

# AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

**2015 Vol. 56 No. 4**



Austin Genealogical Society  
PO Box 10010  
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*1909 Postcard from the collection of Robin Raben.*

## 2016 AGS Calendar of Events

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AGS meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (except May and December). Meetings typically include time to get acquainted with other researchers, announcements and notification of upcoming activities. Meetings also feature a speaker on a genealogical topic.

### **January 26**

Library Research Preparation

*Presented by AGS member Cari Taplin*

### **February 23**

Helpful Tips & Tricks to use FamilySearch

*Presented by Cherie Bush from FamilySearch*

### **March 22**

Mining a Goldmine: Research in Courthouse Records

*Presented by AGS member Teri Flack*

### **April 26**

Researching Your German Genealogy

*Presented by Alan Rabe*

### **May 24**

Adoptions

*Presented by Connie Gray*

### **June 28**

TBD

### **July 26**

TBD

### **August 23**

TBD

### **September 27**

TBD

### **October 25**

TBD

### **November 22**

FALL FESTIVAL

(No Regular AGS Meeting in December)

## From the Editor

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Hello Members,

The final issue of the Quarterly for 2015 is a rather touching issue, with an unplanned theme of how difficult life was for our ancestors! I think you will enjoy the submissions from our members.

The first article submitted by member Rob Richardson is an interesting essay about the financial panics and economic collapses which happened in the 1800s and would have affected every one of our ancestors living during that time in one way or another. It gives a new dimension for us to understand the world our ancestors lived in.

“Lives Not Lived,” from member Jim Bridges is a touching story of the children in his family that died very young, and the circumstances of his family at the time of their births. It is a wonderful tribute.

“Griff,” an article submitted by member Glenda Lassiter, is the first section of a memoir that she is currently working on. It takes an interesting point of view, telling a captivating “story” version of her father’s experience followed by a transcript of her father telling his story in his own words. It is another touching rendition of the hardships that were so common in that era.

AGS member Phoebe Allen provided a compilation of facts from the life of Eliza Jane Gillespie Allen, another story of one woman’s ability to overcome hardships and raise a family in the wilderness. I had never thought about not having the ability to serve leftovers in those days – no wonder children have been urged to clean their plates!

We have also published a complete list of the Travis County Pioneers and their descendants who have received certificates from the Society – this year we awarded the 100<sup>th</sup> certificate!

Finally, a technical article with a suggested way to use a spreadsheet to reveal clues about your genealogical research has been provided by Mary Kay Roddy of MKR Genealogy. I gave it a try myself and found it to be a useful tool.

I hope you have enjoyed the Quarterly issues in 2015 as much as I have. I have enjoyed being the Quarterly editor this year. I have a great team of support to get all the publications done, and I would like to thank them now for the amazing work they have done over the past year. I am amazed at how they catch even the tiniest mistakes (i.e. an extra space after a “.”!) and help to ensure that our publications are accurate, clear and delivered on time. Thank you all!!!

- Kay Boyd
- Missy Harris
- Nan Kilkeary
- Jean Marostica
- Jane Schwendinger
- Trisha Thompson
- Janis Trayler

I am very excited to announce that we will have a new Quarterly Editor in 2016, Angela Doetsch. She is a new member who has lots of enthusiasm and a desire to use her talents to contribute to the society. Welcome, Angela, I look forward to your creative influence on the *Quarterly*!

I wish all the AGS members a wonderful warm holiday season and look forward to 2016. Maybe it’s the year I’ll get all my research organized, both on the computer and in my bookshelves. A great new year’s resolution, I think. ☺

*Robin Raben*

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# Genealogy Outside the Box

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## How Did The Economic Panics of the 1800s Affect Your Family?

*By AGS Member Rob Richardson*

If you want to find out why your second great-grandfather might have lost his farm in the late 1800s, read on.

It turns out the 1800s were packed with financial panics and economic collapses. During that century, a “panic” occurred about once a generation. With each generation, these panics drove many Americans from fortune to ruin and forced others onto the frontier to rebuild their lives. For some unknown reason, these 19th Century disasters have all but disappeared from our collective narrative.

Because I knew so little, I decided to better understand these panics and their impact on the average American of the time. I used what I learned to add more depth, color, and definition to my family's story. I found that for my family several panics, in particular the post-civil war disruptions, led to bankruptcies, farm foreclosures, and subsequent relocations.

I would like to pass on what I learned. The following is a distillation of some rather dry economic information regarding the economic busts of the 19th Century that I found on-line, in particular on Wikipedia. For each of these panics of the 1800s, I've listed its timeline, cause(s), and who was affected.

### **The Panics of the 1800s**

1. The Panic of 1796–1797 (still having an effect in 1800)
2. The Panic of 1819
3. The Panic of 1837
4. The Panic of 1857
5. The Southern Economic Catastrophe (1861-1877) A.K.A. The Civil War and its Aftermath
6. The First Great Depression (1873-1879)
7. The Boll Weevil Infestation of the South (beginning in 1896)

A quote attributed to Mark Twain is the perhaps the best way to introduce the summaries. It goes, “history doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes.” So not surprisingly, you'll find bankers, wealthy speculators, and assorted government officials involved in triggering most of the 19th Century panics. The causes of many of these panics do bear a strong resemblance to that of our own Great Recession of 2007-2009 from which we are still recovering. Human nature doesn't change.

### **1. The Panic of 1796–1797<sup>1</sup>**

This crisis of the late 18th Century triggered the financial collapse of firms well into 1800, so I qualified this as the 19th Century's first panic.

The Cause: A real estate bubble driven by wealthy speculators

In 1796, the United States real estate market dried up when the price of western lands purchased with non-collateralized loans collapsed. Wealthy speculators had planned to sell stock in their land investment companies to European investors. The Napoleonic wars caused Dutch and English investors to sit on their cash rather than participate in risky investments in the United States. To cover their debt, the American speculators began issuing bonds, which entered general circulation as a fiat (i.e. unbacked) currency. When the real estate bubble burst due to over-speculation, the value of the bonds dropped to one-eighth their original value. That loss, coupled with a drop in European trade thanks to Napoleon, resulted in banks and merchants in port cities going into bankruptcy.

Who was affected? Merchants in major port cities were hit hard by the panic and drop-off in the Atlantic trade. Trust in bank notes as a medium of currency plummeted. However, frontier settlements, more dependent on subsistence farming and less on manufacturing and trade, suffered much less.

Several notable Americans either ended up in debtors' prison or were threatened with imprisonment.

These included:

The financier of the American Revolution, Robert Morris, and his partner, James Greenleaf; both went to debtors' prison.

Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court James Wilson spent his remaining years on the run, hiding from creditors.

Civil War General George Meade's grandfather, George Meade, was bankrupted.

Meade's opponent at Gettysburg, Civil War General Robert E. Lee, had his father, Henry Lee, lose the family fortune speculating with Morris.

The only good news arising out of the Panic was that bankruptcy laws were changed, eventually leading to the end of debtors' prisons.

## **2. The Panic of 1819<sup>2</sup>**

This Panic was national in scope, persisting through 1821.

The Cause: Unrestrained issuance of paper money led to inflation and then to a nationwide depression.

Chartered banks and even businesses began creating fiat currency as promissory notes, unbacked by specie (gold or silver). This unrestrained issuance of paper money in loans to farmers and merchants led to a spike in land and commodity prices. In 1818, to throttle down the rampant issuance of paper money, the Bank of the United States began demanding gold or silver in payment from its subsidiary banks, rejecting fiat currency. To pay the Bank of the United States, the subsidiary banks began foreclosing on farms and businesses, causing land prices to drop by 50%, thus making outstanding loans even harder to pay off. This created a deflationary cycle resulting in even more bankruptcies and greater unemployment. In 1819, cotton prices dropped by 25% in one day, triggering even further panic.

Who was affected? Farmers and large plantation owners were heavily impacted since they had taken out large loans to expand their production for sales to Europe. When European grain production recovered from the Napoleonic Wars, the farmers were left without a market. Food and commodity prices began to drop. At the same time, banks rushed to call in loans to repay outstanding debts demanded by the Bank of the United States.

The economy slowly recovered but Americans became much more aware of how decisions made by a director at the central bank can have a dramatic impact on the life of the average American.

## **3. The Panic of 1837<sup>3</sup>**

This panic started out as a recession but was followed by an economic depression that lasted until the mid-1840s.

The Cause: Speculative loans in western states, a sharp decline in cotton prices in the south, and collapsed land prices in the West and South.

The preamble: In 1832, President Andrew Jackson vetoed the bill authorizing the re-charter of the Second Bank of the U.S. With the central bank's closure, federal specie was distributed to banks in the west and south (known as Jackson's pet banks) with the large eastern mercantile banks becoming much less well funded.

State chartered banks (the pet banks) loosened their loan requirements, and once again land speculators created a real-estate bubble in the west and south using the easy credit offered by their friends in the banking industry. The government reversed direction and decided that western lands could be purchased only with gold or silver. The price of western and southern real estate crashed and once again the speculative bubble burst.

At the same time the eastern banks, newly short of cash with the end of the Second Bank of the U.S., had to cut new loans to maintain their limited reserves. In May of 1837, banks in New York City stated that they would no longer redeem commercial paper (bank paper money) for specie (gold or silver) at the full face value of the bank notes. This caused immediate deflation. As a consequence unemployment may have been as high as 25% in some locales.

Almost simultaneously the British government raised interest rates causing the value of bonds issued by Anglo-American investment houses to collapse. International trade dried up as did America's largest source of cash – cotton. Cotton prices dropped, plantation owners couldn't repay their loans and the western and southern banks became more stressed. When depositors feared that their bank was overextended, they would rush the bank demanding their deposit be returned. This caused more foreclosures and bank failures. It created a vicious cycle that took seven years to stabilize.

The discovery of California gold in 1849 added new specie to the economy allowing new funds to reach the banks and borrowers. By 1850, the economy was booming yet again, ready for the next cycle of boom and bust.

Who was affected?

Virtually the whole nation felt the effects of the panic. As noted in Wikipedia, out of 850 banks in the United States, 343 closed entirely, 62 failed partially, and the system of chartered state banks received a shock from which it never fully recovered.

In the east coast states, merchants were heavily impacted. Unemployment reached 25% in some cities. Moreover, the panic unleashed a wave of riots and other forms of domestic unrest. The ultimate result was an increase in the state's police powers, including more professional police forces.

The southern cotton belt was hit much harder than the northeastern states. Major cotton ports like New Orleans felt the depression for years. Planters had taken out loans using future crops as collateral. This led to complete bankruptcy for many planters. By 1839, many of the plantations were thrown out of cultivation. Once again the western states, other than land speculators, were not hit as hard as the east or south. The west (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) were agricultural states. But even there by 1839, agricultural prices had fallen and the depression reached the farmers.

#### **4. The Panic of 1857<sup>4</sup>**

Caused by a sudden constriction in the U.S. money supply at the peak of a booming economy. Bank runs and foreclosures followed.

The Cause: Lack of gold and silver constrained growth of the money supply and in turn stifled economic growth



In 1857, America was continuing to rely on California gold to fuel the growth of its money supply. The sinking of one shipload of gold, the loss of the SS *Central America*, triggered the Panic of 1857. Once again, the years preceding the panic were boom years. And once again, bankers, merchants and large land owners used the easy money to make risky investments. Grain prices spiked in 1855 and farmers began taking out loans to expand their farms and increase production. And when growth stalled, prices began to fall. Banks began calling in their loans. Foreclosures ensued. A run on the banks followed resulting in a death spiral similar to the 1837 panic.

Who Was Affected?

Eastern banks which had invested heavily in the expansion of the railroads suffered. They did not recover until after the Civil War. This panic, unlike the Panic of 1837, hit farmers in the mid-west, as far as Kansas. This time the cotton economy wasn't hammered. The South was the most economically stable part of the United States in that period. English demand for southern cotton continued unabated. Unfortunately, this caused the South to believe that "Cotton was King" and that they could successfully bribe Europe to support an independent Southern Nation by threatening to withhold cotton shipments. They were wrong, which leads us to the next economic catastrophe, the American Civil War and its aftermath.

### **5. The Southern Economic Catastrophe: The American Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction (1865-1877)<sup>5,6</sup>**

The Causes: (1) The loss of personal wealth and capital by Confederate hyperinflation of their currency and (2) the destruction of manufacturing, railroads, and chattel slavery by the Union Army.

The American Civil War largely destroyed the wealth of the southern states which before the war was driven by cotton. A large part of that destruction was self-inflicted by the Confederate government's unrestricted printing of unbacked paper currency to pay off bonds and other debts. This caused tremendous price inflation in the latter days of the war. The Southern government also nationalized the cotton trade, by paying plantation owners in Confederate paper and selling cotton via Mexico to Europe (and U.S. mills through the border states) for gold.

On top of the loss of stored wealth throughout the South, commercial and agricultural productivity were destroyed on the east coast by the Union Army in the "March through Georgia" (and South Carolina, and North Carolina, and Virginia).

Who Was Affected?

Most significantly, chattel slavery ended and the plantation economy, which relied on large loans and forced labor to survive, was decimated. Former slaves and returning rebels largely survived as subsistence farmers with little cash and less land.

After the war, the terms of reconstruction limited bank loans to returning rebels and hindered investment in industry. A shortage of currency also limited bank loans as very little Eastern capital flowed into the ex-Confederate States. Trade was also limited with railroads expanding rapidly in the North and West. Growth of new rail was restricted in the former Confederacy.

On the upside, one former Confederate state did escape the large scale wartime destruction experienced by their fellow Southerners – Texas. Texas, a strategic afterthought to the Union Army throughout the war, did not suffer the destruction to its cities that other Confederate States experienced. In addition, Texans quickly found a new source of wealth to replace the dead plantation economy; a market for the longhorn cattle running wild between San Antonio and the Rio Grande. Texans quickly recognized that the expansion of rail from the Midwest into Kansas offered a means of

getting the huge surplus herds of Texas cattle to market in the Mid-West and East. And thus was born the legend of the trail drive and the cattle baron.

In addition, North Carolina and Virginia were able to lift themselves up by their bootstraps by growing tobacco on small farms to feed America's exploding tobacco habit. Manufactured cigarettes quickly became imbedded in American society in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, leading to large fortunes being made by families like the Dukes and Reynolds. And textile mills began to relocate from the Northeast to the Carolinas, closer to cheap labor and cotton, boosting that economy well into the 20th Century.

## **6. The First Great Depression (1873-1879)<sup>7</sup>**

A worldwide recession. This economic contraction lasted 65 months, longer than the 1930s depression (43 months).

The Cause:

The episode was labeled the "Great Depression" at the time, and it held that designation until the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The United States Government had moved back to the gold standard after the Civil War. As the post-Civil War economy grew in the North and Midwest, there was insufficient gold to backstop economic growth. The mid-west and western states began to substitute silver as their primary currency. In its infinite wisdom, Congress passed the U.S. Coinage Act of 1873, removing silver from general circulation as coinage. This instantly generated a money shortage and resulted in an extended period of deflation. Farmers and merchants with outstanding loans taken out before deflation found payments much harder to make. This led to foreclosures and once again to bank failures. In tandem with the shrinking money supply, the 1870s saw unprecedented advances in factory productivity. Therefore costs for goods dropped steadily, especially from 1873 to 1896. At no previous time had industrialization in the U.S. proceeded so rapidly. What should have been good news, that is, lower costs, engendered even more deflation as the value of the dollar increased – but there were few dollars to circulate.

Who Was Affected?

It is significant to note that for the South, the economic catastrophe that began during the Civil War did not end until about 1880 due to the Depression of 1873, following on the heels of the Reconstruction Era. Bad times followed bad times. Throughout the United States, nominal wages declined by one-quarter during the 1870s, as much as one-half in some places such as Pennsylvania. Wages stagnated until the 1880s.

Thousands of American businesses failed between 1873 and 1874. One in four laborers in New York was out of work at that time. The businesses which experienced the most severe declines were manufacturing, construction, and railroads. Between 1873 and 1878, almost no additional rail networks were built.

As the economy shrank, cotton prices collapsed, devastating the still war-ravaged economy of the South.

African-American farmers in the South were hit especially hard. The Freedman's Savings Bank, on which they depended for loans, was a casualty of the financial crisis. In the early 1870s, the bank began to speculate in real estate and providing unsecured loans to railroads; its collapse in 1874 was a severe blow to African-Americans.

## 7. The Boll Weevil Infestation of the South (1896-1980)<sup>8</sup>

The pest that nearly destroyed the Southern cotton industry.

The Cause: The boll weevil crossed the Mexican border into Texas near Brownsville in 1896, hitting the Texas Gulf Coast cotton farms particularly hard, making this a Texas disaster before the turn of the century. In Texas, a legislative proposal to create a fifty mile wide cotton-free zone above the infected area ran into resistance and was abandoned. This one act might have stalled the invasion significantly but was deemed too expensive. In addition, it was found that destroying the cotton trash and stalks at the end of the harvest dramatically decreased the level of infestation in the following year's crop. But all farmers in an area had to cooperate. Any farm with residual stalks would act as a haven for hibernating beetles. In 1896, USDA officials attempted to get Texas officials to enact legislation to establish mandatory stalk reduction dates. This too was unsuccessful. Thanks to the Texas legislature's refusal to act the boll weevil headed east.

The infestation continued to spread 50 to 150 miles per year, crossing the Mississippi River by 1907 and impacting all southern cotton production by the 1920s. Crop losses due to the infestation were typically thirty to fifty percent.

Who Was Affected?

In the late 19th century, the boll weevil invasion devastated smaller Texas cotton farms where margins were razor thin. These small farmers depended on bank loans to cover costs between harvests. After the boll weevil devastated their crop, the deeply indebted owners had to choose between switching to another crop the next year, if they hadn't lost their farm, or to undergo foreclosure to avoid going further into debt.

Some farmers in the South initially benefited from the boll weevil invasion. Cotton prices rose as production in infested areas dropped, benefitting southern farms not yet hit by the weevil. However, in infected areas, the price of cotton did not increase by the bare minimum 30% necessary to offset losses. Land prices, the most valuable asset of the southern economy, dropped as the infestation spread. Later, the dire situation was compounded by drought and the Great Depression causing even more farmers in the agrarian south to lose their farms and move to the manufacturing north or to the west to the promises of the Golden State.

Endnotes:

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# Lives Not Lived

*By AGS Member James E. Bridges, Lt Col USAF (ret)*

This is a story of four lives not lived. It is the story of Caresby Ramsey, the two Bridges twins, and their sister, Annie. They never knew each other - or anyone else for that matter. All were born and died within a few short weeks. Each of them is an ancestor of mine. Ramsey on my mother's line and Bridges from my father.

We all have little ones in our trees. Some died young and some expired a few minutes after being born. We have little knowledge of their brief existence...or do we? Consider the circumstances around them at the time of birth. What was happening that might have contributed to their early demise? Some of them were given names but many were just "infant so and so" as the custom of the time for many was to delay naming until a few months later or until a religious ceremony could take place. The following is my effort to bring four young ones into the tree, presented in chronological order.

The first, Caresby Ramsey, my grand uncle, was born in Spring Place, Georgia, 9 September 1865 and died 12 September 1865. That is all the family records record. However, history provides us with additional information that is relevant. He was born into the aftermath of the Civil War siege of Atlanta by General Sherman's Army. Spring Place is northwest of Atlanta in Murray County, a few miles east of Dalton, Georgia, but it was too close to Atlanta and General Sherman's troops had passed through in the march to Atlanta. Sherman had his troops live off the land as much as possible. They left little behind except burned houses and looted fields. (West Point Atlas of American Wars)

Caresby's mother was Judith Elizabeth Seale Ramsey, 1846 - 1929, wife of William Harvey Ramsey, 1840 - 1925, the father of Caresby, their first born. His father had been at medical school when the Civil War broke out and he hastened home from Etowah, Georgia, to Spring Place and joined the Murray County Rifles, an infantry unit of the 11th GA soon to be a part of the Army of Northern Virginia. He was elected 3rd Lieutenant, soon rose to 2nd Lieutenant and then to Captain of the Company. He was the highest ranking officer still able in his regiment and it fell to him to surrender the 11th GA Regiment at Appomattox. While he was in the Confederate Army, he went home and then to Washington County to marry Judith, daughter of Jarvis Seale, a member of the local vigilante committee.

Judith moved to Spring Place from Washington County and took up residence in the home of her new husband. Sherman knew that there were many Confederate volunteers from the area and he showed little mercy to the families left behind. Judith was pregnant when Sherman was in the area.



*Gravestone of Caswell Ramsey in the cemetery at Spring Place, GA.*

We can speculate on why little Caresby did not survive, but with the deprivation and destruction all around the area, his mother probably lacked proper nutrition and had to scramble for whatever she had. His father was away in the war and was of little help. His grandfather Ramsey had passed away some years before the war and all his uncles were in the Confederate Army and far away from Spring Place. The women were left to fend for themselves. Had he lived, he would later have known his father, first elected a Deputy Sheriff of Murray County and later a Justice of the Peace in Argenta,



Arkansas, and his mother, the founder of a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Argenta, Arkansas. He would have known his sisters and brothers, all but one of whom moved to Arkansas and later to Texas after the War. They were in business in livery, railroads, public offices, real estate and farming. His mother never developed much tolerance for “damn Yankees,” probably due to her experience with Sherman’s Army and the death of little Caresby. Caresby was buried in the Spring Place Cemetery in an unmarked grave in the enclosure with his Ramsey relatives, including his grandfather, Caswell Ramsey. I visited that cemetery in 2009 and it was well kept, the small town of Spring Place has only a small population left and the Murray County administration is at Chatsworth nearby. Additional records can be found in Dalton, Georgia.



*Gravestone of “Infant Bridges,” the author’s uncle, in the Corn Hill cemetery.*

Next we fast forward to Infant Bridges, my uncle, for that is all there is on his tombstone in the Corn Hill Cemetery, near the present day village of Jarrell, Texas. He is buried very near his grandfather, B.F. Bridges. The historical plaque at the cemetery says the land was donated by his grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Bridges, 1844 - 1890 and his grandmother Penelope Ann Ake Bridges, 1853 -1932. Ben, or B.F. as he was called, was born in Missouri, was a private in the 11th Missouri Infantry as a teamster and was captured and interned in Arkansas for 6 months and then paroled. B.F. had been married before in Missouri but had been divorced by his first wife, Susan Wood, for desertion and adultery, standard words in those days. (Divorce decree, recorded at the Lawrence County, Missouri, courthouse)

There had been a little daughter, but the Wood family were Union folk and B.F. was Confederate. This was probably why he never returned to Missouri. B.F.’s son, Isaac Milton (Mitt) Bridges, 1874 -1951, married Lucy Ann Wright, 1877

- 1957, in the area near Corn Hill, Williamson County, Texas, and the first children were born - twins, a girl and a boy. The boy, this infant, was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December and survived only to the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 1895. He would have known his father as a farmer, a strict husband and father who believed all should work and work hard from sun up to sundown. I was informed of this by my own father, who would have been a younger brother. The kids all loved their father but all confirmed his strict discipline. This was a tenant farmer household that had food and shelter but very little money. Lucy Ann, my grandmother, had more than enough love for all.

Then the other infant Bridges, a girl, my aunt, survived only a few minutes, hours at best and died the same day of birth, 10 December 1895. The later surviving Bridges girls also worked the fields and helped their mother clean the house and cook meals for the large family. There were

eventually four boys and four girls who survived to live full lives in the area of Bell County Texas.

They were farmers, preachers, hired hands, auto mechanics, florists, restaurant cooks and owners, and



*The old Corn Hill Hotel, the only building left in what was once Corn Hill. There is a New Corn Hill but it is a few miles away.*

real estate investors and the owner of an abattoir. All were successful in raising families and leaving their mark on Texas. The twins would have been the matriarch and patriarch of the brood had they survived. 1895 was a harsh winter and this may have contributed to the early deaths of the twins. Corn Hill was soon bypassed by the railroad which passed through Jarrell a few miles away. Today the railroad and Corn Hill are but memories and the traffic of I-35 hums near the Corn Hill Cemetery, still in use and still well kept by the Cemetery Association.



*The author as a boy with his Grandfather I. M. "Mitt" Bridges.*

The last one on the list of little ones is Annie Bridges, my aunt, also a daughter of I. M. and L. A. Bridges, Lucy and Mitt as they were known in the community. By the time little Annie was born they had moved to a place near Holland, Texas, in Bell County and were closer to a now extinct community called Donahoe. (It was pronounced Donny Who, after all, this is Texas, where even today we are fond of weird sounds for local places.) Little Annie was born 28 Feb 1908 and passed away on 26 May 1908. Family lore says she had a fever from which she could not survive. There is some credibility to this story borne out by the number of small children in the Donahoe Cemetery from this same time. I have not located a death certificate and there probably isn't one. Not all folks born on farms in those days got around to reporting their births and deaths. Childhood illnesses took many individuals and the defense was to have large families to offset the deaths of the young ones. It also helped to have extra

farmhands.

Had Annie survived she would have been born in the days when the very first automobiles were becoming useful, the first airplanes were soon to fly, the trains were getting longer and faster, the First World War was soon to be declared and the Flu Epidemic was soon to kills millions of Americans. It would have been an exciting time and I wish I had had the opportunity to talk to her and see these things through her eyes.

I have visited all the burials of these little ones and can only hope that my efforts to pass on such knowledge to my own three sons and daughter will keep going. Genealogy is a great thing to list the ancestors but we need to flesh out the identities, even if only in our imaginations.

It is up to us to perpetuate memories, tend to cemeteries and encourage others to do the same.



*Lucy Ann Wright Bridges, the author's grandmother.*



*The first section of a memoir currently being written.  
By AGS Member Glenda Lassiter*

## **SAND**

The sand was blowing in a steady blast that cut into Griff's sunburnt face like needles. There was no way to escape it. Sand even filled his mouth. His salty tears hurt as they made furrows in the mask of dust that covered his face and his hands had cuts from the sharp edges of the withering cotton stalks. Wretched weather was a living presence in North Central Texas.

He was young, too young to be out picking cotton in this miserably hot sand storm, but the little bit of cotton that was left after the ruinous hail had to be picked before the lost crop was plowed under. He strained and ground his teeth in his determination to make his hands work. His mother had said that they must get this done because it was all they had. The almost completely-destroyed crop should have been plowed under by the last day of last month, but Griff's father had died suddenly just last week. It was November, 1914. Griff was six years old.

Sandstorms like this were now a way of life in Texas. The drought on the Great Plains that began in 1908 had been so extreme that C. W. Post had spent four years and \$50,000 on twenty-three attempts to use explosives to cause rain in Texas. Sand from plowed fields was carried about by the constant winds forecasting the environmental disaster that would take place over the following decades in the new state of Oklahoma just fifty miles to the north of Jermyn, Texas and the Griffitts' farm. The devastation would come to be known as "The Dust Bowl."

## **THE TAPES**

In 1990, when my father Griff was 82 years old, I gave him an audio cassette recorder and some blank cassettes and asked him to record his life for me. He said he would if I promised to write his story. I promised. To my surprise a few weeks later he presented me with six hours of audio tapes on which he had recorded his story. He died the next year at the age of 83 before I had even transcribed the tapes. Recently I kept my promise and have written the story from the tapes.

I wish I could recapture the resonance of his rich, deep Texas speech as he recounted the joys and sorrows of his life, but the duplication of that sound quality must be left to the imagination of the reader. However I have tried to use his exact words and phraseology as much as possible.

He began telling his story by recounting the calamity of losing his father, Oscar Griffitts, who was 33 years old:

## **BORN IN TEXAS**

"My full name is Gordon Oscar Griffitts, but I was always called 'Griff' by everyone except my mother who called me Gordon. I was born at noon on June 21, 1908, the longest day of the year, in a three-room house two and a half miles southeast of Seabury, Texas, later renamed Vineyard, in Wise County. (This is now near Runaway Bay on Lake Bridgeport, located between Jacksboro and Fort Worth, Texas.)

"They tell me I had a hard time breathing all afternoon. The country doctor, who lived about five miles away halfway between Vineyard and Willow Point, stayed until evening thinking they were going to lose me.

"My first memories begin in 1912 when I was four years old. One cool morning my mother had gone out to milk, my daddy was already out working on the farm, and my sister Ruby decided she'd build a big fire in the fireplace. I had on some outing pajamas, and they caught on fire. I was burning pretty good and Mama happened to come in and managed to get those burning pajamas off of me. I was only burned badly on my leg, but it was so bad that I could still see the scar when I was 60.

"It was in 1912 that my daddy decided he wanted to move the family west about 30 miles into Jack County to the brand new town of Jermyn that was being built on the newly-constructed railroad named The Gulf, Texas, and Western Railroad. The town was named Jermyn after Joseph Jermyn, the man who owned the railroad. Every building was new. One of the reasons that Dad moved us to Jermyn was to build our house on a two-acre strip of land next to the new Baptist church. The other reason was the new ten-grade school a block away where he planned to send his kids to school. He also leased thirty acres of land to farm.

"Almost without help Daddy had built the three-room house where we would live. There were four of us kids. I had a brother Loyd five years older, a sister Ruby one year older and brother Cledis three years younger. We just had three rooms, but Daddy had built the biggest rooms you ever saw. The kitchen had both a wood cook stove and an oil stove. The living room had a couch and chairs in it and also had two big beds. The other room had three beds in it. So we had plenty of beds.

"When Dad got the house to where we could live in it, we made the move from Vineyard. I was only 4, but I remember the event quite well. We moved in a covered wagon, and we took some cattle with us too. It was only a 33-mile move. However, in a covered wagon, the move took two days.

"It was the first trip of my life. I remember clearly where we stayed. There was a wagon yard behind Spears Drug Store in Jacksboro, and we spent the night in our covered wagon in that wagon yard. Daddy gave Ruby and me a nickel each and let us go in the back of that drug store to buy ice cream cones. That was the first ice cream cone I had ever seen in my life. In fact, that was the first soda fountain I had ever seen. I had had homemade ice cream but never an ice cream cone. We made the trip back to Vineyard several times to complete the move, but on those trips we would camp out on Cherry Creek and cook on the campground grill.

"In Jermyn, Daddy was a deacon and secretary of the Baptist church. This was the first time in my life that I had other children to play with. The Pruitt family lived a half mile north of us. They had finally managed to accumulate eleven kids, and George and Reese Pruitt were my friends. Mr. Pruitt bought a thrashing machine, and Reese lost an arm in the machine. I remember that well because I was working out there at the time.

"They always gave me the job nobody else wanted because I was young and still little. That job was working under the trough of the thresher picking up the stuff that missed the trough. It was a whale of a big job for a little kid like me.

"The first year we were in Jermyn, my daddy raised a whale of a good cotton crop on the thirty acres he had leased. It was new land. Daddy had cut the trees and dug up all the stumps. The price of cotton was real good that year. That was in 1913.

"But the second year, when the cotton was up there was a terrible hail storm that ruined the crop. So he planted maize for chicken feed, and some oats on part of the land. I remember going into the fields with him and seeing all the cotton beaten down to the ground. Since he lost his crop, he took a job at the cotton gin until October, 1914, when he had the appendicitis attack.

"Daddy had a terrible attack of appendicitis, but there was no place to operate on him. The doctor just told Mama to keep putting bags of salt on the pain. She did this for about a week, and then the real pain hit.

"Once the doctor realized that the appendix had burst, he insisted that Daddy must have surgery. Dad being such a Baptist wanted to go to Baylor Hospital in Dallas, believing it was the best in the world.

"The only way to get Daddy to Baylor Hospital was to go by the new GT&W Railway to Jacksboro and ride a horse-drawn omnibus several miles to the Rock Island Railway Line to go into Dallas. The total distance was 93 miles. I remember them loading him into the baggage car on a cot to go to Dallas. That's the last time I ever saw him alive.

"A week later we rode in a surrey to meet the train with his casket. I remember real well that they took his body over to Aunt Daisy's house and left him in the living room all night. The next day there was a long funeral procession because he was very well known in the area. There was not an automobile in the procession. It was all buggies, wagons, surries, and hacks.

"It was a terrible event to me...scared me to death. I just couldn't figure. There he was, alive, just four or five days before... I just couldn't figure out why – if there was a good Lord—why he would have taken him and left Mother with five kids. And Mother had a year-old babe named Finis at home who died just one month after my daddy died."

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## Texas Orphan Train Riders

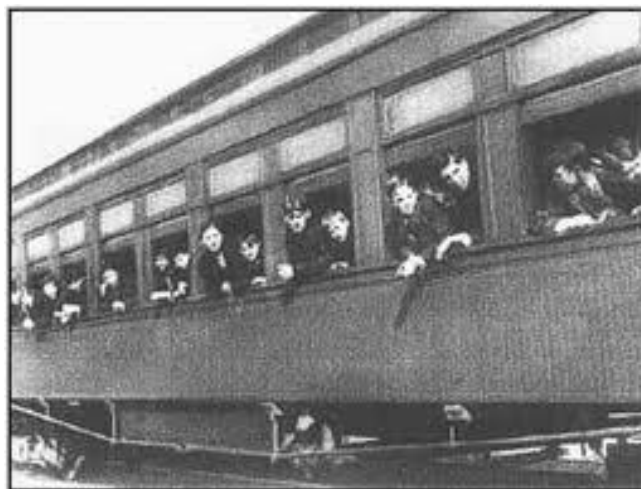
Do you have an ancestor who was delivered to Texas on the Orphan Train? Linda Fulmer is doing ongoing research on the Orphan Train Riders and has produced a first draft list of children that ended up in Texas during the early 1900s. This list will be published on the National Orphan Train Museum's website:

<http://orphantraindepot.org/>.

Linda's research focuses on the New York Foundling Home children. These children were chosen ahead by Catholic families and mostly came in to Central Texas as toddlers. Their new families, the church and the community mostly kept their identities secret.

Train riders have been identified through genealogy records, other lists of riders, and reports of descendants. Some persons have been identified because of strong evidence in census records, but not in adherence to Genealogical Proof Standard.

Please submit any queries to Linda Fulmer at [ircresearch@tyler.net](mailto:ircresearch@tyler.net).



Orphan Train 1904. Photo from Wikipedia: Orphan Train. (November 8, 2015). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. These are Children's Aid Society children. Retrieved 20:36, November 24, 2015, from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Orphan\\_Train&oldid=689673117](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Orphan_Train&oldid=689673117)

# Eliza Jane Gillespie Allen (1834 -1900)

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## A Summary of Facts and Family Anecdotes

*Compiled by AGS Member Phoebe Sue Allen in 2015. Ancestral research by Berry Lynne Allen Hill.*

The story of this Gillespie line is one of migration from Scotland into Northern Ireland (Ulster) by ship to South Carolina, and ultimately through Georgia and Alabama to Arkansas. This biographical summary incorporates census records, deeds, marriage records, DNA matches, and stories handed down by Eliza Jane's son Walter via his children.

Our father's paternal grandmother, Eliza Jane Gillespie, was born July 11, 1834, in Henry County, Georgia. According to family lore via Eliza's grandson, Curtis Allen, in 1978, "Great Grandma Gillespie was just a little girl when they came over here from Ireland. She fell off the ship somewhere and somebody reached and got her by the hair and dragged her out. I think she was seven or nine years old. She was from over there where the Catholics and the Protestants are still fighting. That's the reason they left from over there and came to this country. My great grandmother Gillespie came with her daddy and mama when she was just a little girl. That's the only ones that I know of that I can trace back to the old country. In other words, they were the last to come here in the 1700s. Scotch-Irish. They were Scotch and Irish. That's what I always heard."

Whether myth or fact, we may never know the full details about the rescue by hair, but records and DNA matches with descendants provide evidence for his story.

### Eliza's Parents & Ancestors

Eliza Jane Gillespie's parents were David Gillespie (b. 1792 Chester County, SC – d.1862 Rockford, Coosa, AL) and Jennet or Gennet Burns (b. 15 Jun 1795 Antrim, Ireland – d. 1870 Rockford, AL).

While her father's birthplace is indicated as South Carolina in the 1850 census, Eliza Jane's mother, Jennet Burns Gillespie, was born in Northern Ireland to Mary Agness Nancy Linton and Samuel Burns, who married February 3, 1789, in Antrim, Ireland. Samuel's father was Samuel Burns, Sr., born in 1700 in Ayre, Ayershire, Scotland. Samuel Sr. died in 1797 in Northern Ireland. Samuel Sr.'s wife, Sarah Stuart, was born in 1709 in Scotland and died in 1795 in Killeaughto County, Antrim, Ireland. Sarah's parents, Levi Stuart and Eva Orr, were also born in Scotland.

Samuel Burns (45) and wife Agnes Burns (40) and their 11 children, who had resided in Loughgeel, Ireland, left Belfast on the ship *Mary* on September 17, 1805, and arrived in Charleston, South Carolina. Samuel Burns applied to become a citizen on November 7, 1811, in Chester District, South Carolina.<sup>1</sup>

British aliens in the United States during the War of 1812: Burns, Samuel, age 50, 7 years in U.S., Irishman, 11 in family, Chester District, stone and brick mason; applied 5 April 1809 (31 August - 8 September 1812).<sup>2</sup>

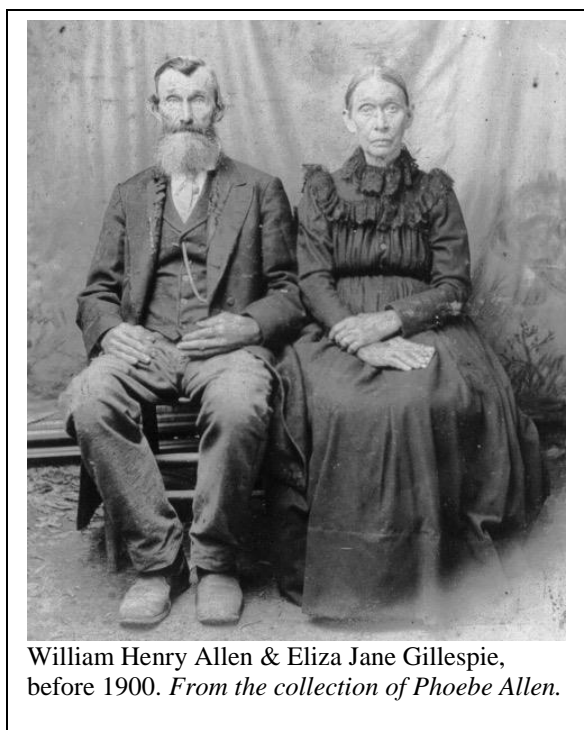
Family members included Jennet's parents, Samuel Burns (born in the County of Antrim, Ireland) and his wife, Agnes, 45, son, Archibald, 18, son, Stuart, 16, daughter, Jennet, 14, daughter, Eliza, 12, son, Joseph, 10, daughter, Sarah, 4, son, Samuel, 2, and daughter, Mary Ann, 10 days. Samuel Burns died in Chester, South Carolina on September 30, 1815, leaving his wife with 10 or 11 children.

Eliza Jane's father, David Gillespie, was born to Thomas Gillespie (b. 1762, Ireland – d. 29 Oct 1808, Chester, SC) and Mary Weir (b. 1765, Northern Ireland – d. 24 Jul 1840, Shelby, TN). The family of David Gillespie resided in Henry County, Georgia, in the 1830 census, age 39; Henry County,

Georgia, in 1840, age 49; Hatchet Creek, Coosa County, Alabama 1850, age 59; and Southern Division, Coosa, Alabama, in 1860, age 69. In 1860, he owned \$300 in real estate and \$1000 in personal property.

David and Jennet Gillespie had four children beginning in 1814, Eliza Jane being the youngest. By 1830, the family lived in Henry County, Georgia. Her father purchased land in Coosa County, Alabama, in 1850, where they resided in Hatchet Creek. Eliza Gilispie [*sic*] is listed as age 14 (age 16 in July according to birthdate), in Hatchet Creek, Coosa County, Alabama, in the 1850 census in the household of farmer David Gilispie [*sic*], age 57, who was born in South Carolina, and Jane Gilispie [*sic*], 55, born in Ireland. Both of Eliza's parents can read and write, and Eliza Jane attended school within the year. David Gillespie purchased 39 acres of land in Coosa County, Alabama, on April 1, 1850.

### Eliza Jane & William Henry Allen



William Henry Allen & Eliza Jane Gillespie, before 1900. *From the collection of Phoebe Allen.*

According to the Troup County, Georgia, marriage registry, William Henry Allen, listed in the 1850 Coosa County Alabama census, married Eliza Jane Gillespie on January 13, 1853. Curiously, the Allen family Bible notes the marriage as January 8, 1852. Their first child, Albert Hezekiah "Hespie" Allen, was born November 16, 1856, in Alabama. By 1857, William Henry "Dick" and Eliza Jane Allen left Alabama with one son and their belongings tied on behind the saddle of their one mule and moved to South Arkansas, eventually settling in the Gum Springs area southeast of Nall's Mill in Columbia County.

In the 1860 Brown Township Census, William and Eliza Allen, 27 and 26, are listed with Albert, four, and one-year-old Samuel. Jefferson Davis Allen was born January 7, 1862, leaving Eliza with an infant and two small sons in the year Dick Allen joined the Confederate Army; he mustered into Company G on July 8, 1862, at the age of 30.

Jean Hendricks (granddaughter): "While Dick was away during the Civil War (from July 1862 until the late spring of 1865), his wife raised a crop and had to carry her wheat and corn to the Braswell's mill to have it ground. Her only way of travel was by oxen cart, and she had to ford Harrican [Hurricane] Creek."

Geraldine Talley (granddaughter): "She had to cross the creek, and the yoke of oxen would balk in middle of the creek with her and her three little children. It would take quite a bit of time to get them to move on. Eliza talked about being afraid of bears that were in the woods back then."

Curtis (grandson): "When he came back from the war – dirty, unshaven and ragged - his boys, mistaking him for a Yankee, who at that time went around killing and stealing, climbed the nearest tree. When he walked to the house, knowing that his wife would not recognize him, he asked for food like a tramp. She took him for a bandit and tried to get him to leave her alone. He kept on picking at her, and when he tried to get in the house, she quickly picked up a kettle of boiling water from the stove and threw it on him. He then did not hesitate to tell her who he was."



Geraldine Talley (granddaughter): “One day Liza Jane saw a man looking through the log cracks in her house. She had a pot of hot water on the fireplace where she did her cooking. She picked up the pot of water and threw it through the cracks on him. About the time she did, she recognized him as her husband. He went to farming and saved his money with which he would buy land. The neighbors said that he made his oxen harness out of bark peeled from trees and would let this dry.”

Jean Hendricks (granddaughter): “The plow lines were made out of bark peeled off of trees. Eliza talked about being afraid of bears that were in the woods then. Dick Allen kept jacks for breeding purposes and raised corn to sell. He liked to tell about the people that bought corn from him, telling him what he should do to raise it. He had a gin at the back of the house that was powered by mules. He would load the gin stands with pitchforks and used the mules to bale the cotton. He never ginned over two or three bales a day. The gin closed down when Abe Hendricks brought a new steam gin.”

In the 1870 Cornie Township Census (townships were rearranged), Eliza J. is listed as 32, with husband William H. Allen, 37, and children Ezeriah [Hezekiah], 13; Jeff Davis, 8; Martha E., 5; James M., 3; and an unnamed female child age 1. William, Eliza and Hezekiah are noted as unable to read or write. (Samuel is not listed in the 1870 census; we do not know when he died or where he is buried, although there are two small unnamed gravestones near the Allen family plot in the Bethlehem Cemetery near their home.)



Family home after being remodeled in 1907 by Walter Howard Allen and Della Smith Allen. Photo is from 1910, of the Walter Allen family with domestic and field hands and mules. *From the personal collection of Phoebe Allen.*

The family built and moved into a new dogtrot home in Spotville on Christmas Eve of 1873. Their five children were raised there: Hezekiah [*sic*], Drucilla Nesbit, Martha Morgan, Jeff, and Walter Howard, the youngest and only child to be born in the new house. A separate log kitchen some distance behind the house had a large fireplace for cooking and was where the family spent its evenings in the cooler weather. An open hallway ran through the center of the main house, offering cool sleeping quarters in the summer. One front room was used as a general store that sold groceries,

dry goods, and hardware. The store was later moved into a separate building. A blacksmith shop and a mule-operated cotton gin were also on the property. (Walter enlarged and remodeled the dogtrot in 1907, adding five more rooms, including a kitchen. The house remains in the family.)

In the 1880 Cornie Township Census, Columbia County Arkansas, Liza J. is 46, her husband 49, and their five children include Drusilla [*sic*] J., 10, and Walter H., 4. Albert and Jeff Davis are indicated as unable to write, and William H. is unable to read or write. The two youngest are “at home” with no one having attended school in the year. Eliza is keeping house. One of the quilts still in the 1873 Allen home was made by Eliza and dyed with bark. Granddaughter Geraldine maintained that Eliza had a spinning wheel for making thread from wool and cotton.



In 1899, their youngest son Walter Allen married Minnie O'Della Smith and brought her to live with his parents. Eliza died one year later on January 24, 1900, at the age of 65, of pneumonia and shingles. Neighbor Jim Whiddon, age 92, in a 1984 interview, said that Walter brought the measles in to her. Her granddaughter Geraldine recalled hearing that they piled quilts up on her to make her break out, and built up a big fire because she wasn't doing well; perhaps she got too hot and took pneumonia. Whiddon's grandmother, Mrs. Hollingsworth, helped to lay her out. He remembered the bell ringing when she died. W.H. 'Dick' Allen died a year after his wife's death.

### **Eliza's Siblings**

Eliza Jane Gillespie had only three siblings: Nancy Gillespie (b. 1814 SC – d.1899 AR), Thomas Henry Gillespie (b. 1818 SC – d. 1885 AL), and Mary Gillespie (b. 1823 GA – d.1900). Research on Liza's siblings turned up some interesting Arkansas-related records confirming the Gillespie and Allen families' migration to Arkansas.

One of Aunt Jean's old genealogy notes states Eliza Jane's sister, with the name of Cowart, lived out behind the family home and had a couple of babies. Eliza's eldest sister, Nancy, married William Cowart in Alabama in 1835 and lived in Coosa County through 1870, but she resided in Mountain, Pike County, Arkansas, in 1880 as a widow, aged 65, with her youngest son, farmer Wm. J[oseph], 24, and daughter, Nancy L., 31; she had seven children by Cowart, died in 1899, and was buried in Kirby, Pike County, Arkansas, between Arkadelphia and Hot Springs. There is a David Cowert (presumably Nancy's son) on the 1880 Columbia County census with a wife and three children living at household #117, which was fairly close to the William Henry Allen household #103. David Cowart's children were born in Arkansas beginning about 1875. By the 1900 census, he was in Centerpoint, Howard County, Arkansas, in the same vicinity as his brother William.

Dick Allen's half-brother, James B. Allen (b. 1840 – d. before 1875), married Frances Skaggs (b.1842 GA), the daughter of Eliza Jane's other sister, Mary Gillespie (b. 1823 – d. 1900), and George Skaggs. James and Frances Allen were married in 1858 in Coosa County, Alabama, and had two children, John William Allen (b. 1861) and Mary Jane Allen (b. 1863), both listed in Hezekiah's will. James B. Allen is listed as deceased in his father Hezekiah's 1875 will, perhaps from his war injuries. James B. Allen served in the Civil War beginning in 1861 at the age of 21, and was injured (shot) but survived. Frances married a second husband, J.N. Fairis, in 1866, and resided in Alabama through 1880 and in Oklahoma in 1900.

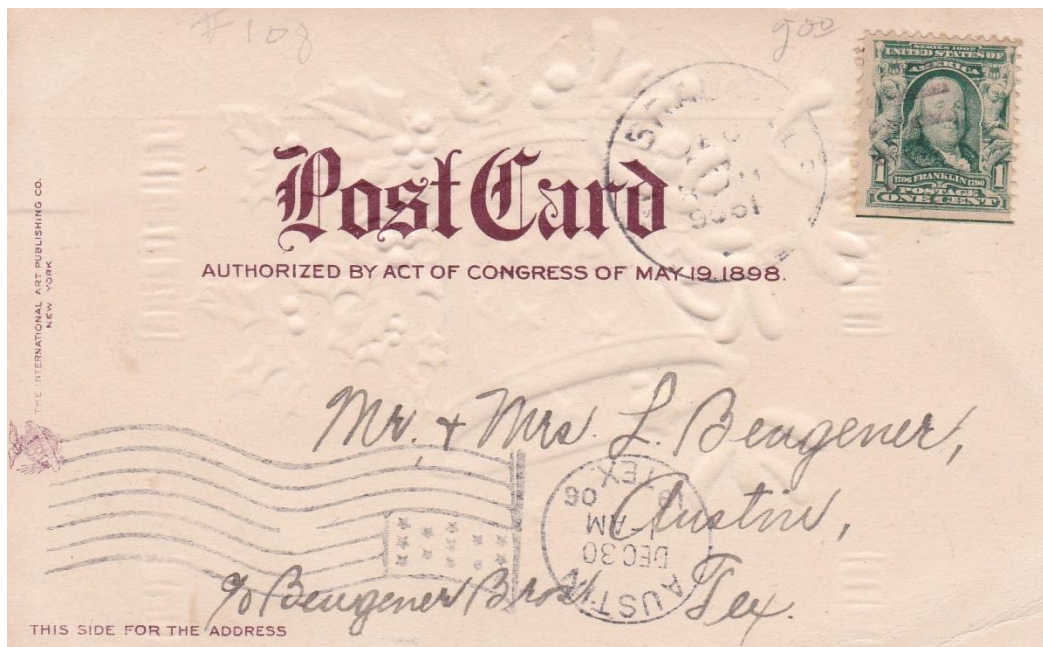
### **Reflections**

Regarding the general conditions of their everyday lives, I can't help but think about Liza & Dick every time I wash a dish or the clothes, or flip on the stovetop or oven to cook something. For their entire lives, neither Liza nor her husband ever had electricity, no refrigeration or washing machine, no vacuum cleaner, no indoor toilet or shower of any kind. Not even running water. No automobiles. No phone. No hair dryer. No heat or cooking without lighting a fire. Liza could never make dinner or even a soup and expect to keep leftovers overnight. She could never flip a switch to turn on a light. Mind you, this was the condition of most of humanity for the previous one million years. There were bears and wildcats and wolves in the woods with three toddlers to look after and no one to help or protect her during the Civil War. I challenge the reader (and especially her descendants) to think about Eliza Jane as you move through one single day and compare your daily life to hers.

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1. "Petition of Samuel Burns, a native of Ireland, residing in the US since 1806...3rd November 1813." Chester District, South Carolina, County Records, p. 163.

2. Ancestry.com. *British Aliens in the United States During the War of 1812* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data: Scott, Kenneth. *British Aliens in the United States During the War of 1812*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979. As of July 1812 British aliens in the United States were required to submit a report of "the persons composing their families, the places of their residence and their occupations or pursuits." These reports, or returns of the reports, upon which this work is based, normally give the name of the alien, aged fourteen or more, years of residence in the United States, number of persons in the family, place of residence, and occupation.



1906 Postcard from the collection of Robin Raben (front and back)

# AGS Awards 100<sup>th</sup> Travis County Pioneer Certificate

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By AGS Member Kay Boyd

The Austin Genealogical Society issues *Pioneer Families of Travis County* Certificates to individuals who can prove that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. The members of the Austin Genealogical Society feel that this is an excellent way to preserve our past and to honor our earlier settlers to Travis County, and that the information provided is a valuable resource to others studying the history and genealogy of Travis County. As of this year, we have awarded 100 certificates.\* What follows is a list those who have been confirmed as Pioneer Families of Travis County and their descendants who have received the Pioneer Certificate to date.

*\* I've been informed that 5 more have been awarded as of December 3!*

## TRAVIS COUNTY PIONEERS and their descendants who applied for Pioneer Certificates

Pioneer	Descendants	In Travis County
HORNSBY, Reuben	Mary Darlene Mangum Menges	1832
HORNSBY, Reuben and Sarah Morrison	Lilla Donna Barnes Pearce Sandra Hiss Barnes Shea	1832
STRAIN, Mahala Murchison	Hettie Pearl Hester	1839
DIETRICH, Francis	Marty Lynn Roberts	1839
BROWN, Daniel	David Bowles	1840
ROBERTSON, Elijah Sterling Clack	Charles Alexander Robertson III	1840
HARRELL, Jacob Magrin	Billy Arvil Harrell	1840
VAN CLEVE, Lorenzo	David Bowles	1840
ATWOOD, William W. and Mary C. Neely	Billie Palm Bryant	1840
LOHMANN, John Henry	Bessie Joyce Lunsford	1842

<b>Pioneer</b>	<b>Descendants</b>	<b>In Travis County</b>
CATLETT, Hanson George	Mary Helen Catlett Allen	1843
BURDITT, Jesse F. Sr.	Glenda M. Black	1844
ROBERTSON, William Franklin and Mary Ann Caperton	M. C. Forister	1846
SWISHER, James Gibson and Elizabeth	Teri Hoover Mirka Matthew Joseph Mirka	1846
BROWN, Franklin Tate	Anne Darden Brown Gilbert	1846
GRUMBLES, Benjamin	Judith Ann Cartwright Morris Jeffrey Thomas Musick Meredith Kate Musick-Higgins	1850
BROWN, Matthew and Mary	MaryAnn Moore	1850
LANE, Addison and Sally	Roy Earl Lewis	1850
JOHNSON, Henry and Jane Goldfinch	Albert Arthur Johnson	1850
MEEKS, John and Mary	Mildred Downs Barker	1850
PLUMLEY, Mary Ann Grumbles	Janet K. Taylor-Carusi	1850
SNEED, Sebron Graham and Miranda Adkins	Claudia McCarley Jacqueline McCarley John McConnell Lisa Michels	1850
JOHNSON, Thomas Jefferson and Catherine Hyde	Richard Wayne Shelton	1850
ELLISON, William and Emily Rather	Richard Wayne Shelton	1850

<b>Pioneer</b>	<b>Descendants</b>	<b>In Travis County</b>
ELLISON, William and Emily Rather	Richard Wayne Shelton	1850
BAKER, William and Matilda Rayson	Sybil Young Patterson	1850
PREECE, William Martin and Mary Giddons	Rick Blackmore Caitlin Elise Blackmore	1850
HARRIS, David Alexander	Thomas David Dipprey	1850
CAPERTON, Andrew W. and Jane T. Scrivner	M. C. Forister	1852
HENNINGER, John and Magdalena	William H. Luedecke III John C. Luedecke	1853
MOORE, George Fleming	Kelly Shelton	1854
SHARP, William H.	James Robert Sharp	1854
NITSCHKE, Carl Ludwig and Emma Maria Bassett	Johanna Bond Graham	1856
THOMPSON, Thomas Salathiel and Eugenia L. Phillips	Eileen Chapman Farrell	1856
JOHNSON, Gustave and Mary Munson	Lilla Barnes Pearce Sandra Barnes Shea	1858
ROUNTREE, William George and Mary E. Mayfield	Gladys Mary Striegler Wiseman Lillian Irene Striegler Cable Maurice Striegler	1860
ROBERTS, Joseph Almar	Joel Raymond Major John Michael Major	1866
SCHUELKE, August Wilhelm and Lissette	Albert Arthur Johnson	1863
MAXEY, James Edward	Betty J. Jacobs Linda J. Chastain	1866



<b>Pioneer</b>	<b>Descendants</b>	<b>In Travis County</b>
MCANGUS, William and Jessie McKenzie	Nancy Jo Mokry Debbie Kay Bradshaw	1867
CLINGER/KLINGER, Henry	Charles Elsworth Clinger Margie Amy Clinger Ferris Brian Elsworth Clinger Marsha Lynne Clinger Roose Barbara Gayle Clinger Hinesley Leslie Carlton Clinger	1869
RANEY, James Alexander and Roxy A.	Leslie D. Inman	1870
SAKEWITZ, Leberecht	Nancy Sue Weiss Ronnie Alton Weiss Nathan Andrew Weiss	1870
MAXWELL, Alexander Carson and Cynthia Ann Owen	Jane Ann Maxwell Margaret Maxwell Bauer	1871
PETERSON, Carl August and Lovisa Carlson Snygg	Richard Brian Peterson Craig William Peterson William Robert Peterson Jessica Christine Peterson Elizabeth Leigh Peterson Robert Dwayne Peterson Barbara Blomquist Wheeler David Michael Peterson Natalie Kate Peterson Robert Bryan Peterson Michelle Susanne Peterson McIntosh Annika Christine McIntosh Lillian Hannah Peterson Alexandra Suzanne McIntosh	1871
STROMBERG, Richard E. and Adelina Gök	Mary Kay Dunlap Boyd	1872
GRANT, Robert Edmondson and Ann Long Snodgrass	Susan Irene Gissell Sumners	1872
PLUMLEY, James T.	Cassandra Lea Foradory	1872
SEEKATZ, Henry Emil & Jane M. Halden Freland	Julia Antoinette Seekatz DeVane Teresa DeVane Crail Thomas Daniel Crail Clayton Bradley Crail	1873



<b>Pioneer</b>	<b>Descendants</b>	<b>In Travis County</b>
FARROW, John Stevenson	Janice G. Cox Jenkins Carolyn Cox Williams	1874
LUEDECKE, William Frederick Ludwig	William H. Luedecke III John C. Luedecke Harper Copeland Luedecke Travis Buckner Luedecke Dexter Tyson Luedecke	1876
GRAY, Crockett J. and Caroline	Laverne Lindsey	1877
DECKER, Theodore F. and Lillie	Molly Decker Williams	1877
HOUSER, Christian	Shirley Spencer Wells	1880
POLLOCK, Emma	Virginia Carson	1880
DIPPREY, John P.	Thomas David Dipprey	1880
TRAUGOTT, Joseph Michael	Vinson Lockwood	1880
DOWNS, Thomas Jones and Sophie Caroline	Mildred Downs Barker	1880
HOPKINS, Willis and Margaret Jackson	Gladys Mary Striegler Wiseman Lillian Irene Striegler Cable Maurice Striegler Charles Hollis Hopkins	1880

# Put Your Data in Boxes and Watch the Clues Appear!

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*MKR Genealogy* <http://www.mkrgenealogy.com>

Spreadsheets can be a great way to organize our genealogy data. We can type in our facts and figures and then let the computer massage them, twist them this way and that, even stand them on their head, teasing out patterns in these clues to help us understand our ancestors' lives and histories.

Before you create a spreadsheet about your ancestor or his community, spend a little time thinking about where you going. What is the question you're trying to answer? What is your objective? What kinds of data sources do you have to try to answer your question? What kind of information is included in those sources – dates? places? names? addresses? witnesses? A little planning up front will make it easier to create a useful spreadsheet in which the data is easy to input and read. You'll capture all the data on the first pass and not need to return to the well again and again to gather more information.

If you haven't worked with spreadsheets before, creating a simple timeline is a great way to get your feet wet. If you've been researching for any time at all, you've probably compiled quite a collection of vital records, census images, property transactions, city directory entries and perhaps even a few newspaper articles. You can construct a basic five-column spreadsheet. Make the first column the year. You might decide to have a separate column with a more specific date – if we have Grandpa's actual birth certificate we know the exact date, but if we haven't found that document yet, we may have to rely on a census record which will only give us the year. If you set up your spreadsheet using a couple of columns to define the date, it will be easier to capture the information regardless of how specific it might be. For each event in your ancestor's life, you probably have a location where it occurred and what the activity was, so include columns for location and event. Finally make a column for source. There's nothing worse than creating a spreadsheet full of data, and then scratching your head in puzzlement, "Where did THAT come from?!!"

Pretty soon you will see patterns in your data. Maybe you had a hole where the 1870 census should be – you just can't find Grandpa anywhere. But when you see that he had a child born in Center City in 1869 and another in the same place in 1871, you realize odds are very high that he was in Center City when the census taker came knocking in 1870. Now that you've got the location, it's worth it to browse page by page on the Center City census or look for every Irish-born man named James in the area. Your timeline spreadsheet pointed out a pattern or a clue, and you can use that to further your research.

If you're feeling especially ambitious you can "fancy up" your timeline or other spreadsheet by inserting hyperlinks which will allow you to click on the text in a cell in your worksheet and automatically connect to a webpage or an image saved on your computer. You might insert a hyperlink in the cell in the Event column of your worksheet where you've typed "James Ahern was naturalized" which will take you to the pdf of his naturalization certificate stored on your computer. Another cell in the worksheet might link to the Findagrave memorial for him.

To insert a hyperlink in your worksheet click on the cell with the text string you will use to anchor the link. The "Ribbon," the strip of buttons and icons above the work area in your sheet, has a tab titled "Insert." Click on the Insert tab and look for the icon image for Hyperlink which depicts a globe and chain. When you click on that, a box will appear which will allow you to browse through files on your computer to find the image you wish to insert. Alternatively, you can type or paste a URL into the "address" box in the lower middle section of the pop-up box. Your spreadsheet is now linked to the image or webpage and when you click on the text in your spreadsheet, you'll soon be looking at Grandpa's naturalization record or gravestone photo.

Think about how you might put spreadsheets to work to further your research. It's not hard, and pretty soon creating a spreadsheet will feel as natural as composing a letter.

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*Note from the editor:*

I tried using the technique explained in the above article, putting the research I have for my grandfather in a spreadsheet. Although this method mimics the view provided in the new ancestry.com interface, using a spreadsheet that I control does give me a guide for what "facts" I have that need documentation, as well as areas that I could go to for more information. After making the entries, I realized I have mostly relied upon census records, FindAGrave, and family notes for information about Grandpa George.

Timeline for George Wilbur Harshman				
Year	Date	Location	Event	Source
1899	14-May-1899	Lima, Ohio	Birth	Birth Certificate, Lima County Courthouse
1900	11-Jun-00	Lima, Ohio	Residence	1900 Federal Census Records
1901	2-Jun-01		Death of Brother (Martin Lee Harshman)	Findagrave for Martin Lee Harshman Death Certificate - FamilySearch
1902	14-May-02	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Sister (Mary Leona "Dolly")	Family notes
1905	25-Aug-05	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Brother (Russell Orville)	Family notes
1907	14-Sep-07	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Brother (Walter Milo)	Family notes
1909	8-Aug-09	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Sister (Jessie May)	Family notes
1910		Lima, Ohio	Residence	1910 Federal Census Records
1914	22-Dec-14	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Sister (Sarah Hazel)	Family notes
1917	16-Nov-17	Lima, Ohio	Birth of Sister (Verdie Irene)	Family notes
1920		Lima, Ohio	Residence	1920 Federal Census Records
1921	18-Apr-21	Allen, Ohio	Death of Father (Martin Kashner)	Family notes
1922	14-Jan-22	Lima, Ohio	Marriage to Velma Louise Anderson	Marriage Certificate, Lima County Courthouse
1922	3-Jul-21	Lima, Ohio	Birth and Death of Daughter (Helen Eileen)	Findagrave for Helen Eileen Harshman
1923	2-Jun-23	Allen, Ohio	Birth of Son (Dale James)	Family notes
1926	27-Jan-26	Ohio	Birth of Son (Ray Eugene)	Family notes
1928	16-Jul-28	Cridersville, Ohio	Birth of Daughter (Ruth Annabelle)	Family notes
1930		Cridersville, Ohio	Residence	1930 Federal Census Records
1933	18-Dec-33	Lima, Ohio	Death of Sister (Sarah Hazel)	FamilySearch death certificate
1939	27-Jul-39	Allen, Ohio	Death of Brother (James Daniel)	FamilySearch death certificate
1940		Shawnee, Ohio	Residence	1940 Federal Census Records
1940	23-Nov-40	Cridersville, Ohio	Death of Brother (Ernest Sheridan)	Findagrave for Ernest Sheridan
1946		Lima, Ohio	Residence	US City Directories, Ancestry.com
1965	3-Jul-65	Hume, Ohio	Death of Mother (Sarah Ann Shaffer)	Newspapers.com article
1970			Retirement	Harshman Family Book, Volume II, Page 795
1978	9-May-78	Pandora, Ohio	Death of Brother (Walter Milo)	Family notes
1980	21-Jan-80	Lima, Ohio	Death	Findagrave for George W. Harshman

## Pioneer Families of Travis County, Texas

The Austin Genealogical Society will issue a pioneer certificate to those who can prove their ancestors lived in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. To qualify for the certificate, you must be a direct descendant of people who lived here on or before December 31, 1880, proved with birth, death and marriage certificates; probate, census and military records; and obituaries and Bible records.

Applications for Pioneer Families of Travis County can be found at <http://austintxgensoc.org/> or from Kay Dunlap Boyd, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010.

Each application is \$20 and the certificates make nice gifts. You don't have to be a Travis County resident or a member of Austin Genealogical Society, although membership in the Society is another fine bargain at \$20 a year.

Austin Genealogical Society	
Travis County Texas	
Pioneer Families Certificate	
This is to Certify that	
_____	
is a descendant of	
_____	
who was living in Travis County, Texas	
before the close of	
_____	_____
Certificate No.	President
_____	_____
Date	Pioneer Families Chairman
_____	_____
	Registrar

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*1910 Postcard from the collection of Robin Raben.*

# Austin Genealogical Society General Information

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**PURPOSE:** The purposes for which this Society is organized are: To promote an interest in genealogy. To investigate, collect, record, publish and deposit in libraries, archives, and digital or electronic repositories the genealogical and historical materials of Texas, with particular focus on items pertaining to the City of Austin and/or Travis County. To educate its members and the general public in the use of historical and genealogical reference materials. To support genealogical libraries, archival collections, and access to and preservation of records that will benefit the research efforts of the Society.

**MEMBERSHIP** is open to all upon payment of annual dues. Classes: Individual: \$20; Family (Two in the same household): \$30; Lifetime: \$500 (\$300 if over age 65). All classes are entitled to one electronic copy of each issue of the Quarterly and the monthly Newsletter. **After July 1, dues are \$10 for the balance of the year**, but you will receive only the publications produced after the date you join. Membership includes a copy of the annual Membership Directory, which is published each spring.

**DUES FOR EXISTING MEMBERS** are payable on or before January 1 of each year for the ensuing year. If dues are not received by February 1, the name must be dropped from the mailing list. Send dues payments to **AGS Treasurer, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010**.

**MEETINGS** of the general membership begin at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month except May and December. Members are encouraged to come at 6:30 p.m. Meeting Place: **Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr.** Take Northland (RR2222) exit Loop 1 (Mopac). Go west one block to Balcones Dr., then left a half block. The church and parking lot are on right. Visitors always welcome. The Board of Directors meets at 5:45 p.m.

**CHECK RETURN POLICY** Members and other payees must pay AGS the cost of any returned check (currently \$5) over and above the charge their bank may impose.

**AGS QUARTERLY** is issued March, June, September and December. Contributions are always welcome, subject to editing for style and length. Contributor is completely responsible for accuracy and any copyright infringement. AGS assumes no responsibility for content of submitted material.

**SUBMISSIONS** for the Quarterly must reach the Editor at P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010, or [quarterly@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:quarterly@austintxgensoc.org) by the deadlines below, preferably by electronic means, either in an e-mail or as an attachment to an e-mail. When an electronic version is not possible, typing, handwriting or printing must be black and legible. Months must be spelled or abbreviated, not in figures. Show dates in accepted genealogical style: day, month, and year. Leave 1-inch margins at both sides and at top and bottom, and hand number pages on the back of each page. Carefully check horizontal pages (reading in the 11-inch direction) so that one-inch margins are on top, bottom and both sides so no information is lost in stapling. No 8 ½ x 14 sheets, please. You may submit lineage or family group charts, narratives, memoirs, letters, cemetery inscriptions, Bible records, census data, queries or a combination of material, just so it is not under copyright. **Proofread** your material for accuracy and clarity so we will not publish faulty or incorrect data. Consult a recent AGS Quarterly for suggestions.

**AGS QUARTERLY DEADLINES:** Quarterly submission guidelines and due dates are available on the Austin Genealogical Society website: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly-guidelines>.

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