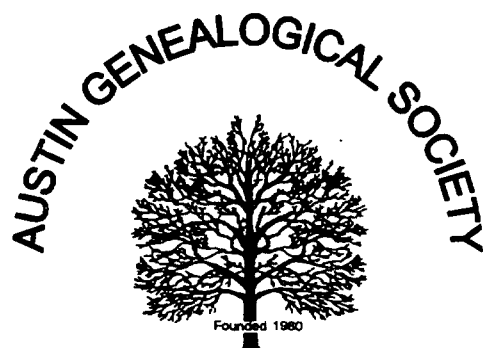


Austin Genealogical Society



Quarterly

Volume XL, Number 4

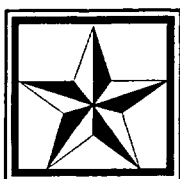
November 1999

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THIS IS OUR FORTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



The AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY is published four times per year in the months of March, June, September and November.

MAILING ADDRESSES:

AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY has specific addresses for certain purposes. To save time and trouble for yourself as well as for us, please use the appropriate address. See inside back cover for further details. THANK YOU!

EXCHANGE QUARTERLIES-- Send quarterlies and correspondence about them (such as change of address or failure to receive yours by the 10th of April, July, October or December) to **TEXAS STATE LIBRARY, Tech Services S.S., Box 12927, Austin TX 78711.**

CHECKS AND BILLS-- Dues, seminar reservations, orders for our Special Publications, memorial gifts, other financial matters: **AGS Treasurer, Box 1507, Austin TX 78767-1507.**

AGS QUARTERLY-- Send material for and correspondence about quarterly to **AGS Quarterly, 4500 Hyridge Drive, Austin TX 78759-8054.** **EXCEPTION!**: **QUERIES** should be sent to **Queries Editor, 5722 Highland Hills Drive, Austin TX 78731.**

PAST ISSUES OF AGS QUARTERLY: Inquiries about availability and cost should be addressed to the **AGS Quarterly Custodian, 4304 Lostridge Drive, Austin TX 78731.**

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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE concerning Society matters goes to **AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 1507, Austin TX 78767-1507.**

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| | |
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| Marilyn Maniscalco Henley | Second Vice-President/Pgm. |
| Bob Tull | Treasurer |
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NOTE: BOARD MEETS AT 6:15 p.m. FOURTH TUESDAYS immediately before regular Society meeting.

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| | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
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Please see inside back cover for further Society information.

The Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly

Volume XL, Number 4 November 1999

—We can hear if we listen the words they impart
through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.
—Unknown

Comments

ROUNDING THE TURN

We feel the freshening breezes of fall in our faces and we sense that the century which at least those of us over fifty have some right to call our own is fading. Soon the twentieth century, our century, shall become as much a matter of history as any of the previous nineteen. We argue with perfect logic that we have one more year after this before the book is really closed, but we can't change human nature as easy as we can comment on it. When that odometer makes the big flip and the numerals (all four of them!) turn at once, it will be a most insensitive person whose breath will not quicken, whose eye will not glisten, and we can tell ourselves and each other that we now share a unique gift—we have lived through not only the change of a year and of a century, and, yes, of a millenium as well. It may be that a genealogist is more involved and concerned with dates and chronology and all it portends; our entire ancestry hangs on a framework of time. It will be a moment to treasure.

We wish our membership and readers a most blessed and rewarding holiday season. Happy New Year! Happy New Century! Happy New Millenium!

SPECIAL THANKS TO TWO UNSUNG BUT VERY APPRECIATED OFFICERS

At the year's close of business we shall regretfully lose the valued services of two officers who have already made their intentions known to the Board.

Putnam Monroe has been Publications Mailing Officer seemingly since time was a pup. It has been his responsibility to maintain and keep current the mailing lists for our monthly Newsletter and this Quarterly. Sounds simple, yes? Well, it isn't at all. The lists for each journal are separate, for one thing. While the Newsletter basically is sent to current members, the Quarterly goes to dozens of libraries and other Societies with whom we have exchange agreements. The two are printed by separate print shops

(Continued on next page)

PUBLICATION TITLE: AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY
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(Cont'd from previous page)

on different schedules. New members join throughout the year and must be added to each list. People move and need changes of address. And there is always the wonderful U.S. Postal Service to deal with: returned mail for one reason or another; changing postal rates and regulations; insufficient money in the AGS account at USPS. And (very seldom) an unhappy member who didn't receive their issue. Through this all Col. Monroe has been the epitome of grace under fire (he is a West Point graduate, you know.) Thanks, Putnam, for each and every delivery, because we know they had your heart (and maybe some blood occasionally) delivered with them.

Bob Tull is also leaving from his tenure as Treasurer, and how we will miss him. The USPS account we mentioned above was frequently in arrears till he took over. The same could almost have been said about the Society's funds in general. Bob's astute management, careful custodianship and excellent budgeting were most helpful in shepherding us through that time and bringing us to a sound financial position as he departs. We can't thank him enough.

Bob is not one to boast but his profession is one in which he also excels. You may not all know that he is on the Astronomy staff at UT Austin and a renowned and respected astronomical spectroscopist. The new Hobby-Eberly telescope at McDonald Observatory is the largest of its kind anywhere, and it is basically not a seeing scope (those are almost extinct in the profession) but one which gathers spectrographic information on the cosmos. Bob has had a large part in the design, installation and calibration of the monster and the world of astronomy will greatly benefit from those talents of his.

So, Putnam and Bob, thanks for your many efforts in behalf of AGS through the years. Enjoy life without the petty cares of AGS for a change!

CALCASIEU MATERIAL CAME FROM AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

Several of you reminded your Editor that the article in the September issue on the Calcasieu Lumber Company was not acknowledged, and yes, it was not. We selected the article as one of considerable local interest from the excellent manuscript files at the Austin History Center. Any material secured from AHC always bears the City of Austin circular logo on each page; the Calcasieu material did carry the logo. We should, however, have provided additional source identification and regret this omission.

SEE THE NGS QUARTERLY

Most of us, certainly including this Editor, can lay only tenuous claim to being even amateur genealogists. We carry a high level of respect for those who have with much work, study, devotion and intelligence have become certified genealogists at any level. While the National Genealogical Society is open to all, its ranks are studded with certified professionals, and its Quarterly usually carries articles prepared by such people. One only has to read (read at) any of these articles to understand a bit about how professionals go about their work. The NGS Quarterly is currently being edited by Garry B. and Elizabeth Shown Mills. Elizabeth was our seminar speaker several years and left everyone who attended completely awed by her capabilities; these capabilities (plus her husband's if there are any left over in that family) carry over into her current editorship.

The September issue of the NGS Quarterly is devoted entirely to *Evidence*. Elizabeth and four other experts cover the field of genealogical evidence in excellent fashion. Most of us may not fret all that much about how sturdy is the material we unearth if we're doing it for the joy of doing. But if we want to lay claim to genealogical expertise within our family circle and certainly if we wish to publish material to even a minimum genealogical standard, we need to know something about the law and science and art of evidence-gathering. We recommend you take a look at the NGS September 1999 Quarterly if you are in that

position. There is a lot of good information therein.

FOR OUR CONTRIBUTORS

On the following page we bring you a summarizing of the materials in this issue, recognizing the contributors and providing any needed additional information. We appreciate these contributions and have perhaps identified them only haphazardly previously. You are always encouraged to send material of a genealogical or historical nature to the Editor; we can survive only with such material. Many thanks again for your generosity.

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Wilena Young, our Newsletter Editor, will have reminded you that there is no regular December meeting of AGS each year but we'll also chime in. We will convene again on Tuesday evening, 25 January 2000 at 7:30 pm at Highland Park Baptist Church. The Board will have a special called meeting during December to elect officers for 2000 and you will be meeting these, whomever they shall be, at the January meeting.

The Editor

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. Things like "chalk" or "pencil", she described, would have a gender association although in English these words were neutral. Puzzled, one student asked, "What gender is the word 'computer'?"

The teacher wasn't sure, and so divided the class into two groups, all the men in one, all the women in the other; and asked each group to make a decision and include four reasons for that decision.

The group of women decided that computers were masculine in gender because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but more than half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited just a bit longer, you could have had a better model.

The men, on the other hand, decided that computers are most definitely feminine in gender because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to anyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for instant later recovery.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

INTRODUCING OUR FOURTH QUARTER ARTICLES

1. A consolidated listing of Libraries, Archives and Repositories in Austin which expands on the list in the September Quarterly. We would like for this to be as complete as possible and if anyone knows of other resources, please let us know.
2. Four pages full of material on the **Marchbanks** family of Tennessee and Texas were submitted by AGS member Jim McDonald of Austin. Jim has additional material on this family which we hope to bring you in an upcoming issue.
3. A 10-page mini-biography of Austin resident **John Anderson McCurdy**, plus a two-page addendum, "Papa's Half-Inch." These were submitted by AGS member Richard Robertson. We regret the Quarterly is not printed in color; several of the photos in Richard's articles were in gloriously beautiful color and they do lose much appeal in monochrome. Richard's material was so immaculately prepared that it was used as our master; all loss of quality is our and the printer's fault.
4. Information on designation of Historic Texas Cemeteries. The Texas Historical Commission is the agency whereby this is secured and they are making a comprehensive effort to identify such cemeteries throughout the state. AGS is currently studying the feasibility of indexing and cataloging all cemeteries in Travis County as part of this commendable project. We are glad to evidence the intended results by including, immediately following, a listing of burials in Pfluger Cemetery. It would be wonderful if such data were available on every cemetery in the county.
5. Two pages of genealogical background material on the **Thomas Wilson** line. Thomas moved his family to Luling, Texas, from Rosedale Abbey, Yorkshire, England, in 1880. This material was prepared by Dr. Francis Wm. Wilson, Sr., and placed in the manuscript files of the Austin History Center. We copied the files as we found them and made no changes except for scanning and re-fonting. We vigorously recommend the AHC as an immense repository of manuscript data on Austin and Travis County and hope to continue to bring you samples such as the above.
6. A page of updated material on **Family #409** in the **Travis County, Texas, 1850 Federal Census** series which we concluded last year. This updated material was sent in by AGS member Wilena Young. Our long-term intention is to publish this entire series in book form including any updated information, so we are still interested in receiving such data if you have any.
7. A discussion of the life and travels of **Dr. J.G. Wheat** and family prepared by his daughter Laura Emily Wheat Foster and submitted by Lorrie Foster Henderson.
8. A copy of the handout provided by speaker **Kris Toma** at the October regular meeting which summarizes her remarks on caring for aging photographs.
9. A page providing information about the continued availability of Confederate Service Records from Family History Centers since the National Archives will no longer provide these. This information was received from Glenda Knipstein who is a veritable volcano of information on FHC resources.

We generously thank all contributors and hope this material is of much interest and assistance to our readers.----Ed.

THE TRIP TO TEXAS IN 1851 (Written Recollections by Boling Feltz Marchbanks)

My grandmother, Anne Sullivan, and her two sons-in-law, Thomas Calvin Marchbanks and P.A. Thomason, living nearby, decided to sell their homes in Smith Co., Tenn. and move to Ellis Co., Texas. They, accordingly, made proper arrangements for a long trip over a bad road to Texas.

On Monday forenoon, September 16, 1851, our teams of horses were put into action and headed for Texas and Ellis Co.

In this caravan were Mrs. Anne Sullivan and her Negroes; P.A. Thomason and his wife, Mary Aramanda, and their children; my father's brother, Burton, and his wife, Mary Caroline Vance, whom he had married in 1850.

Without any serious accidents we crossed the Trinity River at a little village called Dallas (the great city of Dallas was then in embryo). I think this date was October 15, 1851. It is the date I have always remembered as the one on which we reached a point on a creek near Waxahachie. This creek is now known as Red Oak Creek. In a little cabin on this creek we found my grandmother, Margaret Sophonia, with nine of her children living around her. She had come to Texas in 1850. See * below for names of children.

The members of this party migrating to Texas were all well equipped for the journey. Ann Sullivan had an old fashioned barouche drawn by a good sized iron gray horse. This wagon was driven by Uncle Jim, an old Negro man. In addition to the barouche, she had one four horse team driven by a Negro called Uncle Josah(?); one of the best men I ever knew. I do not recall her having another wagon.

My uncle, P.A. Thomason, had one old time carryall in which he and his wife, Mary Aramanda (my dear Aunt Minnie), and their little girl, Anne Elizabeth, rode. (Ann Elizabeth later married, and outlived her husband. There were several daughters born to this couple.- They all married and lived in Dallas). This heavy carryall was drawn by one roan mare, but she was faithful. He also had at least one other wagon drawn by a three horse team, and driven by a big Negro named Jim. I think that P.A. also had a number of Negroes with him.

My father was also well equipped. He had an old time carryall drawn by two fine yellow mares called Luce and Sue(?). In this carryall rode my father and mother and their children. He also had two other wagons which had been made in his shops. One of these wagons was drawn by a three horse team and one black mule named "Brandy." A Negro, named either Sli or Slim, drove this team. To the other wagon were hitched two fine three year old mules, the best I had ever seen. George Strother and a yellow Negro drove this team.

Uncle Burton had one carryall drawn by a nice little pony mare.

P.A. Thomason and Mary Aramanda later left Texas, and settled in Prairie Co., Ark. (The town may have been Highmound Grove - note by Jim McDonald). Aunt Minnie died there, and we may assume that her husband also died there.

Mary Caroline Vance Marchbanks, Uncle Burton's wife, was the last adult survivor of those who made the journey from Tenn. to Ellis Co. She was 89 years old at the time this journal was written. She was living in Cleburne.

*Children of Margaret Sophonia Cannon Marchbanks who made the trek with her to Texas in 1850:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| William | Ransom |
| James C. | Alexander |
| Jonathan | Jasper |
| George F. | |

Note: Anne Sullivan, BFM's grandmother, died 4 November 1852. Buried in Waxahachie Cemetery (Source: BFM memo re b. & d. records at Waxahachie Cemetery).

THOMAS CALVIN MARCHBANKS OF TN AND TX

Thomas Calvin is a son of Margaret Sophonia Cannon and Josiah Marchbanks of SC and TN.

Thomas C. b. 29 March 1808 in Overton Co., TN. and d. 6 December 1884.

Thomas C. m. Josephine Pauline Sullivan in Smith Co., TN in approx. 1836.

Josephine and Thomas C. settled in Sligo Ferry, DeKalb Co., TN on the Carey Fork River soon after the town was formed in 1838.

Pauline and Thomas C. had 5 sons and 3 daughters:

1. Boling Feltz.
2. Victoria Ann.
3. Newton Blackstone.
4. Alfonso Calvin.
5. Josephine Sullivan b. 14 Aug. 1860 in TN. d. 27 June 1898.
a.) m. Richard V.B. (Van) Sweatt 20 Feb. 1867 in Ellis Co., TX.
W. Lloyd, Elder M.E.C.S. was minister.
6. Laura J. b. 5 Mar. 1863 in TX. d. 11 Feb. 1898 (or 1889) of spotted fever.
a.) m. P.T. Crisler 19 Nov. 1874 in Ellis Co., TX. William S. Johnson, minister.
7. Josiah Oscoela (Oscie) b. 12 (or 22) Dec. 1856 in TX. d. 24 Nov. 1861 of croup. (Middle initial could be D instead of O. (Jim McDonald research).
8. Augustus Darwell b. July 8 1868 in TX. d. 25 Feb. 1897 (or 1887) of a throat condition similar to croup.
a.) m. Ardenia C. McMillan 14 April 1881.
b.) After Augustus' death, Ardenia m. A. J. Bishop 24 July 1895. M. S. Johnson, M.G., minister.

The 1840 census shows Thomas C. and his family of 4 males and 1 female living in District 9 of DeKalb Co., TN. He had 1 male slave and 3 female slaves (obviously a family).

Thomas and a brother, Russell, bought the ferry, the ferry road and the adjoining land for \$5500 from Montgomery C. Dibrell. (SOURCE: DeKalb Co. Deed Book Ap. 142 dated 27 Aug. 1838.)

In January 1842, the mad waves of the Carey Fork River swept away the Marchbanks home in Sligo Ferry. Only a large 2 story log dwelling was left. The building was saved from destruction because it was anchored to the site by a heavy limestone chimney. Newton, then about 3 weeks old and his 2 year old brother and their sick mother were in this building. A ferry boat pulled alongside in order to save them from the danger of the raging waters. They were taken out through an upper story window. This was a long experience for a little babe. (SOURCE: Boling Feltz Marchbanks 1920 Family History).

Thomas C., not wishing to again be subjected to such destruction by high waves, sold this property in 1842.

The ferry was called Smith's Ferry in 1842.

Daniel Smith sold the ferry in 1846 to A. L. Davis for \$8000.

(SOURCE for the above paragraphs re the sale of the ferry to Smith et al are letters written by Thomas Webb of TN to Sarah P. Brady who forwarded this data to Jim McDonald).

In 1842, Thomas C. bought 100 acres of land in Smith Co., TN from John Lancaster for the total price of \$100.

This acreage bordered on left bank of Smith's Creek.

This tract was hilly or mountainous and heavily timbered.

Thomas C. and Russell built a fine saw mill and flour mill where they converted the large trees into lumber and wheat into flour.

All that remains today at this site is a big pure water spring that flowed out the side of a mountain, Smith's Creek and a large cave.

This land is presently located about 1 mile from Lancaster, TN.

Thomas C. and his family came to TX in 1851.

Josephine d. in Waxahachie, Ellis Co., TX 14 April 1859 at age 42 after a 60 day bout of typhoid fever.

Josephine's general health, however, had been good.

Thomas C. m. Mrs. Malvinia G. (Cunningham) Whittenburg on 30 May 1861 in Waxahachie, Ellis Co., TX. Judge L. J. Stroup, Justice of the Peace, performed the ceremony.

Mannie, as Thomas C. 2nd wife was called, was the sister of George C. Whittenburg. (George b. 4 Jan. 1818. d. 24 Oct. 1900).

Boling Feltz Marchbanks writes in his family history "I am sure all the Marchbanks and Whittenburg children were present (at the wedding).

"My father and Mrs. Whittenburg lived on adjoining tracts of land. (Either Mannie or her brother, George, owned their tract which evidently was 1000 acres.

"My father at that time owned more than 1000 acres extending north from Waxahachie.

"A description of these lands can be found in the county clerk's office, Ellis Co., TX.

"At the time of this marriage, there were 8 living Marchbanks children and 3 Whittenburg children.

"An extra large table was needed to accommodate my mother and father and I I children." (End of direct quote from Boling Feltz Marchbanks).

Records show that Thomas C.'s land was worth \$9900, and that his personal wealth was \$15,600.

Thomas C. was an adept horseman. Early newspaper accounts show he won Best Saddle Horse at a fair in Waxahachie riding a horse named "Billy Lewis."

He also won a place in harness stock and saddle stock about 31 October 1860 at an Ellis Co. fair with a horse named "Vic."

Thomas C. was a member of the first Board of Elders of Cumberland Presbyterian Church (now Central Presbyterian Church) organized in Waxahachie in 1863 by Rev. Daniel G. Mallory.

Josephine Pauline was the first member received into this church after its organization.

Thomas C. is listed in the 1860-1860 census on page 64 at the age of 32.

Mannie was an old time woman. Her duties to her husband and children absorbed all her time and care.

Mannie b. 14 Jan. 1818 in TN. d. 4 Oct. 1900 in Waxahachie, Ellis Co., TX at age 82.

Mannie's will was filed 21 Nov. 1900, and recorded 7 Mar. 1901.

The following Whittenburgs are listed in the 1860 Ellis Co. census (research by Jim McDonald):

Joseph N. 30. Farmer. b. TN. Land value \$640.

Norman H. 33. Farmer. b. TN. Land value \$600.

Melvina. 32. b. TN.

Clementine L. 9/12 months. b. TX.

This Melvina is apparently the 2nd wife of Thomas C. It's speculated:

1. That Joseph N. and Norman H. were brothers.

2. That Norman H. may have been the 1st husband of Melvina as she had a son also named Norman.

The 1860 census includes the following Whittenburgs (Jim McDonald research):

M.G. 40. Female. Farmer. b. TN. Land \$6200. Personal \$6900. (Mannie).

C.S. 10. Female. b. TX. (probably Clementine).

A.G. 8. Female. b. TX. (probably Ann Sloan).

N.H. 5. Male. b. TX. (probably Norman).

Thomas C. was appointed administrator - with the will annexed - of Ann Sullivan, deceased, by the County Clerk for probate business of Ellis Co. at its December term in 1852. "All persons holding claims against said estate are required to present them to me duly authenticated in the time prescribed by law. Thomas C. Marchbanks, Administrator, 21 June 1852. 24:6w." (SOURCE: Texas State Gazette, 5 Feb. 1853, Austin, TX. Research by Jim McDonald).

Thomas C. registered for the 1865 Reconstruction Election on 27 Sept. 1865 when he signed the loyal citizens amnesty oath per the President's proclamation. (Jim McDonald research).

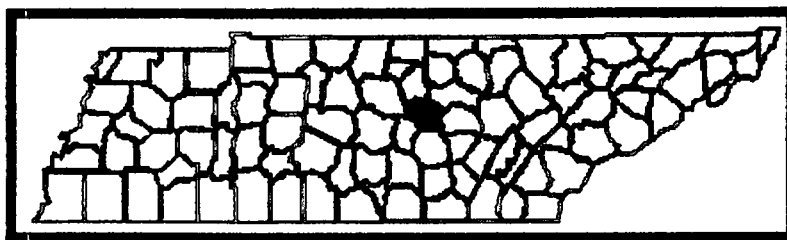
Thomas C. d. 6 Dec. 1884 in Ellis Co., TX.

(SOURCE: Boling Feltz Marchbanks 1920 Family History).

Submitted by Jim McDonald (jim912429@msn.com)
2604 Thomas Drive
Austin TX 78703

DEKALB COUNTY *GENEALOGICAL* SOURCES

at the Tennessee State Library & Archives



Updated: October 21, 1996

Dekalb County was formed in 1837 from Cannon, Jackson, and White counties.

The county seat is Smithville.

Census Records: Microfilm records for 1840-1920 include Dekalb County. They are indexed in statewide census indexes for 1840-1870 and microfilm indexes for 1880 and 1900-1920. Records for 1840-1910 are also in book form.

Selected County Histories: *History of Dekalb County (Hale, 1915); *Dekalb County (Webb, 1986); Turning Ground (Evans, 1995); *Goodspeed's (1887); Bicentennial History (Wolf 1995).

Published Local Records: *Cemeteries (Gilbert); *Marriages 1848-1900 (Parsley); *Marriages 1848-1880 (Sistler); Settlement books 1846-1907 (Majors); Will abstracts and revolutionary pensions (Gandrud); *Marriages 1901-1950 (Gilbert); Death certificates 1914-1925 (Parsley). *WPA typescripts include: County court minutes 1837-1849; Wills 1838-1854.

Local Records Microfilm: An inventory of microfilmed county records is available for purchase. Individual reels may also be purchased. Earliest records include: county court minutes from 1842; marriage records from 1848; will books from 1838; and deed and deed index from 1838. The following are available on interlibrary loan: marriages 1848-1887 (1 reel), will books 1838-1968 (1 reel), administrators settlement books 1846-1907 (1 reel); minutes of insolvent estates 1856-1946 (1 reel); and deed index 1838-1925 (1 reel).

Newspapers: Newspapers were published in Alexandria, Liberty and Smithville. Scattered early issues are available from 1896, and a complete run begins in 1958. Microfilms are provided to Tennessee libraries on interlibrary loan. Individual rolls may also be purchased.

**Indicates this title may be borrowed on Interlibrary loan.*

John Anderson McCurdy
February 6, 1895 - October 15, 1981

by May Lea McCurdy

John Anderson McCurdy, was born February 6, 1895, in Cuero Texas. His father was Andrew Howlett Porter McCurdy, a Presbyterian minister serving the church at Cuero. His mother was Mary Ianthe (Anderson) McCurdy whose home was on a farm-ranch in Dewitt County east of Cuero on the Victoria road. The area was known as the Irish Creek area. Dr. McCurdy was a widower with three children: Robert, Andrew, Lucinda (Lucy) and Horace. John Anderson, the first of his mother's children, was named for his grandfather, John Denny Anderson. Being the first-born grandson, the boy was a great favorite of his grandfather who thought young John could do no wrong.

While the McCurdy family lived in Cuero, two other sons were born: Porter in 1897 and Albert about 1900. In 1898 Dr. McCurdy became Presbyterian Evangelist and Secretary of Home Missions for the Presbytery of Western Texas. This position kept him away from home much of the time as he worked to establish churches and build their sanctuaries. His early training in carpentry and construction gave him unusual talents in these activities.



Mary Ianthe and A.H.P. McCurdy



McCurdy Home - circa 1899
305 Prairie Street



McCurdy Home - April 1999

Leaving the Cuero manse, Dr. McCurdy built a two-story home close by a cottage owned by J. D. Anderson, now retired from active management of his ranch and living in town with his daughter

Alberta (Anderson) Kaapke, a widow with a small daughter, Janet, a year or two older than John Anderson.

In the country near the Anderson ranch lived another Anderson daughter, Margaret Lee (Anderson) Caldwell, who had a daughter, Kathleen, also slightly older than John Anderson. These two cousins were his frequent companions, and there were many visits and overnight stays at the ranch. There was much of interest to a growing boy - a windmill, blacksmith shop, farm animals, farm tools and machinery, wagons; the chores to maintain all the farm and ranch activities. There was Irish Creek with a swimming hole and the Guadalupe River where older boys could swim. There were great, moss-hung, oak trees, some covered with wild grape vines. Annually the grapes were picked to make grape juice and jelly and the boys swarmed in the tree tops to drop the clusters into the wagon below.

There were visits to the Caldwell farm where Aunt Maggie had a parrot, Old Polly, who had the run of the place, indoors and out. Polly's favorite perch was on the roof peak, from which she could survey the landscape all around. In the country strange callers were always suspect, and Polly was alert to the presence of anyone she did not know. When she spied a stranger, she would call out, "Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Caldwell." If nobody responded, she would then call the dogs and cry, "Sick 'um, sick 'um". The puzzled caller could not tell who was calling or where the calls came from and would usually retreat. Polly also had a great affection for small children, and the Anderson mothers visiting together were under threat of Polly's sharp attack if they decided to discipline a child.

In town the Anderson families had access to the produce of the farm. Summer time would bring wagon loads of watermelons to be stored in the parlor of the Anderson cottage under a big square piano. Grandchildren were always welcome to come in and cut a melon.

In 1905, Dr. McCurdy accepted a call to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in Brownwood and moved his family there. Robert by this time was studying for the ministry, and Lucy was soon married to Albert Coffin. Her daughter, Margaret, was born about the same time as Marion Wallace McCurdy (1906), the fourth son of Porter (AHP) and Ianthie McCurdy. John Anderson worked at odd jobs all through his boyhood, mowing lawns and milking neighborhood cows every morning and evening; and very early he was handy with tools, building all sorts of things for the children's enjoyment. Fifty cents a week was good pay for chores, and all such income was automatically turned over to the family exchequer. The manse was near the home of the Mays family who had several boys the ages of the McCurdy boys. They played together constantly; and especially in the summer, the tribe spent long days on the nearby bayou. One summer the boys decided they needed transport for their swimming equipment. There was a buggy in the Mays barn which the boys insisted had not been used for years; so commandeering two wheels, they built a contraption to carry their effects down through the high-cane trails to the water. This subsequently caused quite a commotion in the neighborhood when the lack of wheels on the buggy was discovered.

John Anderson was sometimes called on to "house sit" for out-of-town neighbors. At one such time, he found himself coming to the empty house one evening well after dark. As he entered the door, he heard a thump from a bedroom upstairs. Mustering up his courage, he crept up the steps, flash-light in hand, opened all the doors to closets and rooms. He found an overturned chair in one room but no one there to account for it. Back out in the hall, he looked up just in time to dodge a civet cat leaping out of the attic opening left ajar, over his head and down

the stairs. He was glad to open a door and shoo it out.

Instead of attending the local high school, John went to the preparatory department at Daniel Baker College. He became known as Giggling John - his "funny bone" was easily turned over, and he often got amused by some incident in the classroom. When this occurred, his self control was soon shattered; and upon occasion he would be banished to the hall to sit on the stairs until he could maintain a straight face.

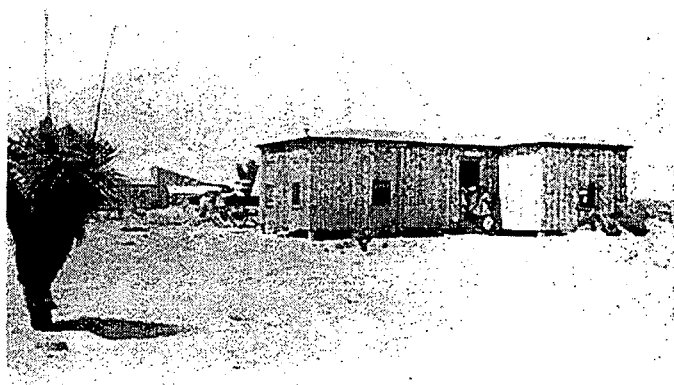
One year he grew very rapidly - nine inches in that one year. In those days boys wore knickers buckled under the knees instead of long pants. The usual bag in his knickers grew less and less until finally they had to be buckled above his knees, much to his chagrin. Finally, his father said, "Son, I think it is time we got you some long pants."

Dr. McCurdy served not only as pastor of the church but was called upon also to be acting president of the college. After a time, the pressures of two jobs impaired his health. He resigned both jobs and, in 1912, took his family to New Mexico to homestead land south of Deming. John was given the job of traveling on the freight train with the horse, chickens, and family furniture. The horse's stall was set up in one end of the box car and the furniture in another with a bed for John on top of the piano.

There was a long stopover in El Paso, and John decided to leave the car and see something of the town. Coming back later, he surprised a hobo trying to make off with a chicken. In the ensuing confusion, some of the chickens got loose and scattered into a nearby lumber yard. For several hours John was busy trying to round up those frightened chickens.

There were in New Mexico a number of McCurdy relatives, already established homesteaders. Newton McCurdy had a jewelry store in Deming in addition to his homesteading. His sister Susie and her husband, Jess Shinn, were there, as were A.H.P.'s daughter Lucy and her husband, Albert Coffin and Albert's sister Rebecca Coffin who taught school at Hondo. Newton's brother Andrew (Andy) was also part of the tribe. He had fallen in love with Ellen Yeargan and when A.H.P. arrived, one of his first duties was to perform the wedding ceremony.

Dr. McCurdy and the three older boys had gone out before the mother and two younger children came. They lived in a shack belonging to the Shinns who had moved into Deming. After the first crop was in, all the relatives gathered to build a house for the Porter McCurdys. Then John returned to come back with the freight and his mother, brother and sister in the coach. The house had been built on the land the family was homesteading. There was a well, boxed in above ground where rattle snakes liked to gather on the shady side or where water spilled had made a damp place. The dog was a good watch dog for snakes and even a successful killer. He was a constant companion of three-year-old Mary whenever she was out-of-doors. He also liked to accompany John when he was traveling in the wagon and to hunt rabbits, which, provided meat for the family. Rabbit was served in myriad ways: "chicken" salad, meatloaf,



New Mexico Homestead

baked rabbit, rabbit stew, fried rabbit; and the dog's ability to catch rabbits augmented the hunters' efforts.

Part of the homesteading requirement was the raising of crops. Tomatoes and beans proved the most successful for the McCurdys. Tomatoes were sold fresh and canned to the grocer in exchange for needed supplies, among which was flour essential to the baking of biscuits which were added to a diet of rabbit, beans and tomatoes.

Dr. McCurdy stayed only one year, returning to a pastorate in San Antonio, while his family stayed to prove up the homestead. Albert and Marion attended school in Hondo nearby, and John and Porter worked for relatives on their homesteads in addition to working their own. John was employed at Newton's jewelry store repairing watches at one time. There were wells



John at the Homestead

to be dug, pumps to maintain, irrigation ditches to be built and maintained. Working with a helper one day on a ditch John was startled to see the man suddenly grab at his clothes and throw them off. He couldn't get his shoes untied so he jumped into the irrigation ditch water with only his shoes on. It developed that he had dug into a red ant bed and been well stung. (Always the retelling of this incident brought on more funny bone turnover)

Keeping the wells and pumps in operation required trips down into the wells to extend the pumps to the falling water line. One day John went down for this task, completed it and climbed back out. Wells would become like caves as the water with a burden of sand was pumped out. This well had a fifty foot cave above the water line, and suddenly without any warning it collapsed. A few minutes earlier, it would have buried John alive fifty feet underground.

All was not work. There were camping trips involving all the relatives and newfound friends from Deming, going into the Flor'ida Mountains (notice accent on the i) with wagons full of tents, food and camping equipment. One night the tents were set up for the women and children, the men sleeping under the wagons. Not far away an old prospector and his donkeys had a camp. Sometime in the night cries from the tents brought the men running to find curious donkeys pushing into the tents to see what they could find. It took quite a while to banish the live stock and restore peace and quiet. (Our John's funny bone got a good work-out on this occasion and many another.)

In the fall the older boys would take the wagon and team up into the canyon north of Deming where a family raised good mountain apples. The couple on this ranch were well-educated people, musically trained. The boys enjoyed the piano and singing and John's developing bass voice was well used.

Deming is not far from the border with Mexico, and Mexicans often passed through the area on their way to find work. One group stopped over long enough to make adobe brick to build a silo for one of the homesteaders. John designed and built the curved forms in which to make the brick, shaped to form the round silo, and then supervised the buildings process. After

the work was done, the Mexicans were paid off. Next morning the wagon and team were gone. A hurried horseback trip into Deming brought John to the grocery store in front of which stood the wagon and team. Inside he found the grocer holding the Mexicans - he had recognized the team and knew they were not the rightful owners. John sent them on their way and took the team home.



Lt. John A. McCurdy

Pancho Villa was active in Northern Mexico about this time and made a raid at Columbus, New Mexico, a small settlement on the border just a few miles south of the homestead and Deming. This caused a flurry of concern among the homesteaders but did not disrupt their activities too much.

In 1914, having proved up the homestead acreage, the family returned to San Antonio where Dr. McCurdy was pastor of the Pine Street Presbyterian Church, a small church he had chosen above more affluent churches which had called him. Porter, Albert, Si (Marion) and Mary entered public school and John Anderson went to work to help family finances. He worked in construction, at a battery manufacturing plant, and in the service department of an automobile agency - varied and interesting experiences in line with his mechanical bent.

In 1917, World War I enveloped the United States, and John enlisted in the Army Air Service. Basic training, including engine repair and navigation was taught in Austin on the University of Texas campus for awhile and then in abandoned buildings at 19th and East Avenue. After completing this, he was sent back to San Antonio to Kelly Field for flight training in which he excelled. He was given charge of cross-country flying and made the first night landing ever made at Kelly. Returning from rescuing a stranded cross-country student, he was caught by darkness. There was no communication between planes and the ground in those days, and he approached the field and flew close to the tops of the hangars to attract attention. A soldier turned on a strong beam of light and focused it right on the plane, blinding John so he could not see to land. He dived at the light several times to make the man turn it away, which he finally did, and John was able to land.

Twice John received overseas orders, made all preparations, said good-byes and left town only to have the orders canceled and to be sent back to San Antonio. His last post before the end of the war was at Eberts Field in Arkansas where he was in charge of flight operations with orders to keep the planes in the air throughout the daylight hours. During his stay here, influenza broke out and most of the men went



Lt. John A. McCurdy

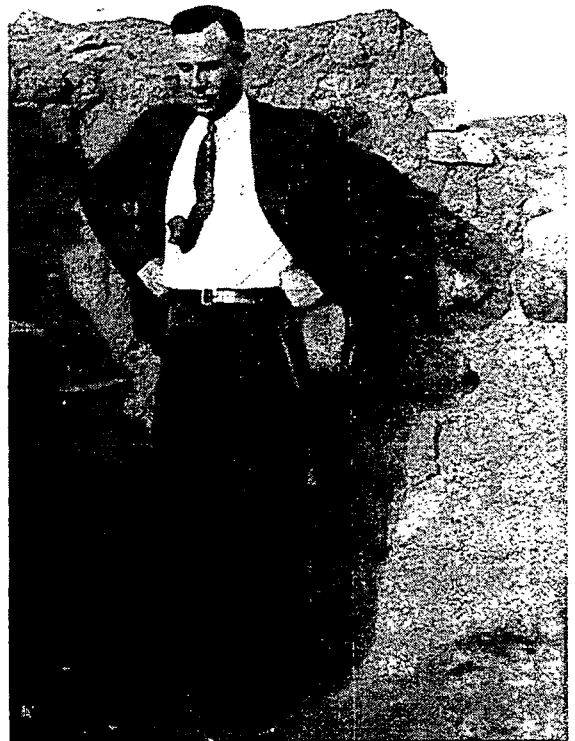
down with it. The camp doctor, an alcoholic, panicked, locked up his medicines, and went A.W.O.L. The cabinets had to be broken open to get the medicines needed to treat the afflicted patients.

There were no promotions in the Air Service which was a kind of orphan in the current military establishment, and John went through the war with heavy responsibilities and the rank of second lieutenant, which he had been commissioned on graduating from flying school. (Class #12, October 27, 1917)

After the war, he had tempting opportunities to keep on flying as a test pilot; but his realization that his father was growing old and he might be called on to take on increasing family responsibilities sent him back to school. He wanted to be a medical doctor; but time was pressing, and he studied business administration for two years. He received his B.B.A. degree from the University in 1922. One year was lost because of a severe bout with typhoid fever. He had made up his mind that he would not marry but would devote himself to caring for his mother and younger siblings and, to provide social life without involvement, he gathered together a group of seven or eight boys and a like number of girls from the Presbyterian Church student group. Rules were that no boy could date the same girl consecutively. The two groups had many picnics on week-ends and Sunday afternoon calls on ailing and housebound elderly people.

Since I was not in the Presbyterian Church at first and did not belong to that group, I was not bound by its rules. I began attending the Presbyterian Church with a friend and, of course, met John. He sang in the choir and I sat in the audience and our eyes met rather frequently over the heads of the congregation. The student group planned a boat-ride-picnic in the Spring, and we went in a double-decked party boat up to the mouth of Bull Creek, then walked with our provisions on our arms up to a pool formed by large fallen rocks. There we could swim and have our picnic. When time came to go home in the late afternoon, we returned to the boat. John was on the upper deck; and when I started to board below, he stretched out his long arms in my direction. I caught his hands and was lifted effortlessly up to join him on the upper level. After that, we took a lot of walks in the evenings and, by the time he left school in 1922, we had an "understanding." John's decision never to marry was never mentioned again.

After graduation, he went to Sweetwater as secretary of the Board of City Development. Sweetwater, a small town in West Texas, was an interesting spot. The Board included a Catholic, a Presbyterian and a Jew, all good friends and men who saw eye to eye on their community problems and opportunities. All three became John's good friends and supporters of his moves to help the town's development. He started a Building and Loan Association to help promote home building. He became involved in school affairs, helping to elect a better school board after school officials were involved in misuse of school finances.



John at Sweetwater

At the time of the school crisis, the high school football team had a star player who did not keep up any sort of scholastic record and who actually was not in school at all at times. Because the school officials had allowed him to play in spite of his not being eligible, the boy marshaled the team and set out to wreck the printing plant of the local newspaper which had published stories about the school problems.

John's office was across the street from this plant, and he saw the boys coming and suspected their intent. He rushed across to the plant and, when the boys entered, leaped up on the counter across the front of the office. Facing the boys and calling them by name, he spoke quietly and firmly, urging them to avoid violence and unlawful activity. His six-foot three inches and 200 pounds of muscular frame combined with the air of command from his air service days made his point and the boys went straggling away.

Ku Klux Klan reared its head in Texas politics and showed up in Sweetwater, spreading anonymous questions about the Catholics and the Jews since there were no Blacks there to be targets. The local head of the Klan turned out to be an elderly lawyer, unsuccessful in his profession, whose wife ran the boarding house where John stayed and had his meals. John took a strong stand against the slandering of his Catholic and Jewish friends and helped marshal community opposition to the Klan moves.

Sweetwater as the County Seat sponsored a Fair and Stock Show each fall. This was one of John's big projects each year, and he had many friends among the local ranchers. One who turned out to be a Lea cousin from Gonzales, had a ranch south of town in the "breaks". There was a small canyon where a spring ran with water cress growing on its banks. Many picnics were held there Saturday evenings around a campfire, with singing, to a guitar played by John's office secretary. Usually on the way home, rattlesnakes would show up, lying in the road under the lights of the Model T car. The rifle in the car would quickly dispose of the snake whose rattles would be added to the collection inside the guitar.

John became a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the most prestigious "fraternity" in the town. When the siren would sound, he would join the crew dropping all activities and rushing to the fire station to go put out the fire.

Two years after John went to Sweetwater, he came to Wichita Falls and we were married in the dining room of our cottage on Eleventh Street, the first and only home my father and mother owned. We left in his Model T, driving to Amarillo and visiting Palo Duro Canyon next day. Then we headed back to Sweetwater - back to work.

We stayed in a rented room and had meals at the boarding house the first year we were there, then moved to an efficiency apartment with a bed that folded up into a closet in the day time. We began to build a house south of town into which we soon moved.

About this time, the election of the Board of City Development members was scheduled. A group opposing development ran a ticket which won the election. John was distressed and with his usual very strong sense of responsibility felt he was responsible for the defeat of the group he had worked with and for during several years. After a few days, he sent a letter of resignation and we headed out in the trusty Model T for Rockport where members of his family were vacationing.

This was my first experience in Rockport, which had been the family vacation place from the time John was little over a year old. We stayed in a big two-story house on Water Street - no screens in the windows, lots of mosquitos and no breeze to blow them back, a crowd of family I did not know, and John still very upset over the election. Some introduction to the place which

was to be our family vacation center through two generations - more than fifty years.

When we returned to Sweetwater, it was to find that the new Board had refused to accept John's resignation and had elected him to a new term as its secretary. Soon, however, he was approached by two Houston men, alumni of the University of Texas: Thomas Watt Gregory, Attorney General of the United States in the presidency of Woodrow Wilson; and Will C. Hogg, oil man and financier, son of Governor Jim Hogg.

These men invited John to come to Houston at their expense to talk about the University and the Ex-Students' Association. John wasn't interested in leaving Sweetwater. He was happy in West Texas, busy, and liked his job. But he finally went. Gregory and Hogg had great ambitions and plans for the University, which they felt was making no progress. The Ex-Students' Association was without a secretary, and they saw an opportunity to make it a leader in revitalizing the University. They were very much fired up, and for several days poured out their ideas to John. He caught their enthusiasm, and when the job of Ex-Student secretary was offered to him, he accepted. And we moved back to Austin in the fall of 1926.

John entered the new job with high enthusiasm. Si was attending the University, and he had his meals with us which helped defray his expenses for preparation to enter medical school. We returned to our University connections so recently severed - church and friends and University activities. In 1927, just before Margaret was born, we moved to a cottage just a block north of the campus. Brother Si continued his University work and his supping with us; and in 1928, Dr. McCurdy died and Lammie and Mary came to live with us. John had indeed been able to prepare for the time when he would be needed by his family.

Then in the fall of 1929, my father developed tuberculosis and was hospitalized in the Thompson Sanatorium in Kerrville. My mother came to live with us also and to be close enough to go by bus every week-end to see Dad and to help him keep cheerful and to recover. She was with us nine months, then spent the summer in Kerrville with Dad in a rented cottage, returning to Wichita Falls, with his illness arrested, in the Fall.

The 1930's brought great activity in the University world. Oil had been discovered on University land in West Texas. Funds began to be available for buildings to replace the World War I shacks which dotted the campus. To hasten the process of renewal, the Association mounted a campaign for a building program. Mr. Gregory had dreamed of a Men's Gym (Gregory Gym) to replace the shack currently used. The program was expanded to include a Women's Gym, a Union Building, and an auditorium (Hogg Auditorium). University officials were anything but pleased. One administrator with tears in his eyes, said: "John, we can't even take care of those buildings. You are selling us out to the janitors!" Regents were cool, but the Association Council went ahead with fund raising and plans for the buildings.

Dr. Battle, Professor of Classical Languages, was chairman of the University's building committee. He refused to allow the architects for the new buildings to have offices on the campus; so they had to office in John's, which was an old five room house on San Antonio Street and 23d where the Pi Phi house now stands. Green, LaRoche and Dahl set up drafting tables here and John was delighted to share the work of planning. Many nights he would stay on until midnight hours pouring over the plans. He also made the contacts for the architects with faculty and staff who would be using the buildings. He designed fold-down arms to chairs in Hogg Auditorium to be used when lectures were held there. The manufacturing company patented his design and used it widely in their business. He worked on the great electrical switch board in the

auditorium and studied plans hours on end to design the best possible arrangement of rooms and services.

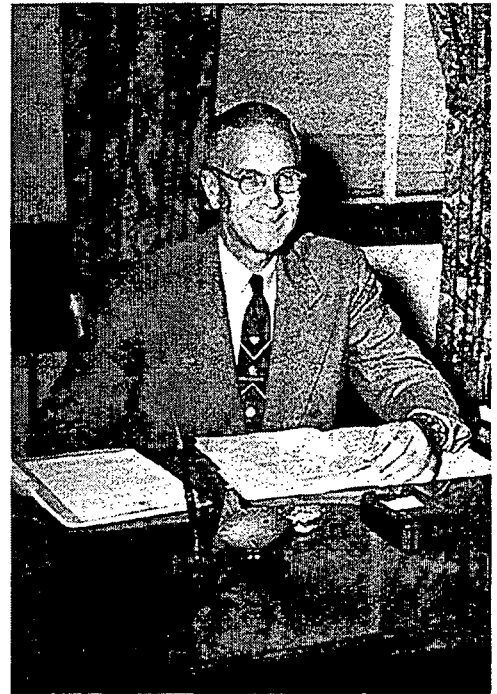
After these buildings were completed, the Association leaders and John decided the University ought to continue to replace shacks beyond the ability of the current income from the Permanent Fund. They suggested that a Constitutional amendment be passed to allow the University to issue bonds against the income from that Fund and to go ahead with building. The Regents and administration vigorously opposed this, but the Exes did it anyway; and after it was done, building did go forward. Then the regents got the Legislature to rescind that amendment. However, it was not long until they realized their mistake and came back to ask the Exes to pass it again.

That amendment made possible the beginning of a building program for the University, A&M and the medical college at Galveston which prepared them for the tremendous increase in college attendance which took place in the 40's and '50's and continues to this day.

The influence of state politics on the University system was usually misguided or inimical or both. An important part of John's job was to be aware of unfavorable movements as they were developing and marshal the Exes to resist and stop them. This made enemies as well as friends for him, both inside the Association and on the campus, as well as in legislative bodies. His job was entirely at the will of the Council- one-year contract only - which met in the Spring annually to elect its officers. Every year John was in doubt as to his chances for re-election, but miraculously he survived year after year for almost thirty years.

The years of the presidency of Dr. Homer Rainey were the most hopeful times the University had ever seen, in John's eyes. The University reached out with service to the state in ways it had never done before, and the cause of better standards for students and faculty was supported strongly. The opposition which developed and finally resulted in the firing of Dr. Rainey in spite of the support of students and faculty, was a great blow to John, one from which he never really recovered. For a decade after that event, he continued his work but with greatly reduced hopes for the University's progress. Forces in the state, backed by leaders in oil and gas industries and other strong business interests, were alarmed by the teachings of professors which threatened their successful control of state legislation and government. They were determined to keep the influence of independent and impartial thinking from penetrating the opinions of citizens of the state; and they set a watch on all teaching in areas which might affect government and economics. Their sons could go to Harvard and hear these things, but they must be kept from the ordinary people of Texas.

John turned 60 in 1955, and his health was affected by the strain and frustration of his job. In 1956, he resigned after almost 30 years of service. The rest of that year was spent with health problems, culminating in surgery for gall bladder removal.



**Secretary of Ex-Students
Association (circa 1950)**



May Lea and John (circa 1965)

In 1957, he was recovering his health and was able to do some remodeling construction for several friends and acquaintances. Then Walter Long called on him to help in his Texas Legislative Service, a private enterprise which sells complete reports on the actions of all the elements of state government. Daily reports of the progress of legislation introduced, sent to committee, amended, passed or killed; committee meetings and actions, etc., were recorded and sent to subscribers of the service. John worked for 12 years as the reporter in the House of Representatives. He made many close friends and watched the maneuvers of the interests of the state in their efforts to control the passage of legislation.

May Lea Guthrie McCurdy, August 8, 1902 - August 17, 1998, lived her last fifteen months at Westminster Manor in Austin, Texas. Reared in Corsicana, Texas, she moved to Wichita Falls during her high school years. She graduated from The University of Texas Phi Beta Kappa in 1923. In 1924 she married John A. McCurdy, who in 1926 became the Executive Director of the UT Ex-Students Association. She edited the Alcalde at various times during the 1930's and in 1950 became the Assistant Librarian for the City of Austin. Sometime after her retirement in 1967, she began writing family stories.



Compiled by son-in-law Richard Robertson, May, 1999

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Papa's Half Inch

My late father-in-law, known to his family as Papa, a.k.a. John McCurdy, was a skilled wood worker from the time he was a teenager homesteading in New Mexico. He came by it naturally. His grandfather, Andrew, moved from Virginia to Lockhart Texas in 1852 as a carpenter and builder. His father, a Presbyterian Minister, was also a skilled craftsman and during a five-year assignment as an Evangelist, organized and reorganized many churches, probably helping them in their building programs. Papa learned much from his father and he worked with wood as an avocation his whole adult life.

He built wooden boats, furniture, remodeled houses, and could do most anything with wood. When the family was homesteading in 1913-15, he helped build the silos, barns, and houses needed for a large family out in the middle of nowhere. When he was Executive Secretary of the Texas Ex-Students Association in the late twenties, he provided office space for the architects designing Gregory Gym, Hogg Auditorium, the Union, and the Women's Gym at the University. He spent many hours with them, exchanging ideas and coming up with suggestions used by the architects in the buildings.

So it wasn't an extra ordinary request when we asked Papa to design and build a fish cleaning house for our pier at Rockport that we were rebuilding after a September 1979 storm. (See "Pier Today - Gone Tomorrow" from this series) Papa was 85, and although experiencing failing eyesight, was as accurate in his planning and building as anyone scoring 20/20. And he was such a perfectionist, that he would hand sand on a piece of wood all day if he thought it necessary.

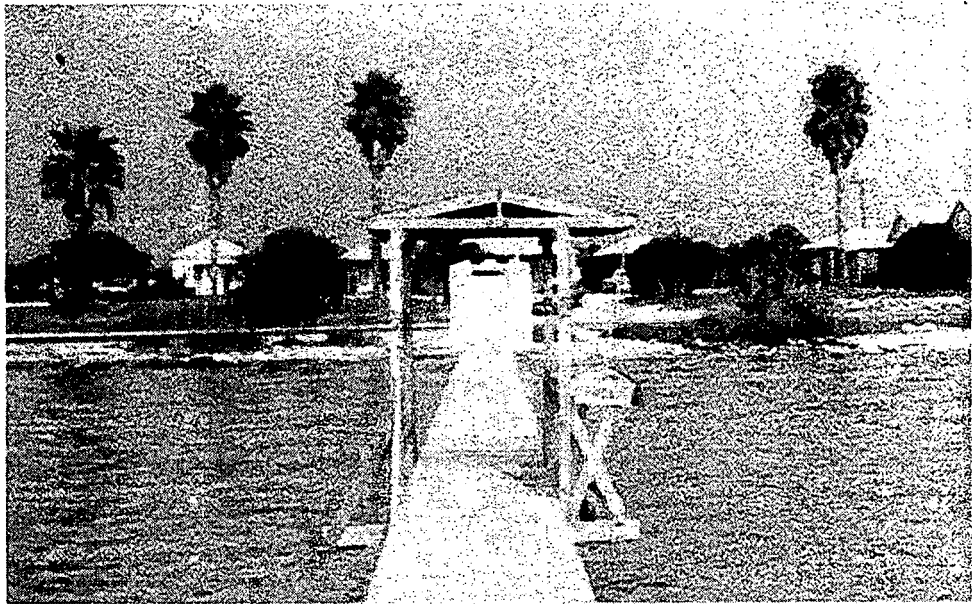
He was pleased with the assignment and began to work on it in earnest. He drew five pages of plans so that he could set this "cabinet-quality structure" on the rough carpentry of a pier that would eventually stretch 1250 feet out into Aransas Bay. In July of 1980, he had all the pieces measured and cut and ready for assembly. Jack Howard and I were ready to assist and, following his instructions, placed and nailed all the parts together. The roof would be tall because we had a number of tall fishermen who shouldn't have to duck heads while cleaning fish on the table. Everything would be based on a scale of 8 feet because of the plywood sheets for the roof and the roof was build slightly off center in order to cover the built-in table for fish cleaning and the sink for fish washing. On the opposite side was a bench for the comfort of admiring on-lookers. We assembled and we nailed and when we were through, Papa discovered we were a half inch off at one corner below the roof. No problem for the rest of us, but NOT for Papa. He had to correct that half-inch some how. The problem was that we had nailed 2 x 4 's together and the fitted pieces were strongly nailed to that basic structure



Richard, Jack, & Papa - July 1980

so that it would be very difficult to disassemble.

Apparently, Papa lost sleep for nights because of that half-inch and the difficulty of correcting it. However, the following month, on August 10th, Hurricane Allen took care of the problem by wiping all of the re-built pier out—including the fish cleaning house. All of the pieces washed ashore with the rest of the pier and we salvaged every piece and stored it until the following summer when we started rebuilding again. In August 1981, Papa was able to supervise our rebuilding of the fish cleaning house and he made sure that we took care of that half inch. He was a very pleased man when it was completed



Fish Cleaning House - circa 1982

and every piece fit perfectly. We are sure that when he left this life for another two months later, he was relieved that that part of the pier, at least, was left just as he had planned it.

Eighteen years later, the fish cleaning house still stands. We were spared by Hurricane Bret this past August with no damage to the pier. I have replaced the roof once and some of the other parts and have taken careful measurements and pictures so that it can be rebuilt to Papa's specifications when the need arises.



Our Pier - August 1999

Richard Robertson
September 1999



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

OFFICIAL HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

A cemetery that is deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for its historic associations is eligible to be designated as an Official Historic Texas Cemetery.

Introduction

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the state agency for Historic Preservation with the responsibility of identifying, protecting, and interpreting our historic resources. The THC works with interested citizens, county historical commissions, and heritage groups to preserve our historic resources, including cemeteries. The application includes instructions that explain the criteria, research methods, and documentation necessary to apply for an Official Historic Texas Cemetery designation.

Background

For many years, the THC has received telephone calls and letters from concerned citizens about the preservation of historic cemeteries that are located in both urban and rural settings. With the expansion of many urban areas, historic cemeteries are increasingly threatened. Sometimes these cemeteries disappear over a long period of time with the removal of one headstone at a time, while others disappear completely overnight. In rural areas, historic cemeteries are threatened by the breaking up of large tracts of land for residential development, by the absence of fencing allowing cattle to topple and break up headstones, and by the expansion of cultivated acreage. Cemeteries often are the last reminders of early settlements whose historical events, religion, lifestyles, and genealogy are threatened and could be lost forever.

Purpose

The Official Historic Texas Cemetery designation was developed to address the problem of the destruction and illegal removal of historic cemeteries in Texas. This designation cannot guarantee that a historic cemetery will not be destroyed, but official recognition of these family and community landmarks highlights their importance and promotes an attitude of respect and reverence by neighboring landowners* and the general citizenry and will encourage further preservation of these unique resources.

*This designation does not restrict in any way the private owner's use of the land adjacent to the cemetery.

Criteria

Two basic criteria govern the approval for Official Historic Texas Cemetery designation: (1) The cemetery must be at least 50 years old, and (2) deemed worthy of preservation for its historic associations. In reality, the very nature of a cemetery being a landmark of a family's or community's presence is considered to validate the criteria of historic associations.

ent

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

APPLICANT researches the history of the cemetery, fills out the application, and develops or finds a map for recordation.

SUBMIT APPLICATION, attachments, and processing fee of \$25.00 to THC.

THC STAFF REVIEWS the application and attachments. THC staff may request additional information. When all of the material is in order, the staff will review the application and, upon approval, the Declaration of Dedication will be mailed to the applicant.

APPLICANT TAKES DECLARATION OF DEDICATION TO THE COUNTY CLERK for recording. The applicant will secure (a) certified copy/copies of the recorded document indicating the volume and page number or other recordation references and send it/them to the THC.

CERTIFICATION: The THC staff will issue the applicant a certificate upon receipt of the certified copy/copies of the recorded Declaration of Dedication.



To receive an application for Historic Texas Cemetery Designation contact:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Gerron Hite | |
| History Programs Division | |
| Texas Historical Commission | (512) 475-4167 |
| P.O. Box 12276 | FAX (512) 475-3122 |
| Austin, TX 78711-2276 | gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us |

Historic Texas Cemetery Policies are codified in Rules of the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Administrative Code Chapter 21(Section 21.30).

For information about alternate formats of this publication, contact the THC.

PFLUGER CEMETERY

On April 7, 1880, in a deed recorded in Vol. 50, page 545, Travis County Courthouse, Mrs. Henry Pfluger, Sr. set aside nearly one acre of land for burying ground in Travis County on Wilbarger Creek. This is located on the 960 Jolm Liese tract, which was a bounty grant given to John Liese, brother-in-law of Henry Pfluger, Sr. (According to records of land grants given to Veterans of the Texas Revolution this property was received as a bounty warrant by John Liese from the Secretary of War on Dec. 19, 1837 for service from Jan. 1 to Dec. 18, 1837. Warrant 1106 for 960 acres. Patent 9, Vol. 3, Abstract 496, General Land Office File, Travis, Bounty 18)

There are 18 graves:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Henry Pfluger, Sr. | Aug. 3, 1803-Nov. 8, 1867 |
| 2. Emma Pfluger (daughter of Charley and Mary Pfluger) | Sept. 5, 1877-Dec. 29, 1877 |
| 3. August Pfluger (son of Henry, Sr. and Anna Christina Pfluger) | Mar. 3, 1855-Feb. 18, 1879 |
| 4. John Henry Schlitteler (a work hand) | -Nov. 20, 1880 |
| 5. J.C. Lucinda Pfluger (daughter of Henry, Jr. and Wilhelmine Pfluger) | Aug. 4, 1881-July 1, 1882 |
| 6. Wilhelmine Neummi (mother of Mrs. Henry Pfluger, Jr.) | July 20, 1817-July 25, 1886 |
| 7. William Pfluger (son of Henry, Jr. and Wilhelmine Pfluger) | Jan 6, 1871 -Oct. 3, 1886 |
| 8. Catherine Louise Pfluger Bruder (daughter of Henry Pfluger, Jr.) | Nov. 25, 1868-Mar. 25, 1889 |
| 9. Emma Wilhehnine Lena Bruder (granddaughter of Henry, Pfluger, Jr.) | Mar. 3, 1889-May 11, 1889 |
| 10. Amanda Pfluger (daughter of Henry, Jr. and Wilhehiline Pfluger) | Nov. 12, 1888-Nov. 21, 1889 |
| 11. Christine Braker (granddaughter of Henry, Sr. and Anna Christina Pfluger) | Feb 2, 1882-Feb. 16, 1893 |
| 12. Child of JA. and Emma Pfluger (grandchild of Henry Pfluger, Jr.) | Jan. 21, 1897-Jan. 21, 1897 |
| 13. Ervin Bohis (grandson of Henry Jr. and Wilhelmine Pfluger) | Feb. 4, 1897-June 27, 1897 |
| 14. Anna Christina Kleinschlundt Pfluger (wife of Henry Pfluger, Sr.) | July 20, 1820-Dec. 4, 1897 |
| 15. Henry Pfluger, Jr. | Dec. 17, 1847-Apr. 4, 1904 |
| 16. Wilhelmine Henze Pfluger (wife of Henry Pfluger, Jr.) | Aug. 18, 1850-Mar. 10, 1917 |
| 17. Twins of Eugene and Mary Priess (granddaughter of Henry Pfluger, Jr.) | Mar. 28, 1917-Mar. 28, 1917 |
| 18. ((Grave occupant unknown)) | |

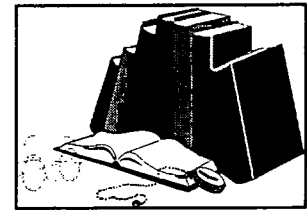
A leg of Herman Schmidt grandchild of Henry Sr. and Catherine Liese Pfluger-- had to be amputated and was buried in the east corner of the cemetery,

An historical marker was dedicated in 1975 at the Pfluger Cemetery. The marker has been stolen.
(See accompanying photo.)

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

Send your proofread information to Lorrie F. Henderson, 5722 Highland Hills Drive, Austin TX 78731-4244, (512-451-2312).. Cutoff date is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication. Include at least one first name, date and place per query. Please use names of months and the two capital letters for states. Letters may be edited to our format. Queries are free but if a reply is desired, we would appreciate your including a SASE. We would also request receiving 10c/page plus postage or a modest donation upon receipt of a reply.

Note: Editorial comments, if any, are in *italics*.



FITZGERALD/BURKE Need information, obituary and descendants of **CHRISTOPHER C FITZGERALD** b. 1800, VA; d. before Feb 1866 (estate probated), Fayette Co., TX; m. **MARY BURKE**, 15 Oct 1843, Fayette Co. Received a third class land grant for arriving in TX between 1 Oct 1837 and 1 Jan 1841. Took oath as a Justice of Peace, Fayette Co., 18 Jan 1837. [*M. date confirmed by editor.*] All help appreciated. **Yvonne Spence Perkins**, 2107 54th St, Lubbock, TX 79412-2610; E-mail: yperkins@juno.com.



STRICKLAND Wife is descendant (according to family legend, he is her gggrandfather) of **GEORGE WASHINGTON (G. W.) STRICKLAND** [TX State Death Index: d. "Travis Co., 6-12-05"]. One old reference given inquirer shows him in Hays Co, 160 A, Travis district, according to land grants and abstracts. Another source shows him as "Head of Family" in application for survey, etc, 24 Oct 1879. Also, 12 July 1880, "Field Notes for a Land Survey, G. W. Strickland," etc. Again, 5 Oct 1881, G. W. Strickland and wife, **S. A. Strickland**, deed of transfer to **Ellena McCuistian**. [*Editor: Live Oak Cemetery records show Strickland's death as above, but **NANCY JANE STRICKLAND** (not "S. A.") as his wife and mother of two of his children also buried there, and their births follow the 1881 reference to "S. A." by a couple of years, suggesting a second wife.*] Strickland is thought to have come to TX in the 1870s, but information is very vague and incomplete. **James D. Hansford**, 104 Riverside Dr. #505, Cocoa, FL 32922-7842; (407)638-2446; "call collect if need to call."

Lorrie Foster Henderson
Corresponding Secretary
5722 Highland Hills Drive
Austin TX 78731-4244



FEATURE FOR THIS QUARTERLY: Reference Book for addresses of US County Court Houses and information (with availability dates) regarding births, deaths, probates, divorces, etc; and libraries, genealogical and historical societies with addresses: "HandyBook for Genealogists," published by The Everton Publishers, Inc, Logan Utah; Ninth edition, 1999. Suggestions also given for records such as military. Index of cities, and maps of counties in states shown, plus 1860 railroads. Information given on some major foreign countries' brief history and resources.

LFH

WILSON

Yorkshire is situated in the northeastern portion of England. Its capital is the city of York. Its rural areas tend to be a series of shallow valleys, known as dales. These dales are named, thus Rosedale, Ferndale, etc. Rosedale is situated a short distance north of the city of Pickering, and is in the North Riding of Yorkshire. A priory of Benedictine nuns was founded by Robert de Stuteville about the year 1190. It was almost demolished by the Scots in 1322. The new abbey, known as Rosedale Abbey, was built near the destroyed priory. The village of Rosedale Abbey grew about the Church. For some years, Rosedale Abbey was called Rosedale Abbey East and Rosedale Abbey West according to its geographical arrangement and was divided by the River Seven. The hills of Rosedale once abounded in iron stone ore and during the period when this was mined the area prospered. During the 1870's the iron stone mines became depleted and a goodly portion of the population was forced to move away because of economic reasons. One of those emigrating during this period was Thomas Wilson, who was an exceptionally capable cabinet maker and general business man. He constructed a series of four homes, known as the Primrose Cottages, on his estate which he had named Primrose Villa. The cottages were constructed in 1875 and still stand.

Thomas Wilson was one of a line of Wilsons who had and who have lived in Yorkshire for centuries. Probably the original Wilsons came to England with the Norman invaders in the 1100's. Several of the Wilsons were members of the nobility. There are several coats-of-arms for the Yorkshire Wilson families. These coats-of-arms are related and quite similar. The basic arms may be described heraldically as Sable, a wolf rampant, in chief three estoiles. The earlier coats-of-arms are quite old, dating back to the 12th century and bear no motto or crest. The relatively more recent coats-of-arms bear the motto "VIGILATE" (Watch).

Among available records of Thomas Wilson is a deed dated 1606 in which land in Rosedale is acquired by a Richardson, probably one of the forebears of the present day Wilsons. The earliest Wilson which I have definite data on in our line is John Wilson, who is listed in the 1851 census of Rosedale East as being an 80 year old farmer. Probably his wife was Jane, who was born about 1778 in Rosedale East. John was the father of ten children: John, Sarah, Mary, George, John, Ann, Thomas, Joseph, William, and James.

Joseph Wilson, son of John, above, was born September 8, 1814, in Rosedale East. On February 1, 1842 he married Tamer Duck, born in 1816 or 1817 in Farndale East. She was the daughter of John Duck, born in Farndale East about 1785 and Tamer, born about 1791 in Farndale West. Joseph and Tamer were married in Lastingham in the Parish Church of the Church of England. They were married by James Montague and their witnesses were James Lownsbrough and Leonard Simpson. Joseph and Tamer had three children, Hannah, born November 6, 1842, married a Carter; Mary Ann, who was born December 29, 1844, and married John Collier; and Thomas, who was born November 27, 1846, in Rosedale Abbey.

Mary Ann Wilson Collier had four children: Hannah, who married John Atkinson and Ralph Mayman, Tamar who married Joe Featherstone, Mary who married George Richardson, and William who married Flora Farrow.

Joseph Wilson, son of John and father of Thomas, was a farmer who became active in the primitive branch of the fairly new Methodist church in England. He became a lay preacher for the Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel of Updale in Rosedale. He was described as a saintly man. His name appears as chairman of branch meetings of the Pickering Circuit in 1874. He is listed also as a Lay Preacher and as a Class Leader. Some notes from the minutes of these meetings demonstrate the status of Rosedale at this time: "That we report 86 members to the district meeting, being a decrease of 70, occasioned by the stoppage of the Iron Stone Mines, and the large number of removals from

And whilst the Mines are standing about £5-0s-0d per quarter will be all that the few who are left will be able to raise. So we hope you will do your best for us in our great suffering and distress," Joseph and Tamar Wilson lived out their last days at Belle End Farm, the property of their relatives, the Atkinsons, Tamer dying July 3, 1884, and Joseph May 15, 1885. Both are buried in the Rosedale Abbey Churchyard. They have a common tombstone. The upper portion contains a carving of a sprig of a rose, rosebud and rose leaves. The inscription is as follows: "In affectionate remembrance of Joseph Wilson of this Dale who died May 15th 1885 age 70 years also of Tamar wife of the above who died July 3rd 1884 aged 67 years. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'".

Thomas Wilson's early training was in the literary lines. Then he took a five year apprenticeship in cabinet making and building. As was mentioned above, he was successful in the mercantile business in Rosedale Abbey.* Thomas married Mary Magson in 1866. Mary Magson was born January 2, 1848 (not 1847, as we have always believed and as appears on her tombstone in Luling, Texas. I have a certified copy of her birth certificate as a basis of the above statement.) in Nunnington, Yorkshire. Her parents were Webster Magson born about 1821 in Bulmer and Mary Grange Magson born about 1819 in Nunnington. Mary Grange was the daughter of Thomas Grange, born about 1786 in Alne. Thomas and Mary Wilson had thirteen children, eight born in Rose Dale Abbey and five in Luling, Texas. The immediate data on all these is given on a supplemental sheet. The baptismal records of those children is recorded in The Church of England church in Rosedale Abbey. The baptismal dates are as follows:

- (1) Tamar - 31st March, 1872
- (2) Joseph - 4th April, 1875
- (3) Thomas - 17th April, 1878
- (4) Hannah - 17th April, 1878
- (5) Jane - 17th April, 1878
- (6) Elizabeth Anne - 17th August, 1879
- (7) Annie - 17th August, 1879

(Incidentally, the baptismal records of the children of Joseph and Tamer are recorded in the same church as follows: Hannah - 6th November, 1842; Mary Ann - 29th December, 1844; Thomas - 27th December, 1846.

Thomas Wilson made five crossings of the Atlantic ocean. His first was in December, 1877, when he landed in New York and then came to Eagle Lake, Texas. He was an immigration agent for the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad (later known as the Southern Pacific) and was employed to settle English immigrants in Texas. He shortly moved to Luling, Texas in 1878. He built a home in Luling and moved his family from England to Luling in 1880, landing in Galveston, Texas. I have received a letter from a very old gentleman who was present at the leaving of the Thomas Wilsons from Rosedale Abbey. His name is Mayman, no doubt a member of our related family of Mayman. To quote: "I think we can call it history when we begin to speak about the time when Mr. Wilson emigrated to U.S.A. I can remember quite well going to Primrose with the Primitive Methodist Scholars and Teachers to sing to him and bid them goodbye. Yes, I remember Mr and Mrs Collier coming to live at Primrose...." Thomas Wilson aided materially in the settling of the cities of Luling, Kingsbury, Harwood, Columbus and Waelder with English immigrants. As you all know well, Thomas Wilson demonstrated many varied talents and was an exceptionally successful business man. He and his wife, Mary, lie in a vault in the Luling cemetery. He constructed the vault himself years before his death July 18, 1918. Mary followed June 17, 1920.

Francis Wm. Wilson, Sr., M.D.

Note: The preceding material was reproduced from holdings in the Manuscript Files at the Austin History Center. - Ed.

CONFEDERATE SERVICE RECORDS

From the AGS Newsletter, October 1999, page 3... "The National Archives has announced its intention to eliminate providing paper copies of Confederate service records. The records will still be available but researchers will be required to purchase the roll(s) of microfilm on which the desired records reside (at a cost of \$34 per roll), take the microfilm to a film viewer with printer and print their own copies."

You may use your local Family History Center to bypass this situation. The Family History Center has access to all of the service records and regimental histories on microfilm. It is easier to view the long list of microfilms available for the service records of Confederate and of Union soldiers on the Family History Catalog microfiche- Locality Catalog.

Select the correct state of service of the soldier. Look at the general state material which is usually contained within the first couple of microfiche for that state. Find the heading, MILITARY HISTORY-CIVIL WAR 1861-1865-REGIMENTAL HISTORIES. Within this general heading will be many entries. If you do not know the unit of service, you will need to check the alphabetical list of films for the soldiers' surnames (also known as the index to the compiled service records). Order the film based on the spelling of the surname and locate the unit in which your soldier served. The multi-volume set at the State Library-genealogy section, entitled, THE ROSTER OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS, 1861-1865, may save your ordering the index.

Once you know the unit, locate (within the heading MILITARY HISTORY-CIVIL WAR 1861-1865-REGIMENTAL HISTORIES) the area that contains the regimental histories and soldiers' service records. The first roll of film of the unit has the regimental history. The letters following pertain to the alphabetical listing of the soldiers, NOT to the Company letter.

While you are using the microfiche to locate the regimental history and the service record films for your soldier, spend some time looking at other records from the Civil War that might be helpful to your research.

GWKnip@aol.com

Family History Center 1000 E. Rutherford LN Austin
Wednesday 9-3 837-3626

Update for Travis County, Texas Pioneer Families

Fmly. # 409 1850 Printed Census-Travis Co. TX
Vol. 5, Pg. 1896

Fmly. # 430 1860 Printed Census-Travis Co. TX
Vol. 5, Pg. 31

Stephen Cumings 38 m MD
Nancy 31 f NC
James 2 m TX
Josephus 7/12 m TX
Josephine Jackson 3 f TX
Elija Griswold 34 m CO
Gin Agent - \$800

L. Cummings fmr. 49 m MD
wife 41 f NC
12 m TX
11 m TX
9 f TX
6 m TX
5 m TX
1 f TX
53 m NC
A. Broadway

◆◆◆

Steven/Stephen Cummings

b. 11 Nov. 1810 MD
m. 27 May 1847, Travis Co. TX
d. 12 Mar. 1886
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX Lot # 409

Nancy G. Rowe

b. ca. Mar. 1818 NC
d. 5 Feb. 1901, San Marcos, Hays Co. TX
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX Lot # 409

Judge Cummings was an early citizen of
Austin and a proprietor of a printing business.

◆◆◆

Children:**1. James R. Cummings**

b. ca. 1848 Travis Co. TX
m. 31 July 1871, Travis Co. TX
d. 12 Feb. 1881 (Interment date)
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX (W. H. Carr Lot
old grounds)

Mary Regina Carr

b. ca. 1854 TX
d. 19 May 1875 (Interment date)
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX (W. H. Carr Lot)

2. Josephus Cummings, M.D.

b. 30 Nov. 1849, Travis Co. TX
m. 3 August 1872 Travis Co. TX
d. 13 July 1895
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX, Lot # 782

Texas Glasscock

b. ca. 1847, Travis Co. TX
d. 22 May 1920 (Interment date)
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX Lot # 782

Sources:

The State of Texas Fed. Pop. Schedules, 7th. (1850) Census of the U. S., Vol. IV, Carpenter, 1969
The Five Schedules of the 1860 Federal Census of Travis Co. Texas, Gracy & Gentry, 1967
1870, 1880, 1900 Federal Censuses of Travis County, Texas
Annals of Travis County, Texas, Frank Brown; Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, John Henry Brown
Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Texas Part 1, compiled by Paul & Tommie Smith
Oakwood Cemetery Interment Reports, City of Austin; State of Texas Death Indexes; Austin City Drtrs.
Travis County Marriage Records 1840-1882, compiled by Lucy Clift Price, 1973
Travis County Marriage Records 1883-1902, compiled by Barbara & Gerard Goudreau, 1987
Obituaries Travis County, Texas 1900-1940, compiled by Balcones Chapter, NDAR, 1985
Hays County, Texas Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. 1, compiled by Hearn & Kerbow, 1990

wdy/9/28/1999

◆◆◆

3. Mary L. Cummings

b. 12 July 1851, Travis Co. TX
m. 5 Mar. 1868, Travis Co. TX
d. 2 Mar. 1896, (Interment date)
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX Lot # 409

Bernard Radkey

b. ca. 1846, Prussia
d. 6 April 1880 (interment date)
bur. Oakwood Cem. Austin, TX Lot # 409

4. William C. Cummings

b. ca. 1854, Travis Co. TX
m.
d. 23 July 1927, Hill Co. TX - undocumented

5. Jesse E. Cummings

b. ca. 1855, Travis Co. TX
m.
d. 7 April 1911 Williamson Co. TX - undocu-
mented

6. Martha (Mattie) Cummings

b. 28 July 1859 Travis Co. TX
m. 17 Dec. 1884, Travis Co. TX
d. 15 Dec. 1926, San Marcos, Hays Co TX
bur. San Marcos Cem. " "

William E. Younger

b. 22 Oct. 1838 MD
d. 5 July 1933, San Marcos, Hays Co. TX
bur. San Marcos Cem. " "

7. Steven Thomas Cummings

b. ca. 1863 Travis Co. TX
m.
d. before 1900 - undocumented

TRAVELS OF DR. J.G. WHEAT AND FAMILY AS TOLD BY A DAUGHTER

After Father's and Mother's wedding trip on horseback from Tonica, Illinois to Manchester, Ohio, Father worked in a butcher shop that fall and winter. In the spring he bought a houseboat and with his brother George and Mother, and their household goods, they floated down the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois. There father sold the houseboat, bought a team of horses and a wagon, and loaded the goods. After first sending Mother by train, they drove to Kimmunity, Ill., where Father's sister Emily, Mrs. Dr. Forshee lived.

Here Father rented a farm and his mother [Lucy Hunt Gillit Wheat; Mrs. Rev Benjamin Patterson Wheat] came to live with them. On the 21st of May, 1866 the first baby came, a beautiful girl with golden curls. Before the next spring Father decided that he wanted to work their own land, which his father had bought from the government in Guthrie County, Iowa.

In the spring of 1867, Mother went to visit her folks at Tonica, Illinois; Grandmother Wheat went to her daughter Laura in Dubuque, Iowa, and Father and George started for Guthrie County, Iowa. Mother soon went to Laura's also. She arrived at the Mississippi River at ten p. m. and found the ferry was not running for the river was full of ice cakes. A boatman with a rowboat offered to take her and her baby over, and she dared to make the trip and found Laura's husband, K. C. Cooley waiting for her on the Dubuque shore.

At last they had word to come to Jefferson and Father would meet them. They were met by Barnum Newton, a mail carrier, whom Father had sent, as he had received word that his goods were at Carrol and would not be taken care of. Newton was on horseback but he found a way for Mother and Grandmother to ride in a wagon while he rode behind. At Panora the hotel was so crowded that they had to sleep on a featherbed spread on the parlor floor. The next day when they arrived at Guthrie Center, Father had not yet arrived with the goods, so Newton took them to his house, though baby Eva had the whooping cough and he had two small children.

In the spring of 1868 Grandmother Wheat and Uncle George went back to Laura's and Father and Mother sold off some things and started for Sedalia, Mo., where her father [Alexander McCoy, born 23 August 1814, Brown County, Ohio; died 18 November 1882, Hamilton County, Iowa] had moved and wanted Father to work his farm. When they sold the goods at Guthrie Center, they sold a solid walnut center table with lions claw feet, which the Wheat family claimed had been brought from England in the Mayflower.

When they crossed the Missouri River in a ferry boat, the river was high and when Father drove on to the gang plank, it slipped off the boat and wagon and team went into deep water. Happily, Mother had obeyed the captain, who told her to stay on the boat. Father was a good swimmer and they rescued the team and pulled out the wagon with most of the contents saved. They had to have a house to stay in that night and they drove ten miles before they found any who would keep them. They then learned they had been turned away because Father was wearing a northern army overcoat.

June 4, 1868 on a farm 8 miles north of Dresden [Missouri], a second child was born, another girl [Laura Emily, the author of this narrative] with straight dark hair and a boy was wanted. But she was made welcome and named for Father's two sisters, Laura Emily. Father rented a farm for 1869 and in September the first boy came [Fred Caldwell] to live with them, and Grandmother Wheat and Uncle George [Walker Wheat, the youngest of Joseph's eight siblings] were with them again. June 16, 1871 Grandmother Wheat died and was buried at the Fairview church. When Fred was two years old, Ben[jamin Patterson] came to keep him company.

In the spring of 1872 they moved back to Illinois. Some time during that summer the family drove to Dubuque to Laura Cooley's and father went on to Farley, two towns west and bought a drug store and hired a pharmacist to run it. The family were soon settled in the rooms above the store. Father studied under the pharmacist till he secured a diploma to practice medicine.

In 1873 in Farley, Albert, the third boy, arrived and two years later, [George] Guy came. In the meantime there had been another epidemic of moving in the McCoy family, and Mother's father and his brother James, and mother's sister ["Libby"; Elizabeth] and husband, George Walrath, had all moved out to Hamilton County, Iowa. In March, 1878, Father moved his family out there and in August they were settled in the little town of Callanan, with Father running his drugstore and practicing medicine. Business was good until the railroad was taken away and made a broad gauge and connected with another branch from the east, four miles northwest of Callanan. A new town began to grow at this junction and Dr. Wheat and family moved to Jewell Junction. Roy [Leroy Havenj was born October 20, 1878 in Callanan and the family became acquainted with the J. M. Foster family [John McKinney Foster, two of whose sons, Bartley Hardy and William Henry, married the two oldest Wheat girls later, including Laura Emily, the author], who were pioneers and owned a farm near town. John [Robert Wheat], the sixth boy was born November 20, 1881 in Jewell, and when a beautiful baby girl [Bessie Eleanor] joined the ranks July 30, 1883, there was great rejoicing over her.

When the prohibition law was passed in 1882, Jewell was a wide open town and the saloons paid no attention to the new law. At last Father went to work gathering evidence of violations and took it before the grand jury. Many were indicted and paid fines and conditions were better for a short time. Again father was responsible for more fines being paid, but he made many enemies and his life was threatened and his business declined. One day he saw this advertisement in the Northwestern Advocate, "Wanted-a druggist and physician who is strictly temperance and a Christian; Methodist preferred." Father answered this ad at once, in person. Soon the family and business were moved to Inwood, Lyon County, Iowa and it was a profitable and happy exchange. Eva had been married in Jewell and Laura, Fred and Ben were all teaching school [see "A Plucky Girl"]. In 1889 the boys farmed and Fred and Ben entered college at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. In 1898 the family sold out at Inwood and moved to Mt. Vernon, and Father retired from business. He received a pension for his Civil War service and he built a houseboat and spent much time on the Mississippi River. The family bought a large rooming house and Mother managed it, with the help of Bessie and advice from some of the boys.

When the World's Fair was held in St. Louis, Mo., Father took Prof. [Charles Albert] Mills, artist at Cornell College [and well-known portrait painter], and several of his artist friends from east, down the river in his houseboat to St. Louis, and they were towed back to Clinton, Iowa by tugboat. Father hunted clams and found some fine pearls. One he was offered \$75.00 for and he had it set in a ring for Mother. Before her death she gave that ring to Laura, and the ring will pass on to her only daughter, Ruth. Father spent several summers in the Rocky Mountains with his bicycle, camping outfit and camera. He took up a claim near Philip, S. Dak., and lived on it 14 months and proved up. Mother ran the rooming house [Wheat house diagonally across from Cornell campus, southeast] until 1912, then rented it and the renter ["Ma" Hattie Miller; it became known as the "Miller House", corner of 3rd Street and 5th Avenue, South; later burned but re-built in stone by "Ma's" son, Errol very much like the original wooden structure] bought it the next year. In August, 1915 Father and Mother celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the home of their oldest child in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Laura Emily Wheat Foster; written for "Genealogy of the Wheat, Foster, McCoy and Connected Families" 1941, McAllen, TX.

Mary Eleanor McCoy and Joseph Gillit Wheat were married 3 August, 1865. Dr. Wheat died 20 January, 1916, in a Soldier's Home, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was interred at the Lakewood National Cemetery there. She died 16 May, 1924, at the home of her youngest daughter, Bessie (Mrs. Harry Ellsworth Shaw), Monroe, Iowa, and was interred with her husband at the Lakewood National Cemetery.

Transcribed December, 1994, with additions in brackets by
Lorrie Foster Henderson, Austin, Texas.

Caring for Family Records:

Preserving Documents and Dating Photographs

This document was prepared by Kris Toma to accompany the presentation to the Austin Genealogical Society Meeting, October 28, 1999.

Information in this handout was culled from various sources of archival and preservation information, and is intended to serve as an overview of basic preservation options. All materials have unique preservation needs, many of which are not addressed here. For specific questions about preserving valuable and irreplaceable photographs and documents, especially if repairs or reconstruction are desired, contact a professional conservator.

Dating Photographs

There are two main ways to determine an approximate date for a photograph: assign an approximate date for the physical process and assign an approximate date for the subject of the photograph.

Cased Photographs

Popular from the 1840s to the 1920s.

- ❖ *Daguerreotypes*
Popular from 1839 to the late 1850s; less frequent from 1860.
- ❖ *Ambrotypes*
Patented in 1854, common from 1852 - 1881.
- ❖ *Tintypes*
Patented in 1856, popular during the Civil War.

Carded Photographs

Popular from the 1860s until after the turn of the century.

- ❖ *Cartes de visite* (calling cards):
4 1/4" x 2 1/2", patented 1854, popular from 1859.
- ❖ *Cabinet cards*:
4 1/2" x 6 1/4", one of many popular sizes created after 1854.
- ❖ *Stereographs*:
Popular in the 1850s, then again from 1867 until after the turn of the century.

Photo Albums

Created in 1860 to hold cards and tintypes, mass-produced by 1870.

Resource for Identifying Photographic Formats:

Care and identification of 19th-century photographic prints.
By James M. Reilly, 1986. Kodak publication no. G-2S. "Flowchart for identification guide" (1 folded leaf) inserted. ISBN: 0879853654 (paperback).
Owned by UT (check with the library or the Web catalog for availability)
TR 465 R45 1986 Fine Arts Library, PCL Stacks, HRC-P Photography Collection

Resource for Identifying Dates by Clothing & Fashion:

Dressed for the photographer: ordinary Americans and fashion, 1840-1900. By Joan L. Severa, 1995. ISBN: 0873385128 (hardbound).
Owned by UT (check with the library or the Web catalog for availability)
GT 610 S42 1995 PCL Stacks, Center for American History

Preserving Paper Documents

- Unfold items if the size allows. Folds will eventually become tears.
- Remove all rubber bands, since they release chemicals and disintegrate.
- Remove all paper clips, since they will rust and stain the document. If clips are necessary, use plastic clips (available in office supply stores).
- Remove documents from Kraft envelopes (acidic), regular file folders or hanging file folders (acidic), or vinyl sheet protectors (unstable plastic). Replace these items with quality acid-free and inert polyester/polypropylene versions.

If documents are especially fragile or damaged, there are options that can help slow deterioration.

Make Preservation Photocopies

Making a quality photocopy of a faded, damaged, or disintegrating document is an acceptable way of preserving the information contained within the original document. The photocopying process increases contrast, so it may sharpen the text on faded documents. Copying a document onto quality, acid-free, lignin-free paper will provide a new version of the original that can be preserved for future generations. If the document will be handled frequently, make several copies: one for preservation, one for reference and use, and, if desired, one for display. Be aware that copyright laws apply to documents and photographs.

Use Acid-free Paper

For acidic documents (brown, crisp, easily torn), placing them in acid-free (buffered) file folders, or interleaving them with acid-free paper can help draw out the residual acid. This will not reverse the damage that has been done, but it can help stop future acid damage.

Don't Use Tape

Placing tape on a document is not reversible and is not recommended. However, if a paper document must be taped, use an archival tape such as Filmoplast. Tape only along edges or inconspicuous areas. Do not use any other commercially-available tape, since the adhesive will deteriorate and stain the document.

Labeling Documents

Writing directly on a historical item is not recommended. For documents, it is preferable to write notes in pencil on the file folder or on a photocopy. Always sign and date notes to provide a history of who did the research and where the information was found.

Dos and Don'ts of Storing Photographs & Documents

DO...

- ✓ Protect your precious photos and documents in archival-quality housings, such as albums, sleeves, envelopes, and boxes.
- ✓ Purchase archival supplies from a reputable vendor.
- ✓ Store your negatives carefully in archival-quality sleeves and envelopes that are specifically designed for photographic negatives.
- ✓ Keep all photographic materials and important documents in a cool, dry, location, out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat and humidity. One suggestion: an interior closet in a living area (away from water pipes).
- ✓ To avoid potential water damage, keep historical materials at least 2 feet off the floor and away from exterior walls and water pipes.
- ✓ Make copies of photos and documents for framing and displaying.
- ✓ View, enjoy, and share your photographs and documents.

DONT use shoe boxes or kraft envelopes to store important photos or documents.

DONT use vinyl sheet protectors from office supply stores (unless marked as PVC-free polypropylene).

DONT use "magnetic" albums or scrapbooks.

DONT use stick-on labels or ballpoint pens to mark items.

DONT store historical documents or photos in hot or damp places (like the garage).

Preservation Supplies for Documents

Original documents that have enduring value require quality archival enclosures and careful storage. Kraft envelopes and vinyl sheet protectors are destructive to documents and will hasten deterioration. Paper documents should be housed in acid-free enclosures with a slight alkaline buffer. Delicate papers can be preserved in clear polyester (Mylar) sleeves or envelopes. Look for the following terms when purchasing document storage materials:

- ☐ meets ANSI standards for permanent paper
- ☐ acid-free
- ☐ buffered with calcium carbonate
- ☐ pH 8.5
- ☐ lignin-free
- ☐ PVC-free
- ☐ polypropylene
- ☐ inert polyester (Mylar)

Libraries, Archives & Repositories in Austin Consolidated Listing

Austin Public Library

John Henry Faulk Central Library
800 Guadalupe, 78701.....499-7300
Austin History Center
801 Guadalupe, 78701.....499-7480
George Washington Carver Branch
1161 Angelina St., 78702.....472-8954

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Austin Family History Center
1000 East Rutherford Lane, 78753.....837-3626
Georgetown Family History Center
218 Serenada Dr.....836-5927
San Marcos Family History Center
120 Suncrest.....353-8672

Catholic Archives of Texas

1600 North Congress, 78701.....476-6296
Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm
Other times by appointment

Texas Historical Commission Library

1610 Congress, 78711.....463-5753
(P O Box 12276)
Nat'l, State Landmark data, Travis Co. Historic
Sites surveys

Texas Dep't of Public Safety, Personnel Div.

P.O. Box 4087, 78773.....424-2000

Texas Adjutant General's Dep't.

Vickie Stephens, State Records Manager
AGTX-IMA-RM, Bldg. 34
P.O. Box 5218, 78763.....465-5582
Texas Military Records

Texas General Land Office

Stephen F. Austin Bldg.
1700 North Congress, 78701
General Information.....463-5001
Archives & Records.....463-5277

Texas State Health Department

Main Office: 1100 W. 49th St, 78751..458-7111
Vital Statistics-- B&D Records.....458-4751

Texas State Archives & Library

1201 Brazos, 78701
Information.....463-5455
Genealogy Collection.....463-5463

The University of Texas at Austin

Center for American History &
Barker Texas History Center
Sid Richardson Hall.....495-4515
Perry-Castaneda Library (Main).....495-4250
Library Hours.....495-4348

Episcopal Church USA—Archives

Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest
606 Ratherview Place, 78705.....472-6816
Nat'l archives of the Episcopal Church

Note: Researchers may also check for resources at St. Edward's University, Huston-Tillotson College, Concordia College and the Travis County Historical Commission.

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The Austin Genealogical Society

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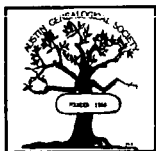
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