• TREE TALK •

Volume 44 Issue 2

Winter 2018-2019

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Editor's 1	Letter
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Our internet site has been changed to: http://cherokeecountygenealogy.com/. Please let me know of any errors or omissions at ccgs@suddenlink.net.

We mourn the passing of two long time members, Margie Benge and Ida Lee D. Edmiston. Ida Lee was the first President of the Cherokee County Genealogical society and the long time Editor of TREE TALK.

Thanks to Richard Robertson for permission to publish "Glimpses of My Mother."

Gordon Bennett Editor

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Texas Photographs, Manuscripts and Imprints

I am writing to let the Cherokee County Genealogical Society know that more than 300 historic Texas documents from SMU's DeGolyer Library are now available online in the Texas: Photographs, Manuscripts and Imprints digital collection. Specifically, the documents comprise historic, promotional literature, 1866-1936, that was designed to attract people to move to all areas within the state of Texas. The documents are freely accessible and downloadable, thanks to the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a grant to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as part of the TexTreasures program.

We believe these promotional materials will be of great interest to Texas genealogists. Often funded by railroads and local chambers of commerce, these pamphlets and booklets were designed to encourage Texas immigration, especially along train routes. Some documents cover broad geographical areas of Texas, while others focus on specific cities, towns, and counties. Brief biographies of Texas citizens, individual portraits, and photographs of the area are frequently included. We think the descriptions and photographs of geographical areas, individuals, and Texas life will be useful to Texas genealogists who are searching for more information about the lives of their ancestors. Your members may very well find pertinent information in these materials, because so many Texas communities participated in the promotional campaigns of this era.

Just to give one example: <u>Homes in Texas for everybody: valuable information</u>, ca. 1887, describes 51 Texas counties and lists land for sale in each county with the names of landowners and general descriptions of the properties. The 51 Texas counties included are Anderson, Angelina, Atascosa, Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brown, Burnet, Cherokee, Comal, Coryell, Dimmit, Freestone, Gillespie, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Leon, Liberty, Llano, Madison, Matagorda, Medina, Milam, Montgomery, Polk, Robertson, Rusk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Trinity, Uvalde, Walker, Webb, Williamson, Wilson, Wood, and Zavalia.

We hope you will let your members know about these documents that are now freely available from our web site. We would welcome any feedback and/or questions you may have about this project.

Debbie Frick, M.Ed., MLS, CA
Cataloger
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Email sent: Thu 8/2/2018 10:56 AM

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I am researching my maternal families: Charles F. Etheridge (Reece) Grandfather, Alma L. Wilkinson-Etheridge Grandmother (Palestine), The Temple family, The Morris family, The Hickman family, and The Harrison family.

The latter may or may not be in the Cherokee County area but then again, they maybe by way of cousins.

Cindy Campbell PO Box 873 Eureka, NV 89316 214-970-9447 suni69sunshine@gmail.com

I need help in researching my gggrandfather Thomas Grancie Rains (1813/1897). I know that he was a resident of your area, and he is buried at the Draytonville Baptist Church. I have found some information concerning his family on Ancestry but nothing on the background of Thomas. Can you help me? I thank you in advance for any help or information that you could provide. Frank Rains fdrains-zappa@outlook.com 509-679-0917

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

Ann Miller ann.miller47@yahoo.com

Glimpses of My Mother By Richard Robertson

Glimpses of My Mother

None of my ten grandchildren knew my mother. My children knew her best while they were young and before she was institutionalized after breaking her hip. So I plan to write various glimpses of her life and personality for the younger generations.

She was born, Bonnie Craig Sory, in Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas on June 13, 1894.

She was the fifth of six children born to Mattie Lee and W.H. Sory. Her brothers, Asa, Ruby Otis, and Julian, all lived to adulthood, as did her sister, Bess. A brother, John Harvey, died on his first birthday. She also grew up with two living step-brothers, Bruce Lee and William Henry, offspring of her father's first marriage to Cynthia Ann Alexander who died at the birth of William. Another son of that marriage, Harry Neil, died at age 11.

Her father and grandfather helped build Jacksonville in 1872 after which her father stayed on in Jacksonville to make it his home while her grandfather, John Sory, went back to Mt Enterprise, Texas.

She grew up in Jacksonville, attending public school there, and later attending Alexander Collegiate Institute, which



Sory House-301 S. Patton-Jacksonville, TX-circa 1887. L to R: Myrtie Henry (later Mrs. Sam Alexander) Mattie Henry Sory, Asa, Bruce, William Henry, Harry Neil Sory. William Harris Sory at gate.



From 1914 Jacksonville Map

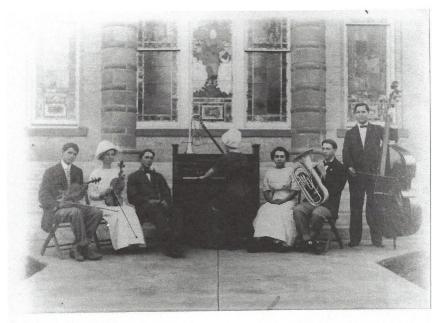
became Lon Morris College. On two occasions she attended Trinity University when it was in Waxahachie and graduated from there in 1916. Bonnie taught school in Palestine the next year. Her grandmother, Jane Catherine Sory, who was living with her parents, died in February 1917 at the age of 95, and her father died in August of the same year. So in 1918 she took her mother and moved to Dallas. She attended Metropolitan Business College in 1919 and began working for the president of Stickle Lumber Company as a secretary.

Bonnie was introduced to my dad by a colleague of his,
R.B. Cannon, who arranged a blind date for them. It must
have been a good guess on his part for they married on July
19, 1924. My sister, June was born in 1925 and I arrived in

Glimpses of My Mother

1927. Mother became a full-time housewife and did not return to work until WWII. Mother, Dad, and year-old baby June moved to 934 Turner Ave in Oak Cliff in 1926 and it was there my sister and I grew up. My dad died in 1953 on his 61st birthday and Mother, as a widow, lived a very active life until she fell and broke her hip in 1974. After that unfortunate accident, she required nursing-home care until her death on April 13, 1983, nine years later.

The above are the basics. Now for some glimpses of what she was like and the things that defined her. One major glimpse is her love of music. I don't know who taught her to play the



Left to right: Fred Ford, Jewel Brown, Audie Alexander, Maud McDougal, Bonnie Sory, Willard Newton, Mr. Emery. Circa 1909

piano, but it was likely her mother who had come to Jacksonville originally to be the pianist for the Presbyterian church. In any case, she took to it like a duck to water, and played well as an accompanist much of her life. At a young age it also became apparent that Mother had a fine singing voice. An early picture shows Mother, a teenager, as a part of a musical group at the church. The other six have instruments and she appears to be the soloist. She was a soprano soloist all of her adult life. Newspaper clippings from Jacksonville days have her performing at weddings, recitals and churches. After moving to Dallas, she joined the Mozart Choral Club and sang at performances all over the city and on WFAA radio. In 1923, WFAA was attempting to reach Europe by Transatlantic radio-telephone and the musicians of the club gave a radio program for the Transatlantic test. The <u>Dallas News</u> article of November 27th

Glimpses of My Mother

indicated "Mr Behrends presented Miss Bon Sory and Mrs Tom Barnes Sandefer in soprano numbers."

Also in 1923 while on a tour to the Northwest she was invited to sing at the Mormon Tabernacle



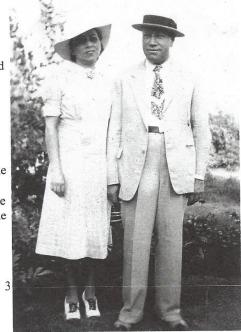
in Salt Lake City. She was accompanied by John McClelland, regarded generally as the leading organist in the United States.

Moving to Oak Cliff after her marriage, she sang with the Oak Cliff Oratorio Society and was a member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir until the midthirties when she sang with the Christ Episcopal Church choir in exchange for piano lessons for June and me.

My Dad was also interested in music so we went to the Dallas Symphony and Civic

Music all of our growing up years. In the nineteen thirties we went to the Summer Operettas at the Band Shell in Fair Park.

But music did not stand alone in Mother's life. She was a person with many interests. (I've surely come about that trait naturally) In my memory I can glimpse the typewriter on the card table in her dining room. It was always set up for her to type. She was a great correspondent and usually made a carbon copy (I'll define this to you grandkids later) of everything she wrote. She was extremely interested in family history and began researching in 1923. I have most of her correspondence with relatives—the letters she sent and the letters she received. She did not want to join the DAR, but she established all the relationships to help some of her kin to join. She would have been in her element in this computer-internet genealogical age. She kept



Mother and Dad -- 1938

Glimpses of My Mother

both written and typed journals. When we went to the Midwest to see my dad's relatives in 1935, she not only kept and later typed a diary, but she recorded an itemized expenditure account for the month long trip. The total cost for the four of us was \$92.18. I also have typed copies of trips made to Rockport in the late thirties and early forties. We stayed with Connie Hager, the famous bird lady, and her husband. Mother went birding with Connie and kept a list of all the birds she saw each day. Obviously, all the papers and letters she saved are family gems today. These give a wonderful insight into the family and the times in which we lived.

Mother always moved into leadership roles wherever she went and started down that path at Alexander Collegiate Institute where she was the editor of the newspaper, the annual, and president of the senior class. The 1913 annual, <u>The Peach</u> (which she edited) described her as "Strong in will. To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." "The noted characteristic: Curiosity."

There was often another card table in the dining room or the living room to accommodate Mother's interest in art and crafts and sometimes that table was busier than the typewriter table. One of her scrapbooks contains hand painted and lettered greeting cards, place cards, and announcements. She also made stencils used for painting scarves, handkerchiefs, neckties, and table cloths. I still have a couple of ties she made for me. At the downtown Dallas YWCA she taught gift wrapping and learned silver-smithing. Especially treasured is a silver pendant she made for Marian that holds a rock collected and polished by her grandfather and a silver tie clasp with the outline of a fish that was made for me.

Family gatherings were most frequently initiated by Mother and were held at our house. My grandmother, great aunt, and two sets of uncles and aunts were usually there. Sometimes, her two older brothers and their wives were in town and joined us. She was the one in her family that kept the communication open among all her siblings. Thanksgiving and Christmas were always at our house. Her interest in family also included my Dad's family in Wisconsin. His brother, Sigvart, lived on the family farm where all the children were born. Sigvart had six children of his own and the family had a very difficult time during the depression. The only



Trinity Members Present Radio Farce L. to R. Lois Weatherford, Imogene Maloney, Mattie Mae Berry, Bon Robertson, A Frey. Esther Paden

The 30s were overshadowed by the depression. It had been a difficult decade for Trinity, too, but the challenge for the church was great for superior attainments regardless of the sad national affairs. Once again Trinity would rise up and forge ahead for better time.

Christmas gifts they received came from us. Mother made sure that each child received something, which though small was always carefully chosen. When we visited these cousins a few years ago, cousin Arlys showed us a necklace that she still wore that mother had sent her over sixty years ago. And she told us how much that Christmas package from Texas meant to all of them.

Mother's extended family was at the church. She was active in her circle and

Glimpses of My Mother

took me to circle meetings when I was too young to go to school. She sang in the choir. Before the church lost the building in the depression there were many family night suppers and programs and mother wrote skits for a group of ladies to perform. Post WWII she volunteered to work in the church office and served on the session, the governing body of the church.

She always had a consuming interest about something. It was collecting shells at one time. In the sixties it was day lilies. At the age of sixty plus she completely revamped her back yard into a flower garden. She drove to daylily shows and gardens all over the country. Her backyard was a jewel box of color, beauty, and fragrance. She named it the "Jewel Box." It afforded her many hours of pleasure and exercise.

Her independence and activity came to a sudden halt just a few weeks short of her eightieth birthday. She fell and broke her hip and with the physical disability her mental functioning and attitude changed. She lost her will to walk or participate in physical activity.

For all of her descendants, you really missed knowing an interesting and talented person. As the Junior College Annual said: "She was curious!" And this curiosity led to many hobbies enjoyed, talents revealed, and accomplishments achieved. Some of the people who most enjoyed her sparkle, her humor, and her zest for life, were those who shared her passions. She was quite a lady!.

Richard Robertson October 2004 \GlimpsesOfMyMother

Glimpses of My Mother

THE WILLIAM HARRIS SORY FAMILY

Facts by Bonnie Sory Robertson



William Harris Sory and wife, Mattie Henry Sory, in wedding picture, 1884. He arrived, at age 21, in 1872, to help move town to I. & G. N. Railroad.

William Harris Sory (1850-1917) was 21 years old when he and his father, John Sory, came to assist in moving Jacksonville from the old location to a new site on the I. & G. N. Railroad. Although not carpenters, John later they found employment. returned to his flour mill in Mt. Enterprise, but "Bill" decided to remain in Jacksonville.

He was employed at the W. A. Brown store and later became a part-ner, the business being known as Sory, Brown & Company. Later he opened a furniture store, which was sold to George Williamson, and he then opened a jewelry store, which was sold in 1913. A man of diverse activities, he started a telephone company to serve Jacksonville, continuing in that pursuit until his death August 12, 1917.

W. H. Sory was married to Cynthia Ann Alexander, daughter of Carnes B. and Mary Allison Alexander, on January 10, 1875, and to them were born three sons, including Bruce Lee, Harry Neil and William Henry. Mrs. Sory died September 30, 1881, at the birth

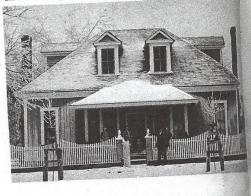
of William Henry. In 1883, Mattie Lee Henry of Shelby County, Tennessee, came to Jacksonville as pianist for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and on September Presbyterian Church and on September 3, 1884, she and Bill Sory were married. They were parents of four sons, Asa Dixon, John Harvey, Ruby Otis and Julian Albert, and two daughters, Bessie Kate and Bonnie Craig. John Harvey died on his first birthday and Harvey Neil at age 11

Harry Neil at age 11.

The Sory family belonged to the Presbyterian Church U.S. and in 1906, when the denomination moved to unite with the Cumberland Presby-terian, W. H. Sory successfully carried the matter of disposition of the property of the U.S. church to high church authorities and negotiated a sale to Gentral Baptist Church, which still uses the site. In addition to being an elder in the Presbyterian church, Mr. Sory served as a Bible teacher and Sunday School superintendent. He was a member of Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and a Mason, being a worshipful master of the local lodge at one time. He served several terms as mayor of Jacksonville, was a vice-president of First National Bank and a staunch advocate of prohibition.

The family home still stands at 301 South Patton, the property consisting

Below: W. H. Sory home, 301 S. Patton, in rare snow storm, 1887. It still is standing.



Glimpses of My Mother



Jacksonville Aldermen (now called City Council) of 1885. R. H. Small, mayor, center. Others, clockwise from top, H. L. Morris, George Tilley, J. A. Templeton, J. H. Bolton, J. L. Douglas and W. H. Sory.

of an entire block, except a 50-foot lot on the southwest corner occupied in the early days by Adolf Shoemaker.

Bruce Lee Sory (1876-1943) married Ida Haberle and in their later years operated "The Shack" near the Lon Morris campus. They were "Pop and Mom" Sory to the students, who dedicated one of the annuals to them.

William Henry Sory (1881-1953) graduated in 1906 from the Tulane University School of Medicine. He was a Mason and served the Jacksonville lodge as worshipful master. He also was a Scottish Rite Mason. He spent many years as pathologist with Nan Travis Hospital, and in the last four years of his father's life, assisted him in management of the telephone company.

Asa Dixon Sory (1885-1952) was connected with First National Bank before moving away to live in Laredo and Houston.

Ruby Otis Sory (1890-1946) entered the ministry at age 18. He was a pastor and district superintendent of the Methodist Church, serving in the Central Texas Conference for 37 years. He held B.D. and D.D. degrees from Southwestern University and was a Mason.

Bessie Kate Sory (1892-1970) married David Leroy Swift in Jacksonville April 7, 1912, moved to Dallas and remained there throughout her life. Mr. Swift survives.

Bonnie Craig Sory, born June 13, 1894, is the widow of Richard Robertson. She taught in Jacksonville and Palestine before moving to Dallas in 1918.

Julian Albert Sory (1896-1970) was a lawyer in Fort Worth. He was a Knight Templar Mason and Presbyterian.

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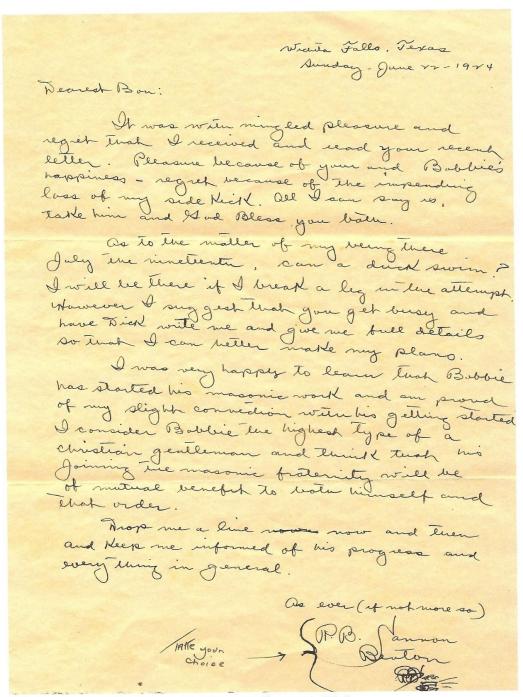


Mother and June - circa 1926



Mother and Rick - 1954

Glimpses of My Mother



Letter from R.B. Cannon to Mother

Glimpses of My Mother

Miss Bon Sory, daughter of Mrs. M. L. Sory, became the bride of Richard Robertson Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock at the home of her mother, 2617 Oak Lawn avenue. The Rev. Glenn L. Sneed of the Trinity Presbyterian Church officiated.

The wedding music was given by George Ashley Brewster and Miss Dorothy Iola Burk, who were accompanied by Mrs. Maud Lumpkin.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, A. D. Sory of Houston. She was attended by Miss Aline Whatley of Jacksonville as maid of honor.

R. B. Cannon attended the bride-

groom as best man.

Immediately following the ceremony an informal reception was held. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson will be at home at 721 North Madison avenue, after a wedding trip to points in South Texas.

JULY 19, 1924

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