

• TREE TALK •

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<http://www.txgenweb2.org/txcherokee/>

Editor's Letter

IdaLee D. Edmiston was the Editor of the Cherokee County Genealogical Society for many years. We welcome her back to these pages as she tells the story of her life, her Durrett/ Derrett ancestors and her son's family. The article titled "Four Generations Spanning Two Hundred Years" begins on page 75.

We also welcome back Lynne Graves Ramsaur who continues the report of her research on "G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp". The first part of the report was published in the Fall-Winter 2007-2008 edition of TREE TALK. Her report concludes beginning on page 96.

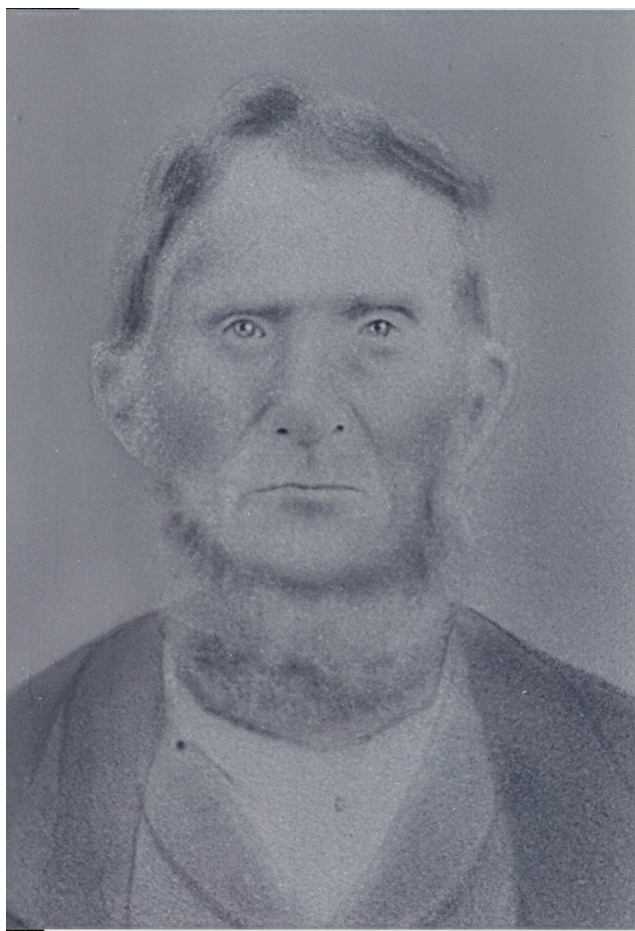
I received an email from Sue McMurray about Joel Marion Elkins that asked if I had any information on the burial of Mr. Elkins' wife, Ruth Elkins in Shiloh Cemetery. I was unable to help her, but the email and the attachment are printed beginning on page 83. If you can answer the question about Ruth Elkins burial please contact Sue McMurray at 606 Tracy Street, Greenville, TX 75402, suemac@geusnet.com.

**Gordon Bennett
Editor**

Four Generations Spanning Two Hundred Years

By IdaLee D. Edmiston

Andrew Jackson Durrett, Sr. was born in Grayson County, VA 18 Mar 1808. On 18 Mar 2008, the 200th anniversary of his birth may be observed. His parents were Joseph Francis and Penelope Cock Durrett. Researchers say this couple had 23 children, but they were able to find the names of only eleven of the children. Despite the fact that she was a frontier type wife who birthed a large number of children, she outlived her husband. The date and cause of death of Joseph Francis is not known. (The parents of Joseph Francis were Thomas and Agnes Gorre Durrett; they had 4 children Joseph Francis was the youngest. Thomas Durrett's father was Francis I, m. Rebecca Winn). Joseph Francis Durrett's son, Andrew Jackson, Sr., b. 18 Mar. 1808, m. 1st Elenor Prater and they were on the 1850 census of Chickasaw County, MS but records in Cherokee County., TX indicate that they migrated to Cherokee County, TX. during the year 1850. This couple had 14 children: (1) Susan, b, 19 Oct 1830, (2) Thomas J. b. 13 May 1832, (3) John, b. 10 Nov 1833, (4) Frances b. 02 Jul 1835, (5) Penelope b. 07 Feb 1837, (6) Agnes b. 27 Dec 1838, (7) James b. 27 Sep 1840, (8) Lewis b. 23 Sep 1842, (9) Ruben b. 10 Sep 1844, (10) Hosea "Hosey" b. 22 Aug 1846, (11) Mary J. b 23 Aug 1848. (12) Elmira b. 20 Aug 1850 (13) Caroline b. 20 Aug 1850,



Andrew Jackson Durrett, Sr., b.18 Mar 1808, c ca. 1881

(note the last 2 girls are twins), (14) Kyle b. 04 Dec 1852, Elenor died 30 Apr 1867. In December, 1867, Andrew Jackson, Sr. m. Jane Lankford Bengé (widow of John Myers Bengé). Andrew and Jane Durrett had three children, Samuel who died very young, Andrew Jackson Jr., b. 12 Apr 1870, d. 03 Apr 1939, and Sallie Ann, b. 28 Jan 1872, exact date of death not known..

Andrew Jackson Durrett/Derrett, Jr. m. Josephine Price, dau. of N. Z. and Martha E. C. Patton Price. Andrew Jackson Durrett/Derrett, Jr. chose to spell his name DERRETT because he was orphaned at

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approx. 10 or 11 years of age and he believed that his father had taught him to spell his name Derrett; however, census records in Chickasaw Cty. MS and certain records in Cherokee Cty, TX show the surname of Andrew Jackson, Sr. as Durrett. Andrew Jackson Durrett/Derrett, Jr. and his wife Josephine Price Derrett had 10 children; three of these died very young. Seven lived to be grown and have families: (1) Bertie Elizabeth b. 29 Oct 1895, d. 04 Jul 1971, m. E. M. Walker, had 5 children, (2) Samuel, b. 29 Feb 1897, d. 10 Sep 1898, (3) Myrtie Jane b. 01 Dec 1898, d. 05 Aug 1981, m. M. A. McClain, had 3 children, (4) James Rufus b. 13 Jul 1900, d. 21 Nov 1981, m. 1st Myrtle Neely, had 8 children, m 2nd Nannie Bell "Ciss" Sullins, no issue, (5) Ella Mae b. 13 Sep 1902, d. 19 Dec. 1902, (6) Ruth Ann b. 22 May 1904, d. 17 Jan 1980, m. T. J. Scott, had 3 children, (7) Carrie Bell b. 26 Jul 1906, d. 06 Sep 1906, (8) Mittie Susan b. 31 Oct 1907, d. 02 May 1988, m. H. L. Batton, had 4 children, (9) Hollie H, b, 29 Jan 1917, d. 15 Apr 1966, m. Mavis E. Jones, had 2 children, (10) IdaLee b. 06 Dec. 1919, m. M. W. Edmiston, had one son..

The Durrett name has gone through several changes. Records indicate: "The Durrett family is of remote French descent. The original spelling was du Rette (pronounced duRay), changed to Duret. It had numerous distinguished members in France in the



Andres Jackson Durrett/Derrett, Jr. b. 12 Apr 1870m d. 03 Apr 1939

16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Louis Duret (1527-1586) was Professor of Medicine at Royal College of France, was physician to Henry III and wrote various Latin books noted for their eloquence. His son, Jean Duret (1563-1629, also a Professor at the Royal College of France, was ostracized by Henry IV but was First Physician to Catherine de Medici. Another Jean Duret was a noted lawyer and author (1540-1600). Other noted Durets have been writers, an astronomer and two sculptors." (From LaCrousse's Dictionary). "After the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, some of the Durets crossed the British Channel and settled in England.

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In England the French pronunciation was dropped and the name pronounced Duret, as it was spelled. In course of time this English pronunciation was emphasized by doubling the "r" and "t" which produced the name Durrett as we now have it. Early in the eighteenth Century three brothers, John, Richard, and Bartholomew Durrett came from England to Spottsylvania County, Virginia, where they purchased lands and permanently settled. From these three Virginia ancestors all the Durretts in the United States have descended."

The date of Reuben Thomas Durrett's death is not known by this writer but he died after Col. Johnston's article was written and before the article on his life was written by his son, Dr. Wm. T. Durrett, for publication in Vol. XXII of THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN, which may be found in the Jacksonville, TX Public Library

Andrew Jackson Durrett, Sr., the main subject of this article, owned land in Cherokee County, TX, located 12 miles NW of Rusk on waters of the Neches River. The 1860 Agricultural Census of Cherokee County, Texas, indicates he owned 60 acres of "improved" land and 131 acres unimproved. The complete list of this property and taxable items owned by Andrew was published in the Jan, 1991, issue



IdaLee Derrett Edmiston, b 06 Dec 1919
Photo made at age 23

of the CCGS "Tree Talk" publication. The cash value of the land was listed as \$800.00; value of Farming implements and machinery was listed at \$1,500.00. He had two horses, four milch (sic) cows, four working oxen, eight other cattle, 20 swine; total value of livestock: \$500.00. He had 135 bushels of wheat, 40 bushels of Rye; 200 bushels of Indian corn; 10 bales of ginned cotton weighing 400 pounds each. The writer was privileged to learn the exact location of the land owned by Andrew J. Durrett, Sr. It is on the Antioch Community road, past the Lake Jacksonville dam. At that time the land was owned by the late Marcus Kolb and his wife, also deceased. So far as I know, it is

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still owned by their children. The date of death for Jane Lankford Bengé Durrett is not known but she died before Andrew. The 1880 Fed. Census lists Andrew Durrett with his two youngest children from his 2nd marriage: Jack and Sallie Ann. Jane Lankford Bengé Durrett had five children from her marriage to John M. Bengé. The third child was Matilda Adeline Bengé b. 22 Sep 1854, m. Evan Henry Tillman 02 Feb 1874. Evidently there was a bond between Matilda and her mother's children of her 2nd marriage, "Jack" and Sallie Ann. When Andrew, Sr. became aged and disabled, he and Jane's children were taken in and cared for by Matilda and Evan Tillman (although she was their half sister she was called "Aunt 'Tildy" by Jack and Sallie). Andrew, Sr. and "Jack" occupied a small house in the yard of the home of Evan and Matilda and Sallie evidently stayed in the main house. Andrew, Sr. is believed to have had severe hearing loss and he used a cane to enable him to move about. At night he would have bad dreams and use that cane to strike out at imaginary enemies. My oldest brother, James Rufus Derrett (19 years my senior), said he was told that the family worried that Andrew might accidentally hit or harm his son, Jack, sometime when he had bad dreams.



Woody Derrett Wdmiston, b. 03 Aug 1948
Photo made in his early 20's

The family bible lists the date of death for Andrew Jackson Durrett, Sr. as 1878. Since he is listed on the 1880 Fed, Census of Cherokee County with his two youngest children, that date has to be in error. Researchers say there is a record of his selling some land in 1881. It is believed that he died in the latter part of 1881 or possibly in 1882. Tradition says he is buried in an unmarked grave in the Bengé Cemetery, which is close to the property he owned. Jane Lankford Bengé Durrett is also believed to be buried in the Bengé Cemetery.

I had the privilege of visiting in the Marcus Kolb home several years ago and he showed me where he

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believed Andrew J. Durrett, Sr. and his family had lived. Mr. Kolb had filled in an old well at that location and there were other signs that there had been a house there some time in the past. I also visited the home of Evan Henry and Matilda Benge Tillman where "Jack" and Sallie Ann had grown up. It was a well built old home and had previously had an opening in the middle, which was known as a "dog trot." That opening had been closed in and utilized as a part of the house. The little house that Andrew J., Sr. and "Jack" had lived in was no longer there. The house had a nice location on a hilltop and the current occupants said the lights of Jacksonville, Texas (approximately 15 miles away) could be seen at night, when it was winter time and the trees had dropped their foliage.

Andrew Jackson Durrett/Derrett, Jr. became a farmer and lived in the Pierce's Chapel Community with his wife, Josephine Price Derrett. Most of their children were born in this community. The date he moved to Alto, Texas, in the south end of Cherokee County, is not known; but it is believed that his last two children were born in that area. By the time his last two children were born, most of the older children had married and had homes of their own. One of the most memorable places we lived was in the Shi-

loh Community northwest of Alto. His sister, Sallie Ann, had m. 1st William George and lived near Jacksonville; After the death of William George, she m. 2nd Augustus M. Miller, widower of Mary C. Price (an older sister of Josephine) and they were our neighbors when we lived in the Shiloh Community near Alto. Aunt Sallie made the best tea cakes in the country. My brother Hollie and I attended Myrtle Springs School, which was near Shiloh Church and when we walked home in the afternoon, we made it a point to go by Aunt Sallie's house, just in case she had some tea cakes to share with us. I grew up in the Alto area and attended public schools there. In 1941, I moved to Jacksonville; I was employed by Wood Drug Store and was at work there when I heard that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and our nation was at war. As noted above I am the youngest child of "Jack and Josephine "Josie" Price Derrett's family and, since 1988 when my sister Mittie died, I am the only surviving member. My parents had 23 grandchildren, but most of them are now deceased. I love and appreciate my nieces and nephews that are still living.

In 1943 I married a soldier named Marion Willis "Woody" Edmiston. He was deployed to the European Theatre of operations in early 1944. The war was over in 1945 and in Oct. of that year he returned to the States and we moved to Port Arthur where his job with Sears was waiting for him. In Jan., 1948, we moved to Bandera, TX, and our son, Woody

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Derrett Edmiston was born 03 Aug 1948. In 1951 I moved, with my son, back to Jacksonville. My divorce was final in January, 1952, and I was employed by Holland's Pharmacy in Jacksonville at that time. I attended evening classes at Lon Morris College in order to take business courses, the object being to qualify myself for an office job that would not require me to be on my feet all day long. Before I had fully completed these courses, I had an opportunity to go to work for United Gas, the local gas utility company. The name of the company changed several times. I worked there 32 years before retiring and, at that time, it was known as EN-TEX, INC. After my retirement, it kept changing names, due to "buy-out" situations and change of ownership. It is now called CENTER POINT ENERGY. God blessed me during this trying period of raising my son and working at a full time job, by using one of my sisters and Central Baptist Church in Jacksonville to help me raise my son. When Woody was a young teenager, we had a neighbor, Julian A. South, who owned a nearby Mobil Service Station and an auto repair shop. He allowed Woody to work with him part time and to just hang out and visit with him many times. He became a "father figure" to Woody and taught him a lot about auto repair. This knowledge continues to benefit Woody since he is able to do

much of the repairs to his own cars.

Woody attended Jacksonville public schools, graduating from high school in 1966. He attended Dallas Baptist University, earning an undergraduate degree in Social Work and Business Marketing. He became a career law enforcement professional, has been a police executive in two communities. He holds Master's status with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Education and a Masters Degree from Southwest Texas State University. He has been active in Boy Scouts of America and served on Youth Committees in several churches. He married Barbara Volz of Jacksonville and they lived more than 10 years in Santa Clara and San Jose, CA before moving back to Texas and settling in the Austin area. In 1999 he and Barbara adopted two children: a 9-year-old boy named Ricky Matthew and a 13-year-old girl named Stephanie Marie. The children bonded quickly with their new parents and Woody and Barbara were more than happy to have a family.

In 2004 Woody moved his family to Whitehouse, TX to a house large enough to accommodate his family plus his mother.

I had developed severe hearing loss and Woody was concerned about my safety, since I had had an attempted break-in at the house where I was living in Jacksonville. The would-be burglar cut the screen

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doors and window screens, trying to find a door or window that I had left unlocked. He managed to get into the utility room but could go no further because I had bar locks on all the doors. Since I could not hear well, I did not know what had occurred until the next morning when I found my screens cut.

Ricky was ready to enter high school and Stephanie was ready for her first year in the University of Texas at Tyler when we moved to Whitehouse. Woody had accepted a job with an adoption agency in Tyler and Barbara continued in her work as a Counseling Therapist. Everything seemed to be working out as planned until Ricky got involved in spending too much time on the computer. Before his parents realized what was happening, he had gotten so involved in an imaginary life he had created for himself on My Space, just one of several social networking sites on the computer. He had a girlfriend and on Internet they were known as a married couple. Finally, the young girl wanted to change their plans. She told him they should both "date" other people for a while.

This turned Ricky's imaginary world upside down. He told her he would not want to live if she would not stay with him. She probably thought he was bluffing, but on June 29, 2006,

Ricky took his own life..

Ricky's death was a severe blow to all his family. It was very hard for his parents, his sister, me, and all of Barbara's family, as we had grown to love both of the children. After the ordeal of taking care of the funeral, Woody felt he had to investigate just what Ricky had been doing with all the time he had spent on the computer. The longer he searched the more he found that he thought should be made known to parents everywhere. Ultimately, his record turned into a book: WHY PARENTS SHOULD FEAR MY SPACE. The book was sent to the publisher in December 2006 and was published in January, 2007. Woody has done a lot to promote the sale of the book. He said he did not want to get rich on the book, he just wanted to reach as many parents as possible in order to prevent anyone else having to go through what he did when he saw the lifeless body of his son.

His title at the adoption agency is Ambassador Family Specialist. Among other things, he helps teach a parenting class to people who are interested in becoming foster parents or adopting a child. He and Barbara are advocates of adopting older children. Many people who wish to adopt a child are looking for a baby but there are so many older children who need the love and care of a family.

Life has to go on, so Woody and Barbara have continued to work hard on the job and Stephanie works hard in

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college; also they work hard in their respective churches. Stephanie's major in college is Civil Engineering; she makes good grades and is on the Dean's List much of the time. She is looking forward to graduating in the spring of 2009.

I am pleased to be a part of these FOUR GENERATIONS SPANNING TWO HUNDRED YEARS. I would like to have known my paternal grandparents but I find it interesting to think of the difference in the way of life for these generations, especially the first one. Consider the modes of travel then as compared today: They could not rent a U-Haul truck to move themselves and travel over paved highways to a new location. They migrated across the

country in groups by wagon trains, fording streams of water, where possible, and building some sort of flotation device similar to a barge to cross large streams. Many times the rivers were used as a means of transportation downstream on a barge type boat or ferry. Part of the time they also had the problem of having to be prepared for a possible attack by Indians. Joseph Francis and Penelope may have known the famous Indian fighter who eventually became president of our nation, Andrew Jackson, who eventually became president of our nation, since they named one of their sons after him. If they did know him, it was before the period when he became so well known as an Indian fighter.

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Visit our Internet site at its new address:

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Joel Marion Elkins**Gordon Bennett**

From: sue [suemac@geusnet.com]
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2008 1:05 PM
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net
Attachments: J%20M%20Elkins%20A%20Sketch%20of%20His%20Lif.pdf

I have attached a document written by Joel Marion Elkins. He was one of the sons of David Elkins, listed in the Cherokee County Census of 1850, 1860 and 1870. Rev. David Elkins wife was Ruth Nealy, born 1814, died 1865 and she is in the article written by Joel as being buried in Shiloh Cemetery. Ruth Elkins is not one of the interments listed in Shiloh. I have been to the cemetery and could not find her grave. Do you have any information on Shiloh that is not listed on the web site?

Thank you.

Sue McMurray
608 Tracy Street
Greenville, TX 75402

suemac@geusnet.com

J. M. ELKINS' Obituary

Funeral services for J. M. Elkins, 90 years old Confederate Veteran and a long time resident of Texas, were held Friday at Duffau, Erath County, where he died Thursday. He was the father of T. M. Elkins of Dallas. Mr. Elkins enlisted from Tennessee in the Confederate Army in 1862. The following year in a battle near Vicksburg he received a wound which necessitated the amputation of his right arm. In 1873 he moved to Erath county settling at Duffau, where for many years he was engaged in mercantile and milling business.

He is survived by three sons, W. D. of Duffau, J. W. of Graford and T. M. of Dallas, and four daughters, Mrs. Mary Eakins of Hico, Mrs. Callie Caraway of Clifton, Mrs. Jennie Hooker of Hale Center, and Mrs. Minnie Reece of Deport.

He passed away April, 1926.

(He enlisted from Texas, not Tennessee.)

Joel Marion Elkins

J. M. ELKINS LIFE

A short sketch written for the Duffau Progress by Himself

(written about the year 1915)

I was born in East Tennessee, April 25, 1836. which will make me 80 years old my next birthday. My parents were born, married and raised there. Their names are David and Ruth Elkins.

We left there when I was a small tot. People were very poor those days, made their living at home but very little money. The good women made the clothes at home. The first move we made was on the banks of the Tennessee River, the cold cotton part, then father leaving us there while he went to Alabama, returning before long we moved down the Tennessee River with another family in a boat that was built for that purpose. It was just like being in a house. When the water would run pretty swift they would just let it float and when the water was slow we would put on the oars and went right along. I don't remember where we left the boat for I was very small and only six years old.

We stopped in Watson County, Alabama, and stayed in that county for seven years. Father was a good worker, but was a great hand to move, renting land and working hard and never getting anything ahead. Father never had time to send us children to school. He was always going to send us next year, but the next year never came, and when seven years had past he began planning to go to Texas.

In the fall of 1849 with six other families we started to Texas in wagons, for that was the only way we had to travel in those days. We crossed the Mississippi River at Memphis. I can't tell much about that but we went to Little Rock, Arkansas and after a long weary trip of 40 days we landed in Rusk. Cherokee County, Texas.

Father, Mother, four of us children and Aunt Matilda Dannis (or Dennis), one of Mother's sisters comprised our family. I was still a small boy of 13 years and very small, weighed only about 65 pounds. Well, now we were in Texas without a dollar and about \$40.00 in debt, borrowed to get here on end in a strange land and only one family that we knew, that was John Nelson, who had come the year before so we went to his house about five miles southwest of Rusk, Mr. Nelson's brother, being an old settler was pretty well fixed and in a few days he let us move in a little house in his yard and we went to work for him. we cleared land and done any kind of work we could get to do. In a short time father bought a little place near by and we bought a fine log house. We made boards out of pine and covered it. So we moved to that, renting some more land from Mr. Nelson. The first year we went to work and improved the place, putting in a pretty good farm for that country.

When I was about 15 years old I professed religion and joined the Methodist Protestant Church and have remained in it since that time and I have been a reader of the Baltimore Church paper

Joel Marion Elkins

for about 64 years and guess I will continue to read it as long as I can see to read.

We had been in Texas now about three years, and father and brother, the latter being about two years older than myself, decided to raise corn and cotton, and Mother and aunt to make cloth. We were getting along pretty well now, but in two years father thought it was time to move again. Selling out we then moved six miles and bought land again in the woods we were new to, about three miles of Alto, Texas. Some of the creek bottom land was very heavy timbered. We then commenced to improve that place, got it pretty well improved and then I began to think it was time for me to get married, as I was then about twenty two years old. So on November 12, 1858, I and Miss Rebecca Ann Hamilton were married.

I had never left home. My older brother and sister had both married and left, so wife and I lived with my parents until after the war between the states. Soon after we were married my wife joined the church with me and lived a devoted christian life and was a true helpmate indeed.

Well, as we had this place pretty well improved, it was getting about time for father to move again, who pretty soon sold out. I was tired of so much moving and began to think some for myself. My older brother had bought a farm and moved on it about six miles from Rusk, so father and I after looking around a little bought 200 acres and divided it between us on the public road leading from Rusk to Alto. This was joining my brother's land. I have never said much about my younger brother. His health was so bad that he was never able to do but little work.

Father's land had one spring of good water running out of the hill so we went to work on his part of the land to improve it. A good part of the land was heavy pine timber, so we went to cutting logs and soon had us a house built. Then we went to clearing land and in a few years we had very good houses and good farms cleared up and was pretty well fixed as we had it paid for and had some stock, but lo, the war was on and father thought I must take care of home and he would go to war. So away he went to Kentucky. His health failing him, he was discharged and back at home and was willing to stay. It was now about time for me to go to the war, so my older brother and brother-in-law and I went in. We were in Company of the 18 Regiment from Texas, Pole Annex Brigade, Walker's Division. I guess we had the right name for they sure did walk us around. Soon after we left we went to Jefferson, Texas and camped there a while. My brother-in-law, Tom Collier, taken the measles and died, leaving my sister and three little boys, J. T. Collier being the baby. Later we moved up to Little Rock, Arkansas, and then cut into the swamps of White River, there we camped and drilled for some time. Later we got orders to go to Arkansas Post down the Arkansas River, but too late as the fight was over when we got there. We were camped in the river bottom the worst snow I think I ever saw. We had nothing to burn but green cottonwood or pack rails about half a mile. During the snow my brother was detailed to drive the Colonel's wagon up the river about 15 miles, the driver playing sick. One of my brother's feet was frozen so bad he was crippled the balance of the winter.

About the time the snow was gone we were ordered up the river about 15 miles to where the Colonel was camped, it being very cold and muddy. I was on rear guard that day. We started out pretty early in the morning, went a few miles and it began raining and was very cold. An

Joel Marion Elkins

officer of the guards came around and relived us and told us if we could get to camp-to do so. Then it was every man for himself, the water being over shoe mouth deep. I kept pulling along for it was too cold to stop. Late in the evening we pulled into camp, my company pretty well all behind. The Colonel asked me to eat supper with him which I readily accepted. Only four of my company got in that night, three of us brothers and the driver of the Colonel's wagon, slept in the Colonel's wagon, I in the middle just as wet as I could be. Next morning I was dry and felt all right.

Those were the worst days I had during the war. We stayed near Pine Bluff, Ark. till Spring opened up and the weather got warmer, then we began walking again, still: moving towards Vicksburg, getting closer to the Mississippi River. This was long before the fall of Vicksburg and when we got within 20 miles of there we were sleeping on the ground at night, and the big guns would jar the ground. We kept going down until one time we were within six miles of Vicksburg and could see it very plainly from our side of the river. Still we had no fighting to do, although, only a little picket fighting that didn't amount to much.

We stayed around in that part of the country for some time but on the third day of November were hurled into battle at Burlie Bay. The enemy being formed in a low place, fired on us as we went over the hill. Then the battle opened up and after a few scattered rounds, falling back a little they charged again. We were then about thirty yards past where the first line was and the charge was worse than the first one. About that time I was shot in the right arm, and Captain Gartin, a brave man and a good doctor, came to me and tied a string around my arm to stop the blood, telling J. T. Allison, one of my mess mates who died at Huckaby a few years ago to take me. We started out under a heavy shower of bullets. I was warm and very thirsty, and soon we came to a little spring of water, and got all we wanted. Filling our canteens we started on. The bullets were still flying pretty thick, but soon Gen. Green's hundred first cavalry ran on them with a yell and took seven hundred prisoners and marched them out. but the enemy was reinforced and we could not hold our ground and had to give back.

I did not want to be taken prisoner, so when the Captain came by where the wounded was cared for, with one arm broken to pieces, I rode back about seven miles that evening to camp. That night I was sent to the hospital at Opalsin, La., the court house being the hospital. There I lay on the floor, a quilt under me, my pack for a pillow, more than 48 hours, my arm with the minie ball in it. The Doctor came to me and asked me if I could sit up in a chair. I told him I could. I asked him if he was going to take my arm off. He said he wanted to examine it. So every-thing was ready and as quick as I was in the chair they held a handkerchief wet with chloroforms to my nose until I was almost dead. The doctor told me later that he thought I was gone. But in time I came to myself and found that my arm was off and very neatly dressed. I was very weak from the loss of blood. They put me on a cot in a little jury room with two other men who had lost legs. One of them was Mr. Kounse who died in Gorman a short time back. The other was Captain Lovelady of Jacksonville, Texas. The next morning after my arm was taken off the good ladies of the town brought me lots of nice clean clothes which I was badly in need of as mine were very bloody. The same day my brother was detailed to wait on me, and a few days later blood poison set up in my wound and I lay there on that cot for twenty days or more. Brother told me later that he thought every day would be my last, but with the

Joel Marion Elkins

assistance of him and the good people of the town I pulled through. So I feel like I owe my life to them. I lack for nothing willing hands could do, so I began to mend. I stayed there until the 25th day of December, when I was able to be moved to the hospital three miles east of Alexandria on the banks of the Red River, brother going to the command.

I remained there until I was able to ride horseback two hundred miles to my home. There were no railroads those days so it was either ride horseback or walk. Father came after me and I got home the last of January 1864. I found my wife and baby all right. That baby is now Mrs. Mattie Hammack, who lives with me now.

Well, Spring soon came and I would go to the field and drop corn, and like a boy, when they would stop the plow, I would take hold of it and see if I could plow with one hand. Before the crop was done I was making a full hand.

As I had no education, wife and I began to plan how to make a living farming, but we agreed not to go in debt for anything and stayed with it. Father and brother helped me and we built a pine log house near the road leading from Rusk to Alto. So in a short time we moved to ourselves. We went to work, wife making our clothes and I on the farm. We had one pony and a few cows and pretty soon we began to pick up a little. Anything we could make we would sell to the people travelling the road by our place. Pretty soon we had a little money with which to buy what we needed most and kept building up a little and soon we could buy every-thing we needed.

My mother passed away and was laid to rest at Shilo Methodist Church three miles west of Alto. She was about fifty years old.

Pretty soon my brother went up to Smith County near Silar and was married. He was like father in some ways, and would not stay still long enough to make anything. A little later my sister married again, S. Nowlin. Father broke up housekeeping and lived among his children. He passed away when he was 73 years old. We stayed on this place until 1870. By this time we were pretty well fixed, had plenty of stock and making a fair living and a little more. A little later brother and brother-in-law moved to Freestone County ten miles north of Fairfield, the County Seat. Thinking I could better myself, I sold out and began fixing to move to Freestone County. J. F. Hines, a young man went with me. So I bought land there with very little improvements but Hines stayed with me for nearly one year. My getting negroes to split rails and Mr. Hines and I clearing land, we put in a pretty good farm that year. We stayed there about four years making plenty to live on but was not very healthy so we thought it best to move again.

We never had anything to give away when we went to move. We had plenty of wagons and good teams to haul all that could not walk. We had a nice bunch of cattle and kept them with us in all our moving.

In the fall of 1864 I rented out my farm for two years for two hundred dollars a year and went to

Joel Marion Elkins

Hill County near Covington and rented a place. This was the only time I ever lived in a rented house.

We are getting down to home now. The next fall I moved to Erath County and bought land a little east of Duffau, in the fall of 1872. Where we moved, we had some prairie and some timbered land. Then we went to work to improve it, built us a house and broke a little land and fenced it. We had to buy rails or fence it with rock as barbed wire had not yet come about. It was a slow way of fencing but in a few years we had built a rock and rail fence around 100 acres putting that in a farm so we were getting pretty well fixed to live. I always did want a little more than a living so about this time I sold my farm in Freestone County and had a little money ahead.

Mr. A.B. McClure and I went into the mercantile business in Duffau. In 1878 my daughter married Mr. J. T. Hammack. He died in 1907. I sold my place to J. S. Nowlin and later they sold out and moved to Arkansas and he and his wife are buried there. Then I bought a place in the little city of Duffau and moved on it and have lived near there since that time.

A little later thinking I could make some money, I took in the Duffau Flouring Mill and Gin Co. and lost about \$4000, then I quit the public business. Still had our farm and stock and plenty to eat until I could make some more and the farm never failed to make a living.

We had borned to us ten children, five boys and five girls. Two of our boys are dead. One died when about seventeen years old, the other was still born. Our children professed religion when young and joined churches. Two of the girls are in the Presbyterian Church, one in the Baptist and two in the M. E. Church South. The boys are still in the Methodist Protestant Church. I hope they are living for a better life and will be an unbroken family in the beyond.

Our children are all married and scattered. The girls one in Deport, Lamar County, two on the Texas plain, one at Canyon City, the other at Hale Center, one girl at Hico. One son lives at Rising Star and the other two here. I guess all are doing very well.. My wife was called away July 3. 1911. Wife and I lived together over fifty two years but it seems as long since she left as the balance of my life. But I am glad to say my children are able and willing to take care of me as long as I live. We have about thirty grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren living.

This is the first time I ever wrote a sketch of my life. My recollection is short and I will close by saying that all my soldier mates are gone that I know anything about. My parents, sister, two brother', their wives, my dear wife* and two children and several grandchildren are all gone. I am still here but by all the laws of nature it won't be long till I will follow. This is written especially for my children that they may see how I passed through this world when I am gone.

*(On a copy of this that Margaret has there is a penciled note saying his wife died June 2 and was buried June 3.)

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G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

(Continued from Fall-Winter, 2007-2008)

May 9, 1939

17

Mrs. Belle Camp, Widow of
G. W. Camp, Deceased Confederate
Soldier. Pension file No. 49510
Cherokee County.

Miss Amy Camp
Cayuga, Texas.

Dear Miss Camp:

Replying to your letter of May 8 requesting the military service record of G. W. Camp whose widow Mrs. Belle Camp receives a Confederate Pension under file number 49510 Cherokee County.

The records show that that G. W. Camp was a private in Company F, 16th Georgia Infantry Confederate States Army. He enlisted March 16, 1864 at Monroe Georgia. He served until the close of the war in June 1865.

The application for pension of Mrs. Camp was approved on a report furnished this office by the Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

I am unable to find any record of Dr. C. A. Wade as a Confederate Pensioner and for this reason I do not have any record of his service, as we only have those records of persons who have applied for Confederate Pension or whose widows have applied for pension. However, I am of the opinion that if Dr. Wade was an enlisted member of the Confederate States Army he would be entitled to a marker if his company and regiment can be identified. I suggest that you write the Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C. giving him all information as to Dr. Wade's enlistment and the company in which he served and they can furnish you a report on his military service record. We do not have any record of his service unless he did receive a Confederate Pension from Texas.

Yours very truly,

Geo. H. Sheppard
Comptroller of Public Accounts.

JHT:EE

G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

Cayuga, Texas
May 8, 1939

Hon. Geo. H. Sheppard,
Austin, Texas.

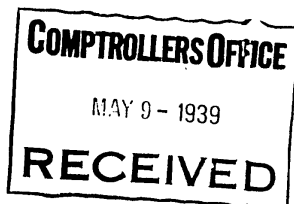
Dear Sir,

Will you please send G. W. Camp's war record? He served in the Confederate Army with a Georgia Regiment but since his widow draws a Confederate pension I feel sure you have that record.

I also want the record of Dr. C. A. Wade, who was a doctor in the Confederate Army. Would that service entitle him to a Federal marker?

Thanking you for your service, I am,

yours truly
Amy Camp.



G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

HOLMES BROTHERS

FUNERAL HOME

TELEPHONE 2213

Jacksonville, Texas

JANUARY 31, 1953

Mrs. S.J. Hudson

DAYSELLE, TEXAS

TO: FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MRS. LULA BELLE CAMP.

FUNERAL SERVICES INCLUDING CASKET AS SELECTED, PREPARATION OF REMAINS, USE OF FUNERAL HOME FACILITIES, USE OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, PROVIDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARDS, CARE OF AND ARRANGING FLOWERS, SECURING NECESSARY PERMITS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ----- \$750.00

BLACK STEEL VAULT ----- 225.00

OPENING GRAVE ----- 15.00

TOTAL ----- \$990.00

THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT STATEMENT OF THE FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR MRS. LULA BELLE CAMP, DECEASED.

HOLMES BROS. FUNERAL HOME

BY: *Lockett S. Holmes*

LOCKETT S. HOLMES, PARTNER



G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

Route 4
Rusk Texas
Feb. 7, 1958.
49510
A. W. Camp

Mr. Robert S. Calvert
Austin Texas

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a certificate of death for my mother, Mrs. Lula Belle Camp. We received the check which was mailed the same day she passed away. I have not cashed it yet, until I could contact your office to find out what should be done.

Thank you for your service,

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Amy Habron.



G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

February 11, 1958

17

Mrs. Amy Hobson
Route 1
Rusk, Texas

Dear Mrs. Hobson:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 7, notifying this office of the death of Mrs. Belle Camp, a Confederate Pensioner.

Since Mrs. Camp's death did not occur until the last day of January her estate is entitled to the monthly warrant issued her for January 31, 1958 in the amount of \$100.00. You may endorse the warrant with the name of the pensioner, showing her death occurred on January 31, 1958, and showing you have the right to handle the warrant. Place the warrant in your local bank for collection and I am sure the same will be paid when presented to the State Treasurer.

I am enclosing blank form of application for a Mortuary Warrant to be executed. Please have the application properly executed and have the Undertaker attach to it a sworn itemized statement showing the cost of the funeral. Return the application to this office and if approved a Mortuary Warrant in an amount not to exceed \$200.00 will be issued to the person executing the claim to help defray the funeral expense.

Yours very truly,

Robert S. Calvert
Comptroller of Public Accounts

/cc
encls.



G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

06/24/98 WED 16:14 FAX 17067783767

FIELDALE FARMS

002

Ramsau Haus
on Paradise Point

where:

sunrises thrilleth,
 dark nights chilleth,
 dense fogs creepeth,
 cottontails leapeth,
 soft snows snoweth,
 black bears gneth,
 mountain lions prowleth,
 Dooly Dawg howleth,
 tree frogs singeth,
 yellow jackets stingeth,
 old roosters croweth,
 bright stars gloweth,
 mountain laurel bloometh,
 shy loons tumeth,
 big fish biteh,
 fireflies lighteth,
 mallard ducks fusseth,
 old men cusseth,
 wildcats roameth,
 snow geese hometh,
 cold winds bloweth
 fat porcupines groweth,
 kaydids chirpeth,
 beer guzzlers burpeth,
 cock grouse drummeth,
 giffiddlers strummeth,
 fireplaces sootheth,
 wise owls hooteth,
 wood ducks quacketh,
 crawdads backeth,
 cold streams floweth,
 pipsissewas groweth,
 termites cheweth,
 mourning doves cooeth,
 wild turkeys scratcheth,
 fish eggs hatcheth,
 moonshine breweth,
 parloo steweth,
 fish baits sinketh,
 polecats sinketh,
 old mountains standeth,
 pretty girls tanneth,
 flying hankers formeth,
 thunderheads stormeth,
 dead trees falleth,
 tobypollies balleth,
 mushrooms stooleth,
 Georgia Power ruleth,
 big crickets soundeth,
 drunken fools drowneth,
 hummingbirds sippeth,
 skinny-dippers dippeth,
 red chiggers chaweth,
 black crows caweth,
 generators genneth,
 rich lakers sinneth,
 old folks sigheth,
 fishermen lieth,
 campfires burneth,
 autumn leaves turneth,
 Lynne and Richard lazeeth,
 sunsets blazeeth,
 ...and days retire
 nameless into night.

June 24, 1998

Gordon,

Re: George Washington Camp
 Walton Co. GA>Cherokee Co. TX

A couple of months ago, a friend asked me to try to find a Camp family that had left Walton Co. GA in the 1880s and settled in TX. I have been successful in locating this line, and I want to share it with researchers in Cherokee County.

1. The enclosed section entitled "Descendants of Thomas Camp, Jr." was taken from World Family Tree, Volume 4, Tree #0576.
2. Additionally, I have enclosed a sheet on George Washington Camp of Cherokee Co., TX and his descendants.
3. Gaylon White answered my original query seeking information on the family of George Washington Camp, and I've enclosed her response which lists marriages and cemetery information along with references.

This is not my line, but I will be glad to help anyone researching the Camp family.

Sincerely,



Lynne Graves Ramsaur
 chick@cyberhighway.net

G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

06/24/98 WED 16:17 FAX 17067783767

FIELDALE FARMS

☐011

DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON CAMP

George Washington Camp (Hope Hull⁶, Joseph⁵, Benjamin⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², Thomas¹) was born 8 June 1847 in Walton Co. GA and died 23 December 1910. He is buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Cherokee Co. TX.

He 1st married Mary Frances Cook 14 November 1865 in Walton Co. GA. She was born 24 December 1843 and died 14 November 1929.

Children of George Washington and Mary Frances Cook Camp were:

1. Lucy
2. Francis Griffith
3. Joe Benjamin
4. Bertha
5. Clara
6. Homer
7. Henry
8. Lonnie
9. Fred

George Washington 2nd married Lula Belle McMillon on 28 October 1903. She was born 15 December 1872 and died 31 January 1958.

Children of George Washington and Lula Belle McMillon Camp were:

1. Amy Belle (b. 11 August 1905, d. 20 January 1965. She mar. ___ Hobson.
2. Roy Watson (b. 20 December 1908 d. 14 April 1967). He mar. Evelyn Byrd in Cleburn, TX on 29 May 1947. They had one son, Charles Roy b. 1951 d. 17 January 1969.

G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

06/24/98 WED 16:18 FAX 17067783767

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012

igwhite@ballistic.c, 11:41 PM 6/11/98 , GW Camp

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 X-Sender: igwhite@ballistic.com (Unverified)
 Date: Thu, 11 Jun 1998 23:41:09 +0000
 To: chick@cyberhighway.net
 From: igwhite@ballistic.com
 Subject: GW Camp

Lynne - I don't know exactly what info you are looking for but I believe the following may be the family you sent your query about. Good luck.

-
 Gaylon White

Marriages:

Camp, G.W. - Lula McMillon, N-90 10-28-1903
 Camp, J.T. - Emma E. Allen, K-300 12-18-1892
 McMillon, J.J. - Mrs Lula Newman, M-398, 1-19-1902
 (didn't find her marr to Newman so don't know her maiden name)

Cemetery listing, Plg=Pleasant Grove cemetery, Bmm=Bullard Memorial cem

Camp, Charles RoyPlg K Jan-21-1951 Jan-17-1969 "Son of Roy & Eve Lyn Camp" PCT
 Camp, Evelyn ByrdPlg K Jun-06-1918 ...-...-.... "Mar Roy Watson May-29-1947"
 Camp, G. W.Plg K ...-...-.... Dec-23-1910 "Pvt 16 GA Inf CSA"
 Camp, Gladys LouiseBmm J Nov-25-1914 Apr-24-1993 "A loving mother"
 Camp, Lula BellePlg K Dec-15-1872 Jan-31-1958 PCT "Our Mother"
 Camp, Roy WatsonPlg K Dec-18-1908 Apr-14-1967 "Georgia TEC5
 Co C 93 Engrs WWII"

1910 Cherokee Co. TX fed census extracts

407-411 CAMPS, George W.....	HEAD	MW	60	M2	08.....	GA	GA	GA
Anna Lou.....	WIFE	FW	45	M3	08 06/06	TX	GA	GA
Emmie Bell.....	DAU	FW	4	S.....		TX	GA	TX
Roy W.....	SON	MW	1	S.....		TX	GA	TX
NEWMAN, Allen.....	SSO	MW	18	S.....		TX	TX	TX
Frank.....	SSO	MW	16	S.....		TX	TX	TX
Carl.....	SSO	MW	12	S.....		TX	TX	TX
Ella May.....	SDA	FW	10	S.....		TX	TX	TX

Printed for Lynne Ramsaur <chick@cyberhighway.net> 1

G. W. Camp and his widow, Mrs. Belle Camp

06/24/98 WED 16:18 FAX 17067783767

FIELDAL FARM

013

igwhite@ballistic.c, 11:41 PM 6/11/98 , GW Camp

Sources: "Marriage Records of Cherokee County, Texas 1881-1905", Vol. II, Compiled and pub 1975 by Ogreta W. Huttash, 1502 South Jackson, Jacksonville, Texas 75766-3026

"Northwestern Cherokee County Cemeteries, Vol. I., A thru O" Compiled 1997 by Ira Gaylon White and pub by Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society, Box 1332, Jacksonville, TX, 75766-1332

"Northwestern Cherokee County Cemeteries, Vol. II. P thru Z" Compiled 1997 by Ira Gaylon White and pub by Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society, Box 1332, Jacksonville, TX, 75766-1332

"1910 Cherokee County Federal Census", In process of being compiled by Bobbie Dowling and Gaylon White on behalf of and someday to be pub by Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society, Box 1332, Jacksonville, TX, 75766-1332

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2

JUN 24 '98 15:44

17067783767

PAGE.13

Submitted by:
Lynne Graves Ramsaur
140 Lands #End Lane
Clarksville, GA 30523

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to: **Cherokee County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 1332
Jacksonville, TX 75766-1332

Membership Application

CHEROKEE COUNTY

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 1332

Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332

Annual membership dues are \$15.00 (single) and \$20.00 for a two-member household. The membership year ends August 31, 2008. Membership entitles you to four quarterly issues of our publication Tree Talk. Tree Talk is normally published the first week of October, January, April and July of each fiscal year. Members joining after the first issue is published will receive all issues of Tree Talk, but back issues of Tree Talk will be mailed with the next issue unless \$1.00 for special handling is enclosed. The Society meets the second Monday of the months September through May at Bonner Place, 421 S. Bonner, Jacksonville, Texas at 7 p.m.

Date of Application _____ Paid through 8/31/ _____

Single Membership \$15.00 _____ New Member _____

Two-Member household \$20.00 _____ Renewal _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ 9-digit Zip Code _____

Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail Address _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Surnames you are researching: _____

Gift of _____, bill to: _____

Complete the information above, make out your check, and mail to:

Cherokee County Genealogical Society

Post Office Box 1332

Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332