



*Scenes on the  
Fall Creek  
Ranch*

*In 2001, the  
Holekamps raised  
Brangus cattle, grain  
and hay.*

*Right: The latest addition to the  
Holekamp family: Emily Bella  
Holekamp, born May 7, 2002. She is  
the daughter of Steven and Lorrie  
Keese Holekamp.*







George and Mary Virginia Holekamp Family, May 5, 2001 (Standing L to R): Mo Draznin, Oren Draznin, Sara Draznin, Amy Draznin, Jean Ward Holekamp, Logan Holekamp, Robert Wotalewicz, Leah Holekamp, Bill Sheftall, Lorrie Keese Holekamp; (Sitting L to R): Lin Draznin, Elizabeth Sheftall, Lewis Holekamp, Mary Virginia Stevens Holekamp, George Holekamp, holding Allison Sheftall, Anna Holekamp Sheftall, holding Matt Sheftall, Stefanie Holekamp Wotalewicz, holding Grant Wotalewicz, Alyssa Wotalewicz, Steven Holekamp.





*Pvt. Lewis A. Stevens, father of Mary Virginia, shown here as a member of the Brooks Field Squadron "B", 67th Aero Service Squadron in 1918.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Father of Mary Virginia, 1918.



## *Eyewitness*

*Thank you to the  
eyewitnesses who  
shared their stories  
about floods on the  
Guadalupe River.*

*Mary Virginia Holekamp  
April 11, 1994*



## THE GUADALUPE RIVER, AS I REMEMBER IT

By Rachel S. Whitton

The flood on July 2, 1932, is indelibly inscribed in my memory, although I was only five years old at the time.

We lived at 120 Guadalupe Street (now 409 Lowry) on a hill above the river. There was a six foot concrete retaining wall below the hill, and then the road which crossed Town Creek just as it went into the river and angled up the hill to Lemos Street.

I can remember being waked up from our afternoon nap and being told to put on our shoes and "hurry!" Mother took my sister's and my hands and we walked down to the front lawn to see the river: It had already spread to the top of the retaining wall below our house and was rushing so that a very large cypress tree on the other side of the road broke off with a loud crack and was washed down the river.

We then got into the car and Daddy drove us to Dr. and Mrs. Jackson's house on Water Street hill. My Grandmother had rent houses close to our house, so Daddy took all of those people up there too. He and mother went back to our house and stayed and watched the river. Before it started to recede it had reached half way around our house. There were eight steps into the house at the front facing the river and it got to the second step from the bottom.

The family of one of the patients at Legion lived in one of Grandma's rent houses and he was so worried that he walked from Legion and crossed the Water Street bridge when it had only a few inches of railing showing above the water.



It was just below our house close to the Lemos Street bridge that the Priour boy was swept away when he went to get the family cow out of the river bottom. After Town Creek went down and he could cross the Water Street bridge, Daddy went to the Bluebonnet Hotel where everybody was watching and trying to rescue the boy in the tree. Daddy said later that no one was successful in getting to him until the next day after the water had gone down some and they put a boat in at the Lemos Street crossing and floated down to his tree.

The Lemos Street bridge had been built shortly before the flood, but part of it was washed away and it was not rebuilt until after World War II. A high bridge over Johnson Creek at Ingram had just been dedicated two weeks before and it went out. (If you look below the present bridge you can see part of that bridge still there). Also, a bridge was almost complete at Center Point and it was washed away. (You can see parts of that bridge too).

Having lived in Kerrville most of my life, although not on the banks of the river, I always went to see the river when it was flooding. In 1978 Daddy brought his family over to our house and then went back home to watch the river, and at their house the water did not get to the lawn either night. The only time the river has flooded two days in succession was in 1978.

It is hard to describe the sight and power of the water when it is so high, but you can stand at the end of Lowry Street and imagine how much water there was to reach half way around our house.

Note: Mrs. Lester Whitton lives at Riverhill. She assists in the family business, Whitton Associates. Her father, Earl Stiefel, was active in building Louise Hayes Park in a day and, also, provided boat ramps along the river.



GEORGE HOLEKAMP has lived in the Turtle Creek community all of his life. He has been active in soil and water conservation projects. This is his story!

In the 1960s I rented and farmed some of the fields along the south side of the Guadalupe River across from Kerrville.

The Schreiner field where Riverhills Mall is now located has a line of river silt beginning at Mr. Gatti's and running across the area where K-Mart is located.

I farmed the three Lochte fields. The UGRA plant is located on the third field down the river. The UGRA dam was not built at this time. In October 1967, a heavy rain fell causing streams to rise. Heavy flooding was not reported. But the drifts the next morning showed the river out of its banks and the water almost up to the fields. There were heavy rains reported on Indian Creek.

A big part of the 1978 flood occurred below Kerrville. Lots of water drained from the Medina Mountains into Turtle Creek. Fall Creek behind my house was six feet higher than it had been ever reported. That night it rained about two inches an hour for about ten hours. It had rained five inches the day before.

---

WESLEY PLANT has worked on several Hill Country ranches and is retired from working at the Lion's camp. Now residing on Fall Creek Road, he has lived in Kerr County all of his life. This is his story!

I was working up Goat Creek in 1932 at the Chipman Dairy. Mr. Chipman and I started into town with the milk to deliver to the creamery. We didn't know how high the water was and we had to stop and look at it. About that time we saw a car on the road and it was washed off the road but there was nobody in it. We had to go around through pastures to get to town. We went down to the Bluebonnet Hotel where they were trying to rescue the boy. There was just room to walk between the Bluebonnet Hotel and the water.

---

TOM SYFAN lives at the head of Johnson Creek. He is engaged in ranching and real estate plus many civic and conservation projects. This is his story!

At the time of the 1932 flood I was spending summer with my grandfather, Mr. Edwards, at Pleasure Hill located six miles above Ingram or two miles below Hunt.

I remember those big old cypress trees waving in the force of the water. Then the upper one would weaken and fall and then 1-2-3-4 more trees would go.

Then a green roof from a small frame house came floating down the river with a boy sitting on the top at the pitch of the roof. We heard that he was pulled out of a tree between the old grist mill and Rio Vista.

Later we picked up big old fish in the field in front of the house.

After the 1932 flood my grandfather built a house there by the river and layed every stone and nailed every board in the present house when he was very old. The flood water came up to where he built the front stoop. The house is now owned by Frank Syfan.

---

ELLEN ORA JAMES lives at 1425 Knapp Road. Her grey house can be seen directly across the river from Three Hills Mobile Home Park. Her parents, Dan and Ellen Rees, settled there in 1900. <sup>Ellen</sup> Ora Ellen and her late husband, Arlie James, had the present house built on the site of the original house. This is her story!

My dad said the river would never get up to the house. And it never has. In 1932 it got up to the fence. (Note: The fence posts can be seen from Junction Highway.)

You can't take any chances with the river. I'm the biggest coward in the world. There'd never be any problem if everybody was as scared as I am. I know what the river can do.

I don't want this put in the paper. I don't care for that sort of thing.

---

CHARLIE ECKSTEIN resides at 913 Tivy Street. He was born in Kerrville where he has lived all of his life. He owned and operated a water well servicing company and is now retired. This is his story!

At the time of the 1932 flood, I worked at A. M. Schwartz Mechanic Shop on Water Street. It was located next to Miller Lumber Yard. That would be just down Water Street and across from Durst Upholstery Shop. (Note: Former location at 1501 Water Street.)

I was just a young kid and I had a 1929 Chevy touring car. The river cut across above Durst Upholstery and ran down Water Street into the machine shop and through the doors of my touring car. It was parked inside the shop. There was a car under water on Water Street--at the junction of Water Street and Broadway. Henry Covert's father had a dairy there. It was all under water.

There was a cypress log where McBryde Oil Company is on McFarland Street.



Glen Rest Cemetery gets under water.

There was a warehouse where the Catholic Church is now. (Note: At the corner of Main and Washington.) The water ran there. There was a gully across Main Street. Water came down there and ran down by where the phone company is now and down Enderle Lane.

When the river gets as high as it was in 1932, the water will run in the door of Penney's Store in the mall and the road will be covered with water.

On Thompson Drive, the water got up to the old fence and the place we called "The River Gate." The posts are still there.

Up on Arcadia Loop the water was over the top of the steel bridge.

ERNEST RADLEFF, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Radleff, grew up on the banks of the river and has lived in Kerrville many years. This is his story!

In 1932 I was a young man working at Schreiner Bank. The day of the flood, I went down to check the river crossing at the G Street bridge. The water was up to the window sills in Gabe Hitzfeld's house. (This house still stands on the left as you cross G Street bridge from Water Street.)

But the 1935 flood was bigger. We lived in the flats (Note: Ruth Street area) and we thought the water was to go around us. So some of us went up to Jimmy Roger's house to be safe.

A native of Kerr County MAMIE COUNCIL HOBSON lives on the Harper Road. Her husband, the late Buster Hobson, was a plumbing contractor in Kerr County for many years. This is her story!

In 1932 I was staying in the home of Fannie (Eckstein) and Boss Lowrance while they were working at the camp out on Turtle Creek. The house was on the banks of the river just up the river from where the VFW hut is. I had just given birth to a son on June 11.

It was raining and the river was rising. Mrs. Hobson, my mother-in-law, was raising Cain. She felt fear because she had been in a flood in Missouri.

So to humor her we said "let's go out in the edge of the field and sit on the plows."

Then it was open and you could see up the river. Before we could get to the edge of the field, a big house was coming down the river on a mountain of water. The water went so fast it would almost make you dizzy.

We had to hurry to get past where the plows were and walked in water across the field to Mrs. Eckstein's. It washed the house away but the clothesline guided it into a ditch. They later fixed the house but moved it closer to Mrs. Eckstein's house.

---

### Hearsay Stories

TOM SYFAN: My father-in-law, Felix Real, told me that in 1932 the water came up to the Schreiner irrigation well and that a threshing machine was turned over under a tree where Ken Stoepel's is now located.

MARIE SCHMIDT: My father said that shocks of grain were washed over in the Schreiner field in 1900. (On the Schmidt ranch on Turtle Creek there is a stone marker that shows the high water mark of the 1900 flood.)

GEORGE HOLEKAMP: My dad said when he went to school at Tivy, there was a big cypress log on Tivy Flats (near Lytle Street Park) and the children played on the log.

---

ELIZABETH FURMAN, a retired teacher, lives on Tivy Street. Her late husband, Dick Furman, was in the insurance business. This is her story!

### Floods on the Guadalupe

Usually the gently-flowing Guadalupe River that runs through our town is a pleasure; we swim in it, we fish in it, and picnic on its shady banks. But, in excessively rainy times, it can become a raging giant, doubling its size, its swift current carrying away rocks, debris, and sturdy trees in muddy rolling waves of destruction.

Such was the case in 1932 when a local ranch boy, trying to rescue his horse from the flood, was caught in the current and carried downstream. He managed to hang on to a large cypress tree which was now in the middle of the river. Several people lost their lives trying to rescue him by braving the flood in rowboats, but the cold, hungry, frightened child had to spend the night clinging to the tree.

The townspeople did what they could for him by turning searchlights on him and shouting encouragement. But it was not until late morning of the next day, when the waters had run down considerably, that one of the Fletcher boys finally got to him in a boat. Strengthened by a hot drink and a little food, he was finally brought to safety on the bank.

One flood I do remember well was in 1935. My husband and I were living in a little house on the south side of Quinlan Creek near Schreiner Institute (now Schreiner College). It has been



raining steadily for several days. The ground was soaked and we were not surprised to find how hard it was raining at the head of the river. By that time we had indeed learned to respect the damage floods could cause.

There was no television then to beep-beep-beep flood warning to the populace; so the telephone operators were doing what they could to alert people to potential danger. My mother called us at six o'clock in the morning saying that the operator had called warning that if the North Fork and the South Fork happened to come down together, Kerrville might be inundated. She suggested that we had better hurry and get across the creek.

We dressed, ate breakfast, then got in the car to come to town. At the low water bridge on Main Street we were stopped. The Creek was spread wide over each bank. We knew that trying to cross would sweep the car away. We turned around and tried to get out through the Schreiner Institute campus where there was a higher bridge on the San Antonio Highway.

There, where Quinlan Creek emptied into the Guadalupe, the water was already over the highway bridge. The lower part of Glen Rest Cemetery was covered with water which spread out on each side of the road.

We went back home, put on boots and hunting clothes and rain coats, left the car in the garage, and walked in over the railroad bridge which spanned a deep ditch instead of a creek. This was also a little risky since the water reached almost to the top on the ditch. But it was still "walkable" and just dangerous enough to be exciting. (We were young and daring in those days.)

Having made it to town, we joined some friends in the now-vanished Bluebonnet Hotel. From a room on the top floor we watched the rampaging river with its load of logs and animals and even an occasional small outhouse riding the sea.

**Harry and Melba Lee Crate** live in their retirement home on the Goat Creek Road. He was professor of mathematics and engineering at Schreiner College. Melba Lee was a piano teacher. This is their story about the 1932 flood on the Guadalupe River as experienced at Rio Vista Lodge.

#### Harry's Story:

In 1932—Sometime around July 4—we woke up and realized that the river was rising. Evidently there had been heavy rains overnight on both north and south forks of the river. It had risen about six feet out of its banks and into the flats below the road in front of Rio Vista Lodge (which is located about a mile upstream from Camp Rio Vista). The rowboats were floating on the rising water where they were tied down in front. My classmate, Norman Luther, was working at the lodge. We took a rowboat and started upstream in the flats where there was no down current. It was easy to row up the river behind the row of cypress trees which lined the bank. On reaching the upper end of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long hole in the river, we pushed the rowboat out into the main stream. Then we rode the current down the river. A man passing us on the highway on the north side of the river shouted to us that we were going 45 miles per hour. An empty fifty-five gallon drum came floating beside us. I pulled the drum into the backseat of the boat. We had planned to pull onto the bank when we got back to our property. Just as I was going to pull in, the drum rolled against my knees and I couldn't row. The river was still rising and with the rapid current and the threat of being carried downstream, we were in a fix. I managed to kick the drum out of the boat and row into the bank (at the old Sherman Mill) just before the rapids caught us. The river had risen another ten or fifteen feet. We pulled the three boats further up the gassy slope realizing that the water would rise more.

Behind the Main House at Rio Vista was a car shed for guests. There was a car in one of the stalls. The water was ankle deep around the building. I got in the car to get it out but had trouble starting it. My mother said to come back. I put the car in gear to back it out with the starter. I had failed to latch the door. The door swang open and caught on a cedar post. By that time, the water was up enough that it was pushing onto the car. I had to abandon the car. The water kept rising and washed the car out. It washed to Kelly Creek (about  $\frac{1}{8}$  mile) where it lodged against a tree on the bank above the creek. I later called town and got the water out of the engine and got it running again.

#### Melba's Story:

Before we were married I worked at Camp Rio Vista. Harry Bill's father (everybody called him Pappy) had asked me to come out to work at camp and do typing for him. The day of the flood I was silking corn when a telephone pole broke and came down the river. I went home every weekend so had just a small bag. By the time I got to my cabin, the water was around my ankles. It was frightening. Sweet went to a cabin and didn't save personal things but got food out. By that time the water was coming in rolls. It finally reached the second story of the lodge. There was a cat that hung onto the steps and it survived the flood.

(This story added in 2001.)

**MY MEMORIES OF THE 1932 FLOOD ON THE GUADALUPE RIVER  
BY ALLYNE HOLBROOK JEFFERIES**

I remember the 1932 flood very vividly. I was twelve years old at the time. My family moved to Texas in 1925 when my father was sent to Legion Veterans Hospital. The river was so beautiful and convenient for "three kids" to just run and jump in for a swim. A large group of veterans and families built little houses right on the river bank across from the hospital.

We had moved to Kerrville before the flood. When the river receded, all the little houses had washed away.

My mother and several auxiliary ladies had been visiting at the hospital and had to walk back to town on the railroad tracks. As word spread that someone was clinging to a tree in the middle of the river behind the Blue Bonnet Hotel, the five of us went and joined about the rest of the population to watch and pray for the fella's rescue.

Note: Mrs. Jeffries now lives in Garland. Allyne and her twin sister, Paulyne, were Tivy yell leaders and their brother, Roy was one of the football heroes of the famous 1936 Antler football team. They were the children of Amma and Ollie Holbrook who operated the Westland Tourist Court at the present location of Republic Square between Water Street and Junction Highway.

(This story added in 2001.)





*Dec. 9, 1984 - George Holekamp (r) with his half-brother, Alex, and his sister Alletta.*



*George Holekamp shown here with his border collie, Tip, and some of the Duroc hogs he raised on his Fall Creek Ranch in the early 60s.*



*George Holekamp (r) shown with his sister, Alletta, and his parents, Jennie McBryde and Moritz Holekamp at the home of Alex Holekamp, his half-brother, at 400 Ruth Street in Kerrville in about 1940.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia - George w Sister and Parents, 1940





*Early 1900s - John Allen McBryde, maternal grandfather of George Allen Holekamp, shown here at the Kerr County Fairgrounds which were located in the Five Points area of Kerrville, ca. 1920.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Grandfather John McBryde (George)





*Andrew J. Stevens, Mary Virginia's grandfather, raking hay on the Stevens Ranch in Gillespie County where Mary Virginia grew up.  
This picture was taken around 1900.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Grandfather Stevens Raking Hay



*Ida Burney McBryde, maternal grandmother of George Allen Holekamp in 1944.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia-Grandmother Ida McBryde (George)



*Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stevens, grandparents of Mary Virginia Stevens,  
shown here in their buggy pulled by mules Frank and Kate around the turn of the century.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Grandparents, Mary Virginia



*The following pages were written by Ida Holekamp, George Allen Holekamp's aunt on his father's side. She gave this history to relatives for Christmas. She may have copied parts but most is her composition, according to the family. Ida Holekamp, first child of George Holekamp and Fannie Roggenbucke, was born in Kerr County on February 22, 1872 and died July 3, 1977.*

11  
Geo. Friedrich Hohlkamp  
and wife came to  
Texas aboard the "Johann  
Dethard" on her first voyage  
to this country, with one of the  
first party of German colonists  
who settled in Texas. The  
ship was laden with passengers  
from the then Kingdom  
of Hanover, and other portions  
of Germany, by the German  
Emigration Company, which  
was then under the direction  
of Prince Solms who accom-  
panied the voyagers to their  
new homes. Friedrich Hohlkamp  
was born in Hanover Jan. 22, 1812,  
after completing his education  
at the University, he engaged  
in the manufacture of bricks  
and farming in his native  
land. His father, Daniel Hohlkamp  
a builder and contractor never came  
to America.

(2)

Friedrich Holekamp married march 17, 1844 Betty Wilhelmine Appenther, daughter of Henry Christian Appenther who was a member of the household of the then King Ernst August of Hanover, holding the position of ministerial accountant which he filled until the time of his death. The young married couple sailed for America and landed at Galveston nov. 24, 1844. from there they sailed in a small ship to Indianola, from where they proceeded over land per ox-wagon to New Braunfels, arriving there <sup>in</sup> march 1845. a head-right or piece of land was allotted to Mr. Holekamp there. They remained for about two years. Their son George was born there. They moved every few years; first to Friedricksburg, then Sisterdale

to the Zink farm, <sup>bought by</sup> later Kapp, (3  
(and now Mrs. Langbein farm)  
from there to San Antonio,  
<sup>near the 2nd mission,</sup>  
back to New Braunfels  
and last to Comfort.

Friedrich Holkamp helped survey  
the town of Comfort (under  
Ernst Altgelt) and was the first  
man to build his log house  
in the newly laid out town.  
His <sup>young</sup> son George was with  
him most of the time.

The family came in 1854 <sup>to Comfort.</sup>

Friedrich Holkamp served the  
Confederacy as a member of  
Capt. Kampman's Co. during  
the Civil War. He died ~~in~~

<sup>of wounds</sup> September 1862. He left his  
widow and seven children.  
To Mrs. Friedrich Holkamp belongs  
the distinction of having  
made the first American flag.



that floated over the town of New Braunfels.

It was made from the cloth of various old garments, gathered from settlers. It bore the lone star in the blue field.

She also raised her seven children to honored citizens. George Holkamp was born at New Braunfels Aug. 7, 1846. He married Fanny von Roggenbucke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oskar von Roggenbucke, early pioneers, May 21, 1871 in Kerr County, Texas. The young couple lived on their farm in Kerr County where their son K. A. Holkamp now lives. Their first log-house had been built in 1869. <sup>by George</sup> It had only one room, ~~there~~, their daughter Ida was born Feb. 22, 1872. After that a new log-house was built. more rooms were added as the family grew. Furniture was nearly all home made of cypress wood. Pots and pans of iron, brass kettles, tin pans, plates and spoons of zinc or tin, three tined forks, and just enough to go around. The women and men knew what wild plants to gather for food. Rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, bear meat, larks, quail doves, and other game was used as meat. Indians were still not far away. Not meat every day.

The Mrs. George Holkamp sewed all clothing <sup>even her's pants</sup> for the family by hand till 1878, when she got her first sewing machine, and about three years later she got her first washing machine. The one horse was locked in over night in log house stable. The oxen grazed out in the open. Fields had to be fenced with rails at first. Then came stone fences. Churn was scattered by hand and plowed under. The children chased the blackbirds away from the seed. Brushdrags were used to smooth the soil. Geo. Holkamp had learned the carpenter and cabinet makers trade and therefore was handy with tools. He made himself a drag, a planter and other implements. He built a new house for his mother in Comfort, also built all log houses used for living, stock-housing and so forth and an additional <sup>of pine</sup> to the dwelling. He hauled freight to San Antonio and other places first with oxwagons, then muleteams whenever drought, or hail, or frost ruined the farm products and when work on the farm was slack, he took a job as carpenter, or other work. Cattle <sup>Farms were small, 40 acres was large.</sup> and horses ran free until all land had to be fenced and stock law was in effect. smooth or barbed wire fence

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
 File: Holkamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia  
 Handwritten History Pg. 5 of 11



more farmland was bought during the following years. 6

George Holkamp took his Oath 8<sup>th</sup> day of Aug. 1867  
at the Register's office, 4<sup>th</sup> Sub. Dist. — Permit to Vote —  
He paid his school tax as levied by the Board of  
School Directors of Kerr county in accordance with  
Section Five of "an Act to organize and maintain  
a system of Public Free Schools in the State of Texas",

approved April 24, 1871. He also paid all his other  
taxes regularly. — He helped build the first mill dam for Chas. Dietert  
(at Kerrville).

George and Fanny Holkamp had eleven children  
eight are still living. Ida, Dora (Mrs. Oscar

Strohacker), Fritz J., Moritz, Elsa (Mrs. W. Allerkamp)

Oskar, Kurt A., and Richard J. are the living.  
all except Ida have families of their own.

George and Fanny Holkamp sold their farm to three  
of their sons Fritz J., Kurt A., and Richard J.

and bought themselves a home in Comfort,  
Kendall county. Mr. Holkamp subscribed to various  
barnises and civic improvements. He died  
Jan. 6, 1933 at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Holkamp died June 6,  
1934 at the age of 83 years.

Mr. George Holkamp's sisters and brothers: Julius, Daniell,  
Dora (Mrs. Paul Karger), Ernst, Johanne (Mrs. F. J. Hanner), Betty  
Ernst and Betty are still living. (Mrs. Henry Schmelter)

Miss Ida Holkamp lives in Comfort on her parents late  
homestead. While young, she went to Cypress Creek  
school Dist. No. 9, Kerr County for about three terms.  
<sup>Edward Schmidt teacher -</sup>  
Hoed and  
Picked cotton, helped with other farm work and  
house work, rode horseback, went to dances and picnics  
like other young girls. Took private lessons <sup>English</sup> for a  
short term; Later took a course of book-keeping  
by correspondence, also a course in sewing with  
a seamstress. Kept house <sup>for her brother</sup> and took care of his little boy  
(for about) nine years. Then went to live with her  
parents. She took a 5000 mile trip sponsored  
by extensions service A. + M. in 1921 which was  
her greatest adventure. Then she took a  
reading course in Home Economics by  
correspondence receiving only a certificate  
in Domestic Science. Later she nursed  
her parents; and now has given hot meals  
to school children for several years; (to have  
company at meal-time and to pay for the groceries).  
She also raised chickens for profit two years  
before she went to take care of her brother Moritz's  
Household after his first wife died.

Much interest in extension work.

Before raising chickens she tried to teach "German"  
and other subjects in a small private school, for three terms. —



Dora Holkamp Strohacker Oscar, went to Cypresscreek School about three terms, then went to school in Junction, Kimble county, two terms.

She took sewing lessons later and did all the sewing for her mother and sisters, till she was called upon to sew for other people.

She married Oscar Strohacker son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Strohacker of Comfort; lived on a farm near Comfort, then moved to a ranch called Lynn Prong<sup>Kerr county</sup> and later again to Loma Vista ranch on Bushwack, Kerr County

<sup>Scotfield school</sup> Nellie Mrs. Aug Albrecht, <sup>business course</sup> Anna Mrs. J. B. Sollberger, Emma Mrs. Ed. A. Dranes, <sup>at A.M.</sup> Louis E. are her children.

Fritz J. Holkamp went to Cypresscreek school as long as possible. Then learned the carpenter trade, took a reading and designing course in architecture by correspondence, designed and built houses. Later he took over part of his fathers farm, married Sara Dietert

had two daughters: <sup>business course</sup> Bethie Mrs. G. E. Spillman and <sup>Teacher course</sup> Lydia Mrs. Walter Albrecht. He lately bought a farm and ranch on Fallcreek, Kerr County.

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
File: Holkamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia  
Handwritten History Pg. 8 of 11

Moritz Holkamp went to Cypress Creek School then to Kerrville or Tivy school. Later he took a course in Bookkeeping in a San Antonio school. He worked in a store in Seguin for a short time. He had learned farming at home. He had an interest in the Lynn Prong ranch, got married to Helene Schmidt, <sup>who died young</sup> daughter of Edward Schmidt (school teacher) had one son Alex (who married Grace McBryde) after Moritz himself had married Jenny McBryde. Moritz was a widower over nine years. Alex does Stone mason work.

Alletta L. <sup>H.H. Club</sup> and George Allen Holkamp <sup>H.H. Club</sup> are his other children. Moritz sold his interest in the Lynn Prong ranch. He raised sheep and goats a few horses and cattle. He is also in the chicken and dairy business now. They have a nice lot of fruit trees and berries. Mrs. Holkamp and children are interested in extension work.

Oskar Holkamp went to Cypress Creek school to business college, worked in grocery stores, for the Moline Plow Co. sells Life Insurance married Henrietta Baerner, then of Comfort Has one son Otto <sup>oil co engineering</sup> now married. <sup>Oscar</sup> Lives in San Antonio

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
 File: Holkamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia  
 Handwritten History Pg. 9 of 11



Elsa married Willie Allerkamp and lives on a farm in Kerr County. She went to Cypress Creek school and helped at home.

She has five children: Anita, <sup>business course</sup> Ada (Mrs. Elmer T. <sup>business course</sup> Koude, San Antonio); Myrtha (Mrs. Clarence Harsfler); Robert, working for his mother and himself, <sup>High school</sup> Isabel (Mrs. Chester Spewrath). Mr. Willie Allerkamp is in the Hospital for the Insane in San Antonio about six years (now 1939) — Anita is sponsor for girls 4 H club.

Kurt A. Holkamp went to Cypress Creek school; to A + M college about one term after taking a little study by correspondence. He worked his father's farm, finally bought part of it.

Married Lottie Wiedenfeld daughter of Otto Wiedenfeld; has four children, Loretta learning music and teaching at Denton, Esther married after taking a teachers course, Morris <sup>A.M. one term</sup> at home <sup>farms</sup>,

Emmett graduating Comfort High 1939 —

— K.A. Holkamp master Farmer —  
K.A. is a practical farmer, dairy man and poultry raiser. His wife belongs to Parent Teacher Association, social clubs, and interested in civic, extensions and other public interest.

Richard G. Holkamp went to Cypresscreek school, the Tivy High school, Kerroville; To Bliss Electrical school at Washington D. C. as apprentice at the West allis Chalmers Co. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Decided to farm, married Katie Wiedenfeld sister to Kurt's wife; Has four children:

Wishes to try out new plants.

R. Walter at Kelly Field (mechanic) James C. at Colledge Station (marketing) Harry graduating Comfort High (1939) Jeannette in the fourth grade; 4 H girl. They have a small truck garden, fruit Orchard; Dairy Chicken business. Mrs. Holkamp belongs to H.D. Club and is Council Delegate.

† Friedrich Holkamp and Betty W. Appenther + children:

Daniel Holkamp married Helene Falter, later Frances Wiedenfeld: Sons: Otto married Anna Roggenbucke, one son O.C. at Dallas.

Edgar " Emmie Roggenbucke, one daughter

Daniel T. married Alma Voigt, one son Raymond

Daughters Clara " Rudolf Jersig have children

Agnes " T. P. Codrington have Charles and T. P.

† Dara married Paul Karger +

Otto Karger

Elsbeth Mrs. Wm. Boerner

George

Betty Mrs. Arthur Flach +

children living.

For Daniel's history go to one of his sons. Otto or Edgar.





*Holekamp Family Gathering at Camp Maddox on Upper Turtle Creek in 1954: L to R – Orbrie Reeves, Caroline Reeves, Lorain Reeves, Alletta Holekamp Reeves (sister of George), Moritz and Jennie McBryde Holekamp (parents of George and Alletta), George Holekamp, Lin Holekamp, Mary Virginia Stevens Holekamp (wife of George), Alex Holekamp, Grace McBryde Holekamp*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp Geo. & Virginia – Holekamp Family Gathering, 1954



C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia - Holekamp Family, 1931

1931-George and Fannie Holekamp's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary: Top Row (L to R): Ida Holekamp, Isabella Allerkamp, Kurt Holekamp, Moritz Holekamp (father of George), Otto George Holekamp, Alex Holekamp, Grace Holekamp, Betty Holekamp, Jennie Holekamp, Sarah Holekamp, Dora Strohacker, Nellie Strohacker. Middle Row-L to R): Robert Allerkamp, Elsa Allerkamp, Esther Holekamp, Yetchen Holekamp, Anna Strohacker, Ada Allerkamp, Anita Allerkamp, Lydia Holekamp, Fritz Holekamp, Lottie Holekamp, Oscar Strohacker (holding Dorothy Faye Albrecht), Katie Holekamp, Richard Holekamp (holding Jeanette Holekamp), Morris Holekamp, Richard Walter Holekamp; Bottom Row - (L to R): Alletta Holekamp, George Allen Holekamp, George Holekamp, Fannie (Rogenbucke) Holekamp, James Holekamp, Emmett Holekamp, Emma Strohacker, Harry Holekamp.





1911: The George & Fannie Holekamp Family: (standing, left to right) - Oscar and Dora Strohacker; Oscar and Henrietta Holekamp; Moritz and Helene Holekamp; Kurt Holekamp; Ida Holekamp; Richard Holekamp; Willie Allerkamp; Fritz and Sarah Holekamp. (Sitting, Left to right): Anna & Nellie (behind Nellie) Strohacker; George and Fannie Holekamp w/ little boy, Alex Holekamp; Elsa Allerkamp and daughter, Anita, in her lap; and Betty Holekamp.

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia - Holekamp Family, 1911





*Moritz Holekamp, father of George Holekamp, shown here in about 1910 with one of the Angora goats he raised on his ranch on Turtle Creek.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Moritz H. w Angora Goat





*Moritz Holekamp, father of George Allen Holekamp, raised registered Delaine sheep on his Fall Creek Ranch out on Turtle Creek in Kerr County in the 20s.*



*Ca. 1918 - Mary Linton Barr, mother of Mary Virginia, was a teacher and church pianist.*

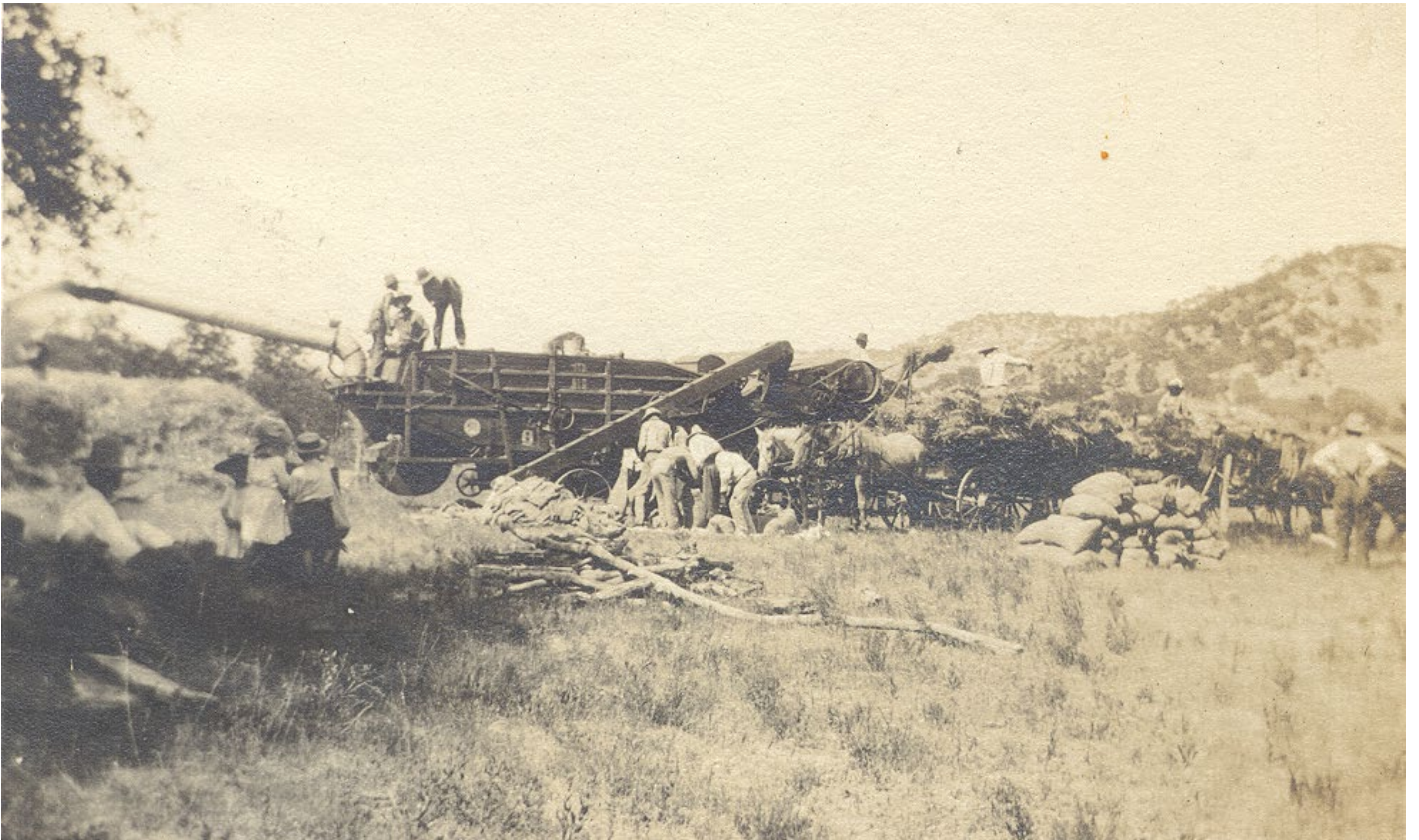
C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Mother of Mary Virginia, ca 1918



*Ca. 1960 - Mary Linton Stevens, mother of Mary Virginia, continued ranching and returned to teaching school after the death of her husband, Lewis Stevens, in 1947.*

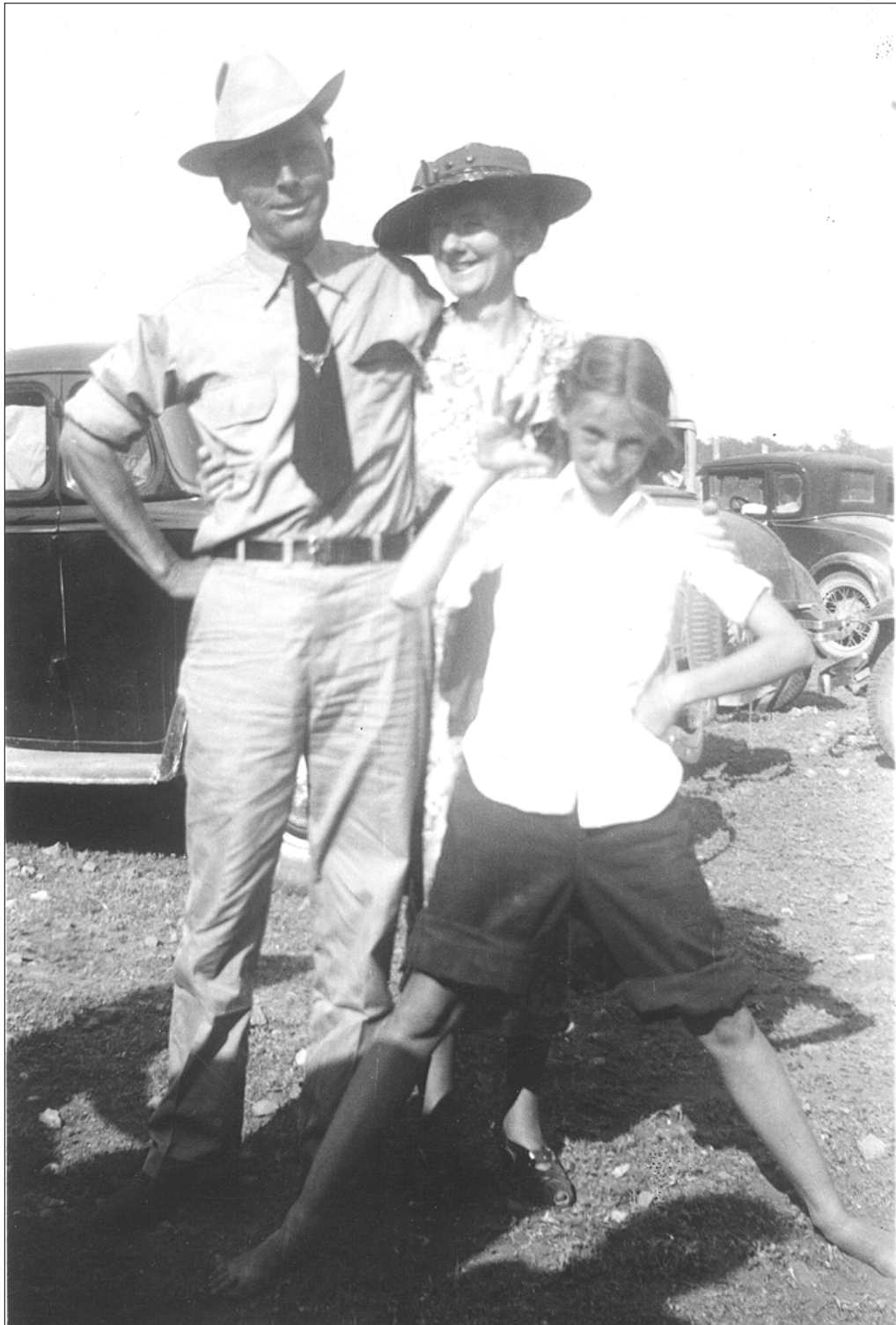
C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia - Mother of Mary Virginia, ca. 1947





*Moritz Holekamp's Fall Creek Ranch out on Turtle Creek, ca., 1910. The pictures show the harvest of an oat crop. The grain was cut with a horse-drawn reaper that tied the grain into bundles. The bundles were place in shocks to dry. The threshing machine was run by a steam tractor and the bundles were fed into the thresher and then sacked by hand. Neighbors helped neighbors and the women prepared big meals for the thresher crew. George and Mary Virginia ranch on this land today.*





*Mary Virginia Stevens (Holekamp) with her parents,  
Lewis and Mary Linton Barr Stevens in about 1938.*



*Lewis and Mary Linton Stevens, parents of Mary Virginia, sit on the front porch steps of their home on the Stevens Ranch in the mid 30s. Above, some of the goats raised on the Stevens Ranch which is located in Gillespie County. It is believed this picture was taken before 1920.*

The State of Texas ( )

County of Kerr, ( )

This Contract made and entered into this

the 7th, day of June 1902 by and between Julius Real party of the first part and Oscar Strohacker and Moritz Holekamp parties of the second part; Witnesseth: Upon terms and conditions hereinafter set out, the party of the first part bargains and sells to the parties of the second part the following described real and personal property, all now situated and being in Kerr County Texas.

First: 8500 acres of land more or less, being what is known as the Lin prong pasture, now subdivided into five separate enclosures about ten miles South of Kerrville Texas.

Second: 425 head more or less of stock cattle, calves counted, being all of the cattle now owned by said party of the first part, except ~~some~~ <sup>year</sup> ~~Stew~~ cattle from oneold up, and one hundred head of cattle of following classes to be selected and reserved by said party of the first part, out of his said stock of cattle to wit: 25 head of cows with sucking calves, 25 calves, <sup>and two yearling heifers</sup> 25 head of dry cows, and 25 head of yearling heifers, and two bulls to be selected and reserved by said first party.

Said party of the first part, reserves 100 acres off of the North side of survey No, 1364 in North corner of said Lin Prong pasture from the operation of this contract.

~~Said~~ Said party of the first part is to have all of said real estate surveyed, and shall on October 1 st, 1902 make execute and duly acknowledge and deliver to said parties of the second parts a good and sufficient deeds of conveyance to said real estate with covenant of general warranty and reserving vendors lien to secure to party of the first part deferred payments on said real estate, and shall then deliver to said parties of the Second part possession of said real estate, and shall further, on said first day of October 1902, deliver to said parties of the second part said 425 head of stock cattle more or less, at the ranch of said party of the first part in Kerr county Texas, with bill of sale duly ~~acknowledged~~ executed by said first party for said stock cattle.

Contract for the purchase of ranch property and livestock from Julius Real by Oscar Strohacker and Moritz Holekamp (father of George Holekamp). Property sold for \$1.75 per acre in 1902.



The parties of the second part, shall pay to said party of the first part the price of \$1.75, per acre for said real estate payable \$2000.00, in cash on said first day of October 1902, upon execution of deed by said first party as aforesaid, and shall execute to first party their certain promissory notes for the balance of the purchase price of said real estate, reserving vendors lien on said real estate to secure payment of same, and maturing as follows: 1st, note for \$1000.00 payable Oct, 1st, 1904, 2nd,

2nd, note for \$1000.00 payable Oct, first 1906, 3rd, note for \$1000.00 payable Oct, first 1908, 4th, note for \$1000.00 payable Oct, first 1913, and the balance in notes of \$1000.00 each maturing one time on the first day of each Oct, of each succeeding year until all of said purchase price is paid, the last note probably being for a fractional part of the sum of \$1000.00. All of said notes to bear interest at six % per annum from said first day of Oct, 1902, payable annually and all to provide for attorneys fees of 10 % for collection in case of default in payment at maturity, and further shall provide that default in payment of any note or installment of interest on any of said notes, as the same matures shall at option of holder of said notes mature all of them, and all of said notes to be payable at Kerrville Texas.

Said parties of the second part shall pay to said party of the first part, for said cattle on said first day of October 1902, when same are delivered hereunder as aforesaid, the price of fourteen dollars per head in cash for all of said cattle except four bulls, and for said four bulls, the price of \$150.00 each in cash; and in addition to the reservations from said stock of cattle above set out said party of the first part further reserves the right to sell from said stock of cattle, not exceeding fifteen head of cows.

Further the parties of the second part, are to have the option of buying at two dollars per head in cash, one half of all sheep owned by said party of first part, numbering about 1650, head to be equally divided, according to class and value. This option however must be exercised within sixty days from this date, and if parties of second part elect to take said sheep, delivery of sheep, and payment therefor to be made on Oct, first 1902.

The party of the first part is

to have the option of pasturing his sheep, not to exceed 1600 head, for not more than two years or during any time or part of two years from said 1st, day of October 1902 in said Lin Prong pasture, for which said first party is to pay pasturage at the rate of \$18. per month for 800 head of sheep.

The party of the first part is to have the right without charge to run his stock of hogs on said real estate said Lin prong pasture until January 15th, 1903, said first party is then to remove all hogs over one year old, except sows with pigs, said parties of second part are to buy all of said sows with pigs at five dollars per head, and all pigs from said stock of hogs at one dollar per head, payable when said sows and pigs are counted and delivered as soon as convenient after said 15th, Jan, 1903. Said parties of the second part are to pay to said party of the first part upon the execution

of this contract the sum of one thousand dollars \$1000. to be credited on final settlement against the price hereinabove agreed to be paid by said parties of the second part for said cattle.

Witness our <sup>hands</sup> the day and year above written.



*Pete and Annie Stevens Wedding Picture - (Back left to right): Harvey Stevens, Annie Wedekind Stevens; James Oliver "Pete" Stevens; (Front, left to right): Lewis Stevens, father of Mary Virginia; Mary Elizabeth Nelson Stevens, grandmother of Mary Virginia; Octavia Lowina "Tavie" Stevens; and Andrew Jackson Stevens, grandfather of Mary Virginia. This picture was made about 1902.*





*George and Mary Virginia Stevens Holekamp's Wedding Picture, May 5, 1951 – Back Row, L to R: Darrell Cantwell, Alex Holekamp, George Holekamp, G. C. Heffernan, Wilbur McBryde; Front Row, L to R: Emily Busch, Patsy Fleming, Mary Virginia (Stevens) Holekamp, Sue Heffernan, Skipper Miller.*

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format  
File: Holekamp, Geo. & Mary Virginia – Wedding Picture, 1951



*Wedding picture of Moritz Holekamp and Jennie McBryde, parents of  
George Allen Holekamp, November 18, 1920.*