# • TREE TALK •

Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4

Spring-Summer 2018

Table of Contents

Editor's Letter	28
Fold 3 Tips, Hints and Helps	29
Receipt for Mary K. Farish Coffin	30
Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her sister, Sallie Farish	31
Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her brother, Thomas Farish	32
Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her sister, Sallie Farish	34
Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish	38
Instructions for Alto Library Pictures	39
Cherokee County Genealogical Society Members	40
Queries	45
Finding Biographical Data in secondary Source Materials by Curt B. Witcher	47
Charles Johnson Gattis	48
Elias Conal Stockton	49
George W. Grimes	50
George R. L. Stockton	51
John Nunum Johnson	52
Publications available through CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	53
Order Form	55
Membership Application	56
Index	57

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# **Editor's Letter**

Thanks again to Tim D. Taylor for transcribing and allowing us to publish the Roach Family letters and documents. The latest series begin on page 30.

The Stella Hill Memorial Library in Alto has a large collection of photographs in their collection. These photos have been digitized and are available on the www.flicker.com site. For access, follow the instructions on page 39.

I am always interested in receiving queries. The challenge is in finding the answers. The latest queries begin on page 45.

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana is one of the premier genealogy research centers in the United States. Their monthly digital publication Genealogy Gems always has interesting and timely information for the most avid genealogist. See one article on pge 47.

On Sunday, April 22, 2018 the Moses M Buckner 2242 UDC, Cross of Saint Andrews Camp 2009 SCV and the Cross of Saint Andrews Southern Belles held a Confederate Memorial Service at Tecula Historic Cemetery remembering Charles Johnson Gattis, John Nunum Johnson, George V. Grimes, George R, L, Stockton and Elias Conal Stockton. Their life stories by Linda Risinger begin on page 49.

Our internet site has been changed to: http://cherokeecountygenealogy.com/ . Pleas let me know of any errors or omissions at ccgs@suddenlink.net.

# Gordon Bennett Editor

2018

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TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 29 Fold3 Tips, Hints, and Helps

# How to Save to Ancestry

Found something on Fold3 you want to save to your Ancestry Tree? Fold3 makes it easy to save records and Memorial Pages to Ancestry directly.

# Save to Ancestry

- 1. Click on the green **Save to Ancestry** button.
- 2. Log in to Ancestry. (If you are already logged into Ancestry, this step will be skipped.)
- 3. Select the Tree and Person you wish to save the record/page to.
- 4. Click **Next**.

5. Make any changes you wish to the Fact Details (Title, Date, and Location) or add a comment. If you want it to appear on the person's LifeStory, select that box. You also have the option to link the record to an additional person.

6. Click Save.

The record or Memorial Page from Fold3 will be saved to the selected person on your Ancestry Tree. On Ancestry you can view the record from that person's profile page under Facts, Gallery or even add it to their Lifestory.

Find more helpful tips at the Fold3 Training Center!

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 30 Receipt for Mary K. Farish Coffin

April 27, 1858

The estate of Mary K. Farish, Deceased

Paid to A.W. Campbell for Making Coffin \$5.00 Received payment in full of Tom J. Roach. A.W. Campbell

(Mary K. is referred to in letters as Keeling.)



# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 31 Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her sister, Sallie Farish

Pine Town November 20<sup>th</sup> 1859

#### My Dear Sister

I received your welcome letter two weeks since; and was glad to hear that you all were well, my health is improving. I have not been in good health since my baby was born. Tell Mama she has another grand daughter. She is seven weeks old. We call her Mary Jane. Mr. Roach and the children are in good health. Jean and Georgey are going to school from home this session to the same teacher. They ride a little pony. They are very fond of going to school.

Mr. Roach has gone to church today to hear a farewell sermon from our little preacher who has been preaching for us three years. He is a fine young man and a good preacher. I felt this morning as thought I was taking leave of a near relation. Our little church will miss him very much. It is a hard matter to get a good preacher here.

I do not think you will be able to make this scrawl out. One of my eyes are sore.

You wanted to know in your letter if we were coming home this winter. I am not at leave to know what to say to you on the subject but I will tell you all I know. As soon as Mr. Roach can sell his cotton and land he wants to settle up and divide Keeling property. He is anxious to get through with it and I know I am for if we do not have but one dollar I want to call that my own. I like when I tell you anything to be sertain of it. That is if life last it is Mr. Roaches intention if he can possibly settle up this winter to visit you all next March or April. I have been from you all seven years and 3 days and I will not think that I am going to Virginia until I start. Mr. Roach says him and Mr. Herndon made a calculation and it will take seven hundred dollars to carry us there and bring us back. I told them it was not recorded that I should return and I told them if we had to make a fresh start in the world I had to see Mama once more. He says he cannot make a support there but I tell him that we were raised there and both of us get our growth.

Everyone says after I go there and look at the old country I will be willing to return. I tell them I must see for myself. I have no idea that Mr. Roach will be contented there. He says if he had plenty of money he would prefer living there but Texas is a poor mans country. You have no idea how many poor people there are in Texas. It takes all they have to bring them here and many of them would leave but they have no the means to leave with. They are moving constantly from one portion of the state to the other. You rarely ever see a family but they are willing to move. That is one reason there are so many poor persons there. They use the greatest quantity of coffee, tobacco and snuff you seldom meet with a lady young or old but what they use snuff and tobacco. Mr. Roach married a couple last Thurs and he said there was one hundred and fifty persons and nearly every lady after supper had a pipe in her mouth.

Would you not think they were well smoked? At 4 this evening he is to marry a couple in the neighborhood.

I have nothing more worth writing. Mr. Roach joins me in love to all. Farewell my dear sister. May heavens choicest blessings rest on you all is my sincere prayer. Your sister

#### Ellis D. Roach

(Allice referred to herself as "Ellis" in all her letters) I am confident this letter is to Sallie Farish, who became TJ's second wife after Allice's death on the trail back to Virginia.) T. Taylor

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 32 Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her brother, Thomas Farish

Pleasant Valley August 16<sup>th</sup> 1860

#### Dear Brother,

I received your most welcome letter some two weeks since and should have answered it before now but your children were sick and I concluded not to write till they were better, knowing it would make you feel uneasy. Jean had quite a spell of pneumonia and was very sick for a week and during this time Bod had a spell of fever and just as soon as I could went after Jean and George William and brought them to our house. It was a damp evening and it make her cough worse. She coughed all night and indeed for several nights she slept but little (her or any one else) but she is a great deal better. Her apetite is very good and she is improving fast. George William has a bad cold and has cried two nights with the ear ache. One night I thought he would have spasms. The next time he did not have it so bad. During the time Johny was sick with fever for several days. I never had my hands so full in my life.

Mr. Rose (?) was not able to walk but little from a tick bite on his `foot and a large kernel in his groins from which he suffered greatly. I think the place where the bite was will rot out. I have been poulticing it for a week. The inflammation is out and the swelling has gone down. I hope it will get well now.

The children have fine apetites and you ought to see them eat. The summer has been so very dry we have no vegitables at all. But thanks to the giver of all our blessings we have plenty of old corn yet, and we will make enough for bread. We have not gathered it yet. William says he thinks we will (get) eight hundred bushels. There are a number of families that will not make corn to last them till Christmas. What they will do I cannot tell.

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

Nannie and the children are well except colds. I saw her Sunday at preaching. Your children are well and grow fast. Johnny and Bob know most of their letters. Mr. Rose bought them books in Palestine and they seemed very proud of them. I want Jean and Georgia to stay here till school commences.

## Letter from Ellis M. Roach to her brother, Thomas Farish

Brother Thom, you do not know how glad I was to receive a letter from you. I could not help crying for joy. Be assured my dear brother, you are not forgotten in your affliction, nor your children when they are sick. I do every thing in my power to relieve them. I take them in my room and nurse them. And when they are well I try to make them mind what I tell them. They ask a great many questions about when you are coming home and their little sister. I received Sallie's letter and answered it. Glad to hear from her. Jean wants to write to you in my letter. My love to all enquiring friendly and receive a portion yourself.

#### Your Sister E Le Rose

(And on the back page the note below to TJ from his daughter Eugenia by Allice)

Dear Pa

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

Nothing more of interest but remain your affectionate daughter.

Eugenia

Transcribed by Tim D. Taylor.

Used by permission of Beth Shirley of Coppell, Texas, Cookie Scotia and David Roach, both of Maydelle, Jason Roach of Lindale, Texas and Tim D. Taylor of Bullard, Texas.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 34 Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish

Meadow Hill Sept. 2th 1862

My dear Sallie,

I will first tell you of the health of our much loved sister Becke, who died calmly and peacibly the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. I never saw one more resigned to death in all my life, she bore her sufferings with patience never murmmred, she confined six weeks her bed, some of us stayed with her nearly all the time; she left a message for all of her sisters and brothers, said we must write and tell you and Mr. Roach to meet her in Heaven. That she was most there, spoke of the letter she received from you said she wanted to answer it but was not able. She was buried at Rural Villa by the side of her little boy. Ma told cousin Jimmie she would take the babe and do by it as she had by Mollie, he would not consent, the babe is very delicate, has been quite sick, Mr. Walker was very kind to Beck, waited on her so kindly, was there when she died. The neighbors were all very attentive.

Mattie lost poor little George Buckner the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, died with croup, she was greatly distressed, she has full assurance that her tender lad is free from the sins of this world and is safe in Heaven. I will not dwell longer on this sad subject.

Ma says I must give her love to you all and longs to see you again. Sallie, I often wonder if you want to see one as bad as I do you. I am writing by candle.....I would begin it perhaps might get 2 wks in Bowling G. sometime shortly, and finish this week, and send it any how though some say it can't pass. Tell Eugina I will write to her before long. I was very happy to receive a letter from her, hope she will continue to write, Mollie says I must tell Jenie she has a cat called Gen. Lee, wants her to name one after him. He is a big yellow cat, she thinks more of him than she does of Beauregard. Bob makes a great pet of Mollie, she is still in love with D. Allen, says D. do love me, and sometimes D, is in love with me, she is the smartest gal in these parts, the greatest talker and sings most all day. I wish you could hear her trying to sing my Maryland. Bxxxie used to be a favorite with her. Mother and Uncle Hyters went there last week, she has been spending a good potion of her time at North Point this year.

-ath-- has been sick this summer, is quite delicate, she is coming here soon to spend some time, Bellis??? Is with Gen Stuart over in Maryland: have not seen him since the first of August. He has not had rheumatism much this summer. Sister Mary is getting along finely, has another boy called John Wesley, she is anxious to come up, will do so as soon as the cars commence to running again. They have not been to Jimmey's since the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. They are expected up this week. The sounds of them will bring joy to my ears and I hope will bring a line from some of the absent ones.

I have formed many acquaintances in the last seven months, some from every state in the Southern Confederacy, some of the nicest gents apparently I very met with. Some spry officers. I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing them again.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 35 Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish

Sallie, when we were left up here in Yerheadom??? You can't imagine how I felt, folks were afraid to travel about much for fear of meeting the foe. Though they were quite polite, I did not feel afraid of them towards the last atall. Gemmie says she has never had a letter from you since you left. Sister Sarah was down last week, staid several days. The enemy destroyed her corn and vegetables, did not loose any of their servants. We did not loose any of our female servants only the six men who left in April. One caught, some lost all they had. The Corbins have to do their own work cooking, milking and everything. Cousin Bob and Dick Jesse fortunately captured most of theirs on their way to the Yankees. Though they lost three men. Nancy, Aunt Polly, Aron and their children did not go. Dr. Anderson lost all of his but four, lost seven most valuable. Mrs Lotehfield lost two men, Mr. Boulware lost E\_es, Margaret and Ann, both are left without husbands. Mr. B\_ lost ten, Uncle Farish lost three young men. Cousin Jimmie did not loose the first one or Mr. Hugh Campbell.

Kate says she expects to be married in a few months to some 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Va Artillary, he has been sending pastry and letters to her. She like him \_\_rotrate???. She\_\_\_\_\_Allen. Clemmie says she is going up to Brother Georges soon and will carry Mollie. She can't go anywhere and leave her. Brother George has been in two battles, came off unhurt. He is now waiting on the sick in Richmond. Brother Haye comes up to Richmond sometimes to hear the news, he's been buying up medicines to speculate on. Mr. Cr\_\_\_ has made a great deal this year, made so much of his garden some days cleared 50\$.

We have not seen Sister Mary since she left. Clemmie says she is going down to see her very soon and spend some time. Goods are very high in Richmond. Ladies seal skin shoes 15\$, do-mestic cotton we used to get for ten cts have to pay a dollar a yd. Calico one dollar; everything high, bundle cotton seven dollars. We have not had any dresses woven since you left. The girls said to wait until after this war to get dresses. I guess I can make out. Unless I should chance to get married. Lucie F. and I spun some knitting so fine. Kate never thought I would spin a hair but these times I \_\_\_\_\_\_. Kate says she would like to send you enough to knit a pair. Ellen is a right good \_\_\_\_\_\_. They will go to school this fall to Sarah Ann Boon, four of them. I feel so sorry for the poor children so early bereft of a fond mother. The Lord knew best. We should not murmour. Beck died with consumption.

I have just learned that letters can pass from here to Texas. Since the enemy have been in possession of New Orleans, it has been useless to write as they would not go. Some say they can pass now, but I hope this may so for we are very anxious to hear from you all. We got two letters from you two day since one dated May 19 and one June it seems that the old mail is just coming in, for old Caroline has been <u>a sleep</u> for some time past. Hope she is wide awake now <u>and</u> will stay so.

When our Army fell back it was a sad time with us <u>but</u> Thank God we did not see us bad times as we expected. When the Vandal foe came through old Caroline, they were very polite to us and not do much, when here, took about eighteen bushels of corn, one hen and the old big white <u>rooster</u>. Had there ???? a ????, The first who came along the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, I never was as much

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 36 Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish

frightened in all my life. I thought Kate would go in \_\_\_\_\_. It happened those did not stop, went as far as the bridge then came up the hill and went off immediately. After that time they continued to come every day or two for about three weeks, Kate and I had some chat with an officer. I asked him which got the best of it at Richmond. The Confederates or Federals. His response was they killed three to our one. I told him it was doubtless a mistake of his. I then asked if he thought there was any chance of Peace. He said there would be peace if we would yield (to) the old United States flag. Kate responded to him by saying our men would loose their last breath in war before they would yield. He then said good evening ladies and off he went. I will now tell you we are getting along all very well except a soldier who is here with rheumatism, a very young man of Jackson Co., Va.

I will now tell you about little Mollie. She is well all (except for her) ear, which makes her a little fretful. She is a great with us all and everyone who comes here takes a great deal of notice of her and she is not afraid of any body in the fondest. \_\_\_\_\_ trying to write, says she is going to write to Sal, talks a great deal about you and knows all of her Brothers names and can say Gennie so sweet and talks about Mr. Roach and calls him her Brother. I wish you could hear her talk to this soldier who is here. He call her snaps??/ sometimes, she walks up to him and shakes her fist at him and says I am major Mr. Por is naps???, she borrowed his pencil the other day and told him she was going to write to Sal in Texas. She knows everything you left here that was yours. Roberta Allen of N.C. sent her a doll. When Bob came from there he spent some months in the old North State. While the Yankees were in Caroline visited the parents of the boys who staid here last fall. Poor Hodge and Smith are both dead. Senas killed in battle, xxx died in C.... with fever. Also, Mr. Franicki died in the hospital near Richmond. Bob saw H and ? and Mr. Frenrich buried. He was at their House when the remains of them were carried home. Smith's remains could not be found on the field. His father sent some one to see if the poor fellow could be found but all search was vain. Billie and D. Allen are still in service. Dick Jesse has just left here. Wishes me to present his respects to you and all. He is at home on sick furlough. Xxxxx down quite often to see us. Mimmie and I rode up there last weekend. I have taken Roderick for my pony and Jimmie rides old Bet. She is as fat as a seal. We were compelled to sell our carriage horses. The Yankees would certainly have stolen them. Sold them for three hundred seventy five. It grieves us much to part with them, most everyone sold their best horses. Those who did not had them stolen. Sis Jesses old bi horse was taken. A Great many darkies have been captured since Fredricksburg has been evacuated by the enemy, one of ours Jim Cousin. Jimmie Dillard sold him in Richmond. Only got 500\$ for him. More than we expected. I never thought he would bring much. It is likely some of the others will be caught.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 37 Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish

Bless the Confederate xxxxx after this is the best we can do in Caroline. The gals and boys write to each other on ...... Direct to Ganeys ??. The mail will soon come up there again. Remember us to all. I would like to send a letter in this to Eugene but have not time. Will send her one before long. Tell her to write often to me.

Yours fondly Ruthie

(in margins) Don't fail to write as soon as possible.

Mama is going to Rural Villa today to see the children. They come down quite often.

Jesse is present, sends much love to you.

Please excuse all imperfections as I have not time to read it over as Bob has concluded to go to the B. Green today. Xxxxxxxxx to punctuate.....is.....

Transcribed by Tim D. Taylor.

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## Letter from Ruth Farish to her sister, Sallie Farish

Meadow Hill April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1863 (?)

Dear Sallie,

I feel really badly for not writhing to you ere this, but hope you will forgive me. I will say in the first place we are all well. The state is in great confusion. We have a large army stationed at Gimmey's. We are expecting about 60 thousand. I heard that Jeff Davis is going to have all of his army in Virginia and Tennessee and is going to carry the war in the North. How glad I will be.

Servants are leaving in large numbers from this county. 13 of Uncle Hyters have left, 15 Uncle Row's, 6 of ours, men they are John Tom and Dicla are left. The women say they' re not going but I don't believe them. As for my part, they may go. Gro. Hase is here but will not take any with them. He came for that purpose, but it is said if we send the servants away it will be very bad for us. The Yankees will treat us badly for it. I have not heard of any body sending them away except Dr. Holloway, and all of Mrs. H's family will have to leave.

The day Fredricksburg was taken by the enemy Jack was missing and has not been heard of since. Recon he is with the Yankees. Last week Charlie Farish, Keeling Ballard, Branddus, Bob Anderson and two other gentlemen were scouting in the neighborhood of Dr. Goldem's at night. They stayed in the Dr.'s office, at 20'clock in about 200 Yankees were there, fired in on them, killed the two last mentioned. Took the others prisoners. Uncle Card? H. was very much distressed. Uncle H. does not go home at all. Aunt R. is at her Father's. Kate and Mary are in Richmond. We are anxious to go south but Mama is not willing. Bro. George is in the army, has been in one battle. Fought like a man. Bob is in Richmond, was well the last we heard from him.

Uncle C's family are all well. Mattie is at home and ???? at her Father's. Billie is in the army, enjoys good health. Mister Beck's health is not good. The children are all well. I have not heard from sister Sarah for a long time. How are you all getting along. Hope well. \_\_\_\_\_\_ wrote to Little Billie, get very sweet letters. I expect 1<sup>st</sup> N.C. Reg. at Gimmey's every day. The neighbors are growing but little in their gardens. Our flowers were beautiful this spring. Have you many flowers? Mr. Cromie was here last week, all were well. Sister M. got a letter from you, also sister Beck. We have received three Little Mollie, is the sweetest little think I ever sw. Repeats Pasty??? Very sweetly very often, says she wants to see Jay? Bad, says I am going to send Jay flowers. I do wish you could see here. How is Mr. Roach's health. Mr. Jeff Raes passed here when the army fell back to Gerktown so one of the men told me. I asked after him quite often. He would have called if he had to have known we lived here. Please excuse all mistakes. You and Mr. R write to me. Give my love to all. Mama and the girls join me in much love.

#### Kate

(in the margin) The two boys that were killed were strangers to me. Mollie made these marks, says she will write today.

(The first battle of Fredricksburg was fought Dec .11-15, 1862, which makes me think this letter was written in 1863) Tim Taylor, transcriber and great-grandson of TJ Roach, husband of Sallie Farish Roach, his second wife, to whom this letter was written by her sister in Caroline County, Virginia.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 39 INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALTO LIBRARY PICTURES

1. Click on or copy and paste in address blank the following URL: <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/alto libraryl</u>

Be sure to underscore the blank space between alto & library

2. This will take you the Alto Library Flickr page.

3. If you want to search for a particular person, type the name into the Search box and click on Enter or Search. You will need to click on Your Photostream to get just Alto's Flickr pictures .

. This will bring up all photos with that person in them. It may also bring up some pictures that do not have that person because of the way the search engine works.

4. If you want to see pictures by subject click on Albums (below You) and the different categories will appear. Then click on the set you choose. For instance if you are interested in cars, click on the Car set and all pictures including cars will appear.

5 .. For more information you can contact the library at <u>altolibrary@gmail.com</u>

## TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 40 Cherokee County Genealogical Society Members

LAST NAME FIRST NAMEMIDDLE NAME CATEGORY ADDRESS 1 CITY STATE POSTAL CODE E-MAIL ADDRESS SURNAME SURNAME 2 SURNAME 3 SURNAME 4 SURNAME 5

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Jacobs Carmen Member 23 Bronson Rd Prospect CT 06712-1002 cjacops237@comcast.net 203-758-5866 COOK. Joseph Thomas Cook, 1776-1844, Rusk, Cherokee County, TX

March 22, 2018

Hello, I am a newspaper reporter from Kentucky, and I'm working on a book about singer Johnny Horton, who grew up in Cherokee County. I'm trying to get some information about the area, mostly what life would have been like in the 1925-45 range. I'm very interested to know about the life of the people who were migrant farm workers. Horton's family would travel to California to pick fruit, and I'm wondering if you could, or could point me in the direction, of anyone who would have stories and information on what life was like there at the time. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Kelly Hicks Hagy https://www.facebook.com/kelly.h.hagy

#### Reply 3/31/2018

I don't have any good answers yet. According to some members of the Cherokee County Historical Commission, Johnny Horton grew up in the tiny community of Gallatin southeast of Jacksonville. Our best expert on Gallatin is Amy Rinehart the Librarian at Rusk Public Library. Her contact info is: 903-683-5916, <u>librarian@rusktx.org</u>. She suggested that someone attend the Gallatin Gopher Fest held in Gallatin from 10.00 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and conduct oral interviews. I have a scheduling conflict on that day and cannot attend the Gallatin Gopher Fest. I will try to find someone to go to the Gopher Fest.

Gordon Bennett https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeCGS

Her Reply 3/31/2018

Please don't go to any great trouble. Being in Kentucky, I'm at a disadvantage, but I do have some interviews lined up was some older gentleman who may be able to help me. Thank you so much for you assistance!

Kelly Hicks Hagy https://www.facebook.com/kelly.h.hagy

March 25, 2018

Good Morning! Need help or direction for information on Cedar Hill Cemetery, Rusk, Cherokee Co., Texas. Besides Find A Grave or ancestry . com, etc; is there an "official" list of who is buried in this cemetery that I could access. I have done some general searching with no luck. Thanks in advance for your help and have a wonderful day!

Desi Smith

https://www.facebook.com/desanne.muras

# Reply

March 29, 2018

Yes. I was referred to Amy Rinehart the library director of Rusk Public Library. You can contact her at: 903-683-5916, mimihd@aol.com or librarian@rusktx.org,

Gordon Bennett

https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeCGS

Cherokee County Genealogical Society

## TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 &4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 47 Finding Biographical Data in Secondary Source Materials by Curt B. Witcher

Biographical sources can be the building blocks that spring us back into older generations of data. They can fill in missing pieces of our families' histories as well as provide us with more documents with which to solve inconsistencies and voids in our research. They can really assist us in finding all the evidence for our ancestors. In a very meaningful way, those secondary sources we call biographical materials can help us fulfill the very first requirement of the genealogical proof standard, that being a thorough and reasonably exhaustive search.

Biographies and genealogies are closely related. A basic difference between genealogical materials and biographical materials is that genealogical materials tend to be much more "vertical" in scope and depth -- multigenerational, while biographical materials tend to be more "horizontal" in scope and depth -- usually the information provided primarily focuses on a single individual and covers no more than two or three generations, often his or her children and his or her parents. Biographies tend to not go back as far in terms of generations, but they give you more detail about the person than a typical genealogy does.

There are various types of biographical compilations. The most well-known are the geographically based compilations. Many hundreds of town and county histories have been published over the years with the majority of them sporting significant biographical sections. Many of these biographical sections consistently have been knocked either for only covering the rich and famous or for being greatly embellished accounts of individuals' lives. While there may be truth to those allegations, why not look for information on one's ancestors anyway? Lead generation can be a wonderful thing; one can pull out all kinds of clues to follow up with additional research. In addition, typically the smaller the town or community the more individuals of all walks of life get included in the biographical sections.

In addition to the geographically based compilations, one can find ethnic, religious, occupational, organizational, and event-based biographical works. If one's ancestor was a brewmaster, a search for the brewing history in his region could reveal biographical details.

In trying to find biographical materials, it is vital to understand how and where historical information tends to be archived and made available. Local public libraries strive to have all the published materials for the areas they serve, whether a town, township, county, or region. That makes them good sources for all kinds of biographical compilations, both the usual and expected as well as the unique. Many state libraries act like the public library for their respective states, collecting heavily in published material such a newspapers, church histories, locality histories, and of course, biographical compilations.

An excellent, free tool for discovering biographical works for your areas or topics of interest is WorldCat.org. This bibliographic database contains more than two billion catalog records for more than ten thousand libraries worldwide. If a biographical compilation exists, it's likely WorldCat will have a record describing it.

Even better than knowing about these biographical works through WorldCat is accessing a number of the actual entities through some amazing websites. Both FamilySearch's Family History Books (<u>https://</u>books.familysearch.org) and the Internet Archive (<u>https://archive.org</u>) have growing silos of online publications including complete local histories and biographical collections. The Digital Public Library of America (<u>https://dp.la</u>) has more than twenty-two million items available for free access on their website. The HathiTrust (<u>https://www.hathitrust.org</u>) offers a comparable number of works to the Internet Archive. Why not take a look and see who's who among your ancestors?

Sometimes a number of us shy away from derivative/secondary sources such as biographical materials in our family history research. We have heard so often and with such passion that original/primary sources are where it's atare what we should seek and focus upon obtaining. I certainly am not going to argue with that; however, I have found that so often it's in the thorough and consistent use of derivative sources that one finds the maximum number of original sources. Those biographical sources can be a boon to our research.

Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, No. 173, July 31, 2018

## TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 48 Charles Johnson Gattis

Pvt. C J Gattis was in Co K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Georgia Reserves. His Confederate record also had an alternate name: Charles J Gaddis.

Mr. Gattis was born June 6, 1846 in Floyd, Cobb County, Georgia and died in Cherokee County, Texas October 28, 1928. His death certificate gave his parents as David Gattis born in South Carolina and his mother Jane King born in Georgia.

In 1870, Charles Gattis lived in Georgia with wife Adaline and Ellerly Gattis age 16. Elry Gattis was Charles' sister.

In 1880, Charles Gattis lived in Anderson County, Texas with wife Aline and two children. He is listed as a farmer.

Mr. Gattis filed for a Confederate pension August 30, 1913 in Cherokee County, Texas and it was approved September 1, 1913. It appears from his pension file, Mr. Gates went to visit in Georgia in June 1915 and had plans to be gone for only two or three months but circumstances kept him away from Texas until October 1916. He had to get several Interrogatories Witness in pension claims to re instate his confederate pension. His pension file also had a copy of his application for Mortuary warrant stating he died on 21 day of October 1928 in Troup, Texas. He was living with a nephew, J D Gaddis.

## TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 49 Elias Conal Stockton

Pvt. Elias C Stockton was in Co. I, 17th Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Moore's Regiment). He enlisted in the war April 1862 in Rusk, Texas for 3 years. He was age 42. He appears on a roll of non-commissioned officers and privates employed on extra duty at Austin, AR during the month of October 1862. He was listed as a butcher. He was last paid August 31,1862.

On April, 24, 1862, the regiment transferred to Arkansas where it was assigned to First Brigade, Second Division, Trans-Mississippi Department. By August 1862, the Seventeenth Cavalry dismounted prior to the engagement at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863. At this battle, the majority of the unit's members were captured. The men that were taken prisoner at Arkansas Post were transferred to Fort Delaware via Camp Chase in Ohio. On April 29, 1863, they were exchanged for Union prisoners and returned to service in the Confederate Army.

Elias was already in Texas by 1850 living in Cherokee County, Texas with wife Amanda and three children.

In 1860, Elias was still in Cherokee County, Texas with wife and nine children.

Elias was born in Tennessee in 1821. He died February 16, 1863 during the Civil War at a regiment hospital in Arkansas. His Confederate records stated that he died at a Regiment Hospital February 15, 1863 but not notified until 7 June.

I did not find a burial location for Mr. Stockton but his wife Amanda Stockton died January 7, 1895 and is buried at Tecula Cemetery.

## TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 50 George W Grimes

Pvt. George W Grimes was in Co. K, 6th Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Wharton, Stone's)

Mr. Grimes was born on April 16, 1848, in Elba, Alabama. He was the son of Isaac and Sarah Ellen Wilkinson Grimes. He married Josephine Stockton on January 7, 1873, Jacksonville, TX.

Josephine Stockton was the daughter of Elias Conal Stockton and Amanda Elizabeth Bell.

He entered the Civil War at age 24, mustered in at Dallas, TX, September 12, 1861 for a period of 12 months. Number of miles to rendezvous was 40 miles. His horse was valued at \$150.00 and his equipment at \$20.00. The \$20.00 was hard to read but I think this is correct. He was discharged at Camp Flat Creek with papers and statements. He was discharged November 5, 1861 and paid November 11, 1861 by J Ambler.

In 1850, George was age 2, living with his parents and six siblings in Coffee County, AL.

In 1860, George, age 12, was living in Cherokee County, Texas with his parents and six siblings. A Robert S Grimes age 20 was living with them. He was not listed on the 1850 census and not sure of the connection.

In 1870, George is 22, living with his parents in Cherokee County, Texas and 7 siblings.

In 1880, George is still in Cherokee County, Texas and married Josephine Stockton in January 1873. They have five children.

In 1900, George and Josephine are still in Cherokee County, Texas and have five children living with them.

In 1910, George and Josephine were in Cherokee County, Texas with one child.

In 1920, George and Josephine were living in Cherokee County, Texas and living with them was one daughter with a grandson. George was 71.

George W Grimes died February 24, 1924 and is buried at Tecula Cemetery in Cherokee County, Texas. He was listed as a farmer during his life.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 51 George R L Stockton

Pvt. George R L Stockton was in Co. K, 37th Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Terrell's Regiment). He enlisted in the war January 4th; year was blank from Cherokee County, TX for 3 years. This record was hard to read. Two pages of his Confederate record had dates of 1863 and 1864.

George was born about 1844 in Itawamba County, Mississippi to Elias and Amanda Stockton. George and his family lived in Cherokee County, Texas in 1860. George had eight siblings.

In 1860, George was living with his parents in Cherokee County, TX and nine siblings.

In 1870, George lived in Cherokee County, Texas with his mother. It appears on the census record that George's brother William was living next door with a wife and several of his brothers and sisters.

In 1880, George lived in Cherokee County, Texas, listed as a widower and had three children, his mother and two brothers were living with him.

In 1890, Mr. Stockton married Nance Ellen Baldwin on June 29, 1890 in Cherokee County, TX.

I found four marriages for George Stockton.

It appears George died before 1900, maybe 1897. I did not find where he is buried.

Mr. Stockton's wife, Nancy Ellen Stockton is buried at Tecula Cemetery. She died May 3,1935.

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 52 John Nunum Johnson

Pvt. John N Johnson was in Co F, 4th Regiment, Texas Infantry.

Mr. Johnson was born June 1845 or 1846 in Marshall County, AL or Cherokee County, AL. It seems he was married several times but when he was living in Anderson County, TX. In 1900, he was married to Annie Lee Rhine.

In 1860, John was age 15 living with his parents Jeramiah and Harriet Johnson and one sister, Abagill, age 13. Jeramiah Johnson was a Baptist minister in Rankin County, MS. His parents were living in Cherokee County, AL when John was age 6.

In 1870, John was age 25 living in Lauderdale County, AL with wife Mary. He was listed as a farmer.

In 1900, John was age 53 living in Anderson County, TX with wife Annie and 10 children. The 1900 US Federal Census stated she was married 19 years and had 5 children. The 1900 Census also stated this couple had 10 children born in Virginia, Mississippi and Texas. The last two children were born in 1892 and 1896 and born in Texas. The first son was born in 1868 in Virginia, the rest of the children were born in Mississippi.

In 1910, John was age 64 living in Anderson County, TX, widow with 2 children.

I found an application for a Widow's Pension dated 8/28/1923 filed by Mrs. J. N. Johnson. The pension was filed in Houston County. The pension stated that Mr. Johnson died the 15th day of May 1923 in Cherokee County, Texas. She stated she was married on the 15 day of April 1919 in Anderson County, Texas. She also stated they had lived in Texas about 23 years and lived in Cherokee County, Texas 4 years. The question was asked if her husband drew a pension and if so, what is his file number. The answer to this question was yes, but I did not see a file number in her pension record. She stated he was in Hood's Brigade, 4th Regiment.

I also found a pension filed by J N Johnson, Sr in Anderson County, TX dated Aug 30, 1913. Mr. Johnson's stated he was honorably discharged or surrendered 16 miles from Richmond, VA at close of Civil War between the States. His pension stated he was 68 years old, born at St Claire County, AL. He said he enlisted October 1861 and served until 1865 close of war. He was in Company F, 4th Texas Regiment, Hood's Brigade. He was a Private in the Infantry.

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			munity property of decedents, heirs, and the	• •	
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Cherokee County		Society,	charter membership roster, etc (1995), fu	ll name index (1998)	
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# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 57 Index Volume 43

NAME	PAGE		, Kate	35,36,	38
, Aggy		6	, Lucie F.	, ,	35
, Allen		35	, Margaret		35
, Ann		35	, Mary	34,35,	
, Aron		35	, Mattie	34,38	
, Aunt Bet		33	, Mimmie	51,50	36
, Aunt Polly		35		24.26	
, Aunt R.		38	, Mollie	34-36,	
, Bettie	3,4		, Nancy		35
, Billie	5,36,38		, Nannie	5,7	
, Bob	32,34-38		, Ryland (uncle)		3
, Bod		32	, Sal		36
, Branddus		38	, Senas		36
, Cate		6	, sister M.		38
, Clemmie		35	, Tom		38
, D. Allen	34,36		, Uncle Billy		33
, Dicla		38	, Uncle C		38
, Ees		35	, Uncle Card		38
, Elisa		6	, Uncle H.		38
, Ellen		35		21 20	50
, Gemmie		35	, Uncle Hyters	34,38	20
, Gennie		36	, Uncle Row		38
, George Buckner		34	, William Henry		7
, Georgia		32	, William Henry		32
, Gimmey's		38	1850 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census & Mortal- ity Schedule	23,53	
, Jack		38	1860 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census & Slave	22 52	
, Jay		38	Schedule 1870 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census, Agri.	23,53	
, Jean		5	Sch., Mort. Sch. & Tax Rolls	23,53	
, Jenie		34	1880 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census	23,53	
, Jesse		37	1910 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census		53
, Jimmie	34,35,36	_	1910 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census	23,53	
, Joan		5	1st N.C. Reg.		38
, John		38	2nd Va. Artillery		35
, John Wesley		34 22		10 12	55
, Johnny		32 22	Acker	40,42 23,24,	53.
, Johny		32	Acker, Sylvia Booth	54	,

# TREE TALK Volume 43 Issue 3 & 4 Spring-Summer 2018 Page 58 Index Volume 43

24,54	Armstrong	41
41	Arrant	41
43	Aslters	44
43	Baecham	43
52		42
50		43
52		
52	Baldwin	40
52	Baldwin, Nance Ellen	51
50	Ballard, Keeling	38
10	Barnett	42,43
43	Barron	43
40,41	Barry	42
28	Bass	42
36	Beacham	43
40	Beaird	41
9	Bell, Amanda Elizabeth	50
27,39		40,41,44
39	-	40
50		
) 23 53		40
23,33	Bennett	40 2,10,11,23,28,
_	Bennett, Gordon	40,45,46,53
12,19	Bennett, Gordon	40,45,46,53
29	Berry	43
43		43
38		43
35		
42	-	42,43
49	Birdson	41,42
	41 43 43 52 50 52 52 50 10 43 40,41 28 36 40 9 27,39 39 50 23,53 12,19 29 43 38 35 42	41Arrant43Asiters43Baecham52Baird50Bakhead52Baldwin52Baldwin, Nance Ellen50Ballard, Keeling10Barnett43Barron40,41Barry28Bass36Beaird9Bell, Amanda Elizabeth27,39Benge39Benge, Gordon50Benge, Margie23,53Bennett, Gordon12,19Bennett, Gordon29Berry43Bettes38Betts35Billings42Birdson

Blackshear	40-42	Burrows	43
Blansett	40	Burt	40,41
Blanton	40	Bush	40
Blevins	41	Butler	42
Blodgett, Elizabeth	2,11,22, 40	СА	45
Bobbitt	40	CA, Alameda	12
Bogard	43,44	CA, Lafayette	41
Bolton	40,42,44	CA, Sacremento	43
Bolton, John Seguine	40	CA, San Diego	19
-		CA, Squaw Valley	43
Bolton, Sonja Carroll Booles	40 40	Cahill	40
Boon, Sarah Ann	40 35	Calhoun	9
Boone	41	Calhoun, Ernest W.	9
Booth	40,42	Calhoun, Hester	9
Boothe	40	Camp Flat Creek	50
Boulware, Mr.	35	Campbell	40,42
Bounds	40	Campbell, A, W,	30
Bounds, Joan Petty	40	Campbell, Hugh	35
Bowles	40	Carpenter	40
Bowlin	41	Carr	40
Bradford	41	Carrol	41
Bradley	40	Carter	41,43
Branham	44	Cates	40
Brevard	40	Cates, Dan B.	40
Bricker	42	Cates, Vivian T.	40
Brigman	43	Causey	43
Brinkley, Mrs. W. M.	19	Cedar Hill Cemetery	46
Brinkley, Pfc. Willie Dean	19	Cemeteries of Jacksonville, and others	23,53
Brinkley, W. M.	19	Cemeteries of Mid Cherokee Co.	23,53
Brinson	42	Cemeteries of NE Cherokee Co.	23,53
Brown	40,43	Cemeteries of NW Cherokee Co.	23,53
Bruce	40	Cemeteries of Southern Cherokee Co.	23,53
Buckley	41	Chandler	43
Buckner	40	Chapman	42,43
Burnett	42,43	Cherokee Co. Death Records, 1903-1945	23,53
Burroughs	43	Cheronice Co. Dealin Necords, 1900-1940	20,00

Cherokee County Genealogical	1,10,11	Coniaway	43
Society	,23	Coniway	43
	25.27	Connally	41
Cherokee County Genealogical	25-27,	Cook	41,43,44
Society Cherokee County Genealogical	30,46	Cooper	42,44
Society	53-56	Corbin	35
Cherokee County Genealogical	27,40-		
Society Members	44	Coreley	41
Cherokee County Historical Com-		Cornish, Dr.	33
mission	9,45	Cousin, Jim	36
Childs, Marleta	40	Coward	40
Christian	40	Cowart	40
Church Book for Church of Christ	23,53	Craig	41,43
at Salem Edgefield Dist., SC Church Book of Pleasant Grove	23,33	Craven	40
Bapt. Church Cherokee Co., TX			-
Vol. I	23,53	Crawford	43
Church Book of Pleasant Grove			23,24,53,
Bapt. Church Cherokee Co., TX Vol. II	23,53	Crawford, Helen Wooddell	54
Church Book of Rocky Springs	20,00	Crim	42
Missionary Bapt. Ch., Cher.Co.		Crippins	40
ТХ	23,53	Cromie, Mr.	38
Civil War	10	Cross	42
Civil War Records of Cherokee Co., TX, Vol. 1	23,53	Cross of Saint Andrews Camp 2009 SCV	28
Civil War Records of Cherokee	20,00	Cross of Saint Andrews Camp Southern	20
Co., TX, Vol. II, Pensions	23,53	Belles	28
Clapp	43	Crow	40
Clark	40,42	CT, Prospect	44
Clements	43	Cummings	41
Cline, Wayne	1,2,10	-	
Co F, 4th Regiment, Texas Infantry	52	Curry	43
Co K, 2nd Regiment, Georgia Re-		Daniel	40
serves	48	Daniel, Debbie	40
Co. I, 17th Regiment, Texas Cavaln	•	Daniel, Joe	40
(Moore's Regiment	49	Davis, Jeff	38
Co. K, 37th Regiment, Texas Cav- alry (Terrell's Regiment)	51	Davis, Wanda Bowlin	41
Co. K, 6th Regiment, Texas Cavalry			
(Wharton, Stone's	50	Deas	44
Coleman	43	Dees	44
Collier	40	DeFoor	43
Collins	42	Dent	40
Commissioners Court Minutes, No		Denton	42
1, Cherokee Co., TX	23,53	Dever	43

Deverson	43	Evans, Betty	9
Dickerson	42	Evans, Henry	1,2,9
Dickey	41	Ewart	42
Digital Public Library of America	47	FamilySearch's Family History Books	47
Dillard, James	3,4	Farish,	35
Dillard, Jimmie	3,4 36,41	Farish, Becke	34,35,38
Dillehay	41	Farish, Charlie	38
Diskson	41	Farish, Clementine	1,5-8,34,37,38
	42	Farish, Eugenia	33,34
Doggett		Farish, George	35,38
Doggett, Ann McKellar	41	Farish, James R.	1.3.4
Dominy	40	Farish, John	6,7
Douglas, Wanda Ragsdale	1,11-22	Farish, Mary Keeling	27,30,31
Dover	41	Farish, Ruth	27,3-38
Dowell	42		1,3,4,27,31,34
Dowling, Bobbie Berry	23,53	Farish, Sallie	-38
DuBose	40	Farish, Sarah	35
DuBose, Hazel D.	41	Farish, Thomas	32,33
Dudley	43	Federal Census of Cherokee Co.,	
Duncan	44	1870	23,53
Durham	40	Felder	41
Durrett	40-43	Ferguson	41
Dwrowa	42	Finding Biographical Data in Secon-	47
	11,20-	dary Source Materials First Brigade, Second Division, Trans-	
Earle	22,40	Mississippi Department	49
Earle, Lucille	11	First Recorded Minutes of the Dist.	
Earle,Lucile	18	Ct. of Cherokee Co., TX	23,53
Early Probates & Wills of Chero- kee Co.	23,53	First United Methodist Church	26,56
Edmiston, Ida Lee D.	23,53	Fisher	42
Edmunds	40	Fitzgerald	41
Edwards	41	Fitzgerald, Scott	41
Ehrnst	42	flicker.com	28
Elliott	43	Fold3	29
Ellis	42	Fondren	40
Elwell	41	Ford	41
Embry	43	Ford, Miss	3
Etheridge	43	Foreman	41
Evans	41	Forrest	42
	72	Foust	43
		Foxworth	41,42

Francis	41	Grave Marker Index for Cherokee Co.		
Francis, Sharon	41	TX (2000) CD ROM	23,53	
Francis, Thomas	41	Green	40,41	
Franicki, Mr.	36	Greene		40
Freeman	40	Gresham	42,43	
GA	9,48	Griffith		42
GA, Cobb Co., Floyd	48	Griggs, Mr.		33
GA, Fitzgerald	42	Grimes, George W.	27,28,50	
Gaddis, J. D.	48	Grimes, Isaac		50
Gaddy	40	Grimes, Lizzie	11,14	
Gallatin Gopher Fest	45		11,14	50
Garner	42	Grimes, Robert S.		
Garrison	42	Grimes, Sara Ellen Wilkinson		50
Gartrell	43	Grisby		43
Gattis, Adaline	48	Grounds		41
Gattis, Aline	48	Guice		41
	27,28,4	Guthrie		43
Gattis, Charles Johnson	8	Hackerd		42
Gattis, David	48	Hackney, Dr. Richard	1,2,9	
Gattis, Ellerly	48	Hagy, Kelly Hicks	_)_)0	45
Gattis, Elry	48			
Gay	40	Haley		42
Gay	43	Hall		43
		Hall, Winnie LeBlanc		9
Genealogy Gems: News from the		Haltom		43
Allen County Public Library at Fort		Hammett	40,42	
Wayne, No. 173, July 31, 2018	47	Hammonds		43
Gentry	41	Hammons		42
Giddens	43	Hardy	41,43	
Gilchrist	44	Hardy, David	,	41
Gill	40	Harison		41
Gilstrap	42			41
Glen	44	Harrison, Robert	41,43	
Gober	41	Hart		43
Goff	41	Hase, Gro.		38
Goldem, Dr.	38	Hatcher		40
Goree	40	HathiTrust		47
Gorley	41	Hawkins, John		41
Graham	41	Hawkins, Penny		41
Grave Marker Index for Cherokee Co., TX (2000)	23,53	Hawley		43
00., TX (2000)	20,00	numey		73

Haye,	35	Hudnall		40
Hayne	43	Hugghins		42
Hays,	4	Hugghins, Barbara		42
Heck	42	Hugghins, Glenn		42
Henry	41,43	Hugghins, Peggy		42
Henson	41	Hughes	9,42	72
Herlong	41	Hughes, Jospehine	5,42	9
Herman	43 23,53			
Hermes, Melva Herndon, Mr.	23,53 5,3	Hughes, Lee		9
Herndon, Mrs.	3	Hunt	22.24.1	43
Hewgley, May	41	Huttach Ograta W/	23,24,5 4	53,5
Hickman	40	Huttash, Ogreta W.		
Hickmane	41	Hutto, Clifton	11,12	10
Hicks	40	Hutto, Ernest		12
Historical Markers of Cherokee		Hutto, Mrs. Ernest		12
Co., TX	23,53	IN, Allen Co., Fort Wayne		28
Hixon	42 36	Index to Tree Talk, May 1980 through December 1990	23,53	
Hodge, Hodge, Parson	36	International and Great Northern Rai		
Hogue, Barbara	42	road	2,10	
Holbrooks	42	Internet Archive		47
Hollenbeck	40	Iron Mountain Route		10
Hollowsay, Dr.	38	lvey	42,43	
Holsomback	42	, Ivey, Wanda	,	42
Homesly	43	Jackson		42
Hood's Brigade, 4th Regiment	52	Jacksonville Daily Progress Obituary		12
Horn, Mr.	33	Index 1984-2013	23,53	
Horton, Johnny	45	Jacksonville Public Library	23,53	
Howell	42	Jacobs, Carmen		44
<u>http://</u>		Jarrett		41
cherokeecountygenea	-	Jenkins		41
ogy.com/	2	Jennings		41
	2	Jesse, Dick	35,36	
http://mkt.com/		Jessup		43
<u>cherokee-county-</u>		Jesus Christ		9
<u>genealogical-society</u>	25,55	Johnson	9,42-44	
https://archive.org	47	Johnson, Abagaill		52
https://	-77	Johnson, Harriet		52
		Johnson, J. N., Sr.		52
books.familysearch.or	<b>g</b> 47	Johnson, Jeramiah		52
<u>https://dp.la)</u>	47	Johnson, John Nynun	27,28,5	52

Johnson, Mary	52	Lowers		43
Johnston	43	Lowery		43
Johnston	41,43	Luce		43
Jones, Eileen	42,43	Lude		42
Jowell	44	Luken		42
Jumper	42	Lynn		42
Kavanough	41	MacFarland, Jane		44
Keidrowski	42	Macfarland, Steve		44
Kendrich	42	Malone	40,43	
Kennedy	42	Mangham		43
Kennedy, Glenda Durrett	42	Manning		40
Kent	42	Marable		42
Kerrich	43	Marable, Helen Heck		42
King	42,43	Maris		42
King, Jane	48	Maris, Wayne		42
Kite	42	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co. TX	22 52	
КҮ	4,45	1905-1931 Marriage Records of Cherokee Co. TX	23,53	
KY, Gastron College	3	1905-1931 CD ROM	23,53	
LA, New Orleans	35	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co., TX,	22 52	
Langston	43	1846-1880, Vol. I Marriage Records of Cherokee Co., TX,	23,53	
Lanier	41,44	1846-1880, Vol. II	24,54	
Larissa College 1857-1860	23,53	Marsh		42
Lathan, Cynthia	9	Marsh, Mary		42
Lea	43	Martin	42,43	
Leach	44	Martin, George		9
Lemons	43	Martin, Mathews		41
Leonard	40	Masters		41
Lewis	41	Maxey		42
Lindley	40	May	40,41	
Lindsey	42	Mayes	40,41	
Lloyd	42	Mayfield		41
Long	43	Maynard		41
Lotchfiled, Mrs.	35	Mays		41
Loving	43	McCann		42
Low	40	McCluer		41
Lowe	44	McClure		41
		McCollum		42
		McCown		42
		McCracken	40,43	

McCurdy	43	3	Moses M. Buckner 2242 UDC		28
McDonald	42	_	Mowery		40
McEachern	4(	0	MS		52
McKellar	42	1	MS, Itawamba Co.		51
McKenny	42,44		MS, Rankin Co.		52
McKinney	43,44		Mullins		43
McKnight	40,43		Music		44
McMullen, Cynthia	42	2	Myers		44
McNew	42	2	National Tomato Capital	24,54	
MD	34	4	NC Nevitt	36,43	40
Meade	43	2	New Covenant of Love Church Outreach		40
Meador	43	_	Ministries		9
Meazles	43	3	New York and Texas Land Company		10
Membership Application	26,56		Newberry		40
Meske	42	2	Newman		41
Metier	41	1	Newspaper Obits 1910-1921 Bk 2	24,54	
Mexico	10	0	Newspaper Obits 1922-1925 Bk 6	24,54	
Meyers	40,41,43		Newspaper Obits 1926-1931 Bk 19	24,54	
Mickelborough	42	2	Newspaper Obits 1972-1984 Bk 5	24,54	
Middleton	43	3	Newspaper Obits 1991 & part of 1990 Bk 8	24,54	
Mills	41	1	Newspaper Obits 1992 Bk 9	24,54	
Minor, Mary Slusher	42	2	Newspaper Obits 1993 Bk 10	24,54	
Minor, Harold	42	2	Newspaper Obits 1994 Bk 11	24,54	
Missouri Pacific Lines	1(	0	Newspaper Obits 1995 Bk 12	24,54	
Mitchell	43	2	Newspaper Obits 1996 Bk 13	24,54	
Mixon	42		Newspaper Obits 1997 Bk 14	24,54	
MN, St. Louis Park	22,40		Newspaper Obits 1998 Bk 15	24,54	
Mobley	43	•	Newspaper Obits 1999 Bk 16	24,54	
Monkhouse	4		Newspaper Obits 2000 Bk 17	24,54	
Montandar	40		Newspaper Obits 2001 Bk 18	24,54	
			Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 3	24,54 24,54	
Moody, Phyllis Vaughan	43		Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 7 Newspaper Obits Bk 4	24,54	
Moore	41		Newspaper Obits Index of Cherokee Co.,	24,34	
Moore, Lurline	11,15	2	TX 1836-2001 Bks 1-19	24,54	
Morris	43	-	Newspaper Obits Index of Cherokee Co., TX 1836-2001 Bks 1-19 CD	24,54	
Morrison	42		Newspaper Obituaries from early papers	27,J4	
Morrow	42	2	1889-1908 Bk. 1	24,54	

Nicor		40	Dischaughi		40
Nicar Nicholson		43	Piechpwski		42
		43	Pilcher		42
Noland		43	Plant		44
Nolley		43	Pollard		40
Nolley, Albert E.		43	Poole		9
Nolley, Anna M.		43	Poole, Carl		9
Northcutt Northwest Cherokee Co. Ceme-		43	Porter	40,43	
teries, Vol. 1	24,54		Powell	40,41	
Northwest Cherokee Co. Ceme-			Power		44
teries, Vol. 2	24,54		Probate Records of Cherokee Co., TX		
Norton		42	1846- ca 1875	24,54	
Norwood		40	Probate Records of Cherokee Co., TX	24 54	
NY, Manhattan Beach		12	Minute Book A	24,54	
Oddham		41	Providence Cemetery Cherokee Co., TX		
Odell		40	Pryor	41-43	
Odom		42	Quimby		43
OH, Camp Chase		49	Raes, Jeff		38
Old Dominion		3		11,20-	
Oliver		44	Ragsdale	40, 22	
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol.	24,54		Ramey		41
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol.	27,37		Randal		40
2	24,54		Randall		40
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol. 3	24,54		Rankin		40
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol.	21,31		Rawlinson		43
4	24,54		Reavis		42
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol. 5	24,54		Redd		41
Our Befores-Ancestor Charts Vol.	27,37		Reece		44
6	24,54		Reed		44
Paddack, Margaret		43	Reese		44
Paris		44	Reid		41
Parker		42	Reynolds		40
Pate		42	Reynolds		43
Patrick		42	Rhine, Annie Lee		<del>5</del> 2
Pauling Hall		3			
Payne		40	Richardson		44
Peatt, Mary		4	Richey		42
Peevy, Ann		43	Ridele		43
Pegues		41	Riley		42
Petty	40,41		Rinehart, Amy	45,46	
Pickett		43	Risher		41

Risinger, Linda L. Roach	28,43	43	Saga of Cherokee Co., TX Book 1	24,54	
Roach, Clemmie	20,43	7	Saga of Cherokee Co., TX Book 2 1910- 1921 indexed	24,54	
	2,6,8,3		Saga of Cherokee, Book 3 asst'd dates	24,54	
Roach, David	37		Saicoe, Georgia	24,34	43
	1,5-		Saulters		44
	8,27,31	1-	SC		48
Roach, Ellis M.	33	22			
Roach, George William		32	Scogin	2	42
Roach, Georgey		31	Scotia, Cookie	2,6,8,3 37	5,
Roach, Georgy	21 22	7		37	40
Roach, Jean Roach, Johny	31,32	7	Scott		42
Roach, Mary Jane		, 31	Selman		41
Roach, Mary Keeling	5,-7	21	Serocki		42
Roach, Sallie Farish	5,7	38	Sevier		40
Nouch, Sume Fulish	5-	50	Sharpe		42
	7,30,31	1,34	Sheffield	40,41	
Roach, Thomas Jefferson	,36,38		Shelton		43
Roark		44	Shepherd, Vinnie		9
Roberts		40	Sherman		43
Robertson	41,43		Sherrod		41
Robertson, Richard S.		43		2,6,8,3	
Robin, Frank		9	Shirley, Beth	7,43	-,-
Robinson		40	Shorter		43
Rogers		42	Simms		43
Rootsweb		2	Simpson		43
Rose, Mr.		32			
Rosenwald School		9	Singletary		41
Ross		41	Smith		43
Roundtree		43	Smith		43
Rozell		43	Smith,	36,42	
Rozelle		43	Smith, Desi		46
Runnels		40	Smith, Fred R.		43
Rusk Public Library Rutherford	45,46	40	Some Descendants of Isaac Lee	24,54	
Ruthurn		43 43	Sory		43
Saga of Cherokee and World War		45	Southern Confederacy		34
I, Book 6, indexed	24,54		Southwest Pacific area		19
Saga of Cherokee Book 4 1922-			Southwestern Historical Quarterly		10
1925, indexed	24,54				
Saga of Cherokee Book 5, asst'd dates, indexed	24,54		Sphone		42
Saga of Cherokee Co. & Pioneer			Spoon		42
Life Book 7, indexed	24,54		Spraryberry		43

Spurlin	40	Terry	41
Stadler, Doris Cook	43	Texas	5
Stapp	40	Texas & Pacific Railway	10
Steed	41	Texas Land Company	10
Stella Hill Memorial Library	28,39	The Texas Railroad The Texas Railroad: The Scandalous and Vio-	2,10
Stewart	42	lent History of the International and Great	
		Northern Railroad, 1866-1925	10
Stike	42	Thomas	40
Stockbridge	41	Thompson	9,40,41
Stockson, George R. L.	51	Thompson, Emmit	9
Stockton, Amanda	49	Thompson, Wiley	9
Stockton, Amanda	51	Tillman	42
Stockton, Elias	51	Tipton TN	43
	27,28,49,	Todd	38,43,49 41
Stockton, Elias Conal	50	Toliver	9
Stockton, George R. L.	27,28,51	Toms	40
Stockton, Josephine	50	Toole	40
Stockton, William	51	Treadway	43
Stuart, Gen.	34		23,25-
Summers	41		27,53,55,
Swearingen	43	Tree Talk	56
Sweeney	42	Tree Talk, The First Five Years	24,54
Sweet Union Baptist Church	9	Tree Talk, Volume 1 through Vol. 25, No. 3 - 2 CD ROMs	24,54
Swinney	42	TX	7,36,52
Talley	40	TX, Anderson Co.	48,52
Tannery	41	TX, Anderson Co., Palestine	10,32
Tarver, Carline	9	TX, Anderson Co., Tennesee Colony	32
	9	TX, Angelina Co.	9
Tarver, Charlie		TX, Angelina Co., Lufkin	9
Tarver, Sidney	9	TX, Bexar Co., San Antoni0	40
Taylor	40,43	TX, Carrolton	41
Taylor, Barbara S.	43	TX, Cherokee Co.	9,45,48,50 51
Taylor, Mr.	9	TX, Cherokee Co., Alto	,51 28,40
Taylor, Sue Vaughn	23,53		2,6,8,33,3
	6,8,28,31,	TX, Cherokee Co., Bullard	7,42
Taylor, Tim D.	37,38,43	TX, Cherokee Co., Forest	9
Teague	43	TX, Cherokee Co., Gallatin	45
Tecula Cemetery	49-51	TX, Cherokee Co., Hog Jaw	9
Tecula Historic Cemetery	28		9,12,23,25
<b>T</b>	11,20-		,26,40-42,
Templeton	22,40	TX, Cherokee Co., Jacksonville	44,53-56

		University of Alabama Press	10
TX, Cherokee Co., Maydelle	2,6,8,33,37	Unknown Marine	19
TX, Cherokee Co., Reklaw	43	Unknown, #1	16
	32,43,46,4	Unknown, #2	17
TX, Cherokee Co., Rusk	9	Unknown, #3	18
TX, Cherokee Co., Whitehurst	9	Upshaw, Pearl Eva Toliver	9
TX, College Station	43	VA	38
TX, Coppell	8,43		38
	32,42,43,5	VA, Caroline Co.	
TX, Dallas Co., Dallas	0	VA, Fredricksburg	36,38
TX, Galveston Co., Galveston	12	VA, Gerktown	38
TX, Harris Co., Houston	10,44	VA, Jackson Co.	36
TX, Harris Co., Pasadena	41	VA, Richmond	35,36,52
TX, Houston Co.	52	Valentine	41
TX, Huntington	42	Vaughan	43,52
TX, Kerrville	41	Vickery	41
TX, Kilgore	40	Voss	42
TX, Laredo	10 10	Wade	41
TX, Longview		Walker	41
TX, Lubbock Co., Lubbock	40	Walker, Mr.	34
TX, New Caney	42	,	11,40,42,
TX, Rosharon	41	Wallace	43
TX, Rusk Co., Henderson	32 2,6,33,37,4	Waller	42
TX, Smith Co., Bullard	3	Walthhall	42
TX, Smith Co., Flint	41	Ward	41
TX, Smith Co., Troup	43,48	Ward	41
TX, Smith Co., Tyler	43	Wardlaw, Juanita	43
TX, Tarrant Co., Fort Worth	10	Warren	44
TX, Temple	43		
TX, Terrell	42	Watkins, Dewitt	11,13
TX, Travis Co., Austin	10,43	Watson	41
TX, Tyler Co.	9	West	41
TX, Waco	10	White	42
TX, Williamson Co., Georgetow		White	42,43
Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph		White, Ira Gaylon	23,53
1950 Mid Century Edition	24.54	White, Ms. Shenita	9
U. S. Marines	19	Williams	41,43
Umber	44	Williamson	41,42
Underwood	41	Willson	41
Union Pacific Railroad	10	Wilson	41,43,44
			· ·

Wilson, Carol		44
Winn		40
Witcher, Curt B.	27,47	
Witherspoon		32
Wood	42,43	
Woodley		44
Woodward		42
Worley		43
Worlie		43
Wright	40,42,4	14
Wright Wright, Helen	40,42,4	14 44
	40,42,4	
Wright, Helen	40,42,4	44
Wright, Helen www.flickr.com	40,42,4	44 39
Wright, Helen <u>www.flickr.com</u> <u>www.hathitrust.org</u>	40,42,4	44 39 47
Wright, Helen <u>www.flickr.com</u> <u>www.hathitrust.org</u> Wyatt	40,42,4	44 39 47 41