

• TREE TALK •

Volume 29 Issue 3

Spring 2004

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<http://www.tyler.net/ccgs/default.htm>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcherok/default.html>

Editor's Letter

The **Index to TREE TALK May 1980 Through December 1990**, compiled by Sylvia Booth Acker and Ira Gaylon White has now been printed and is available from the Society for \$14.00 plus shipping. This is a valuable addition to our book catalogue as this list has over 47,000 names or topics. I hope you will order your copy today. See page 107 for an order form.

Ogreta W. Huttash's latest book is also now available from the Society. **Probate Records of Cherokee County, Texas Minute book A. 1870-1881 and Docket A and Docket B, 1867-1887** is for sale for \$16.00 plus sales tax for \$1.40 (8.875 %) plus shipping. Ira Gaylon White did the indexes for this book. See page 107 for an order form.

The March 2004 edition of **STIRPES** (the quarterly publication of the Texas State Genealogical Society) includes a book review of **Saga of Cherokee County, Cherokee County, Texas and Newspaper Obituaries**, by Helen Crawford. The Cherokee County Genealogical Society is a member of the Texas State Genealogical Society. **STIRPES** is placed in the genealogy section of the Jacksonville Public Library.

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Gordon Bennett
Editor

Arthur Malcomb Reagan**In Memoriam****JACKSONVILLE DAILY PROGRESS - Thursday, January 15, 2004****Arthur Malcomb Reagan**

Arthur M. Reagan, 82, retired official with the federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) died of cancer at his home in Alexandria, Virginia on January 10, 2004.

Born in Jacksonville, Texas in 1921, he graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1939. In 1942 he joined the Navy and was stationed in New Orleans, Louisiana with Naval Intelligence. He served the U. S. Navy as a Chief Petty Officer in the Mediterranean as part of the amphibious forces that participated in the invasion of southern France during World War II.

Following the war, he and his beloved wife, Dorothy, returned to New Orleans where he attended Tulane University and received his BA in Political Science in 1948. He enjoyed a full career with the Louisiana state government and principally the federal government in Washington, DC; working to Employment Security for 32 years at the Labor Department, HEW and OPM.

He had many interests and was an avid gemologist, genealogist and a life long historian and student of American and international public affairs. He was a member of the Tulane Alumni Association, the VFW and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Mr. Reagan was married to the late Dorothy R. Reagan and is survived by his two children, Joanna and James, both of Alexandria, Virginia; his sister Doris Reagan Jean of Pearland, Texas; and extended family members throughout Texas. He was predeceased by his parents Clarence M. and Joe Dee Reagan of Jacksonville; and his sister Merle Reagan McKay of Alexandria, Virginia.

Honorary Pallbearers will be John R. Reagan, Edward Reagan, Patrick Reagan, Michael Reagan, Roger Reagan, Henry H. Lindner, Jr., Walter Reeves, Jr., Gene Pike, and Mark Canter.

Visitation will be held at the Autry Funeral Home, 1025 SE Loop 456, Jacksonville on Friday, January 16, 2004, from 6:00 PM 8:00 PM. Funeral services will be conducted by Rev. Dan Middleton on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at the Cove Springs United Methodist Church at 11:00 A.M. with interment at Resthaven Cemetery following.

If desired. memorials may be sent to the Memorial Fund of Cove Springs Methodist Church.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

The following was submitted by Arthur M. Reagan for publication in TREE TALK and was published as follows:

William & Matilda Reagan family information published in the July, 1994 issue of Tree Talk, pages 153 through 158.

Alexandria, VA
May 27, 1994

Note to "Tree Talk" editor:

If you wish, you may publish the first two pages appearing here. I think the two records transcripts compliment each other quite perfectly.. The remaining pieces of this package are included as useful elaboration on the same family. After you have published those family record transcripts as you may wish to publish, then I'd like you to turn over all these Reagan, Rountree, and Dodson family records over to the genealogy collection of the Jacksonville Public Library.

Arthur M. Reagan

<u>FAMILY NAMES</u>	<u>FAMILY RECORD BORN</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>
<u>Parents</u>		
William Reagan	August 4, 1798	
Matilda C. Tunnell	December 24, 1805	Were married Oct. 4, 1825
<u>Children</u>		
Eliza A. Reagan	October,4, 1826	
James H. Reagan	December 8, 1828	
Amanda M. Reagan	January 23, 1831	
Robert W. Reagan	December 26, 1833	
Caroline M. Reagan	September 4, 1836	
Noble M. Reagan	March 22, 1839	
Mary E. Reagan	February 28, 1841	Was married Ma ^y 22, 1866
Helen Jane Reagan	April 24, 1845	
Harriet A. Reagan	August 16, 1849	Was married Dec. 16, 1869

DEATHS

Helen Jane Reagan departed this life on the 30th day of September 1854, aged nine years, five months and six days.

Robert W. Reagan departed this life on the 23rd day of October 1855, aged twenty one *years* and ten months save three days, in full and certain hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

William Reagan departed this life on the 8th of October 1867, aged 69 years, two months and four days.

Matilda C. Reagan departed this life on the 5th day of February 1871, aged 65 years, 1 month and twelve days, in hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave.

Mary E. Cater departed this life on the 15th day of February 1877, aged 35 years, eleven months and 15 days.

Noble M. Reagan departed this life on the 8th day of May 1893, aged 54 years.

E. A. Rust departed this life March 26, 1899.

Harriet A. Nunnally died August 17, 1900, aged 51 years, 1 day.

(Copyright inscription on Family Record form: Entered according to the act of Congress in the year 1846 by J. Bunce, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of Massachusetts. Sold by J. Fisher -- 71 Court St.. Boston.)

Note: I received the original record, transcribed above, on July 23, 1954, from Robert Lewis Mims, 1212 !J. Ohio, Midland, Texas, a grandson of Harriet Albina Meagan Nunnally, the youngest of the children listed above.

-- Arthur A.: Reagan

1850 U. S. Census, Rusk Co., Tex. Film #914, p. 268. Rusk District; Family Unit No. 458, enumerated on 27 October:

William Reagan	50	Male	Farmer Real Est.: \$6,000	Born: Tenn. (sic)
Matilda "	44	Fem.		Do
Adaline "	23	Fem.		Do
James "	21	Male		Do
Amanda "	19	Fem.		Do
Robert "	16	Male		Geo.
Caroline "	14	Fem.		Texas
Noble "	11	Male		Do
Emily "	9	Fem.		Do
Hellen "	5	Fem.		Do
Albina "	1	Fem.		Do

Notes for the 1850's about this extraordinary census listing - the only year in which all nine children were at home with their parents:

William and Matilda C. Reagan

- Dau. Eliza Adaline m., in 1852 (date not obtained), Francis Marion Rust.
- Son James H. m., on 8 Jan. 1852, Sarah Elizabeth Frances Dodson.
- Dau. Amanda Melvina m., on 11 July 1854, Lucien Drayton Smith.
- Son Robert William d. at home, on 23 Oct. 1855, following military service.
- Dau. Caroline Matilda "Carrie" m., first, on 10 Jan. 1859, James J. "Jay" Bagley; and, second, on 19 May 1867, her first cousin, Robert Tunnell Cannon
- Dau. Helen Jane d. at home, on 30 Sept. 1854, at age of nine.

1860 U. S. Census, Rusk Co., Tex. Film #1304, p. 292 New Salem P.O.; Family Unit No. 575, enumerated on 4 July:

				Real Est.	Pers. Est.	Born
William Reagan	61	M	Farmer	\$5,000	\$11,000	N. C.
C. M.	"	54	F			Tenn.
Noble M.	"	21	M			Texas
Emily	"	19	F			"
Albina	"	10	F			"
Porter Stegall	21	M			300	Ga.

1860 U.S. Census, Cherokee Co., Tex. Beat No. 4, Family Unit No. 820—17 July:

J.	H. Reagan	30	Male	Farmer	2,000	4,600	Ga. (sic)
S.	E. F. "	24	Fem.				Ala.
C.	M. "	6	Male				Tex.
R.	W. "	4	Male				"
M.	E. "	2	Male				"
Martha H.	"	4/12	Fem.				"

Notes for the 1860's:

- Son James H. d. at parents' home, on 14 June 1862, at age of 33.
- Dau. Mary Emily m., on 22 May 1866, Douglas John Cater.
- Father William d. at home, on 8 Oct. 1867, at age *of 69*.
- Dau. Harriet Albina m., on 16 Dec. 1869, Capt. Charles Lewis Nunnally.

1870 U. S. Census, Rusk Co., Tex. Film #1603, p. 498; Family No.491 - 29 Sept.:

Matilda C. Reagan	65	F W	Keeping House	2,500	500	Tenn.
Noble M. "	29	M W	Farmer			Texas

Note: Mother Matilda Caroline d. at home, on 5 Feb. 1871, at age of 65.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

William Reagan, an early official of the county, was reared in Knox Co., TN, and arrived at Nacogdoches in the Texas Territory by February, 1835. He was a North Carolinian by birth.

His father, James, Sr., born in Stafford Co., VA, in 1738, was almost sixty years old when William--the youngest of fifteen children by three marriages--was born. The father lived, however, to age eighty-nine, dying at his home northwest of Knoxville, TN, late in 1827. His death resulted in part from burns suffered when he fell into a fireplace at his home. This octogenarian had outlived three wives and five of his fifteen children.

William was born Aug. 4, 1798, in the Belew's Creek area of southwestern Rockingham Co., NC. He died at age sixty-nine, on Oct. 8, 1867, at his home in southwestern Rusk County. William's mother, Rebeckah, reportedly was a daughter of a Quaker family, but her maiden name is not known. She apparently died in Knox County before July 23, 1821, when James made his will which named his ten living children.

On April 2, 1800, William's parents gave a power of attorney to his uncle, John Reagan, so the latter could dispose of their remaining North Carolina lands, and moved on to East Tennessee with their several young children. This sparsely settled territory had then been a state for only about four years.

Reared on his father's lands southeast of Knoxville, then later northwest of there, William married in Knox County on Oct. 4, 1825, Matilda Caroline Tunnell. She was the eldest of ten children born to Robert and Elizabeth (Johnson) Tunnell. Robert, a War of 1812 veteran and a Baptist lay leader, pursued the occupation of land surveying, successively in Anderson, Knox, and Hamilton counties, TN. Daughter Matilda was born in Anderson County on Dec. 24, 1805. She died a widow, of tuberculosis, at her "Forest Hill" home in southwestern Rusk County on Feb. 5, 1871, at age sixty-five. She had been a devout Methodist and a devoted wife and mother. Like her husband, some three years earlier, Matilda was interred in the Sulphur Springs cemetery near their home, alongside the gravesites of their two eldest sons and a young daughter who had died at age nine. When the writer and his father visited the site of this neighborhood cemetery in the summer of 1954, it had been long-abandoned, and virtually all grave markers had been washed by flood waters into the adjoining creek, or otherwise removed.

William Reagan, within a few years after his elderly father's 1827 death in Knox Co., TN, had followed his older brother, Peter, in removing with his family--then including three children--to Floyd Co., GA. A fourth child was born there.

Temporarily leaving his family in Georgia, for about one year, William journeyed in the winter months of 1834-35, to Nacogdoches in the Province of Tejas, where he sought the larger and less expensive land resources then reportedly being offered by the Mexican authorities. The Spanish archives of the General Land Office at Austin indicate that he was a colonist on lands initially granted by the Mexican authorities to David G. Burnett.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

William applied for a Certificate of Entrance to the province on Feb. 2, 1835, his sponsor being Henry Teal (Docket Nos. 104 and 184, Board of Land Commissioners, Nacogdoches County). In April 1835 he was granted a league of land (about 4,428 acres) on the East fork of the Angelina River, in an area that became, in 1843, the southwestern part of Rusk County. Extant family letters variously show the postal address of this area, after about 1850, as Iron Mountain, Gourd Neck, Salem or New Salem, Forest Hill, and Glenfawn.

William Reagan is said to have built the first wire fence in the area, around some cultivated parts of his land, in an unsuccessful attempt to keep out wild hogs. Prior to his death in 1867, he reportedly deeded several hundred acres of land to each of his children who reached adulthood. The family papers show, however, that it was his widow, Matilda, who deeded such land to their third and only surviving son, Noble M. Reagan, in 1870, with the consent of all other heirs of her late husband.

William had been elected, in August 1839, a Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3, Nacogdoches County, and commissioned to that office on Nov. 27th of that year. (See "Compiled Index to Elected and Appointed Officials of the Republic of Texas, 1835-1846," (1981), p. 101.) He subsequently served as Assessor and Collector for Rusk County, at least for the period 1846-1850, in which office he was succeeded by Giles S. Boggess. (See Rusk County Marriage Record Volume A, 1843-1852, p. 160 ff. and p. 216.)

William and Matilda's youngest child, Harriet Albina, married in the county on Dec. 16, 1869, Capt. Charles Lewis Nunnally, who later owned and operated general mercantile stores at Glenfawn and Henderson. When "Bina" died at Jacksonville in the adjoining Cherokee County, on Aug. 17, 1900, the Jacksonville Intelligencer included these comments about her late father in her obituary: "Mrs. Nunnally was formerly Miss Reagan, the daughter of Judge Wm. Reagan, one of the old pioneers of Rusk County. The writer knew him well and has of times been the recipient of his generous hospitality, which like that of all old Texas veterans was as free as water."

The 1850 U. S. Census listing for this Reagan family, enumerated on Oct. 27 (Family Unit No. 458), is remarkable in that all nine children and both parents were then living and still at home. This circumstance began to change in the following year.. Of the nine children, two died young and unmarried. Of the thirty-nine grandchildren, nine also died young.

An abstract of information for these descendants, taken from the family record maintained by William and Matilda, and also from other documents, follows:

(1) Eliza Adaline Reagan, b. Oct. 4, 1826, d. March 26, 1899, at Trickham, Coleman Co., TX. She married, in or about 1851, Francis Marion Rust, a son of William and Elizabeth (Rector) Rust. Their seven children, all born in Rusk County: Elizabeth Alice "Lizzie" (Bromley), Matilda E. "Tillie" (McDavid), Albert, Robert William, Alberta (Holloman), Noble Marion, and James Edwin.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

(2) James H. Reagan, b. Dec. 8, 1828, d. of tuberculosis at his parents' Rusk County home on June 14, 1862. He had married, on Jan. 8, 1852, at Rusk, TX, Sarah E. F. Dodson, daughter of Dr. Elijah Dodson, by his first wife, Sarah (Conner) Dodson. In 1858, following the birth of three children, all sons, James and Sarah sold the land he had acquired from his parents upon his 1852 marriage, and moved to an equally large piece of land, near present-day Reese, northwest of Jacksonville (then known, however, as a part of the Larissa area). This was land deeded to her by her father as an enticement for them to move near him. In 1862, James, his wife and four children--then including an infant daughter--spent the last month of his life at his parents' Rusk County home, followed by his interment in the Sulphur Springs cemetery. All descendants of William and Matilda now bearing the name Reagan descend from those three sons of their eldest son, James, who were reared principally by their mother, in the adjoining Cherokee County. (See Cherokee, County (Texas) History, 1986, for sketches concerning James and Sarah's family, the family of their son, Robert William, and that of her father, Dr. Elijah Dodson.)

(3) Amanda Melvina Reagan, b. Jan..23, 1831, d. at Cleburne, TX, on Oct. 10, 1908, at the home of her daughter, Addie (Mrs. Wm. W.) Ransone. She married, on July 11, 1854, in Rusk County, Lucien Drayton Smith, a son of Saul and Talitha (Dobson) Smith. He died on May 19, 1898, near Eulogy, Somervell Co., TX. In 1908, Amanda's body was interred next to the graves of her husband, their daughter, Mary Kate, and Amanda's youngest brother, Dr. Noble M. Reagan, who had predeceased her by some fifteen years., in the Marystown cemetery, about eight miles north of Cleburne in Johnson County. The ten Smith children: Talitha Helen (Addison), Charles Byron, Carolyn Lavinia (Cox, Langston), Jessie Reagan (Glasscock), Minnie Lee (Wills), Nathaniel Wilson "Nat", Louisiana Albina "Lou" (Prickett), Adaline Melva "Addie" (Ransone), Mary Kate, who died at age seven, and Annie Drayton (Key).

(4) Robert William Reagan, b. Dec. 26, 1833, in Floyd Co., GA, d. at age twenty-one, on Oct. 23, 1855, presumably at his parents' home - for it is known that he was interred in the Sulphur Springs cemetery. The cause of Robert's death is unknown. He had served as a private in Company A, Mounted Battalion of Texas Volunteers, "War of 1854-55," being mustered out at Fort Chadbourne, TX, on March 22, 1855.. One family letter has survived to shed some light on this son - written by him while in military service, from "Johnson's Station," on Nov. 30, 1854, to his younger brother, Noble, then. only fifteen years old.

(5) Caroline Matilda "Carrie" Reagan, b. Sept. 4. 1836, in the old Stone Fort at Nacogdoches, d. Feb. 28, 1912, at San Antonio. She married, first, in Rusk County on Jan. 10, 1859,. James J. "Jay" Bagley of Alabama. He subsequently served in the Confederate States Army and possibly was a victim of the war. Their two sons: James Robert, b- in 1860, and Noble Reagan, b. in 1862. These sons later lived near Overton with their mother and step-father. In June 1916 James lived at San. Antonio and Noble lived in New York.. Carrie married, second, on May 19, 1867, Robert Tunnell Cannon, a first cousin - the son of Benjamin Bartlett and Eliza (Tunnell) Cannon, both deceased by 1860. Robert Cannon, b. in 1836, in Hamilton Co., TN, d. at age 80, in 1916, at his son Zack's home in San Antonio. His obituary states that he "was a member of the Texas Rangers under General Baylor in 1859" . . . He subsequently served in the Confederate

William and Matilda C. Reagan

States Army. His and Carrie's four children, named Cannon: Zachariah William "Zack", Ethel Matilda, who died young, Caroline May (Taliaferro), and Mary "Mollie" (Claiborne). The two last-named, as widows in the 1950's, lived at Kilgore, TX. They were helpful to the writer in assembling various family records and photos. Note: a useful record concerning the Tunnell family, including data on William and Matilda Reagan and descendants, may be found in: Zella Armstrong (comp.), *Notable Southern Families, Vol. III* (Chattanooga, The Lookout Publishing Co., 1926), pp. 226-44. The volumes in this series were consolidated and republished about fifty years later, by The Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, MD. The data for Robert and Elizabeth Tunnell and descendants were assembled principally by Gertrude Sanders Cannon, wife of Z. W. Cannon, son of Carrie and Robert_?

(6) Noble Marion Reagan, b. March 22, 1839, in Nacogdoches (later Rusk) County, d. of pericarditis at Joshua, Johnson Co., TX, on. May 8, 1893, at age fifty-three. A graduate of the Medical College of Alabama at Mobile in 1876, Dr. Reagan subsequently engaged in medical practice at Lovelady and a few other Texas locales, and had been living and practicing at Burleson for some years prior to his death. When afflicted by his terminal illness, he had placed himself under the care of a physician who practiced at Joshua. On Sept. 16, 1861, Noble had enlisted at Salem, Rusk County, in the Confederate States Army and served as a private in Capt. James F. Wiggins' Cavalry Company of "New Salem Invincibles," Sibley's Brigade, throughout the 1861-65 war, Subsequent to his parole he did not marry, instead remaining at home with his parents until their deaths in 1867 and 1871. He continued then for some years to farm the land deeded to him by his mother in 1870. Family letters retained first by his parents and then by him, after the family's move to East Texas in 1835-36, show that Dr. Reagan was the much-loved "Uncle Nobel" of his numerous nephews and nieces.

(7) Mary Emily "Em" Reagan, b. Feb. 28, 1841, d. Feb. 15, 1877, at Corsicana, TX, while she and her husband were visiting the family of her aunt, Harriet N. (Tunnell) Harle, widow of the Rev. William Harle. "Em" was married, on May 22, 1866, to Douglas John Cater, a son of William G. and Beatnah (Greening) Cater who had served in the Confederate States Army throughout the war. His and Em's three sons, Clint, Rufus, and Clyde, tragically, all died young. This may have been a contributing factor to her early death, from an apparent heart attack. The bereaved husband, Douglas Cater, had his young wife's body transported by rail from Corsicana for burial beside her parents and siblings' gravesites at the Sulphur Springs cemetery near their own Rusk County home.

In 1954, Em's tombstone was the only surviving grave marker which the writer could find in this long-abandoned cemetery.. Note: Cater later became an attorney, was remarried and reared a second family, and died at age ninety in San Antonio, in 1931. His highly interesting memoirs of his youth, his Confederate Army service in particular, his two families, and later life experiences were published fifty years after his death, in 1981, by a grandson, William D. Cater of San Antonio. A copy was presented by the publisher to the Rusk County Memorial Library. Entitled *As It Was*, this 260-page volume is rewarding reading, especially for those interested in the war years, 1861-65.

William and Matilda C. Reagan

- (8) Helen Jane Reagan., b. April 24, 1845, d. at home on Sept. 30, 1854.
- (9) Harriet Albina "Bins" Reagan, b. Aug. 16, 1849, d. at Jacksonville, TX, on Aug. 17, 1900. Her husband (see previous comments), Capt. Charles Lewis Nunnally, was a son of Archilaus and Caroline (Spence) Nunnally. Their nine children: Guy Reagan, Charles L., Jr., Carrie Estella (Mims), Daisy, Percy, Robert Bruce, Marian Diehl, Edmond Lee, and Lawrence. Daisy, Percy, and Lawrence all died in infancy.

Anne Johnston Ford and Marion Day Mullins (compilers.). Rusk County, _ Texas.
Marriage Record(s), 1843 - 1877(1960):

CANNON

5-19-1867 R., Cannon - C. M. Bagley

HARLE

3-26-1855 J. W. Harle - Emily Tunnell
3-4-1869 J. W. Harle - Amelia Gufner (Gutner)
12-27-1871 Alex Harle - Sylla McFarland

REAGAN

7-11-1854¹ L. D. Smith - Amanda Malvina Reagan
1-10-1859² Jas. J. Bagley - Caroline M. Reagan
5-22-1866³ D. J. Cater - E. M. Ragan
11-29-1869 Chas. L. Nunnally - H. A. Reagan

RUST

2-20-1872 S. H. Bromley - Lizzie A. Rust
9-17-1873 J. E. McDavid - Tillie Rust

VAUGHT

4-1-1851 Oscar Bell - Sarah Jane Vaught

WOOLWINE

5-15-1852 O. C. Branch - Margaret E. Woolwine
3-19-1856 Lucien B. Polk - Maria L. McW. Woolwine
4-26-1864 Wm. H. Evans - N. E. Woolwine
11-2-1865 G. W. Weaver - Harriet M. Woolwine

1. Marriage Book B: 95 - by H. B. Hamilton, M.G.
2. Marriage Book C: 105 - by A. S. Hayter, M.G.
3. Marriage Book C: 388 - by D. C. Crouse, M.G.