

# • TREE TALK •

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## Table of Contents

<b>Editor's Letter</b>	38
<b>Gen. Pershing's Order 1918: Write Your Mother By Deborah Burkett,</b>	39
<b>Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering By Deborah Burkett</b>	41
<b>Obituary for Lonnie Harold Smith</b>	44
<b>Obituary for Mary Ellen Marsh</b>	45
<b>Cherokee County Genealogical Society Officers Elected</b>	46
<b>Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History By Bro. Jack White</b>	47
<b>An Update on Mt Hope MBC History Project</b>	56
<b>Queries</b>	60
Publications available through CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	67
Order Form	69
Membership Application	70
Volume 45 Index	71

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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 seems 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Methodist 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](mailto: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](http://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.*

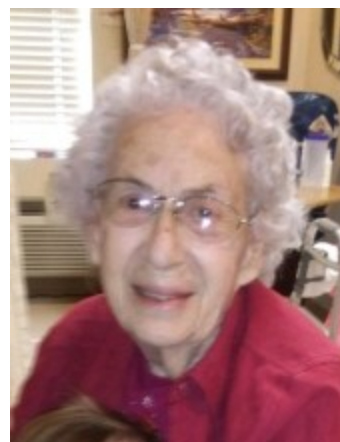


### Obituary for Mary Ellen Marsh

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



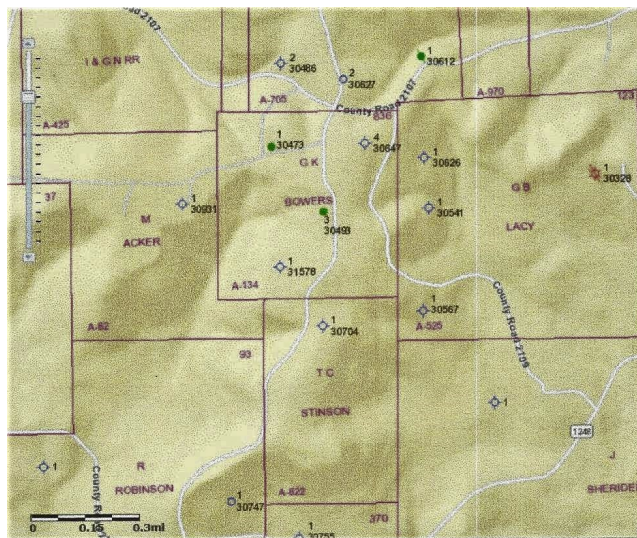
### Grave Behind the Cemetery in the Woods

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.

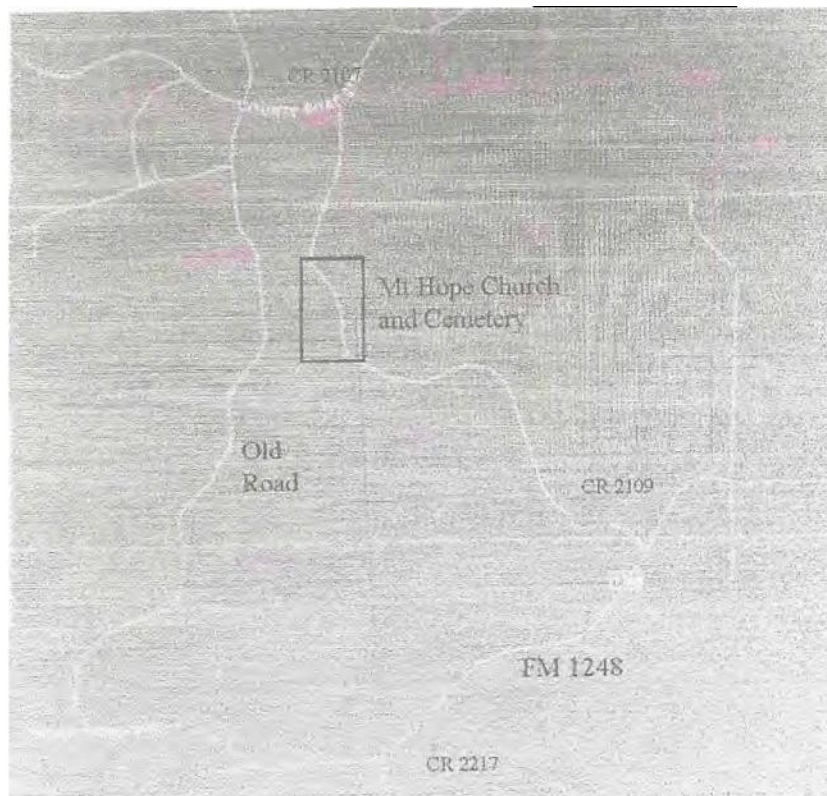
Pastor	Membership	Clerk	Association	Messengers
1874 Perry Holleyman,	37	G.W. Williams	Neches River	C.G. Odom, T.M. Conway
1875 Perry Holleyman	37	G.W. Williams	Neches River	not present
1876 W.W. Lewis	35	G.W.J. Ford	Neches River	C.G. Odom, Wm Perry
1877 W.W. Lewis	36	G.H. Conway	Neches River	Wm Perry, 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.



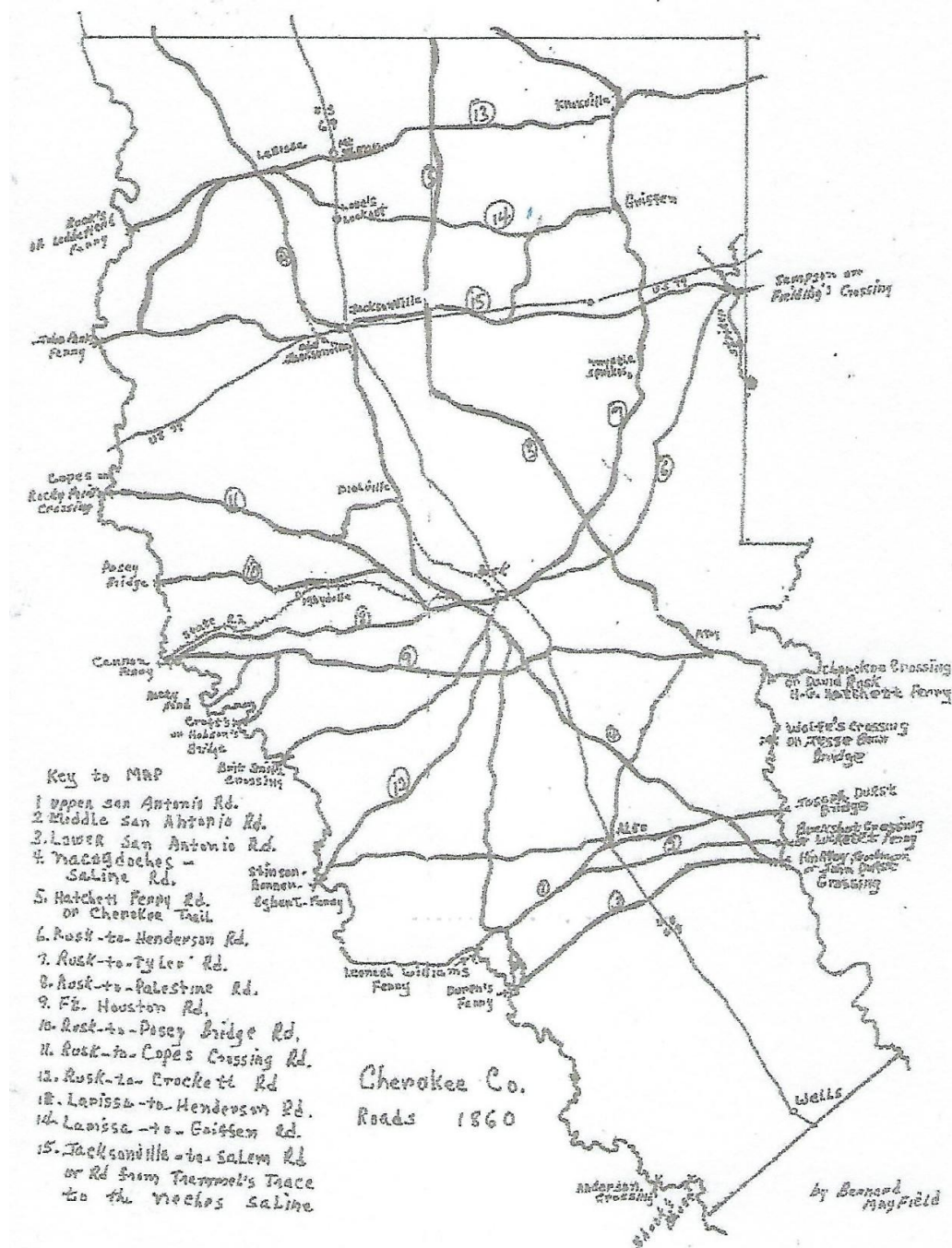


### Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church History

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](mailto: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](mailto:ccgs@suddenlink.net)**  
**President and Editor**  
**Cherokee County Genealogical Society**  
**PO Box 1332**  
**Jacksonville TX 75766-1332**  
**[ccgs@suddenlink.net](mailto: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 on line.

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 relative 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](mailto: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 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:

Texas 1857-1862

No Record in Portal of Texas History:

Cherokee County Banner

Found Record in Propbate 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](mailto:jffwtx@att.net)]  
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020  
To: [ccgs@suddenlink.net](mailto: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](mailto: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:

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

903-586-0135

## Queries

### My Grimes Ancestors

From: J S NOLAN <jn1137@aol.com>

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

To: [cchc@cocherokee.org](mailto: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](mailto:JN1137@aol.com)

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

To: Janiece Simmons Nolan email: [JN1137@aol.com](mailto:JN1137@aol.com)

From: Gordon Bennett ([ccgs@suddenlink.net](mailto: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, Letticia 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](mailto: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](#)

**Gordon Bennett**

**President and Editor**

**Cherokee County Genealogical Society**

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**Jacksonville TX 75766-1332**

[ccgs@suddenlink.net](mailto:ccgs@suddenlink.net)

**Gordon Bennett, Secretary**

**Cherokee County Historical  
Commission**

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P.O. Box 1332, Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332

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___ 1870 Cherokee County Federal Census, Agricultural Schedule, Mortality Schedule and Tax Rolls, by Sue Vaughn Taylor and Ira Gaylon White, 150 pages (1999) indexed ISBN 1-931167-07-9		\$11.00
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___ CHEROKEE COUNTY DEATH RECORDS, 1903-1945, by IdaLee D. Edmiston (1998) 351 pgs., softbound, approximately alphabetical ISBN 1-931167-10-9		\$29.00
___ 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
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## INDEX

NAME	PAGE		
____, Fayetteville	44	AR, Hot Springs	30
____, Gladys	8	Argenbright, Clay	32
____, Hazel	13	Arkansas Association	51
____, Lavern	11	Arkansas Missionary Association	55
1850 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census & Mortality Schedule	33,67	Armstrong, Claude	26
1860 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census & Slave Schedule	33,67	Army Commendation Medal	30
1870 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census, Agri. Sch., Mort. Sch. & Tax Rolls	33,67	Arrington, John L.	60
1874 Neches River Baptist Association	50	Arrington, Nancy	60
1880 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census	33,67	Ashcraft, Robert	55
1910 Cherokee Co. Fed. Census	33,67	Astro Air	27
1st Battalion, 75 Artillery, AEF	6	ATKINS	64
2nd Marine Division	25	Atkins, Frances Cornelia	6
8th Srvce Regiment, USMC	13	Atoy Cemetery	24,31
AARP	25	Attaway, Bonita	28
ABA Missionary Baptist	54,55	Attaway, Corey	28
Abel, Joseph Payton Terry	22	Attaway, Gregory	28
Acker, Sylvia Booth	33,34,67,68	Augusta Cemetery	6,14
Acker, Willie Harold Sr.	34,68	Autry Funeral Home	17-22,44,45
Adams, Chris	32	AZ, Gilbert	44
Adams, Michael	17	AZ, Green Valley	27
AK, Anchorage	31	Bagley, Bro. L. A.	47
Akridge, Anthony	26	Bailey & Foster Funeral Home , Palestine	18,20
AL, Brent	12	Bailey, David	25
AL, Coffee Co.	65	Bailey, Royce Herbie	20,21
AL, Georgiana	29	Baird, Jackie	30
AL, Talladega Co.	3	Baird, Jacob	30
Alexander, Keri Baird	30	Baird, Jane	30
Alexander, Rose	16	Baird, Jared	30
Alexander, Steve	30	Baird, Jordan	30
Alexander, Ty	30	Baird, Ken	30
Allbritain, Bro. W. W.	47	Baird, Kyle	30
Allee, Jewell	20	Baker, Scottie	23
Alto City Cemetery	6,14,20,23,62	Ballew, Elbert	31
Alvarado, Joaquina	18	Bambico, Blake	29
Alvardo, Juaquina	16	Bambico, James	29
American Baptist Association	55	Bambico, Jane	29
American Cancer Society	30	Bambico, Mady	29
American Expeditionary Forces	39	Banks, J.C.	19
American Legion	25	Banks, James M.	23
An Album of Cherokee Co. TX Men & Women Who Served in WWII....	33,67	Banks, Jessie Coble (J.C.)	16
Anadarko Cemetery, Laneville	20	Baptist Convention of East Texas	54
Andersn, Ronnie "Scratch"	18	Baptist General Association	55
Anderson County Association	50,51,53	Baptist General Convention	54
Anderson County Deed Hunters	47	Baptist Missionary Association of America	52
Anderson, Clynell	25	Baptist Missionary Association of Texas	51,55
Anderson, David	29	Baptist Monitor	52
Angelina River	58	Barber, Jerry	31,32
Antioch Cemetery	18,21	Barber, Lincoln	21
Appalachia	40	Barkley, Emma Christine	18
		Barnes, LaShanti	26

# INDEX

Barnes, Tamara King	26	Bonner, F. W.	43
Barrett, Al	30	Bonner, Paul	18
Barrett, Art	30	Bonner, Paul Wayne	21
Barrett, George	26	Bonner, Rev. Paul	21
Barron, 1LT W. P.	40	Boone Dale	27
Barron, Dr. W. P	40	Boone, Amber	27
Barrow, Maryola Ida	13	Boone, David	27
Barton, Fowler Day	22	Boone, Josh	27
Bascom, Keith	29	Boone, Louis E.	27
Battles, Berdie Lee	26	Boone, Louis E., Jr.	27
Batton, George	29	Boone, Mary	27
Beaird, Zell	19	Boone, Ricky	27
Bean's Village	59		17-22,25,27-
Bender, David V.	21	Boren-Conner Funeral Home	29,32
Bennett, Betty	7	Boren-Conner Funeral Home , Bullard	21,27,28
Bennett, Don	28,29	Bostic, Dorothy Boren	17
Bennett, Foreman	28	Bourassa, Kim	31
Bennett, Foreman Rusk	28,29	Bowers Survey	56
	2,16,24,32,33,	Bowers, G. K.	56,57
Bennett, Gordon	38,46	Bowers, George K.	48
Bennett, Gordon	61,64,66,67	Bowman, Earl	30
Bennett, LTCOL F. R.	28,29	Bowman, Naomia	30
Bennett, Mike	28,29	Bowman, Robert	21
Bennett, Nancy	4	Box's Creek	41
Bennett, Richard	28,29	Boyd, Eddie	19
Bennett's Beauty School	30	Boykins, Roger	29
Berkovskym TERRELL Marie Fisher	24	Bradberry, Joe	18
Berry Cemetery	19	Bradford Cemetery, Troup	17,18
Berry, Horace	52	Bramlette, W. Howard	24
Bethel Baptist Church, Jacksonville	55	Brentood Baptist Church	26
Bethel Cemetery, Laneville	20	Brewer, Trudie	30
Bethel Congregation	48	Brisby Chapel Cemetery	18
Bethel Presbyterian Church	56	Brit Smith Crossing	58
Beuder, David	18	Britton, Bro. Don	55
Birdwell, R. L.	19,22	Broiles, Kirk	31
Bishop, Noel Elmo	22,23	Broiles, Mary Louise	30,31
Blackjack Baptist Church	25	Bronze Star Medal	30
Blackjack Cemetery	19	Brooks, Louise	20,23
Blackmon, Brian	45	Brown, Betsy	29
Blackmon, Duane	45	Brown, By	30
Blackmon, Gracie Mae	45	Brown, Christopher	29
Blackmon, Jennife	45	Brown, Clyde, Jr.	20
Blackmon, Joe	45	Brown, Emerson	26
Blackmon, Lisa	45	Brown, Gayle	29
Blackmon, Sarah	45	Brown, Ginger	29
Blake, Louis	30	Brown, Howard	30
Blaylock, Rev. James	27	Brown, Owen	30
Blount Chapel Baptist Church	32	Brown, Roland	29
BMA Missionary Baptist	54,55	Brown, Rugby Lee	18
Bogard, Ben	54	Brown, Timothy	29
Boggs, Henry Lee	14	Brown, Tommie	30

## INDEX

Brown, Vol	30	Cathedral of the Pines	31
Browne, Mary Lou	27	Cauley, Mallard	21
Browne, Tom	27	CAVER	43
Browning, Braddis	25	Cedar Hill Cemetery	18-24
Browning, Stephen Ronald	23	Cemeteries of Jacksonville, and others	33,67
Bruce, Melvin R. "Buddy"	25	Cemeteries of Mid Cherokee Co.	33,67
Bruner, Nina Isabell	27	Cemeteries of NE Cherokee Co.	33,67
Brunson, Marcia A.	27	Cemeteries of NW Cherokee Co.	33,67
Bryant, Donna	25	Cemeteries of Southern Cherokee Co.	33,67
Buckner Foundation	44	Central Baptist Church	44
Bullard Cemetery	20,30	Chamberlain, Jimmy	18,20
Bullard City Cemetery	19	Chambers, Helen Waters	30
Bullard Memorial Cemetery	17,22,28	Chambers, Willie	30
Burgess, Lee Ella	27	Champion Paper	25
Burist, Sweetie Bell	20	Chancellor, Jeri Sanders	17
Burkett, Dr. Deborah L.	2,37-41,43	Chancelor, Mary Frances Ward	18
Burks-Walker-Tippit Funeral Home, Tyler	18,22	Chandler, Barbara	12
Burnes, Ty	27	Chandler, Bertha	8
Burran, Nora	7	Chandler, Buster	12
Buster Paving, Sulphur Springs	30	Chandler, Ercelle "Lucky"	12
Byrd, Barney	4	Chandler, Linda Raye	12
CA	26	Chandler, Sis. Kathy	58
CA, Inglewood	26	Cherokee Association	51
CA, Lafayette	65	Cherokee Baptist Association	53,55
CA, Long Beach	30	Cherokee Co. Death Records, 1903-1945	33,67
CA, San Francisco	26	Cherokee County Appriasal District	55
CA, Shell Beach	31	Cherokee County Clerk	66
CA, Shell Beach	32	Cherokee County Clerk's Office	55
Cameron, Inez	17		1,16,24,32-
Camp Houston	39	Cherokee County Genealogical Society	37,44-46
Camp Mabry	39	Cherokee County Genealogical Society	61,64,66-70
Camp Travis	39	Cherokee County Genealogical Society Offi- cers	37
Canada	62	Cherokee County Historical Commission	41,43,66
Canada, Calgary	13	Cherokee County Historical Society	55
Canady, Fred	25	Cherokeean-Herald	2,16,18-21,23
Canady, Jerry	25	Cherry, Alice	25
Cannon's Ferry	58	Cherry, Chuck	25
Cantrell, Jimmy	27	Cherry, David	25
Carmona Cemetery, Polk County, TX	19	Cherry, Donald	25
Carnes, Haskell	31	Cherry, Evelyn Martin	25
Carnes, Maynard	31	Cherry, Georgia	25
Carnes, Vicky	31	Cherry, Greg	25
Carr, Elizabeth Felder	7	Cherry, Mary	25
Carr, Ronnie	29	Cherry, Michael	25
Carrico, Janice Lea	25	Cherry, Rachel	25
Carter, Rev. Billy	30	Cherry, Rayford	25
Cartwright, Billye	29	Cherry, Sally	25
Cartwright, Their	29	Chitwood, E, W,	30
Cates Family Cemetery	21	Christ	42
Cates, Vivian	46	Christian, Martha Josephine	4
		Christie, Michelle	60

# INDEX

Christopher, Mary	17	Conway, G. H.	56
Church Book for Church of Christ at Salem		Cook, Joseph Thomas, Sr.	58
Edgefield Dist., SC.....	33,67	Cook, Mozell	17
Church Book of Pleasant Grove Bapt. Church		Cooke, Lisa Louise	38
Cherokee Co., TX Vol. I	33,67	Cooke, Jackie Juanita	17,18
Church Book of Pleasant Grove Bapt. Church		Cook's Fort	58
Cherokee Co., TX Vol. II	33,67	Cooper, Andrew Jackson	6
Church Book of Rocky Springs Missionary Bapt.		Cooper, Bruce Newton	13
Ch., Cher.Co. TX.....	33,67	Cooper, David L.	13
Church Hill C.M.E. Church	26	Cooper, George Newton	6,13
Church of Christ at Salem, Edgefield South		Cooper, George William	13
Carolina	47	Cooper, Hampton Joseph	6
Church of the Living God	32	Cooper, Hampton Joseph, Jr	6,13
City Marshall of Rusk	43	Cooper, Jack Morton	6
City of Lubbock Cemetery	17	Cooper, Jack Morton	13
Civil War	3,47	Cooper, James Hampton	13
Civil War Records of Cherokee Co., TX, Vol. 1	33,67	Cooper, Jo Deane	13
Civil War Records of Cherokee Co., TX, Vol. II,		Cooper, John Walta	13
Pensions	33,67	Cooper, Leah Anne	13
Clardy, Debbie	61	Cooper, Mary Lou	6,12
Clardy, Ken	61	Cooper, Steven Wayne	13
Clardy, Robert Orr	61	Copeland, Bro. Don	47
Clater, Rev. Tracy	30	Copeland, J. M.	56
Clayborne, Willie	26	Cope's Crossing	58
Cleaver, Frederick	26	Corell, Seth	44
Cleaver, Ivra	26	Corine Cemetery	30
Cleaver, Rick	26	Correll, Chad	44
Cleaver, Shelley	43	Correll, Danny	44
Cleaver, Willie	26	Correll, Jason	44
Clifton, Annie Ruth	10	Correll, Teresa	44
Clifton, David	23	Corrigan Funeral Home	19
Clifton, R. Dudley	10	Cottle Funeral Home , Troup	17,18,20,22,25
Co. 1, Seventh Regt., Texas Mounted Volun-		Courtney, Mary	28
teers	47	Cowning, Charles	29
Co. E, 4th Arkansas Infantry (CSA)	3	Cox, Andy	28
Coats, Sis. Martha	55	Cox, Brent	28
Cobb, Gladis B.	16,19	Cox, Cara	28
COCHRAN	43	Cox, Claude	28
Coker, Jewel Ann	13	Cox, Everett	28
Coker, Yandell	13	Cox, Gary	28
Cole, F. A.	63	Cox, Geneva	28
Cole, H. H.	63	Cox, Gracie	28
Collins Family Cemetery	19	Cox, Howard	28
Collins, Jo Ann	19	Cox, James Henry	28
Commissioners Court Minutes, No. 1, Cherokee		Cox, James Robert	28
Co., TX	33,67	Cox, Janie	28
Community Funeral Hom	18-20,26,27	Cox, Joe	28
Compton, Greg	30	Cox, Lana	28
Concord Cemetery	20,22,23,30	Cox, Laura Mae	28
Concord Cumberland Presbyterian Church	30	Cox, Loyd Freman	28
Conner Funeral Home	28		
Conner, Buel Edwin	7,14		
Conner, Doris	14		
Conner, Gloria Mae	14		
Conner, Lewis Abner	7		
Conner, Lewis Abner	14		
Conner, William Edward "Bud"	7		
Conway, Bro T. M.	47,56		

# INDEX

Cox, William Henry	28	Dennis, "Smiley"	19
Cox, Zora Bell	28	Dennis, Donald	19
Cozlens, Seymour McKinley	12	Dennis, Donald I.	22
Cozzens, Gail Marie	13	Dennis, Jearline	30
Cozzens, Gary Wayne	13	DePaul Construction	32
Cozzens, Glenda Kay	13	Dessell, John O. "Johnny"	32
Cozzens, Grace Lynette	13	DeVerona, Cynthi E.	30
Cozzens, Lowell Claire	12,13	Dialville Methodist Church	42
Crawford, Helen Wooddell	16,33,34,67,68	Dickerson, "Bill"	20
Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home	30	Dickerson, Billy Jack "Bill"	22,23
Creech, Mamie	20	Dickey, Bro J. R.	47
Creel, Brian Lee "Bubba"	22	Dickies Pant Factory	27
Creel, Carroll W.	20	DICKINSON	43
Creel, Carroll Wayne	23	Dickson, Aris	23
Crescent School Sistrict	29	Donovan, Margaret	27,28
Crews, Mary	32	Dorman, J.D.	16
Crim, James Benjamin (J.B.)	24	Dotson, Alison Parrott	66
Croft, Johnnie	27	Dotson, Sherman	26
Crooks, Mrs. Boyd (Ethie)	17	Douthitt, Dwane	29
Crossley, Troy	29	Douthitt, Shirley	29
Cruikshank, Carol	28,29	Dover, Elbert Earl	11
Crumpton, Rev. Burton	29	Dover, Elbert Nolan	10
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Bethel	56,57	Dover, James Edward	11
Cumberland Presbyterian Congregation	48	Dover, John Davi	10
Cummings, Betty Pierce	17	Dover, Laura	19,22
Cummins, Joel	17	Dowling, Bobbie Berry	33,67
Cupp, Norma Lou Thompson	19	Downing, Charles E., Jr.	29
Curry, Donald	29	Downing, J. K.	29
Curry, Mattie	19	Downing, Jack Rubin	29
Curry, Mattie Lee	19	Downing, Jackie	29
Dabbs Cemetery	17	Downing, Ruby	29
Dailey, Jimmie Erlene	17	Downing, Ted	29
Dansby, Bro. Kelvin	26,27	Dubin, Sharon	44
DAR	60,65	Dublin, Surley	63
Darnell, Melissa	45	Dublin, Surly	63
Darnell, Tim	45	Duke/Flour Daniel Construction	30
Davidson, Jerrell	30	Dustin City Cemetery, Dustin, OK	21
Davis, Dwight	27	Duty Crossing	58
Davis, Lois	27	Duty, Betty Jo	18
Davis, Mary	27	Dyess, Rev. R. S.	31
Davis, Renard	27	Earle's Chapel Cemetery	18
Davis, Sally A. Roberts	18,21	Earle's Chapel Cemetery	16,18,19,21,22,44
Davis, Sebastion	27	Earley, Cole	29
Davis, Sheldon	27	Earley, Logan	29
Day, Ella Russell	21	Early Probates & Wills of Cherokee Co.	33,67
Dean, Elva Florene	17	East Side Baptist Church	32
Dean, Willim Percy	5	East Texas Baptist Convention	54,55
Deats, Daral	31,32	East Texas Piney Woods Spunky Women	2
Deckard, Joe Henry	30	1830s to 1950s	2
DeFoor, Bro. John	47,52	Eastern Star	27
		Edmiston, Ida Lee D.	33,67

# INDEX

Edwards, Rev. Steve	44	Fisher, Mary Helen Stanford	62
Elena, Ruby E.	30	FL	28,29
Ellis, Lucille Garwood	44	FL, West Palm Beach	32
Elmo Cemetery	27	Flowers, Lynell	22,23
Emerson, John Louis (Johnny)	21	FM 1248	49
Emerson, Louis "Bo"	60	Ford, Cornelia	48
Ethington, Bro. Bob	25	Ford, Frank	48
Etter, Fred	21	Ford, G.W.J.	56
Europe	39	Ford, J. T.	52
Evan,s Jean	30	Ford, Jack	52
Evans, Chaplain Darwin	30	Ford, Richard	50
Evans, Mary Lois	30	Ford, Tommy	55
Evergreen Cemetery, Jasper	18,19	Fore, Jackie	52
Ewalt, Betty	27	Foreman Family	1,3-15
Ewalt, Charles	19	Foreman, Doyle	32
Ewalt, Charles, Jr.	27	Foreman, Alma	11
Ewalt, Charles, Sr.	22	Foreman, Anna Marie	31
Ezell, Evlyn Bolton	49	Foreman, Annice	32
Ezell, Shannon	55	Foreman, Augusta	3,5
Fairland Cemetery, OK	22	Foreman, Bernice	7,14
Families of Music, Lagston, Pierce and McElroy	2	Foreman, Bessie	3,5
Family Funeral Services,	19	Foreman, Billy Ray	8
Family History Center	64	Foreman, Bobby Glen	8
Family History Library	64	Foreman, Bobby Lynn	32
Farrell, Laura Lee	14	Foreman, Calvin	31
Federal Census of Cherokee Co., 1870	33,67	Foreman, Chris	29
Fellers, Sara	30	Foreman, Claire Belle	8
Fenslage, John	64	Foreman, Clyde Barrow	8
Ferguson	12	Foreman, David D.	6,13
Ferguson, James Edward	5,11	Foreman, Della Jo	19
Ferguson, Roland	5,12	Foreman, Dorothy Jean	8
Ferguson, Roland "Lem"	5	Foreman, Earnest	32
Ferguson, Unnamed 1	5	Foreman, Earnest Jewel	4,8
Ferguson, Unnamed 2	5	Foreman, Earnest Jewel, Jr	8
Ferguson, Bro. J. T.	47	Foreman, Eloise	5,11
Ferguson, Mary E.	11	Foreman, Francis	7,15
Fields, Sabrina	31,32	Foreman, Gene Alvis	8
Fields,, Michael	31,32	Foreman, George E.	7,14
Fincastle Cemetery, in Poynor	16,18	Foreman, George Simon "Sime"	3,7
Finney, Charles	55	Foreman, Ginger Adblin	9
First Baptist Church of Maydelle	27,55	Foreman, Glinnie Faye	4,9
First Baptist Church Youth Fund	29	Foreman, Grayson	32
First Baptist Church, Wharton	29	Foreman, Grayson Eric	32
First Presbyterian Church	28,29	Foreman, Helen Marine	9
First Recorded Minutes of the Dist. Ct. of Cherokee Co., TX	33,67	Foreman, Henry Bruce	4,8
First United Methodist Church	25,36,70	Foreman, Henry Calhoun	3,4
First United Methodist Church of Rusk.	41	Foreman, Homer Doyle	8
Fisher, Charles William, Jr.	62	Foreman, Howard	31
Fisher, Charles William, Sr.	62	Foreman, Howard Francis	9
Fisher, Mary A.	62	Foreman, Hunter Lynn	32



# INDEX

Foreman, Ida	3,5	Foreman, Unnamed	8
Foreman, Irene	4	Foreman, William Bennett	4,9
Foreman, J. W. "Willie"	7,14	Foreman, William Bennett, Jr.	9
Foreman, J.L.	31	Foreman, William Pinkney	5,11
Foreman, Jamie Kaye	11	Foreman, William Pinkney, Jr.	11
Foreman, Jessie	3,5-7,15	Foreman, Willy Lacy	3,4
Foreman, Jimmy	8	Foreman, Winnie E.	3,4
Foreman, JoAnn	8	Fort Hood Army Commissary	30
Foreman, John Edward	5,11	Fort Houston Road	58
Foreman, John Ward, III "Jack"	3,7	Foster & Brown Funeral Home	29
Foreman, John Ward, IV "Johnny"	3,6	Foster, Bracie	18
Foreman, John Ward, Jr.	3	France	39
Foreman, Karen	32	Franklin, Sedric	25
Foreman, Lanell	9	Frankston City Cemetery	17
Foreman, Lanell Dorothy	9	Frazer, Dr. I. K.	43
Foreman, Lavada	7,14	Frazer, Nettie Cornelia	19
Foreman, Leo	7,15	Freanklin, W. E.	25
Foreman, Lerline	7,14	Fred Douglas High School	26,28
Foreman, Lessia Gladys	4,8	Frederick, Jane	65
Foreman, Lester Daniel	4,8,9	Freeman, Fern Margaret	13
Foreman, Maggie Daniel	3,4	Friendship Baptist Church	30
Foreman, Marie Emma "Miriah"	3,6,7	Friendship Cemetery, Cushing	20
Foreman, Mary Bowie "Molly"	3,6	Fuller, Rev. James	28
Foreman, Mary Nell	8	Fulton, F.B.	22
Foreman, Mickey Glenn	31	G. K. Bowers Survey	48
Foreman, Mildred	5,12	GA	2,65
Foreman, Monnie Kate	7,14	GA, Atlanta	6
Foreman, Myrtle James	17	GA, Conyers	44
Foreman, Nicholas	31	GA, Hancock Co.	49
Foreman, Patsy Ruth	9	Gale, Era Belle	10
Foreman, Peggy Jean	12	Gallatin Missionary Baptist Church	28
Foreman, Ray	7,15	Garden of Memories Cemetery	27
Foreman, Rev. Lester	30	Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Lufkin	18
Foreman, Rickey	29	Garner, Albert	55
Foreman, Robby	32	Garwood, Jim	44
Foreman, Robby Lynn	32	Garwood, John Frank	44
Foreman, Robert Jewel	9	Gasaway, Billy	20
Foreman, Robert Paxton "Pax"	3,5	Gaston, Louise Musick	18
Foreman, Ronnie Ray	12	Geddie, Dr. N.D.	29
Foreman, Roy	7,15	Geisleman, John	18,21
Foreman, Ruby Faye	8	Gen. Pershing	37
Foreman, Ruby Hellen	5,12	Gen. Pershing's Order 1918: Write Your Mother	38-40
Foreman, Ruth Grace	5,12	Genealogy Gems	38
Foreman, Shirley Aim	9	General Association of Texas	54
Foreman, Teague Cecil	5,12	Gent Mountain	58,59
Foreman, Teague Cecil, Jr.	12	Gentry, Robert K.	3
Foreman, Teague Conner	3,5	Gentry, Winnie	3
Foreman, Thomas Hubbard	4,8	George	48
Foreman, Tony	31	George, Bro. Herbert	47
Foreman, Unnamed	4	George, Golda	22

## INDEX

Gerstenberger, Karen	29	Griffin's Store, Houston, TX	26
Gerstenberger, RaY	29	Grimes, Catherine Frederick	65,66
Giannakos, Linda	25	Grimes, Elizabeth Caroline	65,66
Gibraltar Chapel	48,50-52	Grimes, George Key	65,66
Gilliam, Margie	32	Grimes, Jane Frederick	66
Gipson-Metcalf	19	Grimes, Jesse	65
Gipson-Metcalf Funeral Home	18,19,21	Grimes, John	65
Glass, Orland	18	Grimes, Joyce Ruth "Jo"	22
Glenn, Marvin	32	Grimes, Letticia Kornegay	66
Glenwood Memorial Park, Pineville, LA.	17	Grimes, Marshall	65,66
Glover, Conrad	55	Grimes, Thomas	65,66
GOFF	48	Grissom, Jesse	22
Goggan Funeral Home Chapel	27	Grogan, Vertis Jackson	21
Gold, Alice	11	Groover, Cullen	29
Golden Gate Mortuary, Amarillo	32	Groover, Mike	29
Golden, Joy Ann	12	Groover, Sarah Beth	29
Golden, Judy	12	Groover, Yvette	29
Golden, Patricia	12	Guam	44
Golden, Trayton Cornelius	12	Guaranty Bank of Rusk	43
Golden, Trey	12	Guinn, Joe	41
Good Conduct Medal	30	Guinn, Mary Clay	41
Good Street Baptist Church, Dallas	29	Guinn, Mearl Wallace	41
Goode, Sallie Jane	12	Guinn, Nicholas	28
Goodman, Thuda	17	Guinn, Philleo Pericles	41
Goodson, Frank	27	Guinn, Robert Henry	41
Goodson, J. P	60	Guinn, Sarah	41
Goodson, John	60	Guinn, Terry	41
Goodson, Watt	60	Guinn, Thaymon	26
Google Books	38	Gum Creek	58
Gore, Eddie Lee "Jackie"	24	Gunnels, Diana	30
Gosset's Chapel Cemetery	19,22,30	Hackerd, Henry	45
Gould, Rev. Calvin	32	Hackerd, Mary	45
Grace Memorial Park, Hitchcock, TX	24	Hahn, Lillian	8
Grandview Memorial Cemetery, Pasadena	25	Hairrell, Lynda	30
Grave Marker Index for Cherokee Co., TX (2000)	33,67	Halbert, John	27
Grave Marker Index for Cherokee Co., TX (2000) CD ROM	33,67	Halbert, John Kenneth	27
Graves, J. R.	54	Halbert, Nettie J.	27
Graves, Oda	7	Hallman, Mrs.	57
Gray, Bradley	32	Hamm, Lynn	30
Gray, Dirk	32	Hamm, Suzanne	30
Gray, Harold	32	Hanberry, Evelyn Davis	22
Great Depression	42	Hanbury, Evelyn	19
Greenwood Funeral Home, Greenwood	20	Hancock, Rev. George E.	30
Greenwood Memorial Park, Greenwood	20	Handy, Paul	23
Greenwood, Stanley "Judge"	22	Hangee, Dewayene	32
Greenwood, "Judge"	19	Hanson, Jonathan	32
Gregson, Rev. John	28	Hanson, Shanna	32
Griffin Cemetery	32	Hanvy, Nora L. Jackson	17,18
Griffin, Effie	7	Hardeway, Eddie Marie	26
Griffin, Sarah Rebecca	49	Hardeway, Oscar R.	26

# INDEX

Hardy, Ada	4,9	Henry Cemetery	16,19,20,22,28
Hardy, Alvin	4,10	Henry's Chapel Cemetery	20
<u>Hardy, Frank</u>	10	Hermes, Melva	33,67
Hardy, Guy	4	Heroines of Jericho	26
Hardy, Johnny	4,10	Herring, Steven Michael	22,23
Hardy, Leona	4,10	Hester, Mary Odell	17
Harper-Talasek Funeral Home	30	Hicks, John R. "Buster"	21
Harris, Bro. S. P.	47,56	Higgs, Rev. Grady	29
Harris, James Dillard "J.D."	22	Hill, Bill	28
Harris, James Tyrone	28	Hill, Bro. Wade D.	47
Harris, James, Jr. "Big Harris"	28	Hill, Bro. Wm.	47
Harris, Jeremy	28	Hill, Rev.	26
Harris, Joyce Ann	25	Hill, Tim	28
Harris, Kelley	25	Hill, Wm.	56
Harris, Kenneth	28	Hinson, Bro. Marvin	47
Harris, Mary Ann	28	Hinson, Marvin	52
Harris, Michael	28	Hinson, Pete	52
Harris, Otto	28	Historical Markers of Cherokee Co., TX	33,67
Harris, Sherrod W.	57	History of American Baptist	55
Harris, William Charles	23	Hogg, LeRoy	26
Harrison, Lura Dell Clark	18	Hogg, Reese, Jr.	26
Harrison, Shelia	20	Holcomb, Mary Kate Guinn	18
Hart, Bro. Charles	47	Holeyman, Perry	56
Hassell Mounition Homestead	48	Holleyman, Bro. Perry	47,49
Hassell, A.	57	Hollingsworth, Elizabeth	31
Hassell, Aber	48	Holloman, Daniel A.	49
Hassell, Bro. A. A.	47	Holly Tree Cemetery, Holly Lake Ranch	20,23
Hassell, M. U. "Hassie"	48	Holman, Clifford	26
Hassell, M. U. "Sibbie"	57	Holter, Gene	27
Hassell, Sibbie	48,50,51	Holter, Pam	27
Hawkins Cemetery	23	Hood, Patsy	30
Hawkins, Martha Kirkpatrick	20	Hooker Cemetery, Lone Oaks, TX	21
Hawthorne, William Jahugh	60	Hooper, Franch L.	26
Hayert, Mabel	26	Hoot, Betty Jean Lott	19
Hayes, Ashley	31	Hopson, Bro. David	47
Hayes, Hannah	31	Hopson, Bro. Wesley	47
Hayes, Kathy	29	Hord, Judy	25
Hayes, Randy	29	Horn, Larry	30
Hearne, Jeffery	29	Horn, Mable	23
Hedrick, Amanda	9	Horton, Bill	31
Hedrick, Angela	9	Horton, Nola	31
Hedrick, Earl	9	Hospice of East Texas	31
Hedrick, James Earl	9	Howeth, Hal	29
Hedrick, Vincent Leroy	9	HUDNALL	48
Hege, Helen Garwood	44	Hudson, Floyd W.	18,20-22
Helton, Rev. George	22	Humphry, Bro. A. J.	47
Henderson Johnnie	60	Hunt, Warner Dale	21
Henderson, John A.	60	Hurto, Wesley	30
Hendricks, Chris	27	Huttash, Ogreta W.	33,34,67,68
Hendricks, Mike	27	Hwy 84 Bridge	59

# INDEX

Illinois Cemetery	21	Jones, Craig	30
IN, Indianapolis	13	Jones, Fred	30
IN, Lebanon	31,32	Jones, Glover	30
IN, Logansport	28	Jones, J. A.	56
Index to Tree Talk, May 1980 through December 1990	33,67	Jones, J. T.	56
Irwin, David Ray	19,22,23	Jones, Jewell	30
Irwin, Paul Rodney	17	Jones, Mertie Ellen	14
Jackson, Eunice	32	Jones, Mike	16
Jackson, Kirk	31	Jones, Vance	30
Jackson, Patsy	28	Judicial District Clerk	66
Jackson, Shelia	19	Judson Association	53
Jackson, Shirley	24	Justus, Loucretia	21
Jacksonville Banner	40	Keeton, Authorine	27
Jacksonville City Cemetery	17,18,20,22	Keeton, Earnest	27
Jacksonville Daily Progress Obituary Index 1984-2013	33,67	Keeton, Robert	27
Jacksonville Daily Progress.	16-25, 28,31	Keeton, Sara	27
Jacksonville Garden club	31	Kellum, Bobby Don	32
Jacksonville High School	25	Kellum, Carolyn Wade	32
Jacksonville Post Office	64	Kellum, Lum, Jr.	32
Jacksonville Progress	1,2,16,26,27,29,30,32	Kennnedy, Rodney	26
Jacksonville Public Library	33,67	Kerner, Richard B., Sr.	28
Jacobson, Jake	28	Kerner, Sharon	28
Jamerson, James	18	Kettler, Anna	45
James, Myrtle	9	KFC Corp.	30
James, Roger	30	Killeen Memorial Park	30
Jammer, Rev. C. C.	30	Kin of Elia Stockton, Moses Dickey and James Upchurch	2
Jarratt Cemetery	17-24	King, Artelia	26
Jarvis, Ann Reeves	39,40	King, Burnell	26
Jarvis, Anna	39	King, Cleophus	26
Jeffery, Jesse	30	King, Cortney	26
Jenkins, Bro. Larkin	47	King, Fred	26
Jenkins, Wylie	29	King, Lincoln Barber "L.B."	26
Jenkins-Garmon Funeral Home , Henderson	20	King, Mary Louise	26
JERNIGAN	43	King, Patricia	26
Johnson Funeral Home, Houston	26	King, Shron	26
Johnson Memorial Garden	20	Kinney, Richard	31
Johnson, Anthony "Step"	20	Kinsey, Shirley	29
Johnson, Berry	28	Knight, Othea Tew	9
Johnson, Donnell	17	Knoxville Cemetery, Troup	25
Johnson, Gladys	10	Knudson, Christine	66
Johnson, Jermaine	28	Korean Conflict	13,18,30
Johnson, Jessie, Jr.	29	Kornegay, Letticia	65
Johnson, L. A.	29	KS, Elkhart	27
Johnson, Nora	22	KS, Kansas City	26
Johnson, Nora Betty	16,23	KS, Wichita	25
Johnston, Alton	29	LA	30
Johnston, La Dean	23	LA, Bridgeport	3
Johnston, Ladean	22	LA, Cotton Valley	30
Jones, Bell	19,23	LA, Springhill	30
Jones, Belle	22	Lacy, Veo	20,22

## INDEX

Lake Jacksonville	28,29	MacWright, ____	27
Lake Jacksonville Lakeside Association	28,29	Maddos, Hazel	29
Lambright, Bettye	25	Mallard, J.F.	42
Lambright, Charles,	25	MANESS	43
Lambright, Clair	25	Maness, Christine V.	24
Lambright, Linda Schultz	25	MANNING	43
Landmark Missionary Baptist	54	Marable, Helen	46
Landrum, Dr. Faulk	31	Marquez, Antonio "Tony" Angel	23
Landrum, Louis	29	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co. TX 1905-1931	33,67
Landrum, Violet	29	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co. TX 1905-1931 CD ROM	33,67
Lane, Connie	28	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co., TX, 1846-1880, Vol. I	33,67
Lane, Corbin	28	Marriage Records of Cherokee Co., TX, 1881-1890, Vol. II	34,68
Lang, Ola	20	Marsh, Chelsea	45
Lang, Ola Talmadge	21	Marsh, Colleen	45
Langston, Mose	52	Marsh, Dr. Jon Luther	45
Larissa C.M.E. Church	26	Marsh, Herman	45
Larissa Cemetery	18,19,22,24,27,45	Marsh, Laura	45
Larissa College 1857-1860	33,67	Marsh, Mary Ellen	37,45
Lash, Mary	30	Marsh, Rocky Joseph	45
Laural Land Funeral Home, Dallas	18	Marshall, Floyd	29
Laurel Land Cemetery, Dallas	16	Martin Grocery and Gas Station	30
Lawndale Cemetery	9	Martin, Nina Marie	27
Lawnhaven Cemetery, Houston, TX	9	Martin, Ashley	30
Lee, Clifford M.	20	Martin, Billie	30
Lee, Dr. Clifford M.	23	Martin, Bruce	25
Lee, Tommy	19,22,23,	Martin, Charles Love	25
Lewis, W. W.	56,58	Martin, Derek	30
Lewsi, Bro. W. W.	47	Martin, Doris Maxine	25
Lindsey, Annie Clyde	14	Martin, Eddie	30
Lindsey, Austin	30	Martin, Evelyn	25
Lindsey, Joni Martin	30	Martin, George	46
Lindsey, Ross	30	Martin, Harriet	30
Lindsey, Tim	30	Martin, Jennifer	31
Lloyd James Funeral Home, Tyler	17,20,21	Martin, Jerry	30
Lloyd, Benjamin	27	Martin, John Ross	30
Lloyd, Betty Jo	27	Martin, Kelly	30
Lloyd, Casey	27	Martin, Lorene Brown	30
Lloyd, Elton	27	Martin, Melinda	30
Lloyd, Marie	27	Martin, Steve	27
Lloyd, Maudie	27	Martinez, Adrina	28
Lloyd, O.D.	27	Martinez, Katrina	28
Loden, Fred	48	Masonic Cemetery, Silver City, NM	5,6
Loden, Fred	48	Mathis, Rev. Mack	29
Loflin, Dorothy Alene	9	Matthews, Silverean	22
Lowery, Ann K.	23	MAUK	43
Lucas, Hattie	7	May, Billy Ed	11
LUSK	48	May, Charlynn	10
Lusk, Laverne	66	May, Donald Wayne	10
Lynches Chapel Cemetery	19-21	May, Ed	4,11
Maay, Judy	10	May, Edward Brigg	4

## INDEX

May, Gary Edward	10	Memorial Funeral Home, Buffalo	28
May, Hugh Edward	4,10	Memory Lane Baptist Church, Palestine	29
May, Hugh Kenneth	10	Mercy-McGowan Funeral Home	17-22,25
May, Laura Martin	4,10	Meredith, Martha Elizabeth	3
May, Linda Margaret	11	Metcalf, Steve	32
May, Mamie Marie	11	Methodist Church in Rusk	37
May, Nathaniel Briggs	4	Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering	41
May, Neta Ruth	11	Methodist Church of Rusk, a History worth Remembering ."	38,43
May, Oleta	10	Mettlen, Billy Wayne	23
May, Robert Hugh	10	MIDDLETON	48
May, Robert Sherman	4,10	Miller, Ann	60
May, Roy Sherman	10	Miller, Ben	27
May. Ereta Ann	10	Miller, Billy Van	18
May. James Earl	10	Miller, Dorothy	27
Mayer, Lonnie	27	Miller, Elizabeth	60
Mayer, Melinda	27	Miller, Virgie L.	21
Mayfield, Bernard	59	Mills, Rev. Jack	29
Mayfield, Jamie	32	Milstead, Lucille	20
Mayfield, Ruby Dianne	19	Milstead, Millie	20
Mays, Mammie	10	Mims, Charles	62
McAnally, Angela	18	Minutes of Anderson County Association	55
McBride, Rev. Matthew	29	Minutes of Cherokee Association	55
McClintock, Tammy	30	Minutes of Missionary Baptist Association of Texas	55
McCown, Agnes Birdsong	17	Minutes of Old Cherokee Association	55
McCoy Funeral Home	30	Mixon Cemetery	22
McCuin, Webbie	17	MO, Cape Girardeau	29
McCullough, Helen Ruth	25	MO, Kansas City	26
McCune, Syble	23	MO, Marshfield	61
McDonald Cemetery	18,19,22,23	MO. Steel	30
McDonald, Avie Smith	20	Monahans Memorial Cemetery , Monahans	19
McKay, Lora Boulter	20,23	Moody, D. L.	55
McKee, Annie B.	30	Moore Mountain	58,59
McKeller, Rev. Matthew	31,32	Moore, Laurita	20
McKinney, Audry Lee	6	Moore, Terrance	32
McKnight Cemetery	23	Morgan, Lois Carpenter	24
McLaghlin, Jim	29	Morgan, Wayne	22
McLeaod, Albert Sidney Johnson	6	Morris, James t.	28
McLeaod, Mack Albert	6,14	Morris, Virgil	17
McLeaod, Mary Ann	6,14	Morrow, Valeria I.	22,23
McLemore, Sharon "Zell" Cates	21	Moseley Cemetery	18,2,21
Meador Cemetery	21	Moseley, Harding	18
Meador, Betty A. Downing	29	Moseley, Harding Crawford	21
Meador, Bro. O. P.	47,52	Moseley, James	18
Meador, Charles	29	Moseley, James Rowan	20
Meador, Cindy	29	Moseley, Joy Fox	21
Meador, Martha	29	Mosley, James Rowan	21
Meador, Randy	29	Mosley, Ronnie Glen	16,20
Mellard, Robin	31,32	Mother's Day	40
Membership Application	36,70	Mother's Day Work Clubs	40
Memorial Cemetery, Palestine	30	Mount Haven Elementary School	25

# INDEX

Mount Selman Baptist Church	27	Newspaper Obits 1998 Bk 15	34,68
Mt. Comfort Cemetery	19,49	Newspaper Obits 1999 Bk 16	34,68
Mt. Hope Cemetery	50	Newspaper Obits 2000 Bk 17	34,68
Mt. Hope ISD District 20	50-52	Newspaper Obits 2001 Bk 18	34,68
Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church	37,38,47-59	Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 3	34,68
Mt.Hope School	49	Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 7	34,68
Mullies, Doyle	23	Newspaper Obits Bk 4	34,68
Munsinger, David	27	Newspaper Obits Index of Cherokee Co., TX 1836-2001 Bks 1-19	34,68
Munsinger, Donnie	27	Newspaper Obits Index of Cherokee Co., TX 1836-2001 Bks 1-19 CD	34,68
Myers, Nuel	27	Newspaper Obituaries from early papers 1889- 1908 Bk. 1	34,68
Myrtle Springs Cemetry	19	NJ, Camp Merritt	40
Nacogdoches-Saline Road	58	NM, Capitan	12
Nan Travis Hospital	26	NM, Carlsbad	9
National Tomato Capital	34,68	NM, Dora	12
NC, Dublin Co.	65	NM, Fort Bayard	5,6
NC, Mocksville	44	NM, Grant Co., Silver City	5,6
Neches City Cemetery	20	NM, Lordsburg	13
Neches River	58	NM, Lovington	12
Neches River Baptist Association	51,53,56	NM, Luna Co., Deming	6
Neel, Danny	29	NM, Portales	12
Nelson, Dewayne	29	NM, Sante Fe	47
Nelson, Mary Pauline	20	NM, Silver City	12,13
Nelson, Mozelle Anderson	29	NM, Socorro	47
Nelson, Ruby	30	NM, Valverde	47
Nelson, Waymon	29	NM. Deming	30
Nelson, Willie	30	Nolan, Janice Simmons	65,66
Nelson, Willie, II	30	Noonday Cemetery	20,23
Nelson, Willie, Sr.	30	Norsworthy, James	28
Neville, Ed	28,29	Norsworthy, Joan Dale	28
New Emmaus Cemetery	19,22	Norsworthy, Rodney	28
New Energy Cemetery, League City	23	Norsworthy, Shirley	28
New Mexico State University	13	North American Baptist Association	52,55
New Prospect Baptist Church	25	Northwest Cherokee Co. Cemeteries, Vol. 1	34,68
New Salem Cemetery	18,20	Northwest Cherokee Co. Cemeteries, Vol. 2	34,68
New York Baptist Church	29	NY, Buffalo	28
New York Cemetery	29	O.T. Allen & Son Funeral Home	17-22
Newburn, Robert	27	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Elmo	27
Newhouse, Major	26	Oak Grove Cemetery, Yoakum	17
Newnam, ____	14	Oakland Church	59
Newspaper Obits 1910-1921 Bk 2	34,68	Oakland Missionary Baptist Church	27,31
Newspaper Obits 1922-1925 Bk 6	34,68	Oakwood Cemetery	16
Newspaper Obits 1926-1931 Bk 19	34,68	Obernader, Gertrude	28
Newspaper Obits 1972-1984 Bk 5	34,68	Oden, Bro. Austin E.	47
Newspaper Obits 1991 & part of 1990 Bk 8	34,68	Odom, Bro. Gilbert	48
Newspaper Obits 1992 Bk 9	34,68	Odom, C. G.	56
Newspaper Obits 1993 Bk 10	34,68	Ogden, Frances	25
Newspaper Obits 1994 Bk 11	34,68	OH, Conneault	28
Newspaper Obits 1995 Bk 12	34,68	OK, Anadarka	27
Newspaper Obits 1996 Bk 13	34,68	OK, Bixby	25
Newspaper Obits 1997 Bk 14	34,68	OK, Cushing	13

## INDEX

OK, Drumnight Creek	25	Paul, Jessica McManus	63
OK, Enid	13	Payne, Joan	31
OK, Jenks	25	Payne, Richard	31
OK, Norman	31	Pearson, Doyle	31
OK, Okfuskee Co., Weletka	6	Pearson, Earnest Wayne	31
OK, Oklahoma Co., Oklahoma City	25	Pearson, Etta Ruth	31
Old Cherokee Baptist Association	55	Pearson, Mona	31
Old Palestine Baptist Church	47	Peerkins, Will	48
Old Palestine Cemetery	17,21,23	Peguese, Billy	10
Olean, Willie	13	Pendleton, James	54
Olive Branch Cemetery, Brushy Creek	21	Penka, Mickeal	23
Olive Presbyterian Church	27	Peoples, Hiram	26
Olive, Paralee	21	Peoples, Maharold	26
Oliver, B. J.	17	Peoples, Rev. James	28
Olsen, Betty	29	Perdue, Joyce Elaine	45
OR	28,29	Perdue, Marcus	45
Orchard, Reed	10	Perkins Family	43
Orme, Celestine Priestly	19	Perkins, Bennett Blake	43
Osborn, Cynthia	17	Perkins, Myrta Blacke	43
Osborn, Olivia	31,32	Perkisin, Mrs. Edna Frazer	43
Oscar's Air-O-Service	29	Perry, A. D.	48
Our Acre Cemetery, Jewett	23	Perry, B.	56
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 1	34,68	Perry, Wm.	56
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 2	34,68	Pershing, GEN "Black Jack"	39
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 3	34,68	Persons, Helen	19
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 4	34,68	Petri, Almoth	20
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 5	34,68	Pettit, Mae Gean McElry	2
Our Before-Ancessor Charts Vol. 6	34,68	Peyton, Dr. John C.	32
OVID19 Virus	46	Phares, Johnsa H.	17
Owens, Hellen	5	Phillips, Clyde	52
Palmer, Billy R.	21	Philomathians	29
Palmer, Rev. Henderson D.	42	Pierce Ranch	29
Palmer, Rev. Richard	29	Pierce, Wanda Lee	23
Panteon Municipal De San Freancisco Del ora, Chihuahua, Mexico	18	Pilette, Jeffrey, RN	32
Paris, Elvis Carroll	17	Pine Grove Cemetery	19,32
Park Plaza Hospital	26	Pine Grove Community	58
Parker, John	19	Pine Town	58
Parsons, Robin	28	Pinecrest Cemetery, Troup	18,20
Parties, Etc.	29	Plainview Cemetery	17,21
Pate, Keith	32	Planinview Cemetery	26
Patterson, Clint	30	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	47,50,58,59
Patterson, Gladys	28	Pleasant Grove Cemetery	17,22,23
Patterson, John	28	Pletcher, Debbie	32
Patterson, Johnnie	28	Pogue, William Corey	20
Patterson, Martha	30	Polk, Pearl I.	26
Patterson, Wayne	28	POOL	48
Patterson, Wesley	28	Porter, Billie Lee	13
Patterson, William Clinton "Pat"	30	Porter, William Thomas	13
Patton, Cynthia	20	Posey Bridge	59
Patton, Richard	29	Pounders, Lenzie Lee	17



# INDEX

Poynor Cemetery	20,21,23	Robertson, Jerry	19
Poynor Community Cemetery	17	Robertson, John	25
Price, Fannie	7	Rock Hill Baptist Church	29
Price, Hattie Winfield "Alma"	5	Rock Hill Cemetery	29
Priesmeyer, Flora Ridgway	29	Rockefeller Institute	40
Priesmeyer, Paul	29	Rockhill Cemetery	27
Priesmeyer, Walter T.	29	Rocky Point	58
Probate Records of Cherokee Co., TX 1846- ca 1875	34,68	Rocky Springs Baptist Church	47
Probate Records of Cherokee Co., TX Minute Book A.....	34,68	Rocky Springs Missionary Baptist Church	50,58
Providence Cemetery Cherokee Co., TX	22,23,34,68	Rose Hill Cemetery	21
Pugh Elbert L.	24	Roselawn Cemetery, Palestine	29
Purple Heart	30	Roser, Marie Lambright	25
Queries	61-66	Ross, Anita	30
Race, Dr. Marrk C.	32	Ross, Mary Ellen	23
Ragsdale Cemetery	18,25	Rossmeyer, Theresa Relin	8
Rambin, Darin	30	Roten, Marvin	42
Rambin, David	30	Runnels, Arthur	30
Rasmussen, Grace Neville	29	Runnels, Arthur, Jr.	30
Rasmussen, Hannah Grace	29	Runnels, Arthur, Sr.	30
Rasmussen, Oscar	29	Runnels, Nancy	30
Rasmussen, Sheila	29	Runnels, Robert	18
Rasmussen, Walter	29	Runnels, Rufus	26
Rayborn, Emma S.	3	Rusk ISD	50,52
Record, Frank	17	Rusk Post Office	64
Redd, Bobby	25	Rusk Public Library	44
Reed, Jerome	26	Rusk State Hospital	27
Reed, Ruby Evelyn	19	Rusk to Crockett Road	58
Reese Cemetery	17	Rusk to Palestine Road	58
REEVES	43	Rusk to Posey Bridge Crossing	59
Renfro Cemetery	20	Russell, Agnes	18
Republic of Texas	41	Ryan Cemetery	11
Resthaven Cemetery	4,8,16-24	S & K Furniture	28
RI	9	Saga of Cherokee and World War I, Book 6, indexed	34,60,61,68
Richards, Shirley Ann	26	Saga of Cherokee Book 4 1922-1925, indexed	34,60,61,68
Richardson, Earl	32	Saga of Cherokee Book 5, asst'd dates, indexed	34,68
Rico, Sheila	25	Saga of Cherokee Co. & Pioneer Life Book 7, indexed	34,68
Ridgeview Cemetery, McKinney	24	Saga of Cherokee Co., TX Book 1	34,68
Riegel, Russell	29	Saga of Cherokee Co., TX Book 2 1910-1921 indexed	34,60,61,68
Riffe, Bro. N.	47	Saga of Cherokee, Book 3 asst'd dates	34,60,61,68
Rising Star Baptist Church	28	Saint Paul United Methodist Church	30
Risinger, Linda	46	Salem Cemetery	16-21,23,58
Roach, Bro. Jim Roach	47	Salem Church	58
Roark, Bro. F. C.	47	Sanchez, Tino	29
Roberts, Emma Elizabeth	6.14	Sandefor, Cecil C., Jr.	16
Roberts, Jennie O.	6.14	Sandefor, Cecil, Jr.	19
Roberts, John Sidney	6.14	Sanders, Julie Mae	32
Roberts, Rev. B. F., Jr.	32	Sanders, Lee	25
Roberts, Robert Paxton	6	Sanders, Paul	26
Roberts, Robert Paxton, Jr.	6.14	Sanders, Floyd	18
Robertson, Brenda	25	Sanford, Frankie Leroy, Jr.	9

# INDEX

Sanford, Frankie Leroy, Sr.	9	Simonson	63
Sanford, Katherine Yvonne	9	Simpson, Hulder M.	63
Sanford, Nancy Dianne	9	Simpson, Lars	63
Sardis Baptist Church	47,50,58	Simpson, Rev. Delbert	29
SC, Hopkins	30	Simpson, Victor L.	63
SC, Mariboro	6	Skinner, Jessie George	22
SC, Platte	27	Slane, Margaret	23
Schley, Burt	14	Small, Rev. Harold	27
Schmidt-Bartel Funeral Home	28	Smith, Bettye Jo Collier	44
Scoggins, Bro. G. J.	47	Smith, Bill	29
Scoggins, Marie	44	Smith, Dorothy	19
Scott, Bennie	25	Smith, Frederick Eugene	44
Scott, Bro. L. A.	47,48	Smith, George	22
Scott, Steve	25	Smith, Glen	52
Scott, W. A. "Bill"	20	Smith, Lonnie Harold	37,44
SD, Platte	27	Smith, Lonnie Harold, Sr.	44
SD, Rapid City	27	Smith, Mary Elizabeth Nail Garwood	44
SD, Tripp	27	Smith, Michael	22
Sears, Glenda	2,15	Smith, Murline King	26
Second Baptist Church, Cunev	29	Smith, Opal L.	17
Secretary of War	39	Smith, Remy	44
Sefzik, Ruby	28,29	Smith, Rev. Larry	25
Seminary Heights Church of Christ	26,27	Smith, Robert Eugene	44
Sessions, Sr, David Max	22	Smith, Ronald	44
Seybold, Carmen L.	19	Smith, Stella Faye	16,19
Shady Grove Cemetery	16,19	Smith, Virginia Lutz	44
Shanks, Helen D.	32	Smith, William L.	44
Shaw, Ada Idelle	10	Smoots, Milton David	20
Sheldon, Robert	12	Sockwell, Freida M.	30
Shepard Cemetery	9	Sockwsell, Fotch	30
Shepard, Rev. Jimmy	27	Some Descendants of Isaac Lee	34,68
	3,5-7,10- 12,14,15,18,19 ,23	Sosby, David, Jr	24
Shiloh Cemetery		Southern Baptist Association	54
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church	32	Spencer, Eathel	32
Shinalt, Mrs. Jerry	22	Spivey, Bro. J. M.	47
Shook, J. E.	43	Sprint	25
Shook, Jefferson	43	St. Raymond Cemetery, Bronx, NY	23
Shook, Mary	43	St. Thomas Chapel Cemetery	19,22
Shtuck, Hunter'Meador, Ashlkyn	29	Stafford, Alfonzo	27
Shuttlesworth, Coley	29	Stanfield, Bailee	30
Shuttlesworth, Mildred	29	Stanfield, Debbie	30
Shuttlesworth, Patricia	29	Stanfield, Gerald	29,30
Shuttlesworth, Rev. John	29	Stanfield, Kristi	30
Shuttlesworth, Sam Butler	29	Stanfield, Lauren	30
Shuttlesworth, Vera	29	Stanfield, Madalyn	30
Simerson	63	Stanfield, Pete	30
SIMMONS	43	Stanfild, Shane	30
Simmons, Jeff	30	STANFORD	62
Simmons, Megan	30	Steen, Bradley	29
Simmons, Melanie Martin	30	Stephen F. Austin State University	25
Simmons, Rhonda	28		

# INDEX

Stephenson, Alvie Etta	10	Texas Southern University	26
Stewart Family Funeral Home, Tyler	19	Texline Cemetery, Texline	20
Stewart, Billy	31,32	Thacker, Christine Grimes	66
Stewart, Blenda	30	Theis, Lois Gibson	18,22
Stewart, Bobbie "Peaches"	31,32	Third Avenue Baptist Church	28
Stewart, Bonnie Lou	17	Thomas, Pat D.	17,23
Stewart, Bruce	31	Thomas, Pauline Edna	9
Stewart, Bryan	31	Thomason, Trina	31
Stewart, Cheryl	28	Thompsaon, James	29
Stewart, D. R.	31	Thompson Brothers Moving Co.	29
Stewart, Kelsey	31,32		16-18-22,25,27-
Stewart, Kyle	31,32	Thompson Funeral Home	32
Stewart, Linda	31	Thompson Funeral Home, Frankston	17,20,21
Stewart, Lindsey Allene	17	Thompson, Bo	29
Stewart, Madelene	31,32	Thompson, Carolyn N.	30
Stewart, Rashood	28	Thompson, Curtis	29
Still Waters Memorial Gardens	19,23	Thompson, David	29
Stokes, Bro. Walter	47	Thompson, Faye D.	30
Story, Elder Alfonso "L.M."	23	Thompson, Hally Michael	30
Stovell, Fanie	43	Thompson, Jack	29
Stovell, Rev. S. K.	43	Thompson, Kathy	44
Stovell, Sam	43	Thompson, L.L. "Tommy"	30
Summerrs, J. W.	42	Thompson, Mary Louise	30
Summers, Dr. J. L.	42	Thompson, Ronald Chad	29
Summers, Larry	28	Thompson, Ronnie	29
Sunset Funeral Home	18	Thompson, SFC L.L. "Tommy"	30
Sunset Memorial Park, San Antonio	18	Thompson, Sonia	30
Sutton, Bro. W. C.	47	Thompson, Timothy	29
Sutton, Bro. William	47	Threadgill, Lauree	31
Sweet Beulah Court	26	Tille, Melton	26
Sweet Union Baptist Church	25,32	Tilley, Alvin "Son"	21
Sweet Union Cemetery	22	Tilley, Beatrice	25,26
Tarrant, Jack	27	Tilley, Warren, Jr.	20
Tatham, J. F.	43	Tingle, Betty	12
Taylor, Sue Vaughn	33,67	Tippett Funeral Directors, Tyler	19
Teague, Regenia Louise	18	TN	2
Tecula Cemetery	17	TN, Chattanooga	10
Tejas Indians	58	TN, Lawrenceburg	10
Temple Industries	52	TN, Memphis	27
Temple, Martha "Trudie"	17	TN, Mount Juliet	31
Texas A & I College	29	Todaro, Kathy	28
Texas A & M	28,29	Tompson, Ronald	29
Texas Baptist Association	53	Traylor, Lydia Belle	16,19,20
Texas Baptist Convention	54		33,35-
Texas Baptist General Convention	51	TREE TALK	37,66,67,69,70
Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary	52	Tree Talk, The First Five Years	34,68
Texas Baptist Sunday School Convention	54	Tree Talk, Volume 1 through Vol. 25, No. 3 - 1	
Texas Consittution	65	DVD	34,64,68
Texas Methodist Conference Cemetery, Palestine	22	Trotter, Janna	46
Texas Sesquicentennial	42	Trump, President Donald	40
		Tucker, Katie	17
		Turbyfell, Sandy	28,29
		TX	28,29

# INDEX

TX, Dallas Co., Richardson	30	TX, Fort Bend Co., Richmond	31,32
TX, Upshur Co., Union Grove	30	TX, Franklin Co.	9
TX, Addison	31	TX, Galveston Co., La Marque	30
TX, Anderson Co., Frankston	27	TX, Galveston Co., Dickinson	30
TX, Anderson Co., Elkhart	27	TX, Galveston Co., Friendswood	30
TX, Anderson Co., Palestine	27,29,30	TX, Galveston Co., Galveston	31
TX, Anderson Co., Slocum	31	TX, Galveston Co., Texas City	10
TX, Angelina Co., Lufkin	28	TX, Galveston Co., Texas City	30
TX, Angleton	25	TX, Gregg Co., Longview	9
TX, Arlington	31	TX, Gregg Co., Longview	30
TX, Austin	29	TX, Gregg Co., White Oak	30
TX, Bay City	29	TX, Harris Co., Baytown	11,12
TX, Baytown	52	TX, Harris Co., Houston	4,8-10,25-27,30
TX, Beaumont	32	TX, Harris Co., Pasadena	25,45
TX, Belton	29,30	TX, Harris Co., Spring	28
TX, Bexar Co., San Antonio	28,44,45	TX, Henderson Co. Athens	29,30
TX, Brazoria Co., Danbury	25	TX, Henderson Co., Larue	29
TX, Buffalo	28	TX, Houston Co.	5-7,11,14
TX, Channelview	32	TX, Houston Co., Augusta	4,6,10,11,14
TX, Cherokee Co.	3,8,9,27,29,30, 39,47,63-65	TX, Houston Co., Grapeland	8,10
TX, Cherokee Co., Alto	3-6,8,10- 12,14,15,62	TX, Houston Co., Ratcliff	8,10
TX, Cherokee Co., Atoy	58	TX, Houston Co., Weches	4,5,10,11
TX, Cherokee Co., Bulah	31	TX, Johnson Co.,Cleburne	30
TX, Cherokee Co., Bullard	27-30	TX, Kaufman Co.	27
TX, Cherokee Co., Cold Springs	6	TX, Kaufman Co., Elmo	27
TX, Cherokee Co., Corine	30	TX, Kaufman Co., Foney	27
TX, Cherokee Co., Cuney	29	TX, Lampasas Co., Kempner	30
TX, Cherokee Co., Dialville	32	TX, Leon Co., Jewett	28
TX, Cherokee Co., Gallatin	28	TX, Liberty Co., Cleveland	5
	4,8,9,11,24- 35,60,61,64,	TX, Liberty Co., Dayton	5,11
TX, Cherokee Co., Jacksonville	67-70	TX, Liberty Co., Liberty	12
TX, Cherokee Co., Larissa	63	TX, Liberty Co.,Cleveland	28
TX, Cherokee Co., Maydelle	27,31,49	TX, Montgomery Co.,Conroe	25
TX, Cherokee Co., Mt. Selman	45	TX, Montgomery Co., Conroe	11,12
TX, Cherokee Co., New Summerfield	28,30	TX, Montgomery Co., New Caney	5
TX, Cherokee Co., Ponta	26,28	TX, Nacogdoches Co., Cushing	26
TX, Cherokee Co., Reklaw	26	TX, Nacogdoches Co., Nacogdoches	27
	2,25- 28,31,40,43,44	TX, Navarro Co., Rice	9
TX, Cherokee Co., Rusk	, 47,66	TX, Parker Co., Springtown	5
TX, Cherokee Co., Shady Grove	32	TX, Potter Co., Amarillo	32
TX, Cherokee Co., Wells	5	TX, Rusk Co.	9
TX, Collin Co., McKinney	29	Tx, Rusk Co., Henderson	30
TX, Collin Co., Plano	30	TX, San Jacinto Co., Shepard	9
TX, Coryell Co., Copperas Cove	30	TX, Smith Co., Flint	29
	5,13,25,28- 30,32,44	TX, Smith Co., Troup	29,30
TX, Dallas Co., Dallas	5	TX, Smith Co., Tyler	28-32,44
TX, Dallas Co., Irving	30	TX, Smith Co., Whitehouse	29,32
TX, Dallas Co., Mesquite	30	TX, Smith Co., Winona	30
TX, Denton Co., Denton	30	TX, Swisher Co., Tulia	12
TX, Denton Co., Flower Mound	2,15	TX, Tarrant Co., Euless	25
TX, Dickerson	26		
TX, Ellis Co., Ennis	30		
TX, Ellis Co., Waxahachie	28		

# INDEX

TX, Tarrant Co., Fort Worth	27,30,32	Wallace, Lizzie	48
TX, Tarrant Co., Grapevine	31,32	Wallace, Sample L. "Sonny"	20,21
TX, Trinity Co., Trinity	25		16-22,
TX, Walker Co., New Waverly	25	Wallace-Thompson Funeral Hme	27,31
TX, We Co., Loreda	32	Walley, Jimmy	31
TX, Wharton Co., Iago	14	Walley, Mike	31
TX, Wharton Co., El Campo	29	Walley, Robert	31
TX, Wharton Co., Wharton	14,29	Walta, Frank	13
TX, Wise Co., Springtown	5	Walta, Margaret	13
TX, Wood Co., Mineola	25	Walton, Randall	29
TX, Yoakum Co., Denver City	13	Walton, Vicki	29
Tyler Courier-Times	61	Ward, Jack	18
Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph 1950 Mid Century Edition	34,68	Ward, Lilo	28
Tyler Memorial Park	17	Ward, Linda V. Ward	30
Tyler Morning Telegraph	2,16-22	Ward, Reginald	28
Tyler Street Baptist Church	30	Ward, Rev. Dale	28
Tyler, Mamie	11	Waters, Clarence John "Stick"	30
Tyler, William Arthur	11	Waters, Mildred Jones	30
U. S. Army	25,30	Watkins, Bro. Dan	47
U.S. Marine Corps	13	Watson, Carolyn	44
Underwood, Byron	28	Watson, Fred	30
Underwood, Robert	28	Watson, Joshua	31
Union Chapel Cemetery	21	Watson, Shannon "Bo"	32
Union Grove Cemetery	17,29	Weathers, Danny	27
Union Hill Cemetery	17,18,23,28,32	Weathers, Helen Jewell	27
University of New Mexico	12	Weathers, Larry	27
University of Tyler Health Center	26	Weathers, Oliver	27
Upshaw, James	26	Weathers, Ray	27
UT	29	Weathers, Sgt. Maj. Bill	27
UT, Salt Lake City	64	Weaver Cemetery, Clinton, TN	23
Valenzuela, Arturo	18	Weches Cemetery	4,10,19,22
Vales, Jessie Lee King	26	Weeks, Helen	21
Varfner, Ron	27	Welch, Aimee	25
Vaughn, Pattie	31,32	Wells, Charles Lee	26
Vaughn, Pete	23	Wesley, Alvira	10
Vaughn, Ryan	31,32	West Duval Baptist Church, Troup	29
VFW	25	Western New Mexico University	12
Vietnam Service Medal	30	Westra, Bobbe	27
Vietnam War	30	Westra, Robert	27
Vista Care Hospice	30	Wharton County Junior College	29
WA, Spokane	32	Wharton Manor Nursing Home	29
Waggoner, Lawrence Edward, II	32	Whataker, Evelyn	25
Walker Cemetery	17	Whitaker, Billy Ray	25
Walker, Carol	31	Whitaker, Debora	25
Walker, Howard	31	Whitaker, Gregory	25
Walker, Zetta	26	Whitaker, Melba	25
WALLACE	41,48	Whitaker, Melvin	25
Wallace, F. Smith	48	Whitaker, Michelle	25
Wallace, Glenn	48,57	Whitaker, Milton	25
Wallace, John	48	Whitaker, Paul	25
		Whitaker, Phillip	25

## INDEX

Whitaker, Richard	25	World War I	6,14,39
Whitaker, Steve	25	World War II	13,25,27,28,32
Whitaker, Tony	27	Wray, Charles	17
Whitaker, Willie	25	Wright, Josie	19
Whitaker, Winifred	25	WY	28,29
Whitaker, Woodrow	25	Wymore, Lynn	29
White, Bro. Jack	37,38,47	Yancey, Charles	21
White, Ira Gaylon	33,67	Yarbrough, Angla Kathryn	23
White, John	32	Youngker, Calvin	17,17
White, Kirk	26	Zickuhr, George Frances	27,28
White, Rev. Donald	32	Zickuhr, George L.	28
White, Robert	11	Zickuhr, Marie	28
White, William Monroe	11	Zuniga, Amador	28
Whitehurst, Evelyn	21	Zuniga, Betty	28
Whitehurst, Evelyn Lorraine	21		
Whitenburg, Hettie	20		
Whittaker, R. B. "Pete"	25		
Whittenburg, Hettie	22		
WI, Milwaukee	28		
Wiggins, Debbie	32		
Wiggins, Steve	29		
Wightman, Mrs. Bess	42		
Wilkinson, Sam	20		
Williames Oneal	30		
Williams Funeral Home	16-20,28,29,32		
Williams, G. W.	56		
Williams, Kenneth	29		
Williams, Leah Parmley	23		
Williford, Elizabeth	46		
Willingham, Bud	29		
Willis, Hubert Booth	19		
Wilson, Allen	27		
Wilson, Chris	27		
Wilson, Darlene	21		
Wilson, Darlene Potter	21		
Wilson, Ellen	27		
Wilson, Linda	11		
Wilson, President Woodrow	39		
WilsonArt Laminate Company	28		
Wisconsin Memorial Park	28		
Wisconsin Memorial Place	28		
Wofford Cemetery, Frankston	17,20,23		
Wofford, Rodney	29		
Wood, David	16		
Wood, Jeffery Dale	18		
Wood, Jim	21		
Woodard, Rev. John	28,29		
Woodville Cemetery	16,20,32		
Woodward, "Tiny"	17,18,24		
Work Michael	31		