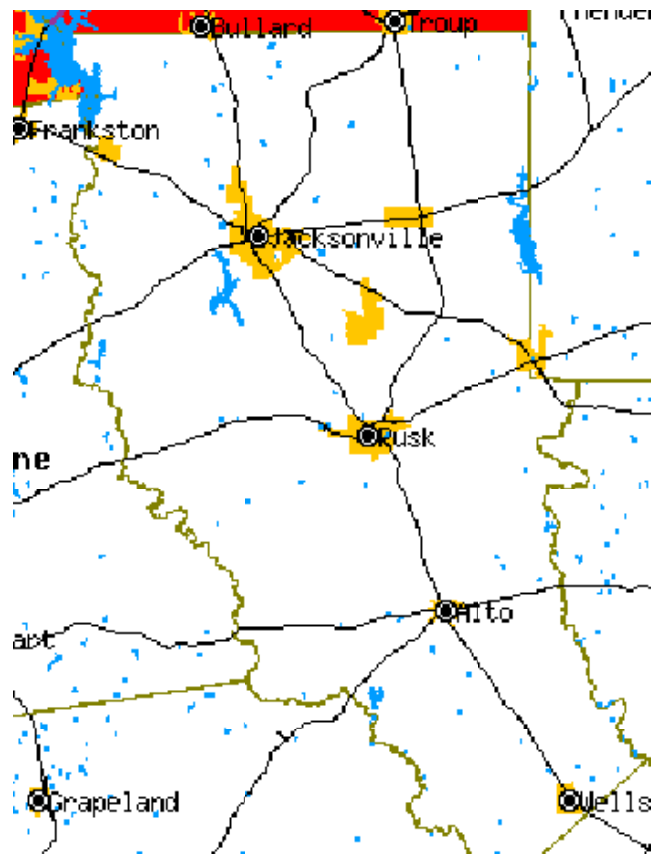


# TREE TALK



CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcherok/>

A Non-Profit Organization

ISSN 0736-7678

Cherokee County Genealogical Society was organized in 1975. Its purpose is to promote interest in genealogical research and the preservation of family history. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 (single) and \$20.00 for a two-member household. The membership year begins in September and members will receive four issues of our Tree Talk publication per membership year. A single issue of Tree Talk is \$4.00.

When requesting information from our society, PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

When a member has a change of address, it is important to submit the new address as soon as possible.

Queries are published free of charge for members or non-members, as space allows. Please limit your query to 50 to 75 words and include as many dates as possible. If the exact dates are not known, give approximate dates.

Material to be considered for publication in Tree Talk is welcome and we request it concern Cherokee County and/or surrounding counties, especially those that were formed from the original Nacogdoches County. Copyrighted material must be accompanied by written permission to reprint from the copyright holder. All material will be considered by the editor and published at his/her discretion when space permits. The preferred format for submission is on a flash drive, CD-ROM or by e-mail in plain text Windows compatible without special formatting. Photos up to 8" by 10" can be submitted, but will not be returned. Photos and drawings may also be submitted on flash drive, CD-ROM or by e-mail in the GIF, TIF, BMP and JPEG formats. We recommend that information on living persons NOT be detailed to protect their privacy. Cherokee County Genealogical Society accepts no responsibility for the accuracy for material submitted.

A membership application will be in the back of each issue of Tree Talk.

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## Editor's Letter

We have published a new book **Jacksonville Daily Progress Obituary Index 1984-2013** compiled by staff of Jacksonville Public Library edited by Gordon Bennett. An alphabetical listing of 18,103 obituaries from the Jacksonville Daily Progress, Jacksonville, Texas. \$8.00

**Jacksonville Daily Progress Obituary Index 1984-2013** (and the other books we publish) can now be ordered online at: <http://mkt.com/cherokee-county-genealogical-society>

Thanks to Marleta Childs for "Royal Arch Masons in Cherokee County" and Joan Posey Singletary for "The Posey Family".

The tribute to Guynell Watters Kennedy begins on page 8. Mary Taylor of the Major Thaddeus Beall chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution contributed information on Mrs. Kennedy's Revolutionary patriot ancestors, John White and John Myers. Terry Ted Moore contributed family photos and commentary. The Cherokeean-Herald allowed the reprint of Mrs. Kennedy's obituary and Mrs. Kennedy's story, "I Prayed for a Baby Sister." The other documents came from the collection of papers of Ogreta W. Huttash housed at the Jacksonville Public Library. There are still more documents in the file under Call Number 929.3764, Hu 235.

We also are printing more of the records listed in the finding aid at Stella Hill Memorial Library, 200 W. San Antonio Street, P.O. Box 98, Alto, Texas 75925 (936) 858-4346, [altolib@consolidated.net](mailto:altolib@consolidated.net).

**Gordon Bennett**  
**Editor**

**ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY**

These are the names of the Royal Arch Masons who were members of the Larissa Chapter in Cherokee County, Texas, for 1878-1879. The data can be found on page 83 of TRANSACTIONS OF THE M. E. GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS AT ITS THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONVOCATION HELD AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE, IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ON THURSDAY, THE ELEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, A. D. 1879, A. I. 2409, AT THREE O'CLOCK P. M., which was published in Houston by W. H. Coyle, Printer and Lithographer, in 1880. (In the title, the M and E are each followed by three dots, representing the Triple Tau emblem of the organization. However, for simplicity, a period is used herein. Because many of organization's names of offices also include the Triple Tau emblem, only the initials of those ranks will be used here.)

Larissa Chapter, No. 22

Meetings held at Jacksonville in Cherokee County, on the Monday evening on or after each full moon. Post office: Jacksonville.

Officers:

G. W. LANE – H. P.  
E. B. RAGSDALE – K.  
J. B. FULLER – S.  
M. D. MORRIS – C. H.  
John F. PATTON – P. S.  
J. M. GIBSON – R. A. C.  
J. E. FIELDER – Treasurer  
W. F. THOMPSON – Secretary  
Jack SMITH – M. 3rd V.  
C. B. HARRIS – M. 2nd V.  
Joseph ACKER – M. 1st V.  
W. J. RAGSDALE – Sentinel

Past High Priests:

N. M. FAIN  
G. W. LANE  
E. B. RAGSDALE  
W. F. THOMPSON

Past Master:

J. S. BEATY

Most Excellent Master:

A. E. MCCARTY

**ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY**

Dimitted:

Tom G. THOMPSON

Royal Arch Masons

Joseph ACKER

C. B. ALEXANDER

Henry BULLARD

J. P. CLEMENTS

A. J. COKER

Joe P. DOUGLAS

N. M. FAIN

J. E. FIELDER

Timothy FORD

J. B. FULLER

J. M. GIBSON

N. C. GRAGARD

C. B. HARRIS

J. N. HARRIS

G. W. LANE

L. LLOYD

R. J. MCLEROY

M. D. MORRIS

W. T. MORRIS

John F. PATTON

E. B. RAGSDALE

W. J. RAGSDALE

William RANKIN

V. C. RENFRO

B. C. RHOME

Jack SMITH

W. F. THOMPSON

(End)

(Material originally printed on November 3 and November 17, 2013, in the online genealogy column, "Kinsearching" by Marleta Childs.) Used by permission

## **The Posey Family**

A narrative concerning the Posey family

Francis Posey may have arrived in Virginia in 1637, but it then took his family some 200 years, spanning several generations, to reach Texas in 1841 and qualify for a 4th class land grant which was later claimed in Anderson County.

From Virginia, Francis first moved north into Maryland where the family lived until after the American Revolution when members began moving south once again into Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Among the Posey clan was Bennett and Nancy Griffin Posey whose son, James William, was born about 1800 in Greene County, Georgia. Around 1820 James married Jane, whose last name is thought to be Ford, who was also a native of Georgia. James and Jane lived for a number of years in Georgia, having 10 children. Then in 1838 they packed up and moved west to Greene County, Mississippi. According to tax records they stayed in Mississippi about three years before the wanderlust struck again.

In 1841 James' family arrived in the Shelby County area of the Republic of Texas, in time to qualify for a 4th class land grant. Later that year they continued on westward to claim land in Anderson County.

Among those believed to be the children of James William and Jane were:

- Mary who married a Mr. Beason;
- Bennett married Sally Williamson;
- William married Clementine Cordelia Fondren Dean;
- Lucinda married John Box;
- Mary Mahala became the wife of Andrew Jackson Morgan;
- Louisa was married four times, her husbands included R.C. Woodall, Sherrod Mathis, White Wood, and David Tumlinson;
- Adren Ford married Rachel Ellen Knox;
- James M. became the husband of Permelia Berry;
- Mary Ann (or Margaret), married James Williamson; and
- Sarah wed Wilkins Howard.

Clementine Fondren Dean who married William Posey, was the young widow of Drury Dean and daughter of William Fondren and Mary Martha Ray. Mary was the widow of William Beard living in Lawrence County Mississippi, where she and William Fondren were married; their six children were all born there before their coming to Cherokee County. At least one of Mary's sons by William Beard came with the family to Texas; John Marshall Beard is buried at West Shady Grove cemetery.

Clementine Fondren and Drury Dean had married in November of 1850; one daughter, Mary Ann, was born in August of 1852. We do not have a record of Drury's death date, but we do know that in November of 1853, Clementine married William Posey.

### The Posey Family

Clementine and William Posey were the parents of three children: Gilbert Marcus, born 1854; James Lafayette, born 1856; and Margaret Jane, born 1858. Clementine then became a widow for the second time, possibly before the birth of Margaret Jane, their third child. It is believed that James Lafayette died young as the last record we find for him is dated March 1868 when Clementine filed for guardianship of her children in order to sell land. The 1870 United States census for that section of the county was never completed. It was said that the original census enumerator died and the gentleman appointed never finished the census.



**Gilbert M. Posey**

Gilbert was born in 1854 and died in 1919, and married Susan Matilda Benge on Dec. 21, 1877. Susan, born in 1858 died in 1892, was the eldest child of Obadiah Martin Benge and Agnes Durrett. Obadiah was the grandson of Revolutionary Soldier, O.M. Benge I, and the son of George Clinton Benge and his first wife Nancy Myers. George Clinton brought his family to Cherokee County prior to the 1850 census.



**Susan Benge Posey**

The Durrett family was once described to me as “red-bearded, tall, and ready to fight if need be”. Susan and her mother have also been described as having auburn hair. The auburn hair is interesting as Susan’s great uncle, Bob Benge, also known as “The Bench” or Captain Benge, was described as being red-haired. Bob Benge was half Cherokee and legendary in the Southwestern Virginia area until he was killed by the Militia in 1794. It is believed he was the son of “Trader John” Benge and his Cherokee wife, Wurteh. “Trader John” was the father of Obadiah Benge I, the father of George Clinton Benge.

I have been told that Agnes Durrett Benge used a cow horn to announce happenings to the community. When neighbors heard her blow the horn they were aware of an event in the community -- they knew the sick friend had died or the newest baby had been born. Agnes was also known to back up Obadiah with a shot gun when trouble came calling.

James Lafayette Posey was born to William and Clementine between 1855 and 1857. He is named in a deed dated March 1, 1868, but is not found after that time.

Margaret Jane was born in 1858 and died in 1931. She married John C. Barnes in 1875 and they are both buried in Earle’s Chapel Cemetery.

## The Posey Family

Gilbert and Susan Posey became the parents of five children: William Martin, known as Will, who was born January of 1879 and died in 1971; James “Jim” Franklin was born March 1882 and died in 1945; Charles Gilbert, who was known as “Sheep” because of his curly red hair, was born October 1884 and died 1976; Cora Elizabeth, their only daughter, was born in 1887, died in 1984; John B. was born in 1891 and died only seven years later. All members of this family group, except Will, are buried at West Shady Grove Cemetery in Cherokee County in the area where they began their lives. Will is buried in the Palestine, Texas, cemetery beside his first wife Berta Estelle Emmons.

When Susan died in July of 1892 her oldest child, Will, said that “Grandma moved in with them for two or three years and then they ‘batched’ until Gilbert remarried” in 1896. Can you imagine calling someone named Clementine Cordelia “Grandma”?

Neither Jim nor Charlie Posey ever married. William married Berta Emmons of Palestine in 1917 and they lived in Palestine throughout their lives. They were the parents of two girls, Mary Jane and Joan.

Cora and Charles Franklin Edmiston, son of Benjamin Claiborne and Mary Evelyn Craig, were married in 1908 and were the parents of three daughters: Grace (1909-1989) who married Finis Ezell, they are both buried at West Shady Grove Cemetery; Gladys (1911-2004) was married to Everett Sherman, they are buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery; and Ruby (1917-January 2011) married Maurice Watson. Ruby and Maurice are also buried at West Shady Grove. None of the three girls had children. Cora and Charlie are also at West Shady Grove cemetery among their family and friends.

Whenever I visited with Ruby in her later years she would always say, “Let’s go visit the family”, meaning drive me to West Shady Grove.

There was a family story concerning an area on or near the Neches River known as “Puss Springs”. I have heard that “Puss” was the nickname of Clementine and this was a favorite fishing, camping spot of the extended Posey family and had been named for her.

As a child I enjoyed the visits made to the home of Cora and Charlie Edmiston and was always fascinated by a clock on their mantle. The clock was weight-driven and I was told it had been bought by Grandma Clementine from a traveling salesman who came through the West Shady Grove area. Many years later the clock still faithfully kept the time until it was stolen during a break-in.

Note: I am indebted to Ruby Edmiston Watson, now deceased, and Hazel DuBose of Flint, Texas, for sharing so many stories of these pioneer families with me. Ruby’s mother, Cora Posey Edmiston was a storehouse of memories; and I have spent many happy hours listening to Hazel reminisce about her visits to West Shady Grove as she visited her Buckley grandparents. Since family research is never finished, I apologize for any inaccuracies in this narrative.

**GUYNELL WATTERS KENNEDY**



Funeral for Guynell Watters Kennedy, 99, of Alto was at 2 p.m. Friday (September 19, 2004) at the Hilltop Baptist Church with Pat Moore and the Rev. Charles Haley officiating. Burial was in Alto City Cemetery under the direction of O.T. Allen & Son Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kennedy died Tuesday, Nov. 16, in Alto. She was born Sept. 4, 1905, in Alto to Elbert and Emma Crouch Watters.

She lived all of her life in Alto and was a member of the Hilltop Baptist Church. She was a school-teacher for 47 years and taught at Alto, Glover and Central schools. She was also a Sunday school teacher for 68 years. Mrs. Kennedy was a member of the Alto Thursday Study club, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Preceding her in death were her husband, Tom Kennedy and a brother, George Watters. Survivors include a sister Alene Moore of Longview; two nephews, Terry Ted Moore of Alto and Jerry Jean Moore of Tyler; two nieces, Sherry Moore Bagley of Longview and Gene Watters Uzzle of Houston, numerous great-nieces, great-nephews and other relative and friends, Pallbearers included Ted Moore, Steven Moore, Tim Moore, Larry Bagley, Clay Bagley and Steve Daniel.

Cherokeean Herald (Rusk, Tex), Vol. 155, No. 40, Ed 1, Wednesday, November 24, 2004. Used by permission  
Photo from the collection of Terry Ted Moore, 330 County Road 2601, Alto TX 75925.

**Family Group Sheet for Vivian Elbert Watters**

<b>Husband:</b>		Vivian Elbert Watters
	Birth:	19 Apr 1886 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA; See Death Certificate Info. Below under " Photo and Comments "
	Death:	10 Mar 1957 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA; DECOMPENSATION DUE TO MYOCARDIAL DEGENERATION/Justice Precinct 2
	Burial:	11 Mar 1957 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA; Alto City Cemetery
	Marriage:	21 May 1905 in Angelina, Texas
	Father:	Zachariah Reeves Watters
	Mother:	Mary Susannah Koher
<b>Wife:</b>		Emma Brittain Crouch
	Birth:	21 Mar 1890 in Lone Star, Cherokee, Texas, USA; See Death Certificate Info. Below under " Photo and Comments "
	Death:	15 Aug 1974 in Jacksonville, Cherokee, Texas, USA
	Burial:	17 Aug 1974 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA; ATRIAL FIB with COMPLICATED HEART DISEASE
	Father:	Alexander Cissero Crouch
	Mother:	Amanda Carolyn Derrington
<b>Children:</b>		
1	Name:	Guynell Watters
F	Birth:	04 Sep 1905 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA
	Death:	16 Nov 2004 in Alto, Cherokee County, Texas
	Burial:	2004 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA; Alto, City, Cemetery
	Marriage:	24 Jun 1924 in Alto, Cherokee, Texas, USA
	Spouse:	Tom Kennedy
2	Name:	George Crouch Watters
M	Birth:	22 Oct 1907 in Alto, Texas
	Death:	22 Sep 1949 in Cuero, DeWitt, Texas, USA; Age: 41
	Burial:	Alto, Cherokee County, Texas
	Marriage:	07 Aug 1933 in Longview, Gregg, Texas, USA
	Spouse:	Trixie Gene Wright
3	Name:	Mary Alene Watters
F	Birth:	25 Dec 1913 in Texas
	Death:	15 Aug 2008 in Longview, Gregg, Texas; Age at Death: 94
	Marriage:	12 Mar 1932 in Cherokee Co, TX; J. J. Ray, Trinity Texas
	Spouse:	Benjamin Cranford Moore
<b>Notes:</b>		

Guynell Watters Birth Certificate

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE PREPARED AND APPROVED AS REQUIRED BY THE LAW PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE

STATE OF TEXAS BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
 CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

COUNTY OF Cherokee

CITY OR ~~PRECINCT~~ Alto, Texas.  
GIVE STREET AND NUMBER OR NAME OF INSTITUTION

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Guynell Watters

3. SEX <u>Female</u>	FOR PLURAL BIRTHS ONLY: 4. TWIN, TRIPLET, OTHER <u>1</u>	5. NUMBER, IN ORDER OF BIRTH <u>1</u>	6. LEGITIMATE? <u>Yes</u>	7. DATE OF BIRTH <u>September 4th 1905</u>
-------------------------	--	--	------------------------------	---

8. FULL NAME <u>Vivian Elbert Watters</u> FATHER		14. FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Emma Brittain Crouch.</u> MOTHER	
9. RESIDENCE AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH <u>Alto, Texas.</u>		15. RESIDENCE AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH <u>Alto, Texas.</u>	
10. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	11. AGE AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH <u>19</u> YEARS	16. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	17. AGE AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH <u>15</u> YEARS
12. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Cherokee County, Texas.</u>		18. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Cherokee County, Texas.</u>	
13A. TRADE, PROFESSION OR KIND OF WORK DONE <u>Farming</u>		19A. TRADE, PROFESSION OR KIND OF WORK DONE <u>Housework</u>	
13B. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH ENGAGED .		19B. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH ENGAGED .	
20. NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO THIS MOTHER, INCLUDING THIS BIRTH <u>1</u>		21. NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO THIS MOTHER, AND NOW LIVING <u>1</u>	

1. I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE BIRTH OF THIS CHILD WHO WAS ~~STILL BORN~~ BORN ALIVE AT 6:50 P. M. ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE.

22. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN J. A. Allison ADDRESS Grapevine, Tex.

MEDICAL ATTENDANT'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Tarrant

Before me on this day appeared J. A. Allison  
(Name of Physician)

known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing certificate of birth, who on oath deposes and says that ~~she~~ <sup>he</sup> was the medical attendant at the birth of Guynell Watters, and that the (Name Appearing on Certificate)

facts stated in the certificate attached hereto are true and correct to the best of <sup>his</sup> ~~her~~ knowledge and belief.

Signature of Physician J. A. Allison

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 31st day of December, 1941

H. C. Yancey  
 Notary Public in and for Tarrant County, Texas

(Seal)

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Cherokee

THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF Guynell Watters attached hereto, was submitted to this Court, as provided for in H.B. No. 614, 46th Leg., R.S., 1939. It is the order of this Court that this record ~~be accepted~~ <sup>be accepted</sup> by the State Registrar for filing in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Signature H. T. Brown Co. Judge

Date Jan. 23, 1942 104 of Cherokee County

From the Archives of Ogreta W, Huttash in the Genealogy Section of the Jacksonville, Texas Public Library. Catalog Number 929.3764 Hu 235 in the name of Kennedy, Guynell Watters.