
❖ Tree Talk ❖

Volume 24 Issue 2

Winter 1998-1999

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DO YOU KNOW? BY: ELIZABETH NITSCHKE HICKS

Have you though about using tombstones/monuments as a source of genealogical information?

Do you remember seeing those "Tree Trunk" style tombstones in various cemeteries? These are the Woodman of the World monuments. The deceased would have been a member of a local chapter, who in turn kept minutes and membership records. What type of information can you expect? How about the deceased's age, date of membership, if married, single, widowed, name of spouse, beneficiary, descendent, all sorts of "good stuff" that might help you with your family research.

Most communities have had a chapter of the Woodman of the World at one time or another. To obtain records you will have to determine the name and number of the local chapter. Look on the W.O.W. tombstone near the base, look at other W.O.W. tombstones for this info., and try the local funeral home if all else fails. Once you have the information write to the home office (be sure to get a quote as to cost of records you seek, and ask what records for that local chapter are available):

Woodman of the World
Woodman Tower
1700 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2002

Does you ancestor have a Masonic emblem or Odd Fellows emblem on his tombstone? There are membership records for these organizations as well that may help you.

Texas Death Certificates - Statewide registration of deaths in Texas began in 1903. It took several counties awhile to "get with the program". One should write to the county and to the state for early death records (prior to ca. 1930).

Texas Death Records are available from: (Cost \$9.00 each)

The Bureau of Vital Statistics
Texas Dept. of Health
100 West 49th street
Austin, Texas 78756

EDITOR'S LETTER

This edition of Tree Talk features articles written by Amanda Abbott, Bernard Mayfield, John H. Maloney and Willie Harold Acker, Sr..

Miss Abbott was the speaker at the Society's meeting on October 12th. Her talk was accompanied by a number of photographs of her family and prominent Texan German-Americans .

Mr. Mayfield spoke at the November 9th meeting about World War I veterans from Cherokee County.. Mary Darby Taylor brought momentos and books about her late foster father, Virgil Talley, a soldier in Co. L, 359th Infantry Regiment during World War I.

The late J.H. Maloney was a member of our Society until his death.

Mr. Acker is the immediate past President of the Cherokee County Genealogical Society and a frequent contributor to Tree Talk.

Gordon Bennett, Editor

Announcement

Change of Address

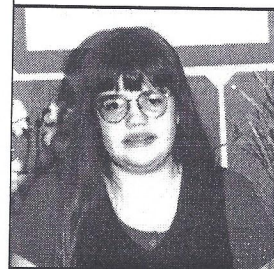
Ben L. Grimes
122 Whippoorwill Way
Georgetown, TX 78628-4823
512-868-0670
e-mail: B13159@aol.com

The Fall issue of Tree Talk included an announcement that Mr. Grimes was publishing a new family publication, the GRIMES NEWSLETTER on descendants of Walter GRIMES who probably came from England or Scotland before 1700 and settled in that part of VA that later was to become PA. Contact him at the address shown.

The on-line beta test version of the New Handbook of Texas is joint project of the General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas State Historical Association. This is a six volume encyclopedia of Texas history, people, events, etc. At this writing 1457 items are available about Cherokee County. It is located at:

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/>

The Society is now accepting Ancestor Charts to be included in a new edition of "Our Before's". A blank Ancestor Chart is included with this issue of Tree Talk. Mail to: Cherokee County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1332, Jacksonville, TX 75766-1332.



Amanda Abbott

Queries

- Gilbert Webb
1106 State St.
Big Spring, TX 79720-4747
- Robert Key
PO Drawer 22
Shreveport, LA 71161
318-222-4650
FAX 318-227-9762
- Jean Stevens
1926 Camino Harina
Yuma, AZ 85364
- Ethel Hooten
616 N. Briscoe
Tulia, TX 79088
hooten@amaonline.com
- Peggy Goodwin
PO Box 4
Lovelady, TX 75851
- Frances G. Trimble
6603 Preston Trail
Houston, TX 77069
FAX 281-444-5998
- Anna Beth Hewgley
744 W. William Cannon Dr. #1046
Austin, TX 78745
- Mary Blount,
104 West Fourth Avenue,
Tallahassee, FL 32303;
E-mail is: Hotulga@aol.com
- Curt Holdaway
4311 S. Washington
Amarillo, TX 79110
- Philip Lamb
5715 Palo Pinto Dr.
Dallas, TX 75206
214-828-1149
lamb@dallas.net
- Seeks photographs of Dialville, 1885-1926. He is trying to locate photos of schools of Dialville and any photo of the Blacksmith shop located across the Railroad East of Dialville.
- Needs to locate W.A. SHAW and wife, Hattie who once lived at the NW corner of the Cherokee County Country Club east of Jacksonville. The last transaction with them was dated 1951. They sold the land, retained mineral rights, but left no forwarding address. Please contact Robert Key if you can furnish an address or telephone number. for W.A. and/or Hattie SHAW.
- Archibald L. FLEMING b. 1870 Ark. son of Martha C. BOOTH FLEMING (she later md. C. Frank BOOTHE a cousin who was adopted or raised by Mr. C. or J. FLEMING and Martha B. FLEMING BOOTHE) Archie moved to Parker County, TX near Weatherford..married a Martha Eve MORGAN.
- Seeks given name of _____ CHRISTIAN b. 1785-1790 in NC. Married Elizabeth MOFFETT/MOFFOTT. Their children were: (1) Isabella Moffett CHRISTIAN , b 1809 d. Sep 7, 1887, m Chaney COUCH. (2) George Anderson CHRISTIAN , b. July 12, 1812 d. 1901, m Nancy GOODRIDGE (3) Pierra Christian Campbell, b June 16, 1814 d. Sept 10, 1862 m Joseph CAMPBELL (4) William CHRISTIAN b June 16, 1816 d June 1840. His wife later married William Brewer. Possible names of father are: John or William or George.
- Seeks verification of Russell Crawford MITCHELL enlistment in Hood's Texas, First Regiment of Infantry Volunteers, Company I. He enlisted at Alto, Texas July 20, 1861, fought in eleven battles and was severely wounded at Sharpsburg.
- Seeks the earliest McDonald burial grounds in east Texas. This would probably be in or near a Cumberland Presbyterian Church site. They came from Greene, Overton, and Wilson Counties in Tennessee.
- Would like to contact anyone connected to the Sherman MERRITT family. My direct line is: Lawson MERRITT m Mary Elizabeth HINTON in Jackson Parish, Louisiana ca 1858. Will pay for postage and copies.
- Looking for church records from Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church. Many of my relatives, HILL, HENDERSON, THOMASON attended services in Shiloh. I believe it was disbanded in 1954. Jesse HILL and Danial HENDERSON were church leaders. Who can help me?
- Seeking information on the burial location of William Harrison HAMMAN. According to an article in **THE NEW HANDBOOK OF TEXAS**, The Texas State Historical Association, he died in New Birmingham, TX and was buried in the Owensville (Robertson Co.)Cemetery. There is no marker & no record of his being buried in this county. Perhaps he was buried at New Birmingham or in the Rusk area. Any info concerning his place of burial will be most appreciated.
- Seeking information on the Central High Baptist Church located near highway 851 between Atoy and Alto. This church has been abandoned for many years. He would like to know about membership and whereabouts of church records.

 Queries

John Ozment
2096 Sarasota Ln.
Hayward, CA 94545-4216

Seeks information on Solomon & Martha H. George WOLFE who are on the 1860 Census in Cherokee Co., TX. Does a family bible exist for this couple? Martha H. GEORGE was the dau. of William GEORGE, Jr., and the granddaughter of Wm. GEORGE, Sr. & Elinor WALTON GEORGE.

Kenneth L. Porter
1309 S. Adams
Tucumcari, NM 88401

Searching for information on the children and grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. J.P. WILLIAMSON. Mrs. WILLIAMSON died in December, 1939. The death notice reported in the Waco Times Herald, December 29, 1939 listed surviving sons E.L. WILLIAMSON of Waco and H. WILLIAMSON of Riverside, CA., six grand children, Myrdeen WILLIAMSON of California, J.P. WILLIAMSON, Jr. of Amarillo, Miss Lottie Mae WILLIAMSON of Jacksonville, Mrs. W.H. DUPUY of San Antonio and A.E. and B.R. WILLIAMSON of Houston.

John & Eunita Trimble
4126 E. Pleasant Run Pky.N.Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46201-4527

Looking for any records of birth, marriage, death, burial for Philip Lewis TRIMBLE (d. 10/15/1867 Cherokee Co., TX), son Francis Marion TRIMBLE and Mary Ann LONG (married 3/16/1851 in Cherokee Co., TX). Philip Lewis TRIMBLE was Cherokee Co. Justice of the Peace, Prct #4, November 12, 1846. Another son John Lewis TRIMBLE was Cherokee Co., Justice/Peace, Prct #4 on 11/8/1850, 9/9/1852, and 9/5/1854.

Peggy Thomason-Brock
4016 W. Burton
Sherman, TX 75092

I am looking for info in Cherokee County Texas---are the families; Isaacks and Isaacs allied families?

Frances G. Trimble
6603 Preston Trail
Houston, TX 77069

My g.g.grandfather, John Stewart McDonald arrived in Texas before 1838 and was an Assistant district Surveyor to A.A. Nelson in Nacogdoches. As you know, at that time the Nacogdoches district was very large and the area that McDonald covered on horseback was huge. I lose track of MdDonald from 1839 (after he works in Nacogdoches) to 1842 when he returns as Nelson's second-in-command. I would like to know where he was. Editor's note: Cherokee County was formed from part of Nacogdoches County at the time Texas joined the United States in 1846.

Frances G. Trimble
6603 Preston Trail
Houston, TX 77069

Looking for someone to look at the headright papers of John Stewart McDonald and can tell me where that land is today. Usually, someone who has access to old maps and can compare rivers and boundaries can do this quite easily.

Frances G. Trimble
6603 Preston Trail
Houston, TX 77069

Trying to find the earliest McDonald burial grounds in East Texas. Is there someone who knows of early Cumberland Presbyterian sites in Cherokee County?

Military Records Found

The Veteran's Administration has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20th century records thought to have been destroyed in their 1973 fire. If you have been told the records you need were burned in that fire, you may want to write again:

National Personnel Records
GSA, 9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

Advise them — Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines — and they will send you forms to obtain all copies of your active duty records.

From: "Disabled American Veterans Bulletin", Newsletter April/March, 1998.

 From Germany to Texas, My Family Heritage by Amanda Abbott

I started my project by picking out my subject. I wanted a subject that no one else would have, and being the only one in the entire school with the name of Abbott, I decided to do my family history. Since my cousin Richard Cooper already did my father's maternal side, I decided to do my mother's side of the family. My project had to be about Texas so I widened the scope of it by taking advantage of my mother being full blooded German. I also did research on when and where the German pioneers settled after coming to Texas.

I began by going to the Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Section. I was really surprised about the number of books that have been written of Germans coming to America. I had to do a great deal of reading to get a complete understanding of why Germans started coming to Texas and the hardships they had to endure on their journey. I read books such as The German Americans by Anne Galich, and New Homes In A New Land by Ethel Geue. Then I also did research regarding maps for my board and found them in books such as Traces of Texas History by Daniel Fox and Texas Forever by Rita Kerr.

My mother had gotten touch with Mr. Acker regarding a lunch and learn program that he and his wife did at the library on questions you could ask family members when doing research. He sent us a copy of the questions which really helped out when I interviewed my Great Uncle Willie Piel. He was the oldest surviving member of the Piel family and had his 87th birthday two days after our interview. We video taped my talking with him and asking him questions. He told us that his school and church services were all done in German. He said he was able to learn easier when the schools switched to English. When he was 14, his father came down with pneumonia and he had to quit school and do all the farming. He also talked about how at Christmas time, the children felt lucky if they got an apple or an orange. When they were small, some of the local children were not allowed to play with them because they were German. It was fun talking to him.

Mr. Acker helped out on my report more than he realizes. In speaking with my mother, he mentioned the German-Texas Heritage Society in San Antonio. We called them to ask about resource material. We were advised about a Special Issue of the magazine Texas Highways which was entitled "Texans - Who we were...Who we are." A large part of my project about German Texas came from this source.

In continuing the research of the Piel family, we went to Malone, Texas, which is where both sides of my Mother's family resided. I spoke with Lillian Schulz Piel. She was a cousin to my Grandmother, Lydia Schulz, and when they both married Piel cousins they were related on both sides of the family, which I found was a pretty common thing. My mother even has a double cousin. Mrs. Piel also mentioned that her mother's maiden name was Schulze and when she married she just dropped the e on the end. Mrs. Piel helped us identify some old pictures and she also supplied us with a picture of my mother's maternal Great Grandparents. Another cousin supplied a picture of her paternal Great Grandparents. She had never seen pictures of them before and it gave her goose bumps to look into the past. She says her pointed ears evidently came from Rudolph and her hooded right eye from Juliane!!

We then took a picture of the local historical marker which has the names of Piel and Schultz listed as early settlers of Hill County.

I also visited with Debbie Piel in Berry, Texas. She and her husband have visited a lot of churches in Washington County in order to go through records to do research. She had a couple of publications that were extremely helpful. The were A History of Hill County Texas 1853-1980 by the Hill County Historical Commission and Two Trains Crossed - A History of Malone and Its People 1904-1984 by Meta Maass.

Previous research had been done on the family genealogy by Mrs. Alice Rollins on the family of Jacob and Rosalie Huse.

They were my Great Great Great Grandparents. Their daughter, Juliane married Rudolph Piel and the rest is history. My mother had decided that after the project was over she would try to update the family history from where it had been left off. One of her second cousins heard about my project and had already started doing research in tracing the Piel family tree back further. They joined forces, along with three other cousins, and now have printed copies of "Descendants of Rudolph Heinrich Piehl." It was always thought that the Piel name had an "H" in it and this was confirmed by a granddaughter. She said that it was dropped by Rudolph because he got tired of his mail being mixed up with another Piehl! So that opens up another area to search for relatives. My mother's cousin did a lot of research with the help of the Internet and descendants of their Great Grandfather's brother were located in Virginia Beach, Virginia and Temple, Texas.

On Labor Day weekend this past September, the very first "Piel Family" reunion was held at Malone, Texas. My mom says that my history project helped make that happen.

I'd like to say that it taught me a lot of things about my ancestors. It told me how hard it was for them to come over here, how hard they had to work to survive. It made me wonder and ask my mother questions, "Why did they never smile in pictures? Why did they have so many children? Why did a lot of people die at a young age?" Carl Schurz, who was a German revolutionist and the first German-born citizen to win election in the U.S. Senate, said once, "We as Germans are not called upon here to form a separate nationality but rather to contribute to the American nationality the strongest there is in us." So being of German descent, I am proud to be an American and especially a Texan!

Editor's Note: Amanda Abbott is a student in the Jacksonville Independent School District. She was one of 3 winners in the Middle School and later competed in the Junior Historian History Fair in San Antonio, Texas.

1882 CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICERS OF ELECTIONS Submitted by Beth Shirley:

Returning Officers for Elections - Ordered by the Court. that the following persons be and they are hereby appointed to be presiding Officers of Elections for their respective precincts to wit. for Rusk No. 1, E. M.. Priest. Alto No. 2, M. W. Armstrong. Jacksonville No. 3, N. C. Graggard. Larissa No. 4, J. C. Flaniken. Knoxville No. 5, Sam V. Fox. Myrtle Springs No. 6, Albert Tipton. Box Creek No. 7, R. S. Finley. Thompson's No. 8, W. D. Lewis. Pine Springs No, 9, Finis M. Braley. Pine Town No. 10, T. J. Roach. Gent No. 11, E. F. Ezell.

Election Precinct No. 10 - Ordered by the Court. that there be an additional election precinct in Beat No. 2 (1) said voting place to be at the A. Jackson Lodge and that the line between the election precinct at Rusk and A. Jackson Lodge to run thus: Commencing at a point on the Neches River three miles north of Egberts Bridge, thence to G. W. Phillips, thence to the Loden place, thence to Goodman Reynolds, thence due north to the beat line between Beats nos. 2 & 3.

The State of Texas) I, S. B. Barron, Clerk
County of Cherokee) Clerk of the County Court of

Cherokee County, Texas do hereby certify that the foregoing are true and correct copies of the order of the Commissioners Court said County - appointing Officers of Election for the year 1882 and the order establishing Voting Precinct No. 10.

Given under my hand and seal of Office
the 22nd day of August, 1882
S. B. Barron,
Clk. Co. Ct.

November 2nd
VOTERS-PINE TOWN PRECINCT No. 10
CHEROKEE COUNTY, TEXAS

- 1. J. T. Blocker 16. J. T. Ballew 31. Warren Allbright 46. S. M. Crume
2. R. P. Boman 17. Gilbert Mosely 32. J. R. Arnwine 47. J. F. Smith
3. R. B. Treaday (sic) 18. Tomas Mosely 33. W. J. Johnston 48. T. L. Ballew
4. G. S. Boman 19. W. A. Belvin 34. P. J. Adams 49. Emanuel Johnson
5. James Todd 20. Munro Stevens 35. John Sherman 50. Ed Branham
6. J. J. Ball 21. Evins Broom 36. Isaac Crawford 51. Bob Patterson
7. J.F.M. Allen 22. C. J. Carson 37. J. R. Sherman 52. T. J. Roach
8. J. H. Harris 23. A. R. Dorman 38. John Stevens 53. C. K. Norwood
9. C. P. Ward 24. N. R. Bobbit 39. J. A. Moris 54. T. Ball
10. J. T. Kirkpatrick 25. F. L. Fondern 40. W. R. Bobbit 55. P. L. Lofton
11. J. R. Lusk 26. Bob Franklin 41. William Shanks 56. J. J. Higgins
12. Aaron Crawford 27. Jim Patton 42. Bill Dickerson 57. T. F. McCreight
13. W. E. Blocker 28. W. H. Smith 43. Henry Burkley 58. Alphonso Henry
14. W. H. Batton 29. Charles Shanks 44. O. M. Benge 59. Sam Forman
15. J. W. French 30. Ben Benson 45. J. W. Crume

WORLD WAR I VETERANS by Bernard Mayfield

Eighty years have passed since the "Great War" ended and all the "doughboys" are gone. In Jacksonville, the last veteran of this war that I knew was Boone Jowers who joined the US Navy in 1917. County-wide, Dr. J. C. Hill of Alto was the last and oldest of veterans; when he died about two years ago he was over 100 years old. He was a dentist in the Medical Corps in England and in Germany. His brother, John P. Hill who is listed among the war dead on the War Memorial in City Park, evidently was drafted in another county.

War had been going on in Europe since 1914 and it was May 18, 1917, when the U.S. Congress passed the Selective Service Act which required all men between the ages of 21 and 31 on June 5, 1917, to register for military duty. Many stories were told of men who missed the draft by being too young for the first registration or a few days too old. The closest that I knew of was Peyton Lane who turned 31 the day before the cut-off date. A friend of his, only 26 days younger, had to register; he fought at the Meuse-Argonne and survived.

The Cherokee County Draft List being published in Tree Talk gives interesting details. I don't have statistics on how many registered in Cherokee County but a total of 1,034 were drafted before the war ended and 63 others enlisted in the service before the draft began.

I know two volunteers from Jacksonville who made a name for themselves: Rob McGowan, son of W. M. McGowan, enlisted in the Coast Artillery Service and was assigned to Battleship New Hampshire, patrolling the waters off New England. In June, 1917, he was given credit for sinking a German submarine off the coast of Maine. He received a congratulatory telegram from President Woodrow Wilson and was presented a \$50.00 gold piece. Another Jacksonville man, Cole Godsey, enlisted in the new U. S. Army Air Force in March, 1917, attained the rank of Lieutenant by the end of the war. The 3rd airplane ever to

land in Jacksonville was flown from Carruthers' Field near Ft. Worth by Cole Godsey who came to visit his mother.

After the draft went into effect, all men (volunteers & draftees) of registration age had to be inducted through the selective service process. By the middle of Sept., 1918, one and one half million Americans were in Europe, 4,000,000 were in training and 15,000,000 more were registered for draft.

Thankfully, this fresh American force soon brought Germany to its knees and the fighting in Europe ended when the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918.

Americans had paid a heavy price to stop the German assault on Europe. American losses nationwide: 49,000 killed in battle, 57,000 dead of disease, 6,500 died of other causes.

There are 56 names on the War Memorial of World War I Veterans who were victims of the war from Cherokee County, Texas.

America quickly began honoring its fallen Veterans. In Cherokee County in December, 1918 the Cherokee County Council of Defense (Dr. J. N. Bone, Secretary; J. I Perkins, Chairman) began collecting names of those killed, wounded, and dead of disease. The Honor Roll was placed in the County Clerk's office in Rusk.

The genealogical society was very helpful in gathering information on our WW I Veterans from the Texas Military Forces Museum at Austin. A list of 40 Cherokee County veterans was obtained, although the museum docent who prepared the list pointed out that Meddie L. Blanton of Troup, TX was from Smith County. He enlisted in Rusk, TX therefore we like to consider him ours. The reason for the discrepancies in our veterans list and the War Dept. list is that many men born and raised in Cherokee County were living in other counties when drafted.

Example: On the monument is William Flournoy Bengé (killed in France on Nov. 3 - just 8 days before the Armistice was signed) was listed by the War Dept. as being from Walker County. His father, W. L. Bengé had a large family in Cherokee County and he wanted to educate his children so he moved to Huntsville, Walker County, to put his children in Sam Houston Normal College. Five of his boys went into service after the move to Walker County.

From various sources I've learned something about most of the Vets on the Memorial but it would be monotonous to you for me to go through the list and read their military record.

While reading the War Department's dry bones official record, I noticed that many of the veterans on the honor roll belonged to the 359th Inf. Reg. organized at San Antonio and many died within a few days. So, I decided the best way to give you a bird's eye view of WW I and present the story typical of veterans' war experience was to tell the story of Co. L of the 359th Inf. Reg., 90th Div, 1st Army of the American Expeditionary forces in France. There were about 180 men in Co. L and 32 were from Cherokee County. Experience in the military started for some of these men at Rusk, Cherokee County, TX, April 26, 1918 when sworn in by Draft Board Chairman W. B. Simmons. The draftees were placed on a special railroad car and sent to Jacksonville to be connected to the I.G.N. (Union Pacific) line for the trip to San Antonio and Camp Travis where the 359th Inf. Reg. was being organized. From Jacksonville these were Joe T, Templeton, Jim P. Alexander, Ben Whatley, Roger Tipton and Chris Emmett. When they arrived at Camp Travis, others from Jacksonville were already there: George Singleton, "Doby" Lloyd, and Williard Newton.

WORLD WAR I VETERANS by Bernard Mayfield , Continued

After a few days of indoctrination and issuing of uniforms and supplies, the men were formed into Co. L 359th Inf./Reg. - 180 men, half of them from East Texas and 31 from Cherokee County. They began training (mostly rifle training & marching) at Camp Bullis about 18 miles from San Antonio. Training lasted about one month because American Gen. John J. Pershing wanted one to three million American men trained as an independent fighting force, reinforcing the French-British defense of Paris, but assigned to its own sector and separate American command.

June 15, 1918, the 359th boarded the I.G.N. train that retraced the route to Jacksonville. Although the train did not stop there, a throng of people were at the depot about 12:30 a.m. to wave goodbye to their soldier boys. The train carried the regiment to Jersey City where it boarded the "Susquehanna," a ship to New York and Camp Mills. Eight days there and the unit loaded on a British ship "El Penor" in the East River and the 359th was now a part of the American Expeditionary Forces bound for Europe. Company L, along with Companies M, I, & K comprised the 3rd Battalion, 359th Regiment assigned to the 90th Division, 1st Corps under the command of General Hunter Liggett.

The "El Penor" was thrown into a 12-ship convoy that passed the Shetland Islands off the English coast on June 28. They put in at Liverpool, rode a train to Winchester, and walked three miles uphill to Winneldown. The Lord Mayor of Winchester made a speech about the 4th of July and why it made the British and Americans such good friends. The Doughboys thought that was a little too much smoothing over of the outcome of the American Revolution for the sake of having the Americans as Allies.

After two days on a train for South Hampton they saw the first British Hospital Ship from France unloading wounded soldiers. L. Company

boarded a boat across the English Channel to Cherbourg, France to British Camp No. 1; two or three days on the move toward front (Siegfried or Hindenberg Line from North Sea in Belgium to northeast of Paris) they travelled the same route that the 30th Div. would travel during WW II in 1944. Their destination was a reserve position between the Meuse and Mozelle Rivers near the town of St. Mihiel. The American forces now had been consolidated into a separate fighting unit under complete American command called American 1st Army. The 359th was introduced to trench warfare, made necessary by the Germans' effective use of machine guns. But Americans were about to change the way the game had been played the last four years.

On Sept. 12, 1918, American 1st Army went "over the top" with the 90th Div., one of the first to begin the "Battle of St. Mihiel." It lasted three days and our list of honored dead began to grow. The Germans were pushed back toward Mozelle; the 90th Div. was put in reserve and then trucked 75 miles where the Battle of Verdeen started on Nov. 1, relieved on Meuse-Argonne Campaigns Nov. 3, and the Armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918.

The 90th Div. was assigned to the 3rd U. S. Army of occupation to enter Germany and they remained there through 1919.

List of War Dead in 359th Inf. From Cherokee County

1. John W. Heermans, Jacksonville, Sept. 12, Killed in Action.
2. Kirby Spivey, Rusk, Oct. 18, Died of Disease.
3. Rogers S. Tipton, Hdq. Co., Jacksonville, Sept. 12, Killed in Action.
4. Wm. J. Perry, Dialville, Sept. 12, Killed in Action

Wounded

1. Albert S. Jones, Ironton - wounded leg
2. John Robert O'Bar, Griffin - wounded
3. Gilbert Odom, Rusk - wounded
4. John O. Paris, Ironton - gassed.
5. George A. Ross, Rusk - wounded
6. Chester E. Stockton --wounded
7. Sgt. Herman Bengel -- wounded.

Three other men I'd like to mention from Jacksonville were all out of the same Sunday School Class at First Methodist Church:

- Harold C. Chapman, Co. D, 9th Inf., 2nd Div. Killed in Action Oct. 3, 1918
- Morris T. Toler, Co. K., 9th Inf., Died of wounds Sept. 23, 1918.
- David R. Prather, 28th Depo Co., Camp McArthur - Died of Disease (pneumonia) Oct. 17, 1918.

If you would like to read the story of L Company, see the book in Jacksonville Public Library entitled GIVE WAY TO THE RIGHT by Chris Emmett.

Editor's Note: Bernard Mayfield is a member of Cherokee County Genealogical Society and the Cherokee County Historical Commission. He was a featured speaker at the Ancestor Swap Meet held in Jacksonville June 27, 1998.

Visit our Internet site at:
<http://www.e-tex.com/index.htm>

List of World War Dead - Cherokee County

| Name | Serial No. | Race | Residence | Grade | Organization | Date of Death | Manner of Death |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|-----------|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Allen, Willie S. | 1,495,784 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | Co L 9 Inf | 9/12/1918 | DW |
| Bagley, John F. | 1,129,042 | White | Rusk | Pvt | 1 Co Dev Bn Camp Sheridan | 11/4/1918 | OCD |
| Ballew, Thomas L. | 3,062,886 | White | Dialville | Corp | Co H 118 Engrs | 7/17/1919 | OCF |
| Beamon, Marcellus | 4,858,578 | Colored | Ponta | Pvt (Rct) | Co 6 Detention Camp Unassd Camp Bowie, Texas | 10/18/1918 | OCD |
| Bradford, Henry E. | 3,973,230 | Colored | Rusk | Pvt | Sup Co 815 Pion Inf | 1/12/1919 | OCF |
| Brisby (Grisby?), Chester | 282,459 | Colored | Jacksonville | Pvt 1cl | Co C 509 Engrs | 5/31/1918 | OCF |
| Chapman, Harold | 1,495,055 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt 1cl | Co D 9 Infantry | 10/3/1918 | KA |
| Claiborne, Jim W. | 2,226,356 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | Co I 47th Infantry | 8/7/1918 | KA |
| Coleman, John H. | 2,226,361 | White | Rusk | Pvt | MG Co 138 Inf | 9/26/1918 | DW |
| Cook, Gaston J. | 1,131,768 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | 322 Aero Squadron | 12/13/1918 | OCD |
| Cooper, Marion M. | | White | Alto | Pvt | Co D 143d Inf | 2/19/1918 | OCD |
| Davis, (William S.?)Sidney | | White | Jacksonville | Pvt 1cl | Co F 143d Inf | 11/29/1917 | OCD |
| Findley, Tom | 2,237,396 | White | Wells | Pvt | Co D 58 Inf | 7/19/1918 | KA |
| Fuller, Earl | 3,972,939 | Colored | Jacksonville | Pvt 1cl | Co B 341 Lab Bn | 10/28/1918 | OCF |
| Hood, Donlie Ira | 3,509,619 | White | Mt. Selman | Pvt | 34 Co Sept Aut Repl Draft Camp MacArthur Tex. | 10/6/1918 | OCF |
| Hurmans (Heermans), John W. | 2,226,312 | White | Jacksonville | Mec | Co L 359 Inf | 9/12/1918 | KA |
| Jenkins, Emory J. | 3,969,007 | White | Rusk | Pvt | Co H 68 Infantry | 9/11/1918 | OCD |

List of World War Dead - Cherokee County, continued

| Name | Serial No. | Race | Residence | Grade | Organization | Date of Death | Manner of Death |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|---------|---|---------------|-----------------|
| McDonald (McDaniel?), Albert C. | 3,661,629 | White | Rusk | Pvt | Co H 133 Inf | 9/23/1918 | OCD |
| McGill, Pearlie R | 2,226,397 | White | Forest | Pvt | Co E 138 Inf | 9/27/1918 | DW |
| Norman, Daniel H. | 2,249,044 | White | Rusk | Pvt | 18 Co 5 Bn 165 Dep Brigade | 4/5/1918 | OCD |
| Perry, William J. | 2,249,052 | White | Dialville | Pvt 1cl | Co L 359 Inf | 9/12/1918 | KA |
| Prather, David R. | 1,136,892 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | 28 Co Camp McArthur Sept Aut Repl draft. | 10/17/1918 | OCF |
| Reagan, John T. | 3,064,198 | White | Rusk | Pvt | QMC Utilities Det Cp Travis Tex. | 12/24/1918 | OCD |
| Redd, Oscar W. | | White | Wells | Pvt | Co D 143d Inf | 1/8/1918 | OCD |
| Richardson, Henry | 4,858,540 | Colored | Jacksonville | Pvt | Detention Cp.Cp Bowie Tex | 10/12/1918 | OCD |
| Richey, Charles V. | 1,136,912 | White | Reklaw | Pvt | 28 Co Sept Repl draft, Cp Arthur | 10/10/1918 | OCF |
| Sanders, Jake | 4,858,560 | Colored | Forest | Pvt 1cl | Co B 355 Lab Bn | 1/21/1919 | OCD |
| Scott, Albert E. | 3,661,637 | White | Rusk | Pvt | Co K 134 Infantry | 10/14/1918 | OCD |
| Solley, Carl L. | 2,231,276 | White | Alto | Pvt 1cl | Co B 345 MG Bn | 9/30/1918 | DW |
| Sorrels, Lawrence | 3,979,408 | White | Griffen | Pvt | Hq Co 33 Inf | 12/24/1918 | OCD |
| Spain, Oscar L. | | White | Rusk | Pvt | Co G 144 Inf | 12/6/1917 | OCD |
| Spivey, Kirby | 2,249,072 | White | Rusk | Pvt | Co L 359 Inf | 10/18/1918 | OCF |
| Tillman, Edgar M. | 2,236,155 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | Btry A 129 FA | 4/14/1918 | OCD |
| Tipton, S. Rodgers | 2,807,293 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt | Hq. Co. 359 Inf | 9/12/1918 | KA |
| Toler, Morris T. | 1,495,012 | White | Jacksonville | Pvt 1cl | Co K 9 Inf | 9/23/1918 | DW |
| Walker, William F. | 1,495,020 | White | Rusk | Pvt | Unassigned | 10/20/1918 | OCD |

List of World War Dead - Cherokee County, continued

| Name | Serial No. | Race | Residence | Grade | Organization | Date of Death | Manner of Death |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|------------|-------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Wright, Robert | 2,226,441 | White | Alto | Pvt 1cl | Co F 59 Inf. | 9/29/1918 | DW |
| Wrotenberry, Wm. (U.S.N.R.F.) | 197-45-66 | White | Mt. Selman | Apprentice Seaman | Naval Training Camp, San Pedro, California | 8/18/1918 | Dom. death |

The foregoing list is correct and complete insofar as can be determined from the records on file in this office. However, additional statements of service and changes to statements of service already furnished are being received daily from the Adjutant General of the Army, and it is possible that there may be errors and omissions in this list. Should any errors or omissions come to the attention of the county authorities the Adjutant General will appreciate being advised in order that he may take steps to correct the lists and records of the Adjutant General's department.

May 24, 1928

OFFICIAL:

Key: KA Killed in Action
 DW Died of Wounds
 OCF Died of Other Causes, Foreign deaths.
 OCD Died of Other Causes, Domestic deaths.

TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM

Post Office Box 5218
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 FAX (512) 706-6750

Cherokee County Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 1332
 Jacksonville, TX 75766-1332

30 October 1998

Ms. Edmiston:

Thank you for inquiring about service records from WWI, for those persons who died from your county. The list that came from the government differs from yours in that the persons were other counties or who may have been born in Cherokee but at the time of enlistment were living in another county. There are also some spelling errors that you will see on the last page.

One of the names listed was Meddie L. Blanton, enclosed is a sample of what the service records look like. This person was not from Cherokee County.

The Research fee for this search will (be) \$1.00 per name. We also can provide a copy of WWII, Korean and Vietnam deaths from your county.

Yours sincerely
 Pat Ford
 Docent Coordi.
 TMFM

World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration 1917-1918

Submitted by Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

(National Archives Microfilm Publ. M1509, roll 22, Texas, Cherokee County, continued from Fall, 1998 issue)

- #3561 John Dan Alexander**
Rusk, Cherokee Co., TX (Residence)
Age 18, Nov 14, 1899 (DOB)
Negor, Native born
County Convict
Alfred Alexander, P.O. Box 302
Rusk, TX (nearest relative)
Short, Medium build, Black Hair
Black Eyes, Registered 9-12-1918
- # 67 Lige Alexander age 24**
Gould, TX (residence)
Born 7-14-1893, Native born
[place of birth, Reynolds, TX
Farmer, single, White, Medium
Height, Blue eyes, Brown hair
- # 34 John Thomas Alexander age 27**
Rt 1 Rusk, TX (residence)
11-25-1889 (Date of Birth)
Native born, Born Rusk TX
Citizen, Self-employed farmer
near Rusk, Wife and 1 child
Married, White, Tall, Medium
build, Brown eyes, light hair
Precinct 1, Registered 6-5-1917
- # 76 Major Alexander age 21**
Jacksonville (residence)
Born 3-22-1896, Native born
Jacksonville, (POB)
Single, African, Tall, Stout
Black Eyes, Dark hair
Precinct 18, registered 6-5-1917
- # 182 Lem Alexander age 25**
Gould, TX (residence)
9/1/1890 (DOB) born Gould, TX
Native born, Single, White
Short, Stout build, Gray eyes,
light brown hair, Precinct 5
- # 190 Moody Alexander age 24**
Jacksonville (residence)
born 3-29-1893, Native born
place of birth - Jacksonville
Self-employed farmer near
Jacksonville, Married, Negro,
disability - Rheumatism, Medium
Height, Medium build, Brown eyes
Black hair, Precinct 18
Registered 1-5-1917
- # 54 Lexton Alexander age 25**
Jacksonville, TX (Home address)
2/26/1892 (DOB)
Native born, Citizen
born Jacksonville
self-employed farmer
2 brothers (dependents)
Married, African, medium height
Medium build, black eyes, dark hair
Precinct 18, registered 6-5-1917
- #3259 Oran Lee Alexander age 37**
Jacksonville (residence)
10-17-1878 date of birth
White, Native born, Grading
Contractor
Road Dist. #1, Jacksonville
Nearest relative - J.L. Alexander
Jacksonville (address of nearest
relative) Medium Height, Medium
Build, Brown eyes
Brown hair, Registered 9-12-1918

World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration 1917-1918, continued

- #2574 Osar (Oscar?) Doyle Alexander age 33 # 23
 R.F.D. 5 Jacksonville
 12-10-1885 (date of birth)
 White, native Born
 Self-employed farmer, RFD Jacksonville
 Mrs. Alma Alexander (nearest relative)
 Same address
 Medium Height, Slender, Blue Eyes,
 Brown hair
 registered 9-12-1918
- Russell A. V. Alexander age 21
 1000 Willis St., Austin, TX
 (residence) College Student?
 2-14-1897 (DOB)
 Dallas, TX (place of birth)
 Father's place of birth - TN
 George Houston, employer, Rusk,
 TX Nora Alexander (sister)
 nearest relative, 1000 Willis,
 Austin, TX Short, Stout, Blue
 eyes, Light brown
 hair, registered 6-15-1918
- #2266 Patrick Henry Alexander age 40 # 36
 Gould, TX (residence)
 7-28-1878 (DOB), White Native
 Farmer
 Wife, Mina Alexander, Gould, TX
 Medium Height, Medium Build, blue
 Eyes
 Brown Hair, Registered 9-12-1918
- Temple Columbus Alexander
 age 30
 Rt 1, Rusk, TX (residence)
 12-17-1886 (date of birth)
 Native born Citizen
 Rusk, TX (POB)
 Self-employed near Rusk
 Wife and 2 children, Married
 White, Tall, Medium, Brown eyes
 and hair
 Precinct 1, registered 6-5-1917
- #2422 Quilla Alexander age 34 # 976
 Rt 4, Jacksonville (residence)
 2-5-1884 (date of birth)
 Negro, native born, self-employed
 farmer, Nan Alexander, wife
 Rt 4, Jacksonville
 Tall, Medium Build, Black eyes
 Black hair, registered 9-12-1918
- Thomas Franklin Alexander age
 38
 Rt 5 Troup, Smith Co. (perm.
 address)
 2-21-1880 (DOB)
 White, Native born, farmer
 nearest relative: father, John
 Alexander, Gould, TX
 Medium, Medium, Grey eyes,
 Black hair
 Registered 9-15-1918
- #1007 Roy Edwards Alexander age 20 # 99
 Rt 5 Jacksonville (residence)
 8-1-1898 (DOB)
 White, Native born, farming
 employer - father, W.N. Alexander
 Tall, Stout, Blue eyes, Light hair
- William Neal Alexander age 22
 Rusk, TX (residence)
 7-11-1894 (DOB)
 Native born, Citizen, self-
 employed farmer, wife and child,
 married, white Short, Medium,
 Blue eyes, Light Brown
 Precinct 1, registered 6-5-1917

World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration 1917-1918, continued

- # 256 Winfield Alexander age 21
Jacksonville (residence)
July 4, 1896 (DOB)
Mt. Enterprise, TX (POB)
Father's birthplace, unknown, USA
Wilson Douglas, employer near
Jacksonville
Erwin Alexander (nearest relative)
Jacksonville, TX
Dark Brown eyes, Black hair
registered 6-5-1918
- # 89 Zane Alexander age 27
Jacksonville, TX
11-17-1890 (date of birth)
native born, Jacksonville (POB)
Self-employed farmer 3 miles NW
Jacksonville, Wife, Married, Negro
Tall, Stout, Hazel eyes, Black hair
Precinct 18 registered 6-5-1917
- #1 George Allbright age 24
Bullard, RFD 1
3-1-1893 (Date of birth)
Rusk, TX (Place of birth)
Farmer, Wife, Married, Negro
Medium, Stout, Brown eyes, Black
hair
Precinct 19, registered 6-5-1919
- # 147 Albert Aiken age 25
Ironton, TX
8-10-1892 (DOB)
native born, Troup, TX (POB)
Farmer for Frank Allen, Ironton
Single, White, Medium Height
Medium Build, Blue eyes, Light hair
Precinct 18, registered 6-5-1917
- #2792 Albert Barry Allen age 20
Alto, TX (Residence)
12-27-1898 (date of birth)
White, Native born
Teacher (?) Public School
Laura Pearl Allen, wife
Alto (residence)
Medium Slender, Blue eyes, Black
hair
registered 9-12-1918
- #1566 Aleron Allen age 33
Rt 2, Ponta, TX
5-5-1885 (date of birth)
Negro Native born
Farmer
Lucy Allen, nearest relative
Ponta, TX, Medium, Med., Black,
Black
Registered, 9-12-1918
- #1117 Alexander Allen age 18
Wells, TX (residence)
5-10-1900 (date of birth)
negro, Native born
Section Hand, Will Jonson
(Johnson?)
Wells, TX
Alex Allen, Alto (nearest relative)
Tall, Slender, Black eyes, Black
hair
- #3395 Arthur Allen Age 42
Rt 5, Rusk, TX
8-26-1876 (date of birth)
Farmer for Isreal Kennedy
Rt 5, Rusk, TX
Hannah Harris, nearest relative
Rt 5, Rusk, TX
Medium, Medium, Blue eyes, Black
hair
Registered 9-12-1918

(Transcribed from National Archive Microfilm publ. M1509, roll 22, Cherokee county)

to be continued

A Short History of Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Cherokee Co, TX
by Willie Harold Acker, Sr.,
Route 7 Box 38, Jacksonville, TX 75766-9105, June 7, 1998

Prior to 1839, there were only a few whites living in the area which would become Cherokee County. Most of them lived along the Old San Antonio Road. A few lived along the Neches Saline Road which was an old Indian Trail. (23)

Mirabeau B. Lamar became President of the Republic of Texas on December 10, 1838. Unlike his predecessor, Sam Houston, he had little sympathy for the Indians living in Texas. He felt the Cherokee Indians had no just claim to the land they occupied in East Texas; thus, he ordered them to leave. When the Cherokees refused to leave, President Lamar sent troops who forcibly removed them from Texas. (3,205)

After the Cherokee Indians were removed from this area and the Republic of Texas Legislature provided for the occupation of vacant lands, pioneers began to move in at a faster rate. As the years passed, the rate of immigration increased. At first, most of the pioneer immigrants to this area settled near the Neches Saline Road which went through the valley about one-half mile east of the present location of the Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church. (4,8)(8,i)

The early pioneers to this area had to be a strong hardy group. There were no roads with the exception of the Neches Saline Road. It was 10 miles to Cooks Fort for supplies and 50 miles to Nacogdoches. The situation was helped somewhat in 1847 when the Cherokee County Commissioners Court had a road hacked out of the wilderness from Rusk to the Neches Saline near the home of Thomas Lindsey. This enabled the pioneers to go to the new town of Rusk and buy supplies when merchants began operating stores there. (4,10)

As previously stated, the early pioneers to this area had no local source of supplies. There were no schools, no churches or any so-called modern conveniences. They evidently met in various homes to worship.

On April 8, 1848, a number of believers gathered in the home of Thomas J. Lindsey for the purpose of organizing a church. (14) The church would become the second oldest church in the county with Old Palestine east of Alto being the oldest. (4,25)

According to the church minute book, the organizers had previously petitioned a Presbytery for the purpose of organizing a church. The Presbytery stated: "We find them orthodox and holding the mysteries of the faith in a pure conscience therefore we pronounce them a regularly constituted church." (8,ii)

The Presbytery consisted of B.C. Walters and Moses Walters. (8,ii) B.C. Walters was listed as a minister on the 1850 Federal Census of Cherokee County and Moses Walters was 80 years old and was living in the household of A.C. Walters who was probably his son. (11)

The organizers as listed on the Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church Historical Marker included the following:

Minerva Crenshaw - a widow with family had arrived from Sabine Co, TX. (21,38) Prior to that they had lived in AL. (21,38)

Halbert Family - Stephen and wife Sally Margaret, son John and daughter Frances and others of the family had arrived from Sabine Co, TX. (20,69) Prior to that they had lived in Limestone Co, AL. (9)

John Harris ordained deacon) - His family had arrived in TX from MS. (11)

Thomas and Lucy Johnston - recently arrived in TX.

Lindsey Family - All of them had arrived from Choctaw Co, MS. (2)

Isaac and Seary Sheppard - had arrived in TX from MS. (11)

Wylie Thomason - had arrived from AL. (11)

Some of these originators may have been related or perhaps friends prior to coming to this area. Their relationships, if any, are unknown but possibilities of relationships are evident. For example, John Harris' wife Amelia - her maiden name was Sheppard.

Historical writers state that the organizational meeting was under Elder Walter Ross. (23) Nothing seems to be known of Elder Walter Ross. It is hoped that future researchers will be able to learn more about this person.

An examination of the 1850 census indices for TX, LA, MS, AL, and GA has been done. There was a Walter P. Ross on the Autauga Co, AL Federal Census Roll in 1850. (10) He was married and had eight children. He was also on the 1860 Autauga Co, AL Federal Census Roll. (12)

Several sources state that George Washington Slover was called as the first pastor. (23) George Washington Slover had arrived in Texas from Georgia. (13) Rev. Slover died August 22, 1864 and is buried in the Rocky Springs Cemetery. An Official Texas Historical Grave Marker has been placed at his grave. (4,524)

The church came to be called the Rocky Springs Baptist Church of Christ. (8) This researcher feels every word in the name has some importance. Rocky Springs describes the springs near the church and in the area in general. Baptist denotes the fact that the group believed in baptism by immersion of those who had professed Jesus Christ as their Savior. They also believed that a church was a local visible body of baptized believers with Christ as its head and a pastor as an

A Short History of Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Cherokee Co, TX
continued

under shepherd; hence, the term Church of Christ. The name today is Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church - a slight change in name but I assure you its beliefs have not changed.

Soon after the church was organized a log cabin was erected on the present site to serve as a house of worship. (23) This location was an ideal site. The flowing branch could supply an ample supply of drinking water for the animals who brought the worshippers to church and the springs could furnish water for the worshippers. More importantly, since Baptists baptize by immersion, much water is needed, and the branch just beside the church could furnish it. Baptizing in the branch continued until recent times.

The log cabin was replaced in a few years by what is at present the church sanctuary. (23) Of course, it has been repaired and renewed. However, there are still parts of it which date its construction. A quick look under this sanctuary will reveal hewn log beams around the outer edges. This hewn log construction is indicative that it was constructed around the 1850's time frame.

Rocky Springs Cemetery originated in the early days of the church. (23) The oldest legible headstone reads as follows:

T.M. Lindsey Still Born 5-12-1849

This marker is a brownish-red rock marker. Many stones in the cemetery are of this type. These stones were probably mined about three miles west of the cemetery. Most of the older brownish-red rock markers have the information etched (scratched) on them but later ones show the lettering was done by a professional engraver.

When the log cabin was built, it was built on vacant land; that is, unclaimed land. John Harris, the deacon present at the organizational meeting, would eventually own the land where the church and original graveyard are situated.

John Harris was not issued a land certificate or a patent for the land. Wiley Faircloth was issued an unconditional certificate #28 for 227 acres of land by the Board of Land Commissioners of Sabine Co, TX in July 1847. Mr. Faircloth never located and surveyed his land but simply sold the certificate to John Harris on February 25, 1850. John Harris located the land, had it surveyed with metes and bounds stated, and received a deed for the 227 acres from Gov. P. H. Bell February 7, 1853. (7, Vol L/pages 603-604)

The name of the land survey where the church and original graveyard are situated is the Wiley Faircloth Survey. Most of the survey is owned by a private corporation at this time.

Mr. Harris sold all of the Wiley Faircloth Survey to Hiram McKnight on November 5, 1853. One portion of the deed reserved for the church 4 or 6 acres more or less including the spring and graveyard. (7, Vol J/page 503) Then on December 10, 1853 John Harris deeded the 6-1/6 acres previously reserved to the Rocky Springs Baptist Church trustees and their successors in office. The trustees were Wylie Thomason, James Long, and Stephen Halbert. (7, Vol I/page 311)

Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery were blessed by this land gift. Many of our early churches and cemeteries had no deeds to their property. Some of those cemeteries have been lost because of lack of deeded ownership.

Soon after its organization, the church began to engage in associational work. In November 1849, Rocky Springs was one of twelve churches who met at Old Union Church near Nacogdoches and formed the Eastern Texas Association of United Baptists. The purpose of the association was to promote mission work. (19,174) A review of the church minutes reveals that the church has engaged in mission and associational work up to and including the present time. (8)

The church performed a great mission work in September, 1854. It helped in the establishment of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church near Maydelle, TX. George Washington Slover was the first Pastor there and many of the Rocky Springs area people helped form that church. (24)

There have been times when hard times came to the members of the church. A great drought and heat wave came upon East Texas and the church in 1859 and 1860. It has been best described by Z. N. Morrell, a Baptist Preacher who lived during this time, as follows: (19,203)

"Those who spent the years 1859 and 1860 in Texas will never forget the fearful drought and withering heat of those seasons. The atmosphere, at one time, felt very much as though it had issued from an oven. The corn withered before the time for maturity, and the ear so fondly looked for by the husbandman did not make its appearance on many fields, leaving the laborer dependent on other people for his bread. The cotton bowed its head and lost its power to retain the form that develops the snowy lint from which much of our clothing is manufactured. The Lord did not speak to us with an audible voice, but by the manifestations of his power to give rain or withhold it, he seemed to say, 'The heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.' The lowing herds on our beautiful prairies were, in many instances, driven a great distance to some of our rivers that continued to flow, and many a cow and sheep and horse wandered in search of water, with no herdsman to point out the way, and perished.

We did not then understand it, but to many of our minds since the reason is apparent, that the mildew on the grain, the falling of the cotton leaf, and the fearful indications of famine that make many a stout heart tremble, were merciful dispensations of Providence that prepared us for the darker days of

A Short History of Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Cherokee Co, TX
 continued

war that were nigh at hand. The political sky was even then already dark, and muttering thunders of the coming storm rolled across the heaven."

The summer of 1860 was the time of the great fires. Disastrous fires broke out at widely scattered points across the state. For example, on July 8 every store in Dallas was consumed by fire and on August 5 Henderson lost 43 buildings. Many Texans felt the fires were set by arsonists who opposed slavery. Present day scientific thought indicates the fires were caused by the spontaneous combustion of the new phosphorous matches during the exceptional heat of the summer of 1860. (15,11-12) No store fires were present near the church because there were no stores.

The year of 1860 was a year of great political importance. Four major parties entered candidates for President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln won the election with only 40 per cent of the popular vote. No member of the church voted for Abraham Lincoln for President on election day, November 6, 1860. (15,14)

The members of the church were faced with a new challenge in April 1861. The War for Southern Independence began. Church members old and young went off to war. Some of the men who volunteered were too old and were eventually discharged. Some of the volunteers were boys in 1861 but teenagers by the end of the War and served in the latter years of the War. Many did not return because they were killed or died of diseases. The organizers of the church lost sons as follows:

Manerva Crenshaw - Her son Silas was severely wounded in the War which left one arm useless. She attempted to get him out of service because she was a widow with young children and grand-children in her care with no male adult in the home. Her efforts were not successful and he remained in the service until May 1865. (5)

John Harris and wife Amelia Sheppard - William T. Harris - Co. C, 3rd TX Cavalry - killed Sept.19, 1862 at Iuka, MS. (25)

Isaac and Seary Sheppard - Thomas A. Sheppard - Co. I 10th TX Cavalry - killed in TN May 20, 1862.(6,62) (16,57)(22)

After the war ended, many people immigrated to this area from the other Confederate States. Many of them were Baptists and they joined the church.

The church became a promoter of education in 1871. The church gave permission to Hiram McKnight to teach a school in the church house. This action took place February 4, 1871. (8,20)

There was a great happening near the church in 1882. A railroad was built through the valley about 1/2 mile east of the church. A town was plotted, stores established, and a post office came in 1885. The name of the town was called Dialville. This meant that the church members could purchase goods locally instead of making a trip to Rusk or Jacksonville. (18,8)

In 1894, the Cherokee Baptist Association became owners of a college at Rusk, TX called the East Texas Baptist Institute at Rusk. The college gained its original financing from the citizens of Rusk and from the Cherokee Baptist Association.(17,9-10)

The trustees of the college were appointed by the Association. In around 1898, these trustees turned the college and its assets over to the Educational Commission of the Baptist General Convention. The Association resented that and formed a 24-member committee to oppose the move. It is interesting to note that eight members of the 24 person committee were from the Rocky Springs Church. The committee's efforts were unsuccessful, the Association lost the college, and eventually the area lost the college. (17,10)

A committee was appointed at the March 6, 1898 business meeting "to write a history from the constitution up to the present time." (8,151) The committee was composed of C.B. Harris, J.M.B. McKnight, and B.G. Acker. The committee made its report on October 2, 1898. (8,157) This history would be of a great help to researchers but it seems that no copies are available.

In 1918 the annual association met with the Maydelle Church. There was a question as to whether the meeting should be held because the Spanish Influenza epidemic was taking lives all over the country. The meeting proceeded as planned. Six churches represented at the meeting had over 200 members. Rocky Springs was one of them. (17,19)

It might be well to interject here some information about the cemetery. The cemetery has been expanded twice since its beginning. One expansion was across the road (FM 1910) on the north side of the cemetery. A recent expansion is to the east and southeast of the original cemetery.

Veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and VietNam are interred in the cemetery. There are also some bodies of servicemen who died in the service of their country interred here. William Joe Perry died in the service of his country on September 12, 1918. His body is interred not far from the front door of the church. He must have had a full military burial because of the memories of the author's mother, Ruby Yarbrough Acker. She was a small girl playing with her siblings in their yard south of the church and she remembers the rifle shots and bugler sounds. (1)

Other servicemen who died during a wartime period whose bodies are interred here are as follows:

1st Lt. Charles J. Halbert - World War II

A Short History of Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Cherokee Co, TX
continued

S/Sgt. Robert R. Phillips -
World War II
Sgt. Gerald Osalee Durrett - Ko-
rean War
HN Charles Wayne Sosby -
VietNam

Amen.

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Riley Smith (?) Kellum - War of 1812 Veteran

Born ca 1795 in NC. drafted at Raleigh, NC about the middle of Oct 1814 to serve 6 months in war of 1812. Discharged at Portsmouth/Norfolk feb 1815. Served in a company commanded by Lt. Col. D. McDonald.

Married Chainey strickland in wake Co., NC in 1816. Filed for bounty land 30 Nov 1850 in Chickasaw Co, MS (WC 30945). Died in Tippah Co, MS in 1864.

Widow lived in Bibb Co., AL on 12 July 1881. On this date she made application in Tuscaloosa Co., AL for bounty land (certificate no 30,945).

by g.g.g.grandwon Willie Harold Acker, Sr.

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| | igwhite@ballistic.com WHITE, LANKFORD, HORTON, EWING, SANDERS, SMITH, GRANT ORME | | | | | |
| Wilson | Janie | Member | RR 1 Box 397-1 | Hawkins TX | 75765-9752 | |
| | MILES, ISGATE, CLEMENTS, PRYOR, WARDEN, COBB, RIDDLE JOHNSON, SANSOM | | | | | |
| Wood | Kathryn Hart | Member | 215 Wood Rd | New Braunfels TX | 78130-5418 | |
| | DAVIS | | | | | |
| Woods | Ann Jowell | Member | 12669 HIGHWAY 175 | Mansfield LA | 71052-6430 | |
| | JOWELL, HALBERT, HAGUE, WALKER, BEARD, McGOWN, McCALL | | | | | |
| Yarbrough | Eva Berry | Member | PO Box 309 | Cherokee TX | 76832-0309 | |
| | BERRY, SMITHERS, DEVORE, YARBROUGH, SPURLIN | | | | | |
| Yarbrough | Fayrene Tillman | Member | RR 3 Box 484 | Jacksonville TX | 75766-9560 | |
| Young | Susan | Member | 3101 Catalpa | Victoria TX | 77901-4629 | |
| | YOUNG, CORNELISON, SALMON | | | | | |

Welcome to New and Renewing Members

Rhonda Hibbard Carter
164 Sunset Pointe
Chatham, LA 71226-8847
rhcarter@iamerica.net

Surnames of interest: HIBBARD, JUMPER, PATTON, SMITH, SIDES
New Member

Roy & Sue Petty Cone
PO Box 455
Broadus, TX 75929-0455

Surnames of interest: SIMPSON, HORTON, MORRIS, Calvin S. SHARP
New Members

Sue Darnell
23584 Three Points Dr.
Frankston, TX 75763-4836

Surnames of interest: SWINNEY, REYNOLDS, SANDERS, BURSON,
TURNER, ATKINSON, NEWSOM
Renewing Member. Welcome back Charter Member Sue Darnell

Robert G. Garvin
507 Coker Spring Road
Aiken, SC 29801-4841
rggar@scescape.net

Surnames of interest: GARVIN, HANCOCK, LYON, GIBBS, COOPER
New Member

Bobbie Marsh Mills
PO Box 686
Frankston, TX 75763-0686

Surnames of interest: MARSH, MILLS, SWINNEY
New Member

LaVerne Evans Sharp
RR 1 Box 45-F
Jacksonville, TX 75766-9705

Surnames of interest: CLARK, HILTON, MITCHELL, EVANS
New Member

John & Eunita Trimble
4126 E. Pleasant Run Pky N. Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46201-4527

Surnames of interest: TRIMBLE, FOSTER, REED
New Members

Fayrene Tillman Yarbrough
RR 3 Box 484
Jacksonville, TX 75766-9560

We do not have a list of the surnames being researched by Ms. Yarbrough. If and when we receive such a list, the names will be published. If you will send a 5-generation ancestor chart, we will publish all the names or as many as you wish to be published.
New Member

Faye Acker Martin
1009 Fort Worth St.
Jacksonville, TX 75766

Surnames of interest: ACKER, BOUNDS, WALLING, ARNWINE,
CHISHLOM, BELVIN, KELLEY BUFORD, PIERCE, McCracken,
EIDOM, MOSES, DENNIS, TYRA
Renewal. Welcome back Faye.

Sheila Kee Pool
815 N. Bledsoe
Gilmer, TX 75644
sheilap@etex.net

Surnames of interest: CARSON
New Member

Susan I. Young
3101 Catalpa
Victoria TX 77901-4629

Surnames of interest: YOUNG, CORNELISON, SALMON
New Member

Sheila Kee Pool
815 N. Bledsoe
Gilmer, TX 75644
sheilap@etex.net

Surnames of interest: CARSON
New Member

Virginia M. McKallip
6218 Briar Rose Dr.
Houston TX 77057

Surnames of interest: PICKARD, WINDHAM
New Member

Welcome to New and Renewing Members

Cheri D. Hamilton
11 Loudon drive #13
Fishkill NY 12524-1818

Surnames of interest: HAMILTON, MAYFIELD, SMITH, HIBBS
New member

Nina Johnson Meyer
6704 South LeJeune Road
Coral Gables, FL 33146
nfmeye@gateway.net

Surnames of interest: DARBY, BELL
New member

Webb Donald W.
410 Brazos Hill Ln
Sealy TX 77474-9282
dwebb@hal-pc.org

Surnames of interest: BATTEN, BOUNDS, WEBB, WALLACE, IRWIN,
WELLS, BALLEW, NORWOOD, TROTTER, MILLIGAN
Renewal

Letter to T.J. Roach from his sister E. LeRose

Pleasant Valley
August 16th, 1860

Dear Brother

I received your most welcome letter some two weeks since and should have answered it before now, but your children were sick and I concluded not to write until they were better, knowing it would make you feel uneasy. Jean had quite a spell of pneumonia and was very sick for a week and during the time Bob had a spell of fever and just as soon as I could went after Jean and George William and brought them to our house it was a damp evening and it made her cough worse, ___ she coughed all night and indeed for several nights she slept but little. (her or any one else) but she is a great deal better her appetite is very good and she is improving fast. George William has a bad cold and has cried two nights with the ear ache. One night I thought he would have spasms, the next time he did not have it so bad. During the time Johny was sick with fever for several days. I never had my hands so full in my life. Mr. Rose(?) was not able to walk but little from a tick bite on his foot and a large kernel in his groins from which he has suffered real greatly. I think the place where the bite was will rot out. I have been poulticing it for a week. The inflammation is out and the swelling has gone down. I hope it will get well now. The children have fine appetites and you ought to see them eat. The summer has been so very dry we have no vegetables at all, but thanks to the giver of all our blessings we have plenty of old corn yet, and we will make enough for bread. We have not gathered it yet. William says he thinks we will (missing) hundred bushels. There are a number of families that will not make corn to last them till Christmas. What they will do I cannot tell.

There has been an insurrection anticipated. It was to have come off the first Monday in this month while the men were at the election. They were to kill the women and children. Parson Hodge happened to hear loud talking late at night and listened, heard the whole plot. They hung one of his servants and I do not know how many more. One of the Witherspoons servants was implicated and he took four hundred lashes before he would own it. The hung two Abolitionists at Tenesee Colony, and whiped three free negroes so that they died. The excitement is abating some but every surpicious person is made to give an account of themselves. The towns Dallas and Henderson are burned up and Rusk and Palestine are guarded every night.

Nancy and the children are well except colds. I saw her Sunday at preaching. Your children are well and grow fast. Johny and Bob know most of their letters. Mr. Roase bought them books in Palestine and they seemed verry proud of them. I want Jean and Georgie to stay here till school commences. Brother Thom you do not know how glad I was to receive a letter from you. I could not help crying for joy. Be assured my dear brother you are not forgotten in our affection nor your children when they are sick I do every thing in my power to relieve them. I take them in my room and nurse them. And when they are well I try to make them mind what I tell them. They ask a great many questions about when you are coming home and their little sister. I received Sallies letter and answered it. Glad to hear from her. Jean wants to write to you in my letter my love to all inquiring friends and receive a portion your self your sister E Le Rose

Editor's Note: The spelling and punctuation are as originally written.

Letter to T.J. Roach from his daughter Eugenia (Jean)

Dear Pa

I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well. I am at this time staying with Aunt Bet. Uncle Billy is making corn enough to make his bread. Mr. Horn and Suggs are making very good crops. You can only imagine how I want to see you. George is a good industryous boy. I had the pneumonia last week and Dr. Cornish attended on me and have a very bad cold yet.

Nothing more of interest but remains

Your affectionate daughter

Eugenia Roach

Editor's Note: Beth Shirley submitted the above two letters for publication. She believes that the persons referred to in the letters above and on the preceding page are as follows:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aunt Bet | Elizabeth LeRose (Rose?) (Roase?) |
| William | Aunt Nan's Husband |
| Sallie | T.J. Roach's second wife |
| Uncle Billy | Wm Farish |

I wrote Beth Shirley about the identifying the persons referred to in the letters. This is her reply:

Nov. 27, 1998

Dear Gordon:

I thought the simplest way to answer your letter would be to write my responses directly on it and enclose your transcriptions — it's easier to read from the originals.

Thomas J. Roach had sisters Hetty (Cook), Elizabeth, Nancy and Mary Keelig, known as Keeling. Nancy & Elizabeth are shown as living with him and his first wife Alice Farish on the 1850 Census Orange Co. VA. Hetty was already married at the time of their father's will in 1847. Mary K. married John D. Farish in 1848 and Nancy married William H. Farish in 1850. John & Mary K. came to TX with Thomas & Alice in 1852, as Alice mentions them often in letters back to VA. The both died here before 1860. In an 1855 letter she mentions that Mr. Roach & Jean have just returned from visiting Nan, Bet & Billy in Magnolia and it is thought not to be a healthy place as there had been 40 deaths there since Billy had been there. This leads me to believe that Bet was not married yet, but that they all came together. I have no idea when Bet married Mr. LaRose (I assume that was the case, no proof), but his first name could have been William as well as Nan's husband Wm. Farish. The letter from Pleasant Valley, which I assume is in Anderson Co. since she mentions that he bought books in Palestine. I have not read the census or checked on these people further, but probably should.

Alice hated TX so and longed to go home to VA. she swore that if she ever got there again she wasn't leaving. In one of her last letters (late 1859) she mentions that she has not been well since the birth of he baby 7 weeks before. In Apr. 1860 enrout to VA she died. He proceeded on and while there married her sister Sallie and left the baby Mollie with relatives, never to see her again. I always assumed that the whole family went, but possibly the older children stayed here with Aunt Bet and Aunt Nan since their mother was so sick. This letter was written in Aug. and their mother had died in April. Or possible they went to visit them after they all returned from VA with their new aunt/step-mother. Since there is no envelope we don't know where Thos. was when received, but it seems likely to me that the children had simply stayed in TX.

I have many other letters, but sent this one for publication because of the insurrection mentioned. I thought that was interesting and showed the climate of fear at the start of the Civil War. I sent the election information (of 1882) because of all the names listed. I thought they might help someone establish where his family was at that time.

Sincerely,
Beth

My Great Great Uncle, Stand Watie by J. H. Maloney

Early in the War, the Confederate States of America (CSA) had solicited the aid of various tribes within Indian Territory. Gen. Albert Pike was given responsibility for recruiting the Native Americans.

The result was the formation of four full regiments, two battalions, and some detached companies. Col. Stand Watie's Regiment of Cherokee Mounted Rifles, formed at Ft. Wayne in July of 1861, was perhaps the best and certainly the most famous of the Indian units.

In March of 1862, Watie's Cherokees, along with regiments of Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks, and a small contingent of Texans, were thrust against Brig. Gen. Sam Curtis' Federals bent on the capture of Southern Missouri and Northern Arkansas. The Indian troops, ill trained and poorly equipped and unused to fighting in the manner of the white man were defeated

by superior Union troops. The battles of Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern and Pea Ridge went badly for the South and our troops were routed. Col. Watie's Regiment was ordered to cover the retreat of the main army, a task they performed with success and valor.

The first Battle of Ft. Wayne, October 22, 1862 also went against the South and the Indians were forced to retreat. The remainder of 1862 and the early part of 1863 was spent scouting Kansas and Missouri, and harassing the enemy at every opportunity.

Early in the summer of 1863, Watie attempted the capture of Yankee supplies at Cabin Creek and July of 1863 was involved in the Battle of Honey Springs along with Gen. Cooper's Texans. These engagements were over shadowed by the tragic Battle of Gettysburg, but each had their own importance.

In June of 1864 Watie captured the Federal supply ship "J.R. Williams" destined for Ft. Gibson. This led to his promotion to Brigadier General. His troops were also involved in the July 1864 defense of Ft. Smith. In September, Watie, with Texas Gen. Gano, captured a Union supply train of over 250 wagon loads of supplies. This second Battle of Cabin Creek stopped the Union advance into Indian Territory, and was the last serious fighting in the Territory, although Watie's Rifles never let the Federals rest until the War's end.

Stand Watie was the last Confederate General to formally surrender his forces. This surrender took place on June 23, 1865, at the Capitol of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory.

Editor's Note: This program was presented at the November 1994 meeting of Cherokee County Genealogical Society with the theme of "Our Ancestors in the Civil War"

Peter Acker - Confederate Veteran

by Willie Harold Acker, Sr., great-grandson

Peter Acker was born 10 Dec 1823 in AL. He was the son of Joseph and Ruth Alexander Acker.

Peter married Martha Thompson in Bib Co., AL on 26 March 1846. Some writers indicate that this family moved to Texas in 1848 while others state 1849. It is known from the 1850 census that the Peter Acker family was in Cherokee Co., TX living with his brother's family.

Peter and Columbus Acker joined Co. C 3rd Texas Cavalry which was formed at Rusk, TX. The company left for duty in early July, 1861.

S.B. Barron speculated in his book, Lone Star Defenders, that Christopher Columbus and Peter Acker returned home when the 1862 conscription law was passed. However, Peter Acker seems to have not been present in his home because they had no children between Sept 1861 and Jan. 1867.

The activities of the unit are recorded in the Cherokee Co., TX County clerk's office. In addition, s. B. Barron's book mentioned above tells much about actions of the unit.

Peter and Martha Thompson Acker had eleven children. Nine of these children lived to adulthood. He died 16 Oct. 1875 and is buried in Rocky Springs cemetery near Dialville, Cherokee Co., TX.

Church Histories, United Methodist Church

Texas Annual Conference United Methodist Church
 Texas Conference Archives, Lon Morris College
 Jacksonville, Texas 75766-2900
 (903) 589-4000 College switchboard
 (903) 589-4023 direct voice and fax
 E-Mail: TCATXCUMC@juno.com

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| Tyler, TX Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church History 1997. | Wallisville, TX Middleton Memorial United Methodist Church History 1997. | |
| Tyler, TX Pollard Memorial United Methodist Church 25 th anniv. history 1984, charter members. | West Columbia, TX Columbia United Methodist Church History 1984. | |

**Microfilm Holdings of Texas Conference Archives
Lon Morris College
Jacksonville, Texas**

This is the general list of the Archive microfilm holdings.

For detailed information check the notebook. 35 mm. reels unless marked differently.

Central Christian Advocate. Title varies

Holdings: v.1-143, 1866-1968. Lacks some issues (76 reels) M1-M76.

Texas Christian Advocate. Title varies.

Holdings: 1850-1852, v. 4-63, 1857-1917. Lacks some issues (14 reels) <77-M90.

Methodist Episcopal Church. conferences. Minutes of the annual Conferences.

Holdings: 1773-1940; complete. (26 reels) M91-M116.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Annual conference. General Minutes and Yearbook

Holdings: 1845-1941; complete. (12 reels) M117-M128.

Journal of the Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Church (Black). title varies.

Holdings: 1865-1970. incomplete (4 reels 35 mm., 1 reel 16 mm) M129-<133.

Minutes of the North Texas Conference. Title varies

Holdings: 1867-1967. (Contains additional material) (8 reels) M138-M145.

Eat Texas Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Annual Conference Minutes.
(Handwritten)

Holdings: 1870-1897. (1 reel) M135.

Quarterly Conference Records of East Texas Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
Kickapoo Circuit, Palestine District.

Holdings: 1859-1894. (Contains additional material) (1 reel) M134.

Rio Grande Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Title varies.

Holdings: 1859-1967. (3 reels) M152-M154.

Soule University (Chappel Hill, Texas) Minutes of the Trustee Meetings

Holdings: 1856-1887. (1 reel) M136.

Twenty years in Africa 1914-1934, by Marie Gocker (1 reel 16 mm) M137.

Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts. Title varies.

Holdings: v. 1-6, 1850-1885 (6 fiche) M146-M151.

rev. 11/1998.

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