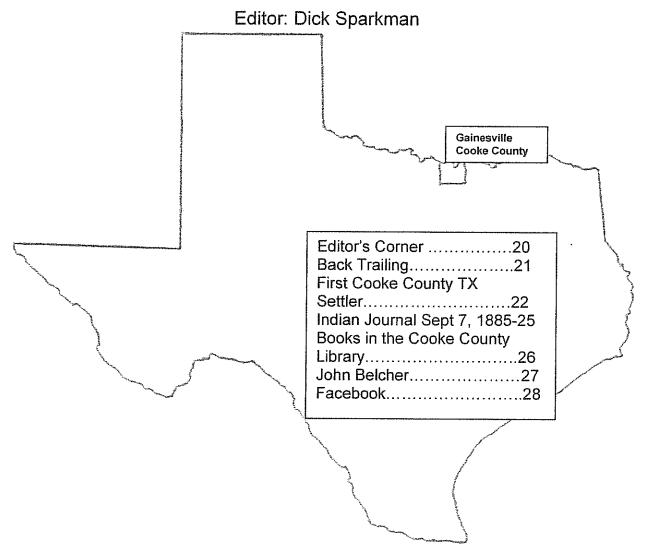
CROSS TIMBERS POST



Cooke County Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/

June 2012

CROSS TIMBERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COOKE COUNTY TEXAS

Cross Timbers Genealogical Society was organized in 1977 to provide a forum for those interested in genealogical research and preserving records for the future generations.

Funds raised by the CTGS are used to research, preserve and publish records relating to Cooke County family histories. As a service to other researchers, CTGS has published several books which are for sale.

For more or additional information, please contact any of the officers listed here:

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The Cross Timbers Post is published four times a year: March, June September and December. Subscription is by membership in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 yearly per household. Memberships run from June 1st to May 30th the next year. All correspondence and material relative to the Cross Timbers Post should be directed to: The Editor, P.O. Box 197, Gainesville, Texas 76241-0197.

Note: The Editor of the Cross Timber Post will not be responsible for the accuracy of material printed herein since no proof is required.

EDITORS' CORNER

A number of our members let other people read our newsletter (this is great). So we would like to let everyone know that CTGS has the following books for sale. This price includes shipping and handling.

Collection of Obits 1950-1988 pages 172 \$26.75

Fairview Cemetery--- pages 191 \$20.00 Good Times Edition---pages 27 \$10.25 Probate Records 1848---1940 pages 70 \$19.00

Resthaven Cemetery pages 27 \$9.00 Ye Gainesville Towne 1850-1927 pages 121 \$16.50

Cooke County Marriages

Vol. I 1849-1858 pages 10 \$6.75 Vol. II 1858-1872 pages 48 \$15.25 Vol. IIA 1872-1877 pages 48 \$15.25 Vol. III 1877-1882 pages 78 \$22.50 Know Your County Pages 64 \$19.00 Early History of Cooke County Pages 103 \$23.50

Cemeteries of Cooke County Pages 458 On CD \$12.50

These are non-member prices with shipping.

Should you need a complete description of these books, contact the Editor or the Treasurer.

Meeting Schedules

Our 2012 scheduled meeting dates are: Jan N/M, Feb. 6th, Mar. 5th, Apr. 2nd, May 7th, June 4, July N/M, Aug. 6th, Sept 2nd, Oct. 1st, Nov. 5th, Dec. 5th party. Go ahead and mark your calendar now so as not to miss a single one of our great meetings.

Our meetings meet at the Morton Museum, 210 South Dixon, and Gainesville, Texas At 6:00 P. M.

Good Hunting

Dick Sparkman

BACK TRAILING

95 Years Ago- 1917 June

Austin, June 4, Governor Ferguson has named the field officers for the three regiments now in service and the four new infantry regiments to be raised. These officers include Colonels Chas. W. Nimon, Gainesville; George P. Raines, Marshall; Jules E. Muchert, Sherman; Lieutenant-c Colonels Will E. Jackson, Hillsboro; Oscar E. Roberts, Taylor; Majors W. E. Lake, Marshall; W. L. Culberson, Hillsboro, The Governor also authorized the raising of units for the new regiments, including Gainesville, Abilene, Brownsville, Brownwood, Cleburne, Corpus Christi, Denison, Denton, Ennis, San Angelo, Sherman, Sweetwater, Terrell Texarkana, Tyler

Washington, June 7,--The house today rejected the conference report on the \$3,282,294,841 appropriation bill, because of a \$3, 600, 00 appropriation inserted by the senate for the purchase of the old Jamestown exposition.

George Ware, son of H. P. Ware, sent to The Register office Saturday afternoon a turnip which weighed 5 ½ pounds. Mr. Ware raised this on his farm southeast of Gainesville. He also has cut fifty acres of wheat and is preparing the ground now for planting cotton.

Licenses—the following licenses were issued by County Clerk **Liedtke** for the week ending June 9:

R. C. O'Neal, Valley View, No. 972

S. N. O'Neal, Valley View, No. 973

B. M. Segraves, Era, No. 974

Tom Collum, Dexter, No 975

J. D. Clark, Dexter, No. 976

Mrs. Nellie Tripp, Era, No 977

E. L. Green, Maryville, No.978

H. J. Tipp, Gainesville, No. 979

50 Years Ago—1962 June Notice: TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received until 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 5, 1962 by the City of Gainesville, Texas for construction of a New

Cooke County Library.

FOLLOW THAT DREAM

Elvis **Presley** sings five new songs, homesteads a strip of land in present-day Florida and routs a pair of 20th Century outlaws in "Follow That Dream", opening Sunday at the State Theatre.

New York---Secretary of the treasury Douglas **Dillion** says the administration will propose a top-to-bottom reduction in income rates for enactment by Congress next year.

The proposal will be part of "a fundamental restructuring of our income tax system, designed to promote the maximum long term economic growth."

The cuts would be coupled with revenue raising proposals to offset the resulting loss of government revenue "in whole or in part"

Dillion said

First Cooke County (TX) Settler

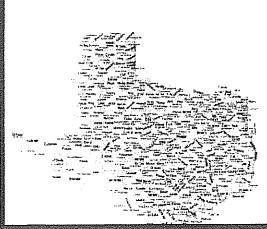
By Ken Leach, ken22640@suddenlink.net

Cooke County's first permanent settler came to the area four years earlier than the currently recognized pioneer family.

Martin Neeley, who established his residence in 1845 on Spring Creek in the southern part of the county was believed by A. Morton Smith in his The First 100 Years in Cooke County to have been the first permanent settler. Henry H. Hahn unknowingly recorded his claim to the honor of being Cooke County's first resident when he regained his citizenship after the Civil War upon signing the Loyalty Oath.

Immediately after voting registration opened in 1867, Henry was one of the first county citizen's to go to the courthouse and swear his allegiance to the United States. When asked where he was born, hesitated Missouri. In the columns asking, "How long in Texas? 'How long in the County?' 'How long in the Voting Precinct?" Henry said, "26 years" to each question. This places him in the area now known as Cooke County in 1841.

Henry **Hahn**, the son of Joshua Hahn and Catherine Wise, was born February 13, 1813,



in Cape
Girardeau
, Missouri.
Joshua
moved his
family to
Greene
County,
Illinois in
about

1828. Henry married Patsy Silkwood on January 14, 1836, in Calhoun Co., Illinois. Henry and Patsy came to Cooke County in 1841. In 1834 their son, William J. Hahn, added to the county's list of firsts, by becoming the first child of a pioneer family to be born in Cooke County.

Between 1846 and 1850, Henry's father, Joshua, brought his family to Cooke County. Joshua filed the 20th land deed to be recorded in Cooke County which had just been carved out of Fannin County by the Legislature. Joshua arrived in Texas too late to receive a free land grant and bought one, Henry's land grant of 640 acres is on file in Bonham, Texas. The land is in present Collin County where Henry is found on the 1850 Census. Many residents of Northwest Gainesville are living on the land Joshua had surveyed then claimed in 1850. Upon moving back to Cook County, Henry bought land north of Gainesville's U.S. Hwy 82 along what is now north Clements, which was earlier known as the Toll Road and the Airport Road.

In addition to microfilm records, the present generation is blessed with knowledge of Henry Hahn thought an oral history began by Henry's son, John Newton Hahn that has been passed down by his descendants. The current story tellers are Henry Hahn of Portales, New Mexico, and Gwen Brownlee of Dallas. Henry Hahn came to Texas with his brother-in-law Solomon Silkwood. Henry settled in Cooke County. Solomon is recorded in Dallas County where he was given a 640-acre land grant.

Henry was with the Silkwood family at Bird's Fort on Christmas 1841, when Solomon and several other men left the safety of the fort in 6 inches of snow to explore a proposed supply route. They went 14 miles toward what is now Farmer's Branch. On Christmas morning, they treed a bear. Before they could kill it, they were attack by Indians. One of their party was killed. The rest returned to Bird's Fort, arrived there Dec. 27th. Solomon died Jan 15th from exposure. John Neely **Bryant**, founder of Dallas, was the executor of his estate. On April 1, 1842, Henry and several other families return to their homes in North Texas.

Henry was a farmer, gunsmith, trapper and master stone mason, according to the family stories. Until recently, one of the guns created either Henry was still in the Hahn Family. When Bird's Fort, later to become Fort Worth, was established in 1849, Henry was a hunter, trader, and sometime scout for the army. He would bring meat, elk, deer, and bear, from up and down the wooded stream in North Texas and trade it to the troops. He took his pay in power, lead and supplies like that. One time he killed a large alligator in Trinity River near where Dallas is now and brought the tail to Camp Worth. He would then trade those items to the settlers who need supplies.

Eventually, he would end up with the money he used to buy his land and became rather prosperous. During one of his trips to Camp Worth, Henry heard Indian chanting and sound coming. He carefully approached an area where he could look down; into the camp from where he could see Indians in war paint doing dances. Henry rode to warn Ripley Arnold. Arnold, in a surprise attack, charged and rode through the Indian camp. The Indians fled the area. Henry and the others followed them west.

Near daybreak, Henry came upon a teen aged brave with a compound fracture in his arm. Henry tore off part of his shirt and set the boy's arm. In Comanche, Henry told the lad, "Go home. Behave yourself and tell your chief, 'Let's quit killing each other." He turned the young brave loose.

Several weeks after the battle, Jim Ned, chief of the Delaware and who was in the attacked camp, rode into Henry's place and introduced himself. After they talked, Chief Ned and Henry made a peace treaty among themselves. They slashed their right wrists, bound them together with rawhide and swore to be blood brothers. From that time they were.

The Delaware ranged from around Brownwood to southeastern Oklahoma. When they were in the Cooke County area they stayed on Henry's place. He would cut out some beef to feed them. Later, Comanche Chief **Yellow Wolf** put Henry and his family under his protection. Henry was, for his day, an educated man. He had a library in his home where he read books. He subscribed to eastern newspapers that came on the Butterfield Overland Stage. People thought he was a real oddball for this. After Patsy Silkwood died, Henry married a neighbor and widow, Martha Jane Wright. Other of Henry's neighbors was the **Dobkins**. Henry's daughter, Rebecca, married James Dobkins. Not too far north of them were Pincky Pierce and his wife, Elizabeth.

She was a niece of Jim **Brown** of Harper's Ferry fame. Robert F. **Bostick** had 640 acres next to Henry. Henry was active in helping runaway slaves get up into Oklahoma. When

the Civil War came along, he actively campaign against secession. Possibly through his efforts, Cooke County was one of seven Texas Counties where the vote not leave the Union carried. Sometime during the Great Hanging in Gainesville, Henry had been tipped off by his friend Bostick that they were going to come after Henry. Bostick did not know just when. Henry and his wife, Martha Wright, kept a constant lookout. Henry's original house north of Gainesville was a log cabin which had become a shed or barn. He had built in front of it a white clapboard house, because Martha thought was that the ideal house. When they saw a large band of riders coming, Henry went into the old log cabin barn. Henry got behind a loophole and trained his gun on the riders. According to the him." "He is where he can shoot you. He is going to get one or two of you before you get to him," Martha said.

"We are going to hang the son of a bitch anyway."

"He has Sons in the Confederate army. When they come home they are going to take revenge."

"We don't give a damn. We will hang them too."

"Henry is guilty of all those things. But if you hang him, Jim Ned will bring the Delaware and Comanche and burn Gainesville to the ground. It that what you want?" she asked.

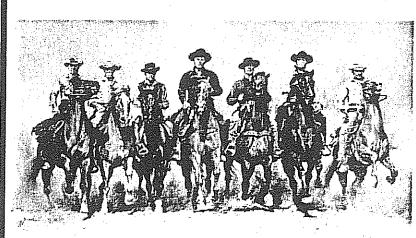
They rode away. The mob knew Martha was

telling them the truth and went back to Gainesville without harming Henry. Several weeks later, the tombstone Henry had made for his father in Fairview Cemetery was smashed to pieces. Henry never replaced it and until 1998, the grave's location was unknown. Henry later opened a brick yard southeast of Gainesville.

It is believe by his family, he made and laid the bricks for what is now the Morton Museum of Cooke

County. Samuel **Callis**, namesake of Callisburg, and Henry were friends. They traveled together to surrounding counties at fair time and entered the wrestling contests.

Henry's half-sister, Syrena Hahn, married Charles Monroe Leach in 1882. She was the



story as handed down in the Hahn Family, there were 27 riders.

The leader rode up and yelled for Henry to come out. Martha came out of the house and asked what they wanted. "We have come to hang Henry," the leader said. "What for?" she asked. "He is a Yankee lovin', ** lovin', Indian lovin' son of a bitch and we are going' to hang

mother of Felix **Leach**, who was Gainesville's assistant postmaster in the 1940's.

Henry **Hahn** died April 23, 1889. Martha Hahn died July 31, 1889. They are buried in Union Hill Cemetery southwest of Callisburg.

Indian Journal September 7, 1885 Story provided by Cass Reasor

Ever since the killing of the Roff brothers and Jim **Guy**, the Lee boys have been terrorizing the southern part of the Chickasaw Nation and their sudden death has been momentarily expected. On Monday last, the news arrived that Heck **Thomas**, a detective of Fort Worth, and Jim **Taylor** and Jim **Shattles**, of Delaware Bend, killed them. We give Thomas' story as told before a coroner's jury.

Proceeding before the jury of inquest, H. A. Thomas being sworn, Said I live in Fort Worth .About 10 o'clock yesterday morning I was informed by John Struthers that the Lee boys were near his house and thought that had cut his pasture fence. I tried to find the Lee boys then, but failed. Between 12 and 1 while at dinner, a runner came and told me the Lee boys were riding through Strother Brown's pasture. Jim Taylor, Jim Shattles and I commenced looking for them at once. About 2 or 2:30 o'clock we saw them half a mile off. They were off the horses and on the ground, but we couldn't tell what they were doing. We hurried in that direction, but we couldn't see them after we had got off the hill, and when we struck the land between Stother Brown's and John Washington's pasture, we saw they had cut Strother Brown's pasture and were cutting John Washington's pasture across the land. We had a spyglass. We got as close as possible, about forty or forty-five yards and ordered them to surrender. They dropped their nippers and fired at us. As Pink tried to throw another shell in his gun he was killed. We all three were shooting at them and

couldn't tell which killed him. About a second or two later Jim was shot by one of us and badly wounded. Jim Lee fired ten shots in all. I shot about sixteen shots-kept shooting till Jim quit. Don't know how many shots struck the Lee boys. No one did any shooting at the Lee boys accept Jim Taylor, Jim Shattles and myself, Jack Brown saw part of the shooting but didn't do any of it.

Heck Thomas

The story of the end of the Lee brothers goes something like this. Jim and Pink had a brother (could this have been their brother-inlaw Ed Steine?) that lived in the area of Delaware Bend. This may have been the ranch of Tom or possibly another brother. This is where Heck Thomas and Jim Taylor set up their base camp. Jim and Pink knew that Heck Thomas was on their trial. They decided to head south from the Yellow Hills to Delaware Bend to their brother's place and find the two lawman where they would shoot it out with them. As was the custom of the time, Thomas and Taylor stopped at the farm of Strather Brown to eat dinner. They were informed that the Lee brothers had passed just a short time earlier. Thomas, Taylor and Jack Brown started in pursuit of the Lees in hopes they could catch them before they made it to Steine's store. From a high buff above John Washington Ranch, they spotted the Lee brothers in the pasture below. Entering the deep gully that concealed them from the Lee boys, they approached within a short distance of the outlaws and ordered them to surrender. Knowing that Judge Parker was waiting for them, the outlaws preferred to shoot it out then and there. When the firing ceased, Pink Lee was dead, shot through the head, and Jim Lee was badly wounded continuing to fight to the last fatal shot. None of the officers were wounded.

Heck loaded the bodies of the Lee brothers into a borrowed wagon and headed for Gainesville. Stopping in front of the sheriff's office, Heck saw a man sitting in front of the office. He asked "Are you the Sheriff of Cooke

County?" Sheriff Ware admitted he was. Then he asked "is this this Cooke County Jail?" Sheriff Ware said it was. Thomas then introduced himself. "I'm Heck Thomas, deputy Untied States Marshal operating on a roving commission out of the United States Court at Paris, Texas. My partner is Jim Taylor of Indian Territory who rides the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations a deputy Untied States Marshal for the Paris Court."

The sheriff said "Well I'm glad to meet you gentleman, but who are your friends there?" "Them" said Heck "is the what is left of Jim and Pink Lee, bad hombres from the Indian Territory. Heck then said" What I now want is a receipt from you for the delivery of the bodies of Jim and Pink Lee, delivered here to the front door of the Cooke County Jail." The sheriff did not know the Lee brothers by sight and had to call others who did recognize them as being Jim and Pink Lee. The sheriff gave Heck Thomas the receipt for the bodies and Heck and Jim collected their reward. And that is the end of the story of Jim and Pink Lee.

Some other thoughts, the bodies were identified by some of the local people. The bodies were then washed and clean shirts were put on them. As one came to claim the bodies, they were buried in Gainesville Cemetery. But where we do not know. This was in September 1885. Indigents and criminals were not buried in Fairview (Hill) cemetery until sometime after 1900.

BOOKS IN THE COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

These books are in the Cooke County Library behind the checkout counter. You must ask for them and they can only be looked at in the library.

1. Gainesville Community Circus 1930 - -1941 A. Morton **Smith** 2 Gainesville, Centennial Celebration 1850 --- 1950

Official Program

3The Dates & Memories Book Cooke County Texas Edition Post Cards by- Lary **Kuebn**

- 4. Texas Gazetteer Dictionary of Places
- 5. Tainted Breeze

The Great Hanging at Gainesville, – Texas. 1862

Richard B McCaslin

6. George Washington Diamonds
Account of the Great Hanging at
Gainesville-- 1862
Julia Ann Hudson O'Donnell

7. Civil War Recollections of James Lemuel Clark

By James Lemuel Clark Edit by L. D. Clark

- 8. The Great Hanging at Gainesville Thomas Barrett
- 9. A Century of Achievement Blacks in Cooke County Texas

James Smallwood

 Poker Games, Pillow Shams, and Parched Prairies—Recollections of Camp Howze Soldiers and townspeople Betty Stephenson

- 11. Gainesville and Cooke County
 Shana Powell
- 12. W. R. Strong -- His Memoirs
 Pete A. Y. Gunter Robert Calvert
- 13. The Red Entertainment Book
 A. Fanagan Company
- 14. Portrait of Bulcher Judy Inman
- 15. Myra, Texas 1887 -- `1987
- 16. Texas Marriages Vol I A-I Vol II M-Z

Helen Swenson

- 17. Texas Catalog
 Historic American Buildings Survey
 Paul Goddner
- 18, Cooke County Texas

 Marriage Records 1849-1879

37. Cooke County History Past and Present

38. Gainesville City Directories

1887-88 1895-96 1913 1915 1924-25 1934 1937 1939-40 1942-43 1947 1949

> 1959 1959 2005

John Belcher Recalls That Big Money Once Hopped to cow's Bawl

Moreover, 30,000 Acres was a mere city lot to those high financiers of the plains in the '80s--Belcher built a town, shipped a trainload of cattle a week and went traveling with the same large and lavish gesture.

By J. S. French

If in your mature years you had built or owned thirty-one residences and ranchhouses in Texas and yet during almost half of that time had pillowed your head at night on a saddle it would seem a bit queer, wouldn't it? Rather like the wife of a shoemaker going without shoes.

And yet an 82 year old man living out in Plainview, Texas, has had just that experience. John H. **Belcher**, cowman in Cooke and Montague Counties in the early '80s, founder of the town of Belcherville in Montague County, rancher in later years at Cotulla in the brush country of Southwest Texas, pioneer for a time on the Staked Plains of Gaines County, living next at Hobart, OK. And still later near Carlsbad, N, M. is the man of whom I am writing.

Do not get the idea this that Mr. Belcher was a drifter, a ne'er-do-well or that he wouldn't stay put. These numerous operations cover a long period of time, for he came to Texas in 1854 and settled on what was then the frontier, Collin County. This old cattleman has made some money in his day, and, like a good many other folks, has seen much of it slip from his hands.

Back in the early '80s, when the cattle business in Cooke and Montague Counties was really good, he shipped fat cattle to Kansas City and St. Louis and it was no uncommon thing for him to clean up \$25,000 or \$30,000 in net profits on a year's operations. He managed along about that time to put \$25,000 into a home he built in Gainesville, and sum would really buy something in those days. He also bought and fenced with barbed wire a 27,000 acre ranch in Northern Montague County, later divided it into 160 acre tracts and laid out the town site of Belcherville on the Katy Railroad, which had just reached that point in nosing its way westward. He bought a ranch outfit on Mud Creek in Chickasaw Nation for \$15,000. Later he fenced a new ranch of 64,000 acres in Gaines County. At one time he owned thirteen cottages in Oak Cliff and two brick business houses on Elm Street, Dallas

FACEBOOK

I ran across an interesting Facebook feature that is fairly helpful for genealogy. I don't know if this has been around a long time, or if this is something they recently introduced.

Simply, if you go to <u>facebook.com/family</u> you can search all Facebook profiles by surname. Not only that, but the search is created using an easy to remember web address, so you can share a search result page. For example, searching for the surname Zylberman would send you to the page:

facebook.com/family/Zylberman/1

which is the first page of search results for the surname Zylberman. Similarly, if you changed the 1 to a 3 at the end of the web address, you would be taken to the third page of results. Of course, these search result pages will change as new accounts are created, or old accounts are deleted, etc. so sending a result page might show the names you want to show someone in the short term, but may not show the same names later