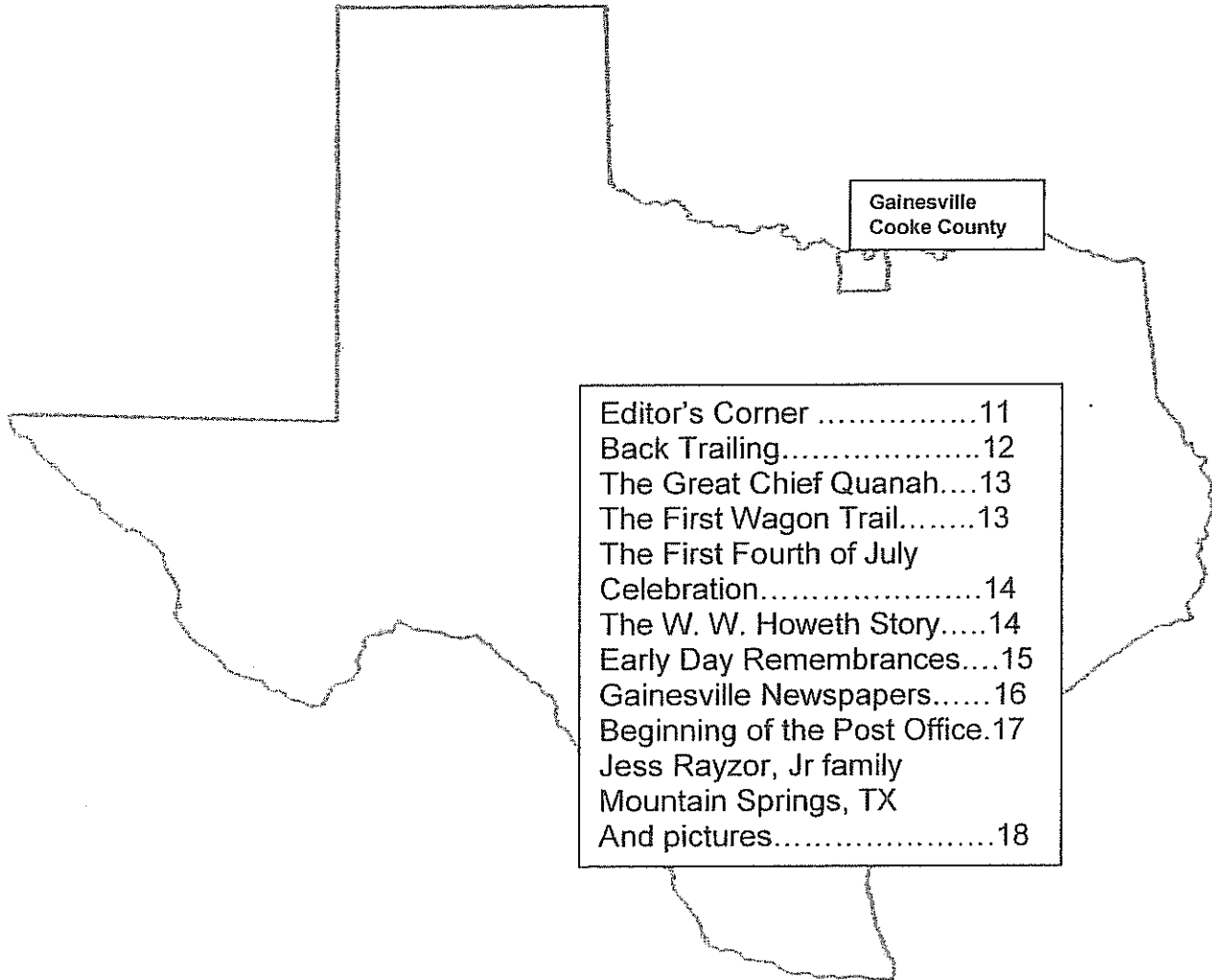


CROSS TIMBERS POST

Editor: Dick Sparkman



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

March 2012

CROSS TIMBERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COOKE COUNTY TEXAS

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

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

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

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

EDITORS' CORNER

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

- Collection of Obits 1950-1988 pages 172 \$26.75
- Fairview Cemetery— pages 191 \$20.00
- Good Times Edition—pages 27 \$10.25
- Probate Records 1848—1940 pages 70 \$19.00
- Resthaven Cemetery pages 27 \$9.00
- Ye Gainesville Towne 1850-1927 pages 121 \$16.50
- Cooke County Marriages
- Vol. I 1849-1858 pages 10 \$6.75
- Vol. II 1858-1872 pages 48 \$15.25
- Vol. IIA 1872-1877 pages 48 \$15.25
- Vol. III 1877-1882 pages 78 \$22.50
- Know Your County Pages 64 \$19.00
- Early History of Cooke County Pages 103 \$23.50
- Cemeteries of Cooke County Pages 458 On CD \$12.50

These are non-member prices with shipping.

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

Meeting Schedules

Our 2012 scheduled meeting dates are: Jan N/M, Feb. 6th, Mar. 5th, Apr. 2nd, May 7th, June 4, July N/M, Aug. 6th, Sept 2nd, Oct. 1st, Nov. 5th, Dec. 5th party. Go ahead and mark your calendar now so as not to miss a single one of our great meetings. Our meetings meet at the Morton Museum, 210 South Dixon, and Gainesville, Texas At 6:00 P. M.

Good Hunting

Dick Sparkman

BACK TRAILING

95 years ago—March 1917

Gainesville Lady is Highly Honored; Library Bill Signed

Governor Ferguson has just signed the Library bill in the presence of a delegation, with the pen to be presented to Miss **Lillian Gunter** of Gainesville.

Miss Gunter is the librarian of the Carnegie library in this city and she perhaps has had more to do with preparing the bill signed today by **Governor Ferguson** than any other person, and she is to be congratulated on the writing of that measure into the statutes, the passage of which was championed and fostered by Senator **Dayton** who usually gets what he goes after among the solon brunch.

Congressional Re-districting bill agreed to by conference

The joint conference on the bill to redistrict Texas into new congressional districts came to an agreement last night. Our district—the Thirteenth – will be composed of the following named counties: Cooke, Denton, Montaque, Wise, Clay, Jack, Young and Archer, Wichita, Wilbarger, Baylor, and Throckmorton, twelve in all.

Ship Sunk by Submarine

The British steamer **Mennondaker** was sunk without warning on March 12 by a submarine, according to the Liverpool Consul. Three Americans were on board, including **Matthew Hill** of Gainesville, Texas

Headlines in the Register

"Wilson is inaugurated"

"Plot to assassinate President today"

Americans warned to stay out of Mexico"

50 Years Ago

New State Maps

This year's has more than 698 Farm to Market and Ranch to Market road miles added. Approximately 20,848 miles of the state's more than 33,000-mile Farm to Market road system now under maintenance is shown on the map. So are the 26,921 miles interstate, U.S. and State highways.

Gainesville Group Going to Capital

A Gainesville delegation will fly from Dallas to Washington Monday to continue the local battle to change entrance ramp locations from Interstate Hwy 35 to service roads to serve the business area on the northwestern section of the city. Slated to make the trip are Judge **Shelby Fletcher**, Commissioner **Earl Taylor**, City Manager **Jack Davis**, **Ernie Baker**, **Jim Hatcher** and **Virgil Meeks**. They have an appointment with Cong. **Graham Purcell** and hope to carry plea directly to the Bureau of Public Roads. The Agency recently rejected a request for the ramps changes.

\$325 Million Welfare Bill Okayed in House.

The House has passed a \$325-million welfare bill, including a \$140 million boost in relief payments which was not sought by President Kennedy. The bill makes a series of administration sponsored changes in the federal-state welfare program.

It passed the House Thursday on a 319-69 roll call vote. Before sending it to the Senate, the House rejected, 231 to 156 a Republican backed move to top off the extra relief payments.

Accepting Reservoir Resolution

Mayor Russell Guffey signed the resolution to name the proposed Fish Creek Reservoir, **Hubert H. Moss Lake**. Attending the signing was Mrs. **Anne Moss**, wife of the former well known educator. Others supporting the petition in honor of Moss are **Dr. Ira Thomas**, **L.R. Powledge**, **J.A. Blohm**, **William Lewis**, **Roy Wilson**, **Cecil Tinsley**, **Cliff McMahon**, and **John Hardy**

THE GREAT CHIEF QUANAH

My great great- grandfather. **Issiac D. Lamb**, came to Texas from South Carolina in 1864, and settled in Cooke County, two miles from Dexter. He had three sons. My great grandfather was the eldest of the three. His name was Dee, and at that time he was with the Confederate Army in Mississippi. When the war was over the boys were just turned loose to get home the best way they could. Grandfather Dee was barefooted, cold and hungry, but he found an old mule and rode him for several days until some men met him and took the mule away from him. At that time he was only eighteen years old. After many days he made his way home, which at that time was near Dexter. He then helped his father on the farm and during those pioneer days life was hard for all people. Cooke County was frontier country then, and the Indians were always raiding and killing the settlers. The Indians of the Comanche and Caddo tribes were under a fierce chief known as **Quanah**. He seemed to bear an invisible hatred toward all white settlers due to the fact that his white mother, Cynthia Ann, had been captured by the whites and died soon after. In 1867, there had been a long pow-pow, and Quanah had rejected the Medicine Lodge Treaty. Thereafter there was to be much bloodshed between the Indians and the whites. One of the last raids, which was a terrible thing, was in January of 1868, and was at the pioneer town known as Rosston, about twenty-four miles southwest of Gainesville. The Indians had killed several older people and a tiny baby. As soon as news became known many men formed a posse, determined to hunt down and kill Quanah. My grandfather Dee was one of the young men that volunteered to go with the posse. He told of how far rode up the red river and over in to Indian Territory. They rode for days, but not a sight did they get of Quanah or of his tribe.

Grandfather Dee said it was dangerous mission, and when he returned home he told his father that government would have to provide to settle the differences between Quanah and the settlers.

That was the last of the Indian raids in that of the country. Quanah surrendered 1875, and the great chief settled near Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and became a good friend of all whites. He died there in 1911.

Now the interesting end to Grandfather Dee's Indian hunt in those pioneer days is this, **Cynthia Ann Parker** was my great grandmother's sister's child on my father's side. She was captured when only nine years old by the Indians Fort Parker in Limestone County on the Navasota River in 1836.

My Grandmother **Wade** has told me of how she came to Fort Worth as a little girl where she Quanah, for he had learned the history of his mother's life and expressed his desire to meet his white kin. He also took his mother's maiden name; thus he became **Quanah Parker**, and that makes him a distant relative of the great Chief **QUANAH**.

. My grandfather says we are all, indeed, blood brothers with the once feared and hated Indians.

By Norquist Wade

THE FIRST WAGON TRAIL

In the year 1839, **Dr. Henry Connelly** blazed a wagon trail through the county so that wagon wheels could continually roll through the county until it grew into a settled, prosperous place with the county seat of Gainesville, which has gained national fame through its community circus and is known everywhere as "Circus Town".

Dr. Connelly and his companions left Chihuahua City April 3, 1839, with thirty wagons carrying \$250,000 in bullion, which was taken to a fort in what is Bryan County, Oklahoma, where it was exchanged for merchandise. The party returned to

Chihuahua City August 2, 1840. They followed Marcy's Emigrant road from Comanche Springs, now Fort Stockton, to Big Springs, then across the western plains INTO Cooke County, crossing eastward to Grayson County, and from there through Fannin and Lamar Counties, fording the river at Jonesboro to reach their destination.

Indians had marked a highway running north and south through the county west of the Cross Timbers Region on the east side of Gainesville. This route was marked by mounds of stones. One of these lookouts was found on the Dobkin's farm, two miles north of Gainesville. Another was just south of the old Redmond place, southeast of town. Still another was on the Piper place, several miles to the southwest.

The Indian Trail was the route followed by Jim Ned, a famous Delaware Chief, who was United States dispatch bearer between Fort Arbuckle and Fort Worth.

As you read the following pages, in your imagination listen to the rumble of wagon wheels rolling here and there across the county.

George Nichols

THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Few opportunities for social gatherings were offered in the early days of our county, so when an occasion did occur, all settlers usually took advantage of it.

The first July Fourth celebration in Cooke County was held July 4, 1852. There were only a dozen families living in Cooke County at that time, but a few met and decided that the time had come to celebrate the event of their country's independence.

The celebration was held on the south side of the Court House square. A few men gathered on the morning of the 3rd and their happy and conversation could be heard as they cleared away the grass and weeds from the place where the celebration was to be held. While

the place was being cleared two other men had killed and were barbecuing a beef for the occasion.

The morning of the Fourth dawned clear with just enough breezes to keep the day from being too hot for comfort. By eight o'clock those who were coming appeared on the scene. The celebration opened with a prayer of thanksgiving. For entertainment there was square dancing for the adults and games for the children. Various kinds of races and contests were held. A bountiful feast was spread at noon.

All in all, it was a successful day. A family or two had gone to Sherman for the celebration there as Gainesville had never had one before and had not decided on this year's event until the 3rd. It took a day to go as far as Sherman in a wagon, so those families had gone on the 2nd. Naturally, they were disappointed when they heard of the Gainesville celebration.

For many years Woodbine held a County-wide 4th of July picnic.

Mary Jo Saunders

The W. W. Howeth Story

William Wesley Howeth, Jr., born March 8, 1847, died August 25, 1910, married **Kate C. Brown**,

Tragic Tornado of 1854

On May 28, 1854, a destructive tornado struck the Howeth home west of Gainesville, killing five of the eight occupants. W. W., a survivor, later recalled the event.

On the day of the tornado, **Mrs. Twitty** and **Mrs. Olivo** (two neighbors) had spent the day at the Howeth home. Late in the afternoon they went home when dark clouds began to show in the southwest. The clouds rose higher and came closer and the sky became darkened. A perfect calm prevailed. A tornado was forming, and in a few minutes a column like a picture of a water spout on the ocean I had seen, formed and reached from the earth to the cloud above, with all its blackness,

whirling and roaring and coming closer. For perhaps half an hour we watched this terrible monster of destruction as it formed and approached. And finally when it had almost reached us, we all gathered into the house and the roaring of the mad storm was such one could hardly hear the words of another. There were eight of us in the house- my mother; my brother Tommy, eleven; sister Louise, nine; and myself, seven; a cousin of my father, **Andy Howeth**; his wife and two children, a daughter about five years of age and an infant in his mother's arms. The adults had never seen or heard such furious storm before, and thought the dreadful roaring was caused by hail, they agreed the house was the best place for protection. But in one moment the house was destroyed and the lives of five of the occupants were snuffed out. Two of the three survivors were so seriously injured that it was thought for a long time that they would not live. Victims were Andy Howeth, his two children, and Tommy and Louise Howeth. The body of Louise was carried four miles by the wind. The children of **William Howeth** were the first to be buried in the East Hill (Fairview) cemetery which in 1877 was leased by the commissioner's court to Gainesville for 999 years

A Member of the U. S. Army party, which traveled through the area soon after the storm, noted that the same tornado was a mile wide and had also destroyed much of Fort Towson in Indian Territory. Shortly after the storm, the Howeths moved into Gainesville.
From the research papers of James B. Duncan, Austin, Texas

From the Gainesville Signal about 1912 the year W. W. Howeth, Sr. passed away.

In 1854 Gainesville was small place of perhaps a population of one hundred. It boasted of one store which was a general store, one blacksmith shop, one doctor, one lawyer, one log school house. It also had a

little court house on the square, and this was used for a church whenever a preacher came this way in his rounds over the circuit. The only settlers west of town at that time were **Adam Dozier**, who lived near where the county farm is now, **James Rutledge**, whose cabin stood about 300 yards west of the house known as the "**Bailey Place**", Wm **Middleton**, who lived on the north bank of Elm where Montague creek empties into it., Col. Montague who resided at what is now known as the "**Old Scruggs**" place about ¾ mile east of the town of Lindsay, **Capt. Twitty**, whose cabin stood just west of the of the north end of the bridge across Elm at Lindsay, Mrs. **Olive**, whose rough cabin near where the Wm **Flusehe** residence is in Lindsay, Mrs. **Van Slyke**, whose was near where the **Lewis Cobb** place is, just under a hill near a slough, Robt Shannon, who lived on the south side of Elm at what is known as the "**Kibler Place**". And **W. W. Howeth**, whose house was about one mile west of Mrs. **Van Slyke's** place, and was outside settlement on this northern frontier.

EARLY DAY REMEMBRNCES

The street car barns were located in North Gainesville. The cars were drawn by mules and were run on tracks. I rode the cars quite a bit, as it was some distance to the J. M. Lindsay School where I attended. The railroad ran parallel with Lindsey Street. Many times a bunch of us would walk the railroad tracks or through the creek bed. One day as we were walking along by the tracks, one of the boys found several fingers that had been amputated by the railroad cars. I guess some poor old hobo had been stealing a ride, slipped and fell, and caught his fingers under the wheels. I didn't relish that route any more. During those early days there was an orphans' home east of Pecan Creek on Moss Street. I didn't know the particulars, but I heard it was an Orphan's Home, and I saw a lot of children

playing in the yard. It finally burned to the ground so it does not stand there anymore. It was a large two-story building.

In about 1897, the First Baptist Church burned to the ground. I was there on that occasion. We had just had prayer, and one of the deacons was kneeling by the radiator and saw the flames underneath.

He calmly arose and said to the pastor, Reverend **W. S. Splawn** who was leading a hymn, "Leaning on the everlasting arms", Brother Splawn, the church is on fire.

The pastor did not go into a panic. He said "Don't be alarmed we have plenty of time to get out". So, we all marched out and watched the church burn. I saved a song book I was using as I took it out with me.

Since that time we built the church that is now on the corner of Broadway and Denton Streets which was finished in 1898. Now we have a new one just behind this one which was finished in 1953 or 1954.

In 1900, the church decided to establish a mission in East Gainesville which later became Grand Avenue Baptiste Church. We first had a Sunday school in a vacant house some distance from where Grand Avenue Church now stands. Then we erected a small church with **W. P. Grow** as pastor. Also, the First Church transferred all members who lived east of Pecan Creek to this little new church. It has since grown, and we are all proud of it. That part of town certainly has grown too.

I went to the **J. M. Lindsey** School in those days, the old red brick one was torn down about twenty or thirty years ago. I was a very small child; I bogged up one morning in the mud on the railroad crossing on California Street. I cried because I couldn't cross tracks without leaving my shoes behind. A kind old man saw me and helped me over, but he said it was shame to send a little girl as small as I to school by herself!

Our school was just auditorium with smaller rooms for the classes. I surely was afraid of the principal, Miss **Ada Moss**, and the other

teachers. I would cry if things went wrong, but I guess I managed all right. We used slates and slate pencils in those days for writing materials.

This story is in the exact words of the contributor, Mrs. **Jane Mitchell**.

By Sue Crawford

GAINESVILLE NEWSPAPERS

The Daily and Weekly Register are the sole survivors of an extensive list of newspapers published in Gainesville in the past eighty years.

The city's first newspaper was the Weekly Vedette, first published in 1869. **Vic Reinhardt** was the publisher. He had founded the paper in 1866 at Pilot Point. But Gainesville was experiencing considerable post-war growth in the late 60's, and Mr. **Reinhardt** decided to cast his lot with the Cooke County seat town.

Miss **Ragsdale** has two receipts for subscriptions to the Vedette dated December 4, 1869, made to **Dr. J. V. Ragsdale** and **Williams Owens**, and countersigned by her father, the late **G. H. Ragsdale**. The word Vedette means mounted sentinel in advance of outposts, and the selection of this name for the newspaper suggests the crusading type of publisher who dominated the field of journalism in those days. Mr. **Reinhardt** disposes of his newspaper here and went to Terrell, where he established a third Vedette in later years.

Charles Bailey apparently carried on the Vedette for some time thereafter, as the late **Mrs. Douglas Bomar Holman**, 1302 Lindsay Street, recalled that her teen-age brother, Billy, set type for the paper under **Mr. Bailey's** regime. In February, 1870 the Vedette carried a notice of the death of **Mrs. Holman's** brother, **Dr. David Franklin Bomar**, and the paper was kept with the family papers until it fell to pieces from age.

The Hesperian, which started as a weekly and later became a daily newspaper, long carried in its masthead the year 1869 as time of its founding. In the 80's it was published by **Joe Means** and while Mr. Means was publisher, he employed **J. T. Leonard**, teacher of the public school at Fair Plains, as editor in 1889. Unknown

BEGINNING OF THE POST OFFICE

First post office in Cooke County was established in Gainesville in 1852, the second year after the town site had been laid out.

Nathaniel Reed, who had located his headright one and one-half miles southwest of Gainesville on Elm Creek as a settler in **Peter's colony**, was named first postmaster. To hold the office, it was necessary for him to move to town, so in fall of 1852, he sold his farm and moved his house to the east side of the square where the first post office was located.

The office failed to provide sufficient support for his family so in the spring of 1853, he turned office over to **William Bean**, who had a store on the west side of the square, and left for California, to seek fortune in the gold fields.

Mrs. Mary Carpenter took office some four years later and established the post office in her home at Pecan and Dixon streets. The living room was the post office and the same is now the dining room of **Jack D. Howeth**, her grandson. Mrs. Carpenter turned the office over to her daughter, **Mrs. Kate Brown**, April 1, 1884, and the latter was married the following year to **W. W. Howeth** and was the mother of **Jack Howeth**.

From the Carpenter home, the post office was moved to a rear room of the building now occupied by **W. W. Howeth Company** at 208 East California Street, the front room being occupied by **London and Stoner's** book store. Then it moved to 114 West Main street where the Texas Employment office is now located. When **R. O. Denton** followed **Mrs. Brown**, April 21, 1885, the post office was moved to

the Purity Baking Company building at California and Red streets, where it remained until the present post office was erected at California and Red streets, where it remained until the present post office was erected at California and Denton streets in 1905-06. **R. O. Denton**, who succeeded Mrs. Brown as post master, was a grocer and after his four-years **William L. Pierce**, who had been superintendent of the water company, served from 1889-1892, **F. L. Cleaves**, who was engaged in the wholesale and retail hardware business with **H. B. Fletcher**, was the next post master, from 1892 to 1897. **A. L. Fairchild**, who took office in the latter year had been Santa Fe freight and ticket agent, and his successor, **J. L. Hickson**, who became post master in 1901, was in the book store business. **B. F. Mitchell**, publisher of the signal, became postmaster on April 14, 1929, and served 14 months, when a Republican administration brought **Mr. Hickson** back to the office. He died in office in 1929.

Bert H. Davis, oil company operator, became postmaster on April 14, 1929, and served 14 months, being succeeded June 24, 1930 by **Lewis B. Lindsay**. **Joe B. Petit** took office May 16, 1934. He had been tax collector and deputy sheriff. He was acting postmaster until December 1, 1934, when **Gilbert G. Holman**, cotton gin operator, became post master. Mr. Holman served until March 15, 1940, when **Cecil H. Tinsley**, advertising manager for The Register, was appointed, and has since been postmaster.

In addition to performing the duties of his office, the post master in Gainesville is official weather observer, measuring daily the temperature, rainfall and other weather phenomena, keeping accurate records which date back to the opening of the present building in 1906, except for a brief period during the war, when records were kept at the municipal airport

Money order service was established July 1, 1874, and **W J. Stone**, received money order No. 1 on July 6 of that year. Only ten orders

were issued the first 21 days. Free rural Mail service began December 1, 1902 under the postmaster ship of the late **J. L. Hickson**, First carriers were **Samuel Stone**, route 1; **J. L. Barlow**, route 2; **George P Morris**, route 3; and **J. W. Sarles**, route 4.

Postal saving s began September, 1911, while **Mr. Hickson** was still postmaster, and C.O.D. service for parcel post was inaugurated July 1, 1913 while **B. F. Mitchell** was postmaster.

Gainesville's post office had a second class rating until 1928-1929 when it was first class for a year, and reverted to second class again. With beginning of World War II, postal e receipts soared, and the office has since been first class.

The following pictures are from;

Jesse Rayzor, Jr

P. O. Box 403

Pilot Point, TX

Father: **Jess Rayzor**

Grand Father: **Sim Jesse Rayzor**

Sims real name was Simmon Asberry Rayzor

Sim Rayzor had two children, Jess and Etta Rayzor- Potts wife of Jim Potts

Jess had nine children and Etta had 7 children.

All pictures were made in Mountain Springs, TX

Picture #1

Old Rayzor home place

Man on left unknown, Sim Rayzor and Wife Alice Rayzor. This house was built by Dr. Riley and sold to Sim. Dr. Riley moved to Hemming, TX and was killed in Hemming in a cyclone.

Picture #2

Jess Rayzor blacksmith shop in Mountain Springs, TX

Man on left-unknown, Jess shoeing horse, Doctor ??, rest of people unknown.

Picture #3

The house Sim Rayzor's daddy built. He hauled lumber from Sherman, TX in ox carts with oxen.

Alice Rayzor, Sim Rayzor and Jess Rayzor

Picture #4

Sim, Jess, Alice and Etta Rayzor

Picture #5

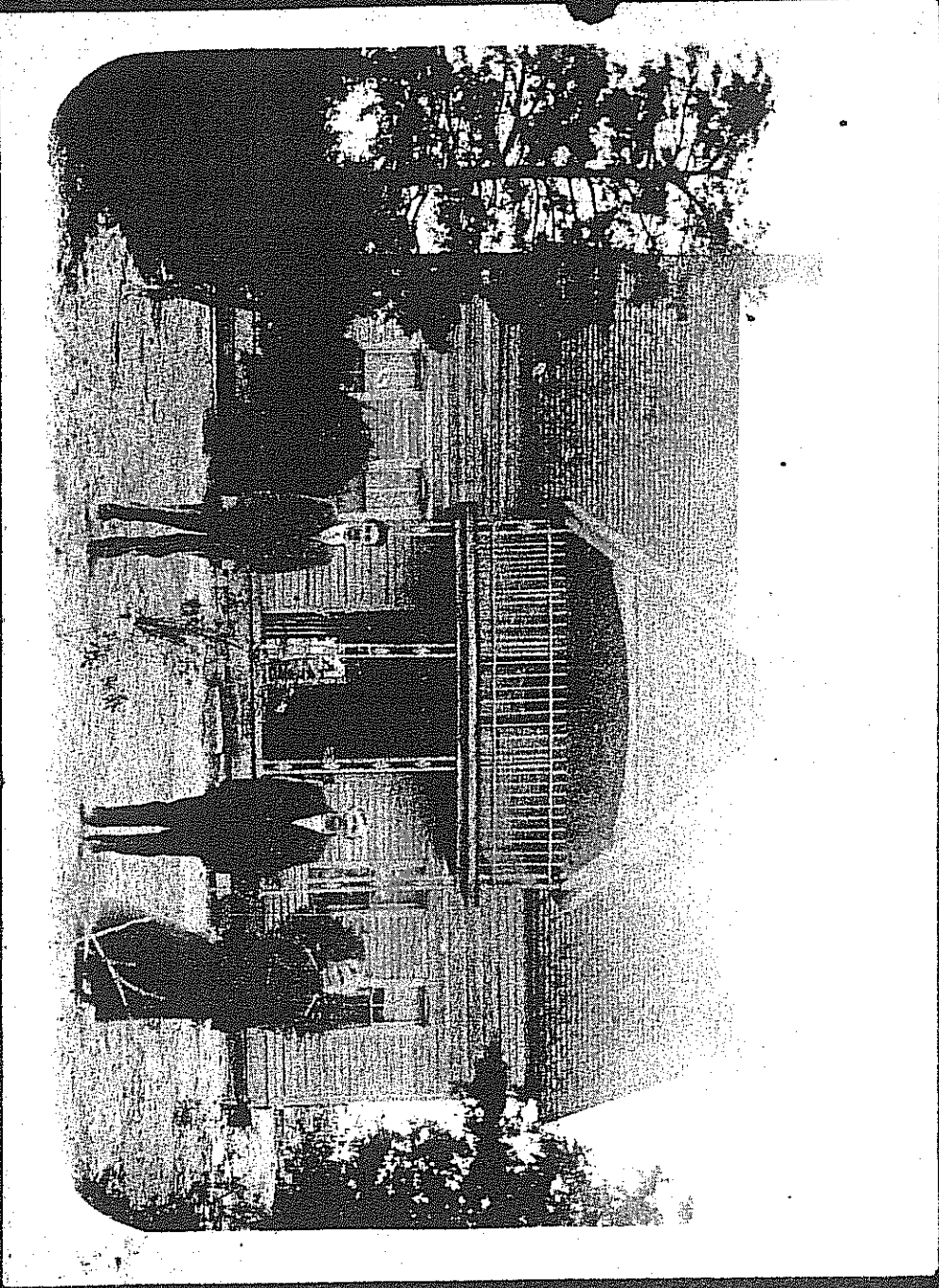
Jess Rayzor blacksmith shop in Mountain Springs, TX

1st man in over coat—Billy Daniels, 2nd man unknown. 3rd man Sim Rayzor 4th man Jess Rayzor, 5th & 6th unknown, 7th man Jim McMellon, the man Jess bought the blacksmith shop from. 8th man Sam McMellon, Jim's son, little boy Earl McMellon, Sam's son, 9th man unknown.

Picture #6

Sim Rayzors store in Mountain Springs, TX. It faced south on Spring Road, a cross the road from Jess razors' blacksmith shop, it faced north on Spring Road. The blacksmith shop burn down.

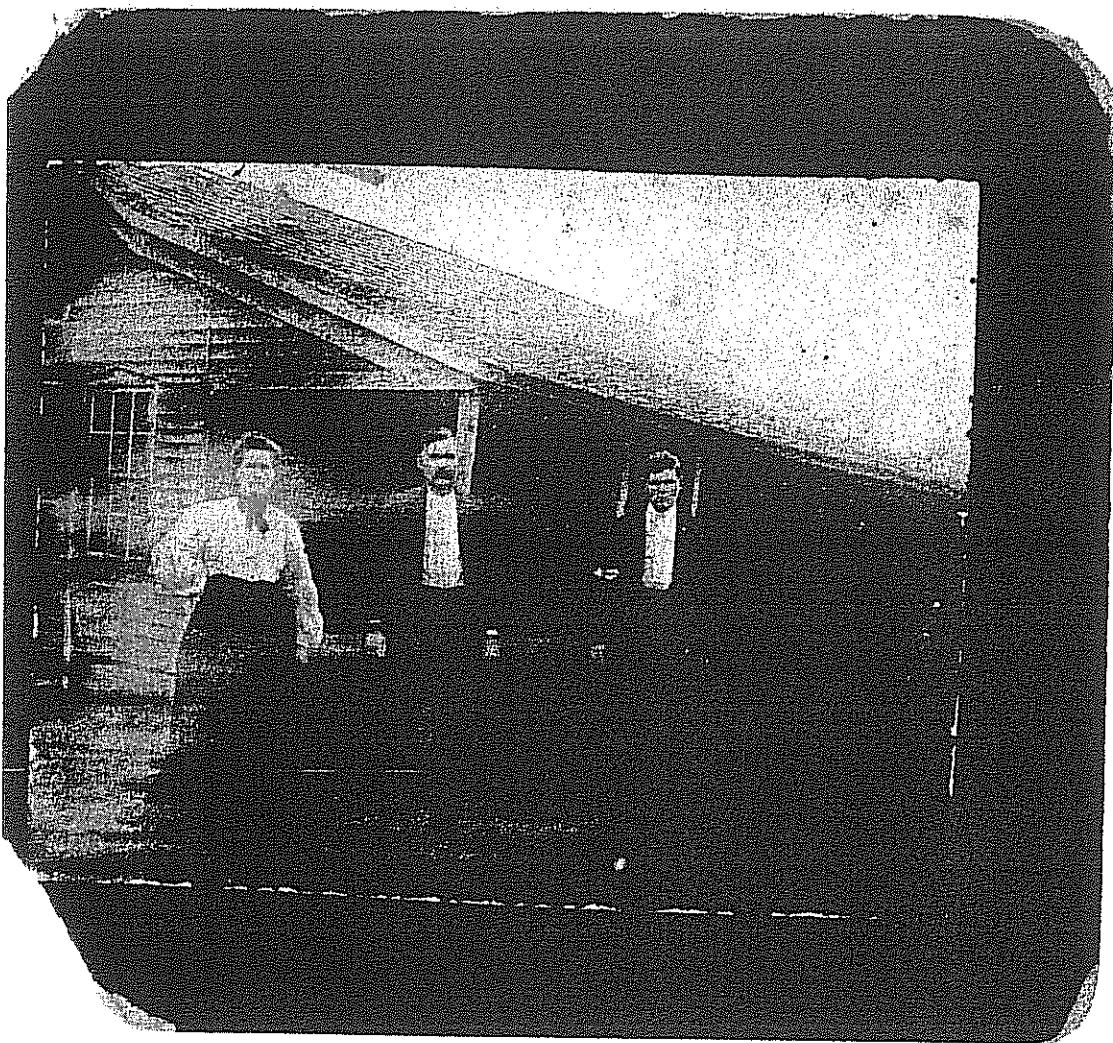
On left Frank Rayzor, Jess's son, next Sim Rayzor, rest unknown.



74-2

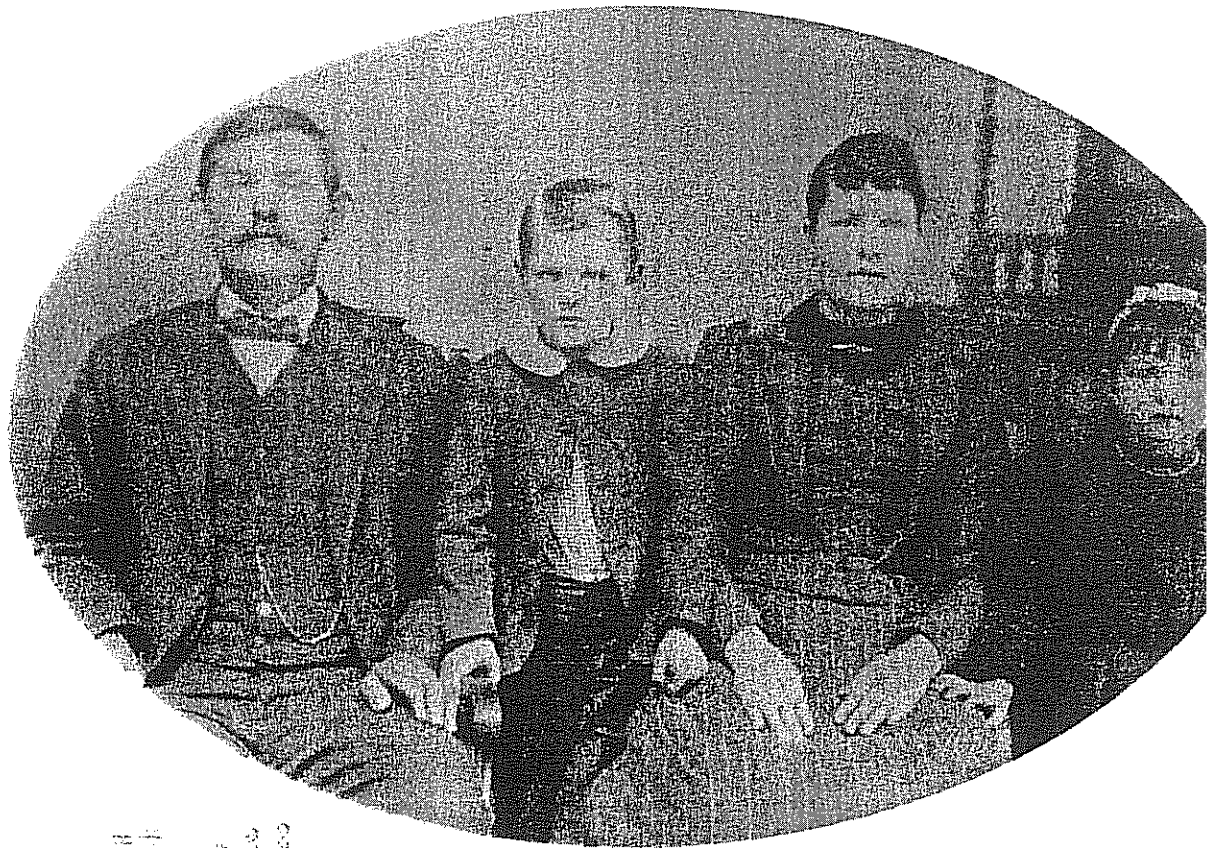


2



#3

#4



#5



6

