row, Richard Christian Sager, Anna Sophie (Nagel) Sager, Christian Wolf, Mathilda Heinricke (Sager) Meissner, and Heinrich Albert Nagel. Front Row, Walter Christoph Sager, and Werner Friedrich Christian Wolf.

On 10/27/1914, Albert married Julia Rapp and the place became their home on which they reared their family: Eugene, Armin, Walter, Harold, Adeline, Ralph and Ida Marie.

Friedrich's other son, Felix married Adelia Goebel on 12/16/1915 and moved to Orange Grove in 1923 with their daughters, Alarie and Nina.

Christian's youngest, Otto, married Philipina Hiller on 12/30/1902 and lived near the 140 acres, mentioned earlier which was also in the Green DeWitt League. There, they reared their only child, Werner. He married Lorene Semmler. On the same place they reared daughters, Doris and Rita.

Christian Wolf died 8/11/1911 and was buried beside his wife at Arneckeville which was also the last resting place for their children. The fact that their other three children were buried in Viesecke is a reminder of the courage and hope this family and many others had in coming to a new land to seek a better life for their families. We, their descendants, are thankful that they took that venture of faith.

by I.D. Schultz

WOLF, OTTO CHRISTIAN AND PHILLIPPINE EMMA LOUISE HILLER

F1000

Otto Karl Friedrich Christian was born January 13, 1876 to Christian and Sophie Lange Wolf. He was their only child born in America. All the other brothers and sisters were born in Germany, including Louisa and Dora (Mrs. Fred Sager). He was baptized November 14, 1876 in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arneckeville, Texas, the sponsors were Fr. Fruede, Fr. Sager, and Matilda Scheel. He was confirmed March 30, 1890. He married Philippine Emma Hiller of Arneckeville on December 30, 1902 in Zion Lutheran. Philippine was born March 30, 1878, baptized June 9, 1878 with Gottlieb Hiller and Wilhelmine Schorlemmer as sponsors. Her parents were George Friedrick and Wilhelmine Henrietta Schorlemmer as sponsors. Her parents were George Friedrick and Wilhelmine Henrietta Schorlemmer Hiller. Otto and Philippine had one son, Werner Friedrich Christian, born November 7, 1903. They lived their entire married life on a farm in Green DeWitt, a small farming community south east of Cuero. The community still exist today. Otto made a success of farming and was the first farmer in the county to own a tractor. Son Werner married Lorene Ida Semmler and returned to his parents farm. They raised two daughters on the farm, Doris Nell and Lorita Mae. In 1933 Otto and Werner applied for a loan to buy the 100 acre "bading place" on South River Road. The asking price was $1,000 or $10 per acre. Otto had $500 for a down payment and several thousand dollars on loan to friends and family. He also had money in the bank. Farmers State Bank president, Mr. Schorre, felt there was too much risk involved, due to the slow economic conditions caused by the depression, even though both had excellent credit. Finally Werner and Otto mortgaged the 140 acre home place and both homes to secure the

Louisa Wolf, Phillippine (Hiller) Wolf, Otto Wolf, Dorothea (Wolf) Sager, and Fred Sager (child unknown)

loan. Mr. Schorre was still uncomfortable with granting the loan but finally agreed. Balance of $500 was paid off within a year of the purchase. Otto was also a lover of fine horses and paid as much as $75 for one dun mare purchased from J.B. Garrett in 1905, and $150 for a gray mare purchased from Alcaro Equio (sp?) in 1910. Otto and Philippine celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on December 30, 1952. They were lifelong members of Zion Lutheran and are buried in the Church Cemetery. Philippine died June 29, 1953 and Otto passed away on March 7, 1958.

by Rita Fitzgerald

WOLF, WERNER FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN AND LORENE IDA SEMMLER

F1001

Werner Friedrich Christian was born November 7, 1903. He was only child of Otto Christian and Philippine Emma Hiller Wolf. He was baptized January 3, 1904 with Christian Wolf, Louise Wolf and Friedrich Hiller as sponsors, and confirmed March 3, 1918 in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arneckeville. As a small child he spoke two foreign languages. He learned German in the home, and Spanish on the farm. He attended Green DeWitt school and learned to speak English in the first grade. The school was located about 5 miles from Werner's home. On most days he walked to and from school.

He married Lorene Ida Semmler on September 26, 1925 in Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Texas. Lorene was born September 25, 1897. She was the daughter of Charles and Annie Koenig Semmler of Arneckeville. The young couple moved to Cuero where Werner was employed at Fruend Funeral Home. Werner was not too happy with this type of employment for he believed in the beauty of life. They moved to his parents farm and built a home.

Their first child was Doris Nell, born on June 17, 1928. They adopted their second daughter, Lorita Mae, who was born on September 20, 1932. Doris married Alton August Goebel on May 8, 1948. Werner encouraged Alton to start a Holstein Dairy with him in 1948. Werner was associated with the dairy until his retirement in 1968. Lorita married Jack Collier Fitzgerald June 1, 1952 at Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville.

In his lifetime Werner was involved in numerous projects and activities to better the life of the community and the church. He was president of DeWitt County REA for approximately 20 years. He was president of the local branch of Hochheim Prairie Insurance and he served as treasurer and trustee for Zion Church. He was also director and president of DeWitt County Producers Association. Werner and Lorene celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on September 25, 1975. Lorene passed away May 12, 1977 and Werner on November 29, 1981. They are both buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Arneckeville.

by Rita Fitzgerald

Lorene Ida (Semmler) and Werner F. Wolf

WOLTER, FRED "FRITZ" W. SR.

F1002

Fritz Wolter was born February 23, 1889 in Schulenberg, Texas. His parents were Adreas Johannes Welhelm Wolter and Magdalene Leubert. Andreas was born August 8, 1857 in Eisenach, Austria, Germany. Magdalene Leubert was born March 13, 1857 in Magdeburg, Neustadt, Germany. Andreas died February 7, 1933 and is buried in the Lindenau Cemetery, Lindenau, Texas. Magdalene is also buried in the Lindenau Cemetery. She died December 17, 1924. Andreas and Magdalene had eight children.

Fritz Wolter, Sr. married Annie (Meyer) Hyde on February 20, 1913 in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas. Annie was born December 8, 1893 in Lavaca County, Texas, to Vincent and Annie (Baass) Meyer. When Fritz and Annie married, she was a widow with two children: 1) Viola Hyde Wolter was born March 1, 1911 and was adopted by Fritz Wolter, Sr. She married Ferdinand Lude on October 14, 1931. They have two children; 2) Ernest Herman Hyde Wolter was born July 18, 1913 and was adopted by Fritz Wolter, Sr. Ernest married Helen Gertrude Buch on September 19, 1934. They had three children. Later Ernest married Etta Ann on May 16, 1944. 3) Alma Magdalene Wolter was born January 17, 1917 in Cuero, Texas. She married Robert Carl Schmidt on October 26, 1949. They have one daughter, Janet Ann. 4) Fred Wolter, Jr. was born August 28, 1919 in Cuero, Texas. He married Gertrude Rosalia Wild on September 4, 1940. They have two children; 5) Oscar Andrew wolter was born in Cuero on August 22, 1921. He married Lee Alice Arndt on June 18, 1942. They have two children. Oscar later married Willa Dean (Hilbrich) Mueller on June 19, 1970. They have one son; 6) Martin Luther Wolter was born in Cuero, November 10, 1926. He married Wilma Ruth Meyer on November 3, 1948. They have two children.

Fritz Wolter, Sr. died August 29, 1971 and is buried at the Lindenau Cemetery. Annie died August 26, 1975 and is also buried at the Lindenau Cemetery.

Wolter Family: Back – Martin, Oscar, Viola, Alma and Fred, Jr. Front – Annie, Fred, Sr. and Ernst.

Wolter Family; Back – Fred, Ernst, Alma and Viola. Front: Oscar, Annie, Fred, Sr. and Martin.

WOOD, JAMES MADISON

F1003

James (Jim) Madison Wood was born Nov. 2, 1858 in Missouri. He was the second of four children born to Polly Ann (Morrow) and John Wood. His father died when he was young and his mother brought James, William, Martha, Menerva to Stratton, DeWitt Co. James lived all but the first twelve years of his life in Stratton.

James and Amanda Elizabeth Rice were married on Sept. 20, 1877. They had thirteen children, twelve lived to adulthood.

Oscar L. born July 17, 1878, married (1.) Ida Webb on Nov. 2, 1898, married (2.) Janie Williams on Oct. 24, 1925, died June 14, 1932 at Abilene, Tx.

Inez born Aug. 21, 1881, married Will Webb on June 19, 1898, she died June 4, 1962 at Bee Co. buried at Ever Green Cemetery.

Florence B. born Dec. 9, 1883, married Joe Means on Dec. 11, 1900, she died April 7, 1920, and buried at Alexander Cemetery.

Jesse J. born Jan. 24, 1886, married Rose Valababous on March 6, 1912, he died Aug. 22, 1942, in Bee Co. buried Ever Green Cemetery.

Sidney Oliver born Jan. 6, 1888, married Stazy Kneblich on Dec. 27, 1911, he died June 2, 1975, buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, Lavaca Co.

Violettie A. born March 8, 1890, married Harry Garrett, on Sept. 21, 1908, she died Feb. 9, 1971, buried at Hebron Cemetery.

Lemuel born Dec. 6, 1892, married Ethel Duke on Sept. 2, 1914, died Feb. 9, 1980.

Lonnie H. born April 3, 1894, married (1.) Ruby Delano on Dec. 24, 1917, (2.) Ellen Nelson on Feb. 2, 1923, he died Aug. 20, 1979 at Sansburyville, Penn.

Davis W. born Feb. 28, 1897, married (1.) Bessie Graham on Oct. 6, 1917, (2.) Vera Smith on Dec. 24, 1938, (3) Willie Sosabee, he died July 11, 1986 in Oklahoma.

Mida P. born Sept. 22, 1898.

Tom Stell born July 38, 1900, married Joy Williams on Feb. 11, 1929, he died Oct. 6, 1966 at Harris Co. buried Forest Park Cemetery.

Noma A. born July 21, 1903, married Johnnie Squyres on Nov. 10, 1925.

Amanda Elizabeth Rice was born March 24, 1861 at Stratton. She was one of five children that was born to Adeline Prudence (Courtney) and Oliver H. Rice. She was redheaded, blue-gray eyed and about 5'3. She died giving birth to their thirteenth child, on Jan. 25, 1906. She was buried in Alexander Cemetery with her infant son in her arms.

James remarried Dec. 5, 1906 to Annie A. Cockran. James died Jan. 6, 1948 at Willacy Co. while visiting his son and was buried at

Alexander Cemetery, Annie died July 30, 1944 and was also buried at Alexander Cemetery.

by Geneva M. Garrett

WOOD, WILLIAM HENRY AND MARY JANE NEWMAN

F1004

William H. Wood

My Grandma was born 'Mary Jane Newman' in Cuero, Texas in DeWitt County on August 16, 1861. When still quite young, she became interested in a cowboy from one of the large ranches in the area.

One day he came riding through the field where she was plowing with a walking plow (commonly called a "Georgia Stack"). "Molly," he said, "I'll do your plowing if you will do my cooking." She was willing but thought she was too young and should wait a year or two. However, he was persistent and kept setting the date nearer and nearer. So, on October 26, 1876, they were married. His name was William Henry Wood, born in 1856 in DeWitt County, Texas. William and Mary Jane had seventeen children during their marriage. Some of the children were: John Andrew, Roy P., William, A.D. "Jack," Fred, Cecil, Ollie, Betty, Effie Lornea, Mattie, Myrtle, and six more who are unknown at this time. It is thought that all of the children were born in DeWitt County. They attended the Primitive Church at Stratton but it took them one day to get to Stratton and one day to get back home. The only way they could attend church was to put four or five children on "Old Charley," their favorite horse. They would arrive at Mary Jane's parents on Saturday and spend the night, then return home after church on Sunday.

Mary Jane was known as "Aunt Molly" to her friends and relatives. Many of her deeds and acts of kindness could be listed, but the qualities that sustained her and inspired her many friends and loving descendants could never be counted. She later was a devout member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Glen Rose, Texas, where her son A.D. Wood was pastor.

William Wood was known as "Uncle Billy." He loved music and played the "French harp" and sang. He and "Aunt Molly" were married for sixty years. "Uncle Billy" died in 1936. "Aunt Molly" died on March 7, 1956 at the age of 95 years 7 months and 9 days.

Grandpa's death left me devastated. He was known to most people as Uncle Billy, but to me he was and always will be, my grandpa.

by R.T. Wood

WOODS, HENRY GONZALVO

F1005

Annie Saffarrans, descendants of Gonzalvo Woods, holding spear used to escape Dawsons Massacre. 1930's in front of Alamo.

Henry Gonzalvo Woods was born on February 18, 1816 in Lincoln County, Missouri (Wood's Fort – later known as Troy, Missouri) to Zadock and Minerva Cottle Woods. He married Jane Boyd Wells on October 18, 1844. Jane Wells was born on December 29, 1809, and died on August 2, 1866, at 56 years of age. Henry Gonzalvo Woods died in November 29, 1869, in DeWitt County, Texas. Jane and Henry G. are both buried in the Wood's Cemetery not far from the home he built near Yorktown in DeWitt County.

When Jane died, Gonzalvo directed his former slaves to erect a sandstone tomb at her grave. Gonzalvo is also buried beneath a sandstone tomb constructed by his former slaves.

H.G. Wood's father, Zadock, was one of Stephen F. Austin's Original Three Hundred Colonists. The Zadock Wood's family moved from Missouri to Texas in the mid-twenties.

Walter Gonzalvo Frazier, Arnold Brantley, 2 maiden ladies (unidentified). One of first lumber house built in DeWitt County in 1850's.

Zadock received a league of land in Fayette County in 1826. He settled on a piece of land about 10 miles west of La Grange called Wood's Prairie. Zadock's residence there was used as a Fort for protection against Indian attacks between 1828 and 1842. A State Marker is erected on Highway 27 west of La Grange at West Point, Texas where Wood's Fort was located.

In September 1842, Zadock and his two sons, Henry Gonzalvo and Norman Woods joined 50 other volunteers to form a company in La Grange under Captain Nicolas Dawson to help Co. Matthew "Old Point" Caldwell defend San Antonio against Mexican General Adrian Woll. As they approached San Antonio, they learned Col. Caldwell was in a battle at Salado. They became involved in the battle. When it was over half of the men were killed or wounded. Only two escaped. Zadock was killed on the battlefield, Martin was wounded and taken as a prisoner to Perote Prison in Old Mexico, and Henry Gonzalvo was one of the two that escaped. Before his escape, Gonzalvo went to where Norman was lying wounded and said, "Norman, let's get out of here," but Norman knew he was unable to make it so he told Gonzalvo to escape and to "Please take care of Jane and the children."

Gonzalvo did escape. His horse having been shot, a Mexican rushed upon him with a lance. Catching the lance, which was attached to the Mexican's wrist, he jerked the assailant to the ground and himself mounting the Mexican's horse, dashed along the soldiers yelling as loudly as any of them; and, having on a Spanish sombrero, he escaped detection amidst the confusion, and then succeeded in getting through the Mexican line, and once clear, having a good horse under him, he made good his escape. This description came from Noah Smithwick's Book, "The Evolution of a State."

After the death of Norman Woods in Perote Prison, Gonzalvo carried out his brother's admonition to care for his family by marrying

Jane and filling the place of a father to Norman's children.

Three children were born to Jane and Gonzalvo; two boys and a girl. The eldest boy was called Henry for his father whose full name was Henry Gonzalvo. The second boy they named Norman in honor of the dead husband and brother, and Jane called the baby girl Minerva in remembrance of the baby Minerva who died during the Runaway Scrape so many years before.

In 1856, Gonzalvo and Montraville sold their holdings in Fayette County and moved to DeWitt County. Gonzalvo settled on land in the Shiloh Community near Yorktown. He was a leader in the community. He owned a cotton gin and later built the first lumber home in that area. It was two stories high with an attic. He owned considerable property, a fine stallion, negro slaves and insurance which was unusual at that time. He was a Justice of Peace.

On July 6, 1861, the Shiloh Home Guards were organized on the west side of the Guadalupe River, 8 miles west of Clinton. Henry Gonzalvo was the Captain; D.N. Hardy, 1st Lt.; E. Edwards, 2nd. Lt.; J.H. Callihan, 3rd Lt.; and Joel S. Mily, 1st Sgt.

On April 25, 1965, Henry Gonzalvo Woods was honored with the Dedication of a Confederate States Army Marker at his grave. Gonzalvo was Captain of Co. K. 24th Regiment, Texas Cavalry during the Civil War.

Gonzalvo died on November 29, 1869, after being shot by John Kerlick. These were the days of outlawing and vigilante rule in DeWitt County. The sheriff deputized Gonzalvo and told him to get assistance to try to capture two outlaws who were supposed to be in the neighborhood. Gon took "Tobe" Brantley, husband of one of his stepdaughters, and a group of men with him to the house near Yorktown where the outlaws were supposed to be. Upon reaching there, they were told that the two men were at a dance and would return around 12 or 1 o'clock. They decided to wait there and capture the men when they returned from the dance. Not expecting the outlaws for several hours, they sat around quietly waiting. Gon made himself comfortable in a rocking chair on the front porch of the house. In the meantime, a little boy had slipped out of the back of the house and gone to warn the men at the dance. The outlaws immediately returned and hid themselves in a cornfield, Gon, unsuspecting they were near, lit his pipe in the dark, the outlaw fired upon him, killing him instantly.

He left behind his widow, the former Mary Ann "Polly" Calloway, whom he had married on September 22, 1867, about a year after the death of his first wife, Jane Boyd Wells. He also left behind the following descendants, his and Jane's children:

1. Henry Leander Woods, b. 8-8-1845; died, 10-16-1910; married, Emily Frances Ward.

2. Norman Woods, b. 2-26-1848; married, Lucy Ainsworth

3. Minerva Jane Woods, b. July 21, 1850, in DeWitt County; died July 1, 1939 in Burnet, Texas. She married Andrew Jackson Frazier on July 4, 1867 at Clinton, Texas, the old county seat of DeWitt County. Andrew Prather, a minister of the gospel performed the ceremony. Witnesses were J.A. Long and J.W. Asbury.

His step-children who were also his brother's children:

1. Ardelia Woods, b. 1-3-1833; married, Thomas Glimp

2. Sarah Boyd Woods, b. 2-11-1835; died 9-1-11 in Williamson Co.; married Robert Insall

3. Minerva Woods, b. 2-11-1835; died 1836 in the Runaway Scrape. She was a twin to Sarah Boyd Woods

4. Caroline Woods, b. 9-13-1839; married, Andrew J. Brown

5. Martin Zadock Woods, b. 9-21-1841; died 4-18-1863, during the Civil War. Only son of Norman Woods, was captured and died in a northern prison, adding another name to the list of Woods who died in service to their country.

6. Susan Woods, b. 9-21-1841; married J.D. Brantley. She was a twin to Martin Zadock Woods

When Minerva Jane Wood's mother, Jane Wells Woods, died in 1865, the 15 year old Minerva Jane was left in charge of her father, Henry Gonzalvo Wood's, household. She married the next year and she and her husband, Andrew Jackson Frazier, made their home with her father.

Henry Alexander Frazier, oldest son of Minerva Jane Woods and Andrew Jackson Frazier, was born on April 2, 1868, in the home Gonzalvo built in DeWitt County.

In 1883, Minerva Jane and Andrew Jackson Frazier moved to Burnet, Texas where Andrew Jackson "Jack" died with pneumonia on February 17, 1885. Henry Alexander "Alex", being the oldest son, helped his mother, Minerva, rear his younger brothers and sisters.

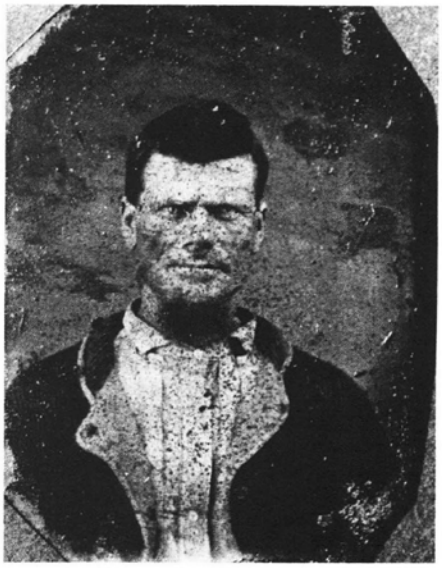
by Ruth Frazier Nibling, Jean Brantley Tidwell and Marianne Little

WOODS, MONTRAVILLE AND ISABELLA (HIDALGO) GONZALES

F1006

Montraville Woods was born 17 November 1806 at Woods Fort, in present Troy, Lincoln Co, Missouri as the second son of Zadock Woods and his wife, Minerva Cottle. Zadock

Isabella (Hidalgo) Gonzales Woods ca. 1880, Yorktown, Tx. Mrs. Pearl Gilliam of Uvalde, Tx., owner of original



Montraville Woods ca. 1853

Woods was the son of Jonathan Woods and Keziah Keith of Bridgewater, Mass., who also pioneered the Louisiana Territory with the Cottles and Zadock. Minerva's father, deacon Joseph Cottle and mother, Azubah Powers (daughter of Andrew Power) helped build the area around Woods Fort which eventually became Troy, Missouri.

Zadock Woods moved his family to Texas in 1824 as part of the old three hundred pioneers of Stephen F. Austin's first colony. Zadock received a land grant of one league and one labor of land which he took in present Fayette Co. and built a second Woods Fort there near present West Point, Woods Prairie.

In June, 1826, Montraville Woods fell in love with the very beautiful Isabella, daughter of Spanish dignitary Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales and his wife, Procopia (Hidalgo) Valdes (daughter of Don Francisco (Hidalgo) (Valdes) and plotted to elope with her. They were successful in eloping; however, the matter was brought to the attention of Stephen F. Austin by a letter from James Cummins at the request of Don Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales who was insisting that the couple be married immediately at La Bahia (present Goliad) by a catholic priest as Isabella was only 14 years old. Montraville and Isabella were also given a land grant in the amount of one league and one labor of land in Fayette County next to Zadock's land. Montraville became agent for his father-in-law, Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales in Fayette County after Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales received a league and labor of land in present Victoria County. Interestingly, the Spanish title of lesser nobility, "Hidalgo" was given by the King of Spain for exceptional service to the crown and was given to all descendants perpetually, so descendants of this family today may rightfully use the title of Hidalgo: A title similar to "Sir" or "Lord" in English.

Montraville and Isabella Woods had the following eleven daughters and one son: Mary born 8 December 1829; Minerva born 1 March 1832; Amanda M. born 5 Sept. 1833; Madalena R. born 17 July 1836 and married Sylvanus Brown; Sophronia born 13 April 1838; Mary Ann born 1 March 1840 and married William Milligan; Isabella born 3 December 1842; Malinda born 11 March 1844; Susan born 2 Jan-

uary 1846; Montraville Zadock born 7 March 1847 and married Ann Anderson on 4 January 1870; Margaret Eliza born 21 January 1849; and finally, Emma Ardelia born 27 December 1851 at Woods Fort, Fayette County, Texas and married William Hartmann at Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas on 27 January 1881.

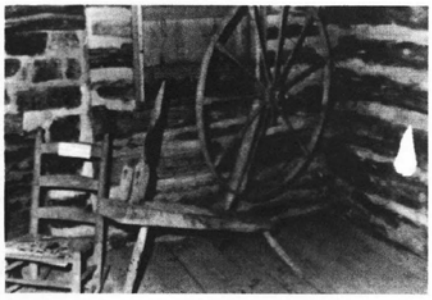
In 1856, Montraville and his brother, Henry Gonzales both moved their families to DeWitt County. Henry had married Jane, the widow of his brother Norman. Norman had died in pirate prison in Mexico City after being wounded and taken prisoner at Dawson's Massacre, Battle of Salado Creek in San Antonio, Texas. It was in this battle, 18 September 1842, that Zadock Woods, father of Montraville and Henry Gonzalvo was killed. In DeWitt County the brothers both ranched and farmed until their deaths. Montraville died on 15 July 1857 and Isabella gave the land designated as Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, Yorktown, DeWitt Co., Texas as a final resting place for her greatly beloved husband under the majestic oaks. Henry G. was made executor of Montraville's estate and helped Isabella until his untimely death as part of a sheriff's posse involved in searching for a nephew of Mr. Kerlicks of Yorktown who had been involved in the Taylor-Sutton feud. Deputy Sheriff Faust, Henry Gonzalvo Woods and two other posse members were killed and Henry G. was buried in Woods Cemetery, near Montraville.

Isabella continued to care for her land with the help of her children and later, their spouses. She even registered her own brand and marks in DeWitt County. She applied for and received a widow's pension from the State of Texas for her husband's service to the Republic of Texas during the revolution and separation from Mexico. She died on 28 January 1906, at the age of 93 years, 6 months, and 16 days and the family buried her next to Montraville in the Woods Cemetery, Shiloh, Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas.

by Marianne Little

WOODS, ZADOCK AND MINERVA COTTLE

F1007



Minerva Cottle Woods spinning wheel made for her by Daniel Boone

In Bridgewater, Massachusetts on 3 May 1764, Jonathan Woods, Jr. (born 15 Aug 1740, Bridgewater, Mass, son of Jonathan and Betty Thomas Woods) married Keziah Keith (born 9 Oct 1748, Bridgewater, Ma, daughter of James and Lydia Perkins Keith and granddaughter of Ensign John and Hannah Washburg Keith (this lineage traces back to Edward I, King of England). Their son, Zadock Woods was born on 18 September 1773 in Brooksfield, Mass.

After the American Revolution, Jonathan Woods, Jr. moved with his father and their families to Hartland, Vermont. In nearby Woodstock, Vt. Zadock Woods met and married in 1797, Minerva Cottle (born 22 Dec 1776, Woodstock, Vt. daughter of Joseph and Azubah Power Cottle).

"Deacon" Joseph Cottle served in the American Revolutionary War in March, 1781 in the last alarm. With the promise of a Spanish land grant in the Louisiana Territory, Joseph Cottle, Jonathan Woods, Jr. and Zadock Woods moved their families to the St. Charles District (now Missouri) on the Cuivre River in 1799. On the present site of Troy, Lincoln Co, Mo, Joseph Cottle and Zadock Woods built Woods Fort (an almost square stockade) to enclose the spring, cabins, Woods Tavern and Inn and the Universalist Church (of which Joseph Cottle was deacon and most early settlers here were members).

During the War of 1812, as many as 30 families took refuge in Woods Fort. Zadock Woods enlisted in Capt. Nathan (son of Daniel) Boone's Co of U.S. Mounted Rangers in March, 1812 and later fought with Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. Woods Fort also served as headquarters for Daniel Boone and again for Lt. (later U.S. President) Zachary Taylor in the 1813-14 Indian Raids. Zadock and Minerva and her parents, Joseph and Azubah deeded the township of Troy, Mo. (including Woods Fort and the spring) to the public in Sept. 1819. The community had grown too populated and the cry of the wilderness stirred deeply.

Zadock joined Moses Austin on an early exploration to Texas in 1822 and returned to Missouri. His pioneer spirit ablaze with the promise of a Spanish Land Grant of one league (4,228 acres) and a labor (177 acres on water) in Texas. His married children would be granted the same acreage and smaller grants for single men. By October, 1824, Zadock led a group from Missouri and crossed into Texas by Christmas, 1824. He submitted letters of recommendation from the Governor of Missouri with his character references and Petition for his Spanish Land Grant as a settler in March, 1826. As one of Austin's "Old 300" families, Zadock first acquired land near PLedger, Matagorda Co, TX. Later in May, 1827, he was issued his league and labor ten miles west of present La Grange (near present West Point) in Fayette Co, where he built a second Woods Fort which was almost identical to the one in Missouri. The outside walls were made of bricks which were later covered with boards.

Zadock and Minerva had 5 children: 1. Minerva (born 1798, married William Harrell in Missouri, [had 9 children: Amanda, Sophronia, Milvern, Leander, Emily, Montraville, William Norman, Elizabeth, Mary]), 2. Ardelia (born 21 Feb. 1804, MO. died infant); 3. Norman B. (born 13 Oct 1805, married Jane Boyd Wells August, 1831, [had: Ardelia (born 1834 married A. Glimp), Sarah Boyd and Cordelia Minerva (born 11 Feb 1835); Caroline (born 1838, married A. Brown); Martin; Susan (born 1840 married Tobe Brantley], died a prisoner of war, Perote Castle Prison, Mexico; buried in Castle Moat; 4. Montraville (born 17 Nov 1808, married June, 1826, Isabella (Hidalgo) Gonzales (born 2 July 1812, daughter of Spanish Dignitary (Don) Francisco (Hidalgo) Gonzales and his wife, (Donna) Procopia (Hidalgo) Valdes; [had: Mary (born 1828); Minerva (born 1832); Amanda (born 1833, married A. Brown); Madalena (born 17 July 1836, married Sylvanus Brown); Sophronia (born 1838); Mary Ann (born 1841); Isabella (born 1842); Malinda (born 1844); Susan (born 1846); Montraville Zadock (born 1847, married Ann Anderson); Margaret Eliza (born 21 Jan 1849, married Jesus Gonzales); and Emma Ardelia (born 27 Dec 1851, married William Hartman)]; 5. Henry Gonzalvo (born 18 Feb 1816, married after brother Norman's death, Jane Boyd Wells Woods [and had: Henry (born 1846); Norman (born 1848); and Minerva (born 1850)]; and finally, Leander (born 1809, died at the Battle of Velasco, June, 1832).

Woods Fort became shelter to neighboring families during the early Indian troubles and again when Texas declared independence from Mexico in March, 1836 as family tradition states that while Zadock, Norman and Henry were with the Texas Army that Montraville had remained to care for their invalid mother, his family and other families which had taken refuge there from the approaching Mexican army.

Minerva Cottle Woods died on 18 March 1839 and was buried in Woods Prairie Cemetery, West Point, Republic of Texas.

Although Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836, Santa Ana swore to regain Texas and in September, 1842 Mexican General Woll entered San Antonio with troops, taking prisoners, including John L. Smith. The Texans quickly responded with Col. Caldwell's army taking their position at Salado Creek near San Antonio. Zadock *insisted* on defending his beloved Republic of Texas and rode with his sons, Henry and Norman, and grandsons, Milvern Harrell and John Wesley Pendelton. They joined Capt. Nicolas Dawson and the men of Fayette Co., as they traveled toward San Antonio to join the Texas Army. Early on Sunday, 18 Sept 1842 (Zadock's 69th birthday), on Salado Creek, Capt. Dawson decided to retreat since he could not locate the Texian troops; however, he gave the order to advance after "Zadock Woods, oldest member of the band, voiced the prevailing sentiments: 'We have marched a long way to meet the Mexicans, and I do not intend to return without meeting them. I would rather die than retreat." Surrounded by the retreating Mexican army, they were fired upon by the Mexican cannons until they tried to surrender; however, the angry and defeated Mexicans took their revenge on these helpless Texans. Zadock tried to go to the aid of his wounded son, Norman but a bullet caught him and he fell dead over Norman's body. Henry made his way to their sides where Norman begged him to try to escape and to care for Jane and the children. Henry escaped after taking a lance from a Mexican soldier and killing him with it. He used his horse to make good his escape. However, Norman was taken prisoner of war with Milvern Harrell and they were cruelly marched to Perote Castle Prison near Mexico City where Norman died in December, 1843. As promised, Henry married Jane and cared for the children. In 1848, Zadock and the other Dawson mens' remains were moved to La Grange and buried. In 1856, both Montraville and Henry Gonzalvo Woods moved their families to De Witt Co., Texas.

by Marianne Little

WOODWORTH, JOHN CLAIR

F1008

John Clair was born in 1843 and died in 1928. He was married to Ann (North) Woodworth and they had six children: 1) Ella Woodworth, who married Goree Ashford in 1889; 2) Leona, who was born in 1874 and died in 1957. She married James C. Howerton who started the *Cuero Record* in 1894. They had three sons: Jack, Charles C., and John Chester "Pete" Howerton: 3) Cornelia Woodworth, who was born in 1876 and died in 1936. She married Robert Kleas in 1901. Robert was born in 1876 and died in 1929: 4) Edith Woodworth, who was born in 1879 and died in 1937. She married a Mr. Dent; 5) John Chester Woodworth, who was born in 1881 and died in 1942. He married Jeanette Qualtrough. She was born in 1888 and died in 1961; 6) Edwin Woodworth, who lived most of his life in Washington, D.C.

John Clair was very active in Cuero civic activities. He was at one time, the Mayor of Cuero and also, its postmaster. He was a merchant and had his own insurance agency.

by Patsy Goebel

WRIGHT, LITTLEBERRY FAMILY

F1009

Little Berry "L.B." Wright was born December 4, 1830 in Perry County, Alabama and died June 15, 1882 in Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas. On November 4, 1858 he married Ann Eliza Tumlinson, daughter of Joseph Tumlinson and Elizabeth Newman.

L.B. Wright was the son of Robert W. Wright who was born September 16, 1804 in Oglethorpe Co., Georgia, and died November 11, 1870 at Lockhart, Texas. Robert was married January 10, 1826 to Matilda Waters who was born October 20, 1810 and died June 9, 1892 in Caldwell County, Texas.

Mr. Wright was a Justice of the Peace in DeWitt County where he performed many marriages that we found in the records. He also notarized papers in December 1875 concerning the estate of Amanda Taylor Hyatt. L.B. Wright was a first cousin to many Wrights who lived in Gonzales County whose parents were James Butler Wright and Lucy Waters.

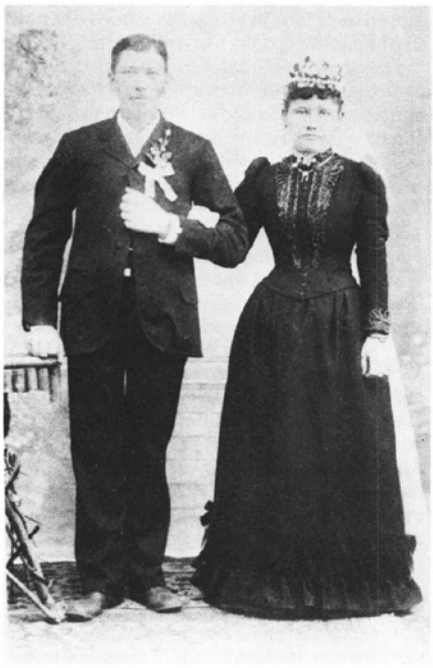
L.B. and Matilda's children were: 1) Aurellia E. Wright who was born in 1862. 2) Zora Lee born about 1864 and married Charles Warren. 3) William Lee "Will" was born February 10, 1868 and died March 1, 1942. He married Mary Ann Brown December 28, 1892. She was born in 1871 and died April 18, 1958. Their children were: a) Charles H. Wright who died in 1938 in Eagle Pass, Texas. b) E.A. "Dogie" Wright who was born April 25, 1901 and died in 1989. He married Mable "Tiny" Love. Dogie was a Texas Ranger as was his father Will. c) William B. "Bill" Wright was born April 20, 1905. d) M.H. Wright died in 1961. e) Zora Belle was born at Sutherland Springs, Texas and married Blake Fore. f) Houston Tom Wright was born in Floresville, Texas. g) Milam H. Wright died in El Paso, Texas. h) Neely Wright married Ed Cline. i) Belle married a Mr. Johnson and she is buried at Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Little Berry Wright died in 1882 and is buried in the Upper Yorktown Cemetery near Yorktown, Texas.

by Marjorie Burnett Hyatt

WULF, HERMANN AND ELISE (KOOPMANN)

F1010



Hermann and Elise (Koopmann) Wulf, December 12, 1893, wedding day

The Statue of Liberty greeted him a she had welcomed many of his fellow countrymen before him as he entered the port of New York City in May of 1891. Exactly why he chose to leave his native country is not known; we can only speculate what prompted Anton Heinrich Hermann Wulf, at the age of 25, to board ship and journey to America.

Anton Heinrich Hermann Wulf, known simply as Hermann, was born Jan. 29, 1866 to Hinrich Wilhelm Wulf and his wife Anna Margarethe Helene (Junge) Wulf in Esenham Oldenburg Germany. He was baptized on April 2, 1866 in the Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Abbehausen.

Hermann was the fifth and final child of Hinrich and Anna. Of Hermann's four siblings, two brothers and two sisters, only his brother Karl Anton Cornelius (10/2/1863 – 7/16/1882) was home to greet little Hermann. His oldest brother, Johann Heinrich Cornelius (11/6/1858 – 1/18/1859) and his oldest sister, Bertha Sophie Henricka (1/19/1860 – 10/1/1861) both died before their second birthdays. Another sister was stillborn in July of 1862.

Details of Hermann's life in Germany are sketchy. His father Hinrich died on June 20, 1879 when Hermann was only 13 years old. At age 14, he was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on March 21, 1880 at Abbehausen. On July 16, 1882, Hermann's brother, Karl, died. Five years later, the only surviving member of his family, his mother Anna, passed away on August 7, 1887.

At age 21, Hermann found himself facing the future alone. His entire family was gone and his life in Germany must have seemed uncertain. Whether it was the loss of his family, the economic conditions of Germany or perhaps encouraging news from friends already in America, at some point Hermann decided to emigrate. He obtained a travel pass from the Grandducy of Oldenburg and traveled alone to America, arriving in May of 1891.

Hermann wasted no time once he arrived in America. By December 3, 1891, he had relocated from New York to the Lavaca Co. area of Texas and had applied for citizenship by filing a record of intention in the District Court of Lavaca Co. Hermann remained in Lavaca Co. where he met his future wife Theodore Elise Koopman. Elise the daughter of Eilert Hinrich Christoph Koopmann and Agathe Elise (Wiegmann) Koopmann, was born July 28, 1871 in Abbehausen Oldenburg, Germany. Elise, her parents and her siblings, Hinrich Anton, Carl Anton, Bertha Johanne Auguste, Johann Hinrich and Wilhelm Hinrich emigrated to America in 1882. Elise was confirmed into the Lutheran faith on April 3, 1887 in Lavaca Co. Tx.

Hermann and Elise were married on Dec. 12, 1893 in Charlottenburg Lavaca Co. Tx. in the Charlottenburg Lutheran Church. Their attendants were Heinrich and Anton Koopmann and Minna and Emma Stindt.

By 1897, the Wulfs had moved to Garfield, a farming community in DeWitt Co. Tx. Here Hermann and Elise developed and expanded their farming and ranching interests. Hermann was granted citizenship on May 29, 1899 in the District court of DeWitt Co. Tx.

Five children were born to Hermann and Elise. The two oldest were daughters, Ida Elise Johanne Wulf (Weischwill) born Sept. 21, 1894 in Charlottenburg and Agnes Bertha Minna Wulf (Warling) born April 2, 1897 in DeWitt Co. The daughters were followed by three sons, Wilhelm Heinrich Elimar on August 31, 1898, August Heinrich on Feb. 22, 1900 and Hermann Johann Alvin on Oct. 2, 1901.

On Saturday, July 10, 1915, tragedy struck the Wulf household. On that day, Hermann was hauling lumber to his farm when his team became frightened and ran away and Hermann sustained a small wound on his left leg, which was not thought to be serious at the time. However, blood poisoning set in and in an effort to save his life, an operation was performed at the Allen Hospital, Monday, July 19, his left leg being amputated above the knee. Despite the surgery Hermann died the next day, July 20, 1915 at the age of 49. The funeral took place on Wed., July 21, at 9:00 a.m. Interment was made in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Tx. Hermann was buried under the auspices of the Hermann Sons being that he was a member of the Turner Lodge of Gruenau.

Elise Koopman Wulf never married. With the help of her family, she raised her children and continued farming and ranching. Theodore Elise Koopman Wulf died on Jan. 8, 1948 in Cuero, Tx. She was buried beside her husband on Jan. 9, 1948.

by Brenda Lincke Fisseler

Drs. REUSS & REUSS

Physicians & Surgeons

Offices over Reuss' drug store. Residence and office phones.

WULF, HERMANN AND ERNA (HENGST)

F1011

Hermann and Erna (Hengst) Wulf December 18, 1924 wedding day

Hermann Johann Alvin Wulf was born October 2, 1901 in the Garfield community of DeWitt Co., Tx. Hermann was the youngest child of Anton Heinrich Hermann Wulf (1/29/1866 – 7/20/1915) and Theodore Elise (Koopmann) Wulf (7/28/1871 – 1/8/1948). Hermann was baptized on Feb. 23, 1902 by Rev. J.K. Poch in the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Tx.

Hermann grew up in the Garfield community on the family farm. Hermann and his brothers Henry and William and sisters Ida (Weischwill) and Agnes (Warling) worked on the farm and attended both the local school and Lutheran church. Their social life centered around neighborhood events such as dances, feasts, birthday parties and Sunday visits with family friends such as the Blocks, Meischens, Hengsts, Bruns and Koopmanns.

On July 10, 1915, tragedy struck young Hermann and his family. Hermann was merely 13 years old when his father, Anton Heinrich Hermann, died as the result of an accident on the family farm. After the sudden death of their father and husband, the family regrouped and mother Elise assumed the duties of raising the children and attending to the family business of farming and ranching.

On April 24, 1916, Hermann was confirmed into the Lutheran faith by Rev. Poch in the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garfield.

When Hermann was still a young man, he became acquainted with Miss Erna Hengst, the daughter of Alvin and Mary (Wild) Hengst. After courting Erna, Hermann proposed and the young couple were married on Dec. 18, 1924 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown by Rev. E.A. Sagebiel. The newly weds took up residence in Garfield on 119 acres owned by Hermann's mother. In Dec. of 1927, Hermann's mother, Elise, deeded this 119 acres to Hermann as an advancement of her estate. Hermann and Erna lived on this property for 53 years before moving to Yorktown in 1977.

Herman farmed his entire life. He raised cotton, corn and grazer; he operated a small dairy with the help of his wife and children. While in Garfield, Hermann was a member of the Garfield Shooting Club and sold tickets at many of the dances held in the hall. Erna was a member of the Garfield Home Demonstration Club.

Five children were born to Hermann and Erna: Ewald Hermann Oct. 17, 1926, Irene Mary July 15, 1928, Junell Elise (Lincke) May 7, 1930, Milton Willie Sept. 11, 1932 and Dianna Kay (Fudge) Aug. 1, 1945.

Hermann and Erna celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at the Garfield Hall in 1964. Ten years later they returned to that very same hall to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 21, 1974 with a party hosted by their five children.

In November of 1977, Hermann and Erna moved to Yorktown where they resided on Church St. They remained in Yorktown until Hermann's death on January 4, 1986 and Erna's death on Feb. 27, 1987. Both were laid to rest in the Westside Cemetery in Yorktown, Tx.

by Brenda Lincke Fisseler

WURSTER – SAGER FAMILY

F1012

When Texas Was Brand New

In Germany's Swabian Alps, in the State of Wuerttemburg, there lies a village, Dettingen an der Erms, near the mercantile city of Bad Urach.

In the mid-19th century, two families grew together in the village, but the call of God to missionary work on the frontier of America broke up the closeness. Christoph Adam Sager wanted to be a missionary among the American Indians, but became instead a pastor to German immigrants in the South of Texas. In 1850 the Sager family emigrated to America, to De Witt County, Texas.

For young Friderica Elisabetha, the good pastor's younger sister, it meant leaving behind her boyfriend, Jacob Wurster. Friderica was born 25 July 1836. Jacob Wurster was born 16 July 1832. After the Sager family sailed, Jacob was apprenticed to a miller.

His parents, Andrew and Elizabeth (Haering) Wurster had five sons. Andrew Jr. was serving as a conscript in the army. He was the second son. Fearing the other boys, Samuel, Jacob, John, and Christopher, would be called to military duty, Andrew Sr. one day told Elizabeth, "I didn't raise my boys to be soldiers. We're going to America!"

Jacob received the news one day in 1852 at his place of apprenticeship. He set out on foot to join the family at the port of embarkation after the miller gave him his pay and a watch. Enroute to the port, Jacob stopped at an inn, put the watch and money in his boots, and was lulled to sleep by the ticking. He awoke in the middle of the night when the ticking no longer sounded. His watch and money had been stolen! With the help of the innkeeper, Jacob recovered his property from the thief, who became a little worse for wear in the recovery process, and caught the ship to America with only minutes to spare.

The Wurster family arrived in Jo Daviess County in northwestern Illinois in 1852, and built a log cabin. They were 1500 miles away from the Sager family in De Witt County. Travel was rugged. Railroads were just beginning to cross the state, reaching tentatively westward from Chicago, 180 miles to the east. Telegraph had not really developed yet; the stagecoach and the Mississippi River's steam packets were just about the only way to go.

Yet, there must have been some method of communication — probably very slow mails via Government post roads — for in 1854, Jacob built a flatboat, fashioned some long poles, loaded the produce of the Wurster family farm into the boat, and leaving the log cabin, poled his way down the Great River to New Orleans. There he sold the produce and the boat. The boat probably became a house in the French Quarter; the produce provided funds for Jacob to team up with a group hauling supplies to Texas. (Oral tradition says "he rode with a Mexican hauling supplies up into Texas.")

Jacob made a beeline direct to Arneckeville, or perhaps Meyersville, or one of the German settlements in South Texas, where Pastor Christoph Adam Sager was serving the religious needs of the German settlers. He was now 22 and Friderica was 18. Friderica's brother soon married Jacob and Friderica, and Jacob in 1856 took his bride home to meet the family in northwestern Illinois. It was the last she would ever see of her Texas family.

In November, 1857, a daughter, Caroline Louise, was born to the happy couple, followed by another daughter Frederica, in 1860.

America was soon at war with itself — just the thing the Wursters and Sagers fled Europe to avoid. Friderica's twin brothers Peter and Michael entered the Lost Cause on the side of the Confederacy. Peter became a private in the 4th Texas Cavalry, Co. C., CSA; Michael went into the 4th Texas, Co. D. They were both prisoners of war at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, and were exchanged at Red River Landing. The rejoined their units. Michael returned home to die in 1915; Peter remains missing in action.

Friderica was again pregnant in 1862. She was filled with worry for her family a thousand miles away, unable to communicate with them, probably very homesick, wondering about her brothers on the other side. Son Edward was born to Jacob and Friderica in 1862. He died in infancy. Medical science at the time dictated a new mother was to stay in bed and rest for a long time from the ordeal of childbirth. Because of this, Friderica contracted "milk-leg," a painful swelling caused by inflammation and clotting in the veins.

Jacob placed Friderica in the State Mental Hospital in downstate Jacksonville, Illinois, on 12 November 1862. Barely two weeks later, on 25 November 1862, she died there.

The 30-year-old widower returned home to Derinda Center, Jo Daviess County, to mourn

his loss with the two daughters, Caroline, age 5, and Frederica, age 2.

Within the year, Jacob married again. His second wife, Barbara Baetz from Schweinfurt, Germany, took the two daughters to her bosom, and gave Jacob six more children before he became a pioneer again, traveling by covered wagon to Kansas in 1878, after Caroline's marriage to John Gass in Savanna, Illinois (Carroll County), in 1877. In Kansas, Jacob and Barbara lived in a dugout (sodhouse) and became happy parents of four more children, the last of whom died in 1983, fully 151 years after her father's birth.

They must have been remarkable people, to train their children Caroline and Frederica to maintain family contacts through the years. Both daughters wrote often to their Texas grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins in the Sager family in South Texas. Caroline was the wife of a prosperous Carroll County farmer, and bore him eight children, the youngest daughter of whom became my mother, imbued with the knowledge that to maintain family contact, correspondence was the key. Mary Cecelia Gass, granddaughter of Friderica and Jacob, wrote for her mother, and continued the correspondence after her mother's death. Letters were exchanged at Christmas, at Easter, when a child was born, when an old person died. The language changed in the letters from the German of Grandmother Gass to the American English of the Sagers and the Koehlers and the Neubauers. Frederica Wurster, their other daughter, married Edward Sheldon, an early Smith Center, Kansas, banker, who moved his family to upstate New York.

Jacob Wurster died 4 April 1923, 61 years after his bride from De Witt County. Caroline, the first born daughter of Jacob and Friderica, died in 1934; Frederica died in 1949. The correspondence continued into the 1970's when the third and fourth generations in Texas, Illinois, Kansas, and New York slowly gave into the demands and pressures of modern living, and the old people who knew and remembered slowly died off.

Mary Gass Neubauer, granddaughter of Jacob and Friderica (Sager) Wurster, died in 1984.

After her death, an amazing discovery was made. Mary had saved correspondence with just about the whole family. Jacob's daughter-in-law Florence Sellers Wurster had recorded just about everything her father-in-law told her, and forty years later wrote these memories to her step-niece, Mary Gass Neubauer. After Mary's death, the records were discovered and a historian/genealogist's search for roots produced more information.

Through the courtesy of then-Mayor Ben E. Prause, of the City of Cuero, contact was reestablished with the Sager family in Texas.

In 1988, Jacob and Friderica's great-grandson flew home to Texas in two hours' time, contrasting with the month or more of travel his great-grandparents endured when they came north about 132 years earlier.

The emotional meeting at the Sager family in Arneckeville reunited the family, split by time and distance, but united in their love for one another, a love maintained through the years by correspondence. The third and fourth cousins in Texas remembered the Wursters, the Gasses, and the Neubauers.

Photographs and handshakes and hugs were exchanged at a Texas barbecue, in a Texas summer in the shade of live oak trees.

There are more than a hundred descendants of Jacob and Friderica who congratulate the De Witt County Historical Commission on this book project. We are proud to be hereditary Texans, and our history — the saga of Friderica Sager and Jacob Wurster — is the stuff of American history. It almost reads like a script for a TV mini-series!

by James A. Neubauer

WYATT, ALVIN E. FAMILY

F1013

Prior to moving to Cuero in 1941 to operate Wyatt Hatchery and Feed Store, both Alvin Earl Wyatt and his wife, Frankie B. DuBose Wyatt, had spent their lives in Gonzales County, Texas. Alvin was born at Harwood, Texas on June 15, 1902, to John Preston Wyatt (1856-1925) and Frances Myrtle Hubbard Wyatt (1866-1939). After farming and cattle ranching until 1932, he began selling pedigreed cotton seed to area farmers. By 1939, he had become District Sales Manager for the H. Conrad Company, producer of purebred seeds at Martindale, Texas.

Frankie was born on January 27, 1903, to Charles Lawrence DuBose (1864-1930) and Tilda Anna Leber DuBose (1877-1969), at Hamon where she grew up on their cattle ranch. She graduated after ten years of schooling from a small private school that several of the ranching families had established to provide for their children's education. One young lady teacher from Chicago, Illinois not only taught the usual three R's but also taught music, art, and social etiquette. Frankie became an accomplished horse-woman early in her life, often helping her father work cattle. She was one of the first women in her community to put on britches and ride astride instead of sidesaddle. Other young women followed her example as it was almost impossible to work wild cattle in the brush from a sidesaddle.

Alvin and Frankie Wyatt married on December 14, 1926, in Gonzales County. On June 17, 1928, their first child, Earl Franklin Wyatt was born. A daughter, Patsy Ann Wyatt, was born on October 3, 1933, but she died on December 1, 1940, after a lengthy illness. Another daughter was born of this union on August 9, 1940, Georgia Nell Wyatt.

In October 1941, Alvin and Frankie Wyatt opened the Wyatt Hatchery and Feed Store at the northeast corner of Esplanade and Railroad streets in Cuero. After many years of successful operation, the business was sold to Jess Ward in 1954.

After moving to 710 Indianola Street in 1942, the Wyatt family became active in many community activities. Both were tireless workers in the First Baptist Church congregation where Alvin served as a Deacon for many years. In April, 1947, Alvin was elected to the Cuero School Board where he served until 1954. From 1952 to 1954, he was President of the Board. He again was a member of that Board from 1956 until 1966. He was also a director of the Chamber of Commerce and South Texas Livestock Show, and a member of the Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, and a Shriner. At the time of his death on August 10, 1968, Alvin Wyatt was engaged in cattle ranching and was a sales representative for Southland Life Insurance Company.

by Earl F. Wyatt

WYATT, EARL F. FAMILY

F1014

Earl F. Wyatt and Marlene (Burkett) Wyatt

Earl Franklin Wyatt was born in Gonzales County on June 17, 1928. His parents, Alvin Earl Wyatt and Frankie DuBose Wyatt, and their family moved to Cuero in 1941 where they founded the Wyatt Hatchery. Earl graduated from Gonzales High School and attended Texas A&M University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in January, 1950.

Darlene Julia Burkett, born July 26, 1927, was the daughter of Roston Ellis Burkett, a locomotive engineer for Southern Pacific, and Lillie Othelia Huth Burkett. Lifelong residents of DeWitt County, the family lived at 605 West Grand Avenue in Yoakum when Darlene and Earl were married on April 16, 1949.

Upon graduation from Texas A&M, Earl accepted a position with the Texas Highway Department in their Gonzales office. At that time the resident engineer's office was located on the third floor of the Gonzales County courthouse. The young couple lived at 1110 Hamilton Street in Gonzales until November, 1950, when Earl was called to active duty with the U.S. Army because of the Korean war.

Reporting to Washington, D.C. with his wife and their first son, Terry Glenn Wyatt (born March 7, 1950), Earl was assigned to the Army Security Agency School in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. His second assignment a few months later returned the family to the Washington, D.C. area. Second Lieutenant Wyatt served the remainder of his two year tour of duty at the National Security Agency at Arlington, Virginia. The Wyatts lived in the Washington suburb of Falls Church, Virginia.

Returning to employment with the Texas

Highway Department in November, 1950, Earl went to work in the Design Section of the district office in Yoakum. On July 18, 1954, their second son, Allan Earl Wyatt, arrived and on August 24, 1957, their third son, Wayne Steven Wyatt, was born. In 1957 the Wyatts moved into their new home built at 111 Isdale Drive at the west edge of Yoakum.

Both parents became active in Boy Scouting with Darlene working as a Cub Scout den mother and Earl as Scoutmaster of Troop 225 in Yoakum. In July 1966, the whole family spent a week at Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico. In 1968, Earl; was the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from the Capital Area Council of Scouting. He has continued to serve Scouting in various capacities including 13 years as a Scoutmaster.

Earl had also been active in the Yoakum Rotary Club since 1967, serving as club president in 1968-69.

As members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church since 1952, Darlene and Earl have headed various committees and taught Sunday School. Earl has served 3 three year terms on the church council and was president of the congregation from 1984 through 1986.

Terry G. Wyatt married Andrea Louise Valis on May 22, 1971, in Shiner, Texas. Having served as DeWitt County Auditor for seven years until December, 1987, Terry is presently Comptroller for the Texas Association of Counties in Austin. He and Andrea have a son, Matthew Jay Wyatt born January 2, 1983, and a daughter, Kelly Kim Wyatt born January 8, 1988.

Allan E. Wyatt was married to Denise Darlene Ehlers on August 17, 1974. They have a son, Dustin Mallory Wyatt born September 9, 1982, and a daughter Carly Nicole Wyatt born June 5, 1984. Having received a Bachelors degree in Environmental Design from Texas A&M University in 1976, Allan is employed by Valero Energy Corporation near Yoakum. He also operates a landscape design business known as Greenscape.

Wayne S. Wyatt is employed by South Texas Utilities Company in Yoakum.

Earl retired from the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation in March 1987, with over 37 years of service. His position for the past several years was District Administrative Engineer with responsibilities that included personnel, training, public affairs, and civil rights.

by Earl f. Wyatt

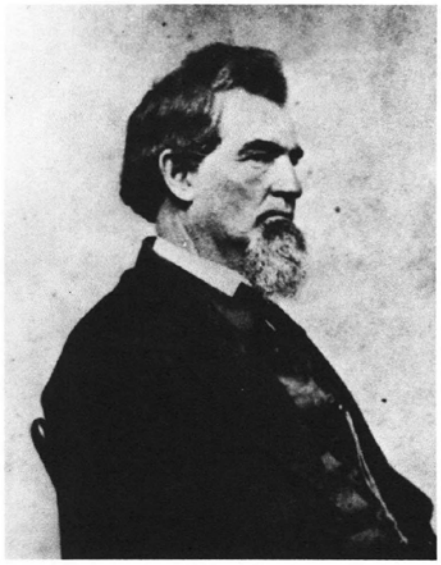
YORK, CAPTAIN JOHN

F1015

John York was born in Kentucky, July 4, 1800. His father was James York and his mother was a Miss Allison before her marriage. James York and his family came to Texas in 1821 and first settled in Austin County. Their children in order of their birth were: John, James Allison, Sarah, Phoebe, Patsy and Mary York.

John York married Lutitia Gain. She was born in Alabama, January 10, 1804. Children of John and Lutitia Cain York in order of their birth were: Miriam, Jonathan, James Allison, William Griffin, John Pettus, Thomas, Sarah Jane, Elvira, Adaline and Robert York.

While still living in Austin County, Captain York commanded a Company of Volunteers



Captain John York

who participated in the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5-10, 1835, the fiercest battle of the Texas Revolution. Many of the men from Captain York's company fought at San Jacinto.

Captain York engaged in farming and ranching in Austin County. Besides his agricultural interests, he was the owner of the Winedale Inn in Fayette County (Round Top) from 1840-1848.

The John York family moved to DeWitt County in 1846, establishing their home near the Coleto creek, a short distance from where the present town of Yorktown is now located.

John York engaged in farming and ranching in DeWitt County. He owned a large area of land in the area and he was interested in colonization and settlement. He and his friend, Charles Eckhardt, a former Indianola merchant, founded Yorktown in 1848.

In October 1848, maraudering Lipan Indians from Coahuila, Mexico entered Texas to plunder, steal and murder. To repel them, a company of volunteers was raised in DeWitt County. Captain York was placed in command. In a fight on the banks of the Escondido Creek, fifteen miles west of Yorktown, on October 10, Captain York and his son-in-law James Madison Bell, were killed and James York was wounded. The bodies of Captain York and James Madison Bell were buried in a single hand-made oak coffin in the York Cemetery about eight miles east of Yorktown. Mrs. John York died July 12, 1851 in DeWitt County and is buried in the York Cemetery.

by Margaret Sturges

YOUNG, SOUTHERN AND EMMA JOHNSON FAMILY

F1016

Southern Young Sr. was born around 1880. He was raised around the Concrete Hochheim area. He married Emma Johnson. They were married by the Rev. J.T. McDonald. Emma was the daughter of Emma Miria Lewis and Albert Johnson. They had six children. They were: Southern Jr., Rufus, Mitchie, Elneeta, Oscar and Mack. All of their children are dead now except for Southern Jr. who resides in Corpus Christi. A brother, Rufus preceded his mother in death. "Mama Emma" as she was referred to was in her nineties at the time of her death.

by Wanda Carter

EARLY CATTLE BRANDS

Hay,Nathaniel	N
Hoch,Valentine	VH
Jacobs,M.G.	J
Johnson,Thomas	TJ
Kelsoe, A.	AK
Kent,Joseph	K
Lord,George	GL
Lowe,A.D.	88
Murphrey,Joseph	JM
Moore,R.C.	3
May,John J.	JO
McCoy,Elizabeth	N
McCrabb,John	M
Means,Wm.	2
North,Isham R.	IN
Odom,Margaret	9
Patterson,Wm.P.	P
Peebles,Robert	RP
Pointsett & Brazell	
Pridgen,W.W.	WP
Powers, Mary	+
Rainey,Wm.A.	WR
Reed,Harriet	
Smith,James H.	BS
Smith,David	
Stevens,Joseph	S
Sikes,James H.	J
Skull,Sarah	M
Taylor,Wm.	WT
Taylor,Rufus	RT
Taylor,Pipkin	PT

Young Family: Southern, Mitch, Rufus, Emma, Mack, Elneeta and Oscar.

ZENGERLE, BERNHARD JOHN (BEN) AND EFFIE JUSTINE ARNOLD

F1017

B.J. Zengerle's Garage

Ben John Zengerle was born on March 24, 1898 on the family farm near Arneckeville in the stone house built by his grandfather F.J. Zengerle. Franz Joseph Zengerle emigrated to this country with his wife and oldest son, E.L. Zengerle in the Fall of 1860. They left their home of Fellering in Alsace-Lorraine with the help of Peter Bluntzer. Fellering is located in the Thur Valley between the Vosages Mountains and the Rhine River. Ben J. Zengerle was the 7th child born to Edward L. and Elizabeth (Weiss) Zengerle. He had 7 brothers and 1 sister.

He married Effie Justine Arnold of Weser, Texas (great-granddaughter of pioneer Peter Bluntzer) on November 12, 1919 in St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville. Effie was born in Weser on July 17, 1898 to Albert F. Arnold and Augusta A. (Gudat) Arnold. Effie had 7 brothers and 4 sisters. For their honeymoon Ben and Effie traveled by train from Yoakum to Rosebud, Texas where they stayed with relatives. After returning home they moved into the old rock house built by Ben's grandfather back in 1865. They farmed and raised cattle, turkeys and chickens. Their first son, Daniel, was born in the old family home on October 4, 1921. In the Fall of 1922 they moved to Cuero and Ben went to work at Charlie Schultz's Blacksmith Shop for $12 a week. Ben and Effie purchased the blacksmith shop in Weser in 1923 and moved into the next door farm house. He did blacksmith work and repaired Model T's and A's. In 1924 Gulf Refining installed the first Gasoline pump in the garage, and Ben was appointed the first postmaster of the Weser Post Office. Their second child, Bernard, was born on July 15, 1929 at the Burns Hospital in Cuero. They operated the blacksmith shop and post office in Weser for many years. During this time their oldest son, Daniel, was defending his country in the South-Pacific. In 1945 They sold the Garage and purchased the 200 acre Jacob farm in Weser. About the same time they moved to Cuero and bought the Robert Preston home from Mrs. Josie Freund.

While living in Cuero and until his death he remained quite active farming and raising cattle on the Weser farm. He also became a respected carpenter and painting contractor.

Their marriage was blessed with two sons, Daniel E. Zengerle (69) of Cuero and Bernard A. Zengerle (61) of Freeport, Texas. Both Sons are still active on the farm today. Ben Zengerle died after a lengthy illness on April 7, 1965 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero. Effie A. Zengerle died on May 25, 1989 and is buried next to her beloved husband. They were both devoted members of St. Michael's Catholic Church. They leave behind 2 sons, 6grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

by Gerald Zengerle

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Ben John Zengerle and Effie Justine (Arnold) Zengerle

ZENGERLE, DANIEL E. AND NORMA K. STURM

F1018

Daniel Edward Zengerle was born on October 4, 1921 to Ben J. and Effie Arnold Zengerle in the stone home built by his great-grandfather in 1865 near Arneckeville, Texas.

In the Fall of 1922 his family moved to Cuero and his father went to work in Charlie Schultz's blacksmith shop. Then in 1923 his parents bought the blacksmith shop in Weser and they moved into the farm house next door. By the time Daniel was 10 years old he was already helping in the blacksmith and automobile shop working on Model T's. One of his most cherished highlights and rewards from his father was to take the Model T, with his bench-legged sheppard riding on the running board, to meet the train in Yorktown for freight and supplies. Those were the days when you didn't need a license to drive.

Daniel and Norma Zengerle Family

Daniel attended schools in Weser, Meyersville and Goliad. He graduated from Goliad High School in 1939. After graduation he went to work for his father and in 1940 he went to work as a mechanic for Dewitt Motor Company in Yorktown.

On November 12, 1942 he was drafted and spent the majority of his duty in the South Pacific campaign. He served in the Army Air Force's 394th Bombardment Squadron, Thirteenth Air Force. He was involved in the battles and campaigns of the Bismark Archipelago, New Guinea, Eastern Mandates, Southern Philippines, and Central Pacific. he was cited with the Asiatic-Pacific campaign medal with 5 bronze stars, the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Good Conduct Medal. By the time he received his Honorable Discharge on September 2, 1945 he had attained the rank of Staff Sargeant.

After his discharge, Daniel worked for Weber Motor Company from November 1945 until December 1956 at which time he went to work for Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. He retired from Texas Eastern in December 1985. While working at Weber's he met Norma Katherine Sturm. Norma worked in the office as secretary and bookkeeper for M. Clifton Weber and Mrs. Agatha Weber Wagner. They were married on July 19, 1954 in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero by Fr. William Jansen.

Norma was born the third child of Ernest and Meta Dieringer Sturm on March 27, 1930. She was born and grew up on the family farm in the Ratcliffe area. She attended school in Nordheim while the family lived there and graduated from Cuero High School in 1947. In addition to working at Weber's, Norma worked for Cuero Federal Savings & Loan, Coca Cola Bottling Co. and in her home. In 1965 Daniel and Norma bought and remodeled the old Putman home on Main Street in Cuero. They raised their children there and have lived there ever since.

Four sons were born to their marriage. On July 19, 1956, their second wedding anniversary, twins were born; Daniel Craig and David Curtis; Gerald James was born on September 9, 1957; and Glen Charles on August 20, 1964. Currently they are the proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren.

Norma and Dan have enjoyed traveling all of their married life. A couple of their favorite destinations have been the mountains of Colorado and the Texas hill country.

Daniel is a life long member of the V.F.W. Post 3972 in Cuero. They are members of St. Michael's Catholic Church and reside at 605 E. Main in Cuero.

by Norma Zengerle

ZENGERLE, EDUARD LOUIS

F1019

Eduard Louis Zengerle, a long-time resident of DeWitt County, was born September 13, 1859 in Alsace, France. He was the son of Franz Joseph Zongerle and Katharina Haller Wolter.He immigrated with his parents and

The Edward Zengerle Family. Standing: Emilie, Berthold, Eduard, Jr., Albert Hugo, Walter, Parents: Eduard and Elizabeth Front: Herbert, Joseph and Ben.

three step sisters to Texas by way of New Orleans and Galveston when he was just over one year old. They settled in DeWitt County near the community of Arneckeville. On November 10, 1884 he married Elizabeth Weiss. Elizabeth was born in either Switzerland, Prussia or Austria. There is some controversy about just where this took place. Her parents were Joseph Weiss, Sr. and Elizabeth Doneman. She came to the area near Arneckeville in 1871 with her father and two brothers and sisters, her mother having died earlier. Elizabeth often recalled the hardships of her journey to DeWitt County. She spoke longingly of the beautiful home they had left behind only to live in a log cabin. She spoke of how they traveled from the coast on foot through open country. Eduard and Elizabeth had nine children. 1. Eduard L. (Eddie), born August 14, 1884, married Louise Schultz. They had a son, Werner and a daughter, Melonie. 2. Emilie Elizabeth, born March 13, 1889, married Basil Dreyer. They had two sons, Leonard and Victor and three daughters, Helen, Mildred and Alice. 3. Joseph Charles Albert, born November 9, 1890, married Bertha Arnecke. They had two daughters, Emelie and Alberta. After Bertha's death, Albert married Annie Arnecke and they had a son, Joseph. 4. Wilhelm Oscar Berthold, born February 3, 1892, married Sophia Schultz. They had a son, Royal and a daughter, Gladys. 5. Hugo Adolph, born March 3, 1894, married Selma Doehrman. They did not have children. Oswald (Walter) Arthur, born March 28, 1896, married Helen Doehrman. They had one son, Wayne. 7. Bernhard John, born March 24, 1898, married Effie Arnold. They had two sons, Daniel and Bernard. 8. Joseph Francis, born January 3, 1900, died when he was not quite fourteen years of age. 9. Herbert Raymond, born June 20, 1905, married Esther Roessler. They had two daughters, Edith and Marjorie. Eduard purchased his first plot of land at a public auction held on the courthouse steps in January of 1883. He paid $720 for 100 acres of land. When his mother died, he inherited some of his father's land and he purchased some of his sister's shares. So by the year 1915, he had acquired a large amount of land. He had some acreage in the communities of Arneckeville, Green DeWitt and Thomaston. He raised Hereford cattle on many of these properties. He was a farmer and a rancher by occupation. He never held public office or did any great things that got his name recorded in history but he is remembered as a stern and loving father and grandfather, always ready to help his family our of a tough spot. He never failed to take something along when he visited his children, garden produce, wine that he had made or whatever he thought they might like. Elizabeth was a tiny, petite lady but she also had a heart of gold. They raised a large garden, had their own chickens, geese, hogs and cows. They prepared their own bacon, ham, sausage, fruits and vegetables. They had a large orchard of peaches, pears, and grapes. They made many a container of delicious wine that was always served to their guests. One of the highlights of their life together was the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. An article printed in The Cuero Record relating the events of the day states that they had a large crowd of guests for a barbecue dinner. There were two large cakes, one in gold and one in white. Later in the evening there was a dance held outdoors on a platform built for the occasion. At the time there were eighteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren present to help celebrate.

Elizabeth died on February 25, 1943. Eduard lived until March 12, 1955. During this time he became bedridden after he lost a leg. He would entertain everyone who came to see him with stories of his life in Texas. Both Euard and Elizabeth are buried in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Meyersville, Texas.

by Edith Nagel

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ZENGERLE, FRANZ JOSEPH FAMILY

F1020

"Life can be very sweet but also very cruel," best describes the life of Katharina Haller Walter Zengerle, my great-grandmother. She was born Feb. 23, 1826 to Louis Haller and his wife, Marie Rose Gruenenwald in Fellering, Haut-Rhin, in the upper Thur Valley of Alsace in France. The Hallers could trace their family to the early 1628's without interruption. Her mother was the daughter of a well known family, the Jean Baptiste Gruenenwalds of Kruth, a village a few miles north of Fellering. Katharina had a normal childhood doing the things all girls of her time usually enjoyed.

On April 6, 1850, she married handsome Andre Walter of Oderen. He was the son of Andri Walter and Anni Marie Horny. They settled in Fellering and four daughters were born to them: Catherine on Oct. 17, 1851; Mary Ana on March 23, 1852; Justina on Feb. 10, 1854; and Therese on Jan. 21, 1857. This happy family was devastated less than seven years after their marriage by the death of Andre on Jan. 21, 1857. Katharina was left to support four tiny daughters.

However, on Jan. 30, 1858, she married Franz Joseph Zengerle, son of Johann Pete Zengerle and Theresa Schneider. Franz Joseph was from Wesserling, a neighboring village. Born Nov. 21, 1831, he was a mason by trade. He was a very kind and gentle man who loved Katharina and her little daughters and was willing to make a good home for them.

This happiness was short lived, for on Feb. 12, 1859, little Therese died. On Sept. 13, 1859 Katharina presented Franz Joseph with his first born son, Edward Louis, later to be known as "Ed." This helped ease the sorrow of losing little Therese.

Things were not going well in Alsace and the surrounding area. The country was torn by war after war and the great industrial revolution and it certainly was becoming harder to earn a good living. The Alsatian population was growing to the point of overpopulation particularly in the villages and countryside. The people were reduced to poverty and could no longer survive on such little plots of land and had to work also. Many of the Zengerle family and friends had emigrated to America, especially to Texas. Some had gone to Castroville and others to Meyersville.

About this time Peter Bluntzer, one of the first to emigrate, returned to Alsace urging families to come to Texas and share the wonderful opportunities. Franz Joseph and Katharina decided to take their family and seek a new life. So, on Oct. 6, 1860 they sailed from Le Havre on the American vessel, SS Pequot. They arrived in New Orleans on Dec. 13, 1860. Here, they encountered a completely different, flat country and really wondered if they had made a big mistake. From here the family traveled by smaller ship to Texas and then by walking and ox cart to Meyersville, arriving there on Christmas Eve 1860.

Due to the long, hard journey, Katharina lost an expected child. This caused much sorrow. However, there were other hardships facing them, particularly the Civil War.

The Zengerle family did purchase land near Arneckeville and began to clear it. Franz Joseph being a mason by trade, began building a house for his family. This project was interrup-

ted by the Civil War, for in June 1861, he was serving in the Confederate Army of his new country. He was a private in the Coletto Guards under Capt. Robert Kleberg, and later he served under Capt. John J. Schiwitz.

In the latter part of 1862, he again worked on the house, which consisted of a large basement and two big rooms. Rocks were secured from the creek which was nearby. All rafters, pins and beams were hewn by hand from wood by Franz Joseph. The walls were patterned after Alsatian houses and were 14 inches thick.

The basement gave much protection to the family, especially when Franz Joseph was away and during incidental Indian attacks. In fact, it was here where my grandmother, the youngest child of the family was born. She was named Alice Ann. Alice, for her godmother to be, Alice Golly; Ann, for the mother of the Blessed Virgin, the mother of Jesus. It was her father, Franz Joseph, who wanted her named Ann because of his great devotion to St. Ann. However, she was always called Anna or Annie.

It took several years to fully complete the house. Much work and love went into its building. Some of the stones used were very choice and large; especially the ones used for the fireplace and mantle. It took five men to carry them and put them in place. When finished, it was very comfortable and the family was very happy.

While the house was being built, a variety of crops had to be planted. Farm animals were obtained and given care as they were very important in a time of no tractors or automobiles. Big gardens were essential and in the summer canning of fruit and vegetables took place. In winter fat hogs were butchered for meat, bacon and sausage. There were always lots of chores.

The family also increased. Joseph was born Jan. 9, 1861; Rosalina on March 14, 1863; Carolina on Sept. 10, 1865; Louis on Aug. 24, 1867; and Alice Ann on Sept. 5, 1871.

Things were really looking up. On Nov. 26, 1867, Franz Joseph became a naturalized citizen. The family felt like Texans and real Americans. On Sept. 29, 1868, Catherine married Sixtus Bluntzer, youngest son of the Colonizer, Peter Bluntzer and his wife Theresa Jacob. On April 6, 1874 Mary Ana married Francis Xavier Fuchs and on Nov. 30, 1876, Justina married Erasmus Horny.

The family attended the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville. The younger children grew and learned all about life in their new country and state, Texas, and some of the things of the old country of Alsace. On Nov. 10, 1884, their oldest son, Ed, married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Weiss. They made their home in Arneckeville. But, on Nov. 17, 1886, Joseph, the second son, died, and on Sept. 10, 1891 their daughter, Carolina died. Both were buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

Life must go on and it did have happy times. On Oct. 22, 1890, Alice Ann married Edward Paul "Ed" Wilhelm; Rosalina married Joseph Dentler on Dec. 7, 1892; and Louis married Melanie Eicholtz on Nov. 6 1893. Grandchildren were being born and life was getting much easier. Franz Joseph and Katharina knew that they had made the right choice in coming to Texas.

But, on Sept. 13, 1896, Katharina's beloved Franz Joseph died. Her sorrow was great. At his funeral he was eulogized as a quiet, diligent, gentle man. A good hard working farmer, one who loved his family very much and was always willing to help others in need. Never one to seek fame, but always ready to carry his share of responsibility in the community. Never a really wealthy man, but an excellent provider and a loving and caring father and husband. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

In 1898 Louis died, and on Jan. 1, 1900 Rosalina died. This was almost too much for Katharina. Nearing 75 years of age, she was a wife who had lost two loving husbands, and a mother who had lost five children. She lived in a little log type house adjacent to her oldest son and enjoyed his family and the laughter of the grandchildren. On Aug. 7, 1900, God called her home, and she, too, was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Meyersville.

Katharina was a wonderful woman — a woman of courage, love and fortitude. She was a person who was willing to sacrifice for freedom; a mother who loved and cherished her children so much that she would face the unknown in order to give them a better life.

It would have made her very happy to know that the other children lived long and productive lives. Catherine died Oct. 23, 1908; Mary Ana, July 13, 1925; and Justina, Dec. 24, 1935; Ed on March 12, 1955, well into his late nineties; and Alice Ann on Jan. 10, 1966, also well into her middle nineties. These children surely reaped the harvest of Franz Joseph and Katharina's sacrifices and love.

by Virginia S. Walker

ZENGERLE, HERBERT R.

F1021

Herbert Raymond Zengerle, a lifelong resident of DeWitt County, was born at Arneckeville, Texas on June 20, 1905. His parents were Eduard L. Zengerle and Elizabeth Weiss. He lived his entire life on the Zengerle homestead which was originally purchased by his gr father, Franz Joseph Zengerle, an emig from Alsace. Herbert was baptized as a chi the Catholic faith. He was instructed confirmed in the Lutheran Church at Arne ville by the Rev. E. Meier on July 14, along with Werner Zengerle and Gladys necke, an adult class. He attended pu school at Arneckeville. He was a mischie boy often getting into trouble at school recalled being sent out to get a switch f "switching." He went out, climbed a tree cut a switch but would not come down fo punishment. He attended many house da in the area, first on horseback, later in his This is where he met his future wife but he first attracted to her sister. He married Es Roessler of Nordheim at Yorktown at Lutheran Church. They lived in the home o parents for many years. Around 1937 or they fixed up an old house on the place moved there, until his mother, Elizabeth gerle passed away on Feb. 25, 1943 when again lived with his father.

Herbert and Esther Zengerle

Esther Margaret Roessler was born at dheim, Texas on Jan. 13, 1912. Her par were Charles Roessler and Mathilda H mann. The Roessler brothers emigrated Germany at an early age. The Hausm were descended from one of the first famili found Meyersville. Esther was baptized a Nordheim Lutheran Church along with brothers and sister. She attended pu schools at Nordheim, Cotton Patch and C za. Her parents were sharecroppers and l in the area for most of their married life. said they were poor but never felt that were. They always had the necessities of and clothing and a home in which to Herbert and Esther purchased propert Thomaston along the Guadalupe River, bor ing the money to do so. Later they purch more, adjoining the first acreage. They owned property that Herbert inherited f his parents. They raised cattle, and also med, raising cotton, corn and hegari an other crops.

Their family consisted of two daugh Edieth Aileen, born Dec. 19, 1928. She mar Harlan Nagel and they have four children, sons and two daughters. Marjorie Ann, Jan. 4, 1938, married Robert Shellenba and they also have four children, three and a daughter.

Herbert Zengerle suffered a stroke in 1 He was buried in the Arneckeville Luth Cemetery. Esther still lives in the Zeng home built by Eduard and Elizabeth Zeng The original rock home of Franz Joseph Katharina Zengerle is in ruins but some mains are on the Zengerle place near wh Esther resides. Also on her home place building that once was the home of Kathar Zengerle after Franz Joseph died. She lived the Zengerle place, later had her home mo on wagons to the Bluntzer place. Still later had it hauled back, where she remained u her death. This building is not in good repai it had been used for a corn storage house many years. In recent years a strong w lifted it off of the blocks on which it rested it has remained off.

by Edith Na

ZIESE, OTTO BERNHARDT AND MARY ETHEL (COOPER) FAMILY

F1022

Otto Bernhardt (Ben) Ziese, third child and first son of eight children born to John F. and Anna (Ahrens) Ziese, was born on the Lutenbacher Ranch in Bee Co. on 3 June 1910. Around Christmas in 1911, the family moved to Choate where Ben finished his schooling, excelling in sports, especially baseball.

He and two cousins, Harry and Henry Sachtleben, set up a farm and horse-breaking business and batched for a while.

On April 7, 1936, he married Mary Ethel Cooper (b) 28 Jan. 1917 in Lawton, Ok., third child of ten born to William Newton and Alice (Hudson) Cooper. They lived with his widowed mother in Choate and then in Kenedy until 1940, when they moved to Floresville. Ben joined the Soil Conservation Service in Floresville and was transferred to Yorktown in March of 1943. He continued with the S.C.S. until 1953 when he resigned to "practice what he preached" on the Dr. Marvin H. Gohlke farm. While farming, he also had time to sideline at the Streiber Bros. Gin and tout the products of Purina-Ralston.

In 1964, after having some health problems, the doctors ordered him off the farm, so he and Ethel bought the "Green Lantern", a restaurant, from Mr. and Mrs. Felton Schroller. There they served "Food we wouldn't be ashamed to serve to guests in our home" to scores of hungry Yorktowners. With Ethel cooking and Ben greeting his friends out front, they continued this business until his fatal heart attack on July 10, 1974. Ethel continued to run the business alone until 1978, when she sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Alexander.

Ben was buried in the Choate Cemetery in the plot adjoining the one where his parents are interred.

Ben and Ethel were blessed with three children: 1) Linda Joe (b) 11 Jan. 1937, married O'Dell Rabke Sr. (children) Carol, Robert, Melody, O'Dell Jr., Sandra, and Raymond; 2) John Fredrick (b) 1 Sept. 1942, married Mrs. Ada Joyce Ashby Lee, (children) Rachel, Shannon, and Laura; 3) Jerry Allen (b) 23 Jan. 1944, married Mrs. Nancylee Hansen Benson (children) Gail.

Ben was a friend to all and laid out most of the terrace lines around Yorktown. He loved his family, his town, sports, people, a good joke and little children.

by Linda Rabke

ZIMMERMAN, O.A. FAMILY

F1023

O.A. Zimmerman of Lincoln, Texas moved to Cuero in 1925 to coach football and baseball. He spent the next twenty-five years with the Cuero Independent School District, moving from coach to principal to school superintendent. His favorite sport was baseball, but he encouraged his children and grandchildren to play tennis. (They continue to be involved in that sport.) He and his wife, Cleo Moran Zimmerman, of Salado, Texas were math teachers. They believed very strongly that every child deserved a good education.

After he retired, they established the Zimmerman Insurance Agency and accounting service. This business was begun in 1950 and continued until it was sold in 1971. O.A. Zimmerman died in 1978.

John Arthur Zimmerman (1934) is married to Joyce Towery Zimmerman (1935). They continue to play tennis and are involved in local and national tennis associations. Their daughters and families play for recreation. They are: Elizabeth Ann, married to Scott Kucera and their daughters, Kimberly and Katherine (Katie) of Corpus Christi, Texas; Janet Carol married to Jonathan Simmons and son, Sean of Austin, Texas, and Joy Zimmerman of Dallas, Texas. Charlotte Ann Zimmerman (1942) is married to Paul A. Busch (1941). Their son, Donald A. Busch is a college student. Their daughter, Kristen, is on the high school tennis team. Her mother, Charlotte, does her share of transporting and watching the little white ball. They live in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Stories and memories, much too numerous to list here, are left for individuals to recall. As the years go by many stories get taller, become more inclusive, and cover a wider span of time, and become more enjoyable as they pass from generation to generation.

However, there is one story that should be told. Before Pearl Harbor, there was quite a housing shortage in Cuero, because of the personnel at Brayton Flying School. Many families lived in very crowded conditions. So, in 1941, J.D. Bramlette built two small houses on French Street. He intended to live in the larger of the two and rent the other. By the time the smaller house was finished and the other one rented, it was December 7, 1941, and the whole country was at war.

J.D. knew that he would be involved in the war; so he persuaded the O.A. Zimmermans to buy the small house. Part of his argument was that he did not want Merle Rose (Fischer Bramlette) to have to be responsible for rent property. He also wanted her to have good neighbors to look after her while he was away at war. His power of persuasion was so great that the Zimmermans bought a house though it was too small for them to begin with. However, the price was right — $3,727.50 — which was the exact cost — and they bought it.

The Zimmermans moved to 308 East French in January of 1942. A short while later the Bramlettes moved to 304 East French, and James DeWitt Bramlette went away to war.

Soon after the war was over, both houses were enlarged to fit the growing families which occupied them. Today Merle Bramlette and Cleo Zimmerman live side by side on East French street as they have for nearly fifty years. J.D. Bramlette and O.A. Zimmerman are both deceased.

by Cleo Moran Zimmerman

Josh Dowlearn — Early county resident. (See story F203)

Cleo and O.A. Zimmerman

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INDEX

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

A

Aaron, T11
Abbott, T54, T61
Abel, F91, F158, F988, T57
Abend, F356
Abercrombie, F66, F115, F537
Able, F957
Ables, F154
Abney, T22
Abrenbeck, T56
Adams, B33, B36, B80, B88, F7, F93, F96, F101, F131, F132, F186, F237, F309, F401, F505, F539, F592, F593, F790, F842, F866, F890, F911, T11, T12, T16, T22, T24, T48, T61, T131, T138
Adcock, F699, F737, F840, F841, T11, T55, T72, T119
Addicks, F753
Adickes, B4, B34, F1, F220, F384, F455, F649, F715, T24, T94, T100
Adix, F766, F774
Adlam, B80
Adudell, T137
Afflerbach, F2, F3, F88, F459, F460, F461, F474, F475, F476, F661, F766, F774, F776, T16, T18, T20, T28, T73
Agee, T14
Agnes, F256
Agunyo, T2
Aguero, T18
Ahrems, T89
Ahren, F838
Ahrens, F772, F1022, T80, T138
Aiello, F133
Ainsworth, F154, F914, F1005, T11
Akins, F602
Alain, F440
Alarcon, T2
Albe, F64
Alber, T11
Albers, T152
Albert, F42
Albrecht, B28, B90, F4, F5, F218, F226, F248, F373, F377, F463, F542, F599, F778, F874, F935, F961, T11, T21, T61, T80, T94
Albright, T20, T91, T152
Alcala, F338
Aldrich, T59
Aldridge, T20
Alex, F10, F448, F622, F696, F765, F842, F987, F989
Alexander, B23, B43, B49, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F93, F175, F203, F229, F420, F430, F440, F601, F603, F644, F645, F669, F670, F671, F696, F698, F761, F792, F916, F1022, T6, T11, T13, T14, T16, T18, T47, T48, T56, T115, T117, T118
Alfonds, T11
Alford, F696, T140
Algea, F852, F931
Alkek, F656
Alkire, T22
Allan, T54
Allaway, F65
Allbritten, T16
Allee, T8
Allen, B40, F10, F13, F181, F229, F232, F311, F428, F456, F532, F697, F698, F847, F852, F931, F994, T6, T8, T14, T16, T20, T22, T36, T41, T52, T53, T55, T79, T99, T110, T133, T150
Allert, F171, T25, T42
Allison, F7, F13, F65, F669, F761, F853, F991, F1015, T8, T16, T126
Alonso, B5
Alphonso, F604
Alsbury, T8
Altman, F828
Alvarado, B16, F14, F148
Alvarez, F67, F794, T16, T133
Amacker, F736
Amador, T16
Amberson, F15
Amezaga, F229
Amilin, F590
Amin, F229
Amment, T14
Ammermann, F558, T102
Ammons, F696
Amsley, T8
Amsworth, T12
Andelman, T11
Anders, B7, B54
Andersen, F155
Anderson, B28, B89, F16, F99, F101, F362, F475, F494, F582, F616, F635, F771, F853, F914, F1006, F1007, T8, T11, T12, T14, T16, T20, T21, T22, T49, T55, T56, T61, T116, T119, T149
Andrew, T11
Andrews, F122, F401, F594, F983, T14, T20
Angerstein, B17, F21, F22, F190, F319, F320, F330, F376, F520, F753, F802, T16, T18
Antes, F534
Antoniou, F156
Aoueille, B89, F901
Appelt, F741
Appleby, T127
Applegate, F644
Appling, F15
Aranda, F582
Archer, F369, F882, T16, T20, T21, T22
Arendal, T20
Arguellez, B36
Arhelger, F241, F333, F395
Arlt, F569
Arm, T11
Armes, T12
Armheim, F754, F816, F821
Armour, F400
Armstrong, F17, F488, F672, F715, T11, T16, T130
Arndt, F257, F397, F497, F1002, T16, T61, T83
Arnecke, F18, F19, F321, F326, F355, F381, F406, F408, F424, F425, F511, F514, F662, F731, F788, F791, F819, F922, F1019, F1021, T11, T12, T18, T21, T22, T28, T29, T30, T94
Arnim, F409, F980
Arnold, B20, B31, B49, F15, F20, F21, F22, F60, F61, F82, F93, F105, F138, F143, F189, F208, F209, F219, F336, F337, F484, F527, F529, F723, F780, F781, F852, F924, F969, F1017, F1018, F1019, T11, T14, T18, T20, T21, T42, T56, T62, T74, T94, T97, T100
Aronstein, B88, F23, F152, T62
Arrington, F690, T6
Arvenis, F134
Arzynski, T141
Asbeck, F7
Asberry, T20
Asbury, F1005, T49
Aschen, T76
Aschenbeck, B86, F267
Aschmann, F3, F459, F979
Asebedo, T16
Ashby, F1022, T6
Asher, F115, F392, F712, T20
Ashford, F1008
Ashley, F45, F426
Ashurst, F1
Aster, F942
Atchley, F160
Ater, F24, F117, T61
Atkinson, F107, F508, F563, F709, F710, T11, T14, T16, T18, T22, T119, T140
Atkisson, F158, F669, F670
Atzenhoefer, F649, F987, T94
Atzenhofer, F221, F305, T11
Atzenhoffer, F2, F425, F458, T61
Audilet, F25, F77, F208, F725, T18, T71, T75, T104, T148
Augustine, F608, T11, T13, T14
Austin, F49, F97, F111, F210, F281, F282, F603, F676, F698, F802, F832, F942, F982, F1005, F1006, F1007, T5, T11, T49, T55, T109
Auston, T54
Autrey, T18, T130
Autry, F302, F343, F444, F751, T47
Avant, F159, T16
Averhart, T20
Avery, F456, F508
Awalt, F931
Ayers, F903, T11
Ayres, B34, F644, F927

B

Baacke, B78, F588
Baake, T78
Baass, F1002
Babb, T20
Babin, F947
Babson, T18
Baca, F26, T92
Bachelor, T68
Bachle, F808
Bachman, F641
Backermann, T16, T80
Badago, T116
Bade, B45, F2, F27, F191, F288, F438, F473, F514, F661, F736, F739, F754, F795, F890, T16, T49, T61, T114
Badgett, F303, F873
Badinger, F222, F657
Baecher, T11
Baecker, F825, T131
Baermann, F155
Baetz, F1012
Bagby, F909, F991, T11
Bagget, T119
Baggett, F612
Bagley, T136
Bahlmann, T57
Bailey, F24, F150, F151, F158, F165, F305, F364, F375, F852, F914, F934, F950, T11, T18, T62, T139
Baily, F180
Baingo, T16
Baker, B39, B72, B74, F28, F29, F40, F48, F49, F52, F63, F65, F115, F132, F168, F224, F230, F337, F353, F441, F442, F443, F444, F455, F463, F603, F604, F644, F667, F679, F695, F717, F718, F720, F728, F729, F799, F870, F910, F960, F962, T6, T11, T12, T16, T20, T21, T22, T42, T46, T51, T56, T59, T79
Baldewin, F822, F823
Baldinger, T11
Baldridge, F138
Baldwin, B37, F177, F477, T22
Balhorn, T16
Ball, T49
Ballard, F142, F229, F346
Ballin, F903
Ballou, F399, F400
Balsh, T8
Baltz, F697
Balzan, F267
Bammert, B20, T97, T100
Bangs, F261
Bangston, F918
Bank, F180, T54
Banks, T11, T16, T71
Bannister, F905
Bannowsky, F430
Baquet, T58
Barbee, T137
Barber, F927
Barcak, F935
Barclay, F317
Bard, F14
Bare, F237
Barefoot, F699
Barfield, B34, F63, F68, F165, F224, F508, F847, F885, T18, T22, T42, T50, T126
Barger, F89
Bargman, F651
Bargmann, B41
Bargsley, F202
Barker, F560
Barkhausen, T16
Barnabei, F54
Barnard, T16, T62
Barner, F218
Barnes, B44, F70, F86, F158, F370, F422, F440, F476, F570, F598, F798, F815, F927, T11, T22, T42, T47, T50, T77, T98
Barnet, F165
Barnett, F65, F607, F669, F897, F986, T8, T16
Barnham, F882
Barnhill, F137, T20, T56
Barns, T11
Baron, F227
Barre, F30, F31, F263, F586, T16, T99, T126
Barre, F31, T16, T99, T130
Barrera, F32, F339, T11
Barrett, T152
Barrickman, T14
Barron, F931, F934
Barrow, F679
Barry, F138
Barsch, F603
Barta, F874
Barth, F228, F252, F583, F890, T16, T22, T46 T68, T134
Barthlome, T114
Bartholomew, F680, T14
Bartlett, F43, F484, T22
Bartley, F913
Bartling, F425
Barton, F70, F486, F577, F578, T6, T12, T20, T22, T55, T81
Bartosh, F861, F864
Bartram, B11
Bartsch, T97, T127
Baschnagel, B67
Baseter, T11
Bass, B8, F33, F34, F156, F484, F610, F785, T14, T55, T59, T61
Bastrop, T5
Batchalor, T11
Batchelor, F138
Bateman, F985, T6
Bates, B13, F602, F609, F612, F613, F843, F989, T21, T54, T59
Bates-Sheppard, T25
Batey, F130
Bathke, F25
Batmanis, F156
Batson, F61
Battles, F35, F992, T16, T54, T110
Batton, F353
Bauch, T144, T152
Bauer, B40, B80, B87, F36, F37, F38, F39, F9 F110, F242, F243, F288, F312, F313, F314 F603, F631, F646, F772, F774, F957, F963 T11, T16, T22, T61, T64, T98, T131
Baukman, T31, T118
Baume, T6
Baumgarten, T139
Baur, F620
Baxter, T22
Bay, F430
Baylor, F42, T14, T46
Baze, F511
Beach, T51
Beakley, F202
Bean, F600, F689
Beard, F230, F616
Bearfield, T77
Beasley, F697, F735, T11
Beasly, T11, T20
Beaton, F699
Beatty, F490, T120
Beaugarde, F211
Beauregard, F490
Beber, F921
Bebout, F935
Bechter, T130
Beck, B17, F265, T12, T14, T22, T61
Becker, F313, F410, F411, F474, F828, T16
Beckham, B10, F75, F398
Beckman, F935, T22, T152
Bedford, T6
Bednors, T55
Bednorz, F590, T18
Bedoya, T141
Beebe, T54
Beer, T51
Behnecke, F559
Behrens, F191
Behringer, F439, F440, F897, F961
Behrns, F287
Beinhauer, T102
Beken, T139
Belcher, F671
Belding, T14
Belisch, F363
Belitz, F31
Belknap, F790
Bell, B34, B74, F15, F40, F41, F42, F43, F44, F45, F60, F67, F131, F132, F237, F277, F354, F358, F359, F422, F434, F453, F505 F581, F584, F598, F600, F652, F658, F873 F936, F996, F1015, T8, T10, T11, T13, T14 T18, T20, T22, T25, T49, T58, T61, T113, T131, T135

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Bellamy, F830, T79
Bellinger, T42
Bement, T1
Benavides, F367, F656
Benbow, F7, F46, F47, F158, F175, F214, F343, F442, F443, F592, F593, F654, F671, F691, T22, T24, T31, T36, T117
Beneke, F500
Benekendorf, B67
Benfer, F476
Benfield, F658
Benga, T41
Benge, B33, F281, F930, F945
Benjamin, T62
Benkelberg, T16
Bennet, F48, F49, F50, F51, F52, F202, F387, F401, F428, F491, F532, F615, F634, F697, F757, T6, T16, T23, T46, T56
Bennett, B74, F45, F66, F146, F247, F581, F603, F656, F711, F890, F912, T11, T13, T14, T20, T130
Benning, F15
Benold, T139
Benson, F104, F372, F1022
Bentley, F129, F252, F554
Benton, B40, B52, B87, F664, T12
Benys, T99
Benz, T97
Berckenhoff, F947
Berger, F53, F57, F305, F463, F650, F783, F948, T22, T62
Bergman, F584
Bergmann, F437, F723
Bergner, F662
Berhens, F867
Bering, F304, F489, F498
Berkowsky, B31
Bernard, F28, F594, F953, T94
Berner, B40
Bernhard, F394, F508
Berning, B35, F92, F354, T58, T61
Bernshausen, F552
Bernstein, T136
Berry, F164, F733, F734, F927, T6, T14, T22, T119
Bertram, F600
Besch, F481
Best, F775, T131
Bethel, T130
Bethke, F54, F55, F61, F543, F549, F874
Bettge, F56, T24
Beutnagel, F725, T16, T75
Beverdorff, T64
Bevers, F440
Bevil, F986, F987
Beyer, F966
Beyerstadt, F798
Beyerstedt, F850
Bialek, F57
Biard, F306
Biddy, T48
Bidwell, T16
Biedermann, T83
Biegel, T131
Biehunko, B27, F926
Biel, F989
Biela, F469, F896, F955
Biemer, F903, F955, T18
Biermer, B78
Bierre, F672
Bierschwale, T140, T151
Biery, F78
Biesele, F811
Bigelow, F71, F698
Biggs, F928, F996, T55
Bilbrey, F896
Bilby, F219
Bilhartz, F961
Billings, B74, F155, F159, F224, F742, T11, T16, T20
Billingsley, F566
Billingsly, F369, T74
Bingham, F237, F975
Binkendorf, F680
Binz, B36, B89
Birchfield, F102
Bird, F6, F45, F111, F131, F718, T23
Birdsall, F491
Birmingham, T1
Bishop, B23, F139, F162, F202, F506, F935, T11, T62
Bissett, F58, F348, F349, F872, F873, F929, F931, F932, F933, F934, T77
Bitterli, F60
Bitterly, F59, F60, F61, F82, F94, F140, F188, F209, F266, F336, F337, F360, F454, F584, T16, T74, T97, T100
Black, F9, F346, F790, T8, T16, T55
Blackaller, F654
Blackburn, F691, F699, F769, T14, T20, T143
Blackwell, B40, B84, F29, F48, F52, F62, F63, F64, F65, F66, F67, F68, F69, F96, F105, F145, F165, F167, F183, F261, F262, F271, F456, F508, F564, F615, F675, F680, F794, F848, F885, F964, T9, T11, T13, T14, T16, T18, T20, T21, T22, T24, T46, T49, T54, T61, T79, T83, T110, T143
Blain, B57, F34, F333, T151
Blaine, F96, F797
Blair, F70, F277, F317, F577, F581, F691, F821, F983, T6, T8, T11, T14, T20, T22, T25, T56
Blake, F11, F71, F74, F136, F151, F170, F385, F518, F698, F996, T22, T59, T61, T75
Blakeney, F771
Blakeslee, F72, F785, F786, T16, T18
Blanchard, F605, F699
Bland, B80, F198
Blank, B45, F140, T16, T34, T80
Blankenship, F935
Blanton, B10, B25, F75, F899, T102
Blaschke, B71, B78, F193, F194, F268, F746, F838, F899, F989, T102, T148, T151
Blascke, T83
Blazek, F376
Bledsoe, F105, F639, F708, F873, F918
Blevins, F17, F665
Block, F25, F76, F77, F97, F267, F676, T18, T71
Blocker, F562
Blomberg, F206, F659, F788
Blon, F463
Blount, F907
Bludworth, T16, T62, T64
Bluhm, F139, F219, F274, F275, F276, F277, F305, F728, F731
Blumberg, F462
Blumenthal, F202, F653, F752, F758, F803
Blundell, F485, T117
Bluntzer, B20, B43, F5, F20, F21, F22, F60, F78, F79, F80, F81, F82, F83, F84, F209, F220, F242, F257, F306, F336, F373, F584, F590, F1017, F1020, F1021, T11, T16, T25, T72, T94, T97, T122
Blunzer, T20
Bosl, T136
Boardman, F250
Bober, F921
Bobit, T11
Bock, F122, F470, F808, F989, T16
Bockius, T14
Bodden, F79
Bode, F256, T16, T102, T108
Bodenmiller, F764
Boeckmann, T152
Boedecker, T21
Boeer, F558, T102
Boehl, F72, F85, F86, F248, F386, F511, F514, F520, F531, F662, F688, F737, F739, F821, F922, F991, T16, T72, T74
Boehm, F87, F88, F334, T83
Boeker, F731
Boenicke, F256
Boenig, F409
Boening, F17, F91, T80, T99
Boenish, F88
Boern, F87, F667, F686, T102, T148, T152
Boethel, B14, F2, F327, T76, T83
Boettcher, F874
Boettner, F879
Boetz, T64
Bogard, B89
Boggess, F490
Boggs, F261
Bogish, T144
Bohac, T70
Bohls, F510, F514, F638, T142
Bohman, B40, F89, F256, F262, F284, F562, F565, T22, T59
Bohnfalk, T139
Bohne, B28, B31, B40, F808, T16, T61, T64
Boicourt, F413
Boldt, B11, F90, F205, F207, F237, F304, F328, F331, F431, F451, F472, F475, F542, F570, F583, F622, F741, F778, F895, F945, F947, F965, F972, F974, F986, T16, T28, T64, T91, T105, T114, T133
Bolt, F25, F86, F958
Boltin, B60
Bolting, F91, F327, F648, F986, F988, T83, T102, T148
Bolton, T24
Bomba, B20, T11, T16, T93, T126
Bond, F440
Bone, T16
Bonersbach, F650
Bongiovi, F92
Bonham, B30, T22
Bonilla, T2
Bonneau, F294
Bonner, F93, F281, F282, F991, T23
Bonney, T21
Bookers, T83
Bookman, F346
Bookout, F669
Boon, T22
Boone, F7, F198, F602, F716, F1007, T16, T18, T24, T52, T136, T152, T153
Booten, B76, F309
Booth, F156, F233, F491, T22
Boothe, B82, F7, F29, F52, F93, F265, F428, F560, F564, F646, F689, F795, F830, T9, T11, T16, T22, T24, T46, T57, T59, T68, T79, T126
Borchers, F626, F711, T11, T22, T71, T131
Borden, F505, F654
Borge, F228
Borgfeld, F237
Borgfield, F425, F437
Borm, F828
Borma, T16
Born, T16
Borrom, F46
Borroughs, T54
Borth, B78, B79, F668, T148, T150
Bosak, T16
Bostian, F680
Boston, F15, F863, T11, T14, T22
Boswell, F68, F133
Bottschalt, F284
Bouquet, F555
Bourgeois, F163
Bourke, B49
Bourque, F530
Boutelle, F369
Boutwell, T64
Bowden, T54
Bowen, F7, F335, F619, F760, F808, T12, T14, T16, T22, T48
Bower, T11
Bowers, F456, T51
Bowie, F983
Bowles, F565, F644
Bowman, F149, F643
Bowoldt, T57
Box, T21, T22, T61, T64
Boyce, T14, T139
Boyd, F97, F318, T16, T22
Boyer, F456
Boyle, T61, T96
Boyles, F667, T151
Boysen, B40, F95, F108, F109, F327, F432, F433, T61
Bozarth, T24
Bozman, F712
Bradbrook, T22
Braddon, F94
Braden, B45, F20, F59, F61, F94, F139, F256, F602, F966, F967, T51, T79, T97
Bradford, F69
Bradley, F171, F731, F882, T11, T20, T47, T61, T121
Brady, F391, F507, T134
Braedemeyer, F989
Braeuer, F95, F108, F109, F322, F325, F326, F918, F919, T21, T42
Bragg, F137, F281, F447
Braly, F365, F643, T22
Brame, F317
Bramlette, B36, F96, F240, F242, F261, F1023, T18, T61
Branch, T6
Brand, F648, T6
Brandenburg, F297
Brandes, F19, F143, F216, F217, F220, F221, F222, F223, F660, T28
Brandon, F880
Brandt, F285, F377, F697, F813, F878, T16, T24, T69, T72, T76, T86, T100
Brannan, T22
Brans, F475
Brantley, B18, B88, F16, F76, F97, F98, F99, F100, F101, F618, F676, F903, F928, F100 F1007, T11, T16, T34, T45, T61
Brantlie, T20
Braselton, F211
Brasher, F578, T16
Brassel, F709, T131
Brassell, F403, T14, T22
Braswell, F107, T18
Bratton, T14
Brauer, F473
Braun, B78, F23, F222, F502, F657, F660, F772, F925, T22, T71, T131, T147
Braune, F102, F811
Braunig, B61, F259, F772, F774, T18, T94, T144, T152
Brayton, F565, T18, T60
Brazell, T16
Brazil, T16
Brazzell, T14
Breed, F964
Breeden, B1, B31, B40, B49, B52, B54, B74, B83, F43, F67, F104, F105, F106, F107, F130, F271, F358, F372, F387, F412, F491 F493, F532, F553, F652, F708, F709, F715 F794, F845, F846, F847, F848, F962, F996 T16, T22, T25, T49, T50, T54, T61, T62
Breitkreutz, T57
Bremer, F254, F537, F638
Brennaman, F53
Brennan, F598, T130
Brents, F842
Bressel, F95, F108, F109, F918, F919, T80
Breton, F994
Breuer, T22
Breunich, T11
Brewer, F890
Brice, F935
Bridge, F47, F214
Bridges, T16, T22
Brieger, F667, F811, F837, F899, F987, T16, T108
Brien, T11
Brier, B27, B80, F110
Briggs, F577, F578
Briley, F610
Brindley, F964
Brink, F181
Briscoe, F679
Brisette, T40
Brisset, T20
Brissett, T16
Britch, F336
Broadway, F606
Brock, F294, T6
Brockhaus, F88, T83
Brockman, F767
Brodersen, F776
Brogli, F188
Brohn, T22
Brokaw, F515, F519
Broll, F470, F898, F955, T16
Bromley, F767
Brook, F823
Brooker, F490
Brookins, T16
Brooks, F39, F110, F111, F154, F446, F578, F654, F697, F821, F863, F865, F866, T11, T22
Broolans, T14
Broom, F624
Brosch, F971, T99
Brothers, B38, F532
Broughton, F128
Broussard, F682

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Brown, B38, B78, B80, F42, F62, F69, F93, F99, F112, F113, F114, F116, F131, F132, F154, F176, F178, F191, F225, F236, F272, F303, F317, F370, F392, F429, F437, F440, F469, F542, F564, F568, F592, F594, F598, F610, F667, F675, F765, F798, F811, F815, F830, F852, F859, F860, F865, F866, F869, F890, F905, F916, F931, F983, F990, F1005, F1006, F1007, F1009, T8, T10, T11, T12, T14, T16, T20, T22, T29, T31, T37, T39, T40, T46, T49, T54, T55, T61, T68, T77, T92, T110, T114, T119, T131, T137
Brownell, F468, T64
Brownfield, F691
Brownlee, B80
Brownson, F137, F295, F301, F866, T11, T14, T21
Brozozowski, T126
Bruce, F115, F401, F961, T11, T16, T45
Bruchmiller, F628
Brueggman, B12
Bruening, T21, T101, T126, T128
Bruenkenhoefer, F116
Brues, F542
Bruetsch, F188
Brugmann, F295
Brukenhoefer, T102
Brunasso, F427
Brunkenhoefer, F702, T64, T108
Bruns, F61, F208, F237, F257, F397, F540, F686, F812, F813, F975, T71, T80
Bruton, F464
Bryan, F115, F490
Bryant, F643, F935, F973, T14
Brysch, F731, F955
Bucek, F592
Buch, F451, F1002, T48, T72
Buchanan, F134, F151, F172, F221, F558, F879, F995, T14, T20, T130
Buchel, B17, B26, B31, B34, B37, B53, F117, F118, F262, F264, F361, F362, F389, F408, F474, F513, F515, F519, F563, F606, F802, F870, F905, F977, F994, T10, T11, T16, T18, T25, T34, T49, T54, T59, T61, T64, T131
Buchhorn, B50, F91, F121, F260, F404, F527, F539, F633, F808, F987, F989, T16, T21, T61, T76, T83, T101, T126, T127
Buck, F146, T116
Buckhart, F239
Buckholdt, F953
Buckingham, F346
Budde, F119, F132, F289, T64, T83
Buddinger, T11
Budge, F494
Budlong, T54
Buecking, T94
Buehrig, B40, B74, F120, F121, F122, F189, F308, F378, F426, F474, F569, F799, F973, T11, T16, T24, T61, T94
Buehring, F123, T21, T22, T102
Buelter, F77, F745, T133, T147
Buendel, F896, T16
Buenger, B39, B45, B80, F194, F470, F833, F905, T22
Buenning, F96, F384
Buergener, B78, F803
Buergner, F625, F771, T131
Buerking, T11
Bues, F221, F450, F689, F899, T102, T108
Bueschelmann, F952
Buesing, B28, F327, F648, F688, F899, T22, T35, T75, T86, T94, T99, T102
Buget, T20
Bujnoch, T131
Bulgarin, T22
Bullach, F72
Bullard, F440, F661, F935, T20, T51
Bulleer, F189
Bullis, F293
Bullock, F458
Bulwer, F713
Bumgardner, F265
Bumpas, F65
Bumpass, T11
Bun, F867
Bundy, T133
Bunjes, T16
Bunker, T64
Bunting, T45
Burbank, F575
Burch, F177, F178
Burchel, T20
Burda, B60
Burdett, T16
Burdine, F124
Burditt, F37, F266, F334, F654
Burge, T11
Burgess, F941
Burghard, T50
Burgy, T131
Burk, F42, F181, T54
Burke, T22, T42
Burket, T6
Burkett, F1014
Burkhardt, F857, T61
Burleson, F51, F111, F172, F451, F579, T16, T22, T62
Burlew, F163
Burlson, B78
Burnet, F505, F532
Burnett, F6, F644, T14, T64, T126
Burns, B31, B36, B46, B49, B74, F50, F65, F125, F126, F127, F128, F129, F139, F141, F174, F187, F295, F334, F362, F372, F513, F515, F519, F532, F608, F613, F656, F680, F697, F845, F924, F935, F982, F996, T6, T11, T13, T14, T16, T18, T19, T20, T21, T22, T23, T34, T36, T40, T50, T59, T61, T62, T112, T115
Burnsides, F644
Burow, F892, T22, T102, T131
Burris, F130, F154, F401
Burrous, F172
Burrow, F176, F618, F765, F772
Burrus, F769
Burt, F114, F143, F156, F210, F329, F716, F908, T11, T16, T66
Burton, F934, T8
Burwell, F58, F178, F780
Busby, F45, F131, F132, F741, F961, T14
Busch, F803, F1023
Buschek, T71
Buschermihle, F971
Buschick, F133, F664, T11, T49, T62
Bush, B52, F962, T16, T50
Bushrod, F995
Buske, T101
Buster, F765
Butler, B72, F58, F149, F155, F331, F540, F618, F633, F656, F734, F735, F784, F929, F954, T21, T24, T37, T152
Butschek, T102, T108
Buttermann, T57
Buttery, B36, B76, T62
Butts, T11
Buvens, F198
Buznoch, B78
Byars, F134, F158, F298, F300, F302, F303, F342, F343, F344, F669, F671, T16, T22, T31, T77, T118
Byers, F273, F296, T22
Byram, F74, F135, F136, F357, F359, F385, F392, F575, F644, F645, F696, T66
Byres, F186
Byrne, B31, B74, T51, T58
Bywaters, F515, F519

C

Cabeza, T2
Cabiness, T54
Caddell, B12
Cadmus, F699
Cadwalder, F575
Cady, F855
Caffall, F392, F604, F712, T14
Cage, B86, F7, F145, F603, F756, T22
Cagle, F689, F899, T118
Cahill, T127
Cain, T16, T130
Calaham, F616, T20
Calaway, F837
Caldwell, F230, F761, F1005, F1007, T6, T8, T16, T56, T119
Calhoun, B49, F7, F137, F186, F603, F628, F902, T1, T11, T13, T16, T20, T21, T38, T67
Caliham, T11
Calk, B52, B80, F237, F255, T61, T63
Callaghan, F371
Callaham, T20
Callahan, T14, T92, T116
Callaway, F138, F635, F656, F733, F734, T11, T53
Callen, F488
Calliham, B40, F94, F139, F230, F654, F735, T11, T21, T119
Callihan, F734, F1005
Callison, T14
Calliway, T11
Calloway, F616, F1005, T110
Caloway, T11, T12, T20
Calvin, T68
Cameron, F579, F600, F646, F656, T10, T22, T40, T45, T61, T118
Camp, T139
Campbell, F154, F180, F362, F447, T6, T11, T16, T22, T131, T140, T152
Canada, T16
Canady, F112
Canalas, F579
Canales, T10, T18
Canfield, T49
Canion, F98, F99, F100, F101
Cantley, F418
Cantu, T6, T16
Cantwell, F423
Capers, F107
Caples, F589
Capper, F45
Caraway, F646, T62
Carbaugh, F317
Carbocho, F140
Carbonara, B51, B52, F72, F140, F786, T51
Card, B40, B74, F490, T22, T44, T83
Cardenas, F32
Cardwell, F11, F125, F141, F147, F281, F487, F866, F960, F982, T12, T13, T20, T21, T22, T34
Cargile, F996
Carle, T20
Carlisle, T23
Carlson, F712
Carlton, F423, F582
Carlyle, T64
Carmichael, F927
Carmona, B78
Carnes, B19, F532
Carney, B49, F291, T62
Carnson, T11
Carpenter, F208, F440, F656, F697
Carr, B74, B89, F236, F321, F420, T11, T49, T62
Carranza, T2
Carrisalez, T18
Carrol, T16
Carroll, F7, F135, F142, F173, F273, F303, F342, F371, F559, F603, F961, T18, T20, T31, T77, T118, T119
Carruth, F186, T45
Carruthers, F347, T18
Carsner, T11
Carson, B36, F142, F160, F172, F251, F294, F531, F779, F916, T18, T24, T42, T77
Carter, B29, B43, F7, F22, F143, F210, F271, F447, F467, F558, F579, F602, F696, F930, F987, T16, T21, T42, T126
Carthell, T16
Caruthers, F15, F304, F340, F668, F863, T8, T11, T25
Casal, B1, B29, F420, F479, F599, F600, F748, F890, T114
Case, T20, T45
Casey, F61
Casine, F72
Casis, T3
Caskey, F699
Casper, F131
Cassel, T12
Cassidy, T11
Castaneda, T2
Castellaw, F342, F442
Castellow, F593
Castillo, F687, T2, T11
Castles, F644
Castro, F82, F209, F336, F337, F360, F367, F484, F584
Cater, F935
Cates, B52, F168, F610, F695, T56
Caton, F996
Cattani, F699
Caughon, F376
Cauley, F857
Causey, F330
Cavaeness, F656
Cavazos, F341
Cave, F568
Cavendish, T11
Cavett, T20
Caviel, T16
Cavineas, F278
Cavins, F727
Cavitt, F143
Cearley, T114
Cedro, T11
Ceesa, T99
Celiz, T2
Cellmer, T16
Chaddock, B44, F144, F145, F146, F408, F47
F509, F674, T16, T49, T91
Chadwick, F300
Chalk, F42, T14
Chaloupka, F685
Chamberlin, F187
Chambers, F153, F173, T117
Chambles, F401
Chamblin, T22
Champion, F327, T147
Chamrad, F949, T76
Chamrod, T16
Chance, F28
Chandler, F15, F34, F362, F453, F602, F643, F742, F782, F929, T11, T22, T137
Chaney, F932, T144
Chantult, T20
Chapman, F138, T54
Charles, F332
Charpentier, F184, F450, T102, T104
Charpier, F605
Chase, F957, T6
Chattman, T16
Chavers, T77
Cheatham, B46, F617, T22, T45, T61, T62
Cheeler, F401
Chenault, F224
Cherry, F419, F890
Chess, T126
Chesser, T62
Chevale, F634
Chewell, T20
Chick, T12
Chief, F767, F907
Chihara, T18
Chilak, T18
Chirino, T6
Chisholm, F10, F11, F47, F141, F147, F149, F186, F224, F487, F635, F912, F996, T6, T13, T14, T20, T21, T23, T25, T45, T131
Chishom, F742
Choat, T20, T136
Choate, T14, T149
Christal, T16
Christensen, F574, T139
Christiansen, T16, T126
Christianson, F266
Christman, T14
Chritzen, F573
Chumchal, B82, F315, F316
Church, T22
Churchwell, F307
Chvojka, T22
Ciborowski, T22
Cilfone, F14, F148
Cinque, T134
Cisney, F6
Cissell, T11
Ckodre, F149, F899, T102
Claggett, B40
Claiborne, T22
Clapp, F689
Clark, F143, F167, F168, F317, F362, F428, F458, F532, F506, F615, F665, F695, F698 F897, T11, T16, T20, T22, T53, T76, T104
Clarke, B52, F59, F61
Clary, F713
Clay, F214, F656
Clayton, F6, F111, F150, F151, F172, F420, F605, F722, F762, F869, T20, T46, T68
Clegg, F654, F674, T11, T61, T119
Clement, F809, T16
Clements, T6, T14, T79, T133
Cleveland, F851, F882, T126
Click, F397
Cliff, F477

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Cliffe, F842
Clifford, F5
Clifton, T8, T11
Clindinings, T108
Cline, F1009
Clinton, T21
Cloer, F233
Cloninger, F317
Cloud, F210, T20
Cloutier, T130
Clover, F595, F596
Clow, T14
Cmajdolka, F924
Coats, F219, T21
Cobb, F165, F224, F265, F392, F581, F712, F947, T12
Cobbey, T6
Cobbs, T77
Coble, T11
Cobler, T36
Coche, T14
Cochran, F34, F96, F213, F912, F983
Cock, F595
Cocke, F186, F447, F709
Cockrell, T16
Coda, T8
Cody, F570
Coffey, F604, F685, F880, F967, T62
Coffin, T61, T62
Cohen, B76, F737
Cohn, B88, F23, F152, F939, F940
Cohoe, T64
Coke, T14
Coker, F153, F227, F603, F604, T45
Colchis, F447
Coldeway, T16, T99
Coldewey, F603
Coldman, T48
Cole, B78, F101, F502, F643, F905, T151
Coleman, B40, F143, F447, F448, F542, F654, F907, T14, T110
Colle, B19
College, F589
Colley, B49
Collier, F6, T74
Collin, F530
Collinham, T11
Collins, B40, F15, F154, F291, F293, F295, F297, F298, F303, F571, F611, F613, F614, F933, T22, T144, T149
Collums, F155, F440
Colman, T11
Colquit, F751
Colquitt, F180, F916
Colston, T27, T50
Colvin, F440, F650
Combest, F488
Combs, T18
Comeaux, F479
Comnas, B31, F156
Comstock, F291
Conally, T20
Conaly, B31
Concelman, F93
Condl, T16
Cone, F641
Conelley, T45
Conley, T16
Connally, F213, F962
Connell, T54, T136
Connelly, F609, F722, T22
Conner, F294, F451, F795, F872, T13
Conrad, B52, F157, F479, F790, F851, T8, T11, T61
Conway, F401
Conwell, F578, T21, T119
Cook, B18, F10, F100, F158, F172, F181, F219, F267, F343, F478, F481, F494, F516, F594, F603, F635, F656, F670, F690, F734, F777, F860, F900, F924, T16, T18, T21, T22, T31, T36, T47, T55, T62, T68, T74, T77, T110, T118, T130, T131
Cooke, F491
Cooley, F378, F827, T143
Cooling, F700
Cooper, F159, F160, F161, F162, F163, F164, F342, F343, F372, F444, F552, F670, F1022, T14, T16, T20, T31, T77, T118
Copeland, B80, F802, T20
Copenhaver, F789
Coppedge, B5, F62, F63, F64, F65, F66, F68, F96, F165, F183, F321, F884, F890, T13, T18, T21, T22, T46, T80
Coppert, F202
Corbin, F630
Cordes, T21, T142
Cordova, F579
Corerra, T22
Cornelius, T137
Corner, F824
Cornick, B70, T11
Cornwallis, T3
Coronado, T2
Corral, F857
Correll, B54
Cortez, F75, F543, F637, T18
Cos, F907
Cote, F672
Cotter, T16
Cottingham, F555, F609, F991, T36, T119
Cottle, F28, F97, F942, F1005, F1006, F1007, T6
Cotton, F644, T61
Couch, F135, F357, F911, F914, T18
Coughlin, F870
Courtney, F147, F291, F604, F712, F760, F761, F1003, T51
Covey, F66, F125, F758, F881, F996, T16, T22, T27, T46, T47, T53, T68, T118, T119
Covington, T22
Cowan, F643
Coward, B80, F36, F39
Cowey, F716
Cowles, F935
Cowley, F222
Cox, F7, F136, F137, F562, F637, F643, F644, F645, F646, F734, F743, F890, F964, T8, T11, T14, T16, T20
Coyle, B5
Crabtree, T139
Craft, F568
Crafton, T61
Cragin, T61
Craig, F385, F783, T9
Craigg, T20
Crain, B28, B36, F139, F166, F167, F168, F169, F170, F202, F375, F387, F695, F804, F805, F806, F845, F973, F996, T5, T14, T16, T18, T22, T46, T49, T59
Crane, F291, T64
Crautschik, F463
Cravens, B84
Cravey, F767, F838
Crawford, F150, F151, F165, F171, F172, F173, F182, F302, F425, F830, F888, T11, T20, T21, T22, T24, T68, T79
Crawley, F358
Creath, F174
Crep, F586
Cresap, F910
Crisp, B47, B80, F237, T16, T76, T138
Criswell, F291, T14
Critis, F423
Crocker, F155, F229, T77
Crockett, F615, T14
Cromer, F256
Crooker, F843
Crosby, F935
Crosland, T14
Cross, F440, F961, T16, T18, T22, T134
Crossen, F47, F175, T48
Crosson, T9
Crouch, F117, F769, F806, F890, T22
Crouter, F371
Crowell, F650
Crozier, F34, F752
Cruse, T13
Crutcher, F644
Csafon, T11
Cudd, F46, F230, F343, F345, T11, T14, T99
Cuero, T11
Culberson, F916
Culpepper, F236, F986, T11
Cumings, T20
Cumming, F176
Cummings, F70, F618, F987, T8
Cummins, F15, F1006
Cunningham, B5, F93, F137, F165, F485, F654, F713, F830, T8, T11, T13, T16, T20, T21, T56, T79, T137
Cupple, F327
Cupples, F281, F447, F886
Curington, T117
Curlcher, T22
Curlinn, T64
Currie, T22
Currington, F142
Currlin, B83, T83
Curry, T11, T144
Curtis, F42, F262, T16, T22
Cusack, B5, F347, F361
Custer, F162, T16
Cuzy, F898
Czaja, B58, T16, T144
Czerny, F57

D

Dabon, T20
Dagg, F123
Dahl, F484
Dahlamann, T131
Dahlgren, F685
Dahlman, B65, F610, F769, F782, T11, T22, T102
Dahlmann, T11, T22
Dahmans, T131
Dahme, B56, F176, F219, F618, F638, F772, T16, T61, T131
Dahne, F254
Dahse, F551, F558, F755
Dailey, F979
Dale, T136
Dalhman, F476
Dalley, T11, T12
Dallmann, F440
Damerau, T147
Damiani, T16
Damon, T8
Dana, T12
Dance, F848
Daniel, F30, F137, F281, F928, F991, T22, T46
Daniels, F667, T11
Danish, B20, F31, T18
Dantzic, F105
Danyah, F404
Danysch, F509, T16
Danysh, B32, F199, F458, F534, F898, F903
Darden, F177, F178, F695, F780, F781
Darilek, F313
Darliek, F814
Darr, T45
Darst, F70, F442, F603, F690, F691, T6, T8
Daughtery, F399, F864
Daule, F179, T49
Davenport, F654, T22
David, F635, T20, T53
Davidson, F105, F180, F182, F363, F375, F412, F627, F945, F950, F951, F964, T14, T22, T49, T50, T62, T64, T108
Davis, B84, F38, F47, F85, F94, F117, F129, F134, F138, F150, F151, F165, F171, F181, F182, F183, F187, F188, F224, F236, F305, F306, F317, F334, F359, F373, F448, F449, F508, F516, F567, F589, F612, F635, F648, F656, F669, F671, F674, F675, F742, F767, F789, F855, F910, F927, F944, F966, F967, F982, F995, F996, T6, T11, T12, T13, T16, T20, T21, T22, T25, T31, T45, T59, T62, T110, T119, T130, T131, T133, T137, T147
Dawson, F392, F579, F605, F679, F761, F855, F1006, F1007
Day, F28, F45, F131, F164, F176, F219, F252, F581, F605, F866, F912, F985, T14, T16, T20, T54, T117, T129
Deakins, F440
Dean, F440, F562, F686, T102, T104
Deanda, F867
Deans, T142
Deason, F781
Deats, F696
Deavers, T77
De Bastrop, F204
Deborah, F208, T21, T152
Debose, T16
Debray, T11
Debrodt, F472
December, F184, F667, T102, T108
Decher, F512, F516, F517, F810
Dechert, T139
Deck, F15
Deckert, F723
DeDear, F82, F139, F209, F567, T12, T22, T9 T119, T138
DeeReese, T99
Dees, F861, F862, F864
DeFour, F996
Degenhardt, F605
Dehne, F312
Deir, F7
De La Cruz, B23, T127
De La Fuente, F338
De La Garza, T127
Delamater, F960
Delaney, F2, F476
Delano, F420, F1003
Delany, T20
DeLeon, B31, F14, F341, F697, T2, T5, T16, T18, T61
Delipelig, T22
DeLipsey, B78, T131
Delk, T137
DeLoney, T13, T74
Delony, F185, F186, F960, T14, T22, T44
DeLooch, F236
Delvige, F477, F478
Delzell, F932
Demmer, B28, F439, F473, F894, F895, F896, F897
Demonet, F347, F361, T58
DeMoss, F125, F127, F129, F187, F449, F982 F983, T14, T20, T22, T36, T62
Denecamp, F2, F476
Denis, T2
Denker, T80
Denman, F91, F633
Denmark, T14, T126
Denniston, F959
Denson, T16
Dent, B52, F1008
Dentler, F21, F192, F305, F508, F588, F753, F1020, T11
Denton, T6, T23
Depmore, F6
Derduff, T6
DeReese, F87, F667, F895, F897, T83
Derrick, T117
DeSalme, F327
DeSchutz, T9, T131
de Soto, T2
Despallier, T8
Deutsch, F220
Devault, T8
DeVaux, F33
DeVilbiss, T8
Devine, T118
DeViney, B72, T61
DeWalt, F689
DeWees, T14
DeWitt, F48, F51, F174, F182, F529, F577, F578, F716, F832, F912, F914, F942, T4, T T6, T10, T14, T23, T27, T36, T45
de Zavala, F111
Dial, F158, F616, F852
Diamond, F765
Diaz, T22
Dibrell, T55
Dicke, F727
Dickehuth, F218, F224
Dickenson, F907
Dickerson, F827, T56
Dickey, F688
Dickinson, B19, F178, F346, F370, F534, F66 F780, F882, F897, F982, T6, T21, T47, T11
Dicks, F404
Dickson, T11
Didear, F646
Didier-Laurent, F188, F336
Diebel, B45, B52, F21, F121, F190, F191, F19 F217, F219, F226, F241, F263, F283, F330 F331, F333, F378, F380, F394, F395, F436 F454, F455, F473, F474, F475, F492, F564 F622, F649, F661, F700, F715, F754, F778 F816, F969, F970, F972, F973, F974, F976 T11, T61, T94
Diedrich, T24
Diehl, F803
Diehrmann, T11
Diekhoff, T130
Dielman, F890

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Dieringer, B36, B80, F101, F193, F194, F327, F567, F894, F897, F989, F1018, T21, T45, T83
Dieterle, F738
Dietrich, F254
Dietze, B31, B72, B78, B88, F196, F198, F373, F508, F554, F840, F923, F935, F945, F957, T22, T57, T64, T131
Dietzel, F413
Dikes, T6
Dillard, F138, T62
Dillon, F15
Dilworth, F532
Dincans, F507
Dinter, T16
Dipple, F923
Dittebrandt, T22
Dittfurth, F503, F668, T92, T108
Dittman, F76, F77
Dittmar, F405, F532
Dittmeyer, F462
Dix, F91
Dixon, T11, T14, T55
Dlouhy, F699
Dlugosch, F80, F199, F534, F954, F965
Dlugosh, F633, T12
Dobbs, F200, F962, T22
Dobie, F131, F506
Dobsky, F189, F460, F974
Dobson, F722, F819, F820
Docis, F744
Dodd, F161, F441, T21, T61, T118
Dodds, F145, T45, T50, T62
Dodge, T62
Dodson, F615, F642, F833, T22
Dodzuweit, B78, F304, T131
Doehrman, F242, F324, F378, F454, F1019, T94, T97
Doehrmann, F394, T16
Doell, T16, T49, T64, T83
Doerhman, F970, T24
Doerhmann, F393, F395
Doerr, F588
Doggett, T56
Doherty, T11
Dohman, F554, F944, F957, F974
Dohmann, F397
Dolci, F602
Dolesji, F742
Dolton, T130
Domann, F201, F352, F431, F465, T57
Dominguez, F899
Dominquez, F689
Donaho, F690
Donalds, T9
Doneman, F968, F1019
Donnelly, F107, T51, T59, T120
Donogan, F614
Donop, F505, T131
Dooley, F309
Doolittle, F70, F160, F691, T8, T20
Doran, F72, F786
Dorange, T11
Dorbritz, F961
Doreck, F149
Dorman, F586
Dornak, F478
Dornberg, F728
Dornberger, T16
Dornbluth, B52, B83, F202, F945
Dornburg, F467
Dorton, F669
Doss, F630, F917, T118
Dossow, F331
Dostalik, T16
Doty, F430
Doubrava, F591
Doughty, F440, F961, T14
Douglas, F605, F727, T14, T130, T131
Douglass, T68
Douthit, T22
Dove, B83, T22
Dow, T11
Dowdy, T20
Dowell, F302
Dowlearn, F70, F203, F204, F490, F581, F656, F691, F912, T6, T14, T16, T36
Dowling, T11, T20
Downing, F491, F855, F915
Downs, F182
Dowsing, F934
Doxey, T62
Doxsey, F755
Doyle, F832, T11
Dozier, F656
Drabeck, T99
Drake, F165, F674, T8, T16, T21, T22, T31, T68, T118
Drapalla, F199, T16
Draughon, F219
Drawe, B40, T21
Drehr, F53, T22
Dreier, F18, F61, F121, F122, F191, F205, F206, F207, F245, F268, F274, F275, F276, F277, F376, F378, F380, F390, F462, F516, F547, F549, F580, F622, F659, F778, F784, F788, F791, F792, F793, F798, F799, F821, F850, F972, F973, F974, F976, F999, T9, T11, T16, T24, T94, T98, T100
Dresel, F806
Dreyer, F61, F82, F208, F209, F257, F308, F336, F417, F426, F622, F686, F723, F818, F1019, T11, T51, T100
Driscoll, F10
Drisdale, T22
Driskill, F317
Dromgoole, B89, F137, F165, F210, F211, F530, F604, F767, F890, T52
Drossaerts, T58
Drosserts, T97
Drozd, T99
Drump, F489
Drury, F853, T57
Drushel, F27
Drye, F684
Dryer, F840, T11, T73
Drzymala, F953
DuBard, F22
DuBose, B40, B74, B80, F47, F145, F153, F212, F213, F214, F227, F237, F299, F303, F372, F392, F603, F866, F1013, F1014, T16, T18, T45, T72
Dubs, F850
DuBuis, F336
Duck, T9, T22
Duckett, B52, B91, T61, T63
Duckworth, B40, B74, F100, F101, F795, T16, T22
Dudensing, F573
Duderstaadt, F192
Duderstadt, B20, B70, B74, B77, F19, F56, F67, F114, F189, F216, F218, F219, F220, F221, F222, F223, F224, F225, F226, F251, F274, F275, F391, F765, F768, F776, F778, F815, T11, T14, T16, T24, T102, T148
Duderstat, T122
Dudlefski, F569
Dudley, F51, F931
Duer, T105
Duerr, B78, T11, T131
Duerwald, F899
Dueser, F237, F330
Duevel, F88, T83
Duff, F15, F131, F226, T12
Duffield, F139
Dugi, T22
Dugie, T144
Duglosch, B31
Duhm, F688, F689
Duke, F212, F1003, T16, T99
Dukes, F728, F729, F730, F815, F821, T24
Dullnig, F89
Dunbar, T118, T121
Duncan, F161, F233, F252, F456, F712, F985, T6, T22
Dungan, F789
Dunham, F440
Dunlap, F262, F669
Dunlavey, T16
Dunlavy, T8
Dunlay, T11
Dunn, F11, F66, F153, F176, F227, F228, F229, F241, F456, F494, F506, F602, F603, F618, F654, F671, F672, F853, F888, T11, T21
Dupnick, F149
Dupont, T22
Dupree, F672
Dupry, F179
Dupuy, T4
Duran, T20
Durbin, T5
Durckel, F805
Duren, F675, T11, T21
Duris, T11
Durkoph, T103
Durnan, F453
Dvorak, F313
Dworaczyk, F133, F732, F898, F956, T16, T18, T35
Dyer, F980, T20
Dykes, F293, T21
Dylla, F686
Dzewas, T130
Dziewas, T57

E

Earle, T53
Eason, T16, T22
Easterling, F996
Eatman, F139, F230, F231, F707, F719, T22, T119, T126
Eaton, F798
Eberhardt, F5, F232, F233, F390, F829, F945, T57, T64
Eberhart, F228, F764, F830
Eberspacher, F157
Ebner, F686
Echardt, T92
Eeichhold, B44
Eck, T76, T130
Eckert, F1, F391, T16
Eckhardt, B56, B57, B71, B78, F38, F66, F116, F234, F235, F254, F328, F403, F440, F505, F545, F769, F775, F782, F830, F977, F1015, T9, T11, T13, T16, T22, T25, T40, T131, T152
Eckhart, T11, T16
Eckles, F71
Economides, F156
Eddens, T22
Eden, F247
Edgar, B40, B49, B52, F9, F93, F236, F261, F400, F640, F654, F675, F767, F804, T11, T16, T18, T21, T22, T24, T41, T46, T47, T48, T55, T61, T62, T68, T99, T118, T119, T152
Edge, F440, F715, T16
Edgerton, T18
Edghill, F555
Edgton, T18
Edinger, F917
Edmunds, F362
Edwards, B84, F237, F448, F477, F707, F806, F942, F973, F1005, T8, T11, T16, T22, T74, T110, T136
Edwin, F578
Egg, B4, F79, F96, F217, F229, F238, F239, F240, F241, F242, F243, F244, F323, F330, F332, F378, F651, F798, F825, F850, T16, T21, T24, T28, T49, T94, T100
Eggleston, F7, F417, T16
Eglinger, F117
Egner, F475
Ehlers, F1014, T22, T154
Ehlinger, T127
Ehrenberg, F38, F313
Ehrenbrecht, F38
Ehrenburg, F312
Ehrlich, T133, T144
Eichenlaub, F562
Eichholz, B47, F245, F950, T131
Eichhorn, F649, F650
Eicholtz, F1020
Eicholz, T83, T105
Eidmann, F481, F482
Eilers, B68, T51
Eilert, F2, F476
Eisenberg, F939
Eisenhower, F900
Eismann, F337, T28, T30
Ekhart, T20
Elam, F401
Elder, B17, B23, B48, B78, F113, F172, F251, F916, T14, T16, T18, T20, T22, T42, T155
Eldredge, T16
Eldridge, F300
Elexander, T22
Elgin, F359
Elkins, F156, F161, T18
Ellard, F246, F867
Ellet, T109
Elliott, F699, T16, T54, T81
Ellis, F450, T14, T16
Ellsworth, F891
Ellzey, T18
Elmore, B78, T131
Elnatner, F243
Els, F746
Elser, B90
Elson, T14
Elstner, F239, F242
Elswick, F327
Emanuel, F247, T102
Emler, T126
Emmel, B78
Emmert, F915
Emmet, T131
Emmett, T23
Endler, T97
Engbrock, T61
Engel, F746
Engelke, T78
Engelking, F480
Engels, T11, T131
Englehardt, F288
Englke, F20
Enke, F741, F755
Enoch, F884, T20, T46, T110
Enos, F294
Entrican, F362
Epp, F699, T77
Epperson, F15, T11, T25
Eppes, F362
Equio, F1000
Erb, T16, T136
Erdelt, T16, T99
Erickson, F410, F918
Erikson, F214
Ermel, F510
Ermis, F603
Ernest, F99, T4
Erney, F617
Ernst, F446, F944, T131
Ernster, B92, F423, T24, T83
Esandon, T3
Escalera, F340
Esch, F437, F741, F765
Eschenburg, T80
Eschenfelder, F928
Escobedo, B52
Escoral, T11
Escuelaro, T11
Eska, T22
Esnaurizar, T6
Esperaso, T20
Espinosa, T2
Espy, F265
Essex, F675
Estell, T21
Estep, F278
Estes, T16
Estevanico, T2
Esthoff, T131
Estill, F225
Estrada, F687
Eubanks, B65
Eucharia, T51
Evans, F78, F353, F430, F593, F712, F892, F905, F910, F913, F991, T16, T54, T61, T6 T146
Evers, B36, F511, F514, F585, F623, T16, T6 T64
Evert, F86, F248
Evetts, F690
Ewers, F741
Ewing, F70, F271
Exelby, T114
Eyerly, F577
Eyhorn, T147, T151

F

Fabian, F534
Faden, F940
Fain, F615
Fair, F669
Faires, F143
Falgenberg, T78
Falkenburg, F893, T142
Falor, F588

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Faltysek, F971
Fanell, T20
Fanett, T114, T119
Fanette, T34
Fanger, T20
Fannin, F187, F855, F907
Fanning, T22
Farias, T16
Farmer, F156, F214, F237, F548
Farnsworth, F249, F490, T19, T56, T61
Farquhar, F890
Farrar, F230, F364, F718, F719, F852, F917, F931, F934
Farrell, T22
Farrer, T11
Farris, B78, B91, F114, F639, T11, T12, T18, T22, T131
Farrow, T16
Fassett, F250, F844, F846, F996
Fatheree, F671
Fathergill, T77
Faubian, B37
Faught, F401
Faulk, T18
Faust, F489, F1006
Fawcett, B21, F251, F252, F253, F277, F693, F856, T16, T21, T22
Fayenburg, F940
Fechner, F254, F312, F313, F314, F327, F509, F541, F570, F603, F638, F648, F697, T11, T16, T131
Fedler, T11
Feeney, F782
Fehlis, F304
Fehner, F95, F109, F325, T42
Fehr, F617
Feilhauer, F88
Felder, T11
Felger, F417
Felix, F261
Fell, F428, F587
Feller, F534, T142
Felsing, F638
Felter, F769
Fennel, T6
Fenner, F650, F748
Fenny, T6
Fentiman, F107
Ferber, F398, F507, F917
Ferguson, B3, B34, F89, F180, F255, F399, F611, F612, F613, F614, F635, F796, F802, T11, T12, T14, T16, T59, T76, T116, T119, T136
Feril, F311, F314
Fernandez, B5
Ferra, T58
Ferrill, F15, F892
Fertsch, F256
Fertz, T22
Fetherstor, T22
Fette, F220
Fetterman, F227
Fetters, B34, F209, F257, F622
Feuerbacher, F102
Fey, B16, B31, B61, F258, F259, T16, T58
Ficklen, F605
Field, F654, T11
Fielder, F880
Fields, F636, T11, T15, T16
Fikac, F477
Filipp, F252
Filla, T16
Finch, F15, F96, F600, T119
Finck, F656
Find, T16
Findeisen, B27
Findley, F588
Finke, F91, T83
Finley, F129, F905
Finner, T16
Finney, B74, F699, T11, T22, T61
Fischer, B36, B65, F34, F63, F68, F96, F165, F167, F202, F241, F254, F260, F261, F262, F263, F264, F332, F392, F527, F568, F700, F944, F962, F964, F1023, T16, T18, T62, T64
Fisher, B52, F234, F367, F368, F394, F630, F631, F640, F801, F808, F921, F939
Fissel, F88, T83
Fitch, F593, F654, T16
Fitting, F257
Fitts, F769, T144
Fitzbaugh, T8
Fitzgerald, F96, F130, F265, F266, F494, F617, F717, F840, F1001
Fitzhenry, F443
Fitzpatrick, T54
Flanders, T8
Flato, F50, F782
Fleck, F767
Fleeman, F630
Fleming, F16, F212, F771, F985, T12, T22, T46, T77
Flemming, F214, F428, T14, T79
Flepping, F601
Flessner, B84, F267, F268, F924, F926, T61, T96, T133, T144
Fletcher, F928
Flick, B12, F57, F86, F259, F264, F554, F571, F802, F957, F964, T11, T16, T49, T58, T59, T64
Flint, B19
Flores, T16
Flourney, T14
Flournoy, F824
Flower, F872, F984
Flowers, F10, F222, F269, F324, F683, T11, T14, T16
Floyd, F241, F604, T8, T12, T14
Fly, F66, F180, F270, F643, F910, T15, T62
Flynn, T51, T58, T97, T127
Flynt, F602
Foch, T11
Fochet, F442
Foerster, F971
Foester, F123
Fojtec, T70
Foley, T6
Follett, F435
Fontaine, F901
Foote, F208
Forbes, F67, F107, F271, T49, T54
Forchhammer, T22
Ford, F127, F155, F751, F854, F907, T11, T16, T110, T120
Fore, F147, F487, F995, F1009, T21
Forehand, F75, F604
Forister, T20
Formby, F610
Forrest, F170
Forsage, F311
Forsberg, F745
Forster, F22
Forsyth, F899
Fortner, F313
Foss, B52
Foster, F34, F112, F227, F399, F400, F440, F510, F672, F679, F699, F752, F908, F960, T11, T16, T20, T22, T39, T61
Fowler, F541
Fox, F91, F593, F962, T1, T21, T120
Foxell, F272, F273, F592, F593, F866
Foy, F569
Foyt, T16
Franek, F450
Frank, F234, F364, F440, F804, T21, T131
Franke, B90, F143, F192, F217, F219, F237, F274, F275, F276, F277, F367, F368, F391, F394, F552, F728, F729, F731, F732, F745, F778, F816, F821, T11, T16, T83, T94
Franken/Francken, F816, F821
Frankhouser, F293
Franklin, B23, F42, F115, F313, F850, T16, T96
Franks, F399, T11
Frantz, F480, F481
Franz, F856
Fraser, T11
Frazer, F298, T12
Frazier, F99, F278, F303, F630, F927, F1005
Frederich, T139
Frederichs, T11
Fredericks, F21
Fredine, T103
Fredricks, T16
Freeland, T140
Freeman, F8, F105, T14, T21, T42, T53
Freitag, F95
Frel, T34
Frelchet, T22
Freling, T103
Frels, B15, B60, B70, F62, F65, F68, F165, F256, F330, T16, T18, T46, T99, T131, T152
French, F156, F490, F806, T14, T18, T49, T50, T61, T64
Frende, T16
Frenzel, F304, T16
Frerichs, F478, F918
Frers, B35, B36, F288, T18, T61
Fretchet, T22
Freund, B83, F96, F748, F1017, T11, T64
Frey, F279, F403, F484, T22, T114, T131
Freye, B70
Friar, B33, B40, B74, F125, F141, F280, F281, F282, F619, F664, F697, F715, F847, F930, F960, F981, F991, T10, T11, T12, T13, T16, T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T34, T40, T81, T131, T149
Friar-Cardwell, T19, T25
Friday, F819, T16
Fridge, F852, F931
Friedel, F699, T16, T18, T56, T99
Friederichs, F631
Friedrich, F2, F223, F476, F630, F683
Friedrichs, B30, F283, F284, F285, F286, F287, F288, F377, F381, F382, F383, F414, F473, F512, F657, F661, F686, F968, T28
Friedricke, F206
Friedricks, F628, F629
Friemal, F745
Friend, F234, F793, T11, T14, T22, T45, T54
Friese, T57
Friley, F644
Frisbie, B60, F93, T62, T133, T139
Fritch, F254
Fritsch, F24, F117
Fritsche, F458
Fritz, B40, F539, F604, F650
Frobese, B36, B49, B83, F289, F371, F653, F747, F756, F757, F945, T9, T11, T16, T22, T25, T49, T59, T61, T62, T64, T102
Froelich, F393, F397, T114
Froeling, F574
Fromhart, F506
Fromme, B83, F61, F191, F327, F368, F630, F636, T11, T49
Fronek, F633, F650
Frosch, T104
Fruede, F1000
Frueholz, T22
Fry, F210
Frydrychowicz, T141
Fuchamner, T28
Fuchs, F82, F192, F257, F373, F507, F590, F658, F876, F1020, T11, T16, T19, T49, T58, T126, T131
Fudge, F156, F296, F1011, T20, T21, T48, T49, T62
Fuery, F763
Fuess, F262, T16, T55
Fuessel, F194, F894
Fuhrken, F450, T16, T102
Fuhrman, B90, F508, F944, F964, T57
Fuhrmann, F416
Fulcher, B23, F698, T23
Fulcord, T14
Fuller, B80, F74, F136, F385, F422, F982
Fullmore, T16
Fullshear, T6
Fulton, F70
Fuqua, T6, T155
Furter, F60, F61
Fury, T58
Futrell, T22

G

Gabel, F745
Gabler, T100
Gaddis, F718
Gaebler, F404, T11, T16, T24, T71, T131
Gaedke, F290, F502, F701, F702, F703, F704, T16, T102, T128
Gaenslen, T58
Gahno, F463
Gaibraith, F128
Gaida, F36, T147
Gailey, F317
Gain, F1015
Gairy, T20
Gaitler, T131
Gaiver, T20
Galaspa, F131
Galbert, T11
Galindo, B88
Gallagher, F463
Gallaway, F696
Galle, B67, F415, F507, F628, F881, T92, T12 T131
Gallegos, T18, T127
Gallenstede, F537
Galletty, T9, T102, T105
Gallia, T18
Gallington, F986
Galloway, F302
Galney, T22
Galvan, T16
Galvez, T3
Games, T16
Gammel, T46
Ganden, T14
Gandolfo, F261
Gangal, F572
Gannon, T22
Gano, F782
Gansow, T16
Gant, F403, T131
Garbe, F712, F763
Garbus, T142
Garcia, B1, F14, F376, F650, T11, T53
Garden, T54
Gardet, F20
Gardiner, F805
Gardner, F624, F667
Garey, F10, F291, F419, F420, F421, F671
Garfield, T71
Garland, F430
Garnand, F222
Garner, F91, F490, F604, F638, F647, F765, T11, T21, T132, T133
Garnes, T11
Garrett, B46, F85, F99, F142, F158, F160, F164, F237, F260, F272, F273, F285, F292 F293, F294, F295, F296, F297, F298, F299 F300, F301, F302, F303, F342, F344, F555 F657, F873, F882, F909, F945, F1000, F1003, T11, T16, T18, T31, T33, T77, T118
Garrison, F158
Garrot, F281
Garsed, T14
Garvel, F569
Garvin, T6
Garvy, F91
Gary, T16
Garza, F341, T3, T11, T16, T18
Gas, T64
Gass, F1012
Gastering, T22
Gaston, F181
Gates, F182, F427, F675, T16, T42
Gathings, T63
Gauhl, F408, F413, F474, F479
Gaunould, T11
Gavlik, T18
Gawlik, F255, F469
Gay, F355, F709, T11
Gaylord, F101
Geary, F760
Gebauer, T61
Gebbert, F549
Gebhardt, F753
Geffert, F767, F773, T16, T18, T87
Gegne Heider, F741
Gehrhardt, T11
Gehring, F220, T11
Geiger, F110, F925, T130
Geldous, F304, T85
Gelschus, F304
Gelssus, F304, F472, F498, T85
Gelwicks, F476
Gentry, F131, F933, T13, T126
Gentsch, T11, T131
George, F664, T6
Gephardt, F753
Gerber, T21
Gerberman, T127
Gerbert, F305, F378, F986, F987, F988, T11, T94
Gerdes, F149, F551, F567, F649, T80
Gerdis, F422
Gerhard, F815

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Gerhardt, B78, F82, F220, F306, F307, F312, F328, F484, F542, F628, F663, F702, F797, T11, T16, T57, T92, T116, T131
Gerhart, F189
Gerhold, B40, F121, F308, F309, F310, F333, F394, F474, F488, F754, T16, T28, T29, T30, T126
Gerlach, F79, T11, T97, T141
Gerloff, B83, T57
German, T61
Germandt, T46
Germer, F749
Gerstenberger, F745
Gery, T2
Gessler, F888
Geue, F892
Gewiss, F82
Geyer, B41, F989
Gibbons, F265, F309
Gibbs, T11
Giblin, F575
Gibson, B80, F132, F617, F667, F998, T6, T16, T61
Gieger, F440
Giesecke, F515, F519, F999
Giesick, F331
Giesler, F239
Gifford, T72
Gigleux, F634
Gilbert, F291, F577, F779, T11, T20
Gilbreth, B5
Gildzus, F304
Giles, B47, F112
Gill, B40, F292, F555, F909, T8, T11
Gillaspie, F656
Gillen, T6
Gillespie, T10
Gillett, F128, F692, F767, F959, T22, T62
Gillette, F41, T50
Gilliam, F122, F615, T77
Gilliland, F174
Gillon, T105
Gillum, T16
Gilman, F905
Gilmer, F906
Gilmer-Aiken, F706
Gilmore, F399
Ginsburg, F247
Gips, B10, B12, B56, B78, B82, F38, F254, F256, F305, F306, F311, F312, F313, F314, F315, F316, F439, F448, F468, F502, F568, F632, F638, F702, F892, F895, F987, T11, T16, T22, T102, T116, T131, T133, T148, T151, T154
Gipson, F48, F49, F50, F52, T20
Girgyd, F875
Girondt, F602
Gisler, F209, F233, F460, F689, F842, F899
Gist, F916
Givens, F116
Glas, T130
Glasgow, F227
Glass, F123, F317, F680, F681, T22, T79, T80
Glawka, T31
Glaze, F603, T62
Gleiss, T11
Glen, T16
Glenn, F135, T16
Glimp, F99, F318, F858, F1005, F1007, T11, T12
Glisner, F237
Glober, F166
Glodt, F562
Gloeckner, F506
Gloor, F108, F230, T16, T80, T83
Glover, B23, B33, F427, T14
Gluth, F876, F877
Glymphh, F318
Godby, F91
Godolphin, T54
Godwin, T22
Goebel, B45, F18, F95, F109, F244, F319, F320, F321, F322, F323, F324, F325, F326, F330, F332, F471, F520, F529, F531, F661, F783, F790, F825, F840, F857, F862, F890, F980, F981, F997, F999, F1001, T18, T22, T74, T100
Goebert, T94
Goehlke, B83
Goehring, B1, F90, F91, F304, F327, F466, F473, F648, F668, F731, F741, F989, T16, T83, T126, T144, T147, T148
Goens, T14
Goerss, T22
Goertsmann, F332
Goertz, F763, T58
Goethe, F356, F876
Goetz, F765
Goetzin, F140
Goff, F769
Gogolin, F393
Gohlke, B10, B60, F86, F122, F306, F328, F329, F456, F458, F540, F542, F628, F678, F726, F728, F730, F798, F815, F892, F1022, T11, T16, T18, T22, T57, T64, T71, T72, T74, T113, T114, T131
Gohment, B49, F152
Gohmert, B28, B70, B78, B88, F75, F96, F190, F234, F235, F238, F261, F262, F263, F323, F330, F331, F332, F333, F334, F378, F393, F395, F396, F397, F413, F415, F454, F529, F545, F624, F646, F700, F729, F811, F885, F892, F964, F969, F972, F973, F976, T11, T16, T18, T21, T22, T24, T25, T49, T57, T94, T102, T105, T106, T131, T148
Gola, F544
Gold, F683
Golden, F411, F586
Goldman, F335, F978, T11, T18, T62
Goldmann, F726
Goldsum, F568, F667
Golin, T20
Golke, T12
Golli, F529
Golly, F59, F60, F61, F82, F209, F322, F336, F337, F360, F367, F423, F522, F527, F531, F584, T11, T25, T73
Goly, F188, T11
Gomez, F32, T127
Gonzales, F32, F278, F338, F339, F340, F341, F392, F675, F806, F1007, T5, T22, T44
Gonzalez, F687, T22
Gooch, T21, T42
Good, F229
Goodbread, F907, F912
Goode, F39, F93, F134, F142, F158, F163, F164, F302, F303, F342, F343, F344, F345, F442, F443, F644, F656, F741, T11, T16, T31, T77, T118
Goodenough, T139
Goodfriend, B15
Goodman, F9, F612, F935, T138
Goodrich, F452, F943
Goodrick, T14
Goodson, F35, F158, F161, F342, F343, F344, F345, F346, F456, F581, F595, F690, F946, T11, T16, T21, T61, T118
Goodwin, F602, T9, T16
Goppert, F657
Gorden, F59, F61
Gordon, F66, F327, F916
Gorham, F135
Gorman, B73, F852, T14
Gorrell, F317
Gosden, B54
Gott, T16
Gottfried, T155
Gottschald, F767
Gottschalt, F254
Gould, F17
Gover, F440
Goyne, F134
Grady, F7
Grafe, B36, F330, F332, F572, T61
Grafton, T22
Graham, F57, F269, F347, F361, F362, F440, F913, F916, F1003, T50, T58, T101
Grahmann, F763, T97, T144
Gramann, T16
Grametbauer, F533
Granberry, F58, F160, F172, F294, F348, F349, F364, F370, F671, F691, F852, F871, F872, F873, F929, F931, T11, T16, T31, T37, T77, T79, T121
Granbury, T12
Grandberry, F851
Grant, F61, F72, F164, F615, F960, T10, T14, T16, T22, T61, T90
Grantham, T143
Gras, B70, F237, F440, F492, T12, T22, T144, T148
Gratten, F709
Grauruck, F987
Gravelly, T22
Graves, B5, B8, B74, F33, F363, F508, F782, F904, F951, T11, T16, T22, T61, T119, T151
Gray, F581, F742, F885, T22, T53, T120, T138
Green, B56, B78, B81, B90, F14, F50, F122, F139, F173, F278, F281, F309, F416, F421, F491, F890, F991, F996, T10, T11, T14, T15, T16, T18, T22, T46, T49, T53, T55, T56, T68, T79, T110, T130, T137
Greenberg, T11
Greenfield, F157
Gregg, F329, F644, T8, T54
Gregorczyk, B20, F220, F306
Greiner, T22
Greisen, B78, T131
Greissen, T11
Gremmel, T22
Greshim, F742
Grichard, F559
Grier, F485
Griffin, B10, B11, F154, F350, F392, F437, F492, F945, F953, T14, T16, T66
Grifno, F723
Grigga, F179, F351
Grimes, F166, F174, F180, F563, F804, T16, T22, T40, T50, T62
Grimmer, F352
Grip, F539
Grisham, F251
Grobe, T16
Grohmann, F404, F989
Groll, F374, F376, F381, F436, F920, F999
Gron, F537
Gronewald, F206
Groos, F814
Groschel, F274
Groscrose, F317
Grose, F622
Gross, F150, F151, T16
Grosse, F247, F702, F769, T16, T102
Grosskopf, B78, F306, T131
Grossman, F586, T16
Grossmann, F989
Grosz, F898
Grote, F811, F921, T98
Grotehaus, T12
Grothaus, F446, F823, T22, T69
Grothe, F305
Groves, F873, T16
Grubb, F418, F569
Grubbs, F364
Grueb, F966
Gruehner, F507, F508
Gruenenwald, F1020
Gruenewald, T88
Gruenwald, F237
Gruetzmacher, F219, F431, F432, F433, F473, F647, T35
Gruhner, F508
Grumman, F706
Grun, B78, F353, F672, F712, F797, T11, T16, T40, T66, T92
Grund, F915
Grunder, B34, B36, B64, F43, F229, F354, F422, T18, T58, T61
Gruner, F508
Grunewald, F10, F336, F584, T11, T133
Gruneward, B57
Gruns, T131
Grusch, F898
Grutemacher, F987
Grutzmacher, F797
Gudat, F20, F21, F1017
Guenther, F282, F567, F802, F828, F966
Guerra, T22
Gugenham, T11
Gugenheim, T21, T131
Guggenheim, F962, T132
Guhmert, B31
Guichon, F14
Guilminot, F18, F355, T13
Guin, T56
Guinn, F37, F39, F110, F656
Guiterez, T16
Gullett, T136
Gullette, F452
Gunn, T61
Gunther, F440
Gurley, F634
Gurtzmacher, T16
Gustwick, F62, T64
Guthrie, F182, F452, F946
Gutierrez, F912, T4, T11
Gutman, T20
Guyon, T139
Guzman, T2, T127
Guzy, F91
Gwoedz, T16

H

Haak, B51, F72, F91, F125, F145, F786, T16
Haar, F23
Haase, T16
Habenicht, F648
Haberkorn, F473, F474, F754, F819, F892, F893
Habernal, F504
Habrnal, F650
Hackenjos, F202
Hackett, T16
Hackfeld, F588, T71
Hadamek, B5, F569, F706
Hadley, F236
Hael, F237
Haerdtle, T142
Haering, F1012
Haertig, F356, F480, F481, F483, F539, F682, F797, T86, T102
Hafner, F428
Hagan, B19, F713, T80
Hagann, F853
Hagel, F953, T141
Hagemeyer, T16
Hagen, B9, T21, T89, T112
Hagerman, F918
Haggarty, F996
Hagon, T41
Hagy, F628
Hahn, B36, B88, B90, F1, F10, F61, F257, F261, F352, F414, F539, F718, T12, T16, T18, T57, T64, T126
Haibach, F367, F368
Haidusek, B25
Haight, F900
Haile, F281, F282, F847
Hailey, F302
Haines, F624
Hainsworth, T20
Hairell, T16
Hairston, F334, T53
Hajovsky, T51
Haldeman, T14
Hale, F6, F541, T52
Halepeska, T51
Haley, T22, T147
Haligan, T8
Hall, F74, F89, F136, F137, F160, F186, F237 F355, F357, F358, F359, F385, F403, F444 F491, F532, F575, F652, F709, F911, F980 T11, T14, T16, T22, T59, T72
Haller, F60, F61, F82, F336, F337, F360, F36 F1019, F1020, T11
Hallet, F100
Hallett, F257
Halliday, F309
Hallmark, B5
Hallmullen, F147
Hallon, F46
Halse, T21
Halt, T55
Hamala, T127
Hamff, F329
Hamifen, F710
Hamilton, B34, B37, B52, F6, F128, F317, F347, F361, F362, F363, F488, F491, F565 F644, F734, F886, F945, F951, F996, T11, T12, T13, T16, T22, T25, T49, T54, T56, T62, T64, T83, T116, T152
Hamlett, F697
Hamlin, F158
Hamm, F631, T49, T57, T64
Hammerle, F440, F961
Hamner, T64
Hampil, F443
Hampton, F66, F793, T16
Hanchey, F117

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Hancock, F261, F808, T27, T146
Hander, F364
Haney, F297
Hankammer, F26, F350, F391, F812, T142
Hankins, F317, F808
Hanks, F187, F581, F665, F671, T11, T14
Hanna, F340, T16
Hannekammer, F500
Hans, B4, F21, F61, F82, F157, F209, F319, F321, F326, F375, F387, F388, F390, F474, F576, F603, F714, F789, F790, F964, T11, T16, T24, T28, T29, T45, T74
Hansel, F450, F633, F650
Hanselmann, F966
Hansen, B31, B86, F145, F365, F440, F643, F1022, T16, T61
Hanshaw, F903
Hansman, F688
Hanson, F37, F366, F646, T57, T104
Hantz, T11
Hanus, F586
Hanys, F366
Hanzelka, T99
Hapen, T12
Happel, T151
Happner, T16
Harbers, F650, T148
Harborth, F391, F811
Hardaway, T16
Hardeman, T12, T15
Harden, F796
Harder, T103
Hardesty, F789
Hardin, F443, F448, F541, F826, F865, F907, F911, T13, T14
Hardman, T20, T22
Hardt, F306, F367, F368, F447, F729, F772, F797, F867, F878, T57, T92, T131
Hardy, F104, F112, F129, F144, F213, F674, F1005, T11, T110
Harfst, F481
Hargrave, T37
Hargrove, B43, F342, F344, F348, F369, F370, F559, F871, T11, T47, T77, T118
Harigel, F745
Harkey, F313
Harkins, F203, F581, F912
Harkrider, F933
Harman, T12
Harmes, T16
Harmon, F371, F697, T18, T25, T42
Harms, F20, F404, F686, F732, T102, T128
Harnden, F742
Harp, T147
Harper, B78, F177, F182, F324, F441, F444, F541, F702, F704, F711, F852, T11, T22, T71, T110, T131
Harral, F960
Harralson, F337
Harrell, B19, F1007, T16, T117, T139
Harriman, F419
Harrington, F170, F911
Harris, B43, B66, F101, F104, F106, F110, F127, F309, F313, F314, F372, F410, F452, F613, F634, F890, F996, T11, T14, T16, T18, T20, T60, T119
Harrison, B28, B39, F233, F581, F936, F948, T11, T14, T16, T22, T136, T152
Harryman, B43, F619, T16, T18, T62
Harryway, T68
Harsdorf, F4, F5, F373
Harsdorff, F82, T21
Hart, F297, T11, T20, T120
Harter, F216
Hartkose, T14
Hartman, F1, F56, F57, F74, F86, F135, F136, F167, F190, F205, F217, F226, F229, F233, F238, F241, F268, F283, F285, F305, F322, F340, F357, F359, F374, F375, F376, F377, F378, F379, F380, F381, F382, F383, F384, F385, F386, F387, F389, F390, F522, F532, F547, F548, F570, F575, F576, F617, F646, F661, F664, F714, F737, F787, F798, F819, F850, F860, F886, F920, F950, F953, F963, F964, F968, F969, F970, F973, F974, F986, F1007, T11, T16, T22, T24, T61, T64, T74, T91, T108, T114
Hartmann, F212, F219, F232, F373, F388, F391, F392, F447, F475, F528, F645, F692, F775, F788, F817, F819, F821, F825, F889, F1006, T9, T11, T45, T66, T116, T131, T133, T142, T147, T151, T152
Hartroup, T12
Hartsell, T63
Harvey, F160, F203, F204, F358, F493, F581, F664, F682, F808, T16
Harwood, B23, T16, T20, T120, T139
Hasdorff, F463, F783, T18, T28, T49, T58, T94
Hasenbeck, F897
Haskarl, T103
Haskell, F176, T119
Hasly, T12
Hass, F1, F14, T16
Hassell, T22
Hassenfurter, F60
Hasson, F186, F529
Hastings, F506, T22
Hatch, F852
Hatcher, F150, F852, F931
Hatchet, T20
Hatfield, F317, F639
Hattenbach, T21
Hauer, F336, F337, F584
Haug, F193, F989
Haun, B40, B45, F189, F191, F192, F332, F393, F394, F395, F396, F397, F455, F662, F754, F890, F970, F972, F973, F976, T11, T16, T18, T20, T24, T94, T139, T151, T152
Haupmann, T11
Haus, T21
Hauschild, F295
Hausenfleck, F590
Hauser, F879, T16
Hausman, B31, B50, F243, F288, F664, F778, F840, F850, F917, T12, T20, T64, T94, T96
Hausmann, B10, F18, F19, F75, F190, F206, F237, F257, F394, F398, F426, F473, F600, F943, F1021, T9, T11, T16, T21, T49, T57
Haven, F577, T6
Haverlan, F605
Havermann, F558, T103
Hawk, F384
Hawkins, T22, T118
Hawks, T14
Hawthorn, T22
Hawthorne, F387, F440
Hay, F130, F265, T143
Hayden, F499, F853
Hayes, F6, F451, F656, F691, T11
Haynes, F113, F516, F677, F891, T37, T114
Haynie, F994
Hays, F185, F907, T10, T11, T16
Hayton, T14
Haywood, F637
Heacock, T139
Head, T50
Heady, F131
Heard, B84, F50, F137, F177, F399, F400, F486, T12, T21, T22, T23, T74
Hearn, F62, F401, F682
Heasley, F973
Heath, F699, T6
Heaton, B76, F345, F362, T21, T25, T49, T61
Hebert, B31, T12, T18, T22, T58, T61
Hecke, T131
Heckmann, F424
Hector, F384
Hedgcoxe, F67, F105, F271
Hedges, T16, T116
Heer, F402, T102
Heffernan, F229, T58
Hefner, T16, T18, T22, T43
Hehmke, F627
Heibel, F971
Heichling, T131
Heider, F31
Heidtke, T142
Heil, F61, F731, F732
Heiman, F313
Heimlich, F559
Hein, F987
Heine, F668, F746, T103
Heinke, T141
Heinkle, F529
Heinman, F797
Heinold, F864
Heinrich, F241, F254, F306, F649, F765, F767, F769, F770, F771, F772, F773, F774, F775, T85, T146
Heins, T14
Heinse, F394
Heinsohn, F480, F481, F483
Heinson, F1
Heinze, F306, F465, F726, T78, T131
Heisig, B72, F697, T53
Heisler, B89
Heissig, B70, F279, F403, F545, F632, F766, F774, F776, F876, T131
Hekimian, F440
Helbider, T137
Helbig, F331, F332, F808
Heldt, F542, F702, T102
Helfrich, F61
Heller, F256, F380, F630
Helm, F172, T14
Helmers, F745, T71, T102
Helms, F440, T22
Helrveg, T89
Helton, F767
Helweg, F776
Helwig, F246
Henao, T22
Hendericks, F416
Hendershot, F111
Henderson, B12, B23, F7, F11, F29, F82, F399, F644, F656, F890, F985, F992, T16, T59, T61, T110
Hendrick, F614
Hendricks, F154, T14, T51, T58
Henge, T108
Hengst, B11, F350, F404, F405, F538, F539, F540, F583, F689, F1011, T18, T71, T87
Henig, T39
Henke, F74, F136, F974
Henkhaus, F919
Hennecke, B31, F19, F425
Henneke, B44, B54, F406, F407, F408, F479, F661, F662, T16, T22, T64
Hennesy, F867
Hennig, F328, F390, F440, F622, F712, T11, T131
Henniger, F573
Henri, T2
Henry, F401, F605, F664, T6, T11, T12, T16, T21, T22, T42, T50
Hensarling, F603
Henschel, F879, F880
Hensley, B43, F145, T61
Henson, F14
Hentsley, T22
Henze, F312, F702, F892, F987
Heraff, T11
Herbalin, F196
Herbst, T22, T51, T58
Herder, B19, F409, F410, F411, T24
Herff, F806
Herm, F108, T80
Herman, F193, T22, T54
Hermann, B6, F48, F424, F738, F739, F792
Hermes, B19, F28, F143, T92
Hermon, T20
Hernandez, F14, T11
Herndon, T16
Herns, T112
Heron, T61
Herrera, T18
Herring, F117, T62
Herron, F644, T12
Herzig, F514, F516, F518
Hesse, B28, F105, F107, F412, F748, T18, T61, T64
Hesseltine, F458
Hester, B23, F70, F691, F916, T1, T11, T14, T16, T21
Hettig, F472
Heuchling, B78, T131
Heuermann, F782
Hewing, T116
Hewitt, B40, F294, T22
Heye, F772
Heyer, B30, F61, F96, F283, F413, F414, F415, F416, F417, F421, F422, F479, F599, F600, F620, F621, F957, F964, T22, T51, T61, T62, T64
Hibbins, F174
Hickam, F12
Hickey, F281, F463, F847, T11, T13, T99, T111
Hickman, B80
Hickmon, F25
Hickok, F443
Hicks, F91, F903, F959, F960
Hidalgo, T4
Hiebner, F237
Hiett, F808
Higgins, T22, T58
High, B34, B40, B84, F183, F418, T22, T59, T61
Higher, T20
Highsmith, T6
Hightower, F410, T139
Hilb, B52
Hilbrich, B67, F2, F93, F255, F1002
Hilburn, F46
Hildebrand, F34, F446, F696, T69
Hildebrandt, F357, F359, F741, T16
Hildebrant, F354, F575
Hill, B24, B40, B49, F6, F9, F10, F12, F142, F150, F151, F219, F229, F251, F291, F362 F413, F419, F420, F421, F422, F453, F505 F598, F647, F718, F795, F906, F987, F996 T6, T16, T20, T30, T56, T62, T77, T130
Hillard, B43
Hillbrand, T20
Hille, F590, T11
Hillebrand, F505
Hillen, B14, T16
Hiller, B1, F18, F19, F101, F121, F394, F423, F424, F425, F426, F455, F474, F511, F514 F529, F700, F737, F738, F739, F792, F819 F840, F999, F1000, F1001, T11, T22, T24, T28, T30, T74, T94
Hilliard, T16
Hillje, F686
Hillman, T126
Hillmann, F62
Hillmer, F465
Hilmers, T99
Himmelrich, T16
Hinckley, F684
Hinds, F440, F961, T5, T6
Hingst, F989, T61, T83
Hinojosa, T18
Hinson, T54
Hinton, T16
Hinueber, T11
Hinze, F262, F667, F892
Hirscy, F220
Hitchcock, F873
Hitchens, T59
Hitzfeld, F683
Hlavaty, F382
Hoathaus, T20
Hobbs, F871, F885
Hobby, F50, F683, T11
Hobson, F713
Hoch, F172, F427, F428, F830, F831, T9, T16, T23, T25, T79, T80, T130
Hochet, T11
Hochhalter, F317
Hockett, T64
Hodde, F440
Hodge, B23, F131, F173, F281, F452, F556, F929, T9, T20, T45, T56
Hodges, F70, F345, F430, F691, F760, F843, F913, T78, T99, T118
Hodgson, F281
Hoe, T20
Hoebel, T130
Hoeflich, F363
Hoefling, F237, F340, F842, F965, F975, T18
Hoegemeyer, F987
Hoehne, F352, F431, F432, F433, T34
Hoenis, F507
Hoepken, F648
Hoerig, F434, T57, T130
Hoermann, T18, T94
Hofer, T11
Hoff, B52, B78, F84, F191, F274, F275, F398, F435, F436, F472, F541, F542, F603, F715 F825, F874, F876, F972, F973, F996, T11, T16, T21, T131
Hoffa, F265
Hoffer, F203
Hoffman, F25, F60, F88, F149, F237, F295, F327, F437, F517, F648, F649, F657, F659 F660, F695, F765, F925, T2, T51, T58, T76
Hoffmann, F307, F438, F727, T74
Hofmann, F336, F512

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Hogan, B80, F158, F490, T14, T139
Hogg, F916
Hoggatt, F12
Hogue, F157, F719, F960
Hohl, F366
Hohn, F439, F440, F624, F894, F895, F896, F897, F961, T22, T59, T102, T106, T131, T136, T146
Hohne, F661
Holberdier, F725
Holbert, F803
Holchak, F116
Holcomb, T77
Holcombe, F996
Holder, T50
Holdermann, T66
Holdridge, F211, T20
Holeman, B69
Holesovsky, F924
Holgraf, F890
Hollan, F158, F160, F163, F297, F300, F342, F345, F441, F442, F443, F444, F603, F669, F670, F691, F882, F871, T11, T16, T31, T47, T77, T118
Holland, F924, T11, T54, T152
Holle, F567
Hollefeld, F119
Hollenman, T83
Hollensbe, F456
Holliday, F579, T18
Holliman, F928
Hollingsworth, T131, T148
Hollis, F780, F781
Hollman, F935
Holloway, B43, F445, F699, F742, F744
Hollowell, F440
Hollsafer, T20
Hollub, F214
Holly, F971
Holmes, F247, F507, T11, T16
Holsinger, F754
Holstein, T14
Holster, B52
Holt, T22
Holter, F102
Holtheuser, F957
Holtzheuser, T64
Holub, F675
Holz, T11
Holzapfel, F331
Holzapfel, B28, F306, F436, F446, F542, F569, F821, T11, T21, T69
Holzheizer, F654
Holzinger, T136, T142
Hombach, F394
Homeyer, F353
Homrickhausen, F397, T11
Honda, F61
Honeycutt, F576
Hood, F996
Hoof, T20
Hooks, F128
Hoover, B6, B19, F478
Hope, F618
Hopkins, F34, F472, F603, F873, T16, T22, T47, T81
Hoppe, B70, F438, F447, F774, F877, T9, T11, T40, T131
Hopper, T16, T20
Hord, F910
Hormuth, F510
Horn, T89
Hornburg, F428
Hornaby, F174
Hornstein, F437
Horny, F397, F1020, T11
Horsdorff, F832
Horton, F200, F605, T16, T22, T37
Hoser, T16
Hosey, F995, T130
Hosmer, T11
Hotchkiss, F638
Hotz, B88, F45, F60, F139, F584, F922, T11, T74
Houck, B69
House, F25, F74, F133, F135, F136, F302, F353, F447, F448, F451, F582, F633, F645, F672, F696, F716, T6, T66, T73, T130, T131
Houser, F67, F715
Houston, F96, F111, F126, F129, F325, F341, F401, F505, F532, F603, F639, F674, F733, F907, F958, F982, F996, T10, T13, T16, T20, T49, T81, T114, T119
Hovance, F92
Howard, B78, F172, F174, F237, F269, F401, F449, F456, F601, F716, F806, F878, F907, F994, F996, T11, T14, T20, T22, T53, T61, T116, T131
Howe, F202, T22
Howell, F22, F440, F900
Howerton, B47, F100, F555, F796, F836, F1008, T11, T16, T19, T22, T49, T50, T54, T62
Hoyan, T11
Hranicky, B79, F237, F949, T16
Hrcek, T16
Hrecek, T89
Hrncicek, F586
Hrncir, F477, T61
Hruska, F586, F689
Hubbard, F500, F903, F1013
Hubby, F697
Huber, F550, F650
Hubersburger, F82, F373, T73
Hubert, T11
Huck, F91, F450, F558, F633, F650, F667, F668, F686, F688, F879, T16, T49, T71, T102
Huddleston, F1
Hudgeons, F57, F451, F542, T1
Hudgins, F361
Hudnall, F440
Hudson, B52, F362, F884, F972, F973, F1022, T14, T46, T63, T116
Huebel, F890, F891
Huebner, F478, F660, T16, T101
Huehlefeld, B39, F57, T21
Huettel, F745
Huff, F30, F31, T18
Hug, F935
Hughart, F96, T6
Hughes, B75, F401, T6, T148
Huie, F27
Hulett, F261
Hulmer, F178
Hulse, F769, T16, T21, T79
Hulstede, F537
Hume, F70, T23, T118
Humphrey, F172, F173, F560
Humphreys, T11, T20
Humphries, F16
Hundhausen, F447
Hundley, F183
Hunnam, F323
Hunnicutt, T14
Hunt, F329, T68
Hunter, F15, F104, F187, F317, F344, F372, F452, F578, F599, F600, F907, F989, T12, T14, T22, T31, T64, T110
Huntsman, F422
Hurst, F892
Hurta, F30, F586
Hurtzig, T57
Husig, T11
Hutchenson, F653
Hutcherson, F61
Hutchings, B13, F802, F843, T16, T50, T54
Hutchins, F453, F485
Hutchinson, F178, F425
Hutchison, F610
Huth, B6, T16, T89
Hutton, F963, T21
Hyatt, F914, F1009, T14
Hyck, T49
Hyde, F1002

I

Ibrom, F955, F986, T16, T18
Ideus, F191, F192, F332, F333, F393, F395, F397, F425, F454, F455, F472, F697, F885, F943, F969, T11, T16, T18, T24, T94
Iken, F289
Iley, F978
Ilgen, F567, T57
Imakubo, F91
Imhoff, F728
Imminhauser, T46
Ingraham, F397
Ingram, F855
Innes, T54
Insall, B72, F99, F1005, T11
Intgis, F156
Ireman, T11
Irmscher, F879
Irvin, T36, T119
Irwin, F669, T14
Isaacs, T22
Isbel, F916
Ischey, F507
Isdale, T16
Ish, F996
Ishiams, F733
Isle, T15
Isleib, T64
Isom, T52
Israel, T53
Iverson, F148
Ives, T11, T149
Ivory, T16

J

Jabas, F605
Jablonski, F80, F219
Jackson, B31, F34, F141, F229, F399, F414, F429, F456, F508, F568, F615, F667, F782, F907, F990, F1007, T3, T6, T16, T18, T46, T62, T110
Jacob, B4, B32, B36, F60, F79, F82, F83, F188, F189, F191, F192, F240, F242, F243, F244, F336, F337, F376, F457, F458, F459, F460, F461, F475, F529, F584, F622, F648, F732, F767, F769, F774, F816, F825, F826, F938, F1020, T11, T22, T79, T92, T94, T114
Jacobs, B88, F9, F21, F23, F93, F152, F173, F236, F462, F484, F542, F572, F627, F628, F659, F799, F830, F831, F895, T11, T14, T16, T20, T21, T22, T57, T73, T92, T108
Jacobson, F23, F726
Jacques, F143
Jacubik, T16
Jaeger, F404, F899, T16, T21, T79, T130, T148
Jaeggli, F108, T16, T61, T62
Jakob, T11
Jalufka, F26, F437, T18, T44
Jalufke, F540
James, F179, T6, T16, T22, T90, T139
Jamieson, T21
Jamison, T16, T18
Janacek, B25, B27, F75, T144
Janasack, F808
Janca, T16
Jancyk, F569
Janecek, F664
Janicek, F313
Janiszieski, T16
Jank, B9, F284, F463, F472
Janka, F257
Janota, F586
Jans, T8
Jansa, F947, F949
Jansen, F228, F321, F330, F350, F706, F763, F1018, T51, T58, T75, T80
Jansky, F986, F987
Janson, F808
Janssen, B78, F91, F149, F201, F313, F314, F315, F316, F327, F440, F464, F466, F467, F468, F503, F558, F640, F641, F647, F648, F688, F701, F746, F812, F890, F892, F893, T16, T102, T108, T137
January, F991
Janysek, F470
Jarmon, T16
Jaroszewski, F293, F685
Jarrett, B41
Jarvis, T20
Jarzombek, F409
Jaschke, F659, F662
Jasek, T144
Jasso, F140
Jaster, T96
Jay, F317, F907
Jecker, F144, F611, T16, T51
Jefferson, F733, F983
Jeffery, F47, F175, F694
Jeffreys, T48
Jeffries, F158, T47
Jemelka, F502
Jendrezey, T16
Jendry, B20, F18, T16
Jendrzey, F199, F469, F842, F896, F954, F95 T24
Jenkins, B33, F137, F699, F854
Jennings, F47, F214, F566, T18, T48, T117, T138
Jernigan, F941
Jersig, T16, T146
Jester, F695, F964
Jilek, F409, F463
Jiral, T16
Jochen, F499, F500, F501, F502, F503, F504, T102
John, F470, F895, F903
Johns, T16
Johnake, T11
Johnson, B40, B52, B88, F12, F30, F40, F71, F94, F137, F139, F149, F198, F401, F442, F471, F494, F579, F654, F689, F696, F698 F741, F742, F744, F753, F771, F790, F796, F919, F962, F992, F996, F1009, F1016, T1 T14, T16, T20, T22, T42, T45, T52, T62, T74, T77, T81, T110, T119, T130
Johnston, F113, F281, F317, F440, F484, F86 F881, T12, T14, T28
Joks, F586
Jones, B1, B80, F2, F107, F117, F180, F224, F233, F394, F422, F429, F581, F602, F652 F664, F709, F712, F720, F721, F755, F874 F924, F932, F936, F938, F990, F996, T6, T11, T14, T16, T20, T22, T23, T31, T36, T45, T54, T62, T64, T81, T136, T139, T15
Joneschkies, F246, F878
Jonischckies, T85
Jonischkie, F484, F628, T94
Jonischkies, B60, F304, F463, F472, F498, F588, F731, T152
Jordan, B24, F218, F890, F899, T14, T21, T2 T138
Jordon, T20
Joseph, B49, B74, F14, F361, T61
Joslyn, F870
Jost, T16
Jowers, F442
Joyce, F456
Juarez, F255
Jud, F893, T103
Judd, F87
Juenger, B52, F87, F88, F260, F264, F527, T
Juergens, F725
Julius, T131
Junek, F161
Junge, F1010
Junker, B28, F2, F39, F117, F121, F122, F19 F238, F283, F285, F287, F288, F308, F326 F327, F376, F381, F413, F424, F473, F474 F475, F476, F657, F790, F892, F950, T11, T22, T94, T144
Jurach, T16
Jurek, F294
Jurene, T18
Jutz, F2, F191, F474, F475, F476, T28

K

Kacir, F423, F958, T24, T51
Kaderli, F572
Kaelke, T103
Kahanek, B80
Kahlert, T21, T126
Kahlich, B7, B14, B17, B40, B84, F28, F193, F205, F237, F350, F502, F580, F583, F700 F842, F953, F973, F989, T16, T21, T43, T6 T63, T83, T127
Kahn, T11, T22, T108
Kaienr, T132
Kainer, T21, T63
Kaiser, B19, F18, F477, F478, F667, F778, F918, F919, T16, T22
Kalenowski, F569
Kalich, F591
Kalkofen, F588
Kaminski, F953, F954, F956
Kampfhenkle, F765
Kanak, F998
Kane, F152
Kann, F288
Kannewiesher, F90
Kapitza, F897

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Karcher, F120
Kardow, T146
Karkowsky, F417
Karl, F423, F603, F702, F760, T16
Karm, T16
Karnei, B60, F328, T11, T151
Karnel, T8
Karnes, F475
Karnie, F191
Karo, F964
Karow, F407, F408, F479, T16
Karrer, F102
Kaspar, F252, F253, F856
Kaspare, T89
Kasparik, T131
Kasper, B27, T126
Kasprizik, B78
Kassen, T14
Kasten, F480, F481, F482, F483, F533, F777, T37, T102
Kastick, F530
Kastner, T57
Katzmark, B31, F764, T102, T108
Kauffman, B7, F261, T61
Kaufman, B83, F307, F484, F628, T11
Kaufmann, F472, T11, T16, T131
Kautz, B34, B73, T61
Kaye, F96
Kessler, F107, F709
Kecht, F423
Keen, T139
Keeran, F675
Keernbar, T20
Keese, T136
Keesler, B5, B43, F407, T61
Keesling, F145
Keever, T16
Kehoe, B40
Keilberg, F599
Keith, F936, F1006, F1007
Kelch, F741, T16
Keller, B64, B83, F9, F43, F354, F917, F960, T49, T57
Keller-Grunder, T25
Kelley, F186, F227, F252, F891, F946, F967, T16, T130
Kellix, F489, T11
Kellog, T16, T20
Kellogg, F181, T8
Kelly, F131, F182, F302, F342, F343, F345, F346, F441, F444, F882, F890, T11, T14, T21, T22, T136, T140
Kelso, F147, F453, F485, F486, F487, T22
Kelsoe, T11, T20
Kemper, F712, F795, F912
Kendall, F534
Kendell, F733, F734
Kendrick, F313
Kenedny, T20
Kenedy, T130
Kenigseder, T18
Kenne, F61, F539
Kennedy, F150, F165, F308, F309, F488, F615, F722, F762, F769, F881, F890, T16, T22, T31, T62, T68
Kennemer, F295
Kennerly, F50
Kennish, F580
Kennison, F232
Kent, B72, T6, T19, T22, T49
Kenyon, F996
Kenzie, T16
Kerchaff, T89
Kerlich, F489, T16, T24
Kerlick, F55, F328, F473, F489, F498, F589, F618, F650, F875, F1005, F1006, T78, T85, T140, T152, T154
Kerlix, F489
Kern, F1, F417, T57
Kerr, F167, F170, F577, F636, F716, T5, T6
Kersch, F39
Kerwin, F774
Keseah, T20
Keseling, F261, F802, F938, F994, T18
Kessler, F36
Key, F358, F490, F591, F656, T16, T36, T43
Kibbe, B1, F49, F51, F105, F106, F107, F442, F491, F532, F652
Kidd, F491
Kiefer, T53
Kieffer, F853
Kiel, F239, T61
Kieler, F745, F746
Kieny, F336
Kienzy, T11
Kieth, F733
Kilgore, F217, F340, F489, F605, F959, F960, T11, T14, T21, T22, T34, T37, T45, T49, T131, T149
Kilian, F508
Killough, F735
Kimball, F565, T6
Kimberling, F318, F544
Kimbro, F387
Kimich, F384
Kimmel, B32, F461, F540, F826, T75
Kimmell, F492, F724
Kinard, T55
Kindred, T21
King, F6, F8, F18, F159, F173, F355, F358, F443, F447, F493, F494, F611, F619, F652, F675, F700, F884, F896, F905, F916, F973, F976, T6, T8, T11, T14, T15, T16, T18, T20, T21, T22, T45, T46, T61, T77, T80, T130, T131
Kingsbury, F291, F420
Kingston, F766
Kinlay, F494
Kinnison, F178
Kinsey, T11
Kinus, T20
Kirby, F672
Kirchner, F312, F437, F664, F842, T137
Kirgeleis, F702
Kirk, B40, F164, F282, F495, F496, F497, F522, F691, F825, F845, F964, T15, T24, T51
Kirkham, B37, F117, F118, F515, F519, T22
Kirkland, F7, F28, F541, F603, F697, T11, T36, T48
Kirkman, F13, T50
Kirksey, F158
Kirkwood, F568
Kirlicks, F304, F472, F489, F498, F588, T85
Kirlinche, F489
Kirsch, F506
Kirschner, F286
Kirsh, F614, F902
Kissack, T116
Kistler, T6
Kistner, F88
Kitchen, F775
Klaes, T11
Klaeveman, F499, F500, F893
Klaevemann, B22, F290, F501, F502, F503, F504, F647, F701, F702, F703, F704, F811, T102, T104, T108
Klar, T103
Klaus, T51
Klavermann, T64
Kleas, F1008, T16
Kleberg, B47, F4, F83, F166, F170, F209, F223, F234, F235, F277, F337, F424, F446, F474, F505, F517, F622, F728, F745, F754, F782, F804, F821, F858, F1020, T8, T11, T19, T20, T22, T25, T46, T49, T59, T69, T94, T105, T131, T148
Kleburg, F19
Klecka, B1, B31, F407, F506, F763, F764, T87
Klegberg, F935
Kleiber, F715
Klein, F401
Klein, T133, T152
Kleine, T24
Kleinecke, B36, B64, B90, F62, F68, F165, F167, F456, F507, F508, F628, F823, F890, F917, F980, T11, T49, T57, T59, T61, T64
Klesel, T16
Kliem, F401
Kline, T131
Klinger, F264
Klinkerman, F880
Klitch, F463
Klitsch, F472
Kloesel, B80, F221
Klohan, T16
Klokau, F145, F146, F509, F979
Klopf, F649
Kloppenburg, F551
Klotz, T11, T131
Kluge, F254, F313, F503, F589, F828, T103
Klusendorf, F74, F359, F575
Knaak, F438
Knandel, F541
Knape, T154
Knapp, F508
Knebel, F2, F661
Kneblich, F1003
Kneifel, T92
Kneten, T18
Knetig, F973
Knezek, F95, F440
Kniejski, F469
Knippa, T16
Knocke, F649, F935, F989, T83
Knott, F5
Knox, F71, F155, F236, F371, F604, T16
Knutzen, F551
Kobitz, T11, T16, T57
Koch, B46, F589, T57, T139
Kocian, F650, F919
Kocurek, B40
Koehl, F7, F60
Koehler, B34, B37, F72, F85, F86, F117, F118, F260, F288, F327, F474, F510, F511, F512, F513, F514, F515, F516, F517, F518, F519, F548, F585, F621, F623, F625, F630, F631, F662, F688, F689, F693, F730, F736, F784, F788, F792, F810, F817, F818, F819, F820, F821, F892, F1012, T11, T16, T28, T30, T37, T47, T61, T64, T80, T126
Koehn, F468, F558, F686, F745, F746
Koenig, B40, B45, B65, B83, F18, F28, F37, F62, F122, F124, F140, F176, F319, F321, F322, F324, F326, F331, F334, F337, F360, F376, F423, F426, F469, F471, F495, F496, F497, F520, F521, F522, F523, F527, F528, F529, F530, F531, F543, F603, F618, F640, F646, F736, F737, F739, F798, F808, F825, F828, F840, F841, F850, F857, F899, F945, F968, F969, F1001, T11, T12, T16, T18, T22, T24, T28, T33, T49, T51, T58, T61, T74, T97
Koening, F686
Koepke, F725
Koerner, T108
Koerth, F252
Koether, F891
Koetter, F94
Kohleffel, F745
Kohler, F512, F516, F517, F624, F741, T11
Kokernot, F387, F532, F652
Kokes, F649
Kolar, F139
Kolbye, B78, T22, T131
Kolelski, F727
Kolert, T83
Koliba, F227
Kolly, F534
Kolodzey, B78, F440, T131
Kolodzie, T127
Kolodziej, F955, T16
Kolodziejczyk, F79, F469, F481, F533, F534, F954, T16, T18, T102, T104
Konarksy, F217
Konecny, T80
Konrad, F1, F384, T16
Koontz, F361
Koopman, F1010, T75
Koopmann, B60, F405, F535, F536, F537, F538, F539, F540, F989, F1011, T22, T75, T86, T144
Kopecky, F642, F834
Koranek, F321, F890
Korczinski, T131
Korenek, F924
Korf, F206
Kornfuehrer, F191, F221, F621, F926, F969, F971, F972, F973, F975, F986
Koronczok, F903
Korte, T142
Korth, B71, B78, F183, F451, F541, F542, F624, F782, F880, F977, T16, T131
Kortz, F55, F543
Korzekwa, F903
Kosarek, F943
Kossbiel, B83, T58
Kotara, F903
Kothmann, F783
Kowalik, F955
Koym, F754
Kozelski, F288
Kozielski, F208, F470, F544, F903, F953, T16
Kozuk, F956
Kraatz, F87, F558, F633, F667
Kraege, B60, B67, B78, F403, F545, F772, F876, F892, T11, T40, T131, T148
Krage, B49, T74
Kram, F686
Kramer, F700, T103
Kratz, F878, T131
Kratzer, F365
Kraus, F188
Krause, B11, B36, F225, F587, F593, F764, T64, T102
Krauskopk, F149
Krauze, T16
Krawietz, F903
Kreisle, T21, T132
Kreitz, F61, T148
Krejci, F502
Krell, F646
Kremling, F139
Krenek, F682
Krenschen, F481
Kress, T3
Krhovjak, T96
Kristek, B31
Kristen, F573
Krizan, F366, F553
Krohmer, F81, T28, T30
Krohn, T14
Krol, F641
Kroll, F683
Kromer, B57, T152
Kron, T21
Krone, T94
Kroning, F778
Kronke, F686
Kropf, F190
Kroschel, F327, F489
Krueger, B25, F27, F143, F145, F216, F323, F324, F327, F376, F514, F546, F547, F548 F658, F664, F699, F788, F817, F958, T11, T24, T29, T72, T131
Kruger, F206, F305, F549
Kruhmer, T11
Kruise, F689
Krum, T16
Krumbhaar, T54
Krumm, T79
Krupala, T59
Krusch, F25
Kruse, B26, F95, F206, F325, F440, F550, F656, F688, F800, T34, T83
Krushel, F827
Kubala, T16, T18
Kubecka, B31, F93
Kubena, F506
Kucera, F1023
Kuchler, F144, T52
Kuck, F551, F567, F989, T16, T80
Kuczka, F199, F534, F953, F954, F955, F956
Kuechler, T99
Kuecker, B36, F508, F552, T16, T61
Kueffler, F80
Kuehl, T74
Kuehnel, F539
Kuemmell, F492
Kuester, B44, F507, F603, F989, T83
Kuhnen, F439
Kulawik, T22, T58
Kulik, F971, T16
Kullin, T21
Kunetka, F366, F553, F643, T16, T18, T60, T61
Kunitz, B76, F197, F309, F554, F945, F957, T49, T59, T64
Kunschik, F894, F897
Kunz, T127
Kurtsch, F25
Kurtz, F712, T16
Kusel, F667
Kutac, T126, T127
Kutach, B6
Kututowicz, T141
Kuwalik, T131
Kuykendal, F595
Kuykendall, F171, F173, F182, F278, T13, T1
Kvinta, B6
Kyle, F292, F296, F299, F303, F555, F712, F909, F962, T22, T33, T58, T59, T61
Kyrish, F955
Kysel, T11

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

L

Laake, B36, F542, T61, T64
Laas, F573
LaBauve, T16
Lacey, F932
Lackey, B1, B40, B74, F106, F149, F518, F556, F557, F846, F945, F998, F999, T14, T16, T22, T45, T49, T56, T61, T62
Lacount, T5
Lacy, F643
Ladewig, F492, F826
Ladner, F684, F769, F772, T21, T22, T102, T119, T132, T152, T154
Lafora, T3
La Fortune, F961
LaFrentz, F210
Lagarza, T11
Laging, F467, F558, F633, T16, T25, T102, T106
Lain, T20
Laird, F782, F933
Laliberte, F402
Lamar, F505
Lamb, F281, F475, F604
Lamberson, F300
Lambert, F594, F684, F951, T11
Lambertson, F164
Lambkin, F603
Lamkin, B49
Lampley, F490, F614, T11, T14, T51
Lamprecht, B36, B78, F122, F539, F540, F559, T16, T75, T133, T148, T152
Lancaster, F222, F553, F643, T14
Lander, F515, F519, F941, F994, F996, T82
Landers, F548
Landgraber, T11
Landgrebe, F668, T94
Landheck, F586
Landrum, F222, F605, T133
Landry, F334, F358, F764, T22, T59
Lane, B45, F12, F402, F438, F560, F561, F562, F563, F564, F565, F566, F674, F699, F779, F794, F806, F807, F994, T16, T18, T22, T24, T55, T83
Lang, F799, F821, F850, T69
Lange, B36, F248, F289, F549, F659, F999, F1000
Langhammer, F739, F754, F921, F922
Langheit, F475
Langhoff, B80, F183, F551, F567, T80
Langley, B41, F651, F781, T16, T21, T37, T75, T86, T125, T126
Langreen, T16
Langworthy, F15
Lanham, F916
Lanier, F177
Lanik, F165
Lanmon, T119
Lanning, F67
Lantrip, F457, F461, F826
Lapham, F387
Lapidge, F842
Lapp, F257, F828, T85
Lara, T4
Laramore, F855
Larcade, B31
Larson, F212
LaSalle, F605
Lassig, T117
Lassman, B40, T24
Lassmann, F753, F825, T11
Laster, F18, F30, F117, F182, F440, F502, F612, F613, F664, T16, T22, T134
Latham, F137, T137
Latinsky, F828
Lau, F61, F208, F209, F893, T16, T22, T92, T97
Laubenberg, F974
Lauderback, F131
Lauderdale, T130
Laue, F28
Lauermilch, T11
Laufer, T21, T46, T79
Laughlin, F317
Laughter, F364, F656
Laun, F117, F465, F467
Laurent, T11
Lauritsen, F585
Lautom, T21
Lauw, F465, F466, F468, F647, F746
LaVander, F149
Law, F372, T11, T62
Lawhon, F736
Lawlor, T6
Lawrence, F8, F158, F317, F820, T9, T11, T16
Lay, F904
Laylander, F979
Layton, B31
Lea, T22
Leach, T22
Leack, F389
League, F149
Leak, T9
Leake, F173, T16, T20
Leander, F9
Leask, F541
Leaton, T47
LeBauve, F565
Leber, F1013
LeBow, F953
Lechie, T14
Leck, T24
Leckie, F155
Leckner, T11
Ledbetter, F602
Ledwig, B78, F896, F898, T131, T133, T144
Ledwik, F955, F956, T16
Lee, B43, F7, F17, F162, F202, F222, F252, F281, F347, F362, F420, F555, F872, F900, F909, F1022, T16, T53, T62
Leech, T6
Leeton, F158
Lefflend, B1
LeFrige, T16
LeGalley, B13, F611, F612, F613, F656
Leger, F475
Leggett, B12, F311, F313, F314, F568, F769, F948
Lehenke, T11
Lehman, B83, F88, F508, T11
Lehmann, F588
Lehnertz, F220
Leick, F145, F350
Leida, F661
Leifeste, F128, T114
Leisman, T27
Leisner, F66, F211, T46
Leist, F409, F918, T99
Leister, F193, F650, F688, T46, T102, T104
Lemke, B78, F472, F573, F588, F726, T22, T144, T152
Lemm, F305
Lempa, F569, F706, T45
Lenk, F427
Lenoir, F934
Lenton, T11
Lentz, F93, F145
Lenz, B70, B78, F254, F375, F387, F570, F576, F599, F714, T11, T16, T22, T40, T131
Leonard, F532, T61, T130
Leonardt, B43, B74, B84, F418, T16
Leonhardt, F356, F371, F480, T18
Leonhart, B37, F808
Leric, F15
LeSage, F191, T16, T74
Leschber, F627
Le Sesne, F982
Leske, B85, F598, F808, F918, T59
Leslie, F89, F578
Lesley, F172
Lester, F34, F935
LeSturgeon, F91, F633
Letok, T11
Letsch, T11, T57
Letterman, F892, T94
Lettermann, F374, T142
Leubert, F327, F552, F648, F1002, T83
Leuders, F758
Leunig, F310
Leurssen, T74
Leuschner, F517
Leutenbacher, F899
Level, F899
Levin, T20
Levine, T22
Lewis, B1, B64, B75, B83, F61, F129, F387, F507, F957, F1016, T8, T16, T22, T56, T110
Lex, T11
Ley, F808, T16, T61
Leyva, T127
Lichtenstein, F243, T21
Lickor, T11
Lides, T11
Lieberman, F23, T152
Lieck, F686, T124
Liendo, F338
Lienhard, F264, F571, F757, T16
Lienhardt, F957, T49, T64
Liesman, F462, F572
Light, F182
Lightfoot, F857
Likens, T16
Linch, T46
Lincke, F573, F574, F725, F1011, T75
Lincoln, F134
Lindblom, F457
Lindemann, F220, F256
Lindenberg, F772
Linder, F424, F738, F739, F792
Lindley, F985, T8
Lindsay, F336, F584, T22
Lindsey, F973
Linebaugh, F169
Lingan, F281
Linhart, F467
Linn, T15
Linscomb, F102
Lipinski, F903, F955
Lippke, F404
Lips, T14
Lipscomb, F309, F370, F782
Litten, F855
Little, F74, F306, F353, F359, F575, F637, F672, T14
Littlefield, F532
Littlejohn, F900
Littles, B1
Littleton, T14, T16
Livingston, T16
Lloyd, F113, F229, F375, F387, F456, F576, F753
Loan, B36
Lobs, T85
Locherer, T16
Locke, T14
Lockett, F440, T16, T46
Lockhart, F70, F172, F174, F372, F452, F486, F489, F577, F578, F608, F989, T5, T6, T23, T34, T119, T120
Lockhauser, T94
Lockman, F973
Lockousen, T20
Lockstedt, B27
Lockwood, F612, F613
Loebel, F280, F664
Loeble, F120, F232, F798, F799
Loeffler, F669
Loehmann, F304
Loest, F208
Loew, F912
Logan, F440, F630, T8
Logeman, B78
Logemann, T76
Logue, F139
Lohoser, T20
Lokey, B69
Lombertson, T46
Long, B47, F18, F558, F573, F656, F1005, T12, T14, T61, T63, T99
Longee, T14
Longford, T22
Looker, F203
Loos, F158, F164, T74
Loosier, T62
Lopez, F687, T16, T53
Lord, B74, B83, F143, F224, F422, F579, T8, T23, T42, T126
Lorenz, F767
Lorrance, B89
Losch, F806
Lott, T130
Loup, T85
Love, B36, B52, F28, F1009, T16
Lovelady, T138
Lovett, F72, F314, F871
Loving, F671
Low, T20
Lowe, F15, F203, F204, F581, F656, T13, T14, T36, T42, T119
Lowell, T8
Lowery, F34, F604
Lowey, T20
Lowrance, F129, F355, F560
Lowrey, T11
Lowrie, F257
Lowry, T21
Loyola, T51
Lucas, F212, F389, F692, F699, F864, F957, T34, T46, T51, T110
Luddecke, T154
Luddeke, B73, F582, F583, F774, F776, F799, F987, T18
Lude, F732, F1002
Luder, F82, F216, F336, F406, F520, F584, F840, T11, T16
Ludgerdings, F821
Ludvigaen, F511, F585
Ludwig, F808
Luedecke, F573, F574
Luedeker, F643
Luedicke, F828
Luedtke, F510
Luersen, T16
Luerssen, B4
Luesemann, F572
Luhrsen, F308, T21, T117
Lukas, F30, F31, F586
Luke, F606
Luker, F204, F907, F912, F914, F935, F961
Lunce, F602
Lunderbach, T11
Lundschein, F625
Lundschen, F472, F498, F587, F588, F589, F726, F828, F842, T18, T21, T78, T85
Lundsford, T137
Lundzin, T85
Luno, F91
Lunschein, T16
Lutabac, T20
Lutenbacher, F5, F21, F82, F336, F1022, T13
Lutenbacker, F306
Luterback, T11
Luther, F843, T11, T59
Luthy, T18
Lutringer, F60
Luttenbacher, F257, F590, F622
Luzum, F857
Lyarels, T81
Lybrook, T62
Lyman, F210, F908
Lynch, B63, F185, F186, F294, F782, T11, T2 T22, T46, T54, T56, T79, T126
Lynk, B3, F255
Lynn, F246, T11
Lyons, F448, F579, T16
Lyssy, F897
Lytle, T16, T149
Lytton, F696, T137

M

Mabe, B1, F107, F709, T16
Mabry, T16
MacArthur, F166, F506
MacDonald, F228, F603
MacGregor, F870
Macha, B84, F490, F591, T11
Machac, B6
Machart, F897
Machen, F658
Machlovsky, F149
Machost, B78, F199, F275, F469, F542, F706, F827, F923, F924, T16, T131
Mack, T71
Mackin, T127
Mackrell, F742
MacNelly, F996
Macon, F654
Maddox, F154
Maddux, F960
Maddy, F885
Mader, T57
Madison, F733
Maeckel, T151
Maegelin, T11
Maeker, T98
Magee, F300, F912, T4, T37
Magee-Gutierrez, F914
Magers, T117
Magnum, F364
Magott, T141

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Mahaffey, F628, T21, T22
Mahan, F120, F362
Mahler, F252, T16
Mahon, F400, F928
Mainka, F469
Mainz, T92
Majefski, T16
Malec, B25, B27
Malina, F31, F297
Mallaree, F908
Malloe, T11
Mallory, F1014
Malone, F237, T22
Managhan, T6
Manci, F347, T51, T58
Maness, F7, F28, F230, T22
Maneth, T127
Mangham, F945, T64
Mangold, T11, T49
Mankin, F122
Manlove, T37
Mann, F6, F120, F349, F826, F891, T11, T20
Mannering, T22, T42
Manngold, T94
Manning, B80, F158, F272, F273, F346, F592, F593, F594, F595, F596, F597, F821, F866, F967, T16, T18, T45, T47
Manor, F343
Mansolo, T6
Mantey, T103
Manthei, F897
Mantzel, T22
Manuel, T16, T22, T110
Manz, F114, F155, F931
Mar, T11
Marchant, F415
Marchshot, F808
Marco, T127
Marecka, F404
Marek, F918, T130
Maresch, T99
Mareth, T16
Margruder, F708
Marians, F156
Marie, B44, F113, F420, F598, F655, T16, T58
Marin, F140, T22
Mark, F539, T11
Markley, F211
Markowski, T16
Markowsky, F416, F599, F600, F620, F996, T21, T64
Marks, F808
Marlow, T11
Marquardt, T57
Marquez, F14
Marquis, B31, B83, F384, F664, F945, T16, T45, T64, T108
Marr, F451, T11, T94
Marshal, T20
Marshall, F11, F28, F158, F162, F229, F342, F449, F601, F711, F733, F929, T16, T22, T49, T58, T137
Marthiljohni, F765
Martignoni, F470
Martin, F145, F146, F182, F230, F276, F277, F411, F485, F486, F569, F603, F604, F616, F618, F650, F699, F769, T8, T20, T22, T24, T64, T100
Martindale, F4
Martinez, B16, B23, T2, T16
Martino, T64
Marvin, F991
Mason, F489, F621, T14
Massanet, T2
Massey, B29, F114, F134, F302, F602, F615, F656, T16, T137
Massingale, F595
Matejek, B88
Mathias, F265
Mathis, B39, F15, F139, F654
Matijok, T126
Matocha, F293
Matschl, F814
Matt, F122
Matthew, B17, F7, F28, F153, F227, F444, F603, F604, T22, T117
Matthews, F105, F156, F453, F563, F571, F664, T6, T48, T53, T140, T152
Mattingly, T152
Matula, F890
Matysiak, F74
Matzke, F6
Maudlin, T77
Mauer, F28, F153, F604, F712, F973, T11, T16, T94
Mauerer, F61
Maughan, F672
Mauldin, F74, F359, F575
Maumbrauer, F5
Maurer, F205, F944
Maureschat, F492
Mauzel, F327
Maverick, F921, F962
Maves, F746
Maxey, F15
May, F229, F463, F559, F796, F853, F938, F946, T11, T13, T16, T18, T20, T111, T130
Mayberry, T77
Maye, F484
Mayenzet, F562
Mayer, F61, F472, F767, F966
Mayes, F869
Mayfield, F252, F278, T79
May-Hickey, T25
Mayne, B83, F638, T51
Maywald, F605, T61
Maywaldt, F605
Mayzes, T16
Mazer, B88, F23, F152
Mazuk, F6
McAdams, B52
McAdoo, F655, F861
McAdory, F134
McAfee, F488
McAlister, F375, F570, F606, F607, T11, T22, T52, T61, T62, T63, T74
McAllister, F959, F960
McAlman, T11
McBee, F138
McBride, F94, F958, T22
McCabe, F866
McCallister, F495
McCamey, F154
McCampbell, F568, F948
McCan, F169
McCann, T11
McCarter, F198
McCarthy, F148
McCartney, F914
McCaskell, F358
McCaskill, T21
McCauley, F67
McClanahan, F180, F750, F767, T11, T62
McClarty, F330
McClelland, T22
McCloud, B23
McClung, B90, T61, T64
McClure, F143, F761, T6
McCollum, F941
McComas, F353
McComb, T19
McConnell, F250, F844, T50, T61
McCord, T11, T20
McCorkle, T21
McCormick, B68, F464, F890, T16, T46, T54, T79
McCown, T10
McCoy, F172, F182, F278, F458, F674, F912, F950, T6, T20, T23, T46, T47, T79, T99
McCrabb, F174, F187, F198, F261, F608, F609, F675, F914, T6, T11, T12, T13, T14, T20, T22, T23, T62, T119
McCracken, T14
McCrary, T22
McCrone, T130
McCulloch, F29, F66, F934, T10, T11, T19, T62
McCullom, F212
McCullough, F182, F486, F830, F882, F983, T16, T49, T55
McCurdy, B45, F420, F610, F706, T46, T56, T140
McCutcheon, F309
McDaniel, F15, F604, T11, T20
McDavid, B91, T16
McDonald, B37, F18, F117, F142, F209, F384, F440, F609, F611, F612, F613, F614, F902, F931, F1016, T11, T16, T21, T34, T47, T61, T77, T118, T119
McDonnell, T50
McDonough, F859, T11
McDougal, B17, F48, F49, F89, F387, F532, F615, F672, T59
McDowell, T8
McElroy, F630, T46
McElveen, F973
McElyea, T16
McFadden, T21
McFaddin, F41, F167, F169, F674
McFall, F430, T20
McFarland, F16, F99, F101, F237, F616, F985, T11, T12, T20, T116
McGaffick, F317
McGahagin, T77
McGairy, F281
McGary, F174
McGee, F438, T16, T56, T144
McGeehee, F698, T16, T22, T41
McGill, F699
McGinley, F139
McGinty, F364
McGlothlin, F598
McGowan, F117
McGown, F345, F346, F602
McGrane, F843, F844
McGravay, T22
McGraw, F582
McGruder, F134
McGuffin, B83, F154, F743, T16
McGuire, F135, F278
McHenry, T16
McIntyre, F575
McJunkin, F214, T53
McKee, F81, F149
McKenzie, F15
McKerbing, T12
McKibben, F196
McKinley, F915
McKinney, F577, F593, F857, T16
McKinnon, F89
McKinny, T20
McKissack, T21, T117
McKnight, F655
McLain, F266, F617
McLane, T56, T61
McLarty, B28, F176, F521, F618, F808, F874, T28, T61, T152
McLaughlin, T58
McLean, F202
McLendon, F669
McLennan, T22
McLeod, F610, F807, F880, T18, T56, T61
McLin, T22
McMahan, B33, F139, F619, F960, F980, T22
McMahon, F786, T58
McMain, F805
McManus, B49, F370, T11, T16, T21, T22, T47, T117, T118, T119, T120
McMaster, F399
McMeans, F130
McMicken, F868
McMickens, F864
McMillan, F317, F472, F667, F669, T11, T20, T152
McMillian, T149
McMullin, F421
McMurray, T126
McMurry, T37
McNally, F186, F489
McNamara, F959, T37
McNary, T16, T90
McNeil, F696
McNelly, F299, F911, T14, T54
McNutt, F70
McPherson, F924, T139
McQueen, F233
McQuillian, T114
McRae, F50, F135, F399, F634, F957
McRaymond, F488
McRell, F606, F607
McShan, T22
McSherry, F174, F608
McSparren, F369
McSwain, F615
McTighe, T147
McVea, T14
McVoy, T137
McWhorter, T22, T62
Meador, F399, T14, T22
Meadow, F508, T16, T115
Meadows, F56, F401
Means, B12, B29, F7, F144, F564, F602, F603, F674, F964, F1003, T20, T40, T48, T77
Mear, T20
Mease, T22
Mecke, T126
Meckel, F479, F897
Medlen, F376
Meek, F697
Meeks, F203, F490, F581, F656
Meeting, F288
Mehnert, F588
Meichen, T126
Meier, F248, F416, F505, F511, F514, F585, F620, F621, F623, F661, F1021, T45
Meinardus, F479
Meinen, F688, T35
Meinke, F813
Meischen, F77, F686, F947, T24, T71, T83, T102, T108
Meisenhelder, F121, F206, F209, F257, F380, F462, F622, F659, T94
Meisenhoelder, T11
Meissner, B40, F53, F55, F61, F723, T11, T5
Meister, B27
Meitzen, F511, F623
Mejia, T10
Melton, F630, T50
Melville, F805
Melvin, F569
Menard, F634
Menck, F667
Mendlovitz, B90
Menger, F129
Menifee, T54
Menke, B72, F42, T18, T83
Menking, B80, T61
Menn, F237, F313, F328, F440, F447, F512, F541, F587, F624, F625, F628, F767, F782 F892, T11, T16, T22, T37, T78, T102, T13 T151, T152
Menning, B37, F626, F627, F711, T83
Mennrich, F559
Mergenthal, F685
Merian, T22
Meritz, T22
Merki, F621
Mernitz, F258, F380, T16, T74
Merrem, T130
Merrill, T22
Merritt, B83, F252, F633
Mertens, T11
Mertes, T58
Mertine, F589, T85
Mertins, B78, T131
Mertz, B6, F254
Merz, T14
Merzbacher, B84
Messarra, F309
Metcalf, F734, F735
Metting, B57, B63, F5, F91, F305, F350, F40 F534, F559, F715, F741, F952, F965, F987 T16, T24, T44, T75, T92, T108, T151, T15 T155
Metz, F106, F234, F306, F313, F367, F368, F447, F460, F472, F484, F628, F797, F897 F996, T9, T11, T16, T131, T154
Metze, F753
Metzner, F775
Meunch, T11
Meurer, F63, F64, F165, F848
Meurett, T16
Meyer, B45, B80, F62, F95, F109, F155, F19 F202, F206, F248, F279, F281, F282, F287 F288, F304, F313, F327, F390, F403, F448 F450, F467, F473, F489, F499, F516, F558 F588, F624, F629, F630, F631, F632, F633 F648, F668, F696, F811, F812, F813, F842 F867, F874, F876, F961, F989, F1002, T9, T11, T16, T21, T31, T64, T83, T94, T96, T97, T102, T131
Meyers, F579, T21, T119
Meynard, F50, F634
Mezquia, T2
Mgebrof, T22, T57
Mica, F842
Michal, T18
Michalek, F293
Michalic, F706
Michel, F858, F935
Michener, F176
Michna, F306, F591, T31
Michot, T130
Mickey, T64
Mickus, T72

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Miculka, B89
Middlebrook, F302, F345, F796, F900, F905, T11, T21, T111, T117
Middleton, F151, T6, T11, T14, T16
Midkiff, F706
Miedanna, T127
Mier, F855
Migi, F407
Miguelito, F14
Migura, B20, F79, F191, F199, F559, F903, F953, T16, T122, T133, T144, T148
Mike, F990, T16, T81
Mikolas, F586
Mikosh, F783, F838
Mikulenka, T16
Milam, F358, F654
Milbery, T63
Milburn, F765, T12
Milby, F5
Miles, B80, F764, F888, T11, T20, T64, T149
Miligan, T62
Miller, B6, B31, B46, B73, F5, F16, F45, F124, F131, F138, F270, F281, F306, F322, F353, F367, F368, F392, F422, F479, F490, F506, F508, F605, F608, F609, F630, F631, F635, F669, F785, F837, F839, F890, F899, F921, F957, F961, F980, T6, T11, T12, T16, T20, T21, T22, T55, T58, T62, T74, T131, T149
Millican, F685
Milligan, F490, F624, F883, F1006, T13, T16, T18, T34, T46, T49, T68, T72, T114
Mills, B1, B37, F440, F656, T6, T13, T36
Millsap, F376
Milner, T22, T42, T126
Milno, T58
Milsap, T8
Milstead, F210
Milton, F191
Mily, F1005
Mimke, T11
Mimms, F399
Mims, F173
Minke, T11
Minot, T49, T55
Minter, T56
Minzenmeyer, F989
Miori, F5
Miscall, T20
Miskell, F281
Mitchell, F96, F166, F167, F169, F170, F271, F313, F636, F804, F806, T16, T18, T22, T49, T56
Mixon, B40, F637, F852, T21, T37
Moczegemba, F907
Moczygemba, F469, F947, F954, T97, T141
Moede, F434, F586
Moeglin, T11
Moehlmann, T57
Moeller, B20, B83, F216, F255, F274, F276, F277, F479, F664, F666, F723, F816, F837, F838, F839, T16, T94
Moffat, T31
Moffett, F345, F808, T21
Mohlman, F539
Mohon, F736
Mohr, T94
Mohrfeld, F537
Mohrig, T147
Moldenhauer, F593
Mollenhauer, B78, F254, F311, F312, F313, F314, F315, F638, F943, T131
Mollenkopf, F672
Monk, B31, F592, F593, F957
Monroe, F618, F985, T152
Monserrate, T58
Monsur, T16
Montague, F916
Montgomery, F550, F616, F675, F916, T11, T12, T16, T27, T45, T130
Mood, F198
Moody, F161, F213
Mooney, F411, T16, T19
Moore, B4, B34, B36, B60, F93, F105, F107, F112, F114, F122, F126, F143, F172, F181, F182, F238, F251, F283, F448, F466, F476, F484, F567, F578, F604, F606, F639, F640, F641, F648, F670, F672, F695, F708, F709, F718, F806, F820, F870, F996, T8, T11, T16, T20, T21, T22, T28, T37, T62, T77, T79, T117, T119
Moorehead, F854, T139
Moppe, T131
Mora, F14
Morales, F341
Moran, F28, F123, F803, F1023
Morehead, T139
Moreland, T77
Morgan, B80, F252, F270, F365, F553, F642, F643, F806, F830, F834, F843, F880, F979, T11, T14, T18, T19, T22, T25, T49, T52, T54, T60, T61, T117
Morganroth, F88, F397
Morgenroth, B31, B88, F293, F298, F394, T92
Morines, F465
Moris, T20
Morison, T20
Morisse, B17, B25, F75, F356, F465, F813, T16, T18, T21, T22, T35, T102, T104, T108
Moritz, T100, T131
Morley, T16
Morman, F176, F618
Morris, F75, F409, F534, F637, F659, F799, F830, F900, F927, T6, T14, T16, T21, T71, T79, T99, T138
Morrison, F135, F136, F357, F359, F392, F644, F645, F743, T6, T36, T50, T66
Morriss, F242
Morrow, F7, F37, F39, F46, F47, F93, F334, F410, F603, F646, F670, F1003, T16, T48, T115, T117
Morton, B14, F236
Mosby, F761
Moscoso, T2
Mosel, B31, F763
Mosely, T16
Moser, T16
Moses, F742
Moss, F269, F491, F564, F565, F941, T6
Mosteit, F475, F476
Mosteller, F899
Motal, F56, F896
Mott, F872, T47
Motz, F6
Mountz, T37
Mowery, F568
Moy, F208, F469, F543, F842, F895, F897
Mozal, F648
Mozisek, F993
Muckley, F168, F695
Mudd, F311, T13, T99
Mudor, T14
Muecke, T16
Muegge, F34, F264, T11, T62
Mueller, B2, B4, B28, B40, B41, B68, B69, B83, F2, F26, F53, F91, F93, F108, F199, F209, F242, F244, F254, F257, F311, F313, F327, F329, F368, F417, F450, F464, F465, F466, F503, F504, F541, F558, F583, F603, F633, F641, F647, F648, F649, F650, F651, F667, F686, F689, F715, F723, F729, F755, F772, F774, F800, F801, F813, F827, F828, F837, F892, F899, F944, F947, F988, F989, F1002, T9, T16, T18, T22, T24, T46, T57, T64, T72, T74, T75, T83, T95, T102, T104, T106, T108, T126, T131
Muenter, B1, T16
Mugge, B83, B91, F289, F358, F493, F532, F652, F653, F747, F750, F751, F752, F757, F758, F994, F996, T22, T25, T49, T50
Muir, B23, F11, F698, T24
Mulawik, B78
Muller, F375, F570, F757, F935
Mullins, F329, T102
Mulvanon, F317
Mumbrane, T11
Mumbrauer, F218, F223, T11
Mumme, F542
Mummie, F754
Mundt, T136
Munez, T12
Muniz, T18
Munke, F1
Munn, F508
Munoz, T18
Munsch, F336
Munson, F298, T21, T77
Murphree, F137, F139, F174, F185, F186, F229, F654, F664, F749, T8, T9, T11, T13, T14, T16, T20, T56, T61, T83, T119
Murphy, F42, F448, F675, T11, T37
Murray, F237, F329, F475, F598, F728, F814, T11, T92, T114
Murril, F915
Murski, T97, T127
Muschalek, F74, F199, F469
Music, F601
Musick, F601, T5
Muston, F989
Mutchler, T104
Muti, F598, F655, T58
Mutschler, F502, T21, T22
Muyres, F80
Myer, F929
Myers, F158, F247, F581, F646, F656, F733, F734, F992, T11, T14, T36, T55
Mylius, T16, T64
Myrick, F337

N

Nack, T34, T61
Nagel, B33, B45, B50, F30, F280, F281, F283, F284, F285, F286, F394, F438, F654, F657, F658, F659, F660, F661, F662, F663, F664, F665, F666, F736, F739, F799, F930, F945, F968, F974, F991, F999, F1021, T24, T45, T49, T50, T51, T59, T61, T94, T74
Nail, F171
Najvar, F57
Nall, B80
Nami, B31, T16, T61
Nance, F442
Narvaez, T2
Nash, F11, F67, F166, F564, F565, F695, F710, F902, F935, F996, T6, T21, T49, T50
Natho, F87, F88, F114, F184, F558, F633, F667, F668, F923, T102
Nation, F34
Nations, T11
Nau, B15, B61, F176, F701, F772, F774, F777, T11, T16, T22, T131, T142, T148
Naunheim, B46, B83
Navarro, B23, F578
Neal, F291, F401, F654, F669, F670, F671, F872, F882, F935, T24, T59, T117
Neary, F897
Nedbalek, F586
Needham, F933
Neel, B37, F581, F656, T36, T117, T119
Neeley, T16, T22
Neely, B19, F237, F928, T20
Neese, F588
Neff, T16
Neger, F331
Neggan, T8
Neighbors, F30, F171, T31, T123
Neil, F693, F734, F919, T117
Neill, F104, F372, F664, T6, T40
Neilsen, T61
Neinumber, T11
Neitsch, F317
Nelms, F165, F890, T16, T46
Nelson, B40, B80, F208, F369, F370, F398, F559, F630, F803, F1003, T21, T22, T47
Neraz, T58
Nesloney, F897, F955, T16
Neslony, F84, F894
Nesrsta, B34, F924
Nessel, T126
Netardus, B27
Neubauer, F1012, T114
Neubert, F402, F450, F755
Neuiszer, T79
Neuman, F559, T16
Neumann, F256, T11, T16, T22, T127, T131
Neumeyer, T148
Neutzler, F208, T102, T106
New, F342, T16
Newberry, T11
Newburg, F903
Newcomer, F399, T11
Newcourt, T14
Newkirk, F440
Newman, B17, B52, F28, F42, F138, F152, F227, F230, F353, F401, F440, F447, F508, F509, F582, F583, F603, F635, F638, F672, F674, F760, F761, F832, F871, F872, F908, F910, F942, F1004, F1009, T13, T14, T16, T18, T22, T48, T49, T60, T61, T117
Newmann, F102, T22
Newsom, F847, T77
Newton, F906, F996, F998
Niblack, F568
Niblett, T16
Nicholas, F167, F262
Nicholls, F166, F805
Nichols, F144, F158, F224, F399, F401, F440, F508, F562, F564, F565, F674, F697, F698 T14, T20, T22, T24, T40, T61, T62, T91
Nicholson, F170
Nicht, F60
Nickel, F675
Nickell, F450, F633
Nickelson, T108
Nickerson, T20
Nickles, F298
Nicklin, F81
Nickols, T16
Niells, B76
Nielsen, T61
Nieman, F108, F880, T80
Niemeier, F324, F676, F677, F678, F729
Nieterhoefer, F336
Nikl, F675
Nilsson, T72
Nissel, F889
Nitche, B64
Nitsche, F413, F416, F417, F798, T49, T58, T64
Noack, F238
Noble, F550, F884, T16
Nobles, F297, T152
Noe, F667
Noelke, T11
Noelte, T44, T124
Nogales, T3
Nolan, F78
Nolen, F502, F581
Nolke, T12
Noll, F105, F107
Nollkamper, B27
Nollkemper, T127
Nolte, F572
Norman, F854, T22
Norris, F66, F151, F369, F722
North, F261, F317, F508, F679, F680, F681, F1008, T14, T20, T22, T46
Northcutt, B80, F859, F907
Norton, F232, T59
Norvel, F63
Norvell, F68, F165
Norwood, F35
Noster, B67, B78, F767, T18, T24, T131
Notzon, T131
Novak, T16
Novelli, B40
Novosad, F30, F586
Nowak, F534
Nowierski, B78, T16, T22, T131, T134
Noyes, F516, F982
Nugent, F494, T16
Nuinez, B55, F224, F356, F682
Nunez, F45
Nunn, F542, F913
Nurnberger, T92
Nurrocs, F733
Nykl, F675

O

Oakley, F917
O'Banion, T22, T79, T118
Oberlander, F279
Obert, T22
O'Brian, T22
O'Brien, T11, T58
O'Bryan, F22
Obsta, F975
Ochiltree, F230
Ochoa, T18, T127
Oconel, T20
O'Connor, F706
O'Daughtery, T130
Odem, F392
Odin, F170
Odom, F161, F714, F913, T11, T22, T40, T11(
Odum, T20
Oehler, F190, F191, T142
Oehlke, B39, F93, F327, F437, F558, F732
Oelke, T57
Oelrich, F689
Offers, F514

Ogden, T22
O'Gorman, F527
Ogsbury, T56
O'Harrow, F430
Ohrt, F237, T97
O'Keefe, F430
Oldham, F639
Olejnick, F533
Olenick, F79, F84, T16, T126
Olenik, T11
Olfer, T28
Olfers, F287, F288, F631, F683, F754, T11, T30
Oliphant, F962
Olivar, T6
Olivarez, T16
Oliver, B79, F362, F684, F890, F996
Olle, T16, T45, T83
Olnick, T11
Olsen, F685, F966, F967
Olson, F634
Olsovsky, T21
Oltmann, F116
Omeara, B74
Onderdon, F50
O'Neal, F452
O'Neill, B19, F165, F300
Onhaiser, T99
Onhaizer, F94
Onken, F208, F633, F686, F965, T102, T108
Oppenheimer, T11, T62
O'Quinn, F961
Organek, F742, F890
Orman, T16, T21, T46
Ormond, F590, T11
Orosz, F540
O'Rourke, F21
Orozco, F687
Orr, B40, T137
Orrell, F674, T59
Orsak, F31, F891, T18, T34, T99
Orth, F769, T130
Ortiz, T23
Ortlieb, F803
Ortman, T126
Ortmann, F551
Orvel, B40
Osborn, F6, F443
Osburn, F441, F444, T11, T31
O'Shaughnessy, T97
Osmond, F411
Osterloh, F208, F552, F755, F842, F924, T21, T102, T104
Oswald, F806
Othold, F89, T80
Ott, F384, F571, T11, T21, T64
Otten, F428
Ottler, F918
Ottmers, F683
Otto, F755, F999, T22
Otts, T62
Outlaw, F669
Outler, F448
Overby, T45
Overstreet, F644, F645, F743
Owen, F7, F927
Owens, F145, F375, F387, F388, F458, F804, F908
Owings, F859
Ozuna, F899

P

Pabst, F428, F830
Pacch, B49
Pace, F256, F667, T8, T22, T102
Pacenka, F782
Padalecki, T141
Page, T3, T6, T11, T20, T40
Pagel, F62, F65
Paine, T22, T114
Pairett, T62
Pakebusch, B14, B81, F920
Pallanche, T58
Palmer, F355, F561
Palmie, B83, T11, T16, T57
Paltiria, T20
Pamie, T8
Panicz, F469, F955
Pannen, T64
Paoli, F655
Papacek, B7, T61
Papapavlos, F156
Paramoor, T14
Parchman, F955
Pardue, F244
Paredes, F637
Pargman, T16, T104
Pargmann, F133, F465, F688, F689, F879, F880, F899, F989, T22, T99
Parham, T16
Paris, F257
Park, F158, F160, F442, F443, F457, F581, F601, F690, F691, T11
Parker, B40, B45, B80, F7, F47, F87, F93, F151, F160, F175, F214, F317, F353, F389, F552, F592, F618, F646, F670, F692, F693, F694, F730, F856, F996, T1, T12, T16, T46, T48, T62, T68
Parkham, F93
Parkinson, T14
Parks, B84, F93, F149, F442, F458, F628, F830, F884, F890, F953, T14, T16, T18, T22, T46, T68, T72, T79, T100, T114
Parma, B52, B78, T114, T127, T148
Parmer, F933
Parnell, F636
Paros, F700
Parr, F7, F97, F176
Parrish, B6
Parrott, T109
Parsons, F440, T14
Partain, T16
Partmann, T22
Partridge, F491
Paschal, T49
Pascual, T22
Pasley, F422
Passmore, F392
Pastilla, F765
Patillo, T134
Patrick, T6, T55
Patter, T11
Patterson, B80, F93, F149, F222, F422, F577, F682, T9, T11, T12, T14, T18, T20, T22, T143
Pattison, T62
Patton, F170, F172, F508, F579, F654, F691, F782, F928, F931, F934
Paudue, F242
Paul, F641
Paulson, F973
Paulus, F167, F168, F695
Pawe, F178
Pawlik, F149
Payne, F158, F295
Payton, F924
Peace, F281, T14
Peacock, F238, F269
Peadon, F958
Pearce, B83, F143, F349, F448, F696, F927
Pearson, B27, B87, F445, F744, F824, T22, T142
Pease, F51, F171, F182, F342, F491, F811, T14
Peason, F227
Peavy, B36, B72, F11, F455, F697, T11, T14, T16, T18, T21, T22, T50, T61, T62, T73, T81
Pecenka, F440
Pechacek, T16
Peck, F182, F856
Pederson, F903
Peeble, T13
Peebles, B23, F11, F49, F50, F71, F698, T8, T11, T20, T22, T46, T56
Peikert, F116
Peiper, F407
Peland, T20
Pelech, F353
Pellicer, T58
Pelphrey, T130
Pemberton, F364, F960
Pendelton, F1007
Pendleton, F453
Penner, F565, F699, T61
Pennington, F555, F604
Peoples, T11
Percell, T53
Percival, F568
Perdum, F131
Perez, F14, T16
Peril, F112
Perkins, F33, F353, F401, F476, F587, F594, F903, F1007
Permenter, F699
Perry, F9, T14
Perryman, F402, T16
Person, B51
Peschke, T57
Pesek, F57
Peter, B25
Peterick, T99
Petering, F918, T16, T99
Peterli, F60
Peters, F82, F138, F263, F290, F306, F332, F502, F504, F543, F559, F631, F700, F701, F702, F703, F704, F782, F890, F952, T8, T71, T75, T99, T108
Peterson, F161, F705, F860, T12, T22, T42, T50, T55, T136
Peticolas, F983, T15, T22
Petras, F903
Petrasch, F949
Petrich, T130
Petter, T76
Pettit, F409, F410, F713, T14, T16
Pettus, F131, F132, F206, F505, F649, T6, T8, T20, T131
Petty, F581, F836, F948, T11, T20
Petugib, T18
Pevehouse, F131
Pevestorff, F746, T103
Peyton, F569, F610, F706, T45, T61, T114
Pez, T2
Pfeifer, F1, F689, F989, T102
Pfeil, T21
Pfeiler, T16
Pfenninger, T57
Pfiler, T16
Pflug, F333, T69, T114
Pharris, T44
Pheiffer, F727
Pheil, T83, T108
Phelps, F932
Phillipe, F82
Phillips, F50, F143, F231, F440, F612, F613, F707, T11, T16, T21, T22, T36, T54, T61, T138
Philpott, F67, F105, F107, F639, F640, F708, F709, F794
Phippen, F927
Pick, F439
Pickens, F183, T14, T16, T63
Pickering, T8
Pickett, F985
Pichl, F438
Pieper, B10, B28, F94, F189, F191, F221, F350, F416, F446, F688, F728, F774, T24, T62, T76, T92, T108, T114, T152
Pier, F983
Pierce, F255, F303, F348, F440, F706, F980, F983, T22, T144, T148
Pierpont, T21, T109
Pierson, F46, T117
Pieterle, T11
Pietschner, F573
Pike, T4
Piland, T21
Pilgrim, F49, F50, F491
Pillow, F45
Pilsner, F1, T102, T104
Pilzner, T99
Pincham, F150, F151, T21
Pinchem, F68
Pinchum, T20
Pindlation, T130
Pinkston, T16
Pinn, F54, F55
Pinnel, T58
Pinswat, T12
Pintaric, F814
Piper, F799
Pipkin, F28
Pippert, F295
Pisano, F527
Piske, F492, T16
Pisklik, T51
Pitre, F903
Pitterle, F60
Pitterli, F336
Pittman, B40, F669, F680, T79
Pitts, T136
Pivonka, F558
Placke, B69, T16, T31, T92
Placker, F916
Placzyk, F954, F956
Planck, F213
Plank, F358
Plasczyk, F469, F569, T16
Platt, T21
Pleasants, F107, F180, F186, F491, F564, F674, F709, F710, F806, T11, T14, T16, T2 T25, T45, T54, T81, T110, T131, T136
Plemmons, F187, F911, F914
Plietzsch, F256
Ploeger, B37, F45, F626, F627, F711, T11, T2 T69, T134, T148
Plourde, F15
Plunkert, F805
Ply, F298
Poage, F238
Poch, F184, F480, F539, F540, F647, F702, F811, F893, F1011, T16, T103, T142
Pochman, F353
Pock, T103
Podsim, F404, T152
Pochler, B40, F85, F248, F425
Pochlman, F241
Pochlmann, F454, F892
Poetter, F135, F353, F604, F712, F774, F945, T16, T21, T22, T53, T66, T131
Pogue, F314
Pohl, F899
Poindexter, F541
Poinsett, T9, T22
Pokluda, F241, F333, F469, F947, F955, T51, T61
Poklunda, F725
Polan, F224
Polard, T8
Polasek, B76, F315, F316, F926
Polk, F137, F313, F314, F854, T10, T14
Polley, T14
Polzin, B34, F713, T16, T61, T80
Pond, F247
Ponton, T6, T138
Pool, T22
Pope, F375, F387, F714, T22, T138
Popp, F10, F475, T21
Poppe, F558
Porche, F477
Porter, F67, F105, F112, F154, F271, F299, F912, T11, T20, T131
Porterfield, T11, T16, T140
Portilla, T4
Portis, F261, F415, F631, T61
Portress, F210
Posey, F440
Post, B34, B40, B89, F1, F89, F105, F189, F257, F281, F384, F472, F600, F649, F715 F847, T16, T22, T28, T59, T61, T131
Potcinske, T148
Poth, B31, B40, F306, F610, F923, T16, T22, T42, T80
Potter, T11
Potts, F444, F742, F890, T139
Pounds, F488
Powell, B28, F113, F133, F135, F136, F265, F348, F447, F448, F453, F593, F644, F645 F716, F786, F998, T24, T59, T66, T92
Power, F1007, T12, T14, T20, T119
Powers, B78, F62, F174, F188, F508, F872, F1006, T11, T20, T47, T131
Praenz, T85
Praetz, T85
Prager, F887
Prasek, F101
Prater, T12, T20
Prather, F89, F1005, T22, T59
Prator, T11
Pratt, F176, F581, F594, F618, F658, T8
Prause, F105, F407, F945, F1012, T22, T63, T64, T99, T108
Prayter, T149
Praytor, T11
Prediger, F413
Preise, F202
Preiss, B27, F225, F462, F463, F974
Prescott, T21, T132
Presley, T22
Presnal, F871
Pressley, T118
Preston, F270, F643, F1017, T16, T21, T34, T42, T72

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Prestson, F798
Preus, T94
Preuss, F273
Preval, F389, F692
Prewitt, T16
Price, F635, F789, F824, F985, T16, T23, T100, T110, T117
Priddy, F345, T62
Pridgen, F48, F139, F230, F231, F296, F299, F532, F578, F611, F674, F717, F718, F719, F720, T10, T11, T12, T14, T16, T21, T22, T50, T116, T119, T120, T131
Pridgeon, F581
Pridgin, T20
Priesmuth, F327
Priess, F288
Priestley, T56
Priestly, F150, F151, F488, F721, F722, F762, F983, T6, T11, T20
Prince, F933, T110
Prinzel, F157
Probst, B50, F315, F503, F664, T61, T142
Proctor, F166, F167, F170, F756, F996, T11, T15, T54, T61, T62
Proskey, T11
Pruitt, T16, T46
Prukop, F533, F534, T16
Prusmerfer, T126
Prusse, T11
Pshigoda, F152
Pucek, B84
Pucheck, T22
Puckett, F484, F563, F564, F628, F765, F806, F807, T21
Puelles, T4
Pugh, F237, T22, T127
Puhlman, F633, F668
Pulido, F687
Pullam, T8
Pullen, F15, F41, F42, F569, T91
Pullin, B31, F953
Pump, F305, F987
Pumphrey, F50
Punchin, T64
Pundt, F356, F480, F667, T86, T102
Purcell, F191, F475
Purnell, B50
Purson, T11
Putman, B80, F945, F1018, T22, T64
Putnam, F186, F286, F578
Pye, F996

Q

Qualls, B72, T19, T49
Qualtrough, F1008
Quast, F409, T11, T85, T130, T131
Queen Victoria, F605
Quicksall, F935
Quida, F594
Quigley, F100
Quin, T23
Quindel, F683
Quinland, F571
Quinlen, F418
Quinn, F283, F287, F374
Quirl, F643

R

Raab, F603
Raabe, F20
Raak, F53, F54, F55, F120, F543, F649, F723, F874, T74
Raaz, F550, F800
Rabanaldt, T108
Rabb, F400, F484, F832, F908, T120
Rabe, F30, F763, F852
Rabel, F529, T119
Rabenaldt, F25, F437, F492, F534, F589, F724, F725, F726, F727, F952, T16, T102
Rabenault, F329
Rabke, F274, F275, F324, F329, F332, F472, F592, F677, F678, F693, F728, F729, F730, F731, F732, F754, F798, F815, F821, F842, F856, F988, F1022, T11, T21, T25, T45, T94, T113, T114, T148
Rabrocker, F20
Rachel, T21
Rackley, F178, F916, T16, T42
Radiche, F828
Radicke, F767, T71
Radjnoch, F1
Radzikowski, F953
Rae, F827
Raetzsch, T79, T80
Ragan, F485
Ragland, T14, T18
Ragozsus, F472
Ragsavoelgyi, T22
Ragsdale, F15, F150, F589, F625, F695, F721, F722
Raguszus, T85
Rahe, F688
Raiford, T130
Rainbolt, F644
Rainey, F697, T11
Ralph, T8
Ralston, F421
Ramage, F958
Ramdohr, F115
Ramdow, F541
Ramirez, F14
Ramiriez, B54
Ramon, T2
Ramsdall, T3
Randle, T14
Randolph, F309, F733, F916
Randow, B89, F211, F731, T152
Range, B67, F852, F876, T11, T16, T131
Rangnow, F61, F350, F475, F925, T51
Rankhorn, F686
Rankin, F139, F656, F733, F734, F735, T9, T11, T20, T21, T22, T36, T55, T116, T149
Rannefeld, T71
Ransom, F641, T12
Rapker, T20
Rapp, F998, F999
Rappmund, F583, F725
Rappold, F173, T42
Raska, T127
Rasmusaen, F845
Ratcliffe, B53, F118, T69, T114
Rath, F19, F61, F85, F86, F91, F191, F248, F266, F386, F423, F424, F438, F475, F511, F514, F520, F617, F633, F657, F659, F660, F736, F737, F738, F739, F787, F788, F791, F792, F793, F840, F921, F922, T16, T28, T45, T51, T61, T74, T94
Rathbone, F167, F168, F740, F996, T16, T59, T61
Rathkamp, T46, T80, T130
Ratliff, F532, F652, T12
Rau, B63, B65, F534, F741, T76, T83, T101, T126
Rauch, B80, F153, F227, T94
Rauh, F890
Raulerson, F440
Rawlings, B23, F698
Rawlinson, F9
Ray, F313, F447, F596, F597, F958, T11, T138
Rayes, T16
Rayliey, F842
Rayly, T11
Razak, F935
Rea, B47, T22
Read, F291, T20
Reader, F252, F253
Reagan, F38, F601, F844
Real, T126
Rease, T20
Recker, T28
Record, T22
Redding, F5
Red Horse, F34
Redies, T16
Reed, B80, F178, F870, F964, T11, T21, T23, T36, T50, T74, T124
Reedy, F874
Reeh, F897
Reese, B31, B40, B43, B85, F89, F136, F138, F355, F445, F568, F644, F645, F679, F742, F743, F744, F890, T8, T22, T51, T54, T59, T61, T133, T149
Reeves, F188, F924, T11, T62
Regan, T139
Regner, T16
Rehak, T47
Rehling, F463, T16
Rehm, F82, F337, T11
Rehmet, T21
Rehmil, T126
Reichert, F314, F315, F465, F468, F745, F746, T21, T72, T102
Reichmuth, T74
Reid, F271, F604, F697, T11, T16
Reiffert, B49, B65, B83, F34, F67, F89, F128, F202, F229, F271, F289, F599, F653, F654, F747, F748, F749, F750, F751, F752, F757, F794, F803, T11, T16, T25, T50, T59, T62, T102, T106
Reifschlager, B49, T144
Reiland, F305
Reiley, F440
Reilley, F996
Reilly, F995
Reily, T11
Reiman, F450, F633
Reimann, F90
Reimenschneider, F190
Reimer, F248
Reinecke, F753, F998
Reinhard, F261, F327
Reinhardt, F189, F232, F308, F309, F394, F517, F569, F683, F728, F729, F754, F784, F816, F817, F821, F829, F890, F892, T11, T94, T102
Reinhart, F811, T20
Reininger, F476
Reisfeld, F940
Rektorik, F326
Remby, T22
Remmers, F405, F537, F689, F755, F987, T75, T86
Renick, T20
Rennemann, T131
Rennolds, F137, F902
Rentz, B39, B88
Repsher, F140
Respondek, F324, F469, F534, F898, F955, T16, T92
Ressman, B78
Ressmann, F838
Retzloff, F461
Reuckert, B1
Reuel, F686, T62
Reuser, B67
Reuss, B37, B40, B72, B74, B75, B76, B84, F89, F128, F156, F289, F309, F368, F518, F570, F653, F747, F756, F757, F758, F759, F803, T11, T16, T22, T49, T50, T51, T59, T61
Reuter, F472
Rey, F439
Reynolds, F117, F140, F440, F464, F633, F707, T14, T21, T48
Rheader, T20
Rhode, F734, T11
Rhodes, F74, F136, F202, F359, F735, T11, T45
Rhymes, F644, F645, F743
Riben, F432, F433
Rice, F7, F45, F160, F161, F295, F419, F430, F532, F636, F679, F693, F760, F761, F882, F1003, T11, T16, T18, T20, T48, T99
Rich, F610
Richard, F61, F62
Richards, F638, F964, T16, T18
Richardson, F272, F593, F594, F610, F756, F758, T50
Richeson, T6
Richie, F412
Richmond, F150, F722, F762
Richter, F4, F202, F256, F410, F456, F508, F818, F937, F987, T11, T16, T22, T71, T75
Ricks, T21
Ridder, F667
Riddle, T11, T14, T18
Ridgeway, B31, F7, F595, F927, T16
Ridgway, F22, F691
Riebe, F428
Riebler, F649
Riebschlaeger, B31, B43, F228, F450, F506, F633, F763, F764, T58, T61
Riedel, B22, B78, B83, F3, F225, F242, F403, F459, F460, F502, F625, F632, F765, F766, F767, F768, F769, F770, F771, F772, F773, F774, F775, F776, F777, F887, F916, F987, T16, T21, T24, T102, T131
Rieder, T11, T80
Riedesel, B70, F2, F90, F133, F217, F404, F464, F466, F481, F774, F777, F811, F813, F987, T11, T102, T108, T151
Riedle, T80
Rieger, F20
Riemenschneider, F778, T87
Riesch, F402
Riffer, F517, F810
Riggs, F178, F355, F916, T16, T21, T42, T152
Riles, F163, T20
Riley, T11, T22, T37, T92
Rimschneider, T11
Ringgold, F52
Ringiwood, T20
Rinn, T99
Rios, T144
Ripley, T14
Rippamonti, F297
Rische, T64
Risinger, F91
Riske, F996
Ritchie, T11
Ritter, F458, T130
Rittiman, T22
Rittner, F507
Ritzen, T57
Rivas, T2
River, T11
Rivera, B23, T2
Riverall, T22
Rivers, T14
Rives, T22
Rix, F143
Roach, F111
Roak, F532
Roan, T11
Robbins, F650, T16
Roberds, F133
Robert, T11, T58
Roberts, F22, F317, F422, T11, T14, T22, T12
Robertson, F281, F282, F789, F851, F934, T1 T21, T56
Robeson, F808
Robie, F644
Robin, F634
Robinson, B78, F33, F178, F187, F779, F780, F781, F832, F833, F992, T1, T6, T9, T11, T14, T16, T22, T64, T133
Robison, T52
Robson, T14
Rochelle, F66
Rocker, F890
Rodcheaver, F247
Roden, T130
Rodger, F602
Rodgers, F953
Rodien, T28
Rodriguez, F350, F643, T18
Roe, F247, T6, T55
Roeben, F402, T16
Roebuck, F147, F487
Roeder, F505, F823, T8, T11, T13, T16, T18, T20, T94, T131, T152
Roehel, T21
Roehl, T11, T16
Roehm, F482
Roese, F567
Roesler, F469
Roessler, F288, F473, F661, F963, F1019, F1021, T108
Roewe, F651, T16
Rogal, B52
Rogers, F210, F348, F349, F364, F401, F562, F707, F867, F913, F934, F951, T16, T153
Rogge, B74, F257, F689, T83, T126
Roggenkamp, T16, T76, T83
Rogrez, T18
Rohan, B89, F48, F394, F397, F785, F947, F949, T16, T70
Rohre, T16
Rolff, F289
Rolle, F289
Romberg, F493
Romianek, F152
Roney, T6
Rooke, F222, F637
Rooks, F246
Roose, B49
Roosevelt, F531, F675, T18
Rork, F742
Rosanoff, F906

Rose, B3, F133, F421, F508, F581, F957, T14, T16, T57
Roseman, T20
Rosenbaum, F558
Rosenberg, F407, F408, F479
Rosener, F416, F599, F800, T94
Rosenthal, F688
Ross, F70, F131, F415, F477, F612, F613, F897, T16, T20, T22, T50, T79
Rosner, T96
Roth, B17, F96, F502, F503, F541, F624, F821, F986, F987, T22, T83, T103, T137
Rothbauer, B27
Rother, F772, T64
Rothner, F802
Rothschild, F517
Rothwell, F143
Rouquette, F980
Rousseau, F892
Rowan, F530
Rowland, T53, T130
Roznovsky, F602
Rubac, F257
Rubery, T20
Rubi, T3
Rubin, F939
Ruby, B68
Ruckert, T62
Ruckman, F859
Rudd, F186, T131
Ruddock, F335
Rudisill, F456
Rudolph, T57
Rugge, T87
Ruhland, F394
Ruhmann, F113
Ruland, F745
Rule, F362
Ruley, F163
Rummel, T11
Rumsey, F430
Runck, F457
Runge, B1, B83, F618, F747, F803, T19, T80, T105
Runnell, T14
Runnels, F177
Rupnarm, T11
Ruppel, F550
Ruppert, F325, T22
Ruppold, T22
Ruprecht, F630
Ruschaupt, B73, F1, F783, F815, F816, F825
Ruschaus, T14
Rusche, T16, T64
Ruschhaupt, F192, F237, F238, F319, F331, F514, F778, F784, F862, F864, T62, T100
Rush, F595, T11, T47
Rushdi, F541
Rushing, F89, T22
Russ, F415
Russeall, F935
Russel, T74
Russell, F97, F667, F859, T11, T16, T114
Russerman, T11
Rust, F896
Rustin, F760
Rusworm, T20
Rutherford, F278, T21, T37, T56
Rutkowski, T16
Rutland, T22
Rutledge, B33, B80, F281, T131
Ryan, B51, F72, F140, F149, F317, F494, F785, F786, F853, F947, T14, T16, T18, T22, T56, T61, T64, T116

S

Sacherer, F288
Sachnowitz, F152, F940
Sachtleben, B41, F1022
Saenz, B31
Sagebiel, F540, F621, F659, F799, F812, F1011, T24, T142
Sager, B45, F18, F19, F27, F67, F85, F102, F105, F191, F206, F226, F240, F242, F271, F287, F288, F378, F380, F390, F406, F438, F510, F511, F512, F514, F516, F518, F546, F547, F548, F549, F565, F622, F631, F657, F658, F659, F661, F662, F665, F699, F736, F738, F754, F778, F784, F787, F788, F789, F790, F792, F793, F794, F817, F819, F921, F998, F999, F1000, F1012, T11, T16, T21, T28, T29, T30, T51, T64, T72, T94, T142
Salazar, B23
Sale, F215, F795, F870, T22
Salford, T81
Salge, F25, F507
Salinas, T6, T16
Salles, T16, T22
Salley, T137
Salmon, T61
Sames, F283, F639, F640
Sample, B31, F224, T11, T20
Samuels, F122
Sanders, F267, F796, F803, F985, T6, T11, T14, T16, T53, T62
Sandherr, F910
Sandies, F565
Sandlin, F781
Sanfilippo, F490
Sanford, F628
Sangerhausan, F683
Sangster, F612, T119
Sanner, F60
Sansing, F123
Santa, T11
Santa Anna, F832, F907
Santhmann, F551
Sapp, F7, F287
Sappington, F852
Sartin, F781
Sasse, F331, F356, F628, F633, F668, F728, F729, F822, F857, F875, T39, T101
Satterwhite, F122, T62
Sauer, F62, F521, T74
Sauermilch, F191, F306, F356, F465, F661, F662, F797, F892, F895, F965, T154
Saum, T16
Saunders, F346, F769, T79
Saurmilch, T24
Savage, F440, T20
Savastio, F148
Sawey, T130
Sawyer, F430
Sawyers, F151, F436, T11
Saye, F150
Sayers, F710
Scanlan, F908
Scarborough, F134, F441, T11, T118
Scarbrough, B26, F917
Schacherl, F626, F627
Schack, F217
Schaefer, F121, F190, F205, F238, F244, F305, F333, F374, F376, F378, F390, F400, F462, F531, F583, F584, F626, F627, F659, F902, F688, F730, F778, F798, F799, F815, F821, F850, F935, F948, T11, T16, T24, T72, T94, T102, T130
Schaeffer, F530
Schaeg, F190, F233, F277, T94, T142
Schaffner, B26, F26, F550, F800, F801, F812, T16, T18, T22, T34, T61, T76, T104
Schake, F206
Schaller, F329
Schaper, F676, F678, F729
Scharfe, F650
Scharnberg, T126
Schauss, F851
Schawe, T103
Schedler, F754
Scheel, F374, F999, F1000
Scheffee, F766, F767, F774, F776
Scheffield, T22
Scheffler, B28, F139, F192, F890, T104
Scheibe, B36
Scheimer, F219
Schellentraeger, F629
Schellpeppe, F850
Schellpepper, F798
Schendel, F461, F637, F802, F822, F824, F899, T16, T133, T147
Schenken, T11
Scherlen, T16
Scheurich, F480
Schewitz, F223, F974
Schiedemann, F952
Schiege, T130
Schiffe, F242
Schiffov, F899
Schiller, F116, F876, T16
Schilling, F99
Schindler, F88, F572, T49
Schirm, F879
Schiwetz, B83, F21, F190, F217, F398, F746, F751, F798, F803, F843, F962, T11, T16, T50, T94, T144
Schiwitz, F4, F5, F188, F1020, T11
Schlagel, F778
Schlbach, F667, T102
Schleicher, B16, B36, B46, B74, F118, F167, F180, F373, F562, F563, F564, F664, F804, F805, F806, F807, F950, T11, T16, T19, T22, T23, T34, T49, T54, T59, T74, T101
Schleid, F810
Schleier, F317
Schlein, F60, F197, F237, F308, F373, F737, F778, F840, F975, T16
Schlenker, F1, F181, F958
Schlenstedt, F808, F879
Schleuter, T69
Schley, F19, F287, F736, T11, T28, T29, T57, T131
Schlinder, F376
Schlinke, B32, F229, F408, F479, F809, F826, T16, T83, T91
Schlitt, F512, F516, F517, F810
Schlorlemmer, T94
Schlosser, F102, F499, F558, F811, F837, T21, T102
Schloz, F328
Schlueter, F446
Schmidt, B10, B25, B83, F75, F289, F327, F394, F397, F464, F467, F548, F552, F558, F572, F629, F633, F667, F724, F812, F813, F947, F952, F1002, T16, T35, T49, T80, T89, T92, T99, T112, T131, T146, T150, T152
Schmiedlin, T1
Schmitt, F94, F256, F360, F966
Schmutzler, F304
Schnabel, T102
Schneck, F88
Schneider, F1, F208, F312, F360, F448, F474, F476, F492, F723, F897, F1020, T11, T16, T71, T131, T152
Schnuriger, F814
Schober, T126
Schobert, F119
Schoener, F715, F926, F971
Schoenert, F814
Schoenfeld, F683, T16
Scholpin, F202
Scholz, F328, T85
Schonvogel, F537, F540
Schoop, F539, F559
Schork, F472, F587
Schorlemer, B17, B39, F217, F329, F333, F425, F658, F730, F754, F798, F815, F850, F875, T18, T24
Schorlemmer, F85, F191, F192, F217, F240, F277, F374, F390, F454, F512, F516, F517, F546, F547, F548, F661, F693, F728, F729, F736, F783, F787, F792, F816, F817, F818, F819, F820, F821, F856, F1000, T11, T16, T21, T28, T29, T45
Schorre, B40, B52, B74, F145, F225, F448, F503, F507, F622, F689, F737, F802, F812, F815, F821, F822, F823, F824, F840, F928, F1000, T11, T16, T56, T59, T61, T62, T69, T114
Schostag, F306, T92
Schott, T61
Schrade, F61, F95, F109, F242, F244, F258, F259, F379, F386, F390, F430, F495, F521, F522, F528, F663, F664, F667, F696, F821, F822, F823, F824, F825, T11, T16, T21, T64, T69, T83
Schrader, F889, F920, T42
Schrafer, T11
Schram, F842
Schrater, F827
Schreiber, F184, F667
Schreier, F628
Schrieber, B43
Schriefer, F813
Schriener, F910
Schrivner, T21
Schroeder, B32, B91, F25, F95, F109, F184, F233, F256, F267, F375, F376, F379, F38
F387, F388, F390, F405, F453, F461, F47
F492, F540, F576, F621, F677, F700, F71
F745, F817, F826, F838, F842, F895, F89
F897, F989, T11, T16, T42, T71, T72, T76
T83, T108, T131
Schroedter, F432, F433
Schroeter, F827, F828, T16, T92
Schrolemer, F276
Schroller, B60, F313, F350, F633, F648, F10
T16, T102, T150, T152
Schubert, F56, T21, T57, T118
Schuchardt, B67
Schuemacher, F536
Schuenemann, F404, F558, F589, F828, T16, T102
Schuessler, F821
Schuetter, T140
Schuetze, T11
Schulle, B45
Schulte, F1
Schultea, T16
Schultz, B78, B87, B88, F7, F19, F61, F191, F254, F305, F313, F424, F541, F570, F62
F675, F677, F797, F808, F998, F1017, F1018, F1019, T16, T22, T41, T59, T64, T148
Schulz, F95, F102, F202, T11, T102, T105
Schulze, F220, F305, F583, F649, F986, T14
Schumacher, F232, F266, F439, F567, T40, T80, T87, T112, T131
Schurchardt, T16
Schurich, F329
Schurr, F738
Schwab, B36, B78, F62, F94, F123, F232, F4
F541, F618, F829, F830, F831, T16, T21, T22, T50, T79, T101, T130
Schwarta, T144
Schwartz, F5, F440, F550, F624, T18, T152
Schwarzbach, F25
Schwarzkopf, F247, F880
Schweitzer, T21, T79
Schweizer, T11, T131
Schweppe, F206
Schwetz, F239, T62
Schwirtlich, F630
Schwitz, F778
Sciba, B31, T58
Scogin, F159
Scott, F76, F97, F99, F185, F251, F337, F36
F367, F387, F684, F786, T6, T10, T16, T
T20, T21, T22, T45, T52
Scrivener, F364, T11
Scrivner, T22
Scrogin, T16
Scudder, T11
Scuher, T102
Scull, F674, F832, T20
Scurry, T10, T11, T14
Seabrook, F52
Seal, T6
Seaman, F494
Seegebebade, F689
Seekamp, F470, F642, F643, F833, F834, F8
T18, T22
Seeligson, B1, B37, F107, F118, F836, F910, T16, T62
Seely, T6
Seffel, F2, F476, T64
Sefferlin, F208
Seger, T22
Seibert, F801
Seidel, F651, T16
Seidenberger, F221
Seider, T49
Seifert, B78, F405, F413, F559, T75
Seiffert, T16
Seiler, F263, F397, F454, F455, F588, F705, F783, F837, F838, F839, T94
Seim, T16, T126
Seitz, F485, F918, T11
Self, T77
Seligson, T49
Sellars, T11
Sellers, F637, F669, F1012, T11, T22
Selligson, T54
Sells, F936

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

emmler, F192, F197, F209, F265, F266, F308, F319, F424, F426, F531, F737, F739, F822, F840, F841, F870, F999, F1000, F1001, T16, T73, T97
emper, F237, F588, F842, T61, T92
enac, F715
enessen, F604
enf, F742
etwick, T11
eufferlin, F60
evier, T11
eward, F15
ewell, F718, F719
eymour, F10
hafer, F410, F819
haffer, F903, F958
halemer, T20
handy, T16
hanklin, F440
hanks, F928
hannon, F401, T11, T12, T18, T22, T116
hapu, T16
harke, F88
harkey, F177, F178
harlow, F196
harp, F605, T14
harpe, T11
harrock, F42
harry, T11
hatto, T103
haver, F440
haw, B80, F113, F144, F311, F314, F357, F359, F568, T6, T55, T61, T127
hea, F683
hearman, F959, F960
heehan, T58, T97
heffield, F842
heffler, T102
hefler, T122
heldon, F1012
hellenbarger, F661, F1021
helton, B7, T11, T62, T64
hely, F452
henott, T20
hep, F96
hepard, F372
hepardson, F670
heppard, B36, B49, B83, F64, F96, F104, F106, F168, F250, F281, F282, F634, F640, F715, F843, F844, F845, F846, F847, F848, F936, F983, F991, F996, T11, T16, T18, T19, T21, T22, T50, T58, T61
herell, T151
heren, F353
heridan, B37, F346, F413, T16
herman, F71, F558, T10, T11, T36, T45, T49, T53
herpie, F605
herriff, T144
herrod, F415, T114
herry, F401, F485
herwood, F631
hield, F571
hier, F460
hillings, T53
himek, B69, F171, F173, F903
himer, F376, F530, F531, F798, F850, F857, T22, T74
hindler, T16
hiner, T16
hipman, F618
hipp, F131
hipworth, T14
hirar, F696
hive, F458
hiver, F691
hivers, F387, F695
hoat, B33
hoemake, F15
holars, F205, F973
hone, T20
hook, F148, T14, T117
hopshire, T16
horry, T20
hort, F120, F337, T37
hous, F851
house, F851
how, T31
howalter, B10, F440
hows, F149, F295, F348, F364, F852, F853, F871, F917, F931, F934, T11, T16, T25, T77
Shrimpf, F903
Shropshire, T22, T35
Shubeck, F308
Shuck, F158
Shugart, F430
Shuh, F622
Shulak, F57, F918
Shuler, T16
Shull, B12
Shults, B17, F281, F697, F902, F991, T21, T36
Shultz, F614
Shupe, T6
Sibley, F134, F441, F721, F793, F935, T11
Sickenius, F149, F304
Sickor, T11
Sidall, T56
Sidney, F13
Siebert, F108
Sickert, F206
Sieler, T100
Siemer, F715
Sieur de La Salle, T2
Sievers, F37, F305, F334, F467, F558, F646, F649, F899, T11, T24, T133, T144, T152
Sieviers, T11
Sifferlen, F460, F462
Siggs, F579
Sigler, F758, F759
Silcriggs, F210, F908, F910, F913, F914
Silkregs, F906
Silkrig, F908
Silsreg, F210
Simcek, F404
Simecek, B78, F31, F492, F540, T16, T70, T144
Simmons, F294, F890, F1023, T11, T14
Simms, F370, F679, T11
Simon, B46, F119, F188, F679, F864, F897, T59
Simpleton, T12
Simpson, F126, F485, F488, F581, F643, F735, T11, T22, T31, T47, T61, T118, T152
Sims, B52, T16, T50
Sinast, F81, F237, F290, F306, F312, F502, F701, F702, F703, F704, F773, F797, F892, F986, F987, F989, T150, T155
Singer, F53, T16
Single, F61
Singler, F156, T11
Singletary, F44, T114
Singleton, F172, F941, T11
Sirjacks, F815
Sirmon, F302, F603, F727
Sistrunk, T130
Sitka, F592
Sitterle, F582, T14
Sitterlie, F417
Sitterly, F508
Skaggs, F171, F172, F173
Skidmore, T14
Skinner, B71, F28, F541, F669, T22, T151
Skloss, F953
Skrehot, F890, F891, T16
Slade, T14, T16, T18, T97, T83
Slantz, F317
Slater, F252, F357, F359, F385, F575, T55
Slaughter, F618, T12, T14, T22
Slavik, F500
Slavinsky, F685
Slavitsch, T59
Slayman, F208
Slemp, F18
Sligh, T20
Sloan, F295, T139
Sloma, F312, T16, T21, T108, T132, T152
Sloop, T130
Small, F507, F781, T126
Smalley, F10, F603, F644, F645, T16, T66, T92
Smart, T137
Smelcer, T141
Smerke, T97
Smiley, T133, T147
Smisek, B27
Smith, B33, B40, B44, B80, B91, F4, F6, F24, F29, F41, F49, F52, F58, F66, F70, F98, F117, F124, F137, F147, F151, F165, F172, F173, F183, F185, F186, F210, F250, F281, F282, F295, F298, F317, F329, F331, F345, F353, F357, F359, F362, F364, F370, F387, F398, F432, F433, F448, F458, F491, F494, F503, F555, F558, F579, F588, F603, F635, F640, F641, F647, F654, F667, F675, F679, F699, F756, F765, F780, F781, F806, F808, F853, F854, F855, F858, F867, F873, F874, F886, F896, F915, F927, F937, F963, F978, F996, F1003, F1007, T5, T6, T10, T11, T14, T18, T19, T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T25, T27, T36, T38, T40, T42, T46, T49, T54, T55, T56, T57, T61, T77, T83, T117, T126, T136, T147, T152
Smolik, T108
Smothers, F928, T6, T21
Smythe, F229, F654, F749, T118
Snaer, F72
Snapp, F262
Snead, T55
Sneed, T8
Snider, F927, T20
Snigurski, F199, F955, T141
Snodgrass, F339, F362
Snoga, F208
Snow, T21
Snowden, F696
Soachting, F572
Sockwell, F313, F314
Soehnge, B21, F1, F252, F253, F592, F593, F693, F730, F856, F860, T24
Sohloze, F875
Soileau, T53
Solms-Braunfels, F336
Solo, T51
Solomon, T140
Sommer, F184
Sommers, F325
Sonneborn, F746, T102
Sonnichsen, T14
Sorell, F669, F846
Sossbee, F1003
Sotier, F756
Soukup, F423
Soutar, T54
Southerland, F991
Southern, F227, F531, F857
Sowa, F59, F61
Sowell, T6
Spacek, B31, F506, F764
Spain, F177, F541
Spalding, T11
Spangle, B90
Spanihel, T51
Spann, F926
Sparck, F785
Sparkman, F369
Sparks, F182, F935
Spaulding, T11
Spears, B80, F391, T16
Speed, F313, F867, F996, T55
Speers, F329
Speis, F718
Spellman, T139
Spellmann, F682, F858
Spence, F412, F594, T140
Spencer, F628, F699, F859, F907, F912, T14, T20, T22, T149
Spener, T11
Spengler, F821
Sperb, F517, F816, F817, F821
Sperling, F403
Spicer, T16
Spiekermann, F221
Spies, F256, F542, F798, F815, F860, T11, T18, T92, T93, T131
Spiller, T22
Spinks, F111, F199, F246, F593, F594, F861, F862, F863, F864, F865, F866, F867, F868, F869, T12, T16
Spittler, F788
Spitzer, F712
Spooner, F532
Spree, F818, F819, T20
Sprehe, F776
Spremberg, T131
Sprencil, F332
Sprenzel, F534
Sprigg, F870, F945, T64
Springer, F201
Springs, B17
Spruell, F15
Squyres, F294, F300, F349, F490, F669, F671 F871, F872, F873, F882, F984, F1003, T21 T31, T77, T118
Srafer, T8
Srubar, F956
Stadtler, T11, T21, T58
Staedtler, F778
Staehr, F410, F411, T16
Staerker, B83, T16, T49, T54, T59
Stafford, F94
Stage, F638
Staggs, T137, T152
Stahala, T16
Stahl, F1, F546, F622, F659, F662, F788
Staire, T46
Stall, F55, F874
Stamer, T80
Stammer, T22
Stanchos, F167, F489, F651, F875, T24, T75, T85
Standlee, F796
Stange, B40
Stanley, F866, T130
Stannard, T14
Stanteen, F622
Stanton, F208
Stanush, F534
Stanzaus, F875
Stanzel, F861, F892
Stapelfeldt, B17
Staples, B10
Stapleton, F697
Stapp, F636, F912, T6, T14, T22, T45
Starboard, F372
Stark, B80, F75, F279, F403, F541, F571, F624, F632, F876, F877, T16, T21, T131
Starke, F589, T11
Starr, F247, T54
Staton, F958
Stayton, F172, F491, F537, T45, T61
St. Clair, T79
Steadtler, F190
Steapp, F852, F931
Stearn, T139
Stech, F558
Steele, F66, F122, F335, F643, F696, F845, T
Steelman, F618
Steen, B23, F93, F113, F165, F171, F317, F358, F681, F830, F883, F884, F996, T16, T20, T45, T61, T63, T79, T110
Steffens, F489
Stefka, B31, F591, T51
Stegall, B26
Stehle, F867, F878, F965
Stehling, T100
Steiger, T102
Steinbach, F356, T102, T105, T108
Steinbomer, T130
Steineman, T47
Steinert, F450, F688, F879, F880
Steinfeld, F23
Steinmann, B19
Steinmeyer, F259
Stell, F158, F345, F444, F488, F521, F523, F628, F674, F690, F697, F712, F825, F881 F945, T11, T13, T14, T21, T25, T33, T61, T62, T68
Stenchcomb, T11
Steorcsandt, F77
Stepanski, F469, F896
Stephan, F797, T11
Stephen, F827
Stephens, F213, F916, F990, T20, T47
Stephenson, F294, F300, F303, F364, F444, F882, T22, T47, T96, T118, T130, T136, T152
Sterling, F213, F490, F636
Stern, F348
Steubing, B80, T16
Steven, F883, T31
Stevens, F44, F64, F65, F70, F106, F165, F25 F262, F317, F326, F353, F362, F396, F448 F696, F824, F884, F890, F926, F935, F990 F995, F996, T11, T12, T13, T16, T20, T21, T23, T24, T40, T46, T99, T111, T118
Stevenson, F151, F630, T11, T22
Steves, F402

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Stewart, B23, B43, F93, F155, F314, F401, F604, F843, F960, T11, T18, T20, T22, T64
Stifflemeier, F899
Stiles, B42, B74, F176, F241, F333, F618, F885, T16
Stimson, B36, T152
Stinberg, F298
Stindt, F253, F536, F537, F1010
Stine, F353
Stinnert, F808
Stinnett, F174, T6
Stinson, F808
Stirl, F91, F811, T16, T102, T104, T108
Stites, F893
Stitle, T20
St. John, T6
Stock, F133, F267, F966
Stockdale, F167, F170, F806, T49, T54
Stockton, T18, T137
Stoeltje, T22
Stoepler, F304
Stoever, F502, F503, F650, T102, T108
Stogier, F177
Stoilis, F156
Stokes, F566, F606, F607, F654
Stoldt, F386, F661, F886, T24
Stollics, F313, F327, F648, F989, T16, T76, T100
Stollis, F808
Stolz, F767
Stolze, F330
Stone, B80, F281, F447, F716, T18, T61
Stoops, T11
Storch, F574
Storey, F440, T120
Stormont, T136
Storms, B29, F114, T77
Stoub, T140
Stout, F601
Stovall, F237, F488, F603, F910, T114, T152
Stover, T104
Strader, F15
Strahala, T16
Strahan, F628
Strain, F53, F317, F417, F622, F901, T62
Strakos, F25
Stran, T20
Stratmann, F567, F630, T80
Stratton, B5, B72, B80, F37, F39, T14, T22, T59, T62, T117
Straube, F537, F554, T75, T147
Strauser, F938
Streiber, F1022
Striber, F447
Stribling, F281
Stricker, F220, F225, F376, T16, T57
Strickland, T5, T37
Stricklin, T136, T144, T152
Strieber, B10, B70, B78, F306, F312, F389, F392, F554, F632, F646, F692, F775, F876, F887, F888, F889, T9, T11, T16, T20, T131, T148
Striedel, F668, F715, F727, F802, T62, T133, T147
Stripling, F440
Strode, T6
Strohmann, F588
Stroman, F158, F892
Stroud, T139
Strouhal, F366
Strown, F490
Struabe, F651
Struber, F392, F889
Strunk, F892, F893
Strunner, T11
Stuart, F34
Stubbemann, F757
Stubblefield, B40, F28
Stubbs, F165, F395, F396, F599, F671, F712, F742, F824, F890, F891, T16, T46
Stuck, T54
Studdert, F259
Studer, T151
Stuermer, F184, F312, F313, F465, F466, F500, F892, F893, T102, T144
Stueve, F79
Stukes, F343, T11
Stukey, T22
Stule, F890
Stump, F515
Sturges, F42, F281, F930
Sturm, F439, F440, F894, F895, F896, F897, F955, F1018
Stutman, F796
Styles, T81
Styra, F464, F686, F898, F955, T16, T134, T148, T152
Sucher, B43, F467, F689, F899, T131
Sudduth, F943
Suggs, T152
Suhler, T147
Suhr, T80
Suir, F682
Sullivan, B6, F6, F726, F759, F935, F980, T16, T20
Sumers, T20
Sumken, T11
Summers, B34, B36, B40, B89, F42, F89, F186, F211, F900, F901, T8, T11, T25, T52, T59, T61, T62, T64
Sumners, B74, F137, F610, F996, T13, T16, T22, T27
Sunday, T14, T16, T66, T137
Surakus, F133
Sutherland, B80, F117, F156, T49
Sutmar, F206
Suttles, F914
Sutton, F99, F146, F147, F180, F203, F233, F262, F317, F541, F605, F614, F859, F902, F907, F911, F960, F1006, T10, T11, T12, T13, T14, T36, T119, T131
Sutton-Taylor, F709
Sutz, F131
Swain, T59
Swanson, F421
Swartz, F669, F671
Swayze, T79
Swearingan, T8
Sweeney, F364, T16, T49
Sweet, F364
Swenson, B15, F943, T16
Swift, F117, F824, T20
Swindle, F28
Swisher, F859, T117
Switch, T21
Sykes, F448, T131
Syma, F896, F903
Symonds, F418
Syzdek, B88, F896, F955

T

Tacker, F87
Tahneo, T11
Takas, F197
Talk, F131
Talley, B80, F448, T79
Talmje, T94
Tam, F898, F953, F955, F971, T16
Tampke, F237, T11, T131
Tankerly, T11
Tankersley, F159, F842
Tanksley, F291, F441, T118
Tanneberger, F401
Tannel, T71
Tanning, T22
Targac, T16
Tarkington, B52, F212, F652, F697, F904, T16, T18, T21, T61
Tarter, F654
Tate, F463, F472, F614, T6, T11, T18, T22
Tatum, T20
Tauch, F45
Taulbee, F65
Taylor, B28, B60, B74, B78, F4, F11, F45, F82, F99, F102, F112, F117, F131, F147, F186, F203, F204, F213, F262, F362, F401, F416, F430, F468, F487, F541, F555, F581, F610, F625, F637, F654, F692, F698, F776, F859, F897, F905, F906, F907, F908, F909, F910, F911, F912, F913, F914, F916, F920, F931, F942, F960, F992, F996, F1006, F1007, F1009, T4, T6, T10, T11, T12, T13, T14, T16, T20, T21, T22, T25, T36, T46, T130, T131, T135, T149
Taylor-Sutton, F362
Teague, T137
Teal, T6
Teamer, T20
Teas, F779, F780
Teel, T14
Teherens, T11
Teich, F89
Teiwes, T16, T102
Teller, B52, F500, F606, F670, F758, T16, T18, T21, T126
Teltschik, F746, T136, T152
Templeton, F577, T14, T20
Templett, F586
Tennell, F357, F855, F915, T20
Tennille, F218, T14
Teran, T2
Terell, F782
Terrell, B74, F250, F262, F697, F806, F915, T11, T49
Terry, F291, F364, F398, F491, F507, F656, F771, F916, F917, F943, F965, T11, T21, T22, T24, T27, T42, T62, T118
Tesch, T142
Thames, T11
Thamm, B4, B31, F285, F308, F337, F454, F474, F730, F998, T100
Thatcher, F343
Thayer, T22
Thedin, F894, F897
Theim, T12
Theis, F484, F628
Thetford, F871, F872, F873, F984
Thibodaux, F598
Thiele, B6, B19, F109, F477, F478, F918, F919, T23
Thielen, F889
Thielengerdes, F313, F650, F741, F989, T75
Thieme, F19, F25, F86, F121, F248, F267, F327, F394, F438, F539, F648, F662, F683, F737, F738, F739, F754, F788, F920, F921, F922, F924, F926, F952, T11, T16, T22, T28, T30, T61, T71, T94, T126, T128
Thigpen, F98, F265, F308, F400, F422, F508, F612, F613, F927, F928, T11, T16, T34, T55
Thomas, B23, B33, B45, F30, F36, F187, F203, F280, F281, F359, F555, F563, F619, F663, F664, F679, F697, F699, F852, F929, F930, F931, F932, F933, F934, F945, F986, F991, F1007, T9, T11, T13, T14, T16, T19, T20, T23, T24, T36, T37, T46, T50, T61, T62, T99, T110, T119
Thomason, F903
Thomey, F656
Thompkins, T139
Thompson, F93, F282, F384, F415, F438, F450, F548, F556, F633, F650, F672, F746, F855, F882, F990, T6, T11, T14, T16, T20, T22, T104
Thoms, F711, T16
Thomson, F33, F934
Thonhoff, T3
Thormahlen, F745, F811, T83, T102
Thormalen, F329, F589
Thorn, B80, F9, F28, F181, T18, T61, T62
Thorne, T22
Thornton, F361, F362, F776, F964, F996, T8
Thorogood, F782
Thorpe, F236
Threlkeld, F362, T22, T62
Thrift, F443, T21, T118
Thrump, F489
Thuem, B78, F101, F254, F312, F474, F509, T22, T92, T131, T152
Thueme, F306
Thurber, F222
Thurk, F313, F628, F986
Thurke, F583, F987
Thurmann, F753
Thurmond, T127
Thurston, F111
Tibbs, F327
Tice, F131
Tidmore, F885
Tidwell, F98, T34
Ticken, T18
Tietz, F81, F312, T131
Tiewes, F726
Tiffin, T61, T62
Till, F88, F334, T16, T80
Tillery, F138
Tilley, F603, F669, T16, T20
Tillman, T134
Timble, F550
Timm, F52, F890, T14, T16, T79, T80
Timme, T21
Timmons, F960
Tinney, F423, T24
Tinnon, F210
Tinsley, F804, F806, T22
Tips, B78, B83, F67, F327, F747, F752, T11, T59, T105, T131
Tipton, F158
Tise, F993
Tobel, T21
Tobin, F357
Todd, B47, F317, F756, F780, F894, F897
Toenjes, T80
Toland, F938
Tolbert, B34, B89, F27, F149, T18
Toller, F30, F133
Tolles, F440
Tolliver, T16
Tomasek, F764
Tomek, F313
Tomerlin, F15
Tomkinson, F915
Tomlinson, T12, T20
Tompkins, F715
Tonitiman, T20
Tonroy, F104, F106, F996
Topliffe, F262, F412
Torn, F506
Torres, T126
Totten, F578
Toudouze, F463
Tounley, B80
Toureenton, T14
Tower, T11
Towery, B47, F803, F1023, T18, T61, T62, T137, T152
Townsend, F135, F138, T54
Trace, F581
Tracy, F344, T31
Trafton, F222
Trantham, T16
Traubel, T57
Trautwein, F618, F649, F798, F850, F935, F980, T11, T22, T49
Travis, F111, F181, F532, T140
Traylor, F44, F579, F936, T16, T22
Treadwell, T137
Treagforth, T21
Tredway, F353
Treece, F919
Trenk, T131
Treude, F402, F512, F517, T16
Trevino, F602
Treybig, F327
Triana, T18
Tribble, T16, T22
Trick, F155
Trigg, B23, F698
Trimpler, F511, F620, F621
Trossman, F325
Trost, F791
Trott, F183, T22
Troup, T11
Trowell, F937, T18, T22, T61
Troy, F29, T9, T22
Truax, F89, F845
Truchart, T100
Truly, F177
Tschirhart, F859, F907
Tubbs, F145, F938, T62, T63
Tucker, B18, F853, F873, T13, T14, T16
Tudzin, B88, F152, F939, F940
Tuesck, F332
Tug, T11
Tuggle, T11, T12, T14
Tulley, F447
Tulloe, F521, F523
Tully, B28, B63, F675, F802, F941, T34, T50
Tumlinson, F127, F131, F187, F291, F601, F609, F907, F910, F911, F912, F914, F942 *F982, F987*, F1009, T6, T8, T13, T14, T40, T131, T149
Tupper, T18
Turek, B15, F398, F917, F943
Turk, F404, F741, F989, T28, T64
Turnage, F149
Turner, F304, F647, F808, F854, F913, T1, T11, T14, T16, T20, T22, T61
Turnipseed, F864
Tuton, T14, T20, T22
Tweedle, F667
Twohig, T119
Tyley, T16

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

Tyree, T16

U

Uberhaver, T20
Uheryk, F397
Uhl, F1, F867
Uhyrek, F393
Uitz, T20
Ulbrand, F465
Ullman, F627
Ullrich, F481, T102, T108
Ulrich, T37
Ummelman, F88, F165, T83
Ummelmann, F350, F550
Uncapher, T22
Upshaw, T61
Urbach, F736
Urbahn, T11
Urban, F1, F237, F268, F306, F380, T11, T16, T99, T144
Urbanczyk, F153
Uresti, F14, F148
Urwin, F958, T114
Urwitz, F50, T22
Utesch, F468, F723, T83
Utz, F873, T31

V

Vaca, T2, T23
Vackar, F948
Vaglia, F440
Vahldieck, F118, T59
Vahlieck, F117
Valababous, F1003
Valdes, F392, F1006, F1007
Valdez, F341, F806, T6, T49
Valenta, F463
Valentin, F190
Valentine, T11
Valiguara, F366
Valis, F1014
Vance, F960
Vancraver, T20
Vandenberg, F996, T22
Vanderbilt, F394
Vanderhider, T11
Vander Stucken, F718
Van Dorn, F683, T11
Van Dyke, F115
Vandyke, T20
Vanek, F100
Van Hoogenhuyze, F452
Vanham, F996
Van Horn, T61
VanLandingham, F736
Vanler, T20
Vann, T138
Vannote, F872, F984
Vantrease, F302
Van Vleck, F606, F607
Vardell, T103
Varner, F131, F488
Varona, T2
Vasbinder, T144
Vasicek, F506
Vasquez, B39, F350, F761, T8
Vaugh, T76
Vaughn, F71, F675, T16, T20, T62
Vega, F687
Veit, T128
Veith, F108, F109
Vela, T18
Venable, T11
Venice, F480
Verkamp, F534
Vermillion, F503
Vest, T55
Vibbert, F883
Vibrock, F711
Vick, F182, F298, F342, T16, T31, T117
Viereck, F312, F835
Vierra, F857
Villa, F299, F675, T18
Villababous, F331, t16
Villemain, T11
Vineyard, F418
Vinklarek, F967
Vinsek, F586
Vivian, F910
Voekel, F890
Voelkel, B33, F281, F472, F554, F573, F588, F650, F870, F879, F930, F944, F945, F957, T21, T64, T102, T104, T127
Vogal, F308, F310
Vogel, F867
Vogelsang, F633
Vogt, F129, F588, F629, F726, F812
Voitanis, F404
Volk, T64
Volkmer, F436, T100
Vollentine, F345, F946
Vollers, F113, F604, T21
Vollintine, F409
Vollmering, T138
Volney, T16
Von Blon, F472
Von Clausewitz, T25
von Donop, F782
VonHaefen, T80
Von Hugo, F713, T25
von Roeder, F540, F541, F624, F782, T22
Vordenbaum, F728, T113
Vore, F789
Vorwerk, T11, T131
Vossburg, F448
Voyer, T133
Vrazel, F974
Vyrol, F440

W

Wacher, T94
Wachtendorf, F456
Wacker, F54, F297
Wackerer, F917
Waddle, F907
Wade, F155, F670, T15, T16, T54
Wadgymar, T22
Wadkins, F832
Wadswarth, T16
Waford, T20
Wagener, F895, T11, T16, T22
Wagenschein, F254, F466, F628, F893, F949, T102
Wagenschine, F888
Waggoner, F62, F198
Wagner, B13, B35, B38, B40, B83, F80, F91, F118, F198, F219, F228, F306, F308, F559, F568, F729, F785, F799, F823, F842, F900, F901, F947, F948, F949, F964, F1018, T11, T16, T20, T22, T39, T52, T61, T72, T80, T127
Waine, F633
Wainwright, T18
Waites, T18
Wakefield, F924
Walch, F60
Waldeck, B1, B83, B85, F375, F474, F798, F804, F950, F964, T16, T22, T114
Walden, T117
Waldron, T14
Walicek, T64, T99
Walker, F34, F45, F52, F155, F481, F488, F577, F602, F808, T10, T11, T20, T22, T77, T126, T139, T149
Wall, F165, F761
Walla, F506
Wallace, B1, F165, F224, F440, F627, F671, F697, F713, F890, F900, F961, T8, T11, T12, T14, T20, T21, T22, T36, T44, T50, T55, T56, T61, T117, T124, T130, T131
Wallek, F591
Waller, F505, F991, T11, T14
Walliick, F123
Walling, F637, F983
Wallingford, B72
Wallis, F317, F341, F363, F565, F808, F951, T16, T21, T24, T44, T56, T76, T124
Walser, F418
Walsh, T8
Walsoffer, T20
Walter, F82, F996, F1020
Walters, F83, F158, F649, F987
Waltersdorf, F828
Waltersdorff, T108
Walthall, F208
Walton, F15, F42, F178, F715
Waltrip, T22
Wanier, F628, T92, T131
Wanjura, F222, F470, F542, T61
Warburton, T126
Ward, B39, B40, F208, F224, F523, F695, F1005, F1013, T6, T12, T22, T50
Ware, F855, T16, T56, T61
Warling, B40, F1010, F1011, T16, T80, T83
Warmuth, F952, F987, T75
Warn, B13, F609, F843, T36
Warneke, F588
Warner, F145, F250
Warnicke, B67
Warnken, F502, F504, F696
Warren, F129, F481, F762, F855, F1009, T11, T135
Warsiker, T11
Warwas, B36, F569, T16, T122
Warzecha, B11, F199, F350, F378, F469, F534, F896, F897, F953, F954, F955, F956, T16, T76, T144
Wascick, F550
Washburg, F1007
Washburn, T52
Washington, F733, F735, F850, T16
Washow, T102
Waskow, F208, F404
Wason, F828
Wasser, B78, F74, T131
Wasserman, F413, F508, F554, F592, F593, F661, F870, F944, F945, F957, T64
Waters, F52, F452, F1009, T22, T139, T152
Watkins, F611, T28
Watson, F91, F181, F256, F376, F423, F440, F449, F548, F958, T21, T22, T42
Watts, T55
Waul, F66, F70, F614, F917, F960, T11
Wayne, F630, F973
Weaks, F897
Weatherly, F155, F233, T62
Weaver, F188, F317, F555, F697, T16, T151
Webb, B5, B39, F4, F186, F440, F503, F646, F647, F890, F959, F960, F961, F962, F995, F996, F1003, T11, T13, T14, T21, T22, T45, T50, T54, T68, T131
Webber, T44
Weber, B36, B38, B45, B78, F143, F261, F428, F447, F675, F790, F791, F890, F948, F963, F964, F996, F1018, T11, T16, T22, T46, T59, T61
Webster, F699, F910, T22
Weddington, T56
Weddle, F149
Wedemeier, B51
Weekely, F617
Weeks, F172
Wehe, F237, F797, F965, T11, T131, T144
Wehemeyer, F539
Wehman, F550, F800, F808, T76, T83
Wehmeyer, F973
Weid, F731
Weidner, F407
Weigang, F633
Weigelt, F59, F94, F685, F919, F966, F967, T80
Weigend, F406
Weigmann, F5
Weir, T16
Weis, F629
Weischwill, B41, B60, B78, F774, F1010, F1011, T16, T71, T133, T144, T151, T152
Weise, F202, F327, F440, F535
Weiseger, T11
Weisenberg, T56, T61
Weisenberger, F88
Weisenburg, T62
Weishuhn, F481, F482
Weisiger, F186, F281, F935, T11, T12, T36, T45, T119
Weismann, F328
Weiss, F208, F283, F287, F306, F514, F672, F968, F1017, F1019, F1020, F1021
Weisse, F28
Welceker, F60
Welch, B62, F587, F593, F598, F736, T16, T50, T51, T58, T59, T61, T136
Welder, F804
Weldon, B74, F71, F114, F149, F362, F466, F535, F536, F557, F573, T6, T9, T50, T61, T70, T75, T102, T105, T125, T133, T147
Welhausen, B56, T16, T130
Welke, T11
Welker, F935
Welles, T64
Wells, F97, F240, F242, F375, F387, F486, F532, F570, F576, F714, F1005, F1007, T1-T139
Wendel, F90, F94, F189, F190, F191, F192, F205, F217, F237, F238, F241, F244, F257 F308, F330, F332, F378, F395, F436, F473 F659, F662, F665, F685, F746, F778, F784 F798, F815, F924, F926, F966, F967, F969 F970, F971, F972, F973, F975, F976, F987, T24, T61, T94, T99, T100
Wendell, F502, F974
Wenders, T102
Wendland, F764
Wendrock, F926
Wendt, F465, F467, F558, F812
Wendtland, F935
Wennerstrom, F105
Wensel, F552
Went, F782
Wentland, T21
Wentworth, F563, T6
Wenzel, F631, F656
Werland, T31
Werner, F670
Wernli, F667
Wessels, F935, F993
West, B80, F138, F160, F441, F443, F445, F646, F852, F962, T11, T117
Westerberg, T64
Westerfield, T103
Westerhoff, F332, F397, F784, T130
Westernoff, F539
Westervelt, F34
Westfall, T20
Westhoff, B20, B71, B78, F117, F176, F413, F421, F507, F541, F888, F977, T11, T49, T94, T126
Westmoreland, F135, F357
Weston, F335, F978
Westphal, B17, F481, F689, F979, T11, T22, T24, T102
Wetphal, T131
Wetuski, F61
Weyman, F928, T16, T22, T118
Whalen, F602
Whaley, F85
Wheat, T11, T61
Wheatly, F411
Wheeler, B40, B84, F322, F456, F508, F910, F913, F980, T11, T45, T49, T61, T74
Wherry, F155
Whetstone, F907
Whitaker, F757, T62
Whitby, T16
White, B49, F9, F30, F65, F125, F129, F139, F141, F145, F187, F208, F281, F319, F371 F419, F420, F443, F488, F520, F683, F697 F709, F710, F798, F916, F924, F960, F981 F982, F983, F984, T8, T11, T13, T14, T16, T21, T22, T25, T36, T40, T45, T46, T49, T61, T63, T114
Whiteaker, F257
Whitehurst, F146
Whiteman, T21
Whitfield, F984, T20
Whithoef, F811
Whitley, F15, F562, F985, T16
Whitmire, F123
Whitsett, T22, T76
Whitson, T96
Whitte, B7
Whitting, T11
Whittington, T11
Whitworth, F973
Wick, F924
Wickson, T6
Wied, F95, F313, F325, F481, F777, F892, T102, T104, T105, T108, T154
Wiegelt, F404, F405
Wiegmann, F535, F536, F537, F539, F1010
Wieland, B2, F91, F305, F312, F949, F986, F987, F988, T57, T100
Wielder, F689
Wieseger, T14
Wiesemann, F306
Wiesiger, T22
Wiess, F631

SURNAME INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

T - Topical Section B - Business Section F - Family Section

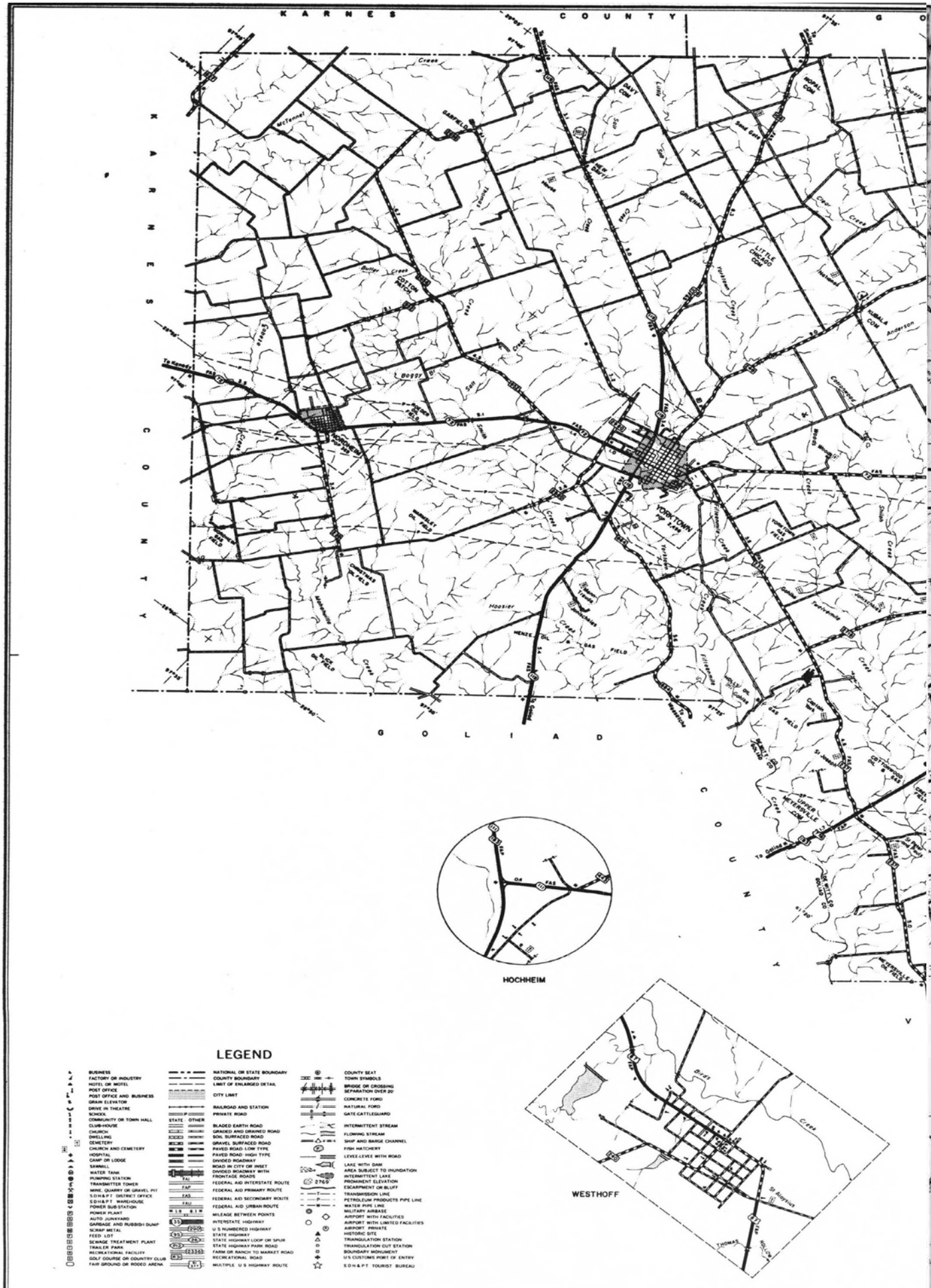
Wiethau, T11
Wiggins, T22, T52, T144, T147, T152
Wigton, F870
Wilbarger, F172
Wilbarn, T37
Wilborne, F98, F927, F928
Wilburg, F604
Wilcox, F15, F129, F593, F594
Wild, B45, F193, F404, F540, F895, F947, F989, F1002, F1011, T61, T83, T126, T127
Wilde, B73, F519
Wilden, F479
Wilder, B59, T147
Wilems, F986, F987
Wiley, F173, F873, F893, T11, T61
Wilhelm, F360, F590, F1020, T11
Wilke, F245, F355
Wilkerson, F91, F269, F982, T16, T20
Wilkes, B46, F281, F945
Wilkeson, T11
Wilkins, T16
Wilkinson, F34, F133, F611
Willbern, F960
Willeke, F462
Willenberg, F403, F745
William, F105, T22
Williams, B1, B33, B85, F45, F58, F92, F139, F140, F142, F158, F177, F182, F184, F186, F230, F247, F280, F281, F282, F303, F349, F440, F457, F485, F541, F560, F562, F565, F566, F577, F612, F613, F615, F656, F671, F690, F691, F697, F715, F717, F718, F781, F794, F852, F927, F928, F929, F934, F960, F961, F987, F990, F991, F1003, T2, T6, T7, T11, T16, T18, T20, T22, T31, T45, T54, T77, T81, T96, T110, T118, T136
Williamson, F605, F611, F699, T77
Willis, B1, F138, F796, T22, T144, T150
Willman, F440
Willms, F79, F947
Willoughby, F602
Wilms, F287, T11, T28, T94
Wilson, B76, F10, F13, F15, F28, F139, F149, F407, F408, F450, F479, F541, F568, F578, F602, F633, F650, F654, F669, F695, F760, F761, F859, F945, F987, F994, T11, T16, T22, T45, T50, T53, T62, T79, T104, T120, T136, T139
Wimberly, F919
Wimbish, F992, T16, T22, T46, T90, T110, T123
Wimbush, T54
Wimmer, F430
Winckler, F60, F336, F337, F584
Wineinger, B36, F418
Winfree, T130
Wingate, F429, F990
Wingo, F171
Winkel, F507
Winkfine, F630
Winklemann, F736
Winkler, F82, F188, F208, F209, F989
Winkley, F903
Winn, F565
Winslett, B80
Winslow, F951
Winter, F715
Wird, T126
Wirtz, F439, F897
Wischkaemper, F465, F860, F875
Wise, F578
Wishert, F149, F713, F732, F767
Wishkaemper, B17
Wisian, B45, T34
Wisloby, T11
Wisniewski, F440, F569
Witcher, B74, F519
Witeler, F515
Witherington, F236
Witt, F499
Witte, B19, F440, F993, T21, T22, T99, T130
Witten, F115
Wittenbert, F772
Witting, F688, T11
Wittstock, F628, F731
Witzsche, F20
Wofford, B1, B28, F12, F44, F50, F104, F106, F114, F128, F167, F186, F227, F334, F362, F430, F440, F491, F532, F565, F639, F653, F740, F772, F846, F866, F884, F941, F959, F960, F978, F994, F995, F996, T11, T13, T14, T15, T16, T20, T21, T22, T24, T25, T42, T45, T49, T59, T61, T76, T83, T114, T133
Wohlert, F454, F455
Wold, T55
Wolenczewica, T141
Wolf, B52, B78, F102, F130, F131, F265, F266, F319, F320, F326, F425, F452, F514, F520, F548, F617, F657, F659, F660, F662, F675, F737, F753, F788, F790, F794, F840, F935, F997, F998, F999, F1000, F1001, T22, T28, T53, T74, T94, T102, T106, T144, T152
Wolfe, F133, F248
Wolff, T79
Wolfsdorf, F109, F918, T130
Wolfshohl, F918
Woll, F51, F579, F832, F855, F1005, F1007
Wolle, F256
Wolley, F655
Wollney, T16
Wollny, F534
Wolpman, T102, T152
Wolter, F404, F980, F1002, F1019
Wolters, B41, F573, F935, T22, T76
Womack, T19, T22, T36, T49
Wood, B47, B49, F75, F149, F234, F295, F298, F301, F315, F327, F440, F505, F537, F760, F767, F885, F911, F916, F1003, F1004, T9, T12, T16, T41, T42, T61, T62
Woodall, F440
Woodard, T21
Wooderson, F897
Woodhall, F246
Woodman, F142
Woodrome, F158, F595, T47, T118, T130
Woodrowe, T21
Woodruff, F291, F440
Woodrum, F696, T22
Woods, F16, F74, F76, F97, F98, F99, F101, F136, F212, F278, F318, F340, F359, F380, F392, F447, F452, F489, F537, F541, F579, F603, F616, F669, F731, F910, F1005, F1006, F1007, T6, T11, T12, T16, T22, T34, T48, T102, T116
Woodson, T22
Woodward, F236, T11, T49
Woodworth, B52, B72, B74, F361, F1008, T16, T18, T21, T22, T49, T62
Wooford, F652
Woolf, F552
Woolsey, F150, T21
Wooten, F795
Word, F186, T12, T22
Worden, F765
Works, T22
Worley, F77, F599
Wornot, F813
Worsley, F767
Worth, T10, T46
Worthington, B52, F630, F808
Worthmiller, T11
Wostal, F469
Woytaszczyk, F208, F534, F569
Wrenn, F918
Wright, B47, F129, F139, F154, F233, F392, F463, F548, F578, F672, F735, F942, F1009, T8, T11, T16, T20, T22, T60, T62, T76, T79, T119, T131, T138
Wrightman, T5
Wrigley, T40
Wroe, F996
Wroten, F346, T77
Wuensch, F254, F440, T16
Wuerster, F791
Wuerz, F799
Wuest, F971
Wulf, F404, F450, F537, F540, F1010, F1011, T71
Wulfinch, T49
Wullschlager, F448
Wunderlich, B19, F325, F534, F826
Wurst, T28
Wurster, F791, F1012
Wurth, F92
Wurtz, F376, F815, F850
Wurz, F798, F935, T94
Wyatt, B39, F7, F644, F743, F1013, F1014, T61
Wyley, T11
Wylie, F399
Wynn, F177, F789
Wysatta, F591, F603

Y

Yancy, F449
Yanta, F469
Yarborough, F230, T47
Yates, F440
Yeamans, F216
Yearwood, F364
Yeary, F448, F612, F613, F899
Yeater, F581, F906, F910
Yelvington, T102
Yench, T20
Yoakum, T20, T130
Yoas, B90
Yocum, T11
Yore, T20
York, B78, B79, F40, F41, F43, F44, F67, F112, F234, F237, F367, F368, F417, F505, F603, F604, F697, F774, F775, F823, F912, F1015, T8, T11, T14, T16, T20, T22, T23, T25, T67, T93, T94, T131, T135, T149
Yost, F499
Young, B36, B44, F69, F302, F451, F578, F696, F885, F931, F1016, T11, T21, T22, T37, T42, T46, T53, T110, T131
Youngberg, F499
Youngblood, T12
Younkin, T47
Yruegas, B80

Z

Zacharias, B19
Zachery, F562
Zachtyl, T16
Zadock, F340
Zag'orski, F133
Zaiontz, B60, T18
Zamazal, T18
Zander, F567
Zbavitel, F591
Zeddler, F509
Zedler, F254, F312, F313, F403, F570, F632, F702, F887, T21, T51, T102, T108, T131, T154, T155
Zedtler, T64
Zeinert, F874
Zelenka, F30
Zella, B39
Zengerle, F20, F82, F208, F209, F659, F661, F662, F808, F894, F897, F968, F1017, F1018, F1019, F1020, F1021, T11, T16, T29, T51, T61, T97, T100
Zengerly, T64
Zentner, F565, F699, T18
Zielonka, F139, F269, F954
Ziese, F732, F1022, T133, T142
Ziesmer, T57, T130
Zimmerman, B52, F2, F96, F257, F440, F474, F756, F790, F803, F875, F890, F1023, T18, T50, T51, T62
Zincke, B56
Zingleman, F835
Zirjacks, T16
Zissa, T16
Zitelman, F511, F585, F623
Zitleman, F514
Zollinger, F217
Zorn, F390
Zuber, F139, F350, F953
Zuccarello, F669
Zuch, B78, F75, F356, F541, F876, T131
Zuend, F572
Zumwalt, F54, T6
Zwiardowski, T141
Zwickel, F798


KARNES COUNTY
KARNES COUNTY
GOLIAD
COUNTY
YORKTOWN
HOCHHEIM
WESTHOFF
LEGEND

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
DEWITT COUNTY
TEXAS

PREPARED BY THE
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SCALE IN MILES

1965

1980 CENSUS FIGURES

HIGHWAYS REVISED TO FEBRUARY 1, 1989

KEY TO COUNTIES

NOTICE

This map has been prepared for internal departmental use and has no official status. Accuracy is limited to validity of available data as of the dates shown.

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POLYCONIC PROJECTION NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
CONTROL: U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY AND U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY