# AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

# 2016 Vol. 57 No. 1



Austin Genealogical Society PO Box 10010 Austin, Texas 78766-1010 http://austintxgensoc.org/

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## Austin Genealogical Society 2016 Annual Seminar

Presenting: Thomas MacEntee

### Registration now open!

#### 2016 Annual Seminar @ Triumphant Love Lutheran Church May 21: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### **Seminar Topics**

**The Genealogy Do-Over™: A Year of Learning from Mistakes:** Frustrated with the way you originally researched your genealogy? Were you a name collector? Did you not care or not even know about citing sources? Now there's hope and you get a "do-over." Follow genealogist Thomas MacEntee as he basically starts his genealogy research from scratch but includes sound research practices and methodologies as well as new templates, tools and the latest technology to create a better body of family history research.

**Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching:** While you may think you've hit a brick wall with your research, have you tried using cluster and collateral search strategies to look for an opening? Researching non-direct relations as well as those friends and neighbors in your ancestors' network can pay off in ways you might not imagine

**Building a Research Toolbox:** Are overwhelmed with the number of online resources for genealogical research? Are you constantly working with unorganized bookmarks or favorites? Printing out lists of websites you use most? Learn how to build a research toolbox that is organized, easy-to-use, and can be accessed from almost anywhere.

**Managing the Genealogy Data Monster:** It is so easy to let the large amounts of data involved with genealogy overwhelm you – to the point that family history research is no longer fun! Learn how to tackle the three main problem areas of genealogy data: research data, project data and file data so you can put the fun back in your research!

Pre-registration is \$35 for AGS members, \$45 for non-members. Optional box lunch is \$10. You may also bring your own lunch. Light refreshments will be served in the morning. COMPLIMENTARY BAGS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS Registration at the door will be \$45. Registrations by mail must be received by May 10, 2016. Visit <u>http://www.austintxgensoc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/02/AGS\_Seminar\_Registration\_2016.pdf</u> to register by mail We are unable to offer refunds. Please plan accordingly.

Online registration will be open until May 19, 2016 - Visit http://www.austintxgensoc.org/seminar/ to register online



#### Thomas MacEntee

What happens when a "tech guy" with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get **Thomas MacEntee**, a genealogy professional based in the United States who is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more.

Thomas was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started his own genealogy-related business called <u>High</u> <u>Definition Genealogy</u>. He also created an online community of over 3,000

family history bloggers known as <u>GeneaBloggers</u>. His most recent endeavor, <u>Hack Genealogy</u>, is an attempt to "re-purpose today's technology for tomorrow's genealogy."

Thomas describes himself as a lifelong learner with a background in a multitude of topics who has finally figured out what he does best: teach, inspire, instigate, and serve as a curator and go-to-guy for concept nurturing and inspiration. Thomas is a big believer in success, and that we all succeed when we help each other find success.

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Vintage Valentine from the private collection of Jill Lewis

## **2016 AGS Calendar of Events**

AGS meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (except 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

It's in the Bag: Preparing for a Research Trip Presented by AGS member Cari A. Taplin, CG

### February 23

Helpful Tips & Tricks to use FamilySearch Presented by Cherie Bush of FamilySearch

#### March 22

Mining a Goldmine: Research in Courthouse Records Presented by AGS member Teri Flack

#### April 26

Octoberfest and Researching Your German Genealogy Presented by Alan Rabe

#### May 24

One Person, Two Birth Certificates; Texas History of Adoption and Birth Certificates Presented by Connie Gray

#### June 28

African American Research, History and Resources at the George Washington Carver Genealogy Center Presented by Cynthia Evans

#### July 26

Jumping the Pond in the 19th Century: 19th Century Immigration from Europe to North America *Presented by Nick Cimino* 

#### August 23 Software for Genealogists Speaker TBD

September 27 Member Topic Tables AGS Members

#### October 25

HistoryGeo.com: Unlocking the Past with Original and Early Landowner Maps including New Features *Presented by Gregory Boyd (Arphax)* 

#### November 22

Fall Fest Potluck Dinner: Texas Rangers *Presented by Mike Cox* 

(No Regular AGS Meeting in December)

## **From the Editor**

Greetings AGS Members,

Welcome to the first Quarterly of 2016!

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself since I am fairly new to AGS and may not have had the opportunity to say hello to each of you in person.

I was born to Robert and Geneva Doetsch at St. David's Hospital on a cold January morning right here in our very backyard. You heard that right, a native Austinite! As a matter of fact, my maternal side of the family has been living between Travis and Williamson Counties as far back as 1869. Some of my ancestors came to Texas as early settlers and pioneers as early as the 1840s, making me a bona-fide 6<sup>th</sup> generation Texan!

I caught the "genealogy bug" before I knew what the word genealogy even was by playing detective when rifling through picture albums and spare bedroom dressers at my grandparents' house. I loved to gaze at my grandfather Robert Maximillian's war medals and try on my Great Aunt Jane Roach's (*nee Jennie Cleota Hefner*) costume jewelry in front of my grandmother's vanity. My Nana told me stories of how her Aunt Jane had legally changed her name when she was younger and how she had married a "gangster" later in life. When I donned the costume jewelry, I imagined grand heists with car chases and lavish ballrooms in speakeasies with the Big Bands playing jaunty tunes. None of this ended up true of course, but it sparked the young "Nancy Drew" in me to learn the truth behind my family and to find out more about where they really came from.

I have been lucky to grow up close to a grandmother who knows a lot about her family history and loves talking about it to boot! I was also fortunate that my Gramps was a history buff and they both loved to travel. I would dream about the places they had gone from the ancient castles of old kings, to past president's homes (they were famous y'all!) When I was old enough, they took me along for the ride. We enjoyed summer road trips usually in route to a family reunion of sorts to faraway places like Indiana and Virginia! It may as well have been Paris as it was just as exciting to me (I will never forget you Monticello.)

In early 2014, it dawned on me that while I had all these stories compiled from old letters and memories and pictures inside of albums, they were only there for me and where no one else in my family could enjoy them. Plus, what about that *other* side of my family? I knew virtually nothing about them and where they came from, so I decided to *officially* don the genealogy cap to build my family history.

Fast forward to 2016 and I am writing to you here as your new Quarterly Editor. Needless to say, this "bug" is insatiable and, in fact, incurable. To be honest, I wouldn't have it any other way.

I want to thank Robin Raben, Publications Chair, for this exciting opportunity and for passing on the virtual Quarterly torch! I am looking forward to learning from each and every one of you, and working with the great team backing this publication as AGS enters its 56<sup>th</sup> publication year!

"You have to know the past to understand the present." - Carl Sagan

Valde

Angela Doetsch quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

## Where were you born and raised?

### A memoir of growing up on a Texas farm By AGS Member James E. Bridges

I was born in Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Bell County, Texas, in August 1938. Times were tough for the family as the depression was in full force, my father's business had recently failed, our home had been foreclosed, and my father was in the Civilian Conservation Corps in California/Oregon. Soon after my birth, my mother moved to her parents' home on the farm just outside of Temple and there I grew up for a few years. I got to spend time with my grandfather James Caswell (Jim) Ramsey, my grandmother Bertha Louise Holcomb Ramsey and my great-grandmother Louisa Carpenter Holcomb. I have very clear and fond memories of all.

Almost as soon as I could walk, I was allowed to roam pretty much free accompanied by the family dog, Ol' Don. My grandmother hung a small turkey bell around my neck so she could hear where I was at all times. Don and I wandered the old cemetery near the house, the Elegy Cemetery, aka the Carpenter Cemetery. To this day, I can draw a pretty accurate picture of the layout of the farm, the cemetery and the pastures. The old house consisted of a center log cabin built around 1853 with a front 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story and a back kitchen added on later. The add-ons were constructed of cypress wood brought by wagon from Louisiana; the log cabin from large cedar logs cut locally. All of the wood was resistant to rot and did not need paint.



Turkey Bell Photo courtesy of AGS Member James E. Bridges

The front porch went all the way across the front of the house with one entrance into a (I thought at the time) large living room. I now know it was quite small but I was small back then. On the left was a player piano and a closet full of piano rolls that provided a lot of noisy play on inclement days. On the right, in the center of the room, was a long cast iron stove used for heat and boiling water in the winter. Behind it was the old fireplace and the cast iron stove was connected to that chimney for smoke exhaust.

Just inside, to the right, was a daybed where my great-grandmother Ma Lou (Louisa Carpenter

Holcomb) sat to keep warm. She was quite old and afraid of bugs, as I found out when I brought her a nice new green katydid. It took me a few years to understand why she screeched. She passed away in 1944 and that was my first realization that life was not forever. I saw her as a very old person and did not see a younger image of her until a few years ago. She was a very nice looking young lady way back when.

Outside on the farm, my grandfather raised cows for milk, pigs for slaughter, guinea hens for snake control and occasional Sunday dinner, chickens for eggs and meat, turkeys for meat and to control some other critters that bothered the chickens, and two horses to pull his plow. He never converted to machinery to provide power. There was a smokehouse near the left back corner of the house where he kept a bucket of delicious "chitlins" (he was from Georgia and used old southern words and phrases) and hams hanging and curing, Smithfield style, in the dry air. I am sure he had rashers of bacon curing there, too, because we ate it for breakfast and we seldom had any "store bought" meat.

To the back right a ways out was the garden. Along the perimeter were peach trees he called Indian peaches because the fruit was white instead of yellow. I do not recall anyone talking about the origins of peaches - that being China. Vegetables grew in the center - tomatoes, cucumbers for pickles, beets, yellow squash and lots of others. Between the garden and house were the clotheslines for drying clothes and for hanging clabber to dry for cottage cheese for the turkey and chicken hatchlings. Just inside the door in the kitchen were two things I remember clearly, the "slop jar" for the pigs and a churn to make butter. Churning was my chore but I considered it fun. The coal oil (kerosene) stove was on the back wall with a nearby pump handle to draw water from the well beneath the house. There was a small cabinet on the inside wall and a pie safe window on the left.

Between the living room and the kitchen was the original log cabin that served as a bedroom and dining room. The ceiling was low and there was one door to the outside where a large tub would be placed, filled with water and heated on the stove for the Saturday night bath. The area was partially open to the weather so in winter this was a quick process. The logs that formed the walls were regularly "chinked," filling the open space between the logs with wet mashed Sears catalogs to keep out the bugs and winter winds.

The outhouse was a ways off to the left and slightly downhill from any water sources. My grandfather moved it every few years by hand digging a deep pit and using that dirt to fill in the old pit. Near the barn was where manure was collected from the animals and had to be rotted, then mixed with straw for use as fertilizer. There was a pigeon loft at the end of the barn where grandfather occasionally harvested a few squabs for a meal. The pigsty was behind the barn and in a position where it was usually downwind from the house. Between the barn and the house was the chicken coop with several dozen Rhode Island Reds that grandfather believed were the best chickens. They were free-range as were the turkeys.

In the front yard were two pomegranate bushes and a cyclone shelter. The shelter was in poor condition after many decades of neglect. It had once been used to store canned goods in mason jars but had never been used to shelter from a tornado. Just luck, I guess. A small tree in the front right next to the swinging gate once had a mockingbird nest. A couple of the babies fell out of the nest and we put them back in. As I wandered around the yard, I was occasionally accosted by the Tom Turkey but Ol' Don always came to my rescue. Otherwise, I would have been flogged pretty badly. I do not remember ever seeing a coyote, but there were a lot of foxes, raccoons, opossums, rattlesnakes, water moccasins, skunks, etc. These critters kept the dog, the guinea hens, and the turkeys pretty busy at night.

Upstairs in the loft was where my uncles had slept when they were still home. They were long gone when I lived there. The loft was really just an un-insulated attic with no heat and limited opening for summer breeze. There were two ways to access the loft area. One was a stair from the outside but there was also a hidden stair on the inside. It ended about two feet from the floor and was not used for normal access. I was told it was an escape route for the boys in case of a visit from the Indians that still lived nearby in the 1850s. The old log cabin, I later learned, had been built by my great-great grandfather John Madison Carpenter, a circuit riding Methodist minister, and then passed down to Francis Newton (Newt) Holcomb, his son-in-law and my great-grandfather, and then to my grandmother and her husband J C Ramsey. Sadly, the farm was sold in 1948 and we all moved away. The old cemetery fell into neglect and was overgrown when I came back in 1981 after 22 years in the Air Force. I found the then owner and got permission to go in and clean up the cemetery. My kids helped do that cleaning. Since then neglect has once again set in. A group of cousins and I are planning to clean and restore it as best we can. There has been a lot of repeated vandalism and

drinking parties at the cemetery. My great-great grandfather, a strict teetotaler, must be spinning in his grave as that is where he and great-great-grandma are buried. The current owner is not cooperative, but one of the cousins knows her and is making some headway in getting us in, buying the acreage, and getting a road for access. I hope I live long enough to see this project to the end. It is where I started and now I need to close the chapter.



Vintage Valentine from the private collection of AGS Member Angela Doetsch

## Joseph Harbour - Texas Colonist 1825<sup>1</sup>

#### Stephen F. Austin's 2nd colony By AGS Member Alyssa Behr

I was told by my dad (George Lee Holland) that his father's (Howard Weldon Holland) side of the family came to Texas in the early 1800s. He said there was even a Holland ancestor that fought in the Alamo. The Alamo defender, Tapley Holland, was from Ohio, but no relation to the South Carolina Hollands. I did find on my dad's mother's (Jessie Mae Blair) side of the family a sixth great grandfather, Joseph Harbour, who joined Stephen F. Austin's second colony in Texas in 1825. While I was searching on Ancestry.com, I came in contact with my grandmother's half-brother's (Joe Lee Blair) daughter, Patricia Chapman Blair, whom I've never met. She was able to help with the Blair/Elm/O'Neal/Harbour family history research. My grandmother's (Jessie Mae Blair) parents divorced when she was very young, so she had very few photos from her father's side of the family. Patricia was able to provide photos and some stories about the family, the first of which follows.

Joseph Harbour was the son of Elisha Harbour and Margaret Reynolds. He was born on July 22, 1773, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and in 1796, migrated from Patrick County, Virginia, into Kentucky via the Cumberland Gap, moving into a vast frontier of the day. He married February 11, 1799, in Garrard County, Kentucky, to Mary "Polly" Stephens, the daughter of Samuel and Mary Stephens.<sup>2, 3</sup> She was born August 03, 1780, in Garrard County, Kentucky.

Joseph had the reputation of being a physically powerful man and a champion fighter. A story has it that a fighter from another state came to Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to challenge him. Joseph invited him to his home for breakfast first, but the antagonist declined and insisted they settle it immediately. The fight occurred, after which Joseph went in the house for breakfast. When he came back out, his antagonist was gone from where he lay.



Mary Stephens Harbour b. 3 Aug 1780 d. 14 Jun 1862 *Photo courtesy of AGS Member Alyssa Behr* http://www.earlytexasfamilies.com/cemeteries/ce metery.html

In February 1799, Joseph purchased land in Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky, and an adjoining 200 acres shortly thereafter.<sup>4</sup> The Kentucky Compiled Census for 1800 and 1810 shows Joseph Harbour living in Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky. In 1812, he sold the land and moved farther west into Arkansas County in Missouri Territory. In 1817, the county became part of Arkansas Territory; the state of Arkansas was not formed until 1836. In 1825, Joseph met up with Stephen F. Austin's second colony traveling into Texas.<sup>5</sup> It is recorded on December 25, 1825, that they crossed the Brazos River about two miles south of the present site of Old Washington, Washington County, Texas.<sup>6</sup> This place was named New Year's Creek<sup>7</sup>. Joseph made his home on the seven square miles of land he received and remained there for the rest of his life.

Joseph farmed and raised stock and was something of a financier. He was a naturally great mathematician. His education was very limited - he could barely read and write, yet he could make calculations mentally that would puzzle many better-educated men. It is said that he had accumulated some money, mostly silver, and having no banks in that part of Mexico, he buried the money or hid it in the hollow of a tree on his property. A man by the name of Greenwood<sup>8</sup> was aware of his savings

and shot Joseph for the purpose of robbing him. Joseph died a few days later on July 24, 1839. After shooting Harbour, Greenwood dug up the dirt floor of the smokehouse looking for the money but seemingly never found it, nor did Joseph's family for that matter. Greenwood was arrested and, it is said, served a jail sentence for his crime. Years later, some neighbor boys found several hundred dollars in silver in a hollow tree on land that had belonged to Harbour.

Joseph and Mary Harbour are both buried in the Harbour Cemetery in Washington County, Texas.<sup>9,10</sup> The Harbour Family Cemetery is located at Latitude 30°14'48", Longitude 96°15'21" about two miles NE of the intersection of State Highway 90 and FM 2193. This graveyard is located on top of a hill overlooking beautiful hardwood trees. It is no wonder why 150 years ago Joseph Harbour chose it as a resting place for his family. The land has been sold and re-sold a number of times. One of the owners who bought the land had cows roaming the pastures and the stones are now all broken. These pieces are the only ones that could be read.



Harbour Family Cemetery *Photo courtesy of AGS Member Alyssa Behr* http://www.earlytexasfamilies.com/cemeteries/cemetery.html

#### **Children of Joseph and Mary Harbour were**<sup>11,12</sup>**:**

1. Nancy Harbour was born April 22, 1801, in Kentucky and died March 6, 1899, in Coryell County, Texas, USA. She married January 7, 1820, in Christian County, Kentucky, to John O'Neal who was born October 4, 1799, in Kentucky and died February 15, 1882, in Coryell County, Texas. Nancy is my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother.

Children of John O'Neal and Nancy Harbour:

- a. Harvey Harry O'Neal
- b. Lucinda "Peggy" O'Neal
- c. Malinda Ann "Molly" O'Neal (4<sup>th</sup> Great-Grandmother)
- d. William Abijah "Bigey" O'Neal
- e. George O'Neal
- f. Richard Gilbert O'Neal
- g. Martha Ellen "Patsy" O'Neal
- h. Thomas Jefferson O'Neal
- i. Stephen O'Neal
- j. Elizabeth O'Neal
- k. Maranda O'Neal

#### 2. Elizabeth Harbour

#### 3. Patsy Harbour

#### 4. Mary Harbour

#### 5. Anna Harbour

#### 6. George Washington Harbour

#### 7. Thomas Jefferson Harbour

#### 8. James Monroe Harbour

A couple of years ago Missy Harris invited me to an Austin Genealogical Society meeting that was held at the General Land Office (GLO) where I located my sixth great-grandfather's Texas Spanish Land Grant. The GLO mentioned that I could get a translation of the land grant; below is that Texas Spanish Land Grant followed by the translation:

**Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant** Pages 150-151

13 30 SELLO TERCERO DOS REALES. Para los años de mil ochocicutos vainte y seis y ochocientos veinte y siete. So lande Se Mayo beiszy 30 erta

Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant Page 150 Note: the signature mark of Joseph Harbour Source: Texas General Land Office http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grantsearch/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm

15% 1.30 Aleras Conferme into express por el terrescaro An tin en In informe que anterese manse que mita ponte Apaimencas Steracio Chrisen a que delicion el interestado y que sele cipita el consegundiente titule deporticion Yilla be Austin 3 to Jamis Sel 1828

Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant Page 151 Note: Signed by Stephen F. Austin (he spelled his first name the Spanish way, Estevan) Source: Texas General Land Office http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grantsearch/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm

### Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant

Pages 152-153

Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant Page 152 Source: Texas General Land Office <u>http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-</u> <u>search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm</u>

153 - - > SELLO TERCERO DOS MEALES. Para los años de mil ochocientos veinte ecis y ochociente inte y niete. to talla de tra to Cumito M le entres el tertimento

Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant Page 153 Source: Texas General Land Office <u>http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-</u> <u>search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm</u>

#### **Translation - Joseph Harbour Texas Spanish Land Grant 1828**

#### Third Stamp: Two Reales For the years 1828 and (1) 827. And 8 Williams (Rubric)

| Town of San Felipe           | Honorable Commissioner Gaspar Flores:  |
|------------------------------|--|
| (de Austin), May 30,<br>1828 | (I) Joseph Harbour, native of the United States of North America, before you with due respect and in the best form of law say: That since the year 1825 I have lived in this |
| Pass this petition to        | country with the object of acquiring land to support my family in the second colony that   |
| Citizen Stephen              | Empresario Austin has been authorized to establish by the Superior Government of this  |
| Austin, that he may          | State in accordance with Colonization Law of said State dated March 24, 1825. I hope   |
| report whether the           | that you will be pleased to admit me as one of the settlers of said colony and put me in   |
| petitioner has the           | possession of the quantity of land to which I am entitled by the said law as a married   |
| qualifications               | man, which I wish to take on New Years' Creek at the place where I have settled with   |
| required by the law          | my said family and adjoining lands of Abner Kuykendall and Samuel R. Miller, with the  |
| and whether the land         | understanding that I am ready to comply with the provisions and requirements of said   |
| he requests is               | law and to abide in all cases by the laws in effect and to defend the rights of liberty and  |
| unappropriated.              | the honor of the country. Therefore, I ask that you may be pleased to do as I have set   |
|                              | forth, wherein I shall receive favor and justice.  |

Town of (San Felipe de) Austin, May 30, 1828. Joseph Harbour with a mark of the cross

Honorable Commissioner:

Pursuant to your foregoing decree, I must say that the petitioner, Joseph Harbor [sic], is one of the settlers I have introduced by virtue of my contracts with the Supreme Government of the State and that what he states in his petition is true. He is a married man of very good habits, known honesty and industriousness, and I consider him entitled by the law to receive the league of land he requests, which is entirely vacant.

Town of (San Felipe de) Austin, June 2, 1828

#### Estevan F. Austin

#### (Rubric)

In accordance with the statement by Empresario Austin in his preceding report, I order Surveyor Horatio Chri(e)sman to survey the land requested by the interested party and that the corresponding title of possession be issued to him.

Town of (San Felipe de) Austin, June 3, 1828

Gaspar Flores

#### (Rubric)

Gaspar Flores, the commissioner appointed by the Supreme Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas to distribute lands and settle families in the colony of the empresario, Citizen Stephen F. Austin:

Whereas, Joseph Harbor has been received as a colonist in the colonization enterprise contracted with the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas by Empresario Stephen F. Austin on June 4, 1825, and said Joseph Harbor [sic] having proved that he is married and finding in him the requisites prescribed by the State Colonization Law of March 24, 1825, in conformity with the aforesaid law and the instructions governing me dated April 26, in the name of the State I concede to, confer upon, and put the aforementioned Joseph Harbour in real and personal possession of a league of land, which tract has been surveyed by Surveyor Horatio Chri(e)sman, previously appointed for the purpose, under the following situation and boundaries: situated on New Years' Creek above and adjoining Samuel R. Miller's League, and from the northeast corner of Miller's said league a line was run north 50° east 1,330 varas to a landmark in the prairie; thence north 4,292 varas to another landmark at a distance of 6 varas from a Spanish oak bearing south 17° east and 6 varas from another bearing north 23° east ; thence south 51° west 8,315 varas to the east boundary of Abner Kuykendall's half-league to another landmark at a distance of 1 vara from an elm bearing south 15° east and 3 varas from a Spanish oak bearing north 70° west; thence south with Kuykendall's tract; thence south 39° east 2,940 varas to the northern boundary of said Samuel R. Miller's league to another landmark at a distance of 1 vara

#### **Translation - Joseph Harbour Texas Spanish Land Grant 1828 cont.**

#### **Third Stamp: TWO REALES** For the years 1826 and (1) 827. And 8 Williams (Rubric)

From a post oak bearing north 24° east and 8 varas from another bearing south 9° east; and thence north 51° east with Miller's said line 4,531 varas to the place of beginning, comprising a league of pasture land in area, the interested party being advised that he must settle and cultivate it in accordance with the provisions of said law.

Therefore, exercising the authority vested in me by the same law and the consequent instructions, I issue the present instrument and order the testimonio [sic] taken from it and delivered to the interested party so that he may possess and enjoy the tract, he, his children, heirs and successors, or whoever from him or from them shall have cause or right. Given in the Town of (San Felipe de) Austin on the 11th of December, 1828.

Gaspar Flores

(Rubric)

Assisting (witness) Samuel M. Williams

Assisting (witness) C. C. Given

(Rubric)

Source: Texas General Land Office

The testimonio [sic] was delivered.

(Rubric)

#### English Field Notes: Joseph Harbour Texas Spanish Land Grant

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FRONT: Page 160 Source: Texas General Land Office http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grantsearch/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm

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BACK: Page 161 Source: Texas General Land Office http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grantsearch/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm

#### **English Field Notes cont.:**

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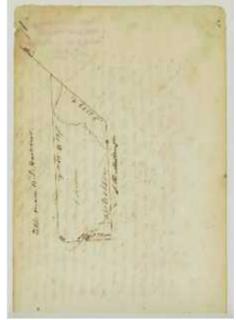


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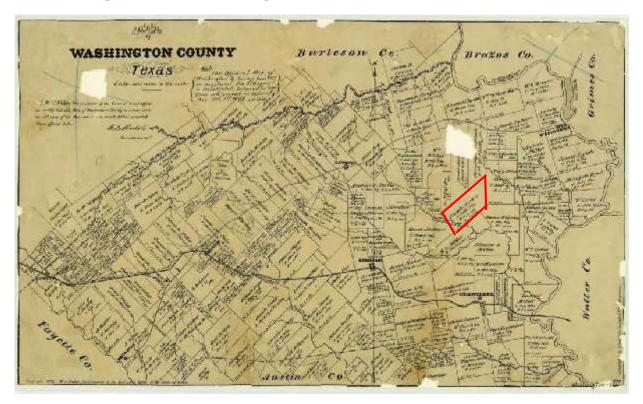
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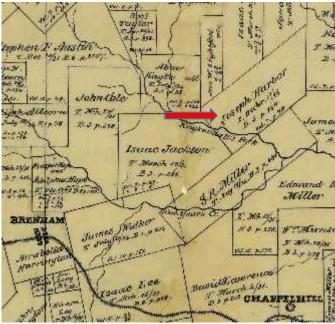
BACK: Page 11 Source: Texas General Land Office <u>http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-</u> search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm

#### Washington County, Texas 1879 Map

Location of Joseph Harbour - 1828 Texas Spanish Land Grant



Source: Map of Washington County, Texas, Map, 1879; (<u>http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth89048/</u>: Accessed July 02, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <u>http://texashistory.unt.edu</u> Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.



#### Detail

Source: Map of Washington County, Texas, Map, 1879; (http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth89048/ :accessed July 02, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, http://texashistory.unt.edu Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas. <sup>1</sup> Joseph Harbour was on land and tax records 1806 & 1807 in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

<sup>2</sup> Mary was the daughter of Samuel Stephens b. Jun 1758 in Carlisle, Cumberland County, PA and Mary Unknown

- <sup>4</sup> Joseph Harbour was on land and tax records 1806 & 1807 in Lincoln County, Kentucky.
- <sup>5</sup> Joseph was in Moses Austin's 2nd Colony to Texas and lived in New Year's Creek, Washington County,
- Texas, USA.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

- <sup>7</sup> When Austin's first colony arrived, it was on New Year's that they camped over-night before moving on. They named the creek New Year's Creek. The site became the site of Austin's 2nd colony.
- <sup>8</sup> Many Greenwoods who were also in Austin's 2nd colony lived in Grimes County, just across the Brazos River.
- <sup>9</sup> Mary "Polly" Stephens: a citizen, the wife of a colonist, and mother resided in New Year's Creek, Washington, County, Texas, USA

<sup>10</sup> http://www.earlytexasfamilies.com/cemeteries/cemetery.html

<sup>11</sup> Ibid



Vintage Valentine from the private collection of Jill Lewis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Samuel Stephens was the son of William Stephens b. est. 1707-1736, d. est. 1761-1821, m. est. 1733-1776, to Mary Unknown

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Relationship to this family qualifies for DRT, SRT, DAR and SAR

## Jabez Corbin, the Massachusetts Land Bank of 1740, and "uncertain geographical knowledge"

### By AGS Member Nancy R. Stevens

Woodstock, Connecticut, was originally located in Massachusetts, a result of what has been described as "uncertain geographical knowledge and disagreement over the line between Massachusetts and Connecticut colonies."<sup>1</sup> The town was initially in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, but was part of the area that later became Worcester County, Massachusetts. The boundary between Massachusetts and Connecticut was straightened in 1749 and Woodstock became part of Windham County, Connecticut.

Jabez and Hannah (Peake) Corbin were in the first generation of white children born in Woodstock, their parents being among the families that settled the town in 1686. Town officers were chosen and in 1690 a minister hired, so record keeping could begin in earnest. When Reverend Josiah Dwight was dismissed in 1726, he refused to give up the church records to his successor. Judge John Chandler used the same strategy a decade later in refusing to hand over the town books to the new town clerk.<sup>2</sup> In both cases, the records survived although the disputes might have contributed to some gaps. It is in records related to land, however, that much of the story of Jabez Corbin's life is told.

Jabez Corbin became a landowner in 1719 when his father deeded him two parcels of land for "the parental love, good will and affection which I have and do bare [sic] unto my well beloved son . . . as well as in consideration of his advancement and settlement in the world."<sup>3</sup> The land was located outside Woodstock in an area known at the time as "the wild land,"<sup>4</sup> which may explain why Jabez did not move from Woodstock immediately. Jabez and Hannah moved to the land in 1722 or 1723 but returned to Woodstock in 1726. <sup>5,6</sup> On earlier deeds, Jabez gave his occupation as "husbandman," a term used for farmers. In a 1740 deed, Jabez gave his occupation as "weaver,"<sup>7</sup> a family trade he may have taken over when he returned to Woodstock or when his father died in 1736.<sup>8</sup>

Hannah died in 1740<sup>9</sup> leaving Jabez a forty-three year old widower with eight children ranging in age from six to eighteen. There is no record that he remarried. In fact there is no mention of Jabez Corbin after this date in the Woodstock town records, church records, or deed books. For the next twenty-five years, however, his name appears in records related to the Massachusetts Land Bank of 1740.

Although not officially sanctioned by the crown, public land banks had been operating in the colonies for fifty years. The land banks printed currency that land owners could borrow by mortgaging property as security. Gold and silver were rare in the colonies and land bank notes provided an alternative to bartering, earning the acceptance of merchants. Interest collected on loans from public land banks was used to offset local taxes, increasing popularity with the public.<sup>10</sup>

The Massachusetts Land Bank of 1740 was a private enterprise and the governor moved quickly to close it down and recall the bank notes. By November 1740, his proclamations included the threat of sanctions against those who continued to pass the bank notes – militia officers could lose their commissions, office holders could lose their appointments, and retailers could be refused licenses.<sup>11</sup> Jabez was a resident of the town center of Woodstock, a tradesman, and land owner. He may have had no interest in town affairs, but it is possible that his involvement in the land bank prohibited him from taking a more active role in the town after 1740.

As expenses began to mount, fees were levied on the borrowers to cover the cost of closing the land bank. Beginning in 1744, Jabez Corbin's name appeared on lists published in Boston newspapers of borrowers who were delinquent in paying the fees.<sup>12,13</sup> In 1751, a distress warrant was issued authorizing the Worcester County, Massachusetts, sheriff to seize Jabez Corbin's property for sale to pay the delinquent fees or jail him until the fees were paid.<sup>14</sup> The sheriff reported back that Jabez Corbin lived in Woodstock and did not own any land that could be seized – by this time the boundary

between Massachusetts and Connecticut had been redrawn and all of his land was now located in the Connecticut colony.<sup>15</sup>



Connecticut/Massachusetts Boundary. The 1740 boundary line between Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies is sketched in pink, overlaying the current state boundary line. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Connecticut State/County Subdivision Outline Map: <u>http://www.census.gov/</u> The Boundary Disputes of Connecticut by Clarence Winthrop Bowen (1882) <u>https://archive.org/details/boundarydisputes00bowe</u>

His name continued to appear on lists of delinquents for at least another twelve years but through an accident of geography Jabez Corbin did not lose property or spend time in jail. After his death in 1770, his children divided his land, which included all the land he had acquired before his involvement with the land bank.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Genealogical Summary**

Jabez Corbin, son of Jabez and Mary (Morse) Corbin, was born on 4 January 1696/97 in Woodstock<sup>17</sup> and died by 1 November 1770, when his children executed deeds to divide the property they inherited.<sup>18</sup> Jabez married Hannah Peake (intention filed 15 October 1720 in Woodstock).<sup>19</sup> Hannah, daughter of Jonathan and Hannah (Leavins) Peake, was born on 14 November 1693 in Woodstock<sup>20,21</sup> and died on 18 October 1740 in Woodstock.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Children From This Marriage Were:**

- Abijah Corbin was born on 8 February 1721/22 in Woodstock and died on 16 October 1808 in Woodstock. Abijah married Abigail Wright on 20 April 1749 in Woodstock.<sup>23</sup> Abigail, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Chandler) Wright, was born on 15 February 1727/28 in Woodstock<sup>24,25</sup> and died on 25 July 1803 in Woodstock.<sup>26</sup>
- ii. Jonathan Corbin was born on 26 October 1723 outside Woodstock at Quenibaug<sup>27</sup> and probably died before November 1770 as he does not share in the distribution of property after his father's death.<sup>28</sup>
- iii. Jabez Corbin was born on 21 March 1724/25 at Quenibaug<sup>29</sup> and died by 28 June 1774 when he is described in a deed as deceased.<sup>30</sup> Jabez married Sarah Abbott on 27 December 1758 in Woodstock.<sup>31</sup> Sarah, daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Chandler) Abbott, was born on 5 May 1728 in Woodstock.<sup>32,33</sup> Before their marriage, Jabez fought in the French and Indian War.<sup>34</sup> Sarah remarried six years after Jabez died when her children were almost grown.<sup>35</sup> The day of their marriage, Sarah and her second husband William Chapman signed a contract describing her dower rights if he died first and inheritance rights of her children if she died first.<sup>36</sup>
- iv. Hannah Corbin was born on 13 September 1726 in Woodstock<sup>37,38</sup> and died after 16 May 1784 when she is named in probate records following her husband's death.<sup>39</sup> Hannah married Benjamin Coburn 25 September 1746 in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>40</sup> Benjamin, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Conant) Coburn, was baptized 3 May 1724 in Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,<sup>41,42</sup> and died on 21 January 1784 in Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.<sup>43,44</sup> Published genealogies mistakenly report that Benjamin Coburn married a different Hannah Corbin, a first cousin once removed of his wife.<sup>45</sup>
- v. Mary Corbin was born on 7 March 1727/28 in Woodstock<sup>46</sup> and died on 13 June 1803 in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>47</sup> Mary married Jonathan Gould on 31 March 1750 in Woodstock.<sup>48</sup> Jonathan, son of Thomas and Rebecca (Lyon) Gould, was born on 12 May 1724 in Woodstock<sup>49,50</sup> and died on 9 March 1812 in Sturbridge.<sup>51</sup>
- vi. Ezekiel Corbin was born on 12 June 1730 in Woodstock<sup>52</sup> and died after 4 August 1800 when his name appears on the 1800 census.<sup>53</sup> Ezekiel married Dorcas Jewell on 27 December 1758 in Woodstock.<sup>54</sup> Ezekiel and his wife (this may have been Dorcas) moved to Goshen, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, in 1762 as the cooks for a Woodstock neighbor who went there with hired men to start a farm.<sup>55</sup> He is probably the Ezekiel Corbin from Massachusetts who served in the American Revolution.<sup>56</sup>
- vii. Alice Corbin was born on 20 July 1732 in Woodstock.<sup>57</sup> Alice married Sabastian Cabot in 1764 in Killingly, New London County, Connecticut. Sabastian, son of Marston and Mary (Dwight) Cabot, was born on 26 May 1737 in Killingly,<sup>58</sup> and died on 30 June 1797 in Hartland, Windsor County, Vermont.<sup>59</sup>
- viii. Daniel Corbin was born on 25 May 1734 in Woodstock<sup>60</sup> and probably died before November 1770 as he does not share in the distribution of property after his father's death.<sup>61</sup> Daniel fought in the French and Indian War.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, Connecticut: Individual County Chronologies, Suffolk (Mass.); online at publications.newberry.org.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Clarence Winthrop Bowen, *History of Woodstock, Connecticut: Genealogies of Woodstock Families* (1932), 1: 29-33, 80-81, 90.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Killingly, Connecticut, Deed Books, 1: 157, 5: 51; FHL 4,658-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Clarence Winthrop Bowen, *History of Woodstock, Connecticut: Genealogies of Woodstock Families* (1932), 1: 29-33, 80-81, 90.

- <sup>6</sup> Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 42: 39; digital images, FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>7</sup> Killingly, Connecticut, Deed Books, 1: 157, 5: 51; FHL 4,658-9.
- <sup>8</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
  <sup>9</sup> Ibid
- <sup>10</sup> Theodore Thayer, "The Land-Bank System in the American Colonies," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Spring 1953), 145-159; digital images, JSTOR.org.
- <sup>11</sup> Andrew McFarland Davis, "Calendar of the Papers and Records Relating to the Land Bank of 1740," *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts IV* (1910), 7-14, 108; digital images, Archive.org.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

- <sup>13</sup> Boston News Letter, 2 January 1746 Supplement; Boston Evening Post, 6 January 1746 Supplement; Boston Post Boy, 27 February 1749 Supplement; Boston Gazette, 26 March 1764; digital images, Early American Newspapers.
- <sup>14</sup> Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Suffolk Court Files, 68441.
- <sup>15</sup> Andrew McFarland Davis, "Calendar of the Papers and Records Relating to the Land Bank of 1740," *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts IV* (1910), 7-14, 108; digital images, Archive.org.
- <sup>16</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>17</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>18</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>19</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

- <sup>21</sup> Woodstock (Woodstock Hill) First Church, Woodstock, Conn., Vol. 132, pp. 75, 152; *Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920*, digital images, Ancestry.com.
- <sup>22</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

- <sup>25</sup> Woodstock (Woodstock Hill) First Church, Woodstock, Conn., Vol. 132, pp. 75, 152; Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920, digital images, Ancestry.com.
- <sup>26</sup> North Woodstock Congregational Church, Woodstock, Conn., Vol. 133, p. 62; *Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920*, digital images, Ancestry.com.
- <sup>27</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>28</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>29</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>30</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>31</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

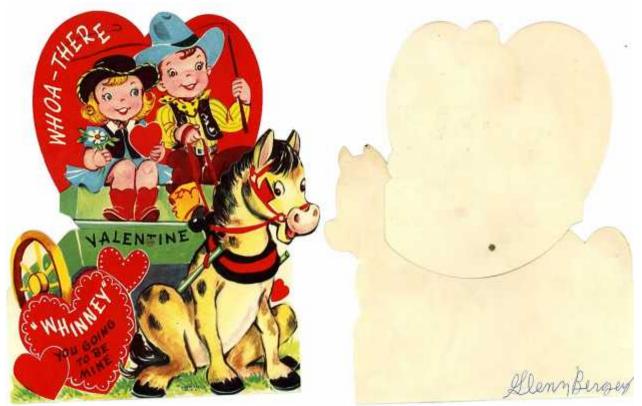
- <sup>33</sup> Woodstock (Woodstock Hill) First Church, Woodstock, Conn., Vol. 132, pp. 75, 152; Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920, digital images, Ancestry.com.
- <sup>34</sup> Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War, 1755-1762 (1903-1905), 1: 37, 128, 129, 242; digital images, books.google.com.
- <sup>35</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>36</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>37</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>38</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>39</sup> Cheshire County, New Hampshire, Probate Estate Files, C39; digital images, FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>40</sup> Vital Records of Dudley, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (1908), 154.
- <sup>41</sup> Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849 (1925), 1: 70; 2: 171.
- <sup>42</sup> Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849 (1906), 2: 28.
- <sup>43</sup> Cheshire County, New Hampshire, Probate Estate Files, C39; digital images, FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>44</sup> George A. Gordon and Silas R. Coburn, *Genealogy of the Descendants of Edward Colburn-Coburn* (1913), 33.
- <sup>45</sup> Harvey M. Lawson, *History and Genealogy of the Descendants of Clement Corbin of Muddy River (Brookline), Mass. and Woodstock, Conn.* (1905), 25, 52.
- <sup>46</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>47</sup> Vital Records of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (1906), 335.
- <sup>48</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

- <sup>50</sup> Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849 (1925), 1: 70; 2: 171.
- <sup>51</sup> Vital Records of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (1906), 335.
- <sup>52</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.

- <sup>53</sup> 1800 U.S. census, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Goshen, p. 890, p. 310 (stamped), line 19.
- <sup>54</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>55</sup> Hiram Barrus, *History of the Town of Goshen, Hampshire County, Massachusetts* (1881), 10.
- <sup>56</sup> Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War (1896-1908), 3: 997.
- <sup>57</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>58</sup> Connecticut Vital Records to 1870 (Barbour Collection), Killingly: 33; digital images, AmericaAncestors.org.
- <sup>59</sup> Harvey M. Lawson, *History and Genealogy of the Descendants of Clement Corbin of Muddy River (Brookline), Mass. and Woodstock, Conn.* (1905), 25, 52.
- <sup>60</sup> Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686-1854 (1914); digital images, AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>61</sup> Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut, Land Records, 4: 124-126, 133-135; 6: 31, 147; FHL 5,956.
- <sup>62</sup> Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War, 1755-1762 (1903-1905), 1: 37, 128, 129, 242; digital images, books.google.com.



Vintage Valentine from the private collection of AGS Member Angela Doetsch

## What does it mean to you to be a Texan?

#### By AGS Member Angela Doetsch

We as Texans hold an affinity for exclaiming to be proud to be a Texan. Nearly everywhere you turn, you can spot Texas-pride merchandise, from license plates to T-shirts worn like badges of honor. You will find it doesn't matter much if you are native born, or if you moved here during your youth or later in life. You may have ancestors who were among the first pioneers of the state, or you may be the first in your family to have come here. You will find people across this great state proud when they say that they are indeed Texans.

In January of this year, I received three very special Texas pioneer certificates from the Williamson County Genealogical Society. I had to prove with supporting documents that my ancestors resided in Williamson County, Texas, pre-1880. I received a certificate for myself, my mother, and her mother. It was overwhelming to hold these certificates that proved three generations of Texas lineage. I held my head high in deep pride and love for this state on that day. The next day I was asked by a co-worker when I paraded around the office, certificate in hand like it was "show-n-tell day" at school, why I was so excited about these pieces of paper. This prompted me to ask myself the question; what did it truly mean to <u>me</u> to be a Texan?

I was born and raised in Austin, Texas, as was my mother before me; you heard it right, a native Austinite! Often when I meet new people and they ask where I am from, there is usually a gasp followed by a comment such as "I have never met one of you before," and for a moment it seems like I am one of the mythical elusive unicorns from the fairy tales of my youth. I smile and usually chuckle a bit as I proclaim with great pride that yes we exist and my family has been here for a long time. My grandmother was born in Georgetown in nearby Williamson County, but she had moved to Austin by the time she was in her early 20s.



Williamson County Genealogical Society Pioneer Family Certificate Photo courtesy of AGS Member Angela Doetsch

My Texas roots can be traced back to my 3rd great grandparents on my maternal line.

I am among the proud when I say I am a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Texan!

In completing my research for the pioneer certificates, I learned of the great hardships my ancestors faced as pioneers of this land. I imagined what it must have been like for them to have come to the vast unknown wilderness of Texas in the mid-1800s. Texas, with its never-ending horizon and stars that were indeed very "big and bright."<sup>1</sup> Life in Texas was hard. My ancestors came to this land bringing their entire families in covered wagons across unchartered territory with the hopes and dreams of freedom and prosperity. They lived in true pioneer country in many counties over many years and worked the land to make it their own. They cultivated crops, built their own houses, made their own clothes, raised cattle, and most importantly, they raised their children to follow in the same hardworking footsteps in order to flourish. My ancestors survived raids by the Comanche Indians in Page 25

the deep of night, and fought for their land during the Civil War in the 1860s. Some fought and died for their rights, their bodies never to return to the very soil they had believed so deeply in. Women were left widowed and with many mouths to feed. They fought just as their husbands had before them to keep their families together, no matter the costs. They believed in the Texas land and did whatever it took to survive. They held their heads high. So what does it mean to me to be a Texan? It means the people of my past worked hard to stay here. They suffered through heat and droughts, disease and war, but they believed in this great State, and so do I. Maybe Texas is just in my blood.



David Crockett by John Gadsby Chapman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File: Davy\_Crockett\_by\_John\_Gadsby\_Chap man.jpg

declaring the State of Texas free and independent.<sup>6</sup> They gave up their lives to fight for this freedom. I recently traveled to Washington-onthe-Brazos State Park, the birthplace of Texas, just to stand on the same land as those who fought for our Independence 180 years ago. I almost felt more Texan just being there. I was reading a biography of David "Davy" Crockett in anticipation of the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas Independence Day, and also wondered what this great state must have meant to him. He, like many of my ancestors, had grown up in Tennessee and by 1835 had come to Texas to start anew and to seek out a new way of life.<sup>2</sup> By 1836, Crockett had taken part in the Texas Revolution and was subsequently killed defending the Alamo and Texas.<sup>3</sup> He died to protect this land and the "lives, liberty, and property of the people" who lived here.<sup>4</sup>

Crockett is now known across the world as one of the greatest Texians<sup>5</sup> in history.

On 2 Mar 1836, the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed by 59 settlers and pioneers to this state. The Declaration set forth in creating the Republic of Texas,



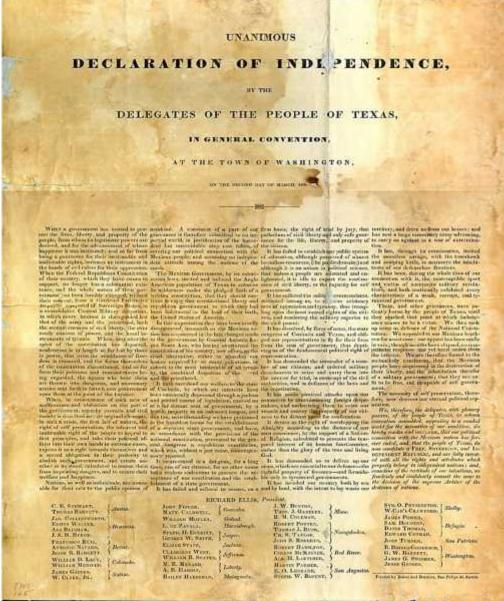
Replica of the cabin where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park. Standing in front of the building is a Texas Historical Commission monument dedicated to the signing.

Photo courtesy of AGS Member Angela Doetsch

<sup>1</sup> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep\_in\_the\_Heart\_of\_Texas</u>. Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization

<sup>2</sup> Derr, Mark (1983). The Frontiersman: The Real Life and the Many Legends of Davy Crockett. New York, NY: William Morrow. <u>ISBN 978-0-688-13798-4</u>.

- <sup>4</sup> Ralph W. Steen, "TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE," Handbook of Texas Online (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mjtce), accessed February 09, 2016. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on February 3, 2015. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
- <sup>5</sup> The term Texian is generally used to apply to a citizen of the Anglo-American section of the province of Coahuila and Texas or of the Republic of Texas. Herbert Fletcher, "TEXIAN," Handbook of Texas Online (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pft05), accessed February 09, 2016. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
- <sup>6</sup> Ralph W. Steen, "TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE," Handbook of Texas Online (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mjtce), accessed February 09, 2016. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on February 3, 2015. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.



Texas Declaration of Independence, March 2, 1836 (Item 1909/001-344), Lamar Papers. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission. (See <u>https://www.tsl.texas.gov/declaration-independence.html</u>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid

## Lewis Warren Vaughn (1830-1907)

#### By AGS Member Earle F. McBride

Lewis Warren Vaughn was one of seven children of Lorin Vaughn and Emily Burch. Census data for his date of birth (DOB) and place of birth (POB) vary greatly, perhaps because he was uncertain about his age. In addition, the 1870 census indicates that he could not read or write.<sup>1</sup> Donald Patten's family tree says he was born in Genesee County, New York, on 7 June 1830<sup>2</sup>, although census records also list Ohio as his birth place. His DOB, based on his stated age in census records, ranges from 1808 to 1832.

In 1840, Lewis lived with his parents and five siblings in Batavia Township, Genesee County, New York. He was between five and ten years old then.<sup>3</sup> Ten years later at age 18, he was a farm laborer, probably for his father, and also attended school. The family had relocated to Otsego Township in Steuben County, Indiana.<sup>4</sup>

Lewis first married Clarissa Way in about 1857.<sup>5</sup> She may have been the Clarissa Way who was born around 1842 in Michigan and lived in Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan, in 1850<sup>6</sup> and 1860<sup>7</sup>. If so, Clarissa's farming parents were William and Orsilia, both born in New York, and were parents of at least eight children. If Lewis married the Clarissa listed in these census records, she married around age 15. In any case, Clarissa filed for and received a divorce and annulment from Lewis as recorded in the Elkhart, Indiana, Circuit Court on 21 September 1858. The judgment reports that Lewis defaulted by not appearing in court proceedings and was ordered to pay the prosecuting attorney five dollars and to be taxed with costs. The basis for the annulment was not given, but her young age may have been a factor.<sup>8</sup>

In the 1860 census records, both Clarissa and Lewis are listed as single. In 1860, Lewis and his brother, Walter, both carpenters, lived with the family of Cory Benedict in Otsego Township, Indiana, near the family of his other brother, Fred, and the family of Chester Burch.<sup>9</sup> The brothers both listed personal assets of \$40.

Lewis next married Mary Elizabeth Wilkes on 23 December 1863 in Branch County, Michigan.<sup>10</sup>

#### Marriage record transcription:

"Lewis W. Vaughn and Elizabeth Wilks [sic]

Lewis W. Vaughn aged 30 of Steuben County, Indiana, and Elizabeth Wilks [sic] aged 21 of St. Jo.[St. Joseph] County, Michigan, were joined in bands of Holy Matrimony this 23rd day of December A.D. 1863, by me in the Township of Bronson.

Witnesses: Oliver Burch and Sarah Burch of Bronson

N. Canfield, Justice of the Peace

Filed and recorded May 25, 1864, Henry N. Lawrence, Clerk"<sup>11</sup>

Elizabeth Wilkes' DOB is nearly as uncertain as that of her husband- it varies in census records between 1841 and October 1846 in Ohio. By 1870, Lewis and Elizabeth had three children (Alvaretta, Lorin, and Mary) and their own home in Steuben County. Lewis still worked as a carpenter and had \$200 in personal funds. Neither Lewis nor his wife could read or write.<sup>12</sup>

By the 1880 census, the family had moved a short distance from Steuben County to the hamlet of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan, where Lewis continued his work as a carpenter. Daughter Cynthia had joined the family in addition to Elizabeth's mother, Mary, age 68 and born in New York and who also was unable to read or write.

In 1900, the family was still in Bloomingdale Village. Lewis, then 71, had given up his carpenter's trade and worked as a janitor, although he had been unemployed three months during the year. The 1900 census shows he was born in June 1827, but this doesn't agree with his stated age of 71. Elizabeth reported she was the mother of four children, all alive, and had been married 35 years. She still could not read or write. Fortunately for her illiterate parents, daughter Cynthia, age 25, was a school teacher who was literate and lived with her parents. Cynthia had been unemployed three months of the year, presumably during summer vacation. Lewis's three months' unemployment matches that of his daughter and suggests that he was the janitor for the school at which Cynthia taught. Daughter Elvaretta, then the wife of butcher Frank Lackey and the mother of three children, lived nearby in Bloomingdale.<sup>13</sup>

Lewis died at age 77 on 6 January 1907 in Bloomingdale. He died from chronic bronchitis of one year with complications of angina pectoris. Daughter Cynthia was the informant for his death certificate. Lewis was buried in Roseline/Naseline Cemetery in Bloomingdale.<sup>14</sup>

Elizabeth survived Lewis by 15 years. Elizabeth and her daughter Cynthia remained in Bloomingdale, where Cynthia worked as a public school teacher. The 1910 census still listed Elizabeth by her first name (Mary); she owned her home free of a mortgage, and had three of four children surviving (daughter Mary had died in 1901.)<sup>15</sup> Elizabeth's age is given as 78 in the 1920 census; she was born in Ohio and able to read and write. Probably Cynthia taught her mother these skills - she still worked as a public school teacher in Bloomingdale.<sup>16</sup>

Eleven days after the death of Lewis, Elizabeth applied for a widow's pension as the survivor of a Civil War veteran. Below is a synopsis of more than 110 documents in his pension file:

Company E, 42<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Volunteers; enlisted 16 September 1861; discharged 16 September 1864, private. After discharge, he lived from 1864 to 1867 in Bronson, Michigan; from 1867 to 1875 in Angola, Indiana; and from 1875 to at least 1881 in Bloomingdale, Michigan.

Lewis was a healthy carpenter before he enlisted at Chicago, Illinois, in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Volunteers on 16 September 1861. He was assigned to Company E. Why he enlisted in an Illinois regiment is a puzzle, except that Chicago was the nearest large city to his home. He received a bounty of \$100 in July 1861 and another bounty of \$100 on July 1866 for enlisting.

Lewis suffered serious health problems during his first year in the army. His recollections of the dates of his health problems and the nature of specific ones of them differ over time. Also, the severity of his problems waxed and waned in intensity over time, which seemed to confuse the Bureau of Pensions. The general story is given below:

In March 1862, he developed "sore eyes," a problem severe enough that he was given the light duty of cook. Probably smoke from cooking fires worsened his condition. One affidavit of his cites Courtland, Alabama, as the place he developed eye disease. Soon after, near Island No. 10 (in Kentucky,) while still serving as a cook on a forced march from Missouri to Kentucky, he contracted rheumatism. Lewis attributed his rheumatism (arthritis) to be the result of lying on wet ground in the rain and snow. Statements of army doctors and Lewis later mention spotted fever and rheumatic fever as the cause of his eye problem and rheumatism. In May 1962 at Corinth, Mississippi, he was overcome by heat and was carried off the battlefield. In June 1862, while under forced march from Mississippi to near Nashville, Tennessee, he contracted diarrhea and piles and was treated by Dr. Harrison in the Hospital #7 in Nashville for about 6 weeks, and then by Dr. Meyers for pleuritis aka pleurisy (inflammation of the lining of the lungs.)<sup>17</sup> Lewis was considered unfit for service at the front, so was first given assignment as a nurse in the hospital in Nashville for several months and then was assigned to general detail on the gunboat *News Boy* near Clarksville, Tennessee.

Following his discharge in 1864, Lewis suffered chiefly from inflamed eyes, although he had episodes of piles, diarrhea and rheumatism. With time, all his conditions worsened and he eventually lost the sight of his left eye and the vision in his good eye deteriorated severely. He worked part time at various unspecified manual labor jobs, partly as a carpenter, his original trade, and finally as a janitor. In later years, his diarrhea was a serious problem. His wife, Elizabeth, told of the impossibility of keeping his bed clean and of the need to burn his bedclothes at times.

On 10 June 1876, Lewis applied for the first time for an Invalid Pension. He submitted a simple statement that he lost his left eye from chronic inflammation that incurred at Corinth, Mississippi, and was treated in the Nashville Hospital. He erred in not mentioning his other ailments. Documents between 1876 and 1880 are missing from the file, but he may have been approved for a pension by 1881. Whatever the date of his first pension award, it was \$4/month retroactive to his discharge in 1864. Typical of all Civil War vets who applied for pensions, once he was approved for one, he began to apply frequently for increases in the stipend owing to worsening health. Thus began the barrage of requests from the Bureau of Pensions (B of P) for documentation of his war-related illnesses from his army doctors, his army comrades, neighbors, relatives, and friends. He had to furnish documentation of his divorce from his first wife and of his second marriage. He had numerous medical exams from local doctors and travelled to cities where he could be examined by special medical boards working for the B of P. Army records were notoriously incomplete, and they did not indicate why Lewis had been hospitalized. Most of the army surgeons who treated him were unknown to Lewis or had died. One doctor reported that his files were all lost in the great Chicago fire of 1871. He and others were asked about a soldier they had treated 40 years previous! Nearly all doctors who examined him for his pension claims indicated that he was handicapped because of his poor vision.

Because Lewis had little success with the B of P, in 1885 he hired Joseph P. Lemon, a Washington, D.C. attorney, to represent him in transactions with the B of P. Mr. Lemon advertised nationally and was one of many such "pension agents" that offered their services to Civil War vets. Some worked diligently for their customers, but others were charlatans. Mr. Lemon didn't help, because Lewis didn't get an increase in pension until 1890.

#### This was Lewis's pension schedule:

- 17 Sep 1864: Pension of \$4/month (retroactive to this date)
- 7 Feb 1881: Pension of \$6/month
- 3 Apr 1884: Pension of \$10/month
- 18 Feb 1885: Pension of \$14/month
- 17 Dec 1890: Pension of \$17/month

Lewis died in January 1907 and Elizabeth immediately submitted a request for Lewis's final pension payments (he was paid quarterly) and also a request for a widow's pension for herself. She was denied the latter because Lewis died of bronchitis, which was not a war-related illness. She appealed over time on the basis that she had no means of support and no assets and lived on charity. She hired Joseph Banks, a local attorney, to represent her with the B of P. Following a fall, which left her with limited use of her hand, her daughter Cynthia had to care for her for three years. It wasn't until 1916, when she received a pension of \$20/month owing to a change in the federal law, which provided such for living widows of pensioned soldiers whose age was over the age of 75. She survived another five years, but on 28 February 1922, she suffered a stroke that required care by both her daughters, Cynthia Vaughn and Elva Lackey. Elizabeth died a month later on 11 March 1922 in Bloomingdale, probably following a second stroke as described by her physician, John W. Hawkey. There is no indication the death occurred any place but Bloomingdale, Michigan. A notarized statement by Emerson Spayde and

Paul Harrison, who knew Elizabeth for 30 years, indicated that she had no property.<sup>18</sup>

Cynthia applied for final expenses for her mother, and after the usual requests from the B of P for numerous documents, was approved for a \$10 cemetery plot, \$2.50 for the final doctor's fee, \$45 for a burial vault, and \$6 for the sexton's fee. The exchange of letters with the B of P often took two months turn-around time, and Elva had to sign a document that Cynthia had sole responsibility to make the final payments.

According to D.W. Kapell, Elizabeth died 8 March 1922 in sunny Florida at the approximate age of 81.<sup>19</sup> Whether she had moved there or was visiting is unknown, but daughter Cynthia stayed in Michigan, although she moved to Kalamazoo by 1930.<sup>20</sup> The Florida Dept. of Health, however, cannot find a death record for Elizabeth

<sup>8</sup> Elkhart Circuit Court document, Elkhart, Indiana; signed 20 Sept. 1858; transcribed 5 March 1907 and copy is in CW pension file of Lewis Vaughn.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1870 census: Otsego Township, Steuben County, Indiana; dwelling 258; family 253; 16 August; Hamilton Post Office; page not listed; lines 11-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ancestry: http://trees.ancestry.com/pt/person.aspx?pid=-2021873391&tid=977934

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1840 census: Batavia Township, Genesee County, New York; roll 287; page 522, sheet 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 1850 census: Otsego Township, Steuben County, Indiana; Enoch Davis = dwelling 22; family 822; 16 Oct.; page 178; lines 27-36; Loren Vaughn = dwelling 21; family 821; lines 19-26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> DW Kapell@comcast.net on AncestryFamilyTrees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 1850 census: Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan; dwelling 67; family 68; 14 August; page 376-377; lines 38-42; 1-3.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 1860 census: Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan; dwelling 1107; family 212; 26 July; page 145; lines 21-30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 1860 census: Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan; dwelling 1107; family 212; 26 July; page 145; lines 21-30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ancestry citation: Michigan Marriages, 1851-75; Dodd, Jordan, Liahona Research, compilers, 2000, Provo, UT. http://trees.ancestry.com/pt/ViewSource.aspx?tid=977934&pid=-2021872853&sid=-2021872852&eid=-1592387729&se=1&aid=-1592387729&cid=-2010479099&pg=0,38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Transcription of the marriage record of Lewis W. Vaughn and Elizabeth Wilks [sic]; 23 December 1863 in Bronson Township; filed and recorded 25 May 1864.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 1870 census: Otsego Township, Steuben County, Indiana; dwelling 258; family 253; 16 August; Hamilton Post Office; page not listed; lines 11-15.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 1900 census: Mill Road or by a mill; Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan; dwelling 57; family 58; 7 June; SD
 4; ED 134; sheet 4A; lines 14-18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Death Certificate for Lewis Warren Vaughn (1830-1907): Michigan Division of Vital Statistics, Van Buren County, #727.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 1860 census: Fred Vaughn; dwelling 168; family 172; 12 June 1860; Angola Post Office; page 24, lines 7-9; Walter and Lewis = dwelling 171; family 176; lines 22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 1920 census: Bloomingdale Village, Van Buren County, Michigan; dwelling and family 138; SD 4; ED 181; sheet 5A; lines 48-49.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Pleurisy, also known as pleuritis, is an inflammation of the pleura, or the lining of the lungs. http://www.pleuritis.net/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Civil War pension file for Lewis W. Vaughn and Elizabeth Vaughn: #626519; Box 539; extraction 93; record 1178; NARA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> DW Kapell@comcast.net on AncestryFamilyTrees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 1930 census: Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan; West Dutton Street; dwelling 282; family 377; 16 April; SD 16; ED 27; sheet 28A (165), line 42.

## **On the Road**

### A Spotlight on Texas Historical Markers By AGS Member Angela Doetsch

Chances are you more than likely pass by a Texas Historical Marker everyday living in Austin, Texas. They can be found on houses and churches, in cemeteries and schoolyards, and line our county roads and highways. There are 853 markers in Travis County with over 458 of those markers inside of the Austin city limits.<sup>1</sup> How often do you see them and wonder what is on the marker but just don't have the time to stop and look? We are here to help.

Texas Historical Markers can not only be great sources of historical information, they can also lend you clues about your genealogy. A few years ago, I took a road trip to North Texas to research some of my Lackey ancestors on my maternal line. From various sources, I knew that Henry Lackey had settled on land in what is now Grayson County, right outside of Sherman, Texas, in 1849. Sherman is located 60 miles north of Dallas and about 20 miles south of the Red River at the Oklahoma state line.<sup>2</sup> Henry Lackey and family were pioneers of this area and named the settlement Whitemound. Legend has it they named the town after the two conical white mounds that lined the horizon.<sup>3</sup> There they built a gristmill and a blacksmith shop and soon more families moved into the area. The town of



Whitemound flourished for some years until 1887 when the railroad bypassed the community.<sup>4</sup> "Whitemound quickly became a ghost town."<sup>5</sup> All that is left of Whitemound today is the Whitemound Cemetery and a Texas Historical Marker on the location where the town once stood. I was able to find the marker on an all-butabandoned county road. The marker gives a biography of the town and its people, including my ancestor, Henry Lackey. He is now a part of history. I was grateful it was there.

Whitemound Historical Marker Photo courtesy of AGS member Angela Doetsch

The monument marker inscription reads:

"Named for two white mounds of rock nearby. Settled 1849 by Henry Lackey and his 9 children from Missouri. Town grew up around A.S. Lackey grist mill. It had a post office, churches, businesses, several doctors, and Bosworth Academy. Most residents moved away after Cotton Belt Railroad bypassed this site in 1888. (1968)"

State historical markers have been placed across Texas as part of a preservation project maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC.) Since the program's inception in 1962, markers can now be found in all 254 Texas counties and total an impressive 3678!<sup>6</sup>

Texas State Historical Markers "commemorate diverse topics, including: the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations, and military sites; events that changed the course of local and state history; and individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations, and businesses."<sup>7</sup>

This quarterly issue, we will be focusing on historical markers that coincide with historical events and figures impacting Texas history during the months of January, February, and March.

### JANUARY

#### Governor James Edward Ferguson and Governor Miriam A. Ferguson - 1977

On 20 Jan 1925, Texas swore in its first female governor. Miriam Amanda "Ma" Ferguson was born on 13 Jun 1875 to Joseph and Eliza (*nee* Garrison) Wallace in Bell County, Texas.<sup>8</sup>

#### Where is it?

The Texas Historical Commission Marker is located at 1000 Congress Avenue at the SW corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas. It is one of many situated on the original site of the Texas Capitol from the 1880s.

#### The monument marker inscription reads:

"Governor James Edward Ferguson (August 31, 1871 - September 21, 1944) Governor Miriam A. Ferguson (June 13, 1875 - June 25, 1961)



Miriam Amanda Wallace Ferguson (1875-1961), American Politician Bain News Service, publisher - This image is available from the United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID ggbain.19646.

"James Ferguson, son of a Methodist preacher, and Miriam Wallace, daughter of a wealthy farmer, were Bell



Governor James Edward Ferguson and Governor Miriam A. Ferguson Historical Marker Photo courtesy of AGS member Angela Doetsch

County natives. They married in 1899 and later settled with their two daughters in Temple. James, running as 'Farmer Jim', [sic] won the governorship in 1914. His first term saw improvement of rural schools and the prison system, and relief for tenant farmers. In 1917, he began a second term, but within months he was impeached on charges that included mishandling of state funds; convicted by a special session of the 35th Legislature; and removed from office. In 1924 the Texas Supreme Court upheld a law barring him from state office, so Miriam ran for governor in his place.

"Called 'Ma' by the press, Miriam campaigned under the slogan 'Two Governors for the Price of One'. [sic] She beat the Ku Klux Klan candidate and in her first term (1925-27) supported an anti-mask bill that broke Klan power. Critics attacked her liberal pardoning policy. She defeated Gov. Ross S. Sterling to win her second term (1933-35), [sic] in the midst of the Depression. After losing the 1940 Democratic Primary, the Fergusons retired from long and colorful political careers. (1977)"

#### FEBRUARY

#### African Americans in the Texas Revolution

February is nationally recognized as Black History Month. Many might not realize that African Americans chose to stand and fight for Texas during the Texas Revolution. "The Texas Revolution began with the Battle of Gonzales in October 1835 and ended with the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836."<sup>9</sup> Many African Americans lived free under Mexican law, but chose to fight with the Texians<sup>10</sup> against the state of Mexico in the Texas Revolution. Some think they chose to fight on the side of the Anglo-Americans in hopes of securing their status as freemen should they win against Mexico.<sup>11</sup> Samuel McCulloch, Jr. was one of these men. McCulloch fought in the battles of Goliad and San Jacinto.<sup>12</sup> The majority of Anglo lawmakers and military, however, were in favor of slavery. Whatever hopes of freedom these men may have had were dashed by the Republic of Texas in the Declaration of Independence and they would have to wait 30 more years for their freedom.



African Americans in the Texas Revolution Photo courtesy of AGS member Angela Doetsch

#### Where is it?

The Texas Historical Commission Marker is located at 1000 Congress Avenue at the SW corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas. It is one of many situated on the original site of the Texas Capitol from the 1880s.

#### The monument marker inscription reads:

"Many African Americans, free and slave, supported Texas during its 1835-36 war of Independence from Mexico. Although official recognition of the African American role was generally denied, recorded accounts of individual acts of bravery and patriotism survived.

"Hendrick Arnold distinguished himself as a guide and soldier for Ben Milam's Texas Army at the siege of Bexar and later at the Battle of San Jacinto.

"William E. (Bill) Goyens, a prominent African American businessman of Nacogdoches, served as an interpreter and liaison for Sam Houston during the treaty negotiations with the Cherokee Indians at the outset of the war.

"Samuel McCullough, [sic] Jr., a freeman, was severely wounded in the Goliad campaign in late 1835 and later recognized by the Texas Congress as among the first to shed blood in the Texas war for Independence.

"Joe Travis was among the few defenders of the Alamo to survive the devastating siege by Mexican General Santa Anna in 1836. Travis later carried news of the battle to General Sam Houston.

"African Americans are counted among the Texas Army massacred at Goliad, among those who contributed money and transported supplies for the Texas Army, and among those who died defending the Alamo. (1994)"

#### MARCH Washington-on-the-Brazos and the Texas Declaration of Independence

The Texas Declaration of Independence was drafted at The Convention of 1836 by the provisional government headed up by commander-in-chief of the military, Sam Houston.<sup>13</sup> On 2 Mar 1836, 59 delegates met in a small unfinished building at Washington-on-the-Brazos to sign the declaration.<sup>14</sup>

#### Where are they?

Both markers are located inside of the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park in Washington County, Washington, Texas, on Park Road 12. The state park is approximately two hours from Austin, Texas.

The Texas Declaration of Independence inscription reads

[FRONT]

"Here a nation was born

[RIGHT SIDE]

"On this spot was made the Declaration of Texas Independence March 2, 1836

### [BACK]

"The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation

### [LEFT SIDE]

"Erected by the schoolchildren of Washington Co, Texas July 4, 1899"

The Washington-on-the-Brazos marker reads



Washington-on-the-Brazos Historical Marker Photo courtesy of AGS member Angela Doetsch

"This village – site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first

capital of the Republic of Texas – began in 1822 as a ferry crossing. Here the historic La Bahia road (now Ferry Street) spanned the Brazos River.

"In 1834 a townsite was laid out and named, probably for Washington, Georgia, home of a leading settler.

"In 1835, as political differences with Mexico led toward war, the General Council (the insurgent Texas Government) met in the town. Enterprising citizens then promoted the place as a site for the Convention of 1836 and, as a 'bonus,' provided a free meeting hall. Thus Texas' Declaration of Independence came to be signed in a [sic] unfinished building owned by a gunsmith.

"The provisional Government of the Republic was also organized in Washington, but was removed, March 17, as news of the advancing Mexican Army caused a general panic throughout the region. The townspeople fled too on March 20, 1836, in the Runaway Scrape.



Monument marker at the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence Photo courtesy of AGS member Angela Doetsch

"After the Texan victory at San Jacinto, the town thrived for a period. It was again Capital of Texas, 1842-1845; and became center of Washington State Park, 1916. It now contains historic buildings and 'Barrington,' home of Anson Jones, the last President of Texas. (1969)"

#### Want to know more?

To learn more about becoming a sponsor or to apply for an official Texas Historical Marker for your community, visit the Texas Historical Commission website here:

http://www.thc.state.tx.us/get-involved/training-consulting#markers

#### Know of a Historical Marker you would like to feature in an upcoming quarterly?

Send an email to: <u>quarterly@austintxgensoc.org</u>

- <sup>8</sup> John D. Huddleston, "FERGUSON, MIRIAM AMANDA WALLACE [MA]," Handbook of Texas Online (<u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ffe06</u>), accessed February 10, 2016. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
- <sup>9</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, Eugene C. Barker and James W. Pohl, "Texas Revolution," accessed February 17, 2016, <u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qdt01</u>. Uploaded on August 7, 2010. Modified on December 4, 2015. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>10</sup> The term Texian is generally used to apply to a citizen of the Anglo-American section of the province of Coahuila and Texas or of the Republic of Texas. Herbert Fletcher, "TEXIAN," Handbook of Texas Online (<u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pft05</u>), accessed February 09, 2016. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

14 Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.google.com/maps

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, Brian Hart, "White Mound, TX," accessed February 18, 2016, <u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hrw20</u> Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/state-historical-markers</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, W. Marvin Dulaney, "African Americans," accessed February 17, 2016, <u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pkaan</u>. Uploaded on June 9, 2010. Modified on June 20, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, Nolan Thompson, "McCulloch, Samuel, Jr.," accessed February 17, 2016, <u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmc36</u>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ralph W. Steen, "TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE," Handbook of Texas Online (<u>http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mjtce</u>), accessed February 09, 2016. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on February 3, 2015. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

## **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: <u>http://www.austintxgensoc.org/pioneers/</u> 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 Ochca    | logical Society                                    |
|-----------------|--|
| Travis Co       | unty Texas   |
|                 | lies Certificate                                   |
| is a des        | cendant of<br>Travis County. Texas<br>the close of |
|                 | President  |
| Certificate No. | 4 kC (464C48)                                      |
| Certificate No. | Pioneer Families Chairman                          |

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Vintage Valentine from the private collection of Jill Lewis

## **Austin Genealogical Society General Information**

**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.

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