

• TREE TALK •

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Editor's Letter

I saw a good hint from Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems email of June 24, 2020.

“The Google Books name can be a bit deceiving because it also includes free digitized magazines, almanacs, catalogs, city directories and other printed material. And did you know that you can also find *newspapers* in Google Books?

Try browsing the newspaper collection for yourself:

Go to <https://books.google.com>

In the search box, type your query. In this example I'll search for the word *history*.

On the search results page, click the *Tools* button

A new menu will appear. Click *Any Document* and select *Newspapers*

Your search results will be filtered down to only newspapers! “

Thanks to Dr. Deborah L. Burkett for permission to republish her articles “**Gen. Pershing's Order 1918: Write Your Mother** “ and “**Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering .”**

Bro. Jack White has spent the last several months recovering the history of Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church. His work begins on page 46.

I have spent some time this summer doing research for others. A sample of my work begins on page 60.

I hope all of you are practicing wearing a mask, washing your hands often and practicing social distancing. Be Safe.

Gordon Bennett
Editor

Gen. Pershing's Order 1918: Write Your Mother

By Deborah Burkett, Cherokee County Historical Commission

Drafted to serve during World War I, young Texas men, boys really, would leave the comforts of home, which according to one soldier included cornbread and sweet milk.

Many in Cherokee County would board trains and travel to camps with such names as Mabry, Travis and Houston.

Recently, I came across old clippings from training camp newsletters and local county papers which paint a picture of the times. Stories of soldiers whose future included serving in Europe and on the front lines in France.

On June 13, 1917, about two months after the U.S. entered the War, General "Black Jack" Pershing arrived in France to establish American forces in Europe. Given the General's reputation as a grisly veteran of previous wars and the notion that heartfelt emotions be kept at bay while serving in the army, it seem incongruous that Pershing would issue a Mother's Day order.

But that was exactly what he did with the following communication in 1918, "*I wish every officer and soldier in the American Expeditionary Forces in France would write a letter home on Mother's Day. This is a little thing for each one to do, but these letters will carry back our courage and our affection to the patriotic women whose love and prayers inspire us and cheer us on to victory.*"

Getting on board with the notion of connecting with mothers, the Secretary of War also sent a letter to officers and soldiers everywhere to emulate the example of their brethren in France.

One old news clipping stated, "*...the appeal found a ready response in the hearts of Camp Travis men, most of whom are comparatively recent arrivals from civilian life. Our YMCA buildings furnish stationery, pens, ink, and a place to write the letters in quiet. Stamps are also obtainable at the "Y" secretary's desk in each building.*"

Only three years earlier President Woodrow Wilson had signed a proclamation stating that Mother's Day be celebrated each year on the 2nd Sunday in May.

This designation as an official holiday was due in a large part to the efforts of Anna Jarvis who wanted to honor her late mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis.

Gen. Pershing's Order 1918: Write Your Mother

A mother of 13 children, with only four who lived to adulthood, Ann devoted much of her life to women's public health issues. In the late 1800s, Ann and her brother, Dr. James Reeves, organized Mothers' Day Work Clubs in Appalachia. These clubs held events which featured doctors instructing women and others in the latest hygiene practices, especially during epidemics such as thyroid fever.

Interesting to note one clipping entitled, "Beware of Dirty Fingers" dated February 14, 1919, referenced a Mothers' Club in Jacksonville. Dr. W. P. Barron of Rusk, serving at Camp Merritt, N.J. at the time, wrote, "*I have just noticed in the Jacksonville Banner that your Club is trying to take sanitary measures regarding the "flu"...*"

Dr. Barron went on to say he too had been trying to get the word out regarding precautions the army was finding to be very effective. He had collaborated on a study with the Rockefeller Institute, in conjunction with camps throughout the county and found that "dirty hands, fingers and incomplete sterilization of dishes spread the "flu".

He went on to outline a long list of practices which basically mirror what we hear in 2020 during President Trump's health briefings. Dr. Barron's list included... "*don't put your fingers in your month...in homes that have the "flu", door knobs, etc., should be wiped off every day with creolin solution 10 percent or lacking that laundry soap and warm water...*"

In conclusion, I believe it is always worthwhile to put things in historical context and by doing so we can begin to appreciate such things as our ancestors' love of country and the importance of national holidays. The following quote accomplishes both.

In one of Dr. Barron's last letters to the Jacksonville Banner he shares a poignant side of his military duties while also heralding the kindness of the local Jacksonville mothers.

"I hope you can read this. I have tried to write plainly. One reason I have delayed writing the last few days was because I could not get hold of a typewriter and have been very, very busy classifying wounded men and getting them sent to hospitals near their homes. I remember very kindly the entertainment the Mothers' Club of Jacksonville gave me, and hope someday to meet with it again. Yours respectfully, W. P. Barron 1st Lieut. M. C. Base Hospital, Camp Merritt, N.J.

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Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering
By Deborah Burkett

Preservation of our county history is critical and the recording of family stories paramount if we are to fully appreciate what our ancestors accomplished.

As families migrated west they faced many hardships but were determined to complete the journey and establish a new life. They had given up comfortable homes back east, left behind old friends in order to hew an existence in the thick East Texas woods. Sacrifices were many but through it all they gave thanks to God.

Being deeply religious, one of the first things they attended to was establishing a place of worship. Often their first meetings were in homes or under a brush arbor until a church building could be erected.

Special thanks to Terry Guinn, emeritus member of the Cherokee County Historical Commission, for consenting to an interview which included a tour of the First United Methodist Church of Rusk. For some time, I had wanted to get a first-hand look at the beautiful stained glass windows and learn more about the founding of the church.

Born December 13, 1939, Guinn explained, “I attended church as a baby with my parents, joined when I was about twelve...I’ve always been a member of this church... was born at home in Rusk on property which had been owned by my grandparents: Philleo Pericles Guinn and Mary Clay Guinn...”

Guinn’s parents were Joe and Mearl Wallace Guinn. He shared, “On my mother’s side (Wallace) the family goes back to the Republic of Texas...she’s kin to the Box family of Box’s Creek...then my great-grandparents on the Guinn side: Robert Henry and Sarah Guinn, came to Rusk in 1846...”

He continued, “The Methodist Church was here before the city of Rusk was organized...some say even before the Republic of Texas...”

Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering

During the Texas Sesquicentennial, a state historical marker was approved, and erected in front of the church recognizing its founding in 1849. A circuit-riding Methodist minister, the Rev. Henderson D. Palmer, preached to the congregation. The first deed for Methodist church property in Rusk was recorded on May 22, 1850 and the first church building was completed the next year.

Over time, there would be three church buildings all located on the same site. A corner stone of the present structure is dated 1920. The building committee was Dr. J. L. Summers, chairman, Mrs. Bess Wightman and Marvin Roten. However the church building was not formally dedicated until 1935 when the debt had been fully paid. That Dedication Day is recalled as, “A great day in the life of the church!” Their jubilation is understandable given it was the height of the Great Depression and money was difficult to come by.

According to Terry Guinn, “The church built in 1896 would burn...it wasn’t destroyed totally. Certain items were saved...the pews were salvaged and sent to the Dialville Methodist Church; I think they are still being used...one pew was kept and is on display in the lobby by our church office. A beam from the church was made into a stand which currently holds our collection plates...”

The stain glass windows were installed in the last and current church building. Guinn explained they are not true stained glass windows but a combination of glass and painted images. Regardless the technique, they are breath taking. Images of Christ and symbols of Christian faith surround you upon entering the sanctuary. The beauty of the windows creates a reverence even on a weekday morning with just Terry and me presence.

As Guinn and I walked the sanctuary, which included climbing steep stairs to the second level, we stopped at every window while I photographed each one. The names inscribed are those of former church members and read like a directory of East Texas history. There were windows donated by Terry’s great grandparents Robert H. and Sarah J. Guinn, as well as, other members of the Guinn family. Prominent names on windows included individuals instrumental in the founding of Rusk and the building of the church. For example: J.W. Summers and J. F. Mallard, members who served on the building committee for the second sanctuary built in 1896.

Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering

Others who purchased windows were members of the Perkins family. One window had the names of Mrs. Edna Frazer Perkins, wife of Bennett Blake Perkins, first President of the Guaranty Bank of Rusk. Another window had the name Myrta Blake Perkins.

Other names found on windows were Dr. I. K. Frazer, who for over 40 years, until his death in 1908, was a leading physician of Rusk. F.W. Bonner who chartered Cherokee County's first bank in 1884. There are also windows for: the Rev. S.K. Stovell, Sam J. and Fannie Stovell; J.E. Shook and Jefferson Shook (a Rusk pastor) as well as Mary Shook; also one for J. F. Tatham, a City Marshal of Rusk and ancestor of Cherokee County Historical Commission member, Shelley Cleaver.

Other family names on the windows are: Simmons, Cochran, Jernigan, Manning, Reeves, Caver, Dickinson, Maness and Mauk, all representing the dedication early families had for the church. Since the mid-1800s, Methodists gathered in Rusk praising God and thanking him for all Blessings. Today that tradition continues. Many in the congregation are descendants of those early settlers and likewise faithful to the church.

(If you have stories to share contact Deborah Burkett, debbietroup7@yahoo.com or 903-752-7850, cell)

Obituary for Lonnie Harold Smith

Mr. Lonnie Harold Smith, Jr., 93, born March 20, 1928 in Mocksville, NC died on August 10, 2020 at home with his friends and family, after a brief battle with lung cancer.

A celebration of life is scheduled for 10 AM Friday, August 14, 2020 at Autry Funeral Home Chapel in Jacksonville. Rev. Steve Edwards will officiate. A visitation will begin at 9 a.m. Lonnie will be laid to rest at Earle's Chapel Cemetery.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his wife and love of his life, Bettye Jo Collier Smith; parents, Lonnie Harold Smith Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Nail Garwood Smith; brothers, Mr. Frederick Eugene Smith of Mocksville, Ronald B. Smith Sr. of Conyers, GA and William L. Smith of San Antonio; two half-brothers, John Frank Garwood of Mocksville and Jim Garwood of Mocksville and two half-sisters, Lucille Garwood Ellis and Helen Garwood Hege.

After retirement from the Navy, Lonnie and Bettye resided in Jacksonville and attended Central Baptist Church in Jacksonville until health issues, encouraged them to move to a dependent living facility in Tyler.

Lonnie was active in his church and community. He loved to fish, play dominoes and send Happy Birthday cards to every CBC member he could find. Often, Lonnie would call and wish them a Happy Birthday. Lonnie loved to sing and had a beautiful voice that he loved to share. Lonnie loved helping Bettye in her Genealogy research and therefore traveled many places in search of others family history.

Lonnie and Bettye fostered children and became strong advocates for the Buckner Foundation with a dream to leave money for an educational fund for the children. Although Lonnie did not have any children, he is survived by many nieces and nephews that loved and provided for him as well as any child would do.

He is survived by sister-in-law, Virginia Lutz Smith of Conyers, GA and her children, Kathy Thompson of Conyers, Marie Scoggins of Fayetteville and Ronald Smith of Concord; sister-in-law, Remy Smith of Guam and her children, Sharon Dubin of San Antonio, Carolyn Watson and Robert Eugene Smith of Gilbert AZ. He is also survived by his niece Teresa Correll, her husband Danny and their sons, Seth, Chad and Jason Cornell; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Rather than customary condolences, memorials may be made to Buckner Children's Home at Buckner International, 700 N. Pearl St., Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75201 or www.Buckner.org

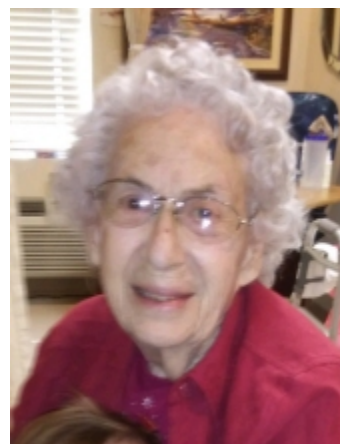
Editor's Note: Bettye and Lonnie were long time members of the Cherokee County Genealogical Society. Bettye's genealogical research was given to the Society and is housed in the Genealogy Collection at the Rusk Public Library, 207 E. 6th St., Rusk, TX 75785.

Obituary for Mary Ellen Marsh

Mary Ellen Marsh born July 4, 1929 to Henry and Mary Hackerd, entered eternal life on July 7, 2020. She was 91 years old.

A graveside service is scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday, July 10, 2020 at Larissa Cemetery in Mt. Selman. Services are under the direction of Autry Funeral Home in Jacksonville

Viewing will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at Autry Funeral Home, Jacksonville.



She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Herman Marsh and a great-granddaughter, Gracie Mae Blackmon.

Left to cherish Mary's memory are her daughters, Sarah Blackmon and husband Joe and Joyce Elaine Perdue, all of Jacksonville; son, Dr. John Luther Marsh and wife Colleen of San Antonio; and sister Anna Kettler of Pasadena. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Marcus Perdue, Melissa Darnell and husband Tim , Brian Blackmon and wife Lisa, Duane Blackmon and wife Jennifer, Rocky Joseph Marsh and wife Laura, and Chelsea Marsh; 10 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Editor's Note: Mary Marsh was a charter member of the Cherokee County Genealogical Society and seldom missed a meeting until her health failed. She helped to document the burials in Larissa Cemetery.

Cherokee County Genealogical Society Officers Elected

Because of the COVID19 virus, Cherokee County Genealogical Society cancelled the meetings for April and May 2020. Those were the months that we elect and install officers for the new fiscal year beginning on September 1, 2020.

Our By-Laws do not have provisions for the election of officers other than at these meetings. Gordon Bennett, President, proposed a motion be submitted to the membership allowing an election by mail and assuming the motion passes, electing the officers by written ballots to be mailed to the election committee to be counted and published to the members.

The motion submitted to the membership allowing an election by mail and ballots were mailed out. The votes were tallied by Elizabeth Williford and Gordon Bennett on July 20, 2020.

The motion to allow voting by mail passed.

The officers elected for the term beginning on September 1, 2020 are:

Gordon Bennett	President & Editor
Vivian Cates	First Vice President
George Martin	Second Vice President
Vivian Cates	Public Relations & Projects Chairman
Janna Trotter	Secretary
Helen Marable	Treasurer
Linda Risinger	Historian

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History
By Bro. Jack White

Pastors

Bro. Perry Holleyman 1874-75
Bro. W.W. Lewis 1876-1883
Bro. Wm. Hill 1884-1886
Bro. S.P. Harris 1887-1889
Bro. T. M. Conway 1890-92
Bro. L. A. Bagley 1893-95
Bro. S. P. Harris 1896-97
Bro. W. W. Allbritain 1898-99
Bro. J. T. Ferguson 1900-01
Bro. Perry Holleyman 1902-05
Bro. S. P. Harris 1906-07
Bro. Perry Holleyman 1908
Bro. A. J. Humphry 1909-10
Bro. Perry Holleyman 1911
Bro. N. Riffe 1912
 No record 1913-16
Bro. F. C. Roark 1917
Bro. Jim Roach 1918-22
Bro. J. M. Spivey 1923
 No record 1924-1927
Bro. L. A. Scott 1928-29
 No record 1930-37
Bro. A.A. Hassell 1938-40
 No record 1941-4

Bro. J.R Dickey 1943
Bro. William Sutton 1944
Bro. W.C. Sutton 1945-46
Bro. Wade D. Hill 1947-49
Bro. Herbert George 1950-51
Bro. Austin E. Oden 1952
Bro. Wesley Hopson 1953-54
Bro. Charles Hart 1955-56
Bro. Wade Hill 1957-58
Bro. Larkin Jenkins 1959-60
Bro. Herbert George 1961
Bro. G. J. Scoggins 1962
Bro. John DeFoor 1963-66
Bro. Marvin Hinson 1967-68
Bro. O. P. Meador 1969-72
Bro. Walter Stokes 1973-78
Bro. Herbert George 1979-95
 Pulpit supply 1996
Bro. David Hopson 1997-20
 Pulpit supply 2001
Bro. Dan Watkins 2002-05
 Pulpit supply 2006-07
Bro. Don Copeland 2008-16
Bro. Jack White 2017-

Sometimes it is difficult to grasp the conditions of the early churches in East Texas. The earliest Baptist Church in Cherokee County was Old Palestine started in 1844; Rocky Springs would follow in 1848; Pleasant Grove in 1854; Sardis also in 1854. Sardis was formerly Church of Christ at Salem, Edgefield, South Carolina. The whole church moved, with their minutes in hand, to the Sardis community, where a church remains today.

To put the time frame in perspective, Cherokee County and the City of Rusk were established in 1846, two years before Old Palestine and only a few years before Rocky Springs, Pleasant Grove and Salem. That would be 67 years before the first car rolled off the assembly line in 1913 and 15 years before the Civil War. Missionaries in Central and West Texas were still traveling by horseback and fighting Indians.

We noted these local churches were established before the Civil War period of 1861-65. Noted preacher in this area, Perry Holleyman (Holleyman's Chapel named after him and his mother buried in the woods at Mt Hope), volunteered as a farrier with the Anderson County Deer Hunters, which became known as Co. 1, Seventh Regt., Texas Mounted Volunteers. Perry was sent to New Mexico, wounded at Valverde, left at the hospital in Socorro, taken prisoner and paroled at the Santa Fe Hospital, August 19, 1862. He return home to preach at Sardis, and later at almost every church in the area, including Mt Hope.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

Church records will often list the same preacher at several churches at the same time. Many churches met only once or twice a month, others meeting on other days of the week, to allow a preacher to preach in several communities at one time. Minutes of Mt Hope show allowances made often to accommodate the preacher and sister churches.



Oldest Surviving Member in 2020

Oldest surviving member is Cornelia Ford, who joined the church by letter, 8-28-1949, 71 years ago. Ms. Cornelia joined her husband, Frank Ford, after their marriage on April 2, 1949. Mr. Frank joined Mt Hope by baptism on 8-3-1935, later becoming a deacon.

Charter members of Gibraltar Chapel on 09-09- 1928, were: Fred Loden, F. Smith Wallace, Lizzie Wallace, Bro. and Sis. Gilbert Odom and Bro. L.A. Scott, Pastor. These were joined by members of the Loden, Wallace, George, Goff, Hudnall, Lusk, Middleton and Pool families by 1931.

Church Property

On March 29, 1919, Sibbie Hassell deeded 5 acres of land in the G.K. Bowers Survey, to the Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Deacons at the time were D.A. Perry, John Wallace and Will Perkins. The property was part of a tract of land called the "Hassell Mountain Homestead, that tract being approximately 153.55 acres, owned by A. (Aber) Hassell and wife M.U. (Sibbie) Hassell. According to deed records, 3 acres of this same tract was deeded in September 9, 1858, to Green Wallace and George K. Bowers, elders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Congregation, called Bethel. The location of this 3 acres within the property is west of Mt Hope. The G.K. Bowers Survey was homesteaded in Mt Hope by Mr. Bowers and his family in 1849.

An additional 1.45 acre tract of land was purchased by the church/cemetery, August 18, 1989, for future expansion of the cemetery.

According to oral history and records, there have been three churches located on the site. Oral history states the original building was located near the gate of the cemetery; it was later moved to the current site to be closer to the spring north of the church, which was used to provide water for the church. The second church remained until about 1956, when it was torn down and the timbers used to build an arbor near the tree in front of the church. The arbor would be used for revivals and homecomings. The third church (current church building) would be built in 1966; with the fellowship hall added in 1985. The arbor was torn down in 1993, as a safety hazard, being too close to the present road.



Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

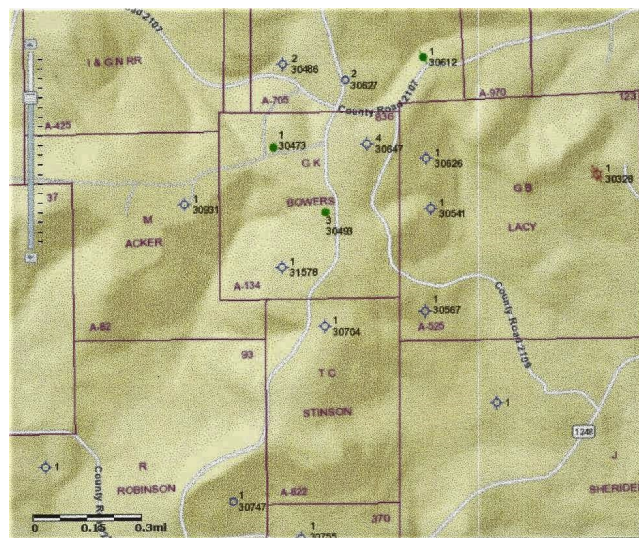
Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church



Grave Behind the Cemetery in the Woods

The headstone reads, "Sarah Rebecca Griffin, Born 1815, Hancock Co, GA, wife of Daniel A. Holloman, died 1871, mother of Perry Holleyman.

According to Evelyn Bolton Ezell, a descendent of Sarah Rebecca Griffin Holloman and Perry Holleyman, Mrs. Holloman was buried by the roadside near Mt. Hope. Oral history of the area indicates, Ms. Holloman and her family lived east of the old school (Mt Hope School) near FM 1248. The old road over the mountain laid a little west of the present CR 2109, leading to the church. After her death, Mrs. Holloman was loaded into a wagon and began the journey over the mountain, to be buried in a Methodist Cemetery in Maydelle (likely Mt. Comfort). The wagon broke down near the top of the mountain and Mrs. Holloman was buried beside the road. The headstone was added much later by Mrs. Ezell and her son.



Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

Mt Hope Cemetery

The oldest known grave within the Mt Hope Cemetery is Richard Ford buried in 1883. Five additional graves were added by 1900. Twenty-nine graves are marked only with a rock or stone, therefore, their names and dates are unknown.

The cemetery was located beside the church, on the 5 acres of land gifted by Libbie Hassell. The original portion maintained was to the left of the center gate. The area to the right was opened in 1977; and an additional 1.45 acres was purchased behind the cemetery in 1989. That area has not been developed at this time.

Supervision of the Mt Hope Cemetery, and its funds, are under a separate committee from the church.



The Old School

Mt Hope ISD, District 20, met in the old school house, located at the bottom of the hill. The church, organized as Gibraltar Chapel, at the time, was co-located in the school until the school consolidated with Rusk ISD in 1942. After that time, the church continued to meet in the old school by agreement/lease until the church moved back on the hill in the new building. According to church minutes dated September 3, 1964, there was an interest by the church to purchase the old school building and have it moved to the top of the hill. Approval was given for men to meet with the school board, but apparently, nothing ever developed of the idea.

Important Dates in Mt Hope History

It would be logical, and especially nice, to begin our history with the date Mt Hope Missionary Baptist Church was organized. Unfortunately, we do not have that information. The closest we can get would be before 1874. We know, according to minutes from the 1874 Neches River Baptist Association minutes, Mt Hope was a member. According to the minutes in July of 1879, of Rocky Springs MBC, under old business, it mentions an attempt to contact Mt Hope, Sardis and Pleasant Grove to setup a Camp Meeting. According to minutes of Pleasant Grove MBC, they sent messengers to a District meeting at Mt Hope in June of 1883. Mt Hope would join the Anderson County Association when it formed in 1890; and through their minutes, we have many records of pastors, messengers and church numbers.

An organization date before 1880 would also fit with known burial dates in the area. There was likely no cemetery in 1871, when Ms. Holloman was buried by the road; and we have burials in the cemetery by 1883. It is logical to assume the church was established before a community cemetery was begun.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

Mt Hope would continue until around the end of 1928, when the church was disbanded. It is uncertain why the church disbanded. Oral history suggests very poor attendance due to the extremely bad road leading to the church. Others have suggested the church was in bad condition and money not available to fix the building.

Oral history suggests part of the church members wanted to move to the bottom of the hill and part of the church members wanted to stay in place. The church apparently split, with those leaving establishing a new church, called Gibraltar Chapel, which met in the Mt Hope ISD School, at the bottom of the hill. Apparently, those leaving included the pastor. Mt Hope, on the hill, called another pastor, but attendance was even lower and the church closed within a few months. The early records and minutes were lost at that time.

Gibraltar Chapel would later change its name to Mt Hope and eventually build a new church building on the hill, which is still standing today.

About 1874 - Mt Hope Missionary Baptist Church established. Appears to be a part of the Texas Baptist General Convention (BGC) and the Neches River Baptist Association.
1890 - Mt Hope joined Anderson County Association 1900 - Churches in East Texas left the Texas Baptist

General Convention and organized the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas.

1917 - Mt Hope joined the Cherokee Association

1919—Mt. Hope deeded 5 acres by Sibbie Hassell



1923 - The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas joined with the Arkansas Association creating the ABA, though Texas churches continued to be known mostly as Baptist Missionary churches.

1928 - At this time, the road up the mountain to the Church had become almost impassable for most cars. An effort to re-locate the church to the bottom of the hill was met with resistance. The church split, with a few remaining a little longer in the old building and the remainder forming Gibraltar Chapel which met in the Mt Hope ISD school. Those remaining as Mt Hope Church disbanded in 1928 and all records were lost

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

- 1942 - Mt Hope ISD consolidated with Rusk ISD. Gibraltar Chapel continued to meet in the old school until the late 1960's.
- 1949 - Missionary Baptist churches in Texas split, those remaining called ABA churches and those leaving called BMA churches. In 1951, the ABA group selected TM (Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary) as training for pastors and Baptist Monitor as means to keep churches informed. The BMA group maintained the Seminary in Jacksonville.
- 1950 - Nationally, ABA split like Texas. Those remaining called ABA; those leaving organized the North American Baptist Association, now the Baptist Missionary Association of America.
- 1950 - Cherokee Association split at the 1950 mtg in First Baptist Church, Maydelle. Majority churches continued under Cherokee Association as BMA, with 9 churches, as Old Cherokee Association as ABA.
- 1956 - An arbor was built on the hill near the cemetery. Some wood from the old church building was used in construction. Revivals and homecomings were held under the arbor.
- 1957 - A motion was made to sell the remains of the old church for \$30.00.
- 1961 - On October 31, Bro O.P. Meador, called the church into conference. The name of the church was changed from Gibraltar Chapel to Mt Hope Missionary Baptist Church, in order to have authority over the cemetery.
- 1962 - Voted to put locks on the church doors. Formed a committee to collect money for a building fund for the church. Included: Pete Hinson, Jack Ford, Clyde Phillips, with Jackie Ford and Horace Berry as alternates.
- 1964 - Authorized a group to meet with Rusk ISD School Board with an interest in purchasing the old school house to move it up to the cemetery.
- 1965 - The men recommended building a *new* church on the hill, by cemetery. In 1966, Trustees approved to sign note with the bank to build the church. Included: J.T. Ford, Mose Langston, John Defoor, Marvin Hinson and Horace Berry. Dedication service held at new church building
- 1977 - Voted to put a fence around the new part of the cemetery. Separated the funds for the cemetery from the church.
- 1979 - Voted to add air conditioning to the church and cover ceiling fans.
- 1980 - Completed the old well for a cost of \$905.00.
- 1981—Voted to support a missionary in Baytown, by a freewill offering taken up in Sunday School. Installed carpet and added the podium area at the front of the church.
- 1984 - Contacted Temple Industries about purchasing some land adjacent to the cemetery for future expansion. (Completed in 1989.)
- 1985 - Approved bid for fellowship hall with Glen Smith for \$10,800.00.
- 1993 - Motion to tear down Arbor for safety hazard. 1994 - Voted to buy new pews for sanctuary. Motion to add concrete ramps, sidewalks, porch in front of fellowship hall, dirt work and retainer wall.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

Mt Hope and Local Associations

1. **Mt Hope MBC Associational Affiliations 1874-1890** Neches River Baptist Association 1890-1917 Anderson County Association 1917-1951 Cherokee Baptist Association 1951-present Old Cherokee Baptist Association. Neches River Baptist Association began in 1865, as the Texas Baptist Association, of which Sardis was a member. The name change occurred in 1873. If Mt Hope was established prior to 1874, likely a member of Texas Baptist Association and no records found thus far.

2. Organization dates of local associations:

Cherokee Association 1851, Judson Association 1853, Neches River Baptist Association (Texas Baptist) 1865, Anderson County Asso 1890.

3. Sardis and Pleasant Grove were with Judson Association from 1854-1858, when it disbanded. Both went to Cherokee Association. Judson consolidated with Cherokee in 1858-59. Pleasant Grove remained with Cherokee until 1880, when it went to Neches River Baptist Association

Associations and Conventions

1. A local association is a voluntary relationship between local New Testament churches. It is based upon common beliefs and shared needs.
2. A local, state or national convention is the gathering of messengers sent by local churches.



3. The cooperation of local New Testament churches is well documented in scripture. The purpose included: (1) to support a missionary; (2) to discuss matters of Christian doctrine; (3) to support matters of benevolence; (4) for the purpose of sending Christian greetings and reports to other churches; (5) to recommend individuals to churches where they were not known; (6) for the purpose of praying for one another; and (8) to warn against false doctrine, false brethren and false apostles.
4. Early associations in Texas were common; and though they met regularly, even monthly in some cases, the association was only said to function when gathered. Leaders were elected to serve while in session and dismissed at the close of the meeting. Authority remained with the local New Testament Churches and not the Association.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

Texas Baptists

1. In 1837, a call for missionaries was sent out to eastern states. It was answered by the Southern Baptist Association formed in Georgia in 1845; who claimed Texas for the Southern Baptist, sending missionaries and establishing churches.
2. In 1848 the Baptist General Convention was organized. It was the first state-wide association
3. Between 1848 and 1885, there was much unrest among Baptists at the state level; primarily because East Texas churches felt slighted in the missionary work done in West Texas as opposed to East Texas.
4. Many opposing state groups were established including: the Texas Baptist General Convention formed in 1853; changed name 1854 to General Association of Texas. In 1855, the Baptist Convention of East Texas was organized. It changed its name in 1867 to the Texas Baptist Sunday School Convention. And in 1867 merged into the Baptist General Association And, in 1877, the East Texas Baptist Convention organized, but was dissolved 1884.
5. Toward the end of the 1800's, Conventions and Associations were a dominant portion of Church expansion and life. They dealt primarily with mission efforts of church expansion and addressed the need for literature in Sunday Schools or Sabbath Schools, as often called. These Conventions were instrumental in establishing Seminaries and other church schools.
6. Today, there are a number of denominations within Baptist churches, the more common in East Texas are: ABA Missionary Baptist, BMA Missionary Baptist and Southern Baptist. But, prior to 1900, these three were undivided.
7. Southern Baptist churches had become a large part of the Baptist churches within the State by the end of 1880s. The reason included the large number of missionaries sent to Texas and the churches established. Further, the Southern Baptist were the most successful in filling the literature gap for Sunday Schools.
8. By 1883, there was a move to consolidate Baptist in Texas under a common Convention. In 1884 it was endorsed by the BGC (Southern Baptist) and the BGA (Missionary Baptist); they joined in 1885 and the name was changed to the Baptist General Convention;
9. However, the merger was not celebrated among Landmark Missionary Baptist in East Texas.
10. These Landmark or Missionary Baptist were strongly influenced by J.R. Graves, James Pendleton and Ben Bogard. The primary contention was the sovereignty and authority of local churches versus conventionalism or authority given to local and state associations.
11. The management of mission work and dollars had grown; many believed supervision and direction was required year around.
12. The problem began with those elected to leadership positions, serving when the convention was not in session, began to speak for all Baptists; and further, the decisions of these leaders was expected to be followed in the local churches, as directives.
13. This growing trend among Southern Baptist, to shift authority to the State convention instead of the local New Testament Churches became a major factor in 1900, in the split between Missionary Baptist and Southern Baptist.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

14. In 1900, East Texas churches split from Southern Baptist and formed East Texas Baptist Convention, changed name to Baptist Missionary Association of Texas
15. In 1905, the Arkansas Missionary Baptist under Ben Bogard, formed Baptist General Association And in 1924, Texas, Arkansas and others, formed the Baptist General Association; changed name to American Baptist Association.
16. However, divisions developed between Missionary Baptists in Texas and in 1949, two groups emerged One group would be referred to as ABA Missionary Baptist and the others as BMA Missionary Baptist. A similar split occurred in 1950 at the national level. The BMA group forming the North American Baptist Association.
17. In 1949, Bethel Baptist Church, in Jacksonville, pastor, Albert Garner, petitioned for fellowship in the Cherokee Baptist Association in October 1948, and was denied. Further, in November 1948, Bethel Baptist Church was denied the church seats for their messengers at the state meeting in Mineral Wells, because they had been rejected by the Cherokee Baptist Association.
18. A walk-out occurred at the state meeting and the official split would occur the following year.
19. During the split in Texas the BMA group would get control of the Cherokee Baptist Association, in East Texas; and the ABA group would form the Old Cherokee Baptist Association, of which Mt Hope is still a member today. This divide occurred at a meeting in 1951, at the First Baptist Church in Maydelle.

Conclusion

The 1800s were an exciting and challenging period for Texas Baptist. Many new churches were established, including Mt Hope Missionary Baptist. This period saw the beginning of revivals patterned after Charles Finney and D.L. Moody; and the invitation, or altar call, that are so common today was began in that time. **It** was a time of growth and division; and yet through it all, Missionary Baptist. _ and Mt Hope MBC, in particular, has continued to preach the Word of God; many have been saved, and Christians have become committed followers of Christ. And through it all, God has been glorified and the church has prevailed. Today, we honor those saints who have gone before us and take our place to defend the faith for those who will follow.

Special Thanks

Special thanks given to Bro. Don Britton, Sis. Martha Coats, Shannon Ezell and Tommy Ford for oral history. Information provided by Minutes of Anderson County Association, Minutes of Cherokee Association, Minutes of Old Cherokee Association, Minutes of Missionary Baptist Association of Texas, History of American Baptist, Robert Ashcraft, American Baptist Association, Conrad Glover, Cherokee County Historical Society, records of the Cherokee County Appraisal District and deed information from the Cherokee County Clerk's Office. And a special thank you for the faithfulness of the church clerks over the years, who recorded and maintained the minutes of the church.

Please **note:** Church Minutes are not currently available for the period before Dec 22, 1947 and Aug 3, 1986 to Oct 3, 1993. Any help in locating these minutes pictures or other information will be appreciated.



Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

An Update on Mt Hope MBC History Project

1. We now have minutes from the Neches River Baptist Asso. showing the organizational date to be on, or before, 1874.

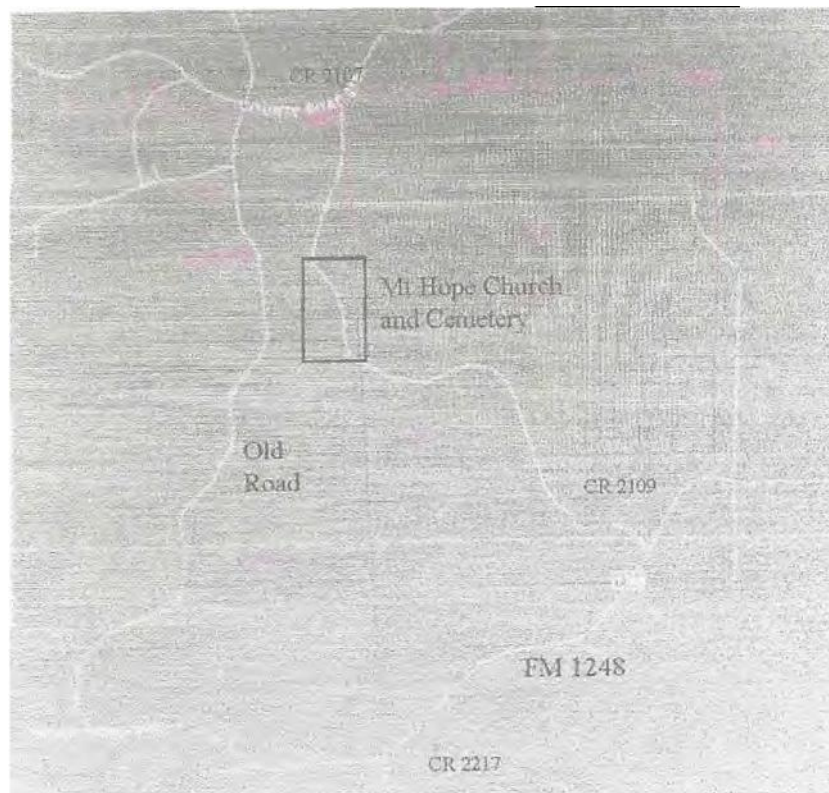
Pastor	Membership	Clerk	Association	Messengers
1874 Perry Holleyman,	37	G.W. Williams	Neches River	C.G. Odom, T.M. Conway
1875 Perry Holleyman	37	G.W. Williams	Neches River	not present
1876 W.W. Lewis	35	G.W.J. Ford	Neches River	C.G. Odom, Wm Perry
1877 W.W. Lewis	36	G.H. Conway	Neches River	Wm Perry, J.M. Copeland
1881 W.W. Lewis	49	G.W.J. Ford	Neches River	J.M. Coupland
1882 W.W. Lewis	41	J.M. Coupland	Neches River	J.A. Jones
1886 Wm. Hill	50	J.T. Jones	Neches River	J.M. Coupland, B. Perry
1887 S.P. Harris	47	T.M. Conway	Neches River	G.W.J. Ford
1888 S.P. Harris	49	T.M. Conway	Neches River,	

2. We now have a deed and map showing the location of the Presbyterian Church called "Bethel," which was located west of Mt Hope. (See photo on next page; Mt Hope MBC is the 5 acre tract on the right side of the Bowers Survey and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Bethel is the 3 acre tract on the left side of the Bowers Survey.) There was a church building located in this 3 acre tract in 1850, when the property was deeded to the church by G.K. Bowers.



Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

3. Elders of Bethel church were Green Wallace and G.K. Bowers, Mr. Bowers died before 1870 and his children sold the land and moved away. It appears the church was closed after his death. There are records of this church and its preachers throughout the 1850's. They met once a month.
4. Green Wallace died before 1854. G.K. Bowers, the other elder, died prior to 1870 and his children sold the land and moved away. It appears, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, called Bethel, closed by 1870.
5. On September 9, 1858, G.K. Bowers sold the land to Sherrod W. Harris. There is no record of the transfer from Mr. Harris until it is owned by A. Hassell.
6. It is uncertain whether Mr. Harris sold the property to A. Hassell and his wife. No deed records is available. We now know A. Hassell was "Aber" Hassell and his wife was M. Usiby Hassell, who was called "Sibbie." It was Ms. Sibbie who gave the land to Mt Hope in 1919.
7. We now have a copy of Survey maps from the Texas Railroad Commission, which show the "old" road, coming from a point at the end of FM 1248 (near CR 2217), traveling north, near Mt Hope, along which Ms. Hallman was buried), crossing CR 2107 and traveling to Hwy 84, becoming CR 2108.

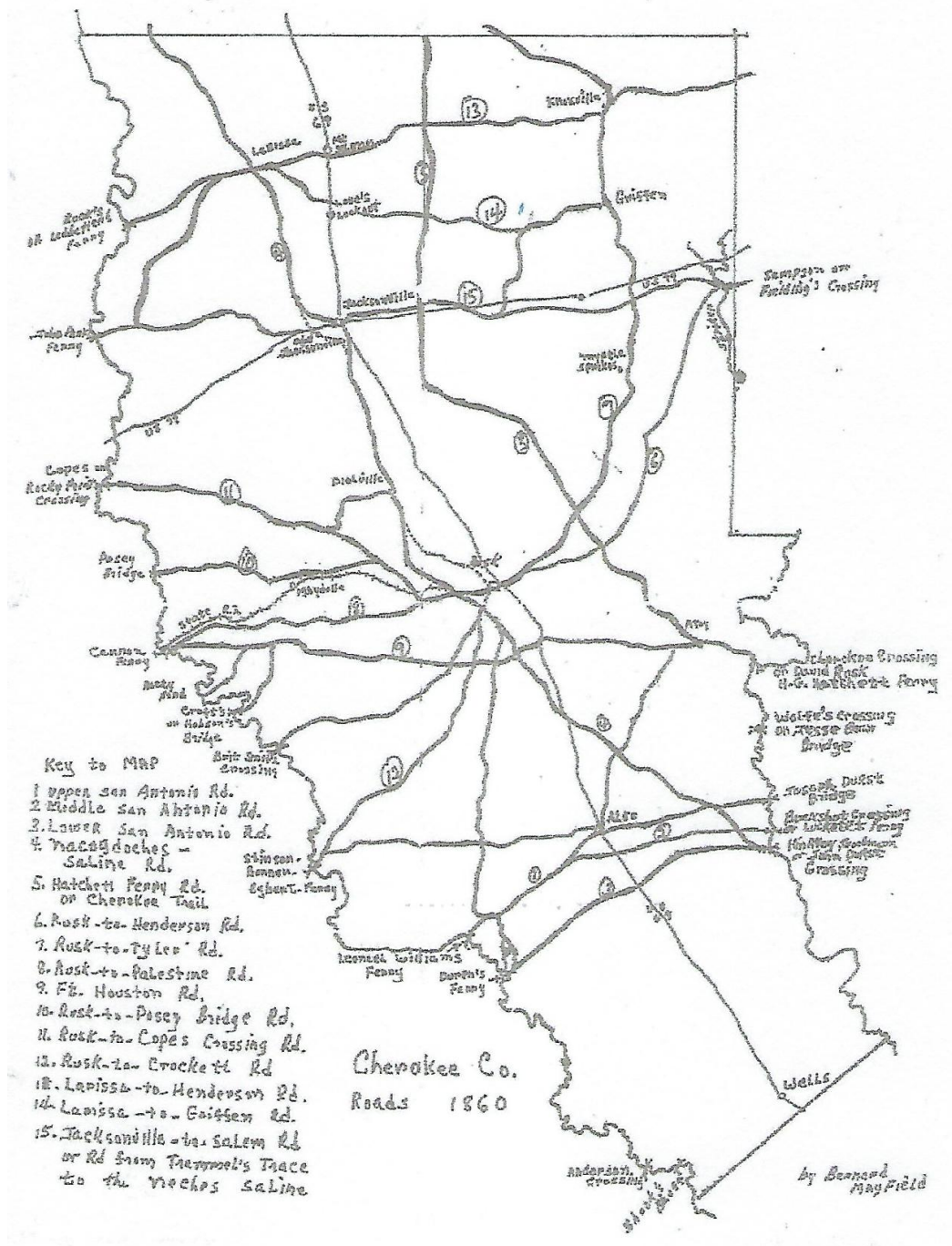


Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

8. Mt Hope shows up in the minutes of Rocky Springs MBC in July 1879. Under old business, reference was made to an attempt to contact Sardis, Mt Hope and Pleasant Grove, along with Rocky Springs to have a Camp Meeting.
9. Mt Hope shows up in the minutes of Sardis BC, in October 1895 when contacted to provide a committee to review disciplinary action against a prominent Sardis member. Mt Hope declined.
10. We regret there an omission in our list of Church Clerks, Sis. Kathy Chandler was a Church Clerk and longtime Treasurer, at Mt Hope.
11. Mt Hope and Pleasant Grove MBCs share much in common in our early years... Bro. Perry Holleyman was the pastor of Mt Hope from 1873-1875. He was also the pastor of Pleasant Grove from 1872- 1878; wife joining Pleasant Grove in 1872.
12. Bro. Holleyman was the pastor of Sardis from 1866-1870.
13. Bro. W.W. Lewis was the pastor at Mt Hope in 1876-1882. He was also the past at Pleasant Grove in 1879-1880. Bro. Lewis was ordained as a deacon by Pleasant Grove in 1854.
14. A map of early roads in Cherokee County, 1860, is located on the next page. The notes there concentrate on their proximity to area MBC churches, most especially Mt Hope.
15. Cook's Fort - approximately 3 miles south of Rusk; is located on FM 241, just below the Salem Church and Cemetery. Mr. Cook is buried there. The cemetery was originally named "Cook Cemetery," after Joseph Thomas Cook, Sr., who received the original Spanish land grant of 4000 acres and built the Fort in 1838. The fort was never attacked by Indians. An attempt was made in 1846, to locate the city of Rusk, as the county seat, at that location, however offers to purchase land from Mr. Cook were refused.
16. Cook's Fort is essentially the center of the county, at the intersection of two main roads: Nacogdoches-Saline Rd and the Fort Houston Rd (*#4 and #9 on the map*).
17. Three roads connected Rusk to Palestine. Two are covered on the back page; the third is as follows...
18. The Rusk to Cope's Crossing, at Rocky Point (*# 11 on the map*), topped the Moore and Gent Mountains, crossed Gum Creek, just south of the Pine Grove community, and then on to Cope's Crossing, at Rocky Point.
19. Cook's Fort was located at the crossroads of the Nacogdoches-Saline Rd (*# 4 on the map*) and the Fort Houston Rd (*119 on the map*), just below the Salem Cemetery on FM 241.
20. The Fort Houston Rd. (*#9 on the map*) crossed the Angelina River, southeast of Atoy, intersected the Nacogdoches Saline Rd. at Cook's Fort, went across to Pine Town and then crossed the Neches River on Cannon's Ferry, at Duty Crossing (*located near the railroad bridge below Hwy 84*). This was an Indian path of the Tejas Indians, which came before the Cherokee Indians to the area.
21. The Rusk to Crockett Rd. (*#12 on the map*), is near FM 23.
22. The road to Brit Smith. Crossing traveled close to FM 1857.
23. The Rusk to Palestine Road (*#8 on the map*), became the stagecoach route and passed through Pine Town. This road traveled by the Mt Hope Church.

Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

24. The Rusk to Posey Bridge crossing (#10 on the map) followed the old Indian trail from Bean's village, near the Oakland Church, along the foot of Moore and Gent Mountains, near the Pleasant Grove Church, to the Posey Bridge, about a mile and a half north of the Hwy 84 bridge.



Map by Bernard Mayfield

Queries

From: Michelle Christie (mtchristie65@gmail.com)
Sent: Thu 8/13/2020
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net

My name is Michelle Christie and I am trying to join DAR through my Arrington line. I'm currently on a "have written" letter from DAR which means I need more information.

I notice you have the Tree talk publication, listed as John L Arrington (MR83 02, AP83 04 and DE83 03) and Nancy Arrington (SE82 08 and AP 8706). How can I order those issues?

Michelle Christie
832-264-0885

Editor's Note: I sent the pages to Ms. Christie and suggested that she send us a donation.

From: Ann Miller (ann.miller47@yahoo.com)
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 12:42 PM
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net
Subject: Note from Elizabeth Miller to your Facebook Page Cherokee County Genealogical Society

Would love to speak with you regarding my ancestral search for of the John A. Henderson family and the William Jahugh Hawthorne family of Jacksonville.

Sent from my iphone.

Editor's Note: I set an email on August 13, 2020
No record in the Ogretta Huttach Files at Jacksonville Public Library
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 3
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 4
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 6

See Saga of Cherokee 2, pages 129-130 attached.

I don't know if this is your John A. Henderson. Knowing about when a person lived in Cherokee County would help in the research.

"1-8-1915

Dismissed After Six Years.

At Rusk this week the case against Louis Emerson, better known as "Bo" Emerson was dismissed for the want of evidence. This young fellow was indicted six years ago for the alleged appropriation of \$2250. which amount was lost by Watt Goodson, a brother of J.P. and John Goodson of this city. The money had been placed in a fruit jar and hidden in a cotton seed pen out in the field. When Mr. Goodson went after it the money had disappeared, and Emerson, in connection with Johnnie Henderson, was suspected of having secured the hidden treasure. Both boys were indicted and both ran away, but Emerson came back a short time after. Henderson has never returned, and it is reported has joined the Navy.

Mr. Goodson never recovered any portion of the money. "

Queries

From: Ken Clardy [k.clardy@mchsi.com]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:54 PM
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net
Subject: Note from Debbie Cox Clardy to your Facebook Page Cherokee County Genealogical Society

I was wondering if there was someone who could help me. I'm needing some info on my husbands Great-grandfather, Robert Orr Clardy. The story I was told is that he killed a man, had a jury trial and was found guilty. They also said that the judge believed it was self defense so he just gave him a couple years in prison. They supposedly let him out early because he was sick and then he died in 1921. That's all the info I was told. I contacted the Cherokee County District Clerk and she has been looking but hasn't found anything yet. I thought maybe there was a newspaper article about it. I'm guessing it was somewhere around 1918. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Debbie Clardy
633 Mollie St
Marshfield, MO 65706
417-838-7469

Sent from my iPhone

Editor's Note:

No record in the Ogretta Huttach Files at Jacksonville Public Library
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 2
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 3
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 4
No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 6
No Records in Newspapers:
Tyler Courier Times 1915-1922

If any reader has a suggestion please notify Debbie Clardy and me at:

[Gordon Bennett](#)
President and Editor
Cherokee County Genealogical Society
PO Box 1332
Jacksonville TX 75766-1332
ccgs@suddenlink.net

Queries

From: C. Mims [Charles.mims@utoronto.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 10:40 AM
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net
Subject: A personal question about Alto family history

Hi

My name is Charles Mims. My maternal grandfather, Charles William (Jr.) Fisher was born in Alto and buried there in the Alto City Cemetery. His name is on the list of those buried there, the list I believe the Cherokee County Genealogical Society put together and published online.

There is a Fisher family plot that includes several family members, including Charles W Sr. his wife and some other children.

But my grandmother's name is not on the list and I am pretty sure that she is buried with him. Her name is Mary Helen Fisher (nee Stanford).

There is a Mary A Fisher, but that was her mother-in-law, Charles Sr.'s wife. There are no Stanfords on the list, and she would have used her married name. Is it possible that her name is on the headstone with my grandfather but it was not recorded? She died in 1984 in West Texas - 31 years after he died.

My parents are also both dead and I am living in Canada and do not have friends or relatives near Alto to check on this for me. So I would appreciate any help you could give verifying that my grandmother's remains are in Alto. Even the name of a caretaker at the cemetery might help. I have left a message at the funeral home. So

So thank you for your consideration. I hope everyone there is staying safe and healthy.

Sincerely, CM (Charles Mims)

cell = 719 850 2913.



Editor's Note: I found the grave stone for Mary Helen Fisher next to her husband, Charles William Fisher and replied to the email with photos of both great grandparents' grave stones on August 10, 2020. I have added this fact to my "to do list" for our internet site at:

<http://cherokeecountygenealogy.com/>

Queries

Gordon Bennett

From: Jessica McManus Paul (Jessica082866@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 10:47 AM
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net

I found your contact listed on the above site as someone who could possibly assist me in the look up in Cherokee County.

I am looking for information on a man named Lars Simpson (Simonson, Simerson) and who in tax records is listed as just. L. Simpson. He would have died between 1858 and 1861, when I found his property listed in tax records by the admin of his estate. The Admin was named Surly Dublin.

The story is that Lars was robbed and murdered. His body was supposedly put down a well somewhere in the 1855-1860 time frame. I have tax record for him between 1858 and 1861 when his property is listed under the name of the admin of his estate. I'm interested in any information you might have that would give me some insight into his life and what may have come of his young children.

Thank you in advance for any help you may can offer

Jessica McManus Paul

Editor's Note:

No record in the Ogreta Huttach Files at Jacksonville Public Library

No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 2

No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 3

No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 4

No Record in Saga of Cherokee Book 6

No Records in Newspapers:

Texas 1857-1862

No Record in Portal of Texas History:

Cherokee County Banner

Found Record in Probate Records of Cherokee County, Texzs 1846– CA 1875, page 151, Probate records: SIMPSON, L. deceased
E2, 229, 239, 245, 256,425,430 I 56-57, J 1236,127, 16 August 1859
Surley Dublin a/a bond \$2400. Other securities were H.H. and F. A. Cole.

and Simpson, L. Minors of
J 126-128, E2 229
August 1859.

Surley Dublin appointed guardian of person and estate of minors Victor L. and Hulder M. Simpson, bond \$2,400. House and premises belonging to estate were in a dilapidated condition. There were other better houses to rent in Larissa. Four silver watches he had repaired that had not been claimed were sold in April 1861.

Queries

From: John Fenslage [jffwtx@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020
To: ccgs@suddenlink.net
Subject: Fenslage Visit Follow Up

Mr. Gordon Bennett - Several years ago I communicated with you about research I was undertaking on my wife's family. We are 78 years old and sadly my wife knows very little of her family story because as a child her family moved 13 times before she graduated from high school. As a result she didn't have the advantage of hearing stories from her older relatives like aunts, uncles and grandparents. I decided to take on the research so that I could put together her family story and give it to her for a special gift.

I purchased your Tree Talk CD as part of my research. Additionally, I have made two trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and use the local Family History Center resources. I have made tremendous progress and was dedicating this year to travel to the various key locations from her families past. Cherokee County is one such location. The Atkins family has quite a history in the county. Needless to say the current virus crisis has put a halt to our travel plans.

One area I have not been able to find is a source of information that would identify the geographic location of the various Beat numbers and Precinct numbers used on the census forms in conjunction with the Rusk and Jacksonville post offices. If you have any suggestion on where I might find that information I would greatly appreciate your thoughts.

Once the current health issues have been resolved we fully intend on spending some time in Cherokee County.

Thank You in advance for any suggestions you might have and your time spent on our behalf.

Respectfully,

John R. Fenslage

Mobile 817-229-7871
Email jffwtx@att.net

Editor's Note: The locations of the various Precincts and Beats in the census records is a common question that I have not yet found an answer. I researched "Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920" by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, 1987, and did not find an answer to the question. I have talked to County Judge Chris Davis and County Surveyor Kristopher Morgan and neither knows the answer. Kristopher Morgan says he could do the research but says the cost might be up to \$20,000. If anyone has a suggestion please contact me at:

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ccgs@suddenlink.net

903-586-0135

Queries

My Grimes Ancestors

From: J S NOLAN <jnl137@aol.com>

Sent: Fri, Aug 7, 2020 at 7:15 pm

To: cchc@cocherokee.org

Hello-

Hope you can help me.

I live in California. I need a last piece of information for my DAR supplemental.

My third gr grandfather was Thomas Grimes (1783 Duplin Co.NC- abt1860 Cherokee Co, TX.) He was married first to Letticia Kornegay then second (1829 GA) to Jane Frederick (1809-?) . Thomas Grimes moved after 1850 from Coffee County, AL to Cherokee Co with his wife Jane and her sister Catherine Frederick Grimes who was the widow of John Grimes (he died in Georgia 1837).

Thomas Grimes and John Grimes were sons of James Grimes, DAR patriot and son of Hugh Grimes

The first cousin of Thomas and John was Jesse Grimes, signer of the the Texas Constitution.

What I am looking for is any records (land, wills, probate, graves) of Thomas Grimes and his wife Jane Frederick Grimes or her sister Catherine Frederick Grimes (1798-?) in Cherokee County from 1850-1860. I believe they died there in your county. They had no children together. I descend from Thomas' first wife, Lettice Kornegay- they had 3 children- Marshall Grimes, Elizabeth Caroline Grimes and George Key Grimes.

Do you have any records available?

Thank you.
Janiece Simmons Nolan
cell: 510-701-7213
Lafayette, California

email: JN1137@aol.com

Editor's Note: See my reply on the following page

To: Janiece Simmons Nolan email: JN1137@aol.com

From: Gordon Bennett (ccgs@suddenlink.net)

Date: August 30, 2020

RE: Thomas Grimes & Wife Jane Frederick Grimes and sister-in-law Catherine Frederick Grimes

I have found no record of wills, probate, graves for Thomas Grimes & Wife Jane Frederick Grimes and sister-in-law Catherine Frederick Grimes.

There is indirect evidence they lived here because several people have searched for them in our records for nearly 20 years. Christine Knudson wrote about their families published in Cherokee County Genealogical Society's quarterly TREE TALK, Volume 25 page 58 published in the Fall of 1999. I am enclosing this page.

Christine Grimes Thacker sent a query published in the Fall 2002 Volume 28, page 31 issue of TREE TALK asking about the family. She wrote other queries in the Fall 2003 Issue, Volume 29, page 32. Copies of these pages are enclosed.

Thomas Grimes' children by his first wife, Leticia Kornegay Grimes, Angelina Elizabeth Grimes and Marshall Grimes are named in a probate action E 8-10 C-1 188,189. Marshall was named guardian of Angelina Elizabeth. For more information contact:

Judicial District Clerk, Alison Parrott Dotson, P.O. Drawer C, Rusk, TX 75785

(903) 683-6908, Fax (903) 683-2971, Office Hours: 8AM-12PM & 1PM-4PM

Monday thru Friday, excluding Holidays, Email: alison.dc@cocherokee.org

To get land records contact:

County Clerk

Laverne Lusk,

135 S. Main Street

Rusk, TX 75785

Telephone: (903) 683-2350

Fax (903) 683-5931

[e](#)

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Gordon Bennett, Secretary

Cherokee County Historical

Commission

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___Church Book for Church of Christ at Salem Edgefield District South Carolina To Sardis Baptist Church at Cherokee County, Texas A.D. 1836- A.D. 1941: copy of original handwritten minutes, names of members, pastors; 260 letter-size pages, softbound, 3rd edition, (2006) indexed by Sue Taylor & Bobbie Dowling ISBN 1-931167-15-X LCCN 2006928721		\$24.00
___CHURCH BOOK OF PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH CHEROKEE CO., TX. VOL. 1, Sep. 1854 to Feb. 1921. Copy of original handwritten minutes of the church, names of pastors, roster of members, obituary notices on some members, introductory pages includes a brief history of the church, surrounding area, and map of location, 452 pgs, (1992), softbound, indexed. ISBN 1-931167-01-X		\$39.00
___CHURCH BOOK OF PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHEROKEE CO., TX. VOL. II, Mar. 1921 to Apr. 1961. Copy of original handwritten minutes of the church, names of pastors, roster of members, obituary notices on some members, (Introductory pgs. the same as VOL. I above), 500 pgs, softbound, indexed ISBN 1-931167-02-8		\$45.00
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___CIVIL WAR RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, VOL. 1. by Ogreta W. Huttash, 93 pgs, (1982). Most complete list from soldiers from Cherokee county available, plus interesting documents from individuals, softbound, indexed.		\$14.00
___CIVIL WAR RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, VOL. 11, PENSIONS. by Ogreta W. Huttash, 115 pgs, (1982). Summary of over 700 pension applications by veterans & widows who lived in Cherokee County, softbound, indexed.		\$15.00
___COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES, No. 1, Cherokee co., TX, 12 Oct. 1846 through a called session 4 Feb. 1850. A verbatim copy which lists the first 37 land certificates, precincts and their boundaries, patrol captain, road workers, overseers, prisoners, etc. 86 pgs, by Ogreta W. Huttash, (1989) softbound, indexed		\$12.00
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