



Texas Family Land Heritage Registry

1982 Volume 8

1982 TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY



For the Family of

Volume 8

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Family Land Heritage Day

For Young and Old Alike, A Day to Remember

Ninth Annual Family Land Heritage Program Honors Ceremony

November 10, 1982

*Invocation Robin Schwartz
President
Future Farmers of America
Senior High School
Austin*

*Introductions Ray Brewell
Deputy Commissioner*

*Welcome and Remarks Reagan T. Brown
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture*

*Presentation of Certificates
Announcer Loretta Ewart
Director of Special Programs*

*Reception Follows
Ninth Floor, Stephen F. Austin Building
17th and Congress*





ATASCOSA COUNTY

JOSE JUSTO RODRIGUEZ RANCH —1878— Four miles north of Pleasanton
FOUNDER: Jose Justo Rodriguez of Zaragosa, Coahuila, Mexico

(See also Jose Justo Rodriguez Ranches, this county.)

1982 OWNER: Louis Justo Rodriguez, Pleasanton

Jose Justo Rodriguez came to Texas at the age of 21 with his family, seeking a better life in San Antonio. After living in San Antonio for a few years, the founder and his family, threatened by the plague and other illnesses, decided to move south to start a homestead somewhere along the waters of the Galvan Creek. The founder received a land patent for 160 acres from Governor Sam Houston on February 17, 1860, and began making his living raising livestock, including goats, sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry, and farming cotton, corn, and beans. The Rodriguez family lived in constant danger of the Indians in the area and the family's children were always kept within close watch of their parents who feared that they might be kidnapped. On October 1, 1878, Rodriguez bought a separate 160 acres from G. D. Gilliland for \$1.00 an acre. In about 1895, a house of red sandstone and lime was built of which only a portion of the walls now remain. Rodriguez helped to build a church in the community, known then as San Augustine, with the assistance of Enrique and Manuel Esparza, sons of Gregorio Esparza, a hero of the Alamo. In a back room of the church, the parish nuns

taught school to the local children. The founder trained and broke horses and mules and would sometimes rent teams to other farmers and ranchers for as much as \$30.00 a year. He also sold the teams, at times the payment received being crops or other items needed by the family. He also loaned milk cows to other families in need in the area. There were three children born to Rodriguez and his wife Santa (Martinez): Jose E., Catarino de Jesus, and Maria Antonia.

The great-grandson of the founder received 57 heritage acres on June 30, 1976, the land having come from his father Jose Justo who in his turn had received it from his father Catarino. The current owner of this portion of the land has since added an additional 50 acres to his holdings where he raises cattle and coastal grazing. Louis Justo lives on the land with his wife Consuelo (Montemayor) and 14-year-old daughter Dina Ann. A barn now used on the property was built in 1912 from lumber that was used as a dance floor at a Diez y Seis de Septiembre (Mexican Independence Day) fiesta celebration in Pleasanton.



Jose Justo Rodriguez (center, seated) acquired the patent on his Atascosa County land from Sam Houston in 1860. He is shown with his sons and daughter, in-laws, and grandsons.

JOSE JUSTO RODRIGUEZ RANCH —1878— Four miles north of Pleasanton

FOUNDER: Jose Justo Rodriguez of Zaragosa, Coahuila, Mexico
(See also Jose Justo Rodriguez Ranches, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Simon Rodriguez, Sr., Pleasanton

When Catarino Rodriguez, son of the founder, received the 160 acres on May 25, 1904, he and his brother Jose continued the same livestock and crop production begun on the land by their father. They bought and acquired more land, 3,072 acres in all, as it became available and increased their herds of livestock. Their sister Maria Antonia also owned many acres of land, enabling them to raise more livestock. C.D.J., as the second-generation owner was known, was a familiar figure in Atascosa County, participating in many civic and community activities. He donated much of his time to the county and headed a group of men to maintain and build county roads

leading to many of the farms and ranches. Ana Esparza, granddaughter of Alamo hero Gregoria Esparza, became C.D.J.'s wife and they had four children: Jose Pedro, Jose Simon, Maria Gregoria, and Jose Justo.

Fifty acres of the family land passed through Catarino's son Jose Justo to his son Simon, Sr., on October 31, 1974. The great-grandson of the founder owns livestock and has land in coastal grazing. He lives on the property with his wife Santos (Lopez) and five children: Simon, Jr., Reynaldo, Sylvia Ann, Rolando Jaime, and Ronny Lee.

JOSE JUSTO RODRIGUEZ RANCH —1878— Four miles north of Pleasanton

FOUNDER: Jose Justo Rodriguez of Zaragosa, Coahuila, Mexico
(See also Jose Justo Rodriguez Ranches, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Mrs. Maria Santa Rodriguez Zuniga, Pleasanton

On May 13, 1959, Jose Justo took over the 160 heritage acres originally settled by his grandfather, adding 317 acres and selling 45. Corn, cotton, and other produce as well as poultry and livestock were produced by the third-generation Rodriguez owner. Due to the drought in the early 1950's, Jose Justo found employment as a civil service worker to supplement his income and continued the family tradition of farming and ranching operations in order to hand it down to his children. At the present age of 78, he continues to own livestock and assist his children with theirs. A good neighbor, he has helped out other people in the area by giving them wood for cooking and heating purposes; he also loaned livestock to other ranchers and farmers whenever it was needed. There were eight children born to Jose

Justo and his wife Paula (Martinez): Manual V., Maria Matilda (Castillo), Jose Fermin, Simon, Sr., Louis Justo, Juana (Benitez), Maria Santa (Zuniga), and Guadalupe (Donato).

There were 40.86 heritage acres in the land which the current owner received on June 30, 1976. The great-granddaughter of the founder lives on the property with her husband Benny and son Jimmy Joe. Benny Zuniga operates the land, which they have increased by 67 acres, where he raises coastal grazing for his cattle and horses. He is employed by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association as a brand inspector and, as the founder once did, trains and breaks horses for roping and working cattle.

AUSTIN COUNTY

***MUERY RANCH —1882—** Two and one-half miles west of Bellville
FOUNDER: Jacob Muery of Province of Aargau, Switzerland
1982 OWNER: Allen N. Muery, Bellville

Jacob Muery was 25 years old when he landed in Galveston from his native Switzerland in 1866. Soon after, he sent word back for Anna Wernli to join him and they were married upon her arrival. His initial purchase of Texas land was on November 1, 1869,

while acquisition of the tract still in family hands was made on December 13, 1882, when he bought 71 acres from Richard Graham. Over the years, Muery added considerably to his holdings, 1,815 acres in all, and sold 548 acres. The founder built five rent houses on

his land for tenants who helped him in the production of cotton, corn, tobacco, sugarcane, cattle, horses, mules, and oxen. Muery boxed out springs for drinking water and washing on a branch of the land which had been the home of a tribe of Indians before he acquired it. He also built a cotton gin, sugarcane press, and blacksmith shop on the property. Two acres of land donated by the founder were used for a community school house where both the second and third-generation owners of the land once attended classes. The original school building, which was also used for box suppers, dances, and parties, was replaced in 1928 with a new structure in a different location on the same property. By his first wife Anna, Muery had five children: Charles, Samuel, Louis, Betty (Reinecke), and Mary (Schaffner). After Anna's death, Muery married her sister Elizabeth and they had three children: Emil, Otto, and Adele (Wammel).

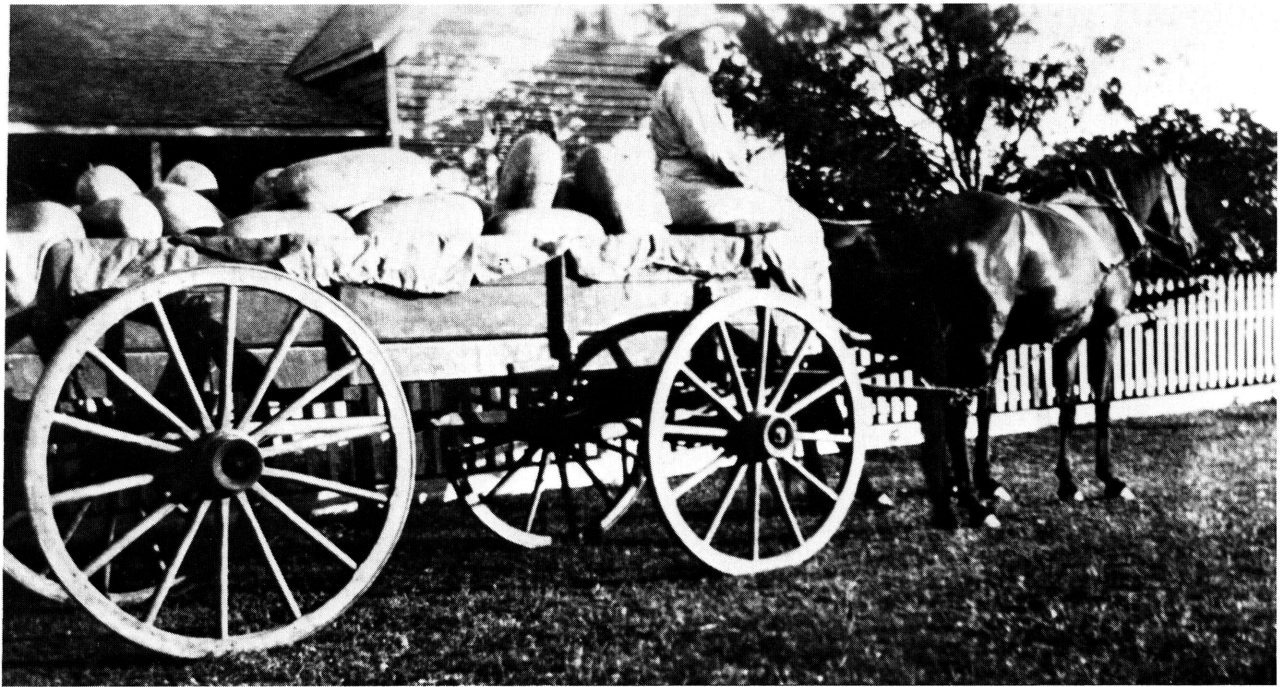
In 1904, the founder's son Emil acquired 275 acres from his father and began producing watermelons, corn, maize, peanuts, cows, hogs, chickens, and horses. A trustee for the Oak Ridge School for many

years, he was an overseer of roads in the area which were kept up by community members who donated time and equipment in lieu of paying taxes. Anyone who brought a hoe or shovel was credited with 50 cents a day; oxen and slip, 75 cents; and horses or mules and slip, \$1.00 a day. Emil also furnished the land and water for a dipping vat when the fever tick hit the community; the vat was used by cattlemen in the area every six weeks in their fight against the pest. Eleanora H. Bartay became Emil's wife and they had one child, Allen N.

In 1972, Allen N. took over 171 acres from his father who had sold off 104 acres. Included in this land was the original 71 acres founded in 1882. The grandson of the founder, who raises polled Herefords on his land, provided an airstrip on the property for use by airplanes serving the community in the days before Bellville had an airport. He and his wife Earline live in Bellville, two and one-half miles away from the ranch. One rent house, now used as a barn, was built by the founder and is believed to be 100 years old.



Jacob Muery founded his ranch in Austin County in 1882. He donated land for the Oak Ridge School shown when it was newly built in 1928. The present owner of the Muery Ranch, Allen N. Muery, is shown standing, last on the right.



Emil Muery is shown here with a wagonload of watermelons he produced on the 275 acres of Austin County ranchland he acquired from his father in 1904.



Jacob Muery immigrated to Austin County, Texas from Switzerland in 1866. He is shown with his second wife, Elizabeth, also a native of Switzerland.



Second-generation owners of the Muery Ranch, Emil and Eleanora Muery prepare for a buggy ride. They worked their Austin County ranch between 1904 and 1972.

BASTROP COUNTY

***MURCHISON RANCH —1871—** One mile west of Cedar Creek

FOUNDER: Kenneth Murchison of Austin, Texas

1982 OWNER: Kenneth Roy Murchison Oehler, Cedar Creek

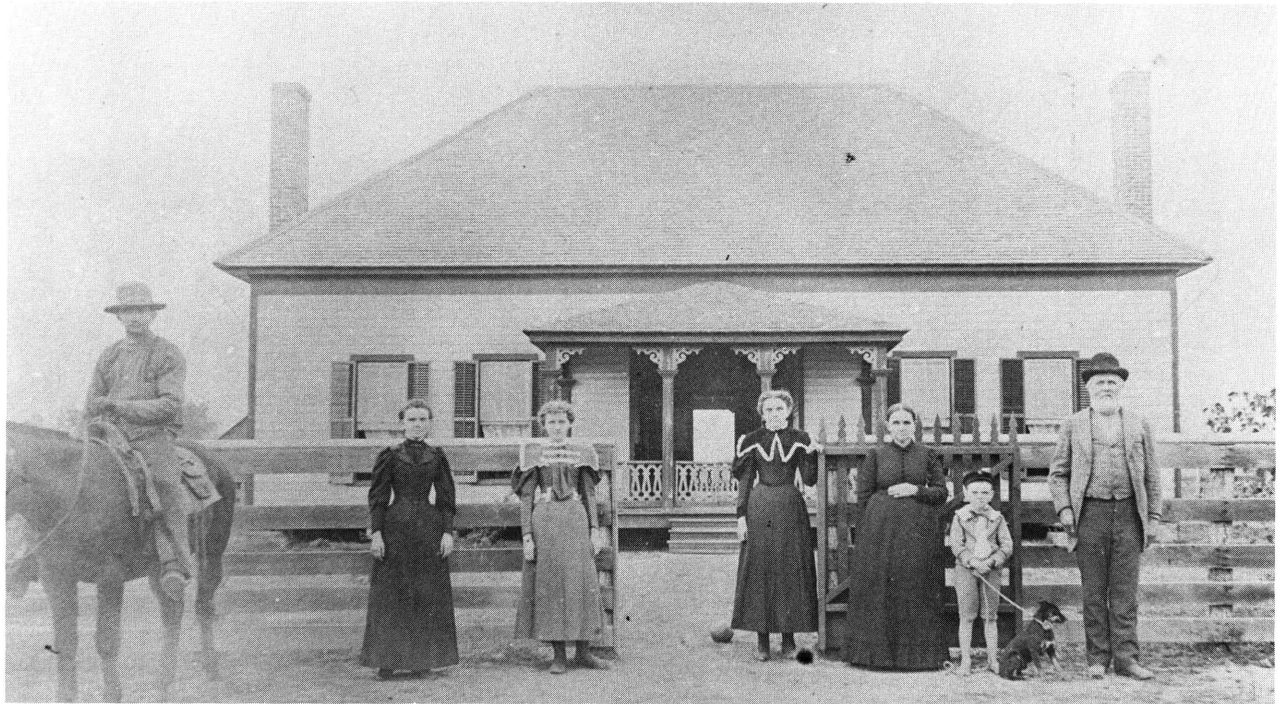
Kenneth Murchison was born in Austin in 1841, the son of Alexander and Mary Murchison, natives of North Carolina and pioneer settlers of Travis County. Records show that Kenneth's sister Nancy J. was the first white child born in Travis County. His father Alexander erected many of the first houses built in Austin. At the age of 19, Kenneth joined Company B of the Seventh Texas Volunteer Infantry and took part in Civil War battles, being captured at Pleasant Hill and exchanged. After returning home, he began farming and stockraising, remaining with his parents until 1870. Deed records show the purchase of 505 acres on January 10, 1871, by the founder where he produced cattle and cotton. He participated in the "Cedar Creek Uprising" around 1888 in which Reconstruction era problems resulted in a battle between blacks and whites. Kenneth was appointed election judge for Cedar Creek Precinct Seven in 1889. Martha Willmeth White, a native of Bastrop County, had become his wife in 1868 and they had eight children: Kenneth, Jr., Stella, Nora, Celestia, Peter A., Roy (who died as an infant), and Harry and Wallace who both died young.

There were 462 acres in the property passed from

Kenneth to his son Kenneth, Jr., in 1903. He lived on the land with his wife Della (Yoast) and they had two children, Estella (who died as an infant) and Andy Kenneth. Kenneth, Jr., was gassed by the Germans somewhere in France during his participation in World War I, and died in 1926.

His son Andy Kenneth took over the 462 acres in 1926, inheriting an additional 333.5 acres later from his mother. Holding onto the land during the Depression and World War II, Andy Kenneth produced cattle and hay on the ranch.

Since June 20, 1980, Kenneth Roy Murchison Oehler has been in possession of the acreage owned by his father, 462 of which can be traced to his great-grandfather. He has begun an improvement plan on the land, refencing and reclaiming land from the mesquites, clearing 125 acres, and planting 40 in Coastal Bermuda grass. The owner, who produces cattle on his land, plans to move onto the ranch as soon as a house can be built. The original Murchison family house, built around 1872, still stands on the property along with two log barns now used for storage.



This 1896 photograph shows ranch founder Kenneth Murchison (right) and his family in front of their Bastrop County home.

BEE COUNTY

HOWARD RANCH —1877— Twenty miles northwest of Beeville

FOUNDER: Thomas Burwell Malone of Athens, Alabama
(See also Malone Ranch, this county.)

1982 OWNER: Weldon Ellis Howard, Skidmore

The land which Thomas Burwell Malone purchased in 1877 passed in 1892 to his son Nathaniel B. who sold it to his brother Thomas James Robert. Thomas was married in 1896 to Mary Elizabeth Wolfe. They had six children: Jephtha, Cordelia, Maymie Lucretia, Grace Pearl, Perry Irwin, and Margaret LuElla. Following Thomas' death in 1939, his wife Mary took over the 240 family acres, continuing to raise cattle, horses, bees, corn, and cotton.

On April 15, 1961, Grace Pearl received 63 acres of the

family land from her mother. Grace and her husband William Ellis Howard raised cattle on the land and also reared four children: Weldon Ellis, Clyde Irwin, Annetta, and Rozetta Loraine.

On August 11, 1972, Weldon Ellis took over the 63 acres owned by his mother. The great-grandson of the founder practices soil conservation on his property where he raises mixed breed cattle and Coastal Bermuda for hay and grazing.

MALONE RANCH —1877— Twenty miles northwest of Beeville

FOUNDER: Thomas Burwell Malone of Athens, Alabama
(See also Howard Ranch, this county.)

1982 OWNER: Margaret LuElla Malone Dorris, Mathis

Thomas Burwell Malone was born in Athens, Alabama, in 1828 to Nathaniel and Mary Greene Jackson Malone. In that same year, his father died, leaving Mary with two baby boys, Thomas Burwell and his brother Frederick James. She packed up the family and moved to Holly Springs, Mississippi, to live with an uncle, Dr. James Malone. The boys grew up in Mississippi and in 1846, they both fought in the Mexican War. In 1848, Thomas Burwell married Nancy Keziah Borroum and they set up housekeeping on a farm eight miles from her mother's plantation in Lafayette County, Mississippi. However, Texas soon drew both brothers and their wives to look for land of their own. They lived in several areas of Texas before settling in Bee County and most of Thomas and Nancy's 11 children were born before they settled there. The children of Thomas Burwell and Nancy were: Mattie, Mary, Margaret, Fred, Nannie, Thomas James Robert, Will, Lula, Nathaniel, Jesse, and Ella. In 1862, Thomas Burwell left his family to join the Confederacy in the Civil War. He fought in the Battle of Missionary Ridge and was a war prisoner for a short time. It was 1874 when Thomas Burwell Malone came to Bee County and bought land from the heirs of Henry Coley near the present town of Mineral. Three years later, in 1877, he bought another section of land (640 acres) from a Mr. Roberts who had bought it from Beaty, Seale, and Forwood a year earlier. Thomas Burwell and his family were part of the original settlers of this part of Bee County. In 1880, Nancy died and nine years later, Thomas Burwell married Mary Elizabeth Looney. They had four children: Lamar, Jeff, Nellie, and Fannie. Production of the Malone land included mixed breed cattle, horses, corn, maize, cotton, fruit orchards, and bees.

In the 1880's one of the many Mexican bandit gangs which roamed Texas stole cattle from the Malone Ranch, the loss amounting to thousands of dollars. Claims were made by Malone to the Mexicans and they eventually paid the Malone heirs.

In 1891-1893, Thomas began buying \$1,500 worth of land, usually around 640 acres, for each of his 11 children by Nancy Borroum Malone. This was to be their inheritance. The section bought in 1877 was the land given to his son Nathaniel, who sold it to his brother Thomas James Robert; this is the land still held today. The second family of Thomas Burwell and Mary Looney Malone would inherit at his death his livestock and the ranch land that was his own. Very little of the 11 sections and Thomas Burwell's personal land still belongs to the Malone family.

The 640-acre section purchased by Malone in 1877 passed in August of 1892 to his son Nathaniel B. who sold it to his brother Thomas James Robert in less than a year. Thomas eventually sold off all but 240 acres of the land. Thomas and his wife Mary Elizabeth (Wolfe) were the kind of people upon whom neighbors could and would call for help. Shared jobs included such tasks as butchering and preserving pork, starting beehives, canning vegetables, and nursing sick folks. They had six children: Jephtha, Cordelia, Maymie Lucretia, Grace Pearl, Perry Irwin, and Margaret LuElla, who is also known as Madge. More than once, they also took in children of relatives to raise as their own when illnesses or death had left them homeless. Strong Christian people, they were active in the local Baptist church.

Thomas died in 1939, leaving Mary to continue operations on the land.

In 1960-61, the land was divided among her children, with Perry Irwin receiving 63 acres. Raising cattle, cotton, and hay, he terraced back fields to prevent soil erosion. He and his wife Faye (Grice) had two children, JoAnn and Coese. Maymie Lucretia, another daughter of Thomas and Mary, also received 63 acres in 1960-61 where she raised cattle with her husband Robert A. Lothringer. They had two children as well, Robert Lee and Adine Loleet.

Today, the current owner, daughter of Thomas and Mary and granddaughter of the founder, operates approximately 189 heritage acres, including land she inherited in 1960 plus that of her brother Perry Irwin and sister Maymie Lucretia. She and her husband

Glenn Dorris have cleared some acres and put in grass for cattle while leaving other acres in brush for wildlife. They have also done work to correct bad erosion of a dry creek bed, have built a new barn, cistern, windmill, and fences, and are in the process of restoring the old house built between 1915-20. While no one lives on the land today, the old house is often used by family members during the year, including being the site of the Malone-Wolfe Reunion which has been held on the first Sunday in June every year since 1961. The original rainwater cistern remains in existence as does the original water well which is still the source of water on the land. Barns and pens on the property date from 1880 and production on the land now includes oats, hay grazer, and registered polled Hereford cattle. Margaret LuElla and Glenn Dorris have one child, Karen. She, her husband Bob Jennings, and daughters Kerry and Jody plan to continue agricultural operation of this Heritage land.

S7 RANCH —1882— Three miles north of Pettus

FOUNDER: William Jefferson Porter, Sr., of Tennessee

1982 OWNER: Eric Robert Spielhagen, Beeville

William Jefferson Porter, Sr., came to Texas in 1837 at the age of 10 with his family and grew up around DeWitt. In 1842, he married Mary Pettus and her mother Martha Pettus turned over the use of the S7 brand to the newlyweds which was first recorded by her father Samuel O. Pettus in 1830. The brand has remained in the family ever since and is still being used by the current owner. There were 1,390 acres in the land which Porter bought on January 26, 1882, both in Bee and Karnes counties. In the following years, Porter added 2,293 more acres to his holdings for the production of cattle. He and his wife had 13 children to help them on the extensive ranch: Samuel O., Persia, Mary E., James N., Sarah A., Phoebe A., John T., Martha A., Addie Y., Cordie Cora, William J., Jr., Phoebe A., and Walter E.

In 1892, 1,347 acres from the original holdings passed to the founder's daughter Sally who for five years raised cattle on the land with her husband Ward William Boyce. The land then passed to her sister Phoebe A. and she and her husband Robert A.

McKinney added corn, cotton, and other livestock to the production of the land. The second-generation owners had one daughter, Thelma Inez.

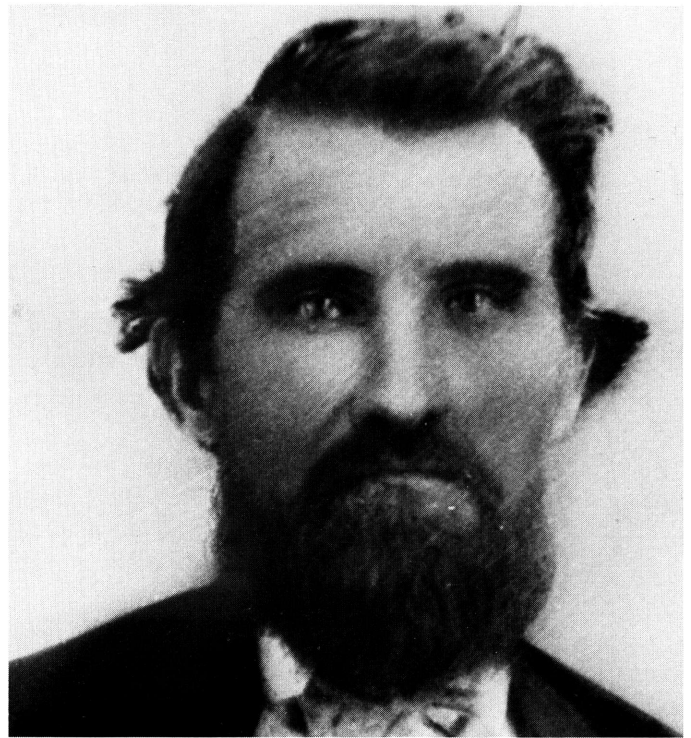
It was in 1937 that Thelma Inez received possession of the family land, including the 1,347 acres passed down from her grandfather. Her husband Eric J. Spielhagen began clearing brush from the land in the late 1940's, finally finishing with the task in the mid-1950's. The clearing operation included poisoning the undesirable trees and blading the land with bulldozers. Hereford cattle were added to the production of the land where the Spielhagens reared a son, Eric Robert.

Since December 26, 1967, Eric Robert has owned 3,100 acres passed to him by gift from his mother, including acreage originally settled by his great-grandfather. He raises hay and corn for the livestock produced on his land while he and his wife Leslie P. live in nearby Beeville with their three children: Elizabeth Inez, Eric Robert II, and Derek Donald.





Margaret LuElla Malone Dorris presently owns 189 acres of the Bee County ranch founded in 1877 by her grandfather.



Thomas Burwell Malone came to Texas from Lafayette County, Mississippi. A veteran of both the Mexican and Civil Wars, he settled in Bee County in 1874.

BEXAR COUNTY

***HILLERT FARM —1880—** Four and one-half miles east of Schertz

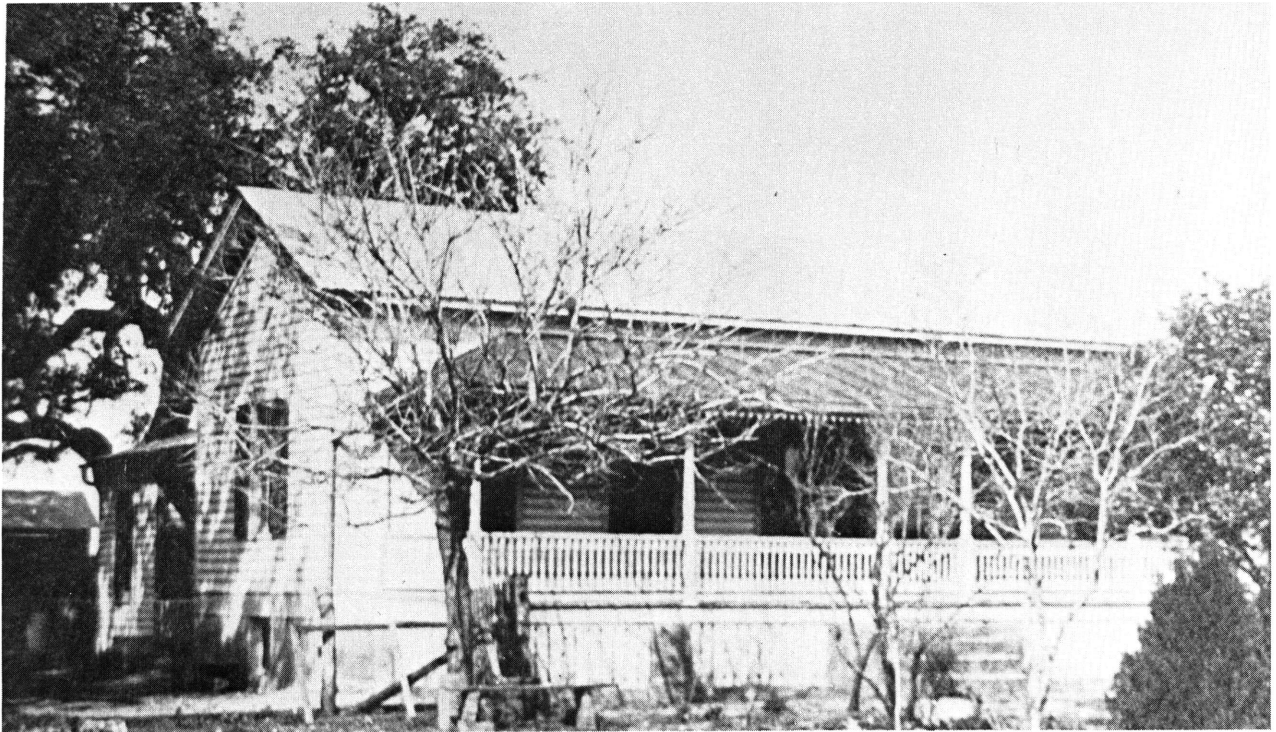
FOUNDER: John Hillert of Comal County

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Hillert, Converse

John Hillert was born in Texas on May 31, 1851, the same year his father had emigrated to the state from Germany. He started a homestead on 125 acres in 1879 and on May 28, 1880, acquired title to the land. The farmer raised cotton, corn, cattle, and hay on his property and also served as a surveyor in the area. A very fine carpenter, he and his wife Bertha (Trebbs), whom he had married February 12, 1879, built a home in the 1880's with a large cellar. Nine of their 12 children lived to adulthood, three of whom are still alive now.

One son, Edward, took over the 125 acres in 1939. He raised cotton, corn, and hay on the property and gave over some of the land for a road.

On January 11, 1979, Edward's nephew Arthur W. and his sons received possession of the 125 acres and have since added an additional 265 acres. The grandson of the founder works with soil conservation on the land to keep it in use for years to come. He is aided in his production of wheat, oats, corn, and maize by his three sons: Conrad J., Richard, and Charles E. Conrad lives in the house originally built by his great-grandfather while a barn also over a century old also remains on the property.



John Hillert built this home a century ago on the farm he founded in Bexar County. The home is presently occupied by his great-grandson, Conrad J. Hillert.

BOSQUE COUNTY

D. C. MITCHELL FARM —1881— One and one-half miles southwest of Mosheim

FOUNDER: J. J. Mitchell (Origin Unknown)
1982 OWNER: Marshal Esteen Mitchell, Clifton

One hundred acres, more or less, were included in the homestead which J. J. Mitchell made on the boundary line between Bosque and Coryell counties. Adding 31 acres in later years, he produced cotton, corn, maize, beef cattle, and hogs. There were eight children born to J. J. and his wife Virginia Ann: W. T., M. C., Sallie, J. M., Henry, Elizabeth V., Charley, and David Crockett. Only Elizabeth and David Crockett lived to adulthood.

The founder's entire acreage was passed on to his son David Crockett in 1906. D. C., as he was known, continued the same production as his father before

him and served on the school board of the Mosheim School for many years. He also helped with the elections of the Democratic party in the community. Minta Mae Riddle became D. C.'s wife and they had four children: Emmett Ewell, Marshal Esteen, and William Clinton and his twin brother who both died in infancy.

The present owner received the 131 acres originally settled by his grandfather in November 1965 and now produces oats, maize, corn, and beef cattle. Marshal and his wife Charline have two sons, Charles D. and John.



J. J. Mitchell founded his Bosque County farm in 1881. Here he looks over cattle as they water at Rock Falls.

CALHOUN COUNTY

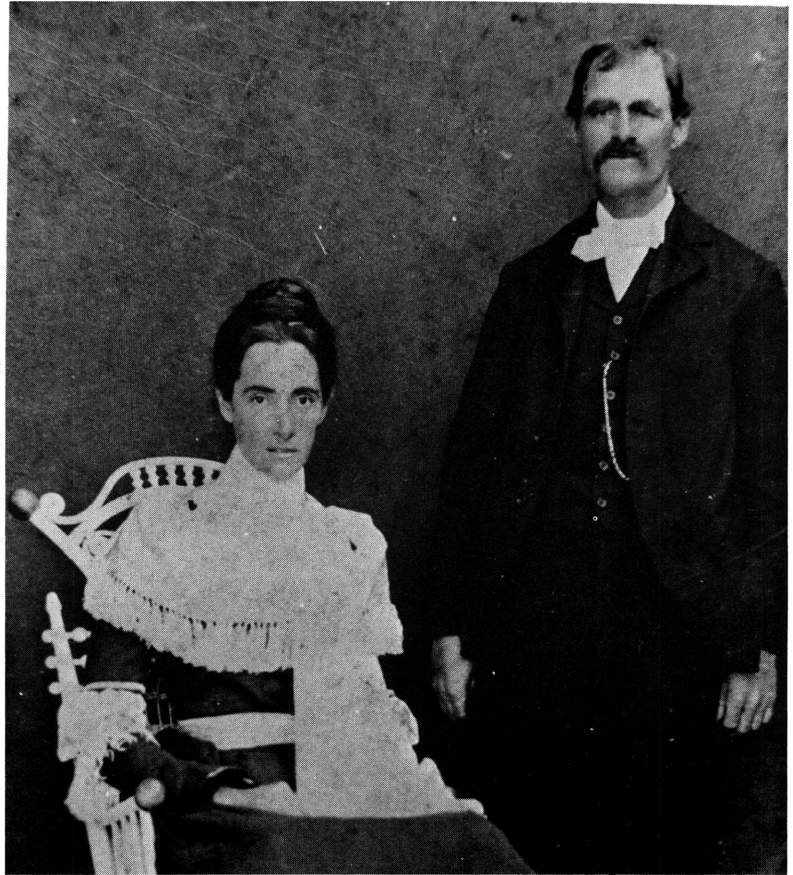
***WEDIG RANCH —1877—** Ten miles southeast of Port Lavaca

FOUNDER: John Wedig of Indianola, Texas
1982 CO-OWNERS: Frances Wedig Hartzog, Port Lavaca
 Etalka Wedig, Port Lavaca
 Frank E. Wedig, Port Lavaca
 John T. Wedig, Port Lavaca
 Ruth Ann Wedig, Port Lavaca
 Thomas Wedig, Port Lavaca

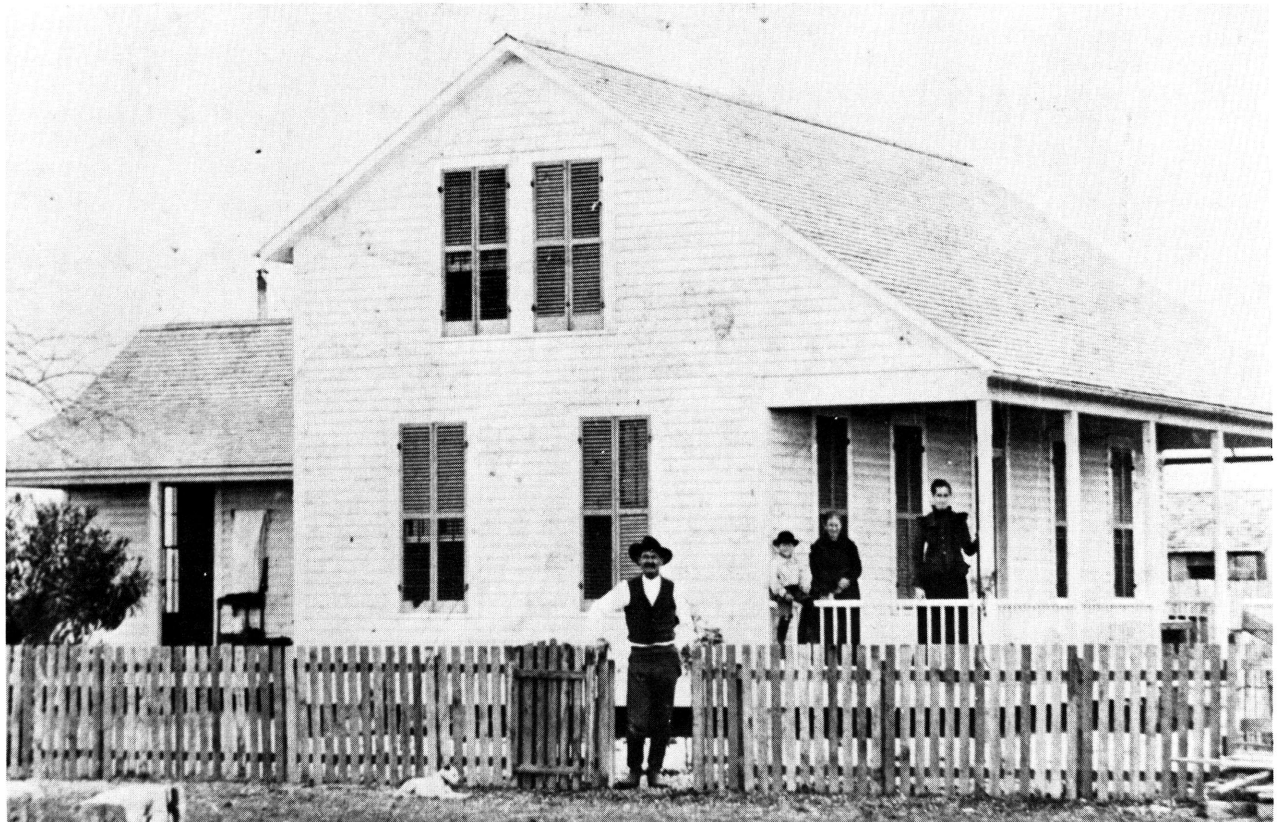
The holder of the original grant which included the land in this property was Narciso Cabazos. John Wedig, founder of the ranch, purchased his league (4,428 acres) from Francisoco S. and Madame Luz E. DeLeon. A native of Texas who was born June 28, 1852, he was part of a family which had emigrated from Germany in 1846 with the Fisher and Miller Colony. Orange and fig orchards as well as cattle consumed Wedig's energies on his land which he increased by 640 acres but eventually decreased by 4,000 acres. On November 28, 1900, he married Katie I. Clark and the couple had four children: Frank, Sr., Dora (Kelly), Etalka F., and Thomas G.

Following Wedig's death in 1921, his sons and daughters took over the land, and raised cattle and rice on the property. Frank, Sr., married Eula Grace Lovorn and they had four children: Frank, Jr., Frances E., Ruth A., and John Thomas.

Today, the land is co-owned by children and grandchildren of the founder. The founder's son Thomas G. still lives in the two-story frame farmhouse built by his father and oversees the cattle and rice operation.



Katie I. Clark and John Wedig married in 1900. Their children and grandchildren still operate their Calhoun County ranch.



John Wedig built his home on Chocolate and Lavaca Bays in Calhoun County in 1877. The home is occupied by his son, ranch overseer Thomas G. Wedig.

CALLAHAN COUNTY

ROSS RANCH —1882— Adjoining north city limits of Baird
FOUNDER: James Evans Ross of York, Pennsylvania
1982 CO-OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Donnell, Baird
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Ross, Jr., Baird

After moving to Mexico, Missouri, at about the age of 20, James Evans Ross traveled on to Texas in the summer of 1882 to look for land to buy as an investment. On August 18 and again on December 22 of that year, he purchased land in Callahan County, 2,240 acres in all that year and 2,560 more at a later time. Cattle and horses were raised on Ross' extensive holdings, land which, at the time of his purchase, was completely open range. Ross was one of the first to fence his land in the area and was always proud of the fact that, while other fences built were later cut, none of his ever were. Ross provided land for a cemetery for Baird, known to this day as the Ross Cemetery. He and his wife Miriam (Warren) had four children: Hugh W., Sr., Etta Bell (Hubbard), Julia Kate, and Miriam Evans (McGarvey).

Upon their father's death in 1900, the four children received the family land. Hugh W., Sr., bought out the inherited interest of his sister Evans and continued his father's tradition of cattle and horse production on the land. The owner and his wife Mary Elizabeth (Bourland) helped to organize the Methodist church in Baird and were both very active in the church up until their deaths. A stockholder and vice-president of the local bank for many years, Hugh, Sr., also built and operated the only fever tick dipping vat in the area during the 1917 outbreak. All the neighbors in the area

brought their livestock to the Ross vats every 21 days to be dipped until the stock were passed as tick free. When Hugh, Sr., died in 1938, his interest went to his three children: Frances (Bookhout), James E., and Hugh, Jr.

James E. Ross, who never married, willed his interest to his brother Hugh for his lifetime, with the land to then be passed on to Hugh's daughter Mary (Sweet), who now lives in Houston. Hugh and his sister Frances also inherited the land which had been owned by their aunt Julia Kate Ross. Eventually, Hugh bought out all the interests of his sister Frances as well as that of Miriam Hubbard Morris and Wilbur Ross Hubbard, his cousins and the children of Etta (Hubbard). In the years since his brother's passing, Hugh and his wife have had another daughter, Janet. She and her husband Tommy Donnell bought the Hubbard interest in the land and operate all of the Ross property as a single ranch. Total Heritage land now in the possession of the co-owners is 3,718 acres while an additional 1,591 acres have also been added to the property. Active in soil conservation, Hugh, Jr., has served on the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service board and has done extensive mesquite eradication on the cattle land. He has also served as county Democratic chairman for 30 years in Callahan County.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

ALEXANDER FARM —1878— Two and one-half miles northwest of Jacksonville
FOUNDER: Jack Alexander (Origin Unknown)
1982 OWNER: Clair Alexander, Jacksonville

The land which has been in the Alexander family for 104 years was originally part of the Jose Pineda Grant. The portion which founder Jack Alexander bought included approximately 100 acres, acquired on May 27, 1878. Alexander, who was living at the time in the Teasleville Community in Smith County, moved onto the land following his acquisition of it and began raising oxen, cattle, wheat, corn, vegetables, cotton, and hogs. The population of the area increased in the following years as new settlers moved into the county. The area itself became known as a peach and tomato-producing and shipping region. Diversified farming was practiced by most farmers, including the founder,

although cotton was the major crop and income source. Alexander was a leader in community activities among the blacks and was respected by all in the area for his integrity, industriousness, and the stewardship of his land. He and his wife Priscilla (Ross), had three children: Whit, Daniel Webster, and Ollie. The family members were leaders in church and similar activities and most of the Alexander children became farmers as well, though some worked at times in nearby cotton gins during the ginning season.

Following the founder's death in 1918, his son Whit took over the family land and a survey by A. N.

Ragsdale showed the original property to include 116 acres. Whit continued raising livestock and grew sugarcane, cotton, corn, peaches, and other vegetables as truck crops. An officer in the Baptist church, Whit was a leader in obtaining schools for black children and was known for charitable acts and for promoting community unity and self-sufficiency. He was secretary of the Chapman Gin Company and also operated one of the early syrup-making mills in the area. Whit and his wife Martha (Tilley) reared a large family of nine children: Clair, Major, Mozelle, Moody, Grady, Jack Colina, George, Lexton, and Zane.

When Clair Alexander took over family land from his father in 1918, he continued operating the syrup mill his father had developed. In operation until 1943, the mill is still maintained in working condition by the current owner. The grandson of the founder has approximately 38 2/3 acres which were originally settled by Jack Alexander as well as interest in another 87 acres, part of which are from the original Alexander settlement. He and his wife Jennie Maye (Fry) live on their farm where Alexander now raises corn, vegetables, horses, mules, syrup, poultry, and cattle.



This portrait shows Clair Alexander as he appeared in 1920, two years after he took over the Cherokee County farm his grandfather, Jack Alexander, founded in 1878.

CHEROKEE MAINE-ANJOU RANCH —1874— Nine miles west of Jacksonville

FOUNDER: A. J. Lloyd (Origin Unknown)

1982 OWNERS: A. L. and Billie Terry Boatman, Jacksonville

Corn, cotton, hogs, cattle, and timber were produced on the 1,280 acres which A. J. Lloyd bought from Edward Smith on February 9, 1874. Only one child, Parthenia Levenia (Ware), is known to have been born to Lloyd and his wife Sarrah L. and it is she who took over the family land.

Parthenia added 106 acres to the 960 she received from her father where she and her husband Simeon H. Ware raised cattle, hogs, cotton, corn, and vegetables. The Wares reared eight children on their farm: Onelia Viola (Ewing), Sarah (Harvey), Martha (Woolery), John William, Estelle (Reynolds), James Franklin,

Mary Belle, and Lillian (Long).

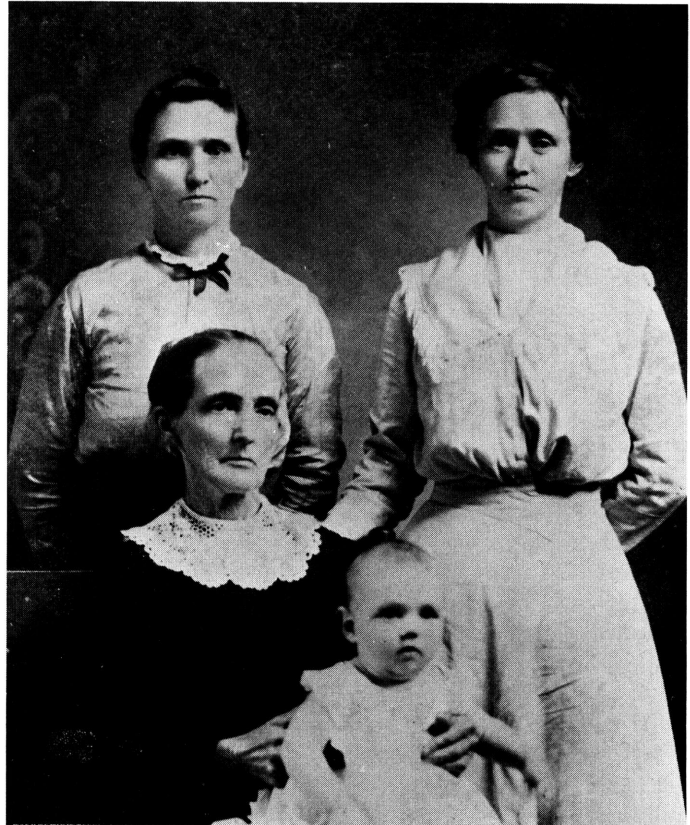
In 1898, Parthenia deeded 742 acres to her children, 106 acres of which went to her daughter Onelia, called Nelie. Nelie married John Porter Ewing and their children were William Robert Sherman, James Harvey, Dora Belle (Lang), Hazel Blanche (Taylor), Lener Onelia, Venia Ledonia (Terry), John Porter, Nannie Elizabeth, and Odus Longmire. They eventually added 15 acres to their farm where they produced cattle, hogs, cotton, corn, and tomatoes.

In 1923, the 121 acres which had belonged to Nelie Ware Ewing passed to her brother John William Ware. He and his wife Ima owned their family land for 23 years and concentrated on production of cattle and timber. The couple had no children and in 1946, sold the 121 acres to their niece Ledonia, called Donnie, who was a daughter of Nelie and John Porter Ewing.

Donnie and her husband Horace W. Terry raised cattle, hogs, chickens, hay, and tomatoes on their family land which they improved by clearing and

erosion control. Their children were Annie Dee (Schooman), Billie Louise (Boatman), Edeth Mable (Pierce), Horace Porter, and Ima John (Kidwell).

Billie Louise and her husband Leon Boatman bought her parents' 121-acre ranch in 1968. They have continued to clear the land and have planted coastal grass. They live on the ranch founded by her great-great-grandfather where they produce Maine-Anjou cattle and hay.



Parthenia (Lloyd) Ware (seated) inherited the Cherokee County Ranch founded by her father, A. J. Lloyd. She and her daughter, Nellie (left), were great-grandmother and grandmother of present-owner Billie Boatman.

COLLIN COUNTY

BOMAR FARM —1856— Five miles northeast of McKinney

FOUNDER: David Bomar of Tennessee
1982 CO-OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Avery D. Bomar, McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Winston F. Bomar, Dallas

The first cotton gin ever operated in Collin County was built by David Bomar who homesteaded 640 acres around 1856. Production on the land, which he increased by about 300 acres, included cotton, corn, wheat, oats, onions, and cattle. Following establishment of the homestead, Bomar and three of his sons left to fight in the Civil War. He and his wife Melinda (Wallace) had six children in all: Newton, Sally, Peter,

Bill, Jim, and George Franklin.

Ninety-four of the founder's acres passed to his son George Franklin in 1877 and the second-generation owner continued clearing land for agricultural production with the help of his wife Minerva Jane (Dunn) and four sons: Lawrence, Thomas, Elmer, and Wallace.

All four of the sons took over the family land in 1952, continuing production on the farm which then included 52 acres. Children born to the brothers included Verta Lou, daughter of Wallace and Leona (Ashford), Thomas D., Jr., and Patrick, sons of Thomas D. and Virginia (Neal), and Winston F., Avery D., and Forrest R., sons of Elmer L. and Daisy (Henry).

In 1953, Elmer and his son Winston bought out the interests of the other owners. At that time, they

concentrated their agricultural efforts on cotton, wheat, oats, and corn production. Three years later, Winston gained control of the family's 52 acres with his brothers Avery and Forrest receiving part ownership in 1981. Forrest lives which his family in Lakewood, Colorado, while Avery's son and daughter-in-law Byron Lee and Christi Bomar now live on the property. The brothers have terraced land on the farm where cotton, milo, wheat, corn, and vegetables are produced.

STEWART FARM —1877— Five miles southeast of Farmersville

FOUNDER: Samuel Lawson Stewart of Alabama

1982 CO-OWNERS: Allyne W. Stewart, Farmersville
Colleen Stewart Aycock, Farmersville

The fertile, black land of Collin County attracted Samuel Lawson Stewart to Texas where on January 16, 1877, he acquired title to 117 acres for the production of cotton, oats, corn, and cattle. Stewart and his bride Mary Ann (Green) used \$500 in gold which had been a wedding present from her parents in Alabama as the down payment on their \$1,500 land purchase and, in later years, added an additional 146 acres to their holdings. Their marriage was blessed with six surviving children: Y. C. (Collie), Milas, Ethel, Ollie, Wylie, and Lonnie. These children graduated from local schools and attended Trinity University, but the sons returned home to work on the family farm, acquire acreage of their own, and establish businesses in Farmersville. In 1916, Samuel Lawson and Mary Ann bought a home and moved into Farmersville where Stewart died in 1922. Mrs. Stewart lived until 1949. The sons continued farming the Stewart farm.

In the early 1900's, Y. C. and Milas bought a business in Farmersville. The Stewart Hardware Store specialized in farm implements and care. They also

became directors of the bank and owned a cotton gin. Unfortunately, the Great Depression wiped them out and the oldest son, Y. C., returned to the farm in 1932. Always interested in soil conservation, he was the first in the area to raise Hubam clover, an important soil builder which added greatly to the fertility of the soil which had been depleted by cotton farming. During this time, his brother Wylie married and moved to Jacksonville to raise tomatoes and their brother Lonnie bought land north of Farmersville to expand his turkey raising business. The grey soil north of town was more suitable for turkeys than the heavy, black clay of the Stewart Farm. When Mary Ann Stewart's estate was settled in 1951, Y. C. purchased the interest of his brothers and one sister and continued farming 213 acres. The four children of his sister Ollie Stewart Gaston (deceased) of Winters retained their interest.

Since 1962, Y. C.'s wife Allyne, daughter-in-law of the founder, and Colleen, her daughter, have owned the family farm. The production of milo and wheat is overseen by Colleen's husband Robert J. Aycock, Jr., who retains the pasture for the production of cattle.



Sometime between 1900 and 1910 the agriculture agent from McKinney (seated in the buggy) visited the Collin County farm founded by Samuel Lawson and Mary Ann Stewart. Here he views a field of grain with Y. C. Stewart, oldest son of the founders.

COLORADO COUNTY

DR&RS RANCH —1882— Seven miles east of Fayetteville

FOUNDER: Paul Schmidt of Czechoslovakia
(See also RS Bar Ranch, this county.)

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel T. Schmidt, Fayetteville

The Heritage land that makes up the DR&RS Ranch can be traced back to the Mexican government which on July 7, 1824, issued a patent to John Andrews for land which included this acreage. The 440.7 acres passed through several more hands before it was purchased by Paul Schmidt on December 2, 1882, from H. D. and Emma Fisher. On January 11, 1883, Paul Schmidt sold 6.8 acres out of the 440.7 acres to a neighbor. Paul and his wife Elizabeth set about farming on the land with their six children: Thomas, Amalia (Sister St. Theresa), Antonio, Franziska, Elizabeth, and Marie. They cleared the land, put in water wells, and built several rent houses on the property in order to develop it for producing cotton, corn, sugarcane, cattle, and hogs. Rail service was brought to nearby Pisek which helped with the development of the community. Prior to the arrival of the railroad, the founder helped haul freight from Brenham to New Ulm during the winter months.

In 1925, the family land, then 432 acres, passed to the founder's son Thomas Schmidt. In 1954, Thomas' son Paul inherited a one-sixth interest from him and

bought out the interest of other heirs, bringing his total to 242.96 acres originally settled by his grandfather. Telephone service and farm-to-market roads along with better shopping facilities in nearby towns helped with the development of the farm during Paul's ownership. In addition to their farming activities, Paul and his wife Mary were active members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Frelsburg. Paul, who raised corn, cotton, hay, cattle, and hogs, was widely known for his ability to help farmers with their livestock problems, serving as a veterinarian of sorts in the community. Paul and Mary had a son, Daniel T.

Daniel inherited land upon his father death in 1964 and the remainder of his parents' holdings when his mother died in 1966. He also purchased additional family acres from his uncle Ewald in 1974 to bring his total Heritage acres to 265.182. Daniel, his wife, and their son Ronald live on the ranch where he and Ronald raise and sell corn, hay, and cattle. Material from one century-old building was used in constructing the camphouse located on the premises.

RS BAR RANCH —1882— Seven miles east of Fayetteville

FOUNDER: Paul Schmidt of Czechoslovakia
(See also DR&RS Ranch, this county.)

1982 CO-OWNERS: Richard H. Schmidt, Fayetteville
Lucille Sklar, Fayetteville
Patricia Warschak, Columbus

Improvements made in and around the community near the ranch improved the productivity of the second-generation owner Thomas Schmidt, who received title to the Heritage land from his father in 1925. Gravel and dirt roads were maintained which made travel easier and communication better. Nearby Pisek was an active railroad depot where farmers could dispose of their produce. At the same time, several small stores opened in the area, making items available to farmers and their families. The coming of electricity also helped enormously toward making it possible to develop the ranch. Thomas, his wife Frances, and their six children continued to clear land and bring it into active production. The six children

were: Paul, Elizabeth, Agnes, Richard, Alois, and Ewald.

In 1954, Richard H. Schmidt inherited a one-sixth interest in the family land, buying out other interest in 142.22 acres in March 1954. He also purchased additional Heritage land, 11.384 acres, from his nephew Daniel in 1974. Patricia (Warschak) and Lucille (Sklar), Richard's daughters, inherited their mother's interest in the property in 1976. Cattle are now raised on the ranch under the supervision of Richard and his two sons-in-law Edward D. Sklar and Kenneth Warschak.

COOKE COUNTY

***NELSON GROVE FARM —1861—** Eight miles east of Gainesville

FOUNDER: Robert Carroll Nelson of Pulaski County, Missouri

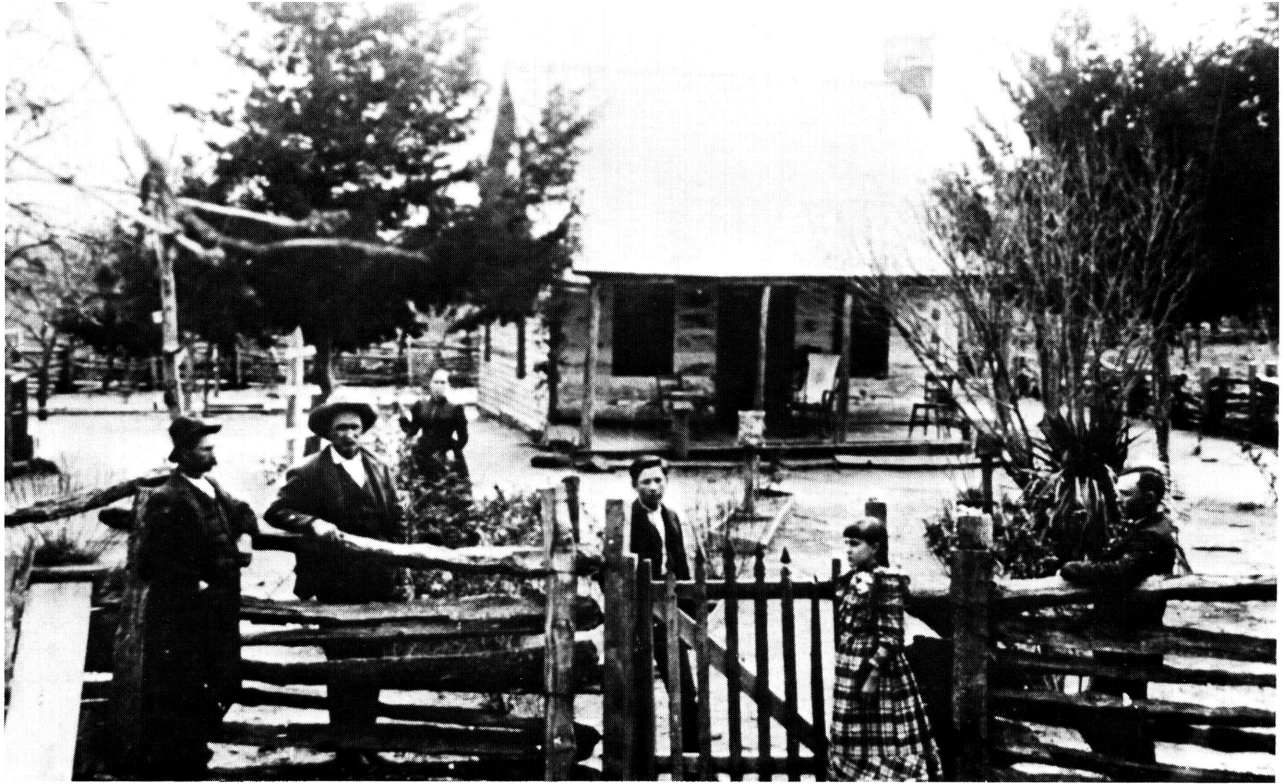
1862 OWNERS: J. R. and Eunice Nelson, Gainesville

Despairing of the fact that the spring rains washed out his crops each year in his native Missouri, Robert Carroll Nelson made the decision to immigrate to Texas. At the age of 21, he had married Elizabeth Stephens, a widow, in Missouri and they traveled together to the state, stopping for a while on the prairie in Grayson County before moving on to present-day Woodbine. R. C., as he was known, was present at the town meeting which selected the name Woodbine for the town, chosen by the assembled men "after pondering the cords of wood with wild woodbine clinging to the fallen branches" (from *The First 100 Years of Cooke County*, page 79). He was also on hand when the first train pulled through Woodbine on November 7, 1879. R. C.'s brother George Nelson was the first man to build a house in the townsite in 1876. The first permanent settler, R. C. located two miles north of Woodbine in an area which became known as Nelson Grove for him. A Civil War veteran, Nelson was instrumental in the development of a school for the community, donating not only time and money toward the effort but an acre of his own land as well. He also donated cemetery land near the school and the first to be buried there was his daughter Mollie, a victim of measles. Following his first wife's death in 1888, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Woods. In all, Nelson and his two wives reared nine children: William Henry Stephens (his step-son by his first marriage), Blanche and Anna Pearl (Sullivant) (step-daughters by his second marriage), and John Edward, Richard Henry, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Carroll, Jr., Martha Jane, and James Francis. He also gave a home to two orphan children, Charles Compton and Ethel Scarvey. Ethel went on to marry Fred W. Davis, who was the state commissioner of agriculture in Texas for three terms. "Uncle Bob" as he was also known in the community, was elected in November 1887 as county commissioner and served for four years. Nelson raised large fruit orchards as well as cotton, oats, and livestock on his original 160 acres, which he increased by 66 1/2 acres. He experimented with many different kinds of crops on his land trying to improve his productivity and was known to have shipped carloads of fruit to markets by railroad from Woodbine. Listed

as a blacksmith in the 1870 census, he was a school trustee for many years as well as a justice of the peace.

Following his death in 1914, R. C.'s land went to his sons Ed, Richard Henry, and James F. and step-son William Henry. There were two houses on the acreage and their mother occupied one and boarded school teachers while James Nelson and his family lived in the other. All school teachers of the Nelson Grove School lived at the Nelson homestead and, as there was no water well at the school, the Nelson water well was used. Families of the second-generation Nelsons were: Ed and his wife Ada, who had no children; R. H. and his wife Susie (Partney) and their children Rad, Bill, Maud, and Pearl; and James F. and his wife Effie and their children Ira, Esther, John Robert, Edith, Grace, Henry, and Jean.

Seventy acres of the family land which John Robert and his wife Eunice Nelson inherited on June 12, 1943, has been in continuous family ownership since it was founded by John Robert's grandfather. In 1945, the current owners also bought back the rest of the founder's land which had been sold in 1933 by John Robert's aunt so that now, all of the original family farm is owned by the Nelsons. President of the Nelson Grove Cemetery Inc. since 1964, J. R. has many other community memberships including past president of the Community Club and membership in the Gainesville Lodge No. 210 A.F.&A.M. for 39 years. Both he and his wife are members of the Cross Timbers Genealogical Society, Cooke County Historical Society, and are active members of the Whaley Methodist Church. The current owners have four children: Robert Irving, James Edward, Alma Lou (Hill), and Carroll Everett. The log cabin which was built by R. C. Nelson in 1861 still stands in excellent condition on the land today and has been visited often by tourists and studied by historians. Logs from the old Nelson Grove School were used in making a barn now in use on the farm. The Nelsons run Hereford cattle on the place where they also grow a large vegetable garden and feed for the livestock.



Members of the Nelson family posed in 1892 before a log cabin built in 1861 by Robert Carroll Nelson, founder of their Cook County Heritage farm.

CROSBY COUNTY

McNEILL RANCH —1882— Twelve miles southeast of Crosbyton

FOUNDER: Captain James Calvin McNeill, Sr., of Union Parish, Louisiana

1982 CO-OWNERS: Mrs. Kathleen Bromley, Austin
 Mrs. Frances Virginia Jung, Lubbock
 Mrs. Sarah Kelso, Angleton
 Mrs. Florence M. McNeill, Lubbock
 George David McNeill, Crosbyton
 James Calvin McNeill III, Crosbyton
 James Calvin McNeill IV, Angleton
 Levi Jordan McNeill, Jr., Brazoria
 Levi Jordan McNeill III, Brazoria
 Mrs. Ann Fentress Phillips, San Antonio
 Mrs. Virginia Raska, Alvin
 Mrs. Barbara Sullivan, Corpus Christi

James Calvin McNeill, Sr., originally came to Brazoria County in 1848 with his parents and maternal grandparents. He served in the Confederate Army and was thereafter commissioned as the commander of a

volunteer militia company organized to maintain order during the Reconstruction Period. McNeill married Sarah Emma Reese and she gave birth to eight children: James Calvin, Jr., Mary Emily, Alice

Douglas, Levi Jordan, Keller Reese, Sarah, Ola Arsene, and Barbara Ann. In 1867, McNeill purchased all of the cattle as well as the SR cattle brand from Samuel Rowe. Needing additional pasturage for his expanding herd, Captain McNeill bought 8,000 acres of Crosby County land from John Duncan in 1882. This acreage represented an undivided one-half of 25 640-acre, odd-numbered sections in a 50-section grant made to the Houston and Great Northern Railway Company for construction of a railroad in South Texas. On the same date, Duncan sold the remaining undivided one-half of these odd-numbered sections to the Kentucky Cattle Raising Company, a Louisville, Kentucky, corporation organized for the purpose of entering the cattle business in Texas. In 1883, McNeill shipped 1,500 head of SR cattle from Brazoria County to Albany, which had been reached that same year by the railroad, then trailed the herd from Albany to the unfenced area where his land was located. From 1883 to 1894, ranching headquarters were in a dugout on Waddell Draw. It was abandoned when a house was built about three miles to the north. The Crosby County cattle raising venture proved to be more of a problem than Captain McNeill had anticipated, requiring more of his time than he had planned. The illness and death of his wife in 1890 left him with eight children to raise, the eldest only 14, which made the circumstances all the more trying. In June of 1890, George M. Williamson, the founder's wife's nephew, came to the ranch to assist with its operation, eventually assuming most of the responsibilities of the Crosby County venture for his uncle. Problems arose with the joint occupancy of the land with the Kentucky Cattle Raising Company, which at one point attempted to starve out McNeill's cattle by fencing. In the end result, the Cattle Company itself went under and McNeill was eventually able to obtain complete ownership of 28 1/2 sections. In 1899, Captain McNeill's eldest son John J. C., Jr., came to the ranch as an understudy to George Williamson. Williamson left to strike out on his own in 1902 and J. C. "Jim", Jr., took over operation of the ranch, a role he continued until 1930. Jim married Frances Cox and she bore him three sons: Jordan Reese, Randolph Calvin, and James Calvin III.

Beginning in 1922, Jim began acquiring ranchland belonging to his father, completing his transactions in 1930 which eventually netted him 3,840 acres originally settled by the Captain. Before taking over

family land, he had already bought an adjoining three-section ranch from H. P. Cole in 1903, and had moved his family onto the property the next year from where he continued management of family land. In 1912, J. C., Jr., purchased 20 registered Hereford cows from the Charles W. Armour Estate, Kansas City, Missouri, establishing one of the first purebred herds in this section of the state. The herd has continued to the present day as a part of the cattle raising operation carried on by his son J. S. III and grandson George D. Until his death in 1949, J. C., Jr., also managed his brother Levi's and sister Mary Emily's cattle interests as well as those of his own.

His wife Frances took over the family land in 1949; J. C. III was appointed administrator of the estate.

On the death of his mother in 1960, James Calvin McNeill III acquired use of the family land; he also leases other Heritage land which brings the total holdings to 8,960 acres. As present resident and operator of the property, he continues breeding registered Hereford cattle started by his father in a partnership with son George. In the 1950's, he cooperated with his brother Jordan Reese in the production of improved grain and forage sorghums. J. C. III was honored by the Crosbyton Chamber of Commerce as "Citizen Through the Years" in 1976 while the same organization also honored his son and co-owner George David as "Citizen of the Year" in 1980. The McNeill family was designated "Agricultural Family of the Year" in 1982. James III and his son George raise cattle, cotton, wheat, grain, and forage sorghums on the property now co-owned by them and other grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the founder. Other family co-owners living out of state include Frank Manley McNeill, Downers Grove, Illinois, Charles Marvin Kelso, Jr., Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Paula Frances Krawatsky, Forest Hills, New York. On August 7, 1982, the family celebrated their centennial and dedicated two historical markers approved for the ranch by the Texas Historical Commission; one honors a home in which George David now lives which is on land purchased by the family in 1904 while the other marker commemorates the 1882 establishment of the McNeill Ranch.





J. C. (Jim) McNeill, Jr. took over the Crosby County cattle ranching operation founded by his father, James Calvin McNeill, Sr. Jim McNeill, Jr. is shown (left) during a roundup in 1902.



Francis Cox became the wife of J. C. (Jim) McNeill, Jr. in 1900. They reared three sons, Jordan, Randolph, and James, at their Crosby County ranch home.



Oscar Ford rides the bucking bronco called Long John in 1922 on the McNeill Ranch in Crosby County.

FANNIN COUNTY

***PERRY RANCH —1858—** Five miles south of Windom

FOUNDER: William Goin of Alabama

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newman Perry, Fort Worth

William Goin came from his birthplace in Alabama by way of Kentucky to Texas in order to farm new land. He acquired 170 acres of Fannin County land in December of 1858. Farm production from 1858 until 1883 included cotton, corn, cattle, and hogs. William was aided in his work on the farm by his wife Annie and their four children: Washington, Columbus C., Lucy Jane, and Johnson.

Lucy Jane, daughter of the founder, inherited 28 1/3 acres and later acquired 37 1/2 acres from her brothers' holdings. Lucy Jane married Monroe Jackson Perry and they lived for many years on her Heritage acres with their children Ruby (Bell), Henry Earl, and Newman Travis. Monroe Perry once hired a boy to shock oats for \$1.50 a day on the farm. That boy's name was Sam Rayburn and the Perry family

enjoyed a life-long friendship with the famous Texan.

The land passed to Newman Travis, grandson of the founder, in 1971. Cotton, wheat, and cattle were the main agricultural products during the four years the land was in the possession of Newman Travis and his wife Christene. Their children were Mary Helen (Butler) and Roy Newman.

Roy Newman received ownership of 65 5/6 acres from the original family farm in 1975 and has added 68 acres since. His parents reside in a house built on the ranch in 1909 and manage operation of the land for their son. They have converted the land once used for crops to improved grasses and concentrate on the production of cattle. They still make use of one barn which dates from the founder's period.

FAYETTE COUNTY

***HOLZ RANCH —1870—** Seven miles north of Schulenburg

FOUNDER: Gottlieb Jochen of Germany

1982 OWNER: Mrs. Diana Nordhausen Holz, Schulenburg

Gottlieb Jochen came to Texas for the opportunity of purchasing land and later helped others like himself emigrate from Germany to the frontier land. On April 30, 1870, he acquired title to 400 acres in Fayette County where he raised grain, cotton, and horses. There were eight children born to Gottlieb and his wife Henrietta (Voight): Herman, Gustav, Alvina (Foerster), Minna (Karcher), Henry, Albert, Carl, and Louis.

Cattle were added to the production of the land by Louis Jochen, who received 190 acres from his father's holdings in 1914. Louise Strobel became his wife and

they had three children: Elsa, Otto, and Alma (Nordhausen).

A few months after Alma inherited 33 3/10 acres of her family's land, she and her husband Herbert bought 33 2/3 more acres from her sister Elsa.

The Nordhausens passed their Heritage land to their daughter Diana in 1969. The great-granddaughter of the founder, her husband Nelson, and their eight-year-old son Jason live on the land where they raise cattle and hay. A hay barn, stable, and part of the house are over 100 years old and are still in use.

***ARNOLD LOTH PINE SPRINGS FARM —1875—** Eighteen miles southwest of La Grange

FOUNDER: Friedrich Loth of Germany

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Loth, Schulenburg

The 74.85 Heritage acres which Arnold Loth now owns in Fayette County were originally settled by his grandfather Friedrich Loth. Friedrich Loth came to Texas from Germany in order to avoid the unfavorable political climate there. Purchasing 75

acres in 1875, he latter added 100 more acres to his farm where he raised cotton and corn. He and his wife Henriette had six children: Carl, Gustave, Albert, Friedrich, Anna, and Minna.

The founder's son Carl added cattle to the production of the 149.4 acres he received from his father in October 1919. Children of the owner and his wife Minna were: Arnold, Louis, Hilda, Alma, Erna, Olga, and Elsa.

As his father and grandfather before him, Arnold Loth

continues to raise cotton and corn on the Heritage land he received in 1941. He has also added Red Angus cattle as well as the production of improved grasses, Coastal Bermuda, and Cardo Bluestem. A home and barn which date from the founder's period still stand and the barn continues to be in use today.

MIKSCH FARM —1881— Two and one-half miles south of Schulenburg

FOUNDER: Henry and Elizabeth Miksch of Austria
1982 OWNERS: Daniel and Georgie Miksch, Schulenburg

Henry and Elizabeth Miksch emigrated from Austria to join friends who had settled in Fayette County before them. Shortly after their arrival in 1881, they acquired their 115 1/3-acre farm where they began production of cattle, cotton, and corn. Their three children were: Frank, Gus, and Rosa.

In November 1904, their son Gus inherited his parents' acreage. Later, he acquired an additional 137 acres. The son of the founder contributed to the development of his community by helping with the construction of roads and by giving rocks to build a church. Bertha Swoboda became his wife and they had six children:

Annie, Rosa, Tillie, Henry, Gus, Jr., and Elizabeth.

Gus, Jr., inherited 250 acres in 1933. He continued to cultivate cotton and corn and began to raise dairy cattle. Helping him on his farm were his wife Emma (Pargue) and their five children: Edgar, Daniel, Margaret, Rosie, and Gertrude.

Daniel and Georgie Miksch received his great-grandfather's original 115 acres in 1961 and own an additional 60 acres where they operate a dairy. They live on the farm with their seven children: Kenneth, Paul, Cecelia, Mark, Chris, James, and Catherine.

GOLIAD COUNTY

JOE KENNE RANCH —1882— One and one-half miles southeast of Weesatche

FOUNDER: Joseph Kenne of Winnsburg, Germany
1982 OWNER: Joe Kenne, Goliad

Joseph Kenne was born February 21, 1829, in Winsburg, Germany. He left Germany and sailed from Alsace, Lorraine, France, in 1870 with his wife Caroline and their two-year-old son August. They arrived in America at Galveston, spent a few years near Moulton, and then settled in Goliad County in 1873. In 1882, Joseph bought 256 1/2 acres three miles northwest of Middletown in an area known as Hog Creek and settled down to farming and ranching. Production on the land included corn, cotton, and cattle. The children of Joseph and Caroline included August, born in Germany, and Henry, Fred, Tado, Joseph, and Caroline. Both Joseph and Caroline died in infancy and are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at

Meyersville.

August Kenne inherited 263 acres in 1911 where he continued to produce corn, cotton, and cattle. Frieda (Franke), his wife, bore seven children: Berthel, Hugo, Alvin, Arthur, Rubin, Joe, and Gus.

It was in 1956 that Joe Kenne, grandson of the founder, received ownership of the 263 acres. He has added 162 acres more and has improved the land for grazing by carrying out clearing operations. Joe and his wife live on the ranch where they continue the family tradition of cattle production.

***LUKER RANCH —1881—** Four miles east of Weesatche

FOUNDER: W. M. Albrecht of Germany

1982 OWNER: Bobbie J. Luker, Weesatche

Bobbie Luker, great-granddaughter of the founder of the Luker Ranch, received her heritage land in 1973 and she and her husband Melvin have added 70 acres to their holdings where they produce beef cattle and hay.

The Heritage land which she now owns was acquired for ranching in 1881 by W. M. Albrecht who had originally come to the frontier of Texas with his parents. Ranching has always been the main occupation on the land where the founder and his wife Louise reared ten children: Hettie, Ollie, Cecilia, Rena, Janie, Maragarette, Gus, Arthur, Alonzo, and William.

Louise Albrecht managed the 950-acre ranch for eight

years following her husband's death. In 1917, their daughter Ollie acquired her family's land and, for the next 54 years, she and her husband J. E. Webb continued the ranching life.

Ownership of the land passed to their only child, Gladys, in 1971. Gladys and her husband Alvin Meyer had one daughter, Bobbie Jean, the current owner.

Three generations of Lukers now reside at the ranch, including Bobbie and her husband Melvin, their son and his wife Randy and Susie, and their son Ryan. The ranch is managed by Bobbie and Melvin and their sons Randy and Russell.

GONZALES COUNTY

HARVEY PLACE —1882— Five miles north of Nixon

FOUNDERS: Prospect and Elizabeth McCoy of Tennessee

1982 OWNER: Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Nixon

Tennessee native Prospect McCoy was living and ranching in what is now called the Dewsville Community in 1882 when he added 843 acres of Gonzales County land to the 994 acres he already owned. Prospect and his wife Elizabeth were lifelong ranchers and played active roles in the development of early cotton and cattle trade in their area. Their seven children were: J. M., Elizabeth, Rosanna (Morris), Adaline (Little), Catherine (Burris), Mary (Pearson), and Fannie (Lynch).

Their daughter Rosanna and her husband E. F. Morris acquired 123 acres of her parents' land in 1900. They operated their land along with adjoining leased land as a cattle ranch. Morris was a merchant as well as a rancher and had a store in old Albuquerque. The children of Rosanna and E. F. were: Edna Earl, Alfred, Venie, May, Exa, Sydna, Freda, and Llano.

In 1901, a portion of the 123 Heritage acres was passed on to Edna Earl and she and her husband R. R. Harvey purchased the balance of the land. They cleared the land along with other landholdings and planted cotton. They built several houses on the land and used it as their headquarters while they worked other leased land. During the 44 years Edna Earl and R. R. owned the land, they sold only 20 of the original

acres. Their six children were: Margaret May, Robert Earl, Exa, Jim, Fred, and Ionella.

Robert Earl Harvey, great-grandson of the founder, inherited a portion of the remaining 103 original acres and purchased the rest from other heirs in 1945. Robert Earl built houses for the production of broiler chickens and raised cattle, corn, and milo. He was very interested in all phases of agriculture and kept abreast of new developments through reading. Many new varieties of vegetables were tried and raised successfully in his large garden. Robert Earl and his wife Annie had two sons, Robert Earl, Jr., and Randall.

Great-great-grandson of the founder Robert Earl Harvey, Jr., acquired the land in 1964. He and his wife Eloise have lived on the land and farm and ranch on it and an additional 1,800 acres in both Gonzales and Wilson counties. Morris Lott Harvey, the son of the present owner, and his wife Pamela now live on the family land where peanuts, watermelons, and cattle are produced under the management of the owner.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

ALTWEIN RANCH —1853— Five miles south of New Braunfels

FOUNDER: JoHann Gotthulf Altwein of Germany
1982 OWNERS: Kermit and Marilyn Altwein, Seguin

JoHann Gotthulf Altwein was a builder of mills and a miller in Germany. He came to America in 1850 aboard the sailing ship "San Francisco," bringing his family and paying passage for two other families. Altwein family members who made the journey included JoHann's wife Wilhelmine (Quant) and their seven children: Augusta (Krams), Caroline (Kuetsch), Emilie (Hoffman), Otilie (Day), Edward, Wilhelm, and Gustav. Another son, Leopold, died before the family left Germany. JoHann bought 40 acres of land in Guadalupe County in 1853, later adding 724 more to his holdings. A school was built on Gutthulf's property in the community of Schumannsville. Originally, the school was called Altwein's School but it was later moved closer to New Braunfels and the name was changed to Unionwein School with the last syllable kept in memory of Gotthulf Altwein.

Only four years after his arrival in Texas, Gotthulf Altwein died and possession of 150 acres of family land passed to his son Wilhelm. Wilhelm received the original 40-acre homestead from his mother in 1868. The land was owned for 53 years by Wilhelm and his

wife Louise (Staats) and they reared their five children there: Emma (Borgfield), Henry, Albert, Meta, and Arthur.

Arthur acquired 141.65 acres of family land in 1907, later adding 53 acres. The Heritage land, included among his family acreage, was in the third-generation owner's hands from 1907 until 1966. Ida Stautzenberger became his wife and they had three sons and five daughters: Melvin, Kermit, Edwin (who died in infancy), Melba (Scheel), Leola (Wurslow), Edna (Roemisch), Lorine (Reichert), and Ida (King).

In 1966, Kermit Altwein, great-grandson of the founder, acquired 100 acres, adding another 92.5 acres in 1970. He owns 139 acres which were part of the founder's holdings, including the 40-acre original homestead. Kermit's daughter Susan and her husband Bennie Thibodeaux live on the land and occupy a house built by her grandfather for his new bride in 1910. The ranch produces cattle under the direction of the current owner.

***B. C. HEINEMEYER FARM —1882—** Six-tenths of a mile east of Geronimo

FOUNDER: Christian Heinemeyer of Germany
1982 OWNER: Benno C. Heinemeyer, Geronimo

Christian Heinemeyer crossed the sea from Germany looking for freedom, a better life, and the opportunity to buy new land. He landed at Indianola in 1847 and was 52 years old when he purchased 162 acres of farm land in Guadalupe County. Other lands owned by Christian, his father, and brother supplied timber for St. Martin Church in Hortontown. Christian married Caroline Harborth in 1855 and they reared a family of seven children: Herman, Anne (Boenig), Caroline (Bormann), Wilhelm, Minna (Haensel), Adolph, and Hermine (Kruger). On land he owned near Harborth Hill, the founder built a log cabin for his wife and children and family stories recount how they slept at night "by cactus plants."

Wilhelm purchased the 162 acres from his father in 1898. He continued to produce cotton, corn, cattle, and feed as his father before him and added the raising of horses and work mules. He cleared more of the land for cultivation and built a home for his future family in 1899 as well as one for his parents next to his own and others for tenants. During his ownership of the farm, he also dug four wells and improved farm buildings and equipment. The owner of the W. Heinemeyer General Merchandise Store in Geronimo beginning in 1899, Wilhelm served as a trustee of the Navarro

School after paying \$50 to be held in good standing by the school. He married Emma Seivers in 1901 and they had two children, Lillie (Bartoskewitz) and Benno Christian.

Wilhelm died in 1917 and his wife Emma took possession of their land a year later. Emma, a woman of great energy, not only managed the farm production of cotton, hay, cattle, corn, and mules but also saw to the education of her children, went into homes of neighbors to help during times of need, sewed special dresses, quilts, pillows, and aprons, and raised garden vegetables and flowers. As her children grew up and married, she turned the operation of the farm over to them. She died in 1968 at the age of 90.

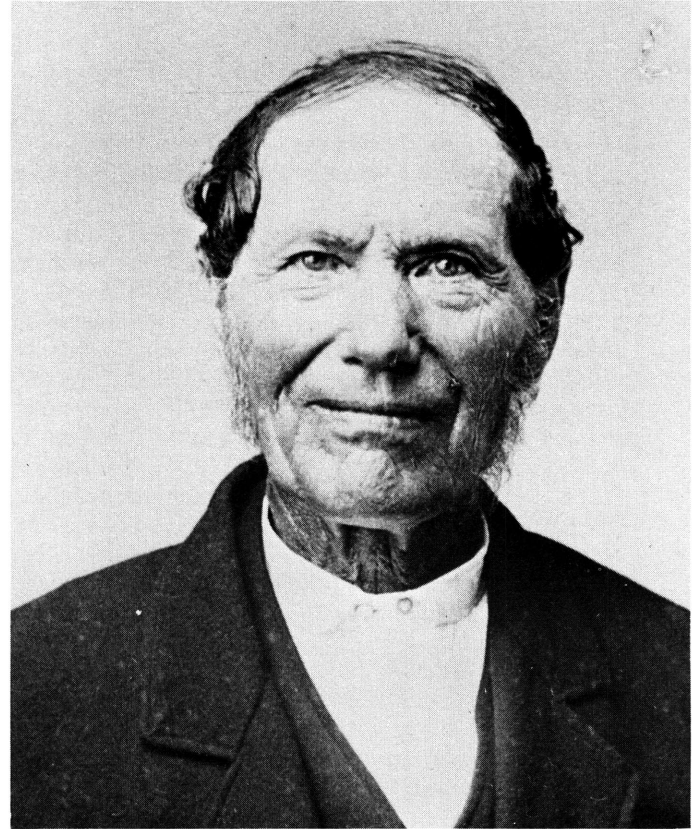
Benno Heinemeyer acquired 78.82 acres of the family land in 1954. He added tractors with implements for more efficient farm operation and adopted soil conservation practices in pasture management, rotating crops and planting legumes. He has also sprigged his pastureland with improved grasses and continues the production of cotton, corn, maize, potatoes, cattle, hogs, and chickens. Benno and his wife Etelka (Tschoepe) and her brother and sister carry on the family tradition of gathering each winter

to slaughter hogs. Benno and Etelka live on their Heritage land and celebrated 50 years of marriage on

June 29, 1982. They have two children, Ben William and Martha Carolyn (Bading).



Caroline Harborth became the wife of Christian Heinemeyer in 1855. She began their homelife in a log cabin in Guadalupe County and became the mother of four daughters and three sons.



Christian Heinemeyer, a native of Germany, immigrated to Texas in 1847 and founded his Guadalupe County farm in 1882. He and his wife, Caroline, were grandparents of the present owner, Benno Heinemeyer.

***LENZ FARM —1880—** Seven miles southwest of Seguin
FOUNDER: Edward Lenz of Poman, Germany
1982 OWNER: Adolph Julius Lenz, Seguin

The Edward Lenz family came to Texas from Poman, Germany, in the early 1870's and settled in the community of Santa Clara. In 1880, Edward Lenz bought 340 acres of farmland in Guadalupe County. A log cabin was already on the place and served, with additions, as the family's home. The family included Edward, his wife Wilhelmine (Jahnke) (Huff), a widow with three children: Frank, Emilie, and Robert. The Lenz's also had four children together: Mary, Julius, Herman, and Gustav. Lenz later replaced the cabin with a frame house which, along with a barn and chicken house, have been in use since the founder's time. The pioneer family cleared some of their land for field crops, hay, fruits, and vegetables. They also began a herd of cattle. Lutheran church services were held in the Edward Lenz home until his brother August gave four acres to be the site of a new church and cemetery.

In 1906, the founder sold his farm to his two youngest sons Herman and Gustav and the portion belonging to Gustav remains in the family now. Gustav and his wife

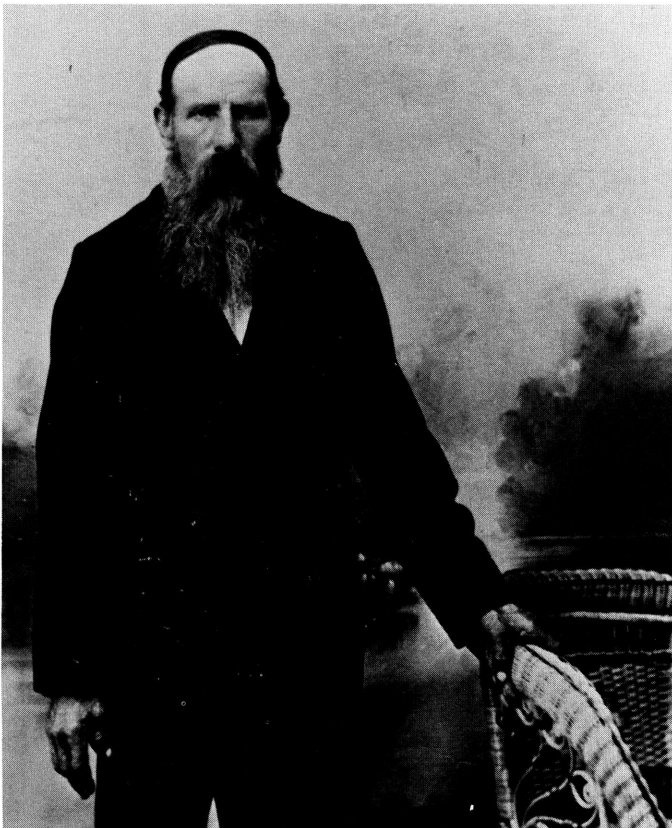
Wilhelmine (Rauch) kept up the farm, always fertilizing for a better yield for the production of cattle, chickens, corn, and garden vegetables. Their children were: Albert, Herman, Adolph, Rudolph, Ida, and Alwine.

Adolph Lenz, grandson of the founder, took possession of 172 acres of his family's land in 1945. He and his sister Ida occupied their lives with farming, raising cattle, and gardening. Neither married but surrounded themselves with many nieces and nephews.

Ida passed away in 1981 and Adolph continues to occupy their Heritage land. His niece Betty, great-granddaughter of the founder, and her husband James Fanick own 60 acres adjoining Adolph's and they and their children Sherri and Fred help their uncle to raise cattle. The Fanick family and Adolph Lenz have also planted many trees, especially pines, and take pride in their country life.



Edward Lenz replaced the original log cabin on his Guadalupe County farm with this home. Shown are second-generation owners Gustav and Wilhelmine Lenz and their six children.



Edward Lenz left his native Germany in the early 1970's. He founded his Guadalupe County farm in 1880 and began production of garden fruits and vegetables, field crops, and cattle.



HAMILTON COUNTY

ANNA L. REA FARM —1881— Fourteen miles west of Hamilton

FOUNDER: Ole K. Rea of Norway
(See also O. K. Rea Farm, this county.)

1982 OWNER: Paul Edward Rea, Hamilton

Ole K. Rea (known as O. K.) left his birthplace in Norway and immigrated to Wisconsin. He left Wisconsin in order to escape the cold winters there, finally settling in Hamilton County where he purchased 638 acres. During the period from 1881 to 1927, he bought 1,300 acres and sold 1,200. O. K. introduced sheep ranching to Hamilton County and produced corn and other grains. In 1927, he divided all of his real estate holdings in order to settle the estate of his wife Anna (Zschiesche), giving a portion to each of their ten children: Albert, Willie, Otto, Emma (Blom), Anna L., Edna (LaDuke), Herman P., Mary Nell (Dawkins), Helen (Bronstad), and Marguerite (Tennie).

From the division of the property of O. K. Rea, his daughter Anna received 193 acres. Anna was educated at Columbia University where she received a master's degree. She managed to continue the production of corn and grains on her family land while traveling throughout the world. Anna died in February of 1979 at the age of 93, willing her land to her grand-nephew Paul Edward Rea, a great-grandson of the founder. Paul Edward manages his farm where he produces corn and grains. The land is presently occupied by Paul's sister Barbara and her husband Troy Goerdel.

O. K. REA FARM —1881— Fourteen miles west of Hamilton

FOUNDER: Ole K. Rea of Norway
(See also Anna L. Rea Farm, this county.)

1982 OWNER: Herman T. Rea, Hamilton

In 1927, when Ole K. Rea divided all his real property among his ten children, a 193-acre portion was inherited by his son Herman P. Herman maintained his farm, adding 350 acres between 1927 and 1980, where he continued production of sheep, corn, and grains. Herman ran unsuccessfully for Hamilton

County sheriff in 1928. He married Julia (Talton) and they had one son, Herman Talton.

Herman T. Rea received 193 acres of his grandfather's original holdings in 1980. He now owns an additional 1,510 acres where he produces corn and grains.



The home Ole K. Rea built on the Hamilton County farm he founded burned around the turn of the century. Shown is the second home as it appeared after the addition of upstairs rooms in 1910.

HARRIS COUNTY

***TELSCHOW RANCH —1882—** Eleven miles northwest of Houston

FOUNDER: John Herman Telschow of Meshow, Brandenburg, Germany
1982 OWNER: Merrel V. Telschow, Houston

Of the founder's original acreage, 7.17 acres have passed to his grandson Merrel, the current owner. The Heritage land is part of the 130 1/5 acres which John Herman Telschow originally acquired on March 31, 1882, and on which he began a truck farm and raised cattle and hogs. Telschow, who had emigrated from Germany with his parents, married Augusta Witte and they had a family of six children: Tracey (Hillendahl), Louis Fritz, Edwin C., Herman William, Charlie H., and Freida.

Their son Herman William received a 21.25-acre

portion of the founder's land in 1923 where he continued truck farming. Emilie Henrietta Adeline (Grisbee) and Herman William were the parents of Vincent Keith, Merrel Vernon, and Jocelyn Maurice (Eschberger).

Merrel acquired 7.07 Heritage acres in 1954 and also owns 160 additional acres in Rusk County. On his land, he produces cattle, corn, and garden products. He resides on the property with his wife Dorothy (Strong).

HENDERSON COUNTY

ROBERTSON RANCH —1870— Five blocks south of Highway 31 in Malakoff

FOUNDER: W. W. Robertson of Fairfield, South Carolina
1982 OWNER: Roxie A. Robertson, Malakoff

The desire to move west brought W. W. Robertson and his father to Henderson County in 1857. His original ranch, bought sometime before 1870, consisted of 280 acres. Later, he added another 820 acres and raised cattle, horses, cotton, and corn. He enlisted in the army during the Civil War and was a member of Colonel Speight's Regiment. He recalled the construction of the railroad in 1875 which passed just four blocks from his property. Robertson established a merchandising store and built and operated a brick plant on his property. He was an active member and an elder in the First Methodist Church in Malakoff. His wife Martha (Coleman) died in 1879. Their children were: William Dudley, Bell, Daniel, Thomas C., John W., and Eddie. Later, W. W. married Margaret (Beard). Their children were: Lillie Ora, Samuel, Jesse Oliver, Troy, A. B., James Calhoun, Minnie, Elizabeth, and Richard Daniel.

At the death of W. W. Robertson in 1904, his wife Margaret assumed ownership of their property where she continued ranching operations for the next 20 years. In 1924, the land was divided among her heirs with her son Jesse Oliver receiving a portion.

Later, Jesse bought out other heirs, bringing his holdings to 172 acres. He sold 32 acres plus several lots

and gave land for a farm road and gas pipeline. His agricultural production included corn, cotton, peas, watermelons, cattle, and goats. During World War II, Jesse witnessed President Roosevelt's order of large scale slaughter of livestock which were buried on the land and the establishment of government canning barns. The next year, Jesse raised his largest and most delicious watermelon crops. In addition to the occupation of ranching, Jesse owned and operated several small businesses, served as a rural mail carrier, cotton weigher, and justice of the peace. Jesse and his wife Roxie had 11 children: Lillie Omie, William Volney, Roy Daniel, Ruby Louise, Jesse Carva, Duncan Bedford, Rollen Carlton, Larkin Owen, Gladys Jo, Barbara Joyce, and Jerrol.

Since the death of Jesse Robertson in 1961, his wife Roxie has retained ownership of their land. She and her daughter Carva (Beidler) live in a home built in 1938 by Jesse, son of the founder, from lumber taken from an older home constructed by the founder in 1878. Three of the sons of Jesse and Roxie have owned and operated farms and ranches in Henderson County including one who now owns a cattle ranch south of Malakoff and another who owns a cattle and quarter horse ranch near Palestine. At present, the widow of Roxie's grandson Gary Robertson leases the Heritage land, with the owner retaining grazing rights.



W. W. Robertson began building his Henderson County ranch in about 1870. He was widowed in 1879 and later married Margaret Beard. Margaret (Beard) Robinson assumed ownership of the land in 1904 where she continued ranching until her death in 1924.

HILL COUNTY

***BELL GROVE FARM —1880—** Six miles east of Hillsboro
FOUNDER: Benjamin William Grimes of Haw Ridge, Alabama
1982 CO-OWNERS: Wanda Standlee Buechler, Wichita Falls
 Mary Walker Standlee, Hillsboro
 Ranald Rhey Standlee, Dallas

Benjamin William Grimes was born in Haw Ridge, Alabama, in 1846. He fought in the Civil War as a member of Hood's Brigade and was one of only four survivors of Company A, 54th Alabama Regiment. In 1869, he came to Texas where he purchased 105 acres in Hill County near Brandon, the local post office. Later, 112 acres were added to the portion. At his death in 1929, he owned several farms in the vicinity of Brandon, all producing cotton and feed crops. B. W. Grimes was married three times and left land to each of his eight surviving children. The present tract being honored was acquired during his second marriage and is the only one which any of the Grimes have held continuously. Bethany, his oldest child by his second marriage, was born on this tract. In the early days, the road from Hillsboro to Brandon passed by the small farm house, then higher on a hill. Because it was one of the few painted houses, it was called "the White House." It was divided in 1890 and when the road was changed, two rooms were moved to Brandon. The reconstructed house had a "steamboat" front added and became a five-bedroom house, although only a one and one-half story dwelling. The remaining portion of the house, still on the original part of the farm, was remodeled and relocated. It is still occupied. B. W. contributed the land on which the Methodist

church of Brandon was built and, during the early settlement of New Brandon, lots were for sale in three recorded "Grimes Additions." With the coming of the railroad, Brandon became a prosperous community.

Lavinia Fredonia (Forbes) was B. W.'s second wife and the mother of Bethany, the second owner. She and her husband added to Bethany's inherited portion, making approximately 217 acres. Later additions have made a total of 360 acres available for family use. Crops are rotated according to the Renner method and a mixed cattle herd is raised. Bethany and her husband Curtis Rhey Walker managed the farm for 22 years, from 1929 until 1951.

In 1951, the farm was deeded to Mary Walker Standlee, their daughter, and granddaughter of the founder. In 1981, a trust was established for the preservation and operation of the farm. The trust includes Ranald Rhey Standlee and Wanda S. Buechler, two children of the founder's fourth generation of descendants. Construction and improvement of buildings and fences continue as crop income permits. Ranald R. Standlee manages the livestock production. The cultivated land is managed by an agronomist from Texas A&M University. Mary

W. Standlee, as custodian of the trust, lives on the land in a home that incorporates part of the original founder's dwelling.



The home on the Hill County farm founded by Benjamin William Grimes was called "the White House" in the 1880's. It served as a landmark for travelers on the road from Hillsboro to Brandon.



Bethany Grimes was the oldest child of Hill County farmer B. W. Grimes and his second wife, Lavinia (Forbes). She posed for this portrait in Galveston in 1902 at the age of 17.



HOOD COUNTY

***SELF FARM —1882—** One mile west of Lipan
FOUNDER: Spencer M. Self of Alabama
1982 OWNER: John Haynes Self, Lipan

Spencer Marion Self was already living in Hood County by 1869 since it is known that he and a group of other men tracked and killed a band of Indians who had murdered a mother and her children near Lipan in September of that year. Fourteen years later, he acquired title to 160 acres of land where he produced corn, hay, cotton, maize, and cattle. The fence on the south side of his land was set back to provide room to build FM 109. Spencer and his wife Lucindy had seven children: David Simpson, John Henry, Usular, Silas Monroe, Riley Burton, Mary Lutucia, and Lelan Jane.

After the death of Spencer Self in 1918, his wife Lucindy deeded 80 acres to her son John Henry. John Henry acquired title to an additional 40 acres of his family's land by buying the portions of his siblings Mary Luticia, Lelan, David Simpson, and Riley Burton. The portion belonging to his sister Mary Lutucia was sold, along with another farm, but was bought back by John Henry in 1942. In about 1928, another portion of the southern boundary of the farm

was devoted to widening the road and those who used the road donated their time to building it. Besides his contributions to the community, John Henry continued the production of cotton, hay, oats, and cattle.

In 1940, he deeded 11/14th of his holdings to his nephew John Haynes Self, a grandson of the founder. Just before his death in 1944, John Henry deeded another portion to be shared between his brother Riley (father of John Haynes) and John Haynes. Later, John Haynes acquired the portions belonging to his father Riley and mother Katie as well as those belonging to his cousins until he had assembled ownership of the entire 160-acre farm founded by his grandfather. He has also added another 7 1/2 acres not part of the original Heritage farm. John Haynes produces maize, oats, and cattle on his farm and has improved his fields by terracing and eradicating mesquite. A one-room log house dating from the time of the founder remains in use on the farm.

HOUSTON COUNTY

BREWTON RANCH —1872— Twelve miles east of Crockett
FOUNDER: David Blalock Webb of Alabama
1982 OWNERS: J. P. and Ollie Mae Smith Brewton, Crockett

Hearing of the great cotton farming in Texas, David Blalock Webb left Alabama in search of land for raising the popular cash crop. His initial land acquisition was for 160 acres and as his endeavors became more profitable, he bought an additional 300 acres for crop production. He also built a cotton gin to help with the processing of his crop. Being interested in the well-being of his community, Webb helped as well in the establishment of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church which also doubled as a school and served as a trustee in the creation of the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. He and his wife Sarah Winstead reared 11 children, both their own and hers from a previous marriage: Benjamin Winstead, John Hiram, Eliza Ann, James Allen, Ellen Cedella Stuckey, Mary Emma Stuckey, David Clark, Narcissa Frances, Letty Lou, Richard, and Hattie Belle.

The founder's stepdaughter Mary Emma Stuckey

acquired 40 family acres in 1903 and added 32 acres to her holdings where cotton, corn, fruits, and other vegetables were produced. Mary Emma had married Vandorn B. Smith in 1880 and they had 14 children: Minnie Ophelia, Edna, Nunnie, David Millard, Pinkney Alton, Fannie, Della Augusta, Henry Carlton, Lucy Belle, Bessie, Ollie Mae, unnamed twin boys, and Vandorn B., Jr. The second-generation family continued to take care of the church and cemetery established by the founder and Vandorn served as a trustee of the Pleasant Grove School.

In 1940, Mary Emma's and Vandorn's daughter Ollie Mae and son-in-law J. P. (known as Dutch) inherited 40 acres of farmland from her parents. Ollie Mae and her husband J. P. Brewton reside on the land which they have increased by 72 acres and where they produce cattle and garden vegetables.

BELLE BROWN FARM —1837— Five miles east of Grapeland

FOUNDER: Reuben Brown of Georgia
1982 CO-OWNERS: Ara Belle Boswell, Bay City
Belle T. Brown, Grapeland
Charles Franklin Brown, Grapeland
Luther Howard Brown II, Crockett
William Arland Brown, Grapeland

Reuben Brown was born in Georgia around 1808. He came to Texas with his father-in-law Daniel Parker and other families from Illinois to establish a religious congregation. They founded Brown's Fort on San Pedro Creek in 1833. The family and others established Fort Parker near Groesbeck from which Cynthia Ann Parker was abducted by Comanches in 1836. They set up Pilgrim's Church at Elkhart, the mother church for the Primitive Baptist faith in Texas. Reuben Brown participated in a number of actions during the Texas War of Independence and supported Texas' entry into the United States in 1845. In 1837, he acquired 1,600 acres in Houston County, then in the Republic of Texas. Agricultural production during that period was cotton and cattle. Sarah Parker had become his wife in 1830 and their children were: Patsy, Louisa, John, and Daniel Parker.

Reuben Brown died in 1861 and 605 acres passed to his son John. The second owner increased his holdings by 145 acres and sold 87 acres. He deeded land on San Pedro Creek for use as a church and school. After 1900, that portion was used as a family and community cemetery called Refuge Cemetery. John Brown served in Hood's Texas Brigade during the Civil War, earning the Southern Cross of Honor. His first wife was Izziebelle Caroline (Murchison) and they had six children: Daniel Frank, William R., Sarah E., Lucy Texanna, and John Washington. Mary Lucy Dickey became his second wife and together they had two more children, Minnie Ann and Virginia Telitha.

Daniel Frank Brown acquired 140 acres of his family's land in 1884 and added 87 acres where cotton, corn, cattle, and ribbon cane were produced and a syrup mill was built. Daniel and his wife Emily J. (McKenzie) had two children, Luther Howard and Carrie.

Luther Howard Brown remained on the home place with his father and worked, sharing all the responsibilities for the farm including production of cotton, cattle, corn, peanuts, and ribbon cane. He acquired part ownership of the land in 1917. In addition to his work on the farm, Luther served as rural mail carrier for the Star Route of the Augusta Post Office. His wife was Amanda Belle (Thetford) and their children were: Ara Belle, Charles Franklin, William Arland, and Luther Howard II.

After the death of Daniel Frank Brown and Luther Howard Brown in 1929, Luther's widow Belle bought Carrie Brown Skidmore's part of the farm. Since that time, she has owned and managed the land herself. She shares undivided interest with her four children. Her son Charles Franklin has helped with the farm operation for the last 25 years and has his home on 28 acres of the original homestead. Ralph Edward Brown, son of Luther Howard Brown II, and the great-great-great-grandson of the founder, also resides on the place. Agricultural production includes peanuts, feed crops, and cattle; soil conservation and timber management are practiced on the land.



Daniel Frank Brown was the grandson of Reuben Brown who settled his Houston County land in the days before the Texas Revolution. He is shown in this 1898 portrait with his wife, Emily Jane (McKenzie), and their children, Luther Howard and Carrie.

CEDAR OAKS FARM —1869— Eight and one-half miles southwest of Lovelady

FOUNDER: Ellen Ann Harrison Spivey Long of Virginia

1982 OWNERS: Randal and Robbie Hollingsworth, Lovelady

The founder of this farm was related to two past presidents of the United States; her grandfather William Henry Harrison was the ninth president and her brother Benjamin Harrison served as the 23rd U. S. chief executive. She came to Texas with her parents W. H. and Mary Harrison and began homesteading with her first husband John W. Spivey in 1866. They acquired title to their 200-acre farm on March 18, 1869, and began producing corn, cotton, milk cows, and plow horses on land purchased from David Houston. Ellen Ann, who had given birth to a baby girl, Ella Jane, in 1867, had a second daughter named Rellie after the untimely death of her husband John in 1870. The founder continued to live on the farm and in 1872, married Levi Long, a widower with two sons who had land adjoining hers. After three years of marriage, Ellen Ann gave birth to Lillie Belle, followed in four years by Fannie, then by Effie Mae in 1883. Corn and cotton were the primary crops of the Long family.

Fannie, daughter of the founder, acquired ownership to 125.5 acres of family land in 1899, probably at the

time of her marriage to Arthur Eli Hollingsworth. There she and her husband raised cotton, corn, and livestock and lived with their son Henry Levi.

Henry Levi Hollingsworth acquired title to the 125.5 acres upon the death of his mother in 1964. Henry married Maudie Cox and they had four children: Barbara Jean, Virginia Fern, Horace Lee, and Randal. Henry saw to the partitioning of his land among his four children in 1971, but maintained a lifelong estate until his death in 1980.

In the partition of the land by his father, Randal Hollingsworth received 31.54 acres on July 22, 1971. He and his wife Robbie live on the land along with their daughter Deidra Lynn (Hoover) and Rhonda Kay, and their grandson Jamie Hoover. Production on the land now includes livestock, horses, cover crops, and corn for livestock feed.



Ellen Ann (Harrison) and her first husband, John Spivey, began homesteading in Houston County in 1866. She is shown here with her second husband, Levi Long. They married and combined their adjoining farms in 1872.

CORLEY TREE FARM —1841— Four miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Joseph Redmond Rice of Tennessee
(See also The Rice Place, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Mrs. Evelyn Rice Corley, Crockett

Since 1969, Evelyn Rice Corley has solely supervised 12.939 acres inherited from her mother Nancy Fowler Rice. She has maintained land stewardship in proper timber management with harvesting and replanting of pine trees. Though not living on the land, she visits daily for inspection of trees and tree growth.

Following the partition of the founder's land in 1868, approximately 200 acres went to his daughter Amanda Elizabeth who transferred title to her sons the year following her husband's death in 1886. Her son John, who had taken over direction of the place in 1886, transferred his interest to his brother Richard in 1887, who in 1899 transferred his interest to their brother Joseph Rice and a cousin, Claud. During this period, no acres were added to the property while some land was set aside for a family cemetery. The families of the third generation owners are as follows: John Monk married Ellen Cunningham and they had no children; Joseph Rice married Florinda G. Maddin and they had Claud, Thomas Balis, Lela Lou, and Lillie; and Richard married Eva Hanna and they have two

children, Tom and Sarah.

In 1912, the farm, now 177 acres since some land had been designated for a cemetery, passed by purchase to John McConnell Rice, first cousin to the Monk boys. His father was Joseph Redmond Rice, Jr., son of the founder. John sold acreage for a right of way for roads and access to another lot and expanded the farming of cotton, corn, some cattle, chickens, vegetable garden produce, and orchard crops. In 1935, a granite centennial marker was placed in front of the founder's first log structure, named the Stage Coach Inn. The cabin has since been donated to the state and moved to Mission Tejas State Park. John married Nancy Fowler on Christmas Eve in 1899 and they had three daughters: Evelyn, Opal, and Johnnie Lois.

Following her husband's death in 1960, Nancy took over the management of the 177 acres, some of which are now owned by her daughter Evelyn under the name Corley Tree Farm.

***CURRIE RANCH —1867—** Twenty-five miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Henry Warren Payne of Lincoln County, Tennessee
1982 OWNER: Mary Lawson Payne Currie, Kennard

Henry Warren Payne acquired title to 100 acres of land in Houston County on November 11, 1867. His first wife M. E. (Burke) died and he remarried, to Mary Ann (Manning) (Larker), who bore him three children: Birdie Lee, Porter Lawson, and Annie Pearl. The couple and their children raised cotton, corn, mules, and hogs and Payne gave land to the Mount Vernon Cemetery and church as a tribute to his community.

In 1898, Porter Lawson and his wife Willie (Dear) acquired the 100-acre ranch and continued with the production of cattle, horses, and hay. During their

ownership, the Conner Creek School was located on the property. They had one child, Mary Lawson.

She took over the care and maintenance of the land in July 1972. The granddaughter of the founder, her two sons Charles and James, their wives, and her grandchild John Matthew all live on the original piece of land. Mary Payne continues to live in the 100-year-old house built by the founder and she and her sons still take care of the land as her grandfather once did over 100 years ago.

HICKORY CREEK FARM —1854— Ten miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Robert Hale of Dade County, Georgia
1982 OWNER: Wyncie Dell Barnhill, Crockett

Proper soil conservation and timber management are practiced and pride still taken in good stewardship of the Hickory Creek Farm originally established 128 years ago. The current owner Wyncie Dell Barnhill and her brother Dudley W. (Pete) Barnhill live on their Heritage farm and are provided water by a well dating from the founder's period.

Founder Robert Hale originally moved his family from their home in Georgia to join their former

neighbors, the English family. In 1854, Robert Hale acquired 320 acres of Houston County land. Later, he added 300 more acres and produced cotton, corn, and staple food items. During the Civil War, Hale assisted many of his neighbors by hauling food and other necessities to families in outlying areas whose men had gone away to war. He contributed to the development of his community by helping to establish schools for the children. The first wife of the founder was Julia (Smith) and their five children were George, John,

Drury, Peter, and W. T. Cornelia (Platt) was his second wife and their children were Ida, Josephine, Eugenia, Ernest, and a fifth, known as "Babe," who was killed by lightning.

William T. Hale received 300 acres of his father's land in 1868. He increased his holdings to 500 acres where he produced cotton, corn, cattle, vegetables, and feed crops. William T. enjoyed politics and was involved in an effort to make the town of Randolph the county seat. He liked to experiment and tried raising millet and sheep. He developed a good orchard where many of the pear, peach, plum, and fig trees are still producing fruit. Malissa Smith became his wife and they had six children: Caroline (known as Carrie), Hubbard, Estelle Brown, William Page, Robert Edgar, and Grover.

In 1930, Estelle Brown, granddaughter of the founder, acquired 100 acres of her father's land where livestock and timber operations were carried out. Rocks were quarried nearby for the building of fences and other structures. Estelle married J. T. Barnhill and their children were Wyncie Dell, William Philip, Tommie Lee, Ida Brown, Dudley W. (known as Pete), Robert Page, and James (Jack) Etheridge.

Wyncie Dell Barnhill, great-granddaughter of the founder, acquired 14 1/2 acres of her family's original farm in 1966 and has added 49 1/2 acres where timber and cattle are produced.

JH BRAND CATTLE FARM —1854— Three miles northwest of Kennard

FOUNDER: William Daugherty Harrison of Tennessee
1982 OWNER: Jack A. Harrison, Kennard

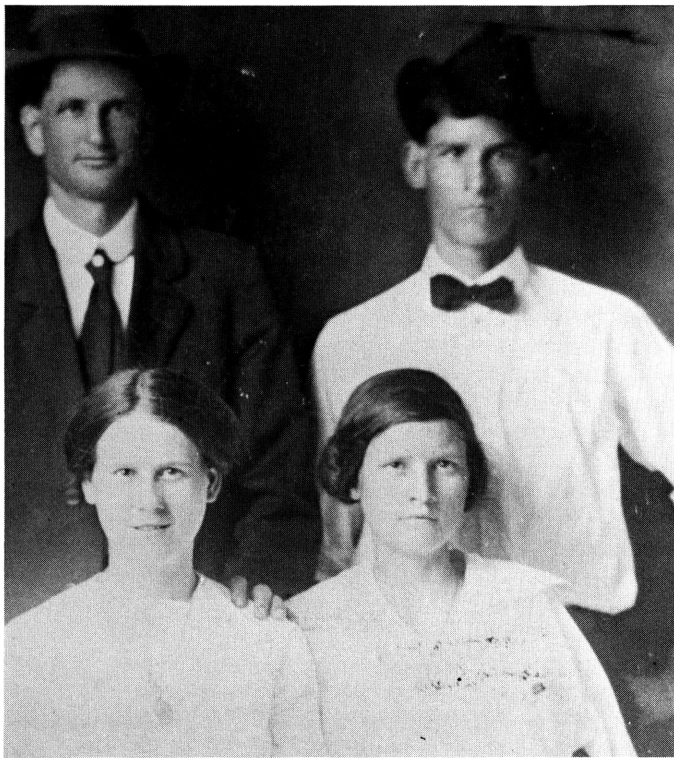
At the age of 21, William Daugherty Harrison ventured with his parents to Texas in order to establish a new life on the frontier. He received title to 320 acres on August 16, 1854, having paid a grand total of \$80.00 for the land. William worked his land and produced cotton, corn, and cattle. Being popular, people soon began to call the area William owned as Harrison Town after him. He married Lucindy Jane Patton and she gave birth to eight children: Martha, Sallie, Lizzie, William Thomas, Johnathan, Mary, Amanda Catherine, and Eliza.

In 1870, Johnathan acquired the land from his parents where he continued to raise cotton, corn, and cattle. When the post office of Bird was established on Harrison land on August 12, 1901, Johnathan got a taste of life behind a desk as well as he served as the postmaster. One year later, the post office was closed and mail was dispatched to Kennard. Johnathan was married to Margaret (West) and she had three children: Lula, William F., and Clara.

The third-generation owner was William, who acquired title to 50 acres of the Harrison spread in 1930. William F. added 120 acres to his portion of land where he raised cattle, corn, and feed for cattle. William F. fell in love with Hattie Butler Harrison and to their marriage was born one child, Jack A.

In 1947, Jack received title to 220 family acres and eventually acquired 400 acres of additional farmland. The great-grandson of the founder, he still lives on the land of his forefathers where he practices timber management and soil conservation in rotating crops and pastureland. The current owner takes an active part in the everyday operation of the ranch in his efforts to raise hay and cattle. The old post office of Bird, where his grandfather was postmaster, still stands where it was established in 1901.





William F. Harrison was the third owner of his family's Houston County farm. He is shown (standing, right) with his brother-in-law, Milburn Curry, and sisters, Lula (Curry) and Clara.



In 1870, Johnathan Harrison acquired the Houston County farm founded by his parents in 1854. He and his wife, Margaret (West), had a family of two daughters and one son.

MORGAN RANCH —1868— Fifteen miles northeast of Crockett

FOUNDER: Evan Morgan of Mississippi
1982 OWNER: Herbert Lester Morgan, Kennard

Born in Mississippi in 1813, Evan Morgan came to Texas in search of new opportunity. He owned 160 acres in one survey, as well as a survey which bore his name and other land in the area. Agricultural production, typical of the area and time, included cotton, corn, and livestock. The founder and his first wife Easter were married about 1842 and they had three children: Daniel Franklin, Sarah, and Robert Granson. Nancy Jane Schott became his second wife and they had three children: Alexander, Easter, and Samuel.

The founder's son Daniel Franklin received the original 160-acre tract in 1879 and added 167 1/2 acres where he continued ranching and farming operations. A Civil War veteran, he was named as an original grantee in the 1883 deed to land given to the Center Hill Methodist Church of which he was a long-time trustee. Daniel Franklin's wife was Martha Jane (Harrison) and they had six children: Elizabeth Jane (West), James Evan, Esther Louise (Julian), William Franklin, Lewis Thomas, and Johnny Daniel.

William Franklin Morgan, son of the second owner, acquired 25 acres of the original 160-acre homestead and an additional 25 adjoining acres in 1897. In addition to ranching, he served as trustee of the Center Ridge Common School from 1905 to 1935. He

married Marvin Hood Julian and they had 13 children: Alma Ethel, Lou Ella (Millwee), Cora Effie (Freeland), William Luther, Minnie Ruth (Hall) (Nichols), Edgar Lee, Georgia Permelia (Beard), Delma Irene (Hall), Henry Grady, John Walter, Ruby Elmira (Hurtt), Reba (a twin to Ruby who died as an infant), and Herbert Lester.

Edgar Lee Morgan was a great-grandson of the founder. He acquired 25 acres from his father in 1943 and added 135 more of the original 160 acres as well as 65 acres of an adjoining tract. Edgar and his wife Lettie Belle (Coggin) reared one child, Judith, on their farm.

In 1957, Edgar Lee sold his holdings to his brother Herbert Lester. The current family owner now has possession of 192 acres, 125 of which are part of the original 160 acres belonging to the founder. He served in the Navy during World War II as well as in the Kennard Independent School District as a trustee from 1975 until 1978. A practicing attorney since 1951, Herbert Lester Morgan is now Kennard city attorney and a county judge of Houston County. His wife is Albertine (Thompson) and they have two daughters, Susan and Sandra. Judge Morgan, his wife, and younger daughter Sandra live on the family land where livestock and timber operations continue.

OLD ARNOLD FARM —1878— Ten miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: James Madison Arnold of Abbeville, Alabama
1982 OWNER: Leonard H. Arnold, Crockett

There were 11 children born to the founder of this property and his wife Ellen Cedella (Stuckey): Winnie Belle, Eddie Bertley, Fannie, Henry, James Curtis, Jesse, Chester, Bunnie, Leonard Harold, Mattie, and Mary Pearl. In order to help his own children as well as those of other community members, founder James Madison Arnold was instrumental in the development of schools in the area. He had originally come to Texas with his mother looking for a better homeland and on December 6, 1878, acquired 160 acres, part of the pre-emption headright of J. W. Moore. He then bought 100 more acres of land to expand on his production of cotton, corn, and peanuts.

James' son Leonard Harold acquired the original 160-acre homestead in 1914. Eventually, he added 2,200 acres and switched production from cotton and corn to primarily cattle. A cotton ginner and purchaser of feed, grains, seeds, and fertilizer, Leonard was instrumental in getting river readings made on the Trinity River to check out flood conditions harming farmers and ranchers along the river. He and his wife Della (Douglas) had one son, Douglas Harold, who is now deceased.

***OLD CONNER PLACE —1835—** Four miles northeast of Ratcliff

FOUNDER: John Frederick Conner of South Carolina
1982 OWNERS: Jue and Ruby Conner, Kennard

John Frederick Conner came to Texas with his brother William and two sisters Peggy and Margaret for the opportunity to buy a piece of land and make a new start on the Texas frontier. On January 12, 1835, he acquired 160 acres where he raised a variety of crops including cotton, corn, peas, ribbon cane for syrup, and other vegetables. He also raised cattle, hogs, chicken, and geese. John Conner added 320 acres to the original property and built a log house in 1854 which is still in use today on the land. John also helped set up schools in the nearby communities of Hagerville and Coltharp. He married Hannah Elizabeth McKinney and she gave birth to six children: Mary Catherine, Stephen Lee, William Preston, Robert Patton, James Alexander, and an infant who died.

to 240 acres. Stephen initially added 400 acres to the land he received and continued in the family tradition of crop and livestock production. Eventually, his holdings included 1,100 acres. He continued to live in the log house built by his father with his wife Sarah Frances (Vaughan) and their 12 children: Hannah F., Lula O., Mary M., Brittion Frederic (known as Bee), Margaret E., Robert Alec, William Lee, Katie A., Birdie Houston, George P., Juriah (known as Jue), and Paige Lonzo.

Jue Conner and his wife Ruby have had possession of 120 of his father's acres since 1940. They continue to use the founder's log house as a storage place for hay and are actively engaged in the operation of the Old Conner Place.

In 1872, the founder's son Stephen Lee came of age to inherit his father's property which was by then reduced



John Frederick Conner built this log cabin in 1854 on the farm he founded in Houston County. The cabin was home for the founder's family and for the family of second-generation owner Stephen Lee Conner and is used by present-owner Juriah (Jue) Conner for hay storage.

EZRA ONEIL FARM —1875— Ten miles east of Lovelady

FOUNDER: John Oneil of Arkansas
1982 CO-OWNERS: Mrs. Florence Hardeman, Navasota
Mrs. Minnie Ola Oneil, Lovelady

John Oneil came with his master as a slave from Arkansas in 1859. Through his hard work, he acquired 98.3 acres of land and later added on an additional 21.7 acres. John raised cotton, corn, peanuts, peas, vegetables, and fruits. He also raised ribbon cane in the White Rock Creek bottom and livestock which included hogs, chickens, and cattle. John Oneil was the major force behind the organization and development of the black community of Fodice. With the development of Fodice, he handled the setting aside of lands for a church, cemetery, and school. His wife Ann was known as a good doctor of children and served in the area as a midwife. She was also the mother of four of her own children: William, Alfred, Jessie, and Belle.

In 1915, Alfred Oneil received title to 30 acres of land from his father and proceeded to add on 110 acres. Alfred increased his farmland acreage in order to increase his farming operations where he produced cotton, corn, ribbon cane, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables and fruits. He also raised various types of livestock. Alfred and his wife Emma Oneil had only one son who they named Ezra. In addition to running

their farm, Alfred served until his death on July 4, 1926, as postmaster in Fodice with the post office situated on his land. He was also active in the church and school where he was a teacher.

Ezra inherited about half of the land, 68 acres, upon the death of his father in 1926 and the remaining 72 acres when his mother passed away. Ezra continued in the family tradition and took over the job as postmaster of Fodice. He also grew cotton, corn, peanuts, peas, and sweet potatoes and raised livestock. Ezra was active with the school during his lifetime. As Fodice school affairs peaked, a native rock building was constructed which continues to be used as a community center and museum site. Ezra's first wife Norvella (Smith) gave birth to Florence (Hardeman). After his first wife's death, Ezra married Minnie Ola Wiley and she gave birth to two stillborn babies.

Minnie Ola, second wife of Ezra, and his daughter Florence presently co-own the 78-acre Heritage farm where hay, cover crops for feed, and livestock are produced under the daily supervision of the widow of the founder's grandson.

PENNINGTON FARM —1877— Six miles west of Grapeland

FOUNDER: Edmund Gaines Pennington of Tennessee
1982 OWNER: Wayne Pennington, Grapeland
(See also Pennington Farm, this county.)

Edmund Gaines Pennington was born in Tennessee and came to Texas with his parents when he was only three. After the Civil War, the construction of the railroad provided the farmers of Houston County with a way to ship their cotton and livestock and the town of Grapeland was founded. In 1877, Confederate veteran Pennington purchased 320 acres of farmland, later selling off 130 acres. On the remaining 190 acres, he produced cotton, corn, peas, cattle, and hogs. He was a member of the Christian Church and helped develop community schools. He built and lived in a log house where he and his wife Nancy Jane (Renfro) reared a family of eight children: John, Susan, Mary, James H., Lucy, Emily, Ida, and Pattie.

In 1909, James Richard Pennington, a nephew of the founder, acquired the family's land and an additional 388 acres. James Richard married Flora Brown and built a home in 1913. They saw their first rural telephone installed in 1916 and acquired their first automobile two years later. The Penningtons dug a

well with a gasoline engine and overhead tank for their home and livestock. James Richard tried his hand at wildcat oil drilling and became the first president of the Guaranty State Bank of Grapeland as well as a school trustee. The farm produced half and half cottonseed and had seven tenant houses for cotton tenants. Corn, peas, cattle, goats, and hogs were also produced with soil conservation practiced including crop rotation and the planting of legumes. James Richard and Flora had six children: Loyce, Richard Clyde, Berniece, Henry Clifford, Vadney Lou, and Wayne Brown.

In 1969, 130 acres of the founder's original holdings passed to his grand-nephew who has added 83.31 acres. Wayne Brown Pennington received an award for greatest contribution to agriculture in Houston County in 1973 and was appointed to Governor Dolph Briscoe's Committee to Make Texas First in Agriculture. He was top peanut producer in Houston County in 1974 and served for 15 years on the Houston

County Farm Bureau board. Three generations of family members live together on the Heritage farm: the

owner and his wife Dorothy, their son Wayne, Jr., and his wife Cheryl, and their son Jeremy.

PENNINGTON FARM —1881— Six and one-half miles west of Grapeland

FOUNDER: Henry A. Pennington of Grapeland, Texas

1982 OWNER: Wayne Pennington, Grapeland

(See also Pennington Farm, this county.)

Henry A. Pennington's father and mother J. R. and Polly Walling Pennington came from Tennessee to Texas in search of farmland. Traveling with them was their three-year-old son Edmund Gaines Pennington, who founded the other Pennington Farm recorded this year in Houston County. The Penningtons settled west of Grapeland because of the plentiful spring water and it was on this cotton farm that Henry A. Pennington was born. He lived and died on the farm, never traveling more than 50 miles away throughout his life. In 1881, he acquired 558 acres in his own right where he produced cotton and corn. He built his home of hand-planed heart pine timber and had his own horse-drawn cotton gin. His wife was Mary Lena (Beeson) and their children were: Daniel Boone, Sam Henry, James Richard, Berta, Addie, Harden, Walter, Mary Anna Lena, Earl, and Florence. The Penningtons gave each son a portion of farmland when he became 21 years old.

James Richard received his portion of 186 acres in 1898. He later added 704 acres more where he raised

cotton, corn, peas, sugarcane, goats, hogs, and cattle. He fenced the entire farm with seven-barbed wire, cleared fields, built cotton storage houses for every 20-acre block in the fields, and seven cotton tenant houses. He lived in the first box-style house on the land as a bachelor from 1898 until 1913. In that year he married at the age of 36 and built a frame house for himself, his wife Flora, and their six children.

In 1969, their son Wayne Pennington acquired 83.31 acres of his grandfather's holdings along with 88.83 acres which had belonged to his grand-uncle Edmund Gaines Pennington. Wayne has served on the Anderson-Houston Counties Peanut Committee, Grapeland Peanut Growers' Board, Houston County Agriculture Award Board, and the Houston County Farm Bureau board. The farm continues to produce peanuts, cattle, and coastal hay. Wayne and his wife Dorothy and their son Wayne, Jr., and his family live on and operate the farm. Married daughters Kathleen (Lockey) and Rhonda (Wilkins) live nearby.



Edmund Gaines Pennington founded his Houston County farm shortly after his return from the Civil War. The chimney is all that remains of the cabin he built. Its timbers were incorporated into another structure.



Henry A. Pennington (center) and his wife, Mary Lena (Beeson) (seated, tenth from right), reared their large family on the Houston County farm he founded in 1881. Second-generation owner James Richard Pennington is shown (seated, seventh from right).

PETTY'S POVERTY POCKET RANCH —1878— Twenty-three miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Basil Marion Petty of North Carolina
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Petty, Jr., Kennard

Solomon Story was the original grant holder of the land which Basil Marion Petty settled in Houston County. Petty came to Texas with M. D. Steed and Owen Brady, two friends he had made during the Civil War. He started his homestead in 1866, the same year he married his wife Virginia Ella and by 1878, acquired title to the 110 acres. Later, he added on 55 acres of land to expand his cotton and corn production. The pioneering Pettys had six children: James Edward, William Ruffin, George H. "Boy," Ludie, Little John Brice, and Fannie.

In 1887, James Edward Petty acquired title to 110 acres of his father's land where he continued growing

cotton and corn. James Edward married Lula Ann Taylor and she gave birth to five children: Katie Lee, Reba Adealia, James Edward, Jr., Lenore Edweina, and Thomas Leeland.

The current owner received 107 acres of land from his parents in 1937 and eventually added 115 acres to his holdings for the production of cattle and hay. The grandson of the founder lives on the land today with his wife, their son Tom and his wife, and their grandchildren John Edwin and Joan.

PINE SHADOWS FARM —1875— Ten miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Matthew Castle Pinckney Smith of South Carolina
1982 OWNER: N. A. Smith, Crockett

Born in South Carolina, Matthew Smith moved with his family to Georgia. While he was serving in the Confederate Army, his parents moved from their home in Georgia to Texas. Smith, who was taken prisoner for a time, returned briefly to Georgia at the end of the war but eventually joined his parents in Texas. His homestead in Houston County was surveyed in 1871 and he acquired title to 160 acres in

1875 where he raised cotton, sugarcane, corn, peanuts, cattle, and hogs. He eventually sold 80 acres, keeping another 80. He was a charter member and deacon of the Rhodes Chapel Baptist Church, now called Arbor Church. Smith and his wife Susan reared a large family of 13 children: Peoria Cordelia, Vandorn Barto, Pinckney Ellsworth, George Washington, John Bunyan, William David, Robert Kirby, Leroy

Jefferson, Viola Roxie Jane, Overby Lee, Newton Alexander, Susan, and Minnie.

Leroy Jefferson Smith took possession of his family's land in 1900. He raised sugarcane, cotton, corn, peanuts, cattle, and hogs on his 80 acres. Never married, Leroy supported his widowed sister and raised her children Annie and Buck Blue.

Annie Blue acquired her uncle's land in 1927 and she and her husband John A. Thomas continued the land's cultivation. They had no children.

In 1966, N. A. Smith, cousin of Annie Blue Thomas and a grandson of the founder, acquired the 80 acres.

He also acquired the other 80 acres of the founder's original holdings plus an additional 286 acres. All 406 acres have been upgraded through conservation methods and are in active use as a cattle ranch. Before 1980, when N. A. retired from law practice, his brother Bevin O. Smith managed the ranch. In 1972, N. A. received recognition as Outstanding Absentee Farmer of the Year by the Davy Crockett Conservation District. He and his wife reside on their Heritage land and Smith manages ranching operations in addition to serving as judge of the county court at law of Houston County.

THE RICE PLACE —1841— Four miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Joseph Redmond Rice of Tennessee
(See also Corley Tree Farm, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Mrs. Johnnie Lois Rice Vickers, Crockett

Joseph Redmond Rice came to Texas in 1820 along with many others from Tennessee and Kentucky in order to purchase land and build homes. Indian harassment forced the abandonment of the first cabin by Rice and he removed to Louisiana. He returned in 1831 to add to the log cabin he had built after his marriage in 1828 to Willie Masters. The family also began expanding and clearing the land he had homesteaded. On December 30, 1841, Rice acquired title to six labors of land in Houston County where he raised cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, corn, cotton, and a variety of vegetables. There were 11 children born to the founder and his wife: Sara, Jacob, twins who died in infancy, Amanda Elizabeth (Monk), John, Francis, Joseph, Jr., Georgia, Henry, and Willie Louise. Three of the sons served in the Civil War. The founder's cabin, as well as that of his father-in-law Jacob Masters, Jr., served as an inn for travelers and a watering place for stage horses on El Camino Real.

Upon the death of her husband in 1866, Willie took over 1,415 acres. Her daughter Amanda Elizabeth, who had become the second wife of Thomas John Monk on November 25, 1852, came with her family to

live with her widowed mother at the log home. Willie eventually remarried, to a Mr. Newcomb, and there were no children from this marriage.

In 1868, Amanda Elizabeth received a partition of approximately 200 acres, the rest going to the other surviving six children of the founder. After her husband's death six years later, Amanda Elizabeth was assisted on the place by her sons John, Joseph Rice, and Richard. Her other children were: Sarah, Francis, James, Della, Willie, Beulah, and Mary.

Family land then passed through her sons to their first cousin John McConnell Rice and then to his widow Nancy. It is their daughter Johnnie Lois who now owns 68.159 acres originally settled by her great-grandfather. She acquired the land in 1969 and on the property raises livestock with the assistance of her son Jack Vickers. The 100-year-old log cabin built by the founder was given to the State of Texas in 1973 for restoration and preservation. It has been relocated 16 miles east of the Heritage land in the Mission Tejas State Park.

ROBERSON RANCH —1876— Seven miles east of Kennard

FOUNDER: W. R. McClain of Houston County, Texas
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Roberson, Kennard

W. R. McClain was a native of Houston County, the first-born of W. Z. and Rhoda Watson McClain. A volunteer in Hood's Brigade, First Texas Regiment, Company M., he served under Captain Ballinger during the entire Civil War. He married Margaret Texana Hager on January 19, 1871, and shortly thereafter started a homestead on 144 acres. Title to the property was obtained five years later, with the patent signed by then Governor Richard Coke on January 7, 1876. He built a log home, which was

standing until only five years ago, that had a kitchen about 50 feet away from the main house. Chimneys were made with the help of neighbors. There were six children born to the founder and his wife: J. A., G. D., Gertrude, Cora, and two babies who died during infancy. Cotton, corn, sugarcane, and livestock were raised by W. R. on his farm. He took an active part in the Enon Baptist Church with which he united in 1884. With the death of his wife at an early age, McClain chose to remain a widower and reared his surviving

family of four children.

The founder's daughter Gertrude received 36 acres of land from her father on August 16, 1910, adding 84 additional acres later. The founder chose to live with this daughter and her husband E. Roberson on the farm where they reared seven children: Grace, Julia, Ethel, Vivian, Woodrow, Ernestine, and Bill. Production on the second-generation farm included cotton, corn, sugarcane, cattle, and timber.

On November 1, 1958, Woodrow and his wife acquired 69 family acres. The grandson and granddaughter-in-law of the founder live on the farm with their son Tex, his wife, and their two grandchildren, Ren and Nita. Both Woodrow and Tex are involved in the production of hay meadows, cattle, and timber on the farm which has been increased by 328 acres.

STRONG RANCH —1866— Four miles west of Pennington

FOUNDER: Alfred Strong (Origin Unknown)

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Strong, Crockett

Alfred Strong became a freedman after coming to Texas as a slave with his master Thomas H. Nelms. In 1866, he received title to 101 acres of virgin land which had been owned by Nelms. Recognized by his former owner for his leadership ability, he was put in charge of community affairs and served as a school and church trustee as well as in the establishment of the community graveyard. There were eight children born to Alfred and his wife Gracie and Strong trained his three sons to care for the farmland. He eventually sold 14 acres but the rest he brought into agricultural production, raising peas, cotton, corn, grass, and cattle. An old brick chimney still stands to mark the site of the Strong home.

One son, Henry, acquired his father's 87-acre farm in 1920. He continued general farming, including raising corn, peas, cotton, and peanuts. Like his father before him, he was a steward of his church and a school trustee. Henry and Minerva Strong had 15 children: Pricilla, Linus, Richard, Julia, Hayne, Earl, William, Albert, Gertrude, Henrietta, Vernon, Mansion, twins Rosie B. and Ida B., and Charles Henry.

In 1937, Vernon Strong, grandson of the founder, and his wife received the 87 acres where he practices good conservation of soil and timber while raising range cattle, Coastal Bermuda, and native grasses. They live on their Heritage land.

TAYLOR RANCH —1877— Fourteen miles east of Crockett

FOUNDER: Henry Harvey Grounds of Houston County, Texas

1982 CO-OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Taylor, Jr., Crockett
Cherry Taylor Cook, Houston

Henry Harvey Grounds was born on the Houston County land he later acquired. His mother and father were Louisa Ann (Norred) and William John Grounds. In 1877, the founder received the deed to 150 acres and began to build his homestead five years later. He and his wife Dora (Ratcliff) occupied their land for 30 years and produced cotton and corn. The names of their children are unknown since the family moved to Bosque County when the property they owned was sold to the second owner in 1912.

Chester M. Taylor farmed the land he acquired in 1912, raising cotton, corn, feed crops, cattle, horses,

and chickens. He traveled widely, working in Mexico, Canada, and Alaska. He returned to Houston County in 1922 to marry Johnnie Alma Duren, a second cousin of founder Henry Harvey Grounds. They had one son, C. M., Jr.

C. M. Taylor, Jr., acquired 100 acres of his family's land in 1949. He has added 1,075 acres to his holdings where he has improved his pastures for the production of hay, cattle, and horses. He and his wife live on their land and they share ownership with their daughter Cherry.



BAKER TODD RANCH —1880— Fourteen miles west of Crockett

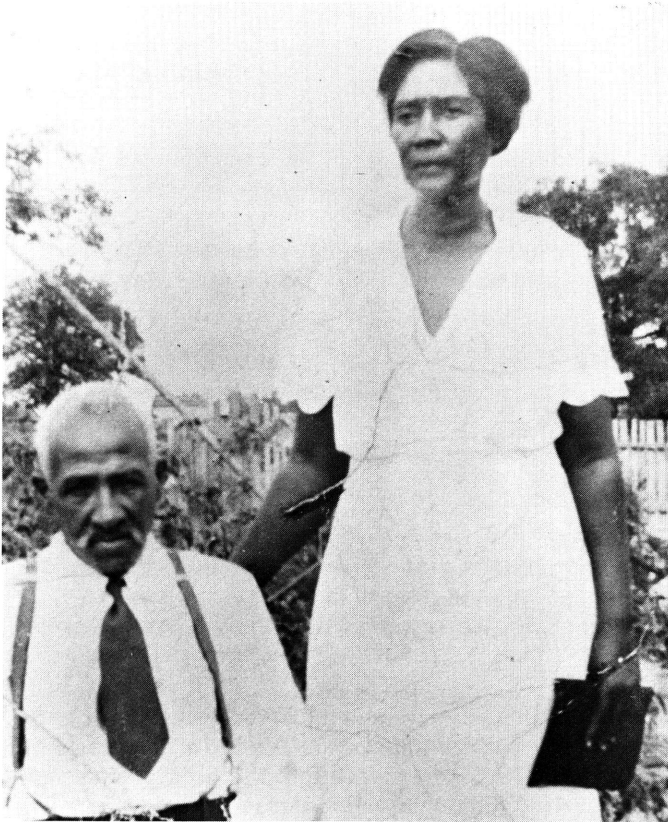
FOUNDER: Andy Todd, Sr., of Virginia
1982 OWNER: Port Arthur Todd, Crockett

Andy Todd came to Texas as a slave with his master James Hall. He started his homestead sometime during the 1870's and acquired title to 69 acres of Houston County land in 1880 where he raised cotton and corn. Andy Todd assisted in establishing and operating a community grist mill. He also contributed to the development of his community by helping begin the Campbell Cemetery and Pleasant Grove C.M.E. Church where he served as an officer. His wife was Idell and they had five children: Andy, Jr., Clara, Martha, Osceola, and Baker.

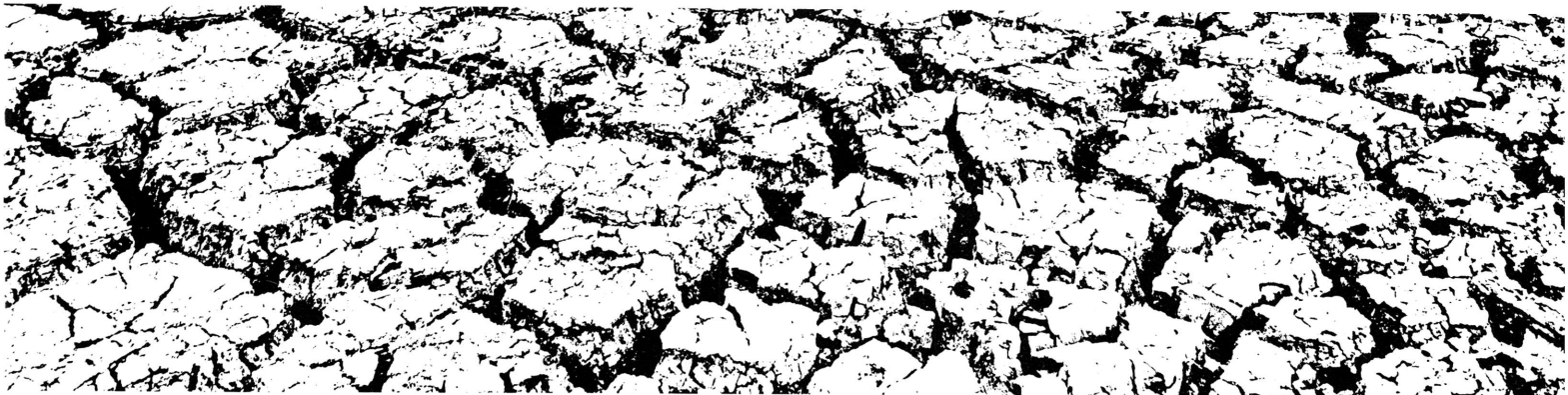
Baker Todd acquired his father's 69 acres in 1896, adding 11 2/3 more acres. His crops were cotton, corn,

and sorghum. He had a syrup mill which he operated for the community as well as himself. Like his father, he was active in the church, serving as an officer. His first wife was Jarushia (Blake) and they had one child, Melvin. Later, Baker married Julia Gardner. Their children were: Clara, Bennie May, Port Arthur, Jewell, Jonnie Lou, Wilsie May, Sylvia Dean, and Alvin Julian.

Port Arthur Todd has operated his family's land since 1946, including the 69 acres founded by his grandfather and the 11 2/3 acres added by his father. He and his wife live on their Heritage land where they produce cover crops, hay, cattle, and timber.



Baker Todd was the second owner of the ranch founded by his father in Houston County. He and his second wife, Julia (Gardner), were the parents of eight children including present owner, Port Arthur Todd.



HUNT COUNTY

SETZLER FARM —1873— Seventeen miles northeast of Greenville

FOUNDER: H. B. Cobb of Georgia
1982 OWNER: Grace Setzler Sharp, Wolfe City

H. B. Cobb came to Texas from Georgia with his family. The land which he purchased in Hunt County was part of 16 labors of land granted to Jason Wilson in 1856 for surveying the area under Governor E. M. Pease, the remainder being granted in 1861 by Governor Sam Houston. Wilson sold the land to his son Jason H. Wilson in 1871 and it was from him that Cobb purchased the land. After acquiring title to the land, he raised cotton, corn, and prairie hay.

One year later, Cobb sold a 100-acre portion of the land to Marion Franklin Setzler, his brother-in-law. The land was purchased for \$5 an acre with payment made by \$250 in gold with the remaining \$250, borrowed at ten percent, also to be paid in gold. Marion Franklin Setzler, a Civil War veteran, married Mary Ann Cobb on December 8, 1865. The children of Marion and Mary Ann were Sara Caroline, Charles Richard, William Romelus, and Samuel. Along with six others, the couple established the First Baptist Church in Wolfe City in 1882. The lumber used to build their first home and barn was brought by ox-drawn wagon from Jefferson. Those structures, along with a newer home, were later destroyed by a tornado on May 21, 1913.

Charles Richard Setzler, a nephew of the founder, acquired 55 acres of his family's land in 1935 and added 300 acres more. For the next nine years, he farmed, producing grain, hay, cotton, and corn. His wife was Margie Lourana (Tiffice) and they had eight children: Frank Talmage, Lillian Naoma, Annie Gertrude, Myrtle Pearl, Grace Maranda, Buddie, and a boy and girl who both died as infants.

Lillian Naoma Setzler took possession of 55 acres in 1958. Lillian was never married and in 1965, her 55 acres were divided among her surviving siblings.

Grace Maranda (Sharp) received an 11-acre portion, of which 8 1/2 acres are devoted to farmland and 2 1/2 remain in timber for fuel. An additional 50 acres are owned by Grace. She is married to J. Wheeler Sharp and they have one daughter, Margie Sue Sharp Woodward, one granddaughter, Patricia Ann Woodward Reddell, and two great-grandchildren, Thomas Joseph and Jessica Leah Reddell. Four generations have worked the land which continues to produce cotton, corn, and hay. The farm is now under the management of Buddie Setzler, Grace Sharp's brother.



Grace Setzler Sharp, a grandniece of Founder H. B. Cobb, now owns Hunt County Heritage land. She is shown in this childhood portrait with her brother, Buddie Setzler, who now manages the farm.



Margie Lourana (Tiffice) Setzler (center) was the wife of Charles Richard Setzler. She posed for this portrait with her four daughters in 1925. Grace (Setzler) Sharp (seated, right) presently owns their Hunt County farm.

JOHNSON COUNTY

CARLOCK FARM —1876— One and one-half miles southeast of Joshua
FOUNDER: John Robert Carlock of Simpson County, Kentucky
1982 OWNERS: Marvin Benjamin and Luella Carlock, Joshua

John Robert Carlock left Kentucky where he had been born on June 18, 1835, and came to Texas in 1871. He acquired title to his 80-acre farm on February 9, 1876, and added 125 acres where he raised cattle, hogs, corn, cotton, and peanuts. John Robert and his wife Melinda (Lightfoot) had six children: Robert E. Lee, John Stonewall Jackson, Mary California, William Arthur, Rumina, and Marion Francis.

The land was then passed on to his son Robert E. Lee on April 12, 1915, on which he continued the same production as his father before him, also running a small corn milling operation. He also was responsible for building a tick dipping vat for cattle for use in the

community. Robert E. Lee married Nancy Armilda Seals and they had two children, Hayden H. and Noble Lee.

The present owners received the land on June 1, 1946, and have established Coastal Bermudagrass and lovegrass pastures on previously unproductive land. Marvin, grandson of Robert E. Lee and great-grandson of the founder, also raises Herefords and some Simmental crossbred cattle.

JONES COUNTY

SWEN R. SWENSON CATTLE COMPANY —1854— Eight miles northwest of Stamford

FOUNDER: Swante Magnus Swenson of Jonkopings, Sweden

1982 CO-OWNERS: Swen R. Swenson Cattle Company Family Corporation, Stamford

Swante Magnus Swenson arrived in Texas in 1836 at the age of 20 with nothing more than his personal belongings. He soon became a prosperous businessman and was a personal friend of Sam Houston. He invested in Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railroad land and was responsible for bringing the first Swedish immigrants to Texas. His original holdings were 100,000 acres, with 200,000 more added and 50,000 acres sold during his lifetime. Many of the original acres acquired by Swenson were sold to develop farms in and around Stamford and the townsite itself was developed on Swenson land. The Ericsdale Ranch, located east of Stamford, was also used to homestead a number of Swedish immigrants, many of whom had their passage to Texas arranged for and paid by Swante Swenson. Jeanette (Long) and Susan (McReady) were the first and second wives of Swante Swenson and their children were: Eric Pierson, Swen Albin, and Eleonora.

Cattle ranching was initiated in 1882 under the name Swenson Brothers. The children of Swante Magnus Swenson shared ownership of 171,000 acres beginning in 1896. They added 124,000 acres and sold 25,000. Under their management, the herd of native cattle was upgraded to purebred Hereford and a system for mail order sales of calves to cornbelt feeders was initiated.

Sons and daughters of the second-generation's owners incorporated their landholdings under the name Swenson Land and Cattle Company in 1926. The company owners were Swante Mangus, Swen Randolphe, Albin Chaplin, and Eleonora. Their holdings consisted of 270,000 acres of which 45,700 were sold. They produced cattle, hay, and small grain crops. In 1958, they provided 11 sections of land stocked with cattle for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station for use in range research studies.

In 1978, the Swenson Land and Cattle Company, Inc. was partitioned into four separate, family-owned corporations. Swen R. Swenson Cattle Company is one of the four and its owners are the sons of Swen Randolphe: Bruce B., Roderic B., and Randolphe P. Swenson. Cattle, horses, hay, wheat, oats, and cotton are produced on 54,524 acres. Texas A&M University has recently renewed its agreement with the great-grandsons of the founder to continue the use of 11 sections as an experimental ranch. No family members reside on the land, but most take part in everyday operation with general manager Gary W. Mathis in charge.



The Swen R. Swenson cattle ranch in Jones County was the scene of this country social. Ranch hands and their ladies await the first notes of the square dance.



Ranch hands on the Swen R. Swenson ranch in Jones County are gathered for an outdoor meal served from a chuck wagon.

KARNES COUNTY

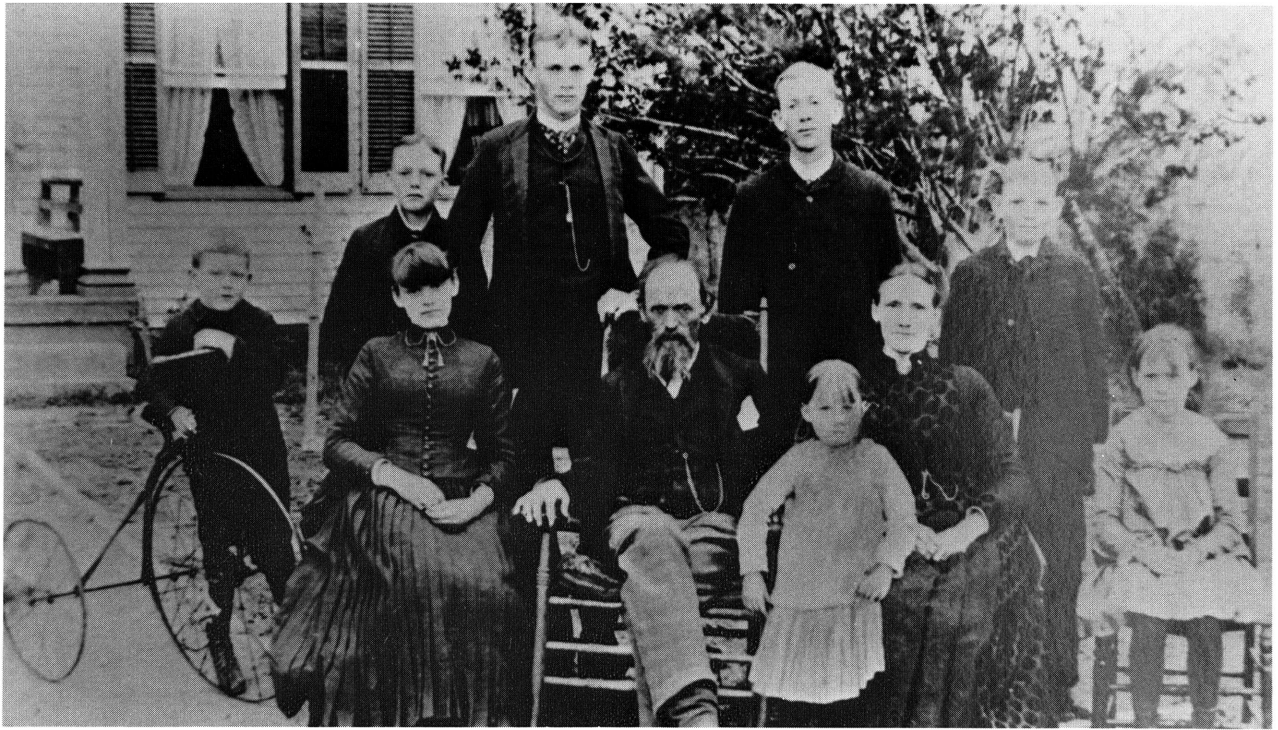
CHARLES RUCKMAN RANCH —1882— About eight miles north of Runge
FOUNDER: John Ruckman of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania
 (See also Joe Ruckman and Tom Ruckman ranches, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Charles Follmer Ruckman, Jr., Karnes City

John Ruckman was well known as an early rancher, pioneer banker, merchant, and civic leader by the old settlers in this section of the state. Arriving in Helena in 1856, he later opened a general merchandise store in the town and served as postmaster from 1873 until his death in 1913. He also loaned money to area residents and allowed them to keep cash in his safe, a practice which often led to the development of early banks. He employed ranch hands from nearby Flaccus, an early black colony established immediately following the Civil War, as well as having families live on his ranch. The founder donated land for a school, called the Ruckman School, near the area of his ranch. The original school building was later moved to Panna Maria and is currently being used as a meeting hall. A charter member of Alamita Lodge 200, he was always prominent in Masonic activities. As a major stockholder in the Karnes County National Bank in Karnes City, he added to the development and growth of the county. County treasurer in 1888, and chief

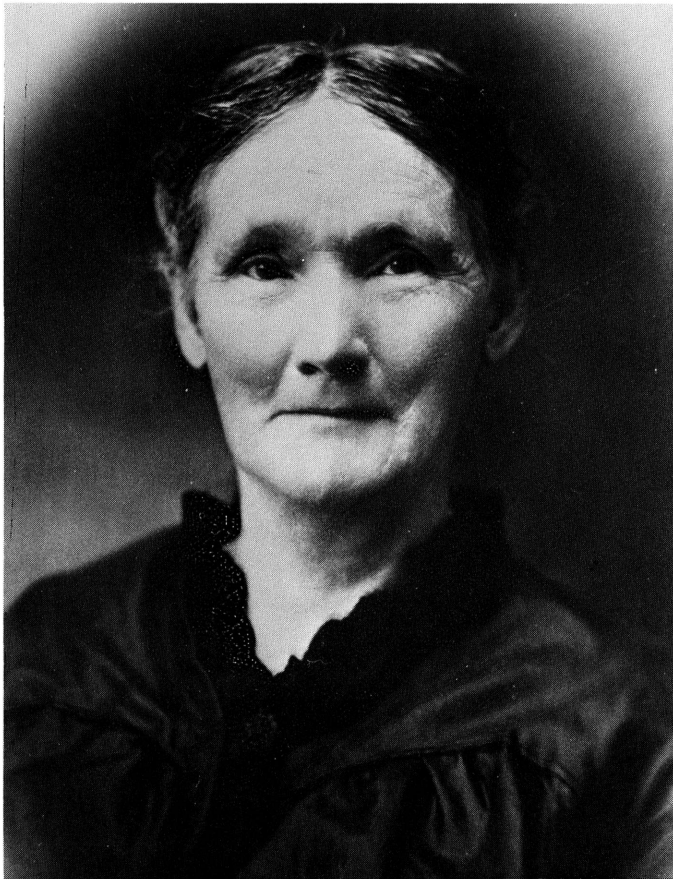
justice in 1865, he was one of many citizens who donated money for the building of Helena Academy in 1873.

Like his father before him, Thomas Dickson Ruckman also belonged to the Masonic Lodge 200. The second-generation owner of 1,000 Heritage acres was also a member of the Southwest Texas Cattlemen's Association and the Presbyterian church in Karnes City.

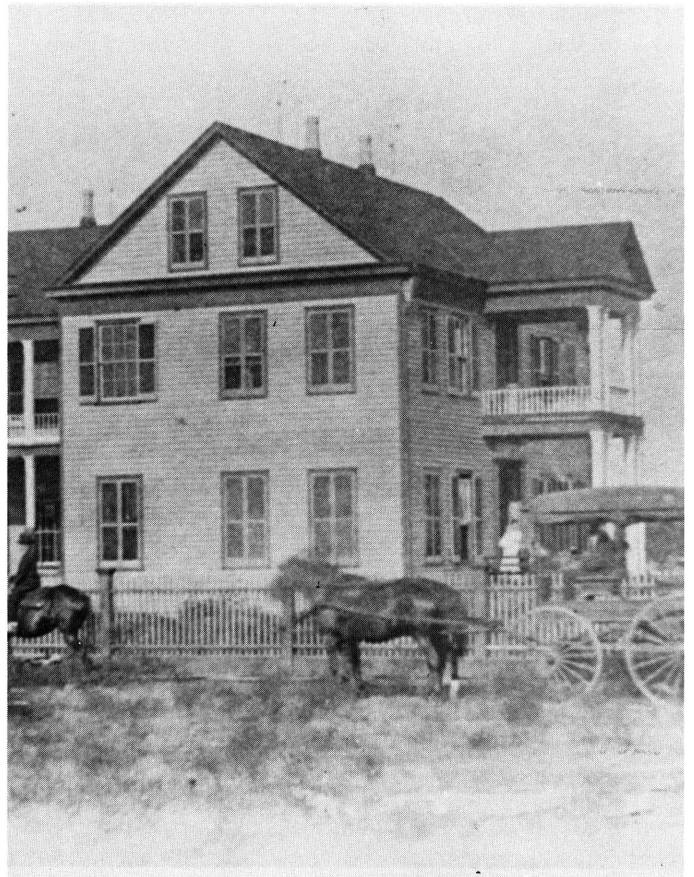
The current owner and his brothers and sister inherited their uncle Tom's 1,000 acres in 1954 and since 1956, Charles Follmer, Jr., has had complete control of 467 family acres passed to him through his uncle from his grandfather. Charles and his wife live in Karnes City. He leased the land from 1956-1967 to his cousin Frank and now has the ranch leased to his brother Thomas Mayfield who raises cattle and feed on the land.



John Ruckman (center) was a colorful figure in the historic events in Karnes County. Here he is shown with his wife, Eliza, and their eight children.



Eliza (Dickson) Ruckman was the wife of John Ruckman, founder of three Karnes County Heritage ranches. She was the mother of three daughters and five sons and lived to the age of eighty-five.



John Ruckman built this home on his Karnes County land in 1878. The family donated the home to the Karnes County Historical Society in 1968. Restoration is in progress and the building will be open to the public in the near future.

JOE RUCKMAN RANCH —1882— About eight miles north of Runge

FOUNDER: John Ruckman of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania
(See also Charles Ruckman and Tom Ruckman ranches, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Joe Butler Ruckman, Karnes City

The home built by founder John Ruckman 104 years ago still stands in Helena, seven miles south of the family ranch. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was donated, along with eight acres of land, to the Karnes County Historical Society in 1968 and is currently under restoration for opening to the public in the near future. The 17-room house was built of Florida cypress brought by ship to Indianola and then by wagon to Helena. During Helena's heyday, before it was bypassed by the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad in 1884, the home was pivotal in the social and cultural activities of the one-time county seat. Itinerant preachers and other travelers stayed there and the large Ruckman family and ranch hands provided a great deal of activity in the home. Relatives visiting from Pennsylvania often stayed the whole winter at the Helena residence. In 1970, the house was awarded an official Texas Historical Marker by the Texas Historical Commission.

The man who's home has become an historic landmark originally came to Texas to join his brother Thomas, a co-founder of Helena and Karnes County. His initial purchase of land on July 8, 1882, was for a total of 7,267 acres and was from the James Powell Survey awarded by the Republic of Texas on June 27, 1845. In addition to the land in the original ranch, Ruckman also bought and sold over 12,000 acres in Karnes and DeWitt counties between 1867 and 1913. Family members still own all of the original 5,720 acres inherited from the founder. The founder raised cattle, horses, mules, corn, hay, cotton, and grazing crops. By his wife Eliza H. (Dickson), descendant of General Joseph Dickson, he had eight children: John William, Robert Caldwell, Mary Jane (Barnett),

Thomas Dickson, Charles Follmer, Hester Alice, Hugh Bennet, and Margaret Elizabeth.

In 1916, the founder's son Thomas Dickson acquired 1,000 acres from his father and began producing corn, hay, cattle, horses, and cotton. Thomas Dickson, a life-long bachelor, served as president of the Karnes County National Bank after the death of his brother John in 1924 until his own death in 1954. By providing a source of funds for loans to area farmers, ranchers, and businessmen, he contributed to both agricultural and business progress in the area.

Thomas' land passed in 1954 to his nieces and nephews, the children of Charles Follmer and Willie Ruckman. The third-generation Ruckmans shared ownership until 1956 when the brothers bought out their sister's interest.

At that time, Joe B. Ruckman acquired 532 Heritage acres as a separate property. Joe B. and his family have contributed to the agricultural progress of their land by pursuing soil conservation, cross fencing, improved cattle, brush control, improved permanent pasture, and established stock ponds. While the owner leased the ranch to a cousin, also a grandson of the founder, while he served in the Air Force between 1950-1969, he was actively engaged in ranching there himself from 1964 until July 1982. Since that time, Brangus cattle, hay, and grazing crops have been produced on the land under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is a great-granddaughter of the founder and niece of the owner Joe Ruckman. The owner continues to stock cattle on the land and participate in its continued improvement.

TOM RUCKMAN RANCH —1882— About eight miles north of Runge

FOUNDER: John Ruckman of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania
(See also Charles Ruckman and Joe Ruckman ranches, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Thomas Mayfield Ruckman, Karnes City

Founder John Ruckman's 57-year residence in Karnes County was a colorful period in Texas history, encompassing the Civil War, range wars, and the abrupt decline of Helena. Before acquiring his ranch, Ruckman served as a lieutenant in the Helena Guards, one of several volunteer companies in Karnes County, from 1862 to 1865. While many of the county's men were away fighting for the Confederacy, their cattle herds were greatly diminished by rustlers and a devastating drought. After the war, as barbed wire fences began to appear, the founder had to contend with fence cutters. The old spliced wire, still in use on the ranch, is a visible reminder of those frontier range wars. In 1884, just two years after Ruckman's purchase of the ranch, the railroad bypassed Helena

and most of its businesses and residents move to Karnes City which became the county seat in 1894. Ruckman also became involved with business in Karnes City, although he also continued to operate his general merchandise store and the Helena Post Office as well as running his ranch from Helena until his death in 1913 at the age of 77. The founder left his entire estate to his wife Eliza (Dickson) who divided it among their children in 1916 before her death in 1932.

Charles Follmer (C. F.) Ruckman received 1,000 acres as his inheritance and continued his father's tradition of improving and building the ranch. C. F. had married Willie Mayfield in 1912 and they had four children: Charles Follmer, Jr., Mary Alice, Thomas

Mayfield, and Joe Butler. He managed his father's ranching interests and lived on the ranch headquarters from 1900 until 1920 in a house later dismantled except for two existing chimneys. Three of his four children, including the current owner of this property, were born in the house. In the 1950's, the sons rebuilt the house, incorporating the existing chimneys, and the house is currently used for frequent family picnics and reunions. Many early tools, branding irons, and farm implements used on the ranch are displayed in the house. In 1920, the family moved to Karnes City so that they would have easier access to public schools. C. F. and his family were leaders in the Presbyterian church in Karnes City. C. F., who was educated at

Austin College, also served on the county school board in the 1930's and as mayor of Karnes City in the 1920's. His wife Willie served as well on the Karnes City School Board for many years and was active in civic affairs.

From 1953 to 1956, the current owner of this 1,000-acre ranch co-owned the property with his brothers, receiving full ownership in 1956. The grandson of the founder has added 80 acres to his holdings where he raises Brangus cattle, hay, and grazing crops. Tom, who leased the ranch to his cousin while serving in the Air Force from 1956-1967, now lives near Helena with his wife.

KERR COUNTY

***EMILIE R. NEILL-JEANETTE R. BOSTER RANCH —1857—** Seven miles south of Kerrville
FOUNDER: Caspar Real of a town near Dusseldorf, Germany

1982 CO-OWNERS: Mrs. Jeanette R. Boster, San Angelo
Mrs. Emilie R. Neill, San Antonio

Caspar Real and his wife Emilie (Schreiner) established a homestead on Turtle Creek in Kerr County and reared their family of eight children: Walter, Albert, Julius, Robert, Arthur, Charles, Matilda (Ingenhuett), and Emma (Stieler). Caspar brought the first flock of sheep to Kerr County where he began buying land on November 21, 1857. By the time of his death in 1893, he owned in excess of 30,000 acres. As an active rancher, he also served his community in various elective and appointive offices. His first public service was as a member of the Kerr County Commissioners Court in 1860. During the years 1883-1885, he again served as a member of this court. He was also Kerr County Treasurer in 1864-1865 and Tax Assessor-Collector from 1866-1869. In 1871, the Texas Legislature declared war on cattle rustlers and passed a law requiring the counties to have hide and animal inspectors. The purpose of the inspector was to prevent stolen stock from being offered for sale and stolen hides from going to market and to detect cattle thievery. Caspar Real was the first man to fill the inspector's office in Kerr County and served at the post until 1878. When the wool growers of Kerr County formed an organization for mutual assistance under a state charter in 1879, Caspar was a charter member and was named chairman at the first meeting held on August 10, 1879. He was appointed sheep inspector for Kerr County in 1879, under provisions of an act of the Legislature approved on March 29, 1879. When the Texas Longhorns began to be replaced by other cattle, Caspar Real introduced the first improved breed to Kerr County. The roan Durham produced better beef and thinner hides than the Longhorn, but required more feed for subsistence

and through experimentation proved not to be a practical solution. As an innovator and experimenter in improved cattle breeds in Kerr County, Caspar, along with Mrs. James Spicer, introduced the first Hereford cattle into the county around 1881.

Upon the death of her husband in 1893, Emilie inherited approximately 30,000 acres of land. In 1897, ownership of about 10,000 acres went from Emilie to her son Arthur where he continued with the development of sheep and cattle. Arthur Real served on the Kerr County Commissioners Court from 1912-1914 and again from 1918-1920. Under his direction, main roads of the precinct were graded and graveled and culverts were built as a result of the first road bond issue voted in on May 12, 1913, for \$40,000. Arthur married Francis Williams and they had one child, Caspar II. For a half century, Arthur and his son Caspar developed the ranch into a well-known registered Delaine-Moreno sheep and cattle stock-farm operation. The ranch also ran goats for the production of mohair.

Caspar II died in 1941 and four years later, his mother acquired title to 930 acres of the remaining land. She continued with the production of sheep, cattle, and feed grains, managing to survive through the severe drought of the 1950's.

In 1963, Emilie Real Neill and Jeanette Real Boster acquired title to 792 acres of family land. The current co-owners are great-granddaughters of the founder and the granddaughters of Arthur and Francis Real.

Soil and grazing land conservation and wildlife preservation programs are practiced by the sisters to ensure the proper management of the ranch for future generations. The original one-room log cabin of the founder still stands and is utilized for storage. There is

also a two-story frame ranch house that is maintained and utilized. Portions of the ranch house were built by the founder, with other portions added on by succeeding generations.



The Real family gathered around Emilie (Schreiner) Real (seated, center) for this photo made in 1910. Casper and Emilie Real founded their large family and ranch estate in Kerr County in 1857.



The Real Ranch house is located on Turtle Creek in Kerr County. The home was begun by Founder Caspar Real with additions made by succeeding generations and is maintained by present-owners, Jeanette Boster and Emilie Neill.

KIMBLE COUNTY

GULLY COWSERT, JR., RANCH —1882— Twelve miles west of Junction

FOUNDER: David P. Cowsert of Tennessee
(See also K. Cowsert Ranch, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Gully Cowsert, Jr., Junction

This ranch, which continues to produce cattle and sheep, was originally part of land settled by founder David P. Cowsert, who acquired 2,516 acres of Kimble County land in 1882. He eventually sold 300 acres, but on the remainder produced cattle, corn, and hay. He donated land and started the Copperas Cemetery. He and his wife Catherine had five children: John A., William, Charles, Mordecai, and Mark.

The founder's son John A. received 2,216 acres in 1908 to which he added 2,382 more acres and where he

produced cattle, sheep, hay, and grains. John contributed to his community development by donating land for the Copperas Methodist Church. His wife was Kate (Moore) and their children were: Gully, Dave, Frank, and Lucy (Kunze).

Gully Cowsert, Sr., received his Heritage land in 1920 and passed 1,182 acres to his son Gully, Jr., in 1954. Gully, Jr., great-grandson of the founder, lives on the land with his wife Polly (Pilant) and their son Gully III.

K. COWSERT RANCH —1882— Twelve miles west of Junction

FOUNDER: David P. Cowsert of Tennessee
(See also Gully Cowsert, Jr., Ranch, this county.)
1982 OWNER: K. Cowsert, Junction

Gully Cowsert received 4,598 acres of the land founded by his grandfather in 1920. To his inherited acres he added 1,197 acres and sold 3,296. Agricultural production included sheep, cattle, goats, and hay. He contributed to his community by donating land for the Bodarc School. He was a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and a captain in the Texas Rangers. Mamie Keese became his wife and their children were: Mary Kathrine (Meriwether), Gully, Jr., and K.

K. Cowsert received 770 acres of the portion originally owned by his great-grandfather in 1954. He now owns

an additional 1,221 acres. His community activities include having been president of the Hill Country Fair Association, director of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, president of the Ranchers Fire Association, and a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Mrs. Cowsert (Wanda Taylor) is also active in civic organizations, including having been co-organizer and director of the Kimble County Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, and 4H Youth Show and maintaining Bodarc School House as the Copperas Community Center. K. and Wanda live on their Heritage land where ranching operations produce cattle, sheep, goats, and hay.

***PARKER RANCH —1876—** Twenty-eight miles northeast of Junction

FOUNDER: James Henry Parker of Florida
1982 CO-OWNERS: Descendants of James Henry Parker

After serving in the Confederate Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, James Henry Parker met and married Matilda Jane Crockett near Brownwood in 1871. A large, one-room log cabin with a loft and cellar was built by James Henry and his wife Matilda Jane on their homestead about 1874 at the "Old Ranch." Family stories recount that "Tildy" milked 20 of their 40 cows, made butterballs which she kept in barrels of brine, and later drove by wagon to San Antonio to sell them to make money to buy lumber for their first home. Tildy Parker, a grandniece of David Crockett, is remembered by her family for her many acts of thrift and frontier skill. She was also noted as an accomplished horsewoman. Her husband had

originally come to Texas with his mother and siblings around 1860 to buy and settle in the new land. After their marriage, they homesteaded on 160 acres, receiving a patent for the land in 1876. The original 160 acres are presently owned and operated by great grandchildren of James Henry Parker, which is still known as the original "Old Ranch." During their marriage, they acquired around 12,000 more acres. Their first sheep were orphan lambs from Captain Schreiner's Red Hole Ranch. "Jim" was a master mason and a member of the Masonic Lodge of Junction. The pioneering couple was active in community development, securing land and helping build the Noxville School House in 1880. The building

is made of 20-inch thick native stones and is still in use on the Parker land as a Kimble County precinct polling place. The 11 children of Jim and Tildy were: Sam, James, George, Tommy, Belle, Lon, Vester, Jess, William, Dock, and Walter.

Matilda Jane had possession of the land alone for a brief time after the death of her husband, passing it on to their children in 1918.

Descendants today continue to carry on the tradition of ranching begun in 1874. Jess F. Parker is the only living son of James and Matilda Parker. Jess, who was 93 years old in June 1982, and his wife Lorena still reside on and operate their portion of the Heritage ranch in Kimble County.



Walter W. Parker (left) was one of eleven children of Kimble County ranch founders James and Matilda Parker. He posed with Belmore Roberts in this Rio automobile shortly after the turn of the century.



Children and their pets posed outside the Parker home built in 1910 near the Little Devil's River in Kimble County.

KINNEY COUNTY

ROSE RANCH —1880— Twenty-one miles northeast of Brackettville

FOUNDER: Mary Washington Weaver of Mexico

1982 OWNER: James D. Rose, Uvalde

Mary Washington Weaver was born in Mexico, then came to Lost Creek in Kinney County with her family. In 1880, she acquired 320 acres in Kinney County. She later added 5,408 acres to her ranch where hay, sheep, goats, and cattle were the main agricultural pursuits. She married David Rose of Inverness, Scotland, on New Year's Day, 1888. David Rose explored their land for mineral deposits, discovering bauxite and potash. He started their herd of sheep in 1907 by cross-breeding Rambouillet and Delaine to develop one of the finest all-around wool and mutton sheep in Southwest Texas. His rams were sold for many years. David Rose served as a county commissioner, built the first net fence in the county, and wrote many articles for newspapers and magazines. The children of Mary and David Rose were: James, David, Jr., and George.

James Rose inherited 3,058 acres of his mother's land in 1946 where he continued production of sheep, goats, and cattle. The many caves on the property served as shelter for the herd of Angora goats he

started. James Rose was a veteran of World War I. Theresa (Creasa) Hokit became his wife in 1923 and they had three children: Frances, James David, and Charles Gordon.

James David Rose acquired his parents' acreage in 1968 and owns another Kinney County ranch of 3,100 acres called "Los Cuernos" as well as a 195-acre farm in Uvalde County. His ranches produce hay, sheep, cattle, and Angora goats. He has been a director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and his children have been active in 4H Clubs. Kyle Mayes Rose, son of the present owner and a great-grandson of the founder, graduated from the Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program in 1980 and runs an outstanding herd of Angora goats on the Heritage land. Kyle Mayes lives on their ranch along with his brother James David Rose, Jr., and James' wife and their children Charlotte Marie and James David III. The owner is involved in the everyday management of the ranch with the help of his sons.

LAMPASAS COUNTY

***WHEEL RANCH —1868—** One-half mile west of Kempner

FOUNDER: Philip L. and Melvina C. Slaughter of Tennessee

1982 OWNERS: Max B. and Bessie A. Gilbreath Bennett, Kempner

A pole barn built by the founders in the early 1870's still stands on the property today. Constructed of lumber hauled by oxen from Austin, it is used by family members to store baled hay. The founding couple deeded two acres of their land to Lampasas County in 1878 for the Derrick School and Cemetery. The school is no longer standing but the cemetery exists and is the resting place of three family members. The same year that they gave land to the county, they also leased land to C. O. and E. M. Hobbs to build a dam and mill on the Little River. The land which they donated and leased was from the 272 acres which they had purchased in 1868. Their agricultural production included cotton, corn, cattle, hogs, and horses. Helping them in their work were their six children: Thomas, Melissa Jane (Ogletree), Louisa Ann (Edwards), Malinda Francis (Adams), Mary C. (McMasters), and John F.

P. O. Slaughter died in 1900 and control of the land passed to his wife Melvina. His will directed that the east half of their holdings pass to their daughter Louisa Ann upon the mother's death.

After Melvina died in 1918, the east half of the ranch passed through Louisa to her daughter Maud and Maud's husband Hugh Gilbreath. The west half was then purchased by James Gilbreath, Hugh's brother, with Hugh and Maud receiving the west half upon James' death. Hugh was known as a strong Christian and was master of the Masonic Lodge in Kempner. The third-generation couple had five children: Vance, Essie Maud, Bessie Alice, Voyce Olive, and Loyce. All except Loyce, who died in infancy, grew up to be school teachers.

After the death of Hugh Gilbreath in 1947, Maud managed her family's land alone. She continued ranching operations, including production of cotton, corn, and cattle.

Her daughter Bessie Alice inherited 192.1 acres of land originally owned by her great-grandparents in 1964. She and her husband Max B. Bennett have improved

their ranch by clearing and sprigging Coastal Bermudagrass, drilling a new well, and installing new fencing. They produce oat hay, Coastal Bermuda, Kleingrass, cattle, and hogs. Bessie taught school in the area for 33 years before her retirement. A two-story, nine-room house built in 1922-23 of native stone cut from the place has been added onto and is still in use today.



This barn was built in the early 1870's shortly after Philip and Melvina Slaughter founded their Lampasas County ranch. The barn which is still in use was built of lumber hauled from Austin by oxen.

LAVACA COUNTY

***FAHRENTHOLD FARM —1868—** Four miles east of Hallettsville
FOUNDER: Frederick William Farenthold of Pritzwalk, Germany
1982 CO-OWNERS: Frederick William Farenthold, Beaumont
Max Cole Farenthold, Bellville
Gaye Ann Farenthold Galetka, Hallettsville
Geraldine Mertz Janca, Hallettsville
Emily Jean Farenthold McDonald, Hallettsville
Justus Mertz, Hallettsville
Manfred Mertz, Hallettsville
Richard Mertz, Hallettsville
Dorothy Farenthold Rother, Hallettsville
Margie Farenthold Schmidt, Hallettsville
Velda Farenthold Staggs, Hallettsville

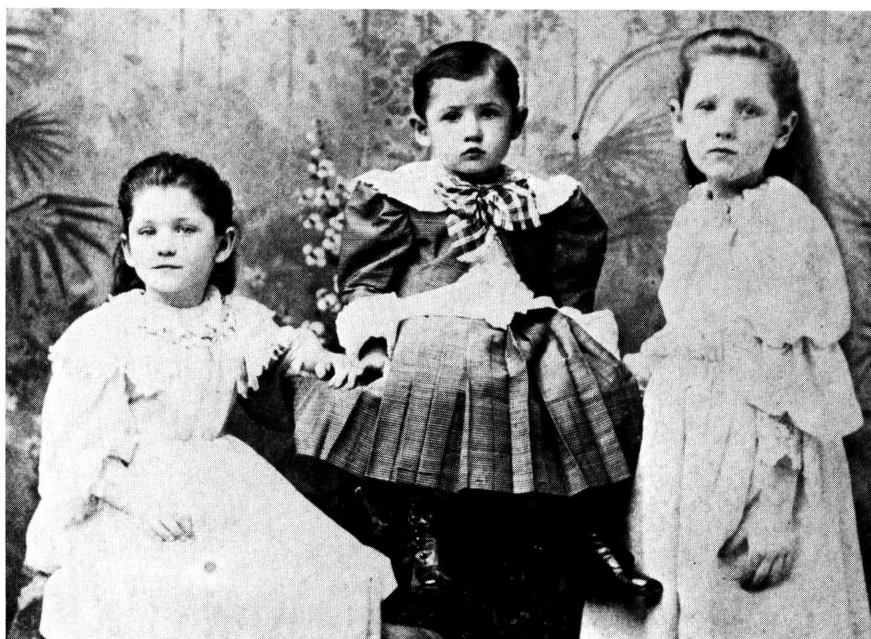
As a young man of 24, Frederick William Farenthold left Pritzwalk, Germany, with his parents Ludwig and Maria and siblings Ferdinand, August, Louis, and Wilhelmina Charlotte. They sailed from Hamburg, Germany, on September 2, 1850, on the ship "Brasilian," landing in Galveston nearly two and one-half months later. The family moved to High Hill in Fayette County in 1853 where the father bought a 340-acre farm. It was from this farm that the Farenthold children began to marry and move to other places.

Frederick William married Otilie Grobe and they lived in New Ulm where four children were born: Selma, Natalia, Paul and twins Manfred and Maximilan. Sadly, Otilie died after the birth of the twins and is buried at New Ulm. Frederick William moved his family on to Hallettsville sometime in the early 1860's and shortly after settling there, remarried to a woman named Abigail. It was at this time that he became owner of a general merchandise store in Hallettsville. He was also elected to public office in 1872 and served as county treasurer until 1874. He bought numerous small farms around Hallettsville, keeping the farm, consisting of about 216 acres, that 11 of his great-grandchildren now own. The land was purchased from W. Dibrell for the sum of \$787 in August 1868 and production on the property included cotton, corn, grains, native pecans, cattle, hogs, chickens, and turkeys.

The founder's son Manfred purchased the farm from his father for \$1,500 in May 1881. The founder died in August 1902 and is buried in Hallettsville. Manfred married Ernestine Schott and built a house on the farm in 1881. The home was enlarged in later years and is still standing today. Manfred and Ernestine had three children: Bertha, Augusta, and William Frederick. Bertha never married and died in November 1959. Augusta married Marcus Mertz and they lived in the house with Manfred and Ernestine while William married Epsy Brooks.

Manfred died in 1941, leaving the farm to his wife Ernestine. She continued to live in the house on the farm until her death six years later. In 1912, their son William built a house on the farm about one mile east of the old home for himself and his bride. They eventually reared seven children in the home: Velda, Dorothy, Frederick, Margie, Max, Jean, and Gaye Ann. The house burned to the ground in July 1942 and Ernestine immediately gave her son William a deed to the 72 acres he would inherit upon her death so that he could mortgage the land for a loan to build a new house. William's wife Epsy preceded him in death in 1974. The year after her death, William deeded his part of the farm to their seven children and continued to live on the farm until his death in March of 1979.

All seven of William and Epsy's children are still living and own 15 acres of William's share of the farm. Upon their grandmother's death, the remaining 144 acres were divided between her daughters Augusta and Bertha. Because she had no children, Bertha's 72-acre share was then divided between her brother William and sister Augusta when she died. Augusta passed away in September 1965, leaving her part of the land to her husband Marcus Mertz. Still living at 98, he deeded the Mertz part of the farm in July 1972 to their four children: Justus, Manfred, Richard, and Geraldine. Co-owners now living on the farm include Jean and her husband R. L. McDonald, Margie and her husband Bill Schmidt, Velda and her husband Louis Staggs, Justus and his wife Helen, Richard and his wife Florence, Geraldine and her husband Julius Janca, and Manfred. Manfred's wife Lottie also lived on the farm until her death. The house built by Manfred Farenthold in 1880 is being occupied by Geraldine and Julius Janca. All 11 co-owners participate in decisions made about the farm which produces corn, grain, vegetables, hogs, chickens, and cattle.



Augusta, William, and Bertha Farenthold were the children of Manfred and Ernestine Farenthold and grandchildren of Frederick Farenthold, founder of their Lavaca County farm.



Second-generation owners Ernestine and Manfred Farenthold pose with their daughter, Augusta, and grandson outside the home they built in 1881 on the Lavaca County farm founded by his parents, Frederick and Otilie Farenthold.



JANAK FARM —1882— Seven miles west of Hallettsville

FOUNDER: Frank Janak, Sr., of Tiche, Austria

1982 OWNERS: Joseph D. and Mildred Janak, Hallettsville

The first of six brothers to come to America, Frank Janak, Sr., age 33, and his 29-year-old wife Rosalie emigrated from their native town which was at that time in Austria but is now situated in Czechoslovakia. Janak and his wife made the decision to leave because of the oppressive conditions under then-ruler Franz Joseph. With them they brought four children, two sons aged four years and ten months, and two daughters aged seven and two. On November 10, 1873, the Janaks landed in Galveston, traveling by train on the Galveston-Harrisburg line to Weimar, at that time the end of the tracks. It would be another four years before the first train would arrive in San Antonio. The Janaks farmed land in Fayette County and at Hackberry in Lavaca County before purchasing 216 7/8 acres in Lavaca County on September 19, 1882. Because Hallettsville did not yet exist as a center of trading, they traded in Schulenburg where the train line had finally reached. The local merchandise store was operated by Ignac Rusek, who also hauled and lodged the first settlers arriving by train from Galveston and, later, nearer towns, as more train lines were laid. When the tracks reached Flatonia, the family began trading there where on May 3, 1884, the founder lost one brother, Ondrej, by drowning with two friends John Hielek and Frank Soviak when they attempted to across the swollen Lavaca River at Witting. They had been bringing supplies by wagon which included barbed wire, flour, and kegs of beer being brought home for a house dance that night. All three bodies were located 600 yards below the crossing site, still clinging to each other, while their supplies were washed eight miles below the accident near Hallettsville.

One of the first settlers in the Czech Catholic Wied area, founder Frank Janak turned his prairie land portion out of a more than 3,000-acre tract into productive land where he produced cotton, corn, livestock, and poultry. To the original family of four

children who came with the founder and his wife, they eventually added ten more. By 1900, 11 of the 14 children were still living: Rosie, Anton, Frank, Joe, Agnes, Theresa, Veronika, Mary, Alois, Francis, and August.

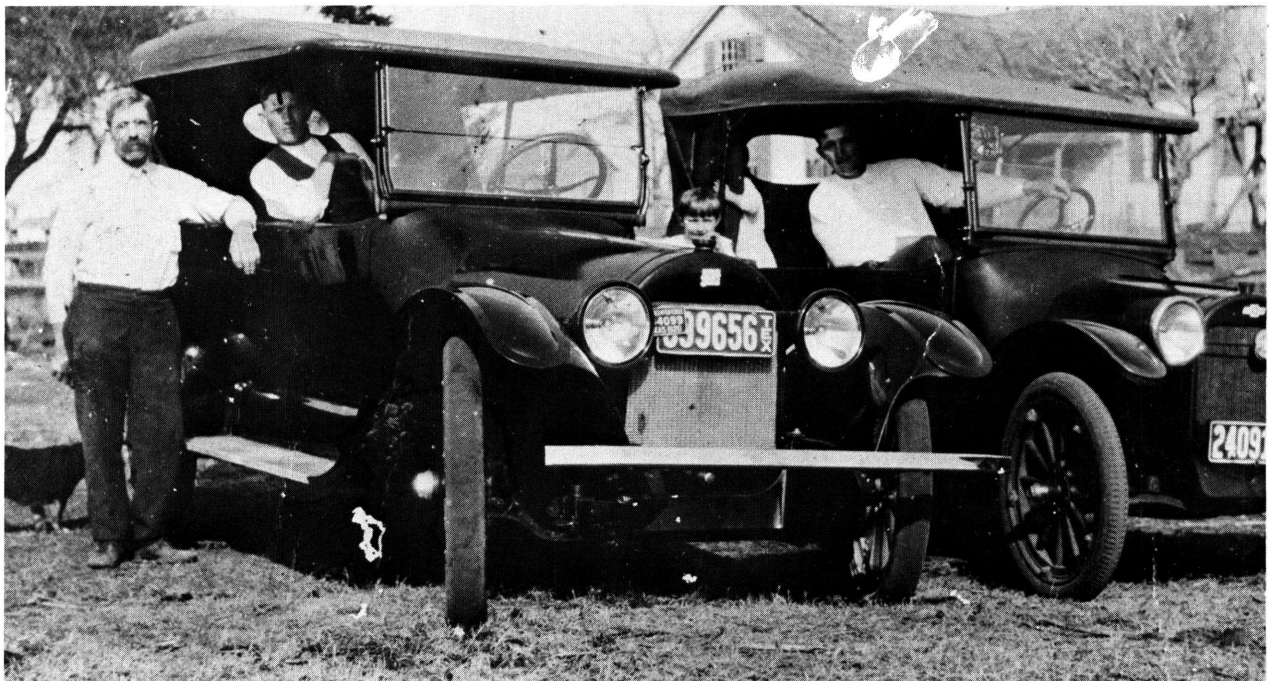
On May 13, 1911, August Janak received title to 122.5 acres of his father's land, eventually adding on 78 acres. August produced a diverse array on his land, including corn, cotton, maize, field peas, hegari, cane sorghum for molasses, Hereford cattle, hogs, feedlot steers, chickens, and turkeys. In 1936, he purchased the first iron wheel tractor in the community and the first 32-volt Delco light plant was built in the area to provide electricity for the farm family, making the area the first recipient under the Rural Electrification Authority. August also had the first new combine and corn picker in the county. A very patriotic citizen, he took special pride in producing crops during World War II. He also helped the war cause in many other ways, including collecting scrap metal for the effort. Agnes Pustka became his wife and they had ten children: Annie, Paul, Hubert, Julia, Melvin, Margaret, Agnes, Joseph, Irene, and Bernadette.

In 1951 and again in 1954, the current owners received family land, 118 acres in all, to which they have added 74 acres. The founder's grandson and grand-daughter-in-law have installed the only scarifier and recleaner for clover seed for a 50-mile area so that they can offer seed cleaning for surrounding counties. They have grown numerous seed test plots on their land and have conducted soil temperature tests and also are active in custom combining, corn picking, seed threshing, and corn shelling. One 60-year-old house on the property has studs chopped from sapling trees. The land produces Charolais and Limousin cattle, maize, clover, Coastal Bermuda, and oats under the direction of Joseph D. Janak, who is one of the more than 2,000 current descendants of the founder and his brothers.





Frank and Rosalie Janak left their home in Austria to found their Lavaca County farm. They are shown with eleven of their fourteen children. Their youngest child, August (front, center), became the second owner of their Heritage land.



August Janak (right), second owner of his family's Lavaca County farm posed in his first car, a Chevrolet. His father-in-law, Matt Pustka, owned the Buick on the left.

***NOLLKAMPER FARM —1882—** Twelve miles northwest of Hallettsville

FOUNDER: Gustav D. Nollkamper of La Grange, Texas

1982 OWNER: Leroy E. Nollkamper, Shiner

A native Texan who was born only a small distance from the land he eventually settled, Gustav D. Nollkamper acquired title to 182.5 acres in Lavaca County, the deed reading December 6, 1882. He and his wife Caroline (Koether) had seven children to help them on the farm: Louisa, George, Edmund, Alma, Alfred, Hedwig, and Arnold. The family raised cattle, hogs, cotton, corn, and hay on their land.

After the founder's son Edmund acquired 77.52 acres of the farm, he quit farming any corn, but added sheep,

chickens, and grains to the land's production. He also bought an additional 80.35 acres to increase his farming potential. Ida Korges became the second-generation owner's wife and they had five children: Bernice, Leroy, Weldon, Irene, and Elda.

Bachelor Leroy E. Nollkamper has owned the family farm since April 13, 1973, and raises cattle, grain, cotton, and hay. A house and barn from his grandfather's time remain on the land and are used for hay storage and as a cattle shelter.



Gustav Nollkamper founded his farm in Lavaca County in 1882. He is shown here with his wife, Caroline, and their children. They are (top row, left to right) Louisa, Edmund, Alma, George, Hedwig, (seated) Gustav, Arnold, Alfred, and Caroline.

LEON COUNTY

***THE OLD SHEPHERD PLACE —1879—** Six miles northwest of Leona

FOUNDER: Thomas J. Shepherd of Mississippi
1982 OWNER: Joanne Thompson Dorman, Houston

The ruins of an old grist mill and gin dating from Thomas J. Shepherd's period remain on the land which he acquired the same year he came with other family members to the county. He acquired the deed to 253 acres where he raised cotton, corn, and sugarcane. The founder married Mattie J. Sylvester and the family bible shows no record of children born to the couple.

Their land was sold to a nephew, George A. Shepherd, and his wife Ida (Seale) in 1895. George had followed other family members from their former home in Mississippi, arriving by boat at Galveston harbor. He and Ida added fruit trees to the agricultural production of their family land where they reared four children: Ruby, Roger, Gladys, and Joe.

Ruby and her husband F. L. Thompson bought her parents' 253 acres in 1940. They continued ranching operations and cultivated sugarcane. For their hard work, they were selected Outstanding Farmers of the Bedias Conservation District in 1950 and operated about 600 acres in all. Their children were Ray, Louie, Joanne, and Bill.

In 1971, Ruby jointly deeded the 253 acres to Joanne, Louie, and Bill. After her death in 1981, Joanne became sole owner and has added 13.9 acres near Leona. Joanne Thompson Dorman and her husband Wesley D. Dorman are involved in the production of cattle on her Heritage ranch and visit on weekends. They have two grown sons, Wesley III and Foster Lesley.

LIVE OAK COUNTY

GILL ESTATE RANCH —1864— Five and one-half miles east of Oakville

FOUNDER: T. D. Gill of Tennessee
1982 OWNER: Lila Gill Pattillo, Three Rivers

T. D. Gill bought 640 acres of land in 1864, selling off half in later years. He raised cattle and farmed cotton, operating a cotton gin on his property. The founder also owned two other cotton gins, one at Lagarto in Live Oak County and the other at Mineral in Bee County. Being interested in the community, T. D. insisted on building better roads and schools as well as having a stake in other local activities. He married Lila J. Garnot who bore him five children: Annie (Parrot), Lillie (Collins), Fred, Robert Leroy, and Verta Loraine (Merryfield).

Following her husband's death in 1923, Lila took over possession of the land and operated it with the help of her son Robert Leroy. During this period, improvements were made on the fields for increased production.

In 1958, the founder's son Robert Leroy, known as Roy, received 72 acres of land on which he raised cotton, grain, corn, peanuts, and cattle. Like his father before him, Roy worked to maintain county roads in the county and gave several acres of his land for a farm road and for FM 1358. He was the first farmer in the area to operate a row binder. Roy married Harriet Huddler and they had four children: Talton Leroy, James M., Lila L. (Pattillo), and Traz.

Since 1974, Lila, the granddaughter of the founder, has owned 18 Heritage acres. She and her 23-year-old son live on the land and, together, raise cattle, Coastal Bermudagrass, and a garden on the Heritage acres plus 210 leased acres. The owner has aided the community by her interest in local education and has driven the school bus for area children.

JONES RANCH —1878— Three miles east of Oakville

FOUNDER: George Zackeus and Emily Clement Shipp Wilson of Montgomery County, Texas

1982 OWNER: Henry Allen Jones, George West

George Zackeus Wilson and his wife Emily Clement (Shipp) moved from Montgomery County about 250 miles away to Live Oak County where they acquired title to 1,050 acres of farmland on February 21, 1878. George raised corn, cotton, cattle, and sheep on the land and also served as county commissioner from 1876 to 1883. Emily bore him seven children: Gary, Zackeus, George, Kittie, Nanny, Dolly, and Mary.

Kittie married James Allen Jones and on February 15, 1893, they acquired title to 160 acres of her parents' land. They worked hard on the land to make it a

success, raising grass, corn, cotton, and cattle. Kittie and James had four children: Lygia, Lemuel A., Henry Allen, and Gertrude.

On January 10, 1933, Henry Allen Jones took over the 160 acres of land from his parents. He and his wife had one son, Roy Allen, who, with his wife Charon (Buchli) and their daughters Laurie Ann and Tari Kae, live on the land with the third-generation couple. Coastal Bermudagrass is grown for cattle raised on the ranch under the direction of Roy Allen, who operates the land for his father.

MASON COUNTY

BESSIE EVERS RANCH —1882— About forty-five miles south of Mason

FOUNDER: Ludwig Evers of Germany

1982 OWNER: Bessie Ella Evers, Fredericksburg

Ludwig Evers was born in Germany and came to Texas in 1849 to set up a homestead on 2,140 1/2 acres. He acquired title to the land on June 26, 1882, where he raised sheep and cattle. He and his wife Paulina (Itz) were the parents of eight children: Louis, Bertha, Henry, August, Lina, Charlie, Mathilda, and Adolf.

One son, Charlie, took over 532 acres in 1898. He raised cattle, sheep, and goats. There were eight children born as well to this second-generation owner

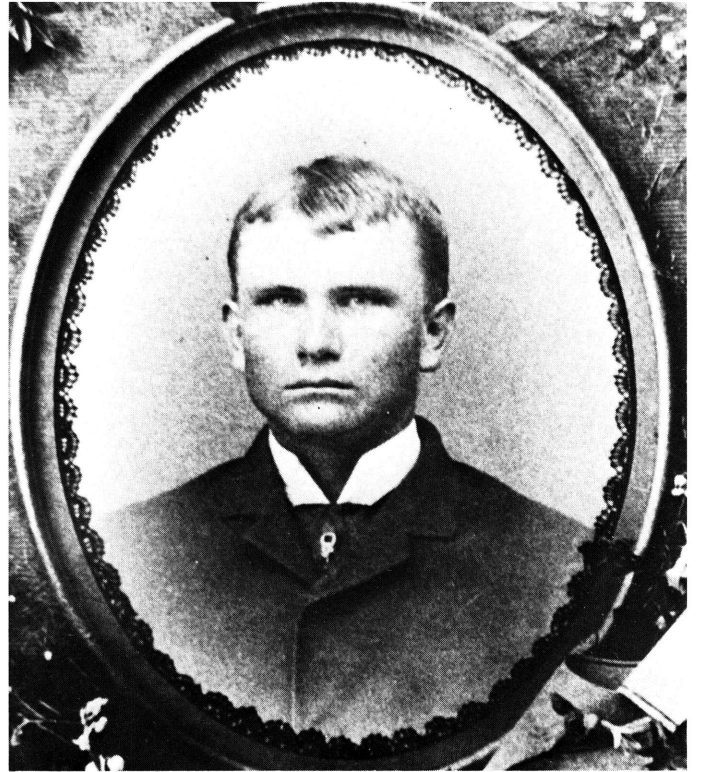
and his wife Wanda (Lange): Bertha, Alma, Meta, Ben, Alfred, Emmie, Emily, and Bessie.

On April 2, 1945, Charlie's daughter Bessie received possession of the 532 acres owned by her father. The granddaughter of the founder raises cattle, sheep, and goats and is assisted with the everyday operation of the ranch by her nephew Reuben Geistweidt.





The Mason County ranch founded by Ludwig Evers has been home for three generations of the Evers family. Wanda (Lange) Evers was the wife of second-generation owner Charlie Evers.



In 1898 Charlie Evers took over a part of the Mason County ranch his parents founded. He continued ranching operations raising cattle, sheep, and goats.

NELSON GEISTWEIDT RANCH —1877— Twenty-five miles southeast of Mason

FOUNDER: Wilhelm Geistweidt, Sr., of Prussia
1982 OWNER: Nelson William Geistweidt, Doss

There is no information on the exact number of acres Wilhelm Geistweidt, Sr., settled in Mason County because the Mason County Courthouse burned in 1875. It is known, however, that he acquired title to land on July 25, 1877, having come to Texas from his birthplace in Prussia in the late 1850's to escape the compulsory draft and to farm new land. Farm production from 1877 to 1907 included cattle and horses. Wilhelm was aided in his work on the ranch by his wife Anna Elizabeth (Rohrig) and their ten children: Marie, Wilhelmina, Anna, Elizabeth, John, Wilhelm, Jr., Charles, Olga, Frank, and Emma. The founder helped organize St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mason in 1872 and the Hilda Lutheran Church in 1912. He and his son owned and operated the Geistweidt and Son General Store in Mason and Wilhelm was one of the founders of the German American National Bank in Mason.

Wilhelm, Jr., inherited 2,198 acres and later added 2,066 acres on which he and his wife Emma ranched with the help of their six children: Meda, Olivia,

Elizabeth, Nettie, Edgar, and Perry. They raised cattle and goats on the ranch.

The land then passed to Edgar on June 7, 1932, who added sheep, hay, corn, and small grains to the agricultural production during the time that he and his wife Eleanore and their children lived on the property. Their three children were Nelson, Kathleen, and Karen. Edgar was one of the school trustees at Onion Creek School and also the Doss School, both in nearby Gillespie County. He also served as councilman at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Doss for several years.

Nelson William, great-grandson of the first family owner, received ownership of 946 acres on November 12, 1973. There, he and his wife, daughter, and one of their sons practice sound and economical farming and ranching where they raise cattle, goats, hay, and small grains. Buildings over 100 years old are still in use today from the founder's time, though located on another part of the original homestead.

McCULLOCH COUNTY

***H. D. BRADLEY RANCH —1879—** One-half mile east of Fife

FOUNDER: Alex and Isabelle Mitchell of Lanicks Shire, Scotland
(See also 1981 Family Land Heritage Registry, this county.)

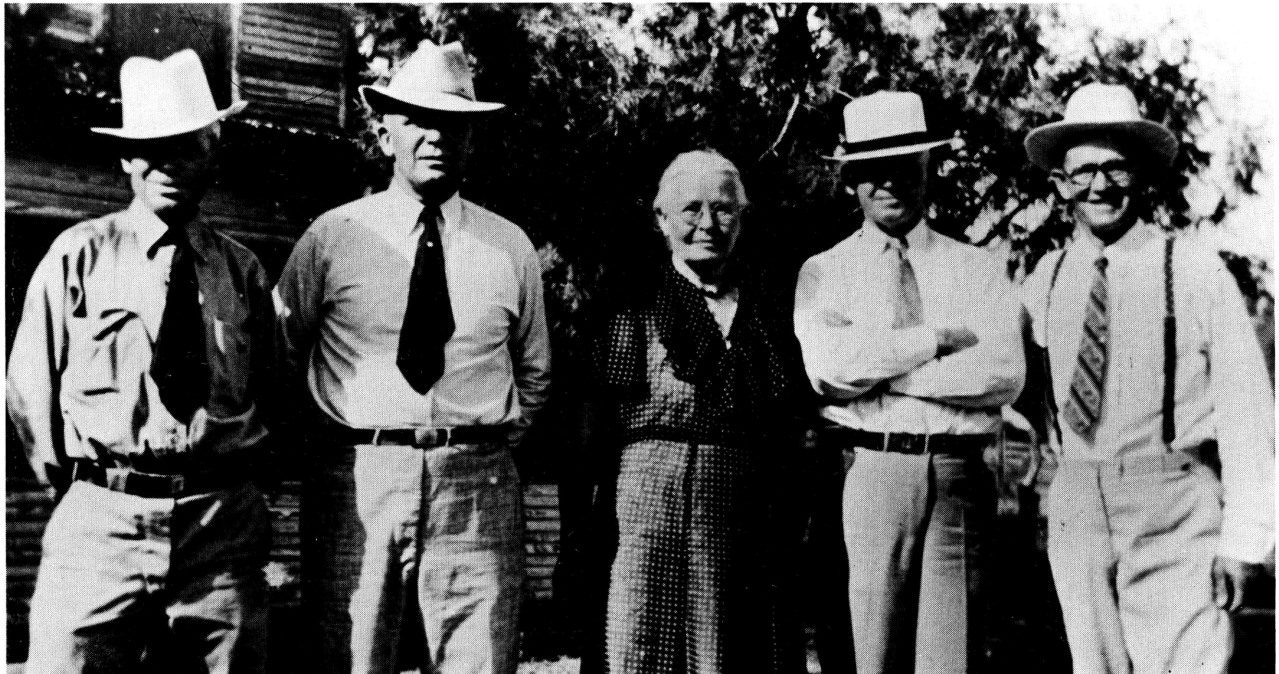
1982 OWNER: Henry Duncan Bradley, Brady

Alex and Isabelle Mitchell began their married life in Ontario, Canada, where several of their ten children were born. They left Canada and immigrated to Texas, settling first in Austin and then moving to McCulloch County where they purchased 960 acres near the Colorado River. On the ranch, hogs, cattle, chickens, turkeys, and feed crops were raised. Alex Mitchell was a surveyor for the county, and built roads, set up a school system, and helped establish a place of worship. He and his sons formed the Mitchell Farm and Ranch Company, cleared land, and developed the community of Fife. He also established the Fife Merchantile Store and Post Office, which still stands. The post office is still operated by one of his descendants.

One of the daughters of Alex and Isabelle Mitchell was Elizabeth. She married H. D. "Bud" Bradley in 1882 and their four sons were: Frank, William Benjamin, Henry Duncan, and Thomas. Elizabeth was widowed when her children were small and her parents deeded her 320 acres and a home in 1894. She and her sons were active ranchers, raising honey bees, cattle, sheep, chickens, hogs, vegetables, and feed grains. They built various farm structures, sheds, pens, water troughs,

and tanks besides clearing and fencing pastures. Elizabeth contributed to the education of community children by providing room and board for teachers. During her lifetime, some of the original land was devoted to a cemetery where she and two of her sons are buried.

Henry Duncan Bradley received his mother's 320 acres in 1945. He married Winnie B. Walker, daughter of another pioneer family of McCulloch County. Their children were W. D., Nellie Faye (Davies), and Gladys Belle (Ruff). They lived in the home originally given to Elizabeth Mitchell Bradley by the founders. The family pursued busy ranch lives, raising cattle, sheep, Angora and Spanish goats, horses, and hogs. They made steady improvements to their property, including drilling wells, building stock tanks, and establishing permanent pastures. They assisted their community by helping to establish roadways, rural electrification, and gas lines. Henry Duncan was a member of local and county school boards and the Fife Masonic Lodge for 50 years as well as serving as the Democratic chairman for McCulloch County for 25 years. Now 95 years old, he resides in Brady and advises his children who manage the physical operation of the Heritage ranch.



Elizabeth Mitchell Bradly received a portion of the McCulloch County ranch founded by her parents when her husband, Bud Bradley, died young, leaving her with four sons. Henry Duncan Bradley (second from right) is the third-generation owner.



Alex Mitchell was the founder of the McCulloch County ranch now owned by Henry Duncan Bradley. Mitchell established this store and post office which is still in use in Fife.

MEDINA COUNTY

LYDIA NIETENHOEFER GABEHART RANCH —1882— Four miles northeast of Hondo

FOUNDER: Adolph Nietenhoefer of Germany
1982 OWNERS: James and Lydia Nietenhoefer Gabehart, Hondo

Of the founder's original homestead, 70 acres have been passed intact to the current owners. The Heritage land is part of the 223 1/2 acres, more or less, which Adolph Nietenhoefer originally acquired in 1882 sometime after coming to Texas from Germany as a young boy with his parents. On this property, he and his wife Mary (Oefinger) reared eight children: Charles, Louis, Fritz, Willie, Henry, Robert, Christian, and Ida. The entire family was involved in the farming of corn, maize, and oats and in raising cattle.

Nietenhoefer's son Louis received a 70-acre portion of the founder's land in 1905 and added 50 acres where they raised Hereford cattle. There were two children born to Louis and his wife Kathleen, Arnold and Lydia.

Lydia and her husband James have added 107 acres to the Heritage land acquired in 1954 and continue producing Herefords.

HARTLEY HOWARD FARM —1882— Seven miles west of Devine

FOUNDER: John Wright Howard of Madison County, Alabama
1982 OWNERS: Hartley E. and Fay Jean Howard, Devine

Born in Alabama in 1838, John Wright Howard as an adult decided to move west to develop the vacant land

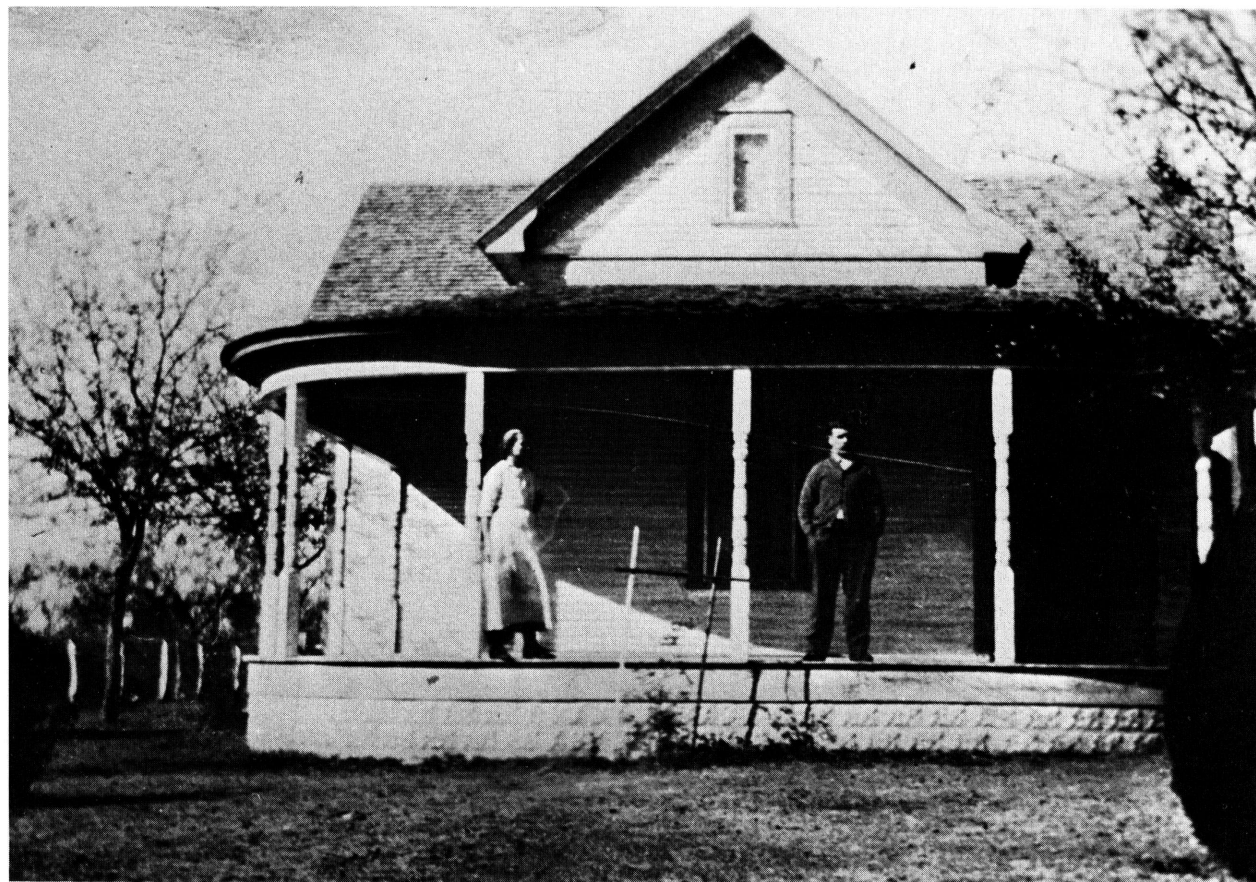
in Texas. On March 29, 1882, he purchased 640 acres of farmland and later added 320 more acres. The

original land purchased by Howard was from Simon Fest who in 1855 had acquired the land which was part of the Henry Castro colonization contract dated 1842. John Wright had ten children by his first wife Jane (Kennedy) and two children by his second wife Margaret (Essary). The children were: Mary Lucinda, William Matt, John Richard, Robert Samuel, Stephen Michael, Elizabeth Katherine, George Henry, Nancy Etta, Sarah Estelle, Edna Rebecca, Gertrude, and Barbara. The pioneering family raised cattle, horses, mules, cotton, corn, and sugarcane and their cash crop of cotton and cattle added to the state's income and prosperity. During this period of time, a railroad from San Antonio to Laredo was built and the town of Devine and the Black Creek Baptist Church were organized. John Wright donated land for a public school, a cemetery, and a church building.

On September 24, 1907, a 320-acre farm was passed on to one of the founder's sons, John Richard, and his wife Almeta (Hardcastle) where they raised food for the U. S. armed forces during World Wars I and II.

Their total production consisted of cotton, corn, broomcorn, and cattle. During this time, the owners also furnished right-of-way for public roads and easement for rural electrification activity. There were seven children born to the second-generation couple: Alva Roscoe, Claudia, Leslie Clyde, Tiny Richard, Otho McKinley, Matt Edward, and Hartley Ernest.

The present owners acquired title to the 320-acre farm in 1952 and later added 862 acres and continue in the agricultural production of crops that the founder first raised on the property. Hartley E. Howard graduated from the Texas A&M School of Agriculture and has assisted in the promotion of 4H Club and Future Farmers of America activities for many years. He is a lifetime member and director of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and, as a breeder of registered polled Hereford cattle, has served as president of the Texas Polled Hereford Association. The owners currently reside on the Heritage farm. Their children are: Sarah Jean (Pfeiffer), Hazel Marie (Byrd), and Hartley Craig. There are eight grandchildren.



Medina County is the location of the home built by second-generation ranchers Lewis and Kathleen Nielenhoefer. The home is occupied by their daughter and her husband, Lydia and James Gabehart.



MENARD COUNTY

***AUGUST WURZBACH FARM —1880—** Located along the Medina River

FOUNDER: Philip Carl Eugen August Wurzbach of Germany
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. August James Wurzbach, Castroville

The Wurzbach Farm is located along the Medina River and a five-acre pecan grove borders the river below the house. Its original occupants settled and lived there for a period of 54 years beginning in 1880. During the ownership of the founder August Wurzbach, the farm was greatly improved by cultivation of the land and the planting of fruit orchards as well as the addition of a more convenient water system, some building of barns, and construction of a new story-and-a-half rock home. The first residence constructed on the farm was an old-fashioned log cabin in which the family lived until 1900. That year, the river came over its banks, flooding the farm to a depth of one foot in and around the cabin. By this time, the founder and another man known only as Weber, had completed the story-and-a-half home, which was built of locally quarried soft limestone rock. The lime was a special mixture for plastering and was of his own preparation. The home was bordered on the west side with a row of hackberry trees which were planted at the time the house was being built. These trees have since been replaced by its present owner with pecan trees. On the east side of the home, native cedar trees were planted which are now large and beautiful trees. This story-and-a-half rock home is still being occupied by the present owners, along with some frame buildings which are still

standing and are being used by the present owner as storage for grain. The founder had one of Medina County's first threshing machines. He was also known for his many pieces of woodwork. He built furniture, rebuilt wooden wagon wheels, and built pulleys out of wood which he used on his threshing machine. During the early years on the farm, Indians roamed in the area and many raids took place on the August Wurzbach property during which horses were stolen by the Indians. In January 1880, August married Adelina Bourquin. They had six children: Frank, Edmund, Alvina, Emelia (Haby) (Schmidt), Amanda (Haegelin), and Wilhemina, known as Minnie Ahr.

In September of 1934, August passed away and three months later, his wife Adelina followed him. The 195.6-acre farm was passed on to the heirs: Frank, Edmund, Alvina, Emelia, Amanda, and Minnie. Frank, the founder's oldest son, and his brother kept the farm in operation. The two brothers each had a horse-drawn, mold-board plow which they used in their operation. Frank and his wife Stephanie "Fannie" (Sittre) had four children: August James, Emmett, Norma (Wernette), and Melba (Haegelin).

August James, the grandson of the founder, purchased 163.6 acres in 1944 and the remaining 32 acres in 1946.

He and his wife Lucille (Hoffmann) had three daughters: Velma (Keller), Mildred (Breiten), and Jonelle (Crow). August James continues in the daily activities of farming in the production of corn, maize, oats, and wheat. He also runs a small herd of cattle along with small herds of sheep and Spanish goats. The sheep and goats are kept in the pecan grove for grazing. In the past, the present owner had fed out his

own calves, some being sold to Castroville's famous St. Louis Day Celebration barbecue. He also donated calves to the celebration on different occasions. August James prepared the barbecue sauce for the St. Louis Day Celebration for 27 years, in the beginning over a wood fire and, in later years, over butane-fired burners.



The August Wurzbach family posed for this photograph in 1896 in front of their home on their Menard County farm while it was in the process of construction.



Women of the Wurzbach family are shown with a wagon reconstructed by August Wurzbach, the founder of their Menard County farm home.

MILAM COUNTY

***PECAN SPRING RANCH —1880—** Thirteen miles northeast of Menard
FOUNDER: Johann Friederich Wilhelm of Konigsberg, Germany
1982 OWNER: Betty Jo Davis Porter, Menard

Founder Johann Friederich Wilhelm enlarged his original land purchase of 320 acres to 12,800 acres and fenced the perimeter with wolf-proof wire. He hired shepherds to care for his sheep and guard against rustlers and wolves. Besides the sheep which Wilhelm produced on the land which he began acquiring at the age of 36, he also raised other livestock, including cattle, horses, goats, hogs, and mules. Johanna Karolina Prugel, the founder's wife, and he had 11 children: Edvart Gustaf Heinrich, Magdalena Augusta, Anna D., Frank C., Kundegunde, Elizabeth, John Friedrich, Walter A., Emma, Clara Agnes, and Johann F.

After the death of the founder, his first-born son Edvart became manager of the ranch with second-born Frank as sheep foreman. Their mother, known as "The Sheep Queen of Texas," purchased an additional 13,120 acres during this period and the total 25,920-acre ranch was divided among seven surviving heirs.

Her daughter Clara Agnes received 6,080 acres in 1921. She added 1,600 acres and maintained herds of Hereford cattle. She produced fine wool, with herds of Rambouillet sheep numbering in the thousands. Other agricultural production on her ranch included Angora and Spanish goats and oats. She hired a nephew, John Speck, as stock foreman until her marriage to Frank Walker Wilkinson. The couple had no children.

In 1963, Betty Jo Davis Porter received 2,120 acres from the holdings of her great-aunt Clara Wilkinson. She and her husband Marvin Wayne Porter occupy her Heritage land, living in a house that incorporates the original home built in 1880 by her great-grandfather. The Porters have developed herds of crossbred commercial beef cattle, fine wool sheep, market lambs, and mohair goats and have improved ranch buildings, providing metal working pens for all stock.

AUGUST LONG FARM —1882— Two miles northeast of Gause
FOUNDERS: Elbert and Rebecca Sattlewhite Long (Origin Unknown)
1982 CO-OWNERS: Odessa Banks, San Antonio
Rebecca Bolden, Mumford
Reuben Long, Hearne
Rosa V. Rutherford, Sulphur Springs
Juanita Swift, Hearne

Elbert and Rebecca Long arrived in Texas from parts unknown as runaway slaves. In 1882, they acquired 131 ³/₁₀ acres of farmland in Milam County. They built log cabins from trees cut on the land as well as cribs, hay lofts, and potato kilns. Their agricultural production included cotton, corn, cattle, swine, and mules. Other activities during the founders' time included the operation of syrup, grist, and coffee mills, a blacksmith shop, and dipping vats for cattle. Children born to the founders were: Willie, Woodson, August, Minnie, Cherry, Asia, and Alfred.

A son, August Long, received his parents' acres in 1919. During his lifetime, the log cabin home was removed and a modern house built. Land was given

for Long's Cemetery, a community school, and a church. August and his wife Lugrelia (Smith) had 15 children, of whom six are still living: Reuben, Juanita (Swift), Willie L. (Hawkins), Rebecca (Bolden), Odessa (Banks), and Rosa V. (Rutherford). August was an active farmer, producing cotton, corn, hay, potatoes, peas, peanuts, fruits, pecans, and cattle.

In 1964, the land was passed as an undivided property to the heirs of August and Lugrelia Long. Willie L. Hawkins, one of the heirs, now lives in Seattle, Washington. A total of 251 ⁷/₁₀ additional acres have been added to the Long family farm where co-owner Reuben Long lives and manages the production of livestock and poultry.



Rebecca (Saddlewhite) Long (right) came to Texas as a runaway slave. She and her husband, Elbert Long, founded their farm in Milam County in 1882. She is shown with their son, August, and grandson, Bennie.

MILLS COUNTY

OLD WALKER PLACE —1876— Five miles east of Davilla

FOUNDER: William Turner Walker of Mississippi

1982 CO-OWNERS: Sidney Ross McQuary, Thorndale
Adele Walker Stix et al, Galveston

William Turner Walker came to Texas from Mississippi looking for an opportunity to buy farmland for a home for his growing family. He bought 100 acres in Milam County in 1876, adding another 50 acres in 1880. Farm production during the early days consisted of cotton, corn, wheat, hay, sorghum, garden vegetables, sweet potatoes, melons, milk cows, mules, and horses, including buggy mares. The Walker family was central in founding the farm community of Friendship. William and his wife Margaret Susan (Madison), seeing a need to educate

their nine children, founded a school where Margaret taught. They founded the Friendship Methodist Church and built and operated a steam cotton gin for the community. Their children were: George Madison, James Columbus, Solon, Monroe, William Hiram, Quinn, Edgar, Minona, and Margaret.

After the senior Walkers passed away, their land was divided among their children. The nine brothers and sisters married and settled on their inherited portions of land. George Madison Walker received a 67-acre

share in 1907. During his lifetime, oil was discovered in the area and rural electrification brought a little leisure into life on the farm. George Madison married Hattie Blackwell and they reared a family of 12: Fred, Hettie, Martin, Huling, Fannie, Carrine, Willie T., Clifford, Ruth, Estelle, McKeever, and Robert.

Another son of the founder, Monroe Walker, received a 33 1/3-acre share in 1907 which is still owned by his heirs Adele Walker Stix et al.

The Walker farm continued to be fruitful, producing crops, livestock, and orchard fruit, as a complex history unfolded of shares, divided and undivided, which were owned among cousins and siblings.

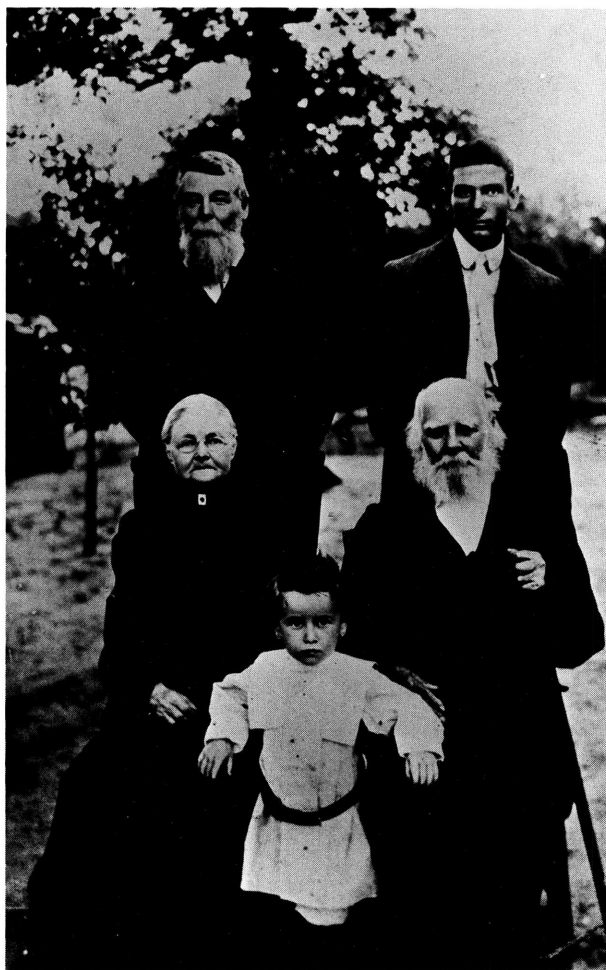
Prebble Walker, daughter of James Columbus Walker and granddaughter of the founder, married David Ross McQuary. McQuary was the grandson of William Stout McQuary, founder of a neighboring heritage farm (See also 1981 Family Land Heritage Registry, this county.). Prebble and David began to acquire land belonging to the Walker descendants in 1925, making their last purchase in 1970. They owned and operated their Heritage farms until 1962 when they retired, turning the operations over to their sons

Sidney Ross and James Columbus McQuary.

Sidney and James ran the farm jointly until 1969 when Sidney Ross became sole operator. In 1973, David Ross and Prebble Walker McQuary divided their accumulated 1,154 acres among six of their children. Sidney Ross operates the entire estate. Sidney Ross first began working on the farm and buying land after he finished high school in 1938. A graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in agriculture education, he served in Germany under Patton in World War II. Upon his return from the war, he began managing the farm with his father and, at the same time, began teaching vocational agriculture in the Thorndale High School. Sidney Ross McQuary, who has been employed by the lignite power plant in Rockdale since 1953, is married to Minnie (Schwartz). They have one daughter, Robin Kay, and three sons, Windell Lee, Dallas Jay, and Austin Sidney. Sidney's father is still living on the farm and keeps active, owning his own cows and horses and daily accompanying Sidney about the farm. His greatest satisfaction comes from knowing that he has instilled a love of the land in each of his children and that his sons and grandsons will continue to till the soil that he made productive by his own hand.



Oil was discovered in Mills County near the Old Walker Place around the turn of the century. This scene was photographed in 1902.



Five generations of the Walker family gathered for this portrait in 1906. Their Mills County home is known as the Old Walker Place.

A. W. CARSWELL RANCH —1882— Twenty miles east of Goldthwaite

FOUNDER: W. T. Carswell of San Augustine, Texas
1982 OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. A. W. "Pat" Carswell, Goldthwaite

Farm production on the Carswell homestead in the Moline community, which began with 160 acres and later included 130 more acres, included cattle, sheep, corn, and cotton. Helping W. T. Carswell and his wife on their farm were their son W. B., known as Byrd, and daughter Mattie. Eventually, Byrd married Carrie Carrigan and Mattie married Wister Cook. During the founder's lifetime, the family built a log cabin, rock fences for boundary lines, and rock corrals for their livestock. One of the rock fences is still intact. W. T. also helped establish the church arbor in Payne Gap for community services.

The founder's son W. B. inherited the farm in 1916 where he and his wife Carrie reared three children:

Aubrey W., Johnnie Allen, and Lora Bell. Production during this period included cattle, sheep, hogs, cotton, corn, and maize.

The land's care passed to the current owners in 1938 and they acquired ownership in 1963. The grandson and granddaughter-in-law have continued to improve the land by terracing, fencing, and building farm tanks, barns, and a dwelling. They have also added 13 acres to the original farm where they reared their two children, Judy (Seward) and Patsy (Blasdel). Production on the farm now includes cattle, wheat, and hay. "Pat" Carswell have spent every year of his life but one on the ranch.

WILSON HEAD RANCH —1877— Seven miles east of Goldthwaite

FOUNDER: P. S. Welch (Origin Unknown)
1982 OWNERS: Wilson Robert and Iva Pearl Head, Goldthwaite

Part of the 328 acres of family land which Wilson and Pearl Head operate today were settled by his great-grandfather 105 years ago. It was on May 18, 1877, that P. S. Welch bought his first parcel of land, 15 acres in all, to begin corn and cattle production. He eventually added 555 acres, selling off 252 acres in later years. Helping the founder on his farm were his wife Elizabeth I. and their five children: W. H., Missouri E. (Head), M. J. (Burkes), Martha I., and T. A. (Hill).

The founder's son-in-law C. A. Head, husband to Missouri E., bought 150 acres of land from the founder on March 27, 1883, adding on 122 at a later date. His primary interests were in raising cattle, horses, sheep, and goats and in growing the necessary grain and hay to feed the livestock. C. A. was the son of J. B. Head, the first judge of Mills County, and himself served as a county commissioner in Mills County. Instrumental in bringing some of the first Angora

goats to Mills County, he also operated one of the first steam-powered thrashing machines in the area. There were six children born to the second-generation couple: Jimmy W., Viola (Chappell), Wesley W., Ellis, Nora (Mitchell) and J. Barton.

On November 14, 1927, their son Wesley received title to 328 acres from his father. Besides growing cotton, corn, grain, and hay, Wesley was one of the first to graft and bud paper shell pecans for his pecan orchard. He added 214 acres to his holdings where he lived with his wife Annie Idell (Lucas) and their five sons: Chester Clint, William Talmage, Wilson Robert, Gerald Carlos, and Lendon Dale.

Since 1958, Wilson Robert and Iva Pearl have had title to family land. Cattle, hay, and pecans are produced on the 328 family acres as well as on 275 acres which the current owners have added.

***SEA HORSE RANCH —1880—** Ten miles southeast of Goldthwaite

FOUNDER: Ruben Wesley Henson of Kemper County, Mississippi
1982 OWNER: Troy N. Berry. Goldthwaite

Ruben Wesley Henson was born on August 13, 1844, in Kemper County, Mississippi. On April 10, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 40th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers. He fought in the Battle of Vicksburg and was captured by the Union forces, being released to the Confederate forces on July 4, 1863, at Vicksburg. Family stories relate that during his Civil War duty, Henson marched many miles over rough country until his shoes wore out. He tied sacks on his feet and, at times, left blood in his tracks.

Following the war, Ruben went to his grandfather George Gray's farm in Williamson County, Texas, near where Elizabeth Ross lived with her family. He and Elizabeth were married on November 16, 1873. The month before, he had purchased a tract of land in Burnet County and after their marriage, they lived in Williamson and Burnet counties where their two oldest children were born. On June 19, 1876, they purchased a tract of land in Mills County. They moved to a different tract, the Sea Horse Ranch, in 1877 and

purchased the land on July 10, 1880. Their first home was of log and sod construction. Ruben raised cotton, corn, and cattle on the 176 acres of land he had bought, as well as on the 20 additional acres he added later. He built rock fences around several acres of land and also constructed a four-room house with a front porch and a dog trot between two rooms. Along with two neighbors, he secured and gave 28 acres of land to be used for a church, school, and cemetery. Ruben and his wife Elizabeth had 11 children: Cora T. (Null) (Walker), Eveline (Murphy), Sarah Elody (Wooley), Wesley Ruben, Ida I. (Parker), Manervy (Frazier), Mae (Johnson), Lillie (Seaborn), Mary Robbert (Berry), Susan (Viriden), and Annie Mallissie (Bryan) (Hutto).

All of the family land went to Wesley Ruben in 1920 and he continued in the family operation, raising cotton, corn, and cattle. Ruben's sister Susan and her husband Edward owned the land for one year, in 1938; they had two children, J. W. and Edward. In 1939, Ruben acquired the title back to the 196 acres.

Troy N. Berry, grandson of the founder and Ruben's nephew, took over the family farm in 1946. He now owns an additional 245 acres of land and raises cattle, goats, sheep, and horses. The horse barn built by the founder still stands as a reminder of the land's rich heritage.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

SEVEN BAR RANCH —1878— Seven miles southeast of Conroe

FOUNDER: William Grant Wiggins of Louisiana

1982 OWNERS: O. T. and Leona Wiggins Thornberry, Conroe

William Grant Wiggins came to Texas from Louisiana after having lost his holdings there during the Civil War and Reconstruction. He purchased 100 acres of Montgomery County land for a new home in 1878, later adding six acres more. Purebred hogs and cattle were brought in for breeding purposes and the ranch production included corn, cattle, hogs, corn, and vegetables for the family. Cottie Ann McKimmon became William Wiggins' wife and the couple had five children: Jessie, W. R., Mary Elizabeth, Mary Frances, and Naomi Luci Belle. A local church, school, and cemetery were established with the help of the Wiggins family.

Their son W. R. Wiggins acquired the 106 acres in 1914. He raised the first Brahman cattle in the area along with other quality livestock, including hogs, goats, and horses. The Conroe oil fields were discovered in 1932 and wells were drilled on the Wiggins' land between 1932 and 1934. W. R. married

Annie Li Manning and they also had five children: Pearl, June, Leona, W. R., Jr., and Dolly Mae. The entire family was active in church and community activities.

Leona and her husband O. T. Thornberry acquired 56 acres that had belonged to her father and grandfather in 1964. The Thornberrys own an additional 1,120 acres where improved fruit trees and permanent grasses have been added. At present, ranch operations are concentrated on crossbred cow-calf production. The owners reared a family of six: Fred D., Owen T., Jr., Jeanne (Carter), Jonathan, Marilyn (Simonton), and Julie (Corley). Fred D., their oldest son, is on the staff of Texas A&M University where he has done agricultural research for 20 years. Many 4H projects and demonstrations have been carried out on the ranch and the owners' six children and 19 grandchildren visit often and participate in the work on the land.



MORRIS COUNTY

***DAVIS FARM —1882—** Two and one-half miles south of Omaha

FOUNDER: George Davis of South Carolina

1882 CO-OWNERS: Joseph Marion Davis, Omaha
Louise Davis McCoy, Omaha

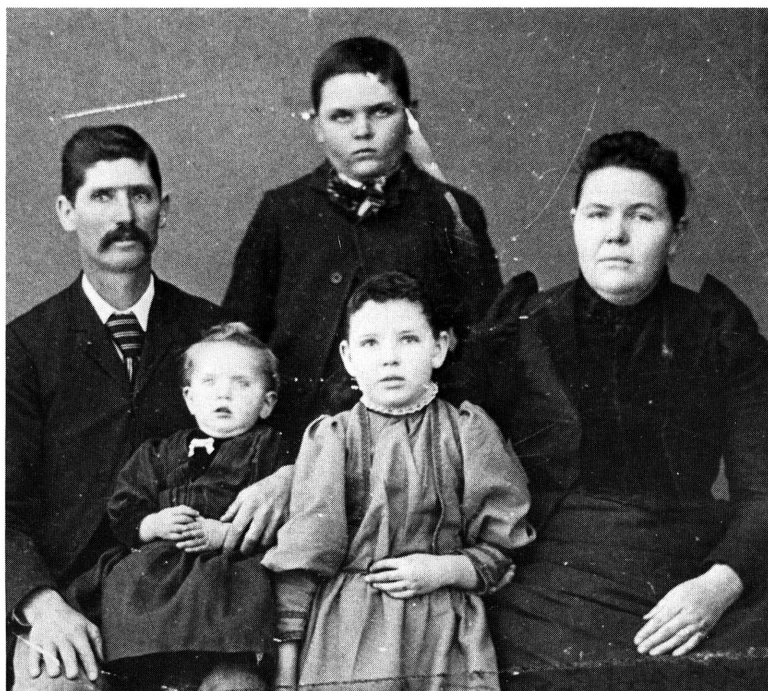
Following in the path of the post-Civil War population shift, George Davis came to Texas with his parents to join others who were intent on becoming good farmers to supply needed cotton, foodstuffs, meat, and other production. His father's talent as a doctor must have also been welcome on the frontier. Homesteading in Morris County in the last month of 1882, George acquired the title to 147 acres two days before Christmas of that year. Going right to work, he soon was producing a wide variety of items, including cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts, milk cows, hogs, and more. A deacon in the local Baptist church for many years, he helped to promote diversified farming and cooperated in all government programs for land improvement. Orithy Raney became Davis' bride and to this union were born three children: Howard Young, Carrie, and Mary.

The father's original 147 acres went to his son Howard Young in 1931 who continued his father's diversified operation. The Great Depression brought numerous changes to the farm during this owner's tenure. With the advent of additional government programs, he cooperated in every way possible in order to upgrade the agricultural progress, not only of his own farm, but of the state as a whole. As a result of his efforts, much work was done in the areas of conservation, diversification, contour terracing, and general soil

improvement on the farm. Supporting him in his efforts was his wife Fronie Alice who bore him three children: Joseph Marion, Louise, and Ruby (deceased).

Following her husband's death in 1965, Fronie Davis continued her husband's work on less than 100 acres of the farm, her son having purchased 49 acres from his father in 1948.

In 1975, the balance of the acres were inherited by Joseph Marion (J. M.) and his sister Louise. Though a severe back injury has for several years made it necessary for J. M. to have an agreement with a neighbor for grazing the pasture with his livestock, he has at all times maintained total managerial authority over the property. He has maintained all fences, kept all waterways open, and carried out a program of tree management to assure future crops of trees for firewood, fence posts, and pulpwood. J. M. also maintains a garden on the farm where he mows pastureland and keeps down noxious weed growth to help in the general upkeep of the farm. J. M. lives on the farm with his son Jerrol and Jerrol's wife Connie and their three children. The present house being used on the property was rebuilt from the founder's original home.



Diversified farm practices were followed by George Davis on the farm he founded in Morris County. George and Orithy Davis posed for this portrait with children, Howard, Mary, and Carrie, in 1895.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

CREEKVIEW CORNERS FARM —1882— Eight miles northwest of Nacogdoches

FOUNDER: Adkin Corley (Origin Unknown)
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Corley, Nacogdoches

Adkin Corley and his wife Sarah (Campbell) deeded one acre of their land to their son W. M. to be given for the building of a church and Bonita Methodist Church was organized and constructed on the site. The church has been attended by many descendants of the founder up until today. The original title which Corley received for land was filed November 22, 1882, for 273 acres. The acre which they deeded for use as a church site was from another tract. Production on the founding farm included cotton, corn, and livestock and Corley was helped in his work on the land by his eight children: P. E., W. M., Charlie, Eddie, Leta (Barron), Texana (McCuistion), Beula (Birdwell), and Betty (McCuistion).

When the founder's son P. E. and daughter-in-law Mattie (Birdwell) acquired the farm on June 19, 1907, they continued production, adding a peach orchard to the farm as well as other produce. This couple reared five children: Marshall, Rex, Coma (Ammons), Patsy

(Orts), and Mary (Ammons).

The third-generation owner was Marshall C., who took over the 273 acres on October 8, 1926. His production included cotton, corn, hay, and other crops, as well as dairy cattle, hogs, and horses. He and his wife Lucille (Parmley) had six children: Don R., George Campbell, Nell (Haubold), Mattie Jean (Crank), Betty (Jones), and Nancy (Dorsett).

Since Don and his wife Judy (Hurst) have taken over ownership of the farm founded by his great-grandfather, they have operated a modern dairy on the place and are active in several farm organizations and cooperatives. They live on the land with their sons Richard Alan and Kenneth Dale and also have a daughter, Donna (Kelly). Other production on the land includes beef cattle, horses, hay, and forage.

NAVARRO COUNTY

ECKHARDT FARM —1881— Two miles north of Wortham

FOUNDER: Thomas Allen Bounds of Mississippi
1982 OWNER: Martha Bounds Eckhardt, Wortham

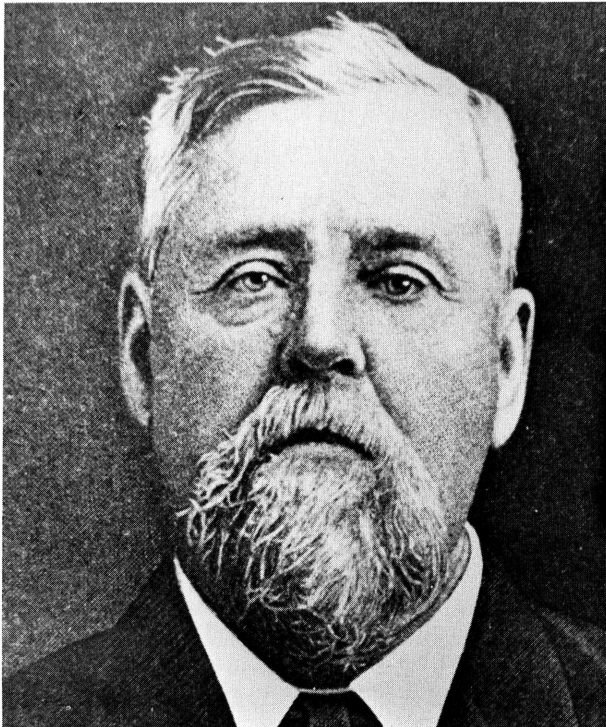
At the end of the Civil War, Thomas Allen (T.A.) Bounds came with his bride Margaret (Clark) and his father's family to Texas in order to make a fresh start on the frontier. Arriving in the state with less than \$50 in cash, his ambition, vision, and hard work were to carry him far. The first year, he rented land for farming but on February 9, 1881, was able to purchase 320 acres for the production of cotton, corn, and cattle. He opened a mercantile store with his father and built the first brick store in Wortham. Over the years, Bounds acquired thousands of acres of land and became one of the largest cattle shippers in the area. Education and religion were both important to the founder and he gave the land on which the Methodist church and parsonage now stand in Wortham. According to a quote in the *History of Navarro, Henderson, Anderson, Limestone, Freestone, Leon Counties*, "Bounds . . . amassed a fortune by his industry. This success was entirely due to his own exertion,

liberal to a fault, poor man's friend--always willing to help those who helped themselves." He was married twice, first to Margaret, the bride who came to Texas with him, and second, to Rhoda (Bledsoe). The first set of children totaled eight: Willis H., John T., Allen H., J. Vastine, Jr., Spencer, Sylvanus, Rufus, and Laura (McLelland). Children with his second wife numbered eight also: George P., W. Oscar, B. Frank, W. Edward, Margarette (Means), Martha, James Ebb, and Oliver A.

At the death of her father in 1913, the current owner received 320 family acres and other 120 acres. At her mother's death, she and her husband bought 110 acres from her father's estate. Her husband William F. Eckhardt (deceased) was educated in mechanical engineering and with the aid of the Soil Conservation Service, not only improved every acre of the land but helped many other people in improving theirs.

According to his wife, helping people was her husband's life. She produces commercial cattle on the

land now and oversees the operation from her home in nearby Wortham.



Thomas Allen Bounds was known in Navarro County as a man of significant achievement and generosity. He was the father of sixteen children, including Martha (Bounds) Eckhardt, present owner of their Heritage farm.

POLK COUNTY

HAVIS FARM —1860— Two miles southeast of Camden
FOUNDER: Daniel Hamilton (Origin Unknown)
(See also other Havis Farms, this county.)
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Hinton Havis, Chester

It is believed that Daniel Hamilton, whose name was also spelled Hambleton at times, originally came to Polk County in order to avoid his son-in-law John S. Havis. Hamilton owned slaves, using them to clear the 1,107 acres he purchased and to work the farm where he raised cotton, corn, cattle, and hogs. The slaves, freed at the end of the Civil War, stayed on the farm until after the death of the founder. In addition to farming, Hamilton built and operated a cotton gin. Children of the founder were Margaret A. and Matthew.

After Hamilton's death in 1867, the 1,107-acre farm passed to the son-in-law he had been trying to avoid. Slaves remaining on the farm after the Civil War continued to work for John S. Havis and his wife Margaret. During this period, a store was established on the property, 102 acres were sold, and two acres were deeded to the community of Lillie Island for a church and school. The two acres remain in use as the

Lillie Island Cemetery. The children of Margaret and John were: Hinton J., William S., and John K.

John K. Havis possessed 300 acres of the original farm owned by his grandfather, selling 92 acres between 1896 and 1950.

In 1950, the land was divided among his children with his son Joe S. receiving 54 acres. Joe continued farming operations, including production of cattle, hay, and corn until 1975.

Joe S. Havis and his wife Edna (Ahta) had no children and, in 1975, sold their 54-acre holdings to their nephew and niece. Hinton, great-great-grandson of the founder, and his wife have added 279 acres to the Heritage property where they live with their eight-year-old daughter Mary Elen. Hinton operates the farm, producing cattle and hay.

HAVIS FARM —1860— Two miles southeast of Camden
FOUNDER: Daniel Hamilton (Origin Unknown)
(See also other Havis Farms, this county.)
1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Thurman H. Havis, Moscow

Some of the freed slaves who remained to work on Daniel Hamilton's farm after the Civil War are buried in unmarked graves behind the family cemetery. Others gradually drifted away to work in Lillie Island and Camden.

The land passed through the founder's daughter and son-in-law to their son John K. Havis. He and his wife Sally Emily (Barker) had four sons: Joe S.,

Wascom L., Thurman H., and Homer L. Interested in his sons' education, John K. served as a member of the Barnes Community School Board.

Thurman H. Havis acquired a 63-acre share of the Heritage land in 1950. Since then, he has added 157 additional acres where he lives with his wife and produces cattle and hay.

HAVIS FARM —1860— Two miles southeast of Camden
FOUNDER: Daniel Hamilton (Origin Unknown)
(See also other Havis Farms, this county.)
1982 OWNER: Wascom L. Havis, Moscow

Margaret and John S. Havis owned the farm established by her father from 1867 until 1896 and their son John K. Havis worked the farm for 54 years before passing it on to his children.

One son, Wascom L. Havis, received 92 acres of his father's land in 1950 and has since added 18 more

acres. He and his wife live on their farm along with their daughter Maurine Anderson and grandson Keith. The farm continues to produce cattle and hay under the management of Keith Anderson, great-great-grandson of the founder.

SAN JACINTO COUNTY

LILLEY OAKS FARM —1882— Fourteen miles south of Coldspring
FOUNDER: James Ellis Lilley of Clark County, Mississippi
1982 CO-OWNERS: Ann Nell St. Claire Alexander, Cleveland
Myrtle Elizabeth Lilley Lyle St. Claire, Cleveland
Betty Lyle St. Claire Williams, Cleveland

James Ellis Lilley came from Clarke County, Mississippi, with his parents Sarah (Hayes) and Henry Lewis Lilley, Sr., to join his grandparents Rachel (Knight) and James Allen Lilley, Sr., who had previously settled in what is now San Jacinto County sometime between 1858-1860. In 1882, James E. Lilley recorded the deed to 50 acres of San Jacinto County land which had originally been a part of the Vital Flores Grant. At the time, the area was very sparsely settled and Lilley developed an active farm from what had been wilderness, producing livestock, poultry, cotton, corn, fruits, and vegetables. In the early days, the livestock had access to open range. He and his wife Mary Elizabeth (Tennison) were actively engaged in all community activities, including church, school, and road construction. They aided neighbors and newcomers in their efforts to build homes and farms.

They reared their children in a home built and partially furnished by their own hands. Their children were: William Edward, James Arthur, Henry Franklin, May, and Alma. Franklin and Arthur died before reaching maturity.

When the founder passed away in 1889, his widow and oldest son William Edward continued to operate the farm. Mary Elizabeth remarried in 1893 and she and her second husband Z. R. Hollingsworth remained on the land and bought an adjoining farm of 66.4 acres, operating both properties for the production of timber, livestock, fruits, cotton, corn, peas, potatoes, and other vegetables.

After Mary Elizabeth, "Minnie," died in 1899, her oldest son bought the shares of the surviving heirs.

William Edward Lilley kept his family farm for the next 73 years. He was active in community affairs as his parents had been before him. He served for a time as school trustee. He married Eva Lenora Jackson and they had one child, Myrtle Elizabeth. In addition to his farming activities, Edward worked with John H. Jackson, his father-in-law, in the operation of a cotton gin and grist and syrup mills. His wife Eva served for a time as assistant postmaster of Everitt. During their period, the original home was torn down and some of the materials were used in 1905 to build a new home where their daughter was born and still lives.

Myrtle Elizabeth inherited the original 50 acres, more or less, in 1972 and has added 54.6 acres. She engages in the usual activities associated with production of

livestock, fruits, vegetables, and timber. She advocates and practices conservation of natural resources and the preservation of historic structures. Active in the San Jacinto County Historical Commission, she is chairman of publications for the group. A publication of the Commission entitled *Dim Trails and Blurred Footprints: A History of San Jacinto County* will appear soon. Ann Nell and Betsy, Myrtle's two daughters, have been deeded six and one-half-acre homesites where they live. Ann lives on the land with her husband Carl Alexander and daughter Leslie while Betsy resides on her Heritage land with her husband Robert B. Williams and daughter Leigh Anne. The co-owning daughters and their husbands share in the farming activities with their mother.

TRAVIS COUNTY

OLSON FARM —1882— Eighteen miles east of Austin

FOUNDER: Nils P. and Brita Olson of Sweden

1982 OWNERS: Lawrence and Beatrice Olson, Manor

The same 136.5 acres which the pioneering Olson couple first settled 100 years ago have remained in their family ever since. Today, on the Heritage land plus 229 additional acres, Lawrence R. and Beatrice Olson, the grandson and granddaughter-in-law of Nils P. and Brita Olson, produce livestock on pasture. Larry S. and Ora Lee Olson, the great-grandson and his wife, rent the cultivated acres from them.

The founding Olsons began the farming tradition when they purchased their Travis County acreage on December 19, 1882. Previous to that, they had lived with their young family in Guadalupe County, having come to the frontier from their native Sweden in 1876 and moving on to Travis County three years later. Having no underground water available on their new farm, they had to haul water from Brushy Creek four miles away; eventually, they constructed a cistern to provide needed water for the farm. Cotton, grains, hay, and livestock were produced on the farm by the couple who had three children: Oscar, Ida (Bengston), and John R. Active citizens in the local community, the Olsons helped to establish a church and school in New Sweden.

Their son John R. received one-sixth of the Olson Farm in 1891, obtaining the other five-sixths 19 years later. Continuing the same production as his parents, he served as a trustee in the New Sweden School and as a deacon in the New Sweden Lutheran Church, both establishments which his parents had helped to develop. John also worked as the election clerk in Travis County. The second-generation Olson family consisted of John R., his wife Annie C., and their four children: Allen R., Hildur (Stromberg), Ernest T., and Lawrence R.

A one-fourth interest went to the current owners upon the death of Annie C. Olson in 1968 and in 1975, Lawrence R. and Beatrice Olson bought out the rest of the farm from his brothers and sister.

The current Olson family consists of Lawrence R. and Beatrice Olson, their son Larry S. and his three children, Michael, Kevin, and Olin, and their daughter Leah Rea (Wilder) and her three children, Tanya, John, and Sara.

VORWERK FARM —1880— Six miles east of Pflugerville

FOUNDER: Wilhelm Mahlow of Germany

1982 CO-OWNERS: Gladys Vorwerk, Pflugerville
Reuben F. Vorwerk, Pflugerville

The 150 acres which Wilhelm Mahlow acquired on February 17, 1880, had been homesteaded by him

more than three years before that. The founder raised cotton, maize, hay, and livestock on his farm which he

increased by an additional 224 acres. The Richland May Fete, which is now sponsored by the Richland Community Club, was originally celebrated on Mahlow's farm next to Wilbarger Creek at the turn of the century. Mahlow reared a large family with the help of his second wife Maria (Wittenburg). From a previous marriage, they had three children: Wilhelm, Carl, and Lisette (Amsler). Maria and Wilhelm themselves had five children: Annie, Alvina, Sophie, Maria, and August while they also adopted another son, Otto Janke.

Maria took over the farm following her husband's death in 1897 and continued production on the land. As each child married, they received a 40-acre portion of the land as a wedding present.

A son-in-law, Wilhelm Edward Vorwerk, received 40 acres on February 28, 1912, when he married the

founder's daughter Maria. He also bought additional family land, beginning on January 4, 1917, adding 340 acres in all to his holdings. The Vorwerks had two children: Reuben Fritz and Gladys Sophie.

The farm passed in 1954 to Maria Vorwerk following her husband's death and in 1979, went to her children, the current co-owners.

The original house built by the founder on the land burned in 1967 and the homes now being used by the co-owners were built in 1884 and 1912. Also living on the family farm are Allen and Judi Vorwerk, son and daughter-in-law of Reuben and his wife. Allen helps his father and aunt in their production of maize, wheat, hay, cattle, and sheep.

UVALDE COUNTY

***RICHARZ RANCH —1882—** Eighteen miles west of Sabinal
FOUNDER: Charles Joseph Richarz of Fort Lincoln, Texas
1982 OWNER: Marjorie Richarz, Sabinal

Charles Joseph Richarz, who was born in Fort Lincoln near D'Hanis, began homesteading 852 2/3 acres in Uvalde County with his wife Dora on August 25, 1882, having acquired title to the land on July 15 of the same year. Charles Joseph concentrated on breeding the best to improve his stocks of mules, horses, cattle, sheep, and goats. During the founder's time, the state highway was built and the Con Can School was started. Four sons were born to Charles Joseph and Dora: Gus, Oscar, Joe, and Edgar.

It was their son Edgar, along with his wife Marjorie, who took over 25 acres of family land in 1935. They controlled brush and reseeded pasture and built a dirt

tank on the farm where hay, corn, and maize were being grown. At this time, the road to Con Can was also improved.

The second-generation couple never had children and following her husband's death in 1972, Marjorie Richarz took over sole management of the farm, which now includes 203 acres founded by her father-in-law. She produces hay on the land where she is actively involved in preserving wildlife and keeping the place maintained and repaired. The founder's native rock smokehouse, a six by nine-foot structure, still stands on the Heritage farm.

WALLER COUNTY

D. E. WILLIAMS RANCH —1882— Nine miles north of Hockley
FOUNDER: Edward and Mary Elizabeth Doles Williams of Ireland
1982 OWNER: Donald Edward Williams, Hockley

Irish settlers Edward (Ned) and Mary Williams made a new start in life by buying 50 acres of land in Waller

County, the deed recorded on November 17, 1882. They gradually increased their small herd of cattle

which foraged on the open range, reserving their acreage primarily for farming corn and cotton. Mary was a midwife and practical nurse and traveled by horseback to needy persons in the community besides taking care of their own four children. Being a better sailor than farmer, Ned was thrown from a horse only four years after they settled their farm and was killed.

Following his father's untimely death, the founders' oldest son Francis Edward (F. E.) became the head of the household when he was only 14 years old. He and his mother worked together, keeping the farm operation growing. Affectionately known by all in the area as Uncle Frank, F. E. served as a school trustee and member and officer of the local Macedonia Methodist Church. Because the area was a farming

and stock raising region, stock animals often damaged growing crops which resulted in damage claims between neighbors. F. C., acclaimed throughout the area for his integrity, often served as arbitrator in such claims over a wide scope of territory and even served in some cases as the arbitrator for both parties. The second-generation owner and his wife Ethel (Clayton) had three children: Mildred (Abshier), Alice (Coffman), and Donald Edward.

After the death of F. E. in 1948, Donald Edward worked the land for a time with his mother and now retains ownership of the farm which has been reduced to 49 acres by the gift of approximately 1 acre for road rights-of-way. He leases 25 additional acres for cattle pasture and produces cattle and hay.

WEBB COUNTY

***BRUNI MARTINENA RANCH —1873—** Thirty-eight miles northeast of Laredo

FOUNDER: Raymond Martin of France
1982 OWNER: Ernest Martin Bruni, Jr., Laredo

***SUMMERS MARTINENA RANCH —1873—** Thirty-eight miles northeast of Laredo

FOUNDER: Raymond Martin of France
1982 OWNER: Evelyn Bruni Summers, Laredo

Founder Raymond Martin was born in France in 1828 of a mercantile family. He came to America in 1854 by way of Pensacola and New Orleans and then to San Antonio where his brothers Joseph and Paul had settled earlier. Raymond then came to Laredo and established a mercantile business in which he became very successful. In 1861, he began his ranching ventures and, at one time, had over 50,000 head of sheep and thousands of head of cattle. He continued to purchase land in Webb and LaSalle counties. In 1870, he married Tirza Garcia, the daughter of Laredoan Bartelo Garcia who was a descendant of Don Tomas Sanchez, the founder of Laredo. They had ten children: Raymond V., Marcelino G., Jean M., Joseph, Albert, Antonia, Herlinda, Magdalena, Mamie, and Louise. Raymond Martin was very active in the growth of Laredo. He erected the Commercial Hotel, was one of the organizers of the Laredo Bank, an organizer of the city water works, and was a political leader of his time. Laredo's oldest and largest high school is named after the founder and his wife Tirza who, after his death in 1900, managed his estate and continued purchasing more land.

By the time of her death in 1910, the family holdings were nearly 130,000 acres plus numerous holdings in the City of Laredo. After her death, the estate continued operating the lands until they were

partitioned in 1919, with the Llanos portion of 15,500 acres going to Magdalena.

She had married Antonio H. Bruni and they had three children: Ernest, Alice, and Fred. Upon her death in 1939, the land passed to these children and, in 1940, Ernest Bruni, who was ranching the land, bought out his brother's interest. In 1946, Ernest partitioned with his sister, leaving him with over 10,000 acres and the original headquarters site, located on the old San Antonio-Laredo stagecoach road. Ernest remodeled and restored the old headquarters house which is believed to have been built by Raymond Martin in the 1870's. The house was of adobe and, for years, had dirt floors. The ceilings are over 14 feet tall and it has a very unusual spiral staircase that was built without the use of metal nails. Upstairs are four unique windows that were said to be used as lookouts for bandits and the arrival of the stagecoaches. The headquarters, along with many other buildings, was once surrounded with a rock and adobe wall for protection. Ernest also established one of the earliest Santa Gertrudis herds in this part of the country. He married Lilia Longoria and they had two children, Ernest, Jr., and Evelyn.

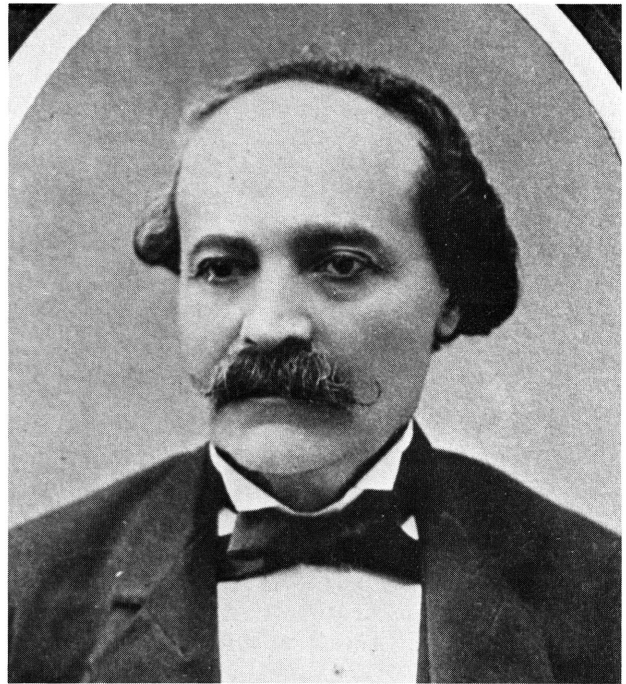
After Ernest's death in 1959, the ranch was divided between the children with the exception of the

headquarters tract of 53 acres which they own together and maintain with their mother Lilia. All co-owners and their mother live in Laredo. Carroll E. Summers, Jr., Evelyn's husband, operates their ranch which he continues to develop and improve through the Soil Conservation District, of which he is a longtime director. They have had three children: (one is

deceased), Shelley, Carroll III, and Robert. Ernest "Buddy" Bruni, Jr., operates his part of the original ranch plus two others. He is a long-time committeeman and chairman of the Webb County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Buddy is married to Linda (Jacaman) and has four children: Ernest III, Michelle, Triana, and Lilia.



Tirza Garcia was a descendant of Don Thomas Sanchez, founder of the City of Laredo. She was the wife of Raymond Martin and helped manage their extensive Webb County lands.



Raymond Martin came from France to Webb County where he established a large estate of which the Bruni Martinena and Summers Martinena Ranches are a part.



This structure was the original headquarters for the ranch founded by Raymond Martin. It is located in Webb County on the old San Antonio-Laredo stagecoach road.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

***STAPP FARM —1851— North of Andice**

FOUNDERS: Joshua and Sarah Stapp of Tennessee
1982 CO-OWNERS: Mrs. Nell Stapp Bean, Austin
Mrs. Margie Stapp Myers, Liberty Hill
Mrs. Grace Stapp Shaw, Dallas
Mrs. Lois Stapp Whitten, Andice

In 1851, Joshua and Sarah Stapp and their family of nine children arrived in what is now the northwestern Williamson County area and ended their search for better farmland when they purchased 369 acres from the Winslow Turner Survey No. 606 for \$184.00. Joshua set about making his land habitable, building log houses for dwellings, barns, cribs, stock pens, and other farm structures. In 1854, he deeded land for the establishment of a public school building in District 13 which served not only as a school but also as a general meeting place for the people of the community. Four churches held regular worship services in the building which was known as the Stapp School. The nine children of the Stapps were: Silas S., Samuel R., John Calvin, Nancy Jane, James W., Benjamin W., Mary, Elizabeth Ellen, and Martha.

In the fall of 1854, Benjamin purchased 123 acres of his parents' land. Ben was a progressive farmer and accumulated 540 acres in all. In 1870, he built the first lumber house built in the community, with materials for the construction hauled from the Brenham lumber mills by oxen. He was the first man in the community to own a team of horses and was also the first to fence pastureland, the fences at that time being either rock or rail. As a farmer, he was among the first to discover and adopt new and improved seed, stock, implements, and farming methods. Production on the land included grains, corn, oats, sorghum, hay, fruit, vegetables, swine, horses, and cattle. One crop in particular which Benjamin introduced to the area was kafir corn, a sorghum variety well suited to the hot, dry summers of Central Texas. He and his wife Elizabeth reared six children on their farm: Emily Jane, Martha E., Joseph M., Joshua, Bennie, and John.

In 1904, Benjamin and Elizabeth deeded their entire farm to their four surviving children, with each

receiving 135 acres. Joseph followed in his father's footsteps on his 135-acre inheritance in his progressive and foresighted farming management. He and his wife Cynthia gave one-half of the funds needed to build the first Baptist church building in the area, known as the Pilot Knob Baptist Church. The grandson of the founder made trips to Kansas City where he purchased Red polled cattle, a thoroughbred strain noted for its beef production. Besides cattle, his land also produced cotton, corn, sorghum cane, wheat, oats, a fruit orchard and berry patch, beehives, and many kinds of vegetables. Joseph and Cynthia had ten children: Bertie Jane, Charles Matthew, Dera Lynn, Willie, Grover Graves, Fred Earl, Elmer, Joseph Homer, Pearl, and Virginia Ann.

Charles Matthew and his wife Ethel purchased his father's farm in 1923. They contributed land for the building site of the First Baptist, formerly the Pilot Knob Baptist Church which his parents had helped to build, and also contributed the building site for the Andice Public School. Charles was one of the first farmers to begin a system of terracing to save the topsoil. In 1925, he rebuilt the home originally constructed by his grandfather Ben in 1870. At present, co-owner Lois Stapp Whitten resides in the home. In all, the fourth-generation couple had six children: Mary Ethel, Lois Cynthia, Margie Marie, Charle Ralph, Clara Nell, and Grace Elizabeth.

The current co-owners, great-great-granddaughters of the founder, received their family land on January 3, 1962. They have planted sloping land in grass and had a dam constructed to help deter soil erosion. Dick Stapp, a cousin, operates the land today for the co-owners and production now includes grass adapted to the area and beef cattle.





The Williamson County farm home built in 1870 by second-generation owner, Benjamin W. Stapp, was the first lumber home in the area, constructed from materials hauled from the mill in Brenham by oxen. The home was remodeled in 1925 by Charles Matthew Stapp, great-grandson of the founder. Fifth-generation co-owner Lois Stapp is the home's present resident.

WILSON COUNTY

COLEMAN RANCH —1881— Ten miles west of Nixon

FOUNDERS: William C. and Celia Lynn Coleman of Arkansas

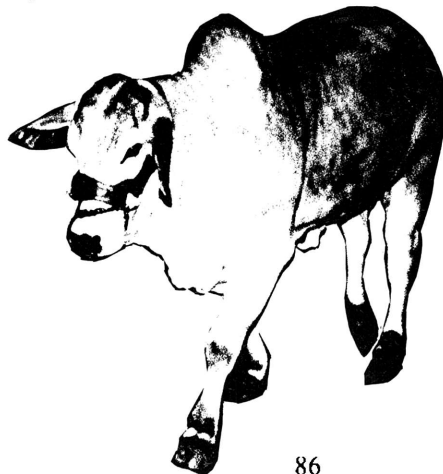
1982 OWNER: Hensley Coleman, Nixon

William and Celia Lynn were married on June 23, 1872, and joined his parents in Texas where they had immigrated sometime before the year of the founders' marriage. They bought 163 acres in Wilson County in 1881. Agricultural production on their ranch consisted of corn, cotton, and cattle. Their children were Mary Ann, W. C., John, Sabrina, Lavenia, J. W., Myrtie, and Mildred.

In 1925, their son J. W. acquired 80 acres of his

parents' land. His ranch concentrated on production of beef cattle and feed grains. His wife was Lorine (Cherry) and their one child was Hensley. The second ownership period extended for 38 years.

Hensley Coleman now possesses the 163 acres which were originally settled by his grandparents. He has added 214 acres more and manages the ranch himself where he has improved the land and continues to raise beef cattle.





Celia Lynn Coleman and her husband, William C. Coleman, founded their Wilson County ranch in 1881. She was an active farm wife and the mother of eight children.

SYLVAN DUNN'S PANDORA PLACE —1880— One and one-half miles west of Nixon
FOUNDER: Marion Pascal and Octavia Sikes Dunn of Alabama and Texas
1982 OWNER: Roy Sylvan Dunn, Nixon

Marion Pascal Dunn was born in Alabama in 1854. His father was shot near the end of the Civil War, living long enough to tell his wife to take their children and move to Texas to start over. In 1873, Marion and four younger brothers moved with their mother to Wilson County. Five years later, Marion married Octavia, the daughter of a neighbor, John Sikes. Their eight children were: Leslie, Alabama, Susie, Clara, Uris, Roy, Lois, and Vera. Marion and Octavia Dunn began acquiring land in 1880. A 1967 survey proved that the Dunn Farm had 1,000 acres, the first purchase being for 360 acres. Later purchases were made, one in 1883 for 164 acres from George McPeters and an additional 477 acres from the George McPeters estate in 1891. Marion sold a few acres to his brother Henry. As was traditional for the region, Marion established a combination farm and ranch. Because the property contained both sand and black soils, Marion was able to diversify his production. He began working the heavy black soil with the new steel-pointed plow which became available in the 1880's and 1890's. He gradually switched from oxen to mules and upgraded his cattle herd from Longhorn stock. The family lived at first in a black jack forest on a sandy hill within the original purchase. Later, in the late 1880's or early 1890's, they moved to a new story-and-a-half house in a live oak-shaded valley along the Rancho-San Antonio road which wound around through the property. In about 1905, Marion eagerly gave land for the building of the San Antonio and Gulf Railroad which split his property. The old town of Rancho moved to the rails and a new town, Nixon, sprang up one and one-half miles from the Dunn Farm. Within a few years, Marion built a fine new house in Nixon and

moved his family there. Their oldest son Leslie lived nearby and ran a mercantile store. Their young son Roy was sent to the farm on horseback each day to supervise the operation and never again was it a "cow-sow-hen" undertaking.

Marion P. Dunn died in 1912 and Octavia in 1915 and the estate went to their children with Roy Dunn continuing the operation for the family. He continued to balance between crops and cattle on the farm and engaged in the expansion and intensification of operations to keep pace with expanding world markets. Roy took great pride in producing near pure-bred Hereford bulls which found a ready market among his neighbors. He expanded acreage in cotton to a peak of 600 acres during World War I. Nine houses were required to care for the laborers and tenants while 20 pairs of mules worked the fields. Besides the cotton and feed crops, the farm occasionally produced cash crops of flax, peanuts, watermelons, wheat, milo, onions, and blackeyed peas. Roy was one of the first in the Nixon area to build terraces and to plant improved grass cover. He phased out mule power in favor of tractors. As cotton production became unprofitable in the 1930's, he shifted to other crops and increased the cattle operation. Calf crops were often fed out on grain raised on the farm.

Upon Roy's death in 1950, his sister Lois Dunn assumed management of the M. P. Dunn Estate. At that time, the farm was almost totally a cattle operation.

In 1967, the estate was divided among the heirs. Only six acres are retained in the estate itself under long-term lease for oil storage tanks. The bulk of the estate belongs to Herbert Dunn and Lucille Martin Dunn while 250 acres are in the hands of Roy Sylvan Dunn, a grandson of the founder. He has reclaimed oil fields,

planted improved grasses, added two water wells, enlarged a lake, and utilizes registered Hereford bulls on "tiger stripe" cows. A retired professor-archivist, Roy Sylvan Dunn oversees the production of crossbred cattle and hay from Nixon, one and one-half miles away.



Marion Pascal and Octavia Dunn began their diversified farming and ranching operation in Wilson County in 1880. They posed before a house on their property in the late 1880's or early 1890's.

WOOD COUNTY

DODSON'S FARM —1880— Two miles east of Mineola

FOUNDER: Joseph Lafayette Dodson, Sr., of DeQueen, Arkansas

1982 OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. William Irvin Dodson, Mineola

Joseph Lafayette Dodson began paying taxes in 1869 on the 160 acres to which he acquired title on December 19, 1880. He began clearing land and building roads on the property where he raised corn, cotton, fruit, and hogs. The land which he farmed had originally been part of the original grant of W. J. Greer and he was aided in his work on the property by his wife Maggie (Gipson) and their four children: Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Lafayette, Pearly Armittie, and Tommy Melton.

Corn, cotton, vegetables, fruit, cattle, hogs, and chickens were produced on the farm by Joseph Lafayette, Jr., its second owner. He acquired 132.8

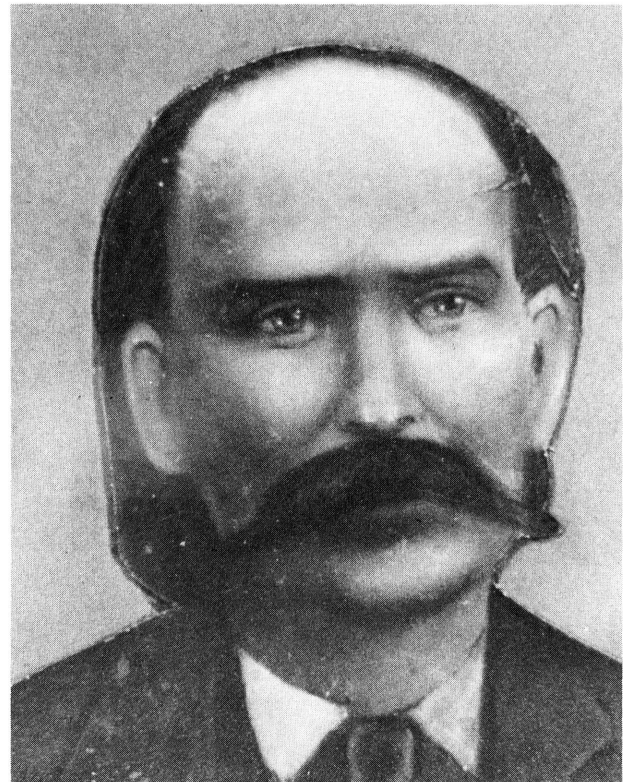
acres in 1930, adding 43.7 more in later years. Ida Lee Allison became his wife and they had six children: Floyd, Bessie, Ray, Bertha, Louie Dalton, Myrtle, and William Irvin.

From 1940 until 1962, the land was owned by Ida Lee, widowed by her husband Joseph Lafayette, Jr.

The land was acquired by the current owners in 1962. The grandson and granddaughter-in-law of the founder practice soil and water conservation on the land where they produce cattle, hay, and truck garden crops.



Wood County farm family Joseph Lafayette Dodson, Jr., his wife, Ida, and two of their six children, Myrtle and William Irvin, are shown as they looked in 1925.



Joseph Lafayette Dodson came from Arkansas to Wood County as a young man sometime before 1869. He acquired title to the farm he founded in 1880.

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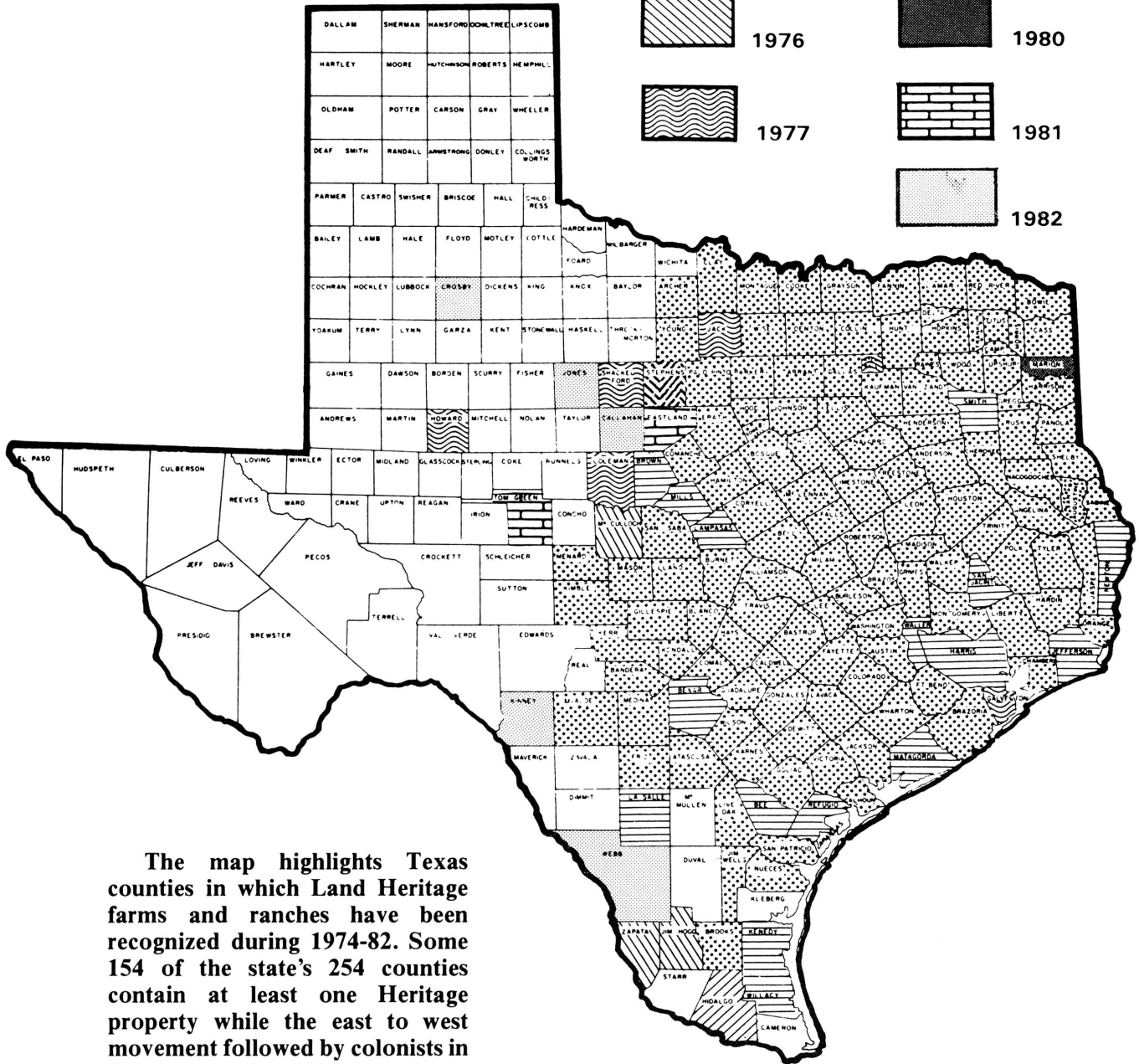
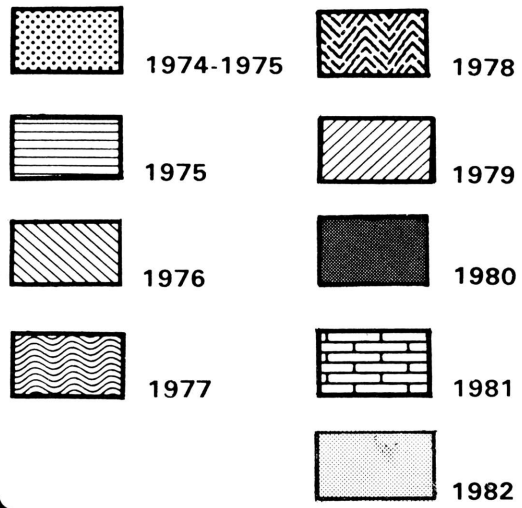
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COUNTIES



The map highlights Texas counties in which Land Heritage farms and ranches have been recognized during 1974-82. Some 154 of the state's 254 counties contain at least one Heritage property while the east to west movement followed by colonists in their settlement of Texas is clearly visible in their location.

NUMBER OF HONOREES BY COUNTIES 1974 THROUGH 1982

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|--------------|
| Anderson | 11 | Hardin | 1 | Rains | 2 |
| Angelina | 8 | Harris | 4 | Red River | 17 |
| Archer | 2 | Harrison | 8 | Refugio | 12 |
| Atascosa | 7 | Hays | 7 | Robertson | 15 |
| Austin | 31 | Henderson | 10 | Rockwall | 2 |
| Bandera | 6 | Hidalgo | 6 | Rusk | 13 |
| Bastrop | 21 | Hill | 17 | Sabine | 7 |
| Bee | 9 | Hood | 5 | San Augustine | 13 |
| Bell | 12 | Hopkins | 18 | San Jacinto | 6 |
| Bexar | 16 | Houston | 39 | San Patricio | 4 |
| Blanco | 3 | Howard | 1 | San Saba | 4 |
| Bosque | 18 | Hunt | 10 | Shackelford | 3 |
| Bowie | 4 | Jack | 1 | Shelby | 21 |
| Brazoria | 7 | Jackson | 6 | Smith | 6 |
| Brazos | 7 | Jasper | 5 | Somervell | 2 |
| Brooks | 5 | Jefferson | 7 | Stephens | 3 |
| Brown | 4 | Jim Hogg | 2 | Tarrant | 4 |
| Burleson | 15 | Jim Wells | 3 | Titus | 5 |
| Burnet | 12 | Johnson | 4 | Tom Green | 2 |
| Caldwell | 9 | Jones | 1 | Travis | 21 |
| Calhoun | 2 | Karnes | 12 | Trinity | 2 |
| Callahan | 1 | Kaufman | 8 | Tyler | 5 |
| Camp | 5 | Kendall | 12 | Upshur | 3 |
| Cass | 14 | Kenedy | 2 | Uvalde | 2 |
| Chambers | 10 | Kerr | 16 | Van Zandt | 10 |
| Cherokee | 32 | Kimble | 5 | Victoria | 10 |
| Clay | 3 | Kinney | 1 | Walker | 6 |
| Coleman | 3 | Lamar | 12 | Waller | 3 |
| Collin | 28 | Lampasas | 18 | Washington | 14 |
| Colorado | 34 | LaSalle | 1 | Webb | 2 |
| Comal | 15 | Lavaca | 14 | Wharton | 8 |
| Comanche | 7 | Lee | 13 | Willacy | 4 |
| Cooke | 17 | Leon | 7 | Williamson | 23 |
| Coryell | 16 | Liberty | 15 | Wilson | 12 |
| Crosby | 1 | Limestone | 16 | Wise | 9 |
| Dallas | 4 | Live Oak | 8 | Wood | 15 |
| Delta | 7 | Llano | 5 | Young | 6 |
| Denton | 12 | McCulloch | 4 | Zapata | 2 |
| DeWitt | 35 | McLennan | 9 | | |
| Eastland | 2 | Madison | 6 | | |
| Ellis | 14 | Marion | 1 | | |
| Erath | 8 | Mason | 23 | | |
| Falls | 13 | Matagorda | 2 | | |
| Fannin | 11 | Medina | 19 | | |
| Fayette | 48 | Menard | 4 | | |
| Fort Bend | 7 | Milam | 23 | | |
| Franklin | 7 | Mills | 7 | | |
| Freestone | 17 | Montague | 8 | | |
| Frio | 2 | Montgomery | 8 | | |
| Galveston | 1 | Morris | 10 | | |
| Gillespie | 31 | Nacogdoches | 14 | | |
| Goliad | 8 | Navarro | 30 | | |
| Gonzales | 31 | Newton | 3 | | |
| Grayson | 21 | Nueces | 2 | | |
| | | Orange | 1 | | |
| Gregg | 2 | Palo Pinto | 3 | | |
| Grimes | 6 | Panola | 21 | | |
| Guadalupe | 30 | Parker | 8 | | |
| Hamilton | 6 | Polk | 16 | | |
| | | | | TOTAL | 1,558 |

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE



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For a century or more of continuous ownership and operation as a family agricultural enterprise. To the dedication and perseverance of the founders and heirs of these lands, we owe the basic wealth of Texas.

Texas Department of Agriculture

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Austin's Colony - The original colonization agreement which initiated the long journey toward settling Texas lands began when Stephen F. Austin's father Moses Austin entered into an agreement with the Mexican government in 1821. The agreement allowed for the granting of 640 acres to each family head, 320 acres for the wife, 160 acres for each child, and 80 acres for each slave. Some 300 people received land grants in Stephen F. Austin's first colony and have come to be known as the "Old Three Hundred." During 1823-24 Austin and the land commissioner Baron de Bastrop issued 272 titles and in 1827, the remaining titles were issued by a new commissioner, Gaspar Flores.

Headright - a grant, usually of land and/or money, formerly given someone who fulfilled specified conditions relating especially to settling and developing land.

Homestead - a tract of public land acquired by filing a record on it and cultivating to obtain legal possession.

Labor - an old Texas unit of land area equal to 177.1 acres.

League - old unit equal in Texas to 4428.4 acres or 1792.1 hectares.

Patent - a legal document by which the final title to any land survey is passed from the government to an individual.

Survey - a particular parcel of land in which the metes and bounds are defined. Named after the original grantee from the time of Spanish control onward. Example: Stephen F. Austin Survey.

Texas Historic Landmark - any structure which has received a Texas Historic medallion approved by the Texas Historical Commission.

Texas Historical Commission - state agency created by the Texas Legislature in 1953 for the purpose of providing leadership and coordinating services in the field of historical preservation in the state.

Texas Historical Commission markers - any type of marker approved by the Texas Historical Commission either in granite, on posts, or on buildings. Two major categories:

- A. Medallion - A Texas Historical Commission marker and interpretive plate placed on a structure, giving the history of the building and establishing the structure as one of historical significance.
- B. Subject Marker - any of a number of types of markers not attached to a building which refer to an event, person, enterprise, cemetery, etc. of historical significance.

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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1982 FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

