

*The
Kerr County Historical Commission
Presents*

An ORAL HISTORY

OF

Thomas Weir Labatt, III

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Thomas Weir Labatt, III
Interviewer: Mary Elaine Jones
Date: April 27, 2022
Place: Tech Center
Tivy High School
Kerrville, Texas

Weir Labatt is known for his consensus-building leadership and is recognized nationally for his work on public policy issues specific to water conservation, which spanned over 34 years. He served on the San Antonio City Council in the late 1980s where his interest in water began, followed by five years on the regional Edwards Aquifer Authority Board. He was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Water Development Board in 2002 and, simultaneously over a decade, represented Texas on the 17-state Western States Water Council, ultimately serving as President. In this interview, he describes his philosophy of servant leadership and the many diverse civic activities he has led in San Antonio and in Kerrville. In San Antonio, among many civic endeavors, he led the San Antonio Health Care for the Homeless as the first project director, chaired the Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as the Alamo Area Council of Governments, and Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio. Born and reared in San Antonio, his early professional career was in the family-owned Labatt Wholesale Food Co., which was founded in 1910 by his grandfather, Thomas Weir Labatt. His mother, Nell Schreiner Labatt, was the great granddaughter of Captain Charles Schreiner and the daughter of Aime Charles (A.C.) Schreiner, Jr., of Kerrville. Weir also has a rich history of service in Kerrville including his participation on the Board of the Charles Schreiner Co., Chair of the Board of Trustees of Schreiner University with sixteen years of service to this point, and his decades-long commitment to the conservation of Glen Rest Cemetery adjacent to Schreiner University through the Kerrville Perpetual Care Association. He and his wife of 49 years, Laura Martin Labatt, retired to Kerrville in 2021.

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: Thomas Weir Labatt III

Date of Birth: November 18, 1940

Place of Birth: San Antonio, TX

Education: Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, TX
University of Texas, Austin, TX

Father: Thomas Weir Labatt Jr.

Mother: Nell Schreiner Labatt

Siblings: Charles Schreiner Labatt

Spouse: Laura Martin Labatt

Children: Aimee Schreiner Labatt Madden
Thomas Weir Labatt IV

Grandchildren: Enderle Gail Madden
Caleb Tucker Madden
Thomas Weir Labatt V
Trenten James Labatt

An Oral History Of Thomas Weir Labatt III

Hello. My name is Mary Elaine Jones, and I am with the Kerr County Historical Commission's Oral History Project. Today, we have the privilege of visiting with Weir Labatt in the studios of Tivy High School in the Kerrville Independent School District. Weir has agreed orally and in writing to share his personal history and his perspective of Kerrville and Kerr County, and he is granting the audio and videotaped interview to the oral history project where it will be housed in the Butt- Holdsworth Memorial Library and the Logan Library of Schreiner University. He is also granting permission for the interview to be uploaded to the Portal to Texas History, which is housed in the University of North Texas Library in Denton, Texas, where the digitized version will be preserved and will be available online for the public, for educators, and researchers. We thank you very much for this gift.

Mary Elaine: I guess the first place to begin would be for you to give us your full name, where you were born and when you were born and your parents full names.

Weir: My full name is Thomas Weir Labatt III, and I was born in San Antonio on November 18, 1940. I went to Alamo Heights High School and then The University of Texas in Austin; served two years in the military. I went through ROTC at The University of Texas and served in the US Army for two years as a second lieutenant quartermaster. I wound up being stationed at US EUCOM Headquarters in Paris where I ran a branch commissary. They figured out that my family was in the grocery business, and they needed somebody to run this little commissary. So, I did that during my time in the service and I learned a lot about Paris and France. It's a magnificent city, and I was very lucky to be stationed there.

I came back to San Antonio after serving two years and went directly into the family wholesale grocery business, Labatt Wholesale Grocery Co. An interesting story about that was that my grandfather Labatt came to San Antonio in 1910 and bought a company called Hugo and Schmeltzer that was located in the Long Barracks directly next to the Alamo. After the Battle of the Alamo, a second floor had been added to the Long Barracks and the building became a warehouse.

And after my grandfather bought Hugo and Schmeltzer they moved to a different location. The Alamo became a grain depot, and it became rodent-infested. It was decided to tear the Alamo down. And that's when the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, led by Clara Driscoll and Adina De Zavala, saved the Alamo.

Our family business had this predecessor that was located right next to the Alamo.

Mary Elaine: It is indeed interesting and your parents' names?

Weir: My father was Thomas Weir Labatt Jr., and I'm the third. I have a son that is the fourth and a grandson that is the fifth. My father was born in San Antonio, and he married a Kerrville girl, Nell Schreiner.

And so, my life has been in San Antonio, but also very much in Kerrville, because my grandparents lived in Kerrville. I was in Kerrville as a little boy all the time. I have incredible memories of mostly my grandfather, A.C. Schreiner Jr. He had a place out on Upper Turtle Creek, and we would spend summers out there. And in fact, he and his wife would move there in the summer and then back to 405 Water Street and live in town nine months out of the year.

I had a relationship with Kerrville through my grandparents and my mother, but also with all of the people that they were associated with. They treated me like a son, and it was really wonderful. Family names like Garrett, Schmerbeck, and Eastland were close friends of my grandparents.

Mary Elaine: Very interesting. Just back up a bit. Do you have siblings?

Weir: I have a brother named Charlie. Just the two of us. And I'm married to a wonderful woman; this summer, we will have been married 49 years. I married Laura Martin and Laura is one of 13 children and they are from Austin. We have incorporated a lot of that family into our family. We've had a great relationship.

Mary Elaine: Do you have children?

Weir: We have two children. I have a son in San Antonio. He's married and has two children. He is Thomas Weir IV and his son is Thomas Weir V. And, I have a daughter who is married and lives in Dallas. She has two children who are both at the University of Arkansas. And the oldest one is a junior this year and studying nursing there.

I'll give you a little history of their names. Our daughter's name is Aimee, the female version of Aime. One of Charles Schreiner's brothers was named Aime and his oldest child was named Aime Charles. His brother was killed in the Battle of the Nueces in 1862, one of the Unionists trying to get away from the Confederates. His name is on the big marker in Comfort (commemorating the battle).

Charles Schreiner, who is my great, great grandfather, named his eldest son, Aime Charles Schreiner, after his brother Aime who was killed at the Battle of the Nueces.

Mary Elaine: And Aime Charles (A.C.) Schreiner is your great grandfather.

Weir: Right.

My daughter's name, Aimee, means "beloved" in French. And my daughter named her first child Enderle. Charles Schreiner's wife's maiden name was Mary Magdalena Enderle. There is an Enderle Street that is off Water Street in Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: I want to hear more about your Kerrville connections, but you have very strong connections in San Antonio also because of your grandfather on your father's side. Could you talk about San Antonio and then come back to Kerrville?

Weir: Absolutely. That would be fun.

Mary Elaine: Where did you go to high school?

Weir: Alamo Heights.

Mary Elaine: And then you went off to college.

Weir: To The University of Texas in Austin.

Mary Elaine: I was in the business school. I knew that I wanted to go back into the wholesale grocery business. The company that my grandfather bought in 1910 evolved and became Labatt Wholesale Food Company and I worked there for 20 years.

In 1984, we could see that the industry was changing. The small independent grocery stores were disappearing, and it was time for us to sell our company. Prior to that, in 1968, we got the contract to service all of the restaurants and food service outlets at HemisFair '68 and that created a brand-new company for us called Labatt Food Service.

In 1984, when we sold the wholesale grocery firm, my half of the family sold the food service company to my uncle and his four siblings. Labatt Food Service is still in the family.

I'm not involved and don't have any ownership in the food service company, but my son, Thomas, works there. So, I got involved in the community. I wound up being chairman of the Fiesta Commission for Fiesta Week when I was a young man. I was 38 years old. I don't think I knew what I was doing!

I was on the board of Our Lady of the Lake University in the seventies. Then when we sold the company in 1984, I made two commitments: One, that I was going to be a servant and the second, that I was going to try to be a peacemaker. Not being a very peaceful person, I was going to try to be a peacemaker.

And from that point in 1984, life was keeping up with family and all of their activities. But I really got involved in the community when I became the first director of the SAMM Shelter for the Homeless.

Mary Elaine: And what does SAMM stand for?

Weir: San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry. It was a partnership of a coalition of about 20 churches and one synagogue, and we opened up a downtown shelter for the homeless with 250 beds in 1985.

Mary Elaine: Was that the height of homeless need?

Weir: Well, I don't know. It seems like homelessness is a continuing problem, but then it was a problem. And this coalition of churches got the city to donate an old hotel that was not in use. We renovated it, moved in and I became the first director, not knowing much about the homeless business, but I was the only applicant that applied that had any business background. I did that for two years. I got the shelter up and running and then I turned it over to a social worker.

While that was going on, I was appointed to the City Council of San Antonio, and I served on the City Council for seven and one-half years. During my tenure on the city council, I got involved in the dispute over the Edwards Aquifer and became intimately involved in the water issue. I served on many committees dealing with water as a city councilman.

I then ran and was elected to the first elected Board of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. And after a five-year tenure on the Authority, I was appointed to the Texas Water Development Board, a statewide board that, among its many duties, collects water data and distributes funds to different entities in the state for water related projects. I served 10 ½ years on the TWDB.

As part of my duty there, I became the Texas representative on the Western States Water Council. The Council represented 17 Western states--from Texas all the way up through the Dakotas and to the west. I became chairman of the Western State Water Council in 2012.

I continued after that to stay involved in the water issue. Just recently, I was president of a water supply corporation that built the Vista Ridge water pipeline project, which is bringing water from East Texas to San Antonio. It was a \$600 million project that was completed in April 2020.

I only have one project left in San Antonio. You want to talk about that?

Mary Elaine: Yes. I'd like to back up, though. And you were appointed by Governor Rick Perry? Was that because of your work with the Edwards Aquifer?

Weir: Well, it was because of all my work on the water issue. And I expressed an interest in the water board. I didn't know the governor really, but I had great support from a lot of the business community and leadership in San Antonio. And thanks to their letters of support Governor Perry appointed me to the Texas Water Development Board. I was the first San Antonian ever appointed to the water board. San Antonio had so many problems with the Edwards Aquifer that the state didn't want any San Antonian being on a state board.

Over time, we completely solved all of those problems and I was involved in all of those negotiations up until we made the final settlement in about, I'm going to say, 2012.

Mary Elaine: So, this peacemaking role came right to the fore? Because of all the different factions and the complications.

Weir: It really did. We had 40 stakeholders at the table, and we were able to work out a deal. I think trying to reach middle ground and come to a compromise is the only way we could come to a decision, and we did have some help there because the Endangered Species Act was in play. We spent five and a half years negotiating the final piece of that Edwards Aquifer settlement. It was quite a miracle we were successful.

Mary Elaine: Amazing and it has long term implications.

Weir: Very much so. It affected groundwater, which is a private property right in most parts of the state. The rule of capture was eliminated on pumpage from the Edwards Aquifer. We issued permits to pumpers that had an historical use over the previous 21 years.

All of the stakeholders realized that if we didn't make that change, a federal judge, acting under the authority granted in the Endangered Species Act, was going to take over the resource and run it for us. That was the real hammer and made the deal possible.

I'm going to back up on you a little bit. In 1984, about the time we were selling our grocery company, I was chairman of a building committee for First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Antonio. We were looking to expand the building substantially, but we had a 12-person committee, and we ran into some difficulties with everybody agreeing on how to go forward. Even though we were church members and had a common objective, we still had problems. So, I came up here to Kerrville and went to a meeting and they were using a consensus decision model. It was a Quaker decision model, and the way that works is that you might disagree, but everybody continues to talk about it until the minority has enough trust in the majority to be willing to go ahead. And we did that church project---the last three and a half years to completion-- without a single vote of the committee. All decisions were made by consensus.

And then I took that same model and applied it in the water world, and people said that it was impossible. "You can't do that." But we did it and it worked. It is all based on a trust level. It really makes things happen when you can trust each other. Not easy, takes time. Have to be patient. But it works.

Mary Elaine: Very interesting. You are known as "Old Man Water" in San Antonio, aren't you? Maybe beyond?

Weir: It was interesting. Bob Rivard, who ran the Express-News-- he was the editor of Express News at the time, coined that name for me. Some of my friends thought he was trying to insult me, but really, he did it as a friend and it was complimentary. So, I've gone along as "old man water" since then.

Mary Elaine: You met a lot of challenges and I know you feel a lot of comfort in what you have done.

Weir: It's been the servant part of that commitment. It has been a real challenge, but a lot of fun because it has led to a lot of different things. While I was a San Antonio city councilman, I was a trustee of the Fire and Police Pension Fund, and when I left the city council, they asked me to be their executive director.

I wasn't a fireman or policeman, but I ran that fund for about six years. And when I left, it was almost a billion and a half dollars fund. So that was on the money side of things. Still, negotiating with firemen and policemen was an interesting process.

Mary Elaine: One of the things I read about in preparation for our visit was that you were Chair of the *Headwaters at Incarnate Word*.

Weir: Back in 2008, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word gave 53 acres to become green space. It is located behind the university campus where the athletic complex is located, they designated it as a nature sanctuary and created a board that became a 501(C)3 non-profit. Almost two years ago, the sisters agreed to a conservation easement which placed the 53 acres in perpetuity as green space.

We now have this marvelous "spiritual forest" which is open to the public for people to use in the heart of San Antonio. I was chair of that board for three years and I'm still involved, trying to raise money for an endowment.

Mary Elaine: How did you come to be connected with that? Is it because you are Old Man Water?

Weir: Yes. The Blue Hole is located in these 53 acres. It is one of a series of springs. The Blue Hole, part of Headwaters, has notoriety.

Mary Elaine: Maybe you could explain a little.

Weir: That is the headwaters of the San Antonio River and that was the genesis of San Antonio because all the early people, the Native Americans, came to that place because it had water. And so now it is a marvelous green space right in the middle of town.

Mary Elaine: And the plan is for there to be a trail?

Weir: San Antonio has developed, as has Kerrville, a number of trails, hiking trails, biking trails. And it comes up all the way from the south of town from Mission Espada, which is about eight miles south of San Antonio. It comes all the way up through Brackenridge Park, but then is stuck because of Olmos Dam. It can't get across the dam to go up to the northern central part of San Antonio. They are going to put two trails through *Headwaters*. One is a pedestrian trail which has been funded, and the second is a hiking/bike trail that's going to come through up and over Olmos Dam to hook up to the trails that are north of there. Those are all in the future. But they will happen. I'm convinced that they will.

Mary Elaine: You must have put your persuasive powers and negotiation powers to work with that committee because the Sisters of Charity were really reticent during the late sixties because of the freeway.

Weir: I think they were. But they realized that as the university expanded, they didn't want it to all be concrete pavement or parking lots and buildings. So, they designated the 53 acres as green space. And with a conservation easement, it'll be that way in perpetuity. Forever.

Mary Elaine: So, you're still working with that. Last remaining project?

Weir: I'm no longer chairman of that board, but I'm still out trying to raise some money. In fact, I was in San Antonio yesterday taking somebody on a tour.

Mary Elaine: And the purpose of that tour?

Weir: I take prospective donors on a tour and then go back to them later and ask for a donation.

Mary Elaine: And that's how they all know.

Weir: I ask for a tour. If they agree to go, they know they're going to get asked for a donation.

Mary Elaine: What else in San Antonio do you want to talk about? Is there anything else?

Weir: Not in particular. It has been sort of a whirlwind. All the activities and being involved in the life of a big city. It's fascinating.

Mary Elaine: Let's talk about Kerr County and the Kerrville connection. Give us some family history.

Weir: Well, as we talked about a bit earlier, my great, great grandfather was Charles Schreiner. My mother was three generations down from Charles Schreiner. He would have been her great grandfather.

Growing up and being part of the community, I knew a lot of my Grandfather's friends, like the Pampells and the Garretts. Two of the Garrett brothers worked at Schreiner Company. A.C. Schreiner, the oldest of Charles Schreiner's eight children and my great grandfather, inherited the Schreiner Company. It was part of his inheritance. So, I grew up going into Schreiner Company as a little boy, and then ultimately wound up being on the Board like my father. I was on the Board until we sold Schreiner Company around 1992.

We sold the company and, once again, it's a story of a very successful company and the world is changing and competing against the big box stores. We saw that coming and we were very fortunate. We were able to sell it. The hardest part of a family business is knowing when to sell it as opposed to hanging on and just driving it down into the ground.

Then another company that I was on the board of was the Kerrville Telephone Company. The story of that goes back to, I'm going to say maybe the twenties. One of the Schreiner brothers, I'm not exactly sure which one, was sitting in the barbershop, and he and the barber were talking about this new invention called the telephone. They were saying, "Well, Kerrville needs to have a telephone." So, the barber, who was Mr. D. H. Comparette, and the Schreiner family started the Kerrville Telephone Company. Comparette became the operator, and the Schreiner family financed it. The two families had a big interest in the Kerrville Telephone Company. My father was on the board, and I was on that board.

It was a real interesting time. And it was a great little company. We sold it in, I think, 1998.

Mary Elaine: Again, knowing when to sell.

Weir: We hated to do it, but it was the right thing to do. So those were two of my involvements in Kerrville. While I was still in San Antonio, I'd drive up and, and participate in those board meetings, those two companies. About 16 years ago, I was asked to be on the board at Schreiner University.

Mary Elaine: Explain the link and who donated the land.

Weir: Charles Schreiner donated the land –about 250 acres in 1923. So, Schreiner is having its 100-year celebration next year. He donated the land, and it started as a high school and a two-year college, and it was called Schreiner Institute. It was for boys only and it slowly evolved into a four-year university in 1984.

It changed as it dropped the high school, became a four-year college at first and we are a university now.

Mary Elaine: There is a Weir building on campus. I believe it is one of the oldest. Would you talk about it and the linkage.

Weir: It has no relation to me. The Weir name is an Irish Gaelic word that means a diversion or a dam in a river. You've heard of a weir in the river.

The Weir family was from Northern Ireland and came to Lexington and they moved right outside of San Antonio in about 1852. Then a Weir married a Labatt and that's how the last name became a first name.

Mary Elaine: So, you do have a distant connection?

Weir: I do, as I have a connection with all of the Weir family. But back to the story about Dean Weir at Schreiner. Prior to that, he went to Texas A&M. He was a football player. He was playing in a game and got hurt and they didn't have a substitute. And they called for somebody in the stands to come out and put on the uniform and play so they would have 11 people on the field. That's the origin of the 12th man at Texas A&M. His name was Heime Weir. Because of his injury, the 12th man tradition was started at A&M. And, of course, as he was the dean at Schreiner for a long time, they named the building in his name.

Mary Elaine: It's a beautiful building. Now, talk about a little bit about your mother and how she fits into the Schreiner family.

Weir: She was born and raised in Kerrville. One of her first cousins was Dodo Schreiner Parker. A lot of people in town remember Dodo Parker. She died a few years ago.

They were first cousins, and we are all from that same branch of the family--the oldest branch of the family through A.C. (Aime Charles) Schreiner. He was the oldest of

Captain Charles Schreiner's eight children. She was a Tivy graduate and went to San Antonio for a year and lived with Anne Hester Harrison, another person from the same branch of the family, and went through the debutante season. She met my father in San Antonio, they got married in 1937, and I was born in 1940. She lived in San Antonio thereafter but was in Kerrville a lot visiting her family and our family place, which is on Upper Turtle Creek Road.

Mary Elaine: Charles Schreiner owned a lot of land, didn't he?

Weir: Charles Schreiner acquired property in his lifetime starting with the Y.O. Ranch in 1880. After he purchased that ranch, he continued to buy property. The property that my family owns is the Bundy Ross Ranch which was one of the ranches he bought in 1901 and it is located just due west of the Y.O., between the Y.O. and Paint Creek Ranch. So, he started acquiring land. It is my understanding that he really didn't spend much time on the land. He was too busy in Kerrville doing all these other things. He started a bank, a wool and mohair company, a hotel. He was County Treasurer for 30 years, a very busy man. The story goes, and I do believe it, that he owned 600,000 acres of land when he died.

Mary Elaine: In several different counties.

Weir: Yes, in different counties. Then when he died, different parts of the family inherited different pieces of property. The Y.O. Ranch went to Walter Schreiner, the seventh oldest child. His inheritance was the Y.O Ranch.

Mary Elaine: Very deep roots in the ranching community.

Weir: Very much so. And there are a lot of stories and about five markers here in Kerr County of the Great Western Trail, which is a cattle trail. They drove the cattle from this area, but maybe even from further south, all the way up into Kansas to the markets. There are some incredible stories about those cattle drives.

Mary Elaine: When you look at all of the trails from Texas, it must have been most exciting.

Weir: It was exciting. But it must have been really hard, though, to ride in the saddle all day long.

So, Kerrville has been my second home forever. I have been involved on two boards initially following in my father's footsteps. Then my wife and I decided when COVID hit that we would sell our place in San Antonio and move up here permanently. And we moved to our family place. This is a picture of a part of it that's really pretty--a picture right here of the lake. That's Turtle Creek which has been dammed up since my Grandfather dammed it up in 1936 when he bought the place and we've got this beautiful body of water. We were out there during COVID, and we would wake up and the turkeys and deer would be there. Now we've got some geese on the place. They are getting ready to depart, to go back to Canada. Living in the country is delightful. We've enjoyed every bit of it. We sold our house a year ago in March (2021).

As I mentioned, we had this involvement with Schreiner University. I've been on the board 16 years. It has been a wonderful journey at Schreiner because we've met so many great people and it's a wonderful little school. It's sort of a jewel. It's a pretty fantastic school and has about 1200 students now. Our goal is to get to 1600, maybe a little bit bigger. COVID slowed us down some, but we are back on track. We hope this next year to get a much larger freshman class. We have wonderful faculty, good staff, and the President is outstanding. We have had good leadership over the years.

I was chairman of the board for four years and this year they gave me a break. I'm still on the board, but I'm no longer chairman. Four years is long enough. We didn't know what the next day was going to hold with COVID. And I guess we still run that risk a little bit unfortunately.

My other involvement in Kerrville has been very interesting. I have been on the board about 10 or 12 years of the Glen Rest Cemetery, which is located right next to the university on Memorial Boulevard. It is a perpetual care cemetery. It's run by volunteers. It started in 1894 and we have about 2900 burials there. My first role was to create a database with all the names and the locations of all 2900 people, and I got that all computerized and it's up on our web page now. So, you can go online and see exactly where the plot is. You can look up by location or by last name.

All or much of the history of Kerrville is represented there. We have a number of Hispanic families that in the last 50 years have bought sites there which is really good. I was president of the cemetery association for seven or eight years and am no longer doing that. They wouldn't let me rest so I am vice president and I'm doing all sorts of other things.

Mary Elaine: I know even the students were engaged in some data collecting.

Weir: They have been engaged. They have taken some tours over there. Spooky Tours is what they call them.

Mary Elaine: Wasn't there some work that they did with headstones?

Weir: I learned we had survey maps from 1994 and I started realizing there were a lot of people buried there that were not on the survey map. It turned out that a number of people were buried, but the funeral homes weren't telling the cemetery association, so we weren't getting them on our records. It was just one of those things that over a number of the years sort of fell through the cracks. I realized we had a deficiency in the survey maps, and they weren't up to date. I went to Schreiner University. A young professor of digital humanities said, "I think I can help you." So, the students at Schreiner, plus I think there were some Boy Scouts involved, took a picture of every headstone in the cemetery and they put that into a site called Billion Graves.com. From that, they were able to send us a spreadsheet with all the names, birth dates and death dates that they had gotten off the headstone pictures that we sent. I took that list and matched it up with the survey map and realized that there were 450 names that were on this list that were not on the survey maps. I've gone back and I found all of them but

three. I can't find three of them. They probably don't exist there. That was a very detailed two-year project.

Mary Elaine: And you were able to get a state marker?

Weir: We were able to get a state historical marker. The Kerr County Historical Commission was instrumental in that help. When COVID hit, the manufacturer of headstones went out of business. So, three years later we got the headstone. I'm in the picture with this new historical marker that we're very proud of. The marker tells about the beginning of the cemetery.

Mary Elaine: Which is also part of the Texas Historical Commission.

Weir: Very much so.

Some of the people that are buried in the cemetery are interesting. Of course, you've got a large number of the Schreiner family buried there. In fact, my mother and father are buried there. The grandparents are there. They had Schreiner on the headstone for my grandparents. And my father said, I'll be buried there, but I've got to have my name on the other side. So, you have Schreiner on one side and Labatt on the other side of this headstone. My wife and I will be buried there. We will be the fifth generation of our family buried at that cemetery.

Mary Elaine: Now you don't have to worry about the care?

Weir: No, we hope the next generation will come along and take care of it. We've worked hard at it. We've added a columbarium. Just recently we had the first remains put in the columbarium. We have 48 niches there for people.

Some of the other families that are buried there, not only the 16 members of the Schreiner family, but also the Holdsworth family. Florence Holdsworth married Charles Butt. Since then, all of the Butt family are buried in the cemetery. And then you have the Peterson family of the Peterson Hospital, including Boss and Charlie Peterson and all the Peterson family. A lot of that family are buried there. So, there is a lot of history of families who were very important to the hill country and the Kerrville community reflected in just these three names. But there are a lot of others.

I just want to tell you one thing real quick, I have been very blessed to have this great heritage that we've talked about. But I think the biggest blessing is that I've been able to give back part of that heritage, to give that back in the form of some kind of leadership, participation, energy.

And that's really important. I have been able to do that because I've been lucky to have good health. I am 81 years old. I still have a pretty good mind-- most days. Physically, I can do more today than I could 20 years ago. I'm always out in the country doing something crazy. If you see this crazy old man in the cemetery doing some work, it is me. You have got to have good health. Then you have to have a good attitude, and you have to have a purpose. Retirees think they're going to retire and play golf, and that's all

they're going to do. And they start to drink, and they get themselves in real trouble. You have to have a purpose in life, continue to exercise, and do things that lead to purpose.

And so, I think with those three, I'd caution everybody that if you happen to be lucky and have taken care of yourself and have good health and have a good attitude and you've got purpose, life is good. And I've been very blessed to have a fantastic life with wonderful family and friends. It has been a real joy.

Mary Elaine: This is a wonderful place to stop. I know you have photos and we're going to put those in place as part of the videotape. I want to thank you for this day and for what you've been able to share with us and to give of yourself as your family historically has given to this community. There are examples all over the place of the family's generosity. And I know that's true for the Labatt side of the family as well.

Weir: It's been great fun to be able to participate and have the opportunity. A lot of people don't have an opportunity to participate. And I have had that opportunity. Thank you to the Historical Commission for this exercise in recording history forever.

Mary Elaine: Thank you very much.

Weir: You are welcome.



Left: Weir and Nell Labatt; Right: Ruth and Stewart Johnson

TEXAS,

and or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Rabbi, Judge of the District or County Court in Peace in and for the State of Texas, GREETING:

TO SOLEMNIZE THE RITES OF MATRIMONY BETWEEN
Mr. Harrison and Miss Hester P. Schreiner
of the County Court of said County, within sixty days thereafter, certifying your action under this License.
my official signature and seal of office, at office in Kerrville, Texas,
the 20 day of March 1908,

J. R. Leavell
Clerk of County Court
By: W. Schichte Deputy

and Minister hereby certify that on the 20th day of March 1908
Mr. Harrison and Miss Hester P. Schreiner
Witness my hand this 21st day of Mar. 1908
H. P. Dickey
Kerrville, Texas

on the 21 day of Mar 1908 and recorded the 21 day of Mar 1908
J. R. Leavell
By: W. Schichte



Frances Hellen Schreiner
Caroline Marie Schreiner Emilie Louise Schreiner
Marv Magdalena Enderle Schreiner

Mrs. Charles Schreiner and Three Daughters



**Captain Charles Schreiner (center) and Five Sons
Aime Charles (A.C.), Gus, Louis, Charles, Jr., Walter**



Nell Schreiner Labatt (Mother)



**A.C. Schreiner, Jr. and Nellie Schreiner
Grandfather and Grandmother**



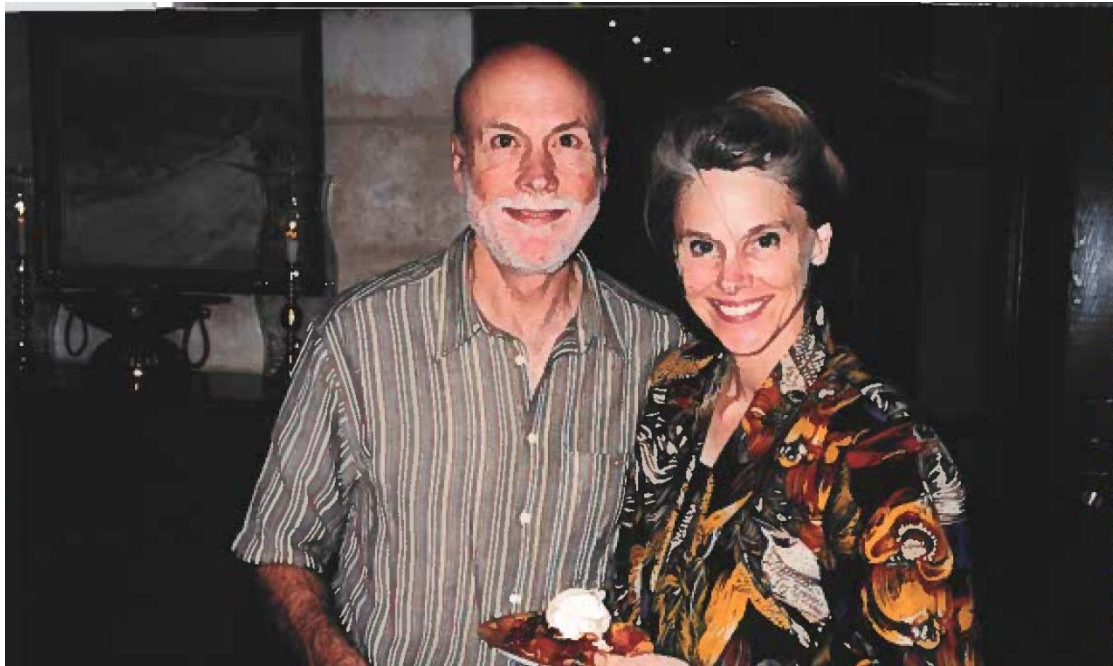
**529 Water Street, Kerrville, Texas
A.C. and Myrta Schreiner Home
Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother**



**405 Water Street, Kerrville, Texas
Home of A.C. Schreiner, Jr., Grandfather
and Nell Schreiner, Grandmother**



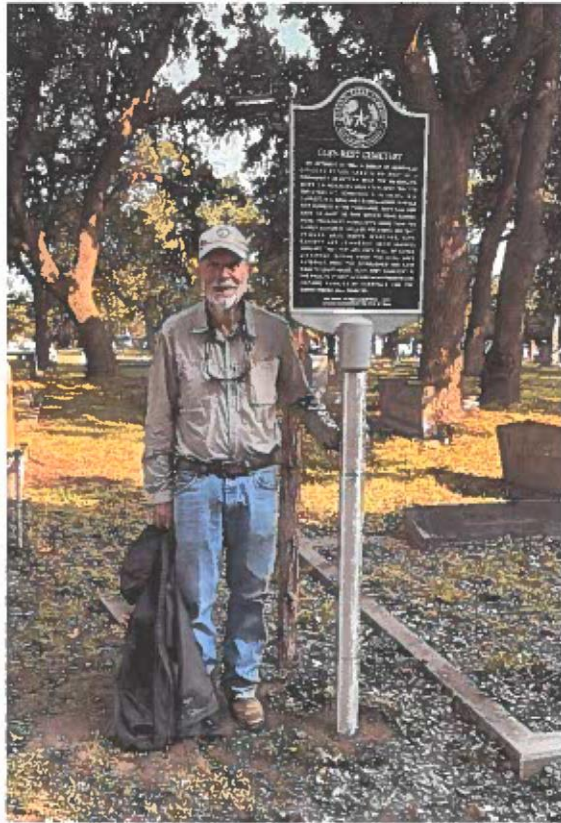
Turtle Creek Farm, Kerr County, Texas



Weir and Laura Labatt



**Thomas Labatt and Aimée Madden
Son and Daughter**



WEIR LABATT



Kerrville Perpetual Care Cemetery Association
PO Box 290241 Kerrville,
TX 78029-0241
GlenRestCemetery.com

