

AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

2015 Vol. 56 No. 3



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

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Table of Contents

Austin Genealogical Society Officers and Committees	83
2015 AGS Calendar of Events	85
From the Editor	86
Michael Butler.....	87
Great Grandpa, Serendipity and Me.....	102
Travis County Records.....	106
A Tale of Two Crosses.....	109
The Family of Carl August Peterson.....	112
Descendants of Carl August and Louisa Carlson Peterson	115
Index.....	118
Austin Genealogical Society General Information.....	120

Photograph of a crowd gathered to watch a tight rope walker. Caption reads, "Scene on Congress Avenue in 1867, showing exhibition by a tight-rope walker (Devier) across the Avenue from the historic old Avenue Hotel at Eighth and Congress, on East side. The carriage at the left, entering the Avenue, is that of Gov. E. M. Pease (Gov. from 1853-57 and 1867-69)."



Jordan-Ellison. [Tightrope walker John Devier on Congress Avenue], Photograph, 1867; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth125123/> : accessed September 15, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center,

2015 AGS Calendar of Events

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 27

Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research – or this is some Cool Stuff!

Presented by Sue Kaufman from Clayton Library in Houston

February 24

Using Family Search to Solve Genealogical Research Problems - Case Study

Presented by Ed Donakey from Family Search

March 24

Research Strategies for Everyone

Presented by Teri Flack

April 28

Digging Up the Bones of Your Home

Presented by Phoebe Allen

(No Regular AGS Meeting in May 2015 due to the May Seminar)

June 23

Finally...A Good Life in Texas

Presented by Joyce Aldridge (as Susanna Dickinson) and Warren Friedrich (as Joseph Hannig)

July 28

Using Perry Castaneda's Library for Genealogy

Presented by Katherine Strickland

August 25

Earning a Living: Your Ancestors at Work

Presented by Pat Gordon

September 22

World War I: One Hundred Years of Records

Presented by Debbie Pearson from Fort Worth Genealogical Society

October 27

Talking to Elders to Record Family History

Presented by Mary Scrudder

November 24

FALL FESTIVAL

Presenter to Be Determined

(No Regular AGS Meeting in December)

From the Editor

Hello Members,

Please enjoy this fall edition of the AGS Quarterly! There are some great articles in this issue, supplied by our members. A consistent theme for this issue is the serendipitous moments we sometimes experience during our research.

You will enjoy reading about Michael Butler and his brick empire, written by Phoebe Allen. Now I know where Butler Pitch and Putt got its name! It's also bittersweet to see the painting of his stunning Victorian mansion, and to realize it has been demolished. I found it gives me a new understanding of our fair city and history.

Great Grandpa, Serendipity and Me is a wonderful contribution from AGS Board member Jim Bridges. I can almost feel the Texas summer heat and the dry grass crunching under my feet as I follow along with Jim, discovering ghost towns and lost cemeteries.

Kay Boyd provided an article outlining some of the collections available at the Portal to Texas history, along with an example of a court document for Perry Grumbles, who was caught gambling at Kino!

Dick Peterson provided a very interesting article about a serendipitous find in a Swedish church attic, while he and several of his family were touring significant locations during a family reunion. I could almost smell the dust and see the dusty light beam of a cell phone flashlight as he described the moment. An associated article follows, about the family of Carl August Peterson and his descendants, and was supplied by Kay Boyd.

After this publication, there is only one more edition of the Quarterly scheduled for the year. The December issue has a deadline of **November 14** for article submissions. Why is this significant? This next edition will be the last chance to enter our 2015 Writing Contest! Be sure and get your stories submitted, as all qualifying articles that appear in a Quarterly during 2015 are automatically entered into the contest.

A complete description of writing contest guidelines are posted on our website:
austintxgensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015_AGS_Writing_Contest_Guidelines.pdf

I look forward to reading your articles!

Thank you to those of you that contributed articles to the September quarterly! Thanks to you, we have another interesting edition with a diverse set of stories. I feel like I know more about Central Texas through the family stories you submit.

Robin Raben

quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

Michael Butler & Butler Brick

Compiled by AGS Member Phoebe Allen, July 2015

The first railroad car arrived in Austin in late December of 1871, opening up an important transportation avenue for construction materials and consequent development. Austin was selected as the official and permanent capital of Texas in 1872, but was still a small town in 1873 when Irishman Michael Butler arrived and began manufacturing “Austin Common” bricks at the foot of East Avenue on the north bank of the Colorado River. An 1875 flood resulted in his move to the south bank of the Colorado River – between Barton Creek and today’s South First Street and between the river and Barton Springs Road – at brickyards that remained in place until 1958.

Between 1870 and 1880, Austin’s population grew from 4,428 to 11,013, and by 1890 to 14,575. The university opened in one wing of the Old Main Building in 1883 and a new state capitol in 1888, both utilizing Michael Butler’s bricks manufactured from the alluvial clay deposited by the Colorado River. The growth and development of Butler Brick and Elgin Butler Brick is the story of brick making in Central Texas and the Southwest from 1873 to the present.

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY OF MICHAEL BUTLER (1842-1909)

Michael Butler, the third of John Butler’s four sons, was born on February 17, 1842, near Limerick City, Ireland. His father owned farms and was a contractor in the construction of public pikes and roads.

In 1866, at the age of 24 and on the heels of the Civil War’s cessation, Michael sailed from Ireland to New York City, where he learned the rudiments of his trade as a bricklayer’s helper. The following year he moved to Tomah, Wisconsin, pursuing his trade as a mason and contracting masonry work. In 1868, Michael traveled to St. Louis with a building contractor for a masonry job and continued with the same contractor to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1869. After completing this work in 1869, he moved to Dallas, Texas, and established his first plant for manufacturing bricks using clay from the banks of the Trinity River.



Portrait of Michael Butler

1869-1873: DALLAS PLANT

Butler’s Dallas plant produced handmade bricks, the clay set in wooden molds using the “soft mud” process. According to Austin architect August Watkins Harris, a lifelong friend of the Butler family, who chronicled the Elgin Butler Brick Company in 1963 for the company’s 90th anniversary:

“Here he installed one of the first devices of its kind seen in Texas, patterned upon the implement used in grinding the coffee-bean and bearing the name ‘Coffee-Mill’ machine, used in forcing the softened mud into the moulds. The product was dried out in the open, the brick being covered with cloth which could be dampened to prevent accelerated shrinkage, as well as providing protection against inclement weather, the finished article being what was known to the trade as ‘sun-dried brick.’ He used

rectangular, up-draft kilns, starting with two, and soon adding two more, each having a capacity of 200,000 units.”¹

The Coffee Mill machine was operated by a mule pulling a wooden shaft in a circle around the machine, forcing the clay into wooden molds.²

At some point, Michael Butler visited the capital city and apparently determined to move there. He invited his younger brother, Patrick Butler, over from Limerick, Ireland, to join him. Patrick³ arrived in 1871 and purchased the Dallas plant in 1873, leaving Michael free to found Butler Brick in Austin a little more than a year after the railroad had arrived.

AUSTIN PLANT #1: 1873-75

Michael Butler established his first brickyard in Austin at the foot of East Avenue (now Interstate Highway-35) on the north shore of the Colorado River. His technique for testing clay to see if it would make good brick was to taste it.⁴ The plant utilized the same type of coffee-mill machine and processes of manufacturing as in Dallas to produce the sun-dried bricks at the site until 1875, when a flood destroyed this first plant site.

“He had several buildings here, including three kilns for drying the brick that could hold about 100,000 each. He also had a machinery house and a barn for the mules that were used to haul the brick wagons.”⁵

1876: AUSTIN PLANT #2



Butler Brickyard at Plant #2

¹ Harris, August Watkins. *The Elgin Butler Brick Company: 1873-1963*. Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. Austin, 1963, page 8, 10.

² Stutzenburg, Tom. “The Elgin-Butler Brick Company: A Term Paper for Texas History.” April 23, 1954. Sources included John, Mike, and Tomas J. Butler.

³ Stutzenburg, page 1. A short time later, Patrick went blind and the Dallas plant was closed.

⁴ Stutzenburg, page 1.

⁵ Stutzenburg, page 2.

In 1876, Butler purchased property for a second plant along the south bank of the Colorado River between the river and Barton Creek Road and from Barton Creek and Robert E. Lee Road on the west to the I&GN (International and Great Northern) Railroad right-of-way (east of Lamar Boulevard) and beyond to South First Street on the east. The clay fields for this location were at today's Butler Golf Park. Brick was delivered by ox cart across the river ford at the foot of Shoal Creek (site of Old Waterloo, the original name for the City of Austin) or over a pontoon bridge at the foot of Brazos Street. A ferry was used during periods of high water.



Butler Clay Field at Plant #2

1878 INTERLUDE: MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

Butler may have become acquainted with his future wife's brothers through services at the first St. Patrick's Catholic Church, built in 1855 at 9th and Brazos, or through the Hibernian Society. Before his death on January 2, 1861, Francis Kelly had engaged in the manufacture of brick by the hand mold process for a while and began contracting in a small way, with his major interest centering in real estate holdings.⁶ (Although it is interesting to note that Butler's wife's father was engaged in brickmaking, it is not known whether Butler ever visited the Kelly brickyard, or if it still existed by 1873.)

Mary Jane Kelly was born in Austin in 1854 to Francis Kelly (b. 1817 in County Cork, Ireland, d. 1861). According to Frank Brown's *Annals of Travis County*, her father had joined Jacob Harrell and a few other families in Waterloo and purchased land in Travis County as early as August of 1840.⁷ On June 5, 1848, Francis Kelly married Mary Ann Cempny (b. 1832 in Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, arrived in the U.S. with her parents in 1845, d. 1910).⁸ Mary Ann Cempny arrived in the U.S. with her parents in 1845 and traveled in an ox drawn wagon from a German colony near La Grange to Austin

⁶ Harris, August Watkins. *The Elgin Butler Brick Company: 1873-1963*. Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. Austin, 1963, page 7.

⁷ Harris, page 6.

⁸ Marriage Records of Travis County, Volume I.

in 1848. The Kelly family lived on Congress Avenue⁹ before Mary Jane's mother moved the family to North Austin following an 1869 flood, and ultimately to Mesquite (11th) & Nueces Street in 1873.

Michael married Mary Jane Kelly October 17, 1878, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and they lived in a brick house built by Butler in 1877 at 200 South Lamar, near today's Zach Scott Theater. All three of their children were born in this home: John Francis in 1879, Mary Margaret in 1881, and Thomas James in 1885.



The Butler home at 200 South Lamar.



The Michael Butler family (l-r): wife Mary Jane Kelly, son John Francis (back), son Thomas James, daughter Mary Margaret and Michael Butler.

1876-1900: AUSTIN PLANT #2, continued

In 1877, a new apparatus, the "Sword Machine," replaced the "Coffee-Mill" machine and improved the quality and quantity of production at the new plant. It could fill eight molds.¹⁰

⁹ Francis Kelly purchased Lot 3, Block 56 in 1855.

¹⁰ Harris, August Watkins. *The Elgin Butler Brick Company: 1873-1963*. Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. Austin, 1963, page 11.

In 1884, a local paper noted that Michael Butler was preparing to erect eight “elegant brick residences” later to be known as Butler Flats, on West Pecan/6th near Nueces. In an article from the Austin Daily Statesman from 1884, the reporter states:

“[Michael Butler] contemplates a building boom at no distant day and is making every preparation to meet the demand for first-class bricks. In the spring of 1875 Mr. Butler purchased thirty-two acres of land on the south side of the river, erected works and commenced the manufacture of bricks, using old style machines. ... today he has the best equipped and most complete works in the state. Last year he manufactured and sold about 3,000,000 bricks, only having a two months’ delay on account of extreme bad weather. New machinery has been substituted for old, and of the improved Sword brick machine, which he has had in operation for a while, a few explanatory remarks, perhaps, would not be amiss. It is not, as many suppose, a dry press, not having sufficient power, but is a medium between a dry press and mud machine, and is capable of keeping a number of good workmen busy turning off 21,000 bricks per day. The services of two cartmen, two feeders, three truckers, an oiler and off-bearer are necessary to perfectly operate this machine, and without that number the daily production would fall far short ... Monday next Mr. Butler will put in operation his mud machine, which has been idle since November last, and which turns off 15,000 bricks per day. The total will then reach the enormous number of 36,000 per day, or 11,268,000 per year, counting every working day. The new Atlas engine recently placed is a model of beauty, and being of thirty-five horse power, with a boiler of forty horse power, is capable of running the machines, force pumps, etc. In the yards at convenient points are four large clamps or furnaces, each of which will hold 350,000 bricks. Clamp No. 2 is being filled as rapidly as possible, and during the coming week the red glare of a cedar wood fire will illuminate the firmament in the vicinity of Butler’s brick work. About the different clamps are 1000 cords of cedar wood, furnished by the brake owned by Mr. Butler and located a few miles up the river. An abundant supply of water is at hand for all purposes—irrigating, feeding the boiler, watering stock and for bathing purposes. A well thirty-five feet deep and ten wide furnishes water for the purposes above mentioned. ... Mr. Butler employs between fifty and seventy-five men in the different branches of his business, has four teams constantly delivering orders, and, in brief, turns out more bricks than any yard in the state.”¹¹

In 1885, a notice appeared that the cornerstone of the New Fireman’s Hall near 8th & Colorado was laid, with a donation of pressed brick from Butler, a volunteer fireman.¹²

In 1886, a new and more powerful brickmaking machine was in operation, turning out thousands of brick daily. In 1887, Butler was listed among the principal taxpayers of Travis County.¹³

1887: BUTLER MANSION

On December 20, 1887, Michael Butler moved his young family into a new home at 11th & Guadalupe. Architect Thomas Harding of Little Rock, a close friend of Michael Butler from his early

¹¹ *Austin Daily Statesman*. “Bricks. Their Wholesale Manufacture in Austin. A Reporter’s Visit to the Extensive Yards of Mr. M. Butler, and What He Saw. 1884.

¹² Harris, August Watkins. *The Elgin Butler Brick Company: 1873-1963*. Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. Austin, 1963, page 12.

¹³ Harris, page 12.

days in Arkansas, designed the house, which utilized both Butler bricks and Marble Falls granite. The granite was shipped at the same time as that for the state capitol, which was completed in 1888 with almost three million Butler bricks in its supporting inner walls.

The Butler Mansion at 309 W. 11th (northwest corner of 11th & Lavaca) featured rooms laid out in geometric shapes, with two octagons and no rectangles or squares. Granite was used for windowsills, window frames, and decorative arches.

The Butler House exemplified “the bombastic, self-confident, wonderfully exuberant homes of the city’s financial leaders, men bursting with self-righteous pride at their success, and seeking its expression in their dwelling places.”¹⁴

Its bricks, including those in its 13-inch walls, were made at Butler's Plant #2. The home’s Gothic influence “is reflected in its turrets - some round, some angular - and in the carved terra cotta gargoyles, which lend a quaint, castle-like charm.” Inside a visitor was greeted by a “handsome reception hall with its tall, curving stairway. Unusual wainscoting and trim here is of black, ornately carved lincrusta.”¹⁵



Butler Mansion

The elegant house was sold to bail bondsman Richard Hodges in 1966 following John Butler’s death in 1964 and the move of his widow to a smaller home. The new owner leased it as an antique shop. Louis Marks of Houston bought it in 1971 and demolished it in November of that year for a parking lot.

Its Moorish-style arch from the main doorway is now located on the grounds of the Zilker Garden Center with an historic marker. Part of its Victorian wooden porch detail can be seen on the façade of

¹⁴ *Austin, Texas: An American Architectural History*, by Roxanne Kuter Williamson. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1973, p. 105

¹⁵ *Austin American-Statesman*, May 24, 1964, p. D10.

a house at 1112 West 6th Street. Bricks from the interior were used in a house at 6405 Mesa. Bricks, stairway and other details were added to a house at 500 West 13th Street.

1888-1912... PLANT #2, continued

Between 1883 and 1899, the University of Texas' Old Main Building's Victorian-Gothic wings were completed in three stages, each utilizing Butler Bricks. By 1888, a new capitol was completed, using almost three million Butler Bricks in its supporting interior walls. Construction for the Union Passenger Depot of I&GN Railroad at Congress Avenue & Third Street was begun.

A new structure for St. Mary's Church was under construction: "The larger of the two bells in the main tower, weighing 2,009 pounds, is the gift of Mr. Mike Butler. It is from the McShane Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland, and in it will be encased the initials of the three Butler children."¹⁶

The Board of Trade Building opened in 1890. Michael Butler was among its members and proposed its construction in 1888 with an offer for financing. In 1891, the Butlers left for a three-month vacation in England, Ireland and Wales, with the greater part visiting friends in Ireland. In 1892, Butler was listed on the Board of Directors of George Littlefield's new American National Bank. That year he built a new brickmaking plant in Houston.

Michael's nephew, John J. Butler, joined him in Austin in 1892. John J. Butler was the oldest child of Michael's brother back in Ireland. He lived in the Butler house on the south side of the river for some years.¹⁷ By 1920, a farmer, Samuel Hill, is listed as a resident in the old house, which was sold in June of 1957 and demolished in 1958.

An article¹⁸ from an 1892 Austin Daily Statesman reads:

"The yards are located on the south side of the river, just west of the International and Great Northern railroad. As we crossed the bridge and turned to the right on the Barton Springs road, the reporter's attention was called to eighty-six acres fronting on the river. 'This,' said Mr. Butler, 'is a piece of property I bought a few years ago and have since had all the timber cut and hauled off, and you can see by the number of stumps that the growth was very thick. It was impossible to see the city from this road before I had the trees cut down.' There are a number of small houses on this land, occupied by the families of most of the men who work in and around the yards, which are located at the west end of this property and occupying ten acres. ... [Butler] informed the reporter that when all [machines] were running they could turn out 100,000 bricks per day. We next visited the drying sheds. Here everything was in perfect order, plank walks extending through the center of them all. These sheds were nearly all filled with green brick, ready for the furnace. The reporter was then shown five large furnaces. They are built with all the latest improvements, lined throughout with fire brick and cost over \$3000 each. They are without a doubt the best built furnaces in the state. Their capacity is 370,000 apiece. A substantial shed and roof has been fixed over each one, protecting them at all times from storms. ... [Butler said,] 'I ship brick all over the state, and any of the manufacturers in Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston and the other cities will tell you that I am their hardest competitor. Hardly a day passes that I do not ship a few carloads. To keep Austin supplied for the past year has been no small task. I have nearly

¹⁶ Austin Statesman, July 22, 1888.

¹⁷ By 1920, a farmer, Samuel Hill, is indicated in the City Directory as a resident at 200 S. Lamar. The house was sold in June of 1957 and demolished in 1958, at the same time as the south plant.

¹⁸ *Austin Daily Statesman*, 1892. "Butler's Brick Yard. Magnificently Arranged Plant with the Latest Improvements."

2,000,000 brick on hand, including green and burnt.’ The Butler yards are working over forty men at present, this being the smallest force at work for some time. They are all high priced men and very fine mechanics who know every detail of their business. The yards are supplied with their own waterworks system, a railroad running out to the clay beds, and in every respect are the most convenient and practically arranged in the south. ... He has made a proposition to the International and Great Northern railroad company to donate a certain amount of his land for stock yards, providing they will run a switch to his yards.”

A March 22, 1894 Austin newspaper clipping states:

“The Mike Butler Brickyard has gained a Statewide reputation and is known for the excellency of the A-1 bricks manufactured. One hundred acres are owned by Mr. Butler, the plant alone covering two acres. In 1894, the plant is turning out 30,000 bricks per day, although its capacity is three times that amount. ... Mike Butler has recently invented a machine for the purpose of handling bricks, which is a great labor-saving device and will cause a revolution in the handling of bricks.”

In an 1894 “Austin Up To Date,” Butler Brick is described thusly:

“The Capital City is the seat of one of the most important brick manufacturing concerns in the South. ... The brick yards, factory, and property cover an area of about eighty-six acres, and the works are especially well located in reference to shipping conveniences, being contiguous to the line of the I. & G.N.R.R. (International and Great Northern Railroad) tracks. The mechanical equipment and apparatus are of the best, and include a Pennflaid stiff mud machine, and a Sword stiff mud machine, which united have a capacity for the production of about 50,000 brick daily. There are four kilns in operation, and the motive power is obtained from a fifty horse power engine and a sixty horse power boiler. About thirty men are employed in connection with the industry. Mr. Butler manufactures what are known as common and repressed brick, which are pronounced by builders and others as of the best quality of these grades. A recent test established the fact that they have the very highest crushing strength. The brick are shipped to all parts of this section within a two hundred mile radius of the city.”¹⁹

In 1895, a patent was issued for Butler’s labor-saving device for brickyards. Stutzenburg attests that a spur track ran into the brick yard and that the molds were placed on a wooden pallet that was sprinkled with sand and then the mud added. The men were paid according to the amount of brick they turned out and were sometimes limited because there was no room to store or dry the bricks. About ten new drying sheds were built, each about 140 feet long and eight feet wide, along with new kilns. New machines were added to make the bricks, which were placed six bricks to a platen and stored under the drying sheds that replaced the older method of covering the brick with canvas and brush.

“The racks were wide enough so a man could place three platen of bricks from each side and were about high enough that it wasn’t too hard to put them up. With each brick weighing about five pounds and six brick per platen, it wasn’t an easy job to put them up very high. The brick were allowed to remain in the racks where the wind could get to them and thus air dried until they were firm enough to handle safely. Then they were placed in a kiln to be baked or ‘burned.’ Sometimes the kiln became too hot and the brick came out a sort of green color, and these brick were referred to as clinkers. At

¹⁹ “Austin Up To Date,” Austin Board of Trade, The Akahurst Publishing Company, 1894.

first these clinkers were thrown away as being no good because they were too hard, the heat had made them 'run' some so they didn't have perfect shape, but soon people began to gather these bricks and build houses of them, so instead of throwing them away they were sold. At the other extreme some of the bricks came out without having had enough heat and were sort of a salmon color, but these were too brittle to be of much use. The kilns that were used were of two different kinds. One was known as a downdraft kiln that had a capacity of about 175,000 bricks, and there were four up-draft kilns that took about 300,000 brick each."²⁰

These were powered by wood obtained in the hills up river and floated to the plant, or later by lignite coal from Rockdale and Bastrop. Oil, and later natural gas, eventually replaced the coal.

"In addition to the kilns and drying racks there were other buildings including a machine shop, a blacksmith shop, a harness shop and a barn for the 18 to 20 mules that were used to haul the brick wagons. There were about thirty men employed at first when the hand process was used, and these men made about \$1.25 a day for the brick they made. Later when machines were used to make the brick and there were more drying sheds, about 65 men were employed.

The clay that was used at this plant came from the land to the west of the I.&G.N.R.R. , where the Butler miniature golf course is located now, or from a spot near Barton's Spring. Small wagons or carts were used to haul the clay. These carts were pulled along a small track by mule power when full and the track was inclined so gravity took them back to the source when empty.

All of the clay that was used at this place was known as alluvial clay, that is, it was a result of the river deposits. It made very good brick, although the temperature control had to be watched for it only had latitude of about 100 degrees. The common brick sold for about \$7.00 per thousand.

Until a bridge was built across the river at the foot of Congress Avenue in the spring of 1884, Mike had found it necessary to either ford the river at low tide, or when the river was up, a barge was used that worked across the stream on a cable. On these trips he was able to haul about 800 bricks a load After the bridge was opened he was allowed to haul 1000 bricks at a time. However, in October of 1884 a stampede of cattle²¹ across the bridge caused one of the spans to slip, and when it was repaired by using heavier girders Mike was allowed a limit of 1200 brick each load. By about 1889 or 1890, Mike was making a dry press brick that served as an excellent face brick.

While business was doing well, Mike decided to expand some and in 1892 he established a plant in Houston, Texas. This plant did not do too well for the clay wasn't too good, and when a cyclone damaged the plant in 1912 it was sold."

²⁰ Stutzenburg, Tom. "The Elgin-Butler Brick Company: A Term Paper for Texas History." April 23, 1954, page 3-4.

²¹ The Chisholm Trail crossed the river until 1884. "In 1875, a new wooden toll bridge was constructed across the river. ... On one occasion, a herd of cattle caused a span 50 feet above the water to give way. Only a few cattle were rescued."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_W._Richards_Congress_Avenue_Bridge

1896-1901: JOHN FRANCIS BUTLER & ELGIN BUTLER BRICK COMPANY

In 1896, Michael Butler sent his son John Francis to Ohio State University to study ceramics engineering for three years. He did not receive a diploma as one was not available for this course until the year after he finished.

When he returned to Austin, John built a lab at the South Austin plant site to analyze the clay and a test-kiln for determining shrinkage, color and refractory characteristics. He also began scouting for desirable clay minerals. While on a visit to appraise and purchase wood, John discovered highly satisfactory clay deposits near Elgin along Sandy Creek. He persuaded his father to buy the land and J.F. moved there to establish Elgin-Butler Brick. A plant was constructed and began operation in 1901. It shipped its first consignment of bricks in 1903.

On October 9, 1903, a Charter of the Elgin-Butler Brick and Tile Company was completed between M. Butler, W.H. Rivers, and Leon Keeble, directors, and Thomas Pfeiffer, and J.B. Morrison. In 1907, Elgin Pottery Company was formed by Mike Butler, W.G. Sneed and W.H. Rivers for the purpose of manufacturing terra cotta, enameled brick, clay furnaces, flue thimbles, flower pots, fire clay slabs, and floor tile. It is located at Butler, Texas, contiguous to the brick plant and six miles east of Elgin, and is still in operation. John Francis Butler moved to Elgin in order to have access to better communication lines.

According to a 2015 interview²² with Michael Butler's great-grandson, Russ Butler, current vice-president of Elgin-Butler Brick Company:

"In 1890, my grandfather, John Francis Butler, was helping bring wood in from the Elgin area to supply fuel for the kilns in Austin and they found clay in a creek bottom down there. He was going to Ohio State University at that time and had the clay tested, and it indicated that it would be a vastly superior clay than the alluvial clay that we were getting off the Colorado River here in Austin. And so they started testing and working with it and bought the land and started the Butler, Texas, plant operation near Elgin in 1903.

About this time a kind of industrial type of revolution took place in the brick industry. Brick that were being made by the wood mold process started being made by the Dry Press Method – a process in which they would take the clay and, without putting any water with it, grind it and mechanically press it into shape with a large machine. Firebrick from Butler, Texas, were made by this process, and they continue to be made this way today. Just about every residential fireplace firebox you see in the Southwest is made of firebrick from Butler, Texas, and if you look, the bricks probably have the Butler name stamped on them.

The Dry Press Method was a great advancement, but what really revolutionized the industry was the development of strong Portland Cement Mortars and the ability of the brick makers to make high strength structural clay tile. The tile were so strong when used with the Portland Cement Mortars, walls that were being built three feet thick could be reduced to walls that were, maybe, eight or twelve inches thick and have the same load bearing capacity. The company continues to manufacture structural clay tile, but most of it has a glaze applied to it and is called structural glazed clay tile."

²² Oral History Interview with Russell Butler, Meta Butler Hunt, & Helen Butler Young by Charlie Betts, May 6, 2015. Recorded and transcribed by Ann Dolce. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library. Edited by Russ Butler.

1912-1942: AUSTIN PLANT #3

Michael Butler died at his home in 1909 at the age of 67, after being in ill health since 1907, at which time he asked his son Tom to take over the Austin plant. After his father's death, John Francis Butler moved back to Austin. Tom ran the Austin plant until the 1912 fire, when the estimated value of the plant was about \$80,000. Mary Kelly Butler survived her husband until December of 1935.

In 1903, Andrew Zilker had put in a competing brick works, the ABC or Austin Brick Company. Since there was no clay on the north side of the river, Zilker built a tram line about 1903 with 12 mule-drawn buckets, each with a capacity of a half yard of clay. The tramway, supported by three large masonry towers and a metal tower, delivered the buckets of clay (from what later became the great lawns of Zilker Park east of today's MoPac bridge) to a manufacturing plant on the north side of the river (the site of today's Austin High School). The tram connected facilities on the south bank of the Colorado River with the brickmaking facility on the top of the bluff behind what is now known as Austin High School.

In 1912, following a fire in the Butler Plant #2, Zilker offered the Butler family a lease on his plant. Tom and John Butler with brother-in-law Walter Walne signed a 99-year lease for the property, consisting of 53 acres, and hauled the clay via Zilker's tram lines to the third plant site, the site of today's Austin High School, until 1942. The old boom and hopper – the double-tower supports for the tramline - are still standing today along the Hike & Bike Trail at the current Texas Rowing Center at 1541 Cesar Chavez.

During WWII, the plant manufactured supplies for the Armed Forces installations and other industries supporting the war effort. The Austin brickyards, however, were placed on a standby basis due to its being subject to war restrictions and price freezes on products. Thus, all brickmaking work was moved to Elgin. The Austin Plant #2 was used for storage until its demolition in 1958; it was never reactivated after the war. The brickyards in both Plants #2 and #3 were demolished in 1958.

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED WITH BUTLER BRICKS

Austin's 1870 to 1900 brick buildings were mostly built with Butler brick. Key structures built with Butler bricks include:

- 85% of the State Capitol Building's 3,481,282 bricks = 2,959,089 bricks in its inner walls
- Union Passenger Depot of the I & GN RR (International and Great Northern Railroad), Congress & Third, demolished
- UT Austin – 80% of the early brick buildings, including Garrison Hall and Gregory Gym, and even some on the new stadium. About one and a half million of the bricks used in constructing the Old Main Building were put back into the new Main Building when it was built 54 years later. When old "B" hall was torn down in 1952, many of the bricks that had cost \$7 per thousand were sold as high as \$50.
- Schneider Store, Tipps Building, Hirshfield House, Smoot House
- Fireplaces in many Austin residences, and many other brick buildings in Austin
- Most of the early A&M campus
- The early Texas State University Campus in San Marcos
- In San Antonio: Hemisfair, Medical Arts Tower
- In Houston: Binz Building (the 1st multi-story and 1st w/ elevators, w/ bricks made a short distance away), First Baptist Church additions
- Brick from the firm was also used for the facade of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City

ELGIN-BUTLER BRICK COMPANY 1942-2015

In the early 1900s, Butler Brick developed a relationship with Austin White Lime as a source of lime to be used in its mortars – an important ingredient in “lime putty” mortars and Portland Cement mortars.

With the widespread manufacture of concrete blocks beginning in the early 1900s (the first house built entirely with concrete blocks was on Staten Island, NY, in 1937), the structural clay tile industry was almost wiped out beginning in the 1950s. The company continues to produce outstanding firebrick and has developed a specialty in structural glazed tiles, which are highly stain resistant and used nationally and internationally in operating rooms, meat packing plants, hospitals, subways and many other structures.

Subsequent to the death of Mrs. Michael Butler, a board of directors was formed among the family members. John Francis Butler, as the eldest, became chairman of the board, and Thomas James Butler, the president of the company.

Third and fourth Butler generations were employed by the company by 1973. Those included Thomas J. Butler Jr., who served as vice-president and general Elgin plant manager; Michael Wood Butler, vice-president and sales manager; Martin Butler, vice president, secretary-treasurer and effective chief financial officer; and John Russell Butler, research engineer who continues to serve as vice president of the company. Other younger Butler employees include Bob Butler; Helen Butler Young, who served as office manager and credit manager for 30 years; and Russell Butler’s son, Dick Butler.

The company bought its chief competitor, Elgin Standard Brick Company, in 1961 and sold it to Acme Brick circa 1990. The Elgin-Butler Company today has its central operations on a 500-acre site in Butler, five miles east of Elgin, and sales office in Austin. The company also owns two ceramic tile companies: McIntyre Tile Co. in Healdsburg, California, and Trikeen Tileworks in Hornell, New York. The family business, owned by four generations of Butlers, was sold to Matt Galvez in 2005.

BUTLER PARK

In 1941, ninety-one acres south of the Colorado River were donated to the City of Austin for park and recreational purposes: from Barton Creek to the South First frontage – now Auditorium Shores, Butler Pitch & Putt, Palmer Events & Long Centers, and Butler Park. Although nominal consideration was given in the form of some tax credit, the Butler Family considered their conveyance a gift to the community.

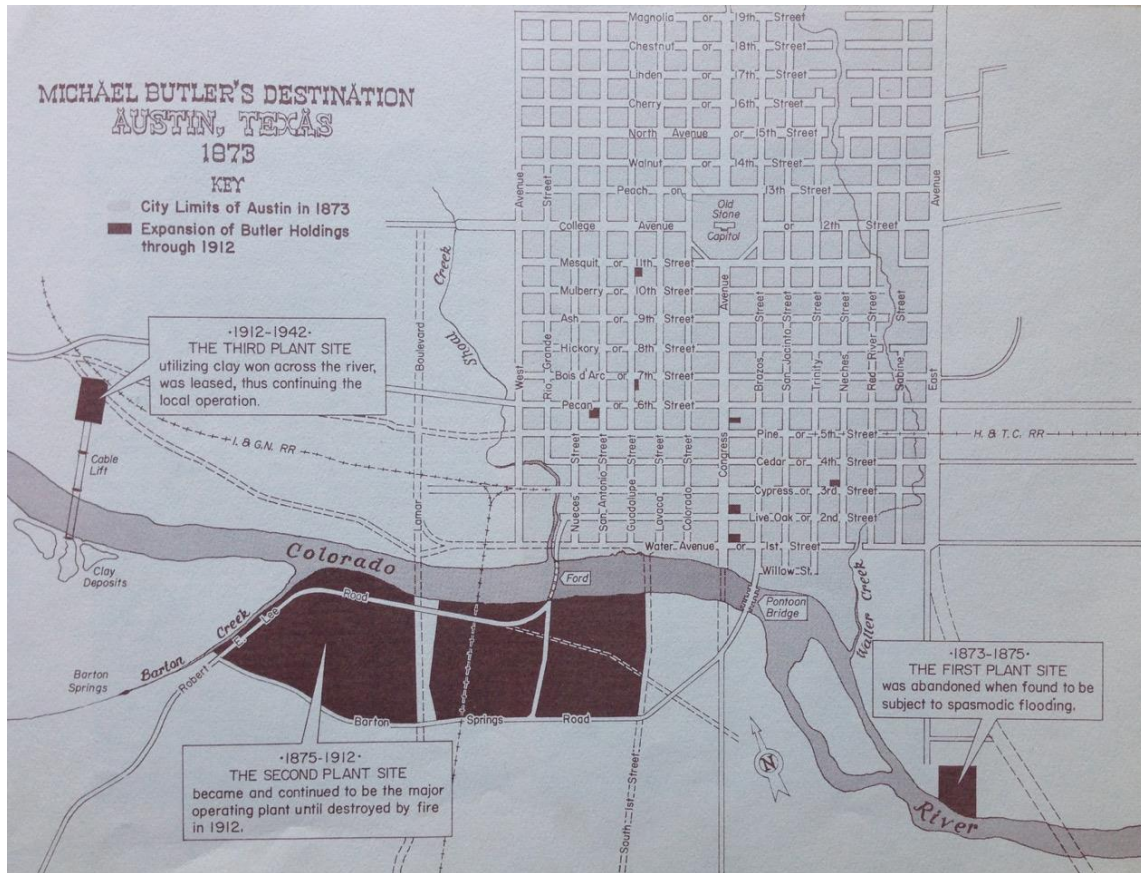
In 1964, the Butler Civic Center was renamed Butler Park in honor of Michael Butler. The Town Lake Beautification Project of the 1960s-70s was enhanced by a 1970 committee led by Lady Bird Johnson, Roberta Crenshaw and Jeanette Fish. Five generations of Butlers have continued working in both business and civic affairs.

SUMMARY

Michael Butler manufactured bricks in Austin from 1873 until his death in 1909. Butler Bricks were Austin’s building blocks. Most of the brick structures constructed in Austin from 1873 until 1912 used Butler’s Austin common buff brick, made from local clay in a soft mud process. Butler supplied three million bricks for the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin in 1888. Butler Bricks were used in 80 percent of the structures at the University of Texas at Austin between 1873 and 1912.

Five generations of Austin’s Butler family have worked at the Elgin-Butler Brick Company. Michael Butler operated his second Austin plant, the Butler Brick Yard, on 91 acres of land between South First Street and Barton Springs from 1876 until 1912. The Butler family donated the brickyard

property at Plant #2 to the City of Austin in 1941 for civic use and to honor Michael Butler's wishes. It is now known as Butler Park.²³ The Butler Brick Company and the subsequent Elgin-Butler Brick Company distributed high quality bricks all over Texas as well as to other states and countries.



Map of Butler Brick Locations

This article was prepared as a nomination for a Texas Historic Commission Subject Marker to recognize Michael Butler, Butler Brick, and the Elgin-Butler Brick Company at Butler Park, where Butler's Second Plant was located, and to honor his efforts in Austin, the State of Texas, and ultimately nationally in the art, skill, and development of brickmaking.

²³ Clarification: The former mayor, Roy Butler, for whom the Ann & Roy Butler Hike & Bike Trail is named, is not a relative of the Michael Butler family.

APPENDIX

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Oral History Interview #0135 of John Francis Butler (1879-1964) by Katherine Hart, May 14, 1959. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

Oral History Interview with Russell Butler, Meta Butler Hunt, & Helen Butler Young by Charlie Betts, May 6, 2015. Video and audio recorded and transcribed by Ann Dolce. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

The Elgin Butler Brick Company: 1873-1963. Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. Austin, 1963. Chronicled by August Watkins Harris, architect, a personal, lifelong friend of the Butler family. 666.737 El. Copy at Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

Photographs of items in possession of Russell Butler at the Elgin Butler Brick Company, photographed May 6, 2015, by Phoebe Allen:

- Portrait of Michael Butler
- Painting of Michael Butler Mansion
- Painting of first Michael Butler House
- Photograph of Butler clay field
- Photograph of Butler Brick Company brickyard
- Family photo dated Sept. 6, 1898: Michael age 54, Mary 44, John F. 19, Mary Margaret 17, Thomas J. 14.

**CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF
MICHAEL BUTLER (1842-1909) & MARY JANE KELLY (1854-1935)**

(* indicates contributors/editors for this narrative.)

- I. **John Francis Butler** (Aug. 21, 1879-1964) married Mary Camille Wood (1889-1974)
 - A. **Michael Wood Butler** (1911-2001) married Mary Wilson Russell (1915-2012)
 - 1. John Russell Butler* (1936) married Linda Nan Richards
 - 2. Meta Camille Butler* (1940) married Nathaniel Alfred Hunt III
 - 3. Michael Limerick Butler (1945) married Martha Sue Mahaffey
 - B. **Helen Elizabeth Butler** (1912) married Curtis White
 - 1. Camille White (1940-1962)
 - 2. John Curtis White (1942)
 - C. **Frances Camille Butler** (1917) married Melvin Martindale
 - 1. Michael Martindale (1941)
 - 2. Melanie Martindale (1945) married Edward Sykes
 - 3. Peter Martindale (1949-1973)
- II. **Mary Margaret Butler** (1881-1961) married Walter W. Walne
 - A. **Mary Jane Walne** (1910– abt 1979) married Whitfield H. Marshall
 - 1. Diana Marshall (1946) married (1) William Joor and (2) Walter Scarborough
 - 2. Walter Hillman Walne Jr. (1916-1984) married Catherine Abby Palmer
 - B. **Margaret Butler Walne** (1918 - 1967) married Charles Scott Snead III
 - 1. Susan Scott Snead (1948) married Alex McGuinness
 - 2. Charles Scott Snead IV (1953)
- III. **Thomas James Butler** (1885-1973) married (1) Josephine Robinson (1885-1918) (2) Hazel Oatman (1893-1970)
 - A. **Mary Josephine Butler** (1913 – 2010) married William Douglas Cooper
 - 1. Josephine Butler Cooper (1943-1991) married William Lee Thomas
 - 2. Martha Cooper (1947-) married Allen D. Golden
 - 3. Eileen Cooper (1950-) married (1) Charles D. Perkins (2) Douglas K. Moore
 - B. **Thomas James Butler II**, (1914 - 2000) married Lura Fredericks
 - 1. Diana Barbara Butler (1945-) married James Thomas Gribble III
 - 2. Helen Hughes Butler* (1948-) married Charles Young
 - 3. Thomas Kelly Butler (1952-)
 - C. **Robinson Paul Butler** (1916 – 1944) married Betty Anne Bloss
 - 1. Robinson Paul Butler Turbiville (1943-1999) married Nancy Pierce
 - 2. Richard Martin Butler Turbiville (1944-) married (1) Gayle Lee (2) Sheron Diane Kurlander
 - D. **Martin Butler** (1917- 1984) married Marguerite Walling
 - 1. Robert Martin Butler (1952-) married (1) Allison Welder (2) Lewette Ann Little
 - 2. Elizabeth Ann Butler (1953-) married Morin Montegue Scott Jr.
 - 3. Catherine Cecelia “Kay” Butler (1956-) married William Ronald Howell

Great Grandpa, Serendipity and Me

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

Growing up I knew my father, my mother, both grandfathers and grandmothers but only one great grandmother and no other great grandparents. Like so many, I talked to them but failed to ask the right questions. I do have a pretty good memory of what little I did learn from those days.

On Father's side, I knew my Grandfather rather well. His name was Isaac Milton Bridges and everyone, except me, called him Mitt. I called him Big Papa because he was about the size I am now. He and his son, my father, James Clyde Bridges were good friends as well as relatives. I was about ten years old when Grandfather asked my father to take him to see the "old cemetery" so he could check on the "little ones" graves. We went to a cemetery now called Corn Hill Cemetery. Back then there was no name posted. It was also overgrown with weeds and bushes in those days but Grandfather pushed through to the right location and saw two small headstones and said everything seemed to be alright. We left and I have no further recollections of that day except the approximate location of the cemetery near Prairie Dell off U.S. Highway 81, now Interstate Highway 35, and Grandfather said he grew up in Prairie Dell. That was 1948.

Fast forward to the new century and my interest in genealogy. A thing called Ancestry.com reared its head and grabbed my attention. All my grandparents were gone. My mom and dad were gone. I am an only child. I have spent 22 years traveling the world with the USAF and I have lost track of most of my cousins since my connections died with my dad in 1985. I knew the location of my cousins on my mother's side but practically nothing about my dad's side. And that is a big side as he was one of 8 children and they all married and have produced multiple offspring of their own.

That was all before genealogy came into my life. Not having the resources of famous personalities that could go to Ancestry.com to find out who I thought I was, I began my genealogical journey by going through the photos inherited from my mother. Then what few pieces of paper I could find. Next...off to the Bell County Museum in Belton, Texas. Then I searched my own memory and decided to follow that rabbit trail. A quick search of maps turned up Prairie Dell, a hamlet

remnant of a very small village from years ago that I had passed on I-35 many times. Nearby I found Walburg and Jarrell. Then I found New Corn Hill, a few houses, and a "Ghost Town" called Old Corn Hill of which all that remains is the dilapidated ruins of the old hotel and stage stop. There was once a cotton gin and some stores but they all moved to Jarrell when the railroad passed them by and the new highway was built. The old cemetery was still there and after some searching and asking about I found it. Lo and behold, there is a Texas Historical Plaque out front that tells me that the land for the cemetery was donated to the Masonic Lodge for a cemetery by B F Bridges and his wife.

I had never heard the name BF Bridges but I was very curious and looked for his grave marker. It was there right in the middle of the cemetery and next to the graves of the "little ones" that my grandfather had sought out in 1948. BF passed away in 1890 so it was not surprising that my father, born in 1902, had never mentioned him as his grandfather and my great grandfather. The "little ones" are twins, my grandfather and grandmother's first born. One died the day of the birth and the other survived only a short while. But who was BF? Back to the history center and I found a book with my family information that told me he was Benjamin Franklin Bridges, an immigrant born in Miss. (Mississippi??) Ancestry.com told me a little different and I started researching from scratch. BF had died young at 49 years of age. In the Texas of 1890 the Civil War was still fresh in memories and BF has a Confederate States of America (CSA) marker as his footstone. It says he was in the 11th MO Inf. I wondered if he had met a violent end in those violent days. It took two years, and a trip to the Georgetown Public Library in Williamson County, Texas, but I finally found a paragraph in the short lived Corn Hill Gazette that told me he died of a heart attack while taking a load of cotton to Belton. Good. No violent death at least. But he did leave a widow and a passel of kids. Most of them were boys and able to get out and work to survive. Several were already married with kids of their own.

Good for old BF. However, who was his father over in Mississippi? I searched the census sheets and found that BF had never even set foot in

Mississippi. The census taker had misspelled the abbreviation of Missouri. Something I suspected from the CSA marker at his footstone. One person on Ancestry said he had three wives but they were not sure who they were. I established that my great grandmother was Penelope Ake. She was the mother of all the boys and girls they produced in Texas. She died in the Confederate Widows Home in Austin, Texas and is buried in the cemetery at Bartlett, Texas. So, if he had another wife, she must be somewhere in Missouri, right?

Road Trip!

But where to in Missouri? A census sheet told me to try Lawrence County, a known Confederate hotbed in the SW corner of the state. Sure enough I found BF there as a boy, I found his first wife (she divorced him for desertion and adultery (seems she was a Union person, too) while he was away in the military including a stint in a Union POW camp in Arkansas. BF had enlisted, along with his brothers and his father and wound up in the infantry as they did not have horses of their own. BF was a teamster in the supply train. The others walked and fought on foot. Wow. Now I have his father's name, my great great grandfather. Guilford Bridges. Born 1811 in North Carolina and died in Llano County, Texas in 1898.

I made contact with a couple of genealogists in Missouri and settled on one, Jami Lewis, who seemed more enthusiastic as well as personally knowledgeable. She turned out to be golden! We arrived in Joplin, MO a few months after a big tornado tore up the place. It was early in the year and should have been quite cold. However, the weather turned out cool and excellent for short sleeve tramping through old graveyards. We met Jami, a polished historian as well as a genealogist, on Monday at the Lawrence County Courthouse and plotted a plan of attack. (Sorry for the military talk, you can get the boy out of the military..you know...). We made a plan to look through the Lawrence County, Missouri, records on a Thursday. Until then, with Jami as our able guide, we visited about two dozen cemeteries in out of the way hidden places, some on private land, but we had permission to go. Some were just out in the woods and one was next to a Baptist Church where they were having a meeting out on the lawn.. I barged in, apologizing with my best Texas drawl, and asked about records of burials there. They had none. Darn it. Friendly folks but not much help. But Jami knew where all the skeletons were buried.

I took notes, took photos and made connections from one gravestone to another. We found Revolutionary War veterans, Civil War veterans and all of them were my ancestors.

Finally, Thursday rolls around and we have an appointment to see the records at the County Court. Well, here is where serendipity comes in! That morning, when we met Jami she said, "Guess what! The county just released all the records to the Lawrence County Historical Society and I am the vice president of that society!" It soon gets even better! We found the records in numbered bankers boxes neatly stacked in a hallway of the old county courthouse in chronological and alphabetical order. With three hours of searching I came away with copies of over 200 pages of court records relating to my family. I learned that Guilford could not read or write, that BF had been divorced, that the marriage had been performed by her father as a county clerk, that Guilford was a pretty cagey old fellow who stood up for himself and his family and was not reluctant to file a lawsuit, that he lost his farm after it was forcibly sold at Union insistence but he sold it to a group of men that turned out to be his inlaws and they sold it back at the same price. He then sold it for a fair price and took off for Texas never to return to Missouri. Also BF had a daughter in MO that he never saw again. I did not find a single word about my great great grandmother, Lurna Jane Winter, born in Tennessee in 1814. It is as though she never existed. She is listed in the census of 1860, taken mid year, but there is no further mention of her. In fact, she must die somewhere around 1861 because Guilford, now a widower, remarries a widow in Paris, Texas in 1862. Did she die in MO or TX? Or did she die on the trail in between? There was a measles epidemic in Paris, Texas in 1860/61 and maybe she perished in that. The two youngest boys are also missing. The records are skimpy and the burials in Paris are not all marked nor is the old cemetery even well cared for these days. There is a modern cemetery that gets all the attention. It took two years to get her name correct. She is on the census spelled several different ways. That happens when illiteracy is present. In fact I soon found that the census taker must have knocked on doors and called out, "Who lives here?" In Guilford's house the answer came back, "the Bridges." The census taker wrote down Bridges. The subjects could not read it and our name thus was changed in writing to Bridges from Bridger. Guilford's father, John Bridger/Bridges had also

had a dispute, so the family story goes, with his father and started using the alternate spelling, too. It took DNA to set the record straight. I am supposed to be a Bridger. Ah, well, blood is thicker than water or spelling.

But where is Guilford and his second wife, Iantha (called Jancy) buried? Llano County, it seems but where? A bit of research turns up the name of the cemetery as Something? Creek Cemetery on private land east of Llano. I tracked down the name of the creek and found it on a map. Ah. Waters Creek. That was easy. Now where is the cemetery? The county historical folks and genealogical folks did not know the location except in very general terms.. Enter Google Earth. Enter my old military skills of aerial map reading. (Nature abhors a straight line is one of the first things we learned in intelligence and in the art of camouflage. So I looked for straight lines.) Sure enough I found a rectangle on a hill a few miles from where I was first told to look. Now who owns that thing? I found the name of the former owner but that was all as the property had gone through a recent sale. I was told the ranch was sold a while back and no one (that means the local folks) knew the name of the new owner. It wasn't somebody who was from around there. A stranger from somewhere else.

Road trip!

On a weekend we visited one of my wife's cousins in Llano and then drove out to where I had detected that rectangle on a hill.

Now Texas is not known for welcoming strangers onto land where there are cattle. Something about rustling or some such. However we were lucky. Serendipity showed up again right on cue. I spotted a fellow with a broad brimmed hat fussing with some cows. I brazenly opened the gate and walked in carefully closing the gate behind me. In my best drawl, I called out to the cowboy, "Sure has been hot and dry. Wish I could have brought you some rain today!" He smiled and responded

and said he did too. I figured I was in okay and proceeded to ask questions.

He turned out to be Mr. Jay Ward, the new owner of the ranch and he knew exactly where the cemetery was on the hill on his ranch! He even

stopped and took us up the hill in his "mule", a six passenger, four wheel off road cart. Sure enough there was old Guilford and Iantha with a large granite stone some three feet tall installed in the 1930s, presumably by her children. The old cemetery was well cared for by Mr. Ward and his wife! They had taken out a ton of prickly pear, known as "pear" and mesquite and cedar and cholla...no small task. Mr.

Ward is a lay person in his Catholic church and cares for the cemetery in respect to those gone before. I returned a few months later to install a Southern Cross of Honor on Guilford's grave. He was a Private in the 11th MO Inf, CSA.

Guilford was not very tall, quite wiry with a long grey beard in the only picture I have found. The picture is of Guilford and Iantha in later years. He looks very serious as do all old folks in the pictures of those days where one had to hold very still for quite a while for the primitive cameras. The picture is not mine to show here, unfortunately.

He was a good business man and once sold a calf for 12 dollars. The fellow did not pay and Guilford, aka Giff, sued him and won. That was in Missouri, Lawrence County, Mount Vernon. (not Mississippi). As I mentioned before, Guilford sold his farm of 160 acres for a very small amount in the Civil War days to a group of 5 men. The union powers in MO pressured the confederates to "sell" their land to union loyalists. Many confederates lost their homesteads that way in the civil war. A few years later right after peace was declared, Guilford won his farm back with the help of a lawyer from Arkansas. He then sold it and had enough to later buy a ranch in Llano county, Texas in 1863. The men he originally sold his MO farm to turned out to be members and relatives of the Winters Family, his first wife's family. The buyer for a fair price later was one of the German settlers that had recently arrived and established a town there called Freistatt. Giff's farm was on the



Guilford and Iantha's Gravestone, with Southern Cross of Honor which was installed Sept. 8, 2012. *Photo by author.*

southern edge of the present-day town. That town is still there and has a nice festival each year. I am told it involves beer.

Giff's son, ol' BF, was divorced for "abandonment and adultery", the only charges that could be used for a divorce in those days. I have a copy of the divorce papers, duly recorded at the court house, in Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, MO. Rebellion against the United States was not considered grounds for divorce. Since he never returned to MO and later married a girl from AR, it seems the charges were correct in any case.

Great great grandmother Laurina, aka Luranda, aka Lorania, trekked with her family, the famous Winters family, early settlers of Tennessee, from Tennessee to Illinois and then Missouri, married Giff, produced nine children that lived (there is no record of others), helped him settle a farm, sell it, acquire a larger farm, and then vanish into thin air

without a trace. No tombstone, no records, never signed a document, even with an "X", no article in a newspaper, never was cited in a court proceeding, no records except the US Census. Women of the era were invisible in many ways. So sad really. I am sure they were loved by their children, probably by their husbands and their siblings. But when \$ were short or fists were tight, no tombstone for you lady!

Reference Material used for this article:

MO Census 1840, 1850, 1860 and Texas Census 1870 and 1880 and 1898

Lawrence County Court Records, Missouri, 1840 to 1860

Corn Hill Gazette 1890, Corn Hill, Texas

Find a Grave.com

This Month in History: September 7, 1871 Clipping from the Weekly Democratic Statesman, Austin, Texas, Vol. 1, No. 6, Page 1

The article below indicates undisguised outrage over state government spending on a single election. Wouldn't they be appalled at the political spending of today?

"Cost of a Single Election

Cost of a Single Election.
People of Texas, look at the figures below and see what an enormous expense is imposed upon you by the odious usurpers in their effort to perpetuate their hateful tyranny over you. Compare the amount with ordinary election expenses in former times. It is more than you have been accustomed to see spent by the State Government in a whole year. You are now forced to pay for all kinds of useless officers, Registrars, Board of Appeals, State Police, Special Police, Clerks, and all manner of unclean carpet-baggers.

Look at the figures :

Pay of 130 Registrars for 100,000 voters	\$25,000
Pay of the 390 men composing the Board of Appeals.....	17,550
Pay of regular policemen for 24 days	15,000
Pay of 2600 special policemen 24 days	187,200
Pay of 260 clerks, four days each...	3,120
Making the enormous total of.....	\$247,870

Found on newspapers.com.

People of Texas, look at the figures below and see what an enormous expense is imposed upon you by the odious usurpers in their efforts to perpetuate their hateful tyranny over you. Compare the amount with ordinary election expenses in former times. It is more than you have been accustomed to see spent by the State Government in a whole year. You are now forced to pay for all kinds of useless officers, Registrars, Board of Appeals, State Police, Special Police, Clerks, and all manner of useless carpet-baggers.

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Making the enormous total of \$247,870"

Travis County Records

Found at the Portal to Texas History

Recently Added to History Database

Submitted by AGS Member Kay Boyd

Several Travis County institutions, including [The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History](#), [Austin History Center-Austin Public Library](#), [Texas Historical Commission](#), [The General Land Office](#), [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#) and [The Texas State Historical Association](#) have books, photographs, maps, newspapers and other materials included on the Portal to Texas History website, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>. Recently, the Travis County Archives added some papers and ledgers from their collection. The holdings from the [Travis County District Clerk's Office](#) and [The Travis County Clerk's Office](#) were added.

If you have ancestors in Travis County in 1853, do you know what they did in their spare time? Check out the records from the District Clerk's Office and see if they bet on pool, Kino, card games or Rondeau. You might find them in the recent records posted on the Portal to Texas History. Maybe they cut down a tree on someone else's property, branded another man's cattle, killed a swine or even stole a horse. Some even committed more serious crimes such as assault and battery, grand larceny, leaving jury duty without permission, disturbed religious worship or murder.

This example of one of the 75 documents is related to the case of The State of Texas vs. Perry Grumbles, accused of betting at Kino, filed on September 9, 1853. Other documents from April 4, 1855, are also included. These include a bill of indictment signed by grand jury foreman, Thomas A. Washington, arrest warrants, an appearance bond, pluries capias¹, subpoena, and an alias capias¹. The legal documents contain the defendant's signature as well as others involved in the case.

The State of Texas, Travis County

District Court, Fall Term, A. D. 1853

In the Name and by the Authority of the State of Texas:

The Grand Jurors, good and lawful men of Travis County in said State of Texas, then and there duly elected, empanelled, swore and charged to enquire in and for the body of the County aforesaid, on their oath, Present: That Perry Grumbles, late of Travis County, aforesaid, yeoman, with force and arms in the County aforesaid, on the tenth day of August Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three then and there bet money on a certain gaming table as Kino, exhibited for gaming, in "Barnes old Kino room", by Gray Clements and Robert Clements contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided against the health and dignity of the said State.

A. H. Chalmers

Dist. Atty 2nd Dist.

¹ A pluries capias was a third writ of attachment (a written command in the name of a court or other legal authority,) issued when the first capias and second (alias capias) prove ineffectual.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Travis County.

S. W. American Print, Austin.

District Court,

Fall Term Anno Domini, 1853.

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,

The Grand Jurors, good and lawful men of Travis County said State of Texas, then and there duly elected, empannelled, sworn, and charged to enquire in and for the body of the County aforesaid, on their oath present....

That Perry Grumble late of Travis County aforesaid, yeoman, with force and arms in the County aforesaid, on the tenth day of August Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, did then and there keep money or a certain gaming table, or Keno exhibited for gaming, in "Barner Lea Keno room" by Gray Clements and Robert Clements contrary to the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the honor and dignity of the state

A. McChalmers
Dist Atty
2^d Div

Citation: Costley, John M. Documents pertaining to the case of The State of Texas vs. Perry Grumbles, cause no. 352, 1853, Legal Document, 1853; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph193980/> : accessed June 06, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County District Clerk's Office, Austin, Texas.

Other records from the Travis County Clerk's Office have been added to the Portal of Texas History site. These records include:

Travis County Probate Records: County Clerk Probate Index 1

Date: 1840/1870

Creator: Travis County Clerk's Office.

Description: Travis County, Texas, index documenting probate cases from 1840 to 1870, showing case number, name of estate, type of orders or proceedings, and volume and page number where recorded. These records are arranged alphabetically by name of the estate.

Contributing Partner: Travis County Clerk's Office

These records can be searched at

http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=Travis+County+Records+Index&t=fulltext&fq=untl_institution%3ATCCO

Travis County Probate Records, County Clerk Probate Minutes, Books A-Z, 1840-1916

Travis County, Texas, probate minutes documenting probate cases. These records are recorded copies of proceedings of the county court sitting as a probate court in cases involving estates of deceased individuals. Records include term of court, date of proceedings, name of officers present, subject of hearing, names of interested parties present, orders of the court, signed approval of county judge, and clerk's attestation. These records are arranged chronologically by date recorded.

Contributing Partner: Travis County Clerk's Office

These records can be searched at

http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=Travis+County+Records&t=fulltext&fq=untl_institution%3ATCCO

Other index books will be added soon to complete this collection.

SIGs Sponsored by AGS

AGS DNA Special Interest Group

Have you gotten your DNA test completed and are wondering what to do with it? Or perhaps you've made some discoveries you'd like to share with others. Then this is the SIG for you!

September 21, Monday at 5:45 - 8 p.m.
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave., Austin, TX 78757

October 19 & November 9, Mondays 5:45 - 8 p.m.
Spicewood Springs Library
8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78759

Contact Randy Whited at whited.randy@gmail.com.

AGS Writing Special Interest Group

Feeling overwhelmed by writing your family history or not sure where to start? Need a friendly nudge to get started? Join us for the AGS Writing SIG!

September 24, October 29 & November 19, Thursdays at 5:45 - 7 p.m.
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave., Austin, TX 78757

Contact Robin Raben at mrsraben@austin.rr.com or Jim Bridges at bridgwork@aol.com.

A Tale of Two Crosses

By AGS Member Dick Peterson

Almost 20 years ago, I and my brothers, Craig and Bob, accompanied our father, Richard Martin Peterson, and our aunt, Mildred Peterson Blomquist, on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our Swedish homeland. Their mother, our grandmother, Esther Strid, had left her home for America at the age of 26, revisiting her family only once in 1957. Esther's father chose the name Strid when Sweden was changing from their traditional, historic, patronymic surnames, which identified the father, i.e. Gabrielsson. Some of her Strid brothers joined her in America. She lived with her uncle (who chose the name Widen) and his seven daughters. They were the first of our Gabrielsson lineage to come to the U.S. They lived in Georgetown and Del Valle. Our Peterson ancestors, Carl August Peterson and family, arrived from Sweden in the 1870s and is a certified Travis County Pioneer Family.

Our first trip to Sweden was to visit our extended family, our historic homes, and our family churches. Never did I imagine that I would be able to make that trip again. We kept in touch with "cousins" we met and were notified when another of our elder generation we had met passed away. We exchanged Christmas cards with many cousins.

We would also email early family photos for identification and translations from Swedish. One email reply about a photo included a short invitation to a family reunion and an attached announcement in Swedish.



The 1979 reunion of the Gabrielsson family in Sweden.



Invitation to a family reunion

Hi there,

Excuse me for this very late reply to your request. I'm sorry but I'm unable to identify any of the persons of the Widen relatives in US. However I'm probably familiar with several family names of our American relatives.

I would like to inform you that we are planning a meeting on the 20 of September for descendants of Carl-Fredrik Gabrielsson and his wife (see annexed invitation). Until now some 80 persons have addressed their interest to participate. Of course it would be a success if we also could include American relatives in this rendezvous of the Widen/Strid dynasty. Please find also attached photos from the latest meeting of the Gabrielsson family, which took place in 1979.

Welcome to our meeting in September!

*Best regards,
Arne Karlsson
Jönköping, Sweden*



The seven Texans who went to the reunion in Sweden.

Translation of the invitation piqued my interest, so I sent out the invitation (on a whim) to my Swedish kin in the U.S. Eventually, seven Texans would make the reunion to meet 80 or so cousins who descended from the same Gabrielsson couple. We shed tears of gladness, tears of joy; happy times were experienced by all at that Saturday reunion. Five families were represented and we had colored nametags to identify our “clan”. Göran and Sue Newquist Johansson presented genealogy of two of the families. Others presented the three other families. Göran tied it all together with his research on the family tree. I could tell

many stories about our journey, but one I will relate here had to do with the Sunday tour 38 of us were able to make into the countryside of our ancestors.

We visited former home sites, homes still standing, the Immigration History/Farming Museum at Barkeryd (dedicated to the emigrants to America) and of course, the churches. The most incredible thing happened inside one historic family church at Almesåkra. Our guide at the church invited those who could climb a steep stairway to join him in the attic storage above the balcony. The cramped quarters were stuffed with treasures from years of remodeling, including the original painted wood panels from the ceiling depicting angels and devils. Panels and artifacts were



Historic family church at Almesåkra where the crosses were discovered.



Otto Gabrielsson's cross.

everywhere, stored for some future museum or remodeling of the church. But then, our host produced a wooden cross and explained to our amazement that this was from the grave of the brother of the clan patriarch, whose descendants were present. It was an amazing find for us.

Not satisfied with this treasure, we decided on our own to go higher in the attic toward the belfry. Cell phone flashlights in hand, we explored more church artifacts, when suddenly our lights were directed to another similar cross. We had now discovered the matching cross to the first one, with the wife's name inscribed, but it was her maiden name. Our guide did not know the significance, but we genealogists certainly did!



Johanna's cross.

Our Swedish guide could not comprehend the excitement dealing with the *brother* of our patriarch. Little did he know, but these two crosses were also an important artifact of our direct lineage. In their

extended family, the two Gabrielsson brothers each had a son and daughter (first cousins) who would

eventually marry and begin the Strid lineage in Sweden. That lineage also ended up in Texas and several other states in the U.S.

I quote from Sue Newquist Johansson's original Facebook post:

"These two old, rugged wooden crosses were from the graves of the three Peterson brothers and others on the tour, great-great-grandparents who were born in the early 1800's. There were no other crosses or like items in the bell tower. Why were just these two old wooden crosses saved through time? Waiting for these three great, great, grandsons and one great, great, great granddaughter to come from Texas to connect? It was very, very touching in every way, truly! God is good."

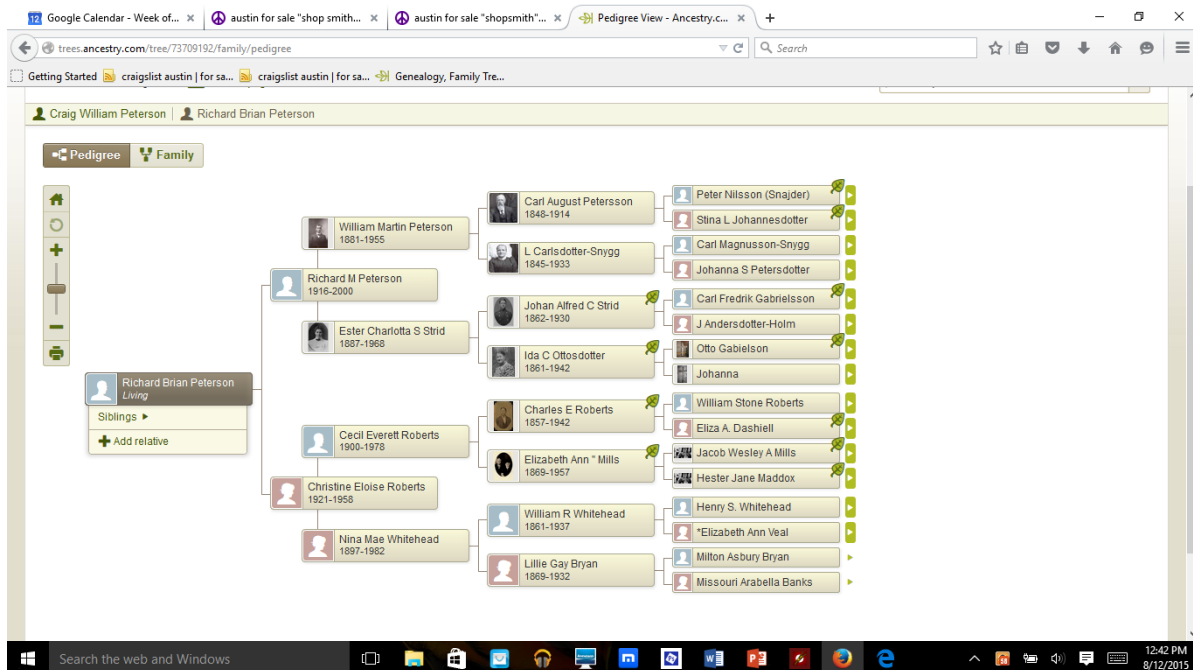
Many thanks to Göran and Sue Newquist Johansson of Hutto and Sweden for their planning and guidance during the reunion and bus tour. This story was inspired by a Facebook post by Sue in September of 2014.



The 2014 reunion of the Gabrielsson family in Sweden.



The Petersons at the J.A. Strid home in Sweden.



The author's ancestor chart.

The Family of Carl August Peterson

Submitted by AGS Member Kay Boyd

These photographs and biographies are from “*Swedes In Texas in Words and Pictures*”¹. The two volumes of books about Swedes who settled in Texas from 1838 to 1918 were published in 1918 in Swedish. The English version was printed in 1994. AGS member David Borg included the scanned version of the book in *Swedish America Heritage Online*, sweame.org. This website provides sharing of information about our Swedish-American ancestors and descendants across the United States.



Family of Carl August Peterson, Carl and his wife Louisa seated front and center.

“The widow, C. A. PETERSON, since many years living in Austin, came to Texas as one of the early settlers from Småland. She was part of a group which came to Austin in 1870. Jernäs is where she was born in 1845, and she is the daughter of a tailor, John Snygg. Except for two years with her husband in Omaha, Nebraska, she has lived in and around Austin ever since she came to America.

She married Carl August Peterson in 1871. He was the son of a tailor, Per Snajder, in Malmbäck, Småland. He came to Texas in 1870, and at first he worked in the countryside in Travis County. Peterson was also a carpenter by profession. The family was one of the first to settle in the community of Decker. He bought land there in 1879, but sold it soon thereafter and moved to Omaha, Nebraska. They lived there for two years and then returned to Texas. Peterson now started farming, and at his death a few years ago, he had a grocery-store in Hyde Park, Austin. A couple of his sons took care of the store after the father’s death. The couple has had ten children of which one boy and one girl have died. The remaining are: John, married and living in Carpentaria, Santa Barbara County, Cal., Alvin, Edward, William, Arly, Walter and Linus. The sons have all had a good education and hold good positions. The family belongs to the Swedish Methodist Congregation.”



William Martin Peterson. wife Esther. children Mildred and Richard.

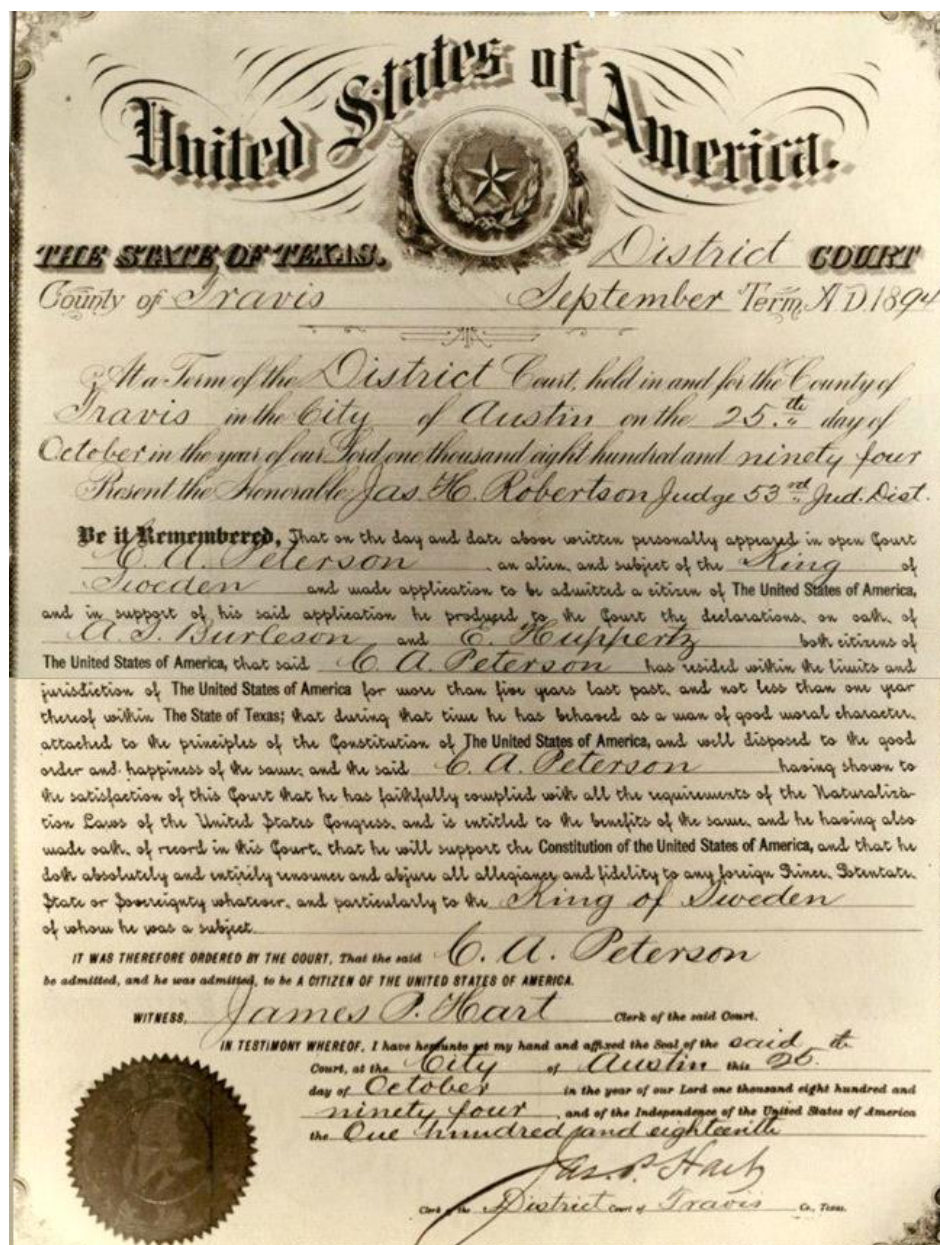
“WILLIAM MARTIN PETERSON, a carpenter and building-contractor in Austin, Texas, is one of the younger, active members of the Swedish Methodist Church in Austin. His parents before him were faithful and active members since its beginning. He was brought up within the congregation and in a Christian home and from his youth he learned to see the benefits of a Christian life and Christian home. Therefore, he has been entrusted with offices of trust in the congregation and the youth organizations. He is presently a leader.

Peterson was born 1881 in Omaha, Nebraska, where the family lived for a few years. His father, August Peterson, was a carpenter by profession but was also a farmer for many years. He was one of the first to break ground in the Swedish community in Decker. For many years he lived in a home he owned near Hyde Park in Austin. He died some years back, but his widow is still alive. The son stayed with the parents and helped on the farm, but when he became of age, he started out on his own. He has been a carpenter and is known as a skilled professional, and a reliable contractor. He is respected and well liked in both the community and church.

His wife, Esther Charlotta Sofia Strid, is from Malmbäck parish in Småland where she was born in 1887. She is the daughter of Corporal Johan Alfred Strid, and she first came to her paternal uncle, Carl Widen, in 1910 of Delvalle, who was then living near Georgetown, Texas. The couple married in 1914, and the children are: Mildred, born in 1915, and Richard, born in 1916.

CARL EDWARD PETERSON, a machinist at the Austin Water & Power Company, is one of the sons of the C.A. Peterson family. They were one of the first settlers of the Decker community but have lately been living in Austin, where Mr. Peterson died a few years ago. Carl Edward was born in Decker, Travis County, Texas, in 1879, but he went to Omaha, Nebraska, with his parents in the 80s. Their stay there was not long, because the Petersons returned to Texas and settled near Austin in Hyde Park.

The son stayed with his parents and helped his father with the farm work until he was twenty two, when he went to El Campo, Texas, and worked in the countryside there for a year. When he returned to Austin, he trained to be a machinist, a profession he has continued in, and for the last nine years, he has held the earlier mentioned position with the City. He is capable and dutiful, winning the respect and confidence of his countrymen and acquaintances. Since 1905, Peterson is married to Miss Elin Emelia Carlson, born in 1884 in Wallsjö, Småland, and the daughter of the farmer Carl Johan Johanson. She immigrated to this country in 1901, and first came to Taylor, Texas, where she stayed for a short time. She then moved to Austin where she has since lived. The couple has a daughter, Ethel Beatrice Elizabeth, born on October 1, 1906. Peterson has a brother living in Santa Barbara, California, but the rest of the brothers and his mother live in Austin."



1. Swedes in Texas in words and pictures, 1838-1918: English translation Hardcover – 1994, by Ernest Severin (Author), James Christianson (Editor), Christine Andreason (Translator)

Descendants of Carl August and Louisa Carlson Peterson

Travis County Pioneers proved to be in Travis County in 1871 #15-091, #15-092, #15-093, #15-094, #15-095, #15-096 and #15-097

By Kay Boyd

Generation No. 1

1. CARL AUGUST PETERSON was born 06 Jan 1848 in Jönköpings, Småland, Sweden, and died 19 Mar 1914 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married LOUISA CARLSDOTTER CARLSON 1872 in Travis County, Texas. She was born 29 Sep 1845 in Jönköpings, Småland, Sweden, and died 07 Feb 1933 in Austin, Travis, Texas. Carl is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Travis, Texas. Louisa is buried in Oakwood Annex Cemetery in Austin, Travis, Texas.

Child of CARL PETERSON and LOUISA CARLSON is:

2. i. WILLIAM MARTIN PETERSON, born 30 Jan 1881, Douglas County, Nebraska; died 06 Jan 1955, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 2

2. WILLIAM MARTIN PETERSON was born 30 Jan 1881 in Douglas County, Nebraska, and died 06 Jan 1955 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married ESTHER CHARLOTTA SOFIA STRID (JOHANSSON) 1914 in Travis County, Texas. She was born 12 May 1887 in Brunseryd, Malmbäck, Jönköpings, Småland, Sweden, and died 11 Oct 1968 in Austin, Travis, Texas. William and Esther are buried in the Oakwood Annex Cemetery in Austin, Travis, Texas.

Children of WILLIAM PETERSON and ESTHER (JOHANSSON) are:

3. i. MILDRED IDA LOUISE PETERSON, born 03 May 1915, Austin, Travis, Texas; died 19 Oct 2001, Austin, Travis, Texas.
4. ii. RICHARD MARTIN PETERSON, born 13 Jun 1916, Round Rock, Williamson, Texas; died 22 Sep 2000, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 3

3. MILDRED IDA LOUISE PETERSON was born 03 May 1915 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 19 Oct 2001 in Austin, Travis, Texas. She married LEVERNE CARLSON BLOMQUIST 1933 in Bastrop County, Texas. He was born 20 Jul 1915 in Williamson, Texas, and died 2 Jul 2002 in Taylor, Williamson, Texas. Mildred and LeVerne are buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery in Austin, Travis, Texas.

Child of MILDRED PETERSON and LEVERNE BLOMQUIST is:

- i. **BARBARA JENN BLOMQUIST**

4. RICHARD MARTIN PETERSON was born 13 Jun 1916 in Round Rock, Williamson, Texas, and died 22 Sep 2000 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married CHRISTINE ELOISE ROBERTS 1945 in Travis County, Texas. She was born 22 Sep 1921 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 09 Nov 1958 in Austin, Travis, Texas. Richard and Christine are buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery in Austin, Travis, Texas.

Children of RICHARD PETERSON and CHRISTINE ROBERTS are:

- i. **RICHARD BRIAN PETERSON**
- ii. **ROBERT DWAYNE PETERSON**
5. iii. **CRAIG WILLIAM PETERSON**

Generation No. 4

5. CRAIG WILLIAM PETERSON married RENA CAROL ANDRUS.

Child of CRAIG PETERSON and RENA ANDRUS is:

6. i. **WILLIAM ROBERT PETERSON.**

Generation No. 5

6. WILLIAM ROBERT PETERSON married JUDITH ANN JOHNSTON.

Children of WILLIAM PETERSON and JUDITH JOHNSTON are:

i. **JESSICA CHRISTINE PETERSON.**

ii. **ELIZABETH LEIGH PETERSON.**

(Names shown in bold text are recipients of Travis County Pioneer Certificates.)

Photograph of the last Eagle passenger train to go through Austin. The train stops at the Austin International & Great Northern (I&GN) Railroad depot in Austin. There are no passengers waiting on the platform. The engine has the logo of C&EI (Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad). I&GN Railroad operated in Texas. It was created when the International Railroad Company and Houston-based Great Northern Railroad Company merged on September 30, 1873. I&GN's Austin depot was completed on 3rd and Congress Avenues on December 28, 1876. In 1924, the I&GN was bought by Gulf Coast Lines (GCL), which was subsequently purchased by Missouri Pacific on January 1, 1925. I&GN operated as a subsidiary of Missouri Pacific until March 1, 1956, when all GCL subsidiaries were merged under Missouri Pacific, and I&GN ceased to operate as a corporate entity. The old Austin depot had been demolished in 1950. The station in the photograph, at 250 North Lamar Boulevard, was built in 1947 by Missouri Pacific. It discontinued the Texas Eagle on September 22, 1970. Later Amtrak assumed operation of the station and the Eagle.



PHCA 971129 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Bayne, Tom. Last Eagle passenger train through Austin, Photograph, ca. 1970; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124410/> : accessed September 28, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

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 Dec. 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

Index

A

Allen 86, 100
Andrus 116

B

Betts 100
Binz 97
Blomquist 109, 115
Bloss 101
Borg 112
Boyd 86, 106
Bridges 86, 102
Butler 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 98,
99, 100, 101

C

Carlson 114, 115
Cempny 89
Chalmers 106
Cooper 101
Crenshaw 98

D

Dolce 100

F

Fish 98
Fredericks 101

G

Gabrielsson 109, 110
Galvez 98
Golden 101
Gribble 101
Grumbles 86, 106

H

Harding 91
Harrell 89
Harris 87, 100
Hart 100
Hill 93
Hirshfield 97

Hodges 92
Howell 101
Hunt 100, 101

J

Johanson 114
Johansson 110, 111, 115
Johnson 98
Johnston 116
Joor 101

K

Karlsson 109
Keeble 96
Kelly 89, 90, 97
Kleiner 100
Kurlander 101

L

Little 101
Littlefield 93

M

Mahaffey 101
Marks 92
Marshall 101
Martindale 101
McGuinness 101
Moore 101
Morrison 96

O

Oatman 101

P

Palmer 101
Perkins 101
Peterson .. 86, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116
Pfeiffer 96
Pierce 101

R

Richards 101
Rivers 96

Roberts	115
Robinson.....	101
Russell	101

S

Scarborough	101
Schneider	97
Scott.....	101
Smoot	97
Snajder.....	112
Snead	101
Sneed	96
Snygg.....	112
Strid	109, 111, 113, 115
Stutzenburg.....	94
Sykes	101

T

Thomas	101
Tipps.....	97

Turbiville.....	101
-----------------	-----

W

Walling.....	101
Walne	97, 101
Washington	106
Watkins	87
Welder.....	101
White.....	101
Widen.....	109, 113
Williamson.....	100
Wood.....	101

Y

Young.....	98, 100, 101
------------	--------------

Z

Zilker.....	97
-------------	----

Photograph of 200 East Sixth Street circa 1866. The man on horse is William Oliphant who owned a jewelry store on Pecan Street in 1852. The child with him is Will Carter. The Missouri House, Michael Ziller residence, is in the background.



[Man on Horse on East Sixth Street], Photograph, ca. 1866; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht123938/>: accessed September 28, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

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.

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 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>.

Austin Genealogical Society
PO Box 10010 Austin Texas
78766 -1010