

# AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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## Austin Genealogical Society

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Deadlines for submissions are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the second month of the quarter. AGS Members and the public are encouraged to submit material for publication to:

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings AGS Members,

This summer, our family was dealt a heavy blow as I lost both of my grandmothers.

My paternal grandmother, Frances (Nana), introduced me to “genealogy” at a young age. She told me stories of my ancestors and the countries they had traveled from. She gave me pictures of these relatives and along with where and when they were born, who they married, and when and where they died. She painted me pictures of her own youth as she grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas. At her visitation, I saw a picture of her from when she attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She was a dancer, and the picture shows her in her dance apparel, standing on the toes of her ballet shoes. We all knew the story of how she met my grandfather, Robert (Gramps), when she worked the box office at the Paramount Theatre, in downtown Austin, Texas – and how he was too shy to ask for her name. What I didn’t know is that Gramps had a “pet name” for her when they first started dating – “Pinkie” as it was scrawled across the bottom of a young picture of her. This made me blush and giggle. Through her passing, I learned even more about her when I thought I knew it all.

My maternal grandmother, Geneva (Memaw) passed shortly after my Nana. Unlike my Nana, my Memaw didn’t talk much about her family or what it was like growing up. When I got serious about my family history, I learned all the facts and dates but didn’t have a colorful narrative of my Green or Lackey families. I didn’t have many pictures or mementos. Every time I learned something new and interesting about our family, I filled her in. She was always fascinated hearing about what I had discovered. When it came time to plan her service, I was asked by my family to write her obituary. I am still not sure why they asked. Maybe it was because I knew so much from my research, nonetheless, I was honored. As I sat down to write, I knew I would have all the dates, and relationships in order, but what about the personal stories? In all the time I spent telling my grandmother where her great-grandparents were born and where they traveled to, I never asked about her memories. What did you love to do when you were growing up? What were your passions? How did you meet my grandfather and my step-grandfather? I turned to my family for guidance. Once again, I learned so much that I never knew. She loved to roller skate, ride bikes, and loved a good adventure. She was fun and sassy, and her nickname was “Aunt Sissy.”

Moral of the story...DON’T WAIT. Don’t wait for your family to tell you their stories. Ask them! If you find you don’t have people left to ask, tell your family your own story. Write it down! Let’s learn more than the places and the dates, let’s learn the narrative and let our future generations really know us – beyond the facts.

In this issue, you will find stories that paint beautiful pictures of the past. We can smell the orchards and vineyards as the sweetness of the fruit fills the air. We can feel the breeze on a hot Texas summer day as we stand under an oak tree wiping the sweat from our brow. And we can smell the freshly caught catfish and the homemade biscuits as they cook in the oven. We are transported and can catch a glimpse of what their lives were truly like.



**Angela Doetsch**

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## ASK GRANDMA FIRST

By AGS Member Cari A. Taplin, CG

**W**e all know that the first rule of genealogy is to TALK TO YOUR RELATIVES. The second rule of genealogy is to TALK TO YOUR RELATIVES. Every beginning genealogy book, article, or class will tell you to first to TALK TO YOUR RELATIVES.

How do you know what to ask? How do you know what information Grandma has in her head? I can never guess what my grandma is going to reveal to me next! I can ask her a question directly about her family and she won't know the answer. Then she'll tell me some obscure item about great aunt Betty she's only met one time 60 years ago – someone I would never have thought to ask her about. If someone has an easier way to figure this out, please let me know. But I digress.

I want to share an experience that happened to me a few summers ago. My family and I took a rather long vacation – two weeks in Ohio. My main area of personal research is in northwestern Ohio, Wood County primarily. Every time we go back to visit, I spend at least a day or two at area libraries seeking and finding more information. And of course, I spend time asking Grandma questions.

On this particular summer trip, I discovered that the public library in Perrysburg, Ohio, had just acquired copies of the records of Zoar Lutheran Church covering 1859 through 1930. What luck! My Miller family were all members of Zoar Lutheran Church and had been for as far back as Grandma can remember. These copies of the records give me a new source to work with, fantastic news because I have the wonderful opportunity to research the surname “Miller.” And not just any “Miller” but “unique” names such as William Miller, John Miller, Fred and Mary Miller. (I need to see the

cup half-full and see this as a way to really hone my genealogical skills, right?)

In researching these newly available church records, I came across a marriage for a possible brother to my ancestor, William John Miller, a Fred Miller married to Mary Kopp. I knew from other research that William did indeed have a brother named Fred but I didn't know much about him. I was excited to find this bit of information but didn't know exactly how to go about proving that this Fred was my relative. The only bit of solid information I had on Fred Miller was from William's obituary which stated that at the time of William's death his brother Fred lived in Trilby, Ohio.<sup>1</sup> The obituary didn't state if he had married or had any children. I began thinking about the possible ways to prove the theory. It could involve a lot of “work” to connect this Fred and Mary Kopp Miller to William Miller.

The next step I took was to locate Trilby. So, I asked Grandma, “Do you have an atlas I could borrow?” (Not, “Do you know where Trilby is?” Duh.) After not finding it on the map my grandma asks me what I'm looking for. So I tell her about William's obituary and the clue that his brother Fred was in Trilby, Ohio and I was trying to locate it.

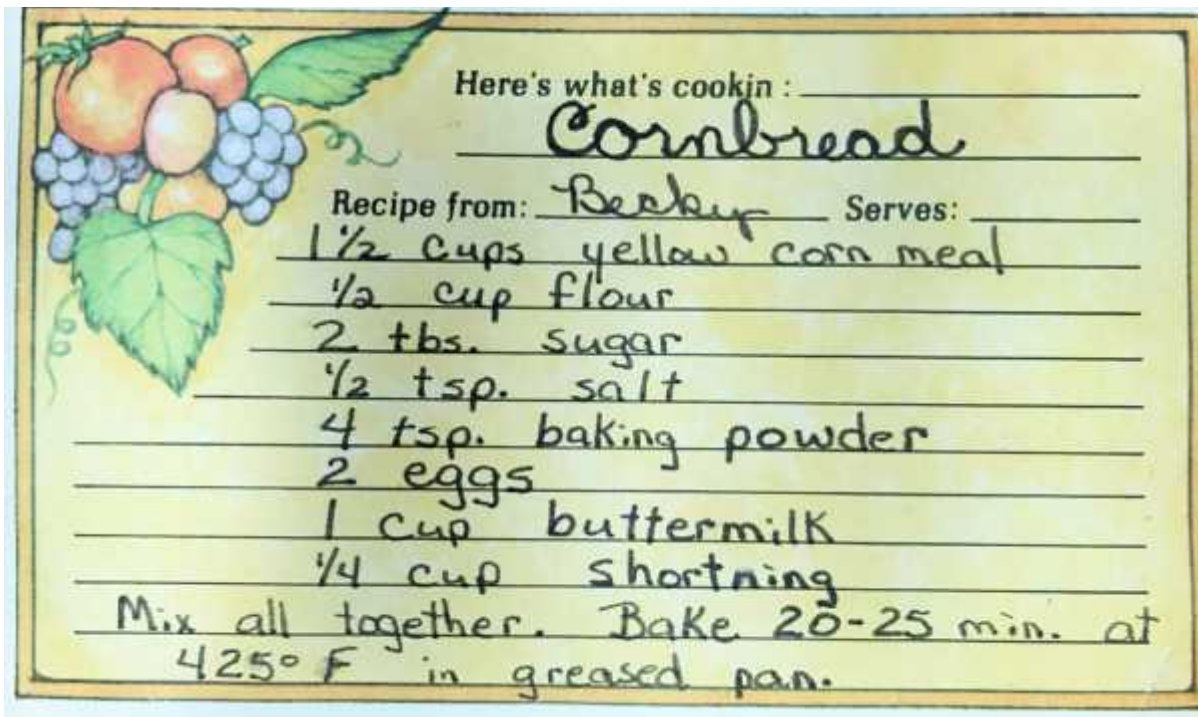
Well, her next statement sort of hit me as a “boy, I'm not thinking straight” moment. She said, “Oh, you mean Uncle Fred and Aunt Mary.” That clinched it for me. Granted, Fred and Mary Miller are common names, but the fact that they attended this particular small church and Grandma put those names together without my prompting, has led me to believe it is “probably true” that Fred Miller, brother of William, married Mary Kopp. You have some “probably trues” in your own research too, don't you?

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<sup>1</sup> “William J. Miller” obituary, *The Perrysburg Journal*, Ohio, 29 August 1952, p. 1, c. 5.

I will be doing other research to verify this, but the “ah-ha” moment of grandma’s simple statement made me realize a few things. First of all, after doing what I consider “serious genealogy” for many years now, gotten my certified genealogist credential, and attended a lot of educational events, I think I’ve gotten tunnel vision. I’ve been doing research in books, newspapers, archives, libraries, and online for so long now that I didn’t even think to ask a living, breathing relative. I didn’t even consider it. I should have asked her first if she’d known William’s brother and his wife. Or at the very least I should have asked her if she knew where Trilby was before I broke out the map.

The second and maybe most eye-opening thing I’ve come to realize is that there is no rhyme or reason to the information that people can or cannot remember. Sometimes, memories are brought up by the strangest things and you just have to talk to them to find out what knowledge is hidden their heads. And not just once or twice. It may take several encounters, asking the same questions in different ways to find out the information you’ve been seeking. Maybe you’ve had similar experiences. Surely it isn’t just me.



**Aunt Becky’s Cornbread– Recipe Card**

*From the private collection of AGS member Angela Doetsch*

# THE VON BOECKMANN-KEEBLE HOUSE

## *A City of Austin Historic Landmark*

By AGS Member Peter Flagg Maxson

On a large corner lot facing the castellated Elisabet Ney Museum, the von Boeckmann-Keeble House (1909) is an exceptional turn-of-the-century residence, even in the context of the Hyde Park National Register Historic District. With fine transitional Colonial Revival-Prairie School detailing, the house is one of very few homes in the district identified as the work of a significant Texas architect, Leo M. J. Dielmann, of San Antonio, Texas. Modeled on a Seguin, Texas, mansion, it was built for Edgar von Boeckmann, former owner of one of the premier cotton gins in Texas, and his wife Clementine (née Elley). Subsequent owners of the property have been largely respectful of its historic fabric, and the house underwent a full restoration in 2004-2005 that re-established its beauty and historic integrity.<sup>1</sup>

The patriarch of the von Boeckmann family in Austin, Texas, was Carl August Friedrich von Boeckmann.<sup>2</sup> By family tradition, he was a tall, handsome, German nobleman, who moved to Texas in 1867.<sup>3</sup>

He first settled in New Braunfels, Texas, and by 1877, moved to Austin, Texas, where he is listed in city directories as a grain dealer (1877), with a book, stationery and notions shop on Congress Avenue (1881), and a notary (1893). His second wife, Julia, was “proprietress” of the Travis Hotel (1893).<sup>4</sup> Carl died in 1898. His sons, Eugene von Boeckmann (1853-1897) and Reinhardt von Boeckmann (1855-1901), established the Von Boeckmann-Jones Printing Company, an Austin, Texas, institution for well over a century and located for many years in the Allan-von Boeckmann Building, a recently designated City of Austin Landmark at 811 Congress Avenue.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Leo M. J. Dielmann, *Dielmann's Review* (San Antonio, Texas: Privately published, n.d.), p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> “Carl” and “Charles” seem to have been used interchangeably in the family. Likewise, the *V* in their surname is sometimes capitalized and sometimes not. Many family members dropped the “von” after World War I. Edgar preferred to use just the initial *E*.

<sup>3</sup> His granddaughter, Hertha von Boeckmann, stated in the *Austin Statesman* on 14 June 1946, that Carl resided in Kronberg Castle, Nuremberg, Germany, but came to the United States after the death of his first wife. He reportedly spoke four languages, was a musician and singer, and married his children’s governess as his second wife.

<sup>4</sup> In 1878, Carl wrote the “*Education Waltz*” for the German-American Young Ladies College in Austin, Texas.

<sup>5</sup> Austin City Directory, 1877 et passim.; *Austin Statesman*, 30 January 1897, 14 June 1946; David C. Humphrey, *Austin: An Illustrated History* (Northridge CA: Windsor Publications, 1985), pp. 328-29. This work erroneously references “Eugene Reinhardt von Boeckmann,” combining two brothers into one person.



**The von Boeckmann-Keeble House**

*Photo courtesy of AGS member Peter Flagg Maxson*

In 1909, Edgar von Boeckmann (1851-1918), Carl's son by his first marriage, and his wife Clementine (1867-1924), moved to Austin, Texas, from Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. Edgar also married twice. With his first wife, Emma Voigt,<sup>6</sup> he had six children, Elise (Mrs. W. C. Bruns), Julia (Mrs. Edgar Fox), Ina (Mrs. Elmer Burnett), Edgar H., Charles and Herbert. With his second wife, Clementine Elley, he had a second, younger family, Eugene, Raymond and Lillian (Mrs. Carl Reese, later Mrs. David Leonard). Edgar appears to have been close to his Austin relatives, naming one son for his brother Eugene, another Charles (Carl) for his father and brother, and daughter Julia for his stepmother.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs. von Boeckmann was one of thirteen children of Reverend Gustav Elley (formerly Baron Gustavus von Elterlein) (1816-1897) of San Antonio and Seguin, and his wife, Henriette (née Blumberg). Elley, a Republic of Texas Navy veteran and Texas Ranger once captured by French-born Mexican General Adrian Woll in 1842, became a well-known Methodist minister. (Clementine von Boeckmann was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Austin, while her husband was a Lutheran elder.)<sup>8</sup>

In 1867, at age 18, Edgar von Boeckmann came to the United States, landing at Indianola and traveling by mule team to New Braunfels, Texas. A longtime resident of Geronimo, Texas, (sixteen miles southeast of New Braunfels), he

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<sup>6</sup> Emma Vogt von Boeckmann was the daughter of William and Sophie Koch Vogt of New Braunfels, Texas.

<sup>7</sup> *Austin American*, 5 August 1918; Everett Anthony Fey, *New Braunfels: The First Founders* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1994), Vol. II, p. 249; Travis County Probate Records, Book 41, pp. 557-58; *Austin American Statesman*, 25 September 1924; Austin City Directories 1909-1924; Travis County Probate Records, Book 41, pp. 557-58.

<sup>8</sup> *New Handbook of Texas* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), Vol. III, p. 827; Pearl Elley Bethune, *Forward to the Past!* (Austin: Bethune Publications, 1990), p. 236.



reportedly owned land on both sides of Geronimo Creek in Guadalupe County and was a successful farmer.<sup>9</sup> In the 1890s, at a time when cotton was of transcendent importance to the Texas economy, von Boeckmann and two other investors bought the Schram Cotton Gin (circa 1870) in Geronimo, replaced it and constructed the von Boeckmann (later Geronimo) Gin, powered by steam, and fueled by wood. His obituary noted that “he soon established a reputation [in cotton ginning] that became Statewide, his gin being one of the best equipped in the state.” The family lived in a large house, since razed, opposite the gin. In 1903, he sold the gin to his sons Edgar and Charles and moved to Seguin, Texas.<sup>10</sup>

In 1912, von Boeckmann was instrumental in bringing the Evangelical Lutheran Proseminary (established in 1891) of Brenham, Texas, to Seguin, Texas, where it was reorganized as the Lutheran College of Seguin, Texas. That institution now thrives as Texas Lutheran University. He “contributed largely of his finances to that cause besides giving freely his counsel and his time in furthering the interest of that institution.” Professor W. Weeber, the college president, would give “a beautiful tribute to the fidelity of the good man,” Edgar von Boeckmann, at his funeral.<sup>11</sup>

Immediately upon arriving in Austin, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. von Boeckmann acquired a square block bounded by Avenue H, Duval, 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Streets in the Hyde Park neighborhood, founded at the northern edge of the city some sixteen years earlier. Hyde Park was developed initially with great fanfare by Colonel Monroe M. Shipe as a fashionable, streetcar suburb, and the most substantial, earliest houses were generally built on corner lots. By 1909, most new houses were modest, middle-class homes, many constructed from designs supplied by

local lumber yards. The von Boeckmann House would be more ambitious architecturally for that period.

The property was originally part of the Formosa tract, home of internationally celebrated, Westphalian-born sculptor Elisabet Ney (1833-1907), whose castellated home/studio (now the Elisabet Ney Museum) occupies the tract on the west side of Avenue H. Ney acquired the western half of Block 1 in 1901 and the eastern half in 1902. No information survives on the use of the property under her ownership, but it has been suggested that it was the proposed site of her Academy of Liberal Arts, never built. Ney’s widower, Dr. Edmund Montgomery, transferred the property the year after his wife’s death to J. M. Wolf for \$700. Wolf immediately sold the land (“All of Block 1... Lots Nos. 1 to 16 inclusive”) to E. von Boeckmann for \$1000. Formosa was acquired about that time by Miss Ney’s friend Ella Dancy Dibrell, a formidable clubwoman and wife of the State Senator from Seguin, Texas.<sup>12</sup>

The von Boeckmanns chose as their architect Leo Maria Joseph Dielmann (1881-1969), of San Antonio, Texas. Dielmann was one of the most successful early 20<sup>th</sup> century architects in south Texas and an Alamo City civic leader. His many commissions include Fort Sam Houston’s Post, Texas Chapel, the Joske Brothers Building and numerous schools and civic buildings in San Antonio, Texas. More noted still were his commissions for the Catholic Church, which included a significant part of Our Lady of the Lake College, the Rectory of San Fernando Cathedral and largely Gothic Revival style parishes scattered throughout San Antonio and central and south Texas, such as St. Mary’s Church in Fredericksburg, Texas. He designed at least twelve residences, twelve commercial buildings, a factory and two churches in Seguin,

<sup>9</sup> The 1910 Census showed 3116 residents of Seguin, Texas.

<sup>10</sup> Monica Mueck, “*Geronimo, Texas: Small Town History*.” Palo Alto College history project and Webpage; Elizabeth M. Boeckman to Maxson, e-mail, 13 March 2005; *Guadalupe Gazette* [Seguin], 4 August 1918.

<sup>11</sup> *Guadalupe Gazette*, 4 August 1918.

<sup>12</sup> Travis County Deed Records, Vol. 231, pp. 679, 758; Emily Fourmy Cutrer, *The Art of the Woman: The Life and Work of Elisabet Ney* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988), p. 223; Mary Collins Blackmon to Maxson, interview, 16 February 2005.

Texas where doubtless his work attracted the attention of Edgar and Clementine von Boeckmann.<sup>13</sup>

Completed by 1910, the von Boeckmann House is a significant hybrid of a Colonial Revival-Prairie School style residence. To classical architecture, it owes its symmetry, temple-front entrance supported by Doric columns, cornice with dentil work, small Palladian dormer windows, fine mantel and overmantel. Prairie School influences can be seen in the remarkable roofline with broad overhangs, the flowing interior plan connecting the parlor (southwest room), dining (south central) room, with central and front hall openings by pocket doors or columns. Very few changes are evident in the interior or exterior of the house. The von Boeckmann family would very likely feel at home there today.

The house is exceptionally well-detailed, and most interior woodwork remains unpainted. The house also responds well to the Texas climate with wrap-around verandas on the north and east sides of the house, a large front porch, high ceilings, transoms, cross-ventilation, three bay windows, generally large windows and plan encouraging cross-ventilation, all to catch any breezes.

The design of the house was almost certainly based on the 1906 home of Clementine von Boeckman's first cousin Frederick (Fritz) Blumberg in Seguin, Texas. The Blumberg House is a full two stories, but the configuration of the entrance front is otherwise almost identical with the von Boeckmann House: central doors with sidelights, flanking bay windows, a temple-like front porch, broad overhang, and Palladian windows in the attic gable ends are bound in both houses. The Blumberg residence was designed by renowned



**The von Boeckmann-Keeble House**  
*Photo courtesy of AGS member Peter Flagg Maxson*

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<sup>13</sup> Leo M. J. Dielmann, *Dielmann's Review* (San Antonio: privately published, n.d.), pp. 30-31.

San Antonio architect Attlee Bernard Ayres (1873-1969).<sup>14</sup>

Bisected toward the north by Waller Creek, the large property was rather rural in nature, judging from the description of a succeeding Cassens family member:

*After the Cassens family moved to the old Von Boeckmann home on Avenue H... they not only pastured cows close to 45<sup>th</sup> Street, with a windmill to pump water for them, but they planted a large garden. Separated from the pasture by a rock fence, the garden extended all the way to Duval and included an orchard with peach trees, pear trees, and figs. The Cassens canned a lot of fruit, and they stored root crops such as potatoes and onions in a downstairs area where the original kitchen had been.*<sup>15</sup>

The 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of the property depicts the house, a barn, a garage, and a one-story dwelling (probably staff quarters), all in the southwestern quadrant of the block. A cistern and chicken coop were also on the property. Two derelict single-car garages near the northeast and southeast corners of the property were recently razed, and a new garage constructed. Early concrete curbs and sidewalks and an outbuilding to the north (now under other ownership) remain.<sup>16</sup>

In 1910, the household consisted of at least Mr. and Mrs. von Boeckmann and their three youngest children, Eugene Frank (age nine), Raymond Kurt (age seven) and Lillian Lola Bell (age two). Three years later, a photo shows von Boeckmann and his family seated in an elegant new Cadillac (or Peerless) touring car in front of his Hyde Park home. That same year he was

very badly injured in an automobile accident with a streetcar.<sup>17</sup> The remaining six years of his life he sought treatment in Austin and San Antonio, Texas and out of desperation even went to Europe with his family to seek medical assistance, likely in 1913 or 1914.<sup>18</sup>

According to the 1920 United States Federal Census, German was the “mother tongue” of all family members. Granddaughter-in-law, Elizabeth Boeckman, of Dallas, Texas, relates the children did not speak English until they began school. Edgar von Boeckmann was born in Prussia and lived in Germany until he was 16. His mother and father-in-law were both from the Kingdom of Saxony. Von Boeckmann took his family to Germany before World War I. Yet, like many German-Americans during World War I, he was a fervent American patriot, and was furious with his son Herbert, whose “conduct and behavior has caused me a great deal of annoyance and vexation, having brought disgrace upon my family by deserting the U.S. Navy.”<sup>19</sup>

In 1918, Edgar von Boeckmann died in a San Antonio, Texas hospital at age 67 from injuries received in an auto-streetcar accident. The funeral procession and burial at Riverside Cemetery “was one of the largest ever seen in Seguin.” His will valued his homestead at \$5,000, a piano and furnishings at \$300, an automobile at \$500 and notes owed to him at \$35,000. He pointedly disinherited his sons Carl and Herbert, the latter then resident in California:

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<sup>14</sup> *Seguin Enterprise*, 5 January 1986. The Blumberg House is located at 822 North Austin Street in Seguin.

<sup>15</sup> Sitton, *Austin's Hyde Park* (Austin: Pecan Press Publications, 1991) pp. 50-51. The east windows of the current kitchen (southeast room) appear to have been shortened, lending credence to the original kitchen having been downstairs.

<sup>16</sup> *Austin's Hyde Park* refers to the Cassens in residence at 4401 Avenue H in 1915. City Directories and newspaper accounts, however, clearly note only Von Boeckmann's in residence then.

<sup>17</sup> The Hyde Park trolley line ran down 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, three blocks from the von Boeckmann home.

<sup>18</sup> *Guadalupe Gazette*, 4 August 1919. The automobile may have been the one in which he was injured, or its replacement. The make and year were identified by Mr. Joseph H. Prados, A.I.A. of Austin.

<sup>19</sup> United States Federal Census, Travis County, Texas, 1920; Elizabeth M. Boeckman to Maxson, e-mail, 13 March 2005; Travis County Probate Records, Book 41, pp. 557-58.

*“I have spent an amount at least equal to the bequest [\$2,000] given to each of the children named in Paragraph 3 for my son Herbert’s education...I hereby direct that my Executor shall pay him the sum of \$1.00...in the event my son Herbert shall present himself [within five years] with a gentlemanly appearance and manifesting the intention of leading a straight and honest life” to Clementine, she could reinstate the inheritance. Clementine also had the option of splitting a \$2000 share between Carl’s children should “they be worthy to receive anything at all.” In the event, Clementine’s will five years later concluded that Herbert was probably dead, and Carl’s sons Leroy and Carl Jr. were worthy of an inheritance, but their sister Lola was not. A few years later, Ina von Boeckmann Burnett petitioned the Probate Court, complaining the “Executor is wasting, mismanaging and misapplying such estate, and he has refused to pay.”<sup>20</sup>*

Clementine von Boeckmann was evidently not in robust health at the time of her husband’s death. The “Hyde Park and Vicinity” column of the *Austin American* noted on 13 June 1920, “Mrs. E. von Boeckmann, who for several weeks has been ill at her home, 4401 Avenue H, has been moved to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Edgar Fox on Speedway, where she is recovering slowly.” She died at home in 1924, aged 56. Rudolph G. Mueller, the husband of Edgar’s niece, Laura von Boeckmann, and brother of civic leader, Robert Mueller, served as one of her pallbearers and executors.<sup>21</sup>

Shortly before Clementine von Boeckmann’s death, the property was acquired by Enno and Clara Cassens at a cost of \$9,000.<sup>22</sup> The Cassens and their two daughters, Loriena and Ruth, lived in the von Boeckmann House for about five years, but Loriena’s interview by Thad and Sarah Sitton many decades later for *Austin’s Hyde Park: the First Fifty Years*, provides interesting insights into their connection with the Texas Fine Arts Association and the Elisabet Ney studio:

*The Cassens family who lived across Avenue H kept the key. As a child, Loriena Cassens Koepsell would go over to let people in and lock up after they were gone. While she waited, she explored the basement, which had a kitchen and an “eating table” with Ney’s dishes and pots and pans still on it. Loriena also swept and cleaned up because she liked to see things tidy. Later, for reasons unknown, TFAA [Texas Fine Arts Association] members burned all of Ney’s papers in the back yard by the creek. A canceled check blew over to the Cassens’ car shed. Loriena picked it up and kept it because it had Elisabet Ney’s signature on it.”<sup>23</sup>*

Mrs. Koepsell noted amusingly that she “got her own car at age 12 in 1921.” She explained, “You didn’t have to have a license, you just had to have long legs.”<sup>24</sup>

Though he continued to reside there until at least 1927, Enno Cassens sold the von Boeckmann property in 1925 to E. P. Mitchusson, who the following year sold it to capitalist David C. Reed, then Vice-President of E. H. Perry & Company, Quality Mills, Inc. and Security Trust Company, as well as brother of cotton king Malcolm Reed. Reed, however, kept the

<sup>20</sup> Travis County Probate Records, Book 41, pp. 557-58 and Book 51, pp. 13-19; Book 64, pp. 32-33. See also *Seguin Enterprise*, 9 August 1918; *Guadalupe Gazette* [Seguin] 4 August 1918.

<sup>21</sup> United States Federal Census, Austin, Travis County, Texas; Sitton, *Austin’s Hyde Park*, p. 130; *Austin American-Statesman*, 25 September 1924. Von Boeckmann-Mueller-Danforth family members owned the historic Allen-von Boeckmann Building at 811 Congress Avenue from 1893 until 2000.

<sup>22</sup> Travis County Deed Records, Vol. 349, pp. 127-28.

<sup>23</sup> Sitton, *Austin’s Hyde Park*, p. 32.

<sup>24</sup> Sitton, *Austin’s Hyde Park*, p. 89

property for only five months, selling it for \$9,100.<sup>25</sup>

From 1929-1942, contractor J. Lee Johnston and his wife, Alma, and family members are listed as residents of the von Boeckmann House, but little is known of their occupancy. In 1932, resident Miss Edith L. Johnston taught at the Austin Conservatory of Music.<sup>26</sup> Three years later, Mr. & Mrs. Johnston lived on Kenwood Avenue, but Edith (then an Austin High School faculty member), Jordan L., Maggie, and teacher, Marjorie C. Johnston, were all living in the Avenue H. house. The 1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map showed that the property was reduced considerably: the house remained with an ample lot with a new garage to the east, but the Duval Street facing half of the block, sold in the later 1920s, was occupied by other houses. The earlier garage remained on a new lot to the north, but the small frame house was moved back on that property to make way for a U-shaped, stuccoed duplex.<sup>27</sup>

In 1950, after an interim occupancy by the Stark family from 1944-1949, Leslie O. Keeble, and his wife, Mary, acquired the property from J. L. and Maggie Johnston (then Phoenix residents), for only \$7,000. They are listed in the city directories with their children, Leslie O. Jr. and

Sylvia. Mr. Keeble, who moved to Austin in 1940, was the manager of W. T. Caswell's Austin Gin, and died in 1973, aged 82. Miss Sylvia Millicent Keeble, a longtime Highway Department employee, would live at the house for over fifty years. She was very respectful of the grounds and interior of the von Boeckmann House, but made unsympathetic exterior modifications.<sup>28</sup>

The inappropriate vinyl siding which Miss Keeble had installed decades ago was removed in 2004 by later owners, Mr. David Christian Smith and United States District Judge Robert Pitman,<sup>29</sup> revealing the fine detailing. The north side porch infill has also been removed, the historic veranda columns replicated, and the systems have been updated, all under the guidance of restoration architect Jay Lattin Farrell. Thus, the house again reflects the historic appearance that Leo Dielmann and Edgar and Clementine von Boeckmann would have known 118 years ago. The property was reclassified as a Contributing member of the Hyde Park Historic District by the Texas Historical Commission and is a designated City of Austin Landmark. It has been on the Hyde Park Homes Tours at least twice.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Travis County Deed Records, Vol. 379, p. 241; Vol. 400, p. 175; Austin City Directory, 1927, p. 397. Reed lived in the handsome house at 1410 Rio Grande designed by C. H. Page. Enno Cassens died a Hyde Park resident, living at 3816 Avenue H. See *Austin American-Statesman*, 11 July 1953.

<sup>26</sup> Lillian Reese, then Director of the Conservatory, was the former Lillian von Boeckmann.

<sup>27</sup> Austin City Directories 1929-1942; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, Austin, Texas, 1935.

<sup>28</sup> Austin City Directories, 1944 et passim; Travis County Deed Records, Vol. 1075, p. 340-42, 20 July 1950.

<sup>29</sup> At the time, Mr. Smith was the founder and director of the Hill Country Ride for AIDS. Judge Pitman serves as United States Magistrate Judge in the Western District of Texas.

<sup>30</sup> Austin City Directory, 1944 et passim; *Austin American*, 23 January 1973; Gregory Smith (THC) to Maxson, 10 February 2005.

## MY YOUNG DAYS: CHAPTER TWO

### *A Memoir by Harvey Mosty*

**Submitted by AGS Member Joyce Arquette**

*“From a family history compiled by Harvey Mosty, one of L.A.’s sons.”*

*The memoirs below are the second part; the first was posted in the July 2017 edition of the Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly publication. They were compiled by my grandfather, Harvey Mosty. The remainder will be posted in future publications. No editing has been done to the memoir. Lee Anthony Mosty was Harvey’s father and my great-grandfather.*

*The Memoirs were allegedly found in the old safe in the flower shop/nursery built by Harvey.*

*Summer of 1897:*

**M**other loaded her kids at home; Lizzie, Mark, Addie, Karl, and yours truly on a train for Menard. It was late in the evening when we pulled out of Lampasas. Traveled all night and next A.M. were in Ballinger. We took a stage coach there for Menard arriving after night. Dad and Lee were looking for us and took us to their camp on the Gus Nois farm a few miles below Menard on the San Saba River. Dad and Lee had worked the winter there grubbing and clearing bottom land that was heavily timbered at \$4.00 an acre. When they measured up in the spring they had four acres, \$16.00 for the entire winter, spring, and summer. Dad worked in the fields at 75 cents a day and Lee was thrown in extra helping handling irrigation water in the fields. We caught lots of large cat fish and rolled them in meal and baked in a skillet on the camp fire made good eating.

Late summer we left Menard for Junction. Then on to Kerrville. Coming over the Divide there was no water except wells at the ranches. We stopped at a ranch owned by Captain Schreiner and Sidney Rees, and Jack Rees was on the ranch at that time and he charged us 10 cents a bucket for water. Reaching Johnson Fork we camped a few days near Sunset School, our first stay in Kerr County. We came on to Kerrville and camped on the river about where Water Street Courts are now, located at

1100 Water Street. From A Street the river and back to Quinlin Creek was open land known as Tivy Flat.

Later this land was fenced and put into a field for number of years. We bought the place later known as the Mosty Farm. Then went back to Lampasas[sic] to move what furniture and tools we had. Came back by wagon and set up our tent under the Live Oak Tree just across the San Antonio Road and west from the green house located now in the Southwest fence of the San Antonio Road.

The house on the place then was located where Mr. Woods’ home now is located on lot #4. Mosty addition to Kerrville. We brought about a peck of peach seed from the Dick Huling seeding orchard which was located on the Lometa Road out of Lampasas. Lee and I planted these in a nursery row. Later a friend, Mr. J.W. Jump who lived in town became interested in Lee and me. He knew how to bud and graft. He came out and showed us how to bud the peach trees. This was the beginning of the Mosty Nursery. The trees were grown for home planting but there were no trees available then and neighbors began to come in and buy these trees. We of course planted more peach seeds and a variety of nursery stock. Lee and I purchased 29 acres of land in Center Point in 1908, for \$2500.00, all on credit. On February 1, 1909, I loaded some plows etc. in a wagon, my trunk, a dry goods box which I had made a

hinged cover for and put a tray in it. I camped and fetched there the rest of the winter and into the summer. I laid out about 20 acres and planted a pear orchard. There were no improvements on the place and no water. We leased a 6 acre garden for two years. It had a well and pump for irrigation. We used this water to plant and start our Nursery. On April 29, 1909, a hail storm struck and cleaned our Nursery out. Also the pear orchard. This happened again on March 31, 1911 and again on May 19, 1916 and also again in 1917.

Lee and I quit school for this reason and were to go back to school just as soon as the home was paid for. I worked hard from 10 years old until I was 24. Did a grown man[s] work from 12 on and when I left home on February 1, 1909 the old home was not paid for and Lee and I took on a debt of \$2500.00. We bought our furniture, bedroom suite, cookstove, dishes, pots and pans, table and had some money left. A Mr. McElroy and Mr. Nelson had a mercantile store in Center Point and they fed us the first season all on credit. It was in August we took in our first cash. Sold some watermelons and later tomatoes our sales.

Those days flour came in 24 and 48 pounds, sacks only. Sugar came in barrels and was weighed out by the merchant. Also crackers, coffee, apples, and dried fruits were handled in bulk.

You could build a house for \$150.00; usually started out with two front rooms, a shed room or lean-to on the back, a fire place, no ceilings, no screens etc. Lumber sold [for] around \$6.00 to \$8.00 a 1000 ft. Best flooring around \$12.00. Water was carried or hauled from the river or a creek. Washing was done on a wash board, no wringer, a big pot for hot water and all clothes were boiled. The first boots I can remember had come from Montgomery Ward. They cost twenty-five cents and had a brass cap on the toes.

The threshing machines were run by horse power. Took from 12 to 16 horses to pull the mower. The farmer had to feed all horses and the wife had to feed all the men 3 meals a day. Besides the horses pulling the threshers, there were 6 to 8 wagons and teams and you always had a few loafers along and all had a horse and saddle. When the thresher stayed all night on a small farm it sure hit his little crop hard. The thresher owner took 10% of the grain for toll. The first steam outfit in Kerr County was brought in by the Rees family. Their farm was what is now named Westland Addition. Also Bluebell hills from town creek to the river. The old engine is called a portable steamer. It had no traction and had to be moved with horses. It took about as many horses to pull the old engine as it did to run a separator, so the poor farmer was not much better off.

Lee and I went to San Antonio, International Fair Excursion, \$1.00 round trip. Left Kerrville early am and back late at night. We walked from the old SA & AP Depot corner S. Flores and S. Alamo to the Fair grounds. About night we walked back and then decided to walk downtown. Took our bearing at the court house. Walked the business district of Commerce and returned to the Courthouse. Had got turned around and did not know which way to go. I told Lee if I could see the Stars I could take the right course. So I climbed a light pole and spotted the North Star. About that time a policeman came along. We had a time explaining what I was doing up that pole. He looked us over and told us to beat it. We took off and reached old SA & AP depot without further trouble.

Another family at the Baptist Church I should give a very nice bouquet were the J.L.S. Gammons. Mrs. Ola B. Gammon, a most attractive and pleasant young woman, was the organist. She treated us like real musicians, but I am sure it must have been an ordeal to have to listen to our discords. She, with her sister, Miss Graves Dewees, now lives in the Peterson Addition. I am very grateful to them for their kindness to Lee and me when we were worthless greenhorn country kids.

Lee and I were the first of our family to join a church. Our mother leaned to the Methodist so after Lee and I strayed over to the good Baptist, she joined the Methodist Church and took all the other kids along with her.

The Baptists at that time were using the Church building that is now the Mexican Baptist church at Houston and Jefferson. The building was then located where the Assembly of God Church is now located; [at] Washington and Jefferson. The building was later moved to its present location. The Baptist preacher when we first attended church was named Rankin (though I am not positive this is right). Anyway, he was a stocky man with a real beer keg belly or fallen chest. He wore jet black heavy suits, high celluloid collars, long swallow tailed coat. When he started his sermon, he would stand at one end of the pulpit and shout a word you could hear a mile, then slowly walk to the other end and yell the next word of the sermon; then go down in the lower end of his coat tail, come out with a handkerchief, wipe his sweating brow, gradually pick[ing] up speed and volume until he finished an hour or more later. Dismissed the brethren about 1 p.m., [by the] time Lee and I walked home we were tired and hungry as wolves.

One true story the dear old minister told I will never forget. He was raised in Arkansas, said his daddy had an old razorback sow with a head and nose like a toothpick. He called the Arkansas hog Arkansas Toothpick. Well he was just a boy and this particular old hog would get into the cornfield every day. They could not find a hole in the rail fence, so the ole man detailed the boy to find out how that sow was getting in. So one day he followed her at a great distance around over the pasture keeping low and out of her sight. The field had a steep cliff along the back side next to the pasture. After several hours of caution and maneuvering the old sow carefully eased to a bit tree that had a huge grape vine growing in it. The old sow had chewed the grape vine off near the ground. She took the vine in

her mouth, gripped it tight and backed up as far as she could. Then suddenly ran toward the edge of the cliff. She swung out over the field fence, then turned the grape vine loose and landed in the corn field. This was told from the pulpit for a true story and I will vouch for its verification. This was the type of the first preacher I ever listened to. About the turn of the century we had a place leased on the head of Camp Meeting Creek, now the back part of the Hays Ranch. It was my job to farm the little field and see after the cattle. Sometimes I would stay out there a whole week alone.

There was a grove under a bit Oak tree in the pasture. I used to camp near it for company. Do not know if it was an outlaw or who was buried there. Further up the Creek an old bachelor, Uncle Phil Bundick, had a small Cedar Break Ranch. He wore a heavy grey beard with side pokes. There was a long twist of beard poking out of each cheek. I used to visit and eat with him many times. Also there lived a family named Surber out in the woods. Black Jonnie he was called. The old Lady dipped snuff and he chewed tobacco. They had a top glass out of the kitchen window and on cold days they would sit around the wood cook stove and dip and chaw. They both could spit a stream thru that open window top glass without getting up out of their chairs. They had come from Tennessee to these hills. He was a great story teller. Told me of an old nester in Tennessee who had lost a member of his family. Said one day he was in town. The two doctors who had treated the deceased member were in town, the man spotted the doctors standing on the corner. The old nester went to them and pulled 2 six-shooters and proceeded to tell the doctors he was about to polish them off. Immediately someone poked the old nester in the back saying, "you shoot, I shoot!" More followed quickly and the old nester looked around and counted seven men lined up behind him. Said that is too many so dropped his guns back in his jeans until later and all silently and quietly walked away.



## MY TRIP TO SAN PIETRO APOSTOLO

By AGS Member Susan Rodney Tyler

**M**y brother, Rick Rodney, and I spent five weeks during the summer of 2014 traveling around Italy and Spain. During this trip, I crossed an item off my bucket list by traveling to the hometown of my maternal grandfather, Giuseppe (Joseph) Mazza.

Giuseppe was born in San Pietro Apostolo, Catanzaro, Calabria, Italy in 1893. He emigrated to the United States in 1907, to Red Bank and Rumson, New Jersey.

In preparation for the trip, I studied Italian at the local community college for two semesters. I was hoping to be able to communicate with the residents of San Pietro (more about that later).

Rick and I flew a local airline from Rome to Lamezia Terme in southern Italy.

We stayed several days at a beautiful olive plantation called Agriturismo Costantino near Maida. The entire countryside was covered with olive groves. The area also has many wind turbines. On the way up the mountain, a violent thunderstorm with hail broke out. The thunder claps sounded like they were right on top of our heads. I think Rick will agree that it was a harrowing experience! Hairpin curves all the way to the top!

Once we arrived in San Pietro (a community of 1700 residents), we ate lunch at Hotel Ristorante Castagneto. It soon became obvious that San Pietro is off the beaten path and does not receive many tourists. We were the only diners in the restaurant. After lunch, we set off to tour the town.



**The wind turbines and olive groves at Agriturismo Costantino**

*Photo courtesy of AGS member Susan Rodney Tyler*

My Italian lessons actually backfired on me. When I would attempt to speak with locals, they assumed that I was fluent in Italian, and would reply in rapid fire Italian with all of the appropriate hand gestures as well. Italians really do talk with their hands! I also realized that Calabrians have their own dialect. I explained to one gentleman that our grandfather had been born in San Pietro long ago and that his name was Giuseppe Mazza. The man started patting

We drove around the narrow streets of San Pietro. It was still periodically sprinkling. The local church was undergoing renovations and was closed. Most shops were closed as it was time for the afternoon siesta. Few people were observed in town. We found a lovely spot to take pictures of the town perched on the side of the mountain. We also saw a billboard advertising local business. One was for Giuseppe Mazza, a builder.



**Billboard showing Giuseppe Mazza, local builder**  
*Photo courtesy of AGS member Susan Rodney Tyler*

himself on the chest saying excitedly, “Mi chiamo Mazza!” (My name is Mazza!) We tried to ask him directions to the Mazza Palace. I am not sure exactly what the palace was, but it is always pictured on postcards of San Pietro. I tried to get him to write down the directions, but he insisted on just telling me. Later, I wondered if he might have been illiterate. I had the impression that outsiders were viewed upon with suspicion.

We eventually found Mazza Palace, an old abandoned building. We still don't know what it was in its heyday. Postcards were purchased in one of the few open stores.

Rick and I decided to head back down the mountain as we did not know what the weather might bring. Although the day was a bit disappointing, I am so glad we went. I try to imagine our family leaving this place in 1907, and traveling to Naples to board an ocean liner. How did they get from San Pietro to Naples? The trip must have been arduous. Did they take any belongings with them other than their clothes? My grandfather died before I was born, so I could not ask these questions. And, as so

often happens, I did not become interested in genealogy until most members of his generation had passed.

I strongly encourage all to travel to their ancestors' homes if possible. It is truly an awesome experience. Rick and I have also traveled to our maternal grandmother's home in Keady, County Armagh, in Northern Ireland. But that's another story!



**San Pietro Apostolo, Catanzaro, Calabria, Italy**  
*Photo courtesy of AGS member Susan Rodney Tyler*

## FROM THE CEMETERY

### *A Selection of Transcribed Obituaries from Austin, Texas*

By AGS Member Kay Dunlap Boyd

**DIED**, at Houston, on or about the first of this month, Col. Wm. S. Wallace, who was accompanying his family home to his residence on Onion Creek, in this County.

*The Texas Democrat* (Austin, Texas), Saturday, 25 November 1848.

#### OBITUARY

**DIED** — In this City, on the 3d inst., Mrs. \_\_\_\_ Mussett, consort of S. Mussett, Esq, and daughter of Hon. S. G. Sneed.

**DIED**, in the city of Austin, on Sunday morning the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. F. Siedikum, aged 45, assistant Draftsman in the General Land Office.

Resolution from Austin Lodge No., 12, March 4, 1849 —

*“Whereas, this Lodge has learned, with deep regret, of the death of our esteemed brother F. Siedikum, who departed this life morning about three o’clock. Therefore, Resolved, 1<sup>st</sup>. That while we how with humble submission to the decrees of the Grand Master of the Universe, we are nevertheless deeply impressed with a sense of the loss which we have sustained in common with his relatives and friends.”*

*The Texas Democrat* (Austin, Texas), Saturday, 10 March 1849.

#### DIED

In this city, on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant, MRS. HONOR C. HALL, wife of Capt. J. M. W. Hall. Her father, Arron Cherry, Esq, removed from Cincinnati, Ohio to Texas, and while on the way this daughter was born in Mississippi, January 8, 1817. Remaining a short time in Mississippi and in Louisiana, the family finally arrived on the Trinity river, near Cincinnati, Texas in 1820. In 1821 the family removed to Liberty county, where her father resided until his death in 1851, her mother having died twelve years before. In the year 1838, she was married to her present bereaved husband. The mother of two children one of the died in Louisiana in the 1847, while at school.

Many months previous to her death, Mrs. Hall was smitten with consumption. A visit to Kentucky for her health proved of no avail, and she returned home convinced that she could never recover. For some time the subject of religion had deeply occupied her thoughts, and a few month before her death, she made a good profession of her faith and was received into the Presbyterian church by baptism. Though much emaciated—suffering almost continual pain, eager to be released by death, she maintained the composure of one who reliance is in a crucified and risen Savior. Even after voice failed, in answer to the question of her Pastor, “are you in perfect peace?”—the glance of her eye and the motion of her lips gave serene assent. In this frame of mind, surrounded by loving friends, sincerely lamented by all who knew her many virtues, she gradually and sweetly sank asleep in Jesus.

*“Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.”*

*The State Gazette*, (Austin, Texas), Tuesday, 28 February 1854.

Located in the Old Grounds A of Section 1.

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**DIED**

On Gilleland's Creek, fifteen miles east of Austin, on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, Mr. Nicholas Boyce, aged about fifty years.

*Texas State Gazette*, Saturday, 27 October 1849

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**OBITUARY**

When one, "whose way of life, has fallen into the sear and yellow leaf," goes down into the dark chambers of death, survivors may lament, but yet are prepared for the sad event. In Autumn, the flowers which ere[are] bright and beautiful in spring, are seen do[to] droop their heads and are expected soon to fall scentless upon the earth. But when a gifted and loved one, in the springs time of life, is hurried to the tomb, surviving friends can only be reconciled to the melancholy bereavement, by the reflection that Providence orders all things for food and wise purposes. Of the latter, was MRS. SUSAN A. FANTON, who on the twenty-fourth day of last December, in the twenty-sixth year of her age at the residence of her husband was torn from a circle of weeping relations and friends and taken "to that bourne, whence no traveler returns." Deceased, the day previous to her final departure, avowed to her unmarried sister, a consciousness of approaching dissolution. But the Kin of [[?]], stood nearer to the door, than his hapless victim dreamed.

The 22d of December, the sister of deceased, was busily engaged in arrangements for a Christmas dinner, in the preparation of which the [[?]] displayed a lively interest. Many friends were invited to partake of the goodly cheer and festival welcome. Christmas came, but where was she, who with her accustomed grace and dignity was to preside as Mistress of the feast? Where was that pure and bright being, whom no one saw but to admire and none knew

but to love? Like a summer cloud, she has passed sway. Her spotless spirit, calm and undismayed and released from earth bound fetters, sought a mere congenial home in the realms of never ending bliss.

MRS. FANTON was born in the State of Mississippi and formerly resided in Vicksburg, where her amiability of disposition and winning manners, procured for her numerous friends. For the reinstatement of her health, at this time delicate, her husband winding up his business relations, removed to Texas and settled at Austin. To speak of the high estimation, in which deceased was held here, would be superfluous eulogy. She was not a member of any church, but in her daily walks, exercised those mild and christian virtues, which are ever the fruits of a good heart, and indicative of a sense of responsibility, to the Divine law. By her untimely death, the home of her disconsolate husband, is made desolate, indeed. The lamb, which nestled in his manly bosom, has been rudely torn away. His guiding star, in full orb'd brilliancy, has gone down to rise no more on earth." There is no eye to mark his coming, or look brighter when he comes."

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**DIED** in Travis County, on the 23d inst., from an attack of Pneumonia, Mr. Jackson Arrington. Mr. A. was an old Texian and a man of uncommon physical strength, which bid fair to promise him a long life. But death acknowledges no superior on earth. Uncle Jack Arrington is no more.

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**DIED** in this city on the 22d inst., John Fredric Hamilton, a native of Sweden and formerly a member of Capt. Travis' Company of Texas Rangers.

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## Chapter VII: The Deal

By AGS Member Glenda Lassiter

*Griff was born in 1908 in the new town of Jermyn, Texas (founded 1902) in Jack County. When he was six and after his father's death in 1914, Griff's mother raised her four children on her mother's Civil War Widow's Pension and by working in a dry goods store and farming. After graduating from Jermyn High School at age 15, Griff had the unexpected opportunity to attend North Texas Normal College in Denton, Texas (now The University of North Texas). Chapters 1-6 of Griff were printed in issues of the Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly beginning in December 2015.*

*Griff (Gordon Oscar Griffitts) recorded his story on audio tapes when he was 82 years old, the year before he died. He left the tapes to his daughter Glenda Lassiter who promised to write his memoir from them.*

*At this point in his story, Griff and his friend, Dutch, have been living in a boarding house in Denton run by the Jones' who own the dry goods store in Jermyn where Griff's mother works.*

**D**utch, if we don't find somewhere else to eat, we're going to starve." Griff was speaking in a low whisper as he and Dutch gazed out their second floor window of the Jones' house overlooking the campus. Having found the courage to introduce himself to Desda Stubblefield, he felt a new confidence in himself. He believed he could deal with a very real problem in his life at this time: food, or rather the lack of it.

Pretty, vivacious little Violet Jones did not take very good care of the boys for their monthly twenty-six dollars each for room and board. She might be liberated and a modern woman, but all she ever cooked for them was red beans. Her own two sons seemed accustomed to this kind of food, and her husband spent most of his time at the dry goods store in Jermyn. Only Griff and Dutch complained quietly to each other.

"I know we're starving," Dutch agreed, "but Mrs. Jones does laundry and change the sheets every week, and she keeps the house pretty clean."

"She does. But we could do that ourselves. I'm used to eating fresh vegetables like we grew in

our garden at home. And we kept chickens for the fresh eggs. And we had fried chicken. Sometimes we even had a cow butchered. I can't live on just red beans."

Dutch certainly agreed, but said he wasn't sure how they were going to manage that since the money from their families for room and board was going to Mr. Jones. Griff said, "I've been thinking about this, and I think I can work out a deal."

Sixteen-year-old Griff did some investigating at other boarding houses around the campus. He started studying the *Campus Chat*, the campus newspaper where upcoming rental opportunities were advertised. He seemed to have a flair for evaluating the potential uses of property within their budget. The going rate for room and board in 1924 was twenty-five to thirty dollars per month. The cost was anywhere from five to eight dollars a month per person for just room rent. Griff found one arrangement that sparked an idea. He shopped around and found a house owned by Mr. Bishop, where rooms were rented with no board. But for a little extra, Mr. Bishop would give the renter KITCHEN PRIVILEGES! Griff had found the solution to their problem.

Mr. Bishop's house was just two blocks up Highland on the corner of Mulberry Street. The deal was that the boys could rent a room for just five dollars each, and for another five dollars each, they could use the kitchen. At first, Dutch was very skeptical about such an arrangement.

"It's okay to have kitchen privileges, but who is going to cook?"

"I've been helping Grandma Allen cook at home since I was just a little kid. I know how to cook. Since the Bishops used to serve meals before he was widowed, they've got pots and pans and dishes in the kitchen. We just have to clean up after ourselves."

Actually, Violet Jones seemed relieved that she wouldn't have the responsibility of Griff and Dutch in addition to her own boys. Or she could now rent the room for a little more money to boys who were willing to eat what she cooked.

Mr. Jones was in agreement with the new arrangement because it seemed to please Violet. In the Jones family, when Violet was happy, they were all happy. Dutch was still uncertain about the new meal arrangements but was sure that Griff's cooking could not be worse than the beans Mrs. Jones provided.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first Saturday in 1925, a sparkling crisp winter morning, Griff and Dutch moved the two blocks to begin their second semester at the Bishop house. After they had moved their clothes, flour sack sheets, and other meager belongings into the rented room in Mr. Bishop's house, Griff said to Dutch, "Well, let's go."

"Where are we going?" asked Dutch.

"To the grocery store," Griff replied.

Since it was Saturday, the Piggly Wiggly grocery store a few blocks from the campus was crowded. Griff studied the ads painted in huge white letters on the glass windows of the store:

"RIB ROAST – 25 cents"

"BEEF LIVER – 14 cents"

"CORNERED BEEF – 16 cents"

"OX TAILS – 8 cents"

Griff marched through the crowded store like a man on a mission, carefully selecting a whole chicken, a pound of butter, lard, ground coffee, fresh okra, green beans, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, flour, baking powder, bottled milk, a dozen brown eggs, and a thick slab of bacon. Things were definitely looking up for the two hungry boys from Jermyn.

Their new rooming house faced the 12-acre plot of ground that was the site for the men's gymnasium rebuilt from the World War I barracks that had stood there. Walking paths lined with flower beds meandered among the buildings and tennis courts of the athletic complex. The park provided recreational activities for students, teachers and townspeople, including facilities within the athletic park for volleyball, basketball, a football practice field, gravel tennis, ping pong, softball, archery, horseshoe pitching, croquet, track, movies and dancing.

When Theron J. Fouts came to the college in 1920 to oversee athletics, the football gridiron was ten yards too short, covered with grass burrs, and enclosed by an eight-foot fence with a small grandstand in one corner for spectators. Now, in 1924, he was Athletic Director/Dean of Men, and since his directorship had begun there had been a marked improvement in the facility. In fact, his contribution as football coach and founder of the track and field program was so great that the football field, originally called Eagles Stadium, came to be called Fouts Field.

This school year 1924-1925 saw another change at North Texas State Normal School. The state had renamed the school North Texas State Teachers College. The word "Teachers" remained in the name until 1949, when it became North Texas State College and, in 1988, it was further changed to become the University of North Texas.

Mr. Bishop, the widower who owned Griff and Dutch's new rooming house, had provided meals to their roomers before his wife died. When Griff saw the kitchen, he was almost overwhelmed by the appliances. They had invested in a gas cabinet range with a burner top

at the right of a baking oven and a broiler below. Griff had never cooked on any kind of stove but the wood stove in the farm kitchen in Jermyn. This stove was enameled porcelain and even had a newly marketed heat regulator for controlled oven temperatures.

The kitchen also had a new-fangled refrigerator with the cooling mechanism on top. To Griff, this was an incredibly efficient machine compared to the icebox on the farm that had gotten its cooling abilities from big blocks of ice purchased from the icehouse in Jermyn. He admired the refrigerator so much that he said he'd bet he could sell these "like hotcakes" because they were such an improvement over the messy, dripping iceboxes in most kitchens in 1925. Dutch said he had never seen anyone as excited as Griff over kitchen appliances, and when finding a huge cast iron skillet among the pots and pans, Griff became ecstatic.

As soon as the boys finished their grocery shopping and returned to the Bishop house, Griff cooked them a meal of crispy fried chicken, mashed potatoes, hot cream gravy, biscuits, cabbage and carrot slaw, fried okra rolled in cornmeal, sliced tomatoes, and coffee. Griff assigned Dutch the tasks of peeling potatoes and slicing vegetables. There were no beans of any variety. They ate like kings and agreed that this was a fine feast to christen their new living arrangements. Dutch's fears about who would cook their meals disappeared.

They had rented the former living room of the house, so they were next to the kitchen. The previous tenants of the room had dropped out of school and returned to the farm. The room looked out on the athletic park just as the Jones'house had, but now they were on the first floor and looked out on the park through Italian lace curtains.

Across the hall, in the unused dining room, was an unexpected bonus. Mr. Bishop had purchased a cathedral-shaped table model General Electric radio for \$60, so he and his tenants could listen. The radio was the up-and-coming technology. This period, from the 1920s to the 1950s, was an era of radio programming in the United

States that came to be known as "The Golden Age of Radio."

It wasn't long before Griff asked Mr. Bishop about the back yard which just lay fallow. He wanted to plant a little garden out there so they could raise their own vegetables. All they needed to do was pay a little extra for the water they were using, Mr. Bishop said, and it meant a little less for him to mow. By March, Griff and Dutch could be seen, cigarettes dangling from their lips, with shovels and pitchforks, turning the earth for a garden. They planted tomatoes, squash, okra, and onions. In May, when the first squash seedlings peeped out of the earth, Griff felt a surge of joy. "Hello, little fellows," he smiled. And having his own garden again, he felt that all was well with the world.

The new house was not diminished in Griff's opinion by being two blocks closer to the old Victorian house where a particular young lady from Cisco, Texas, lived. Griff was totally smitten with Desda Stubblefield. Since both were taking classes in the two-year program to earn teaching certificates, they could often be seen shyly walking together to class. On warm spring evenings, they sometimes walked side by side down the curving flower-lined paths of the athletic complex to the music of singing cicadas and chirping crickets. Since they both had been raised Baptist, they often attended church activities together at the First Baptist Church.

Desda had grown up in a small family in the town of Cisco, Texas, with three brothers and one sister. While the Stubblefield family was far from wealthy, they were certainly more affluent than the Griffitts from Jermyn. Desda's father, Henry Stubblefield, was the son of Doctor Roderick Stubblefield, a circuit doctor who rode horseback to tend to the sick. Her mother, Flora, was the daughter of a lawyer. Both of Flora's grandfathers served in the Civil War, one fighting for the Confederate Army, and the other for the Union. Desda's father Henry had moved the family from their farm into Cisco where he became a local politician, serving for a number of years as County Sheriff of Palo Pinto County.



Desda's mother, Flora Parks, dressed well, was at church every Sunday, and was often photographed looking quite elegant in her fur coat or stole. She dressed her daughter for college in the latest flapper fashions. Desda didn't dress in the full flapper gear with rolled stockings, but kept her hair in a short stylish bob often with a colorful bandana, which accented her almond-shaped eyes and her high cheek bones. She always wore bright red lipstick and rouged cheeks which, with her gleaming white straight teeth, gave her a dramatic allure when she smiled. Her older brother, Otho Stubblefield, wrote in his memoirs that when his sister Desda had her hair cut into a short bob, she was "frisky as a kitten." On rainy days on campus, Desda wore the fashionable yellow slicker and open galoshes made popular by the

flapper set. She wore the flapper boots open, a practice commonly credited for the invention of the word "flapper," describing the sound the boots made when walking.

Desda was a younger, prettier version of Violet Jones, and Griff was completely taken with her sunny disposition and her smiling self-confidence. She laughed easily and often and had a charming sense of humor. He had never met anyone quite like her.

An exciting and enlarged world had opened to Griff. Everything felt exactly right to him. He could not know that he would be on the verge of losing that wonderful life in the spring of 1926.

*(To be continued) ...*



Galoshes, 1922, from *Everyday Fashions of the Twenties: As Pictured in Sears and Other Catalogs* by Stella Blum

# DE LOS SANTOS COY FAMILY

## *Texas Settlers 1700-1800*

By Art Coy

Frederick Chabot, author of the book, *“With the Makers of San Antonio. Genealogy of Early San Antonio Families”* directed us to my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, Jose De Los Santos Coy, a Spanish soldier. Some of the De Los Santos Coy soldiers helped settle San Antonio, Texas, in 1718. Cristobal De Los Santos Coy established the first school in San Antonio, Texas. Chabot provided the name of my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, Antonio De Los Santos Coy, born in 1799, and his brother Trinidad. Chabot mistakenly listed Trinidad as a female. The name can be applied to male and female Hispanics and is not considered unusual. Trinidad and Antonio participated in the Texas Revolution in 1835. Trinidad was a scout for William Travis and was captured by the Mexican Army. He managed to escape. Antonio was under the command of Jack Taylor and went to join forces under Sam Houston at San Jacinto. They received a war pension from the State of Texas.

Chabot also listed the next generation which included my great-grandfather Juan De Los Santos Coy. Juan was born in about 1841 and is shown in the family of Trinidad De Los Santos. We discovered that our great-grandfather Juan De Los Santos Coy did not have a surviving mother and lived with his uncle Trinidad's family. His father, Antonio De Los Santos Coy, was serving with the Texas Rangers during 1841 and was not able to tend to his son's needs.

Antonio was serving with the Ranger company of Jack Hays during 1841. Men who served in the Texas Rangers were hired for about a 30-day period and provided their own horse and weapons. They fought Indians, outlaws and Mexican bandits. Antonio is listed in the muster records at the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco, Texas. He is also listed as a Texas Ranger in the Jack Hays ranger unit of 1 July - 31 August

1841. In the early days of the Texas Rangers, men from the local area including Lipan Apache Indians served in ranger units. Antonio apparently had friends in the Lipan Apache groups as his son, Juan, was born of a Lipan Apache woman. This was known by family and later Juan's third and last wife informed relatives that Juan told her his mother was a Lipan Apache. Juan was known by family to be half-Spanish and Lipan Apache Indian on his father's side. My great-grandfather, Juan, first married Manuela Marquis Rios who was of Spanish and French descent. They had four sons. Manuela's mother Marie Anne Lenore Marquis came to Texas with her family in 1844 and landed in Galveston. She was born in Switzerland and was of French descent. She married our 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, Mateo Rios, in San Antonio, Texas. He was Spanish.

The Marquis family of Switzerland was recruited by Henri Castro, a French impresario who contracted with the Republic of Texas to bring settlers, many of them French, from Europe to populate Texas. The French, including the Marquis family, settled in the Castroville area and continue to live in that city. There are several buildings in Castroville designed in the French mode.

My grandfather, Victor Coy, was considered Spanish, Lipan Apache, French and Mexican. The Lipan Apaches were a noble tribe that was social and cooperative with Texas settlers. Sherry Robinson, author of *“I Fought a Good Fight, A History of the Lipan Apaches,”* described them as “elegant specimens of aboriginal or native American female beauty.” The women were clothed in “attractive buckskins and noted for their cleanliness.” The Lipan Apaches assisted the Texans in their fight against the Comanches.

Juan Coy, my great-grandfather, was born in the Atascosa, Texas, area about 20 miles south of San Antonio, Texas. He grew up in San Antonio and later worked for the Butler Ranch in the Floresville, Texas, area. William Butler was a cattle rancher who raised cattle and drove them to Amarillo and Abilene, Texas, and Kansas and Nebraska markets. Juan Coy was one of Butler's cattle drivers, a trusted foreman, a cabo, and family guard. He was considered a hired gun and known to be quick with guns when the Butler family was threatened. When he was not herding cattle, Juan worked as a deputy with the Floresville sheriff's office. His reputation grew with some of the area residents as he was known to shoot to kill. He was accused of shooting two men and was found guilty in June 1878. He served five years at Huntsville prison. He was released when the Butler family, who considered him to have been acting as a law officer when he shot the two men, persuaded Texas prison officials to set him free. The small town near Floresville, Coy City, was named for one of the Coy family members who was given land by William Butler.

When the Civil War began, Juan Coy was in the southern part of Texas and was mustered into the Union Army. The records show that he was in the Union Army, Company H, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment in Brownsville, Texas. He was later transferred to Louisiana. No major battles were apparent for his Company. He left the army on 4 November 1865.

When the Civil War was over, Juan Coy was hired by William Butler for cattle raising and general ranch work. He was also a deputy at the Floresville Sheriff's office. He was relied upon to round up dangerous criminals and keep order in Floresville. In 1892, Juan Coy was under indictment for killing an African American man while acting as a lawman.

A railroad strike during December 1891-January 1892 was forcing the railroad to hire guards to protect the railroad property. Juan Coy was recruited by Captain Lee Hall, commander

of Texas Ranger Company B, to guard railroad property in the San Antonio area. The strike was typified by atrocities including disabling trains and threats from the strikers. After his work day, Juan Coy had supper and visited with some of the strikers at the Albert Krempkau saloon on Dolorosa and South Laredo streets. Juan was drinking with the strikers or scabs. Krempkau told Juan that his saloon was not going to serve alcohol to the scabs. An argument ensued and Krempkau, who knew the reputation of Juan Coy, took his pistol out and without warning, shot several times at Coy. The bullets struck Coy in a neck artery and he died on 25 January 1892.

One of the San Antonio policeman, Jacobo Coy (Juan's cousin), raced to the saloon at the sound of gunfire but was too late to help his cousin. He arrested Krempkau. Jacobo Coy was of the guards at the Vaudeville Theater in San Antonio, Texas, on 11 March 1884 when Austin City Marshall, Ben Thompson, entered the theater. He engaged in an argument with one of the owners. Jacobo Coy unsuccessfully attempted to calm Ben Thompson down. Thompson pulled out his pistol and was shot dead by the guards. No charges were filed in the death of Ben Thompson. He is buried at the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

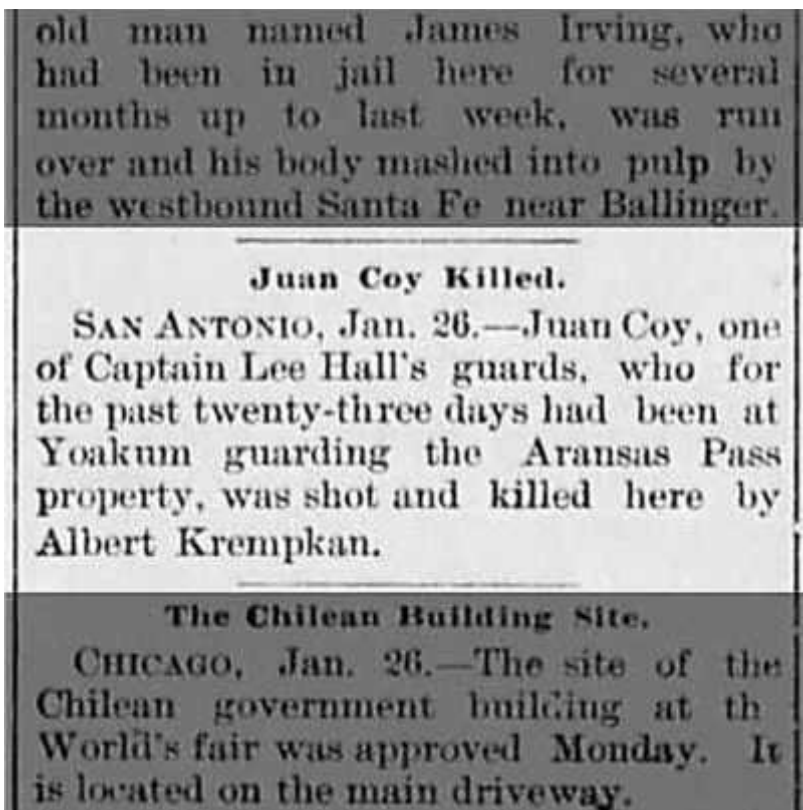
*The San Antonio Daily Light* provided several descriptive paragraphs of Juan Coy's background as a lawman and occasional outlaw. He is reputed to have shot and killed several men. None of the killings were prosecuted and he was not implicated in any except the two shootings that landed him in Huntsville prison in June 1878. It was noted during this period that Texans were quick to use gunplay in many situations. Men were shot and killed during the 1800s in arguments and over insults or ego. It was the Wild West.

Juan Coy's son Victor, my grandfather, was 19 years old when his father was killed. He continued to work for William Butler in the Floresville area. He married Juanita Jimenez in 1896. In 1910, he moved the family to the area

near Bastrop County, Texas, where he began farming. He had 13 children. The Coy family has eight generations in Austin, San Antonio and other parts of the country.

The following sources were used in the writing of this article:

1. Frederick C. Chabot. *With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogy of Early San Antonio Families.*
2. Robert H. Thonoff. *Historian.*
3. *San Antonio Daily Light*, Tuesday, 25 January 1892.
4. Charles L. Olmstead, Edward Coy Ybarra. *The Life and Death of Juan Coy. Outlaw and Lawman.*
5. Stephan L. Moore. *Savage Frontier*, Volume III, 1840-1841. *Rangers, Riflemen and Indian Wars in Texas.*
6. Sherry Robinson. *I Fought a Good Fight, A history of the Lipan Apaches.*
7. Nancy McGown Minor. *The Light Gray People. An Ethno-History of the Lipan Apaches of Texas and Northern Mexico.*
8. Bobby D. Weaver. *Castro's Colony. Impresario Development in Texas, 1842-1865.*
9. Coy Family Archives.
10. Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, Texas. Exhibits and Collections.



Waco Morning News, 26 January 1892, Tuesday, Page 6  
Newspapers.com

# THE SWEDISH CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

## *Baptism Records: Part Two*

**By AGS Member Craig Peterson** (Records transcribed by AGS member Kay Dunlap Boyd)

From the Editor:

**Correction Notice:** In the June 2017 edition of the Austin Genealogical Society (AGS) Quarterly, the captions for the pictures on page 64 were incorrectly printed as “*The Swedes of Texas.*” The correct captions should read: *Photo from “Swedes in Texas in Words and Pictures, 1838-1918: English Translation”* [www.swedesintexas.com](http://www.swedesintexas.com). Our sincere apologies go out to the author.

*The following is a continuation of an ongoing collaboration to transcribe the baptism records from The Swedish Central Methodist Church. The first transcriptions were published in the June 2017 edition of the Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly.*

*This edition contains Baptism dates from January 1887-July 1891.*

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1887	Jan 6	Ruth Augusta	Daughter	O. & Amanda Olson	Jan 6, 1887	Austin
1887	Jan 23	Johannes Hjalmar	Son	A. & Johanna Janson	Dec 18, 1886	Austin
1887	Feb 12	Arthur Rudolf	Son	O. E. & Emma Chr. Engquist	Aug 12, 1886	Austin
1887	Jun 6	Adelia Paulina	Daughter	F. C. & Ida Thomson	Dec 18, 1886	Austin
1887	Jun 11	Pearl Albertina Josephina	Daughter	M. & Selma Guldsten	Mar 18, 1887	Austin
1887	Jun 19	David Alfred Emmanuel	Son	Rev. O. A. & Augusta Juhlin	Apr 13, 1887	Austin
1887	Jun 25	Olga Emma Viktoria	Daughter	E. & Anna Holmstrom	Mar 22, 1887	Austin
1887	Aug 30	Eulalia	Daughter	E. G. & Hilda Petterson	Aug 2, 1887	Austin
1887	Aug 31	Nannie Paulina	Daughter	P. & Betris Lundbeck	Aug 2, 1887	Austin
1887	Oct 9	Johannes	Son	Th. & Anna Kjerling	Mar 1887	Austin
1887	Nov 11	Alfrida Magdalena	Daughter	C. & Maria Bjork	Sep 2, 1887	Austin
1888	Jan 15	Ellen Alfruda Paulin	Daughter	C. P. & Emma Eklund	Oct 8, 1887	Austin

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VII. RECORD OF

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	Adult or Infant	NAMES OF PARENTS
Year	Month and Day			
1888	Feb 12	Lilly Estell	Daughter	Henry and Christin Johnson
"	Feb 13	Anna Elisabet	Daughter	C. F. & Gunild Gustafson
"	Apr 22	Esther Adina Helena	Daughter	A. S. and Ida Kristina Sanders
"	Mar 3	Arthur Edward	Son	Charly & Hanna Lundell
"	Mar 4	David Ruben	Son	C. & Kristin Widerstrom
"	Apr 28	Carl Martin	Son	O. & Emma Engquist
"	"	Ellen Augusta	Daughter	P. & Hedvig Quick
"	May 27	Harry Walter Ruben	Son	A. J. & Kristina Johnson
"	"	Meable Anna Elisabets	Daughter	C. & Augusta Sandberg
"	Sept 30	Johannis Kristian	Son	John & Johanna Christianson
1889	Jan 31	Esther Amanda	Daughter	C. A. Hanna Johnson
"	Feb 17	Anna Maria Carolina	"	August & Ida Foster
"	"	Gustaf Walter	Son	J. O. & Amanda Stromquist
"	Mar 8	Florence Elenora	Daughter	P. & Hulda Quick

Baptism Records 298c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church  
1888-1889

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

BAPTISMS. 299

DATE OF BIRTH, if an INFANT	PLACE OF BAPTISM	OFFICIATING MINISTER	REMARKS
Nov. 28 the 1887	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Octob. 11 the 1887	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	Dead June 6 1888.
February 21 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
September 11 1887	Austin.	A. J. Gustafson	
November 12 1887	Austin.	A. J. Gustafson	Dead Jan 17-1913.
March 18 1888	Austin.	A. J. Gustafson	
" 29 1888	Austin.	A. J. Gustafson	
April 5 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
" 7 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Aug. 26 1888	Walnut	A. J. Gustafson	
Sept. 7 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Nov. 4 1888	Decker	A. J. Gustafson	
Oct 31 1888	Decker	A. J. Gustafson	
Decemb. 29 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	

Baptism Records 299c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church  
1888-1889

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1888	Feb 12	Lilly Estell	Daughter	Henry and Christin Johnson	Nov 28, 1887	Austin
1888	Feb 13	Anna Elisabet	Daughter	C. F. & Gunild Gustafson	Oct 11, 1887	Austin
1888	Apr 22	Esther Adina Helena	Daughter	A. S. and Ida Kristina Sanders	Feb 21, 1888	Austin
1888	Mar 3	Arthur Edward	Son	Charly & Hanna Lundell	Sep 11, 1887	Austin
1888	Mar 4	David Ruben	Son	C & Kristin Widerstrom	Nov 12, 1887	Austin

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1888	Apr 28	Carl Martin	Son	O & Emma Enquist	Mar 18, 1888	Austin
1888	Apr 28	Ellen Augusta	Daughter	S. & Hedvig Quick	Mar 29, 1888	Austin
1888	May 27	Harry Walter Ruben	Son	A. J. & Kristina Johnson	Apr 5, 1888	Austin
1888	May 27	Mable Anna Elisabeth	Daughter	C. & Augusta Sandberg	Apr 7, 1888	Austin
1888	Sep 30	Johannes Kristian	Son	John & Johanna Kristianson	Aug 26, 1888	Walnut
1889	Jan 31	Esther Amanda	Daughter	C. A. & Hanna Johnson	Sep 7, 1888	Austin
1889	Feb 17	Anna Maria Carolina	Daughter	August & Ida Foster	Nov 4, 1888	Decker
1889	Feb 24	Gustaf Walter	Son	J. A. & Amanda Stromquist	Okt 31, 1888	Decker
1889	Mar 8	Florence Elenora	Daughter	P. & Hulda Quick	Dec 29, 1888	Austin

\*Note from the Editor:

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*All Baptisms from images 298c and 299c were performed by Officiating Minister, A.J. Gustafson.*

*Two of the baptized have their dates of death listed in the "Remarks" column on these images:*

- ) Anna Elisabet: "Dead June 6, 1888."*
- ) David Ruben: "Died Jan 17-1913."*

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VII. RECORD OF

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	Adult or Infant	NAMES OF PARENTS
Year	Month and Day			
1889	March 16	Hulda Amalia	Daughter	A. & Johanna Johnson
1889	June 8	Lilly Rosenia Elvira	Daughter	M. & Selma Goldstein
1889	Aug. 14	Alfred	Son	Christian & Petra Hanson
1889	July 28	Anna Maria	Daughter	Th. and Anna Karling
1889	Dec. 22	David Ruben	Son	C. and Mathilda Brady
1890	Jan. 12	Annie Esthell	Daughter	Th. and Augusta Fritholm
1890	Jan. 12	Edie Esther Theresia	Daughter	C. P. and Emma Eklund
1890	June 2	David Willson	Son	John & Kristen Moffatt
1890	"	Ben Marshall	Son	John & Kristen Moffatt
1890	Sept 11	Wendla Theresia	Daughter	J. P. and Emelia Anderson
1890	Sept 12	Lilly Maria Victoria	Daughter	C. W. and Maria Gustafson
1890	Nov. 22	John Naaman	Son	O. and Emma Engquist
1890	"	Josef Walter	Son	S. M. and Helvig Zwick
1890	Nov. 23	Frank Harry	Son	J. A. and Amanda Stromgren

Baptism Records 300c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church 1889-1890

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

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BAPTISMS.

DATE OF BIRTH, if an INFANT	PLACE OF BAPTISM	OFFICIATING MINISTER	REMARKS
Jan. 18 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
March 13 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
December 29 1888	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
April 14 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Octob. 14 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
July 2 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Nov. 22 1889	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Nov. 6 1887	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Aug. 22 1890	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
July 8 1890	Pleasant Hill	A. J. Gustafson	
Aug. 4 1890	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
March 30 1890	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
Oct. 27 1890	Austin	A. J. Gustafson	
	Kernsby Bend	A. J. Gustafson	

Baptism Records 301c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church 1889-1890

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1889	Mar 16	Hulda Amalia	Daughter	A. & Johanna Johnson	Jun 18, 1889	Austin
1889	Jun 8	Lilly Rosenia Elvira	Daughter	M. & Selma Goldstein	Mar 13, 1889	Austin
1889	Aug 14	Alfred	Son	Christian & Petra Hanson	Dec 29, 1888	Austin
1889	Jul 28	Anna Maria	Daughter	Th. and Anna Karling	Apr 14, 1889	Austin
1889	Dec 22	David Ruben	Son	C. and Mathilda Brady	Oct 14, 1889	Austin



DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1890	Jan 12	Annie Esthell	Daughter	P. and Augusta Fridholm	Jul 2, 1889	Austin
1890	Jan 12	Lilie Esther Theresia	Daughter	C.P. and Emma Eklund	Nov 22, 1889	Austin
1890	Jun 2	David Willson	Son	John & Kristin Moffatt	Nov 6, 1887	Austin
1890	Jun 2	Ben Marshall	Son	John & Kristin Moffatt	Aug 22, 1890	Austin
1890	Sep 11	Wendla Theresia	Daughter	J.A. and Emilia Anderson	Jul 8, 1890	Pleasant Hill
1890	Sep 12	Lilly Maria Victoria	Daughter	C.V. and Maria Gustafson	Aug 4, 1890	Austin
1890	Nov 22	John Naaman	Son	O. and Emma Enquist	Mar 30, 1890	Austin
1890	Nov 22	Josef Walter	Son	S.M. and Hedvig Quick	Oct 24, 1890	Austin
1890	Nov 23	Frank Harry	Son	J.A. and Amanda Stromquist		Hornsby Bend

\*Note from the Editor:

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*All Baptisms from images 300c and 301c were performed by Officiating Minister, A.J. Gustafson.  
There are "Remarks" documented in the column on these images.*

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VII. RECORD OF

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	Adult or Infant	NAMES OF PARENTS
Year	Month and Day			
1890	Dec. 14	Carl Walter	Infant	Carl and Augusta Sandberg
1890	Dec 20	Cecilia	Infant	E.G. and Hilda Petterson
1891	April 11	Clarence	Infant	Kristian & Petra Hanson
1891	May 29	Ollie Selma Estella	Infant	M. and Selma Goldstein
1891	July 4	Linus Wesley	Infant	Amanda & J.P. Westlund
1891	July 5	Hortensia Florentina	Infant	Lovisa & A.M. Dahlin
1891	July 6	Hilda Elenora	Infant	Emma & John Kallgren
1891	Sept. 20th	John H. Hain	Infant	Hilda & P.A. Lutz

BAPTISMS.

303

DATE OF BIRTH, If an INFANT	PLACE OF BAPTISM	OFFICIATING MINISTER	REMARKS
Aug. 23 1890	Austin Tex.	A.J. Gustafson	
Nov. 8 1890	Austin Tex.	A.J. Gustafson	
Nov. 29 1890	Walnut	A.J. Gustafson	
February 11 1891	Austin Tex.	A.J. Gustafson	
April 4 1891	Elgin	A.J. Gustafson	
May 20 1891	Austin Tex.	A.J. Gustafson	
June 4 1891	Austin Tex.	A.J. Gustafson	
Aug. 2 1891	Austin	Rev. W. Ekblad	In the new book

Baptism Records 302c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church 1890-1891

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

Baptism Records 303c from the Swedish Central Methodist Church 1890-1891

Photo courtesy of AGS member Craig Peterson

DATE		NAME OF SUBJECT	ADULT OR INFANT	NAME OF PARENTS	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
YEAR	MONTH AND DAY					
1890	Dec 14	Carl Walter	Infant	Carl and Augusta Sandberg	Aug 23, 1890	Austin
1890	Dec 20	Cecelia	Infant	E.G. and Hilda Petterson	Nov 8, 1890	Austin
1891	Apr 11	Clarence	Infant	Kristian & Petra Hanson	Nov 29, 1890	Walnut
1891	May 29	Ollie Selma Estella	Infant	M. and Selma Goldstein	Feb 11, 1891	Austin
1891	Jul 4	Linus Wesley	Infant	Amanda & J.P. Westlund	Apr 4, 1891	Elgin
1891	Jul 5	Hortensia Florentina	Infant	Lovisa & A.M. Dahlin	May 20, 1891	Austin
1891	Jul 6	Hilda Elenora	Infant	Emma & John Kallgren	Jun 4, 1891	Austin

\*All Baptisms from images 302c and 303c were performed by Officiating Minister, A.J. Gustafson

# THE STORY OF THE PREWITT FAMILY

## *Travis County, Texas, Pioneers*

By AGS Member Shirley Prewitt Barber

**E**lisha Prewitt was born to Jesse and Harriett Adams Prewitt in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, about 1818. The family moved to Atascosita District (Liberty County) Texas, about 1821. Some unknown malady struck the family about 1831, killing Jesse, Harriett, and two little girls, leaving Elisha an orphan. An old family friend, Isaac Harris, took him in as one of his own. They moved to a land grant in Bastrop County, Texas, about 1832.

When the Texas Revolution began, Isaac and Elisha joined Captain Jesse Billingsley's Mina Volunteers, and they participated in the Battle of San Jacinto. After the war, Elisha was asked to join the "Minute Men," one of several Ranger contingents recruited to help guard the frontier of Texas. After several years, Elisha returned to Bastrop County where he had received a grant for his service in the Revolution.

On 1 October 1845, Elisha Prewitt mustered into David Cady's Company of Texas Mounted Rangers for service in the war with Mexico. He was mustered out on 31 December 1845.

On 21 August 1849, Elisha Prewitt married Frances Rhodes in Williamson County, Texas. Frances' father and another relative, Henry Rhodes, had come to Texas about 1831 and received grants in what was then Burleson County, later Williamson County. Part of their land extended into Travis County, Texas. Jollyville and Pond Springs roads lie on the Henry Rhodes survey.

The Rhodes family had moved from Lincoln County, North Carolina, settled first in Bastrop County, then Williamson County, Texas. They may have been the first family to settle that far west in Williamson County.

Elisha and Frances had the following children: James Sherrod, Aaron Daniel, Henry Weotherton, John Jesse, Fannie Lavinia, and Martha Sarah. James Sherrod married Margaret Mays, and their children were Elisha Napoleon, Jesse, Charles, Emma, Frankie, Nell, Arthur, Ruth, Ethel, and Alice.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Isaac Harris and his family drove a herd of cattle to California, and sometime after 1865, Elisha and Frances followed them. Elisha's pension application for service in the Texas Revolution was written from Merced, California, and dated 1870. But after that, he and Frances returned to Texas. Frances died in 1880, and Elisha died about 1894. They are likely buried in the Rhodes Cemetery. James Sherrod's death certificate lists as his burial place, "the old Prewitt family cemetery."

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

State of California }  
County of Fresno }

This day personally came Elisha Prewitt satisfactorily proven by the Affidavit of M. B. Lewis & Isaac Harris to be a citizen voter & freeholder of Merced County in said State and the person he represents himself to be, who first being duly sworn did depose and say; That he was born in Rapids Pursa State of Louisiana on the 27<sup>th</sup> September AD. 1818 or thereabouts; that he emigrated to Texas, then a portion of the Republic of Mexico in AD. 1820. and there resided, to wit. in West Liberty, until 1832 when he moved to Rastrop County; and resided in that County, Travis and Williamson County until 1840. when he emigrated to the State of California; that he participated in the War against the Republic of Mexico for the Independence of Texas as a private in Captain Jesse

Elisha Prewitt's pension application for service in the Texas Revolution (1870)  
From the Texas State Archives  
Photo courtesy of AGS member Shirley Prewitt Barber

Billingpley's Company of  
Minnas Volunteers, in the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Regiment, under the Com-  
mand of Colonel Edward  
Bevilson; that he enlisted in  
said Company on the 28<sup>th</sup> day  
of February 1836. for three (3)  
months; marched to San Anto-  
nio, was met by President  
Saml. Houston at Guadalupe,  
retreated to San Jacinto; where  
the majority of the troops were  
disbanded, but affiant with  
others were retained as min-  
ute men, and served as a  
Ranger on the frontiers irregu-  
larly for over two years, near  
as affiant recollects, regularly  
discharged, receiving a certifi-  
cate to that effect; that he  
participated in the battle of  
San Jacinto and many skin-  
nushes with Indians and  
as proof of his identity re-  
fers to the records of the  
proper office in Texas where  
it will be seen that he has  
for his services advanced

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

**Elisha Prewitt's pension application for service in the Texas Revolution (1870)**  
From the Texas State Archives  
Photo courtesy of AGS member Shirley Prewitt Barber

***Descendants of James Sherrod Prewitt***

Travis County Pioneer #17-104

*Generation No. 1*

1. JAMES SHERROD<sup>2</sup> PREWITT (*ELISHA*<sup>1</sup>) was born 4 June 1850 in Travis County, Texas, and died 2 March 1934 in Travis County, Texas. He married MARGARET JANE MAYES in Williamson County, Texas, on 26 October 1873. She was born 18 June 1858 in Burleson County, Texas, and died 4 June 1947 in Austin, Travis, Texas. Sherrod and Margaret are thought to be buried in Rhodes Cemetery.

Child of JAMES PREWITT and MARGARET MAYES is:

2. i. ELISHA N.<sup>3</sup> PREWITT, born 17 September 1874, Williamson County, Texas; died 11 May 1953, Austin, Travis, Texas.

*Generation No. 2*

2. ELISHA N.<sup>3</sup> PREWITT (*JAMES SHERROD*<sup>2</sup>, *ELISHA*<sup>1</sup>) was born 17 September 1874 in Williamson County, Texas, and died 11 May 1953 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married ALICE EUGENIA CHAPMAN in Williamson County, Texas on 24 January 1892. She was born 1 May 1915 in Williamson County, Texas, and died 18 October 1915 in Austin, Travis, Texas. Elisha was buried in Oakwood Annex Cemetery in Austin, Texas, and Alice was buried in Pond Springs Cemetery.

Child of ELISHA PREWITT and ALICE CHAPMAN is:

3. i. ALVA<sup>4</sup> PREWITT, born 4 December 1895, Williamson County, Texas; died 15 February 1987, Austin, Travis, Texas.

*Generation No. 3*

3. ALVA<sup>4</sup> PREWITT (*ELISHA N.*<sup>3</sup>, *JAMES SHERROD*<sup>2</sup>, *ELISHA*<sup>1</sup>) was born 4 December 1895 in Williamson County, Texas, and died 15 February 1987 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married JESSIE BELL JOHNSON in Travis County, Texas, on 3 October 1922. She was born 23 February 1905 in Travis County, Texas, and died 16 July 1994 in Austin, Travis, Texas. Alva and Jessie were buried in Forest Oaks Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Child of ALVA PREWITT and JESSIE JOHNSON is:

4. i. SHIRLEY IRENE<sup>5</sup> PREWITT

4. SHIRLEY PREWITT is living.

i am lonesome and sad to night Hannie  
while all without is black  
i am thinking of parting from thee Hannie  
god knows when ill be back  
my brain is heated and racked Hannie  
the tears fall thick and fast  
my heart beatt pittry pat Hannie  
but the pang will soon be past  
they told me not to love you Hannie  
they said you are too old but  
i do not mind that at all Hannie  
they are all dearniving and cold  
my eyes are growing dim Hannie  
my hair will soon turn gray  
i am young but will soon die Hannie  
i shall soon be hurried away  
when my gun is on my shoulder Hannie  
ill often think of the  
sitting by your fire side Hannie  
will thou too think of me  
good bye adieu dear Hannie  
my tears falls like rain  
godd bless you my dear Hannie  
i leave on the new orleans train

gone from home  
And, etc. ~~gone~~  
"Gone"

Elisha Prewitt  
leave on

From home 1002

A letter from Elisha Prewitt to Fannie  
Photo courtesy of AGS member Shirley Prewitt Barber

# PIONEER FAMILIES OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Austin Genealogical Society will issue a pioneer certificate to those who can prove their ancestors lived in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. To qualify for the certificate, you must be a direct descendant of people who lived here on or before 31 December 1880, proved with birth, death and marriage certificates; probate, census and military records; and obituaries and Bible records.

Applications for Pioneer Families of Travis County can be found at:

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/pioneers/> or  
from Kay Dunlap Boyd, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010.

Each application is \$20 and the certificates make nice gifts. You don't have to be a Travis County resident or a member of Austin Genealogical Society, although membership in the Society is another fine bargain at \$20 a year.





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