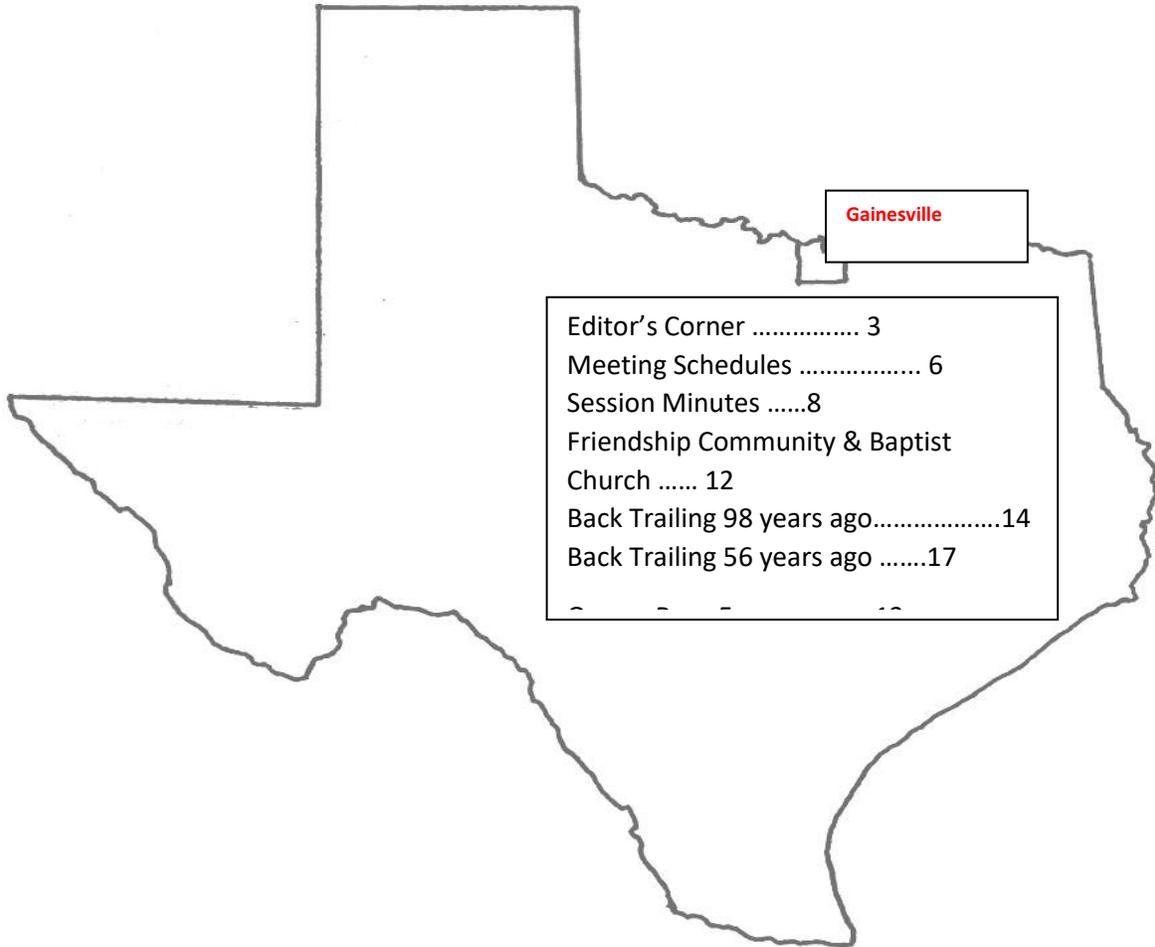


# CROSS TIMBERS POST

Editor: Shana Powell



Cooke County Website: <http://txgenwebcounties.org/cooke/>

## March 2023

CROSS TIMBERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COOKE COUNTY TEXAS  
PO Box 197  
Gainesville, TX 76241-0197

**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:

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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 1<sup>st</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



WRITER & ARTIST  
SCOTT NICKEL

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## EDITORS' CORNER

We scour the attics and closets of our relatives homes searching for photos of grandparents, great-grandparents, and possibly those elusive great great-grandparents. Is there a shot of an ancestral home lurking about? A relative who fought in the Civil War? What about all of those other day to day shots? Have you identified as many of the people as you can in those photos that you have? I drove my poor mother crazy asking her to identify people. After she passed I was thankful that I pressed her to do as much as she did.

Recently I listened to a lecture about photographs and it made two good points that I wanted to share. The first is really examine the details shown in any photographs that you have. Often you can get a sense of the economic condition of the family as well as an idea of what their interests might have been. Do you see a piano or other musical instruments? Quilting items? Rugs on the floor, portraits on the walls, lots of books, fancy furniture, or what appears to be simple rough pieces of furniture and not much decoration in sparsely furnished rooms? Are dogs or cats in any of the photos? If they are taken outside of a home are there automobiles pictured? Is it in the country? How were the people dressed? Can you get an idea of the time based on what they were wearing? What condition is the house in? If it looks neglected maybe

that is an indication that the family was struggling financially. Just like a detective, from the clues seen in a photo even if you don't have everyone labeled, you might be able to track down who they could have been and their relation to you. Photographs can, at times, help to fill in the picture of what your family was like when documents and stories may be few, and far between.

The second item involved telling the story of what was going on in a photograph. Future generations will be grateful that the people in a picture are identified and knowing the year it was taken will be appreciated. But, even more special will be knowing the story of why it was taken and what was going on.

A case in point is this photograph:



It isn't the best photo and I imagine you have similar not high-quality photographs in your collections. If I didn't know anything about the people or the time period what educated guesses could I make just by looking at it? It was taken outside and it appears to have been spring or summer as no one was dressed warmly in sweaters or

coats. It could be in the country as the building shown in the back looks rustic and it doesn't look like a residential neighborhood. The older man is in overalls, could he have been a farmer and this his farm? It looks like three generations are shown, the older woman and the man in the overalls, the woman in the middle in the two piece what appears to be linen suit, and then the two girls. Were the older couple married or brother and sister? If they are married is the woman in the middle their daughter or daughter in law? Are the girls her children? There seems to be a big age gap between the girls. Was this a special occasion? To help date it, the child appears to be 3 or 4 and the dresses worn by the woman in the middle and the older girl look like they are from the early 1960s. If this was a photo from your family you could take the info you have gleaned from it and check the documentation and research that you have on family members and see if it could fit with a particular family. Compare the faces in this photo with others that you have identified and you might get lucky.

In this case I do have information about this photo and now I can bring that photo alive for future generations. There is a lot of history contained in this shot and I am now the only one alive who knows it. There are three generations shown here. The man on the left is my grandfather Louie/Louis Henry Longwell, a WWI veteran and long time farmer (though he also worked for an oil company), hence the overalls. I have only seen two pictures of him when he was not in overalls. The woman next to him is my mother Christine Fielden Longwell, a polio survivor and former worker in an airplane factory during WWII. The girl next to her is my older sister Sharla, named for my dad Charles who I am pretty sure is taking the photo. The woman next to her is my grandmother Susan LaRusha Longwell, the wife of Louie. The cute little girl in front with her eyes closed is me Shana, named for an Israeli actress on an episode of the Hawaiian Eye television show that dad was watching one night when mother was expecting me.

The photograph is taken outside at my grandparents' farm which was located not far from Durant, Oklahoma, A portion of one of the outbuildings can be seen. We went up to see them every Sunday from our home in Sherman. This photo was taken in 1963 and I included it in this newsletter in honor of Easter. We usually didn't dress that fancy to see my grandparents but Easter was special. So, there I am in my new hat and dress and carrying my Easter basket. You can't see them in the photo but I had on new white patent leather shoes and there would have been white gloves too. My mother is wearing a linen suit typical of that era and she is squinting into the sun because she isn't wearing her glasses.

Details make a photo far more interesting for future generations than as Joe Friday used to say, just the facts ma'am. So, what Easter photographs do you have and what stories do they tell?

I hope you enjoy this March issue of the Cross Timbers Post and Happy Easter!

Regards, Shana Powell, Editor

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**Meeting Schedules**

Our next few meetings are as follows:

**Monday March 6, 2023**, we will meet in the Simmons Bank meeting room, Gainesville, Texas. Since the proposed speaker is not available, we will have an opportunity to tell about a research experience that was challenging and about the sources applied to help resolve the questions posed in the research effort. It can be show and tell too.

**Monday, April 3, 2023**, we will meet in the Simmons Bank meeting room, Gainesville, Texas. Walta Evans will speak on “Making Memories”.

**Monday, May 1, 2023**, we will meet in the Simmons Bank meeting room, Gainesville, Texas. Judy Flowers will speak on “Researching Your Civil War Ancestor.”

All the meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you to Darlene Denton for arranging our speakers.

If history interests you, please contact one of our officers and/or members who would love to speak to you.

Regards,  
Shana Powell

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**January Meeting:**

A special thank you to Linda Jonas who gave a wonderful presentation on Breaking down Brick Walls using deeds.

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**Following the Ancestor Trail:**

This page covers research material and research locations in Cooke County.

**MUENSTER LIBRARY,**  
418 No. Elm, Muenster, TX

**COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY**  
200 South Weaver St., Gainesville, Texas  
Newspapers, family history, county history, various states, and counties

**COOKE COUNTY-COUNTY CLERK**  
100 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas (courthouse)  
\*Death, Birth, Marriage records available.  
\*You can look up most records yourself. Copies are \$1.00 per page

**MORTON MUSEUM of COOKE COUNTY**

210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas  
Historical people in Cooke County, various books

**LIBRARY—1525 W. California St., Gainesville**

Various genealogy magazines, papers, family information, obits

**Churches in Gainesville with Libraries and Archives**

.....  
**First Christian Church**

401 No. Dixon                      940-665-2053  
Started    May 10, 1874, Open Daily

.....  
**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church**

415 E. California St.            940-665-4705  
Started    August 6, 1885, Open 9 A.M. to 12 Noon    Only Look-up’s

.....  
**First United Methodist Church**

214 So. Dixon                      940-665-3926  
Started 1852

.....  
**First Presbyterian Church**

401 So. Denton                    940-665-5153  
Started 1878                      Archives

.....  
**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**

(located at Burns City, Tx.)  
279 Burns City Rd  
Valley View, Tx 76272

(Call Cass Reasor for assistance 940.665.6973)

From Cass, “We started a library about 2 years ago and I have a file cabinet that I'm working on. Following is a list of info that I have placed in the library and I hope to add more this winter.”

Baker, Texas  
Cooke County Births 1926 - 1946  
Burns City History

Burton School History  
Cooke County History  
Cooke County Probate Records  
Family Land Heritage  
Fugitives from Justice  
George Carroll Funeral Home Records  
Good Times Edition 1899  
Harvey Hulen History of Cooke County  
Hesperian News Deaths  
History by Joe Roff  
Immigration Records  
Indian Creek History - southeast Cooke  
Know Your County  
Mt Zion History - southeast Cooke  
Mtn. Springs Oral History  
New Resthaven Cemetery  
Newspaper articles  
Pagel's Store News - Muenster  
Pleasant Hill/Salem History  
Randolph O'Brien's Thesis on Cooke Schools and Education 1944  
Shiloh Baptist Institute  
Spring Creek Cemetery  
Thetford, Elder Joseph  
Tipton Chapel History  
Tyson Cemetery  
Walling Methodist Church History  
Ye Gainesville Towne  
Pilot Point Cemetery - Denton County  
Collinsville History - Grayson County  
Ethel History - Grayson County

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**St. Mary's Catholic Church**

825 No. Weaver                      940-665-5395

Started 1879

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**SESSION MINUTES 1923-1924**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, TEXAS**

On November 18, 1923, "H.L. Frasher reported on the matter of a building in North Gainesville for a mission Sunday School, his report stating that a suitable building could be secured at a rental of \$100 per year. Apparently, that was done because in April it was reported that the "North Gainesville Sunday School was

discussed and it was voted to ask the Men's Bible Class to take care of the rent expense in the future."

In 1924, First Presbyterian Church, together with 5 other local churches, sponsored a nationally known evangelist, Rev. James Rayburn, who came to Gainesville and held revivals for six weeks, in a specially constructed tabernacle capable of accommodating 2800 people.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

### **January 7, 1923**

Pearl, Nellie and Myrtle Black were reported as received into the church by baptism and were accepted by the session.

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Schappaul were reported as dismissed by letter to Anglin Street Presbyterian Church, Cleburne; and Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Henderson, and daughters, Dorothy, Virginia and Helen to First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth.

The matter of ushers for the church was taken up and F.H. Turbeville, Carl Moore, Alex Canon, Dr. J.L. Griffin, G.W. Bradley, Frank Morris, Wm. Tyler and Wm. Block were named as ushers for the year.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

### **April 1, 1923**

Moderator reported the following names added to the church since the last meeting of the session: Hans H. Cook, Frank Welch, James Kibbler, Mrs. E. C. Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jarvis and Miss Willie Frankenberger. On motion these were duly received and ordered enrolled.

The following names were dismissed by letter: Claude Kennerly, to the Presbyterian Church at Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Story to the Presbyterian Church at Clovis, New Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Ridgeway to the First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

### **June 3, 1923**

Mrs. D.U. Hancock and Mrs. Harry Spence were reported by the pastor as having come into the church by letter, and they were accepted by the session.

### **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**July 1, 1923**

Mrs. F. Frantz was reported by the pastor as having come into the church by letter and she was accepted by the session.

Mrs. Leedora Lesley was reported dismissed to the First Presbyterian Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

### **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**September 2, 1923**

Mrs. C.A. Holt was received into the church by letter. Geo T. Adkins by statement and Walter Timmis by experience.

### **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**October 7, 1923**

List of all teachers and officers of the Sunday school, as presented by the committee, were read and accepted by the session, they being as follows:

C.P. Priddy and W.W. Leverett, superintendents.

Mrs. W.W. Leverett, secretary, Miss Florence Johnson, assistant secretary

Miss Eva Noble superintendent Intermediate department, Mrs. R.E. Joiner, assistant, Mrs. Sarles and Mrs. McCarty, secretaries.

Miss Mary Douglass Kennerly superintendent beginners department.

Teachers: Rev. R.E. Joiner, W.H. McDaniel, Mrs. J.H. Midkiff, Mrs. J.P. Brown, Miss Willie Frankeberger, Miss Lucile Ainsworth, Miss Pauline Ainsworth, Mrs. J.L. Griffin, Mrs. Bryan, Miss Gilbert, Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Gartnett, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Gudgell, Mrs. Frasher, Mrs. Timmerman, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Kaden, Miss Lisle, Mrs. Cross.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**November 4, 1923**

Letters were granted to J.R. Rominger and wife to the El Paso church and to Miss Mildred Lano to the Miami, Florida church.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**March 3, 1924**

The pastor presented the following names which had come into the church by letter since last session meeting and they were duly accepted by the session: Mr. and Mrs. Power, Mrs. C. E. Millerman, A.H. Ingle, H.A. Gardner, Jim Ford, Mrs. R.N. Blake, Iva Ryan, G.D. Bell, Mrs. G.D. Bell, W.L. Ratcliff, J.H. Lancaster, Felix Johnson, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Limmerman, Mrs. J.C. Nickle, Wayne Collins, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Shell, Mrs. Chester Robb, Mr. and Mrs. Rice Aldridge.

The following were received by experience: Joseph Curtis Jr., and Ralph Wingert.

The following were received on profession of faith and baptism: J.C. Nickle, Emma Dean Nickle, Mr. and Mrs. E.L. McDaniel, Bert McDaniel, Mrs. J.H. Lancaster, Raymond Clay, R.M. Blake, Paul H. Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. H. Slack, Lois McDaniel, Elizabeth Whiddon, Angie Elizabeth Gardner, Eileen Giltner, Dorris Giltner, John S. Schofield.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**April 7, 1924**

Letters of dismissal were granted to Mr. and Mrs. Chas Richter and to Mrs. Florence France, Mr. and Mrs. Richter being dismissed to Memphis, Texas and

Mrs. Frantz to Dallas. Raymond McCarty and Maurice Canon were enrolled as new members.

## **Minutes from Regular Meeting of Session**

**September 2, 1924**

The pastor reported the following persons as coming into the church, which were accepted by the session: Miss Minnie Frasher, Mrs. Everett Sanders, Zelma Sanders and Weldon Sanders, by letter. Marjorie Garnett, by experience.

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## FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY AND BAPTIST CHURCH



This is a photo of the Callisburg Methodist Church.

**Editor's Note:** Last year the pastor from the Callisburg Methodist Church contacted me to see if I knew anything about a Friendship community in Cooke County. In cleaning their church they had found a minute book from a Fellowship Baptist church located in Friendship in a drawer in a cabinet. They do not know how they got it or why they have it. What follows is the information I found on Friendship that I sent to her and excerpts from a few of the pages in the book.

“There was a Friendship community in the county and it had a school. There was a cemetery at one point. In a thesis done in 1944 it stated that there was a Friendship school under the community school system in 1883-1884. At the time there were 99 schools under that system. Under it any community could have a school if it desired which is how I know there was a town. Schools were redistricted the following year and Friendship is now listed as a district school. In an 1888 newspaper I found a reference to the school. There had been an election for school trustees and a T.J. Flowers was the trustee. He was listed with two men from Callisburg, so Friendship probably was close to Callisburg. An 1892 newspaper said the school had 53 pupils. The cemetery record book for the county, which was done in 1980, has a list of 3 graves with markers from the old Friendship

cemetery which was located by Camp Myers and then was on the Altum farm.”

### **October 1912**

Minutes of last meeting read and approved. By motion and second Bro S.H. Crosby was elected church clerk. By motion and second that the church call a pastor. Motion carried. Motion and second that we call by acclimation. Motion carried. Motion and second that we call Bro A.W. Autry to fill out the unexpired time of Bro G.W. Renfro. Motion carried. There being n further business conference adjourned.

H. Crowley, protem

C.L. Hollingsworth

**January 1913**-Fellowship Baptist Church met on Saturday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January 1913. After preaching by the church went into conference. Minutes of last meeting read and approved by motion and seconded. Saturday’s meeting was changed from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. There being no further business by motion and second conference adjourned.

A.W. Autry

A.H. Crowsey

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church met on Saturday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February 1913. After preaching by the pastor the church went into conference. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Motion and second that the church instruct the clerk to wright Rev. G.W. Renfroe a letter of recommendation. Motion carried. (Note: spelling was left as it was written originally).

**June 1915**—Fellowship Baptist Church met in Regular Conference the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June 2915. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Motion and second that the church give the comity (Note: spelling was left as it was written originally) one month more time that was appointed to meet with Farmington Church. By motion and second conference adjourned.

G. Gray, moderator

## A.W. Crowsey, CC

Fellowship Baptist Church met the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June 1915. By motion and second C.L. Hollingsworth acted as Cc protem. By motion and second the church resended the act of staying the comity report of the comity received it and comity discharged.

By motion and second the church endorsed the action of the council at Farmington church. By motion and second the church instructed the clerk to write Hon Cagle of the action of the church. Motion and second that the church elect her messengers to the association the following named brethren were chosen H. Crowsey, C.L. Hollingsworth, D.L. Carter. Alternates A.H. & T.E. & L.H. Crowley by motion and second the church instructed the clerk to write the associational by motion and second the church decided to enter into a protracted meeting at our regular meeting in July 1915. By motion and second conference adjourned.

G. Gray moderator

C.L. Hollingsworth, CC protem

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## **BACK TRAILING--98 Years Ago**

**Happenings of the Day** Thurs. April 2, 1925

Dr. **S. D. Berger**, graduate of Carver School of Chiropractors, Oklahoma City, has located at Era, Texas. Mr. Berger will occupy the Sam Scott building at that place and attention is called to his ad which appears in both the Daily and Weekly Register.

### **School Census Shows Slight Increase Here: Figures for County Lower Than Last Year**

Wed. April 29, 1925

The school census of Gainesville recently compiled shows an increase in children of school age here in 134. This increase is overcome by the decreases in the rural districts however, and the totals for this year in the entire county amount to ten less than in 1924.

There were 2001 children between 7 and 18 years of age in the city of Gainesville when the census was taken this year as compared with 1927 children in 1924 the record shows. Valley View shows an increase of 1 over 1924 with 207 registered this year as compared with 206 last year. At Myra there was a decline of five, 183 being recorded in 1925 against 188 in 1924. In the rural districts there were 4,320 children enrolled this year as compared with 4,460 last year.

The complete totals for the county including the independent districts of Gainesville, Valley View, and Myra, together with common school districts amount to 6,771 for this year while there were 6,781 children enrolled by the census taken twelve months ago.

The figures for Gainesville include 1,800 white children and 241 colored children. There are more children nine years of age than any other bracket here, according to the records there being 174 white children who were 9 years old when the census was taken.

### **Hood School Bond Issue Is Voted Sat. May 16, 1925**

School bonds to the amount of \$8,000 for the erection of a structure with seven classrooms and an auditorium were voted by the citizens of the Hood Independent district in an election held for that purpose Friday. The vote was 57 to 6 in favor of the bonds.

School trustees were in the city Saturday and reported the results to county superintendent **John S. Hardy** also making plans for the erection of a building as soon as possible.

### **New Rural School Bill Is Passed Thurs. May 21, 1925**

**John S. Hardy**, county superintendent of schools, has received from the state department of education, a copy of the rural high school bill which was passed by the thirty-ninth legislature and the important features of the bill are explained by Mr. Hardy as follows:

The county board of school trustees is given authority to create for high school purposes rural high school districts by grouping contiguous common school districts provided not more than seven districts are included and that a territory of not more than one hundred square miles is embraced. Elementary schools are to be classified by the county board and maintained in each respective district entering the new consolidation. Independent school districts with less than one hundred and fifty scholastic enrollment and other independent districts with more than one hundred and fifty scholastic enrollments may be united in case it is agreeable with the trustees of such independent school districts.

Rural high school districts are to be governed by a board of seven trustees who shall have control of all elementary schools coming within the district as well as the rural high school.

The new system of schools is to be financed by a uniform tax covering the entire territory embraced. In case such tax is not levied by the newly created district, the new law provides that each old district will contribute according to the tax rate levied before consolidation.

The bill is quite lengthy and should be considered from several angles; however, Mr. Hardy expects to go out in several districts this summer during the quiet season and acquaint the people with the various phases of the new law.

Another new act to legislation that will be of interest to the people of Cooke county is the change in the Rural Aid law, which is as follows:

First. After September 1, 1926, no district will be eligible to receive aid if there is any indebtedness carried over from the past year unless it be bonded indebtedness.

Second. Contiguous contracts cannot be made with teachers, and if such contracts are made, no aid will be granted.

Third. Boys and girls coming from elementary state aid schools will have their tuition paid by the state provided they care to attend some neighboring high school. School patrons must remember that this applies to only one teacher schools who have voted a minimum tax of 75 cents on the one hundred dollars valuation.

### **Happenings of the Day: Old Timer Comes Back Wed. May 27, 1925**

Mr. and Mrs. **McGaugh** for 43 years citizens of Cooke county and who moved to Arizona five years ago, residing on a farm near Phoenix, have returned to their "first love," grand old Cooke

county and taken up their abode with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. **W. G. Caldwell**, living some miles east of Era on one of the **W. H. Dougherty** farms. Mr. McGaugh, who long bore the reputation of being one of the largest watermelon raisers in Cooke county, shipped the first carload of watermelons ever sent out of this county. The melons were raised on his farm in the cross timbers almost five miles east of Gainesville. During that season he shipped nine carloads of his melon crop and sold multitudes of his luscious product in the local market in the year 1883.

Mr. McGaugh states that quite a number of Cooke county residents live in or near Phoenix among whom he mentions **Clay Tice** and family and Rev. **Crutchfield**, a former well known minister of the gospel and at one time pastor of the Gainesville Broadway M. E. Church.

### **Salt Mine Once Used by Indians in Love County** by Bryan C. Smith Mon. June 1, 1925

Nine miles east of Marietta, Love county, Oklahoma on a streamlet known as Salt Creek are a few pits and some loose stones blackened by fire, all that remains of the old salt mine that was used by the Indians, traders, and trappers in prehistoric times.

Like the famous Blue Licks of Kentucky, this old mine was used by the Indians, then by the trappers and traders, and later by the early settlers. The mine also was used by the people of North Texas until the coming of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad to Sherman, Texas, and by the settlers of the Indian Territory until the coming of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe railroad in 1886, when they also abandoned it.

The salt was refined by boiling the ooze in open kettles until the moisture was expelled, and the salt sufficiently dry for general use. Each settler would take his kettle there and mine a year's supply at a time.

The mine was finally forgotten and the younger generation was not told of the place where their forefathers mined the salt. One day a treasure hunter unearthed an old iron kettle that had been used in the days when the mine was being worked. This excited his curiosity and a treasure hunt was begun in earnest, everyone thinking this was the burying ground of Spanish treasure. After all searches proved futile, the hunt was given up, but it was quite often renewed by others who became curious about strange marks on the trees and other peculiarities.

Treasure hunting in Salt Creek has also been stimulated by an old negro fortune teller by the name of **West**, who claims that the Lord told him of a vast treasure that would be unearthed in Salt Creek valley. This had caused a hole to be dug by every tree that bears hacks or strange marks.

### **Bond Election for Rural School** Thurs. June 4, 1925

An election in Bermuda common school district No. 46 was ordered by the commissioners court in special session here to determine whether or not \$4,000 in bonds, twenty bonds of \$200 each will be issued for the purpose of erecting a new frame school building. The election is to be held July 11 at the school building with **Walter Stephenson** as presiding officer.

Orders have not been issued on two other petitions but it is expected the elections will be held. Callisburg district No. 13 is asking for two elections, one to determine whether or not the maintenance tax shall be increased to \$1 in each \$100 and whether or not a bond issue of \$5,000 shall be created for the purpose of erecting a new school building.

### **Valley View Has Rural High School Sat. June 20, 1925**

The County Board of School trustees, composed of **D. H. Spoon, Andy Allen, F. H. Dayton, Sam Briggs,** and **Gip Finnie**, met this afternoon and by official action converted the Valley View Independent School District into a Common School District, uniting with John's Branch and Lone Oak Common School Districts. The action was taken because of the expense attached with the transfer of pupils from one school district to the other. The three are contiguous districts and the territories are easily united.

## **56 Years Ago – Back Trailing**

### **Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Mon. April 3, 1967**

Courthouse rumors this morning had it that Muenster Public School officials will contest Saturday's Myra-Muenster school consolidation election.

Myra voters turned down the proposal to join the Muenster District by a vote of 92 to 51. Muenster school patrons gave the proposal to join a top heavy majority of 174 to 2. Both districts were required to approve the merger before it would be effective. **L. B. Bruce**, Muenster school superintendent, told a Register staffer this morning that "we are not going to contest the election yet."

### **Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Tues. April 11, 1967**

**Bill Woods** who started his performing career as a youngster with the Gainesville Community Circus will be seen with "The Flying Armor" at 6:30 p. m. Thursday on channel 4. The flying act will be featured on the network's "The Coliseum."

Bill, the son of Mrs. **Hiram Woods**, 409 Throckmorton St., is a former Register carrier boy who joined the Community Circus when he was 13. His skill in the flying act several years later drew the attention of circus professionals, and he was on his way.

Following his appointment on "The Coliseum," Woods will go to Europe with the act. They are scheduled to return for an appearance on the Jackie Gleason Show on May 6.

### **Mrs. Richard Frasher Tells History of Edwards Mansion, Locally Owned Tues. April 11, 1967**

Mrs. **Richard Frasher** was guest speaker for the luncheon meeting of the American Study Club Thursday at the Petroleum Club. Hostesses were Mmes. **Weldon Strader** and **D. W. Shepherd**, who greeted the members and guests as they arrived.

In keeping with Mrs. Frasher's program on Cooke County Heritage, small antique vases holding colorful spring flowers were interspersed with a collection of old-fashioned fans to decorate the tables.

Mrs. **Leroy Hay**, president presided, and the invocation was delivered by Mrs. **Tom Binford**. During a brief business session, announcement was made by Mrs. **J. G. Bonner** that the club won first place for its yearbook at the recent meeting on Pioneer District held in Denton. The book committee reported that the memorial books presented to the Cooke County Library were available on the shelves. They were given in memory of two members, Miss **Ethel Hood** and Mrs. **Morton Smith**.

Guests at the luncheon were Mrs. **Dan O'Rourke** of Yalaha, Fla. and Mrs. **Winnie Belle Campbell** of Alton, and Meses. **L. R. Davenport**, **Clay Brooks**, and Miss **Margaret Hays**. Mrs. O'Rourke was a guest of Mrs. **T. J. Allison** and Mrs. Campbell attended with her sister, Mrs. **John Gray**, who was welcomed by her fellow members after an absence of two years due to illness.

It was announced that the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs state convention will be held May 2, 3, and 4 in Dallas at the Baker Hotel.

Introduced by Mrs. **Gordon H. Smith**, the speaker chose for an interesting and informative review the history of the Edwards House, located at 901 Lindsay St., and presently owned by the **Richard S. Stark** family. As one of the oldest, most unique, and handsome residences of the long history of Gainesville, the Edwards house has a colorful history and has been admired by many people both for its interior beauty and its exterior workmanship. It has a basement and is two and a half stories in height.

Mrs. Frasher received data concerning the house from **Eugene Edwards**, a son of **Littleberry Edwards**, who started the construction of the house in 1898 and was completed early in 1899 at a reported cost of "a little over \$18,000". Eugene Edwards recalls that he was nine years of age when his father started the new house, "and at that time no automobiles had yet visited Gainesville and the Wright Brothers lacked about three years before they undertook to get their idea of a flying machine, the Kitty Hawk, off the ground for a short hop of 200 feet.

Littleberry Edwards, who was known to Gainesville friends as **L. B. Edwards** and to some as **Berry Edwards**, came to Gainesville after the Civil War and went into partnership with Capt. **Dougherty** and later became president of the Red River National Bank which was located where the First State Bank stands.

Mrs. Frasher told of the marriage of L. B. Edwards and **Pattie O'Phelia Taylor**, a native of Haywood County, Tenn., and their coming to Gainesville "where he took his bride to a frame house built on the southeast corner of the 800 block on Lindsay St." At that time there was no block on that side of the street and Mr. Edwards later acquired title to all the land in that area. It was later Mr. Edwards bought the property across the street from the old South School and started building the house, the woodwork all being solid oak with eight fireplaces built with glazed tiles and handsome carvings and plate glass mirrors over each one. One of the loveliest features of the house is the staircase well in the reception room, and there is a keyhole-stained glass window at one of the landings. Every window in the house is plate glass with the exception of the stained-glass windows.

The house has a huge stone foundation for which the excavation went down six feet for a clay footing. The stone was hauled in on wagons and a stone mason whose name was **McIntire** completed its fabrication in the street just south of the school building. It was recalled that after the foundation for the house had been built the owner held up the erection of the house for approximately six months to give the foundation time to settle in the hopes that this procedure would avoid cracks in the house after it was built.

An interesting sidelight of the feature of this construction, Mr. Edwards related to Mrs. Frasher, was that local citizens were guessing on why the delay in building, and "after the pastor of the Methodist Church found out the real reason, he worked it into one of his Sunday sermons as an example of what a man does who had the safety of his family at heart."

For preparing the shingles to go on the roof there was a large wash kettle with linseed oil kept boiling by fire built around it, continued Mrs. Frasher in telling of other details of the building, and each sheaf of shingles was first dipped into the boiling oil prior to being nailed to the roof for painting. The roof lasted for more than 30 years before it was replaced.

It was explained that the rose bushes over the iron work on the front porch were own root roses noted for their longevity and were brought by the Edwardses from Vestal's Nursery in Little Rock, Ark., as Eugene Edwards says that his grandmother in Tennessee had some own root roses in her garden that were 50 years old at that time, and he was old enough to know the difference between own root and budded stock. Mrs. Frasher added that one of these climbers still lives and bloomed this year.

Mrs. Frasher said that the house stood vacant 30 years after the Edwards family moved from Gainesville, but it was cleaned and aired once a year. After the death of Mrs. L. B. Edwards in 1936, it was sold to settle the estate. The next owner was **Henry Frasher**, father-in-law of the club speaker, who recalled that "at the time Papa purchased the house, it had its original furniture which was very massive and beautiful and hardly showed wear."

After owning the house for several years, Mrs. Frasher sold the property to Dr. **C. K. Mills**, and later it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. **William Claunch** who sold it to the present owners.

Mrs. Frasher stated that Eugene Edwards resides in El Paso and is a member of the law firm, Edwards, Belk, Hunter & Kerr. He is a native of Tennessee because his mother wanted him born in her native state, and this date is Sept. 15, 1889. In sending Mrs. Frasher the information she desired concerning the house, he stated, "I can assure you that no sidewalk superintendent of today gets more pleasure from watching the erection of a skyscraper than I did from watching the erection of the new home."

#### **Records Due to Shrink** Fri. April 14, 1967

Cooke County commissioners today voted a space saving system for the county clerk's records.

The Southern Record Co. of Houston was authorized to install a microfilm machine in County Clerk **Jay Riley's** office, which will conserve space and cash.

All permanent records will be photographed on the machine and mailed to the Houston firm. The microfilm will be processed with the records returned one half of their present size.

The county has free use of the machine and will be charged 19 cents per page for the smaller records. Present cost of the records runs 50 cents per page. Also, only one half of the present space to store the records will be required.

Riley will also be given more space in his office. The commissioners voted to employ **Jack Owens** to install a concrete stairway from the county clerk's office to the basement. A steel spiral stairway will be removed to make way for the safer and more convenient steps.

All bound records except probate and criminal files will be placed in the basement when the improvement project is completed.

#### **Picked Up Passing By** Jack Joyce Wed. April 19, 1967

**J. B. Miller** who operated a drugstore at Valley View for 42 years before retiring and moving to Richmond, Calif. in 1960, was a visitor at the desk today.

It was a nostalgic return to his old home county and a renewal of old friendships for the popular retired pharmacist. He is being shown around by a longtime crony – 4 Slinker of Valley View.

Miller was reared at Callisburg, the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. **W. S. Miller**.

His son, **David**, also lives in Richmond, and his daughter Mrs. **Mary Olive** resides across the bay in San Francisco.

#### **Lois Store Gives Up** Thurs. April 20, 1967

Mr. and Mrs. **R. A. Wilson** closed the general store at Cross Roads in Lois a few months ago after operating there for 17 years.

#### **Picked Up Passing By** Jack Joyce Thurs. April 20, 1967

Workmen were stirring up a storm today in County Clerk **J. H. Riley's** office as they started removing a circular stairway to the basement.

Commissioners have ordered the installation of a safe stairwell from Riley's office to the basement to provide additional storage space for his bound records.

The project has created a wholesale shift of offices in the courthouse. **Bob Livingston**, county veteran's service officer, has moved from the basement to Peace Justice **Carl Burchfield's** office on the second floor. Burchfield has shifted to the third-floor space formerly used by the United Fund.

The Texas Highway Office has been shifted in the basement to the office formerly used by the late **J. L. Gettys**, attorney. The Texas Employment Commission has transferred its office from the third floor to the former Highway Patrol quarters.

#### **125 at Annual Wolf Ridge Reunion Here** Tues. April 25, 1967

The 13th annual reunion of former and present residents of the Wolf Ridge Community, north of Gainesville, was held Sunday at the Gainesville Community Center Building with approximately 125 in attendance.

The invocation was given by **David H. Smith** and the meeting was overseen by **David O'Brien**, vice president, who presided in the absence of the president **Hugh Porter**.

Officers elected for the coming year are **Kenneth Rivoire**, president; **Bud Autry**, vice president; Mrs. **J. H. Riley**, secretary; and Mrs. David H. Smith, treasurer.

It was voted to meet in 1968 on the fourth Sunday in April which will be April 28.

Coming the farthest distance was **Canna Allen** of Tahoka. Mrs. **Robert Allen**, Fort Worth, was the oldest member present. The names of deceased members were read, and the assemblage stood in respect to their memory.

Mrs. **Charlie Hildebrand** was chairman of the committee to arrange the program of readings, singing of old-time favorites and religious songs with **Doye Doty** at the piano.

Others from out of the county attending were Robert Allen, Fort Worth; Mr. and Mrs. **Ernest Miller**, Oklahoma City; Mr. and Mrs. **LeRoy Brock**, Durant, Okla; Rev. **Tom Cunningham**, Denton; Mr. and Mrs. **Jerry Bell**, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. **Jack Coker**, Saint Jo; Mr. and Mrs. **Charles Rhea**, Mr. and Mrs. **J. C. Allen**, **R. C. Allen**, Mr. and Mrs. **C. B. Neubauer** and daughter, all of Fort Worth.

Mrs. **Jennie Thompson** and Mr. and Mrs. **M. L. Thompson**, Roanoke; Mrs. **Jack H. Harder**, Borger; Mr. and Mrs. **E. C. Wilkerson** and son **David**, Mr. and Mrs. **Perry Hugon**, all of Denton; Mr. and Mrs. **V. G. Marshall**, Arlington; Mr. and Mrs. **Bud Barnett** and son **Skippy**, Krum; Mr. and Mrs. **A. S. Harlow**, Mr. and Mrs. **Marvin J. Freeman**, all of Grand Prairie; Mr. and Mrs. **Olin Rivoire**, Houston; Mr. and Mrs. **Reagan Shiflet**, Mr. and Mrs. **McKee Yant**, and Mr. and Mrs. **William Hemphill**, Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. **Walter Scott**, Thackerville, Okla.

#### **Almons Host Planning Group for Homecoming Fri. May 5, 1967**

Mr. and Mrs. **Burney Almon** were at home Sunday afternoon to a group planning the 19th annual homecoming for the Whaley Chapel, Whaley 55, Rock Creek, and Elliott communities. It is planned to have the get-together Sunday June 4 at the Community Center in Gainesville.

From a tea table decorated with spring flowers, refreshments were served. Mrs. **William Bush** of Burbank, Calif., presided at the silver coffee service.

Mrs. **George Berry**, 1967 homecoming chairman, conducted a business meeting and appointed the following officers and committees: secretary, Mrs. **Tom Blankenship**; treasurer, Mrs. **Ruby Davis**; publicity, Mrs. **Robert Trew**; supplies, **George Bugg**; scrapbook, Mrs. Burney Almon; memorial, Mrs. **Gordon H. Smith**; reception, **Chester J. Robb**, **Martin Davis**, Burney Almon, and Mmes. **Nanny Lynch Stanley**, **Mabel Almon Kayler**, **Lucille Bugg McClurg**, and **Thelma Lynch Daniel**.

Registration: Mmes. **Raymond Thurman**, **Owen Almon**, George Berry, **Annie Rosson**, **Polly Ramsey**, and Miss **Mary Kammerdiener**; tables: Burney and **Douglas Almon** and

**Richard Daniel**; food: Mmes. **Henry Kammerdiener**, Chester Robb, **Damon Dean**, and Tom Blankenship; decoration: Mmes. **Lacy Burch**, Ruby Davis and **Agnes Davis**; tea, **Carl and Ray Thurman**, and Mmes. **C. M. Cook** and **Clayton Hall**.

Also present and former residents of the four communities are urged to attend and former teachers, pupils, and preachers are invited to be present.

Mrs. Almon asked that persons having momentos, school pictures, keepsakes of school days and other articles of interest to friends bring them to be displayed and enjoyed at the gathering.

At the Sunday afternoon planning meeting, Mrs. **Monroe Turner** of Tyler, mother of Mrs. Almon, was a special guest, She formerly lived in northeast Cooke County.

### **Picked Up Passing By** Jack Joyce Fri. May 5, 1967

The Rev. **Robert Edwin Porter**, former Cooke County minister, who is still active in the pulpit at 96, writes to thank the Register for a story on him in last Friday's edition.

The veteran pastor, who has served 56 churches since he came to Texas from Mississippi in 1900 is currently associate pastor of First Methodist Church of Plano.

The Rev. Mr. Porter, subject of the book, "Papa Was a Preacher," still drives his own car and maintains a busy visiting schedule with senior citizens.

In his card, he notes: "I preached Sunday about Uncle **Fletcher Ware** and his faithfulness to the church when I was pastor of the Woodbine circuit in 1903. He even hitched two horses to his buggy and went three miles to Woodbine Methodist Church every Wednesday to prayer meeting."

### **Don't Make "Em Anymore: Retired Gainesville Man Finds Faithful Old Friend** by Richard Harp Fri. June 9, 1967

**John M. Kemplin** of 1315 E. California St. slowly approached the light at Grand Ave. and Olive St. and glanced to his left. Behind the Bell Service Station, he observed something that looked strangely familiar.

He drove his car behind the station and got out. As he traced the dim, but still legible lettering on the door of a dilapidated and weather-beaten truck, memories flooded his mind.

The sign read: "John Kemplin – The Feed Man – Phone 731 - Gainesville, Tex."

Kemplin isn't an emotional man. Normally he is jovial and speaks loudly, but in a friendly tone. Tuesday, his voice faltered as he mumbled: "She was a dandy."

He was speaking of the ancient vehicle – a vintage 1927 International.

Smiling Examination

Kemplin was the first owner of the truck. He purchased it from Schad & Pulte Co. of Gainesville in 1927. And despite its time worn condition, he examined it Tuesday with smiling eyes.

**Merl Branch** and **Bill Moore**, operators of the service station, are the present owners. They purchased the vehicle last week and have it parked behind the station for repairs and reconditioning. They paid \$80 for the vehicle and plan to spend whatever is necessary to put it in first class condition.

Many long time Gainesville residents recall Kemplin's Feed Store, which he established in October of 1926 on the west side of the Market Square. The front of the building was painted in a red and white checkerboard design to advertise the Checkerboard Feeds he sold.

“Howdy neighbor” was the Kemplin trademark he used to greet customers as they entered his store. He sold the business in 1942.

After he had been in business for one year, he purchased the International truck to haul sacks of grain and bales of hay.

In 1932 Gainesville experienced one of the costliest fires when Kemplin's store and stock were completely destroyed. One of the employees entered the blazing building and drove the truck to safety. The man was overcome by smoke and had to be hospitalized. The truck's wooden cab and body were heavily damaged.

A short time later a series of trades began, which ended last week with the present owners acquiring the vehicle. Kemplin traded the charred truck to **Joe B. Townsley Sr.** for a new Ford truck. Townsley, Ford dealer at the time, was the father of **Joe Townsley Jr.**, 411 Harvey St.

**Bryan Strader** of Era bought the vehicle from Townsley soon afterward. It proved a good buy as he used it for all types of farm work until about five years ago. He retired the truck and it remained parked at his farm until last week.

As Kemplin's mind goes back 35 years, he recalls: “They don't make 'em that good anymore. It was like a faithful friend.”

The new owners anticipate a profit from their purchase – either through advertising for the station or resale to an antique truck buff.

### **Dictionary of Places: ETSU Prof Seeks Origin of Cooke County Names Sat. June 10, 1967**

Residents of Cooke County were asked this week to help solve the mystery of the origins of several geographical names found on county maps. The information is needed for a dictionary of Texas place names, including Cooke and the other 253 counties to be established soon by the East Texas State University press.

Before Dr. **Fred Tarpley**, professor of English at the university, submits his final manuscript, he is appealing to county residents for assistance in contributing information about several names with unexplained origins.

With the following exceptions, the reasons for the choice of approximately 200 names found on detailed maps of the county have already been determined. Acres Cemetery, Balm, Barlow,

Bewley, Blocker Creek, Bowers Oil Field, Brushy Elm Creek, Brushy Mound, Bulcher, Callisburg Oil Field, Camp Sweeney, Center Hill Cemetery, Clear Creek, Coesfield, Cogburn Cemetery, Coker, County Line, Davenport Branch, Dexter, Dixon Creek, Dozier Creek, Dye, Early, Ear Ellenberger Oil Field, Estes Cemetery, Fair Plains, Fish Creek, Flat Creek, Freemound Community, Gatewood Oil Field, Gold Hollow, Willow Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Hays, Hockley Creek, Indian Creek, Jacobs Oil Field, Woodbine, Jones Cemetery, Liberty Hill, Lick Creek, Lois, Wolf Ridge, Loring Branch, Moss, Muenster, Mt. Zion, Nelson Grove, Oak Grove, Opossum Hollow, Windsor, Orlena, Pecan Creek, Reed, Rio Branch, Scott Creek, Shady Grove, Shiloh, Smoot Cemetery, Spring Creek, Spring Creek Cemetery, Sturgeon, Tankawa Creek, Townsend Creek, Vilott, Voth Oil Field, Walnut Bend, and Whaley Air Field.

Dr. Tarpley, who started his research on Texas geographical names five years ago has exhausted material available to him in history books, newspaper files, student research, and interviews with county leaders. He is hoping that the story behind the naming of the communities, creeks, and other geographical sites listed above can be explained before the book goes to press.

Information will be welcomed by Dr. Fred Tarpley, Department of English, East Texas State University, Commerce, Texas 75428.

#### **Picked Up Passing By** Jack Joyce Wed. June 21, 1967

A Gainesville landmark, the old Frankenberger home at 215 E. Tennie St. is being razed and the lot will be cleared for sale. The property is owned by Mrs. **Zelma Howell** of North Miami, Fla., a niece of the late Mrs. **Willie Frankenberger** who died here two years ago at the age of 93.

The house, apparently 85 years old, was built for Mrs. **William R. Frankenberger** and her four daughters when she was widowed by the sudden death of her husband. Mr. Frankenberger was a pioneer staircase maker here. Some of his former employees reportedly built the home for his wife and daughters in gratitude to their former employer.

Mr. and Mrs. **W. H. Frasher**, 411 Hird St., are handling the property for Mrs. Howell.

Thank you to Ronnie Howser for the information for the Back Trialing sections of this newsletter.

Below is a photograph of Cass Reasor taken at our last meeting. He is holding a quilt that he made. The design is from a flag made for the 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry during the Civil War. "It is a variant of the First National pattern. The men who comprised this unit came primarily from Grayson County. Ladies from Sherman and Gainesville each made a side of the flag and sides were then sewn together. Gainesville had red stars. Sherman had blue stars."



