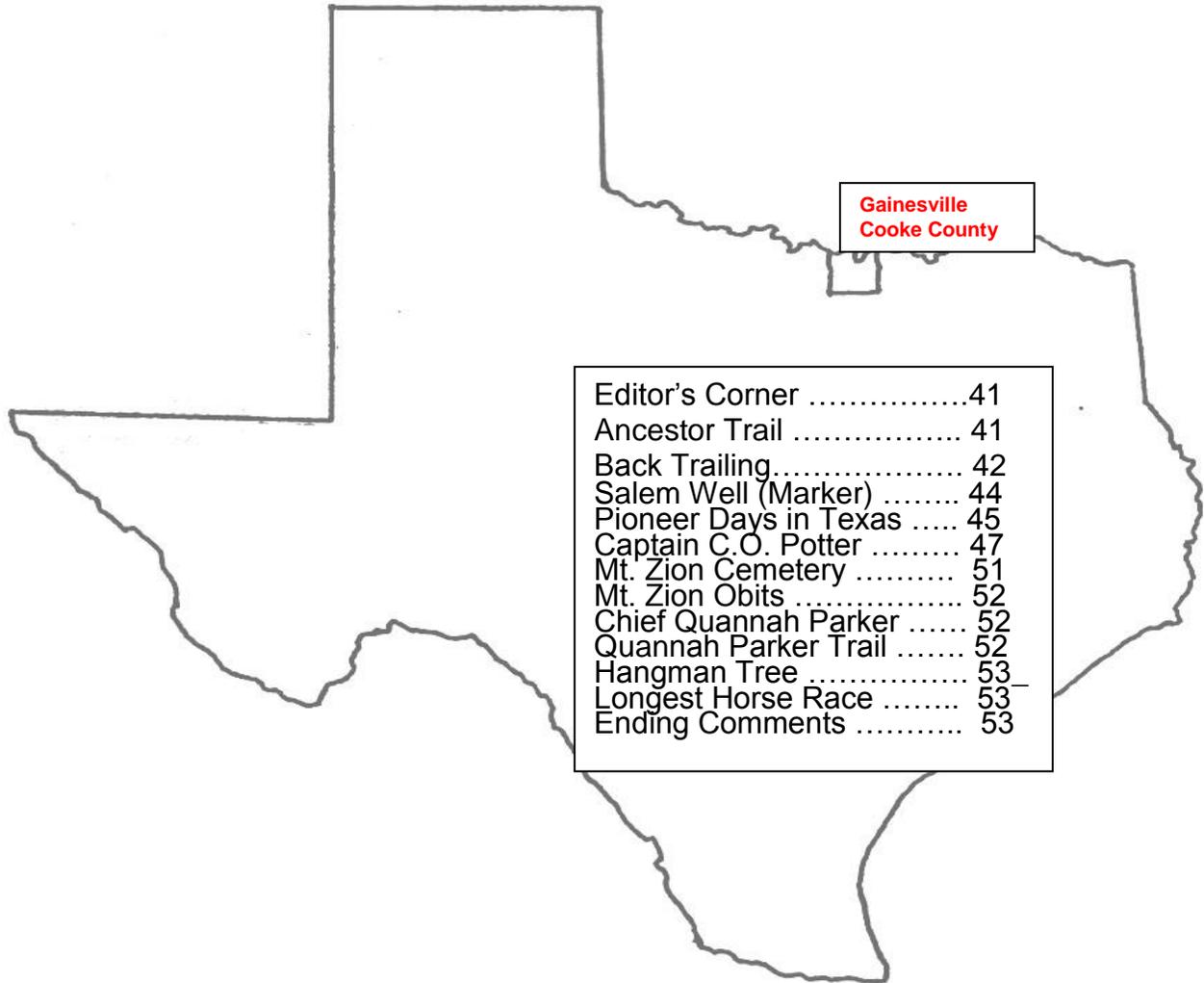


CROSS TIMBERS POST

Editor: Norman L. Newton



Gainesville
Cooke County

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Cooke County Website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/index.html>

September 2013

CROSS TIMBERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COOKE COUNTY TEXAS

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

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

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

President:

Ronnie **Howser**
940-665-4430 hob2gen@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Natalie **Massengale**
940-726-5725 nat.mass@ntin.net

Secretary:

Norman **Newton**
940-726-3414 normannewton@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Perlene **Newton**
940-726-3414 perlene.newton@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:

Dick **Sparkman**
940-665-7828 1933sparky@gmail.com

The Cross Timbers Post is published four times a year: March, June September and December. Subscription is by membership in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 yearly per household. Memberships run from June 1st to May 30th the next year.

All correspondence and material relative to the Cross Timbers Post should be directed to: The Editor, P.O. Box 197, Gainesville, Texas 76241-0197.

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

EDITORS' CORNER

Our editor, Dick Sparkman, who for the past several years has performed a wonderful job of publishing the Cross Timbers Post is temporarily having some health issues so I am filling his shoes with this edition. We look forward to his return to the saddle soon.

I wish to thank Ronnie Howser, Cass Reasor for help in the publication of this issue.

If anyone should ever wish to contribute an article or information please feel free to do so. We would love to have your input and information.

Your constructive comments are always welcome.

Till next time: Norman L. Newton

Meeting Schedules

Our 2013 scheduled meeting dates are: Jan N/M, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, June 3, Jul N/M, Aug 5, Sept 3, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2 Party. Go ahead and mark your calendar now so as not to miss a single one of our great meetings.

Our meetings meet in the Landmark Bank, Gainesville, Texas the first Monday each month at 6:00 pm.

Regards, Norman L. Newton

Following the Ancestor Trail:

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

MUENSTER LIBRARY,
418 No. Elm, Muenster, TX
<http://www.muensterlibrary.com>

COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY
200 South Weaver St., Gainesville, Texas

<http://cookecountylibrary.org>

Newspapers, family history, county history, various states, and counties

COOKE COUNTY-COUNTY CLERK

100 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas (courthouse)

*Death, Birth, Marriage records available.

*You can look up most records yourself.

Copies are \$1.00 per page

<http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/ips/cms/countyoffice/s/>

MORTON MUSEUM of COOKE COUNTY

210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas

E-mail: mortonmuseum@att.net

Historical people in Cooke County, various books

LIBRARY—1525 W. California St., Gainesville

http://www.nctc.edu/NCTC_Library/library

Various genealogy magazines, papers, family information, obits

Church's in Gainesville with libraries and Archives

First Christian Church

401 No. Dixon 940-665-2053

Started May 10, 1874 Open Dailey

Web site: firstchristiangainesville.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

415 E. California St. 940-665-4705

Started August 6, 1885 Open 9 A.M. to

12 Noon Only Look-up's

First United Methodist Church

214 So. Dixon

940-665-3926

Started 1852

Web site: fumcgainesville.com

First Presbyterian Church

401 So. Denton

940-665-5153

Started 1878

Archives

Web site: firstpresbyteriangainesville.com

St. Mary's Catholic Church

825 No. Weaver

940-665-5395

Started 1879

Web site: <http://stmaryscatholic.com/>

BACK TRAILING

95 years ago July and August 1918

2128 Women Register in County to vote

Cooke County women have manifested their desire to vote by a registration of 2128 according to figures furnished the Register this afternoon by County Tax Collector **P.O. Hays**, who has had charge of the registration. Poll taxes to the number of 4342 were paid by the men of the county giving a voting strength of 6470 and in addition a number of men exempt from poll tax payment will be entitled to vote.

Commissioners End Monthly Session

The court commissioners adjourned Tuesday afternoon after being in session two days and disposing of all business coming before the body.

One important matter before the court was fixing the tax assessments on the \$100 of assessed valuation in the county.

Advalorem tax, general purpose.....	25
Road and bridge tax	15
Courthouse bond and sinking fund.....	5
Jury fund.....	3
Jail warrant and sinking fund.....	1
Total	49

This is the same rate assessed last year. In addition to the above there is a special road bond tax of 10 cents in Precinct No. 1. A poll tax of 25 cents was also assessed. Occupation taxes will be half that School taxes varying from 10 to 50 cents on the \$100 valuation were assessed on ninety-four school districts

in the county. Permission was granted for the sale of two old school buildings in the Live Oak and Shady Grove districts which have been consolidated with the Leo district No. 50.

The resignation of **Arlin Reaves** as constable of Precinct No. 5 was accepted. A change was ordered in the Lindsay and Muenster road in order to avoid a bad washed place near Myra.

All claims properly presented and due were ordered paid.

An order was passed for the payment of \$100 each to the commissioners as salary as road supervisors from March 22 to July 9.

Mrs. Stuart Resigns as Editor of the Hesperian

Mrs. **Iona Harlan Stuart**, who for some time has been editor and advertising manager of the Hesperian announced today that she has severed her connection with that publication. Mrs. Stuart states that she has been offered a position with the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and also with a Washington paper, but is as yet undecided as to what line of work she will take up. She will first go to Dallas and then to Houston to visit a sister and spend a short vacation.

Ferguson Speaking Here This Afternoon

Ex-Governor **James E. Ferguson** arrived at 10:15 this morning over the Santa Fe from Fort Worth and was met at the station by some eight or ten of his supporters, who were joined by others as he walked to his hotel.

Mr. Ferguson was billed to speak at the courthouse at 3:30 and is now addressing a large crowd, a goodly portion of his audience however, being supporters of his opponent. A large number of farmers are in the city for the purpose of hearing the speaking.

Troop Trains Pass Through The City

The local Harvey houses fed two contingents of troops yesterday. Seventy five men from Colorado en route to Camp Travis were given dinner here and about 8 o'clock last evening a special train bearing 433 Oklahoma draft men were also en route to Camp Travis and were given box lunches here, the 433 being served in nine minutes on the lawn of the Santa Fe park.

New Kress Store Had Opening Today

The new store S. H. Kress & Co. was thrown open to the public early this morning and throughout the day has been thronged with eager shoppers. Mr. **Fleschner** who is here from New York for the opening states that he is highly pleased with the day's business and with the interest manifested in the store by the people of this vicinity.

The new store is handsomely equipped and abundantly stocked with new merchandise comprising almost everything from hair pins to automobile accessories. It is quite an addition to the business enterprises of the city and is duly appreciated by the people of Gainesville.

3 Cooke County Boys Reported Wounded

Reports have been received here of the wounding of three Cooke county boys on the French front according to rumors here today.

The first report states that Earl Cochran, son of Mrs. Blanche Cochran residing near Marysville, lost an arm in a recent battle. The second report is that Sam Dennis, son of A. D. Dennis of this city, has been seriously wounded in France and the third report is that a son of Lee Penton also was wounded. These boys went from Gainesville with the first draft contingents and after training at Camp Travis were sent overseas several weeks ago. It is presumed that they were in the last battle of the Marne, when the Huns were turned back and began the retreat that is now in progress.

50 years ago July and August 1963

Deeds Authorized By Council

The Council authorized the preparation of deeds transferring the new library property to the Cooke County Commissioners Court. Under terms of the contract between the two governing bodies the city agreed to build the structure and the county to maintain and operate it. Official transfer will be authorized at a later date.

City Manager **Henry Thomason** was authorized to advertise for bids on the old Library property at Denton and Main Streets. The bids will be placed in a Library book fund.

Mrs. **Eloise Yarbrough** was awarded the bid for draperies for the new Library's work room. Her bid was \$73.99.

Hospital Ground Broken Thursday

Ground was broken for a new 68 bed addition to Gainesville Memorial Hospital Thursday afternoon. Turning the first spade of dirt in the project were members of the Gainesville Hospital Authority and the contractor **Jack Owens** of Gainesville. Owens is expected to start work on the project immediately. The \$334,847 project should be completed within 310 calendar days. It will be located at the Ritchey Street Unit of Memorial Hospital and will face O'Neal Street. Private and semi-private rooms will be constructed along with a chapel, kitchen, and cafeteria, dining room to seat 30 persons, business office, storage facilities, a waiting room and off street parking. Following completion of the new addition present facilities will be completely remodeled.

Skunks Are Shipped By Forestburg Man

Gainesville Railway employees have shipped a lot of animals in their careers but a shipment from **John Anderson** of Forestburg had them a little edgy Tuesday.

Anderson, owner of a pet farm, shipped two dozen skunks. The little critters have been "deodorized" however. Tuesdays shipment of skunks was going to the "Animal World" in Elwood, Kan. The firm is a wholesale distributor.

The Forestburg resident not only raises skunks, but also handles fox, armadillo, squirrel, and raccoons among other things. He catches most of his animals by running them down in the woods. "I live in the woods and run with the dogs" he said.

Anderson first opened a pet shop some 11 years ago and has been in operation on a small farm near Forestburg for the past 7 years. During this time he has been bitten, scratched, and sprayed by skunks but the strong odor hasn't dulled his enthusiasm for the business. "I've been sprayed in the eyes, mouth, and have literally had a shower both by skunks" Anderson related.

Anderson has shipped animals to almost every state in the union and England, France, and Italy. He has appeared on the television program "What's My Line" and has been featured on news programs and in newspapers several times.

A television news cameraman followed him through the woods for three days to get a story several years ago.

Anderson makes the skunks harmless by deodorizing them himself. Several veterinarians send skunks to him to have the delicate operation performed. Skunks are valuable creatures. They sell for \$12.50 each when they are just a few weeks old. Anderson sells six for \$60 or a dozen for \$100. He ships between 100 and 200 each year.

The Forestburg pet shop owner is forced to take rabies shots because occasionally he is bitten by a skunk. He's had 21 shots as a rabies series.

Another of Anderson's side lines is tanning leather. He also makes garments from leather and has several on display at Anderson's Grocery in Forestburg. Skunks make fine pets according to Anderson. However, Railway Express employees were glad to see them go.

Salem Well Receives Historical Marker



Reba and Jerry Walker

A dedication ceremony was held on July 13, 2013 for the unveiling of the Texas Historical Marker.

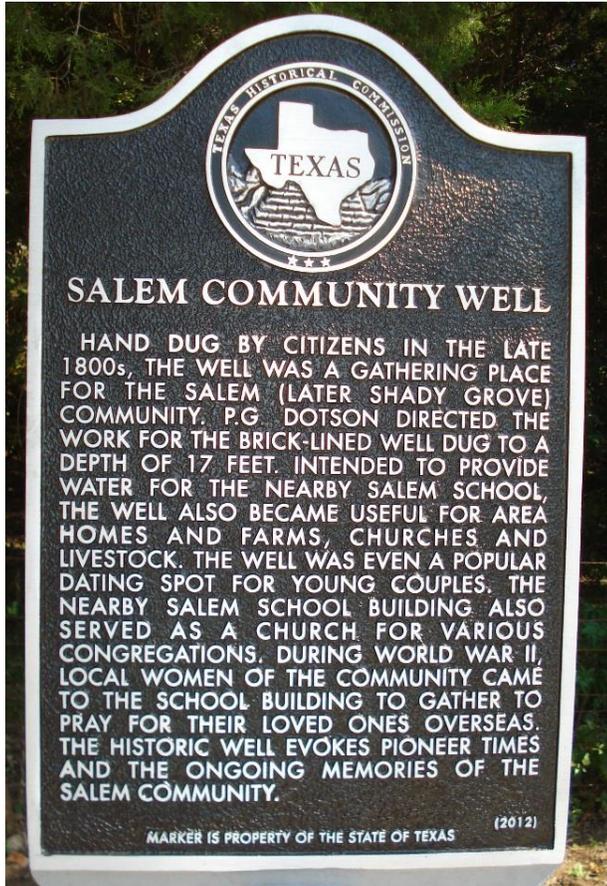
Reba Walker extended the welcome and her husband Jerry offered the opening prayer.

Many in attendance shared stories and memories concerning the old well. As each did so, a rose in memory of someone special, was

placed in the bucket over the well in that person's honor.

The Salem School was consolidated with the Rad Ware School in 1942 and the former school building was then used as a church.

There were approximately 46 people to witness this event.



The well was dug over 100 years ago, under the direction of P.G. Dotson. The well was initially dug to provide water for the nearby Salem School, and was also the only dependable water source for home and farm use for the families who lived in the area.

The area which was known as the Salem Community is now known as Shady Grove.



Cooke County Historical Commission members who attended from left: Reagan Vestal, Ona B. Reed, Chairman Ron Melugin, Bill Cox and Norman L. Newton.

Thrill and Dangers of Pioneer Days in Texas

Told by Melissa Catherine (Martin) Livingston Everett this cold December day 12-20-1925 at Garden City, Texas. By Howard Barrett - Staff Correspondent

Note: This article was copied from an old news clipping owned by Delma (Livingston) Dean and distributed by Uel H. Livingston to family members and descendants. The following story is told by our great-great grandmother.

The tragedies and agonies of the pioneer days of eastern Texas following the war with Mexico, the perilous times of the 1860's when 40 men were victims of wholesale hangings within a few days time at Gainesville, the ever prevailing danger of Indian raids, more than thirty years ago. All these combine with a hundred other thrilling episodes to make the life of Melissa Catherine (Martin) Livingston Everett.

Mrs. Everett was born: Melissa Catherine Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Martin, in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, February 6, 1840. During the long wagon train journey to Texas, one of the wagons being drawn by oxen was begun in 1851. Crossing the Mississippi at Memphis the party of nineteen, including four slaves, entered upon the long string of adventures which characterized the life of everyone in Texas at that time. It was a long journey to take with wagons and teams, but there was no railroad in those

days. There was no bank in which we could put our money and we had to bring it along with us. My father had several thousand dollars with him and we were frightened frequently. One night, as we came through the Mississippi bottoms, my father and the other men stood guard all night. That evening three men had met us three times. The third time my father asked them what they wanted and they told him they were hunting. After they had passed we stopped, got out our guns, loaded them and everyone who could shoot carried one. We didn't see the men any more after that.

We crossed the Red river by Shreveport, we went on to Harrison County, where my father's brother lived. We stopped there a few days and then went on to Smith County where we rented a place from a man named Holden. We stayed there and made a crop. Everyone in our group, except my mother and another woman, had the measles that year.

In the fall we moved to Cooke County, reaching there January 15, 1853. Father carried a little bunch of cattle, and some hogs with him. A married man could take up 320 acres of land then. It was between Pilot Point and where Whitesboro now stands. So my father and three of my brothers took up land.

Winters do not get as cold now as they used to. The first night we were in Cooke County a terrible blizzard came up and we were nearly froze to death, as we hadn't been used to anything like it, and then it was a beautiful day the next morning. As to the blizzards, they usually came us suddenly, resembling a cloud, and it would often be freezing ten minutes after one struck. I remember one evening while we lived in Cook County my husband was about four miles from home. He saw a blizzard cloud coming and set out for home as fast as he could ride. By the time he reached there it was freezing. We didn't have a stable and he put the horse in a shed next to the smokehouse. The next morning we found the horse frozen to death.

The day after reaching Cooke County my brothers went to splitting logs, making boards and building a smokehouse for shelter. After that was finished, they began splitting logs for a house. Everybody lived in log houses then and had puncheon floors. The next thing was to put in a farm. The first land was broken and plowed with what was called a bull-tongue plow. There was only a very few

people in the country at that time and they told my father he was fooling away his time, that nothing could be raised there. He answered that from what he could see he didn't think anyone had tried and that he was going to give it a fair trial and if he couldn't raise anything he would go where he could. I don't remember him ever having to buy any corn after the first year - of course it didn't take much for the range was as good as could be.

All of our supplies came from Jefferson, 200 miles away. Ox teams were used and it would take several weeks to make a trip. Cattle herds at that time were very small and two men named Dumas and Emerson, who lived four miles from us, had the largest herds, the grading up of cattle didn't begin until sometime after that and I don't remember them taking any big cattle drives until after that.

Fall of 1854 saw the country filling up rapidly and a number of Tennessee families migrated to the frontier territory. The construction of a little log school house, with split logs for seats, was the next improvement. It was named Happy Hollow. They got Parson Davis to promise to teach our school. He was to teach us for ten months. Oh, but I did want an education so much. But the teacher's family got sick and it only lasted ten days. How often I have thought, Oh, if only I had an education I might have been of some use in this old world. But, instead I have just done what I could.

Mrs. Everett was married on April 29, 1858, to Samuel H. Livingston. The following years were thrilling ones indeed. The Civil War was rushing forward to engulf the country and the high tension caused by its approach kept everything at pin's point. Indians heretofore peaceful and docile began their deadly raids and thefts, slaughtering and scalping of white people. And the tragic hanging of 40 men, many of whom were later believed to have been innocent, was just in the offing. Indians did not come into Mrs. Everett's immediate neighborhood at that time, but they were always close enough to keep the settlers on the lookout.

The Indians always came on the light of the moon, and we knew that was when they would do their mischief. I well remember one night when my sister had let my two younger sisters go home with a school teacher. After they were gone news came that the Indians were hitting trail and intended to take the whole country as far east as Jordan Cut,

which would take us in. My husband was at home sick at the time. His health was very bad and they wouldn't keep him in the army for long at a time. There was no man to send after the children.

My sister, sister-in-law and I saddled the horses and started after the children, who were three miles toward Gainesville. As I was riding a horse that I didn't know much about, my sisters took the children up behind them. We didn't waste any time getting home. The Indians didn't bother us that time. We later sold the horse I rode, though, for \$900 dollars Confederate money. Captain Roff got him and later he said he was a regular outlaw, that no man could ride him. I felt like providence had saved my life, then as it had done in many instances.

On one occasion, the Indians came near Gainesville and the soldiers took after them. One of the soldiers was killed. His friends ran into the fight and got him before the Indians could scalp him. This happened six miles west of Gainesville, one of my brother's and two other men carried the dead man on their horses back to Gainesville.

On another occasion a family by the name of Jones living near Gainesville, escaped the terrible results of an attack by Indians by sheer bluff. The Indians appeared and began circling around the house continually drawing closer and yelling. It wasn't common for them to attack a house. The family thought their only chance was to bluff the Indians so the girls put on their father's clothes. They got sticks, like guns, took places in the hall where the Indians could see them, shook their fists at the attackers and dared them to come on. It worked, all right, and their lives were spared.

A family by the name of Bose, lived near the same place, as I remember, they had been east on a visit and on their return home the Indians had ran onto them and killed all of the family, except the mother and two daughters. The Indians found out that the white people would buy the captives back. The women were bought back by their friends and relatives.

The most exciting times in Mrs. Everett's life was the period of wholesale hangings at Gainesville during the early days of the Civil War. Though time dimmed her memory, she recalls most of the fact dealing with these tragedies.

The lower class of people, which included also a number of northern sympathizers, organized a secret society, calling it a Peace Company. The

members were sworn into the order with the threat of death if they ever divulged the working of the society. Many members regretted their membership, but the certainty of death made them keep silent.

A man named Childs joined and found out what it was. He had felt all along that something was wrong and that was why he joined. He called in the soldiers and the arrests began. We knew nothing about it until one morning we were eating breakfast and a man rode up and asked my husband to go to Gainesville with him. When he said he couldn't, the man insisted and said he had a prisoner to take to Gainesville, it was a man by the name of Harper and we were well acquainted with him. My husband didn't know what the trouble was, so he went along and when he reached Gainesville, there were 300 soldiers there bringing in prisoners from every direction.

My husband was named to guard the prisoners. When night came he asked to go home, but the officers refused to let him. He insisted that he had told me he would be back that night and that when he made such a promise he always carried it out and that unless he did I would come to Gainesville to find out what the trouble was. They let him off when he promised to return the next morning. I don't remember how many days he was gone, but they guarded the town day and night for a long time.

Childs found out as to all the leaders and they were arrested, found guilty, and were hanged in an old elm tree which still was standing a few years ago. Many of them on the gallows acknowledged their intention was to kill men, women and children, which they didn't see fit to take with them. They then planned to drive all the stock to Kansas.

A widow named Wolsely who lived in Gainesville had two sons, who joined the army when the war started and they had made true soldiers, her two youngest boys were gulled into this secret order and were put in prison. She didn't ask any lawyer to plead their case, but went down herself and got down on her knees and pleaded with God. My husband said he never heard such a prayer come out of a mouth and that he didn't think there was a dry eye in the courtroom. Her boys were released and she took them home. I always have felt there was no doubt that God answered her prayers. A number of the leaders were given 90 days in

which to go to their own side in the war. They wouldn't go and I believe innocent men were hanged on their account. Two old men, Arfus Dawson and Jimmie Ward, were drawn into the order. When their arrests began they thought they would make their escape. They went to where Mill creek enters the Red river, but couldn't cross. They decided to come to Gainesville. They were waiting for their trial when news came in that one of their party had waylaid and killed Colonel Young, one of the leading citizens of the country. His son, Jim Young, came in asking for revenge. The killing aroused lots of feeling and nineteen men were taken out and hanged on the old elm tree. I think that made forty in all. Those two old men I spoke of, were in the bunch.

Mr. Ward had known me when I was a little girl. He came to my house one day just before the trouble began. He was wrought up considerably. He walked up and down the room and wouldn't sit down. He said to me then, "Melissa, we are going to have the worst times ever, right here among us and it will be right on us in a few days. You don't know anything about it, but I do." About that time our hired man came in and he didn't say any more. I couldn't understand what he meant until all of this came to light but I believe he intended to tell me, so that I could make my escape.

The members of the society had the day set when they would start an uprising and take the country. It was only a few days, before that day, that the arrests began. Women and children didn't know what to do for protection. They would gather at one place and another and would take axes, hammers and all sorts of tools in the house for protection.

A short time after the tragic events at Gainesville, Mrs. Everett and her family moved to within four miles of Whitesboro. It was June 5, 1864, she was converted. She joined the Baptist church and has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Baptist church since then.

Lots of people moved away from around Gainesville on account of the Indians and couldn't take their stoves with them. A Mr. Scott bought several stoves from these people. Cloth was the currency of the country and we 'wove' lots of it. I talked my husband into the idea and we gave the man thirteen yards of cloth for a stove.

Samuel H. Livingston died on October 11, 1869. Mrs. Everett spent the next several year at back-

breaking labor in an effort to keep her farm going and to care for her children. She married Gus Everett on April 6, 1874.

In 1879 the Everetts moved to a farm in Montague County.

Captain Cincinnatus O. Potter

(Cooke County Pioneer Family)

By Norman L. Newton



Captain Cincinnatus O. Potter was born on January 24, 1822 in Crawford County, Georgia. He was the third of eleven children born to James and Margaret Parker Potter.

Capt. Potter married Melissa Ann Costell on July 10, 1844 in DeKalb County, Alabama. She was born January 23, 1826 in Tennessee. They had ten children, five boys and five girls. In their early marriage they lived in Pontotoc County, Mississippi where six of the children were born. The last four children were born in Cooke County.

Capt. Potter and Melissa were educated people. He is listed as a teacher in the census recorded on October 14, 1850 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. They both instilled the importance of education to all of their children.

They had migrated and settled in northwest Cooke County on October, 1858 when the county was only ten years old. The area was remote with few families far and in between. Today the area is around Marysville about 16 miles northwest of

Gainesville. Besides the constant struggle to grow enough food to sustain their family there was the ever present danger of Indian attacks from the red man leaving Oklahoma and crossing the Red River into Texas. One particular raid which involved the Potter family occurred on December 22 and 23, 1863.

About two hundred and fifty Indians crossed the Red River a few miles below the Red River Station in the afternoon of December 22. They at once began their devilish work of murder and burning.

The Indians first came to the home of Mr. Anderson where they killed his wife and left her with her feet so near a fire in the yard as to roast them. Further on they came to the Wesley Willet residence and killed him and along with one daughter. Mrs. Willet and another daughter escaped. The next home was that of the G. L. Hatfield family. They escaped but their house was set on fire. All the homes plundered were set on fire. The next place raided was the Wallace settlement in Sadler's bend, which was some twelve or fifteen miles from the Hatfield place.

Captain John T. Rowland heard of these raids. He commanded a company of twenty-five Texas State troops. They were camped at the Red River Station in Montague County. His company pursued the Indians who were riding to the Wallace settlement.

The Indians knew they were pursued and re-crossed Red River. Capt. Rowland believed that they had abandoned the raid. It was their custom to make sudden raids on settlements and then escape at night. Capt. Rowland and his men rode fast and hard, wearing their horses out. So he decided to rest at Capt. Wallace's for the night and re-new the pursuit the next morning.

News of these raids carried throughout the area reaching other settlements including the Elmore settlement located on the head of Fish creek about six miles east of Wallace's. Another settlement which received word was the Potter settlement which was four miles southeast from the Elmore settlement. A courier also carried the news to Gainesville.

During the night the families from the settlements of James Elmore and Capt. Potter gathered before daylight of December 23rd. Most of these families were women and children because the men were enlisted in the Confederate

Army. The few men left were armed poorly because the best rifles were given to the men who had joined the Confederate Army.

When the news reached Gainesville, Captain William C. Twitty dispatched about twenty-five men from Captain S. P. C. Patton's Company to the scene of the raid. After a hard ride they reached Captain Wallace's a before daylight on the 23rd. Capt. Rowland who was not expecting reinforcements almost fired on the soldiers, mistaking them for the enemy.

Before sunrise the Indians re-crossed the Red River just below the Wallace settlement to steal horses, shoot cattle and burn houses. They reached the Elmore place and the men and woman gathered there were so frightened they fled to the woods. Some were killed while some were chased for miles but most were successful in their escape.

One story is about a Mr. Dawson who had seized a six month old baby as he fled. When he reached a spot that he thought he could safely hide the child began to cry. Mr. Dawson could see the Indians coming in his direction and knew they would hear the baby's screams if they did not run deeper into the woods.

The Indians followed and in despair Mr. Dawson laid the baby in a deep dry creek bed and covered it with leaves, which put the baby to sleep. Mr. Dawson then escaped. When the Indians left he went back and got the baby, and carried it to its frenzied mother.

The people who had gathered at the Potter's house were able to see the flames at Elmore's house and knew the Indians were advancing in their direction. About a mile and a half south of where Capt. Potter lived were the families of Ephraim Clark and Harrison Lander that had failed to go to Capt. Potter's.

The people at Potter's place knew that it was too late to get the Clark's and Lander's families to Potter's so they decided to go there. As they started to leave, James McNabb, who had left the Potter house earlier that morning returned hotly pursued by Indians who were in advance. McNabb made a narrow escape when he dismounted his horse and the Indians surrounded the house. They tried to cut him off from his horse but he made his escape by making his horse jump the fence.

The people at Capt. Potter's house retreated to Lander's house getting Clark's family. The children were taken from bed and hurried into a wagon to be driven rapidly away. Before reaching Lander's place situated on a prairie knoll near a very high and precipitous bluff they could see the flames bursting from the roof of Captain Potter's house. Frightened women and children were gathered in the house, while four men and three boys with poor guns stood in the yard ready to protect as best they could. They did not have to wait long before the Indians came into sight; first small bands followed by larger groups. The Indians had decorated their horses with the bed clothing, sheets, quilts, table-cloths and ladies wearing apparel.

The women suspected everyone had been killed at Elmore's because they saw the house burn. When the overwhelming force of Indians came in sight strung out for a considerable distance with their yells and queer decorations all hope sank. Many of the women prayed, others screamed and cried, while others held their children in silent despair. Soon the Indians surrounded the place and drove off the horses. The Indians were slow to attack. They would get close to the house, stop and shoot arrows at the men in the yard, occasionally fire a gun or pistol, and at times some daring Indian would come within gun-shot. But the men were experienced in Indian warfare and knew to wait to fire until it had to be done.

It was thought that the women and children could hurry over the steep bluff north of the house and the Indians could not follow them on their horses. If the steep bluff could be reached escape was certain.

The largest group of Indians were south of the house three hundred yards away. The bluff was north of the house and one hundred and fifty yards away. The men and boys with guns were to ride their horses and form a line to protect the women and children who were to make a break for the bluff. As they left the house the Indians yelled and scared the women and children back into the house. After further delay another effort was made. It was a successful escape because the soldiers arrived on the brow of a high hill a mile away and gave the Indians something else to do. The Indians ran two miles to the highest point of

the divide between Fish Creek and Dry Elm and then halted.

Capt. Rowland and Capt. Patton learned about the Indians crossing the Red River and Capt. Rowland ordered a pursuit. He trailed the Indians by the burning houses. The soldiers had traveled so fast that the horses and many of his men were worn out and had to stop. By the time they reached Lander's, Capt. Rowland's horse was replaced by one furnished by Clark.

Some of the soldiers were furnished fresh horses from the rescued families in gratitude. Some joined the soldiers to pursue the Indians and caught them near the high point where they had first stopped.

The Indians showed no fear when they saw the small number of soldiers. Capt. Rowland led his men through Capt. Potter's prairie farm. The south side of the rail fence was down in two or three places, which would prove to be most fortunate. After traveling three hundred yards south of the fence, Capt. Rowland halted his command and formed a line.

The Indians divided into two wings to surround the soldiers, but the troops did not wait for command. They started firing but did little damage because they were outside of range of the enemy.

As the Indians made their way closer and began firing many of the soldiers panicked and started to flee. Capt. Rowland tried to stop them but it was useless and the whole command fled. The men's goal was to retreat to the gaps left in the fence and then turn and put up a defense from behind the fence.

The Indians were in pursuit and killed many because the tired horses could not carry them out of reach of the Indians. Before they reached the fence three men were killed and several others wounded. The son of Capt. Potter, Samuel Brittain Potter was wounded in the head by a glancing arrow. Capt. Rowland was about the last man through the fence to protect his men. As he rode into the field he fired his double-barrel shot-gun at an Indian not more than thirty yards and the Indian dropped his shield badly wounded. It was learned later that this shot killed the chief. With the men now behind the safety of the fence the Indians fled.

Capt. Rowland tried to rally his men to attack but the soldiers were demoralized against

the odds. Capt. Rowland dispatched couriers to different points to give the alarm and with a few men he went to the head of Elm in Montague County where there were a few families without protection.

The Indians continued their raid riding southeast reaching the Jones settlement by the Dry Elm and killed Mr. White and severely wounded his step-son Young Parker. The Indians retreated that night across the Red River with a large number of stolen horses.

The frontier settlements in Texas were subject to Indian raids. When the War Between the States broke out the Confederate government was unable to protect these settlements. The state ordered troops to protect the settlements and Capt. Potter was placed in command of five companies and served with these until the end of the war. They kept Indians in check.

In 1862 Capt. Potter was elected tax assessor and collector for Cooke County. In October 1862, "The Great Hanging in Gainesville" occurred where around forty-two men were tried, convicted and hanged. Capt. Potter served the court during these events.

Children of Capt. and Melissa Potter are;

1. Samuel Brittain Potter, born about 1846 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi and died after 1863 in Cooke County.
2. Clement Clay Potter, born August 30, 1847 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi and died March 28, 1918, buried in Fairview Cemetery. On September 14, 1871 he married Miss Zella Bogardus. Clement Clay Potter was a Cooke County judge of and a prominent member of the bar.
3. Sarah Potter was born on August 29, 1849 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi and died April 6, 1901 in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County. She married William Lanier on October 6, 1870.
4. James Monroe Potter was born on February 1, 1852 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi and died on June 25, 1930, buried in Fairview Cemetery. He married Miss Ella Lee on June 19, 1879 and was a banker at the First National Bank in Gainesville.
5. Calhoon Landers Potter was born on March 6, 1854 in Pontotoc County,

Mississippi and died April 29, 1905. He married Nellie Walton on December 27, 1877 who died at the age of 26. He then married Dixie Valeria "The Texas Nightingale" Crooks who was a concert singer. He was a lawyer in the Potter & Potter firm in Fort Worth.

6. Mary Potter was born about 1856 in Mississippi and died at a young age.
7. Pandora Potter was born on January 10, 1860 in Cooke County and died on August 23, 1899 in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. She married Luther Evans on December 15, 1879.
8. Jemima Ella Potter was born in January 1862 in Cooke County and died on July 5, 1912. She married William Curtis Weeks on May 1, 1883.
9. Georgia Anne Potter was born on December 5, 1864 in Cooke County and died on July 23, 1931. She married L. H. Mathis on October 8, 1889. Mr. Mathis was an attorney in Wichita Falls.
10. John Potter was born on October 31, 1867 in Cooke County. He died on July 16, 1887.

Melissa Ann Potter died at the age of 57 on January 31, 1883, in Gainesville. She is buried in Fairview Cemetery. Capt. Potter would marry for the second time to Mary Ellen Savage on November 23, 1884. Capt. Potter and Mary would have one child, Clea Maurine Potter who was born on April 15, 1886, Gainesville.

Capt. Potter died at the age of 76 on October 18, 1898, in Gainesville and is buried beside his first wife Melissa in Fairview Cemetery. On his tombstone is this verse from Psalms 130: 5 *"Wait for the Lord my soul doth wait and in his word do I hope."*

The Mt. Zion Cemetery list has been updated on the Cooke County website of the TXGenWeb Project. There is also about 270 obits for viewing of people that is buried there. Thank you to Cass Reasor for sharing this information which is now online.

Cemetery;

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/mt_zion_alpha_order.htm

Obits;

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/mt_zion_obits.htm



Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanches, man among men and chieftain among chieftains, has gone to the Great Father. He died at his ranch near here at five minutes past noon. Twenty minutes after his return from a visit with the Cheyennes near Harmon Oklahoma. The immediate cause of death was heart failure caused by rheumatism, according to the physician called Dr. J. A. Perisho of Cache. The Chief was dying on the Train coming from Snyder but with primitive stoicism he determined to live until he reached home. His favorite wife, To-Nicy, by his side, the dying chief sat quietly, his head bowed and his limbs trembling. When the train reached Cache he arose and walked from the train unaided and sat in the waiting room. Dr Perisho was called and gave him a heart stimulant and the chief was then rushed to his home in the automobile of his son in law Emmet Cox. He was helped into the house and laid on a couch. He arose unaided while Knox Beal, a white man raised from childhood by the Comanche Chief, took off his outer garments. "Have you any objections to the doctor of the whiteman treating you?" asked To-

pay one of his wives, in Comanche. "No it is good I'm ready" said Quanah. The Indian woman seemed to know the end was near. They motioned to the physician Beal, and a friend to leave the room while "Cotes-E-Wyne," the Indians 'last resort was administered by Quas-E-I, a medicine man. "Father in heaven this is our brother coming," prayed the medicine man. Placing an arm about the dying chief, he flapped his hands and imitated the call of the Great Eagle, the messenger of the Great Father. Then an eagle bone was thrust in Quanah's throat to open it and To-Nicy, his favorite, squirted a mouth full of water down his throat, He coughed, gasped, moved his lips feebly, and died, just twenty minutes after his arrival.

It had been the Eagles last wish to live until the marble monument was placed over his mother's grave. Only two weeks before he died, he had seen it in place, and now he layed beside his mother, united with her at last in the bosom of Mother earth. A spear shaped cedar pointing towards heaven was planted at the head of his grave. A red granite headstone, authorized by Congress, was quarried from the nearby Wichita Mountains. On it was inscribed the following

**RESTING HERE UNTILL DAY BREAKS
AND SHADOWS FALL AND DARKNESS
DISAPPEARS IS**

QUANAH PARKER

LAST CHIEF OF THE COMANCHES

BORN 1852

DIED FEB 23, 1911

THIS MONUMENT ERECTED UNDER ACT OF CONGRESS
APPROVED JUNE 23, 1926

QUANAH PARKER TRAIL – The roadside arrows points its way across West Texas which has ties to Quanah Parker and the Comanches.

An arrow will soon be planted in Borden County northwest of the city of Gail and Mucha-Que Peak. This was where Quanah had his last encampment before his 1875 surrender and journey to Fort Sill, Ok.

I (Norman L. Newton) will be present when this event takes place since I am the Coordinator of Borden County on the TXGenWeb Project.

Information about the Quanah Parker Trail can be found at;

http://quanahparkertrail.com/Quanah_Parker_Trail/index.html

Old Hangman's Tree on Indian Creek still There

No doubt you have heard of old times in Cooke County when cattle thieves were hung on the nearest tree, and there is standing today on Indian Creek a few miles west of this place, a tree that has held a dozen cattle rustlers.

The old tree is located in a lowland and stands out prominently from the other trees of the grove. It carries today the name of Hangman's Tree and the strip of low woodland is referred to as Hangman's Grove.

The tree is a massive one standing a bit drooping and marked with mysterious cuttings and designs. It is said by some that at night white, human looking objects have been seen running noiselessly to and fro in the darkness. The old tree is one of, and if it could talk, could tell some startling stories.

In the spring birds build their nests in its boughs, and the wild flowers bloom underneath, and the tree itself is a mass of velvet greenery, but it still carries with it that grewsome name...

Note: The above article was taken from the VALLEY VIEW BEACON, April 25, 1941. I had to take some liberty with editing due to the poor condition of the newspaper and possible missing text. (Norman L. Newton)

This can be found online at:

<http://www.valleyview1872.com/hangmantree.htm>

In our neighbor county to the west (Montague) an interesting event happened in 1939. An actual horse race from Nocona, Texas to San Francisco, California took place. The article was recently published in the North Texas Farm and Ranch Magazine and titled "**World's Longest Horse Race**". Here is a link to read this article.

http://www.valleyview1872.com/files/longest_horse_race.pdf

Ending Comments:

I was recently in London on business. I am naturally always asked where I am from. Of course it would be obvious that I am from the U.S. but more specifically they wish to know where in the U.S. am I from. Naturally in a proud manner I always reply, TEXAS, and generally this meets with recognition and approval. It is apparent that TEXANS are generally well thought of. In addition because of the recognized size of Texas they will often follow with what part of Texas. Again in a very proud manner I will reply, North Central Texas in Cooke County. Whether it is a taxi driver or a fellow business acquaintance from that country it very often allows me to go further with sharing with them about the county which I call home. What truly an honor it is to live and be raised in Cooke County which has such an awesome history to share. It is no wonder that not only are we proud of where we are from but more over to be humbled by being so blessed.

I bid you adieu, Norman